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Thursday, March 12, 2009 Volume 104 • No. 186 50¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

Report details aquatic center issues

by Betsy Phillips
 editor@thepampanews.com
 Assistant City Manager Shane Stokes released a report to city commissioners at Tuesday's meeting regarding the current city pool and preliminary plans for building a new aquatic center.

The report states: The Pampa City Commission included \$3 million within the 2009 C.O. (Certificate of Obligation) issue as seed money for the aquatic center and directed me to research the issue and see what kind of additional funding may be available

to us. I have met with the PEDC Board of Directors and am scheduled to meet with them again this week to give them an update and make a specific monetary request. Stokes also outlined grants available from the Texas Wildlife and Parks

Department that if obtained, could help fund the project. "We are looking at replacing an aging pool with a fun, new, clean, family aquatic center that can be enjoyed for about the price of a Happy Meal®."

Stokes said in his report that the \$3 million in bond money is dedicated specifically to the construction of a new aquatic facility. "Even if the city decides not to use the funds to build the aquatic center, they cannot be used to

pool— cont. on page 3



photo by Rachel Stennett

Officials gathered Tuesday for the ground breaking ceremony for Pampa Junior High School, which will be located a half mile North of the hospital.

Ceremony held for new jr. high

by Rachel Stennett
 rstennett@thepampanews.com

A ground breaking ceremony was held at the location for a new Pampa Junior High Tuesday evening (March 10). Despite freezing blow winds, a large group gathered to officially launch construction, including the mayor, members of the school board, Gold Coats from the Chamber of Commerce, members of Pampa Fire Department, construction planners and builders for the project, and Don Campbell of Bad Cattle Company, who donated the land the school will be built on. The group listened to various presentations of people who have been responsible for making the new building possible.

Campbell spoke on the future of Pampa, and his desire to see better schools in Pampa, hopefully possible through the donation of his land. He also announced his plan for a new building project "Campbell Ranch Community," which the school will be located on. Although the ranch community was not discussed in great detail, a map of the future 1,300 acre community was presented which showed the land stretching north west from Loop road. The ceremony concluded with members of the school board, Campbell, and other key people to the project picking up shovels and breaking the land to signify the start of construction of the school.

Water agreement now in jeopardy

WHITE DEER — The Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District will have their second meeting of the month Friday morning to discuss changes in their vision of the desired future condition of the aquifer that waters the district. All four area districts have passed the resolution — amended by the Panhandle district last week so that if any one district fails to approve the resolution, the measure fails—to accept the differing views of the aquifer. But apparently a landowner who has property in Roberts County, which is the purview of the Panhandle district, and in Hemphill County, which is a separate single county groundwater district, has caused a glitch in the resolution. The PGCD which includes Pampa, voted last week to accept three desired

future conditions across the panhandle as proposed by Groundwater District Management Area 1. The Groundwater Management Area, established by the Texas Legislature to promote joint planning among neighboring groundwater districts, consists of White Deer-based Panhandle Groundwater Management Conservation District, Dumas-based North Plains Groundwater Management Conservation District and Lubbock-based High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (the three oldest groundwater districts in the state) along with Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District in Canadian.

Water— cont. on page 3

Highlights from the Texas Legislature

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Chalk one up for the Republicans. After an all-night debate and questioning of witnesses, the GOP won its first Senate vote Wednesday on a bill that would impose tougher identification requirements on Texans at the ballot box. The public hearing on the legislation literally went around the clock as senators heard from expert witnesses and a handful of average citizens who found themselves unexpectedly spending the

night in the Senate gallery for a chance to speak out until a three-minute buzzer rang. More than 100 who had signed up to testify, unable to stay the 20-plus hours that most endured, left before their names were called. No one was surprised that a special Senate panel, which includes all 31 senators and Republican Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, approved the legislation along straight party lines in a 20-12 vote just before 10 a.m. The vote all but assures it will pass the Senate and be sent to the

House as early as Monday. The voter ID bill is being driven by Senate Republicans over fierce opposition from Democrats, who promised a legal challenge if the bill ultimately passes. The approval included a rare vote by Dewhurst, who presides over the Senate and pushed for the bill despite the threat it would anger Democrats and split the chamber along rigid party lines. "Regrettably, it has been made a partisan issue by

Session— cont. on page 3



staff photo by David Bowser

The trees may have been in bloom, but 14-month-old Major Tucker in the arms of his mother Kristin Tucker was bundled up for the weather Tuesday afternoon at the Pampa-Perryton High School baseball game. The weather forecast is a 40 percent chance of rain or snow beginning today and continuing through the night.

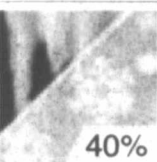


Woman stabs man with fork at motel

Pampa Police investigated a report of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon at the El Capri Motel at 321 E. Brown Wednesday night. Airen Elizabeth Moon 24, of Booker, TX was arrested in connection with the incident. Moon was arrested and charged with one count of Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon, a second degree felony. She was reported to have stabbed her boyfriend/roommate, Jeffrey Glen Wilson, 34., with a fork. Wilson sustained injuries to the upper right chest. He was transported to the Pampa Regional Medical Center by Guardian EMS, where he was treated and released.

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Health Fair
 March 23 from 1-5 pm
MK Brown Auditorium
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PAMPA FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		
40%		
High 32 Low 25	High 51 Low 37	High 68 Low 38

Friday: A 50 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 32. Wind chill values between 12 and 22. Northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday Night: A 40 percent chance of snow, mainly before 1am. Cloudy, with a low around 25. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday: Cloudy, with a high near 51. Calm wind becoming south between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 37. South wind around 10 mph.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 68. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 38. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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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.....	\$4.84
Milo.....	\$4.92
Corn.....	\$6.49

Cash Five Texas results

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 35-33-29-24-25.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Matching four of five: 72. Prize: \$531

Matching three of five: 2,241. Prize: \$12

Matching two of five: 23,850. 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: 26-36-54-31-42-24.

Number matching six of six: 0.

Number matching five of six: 21. Prize: \$2,336.

Number matching four of six: 1,362. Prize: \$53.

Number matching three of six: 27,057. Prize: \$3.

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$28 million.

Worker crushed by 5-ton piece of steel

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Police say a 56-year-old worker was crushed Thursday when a five-ton piece of steel fell from a crane he was operating at a Fort Worth steel mill.

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's office identified the man as Johnny Little of Joshua.

The Dallas Morning News reports in its online edition Thursday that the accident happened about 6:20 a.m. at the Delta Steel mill in far south Fort Worth.

LAST MINUTE CLASSIFIED LINE ADS

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

<p>ANDERSON APPLI. Serv., Cody, 662-1841.</p> <p>CORRECTION: NATURAL Light 6pk cans \$6.99 at Fiesta Foods instead of 30pk.</p> <p>"FRIENDS" COME help us celebrate J.D. Paris's 87th Birthday, Sun., Mar. 15, 2009, Miami, Tx. Community Center, 2-4pm.</p> <p>SHAR-PEI PUPPIES 1 male, 1 female. AKC Registered, \$500 each. 898-6900.</p>	<p>RUTHIE'S BEAUTY Salon. 609 W. Foster, 806-665-9236, 662-6460. New Stylist Katherine Porter-Reeves. March Only pedicure special \$35.</p> <p>OPTIMIST BASEBALL/ SoftBall Signups Mon-Thurs. 5:30-7:30 ages 5 -15 at the Optimist Park. \$70 for ages 5-8, \$85 for ages 9-15</p> <p>RICHARD SMITH Student & Contemporary at the Woody Guthrie Center, Mar. 21, 5pm.</p>
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Emergency Services

SHERIFF by the PPD for five warrant fines.

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests.

Wednesday

Kristi Gayle Maddox, 33, of Pampa was arrested

Michael Shelby James, 41, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for assault causing bodily injury, family violence.

Arien Elizabeth Moon,

For the Record

Obituaries

Nelda Y. Patton, 71

Pampa, Texas — Nelda Y. Patton, 71 died on March 12, 2009 in Pampa, Texas.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Patton was born November 28, 1937 in Pampa where she was a graduate of Pampa High School. She married Ronal Cecil Patton on December 30, 1955. He preceded her in death on October 8, 1990. She worked for many years with her parents at Pampa Parts & Supply. She then managed the fabric department at WalMart and also worked at the Hobby Shop

for several years. Nelda later owned her own business, "My Favorite Things." She taught classes for tole painting. She was a member of Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ. She enjoyed making arts and crafts and she loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. During Operation Desert Storm, she collected and mailed cookies to the troops overseas.

Survivors include one son, Richard Patton and wife Jana of Pampa, one daughter, Rhonda Leazer and husband Nathan of Oklahoma City, Okla., five

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grandchildren: Kailie Patton, Sara Leazer and Erin Leazer, all of Oklahoma City, Okla., Keelan Patton and Kyler Patton, both of Pampa. Nelda was preceded in death by her parents, Winford and Lessie Maness Swain; and a sister, Michelle Lynn Patton on March 30, 1964.

MEMORIALS: American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 11454, Alexandria, Virginia 22312, or Hospice of the Southwest, 1301 S. Coulter, Suite 404,



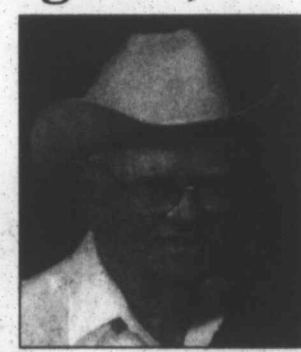
Amarillo, Texas 79106.
Patton
Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whatley.com

George W. Ingram, 94

Pampa, Texas — George W. Ingram, 94 died on March 9, 2009 in Pampa, Texas

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, March 13, 2009, at the First Christian Church, with Rev. Paul Carruth, associate area minister for the Christian Church in the Southwest, and Rev. Brian Christen, associate pastor of youth and education of First Christian Church, officiating.

High School and attended the University of Oklahoma where he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. George married Viola Haggard on October 28, 1934 in Woodward, Okla. He was a third generation farmer and rancher in Gray County. He was a former fireman for the Pampa Fire Department and a member of the Civil Air Patrol. George was a veteran of the U. S. Army Air Corps from 1940-1946 where he was a flight commander and flight instructor. He was a member of the First Christian Church and the Loyal Order of the Moose. He helped found the Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.



Ingram
Christian Ingram of Gunnison, Colo., Geordan Montoya of Kingston, New York, Larie Pidgeon of Fishkill, New York, DeAnn Bivins of Pampa, and Dennise Howard of Pampa, 15 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, three nephews, Buddy Cockrell of Pampa, Lee Cockrell of Amarillo, and Scott Haggard of Boston, Mass. George was preceded in death by a son, Gerry Ingram in January of 2008; and a sister, Alice Gray in



Ingram
2007.
MEMORIALS: First Christian Church, 1633 N. Nelson, Pampa, Texas 79065, or Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, 600 SW 11th Ave., Amarillo, Texas 79101.

Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery with military honors by Altus Air Force Base Blue Knights Honor Guard from Altus, Okla. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Ingram was born August 11, 1914 in Pampa where he had been a lifelong resident of Pampa and Gray County. He was a 1931 graduate of Pampa

Survivors include his wife, Viola Ingram of the home, one son, Larry Ingram of Pampa, six grandchildren, Brandi Yee of Honolulu, Hawaii,

SPECIAL NOTICE: The family will receive friends at 2313 Evergreen in Pampa, after the funeral services.

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whatley.com

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Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whatley.com

Aubrey A. West, 65

Pampa, Texas — Aubrey A. West, 65 died on March 9, 2009 in Amarillo, Texas

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, March 13, 2009, at Calvary Baptist Church, with Rev. Richard Bartel, pastor, and Rev. Fines Marchman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Skellytown, officiating.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, March 13, 2009, at Plymouth Cemetery in Samnorwood, under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. West was born November 18, 1943 in Pampa. He married Linda

Kidwell on June 8, 1964 in Pampa. She preceded him in death on May 13, 2003. Aubrey was a welder, truck driver, mechanic and ranch hand. He also worked for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in the Clements and Jordan Units. He was a Baptist. Aubrey loved the outdoors, especially taking the children and grandchildren fishing. He spent many hours watching the grandchildren at Pampa Optimist activities.

Survivors include two sons, Billy West and wife Mistie and Preston West and wife Evelyn, all of Pampa, one daughter, Janie

Yates and husband Mike of Pampa, 10 grandchildre, Coleby West, Charles Calloway, Brett West, Halie West, Aubrey Don West, Stephanie West, Michael West, Brandon Yates, Bryan Yates and Maddie Yates, one sister Marlene Kyle of Pampa, one brother-in-law, Fines Marchman of Pampa, a host of nieces, nephews, in-laws and "special grandchildren". Aubrey was preceded in death by his parents, Alphus and Fannie Ruff West, a sister, Pat Marchman, and a brother-in-law: Earl Kyle.

MEMORIALS: Pampa Optimist Club, P.O. Box



West
802, Pampa, Texas 79066-0802.
SPECIAL NOTICE: The family will receive friends at 1812 N. Sumner in Pampa.
Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whatley.com

Jack T. Mitchell, 77

Pampa, Texas — Jack T. Mitchell, 77 went to be with his Lord on Monday, March 9, 2009 in Amarillo, Texas.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14, 2009, at Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ, with Glen Walton, minister of Bell Ave. Church of Christ of Amarillo, and Kurt Jones, minister of the Ninth & Bliss Church of Christ of Dumas, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Mitchell was born April 7, 1931 in Goodlett, Texas to C. D. and Essie Mae Powell Mitchell. He graduated from Wheeler High School in 1950, and then enlisted in the U. S.

Air Force during the Korean Conflict. Jack married Wanda Topper on June 6, 1954 in Wheeler and then moved to Pampa in July of 1955. He was a master machinist, working for Pantex for 18 years, Pupco, Pampa Gear and Machine, and Titan Specialties before retiring. He was a member of Central Church of Christ. Jack loved his Lord and Master, and was an elder and teacher for many years. He loved golfing, guns, and taking walks around town and watching his grandchildren play sports. Jack was a lifetime member of the Pampa Rifle & Pistol Club and was a gunsmith for years. He was a former volunteer for Pampa Meals on Wheels and was a foster parent for High Plains

Children's Home and Gray County for many years.

Survivors include his wife, Wanda Mitchell of the home, four daughters, Laura Underwood of Little Rock, Ark., Frankie Fletcher of Midland, Molly Carriere of Pearland, Susan Henderson and husband Keenan of Pampa, three sons, Russell Mitchell of Pearland, William Mitchell and wife Nikki of York, South Carolina, and Jason Mitchell of New York, nine grandchildren, Clifton "Bud" Fletcher of Pampa, Ann Fritz of Pearland, Thomas Fletcher of Midland, Robert Underwood of Tulsa, Okla., Brittny Mitchell of Amarillo, Krishna Henderson of Pampa, Carissa Mitchell of Pearland, Koltan

Henderson of Pampa, and Jacob Carriere of Pearland, eight great-grandchildren, one sister, Barbara Meadows and husband Sam of Briscoe, son-in-law: Clifton Fletcher of Amarillo, and many nieces and nephews. He was loved by many and will be missed dearly. Jack was preceded in death by his parents, six brothers, Joe, Frank, Vernon, Charlie, W. D., and C. C. Mitchell; and two sisters, Mae Mitchell and Gene Hornsby.

MEMORIALS: High Plains Children's Home, 11461 South Western St., Amarillo, Texas 79118, or The Bridge, 804 Quail Creek, Amarillo, Texas 79124.

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whatley.com

Emergency Services

24, of Booker was arrested by the PPD for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Sean Lewis Moree, 30, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on warrants.

Shawn Lee Weatherford, 38, of Pampa was arrested

by the PPD for resisting arrest, assault on a public servant, evading arrest, failure to appear, bond surrender for leaving the scene of an accident, possession of drug paraphernalia, burglary of a habitat and resisting arrest.

Cristan Nicole Whittington, 26, of Amarillo was arrested by the PPD for public intoxication.

Brandon Shelby Mills, 29, of Amarillo was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated, third of

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staff photo by Betsy Phillips

An outbuilding in the 200 block of Eshom was damaged in a fire at 7:41 a.m. Thursday (March 12) morning. Six units and 10 personnel responded to the structure fire, which was quickly extinguished. The structure was made of old tin and metal and used as a barn for calves, goats, and cats. No livestock were injured in the blaze.

Water agreement

Water — cont. from page 1

Under the proposed desired future condition scenario advanced by Groundwater Management District 1, the four western counties of North Plains would have 40 percent of their water in storage at the end of 50 years, Hemphill County would keep 80 per-

cent of its storage in the aquifer at the end of 50 years and the remaining counties would retain 50 percent of the water in the aquifer at the end of the 50 years period.

Groundwater Management Area 1 board members, each groundwa-

ter district has one vote in the GMA, are scheduled to meet Friday afternoon in Amarillo to vote as a whole on the desired future condition of the aquifer beneath the Texas Panhandle and their respective districts.

Legislature

Session — cont. from page 1

some of the hardcore Democrats and hardcore Republicans," Dewhurst said.

Democrats have compared the proposal to a modern-day poll tax. Republicans say the ID requirements, which would take effect in time for the pivotal 2010 elections, are necessary to stop voter fraud.

CASINO GAMBLING

Two Gulf Coast legislators filed a proposal Wednesday that would allow Texas voters to decide to allow casino gambling in Galveston and other parts of the state.

Democratic Reps. Carol Alvarado and Craig Eiland are trying to pass a proposed state constitutional amendment that would allow casino gambling on barrier islands adjacent to Gulf Coast counties, which would include Galveston, and in large cities with populations over 675,000, like Houston.

It also calls for allowing gambling on American Indian lands in Texas and at existing racetracks.

The wide-reaching gambling proposal would have voters go to the polls in November to decide on the constitutional amendment. The measure calls for the governor to convene the Legislature in a special session by June 2010 to pass more legislation to implement the legalized gambling.

Some have suggested allowing casino gambling in Galveston is a way to revitalize the island city in the wake of the destruction of Hurricane Ike. Eiland is from Galveston and is pushing a number of legislative proposals to benefit the area. Alvarado is a former Houston city council member.

Their proposal is one of several pieces of gambling legislation filed this session.

PUPPY MILL BILL

Breeders who keep hun-

dreds of cats and dogs in cramped, squalid surroundings are the target of a bill filed Wednesday that would require those with more than 11 unneutered female animals to submit to licensing, annual inspections, background checks and penalties as high as \$5,000 per animal if they violate minimum care standards.

Advocates for the legislation say it will allow the state to regulate breeders and prevent animal cruelty in so-called puppy mills, while opponents say it puts unnecessary strain on small breeders and could put them out of business.

The legislation by Houston Democratic Rep. Senfronia Thompson would create a commercial breeder license and an advisory council that would set minimum standards for staffing, cages, food and socialization of animals.

"We really want to clean up this industry because we think the animals deserve better," Thompson said. "I think that most persons who love animals and who want to take care of them, want them to be in that type of environment."

The proposed bill would also make it illegal to operate as or deal with an unlicensed breeder and would cap breeders at 50 unneutered adult animals.

Breeders who sell directly to consumers are not currently regulated in Texas, and investigations typically start with complaints from neighbors and the community.

The American Kennel Club inspects breeders who are registered with them, and current federal law requires that breeders be inspected only if they sell to pet stores.

REDISTRICTING FLAP

Rep. Mark Homer, D-Paris, says that Republicans' argument that Attorney General Greg

Abbott should not testify in a Senate voter identification hearing means Abbott also should be removed from the state redistricting board.

The Republican chairman of the Senate committee of the whole said Abbott should not be testifying because litigation is imminent. The GOP-controlled Senate committee approved the voter ID measure Wednesday.

Homer had earlier filed a resolution proposing a constitutional amendment to replace the attorney general on the Legislative Redistricting Board with the agriculture commissioner.

The attorney general's participation in redistricting "would create an even more apparent conflict with even more imminent litigation coming out of it," Homer said.

Currently the Legislative Redistricting Board — which can be called upon to redraw state legislative districts — is composed of five members: the lieutenant governor, the House speaker, the attorney general, the comptroller and the land commissioner.

BUILDING HOMES

Home Owners for Better Building is making its presence known at the Capitol. The group championed several pieces of legislation Wednesday and urged reforms at the Texas Residential Construction Commission.

HOBB is asking its activists to write a one-page letter about bad experiences with their residential builders and to send it to Texas elected officials.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I think they're running over us. How does it feel?" — Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, on Senate Republicans' pushing through a voter ID bill on a 20-12 vote in which every Democrat voted against it.

Pool issues detailed

Pool — cont. from page 1

build an animals shelter, " he said. "They must be paid back against the original debt or applied to one of the other projects on the C.O. issue."

There has been some discussion among residents that the city could use these bonds funds to build a new animal shelter, which some feel the city needs more than a new pool.

Current Pool Costs

The MK Brown swimming pool was built in the early 1980s. "In the past few years," Stokes explained, "the pool has suffered several structural and mechanical problem that have been quite expen-

sive." Since 2004 the city has had to make \$65,676 in repairs to the pool that were unbudgeted.

Income from the pool in 2008 totaled \$26,805, while expenditures were \$62,699. That means to break even—the city would have had to charge \$4.27 for admission, an increase of \$2.77.

Commissioners were also given information on other towns' facilities to study as they go through the planning process. A site for the project has not yet been selected.



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Tractor-trailer rig slams into hotel

TEMPLE, Texas (AP) — Breakfast proved to be the most important meal of the day for the occupants of one Temple hotel room.

A tractor-trailer rig loaded with auto parts veered off Interstate 35 and slammed into their first-floor hotel room on Thursday, trapping its driv-

er inside. Police spokesman Brad Hunt Both says both of the room's occupants were breakfasting in the lobby of the Residence Inn and weren't injured.

Crews worked more than an hour to extricate the driver, who Hunt said he was apparently not injured

severely.

Witnesses say the truck crossed two ditches, a frontage road and a parking lot before a retaining wall launched it 15 feet into the air and it smashed into the hotel. The rest of the hotel was evacuated after the crash touched off a brief small fire.

Viewpoints

Tomorrow in History

Today is Friday, March 13, the 72nd day of 2009. There are 293 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

- 1325 - Tenochtitlan, the capital of the Aztec Empire, is founded.
- 1552 - Turks invade Hungary.
- 1567 - Margaret of Parma, Regent of the Netherlands, uses German mercenaries to annihilate 2,000 Calvinists.
- 1639 - Harvard University is named for clergyman John Harvard.
- 1707 - Holy Roman Empire agrees to Convention of Milan whereby French troops are to leave northern Italy.
- 1868 - The impeachment trial of U.S. President Andrew Johnson begins in the U.S. Senate.
- 1881 - Russia's Czar Alexander II is assassinated

'Nothing is more frightful than laughter when it comes to jealousy.'

— Francoise Sagan, French author

1884 - Using Greenwich, England as the commencement point from which all time will be measured, an international time standard is adopted throughout the United States.

1938 - Austria is annexed by Germany a day after Nazi troops march in.

1974 - The Arab nations agree to end their five-month oil embargo on sales to the U.S. Their sanction crippled both the American industry and economy.

1996 - A gunman in Dunblane, Scotland, shoots to death 16 children and a teacher.

1998 - South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, himself once imprisoned for his political beliefs, grants amnesty to some 5 million South Koreans, including six elderly political prisoners.

2000 - Alcoa Inc. settles a government lawsuit by agreeing to spend US\$8.8 million to clean up the Mississippi River and reduce pollution.

2006 - A series of powerful storms in the U.S. spawn numerous tornadoes, leaving nine people dead and generating miles of destruction across five states.

2007 - Somalia's President Abdullahi Yusuf comes under mortar attack in his palace just hours after moving in upon his return from southern stronghold Baidoa.

2008 - Serbia's president dissolves parliament and calls an early election that should determine whether the country aligns itself with the European Union and other Western groups or returns to its isolationist past.

Today's Birthdays:

Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II (1741-1790); Hugo Wolf, Austrian composer (1860-1903); George Seferis, Greek poet and diplomat, Nobel literature laureate (1900-1971); Kofi Awoonor, Ghanaian poet (1935-); Neil Sedaka, U.S. singer (1939-); William H. Macy, U.S. actor (1950-); Dana Delany, U.S. actress (1956-); Adam Clayton, bassist with rock group U2 (1960-).



Analysis: Obama stands with his allies, of course

By ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)— In proposing only modest changes in how lawmakers finance their pet projects, President Barack Obama tossed aside a golden opportunity to work with Sen. John McCain. Instead, the president stood foursquare with his Democratic allies, the people he needs most to advance his ambitious agenda.

McCain is the top sponsor of a proposal to give the president more power to cut spending from bills project by project, a kind of line-item veto lite called "expedited rescission" that's been around since the early 1990s. But when it came to discussing how to deal with so-called earmarks on Wednesday, Obama had nothing to say about McCain's idea.

Little wonder. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid don't like it. And a fleeting alliance with McCain isn't as important as good relations with those who regulate the flow of legislation in Congress.

Just Tuesday, Obama's budget director said Obama would probably support legislation introduced by McCain, R-Ariz., Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., and Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., to award Obama the beefed-up rescission powers.

"The president during his cam-

paign spoke about a line-item veto that would need to be done in a constitutionally valid way," said White House budget chief Peter Orszag. "Enhanced rescission powers are also a possibility."

Asked about the idea last month, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Obama would "love to take that for a test drive."

Obama won't get that chance. On Wednesday, during a meeting in which Obama's earmark proposal was finalized, the president sided with the old-school Democrats. They view expedited rescissions, both the House and Senate would vote on whether to accept a recommended list of cuts shortly after receiving it. As an intrusion into the prerogatives of Congress.

The White House has signaled that Obama will use the existing rescissions process to identify waste in the just-enacted omnibus bill and send it to Congress. But Democratic leaders could ignore the missive; under McCain's legislation a vote would be guaranteed.

McCain's idea is a far weaker anti-spending tool than the line-item veto that congressional Republicans gave President Bill Clinton in the mid-1990s. That version required two-thirds votes in both the House and Senate to overturn vetoes. The Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional in 1998.

McCain's bill was on an options list and was discussed, said a Democratic House leadership aide, who demanded anonymity to speak candidly about the private negotiations.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., scoffed at the idea that Obama should have sided with McCain.

"Stand in lockstep with all the (Republicans) who've been so supportive of him over the past month and a half," Hoyer said. "That's a heck of a strategy!"

Indeed, McCain issued a statement Wednesday blasting Obama's proposed reforms as thin gruel.

"We will continue to do business as usual in Washington regarding earmarks," McCain said. "The president could have resolved this issue in one statement, no more unauthorized pork-barrel projects, and pledged to use his veto pen to stop them. This is an opportunity missed."

In his comments on earmarks Wednesday, Obama sounded more like a defender of earmarks than a critic.

"Done right, earmarks have given legislators the opportunity to direct federal money to worthy projects that benefit people in their districts, and that's why I've opposed their outright elimination," he said.

Other editors say

Fort Worth Star-Telegram on education for military children:

War often can be hardest on the warfighters children.

The family of an active-duty soldier, sailor, airman or Marine can move from one base to another in the states or overseas as often as every two years.

Educational continuity is a foreign concept for a student who attends six to nine different schools in 18 years. Yet almost 2 million military children in this country pay the price of interrupted studies and delayed graduations because of a parent's noble decision to serve in our all-volunteer armed forces.

Make that parents' decision. The Army in particular is seeing more and more cases where both parents are soldiers.

State Rep. Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth, doesn't think it's fair that the children of the nation's military should be unduly burdened by a situation out of their control. That's why he's introduced House Bill 503, designed to remove hurdles that slow the enrollment process for transferring students and can keep them from graduating on time.

"These kids are being held up by Texas law that truly shouldn't affect

them," Geren said Tuesday from Austin.

Geren's interest in the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children comes naturally. His brother, Secretary of the Army Pete Geren, has been working with Patty Shinseki, founder of Military Child Education Coalition and wife of retired Army Gen. Eric Shinseki, now the secretary of Veterans Affairs, to encourage lawmakers across the country to adopt the legislation. The bill will ensure that the children of military families have the same opportunities for classroom success as other children and will not be penalized or delayed in graduating because of intractable bureaucratic practices.

Should state lawmakers pass the bill and they should Texas would agree, among other things, that children who move

midyear can continue in the same grade even if their new school has different age requirements.

Unofficial education records would suffice for a child's enrollment until the official records arrive from the previous school district. Students who are enrolled in honors or advanced classes in one state could continue those classes in their new school district.

"Compact kids also would be granted additional excused absences if a parent is about to be deployed or is returning from deployment," Charlie Geren said.

Eleven states legislatures Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina and Oklahoma have signed on to the compact. The bill awaits the Virginia governor's signature, and it's been intro-

duced in 19 other states, including Texas.

The children of military personnel are expected to overcome stress in their lives that children of civilians don't often encounter. Any parent who has relocated for work knows the trauma that ensues after uprooting children from their friends.

Imagine that experience over and over. Layered on top of that uncertainty is the possibility that Mom or Dad or both might be deployed to a war zone. That, too, is happening over and over.

The goal of the compact isn't to dumb down the expectations for classroom achievement for military children. On the contrary, it acknowledges the exceptional sacrifices that these young men and women make as part of their service to America. URL: <http://www.star-telegram.com>

We welcome your letters

To insure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.
- All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.
- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Around town



Myrna Orr, right, presents President's Scrapbook to Terri Williams, who served as Altrusa President the past year.

Altrusa Club News

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL, INC. OF PAMPA, TEXAS met March 10, 2009 at First United Methodist Church with President Barb Hahn presiding. Terry Gamblin and Laura Martin served as greeters.

The Accent was presented by Kathryn Green who reviewed the historic highlights of Altrusa. The Altrusa Club was founded in Nashville, Tennessee on April 11, 1917.

Ruby Royse was granted a leave of absence due to illness. Sheila Winton was approved for membership.

Officers for 2009-2010 were elected as follows:

- President— Kerrick Horton
- Vice President— Terry Gamblin
- Treasurer— Allison Watson
- Recording Secretary— Tiffany Qualls
- Corresponding Secretary— Rochelle Lacy
- Directors— Eileen Kludt, Judy Warner, Kitty Hall and Stephenie Willis

The following committee reports were given: ASTRA Plans are being made for St. Patrick's Day Party at the Sheltered Workshop.

Make a Difference Day Project — Six local students are presently being tested for Dyslexia

Altrusa Style Show Committee will hold second planning meeting today at First Christian Church.

Travis Reading Program will be held April 7.

Darlene Birkes was recognized for having a birthday this month.

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. March 24 at Pampa Senior Center.



Altrusan Pat Johnson receives a 25-year Membership Plaque from Bar Hahn, Altrusa President. Johnson became a member of Altrusa in 1981.



Altrusa President, Barb Hahn presents 25-year Membership Plaque to Altrusan Kadda Schale. Schale became a member of Altrusa in 1983.

CONTESTANT



Harley Jones of Hartley TX has entered the Miss Irish Rose Scholarship Pageant. Harley is 14 years old and in the ninth grade at Hartley High School. She plays clarinet in the band and as a soloist has scored all 1s for four years straight. She would like to go to college at West Texas A & M University and teach Pre-school or Kindergarten children. Harley is the daughter of Robin and Jeromie Jones and the granddaughter of Shorty Jones, Dalhart and Jim and Barbara Davis of Pampa.

Med schools grow as economy tanks

ROYAL OAK, Mich. (AP) — You wouldn't know there was an economic crisis the way the medical school business is booming these days.

Responding to warnings of a looming doctor shortage, existing schools are increasing enrollment, and new ones are opening or under development from El Paso in West Texas to Kalamazoo in western Michigan.

Medical school expansion plans are rushing ahead despite the severe economic downturn, even in the battered home of the nation's struggling auto industry.

The reason is quite simple, according to the president-elect of the American Medical Association.

"Americans are living longer, and there are more of them," said Dr. J. James Rohack, a Temple, Texas, cardiologist. "It's clear that the demographics of American society point to the need of having and expanding a well-educated medical work force."

Today, many poor and rural areas already face doctor shortages, and primary care positions go unfilled as doctors gravitate to higher-paying medical specialties. Graduating more doctors doesn't directly address either problem, but is a key part of the answer, medical groups say.

This year alone, the number of accredited medical schools training doctors in the U.S. is set to grow by four to 130. Five others have applied for accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, with the aim of accepting students in 2010 or 2011.

Michigan, where unem-

ployment jumped to 11.6 percent in January, could see medical school ranks grow from three today to six within a few years.

Health care in America is a \$2.4 trillion annual business, or about \$8,000 for each of the nation's 300 million residents. President Barack Obama has made overhauling health care — extending coverage to the 48 million uninsured while fighting rising costs and attacking waste — an early priority of his administration.

A quarter century ago, experts blamed rising health costs on what they said was a surplus of doctors. They said doctors seeking income would perform unneeded procedures, making medical care more expensive. In

response, medical schools capped or cut enrollments.

But in recent years, doctors and medical school groups have re-examined the issue of doctor supply and now warn of a large shortfall in coming decades.

One area already facing a doctor shortage is El Paso, Texas, where Texas Tech University greets the entering class at the Paul Foster School of Medicine on July 13.

Nationwide, enrollments already are edging up. Accredited schools accepted 18,036 new medical students in 2008, up 9.1 percent from 16,538 in 2003. The number of students applying for admission rose 21.4 percent in that period, from 34,786 to 42,231.

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The 2008 "Pride" photo contest winner was this photo of one-year-old Emma Grace Searl, sent in by Linda Searl.

PHOTO CONTEST



The Pampa News' annual amateur photo contest will feature two categories this year - "Family and Friends" and "Gray County Scenes."

Family and Friends

Photos should be non-posed snapshots of people doing things together. They can also be individual shots, but the key is to make them candid photos that show a slice of life in Gray County. The photos that "tell a story" will also be given a higher rating.

Gray County Scenes

Send us your best shots of local scenery. Photos may be sunsets, storms, old buildings, cityscapes, wildlife or domestic animals.

The deadline for entries is 5 p.m. Friday, March 20.

Winners in each category will be selected by our editorial staff. The top photographers in each category will receive \$100 and their photos will be published in the newspaper's annual "Pride" issue to be published in March. Second place winners in each category will receive \$50. Third Place winners in each category will receive \$25.

Any photos submitted to the contest must be taken by the person submitting them and must have been taken in Gray County since Jan. 1, 2008. The photos cannot have appeared previously in any other publication or contest.

You can submit as many photos to the contest categories as you like. The best way to submit your photo is to send them via E-mail, as an attachment, to editor@thepampanews.com. The photos should be in a .jpg format, preferably shot on the "fine" setting on a digital camera or higher.

Do not edit the photo. We need to make changes in resolution to run photos in the newspaper. If you are entering more than one photo, please send them individually as an E-mail attachment.

Include your name, address, telephone number for verification and a description of the photograph. Identify the people in the photo if possible. Any photo without this information included will be disqualified.

If you would rather submit your entries as prints, send them with the information to: Photography Contest, The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison Avenue, Pampa, TX. If you wish the prints returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your entry.

The Pampa News will publish the winners and many of the other submissions in a special section of our annual Pride issue in March.

Comics

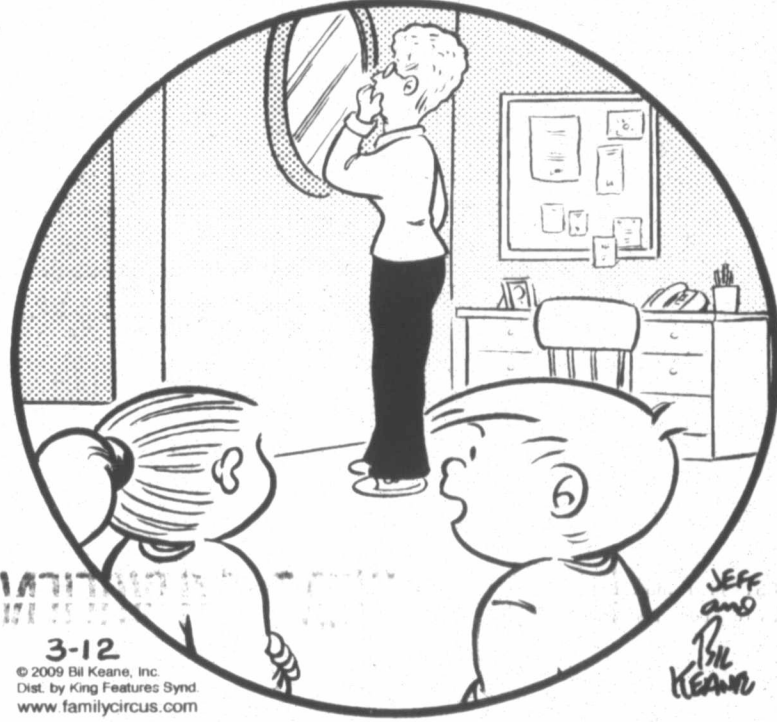
Marmaduke



"Did you audition for the church choir?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Grandma says she's thankful wrinkles don't hurt."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 43 Suit part
 - 1 Schlemiel
 - 44 Suburb of Baltimore
 - 6 Small herring
 - 11 Stayman, for one
 - 12 Sharp-clawed marsupial
 - 13 Sender's need
 - 14 Subordinate to
 - 15 Settlement
 - 17 Shuttle astronaut
 - 19 Sanctuary
 - 20 Scatter seeds
 - 23 South American ruminant
 - 25 St. Peter's section
 - 26 Storage
 - 28 Snobbish behavior
 - 29 South Pole feature
 - 30 Soaked
 - 31 Supporting
 - 32 Stammering sounds
 - 33 Source of acorns
 - 35 Sound studio creation
 - 38 Spreads for breads
 - 41 Seething
 - 42 Singer
- DOWN**
- 1 Spanish article
 - 2 Select
 - 3 Sci-fi traveler's stop
 - 4 Sailors' saint
 - 5 Supplant
 - 6 Smelly critter
 - 7 Seven-ounce bottle
 - 8 Swell, to surfers
 - 9 Stout
 - 10 Sea dog
 - 16 Speech
 - 17 Showy parrot
 - 18 Sherman who coached the Giants
 - 20 Separator producers
 - 21 Statuette for Streep
 - 22 Sobs
 - 24 Silly goose
 - 25 Simian
 - 27 Skinflint
 - 31 Sets right
 - 33 "Seven" star
 - 34 Sighed cry
 - 35 Shred
 - 36 Stat for Clemens
 - 37 Supply with crew
 - 39 Shout to the torero
 - 40 Scandal subject

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Yesterday's answer

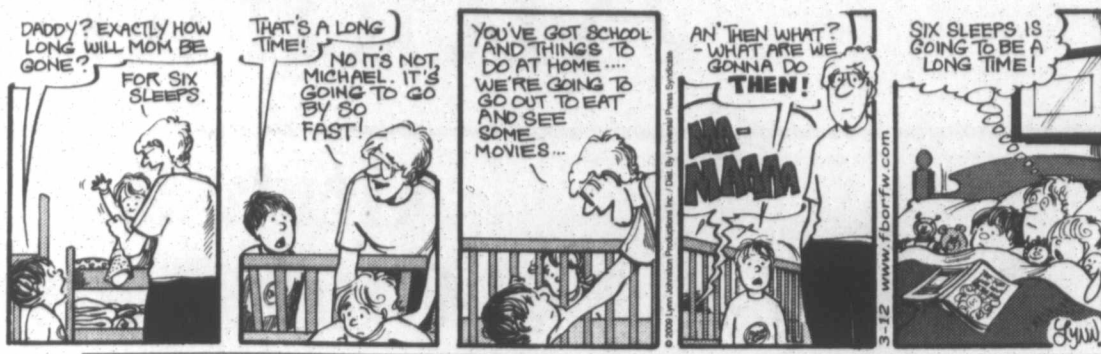
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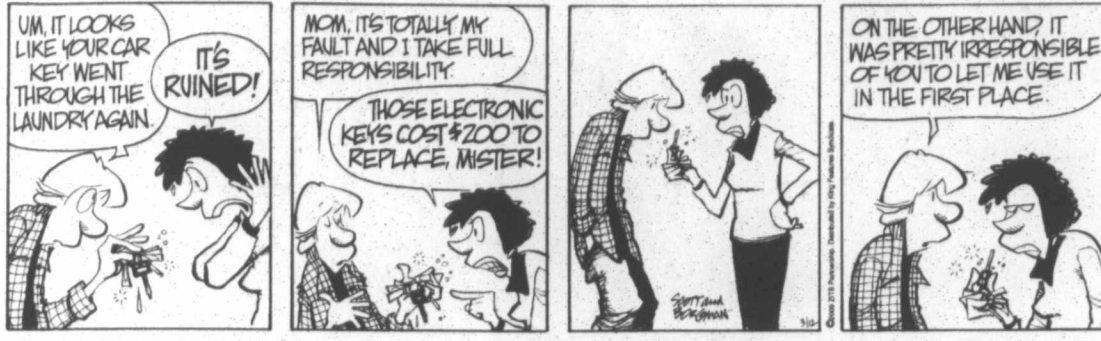
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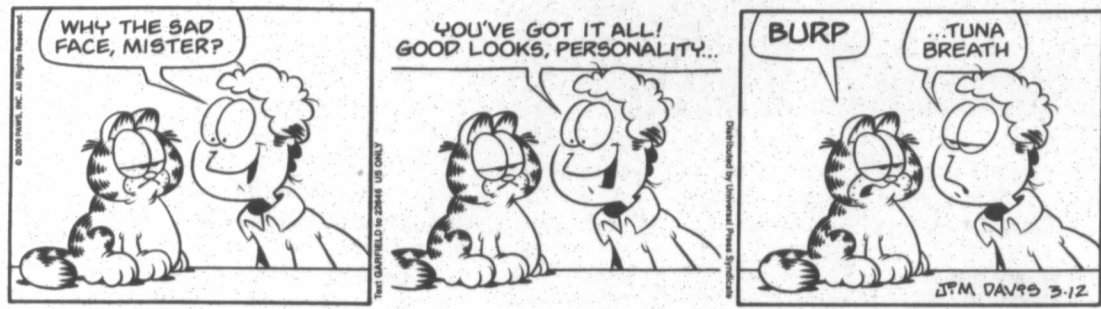
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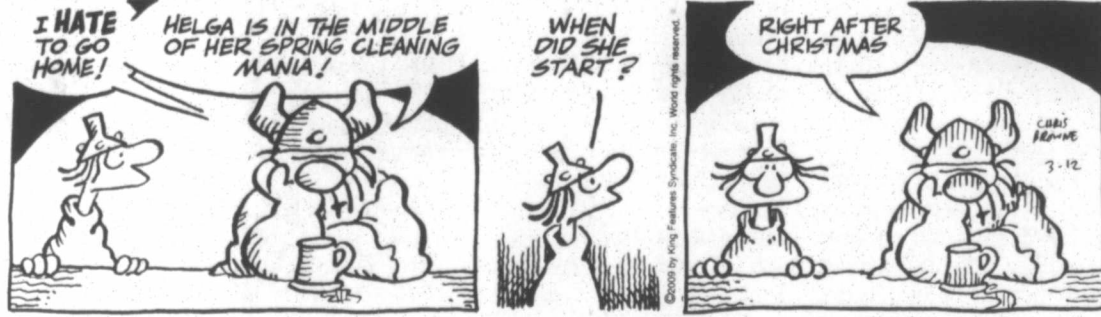
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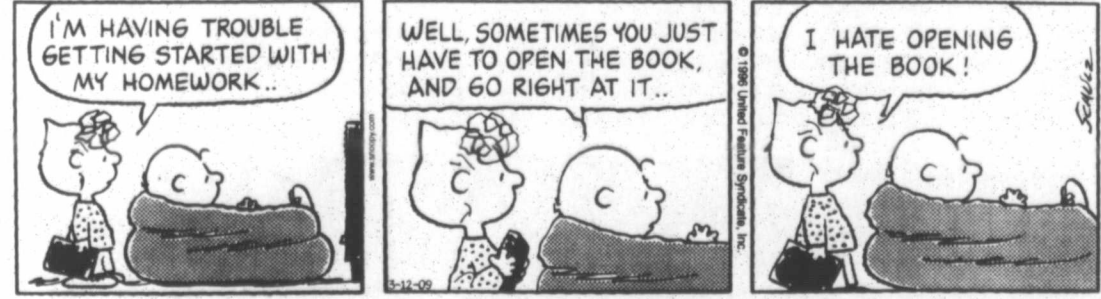
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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Allow me to offer kudos to "Joe in Pennsylvania" (Dec. 31), who wrote that he prefers wearing skirts at home, on errands and at church. I grew up in southwestern Asia where skirts, sarongs and robes are common daily apparel for men. I have been somewhat surprised by the disapproving looks and downright hostility I have encountered in this country any time I have chosen to leave my home wearing anything other than pants. I look forward to a day

when more people in the USA recognize that pants are a relatively new phenomenon in the world. Men who prefer skirts as a mode of dress are not all weirdos or terrorists.

So, congratulations to Joe, who has not only the fortitude to wear what he pleases, but also to his family members, community and church members for respecting that choice. -- KARL, KILT SUPPORTER IN FLORIDA

DEAR KARL: I heard from men and women

across the United States and beyond who wrote supporting Joe in his decision to wear skirts. Many of them suggested he contact Utilikilts, a company based in Seattle, which manufactures a line of kilts for the modern man. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: To Joe's jackass relatives who start rumors about him because he wears skirts for comfort, I have one word for him: "Utilikilt." They are made in all sorts of different styles and fabrics -- from work kilts to fancy dress kilts -- and they are male-specific. Plus he can then use my favorite kilt joke: "You know why they're called 'kilts'? Because if ye call 'em 'skirts,' ye'll be kilt." -- ANN FROM KANSAS CITY, MO.

DEAR ABBY: Three cheers to Joe and to you for your answer regarding his wearing skirts. While skirts may not be appropriate for riding a horse or motorcycle riding, they make perfect sense as casual attire, potentially even business attire.

I find it interesting that women have won the "right" to wear pants at will, and their sexuality is not questioned. However, when a man dons a skirt, his masculinity falls under suspicion, unless he's wearing a kilt and is involved in macho activities. Then the question most asked becomes, "What are you wearing under that?" My reply to that question is, "Do you ask that of women

wearing skirts?" -- RAY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY: I had a good laugh after reading the letter from Joe. My husband dresses exclusively in kilts throughout the summer, much of the winter and whenever he works for my designing business. If someone calls his kilt a skirt, he smiles and tells them, "It's only a skirt if I'm wearing pumps with it." A good chuckle generally diffuses any discomfort of bystanders.

Good luck, Joe. I hope you continue to set fashion rather than to follow it. -- A KILTHER'S WIFE

DEAR ABBY: Someone should send Joe's family to American Samoa and see if they will still snicker at the

men. We grow NFL linebackers here, and they all wear "skirts." The Samoan lavalava is a wraparound "skirt" worn by Polynesian men and hardly a girlish trend. -- AMUSED IN SAMOA

DEAR ABBY: My husband is a "skirt" wearer. They are called kilts. We actually receive more comments at church when he doesn't wear one and opts for pants instead.

A word of warning to the ladies, as a co-worker of my husband's has found out: Do NOT do a "kilt check." It is considered sexual harassment. -- JENNY FROM TEXAS

THE PAMPA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

3 Personal

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

19 Situations

I offer residential & office cleaning services at affordable rates. Give me a call (505)331-0192 or (806)669-1872. Esther Almanza.

21 Help Wanted

NOTICE

Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

NEED Maintenance Man.

Must have tools & transportation. Apply at 800 N. Nelson.

NEED Weekend RN,

Fri. & Sat., 10:30pm-7am. St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle, 537-3194.

ATTEBURY Grain LLC

is looking for a Full-Time Operator for the Pampa location. Agriculture exp. is a plus. Applications can be picked up at the main office in White Deer.

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needed for McLean, Texas. Applicant must be a licensed Texas nursing home administrator. Salary is negotiable based on exp. Benefits include: 401K, health ins. allowance, generous paid time off plan. Please email resumes to:

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or call 940-727-9370.

Company website: www.creative-solutionsinhealthcare.com

DIRECTOR OF NURSES

needed for Wellington, Texas. Applicant must be a Registered Nurse. Salary is negotiable based on exp. Benefits include: 401K, health ins. avail., generous paid time off plan. Please email resumes to:

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or call 940-727-9370.

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IMMEDIATE

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needed for McLean Care Center. Apply at 605 W. 7th or call 806-779-2469 for more info!

NEED Class A CDL Drivers.

Nights & weekends. Tank endorsements for work in Canadian, Wheeler & Higgins area. Must have transportation & phone. Call 806-323-9908. TCP&S, 310 Birch St. Canadian TX.

HELP wanted in a chiropractic office.

Clinical exp. desired. Ins. exp. a plus! Send reply to Box 75 c/o Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa.

OPPORTUNITY for Part-Time In-Store Food Demonstrator

Thurs.-Sun. for ASM at local supermarket. Apply to www.samplefood.net

48 Trees/Shrubs

M&R Tree & Shrub Complete Serv., Free Est. 10% Senior disc. 273-2370, 433-4937.

50 Building Suppl.

White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

60 Household

COOKSTOVES, bedroom furn., freezers & complete home furnishings. 662-7557.

69 Misc.

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

SCALPING & BASIC LAWN CARE.

CALL 662-0198 after 5pm

DINETTES and Furniture.

Red Barn, 1420 S. Barnes. We buy estates. Sat. 10-5. 665-2767

DEB'S Quick Stop,

1106 Alcock, Pampa, 665-8300. Now Selling Liquor, Wine & Beer!!

21 Help Wanted

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

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Spacious 1&2 bdr. apts. Friendly neighbors. Reas. rates. 665-1875.

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NUMEROUS houses in Pampa area. 2 & 3 bdr. houses, 2 bdr. duplexes, 1 bdr. apts. All reasonably priced. 665-4274

3 bdr., 1 3/4 ba., ext. lrg. livingroom.

Washer dryer/dishwasher hook-ups. 662-9775.

3 bdr. in Pampa. Coffee

st. References required. Call 610-929-1761, 806-374-4360.

3 bedroom, 2 bath, central

h/a, 1100 Seneca in front of Travis school, ref. req. Call 440-1969.

3 bdr., 1 ba., gar., lrg. backyard,

in great neighborhood. 2221 N. Dwight (in Travis School district). 664-7792, 662-6875.

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hookups. \$450 mo. \$450 dep. 1213 Garland. 665-5473

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Killer of San Antonio woman executed

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — More than 11 years ago, Erick Martinez awoke to his mother's cries and tried to defend her from an attack by a knife-wielding intruder at their San Antonio home.

On Wednesday night, he watched as the man who also stabbed him was put to death.

"It wasn't difficult," he said after witnessing the execution of 38-year-old Luis Salazar. "I was kind of looking forward to it."

Salazar was condemned for fatally stabbing Martha Sanchez, 28, after slipping through a window of her San Antonio home and climbing into her bed as she and her three children slept. Erick, then a 10-year-old and her oldest child, was stabbed when he came to his mother's aid as she tried to fight off her attacker.

Salazar became the second condemned killer executed in Texas in as many days and the 12th this year in the nation's most active death penalty state.

He expressed love to friends and relatives, asked for forgiveness and laughed several times from the death chamber gurney.

"My heart is going ba-bump, ba-bump, ba-bump," Salazar said, adding a "Hah, hah!"

He never acknowledged the crime, however, or addressed the mother, son, two sisters and brother of his victim who watched through a window. After reciting the Lord's Prayer and in the midst of a confession asking for forgiveness for the "sins that I can remember," the lethal drugs took effect. Nine minutes later he was pronounced dead.

"I would have thought any person in their right mind, any person with a heart, would have some

type of feeling or remorse toward us," Robert Sanchez, whose sister was murdered, said. "But that didn't seem to take place."

"I didn't expect it," Gloria Rodriguez, Sanchez's mother said.

"I didn't expect him to apologize," Erick added.

No last-day appeals were filed to try to stop the lethal injection. "There is just nothing left legally," Salazar's attorney, Michael Gross, said earlier this week.

Salazar testified at his trial that after a night of marijuana, cocaine and drinking he thought he was in his own house just before dawn Oct. 11, 1997, and that Sanchez and her three children — including an infant and a toddler in her bedroom — were intruders.

Evidence, however, showed the telephone wires at the home next door to where Salazar previously lived had been cut. Also, Sanchez's injuries indicated Salazar had tried to rape her before she was fatally stabbed. He denied cutting the phone lines or the attempted rape.

Sanchez's 2-year-old daughter was asleep in the same bed and a 6-month-old son was in a crib nearby. The woman's screams woke Erick, who was asleep in an adjacent room.

When he went into her room and tried to take the knife from the intruder, a man he recognized as a former neighbor, he was stabbed in the chest as his mother yelled at him to run outside and get help.

Leaving a trail of blood, the boy pounded on the doors of homes until he found a neighbor to respond.

Almost a year later, the boy showed a Bexar County jury the scars from his wound as he testified at

Salazar's capital murder trial. A neighbor testified how she changed the clothes of the 2-year-old who had her mother's blood all over her.

Almost four years before the attack, Salazar had pleaded guilty and received two years probation for misdemeanor assault for a sexual attack on an 18-year-old mentally disabled high school student. And some four years before that, he was given probation for four counts of aggravated robbery for holding up convenience stores.

Richard Langlois, one of Salazar's trial lawyers, said the previous convictions were difficult to overcome in the minds of jurors who had been asked to spare Salazar's life because he had endured an abusive childhood.

"He had a violent history," said Bert Richardson, the former Bexar County assistant district attorney who prosecuted Salazar. Testimony also showed that when he'd lived nearby, he made sexual passes at Sanchez, whose husband had helped Salazar get a job at a Kmart. Sanchez's husband was at work the night of the slaying.

A neighbor who answered Erick's cries for help saw a man riding a bicycle fleeing from the house. Salazar called police later that day and said he wanted to surrender.

On Tuesday night, a Fort Worth man, James Martinez, 34, was executed for a double slaying more than eight years ago.

At least four other condemned Texas inmates have execution dates, including three next month.

ARRIVING IN STYLE



submitted photo
Victoria Corbitt is helped from a limo as she arrives for school by her uncle John Corbitt visiting from Arkansas, Wednesday, March 4 at Travis elementary. Parents are Rev. and Mrs. Ben Corbitt.

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EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

• **Top O' Texas Republican Women** will meet from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 8 at the Pampa Senior Citizen Center. Lunch will begin at 11:30, the meeting will begin around noon.

• **Pampa Regional Medical Center and Accolade Home Health Care** will hold a Community Health Fair from 1-5 p.m. Monday, March 23 in MK Brown Auditorium. Checks on Cholesterol, blood sugar, blood pressure and body fat measurement will be available. A blood drive will be held in conjunction with the health fair. There will be giveaways, prizes, the public is invited to attend.

• **The Rushing Wind Emmaus** community will meet Saturday, March 14, at 6 p.m. at the Waka Christian Center. A potluck supper will be served followed by a praise and worship service and training for sponsors. A nursery will be provided. A women's walk is scheduled for April 23-26.

Pampa Moose Lodge will hold a Texas Holdem Open Tournament beginning at 6 p.m. at the Pampa Moose Lodge, 401 E. Brown. There is a \$50 buy-in with rebuys until 9 p.m. Eight places will be paid. For more information call Larry Ingram, 898-9435, William Ma, 886-8658 or th Moose Lodge after 6 p.m., 665-4661.

• **Gray County Genealogical Society** will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month, except for December. 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.

• **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: 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.

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

• **Fawn Lake Press** is offering free "Proud to be an American" flag decals to anyone sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Fawn Lake Press, 54 Fawn Lake Rd.,

Durango, CO 81301. Active servicemen and women need not send a SASE to receive the free 2 x 3-inch color decals. Fawn Lake will pay their postage.

• **Manhattanville My Soldier** is seeking volunteers to "adopt" a deployed United States Servicemember. To find out more, visit www.mysoldier.com on-line or write to: Manhattanville College My Soldier Department, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase, NY 10577.

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

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

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