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Flu season not over in Pampa

by Rachel Stennett
rstennett@thepampnews.com
An influx of flu cases has been reported in Pampa in children 10 and under in the past six weeks, according to Jennifer Black, director of infection control at Pampa Regional Medical Center.

Black said that the possible increase of cases could be due to flu vaccinations reaching an end of potency. Most people are encouraged to get flu shots throughout October and November, the shots are

then good for 90 days. Kids who had early vaccinations are probably contracting the flu because the vaccination has lost potency, Black explained.

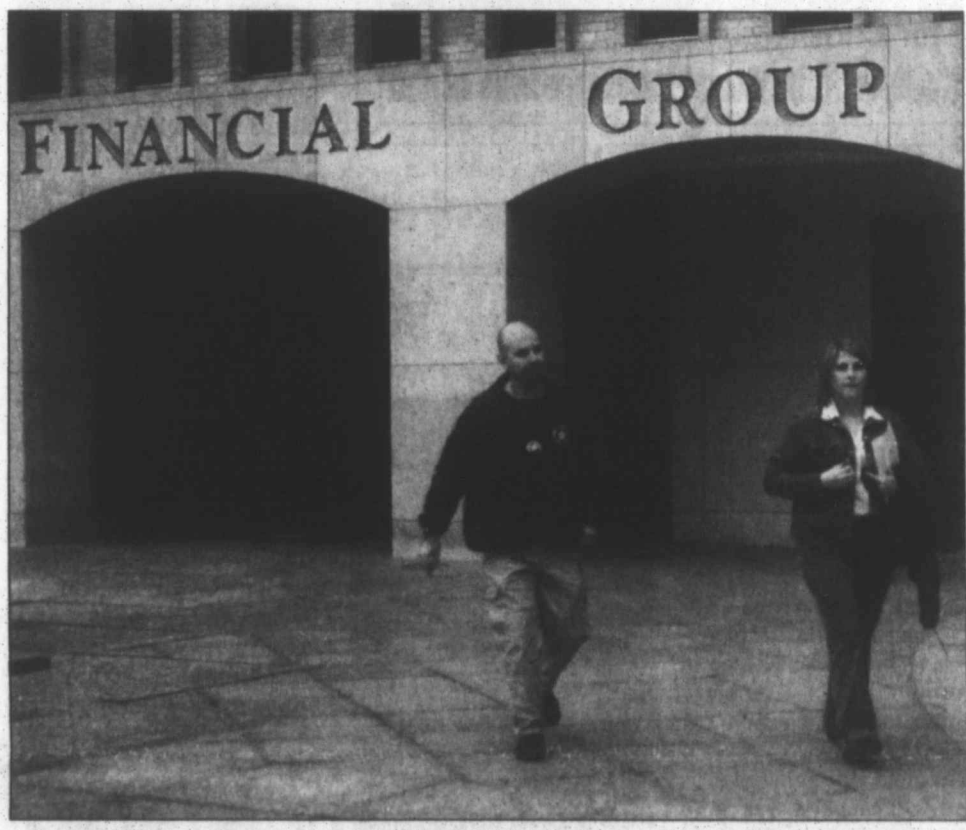
"When we test to see if someone has the flu, we use a culture to determine the strain. Most Pampa cases have been the Influenza A strand, which is the strand people are vaccinated for," Black explained about the flu

shots. The flu cannot be treated with an antibiotic, as it is not a bacteria, but Black said they can use treatments like Tamiflu, which helps restore strength to the body so it can fight the virus. Even with treatment, severe cases of the flu can lead to hospitalization. When someone with the flu is admitted to the hospital, medical personnel treat flu symptoms includ-

Agreements reached in County Court

by Rachel Stennett
rstennett@thepampnews.com
The disposition of the following cases was reached in the County Court between Feb. 1 and Feb. 26
Sentenced for marijuana possession are: Justin Ensey, 90 days; Steven Craig Angel, 60 days; Jacob Ryan Crain, 50 days; Robbie Eugene Godsey II, 90 days; Kelley Louise Swanson, 30 days; Apryl Marie Deleon, 40 days; Jay Lyle Hopkins, 50 days.
Sentenced for theft are Maria Soria De Martinez, 30 days; Stephanie Marie Dorsey, 45 days; Luis Cruz, 40 days;
Sentenced for driving while intoxicated are: Carri Guadalupe Ramirez, 90 days; Juan Isabell

Medrono, 90 days; Jeremy Dean Cook, 75 days; Gerardo Luiz Jimenez, 90 days; Arnoldo Armend Castillo, 60 days; Thomas Dillion Downs was sentenced for 75 days for interfering with an emergency call.
Stormy Ray Estes was sentenced for 40 days for unlawful carrying of a weapon.
John Allen Jeffries was sentenced for 90 days for assault causing bodily injury, domestic violence.
Cedric Deshun Parker was sentenced for 60 days for violation of protective order.
Leander Feltner was sentenced for 75 days for criminal mischief, greater than \$50 but less than \$500.



Investigators from the U.S. Marshals office walk out of the offices of Stanford Financial Group and head to their other office building in the Galleria, Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009, in Houston. Two months after Bernard Madoff was accused of running the largest investment fraud in history, Securities and Exchange Commission officials raided the offices of R. Allen Stanford, a Texas billionaire, and froze the assets of three companies he controls, saying he perpetrated an \$8 billion investment fraud. (AP Photo/Houston Chronicle, Steve Campbell)

West Texas gang indicted on drugs, weapons charges

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Seventeen members of a gang, who authorities say committed gang-related killings in West Texas, face drugs and weapons charges, according to an 11-count indictment unsealed Thursday.
The 17, who are members and associates of the Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation, are charged with conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute cocaine and marijuana. Three of the defendants were also charged with conspiring to deal in firearms.
The indictment also includes drug distribution charges and various firearms charges, including using and carrying a firearm to commit murder during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office.
Four of the 17 were arrested Wednesday and Thursday in Midland, Big Spring, Mission, Texas and Chicago. Eleven suspects were already in federal or state custody on related and unrelated charges and two remain at large. The defendants will appear before a federal judge in Abilene on Friday.
An affidavit filed in the case says two members of the gang were involved in a drive-by shooting using an AK-47 where a pregnant woman and a man. Four others were wounded. The affidavit says the shooting was ordered against a rival gang.
The indictment alleges the group distributed cocaine and marijuana throughout Texas and elsewhere, which they imported from Mexico and South Texas for distribution. The indictment also said some members of the organization may have committed murder, aggravated assault or arson.

FBI arrests Stanford Financial Group exec

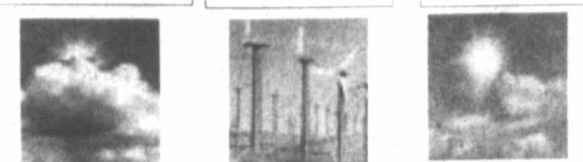
HOUSTON (AP) — FBI agents have arrested the chief investment officer of troubled Stanford Financial Group, accusing Laura Pendergest-Holt of obstructing a Securities and Exchange Commission fraud investigation.
The SEC has been investigating allegations of an \$8 billion investment fraud involving Texas billionaire R. Allen Stanford's financial group. Stanford was served legal papers by FBI agents last week and ordered to surrender his passport, but has not been charged with a crime.
Pendergest-Holt was arrested Thursday in Houston, where Stanford Financial Group is based. The FBI said she was taken to the federal detention center and would appear in federal court Friday morning for an arraignment.
"She is looking forward to working with the government to get all the facts out and put this behind her," her attorney Brent Baker said Thursday night. The government alleges in a federal complaint that Pendergest-Holt obstructed the investigation with some of her answers to SEC investigators' questions, including failing to reveal to the SEC how much she knew about investments in Stanford International Bank Ltd.
The FBI said in an affidavit that Pendergest-Holt repeatedly misrepresented how much she knew about the bank's Tier III portfolio, which represented about 81 percent of the bank's portfolio, and did not let the SEC investigators know that she had learned of a \$1.6 billion loan to a shareholder.
The complaint also alleges that Pendergest-Holt did not reveal that she was a member of the bank's investment committee.
"We appreciate the quick and decisive action of the Department of Justice and the FBI, and thank them for their fine work and cooperation in this matter," SEC Deputy Enforcement Director Scott Friestad said in an e-mail. Stanford is accused in civil charges of lying about the safety of investments he sold as "certificates of deposit" and promised unrealistically high rates of return. Regulators also said he faked historical data about other investments which he then used to lure in more investors for the CD products.
Michael Zarich, the company's senior investment officer, has told authorities he didn't know where 90 percent of Stanford's portfolio was invested. Zarich has said he was trained by Pendergest-Holt to deflect questions about the investment strategy while pitching to wealthy clients in Antigua, where the bank was chartered.
When he tried to learn how the money was invested, Zarich has said Pendergest-Holt and Stanford's deputy James Davis turned him away. Zarich also has said Pendergest-Holt armed him with answers for potential investors worried about the size of Stanford's tiny, Antigua-based auditor.

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PAMPA FORECAST

Saturday **Sunday** **Monday**



High 44 **High 63** **High 73**
Low 25 **Low 34** **Low 43**

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 47. Wind chill values between 20 and 30 early. North wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 25. North wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 63. South wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 34. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 73. North wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 43. East northeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

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Obituaries

Helen Bonner Meaker, 80

Panhandle, Texas — Helen Bonner Meaker, 80, died Wednesday, February 25, 2009 in Carson County.



Meaker

Services will be at 3:00 p.m. Friday at First Baptist Church with Rev. Joe Zimmerman, Pastor officiating. Interment will be in Panhandle Cemetery under the direction of Minton/Chatwell Funeral Directors of Panhandle.

Mrs. Meaker was born on August 21, 1928 in Panhandle and she had been a lifelong resident of Carson County. She married Julius Meaker, Jr. on November 5, 1948 in Pampa and he preceded her in death in 1979. She was a homemaker and member of First Baptist Church. She enjoyed gardening and sewing. She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Ruth Bonner, three brothers - Bob Bonner, Norman Bonner and Roy Bonner and sister - Alice.

Pampa, Lynn McGregor & husband Wynn of Grapevine, TX, Jo Meaker of Amarillo, two brothers - Jim Bonner and wife Jane of Amarillo, Johnny Bonner of Panhandle, two sisters - Margaret Shields and Veda Black both of Amarillo, six grandchildren - Nicholas McGregor, Aaron McGregor, Ginna McGregor, Aly Mackie, Jack Mackie and Dock Mackie and two great-grandchildren - Brady & Emily.

Memorials may be made to the FFA, % Panhandle High School, Box 1030, Panhandle 79068.

Grain prices

The following grain quotations are provided by Atterbury Grain of White Deer. Prices quoted are for the close of the last market day.

Wheat.....	\$4.49
Milo.....	\$4.68
Corn.....	\$6.21

For the Record

Obituaries

Donna Rose Anderson, 55

Pampa, Texas — Donna Rose Anderson, 55, died on February 24, 2009 in Pampa, Texas.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, February 28, 2009, at Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel, with Rev. Doug Yates, pastor of the Plainview Church of the Nazarene, and Rev. Jimmie Cole, pastor of the First Church of the Nazarene of Pampa, officiating.

Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Anderson was born October 26, 1953 in

Coolidge, Arizona. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1961. Donna was a member of the First Church of the Nazarene. Her grandchildren were her life. She was a devoted Mom and "Nanny."

Survivors include three daughters: Melodie Lane, Angela Alexander and husband James and Mandy Stephenson, all of Pampa; one son: Brian Anderson of Pampa; two sisters: Carolyn Miller and Debbie Donaldson, both of Pampa; two brothers: Calvin King and wife Sharon of Abilene and Paul King of Amarillo; nine grandchildren: Miranda Davis, Zachary

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Stephenson, Jared Stephenson, Ashton Alexander, Kade Anderson, Konner Anderson, Darian Alexander, Jasmine Alexander, and Kendall Anderson. She was preceded in death by her parents: Alvin and Golda King; a brother: Alvin Warren King; a sister: Barbara Sparks; a grandson: Ethan Anderson; and her husband: Robert "Lucky" Anderson.



Anderson

Diabetes Association. Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whately.com

MEMORIALS: American Cancer Society, c/o Gerry Caylor, 2130 Charles, Pampa, Texas 79065, or American

Mildred Butler Laycock

Pampa, Texas — Mildred Butler Laycock died on February 26, 2009 in Pampa, Texas.

Services will be held Sunday, March 1, 2009, in Clemson, South Carolina under the direction of Brown-Oglesby Funeral Home of Seneca, South Carolina, officiating. Local memorial services will be announced at a later date with arrangements by Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Laycock was born in Wellington, Texas to Elizabeth and Frank Slough. She graduated from Wellington High School and attended Mary Hardin Baylor College in Belton, Texas. After working two years at the Agricultural Extension Office in the Collingsworth County Courthouse, she attended North Texas State College at Denton, Texas.

She worked for a time in an Amarillo law office for her uncle, Judge Elmer Slough. Mildred married Charles P. Butler and because he had a southern background, they were transferred to Atlanta, Georgia and then to Clemson, South Carolina. She took Real Estate classes at the University of South Carolina and was the first woman in the state of South Carolina to get a Real Estate license and become a broker. Mildred helped to develop two subdivisions there, Highland Estates and Ashley Estates, and named the streets, using a study of South Carolina history in that selection. She was president of the Tri-County Board of Realtors, a member of the Pickens County, South Carolina Planning and Development Commission, the Clemson First Baptist Church and

the Clemson College Woman's Club.

In late 1975, Mildred married Dr. Raymond W. Laycock whom she had known in college. In Pampa, she belonged to the Top O' Texas Medical Auxiliary, Pampa Environmental Beautification Committee, Pampa Chamber of Commerce Membership Committee, Twentieth Century Club and the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Dr. Raymond W. Laycock of the home; one son: Charles P. Butler, Jr. and wife Miriam of Greenville, South Carolina; two daughters: Betty Butler Heath of Hickory, North Carolina, and Julia Butler Eakes of Washington, DC; six grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; one stepdaughter: Chris Lemons of New Braunfels;



Laycock

and one step-great-granddaughter.

MEMORIALS: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 621, Pampa, Texas 79066-0621, First Baptist Church 397 College Ave. Clemson, South Carolina 29631, BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, Texas 79065, or a charity of one's choice.

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whately.com

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- Taking medication is one of the most common reasons for hospitalization.

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Highlights from the Legislature

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — State transportation officials moved forward Thursday with a bundle of road and bridge maintenance projects to be paid for by \$505 million in federal economic stimulus money headed to Texas.

The Texas Transportation Commission is expected to approve \$1.2 billion in highway projects using the federal cash next week. Texas is set to get \$2.25 billion in transportation money from the stimulus plan signed into law last week by President Barack Obama.

Republican Gov. Rick Perry has criticized the federal economic stimulus bill, but he and his transportation allies have long said the state needs more money for roads to ease traffic congestion. The five-person transportation commission, all his appointees, easily voted to approve the stimulus money maintenance work Thursday.

On Wednesday, the Texas Department of Transportation staff issued a list of projects that meet federal criteria and could be ready to go soon, and thus be paid for with economic stimulus money.

The commission also approved Texas Department of Transportation

support for 10 aviation projects valued at \$49.7 million. Those stimulus-funded projects will be submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration for a final decision.

STUDENT PROTEST

Students from the University of Texas at Austin protested skyrocketing college tuition Thursday at the state capitol, where lawmakers are considering legislation to freeze rates for at least two years.

"What do we want?" the students cheered in unison.

"Tuition relief!" came the reply. The group, which includes members of both the University Democrats and College Republicans, has coalesced behind Senate Bill 105. The bill would put a moratorium on tuition increases for two years, peg future hikes to the cost of living and require that most fee increases be approved by a majority of students.

"We're not a bunch of rabble-rousers," said Andy Jones, spokesman for the University Democrats, who helped lead about 50 students from campus to the south steps of the capitol. "We're serious."

The cost of education per semester at UT, counting tuition and fees, rose

57 percent, from \$2,721 in 2003 to \$4,266 in 2008.

COMMITTEE UNREST

Brewing unrest over committee seats in the Texas House fizzled Thursday, at least for now.

Rep. Harold Dutton, D-Houston, withdrew his request for Republican House Speaker Joe Straus to reconsider allowing legislators to swap committee assignments before Straus could announce his ruling.

Dutton has repeatedly asked Straus in recent weeks if legislators unhappy with their assignments can swap committee seats. Dutton is one of a handful of lawmakers unhappy with the newly appointed speaker's committee assignments. It's not clear if or when Dutton might bring up the matter again.

Dutton was a member of the inner circle under previous Speaker Tom Craddick, but has been on the minority side since Straus became leader of the chamber. Previously a powerful chairman, Dutton is a rank-and-file member of the House Corrections Committee under the new assignments.

Firefighters battle wildfires across Texas

ABILENE, Texas (AP) — Firefighters on Thursday continued battling wildfires across much of the hot and dry state, including a 1,200-acre West Texas blaze that reignited after being under control for a few days.

People were being evacuated and some ash was falling in parts of Abilene as the fire raced through Taylor County, threatening a dozen buildings, according to the Texas Forest Service.

Firefighters also were battling a 300-acre fire in nearby Shackelford County and a 300-acre blaze along the Llano and San Saba county line northwest of Austin.

A 700-acre fire that started Tuesday in Callahan County near Abilene was about 85 percent contained Thursday, according to the Texas Forest Service.

It destroyed the home of Jon Ann Patton, 83, and nine other buildings in its path. She escaped, but all of her belongings were lost.

"My mom is about the strongest person I know," Peggy Noice, one of Patton's eight children, told the Abilene Reporter-News for a story in Thursday editions. "You lose everything; there's nothing. But she's got us, and she's got lots of friends."

Firefighters finally were able to extinguish a 1,500-acre fire in Kenedy County in South Texas.

A nearly 2,300-acre fire in Jack County northwest of Fort Worth was about 80 percent contained, and a 500-acre fire in Runnels County near Ballinger south of Abilene was 85 percent contained as of Thursday night, Texas Forest Service officials said.

Jury acquits Border Patrol agent on rape charge

EDINBURG, Texas (AP) — An Hidalgo County jury on Thursday acquitted a Border Patrol agent who was accused of raping an illegal immigrant on a secluded dirt road in rural South Texas in 2007.

The jury deliberated just more than an hour before returning the acquittal for Border Patrol Agent Alberto Garcia.

When the verdict on the sexual assault charge was read, Garcia embraced his attorney and later sat with his head in his arms and sobbed.

Outside the courtroom, Garcia said, "I just thank God, my family, my attorney."

"I knew in my heart I didn't do it," Garcia said. Reynaldo Merino, his lawyer, said a lack of scientific evidence and inconsistent accounts among the prosecution's witnesses likely failed to persuade the jury. Garcia has been suspended without pay from the Border Patrol.

Merino said Garcia had not decided what his future would be with the agency, but noted that the Department of Homeland Security had investigated him aggressively and there could be hard feelings.

Assistant District Attorney Graciela Saenz Reyna declined to comment after the trial. Earlier, in her closing argument, Reyna said Garcia violated the woman and his oath.

"He didn't do his job. In fact, he abused it," Reyna said. "He's there to protect and serve not to rape and abuse."

The woman was not in the courtroom when the verdict was read.

Garcia, 34, told investigators that he had had a relationship with the woman prior to the October night in 2007, when he said she flagged him down while he was on patrol. He said the sex that night and in a previous encounter was consensual.

Merino told jurors that his client had problems — with his wife and his job — that he probably deserved.

"We're not arguing anything in this case except there was consent," Merino said in his closing argument. He criticized the investigation as rushed and said investigators forced pieces into place.

The 39-year-old victim, who The Associated Press is not identifying because she was the victim of an

alleged sexual assault, testified a day earlier that she was riding in a friend's car when Garcia pulled them over in his Border Patrol truck. She said she had never seen him before that night.

Garcia had said he had had sex with the woman months earlier while he was separated from his wife. He had recently gotten back together with his wife when he encountered his accuser. She proposed the sex and said if he didn't she would make trouble for him with his wife, he said.

Garcia, who did not testify during the trial, told investigators he led the woman to the secluded spot in Pharr, then drove his Border Patrol vehicle back to the station in McAllen and returned in his own truck for the sexual encounter.

On Thursday, Arminda Perez, a barmaid who worked with the victim testified that the victim told her she had gone out with the agent previously.

On cross-examination, Perez said she could not say when the victim told her about the relationship and that she had never seen her with Garcia. Perez also

said that she had been friends with Garcia's father for a decade.

When asked why she had not come forward earlier, Perez said she had not known she had important information until Garcia's father talked to her about the case about a month ago.

"I was confused," she said. "I wasn't interested in this, and I had problems of my own."

Since the alleged rape, the victim had said that she was going to get \$50,000 and legal status in the United States if she testified against Garcia, Perez said. But Perez testified she did not know who made such a promise to the victim. An official with the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General testified earlier that the victim had a temporary parole status allowing her to stay only until the case was resolved.

Reyna suggested that Garcia's father had convinced her to testify. Perez denied that, though conceded that he had spoken to her about it three times before she agreed to testify.

Ethics commission dismisses Hecht complaint

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas Ethics Commission has dismissed a complaint against Texas Supreme Court Justice Nathan Hecht, clearing him of allegations that he used campaign cash to pay for personal trips.

Texas Watch, a group that monitors the Texas Supreme Court and civil justice issues, filed an ethics complaint against

Hecht a year ago, alleging he illegally used political contributions to pay for repeated trips to his hometown of Carrollton in 2007.

In an order dated Feb. 12, the commission dismissed the complaint based on "insufficient" evidence that the state election code was violated.

Hecht denied wrongdoing.

Using political contributions for personal use is against state law, and the ethics commission has interpreted the law to ban appellate judges from using campaign donations for the costs of commuting between their home cities and the city where the court is located.

Hecht could not be reached for comment Thursday. But in an inter-

view with The Associated Press shortly before the complaint was filed in January 2008, Hecht said he used campaign cash to pay for flights to the Dallas suburb, where he owns a home and attends church, because he was campaigning. Hecht, who was last elected in 2006, is not up for re-election until 2012. He is elected statewide.

Flu season over?

Flu — cont. from page 1


cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, and body aches to seek their primary care physician and drink plenty of fluids.

"The best defense against the flu, and illness in general is hand washing," Black explained. Washing hands frequently with soap, water, and friction for a minimum of 15 seconds will ward off sickness. "Frequently wash your hands for 15 seconds with soap, water and friction. Hand washing can significantly decrease the transfer of infections."

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Josh is a native of Texas and received his MSPT degree from Walsh University in Canton, OH and is licensed by the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

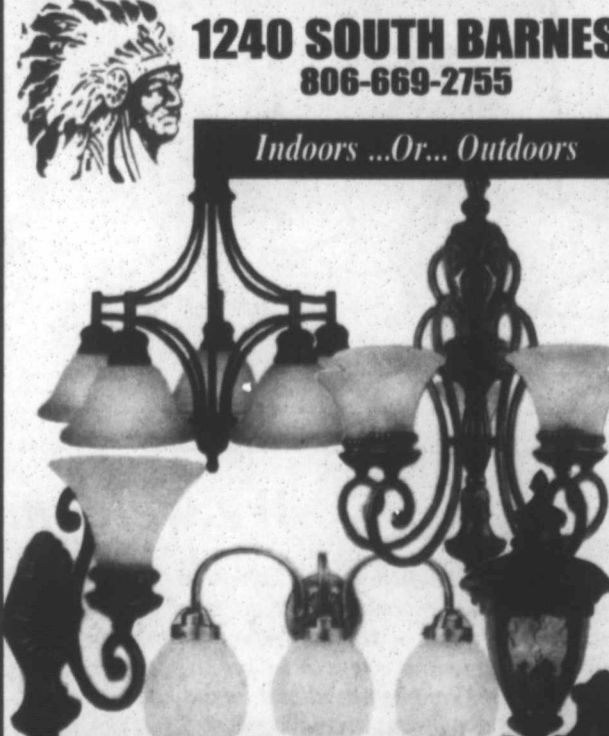
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Viewpoints

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Friday, Feb. 27, the 58th day of 2009.
There are 307 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Feb. 27, 1933, Germany's parliament building, the Reichstag, was gutted by fire. Chancellor Adolf Hitler, blaming the Communists, used the fire as justification for suspending civil liberties.

On this date:
In 1801, the District of Columbia was placed under the jurisdiction of Congress.

In 1860, former Illinois Congressman Abraham Lincoln delivered a widely acclaimed speech in which he argued against the expansion of slavery into the western territories, telling listeners at Cooper Union in New York that "right makes might."

In 1861, in Warsaw, Russian troops fired on a crowd protesting Russian rule over Poland; five marchers were killed.

'Reasoning with a child is fine, if you can reach the child's reason without destroying your own.'

— John Mason Brown,
American author

In 1922, the Supreme Court, in *Leser v. Garnett*, unanimously upheld the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed the right of women to vote.

In 1922, the Supreme Court, in *Leser v. Garnett*, unanimously upheld the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed the right of women to vote.

In 1939, the Supreme Court, in *National Labor Relations Board v. Fansteel Metallurgical Corp.*, outlawed sit-down strikes.

In 1951, the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, limiting a president to two terms of office, was ratified.

In 1960, the U.S. Olympic hockey team defeated the Soviets, 3-2, at the Winter Games in Squaw Valley, Calif. (The U.S. team went on to win the gold medal.)

In 1973, members of the American Indian Movement occupied the hamlet of Wounded Knee in South Dakota, the site of the 1890 massacre of Sioux men, women and children. (The occupation lasted until May.)

In 1979, Jane M. Byrne confounded Chicago's Democratic political machine as she upset Mayor Michael A. Bilandic to win their party's mayoral primary. (Byrne went on to win the election.)

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush declared that "Kuwait is liberated, Iraq's army is defeated" and announced that the allies would suspend combat operations at midnight, Eastern Time.

One year ago: William F. Buckley Jr., the author and conservative commentator, was found dead at his home in Stamford, Conn.; he was 82.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Joanne Woodward is 79. Actress Elizabeth Taylor is 77. Consumer advocate Ralph Nader is 75. Actress Barbara Babcock is 72. Actor Howard Hesseman is 69. Actress Debra Monk is 60. Rock singer-musician Neal Schon (Journey) is 55. Rock musician Adrian Smith (Iron Maiden) is 52. Actor Timothy Spall is 52. Rock musician Paul Humphreys is 49. Country singer Johnny Van Zant is 49. Rock musician Leon Mobley (Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals) is 48. Basketball Hall-of-Famer James Worthy is 48. Actor Adam Baldwin is 47. Actor Grant Show is 47. Football player Tony Gonzalez is 33. Chelsea Clinton is 29. Singer Josh Groban is 28. Actress Kate Mara is 26.



Analysis: Obama plan brings cries of class warfare

By TOM RAUM
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — He's not being timid, that's for sure.

President Barack Obama's first federal budget lays out the most far-reaching agenda for American life since Lyndon Johnson's Great Society. But paying for it by having upper-income earners shoulder much of the cost quickly provoked cries of class warfare in Congress.

The Obama priorities reflected in the \$3.6 trillion budget guarantee a fierce political battle ahead over taxes and spending. And despite the administration's agonizing over the depth and global nature of the worst recession in decades, the new president's budget forecasts a rapid U.S. recovery.

The budget outline includes activist initiatives on energy, health care, education and climate change.

It would boost taxes on the wealthy, oil companies and other businesses while cutting Medicare and Medicaid payments to insurance companies and hospitals to make way for a \$634 billion down payment on universal health care. It would also limit charitable and other tax deductions for the affluent and trim spending on government subsidies to big farms.

Predictably, Republicans complained, much as they had done during last year's presidential campaign, that Obama was pitting the haves against the have-nots.

"The era of big government is back, and Democrats are asking you to pay for it," said House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio. He suggested Obama's proposed tax

increases would reach deep into the middle class, despite repeated administration statements that tax hikes would be limited to families making more than \$250,000 a year.

Proposed new excise taxes on offshore drilling and plans to cap greenhouse gas emissions and require polluters to buy permits could affect "all Americans who drive a car, who have a job, who turn on a light switch," Boehner said.

Boehner and other Republicans also said it was folly to raise taxes during a recession.

But the administration's own economic forecasts suggest that the brunt of the tax increases, including allowing existing tax cuts from the Bush administration to expire, will fall only after the nation is in recovery.

The Obama budget forecasts that, despite the depth of the current recession, the economy will recover and grow by 3.2 percent in 2010 and then climb to an even more robust 4 percent in the three following years.

Most of the proposed Obama tax hikes, including the permit levy on greenhouse gas emissions, would not take effect until a presumably post-recession 2012.

Christina Romer, chairman of the president's Council of Economic Advisers, defended the administration's upbeat forecast for recovery, saying it "reflects the administration's assessment that the comprehensive recovery program outlined by the president on Tuesday night will be effective."

But some deficit hawks suggested that Obama was being too optimistic given the severity of the recession.

"He is relying on a strong economic comeback very quickly. And he's assuming that a lot of the new issues will be paid for," said Robert Bixby, the executive director of the Concord Coalition, a bipartisan fiscal watchdog group.

Bixby said the budget has "a lot of downside risk" that spending increases will not be fully offset by higher tax revenues. Obama's budget plan projects a record \$1.75 trillion deficit for 2009, largely swollen by stimulus and bank bailout spending. Obama has said he hopes to sharply reduce the annual shortfall by the end of his term.

In remarks, Obama said his budget was an attempt to fairly "come to grips with the hard choices that lie ahead."

But in written comments accompanying the budget, he struck a far more defiant and populist tone, blaming much of the government's budget woes on his predecessor, President George W. Bush.

"Prudent investments in education, clean energy, health care, and infrastructure were sacrificed for huge tax cuts for the wealthy and well-connected," Obama wrote. "There's nothing wrong with making money, but there is something wrong when we allow the playing field to be tilted so far in the favor of so few."

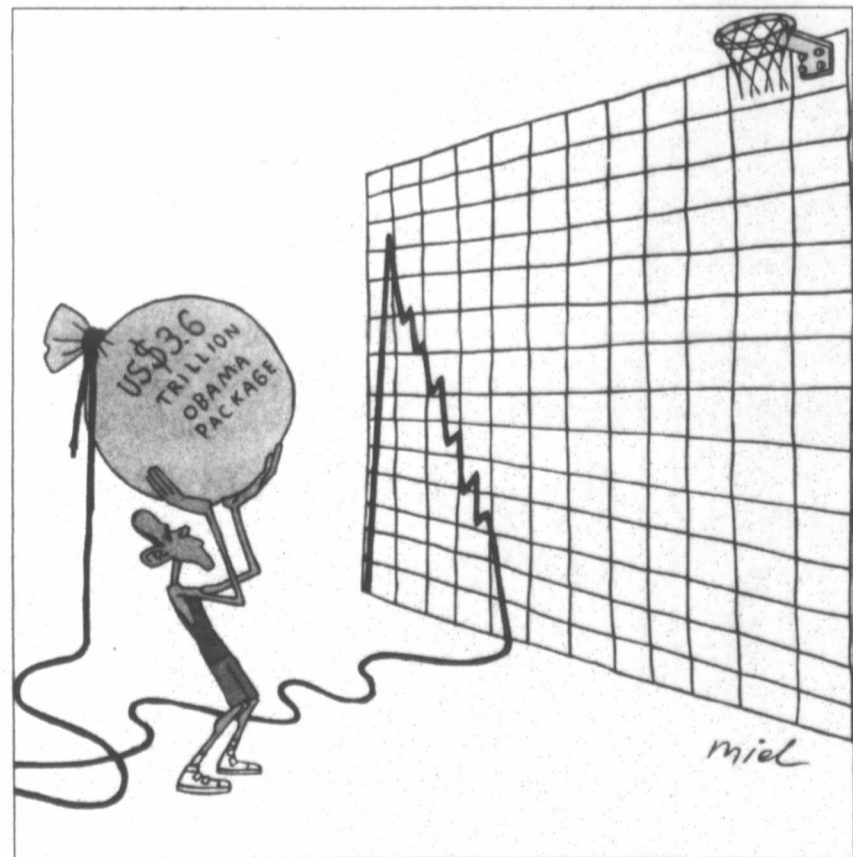
Asked whether the class-warfare argument could complicate White House efforts to win support for some of its big priorities, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said, "No. And I think it's important to understand that what the president has enumerated in his budget today is precisely the blueprint and series of promises that he made over the course of two years in a campaign ... that the American people voted for."

Still, Stanley Collender, a long-time budget expert, predicted a huge battle in Congress over the proposed tax cuts and Medicare changes. But he noted that, with Democrats in control of the House and Senate, there's probably not much Republicans can do to keep the expiring Bush tax cuts from ending on their own.

Furthermore, said Collender, in the current economic and political climate, "the wealthy are not as well thought of as they have been in the past."

He also noted that exit polls from last year's presidential election showed those making more than \$200,000 a year tended to vote for Obama rather than Republican Sen. John McCain.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Tom Raum has covered Washington for The Associated Press since 1973, frequently reporting on the economy.



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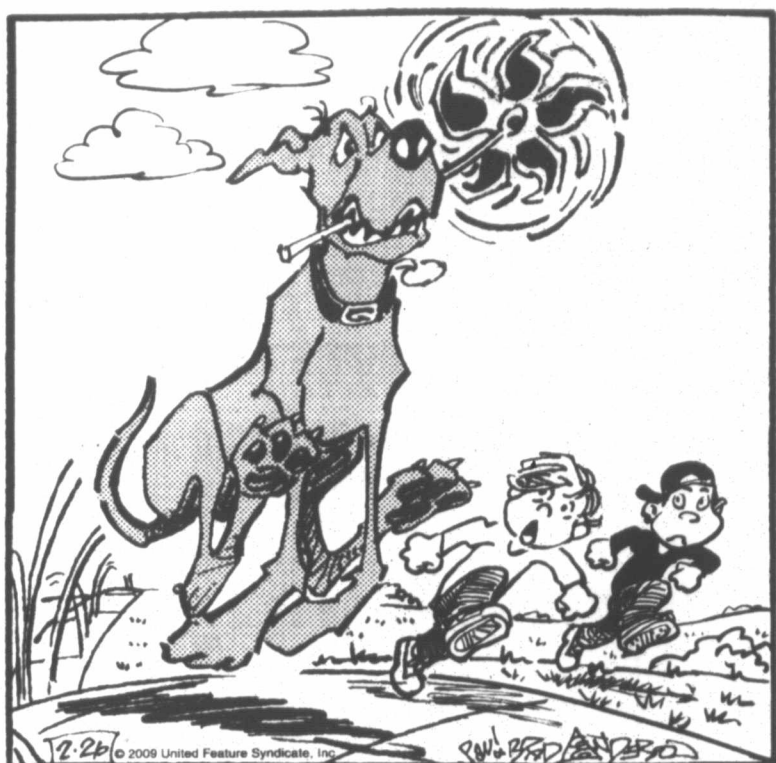
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We welcome your letters

- 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.

Comics

Marmaduke



"I gave him a bigger propeller and he still can't take off!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



2-27

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"C'mon, Daddy! 'There once was a tired daddy whose kids went right to bed. The end.' isn't a story."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 44 Choose
 - 1 Port setting
 - 6 Creature
 - 11 Different
 - 12 Aisle worker
 - 13 Nary a soul
 - 14 Yarn
 - 15 May honoree
 - 16 Cardinals' home
 - 18 Saloon order
 - 19 — Paulo
 - 20 Collector's goal
 - 21 Very bright
 - 23 Toddlers
 - 25 Rage
 - 27 Flop
 - 28 Georgetown team
 - 30 Donate
 - 33 Old French coin
 - 34 Outlaw Kelly
 - 36 Torment
 - 37 Casablanca setting
 - 39 — nutshell
 - 40 Earthen brick
 - 41 GI tender
 - 43 Crew member
- DOWN**
- 1 Swindler
 - 2 "Becket" actor
 - 3 1993 Kathy Bates film
 - 4 Capitol Bldg. worker
 - 5 Lock of hair
 - 6 Field trip group, perhaps
 - 7 "— Perpetua" (Idaho motto)
 - 8 Lincoln said it
 - 9 TV show
 - 10 Rendezvous
 - 17 Bar bill
 - 22 Dissenter's vote
 - 24 Pester
 - 26 Ball participants
 - 28 Bad luck
 - 29 Jiffy
 - 31 City of canals
 - 32 Demands
 - 33 Stylish
 - 35 Stadium tops
 - 38 Heed
 - 42 Yalie

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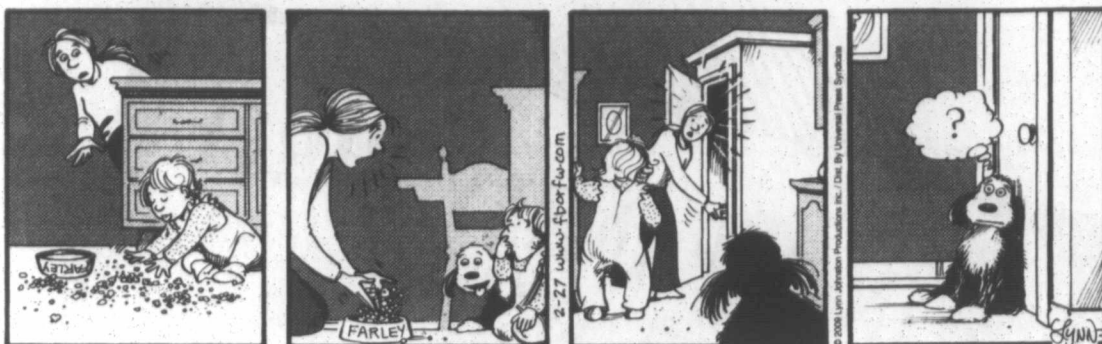
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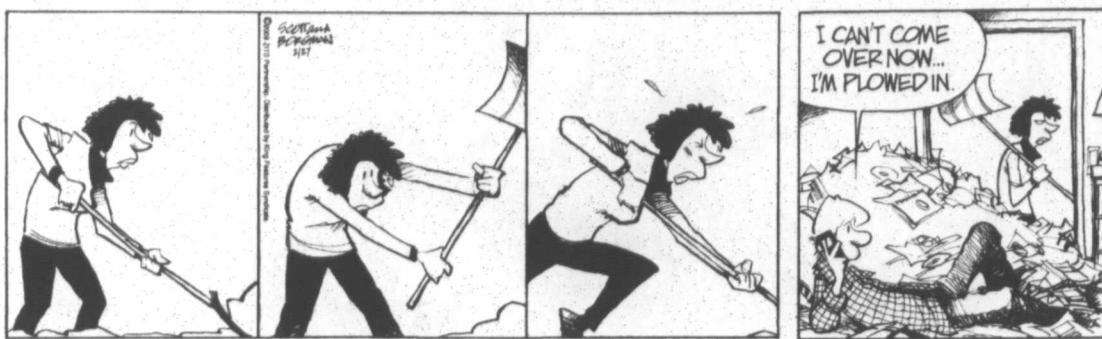
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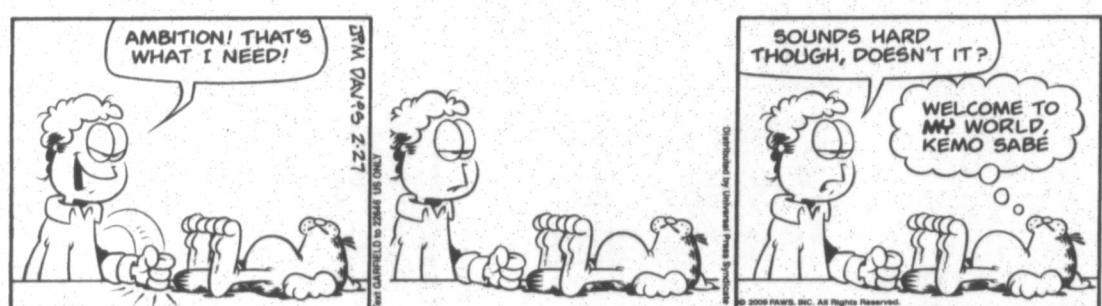
For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



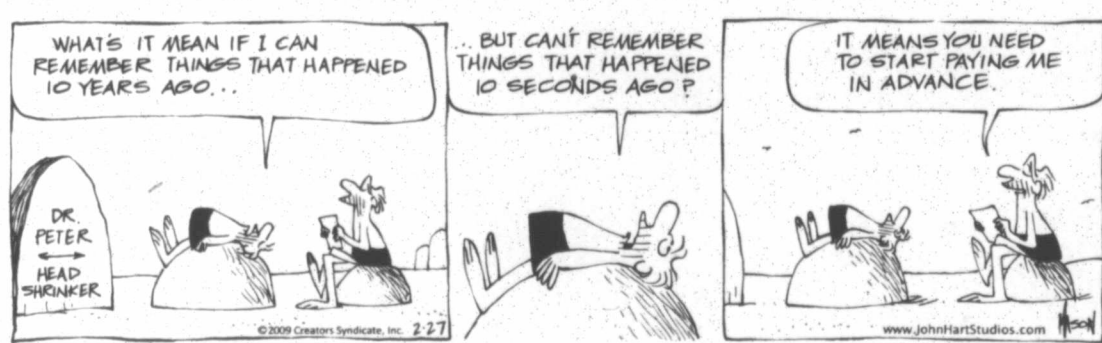
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



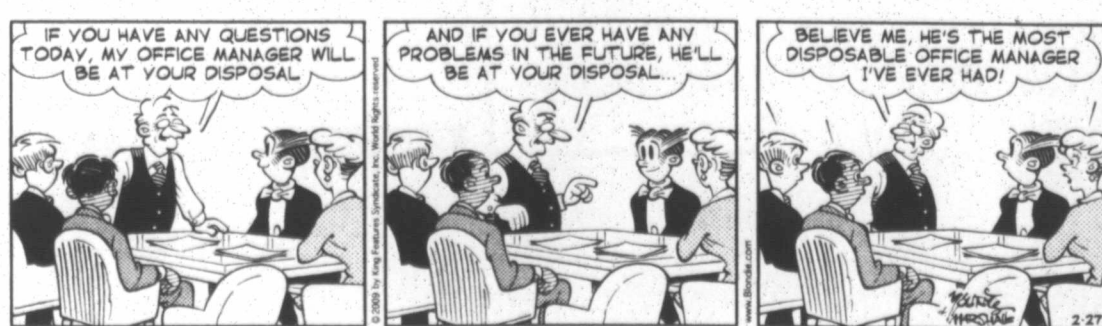
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New Hope Missionary Baptist Church celebrates 35th anniversary

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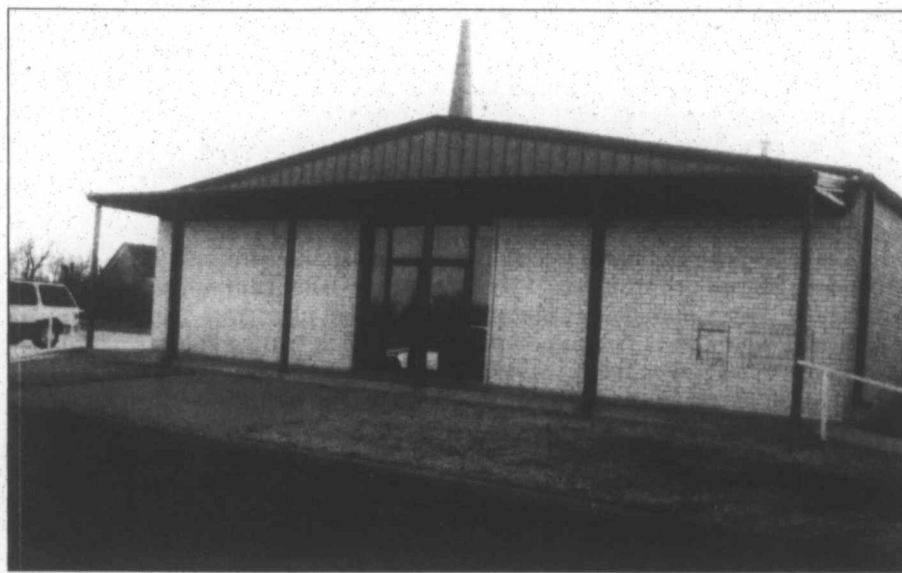
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The community is cordially invited to the 35th anniversary celebration of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 912 South Gray Street, Rev. Darren Willis, pastor. Celebration services will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, February 27 and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 1..

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Do you hold grudges?

Do you hold grudges? I admit it. I've been a grudge holder. But I'm not proud to say so. Holding a grudge has never proven to be a good thing in my life.

Plenty of medical studies confirm grudge holding is not good for you -- increasing stress, raising blood pressure, causing ulcers and producing a multitude of other harmful side effects. I suspect we all would admit to the lousy way we feel when we're angry with another person.

I've never held a grudge toward someone that I've not eventually regretted. Holding onto a grudge has generally proved to be the greatest waste of my time and I suspect caused me more grief than it did the person I felt injured by. I've never found holding a grudge to serve any good purpose, and it often has cost me a good friend. In fact, I've had friendships that never fully recovered, and for that, I'm sad and sorry that I ever let anything permanently hurt my feelings toward a friend.

When I think about where and how some grudges began, I usually can't understand why I took offense in the first place.

Nineteenth century philosopher and author, Mary Baker Eddy, has a short writing she titled, "Taking Offense" that I've referred to when I've found myself feeling irritated by someone's words or actions. She quotes English religious writer and philanthropist, Hannah More, in the opening paragraph: "If I wished to punish my enemy, I should make him hate somebody."

Holding on to resentment, bitterness, hard feelings or hatred is emotionally draining and physically destructive. So why do we do it?

Once upon a time my defense for a grudge came when I felt a friend stuck her nose in where it didn't belong. I not only didn't want her opinion -- I disagreed with it. And I guess my arrogance took precedence over patience and tolerance, and I lost a good friend. Another time with another friend, deep-seated hurt feelings led to my suffering with chest pains and headaches.

Eddy says we let pride, self-will and egotism cloud our reasoning and determine our reactions. But she wisely cautioned, "Well may we feel wounded by our own faults; but we can hardly afford to be miserable for the faults of others."

We can't be responsible for the behavior of others, but we are responsible for how we respond back to them. Every action we take has its consequence. And as with any action, we should think more carefully about the consequences before we act.

Of course, in any relationship there are times when honest and sincere discussions of feelings are needed. My grandmother advised me before I married to never go to bed mad. I've not always heeded her instruction, but I have tried. No doubt she got her wisdom from the Bible, "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath." (Ephesians 4:26) And I've learned that this is good wisdom for all relationships -- not just with my husband.

Eddy's message in "Taking Offense" is helpful to those who feel someone has "wronged" them. She wrote:

"We should remember that the world is wide; that there are a thousand million different human wills, opinions, ambitions, tastes, and loves; that each person has a different history, constitution, culture, character, from all the rest; that human life is the work, the play, the ceaseless action and reaction upon each other of these different atoms. Then, we should go forth into life with the smallest expectations, but with the largest patience; with a keen relish for and appreciation of everything beautiful, great, and good, but with a temper so genial that the friction of the world shall not wear upon our sensibilities; with an equanimity so settled that no passing breath nor accidental disturbance shall agitate or ruffle it; with a charity broad enough to cover the whole world's evil, and sweet enough to neutralize what is bitter in it, -- determined not to be offended when no wrong is meant, nor even when it is, unless the offense be against God."

Some say it's human nature to hold grudges. Perhaps so, but even still, we always have a choice.

We can choose to brood, ruminate and relish the details of how we've been hurt or disappointed by someone -- torturing ourselves by playing the same scene over and over in our heads. Or we can implement a simple, ancient practice -- the practice of forgiveness -- and dismiss painful memories and move forward with our lives and our relationships.

I've found life made more meaningful and happy by this practice. Hurt and anger should never have the last word. And they won't when forgiveness frees you from their venom. I've found it easier to forgive when I remember I too have need of being forgiven.

-Annette Bridges is a freelance writer who lives on a north Texas ranch with her husband, John. Her columns are published weekly on United Press International's ReligionAndSpirituality.com

Know what to do when wildfire threatens you

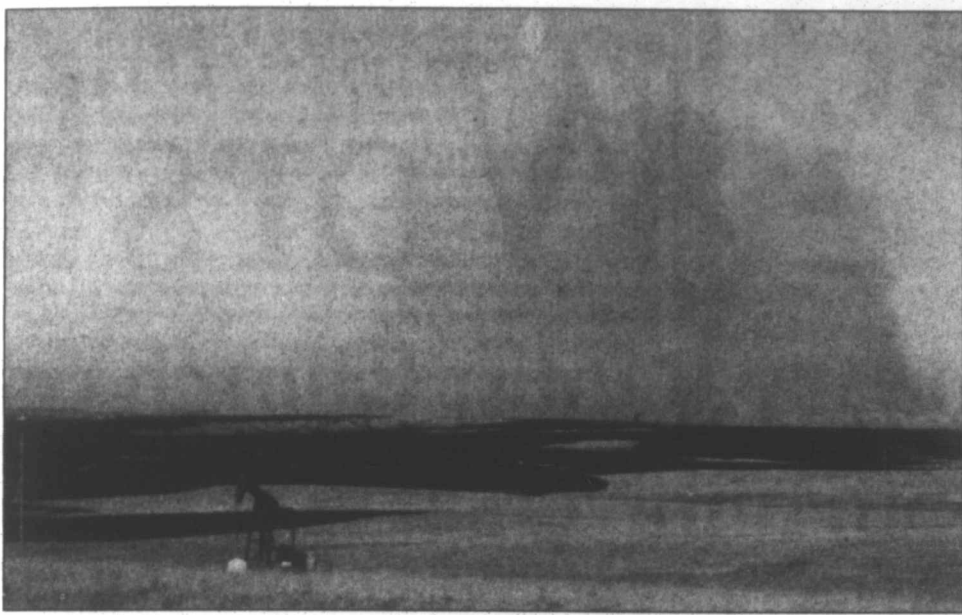
Pampa, Texas— Due to the extreme dryness and danger of wildland fire the Eastern Texas Panhandle Red Cross is urging everyone to prepare and plan for a wildfire event. Do not wait until wildfire threatens to prepare, these steps may help save your life.

What to Do When Wildfire Threatens-

- Listen regularly to local radio or television stations for updated emergency information. Follow the instructions of local officials. Wildfire can change direction and speed suddenly. A minor threat can quickly escalate to a major threat. Local officials will be able to advise you of the safest escape route, which may be different than you expect.

- Back your car into the garage or park it in an open space facing the direction of escape. Shut doors and roll up windows. Leave the key in the ignition. Close the garage windows and doors, but leave them unlocked. Disconnect automatic garage door openers because power may go out. These steps will make it easier to leave quickly should wildfire threaten.

- Confine pets to one room. Make plans to care for your pets in case you must evacuate. Pets may



try to run if they feel threatened by fire. Keeping them inside and in one room will allow you to find them quickly if you need to leave.

- Arrange temporary housing at a friend or relative's home outside the threatened area. You will be more comfortable in someone's home than in a public shelter. Plus, many shelters do not allow pets.

- If you're sure you have time, take steps to reduce the chance of you home catching fire or lessen the amount of damage from a nearby fire.

What to Do if Evacuation is Necessary

- If advised to evacuate,

do so immediately. You may have only minutes to act. Save yourself.

- Wear protective clothing— sturdy shoes, cotton or woolen clothing, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, gloves, and a handkerchief to protect your face. Hot embers or cinders can burn your skin if you come into contact with them. Smoke can make it difficult to breathe, damaging breathing passages.

- Take your Disaster Supplies Kit. These items will make your more comfortable while you are away from home.

- Lock your home. There may be others who evacuate after you or

return before you. Secure your house as you normally would.

- Tell someone outside of the wildfire area where you are going. Relatives and friends will be concerned about your safety. Letting someone know your travel plans will help relieve their fear and anxiety.

- Choose a route away from fire hazards. Watch for changes in the speed and direction of fire and smoke. Staying as far away as possible will provide you with the greatest safety.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

•PAMPA WAL-MART BLOOD DRIVE. ALL BLOOD TYPES ARE CURRENTLY NEEDED! 3 to 7 p.m. Monday, March 2, 2009.

The need is real. There is no substitute for blood. It can only come from volunteer blood donors. Please support the patients of the High Plains Region—Give the Gift of Life! Every eligible donor will receive a Thank You T-Shirt! For an appointment please call 1-877-574-8800.

• Pampa Soccer Association spring season registration will begin February 16 and close March 9. The fee is \$55 and includes a uniform. Returning players do not need to register again. You will be placed on the same team as in the fall season. Practices begin March 16. Games will begin in April. For more information visit: <http://pampasoccerassociation.googlepages.com> or call 486-1646.

• Gray County Genealogical Society will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month, except for Decemembr. Visitors are 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.

• "Live On Stage" Community Concerts of Pampa's 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: 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.

• USS Maddox Destroyer Association Reunion is slated Sept. 9-13 in Phoenix, Ariz. To find out more, call (337) 616-8450 or e-mail cwgilles45@aol.com.

• 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 Servicemember. To find out more, visit www.mysoldier.com on-line or write to: Manhattanville College My Soldier Department, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase, NY 10577.

• 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.

• T.O.P.S. Club, a weight loss group, meets at 11:30 a.m. at noon each Monday at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 511 N. Hobart.

Former lawmaker, Clements dies

TEMPLE, Texas (AP)— Jamie Hager Clements, the youngest legislator ever elected to the Texas House of Representatives and the man who helped build the modern Scott and White Hospital, has died. He was 78.

Clements died Thursday, the Temple Daily Telegram reported for its Friday editions. Clements served three terms as a state legislator, two terms as the mayor of Temple,

Texas and four decades as attorney and general counsel for Scott & White.

During his time, the medical facility grew into the largest multidisciplinary health care system in the state and he became a nationally recognized authority on health care law.

Elected to the Texas House of Representatives in November 1951, Clements had to wait until he turned 21 a month later

to be sworn into office the following year. Those who knew him said his work had a far reaching effect.

"From 1960 to 1998, there was not a single successful endeavor — the medical school, interstate highway projects, Scott & White expansions, the health plan — nothing good that happened in Bell County that he was not part of," longtime mentor and friend Jimmy Carroll told the newspaper.

Clements also served as a professor of medical jurisprudence at Texas A&M University College of Medicine, several state boards and was a former president of the National Health Lawyers Association.

Meredith Gun Club sets competitions

The Meredith Gun Club will be holding competitions on the following days in 2009:

March 1- .22 Plate & Speed. Open Class. Fees: \$3/2 for one gun for all three events (\$5.00 total) & Single Action Iron sight plate (\$5.00)

March 8- Center Fire Rifle Silhouette LEAD Bullets ONLY. NO gas checks, scope & iron sight classes. Large pistol silhouettes. Entry fees: \$5.00. Center fire pistol-Open class. Entry fees: \$5.00.

March 15- .22 Rifle & .22 Pistol Steel Silhouette. Unsanctioned, open class-10.2 lbs. max. (Large pistol silhouettes). Entry fees: \$5.00 each.

March 22- Rattle Battle. .22 Rifle, open class. Five (5) rounds fired at each distance (20 Rounds) in 2 minutes. FAST! Shot twice, entry fees: \$5.00. Individual & Team events to follow for those interested, entry fees: \$2.00 each event.

March 29- Military Semi-auto & 'Nasty' Pistol Paper Plate. 20 Rds each, entry fees: \$5.00 each.

April 5- .22 Plate, Maño a Maño & Team. Open class. Fees: \$3/2/1 for one gun for all three events-Single Action Iron Sighted plate match also. Entry fees: \$5.00.

April 12- .22 'Rabbit' Gun Silhouette, iron sighted sporter types only (8 1/2 lbs.. max) & .22 Pistol single action, iron sights only (Large Pistol Silhouettes). Entry fees: \$5.00 each.

April 19- Center Fire Plate & pins. Open Class. Fees: \$3.00 for one gun for one match, \$5.00 for one gun for both matches, & single action pistol iron sight plates. Entry fees: \$5.00.

April 26- .22 Pistol any sight & .22 Rifle any sight, Steel Silhouette. Open class for pistols & rifles. (Rifles 10.2 lbs.. max) Large Pistol Silhouettes. Entry fees: \$5.00 each.

Beginners are welcome. .22 ammunition is given as prizes for all classes with a minimum of two entrants.

All matches are unsanctioned, open to the public.

Directions: Just South of Antelope Creek between Borger and Sanford on SR# 1319 (Antelope Creek is the deep canyon just outside Sanford). Watch for the sign.

All matches IAW NRA Rules where & as much as possible. For further information and directions, contact one of the following:

Larry Porter- 865-3695-Sanford
Perry Collier- 878-3150-Stinnett

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate



The 2008 "Pride" photo contest winner was this photo of one-year-old Emma Grace Searl, sent in by Linda Searl.

PHOTO CONTEST

The Pampa News' annual amateur photo contest will feature two categories this year - "Family and Friends" and "Gray County Scenes."

Family and Friends
Photos should be non-posed snapshots of people doing things together. They can also be individual shots, but the key is to make them candid photos that show a slice of life in Gray County. The photos that "tell a story" will also be given a higher rating.

Gray County Scenes
Send us your best shots of local scenery. Photos may be sunsets, storms, old buildings, cityscapes, wildlife or domestic animals.

The deadline for entries is 5 p.m. Friday, March 6.

Winners in each category will be selected by our editorial staff. The top photographers in each category will receive \$100 and their photos will be published in the newspaper's annual "Pride" issue to be published in March. Second place winners in each category will receive \$50. Third Place winners in each category will receive \$25.

Any photos submitted to the contest must be taken by the person submitting them and must have been taken in Gray County since Jan. 1, 2008. The photos cannot have appeared previously in any other publication or contest.

You can submit as many photos to the contest categories as you like. The best way to submit your photo is to send them via E-mail, as an attachment, to editor@thepampa.com. The photos should be in a .jpg format, preferably shot on the "fine" setting on a digital camera or higher.

Do not edit the photo. We need to make changes in resolution to run photos in the newspaper. If you are entering more than one photo, please send them individually as an E-mail attachment. Include your name, address, telephone number for verification and a description of the photograph. Identify the people in the photo if possible. Any photo without this information included will be disqualified.

If you would rather submit your entries as prints, send them with the information to: Photography Contest, The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison Avenue, Pampa, TX. If you wish the prints returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your entry. The Pampa News will publish the winners and many of the other submissions in a special section of our annual Pride issue in March.

THE UNITED STATES NAVY BAND presents the

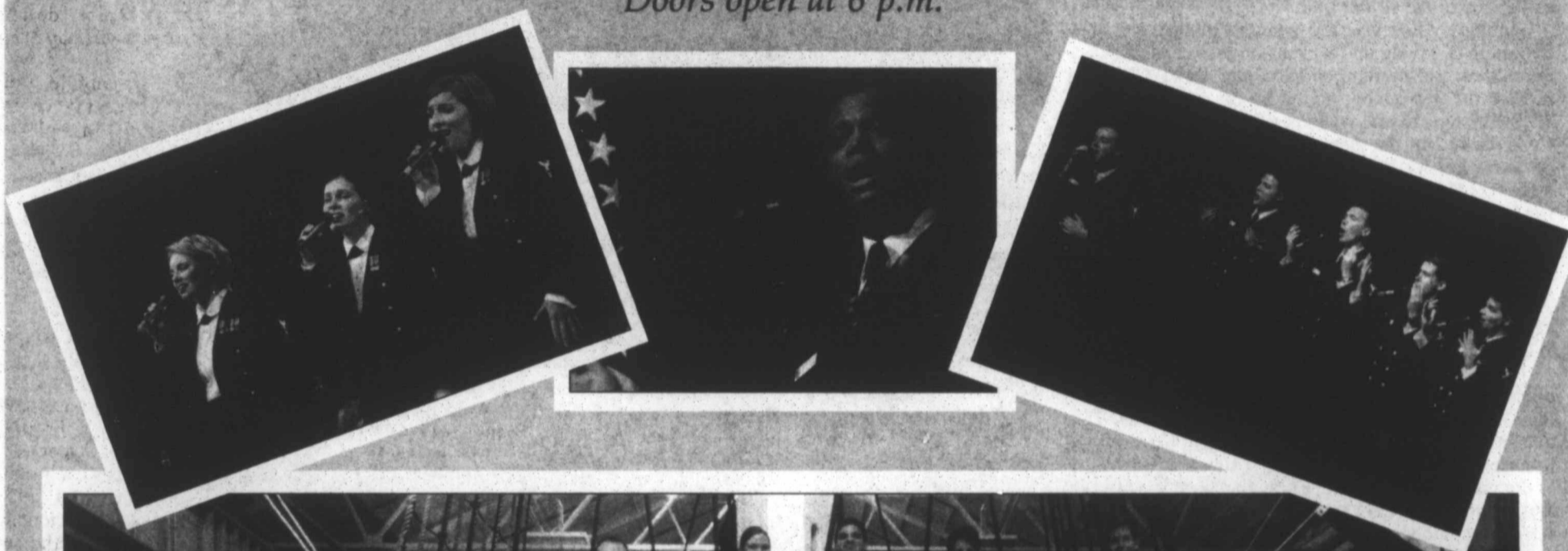
Sea Chanters

chorus

IN CONCERT

*MK Brown Memorial Auditorium
1100 W. Coronado Drive
Pampa, Texas*

*Monday, March 9 at 7 p.m.
Doors open at 6 p.m.*



For up to 6 FREE tickets, send a self addressed, stamped envelope including number of tickets requested to:

Sea Chanters Tickets
The Pampa News
P.O. Box 2198
Pampa, TX 79065

OR

Stop by
The Pampa News office
at 403 W. Atchison Ave.
and receive up to 6 FREE tickets.

For more information call 806-669-2525. Ticket holders must be seated 15 minutes before concert. Unclaimed seats will be released to non-ticket holders at that time.

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PAMPA NEWS

AND THE CITY OF PAMPA

Harvesters win first 2 games of Cavalier Classic

by Kevin Hunt

The Pampa Harvester baseball team started the year with two convincing wins Thursday in the Cavalier Classic, defeating Fritch by a score of 14-2 and then defeating Borger 11-3.

In game one against Fritch, the offense got rolling early and often, as shortstop Blake Sieck hit the 2nd pitch of the game over the left field fence for a solo home run. Pampa would go on to score a total of 6 runs in the bottom of the first. Brett Powell got on base on an error and would come around and score on 2 wild pitches and a passed ball. Mitchell Killgo singled, stole second and scored on a single by Madison Wilson. After a walk to Anthony Allen, Wilson and Allen both scored after an error on the pitcher. Jeremy Busse would score on a single by Casey Trimble to round out the scoring in the 1st inning.

In the second inning Ryan Funderburg got a one-out double to left center and would score on a single by Killgo. Braden Hunt then hit a two-run home run off the scoreboard to score himself and Killgo. Wilson was hit by a pitch and would come around and score after a stolen base, wild pitch and passed ball. After Busse walked, Sieck sent him home on a single and Trimble scored after a walk and 2 wild pitches. Sieck would eventually score on a wild pitch. After two innings, the score was 14 to 2.

Fritch failed to score in the third, so the game was called due to the 12 run rule.

Anthony Allen was the winning pitcher, going two innings, giving up two runs on three hits, striking out 4 and walking none. John Luke Covalt pitched the 3rd inning, giving up no runs one one hit, striking out 3 and walking none.

In game 2 of the tournament, things would be a little tougher for Pampa in the early going. In the bottom of the first, down 1-0, Sieck got things going again with a lead off single, stole 2nd and then scored on a fielding error by the Borger third baseman. Funderburg and Killgo scored on a double by Wilson to give the Harvesters a 3-1 lead.

In the third inning, Hunt reached first base on catchers interference and scored on a triple by Wilson.

In the 4th inning, Pampa would break the game open. Busse singled and scored when Sieck hit a long home run over the left field fence. With 2 outs, Killgo lined a 2-0 pitch over the right field wall to make the score 8-2.

Pampa would end the game in the fifth, after Wilson got on base by an error on the Borger shortstop and would score on a single by Busse. Trimble would follow with single and then Brett Powell singled home Busse and Trimble. That would put Pampa in the lead by a score of 11-3, and because of the run rule, the game would end that way.

Braden Hunt pitched a complete game, going 5 innings, giving up 3 runs on only 2 hits. Hunt struck out 4 and walked 4.

Pampa will play Bushland and noon and then Palo Duro at 4 Friday at Harvester field. The top 2 teams will advance to the championship round that

Tiger Woods makes an exit after Clark's big day

MARANA, Ariz. (AP) — The plane was a nice touch, even if it was a day late. It circled lazily above the Arizona desert as Tiger Woods made his way around the front nine, towing a banner welcoming the greatest player of his time back to the game that has missed him so much.

There didn't seem any need to rush. Woods showed the day before that his game was as good as ever, and there was nothing in either the swing or attitude of a South African who has never won on the PGA Tour to indicate he would end up as anything but another hapless victim as Woods continued his triumphant return to golf.

Tim Clark looked like the guy who might be buying a beer in front of you at the concession stand instead of battling Woods on the fairways. If he wasn't followed closely by a caddie carrying a big bag with his name on it, the marshals clearing the way for Woods between holes might have stopped him and given him a lecture about trying to sneak inside the ropes.

Beat Tiger Woods? Clark stood a better chance of getting his autograph.

The beauty of golf, though, is that, really, anything can happen. Woods has been saying it for years, even if we didn't always believe it.

Because until Thursday it hardly ever happened to him.

Clark changed that with the round of his life, shocking Woods with a back nine barrage of birdies that short-circuited what was expected to be a five-day celebration of all things Tiger amid the pristine fairways and giant saguaro cactuses north of Tucson. As Woods left, so did the fans, streaming from the course by the thousands even while other matches went on at the Accenture Match Play Championship.

One of the most anticipated returns in sports ended just 16 holes into its second day, much to the dismay of tournament organizers and network executives. The buzz generated by Woods' first competitive rounds since limping his way to victory in the U.S. Open eight months ago had provided a stimulus the sport desperately needed, though it was short-lived.

Clark was feeling pretty good about things, And, almost surprisingly, so was Woods.

His exit was untimely, but his knee felt great. He lost, but thought he hit the ball as good as ever.

And they don't give out green jackets in Arizona anyway.

Thirty-two holes into his comeback, he had some plans he hadn't anticipated waking up on this morning. Asked what he would do next, Woods didn't waste any words.

"Go to the airport."

LEFORS FALLS TO VEGA 34-75



photo submitted by Lendi Jackson

Dustin Forsyth of Lefors has his eye on the basket during the Pirates' Class 1-A Division II Area round playoff Thursday night in Amarillo. Forsyth led the scoring for the Pirates with 15. Defending for the Vega Longhorns is Brady Harwell. Lefors fell to Vega 34-75.

Rockets rout Cavaliers 93-74

HOUSTON (AP) — LeBron James drove to the basket in the fourth quarter, trying to spark a last-ditch comeback for the Cavaliers against the Houston Rockets.

Yao Ming was there to block his dunk attempt and James twisted his ankle, a fitting end to a terrible night for Cleveland.

James went an entire game without an assist for the first time in his career and the Cavaliers lost Ben Wallace for four to six weeks in a 93-74 loss to Houston.

The Rockets, meanwhile, showed they just might be contenders in the Western Conference.

Yao scored 28 points and Ron Artest added 15 while harassing James on defense most of the night, leading the Rockets to their six consecutive win and ninth straight at home.

"It is a big win," said Yao, who hit 13 of 15 shots despite Cleveland's constant double-teams. "We played against one of the best quality teams in this league. That is a really good test for us to see how far we can go."

James scored 21 points, but went 7-for-21 from the field with three turnovers. He left for good with 4:03 left, the only time in 493 NBA games (counting playoffs) he failed to record an assist.

The Cavaliers had season-low point totals in the first (11) and third (10) quarters, and their 34 percent shooting (27-for-80) was also a season worst.

"I can't remember the last time I didn't have an assist," James said, "but as a team, we didn't move the ball at all."

To make matters worse, the Cavaliers lost their best

interior defender when Wallace broke his leg in the second quarter after Yao accidentally kicked him.

"I'll definitely be back for the playoffs, I'm hoping to come back before then," Wallace said after breaking his right fibula.

Von Wafer scored 19 points and Luis Scola added 14 points and nine rebounds for the Rockets. Houston had 25 assists, its sixth straight game with 20 or more, and went 8-for-19 from 3-point range.

But the Rockets are more satisfied with their defense lately; they've held their last six opponents to an average of 83.6 points.

Cleveland looked as bad as it did in a 92-77 loss in Houston last season — James had 32 in that one, but the Cavs shot 39.7 percent.

"We just can't seem to

get into a good flow against the Houston team," James said. "A lot of credit has to go to them, they are a very good team. Offensively, we couldn't make a shot and we could never get in any rhythm."

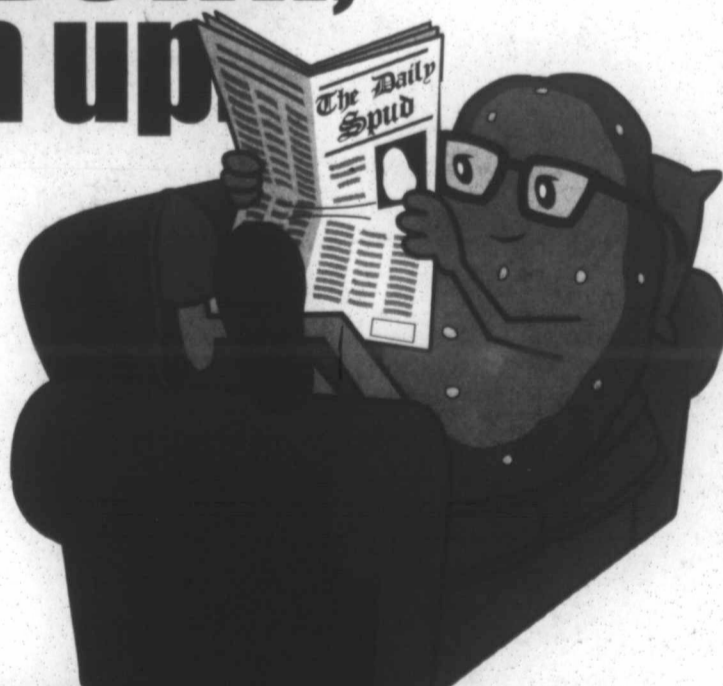
The Rockets led 45-40 at halftime, and had assists on their first five baskets of the second half. James, meanwhile, tried a no-look, over-the-head pass to Anderson Varejao later in the third period, but the ball sailed out of bounds.

The Cavs shot 5-for-17 from the field and coughed up five turnovers in the third quarter to trail 68-50.

James took a rest and returned with 7:21 left in the game, but the Rockets never lost control. Yao blocked James on a dunk try and Wafer finished off Cleveland with a 3-pointer at the other end for an 85-68 lead.

Wind Down, Catch up

At the end of the day, take some time to relax and catch up on current events with the newspaper. Subscribe today and get news from around the neighborhood and around the world delivered straight to your door.



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The Pampa News



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Dwight," was very ill a few years ago. Some wonderful folks held a fundraiser to help us with bills and unpaid leave. We paid all of the outstanding medical bills and living expenses with a large portion of the money; the remainder has been set aside for an organ transplant Dwight will need a few years down the road.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who put forth the time and effort, as well as those who donated money. Dwight is now in remission, and we are both back

to our full-time jobs. Over the last three years, the only time we have taken for ourselves is a couple of long weekends. Our home is old and we've had to replace some windows and do some minor repairs. Our car is 10 years old and still runs fine, but eventually we will have to buy another one.

I'm afraid that people who helped us may think we are squandering their gift if we take a vacation or buy a car. Even when we repaired our home, we felt guilty.

My husband is

healthy right now, and we would like to enjoy ourselves before things change again. The last thing we want to do is hurt anyone's feelings or jeopardize our friendships. Would you please share your thoughts on this? — LIVING IN A GLASS HOUSE

DEAR LIVING: In a situation like yours, appearances DO matter. People are extremely sensitive these days about money that is intended for one purpose being spent on another.

If you haven't already done so, to avoid

any misunderstandings, put what remains of the donated monies into a separate interest-bearing account earmarked for your husband's transplant. This will enable you to live your lives.

Should anyone second-guess you, explain that you are taking the vacation or buying the next car with your earnings, and that the funds that were donated will eventually be used for the purpose for which they were intended.

DEAR ABBY: My wife is suffering from Alzheimer's disease. I can no longer trust her using restrooms unaccompanied when we are away from home.

She has locked the stall door and some-

times just sits in there and won't respond.

Should I be using the men's or women's facility when I have to help her? — ROBERT J.

DEAR ROBERT: Caring for someone with a progressive brain disease like Alzheimer's can present many challenges. Helping a spouse use a public restroom is one of the most difficult tasks for many of the 10 million American caregivers — and I am sure many of them will appreciate not only your question but also your challenge.

Because using the restroom is difficult for your wife, be sure to take that into consideration when planning all her activities. By calling the establishments ahead of time, you can determine

which restaurant, mall, etc. offers unisex or family restrooms. If you find yourself somewhere with only a men's or women's bathroom, ask an employee for assistance. He or she should be able to clear the women's restroom for a few minutes so you can help your wife while respecting everyone's privacy.

In addition to caring for your wife, I cannot stress enough how important it is to take care of yourself. For more caregiver tips and support, call the Alzheimer's Association's toll-free, 24-hour helpline at (800) 272-3900 anytime day or night, or visit the Web site at www.alz.org.

THE PAMPA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

1 Public Notice NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ROBERTA MAY PUGH, Deceased, were issued on February 23, 2009, in Cause No. 9600, pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas, to: NITA JO TOMLINSON and MART TOMLINSON. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Nita Jo Tomlinson and Mart Tomlinson c/o KENNETH FIELDS Attorney at Law P.O. Box 662 Pampa, Texas 79066-0662 DATED the 25th day of February, 2009 KENNETH W. FIELDS Attorney for NITA JO TOMLINSON and MART TOMLINSON State Bar No.: 06975300 P.O. Box 662 Pampa, Texas 79066-0662 Telephone: (806)669-6851 Facsimile: (806)669-0440 C-36 Feb. 27, 2009	1 Public Notice Attorney at Law P.O. Box 2197 Pampa, Texas 79066-2197 DATED the 23rd day of February, 2009. Respectfully submitted, STURGEON LAW FIRM By: Ben L. Sturgeon, Esq. STURGEON LAW FIRM State Bar No. 19450000 P.O. Box 2197 Pampa, Texas 79066-2197 (806)688-9292 Telephone (806)688-1150 Facsimile Attorney for Executor ROBERT WILLIAM BURRELL C-38 Feb. 27, 2009	14e Carpet Serv. NU-WAY CLEANING SERVICE Bob Marx Owner-Operator. Call 665-3541.	21 Help Wanted NOTICE Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods. \$2000.00 SIGN-ON BONUS LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSES PAMPA NURSING CENTER has openings for LVNS on all shifts Apply in person to: Mandi Martin RN, DON 1321 W. Kentucky EEOE	48 Trees/Shrubs M&R Tree & Shrub Complete Serv., Free Est. 10% Senior disc. 273-2370, 433-4937.	70 Musical SANDERSON Stringed Instruments. Custom Guitars & Repairs. 323-3277.	96 Unfurn. Apts. PAMPA MANOR SENIORS OR DISABLED ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE W/D CONNECTIONS 2700 N. HOBART 665-2828	102 Bus. Rental OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.	103 Homes For Sale HIGHEST CASH PAID FOR HOUSES! CALL 665-1875 2215 Russell, 2/1/1. All new cabinets, c/h/a, hardwood floors, porcelain tile. Very open floor plan. \$69,900 obo. Call 595-0234.
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ROBERTA BURRELL, Deceased, were issued on February 23, 2009, in Cause No. 9061, pending in Gray County, Texas, to: Robert Burrell. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Robert Burrell c/o Ben L. Sturgeon, Esq.	14s Plumbing/Heat JACK'S Plumbing, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115.	19 Situations BABYSITTER has opening in my home. Call 806-231-1523 lv. message.	21 Help Wanted ACCEPTING resumes for Experienced Pump-er. 5 yrs minimum req. Must furnish 4x4 pickup. 401K, Health Ins., Paid Vacation, Holidays. Send resume to P.O. Box 43, Pampa, TX 79066-0043.	14d Carpentry Carpentry, Roofing, Replacement Windows, steel siding & trim. Continuous gutters. Jerry Nicholas 669-9991, 662-8169 CUSTOM Building & Remodeling. Replacement windows. Ref. avail. Shawn Deaver Const. 662-2977 or 665-0354. OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.	15 Trailer Parks TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.	120 Autos 1990 Suburban 4x4 \$1000 665-2767		

DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009:
 You often wonder just how much energy and reserves you have. This year, you will come into contact with your limits and potential. Honor what you discover rather than react to it. Make your lifestyle conform to what you can accomplish. You have many gifts and assets that emerge. If you are single, use these information with X-ray vision. Use this information to your highest good. If you are attached, the two of you benefit from better communication and understanding. A newfound closeness becomes possible. TAURUS reads you cold.

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)
 ***** Your fiery ways attract others. In some way, you are like a flash of lightning, unstoppable and electric. Others respond in an unprecedented manner. Curb a tendency to want or a need to have. Tonight: Indulge a loved one.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ***** If you can, rest during the daylight hours, as your time is about to come. Gain understanding through thought and reflection. Nearly anything is possible with time, thought and willingness. Tonight: You are the cat's meow.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ***** Quickly grab what you want. Listen to friends who have distinct ideas and a lot of energy. The question could shortly become: Why not? You will have time to debate the pros and cons. Think through a decision carefully. Tonight: Add that touch of mystery.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ***** Taking a stand becomes nearly impossible. You are on top of your game, and others have a great deal of impact on your course of action. Remain true-blue, and center on what might be very important. Tonight: Where the fun is.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ***** Walking a new path and being willing to greet adventure allow many new possibilities. You could be delighted by the magic that lies ahead. You see your life through a child's eyes. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ***** Others do whatever they can to make you notice them, and only them. This attention-getting mechanism could be a problem. As a result, many of you could opt for a new path not involving others. Be willing to risk. Tonight: Walk your talk.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ***** Others make clear what they want and expect from you. Now the decision lies in your hands. Though you might be inclined to take the easy path, choose the one that is true to you. In the long run, you won't go wrong. Tonight: Dinner with a special person.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ***** Finish a project or share a hobby with someone. Sometimes, by not focusing on the interaction between you and this person but rather on what you are doing or sharing, you become much closer. Tonight: Time to go out and about.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ***** Imagination mixed with car-

ing can become exciting. Consider the possibilities that touch you when you are smiling and upbeat. A boss or someone you look up to could push you way too hard. Listen to your needs; find a way to make both of you happy. Tonight: Fun and games.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ***** Stay close to home. Perhaps you want to take a stab at your taxes or your budget. Others might be up for an early spring cleaning, very ready to greet the coming season. Don't cut off your nose to spite your face. Let someone know how much you care. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ***** Reach out for others. Visit with a neighbor or a cousin you have not spent time with recently. Let others see your interest and focus. Sometimes you are so out there, it can be difficult to communicate. Tonight: Make it early.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ***** After you juggle your finances up and down and confirm you have the necessary funds, stop. Consider what is important to you and what you would like to do the most. Reach out to those you want to be with. Tonight: Hanging out is fun!
BORN TODAY
 Actor Zero Mostel (1915), mobster Buggy Siegel (1906), writer Michel de Montaigne (1533) *****
 Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
 © 2009 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

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.

2-27 CRYPTOQUOTE
 SH AG CESZY ASIV ASWYUP, NOY
 ASIV RUEQNDG, NOY ASIV
 JNISGORG, IVUWG IVNI RUPG
 NHIGQ EW ASZZ CG VGZJGY CK
 UEQ AUQT. — YASDVI PUQUQA
 Yesterday's Cryptoquote: BROTHERHOOD IS NOT JUST A BIBLE WORD. OUT OF COMRADESHIP CAN COME AND WILL COME THE HAPPY LIFE FOR ALL. — HEYWOOD BROWN

Colleges warn students about Mexico travel

PHOENIX (AP) — The U.S. State Department and universities around the country are warning college students headed for Mexico for some spring-break partying of a surge in drug-related murder and mayhem south of the border.

"We're not necessarily telling students not to go, but we're going to certainly alert them," said Tom Dougan, vice president for student affairs at the University of Rhode Island. "There have been Americans kidnapped, and if you go you need to be very aware and very alert to this fact."

More than 100,000 high school- and college-age Americans travel to Mexican resort areas during spring break each year. Much of the drug violence is happening in border towns, and tourists have generally not been targeted, though there have been killings in the big spring-break resorts of Acapulco and Cancun, well away from the border.

Campuses in Texas and around the country are urging caution.

In the Texas A&M University System, the main campus in College Station is informing students and parents about the State Department's travel advisory to Mexico. The main University of Texas campus in Austin isn't issuing a specific Mexico advisory but refers students to the State Department Web site for all international travel.

Three UT campuses are on the border, including UT-Pan American in

Edinburg, where the school and police are both planning travel advisories. UT-El Paso, across the Rio Grande from crime-ravaged Ciudad Juarez, is discussing what kind of warning to issue.

At Texas A&M International in Laredo, the university regularly advises students starting at orientation not to travel into Mexico, and how they can stay safe when they do. They pass along official warnings in emails, but aren't planning any advisories on recent events.

"As the bulk of our population lives here in Laredo, they are already well aware of that sort of thing," said Steve Harmon, director of public relations for the school.

The University of Arizona in Tucson is urging its approximately 37,000 students not to go to Mexico. Other universities — in the Southwest and far beyond, including Penn State, Notre Dame, the University of Colorado and the University at Buffalo — said they would call students' attention to the travel warning issued Feb. 20 by the State Department.

The State Department stopped short of warning spring breakers not to go to Mexico, but advised them to avoid areas of prostitution and drug-dealing and take other commonsense precautions.

"Sage advice," said Tom Mangan, a spokesman for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. "We have had documented violence, attacks, killings,

shootouts with the drug cartels involving not only the military but law enforcement personnel. It is indiscriminate violence, and certainly innocent people have been caught up in that collateral damage."

Mexico's drug cartels are waging a bloody fight among themselves for smuggling routes and against government forces, carrying out massacres and dumping beheaded bodies in the streets. More than 6,000 people were killed in drug violence in Mexico last year.

But Mexican Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora said in an interview with The Associated Press: "There is no major risk for students coming into Mexico in general terms. It is always important to advise the youngsters to

behave."

Despite the bloodshed, the number of foreign tourists visiting Mexico surged to 23 million in 2008, up 5.9 percent from the year before, spurred in part by the tumbling value of the peso against the dollar, according to the country's Tourism Department. The department estimates 80 percent of tourists in Mexico come from the United States.

"Cancun has always been one of our most popular destinations and that hasn't changed this year," said Patrick Evans of STA Travel, one of the biggest spring-break travel agencies. "Many of the packages we offer include lodging on the beach and in very nice resorts that take the utmost pride in making sure customers are safe."

Before spring break in late March, University of Illinois students will see an advertisement in the Daily Illini about the State Department's warning.

"We're going to take all the fun out of spring break," said Tom Betz, director of Student Legal Services, which is placing the ad. Besides the government warning, the ad also says: "Remember what happened to Natalie Holloway on spring break in Aruba. If you're going to drink, be safe!"

Some students said the warnings are unlikely to deter them.

University of Arizona sophomore Daniel Wallace is going to Puerto Penasco, or Rocky Point, for spring break, saying he is not worried about violence there. Besides, the 19-

year-old said: "It's relaxing, it's warm, I'm a big fan of the beach and the drinking age is lower. It's a fun place to go."

Amanda Corbett, a sophomore at North Carolina State, said she is going snowboarding in Virginia because she couldn't afford Cancun. But three of her roommates are going there.

"They really wanted to go," the 20-year-old said. "Honestly, they probably think nothing will happen to them. That's the way I would look at it."

"If anything is going to deter people," said Danielle Jones, a North Carolina State student who is staying close to home because of a family emergency, "it's the recession."

Mexico prez hopes to quell drug violence by 2012

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's president says he hopes to quell his country's rampant drug violence by the end of his term in 2012, and disputes U.S. fears that his government is losing control of its territory.

In interviews with The Associated Press on Thursday, President Felipe Calderon and his top prosecutor said the violence that killed 6,290 people last year — and more than 1,000 in the first eight weeks of 2009 — is a sign that the cartels are under pressure from military and police operations nationwide, as well as turf wars among themselves.

"To say that Mexico is a failed state is absolutely false," Calderon said. "I have not lost any part — any single part — of Mexican territory."

Calderon, a Harvard-educated conservative, said smuggling cannot be eliminated as long as Americans continue to use drugs, but hopes he can beat back the cartels by 2012 to a point that the army and federal police can withdraw and leave the problem in the hands of local law enforcement. He declined to give a specific timeline for winning the war against drug gangs.

Calderon easily switched between English and Spanish in an hourlong interview at the colonial National Palace. Sitting in a chair decorated with Mexico's national symbol — an eagle perched on a cactus devouring a serpent — he was relaxed and jovial.

Mexico had bristled when the U.S. Joint Forces Command put it on par with Pakistan, saying both were at risk of "rapid and sudden collapse." That and other reports have put a global spotlight on Mexico's growing violence and pressured Calderon to change tactics. He said Thursday that wasn't an option.

"Yes, we will win," he said, "and of course there will be many problems meanwhile."

Calderon sent the army and federal police out into drug strongholds on his first day in office in December 2006, promising to turn a tide in a war that was seeing increasingly brazen tactics such as beheadings, assassinations and the attempt to control local governments.

Since then, Mexico has spent \$6.5 billion on top of its normal public security budget, but that falls short of the \$10 billion Mexican drug gangs bring in annually, Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora said in another interview Thursday.

But violence has increased, more than doubling in 2008. Medina Mora said that does not reflect the drug gangs' power; "It is reflecting how they are melting down."

As proof, he said street prices of cocaine in the United States have doubled in the last three years, while purity has dropped by 35 percent. He said the government has crippled Mexico's methamphetamine trade by banning precursor chemicals.

Medina Mora predicted Mexico is "reaching the peak" of the violence, adding that the government's goal is to make smuggling through Mexico so difficult that the drug gangs are forced to look elsewhere.

"We want to raise the opportunity cost of our country as a route of choice," he said.

Even as he spoke, five more suspected drug killings were announced by authorities in the Pacific coast state of Guerrero. The men were shot Wednesday night.

Medina Mora said 90 percent of the dead are involved in the drug trade, while only 4 percent are innocent bystanders. The rest — some 800 to date — are police officers and soldiers.

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