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their wicked ways, I will hear from

heaven and will forgive their sins and

will heal their land.

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## FAMILY RECOVERING

### Medical fund set up

by Rachel Stennett

rstennett@thepampanews.com

A medical fund has been established for the three members of the Castro family, who suffered from extreme exposure to poisonous carbon monoxide fumes at their Pampa home on Dec. 16.

Susana Gaspar, 26, and her two children, Luis Castro Jr., 5, and two-month-old Celeste Guadalupe Castro were all found unconscious inside their residence at 720 Naida, from leaking fumes in a heater that was not properly vented to the outside of the house, according to Pampa Fire Department Chief Kim Powell.

The three family members were found by family friend Marta Silva, who had gone over to the house after Luis Castro, Sr., said he had tried to contact his wife, Susana, from work multiple times but could not reach her.

When Silva entered the home, she found the three unconscious.

See Castro, Page 3

"I personally want to thank the fire department and all the personnel that responded that day and also PRMC ER and their staff," Silva said. "Also, thanks to everyone for their prayers, they worked and are continuing to work."

—Marta Silva  
 Castro family friend



submitted photos

Above, Susana Gaspar, mother of Luis Castro, 5, and Celeste Castro, two months, with father Luis Carlos Castro at Children's Medical Center in Dallas Christmas weekend. The mother and children were all hospitalized after taking in dangerous levels of carbon monoxide in their home on Dec. 16. A fund has been established to help the family with medical expenses. At left, Luis Castro recovers at Children's Medical Center.



## City cracking down on code violators

by David Bowser

dbowser@thepampanews.com

Pampa's code enforcement department will crack down on violations this month.

Joey Williams, code enforcement officer for the city, said citizens who have been cited for any type of code violation will have until Jan. 30, to correct their problem areas or face fines. Additional citations will be issued following the deadline.

The concern is primarily for trash and abandoned property.

Williams said that some property owners have multiple violations that could become costly after the Jan. 30 deadline.

"After the problem has been addressed," Williams said, "and you have received a citation, every day thereafter is a separate violation."

He said a simple junk and debris citation carries a \$175 fine. That fine can

increase in three days to \$700 if the problem is not taken care of, he said.

Beginning in February, Williams said, the names of violators who still haven't addressed their code violations will be published in The Pampa News.

Williams said the code enforcement division of the city normally gives violators at least a month to address any problems. Unfortunately, he added, many citations go unheeded so the city is beginning an enforcement program.

The program is designed to make Pampa a better place to live for each of us," Williams said, "and a more attractive community for prospective citizens who are looking to move here."

Williams said anyone with questions about a citation may contact him at 669-5740 or by email at jwilliams@cityofpampa.or.g.

## INJURY ACCIDENT



staff photo by Betsy Phillips

Pampa Police, Fire and Guardian EMS responded when a driver southbound in the 1300 block of Charles Street failed to yield the right-of-way to a car headed east on Kentucky resulting in this crash scene Wednesday afternoon (Jan. 7). Roger Lee Smith, 16, of Lefors was driving the 2009 Silver Scion when it struck the 1995 Green Dodge belonging to Kimberly Ann Godsey of Pampa. Godsey was transported from the scene to PRMC.

## Energy firms paid out fewer taxes in '08

AUSTIN (AP) — Under Texas' current state business tax, oil and gas producers got a \$78 million tax break last year — when the industry was

awash in record profits — compared to 2007 figures, according to a preliminary report from a state advisory committee.

\$411 million in 2008, down from nearly \$489 million in 2007. The industry also separately pays state levies including

Energy firms paid out See Energy, Page 3

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**PAMPA FORECAST**

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
High 59 Low 24	High 48 Low 26	High 57 Low 30

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 59. Wind chill values between 27 and 37 early. Windy, with a north-northwest wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 24. Wind chill values between 14 and 19. North-northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 48. North-northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 26. North-northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south-southwest.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 57. North-northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 30. North-northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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*Grain prices*

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

Wheat.....	5.32
Milo.....	5.47
Corn.....	7.26

**Cash Five results**

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 4-11-20-18-37. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$24,889. Winning ticket sold in Houston

Matching four of five: 89. Prize: \$126  
Matching three of five: 2,557. Prize: \$11  
Matching two of five: 26,505. Prize: \$2  
Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

**Lotto Texas**

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 27-44-37-24-54-38. Number matching six of six: 0. Number matching five of six: 13. Prize: \$2,825. Number matching four of six: 934. Prize: \$58. Number matching three of six: 19,619. Prize: \$3. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$8 million.

**Texan arrested overseas for allegedly videotaped sex acts**

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — An American fugitive wanted in the United States for allegedly raping four girls and videotaping the sex acts was arrested Thursday in Thailand, police said.

Darren Ray Castleberry, 41, of Spring, Texas, was arrested in a central Bangkok shop. Police believe Castleberry has been living in Thailand since 2006.

Castleberry, who was subject of a global manhunt after Interpol issued an arrest warrant for him, is being detained at the Thai Immigration Bureau pending extradition to the United States, according to The Nation newspaper in Bangkok.

Castleberry has been charged with four counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child, according to the Harris County Sheriff's Department. A clerk in the department's fugitive division said the department had not been notified of the arrest as of Thursday morning.

Castleberry's family said they believe that he was living with a new girlfriend overseas. Before that, he is believed to have worked in the Middle East, including Turkey or Uzbekistan, KHOU-TV in Houston has reported.

Several Southeast Asian countries, including Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, are popular with sex offenders due to lax law enforcement, corruption in the justice system and poverty that forces children into prostitution.

A number of high-profile suspects have been caught in Thailand, including Christopher Paul Neil of Canada, who was arrested last year after an Interpol manhunt sparked by some 200 Internet photos showing him allegedly abusing Vietnamese and Cambodian boys.

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*Obituaries*

*Services tomorrow*

**GREER, Marcia F.** — Memorial services, 10 a.m., First Baptist Church, Pampa.  
**PEPPER, Elizabeth Holden** — Memorial services, 2 p.m., Memory Gardens Cemetery, Pampa.

**Marcia F. Greer, 66**

Marcia F. Greer, 66, of Pampa, Texas, died Jan. 7, 2009, at Amarillo, Texas.

Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 9, 2009, at the First Baptist Church with Dr. Johnny Funderburg, pastor, and the Rev. Barry Owens, associate pastor, officiating.

Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors. Mrs. Greer was born Nov. 24, 1942, in Pampa

where she had been a resident most of her life. She married Bill Greer on May 23, 1961. She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church and an active member of WMU.

Marcia loved spending time with her grandchildren and attending all their activities.

Survivors include her husband, Bill Greer, of the home; two daughters, Mistie West and husband Billy of Pampa and Christie Wall and husband Brian of Bushland; 1 sister, Linda McClure of Borger; five grandchildren, Coleby West, Katelin Wall,



Greer

Survivors include her husband, Bill Greer, of the home; two daughters, Mistie West and husband Billy of Pampa and Christie Wall and husband Brian of Bushland; 1 sister, Linda McClure of Borger; five grandchildren, Coleby West, Katelin Wall,

Survivors include her husband, Bill Greer, of the home; two daughters, Mistie West and husband Billy of Pampa and Christie Wall and husband Brian of Bushland; 1 sister, Linda McClure of Borger; five grandchildren, Coleby West, Katelin Wall,

Survivors include her husband, Bill Greer, of the home; two daughters, Mistie West and husband Billy of Pampa and Christie Wall and husband Brian of Bushland; 1 sister, Linda McClure of Borger; five grandchildren, Coleby West, Katelin Wall,

Cameron Wall, Brett West and Halie West. SPECIAL NOTICE: The family will be at 2429 Mary Ellen in Pampa.

MEMORIALS: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 621, Pampa, TX 79066-0621; or Calvary Baptist Church, 900 E. 23rd, Pampa, TX 79065.

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

**Javier 'Chieto' Ontiveros, 41**

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — Javier "Chieto" Ontiveros, 41, died Jan. 5, 2009, at Corpus Christi.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009, at Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel in Pampa with the Rev. Joseph Ravi, associate pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church of Pampa, officiating.

Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery in Pampa under the direction of Carmichael-Whately

Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Ontiveros was born July 3, 1967, in Mission, Texas. He was a 1985 graduate of Pampa High School. He was a boilermaker in the construction industry. He was a Catholic.

Survivors include his wife, Lisa Ontiveros, of



Ontiveros

the home; five daughters, Evonne Ontiveros and Christina Ontiveros, both of Phoenix, Arizona, Anna Ontiveros, Sierra Ontiveros and Rosie Ontiveros, all of Corpus Christi; three brothers, Joel Ontiveros and wife Lydia of Calvert, Julian Ontiveros of Pampa, and

Jimmy Ontiveros and wife Cindy of Amarillo; and five grandchildren, Alexis Hernandez, Eric Hernandez, Ariana Gallegos, Isaiiah Hughes and Ethan Gallegos, all of Phoenix, Ariz.

Javier was preceded in death by his parents, Julian and Rosie Ontiveros; and by a brother, Pete Ontiveros.

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

*Emergency Services*

**Pampa PD**

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

**Wednesday, Jan. 7**  
Officers conducted 11 traffic stops.

A total of five calls and/or stops concerning animals occurred.

Fraud was reported at the PD.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 300 block of West Kingsmill. An individual was reportedly interrupted while trying to snatch a purse and contents. The person dropped the purse and both the purse and the contents were recovered.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block of North Perry.

A civil matter was reported in the 1900 block of North Nelson.

A traffic accident was reported at Kentucky and Charles streets.

A traffic complaint was reported in the 100 block of West 30th.

Phone harassment was reported at the PD.

An alarm was reported in the 400 block of South Cuyler.

A welfare check was performed in the 1000 block of North Sumner.

A suspicious person was reported in the 300 block of North Hobart.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 12000 block of County Road H 1/2.

**Thursday, Jan. 8**  
Officers conducted one traffic stop in the 400 block of West Brown. The stop resulted in at least one arrest.

Suspicious persons were report-

ed in the 500 block of West Brown, at 22nd and Sumner streets, at Cuyler and Sunset streets, and in the 800 block of East Frederic.

A prowler was reported in the 2400 block of Rosewood.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 1900 block of West Gwendolyn.

**Sheriff**

Gray County Sheriff's Office recorded the following arrests.

**Wednesday, Jan. 7**  
Riordan Lynn Hill, 25, of Amarillo was arrested by GCSO on a probation violation for burglary of a habitation out of Potter County and on a warrant for assault causing bodily injury/family violence out of Potter County.

**Thursday, Jan. 8**  
Claudia Solis Campos, 29, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department for three counts of animal nuisance and two counts of animal at-large.

**Fire**

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

**Wednesday, Jan. 7**  
9:55 a.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to Dyer's Bar-B-Que, Highway 60 West, on a grass fire.

3:39 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1300 block of Charles on a motor vehicle accident. One person was transported to Pampa Regional Medical

Center via ambulance.

**Ambulance**

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

**Wednesday, Jan. 7**  
10:03 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transported a patient to BSA Hospital in Amarillo.

11:06 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1000 block of Neel Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:45 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the community of Lefors and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:42 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1600 block of North Faulkner and transported a patient to BSA Hospital in Amarillo.

3:42 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Kentucky and Charles streets and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:38 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transported a patient to BSA Hospital in Amarillo.

**Thursday, Jan. 8**  
1:30 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:45 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transported a patient to the 1500 block of West Kentucky.

**UT pushing to modify top 10 percent rule**

AUSTIN (AP) — The University of Texas at Austin has "lost control" of its admissions policy and wants to change the law that guarantees automatic entry to students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class, UT President William Powers said Wednesday.

Powers said a record 81 percent of the Texas freshmen entering the university this fall gained admission through the so-called "top 10 percent rule." Unless the Legislature changes the policy during its upcoming 2009 session, Powers said the state's premier university

soon would have no room to admit any Texas student who does not meet that standard.

"We've lost control of our entering class because we don't have any discretion on the admissions," Powers said at a legislative preview meeting hosted by the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors. Powers said the university supports some form of automatic admission based on high school grades but wants to modify existing law so that high achievers who happen to fall short of the top 10 percent can gain entry.

Powers suggested that one solution would be to adopt a more "aggressive" program

allowing students to transfer to the university from community colleges.

The automatic admissions law was adopted a decade ago after a federal appeals court decision made affirmative action illegal in Texas college admissions. In 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed universities to use race as one of many decision-making factors.

Efforts to change the top 10 percent law, or place a cap on the number of students being admitted under it, have fallen apart in past legislative sessions. Many Democrats have argued against modifying it, saying the law has

improved ethnic and geographic diversity at major universities over the past decade.

Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, who serves on the Senate panel that oversees higher education, agreed Texas has a "capacity problem" but he said any modifications to the top 10 percent law should contain a "sunset provision" that ensures the Legislature could revisit admissions policy if it's not producing the intended results. West also said studies have shown that students admitted under the provision do better than those who aren't.

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# Castro

Continued from Page 1

She pulled both children out of the house before emergency officials arrived on scene.

"We're not sure how long they were unconscious," Silva said. The family was found at 3:30 that afternoon, and Luis Castro had left for work that morning.

Readings of air inside the home reached 936 PPM (parts per million). Carbon monoxide detectors sound at 35 PPM. Powell said that fire department personnel entered the house wearing SCBA gear (self-contained breathing apparatus) to ventilate the house because the CO was so potent. "The saturation levels in that home were lethal,"

Powell said. "She (Silva) put herself in peril with the levels that the CO (carbon monoxide) there," Powell explained. "She did a wonderful job."

The three victims were immediately taken to Pampa Regional Medical Center, and later in the evening were transported by LifeStar to Amarillo, according to Silva.

Gaspar was taken to North West Texas Hospital, and the two children were taken to Baptist St. Anthony's. Gaspar was released two days later and Celeste was released by Christmas Eve. Luis Castro was transported to Children's Medical Center in Dallas.

Doctors expect a full recovery for Gaspar and her daughter, but Luis Castro is expected to have brain damage, according to Silva. "He (Luis) is going

to need rehab," Silva explained. "He hasn't had a lot of movement in his body. He is barely starting to speak, but he is eating on his own. We don't know the amount of time needed for therapy or rehab."

Luis is expected to be transported to Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation in Dallas soon, Silva said.

"I personally want to thank the fire department and all the personnel that responded that day and also PRMC ER and their staff," Silva said. "Also, thanks to everyone for their prayers, they worked and are continuing to work."

*Funds may be donated to the Castro family at the First Bank SouthWest, attention: Marta Silva for Luis Castro Medical Fund.*

# Energy

Continued from Page 1

severance taxes, which skyrocketed with 2008's higher oil prices, according to the Business Tax Advisory Committee's report. A draft of the committee's report to the Legislature is scheduled to be released soon.

The Legislature passed the restructured business tax in 2006 to replace the previous loophole-ridden franchise tax.

While the energy industry got a break, other industries did not. In fact, most other industries shelled out more last year than in 2007, according to the preliminary report.

But spokesmen for the

state's leading oil and gas industry trade group disputed the notion that the industry had gotten a tax break, saying that other taxes paid last year increased due to record-high gasoline prices.

"Texas remains very dependent on oil and gas to pay the bills," said Ben Sebree with the Texas Oil & Gas Association. He said the industry supported the tax rewrite because it thought the tax should be broadened to cover businesses other than those that are capital intensive.

Sebree said he expects the industry's business tax payments will go "way up" this year based on 2008's revenues. Each year's tax tab is based on the previous year's business activity.

One of the critics of the

two-year-old tax, Dale Craymer, chief economist of the Texas Taxpayers and

Research Association, said the purpose of the reform overall wasn't to help the oil and gas industry as much as it was to try to make the tax more reflect a modern economy.

"All of that is consistent with the stated goal of trying to move the tax base away from goods-producing industries and more toward services," said Craymer in an online story Wednesday for the Houston Chronicle.

Since profit is not considered in the state business tax, Craymer noted that the flip side for oil and gas producers is that they will likely end up paying more in unprofitable years than under the old tax.

# House requires info on presidential library donors

WASHINGTON (AP) — Future donations to presidential libraries would have to be publicly disclosed, the House decided Wednesday.

The library vote and a separate one making it more difficult for former presidents to prevent documents from entering the public domain kicked off a new session of Congress. Majority Democrats have joined with President-elect Barack Obama in promising to make government operations more transparent. Both bills now go to the Senate.

"Today, we continue our reform efforts by ensuring meaningful and timely access to presidential records and the disclosure of big money donations to presidential libraries," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

The library measure would require that groups raising funds for presidential libraries make disclosures four times a year of all donations of \$200 or more.

The bill is not retroactive and this would not apply to the library that President George W. Bush has planned for the Southern Methodist University campus in Dallas. It would cover donations made to library foundations during the time a president is in office and the period before the National Archives agrees to use the land or the facility.

The presidential library system began when President Franklin D. Roosevelt donated his presidential papers to the federal government. Under the 1955 Presidential Libraries Act, the National Archives takes over operations once the library is constructed.

The House has made several attempts this decade to move the legislation.

Republicans promoted it at the end of the Clinton administration after it was revealed that Clinton's library foundation received a large contribution from the ex-wife of financier Marc Rich. Rich fled the country after being convicted of evading \$40 million in taxes and then received a presidential pardon on the last day Clinton was in office.

Corporations and foreign nations are also major donors to presidential libraries. Rep. Edolphus Towns, D-N.Y., chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, said there was "enormous potential for abuse" from the current lack of disclosure. He said the Clinton library in Little Rock, Ark., cost an estimated \$165 million and the Bush library is expected to cost considerably more.

The House passed an identical bill last year, but the Senate did not act.

The documents bill would overturn an executive order issued by Bush in November 2001. It gave presidents and former presidents the ability to delay public release of records for years. The bill also states that only presidents and former presidents, not former vice presidents or the descendants of presidents, can assert privilege over records.

A former president would have the right to assert privilege over records, but the sitting president or a court would have to agree before the documents could be withheld from the public.

The vote on the documents bill, H.R. 35, was 359-58. The vote on the libraries bill, H.R. 36, was 388-31.

# Congressman Thornberry introduces his first bill in new Congress

WASHINGTON, DC

Congressman Mac Thornberry (TX-13) today introduced the "Death Tax Repeal Act" a bill to permanently repeal the federal estate tax. "Family owned businesses, farms and ranches are the foundation of the rural economy," said Thornberry. "As Congress debates new ideas on how to encourage economic growth we ought to follow the old maxim 'first do no harm' and make sure that the existing temporary reduction in the estate tax is not allowed to expire, returning the Death Tax rate to 55% on January 1, 2011."

"It is ironic that some in Congress have put forth lengthy and complicated plans to stimulate the economy through a massive government spending program, but have yet to consider my simple, two page bill to protect one of America's most important means of capital formation, building a family enterprise," noted Congressman

Thornberry. "The estate tax is estimated to have raised about \$22 billion dollars or about one percent of federal tax receipts in 2002. Economists estimate that the federal estate tax depresses the number of jobs by 170,000 to 250,000 each year, meaning repealing the Death Tax is a much more efficient way of creating jobs than borrowing and spending \$1 trillion."

"With 18 original cosponsors for my bill I am hopeful that others in Congress are open to an honest examination of how capital formation and job creation actually occur for farms, ranches, and small businesses of all kinds," concluded Congressman Thornberry. "With small business typically providing two-thirds of the job growth in our economy repealing the Death Tax would be one of the simplest and most cost effective ways of protecting the economy of rural America."

# Trucker passed on plea deal, sentenced to prison

BURLINGTON, Ky. (AP) — A North Texas truck driver who passed on a plea deal that would have spared him from imprisonment, has now been sentenced to eight years behind bars.

A judge in northern Kentucky accepted a trial jury's recommendation Wednesday and pronounced sentence on 61-year-old Peter Mbugua (um-BUHG'-wah) of Wylie, Texas.

It took a jury just 15 minutes in November to find Mbugua guilty of second-degree manslaughter.

The Kentucky Enquirer reported that Mbugua earlier refused a plea bargain that would have required him to admit knowingly driving his tractor-trailer truck with defective brakes.

Mbugua was exiting Interstate 71-75 in Boone County in March when he couldn't stop at a traffic signal and the rig hit 22-year-old Joey Lonneman's motorcycle. The victim — from Richwood — died a short time later.

# Texas man pleads guilty in RNC case

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)

— One of two Texas men accused of possessing Molotov cocktails during the Republican National Convention has pleaded guilty.

The U.S. Attorney's Office says Bradley Neal Crowder, of Austin, pleaded guilty Thursday in federal court in Minneapolis to one count of aiding and abetting possession of an unregistered firearm. A sentencing date has not been set.

Meanwhile his co-defendant, David Guy McKay of Austin, is scheduled to go on trial

on Jan. 26.

Prosecutors allege McKay and Crowder were part of an Austin-based protest group that planned to use incendiary devices to destroy property or injure police during the Republican National Convention.

The convention was at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, Sept. 1-4.

Jeff DeGree is McKay's attorney. He said he doesn't believe Crowder's plea will affect McKay's case because the evidence against the two men is different.

# Man sentenced to 40 years in child abuse case

SAN MARCOS, Texas (AP) — A man convicted of 13 felony child abuse charges late last year by a Hays County jury was sentenced to 40 years in prison, according to a newspaper report.

Gregory Anthony Rodriguez, 31, was accused of abusing two children. Charges against him included aggravated sexual assault of a child, a first-degree felony,

and indecency with a child, a second-degree felony.

The jury gave punishments ranging from 10 to 30 years, and state District Judge Jack Robison ruled that some of the sentences should run consecutively, the Austin American-Statesman reported Thursday in its online edition.

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A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT INDICATIONS FOR USE, CONTRAINDICATIONS, WARNINGS, AND ADVERSE EVENTS OF THE LAP-BAND AP® SYSTEM. Indications: The LAP-BAND AP® System is indicated for use in weight reduction for severely obese patients with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of at least 40 or a BMI of at least 35 with one or more severe comorbid conditions, or those who are 100 lbs. or more over their estimated ideal weight. Contraindications: The LAP-BAND AP® System is not recommended for non-adult patients, patients with conditions that may make them poor surgical candidates or increase the risk of poor results, who are unwilling or unable to comply with the required dietary restrictions, or who currently are or may become pregnant. Warnings: The LAP-BAND AP® System is a long-term implant. Evident and replacement surgery may be required at some time. Patients who become pregnant or severely ill, or who require more extensive nutrition may require deflation of their bands. Patients should not expect to lose weight as fast as gastric bypass patients, and band inflation should proceed in small increments. Anti-inflammatory agents, such as aspirin, should be used with caution and may contribute to an increased risk of band erosion. Adverse Events: Placement of the LAP-BAND AP® System is major surgery and, as with any surgery, death can occur. Possible complications include the risks associated with the medications and methods used during surgery, the risks associated with any surgical procedure, and the patient's ability to tolerate a foreign object implanted in the body. Band slippage, erosion and deflation, obstruction of the stomach, infection, or nausea and vomiting may occur. Reoperation may be required. Rapid weight loss may result in complications that may require additional surgery. Deflation of the band may alleviate excessively rapid weight loss or esophageal dilation. Not all contraindications, warnings, or adverse events are included in this brief description. More detailed risk information is available at www.lapbandinfo.com or 1-800-298-5963. Important: This is a brief introduction. Please contact your physician regarding the possible risks and benefits of obesity surgery. CAUTION: This device is restricted to sale by or on the order of a physician.

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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 8th, the eighth day of 2009. There are 357 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 8, 1935, rock-and-roll legend Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Miss.

On this date:

In 1798, the Eleventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was declared in effect by President John Adams nearly three years after its ratification by the states; it prohibited a citizen of one state from suing another state in federal court.

In 1815, U.S. forces led by Gen. Andrew Jackson defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans, the closing engagement of the War of 1812.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson outlined his "Fourteen Points" for lasting peace after World War I.

Mississippi became the first state to ratify the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which established Prohibition.

In 1959, Charles de Gaulle was inaugurated as president of France's Fifth Republic. In Cuba, Fidel Castro and his army arrived in Havana in triumph following the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a "War on Poverty" in his State of the Union address.

In 1973, the Paris peace talks between the United States and North Vietnam resumed.

One year ago: Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton and Republican John McCain won the New Hampshire primaries. A quick-thinking Boy Scout foiled an assassination attempt on the president of the Maldives, grabbing an attacker's knife as the man leapt from a crowd. Paintings by Pablo Picasso and Brazilian painter Candido Portinari, stolen from Brazil's Sao Paulo Museum in December 2007, were recovered.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian Larry Storch is 86. Actor Ron Moody is 85. Comedian Soupy Sales is 83. Broadcast journalist Sander Vanocur is 81. CBS newsmen Charles Osgood is 76. Singer Shirley Bassey is 72. Game show host Bob Eubanks is 71. Country-gospel singer Cristy Lane is 69. Rhythm-and-blues singer Anthony Gourdine (Little Anthony and the Imperials) is 68. Actress Yvette Mimieux is 67. Physicist Stephen Hawking is 67. Rock musician Robby Krieger (The Doors) is 63. Rock singer David Bowie is 62. Movie director John McTiernan is 58. Actress Harriet Sansom Harris is 54. Singer-songwriter Ron Sexsmith is 45. Actress Maria Pitillo is 44. Actress Michelle Forbes is 44. Singer R. Kelly is 42. Rock musician Jeff Abercrombie (Fuel) is 40. Actress Ami Dolenz is 40. Reggae singer Sean Paul is 36. Country singer Tift Merritt is 34. Actress-rock singer Jenny Lewis is 33. Actress Amber Benson is 32. Actor Scott Whyte is 31. Actress Sarah Polley is 30. Actress Rachel Nichols is 29. Actress Gaby Hoffman is 27. Rock musician Disashi Lumumbo-Kasongo (Gym Class Heroes) is 26.

## Embarrassing phone moments

Okay, I am, like, the queen of faux pas. Unfortunately, I also excel at physical mishaps, probably because I go around the majority of the time with my foot inserted in my mouth.

In plain English, I am a terrific klutz in both the verbal and non-verbal sense. That is probably why I find such enjoyment in others' blooper moments because I am such a stellar blooper-maker myself.

The folks at Wirefly.com recently held a "Most Embarrassing Moment with Your Phone" contest. According to an electronic news release, Wirefly.com is a retailer of cell phones and other wireless products and accessories.

The e-release reports that at the conclusion of its contest Wirefly selected five winners. In the space below, I have copied and pasted the winners, verbatim, from the e-release from fifth place all the way to first.

Drum roll, please. (Use

your imagination.) And the honorees are ...

"Fifth Place: Stacey Fisher, Methuen, Mass. — While attending a Renaissance fair with her husband, Stacey Fisher tripped over a tree stump, causing her cell phone to soar through the air and land directly into the bosom of an unassuming woman, who was dressed in a bustier and corset, an authentic renaissance costume typical of maidens during that time.

"Fourth Place: David Toledo, Miramar, Fla. — David Toledo accidentally dropped his BlackBerry into an airplane toilet on a flight to visit a client. He was able to fish it out of the toilet and it was still fully operational. However, when he arrived to the meeting, he was informed by his client that he had a huge blue stain on his face. The disinfectant in an airplane toilet was much stronger than he thought.

"Third Place: Stacy Sawyer, DeValls Bluff,

Ark. — Stacy Sawyer had to mitigate an argument between her parents because her father was continuously receiving text messages from 'Lo-Cell,' whom her mother believed was another woman, when in reality, Sawyer's father was merely receiving notifications that his battery was low!

"Second Place: Jon Froehlich, Alexandria, Va. — Believing he was speaking to a co-worker on the phone, Jon Froehlich referred to his boss, Mr. Clifford, as 'The Big Red Dog,' referencing the popular children's book. Unfortunately, it was Mr. Clifford on the other line.

"Grand Prize Winner, Karen Emerson of Biloxi, Miss., won a Motorola Krave and accessory bundle for her unfortunate, yet amusing story of absent-mindedly forgetting her cell phone in her garter belt on her wedding day and having it ring to the tune of 'Girls Just Want to Have Fun' at the most inopportune time — as her father walked her down the aisle.



The contest judges were taken with Emerson's story because of its inimitability, as well as her gracious attitude to be able to laugh off an otherwise regrettable incident."

Yes, laughter is indeed good medicine. However, I can't usually, um, find the humor in my gaffes until, oh, a good 10 years after each episode has occurred.

Sklya Bryant is a Lifestyles reporter for The Pampa News. she can be reached: lifestyles@thepampa.com or 669-2525

*'In order to go on living one must try to escape the death involved in perfectionism..'*

— Hannah Arendt, American author and historian



## Analysis: Can US spend cash fast enough?

WASHINGTON (AP)—Washington bureaucrats have a reputation for being able to spend U.S. taxpayer money real fast. But, believe it or not, spending it fast enough is one of the biggest tasks President-elect Barack Obama's economic team faces in putting together an economic recovery measure.

Obama's economic recovery plan depends on swiftly pumping hundreds of billions of federal dollars into the economy to create jobs. The focus is on tax cuts and government spending that can provide an immediate lift to the economy.

However, the \$675 billion-\$775 billion plan emerging in talks between Obama's team and Democratic allies in Congress also appears to contain lots of money that will not be spent for years, like for water projects, rebuilding the electric grid and buying billions of dollars of computers and software for the health care sector. Much of that money won't get spent until the economy starts growing again.

Some Republican critics say Democrats are simply using the current economic crisis to put money into long-term projects now, rather than in a few years when concerns about record budget deficits might threaten the spending.

"We must ... make distinctions between what is 'stimulus' ... and what is merely more government spending on favored projects we don't need with money we don't have," said Senate Republican Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

One example is a plan to spend billions of dollars on a new health care information technology system that would make the delivery of health care safer, more effective and more efficient.

During the campaign, Obama promised \$50 billion over five years for the initiative. The upcoming economic recovery bill will provide less. Even so, little of the program can

get underway quickly and building the system is years away. Basic questions like privacy rights and a design that would allow computers for doctors, hospitals and insurance companies interact have yet to be resolved.

Even Obama's economic advisers have warned privately that as the stimulus bill increases in size, its quality inevitably declines. The economy can absorb only so much public investment over the next two years. Republicans are even more skeptical.

"It's incredibly difficult to identify things that are valuable in the long run, can be financed in the short run and get the money out the door quickly," said former Congressional Budget Office Director Douglas Holtz-Eakin, who advised Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign. "It would be preferable to take any stimulus you feel is necessary and target it on a few things; don't spread it as seed money for a thousand programs that'll never stop growing."

"Right now, we have an emergency on our hands," counters House Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey, a Democrat. "If the house is burning, you're not going to worry about which hose you grab, so long as you get water on the fire."

Obama officials promise a "use it or lose it" rule to force states and localities to spend new federal money quickly to stimulate jobs. Such an approach could prompt officials to choose more wasteful projects that can be built soon over better ideas that might take a while.

"There's a tension here between wanting to do the most meritorious projects for the long term and wanting to do stuff that boosts the economy quickly," said budget expert Bob Greenstein of the liberal Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Many parts of Obama's plan would infuse money quickly into the economy, according to budget experts. These include up to \$200 billion for recession-hit state govern-

ments to avoid layoffs, cutbacks in services and raising their own taxes. Expanded food stamp and unemployment benefits would arrive mostly in 2009. The Obama team says the measure will include up to \$300 billion in federal tax cuts, about half taking effect almost immediately by withholding less from paychecks of most workers.

All of those ideas are poised to get funding, lots of it. But many economists say even more must be pumped into the economy to jolt it out of its doldrums.

That means massive spending on infrastructure projects such as road and bridge repairs, flood control and sewer systems; upgrading schools and public housing, and new runways and other airport improvements. Those projects typically take years. Depending on the length of the recession, much of the spending may not occur until after the economy is expanding. That could result in inflation, economists warn.

A Congressional Budget Office analysis of a \$61 billion economic stimulus measure that passed the House in September, only to fail in the Senate, shows that just 27 percent of the plan's \$37 billion in infrastructure spending would have occurred as the economy struggles through 2009. Another third would have been spent in 2010 and the final third wouldn't have been spent until 2011 and after.

### We welcome your letters

Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.

All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.

Defamatory comments will not be published.

E-mail submissions are welcome.

## THE PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065

806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348

Fax: 806-669-2520

Randall Pribble

Publisher

rpribble@thepampa.com

ReDonn Woods

Advertising Manager

advertising@thepampa.com

Betsy Phillips

Editor

bphillips@thepampa.com

Sue Pribble

Advertising Representative

advertising1@thepampa.com

David Bowser

Reporter

dbowser@thepampa.com

Beverly Taylor

Classified Advertising

classified@thepampa.com

Rachel Stennett

Reporter

rstennett@thepampa.com

Kera Kent

Circulation

circulation@thepampa.com

Skyla Bryant

Lifestyles Reporter

lifestyles@thepampa.com

Carrie Hair

Accounting

bookkeeper@thepampa.com

Marcus Elkins

Press Supervisor

This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, by The Pampa News. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

All carriers are independent contractors and The Pampa News is not responsible for advance payments of two or more months made to the carrier. Please pay directly to the Pampa News any payment that exceeds the current collection period. There are no mail subscriptions available within the city limits of Pampa. Mail subscriptions must be paid three months in advance.

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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.

• **Members of Crowley, Texas, High School Class of 1989** are organizing a class reunion. For more information, e-mail [chs89reunion@gmail.com](mailto:chs89reunion@gmail.com) or contact Nancy Dodgen Dyess (817) 994-0969 or Misty Shewmaker Hollis at (817) 991-8090.

• **Southwest Cowboy Poets Association** will hold its monthly Cowboy Poetry Breakfast from 8-10 a.m. Jan. 10 at the Big Texan Steak Ranch in Amarillo. The featured presenters will be cowboy poet, storyteller, singer and songwriter Don DeHay and rancher and cowboy poet Bob Muncy. Association President Bill Crenshaw of Canyon will serve as emcee. The poetry breakfasts are scheduled the second Saturday of each month. The public is invited to attend.

• 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](http://www.bridesworld.com) on

the Internet.

• **A foster/adoptive parent informational meeting** is scheduled at 7 p.m. Jan. 13 at Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 3521 SW 15th, in Amarillo. Foster care and adoption of foster children will be the focus of the upcoming meeting. For more information, call (806) 354-6292.

• **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.

• **M-O-N-E-Y for college?** Yes, you can send that son or daughter to

college. Find out how on **FINANCIAL AIDE NIGHT** at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15 in the Pampa High School Auditorium. Your questions will be answered when you hear PHS counselors Starla Kindle and Linda Haenisch speak along with High Plains Student Loan Center representatives who will be on-hand to explain grants, scholarships, work-study programs and loans. Seniors and parents should definitely attend this important meeting. Juniors and parents interested in getting a look at their future are also invited.

• **"Live On Stage"** Community Concerts of Pampa will present pianist Dale Gonyea at 2:30 p.m. Jan. 25 at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa. Attendance is by membership only. However, tickets for individual performances may be purchased at the door for \$25. For more information, call 665-0343 or contact Ruth Riehart, president, at 665-3362.

• **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](http://www.mysoldier.com) on-line or write to: Manhattanville College My Soldier Department, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase, NY 10577.

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## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have a wonderful relationship, but there is one big problem. I don't like to share blankets at bedtime. The truth is, I like to sleep comfortably with my blankets tucked all around. I have honestly tried sharing, but I can't sleep that way or even get comfortable. My boyfriend thinks I'm weird and that I don't like being close to him at night. Isn't sharing a bed enough? -- CREATURE OF HABIT

DEAR CREATURE: In my opinion it is, but because your boyfriend doesn't agree with you, you DO have a problem. Getting enough sleep is important for maintaining one's health, and studies show that people aren't getting enough of it these days. Try explaining this to him, along with the fact that intimacy is what happens BEFORE you hit the sheets.

However, if he still doesn't get it, then he will have to decide whether your virtues outweigh your "idiosyncrasy." (Believe me, I've heard worse.)

DEAR ABBY: My darling husband, "Darren," and I are soul mates, yet he has asked me for a divorce. He says it's not because he doesn't love me, but because he does. Abby, we may be facing bankruptcy. Darren doesn't want to drag me and my credit down. He doesn't want to leave, and thinks that after we divorce our life can go on as it has been -- although on paper we'll no longer be husband and wife. My first thought was, No! We are husband and wife. I MEANT "for richer or poorer." We're in our 50s, and Darren says he is looking out for my future. I am committed to my marriage and believe we're in this financial situation together. I didn't marry Darren for his money, and I certainly don't want to divorce him over money. Darren swears this isn't an excuse to get out of our marriage. He says we can be married again as soon as we're back on our feet. Am I wrong about this, Abby? Should I "suspend" my marriage? It's breaking my heart to even consider it. -- IN TEARS IN TUCSON

DEAR IN TEARS: Dry your tears and make an appointment for you and Darren to consult your CPA. Your husband is

either misguided, or he MAY be making an excuse to get out of the marriage. Because the bills were run up during your marriage, divorce may not relieve you from liability. Of course, laws vary from state to state, however, it may be possible for your husband to file bankruptcy on his own. Furthermore, there needs to be a reason for divorce, and there are penalties for making false statements. So I don't recommend it.

DEAR ABBY: I am being married this year and have an etiquette question. A close family member was recently arrested and will be in jail at the time my wedding takes place. Because of our close relationship, I would like to invite him, but I'm worried that to do so would be considered more offensive than not inviting him, as he will obviously not be able to attend. What do you think? -- TRYING TO BE KIND IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR TRYING TO BE KIND: Because of the circumstances, write your family member a letter telling him that you are being married, that you love him, and you will be thinking of him on your wedding day. My feeling is sending a formal invitation would make him feel even more isolated and left out than he already does.

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

**Sudoku**

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

Level: Intermediate

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.

1-8 CRYPTOQUOTE

FLFZGCIF DPAISJ CQ KPRIUAIU

DPF H CZOW, DPCXUP IC CIF

DPAISJ CQ KPRIUAIU PABJFOQ.

OFC DCOJDCG

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A PESSIMIST IS A MAN WHO LOOKS BOTH WAYS BEFORE CROSSING A ONE-WAY STREET. — LAURENCE J. PETER

## DAILY HOROSCOPE

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Friday, Jan. 9, 2009:  
Your actions this year have much more impact than anticipated. Your choice of direction needs to remain strong; otherwise, you easily could be distracted. You often juggle the pros and cons of a situation. More than ever, you discover the power of transformation. Good will come out naturally when you express your depth and caring. If you are single, you can kiss away that status if you so choose. Many opportunities head your way, opening doors and allowing you to meet new people. If you are attached, your sweetie becomes more easygoing and expresses more understanding. As the result of mutual respect and a newfound depth, caring grows. CANCER has similar issues but a very different approach.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have:  
5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-Sb-so; 1-Difficult

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
\*\*\*\*\* Don't take anyone for granted, especially a key partner, associate or friend. Though you don't mean to push, you could. Knowing when enough is enough could be instrumental. Tonight: Weigh the pros and cons of a personal decision.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
\*\*\*\*\* Communication opens up. Finally you have time to complete a much-needed project. Invigorate a situation by presenting a totally different and possibly eccentric point of view. Tonight: You seem to naturally do the right thing!

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
\*\*\*\*\* Understanding the costs is very important before you make a com-

mitment. How you deal with a seemingly extravagant associate could change a lot. Investigate with an eye to something better. Think positively. Tonight: Invite a friend out for dinner. Catch up on news.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
\*\*\*\*\* You are full of laughter and fun. Listen to what someone shares more carefully. Only you know or understand the ramifications of a personal risk. You don't need to push or force your way; others remain pliable. Tonight: Go for what you want.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
\*\*\*\*\* Take in more information. Recognize your options, choosing to deal with only those you trust. Pick and choose who you confide in. Understanding evolves to a new level. Be open to reorganizing your daily life, if need be. Tonight: Confide in someone you trust.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
\*\*\*\*\* You gain deeper insight into the depth of a problem. Perhaps you don't realize how many supporters you really have. What is really important is not to take someone for granted. A meeting helps you confirm which way to go. Tonight: Where people are.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
\*\*\*\*\* Often you are looked to as the final authority in a changing panorama. You will like what comes up, no matter which way you opt to go. You don't need to talk others into following you. They are watching and probably will join in. Tonight: A must appearance.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
\*\*\*\*\* Read between the lines. Travel and people from a distance might be tied to a new outlook. Your ability to visualize comes forward, though it might be hard to impart this vision on someone

else. Know that anything is possible. Tonight: Allow your mind to wander.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
\*\*\*\*\* Knowing your course ahead of time could be more important than you realize. What someone means as a kind comment comes off quite differently, at least to your ears. Don't personalize what doesn't need to be personalized. Tonight: Togetherness is a great theme.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
\*\*\*\*\* Defer, and you'll come up with answers. Others' comments prove to be resourceful and important to your well-being. Touch base with associates and other key people. Amazing or surprising news filters in your direction. Tonight: TGIF.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
\*\*\*\*\* How you handle a changing situation could be intriguing to many but time-consuming for you. Ask for help or consider another approach. Someone will be very pleased to give you a helping hand. Tonight: Easy does it.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
\*\*\*\*\* Your energy provides many opportunities — you pick your course of direction. Much changes rapidly if you allow it to. Someone you care about opens his or her eyes and sees you differently. This effect could be mutual. Tonight: Add that touch of romance.

**BORN TODAY**  
Folk singer Joan Baez (1941), 37th U.S. president Richard Nixon (1913), guitarist Jimmy Page (1944)

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

Old Menu	New Menu
Super Wash .....\$7	\$8.....Super Wash Add Dryer - Old Super
Delux Wash .....\$6	\$7.....Delux Wash No Dryer - Old Super No Change in Menu
Regular Wash ....\$5 w/clear coat conditioner	\$6.....Regular Wash w/clear coat conditioner Add Dryer
Regular Wash ....\$5	\$5.....Regular Wash No Dryer No Change in Menu

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# Comics

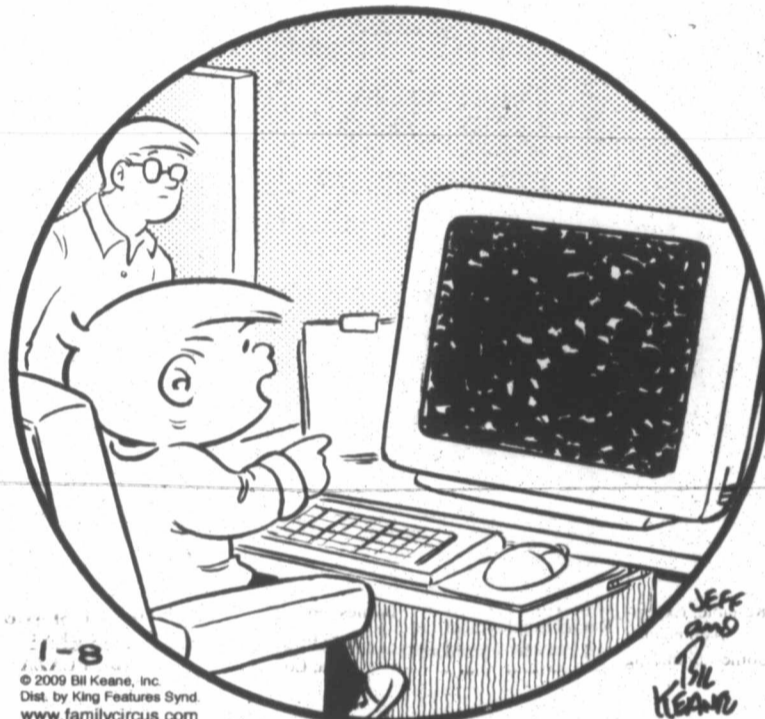
## Marmaduke



"Oh, all right. He can keep one bone in the freezer."

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"All the snow on our computer must be coming from the winternet."

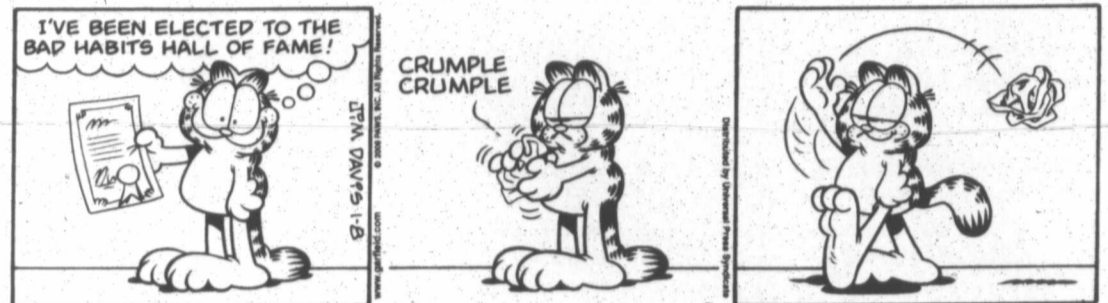
## For Better Or Worse



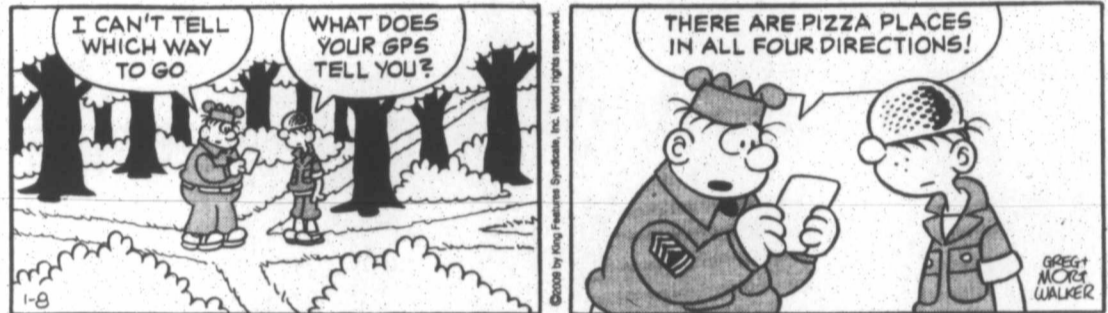
## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## B.C.



## Haggar The Horrible



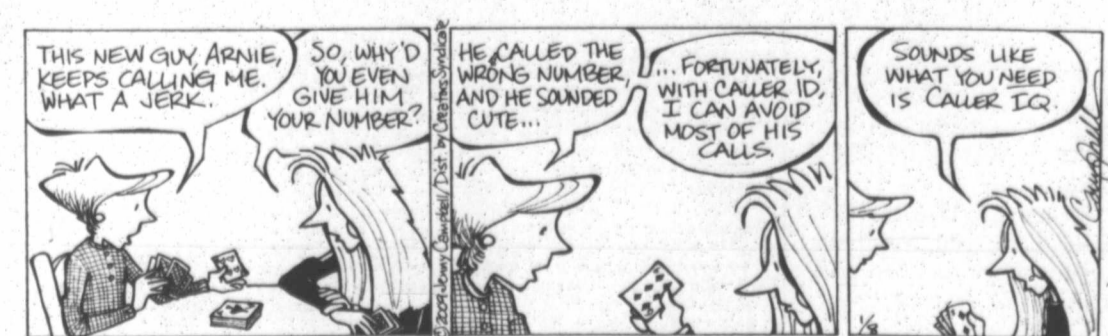
## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Flo & Friends



## Daily Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 43 Golf feat
  - 1 Small set-back
  - 5 Pole it tossed by Scots
  - 10 Leg bone
  - 12 Crockett's last stand
  - 13 Live
  - 14 Arafat's Nobel Prize sharer
  - 15 Approval
  - 16 Pretend to sing, perhaps
  - 18 Kind of band
  - 20 Take in
  - 21 Invites
  - 23 One or more
  - 24 Tug-of-war need
  - 26 "Troy" star
  - 28 Dramatist Jonson
  - 29 Take to the sky
  - 31 Simone's summer
  - 32 "Yeah, right!"
  - 36 It may prevent cracking
  - 39 Prom wear
  - 40 Site of "bombs bursting"
  - 41 Hirsch of "Into the Wild"
- DOWN**
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  - 2 Ford forerunner
  - 3 Bear
  - 4 USO audience
  - 5 Complain
  - 6 Weary word
  - 7 Tended the tots
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  - 27 Schedule B publisher
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Yesterday's answer

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**10 Lost/Found**

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



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

**19 Situations**

**CHILDCARE** provided in my home, Mon.-Sat. 24 hrs. References available. 669-3549.

**21 Help Wanted**

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

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**FULL & Part-time** Providers needed for Pampa area for adult & pediatric patients. Part-time Provider needed for Panhandle patients on Saturdays. Above average pay & trip fee. Nurses By Prescription, 806-355-1899.

**NEED** lady to clean. References a must. Call 665-1875.

**PART-TIME** Crime Victim Coordinator position avail. with the 31st District Attorney's Office. This position is grant-funded. Working knowledge of computer programs required; some travel involved; multi-tasking, heavy report writing, coordinating and scheduling abilities a must; legal knowledge and grant-writing a plus. Resumes may be faxed to 669-8050, mailed to P.O. Box 1592, Pampa, TX 79066, or delivered in person to District Attorney's Office, Gray Co. Courthouse, 200 N. Russell, 4th Floor.

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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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**MCLEAN CARE CENTER** has immediate opening for Certified Nurse Aides. Come by McLean Care Center or call 806-779-2469 for more information.

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**SECRETARY / Office Mgr.** needed for oilfield serv. business. Apply in person, 226 S. Price Rd.

**CDL Driver** needed, pulling Belly Dumps. Drug test required. Call 662-5005.

**ASPHLNDH Tree Expert Co.,** is seeking Crew Forepersons and Trimmers to work in the Pampa & Borger area. Qualified applicants must have a CDL and be able to pass a background check. (Full-Time / Year-Round Employment). In order to be considered an applicant, you must complete a pre-employment application. Interested applicants should contact: Truman Beck at (806)544-6894. Drug Free Workplace. EOE:AA-MF/V/D

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**CRUSHED ASPHALT** for sale. Call 806-662-5005.

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**2011 Coffee**  
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.

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## Media advocates to push shield law again

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas open government and news media advocates said Wednesday because of past groundwork and changes afoot in the state House of Representatives they are optimistic about passage of a reporter's shield law, called the Free Flow of Information Act.

Proposals to protect journalists from being forced to reveal confidential sources in court or to automatically turn over subpoenaed television videotape to police and prosecutors have failed in previous legislative sessions.

But the measure's passage in the Texas Senate in 2007 and the impending leadership change in the Texas House — outgoing Republican Speaker Tom Craddick is expected to be replaced by moderate Republican Rep. Joe Straus — bode well for the proposal's chances this year, the media advocates said at a legislative preview meeting hosted by the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors.

"We stand a very good chance of passing a Free Flow of Information Act this year," said Michael Schneider, programs director for the Texas Association of Broadcasters.

Proponents say the legislation would protect the public because it would encourage whistleblowers to come forward with information that could reveal corruption. Opponents have included district attorneys, who say it could hinder their ability to gather evidence in criminal cases.

Winning approval in the Senate two years ago was a major step forward, said Jeremy Warren, spokesman for Sen. Rodney Ellis, a Houston Democrat who sponsored the shield law bill in 2007 and will press it again this year. Warren said the new House leadership may be more open-minded about the proposal.

"We finally passed it out of the Senate," Warren said. "The changes in the House, that's a real, real question. I tend to believe it's going to be more favorable for our side, that we're going to have the opportunity to get a little further."

Craddick allowed the bill to come up for a vote in 2007, but it was late in the legislative session and a Republican lawmaker shot it down on a technical point.

Schneider said the proposal would pro-

vide a qualified legal privilege, or limited immunity, for journalists, allowing them to protect sources, notes and video tape from disclosure in court under certain circumstances. More than 30 states have some form of a shield law.

The Texas Legislature convenes Tuesday for its 140-day biennial session.

Schneider and Ken Whalen, executive vice president for the Texas Daily Newspaper Association, said one of the biggest open government fights this session may be over keeping the dates of birth and work schedules of state employees available to the public. They said many times state employees have the same common name and must be identified with additional information.

Selection of public school superintendents may be debated as open government activists try to provide more access to the identity of the top candidates for the jobs, Whalen said.

Allowing defendants to expunge their criminal case history from court records will be a battle front, the open government panelists said. Legislation passed in recent sessions made it easier for some deferred adjudication defendants to expunge their records.

So news reporters and other members of the public cannot always check records to determine if someone has a criminal background, said Laura Lee Prather, a media attorney with the Austin office of the Sedgwick law firm and vice president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas.

"This is a critical issue that is just being swept under the carpet," she said. "Critical information is being hidden."

The panelists said changes to the Texas Public Information Act would best be examined over a two-year period between legislative sessions in which the entire law could be studied and updated to deal with new access issues, such as government offices' retention of e-mail messages. Getting items within the act addressed individually is difficult, Prather said.

"People want to chip away at what's there," she said. "There are a lot of loopholes in the law."

## Palestine woman no stranger at inaugurations

PALESTINE, Texas (AP) — Eighty-eight-year-old Elizabeth S. Hutchinson has attended every presidential inauguration since 1952. This week, she and her daughter were scheduled to board a plane for Washington and await the historic inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama.

"I didn't care who won (the presidential election)," Hutchinson said Friday. "I just wanted to attend the inauguration. I don't want to break my streak since 1952."

Shortly after Obama's win, Hutchinson called Congressman Jeb Hensarling's office to request tickets to the Jan. 20 inauguration ceremony.

"My health has to hold up in order for me to keep my record going," said Hutchinson, who has been in Dallas undergoing cancer treatment.

A few weeks ago, Hutchinson took advantage of a program offered by the American Cancer Society that allows volunteers to drive cancer patients to their treatments.

"The Society called to tell me that Melissa would take me to my appointment," she recalled. The driver it turned out was Melissa Hensarling, the congressman's wife.

The two women started talking and Hutchinson mentioned that she'd recently contacted Hensarling's office for tickets to the inauguration.

"The next day I got a call telling me that my name was on a waiting list for tickets," Hutchinson said. "Two weeks ago I got a call from someone in Hensarling's office telling me that I had two tickets to the inauguration waiting for me at the congressman's office."

"I think she (Melissa Hensarling) put in a word for me," Hutchinson said.

She planned to attend the inauguration and the Texas State Society's Black Tie and Boots Ball.

Hutchinson said her cancer treatment is going well and credits her doctor at Presbyterian Hospital. Her positive attitude and spunky personality don't hurt.

In November Hutchinson celebrated her 88th birthday with two parties in her beloved hometown of Palestine.

"Palestine is my home, that's where my heart is," she said.

Hutchinson was born in Palestine on Nov. 28, 1920. Her family roots in Palestine go back to 1846. She still has the family farm in Montalba, which has been in her family since 1889. The farm, according to Hutchinson, is the setting for lavish parties.

"We've entertained governors and other politicians out there, as well as our many friends," she said. "I hope I get well enough to have another party."

Hutchinson's daughter, Ann Hutchinson Slattery of Bethesda, Md., will be accom-

panying her to the inauguration.

The octogenarian has attended the inauguration of Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, William J. Clinton and George W. Bush. She not only remembers the ceremonies but what the weather was like on inauguration days.

"I remember sitting out there in that cold weather," she said. "During Reagan's I think it was snowing."

Her most memorable inauguration? "I would have to say Eisenhower. It was a big deal because Price Daniel had just been elected to the Senate and my husband Everett Hutchinson managed his campaign."

"All of us Democrats were for Eisenhower. We were Eisenhower Democrats."

In 1955 the Hutchinsons moved to Washington after Eisenhower appointed Everett Hutchinson to the Interstate Commerce Commission.

"Hutch (Everett Hutchinson) was chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission. John H. Reagan of Palestine sponsored the legislation for the regulation of the trucking industry," Hutchinson said.

"In 1967 Congress established the Department of Transportation and LBJ appointed Hutch the Under Secretary of Transportation, the No. 2 spot," Hutchinson explained.

Her husband, a transportation lawyer, then became head of the Washington office for Fullbright and Jaworski. Leon Jaworski rose to national prominence as the prosecutor in the Watergate case.

Even while in Washington, Hutchinson has always maintained a residence in Palestine.

"I've had a blessed life," she said. "The people of Palestine have been wonderful to me, especially my friends who come to visit me in Dallas."

Hutchinson believes Obama has a tough job ahead of him.

"He (Obama) doesn't want to let the American people down. He's going to do everything he can to get this country back on track. I think the Republicans will help him. We've all got to help our country."

The brilliant 88-year-old still finds time for volunteer work. She is Vice President Emerita of the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington.

"It's the only museum in the world dedicated exclusively to recognizing the contributions of women artists," she said proudly.

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