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She has been a two-year varsity outside hitter Harvester Volleyball Team.

"I liked the coach, team and the atmosphere of the campus," Miner said of her decision to go to Redlands. "In addition, they are a well respected and competitive volleyball program." Redlands Community College is a Division I junior college and was ranked in the top 20 National Junior College Athletic Association Poll for the 2008 season. Miner's mother, Janice Miner, said that Coach Vincent has been at the helm of the Redlands volleyball program for the past 11 seasons and will lead the Lady Cougars in the upcoming 2009 season. When school starts next fall, Janice Miner said, Jessica will find herself across the net from

Two seniors sign letters of intent

Dyson will play volleyball for TCC

by David Bowser dbowser@thepampanews.com Libby Dyson is headed to East Texas.

Dyson signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball for Tyler Community College Wednesday afternoon.

She is a three-year varsity Libero at Pampa High School and had offers in both softball and volleyball.

Dyson said she chose Tyler after visiting the campus and meeting Coach Dana Hatch, a former Amarillo Tascosa High School coach, and working out with the Tyler team.

"Tyler is so pretty," Dyson said, "and everyone at the college was just so nice to me. Coach Hatch is so well-respected and has a great program there."

Tyler Community College is one of the largest junior colleges in Texas.

Their volleyball team consistently makes the post-season, said Linda Dyson, Libby's mother.

The Tyler team lost to Blinn College in the Dyson - cont. on page 3

Miner heads to Redlands Community

by David Bowser dbowser@thepampanews.com Pampa High School senior Jessica

Miner signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball for Redlands Community College in El Reno Wednesday afternoon.

and defensive specialist starter for the Lady

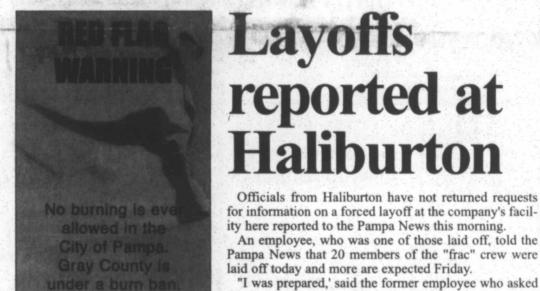
of

US Rep. says state



staff photo by David Bowser

Jessica Miner, left center, and Libby Dyson pose for pictures by their moms, Linda Dyson, left, and Janice Miner, during signing ceremonies at Pampa High School Wednesday. Jessica and Libby signed letters of intent to play volleyball next fall.





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AUSTIN, Texas (AP) -

Roads and bridges projects

adopted by the Texas

Transportation could be

denied federal approval for

not giving priority to eco-

nomically distressed areas

as mandated by the mas-

sive economic stimulus

law, a top federal official

Lawmakers earlier this

week questioned whether

the state had complied

with the requirement. The

agency's executive direc-

tor, Amadeo Saenz, said

economically distressed

areas were not a factor in

deciding which roads and

bridge maintenance proj-

ects would get chunks of

the \$500 million in stimu-

In a letter Wednesday,

U.S. Rep. James Oberstar,

D-Minnesota, chairman of

Infrastructure, said the

congressional

lus money.

Committee

Transportation

the

Department

said Wednesday.

Officials from Haliburton have not returned requests for information on a forced layoff at the company's facil-

An employee, who was one of those laid off, told the Pampa News that 20 members of the "frac" crew were

that his name not be published, and who starts a new job on Monday. "When the rumors started that they would lay off in March, I put in applications, I guess those rumors were right." He said there had been cutbacks in hours before the current layoffs, as gas prices dropped.

Calls were not taken and E-mails to a spokesperson for Haliburton were not returned as of press time.

Woman bites deputy during meth arrest

by Rachel Stennett rstennett@thepampanews.com

A woman attempted to resist a Gray County Sheriff's Office deputy Tuesday (March 2) in Pampa, and to stop him fom seizing drugs located in her purse.

Deputy Robert Douglas stopped a vehicle on in the 200 block of North Sumner for a traffic violation.

The vehicle was stopped because the deputy recognized the woman, Rebecca Jane Carpenter, 36 of Pampa and knew she had a suspended driver's license.

When Douglas looked inside the vehicle, he saw

that her purse contained a plastic bag with a subtance he believed to be methamphetaimene, according to Lt. Joe B. Hoard of the Sheriff's Office.

Douglas attempted to seize the drugs from Carpenter, but she refused to give them to him.

"She bit the plastic bag that the substance was in and tried to get rid of it by injesting it," Hoard explained."

Carpenter then attempted to fight Douglas and bit him. Carpenter was taken into custody, and later, taken to the hospital when

Meth-cont. on page 3

projects could be denied including attention to communities that are economically distressed. The state transportation department is scheduled to approve more projects Thursday receiving the bulk of the state's stimulus money — \$1.2 billion. In a

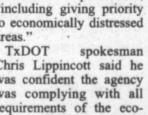
government must ensure

TxDOT spokesman requirements of the ecostimulus bill, nomic



transportation spending meet all requirements, "including giving priority to economically distressed areas."

Chris Lippincott said he was confident the agency was complying with all



apportioned under the

tion during a committee hearing this week. In his letter to Dunnam, requirement. in selecting projects ... to be carried out with funds

> Recovery Act, states give TXDOT-

cont. on page 3

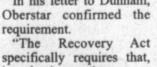




on

and





list of proposed projects

released last week, TxDOT

said economic distress was

a factor in selecting the

State Rep. Jim Dunnam,

chairman of the House

Committee on Federal

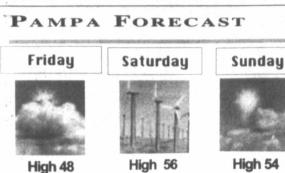
Economic Stabilization

Funding, raised the ques-

remaining projects.

Miner- cont. on page 3

2 — Thursday, March 5, 2009 — The Pampa News



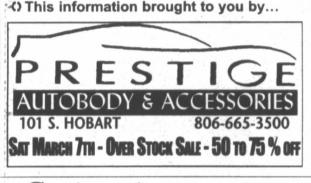
High 54 Low 26

Low 31 Low 28 Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 75. South southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around

52. South southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. Windy, with a west southwest wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph. Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 38. Windy, with a west northwest wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing to between 10 and

15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph. Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. West northwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming south.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 39. South southwest wind around 10 mph.



Grain prices

The following grain quotations are provided by Atterbury Grain of White Deer. Prices quoted are for the close of the last market day.

Wheat	\$4.62
Milo	\$4.62
* Corn	\$6.31

LAST MINUTE CLASSIFIED LINE ADS

For the Record

Obituaries

Sandra Chumley, 55

Chumley, 55 died on Sunday, March 1, 2009 in Pampa.

graveside Memorial services will be at 2:00 PM Friday, March 6, 2009, at Fairview Cemetery with Rev. Doug Hixson, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors,

Mrs. Chumley was born on Dec. 15, 1953 in Pampa and was a 1972 graduate of Pampa High School. She

Pampa, Texas - Sandra married Mart Chumley on 1972 Aug. 4, in Wellington. She worked as a rural mail carrier in the Skellytown area. Sandra liked to play slot machines and she loved her cats. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Survivors include: her husband Mart Chumley of

the home, a sister: Pat Donaldson of Mineral Wells, three nephews: Kevin Donaldson and Chris Donaldson, both of Austin and Perry Green of Missisippi, two sisters-inlaw Alecia Cleveland and



parents, Norman and May Green, a brother, John Green, and a nephew, Wilson Green. **MEMORIALS:** St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or American Cancer Society, c/o Gerry Caylor, 2130 Charles, book at www.carmichael-Pampa, TX 79065.

other relatives. She was

preceded in death by her



Pampa, Texas — Evie Ellen Stults Eaves, 98 died Wednesday, March 4, 2009 in Amarillo.

Services will be at 10:30 AM Friday in Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with Rev. Rick Parnell, Central Baptist Church associate minister, officiating. Private family burial will follow. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Eaves was born

Owen "O.D." Handley,

away Tuesday, March 3,

2009 in Midland after a

brief illness. Memorial

services will be held at 11

a.m., Saturday, March 7,

2009 at Nalley-Pickle &

Welch Funeral Home

Chapel in Midland with

Rev. Terry Easley, offici-

18, 1925, in Delta,

Colorado to Willmette

Owen was born March

ating.

wife Rose Mary and June 10, 1910 in Indian Lonny Eaves and wife Territory, Okla. She mar-Donna, all of Amarillo, ried Ralph Eaves on Nov. three great granddaughters He preceded her in death Colleen Hall, Phoenix on Dec. 11, 1989. She had Sheffield, and Amy Eaves, all of Amarillo; and by five great great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son, Leon Eaves.

MEMORIALS: Central Baptist Church Building Fund, 513 E. Francis, Pampa, TX 79065 or SPCA, 11901 S. Coulter, Amarillo, TX 79119.



Sign the online register

Stults

Chumley

whatley.com.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichaelwhatley.com.

Handley, 83 Owen "O.D."

degree Mason, inducted 83, of Midland, passed at the Valley of San Antonio Orient of Texas Lodge. He was also a member of the Midland Masonic Lodge, #623. Owen was a member of First Christian Church. He had been a resident of Greenwood since 1980.

> Owen enjoyed life, especially football, softball, model railroading, fishing and flying his airplane. He truly enjoyed playing with his grandkids. He was a hero during the 1947 tornado in Woodward, Okla. He flew doctors and nurses in to help victims of the tornado. He also flew the Oklahoma Governor into Washington D.C., to go Congress to before request funding to rebuild Woodward. He was superintendent and of the Skelley Gas Plant Handley.

in Skelleytown, Texas. He was a processing engineer for T.H. Russell out of Tulsa, Okla. He also worked for J.L. Davis in Midland. O.D. finished his career as a private consultant in developing gas plants and processes.

Survivors include daughter, Molly Slattery and husband Matt of Evergreen, Colo.; brother-n-law, Canara Carruth and wife Vontel of Irving,

niece, Misty Curtiss of

numerous

wife

his

son, Hoyt



In lieu of flowers, donations can be

Hospice of Midland

Inpatient Unit, PO Box

2621, Midland, Texas

under the direction of

Nalley-Pickle & Welch

Crematory of Midland.

Online condolences can

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Arrangements

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been a resident of Pampa since 1943. She was a sales clerk at Levine's Department Store, retiring in 1972. Mrs. Eaves was a member of Central Baptist Church. She received her GED at the age of 97. Survivors include: three

27, 1927 in Duncan, Okla.

grandsons David Eaves of El Paso, Ric Eaves and

of paid advertisement

WOULD YOU like a career in the Fire Service? There will be an informational meeting Tuesday, March 10th @ 7 p.m., at the Lovett Memorial Library, 111 N. Houston, north entrance. This meeting will be hosted by the Pampa Fire Department to answer all your questions about the hiring process to become a firefighter for Pampa the Fire Department. If you are interested in joining our please contact team Captain Robert Griffin, at 669-5800. TCFP certified/certifiable and TDSHS EMT-B preferred.

CLASSIFIED LINE Ad Specials have returned to the Pampa News! Look in classified ads under misc (column #69) for details on Mar. Apr. May Line Ad Rates!!

LONGER HOURS! In order to meet the needs of our customers, Chez Tanz open @ 10am will starting March 9th. 669-6836

CLARENDON COLLEGE Pampa Center's Cosmetology Dept. is hosting a Fashion Show to benefit the Children's Miracle Network, Sun. Mar. 8th, 2pm, in the Pampa Center's Lobby. Admission \$5 per person. Door prizes will be given away!

YOU ASKED for it, you got it! No Clouds Allowed Tanning Open at 8am, 665-4101. Ask about monthly specials.

JAM SESSION Friday night, 7pm., Woody Guthrie Center, 320 S. Cuyler.

and Harmon Handley and married Thomasine Carruth on July 23, 1949 in Pampa, Texas.

He grew up and attended elementary schools in the Ballinger, Texas area and attended high school in Lockney, Texas where he played "end" for the Lockney Longhorns. He was member of the Pampa Masonic Lodge, #966, and was a 33rd

Mobeetie. Texas

in Amarillo.

Funeral Directors.

80 died on March 4, 2009

Services are pending

Mrs. Newman was born

with Carmichael-Whatley

Elisabeth Klara Newman, She

-

Dallas; nephew, Tom Carruth of Altadena, Calf.; six grandchildren and two great-granddaughters; nieces, nephews and others that loved him dearly. He was preceded in death by Thomasine, his parents his

Elisabeth Klara Newman, 80 Lampertheim, Germany. member of Briscoe

Delmar Community Church. Survivors include: six 1948 in Bremen, Germany; children Nancy Craig and he preceded her in death on husband Orville of Pampa, Shirley Wadley and hus-June 27, 2007. She has been a resident of Mobeetie band Jody of Okmulgee, since 1948 where she was a Okla., Robert Newman and November 14, 1928 in homemaker. She was a wife Cindy of Amarillo,

made be at: www.npwelch.com. Bill Newman and wife Sherri of Elk City, Okla., Martha Gardner and husband Terry of Allison, and Pat Newman and wife Marletta of Farmington,

N.M.,14 grandchildren and

27 great grandchildren.

Jayton Zaydance Jenkins-Mitchell

married

Newman on October 15,

Zaydance Mitchell, was stillborn Christ Church, officiating. March 3, 2009 in Amarillo. Arrangements are under the

will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Memory Gardens

Pampa, Texas — Jayton Cemetery with Dr. Dan Jenkins- Powell, pastor of Body of Graveside services direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. Survivors include

parents Raeghan Jenkins and J'Mico Mitchell of Pampa, maternal grandparents Michael and Merry Jenkins of Pampa, paternal grandfather Michael Mitchell and paternal

grandmother Wendy Green, and paternal grandparents Brenda and James Lee of Pampa.

MEMORIALS: Favorite Charity



Altrusa Club Craft Show Free Admission Furniture, clothing, florals, Watkins products, saddles, candles, hand-made crafts, & much more!

Date: March 7th & 8th Saturday: 9am to 6 pm Sunday: 10am to 5 pm

Borger's Aluminum Dome Please bring canned food for Helping Hands





LOCAL 806.669.1202 OUTSIDE PAMPA 800.842.3866

staff photo by David Bowser

James Morton with National Oilwell VARCO cleans out a barbeque grill after fixing lunch Wednesday for one of the company's customers Nomac Drilling. Nomac had just finished their last well in the area and is moving on to Pennsylvania.

Miner signs to play

Miner- cont. from page 1

Lady Harvester teammate Libby Dyson.

Dyson signed with Tyler Community College of Tyler, Tex. Her team will face off against Redlands Community College at the

Redlands Tournament in September.

Jessica is the daughter of Jimmy and Janice Miner. She has two brothers, Jared and Joshua. Her grandparents are Juanita

Brower and the late Bob Brower of Pampa; Kay and Jack Carmody of Hartman, Ark, and Glen and Sally Miner of Compton, Ark.

Unsuitable projects?

TxDOT - cont. from page 1

priority to projects that are located in economically distressed areas," as defined by federal law, Oberstar wrote. He said the Highway Federal Administration must approve the projects recommended by TxDOT.

Moments after Dunnam raised the concerns on Monday, Lippincott suggested he did not fully understand the legislation and said the department complied with the law.

"I'm not. sure

Meth- cont. from page 1

Representative Dunnam understands what the law says," Lippincott said. "Federal law can be complicated."

Federal law defines economically distressed areas as those with a per capita income of 80 percent or less than the national average or an unemployment rate of 1 percent greater than the national average. About \$17 billion of Obama's economic stimulus package is headed for Texas, some of it helping

el vilolv ustriauch

to fill gaps that otherwise would have strained the two-year state budget and its Rainy Day Fund savings account. Officials are still trying to figure out how and where to spend it, but fears of deep cuts and a looming future deficit have all but faded.

In transportation funding, Texas is getting \$2.25 billion from the stimulus, but transportation officials say the state's needs are far greater.

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The Pampa News — Thursday, March 5, 2009 — 3

Dyson heads to Tyler

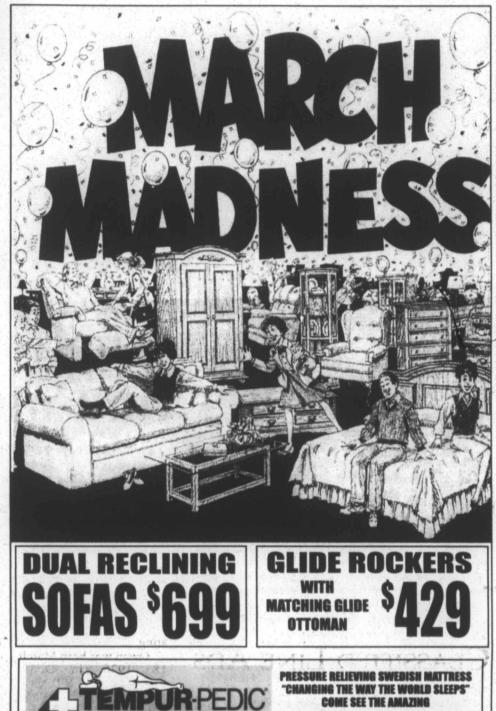
Dyson - cont. from page 1

regional finals in 2008. signed with Redlands Blinn went on to the National Championship. Linda Dyson said her daughter and life-long friend and Pampa teammate Jessica Miner will find themselves on opposing teams next fall. Miner

Community College in El Reno, Okla. Tyler will travel to El Reno in September for the Redlands Tournament. Libby is the daughter of Jerry and Linda Dyson and the granddaughter of Mary

Price and Shirley Dyson of Pampa, Bill Dyson of Wheeler and the late Gene White of Mobeetie.

Be very careful with smoking materials, barbecue grills and any open flames-fire danger is very high.





had consumed the meth. She was released from the hospital last night (March 4) and taken to Gray County Jail. Douglas also sought medical atten-

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treated and released from the hospital Tuesday.

Meth arrest

Carpenter was charged with manufacturing and delivering a controlled substance greater than four

it was confirmed that she tion for the bite. He was grams, but less than 200

grams(felony), tampering with physical evidence with intent to impair, and assault.on a public servant Bond was set for Carpenter at \$50,000.

Police receive tips after show airs

TECUMSEH, Okla. (AP) — Police here have received numerous tips since a segment on "America's Most Wanted" about a missing Tecumseh girl.

Police Detective J.R. Kidney said telephone lines lit up after the show aired Saturday featuring Deborah Kalai Fourzan, 14, and James Reimer, 40, the man authorities believe she is with.

Many of the sightings were in the Austin, Texas, area, police said.

"Nothing panned out, but we got some strong leads, and we're confident that the whole nation is looking," Kidney said.

Deborah and Reimer shared an interest in anime, a form of Japanese animation, and her friends authorities she told

planned to travel to an anime convention. One convention was held in Austin the weekend following her Feb. 2 disappearance.

Pottawatomie County prosecutors have charged Reimer with soliciting sexual conduct or communications with a minor through telephone text messaging. Investigators say the charge stems from sexually explicit messages sent to the girl's cell phone. Michael Fourzan, 38,

said his daughter lived with him in Garland, Texas, until last summer. Fourzan said Reimer called his home when Deborah Fourzan was 13 and asked to speak to her. "I did what any father would," Fourzan said. "I made it clear that he was to

stay away from her." Fourzan said he wouldn't have allowed his daughter to move to Tecumseh if he had known Reimer was still socializing with the family.

Deborah Fourzan's mother, Crystal Vanbuskirk, said Reimer had been a family friend and was like an uncle to her daughter. Vanbuskirk said she tried to cut ties between the two when she found inappropriate text messages from Reimer on her daughter's phone.

Fourzan said he has not heard from his daughter.

"I've been a total wreck ever since she's been gone," he said. "I can't think about anything other than getting her home safe.'

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Barbara Bush recovering after heart surgery

HOUSTON (AP) -Former first lady Barbara Bush was recovering Thursday following 2 1/2hour heart surgery to replace her aortic valve, hospital officials said.

Family spokesman Jim McGrath said Mrs. Bush was up and talking Wednesday night in intensive care only hours after undergoing the procedure at The Methodist Hospital.

Hospital spokeswoman Gale Smith said there was no change in her condition Thursday morning. "We're still monitoring her," she

said. Former President George H.W. Bush was at the hospital with his wife, McGrath said. The hospital said the former first lady was expected to be released in seven to 10 days.

"I am very impressed with and grateful to the wonderful team of doctors and nurses at The Methodist Hospital who have helped Barbara," the former president said. "We have every confidence she is in the best hands."

The surgery was sched-

uled last week after Mrs. Bush, 83, experienced a shortness. breath, of McGrath said. He said doctors determined the aortic valve had started to harden.

Dr. Gerald Lawrie, a heart surgeon at the Methodist DeBakey Heart Vascular Center, & replaced the valve with a biologic valve, which is made of natural living tissue, the hospital said in a statement. Lawrie said the surgery went "extremely well.

4 — Thursday, March 5, 2009 — The Pampa News

Viewpoints

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, March 5, the 64th day of 2009. There are 301 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Fifty years ago, on March 5, 1959, a fire at the Negro Boys Industrial School in Wrightsville, Ark., claimed the lives of 21 teenagers trapped inside a locked dormitory room. (Four dozen other boys managed to escape).

On this date:

In 1770, the Boston Massacre took place as British soldiers who'd been taunted by a crowd of colonists opened fire, killing five people.

In 1849, Zachary Taylor was inaugurated as the 12th president of the United States. (The swearingin was delayed by a day because March 4, 1849, fell on a Sunday.)

In 1868, the Senate was organized into a Court of

'To force opinion is like pushing the magnetized needle round by brute strength until it points to where we wish the North Star stood, rather than to where it really is'

— Dorothy Canfield Fisher, American author Impeachment to decide charges against President Andrew Johnson, who was later acquitted. In 1946, Winston

Churchill delivered his famous "Iron Curtain" speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Mo.

In 1953, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin died after three decades in power.

In 1963, country music performers Patsy Cline, "Cowboy" Copas and

"Hawkshaw" Hawkins died in a plane crash near Camden, Tenn., that also claimed the life of pilot Randy Hughes, Cline's manager.

In 1982, comedian John Belushi was found dead of a drug overdose in a rented bungalow in Hollywood, Calif. He was 33.

Ten years ago: Italian Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema met at the White House with President Bill Clinton, a day after a military jury in North Carolina acquitted a Marine pilot in the Italian cable car accident that killed 20 people; D'Alema demanded justice, while Clinton expressed profound regret. Actor Richard Kiley died in Warwick, N.Y., at age 76.

Five years ago: Martha Stewart was convicted in New York of obstructing justice and lying to the government about why she'd unloaded her Imclone stock just before the price plummeted; her ex-stockbroker, Peter Bacanovic, also was found guilty in the stock scandal.

Today's Birthdays: Actor James Noble is 87. Actor James B. Sikking is 75. Actor Dean Stockwell is 73. Actor Fred Williamson is 71. Actor Michael Warren is 63. Actor Eddie Hodges is 62. Singer Eddy Grant is 61. Violinist Eugene Fodor is 59. Rock musician Alan Clark (Dire Straits) is 57. Actress-comedian Marsha Warfield is 55. Magician Penn Jillette is 54. Actress Adriana Barraza is 53. Pop singer Teena Marie is 53. Rock singers Charlie and Craig Reid (The Proclaimers) are 47. Rock musician John Frusciante (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 39. Singer Rome is 39. Actor Kevin Connolly is 35. Actress Jill Ritchie is 35. Actress Jolene Blalock is 34. Actress Eva Mendes is 34. Model Niki Taylor is 34. Actor Jake Lloyd is 20.



Analysis: Cuba waiting and watching Obama

By JOHN DANISZEWSKI

Associated Press Writer HAVANA (AP)— Amid two wars and an economic crisis, Cuba policy hardly ranks at the top of President Barack Obama's long agenda.

But circumstances are pressuring Obama to make a move on Cuba soon ,Äî or miss an opportunity to advance his pledge to restore America's leadership in the world and in its own hemisphere.

Conversations with Cuban officials here suggest that unless the Obama administration signals its intentions quickly and clearly, it will disappoint not only Cuba, but also many Latin American leaders watching for signs that the U.S. is ready to chart a dramatic new course in the region. The unofficial target for action seems to be late April, when Obama travels to the Summit of the Americas, being held on the Caribbean island of Trinidad. Cuba is not invited, but will nonetheless be on many participants' minds. More frequently than in the past, Latin American leaders have been flocking to Cuba in recent months, and late last year 33 Latin American and Caribbean nations called for an end to the U.S. embargo. Guatemalan President Alvaro Colon, leading a country long viewed as a loyal U.S. ally, even apologized during a recent visit for his country's supporting role in the 1961 failed Bay of Pigs invasion. Fundamental change in the longcalcified Cuban-American relationship appears possible now because of the dual change in leadership in Havana and Washington. In Cuba, an ailing Fidel Castro relinquished the presidency to his younger brother Raul, who has spent the past year maintaining the country's socialist system while delivering modest adjustments and coping with the destruction wrought by three hurricanes. Any hopes that the post-Fidel era would lead to a rapid unraveling of Communist rule have faded.

he pledged a willingness to speak to America's rivals and enemies. Also, the voting indicated that the hardcore anti-Castro groups in the United States are less key to electoral success, reducing their ability to block closer relations.

During a visit to Cuba last week by news executives of The Associated Press, Cuban government officials refused to speak publicly on the topic. That in itself could be a sign of how critically important they consider this period: The government does not wish any isolated comments to impede potential progress.

An air of expectancy is palpable, especially after a U.S. Senate staff Economic relations with the U.S. could certainly make life easier for the country's 11 million people, making food and other imports cheaper and opening possibilities for greater tourism and investments.

Concerns about human rights and political freedom in Cuba and Cuba's support for leftist guerrilla movements have been the main reasons cited by American presidents since John F. Kennedy for attempting to isolate the Caribbean nation.

As President Jimmy Carter moved towards easing relations, a public furor erupted in late 1978 over the presence of MiG 23 jets inside Cuba, and the window of opportunity slammed shut. Again during the Clinton years, Cuba's downing of two civilian planes sent towards Cuba by an anti-Castro group in Florida arrested possibilities for progress in 1996. The eight years of George W. Bush, which saw U.S.-Cuban contacts at a recent low, have come to a close. At the very least, it's easy to envision a return to some of the contacts and negotiations that existed in earlier decades, even with the embargo in place. If Obama reaches out to Cuba, the thinking goes, Cuba will be waiting to take his hand. Meanwhile, some of the rhetoric from Washington that used to fall on Cuba seems to be shifting to Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, the U.S. critic who after 10 years in power just won a referendum removing limits on the number of times he can run for re-election. Cubans warn the Obama administration against repeating the same mistakes with Venezuela that the U.S. made with Cuba. The risk, they say, is that Washington could find itself in the same position decades down the line, trying to extricate itself from a diplomatic impasse.



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In Washington, Obama won the presidency in a campaign in which

report Feb. 23 issued by Richard Lugar, the influential Indiana Republican who is the ranking member of the foreign relations committee. It stated what would seem obvious to many: that the 50-year U.S. policy of shunning communist Cuba by imposing a strict trade embargo has failed to produce significant change in the island's government.

Lugar says it is time to re-evaluate the policy of trying to isolate Cuba economically, and deal with it "in a way that enhances U.S. interests."

While Cuban officials do not agree with everything in the Lugar report, it was widely viewed here as positive. However, Cubans also have a long memory. Havana and Washington have periodically been on the verge of breakthroughs, only to watch those efforts be derailed by events.

And Cubans note that Obama has specifically said he favors keeping the embargo, although he wants to ease restrictions on Cuban-Americans traveling to their homeland and sending money and gifts to relatives.

With Obama's foreign policy team still coming together, Cuba sees itself as sitting in the stands, waiting for the match to begin. From a Cuban perspective, the first serve goes to the U.S. side. Cubans take the position that they have always been open to overtures from the U.S. for better relations, but not at any cost.

EDITOR'S NOTE —Daniszewski, AP managing editor for international news, visited Cuba last week and participated in conversations with various government, party and media officials.

Feds need to fund border security

El Paso Times on border security:

Last week, Texas Gov. Rick Perry talked about border security during a news conference at the Chamizal National Memorial in El Paso.

He brought up a couple of interesting points about border security that, while not exactly new, would benefit by revisiting.

He asked the feds to fund strong border security measures and said he wants 1,000 troops on the border.

"I don't care if they are military, National Guard or customs agents," he said Tuesday. "We're very concerned that the federal government is not funding

border security adequately. We must be ready for any contingency."

One concern here is how the troops would be used along the border.

Not too long ago, National Guard troops were deployed to border areas. They didn't have rifle-toting duties on the boundary line. Rather, they mainly assisted the Border Patrol in support roles such as surveillance, office work, road-building and maintenance, and other jobs that freed agents for other duties.

If troops return to the border, it should be in the same kind of support role rather than having them as an armed presence. The

shadow of the 1997 shooting of a boy by a Marine on an anti-drug mission near Redford, Texas still lingers.

Border Patrol agents are trained for exactly what their name suggests -patrolling the border. The job should be left to them.

If there aren't enough Border Patrol agents, train more of them and increase their numbers along the border. It's not a good idea to have relatively untrained personnel tasked with keeping the peace in such a volatile and violent area. Perry also mentioned concerns about funding for border security.

That funding is the responsibility of the feder-

al government. And the way the president and Congress are tossing money around these days, there's bound to be some available for border security.

But for whatever reason, the feds seem reluctant to address the financial concerns that accompany border security. The border states cannot and should not be expected to shoulder the expensive burden of keeping the border secure.

The escalating violence in Mexico makes it all the more imperative for the feds to step up and adequately fund security on our southern border. SC

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Reporter rstennett@thepampanews.com

Marcus Elkins Press Supervisor

Chico Ramirez

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The Pampa News — Thursday, March 5, 2009 — 5

Texas postpones school bond guarantee

DALLAS (AP) — The Texas State Board of Education said Wednesday the continuing economic downturn is causing it to halt the school bond guarantee program until at least September.

The program helped lower interest costs on school construction projects, but the board said the program is at capacity now.

The board said there is no risk to the guarantee program itself, nor to the taxexempt status of any school district bonds that have already been sold.

"The Permanent School Fund is an endowment that has run into difficulties. We have lost percent in value since the election. We can no longer guarantee bond repayments to investors as we traditionally have," State Board of Education member David Bradley, R-Beaumont, told The Associated Press. Bradley is chairman of the Permanent School Fund Committee.

State officials had hoped to manage the remaining sales within the reserve capacity, but there is no reserve left at current market prices, according to Bradley.

State Sen. Florence Shapiro, a Plano Republican, has filed a bill to allow the state to use the Foundation School Program (school finance system) appropriation to guarantee bonds when the Permanent School Fund is unavailable. That will not match the Permanent School Fund's AAA rating but would help until the Fund recovers, according to Bradley.

The state had announced in December it was temporarily suspending the program, which it has provided for 25 years. At that time, the Texas Education Agency said that school bonds could again be guaranteed as soon as January, depending on the market.

Internal Revenue Service regulations

ultimately determine the maximum amount the program can guarantee based on the market value of the Permanent School Fund.

But as the economy has fallen, the Permanent School Fund's value has also plummeted from \$26.6 billion in 2007 down to about \$17.5 billion now.

The diminished value of the funds coupled with the number of school districts requesting the bond guarantee have temporarily impaired the state's ability to back the issuance of school bonds.

"School districts may have to offer a higher interest rate which will cost taxpayers money," Bradley said. He said some districts may have to buy private bond insurance, which is expensive and increasingly unavailable. Some school districts may not be able to finish current construction projects, Bradley added.

The change in the state education program will not stop the Hardin Jefferson School District from plans to build a new elementary and new high school paid for in a \$389 million bond issue, Beaumont television station KFDM reported. The station reported the district will have to pay \$100,000 to \$200,000 more because it will have to buy insurance in order to sell the school bonds at a lower interest rate

Projects guaranteed by the Permanent School Fund program automatically receive a AAA rating from Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch bond ratings services. The high rating gives school districts better interest rates and assures investors they will be repaid.

Every \$100 million school bond issue roughly saves taxpayers anywhere from \$100,000 to \$550,000.

CAREER INVESTIGATION



submitted photo

Wednesday March 4th was Job Shadowing day for 7th grade PJH students from Mrs. Day's Career Investigation Class. Mayra Tinajero, PJH student, shadowed Ms. Teresa Dyson who teaches first grade at Wilson.

Cash Five Texas results

AUSTIN (AP) - Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 6-18-2-15-37. Number matching five of five: 0. Matching four of five: 81. Prize: \$463 Matching three of five: 2,578. Prize: \$11 Matching two of five: 27,538. Prize: \$2 Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Winning Lotto Texas numbers

AUSTIN (AP) - Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 25-3-28-18-23-22.

Number matching six of six: 0.

Number matching five of six: 33. Prize: \$1,553.

Number matching four of six: 1,846. Prize: \$41. Number matching three of six: 34,486. Prize: \$3.

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$25 million.

two days carried out HUNTSVILLE, Texas haven't lived until you contained guns.

After they broke through the front door, Adams came out in the hallway. Morris, who said he'd been drinking wine and earlier had passed out in the car, said one of his buddies gave him a .32caliber pistol.

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Morris received lethal injection about a half hour after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected a last-day appeal that argued his conviction and death sentence for killing a Houston man in a botched home burglary in 1991 was racially motivated because he was black.

(AP) — Convicted killer

Kenneth Wayne Morris

avoided execution more

than five years ago when

he received a reprieve

about two hours before he

could have been put to

On Wednesday, his 38th

birthday, he got no similar

The punishment was the second in as many nights and the 10th of the year in the nation's busiest death penalty state.

"I'm sorry for all the pain I might have caused you and your family," he told three sons and a grandson of his victim who watched him die. "I pray one day y'all can one day forgive me."

His voice broke as he told two women, including one from the United Kingdom who was his proxy wife, that he loved them.

"I've never been a widow so quick in my life," Donna Lounton said. Eight minutes later. Morris was pronounced dead.

Morris was condemned for gunning down James Adams, 63, who was awakened when Morris and two companions broke into his home thinking it numerous contained expensive weapons. The burglars, however, had become disoriented as they drove around the neighborhood and picked the wrong house.

Adams gave them more than \$1,000 in cash but no guns and was shot. The fatally wounded man fell into a closet where his wife was hiding from the intruders. She had to step over his body to summon help as the burglars fled.

"I would say we believe in the death penalty because it will prevent someone else from losing a father or mother or child," Jim Adams, one of the victim's sons, said after watching Morris die. "You

tutionally discriminated against Morris in seeking the death penalty against They cited a him. University of Houston Law Review study published last year that alleged a "pervasive, documented pattern of racial discrimination against black defendants tried in Harris County during the period 1992-1999 - defendants

Second execution in

hear your mother call you

and say: 'We've been

robbed and your daddy's

dead and nobody can help

In their appeal, Morris'

lawyers contended the

Harris County district

attorney's office unconsti-

him.'

like Mr. Morris." Prosecutors dismissed the claims as erroneous, not supported by facts and failing to take into account the gruesome details of Morris' crime.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and the Supreme Court U.S. agreed with state lawyers Wednesday, although two judges on the nine-member Texas appeals court said the issue was worth considering and thought the execution should have been stopped. No disagreements were noted from the Supreme Court in its ruling.

Morris' scheduled execution in 2003 was stopped after he won a court reprieve to investigate claims he may be mentally retarded and ineligible for the death penalty. Those issues were resolved last year and the new execution set for date was Wednesday. Prosecutors said they were unaware it was Morris' birthday.

Morris declined to speak with reporters in the weeks preceding his scheduled punishment but told The Associated Press as his 2003 date neared that he and his friends got confused as they were looking for a house they believed

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panions running down the hall bumped into him, Morris said the gun fired. "It just went off," he said.

As Adams fell, he fired two more times into the closet.

"I didn't aim at him or anything," Morris said. "It all happened so quick."

Morris said he recalled Adams had handed him a wallet and told him to take it and leave. He said he used the money to buy some clothes and get high. The three burglars left

behind garbage bags they intended to use to carry off loot. Police found a fingerprint on one of the bags and arrested Christopher Montez, then 18. He led them to Morris.

Morris was arrested in Brenham, about 100 miles northwest of Houston, 12 days after the shooting. Montez's cousin, Orlena Ayers, then 20, turned himself in. Ayers got life in prison. Montez got 85 years. Morris received

12.000

Wedding florist re-emerges after 50 years

(AP) — Joann Gabriel, a floral designer at J. Scott's Aflorist, saw a confusing order form on the counter when she went to work one day in February.

It wasn't like the ones used in the shop, but she did recognize the handwriting.

It had been brought in by a friend of the family of Shirley and Thomas Burton, who were planning a party for their 50th wedding anniversary. Their daughter wanted anniversary flowers similar to the ones at their wedding, so she brought in the order form and receipt Shirley Burton had saved. Scott Hasty, owner of the

shop, knew Gabriel had once owned a florist shop in Orange. He called Shirley Burton, and sure

BEAUMONT, Texas enough, the 1959 order Shirley Burton's bridal was placed at Chisum's Florist, Joann Gabriel, owner. The receipt, for a total of \$55.25, was signed, "Paid, Thank You, J.G."

> And so it happened that Joann Gabriel did the golden wedding anniversary flowers for the Burtons, just as she created the bouquets, corsages, boutonnieres and sprays for their wedding.

There was one significant difference.

"I did not honor this price," Hasty said of the \$55.25.

After the call from Hasty, Shirley Burton and Gabriel met again to talk about the coincidence.

"I couldn't believe the paperwork was still here," Gabriel said of the forms that had been stuck in

album.

Shirley and Thomas married on Feb. 28, 1959, at United Pentecostal Church, then on Border Street in Orange. She had a full-length, tiered wedding dress and wore a pearl and crystal bracelet, a gift from her husband.

She still wears the bracelet today, along with the strand of pearls he gave her for their 40th anniversary and pearl earrings, a gift for their 50th.

She describes herself as a "teenage bride," having gone to the altar a few days before she turned 20. She'll be 70 on Thursday.

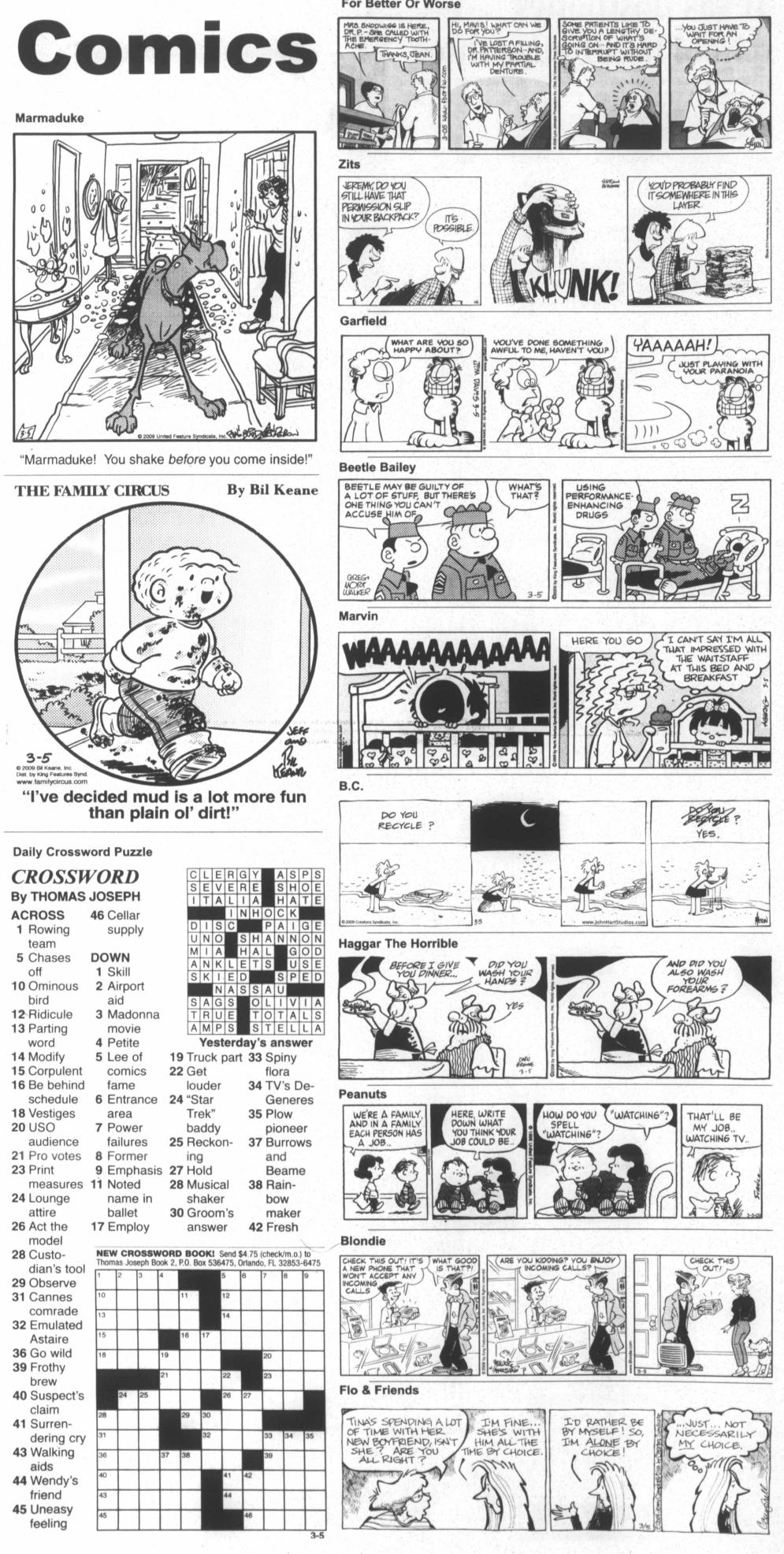
"I was 26 (back then) you figure it," Gabriel said.

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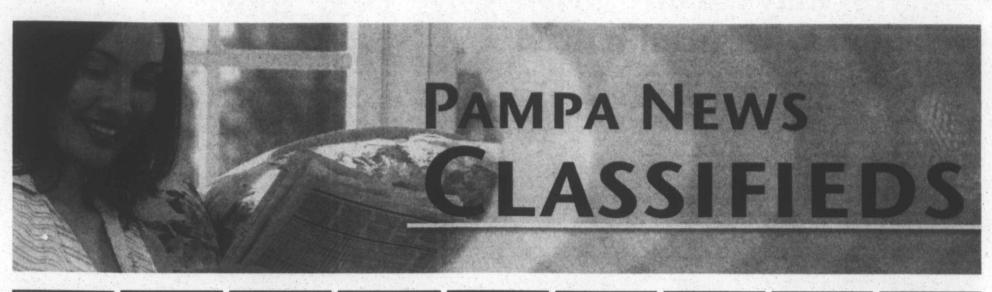
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The situation is as it is: Tonight: Hang with a pal or two. CANCER (June 21-July 22)

**** You might be all smiles right now. Let others respond rather than make an issue when there really isn't one. Your charisma peaks to an u

see events in a new light as a result. Avoid conclusions if possible. Tonight:

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) *** Though your libido energies are musually high, you also discover your limits. In the next few months, the best of projects could fall apart. Be aware of others' requests. Tonight: Paint the town red. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) *** Get into the habit of d

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8- Thursday, March 5, 2009 - The Pampa News

Congress may cut off spending on Mexican trucks

WASHINGTON (AP) ---Congress may force President Barack Obama into a showdown with Mexico over free trade.

Lawmakers are preparing to cut off the money for a 1 1/2-year-old pilot program that opened the way for up to 500 Mexican trucks from 100 operators to drive deeper into the United States.

The U.S. has allowed only a few Mexican trucks to drive beyond a southern buffer zone. border although it agreed when it signed the North American Free Trade Agreement to allow Mexican trucks full access to U.S. roadways beginning in 1995.

If the U.S. doesn't comply with the NAFTA agreement, Mexico can take retaliatory action such as placing or raising tariffs on U.S. goods.

"If the program is finally defunded by Congress, Mexico will (keep) open all its options, including retaliation," said Arturo Mexico's Sarukhan. ambassador to the U.S.

White House spokesman Benjamin LaBolt declined in an e-mail to comment about the truck program. Tren Nguyen, a spokeswoman for the U.S. trade representative's office, said the office is examining all possible options, but she would not say what those options are.

For now, Congress isn't one of the options.

The Senate is considering a \$410 billion Housepassed spending bill that halts funding for the Mexican truck program. Two years ago, the Senate voted 74-24 to cut off the program's funding. Voting with the majority at the time were Obama and Joe Biden, now the vice president.

Senate Republicans don't even plan trying to keep the program alive the White House.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, who tried to keep the money flowing in 2007, is not inclined to do so again, an aide said this week

"It's very disappointing that my colleagues have chosen protectionism over job creation by eliminating the NAFTA trucking pilot program with Mexico," Cornyn said.

Money for the program could be slipped into other spending bills, but would again face heavy opposition.

Obama discussed NAFTA with Mexican President Felipe Calderon when the two met about a week after Obama took office, and Obama said he would work immediately to strengthen the relation-

now that a Democrat is in ship between the two countries.

1982, Since most Mexican trucks have been confined to driving no further than 20 miles into the U.S., except in Arizona, where the limit is 75 miles.

The Teamsters, consumer groups and independent insurers have been pressuring Congress to keep the trucks off U.S. roadways, citing safety concerns.

But some of the strongest opposition has come from unions also concerned about U.S. drivers losing jobs and work to lowerpaid Mexican drivers.

The Bush administration began the pilot program after a Mexican truck company sued under NAFTA and won. Congress cut funding for the pilot last year.



By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I was a healthy 12-year-old girl in junior high, sociable and energetic with no cares in the world, until one day my mother noticed I wasn't my usual self. I was tired and had no interest in any activities. Frustrated, she encouraged me to try out for my

school's volleyball team. What was supposed to be

a routine physical for the team turned into a lifechanging experience. I did not end up making the team. Instead I was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease. My test results showed that I had too much protein in my urine. After more tests, I was told I was in kidney failure.

I was only 12, and I didn't understand why this was happening to me. Nobody was expecting the news we got that day. The doctors told my parents that I would need to go on dialysis or have a kidney transplant and we should start looking for a donor.

A urine test was never part of any of my annual checkups. But protein in the urine is one of the earliest signs of kidney disease. That simple test might have prevented me from losing both kidneys.

Nearly 100,000 men, women and children are now on the waiting list for a lifesaving organ transplant. One hundred people are

added to the list -- and 17 die -- every day. With early detection kidney disease can be prevented. So please urge your readers to get screened now and screened often. --KLARISSA RAMIREZ, MINNEAPOLIS

DEAR KLARISSA: Thank you for your letter. I was, frankly, shocked to learn from it that kidney disease could strike a person at such a tender age. I'm pleased to pass along your important message.

Readers, March is National Kidney Month -and March 12 is World Kidney Day. The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) has a screening program called KEEP, which stands for Kidney Early Evaluation Program. On World Kidney Day, KEEP will offer FREE screenings in cities across the country for people at risk for kidney disease.

If you or a family member has diabetes or high blood pressure, or if there is a history of kidney disease in your family, visit kidney.org to learn more and locate a screening near you, or call the National Kidney Foundation at 1-800-622-9010.

DEAR ABBY: My daughters feel my husband and I favor their younger brother. Our son has some

social and developmental issues. We have explained to the girls that their circumstances are different and have even had his psychologist explain the reasons to them.

My middle daughter says it is just an "excuse," and she feels slighted. What can I do to help them see that we love them all and want the best for them, as well as to treat them fairly? -- CHAL-LENGED MOM IN NEW JERSEY

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DEAR CHALLENGED MOM: One conversation with the psychologist obviously wasn't enough for at least one of your daughters, and my first suggestion is that you and your husband consider some ongoing family therapy for a while.

If your younger daughter is old enough, involve her while you are taking care of her brother. This will help her see for herself how timeconsuming it really is, and what your responsibilities are as the mother of a child with special needs.

Equally important, if at all possible, arrange for respite care for your son once or twice a month to allow you to have some special one-on-one time with your daughters. Perhaps then they will feel less slighted.

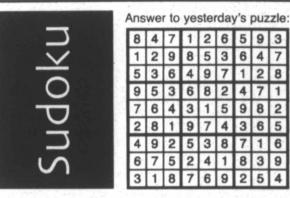
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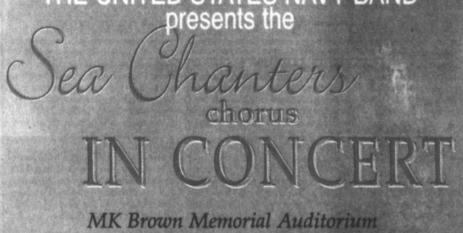
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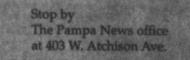
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