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PHS science moves into new home

by Rachel Stennett
 rstennett@thepampanews.com
 Renovations were completed on ten science classrooms completed over the holiday break, putting the entire science department back where they belong in the main building of the school.

A move that has been 18 months in the making was completed Monday and classes begin meeting in the new classrooms on Tuesday, Jan. 6.

A year and a half ago, the science department was relocated into portable buildings on the school property while the science wing of the school was renovated, according to Randy Stephenson, the district's director of new construction.

The new rooms include many upgrades, and completely new elements like "banjo" lab tables in the biology classrooms and long, rectangle tables in the physics room.

The classrooms also feature technological upgrades like phones, and ceiling-mounted projectors.

The science classrooms

were remodeled as a part of the school-wide construction project, which will include a new library, new kitchen, new commons/dining area for students, new gym, and new stadium seating in the football field.

Although the teachers are all excited to be in the space, the move and time spent in the portables was challenging.

"We were limited for

safety reasons," Beth Shannon, department head and Chemistry teacher explained. "It was very crowded."

Shannon estimated that the portable rooms were

one-third the space of their new classrooms. The portables also disconnected teachers from normal activity, including class bells, announcements, and cable

See PHS, Page 3



photo by Rachel Stennett
 (From left) Beth Shannon, Debbie Brown, Dale Hodge, Neil Leeper, Lois Parker, Mistie West, and Janis Porter, all teachers of the PHS Science Department, work together Monday (Jan. 5) to unpack supplies for one of the newly renovated classrooms.

Suspicious, sweaty driver arrested on possession charges

by Rachel Stennett
 rstennett@thepampanews.com
 Deputies stopped a vehicle in the Fenton Motors parking lot, after the driver in the car was acting suspiciously, according to Lt. Joe B. Hoard of the Gray County Sheriff's Department.

The driver, Richard Olney Stark, 41 of Pampa was seen around 4:30 p.m. Saturday (Jan. 4) walking around the lot suspiciously, even though the business was closed.

"The driver was nervous and sweating profusely in 20 degree weather," Hoard explained. The deputy gained permission to search the vehicle, and upon inspection found a small amount of what is believed to be marijuana and a small baggy containing what is believed to be methamphetamine.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE
GRAY COUNTY
Stark

Stark was arrested for possession of a controlled substance, less than one gram and bond was set for \$3,000 at Gray County Jail. Stark paid bond and was released from Gray County Jail.

PEDC to discuss office remodel

Pampa Economic Development Corporation board members will hear a report on their new offices on Cuyler when they meet Thursday morning.

Dwight Fiveash, the group's executive director, will update the PEDC board on the remodeling of their new offices at 106 N. Cuyler.

He will also update the board on pending projects, the group's strategic plan, planning goals and objectives for 2009, Worker's

Compensation, the Texas Economic Development Commission's basic course and legislative priorities in the state legislative session, which begins next week.

The Bank of the Southwest will also have board members.

The board will meet at 11 a.m., Thursday, in the Nona Payne Room of the Community Building, 200 N. Ballard.

Straus heir apparent for Texas speaker

AUSTIN (AP) — Rep. Joe Straus all but laid claim to the powerful office of House speaker Monday, holding a triumphant news conference in the state capitol and laying out his vision for a new era of bipartisan leadership in the Texas House.

The official vote doesn't take place until Jan. 13. Straus said 104 representatives, more than two-thirds of the chamber, supported his candidacy now that Speaker Tom Craddick has dropped out of the race.

Later Monday, state Reps. John Smither, of Amarillo, and Dan Gattis, of Georgetown, withdrew their candidacies for speaker, saying it was apparent that Straus had enough votes to become the next speaker. Their decisions along with Craddick's leaves Straus with no serious contenders.

"In the coming days I aim to meet with every member of the Texas House to better understand the needs of their districts and build trust and confidence in the legislative process," Straus said. The heir-apparent to the speaker's office also paid tribute to Craddick, who abruptly pulled out of the race Sunday night after key supporters abandoned him.

Straus said Craddick "should be honored for his historic public service."

Straus said Smither called to notify him that he was dropping out.

"John's difficult decision and gracious gesture is another step towards unity in the House," he said.

Earlier, in an interview with The Associated Press, Straus vowed to reduce the influence of special interests in Austin and promised to never use the post for personal gain.

Craddick's withdrawal made Straus the clear front-runner in the race to succeed him.

If Straus ends up clenching the deal, as widely expected, he'll inherit one of the most powerful positions in state government. The speaker sets the agenda in the Texas House and, in terms of political influence, is on par with the



State Rep. Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, left, leaves a rotunda news conference with Ken Armbrister, right, after announcing Straus has the votes and support needed to win the Texas House Speaker race, Monday, Jan. 5, 2009, at the Capitol in Austin, Texas. (AP Photo/Austin American-Statesman, Rodolfo Gonzalez)

governor and lieutenant governor.

A wealthy San Antonio businessman, Straus, 49, was not measuring the curtains yet in the spacious speaker's apartment. In fact, Straus, whose teenage daughters attend school in San Antonio, said he had no plans to even live in the recently renovated capitol residence. But he told the AP he was looking ahead to the 2009 session and promised to heal wounds and push reforms in the badly divided House chamber.

Many members have long complained that Craddick, the first GOP speaker since the Civil War era, ruled with an iron-fist and gave lobbyists too

See Straus, Page 3

Wishing you a Happy and Prosperous 2009!

From the Executive Director and Staff of the Chamber of Commerce

PHS

Continued from Page 1

access.
Contractors from Western Builders out of Amarillo have worked under Construction Superintendent Jeff Pop, to complete the project, which was designed by architects Perkhill, Smith, and Cooper, out of Lubbock. The renovations took longer than originally expected, according to Stephenson, because of delayed supplies and unexpected complications.

"Renovations are harder to do than building something new," he explained. "You find the unexpected when tearing down walls."

The teachers in the science department had a significant say in the matter too, according to Beth Shannon, department head.

"We were very involved in the planning. The architects had the final say

because they are the experts in lab design, but Randy kept us in the loop and asked our opinions."

Chemistry and Biology teachers agree that it will be much easier to do labs in the newly designed and expanded classrooms, as Neil Leeper, biology teacher explained, "it's hard to do labs in portable buildings with no plug ins."

The new classrooms have top of the line lab equipment, Janice Porter, Biology teacher, said, as well as safe environments, and cabinets, sinks, sanitizers, and a dishwasher for beakers in the stalk room.

"One room has as much storage as the entire (portable) used to," Leeper explained. Teachers anticipate being able to expand curriculum with more hands-on labs, which Shannon said has proven to improve TAX scores.

Shannon will also have the opportunity to teach in a classroom with windows

for the first time in her career of more than 20 years teaching.

Movers came and moved all of the boxes from the portables to the main building, but the science teachers came in, starting Jan. 2 and have been working on their own time to make classrooms kid-ready today. A guest speaker, who was considered a "2009 early Christmas gift" by Shannon was arranged to speak with the students during their regular science periods, so that the teachers would be able to spend the day unpacking. Twenty teachers were able to unload materials as a result of the assemblies.

The teachers hope that the new classrooms have the impact on the students that they have already had on the teachers.

"The rooms help make us better teachers," Porter said.

"We hope kids appreciate as much as we do," Lois Parker, biology teacher, added.

PHS

Continued from Page 1

much sway over policy deliberations.

"There's been this feeling that from time to time there's been undue pressure and influence from special interests and I want the members to know that I'm going to protect them to do what their districts want them to do on issues," Straus said. "The lobby plays an important role in forming public policy, but they shouldn't dominate and members should feel free to act in the interests of people who sent them here."

Rep. Dan Branch, R-Dallas, said Straus is willing to reach across party lines and build consensus.

"I think Joe will go down in history as one of the great speakers because of his tone and temperament," Branch said.

GOP critics have complained that Straus has more Democrats on his team than Republicans. But Branch noted that at 76-74, the GOP's lead in the House chamber is razor thin.

"Joe understands that even as a Republican it's critical for Texans that we have people that can reach across the aisle and work in a bipartisan way," Branch said.

Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, one of the first Democrats to file for speaker, said she was "delightfully shocked" to learn that Straus had emerged as the front-runner earlier in the weekend. Republicans "couldn't have chosen a better person to fill that post."

"It has become apparent in the last 12 hours that Rep. Straus carries enough votes to become the next speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, and that any effort to challenge him is not in the best interest of the Texas House," Smithee and Gattis said in a statement. "Our priority is to take the focus off speaker politics and concentrate on how we can best serve the people of Texas in the 81st Legislature."

A core group of conservative Republicans, the bedrock of Craddick's old coalition, had backed Smithee over Straus. They complained that Straus was not one of them, that he's too liberal on abortion and gambling issues in particular. Straus' family has been in the horse racing business for close to 100 years, and anti-gambling forces fear he would use his powerful post to promote an expansion of gambling in Texas.

Straus, whose family holds a stake in San Antonio's Retama Park horse track, said he would take a hands-off approach to gambling bills and allow the chamber to exercise its will.

"I will not be involved in an issue, any issue, where my personal interests will be advanced," Straus said in the AP interview.

"I don't have a role in Retama," he added. "I have a small limited partnership interest ... I don't have any management or decision-making role in anything related to that industry."

As for abortion, Straus noted that he supports restrictions on the procedure, including a requirement that parents give their consent before their minor

children terminate a pregnancy. But he also made it clear that he favors laws that give women abortion rights.

"I support existing laws on abortion," he said. "I believe the laws that are currently in place are not at this point a state matter."

The Straus family is prominent in business, political, arts and philanthropy circles. Branch, who grew up in San Antonio, described the family as key players in the emergence of the modern Republican party of Texas.

Besides its race track interests, the Straus family has been known for its friendship with former President George H.W. Bush and Barbara Bush. Straus, who was elected to the Texas House in 2005, held minor posts in Bush's and Ronald Reagan's presidential administrations.

Jocelyn Straus, the lawmaker's mother, has served on the State Preservation Board and led an effort to restore the aging Majestic Theatre, now a crown jewel along one of downtown San Antonio's revitalized main streets.

While Straus touts his deep GOP ties, grassroots Republican activists have unleashed a torrent of e-mails suggesting Smithee is the better choice for conservatives.

Straus fired back at his detractors.

"That kind of politics is why we're all here today; it's what we stand against," Straus said. "I'm not going to be distracted by some interest group, or whatever, popping off about something that's not true."

Perry travels to Iraq

AUSTIN (AP)— Texas Gov. Rick Perry is in Iraq on a trip hosted by the U.S. Defense Department.


The governor's office announced Tuesday that he'd arrived in Iraq. He traveled there Monday with two other governors after a Pentagon briefing. Perry also visited soldiers in Iraq in 2006 on a trip with other governors.

For security reasons, both trips were kept under wraps until the governor arrived in Iraq.

Perry spokeswoman Allison Castle says the trip is an opportunity for Perry to visit Texas troops and to thank them for their service.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 6, the 6th day of 2009. There are 359 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1492 - King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella ride victoriously into Granada after their armies defeat Boabdil, the last Muslim ruler of Spain, completing the Christian reconquest of Spain.

1810 - Turkey agrees to Russia's annexation of the Crimea and Kuban with the enactment of the Treaty of Constantinople.

1838 - Samuel Morse first publicly demonstrates his telegraph, in Morristown, New Jersey.

1912 - New Mexico becomes 47th U.S. state.

1942 - The Pan American Airways Pacific Clipper arrives in New York after making the first round-the-world trip by a commercial airplane.

1950 - Britain recognizes the Communist government of China.

1963 - Iran's Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi launches his "white revolution," including redistributing land to peasants and giving women the vote.

1990 - Polish Communist leaders vote to disband their party and form a new

'There may be Peace without Joy, and Joy without Peace, but the two combined make Happiness.'

— John Buchan, 1st Baron Tweedsmuir
Scottish author

leftist party under a different name.

1994 - The Mexican government flies tons of food to San Cristobal De Las Casas in Chiapas state, where Indian rebels are staging an uprising; figure skater Nancy Kerrigan is clubbed on the leg by an assailant in Detroit. Four men, including the ex-husband of Kerrigan's skating rival, Tonya Harding, are sentenced to prison.

1996 - Rebels raiding a village in northern India shoot and kill 15 Hindu men after pulling them from their beds and separating them from Muslims.

2002 - U.S. Special Forces and allied Afghan fighters return empty-handed from a four-day manhunt aimed at extracting Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammed Omar from his alleged mountain hideout in southern Afghanistan.

2005 - A baby boy is declared China's 1.3 billionth citizen in a blaze of publicity to promote the government's controversial "one child" birth limits.

2006 - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez threatens to seize control of coffee-producing companies, or even nationalize them, if they refuse to sell the product at government-controlled prices.

2007 - Bahraini authorities revoke the citizenship of athlete Mushir Salem Jawher for competing in the Tiberias Marathon in Israel, saying Jawher broke the laws of Bahrain which do not recognize the Jewish state.

2008 - Mikhail Saakashvili is elected to a second term as Georgia's president. Thousands of opposition protesters denounce the election as fraudulent.

Today's Birthdays: Joan of Arc, French leader and saint (1412-1431); Max Bruch, German composer (1838-1920); Kahlil Gibran, Lebanese-American philosopher (1883-1931); Carl Sandburg, U.S. poet (1878-1967); Kim Dae-jung, South Korean president (1925—); E. L. Doctorow, U.S. author (1931—); Rowan Atkinson, English actor/comedian (1955—).

The White Collar Lament

By Martha Randolph Carr

Throughout history, ever since the first time a caveman realized a rock could be used as a tool, the guy who could use his brain more than his hands was thought to be protected by new technology. His career aspirations would only be enhanced by whatever new gadget someone was about to introduce. That idea stood for a million years.

The ones who used their hands or their backs in order to build the shiny new object were thought to be marking time till technology would trump them and they'd have to learn an entire set of skills all over again.

As we age that's an increasingly uncomfortable thought particularly for those of us who weren't texting our BFF's during recess. Our brain is already crowded with kid's sports schedules, PIN numbers and deadlines. Throw in the desire to keep job security, hanging onto healthcare benefits and providing for the family and it's a sizeable dose of anxiety.

But it's been preached to us from every quarter for two hundred years that getting a college degree would prevent most of those hiccups. There may be layoffs during a steep recession but they won't last and in the end those with degrees will have richer lives and cushier retirements.

Welcome to 2009 and a reality check right on the heels of the death of the old adage that real estate is always a good investment or brokers make money even in bad markets. The end of that last one is probably making a few people smile as they

hold their most recent 401k statement. Apparently there is a limit to how much the financial system can be exploited.

It turns out though there is an old saying that still has a lot of staying power. Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free? This time it applies to old school journalists many of whom found themselves out on the street this summer.

Their situation does have something to do with the possible economic depression that's all around but it also has a lot more to do with how a very old profession is morphing right now into something new.

Many people are now getting their news from the internet, which would be fine if they were turning to reliable sources such as the web sit for their local paper. However, that new craze, the personal blog, has a lot of newcomers who've never taken a class or worked under an experienced editor reporting what they see as the news with their own take on it. Pundits gave them the idea and it's become commonplace to see someone reported as a suspect with a lot of innuendo that makes them look guilty before a trial.

A lot of the changes to the way we gather, report and then disseminate the news will turn out to be very good ones. New perspectives and the ability to write in depth about more local topics could help all of us to know our own communities and each other on a deeper, richer level.

But here's what's getting lost in the mix, at least for the moment. While

many voices are always a big plus to journalism untrained ones run the risk of getting the story wrong and inadvertently hurting someone else. Checking the facts, sticking to professional sources and just knowing the difference between hearsay and something verifiable takes time to learn and use proficiently.

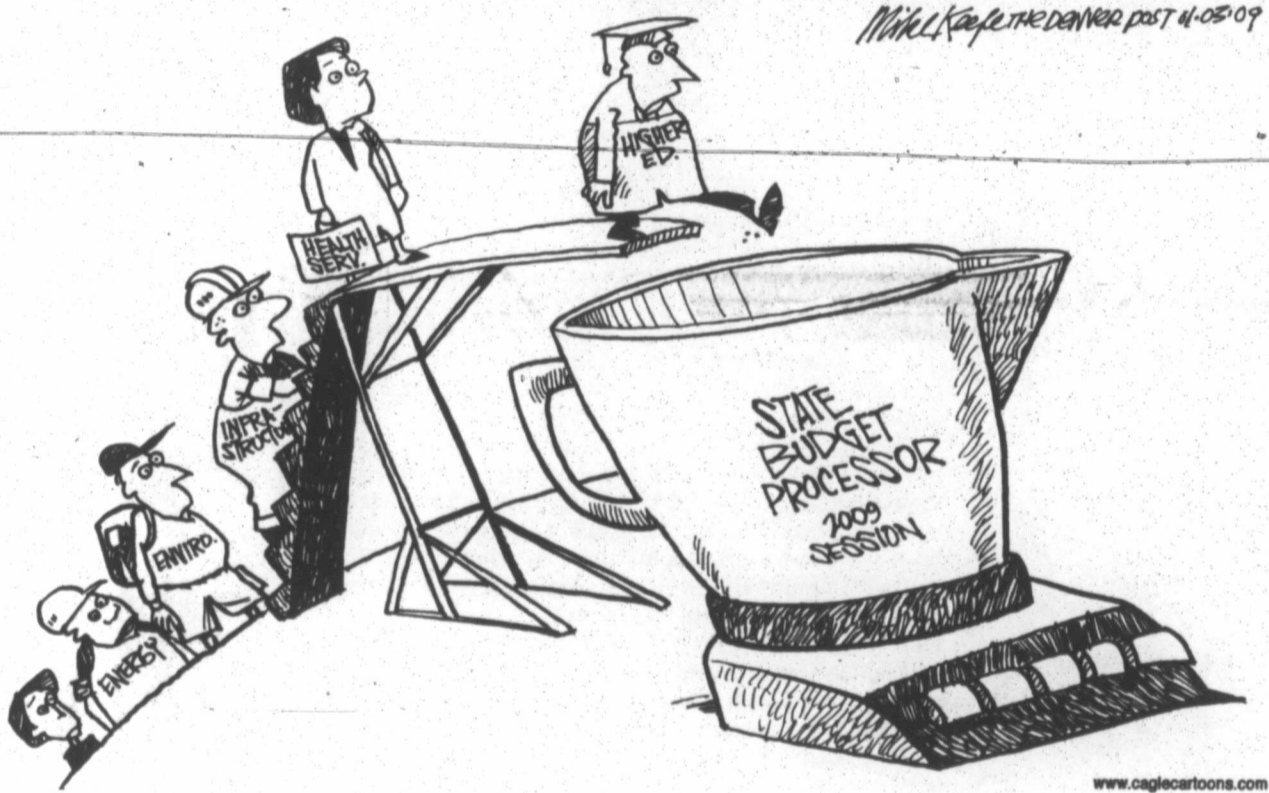
Also, while it's helpful and definitely quicker to go to those sites that cater to our specific interests we lose the opportunity a general news source gives us to learn something about a range of other topics.

That's very beneficial for creating tolerance in a diverse world and can open some people up to new ideas for their lives they would have never come across if they'd stuck to a more defined path.

However, as Americans we may veer too far to either side when given a brand new toy but eventually we find the limits and once again seek balance. That will happen for journalists, bloggers and readers as well as we seek newer definitions of reporting news versus spreading rumors that are adapted to an internet age.

The real question in the meantime is what the price may be before we realize it's time to start asking questions again and stop relying on what we read in someone's posting.

Martha Randolph Carr's latest book, *A Place to Call Home, a memoir about the reemergence of U.S. orphanages is available wherever books are sold.*



Other views

Fort Worth Star-Telegram on health care:

At first blush, it may seem startling that the health insurance industry is proposing to accept everyone as a customer regardless of the state of their health. But keeping one's cynicism in check is difficult when the net result would likely be a huge increase in taxpayer funding and, of course, industry profits.

The insurance industry's two largest trade groups Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association and America's Health Insurance Plans recently pledged their support for national universal health coverage if there were an enforceable requirement that everyone buy insurance.

The significance of the insurance industry's position is that it played a leading role in killing President Bill Clinton's 1994 universal health coverage plan.

The industry's proposal was silent on several important issues:

Health insurance premiums have doubled in cost since 2000. The estimated 47 million uninsured Americans demographically have the worst health because they have either foregone health care because of cost, or they

have been denied insurance because they have expensive chronic conditions. If insurance companies used community rating meaning each customer pays the same rate regardless of health status everyone's insurance bill would spike steeply even with utility-style rate regulation (which the industry loathes). If they continued current underwriting policies, then the uninsured would not be able to afford it anyway. Either way, the insurance companies clearly expect the taxpayers to come to the rescue.

Few would be able to stomach seeing people thrown in jail for not being able to pay for health insurance. Tax penalties or fines are useless if you don't have the money in the first place.

Many politicians and policy experts have urged the government to offer a public insurance plan that would extend Medicare and Medicaid to those willing to pay modest premiums. A competitive federal plan could leverage its huge buying power and low administrative costs. The insurance industry would squawk loudly about this, but it might be the best way to cover many affordably.

Many blame the insurance industry for high

health care costs. But high premiums are symptoms of the sector's runaway inflation. Any major health care overhaul discussion should include cost containment as a key component.

The Salem News, Salem, Mass., Friday, Jan. 2, 2009:

On Nov. 4, a majority of voters in Massachusetts chose to decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana. Those with less than an ounce of marijuana are no longer charged with a criminal offense but instead face a \$100 fine.

Today, the new law takes effect. Yet police departments across the state say they are uncertain how to enforce it. The state Executive Office of Public Safety and Security just Monday issued guidelines for enforcement of the law.

Nearly two months have passed since 65 percent of Massachusetts voters changed the law. Despite their lack of enthusiasm for the law, state and local law enforcement agencies have had time to prepare.

Under the new law, people caught with a small amount of marijuana will be forced to hand over the drug and pay a \$100 fine. Those under 18 will be required to complete a

drug awareness program or face a stiffer \$1,000 fine. They can either pay a fine to a clerk or request a District Court hearing.

To be sure, the new law does raise questions. Police are now required to issue civil citations, essentially tickets, to violators. Police have books of citations to issue to those who violate motor vehicle laws. These are carefully worded to conform to the existing laws and explain the violator's rights and responsibilities.

This should not be so difficult. Massachusetts is not the first state to decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana. Eleven other states have done so. Is there no experience from those states that Massachusetts law enforcement officials can draw upon?

It's apparent that the will of the voters, for good or ill, was that simple possession of marijuana should be treated as a trivial matter. Pay a small fine and be done with it. The best course for police is to enforce the law as written and expend as few resources as possible doing so.

The public doesn't see small amounts of marijuana as a problem. Neither should police.

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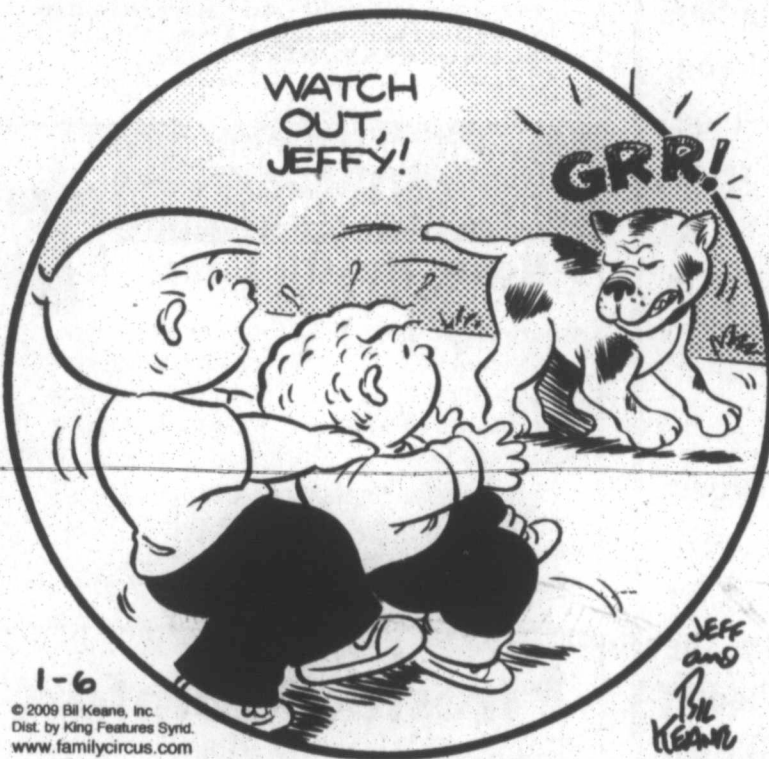
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



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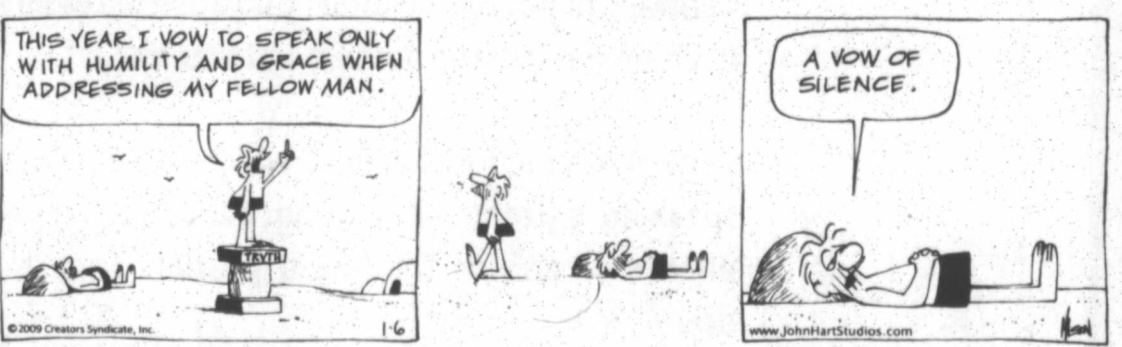
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Marvin



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Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Shot in the dark
 - 6 Accumulated, as debt
 - 11 Like bar beer
 - 12 Cherish
 - 13 lbsen play
 - 15 Hauler's unit
 - 16 Corn spike
 - 17 Siesta
 - 18 Permitted
 - 20 Wall worker
 - 23 Make advances to
 - 27 On the roof of
 - 28 Strong wind
 - 29 Paparazzi target
 - 31 Tossed
 - 32 "Be quiet!"
 - 34 Gift topper
 - 37 Comic bit
 - 38 Chest protector
 - 41 John Belushi movie
 - 44 "Get lost!"
 - 45 Restaurant fixture
 - 46 Run-down
 - 47 Take the wheel
- DOWN**
- 1 Farm animal

C	A	T	S	S	W	A	P
P	O	P	U	P	P	A	N
I	R	E	N	E	A	G	I
C	O	M	E	D	M	O	D
O	N	E	S	O	F	L	A
T	A	N	M	U	R	A	L
R	O	W	E	D			
B	E	A	T	I	T	O	P
M	O	N	T	H	S	M	I
E	L	I	H	E	A	D	U
E	D	G	A	R	A	N	I
T	E	M	P	O	S	T	E
R	A	T	E	T	A	R	S

Yesterday's answer

- 20 Late comic
- 21 Had a nosh
- 22 Costa del—
- 24 Road goo
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BUSINESS REVIEW



CENTRAL BAIL BONDS

Kenneth Knowles Owner

Area Manager Larry Ingram

Central Bail Bonds is a privately owned company providing bail bonds service for the Panhandle, North Central and West Texas-area. Owner Kenneth Knowles founded the company in 1978.

Larry Ingram has been the area manager for the Pampa area since August 1997. The Pampa office covers 9 counties, which include Hansford, Ochiltrie, Lipscomb, Hutchinson, Roberts, Hemphill, Carson, Gray and Wheeler. On average, Larry drives over 50K miles yearly. Barbara Brogdon, secretary/agent since November 1999 and Kelly Beesley, secretary/Agent since September 2007 handle the paperwork and backup for Larry. Together they make a great team to serve all your bail bond needs.

Forty offices and seventy agents makes Central the largest private surety in Texas. Central provides jail release, assistance, supervision, and guidance to those who Qualify for bail under the eighth amendment and can secure the release of defendants in every state on all types of bonds. Central will put up the total bond and charges a fee. The fee is set on percentage of the bond amount.

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Events and opportunities

• **T.O.P.S. Club**, a weight loss group, is seeking new members. The club meets from 5:30-6:30 p.m. each Monday at 513 E. Francis. New members welcome.

• **Carson County Square House Museum** in Panhandle will host an artist reception for Charles Firestone from 2:30-4 p.m. Jan. 11 in Hazlewood Gallery of the museum. Firestone is from Dalhart. He has studied under Dord Fitz and other artists. He belongs to several area art groups as a student and as an instructor. Firestone works primarily in oils but also uses watercolor, pastels, acrylics and personal photographs. A wide range of subjects from landscapes to portraits will be on display at the museum. For more information, call the museum at (806) 537-3524.

• **The 26th Annual Benefit Bridal Show** will be staged from 12:30-4:30 p.m. Jan. 11 in the Heritage Ball Room of Amarillo Civic Center in Amarillo by Bride's World. The event will include 100 merchants, continuous modeling of bridal wear, a silent auction and a grand prize giveaway. Tickets will be \$6 at the door or may be purchased in advance at www.bridesworld.com on the Internet.

• **Pampa Book Club** will meet at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the Texas-Room of Lovett Memorial Library. The 2009 reading schedule is as follows: Jan. 14, "The Last Lecture" by Randy Pausch; Feb. 11, "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson and Davie Relin; March 11, "Home: A Memoir of My Early Years" by Julie Andrews; and April 8, "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls. The May 13 book for review will be announced at a later date. Public welcome.

• **The South Plains Agriculture Wind and Wildlife Conference** will begin with registration at 7:30 a.m. Feb. 13 at the American Wind Power Center and Museum in Lubbock. The conference is being conducted by Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas

Wildlife Association, and Texas Parks and Wildlife. The purpose of the conference is to explore the pros and cons associated with the industry in Texas. For more information, call Ken Cearley, Extension wildlife specialist, at (806) 651-5760.

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

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

• **Cowboy Poetry Breakfast**—This Saturday, January 10, the monthly Cowboy Poetry Breakfast will be at the Big Texan Steak Ranch in Amarillo from 8-10 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

Don DeHay, cowboy poet, storyteller, singer, and songwriter, and Bob Muncy, rancher and new poet will be featured as the headliners. Bill Crenshaw of Canyon, newly elected President, cowboy poet and storyteller, will serve as emcee. Members of the Southwest Cowboy Poets Association will follow the headliner with more music, and cowboy poetry.

Chuckwagon breakfast includes all the fixin's, with the addition of omelets, fruit and breakfast rolls to enjoy.

Scheduled on the second Saturday morning each month, this event, as far as we know, is the only breakfast event of its kind in the entire country. Mark your calendar to attend this outstanding family entertainment.

Judge reduces man's sentence in WVa cattle scam

BECKLEY, W.Va. (AP) — A former West Virginia bank president who cooperated with federal officials in investigating a cattle and banking scam has gotten two months shaved off his prison term.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Johnston reduced Charles Henthorn's from nine months to seven months.

The 48-year-old former president of the First National Bank of Ronceverte

has cooperated with authorities as they investigate the fallout from the scam.

Prosecutors say Greenbrier County resident Kevin O'Brien fraudulently sold the same herd of cattle to different buyers in West Virginia, Virginia, Texas, Illinois and Nebraska.

In October, O'Brien was sentenced to eight years in prison.

Henthorn was convicted of taking bribes from O'Brien.

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HOLLY BRAND Chili No Beans	19 OZ.	2 for \$3
BATH PRINTS Bounty Towels	8 ROLL	\$5.99
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QUAKER ASSORTED FLAVORS Quakes Rice Snacks	3.5 OZ.	2 for \$3
VALLEY BRAND Pork and Beans	15 OZ.	3 for \$2
SELECTED VARIETIES WHOLE, DICED, OR STEWED Hunt's Tomatoes	14-14.5 OZ.	4 for \$5

HEREFORD Corned Beef	12 OZ.	\$3.99
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FRESH BUNCH Cilantro	3 FOR	\$1
PEELER Baby Carrots	1 LB.	99¢
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ASSORTED VARIETIES Patio Burritos	5 OZ.	2 for \$3
BROCCOLI CUTS, CUT CORN, GREEN PEAS OR MIXED PictSweet Vegetables	28-32 OZ.	2 for \$4
PLAINS Choco Dream	GAL.	2 for \$3
FLORIDA'S NATURAL ASSORTED VARIETIES Orange Juice	64 OZ.	\$2.99
ASSORTED VARIETIES Tampico Punch	GAL.	2 for \$3
SHURFINE VEGETABLE OIL Soft Spread	48 OZ.	\$2

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BAR S Corn Dogs	3 LB.	\$4.99
BAR S Fully Cooked Bacon	11 OZ.	\$1.99
WISCONSIN MARKET CUT Colby Cheese	EA.	\$2.99
EL MONTEREY Burritos or Chimichangas	33 OZ.	2 for \$6

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PowerAde	SELECT VARIETIES 32 OZ.	99¢
ASSORTED VARIETIES Coca-Cola Products	8 PACK, BTL.	3 for \$10
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(Front, left) Danny Martin, president of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Officer Stormy McCullar, and Tony Santacruz with Celanese Employees Club hold an enlarged check for \$5,050 dollars to purchase a new McGruff costume and crime prevention items for the Pampa Police Department. The money was donated from four local businesses. In the back row are Officer Jon Hammond, Interim Police Chief Donny Brown, and Officer Jason Rushing. Representatives from Bowers Ranch and Gonzales Tires are not pictured.

Army officials say force is ready to shift

FORT BLISS, Texas (AP) — The Army's top three officials said Monday the mammoth force is ready to shift its combat focus from Iraq to Afghanistan.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. told reporters Monday the fight in Afghanistan won't be very different from what many soldiers have already seen in Iraq.

"The types of operations they will conduct and need to conduct are about the same," Casey said of the two war fronts. "The type of warfare is not decidedly different when you shift from Iraq to Afghanistan."

The largest difference, Casey said, will likely be the mountainous and rural terrain that many soldiers haven't seen in Iraq, where urban combat has become the norm. Cultural and historical differences between the Arab and Afghan communities will also be significant, he said.

Casey, Secretary of the Army Pete Geren and Sgt. Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston were at the sprawling desert post just outside El Paso on Monday to announce a yearlong program to honor noncommissioned officers, enlisted soldiers who hold the rank of sergeant or above.

Geren said the yearlong program, dubbed Year of the NCO, will be used to recognize the corps of soldiers who have taken on significant day-to-day leadership of junior enlisted soldiers currently fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. The effort will also be used as a recruiting tool "to inform young people what NCOs do for our Army and help them better understand what an exciting opportunity and a career being an NCO in the United States Army can be."

In a morning meeting with reporters, Casey said it was unclear how many soldiers currently set to deploy to Iraq this year, including two brigade combat teams from Fort Bliss, may be diverted to Afghanistan.

"It's too early to tell on specific brigades," the Army's top general said.

The three Army leaders also discussed the future of the Army's modernization program, Future Combat Systems.

Casey and U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes, a staunch supporter of the program, said they don't see the FCS being cut any time soon.

Social Security taking online applications

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Social Security Administration, bracing for the coming eligibility of 80 million baby boomers, is introducing an online application that will allow people to apply for retirement benefits in as little as 15 minutes.

Social Security Commissioner Michael J. Astrue said in an interview the agency was completely overhauling its electronic services in recognition of the greater computer skills of future Social Security recipients and the need to more efficiently process the coming flood of applications. "We just don't have the infrastructure to handle that workload in the traditional fashion," he said. Astrue said a person

who now goes to a Social Security office to apply spends about 45 minutes consulting with a field officer.

The agency says that over the next 20 years some 10,000 people a day will become eligible for retirement.

Academy Award-winning actress Patty Duke is leading a Retire Online publicity campaign for the new program, shooting four public service ads that will run on radio and television. The ads are takeoffs of her 1960s TV sitcom "The Patty Duke Show."

"My husband demonstrated to me how to do it, and I was able to do it with my limited (computer) skills," she said. "It was very user-friendly."

The agency also plans to run full-page ads in USA Today and several news magazines, Astrue said.

The program has no paper forms to sign and usually requires no additional documents. In the past, people trying to sign up through the Internet still had to mail in or deliver paper documents with signatures or copies of birth certificates. Those with more complicated questions can still call the agency or visit an office.

Those wanting to use the new program can go to www.socialsecurity.gov and click on "Filing Online for Retirement Benefits."

President Bush wants gate near new home

DALLAS (AP) — President George W. Bush wants a gate installed along a public street to limit access to his new home in an affluent Dallas neighborhood, city officials said.

Dallas City Manager Mary Suhm confirmed to The Dallas Morning News on Monday that the president, who is expected to move into the new Preston Hollow home in two weeks, is seeking to have a gate for security reasons placed somewhere along the entrance to streets leading to his future residence.

Federal money would pay for the gate, not the city, said Suhm. It's unclear how residents would use the gate to get to their homes. Wherever the gate goes, public access to Daria Place — the high-end street where the Bushes' 8,500-square-foot ranch home sits — will soon be a thing of the past.

The plan, which requires approval by the Dallas City Council, isn't expected to meet with much opposition there, and the Bushes' neighbors seem to be on board, the newspaper reported. Residents have said that it isn't uncommon for cars

loaded with onlookers to pull up and take pictures of the house. "It's great the Bushes are moving here, and it's great that they're doing whatever they need to do," Alan Bell, a Daria Drive resident, said in Monday's online edition of The News.

The City Council is expected to vote on permitting the gate's construction this month, possibly as soon as its Jan. 14 meeting, City Hall officials say.

An aide to first lady Laura Bush declined to comment on the matter, calling it a security matter, the newspaper reported.

Bush has the Texas Legislature and his father, former President George H.W. Bush, to thank for the possibility to place a gate across a taxpayer funded street in Texas.

In May 1993, shortly after George H.W. Bush left the White House for Houston, the Legislature passed a little-noticed bill that allows cities to restrict access to streets "on which the dwelling of a former president of the United States is located." The Houston City Council later voted to allow gates at two streets leading to the



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: I'm writing regarding "Perplexed in South Dakota" (Oct. 15), who said "terrible things" to her friend in anger. The friend forgave her, but did not wish to continue the friendship.

I have been in that position, but my situation went beyond hurtful words. At the time, I was in a great deal of emotional pain and was devastated because I trusted the people involved. I struggled with forgiving them, and I am happy to say that I recently did.

Through the process, I learned two important lessons: First, forgiveness has everything to do with me and very little to do with the offender. By letting go of the hurt, I freed myself from the emotional bondage I was in.

The second lesson I learned was that forgiveness does not mean reconciliation. When you lose trust in someone, it takes time to regain it. Sometimes the damage

can never fully be repaired. -- BEEN THERE IN SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

DEAR BEEN THERE: Thank you for sharing what you learned. I told "Perplexed" that even though her friend no longer holds a grudge, she may consider "Perplexed" too dangerous to allow back in her life. Readers agreed with my advice that "Perplexed" watch what she says in anger in the future and cited their own experiences. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: One of my best friends and I had a falling-out some time ago due to a misunderstanding (I'll spare you the details). It was very painful for both of us.

She cut off contact with me first, and it was devastating. Despite my efforts, she apparently needed time to gather her thoughts and feelings. After a year and a half she called me, apologized and said she hoped we could pick up where we had left off. The

problem is: I can't. I was hurt to the core.

I still stay in touch with her, but my heart is no longer where it was. Although I miss her, I still resent her misjudgment of my loyalty. Forgiveness has many levels, and one level may be that of closure. -- NOT THE SAME IN THE EAST

DEAR ABBY: It is interesting that after saying terrible things to her friend, "Perplexed" did not apologize for several weeks, waited for her ex-friend to contact her, and apologized only after being informed by the friend that she was ending the friendship. The apology was self-serving, given only to convince her friend not to dump her. Why didn't she call immediately after realizing that what she said was awful?

In addition, her apology was in writing, instead of on the phone or in person, to avoid the discomfort of facing her friend. The message this

reluctant apology sends is that she was never going to apologize unless and until she stood to lose something.

I see no true remorse -- only indignation that her friend is not "forgiving" her correctly. Some people need to learn what a proper apology is. -- SEEN IT ALL BEFORE IN UPSTATE N.Y.

DEAR ABBY: Perhaps this example will help "Perplexed" better understand why the friend to whom she said hurtful words couldn't forgive and forget: Take a jar of nails and hammer them into a wooden fence. Imagine that each and every nail is a cruel or unkind word. Now remove each nail one by one, apologizing each time you do. When you are done, stand back and look at the fence. The nails are gone, but the holes remain. Cruel words can leave wounds that no amount of apology can fully erase. -- LIVING BY THAT EXAMPLE IN CALIF.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

Boone and Crockett Club confirms new world's record elk taken in by Idaho man

MISSOULA, Mont. — Perhaps the largest elk ever produced in the wild, a Utah bull taken in 2008 by a hunter on public land has been confirmed as a new World's Record. The official declaration was made Friday by the Boone and Crockett Club.

A special judges panel determined a final score of 478-5/8 B&C non-typical points, an incredible 93-plus inches above the Boone and Crockett minimum score of 385 for non-typical American elk, and more than 13 inches larger than the previous World's Record.

It is the only elk on record with a gross score approaching the 500-inch mark, at 499-3/8. Official data dates back to 1830.

The giant bull has 9 points on the left antler and 14 points on the right. The larger antler has a base circumference topping 9 inches.

The Boone and Crockett scoring system, long used to measure the success of wildlife conservation and management programs across North America, rewards antler size and symmetry, but also recognizes nature's imperfections with non-typical categories for most antlered game. The bull's final score of 478-5/8 inches includes an amazing 140 inches of abnormal points.

"Along with measurements that honor the quality of the animal, Boone and Crockett Club records also honor fair-chase hunting," said Eldon Buckner, chairman of the Club's Records of North American Big Game committee. "Through our entry

process, signed affidavits and follow-up interviews with the hunter, his guides, and state and federal officials, we were satisfied that this bull was indeed a wild, free-ranging trophy



This elk, killed in Sept., 2008 by Denny Austad in south central Utah has been declared a world record by the Boone and Crockett Club.

and that the tenets of fair chase were used in the harvest."

The hunter, Denny Austad of Ammon, Idaho, hunted the Monroe Mountain District in south-central Utah. Hunting with a self-designed rifle, Austad killed the bull on Sept. 30, 2008. He hunted for 13 days before connecting with the trophy, dubbed "spider bull" for its unique antler configuration.

On behalf of the Boone

and Crockett Club, Buckner congratulated Austad and credited his new World's Record to the tremendous management of habitat and wildlife by the Utah Division of

Wildlife Resources and the Fishlake National Forest. "Utah's conservation professionals really deserve a pat on the back, as do the citizens of Utah for their support of their state's wildlife programs," said Buckner. Across North America, ever-improving conservation practices have translated to flourishing big game populations, with balanced age-class and mature, trophy animals. Over the past 30 years,

qualifying Boone and Crockett records book entries for American elk have increased 193 percent from a total of 14 in 1977 to 41 in 2007.

Across all categories of native North American big game, the overall trend is even higher with 344 qualifiers in 1977 up to 1,151 in 2007 a 234 percent increase.

The previous World's Record for non-typical American elk was 465-2/8 B&C points. That bull was found dead, frozen in Upper Arrow Lake, B.C., in 1994, and was entered into Boone and Crockett Club records by the provincial Ministry of Environment on behalf of the citizens of British Columbia.

For hunter-taken non-typical American elk, the previous top bull scored 450-6/8 B&C points, taken in 1998 in Apache County, Ariz., by Alan Hamberlin.

The Boone and Crockett Club also keeps records for Roosevelt's and Tule elk. World's Records for these categories are substantially smaller than those for American elk.

About the Boone and Crockett Club

Founded by Theodore Roosevelt in 1887, the Boone and Crockett Club promotes guardianship and visionary management of big game and associated wildlife in North America. The Club maintains the highest standards of fair-chase sportsmanship and habitat stewardship, and is the universally recognized keeper of the records of native North American big game. Member accomplishments include protect-

ing Yellowstone and establishing Glacier and Denali national parks, founding the National Forest Service, National Park Service and National Wildlife Refuge System, fostering the Pittman-Robertson and Lacey Acts, creating the Federal Duck

Stamp program, and developing the cornerstones of modern game laws. The Boone and Crockett Club is headquartered in Missoula, Mont. For details, visit www.boone-andcrockettclub.com.

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