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Wednesday, January 7, 2009 Volume 104 • No. 235 50¢ Daily

Two arrested in PHS burglary

Damage estimated at \$100,000

by Rachel Stennett
 rstennett@thepampanews.com

A tip from Student Crime Stoppers led to the arrest of two men connected with a burglary at Pampa High School, which resulted in over \$100,000 in damages over the weekend.

Trent Wayne Choat and Tom Douglas Williams, both 17, of Pampa both were charged with burglary of a building and criminal mischief after they confessed to breaking into PHS early Sunday morning, according to Officer

Jason Rushing of the Pampa Police Department.

The two used forced entry and vandalized the computer labs and computer servers by using the foam of a fire extinguisher, and broke into the cafeteria and stole food. Damages are estimated to be at least \$100,000, although a complete dollar figure for the damage is still unknown.

"After a Student Crime Stoppers tip, the suspects names were revealed," Rushing explained. A \$500 dollar reward was given to the caller.

Choat turned himself in to the Gray County Jail, and was interviewed by Rushing at which point he confessed to the burglary. Rushing arrested Williams directly after. Bond was set for Choat and Williams each at \$7,000 and Choat made bail this morning.

"I am pleased with results of the investigation and the information from Student Crime Stoppers," Rushing said. "We urge people in the community to report any crimes they know about."

Neither Choat or



Choat



Williams

Williams were enrolled at Pampa High School, and Rushing said the reason for the offense is unknown. According to Randy

Stephenson, construction director for Pampa ISD, PHS is scheduled for enhanced security upgrades by the end of February.

MOTORHOME TOTAL LOSS



staff photoby Rachel Stennett

A motor home was considered a "total loss" by the Fire Department after it burned this morning at Red Deer Villa RV Ranch. Fire officials reported that an RV was ablaze at 4:51 this morning (Wed., January 7) The occupant inside the RV smelled smoke but managed to get out by the time the PFD arrived on scene. The cause is still being investigated by Pampa Fire Department Fire Marshall, Michael Ryan. Three units and seven personnel responded to the call, and the blaze was contained by 5:01 a.m. The estimated damages are approximately \$10,000 in value, officials said. No one was harmed in the fire.

PISD to Launch Skyward Family Access

Beginning January 26, parents of Pampa ISD students will have another way to stay informed on their children's academic progress. Pampa ISD is launching the Family Access portion of the district's student information system, Skyward.

Skyward Family Access allows parents to use any Internet-capable computer to access grades, assignments, attendance, discipline, and immunization data. Parents can also subscribe to receive e-mail notifications when their child receives an unsatisfactory grade on any assignment. The parent has the ability to set the limit for the notification. Parents with multiple children within the district will be able to view all their children's information with only one access code.

Parents may pick up an application for Family Access at any school. The applications take two weeks to process. After the two weeks, parents may pick up the access code and must show a valid picture ID in order to receive the access code from the school.

Olson is Texas' only freshman in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — After years of working behind the scenes for U.S. senators, Pete Olson moved to the front and center as Texas' newest member of Congress on Tuesday.

Olson, 46, was sworn in during a ceremony in which all members of the House took the oath. Olson is one of 56 freshmen in Congress this year, including delegates for Puerto Rico and the Mariana Islands.

"It's surreal," Olson said after the ceremony, still carrying a Bible that he said his wife gave him during the campaign. "You have to make sacrifices during the campaign"

The 111th Congress runs through the end of 2010 and convened amid a worsening crisis in the Middle East, continuing wars in

Iraq and Afghanistan, and a collapsing economy. The overcast and gloomy skies seemed fit for the opening day of what is sure to be a challenging session.

Olson, who's worked as an aide to Sen. John Cornyn and former Sen. Phil Gramm, said he was excited to see his name on the door to his office on the fifth floor of the Cannon Building.

"It's a very humbling experience," he said.

Wearing a new suit for the occasion, Olson was joined on the floor by his daughter Katie, 12 and son, Grant, 8. His wife, Nancy, also was in Washington but spouses are not allowed on the House floor during the ceremony.

Olson is the only freshman in the 32-member



Rep. Pete Olson, R-Texas, fourth from right, stands with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., second from left, and his family during a mock swearing in, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009, on Capitol Hill in Washington. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

Texas delegation in the U.S. House. While his arrival increases the number of Texas Republicans to 20, he's joining Congress

Congress.

Olson holds Texas' 22nd congressional district seat, which once belonged to former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay.

Olson, of Sugar Land, defeated Lampson in November.

Olson said his family will remain in Sugar Land and he'll commute during the session.

Also Tuesday, Texas Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchison and Cornyn were sworn in. Cornyn defeated state Rep. Rick Noriega, a Democrat, in November to return for a second six-year term. Hutchison was not up for re-election. She has launched a committee that could be a precursor to a run for Texas governor in 2010.

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—From the Executive Director and Staff of the Chamber of Commerce

PAMPA FORECAST

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
High 65 Low 40	High 56 Low 27	High 47 Low 28

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 40. South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 56. Windy, with a north-northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 27. North wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 47. North-northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 28. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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Grain prices

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of White Deer for the close of the last open market day.
Wheat 5.65
Milo 5.67
Corn 7.46

Cash Five results

AUSTIN (AP) — Matching four of five: Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 33-37-15-32-34. Number matching five of five: 2. Prize: \$12,971. Winning tickets sold in: Round Rock, Houston.

Matching three of five: 93. Prize: \$126
 Matching two of five: 2,786. Prize: \$9
 Matching one of five: 22,922. Prize: \$2
 Next Cash 5 drawing: Wednesday night.

Man charged with killing officer

DALLAS (AP) — A 26-year-old man has been charged with capital murder in the shooting of veteran police officer who was trying to serve a warrant. Sr. Cpl. Norman Smith, 43, was shot in the face Tuesday night as he and five or six other gang unit officers knocked on an apartment door. Charles Patrick Payne remained in jail early Wednesday on the capital murder charge. Another man questioned in the case was being held on an outstanding felony warrant, and a third was questioned and released, police said.

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Obituaries

Services tomorrow

BLACK, Kenneth Ray — Memorial services, 10 a.m., Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

Kenneth Ray Black, 53

Kenneth Ray Black, 53, of Pampa, Texas, died Jan. 1, 2009, at Pampa. Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009, at Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Fines Marchman, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Skellytown, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mr. Black was born Jan. 3, 1955, in Pampa where he attended Pampa schools. As a young man, he moved to Oklahoma City, Okla., to work in the oilfields. He owned and operated K.B. Sales, specializing in oilfield perishables and supplies. Later, he returned to Pampa where he lived until the time of his death. He liked to work on and build personal computers in his spare time. Survivors include son, Kenny Joe Black of Midwest City, brother, Rick Black of Pampa; and nephew, Tyler Jordan Fry

Stinnett of Pampa. Kenneth was preceded in death by his mother, Mary Ruth Woodward on June 22, 2008; and a brother, Roger "Skeeter" Bridges. MEMORIALS: American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 50433, Amarillo, TX 79159. —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Javier Ontiveros, 41

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — Javier Ontiveros, 41, died Jan. 5, 2009, at Corpus Christi. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa. Mr. Ontiveros was born July 3, 1967, in Mission, Texas. He was a boiler-maker in the construction

industry. Survivors include his wife, Lisa Ontiveros, of the home; five daughters, Evonne Ontiveros and Christina Ontiveros, both of Phoenix, Ariz., and Anna

Ontiveros and wife Cindy of Amarillo; five grandchildren, Alexis Hernandez, Eric Hernandez, Ariana Gallegos, Isaiah Hughes and Ethan Gallegos, all of Phoenix, Ariz. —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Elizabeth Holden Pepper, 82

Elizabeth Holden Pepper, 82, of Pampa, Texas, died Jan. 4, 2009, at Pampa. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, 2009, at Memory Gardens Mausoleum with the Rev. Brian Christen, associate pastor of First Christian Church, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors. Mrs. Pepper was born Jan. 30, 1926, in Balko, Okla., and was a graduate of Balko High School. She married Floyd Pepper

on July 13, 1954, in Miami. He preceded her in death on July 7, 1990. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1959, moving from Borger. She was a member of the Pampa Chapter #65 Order of the Eastern Star and was on the board of Phil-Pet Credit Union. Elizabeth was always involved in her children's activities such as Cub Scouts and Brownies, and

she loved to garden. She was a former beauty operator and cosmetologist in Miami. She was a homemaker. Survivors include son, Jim Pepper and wife Robbie of Pampa; daughter, Jan Morrow and husband Kenneth of Decatur; brother, Chet Holden of Dumas; sister, Anna Holden of Denver, Colo.; sister-in-law, Juanita Holden of Surprise, Ariz.; granddaughter, Stacy Pepper of Fort Worth; two grandsons, Aaron Pepper of Evanston, Ill., and Matt Nichols and wife Amber of Waco. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to the Alzheimer's Association, 415 W. 8th Ave., Suite 300, Amarillo, TX 79101; American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 50433, Amarillo, TX 79159; or First Christian Church, 1633 N. Nelson, Pampa, TX 79065. —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and calls between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, Jan. 6
 Officers conducted 13 traffic stops. A total of eight calls and/or stops concerning animals occurred. Forgery was reported at United Supermarket, 1420 N. Hobart, where a fake check in the amount of \$1,850 was reported cashed. Police escorts were provided at Highways 152 and Price Road, and in the 600 block of North Ward. Alarms were reported in the 400 block of North Russell and the 1800 block of Mary Ellen. A traffic accident was reported at the PD. Officers served, or attempted to serve, warrants in the 1100 block of South Christy and the 1100 block of West Ripley. A civil matter was reported at the PD. Agency assistance was rendered in Lefors. Criminal mischief was reported in the 700 block of Municipal Drive. Sexual assault was reported in the 100 block of West 30th. A domestic disturbance

with no injuries was reported in the 1000 block of East Jordan. Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 400 block of North Wells. Phone harassment was reported at the PD. A suspicious person was reported in the 300 block of North Hobart. A traffic complaint was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart. Theft was reported in the 1000 block of South Farley, where a mailbox worth an estimated \$75 was reported stolen. Disorderly conduct was reported in the 600 block of North Gray and the 800 block of North Nelson. Found property — street signs — was reported in the 2600 block of North Fir. **Wednesday, Jan. 7**
 Officers conducted 11 traffic stops. A stop in the 500 block of East Harvester resulted in at least one arrest. Suspicious persons were reported at Starkweather and Foster streets, at Ballard and Sunset streets, and in the 2400 block of North Charles. Vehicle fires were reported in the 2100 block of West Montagu, and at Highways 70 and 171. Gray County Sheriff's Office recorded the fol-

Sheriff

lowing arrests. **Tuesday, Jan. 6**
 Trenton Wayne Choat, 17, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for burglary of a building and criminal mischief. Tom Douglas Williams, 17, of Amarillo was arrested by GCSO for criminal mischief and burglary of a building. Juan Rodriguez Jr., 19, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a probation violation for possession of marijuana. Shane Daniel Smith Jr., 29, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department on a probation violation for theft of property, a warrant out of Potter County for theft and a bond forfeiture out of Potter County for theft. **Wednesday, Jan. 7**
 Gareth Akash Vaid, 21, of Lefors was arrested by Pampa PD for driving while intoxicated.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. today. **Tuesday, Jan. 6**
 7:52 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1100 block of Starkweather on a

call for lifting assistance. **Wednesday, Jan. 7**
 4:51 a.m. — Three units and seven personnel responded to the 2100 block of Montagu on a fire. A recreational vehicle (motor home) was on fire. The fire department reported an estimated \$10,000 in damages. 6:12 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to a vehicle fire at Highway 70 and Loop 171. A tire on the vehicle was smoldering.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. today. **Tuesday, Jan. 6**
 11:41 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 700 block of West Wilks and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center. 3:09 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2600 block of Seminole and transported a patient to BSA Hospital. 8:02 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of South Sumner and transported a patient to PRMC. 11:03 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of South Sumner and transported a patient to PRMC.

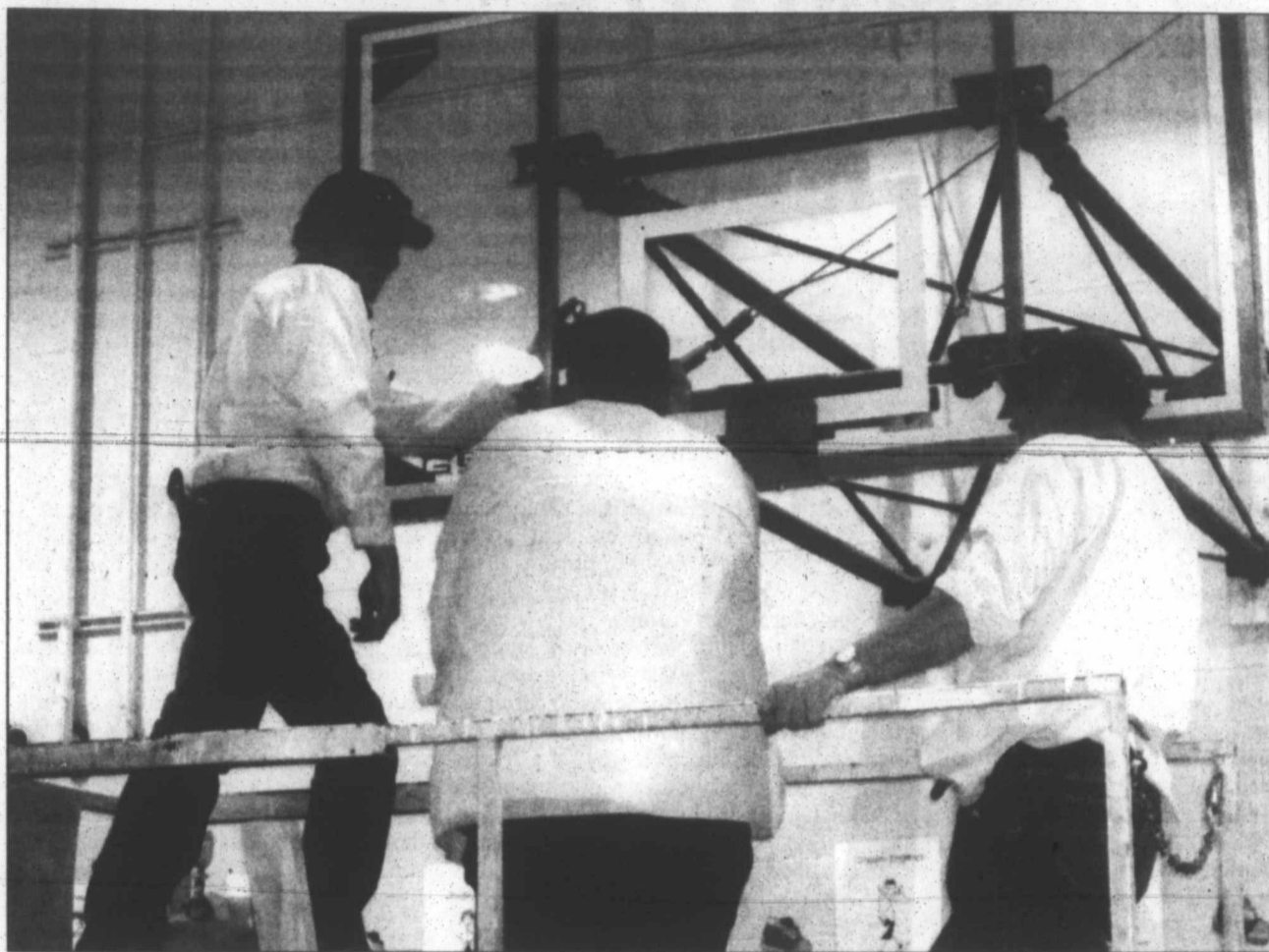
Ex-McCamey school teacher faces charges

MCCAMEY, Texas (AP) — Upton County Sheriff's officials said a former McCamey school teacher is in jail, charged with having an improper relationship between an educator and a student. Deputy Sheriff Todd Helms said

Vanessa Zuniga, 34, is being held at the Upton County Jail on the second-degree felony charge. If convicted, she could face a two to 20 year prison sentence and up to a \$10,000 fine. No bond has been set. Zuniga surrendered Monday to the

Upton County Sheriff's Office after being notified by authorities they had obtained a warrant for her arrest, Helms said. Jail officials would not comment to The Associated Press early Wednesday on whether she had an attorney.

BASKETBALL BOOST



Travis Elementary's Booster Club made a generous purchase of two new basketball goals for the gym. Some of Pampa ISD maintenance staff, (pictured) B.B. Reeves, Landon Roberts, and Jerry Hood, installed the extremely heavy goals.

Former Blackwater guards plead not guilty

WASHINGTON (AP) — Five former Blackwater Worldwide security guards pleaded not guilty Tuesday to federal manslaughter and gun charges resulting from a 2007 shooting in a crowded Baghdad square that killed 17 Iraqi civilians and injured dozens of others.

The five — all decorated military veterans — stood silently in a line behind their lawyers as their not guilty plea on all charges was entered in front of U.S. District Judge Ricardo M. Urbina in federal court.

They are charged with 14 counts of manslaughter, 20 counts of attempted manslaughter and one count of using a machine gun to commit a crime of violence. The machine gun charge, typically used in drug cases, carries a 30-year minimum prison sentence.

Saying the case was complex, Urbina set jury selection to begin Jan. 29, 2010 with opening arguments Feb. 1 for former Marines Donald Ball of West Valley City, Utah; Dustin Heard of Knoxville, Tenn.; Evan Liberty of Rochester, N.H.; and Army veterans Nick Slatten of Sparta, Tenn., and Paul Slough of Keller, Texas.

The Iraqi government has labeled the guards "criminals" and is closely watching the Blackwater case. The shooting strained diplomacy between Washington and Baghdad and fueled the anti-American insurgency in Iraq, where many Iraqis saw the bloodshed in Nisoor Square as a demon-

stration of American brutality and arrogance.

The shooting took place around noon on Sept. 16, 2007, in a crowded square where prosecutors said civilians were running errands, getting lunch and otherwise going about their lives.

Prosecutors said the men unleashed a gruesome attack on unarmed Iraqis, with the slain including young children, women, people fleeing in cars and a man whose arms were raised in surrender as he was shot in the chest.

Twenty others were wounded in the crowded square, including one injured by a grenade launched into a nearby girls' school. Another 18 Iraqis were assaulted but not wounded, prosecutors said.

Iraqi witnesses said the contractors opened fire unprovoked and left the square littered with blown-out cars.

"This is a straightforward shooting of a lot of people," Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth C. Kohl said.

But the Blackwater guards contend they were ambushed by insurgents. One of the trucks in the convoy was disabled in the ensuing firefight, the guards say.

Blackwater radio logs made available to The Associated Press by a defense attorney in the case last month raised questions about prosecutors' claims that the guards' shooting was unprovoked. The log transcripts describe a hectic eight minutes in which

the guards repeatedly reported incoming gunfire from insurgents and Iraqi police.

North Carolina-based Blackwater is the largest contractor providing security in Iraq. Most of its work for the State Department is in protecting U.S. diplomats in Iraq. The company has not been charged in connection with the shooting.

The five guards, all dressed in dark suits and ties, said nothing while in the courtroom.

A sixth, however, is cooperating with the government. Jeremy Ridgeway of California pleaded guilty to one count each of manslaughter, attempted manslaughter, and aiding and abetting. In his plea agreement with prosecutors, Ridgeway admitted there was no threat from a white Kia sedan whose driver, a medical student, was killed and his mother, in the front passenger seat, was injured.

Urbina ordered prosecutors to give defense lawyers copies of Ridgeway's sealed plea agreement in three months.

In a separate case, another former Blackwater security contractor will soon be charged in the killing of an Iraqi guard in 2006, his lawyer said.

Andrew Moonen of Seattle, a former Army Ranger, fatally shot a 32-year-old guard for Iraqi Vice President Adil Abdul-Mahdi while wandering around drunk after a Christmas Eve party in 2006, according to a congressional report.

3 suspects questioned in officer's death

DALLAS (AP) — Three unidentified suspects were being questioned after a veteran police officer was shot and killed when he and other gang-unit officers attempted to serve a felony warrant for aggravated assault at an apartment complex in southeast Dallas.

Police Chief David Kunkle identified the officer as Sr. Cpl. Norman Smith, 43, who he described as a great street officer with the "heart of a warrior."

Kunkle said about five to six officers attempted to serve a warrant on an aggravated robbery suspect.

"This was a high-risk situation. As soon as they made contact, there was gunfire. The officers were tactically well-positioned, but they were immediately met with gunfire," Kunkle said.

Police did not announce who they were before they attempted to serve the war-

rant, Kunkle said. It was a method "to get suspects to come to the door without announcing they were police officers," he said.

Smith had been in the gang unit for 14 years and would have celebrated his 18th anniversary with the department Wednesday. He was taken to Baylor University Medical Center after being shot in the face, Kunkle said.

Kunkle said Smith was a former officer of the year. His wife, Lt. Regina Smith, also served on the Dallas Police Department.

Smith was well-known throughout the department and in the community, Kunkle said. The loss was especially hard for him.

"Norm was doing exactly what he wanted to do," Kunkle said at a press conference outside Baylor Hospital.

Smith's death was believed to be the nation's first fatal shooting of an officer in the line of duty this year.

SPORTS ALTERNATIVE



Halle Sieck, 5, exercises her artistic talents on the gym floor in a corner of McNeely Field House during Tuesday night's basketball games.

Airlines fly into new year with wave of fare sales

ATLANTA (AP) — A wave of fare sales has spread across the airline industry in the early days of the new year as the weak economy continues to put pressure on carriers to fill seats even after they drastically reduced capacity and some expressed willingness to cut more.

Many experts and even executives at some airlines had expected that after deep capacity cuts went into effect starting in September, the number of fare sales going forward would be fewer and farther between. But fuel prices have come down significantly, and the weak economy has eroded demand for air travel.

Even so, on average base airfares outside of the travel periods for the recently launched sale fares are higher today than in the last few years, said Rick Seaney, head of airfare research site FareCompare.com. He noted there were 30 attempted airfare hikes between summer 2007 and summer 2008, two-thirds of

which were successful.

The fare sales just announced do not affect fees for baggage or other services charged by some of the carriers.

It's not unusual for airlines to announce fare sales in January — there were 17 or 18 announced in January 2008 — but what's different for several carriers this year is that the discounts are for travel extending as late as April, May or June, Seaney said. The sales last January were typically for travel through March, he said.

Seaney said he believes uncertainty in the economy is the reason for the change.

"They're not sure what's going to happen at the last minute," Seaney said.

A handful of major carriers and discount carriers have launched fare sales since Dec. 31. Others are expected to follow with sales of their own, or to at least match discounts offered by rivals on competitive routes, Seaney said.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 7, the seventh day of 2009. There are 358 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 7, 1789, the first U.S. presidential election was held. Americans voted for electors who, a month later, chose George Washington to be the nation's first president.

On this date:

In 1608, an accidental fire devastated the Jamestown settlement in the Virginia colony.

In 1610, astronomer Galileo Galilei began observing three of Jupiter's moons.

In 1927, commercial transatlantic telephone service was inaugurated between New York and London.

'I do not believe that sheer suffering teaches. If suffering alone taught, all the world would be wise. To suffering must be added mourning, understanding, patience, love, openness and the willingness to remain vulnerable.'

— Anne Morrow Lindbergh, American author

In 1972, Lewis F. Powell Jr. and William H. Rehnquist were sworn in as the 99th and 100th members of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1979, Vietnamese forces captured the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, overthrowing the Khmer Rouge government.

Ten years ago: For the second time in history, an impeached American president went on trial before the Senate. President Bill Clinton faced charges of perjury and obstruction of justice; he was acquitted.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush proposed legal status, at least temporarily, for millions of illegal immigrants working in the U.S.

One year ago: The Pentagon reported an Iranian fleet of high-speed boats charged at and threatened to blow up a three-ship U.S. Navy convoy passing near Iranian waters, then vanished as the American ship commanders were preparing to open fire.

Today's Birthdays: Pop musician Paul Revere is 71. Magazine publisher Jann Wenner is 63. Singer Kenny Loggins is 61. Actress Erin Gray is 59. Actor Sammo Hung is 57. Actor David Caruso is 53. "CBS Evening News" anchor Katie Couric is 52. Rock musician Kathy Valentine (The Go-Go's) is 50. Actor David Marciano is 49. Actress Hallie Todd is 47. Actor Nicolas Cage is 45. Singer-songwriter John Ondrasik (Five for Fighting) is 44.

Inaugural invitation?

On an abnormally boring day at work, where the police scanners were so quiet that not even accidental buzz came across, I received an e-mail from Michelle Obama.

I had just come back from Sonic with a fresh latte in-hand to try to awaken my spirits when I decided to look at my inbox before scrounging around the city for story ideas. There it was, sitting in my inbox as if it were an e-mail from two of my other best friends whom I try to write daily.

From: Michelle Obama. Subject: Our First Guest.

The last time I checked, I hadn't intentionally signed up for an e-mailing list for either presidential candidate. I have a tendency to ride the moderate wave and, if anything, lean conservatively.

Naturally, the e-mail surprised me. If anyone was going to e-mail me, I would have guessed it would have been Laura Bush, not that I have become accustomed to expecting presidential e-mails.

Eagerly, I opened the e-mail wondering what Michelle could have to say to this novice Pampa reporter.

Perhaps she wanted to meet for coffee and tell me that my column on Pampa intersections really moved her, or better yet, maybe she felt urged to build a new animal shelter for the city from the article in the weekend edition. I haven't exactly received rave reviews from Pampa citizens, but maybe Washington saw potential in me. I let my mind role out the possibilities... Pulitzer in hand, New York Times journalist, thanks to Mrs. Obama.

Before the e-mail loaded, I managed to shout in glee across the partition to my editor about what I had found in my inbox, and she too, waited for my monitor to confirm the dreams my heart was already telling me.

"Your ticket to history," the banner

of the e-mail shouted. "Deadline: Midnight, Thursday, Jan. 8"

OK, so it wasn't exactly fan mail, but I hadn't given up hope for something great. Maybe it was a deadline for an article writing competition. Maybe Michelle thought I was just the reporter to make history.

"Friend," the e-mail read, "last week, the Presidential Inaugural Committee announced that we're bringing 10 supporters to Washington, DC for several days of Inaugural celebrations."

I let the dream evolve, since it clearly wasn't what I anticipated. So what if she addressed me as "friend," it was a little general for my taste, but maybe she was trying to set a friendly tone. I'm open to reporting on the Inaugural celebration.

Sadly as the e-mail rolled on, I realized Michelle was telling me about someone else she had invited to the inauguration- Cynthia Russell from Newberry Florida. Not to say that I wasn't happy for Russell and her "ticket to history" but I was beginning to lose sight of my role in this. Why would Michelle bother to write me about Russell?

The e-mail covered a brief bio of Russell.

"I'm a single woman who has been building homes for over 18 years. I've supported myself and have been able to help my mother from time to time... Barack gives me hope. Hope that 2009 will truly bring change to Americans..."

Russell seems to be a good enough citizen, with hope for change in the next presidency. I can accept that. As I read the bio, I thought good for you Cynthia, way to be outstanding, way to show love for Obama. I was nearing the delete key when I discovered the meaning behind the electronic exchange between Michelle and I.

"We need to select 9 more supporters like Cynthia, and I would love for

you to be one of them," the e-mail said.

Finally, a revelation! For some reason,

Michelle had felt it necessary to tell Cynthia's story to me, maybe so I could try to relate to it. Most people haven't heard of Newberry, Fla., most people haven't heard of Pampa. Russell is a single woman, I am a single woman. Check. The similarities between Russell and myself weren't exactly uncanny, but I could see the need to make an illustration.

Michelle was inviting ten, somewhat ordinary people to celebrate history with them, and I was to be one of them. Cynthia Russell had been chosen, and next on the list was Rachel Stennett.

My spirits began to brighten once again, thinking of what I would wear to inauguration. Then, out of nowhere, Michelle delivered a fatal punch to my dreams in the last line of her e-mail.

"Make your donation of \$5 or more before midnight on Thursday, January 8th"

So this wasn't about me at all. Rstennett@thepampnews.com had been thrown into the Obama's massive e-mail list by chance, and to have a chance at making history and participating in the Inaugural celebration, I had to become a monetary supporter for Obama's campaign.

I'm poor enough that I decided against throwing in my \$5 minimum on the off chance to be a part of history. I would just have to make history some other way, right here in Pampa.

Rachel Stennett is a reporter for The Pampa News. She can be reached: rstennett@thepampnews.com or 669-2525



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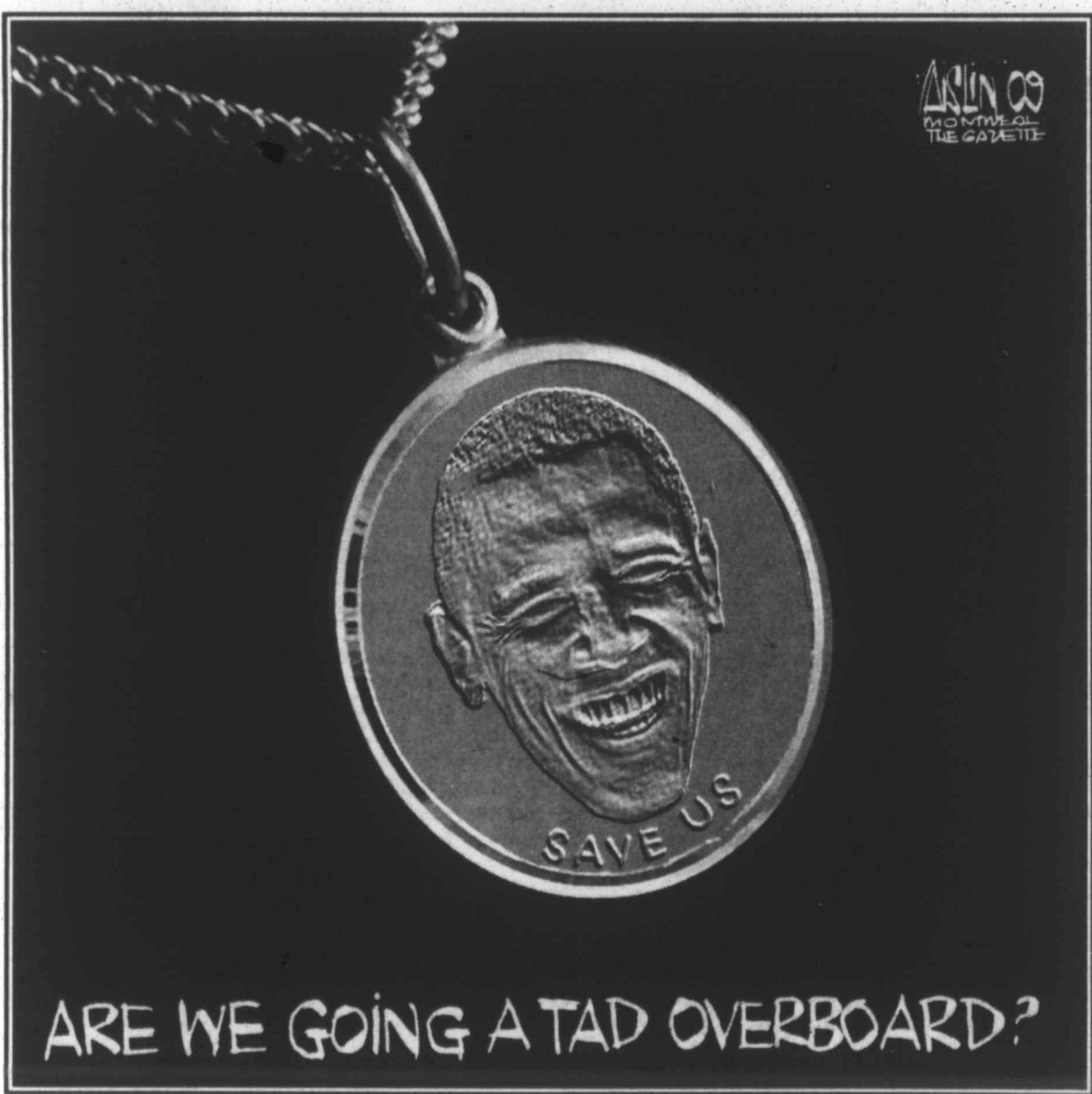
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Texas news

Judge indicted on additional sex charges

HOUSTON (AP) — U.S. District Judge Samuel Kent, the first federal judge indicted on sex crimes, is now facing more of the same charges.

Kent was set to be arraigned on Wednesday, a day after a federal grand jury in Houston added three new charges to the indictment it issued in August that accuses him of making unwanted sexual advances toward his former court case manager.

The new charges — aggravated sexual abuse, abusive sexual contact and obstruction of justice — allege Kent engaged in unwanted sexual contact with a second former court employee and later lied

about it to investigators. "There is a gag order in the case which prohibits the parties from making any sort of comment with the exception of stating without elaboration what the defense is to these new charges," said Dick DeGuerin, Kent's attorney. "They are untrue and we believe the product of intense pressure and threats brought against the complainant."

Kent, who was released on his own recognizance after last year's indictment, is still on the bench.

Jury selection in Kent's trial on the initial charges against him was set to begin Jan. 26. If convicted, Kent faces up to life in

prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. He is the first federal judge to be indicted in the last 18 years.

Kent initially faced two counts of abusive sexual contact and one count of attempted aggravated sexual abuse following a U.S. Justice Department investigation into complaints by case manager Cathy McBroom.

McBroom accused the judge of physical sexual harassment over a four-year period starting in 2003 when he was the only U.S. District Court judge in Galveston, an island beach town 50 miles southeast of Houston.

The new charges accuse Kent on one or more occa-

sions between January 2004 and January 2005 of attempting to cause an unnamed former court employee to engage in a sexual act at the U.S. Post Office and federal courthouse in Galveston. The superseding indictment accuses Kent of trying to engage the employee in a sexual act by using force.

In addition to the two new sex charges, Kent is facing an obstruction of justice charge.

McBroom's accusations were first investigated by the Judicial Council of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sports

Harvesters defeat Demons 82 - 50

By David Bowser
dbowser@thepampanews.com
Pampa's Harvesters dumped the Dumas Demons Tuesday night 82-50.

The Harvesters established a strong lead after drawing first blood in the opening minutes of the game Tuesday night at McNeely Field House.

By the end of the first period, the Harvesters led 23-9.

At the end of the first half, the Harvesters had extended their lead to 43-25.

Pampa added another 22

points in the third period to Dumas' 16 to lead the Demons 65-41.

The Harvesters put up another 17 points in the final quarter to the Demons' nine to take the game 82-50.

Alex Torres was high point man for the Harvesters with 21 points. He made seven of 13 free throw attempts.

Torres was followed by Alex Clendening, who had 20 points for the night. Clendening made three of four free throws.

Hayden Skinner made 18 points. Skinner went two

for three at the free throw line for the night.

Travis Hagerman had eight points.

Ryan Jimenez had six.

Matt Smith had four points in the game.

Braden Hunt had three points.

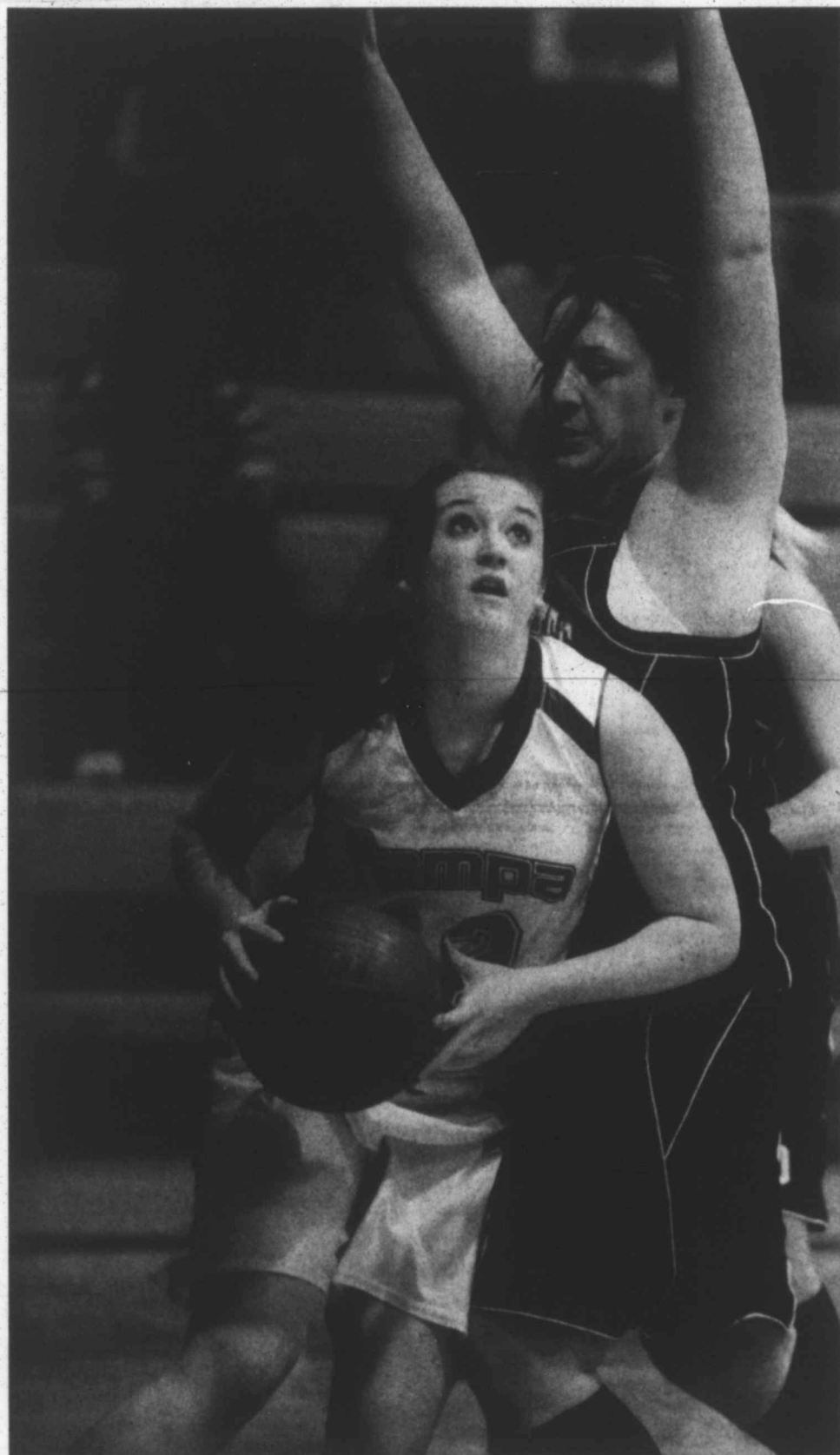
Blake Sieck had two points. He made two of four free throws.

Clendening and Hunt each had a three pointer for the night.

The Hustlin' Harvesters will travel to Amarillo Caprock Friday night to take on the Longhorns.



Harvester Blake Sieck heads for the net in disputed airspace during Tuesday night's game against the Dumas Demons.



Lady Harvester Andi Hutto drives for the basket during Tuesday night's game against the Dumas Demonettes.

Lady Harvesters fight hard, but lose by 20

The Lady Harvesters dropped their game against the Dumas Demonettes 58-38, but it didn't start out that way.

Pampa's Lady Harvesters came out shooting and were the first on the scoreboard in McNeely Field House Tuesday night.

At the end of the first quarter the Lady Harvesters led a close 12-11.

Although they score 11 in the second period, the Demonettes put up 16 points to take the lead at half time 27-23.

Dumas widened their lead in the third quarter to 44-26 and added another 14 in the final quarter to Pampa's 12 points for the quarter to win 58-38.

Watson led the Lady Harvesters in scoring against the Demonettes with nine points. Watson was three for three in free throws for the game.

Carlyn Teichmann was second with seven points for the game. Teichmann was

two for two in free throws.

Tarlyn Eubank had six points. Eubank made two of three free throws.

Emilie Troxell had five. Troxell was three for four in free throws.

Facio scored four points. Facio made two of her five free throw attempts.

Jessica Miner put three on the scoreboard.

Ashlee Holland and Andi Hutto each had two points for the game. Hutto was two for four in free throws.

Miner and Teichmann each had three pointers. Miner in the first period, and Teichmann in the second. Miner was 0 for two in free throws for the night.

The Lady Harvesters take on the Lady Longhorns of Amarillo Caprock at 6 p.m. Friday night.

We're No. 1! chant may be replaced by "Who isn't?"

MIAMI (AP) — If nothing else, the most vexing college football season in a while will end in a familiar way: with players and coaches swarming the field, fingers pointed skyward, amid screams of "We're No. 1!"

What will make it different are all the kids and coaches screaming back at the TV set: "Who isn't?"

Southern California, Utah and Texas have all laid claim to the top spot in the last five days, and their arguments are every bit as convincing as the two teams, Oklahoma and Florida, that play Thursday night for the Bowl Championship Series' version of the national title.

Instead of settling the debate, the BCS has just made it more chaotic. Texas' 13-1 record will match the winner of the BCS game, and it includes a win over Oklahoma. But Brown already knows his vote might as well be writ-

ten with invisible ink. Under an agreement with the BCS, the top two spots in the final coaches' poll go to the participants in its championship game. Only votes ranking Nos. 3 through 25 will count.

"The bottom line is we're the only team in the country that does not have to explain a loss," Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said, restating what he said last week after his Utes humbled Alabama 31-17 to finish the season at 13-0. "I'm not a guy that's going to go out and campaign ... but if somebody asks me, I'll give them my opinion."

Including his fellow coaches in the BCS poll.

"I'm going to vote how I think I should vote," Whittingham said.

USC's Pete Carroll hasn't cast a vote in the BCS poll for years, even though he's probably had the best team in the country at this time of year for most of the

decade. He, too, said the Trojans should be No. 1 — right after they crunched Penn State 38-24 at the Rose Bowl to finish at 13-1.

Yet even as the clamor for a tournament has grown — polls show roughly nine out of 10 fans, including President-elect Barack Obama, favor one; as well as most players and coaches — the BCS has steadfastly refused to loosen its stranglehold. Its latest TV deal with ESPN guarantees there won't be a playoff until 2014 at the earliest.

That's wrong in so many ways — as noted countless times before — that it isn't worth the time or space to recount here.

What's changed is that TV ratings for the four BCS bowls that don't crown a champion are slipping fast; with little chance any of the winners could leapfrog to the top of even the AP poll — as USC did

in 2003 — they've been rendered more meaningless than ever. In the bargain, the BCS also made it tougher for mid-majors like Utah to win the national championship even when it's the only undefeated team left in the top division, the way BYU did in 1984, when the Cougars finished 13-0 after beating Michigan in the — get this — Holiday Bowl.

That's why Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff said Tuesday he's looking into whether the BCS violated antitrust laws by barring the Utes from the national title game.

So to recap: not only has the BCS failed to produce a clear-cut No. 1 often as not — its stated reason for even existing — it's ruining the other major bowls in the process.

But that's exactly what we've got as long as the BCS is in charge.

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Calcet's triple calcium formula is designed to help stop low calcium leg cramps. Just ask your pharmacist.

Mission



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Comics

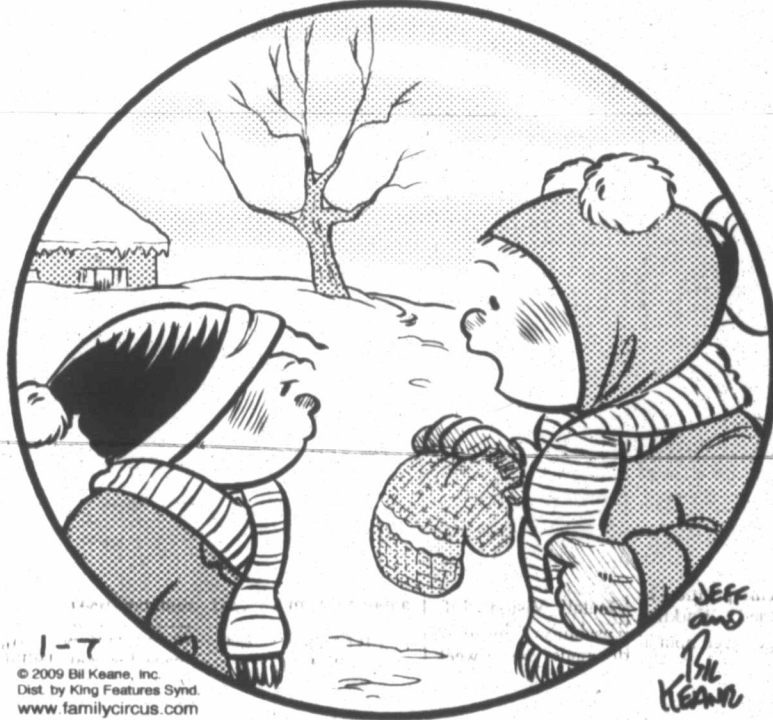
Marmaduke



"Hurry up with your answer, or we'll have to solve for six take away two."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Mittens are just gloves where they forgot to cut the fingers out."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 46 Manhole

- 1 Thais and setting
- 7 Nick's dog
- 11 Rich chocolate dessert
- 12 Commotion
- 13 Preposterous
- 14 Hard year journey
- 15 Suez Canal outlet
- 17 Year-year
- 20 Church fixture
- 23 PC key
- 24 Roofing piece
- 26 Golf goal
- 27 Crony
- 28 Despondent
- 29 Charms
- 31 Hydrocarbon suffix
- 32 Type a password, perhaps
- 33 Manipulative sort
- 34 Rises
- 37 Pinochle score
- 39 Suffering
- 43 Sugar source
- 44 14th president
- 45 Not to mention

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Yesterday's answer

- 17 Vatican-based
- 18 Texas landmark
- 19 Uphill battles
- 21 Un-escorted
- 22 More recent
- 24 Used up
- 25 Topper
- 30 Deceived
- 33 Shoe part
- 35 Tries the wine
- 36 Meter or liter
- 37 CEO's deg.
- 38 Snaky fish
- 40 "Right you —!"
- 41 Rink surface
- 42 Ensnare

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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For Better Or Worse



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Garfield



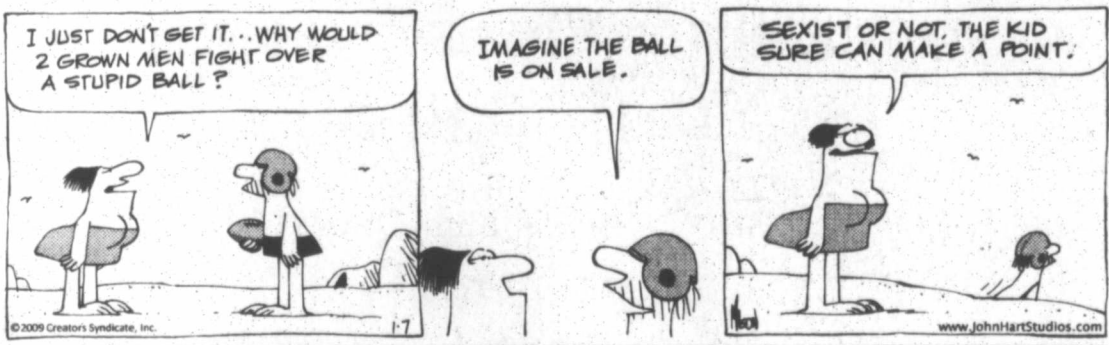
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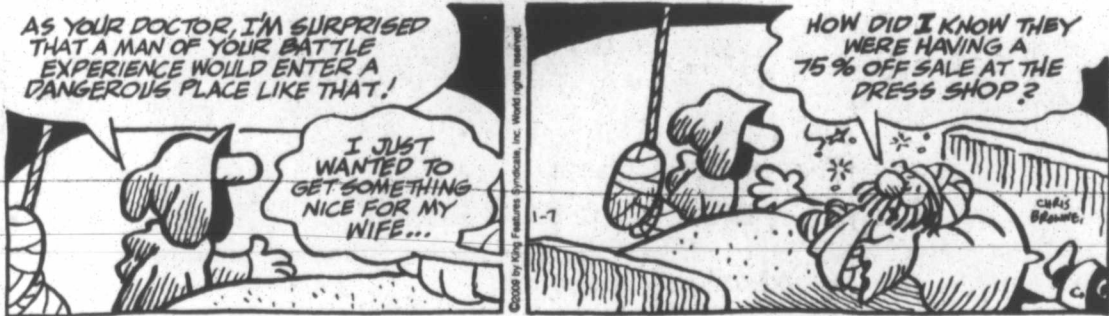
Marvin



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Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



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EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

• **Texas Department of Family and Protective Services**, will hold a foster/adoptive parent informational meeting is scheduled at 7 p.m. Jan. 13, 3521 SW 15th, in Amarillo. Foster care and adoption of foster children will be the focus of the meeting. For more information, call (806) 354-6292.

• **T.O.P.S. Club**, a weight loss group, is seeking new members. The club meets from 5:30-6:30 p.m. each Monday at 513 E. Francis. New members welcome.

• **Members of Crowley, Texas, High School Class of 1989** are organizing a class reunion. For more information, e-mail chs89reunion@gmail.com or contact Nancy Dodgen Dyess (817) 994-0969 or Misty Shewmaker Hollis at (817) 991-8090.

• **Carson County Square House Museum** in Panhandle will host an artist reception for Charles

Firestone from 2:30-4 p.m. Jan. 11 in Hazlewood Gallery of the museum. Firestone is from Dalhart. He has studied under Dord Fitz and other artists. He belongs to several area art groups as a student and as an instructor. Firestone works primarily in oils but also uses watercolor, pastels, acrylics and personal photographs. A wide range of subjects from landscapes to portraits will be on display at the museum. For more information, call the museum at (806) 537-3524.

• **Pampa Book Club** will meet at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the Texas Room of Lovett Memorial Library. The 2009 reading schedule is as follows: Jan. 14, "The Last Lecture" by Randy Pausch; Feb. 11, "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson and David Relin; March 11, "Home: A Memoir of My Early Years" by Julie Andrews; and April 8, "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls. The May 13 book for review will be announced at a later date. Public welcome.

• **"Live On Stage"** Community Concerts of Pampa will present pianist Dale Gonyea at 2:30 p.m. Jan. 25 at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa. Attendance is by membership only. However, tickets for individual performances may be purchased at the door for \$25. For more information, call 665-0343 or contact Ruth Riehart, president, at 665-3362.

• **The South Plains Agriculture Wind and Wildlife Conference** will begin with registration at 7:30 a.m. Feb. 13 at the American Wind Power Center and Museum in Lubbock. The conference is being conducted by Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Wildlife Association, and Texas Parks and Wildlife. The purpose of the conference is to explore the pros and cons associated with the industry in Texas. For more information, call Ken Cearley, Extension wildlife specialist, at (806) 651-5760.

• **The 26th Annual Benefit Bridal Show** will be staged from 12:30-4:30 p.m. Jan. 11 in the Heritage Ball Room of Amarillo Civic Center in Amarillo by Bride's World. The event will include 100 merchants, continuous modeling of bridal wear, a silent auction and a grand prize giveaway. Tickets will be \$6 at the door or may be purchased in advance at www.bridesworld.com on the Internet.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, I caught my fiancé cheating on me. I was devastated. In my heart I don't think he would do it again, but still I find myself looking through his e-mails, checking phone records, etc. I find myself crying hysterically and replaying the moment I found out he was cheating over and over again in my head. It's driving me insane. I want to forgive him, but I don't think I can.

Can you please help me find a way to let go of the past and return to the confident me? -- **LIVING IN THE PAST IN PHOENIX**

DEAR LIVING IN THE PAST: I wish you had written me sooner. You and your fiancé may need couples therapy. His willingness to participate would prove that he's willing to do everything he can to reassure you that he won't cheat again. It may also help you both understand why it happened, and help you to erase the old tapes

playing in your head. However, if this doesn't work, accept that you should break the engagement -- because a marriage without trust is missing the very foundation of the relationship.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 16 and know in my heart that I'm gay, even though I'd give anything not to be. So far, I have kept this to myself, but I don't think I can keep it within forever.

Please tell me how you "come out." I am worried sick about what will happen, since my parents belong to a church that believes homosexuality is a terrible sin.

Will my parents still love me? Will my friends reject me? Will my sister, who I've always been close to, be afraid to keep sharing a room with me?

As hard as I have tried, I can't change the feelings I have inside, so I know I have to deal with this, but I don't know what to do. Please help me. -- **TORMENTED GIRL IN LOUISIANA**

DEAR TORMENTED GIRL: I can only imagine the stress and anxiety you are experiencing. My heart goes out to you.

As you clearly point out in your letter, sexual orientation is not a choice, but something a person is born with. Not knowing your parents or your inner circle of friends, I can't predict how they will react if you tell them you are gay. But if your instincts tell you that your family will react badly, then I advise you to wait to come out until you are out of their house and self-supporting.

In the meantime, allow me to share two helpful resources. The first is PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). This organization has been around since the early 1980s, and from it you will receive specific advice on how to deal with your parents. Its Web site is www.pflag.org, and I highly recommend it.

The second is the

Trevor Helpline, a nationwide, 24-hour crisis helpline for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning young people. Its toll-free number is (866) 488-7386. You can find out more by going to www.thetrevorproject.org.

DEAR ABBY: Six years ago my 16-year-old daughter was killed by a drunk driver. Just the other day I found some thank-you cards I thought I had sent. I also know that at the end I just couldn't write any more thank yous because of my grief. Should I mail the cards after all this time? -- **STILL WONDERING IN SAN DIEGO**

DEAR STILL WONDERING: Yes, you should. But when you do, include a short note explaining exactly what you have said to me. People who love and care about you will understand.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

1	9	4	8	7	3	6	2	5
6	2	8	5	9	4	1	3	7
5	7	3	2	1	6	4	9	8
2	8	6	9	5	1	3	7	4
9	3	1	4	2	7	8	5	6
4	5	7	3	6	8	9	1	2
8	1	2	6	3	5	7	4	9
7	6	9	1	4	2	5	8	3
3	4	5	7	8	9	2	6	1

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		6	9			7		

Level: Intermediate

PLAY

WHO'S WHO

AND WIN \$150!

Look for the return of THE PAMPA NEWS'S
Who's Who Contest

Starting January 20th, ads in The Pampa News for participating businesses will contain blank photo spots to be matched with the numbered photos of their employees. Complete the entry form, return it to the Pampa News and you will be eligible to win \$150!



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