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What recession? Sales tax receipts set new record

by David Bowser
dbowser@thepampanews.com
Pampa set a new record for sale tax receipts when their check came in from the state comptroller's office this month.

"It was extremely good," said City Manager Richard Morris. He said it was the highest amount that it's been in the last couple of years.

"It exceeds any month of 2007 or 2008," Morris said.

The funds returned to the city reflect activity two months previous to the check arriving. The February tax check from the state was for December, 2008, sales.

"It looks like everyone had a good Christmas," Morris said.

He said that the businesses he had visited with during the Christmas holidays had told him that they were having a good year in year over year sales.

"It looks pretty good," said Assistant City Manager Shane Stokes.

"For this year," Morris said, "we're 16.03 percent over budget to date."

The city's fiscal year runs from October to September.

The total sale tax collected in December totaled \$642,560.45. The next largest month was the November 2008 sales tax check for taxes collected in September. The total

collection then was \$596,052.92.

A half of a percent of what Pampa gets back from the State goes to fund the Pampa Economic Development Corporation. This month of the \$624,560.45, the PEDC received \$160,640.11.

Gary Sutherland, president of the Pampa Economic Development Corporation, which is funded from the sales tax, said it was the most the

PEDC had ever gotten. He said November's sales tax had been the most until December's numbers were in.

The city had budgeted for \$1,556,289.87 through February. The new check means they've received \$1,805,764.66 so far this fiscal year, or slightly more than 16 percent above what they had expected.

RECORD— cont. on page 8

County in fine financial shape

by David Bowser
dbowser@thepampanews.com
"The county is in strong financial shape," said Cory Joiner with Dozier, Pickens and Francis, certified public accountant firm.

The Amarillo firm presented the Gray County Commissioners Court with their audit report for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2008, at the commission's meeting Friday.

Joiner, going over the report with commissioners, said the county had a very healthy balance sheet.

Gray County Judge Richard Peet noted that the county's indebtedness is low. It is about \$1.6 million.

Joiner said that Gray County held healthy reserves, mostly in cash.

Peet said he attributed that County Auditor Elaine Morris. Peet said the reserves had been built up over the past several years.

The one area Joiner questioned was with regard to insurance. He said the reserves were not as strong as they could be. The reserves there were only a little more than a month, but Peet said the county has already addressed that issue. He said a new health insurance plan would begin in April.

"You're not the only group have difficulty with that," Joiner told the commission with regard to the health insurance.

Joiner termed the retirement fund ratio of 95.36 percent incredibly strong. He said it was much stronger than most private companies.

The commission approved requests from Gryphon Production Company to bore beneath County Road 11 and County Road 9-1/2 and County Road I for flow lines.

Comptroller distributes \$665 million in local sales tax

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said today the state collected \$1.92 billion in sales tax revenue in January, up 3.9 percent compared to January 2008.

"Growth in state sales tax collections remains modest," Combs said. "While overall growth has continued for the first five months of fiscal 2009, collections from important sectors such as retail trade and construction have decreased."

Combs sent \$665.5 million in local sales tax to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts, up 3.9 percent compared to sales tax distributions to local governments in February 2008.

January state sales tax collections and February's local sales tax allocations represent sales made in

December, but also include earlier sales by businesses that report sales tax to the Comptroller on a quarterly or annual basis.

The Comptroller sent \$445.2 million in sales tax to Texas cities, up 2.5 percent compared to February 2008 payments. Texas counties received February sales tax payments of \$41.4 million, up 9.9 percent compared to last February.

The 148 special purpose taxing districts around the state received \$26.7 million in sales tax, up 24 percent compared to February 2008. Ten local transit systems received \$152.1 million in February sales tax payments, up 3.3 percent compared to a year ago.

The Comptroller's next local sales tax allocation will be made on Friday, March 13.

PHOTO CONTEST TIME



The 2008 "Pride" photo contest winner was this photo of one-year-old Emma Grace Searl, sent in by Linda Searl. Submit your photos for the 2009 contest, taken in Gray County since January 1, 2008, of friends and family or scenes of Gray County by 5 p.m. March 6 and you could win \$100.

Send us your candid photos and win \$100!

It is time for the annual Amateur Photography Contest sponsored by The Pampa News.

This year the contest will be divided into two categories - "Family and Friends" and "Gray County Scenes."

The deadline for entries is 5 p.m. Friday, March 6.

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.

"We are looking for non-posed snapshots of people doing things together in the family and friends category," explained Pampa News Editor Betsy Phillips. "They can also be individual shots, but the key is to make them candid photos that show a slice of life in Gray County."

"For the Gray County Scenes category, we want our readers to put on their creative hats and send us their best shots of local scenery. Photos may be sunsets, storms, old buildings, cityscapes, wildlife or domestic animals - in short, the 'pretty' everyday things we sometimes drive by without even taking notice."

The photos will be judged on creativity and general appeal.

In the Family and Friends category, the photos that "tell a story" will also be

given a higher rating.

All photos submitted to the contest must be taken by the person submitting it 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.

Tickets for the March 9th concert of the Sea Chanters are still available at The Pampa News office. Don't miss this exceptional group!

Announcing the 80th Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet!
February 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the MK Brown Civic Center
Nationally Known Motivational Speaker, Pat Johns will be our speaker. Please visit Mr. Johns' website at: <http://www.pat-johns.com/>
Contact the Chamber Office @ 669-3241 for ticket information.

PAMPA FORECAST

Tuesday **Wednesday** **Thursday**



High 73
Low 34



High 56
Low 21



High 53
Low 21

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 73. Wind chill values between 31 and 40 early. Windy, with a west southwest wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 30 and 35 mph. Winds could gust as high as 50 mph.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 34. Wind chill values between 25 and 30. Windy, with a west wind between 20 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 56. Northwest wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21. North northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 53. North northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 21. West wind around 10 mph.

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Grain prices

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of White Deer for the Friday's close. There are no markets open today.

Wheat.....	\$4.70
Milo.....	\$4.61
Corn.....	\$6.31

Emergency Services

SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests.

Thursday, Feb. 12
Rafael Vaquez Feliz, 40, of Pampa was arrested by the Department of Public Safety for eight warrant charges.

Karen Hathcoat, 45, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for fraudulent possession of a controlled substance by perscription, schedule III and IV.

Jason Kelly Mulanax, 31, of Pampa was arrested by the Pampa Police Department for possession of a controlled substance, delivery of marijuana.

Steven Lee Cook, 51, was arrested by the PPD for possession of marijuana.

Destiny Renee Fitzer, 17, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for delivery of marijuana, and possession of a controlled substance.

Patrick Wayne Foster, 37, of Amarillo was arrested

ed by DPS for theft of property.

Harlan Wayne Sealman, 48, was arrested by the PPD for possession of marijuana, and public intoxication.

Joe Jacob Rodriguez, 18, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for public intoxication.

Tharron Christopher Rodger, 38, was arrested by the PPD for no valid driver's license.

Marisa Ramirez, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance.

James Robert Ostercamp, of Pampa, was arrested by the PPD for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Valentine Carol Bryant

was arrested by the PPD for possession of drug paraphernalia, no valid driver's license, and no insurance.

Friday, Feb. 13

Brett Wayne Marney, 21, of McLean was arrested by the GCSO for motion to revoke probation for theft of property and theft by check.

Earline Sharon Folks, 64, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated, second

Sheriff — cont. on page 8

For the Record

Obituaries

Mary Lue Williams, 76

Pampa, Texas — Mary Lue Williams, 76, died February 14, 2009 in Pampa, Texas. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

William H. "Bill" Dorsey, 79

Mannford, Oklahoma — William H. "Bill" Dorsey, 79, died February 9, 2009 in Mannford, Oklahoma.

Mr. Dorsey was cremated and will be buried in the Groom Cemetery at a later date.

Mr. Dorsey was born April 22, 1929 in Groom to W. H. and Tassie Dorsey. He was a former resident of Groom and White Deer, and was the owner of an air-conditioning company in Florida for many years.

He loved to fish. He was a veteran of the U. S. Marine Corps, serving during World War II in China and bases in the U. S. He was preceded in death by his wife: Retha Dorsey in 2006; a brother: Leroy Dorsey; and an infant sister: Irma Joyce Dorsey.

Survivors include one son; Ronald Dorsey of Florida, three daughters; Sherri Rainey and Terri McCalister, both of Florida, and Michelle Dorsey of Brownwood,

one brother; Jerry Dorsey and wife JoLean of Pottsboro, three sisters, Arvella Himebaugh of Surprise, Arizona, Norma Slagle and husband Frank of Pampa and Lavada Finney and husband Tom of Greeley, Colorado, special friend; Juanita Ausbrook of Mannford, Oklahoma; and a host of family and friends.

MEMORIALS: American Cancer Society, c/o Gerry Caylor, 2130 Charles, Pampa, Texas

Kermit E. Rasco, 87

Pampa, Texas — Kermit E. Rasco, 87, died February 15, 2009 in Amarillo, Texas.

Service will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, February 17, 2009, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with Glen Walton and Dean Whaley, ministers of the Bell Ave. Church of Christ, officiating.

Military graveside rites will be at Memory Gardens Cemetery courtesy of Altus Air Force Base. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Rasco was born on July 7, 1921 in Sipe

Springs, Texas. Kermit has been a lifelong resident of Pampa. He married Vera Louise Miller on June 6, 1946 in Pampa. She preceded him in death on February 19, 1995. Mr. Rasco was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force serving during WWII. He retired from Cabot Corp. in 1983 after 33 years of service. Kermit was a member of Mary Ellen Church of Christ where he served as an elder of 24 years. He was preceded by a son K. E. Rasco, Jr. in 1950, a daughter Sharon Rasco in 1947, 3 sisters: Dorothea Hernandez, Evelyn Hodges and Ruth Thomas.

Survivors include one daughter; Cynthia Ann Reed of Amarillo, one foster daughter; Glenda Bunch of Shamrock, one brother; James Rasco and wife Kay of Ball, Louisiana, three sisters; Peggy McBride of Belle Chasse, Louisiana, Brenda Fitzgerald of Marrero, Louisiana, and Jackie Baker of Odessa, a brother-in-law, Frank Hernandez of Pampa, seven grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and one great-great granddaughter.

MEMORIALS: High Plains Children's Home, 11461 S. Western Street, Amarillo, Texas 79118.

was arrested by the PPD for possession of drug paraphernalia, no valid driver's license, and no insurance.

Earline Sharon Folks, 64, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated, second

Sheriff — cont. on page 8

Cash Five Texas results

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 37-20-19-12-34.
Number matching five of five: 0.
Matching four of five: 82. Prize: \$483
Matching three of five: 2,619. Prize: \$11
Matching two of five: 28,629. Prize: \$2
Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.

Winning Lotto Texas numbers

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 44-7-4-13-35-48.
Number matching six of six: 0.
Number matching five of six: 21. Prize: \$2,370.
Number matching four of six: 1,481. Prize: \$49.
Number matching three of six: 30,896. Prize: \$3.
Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$19 million.

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API MEETING, Thurs. Feb. 19, Pampa Country Club. Social hr. 6:30pm, Mexican Buffet-(\$15 ea.) 7pm. Speaker Jim Bacon. Membership avail. at door.

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Rasco

Please sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com



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 6.

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.

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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@thepampa-news.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.

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



Chamber

Annual chamber banquet is Thursday

One last reminder! If you have not yet purchased your tickets for the Annual Chamber Banquet, please do so, or call the Chamber office at 669-3241 to let us know you are coming so we can give an accurate number to the caterer.

This is the 80th Annual Chamber Banquet and it promises to be very special. Presenting our program will be nationally known motivational speaker, Pat Johns. It will not be an ordinary ispeechi, but a program to entertain, enlighten, and motivate all of us to live a better and more productive life--whatever our occupation or age. Pat has presented such programs to both small and large groups with exciting outcomes, and we are elated to have been able to schedule him. Preceding his program, we will be served a tossed salad, rib-eye steak, baked potato (with all the trimmings), mixed veggies, and cobbler. The final event of the evening will be the revealing of the Citizen of the Year whose name will not be revealed until that time. If you know (or think you know) who this person is, please keep it to yourself until Thursday night in order to add to the mystery and anticipation.

After a couple of meetings with officials of Centramedia and ERF Wireless, I am very excited about Centramedia's future growth in Pampa, and another reason to be iPampa Proud and Positive. Centramedia and ERF Wireless (home office in League City, Texas) recently merged to form a larger, stronger, higher tech company, with added services. Clay Rice, Kathy Cota, and myself met with Michael Mochle, Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing for ERF this past week and Chris Dodd with the local office and learned about their high speed wireless services which include encrypted, secure wireless for several applications, including banking, where security is paramount. They also have established wireless networks that cover many parts of Texas with increased bandwidth in order to wire-

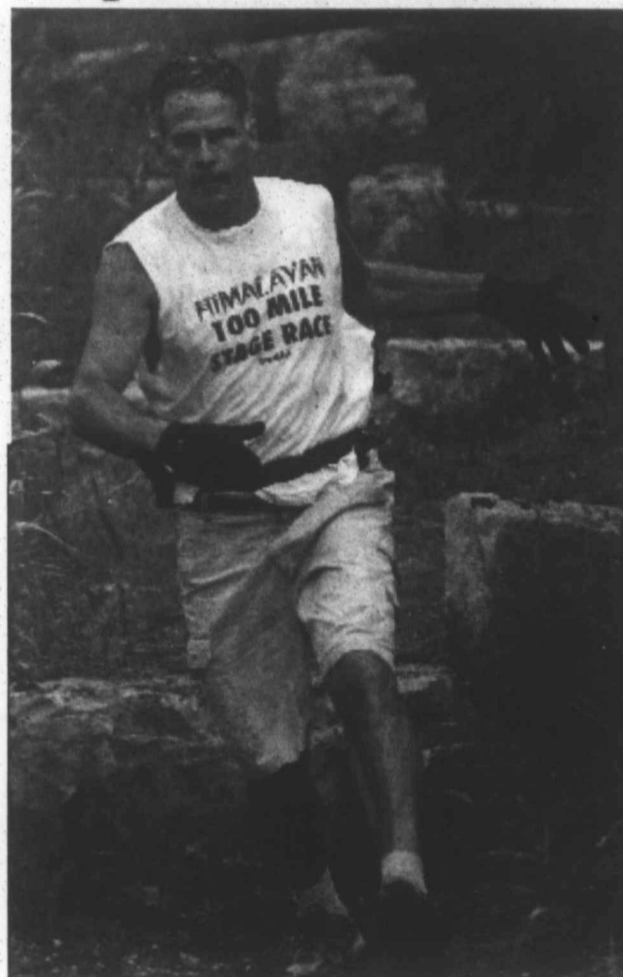
*You are cordially invited to attend the
80th Annual
Chamber of Commerce Banquet,
Which will be held at 7:00 p.m.
on Thursday, February 19th, 2009
in the M.K. Brown Auditorium.
Tickets are \$25.00 each and are
Available at the Chamber Office.*

lessly monitor wind turbines, oil wells and/or other such applications. Soon (if not already) the Pampa office will have access to portable wireless antenna systems that can be put into service within days if not hours.

Coming up this summer: NewsChannel 10 will be in Pampa this summer to broadcast live the 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. newcasts. We have met with some of their representatives in order to begin making tentative plans. Besides the food, fun and prizes, we will have the opportunity to showcase various Pampa people and places. One of the feature events during this time will be an opportunity for local talent to try out to see if they can advance to the finals at the Big Texan in Amarillo and the later big Gala. The date will be one day on or between July 20 and July 24.

See you Thursday night at the Chamber Banquet.

Welcome motivational speaker Pat Johns



Pat Johns

"It's not about running, it's about living. It's about how people change when they choose to do difficult things!"

Professionally, Pat is a journalist, photographer, corporate presenter and leadership expert. His photos and articles are published internationally in an array of magazines, including: Runner's World, Ultra Running, Health & Fitness, Life and Style, and WE.

An expert athlete, Pat has competed in over 60 ultramarathons and marathons worldwide. Marathons measure 26.2 miles; an ultra-marathon exceeds that definition. His sport: "endurance trail running." Upon completing the 2005 Himalayan 100, Pat is the single figure in history to finish the high-altitude 100 mile running race on the India-Nepal borders four times. Pat's focus now includes his work and adventure in Africa, which is the topic of his second book: "Echoes Through the Great Rift Valley-The Winding Road to Livingstonia"

Exploring the motivation and mindset of the few elite endurance athletes who run the grueling Himalayan 100 has yielded Pat's unique understanding of the common-core values of these diverse competitors from around the world. This perspective has formulated and shaped his dynamic "Power of the Five Footprints" Presentation. As an award-winning corporate leader, he translates his exceptional message to business and life!

Watch for his latest book: Footprints in the Shadow of Giants. Pat presents for a wide range of audiences: corporate to college, across America to the far reaches of Russia and Africa. His highly-acclaimed program "The Himalayan 100 and the Power of the Five C's" carries compelling endorsements including that of the Director of the Smithsonian Institute. A frequent TV and talk-radio guest, Pat produced programming for KERA - National Public Radio.

Pat inspires, enlightens, energizes and entertains his audiences with a dynamic wow factor. Ultimately, he magically weaves his vibrant photographs, his colorful stories and powerful insightful beliefs, delivering a call to action to step out of our COMFORT ZONE to find genuine fulfillment in our personal and professional lives.



A&T YardService— pictured center is Owner Pedro Arreola with staff and members of the Top O' Texans Gold Coats.



RE/MAX Hometown— pictured center is Owners Jackie and Vanessa Swindell and members of the Top O' Texans Gold Coats.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Monday, Feb. 16, the 47th day of 2009. There are 318 days left in the year. This is Presidents' Day.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Feb. 16, 1862, during the Civil War, some 14,000 Confederate soldiers surrendered at Fort Donelson, Tenn. (Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's victory earned him the nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant.")

On this date:
In 1804, Lt. Stephen Decatur led a successful raid into Tripoli Harbor to burn the U.S. Navy frigate Philadelphia, which had fallen into the hands of pirates.

In 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was organized in New York City.

'The heart may think it knows better: the senses know that absence blots people out. We have really no absent friends.'

— Elizabeth Bowen,
Irish-born author

In 1918, Lithuania proclaimed its independence, which lasted until World War II. (It again declared independence in 1990).

In 1923, the burial chamber of King Tutankhamen's recently unearthed tomb was unsealed in Egypt by English archaeologist Howard Carter.

In 1945, American troops landed on the island of Corregidor in the Philippines during World War II.

In 1959, Fidel Castro became premier of Cuba a month and a half after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1968, the nation's first 911 emergency telephone system was inaugurated, in Haleyville, Ala.

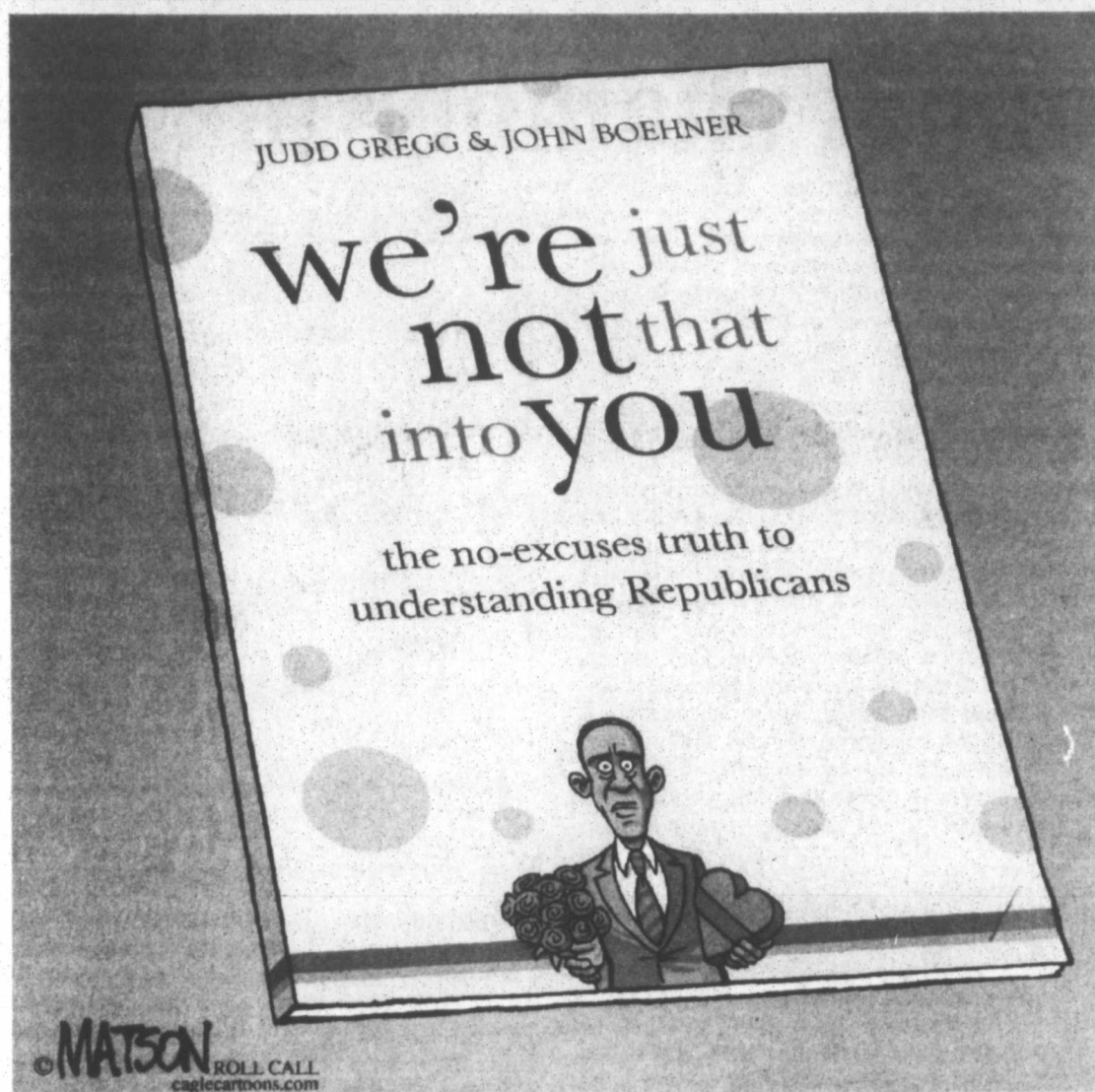
In 1977, Janani Luwum, the Anglican archbishop of Uganda, and two other men were killed in what Ugandan authorities said was an automobile accident.

In 1988, seven people were shot to death during an office rampage in Sunnyvale, Calif., by a man who was obsessed with a co-worker. (The gunman, Richard Farley, is under sentence of death.)

In 1998, a China Airlines Airbus A300-600R trying to land in fog near Taipei, Taiwan, crashed, killing all 196 people on board.

Ten years ago: Enraged Kurds seized embassies and held hostages across Europe following Turkey's arrest of Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan. Testimony began in the Jasper, Texas, trial of John William King, charged with murder in the gruesome dragging death of James Byrd Jr. (King was later convicted and sentenced to death.)

Today's Birthdays: Singer Patty Andrews is 91. Kim Jong Il, the president of North Korea, is 67. Actor Jeremy Bulloch is 63. Actor Pete Postlethwaite is 63. Actor William Katt is 58. Actor LeVar Burton is 52. Actor-rapper Ice-T is 51. Actress Lisa Loring is 51. Tennis Hall of Fame player John McEnroe is 50. Rock musician Andy Taylor is 48. Rock musician Dave Lombardo (Slayer) is 44. Rock musician Taylor Hawkins (Foo Fighters) is 37. Singer Sam Salter is 34. Rapper Lupe Fiasco is 27. Actor Mike Weinberg is 16.



All about trust— or lack of it

By LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — It's not bipartisanship that's on life support in Washington. It's basic trust and confidence.

The government this week was all about projecting reasons to believe things will get better:

That lawmakers will be able to handle the economic rescue quickly and effectively; that President Barack Obama can handle the crisis with a competent and steady team; that he can work productively with a Congress controlled by his own party.

Indeed, that Democrats in Congress can work with each other.

Instead, this week's rollout of Obama's bank-rescue update bombed. His treasury secretary was pilloried for a less-than-surefooted debut. His second nominee for commerce secretary said, on second thought, no thanks.

And on Capitol Hill, the Democratic leader of the House let her Senate counterpart announce a deal on the history-making economic stimulus plan and convene negotiators to work out the last differences. Ai and then stood him up.

Why? She was following Ronald Reagan's famous dictum: Trust, but verify.

"We wanted to see the language" of the bill before endorsing it, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told reporters the next day.

Pelosi and Reid did finally agree on the package, \$787 billion to get consumers spending and companies rehiring. And Congress moved to pass it Friday, meeting the Democrats' self-imposed deadline and allowing lawmakers to leave for official trips around the globe.

Like anything that becomes the law of the land, this legislation was succeeding because it was in a lot of people's interest. Perhaps, as White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel suggested, its very passage should reassure investors and consumers.

But in the process, Washington did not exactly radiate the confidence its leaders are trying to inspire.

Obama's presidency and the 111th Congress are only a few weeks old,

wrestling with an economic meltdown beyond the experience of anyone charting the course to recovery.

Lawmakers are ill-tempered because their constituents are angry and letting them know about it. Some key relationships are new or rejiggered because of last fall's elections.

The jitters are showing everywhere, from the false starts to not-for-attribution sniping.

Obama asked the nation to trust him to slow the economic slide. But three weeks into his administration, he's still getting his footing.

Timothy Geithner, the chief of Obama's economic team, looked nervous and younger than his years this week when he rolled out a bank bailout plan that lacked the details Wall Street wanted. The stock market tanked.

And late Thursday, Obama's second nominee for commerce secretary, Republican Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, abruptly withdrew from consideration, citing "irresolvable conflicts" on key policy items. Obama's first choice for commerce, his nominee for health secretary and his pick as a federal efficiency overseer all had withdrawn earlier.

Obama joked about the latest problem, wondering aloud in Springfield, Ill., if Abraham Lincoln had ever thought about the commerce job. White House chief of staff Emanuel acknowledged that some might see the administration's hiring problems as amateur hour, but he suggested Bill Clinton's transition, which included Rahm, was even shakier.

But whatever the spin, the situation hardly was a confidence builder for the nation.

Neither was the way Congress was dealing with the bank bailout.

The first, deeply unpopular \$700 billion bailout bill last year contained no strong requirements for recipients to account for the taxpayer money. That was Congress' doing.

But members of the House Financial Services Committee took it out this week on eight CEOs of the nation's biggest banks who had been the first to receive the bailout money. It almost didn't matter what the

banking titans had to say for themselves at a televised hearing. They were the faces behind a housing crisis that escalated into a recession that makes it hard to raise any kind of cash, let alone campaign contributions. And every member of the House is up for re-election in 2010.

House members ripped into the former masters of the universe.

One suggested they should be thrown in prison.

"America doesn't trust you anymore," railed Rep. Michael Capuano, D-Mass.

Many Americans feel the same way about Congress. And some members of Congress feel that way about each other.

On Wednesday, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, his leadership team and moderate Republicans at his side, triumphantly announced on live television that the House and Senate had agreed on new legislation to bail out troubled industries and boost homeowners.

Pelosi did not respond.

Reid then lit the stately parlor named for Lyndon Baines Johnson for television and instructed his Senate negotiators to meet there with their House counterparts to iron out any remaining issues.

The senators waited. And waited. Pelosi, meanwhile, summoned Reid to her office for a talking-to. Finally, she signed onto the agreement, though that didn't stop the sniping between her aides and Reid's.

"One person's understanding of a spoken description might vary from another's," she said. "We wanted to see it. We wanted to remove all doubt that the purpose of the money was reflected in the language that was there."

Reagan? Or lawmakers' favorite euphemism, an "abundance of caution"?

"I don't want to come to you later and say, 'We thought it said yes and it said no,'" Pelosi said. "It said what we want it to say, and we're very pleased with that outcome."

EDITOR'S NOTE— Laurie Kellman has covered Congress and politics since 1997 for The Associated Press.

Editorial Thoughts

Houston Chronicle on retaining skilled scientists and engineers in an economic downturn:

The sight of ailing American industrial titans lined up in Washington for federal bailouts is enough to make one long for the days when oil companies making big profits were the ones caught in the populist cross-hairs.

Huge profits. What a concept! In hindsight, bulging corporate bottom lines would probably strike most taxpayers and politicians as a high-class problem they'd like to revisit.

Oil companies are still around, and some are making big profits, but they're not making many big head-

lines with oil prices down \$100 a barrel since last summer. Many if not most are feeling the same pain from the economic downturn as other businesses.

One headline the energy industry did make was in the Chronicle's Business section this week and it deserves a second look. The headline, "An industry intent on retention," was on the story by Chronicle business reporter Kristen Hays telling how companies are working to keep their technical talent through the current slump in prices (Business, Tuesday, Feb. 3).

This is sound corporate stewardship, and it deserves a favorable men-

tion. It's also a good thing for Houston. The industry is still reeling from that mass exodus of talent and the harmful message it sent. For the next decade or so, enrollments in engineering and geosciences education dropped, well, like a rock.

When the next boom came along, there was a pinching shortage of skilled people. These days, the shortage reveals itself in the exodus of retirees from the industry. Who will replace them? Budget-conscious companies are trying to hold onto engineers, geologists and other technical folks, Hays reported.

Smart companies are the

ones who can see beyond the current slump to the days when prices will rebound. Smart companies want to have the human resources on hand to make the most of the coming better days.

Texas can ill afford another cycle like the one the state endured in the 1980s. The energy business can ill afford another public-relations drubbing like the one it endured last year when pump prices spiked to \$4. The story of smart corporate stewardship reported by Hays is one the industry may wish to clip and save to show to its numerous and vociferous critics the next time pump prices shoot back up.

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

Randall Pribble
Publisher

rpribble@thepampanews.com

ReDonn Woods

Advertising Manager
advertising@thepampanews.com

Betsy Phillips

Editor
bphillips@thepampanews.com

Sue Pribble

Advertising Representative
advertising1@thepampanews.com

David Bowser

Reporter
dbowser@thepampanews.com

Beverly Taylor

Classified Advertising
classified@thepampanews.com

Rachel Stennett

Reporter
rstennett@thepampanews.com

Kera Kent

Circulation
circulation@thepampanews.com

Marcus Elkins

Press Supervisor

Carrie Hair

Accounting
bookkeeper@thepampanews.com

Chico Ramirez

Circulation Supervisor

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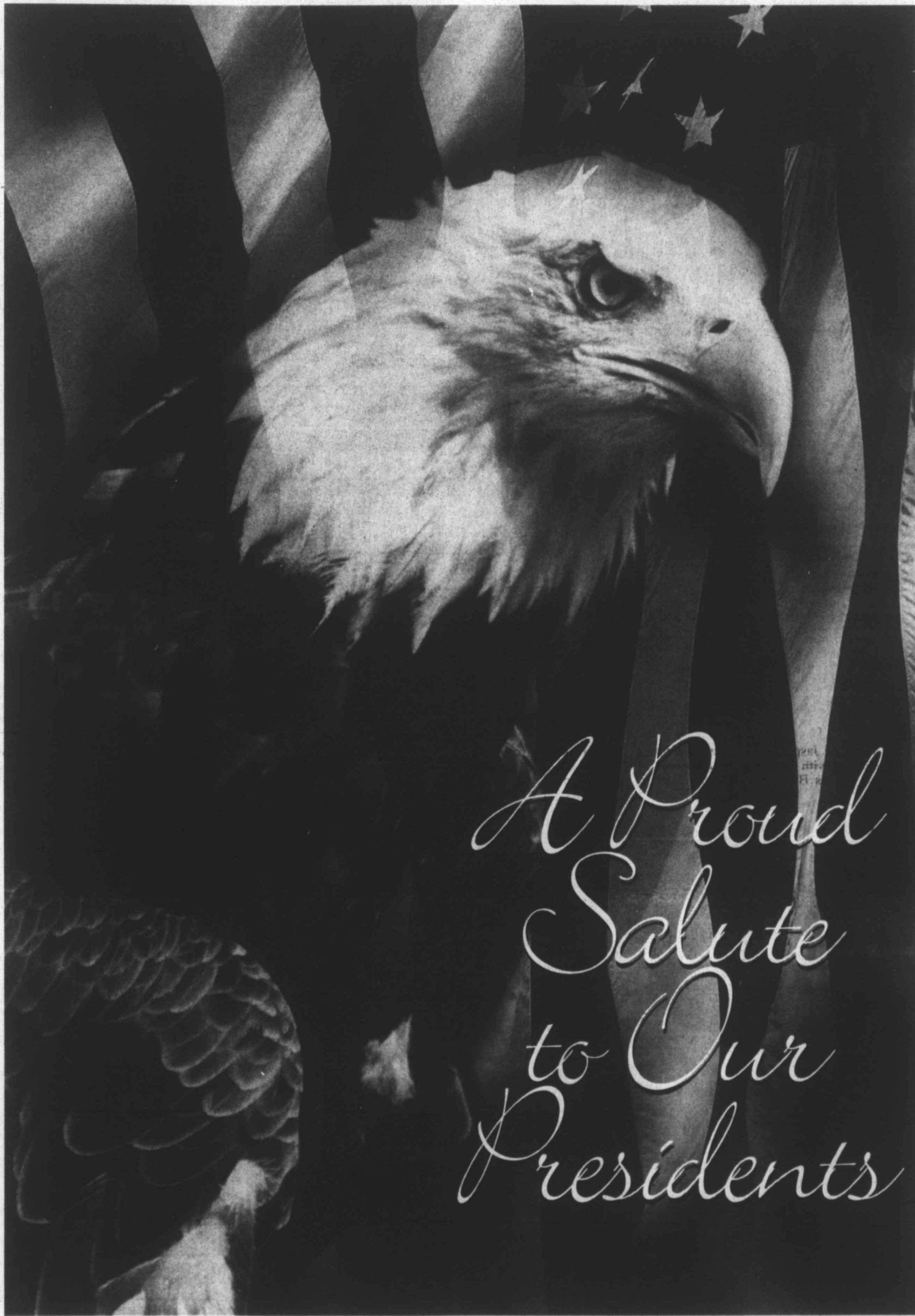
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More POWER To You



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Because of a medical condition, my husband of 30 years can no longer drive a car -- so now he is driving ME nuts. Not only does he tell me how to drive ("You're too far to the right," or "Watch out for that car!" or "I'd go this way," etc.), but he feels it is his responsibility to remotely lock/unlock the car doors, remotely start the car -- anything having to do with the car but drive it. We end up "cancelling" each other out when I try to start the car or lock it.

Please tell me how to solve the dilemma about who should control the functions of the car. -- EXASPERATED IN OHIO

DEAR EXASPERATED: YOU should. However, when a man can no longer drive and his wife must take over, some males regard it as a blow to their masculinity. What your husband is doing is an attempt to reassert himself in his former role, and while it may annoy you, please try

harder to understand why he's doing what he's doing and be more tolerant. I know I would.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 29-year-old woman who lost my beloved mother a few months ago. A sudden illness took her quickly. I made the difficult decision to remove her from life support when there was no longer any hope.

Mom raised me by herself, and we saw each other every day. She was my best friend. I don't know how to go on without someone to love me like she did.

I would like your opinion on an idea I have. There must be a mother somewhere who has lost an adult child and has love to give. I could reciprocate that love. I do not wish to replace my mom -- that would be impossible. She was an amazing woman. I just need someone to care for me that way. I am loved as a wife, niece and friend, but no longer as someone's child. I

need to give and receive that kind of unconditional love.

Is this unhealthy? What would be the best way to fulfill my needs? I have tried individual and group therapy. I am financially independent. What are your thoughts? -- DAUGHTER OF AN ANGEL IN ALABAMA

DEAR DAUGHTER: Please accept my deepest sympathy for the loss of your beloved mother. I know you are grieving, but what you have in mind could cause you more problems than you already have.

Right now joining a grief support group or talking with a therapist who specializes in the grieving process would be far more helpful for you than immediately trying to fill the hole in your life left by your mother's death. I am concerned that what you are considering could lead to you being cruelly exploited.

The love a mother experiences for her child is not interchangeable or replaceable in the way you are thinking of doing it. The validation you are seeking can be found in volunteer work for all kinds.

DEAR ABBY: Am I alone in feeling insulted that the only time I am invited to "friends" homes is when they have something to sell? First it was food storage items, then jewelry and clothing, and now it's food supplements that will "change my life."

Some of these invitations come from people who have been to my home for dinners or parties, but have never reciprocated -- until now. Although I would love to be in their homes socially, I have no intention of going for a sales pitch so they can get free stuff, gain points or whatever.

Do I even owe them an RSVP for this kind of invitation? -- SOLICITED IN REDWOOD CITY, CALIF.

DEAR SOLICITED: I understand your feelings, but if you want to continue having a social relationship with these people, then politely RSVP with your regrets. To ignore the invitation would be a breach of good manners.

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2235 Christine	\$162,000	3/25/1 - 2326 SF/GCAD	
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2520 Charles	\$87,000	3/1, 75/2 - 1290 SF/GCAD	
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2900 Rosewood Ln	\$64,500	3/1, 5/0 - 1537 SF/GCAD	
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437 Jupiter	\$89,000	3/1, 5/2 - 1728 SF/GCAD	
1125 Starkweather	\$49,900	3/1/0 - 1072 SF/GCAD	
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1048 Neel	\$40,000	3/2/1 - 1277 SF/GCAD	
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DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009:
This year, know what you want. You have the drive, personality and energy to make your goals realities. Verbalize your desires, and use others' suggestions to make them a reality. Your personality melts others' resistances, and you gain as a result. You are lucky this year and begin a new life cycle. Organization is very important. If you are single and you want a dynamic relationship, it is yours to have. You can change your life if you want. If you are attached, let your significant other bathe in your good will. Listen to news and be open. SAGITTARIUS always gives you that extra shove.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have:
5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
***** Keep digging to get more information. You might be blocking an important point or something that is significant. A friend pushes you hard. You could take this person's shove positively, or you could lose your temper. Which will it be? Tonight: Ask; question; brainstorm.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
***** Work with individuals rather than groups. Understand that each individual has a different set of issues; you need to flow with a situation. A responsibility might drop on your shoulders. Understand what needs to happen. Tonight: A must opportunity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
***** Understand what is happening. Listen to news that heads your way. If you detach, you'll discover some facts

that will help fill in the gaps in a complicated story. Make calls to experts, and continue to seek new information. Tonight: New vistas.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
***** Talk is cheap and hard to bypass. If you understand what is happening behind the scenes, you'll get past an immediate problem. Your ability to get the job done, even with hassles left and right, marks your potential. Tonight: Put your feet up.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
***** Where answers don't come easily, your creativity finds a path to fill in the blanks. You could be shocked by what is going on. Your light and easy way puts a smile on others' faces. Let others run the show. Tonight: Be the lively lion.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
*** Pressure builds on the personal front. Your strong drive earmarks your actions. Incorporate patience, and you will easily clear a hurdle. Effectiveness is your trademark. You get the job done, perhaps to the surprise of others. Tonight: Mosey on home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
***** Keep communication flowing. Carefully remember what is happening. The unexpected occurs with a child or loved one. Remain centered, and you might be amused rather than upset by what goes down! Tonight: Whatever you do, be passionate about it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
*** Recognize the pros and cons of a financial situation. If you want to get feedback, ask. Many could have strong opinions, though they might not want to express them unless asked. Curb a tendency to go overboard. Try to approach a situation differently. Tonight: Treat your-

self to a new item for spring.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
***** You are on cruise control and can do very little wrong. With that knowledge, make important decisions and clear your desk. Trusting in your abilities could make a big difference. Someone lets you know how he or she feels -- the good and the bad! Tonight: What would knock your socks off?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
** Know when to walk away from a situation. Sometimes you need no explanations, only to understand. Your intuition homes in on a financial matter. Follow through, as long as the risk is not too high. Tonight: Much-needed private time.

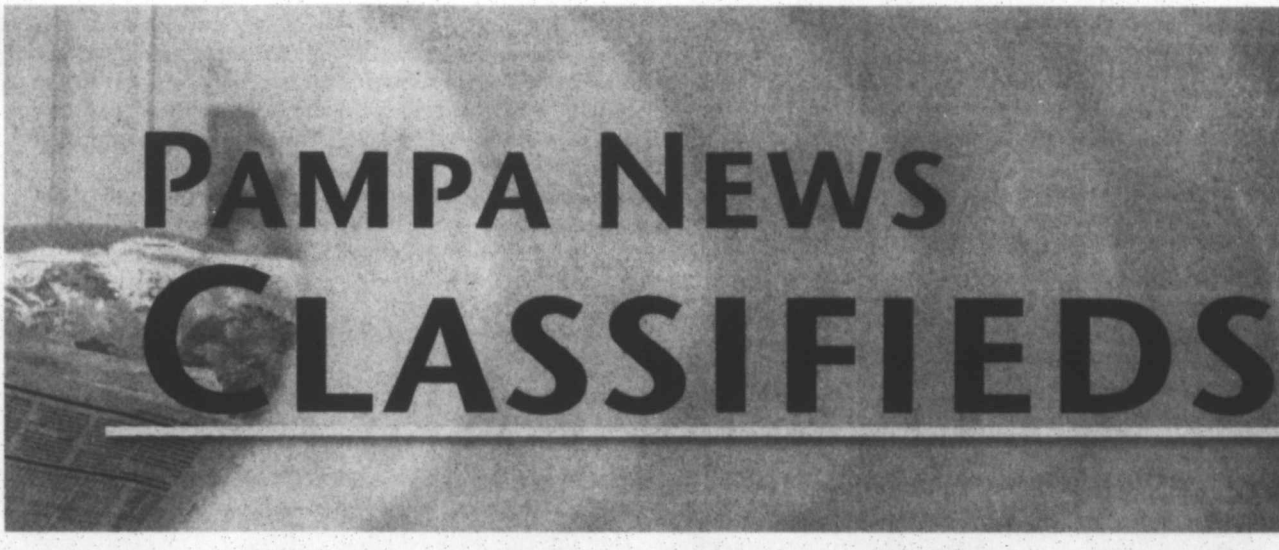
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
***** Where you are is where your friends are. Others seek you out en masse. You also might need to restrain your followers, as you have other matters to handle. Lady Luck rides on your shoulder. Use it well. Tonight: Focus on what you want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
***** A must appearance dominates your day. If you get to the bottom of a problem, you will succeed. Your instincts often serve a purpose, but right now your feelings race through your thoughts. Detach, and you'll get positive results. Tonight: At the helm of the ship.

BORN TODAY
Celebrity Paris Hilton (1981), guitarist, singer Billie Joe Armstrong (1972), actor Alan Bates (1934) ***

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.

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

14h Gen. Serv.

CERAMIC tile work. Remodeling floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall. Free est. Call 665-3453 leave message, Jesus Barraza.

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69 Misc.

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3 bdr., 1 3/4 ba. in Pampa for rent. \$450 mo., \$350 dep. 832-433-4244, 832-352-1012.

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69a Garage Sales

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14r Plowing/Yard

ROTOTILLING flower beds, gardens, trees trimmed or cut down. 662-6594 or 665-4835.

14s Plumbing/Heat

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

19 Situations

TORRI'S Cleaning Co. Very Reas. Rates. Free handmade candle per customer. 486-1514.

21 Help Wanted

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

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14e Carpet Serv.

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60 Household

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AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-46 CRYPTOQUOTE

M Z D W M Y O C Y B B Z

H Z D D W M L W M Z B I X Q B I W B

H W M M Z B H Z D D W M L I Y D O X T C .

— R Y T T Y W D U X M M

Saturday's Cryptoquote: AND LOVE MAKES ONE CALMER ABOUT MANY THINGS, AND THAT WAY, ONE IS MORE FIT FOR ONE'S WORK.

— VINCENT VAN GOGH

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121 Trucks

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Emergency Services — cont. from page 2

SHERIFF

charge.
Degland Timothy Kenealy, 49, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for no valid driver's license, no insurance, speeding, and no driver's license.

Kendra Elise Odell, 29, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for theft of property by check.

Freddie Joe Nunn, 46, of Louiseville, Miss. was sent to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for possession of a controlled substance.

Weldon Tyrone Evans, 42, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for possession of drug paraphernalia and no driver's license.

Henry Lee Williams, 50, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Saturday, Feb. 14
Joe Dale Hays, Jr., 22, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for possession of marijuana, public intoxication, violation of probation for possession of marijuana, and warrants on evading arrest.

Jueventino Tinajero-Luna, 24, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for no driver's license and no insurance.

Dan Lynn Terry, 36, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for possession of marijuana, driving while intoxicated, resisting arrest, no driver's license, and no insurance.

Bana Michelle Carnes, 30, of White Deer was arrested by the PPD for possession of marijuana, public intoxication, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Ricky Lee Nichols, 27, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, and invalid driver's license.

Jason Todd Vance, 28, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for wreckless driving, operating a motor cycle without appropriate head gear, failure to maintain financial responsibility, muffler violation, and displaying expired registration.

Steven Fred Ferris, 49, of Shamrock was arrested by the PPD for possession of marijuana, and public intoxication.

Del Louis Urbanczyk, 46, of Pampa was arrested by the DPS for driving while intoxicated.

Christopher Lee Allred, 34, of Pampa was arrested

by the PPD for no inspection, no insurance, possession of drug paraphernalia.

Sunday, Feb. 15
Jose Ramon Najera, 21, of Littlefield was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated.

Rolando Robledo Jr., of 22, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated, criminal mischief, and purchase/furnishing alcohol to a minor.

Allen Bailey Huffman, 21, of was arrested by the PPD for warrants for no valid driver's license.

Ian David Spencer, 24, of Pampa was arrested by GSCO for warrants on possession of drug paraphernalia.

Monday, Feb. 16
Francisco Aguilar Antunez, 25, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated.

Dustin Jay Mathis, 18, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated.

FIRE

The Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, Feb. 14
11:22 a.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the intersection of Alcock and Sumner on a motor vehicle accident.

Sunday, Feb. 15
8:45 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 300 block of North Hobart on agency assistance.

Monday, Feb. 16
6:26 a.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the intersection of Hobart and Wilks on a motor vehicle accident.

PAMPA PD

The Pampa Police Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Friday and 7 a.m. today.

Friday, Feb. 13
Officers conducted 23 traffic stops. Stops in the 100 block of 19th, the intersection of Aitchison and Frost, and Florida and Hobart streets resulted in arrests.

A total of 14 calls and/or stops concerning animals were made.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the intersection of Finch and Gray streets.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 900 block of West Alock, the intersection of Hobart and Francis streets, where the driver's window of a car was reportedly shattered with an estimated value of \$150.00; the 1400 block of Dogwood, where two coin washers, one coin dryer, and doors to a storage closet were damaged, with an estimated value of \$2,600; and the 800 block of North Nelson, where a TV stand and miscellaneous groceries were reportedly stolen, with an estimated value of \$200.

A welfare check was made in the 1100 block of North Juniper.

Found property was reported in the 2600 block of North Hobart, where a bicycle was found.

Motor vehicle accidents were reported in the 1000 block of North Hobart, the 1400 block of North Hobart, the lobby of the PD, and the intersection of Alcock and Dwight streets.

Theft was reported in the 100 block of East Harvester, where clothing was reportedly stolen valued at \$20.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 400 block of North Doucette, and the 400 block of North Nelson.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 700 block of East Craven, and the intersection of Foster and West streets.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 100 block of West Albert.

A runaway was reported in the lobby of the PD.

A motorist was assisted in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Saturday, Feb. 14
Officers conducted 20 traffic stops. Stops in the 400 block of South Pitts, the 200 block of West Browning, and the 1300 block of North Coffee resulted in arrests.

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

Suspicious person calls were received from the 2900 block of Rosewood, and the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Four buildings were checked.

Two alarms were investigated.

A missing person was reported in the 900 block of East Murphy.

Phone harassment was reported in the 400 block

of North Hazel.

Traffic complaints were received from the 2800 block of Charles.

A violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 700 block of Lefors.

Motor vehicle accidents were reported in the intersection of Sumner and Alcock streets, the 1400 block of North Hobart, and the 900 block of West Alock.

Civil matters were reported in the 1500 block of North Coffee.

One attempt to serve papers was made.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 300 block of South Miami, and the 1300 block of North Garland.

A welfare check was made in the 200 block of Canadian.

Driving while intoxicated was reported in the 2800 block of North Charles.

Sunday, Feb. 15
Officers conducted 19 traffic stops. A stop in the intersection of Cook and Somerville resulted in at least one arrest.

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

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of Graham.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the intersection of Mary Ellen and Georgia streets, the 1000 block of South Neel, and the 100 block of East Foster.

A suspicious person call was received from the intersection of Starkweather and Atchison streets.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Gillespie.

An assault was reported in the 100 block of 30th.

Three alarms were investigated.

A burglary was reported in the 300 block of North Somerville.

Theft was reported in the 900 block of South Dwight, and the 200 block of West Brown.

One attempt to serve papers was made.

A suicide attempt was reported in the 2200 block of North Mary Ellen.

A sexual offense was reported in the 200 block of North West.

A runaway was reported in the 2200 block of North Christy.

Civil matters were

reported in the lobby of the PD.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 900 block of East Denver, and the 500 block of Powell.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1500 block of North Hobart.

A motor vehicle accident was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

A burglary was reported in the 2800 block of North Rosewood.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 800 block of South Hobart, and the 500 block of South Ballard.

Monday, Feb. 16
Officers conducted seven traffic stops. Stops in the intersection of Hobart and Kingsmill, and the 1200 block of West

23rd resulted in arrests.

Suspicious person calls were received from the intersection of Francis and Purviance streets, and the 2300 block of North Navajo.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2200 block of North Charles.

A motor vehicle accident was reported in the intersection of Hobart and Wilks.

Two alarms were investigated.



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Record tax revenues

REcord— cont. from page 1

Morris said the city is over budget \$249,474.78 so far this year in sales tax income.

They have \$156,005.30 more than they had collected last year through this time, or about nine percent more than the same period last year.

If sales tax revenues continue on this trend, the city could end up with \$593,113.60 more in sales tax money for the year than they had budgeted.

"It's great news," Morris said.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

6	9	2	3	1	4	8	5	7
4	7	3	5	6	8	2	1	9
5	1	8	9	7	2	3	4	6
8	4	9	7	3	1	6	2	5
7	2	5	4	9	6	1	3	8
3	6	1	8	2	5	7	9	4
2	8	6	1	4	9	5	7	3
9	5	7	2	8	3	4	6	1
1	3	4	6	5	7	9	8	2

7			4		1	8		6
	6				8	4	2	
			3					7
		4	3	6		2	1	
5		7		8				3
				4		7		
		8	7			9		2
	7	2	8	9	6			4
				2	4	3	7	

Level: Beginner

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