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Local National Oilwell Varco facility laying off workers

Reports of a large number of employee layoffs ranging from 90 to 150 - at Pampa's National Oilwell Varco facility had not been verified at press time.

It has been reported that the comapany began laying off employees Monday. However, no officials from the Pampa Facility or corporate headquarters in Houston have confirmed how many people have been laid off, and if those lay-offs are temporary or permanent.

National Oilwell Varco located on Hwy 60 north of Pampa has been one of Pampa's largest employers. In 2007, it had as many as 430 workers, up from just over 200 the year before. The facility manufactures mobile oil rigs that are shipped all over the world.

Clay Williams, chief financial officer for National Oilwell Varco, said during a 2008 online earnings conference call held today that the compaand adjusting its workforce where necessary as rig counts decline, particu-

larly in North America.

Williams said he expected the company's earnings to be down over the year, although he and Pete Miller, chairman, president and CEO of National Oilwell Varco, indicated that the company is well positioned to replace older rigs that are being retired

with new high tech rigs. Williams noted that the

was reducing overtime year over year revenue growth was more than 20 percent. The year over year operating profit growth was 29 percent.

"This was a very good year for National Oilwell Varco," Miller said.

However, he added that the plummeting rig counts over the last 90 days

portends lower earnings for 2009.

He said he expects drilling activity to decline in the first half of 2009, with sharply lower actively during the first quarter.

"I'm hoping for a second half recovery," Miller said. "The only thing I know," Miller said, "is that I don't

know." (Editor's note: If you have been affected by these layoffs, or those by

other companies in recent weeks, we would like to hear how this is impacting our community's residents. Please contact Betsy Phillips, editor@thepampanews.com or call 669-2525.)

New award embodies spirit of PHS athlete

by Rachel Stennett rstennett@thepampanews.com

Even when the headaches and blurred vision began during his sophomore year at Pampa High School, neither Casey Trimble, nor his parents, expected the doctor to say he had to give up football.

The physician might as well have told him to quite breathing.

He lived and breathed football.

Casey found a way to cope with his medical condition and yet stay involved and dedicated to his teammates, his school and the sport he loves. So much so that the school has created a special annual award in his honor - the Casey Trimble Persistance Award - which was awarded for the first time - to Casey himself - at the recent annual football banquet. Coach Andy Cavalier lauded Trimble and related his story to the group.

Trimble played hard for the Harvesters his sophomore and junior years as quarterback. Coach Cavalier had trained Trimble, crafting an offense based upon his quarterback's strengths and weaknesses. Trimble was devoted to the team, taking the hits and suffering multiple concus-

sions each year. Near the end of the football season durexpected. The doctor recommended Trimble give up the gridiron.

"There was five minutes of silence when we heard the news," Trimble said. "He told me I shouldn't be playing. The ... concussions I had were making things worse and worse."

The physician had warned the young athlete that he ran the risk of paralyzation or death if he suffered another severe blow.

And the bad news wasn't over.

Further medical examinations revealed a rare condition called a Chiari malformation. A Chiari malformation is a congenital neurological disorder in which part of the cerebellum descends out of the skull toward the spinal cord. Trimble only has 5 millimeters of brain matter uncovered by the skull, but it's enough to make a life or death difference in the event of a severe blow in that area.

"I've played football since third grade and I had no clue about this," Trimble said. He and Coach Cavalier now see the concussions as a "blessing in disguise," because they led to the Chiari diagnosis.

So, the Harvester quaterback had a decision to make. Cavalier noted that Trimble could leave the team completely. or he could play an active, off field role. Trimble opted for the latter.

"I love football and it is one of my top

Spirit - cont. on page 3

photo by Rachel Stennett ing his junior year, Trimble started expe-Pampa Harvesters Head Coach Andy Cavalier riencing intense headaches and vision problems. After CAT scans, MRI's, and (left) presented Casey Trimble (right) with the other tests. Trimble and his parents award named in his honor at the football banreceived the news none of them had quet this year. Highlights from the Texas Legislature

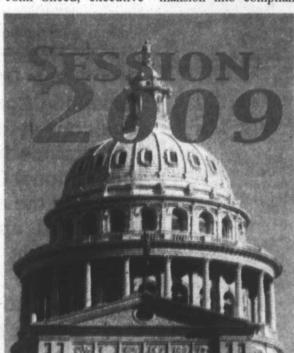
AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Restoring the charred Texas Governor's Mansion to its historic significance, including a new wing and updated security, will cost an estimated \$27 million, officials from the State Preservation Board told lawmakers Tuesday.

About \$2 million in private funds have been raised to restore the mansion, which was gutted in June by an arsonist. The board is asking lawmakers for the remaining \$25 mil-

"It seems like this has a lot more in it than just restoring," Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, questioning how lawmakers could justify such a project during difficult economic times.

"Not having to acquire land, not having to build from scratch, a lot of historical features of the home still exist ... it seems director of the State to me to be a hard sell to Preservation Board, said constituents during this the 2,000-square-footperiod of time." addition would bring the

John Sneed, executive



with the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees access and rights for people with dismansion into compliance abilities. The new wing would take up two stories

and basement space. "This is probably the most complicated project you could ever ask for," said Dealey Herndon, project manager of the restoration. "There's not a single part of this house that isn't damaged."

LEGISLATIVE EMER-**GENCIES**

Paying for recovery from damages inflicted by Hurricane Ike and reducing contraband behind bars are among Gov. Rick Perry's emergency items for the legislative session.

Perry's emergency designation means lawmakers can take up the issue in the first 30 days of the legislative session, which would

otherwise be banned by

the constitution. Other items Perry designated as emergencies include reforming the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association and fixing Texas troubled institutions for the mentally disabled.

WOLF AT THE DOOR

The state has accrued \$134 million in unpaid bills from emergency response to Hurricane Ike - and vendors want their

money Jack Colley, the state's director of emergency management, told the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday that he's had to tell bill collectors they must wait for the bureaucratic process.

Sen. Steve Ogden, chairman of the committee, said the state should already

See Session, Page 3





PAMPA FORECAST

Thursday

Friday





Low 42







Low: 40

Low 42 Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 72. Wind chill values between 30 and 37 early. Windy, with a southwest wind between 15 and 25

mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 42. South southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Friday: Sunny, with a high near 76. Windy, with a southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 42. South southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. South southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 40. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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Cash Five Texas results

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 4-18-15-21-30. Number matching five of five: 0. Matching four of five: 77. Prize: \$507 Matching three of five: 2,520. Prize: \$11 Matching two of five: 26,788. Prize: \$2 Next Cash 5 drawing: Wednesday night.

Grain prices

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of open market day.

Wheat				 	 	 	 		 	 	 	 \$4.	76
Milo	 		 . \$4	.58									
Corn												\$6	28

Emergency Services

PAMPA PD

Pampa Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 3 Officers seven traffic stops.

A total of four calls and/or stops concerning animals were made.

An accident was reported in the 500 block of North Hobart.

Found property was block of North Dwight. reported in the lobby of the police department.

Theft was reported in the 2700 block of North Hobart, where \$50 of cash

was reportedly stolen; and United Supermarkets, 1420 North Hobart, where hamburger meat valued at \$7

was reportedly stolen. Disorderly conduct was reported at Pampa Junior High School, 2401 North conducted Charles, and the 700 block of East 14th street.

Traffic complaints were reported in the 600 block of North Russell, the 2100 block of North Christy, the intersection of Hobart and 21st streets, and the 600

Civil matters were reported in the lobby of the police department, and the 2200 block of North Mary Ellen.

For the Record

Emergency Services

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests. Tuesday, Feb. 3

Shaela Joann Williams, 18, of Pampa was arrested by the Pampa Police Department for curfew violation, no driver's license, and failure to attend school.

Patrick Derlie Mize, 27. of Lefors, was arrested by the Leforst Marshall for theft, and no running water.

Isias Chavez, 40, of Pampa was arrested by GSCO on a blue warrant for driving while intoxicated.

Wednesday, Feb.

Norberto Alonzo, 23, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated.

Krista Leanne Cassity, 27, of Borger was arrested by the PPD for unlawful carrying weapon, possession of dangerous drug, no driver's license and failure to appear in Hutchinson County.

SHERIFF

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FIRE

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

Tuesday, Feb. 3 12:23 a.m -- One unit and three personnel responded to the 1100 block of Terry on a med

5:00 p.m. -- One unit and two personnel responded to the intersection of Browning and Rose streets on a hazmat



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Fire out in downtown

TYLER, Texas (AP) — A dispatcher for the Tyler police and fire department said a "rekindle" of a fire in Tyler's downtown courthouse square is out.

The dispatcher told The Associated Press early Wednesday "there is no fire." Earlier he had said there was a new fire in the

very same spot as a fire began that Monday evening and was put out around midnight Monday. He said fire officials saw

dispatched firefighters. Monday's fire gutted several historic buildings on the city's downtown courthouse square.

smoke in the area and had

Fire investigators had said they will work with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol. Tobacco Firearms and Explosives to determine what caused the largest structure fire ir recent Tyler history.

Tyler is located 91 miles east-southeast of Dallas.

Prosecutors subpoena interviews

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) Cleveland County prosecutors have issued subpoenas for the recordings of jailhouse interviews granted by a teenager who is accused in the death of

his girlfriend's father. Matthew Fox, 17, spoke to reporters at the Tarrant County jail in Texas, where he and Brittany Herrera, 15, were taken after their arrest in Fort Worth for with the fatal stabbing of Leroy Herrera.

Sheriff's deputies on Tuesday returned Fox and Brittany Herrera to Norman, where both teens are charged as adults with first-degree murder.

In interviews, Fox said that he was trying to defend himself during a struggle with Leroy Herrera at Herrera's south Oklahoma City home Jan. 24. Leroy Herrera's stepson found him on the living room floor with knife wounds to his neck.

"I thought it was interesting that they let the media in the jail," said Fox's attorney, Stephen Jones. "I thought that in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, they would have learned after the Lee Harvey Oswald/Jack Ruby incident that that was unwise."

The Enid lawyer is best known as Oklahoma City, Timothy: bomber McVeigh's attorney.

Fox has said he didn't like that Leroy Herrera was always "fussing" at Brittany Herrera. Claims. that the 41-year-old was an abusive father who hit his daughter were not wellreceived by Leroy. family and Herrera's friends.

Adams said Leroy, Herrera was a big fan of University Oklahoma Sooners and he coached youth baseball and loved to go fishing.

Forecasts aim to help with wind energy

DENVER (AP) --Federal researchers are developing pinpoint wind forecasts to help utilities predict how much electricity their wind turbines will generate.

The National Center for Atmospheric Research and Energy Wednesday the forecasts

would let utilities know how much electricity they have to produce from conventional power plants.

They say that would make wind energy more efficient, which could lead to lower electricity bills for consumers. The forecasts will use

data from satellites, air-

weather ground weather stations and sensors on wind turbines. Forecasts will be delivered every three hours.

Test forecasts would be issued for Xcel wind farms in Colorado, Minnesota, New Mexico, Texas and Wyoming.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice



Invites you to a Correctional Officer Hiring Seminar at the

Clarendon College 1601 W. Kentucky Ave. Pampa, Texas

on

Thursday, February 5, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Directions: Take Hwy 70 north or south (turns into N. Hobart). Turn east on W. Kentucky Avenue go 4 blocks, after Masonic Lodge. college is on the right.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice is accepting Correctional Officer applications for positions at the Pampa Unit. The hiring seminar will provide information about the duties of a Correctional Officer, qualifications, salary, benefits and the application process.

Interested applicants will be scheduled for screening in Pampa the week of February 9, 2009.

Join us and learn more about an exciting career as a Correctional Officer.

For more information, call 936-437-4098

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24 full scholarships are available to the first 24 students to pass the screening. Scholarships are sponsored be the Pampa EDC.

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In a continuing effort to accommodate practice growth and demand, Ford Family Chiropractic is pleased to welcome Joshua Link, MSPT, who has recently joined our practice and will be providing full service physical therapy procedures.

Josh is a native of Texas and received his MSPT degree from Walsh University in Canton, OH and is licensed by the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

Call to set up an appointment to discuss a care program for you that may include specific spinal adjustments, exercise recommendations. nutritional advice or other conservative methods of care based on your health history, age, current condition and lifestyle

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THE Best OF GRAY COUNTY

Just for fun, we are soliciting our reader's opinions on some of the "best" things about living in Gray County.

Who makes the best hamburgers? Who is your favorite beautician? Where is your favorite place to buy clothes? Who is your favorite mechanic?

Just fill out the form below and we will tabulate the results and print them in the paper later this month. We will also present all your "favorites" with a special certificate and recognition in their local newspaper.

So, get out of those winter doldrums, sharpen your pencils and vote for all your favorites. We will run this page three times - Saturday, Jan. 31, Wednesday, Feb. 4 and Friday, Feb. 6. Vote as many times as you like, but the ballots can't be copied. Only newspaper pages will be counted as official ballots.

You don't even have to sign your name. Just vote and help your favorite people and businesses be recognized.

Best of Gray County Categories

1. Best Taco		27. Bes	st pizza
2. Best Hambur	ger & Fries	28. Bes	st fried chicken
3. Best BBQ		29. Bes	st bakery
	buy jewelry		staurant with the best service
5. Best place to	buy furniture	31. Frie	endliest bank teller
6. Best place to	buy flowers	32. Bes	st community event
7. Best place to	buy gas	33. Bes	st place for kids to have fun
8. Best place to	buy clothes	34. Bes	st motel
9. Best place to	drink coffee	35. Bes	st beautician
10. Best place to	hear gossip	36. Bes	st nail tech
11. Best place to	have lunch	37. Bes	st place to buy tires
12. Best place for	dinner	38. Bes	st convenience store
13. Best plumbe	r	39. Bes	st car salesman
14. Best insurance	ce agent	40. Bes	st place to buy auto parts
15. Best real esta	te agent	41. Bes	st place to buy antiques
16. Best city offic	al	42. Bes	st place to buy breakfast
17. Best county of	official	43. Bes	st waiter/waitress
18. Best mechan	iic	44. Bes	st law enforcement officer
19. Best electricia	an	45. Bes	st fire fighter
20. Best physicia	an	46. Bes	st place to get your taxes prepared
21. Best dentist		47. Bes	st ice cream
22. Best vetering	arian	48. Bes	st phone service
23. Best eye care	provider	49. Bes	st lawn care provider
24. Best teacher		50. Bes	st elderly care provider
25. Best place to	buy fresh produce	51. Bes	st place to buy active wear clothes
26. Best place to	buy a soda	52. Bes	st place for family photos

Bring your entries to the Pampa News office or mail them to "The Best of Gray Co." c/o The Pampa News, PO Box 2198, Pampa, Texas 79065.

All entries must be received by 5 p.m., Thursday, February 12.

Viewpoints

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 4, the 35th day of 2009. There are 330 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 4, 1789, electors chose George Washington to be the first president of the United States. (However, the results of the balloting were not counted in the U.S. Senate until two months

On this date:

In 1783, Britain declared a formal cessation of hostilities with its former colonies, the United States

In 1861, delegates from six southern states met in Montgomery, Ala., to form the Confederate States of

In 1932, New York Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt opened the Winter Olympic Games at Lake Placid.

'Life is doubt, and faith without doubt is nothing but death'

— Miguel de Unamuno, Spanish philosopher

In 1938, the Wilder Thornton "Our Town" play opened Broadway

In 1941, the United Service Organizations (USO) came into existence.

In 1945, President Franklin Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader

Josef Stalin began a wartime conference at Yalta. In 1948, the island nation of Ceylon, Aî now Sri Lanka, Aî became an independent dominion within

the British Commonwealth. In 1974, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was kidnapped in Berkeley, Calif., by the Symbionese

Liberation Army. In 1976, more than 23,000 people died when a severe earthquake with a magnitude of 7.5 struck Guatemala, according to the U.S. Geological

In 1998, more than 2,300 people were killed when an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.9 hit northeast Afghanistan, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Five years ago: The Massachusetts high court declared that gays were entitled to nothing less than marriage and that Vermont-style civil unions would not suffice. A Senate rattled by a ricin attack began returning to regular business with no illnesses reported.

One year ago: President George W. Bush proposed a record \$3.1 trillion budget that included huge federal deficits. Thomas S. Monson was introduced as the 16th president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, succeeded the late Gordon B. Hinckley. Harry Richard Landis, one of two known surviving U.S. veterans of World War I, died near Tampa, Fla. at age 108.

Today's Birthdays: Actor William Phipps is 87. Actor Conrad Bain is 86. Actor Gary Conway is 73. Movie director George A. Romero is 69. Rock musician John Steel (The Animals) is 68. Singer Florence LaRue (The Fifth Dimension) is 65. Former Vice President Dan Quayle is 62. Rock singer Alice Cooper is 61. Actor Michael Beck is 60. Actress Lisa Eichhorn is 57. Football Hall of Famer Lawrence Taylor is 50. Rock singer Tim Booth is 49.



Editorials from around the state

American-Austin Statesman on Wall Street:

The overweening sense of entitlement and shocking lack of common sense among Wall Street executives is simply incomprehensible most Americans. It seems no amount of shame and outrage can change their behavior.

Giant insurer AIG was blasted around the world last year for spending half a million dollars on a retreat for its executives who had managed to drive the company to the edge of bankruptcy. The government had bailed out the struggling company with a total of \$150 billion that's with a B in loans, and AIG was still jetting its top folks around the world for spa treatments and hunting trips on the taxpayers' dol-

This week acknowledged that it was going ahead with \$450 million in bonuses for 400 employees who had sold the credit default swaps that put the company in the red. That's more than \$1 million for each of those valuable employees who managed to lose \$11 billion last quarter.

AIG, the country's largest insurer, said it needs to give the "retention bonuses" to keep the employees from leaving. Where does the company think they'll go? The landscape is littered with dead investment banks, and those still surviving are bleeding red ink. Why does the company want to keep them, anyway? AIG is estimated to have spent \$1 billion to retain employees in a year that saw 2.6 million Americans lose their jobs.

One would think the government's Troubled Assets Relief Program that oversees the bailouts could do something about this and other outrages. But so far, Wall Street greed has stomped all over oversight and common sense. For instance:

Former Merrill Lynch chief John Thain spent \$1.22 million redecorating his office while the company was in the process of losing billions. That redo included \$28,000 curtains, \$87,000 for two chairs and \$35,000 for an antique commode. You get a picture of someone completely out of touch with the real world.

Just before the failing brokerage was to be rescued by the Bank of America, Thain gave out \$4 billion in bonuses to the executives. The company then reported losses totaling \$37 billion in 15 months. Those bonuses are being investigated by the New York attorney general's office.

Citigroup was about to take possession of a \$50

million corporate jet it 15. That's one camera for ordered several years ago until President Barack Obama and other outraged politicians stepped in. Citigroup got a \$45 billion bailout from the government, and spending that money on another expensive corporate jet the company already owns five was too much for Washington to swallow.

After Bank of America announced it would absorb Merrill Lynch, the bank received a \$25 billion bailout from the government. It got another \$20 billion this month. During that time, Merrill Lynch executive Peter Krause left with a \$25 million golden parachute and bought a \$37 million luxury apartment in New York City.

There is palpable and justified outrage around the country about the greed and arrogance permeating Wall Street. No one can justify the obvious disconnect between the culture of entitlement and actual performance.

Americans are right to worry about the president's push for another billion stimulus when the country's business leaders are still so out of touch with reality that they reward abject failure with million dollar bonus-

Houston Chronicle on video surveillance at the U.S.-Mexico border:

Texas Gov. Rick Perry's passion for an audience participation video surveillance system on the border with Mexico has always seemed rooted more in conservative politics than fiscal practicality.

He's tried it once, he's tried it twice, and the bottom line looks worse than ever. The latest scorecard on the cost effectiveness of what amounts to a \$2 million Internet "catch an alien" computer game comes courtesy of the El Paso Times, which obtained law enforcement reports via open records requests.

It reveals that the surveillance cameras that went online last November were popular with viewers and drew nearly 2 million hits. However, the tips to law enforcement resulting from those visits resulted in only three arrests over the period, far fewer than the 1,200 the governor's staff had projected for the program's first year. Of 4,500 immigration violations that the project was expected to document, only six were reported.

Although the surveillance system was initially supposed to include 200 video cameras along the border, the group in charge of the project, the Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition, installed just 13 and will likely not put in more than every 80 miles of border.

This isn't Gov. Perry's first attempt to make a border camera system work. Three years ago he launched a \$200,000 pilot program for what would be a projected \$5 million virtual border wall that could be patrolled by Internet surfers. Like the current effort, it was hugely popular with Web users but resulted in only a few arrests and one drug bust.

When the governor sought to expand the program, state lawmakers refused to appropriate funds, and the pilot project died. Instead of learning from the debacle, Perry then used federal grant money to restart it with the sheriff's coalition as the vehicle.

Although a spokesper-

son for the governor claimed the low arrest figures showed that the cameras were effective deterrents to smugglers and illegal aliens, border lawmakers had a different take. State Sen. Juan "Chuy' Hinojosa, D-McAllen, told the Associated Press that the cameras were a waste of time and money.

El Paso Mayor John Cook criticized the initial border cam program as a poor investment, telling the Chronicle that most people had better things to do than spend their time playing virtual border patrolman.

Pilot programs are supposed to serve as reality checks. In the case of the border cams, it only seems to have stimulated Perry's determination to keep throwing good money after bad. Feb. 2

San Antonio Express-News on college tuition relief:

Higher education funding should be a priority during this year's legislative session.

Lawmakers cannot continue to expect the universities to balance their budgets on the backs of the students and their families by way of tuition and fees.

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In recent years, the amount of funding doled out to universities has been steadily reduced. The universities are feeling the pinch. The Legislature deregu-

lated tuition in 2003 when it faced a \$10 billion budget shortfall. The move has shifted the burden of finding new revenue to universities, forcing higher tuition and fees to cover their expenses.

Gov. Rick Perry in his State of the State speech last week suggested freezing tuition for incoming freshmen at Texas universities so they pay the same amount for at least the first four years of their college education.

This may not be the ideal approach, but it is a step in the right direction.

Between 2003 and 2007, tuition and fees went up 53 percent at the state's universities, according to Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

That is a tremendous increase even in the best of economic times.

A freeze or tuition stabilization would allow parents to better plan for their children's college education, and the four-year plan proposed by Perry would encourage students to complete their degrees faster if they know the tuition freeze is only good for a limited time.

There are many reasons students drop out of college; one is economics.

Freezing tuition is not a long-term solution by any means, but it would help many families until the economy rebounds.

And lawmakers should find the funds to invest in continued quality higher education while providing relief for families.

The state's long-term economic prospects depend on a better-educated workforce.

The Pampa News welcomes and encourages readers to express their opinions on issues of public interest and concern. However, we also reserve the right to accept or reject any letter for publication.

Letters must be 300 words or less. Letters submitted for publication must be neat and legible, typed if possible, or at least handwritten in a clear manner. All letters will be edited for length, clarity, spelling, grammar, and taste. We will not publish anonymous letters, letters that are potentially libelous, or personal attacks. Submission of a letter does not guarantee its publication nor can we guarantee a date of publication.

Letters submitted must include name, address, phone number and signature for verification. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be printed, unless requested for a specific reason.

Poetry, candidate or political endorsements, letters to third parties and "thank you" letters will not be published except at the discretion of the editor, depending on general interest.

Letters may be dropped off at the office, 403 W. Atchison, or mailed to The Pampa News, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066.

THE PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065 806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348 Fax: 806-669-2520

> Randall Pribble Publisher

Editor

bphillips@thepampanews.com

David Bowser

Reporter

dbowser@thepampanews.com

Rachel Stennett

Reporter

rstennett@thepampanews.com

Marcus Elkins

Press Supervisor

Chico Ramirez

Circulation Supervisor

rpribble@thepampanews.com **Betsy Phillips**

ReDonn Woods Advertising Manager advertising@thepampanews.com

Sue Pribble Advertising Representative advertising1@thepampanews.com

Beverly Taylor Classified Advertising

classified@thepampanews.com Kera Kent

Circulation circulation@thepampanews.com

bookkeeper@thepampanews.com

Carrie Hair

Accounting

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Legislative round-up

Stession - cont. from page 1

have the authority to pay the bills from the deadly Sept. 13 storm. Dus contractors used to evacuate people are among the unpaid vendors.

"We are not broke; why aren't we paying these bills?" Ogden asked.

"That's a good question," Colley responded, deferring to the office of Gov. Rick Perry.

A spokesman for Perry blamed the federal government for the slow response time, saying the state portion of that debt is only about \$14 million.

"In recent weeks, the governor has been working with the lieutenant governor to secure funds to be able to start making payments to those vendors because the process is moving too slowly," said spokeswoman Allison Castle.

STATE SCHOOLS

Gov. Rick Perry on Tuesday declared protecting residents of Texas institutions for the mentally disabled an emergency issue for lawmakers, a move that comes after a federal report found negligent and abusive care and conditions that contributed to dozens of deaths.

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03 W. ers to

The state has "a duty to ensure the safety" of those living in those facilities, spokeswoman Allison Castle said.

Sen. Jane Nelson, R-

Flower Mound, working with Perry's office, filed a bill that would create a governor-appointed official to investigate injuries and deaths and oversee the institutions known as state schools.

Other proposed changes include better background checks for staff, audits of the schools twice a year and other safety measures.

The bill does not call for a moratorium on enrollment or closing schools that some advocates for the disabled have demanded.

Texas houses nearly 5,000 residents in 13 state schools. Critics of the system say the state is stuck in an era when the mentally disabled were hidden away in large, impersonal facilities far from relatives and communities.

Nelson said while lawmakers will debate those issues, she intentionally left them out of the bill to help pass these changes.

"There are people who feel we should eliminate them, there are people who strongly believe they should continue to exist," Nelson said. "Emotions fly on that issue. We'll look at all that."

A Justice Department released December found at least 53 patients in Texas' large residential facilities died in 2007 from preventable conditions that were often the result of lapses in care.

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

8 6 4 3 1 5 2 7 9

5 7 9 2 4 8 3 6 1

3 1 2 6 9 7 4 5 8

7 2 5 9 8 6 1 4 3

987162534

6 4 3 8 5 9 7 1 2

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3 6 5 2 1 8 9 7

9 8 4 7 3 6 2 5

5 1 7 3 4 9 8 6

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Attitude is everything

Spirit - cont. from page 1

could still be with my friends and I could still be part of the program."

It concluded that the

Texas facilities violate res-

idents' rights and called

the number of injuries to

The report also noted

hundreds of state investi-

gations of allegations of

abuse and mistreatment of

residents, the danger of

more than half of state

facilities losing Medicaid

funding because of care

and safety problems and

more than 800 workers

fired or suspended for mis-

treating patients since

GAMBLING GOODS

A study released by a

pro-gambling group says

Texas could reap about \$1

billion a year in tax rev-

enue and 53,000 new jobs

if slot machines were

legalized at racetracks and

The study released by

Texans for Economic

Development says Texans

spent about \$2.8 billion in

2007 on gambling and

Louisiana, New Mexico,

The report said other

states saw large financial

gains from expanded race-

track gaming, which it

activity

related

Oklahoma

Mississippi.

dubbed "racinos."

Native American casinos.

"disturbingly

patients

high."

Cavalier welcomed Casey in his new role with the team, but made sure he knew that he would have the same expectations and requirements as he did when he was a quarter-

Trimble helped with varsity offensive practice and helped train his replacement, Junior Alex Clendennen. During the games on Friday nights, Trimble remained a staple on the sidelines where he was a "encourager and motivator," Cavalier said, and was "right there with his teammates.

It was in his new role that Trimble showed an exemplary attitude and behavior, which ultimately proved to be enough for Cavalier to create the new award.

"Casey has done a better job than anyone I've witnessed staying in touch and remaining part of the team. This is a difficult situation and through strong persistence, he has stayed at it." Cavalier surprised everyone at the football banquet when he told Trimble's story and made the award.

"I grabbed my girl-

priorities," he said. "I friend's hand and squeezed it tight," Trimble said. "She asked me what was wrong, and I told her, 'Just wait.'

The award is a nod toward the maturity of it's recipient, the coach explained.

"He (Trimble) went from the forefront of everything and had to take a seat way at the back. It was emotional watching how well he handled it all... Through strong persistance,

stayed at it and I want to pass that kind of attitude on to future teams with this award," Cavalier said.

Since his diagnosis, he has picked up rodeo roping and is playing baseball. He plans to attend college upon his graduation, and although he will not be able to play football, which was once his dream, he will be able to live a healthy life and impact future generations Harvesters .

The Federal Government has called on lenders, servicers, and banks to assist homeowners. This is a tremendous benefit for borrowers seeking to lower their payment and lower their interest rate and even reduce the principal balance. This restructuring is designed to keep homeowners in their home by customizing a loan payment to fit their budget with their existing lender.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My 19-year-old grandson, "Fletcher," an average boy with good looks, is becoming as exhibitionist. He flaunts his body on almost every occasion. When people are around,

he goes into his room and emerges minutes later without his shirt, naked to the waist, with his pants dropping down a most showing places we do not wish to see. He struts around, going from room to room, all the while his pants slipping even lower. Fletcher then usually changes into shorts, which also slide down and reveal more than the public should be viewing. Fletcher does this whether it's hot or cold, in the house

or outside. His behavior is not normal. He seems to be doing this stripping thing more and more, regardless of where he is. At our house over the holidays, he found an excuse to remove his shirt to show his abs. He's constantly exercising and working out and is always ready to pull open his shirt to show the results.

I don't know where exhibitionism at this age leads, but I'm sure the road is not a healthy trail to travel. Does all of this seem normal to you, Abby, and could you comment on it? -- CONCERNED IN BUCKS COUNTY, PA. DEAR CONCERNED: So, here we have a good-looking young man who works out like crazy and has found

that building his body brings him attention and admira-

tion. Who can blame him for wanting to show it off? That said, there is a time and place for everything. Tell Fletcher -- and his parents -- that when he is in your home, you would prefer that he pull his low-riding pants up and keep his shirt on because his exposure embarrasses and concerns you. (What he does in his own house is his business.)

And while you would prefer that your grandson polish other aspects of his persona, perhaps it's time to consider

Ozona, TX 76943

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Mission



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9

"Onyx" Female Shih-Tzu cross



"Spike" Male Heeler cross



"John" Male Terrier cross



"Curly" Female Poodle



"Little Yeller" Male Lab

"Mopsy" (below left) is a female Lhasa Apso. "Matey" (below right) is a Male Australian Shepherd.



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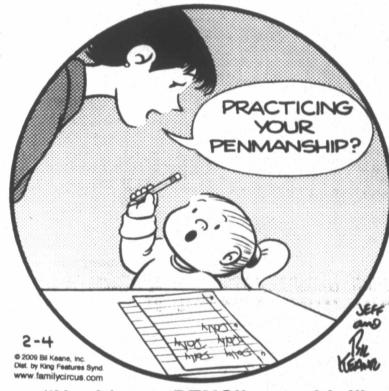
Marmaduke



"I didn't pick up our take-out lunch. For some reason he wouldn't stop at Katz Deli."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"No, it's my PENCILmanship!"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

sched.

abbr.

little

teapot ..."

4 Jitterbug's

cousin

5 Formerly 6 Sailing

hazard

people

8 Flavored

student

spot

lozenges

3 "---

By THOMAS JOSEPH 2 Airport

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1 Mariner	
7 Tarzan's	

- pals 11 Regal fur 12 Drained
- of color 13 Stupor **14** Gobi
- setting **15** Flaw 17 Pampered 7 Cochise's
- one 20 Fleet makeup
- 23 Oklahoma 9 Yale city 24 White wine 10 Yacht
- 26 Tour carrier 16 English
- 27 Low digit 28 Fiction
- 29 Jazz

instru-

- ment 31 Cease 32 Mixes up
- 33 Invites
- **34** Disables 37 Summon
- 39 Remove from power, in
- a way 43 Early shepherd
- 44 La Scala setting
- 45 Hard at work 46 Blotto
- **DOWN**
- 1 Filming site



Yesterday's answer

21 Piano sound 22 Future

- flowers 24 Like forest
- rocks 25 Stop dime
- county **17** Rum **30** How cakes some 18 Grownup 19 Fortresses
 - drugs are 42 Zeus or
- 35 Adds up 36 Mile or meter

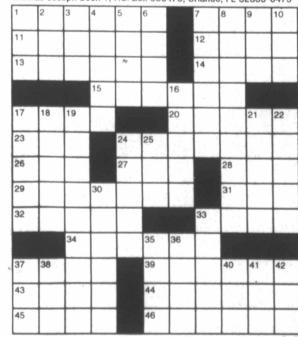
Tell

37 Truck part 38 — Dhabi **40** Bar

33 Target for

- concern 41 French article
- taken Apollo

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



For Better Or Worse









Zits









Garfield







The mer tion mat Man cerr of fi

plai mer tion like lic's curi Imp the

The trar all dle rille the will we for proof of pla at lic The spector

Beetle Bailey

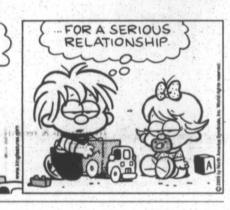




Marvin







B.C.







Haggar The Horrible







Peanuts





Blondie

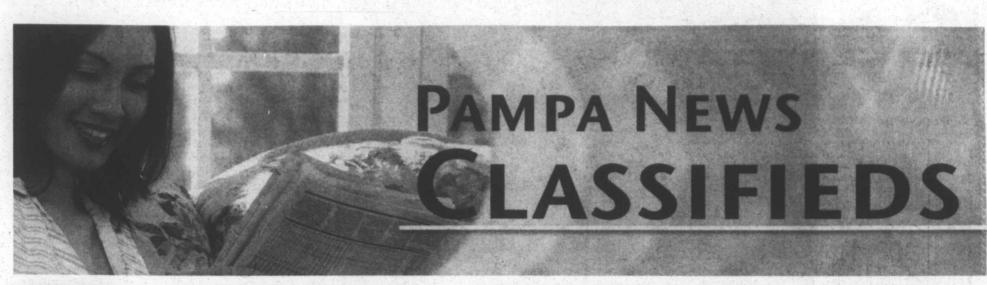






Flo & Friends





Classifieds Work!

1 Public Notice

The Texas Department of Transportation will host an Informational Meeting on March 5, 2009 concerning the planning build new. Free estiof future projects.

informational This meeting is held to ex- CERAMIC tile work. plain how the depart- Remodeling ment plans transporta- shower, kitchen. Textion projects. We would ture, painting, dry wall. like to receive the pub- Free esti. Call 665-3453 lic's input regarding the leave message, Jesus current Transportation Barraza. Improvement Plan for the district.

The meeting will be 2009 at 6:00 p.m. It will be located at the Borger Chamber of Commerce, 613 Main Street, Borger, Texas

The meeting will cover transportation plans for all areas of the Panhandle and the city of Amarillo. An overall view of the planning process will be presented, as well as the criteria used for selecting individual projects. Draft versions of current transportation plans will be presented at the meeting for pub-

lic comment. The public is invited to speak regarding projects currently planned or any additional projects that might be pro posed. Speakers will be limited to five minutes. Verbal and comments from the be received no later sume to: Co. Pumper us> Please apply no latthan March 15, 2009.

All interested citizens TX, 79066. are invited to attend this public meeting. Persons interested in attending the meeting whom have special communication accommodation needs are encouraged to contact Cheryl Luther at 806.356.3249. Requests should be made no later than two days prior to the public meeting. TxDOT will make ev-

ery reasonable effort to

these

C-24 Feb. 4, 25, 2009

accommodate

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13 Bus. Opp.

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14e Carpet Serv.

NU-WAY ator. Call 665-3541.

14h Gen. Serv.

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floor.

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Concrete Work

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ted at the meeting pumper's w/ exp. pre- \$2516.83. other exhibits may be Ins., Health/Life. Co. year degree from an acsubmitted to the District match 401K. Must have credited Office at 5715 Canyon own pickup and get re- Please apply for job Drive (P.O. Box 7368) imbursed for mileage. posting of your choice Amarillo, Texas 79114. Drug test before you 7368. Comments must hire. Please forward re-

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university location on-line at https://hhsiobs.hhsc.state.tx P.O. Box 1741 Pampa er than February 18,

> DEPENDABLE, de tail oriented-must have basic math skills and be neat in Full days. Apply at Carousel Expression 113 N. Cuyler

appearance.PT with persons are hereby in-

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for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all

RFFQSZP TQ VSXI XIF ONZFHFH

ONZFH NKJ LWZ XIWZ

ISLHFKC. - NYSPSZ NGHATYF Yesterday's Cryptoquote: PEOPLE THAT PAY FOR THINGS NEVER COMPLAIN; IT'S THE GUY YOU GIVE SOMETHING TO THAT YOU CAN'T PLEASE. - WILL ROGERS

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103 Homes For Sale

103 Homes For Sale 1820 N. Wells 4 bdr. / 1 ba., approx. 1400 sq. ft. PAID 0234

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BEAUTIFUL Country Log Home. 4 bdr., 4 ba.

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DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Feb.

5, 2009: This year, the unexpected rides in from out of left field. You'll learn to deal with unpredictability well if you keep your eye on the big picture. Creativity fills in when you cannot find a solution. Many feel that you are ingenious in the way that you come up with solutions. Avoid high risks, even if you are lucky this year. Curb a sweet tooth, If, you are single you'll meet people with ease. Don't declare someone to be "it." Date for it least a year. If a relationship doesn't feel right, it probably isn't. If you are attached, the two of you could become nurturing. Never forget your goals.

CANCER makes a great healer. The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive;

3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) **** You might be filled with energy and vivaciousness. Others don't know what hit you - or them, for that matter. The unexpected occurs when you least expect it. Communication might need deciphering! Tonight: Chill with a friend. Catch up on news.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ Expenses could startle you. Talk is cheap; dress as a cynic. Your creativity

flourishes, especially when brainstorming with a friend or in a meeting. Feelings are intense and difficult. Detach and don't worry. Tonight: Go with a lastminute invitation. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

to assess the liabilities. Ask for feedback from the experts. Tonight: Let your hair CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** Mosey along at a slow speed. Don't judge yourself so harshly, and think positively. A partner could be test-

ing your patience. New beginnings become possible. Tonight: Nap, and you will feel like a new person. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) **** Aim high and know what you want. Investigate what is going on with others. A meeting lets them air out their opinions. How you see a situation could

Don't let your need for order damage a blooming bond. Tonight: Make it early. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) *** You might be pushing too hard and annoying an associate or someone in your daily life. You could wonder why you are behaving in this manner. Perhaps

you are resentful of someone at work; it is coming off like this. Tonight: A must

appearance. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) **** Take the high road in any situation. When you deal with others in this manner, their response is off. Listen to news with openness. The question remains: Do you want to cross this line? Only you know for sure. Tonight: Expect to be up till the wee hours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **** You might want to approach a situation involving a key associate differently. Though you might not be as sure of yourself as you might like, you will be able to approach what up till now has been protected emotionally by another person. Tonight: Togetherness becomes a

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) **** You might want to take the lead, but find that others are faster,

quicker or ahead of the game. Think in

terms of a win-win. Carrying less responsibility might be nice! Tonight: Say yes. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) *** Dig into a project as if there is no tomorrow. In fact, this much drive is unlikely to appear again for a substantial amount of time. Recognize a gift by acting on it. You might have a lot to consid-

er right now. Tonight: A slew of invita-tions offers many possibilities. How

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Whatever you choose to focus on becomes a major preoccupation. Enjoying the moment to this level is important to the quality of your life. Listen to others, and enjoy their differ-

ences. Tonight: Add fun into the mix. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** Settle in and try to get a job or project completed. You just might need to close your door and screen your calls, then you'll get a lot done - and quite quickly at that. Tame a self-indulgent streak, or else you could be sorry.

Tonight: Nap and then decide.

BORN TODAY Actor, comedian Red Buttons (1919), Hall-of-Famer Henry "Hank" Aaron (1934), Illinois Gov. Adlai Stevenson Jr. (1900)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com. © 2009 by King Features Syndicate Inc

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TexSCAN Week of February 2, 2009

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Game ends with great shot

The Pampa Harvesters won the game, but Alex Clendening got the prize for the most spectacular shot.

With less than two seconds left in the third quarter, Clendening made a throw the length of the court. The buzzer rang, the ball dropped into the basket and the crowd went wild. Clendening was high

point man in the game, accounting for 21 of the Harvester's 73 points on the scoreboard at the end of the night. In addition to the three-pointer at the end of third quarter, Clendening made three baskets for six points in the first quarter, two baskets for four points in the second, two baskets for four points in the third and one basket for two in the final period of the game. He was two for two from the free throw line.

Clendening was followed closely by Hayden Skinner with 20 points for the night. Skinner had nine baskets at two points each and was two for five from the foul line

Heath Skinner had 11 points for the night. He made one basket for two points and two long shots for three points. He was three for four from the free



staff photo by David Bowser

Lady Harvesters Ashlee Holland, 20, and Taryn Eubank, 23, battle the girls in orange for a rebound during the Pampa-Amarillo Caprock game Tuesdya night in McNeely Field House. Caprock won 71-40.

throw line.

Travis Hagerman had 10 points in the game. He made four baskets at two points a toss and was two for three from the foul line for the night.

Alex Torres had eight points Tuesday night. He had three baskets at two points a pop and was two for two from the foul line.

Blake Sieck dropped in a three-pointer for the night. The Harvesters are

on the road Friday night, playing Hereford at 7:30

Earthworm investigators



The Lady Longhorns from Amarillo Caprock gored the

Caprock jumped into the lead early in the game posting

The Lady Harvesters came back to tie the 11 points

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25 points to Pampa's five by the end of the first quarter.

Caprock made in the second quarter to end the half 36-

16, but Caprock went on to put another 15 points on the

scoreboard to Pampa's 11 in the third quarter to make it

Ashley Facio led the Lady Harvesters in scoring with

11 points for the night. She had two baskets for two

points each and two for three points. She was one for two

Carlyn Teichmann was next with nine points in the

Ashlee Holland had seven points for the night. She

Emilie Troxell had five points for the game, all in the

Jessica Miner made one basket for two points in the

Taryn Eubank and Shelbie Watson each put two points

The Lady Harvesters are on the road Friday. They trav-

second period and made two of four shots from the foul

second quarter. She had one three-pointer and was two

sank three two-point baskets and was one for one from

game. She had two three-pointers, one basket for two

51-27 three-quarters of the way through the game.

points and was one for two from the foul line.

Eubank was two for two from the foul line.

Watson sank one bucket in the second quarter.

Lady Harvesters 71-40 Tuesday night.

from the free throw line.

the free throw line.

el to Hereford.

for two from the foul line.

on the scoreboard for the night.

Sixth graders in Clint Allen's science class at Pampa Junior High check out earthworms. This particular group is determining if the worm likes the heat and the light or the dark. Front left are Amy Thomas (back to picture) Damien Leal, Anthony Paz, Aaron Mckinney-Danner and Samara Villanueva.

Red Cross offers wildfire advice, precautions

Due to extreme dry conditions the Eastern Texas Panhandle Red Cross urges residents to take precautions against wildfire. Wildfires often begin unnoticed. They spread quickly, igniting brush, grasses and homes. Reduce your risk now ñ before wildfire strikes. Meet with your family to decide what to do and where to go if wildfires threaten your area. Follow these steps to protect your family, home and property. Create a 30 to 100 foot safety zone around your home. Within this area, take steps to reduce potential exposure to flames and radiant heat. Clear all flammable vegetation, including leaves, dead limbs and twigs. Remove leaves and rubbish from under structures. Ask the power company to clear branches from power lines. Mow grass regularly. Clear a 10 foot area around propane tanks and the barbecue. Follow local burning regulations. Stack firewood at least 100 foot away from home. Regularly clean roof

When wildfire threatens follow the instructions of local officials. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Only if you have the time, take these steps to protect your home. Close windows and heavy drapes, close vents, all interior and exterior doors. Remove lightweight curtains. Shut off gas at the meter or propane tank. Turn off all pilot lights. Close fireplace screens.

Move flammable furniture into the center of the home away from windows and sliding glass doors.

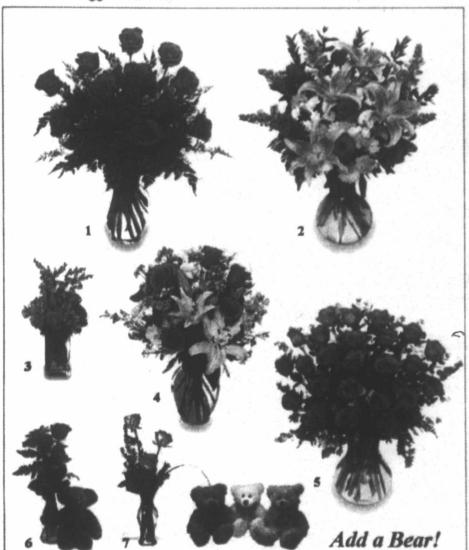
Outside of your home, seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood. Place combustible patio furniture inside. Connect garden hose to outside taps. Place lawn sprinklers on the roof and near aboveground fuel tanks. Wet the roof and shrubs within 15 feet of home.

You can cope with disaster by preparing in advance. Meet with your family to create a disaster plan. Discuss the types of disaster that could occur. Discuss where to go and what to bring if advised to evacuate. Practice what you have discussed. Plan how your family will stay in contact if separated by disaster. Pick two meeting places: one a safe distance near your home in case of fire and the second option outside your neighborhood in case you can not return home. Choose an out of state friend as a icheck-in contactî for everyone to call.

Eastern Texas Panhandle Red Cross wants you to be safe. Practice and review these steps. The entire Texas Panhandle is in high fire danger and will probably remain so until spring. Prepare now! Know what to do in an emergency. For more information contact Eastern Texas Panhandle Red Cross at 1-800-297-2270, go to redcross.org or call your local fire department.

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