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March 7, 2009 Volume 104 • No. 283 50¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

TOP O' SUCCESS

by David Bowser

dbowser@thepampanews.com

Paulette Hinkle and Gary Willoughby said their Appliance Day was so successful that they may have another next month.

"We may have one in April," Willoughby said as he and Hinkle's grandson, Zed Richards, unloaded an old washer from a trailer in the Top of Texas Ice Company yard on Hobart.

Hinkle's daughter, Mary Ann Richards, stood at the gate on Hobart and guided trucks and trailers loaded with junked appliances into the yard.

Saturday, Hinkle accepted unwanted appliances — refrigerators, washers, dryers, air conditioners, dishwashers and other appliances — at her business The Top of Texas Ice Company at 1945 N. Hobart.

Willoughby had made arrangements for the junked appliances to be hauled to scrap metal dealers in Amarillo.

By noon Saturday, Hinkle said the scrap dealers had already carried two loads to Amarillo. Willoughby said they had shipped out 29 refrigerators and four air conditioners and still had some 129 appliances in the yard awaiting shipment.

Because of environmental regulations, Willoughby said it can be difficult and expensive to get rid of old refrigerators and air conditioners. The Freon in them has to be drained by certified technicians and there is usually a charge to leave them at the landfill.

By shipping them to scrap metal dealers, Success — cont. on page 3



staff photo by David Bowser
 Zed Richards, left, and Gary Willoughby unload unwanted appliances from a trailer that a Pampa man brought into the Top of Texas Ice Company yard Saturday, March 7, Appliance Day. The response from the community was so high, organizers may have another next month.

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC



staff photo by David Bowser

Framed by partner Robert Brewer and his guitar, Herb Smith entertained at the Sunset Center Galleries Friday Night Art Walk in Amarillo. More than 50 studios and galleries are open late on the first Friday night of each month. The art walk also features food, drink and music. The Pampa performers are known as the Backyard Duo.

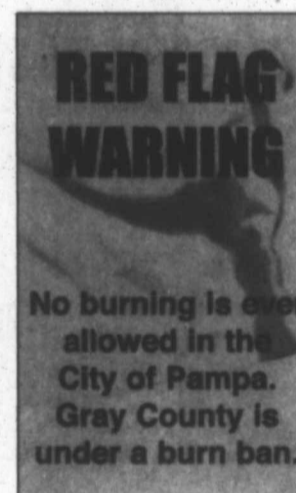
NWS says we're overdue for dry winter

Weather forecasters are saying there may be snow in our future by the end of the week.

Chris Kimble of the National Weather Service in Amarillo offers the following perspective of the dry winter and what may be in store for the rest of the month — or not.

It is now March and we have yet to have our first inch of snowfall. So from a purely climatological perspective, what does this mean for the rest of the winter season?

There's a 60 percent chance that we'll get a big winter storm/blizzard this month. There's a 40 percent chance we'll pass



No burning is ever allowed in the City of Pampa. Gray County is under a burn ban.

pleasantly into Spring and Summer and never see an inch of snow in one day (technically we've had 1.3 Snow — cont. on page 3

10 cases disposed in County Court

by Rachel Stennett

rstennett@thepampanews.com

The disposition of the following cases was reached in the County Court between March 1 and March 5.

Wesley Franklin was sentenced for theft of property by check, 40 days.

Corey Dan Searl, was sentenced for possession of a dangerous drug, driving while intoxicated, 90 days, and possession of a

controlled substance, 5 days.

Jacob Rowsey was sentenced for possession of marijuana, 40 days.

Chad D. Golluh was sentenced for driving while license invalid, 40 days.

Steven Wilson Rivera was sentenced for criminal trespass — entering, 60 days.

Joe Dale Hays Jr. was sentenced for evading arrest or detention, 40

days.

Sentenced for driving while intoxicated, second are: Jesus Rene Torres Jr., 90 days, and Cody Wayne Hutchison, 90 days.

Mario Mendoza was sentenced for driving while intoxicated, 50 days.

Weldon Dale Black was sentenced for licensee intoxicated on license premises.

Sea Chanters perform tonight

More than 1,300 tickets have been issued for tonight's concert of the U.S. Navy's Sea Chanters Chorus at the M.K. Brown Memorial Auditorium.

"As of press time this morning, people were still coming into the newspaper office to request tickets," said Pampa News Publisher Randall Pribble. "It is a phenomenal response."

Pribble added that people who do not have tickets may still attend the concert, but will not be seated until after all the ticket holders have been seated.

Tickets may be obtained free of charge today until 5 p.m. at The Pampa News office at 403 West Atchison Avenue.

The doors to the auditorium will open at 6 p.m. for ticket holder seating.

The concert begins at 7 p.m. All remaining seats will be released to non-ticket holders 15 minutes before the concert begins.

Included in tonight's concert will be selections ranging from Mozart to Francis Scott Key, with some Broadway and pop tunes thrown into the mix.

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Evening of Jazz
 Trinity Fellowship Church
 Thursday, April 2nd at 7 p.m.
 For more information, contact the High School or call 669-5790

PAMPA FORECAST

Tuesday **Wednesday** **Thursday**



High 68
Low 26
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. Windy, with a west southwest wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26. Wind chill values between 19 and 24. Windy, with a north northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 47. Northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26. East wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 40. Southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30.

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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.....	\$4.69
Milo.....	\$4.67
Corn.....	\$6.28

Cash Five Texas results

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 7-37-2-28-9.
Number matching five of five: 2. Prize: \$12,543
Winning tickets purchased in: Houston
Matching four of five: 108. Prize: \$105
Matching three of five: 3,330. Prize: \$8
Matching two of five: 32,264. Prize: \$2
Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.

Winning Lotto Texas numbers

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 15-48-17-42-22-1.
Number matching six of six: 0.
Number matching five of six: 18. Prize: \$3,231.
Number matching four of six: 1,547. Prize: \$55.
Number matching three of six: 33,981. Prize: \$3.
Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$26 million.

Emergency Services

PAMPA PD
Pampa Police Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Friday and 7 a.m. today.
Friday
Officers conducted 20 traffic stops. A stop in the 700 block of East Campbell resulted in at least one arrest.
A total of 10 calls and/or stops concerning animals were made.
Motor vehicle accidents were reported in the intersection of Perryton Parkway and 25th streets, and the lobby of the PD.
Two alarms were investigated.
Theft was reported in the 1200 block of South Dwight, where a 42" Sony television and Sony DVD camcorder were reportedly stolen valued at \$2,000, the police department lobby, the 1000 block of Twiford, where \$118 in change was reportedly taken, and Walmart, 2801 North Charles, where eyeliner, a box of artificial nails, eyelash curler, shampoo, and nail polish were stolen, less than \$50 total.
Suspicious vehicles were reported in the 1900 block of Dogwood, the 100 block of East Harvester, and the 2500 block of North Perryton Parkway.
A welfare check was made in the 300 block of West Kingsmill.
Forgery was reported at Fiesta Foods, 300 East Brown, where four checks were forged.
Civil matters were reported in the 500 block of Montagu.
Traffic complaints were received from the 400 block of North Dwight, and the 2200 block of North Williston.
Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1300 North Hobart, the 1400 block of North Hobart, and the 1200 block of North Hobart.
One attempt to serve papers was made.
Agency assistance was rendered in the 400 block of East 17th.
A missing person was reported in the 2300 block of North Primrose.
Phone harassment was reported in the lobby of the PD.
A domestic disturbance was reported in the 700 block of East Frederic.
Suspicious person calls were received from the intersection of Gwendolyn and Faulkner streets, and the 400 block of South Hughes.
A burglary was reported in the 1200 block of Market, where a window was broken valued at \$100.
One building was checked.
Saturday
Officers conducted 23 traffic stops. Stops in the 400 block of North Christy, the intersection of Beryl and Henry streets, the 1300 block of West Carter, the intersection of 19th and Hobart streets, and the 300 block of North Ballard resulted in arrests.

For the Record

Obituaries

Janet Gaye Rogers, 65

Skellytown, Texas — He preceded her in death on August 12, 1998. Janet Gaye Rogers, 65 died on March 8, 2009 in Amarillo.
Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa. Mrs. Rogers was born January 8, 1944 in Baton Rouge, La. She was a lifelong resident of Skellytown. She married Gene W. Rogers on April 11, 1960 in Skellytown.
He preceded her in death on August 12, 1998. Janet was a member of the First Baptist Church of Skellytown. She enjoyed going on trips and outings with her husband and children, and she loved all the children in her neighborhood.
Survivors include: three sons Wes Rogers of Skellytown, Scott Rogers of Santa Ana, Calif., and

Emergency Services

A total of six calls and/or stops concerning animals were made.
Suspicious person calls were received from the 400 block of Graham, the 1000 block of South Dwight, the 800 block of South Hobart, and the 1100 block of West Coronado.
Agency assistance was rendered in the intersection of Price and Browning streets, and the intersection of Price Road and Highway 60.
A threat was made in the 700 block of North Russell.
Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block of West Juniper, where a house was egged, and the 1000 block of South Faulkner, where a car was scratched and tire punctured.
Motor vehicle accidents were reported in the 1000 block of South Farley, and the 300 block of South Cuyler.
A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 1100 block of West Ripley.
A violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 2100 block of North Wells.
Criminal trespass was reported in the 700 block of East Malone.
Theft was reported at Dollar General, 601 East Frederic, where two energy drinks were stolen.
A domestic disturbance was reported in the 700 block of North Wells.
A traffic complaint was received from the 100 block of West Foster.
Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 100 block of North Nelson.
Disorderly conduct was reported in the 800 block of North Lefors.
Sunday
A burglary was reported in the 2200 block of North Duncan.
Disorderly conduct was reported in the 800 block of North Christy, the 900 block of South Varnon, the 1100 block of South Nelson, and the 1000 block of South Wells.
Traffic complaints were received from the 300 block of North Davis, and the 900 block of East Kingsmill.
Officers conducted 16 traffic stops. Stops in the 200 block of Tignor and the intersection of Williston and Randy Matson streets resulted in arrests.
A total of eight calls and/or stops concerning animals were made.
Suspicious person calls were received from the 1100 block of South Varnon, the intersection of Neel and Crawford streets, the 1100 block of South Nelson, the 500 block of North Cuyler, and the 100 block of East Foster.
An assault was reported in the 1900 block of North Nelson.
Agency assistance was rendered in the intersection of Lincoln and Nelson streets.
Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 400 block of East Francis,

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memory-gardens.tripod.com



Rogers

Jack Rogers of Columbia, Miss., two brothers: Jim Davis and Kenny Davis, both of Skellytown, one sister: Lynn Ricketts of San Antonio, 10 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.
Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whatley.com

AMBULANCE

Sunday
8:05 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the area of Dwight and Highway 60 and transported to PRMC and one patient to jail.
8:48 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Charles and transported a patient to PRMC.
Friday
9:06 a.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 1000 block of South Barnes on a smoke scare.
10:34 a.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to the 100 block of East Harvester on a med assist.
1:54 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 400 block of Jupiter on a gas leak.
9:42 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway on a false alarm.

Man charged in fatal fire
HOUSTON (AP) — A 46-year-old man is charged with capital murder in the death of a 5-year-old girl in a Houston house fire he's accused of setting.
Anthony Miller, who lived in the house, says Tracy Bush had been waging an ongoing feud with Miller's family. Miller says Bush is his uncle.
Killed in the 9:30 a.m. Sunday fire was Miller's cousin, 5-year-old Brastaya Peace. Miller and his wife fled to safety and thought the girl was at church with her grandmother. But Miller said they then heard the child scream for help.
Firefighters reached the girl, who was airlifted to Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital where she died of severe burns.
Bush is held without bond at Harris County Jail on Monday. Jail booking records don't list an attorney for Bush.

FIRE

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Friday and 7 a.m. today.
Friday
9:06 a.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 1000 block of South Barnes on a smoke scare.
10:34 a.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to the 100 block of East Harvester on a med assist.
1:54 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 400 block of Jupiter on a gas leak.
9:42 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway on a false alarm.
Saturday
2:23 a.m. — Three units and seven personnel responded to the 700 block of East Browning on a structure fire, which was out upon arrival.
Sunday
8:36 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Wilks and Dwight on a hazmat call.

On the run
DALLAS (AP) — A murder warrant's been issued for a woman after police say she confessed to killing her ex-husband near San Antonio.
The 33-year-old woman called Dallas 911 about 4:15 a.m. Monday and reported that she'd killed her ex-husband.
Homicide Detective Rubin Arevalos of the Bexar County Sheriff's Department says the 34-year-old ex-husband was Sunday shot in his home.

AMBULANCE

Guan EMS ambulance service reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Friday and 7 a.m. today.
Friday
10:38 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of East Harvester and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.
5:36 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.
5:42 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.
Saturday
2:18 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of North Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.
4:00 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to North West Texas Hospital in Amarillo.
9:41 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Huff and transported a patient to PRMC.

LAST MINUTE CLASSIFIED LINE ADS

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement
FREE CONCERT (Nona Payne) presented by the Jr. High and PHS Band. Tuesday March 10th at 7:00 pm at Calvary Baptist Church. For more information please call 669-5790.
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Severely ill woman found dead days after drop-off

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Raquel Padilla suffered from schizophrenia and mild retardation but was in the care of a state hospital for the seriously mentally ill until workers decided to send her home by dropping her off at a downtown Greyhound station.

The 54-year-old was found dead three days later in a concrete ditch, having never gotten on that bus back to Del Rio.

Padilla was one of nearly 600 patients discharged from the San Antonio State Hospital and dropped off at the bus station since January 2008, the San Antonio Express-News reported Sunday. The hospital's policy has Padilla's family outraged and has drawn the attention of at least one lawmaker.

"She wasn't capable of taking care of herself, especially in the big city. Even for a normal person, it's hard to catch the bus. For her, it was out of the question," said the woman's brother, Juan Padilla.

Her ability to function was dependent on her medications, and anyone who talked to her could tell she was incapable of navigating a busy bus station, he said. A case-worker did call the family to tell

them what bus Raquel Padilla was supposed to be on, but her brother complains that the worker called a brother who also suffers from schizophrenia.

Bob Arizpe, the San Antonio State Hospital superintendent, said employees were following procedure when they dropped Padilla off, and a staff member saw her standing in line for the bus on Dec. 20.

"Any policies or procedures we had in place were followed," Arizpe said. "The only requirement we have is to get them to their mode of transportation."

Hospital workers evaluate every patient before deciding how to send them home from the facility that serves 54 counties, he said. The hospital has discharged about 3,000 patients total since January 2008.

Other state mental hospitals also drop patients at bus stations in comparable numbers, said Emily Palmer, a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of State Health Services, which runs the 10 facilities. But no exact figures were available.

She also stressed the state is no longer legally responsible for a patient once he or she is discharged.

"They're not under the supervision of the courts or the state," she said. "They have a right to make choices."

Advocates say the case may prompt more scrutiny of the state's procedures for releasing patients.

"We could have at least made sure we had someone stay with her until she was on the bus," said Robin Peyson, executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Texas.

State Sen. Carlos Uresti agreed, saying the state has a duty to vulnerable people with mental illnesses.

"Obviously this is a person who had serious mental illness and needed help," said the San Antonio Democrat who sits on the Health and Human Services Committee. "You can't just put them on a bus to Del Rio or anywhere in the state of Texas without supervision."

If policies allowed Padilla and other patients to be dropped off with no supervision, they should be changed, he said.

"If they won't do it by rule, then we'll have to do it by changing the law," Uresti said.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



submitted photo Friday, March 6th 2009 St. Vincent de Paul School awarded Vika Ey Marques Student of the month. Pictured with Vika are her parents Belma and Enrique and Fr. Francisco Perez.

Snow feast or famine for March?

Snow — cont. from page 1

so far, but spread out over three events).

In the 116 years of snow records in the Amarillo area, there have been five other years where the first inch did not fall by March 1.

Two of those years we never saw an inch (1901-02, 1949-50). These two instances were 50 years apart, but more than 50 years ago (we're overdue for it to happen again).

Three times we had a classic March snowstorm/blizzard. Keep in mind, that some of our biggest snowstorms have occurred in March. Each of these three instances had at least 6 inches of snow (winter storm levels even by our new enhanced criteria).

March 11, 1909 had 6.4 inches, March 25, 1934 had 20.6 inches, and March 23, 1957 had 11.1

inches. And believe it or not, even though an inch of snow had not fallen as of March 1, 40 percent of the time the season total snowfall ended up being above the long term median. That's due to the big snowstorms/blizzards mentioned above.

So we're enduring a winter this year which happens once every 20-25 years or so. But it is more noticeable because it has not

happened since 1957. If we go the route of not getting any snow, it will be a once in 50 years event (not since 1949-50).

So the prospects for snow are not that bad even though we just entered March. But it may be feast or famine from this point, and we're overdue for a famine.

Newspaper publisher McClatchy cutting 1,600 jobs

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Newspaper publisher McClatchy Co. said Monday that it will shrink its work force by another 15 percent as it contends with sharply declining revenue amid a deepening recession.

The 1,600 job reductions should help the publisher of The Miami Herald, The Fort Worth Star-Telegram and other newspapers meet previously announced plans to save up to \$110 million over the next year. McClatchy Treasurer Elaine Lintecum said the company will likely exceed that target, but the company did not release a new estimate.

"The effects of the current national economic downturn make it essential

that we move even faster to realign our work force and make our operations more efficient," Chairman and Chief Executive Gary Pruitt said in a statement.

Pruitt will take a 15 percent cut in his base salary, while other executives will see their pay reduced by 10 percent. Pruitt got a \$1.1 million salary in 2007, the last year for which McClatchy has disclosed his pay.

Cash compensation to the company's directors will decline about 13 percent. Senior executives are also forgoing bonuses in 2008 and 2009, while directors are declining stock awards.

Other wage cuts are planned, but the company did not provide details.

Shares in McClatchy fell 15 cents, or 25 percent, to 44 cents in morning trading.

The newspaper industry has seen ad revenue fall in recent years as advertisers migrate to the Internet, particularly to sites offering free or low-cost alternatives for classified ads. Starting last summer, the recession intensified the decline in advertising revenue in all categories.

Many newspaper publishers, including McClatchy, also face debt incurred during healthier times. The company owed about \$2.04 billion as of the end of 2008, stemming mainly from its 2006 acquisition of the Knight Ridder newspaper chain. McClatchy already went

through two rounds of job cuts of about 10 percent each last year to produce an estimated \$200 million in annual savings. It also plans to suspend dividend payments after April 1 to conserve cash.

The company said its cost-control efforts, excluding severance and other benefit charges, led to a 14.4 percent drop in cash expenses for the fourth quarter.

The latest round of cuts, which will start by the end of the first quarter and include just about every business component, will come through attrition, consolidation and the outsourcing of some functions. The company expects about \$30 million in severance costs.

Worker fatally hurt when object falls from crane

PORT ARTHUR, Texas (AP) — Federal work-safety officials are investigating the weekend death of a contract worker at the Total Petrochemical refinery in Port Arthur.

Refinery spokesman Pat Avery says an object of some sort apparently fell from a crane and struck the worker in the head Saturday afternoon. He was airlifted to Christus St. Elizabeth hospital in Beaumont, where he died yesterday.

The French oil company Total hasn't released the identity of the worker nor the company that employed him. But Avery said the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the company are conducting separate investigations.

Appliance Day

Success — cont. from page 1

Willoughby said the dealers are responsible for removing any hazardous material in the appliances and the metal in them can be recycled.

"It's a big help to us," said Mildred Henley, who brought in an old refrigerator.

Appliance Day, Willoughby said, started out as a way of helping to clean up Pampa.

"It's our community," said Hinkle, "and we've got to help each other."

"We appreciate you guys," Henley said as she gave Hinkle a hug.

Condo owners have questions for Bushes

DALLAS (AP) — Attorneys for former President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, are fighting efforts by two condominium owners to pull the Bushes into a lawsuit questioning whether Southern Methodist University used unfair tactics to buy out owners at low prices.

The condo owners want to question the Bushes about what SMU officials told them in private meetings before SMU was selected as the site of the presidential library.

"What he's asking for is extraordinary," Bush's lawyer, John H. Martin, said in a story in Sunday's online edition of The Dallas Morning News, referring to plaintiff Gary Vodicka. "He has had ample opportunity to ask others questions. He does not need to get any information from the president."

Bush's attorneys have until 5 p.m. Monday to file papers in state court with their arguments on why the Bushes should not have to give depositions. Plaintiffs are trying to determine whether SMU officials made a pitch for the library before the university purchased the condominiums.

They say the timing is important because it could show that SMU officials did not disclose information that could have affected the value of the land.

Plaintiffs say they need to hear from the Bushes.

"They're fact witnesses in the case," said Dallas lawyer Larry J. Friedman, who represents a former condo owner, Robert Tafel. "We think they'll be truthful, and that's the key to our case."

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

1	5	9	3	8	4	2	6	7
8	7	2	5	6	1	4	3	9
3	6	4	9	7	2	1	5	8
7	8	3	1	9	6	5	4	2
6	2	5	7	4	8	9	1	3
4	9	1	2	3	5	7	8	6
5	1	7	6	2	3	8	9	4
2	3	8	4	1	9	6	7	5
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Level: Beginner

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: I am 20. My father, who recently turned 50, is dating a girl, "Amber," who is only 19. I went to high school with Amber, and I know for a fact there isn't a lot she has to offer him unless it's trouble.

Our parents divorced 16 years ago, and Dad hasn't had another woman in his life who he really liked. He has dated casually, but this is turning into something serious. They have been seeing each other only a few weeks, and they are now talking about an engagement.

Abby, Amber has a 6-month-old son. The child's father will have nothing to do with her or the baby. I think she's after Dad for the money, and I do not approve of their relationship. What should I do? -- UPSET IN FLORIDA

DEAR UPSET: Calm down and bide your time. Their relationship is fresh and new, and many people mistake passion for love in the beginning. Rather than saying you don't approve, if you are given the opportunity, suggest to your father that he and Amber "get to know each other better" before rushing into any-

thing. If the engagement happens, let your father's attorney in on what's happening. That way he can suggest to your dad the wisdom of having a prenuptial agreement, so he and Amber will both be protected.

P.S. Give the girl a chance. She may not be in it for the money. What she may be looking for is a stable husband and father for her son, and in return she could make your father happy.

DEAR ABBY: My son, "Jasper," is a part-time student living at home and working with me in our family business. He was not at home and ready to work this morning. This isn't the first time it has happened.

I have told my son that I enjoy working with him and consider him an asset to the business, but he needs to be more reliable. I have suspended him for one week without pay.

My wife feels I'm being harsh, but any other employer would do the same or worse. I feel Jasper needs to learn the facts of life in the working world. Do you agree with my decision? --

JOE IN SACO, MAINE

DEAR JOE: I certainly do. One of the most important elements in achieving success in any career is showing up for the job. If your son can't accept that, then perhaps he would learn the truth of it by working in something other than the family business for a year.

DEAR ABBY: I am 15 and have been in love with "Caleb" for four years. He never noticed me until recently, when he started sitting next to me and talking to me. We are good friends now, and I have been told he likes me, too.

I am happy about it, except that when we sit together, Caleb sometimes touches me in inappropriate places. If I tell him to stop, I'm afraid it will end our friendship. What should I do? -- UNCOMFORTABLE IN TEXAS

DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE: Speak up. If telling Caleb to stop touching you in a way that makes you uncomfortable ends your friendship, then face it -- it wasn't much of a friendship to begin with.

Viewpoints

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Monday, March 9, the 68th day of 2009. There are 297 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On March 9, 1862, during the Civil War, the iron-clads USS Monitor and CSS Virginia (formerly USS Merrimac) clashed for five hours to a draw at Hampton Roads, Va.

On this date:
In 1796, the future emperor of the French, Napoleon Bonaparte, married Josephine de Beauharnais (boh-ahr-NAY'). (The couple divorced in 1809.)

In 1907, Indiana's General Assembly passed America's first involuntary sterilization law, one aimed at "confirmed criminals, idiots, imbeciles, and rapists" in state custody. (This law was struck down in 1921 by the Indiana Supreme Court, but a new law was passed in 1927 that was repealed in 1974.)

'Conscience is the perfect interpreter of life.'

— Karl Barth, Swiss theologian

In 1916, Mexican raiders led by Pancho Villa attacked Columbus, N.M., killing 18 Americans.

In 1932, Eamon de Valera was appointed head of government of the Irish Free State.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. B-29 bombers launched incendiary bomb attacks against Japan, resulting in an estimated 100,000 deaths.

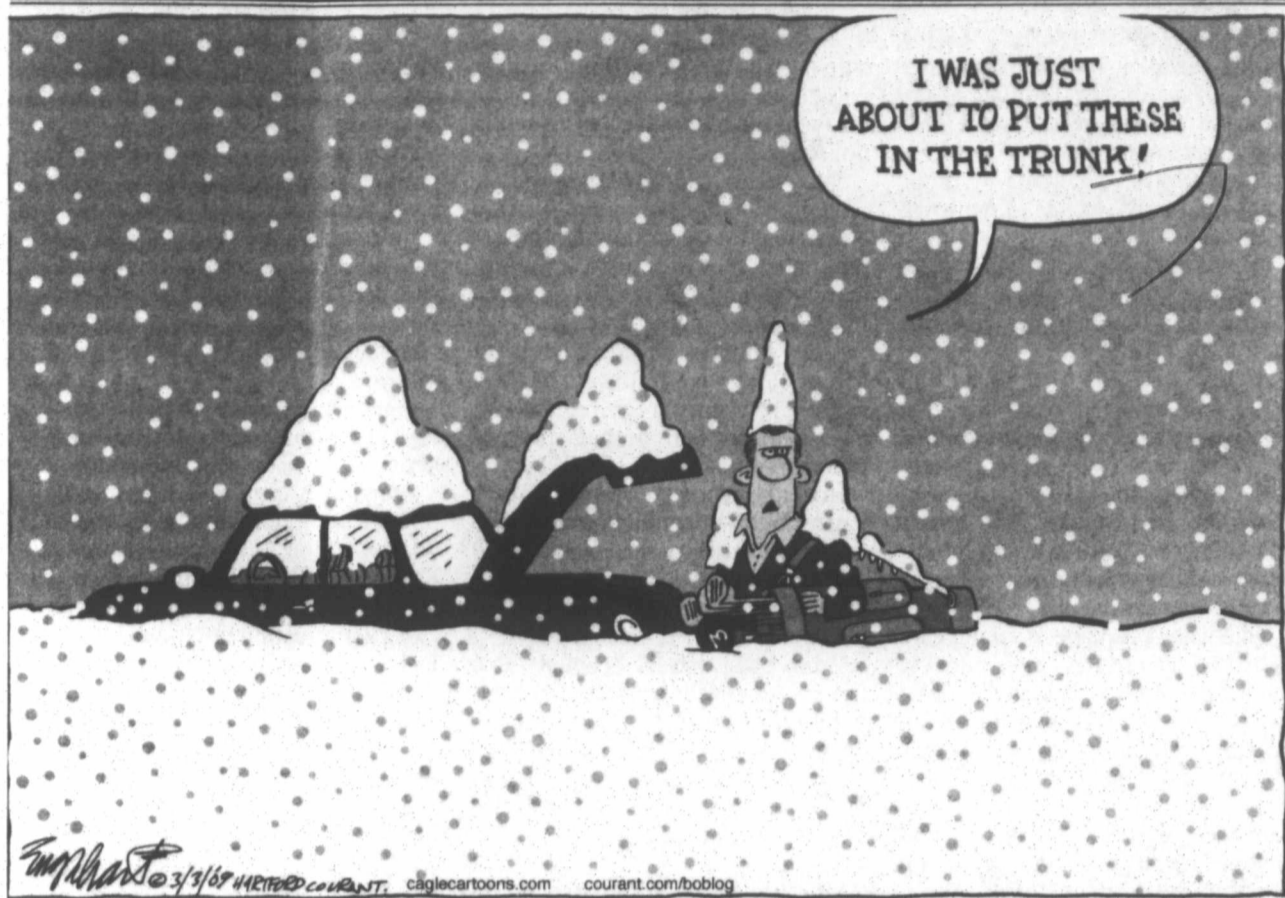
In 1954, CBS newsmen Edward R. Murrow critically reviewed Wisconsin Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's anti-Communism campaign on "See It Now."

In 1959, Mattel's Barbie doll, created by Ruth Handler, made its public debut at the American International Toy Fair in New York.

In 1964, the Supreme Court, in New York Times Co. v. Sullivan, ruled that public officials who charged they'd been libeled by news reports could not recover damages unless they proved actual malice on the part of the news organization.

In 1977, about a dozen armed Hanafi Muslims invaded three buildings in Washington D.C., killing one person and taking more than 130 hostages. (The siege ended two days later.)

Today's Birthdays: Singer-actress Keely Smith is 77. Singer Lloyd Price is 76. Actress Joyce Van Patten is 75. Actor-comedian Marty Ingels is 73. Country singer Mickey Gilley is 73. Actress Trish Van Devere is 68. Singer Mark Lindsay (Paul Revere and the Raiders) is 67. ABC anchorman Charles Gibson is 66. Rock musician Robin Trower is 64. Singer Jeffrey Osborne is 61. Country musician Jimmie Fadden (The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 61. Actress Jaime Lyn Bauer is 60. Writer-editor Michael Kinsley is 58. TV newscaster Faith Daniels is 52. Actor-director Lonny Price is 50. Actress Linda Fiorentino is 49. Actress Juliette Binoche is 45. Rock musician Robert Sledge (Ben Folds Five) is 41. Rapper C-Murder is 38. Actor Emmanuel Lewis is 38. Actress Jean Louisa Kelly is 37. Actor Kerr Smith is 37. Rapper Chingy is 29. Actor Matthew Gray Gubler is 29. Actress Brittany Snow is 23. Rapper Bow Wow is 22. Actor Luis Armand Garcia is 17.



Warren Buffett says economy fell off a cliff

By JOSH FUNK
AP Business Writer
OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Billionaire Warren Buffett said unemployment will likely climb a lot higher depending upon how effective the nation's policies are, but he remains optimistic over the long term.

Buffett said the nation's leaders need to support President Barack Obama's efforts to repair the economy because fear is dominating Americans' behavior and the economy has basically followed the worst-case scenario he envisioned.

"It's fallen off a cliff," Buffett said Monday during a live appearance on cable network CNBC. "Not only has the economy slowed down a lot, but people have really changed their habits like I haven't seen."

Buffett said the changes are reflected in the results of Berkshire Hathaway Inc.'s subsidiaries. He said Berkshire's jewelry companies have suffered, but more people have been willing to switch to Geico to save money on car insurance. The three-hour-long interview aired from another Berkshire subsidiary that has been hampered by the economy, the Nebraska Furniture Mart store in Omaha.

He predicted that unemployment will likely climb a lot higher before the recession is done, but he also reiterated his optimistic long-term view: "Everything will be all right. We do have the greatest economic machine that man has ever created."

Fear and confusion have been driving consumer and investor behavior in recent months, Buffett said.

The nation's leaders need to clear

up the confusion before anyone will become more confident, and he said all 535 members of Congress should stop the partisan bickering about solutions.

Buffett said he believes patriotic Republicans and Democrats will realize the nation is engaged in an economic war.

"What is required is a commander in chief that's looked at like a commander in chief in a time of war," Buffett said.

Whatever the government does to help the economy will likely benefit some people who made poor financial decisions, but Buffett said Americans should realize that everyone is in the same boat.

"The people that behaved well are no doubt going to find themselves taking care of the people who didn't behave well," Buffett said.

The current efforts to help revive the economy are likely to produce inflation that could be worse than what the country suffered through in the late 1970s, Buffett said.

But even though the nation will have to pay for current policies with future inflation, Buffett said, the U.S. government still needs to act.

"We're in a big war, and we're going to use money to fight it," he said.

Maintaining faith in the nation's banking system will be important to restoring the economy's health. Buffett said President Barack Obama needs to make it very clear that consumers won't lose money in banks even if more fail.

"If you don't trust where you have your money, the world stops," Buffett said.

A little over a week ago, Buffett

released his annual letter to shareholders describing the worst of his 44 years at the helm of Berkshire. The Omaha, Neb.-based company reported sharply lower profit because of its largely unrealized \$7.5 billion investment and derivative losses.

Overall, Berkshire's 2008 profit of \$4.99 billion, or \$3,224 per Class A share, was down 62 percent from \$13.21 billion, or \$8,548 per share, in 2007.

Berkshire's fourth-quarter numbers were even worse. Buffett's company reported net income of \$117 million, or \$76 per share, down 96 percent from \$2.95 billion, or \$1,904 per share, a year earlier.

Buffett said he doesn't regret writing a commentary last fall encouraging people to buy U.S. stocks, but he joked that in hindsight he wishes he'd waited a few months to publish the piece. Since that commentary appeared on Oct. 17, the Dow Jones industrial average has fallen from 8,852.22 to close at 6,626.94 on Friday.

Buffett stands by his overall advice that owning stocks over time will profit people greater than so-called safe investments.

"Overall, equities are going to do far better than U.S. government bonds at these prices," he said.

Buffett said he doesn't regret investing \$8 billion of Berkshire's money in investment bank Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and conglomerate General Electric Co. last fall. Both companies gave Berkshire preferred shares paying 10 percent interest that Buffett said he doesn't think he could get now.

What's good for Sebelius is good for GOP

By JOHN HANNA
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Republicans in Kansas are in what seems to be the strange position of hoping that their arch-nemesis, Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, achieves her latest personal and political ambition.

The cause, of course, is President Barack Obama's nomination of Sebelius as U.S. secretary of health and human services. Many Republicans who have not hesitated to criticize her policies and question her leadership now seem to have hit personal mute buttons.

Many of them want the U.S. Senate to confirm Sebelius quickly because her confirmation is all but certain to eliminate any chance that she'll run for Senate in 2010 and to end the most serious threat the GOP faces in holding Sen. Sam Brownback's seat.

Brownback promised years ago that he wouldn't run for a third term next year, and he's now launched a campaign for governor.

Many Republicans see him winning that race, and with Sebelius out of the picture, they expect to retain his

Senate seat with relative ease.

That Senate seat also could be important to Republicans nationally. Democrats and their allies control 58 of the 100 seats and hope to pick up another from Minnesota's contested election. In 2010, they would be looking for the magic 60th seat, enough to thwart legislation-blocking filibuster threats.

Brownback, a conservative who's at odds with Sebelius on abortion and other issues, is supporting her nomination, a stance that has upset many of the anti-abortion activists who have backed him for years. In Kansas, even abortion opponents who don't like Brownback's position appear to understand it.

"Sam's the 41st Republican. If nothing else changed and Sam left and Sebelius took his place, then the Senate liberals could do whatever they want," said Mary Kay Culp, executive director of the anti-abortion group Kansas for Life.

But she added, "It doesn't completely take the sting away."

Kansas Republicans already were feeling confi-

dent about the governor's race next year when tax problems forced the withdrawal of Obama's first pick for health and human services secretary, former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle.

The Kansas Constitution prevents Sebelius from running for a third term in 2010. In January, Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson, seen by some Democrats as their best candidate to replace her, announced that he wasn't going to run. He has stuck by the decision since.

Sebelius hadn't said publicly that she was interested in running for the Senate, but Republicans worried about it.

When Daschle withdrew, speculation about Sebelius began. Republicans began to anticipate a Sebelius-less political landscape in Kansas, and they liked the idea.

Republicans have two good Senate candidates in Reps. Jerry Moran, who holds the seat for the sprawling 1st District that includes western Kansas, and Todd Tiahrt, who represents the Wichita-centered 4th District. Facing Brownback for the GOP

nomination for governor is four-term Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh.

With Parkinson out of the governor's race and Sebelius expected to go to Washington, Democrats have no announced candidate for either office.

"They really have nobody to put up against these fairly significant Republican candidates who are already out there campaigning," said Christian Morgan, the Kansas GOP's executive director.

Meanwhile, Kansas Democrats don't seem to have anyone with Sebelius' stature.

She's not only navigated through two terms as governor and before that, two terms as insurance commissioner, but she has had plenty of campaign cash while doing it. She raised \$10 million total for her two gubernatorial campaigns.

Thus, Republicans have plenty of reasons for wanting her in Washington, tied up with important policy and administrative duties at Health and Human Services, when next year comes.

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submitted photo

Emily Jackson leads the pack to the finish of the 200 meter dash at the Pirate Relays last Friday. Jackson won the event with a time of 28.82.

Pampa places second in Snyder

The Pampa Harvesters finished in second place out of 10 teams last weekend in the Snyder tournament.

After starting the tournament by beating Slaton 10-5, defending 3A state champion Snyder 5-3 and Perryton 12-2, Pampa would fall in extra innings to Lubbock Trinity by a final score of 4-3.

Brett Powell pitched a complete game for Pampa and even though he was charged with the loss, Powell pitched a tremendous game. He pitched eight innings, giving up 4 runs on only 5 hits. Powell walked two and hit one batter and he struck out four.

In the bottom of the third and trailing 1-0, Pampa tied the score after Blake Sieck singled with two outs. After Sieck stole second base, Powell delivered an RBI single that scored Sieck from sec-

ond. In the bottom of the fifth, Pampa took the lead when Jeremy Maxwell walked to start the inning. Maxwell moved to second on a fielders choice and with two outs, Sieck was intentionally walked. Powell was then bit by a pitch for the 8th time this year to load the bases. With two outs, Ryan Funderburg was hit by a 3-1 pitch that scored Maxwell.

Trinity tied the game in the top of the 6th and the score would remain 2-2 after 7 innings. In the top of the 8th, Trinity scored two more runs giving them a 4-2 lead.

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Funderburg was hit again by a pitch and then scored from first base when Mitchell Killgo hit a long double to right center. But with the tying run at second base, Pampa was unable to score.

Due to the tie breaker rules in the tournament, Trinity had to beat Pampa by three or more runs to advance to the championship game. So, Pampa advanced to play against district 3-4A opponent, undefeated Canyon.

In the championship game, the wheels fell off the bus in the first inning for Pampa. The Harvesters had four errors and gave up eight runs.

In the bottom of the second inning, Braden Hunt hit a long home run over the left field fence to put Pampa on the board. It was Hunt's second home run of the season.

Pampa's pitching and defense didn't give up any more runs through the next five innings.

Maxwell came in to pitch and did not give up a run in 2 2/3 innings. Hunt pitched a scoreless inning and Jeremy Busse pitched two shutout innings.

Pampa scored two runs in the fifth, off singles by Powell and Funderburg, and a double by Killgo that scored both runners. That put the score 8-3.

However, Pampa ended the game much the way they started. In the top of the seventh, Canyon scored 9 more runs on 5 hits and 3 more Pampa errors.

In the bottom of the seventh, Pampa scored 1 more run after Powell was hit by a pitch for 9th time this season and advanced to 2nd base on a wild pitch. Killgo then drilled a double off the center field fence that scored Powell. But the rally would end there and Pampa would fall by a final score of 17-4.

In the end Canyon earned the championship, but Pampa earned much respect in the area by playing solid baseball and defeating some quality teams.

Lefors annual Pirate Relays results

Lefors held its annual Pirate Relays last week, with Jr. High competing on Thursday and High School on Friday. In the Jr. High division, Lefors boys won the team competition with 150 points. The girls placed 5th as a team with 49 points. On Friday, the Pirates scored 103.5 points, placing 3rd behind Follett and Hartley, while the Lady Pirates tied for 4th with 74 points. Next week the Pirates will compete at the Shamrock invitational meet. Individual placings were:

- HS Boys**
 100 meter dash - Payton Johnson-4th (11.99)
 200 meter dash - Nick Hess-4th (25.01); Wakely Pairsh-7th (25.35)
 400 meter dash - Trever Czubinski-4th (1:01.44); Reice Warner-6th (1:04.12)
 800 meter run - Seth Scully-7th (2:36.87)
 3200 meter run - Reice Warner-5th (12:46.23); Casey Wyant-7th (14:15.0)
 110 meter hurdles - Dennis Sprouse-4th (23.47); Taylor Ray-5th (24.53)
 300 meter hurdles - Taylor Ray-4th (1:00.40)
 4x100 meter relay - Trever Czubinski, Brandon McBee, Nick Hess, Payton Johnson-2nd (47.57)
 4x200 meter relay - Trever Czubinski, Wakely Pairsh, Nick Hess, Payton Johnson-2nd (1:42.25)
 High jump - Nick Hess-3rd (5'6"); Keenan Lott-6th (5'2")
 Pole vault - Nick Hess-1st (11'0"); Keenan Lott-2nd (9'0"); Dennis Sprouse-6th (6'6")
 Long jump - Trever Czubinski-7th (17'4")
 Triple jump - Trever Czubinski-5th (37'5")
 Shot Put - Dustin Forsyth-1st (43'6.5")
 Discus - Dustin Forsyth-1st (129'6")

- HS Girls**
 100 meter dash - Emily Jackson-2nd (13.64)
 200 meter dash - Emily Jackson-1st (28.82)
 800 meter run - Taylor Overstreet-1st (2:44.03); Valerie Miller-4th (2:53.27)
 4x200 meter relay - Lacie Johnston, Emily Jackson, Story Pairsh, Valerie Miller-5th (2:06.38)
 4x400 meter relay - Lacie Johnston, Kaittlynne Porter, Valerie Miller, Taylor Overstreet-2nd (4:58.13)
 Pole vault - Valerie Miller-1st (9'0")
 Long jump - Valerie Miller-1st (16'3.5"); Emily Jackson-5th (13'8")



JV baseball team wins one, loses two

The Harvester JV baseball team played their first games of the season at the Hereford tournament this past weekend.

Wind was the word of the weekend. Pitchers had trouble throwing into it, outfielders had trouble catching and fans had trouble watching. Pampa took on Dumas in the first game. Garrett Ericson took the mound and pitched a complete game and notched his first win. He struck out eight walked three and gave up three earned runs.

Pampa won the game 11-7. Doug Smith led hitters going 2 for 3 and 3 runs, Mitch Simon 2 for 4 and 1 run, Chase Ferguson, Reid Bradley, and Brent Green each went 1 for 2.

The second game was against hometown Hereford. Collin Killgo started on the mound for Pampa striking out seven walking two and three earned runs in 4 and 1/3 innings. Cole Engle came in to pitch the remaining 1 and 2/3 innings with 3 strikeouts six walks and one earned run.

Pampa lost the game 7-4. Chase Ferguson was 2 for 2, Doug Smith, Reid Bradley and Reid Miller went 1 for 3. Pampa scored 3 runs in the third and one in the fifth inning.

The third and final game found Pampa taking on district rival Randall. Chase Ferguson started at pitcher for Pampa going two innings striking out 2, walking 2 and allowing 4 earned runs. Pampa used Engle, Killgo, Brent Green and Ericson to finish the game on the mound.

Pampa lost the game 16-11. Smith and Bradley went 2 for 4, Ramon Jimenez was 1 for 1, Brent Green and Ericson went 1 for 2. Smith and Miller scored two runs each, Engle, Jimenez, Green and Trevor Morgan scored one run a piece while Ferguson scored three runs. The Harvester JV will play Perryton Monday evening at 5 pm at Harvester Field.

Swimmers compete at state

By Kathy White
 Your Swimming Harvesters ended their 2008-09 season at the State meet in Austin on February 28. Seniors Colby Dennis, Dustin Neef, Cole Guyer and junior Kelly Stoffle placed fourteenth in both the 200-yard and 400-yard freestyle relays. Neef placed sixteenth in the 50-yard freestyle. The boys managed to bring Pampa a 35th place finish out of 54 competing teams.

According to Coach Ed Garvin, the boys had an impressive season, which puts their names on the Pampa High School record board in four slots. Neef's new record in the 50-yard free of 22.03 replaces the old record of 22.29 set by Bobby Venal in 1996. Neef also puts a 51.03 on the board to replace the 51.42 set by Venal in 96.

Neef's sprinting speed helped the relay team drop the old 200-yard free record from 1995 of 1:37.79 to a 1:32.07. At

the State meet; as these seniors swam the last race of their high school careers, the 400-yard free relay, they once again broke their own record with a 3:25.60, down from 3:30.29 last year. These boys set five District 3-4A records and one Region 1 record. Coach Garvin added Pampa has never before sent a relay team to State competition.

When asked what was most memorable about the meet, Stoffle, Guyer and Garvin responded simultaneously, "Watching Cole Cragin break the national record in the 100-yard backstroke with a 46.75 barely missing the Jamail Texas Swimming Center pool record set by Olympian Aaron Peirsol. On Friday, the swimmers were excited to see Peirsol in the pool. The boys were also impressed by the pool record boards, which read like a Who's Who list of swimming greats with names like Kirsty Coventry, Janet Evans,

Michael Phelps, Garrett Weber-Gale, Ian Crocker and Brendon Hansen.

As Guyer, Dennis and Neef graduate along with senior girls Abby West, Tonya Kiper and Ana Saucedo, Coach Garvin is looking ahead to next season and expects great things from the rest of the team. He feels several of the remaining team members stand a good chance of going to state in 2010.

On Saturday, March 7, the Pampa Junior High swimmers will attend their first meet. This team currently has fifteen swimmers in the water. Coach Garvin hopes to draw more junior high students to the program next year. "The key to a strong high school team is getting the students swimming as early as possible," says Garvin. He encourages any high school students interested in joining the team to contact him.



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.

Comics

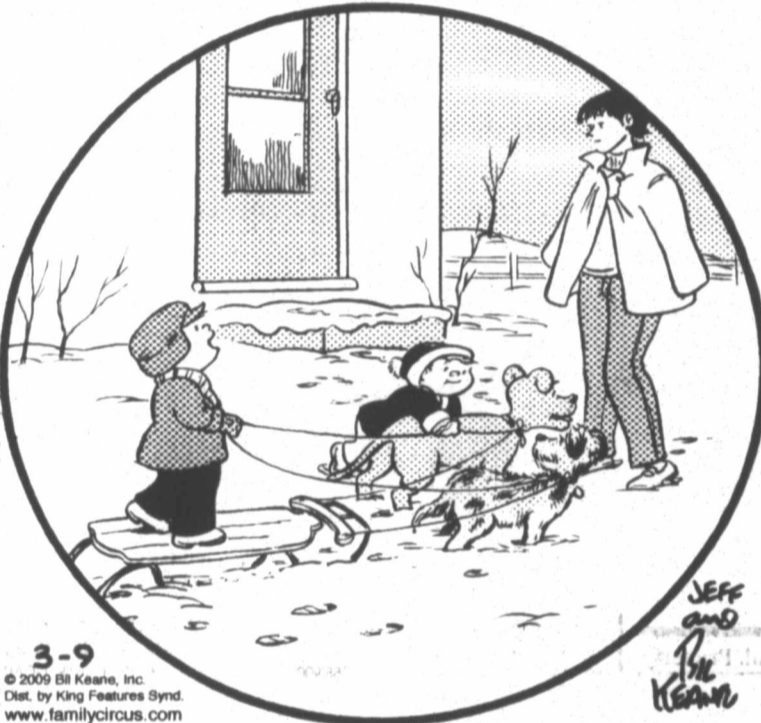
Marmaduke



"I wish you had never bought him this pet frog. It's embarrassing!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Watch out, Mommy! We're 'bout to start our Iditarod!"

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



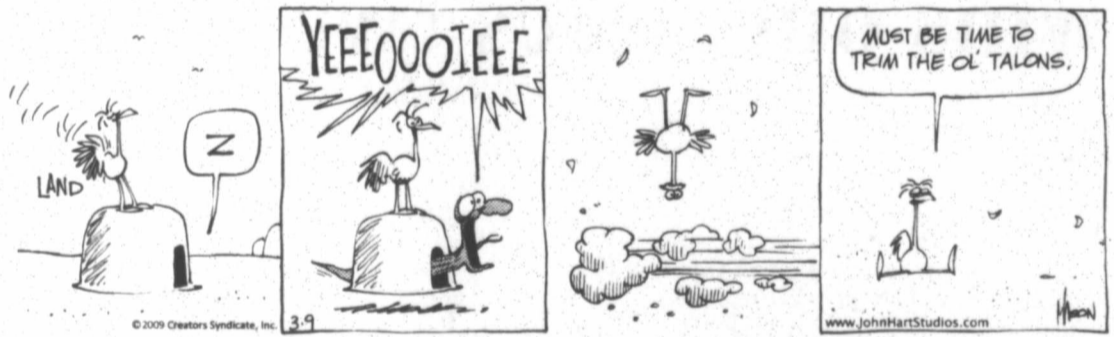
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Rough guesses
 - 6 Small fastener
 - 10 Go back to base
 - 11 Cellar stock
 - 13 Barn-raising group
 - 14 Superfluous
 - 15 Writer Follett
 - 16 Finish
 - 18 Here, to Henri
 - 19 Famed ventriloquist
 - 22 Brewed beverage
 - 23 Mom's sister
 - 24 Hacienda houses
 - 27 Baseball card data
 - 28 Egg outline
 - 29 King Kong, for one
 - 30 "The Winds of War" Emmy nominee
 - 35 Deep hole
 - 36 Snaky fish
 - 37 Boxing great
 - 38 Does book work
 - 40 City-based
- DOWN**
- 1 Tent
 - 2 Domesticated
 - 3 Getting on
 - 4 Tour carrier
 - 5 Balls
 - 6 Stockholm native
 - 7 Disallow
 - 8 West Indies island
 - 9 Interest rate unit
 - 12 New Orleans team
 - 17 Court org.
 - 20 Whatsoever
 - 21 Insurance worker
 - 24 Brass ingredient
 - 25 Steered clear of
 - 26 Soup
 - 27 Go caving
 - 29 Presidential nickname
 - 31 Agreeable answers
 - 32 Roof feature
 - 33 Gladden
 - 34 Inverted sixes
 - 39 Sawbuck
 - 41 Harry's friend

PELE	SOAP
RUNON	ANTIC
ELCID	LETGO
ASININE	UPN
CAN	NOMINEE
TROGGS	DENS
	ASTRO
SCAT	RELICS
LOSESIT	MEA
ANT	PLOWMAN
TRUCE	ROUSE
EATEN	TONER
DEED	SLED

Saturday's answer

1	Tent	9	Interest rate unit	27	Go caving
2	Domesticated	12	New Orleans team	29	Presidential nickname
3	Getting on	17	Court org.	31	Agreeable answers
4	Tour carrier	20	Whatsoever	32	Roof feature
5	Balls	21	Insurance worker	33	Gladden
6	Stockholm native	24	Brass ingredient	34	Inverted sixes
7	Disallow	25	Steered clear of	39	Sawbuck
8	West Indies island	26	Soup	41	Harry's friend

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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READING CHALLENGE WINNER



submitted photo

The grand prize winner of our Adult Winter Reading Challenge is Debbie Beesley with 352.15 hours of reading during the months of Dec., Jan. and Feb. Monthly winners are: December, Madonna Bridwell; 129 hours, January: Betty Jo Hill, 166.15 hours, February Debbie Beesley, 77 hours for the month.

Man set to die Tuesday for double slaying

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — James Edward Martinez had some unusual reading habits.

Inside a Tarrant County storage bin he rented, along with more than 3,000 rounds of ammunition and bomb-making components, police found books on silent killing techniques and human anatomy weaknesses. One book was titled: "Be Your Own Undertaker: How to Dispose of a Dead Body." On Tuesday evening, Martinez, 34, was set to die for a double slaying more than eight years ago that was anything but silent. Authorities found 27 shell casings from a high-powered rifle at the scene where his former girlfriend and a male friend were gunned down outside a Fort Worth apartment complex.

Sandra Walton, 29, was shot at least nine times. Michael Humphreys, 19, was hit eight times.

"Just a tremendous slaughter," recalled Alan Levy, a Tarrant County district attorney who prosecuted Martinez. "It was a massacre."

Martinez would be the 11th condemned Texas prisoner executed this year and the first of two scheduled for lethal injection on consecutive nights this week.

Attorneys for the former laborer and welder were in the courts trying to block the punishment. In an appeal, lawyers argued they had newly discovered

evidence from a woman who was 15 at the time of the shootings and said Martinez was with her the night of the murders.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals rejected the petition.

"The CCA said it was not good enough evidence to postpone the execution," said Martinez's lawyer, David Richards.

He took the appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"We're trying everything we can to get it postponed," he said.

Martinez declined to speak with reporters as his execution date neared.

At his trial, he insisted a friend was responsible for the slaying and had access to the murder weapon, an exotic Austrian-made assault rifle.

Evidence showed Martinez briefly had dated Walton, who worked at an Arlington pool hall, loaned her \$1,000, and after they broke up demanded his money back. She left him a promissory note. Then, according to court documents, he harassed and stalked her and threatened her repeatedly when she failed to quickly repay him.

Humphreys, from Arlington, frequented the billiards place where Walton worked.

Court records show Martinez pounded on the door of Walton's apartment shortly before the shooting and threatened to break it down if she didn't open it. She and

Humphreys, who was visiting, went on a fast-food run in the early morning hours of Sept. 21, 2000.

When they returned, witnesses saw a man dressed in black, carrying an assault rifle and running from where gunfire had erupted. Walton was found dead inside her car. Humphreys was found dead about 10 feet away on the lawn of the apartment.

Police became interested in Martinez after Walton's friends and relatives told detectives about how he had been stalking her. He was questioned but not immediately arrested.

Authorities examining his cell phone records traced calls to a ranch in Parker County, where friends told investigators about a black bag he'd asked to be buried. Among items retrieved from the bag were the murder weapon, black clothing and a pipe bomb.

"He always claimed he didn't do it, but of course there was plenty of physical evidence," Levy said. "He had books on stalking and that kind of stuff. It was pretty compelling evidence."

A Tarrant County jury in 2001 deliberated about three hours before convicting him of capital murder.

"We thought there was a real issue as to whether or not the state proved James Martinez was the person who killed those two people," Reagan Wynn, one of Martinez's defense lawyers, said last week. "I

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Hoover Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting a spotter training class, instructed by the National Weather Service at Hoover Station #2, 2305 Chisum Trail Road, Pampa. The meeting will last from 7 to 9 p.m. on March 12. The meeting is open to the public and is presented by HVFD and Gray County Emergency Management.

- A stroke screening will be held at First Baptist Church in Pampa on Wednesday, March 11. Pre-registration is required, call 1-800-710-1913.

- The American Federation of State County Municipal Employees is hosting a TDCJ Lobby Day and memorial service to honor fallen correctional employees at the state capitol building on March 12 at noon. All TDCJ employees in the Pampa area are encouraged to attend in uniform or wearing grey. In Austin, we will hold a lobby meeting at the AFL-CIO building located next to the capitol at the corner of Lavaca Street and 11th street at 9 a.m. At noon, we will meet at the south steps of the capitol building to honor fallen correctional employees at the south steps of the capitol building. For more information, call 1-800-374-9772.

- The Rushing Wind Emmaus community will meet Saturday, March 14, at 6 p.m. at the Waka Christian Center. A potluck supper will be served followed by a praise and worship service and training for sponsors. A nursery will be provided. A women's walk is scheduled for April 23-26.

- Gray County Genealogical Society will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month, except for December. 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.

- 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.

Sonar scan off Texas coast might be Civil War ship

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — Experts know of about a dozen Civil War era shipwrecks off the Texas coast. They might have just identified another.

Contractors searching for debris from Hurricane Ike near Galveston Island took a sonar scan of what the Texas Historical Commission believes is a previously undiscovered ship that sank in 1864 after leaving the city with a load of cotton.

The Carolina, also known as the Caroline, was a privately owned merchant ship that tried to break through a federal blockade of Galveston. After being pursued for several hours by Union gunships, the crew of the Carolina ran the ship aground in shallow water between Galveston and San Luis Pass, then set it on fire rather than let it be captured.

Historians said records indicate the ship sank in

the area where workers took the sonar image. It had probably been buried in sand until Hurricane Ike scoured the Gulf floor.

"It's certainly significant if it turns out to be a historic wreck, as we think it is," said Steven Hoyt, state marine archaeologist with the Texas Historical Commission, in a story in the Houston Chronicle.

"That's really exciting."

Hoyt said the shape of the image indicates the wreckage is a ship, and that he will study its size, style and characteristics to determine whether it could be the Carolina. Divers will investigate the site in the spring or summer when the Gulf of Mexico waters are calmer. Even then, visibility could be limited.

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OPTIMIST BASEBALL/SOFTBALL SIGN-UPS

will be this week Monday through Thursday, March 9-12, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Optimist Club, for boys and girls 5 to 15 years of age.
The playing fee for players 9 to 15 is \$85
The playing fee for players 5 to 8 is \$70
For more information
Contact Kevin Davis at 864-2542

The Pampa Optimist Youth Club is a Pampa United Way



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