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HOUSE LEVELING

Three meth arrests over weekend

by Rachel Stennett rstennett@thepampanews.com Traffic stops during the

weekend led to three separate arrests for possession of methamphetamine in Gray County.

A deputy from Gray County Sheriff's Office stopped a vehicle in McLean on Saturday (Feb. 7) around midnight on a traffic violation. The driver, Charidee Jo Kelley, 37, of Pampa claimed that she had a driver's license, just not in her current possession. Kelley gave the deputy a fake name, but the deputy knew the true identity of the woman and asked to search the vehicle, according to Lt. Joe B. Hoard of GSCO.

The search of the vehicle was denied by Kelley. A K-9 unit was called in and alerted on the vehicle.

"Items believed to be meth were found upon the search," Hoard said.

Kelley was arrested for

possession of a controlled substance less than one gram and for failure to identify. Kelley was also arrested for warrants on e, manufacture and delivering of a controlled substance, and no driver's

license. A male passenger in the vehicle, Gage Dane Zeek, 17, of Lefors, was also arrested for possession of a controlled substance, less than one gram.

As of Monday morning, "Whi

bond had not been set for either suspect and both remained in jail.

Jennifer Leah Cox, 40, of Sweetwater, Okla., was arrested when stopped for a traffic violation, which led to a drug arrest.

Cox was driving on Gwendolyn when stopped by a deputy from GSCO on Sunday at 4:38 p.m. Cox was arrested for driving with a suspended license.

"While waiting for the

wrecker, the deputy searched the vehicle and found two baggies with a crystal-type substance believed to be methamphetamine," Hoard said.

Cox was also charged with possession of a controlled substance, greater than one gram but less than four grams. Bond had not been set for Cox as of Monday morning and she remained in jail.



Scam letters making the rounds again

by Rachel Stennett rstennett@thepampanews.com

In another report of attempted scams, the Pampa Police Department urges citizens to stick with this rule of thumb, "if it's too good to be true, it probably is," according to Detective Casey Ingersoll.

Scam letters, some accompanied by a real-looking cashiers check, are taking a course through Pampa. Anyone may be a target.

Ingersoll's advice for the checks is simple, but it may save you thousands of dollars. "Tear it up and throw it out," Ingersoll said concerning fradulent checks.

"We definitely advise someone not to cash unexpectedly large amounts of checks," he said. Most fradulent checks have a letter associated with them, instructing a person to cash the check, allegedly to pay the taxes on the money the recipient has "won," and then send the party back money and they will send another check.



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Will Bow

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AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — In the decade since Texas deregulated its retail electricity market, rates have skyrocketed higher than any other state with such open competition, according to a report released Monday.

Commissioner Ward 1.

Commissioned by the Cities Aggregation Power Project, a nonprofit coalition of Texas municipalities, the report found that residential electricity rates rose 64 percent between 1999 and 2007. Before that, Texans paid rates that were well below the national average, according to the U.S. Energy I n f o r m a t i o n Administration.

"Consumers have paid too much for too long under deregulation," said Jay Doegey, chairman of the municipalities group that seeks to curb market abuses. "Instead of excuses or ignoring the problem, Texans deserve meaningful reform."

The Legislature passed a sweeping deregulation law in 1999 that sought to break down electric company monopolies and remove strict government control over retail electricity rates. The idea was to allow competitive market forces to drive down prices. The sponsor of the legislation, former Sen. David Sibley, acknowledges rates have gone up but said he still considers the bill a success.

The first candidate to declare his intentions in the upcoming city elec-

tion was Brad Pingel, who filed for the position he currently holds,

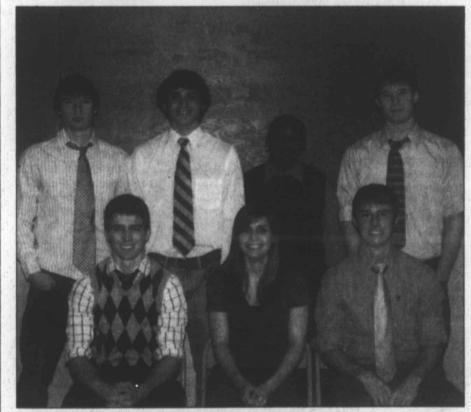
Sibley, who now lobbies for power companies and others, blames the hikes on increased natural gas prices. He said Texas is far too dependent on natural gas and would see lower rates if it diversified to coal, nuclear and other energy sources.

"The fuel mix is a problem," Sibley said. "We're building nothing but natural gas plants."

Sibley said the amount of transmission capability,

RATES - cont. on page 3

Basketball Seniors honored tomorrow



Tuesday, Feb. 10 will be Pampa High School Basketball Senior Night. The seniors on the boys and girls basketball teams will be introduced and honored between games. Pictured are John Luke Covalt, Jessica Miner, Blake Sieck, Hayden Skinner, Alex Torres, Cobran Harris, Heath Skinner

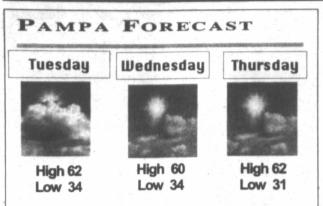


While the Pampa Police Department is aware of fradulent checks circulating through the area, there is little they can do.

"The police department definitely takes reports regarding fradulent checks, but for the most part it is something that is occuring outside the United States. Fraud is vastly reported throughout the U.S."

Ingersoll said that they collect the information concerning fraud and forward it to a database because the operations are rarely, if ever, orgininating out of Pampa.

2 — Monday, February 9, 2009 — The Pampa News



Tuesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 62. Southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34. Wind chill values between 25 and 30. Southwest wind 15 to 20 mph becoming north northwest. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 60. Northwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south southwest. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 34. South southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 62. South southwest wind around 10 mph. Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 31. South wind 10 to 20 mph becoming west. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.



Grain prices

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

Wheat	\$4.82
Milo	\$4.86
Corn	\$6.56

Cash Five Texas results

AUSTIN (AP) - Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 20-2-14-29-4. Number matching five of five: 0. Matching four of five: 78. Prize: \$517 Matching three of five: 2,952. Prize: \$9 Matching two of five: 28,912. Prize: \$2 Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.

For the Record

Obituaries **Maria Ybarra** Dominguez, 74

Dominguez, 74, died Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009 in Pampa.

Arrangements are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Dominguez was born on Oct. 18, 1934 in Anson, Texas and came to Pampa in the early 1950's. She married Salvador Dominguez in Tulia, Texas. He preceded her in death on April 2, 2001. She worked at Coronado

Pampa Shirley Nicholson, 70, died Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009 in Pampa.

At Mrs. Nicholson's request, her body was donated to Texas Tech School of Medicine. Memorial services will announced at a later date.

Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Nicholson was born on July 28, 1938 in Little Rock, Arkansas and came to Pampa in 1978 from Odessa. She married D. L. Nicholson on June

block of North Zimmers

SHERIFF

Office reported the fol-

Gray County Sheriff's

James Douglas Orin,

36, of Pampa was arrested

by the PPD for assault

Martha Leah Towles,

causing bodily injury.

as first responders.

lowing arrests.

Friday, Feb. 6

Pampa - Maria Ybarra Health Care Center as a housekeeping supervisor. She was a member of St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church. In her spare time, she liked to visit with her family every Sunday and liked playing cards and bingo. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

preceded in death by a Survivors include four grandson, Joe Angel daughters; Yolanda Dominguez and husband Luis, Sylvia Flores and husband Efren, Dolores Arreola and husband

Dominguez. Sign the on-line register at www.carmichaelwhatley.com

Shirley Nicholson, 70

11, 1977 in Odessa. He preceded her in death on April 21, 1995. Shirley retired from the Social Security Administration after 36 years of service. She then received a B. S. Wheeler.

Red Hats and American Business Women's Association (ABWA).

flemorp

665-8921

and

Dominguez, all of Pampa,

Dominguez, Jr. and Johnny

Dominguez and wife Terri,

all of Pampa, one brother;

Jovito Ybarra and wife

Catalina of Plainview, 17

grandchildren and 16 great

grandchildren. She was

Victor,

two sons;

Survivors include her fiance. Don Reed of Pampa, two brothers; Joe Westerfield of Hot Springs, AR and Don Westerfield of St. Louis, MO, and special friends Joe and Carol Reed of

MEMORIALS: Clarendon College-Pampa Center Vocational Nursing Program, 1601 Kentucky, Pampa, TX 79065.

Sign the online register

2100 block of North Simmers and transported a patient to PRMC.

6:10 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Terry and transported a patient to PRMC. 6:53 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton and transported a patient to PRMC.

7:00 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient ed to Amarillo's North to NWTH. 7:03 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of North Wells. No patients were transported. 11:18 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky and transported a pateint to PRMC.

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Dominguez

FREE CEMETERY SPACE

Cemetery & Mausoleum of Pampa

Angelica

Salvador



book at www.carmichaelwhatley.com.

Accident turns fatal

Childress On February 1 at 3:45 a.m. on FM 2042 at the FM1282 intersection, 10 miles SW Childress, Josh of Ackerman, 19, Childress was involved in a one vehicle rollover.

The Ford rolled several times ejecting Ackerman. Ackerman was life flight-

Pampa.

Doy

degree from Wayland Baptist University in 1987 and a B. S. degree in nursing from West Texas A & M University in 1997. She was a registered nurse and worked at Pampa Nursing Center and taught CVA classes at Clarendon College and Parkview Hospital in

Shirley was very active in

ver's license, failure to

maintain financial respon-

sibility, displaying expired

Hutchinson, 36, of Pampa

was arrested by the PPD

for driving while intoxi-

cated/open alcoholic con-

17, of Lefors was arrested

for possession of a con-

trolled substance, less than

Cutter

registration.

tainer.

Winning Lotto Texas numbers

AULTIN (AP) - Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 8-34-5-36-27-40. Number matching six of six: 0.

Number matching five of six: 22. Prize: \$2,215. Number matching four of six: 1,400. Prize: \$52. Number matching three of six: 30,331. Prize: \$3. Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$17 million.

Emergency Services

the 2100 block of North

A civil matter was

Disorderly conduct was

A runaway was reported

building

Suspicious person calls

were received from the 700

block of East Murphy, the

1000 block of East

received from the 600

FIRE

Pampa Fire Department

reported the following

calls between 7 a.m.

Saturday and 7 a.m. today.

2:31 p.m. — One unit

responded to the 1000

block of South Dwight on

responded to the 1200

block of North Wells on a

12: 53 a.m. - One unit

responded to the 2100

block of North Wells on a

responded to the 700

4:05 a.m. — One unit

motor vehicle accident.

three personnel

three personnel

Sunday, Feb. 8

8:00 p.m. - One unit

three personnel

personnel

Saturday, Feb. 7

two

block of North Hazel.

A traffic complaint was

was

reported in the 700 block

reported in the 1100 block

in the 1500 block of North

North Hobart.

of North Frost.

Christy.

checked.

Frederic.

and

and

and

and

a grass fire.

med assist.

One

of West Coronado.

PAMPA PD

Nelson. Police A welfare check was Pampa made in the 1500 block of

Department reported the following calls on Friday, Feb. 6 Friday, Feb. 6

Officers conducted a total of nine traffic stops. A stop in the 1300 block of North Hobart resulted in at least one arrest.

A total of nine attempts to serve papers were made. A total of nine calls/and

or stops concerning animals were made.

Accidents were reported in the 800 block of North Wells, the lobby of the PD, and the 1900 block of North Nelson.

One alarm was investigated.

An assault was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart. Medical attention was not needed.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 1800 block of North Beech

Forgery was reported int he 300 block of West Brown, where checks were stolen and forged.

Theft was reported in the 900 block of East Albert, where a computer towers and tool box with tools with an estimated value of \$1,375 were reportedly taken; and Wal-Mart Super Center, 2800 block of North Charles, where clothes, diapers, and steaks with an estimated value of \$74.50 were reportedly taken.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 700 block of North Lefors, and

7, of Pampa by the PPD for theft of property.

Tina Sue Hoskins, 38, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for insufficient bond on possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Saturday, Feb. 7

Cody Allen Hollon, 18, of Pampa was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Michael John Dominguez, 23, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for no driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Brandon Daniel Smith, 28, of Hobart, Okla., was arrested by the PPD for public intoxication.

Mark Douglas Hinkle, 50, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for violated occupational license restriction, transportation. Justin Billy Adams, 26,

of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated/open alcoholic container.

Charles G. Chandler, 52, of Pampa was arrested by the Pampa Police Department for assault causing bodily injury, family violence.

Damian Garza, Jr., 37, of Taylor was arrested by GCSO for violation of probation, possession of a controlled substance.

Sunday, Feb. 8 Charidee Jo Kelley, 37, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for failure to idenf 1 y manufacturing/delievering a controlled substance, no driver's license, and possession of a controlled substance less than one gram.

Maurilo Lopez, 19, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for forgery of a financial instrument.

Rodriguez Benito Lopez, 30, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for failure to identify, no drione gram. Sergio Ivan Resendez, 34, of Pampa

was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated.

Gage Dane Zeek,

AMBULANCE

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

Friday, Feb. 6

9:29 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Pampa **Regional Medical Center** and transported a patient to North West Texas Hospital.

3:45 p.m. — A mobile IcU responded to the 600 block of Zimmers and transported a patient to PRMC.

6:02 p.m. — A mobile responded ICU to Recreational Park and transported a patient to LifeStar.

10:17 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Coronado Nursing Center and transported a patient to PRMC.

Saturday, Feb. 7 9:59 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of North Christy and transported a patient to PRMC.

4:43 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the

Get Paid for your opinion!

20/20 Research, a nationally-recognized market research firm, is conducting focus groups in Pampa to discuss community issues. This is a great way for your voice to be heard. Participants will be paid for their time!

The groups will take place on Thursday, February 26th and will last 2 hours. If you would like to qualify for this study, call toll free 1-866-332-3610 ext. 550

If you can't make it on Thursday, that's okay! 20/20 Research is constantly conducting focus groups, both locally and online. If you would like to join our database for chances to get paid for your opinions, please visit us online at www.2020research.com. While you're there, click "Join our panel" and get involved in future focus group opportunities!

20/20

Sunday, Feb. 8 1:33 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of Garland and transported a patient to PRMC.

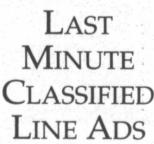
4:09 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of Zimmers. No patients were transported. 5:47 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of Zimmers. No patients were transported. 3:22 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to Baptist St. Anthony's in Amarillo.

Monday, Feb. 9

1:31 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2100 block of Williston and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:00 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Wilkes and transported a patient to PRMC.

Texas hospital. West Ackerman died from his injuries on Feb. 8t at 4:36 p.m.. He was pronounced dead by Judge Frank Frausto at NWT Hospital. DPS Troopers are continuing to investigate the case.



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

CABOT & NOI Employee Credit Union Annual Meeting Time, Thurs., Feb. 12th, 6:30pm. M.K. Brown Auditorium. All members welcome! Door Prizes & Cash Prizes. Come support your credit union!!

DETAIL YOUR or your sweethearts car or boat. (gift cert. avail!!) Call 662-5988 pick up & delivery available! Ref. available

QUICKBOOKS PRO 2009 Training in Pampa by Certified ProAdvisor. Seats available, class will be from 1-5pm., Feb. 16-19. Class is hands-on and not lecture / overheads only like other training held in Amarillo & Lubbock. 806-665-HELP (4357) to register.

SELECT BRANDS of paint 1/2 price. While supplies last! Frank's Hardware and Rental, 401 N.Ballard, 665-4995.

STILL TAKING entries for the Who's Who contest thru Feb 12th.

Priz

Emergency Services

Electric rates soaring

RATES- cont. from page 1

demands from population growth and pressure to reduce emissions can also affect rates.

But the report found that even among neighboring states heavily dependent on natural gas, Texas has higher rates. Oklahoma

and Louisiana, for example, are big users of natural gas but did not deregulate their markets as Texas did, the data shows. Texans currently pay about 10.3 cents per kilowatt hour on average, compared to 8.3 cents in Louisiana and 7.3 cents in Oklahoma, a snapshot of federal data shows.

Ratepayers in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, which have also intro-

duced retail electric competition, saw electricity prices rise by 39 percent and 62 percent between 1999 and 2007, respectively, according to the study. Former Gov. George W. Bush signed the deregulation law, declaring that competition would "benefit Texans by reducing monthly rates."

The legislation for the first time authorized competition among retail electric providers, allowed power companies to charge ratepayers billions of dollars for pre-existing investments and provided incentives for the use of renewable energy.

The report does give the law credit for encouraging the use of renewables, enhancing efficiency standards and helping to reduce emissions.

The Cities Aggregation Power Project, which pools the energy needs of its member cities in order to negotiate better prices, does not recommend going back to the pre-deregulation system. But the group says it wants the Legislature to curb market abuses by limiting how much power any one utility can generate.

The coalition also advocates reforms that would allow citizens living in its municipalities to join together and negotiate better rates the way governments do now.

The Pampa News — Monday, February 9, 2009 — 3

BUY ONE ... GET ONE FREE LA-Z-BOY & LANE RECLINERS

RIGHT NOW YOU CAN GET TWICE AS MUCH FOR YOUR MONEY!



of the oil industry's biggest challenges this year will be managing exploration and production amid the worst global recession in a generation, trying not to scale back so much that it sets the stage for another round of painful price spikes.

At the same time, industry leaders will certainly want a say as President Barack Obama shapes the nation's energy policy and looks to reduce America's dependence on fossil fuels.

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Some of the energy sector's heaviest hitters will meet in Houston this week at an annual conference organized by Cambridge Energy Research Associates, a consultancy. CERA is chaired by author and economic researcher Daniel Yergin.

The list of scheduled speakers includes the top executives of European oil giants BP PLC and Royal Dutch Shell PLC and Saudi Arabia's oil minister, Ali al-Naimi. The five-day conference,

which begins Monday,

HOUSTON (AP)- One demand started again, people were running double

time to try and catch up. "It's very challenging," he noted. "You're making investments that will have a 10- to 15-year time horizon."

Where prices go in 2009 is anyone's guess. Some forecasters see oil slipping below \$30 a barrel, while others have it averaging about \$50 a barrel. The biggest factor is the recession's duration, and most economic news right now points to a protracted downturn.

That scenario is playing out in the heart of the oil patch.

For the 11th straight week, the number of working oil and gas rigs dropped in the United States last week, with the most severe decline in Texas, noted analyst Stephen Schork. The drop off in drilling activity shows how badly the recession has cut into energy demand and slowed spending.

"More to the point, the

developing clean energy sources.

Chu is a Nobel Prizewinning physicist who has promoted alternative energy and warned of global warning as director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California.

"I think it's very clear there's going to be a big emphasis on climate change," Yergin said. "The appointment of Steven Chu is a notable statement."

Some in the industry are leaning toward a cap-andtrade system to cut carbon emissions over a tax on ConocoPhillips them. Chairman Jim Mulva has suggested cap-and-trade ,Äî which allows a company with reduced emissions to sell a credit to another business that needs to exceed the emissions limit to operate ,Aî is more widely understood and has a better chance of working through the political process.

But Exxon Mobil Corp.



comes only a week after many oil and gas companies reported their worst quarterly earnings in years, dragged down by crude's 60 percent price drop in the final three months of 2008.

Oil continues to hover near five-year lows around \$40 a barrel.

Everyone in the business ,Aî drillers, producers, service companies ,Äî is trying to muscle through the latest boom-bust cycle. So far, the world's biggest oil companies aren't scaling back spending on new oil and gas projects as much as smaller and midsize producers. But any curtailment of production could cause supply problems once the world's economies start to rebound.

"You don't want to fall into the type of situation we had after the 1998 price collapse, when Wall Street put enormous pressure on energy companies to cut back investments," said Yergin, whose history of the oil industry, "The Prize," won a Pulitzer Prize in 1992. "When

number of total rigs employed in the U.S. dipped below 1,400 for the first time since July 2005," Schork wrote in a report. Falling crude prices have

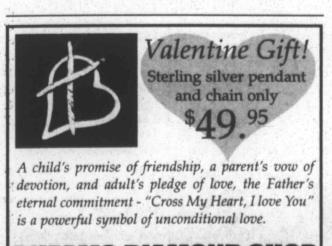
affected the global energy complex, including the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. which produces 40 percent of the world's oil.

OPEC Secretary General Abdalla el-Badri said Monday because of falling prices, member states have postponed 35 of 150 new oil and gas production projects. That likely will mean OPEC will not meet its goal of raising capacity by five million barrels a day by 2012, when most expect the recession to be a bad memory.

In the U.S., even as the industry navigates this difficult period, it's preparing to adjust to Obama's plans for a "green energy economy."

Obama's new energy secretary, Steven Chu, has vowed to aggressively pursue policies aimed at addressing climate change and achieving greater energy independence by

Remember to bring your Who's Who entries to The Pampa News by Thursday, February 12



RHEAMS DIAMOND SHOP Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-5:30; Saturday 10:00-4:00 111 N. CUYLER • 665-2831

chief Rex Tillerson has said a carbon tax would be more transparent and effective. A cap-and-trade system, he noted, would require establishment of new markets to trade carbon credits and new regulators to monitor them.

"There's a strong sense we're going to be moving into an era in which there's going to be more focus on energy policy," Yergin said. "But the reality is there's no simple answer for such a policy in a \$14 trillion economy."

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dipped in

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outshines it for

Valentine's Day

A very special gift for

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A real 12" long-

stemmed rose,

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Each rose is unique (no

two are alike) and like

your love, it will last

forever. Give a gift that

will always be

remembered and

cherished for this happy occasion.

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665-2831

4 — Monday, February 9, 2009 — The Pampa News

Viewpoints

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 9, the 40th day of 2009. There are 325 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 9, 1943, the World War II battle of Guadalcanal in the southwest Pacific ended with an Allied victory over Japanese forces.

On this date:

In 1773, the ninth president of the United States, William Henry Harrison, was born in Charles City County, Virginia Colony.

In 1825, the House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams president after no candidate had received a majority of electoral votes.

In 1861, Jefferson Davis was elected the provisional president of the Confederate States of America.

In 1870, the U.S. Weather Bureau was established.

"Modesty is the conscience of the body."

In 1825, the House of Representatives

— Honore de Balzac. French author

elected John Quincy Adams president after candidate had no received a majority of electoral votes. In 1942, daylight-

saving "War Time" went into effect in the United States, with clocks

turned one hour forward. In 1950, in a speech in Wheeling, W.Va., Sen. Joseph McCarthy, R-Wis., charged the State Department was riddled with Communists.

In 1971, the crew of Apollo 14 returned to Earth after man's third landing on the m

Ten years ago: The Senate began closed-door deliberations in President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial, even though members from both parties acknowledged that the two-thirds margin for conviction could not be attained.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush and Democratic front-runner John Kerry sparred over the president's economic leadership, while Kerry's rivals sought to slow his brisk pace. Anti-government rebels took control of nearly a dozen towns in western Haiti as the death toll in the violent uprising rose to at least 40.

One year ago: Democrat Barack Obama swept the Louisiana primary and caucuses in Nebraska and Washington state; Republican Mike Huckabee outpolled John McCain in the Kansas caucuses and Louisiana primary, while McCain won the Washington caucuses. A suicide bomber blasted a political gathering in northwestern Pakistan, killing at least 27 people. Space shuttle Atlantis, carrying a European-built science lab, docked with the international space station.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Kathryn Grayson is 87. Television journalist Roger Mudd is 81. Actress Janet Suzman is 70. Actress-politician Sheila James Kuehl ("The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis") is 68. Singer-songwriter Carole King is 67. Actor Joe Pesci is 66. Singer Barbara Lewis is 66. Author Alice Walker is 65. Actress Mia Farrow is 64. Singer Joe Ely is 62. Actress Judith Light is 60. Rhythm-andblues musician Dennis "DT" Thomas (Kool & the Gang) is 58. Actor Charles Shaughnessy is 54. Country singer Travis Tritt is 46. Actress Julie Warner is 44. Country singer Danni Leigh is 39. Actor Jason George is 37. Actor-producer Charlie Day is 33.

WASHINGTON (AP)- On his first big test, Barack Obama made some rookie mistakes and strategic missteps. But he still appears headed for a win on the centerpiece of his agenda, a huge economic recovery program, with the fresh striking of a bipartisan deal in the Senate.

Legislative leaders, including some fellow Democrats who support him, chalked up his problems to inexperience and some initial miscalculations over the lack of Republican support, and they suggest he'll learn from the rocky start.

Americans have learned, too, a little about how their new president works.

He's swung from being conciliatory to badgering Congress to act, from courting the opposition to taking partisan swipes. He's had to fight to keep from losing control of the message. And all this is playing out against a background of Cabinet problems, economic distress and global distractions.

the enormity of the challenge. "In a matter of weeks, we moved through both houses of Congress a very complex piece of legislation," Obama senior adviser David Axelrod said Saturday in an interview. "I don't know if there is a parallel in history."

While Obama reached out energetically to members of both parties, he didn't win a single Republican vote in the House. In the Senate, Democrats late Friday reached a deal with a small band of Republican moderates that set the stage for expected approval within the next few days.

The recovery package was put together by congressional Democrats in partnership with Obama, a process begun during Obama's transition. The administration decided against starting off the process by submitting its own detailed legislative package.

Even though Obama and top aides stayed close to the process, the result was an \$819 billion package packed with spending projects, some of

much leeway to House Speaker

Nancy Pelosi and House Banking

Committee Chairman Barney Frank.

And they also could argue that, while

Obama had offered to consider

Republican suggestions for the pack-

age, none wound up in the legisla-

In not sending his own legislation

to Congress, Obama did the exact

opposite of what President Bill

Clinton did in 1993 when he tried to

get Congress to swallow whole a

detailed health care overhaul plan

put together by a task force headed

by his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

That take-it-or-leave it approach

who has actively championed the

stimulus bill, said Obama stumbled

at first by ceding the debate to

Capitol Hill and not stepping out

No one who truly loves

animals would want to see

the innocent animals pun-

ished because of the

majority of un-caring own-

ers that raise these dogs to

fight and attack. These

irresponsible owners are

the target of many who

have endured a vicious

attack or anyone that

knows the lasting effects

of the attack on the animal

and the family that loves

Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell,

alienated Congress.

pared it back some.

tion.

more forcefully to explain the bill to the public.

"A small percentage of this bill, the unnecessary spending, allowed Republicans , Âî who have played politics on this from the beginning ,Aî to discredit it so public opinion is against it," Rendell, the chairman of the National Governors Association, said in an interview Friday. "We need a massive stimulus bill with spending. Every economist says that. And yet the American people are against it now because we let the Republicans spin."

After his original outreach to Republicans, Obama late last week changed his tone and derided Republican ideas for putting more tax cuts in the stimulus package. Such ideas "have been tested and they have failed," he said in a speech at the Energy Department. Later, he told a gathering of congressional Williamsburg, Democrats in Virginia, that "the scale and scope of this plan is right."



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Some veteran Democrats say Obama could have made it easier for himself.

"I think it is important that he reached out. But lesson learned: It would have been better for him to send up his idea of a bill," instead of having House Democratic leaders initiate the process, said Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Leaders of both parties agree the slumping U.S. economy requires strong stimulus, an argument reinforced by a government report showing soaring new job losses. Obama will likely get most of what he wants. On the job under three weeks, he still has a large reservoir of good will on Capitol Hill.

But things haven't gone quite the way the new Obama team expected. It's been a rough two weeks of onthe-job training on the legislative process from the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue for the former one-term Illinois senator.

"You know, it's referred to as sausage-making and probably for good reason," said White House spokesman Robert Gibbs.

Still, Obama aides claimed they were satisfied with the results, given Letter to the Editor.

This letter is in response to the letter to the editor in Friday, February 6, 2009 Pampa paper from Ms. Hart. I appreciate that you are a true animal lover and feel the pain that many of us have endured by pit bull attacks. While I'm sure you are tired of all the ranting about the pit bulls we are just as tired of the irresponsible owners of the many pit bulls that are running loose all around Pampa and attacking family pets that are just as loved by them as your dogs are by your family.

am by no means the only one that intends to get the vicious dogs running wild off the streets, which are attacking and killing our family pets. There are numerous people that have volunteered to help in any way necessary.

If you are a responsible pit bull owner that has

raised your dogs in a loving home and they are loving animals then my hats off to you and you will not be affected by the laws that are passed. But, the owners that disrespect their animals by treating them cruelly and teaching them to fight and attack other animals will be pursued and we will not stop until Pampa has adopted a vicious or dangerous dog act.

Like you, we shouldn't have to explain to our children why their dog is harmed, maimed or dead because of irresponsible pit bull owners. This is a serious problem that has become totally out of hand in many cities. All cities are having the same problem that Pampa is, but at least they are trying to get the situation under control and are making slow progress, just as we will.

which struck even some fiscally con-He'll continue trying to regain servative Democrats as not particumomentum on economic policy. He larly stimulative. In the Senate, an plans his first prime-time news coneven larger package was considered, ference on Monday after Treasury although the deal struck Friday night Secretary Timothy Geithner outlines details for a new financial-sector res-The size and composition of the cue plan. Then he'll participate in plan gave Republicans an opening to town hall-style meetings in towns assert that Obama had given too suffering particularly hard times

> Fort Myers, Florida, on Tuesday. Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer said Obama's courtship Republicans only to be rebuffed by them should serve as "an early lesson for President Obama and his team."

> Elkhart, Indiana, on Monday and

But James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University, said Obama set a particularly high bar for himself by "promising to change the way Washington works."

"He promised to make it a less partisan, post-partisan place. And so he has to do this. The question is whether he can hit the sweet spot on the stimulus package with enough tax breaks and enough non-controversial spending to get the votes. I think he can," Thurber said.

their animal.

So in short Ms. Hart, we are sorry that you are tired of all the ranting about the pit bulls but we certainly have the right, just as you do, to express our opinions and suggestions about this matter, and rest assured this matter is far from over.

Tina Shawn-Pampa Carolyn Smith-Pampa

We welcome your letters

To insure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

•Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will 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 submission s are welcome.

Reporter dbowser@thepampanews.com

David Bowser

Rachel Stennett Reporter

rstennett@thepampanews.com

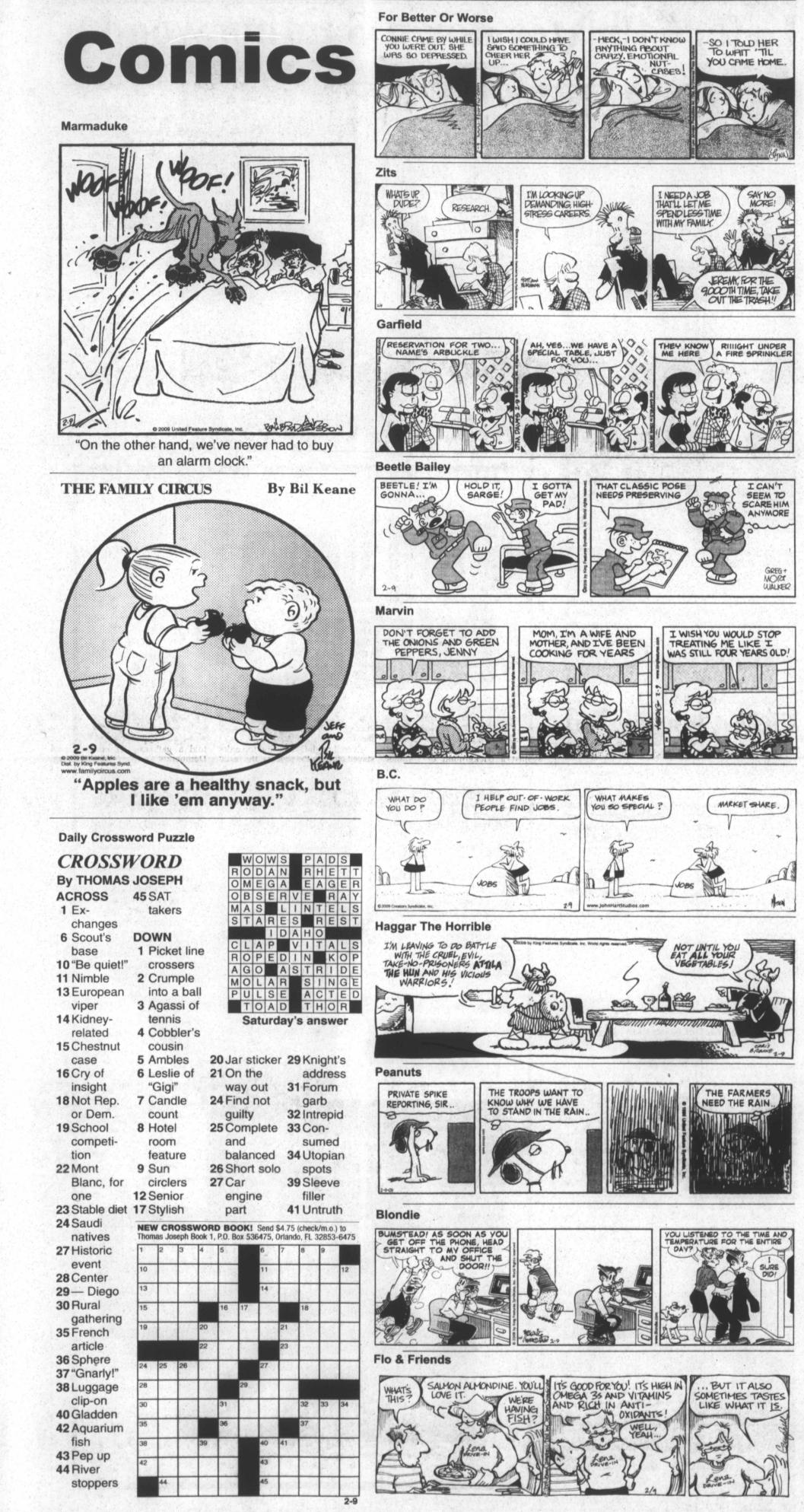
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The Pampa News — Monday, February 9, 2009 — 5

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6 — Monday, February 9, 2009 — The Pampa News

Lefors Pirates down Samnorwood



photo submitted by Lendi Jackson Lefors senior Nick Hess eyes the basket for one of his game-high 20 points in the Pirates' 69-40 win over Samnorwood last Friday. Dustin Forsyth added 16. The Pirates improved their record to 6-5, 4-3. They will host Hedley this Friday for the final game of the regular season.

650,000 applicants received no **FEMA** housing aid

HOUSTON (AP) - most of their own expens-

People who say they were funfairly denied federal aid Inspectors typically take for housing assistance about 30 minutes to work



photo submitted by Lendi Jackson Ashley Shephard (34) of the Lefors Lady Pirates accepts a pass from a teammate. Shephard scored four points as the Lady Pirates defeated Samnorwood 52-42 last week. Emily **Jackson led Lefors** with 12 points and Valerie Miller added 10.

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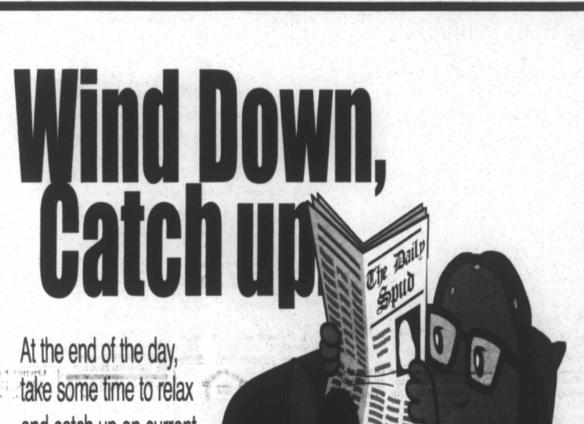
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after Hurricane Ike have begun claiming in lawsuits the Federal that Emergency Management Agency has created a flawed inspection system that withholds help to deserving families.

More than 730,000 families have registered with FEMA to receive money for home repairs, mobile homes or other housing services that became available after Hurricane Ike caused widespread damage in September. So far, FEMA has paid out about \$371 million to 82,000 families, declaring almost 650,000 families ineligible for aid.

An attorney for an Orange homeowner challenging his FEMA assistance as insufficient said the wide gap between applicants and paid claims caused in part by 15 unqualified or poorly trained FEMA inspectors who decide whether to approve assistance.

"I'm aware of a musician and a short-order "cook who got these jobs," Mark J. Grandich, an attorney with Lone Star Legal Aid, said in a story published Sunday in the Houston Chronicle. "It seems to me that (FEMA) hired a bunch of people, basically just anybody, and put them on the street after one day of training.

At the peak of its individual assistance program late last year, FEMA and its contractors put as many as 2,360 inspectors on the streets to document damage to Gulf Coast homes. Critics charge that these 'inspectors were motivated to work quickly because they are paid a flat fee per inspection and must cover

through a home inspection form on their hand-held computers, officials said. Near the end of the form, a crucial three-word item "Habitability appears: repairs required." If the inspector punches "no," the applicant won't be eligible for repair money from FEMA. The Houston Chronicle

interviewed a woman told by child welfare workers that her damaged apartment wasn't safe for her children and a condominium owner whose unit was condemned by a city building inspector. Both the woman and the condo owner told the newspaper that FEMA inspectors said their homes were habitable.

FEMA officials acknowledged that inspectors sometimes make mistakes, and encouraged people who believe they were unfairly denied assistance to appeal.

Officials also said the high percentage of ineligiapplicants doesn't ble reflect a predisposition toward rejecting claims but instead a widespread misunderstanding of FEMA's mission. The agency will pay only for home repairs that aren't covered by insurance and will provide only enough money to make the home safe, secure and functional.

Inspectors said many homeowners don't understand what FEMA will cover. For example, a single homeowner living in a two-bedroom home won't receive FEMA assistance to repair the second bedroom if the first bedroom is in livable condition.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

for athletic perfection. I

have and always will sup-

port my son's goals, but I

see a disassociation with

reality while he revels in

his status. A college schol-

Is my

unique? Do you have any

advice for me? -- SPORTS

DAD: As a single parent,

watching his last child get-

ting ready to leave the

nest, your situation is far

from unique. You have

devoted the last 17 years to

your son's welfare, and

now that he is nearing

DEAR SPORTS

DAD DOWN SOUTH

issue

arship is a given.

ABBY: DEAR My youngest son, "Trent," is 17. At a very early age it became apparent that he was a gifted athlete. Years of stellar performance in baseball and other sports have elevated him to a high social status -- and it has created a rift between us.

Trent has become unmanageable. He regards my influence, direction and discipline to be nothing more than a daily hindrance. Somewhere in the sports mania, I lost control as a father.

As his only parent (and support), I wonder how many other parents are really aware of the

adulthood you feel him crushing burden and peer pressure these young peoslipping away. There comes a ple experience in the quest

point when parents have to start trusting that the values they have instilled in their offspring are deeply rooted enough to guide them in the right direction in the coming years. You cannot supervise and influence your son much more than you already have. So my advice is to keep the lines of communication open and to start letting go. Life will teach him lessons that will bring him back down to earth eventually.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 29, and my girlfriend, "Mia," is 25. We have

been in a committed relationship for 10 months. A few weeks into our relationship I noticed that every time Mia was relaxing or riding in the car, she would suck her thumb. When she spends the night with me, she brings her baby blanket.

Mia used to be discreet about the thumbsucking, but now she openly does it in front of my parents and our friends. She also sucks her thumb in front of her parents. From time to time they try to correct her, but when they do, she yells at them to "get off her back." When I mention it, she becomes upset and defensive and says she sees no warned reason to stop.

I care about Mia and don't want to hurt her, but friends and family have asked me about her habit. Is this just a bad habit or a sign of some-thing else? -- LEFT WON-DERING IN SEATTLE

DEAR LEFT WONDERING: Mia's thumb-sucking may be her way of relieving stress, or it could be a symptom of an underlying emotional disorder. However, if this is the way your girlfriend talks to her parents, you should recognize that it is also a sign of what you may have to look forward to in the future -- so be

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend who leaves full bottles of liquor on her kitchen table for days at a time. She has an 8-yearold son who eats at the table. Is this good for the boy, or can it affect him in any way? I need to know if I should say something. --RUTH IN DAYTONA BEACH

DEAR RUTH: Unless you have reason to think that your friend's son is sampling the booze, I see no reason for you to interfere. You did say they were FULL bottles of liquor, didn't you?

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Remodeling floor, shower, kitchen. Tex- ture, painting, dry wall.	FOR THE SOUL TWEED COAT	IS GOOD FOR	SENSE THAT A	**** Deal with a per tic matter. You cannot p any longer. Work from 1	sonal or domes- out this issue off	Stay on to continue	tal, no matter what happen op of your game, network a to be open to new idea tet a meeting become a soc	nd is. Jacquelin	e Bigar is on the Internet at w.jacquelinebigar.com.
Free esti, Call 665-3453 leave message, Jesus	PETER DE VRIE	5	THE PARTY OF	Your presence makes a	big difference to	happening			9 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

leave message, Jesus Barraza.

someone who is not feeling up to snuff. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Monday, February 9, 2009 — The Pampa News

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Knife and Fork Club will meet at 7 p.m. February 10, at the country club. It will be guest night, the menu is prime rib. The program will be "Magic in Motion— Keep Your Eye on the Ball."

 Lovett Memorial Library will present free classes:

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.

call the library, 669-5780. Gray County Genealogical Society will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. the fourth

. The Top O' Texas 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 will season be "Pianafiddle," a combination of familiar tunes by pianist Lynn Wright and violinist/fiddler Adam For more information DeGraff improvising to get toes tapping and hands clapping. Their performance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. March 6 in M.K.

 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

American 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 Extension Cearley, wildlife specialist, at (806) 651-5760.

 USS Maddox

Heart 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 selfaddressed 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 Serviceperson. To find out more, visit www.mysoldier.com on-line or write to: Manhattanville College Destroyer Association My Soldier Department, 2900 Purchase 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.

• T.O.P.S. Club, a weight loss group, meets at 11:30 a.m. at noon each Monday at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 511 N. Hobart.



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Brown Auditorium. national initiative of the **TEXAS TWISTERS**



Texas Twisters Club Volleyball played in their fourth tournment, the PVP **Classic Qualifier** January 31 in **Canyon Texas. They** advanced to the **GOLD Bracket and** made it all the way to Championship took it to three games. **Twisters lost their** first game 28-26 but came back second game won 25- 20. Both teams fought hard in the third match but were defeated 15-11. The team took second place in GOLD out of 10 teams in their division. Back row, left; Ashlyn Pronto, at right; Kylee Metts, Coach Kellie Metts, center; Taylor Eubanks, bottom left: Taylor Giles, Madison Joyce, Kelly Silva, Brittney Green, Alexa **O'Brien**

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Level: Beginner

Thinking about Remodeling?



Come see

Heather

Thompson

our loan officer!

National Bank of Commerce

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