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# The PAMPA NEWS

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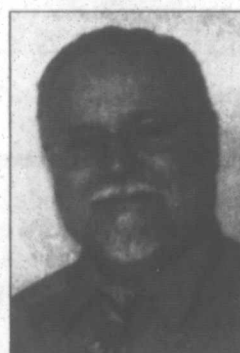
Friday, December 19, 2008 Volume 104 • No. 226 50¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

## 2008: YEAR IN REVIEW

### Oil topped \$100 in January, county establishes their own EMO, fires rage

*Editor's note: this is the first in a series this week that will take a look back at issues that affected our readers 2008. Today we are focusing local on the first quarter of the year. In subsequent days, we will bring you the remainder, quarter by quarter, as well as the news that made headlines in Texas and the top ten stories of the year from across the nation.*

**by David Bowser**  
dbowser@thepampanews.com  
The Lovett Memorial Library made the front page of the first newspaper edition of 2008.  
Misty Guy, Pampa's librarian, was weeding out old books to make room for the new. She was removing old books, some with mold on them and some that weren't being checked out, to make room for new books for circulation this past year.  
Guy was also planning to move the children's section from upstairs to the first floor of the library this year. She said she would feel better if the kids didn't have to climb the stairs to get to their section of the library.  
Alva Rayne Garcia was born Jan. 1, to Vincent and Brandi Garcia. The bundle of joy was the first baby born in 2008 at the Pampa Regional Medical Center.  
That first week of January, oil topped \$100 a barrel.



In their first meeting of the year, the Planning and Zoning Commission heard a request from Ian and Martha Mackey for a zoning change in God's Plateau Subdivision from residential to commercial. After some negotiations, the Mackeys would get the change they needed to build a self-storage business there on Price Road and open a new business in Pampa.

The Pampa City Commission started the year off considering issuing certificates of obligations, approving a settlement with Atmos Energy over utility rates and approving \$50,000 toward the purchase of a new electronic marquee at M.K. Brown Auditorium. The Pampa Economic Development Corporation matched the amount to pay for the \$100,000 sign. The old one died the previous August.

The \$2.1 million in certificates of obligation was designated for infrastructure projects, including improvements for water and sewer lines, parks, Hidden Hills Golf Course and building a crime scene building.

The certificates were issued in February.  
A joint emergency management agreement between the city and county came to an end in January as Gray County established their own emergency management office.

County Judge Richard Peet appointed Hoover Volunteer Fire Department Chief Joe Millican as Gray County's emergency management coordinator in December, 2007.

The Pampa Chamber of Commerce went into the book business, offering for sale "Romancing the Texas Panhandle," a pictorial book of the Texas Panhandle

See Year Page 6



File photo

Dark gray smoke billows up from a grass fire on the horizon in January as dry conditions led the Gray County Commission to impose a burn ban through most of the first quarter of 2008.

## King will face capital murder charges in 2009

**compiled by Rachel Stennett**  
rstennett@thepampanews.com  
Another year is being retired, but it held many events that won't likely be forgotten for years to come. The first quarter of the year held drug busts and tragic deaths.

enforcement.  
According to reports from the Texas Department of Public Safety, the first stop occurred on Saturday when a 2006 Ford pickup traveling eastbound was stopped for a traffic violation just east of Conway. A DPS K-9 alerted to the back of the vehicle where

on drug related charges and booked into the Carson County jail in Panhandle. Investigators estimate this marijuana to be worth \$111,986 and they believe the load originated in Telluride and was headed for Joplin, Mo.

The second stop occurred the following day approximately two miles west of Conway when a 1998 Ford Escort traveling eastbound was stopped for a traffic violation. After consent to search was given, troopers found 8,000 grams of methamphetamine hidden inside the front and rear bumpers of the vehicle.

Carlos Arturo Torres-Perez, 22, of Oklahoma City was arrested on drug related charges and booked into the Carson County jail in Panhandle. Investigators estimate this meth to be worth \$648,000 and they believe the load originated in Albuquerque, N.M., and was headed for Oklahoma City.

**Fires**—A Pampa woman died Jan. 18 in her home, when she succumbed to the effects of an early morning fire.

Connie Faye Pipkin, 91, of 1032 Charles was pronounced dead at the scene by Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Kurt Curfman. There was no one else in the home at the time of the fire, said Curfman and Pampa Fire Chief Kim Powell.

"Firefighters smelled

See Crime, Page 3



file photo by David Bowser

**Jury selection will begin in January for Levi King. Already convicted of murder in Missouri, King will face charges for four deaths here in 2005.**

**January Drug Arrests**—Two men were arrested and drugs were seized in two different traffic stops recently along Interstate 40 near Conway, which resulted in major drug busts for law

troopers found 266 pounds of marijuana hidden inside a false compartment built into an after market fuel tank in the bed of the pickup.

James Duncan Galusha, 58, of Telluride, Co., was arrested

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**We hope you have a Prosperous New Year in PAMPA**  
—From the Director and Staff of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce

## PAMPA FORECAST

## Saturday



High 41  
Low 20

## Sunday



High 56  
Low 28

## Monday



High 63  
Low 33

**Saturday:** A 20 percent chance of snow before noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 41. Wind chill values between 20 and 30. North-northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 20. Wind chill values between 12 and 17. West southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 56. West-southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 28. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 63. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

**Monday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 33. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

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## Grain prices

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of White Deer for the close of the last open market day.

Wheat. .... 4.95  
Milo. .... 5.14  
Corn. .... 6.93

## Hefty fees, fines going uncollected in Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Some Texas agencies left as much as \$1 billion in uncollected fees, fines and penalties for fiscal years 2006, 2007, according to a survey from the Legislative Budget Board provided to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

More than 95 cents of every dollar left uncollected was lost by publicly funded colleges and universities and public safety/criminal justice institutions, the annual LBB survey said.

A significant portion of the state's \$167.8 billion budget for 2008-09 biennium is driven by fees, which allow local government to keep taxes down. For \$1 billion, the state could fund five of its Top 15 funded

agencies, or Jerry Jones could build another football stadium in Arlington.

"If agencies are not collecting fees, what that means for taxpayers is that they will have to pick up the slack," said Michael Sullivan, president of the nonprofit Texans for Fiscal Responsibility. "A billion dollars represents all sorts of public services. It's a significant number, not just the quarters you find in your couch."

Some of the losses are typical for agencies that provide services before payment is rendered or that depend on people to pay fines for moving violations.

But some of the lost revenue comes from unlikely sources.

The Texas Ethics Commission could not collect a third of \$1.58 million of fees and penalties it assessed in fiscal 2007, which ran from Sept. 1, 2006, to Aug. 31, 2007.

Most of that money is owed by public officials who were fined for filing late finance reports. And the Texas Department of Insurance left on the table two-thirds of \$6.4 million it was supposed to collect.

About \$1 billion was left uncollected in fiscal 2006 as well.

"It's incumbent on our state agencies to collect these fees," said Sullivan.

Most state agencies turn delinquent customers over to collection agencies. Tim Sorrells, deputy general counsel of the Ethics Commission, said a vast majority of fines are paid. If they are not paid, they are eventually referred to the attorney general's office for collection. This prevents the filer from receiving payments from the state.

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**  
**Memory Gardens**  
Cemetery & Mausoleum of Pampa  
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memory-gardens.tripod.com

## Services tomorrow

**HOUSER, Wilborene "Willie"** — Memorial services, 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

## Evalyn J. Adams, 86

Evalyn J. Adams, 86, went home to the loving arms of her Lord and Savior on Dec. 26, 2008, in Pampa, Texas.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Adams was born Nov. 24, 1922, in Desdemona, Texas. She was a homemaker for many years, but later was employed by various businesses in the Panhandle area. She loved cooking, crocheting and singing.

Evalyn loved the Lord and served Him in many areas of her adult life. She was a member of the First Baptist Church, where The Sonshiners and her Sunday School class were very special to her.

Survivors include one son, Don Adams and wife Carlene of Pampa; four grandchildren, Tim Fort and wife Amy of Lamar, Colo., Daran Adams and wife Andrea, and Terri Delemater, all of Round Rock, and Dawna Fisher of Austin; 12 great-grandchildren; one great-great-

granddaughter; two sisters-in-law; six nephews; and five nieces and their families.

When Evalyn arrived in Heaven, she was greeted by loved ones who preceded her in death. Those welcoming her home were Alvin, whom she was married to for 47 years; her daughter, Sharon Pearce; and her granddaughter, Dana Adams. Also there to meet her were her parents, Chester and Edna Jacobs; two brothers, Melvin and Bailey; and

three sisters, Opal, Agnes and Melba.

**MEMORIALS:** In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Sonshiners Senior Ministry, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 621, Pampa, TX 79066-0621.

The family extends a special appreciation to the staff of Hospice Care of the Southwest and Coronado Healthcare Center.

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whitley.com](http://www.carmichael-whitley.com).

## Lonnie Goodner, 96

Lonnie Goodner, 96, of Pampa, died Dec. 24, 2008, at Amarillo. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whitley.com](http://www.carmichael-whitley.com).

## Wilborene 'Willie' Houser, 71

Wilborene "Willie" Houser, 71, of Pampa, Texas, died Dec. 20, 2008, at Pampa.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, 2008, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Thacker Haynes, pastor of the United Methodist Church of McLean, officiating.

Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Houser was born Nov. 2, 1937, in Teague, Texas. She had been a

resident of Pampa for 46 years.

Willie was a member of the First Christian Church and the Moose Lodge. She was employed by Pampa Office Supply and Cuyler Street Clothing for many years.

She was a very talented artist and enjoyed painting. Willie was a wonderful cook and enjoyed sharing with family and friends.

Survivors include one



Houser

daughter, Michelle Smith and husband Robert of Amarillo; five grandchildren, Justin Anderson and Kelsey Anderson, both of Lone Grove, Okla., Amanda Anderson of Oklahoma City, Okla., and Cassidy Smith and Jordan Smith, both of Amarillo; one sister, Joyce Simon and husband Vincent of Pampa; one brother, Billy H. Pope and wife Carol of Victoria; and several

nieces and nephews.

Willie was preceded in death by her parents, Walter H. and Viola A. Pope; a brother, Jack Pope; a daughter, Stephanie Givens; and her husband, Jean Houser.

**MEMORIALS:** Olivia's Angels, c/o BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** The family will be at 1819 N. Russell in Pampa.

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whitley.com](http://www.carmichael-whitley.com).

## Emergency Services

## Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office recorded the following arrests.

## Wednesday, Dec. 24

Harvey Ray Green, 48, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department for assault causing bodily injury, failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to appear.

Joe Calvin Sims, 41, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for assault causing bodily injury.

Jesus Maria Velasquez Jr., 39, of Pampa was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated, third or more offense.

## Thursday, Dec. 25

Victoria Olivas, 22, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for open container, no driver's license, failure to appear and on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana.

Isaac Lee Rodriguez, 21, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for possession of a controlled substance, evading arrest with a vehicle, evading and no driver's license.

Judah Benjamin Hart, 25, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for assault causing bodily injury/family violence.

## Friday, Dec. 26

Luis Alfonso Longoria, 27, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for driving while intoxicated,

failure to identify, disorderly conduct-language, driving left of center, no driver's license, no valid driver's license, failure to appear, failure to maintain financial responsibility and a warrant for failure to maintain financial responsibility.

## Fire

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

## Wednesday, Dec. 24

1:48 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky on a call for medical assistance.

1:49 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 900 block of Schneider on a call for medical assistance.

## Thursday, Dec. 25

2:16 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 800 block of West 25th on a false alarm.

6:12 p.m. — Three units and seven personnel responded to the 1200 block of Christine on a structure fire.

## Ambulance

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

a.m. today.

## Wednesday, Dec. 24

10:51 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transferred a patient to BSA Hospital in Amarillo.

11:44 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 400 block of Naida. No transport.

1:21 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 700 block of North Nelson and transported a patient to PRMC.

1:51 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.

4:56 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to BSA Hospital and transferred a patient to PRMC.

5:53 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transported a patient to a local health care facility.

10:40 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC for the transfer of a patient(s) to LifeStar helicopter for transport.

## Thursday, Dec. 25

2:50 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2400 block of Rosewood and transported a patient to PRMC.

1:01 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 700 block of East Malone. No transport.

10:03 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2700 block of North Hobart.

## CITY BRIEFS

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

**LIFESTYLES AND CHURCH PAGE EARLY**  
Deadline for notices in the Jan. 2, 3 & 4th (weekend edition), deadline is Tues. Dec. 30th, at noon for church news, anniversary, engagement, cradle call, etc. Happy New Year from the Pampa News!

**MINIATURE DACHSHUND Puppies.** Mom & Dad on property. Males \$250. Females \$300. 898-0390.

**PAMPA NEWS** will close at noon on New Year's Eve, and there will not be a newspaper New Year's Day, so that employees may spend time with their family & friends. Happy New Year from the Pampa News!!

## Handyman, stabbed, dies in Corpus Christi garage

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — Police said an unidentified handyman bled to death on Christmas Day inside a garage where he lived and a 40-year-old woman was being questioned.

Police did not release the 41-year-old man's name pending the notification of his family.

The unidentified woman, who police said they intend to pursue murder charges against, told authorities she and her boyfriend had an argument about whether he was seeing someone else. After the stabbing, the woman and a neighbor called 911 and officers arrived about 12:50 p.m. at the home in a neighborhood not far from

Oso Beach Municipal Golf Course, Lt. Isaac Valencia said in a story for the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

Sherri McCune, who lives in the house with her teenage son and daughter, said the victim was also a mechanic. He had been living in her garage sleeping up in a makeshift plywood loft since August after he fell on hard times, McCune said.

"He fixed one of my cars," she said.

She and her children were at a Christmas dinner when he was stabbed. They had planned to drop off some leftovers at the house and head out to see a movie when they pulled up and found police cars and crime scene tape.

## Crime

Continued from Page 1

smoke when they arrived, and upon entering the residence, they found the victim already deceased," Powell said.

The death was ruled an accident and determined to have been caused by smoke and soot inhalation, according to Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Kurt Curfman.

### February

**Law Enforcement** (Feb. 22) A Gray County sheriff's deputy who was placed on administrative leave with pay pending results of an investigation into alleged wrongdoing was cleared of the allegation and reinstated, according to a news release from the sheriff's office.

"The investigation by Texas Rangers into a complaint made by a citizen against a Gray County deputy sheriff has been completed," Sheriff

Don Copeland said in the release.

The deputy was off duty and at his home at the time of the incident, according to the release. The report received by the sheriff's office from the caller alleged that the deputy had fired a shot at the complainant, who was walking in the roadway with her pit bull dogs.

"There was a verbal exchange between the complainant and the deputy about the complainant keeping the dogs restrained so that the dogs would not be on the deputy's property and would not attack or otherwise harm the deputy's livestock and other property," Copeland said in the release.

"Investigation revealed that at least one of the dogs made an aggressive move toward the deputy, and a shot was fired by the deputy in order to keep the dog away from him," Copeland said in the release. "The shot was not directed toward a person or an animal."



Trash along the side of the road in a county right-of-way that includes refrigerators and other appliances came under scrutiny by the Gray County Commissioners Court in 2008. County Commissioner Gary Willoughby in conjunction with Top of Texas Ice Company instituted a program to remove refrigerators and other appliances from such appliances as required by law.

File photo

## Selma police search for missing girl

SELMA, Texas (AP) — Police say a 15-year-old girl has been abducted by her 23-year-old boyfriend.

Erika Camacho was last seen Wednesday evening wearing a white T-shirt, denim Capri pants and flip-flops. She is 5 feet 3 and weighs about 100 pounds.

The San Antonio Express-News reports Selma police said she was abducted by Ricardo Alvarado Mora.

Authorities said they recovered a blue 2000 Chevy Silverado that the couple was seen in, but they remain missing.

Mora has a mole above his left eyebrow and was last seen wearing a blue sweat shirt, jeans and tennis shoes. He is about 5 feet 4 and 140 pounds.

## Southern Okla. casino evacuated

THACKERVILLE, Okla. (AP) — Authorities say they didn't find any explosives in the WinStar World Casino near the Oklahoma-Texas state line after someone called in a bomb threat.

Sgt. Robby Williams of the Chickasaw Nation Lighthorse Police says employees and patrons were allowed back inside early Friday morning. The casino is again operating as usual.

Bomb dogs were brought in to scour the premises. No other buildings were evacuated.

The casino employs more than 2,400 full- and part-time workers and was working on an expansion to become Oklahoma's largest casino.

## Ambulance and car collide near Dallas

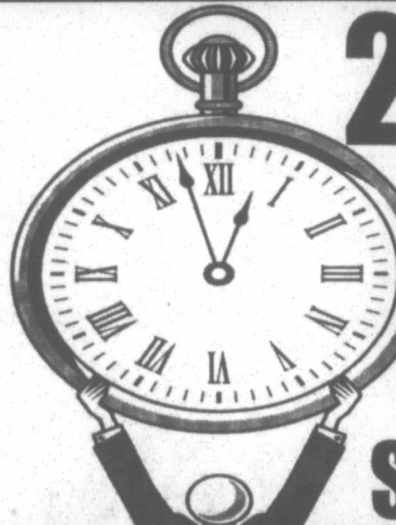
LEONARD, Texas (AP) — An ambulance collided with a car at a rural North Texas intersection, killing all three people inside the sedan.

Police in Leonard say the ambulance driver Thursday failed to see the Chevrolet Malibu before turning onto U.S. Highway 69. The car slammed into the ambulance, sending both vehicles off the road and leaving the ambulance on its side in a ditch.

Killed were Pamela

Kay Touart, 59, and her twin sons, Cameron Wayne Boudreau and Kipp Leonard Boudreau, both 29. The two paramedics in the ambulance were taken to a hospital and later released, the Sherman Herald Democrat reported.

Bonham Fire Chief Bill Palya says it did not appear the family wore seat belts. The ambulance was headed back to its station at the time of the accident.



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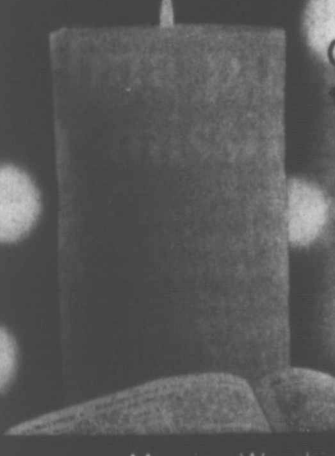
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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 26, the 361st day of 2008. There are five days left in the year. The seven-day African-American holiday Kwanzaa begins today.

Today's Highlight in History:

One hundred years ago, on Dec. 26, 1908, Jack Johnson became the first African-American boxer to win the world heavyweight championship as he defeated Canadian Tommy Burns in Sydney, Australia. (Johnson's victory sparked a search for a "great white hope" who would reclaim the title; Jess Willard accomplished the feat in 1915.)

On this date:

In 1776, the British suffered a major defeat in the Battle of Trenton during the Revolutionary War.

In 1799, former President George Washington was eulogized by Col. Henry Lee as "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

In 1917, during World War I, President Woodrow Wilson issued a

proclamation authorizing the government to take over operation of the nation's railroads.

In 1941, Winston Churchill became the first British prime minister to address a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress.

In 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, the embattled U.S. 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne, Belgium, was relieved by units of the 4th Armored Division.

In 1972, the 33rd president of the United States, Harry S. Truman, died in Kansas City, Mo., at age 88.

In 1996, 6-year-old beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey was found beaten and strangled in the basement of her family's home in Boulder, Colo. (To date, the slaying remains unsolved, despite a widely publicized "confession" by John Mark Karr.)

In 2006, former President Gerald R. Ford died in Rancho Mirage, Calif., at age 93.

Ten years ago: President Clinton, in his weekly radio address, urged Congress to lower the blood-alcohol limit for drunken driving nationwide to .08 percent.

One year ago: Joe Dolan, one of Ireland's first pop music stars, died in suburban Dublin at age 68.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Donald Moffat is 78. Actor Carroll Spinney (Big Bird on TV's "Sesame Street") is 75. Rhythm-and-blues singer Abdul "Duke" Fakir (The Four Tops) is 73. Record producer Phil Spector is 68. "America's Most Wanted" host John Walsh is 63. Baseball Hall of Fame catcher Carlton Fisk is 61. Country musician Brian Westrum (Sons of the Desert) is 46. Rock musician Lars Ulrich (Metallica) is 45. Rock singer Chris Daughtry is 29. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ryan Shaw is 28. Actor Zach Mills is 13.

## Four weeks and counting

By Martha Randolph Carr

Every four years there is a certain ennui in the political air as the reins of power change hands at the very top of the governmental game and we await a new presidential administration. A minimum amount of optimism can even be stirred during the years when we have 'reelected' the same guy one more time.

This is proof positive that at heart we are an optimistic crowd who believe that with a little tweaking and some reflecting on the past this time will be much better. It doesn't seem to matter that that has rarely ever happened. We believe in presidential fairytales, none the less.

Obama seems to hold the promise of something magical and a whiff of change hangs in the air. Adults everywhere go to bed and dream of being able to buy googaws and gadgets again without care.

There ought to be some kind of special advent calendar for the

occasion. Behind each window would be the face of a new cabinet member or a proposed bailout or tax break or maybe even the longed-for face of the new family pet.

Obama has done his best to temper the mood but without much success. Partially, this is because of how bad things have become lately.

We either have to believe that some good is right around the corner or give up altogether. But, one of the reasons Americans often come up with a Hail Mary just at the last possible moment is because we're desperately searching for it and we are willing to try.

So, once upon a time there was a new president who wanted to appeal to our better selves and said enough with locking up suspected terrorists on a tiny island nicknamed Gitmo. We will abide by the Geneva Convention and no longer refuse to not only give people a speedy trial but even reveal exactly who is sitting there waiting.

Next, the vice-president elect

Biden will not be tasked with rescuing big business or the environment but the middle class. That was a surprising twist in the story because usually the average taxpayers are tied to the railroad tracks as something bigger rides right over them crying about how they'll go out of business if they're forced to pay their fair share.

Another surprising twist in the new fairy tale would be if we used a little more reason and common sense and allowed everyone to pull their own bloated weight.

There are also other bits of fairy dust already sprinkled over the story such as a promise of jobs through the rehabilitation of fallen-down infrastructures and perhaps universal health care or new energy sources.

Time will tell, of course, what the last chapters of the story will turn out to be. As much as the few grumps among us may hope for a sour turn of events, let's still hope for the happy ending and perhaps then, a new beginning for all of us.



## Editorial Thoughts

By The Associated Press

Fort Worth Star-Telegram on childhood obesity:

School cafeterias receive a disproportionate share of the blame for child obesity. A Penn State University study last week gave equal blame to genes and family lifestyles that encourage inactivity and bad eating habits.

Child obesity rates have continued to rise even as cafeterias have raised nutritional standards. About one-third of U.S. children are overweight. The food environment in schools differs significantly. A 2005 study of 395 U.S. public schools gave far higher grades to elementary schools. Middle and high schools were more likely to have vending machines, snack bars and contracts with soft drink companies.

Educators have more opportunity to shape the eating habits of youngsters. The Northwest school district will attempt to do just that in January when it begins offering free prepackaged fruit and vegetables to pupils in Sendera Ranch and O.A. Peterson elementary.

The concept, called CoolCaf, was designed by ARAMARK, the district's food service vendor, after extensive

nationwide research and focus groups.

Pupils will be able to grab fare such as apples, oranges, bananas, corn or carrot sticks from a produce bar regardless of whether they buy a school lunch that day. The concept will be augmented by classroom instruction on the importance of good nutrition. The pilot program is the first of its kind in Texas. Let's hope that programs such as CoolCaf can help turn the tide.

Austin American-Statesman on the SEC failing investors:

As the profits soared and the money kept piling up, no one wanted to look behind the curtain to see how it was being done. A few shouted that it had to be phony, but no one dared to look too closely at Bernard Madoff's highly successful operation for fear it would end.

Regulators at the Securities and Exchange Commission were warned a decade ago that Madoff's operation was a fraud. Over the years, repeated complaints about Madoff were ignored by the SEC and other agencies and regulators.

Only this month, when Madoff was arrested, did the world learn that he was indeed running a multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme and had been for

years. Once again the SEC, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, financial auditors and other watchdogs failed to protect thousands of companies, people and charities who had invested a total of \$50 billion.

Much the same thing happened with Enron when it fell apart in 2001. Regulators and auditors slept while company executives looted and lied their way to riches.

How did the SEC, which ballooned in staff and budget after the Enron scandal, ignore years of complaints about Madoff and evidence that the returns he claimed were impossible? Clearly, the SEC is a broken, failed agency. Can anything be done to prevent the next Enron or Madoff?

President-elect Barack Obama is trying by naming Mary L. Schapiro to be the next chair of the SEC. She is a former SEC commissioner and is executive director of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. She knows the landscape well.

Obama promised that Schapiro and Gary Gensler, his new chairman of the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, will bring new rigor to Wall Street oversight. Obama said there would be new, more

stringent rules and more protection for investors.

We hope he's right. Wall Street has been out of control for years, bundling questionable assets and reselling them for ever-higher prices, awarding executives billions in bonuses and speeding through every warning sign of trouble until the bubble burst and the nation was brought low. And the SEC, for its part, slept through it all.

"Financial regulatory reform will be one of the top legislative priorities of my administration," Obama said in announcing the appointments of Schapiro and Gensler. "These individuals will help put in place new, common-sense rules of the road that will protect investors, consumers and our entire economy from fraud and manipulation by an irresponsible few."

Schemers and scammers will always be among us. But regulatory authorities should take their work seriously, not wave off a decade of warnings and ignore obvious signs of impossible returns on investments. Schapiro, Gensler and the rest can't save all Americans from bad or phony investments, but they should be willing to look behind the curtain and sniff out a \$50 billion fraud.

## THE PAMPA NEWS

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## New Year's Eve service



submitted photo  
The North Fork Band will be performing at Briarwood Church, 1800 W. Harvester, during its New Year's Eve service which is set to begin at 9 p.m. and last through 12 a.m. The congregation will usher in the New Year with music and prayers. Singers from the church will perform as well and refreshments will be served before the New Year begins. The New Year's Eve service is open to the public.

## Mother's Day Out



submitted photo  
The 3- and 4-year-old Mother's Day Out classes at First Christian Church recently went caroling at the local nursing homes. Above: (Back row, left-right) Grayson, Mario, Lance, Tyler, Moses, Kendell, Ethen; (front row, l-r) Lily, Olivia, Jolee, Catelyn, Lily, Damien, Brooklyne, Harley, Yena and Kenleigh.

## Highland Baptist



submitted photo  
A group of women from Highland Baptist Church recently provided blankets for each of the residents at Pampa Nursing Center. Above: (Standing, from left) Minnie Emmons, Melba Lang, Ruth Baird, Jan Hawkins and (bottom, right) Leta Jeffers with PNC resident Betty Nichols.



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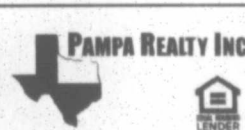
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This weekly series brought to you by these area businesses.

# 2008: YEAR IN REVIEW

## Year

Continued from Page 1

by Amarillo author Meriwyn Dye Webb.

The Pampa Economic Development Corporation elected Ken May as president, Dennis Stowers as vice president, Gary Sutherland as treasurer, Kathy Cota as secretary, Tyson Curtis as assistant treasurer and James Bradley as assistant secretary. Stowers would later resign, citing MAY — pressing business concerns, and Cota would resign to take a job as the EDC's administrative assistant.

The school board, in their first meeting of the year, heard a progress report on the high school renovations. In their second meeting in January, they approved the donation of 40 acres north of Pampa by the Campbell

family for a new junior high school. The \$22 million bid to build the new junior high would be approved before the end of the year.

The Carson County Commissioners' Court approved a tax reinvestment zone for Mesa Power's proposed wind farm in January, 2008. The Gray County Commissioners' Court approved a reinvestment zone across the northern third of the county the previous fall.

While Dallas billionaire and Roberts County rancher T. Boone Pickens expects to proceed with the project, it was put on hold this past fall as a nationwide financial crash spread around the world.

Gray County received a little more than 24 inches of moisture in 2007, but January turned dry and the county commission adopted a burn ban as 2008 started. By the end of January, fire crews from the Pampa Fire Department and the

Hoover Volunteer Fire Department were battling grass fires near town.

The Texas Panhandle Regional Water Group started 2008 arguing over the amount of water to be stored in the Ogallala Aquifer over the next 50 years. The Dumas-based North Plains Groundwater Conservation District accepted a 50 percent storage rate over 50 years, known as the 50-50 rule, but wanted the rate averaged over the entire district instead of tracts within the district. That would enable irrigation farmers in the western panhandle to pump and higher rates while storage would be higher in the eastern part of the district.

The Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, in which Pampa is located, already has rules that call for a 50-50 goal based on smaller tracts within the district.

As the years progressed, the Hemphill County Underground Water District passed more conservative rules that called for having 60 percent of the groundwater in storage in 50 years. That debate will likely continue well into 2009.

Elizabeth Terry with the Pampa FFA had the grand champion barrow at the Gray County Junior Livestock Show. Emily Licklider had the reserve champion barrow.

Niklas DeLeon had the grand champion goat, and Hilary Thomas had the reserve champion goat.

As January, 2008, drew to a close, law enforcement officials from El Paso testified in a Waynesville, Mo., hearing concerning Levi King in connection with the murders of a man and his daughter-in-law in Pineville, Mo. In April, King would plead guilty to the September, 2005, Missouri killings in return for two consecutive life sentences without parole.

King is scheduled to go on trial in Pampa early in 2009 for the deaths of a family south of town in September, 2005.

As January turned to February, Daniel Stevens, president and CEO of Stevens Financial Group, LLC, came to Pampa in an effort to stave off bankruptcy for United Medi Corp. As the largest investor in United Medi Corp, Stevens said he had loaned the company some \$76,000 just to make payroll for a couple of months.

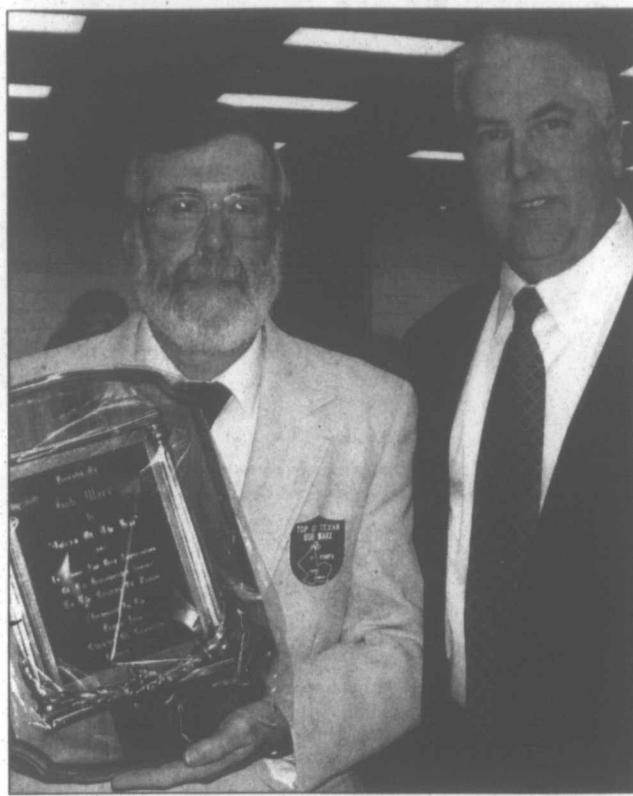
Unfortunately, there would be reports by the end of 2008, that the payroll was not being met.

In Austin, as the 80th session of the Texas Legislature started, Pampa's Warren Chisum, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee began studying House Bill 1, which called for a \$147.6 billion budget for the biennium. In February, Gray County Commissioner Gerald Wright announced that he would not run for reelection, thus ending a 24-year career in county government. His term ends Dec. 31.

The Pampa Regional Medical Center announced a new CEO, Todd Lorenz, in February. He replaced Alan King as chief of the hospital administrator.

On Valentine's Day, 2008, Good Samaritan Christian Services celebrated its 25th year of operation.

Also in February, Boone Pickens filed for a seat on the Panhandle Groundwater



file photo—  
In February, 2008, Bob Marx was named 2007 Citizen of the Year at the annual Greater Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce banquet.

Conservation District. He later withdrew and supported Steve Hale of Roberts County. Hale ran unopposed.

Kent Dyson was elected chairman of the Gray County Appraisal Review Board. Nama Webb was elected vice-chairman, and Beth Miller was elected secretary.

As dry conditions continued across the panhandle, fires were reported across Gray County and Lake Meredith dropped below 50 feet for the first time since the reservoir was built in the 1960s.

As the March 4, presidential primary approached, former President Bill Clinton campaigned in Amarillo for his wife Hillary and the nomination of the Democratic Party, and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee campaigned in Amarillo for the Republican nomination.

A few days after celebrating his 63rd birthday, Pampa City Manager John Horst announced his plan to retire after 20 years with the City of Pampa. Trevlyn Pitner, then Pampa Police Chief, would be appointed interim city manager in April and city manager in July. Pitner would announce in November that he was leaving to take a job in the private sector in

percent of the vote in the Republican primary.

Don Fletcher won 62 percent of the Republican votes.

Fletcher was first elected Precinct 4 constable in 2004 on the promise that he would vacate the office and save taxpayer money. State law requires that the office be vacant for at least seven consecutive years before it can be abolished.

Local Democrats favored Hillary Clinton over Barack Obama by 738 votes to 421.

Republicans went to John McCain with 1,538 versus Mike Huckabee with 1,412.

Happy State Bank acquired eight Citibank Financial Centers in the Texas Panhandle, including two in Pampa, making it the second largest bank in the panhandle with assets of \$900 million.

Gray County initiated a monthly collection day for unwanted refrigerators.

Top of Texas Ice initiated the free service after Gray County Commissioner Gary Willoughby started clearing county roads and right of ways of dumped appliances and furniture. Under the Clean Air Act, appliances with refrigeration units must have the coolant removed and

Corporation along with numerous donations would bring the wall to the M.K. Brown Civic Center Parking lot for Veteran's Day in November.

Christopher Homen of Groom, a member of the White Deer FFA program had the grand champion pig at the San Antonio Livestock Show.

Congressman Mac Thornberry came to Pampa in March to complain about a lack of leadership in Congress.

He said that since January, 2007, the august body had passed and the President had signed into law 197 bills. Forty-seven percent of them dealt with federal buildings. Eighty percent were so uncontroversial that 10 percent or fewer Congressmen voted against them.

The Gray County Commission instituted a new \$500 fee for those wishing to cross county roads with pipelines or utility lines.

Pampa sales tax receipts continued to rise through March.

The family owning the Rocking H Ranch near Lefors was named ranching family of the year by the Top of Texas Cattlewomen. Pat Youngblood, her daughters and grandchildren, owns the ranch.

Ken Curtis won the March 8, Pampa Slot Car Speedway drag race with an elapsed time of 0.98 seconds. Dylan Zawiki was second.

A group of area medical professionals, including Dr. Jim Hall of Pampa, formed a non-profit agency to improve emergency care in 24 rural counties of the Texas Panhandle.

The City of Pampa had to deal with vicious dogs on the loose in March.

Sheila Eccles complained to the city commission that while the city had written \$3,364 in tickets for loose dogs, they had collected only \$735 in fines.

As March winds blew, Pampa businessman Billy Scribner complained to the city commission that he was having problems with trash on his property on the city's north side.

"I've got 250 acres of plastic bags," Scribner said.

He said one of his calves had died after eating some of the bags.

Robert Clark of Miami donated a four-seater aircraft, a Beech Musketeer, to the Beechcraft Museum in Tennessee. It was a model that was built in Liberal, Kan., rather than at the company's main plant in Wichita. Clark bought the plane after finding it advertised in The Pampa News in 1990.

As March drew to a close, the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District approved the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority's latest expansion of the water authority's Roberts County well field.

The Canadian River Municipal Water Authority provides water from Lake Meredith to its 11 member cities, including Pampa, but as the water level at the lake continued to drop, the water authority pumped the groundwater from north of Pampa more aggressively. The lake would set record lows in July before rain in the watershed would start to refill the lake.

Tarpley Music closed its doors on Cuyler Street at the end of March after 80 years in Pampa.

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**Medical Fund established for Jose (Joe) Romero of Pampa who suffers from Lukemia/Graft versus Host disease at Happy State Bank.**  
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- Adverse Drug Effects (ADEs) may rank between the 4th and 6th leading causes of death.
- The annual cost of drug-related morbidity and mortality is estimated to be \$17.7 billion in the U.S.
- At greatest risk for medication-related problems are Americans over 65. While medications are probably the single most important factor in improving the quality of life for seniors, this population remains especially susceptible to medication-related problems.
- Taking four or more of the same medications increases the risk for falls in seniors.

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file photo—  
Trevlyn Pitner was named Pampa City Manager after John Horst retired in March. Pitner resigned in November.

Dallas.

As February drew to a close, The Pampa News welcomed Randy Pribble as the new publisher of the newspaper.

The Pampa Fine Arts Association named Kayla Pursley patron of the year and Kevin Costley artist of the year.

February ended with the retirement of Kimberly Lincycumb. She first went to work for the city in 1982. Most recently she took charge of the streets and parks department in 1995, getting up at 4 a.m. on cold winter mornings to clear Pampa streets.

As March blew in, 16 percent of the 27,800 registered voters in Gray County cast their ballots in the primaries.

Gray County Sheriff Don Copeland won 86

properly disposed of before it can be discarded.

Adrien and Carl-Eric Alexis, brothers from Belgium, stopped in Pampa in early March as they bicycled across the United States.

Martin Vosseler, a retired physician from Switzerland, walked through Pampa on his trek from Los Angeles to Boston in an effort to promote renewable energy sources.

Memory Gardens Cemetery hosted their Fourth Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Danny Martin of the Pampa VFW post announced plans to bring the traveling exhibit of the Vietnam War Memorial to Pampa. The Pampa Economic Development

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# Comics

## Marmaduke



"He just wants to show you what he got for Christmas, Luther."

## For Better Or Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## B.C.



## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Flo & Friends



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Daddy! Somebody left a gift for you here under the mistletoe!"

## Daily Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

#### ACROSS

- 1 Western flora
- 6 Almanac fill
- 11 Pal of Aramis
- 12 Kind of committee
- 13 Showed again
- 14 Caesar's land
- 15 Believers
- 17 Pocket fuzz
- 18 Shopper's aid
- 20 Recipe units
- 22 Curator's concern
- 23 Smoker's need
- 26 Stallone role
- 28 Uncertain state
- 29 Absence of order
- 31 — Dhabi
- 32 Benefit
- 33 "You there!"
- 34 Yule trees
- 36 Sailing hazard
- 38 Came up
- 40 Leaning
- 43 Polite refusal
- 44 Soapbox Derby setting

|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| COPS     | TINTED |
| ABUT     | OTOOLE |
| SOLO     | GAVELS |
| TELLTALE |        |
| BEE      | INFER  |
| PLANE    | CAUSE  |
| LUC      | LAD    |
| ARKIN    | APLUS  |
| YESNO    | WEB    |
| LIBERACE |        |
| VALISE   | UCLA   |
| ATONES   | SKIS   |
| NEWEST   | ESPY   |

#### Yesterday's answer

|    |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |    |
|----|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|
| 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6  | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 |   |   |   |   | 12 |   |   |   |    |
| 13 |   |   |   |   | 14 |   |   |   |    |
| 15 |   |   |   |   | 16 |   |   |   |    |
| 17 |   |   |   |   | 18 |   |   |   |    |
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| 43 |   |   |   |   | 44 |   |   |   |    |
| 45 |   |   |   |   | 46 |   |   |   |    |

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# Boy's disappearance 47 years ago still a mystery

WICHITA FALLS, Texas (AP) — Children don't just disappear...

That's what most people living in Wichita Falls in the 1960s thought.

But Dec. 9, 1961, 11-year-old Andy Sims vanished, launching what has become a 47-year-old mystery — What happened to Andy?

Andy, who was in the fifth-grade at Jefferson Elementary School, lived at 4600 Stanford, a corner house tucked into a quiet neighborhood not far from what today is Southwest Parkway. That part of town has developed a lot since the early 1960s when it was a newer suburban area still surrounded by dairy and pasture land.

Andy was home with his brother Donald, who was older by a year, that morning while their mother, Ellen, a nurse, was working. The boys' stepfather, William Sims, was in the National Guard and had been called up with the 49th Armored Division to go to Fort Polk, La., during the Berlin crisis.

Saturday morning dawned with fog ghosting across Wichita Falls, but about the time Andy — dressed for winter in a coat and knit cap — was said to have gone outside to play early in the afternoon, bits of blue sky were starting to peek through the clouds.

Any other day, Andy might have ridden his bicycle; but on that day, it was broken.

The temperature broke briefly from the colder, drizzly weather that had settled over the area. The mercury spiked into the 50s before frigid winds rattled it down to freezing by the next morning. The cold would seize the city for days, the chill not letting up as volunteers, many summoned by pleas on television broadcasts, joined law enforcement and emergency workers in massive but fruitless searches for Andy.

That same Saturday, hundreds of miles away in California, Steve Douglass turned 2, unaware as he would be for decades that Andy Sims existed, and that Andy was his older half brother.

Growing up, Douglass knew his father had been married before. He knew his father had a son, Donald, but didn't come across the first mention of Andy until he started researching his family's history after his father, Donald Ace Douglass Sr., who was Andy's biological father, died in 2001.

Steve Douglass, who lives in Gahanna, Ohio, and is retired from the police force there, traveled to Wichita Falls this year with longtime colleague and friend Becky Wolfe to see what they might be able to learn about Andy's life and disappearance.

Douglass doesn't hold out much hope for finding Andy, who would now be a 58-year-old man, alive. He is prepared for the probability of a far less favorable outcome, one many others share.

"As a police officer, I find it very difficult to believe that he simply wandered off and succumbed to the elements and they never found a body," Douglass said.

If something happened to Andy, whether he fell victim to the weather or other circumstances or met with foul play, Douglass wants to find out what happened.

Even if they can't solve what happened to him, Douglass hopes to find Andy to give him a proper burial.

## Open investigation

Wichita Falls police, who were first notified that Andy was missing about 8 p.m. Dec. 9, 1961, also still hope to learn what happened to him, mainly to bring whatever closure they can to Andy's family, said Sgt. Bill Henning, who supervises the Criminal Investigation Section.

Andy was home between noon and 12:30 p.m. that Saturday when Ellen Sims called the house and talked to Donald, the investigation showed. Donald reported Andy left the house between 12:45 and 1 p.m. to go out to play, Detective Tony Fox said.

"That was the last time he was actually seen by anyone," Fox said.

Fox has taken the lead on the decades-old case, which is still an open investigation. The documents from the 1961 police work add up to a stack a couple of inches thick.

Ellen Sims returned home about 2:30 p.m. She had done some shopping, the case records showed.

Members of Andy's family were the first to search for him. The boys' mother sent Donald out to look for his brother, and other family members joined in the unsuccessful search.

The family called the police about 8 p.m., and later called again.

Andy's disappearance is classified, as it has always been, as a missing person case with the Wichita Falls Police Department.

"We're currently re-looking at the case," Henning said.

Although some of the information was probably lost with people who have since died, there are still people living today who might hold key details; and investigators hope to have another chance to see if they can help piece together what really happened that December nearly five decades ago.

Detectives received information over the years, but not really any new leads. They want to see if memories now might be able to unlock some new paths to investigate. Sometimes, people remember a vital piece of information after a case has gone cold. Perhaps that detail didn't seem to mean much at the time. Other times, people want to tell something they held back at the time, something they might have been afraid or reluctant to share, or something they have lived with over the years that they want to get off their chests now.

Fox has been able to talk with some of the original officers who worked on the case.

"It's really good to be able to call those guys," he said.

It didn't take more than a few words — a child who disappeared in 1961 for the case to register.

Andy.  
"He knew the name," Henning said of one of the investigators.

Just as there are cases Henning and Fox will never forget, the same thing holds true for their predecessors, Fox said.

Charles Trainham, who retired from the department as a major in 1991, was working there when Andy disappeared. A copy of the case stayed in his office for the rest of his career.

"Some cases just kind of touch at you, draw at your heartstrings," he said. Andy's was one of those. He was there one day and gone the next. There was no crime scene, no tangible evidence, Trainham said.

Andy merely vanished; and although the investigators at the time had their suspicions about what happened to him, without being able to pinpoint exactly where he might be, it was impossible to say for sure what happened, impossible to recover any remains, Trainham said.

There were a lot of searches, he remembered.

"The initial investigation was very thorough," Fox said.

Fort Sill, Civil Defense, Marine Reserves, members of the Sheriff's Mounted Patrol and others worked with volunteers to comb the area, searching Andy's usual hangouts and places it seemed a child might have gone to escape the cold.

Volunteers searched a cemetery within eyesight of the family's home.

One person reported seeing someone who matched Andy's description at the Boy Scout Hut near Lake Wichita about 3 p.m. Dec. 9, just a few hours after Andy left his house.

Lake Wichita was searched several times, and it was dragged, Fox said. Still no sign of Andy.

The surrounding neighborhoods, which were undergoing quite a bit of development, held plenty of places to look; but nothing turned up any trace of Andy despite searches by land and by air. A helicopter flew over the area, offering a new look at the scenery.

Some of Andy's friends told police he liked to play in some caves near Fairway Boulevard, but checks there turned up nothing.

Patrol officers brainstormed, thinking of people they knew who might harm children. Detectives talked to people who in those days were known to "have a liking for children." They visited the jail to follow up on information from conversations.

The tools detectives had at their fingertips were far different than the ones they have today. Cell phones wouldn't come into their hands for a few decades still, and land-line long distance calls were expensive but necessary to keep connected with agencies outside the city that might be able to offer some insight. E-mail also didn't exist, so any written correspondence took longer.

Still, the efforts stretched far from home. The department connected with agencies in the area and across state lines as authorities worked to track down any trace of Andy Sims.

One report suggested the boy might have wanted to visit his grandparents in Little Rock, Ark. He never turned up there.

People reported sightings in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri; and investigators followed up on all of those tips, Fox said. The FBI became involved as well as the Texas Department of Public Safety. Andy was listed in a missing persons bulletin, much like the ones DPS issues today.

**A sweet kid**  
Andy's family had lived in Wichita Falls for just a short time.

Before he left for his military duties, Bill Sims, the boys' stepfather, taught English at Midwestern

University.

Bill Sims welcomed Ellen Sims' boys into his world, getting to know them even when they were young, his widow, Janie Sims, said. Janie and Bill married after Bill and Ellen divorced in the early 1980s. Bill Sims died in August. Janie Sims described reading some of his diaries from the days when he was dating Ellen. He would baby-sit her boys, and she knew that he had always liked Andy.

"Bill always said he was a sweet kid," Janie Sims said.

He didn't tend to talk a lot about that time in his life, she said.

Photographs of Andy show a little boy with a bright smile that didn't fade as he grew older.

Andy and Donald took Sims' name, but they were born with the last name Douglass. Andy's full name at birth in summer 1950 was Scott Andreas Douglass. His brother, born in 1949, was Donald Ace Douglass Jr.

Their birth father moved to California and was settled into marriage and family life, which included Steve.

Donald Douglass Sr. and Ellen Sims had married in their teens, and they divorced while the boys were young. Steve Douglass learned as he delved into his family's past.

As he started his research, he didn't expect to feel a connection to the half brother he never knew, but Andy has become a member of his family.

He noticed the resemblance as he studied pictures he has received. He saw a picture of his father as a child, and looking at that one next to his own and photographs of Andy, he sees striking similarities.

"When I was his age, we looked a lot alike," Steve Douglass said.

He wants to learn as much as he can about the older half brother he grew up not knowing he had.

"I get the impression he was a very active kid," Douglass said during his trip to Wichita Falls.

He also came across some information indicating that Andy had been involved a couple years earlier in a traffic accident that had left him with some lasting effects.

## Scary time

Iris Carter and her family lived next door to the Sims family, who hadn't lived in the neighborhood long. They didn't really know one another, she said, but Andy's disappearance came as a shock.

"We'd see those boys out once in a while," and they would wave, Carter said.

The mystery from so long ago has never escaped Carter. She has wondered many times over the years what happened to Andy. It was such a quiet neighborhood, she said.

This type of thing didn't happen.

News of the disappearance shook some of the families who lived nearby.

"I was only 11 years old at the time, and it just scared the bejeebers out of me," said Mary Swartzell, who lived down the street from the Sims family on Stanford. Andy's family lived at the end of the block. Her family lived in the middle. Swartzell, who knew Andy only slightly, now lives in Tulsa, Okla. "Back then, people just didn't disappear," she said.

"All of us kids went up and down the block at all hours of the night," she said.

In those days, it was nothing for a child to be blocks, even miles away from home during a day playing outside until after dark, Henning and Fox acknowledged.

But it was something different altogether for a child not to return home.

## No word

A note penned to the side of a fifth-grade class list sums up one of the only certain things anyone can say about what happened to 11-year-old Andy Sims.

Disappeared... No word.

A faint pencil line runs through the typed letters that spell out Andy's name on the list for Mrs. Beasley's class in Room 6 at Jefferson Elementary School. He was a fifth-grader during the 1961-62 school year, one of 18,601 students enrolled in public schools in Wichita Falls at the time.

Jefferson Elementary School opened in 1959; and as it prepares for its 50th anniversary celebration, a collection of memorabilia has come in, highlighting faces, names and events from the school's half-century of history. Principal Pat Page found the book with Andy's class list in the collection, and seeing Andy's name after hearing for the first time about his disappearance gave him goose bumps.

"Andy was kind of a quiet boy, just a good guy," Leroy Chaddick remembered. Chaddick, who has spent his career at the Wichita Falls Fire Department, was in his first year at Jefferson that year, and he was also a fifth-grader in Andy's class.

He and Andy were school friends, the kind who talk about what's going on at school and play together at recess and eat lunch together, but don't really see each other outside the school day. He and Andy were probably pretty similar in nature, he thinks. Neither was loud nor the first to speak up.

"I think everybody liked him," Chaddick said.

And then Andy was gone.

Chaddick first learned about Andy's disappearance from his parents, who saw it on the news.

## Hoping for the best

Andy was a Tenderfoot the first rank in Scouting and new to Boy Scout Troop 22, of which Bill Fortune was the cubmaster.

Fortune is still involved with Scouting and that troop today.

As Wichita Falls was getting ready for Christmas that December, the Scouts were making preparations for a campout despite the cold weather. Andy disappeared a short time before his troop was supposed to have gone on that outing.

People searched the grounds the scouts used, traveling the area on horseback and looking in buildings, but they didn't find anything.

The boys, who were prepared for their night of camping, still went on the outing; and they just hoped Andy would show up, Fortune said.

"But he didn't," he said.

Research Correspondent Julie Coley contributed to this article.

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# PAMPA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

## 5 Special Notices

**ADVERTISING** Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

## 10 Lost/Found

**REWARD.** Lost male off-white Terrier type dog Dec. 20th. Neutered. Hard of hearing. "Sparky." 1800 bl. of Coffee. 440-1010.

## 13 Bus. Opp.

**GREAT** Investment opp. Pampa motel. Retired couple or individual. 665-1875, 806-383-1985.

## 14d Carpentry

**Carpentry, Roofing,** Replacement Windows, steel siding & trim. Continuous gutters. Jerry Nicholas 669-9991, 662-8169

**OVERHEAD DOOR** REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

**REMODELING** all types. Concrete, doors, tile, drywall. Brian, 806-664-9613.

## 14e Carpet Serv.

**NU-WAY** CLEANING SERVICE Bob Marx Owner-Operator. Call 665-3541.

## 14h Gen. Serv.

**HOUSE** Cracking? In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563

**COX Fence Company.** Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

**CERAMIC** tile work. Remodeling floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall. Free esti. Call 665-3453 leave message, Jesus Barraza.

**GOOCH'S** Bathroom Renovations. Complete Remodels. 848-2820. Free Estimates.

**HANDY Man** 24/7 Night or day F / Car detail T / windows. U name it I can do it. Robert 806-688-7878 h 806-664-4424 c Leave message

## 14h Gen. Serv.

**JH Concrete Work** Stamps, driveways, addition, fences, patios. Free Est. 806-382-5408.

## 14s Plumbing/Heat

**BROWNING'S** Heating & Air, a name you have trusted for over 44 yrs. Call Bill 665-1212

**CIRCLE M Plumbing.** Repair, Remodel. Resi. Comm. Over 30 yrs. as a Master Plumber. Mike J. McBride, M12260. Call 806-626-5204.

**JACK'S Plumbing, 715** W. Foster, 665-7115.

## 21 Help Wanted

**MECHANICS** Eastex Crude Co. is taking applications in Pampa, Tx. Applicants must have knowledge & exp. in servicing of diesel trucks, brakes and general repair. Full Benefit Pkg. (903) 856-2401 x 137 or (800) 443-8580 Clint

## 21 Help Wanted

**ST. Ann's Nursing** Home in Panhandle has an opening for a Full-Time Kitchen Helper. Complete benefits package. Must be able to work either day or evening shift and some weekends. Come in and apply or call Phyllis for more info., 537-3194.

**PAMPA Area Driver** Wanted. Local Bus Transit Company has a driver position open for the Pampa area. Applicant must have a good driving record, stable work history, neat and clean in appearance. Must pass D.O.T. Pre-employment drug screen and be acceptable to vehicle insurance policy. Bi-lingual is a plus. General knowledge of surrounding areas is helpful. Contact Panhandle Community Services 806-676-4727 ext. 255 for additional information and application. M-F 8:00-5:00. Equal Opportunity Employer. Application can be picked up 411 N. Cuyler between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

## 21 Help Wanted

**CHEMICAL** Delivery Driver. Oil field experience helpful. Mandatory drug test and background check. CDL with hazmat and air brake endorsement will be required during employment. Good benefits- 401k after 1st year of employment. Pampa - Canadian area. 1-806-228-5463 for application. 1-888-881-3248 (ask for Roger, Mike, or Chris)

**\$1500.00 SIGN ON BONUS PAMPA NURSING CENTER** is currently hiring a **NURSE AIDES** For All Shifts

Please apply in person to: **Mandi Martin RN, DON** 1321 W. Kentucky EEOE

## 21 Help Wanted

**NOTICE** Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

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## CONSTRUCTION LABORERS

Western Builders of Amarillo, Inc. is looking for experienced construction laborers for work at Pampa High School. Employment is subject to passing a drug test. Please contact construction superintendent:

**Jeff Popp** 806-672-5689

Western Builders of Amarillo, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against applicants or employees on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, pregnancy, national origin, veteran's status, age, disability, perceived disability or any other reason prohibited by applicable law.

**LARGE** Feedyard in Hedley, TX is looking for a Night Watchman. Benefits avail. Please apply in person at 3900 CR 23 in Hedley, between 7am-5pm.

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## 21 Help Wanted

**NEED** Maintenance person, part-time. Call 665-0415.

**VIBRA-WHIRL** SPORTS Seeking Construction Superintendent. Full time position. Travel req. Good benefits. Salary based on exp. For more info. please call 806-537-3526.

**OPPORTUNITY** for a person who loves babies. The First Baptist Church Child Development Center is looking for a loving teacher for a new baby class. Benefits available. Great work environment. Experience Preferred. Apply in person at 203 N West.

**CDL Drivers** wanted with tanker endorsement. Drug test required. Call Brad 216-0960, 256-5188

**JANITOR** needed. Part-time evenings, Mon-Fri. Please call 806-355-0821.

## 49 Pools/Hot Tubs

**DEMO SPA SPECIAL,** 50% OFF. Delivery. Call 806-358-9597.

## 50 Building Suppl.

**White House Lumber** 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

## 69 Misc.

**PAMPA NEWS** will close at noon on New Year's Eve, and there will not be a newspaper New Year's Day, so that employees may spend time with their family & friends. Happy New Year from the Pampa News!!

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**THE Schneider House,** new leasing apts., 1 & 2 bdr., utilities incl. 120 S. Russell or call 665-0415.

**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.

## 12-26 CRYPTOQUOTE

RUIW Z SMFO TOYW ITMKW

BKY ZD ZY WUO RMBOQ

RUM SZYWOQ WM ZW

— AKSOY LMODMKEW

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MAY YOU HAVE A JOYOUS DAY FOLLOWED BY YEARS OF PEACE AND RENEWED PROSPERITY. — YOUR PUZZLE FRIENDS

## 69 Misc.

**RED** Barn will be closed Christmas & New year's weekends.

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**2003 Yamaha** pw 50 w/ training wheels. Low hours & kept inside. Call 898-2323.

## 76 Farm Animals

**SHEPHERD** Pony & Min. donkey. Also horses. 663-9053 or 663-9054.

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**AKC** Min. Schnauzer puppies for sale. 1 m., 1 f. Shots started. Ready now! Please call 662-4940 after 3pm.

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**New Listing** 1128 Terry 3 bdr., \$59,900 MLS #08-8182

**Make Good Rental** 720 & 722 E. Browning 2617 sq. ft. duplex \$99,900 MLS #08-8100

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**NICE** Country Home, north of Pampa. 4 bdr., 4 ba., 3500 sq. ft. 15 acres. 806-664-2759.

**Owner Will Finance** EZ Terms 1333 Garland, 2 bdr., 1 ba., 1 car carport

**2011 Coffee** 3 bdr., 1 ba. could be 4 bdr. sunroom in back

**341 Miami** 3 bdr., 1 ba. Fenced Yard Call Milton 806-790-0827

**SMALL** 2 bdr. Central heat. Some hardwood. Utility room. 405 Perry. OWC. 662-7557.

## 115 Trailer Parks

**TUMBLEWEED** Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

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## DAILY HOROSCOPE

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, Dec. 27, 2008:

This year, decide to do what is important and make what you want a possibility. You might be extremely thrilled by the end results. If you're looking at another career, you could be most surprised by the alternatives that surround you. Tap into an innate talent or love. You'll be delighted by what heads down the path. If you are single, your magnetism peaks this year, drawing many admirers. Though this popularity might be very appealing, don't get too caught up and miss that special someone. If you are attached, let your sweetie have center stage more often. You could be thrilled by what heads down your path. CAPRICORN could be a soul mate.

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)

★★★★ If you know what you want, you can make it so. Listen to what others offer, but be ready to take action and move on a situation. Others respect your actions and ability to move key situations forward. Tonight: A must appearance.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Honor what is happening around your immediate circle. How you deal with someone and the choices you make will be much different if you distance yourself and approach a situation in another way. Tonight: Let your mind wander.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ A new beginning becomes possible. Allow a partnership to add more creativity and ingenuity into your

life. Hearing other opinions always helps. Be open to many different ways and approaches. Tonight: Dinner for two.

## CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Allow others to come forward and share more of themselves. Someone new or someone you care deeply about might be ready to approach your relationship differently. Why not? Tonight: So many options. Are you overwhelmed? LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Understand that even a vibrant sign like you can and will get tired. Slow down, relax and smell the roses. You will gain much more with this attitude. Someone lets you know how much he or she cares now that you can "hear" him or her. Tonight: Think "New Year's resolutions."

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Allow more play in and let go of this oh, so serious attitude that has been hanging out with you for way too long. You know there are options. Why not jump on the occasion and pretend you are an easygoing Taurus or some other sign? Tonight: Let your hair down.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ How you deal with a situation really depends on your values. If you are not comfortable, you will unravel this knot in what you deem is the appropriate manner. Someone really does worship the ground you walk on. Tonight: Close to home.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ The time to clear the air has arrived. You might not be able to change someone, but on the other hand, acceptance might have the same result, letting go of an unspoken pressure. Tonight: With favorite people.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Look at your budget now that the jig is up. You might discover several remedies if you discuss your ailing budget with different types of people. It might surprise you what you could opt for. Tonight: Your treat.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You feel on top of your game and able to advance nearly any project or idea. A lot of people around you might be going through the bah-humbugs post Christmas. Attempt to rally others' spirits. Tonight: Be yourself.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Take your time. If you want to take the day off, by all means, please do. As of late, you have given 100 percent; now do the same for yourself. Once you are recharged, it might be difficult to stop you. Tonight: Vanish. Know that you don't need to confess anything. Mum's the word.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Zero in on what you want, as you haven't up till now. A discussion with a key person in your life allows for a new beginning. Take the opportunity to learn what the possibilities are. Surround yourself with people. Tonight: And the party goes on and on.

## BORN TODAY

Scientist Louis Pasteur (1822), news correspondent Cokie Roberts (1943), actor Sydney Greenstreet (1879)

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

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# Hurricanes and economy hurt Texas churches

HOUSTON (AP) — Some religious centers are closing their doors, while others are laying off staff as a result of the struggling economy coupled with the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike.

They have responded by eliminating unfilled positions, recruiting volunteers to take on paid positions, reducing hours of operation to save energy costs and postponing building construction.

St. John's Methodist Church, of Houston, employs 40 and will see a 20 percent staff reduction between Christmas and New Year's Day, staffers were recently told by Rev. Rudy Rasmus, the pastor. Philanthropic gifts at St. John's are down 30 percent, Rasmus said. He's

having to cut services and budgets at the same time some are searching for spiritual anchors.

"It's hard to hear that kind of news and feel holiday cheer," said Rasmus in a story for the Houston Chronicle.

The Rev. Ken Gurley of First Church, of Pearland, says his congregation has helped to pay mortgages for three other Pentecostal churches.

"The combined effects of Katrina, Rita and then Ike have really stretched church resources to the max," Gurley said. "In all of these crises, churches literally emptied their pockets."

Several Evangelical Lutheran churches in Galveston and Houston were struggling even before Hurricane Ike,

which blasted ashore near Galveston on Sept. 13 flattening buildings and killing at least 37 people in Texas.

The Park Place Lutheran Church, of Houston, closed in November 2007, and a For Sale sign was planted in the front lawn. Financial problems contributed to the decision to close, said Bishop Mike Rinehart, with the Texas-Gulf Coast Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The property was recently sold.

At the Hare Krishna temple, a drop in donations, not attendance, has temporarily stopped construction on a new building.

Hansa Medley, the temple's outreach director,

said donations are down \$200,000 — 22 percent from November 2007 to November 2008. She's hoping construction will resume in February.

George Barna, founder of a research firm that studies Americans' religious habits and behavior, published a bleak report earlier this month about the impact of the economic downturn on churches. The Barna Group found that one out of five households had decreased its giving to churches or other religious centers, according to a telephone survey of 1,203 respondents nationwide. And among that group, 22 percent had stopped giving altogether.

Still, some religious leaders are hopeful December will again be a

good month for contributions. Barna estimates that as much as one-third of a church's annual revenue comes at the end of the year.

At Second Baptist Church, of Houston, for example, as much as 25 percent of its revenue typically arrives now.

The Rev. Gary Moore, senior associate pastor, said income from year-end stock sales and bonuses typically drive increased giving. And some people increase their donations to take advantage of tax write-offs.

*Have a safe  
New Year's Eve.  
Don't drink  
and drive.  
Designated drivers  
are heroes.*



## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I love my husband, but how do you make a man stop embarrassing you in public?

My husband flirts openly with cashiers right in front of me, and asks complete strangers walking by if they would "like to buy a wife cheap."

Yesterday we went out to lunch and the bill was \$18.42. He made a big fuss about it with the cashier, then loudly informed me it was my "fat a--" meal that cost so much. Abby, my meal was \$6. I died a million deaths that day.

My husband is proud to have the nickname "Mr. Rude." Many of my friends avoid him because of his rudeness. He tells me people think it's funny, but I know they are offended. -- NOT LAUGHING IN CINCINNATI

DEAR NOT LAUGHING: Excuse me? Is "Mr. Rude" the same man you married, or is his poor imitation of Henny Youngman something new? If it's something new, your husband needs his head examined. If it's the way he has always behaved and you have tolerated being ridiculed this way for years, then you need to tell him to knock it off or ask yourself why you put up with it.

Your husband's behavior is inexcusable. But, if necessary, two can play that "game." With a little time I'm sure you can come up with a retort or two that will teach him a lesson he won't forget. Revenge is a dish best served cold.

DEAR ABBY: I

am a bachelor by choice. I love my freedom. If I were interested in raising children, I would have married and had some.

My problem is a young man I'll call "Kyle." Kyle is 14 and attends the same house of worship that I do. He has become attached to my hip.

Whenever I go there, he changes seats to be near me. If I ask him to move for a moment so I can speak privately to someone, he gets a hurt look on his face.

The boy has few friends, probably because he's more intelligent than most teens. His father, also an intellectual, often puts Kyle down.

His mother told me Kyle talks about me often at home -- when he's not beating up his younger brother, raging at his parents or throwing temper tantrums.

How can I, without hurting this young man or changing my place of worship, get Kyle to find a buddy closer to his age? -- SOLO IN FLORIDA

DEAR SOLO: You should not be placed in the position of trying to solve this troubled family's problems. Kyle isn't looking for a "friend"; he is looking for a father.

Start by talking to your religious adviser and explaining what you know about Kyle's family situation. Perhaps his "intellectual" but insensitive father can be made to recognize that his son's problems stem from the need for a parent who loves, values and accepts him. And if he doesn't get it now, Dad may be paying for a lot of couch time later.

# Deals as hot as the phones.

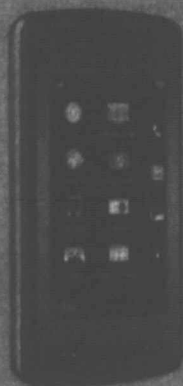
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Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 |   |   | 4 |   |   | 1 |   |   |
|   | 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 4 |   | 3 | 8 |   | 9 |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | 6 | 3 |   |   |
|   |   |   | 3 | 1 | 9 |   |   |   |
| 4 |   |   |   |   | 5 |   |   | 2 |
| 5 |   | 9 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 2 |   |   | 6 |   |   |   | 1 |
|   | 1 |   | 8 |   | 2 |   |   |   |

Level: Intermediate