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HIGH
77
LOW
47

See expanded weather on Page 2

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Walter Miller stands in front of his latest project at the Freedom Museum, refurbishing a Sikorsky helicopter once used by the Coast Guard.

Museum curator began as volunteer

By DAVID BOWSER
The Pampa News

Walter Miller is the newest (and only) employee of the Freedom Museum USA, and that's because the federal government requires it.

Miller, assistant museum curator, said he first became involved with the Freedom Museum when he brought some model airplanes down. He met Mike Porter, then the museum's curator, and soon become a volunteer at the museum.

When the federal government ruled that the museum had to have a full-time professional employee if it was to keep the equipment that different military services had loaned it, Miller was perfectly positioned for the job.

Andy Epps, the present curator, said when they were negotiating with the Air Force for the loan of some equipment, they learned that by federal law, the museum had to have at least one full-time professional employee to oversee the museum's collections.

"Now for some reason," Epps said, "this federal law has been on the books for a great many years, but it's only been in recent years that they've started to enforce it."

He said that the government now sends inspectors around to make sure the items on loan from the military to museums are on display. Fortunately,

most of the displays are owned by members of the museum or have been donated by private parties.

Miller at 68 became the museum's first paid employee, although he and Epps agree that he is paid only a nominal fee.

Epps said Miller's work far exceeds what the museum pays him.

Miller, a Pampa native and Army veteran, said only that he enjoys the work at the museum.

That work includes almost everything from overseeing new exhibits to the painting and repair of equipment.

While the later may not sound that exciting, last year, it included painting the B-25 that the museum has on display behind the building.

The airplane is similar to the twin-engine bomber the Army Air Corps flew out of the Pampa training field during World War II, but it is the Navy patrol plane model. Instead of olive drab, the plane is blue with a white belly. To complicate matters, it had to be painted with a special paint.

"It's \$150 a gallon," Miller said. "You have to mix it half and half with a hardener. That's another \$135."

"It's \$350 a gallon by the time you get it all mixed," Epps said.

Epps went on to say that Miller painted the plane with a brush.

"There's not a brush stroke you can see," Epps said. "He did a great job."

Miller's next project, his baby as he

calls it, is a Sikorsky helicopter that the Coast Guard used to fly.

The big white and orange bird is parked outside the main entrance to the museum. It was rescued from the military bone yard at Tucson, Ariz.

Miller at 68 became the museum's first paid employee, although he and Epps agree that he is paid only a nominal fee..

Rather than painting it, Miller is in the process of removing paint from it.

When it was put in storage, the numbers and insignia were painted over. Miller is carefully removing the top coat of paint to reveal the original colors of the helicopter, a painstaking endeavor requiring both patience and skill.

When he finishes that, he should have a new plane to paint, but then that's another story.

Second 'appliance day' expected to surpass first

By MARILYN POWERS
The Pampa News

The second monthly appliance day at Top Of Texas Ice Company is expected to surpass the first, which was held March 1.

"We've already got 20 units lined up," said company representative Mary Ann Richards.

Sixteen discarded coolant-containing appliances were gathered up last month at the

business, located at 1945 N. Hobart, to help area residents get rid of unwanted refrigerators and freezers.

The company plans to hold the event on the first Saturday of each month; the next Appliance Day will be Saturday. Hours will be from 9 to 11 a.m.

"The Salvation Army canteen will serve free coffee and doughnuts," Richards said.

The company has expanded

its list of appliances accepted for disposal. In addition to appliances containing coolant, such as refrigerators, freezers and water coolers, they will accept clothes washers, dryers and stoves.

Pick-up service is available for elderly and disabled persons who do not have a way to get their unwanted appliance to the business. Call 665-2061 for more information or to schedule appliance pick-up.

Paulette Hinkle and Richards of Top Of Texas Ice Company decided to provide the service free of charge after Gray County Precinct 2 Commissioner Gary Willoughby brought the problem of rural dumping of appliances and other items to the attention of county commissioners. Willoughby is assisting in the monthly appliance roundup at the business.

Hwy 60 work to divert traffic

By MARILYN POWERS
The Pampa News

Motorists wishing to travel on FM 2373 north of U.S. Highway 60 near the Pantex nuclear weapons assembly and disassembly plant will need to find an alternate route beginning Tuesday, according to a press release from Paul Braun of the Texas Department of Transportation's Amarillo office.

The intersection of FM 2373 and Highway 60 marks the turnoff from Highway 60 north to the Pantex plant, between Panhandle and Amarillo. A new overpass is being constructed at the intersection.

"The work is forcing closure of FM 2373 north and south of U.S. 60," Braun said in the release. "The roadway will remain closed for the duration of the project."

Traffic lanes on Highway 60 are also affected by the construction. Lanes will be narrowed, and may be limited to one lane in each direction. These changes are scheduled to end on Oct. 31, according to the TxDOT web site.

Students collect tabs

By JULIE ANN THOMPSON
The Pampa News

Students at Travis Elementary have been collecting tabs from coke cans, juice cans and others to help raise money to aid a young boy in Waxahachie, Texas.

"I got the idea from a friend of mine who goes to Sunday School at First Baptist Church in Mobeetie," Donna Turner said.

Turner declined to give the name of the boy that the money is aiding out of respect for him and his family, but confirmed that all of the proceeds are going to the children's hospital in Waxahachie. Each bucket of tabs is relatively equivalent to \$1,500 which provides one treatment for the boy. So far, the children's efforts have filled three, five gallon buckets.

"It's something the kids can do to help without raising money," Turner said.

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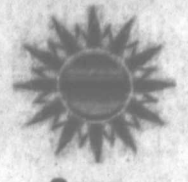
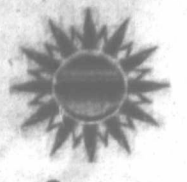

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Saturday	Sunday	Monday
		
Sunny	Sunny	Sunny

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 77. Windy, with a south wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 47.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 67.
Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 46.

Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 74.
Monday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

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Obituaries

Services tomorrow

COLLUM, Ed — Memorial services, 10 a.m., Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors Ivy Chapel, Amarillo.
LeMOND, Freda — Graveside services, 1 p.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa.

John Gregory Cline, 22

John Gregory Cline, 22, died this week from injuries sustained in an automobile accident near Abilene. Services are pending with Lowell-Tims Funeral Home in Altus, Okla.

Ed Collum, 71

AMARILLO — Ed Collum, 71, of Amarillo, died on March 10, 2008. Memorial Services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, 2008, at Boxwell Brothers Ivy Chapel, 2800 Paramount Blvd., with Dave Clark, officiating. Arrangements are by Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors. Ed was born Oct. 9, 1936, to Venus and Mary Aldena Collum in Pampa, Texas. Ed owned and operated Collum's Traditional Shop for Men in the '60s, became a stockbroker through the '80s and was a Patient Advocate for the Amputees until his death. He was preceded in death by his father, Venus; a son, Eddie Kim; and his brother, Jackie Dean. Survivors include his mother, Mary Aldena "Dena" Collum of Pampa; wife, Phyllis of Amarillo; daughter, Karen Kay Collum of Phoenix, Ariz.; and step-son, Todd Swank and family of Denver, Colo. The family suggests Memorials be to: The Second Chance Foundation 1600 Wallace Blvd., Amarillo, Texas.

Freda LeMond, 88

Freda LeMond, 88, of Pampa, Texas, died April 2, 2008, at Pampa. Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 5, 2008, at Fairview Cemetery with the Rev. Robin Gantz, Presbyterian minister, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors. Mrs. LeMond was born Sept. 1, 1919, in Shamrock. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1936. She married Guy LeMond in 1947 in Pampa. He preceded her in death in 1990. Freda was assistant vice president of Citizens Bank & Trust from 1941 until 1983, and then vice president of National Bank of Commerce from 1983 until her retirement in 1992. She was a member of Epsilon Sigma Alpha sorority, various banking organizations, Pampa Country Club, Pampa Senior Citizens Center, and First Presbyterian Church. Survivors include two grandsons, Mark Barrett of Eules and Michael Barrett of McKinney; six great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Carolyn Barrett of McKinney; niece, Becky Peterson of Eagle, Colo.; extended family, Jim and Karen Gardner of Pampa, Neal Gardner of Pampa, Kevin Gardner of Garland, and Andy Gardner of Pflugerville; and caregiver, Pat Murry of Pampa. Freda was preceded in death by a son, Richard Preston Barrett; a sister, Gwen Gravitt; and her parents, Fred and Gertrude Glass. The family will receive friends at 2535 Beech in Pampa. **MEMORIALS:** A favorite charity. —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whately.com.



LeMond

Bennie G. Tice, 78

SKELLYTOWN — Bennie G. Tice, 78, of Skellytown, died Wednesday, April 2, 2008, in Lawton, Okla. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors. Mr. Tice was born on Dec. 27, 1929, in Hollis, Okla., to David F. and Minnie Mae Tice. He married Elsie Bromlow on Oct. 31, 1953, in Clovis, N.M. He had been a resident of Skellytown since 1955. He worked for W. O. Operating Co. and Cano Petroleum as a pumper. Mr. Tice lived most of his life working in the oilfields of the Texas Panhandle and was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Pampa. Survivors include his wife, Elsie Pearl Tice, of the home; two daughters, Kathryn "Diana" Bailey of Farmers Branch, and Sherry Beall and husband David of Lawton, Okla.; two sons, Bennie G. Tice, Jr. and wife Sharon of Stinnett, and Mike Tice and wife Lee of Skellytown; three sisters, Pauline Ware and Alice Hassler of Amarillo and Lorene Tice of Pampa; two brothers, Milton Roy Tice of Pampa and Ralph "Butch" Tice of Skellytown; three grandsons; five granddaughters; 10 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Woodrow Tice; and a sister, Gladys Griffin. **MEMORIALS:** Carson County Junior Livestock Association, P.O. Box 365, White Deer, TX 79097, or American Diabetes Association, 8008 Slide Rd., Suite 12-A, Lubbock, TX 79424. —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whately.com.



Tice

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Wheat	NA
Milo	NA
Corn	NA
Soybeans	NA

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa

OXY	76.83	+1.30
BP PLC ADR	62.97	+0.47
Cabot Corp	28.94	-0.54
Celanese	41.37	+0.87
Cabot Oil Gas	54.92	+1.32
Coca Cola	60.85	+0.29
VLO	50.52	-1.08
HAL	40.84	+0.66
XCEL	20.80	+0.30
Anadarko	64.36	+1.16
XOM	88.58	+0.35
Nat'l Oilwell	66.30	+1.86
Limited	18.28	-0.20
Williams	34.26	+0.52
MCD	55.67	-0.57
Atmos	26.94	+0.22
Pioneer Nat	51.98	+1.44
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COP	78.90	+0.52
SLB	91.18	-0.12
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Religion Page

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Courtesy Photo

The Rev. Brian Christen, pictured, will be installed as associate minister of Youth and Christian Education during the morning worship on Sunday, April 6, at First Christian Church of Pampa, 1633 N. Nelson.

First Christian to install new youth minister Sunday

The Rev. Brian Christen, associate minister for Youth and Christian Education at First Christian Church of Pampa, 1633 N. Nelson, will be formally installed to his new position on Sunday, April 6.

The installation ceremony will be conducted during the morning worship service beginning at 10:45 a.m. Afterwards, he and his family will be guests of honor at a fellowship luncheon sponsored by the membership committee. After the meal, new members will be invited to hang a cross representing their family on the "Cross Wall" of Fellowship Hall.

Christen and his family, wife Cherie and 5-year-old twins Blake and Braeden, moved to Pampa five months ago. "But getting to this point in my life was a long time coming," he explains.

Christen graduated from Texas A&M University in 1996 with a degree in sociology. Before following a call to ministry, he was a counselor at Houston Hospice, a chaplain resident at St. Luke's Hospital in Houston, and, he says, he even tried to hide from God at Enterprise Rent-a-car. When he finally decided to heed God's will for his life, Christen said he moved the family to North Texas where, in 2006, he earned a master's of divinity from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

The next step in Christen's journey, he says, came in 2007 when he was ordained to Christian ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). With a prayerful search for the right place to dive into full time ministry and the support of

his wife of 10 years and his two children, Christen says he found First Christian Church of Pampa. The move from Denton took a few adjustments, he adds, but the Christens have found that Pampa is home, and he has intensified his passion to minister to children and youth.

On the home front, Christen loves spending time with his adventurous twins, riding his bike, playing guitar, and eating anything that has peanut butter in it. On the ministry front, he strives to build a safe and vibrant place where children and youth can encounter Christ.

Christen says he holds fast to the goals of the First Christian Church Youth Ministry to acknowledge that each person is a child of God, connect youth in all stages of life to the Body of Christ, worship God together in various ways, discover ministry through outreach and service, share faith with the world, and encourage and equip youth to further their relationship with God throughout a lifetime.

"My plan is to build on the strong foundation of youth ministry at First Christian and embrace the energy and questions that kids have to challenge them to experience the living God," Christen says.

The public is invited to attend Christen's installation on Sunday, April 6, at First Christian. Morning worship begins at 10:50 a.m. Sunday School classes for children and adults begin at 9:45 a.m. Wednesday activities include snack supper at 6:15 p.m., followed by youth groups and choir practice at 7 p.m.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Cornerstone Baptist Church in Pampa will host a Men's Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, April 19, to kick-off revival services with Jim Hamilton, executive director of the Dakota Baptist Convention. A motorcycle ride with "Cornerstone Riders" will follow the breakfast. Anyone interested is

welcome either or both events.

GUYMON, Okla. — Rushing Wind Emmaus will meet at 6 p.m. April 12 at First Christian Church in Guymon for potluck supper, sponsors training, database session, and praise and worship service. All Emmaus members,

friends and families are welcome. A nursery will be provided.

Church of Christ, 400 N. Wells, will host a gospel meeting with Evangelist Shawn McCorkle at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday.

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Viewpoints

Modern education needs more old-school values

My old Catholic elementary school has been struggling, and that's not good for anybody.

St. Germaine School in Pittsburgh, Pa., will merge with another Catholic school because of declining enrollment at both schools. St. Germaine's enrollment dropped from 172 students just six years ago to 86 this year.

Sister Dale McDonald, director of Public Policy and Education Research at the National Catholic Educational Association, told me that declining enrollment is a national trend. Though there is some growth in the South and the West, Catholic schools are shutting down at the rate of more than 100 per year.

Why? Catholic families are having fewer children. Costs have gone up — health care, teacher salaries, liability insurance — driving tuitions up. And Catholic families aren't as attached to their parish as families were when I was a kid.

Lucky for me, I came out of a rich Catholic tradition that was set in motion by millions of European immigrants who immigrated to America 100 years before I was

born. They paved the way for me to enjoy a terrific experience at good old St. Germaine.

I entered the school in the first grade. I knew right away things were going to be different from the public school where I attended kindergarten. The sisters were clearly in charge of St. Germaine. The place was so orderly and clean you could eat off the floor.

The school was packed with kids. The church was built to service our growing suburban community. Many of the families that lived in our neighborhood moved there to be near the church and the school. Our parents were determined that we receive a good education and be taught solid values.

And, boy, did the sisters deliver. Every day they taught us to embrace the virtues: prudence, temperance and courage. They demanded we fend off the seven deadly sins: pride, envy, gluttony, lust, anger, greed and sloth. They made us sit up straight and keep our shirts tucked in.

When they weren't pounding values into

us, they worked us hard in math, science, reading and writing. Unlike many of today's public school teachers, the sisters didn't dwell on boosting our self-esteem; that was something we had to earn by producing results.

I didn't know it then, but the sisters gave us the gift of clarity. They portrayed the world as it really is — a battle between good and evil. Every moment of every day, we are moving toward one and away from the other. The sisters were determined to give us the fortitude we would need to make the right decisions and move in the right direction.

My years at St. Germaine were eventful. The lead-ups to Christmas and Easter were always giant affairs — the ceremonies, the planning, the excitement.

The sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation were huge deals that involved a special Mass and a family gathering — a giant celebration that confirmed something important had occurred.



Tom Purcell
Columnist

No angelic race exists on the face of this earth

Many Americans, it seems, don't like to hear themselves and their country criticized. Some think it is unpatriotic. Others think it clashes with the image of a special country of special people especially blessed by God.

Well, at the risk of getting disapproval dumped on my head, let me say that reality doesn't match the image. Our ancestors did not wrest this choice piece of real estate from the British, the French, the Spanish and the Native Americans by being a jolly little band of Goody-Two-Shoes. If modern Americans could meet some of their early ancestors, they might be scared of them, and with good reason, because some of them were a rough, brutal and fierce lot of people.

There is a story about one of Kit Carson's friends who set off by himself to catch two wanted bandits in order

to collect the reward. He found their hideout and killed them in cold blood

Charley Reese

Columnist



with his buffalo gun. Then, he decided that carrying the bodies back would be too much trouble, so he cut their heads off and stuffed the heads in his saddlebags.

He was invited to a celebration at the governor's house and was presented with an engraved rifle. He took the rifle by the barrel and threw it over the wall. Then he said to the governor: "I didn't kill them greasers for no (expletive) rifle. Where's my money?"

An English traveler described visiting a frontier tavern after a brawl and said

you could hardly walk without stepping on eyeballs and severed ears. Cage fighting today is child's play compared with the way the American frontiersmen fought. Gouging out eyes and biting off ears and noses were acceptable tactics.

A hard environment and hard times make hard people. The United States, for most of its existence, was a poor country. How would you like to dig coal in an unsafe mine with a pick and shovel you had to buy from the mine owner and get paid a few pennies a ton?

When modern Americans think back to the Indian Wars, they tend to get teary-

eyed for the Indians and indignant about the whites and Mexicans who fought them. They forget that the Indians of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries were not the same as the Indians today.

The Indians our ancestors fought were armed and free and just as brutal as the people they fought. You ought to look at some of the photographs of Geronimo. If you can find a hint of sympathy or compassion in that face, let me know. He was not a man at whose mercy you would want to be.

Justifications don't mean a rat's toenail. Everybody who fights and ever has fought always believes he is justified. In the Indian Wars,

Indians were disadvantaged by their tribalism and our numbers. We might find ourselves in the same fix one day if a half-billion Chinese decide they would rather live in North America.

And we haven't changed. We fight modern wars with the same savagery and ruthlessness as our ancestors. When we finished with Japan and Germany in World War II, there were hardly two bricks on top of each other in either country, and we had slaughtered millions of civilians. Yes, we kill innocent civilians.

Americans have always operated under the rule that if it's a question of our death or your death, let's make it

your death.

As for angry blacks, those who lived through the last days of segregation have a right to be angry. People of both races born after the civil-rights movement have no idea of the indignities, humiliation and, yes, beatings and murders that were inflicted on blacks.

Still, Americans have no reason to be ashamed of our past. Every country in the world has its own dismal record. The world is as it is. People, including us, are as they are. Let's just not delude ourselves that we are angels.

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

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, April 4, the 95th day of 2008. There are 271 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

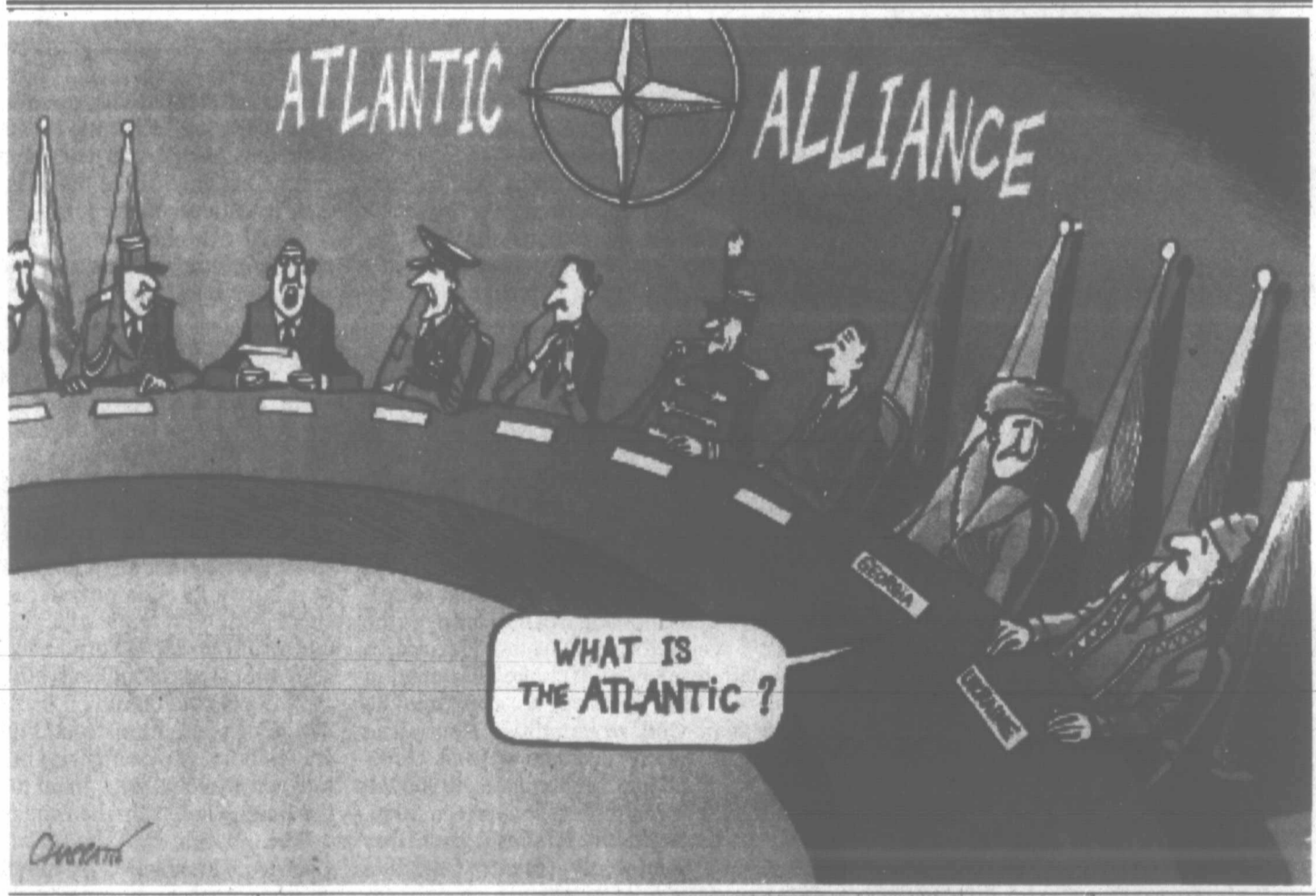
On April 4, 1968, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., 39, was shot to death as he stood on a balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn.; the killing sparked a wave of riots across the U.S. (James Earl Ray later pleaded guilty to assassinating King, then spent the rest of his life claiming his innocence and attempting to withdraw his guilty plea; he died in prison in 1998.)

On this date:

In 1818, Congress decided the United States flag would consist of 13 red and white stripes and 20 stars, with a new star to be added for every new state.

In 1841, President William Henry Harrison succumbed to pneumonia one month after his inaugural, becoming the first U.S. chief executive to die in office.

In 1850, the city of Los Angeles was incorporated.



Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion from around the nation:

■ March 26
Los Angeles Times, on the Vienna Convention:

The U.S. Supreme Court got it half-right Tuesday when it ruled that President Bush lacked the authority to tell courts in Texas to honor a decision of the International Court of Justice and reopen the case of a Mexican citizen on Texas' death row. But it should have acted on its own authority to give Jose Medellin another day in court. By not doing so, it sends the message that the United States isn't serious about honoring its treaty obligations. ...

The role of the Supreme Court is to decide "what the law is," as Chief Justice John Marshall observed, not to worry about how its rulings will affect foreign affairs. Even so, the majority's refusal to apply the Vienna Convention in this case will have consequences for U.S. diplomacy and for the way

Americans are treated abroad. If police in this country can successfully flout the treaty, so can police in other countries.

On the Net:
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-ed-mexico26mar26_0,3675818.story

■ March 25
The Star-Ledger of Newark, N.J., on handling presidential candidate records:

The federal government knows presidential candidates will be the target of extraordinary scrutiny, even snooping. And federal agencies also know they have a duty to release all information on the candidates that properly can be made public while safeguarding any data that cannot. ...

The State Department fell down badly with its weak response to the workers who improperly accessed passport files of Republican candidate John McCain and Democrats Barak

Obama and Hillary Clinton — and by making only a very belated acknowledgment of the file-peeping. ...

The National Archives, meanwhile, has shown it takes its information-handling duties seriously indeed. ...

The general rule is that requests are answered in the order they are received. Beyond that, simple requests are put in one line while complex ones. ...

Ideally, the archives would have more workers, so requests could be answered in less time. But short of hiring an army of new help, the archives should stick to its current approach.

The existing rules properly treat everyone the same, whether the requester is a massive media outlet, a college researcher or an average Joe or Jane. It's hard to get more democratic than that.

The State Department should match that commitment to ensuring that the rules are followed.

On the Net: <http://www.nj.com>

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with "Gary" for four years. His late wife was his first and only relationship. When he moved in with me; he brought so many boxes they filled my entire basement. I want it cleared out because I don't feel I should have to store his past. Gary's adult children have had the opportunity to take boxes home, but never do. When I asked him to clean things up, he responded by saying he doesn't feel at home here and will start looking for a place of his own. For the most part, our relationship is a good one. I feel if he's ready to move on, he shouldn't have brought his past here with him -- including the urn containing his late wife's ashes. Am I wrong to feel this way? -- **FEELING CROWDED, CARLIN, NEV.**

DEAR FEELING CROWDED: While all of us bring the "baggage" of past relationships with us as we move through life, your friend has done it in a literal sense. If he was concerned about your feelings, he could rent a storage unit -- but he hasn't. Telling you that if you insist he clear out the basement, he will clear you out of his life is emotional blackmail. Perhaps it's time to ask yourself if this relationship is a healthy one. Could the boxes and the urn be symptoms of a larger problem? If so, then Gary should haul his ashes, boxes and self elsewhere.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have a 20-year-old nephew I'll call "Adam," who sometimes lacks good judgment. We have told him that when he visits he should ask before drinking our milk. The price of milk has gone sky-high, and we have a 7-year-old who drinks a lot of it. We have had to tighten our purse strings and try to make a gallon last a week. When Adam comes

over, he will drink two or three big glasses of it. Now, instead of asking, he sneaks it when we're not looking. His mother, "Faye," is also my best friend. While she was visiting, Adam waited until we went into the family room, then consumed more than half of the gallon of milk we had just purchased. When we discovered what had happened, we called Adam on his cell phone and told him we weren't happy about it. Faye overheard the conversation. When we saw her the next day, she didn't seem too upset about it. But now that she's back home in Florida, she hasn't returned any of my calls or e-mails. Could scolding Adam about the milk have anything to do with Faye's silence? -- **SOURD IN CONNECTICUT**

DEAR SOURD: If you explained to Adam that you and your husband are on a strict budget, and that you didn't want him to help himself to it. It is not unheard of for a parent to become offended when someone scolds his or her child. That may be the reason you're getting the silent treatment. But no one can answer that question for sure other than Faye.

DEAR ABBY: I have a very strict father. I respect what he has to say, but I don't like the fact that he won't let me have a boyfriend. He thinks all dudez are alike -- well, most dudez at least. I need that li'l bit of advice, pleeezzz. Love always, **BABI IN MILFORD, CONN.**

DEAR BABI: Dadz can be that way sometimez. Perhaps yours is trying to prevent you from making an "S" of yourself.

For Better Or Worse



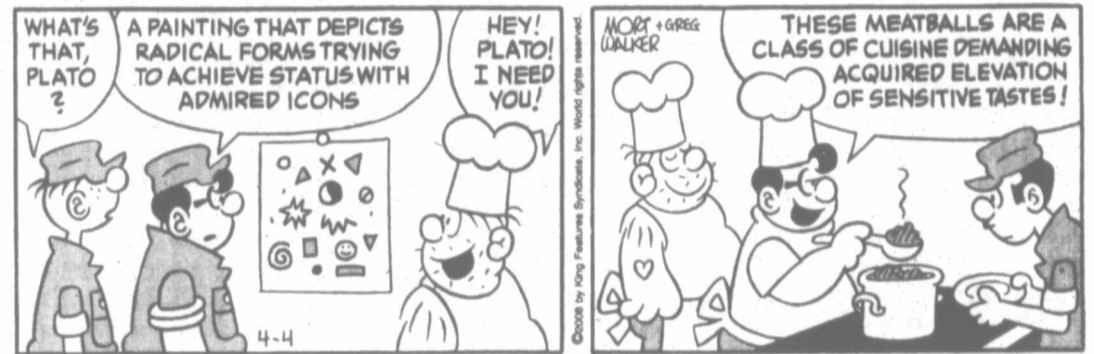
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 39 Reunion attendee
 - 40 Calls for the latest
 - 41 Manipulative sort
 - 42 "Barry Lyndon" star
 - 43 Milky gems
 - 44 Handle
 - 45 Purple shade
 - 46 Rickety boat
 - 47 Iridescent blackbird
 - 48 Watches secretly
 - 49 Charged bit
 - 50 Start
 - 51 "It's Gonna..." (N Sync song)
 - 52 Actor
 - 53 Voight
 - 54 Young fox
 - 55 Hammer part
 - 56 Long stories
 - 57 Forest feller
 - 58 Show closers
 - 59 Warren group
 - 60 "Krazy..."
 - 61 Less cordial
 - 62 Dress type
 - 63 Iron output
- DOWN**
- 1 Party
 - 2 VIPs
 - 3 Outdoes
 - 4 Creeps
 - 5 Stable
 - 6 particle
 - 7 Pitcher
 - 8 Rfyan
 - 9 "Ben-Hur," for one
 - 10 Two-way radios
 - 11 Downhill course
 - 12 "It's Gonna..." (N Sync song)
 - 13 Enters a password, say
 - 14 Track bet
 - 15 Play part
 - 16 Baseball's
 - 17 Cey Fido
 - 18 Harrow rival
 - 19 Aqueduct
 - 20 racetrack
 - 21 Dorothy, head for one
 - 22 Louvre
 - 23 Lucie of "Kill Bill"
 - 24 Com-
 - 25 mand to
 - 26 Fido
 - 27 Medium meeting
 - 28 30 Compan-
 - 29 ies
 - 30 Herd
 - 31 head
 - 32 Bill
 - 33 Lucy of "Kill Bill"

RODS	TRESS
EPICS	HARTE
LEGIT	APRON
ART	UNITARD
XANADU	NEO
MINT	DUN
CAPE	HASP
LOB	DARN
AIR	GOTMAD
UNIBROW	ORA
PADRE	IQUIT
EGGED	NURSE
REEDS	ONES

Yesterday's answer

Marmaduke

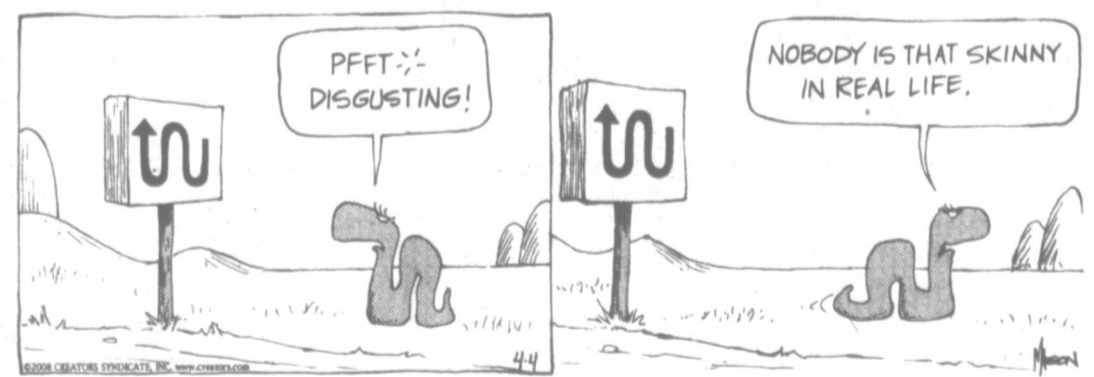


The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends





Courtesy Photo

Panhandle Singing Men, a group of Baptist music directors from throughout the Panhandle, will appear in concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, at First Baptist Church. The concert is free and open to the public.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Obama's church seeking less media attention

CHICAGO (AP) — The United Church of Christ, the parent denomination of Barack Obama's church, announced Thursday that it will begin a conversation on racial issues beginning next month in response to sermons by Obama's pastor that were critical of the U.S.

Leaders of Obama's church, Trinity United Church of Christ, meanwhile, asked reporters for respect, saying threats and a media onslaught are disrupting worship at the South Side church. The church has increased security in response to threatening telephone calls, letters and e-mails, they said.

At a news conference, the United Church of Christ's national leadership said the furor over comments by the Rev. Jeremiah Wright demonstrated the complexity of racial issues in the country and the need for churches nationwide to talk about them.

"The members of Trinity United Church of Christ are going through a very difficult time right now. The intersection of politics, religion and race has heightened our awareness of how easy it is for conversations about race to be anything but sacred,"

said the Rev. John Thomas, the denomination's president.

The Rev. Michael Kinnamon, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, echoed the call for a national discussion, beginning May 18. Kinnamon said he objects to seeing Trinity portrayed as an extremist sect, saying it and the UCC "are part of the wider Christian community."

With more than 8,000 members, Trinity is the largest United Church of Christ congregation in the country.

Wright, whose comments sparked the discussion, did not attend Thursday's news conference. He has remained out of public view since snippets of his sermons began appearing on cable news and the Internet, creating a political problem for Democratic presidential candidate Obama. The clips show Wright saying God should damn the United States and calling the country the "U.S. of KKK-A," among other things.

In response, Obama gave a speech about race in which he denounced Wright's comments but didn't turn his back on his longtime pastor.

Economy

Employers chopped 80,000 jobs last month; jobless rate rose to 5.1 percent

By JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Employers buffeted by talk of recession slashed 80,000 jobs in March, the most in five years and the third straight month of losses.

At the same time, the national unemployment rate rose from 4.8 percent to 5.1 percent, the clearest signal yet that the economy might already be shrinking.

The new snapshot of the job market, released by the Labor Department Friday, underscored the damage that a trio of crises — in the housing, credit and financial sectors — has inflicted on companies, jobseekers and the economy as a whole.

"The labor market has indeed turned south," said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors. "That was the one last bastion of hope to stay out of a recession. Now the question is how deep and how long will it last?"

The unemployment rate was the highest since September 2005, when significant job losses followed the devastating blows of Gulf Coast hurricanes.

Job losses were widespread in March. Construction, manufacturing, retailing, financial services and various business services all racked up losses. That overwhelmed gains elsewhere, including in education and health care, leisure and hospitality as well as in government.

'The labor market has indeed turned south. That was the one last bastion of hope to stay out of a recession. Now the question is how deep and how long will it last?'

— Joel Naroff
President of Naroff Economic Advisors

On Wall Street, stocks fell, with the Dow Jones industrials down more than 80 points in morning trading.

The new employment figures were much weaker than economists were expecting. They were anticipating a drop of 50,000 payroll jobs and the unemployment rate to rise to 5 percent.

The 5.1 percent rate, while relatively modest by historical standards, was the highest in 2 1/2 years.

Job cuts in both January and February turned out to be even deeper. Employers got rid of 76,000 in each month. The elimination of 80,000 jobs in March was the most since March 2003, when the labor market was still struggling to recover from the 2001 recession.

The economy is suffering the effects of a housing collapse, a credit crunch and a financial system in turmoil. That's causing people and businesses to hunker down, crimping spending, capital investment and hiring. Those things in turn further weaken the economy in what has

become a vicious cycle.

For the first time, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke acknowledged Wednesday that the country could be heading toward a recession, saying federal policymakers are "fighting against the wind" in combating it. Many other economists and the public believe the recession already has arrived.

Bernanke wouldn't tip his hand about the Fed's next move. However, many economists believe the central bank will lower interest rates again when they meet later this month, and they said Friday's employment report would justify another reduction perhaps by half a point.

The Fed has taken a number of extraordinary actions recently — slashing interest rates, providing financial backing to JP Morgan's takeover of troubled Bear Stearns and opening an emergency lending program for big investment houses. All the actions are ultimately aimed at limiting damage to the national economy.

With a public on edge,

Congress, the White House and presidential contenders are scrambling to come up with their own relief plans even as they engage in a political blame game.

In March, construction companies cut 51,000 jobs, factories eliminated 48,000 positions, retailers cut payrolls by more than 12,000. Professional and business services lost 35,000 jobs and temporary help firms cut nearly 22,000 jobs. Financial firms chopped 5,000 jobs.

When government hiring was removed, the numbers looked even worse. Private employers shed 98,000 jobs in March.

With the pace of hiring slowing down, the number of unemployed people increased to 7.8 million in March; workers with jobs saw only modest wage gains at the same time.

Average hourly earnings for jobholders rose to \$17.86 in March, a 0.3 percent increase from the previous month. That matched economists' forecasts. Over the past 12 months, wages grew 3.6 percent. With lofty energy and food prices, workers may feel like their paychecks are shrinking.

Many analysts believe the economy shrank in the first three months of this year and could still be ebbing now. The government will release its estimate of first-quarter economic growth later this month. Under one rough rule, if the economy contracts for six straight months it is considered in a recession.

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Union marchers in Memphis honor Martin Luther King

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — On the 40th anniversary of his assassination, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was remembered Friday in the city where he died as a man who came to Memphis "to lead us to a better way."

Presidential candidates, civil rights leaders, labor activists and thousands of citizens were coming together to honor King for his devotion to racial equality and economic justice.

King was cut down on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel on April 4, 1968, while helping organize a strike by Memphis sanitation workers, then some of the poorest of the city's working poor.

Members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which represented the workers then and now, marched Friday from their downtown headquarters to the motel.

A line of several hundred people carrying umbrellas in a steady rain set off on the mile-long route.

"Dr. King was like Moses," said Leslie Moore, a 61-year-old sanitation worker who began working for the city in 1968. "God gave Moses the assignment to lead the children of Israel across the Red Sea. He sent Dr. King here to lead us to a better way."

As the Rev. C.T. Vivian, a former King associate, said earlier: "Here was a man who understood nonviolence at a depth that I had never known before."

Presidential candidates Hillary Rodham Clinton and John McCain were scheduled to take part in later anniversary day events that were to include an afternoon "recommitment march" and the laying of wreaths at the motel. Sen. Barack Obama will be campaigning in

Indiana.

"The whole nation flinched" when King was killed, said writer Cynthia Griggs Fleming, one of the many historians, commentators and activists in town for panel discussions and lectures on King's legacy.

King advised his followers to keep working for equal rights for all citizens, "to keep on moving," no matter what obstacles they faced, Fleming said in a talk Thursday at a Memphis church.

"Don't be so consumed by the pain that you don't hear the message," she said.

King's son, Martin Luther King III, wrote in an opinion piece published in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution on Thursday that the nation is still plagued by poverty. He urged presidential candidates to vow to appoint a Cabinet-level officer who would help the poor.

