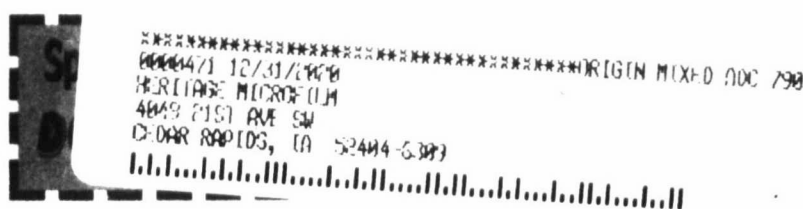


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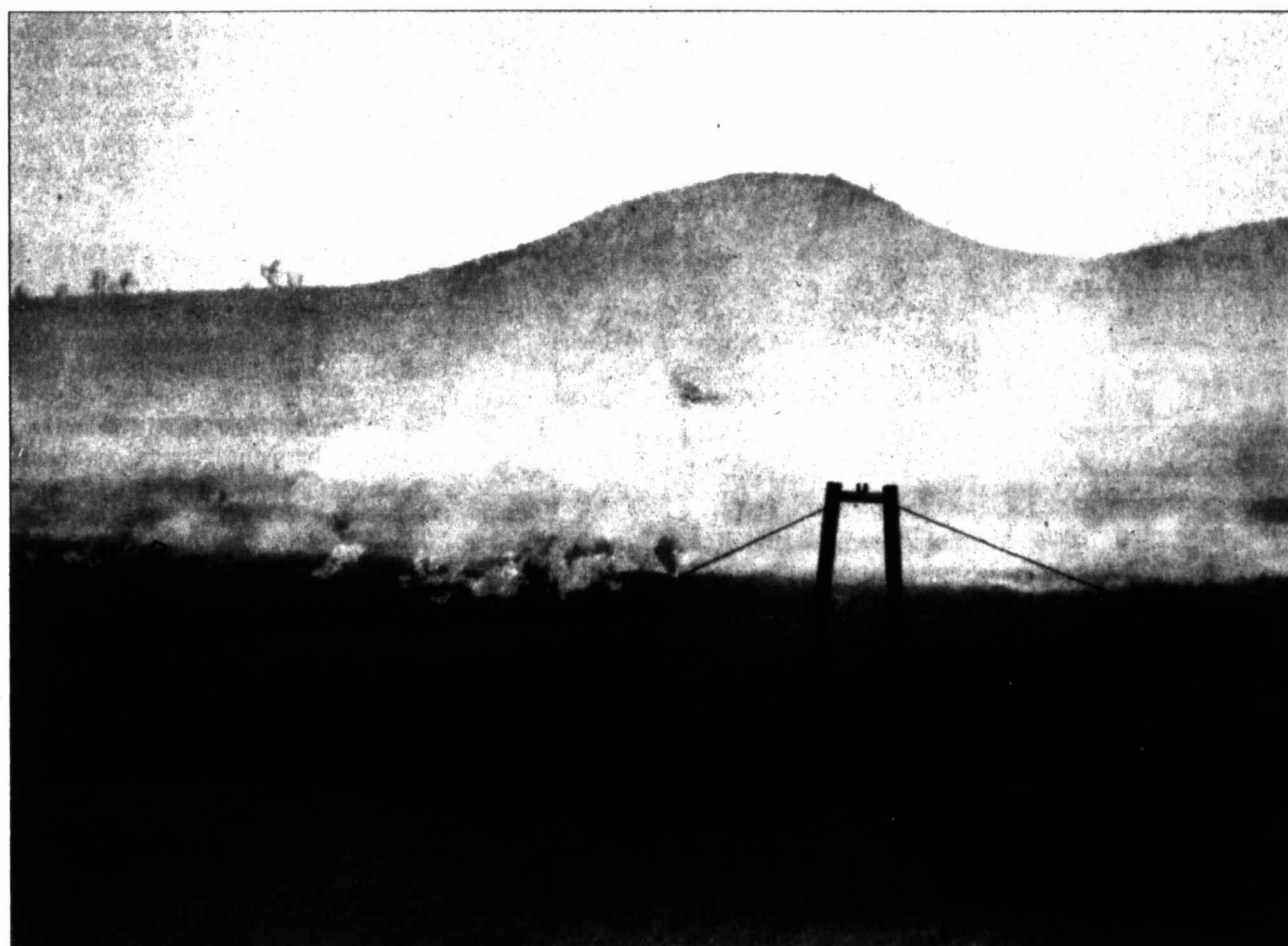
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# The PAMPA NEWS

Monday, February 2, 2009 Volume 104 • No. 257 50¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

## 6,400 acres burn near Pampa



Land on the Arrington Ranch near Pampa burns Saturday (January, 31) part of 6,400 acres consumed by wildfire that crossed into three Panhandle counties.

**by Betsy Phillips**  
editor@thepampanews.com

Fire departments from as far away as 50 miles joined together to fight a wild fire that consumed about 6,400 acres near Pampa Saturday (Jan 31).

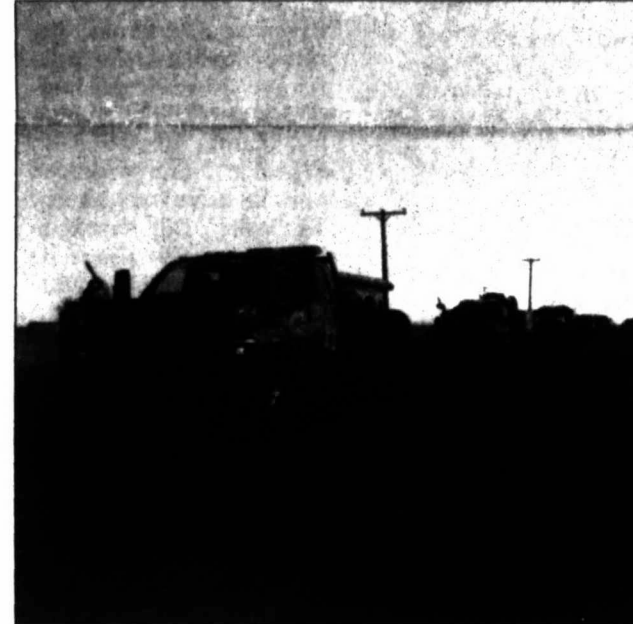
Joe Millican, Emergency Management Coordinator for Gray County said there were no injuries to people or livestock and no structures were lost. About 2,500 acres were burned in Gray County. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Steady winds of 30 mph with gusts around 40 mph drove the flames rapidly across ranch lands in three area counties; Gray, Carson and Roberts. Agencies from all three counties responded at about 1 p.m.

The Texas Forest Service sent bulldozers and a spotter plane and the regional DPS command post in Amarillo was activated in case more resources needed to be identified.

Red flag warnings had been issued that morning when the humidity dropped to 15 percent, according to Millican. "we got help quick. We were really thankful everybody was already on notice. The counties all worked together really well, Millican said." That turned out to be essential, because in the thick of the fire, county lines were hard to determine. "We didn't know where the county lines crossed, we swapped equipment around as needed. The (county) judges supported our efforts to do whatever was needed to suppress the fire."

Late in the afternoon, Roberts County departments made a stand at the head of the fire, on Price Road. If the blaze jumped that road, there was nothing.



Engines from Roberts County fire departments race to get ahead of the fire and make a stand on Price Road Saturday afternoon.

## Morris promotes Hooper, Stokes

Pampa City Manager Richard Morris has named Shane Stokes as assistant city manager and Donny Hooper as director of public works.

Both Stokes and Hooper are long time city employees.

Stokes has worked for the city for 15 years, most recently as director of community services.

Hooper was promoted in the public works office to fill Morris' position after Morris was named city manager by the Pampa City Commission.

In making the announcement Friday, Morris said Stokes will take on added responsibilities but will continue with his duties as community services director.

Stokes was born and raised in Pampa. He graduated from West Texas A&M University in 1993. He's married to Sandee Stokes, who works for the Pampa Independent School District. They've been married 22 years and have three children, Kendall Murray of

See City, Page 3

## Conference: Who owns the water?

**by David Bowser**  
dbowser@thepampanews.com

BORGER — To borrow a phrase from an old Woody Guthrie song, "This land is your land," but Amarillo lawyer Marvin "Marty" Jones wants to know who owns the water.

"Believe it or not," Jones says, speaking to a water conference in Borger hosted by his law firm, "this is a topic of concern around the state. Who owns the groundwater in place?"

The lawyer said that some people, including a few lawmakers, are saying that the water is not owned in place, that the landowner does not have a vested property right in groundwater in place. The landowner has only the right to use the water. It is not owned until it is pumped to the surface under this theory.

Jones said that the view of State Sen. Robert Duncan, who represents Pampa, as expressed at a Texas Senate Natural Resources Committee meeting last summer in Amarillo is that groundwater ownership is not a property right.

"He said, 'I don't think you own the water in place,'" Jones says.

Jones says that Duncan claimed that nobody owns the groundwater under ground as long as it is in place.

The Amarillo lawyer quoted Duncan as saying that there is opportunity for central control of groundwater.

Jones says Duncan has supported private property rights legislation in the past.

See Water, Page 3



John R. Spearman, center, Gray County rancher and president of the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, talks with Danny Krienke of Perryton, right, president of the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District, during a break at a water conference in Borger Friday.

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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 2, the 33rd day of 2009. There are 332 days left in the year. This is Groundhog Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 2, 1943, the remainder of Nazi forces from the Battle of Stalingrad surrendered in a major victory for the Soviets in World War II.

On this date:

In 1536, present-day Buenos Aires, Argentina, was founded by Pedro de Mendoza of Spain.

In 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, ending the Mexican-American War, was signed.

*'Absence is to love what wind is to fire; it extinguishes the small, it inflames the great.'*

— Bussy-Rabutin, French soldier and writer

In 1876, the National League of Professional Base Ball Clubs was formed in New York.

In 1959, public schools in Arlington and Norfolk, Va., were racially desegregated without incident.

Ten years ago: A federal jury in Portland, Ore., ordered abortion foes who had created "wanted" posters and a Web site listing the names and addresses of "baby butchers" to pay \$107 million in damages. (Courts later reduced the judgment to more than \$16 million; the U.S. Supreme Court has refused three times to hear an appeal by the defendants.)

Five years ago: President George W. Bush unveiled a \$2.4 trillion budget featuring a record deficit, as well as big increases for defense and homeland security. Deadly ricin was discovered in offices used by Senate majority leader Bill Frist. Israel killed a leader of Islamic Jihad and three other militants in a Gaza raid. An 11-story apartment building collapsed in Konya, Turkey, killing 92 people.

One year ago: A gunman killed five women at a Lane Bryant store in Tinley Park, Ill., in an apparent botched robbery attempt. (The case remains unsolved.) French President Nicolas Sarkozy and former supermodel Carla Bruni were married at the presidential Elysee Palace. Former Washington Redskins players Art Monk and Darrell Green were elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame along with New England linebacker Andre Tippett, San Diego/San Francisco defensive end Fred Dean, Minnesota/Denver tackle Gary Zimmerman and senior committee choice, Kansas City cornerback Emmitt Thomas. Former Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz died in Washington, D.C., at age 98. Actor Barry Morse died in London at age 89.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Elaine Stritch is 84. Actor Robert Mandan is 77. Comedian Tom Smothers is 72. Rock singer-guitarist Graham Nash is 67. Actor Bo Hopkins is 67. Television executive Barry Diller is 67. Country singer Howard Bellamy (The Bellamy Brothers) is 63. Actress Farrah Fawcett is 62. Actor Jack McGee is 60. Actor Brent Spiner is 60. Rock musician Ross Valory (Journey) is 60. Model Christie Brinkley is 55. Actor Michael Talbot is 54. Actress Kim Zimmer is 54. Rock musician Robert DeLeo (Army of Anyone; Stone Temple Pilots) is 43. Actress Jennifer Westfeldt is 39. Rock musician Ben Mize (Counting Crows) is 38. Rapper T-Mo is 37. Actress Marissa Jaret Winokur is 36. Actress Lori Beth Denberg is 33. Singer Shakira is 32. Country singer Blaine Larsen is 23.

## Y'all listen up now

I think the contraction y'all is one of the greatest mysteries of the southern region of the United States. To me, nothing says "I'm from the panhandle" like the use of y'all. Y'all glides itself into normal conversations like other contractions; "we're so thankful for all that y'all do." Every single time it does though, I can't help but stop mid-thought and think about the use of the word.

I love contractions. They are handy to use in speech, writing, and most specifically text messaging, but I'm not a y'all user. I don't judge those that use it, according to Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia, y'all is a legitimate contraction in the Southern American English (SAE) dialect.

Wikipedia goes as far as to defend the use of y'all. It says that using y'all can be more precise, instead of a singular version of you. When a credit agency calls to collect debt, it makes more sense to say, "I gave y'all my payment last week," instead of saying "I gave you my payment last week. The payment wasn't given to one person in particular, but instead all of the people at the agency.

Along with being a legitimate contraction, I would dare to say that Pampa would have a lot less culture without the word y'all. Y'all is the epitome of southern charm to me. When I hear it used, regardless of the source, I warm up to the person using it because it instantly makes me feel like I've gained a friend. Y'all can also be a great ice breaker. At the first PHS football game I attended, I was meeting new people and one of them told me a joke. He asked me what the plural of y'all was. I

thought about it, but grammar is the kryptonite to my writing abilities, so I was clueless about the answer. I guessed and said "y'alls." The jokester scoffed and told me the plural to y'all is "all y'all." I realized it was a joke because no one would ever say "all you all." Even someone like me, a writer who can't explain a subordinate clause to save my life, understands that contractions have to make sense when uncontracted.

Even if y'all may be considered proper grammar, I still have not adjusted to hearing it used in every day language. Twice this week, y'all has taken me off guard. I noticed that my cousin Miranda, a seventh grade English teacher at Pampa Junior High, used y'all in an e-mail. I didn't expect her to use the word because she is a native New Mexican. I thought her and I both secretly belonged to the "Non y'all users anonymous" group. Apparently, I was wrong. Miranda is at home with the use of y'all, as long as it is being hyphenated correctly. Y'all has a lot of written variations: y'all, yall, ya'll etc. I must admit, I'm not sure if I am even hyphenating it correctly now and I'm devoting an entire column to it.

The second time y'all surprised me was in a text message that came from a very non-y'all type of person. Some people look like they are itching to use y'all. A man or woman strapped with a big cowboy hat, boots on heel, and pants tighter than spandex you can expect to say y'all. I have a male friend who is a musician and dresses with impressive contemporary style. At a glance, he looks more like he would be from a major metropolis



RACHEL STENNETT  
Staff Reporter

and not a small town in the panhandle. When he uses the word at all it surprises me. There is no southern drawl in his voice, and nothing else about him to hint of his roots, so when he used the word y'all three times in one text message this week I couldn't help but do a double-take.

I have decided that y'all is a dead give away of someone's home town. My dad was born and raised in Amarillo, and although he has hasn't lived in Texas since his early 20's, there are still some words that he says up on the pulpit when he's preaching that scream "Amarillo". He says geet-tar instead of guitar, he says foot instead of feet, and on especially rare occasions, he tells me to go get something from back yonder. I like it when my dad's southern roots surface in his vocabulary though.

From y'all to yonder, there is something undeniably pleasant about southern jargon.



## Analysis: A tale of 2 perspectives

By SHELIA BYRD  
Associated Press Writer  
Two Mississippi legislators on opposite ends of the political spectrum share a common belief: Now is not the time to take extreme measures to shore up Mississippi's budget.

Democratic Sen. Hob Bryan of Amory and Republican Rep. Greg Snowden of Meridian made their arguments this past week during floor debates in their respective chambers.

Bryan argued against the recent budget cuts Gov. Haley Barbour, a Republican, has made in the face of declining state revenue.

Snowden was trying to keep Barbour's Cessna Citation jet off the auction block.

Bryan, during Senate debate over a proposed cigarette tax increase, urged his fellow senators to approve a tax increase higher than the one ultimately passed in the chamber.

Bryan digressed slightly from the tax topic and reminded lawmakers about the recent budget cuts Barbour made to state agencies. The Mississippi Adequate Education Program, a funding formula for the state's public schools, was one of the casualties. That 3.2 percent MAEP cut has sent school districts across the state scrambling for ways to save dollars.

Many districts may have to cut extracurricular activities and some could possibly fire some bus drivers or maintenance, cafeteria and office workers. Most teachers will be spared because they're under contract.

With the stroke of a pen, Barbour could have shaved at least \$50 million from the \$87.8 million overall hit the schools took, said Bryan.

He was referring to a state law that permits the governor to transfer \$50 million from the state's rainy day fund to the gen-

eral fund.

"The bottom line is in a deep recession like this, the last thing you want to do is cut back on vital services. That's an anti-stimulus package," Bryan later said, referring to the downward spiral that occurs when people start losing jobs and stop spending money.

He said Mississippi should wait to see what bailout aid it gets from a national stimulus package working its way through Washington.

"Congress is getting ready to do something, I don't know what they're going to do, but I do know that the world is going to look very different six weeks from now than it does today," Bryan said. That was Snowden's argument, too. He questioned whether it was "premature" to try to sell Barbour's jet.

"I keep hearing we're going to get all this money from Washington," Snowden said, moments

before the chamber passed the measure.

In a later interview, Snowden said the proposal was "an in-your-face political bill."

"We've got some serious committee work that we're having to deal with, but yet we spend time in the chamber arguing over a partisan political matter that really doesn't have any relevance to what we're doing," Snowden said.

Snowden said lawmakers should be cautious about proposed budget reductions and fee increases since Mississippi could get as much as \$1 billion from the federal government.

It could be argued the jet bill, which still has to be considered in the Senate, was more symbolism than substance. The jet is valued at \$3.7 million. Barbour has said the state's revenue collections are \$310 million below estimates.

## THE PAMPA NEWS

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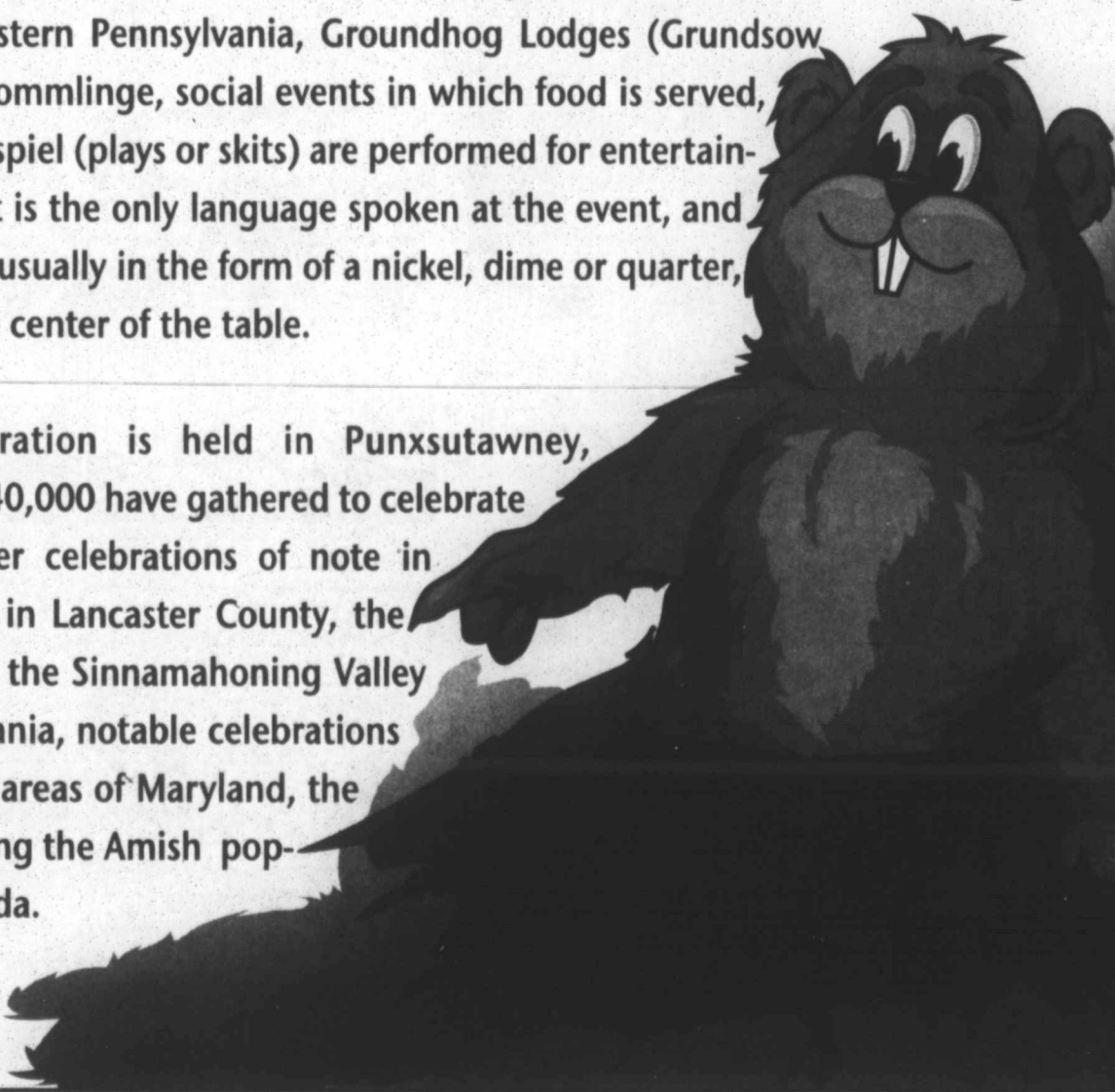
# GROUNDHOG DAY

## FEBRUARY 2

Groundhog Day (French: Jour de la marmotte) is an annual holiday celebrated on February 2 in the United States and Canada on which if a groundhog emerges from its burrow and fails to see its shadow because the weather is cloudy, winter will soon end. If on the other hand, it is sunny and the groundhog sees its shadow, the groundhog will supposedly retreat into its burrow, and winter will continue for six more weeks. The holiday, which began as a Pennsylvania German custom in southeastern and central Pennsylvania in the 18th and 19th centuries, has its origins in ancient European weather lore, wherein a badger or sacred bear is the prognosticator as opposed to a groundhog. The holiday also bears some similarities to the Christian holiday of the Presentation, or Candlemas, which takes place on the same date, the 40th day after Christmas (based on Luke 2:22 following), which has a number of light and darkness images in its observance. It also bears similarities to the Pagan festival of Imbolc, the seasonal turning point of the Celtic year, which is celebrated on February 1 and also involves weather prognostication.

Modern customs of the holiday involve celebrations where early morning festivals are held to watch the groundhog emerging from its burrow. In southeastern Pennsylvania, Groundhog Lodges (Grundsow Lodges) celebrate the holiday with fersommlinge, social events in which food is served, speeches are made, and one or more g'spiel (plays or skits) are performed for entertainment. The Pennsylvania German dialect is the only language spoken at the event, and those who speak English pay a penalty, usually in the form of a nickel, dime or quarter, per word spoken, put into a bowl in the center of the table.

The largest Groundhog Day celebration is held in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, where crowds as high as 40,000 have gathered to celebrate the holiday since at least 1886. Other celebrations of note in Pennsylvania take place in Quarryville in Lancaster County, the Anthracite Region of Schuylkill County, the Sinnamahoning Valley and Bucks County. Outside of Pennsylvania, notable celebrations occur in the Frederick and Hagerstown areas of Maryland, the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and among the Amish populations of over twenty states and Canada.



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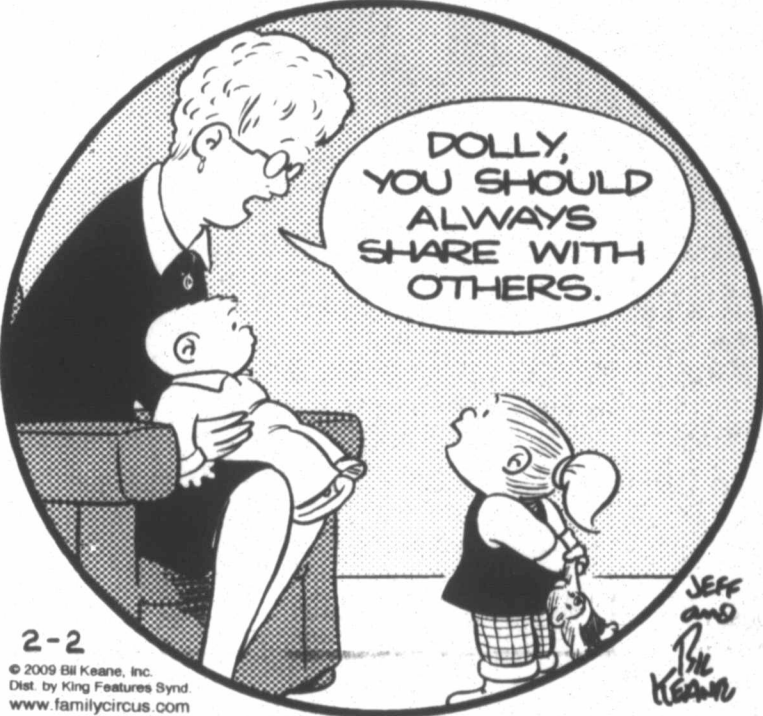
## Marmaduke



"Marmaduke really likes it when you bring the whole family."

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Except if I have measles or chicken pox."

## For Better Or Worse



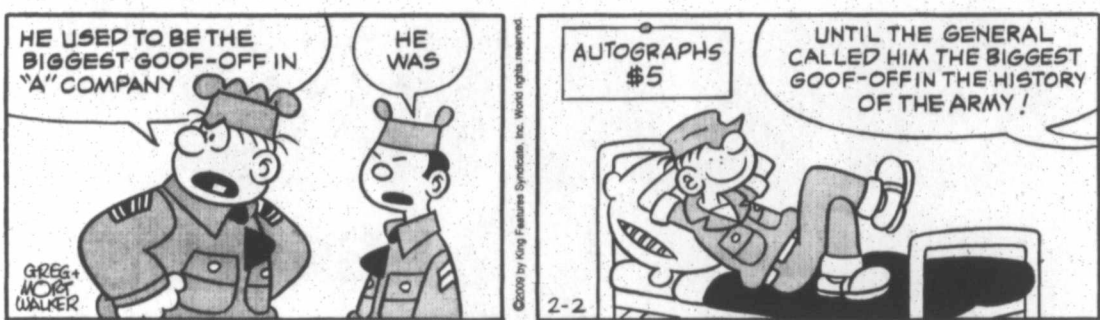
## Zits



## Garfield



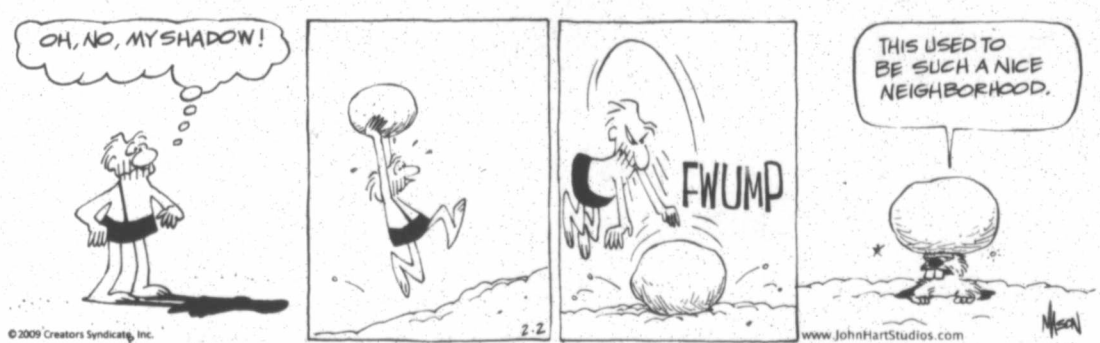
## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## B.C.



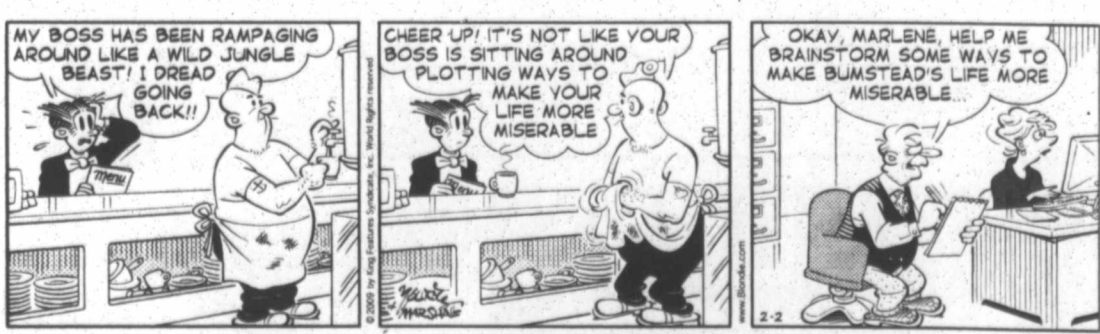
## Haggar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Flo & Friends



## Daily Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Hearty dish
  - 1 Naked
  - 5 Messy fellow
  - 9 Serious
  - 10 Directed the rowing crew
  - 12 Kitchen gadget
  - 13 1992 title role for Nicholson
  - 14 Tennis star Andre
  - 16 Squeak stopper
  - 17 Take the bus
  - 18 Standard keyboard sequence
  - 21 Fixed charge
  - 22 Gets to one's feet
  - 23 Bar orders
  - 24 Not active
  - 26 Crone
  - 29 Fried chicken choice
  - 30 Ali
  - 31 Thurman of "Kill Bill"
  - 32 Captain Marvel's magic word
  - 34 Happy's friend
  - 37 Make speeches
  - 38 Took the wheel
  - 39 Skin openings

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O	V	E	R	T		S	I	M	O	N
L	E	D	T	O		D	E	N	Y	

### Saturday's answer

- 11 Tim of "Private Practice"
- 15 Mensa offerings
- 19 Toad feature
- 20 USN rank
- 22 Spots
- 23 Bikini top
- 24 Protects, in a way
- 25 Oolong brewer
- 26 Danger
- 27 Lets up
- 28 Chess and checkers
- 29 Melville's "Billy —"
- 30 Lowest noble
- 33 Aspiration
- 35 Second person
- 36 Evergreen shrub

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# EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

• The Texas Department of State Health Services will be holding an Immunization Clinic in Pampa.

Feb. 4 - Located at 736 S. Cuyler in Pampa. Times are from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. For more information call 665-4752.

The clinic will be open again at the same location and same times on Feb. 18.

The clinic times are subject to change or cancellation due to weather conditions or scheduling conflicts. • Lovett Memorial Library will present a free class, "Parents' Guide to Internet Safety," at 2 p.m. Saturday January 31 and February 28, in the auditorium. Learn about Internet safety, resources for parents and the effects and signs of drug use.

Other free classes offered at the library include:

**Origami** **Napkin Folding:** 10 a.m. Saturday, February 28.

**Microsoft Excel:** Tuesday, February 3, 1:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. and Tuesday, February 10, 1:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

**Microsoft Powerpoint:** Tuesday, February 17, 1:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. and Tuesday, February 24, 1:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

For more information call the library, 669-5780.

• **Gray County Genealogical society** will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month, except for Decemebr. Visitors are welcome.

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

at (817) 991-8090.

• **"Live On Stage" Community Concerts of Pampa's final performance** planned for the current season will be "Pianafiddle," a combination of familiar tunes by pianist Lynn Wright and violinist/fiddler Adam DeGraff improvising to get toes tapping and hands clapping. Their performance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. March 6 in M.K. Brown Auditorium.

• **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: 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.

• **Confidential heart health screenings** are being offered free of charge from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, February 20, at United Supermarket, 1420 N. Hobart, by Accolade Home Care as part of Heart Health month, a national initiative of the American Heart Association.

For information, call Accolade Homecare in Pampa at 806-665-9700.

• **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.

• **USS Maddox Destroyer Association Reunion** is slated Sept. 9-13 in Phoenix, Ariz. To find out more, call (337) 616-8450 or e-mail cwgilles45@aol.com.

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

• **Manhattanville My Soldier** is seeking volun-

teers to "adopt" a deployed

United States Servicemember. To find out more, visit www.mysoldier.com on-line or write to: Manhattanville College My Soldier Department, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase, NY 10577.

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

## MENUS

### Pampa ISD Menu

**Monday, Feb. 2**  
Egg rolls or pizza  
Corn, broccoli and cheese

Pineapple tidbits and rice pilaf  
Breakfast: French toast sticks

**Tuesday, Feb. 3**  
Chicken fried steak or chicken nuggets

Whipped potatoes, english peas  
Mixed Fruit, hot toll  
Breakfast: Cheese omlet, toast

**Wednesday, Feb. 4**  
Pig in a blanket or pizza dippers

Blackeyed Peas, sliced carrots  
Applesauce  
Breakfast: Biscuits and gravy

**Thursday, Feb. 5**  
Burrito or beef and cheese nachos

Green beans, tossed salad  
Peaches  
Breakfast: donut, sausage patty

**Friday, Feb. 6**  
Fish strips or hamburger

French fries, burger salad  
Fresh fruit, cookie  
Breakfast: cereal, toast

**Wilson Kids Cafe**  
Feb. 2  
Soft tacos and taquitos

Beans, salad  
Dessert, drink

**Lamar Kids Cafe**  
Feb. 3  
Spaghetti  
Green Beans  
Salad, dessert, drink

**Briarwood Kids Cafe**  
Feb. 5  
Taquitos and nachos  
Salad, beans  
Dessert, drink

**Pampa Meals on Wheels**  
February 2-6  
Monday  
Chicken casserole  
Tomatoes  
Mixed vegetable  
Pears

Tuesday  
Hamburger  
Tater tos  
Pineapple  
Wednesday  
Pot Roast  
Carrots/potatoes  
Green Beans  
Rolls  
Jello

Thursday  
Ravioli  
Chuckwagon Corn  
Broccoli  
Applesauce  
Friday  
Pizza  
Pasta salad  
Green beans  
Cookies

**Pampa Senior Citizens February 2**  
Monday.... Chicken fried steak or chili rel-

lenos/cheese sauce

Mashed potatoes, cheese hominy, spinach, pinto beans

Slaw, tossed, Jello salad  
German chocolate cake or cherry creme pie

Hot rolls or cornbread

**Tuesday....**  
Mushroom smothered steak or teriyaki chicken breasts/rice

**Wednesday....**  
Roast beef brisket/brown grave or cook's choice

Mashed potatoes, California blend, but-

tered corn, butter beans

Slaw, tossed, Jello salad  
Lemon blundt cake or vanilla pudding cups

Hot rolls or cornbread

**Thursday....**  
Chicken strips or beef stroganoff/noodles

Mashed potatoes, carrots, peas, pinto beans

Slaw, tossed, Jello salad

French vanilla cake or chocolate pie  
Hot rolls or cornbread

**Friday....**  
Catfish and hushpuppies or BBQ beef/onion rings

Potato salad, broccoli casserole, beans

Slaw, tossed, Jello salad  
Cheesecake or brownies or tapioca

Slaw, tossed, Jello cups

Garlic breadsticks, hot rolls, cornbread

**Southside Senior Citizens Center**  
**Tuesday Luncheon, Feb. 3**  
Chicken fried steak  
Country gravy  
Green beans, mashed potatoes salad, dessert

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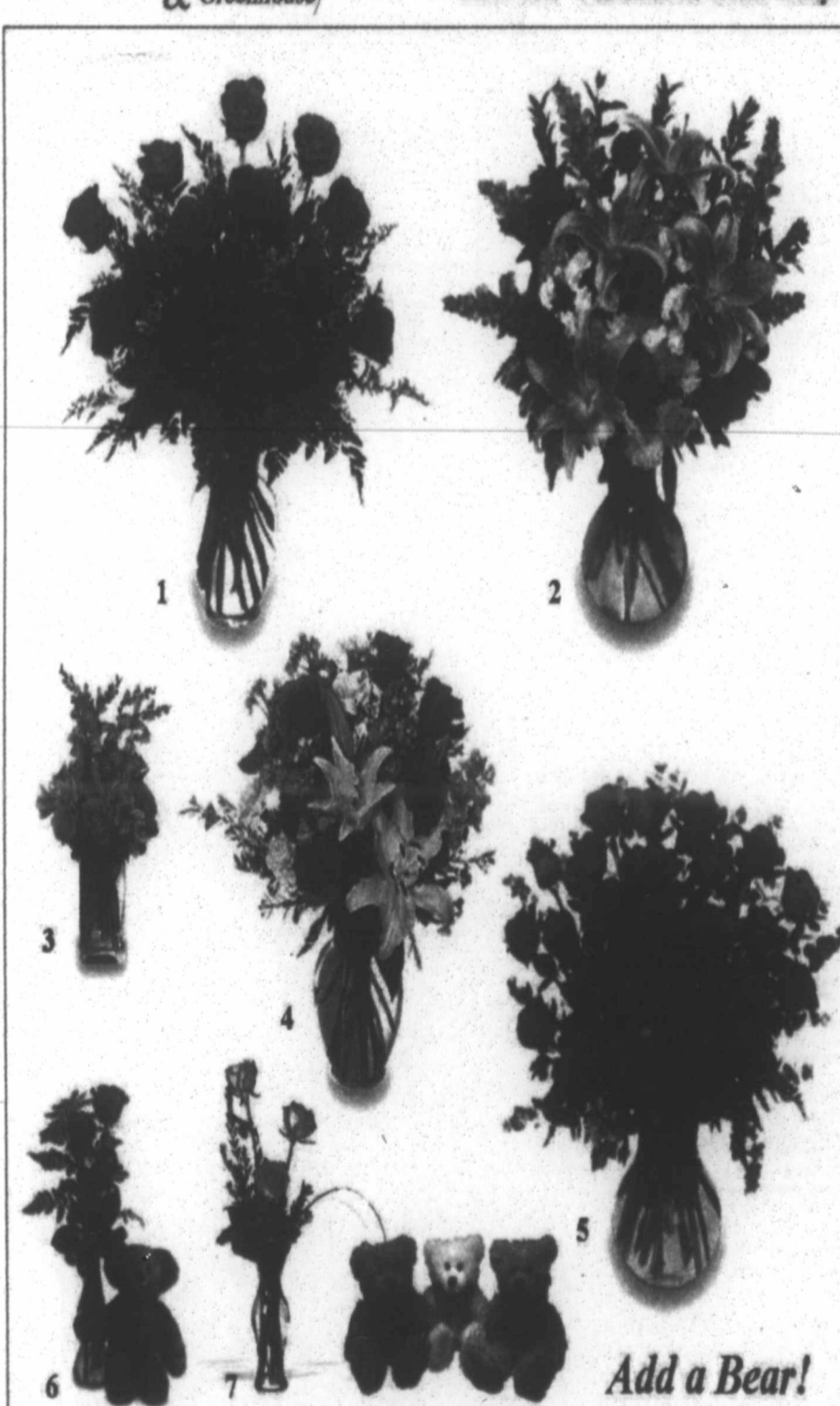
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