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LEE

Then if my people who are called by

my name will humble themselves and

pray and seek my face and turn from

their wicked ways, I will hear from

heaven and will forgive their sins and

will heal their land.

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Wednesday, December 31, 2008 - Volume 104 • No. 230 50¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

2008: YEAR IN REVIEW Obama's election voted top news story



Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton debate at the Austin Democratic Debate in the Recreational Sports Center in February, 2008.

NEW YORK (AP)- The epic election that made Barack Obama the first African-American president was the top news story of 2008, followed closely by the economic meltdown that will test his leadership, according to U.S. editors and news directors voting in The Associated Press' annual poll.

The campaign, with subplots emerging throughout the year, received 100 first-place votes out of 155 ballots cast for the top 10 stories. Two other political sagas, the history-making candidacies of Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sarah Palin, also made the list.

The vast economic crisis, plunging the U.S. into recession and ravaging many business sectors worldwide, was the No. 2 story, receiving 49 first-place votes. The precipitous rise and fall of oil prices was No. 3.

The top story of 2007 was the massacre of 32 people at Virginia Tech University by a mentally disturbed student gunman.

Here are 2008's top 10 stories, as voted by AP members:

1. U.S. ELECTION: Obama emerged from Election Night as a decisive victor and a symbol for the world of America's democratic promise. But he reached that point only after a grueling battle with Clinton for the Democratic nomination and then an often-nasty showdown with the McCain/Palin ticket in the run-up to the election. See Top 10, Page 3

In Texas, Ike dominated news

By JEFF CARLTON
 Associated Press Writer

State officials raided a polygamist ranch. A long-shot presidential candidate became a fundraising phenomenon. And the governor's mansion burned, a mystery that remains unsolved.

But it was a deadly series of hurricanes, climaxing with a Texas-sized storm named Ike, that dominated state news like no other story in 2008.



In this Sept. 12, 2008 file photo, fire destroys homes along the beach on Galveston Island, Texas as Hurricane Ike approaches. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip/FILE)

In retrospect, Dolly, Edouard and Gustav seemed like warm-up acts to Hurricane Ike. Though the storm came and went in far less than 24 hours, this was no one-day story. Ike wiped out coastal towns, damaged stadiums and skyscrapers, killed dozens of Texans, caused billions in property damage and led to thousands losing their jobs.

But it wasn't the only story that led newscasts, made headlines or received clicks in 2008.

The state ran out of time to execute a death row inmate, whose case is now under review. One of the reasons: a romance

between his prosecutor and the presiding judge.

Federal regulators nailed a pair of Texas-based airlines with record fines. A politician with great hair who waltzed into the job when his predecessor received a big promotion became the

longest-serving governor in Texas history. And two Democratic presidential candidates waged an electrifying battle for Texas delegates.

Some of these stories will bleed into 2009. Recovery efforts from Ike continue, appeals from the

death row inmate are pending and battles over the border fence remain stuck in court.

Those stories can wait for 2009. For now, here's a look back at the top Texas stories of 2008:

around Galveston just after 3 a.m. on Sept. 13 and had already moved out of Texas by day's end. But it was a costly day: 37 dead, entire communities swallowed by storm surge, at least \$8.1 billion

Hurricane Ike See Texas, Page 8
 Ike blasted ashore




Fire mystery
 This Sunday, June 8, 2008 picture shows the historic Texas Governor's Mansion in Austin, Texas after a fire swept through it earlier that morning. It might be the state's most notorious unsolved mystery. A suspect tossed a Molotov cocktail into the governor's mansion, which was empty while undergoing a \$10 million renovation. The blaze destroyed the roof, damaged the walls and scorched the picturesque front columns of the two-story Greek Revival-style house, whose most famous residents include Sam Houston and President George W. Bush. (AP Photo/Harry Cabluck)



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 -From the Director and Staff
 of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce

PAMPA FORECAST

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		
High 51 Low 27	High 49 Low 33	High 56 Low 28

New Year's Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 51. North northwest wind around 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 27. North northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49. Calm wind becoming south between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 33. South southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 56. North northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Drive safely this holiday

by Rachel Stennett
rstennett@thepampa-news.com

New Year's Eve is recognized as a fun night to bring in the new year but for local law enforcement, it means increased patrol units to make sure safety is the top priority.

The Texas Department of Public Safety, Gray County Sheriff's Office, and the Pampa Police Department have all reported increased patrol units on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

"We encourage people not to drink and drive," Lt. Joe B. Hoard of the GCSO explained. "We want the new year to be good for everyone."

Detective Casey Ingersoll of the PPD confirmed extra patrolling for their department as well. "We will be doing normal

increased patrol units out on new years eve, that is the extent of any special circumstances that we will have."

DPS explained in a recently release that drinking and driving is a "special concern" during the holiday season, but their troopers will focus on speeders and seat belt violators. Last year, DPS issued 28,000 citations and 14,000 warnings, including 919 DWI arrests. DPS statistics have shown in the past that DWI and DUI arrests by their troopers double during the holiday season.

Anyone planning to drink and drive is encouraged to get a designated driver or ride and keep cell phone use to a minimum while driving.

Child skier killed at Santa Fe Ski Basin

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Witnesses said she fell and continued to slide into a tree.

Santa Fe County Sheriff Greg Solano says a 10-year-old Texas girl died Tuesday in an accident at Santa Fe Ski Basin.

She sustained head trauma, and the ski patrol was unable to resuscitate her. She was not wearing a helmet.

Shelby Gillespie was with her parents and brother on Sunset Trail, an intermediate run.

The Gillespie family is from Bushland, Texas, west of Amarillo.

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Services Friday

Cecil Roger Cannon, 52
Cecil Roger Cannon, 52, died Sunday, Dec. 28, 2008, in Pampa.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 2, 2009, in "Roselawn Garden" at Highland Park Cemetery in Borger.

Arrangements are under the direction of Minton/Chatwell Funeral Directors of Borger.

He was born on Nov. 23, 1956, in Valdosta,

Ga., to Willie and Nita Cannon. He had lived in Pampa for six months, moving there from Borger. He graduated from Borger High School in 1975.

He was preceded in death by his father, Willie G. Cannon; and two brothers, David Christopher Cannon and Michael Wayne Cannon.

Cecil loved his nieces

Obituaries



Cannon

and nephews and loved to cook. He was a sales assistant for Schwann's.

He is survived by his mother, Nita Cannon of Pampa; brother, Willie Cannon of Amarillo; two sisters, Mervetta Lemon of Stinnett and Shuri Cantrell of Kansas City, Mo.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Frankie Cooley Bransford, 84

Frankie Cooley Bransford, 84, of Pampa, Texas, died Dec. 30, 2008, at Amarillo, Texas.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Bransford was born May 19, 1924, in Ardmore, Okla., to Fitzhugh and Opal Cooley.

She married Byron Everett Bransford on Feb. 9, 1942, in Marietta, Okla. He preceded her in death in 1991.

She had been a resident of Pampa since 1987. Frankie worked as a legal secretary for Cabot Corporation, retiring after 18 years of service.

She was a former resident of Santa Fe, N.M., Albuquerque, N.M., and Borger, Texas. She was a member of the Legal Secretaries Club of Pampa and the Epsilon



Bransford

Sigma Alpha of Pampa.

Frankie was a volunteer at the Genesis House for more than 30 years. She was a paralegal counselor in Albuquerque for eight years and received the Human Service Award from the Secretary of State of New Mexico.

She was a member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church and her patron saint was St. Jude.

Survivors include two daughters, Lisa Keifer and husband Ricky of Fritch, and Dr. Angharad Young of Tulsa, Okla.; two grandsons, Matthew Keifer and wife Rachel of Amarillo, and Treyce Keifer of Lubbock; three granddaughters, Alison Howard and husband Rick of Santa Clarita, Calif., Stephanie Parker and husband Eric of Norman, Okla., and Cassidy Keifer of Oklahoma City, Okla.;

four great-grandsons, Jackson Howard, Alexander Howard, Ryan Howard and Samuel Parker; three great-granddaughters, Annemarie Parker, Sophie Parker and Alyssia Ramirez Keifer; nieces, Cindy Huckabee and husband Ronnie, and Rose Ann Thedford and husband Mike, all of Graham, Sharon Johnson and husband Lynn of Gainesville, and Susan Clifton and husband Col. Jeff Clifton of Fairbanks, Alaska; nephews, William M. McClendon

and wife Debbie of Graham, and Bob Bransford and wife Pam of Gainesville; and many great-nieces and great-nephews.

Frankie was preceded in death by a son, Byron Frank Bransford in 1948; a sister, Rosa Hughes in 1992; and her parents, Fitzhugh Cooley in 1951 and Opal Bailey Smith Cooley in 1975.

MEMORIALS: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Attn: Memorial/Honor Program FH, One St. Jude Place Building, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 300, Memphis, TN 38148-0552; Genesis House, 615 W. Buckler, Pampa, TX 79065; or BSA Hospice, P.O. Box 950, Amarillo, TX 79105.

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

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and calls between 7 a.m. Dec. 26 and 7 a.m. Dec. 29.

Friday, Dec. 26
Officers conducted 10 traffic stops.

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

Burglary was reported at Allison's Quick Lube Center, 1807 W. Alcock.

Found property was reported in the 1200 block of Hobart.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 400 block of South Graham.

A traffic accident was reported at Hobart and Kentucky.

Criminal mischief was

reported in the 700 block of East 14th.

An alarm was reported in the 400 block of North Somerville.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 900 block of South Wells and the 500 block of South Barnes.

Burglary was reported in the 1100 block of East Kingsmill.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 400 block of Red Deer.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 900 block of South Nelson.

A prowler was reported in the 700 block of North Christy.

Saturday, Dec. 27
Twenty-five traffic stops were made.

A burglary was report-

ed in the 700 block of North Nelson.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1101 block of South Sumner.

Domestic disturbance were reported in the 1000 block of Huff, the 600 block of Texas Avenue, and the 600 block of Bradley.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 1100 block of Cinderella, the intersection of Gwendolyn and Sumner, the 1800 block of North Hobart, the 1200 block of North Hobart, the intersection of Scott and Reid streets, and the intersection of Cinderella and Rosewood.

Suspicious vehicle call were received from the intersection of Deane and Kentucky streets and the 600 block of East Frederic.

Theft was reported in the lobby of the Police Department and the 2800 block of North Charles.

Ten stops and calls concerning animals were made.

Found property was reported in the lobby of the Police Department.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 500 block of North Frost.

Burglaries were reported in the 1900 block of Evergreen and the 700 block of North Zimmers.

Silent/abusive 911 call were received from the 500 block of South Barnes, the 2400 block of Comanche Trail, the 600 block of North Magnolia, and the 100 block of South Starkweather.

A traffic complaint was reported in the 100 block of West Crawford.

Motor vehicle accidents were reported in the 500 block of North Starkweather and the 1000 block of North Hobart.

stops were made. Stops in the 400 block of North Roberta, the 100 block of North Faulkner, and the 300 block of West Albert resulted in arrests.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of Pitts, and the lobby of the Police Department.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 300 block of East Tyng, and the intersection of Christy and Montagu streets.

Agency assistance was rendered on East Highway 60.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 400 block of East Frederic, the 2800 block of North Charles, and the 1900 block of North Hobart.

A prowler was reported in the 700 block of East 14th.

Phone harassment was reported in the 500 block of North Naida.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of North Wells, and the 600 block of North Dwight.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 700 block of East Murphy.

Theft was reported in the 2800 block of North Charles.

A burglary was reported in the 1900 block of Evergreen.

Sexual assault was reported in the 100 block of West 30th.

A motor vehicle accident was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

CITY BRIEFS

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

AS OF Jan. 2, 2009, New City Brief deadline for Mon. thru Fri. papers will now be before 9am.

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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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NEW YEARS Eve St. Vincents lock in Fundraiser. Come to Cinema 4 theatre for an outside dance 10p-12a & watch movies from 12a-6a. \$15 all ages.

Sunday, Dec. 28
Twenty-six traffic

2008: YEAR IN REVIEW

Top 10

Continued from Page 1

DOWN: The bad news kept coming. The collapses of Wall Street giants; huge stock market losses; plummeting home prices and a surge of foreclosures; desperate times for U.S. automakers. It added up to the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, and will cost the federal government well over \$1 trillion in various rescue and stimulus packages.

3. OIL PRICES: The global economic angst produced hyper-volatile energy markets. The price of crude soared as high as \$150 a barrel in July before crashing to \$33 this month. In the U.S., the average price for a gallon of regular gas peaked at \$4.11, then plunged below \$1.70.

4. IRAQ: The much-debated "surge" of U.S. troops helped reduce violence after more than five years of war, but Iraq is still buffeted daily by bombings, ambushes, kidnappings and political uncertainty. A newly ratified U.S.-Iraqi security agreement sets a timetable for U.S. troop withdrawal by 2012.

5. BEIJING OLYMPICS: China hosted the Olympics for first time, drawing praise for logistical mastery and condemnation for heavy-handed security measures. The games themselves were rated a success, highlighted by the record-shattering performances of swimmer Michael Phelps and sprinter Usain Bolt.

6. CHINESE EARTHQUAKE: A huge quake in Sichuan province and left 5 million homeless. Many thousands of children were among the victims. Authorities said about 7,000 classrooms were destroyed in shoddily built schools.

7. SARAH PALIN: Few Americans outside Alaska knew much about its governor when Republican John McCain picked her as his running mate. That changed rapidly. To her conservative admirers, she was a feisty, refreshing change from most politicians; to her critics, she was in over her head, and worthy of all the lampooning she endured.

8. MUMBAI TERRORISM: Ten attackers allegedly sponsored by a Pakistan-based Islamic group terrorized India's financial capital in November, killing 164 people in coordinated attacks on hotels, markets and a train station. India's perennially uneasy rela-

tions with Pakistan were badly strained.

9. HILLARY CLINTON: She didn't win, but Clinton came closer than any other woman in U.S. history to becoming a major party's presidential nominee. Her determined primary campaign, waged vigorously even when it seemed a lost cause, inspired millions of women across the country, and helped persuade Obama to choose her as secretary of state.

10. RUSSIA-GEORGIA WAR: The two nations waged a five-day war in August ignited by a Georgian artillery barrage on the breakaway region of South Ossetia. Russia responded with a drive deep into Georgian territory, causing severe economic damage and aggravating already troubled Russia-US relations.

Stories that almost made the Top 10 included Cyclone Nargis, which killed more than 84,000 people in Myanmar; Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, which wreaked deadly damage in the Caribbean and on the U.S. Gulf Coast; and the seesaw fate of same-sex marriage in California, where a court ruling approving it was later overturned by a ballot measure.

Several write-in votes were cast for two developments that occurred too late to be included on the AP ballot: the indictment of Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich and the efforts of struggling U.S. automakers to get a federal bailout. The alleged financial scam involving Bernard Madoff also was revealed too late to make the ballot.

Several of the editors who voted commented on how two transcendent developments dominated the news in 2008.

"As far as I am concerned, there were only two stories this year," wrote Linda Grist Cunningham of the Rockford (Ill.) Register Star. "Global economy collapses (sending every country into financial, political and personal chaos) and Obama elected U.S. president, changing the way the America does business, financial, political and personal."



In this Feb. 26, 2008 file photo, NBC's Tim Russert speaks to the crowd during a debate between Democratic presidential hopefuls Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y. in Cleveland. Russert died Friday, June 13, 2008, of an apparent heart attack. (AP Photo/Mark Duncan, File)

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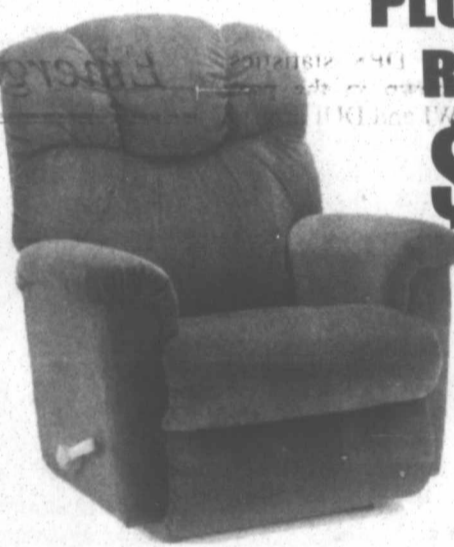


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Viewpoints

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 31, the 366th and final day of 2008.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 31, 1879, Thomas Edison first publicly demonstrated his electric incandescent light in Menlo Park, N.J.

On this date:

In 1877, President Rutherford B. Hayes and his wife, Lucy, celebrated their silver anniversary (actually, a day late) by re-enacting their wedding ceremony in the White House.

In 1946, President Harry S. Truman officially proclaimed the end of hostilities in World War II.

In 1974, private U.S. citizens were allowed to buy and own gold for the first time in more than 40 years.

In 1978, Taiwanese diplomats struck their colors for the final time from the embassy flagpole in Washington, marking the end of diplomatic relations with the U.S.

In 1985, singer Rick Nelson, 45, and six other people were killed when fire broke out aboard a DC-3 that was taking the group to a New Year's Eve performance in Dallas.

In 1986, 97 people were killed when fire broke out in the Dupont Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico. (Three hotel workers later pleaded guilty in connection with the blaze.)

In 1997, Michael Kennedy, the 39-year-old son of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was killed in a skiing accident on Aspen Mountain in Colorado.

Ten years ago: Europe's leaders proclaimed a new era as 11 nations merged currencies to create the euro, a shared money they said would boost business, underpin unity and strengthen their role in world affairs.

One year ago: President George W. Bush signed legislation to allow state and local governments to cut investment ties with Sudan because of the violence in Darfur. Sara Jane Moore, who took a shot at President Gerald R. Ford in San Francisco in 1975, was paroled after 32 years behind bars.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Sir Anthony Hopkins is 71. Actor Tim Considine ("My Three Sons") is 68. Actress Sarah Miles is 67. Rock musician Andy Summers is 66. Actor Ben Kingsley is 65. Rock musician Peter Dinklage (The Kinks) is 65. Producer-director Taylor Hackford is 64. Actor Tim Matheson is 61. Pop singer Burton Cummings (The Guess Who) is 61. Singer Donna Summer is 60. Actor Joe Dallesandro is 60. Rock musician Tom Hamilton (Aerosmith) is 57. Actor James Remar is 55. Actress Bebe Neuwirth is 50. Actor Val Kilmer is 49. Singer Paul Westerberg is 49. Actor Don Diamont is 46. Rock musician Scott Ian (Anthrax) is 45. Actress Gong Li is 43. Author Nicholas Sparks is 43. Pop singer Joe McIntyre is 36. Rock musician Mikko Siren (Apocalyptica) is 33.

Spark of invention

"If only I had thought of that first." How many times have you heard that statement? Maybe you have said it yourself. The dream of inventing fascinates many Americans, and Texans have contributed greatly to America's renowned tradition of invention.

Over the years, Texans have put their stamp on the world through products ranging from condensed milk to electric typewriters to cutting edge computer and medical components, even cheerleader pompons. It began early in our history with Gail Borden, Jr., newspaper publisher and public official in the Republic of Texas, who invented condensed milk and started the famous dairy company that still bears his name.

A key inventor in the development of the Texas energy industry was Houston's Howard Hughes — not the aviator or film producer, but his father. Howard Sr. designed an oil drilling bit that cut through hard rock 10 times faster than any other. It helped create Baker Hughes, a global oilfield service company with more than 35,000 employees.

Terrell native and Southern Methodist University graduate

Robert Dennard of IBM patented one-transistor Dynamic Random Access Memory (DRAM). Now used in virtually every computer, it provides more memory at a lower cost.

An invention patented in 1988 by Dr. Julio C. Palmaz of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio transformed cardiac care. The Palmaz Stent, a tiny tube used to treat clogged arteries, sharply reduced the need for open-heart surgeries.

Ned Eastman Barnes overcame obstacles facing African-Americans in the early 20th century and received patents for his invention of significant pieces of railroad equipment. Lawrence "Herkie" Herkimer wanted to help cheerleaders fire up the fans, so he invented the pompon to attract attention. The success of the pompon helped build a national corporation of cheerleader camps, equipment and supplies.

Texans continue to respond to the challenges of emerging or rapidly changing technologies. Texas Instruments engineer Jack Kilby was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2000 for his invention of the integrated circuit. It facilitated development of the microprocessor

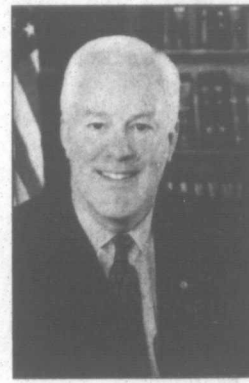
and helped launch the computer age.

Borden, Dennard, Palmaz and Kilby are among several Texans named to the National Inventors Hall of Fame. Several Texans have even received the Nobel Prize, the National Medal of Technology or the National Medal of Science.

And just last year, Dr. Michael Ellis DeBakey of Houston was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the legislative branch's highest civilian award for his revolutionary contributions to cardiovascular medicine, including the roller pump and the DeBakey Assist Device, an apparatus implanted into the heart to increase blood flow.

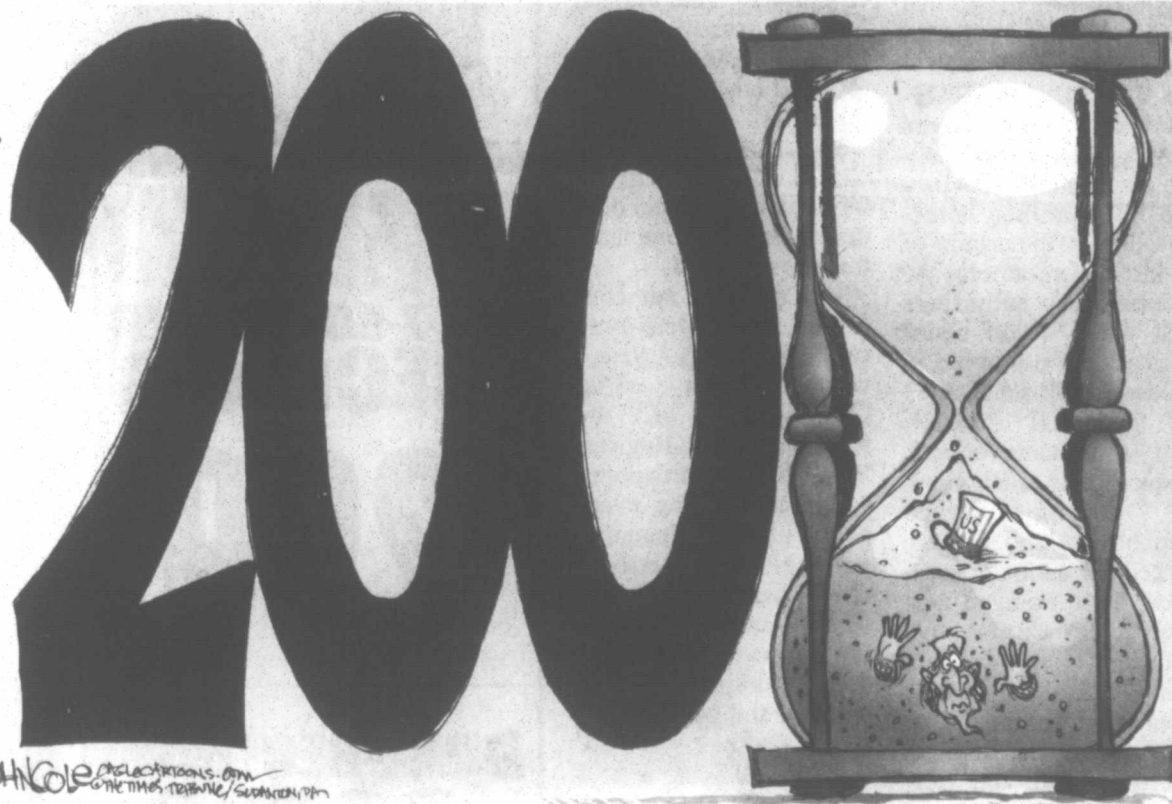
Inventors are at work throughout Texas today. Last year, Texas residents filed nearly 16,000 patent applications, second only to California. One may be coming soon from UT Dallas doctoral student Harvey Liu. He was a finalist in the 2008 College Inventors Competition. Harvey developed a bandage the university described as "a wonder-cloth that helps preserve transplant organs, improve circulation and heal wounds."

The desire to explore,



discover, invent, build and expand is ingrained in the character of Texas. It can be traced back to our pioneers. Living on farms or ranches at the edge of the frontier, their existence depended on learning self-sufficiency and solving their own problems. Today that spirit of invention lives on. There's no telling what revolutionary products Texans will come up with next.

Sen. Cornyn serves on the Armed Services, Judiciary and Budget Committees. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Border Security and Refugees subcommittee and the Armed Services Committee's Airland subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.



Big winners of the past were losers in 2008

By ELLEN SIMON

AP Business Writer

As 2008 ends, you may feel like the year's biggest loser is you.

If you have a job, it probably feels shaky. If you have a 401(k), you can't bear to open the statements. If you bought a house in the last five years, you feel like a sucker (unless you were the winning bidder at a foreclosure auction).

It's cold comfort to know that the financial crash upended everyone.

High diesel prices as the year began ran independent truckers off the road. Soaring summer commodity costs choked businesses from bakeries to airlines. Frozen credit markets left small business owners dialing their moms for loans.

Many of the biggest winners of the past lost their shirts in 2008.

The kings of Wall Street watched as their banks either disappeared through mergers or bankruptcy or received injections of tax dollars to stay alive. The congressmen who once hung on Alan Greenspan's every inde-

cipherable utterance

turned hostile, as the once-revered oracle was reassessed, and found to be an oaf. Investors who had trusted Bernard Madoff with \$50 billion saw the money manager who had given them steady returns for decades admit it was all a Ponzi scheme.

The financial hurricane made the winners stand out even more.

Hedge fund manager John Paulson made billions by betting against the housing boom. Economist Nouriel Roubini and money manager Peter Schiff, who'd been laughed off as economic Cassandra, were proven right as their dire predictions came true, again and again. Despite conventional wisdom that the labor movement is near death, Boeing Co.'s machinists union flexed its muscle during an eight-week strike.

Some winners and losers don't bear explanation, renters win, owners lose; retirees with old-fashioned pensions win, for the time being, while those with 401(k) plans

lose.

LOSERS

Rich men who made big bets used to be lionized. Not this year.

One billionaire beset by debt was Sumner Redstone, who held a fire sale, selling \$233 million of his CBS Corp. and Viacom Inc. stock as he struggled to restructure \$1.6 billion in debt. He also sold his majority stake in Midway Games Inc., which makes "Mortal Kombat" video games, for \$100,000, less than one-one-hundredth of a penny per share.

Private equity champ Edward Lampert looked smart when he bought Kmart out of bankruptcy, then began selling off its real estate. While Lampert is great at selling off a company's pieces, he's less great at the fundamentals of retail. Sears Holdings Corp. lost \$146 million in the most recent quarter, the stock is down about 60 percent for the year.

Likewise, real estate mogul Sam Zell burdened Tribune Co. with \$13 billion in debt when he bought the company last

year, leading it to file for bankruptcy in December. While he blamed the economy, employees and observers blamed him.

WINNERS

As markets plummeted, the dourest economic observers gained respect.

Nouriel Roubini, a New York University economics professor, said in 2006 that the worst recession in four decades was on its way. He predicted that mortgage defaults would spread, investment banks would no longer exist in their current form and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac would tumble.

Peter Schiff, president of Euro Pacific Capital, has been saying for years that the economy was built on too much consumption and not enough saving. "The disease is all this debt-financed consumption," he said on a 2006 CNBC appearance. "The cure is that we stop consuming and start saving and producing again. That's a recession. Sometimes, medicine tastes bad, but you gotta swallow it."

THE PAMPA NEWS

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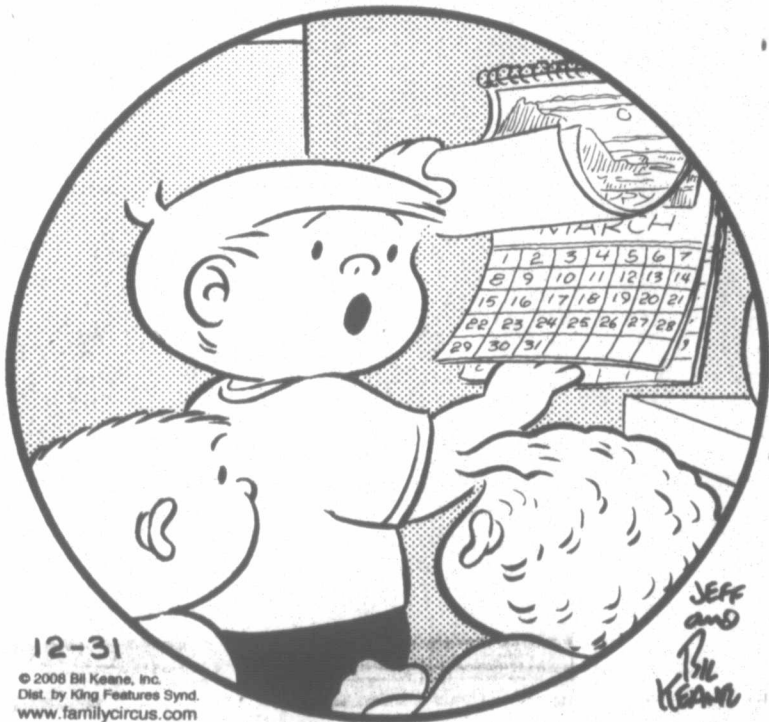
Marmaduke



"Here comes the party animal."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



12-31
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"How did they get pictures of 2009 when it's still 2008?"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Thick slice
 - 5 Rum cake
 - 9 Strata-gems
 - 11 Art inspirers
 - 12 Cove
 - 13 Assumed name
 - 14 Fresh
 - 15 Was behind schedule
 - 17 Peck of pictures
 - 19 Understand
 - 20 Feed the fire
 - 21 Charged atom
 - 22 Decade parts
 - 24 Pot fill
 - 26 Comes together
 - 29 Martini base
 - 30 Came to a point
 - 32 Bureaucratic nuisance
 - 34 Genesis woman
 - 35 Parting word
 - 36 Adores
 - 38 Comforter cover
 - 39 Long-legged bird
- DOWN**
- 1 Goodman's music
 - 2 Cruise ships
 - 3 Plain wrong
 - 4 Quilting party
 - 5 Corrida critter
 - 6 Italian cheese
 - 7 Defeated
 - 8 Good quality
 - 10 Painter's motion
 - 11 Quite a few
 - 16 Tourist's aid
 - 18 "The Naked Maja" painter
 - 21 Words of understanding
 - 23 Beats back
 - 24 Busy
 - 25 Salad base
 - 27 Claire of "Key Largo"
 - 28 Strict
 - 29 Diploma holders
 - 30 High-strung
 - 31 Classroom fixtures
 - 33 Prepared to drive
 - 37 Baseball's Mel

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Yesterday's answer

- 16 Tourist's aid
- 18 "The Naked Maja" painter
- 21 Words of understanding
- 23 Beats back
- 24 Busy
- 25 Salad base
- 27 Claire of "Key Largo"
- 28 Strict
- 29 Diploma holders
- 30 High-strung
- 31 Classroom fixtures
- 33 Prepared to drive
- 37 Baseball's Mel

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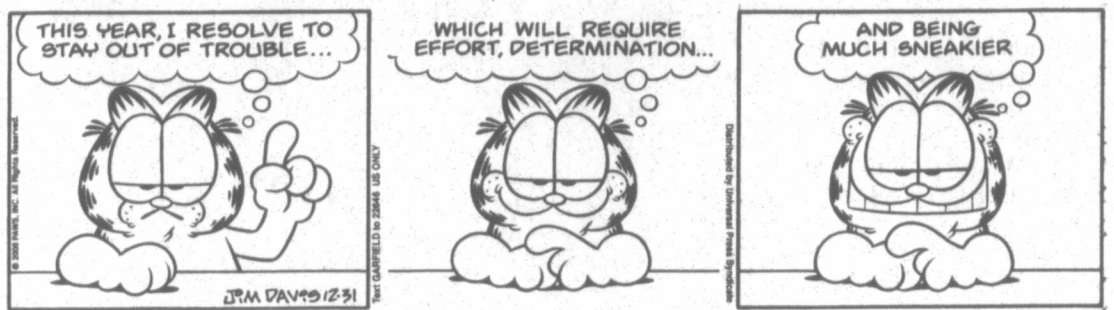
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Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



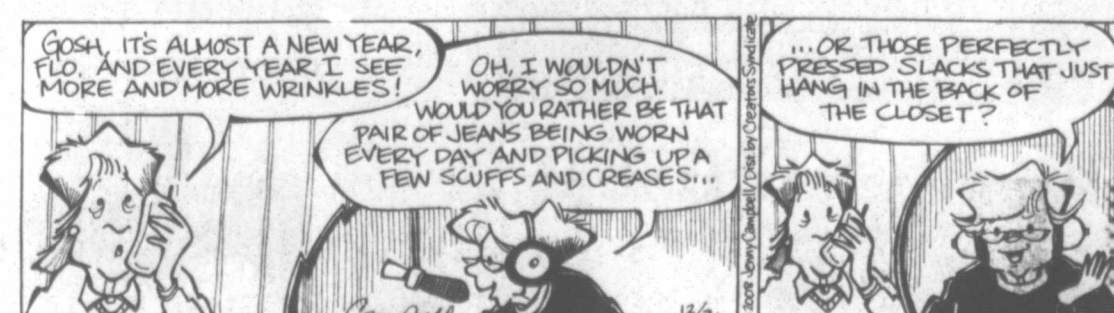
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Harvesters fall in Caprock Classic

by David Bowser
staff reporter

LUBBOCK — It was a rough week for the Lady Harvesters here, but not without hope.

They have only one game in the win column this year and a change in coaches, but they had a strong defense this week at the Caprock Classic Basketball Tournament in Lubbock. They led in the beginning of each of the three games they played in the tournament.

While they lost their opening game at the tournament Monday against Lubbock Estacado by 19 points, they led the first quarter and made a better showing than when they played the school on Dec. 19.

Tuesday, The Lady Harvesters' second game was a heart-breaking 36-33 loss to the Denton Guyer Wildcats at the All Saints Episcopal School gym.

With seven minutes left in the ballgame, the score was tied 24-24.

With 6:29 left in the game, the Wildcats took the lead on a free throw 25-24, then expanded it to 27-24.

Lady Harvester Sammie Pearson made two free throws to make it 29-26 with four minutes left.

The Lady Wildcats came back with less than three minutes on the clock to make the score 30-26.

Pampa made it 30-28, but Denton Guyer upped the ante to 32-28 with 2:10 on the clock.

Lady Harvester Jessica Miner sank one free throw to make it 32-29.

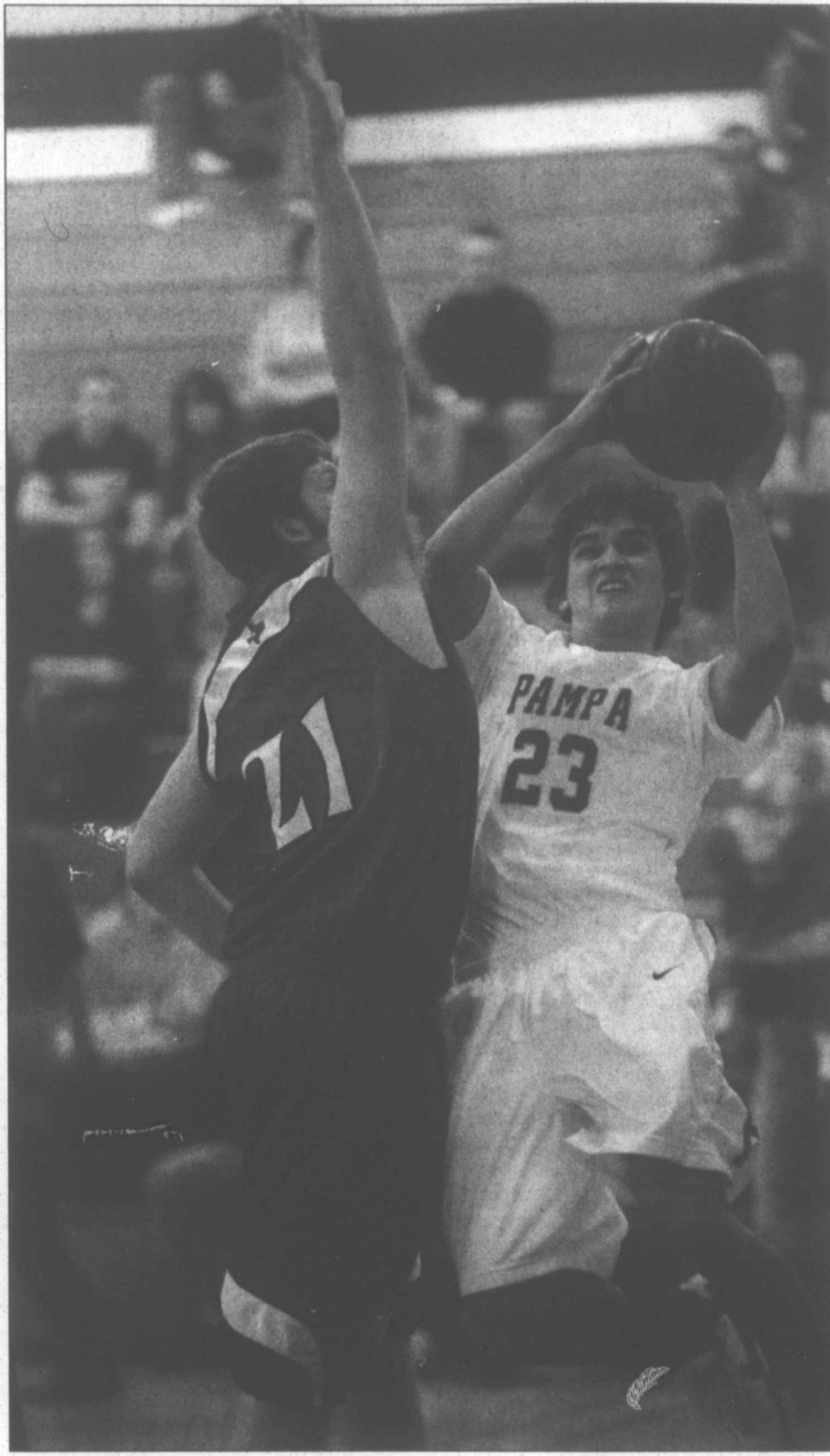
Pampa's Carlyn Teichmann stole the ball and put it in to make it a one-point ballgame, 32-31, with 1:43 remaining.

Miner came back and stole the ball from the Lady Wildcats again and took it the length of the court and put it in to take the lead, 33-32 with 1:20 remaining.

A free throw tied the game again with 1:14 left, but when the clock got down to 30 seconds, the Lady Wildcats made one out of two free throws to regain the lead, 34-33.

The Lady Wildcats sank two more free throws with 22 seconds left to make the score 36-33.

Ashley Facio made seven of the 33 points. Emilie Troxell and Taryn Eubank each made six. Teichmann made five points. Pearson made



staff photo by David Bowser

Harvester Alex Torres, 23, fights to make a shot in the first period of the Pampa-Brownfield game Monday at the Caprock Classic Basketball Tournament in Lubbock.

Miner accounted for three. Shelbie Watson made two.

The Lady Harvesters lost their final game Tuesday night 46-33 to the Lady Golden Tornadoes of Lamesa at the Frenship gym, but Miner was the first to score.

The score through most of the first quarter was either tied or the Lady Harvester led.

Lamesa took a 6-5 lead late in the first quarter, then widened their margin 8-5 on a couple of free throws. With one second left, a Lamesa lay-up

made it 10-5 at the end of the first quarter.

By the half, Lamesa led 20-10.

Pampa was down 13 points at one point, then battled back to within five points, only to have Lamesa widen their lead again.

The Lady Harvesters outscored their rivals in the third quarter 14 to 11.

They scored five points in the first quarter and five points in the second quarter, but they scored 14 in the third and nine in the fourth.

Lamesa scored 10 points in the first quarter and another 10 in the sec-

ond quarter.

Teichmann had eight points, all scored in the second half. Six of those eight were in the third period.

Troxell had seven points. Miner scored five points. Watson had four points. Andi Hutto had four points. Ashlee Holland scored three points.

Facio put up two points in the fourth period.

The Lady Harvesters pick up district schedule play Jan. 6 against Dumas at McNeeley Field House.

by David Bowser
staff reporter

LUBBOCK -- Pampa came to Lubbock to play basketball. Instead, they found a brawl, going down 78-66 in their opening game at the Caprock Classic Basketball Tournament.

Pampa drew first blood Monday in Lubbock High Westerner's gym, scoring two baskets before the Brownfield Cubs could answer.

In what could only be described a very physical game, the two teams stayed within a couple of points of one another for most of the first two periods. It was only at the end of the first half that the Cubs began to pull away.

The Harvesters led 15-13 at the end of the first quarter.

While the lead swapped with almost each trip down the court, Brownfield began to broaden their lead at the end of the second period.

At half time, Brownfield led 36-28.

The Cubs widened their lead in the third period to 55-46, finishing with a win of 78-66 over the Harvesters in a hard fought game.

Alex Clendening was high point man for the Harvesters with 15 points, four points in the first period, two in the second, seven in the third and two in the fourth period.

Alex Torres was close behind with 14 points for

the game, five in the opening quarter and five in the final quarter. He made four free throws out of eight attempts, two in the first quarter and two in the fourth.

Hayden Skinner scored 10 points Monday afternoon, two in the first period, two in the second and four in the third. He made two of five free throw attempts in the second period.

Matt Smith scored a total of eight points, four points in the second quarter, two in the third and made two of four free throw attempts in the fourth.

Blake Sieck scored a total of seven points, two in the first period, a three point shot in the third period and two in the fourth period.

Ryan Jimenez put five points on the board. He made a three pointer in the second period, but the more spectacular shot was a race to the basket and two points with 11 seconds left in the game.

Despite trailing 78-64, Jimenez was not to call it quits.

Heath Skinner put up four points, two in the third and two in the fourth period.

Travis Hagerman scored three points, two in the fourth period and one free throw in the fourth period out of three attempts.

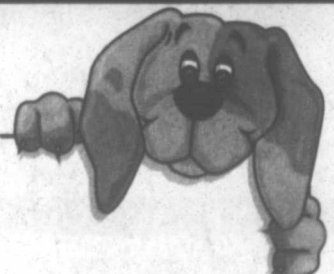
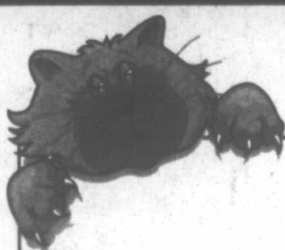
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2008: YEAR IN REVIEW

Texas

Continued from Page 1

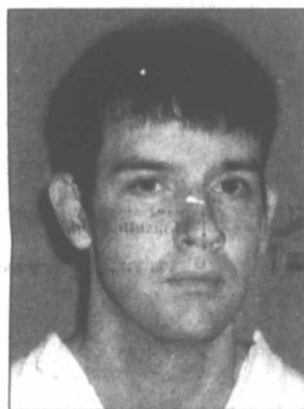
in insured damage. Ike claimed more victims in November when the UT System Board of Regents announced 3,800 layoffs at a hurricane-damaged medical facility in Galveston.

Polygamist Retreat

In April, child welfare officials raided a Schleicher County ranch that is home to a break-away Mormon group. They placed 438 children in foster care and accused the group of forcing underage girls into marriages and sex. But the state overreached, and the Texas Supreme Court ordered the children returned to their parents. Amazingly, this saga began with an abuse hotline phone call now being investigated as a hoax.

Charles Dean Hood

Hood, an ex-bouncer at a topless club, was sentenced to die for killing a former dancer and her boyfriend. Numerous last-minute appeals failed, but delayed his June execution by several hours. Then the warden nixed it altogether, deciding he couldn't meet a midnight deadline. Hood received a new date, only to see his execution stayed after his lawyers successfully raised the



Charles Dean Hood

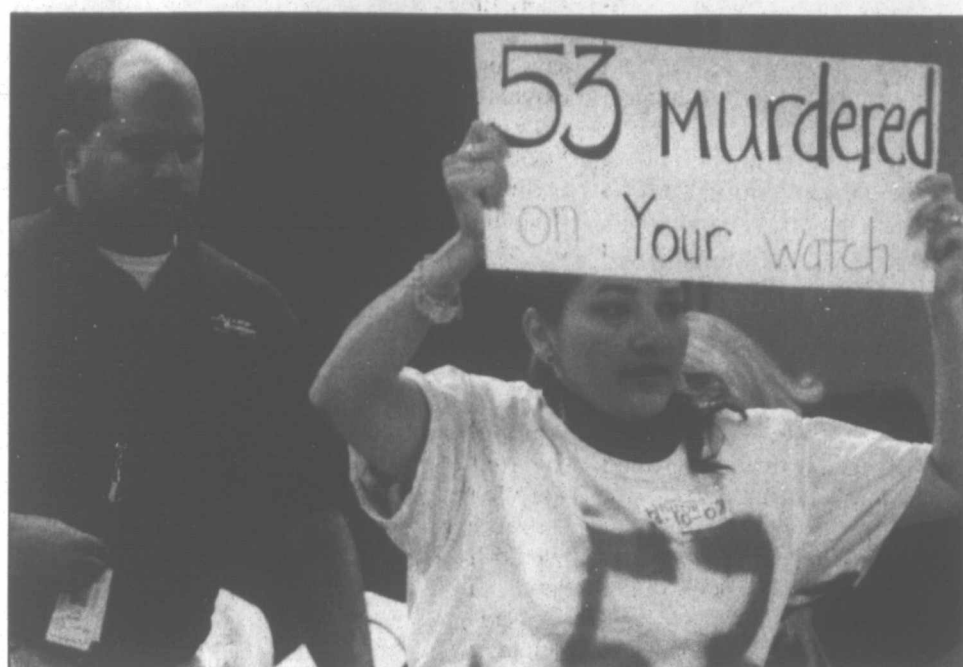
complaint that the presiding judge and district attorney in his original trial were having an affair.

Airline woes

In March, federal regulators issued a \$10.2 million civil fine against Southwest Airlines for failing to inspect older planes for cracks and flying them before inspections were done. In August, the FAA announced it was seeking \$7.1 million from American Airlines for flying airliners after safety problems were reported and for drug-testing violations.

State Schools

In April, the state acknowledged firing or



Community Now! activist Candie Reyes is escorted out by security after the group disrupted a meeting of the state's Aging and Disability Services Council in Austin, Texas on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008. The protest was a response to a recent federal report that found that at least 53 people died in the past year of preventable conditions at state mental institutions. (AP Photo/Jack Plunkett)

disciplining more than 800 state school employees since summer 2003 for mistreating mentally disabled residents. In December, the Justice Department accused the facilities of violating the civil rights of the mentally disabled and said at least 53 residents in the last year died from conditions usually considered preventable. Texas "warehouses" more mentally disabled patients in institutions than any other state.

Gov. Rick Perry

This year, Perry surpassed Bill Clements as the longest-serving governor in Texas history. Perry, a former Texas A&M yell leader, has already signaled his intention to run again in 2010. He is likely to face a primary challenge from Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, herself a former Texas cheerleader, setting up perhaps the most meaningful cheerleader catfight ever.

Chuck Rosenthal

The ex-Harris County



In this June 2, 2008 file photo, Nancy Dockstader, left, a member of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, embraces her daughter Amy, 9, after they were reunited at the Baptist Children's Home Ministries Youth Camp near Luling, Texas. (AP Photo/Eric Gay/FILE)

district attorney survived a number of missteps that could charitably be described as ill-advised: Lighting firecrackers in a government building stairwell as a prank shortly after the Oklahoma City bombing. Violating a gag order in the Andrea Yates case. Accepting a \$2,500 campaign donation from the owner of a company he was prosecuting. What finally brought down the resilient prosecutor: the release of dozens of political, pornographic and racist e-mails on his government office computer, including love notes between the married prosecutor and his secretary.

Muslim Charity Trial

The government's first attempt at prosecuting a Texas charity accused of funding terrorism in the Middle East was a high-profile failure. Given a second chance in November, the government won a sweeping victory: guilty verdicts on all 108 counts. Five leaders

of the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development were convicted on charges ranging from supporting a terrorist organization to money laundering and tax fraud. They plan to appeal.

Obama and Clinton

In the Democratic primary, Texas was supposed to be Hillary Clinton country. It was, sort of. Clinton narrowly won the popular vote in the state's primary. But because of the party's Byzantine process of awarding delegates, Barack Obama could later count Texas as a win. Though Clinton picked up the most delegates from the primary vote, Obama's superior field organization helped him win more delegates than Clinton through the caucus system. The final delegate count: Obama 99, Clinton 94.

Texas Bus Crash

They were Catholic pilgrims taking a bus from Houston to a religious festival in Missouri. But they never made it. On Aug. 8, a retreaded front tire that shouldn't have been in use blew out. The bus veered off the highway and flipped on its side. Seventeen of the 55 passengers, all of them members of Vietnamese Catholic churches in Houston, died in the crash.

Death Row Cell Phones

Cell phone reception on death row is apparently pretty good. In October, a condemned inmate made threatening calls to a state senator. That led to a statewide prison lockdown that turned up 132 phones, 118 phone chargers and 183 inmate-made weapons. Officials are now tightening searches

and even considering a cell phone jamming device.

Governor's Mansion Fire

It might be the state's most notorious unsolved mystery. A suspect tossed a Molotov cocktail into the governor's mansion, which was empty while undergoing a \$10 million renovation. The blaze destroyed the roof, damaged the walls and scorched the picturesque front columns of the two-story Greek Revival-style house, whose most famous residents include Sam Houston and President George W. Bush.

Ron Paul

The Texas congressman, a registered Republican with Libertarian leanings,

heart-lung machine, ushering in the era of open-heart surgery; developed artificial hearts and heart pumps; and created more than 70 surgical instruments. When he died in July at age 99, he was given an honor unique in Houston: his body lay in repose at city hall. Fittingly, he was clad in surgical scrubs and a white lab coat.

Border Fence

BORDER FENCE: The federal plan to erect a fence along the border played out in the courts in 2008. One of the snags: hundreds of property owners upset about having their land seized. So far, the feds have filed more than 300 condemnation lawsuits, leaving the courts to decide how land owners should be compensated.



President George W. Bush and his daughter Jenna Bush pose for a photographer Saturday, May 10, 2008, prior to her wedding to Henry Hager at the Bush family's Prairie Chapel Ranch in Crawford, Texas. AP file photo.

never stood a serious chance in his quixotic presidential bid. But his mantra of limited government earned him some serious campaign cash and a hard-core following. His online collection of \$4.3 million was the largest Internet fundraising amount in a single day by a Republican candidate.

Dr. Michael DeBakey

It's no overstatement to say DeBakey was one of the best doctor's in the world. He treated kings and princes and presidents. He invented a major component of the

Jenna Bush Wedding

The bride wore Oscar de la Renta. The groom wore a dark-blue suit and a powder-blue tie. And the president and his daughter danced to "You Are So Beautiful." The wedding of Jenna Bush to Henry Hager, held away from public view at the Bush family ranch in Crawford, was relatively small and private. A departure from traditionally splashy first family weddings.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My problem is unusual, but I'm hoping if you address it in your column it will help. I'm a married man, confident in who I am, who wears skirts for comfort. I feel skirts are more comfortable than pants, which I find tight, restrictive and uncomfortable. I wear skirts around the house, when I'm out running errands and when I attend church. My clergyman has raised no objection to it.

After much research, my wife and I have concluded that the only thing against men wearing skirts is social pressure, and then only in certain countries -- America being one of them. Pants are a relatively new style of clothing. For thousands of years of recorded history, men and

women both wore skirts. Then women fought for and won the right to wear pants, shorts, whatever they wanted -- which is great. I believe men should have the same option. My wife supports me in this.

Our problem is some family members who disagree have talked behind our backs, started rumors and turned people against us with false information. How can I make them understand that they are entitled to their belief, but that they shouldn't gossip and create problems for us because I am not doing anything wrong? -- JOE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR JOE: Gossip is the province of small-minded people, and it is sad that your relatives have used the fact that you have chosen to be different

as an opportunity to spread malicious falsehoods.

As long as you have the testicular fortitude and shapely enough legs to wear skirts, then you have my blessing. Some men's clothing designers have been trying for years to revive skirts as part of men's wardrobes. Because fashion trends not only change but often revolve, who's to say you're not on the leading edge of what's to come?

DEAR ABBY: A friend of mine bought me a bathrobe. I had told her a while ago that my favorite one had become old, ragged and faded. I also mentioned that I'd had a hard time finding one to replace it that was lightweight enough because most are too warm.

When I opened her gift, I realized that the one she had bought for me was too heavy. I went to exchange it for one in a thinner fabric, but found nothing I liked, so I select-

ed some kitchen utensils because I enjoy cooking and have cooked for her many times.

The next time I saw her, I thanked her and explained what I had done. Now she's upset with me. She says I have hurt her feelings, and she's holding it against me. Was I rude by exchanging her gift, and if so, how can I make it better? Her friendship is important to me. -- TONY IN ALTOONA

DEAR TONY: Apologize to her again, and tell her you're sorry her feelings were hurt. Then ask her what she would have preferred -- to have her gift hanging unused in your closet because it wasn't comfortable, or exchanged for something you could really use. As emotionally vested as she may have been in the bathrobe she selected, if she has a practical bone in her body, she should see it your way.

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

ANSWER:

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

SUDOKU

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

THE PAMPA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS



Public Notice

No. 9150
IN THE ESTATE OF
OLIN JESSE
WELDON
DECEASED
IN THE
COUNTY COURT
OF
GRAY COUNTY,
TEXAS
NOTICE
TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given
that Letters Testa-
mentary for the estate
of OLIN JESSE
WELDON, Deceased,
were issued on
December 19, 2008, in
Cause No. 9150,
pending in the County
Court of Gray County,
Texas, to: Beth
Flowers, Successor

Special Notices

INDEPENDENT EXECUTRIX. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the under-signed within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Beth Flowers c/o: Inda L. Crawford Attorney at Law P.O. Box 1336 311 Main Street Panhandle, TX 79068 DATED the 29th day of December, 2008.

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.

14th Gen. Serv.

CERAMIC tile work. Remodeling floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall. Free est. Call 665-3453 leave message, Jesus Barraza.
GOOCH'S Bathroom Renovations. Complete Remodels. 848-2820. Free Estimates.
JH Concrete Work. Stamps, driveways, addition, fences, patios. Free Est. 806-382-5408.
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

NEED Maintenance person, part-time. Call 665-0415.
NOTICE Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.
\$1500.00 SIGN ON BONUS PAMPA NURSING CENTER is currently hiring a RN / LVN For Mon. thru Fri 6am to 2pm Shift
Please apply in person to: Mandi Martin RN, DON 1321 W. Kentucky EEOE
\$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
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.

21 Help Wanted

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.
CDL Drivers wanted with tanker endorsement. Drug test required. Call Brad 216-0960, 256-5188
NEED lady to clean. References a must. Call 665-1875.
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. RED Barn will be closed Christmas & New Year's weekends.
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!!
FINISHED OFFICE. Quick Delivery, call 806-358-4559.
AMERICAN SELF STORAGE, 2500 N. HOBART PAMPA, TX AUCTION Jan. 7, 1pm. Sell by Complete Unit Only Household & Misc. #045 Bradley #C004 Darling #E040 Russell

21 Help Wanted

NEED Reliable, Experienced, maintenance man. Some plumbing knowledge needed. Must have tools & transportation. 665-1875.
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.

69 Misc.

LAKEVIEW Apt. 1 & 2 bdr. unfurn. apt. Call for availability. Ref. & deposit req. 669-4386
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THE Schneider House, now leasing apts., 1 & 2 bdr., utilities incl. 120 S. Russell or call 665-0415.
98 Unfurn. Houses PICK UP rental list, in Gray Box, at 125 S. Houston, Pampa.
1341 N. Duncan, 2 bdr., 1ba., lrg. fenced back yard, near sch. 806-683-1935, 409-861-1993
LARGE 4 bdrm., 2 ba. Mobile Home. 664-0815, 665-8317
1 bdr., 1 ba. washer / dryer hookups, 808 Beryl \$400 mo. \$400 dep. Call 665-5473.
2 bdr., 1 ba., 2211 Hamilton. \$500 mo., \$500 dep. Call 665-5473.
99 Stor. Bldgs. TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.
102 Bus. Rental OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.
DOWNTOWN office space for rent. Utilities & cleaning service provided. Ample parking. 669-6823
OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT NBC PLAZA 806-665-4100

96 Unfurn. Apts.

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

80 Pets & Suppl.

AKC Min. Schnauzer puppies for sale. 1 ma., 1 fe. Shots started. Ready now! Please call 662-4940 after 3pm.
BOXER PUPS for sale. \$200. 806-382-8413

95 Furn. Apts.

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All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.
EXPERIENCE the home away from home with our furnished rooms. Internet ready. Wkly & monthly rates. White Deer Motel. 883-2572 or 665-1875.

Petroleum Bulk Drivers
Eastex Crude Co. is taking applications in Pampa, TX. For Day & Night Drivers Applicants must have a Class "A" CDL with Hazmat & Tanker Endorsements +Home Daily +Full Benefit Pkg.
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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.
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WILL Clean Houses Have References Call 440-4902
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)

AMERICAN SELF STORAGE, 2500 N. HOBART PAMPA, TX AUCTION Jan. 7, 1pm. Sell by Complete Unit Only Household & Misc. #045 Bradley #C004 Darling #E040 Russell

103 Homes For Sale FOR all your Real Estate needs, call John Goddard, at Century 21! Where knowledge & expertise matter. 806-595-1234.
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 bdrm sunroom in back
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DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Jan. 1, 2009:
Your ability to remain mellow and stable could be undermined this year. Exhaustion often hits when trying to win others' friendship and good will. Ask yourself if you always need to be the popular kid. Learn to express your feelings before they become explosive. If you are single, you'll discover what a special year you could have if you relax. Check out any suitor with care. This person might misrepresent him- or herself. Find the real person. If you are attached, learn to express your hurt before it evolves into anger, for everyone's sake. PISCES often draws you out and can make an excellent neighbor.
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) *** Communication flourishes. A long-overdue conversation could define the day. Listen to suggestions, with an eye to affirming other people's ideas. You have a lot that you might want to contemplate. Tonight: Get some much-needed R and R.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ***** Today is not too soon to start fulfilling a resolution or two. Did you not make any resolutions? There is no such thing as too late. Consider what change you can make that would improve your life. Tonight: Find a friend or two.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ***** Others look to you, and you step up to the plate. You might have had intentions otherwise, but events force your hand. Demonstrate your sense of responsibility and good will. Tonight: A must appearance.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) ***** You have a most distinct style — don't kid yourself. If you decide to get something done, it is as good as done. Knowing your limitations might be important. Make time for planning a trip or calling a friend. Tonight: Put on some music.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** A partner responds to your overtures and thoughts in a big way. You have a lot of ideas and energy. Learn to use your abilities to keep a situation peaceful. Tempers could flare without your interference. Tonight: Listen to a suggestion.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Know when to defer, making everyone, including you, much happier. You might have other matters to deal with, no matter how much you would like to do otherwise. Investigate an offer. Tonight: Just don't be alone.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** Get into a project rather than delay it any longer. You are able to clear out more than your fair share. Stop and listen to an irate relative, neighbor or friend. Try not to personalize what you hear. Then you can really "hear." Tonight: Get some long-overdue rest.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** Listen to what is going on with a child or potential loved one. Help others find their way out of the haze with a nurturing and accepting attitude. You might be surprised by what you can accomplish! Tonight: Put your feet up.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** Don't feel let down or repressed. You have the good fortune of a timeout. A family situation could demand more than you would like to give. Tonight: Stop and consider your priorities.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ***** Defer and understand what you are seeing and hearing. Be willing to adjust plans. If you suppress your anger, you could find that later it becomes a problem. Reflect on the most effective way to share news. Tonight: Hang out where you are comfortable.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** You might not have all the answers, but it appears that a friend thinks he does! Maintain a sense of humor, and you will let this situation wash over you. Still, you might need a push. You alone can decide. Tonight: Treat yourself.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ***** You might be overly zealous. But don't worry, someone will let you know that you are out of whack. Know when to call it quits. A boss or older friend/family member demands a lot from you. Say what you mean. Tonight: As you like.
BORN TODAY Sen. Barry Goldwater (1909), author J.D. Salinger (1919), seamstress Betsy Ross (1752)
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PAMPA SLOT CAR SPEEDWAY
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George Poole 806-665-5523 Mon-Tues-Wed by Appt
Se habla español

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.
12-31 CRYPTOQUOTE
J H C W O R H U H D W M W I
N W H V ' U W T W : P Q M ' R P V O M C
O D N Q L H V W P V O T O M B . P Q M ' R
P V O T W O D N Q L ' T W Z W W M
P V O M C O M B . — N Q L V
Y Q M U Y O W M Y W
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LOST TIME WAS LIKE A RUN IN A STOCKING. IT ALWAYS GOT WORSE. — ANNE MORROW LINDBERGH

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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 bdrm 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.

2008: YEAR IN REVIEW

Phelps and 'Great Haul of China' take awards

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

Michael Phelps had just finished his work at the Water Cube, still wet but his place in history secure, when he walked up to his longtime coach.

"Good job," Bob Bowman said.

"C'mon, coach, couldn't you come up with something a little more memorable? Didn't you have a 'win one for the flipper' speech stashed away for such a momentous occasion?"

"At that point, there was not much to say," Bowman recalled Monday when reached by phone, chuckling at the brevity of his comments on that August day in Beijing. "It had all been said."

Well, not quite.

The honors just keep on coming for the "Great Haul of China." Phelps' feat has now been selected as the top sports story of the year by members of The Associated Press.

By taking down Mark Spitz's Holy Grail of records with eight gold medals at the Beijing Olympics, Phelps also was a runaway selection for AP's male athlete of the year. Only Olympic sprinting sensation Usain Bolt (five votes) and New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning (four) got more than a single vote. Phelps was named on 172 ballots, becoming just the third swimmer to claim the award.

"Every single moment over there, whether it was winning a gold medal, swimming for my county, spending time with teammates, I had a blast," the 23-year-old Phelps told the AP recently.

He one-upped Spitz's mark from the 1972 Munich Games by winning five individual golds and serving on three relay teams that also touched first, and by breaking seven world records along the way. Not bad for someone who couldn't sit still in elementary school (he was eventually diagnosed with ADHD), a once-scrawny kid with big ears who was picked on mercilessly and prone to fits of whining and crying.

"Some of the accomplishments have sunk in, but some haven't," said Phelps, who followed Don Schollander in 1964 and Spitz in '72 as swimmers winning the AP's annual top male athlete award. "I've been on the road a lot and haven't had time to myself to really sit there and think about what really did happen this summer and this whole year."

Trust us, Michael, it was quite a ride.

Your wake included the New York Giants' upset of New England in the Super Bowl, which ruined the Patriots' perfect season but had to settle for second place in story-of-the-year voting. Tiger Woods' saga, season-ending surgery after a gutty U.S. Open playoff win, was third, followed by Brett Favre's on-again, off-again retirement and move to the New York Jets. The Boston Celtics' worst-to-first turnaround that ended with an NBA title over the rival Los Angeles Lakers took the fifth spot.

As with all great stories, the opening chapter laid the foundation.

Phelps was only 16, an emerging stud in the pool but little known to the non-chlorine crowd, when he sat down at a table full of lawyers to discuss signing with an agent for the first time. He was wearing a baseball cap, probably tilted sideways. He sat through most of the meeting with that bored, distant look of his, seemingly unconcerned with such mundane matters as percentages and sponsorships.

Finally, Phelps was asked what he wanted out of this new relationship.

His answer, delivered without hesitation, showed a foresight beyond his years. He was seeking mainstream acceptance, for both himself and his sport. He saw no reason the world's greatest swimmer couldn't be part of the same exclusive club as guys such as Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods.

"I want to be on SportsCenter," he told agent-to-be Peter Carlisle.

Mission accomplished, and then some. There's been countless magazine covers, enough TV appearances to qualify for his guild card (including a stint hosting the season premiere of "Saturday Night Live") and a quickie book just in time for the holiday buying season.

And, yes, he's even made the tabloids, the ultimate compliment in our celebrity obsessed culture though not always the most flattering coverage.

"I think the biggest change for him is just trying to adjust to the attention," Bowman said. "It's really been beyond anything we imagined."

How is Phelps handling everything from speculation about his girlfriend to his exploits on the late-night circuit?

"Overall, he's done pretty well," Bowman said. "He's learned a lot about how to handle himself. I think the hard part is handling all the people who come along with celebrity."

The pool is where he'll always be most comfortable. Phelps already has resumed light training and will get back into a full-time training routine shortly after the first of the year. He plans on swimming at one more Olympics before getting on with the rest of his life, and the 2012 London Games will give him a chance to put another of his records, winningest Olympian ever with 14 gold medals, totally out of reach for the foreseeable future.

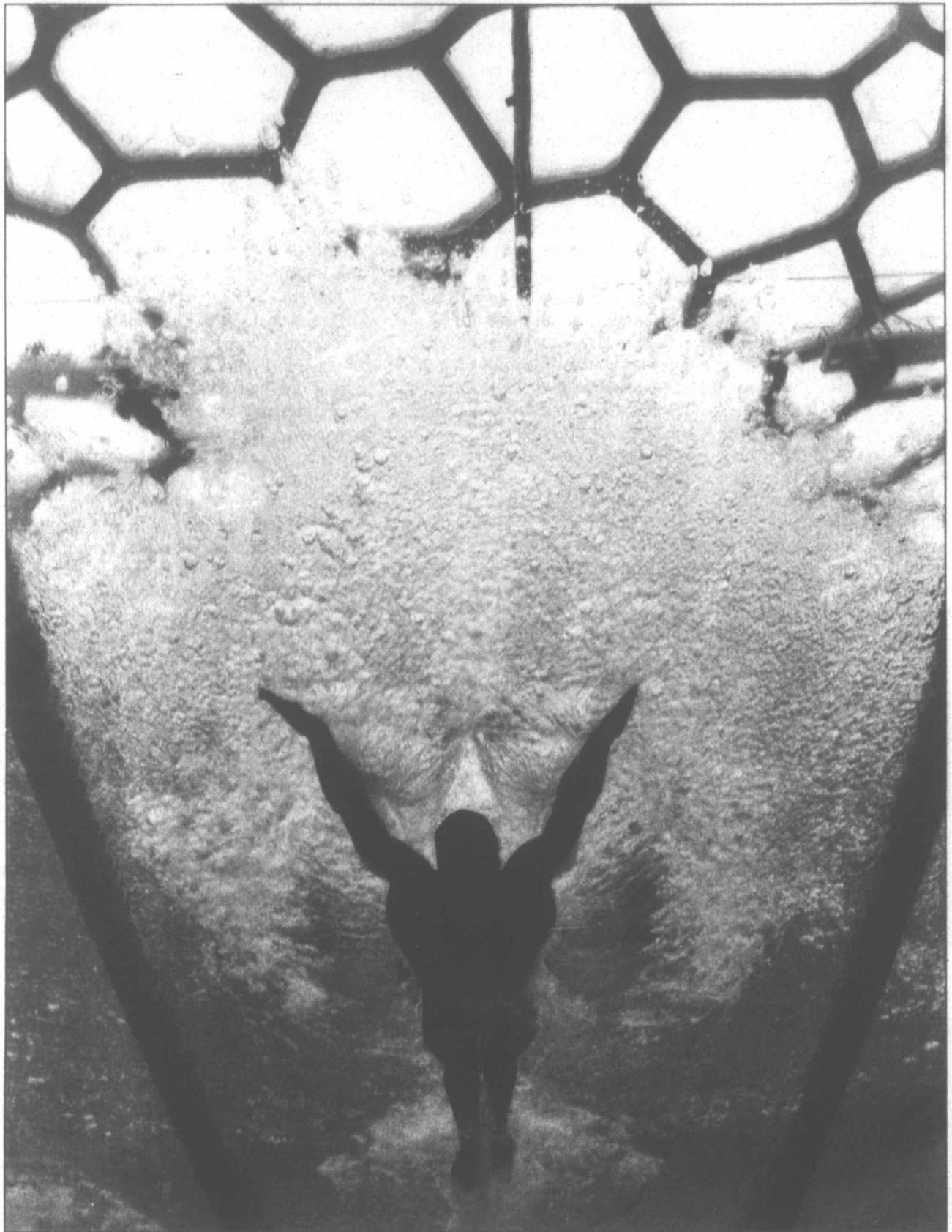
But all the stars aligned during nine magical days in Beijing.

"I haven't been able to think in great detail about everything that's happened and what I've done," Phelps said. "Once I start getting back in the water and things settle down, I think I'll be able to look back on things and remember everything that happened and really be able to think about it and ponder it."

Looking ahead, Phelps will likely focus on three or four individual events, plus the relays. That would give him a chance to close his Olympic career with an even 20 gold medals.

Not too shabby.

"Anything he does from here on out is gravy," Bowman said. "He's earned the right to do it any way he wants to do it."



In this Aug. 12, 2008 file photo, United States' Michael Phelps swims in a men's 200-meter butterfly semi-final during the swimming competitions in the National Aquatics Center at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Phelps' feat eight gold medals at the Beijing Olympics, has been selected as the top sports story of the year by members of The Associated Press. (AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill, File)

Sports was enough to drive someone bats

By FRED LIEF
AP Sports Writer

Indignities come in all forms. John Odom, however, may have found a classification all his own.

Odom is a minor league pitcher, and not an especially good one. He was traded this year from the Calgary Vipers to the Laredo Broncos of the Golden Baseball League. He wasn't traded for cash or even for those old reliable "future considerations" and "player to be named."

Odom was traded for 10 bats.

No doubt, it could have been worse. A year or so ago, a European soccer player was said to have been traded for a slab of beef.

But for the Odom, the going price was 10 black, 34-inch maple bats. According to the manufacturer, they sell at discount for \$65.50 each.

Odom was drafted by the San Francisco Giants in 2003 but released. He still thinks he's got a shot at the big leagues. In the meantime, without a Robin for a sidekick, he has a nickname: Bat Man.

"I'm still in shock from this phenomenon," he said. "I don't know how to describe it. It's mind-boggling."

Humiliation is an equal opportunity employer, and in 2008 there was plenty to go around.

Consider Eliot Spitzer. It wasn't enough that the former New York governor got caught in a tabloid inferno for his call-girl escapades. The Macon Music of minor league baseball's South Coast League promoted, before

ultimately backing off, an "Eliot Spitzer Night" in which any fan named Eliot, Spitzer or Kristen (his lady of choice) would get \$1 off admission.

Or consider the women's hockey team of Bulgaria, which lost an Olympic qualifier to Slovakia 82-0. There was not even the faintest silver lining for the Bulgarians. They were outshot 139-0.

Soccer referee Sergei Shmoliuk didn't fare much better. In a game in Belarus, he wobbled off the field, seemingly from back pain. Later, the source of his discomfort became clear: He was drunk.

Even Adam "Pacman" Jones, no stranger to excess, broke new ground. The Dallas Cowboys cornerback got into another scuffle, this time with one of his own bodyguards.

China's Wang Hao, an Olympic table tennis champion in a country where the sport is revered, was ordered to explain himself to teammates in a shameful declaration. His crime? He confronted a parking attendant who reportedly caught him urinating outside a karaoke hall.

It was more a case of courage than contrition for photographer Ryan McGeeney of the Standard-Examiner in Provo, Utah. He was covering a high school track meet when he was speared in the leg by a javelin. McGeeney was not one to pass up a good shot. While others tended to him, he snapped a photo of his wound.

"If I didn't," he said, "it would probably be my editor's first question when I got back."

Seemingly no sport was immune from its quirky moments: Tennessee women's basketball coach Pat Summit dislocated her shoulder fending off a raccoon on the deck of her home; German champion billiards player Axel Buescher was suspended for doping; soccer fans in Argentina, hijacked buses to get to games on time, making it in neither instance; Volvo Ocean Race sailors girded themselves not only for icebergs but pirates; and pirates of a different sort, the last-place Pittsburgh Pirates, looked to India for hope. They signed two pitchers who until this year had not thrown a baseball.

The Spanish Soccer League was awarded a cemetery in lieu of unpaid debts in a lawsuit involving a club owner. Fans of the German soccer club Hamburger SV now have their own cemetery, with the option of a grave covered in grass from the team's field. And the Jamaican hotel room where Pakistan cricket coach Bob Woolmer died under mysterious circumstances now pulls in tourists.

"It's pretty amazing," said Lloyd Bremner, general manager of the Jamaica Pegasus. "Some people request to be in it; some want to be on the same floor."

Some oldsters were still going strong in 2008. Leo Fiyalko, 92, made a hole-

in-one in Clearwater, Fla., he is also blind. Dale Davis of Alta, Iowa, who is 78 and legally blind, bowled a 300 game. Ken Mink found new life on the basketball team at Roane State, a Tennessee community college, at a sprightly 73.

Sportsmanship, so often on the run, made a rare sighting in 2008 this year. Sara Tucholsky, a Western Oregon softball player, slugged her first college home run against Central Washington. But her knee buckled at first base and she couldn't go farther.

She was told teammates couldn't assist and a pinch-runner would limit her to a single. Then, two Central Washington players carried Tucholsky around the diamond, allowing her to touch each base with her good leg until she made it to the plate. The homer helped eliminate Central Washington from the playoffs.

"In the end, it is not about winning and losing so much," said Mallory Holtman, who helped lift Tucholsky around the bases. "She hit it over the fence and was in pain, and she deserved a home run."

There was nothing sporting about Marian Hinnant. She was a juror in the corruption trial of Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens. She told the judge her father died and she had to go to California. It turned out she was lying and her father hadn't died. Hinnant had flown to California to see the Breeders' Cup.