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The PAMPA NEWS

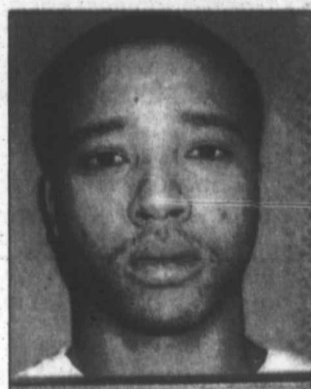
Pampa man arrested for shooting

by Rachel Stennett
 rstennett@thepampanews.com
 Pampa police arrested one man Sunday evening after a shooting that sent Sergio Marice Alva, 23, of Pampa, to North West Texas Hospital via LifeStar with a gunshot to upper chest.
 Gary Lynn Alexander was arraigned in Judge Joe Martinez' Justice of the Peace Court this morning (Monday, Jan 12.) on

charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, no valid driver's license, and failure to maintain financial responsibility, two counts.
 The call came in at 5 p.m. Sunday as a traffic accident with injuries, but when Pampa police personnel arrived on the scene, they found Alva had been shot.
 Alva had left the scene of the argument between

himself and Alexander, and was headed home when he crashed the vehicle he was driving in the 2200 block of Sumner, according to Detective Casey Ingersoll of the Pampa Police Department.
 Alva was transported by Guardian EMS to a LifeStar medical helicopter for transport to Amarillo.
 Officers investigated several leads, but

Alexander turned himself in to the Gray County Jail after the incident. Bond was set for Alexander at \$7,500.
 The cause of the shooting is still under investigation, although Ingersoll said "it appears to have happened after a verbal argument."
 Alva was treated and released from North West Texas Hospital for non-life threatening injuries.



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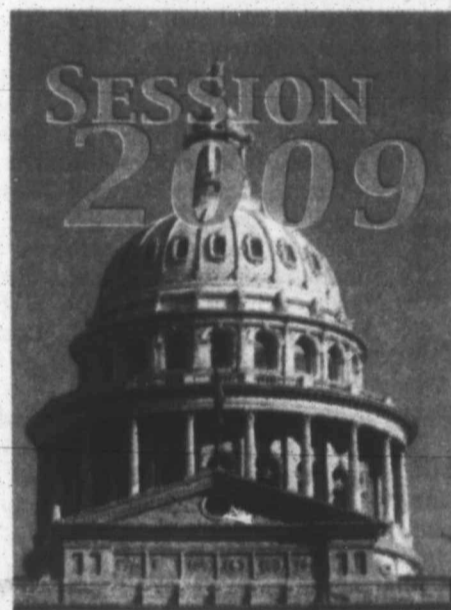
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Windstorm fund a leading issue at Capitol

AUSTIN (AP) — Hurricane Ike was the big storm Texas officials feared would hit the coast — and the state's way of paying for it afterward.
 When lawmakers convene Tuesday, they'll face the financial devastation left by the Category 2 storm that walloped the upper Gulf Coast on Sept. 13, devastating Galveston and nearby counties.
 They'll look to restructure the state's windstorm insurance association, which is filling in the gap left by private insurers who stopped issuing policies in some Gulf coast counties, and consider whether to put money into a state disaster fund that Galveston officials found out the hard way was empty.
 "The Legislature was wise in setting up the disaster fund, but we were cheap in not funding it," said Democratic Rep. Craig Eiland of Galveston. "A fund that doesn't have any money in it is pretty much like no fund at all."
 Overall Ike costs could sock state government with a potential \$6 billion to \$8 billion bill, said House Appropriations Chairman Warren Chisum. Some of that impact may be spread over four years because of the way the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association is set up to allow insurance companies to seek state tax credits over time, Chisum said.
 Total Hurricane Ike costs are estimated to top \$15 billion, but the state expects the federal government to cover most of that.
 Revamping the windstorm fund has been on the minds of some legislators since private companies began pulling away from the Texas coast after hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. The fund — replenished in large part by payments from private insurers — became the last resort insurer for homes and



businesses in 14 counties.
 Since Hurricane Ike, the windstorm fund has moved into the statewide spotlight.
 "Certainly we expect the Legislature will take that up very, very quickly once they convene," said Jerry Johns, president of the Southwestern Insurance Information Service, an organization representing the windstorm association and other Texas property insurers. "It's being talked about by just about every member of the Legislature."
 More than \$750 million has been paid to windstorm association policy holders for claims from Hurricane Ike, and the final bill is not yet known, Johns said.
 Those who want to restructure the fund say

allowing it to issue bonds may be one way to bring in additional money.
 Eiland, who serves on the House insurance committee, said he also wants the state to have its own reinsurance pool for the windstorm association. That means instead of buying reinsurance — which is backup insurance sold to insurance companies each year — the state pool would provide backup money that could be tapped when a costly storm strikes.
 It would save money because the reinsurance wouldn't have to be bought each year, he said. The backup pool would just roll over and remain in place from year to year if it's unused.
 He also wants to eliminate insurance companies' tax credits that prevent money from going into the state budget or make those credits only available far in the future so their budget effects would be negligible.
 Lawmakers may address what type of damage the windstorm fund covers. Currently its policies cover wind and hail damage across the state. The consumer group Texas Watch criticized the windstorm association for not paying for storm surge damage in Hurricane Ike. The association insisted it would only cover destruction from wind, not hurricane-related water damage. Chisum said it may be time for lawmakers to take a stand on the question.
 "We probably need to make some legislation that says it doesn't make any difference for insuring the house. So if the house flooded or the house blew away, if you're the insurer you've got to pay," he said.
 Besides attempts to rework the windstorm

See Session, Page 6

Father, son drown

An Amarillo father and son drowned while hunting Saturday, Jan. 10, at Lake Greenbelt.
 The two were hunting birds with two other men when the 18-year-old went out in a small boat to retrieve geese. The craft capsized and the boy's father jumped in to save

him.
 The bodies of both men were recovered from the lake on Sunday, Jan. 11, by search and rescue personnel. Names of the victims had not been released as of press time, pending notification of family members.

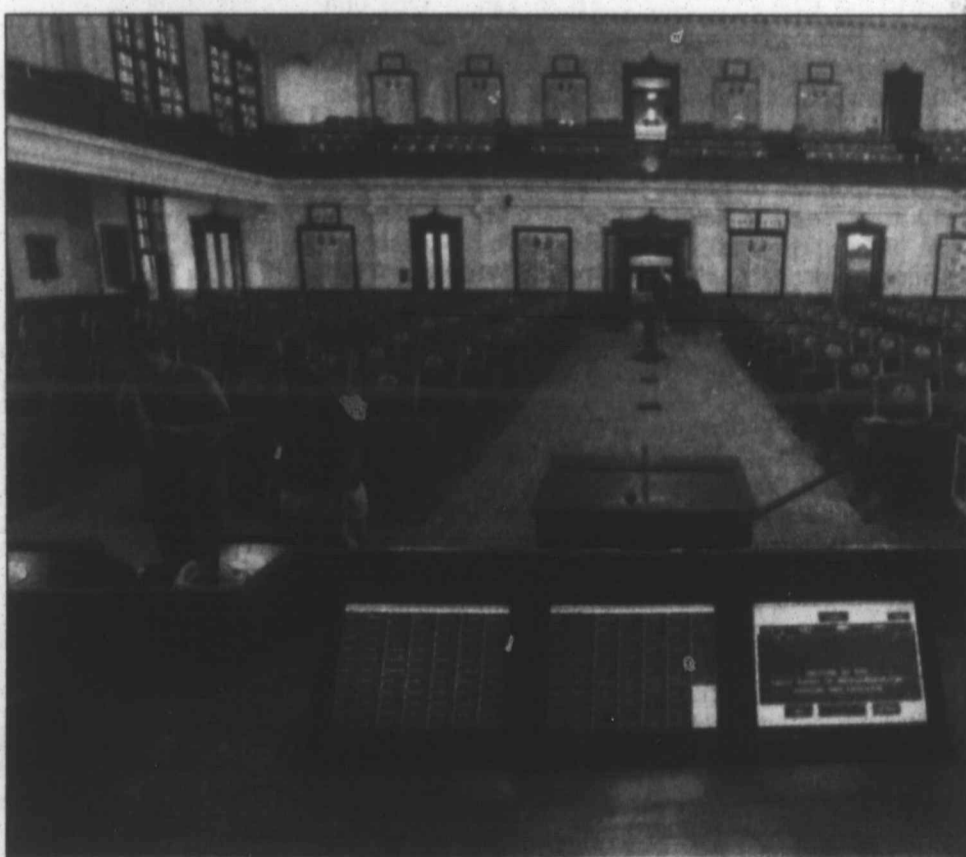
Fire destroys Lockney High

LCclasses were canceled Monday at the school in Lockney, about 60 miles northeast of Lubbock, as investigators seek the cause of Sunday night's blaze.
 Nobody was hurt. The building was unoccupied at the time of the fire.
 Floyd County Sheriff Paul Raissez (rah-ee-sis) told KCBT-TV that the structure is a total loss and arson has not been

ruled out. He says it appears the fire started on the south side of the building.
 Some residents of the town of more than 1,800 watched as the crews battle the blaze around 11 p.m. Sunday.
 KCBT reports several people managed to get computers, band instruments and documents out

See Fire, Page 6

READY FOR WORK






This is a view from the Speaker's Podium in the Texas House of Representatives at the Texas Capitol, in Austin, as workers prepare for the upcoming 81st Texas Legislature which opens tomorrow, Jan. 13. The first order of business will be to select the Speaker of the House.

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PAMPA FORECAST

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
		
High 57 Low 27	High 53 Low 22	High 37 Low 19

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 57. Wind chill values between 12 and 22 early. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 27. South wind around 10 mph becoming west.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 53. North-northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 22. East-northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 37. Southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 19. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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Emergency Services

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Friday and 7 a.m. today.

Friday, Jan. 9

12:15 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo and transferred a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

8:13 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2700 block of Comanche and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:21 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Amarillo.

Saturday, Jan. 10

7:42 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 12000 block of Frederic and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:44 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of West 25th and transported a patient to PRMC.

1:06 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to White Deer.

3:35 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to BSA Hospital in Amarillo.

Sunday, Jan. 11

2:50 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Hughes and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:10 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Dwight and transported a patient to PRMC.

3:30 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of 30th and transported a patient to PRMC.

4:07 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the

1200 block of North Russell and transported a patient to PRMC.

4:57 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of Williston. No transport.

5:03 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2200 block of Summer and transferred a patient to LifeStar helicopter for transport.

6:14 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to BSA Hospital.

8:04 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of West Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.

Monday, Jan. 12

2:17 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Sunset and transported a patient to PRMC.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Friday and 7 a.m. today.

Friday, Jan. 9

10:26 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 300 block of Jean on a carbon monoxide alarm. No trace of carbon monoxide was found.

2:28 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 1900 block of East Browning on a trash fire.

8:15 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 1800 block of North Hobart on an arcing transformer. The firefighters stood by for Xcel Energy to arrive on the scene.

Saturday, Jan. 10

7:40 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 12000 block of East Frederic on a call for medical assistance.

8:36 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 400 block of East 17th on a carbon monoxide check. No trace of carbon monoxide was found.

12:09 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 600 block of Browning on a fire alarm. The alarm was a false alarm.

4:05 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 2100 block of Wells on an odor

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Services tomorrow

JOHNSON, John L.B. — 2 p.m., Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ, Pampa.
JONES, Milford Ray — 11 a.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

E.W. 'Gene' Pace, 96

SKELLYTOWN — E.W. "Gene" Pace, 96, died Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009, at Amarillo.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009, in Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel in Pampa with the Rev. Fines Marchman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Skellytown, officiating.

Burial will be at 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009, at Okmulgee Cemetery in

Okmulgee, Okla., under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Pace was born June 15, 1911, in Fort Smith, Ark. He married Edna Ann Woods on Feb. 9, 1935, and she preceded him in death in 1969. He later married Neoma Mercer on May 8, 1973, who preceded him in death on July 13, 2008.

Mr. Pace had lived in Skellytown for 59 years and worked for Shell Oil

Company at the Bryan Plant #17 for 35 years. He was a deacon of First Baptist Church in Skellytown for many years and was a Mason for over 50 years.

Survivors include one son, Thomas E. Pace of Amarillo; two stepdaughters, Vicki Brown of Midland and Nancy Mercer of Ruidoso, N.M.; one stepson, Larry Mercer and wife Susie of Midland; one

granddaughter, Erika Lowe of Amarillo; two great-grandchildren, Jobie Jané Lowe and Hudson Lowe; both of Amarillo; seven stepgrandchildren; and four stepgreat-grandchildren.

MEMORIALS: American Red Cross, 1800 S. Harrison, Amarillo, TX 79102.

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

Milford Ray Jones, 85

Milford Ray Jones, 85, of Pampa, Texas, died Jan. 10, 2009, at Amarillo, Texas.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009, in Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with Chaplain John Elser, of the VA Medical Center in Amarillo, officiating.

Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery with military rites courtesy of the U.S. Army, Fort Hood, Texas. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Jones was born May 17, 1923, on a small farm in Parnell, Texas, to Jessie and Rufe Jones. He grew up surrounded by a loving family, aunts, uncles and cousins who were like brothers and sisters.

He married the love of his life, Glorice Haynes, on

Aug. 26, 1946, in Panhandle, Texas. She preceded him in death in May 2008, after 61 years of marriage. They were introduced by his future brother-in-law, Johnnie Reynolds, where the two worked together at Motor Inn Supply.

Mr. Jones has been a resident of Pampa since 1946. During this time, he sold cars for Tex Evans Buick Co., and owned several service stations — the Old Gulf on Foster, the Gulf on Hobart and the Coronado Conoco for 20 years.

He was an Army veteran and served with the 746 Tank Battalion. He was a tank instructor at Ft. Knox, Ky. He served in England, France, Belgium and Berlin. He kept in touch with several of his old Army buddies, several which credited him with

saving their lives.

Mr. Jones was a member of Fellowship Baptist Church. He was a dedicated loving son, husband and father. He loved training race horses, fishing, playing dominoes and spending time with his family.

He was dearly loved and will be greatly missed. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jessie and Rufe Jones; a brother, Doyle T. Jones; and a grandson, Vandy Vanderburg.

Survivors include two daughters, Sandy Vanderburg and husband Freddy of Odessa, and Becky Dalton and husband Greg of Pampa; one son, Michael Jones and wife Regina of Pampa; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; brother-in-law, Walden Haynes and wife Joy; two sisters-in-law, Wauline Reynolds and



Jones

Jerry Haynes; and two nieces, Donna Slavick and Jana Dutton.

MEMORIALS: Community Living Center, 6010 Amarillo Blvd. West, Amarillo, TX 79106.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The family will be at 2701 Duncan Street.

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

John Lewis Browning Johnson, 88

John Lewis Browning Johnson, 88, of Pampa, Texas, died Jan. 9, 2009, at Plano, Texas.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009, at Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ with Floyd Stumbo, with The Children's Home of Lubbock, and Mark Lance, minister of Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ, officiating.

Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Johnson was born July 23, 1920, in Odessa,

the fifth of six children of Mary and Earl Johnson. His family moved to the farm south of Pampa when he was 5 years old. This is where he met Marion, his wife of almost 60 years, and raised his children.

John's strength lay in his foundation of farm, family and church. He was a progressive farmer and cattleman, pioneering in soil conservation and other techniques befitting the land. John grew his cattle production from a few calves to running as many as 1,200 head a year.

He was a lifelong member of the Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of

Christ. John suffered a stroke at home on the farm on Nov. 6, 2008. He was hospitalized for two months and died from upper respiratory complications.

Survivors include his wife, Marion, of the home; daughter, Mary Bartley and husband Jerry of Plano; granddaughter, Blair Bartley of Plano; and sister, Evelyn Inman of Plainview.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The family will receive friends at Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Home from 6-7 p.m. today.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations



Johnson

to John's lifelong charity — The Children's Home of Lubbock, P.O. Box 2449, Lubbock, TX 79408.

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

Mary Lorene Braidfoot, 81

William Marion and Ollie Mae Mitchell. She married Eldon Ray Braidfoot on Nov. 17, 1950, in Clovis, N.M.

She was a resident of Panhandle since 1957 coming from Hall County. Lorene was a member of the First Baptist Church in Panhandle, and the 55-plus Club. She also worked in home health care and had worked at Garretson's Retirement Center.

She was a caring, compassionate person who loved her family and her church, and her grandsons Ben and Bo were the spe-

cial joys in her life.

She is preceded in death by her husband Eldon Ray Braidfoot in 1983, three sisters, and two brothers.

Survivors include a daughter, Kathy Horst and husband Greg of Lubbock; a son, Randy Braidfoot and wife Margie of Panhandle; two sisters, Vernie Watson of Happy and Reba Carman of Lubbock; two sister-in-laws, Ann Mitchell of Stratford and Thresea Mitchell of Amarillo; two grandsons, Ben and Bo Braidfoot of Panhandle; and "her boys," Rick and Rod Partain.



Braidfoot

She is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

Emergency Services

investigation. Nothing was found.

Sunday, Jan. 11

11:04 a.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the 300 block of North Dwight on a call for medical assistance.

4:58 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2200 block of North Sumner on a motor vehicle accident. One person was transported to Pampa

Regional Medical Center via ambulance.

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office recorded the following arrests.

Friday, Jan. 9

Jose Fabian Ramirez, 21, of Watonga, Okla., was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated/open container.

Rebecca Ann Moore, 24, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department for possession of a controlled substance.

Aldo Ray Dennis, 50, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for possession of a controlled substance.

Miguel Angel Jerez, 36, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a probation violation for driving while intoxicated.

Wynona Ann Wood,

37, of Lefors was arrested by Pampa PD for failure to maintain financial responsibility and no valid driver's license.

Danny Wayne Tipton, 39, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for assault causing bodily injury.

Daniel Craig Baker, 28, of Lefors was arrested by GCSO for expired registration, no insurance, failure to report

See Services, Page 3

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A Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper inspects a Chevy Cobalt involved in a motor-vehicle accident at the intersection of Texas 249 and Patridge Circle Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009. (AP Photo/The Courier, Eric S. Swist)

Speeding blamed for five fatalities

MAGNOLIA, Texas (AP) — Excessive speeding was likely the cause of a fiery collision that killed five people and injured two others, authorities said.

The driver of a Chevrolet Cobalt was driving on a state highway in Magnolia at "an extremely high rate of speed" when it collided with a Toyota van Saturday, authorities said. "The driver of the van probably never saw it coming," said Department of Public Safety Sgt. Angela Fountain.

Four of the five family members traveling in the van were killed. They were identified as: Donald Lee Sexton, 60, of College Station; Curtis Charles Edwards, 78, of Pinehurst; Catherine C. Edwards, 83; and Lloyd Alvin Edwards, 83, of Salina, Okla. "This is devastating for

this family," Fountain said.

Another van passenger, 59-year-old Karla Kay Sexton of College Station, was in serious condition at Memorial Hermann Hospital-The Medical Center on Sunday afternoon, hospital spokeswoman Alejandra Rodriguez said.

Kayla Pratorius, 18, of Magnolia, was a front seat passenger in the Cobalt and was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the Cobalt was 22-year-old Brandon Lee Ferguson of Magnolia. He was in critical condition Sunday afternoon at Memorial Hermann Hospital-The Medical Center, Rodriguez said.

Fountain said that the investigation is ongoing and they are trying to determine the Cobalt's speed at the time of impact.

Emergency Services

Services

Continued from Page 4

Sheriff

address change and expired motor vehicle inspection.

Tammie Mae Knight, 45, of Canadian was arrested by Pampa PD for open container and littering.

Saturday, Jan. 10
Icidro Andres Soto, 20, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for driving while intoxicated, expired registration, no driver's license and no insurance.

Charles Edward Shae, 19, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for assault causing bodily injury/family violence and resisting arrest.

Sunday, Jan. 11
Ignacia Jennifer Rojas, 23, of Amarillo was arrested by Pampa PD for driving while intoxicated, second offense; failure to identify; no driver's license; and no insurance.

Sixto Felipe Albear, 26, of Pampa was arrested by DPS for driving while intoxicated.

Gary Lynn Alexander, 26, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, no valid driver's license and two counts of failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Melvin Douglas Mitchell Jr., 27, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for driving while intoxicated, third or more offense; no valid driver's license; expired motor vehicle inspection; and expired registration.

Saul Rios Flores, 24, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for public intoxication and on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility and no valid driver's license.

Pampa PD

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

Friday, Jan. 9

Officers conducted 16 traffic stops. A stop in the 500 block of East Francis resulted in at least one arrest.

A total of 10 calls and/or stops concerning animals was reported.

A silent/abusive 911 call was reported in the 100 block of North Cuyler.

Criminal mischief was reported at Lovett Memorial Library, 111 N. Houston, where graffiti was spray painted on the inside of the bathroom.

Officers served, or attempted to serve, war-

rants in the 2400 block of Navajo Road, the 300 block of North Davis, the 1100 block of South Hobart and the 1000 block of South Nelson.

Suspicious persons were reported in the 300 block of West and the 300 block of North 30th.

Theft was reported in the 900 block of South Wells.

A domestic disturbance with minor injuries was reported in the 300 block of East Browning.

Traffic complaints were reported in the 1200 block of Hobart, the 100 block of East Harvester, at Foster and Starkweather streets, and in the 1800 block of Chestnut Drive.

A police escort was provided in the 200 block of North Russell.

A welfare check was performed in the 1000 block of South Christy.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 400 block of Yeager.

An alarm was reported in the 2200 block of North Hobart.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway.

A gas drive-off in the amount of \$15 was reported at Allsup's, 140 S. Starkweather.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of South Sumner and in the 1000 block of South Varnon Drive.

A civil matter was reported in the 1600 block of West Somerville.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 1100 block of South Varnon Drive.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1300 block of North Charles.

Building checks were conducted in the 100 block of East Craven and the 600 block of West Foster.

Saturday, Jan. 10

Officers conducted 21 traffic stops. A stop in the 800 block of West Foster resulted in at least one arrest.

A total of five calls and/or stops concerning animals was reported.

A threat was reported in the 600 block of North Magnolia.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1300 block of North Hobart.

Suspicious vehicles were reported in the 1600 block of North Sumner, and at Starkweather and Atchison streets.

Domestic disturbances with minor injuries were reported in the 800 block of North Nelson and the 1300 block of North Duncan.

Alarms were reported in the 400 block of East Brown and the 1800 block of Holly Lane.

A police escort was provided in the 600 block of North Ward.

Theft was reported in the 400 block of Hill, where a mini bike worth an estimated \$1,000 was reported stolen.

Disorderly conduct was reported at Twiford and Lefors streets.

A sexual assault was reported in the 2200 block of North Chestnut.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of North Yeager.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 500 block of North Carr.

Traffic complaints were reported at Hobart and Gwendolyn, and in the 1100 block of West Juniper Drive.

A civil matter was reported in the 100 block of South Gillespie.

Driving while intoxicated was reported in the 300 block of East Brown.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 2300 block of West Alcock.

Building checks were conducted in the 100 block of East Craven, the 400 block of West Foster and the 600 block of West Foster.

Sunday, Jan. 11

Officers conducted six traffic stops. A stop in the 200 block of North

Hobart resulted in at least one arrest.

A total of five calls and/or stops concerning animals was reported.

Suspicious persons were reported in the 300 block of West Kingsmill, at Harvester and Lefors streets, in the 300 block of North Hobart, and at Harvester and Hamilton streets.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of Tignor.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1300 block of North Coffee.

A prowler was reported in the 800 block of North Wells.

Burglary was reported in the 1200 block of South Faulkner.

A silent/abusive 911 call was reported in the 1700 block of North Christine.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 800 block of North Wells.

Traffic accidents were reported at 17th and Coffee streets, in the 2200 block of North Sumner and in the 1300 block of Garland.

A sexual assault was reported at the PD.

Welfare checks were

Emergency Services

performed in the 1300 block of East Kingsmill and the 400 block of East 17th.

A traffic complaint was reported at Zimmers and Lincoln streets.

Civil matters were reported in the 2200 block of North Mary Ellen and the 900 block of Sierra Drive.

Theft was reported at Best Western, 2831 N. Perryton Parkway. Two customers reportedly did not pay for their rooms for a loss of \$180.

An assault with minor injuries was reported in the 900 block of Mary Ellen.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 700 block of North Davis.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 500 block of North Price Road.

Lost property, a key with keyless entry, was reported in the 400 block of North Doyle.

Monday, Jan. 12
Officers conducted seven traffic stops.

Suspicious persons were reported in the 400 block of North Ballard and the 1000 block of South Huff Road.

A prowler was reported in the 1200 block of East Foster.

An alarm was reported in the 300 block of West Kingsmill.



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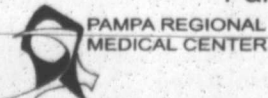
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Viewpoints

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 12, the 12th day of 2009. There are 353 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
Fifty years ago, on Jan. 12, 1959, Berry Gordy Jr. founded Motown Records (originally called Tamla Records) in Detroit.

On this date:
In 1519, Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I died.

In 1773, the first public museum in America was organized, in Charleston, S.C.

In 1915, the U.S. House of Representatives rejected a proposal to give women the right to vote.

In 1932, Hattie W. Caraway became the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate, after serving out the remainder of the term of her late husband, Thaddeus.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt re-established the National War Labor Board.

In 1948, the Supreme Court ruled that state law schools could not discriminate against applicants on the basis of race.

In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson said in his State of the Union address that the U.S. should stay in South Vietnam until communist aggression there was ended.

In 1976, mystery writer Dame Agatha Christie died in Wallingford, England, at age 85.

In 1986, the shuttle Columbia blasted off with a crew that included the first Hispanic-American in space, Franklin R. Chang-Diaz.

Ten years ago: The Supreme Court limited state regulation of voter initiatives, striking down several methods used by Colorado to police such measures.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox forged agreement on the contentious issues of immigration and Iraq, meeting in Monterrey before the opening of a 34-nation hemispheric summit.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Luise Rainer is 99. Country singer Ray Price is 83. Singer Glenn Yarborough is 79. The Amazing Kreskin is 74. Country singer William Lee Golden (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 70. Former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Frazier is 65. Rock musician Cynthia Robinson (Sly and the Family Stone) is 65. Singer-musician George Duke is 63. Actor Anthony Andrews is 61. Movie director Wayne Wang is 60. Radio commentator Rush Limbaugh is 58. Actress Kirstie Alley is 58. Writer Walter Mosley is 57. Country singer Ricky Van Shelton is 57. Radio personality Howard Stern is 55. Actor Oliver Platt is 49. Actor Olivier Martinez is 43. Rock singer Rob Zombie is 43. Model Vendela is 42. Actress Farrah Foeke is 41. Actress Rachael Harris is 41. Rock singer Zack de la Rocha is 39. Rapper Raekwon is 39. Singer Dan Haseltine (Jars of Clay) is 36. Rock musician Matt Wong (Reel Big Fish) is 36. Singer Melanie Chisholm (Spice Girls) is 35. Contemporary Christian singer Jeremy Camp is 31. Rhythm-and-blues singer Americ is 29.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Vandalism, small bond angers Pampan

Letter to the editor —

After learning about the destruction done at Pampa High School I was appalled and disappointed, now I am mad. It seemed such perfect timing that after 18 months of portable buildings, difficult parking and constant construction on campus the second semester of this school year would be enjoyed with a bit of normalcy once again. Not to be the selfish and stupid acts of two 17-year-old boys would tarnish an otherwise exciting time for the student body. What in the world sort of thrill comes with destruction I simply do not understand.

This has such a rippling effect on so many people in our community. As a single, retired individual on a fixed income I resent this action very much. We had three children

graduate from PHS, two of whom returned after completing their college degrees. When the PISD school board presented their plans for remodeling and updating the high school I had no problem endorsing the bond issues. After all, someone had made the necessary adjustments for our children and it was now my turn to encourage our current and future student's success. With the recent vandalism, the insurance rates will likely increase, it has already been stated that a security officer will most likely be hired full-time, and the frenzied staff must now endure a longer time until classrooms are readied one again.

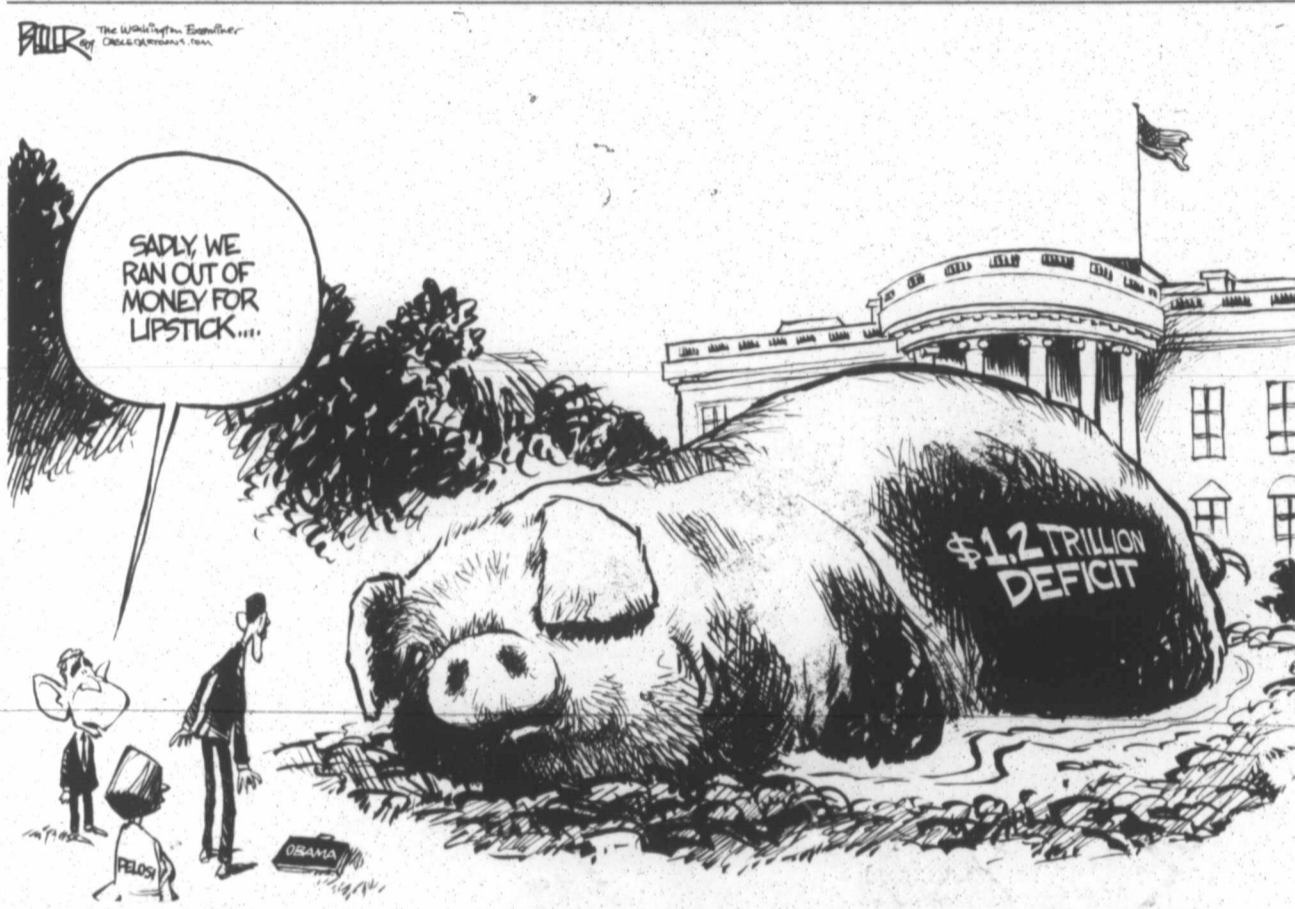
At this time I also feel sorry for the many individuals and businesses who are so graciously encouraged the artificial turn installation

at Harvester Field. Certainly they have to fear a similar disrespect for their commitment by those who don't care.

Are these two dropouts of either our school or another nearby school, I have no idea. If so, that also presents another liability, why were they allowed to be truant as underage and where are the parents and their responsibilities? Pampa does have an under 18 curfew that I thought was enforced. My strong feelings about this matter seem to be that the \$7,000 bond seemed to be simply a slap on the wrist. It is my hope that these boys and their families will have to make financial restitution as well as years, not months, of community service.

Diann Birdsell

Pampa



Republicans urge restraint on stimulus

By TOM RAUM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)— Out of power, Republicans appear to be retreating to familiar old ground. They are once again fiscal conservatives sounding the alarm about the growing federal budget deficit.

Republican lawmakers did not seem to mind enjoying the fruits of government largesse for the past eight years while one of their own was in the White House. Now they are struggling to regain footing at a time of economic rout, a record \$1.2 trillion budget deficit and an incoming Democratic president claiming a mandate for change.

It might not be the best time for running against more government spending. But that has not stopped Republicans from casting themselves as protectors of the public purse, striving for relevancy as Congress tackles President-elect Barack Obama's stimulus legislation. "Congress cannot keep writing checks and simply pass IOUs to our children and grandchildren," says Sen. John Cornyn of Texas. Asks House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio: "How much debt are we going to pile on future generations?"

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, gets more specific: "We would like, on the spending side, obviously, to avoid funding things like a mob museum or water slides." Mob museums?

Las Vegas' effort to include in the stimulus legislation federal money to set up a museum to showcase Nevada's colorful and storied past in organized crime has suddenly become the cited example of wasteful spending for some Republicans, including McConnell.

Perhaps they hope the proposed project in the home state of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid can divert attention from the "Bridge to Nowhere," an Alaska project that was initially a Republican initiative and which became the target of Democratic scorn.

Obama has pledged that the economic aid legislation be free of potentially wasteful spending on projects sought by lawmakers for their own districts; Republicans have said they agree.

Republican lawmakers also are

seeking to change the mix in Obama's proposal to include more tax breaks. But they know they can only go so far in trying to throw up obstacles to the new president.

"We all understand the need to do something. And to do it quickly," McConnell said late last week. "We intend to work with the new president ... and try and get this right."

Republicans "seem to be on a funny tightrope on which they're trying to enunciate a Republican position," said Fred Greenstein, a presidential scholar at Princeton University. "They're saying, 'Yes it is a crisis', and 'yes, a lot has to be done. But it shouldn't be too much. And it shouldn't be imprudent.' They seem to be stuck with platitudes and truisms."

Greenstein said the distinguishing traits now are "the intensity of the crisis" and Obama's ecumenical outreach to experts and political leaders in both parties.

Obama said he is seeking good ideas from all quarters for what will be the biggest public spending program since World War II, one he hopes will save or create 3 to 4 million jobs.

"I want this to work. This is not an intellectual exercise. And there's no pride of authorship," Obama said.

For Republicans, finding a politically sustainable position that balances the need for action with calls for fiscal discipline is a difficult balancing act.

"It's hard to oppose fixing the economy right now," said Stanley Collender, a former congressional budget analyst now with Qorvis Communications, a Washington consulting firm. Collender said the depth of the crisis makes it difficult for fiscal conservatives in either party "to say that deficits are something that should be addressed right now."

"If you say that, you kind of lose credibility," Collender said.

Republicans also are mindful they can overplay their hand, as they did in late 1995 when the government was shut down in a budget confrontation between House Speaker Newt Gingrich and President Bill Clinton. Republicans expected voters to blame Clinton and his Democrats for the shutdown. They didn't. They blamed Gingrich's Republican troops and telegraphed that sentiment in

1996 when Clinton was handily re-elected and Democrats increased their numbers in Congress.

"It is somewhat disingenuous on the part of Republicans to be totally concerned about the debt and the deficit at this point because they were there when the debt went up," said James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University.

When Bush took office in 2001, the government had a projected \$5.6 trillion, 10-year surplus.

Obama has suggested his plan will come close to \$800 billion, with roughly \$300 billion in tax cuts for middle-income individuals and businesses. That itself was partly a concession to Republicans calling for more tax relief, and drew predictable complaints from liberal Democrats who want fewer tax cuts and more spent on public works projects.

"Even though Obama is very popular with his mandate for change, now we're figuring out just what the 'change' is, in a separated system where Congress has the right to stand up and say what it wants, as does the minority party," said Thurber. "So it's messy."

Tom Raum has covered Washington for The Associated Press since 1973, including five presidencies.

We welcome your letters

To insure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

• Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.

• All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.

• Defamatory comments will not be published.

• E-mail submissions are welcome.

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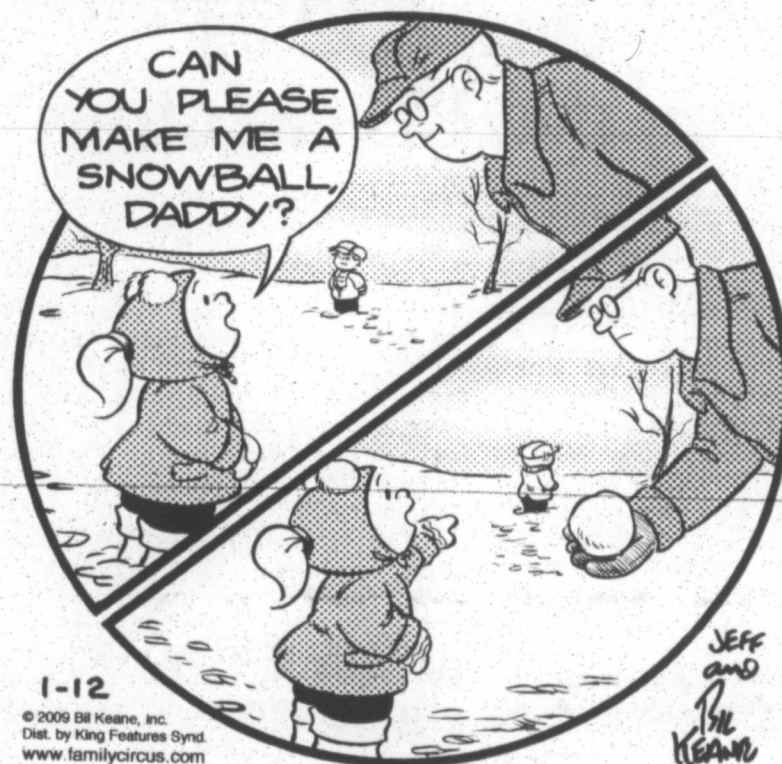
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"Making your day?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Now hit Billy with it!"

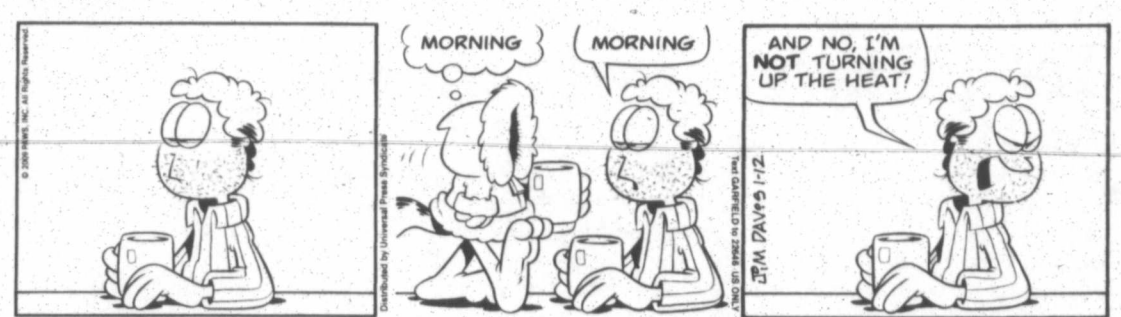
For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



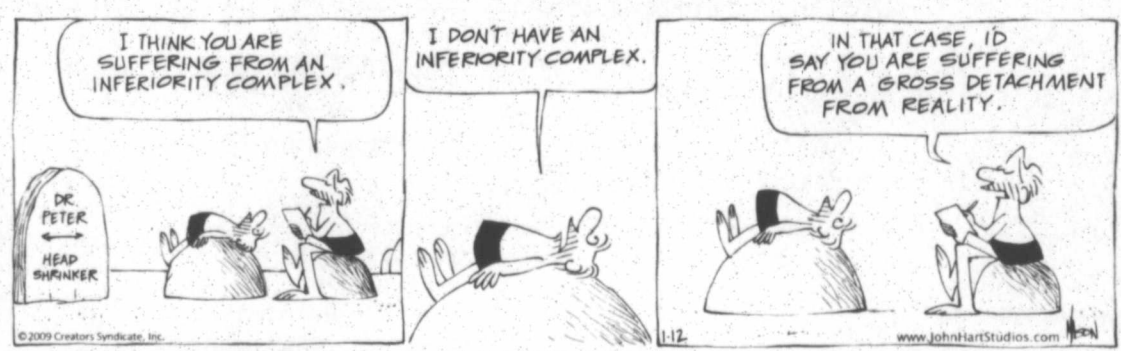
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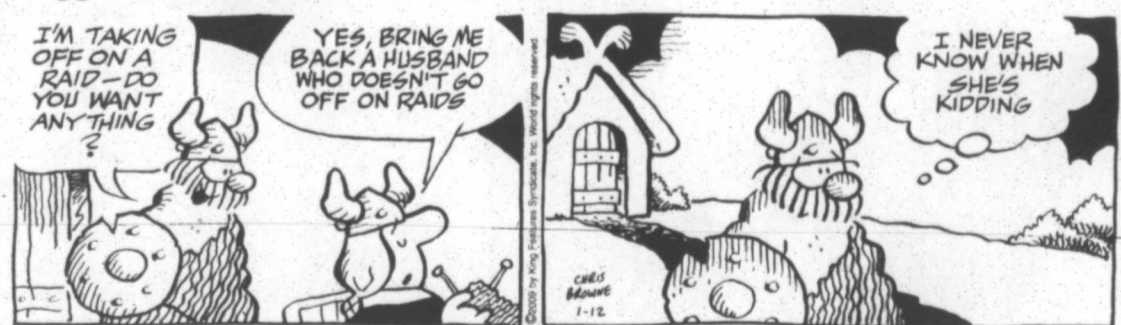
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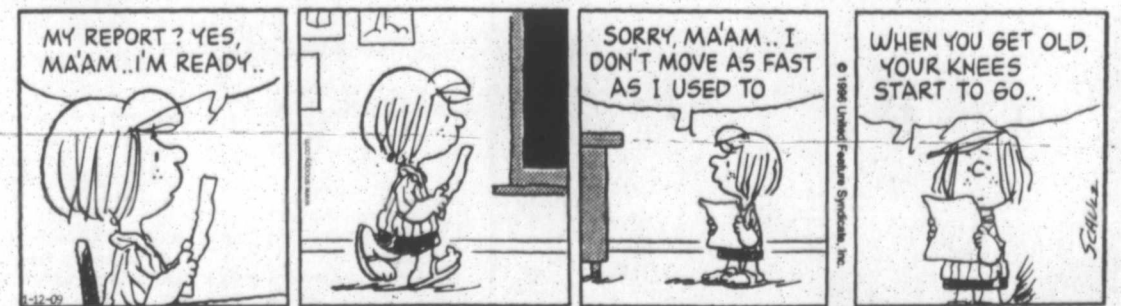
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 43 Archaeology find, 1 Complete-ly full
 - 44 Goals
 - 6 Othello, 45 Mariners for one
 - 10 Jot down
 - 11 Swiss geometer
 - 13 Regions
 - 14 Car trip
 - 15 Letter after sigma
 - 16 Numerical prefix
 - 18 Energy
 - 19 Unusually energetic
 - 22 Negating word
 - 23 Marsh plant
 - 24 Pebble-strewn
 - 27 Bookish, perhaps
 - 28 Andean nation
 - 29 Sailing site
 - 30 Like uranium
 - 35 Skating surface
 - 36 Banned pesticide
 - 37 Veto
 - 38 "Ninotchka" star
 - 40 Lower
 - 42 Aspen aficionado
- DOWN**
- 1 Mown strip
 - 2 Ordered display
 - 3 Bind
 - 4 Airport sched. abbr.
 - 5 Ruin
 - 6 Army doc
 - 7 Wilder's "Town"
 - 8 "Sleuth" costar
 - 9 Energized
 - 12 Cure
 - 17 Scoundrel
 - 20 Boredom
 - 21 Pick up the tab
 - 24 Parsley servings
 - 25 Scone
 - 26 Call for takeout
 - 27 Sweet fruit
 - 29 Despondent
 - 31 Scents
 - 32 Considering everything
 - 33 Drop in on
 - 34 Company suits
 - 39 Sleep site
 - 41 Arthur of "Maude"

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Saturday's answer

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Prescribed burns could affect lake access

LAKE MEREDITH — Some areas around Lake Meredith will be closed during the next four months as the National Park Service conducts prescribed burns to reduce brush overgrowth. Federal officials will conduct four prescribed burns from January through May at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument. Rozanna Pfeiffer with the National Park Service said the burns would be at Rosita-Coetas, Cedar Canyon, North Canyon and South Canyon. Rosita-Coetas straddles the Canadian River. The North Canyon is west of

Road 687/1319 and south of Road 3395. Cedar Canyon is along the east park boundary, north of Lake Meredith Harbor and south of the Sanford-Yake entrance. South Canyon is east of the Sanford-Yake boat ramp and west of the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority road along the eastern park boundary. Pfeiffer said the burns are to reduce vegetation and restore the park's prairie grasslands to their natural cycle of growth. "The reintroduction of fire into the ecosystem promotes historical grasslands and habitat for wildlife," Pfeiffer said. "Prescribed fire reduces the dangers associated with catastrophic wildfires that could

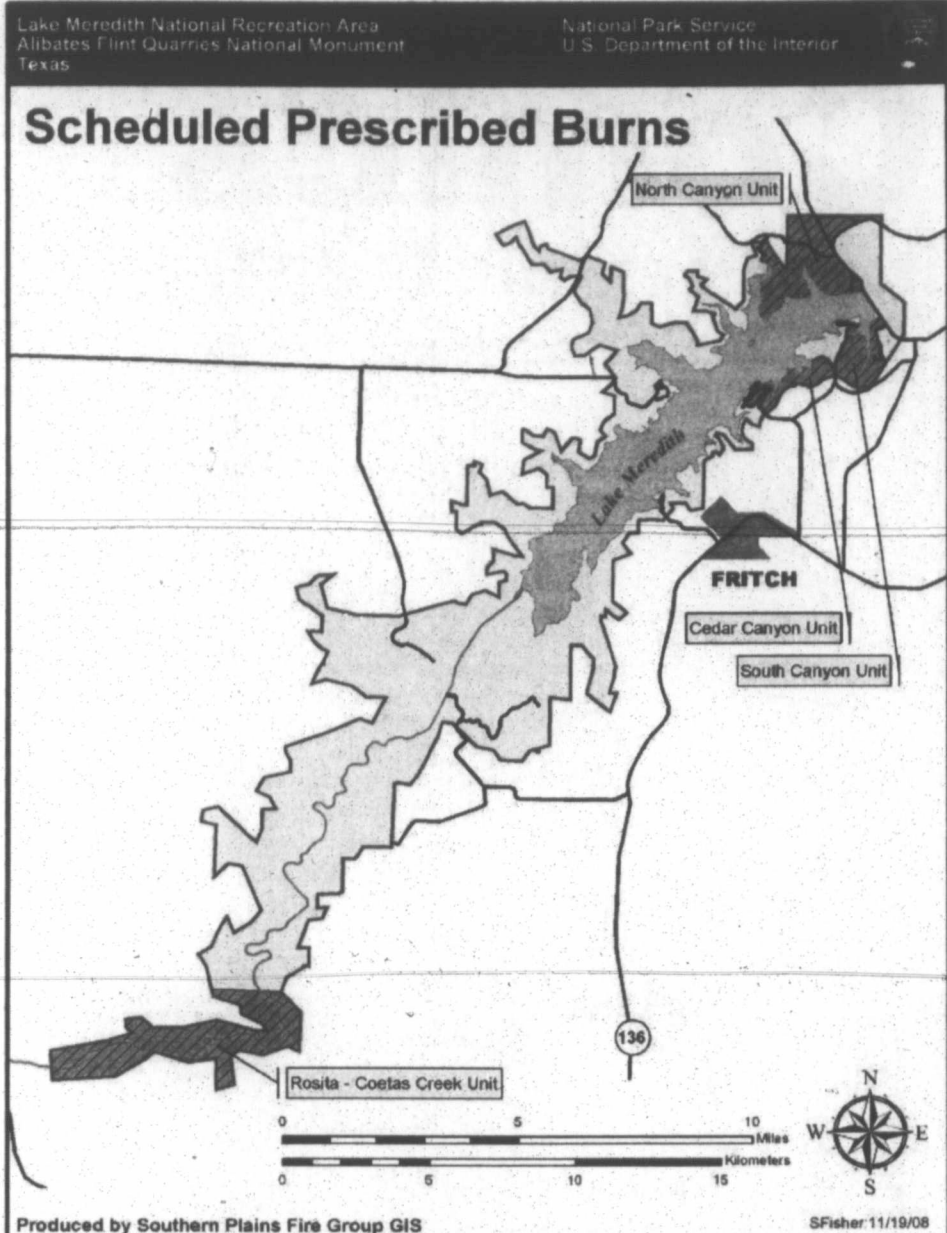
threaten communities or ranchlands and public and firefighter safety." She said fire crews will spend several months removing brush and other fuels from the perimeter of the burn areas and will be in coordination with local ranchers and area fire departments. The National Park Service began its prescribed fire program at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area in 1999. To date, they have burned about 42,000 acres. Pfeiffer said the burns are designed so that the majority of the smoke from the fires will blow to the northeast. That could affect boating and fishing on Lake Meredith.

Teen charged with murder

WACO, Texas (AP)— A 15-year-old boy charged with capital murder in the slaying of a man last week has also been charged with kidnapping a woman and her child last month, authorities said. The teen was arrested late Friday night in the death of Gregory Lewis, a 48-year-old found shot on a road Tuesday. Lewis had been shot several times in the lower torso but was alive when police arrived.

He later died at a local hospital. The teen, whose name was not released by police because he is a juvenile, was arrested late Friday and is charged with capital murder and two counts of aggravated kidnapping, said Waco police spokesman Steve Anderson in a story published online Sunday by the Waco Tribune-Herald. Information on the teen's bond was not immediately

available on Sunday. Anderson said money was taken from Lewis, making the crime a capital offense. During the shooting investigation, the teen was also linked to the Dec. 29 aggravated kidnapping of a 24-year-old woman and her 2-year-old daughter, Anderson said. He said that the mother and daughter had pulled into an apartment complex when a man approached her car, displayed a pistol and told her to get into the back seat of the car. As the victim got into the back seat, three other men ran up and got in the car. Anderson said one of the three men also had a pistol. The men took the woman's purse and drove her to an ATM, telling her that if she didn't withdraw money, they would kill her and her child, Anderson said. The men dropped the woman and her child off when she couldn't withdraw any cash because her account was empty.



Oil falls below \$39 as investors eye US earnings

VIENNA, Austria (AP)— Oil prices fell Monday on concerns over global economic growth, with key U.S. corporate earnings results expected to give a new reading on crude demand in the world's largest consuming nation. Economic worries outweighed factors that would normally boost the market. Aï Mideast tensions, signs that OPEC was implementing large-scale production cuts and the Gazprom-Ukraine gas dispute. Light, sweet crude for February delivery was down \$2.25 to \$38.58 a barrel by midday in Europe in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract on Friday fell 87 cents to settle at \$40.83. Steel producer Alcoa, chip maker Intel and biotech company Genentech are

expected to report fourth quarter results this week, providing investors with a gauge of how deep the current recession may be. "Given that we're likely to see quite a few rather poor fourth quarter earnings reports, downward pressure will continue to be exerted on oil," said Victor Shum, an energy analyst with consultancy Purvin & Gertz in Singapore. "Worries about the macroeconomic outlook will continue to constrain oil." The Labor Department said Friday that employers slashed 524,000 jobs in December and 2.6 million jobs for all of 2008. The nation's unemployment rate jumped to 7.2 percent, the highest since 1993.

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Session

Continued from Page 1

account, there are calls on many fronts for a better state disaster fund. Republican Gov. Rick Perry's office oversees a relatively small amount budgeted for disaster needs. He asked lawmakers to allocate \$50 million to a disaster fund in 2007, but they didn't. The governor will ask legislators this time for \$50 million to \$150 million to help pay for evacuations and other immediate costs that arise, said Perry senior adviser Mike Morrissey. It would be used to reimburse local governments and vendors, like evacuation bus contractors, even

if their expenses are covered by federal disaster aid that is slow in arriving. Then if federal dollars come in that money would replenish the state fund. It would not cover personal losses or expand existing reimbursement items, Morrissey said. In 2007, lawmakers approved legislation to create a new disaster fund but it was never supplied with money. Galveston City Manager Steve LeBlanc said the city applied for help from the fund but learned only then there was no money in it. "I find that unacceptable," LeBlanc said. "Something like this could have helped many coastal communities." Numerous communities affected by the hurricane agree, Eiland said, noting that even if the Federal

Emergency Management Agency covers a disaster expense, a local government often must provide 25 percent of the cost. In some cases communities wait years for FEMA reimbursements, he said. "You think the city of Galveston has an extra tax laying around to make those huge upfront payments?" he said. "It seems sometimes FEMA forgets the 'e' stands for 'emergency,' and not 'eventually.'" Meanwhile, the national group Protecting America wants Texas to create a "catastrophe fund" to prepare for a wide range of needs before, during and after a natural disaster. The money would be invested in financial markets and presumably grow over time, much like a 401K retirement plan, though the

DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009. This year, you make your mark more often than in the past. Individuals respond far more one on one than in groups. You broaden your outlook by experiencing life in others' shoes. Understanding and compassion will evolve as a result. To many, it might have felt as if you had blinders on for the past few years. Financial conversations increase, but so does the possibility for your financial well-being. If you are single, you will meet many people this year, but the person who might be more exotic or different proves to be very interesting. If you are attached, planning a special long-desired trip together adds to the closeness and warmth between you. VIRGO can be fussy and critical.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ***** You might be more fussy than usual as you look at the panorama of work that surrounds you. Lighten up about a friendship, especially if it sends rays of laughter and lightness into your life, even when you are working. Tonight: Choose a stress-buster.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ***** Where others collide with a wall, you find an alternative. Use your ingenuity to make your plans, work and relationships easier and better. When situations flow, you cannot help but feel good. Tonight: Cut out of work and start enjoying yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ***** Your family and domestic life star for many. Others will be dealing with security and property. You feel the need to shore up your foundations. You can move a project forward with the support of a key partner. Don't try to go it alone. Tonight: Happy at home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ***** Speak your mind. Get on top of your game, understanding that you too have limits. A partner seems more generous than he or she has been in a while. People are changing, and you need to adjust your image. Tonight: Speak your mind.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** Be aware of your finances, even though a project could distract you. Put a limit on spending, knowing what is enough and when to pull back. Others seem very generous at first. Play the waiting game. Tonight: Pay bills.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Stop in the morning and notice how you feel. You are full of energy. You can do anything, at whatever time. Someone serves as a muse in that he or she inspires you and perhaps others. Tonight: Let your hair down.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** Take your time making decisions. You want to remain on top of your game, but right now that looks like backing off, thinking and relaxing. You have many imaginative flights of fancy. Tonight: Vanish into your thoughts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** You could be listening to a friend or group of associates, feeling that finally you are on the same page. Is this really true? Assume that at least in theory you are on the same page. Tonight: Where the action is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** Take a stand with those you look up to, but pick and choose your words and style. Others would like to hear your ideas, especially as you present a novel, dynamic view. Speak your mind, but use diplomacy. Tonight: A must show.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ***** Don't hesitate to call in an expert. Your willingness to explore options separates you from others. Schedule a trip, workshop or some other type of mind-opening experience. Tonight: If you cannot find a Scrabble or chess partner, go for solitaire.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** A partner taps into your energy. You will get past an immediate snafu once this important conversation occurs. Your mind-set could be changing as more feedback comes in from different trusted associates. Tonight: Dinner for two.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ***** Others are definitely running the show. If you don't push or contest another's ideas, everything will fall into place. A meeting proves to be most successful if you relax and allow others to display their true colors. Tonight: Let someone else choose.

BORN TODAY
Actor Robert Stack (1919), dancer Gwen Verdon (1925), actor Orlando Bloom (1977)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.
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Fire

Continued from Page 1

of the junior high school, which is connected to the high school and also suffered damage. A prayer service was held Monday morning outside the fire-ravaged high school, as administrators try to determine where classes will be held.

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AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-12 CRYPTOQUOTE
U N U S A D J S H O H W X J H F
U S Z B D G S M D H X J H F S B
Q G V H W U W H Q Z Q G V H F
U S Z B D G S M D H X J H F

— U S J S Z N J C F
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2900 Rosewood Ln	\$64,500 3/1 5/0 - 1537 SF/GCAD
1145 Seneca Lane	\$65,000 3/1/0 - 1369 SF/GCAD
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Keeping home life-support up when power goes out

WASHINGTON (AP)— For many of the growing millions who depend on home medical equipment, a power outage goes way beyond the inconvenience most of us feel. It could be deadly.

It's an issue that snuck up on emergency officials as better medical treatments over the past decade have helped more critically ill people not only survive but move out of nursing homes.

The Associated Press found emergency planners around the country struggling to find new ways to identify people at risk before the lights go out, to ensure they will have the aid they need to survive small outages or big ones.

How serious is the problem?

When ice downed electric lines in Epping, N.H., last month, police found 60-year-old Richard Lapoint dead, hooked to his powerless oxygen machine. The town's rescue workers hadn't known he was power-dependent.

During Hurricane Ike, at least three people with medical conditions died when the storm knocked out power. Carolyn Williams and John Manley, both dialysis patients who stayed on Galveston Island died because they could not get treatment. Martha Ferguson, a cancer patient, died when her oxygen machine shut down.

A generator and stack of batteries couldn't keep up with Gatlan Graham's ventilator and other life-supporting equipment when Hurricane Ike knocked out power to his Houston home for 14 days in September. The family fled in search of electricity, spending more than \$1,500 to keep the 17-year-old alive.

When Hurricane Gustav hit Louisiana, dozens of people with home oxygen machines in tow evacuated to government medical shelters, where surprised officials had to scramble to find enough old-fashioned oxygen tanks when back-up generators in Baton Rouge failed.

Utilities in every state operate "medical priority lists" designed to track who depends on power for life. But an AP survey found huge state-to-state variations that suggest only a fraction of patients know they could sign up. Illinois' biggest utilities together report 10,000 patients on critical-care lists, for example. Neighboring Indiana's biggest list carries just 2,000 names.

Even if patients did sign up, in large outages companies don't have the ability to restore power to one home before another down the street. The lists may offer false hope.

"The power companies don't get on the phone and dial 911 for their customers," said Dr. David Prezant, chief medical officer for the New York City Fire Department, who is pushing for medical registries of the power-dependent. "When there's a blackout, citywide, nationwide, we are really unprepared with any structured database, knowledge of who these people are and where they are."

Registries are starting to form, from Benton County, Ark., to North Dakota, which begins a statewide Web-based registry this month.

A pilot project in northwest Ohio is giving cards to life-support users to hang in their windows during a flood or tornado, signaling to rescuers if they need help or are OK.

San Diego Gas & Electric says it recently met with each of its 700 known power-dependent customers to discuss emergency plans for outages, and offers advance warning when wildfires trigger rolling blackouts.

In contrast, this is the advice from Idaho's Public Utilities Commission: "If someone has a power requirement for life and health, the individual is responsible for coming up with their own back-up plan."

To help people prepare, the Food and Drug Administration this spring plans to issue the first checklist for device recipients to receive when leaving the hospital.

Emergency workers feel the clock ticking.

"It's incumbent upon us over the next 4-6 months, before we get into hurricane season again, to have a better plan than we had going into Ike," said Terry Moore, Houston's deputy emergency management coordinator.

Under consideration are mobile "charging stations" that could rotate through Houston neighborhoods for patients to recharge depleted batteries, or perhaps evacuating the power-dependent.

"This is a huge vulnerability," added Dr. Lewis Rubinson of the University of Washington, who advises the government on disaster preparations and separately is preparing guidelines for emergency oxygen supplies. "This is something that patients should demand."

It's a growing population. Roughly 2 million people use home oxygen machines, mostly "concentrators" that make oxygen on the spot as long as electricity flows. Just a few years ago, oxygen-gas tanks that don't require home electricity were the norm.

At least another 10,000 people breathe with home ventilators, and thousands more have implanted heart pumps



Kristin Graham, left, and her son Gatlin leave after a visit to the doctor in Houston. For many of the growing millions who depend on home medical equipment a power outage could be deadly. It's an issue that snuck up on emergency officials.

called VADs, or ventricular assist devices.

There even are a few remaining users of those body-encasing iron lungs infamous from the polio era; Moore counts 19 in Houston-area homes. Last May, a Tennessee woman who spent nearly 60 years in an iron lung after childhood polio died when the power went out and her family couldn't get an emergency generator working.

Millions more use other at-home equipment: dialysis machines, nebulizers, IV and nutrition pumps, CPAP breathing masks. But power failures bring the most immediate risk for users of ventilators, heart pumps and oxygen.

Ventilators and heart pumps have internal batteries that last 45 minutes to a few hours, time to put on longer-lasting batteries or get to help. Some portable oxygen concentrators can run on batteries for three hours or four hours or be plugged into a car adapter, but patients typically depend on oxygen suppliers to deliver old-fashioned tanks of the gas for emergency use.

No one knows how often a power outage means death for such patients. Typically, death certificates note just the underlying disease, said disabilities specialist Lex Frieden of the University of Texas at Houston, who tried to track down the power-dependent during Ike's prolonged outage to see who needed help.

Back-ups sometimes fail even in short outages.

Last summer, 15-year-old Fernando Vargas died when a Boston power outage silenced his ventilator early one morning.

When the power went out in Carpentersville, Ill., the implanted pump powering Jack Bostwick's heart stopped, too, a week after the 60-year-old's optimistic discharge from the hospital in May 2007. The device's internal emergency battery somehow had dislodged, apparently giving him no time to insert longer-lasting ones. His family asks why Bostwick, newly registered on the utility's critical-care list, wasn't warned about a planned outage for pole repair. The utility declined comment because of a pending lawsuit.

But long outages are the big threat because batteries don't last and oxygen tanks need repeated refills.

"I thought I was prepared," said Houston's Kristin Graham. Before Hurricane Ike, she readied a generator, gasoline and rechargeable batteries that could run son Gatlan's ventilator for six hours to nine hours on a charge, and his oxygen machine for another few hours.

But the outage lasted so long, Graham said: "We couldn't afford to buy the highest-powered generator on the market. You can't run that generator 24 hours. You run it a couple of hours, you let it rest a couple of hours. I could never get all the batteries recharged."

Graham signed up for her utility's priority list and Houston's 211 emergency service, but said no one checked if she needed aid. Ultimately she loaded Gatlan, his medical equipment and his 4- and 8-year-old siblings into the family van and checked into a hotel room, first in a less hard-hit Houston area and later in cheaper Austin, to get electricity.

"I don't know what people would do if they didn't have a way to get out on their own," she said. "No one cared this time if you were on a critical list. They couldn't. It was too broad."

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

• **The Austin Booster Club** will be having their annual Chili Supper on Thursday, January 15th from 5 pm til 8 pm in the Austin Elementary School Cafeteria, 1900 Duncan. Tickets are \$5.00 per person for a bowl of chili or frito pie, drink and dessert. Available for carryout also.

• **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.

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

• **M-O-N-E-Y for college?** Yes, you can send that son or daughter to college. Find out how on FINANCIAL AIDE NIGHT at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15 in the Pampa High School Auditorium. Your questions will be answered when you hear PHS counselors Starla Kindle and Linda Haenisch speak along with High Plains Student Loan Center representatives who will be on-hand to explain grants, scholarships, work-study programs and loans. Seniors and parents should definitely attend this important meeting. Juniors and parents interested in getting a look at their future are also invited.

• **The Red Hat Dollies Society of Pampa** will meet at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 15 at the Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis, for its monthly meeting. If interested in joining the society, call 669-9916, 669-9297 or 669-3580.

• **"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 final performance planned for the current season will be "Pianafiddle," a combination of familiar tunes by pianist Lynn Wright and violinist/fiddler Adam DeGraff improvising to get toes tapping and hands clapping. Their performance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. March 6 in M.K. Brown Auditorium.

• **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 Davie 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.

• **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.

• **Fawn Lake Press** is offering free "Proud to be an American" flag decals to anyone sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Fawn Lake Press, 54 Fawn Lake Rd., Durango, CO 81301. Active servicemen and women need not send a SASE to receive the free 2 x 3-inch color decals. Fawn Lake will pay their postage.

• **Manhattanville My Soldier** is seeking volunteers to "adopt" a deployed United States Serviceperson. To find out more, visit www.mysoldier.com on-line or write to: Manhattanville College My Soldier Department, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase, NY 10577.

• **F.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.

**It pays to advertise!!
Call ReDonn or Sue
669-2525!**

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: After many years of being single, I met a woman I'll call "Trish" on a blind date. We're both in our late 40s, and we hit it off. We have many things in common. One night I was at her place when she received a phone call. Trish made it short and sweet and hung up. A few minutes later, I asked who it was, and she told me it was her boss. Abby, I know how she answers the phone when it's her boss -- and it wasn't him. When I said, "That was NOT your boss," she admitted it was one of her boss's clients, but said nothing was going on between them. When I first met Trish, she mentioned that a client had come in one day, had wine and cheese, then leaned over and kissed her. It's the same guy that called -- and he's married.

I am very hurt. We have both been cheated on. I don't think she has cheated, but she lied to my face. My first instinct is to dump her, but I love her. What should I do? -- HURT IN VERMONT

DEAR HURT: Are you and Trish in a committed relationship? If not, you had no right to question her about who was calling.

That said, a person who would lie to you once would lie to

you twice. Listen to your gut. She may not be having a physical affair, but something is going on or she wouldn't have tried to mislead you about who was on the phone.

DEAR ABBY: Ever since I was a child, when my mother gave me a gift, as I opened it she would always say that she had bought a bigger, better or prettier gift for me -- but liked it so much she decided to keep it for herself. Once she told me that she had purchased a jacket for me, but kept it even though she is several sizes smaller than I am. After wearing it a few times, she offered it to me because it was "too big for her." My mother was the oldest of six children, and I am her only child. Why do you think she behaves as she does? -- WOUNDED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR WOUNDED: That your mother feels the need on every special occasion to tell you that she comes first indicates that something within herself is missing. As the oldest of six children, was her childhood deprived in some way? Is this her only eccentricity, and is she an ideal mother the rest of the year? I find it sad that your mother is unable to

give with a generous heart. If she's this way with a gift, it follows that she must be this way about other things, too.

DEAR ABBY: The other night, some friends and I were visiting and telling stories. In one story, I used the word "sneaked," and everyone corrected my grammar saying that "snuck" is the correct form and "sneaked" is not a word. I disagree. I hear people use the word "snuck," but I don't think "snuck" is a word. Who is right? -- SECOND-GUESSING MYSELF IN MINNESOTA

DEAR SECOND-GUESSING: "Sneaked" and "snuck" are both words, according to Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition. "Sneaked," however, is more generally accepted among fussy grammarians like me.

DEAR ABBY: Is it proper for a married woman to go out to eat alone when her husband refuses to take her? -- SOLO IN SHERMAN, TEXAS

DEAR SOLO: Absolutely, if she can afford to pay for it and there is enough pet food in the doghouse.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Beginner