



Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH
51
LOW
29

See expanded weather on Page 2

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THE PAMPA NEWS

Friday, February 1, 2008

Volume 103 • No. 258

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Participants needed for POD simulation

By **KERRI SMITH**
Managing Editor

The Texas Department of State Health Services wants to remind everyone in Gray County that a Point of Dispensing (POD) Exercise will be conducted at the Clyde Carruth Livestock Pavilion at Recreation Park, east of Pampa, from 9 am to 4 p.m. Saturday.

A Point of Dispensing or POD is where members of a community go in a disease outbreak to receive pills or shots. The primary purpose of a POD is to decrease the number of individuals from within the community who may become ill.

Everyone is encouraged to visit the POD and walk through the process to have a better understanding of what will take place if a real disease outbreak ever occurred. Each person should be able to walk through the POD process within two minutes.

Pampa ISD personnel, local civic

organizations, and home health nursing agencies will be operating the POD. There was an extremely positive response to volunteer recruitment in Pampa, now we just need "patients" to visit the POD to test our ability to respond in an actual disease outbreak.

We hope to attract at least 300 visitors to the POD. We need to determine how many people we could actually process through the POD every hour. We need to know this information to make sure everyone in Gray County would receive help within a specific time period. If we only have 36 hours to provide antibiotics to the entire county and we learn through the POD exercise that it might take 48 hours then we have to make adjustments.

Department of State Health Services Staff will be on hand to

See POD, Page 3

Career training



Courtesy Photo

Pampa Firefighters recently visited these students during the Wednesday Power Hour at Wilson Elementary School. Mozetta Johnson, the facilitator for the "college class station" invited the firefighters to come explain their jobs and what education was required prior to becoming a firefighter. Back row from left are Capt. Jesse Hanes, Equipment Operator Robert McDonald, Firefighter Andy Schroeder and Firefighter Jay Alejandre. Middle row from left are Jake Bennett, Layne Stevens, Cooper Hart, Brian Calderon, Gilbert Serrata and Ericka Elloqui. Front row from left are Maria Lozoya and Luis Bedolla.

LOCAL BUSINESS

United Medi Corp goes through some changes

By **DAVID BOWSER**
Staff Writer

A white knight rode into town last year to save the fair damsel in distress. In this case the knight was Danniell Stevens, president and CEO of Stevens Financial Group, LLC, out of Aurora, Ill., suburban Chicago, to save the damsel, United Medi Corp., from bankruptcy.

Stevens is the primary investor in UMC and chief executive officer, said Pampa City Manager John Horst.

"He recently acquired majority interest in this business," Horst said.

The city has an employment grant with UMC, Horst said, and that brought Stevens before the Pampa City Commission recently. UMC has an employment incen-

tive grant with the old Pampa Economic Development Corporation that is due to expire at the end of 2008.

Stevens said he came to the Pampa City Commission to see what could be worked out to continue a good relationship with the city government. He said he appreciates the assistance that the city has provided as he explained what was happening at UMC.

"We gained a controlling interest in United Medi Corp. on Feb. 13, 2007," Stevens said. "One day while I was traveling, I received an e-mail

saying that we were the largest investor in UMC, Inc., and that the company was facing a cash crisis."

He said he requested more information from UMC, but the company was unable to provide any more information.

"We loaned the organization roughly \$76,000 just to make its payroll for a couple of months," Stevens said.

He said that when they came to the realization that UMC was not able to repay its short term obligations, Steven's group allowed the then CEO time to provide financial information that

would lead to a longer term agreement.

"As the months passed," Stevens said, "we were still unable to get the financials."

Stevens opted, against the advice of his attorneys, to step in rather than let the company file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings.

"They felt we would be better able to assess the risk," Stevens said.

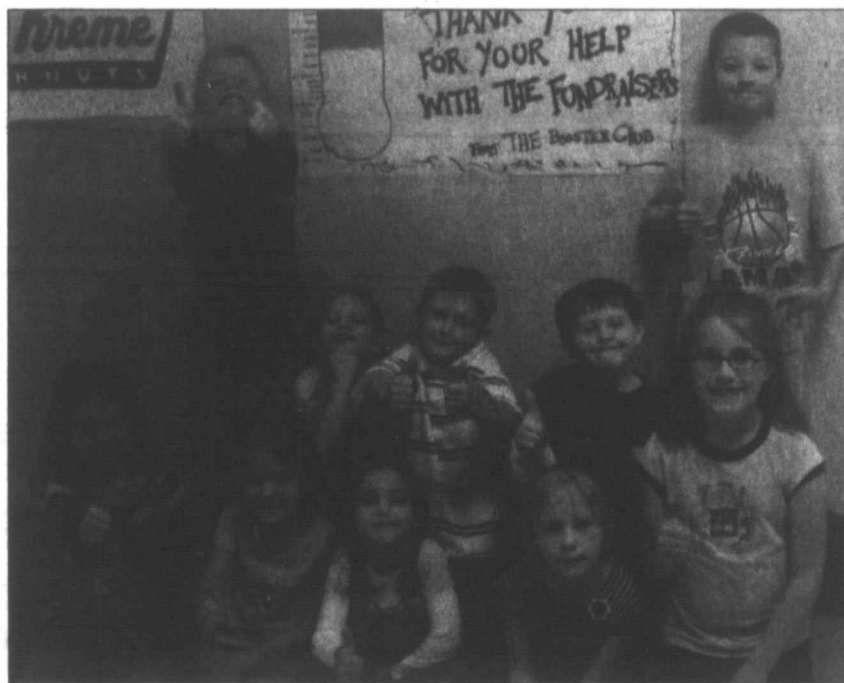
The attorneys also felt that since the former CEO was unable to provide financial and other types of information needed for a permanent investment decision Stevens should have let the company go into bankruptcy.

"After meeting the employment

See UMC, Page 3



Stevens



Wilson Elementary students to sell Krispy Kreme Doughnuts

By **KERRI SMITH**
Managing Editor

Wilson Elementary students will be out early Saturday morning to sell Krispy Kreme Doughnuts as one of their fund-raisers to help raise money for air conditioning.

The students will be at two locations at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow, the parking lots of Wal-Mart and Wayne's Western Wear. They will continue to sell the breakfast treats until they are sold out.

According to Trudy Sprinkle of the Wilson Booster Club, the students have been raising funds for the past two years to purchase air conditioning for the gym.

"Since last year, our kids have raised \$22,913 of the \$35,000 needed," Sprinkle said. "The students have raised this money by selling the Wilson Discount Cards, purchasing books from the Wilson Book Fair, selling T-shirts and having crazy days that the students participate in."

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St. Matthew's 52nd Annual Pancake Supper
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The Day School will be having a Book Fair and Bake Sale.
Tickets may be purchased at church or school office.

NEXT DAY FORECAST

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Saturday | Sunday | Monday |
| | | |
| Mostly sunny | Mostly sunny | Mostly sunny |

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 51. Wind chill values between 21 and 31 early. North-northwest wind around 5 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. Wind chill values between 22 and 27. South-southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 62. South-southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 37. South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 56. West-southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Monday Night: A chance of snow or rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27. North-northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

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| The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of White Deer | | XCEL | 20.86 | +0.11 |
| Wheat | 8.82 | Anadarko | 59.18 | +0.70 |
| Milo | 7.79 | XOM | 87.00 | +0.60 |
| Corn | 8.95 | Nat'l Oilwell | 61.29 | +1.09 |
| Soybeans | 10.85 | Limited | 19.96 | -0.01 |
| The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa | | Williams | 32.18 | +0.21 |
| ONY | 68.83 | +1.03 | MCD | 53.09 |
| BP PLC ADR | 63.64 | -0.31 | Atmos | 28.73 |
| Cabot Corp | 29.59 | -0.07 | Pioneer Nat | 42.40 |
| Celanese | 37.73 | +0.50 | JCP | 47.25 |
| Cabot Oil Gas | 38.97 | +0.29 | COP | 80.10 |
| Coca Cola | 59.65 | +0.65 | SLB | 77.28 |
| VLO | 59.88 | +0.82 | Tenneco | 27.19 |
| HAL | 33.50 | +0.33 | CVX | 83.55 |
| | | | Wal-Mart | 50.85 |
| | | | OKE | 47.07 |
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Obituaries

Services tomorrow

REMY, Brian Keith — Memorial services, 2 p.m., Chamber of Commerce building, Pampa.
TOLBERT, Mildred — Memorial services, 2 p.m., Harwood Museum, Taos, N.M.

Loretta L. Ray, 83



Ray

NORTH STAR, Ohio — Loretta L. Ray, 83, died at 6:43 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008, at Versailles Health Care Center in Versailles, Ohio. Services are scheduled at 10:30 a.m. Monday in St. Paul Lutheran Church in Versailles with Pastor Laura Shreffler officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Bailey Zechar Funeral Home in Versailles.

Mrs. Ray was born Dec. 4, 1924, in Wabash Township near North Star, to the late Charles W. and Amelia C. (Krukenberg) Grewe. She attended a one-room school house and graduated from Ansonia High School in 1942.

She married Marvin E. Ray on June 12, 1946.

She retired from the Versailles Exempted Village School District in 1988 after 30 years of service. In 1958, she began working for the Wabash Local Schools as an assistant cook at the North Star School.

Mrs. Ray was cafeteria manager at North Star building from 1969 until her retirement and was custodian of the North Star School Building from 1964 to 1987. After retirement, she and her husband continued to live on their farm in Wabash Township where they made their home for 38 years.

During retirement, she

continued her interest in gardening, cooking, nutrition and new recipes. She was a life-member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in North Star, American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Buckeye Post 174 of North Star, Veterans of

Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary of Greenville and Pampa Reunion Association of Pampa.

She was preceded in death by three brothers, Elmer Grewe, Norman Grewe and Lawrence Grewe.

Survivors include her husband of 61 years, Marvin; a son, Mahlon E. Ray of Columbus, Ohio; three

daughters, Maretta J. Kalinich of Corning, N.Y., Rachael A. Henderson of Celina, Ohio, and Jana L. Reed of Jackson, Ohio; 14 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The family will receive visitors from 1-4 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home in Versailles and from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday at the church.

MEMORIALS: Building fund, St. Paul Lutheran Church, North Star, 13495 Greenville-St. Mary's Rd., Versailles, OH 45380; or Freedom Museum USA, 600 N. Hobart, Pampa, TX 79065.

Condolences may be made online at www.zecharbailey.com.

Brian Keith Remy, 45



Remy

Brian Keith Remy, 45, of Pampa, Texas, died Jan. 28, 2008, at Amarillo, Texas. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, 2008, at the Chamber of Commerce building, 200 N. Ballard, with the Rev. Lynn Hancock, pastor of Briarwood Church, officiating.

Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Remy was born Sept. 16, 1962, in Pampa. He attended elementary and junior high schools in Pampa,

graduating from Woodward, Okla., with honors in 1981.

Brian worked for Southwestern Bell and other telecommunications companies as a switch engineer. He loved life, people and music. He was always the life of any gathering.

Brian always could make any party a real party. Everyone knew him to be the best dancer, singer and cook

ever.

Survivors include his mother, Sandra D. Whitmarsh of Pampa; brother, Billy R. Finley of Pampa; sister, Terry J. Mora and husband Johnny Dominguez of Pampa; aunt, Mary Lawler and hus-

band J.D. of Amarillo; best friend, Sylvia Neave of Mesquite; two nieces; five nephews; one great-niece; three great-nephews; and several cousins and friends.

Brian was preceded in death by his stepfather, John Whitmarsh in May of 1999; a brother, Loyd D. Remy in February of 1985; and a stepbrother, Charles Whitmarsh in April of 1997.

MEMORIALS: LifeGift Organ Donation Center of West Texas, 1200 Wallace Blvd., Amarillo, TX 79106.

The family will receive friends at 1827 Williston in Pampa.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Emergency Services

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Twenty-eight traffic stops were made, resulting in one arrest.

A traffic complaint was reported on Crawford.

Animal control officers made calls concerning animals in the 800 block of Locust, the 100 block of Clark, the 2900 block of Rosewood and the 700 block of Wilks.

Warrant service was attempted at five locations.

A police escort was provided in the 800 block of

23rd. A civil matter was reported in the 1200 block of Darby.

Suspicious persons were reported in the 700 block of Frederic, the 600 block of Wilks, and the intersection of Huff and Crawford.

Found property, a bicycle, was reported in the police department lobby.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart, where a glass door valued at \$500 was broken.

Assault causing minor injuries was reported in the 600 block of Bradley.

A prowler was reported in the 2200 block of North Zimmers.

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests.

Friday, Feb. 1

Kameron Taylor, 18, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department for failure to identify.

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Thursday, Jan. 31

10:59 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 300 block of Sunset on a call for medical assistance.

2:29 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to

the 500 block of Doyle on a call for medical assistance.

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Thursday, Jan. 31

7:29 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2700 block of Comanche. Call canceled en route.

9:39 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 3000 block of Perryton Parkway and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

10:14 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded 4-miles south on Highway 749 and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

10:57 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Sunset and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:28 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Pampa and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:34 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to the Clements prison unit in Amarillo.

4 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to the 1200 block of East Foster.

7:57 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of East Foster and transported a patient to PRMC.

Survey finds Texas gas prices down

HOUSTON (AP) — Retail gasoline prices fell across Texas this week for the third week in a row.

Regular self-serve averaged \$2.87 per gallon in the 11 cities surveyed, according to the AAA Texas gas price survey released Friday. That was 3 cents less than last week but 84 cents more than at the same point of 2007. Nationally, the pump price fell below \$3 to \$2.99 per gallon, a drop of 2 cents from last week.

"The slowing of the economy and fears of a recession appear to have curtailed motorists demand for gasoline," said AAA Texas spokeswoman Rose Rougeau. "That has resulted in an increase in inventories of crude and a decrease in the price of crude from the highs of nearly a \$100 a barrel to the current \$90. If oil prices continue falling, retail gas prices are expected to retreat further."

CITY BRIEFS

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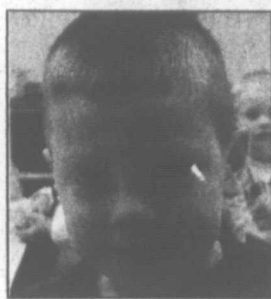
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What do you want to be when you grow up?



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Pre - K

"Teacher"



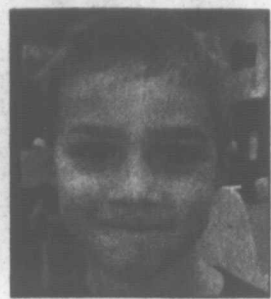
Ky Parnell
Pre - K

"Choo-choo driver"



Karla Nanez
Pre - K

"Teacher"



Kooper Smith
Pre - K

"Mustang driver"



Gracie Hapeman
Pre - K

"Diver"



Jackson Thomas
Pre - K

"Cowboy"



Austen Irbeck
Pre - K

"Welder"

UMC

Continued from Page 1

base at UMC, Inc., and having the opportunity to interview each one of them during my first visit here in November," Stevens said, "I opted against the advice of my counsel."

He pumped another quarter of a million dollars into UMC.

Stevens said that as early as March 2 last year, his company realized they needed a different operational manager. Since Stevens was the largest investor in the organization, the UMC board asked him to step in and run the day-to-day operations.

"We've made a lot of strides," Stevens said. "Our biggest challenge was getting financial statements from UMC, Inc."

They had relied on certain software to run their operations.

"It wasn't as robust as we would have liked," Stevens said. "They did not have the right talent at that time to assist them."

Stevens said his group began evaluating the business as he took over. He said there were many different lines of business within UMC.

"They had a billings and claims operation," Stevens said. "The had a coding services division. They had an electronic medical records division. They had a sales force that was located outside the City of Pampa."

But the sales force hadn't sold anything in two years. UMC also had a collection operation that had just engaged in debt purchasing.

"After evaluating the operation," Stevens said, "we realized that the company did not have the resources to be operating in all these lines of businesses."

Stevens said his group made the decision to either dissolve or divest every business except for the debt purchasing entity that they had started in beginning in 2006 and their collection operations.

"They had pretty well lost all billings and claims business," Stevens said, "so there was nothing to do there but discontinue the operations."

Stevens said that when he first came to Pampa, he evaluated not only the operation but also the employees. He said they brought down their employment numbers through natural attrition.

"We did not fire anyone," Stevens said, "and we did not lay off anyone."

But the employee rolls were reduced from about 40 to 15.

"Most felt that bankruptcy was imminent," Stevens said, "and they decided to look for employment opportunities elsewhere."

During the evaluation, Stevens said they decided that some of the systems the company was using were archaic

and out of date.

"They were using a main frame based system," he said. "We just felt that the consulting dollars to do the upgrades on the system on a monthly basis clearly exceeded any amount of resources that they had allocated to that task."

Consequently, Stevens said they turned to a client server infrastructure. Because a lot of the software was custom written for the main frame, they also turned to client server based software. It could be used in collecting any type of debt, not just medical debt.

"We invested in a brand new software collection system to more efficiently run the organization," Stevens said.

He said they also tried to figure out how best to serve the agreement between UMC and the Pampa Economic Development Corporation. There is an accumulative hours clause in the agreement that must be met, he said, in order to escape the end of the year fall back.

"Seeing that the rolls had been reduced," Stevens said, "I started looking aggressively for new bodies to fulfill that."

"We also felt that one of the ways to grow this business is to diversify its base."

— Danniell Stevens

The problem was that there were no minimum standards for employees, he said.

"We implemented on a hiring policy that focused on three factors," Stevens said. "Number one, there had to be a minimum education requirement."

They made a high school diploma or a GED equivalent that first standard. They also excluded hiring anyone with a criminal record. Third, they implemented a drug test.

"We also felt that one of the ways to grow this business," Stevens said, "is to diversify its base."

He said they were only engaged in collections, but he felt that would leave it vulnerable to any kind of business downturn.

"Plus the industry was changing," Stevens said. "It had always been one that was based on relationships. If you knew someone in a hospital system and they were in charge of that collections activity, it was very easy to get a contract out of that hospital."

Stevens said they wanted, therefore, to go to debt purchasing.

"In that arena," Stevens said, "it's devoid of any type of relationship."

Cash is king. The debts are sold in a secondary market.

"You can buy it, work it and sell it and there's some residual value to the debt," Stevens said.

In order to do that, they had to train a collections specialist. Stevens said they brought in some top industry consultants to Pampa to do the training. He said he plans on continuing bringing them in, probably on a quarterly basis.

He's also joined an industry association to train the employees on industry standards.

"If they're successful in those," Stevens said, "then they have the right to sit for the professional collector specialist designation."

Stevens said that along with the training, they have increased their hourly pay for employees. He said that they now offer incentives that if the employee meets or exceeds their monthly goals, the employee can collect a percentage of the collection above the goal.

"We feel that we've done a good job in terms of everything that we've tried to pursue in the first nine months that we've taken over," Stevens said, "but there are still some challenges and some obligations and commitments to the Pampa Economic Development Corp."

It has not been easy, Stevens said. "We're clearly in a transitional state," Stevens said. "Our initiative, when we first came in, was a cost-containment initiative. We didn't have money to burn. Although we put a lot of money up, that was really money that was to be used to backstop a couple of lawsuits that the organization was involved in as the result of not going forward with the acquisition."

Stevens said they started a new initiative the first of December. It is a growth initiative that will run concurrently with their cost containment initiative.

Back in March they had about 21 employees.

"We're now up to 41," Stevens said. He said that when he got here, UMC was collecting only medical accounts.

"We're now collecting non-performing and delinquent credit cards as well as retail private label credit cards," Stevens said.

He said they now work across 34 states. He said they are establishing an infrastructure for future growth.

Stevens said that, although through the problems the company has had they had violated some parts of the incentive agreement with the old Pampa Economic Development Corporation, he would like to foster a long-term relationship with the city.

Mayor Lonny Robbins and City Commissioner Bob Dixon praised Stevens for his candor and success in turning UMC around. The commission indicated that they were inclined to work with Stevens.

POD

Continued from Page 1

answer questions and help guide the POD process. We still hope to recruit more volunteers during the POD exercise. Once people see how

they can help in a POD and realize the time commitment is minimal, hopefully they will sign up to help their community.

For additional information, please contact Rick Tull from the Texas Department of Health at 806-655-7151.

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PLAY WHO'S WHO AND WIN \$100 PAMPA BUCKS HERE'S HOW

1. Match each face with the corresponding name and rectangle in the advertisements found on the following pages in today's edition of THE PAMPA NEWS.
2. Cut out each face and tape it in the corresponding blank rectangle in each ad. All entries must be original newspaper - no photo copies accepted. THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE THE PUZZLE IS TO GO TO THE BUSINESS AND LOOK FOR YOURSELF! BUT... some of these businesses might be inaccessible to the public, so rely on friends and family to solve this puzzle.
3. The Who's Who contest will appear in the January 21, January 25, January 28 and February 1 issues of The Pampa News. A drawing will be held from the correct entries the morning of February 4 to determine the winner. Bring entries to The Pampa News office at 403 W. Atchison or mail to PO Box 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066. Entries must be received by 5:00pm on February 5. Label your entry with your name, address and phone number so the winner may be notified.
4. Employees of The Pampa News and their immediate families are not eligible to win.
5. The Who's Who contest will be solved in the February 8 edition of The Pampa News.



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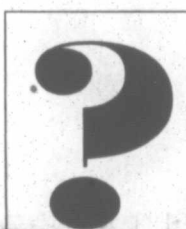


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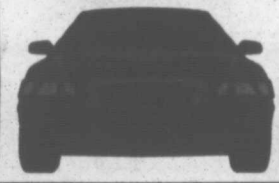

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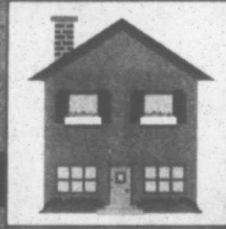

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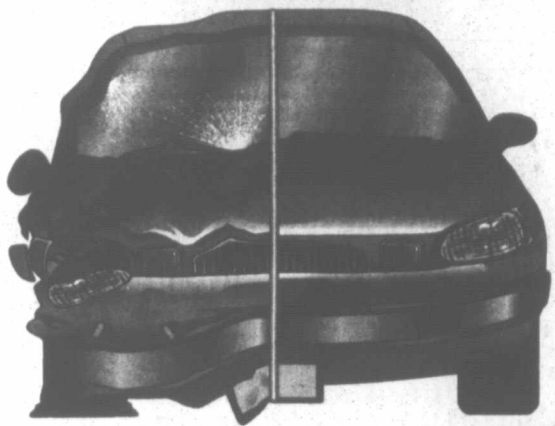
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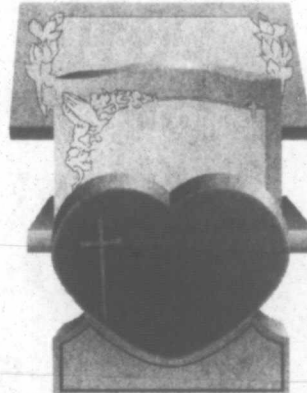
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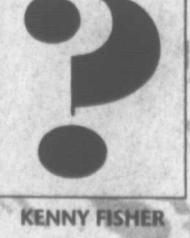
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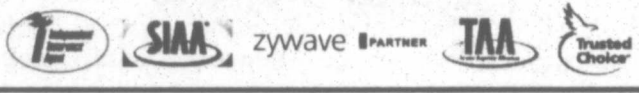


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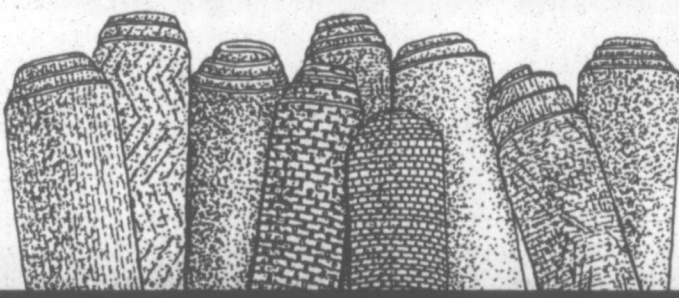
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Viewpoints

Sub-prime literacy really lack of responsibility

"If only the president had helped me earlier, maybe we wouldn't be in this credit-meltdown mess."

"The president?"
 "Haven't you heard? President Bush said, in so many words, that Americans are financial dopes. He signed an executive order to smarten us up."

"Ah, you speak of the President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy. It's a newly formed group of experts from the private sector who will seek ways to improve financial literacy for all Americans. If folks had more financial sense, we could have avoided the housing bubble."

"You got that right. When I signed for my sub-prime mortgage, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I didn't even know what 'sub-prime' meant."

"It's a simple concept. Roughly 25 percent of Americans have bad credit or an unstable work history. Such people don't qualify for 'prime' loans — low-risk loans. Since sub-prime loans are high-risk, mortgage lenders charge higher interest rates on them. Such loans are very profitable — so long as they are paid back."

"That's where I ran into a snag. Though I had a heck of a run before they took my

house away from me."

"You're going to have to explain."
 "A few years back a real-estate agent talked me into buying a gorgeous home. It was only \$500,000!"

"That's a lot of house in most parts of the country."

"It sure was. But I had a problem. There was no way I'd qualify for a loan. The real-estate guy told me to relax — that he knew people. I think he was eager to get his commission."

"You don't say."
 "He set me up with a mortgage guy. The mortgage guy said I could buy the house with no money down — that he had some kind of adjustable-rate, interest-only, balloon mortgage package that would keep my payments really low. I think he was eager to get his commission on the loan, because he didn't care that I had no job!"

"You had no job! How did you make your payments?"
 "Well, since any old fool was able to get a loan and buy a house, housing values skyrocketed. As they skyrocketed, people made

money. That caused more fools to jump in, which drove values even higher. I was able to tap the rapidly rising equity in my home by taking out another loan."

"You took out a home-equity loan to pay your mortgage!"

"Sure. I also used it to buy some nice furniture. You can't throw parties in a beautiful house like mine was if it isn't furnished right. But pretty soon the party was over."

"What happened?"
 "Well, people like me began defaulting on their loans. As interest rates went up and the gimmicks were pulled away, people's mortgage payments were suddenly higher than they could afford — they began losing their homes. At the same time, mortgage lenders got picky about who they lent money to — fewer people qualified to buy homes."

"An ugly combination that caused housing values to go down as quickly as they went up."

"You got that right. My home was suddenly worth tens of thousands less than I paid for it. The home equity people stopped giv-

ing me money. I lost everything. I currently reside with my mother."

"But you've learned from your mistakes?"

"My mistakes? I was taken advantage of by savvy business types who exploited me for their own gain. They should have told me I couldn't afford that house — that a bubble was forming and that my house wasn't really worth very much. I'm going to sue all of them."

"But weren't you taught basic economics and critical thinking in high school? When you buy a home, you are assuming the risk. Since you made bad decision, then, aren't you the one most to blame?"

"The president is to blame. If he had formed a government-sponsored financial-literacy council earlier, it could have showed people like me how to think — it could have protected us from tricky real-estate and mortgage people and other confusing financial stuff."

"Maybe you should sue the president, too."

"Now there's a thought."

—Tom Purcell is a humor columnist nationally syndicated exclusively by Cagle Cartoons.



Tom Purcell
 Columnist

Media motto: Simplify and exaggerate?

"American Idol" is a cruel and exploitative show. No performer gets on without an audition. That tells you that when the really pathetic and talentless people appear, they have been chosen, so the audience and the judges can laugh and ridicule them. It is not a talent show. It's a freak show.

You know, of course, that on the "Survivor" show, the survivors are surrounded by cameramen, sound men and various other production people. You know that if a stunt doesn't work out, they can reshoot it. "Survivorman," when he pretends to be alone in the wilderness, is traveling with a camera crew.

As a friend of mine used to say, "But you know all that."

Reality TV is really artificial-reality TV. Inside the

glass tube, news isn't news, history isn't history and science isn't science. Everything on television must be converted to melodrama, or so it seems. That's because factual reports tend to be dull. Even the weather has to be warped into a story.

That's also why political reporting spends almost no time at all reporting in detail the various candidates' positions on issues. Too dull. What is exciting is the horse race, which involves mainly reporting the latest polls and endless speculation about which candidate is leading or what his or her campaign strategy is. None of that is of

any use to the voter. What the voter needs to know is what specific proposals the candidates have to solve the nation's problems.

When Jimmy Carter first ran for president in 1976, the national press was presenting him as an obscure peasant farmer from a small town in Georgia who ate catfish, played softball and carried his own luggage. Not knowing the guy, I made a few phone calls to people who did know him. A former governor of Georgia described him perfectly. During the campaign, the governor said, Carter will sound like George Wallace, but once in

office, he'll out-McGovern George McGovern. Carter is a good bugler but a poor performer, he said.

I also learned that, far from being an outsider, Carter had been one of only two of the 50 governors to be personally chosen by David Rockefeller to sit on the Trilateral Commission, a very elitist policy group. He was a wealthy broker, not a farmer. His advisers were all Eastern Establishment insiders, most of them directors of major corporations. It turned out that the real outsider, and the poorer of the two men, was his opponent, Gerald Ford. The editor of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution wrote at the time, "If you knew Carter like I know Carter, the thought of him being in the White House is enough to

make you throw up." A retired Navy officer who had served with Carter told me, "The only thing I'll say about him is that when I realized who he was, I told my wife, 'God help this country.'"

So if I, a small-town reporter, could find all that out, why did the national press continue to present him as an outsider of modest means? I think the answer is that the press simply thought that made a better story. Shortly after his inauguration, I wrote a column listing 17 reasons why Carter would prove to be one of the worst presidents in American history. People initially were outraged, but before his term ended, they agreed with me.

Some people say Carter has been a better ex-presi-

dent than he was a president, and maybe that's true, but his administration was marked by one blunder and disaster after another. Carter had stood by with his thumb somewhere in his anatomy while Fidel Castro emptied his prisons and insane asylums onto America's shores. One of his former aides said to me, "If Carter had been president during the Falklands War, there would have been 600,000 sheep in Miami."

Novelist Michael Crichton pretty well summed up the national news media when he said they follow the same rule Walt Disney had given his cartoonists — simplify and exaggerate.

—Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.

Charley Reese
 Columnist



Today in History

By The Associated Press

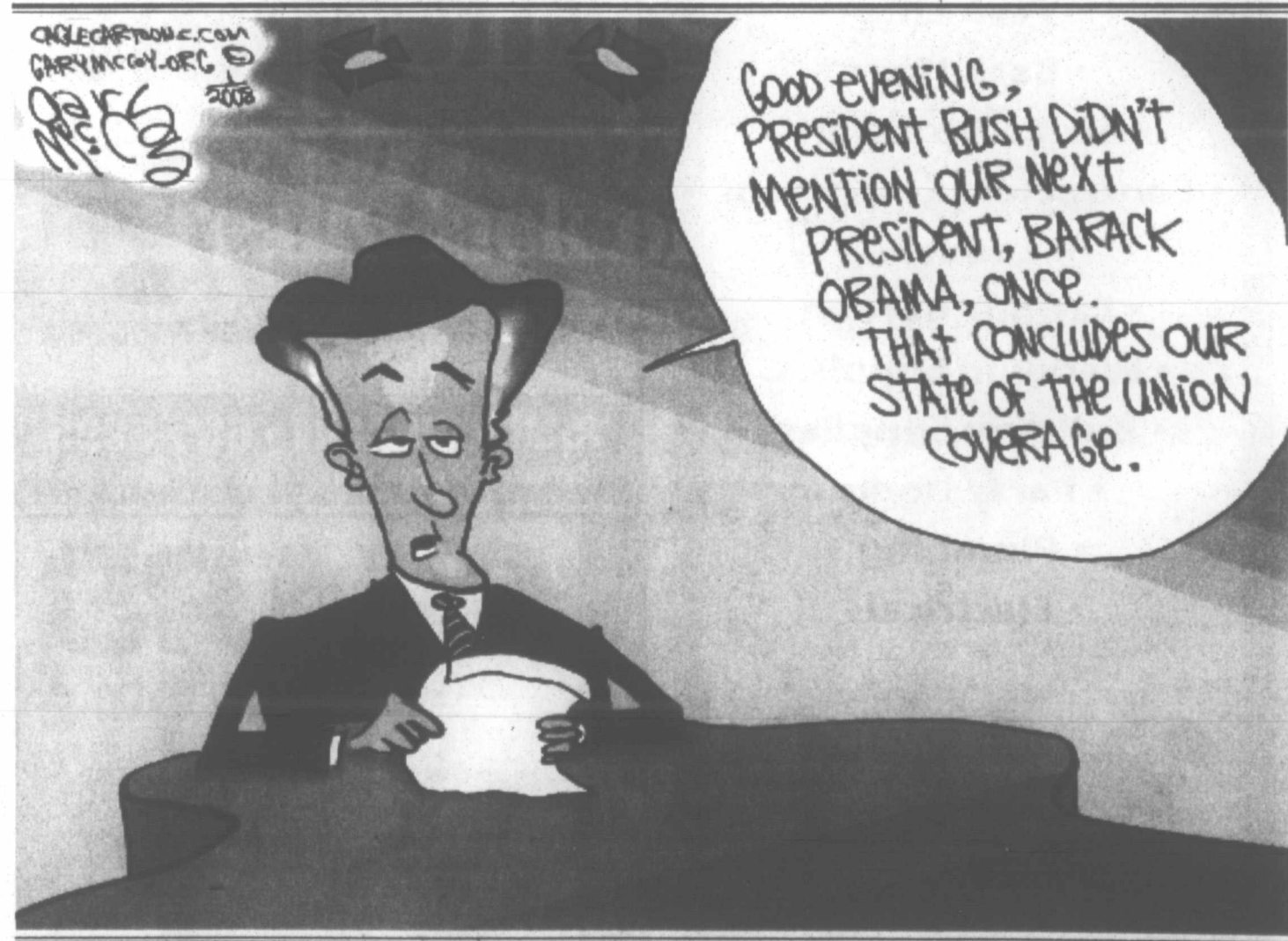
Today is Friday, Feb. 1, the 32nd day of 2008. There are 334 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Five years ago, on Feb. 1, 2003, the space shuttle Columbia broke up during re-entry, killing all seven of its crew members: Commander Rick Husband; pilot William McCool; Michael Anderson; Kalpana Chawla; David Brown; Laurel Clark; and Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli in space.

On this date:

- In 1861, Texas voted to secede from the Union.
- In 1908, movie producer and animator George Pal was born in Austria-Hungary.
- In 1920, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police came into existence.
- In 1946, Norwegian statesman Trygve Lie was chosen to be the first secretary-general of the United Nations.
- In 1958, the United Arab Republic, a union of Egypt and Syria, was established. (The union ended in 1961.)



Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around the nation:

n Jan. 21
 Grand Forks Herald, North Dakota, on border security:

... Currently, most motorists use a driver's license to get across the Canadian border. A few weeks ago, Congress delayed until mid-2009 a rule to require passports at the border, too. That law also left open the possibility that new high-security driver's licenses ultimately could substitute for passports, delivering convenience and cost-effectiveness to travelers as well as

security to the government.

But last week, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said he'd insist on an interim change starting Jan. 31: a rule to demand birth certificates as proof of citizenship as well as driver's licenses.

Reaction along the border was swift. "Now, the requirement that all must produce identification will worsen the already long lines and slow travel into the U.S. at a time when we should be encouraging Canadians to come to the U.S. and spend their Loonies," said Sarah Hubbard, vice president for government relations for the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn., agreed: Homeland Security "still doesn't understand the practical effects of DHS policies on the everyday lives of border community residents," he said.

...
 In the face of this, Chertoff's insistence on the interim birth-certificate rule seems like pure contrariness or a raw exercise of power or both. The marginal boost it'll give to national security isn't worth anything close to the disruptions and inconvenience it'll cause. ...

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Publisher: Sean Smith
 Managing Editor: Kerri Smith
 Advertising Director: ReDonn Woods
 Composing Supervisor: Brenda Cook

This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Saturdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, by The Pampa News. Periodicals postage, paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

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Religion

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

The Warner sisters, what a pair!

They were both plain in appearance — probably one of the reasons that neither of them ever married. Susan, the oldest by eight years, and Anna, named after her mother, were not just sisters, they were best friends, too. The loss of their mother when they were but 9- and 1-year-old, respectively, bonded them more tightly than even the closest of sisters.

For 17 years (only nine for Anna), Susan knew only the best of everything life had to offer. Her father, Henry, was a wealthy, successful New York City lawyer. Her mother grew up in the very high-brow Hudson Square region. They received the best training and education that wealth could buy.

As their age would permit, they took lessons in French, Italian, singing, dancing, piano, history, theology and mathematics. Their future could not have looked brighter. Surely one of the elite young men of New York society would consider each of them to be his catch for life.

Then within but a couple of years everything was lost. The journey from princess to pauper was a hard adjustment. Father, daughters and Aunt Fanny (Henry's sister who came

to help raise the girls after their mother's death) ended up moving to a small island and into a broken down farmhouse instead of the mansion that had been anticipated. The next 13 years

proved to be a constant struggle, sometimes even for food and clothing. One-by-one all of their finer possessions had to be sold.

The turning point came when Aunt Fanny encouraged the girls to use their writing skills for possible profit. Anna's book was published first at age 22. Susan's was published that same year at age 30. Before their lives were over, the Warner sisters were published over 100 times. However, wealth never returned.

Every penny was constantly eaten up by the cost of necessities, the settling of the past debts of their father and unwise contractual arrangements with various publishers. Susan died virtually penniless at age 66, still living in the family farmhouse with her beloved sister. Anna lived on the homestead for 30 years after Susan's passing

in virtually the same financial condition. Awfully gloomy, huh?

Now how about the "rest of the story?" To see the other side of the coin, we'll have to travel back to the 1800s.

In 1851, Susan's first book, "Wide, Wide World," became America's first "best seller" and during that era was only outsold by "Uncle Tom's Cabin." It was the story of a young, dedicated Christian girl who endured great difficulty, but remained true to her faith and overcame by God's grace and mercy.

In 1858, Susan asked for Anna's help with her book "Say And Seal." She was stuck and couldn't come up with a little poem for her main character to say to help comfort a dying little boy. That was when Anna Warner wrote: "Jesus loves me, this I know. For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but He is strong."

Beginning in 1875, the Warner sisters, at the request of several West Point cadets, were asked to teach a Bible class on

Sundays at the West Point Military Academy chapel. Susan did so with the greatest of eloquence until her death in 1885 and Anna continued to teach that same class until her death in 1915. In one of her final group of cadets were two young men who became Gen. Dwight Eisenhower (aka: President Eisenhower) and Gen. Omar Bradley.

Anna once summarized their difficult lives on Constitution Island: "Of that beautiful handful of plans we dreamed, just one came true: we did go to the Island to live, and it was Paradise; though not of our making. But no visions born of town life and ease, and plenty, ever figured out anything so rich and rare as what — through straits and need and difficulty — the Lord graciously granted to us, among our rocks."

These women had incredibly hard lives filled with constant struggle for even bread on the table. How did they respond? They both lived and died as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Their reward for that? #1: God let them die in the harness; #2: Heaven.

May we do likewise. God bless.

Mike Sublett
Hi-Land Christian



Religion in brief ...

Pope, in Lent message, says charity a duty for Catholics

VATICAN CITY (AP)— Pope Benedict XVI said charity was a "duty of justice" for Roman Catholics and that they must assume greater responsibility to help the less fortunate.

Focusing on almsgiving in his traditional message for Lent — the time the Church sets aside for fasting and prayer in preparation for Easter — the pope warned Tuesday against do-gooders who are in it for personal aggrandizement, saying that true charity goes beyond philanthropy.

He said that helping the poor and abandoned is for Christians a "duty of justice, even prior to being an act of charity." Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 6.

During the presentation of the message, Cardinal Paul Josef Cordes, head of the Vatican charity office, advised donors to check where their money was actually going.

Without giving names, he noted that the overhead of some organizations is close to 50 percent of the money received. Cordes said that figures from 2006 showed that the administrative costs of the Catholic charity Caritas in Italy were 9 percent of the donations.

The pope also underlined the benefits of charity for the donor. "By drawing close to others through almsgiving, we draw close to God; it can become an instrument for authentic conversion and reconciliation."

Mentioning the Church's contemporary symbol of charity, the late Nobel Peace Prize winner Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Cordes said, "To sum it up, Christian charity is what Mother Teresa called, 'a ticket to heaven.'"

Appeals court allows Bahai followers to get ID cards

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)— An Egyptian court on Tuesday ruled that members of the Bahai faith can get new ID cards that don't state their religious affiliation, ending four years of court controversies, including rulings that denied Bahaim exists as a religion.

The decision followed an appeal filed by two Bahai families who were refused ID cards by the Egyptian interior ministry because their religion is not recognized under the law here. Egypt recognizes only Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and requires all identification papers and other documents, such as birth certificates, to state an individual's religion.



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Friday night in Wisconsin, it's time for the fish to fry

MILWAUKEE (AP)— It wouldn't be Friday night in Milwaukee without a fish fry.

Nearly every restaurant has one, including drive-thrus, Latin supper clubs and pizza joints. Kathleen Hohl even spotted a sign for one at a local Wendy's.

"I about drove off the road," said Hohl, spokeswoman for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Fish fries are common in many places during Lent, which starts next week, but you'd be hard-pressed to find a spot where they are as pervasive year-round as Wisconsin.

A Roman Catholic ban on eating meat on Friday, German traditions, access to the Great Lakes and the lifting of Prohibition combined to make fish fries a staple of Wisconsin social life, said Janet Gilmore, a University of Wisconsin-Madison folklore professor who has studied them extensively.

They even continued to grow after the Catholic church eased its rules on abstaining from meat in the 1960s.

"It was sort of a habit that people got into, and people kept on doing it, both in churches and in restaurants," Milwaukee historian John Gurda said.

Mike Minor, 27, of Whitefish Bay, isn't Catholic but his family went to a neighborhood church each Friday for fish when he was growing up. His 24-year-old wife, Hillary, and her family always went to a friend's restaurant in Appleton for their fish fry.

When it came time for their wedding rehearsal dinner — on a Friday — they had it there.

"You don't even really think about why," Mike Minor said. "Just any time you think about the word Friday and dinner, you think of fish."

Fish fries developed in Catholic communities such as Milwaukee in the 1800s, Gilmore said. The church had designated Friday as a day of abstinence in memory of the crucifixion. People exchanged meat for fish as a form of sacrifice.

"The idea was a simple, less elaborate type of meal to

remind people of what happened on Friday," said Rev. Richard Gribble, a history and religious studies professor at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.

At the same time, German immigrants established family-friendly neighborhood taverns. Many offered free lunches to draw customers, and fried fish — too difficult and smelly to cook at home — was popular. The bars made up the cost in beer sales.

When taverns reopened after Prohibition, many offered fish fries as a way to revive their business, Gilmore said. More than 70 years later, when fish is no longer cheap or difficult to make at home, the tradition continues.

"In Wisconsin, it really satisfies this party state ideology," Gilmore said. "It's almost like having a private family event but in a public setting. If you go to a fish fry, it has this comfortable ambiance. You don't have to

get dressed up. You go in and you see people you know."

More than four out of five sit-down restaurants in Wisconsin offer fish fries, which can account for three-fourths of their business on a Friday night, said Ed Lump, president and chief executive officer of the Wisconsin Restaurant Association.

P.J. von Paumgarten, 41, of Whitefish Bay, used to go to the Bavarian Inn with his parents and grandparents. Now, he takes his wife and three children to the folksy inn where waitresses wear traditional German dresses and a pianist or polka band provides live music.

During Lent, they're there every Friday night, as fasting from meat is an important part of their faith and heritage.

"During Lent, I'll sometimes have a fish fry for lunch, and then have it again for dinner," von Paumgarten said.

Church briefs

The Church of Christ at 400 N. Wells will host a Gospel Meeting Feb. 6-10 with Evangelist David Minson and Craig Keel. Services are set at 7 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday and 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. The topic of the meeting will be "Elders and Deacons in the Church."

WAKA — Rushing Wind Emmaus will meet for a potluck meal, sponsor training, and praise and worship service starting at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9 at Waka Christian Center in Waka. All Emmaus members, families and friends are invited to attend. A nursery will be provided. A men's Walk to Emmaus will be conducted Feb. 21-24 at the center.

BORGER — Jerry Smith will present "The Kingsmen Quartet," a gospel quartet from Asheville, N.C., in free concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21 at the high school auditorium in Borger.

The quartet consists of Ray Reese, bass, Bryan Hutson, baritone, Phillip Hughes, lead, and Harold Reed, tenor. "Their traditional male quartet style singing," a news release on the quartet said, "and vibrant band make for a wonderful combination that has withstood the test of time."

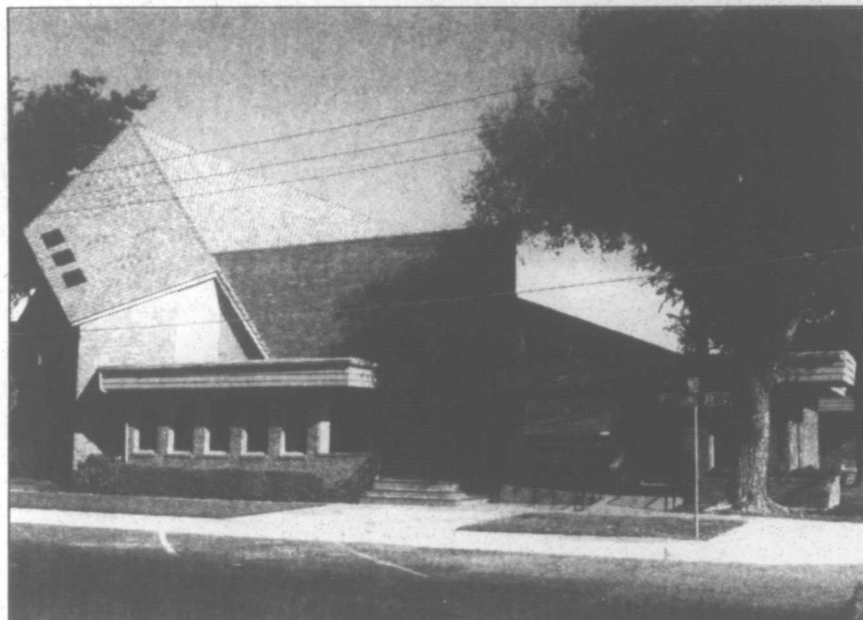
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Praise & Worship

A Weekly Series Highlighting Pampa's Churches



Bible Church of Pampa

Church name: Bible Church of Pampa, 300 W. Browning, 669-2923, www.biblechurchofpampa.com.

Minister: Pastor Robert Banks

Services: Sunday -- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, 10:45 a.m. Worship Service.

Members: 125.

Denomination: Independent.

How long here: Since 1970.

Main goal: The mission of the Bible Church of Pampa is to glorify God by inviting all into a lifelong, intimate and enthusiastic relationship with God and with each other through Jesus Christ.

Church message: We believe that Jesus Christ is the only Son of God and that our salvation comes through Jesus Christ.

Responsible parties: Pastor Robert Banks.

Information: We have an AWANA Program for the youth every Wednesday night starting at 6:30 p.m. The age groups are: cubbies, ages 3-4; Sparks, ages kindergarten through second grade; T&T, ages third grade through fifth grade; and Trek, sixth grade.

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Ken & Stephanie Rheams

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501 Commerce St. Pampa, Tx 806-665-0022
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This weekly series brought to you by these area businesses.

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have been seeing "Dawn" for a year and a half. Early in our relationship she cheated on me. I love Dawn more than I have loved anyone before, but I can't bring myself to completely trust her. She wants to move in with me now. My heart and my brain are telling me two different things. What do I do? — **AMBIVALENT IN YAPHANK, N.Y.**

DEAR AMBIVALENT: Listen to the organ that thinks.

DEAR ABBY: I work at a university, in an office that caters to student needs. Therefore, there is constant traffic consisting of students, faculty and staff. I share space with a 22-year-old administrative assistant, and our office is flooded with music throughout the day. I realize that some people "need" noise, but I am not one of them. It's challenging to meet and advise students in this semi-private environment while music is blaring, and even daily tasks and phone calls are an issue. On occasion, the selections are inappropriate for the office. She is a nice girl, but how do I approach her and/or my supervisor without sounding like a tattletale or a complainer? — **HAD IT WITH THE SOUND TRACK**

DEAR HAD IT: If you haven't already done so, talk with the young woman and explain that while some people love music while they work, others are distracted by it and find it difficult to function, and you fall into that category. If she's unwilling to cooperate after that, then perhaps your supervisor can help her see the light.

DEAR ABBY: My 6-year-old nephew, "Andy," is destructive. He lies constantly and frequently steals small items. I offered to assist my sister, "Mary," by baby-sitting Andy when she began working again after

her divorce became final. Day-care is extremely expensive, and I doubted she could afford it. This was over a year ago, and the problems started right away. After the most recent occurrence, I finally went ballistic even though the items Andy stole cost only 33 cents. I have had it! When Andy is confronted, he always says someone else did it (I have children of my own), that someone gave it to him (which has never been the case), "it was an accident" or "it was already like that" (half the time either my husband or I had seen him break the item). Andy has never admitted what he has done or said he was sorry. I finally informed Mary that I'm no longer available to watch her son due to his outrageous behavior, and I never want him in my house again. I haven't spoken to my sister in months. I see no future for Andy except prison. Is there a program for someone like him to prevent that in the future? — **AT A LOSS IN MISSOURI**

DEAR AT A LOSS: Your nephew is a very angry little boy. Not only has Andy lost his father, but his mother has gone from being a full-time mommy into the workforce while he was left in a household where he is no longer the center of attention. In addition, he may also have some emotional problems or learning disabilities. Giving your sister the silent treatment isn't the answer. Her son should be evaluated by a mental health professional, and the place to start is by asking the boy's pediatrician for a referral. Please urge her to do it ASAP. Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



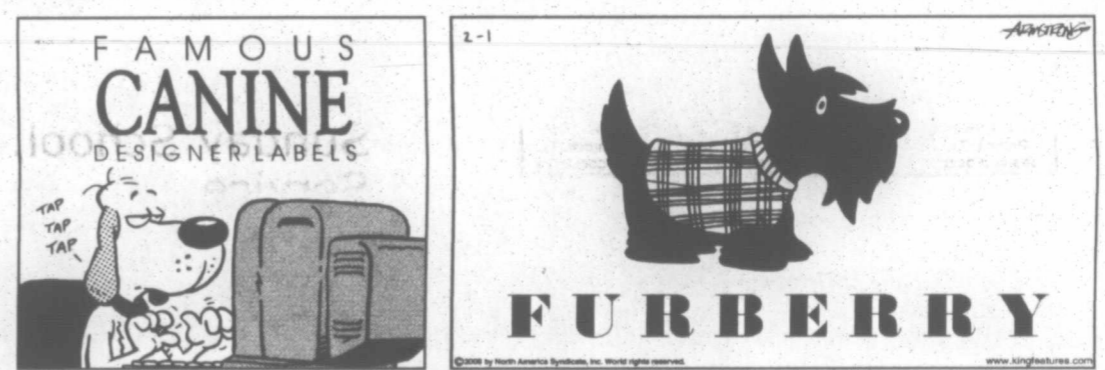
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 46 Diary

1 Yellow color

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Marmaduke



"They bong at breakfast, lunch, dinner and bedtime snack."

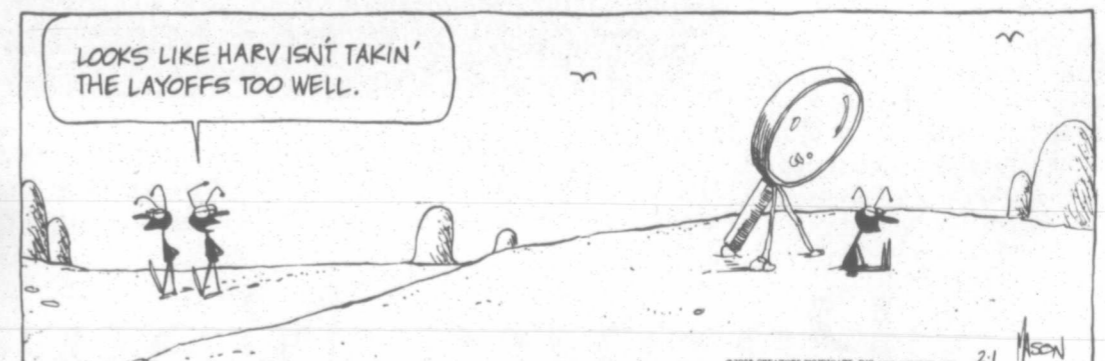
The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



"Mommy's making clam shouter!"

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Sports

Harvesters at Hereford promise excitement tonight

By JORDAN REAGAN
Sports Editor

Since the last time they played Hereford, the game has changed for the Pampa Harvesters, and tonight, they are ready to take on the Whitefaces in their second district match-up this season.

The first time the teams met Pampa ended a neck-and-neck contest with a tough 60-58 loss to Hereford, giving up a significant lead they had accumulated early on.

That game took place during the Harvesters' lengthy losing skid, and directly following a discouraging 104-44 loss to the Palo Duro Dons.

What has changed for the Harvesters since then is that losing has long since been put on hold, and their most recent loss to perfect Palo Duro was by all means an improvement with the score being 88-54 the second time around.

"I would definitely want to believe that we are sending a different team to Hereford than the one that took the floor against them last time," head coach Dustin Miller said. "I think we have improved in many areas of our

game since then and hopefully it pays off with a big road victory tonight. We have a little confidence back and we will definitely need it as this is one of the toughest road games in our district."

Things look different as well for the Whitefaces, who suffered a harder loss (73-27) to the Randall Raiders than the Pampa Harvesters, who were downed 82-44.

With a win tonight, Pampa can improve their district standing to a record of 3-4, 12-15 overall.

The Lady Harvesters can also look forward to a close match tonight with Hereford.

In their previous match, the Lady Whitefaces came out on top with a 43-32 victory over Pampa, finishing out a close race between the two teams, who shared a district record of 1-2 prior to the game.

Tonight, Hereford boasts a better record in district at 3-5 over Pampa's 1-7, but the Lady Harvesters' well-rounded, easily-spread roster may serve them well.

The Lady Harvesters will hit the court first tonight at 6 p.m. at Hereford, followed by the Pampa Harvesters at 7:30 p.m.



Pampa News photo by JORDAN REAGAN
Junior Matt Smith goes up for a shot during last week's game at Caprock. Also pictured here is senior Mark Stone (far left).

Chuck Knoblauch to talk to committee investigating baseball

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former major leaguer Chuck Knoblauch showed up to be interviewed Friday by congressional lawyers investigating drugs in baseball, totting his toddler son in his arms.

Asked what he would tell the staff members from the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Knoblauch said, "We'll see."

Knoblauch entered the committee room shortly before 10 a.m. His closed-door interview is part of the panel's preparation for a Feb. 13 hearing focused on Roger Clemens' denial of allegations in the Mitchell Report made by the pitcher's former personal trainer Brian McNamee.

Knoblauch, a former New York Yankees teammate of Clemens', also was among the more than 80 baseball players cited in the Mitchell Report. Knoblauch agreed Monday to speak to the committee after initially failing to respond to an invitation to testify.

That silence prompted the committee to issue a subpoena, but federal mar-

shals were unable to track down Knoblauch right away. The 1991 AL Rookie of the Year eventually did make contact, the subpoena was withdrawn, and his interview was rescheduled for Friday.

Current Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte's pre-hearing meeting with committee lawyers is slated for Monday, followed the next day by Clemens' scheduled appearance. McNamee is to

appear Thursday, and former New York Mets clubhouse employee Kirk Radomski on Feb. 12.

At least one unannounced interview has taken place. On Thursday, an employee

of the sports agency that represents Clemens and Pettitte spoke to committee lawyers.

The agent, Jim Murray, said in a statement: "I answered all the questions they asked of me."

His name was mentioned several times in a recorded conversation between Clemens and McNamee that the seven-time Cy Young Award winner played at a news conference last month.

San Antonio bowl



Pampa News photo by JORDAN REAGAN
A busload of bowlers hit the road Wednesday morning to make their way across the state. Pampa Special Olympics took 37 local athletes to compete in a bowling tournament in San Antonio. Pictured here are the athletes and sponsors just before loading up and taking off Wednesday. They will return home on Sunday with plenty of medals and bragging rights.

Pampa News Classifieds

1 Public Notice

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT) CONTRACTS
Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TXDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.
CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE / BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)
Dist/Div: Amarillo Contract 0904-00-124 for THERMOPLASTIC STRIPING in POTTER COUNTY, etc will be opened on March 05, 2008 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.
Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TXDOT Pre-qualified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and / or Dist / Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TXDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TXDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 26054
State Office

1 Public Notice

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200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist./Div. Office(s)
Amarillo District Engineer
5715 Canyon Dr.
Amarillo, Texas
79105-2708
Phone: 806-356-3283
Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.
A-17 Feb. 1, 8, 2008

The City of Lefors is currently accepting bids for an estimate on repair of the roof on the Lefors City Hall / Civic Center building.
The City Council will review the bids at its February 11, 2008 regular meeting. The City Council reserves the right to accept or reject any bid received. Bids may be dropped off at Lefors City Hall, 101 N. Court, Lefors, TX or mailed to P.O. Box 383, Lefors, TX 79054. All bids must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 11th. For more information contact Lindy Forsyth, City Secretary at 806-835-2200.
A-19 Feb. 1, 3, 10, 2008

1 Public Notice

The City of Lefors is currently accepting sealed bids on the following vehicle:
(1) 1993 Ford Crown Victoria.
The City Council will open the bids at its February 11, 2008 regular meeting. The City Council reserves the right to accept or reject any bid received. Vehicle will be sold as is, no warranty expressed or implied. Bids may be dropped off at Lefors City Hall, 101 N. Court, Lefors, TX or mailed to P.O. Box 383, Lefors, TX 79054. All bids must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 11th. For more information contact Lindy Forsyth, City Secretary at 806-835-2200.
A-18 Feb. 1, 3, 10, 2008

5 Special Notices

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

10 Lost/Found
FOUND black female Schnauzer in North East-part of town. 669-9566.

13 Bus. Opp.
GREAT investment opp. Pampa motel. Retired couple or individual. 665-1875, 806-383-1985.

14d Carpentry

Carpentry, Roofing, Replacement Windows, steel siding & trim. Continuous gutters. Jerry Nicholas 669-9991, 662-8169

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

14e Carpet Serv.
NU-WAY Cleaning service, carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost...It pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.

14h Gen. Serv.
HOUSE Cracking? In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

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JH Concrete Work. Stamps, driveways, addition, fences, remodeling. Free Est. 806-382-5408.

14s Plumbing/Heat

JACK'S Plumbing, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115. Plumbing, repairs, new constr., & septic sys.

14s Plumbing/Heat

Larry Baker Plumbing
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Borger Hwy. 665-4392

PANHANDLE Electric
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19 Situations

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE. Mon-Sat. Night time care also. Avail 2 Openings. Can Provide References. 664-4110

HOME Assistance, house cleaning, yard work, personal care, companionship, meal cooking. Let our team assist you. Very competitive prices from 1hr-24hr services. 669-1661, 663-3299.

21 Help Wanted

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Is now taking applications for **HOME PROVIDER (PAMPA AREA)**
CALL 1-800-892-3301 (ASK FOR MINERVA) OR Apply in person at 1201 N. Hobart, Space D (Coronado Center)

21 Help Wanted

GREAT opp. for single or retired couple, for 12 unit motel in Pampa. Lrg. apt. incl. 665-4274, 665-4274.

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING. Avg. Pay \$20 / hr. or \$57K yr. incl. Federal benefits and OT. Offered by Exam Services not aff. w/ USPS who hire. 1-866-483-6490.

PARKVIEW Hospital now accepting appli. for **Full-Time RN,** for the 7pm.-7am. shift. Competitive salary. Exc. benefits. Mileage pd. Call Sue Stiles, DON, or apply in person, 901 Sweetwater St., Wheeler, Tx., 806-826-1370.

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Apply in Person No phone calls please
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129 S. PRICE RD. PAMPA

21 Help Wanted

FULL time RN needed at Parkview Hospital Home Health in Wheeler. Please call 826-1370 and ask for Susan Leffew, RN, Director, or come by 306 E. 9th, Wheeler, for applica.

LAW firm looking for receptionist/legal assistant. Fax resumes to 806-669-0440.

SEMCRUDE has openings for full time Bobtail and Transport drivers in the Pampa & surrounding areas. Must have Class A CDL with the X endorsement and meet DOT qualifications. Exc. benefits pkg., incl. medical, dental, vision and life ins., along with a 401K pkg. and paid vacation, sick and holidays. Please call 806-934-7505 for application.

SEMCRUDE, L.P. has an opening for a full-time Mechanic in the Pampa shop. Must have own tools and meet the DOT qualifications. Excellent benefit pkg. Please call 806-934-7505, for appli.

21 Help Wanted

REAL Estate Co. needs maintenance man w/ own tools. Apply 800 N. Nelson, Mon.-Fri., 8am.-6pm. 665-1875, 665-4274.

POTTER TRUCKING, INC. DUMAS, BORGER, PAMPA, TEXAS AREAS
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****Health Ins., Dental, Vision, Disability, Life, Partial Insurance Paid on Wife and Children**
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****Home Every Night**
****YOU MUST HAVE**
****CDL W/ Hazmat and Tanker**
****Good Driving Record**
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NOW HIRING:
Rig Operators with CDL License or be able to obtain a CDL License
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Must have good past employment history
Call 806-274-2259, Borger for application 8:00am-5:30pm

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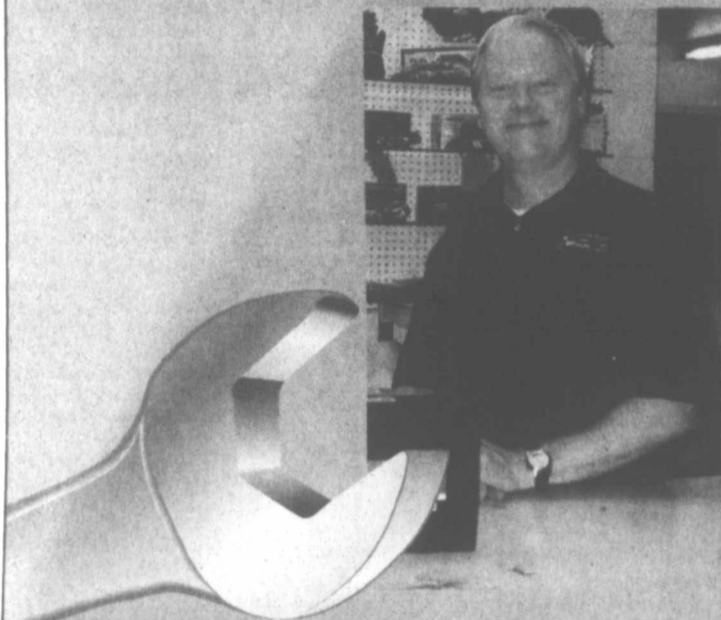
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