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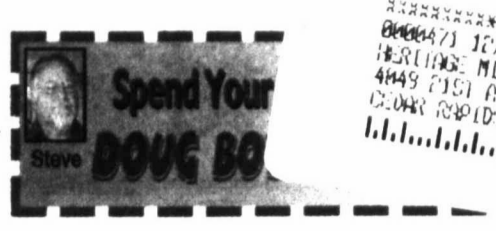
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The PAMPA NEWS

Monday, March 2, 2009 Volume 104 • No. 277 50¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

Process for shelter has begun

City Manager Richard Morris has directed staff to look at what type of facility is needed and a clear direction for building a new animal shelter in Pampa.

staff has been working on it for almost two months already. There have been residents at the past several commission meetings lobbying for an new shelter. Friday, former commissioner Faustina Curry added her voice. Curry said the current shelter is a health hazard

to those who work and visit. "There are a lot of people in and out of there," Curry told commissioners, "and (because drains don't work properly) staff can't keep it clean. The city is lucky there have been very few real issues there. "We've talked about this for a long time — no money has been allocated,

the staff put the building together." Pampa resident Cleo Meaker added his comments. "We have the finest animal control officers around. It's past time. You'll get a lot of support for that (a new animal shelter)." **Water Park** Both speakers took issue

with spending Certificate of Obligation money for a new water park. "Since the last meeting," Meaker told the commission, "I've done a survey. Everyone I've talked to said, 'not at this time.'" They think you've lost your way—almost to the point of anger," Meaker **City— cont. on page 3**

BEST OF SHOW



The 1969 TPI Camero owned by Lance Fenton and Harry Fisher won Best of Show over the weekend at the annual Make-a-Wish Car Show in Amarillo. Organizers said that approximately \$62,000, and counting, was raised for the charity.

Two nabbed for selling phony papers

Pampa police officers arrested two people Saturday for allegedly selling phony immigration papers. Andrea Ramirez Adame, 48, and Angel Mendoza-Ovalle, 37, were charged with Organized Criminal Activity/theft greater than \$20,00 but less than \$100,000, a second degree felony. PPD officials had been investigating reports that the pair were selling false immigration papers in town. **Papers— cont. on page 3**

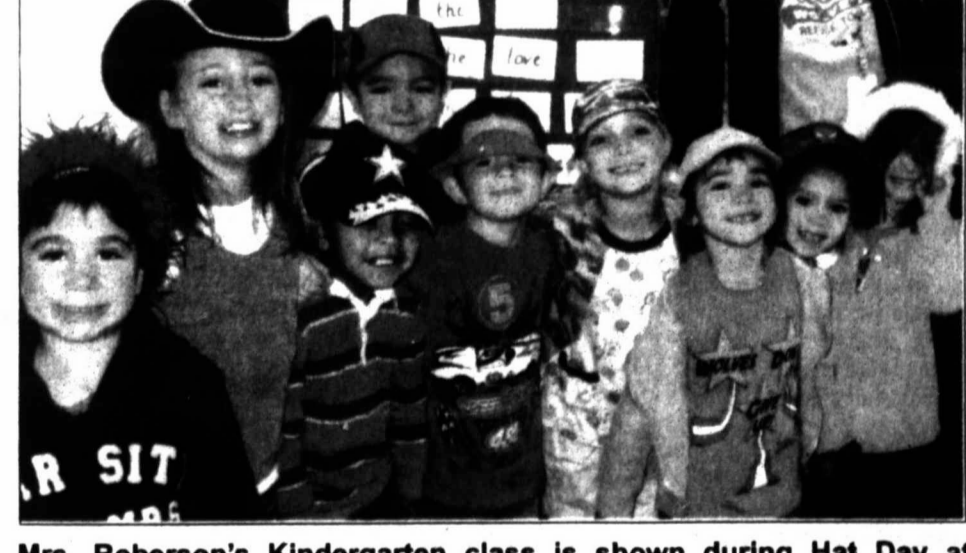
PGCD board to discuss 50/50 plan

WHITE DEER — The desired future condition of the aquifer that provides Pampa its water will be a topic of discussion when the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District board of directors meets here Wednesday. The 16 Groundwater Management Areas around the state are to give the Texas Water Development Board the desired future conditions of the aquifers in their areas by September, 2010. Groundwater Management Area 1, of which the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District is a member, proposed not one but three desired future conditions for the Ogallala Aquifer that provides water for the Texas Panhandle and South Plains when they met in Amarillo last month. Gray County Rancher John R. Spearman, president of the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District and the district's representative on the Groundwater Management Area 1 board, will present those proposals to the water district when they meet here Wednesday morning. The proposals would allow four counties in the western panhandle to pump up to 60 percent of the water they have in storage in the aquifer over the next 50 years while Hemphill County would be able to limit pumping to 20 percent of the water they have in storage over the same time frame. The remaining 13 counties in the Groundwater Management Area, including all of the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, will allow pumping of 50 percent of the water in the aquifer over the next 50 years under the proposed desired future condition of the aquifer. Last fall, the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District voted against multiple **Water— cont. on page 3**

It's Independence Day!

WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS, Texas (AP)— Bob Heinonen slipped into a pair of red pants, a white shirt, a dark military-style jacket with brass buttons and tails and a pair of black cavalry boots and went back 173 years Saturday to become Texas hero William Barret Travis and celebrate Texas Independence Day. Thousands of people joined him, wandering around the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park this weekend to mark the anniversary of the 1836 convention where on March 2 of that year, 59 delegates signed the six-page document that declared the Republic of Texas was free and independent of Mexico. "I want them not only to gain some knowledge about what really happened but also to be excited about it. If you're excited about things, you want to learn about them," said Heinonen, 66, a Minneapolis native whose computer job brought him to Texas some 40 years ago. In a nearly hour-long presentation, Heinonen, who now lives near Blanco in the Hill Country, adopts the persona of Travis, the commander of the doomed Texan forces at the Alamo, and tells Travis' story to an audience in a theater at the park's Star of the Republic Museum. "I think it's always good to know what our roots are," he said. "Why are we where we are today? It's almost trite these days, but the only way we have knowledge is based upon what's happened in the past so we can avoid future mistakes. **173rd— cont. on page 3**

HAT DAY



Mrs. Roberson's Kindergarten class is shown during Hat Day at Wilson Elementary; Aaron Mayberry, Brooklyn Liebsch, Jose Lopez, Jesus Quizada, Joe L'Esperance, Maciee Voss, Alondra Hernandez, Zoe Chaney and Aubrey Dorn.

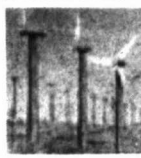
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PAMPA FORECAST

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday



High 79
Low 43

High 83
Low 46

High 81
Low 47

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. Wind chill values between 32 and 42 early. South southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. South wind 5 to 15 mph becoming west northwest.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. West northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 46. West wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. West wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 47. West southwest 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.....	\$4.47
Milo.....	\$4.48
Corn.....	\$6.08

Winning Lotto Texas numbers

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 37-49-11-42-15-36.

Number matching six of six: 0.

Number matching five of six: 15. Prize: \$3,637.

Number matching four of six: 1,420. Prize: \$57.

Number matching three of six: 30,159. Prize: \$3.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$23 million.

Cash Five Texas results

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

Winning numbers drawn: 35-17-32-22-3.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Matching four of five: 63. Prize: \$650

Matching three of five: 2,628. Prize: \$12

Matching two of five: 27,518. Prize: \$2

Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.

Emergency Services

PAMPA PD

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

Friday, Feb. 27
Officers conducted 15 traffic stops.

A total of 13 calls and/or stops concerning animals were made.

Six attempts to serve papers were made.

Two alarms were investigated.

One open door was checked.

Domestic disturbances were reported at Pampa High School, 111 East Harvester, and the 700 block of North Christy.

Traffic complaints were reported from the 1200 block of North Hobart, and the 1300 block of North Hobart.

Phone harassment was reported in the lobby of the PD.

Disorderly conduct was reported at PHS, the 600 block of North Christy,

and the 1100 block of South Varnon.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 300 block of North Baer, and the 600 block of South Gray.

A runaway was reported in the 1500 block of North Christy.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 1200 block of North Duncan.

A welfare check was made in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Found property was reported in the 1000 block of East Frederic.

Theft was reported at Allsups, 1900 block of North Hobart, where alcohol was stolen, valued at \$25.

A motor vehicle accident was reported in the 600 block of East Kentucky.

A prowler was reported in the 1200 block of North Christine.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the intersection of 23rd and Perryton Parkway.

For the Record

Obituaries

Kenneth E. Lard, 84

Amarillo, Texas — Kenneth E. Lard, 84, died Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009 in Pampa.

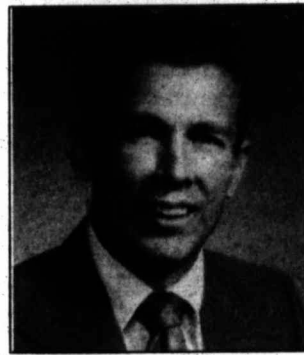
Graveside services will be at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at Fairview Cemetery in Pampa with Rev. Jeff Taylor, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Pampa, officiating. Military rites will be accorded by U. S. Navy personnel. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Lard was born Dec. 25, 1924 in Enid, Oklahoma and had been a resident of Amarillo since 1949. He was a 1943 graduate of Pampa High School and received a

BBA degree from Texas Tech. He married Velma Osborn on Aug. 31, 1947 in Pampa. Kenneth was a real estate appraiser and insurance agent and owned and operated the K. E. Lard Agency in Amarillo. He was a member of the Society of Real Estate Appraisers, serving as president for two terms and was a member of the National Association of Review Appraisers. He was a member of the former San Jacinto United Methodist Church in Amarillo. Mr. Lard was a veteran of the U. S. Navy during World War II and was discharged as a second class yeoman.

Survivors include his wife: Velma F. Lard of the

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Lard

Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

Special notice: The family will be at 2122 Beech Lane in Pampa.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-whately.com.

home; a son: Kenneth Eugene Lard, Jr. of Kalispell, Montana; two daughters: Karen Snell and husband Ron of Amherst, MA and Sharen Laurrell and husband Mike of Dallas; four grandchildren: Kenny Lard of Kalispell, MT; Ben Lard and Lindsay Lard, both of Chandler, AZ; and Daniel Lard, a Navy Seal of Coronado, CA; two step grandsons: Todd Laurrell and Randy Laurrell, both of Austin; two great granddaughters: Layla Lard and Lyndy Laurrell; and a sister-in-law, Thelma Bray, of Pampa.
MEMORIALS: BSA

Emergency Services

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 1300 block of Coffee.

Saturday, Feb. 28
Officers conducted 16 traffic stops. Stops in the 600 block of West Foster, the 1500 block of Dogwood, and the 200 block of West Craven resulted in arrests.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1500 block of Dogwood.

Agency assistance was rendered in the intersection of Highway 60 and Price Road.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block of North Terry.

Two attempts to serve papers were made.

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

A traffic complaints was received from the 1100 block of Willow.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 800 block of North Nelson, the 1300 block of North Coffee, the 1200 block of North Hobart, the 700 block of North Wells, and the 100 block of West 30th.

Two alarms were investigated.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 1000 block of South Huff.

Theft was reported in the 1300 block of Terrace, where a passport was stolen with money inside, valued at \$650.

Civil matters were reported in the lobby of the PD, and the 600 block of Red Deer.

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

Harassment was reported in the 500 block of Yeager.

Found property was reported in the 300 block of South Gray, where a guitar was found.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the 2800 block of Perryton Parkway.

Sunday, March 1
Officers conducted 27 traffic stops. Stops in the intersection of Scott and Barnes streets, the 1300 block of West Alcock, the intersection of Browning and Yeager streets, the 500 block of East Kingsmill, and the 700 block of West Brown resulted in arrests.

A civil matter was reported in the lobby of the PD.

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

Two alarms were investigated.

Domestic disturbances were reported from the 500 block of North Christy, and the 300 block of South Miami.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of North Nelson, and the 500 block of North Sumner.

A runaway was reported

in the 600 block of North Nelson.

Found property was reported in the lobby of the PD.

A motor vehicle accident was reported in the lobby of the PD.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 1000 block of Prairie.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 1400 block of North Hamilton, and the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway.

Monday, March 2
Officers conducted six traffic stops.

A prowler was reported in the 1500 block of North Williston.

SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests.

Saturday, Feb. 28
Adame, 44, of Lewisville was arrested by the Pampa Police Department for engaging in organized criminal activity.

Angel Mendoza Ovalle, 35, of Topo Chico, Colo., was arrested by the PPD for engaging in organized criminal activity.

Kymberlee Sue Smith, 48, of Pampa was arrested by the Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated, second.

Jeremy Dean Cook, 25, of Skellytown was arrested by the PPD for public intoxication.

Sunday, March 1
Joseph Dwight Chase, 40, was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated.

Misyy Michelle Minyard, 36, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for possession of drug paraphernalia, no valid driver's license, and no insurance.

Victor Manuel Soto, 24, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for no driver's license.

Eusebio Alvarez Aguilar, 24, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for no driver's license, and driving without headlights.

Roberto Garcia, 44, of Pampa was arrested by DPS for driving while intoxicated, second.

Richard Cruz Middleton, 21, of Pampa was arrested for by the PPD purchasing/furnishing alcohol to a minor and public intoxication.

Levi Gene Trevathan, 25, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated, second.

Estevan M. Portillo, of Santa Fe, N.M. was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated.

Benjamin Eugene Crocker II, 36, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for possession of a controlled substance, less than one gram.

Jesus Maria Velasquez, Jr., 39, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for driving while license invalid.

Kevin Taylor McKnight, 38, of Pampa was arrested by the GCSO for violation of probation for possession of marijuana.

Wendy Deanne Gammage, 26, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD on warrant for displaying fictitious license plates, expired motor insurance, and no liability insurance.

AMBULANCE

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

Friday, Feb. 27
8:41 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of West 30th. The call was cancelled.

8:53 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Starkweather and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

1:29 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to County Road 10 and D 1/2 and transported two patients to PRMC.

1:48 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of East Frederic and transported a patient to PRMC.

6:45 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:45 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of South Harlem. No patients were transported.

11:03 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of East Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.

Saturday, Feb. 28
1:49 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Miami and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:37 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Henry and transported a patient to PRMC.

12:33 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 12000 block of White Acres and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:56 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:03 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of North Christine and transported a patient to PRMC.

12:57 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Huff Road. The patient refused transported.

10:23 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of South Sumner and transported a patient to PRMC.

Sunday, March 1
4:08 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Lea and transported a patient to PRMC.

12:36 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Sierra Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

Emergency Services— cont. on page 3

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Shelter in planning stage

City — cont. from page 1

told commissioners. "That's a worry to me. This is a small town, we should get along."

Meaker said he believes, "the economy is banging in to us here."

Meaker contacted the cities of Dumas, Sunray and Brownfield about their aquatic facilities and said that none of those communities used bond funds to pay for them, but set aside money from multiple budget cycles instead. He urged commissioners to liaise with these cities before committing bond funds for the project.

Curry told the commission she is not against the water park, but asked, "who are we building this for?" After looking at the proposed locations and the projected cost of admis-

sion, Curry said she believes about half the families in our community wouldn't be able to afford to use the facility very often.

"I see a lot of kids walking to the pool now. If you have two or three kids, at \$1.50 they can afford to go — but at \$5 to \$7.50 — who's got \$30 a couple of times a week to send their kids?"

"If you are building it for tourism — you're missing the boat," she said.

Water Line

Public Works Director updated the commission on expansion of a water line to the new junior high currently under construction.

The school district is required to put in a six-inch line. PISD has asked the city to pay the cost of

taking that up to a 12-inch line, to accommodate future growth in the area. Something Hooper said is a "no-brainer." The line will cost the city only about \$38,254. City Manager Richard Morris told the commissioners that this will meet planning standards, and that with this line, water will come into the school from two different directions, important in case one line is down for repairs. Commissioner Bill Allison asked about a new lift station for the area. Hooper said his department is still working on that issue and that the school district is putting in their own lift station for the junior high. The commission voted unanimously to fund the project.



Photo by Randall J. Pribble

A.J. Swope of Class4Winds discusses wind energy matters with the Pampa Economic Development Corporation in its regular meeting Friday.

Water discussion continues

City — cont. from page 1

future conditions and indicated that the neighboring water districts needed to come together for one uniform desire future condition.

The Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District will also consider action on a report from Intera Inc., concerning the district's depletion management standard.

They will also consider drilling permits for domestic wells for Cody Franks in Lefors, Jerry Hodge southwest of Clarendon, Dan Moser north of

Amarillo, Marty Jones in Bishop Hills northwest of Amarillo, the Mays Group north of Amarillo and Charlotte Paul in Clarendon.

The board will consider an application for a 2-inch irrigation well for Michael Williams northwest of Amarillo.

They will consider requests from Wade Ritter for a reworked irrigation well north of Panhandle, John McDowell in Wheeler County, Nile Albright north east of Panhandle and two requests from the Mark

Urbanczyk and Children's Trust for wells west of Panhandle and southwest of Panhandle.

The board will hear a request from John McDowell to reclassify two wells northeast of Shamrock and an exception to the district's spacing rules on wells northeast of Shamrock.

The Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District board will meet beginning at 9 a.m., Wednesday, at their offices at 201 W. Third in White Deer.

Independence Day

173rd — cont. from page 1

"Every generation thinks it's all new again. What this does it try to let each generation remember: What did happen and maybe I can learn something from it."

The convention delegates actually gathered on March 1, 1836, a month after they were elected and sent to Washington, a growing town on the Brazos River less than 100 miles northwest of what now is Houston.

The site was chosen because it offered a river escape route in case of a Mexican raid, it was centrally located for delegates arriving from all over Texas, and the boosters in the small town had offered an unfinished building to hold the meeting for free.

The convention within weeks would adopt a constitution amid a swift series of events. A month later, Travis and his men were killed at the Alamo. And just over another month later, Gen. Sam Houston's army would defeat the Mexicans in the famous Battle of San Jacinto that truly made Texas its own country.

Houston McGaugh, director of the museum at the park, said he believes the activities that took place here and the players involved in 1836 don't get as much publicity or credit as the more glamorous events at the Alamo and San Jacinto.

"What happened at Washington-on-the-Brazos is in the headlines of the day today," he said, comparing it to the meetings in Iraq where delegates created a government and established law. "We feel we're a very contemporary site."

The Texas declaration was similar to the 1776 American document, containing a statement of the nature of government, listing grievances and ultimately declaring independence. Five copies were written and sent to major towns around the state and 1,000 more were ordered printed and distributed.

"Back then the document served to rally support for the cause, and it articulated the reasons they were fighting, or at least the reasons they wanted the world to see and believe," said Walter Buenger, head of the history department at Texas A&M University. "It was part propaganda, part inspiration, and part a statement of beliefs and values."

"Texans make Texas history and Texas Independence Day serves the purpose of making them feel exceptional and distinct from the rest of the country." Kent Caulder, director of the Texas State Historical Association, said the declaration is significant because without it, there would have been no nation of Texas.

"I believe the date should continue to be commemorated and discussed," he said. "The important thing is to commemorate events in order to provide opportunities to learn and appreciate the complexities and ambiguities of any historical event. Those who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence took great risks regardless of their motives."

As a country, Texas had a relatively brief history. Less than a decade later, in 1845, it became the 28th U.S. state.

Mike Maddox, a history teacher at Tyler's Grace Community School, sat through Heinenon's program with his wife and daughter and was spending the day at the park to "take something back for my students, some of the little bits of information you don't get out of books, and teach them and just make it come alive and let them take a little more pride in their heritage."

"It's important to remember those things, how it came about," he said. "It shows our heroes have the same trials and problems we have. And they were willing to step out and put their life on the line."

Emergency Services

ambulance — cont. from page 2

8:26 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of North Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:46 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Sumner and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:27 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of South Barnes and transported a patient to PRMC.

FIRE

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

Friday, Feb. 27

8:37 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 300 block of West 30th on a med assist.

1:27 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to a motor vehicle accident on County Road A and 10.

9:43 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 400 block of Harlin on a med assist.

11:03 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 600 block of East Kentucky on a motor vehicle accident.

Saturday, Feb. 28

2:32 p.m. — One unit and three personnel

responded to the 300 block of Henry on a med assist.

7:01 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to PRMC on a LifeStar standby.

Sunday, March 1

1:06 a.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the 100 block of South Sumner on a Code 3 Holding.

12:33 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1000 block of Sierra on a medical call.

8:40 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1000 block of North Sumner.

Boy missing in Houston National Forest found

SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL FOREST, Texas (AP) — A 13-year-old boy missing after he failed to return from a map-reading exercise was recovered safely Monday in the Sam Houston National Forest after spending the night alone in near-freezing temperatures.

Cody Moore appeared alert as he was seated on a stretcher in the back of an ambulance after his night in the woods.

A woman who declined to identify herself but appeared to be related to him said he was fine and eating a donut.

"He said he had a blast," she said as she hustled into an SUV and drove away. She described him as looking wonderful.

"Thank God for your prayers," she said.

A Texas Department of Public safety helicopter hovering low as part of the search effort apparently alerted the boy, who was spotted waving, said Duane Adams, from Channelview High School and director of the weekend "orienteeing" meet that attracted some 350 people to the huge national forest about an hour north of Houston.

"He came out waving his hands and walking on his own," Adams said. "The helicopter hovered over him and the ground crew went in to get him."

The chopper had joined the search Monday after people on horseback and using tracking dogs had failed to find him.

The boy was reported missing about 5 p.m. Sunday. Temperatures before dawn Monday had slipped below freezing in the area, where the search went on through the night. He was recovered about 10:30 a.m., about 24 hours after he was last seen.

The student from Crosby Junior High School in east suburban Houston had a map and a compass when he went into the woods shortly before 11 a.m. Sunday as part of a weekend exercise sponsored by the Houston Orienteering Club.

The participants this weekend primarily were Junior ROTC members and some Boy Scouts.

Adams said the exercise teaches navigation — how to use a map and compass — and Moore was at the beginner's level, the bottom rung of six levels of experience. Among the training the students get is basic first aid and hydration.

"Apparently what he did was what we call a 180-degree error," Adams said. "He went north instead of south."

He said tracking dogs followed Moore's scent to a road that was intended as a boundary but the disoriented 13-year-old crossed it and headed north in the woods marked by towering pine trees, choking brush and occasional streams.

"We're elated that they found him and that he's OK," Adams said. "We're obviously always worried about this."

Railroad Commission urges Texans to celebrate energy independence

AUSTIN — As Texans celebrate the state's Independence Day on March 2, the Railroad Commission of Texas also urges Lone Star State residents to take steps to celebrate Energy Independence. The Railroad Commission is Texas' chief energy agency.

"We can no longer tolerate growing dependence on foreign oil to fuel our cars, factories and homes," Railroad Commission Chairman Victor G. Carrillo said. "We Texans have vast untapped domestic energy resources, including natural gas, propane, wind and solar that could help power the

U.S. economy for generations to come."

Commissioner Michael L. Williams noted that school districts in 34 counties are eligible for propane bus grants through the Railroad Commission's Propane Equipment Initiative program. "We've already issued \$103,130 to Leander ISD and \$6,670 to the City of Pflugerville for replacing diesel buses with propane," Williams said. "Texas leads the nation in the production, storage and use of propane — 86 percent which is produced in the United States."

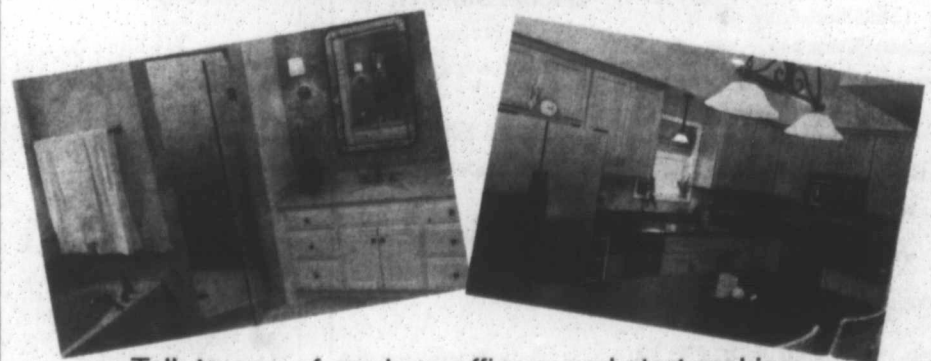
Phony papers

papers — cont. from page 1

Investigators obtained several fraudulent documents from the two at the time of their arrest.

Pampa police and federal ICE agents are continuing the investigation.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

By The Associated Press
 Today is Monday, March 2, the 61st day of 2009. There are 304 days left in the year.
 Today's Highlight in History:
 On March 2, 1939, Roman Catholic Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli was elected Pope on his 63rd birthday; he took the name Pius XII.
 On this date:
 In 1793, the first president of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston, was born near Lexington, Va.
 In 1836, the Republic of Texas formally declared its independence from Mexico.
 In 1877, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes was declared the winner of the 1876 presidential election over Democrat Samuel J. Tilden, even though Tilden had won the popular vote.

'Just as we are often moved to merriment for no other reason than that the occasion calls for seriousness, so we are correspondingly serious when invited too freely to be amused'

— Agnes Repplier, American essayist

In 1899, Mount Rainier National Park in Washington state was established.
 In 1939, the Massachusetts legislature voted to ratify the Bill of Rights, 147 years after the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution had gone into effect. (Georgia and Connecticut soon followed.)
 In 1943, the World War II Battle of the Bismarck Sea began;

U.S. and Australian warplanes were able to inflict heavy damage on a Japanese convoy.

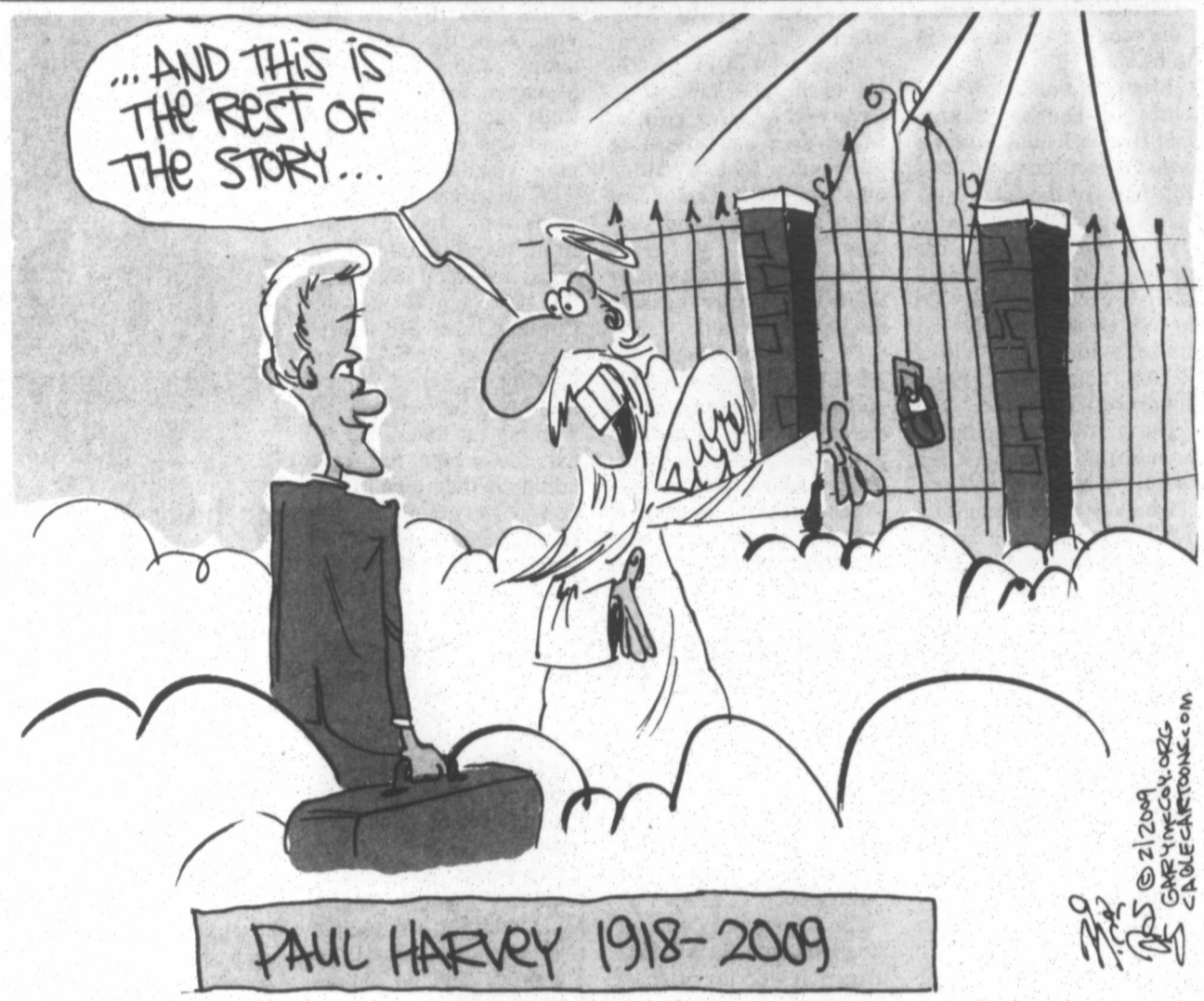
In 1977, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted a strict code of ethics.

In 1989, representatives from the 12 European Community nations agreed to ban all production of CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) by the end of the 20th century.

Ten years ago: Texas Gov. George W. Bush announced he was forming a presidential exploratory committee. Conservative commentator Pat Buchanan launched a third White House bid. Singer Dusty Springfield died at her home west of London at age 59.

One year ago: Dmitry Medvedev, Vladimir Putin's hand-picked successor, scored a crushing victory in Russia's presidential election. Four adults and two children were slain in a shooting and stabbing rampage at a Memphis, Tenn., house; three children survived. Jessie Dotson, brother of one of the victims, is charged with six counts of first-degree murder and three counts of attempted murder.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Jennifer Jones is 90. Bluegrass singer-musician Doc Watson is 86. Actor John Cullum is 79. Author Tom Wolfe is 79. Former Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev is 78. Actress Barbara Luna is 70. Actor Jon Finch is 68. Author John Irving is 67. Singer Lou Reed is 67. Actress Laraine Newman is 57. Sen. Russell Feingold, D-Wis., is 56. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar is 54. Singer Jay Osmond is 54. Pop musician John Cowsill (The Cowsills) is 53. Tennis player Kevin Curren is 51. Country singer Larry Stewart (Restless Heart) is 50. Rock singer Jon Bon Jovi is 47. Actor Robert Iler ("The Sopranos") is 24.



Analysis: Obama embracing crisis as opportunity

By LIZ SIDOTI
 Associated Press Writer
 WASHINGTON (AP)— Like other presidents saddled with a crisis, Barack Obama is embracing the worst economic conditions in a generation as an opportunity to advance an audacious agenda that, if successful, could reshape the country for decades to come.

The flip side: He could fall victim to grandiose plans and too-high expectations if he doesn't deliver. It's clearly a chance he's willing to take.

"We are a nation that has seen promise amid peril and claimed opportunity from ordeal. Now we must be that nation again," Obama told the ailing and anxious country last week. "Now is the time to act boldly and wisely."

In his first five weeks, in his first budget and in his first address to Congress, Obama has made clear he's plowing ahead with his ambitious, big-ticket campaign promises. At the same time, he's trying to reverse a recession he inherited, by rescuing the banking, housing and financial sectors.

He wants to free the country from its foreign oil dependence, improve early childhood schooling, curb global warming, withdraw troops from Iraq, overhaul tax laws, fix transportation arteries, rehabilitate the U.S. image abroad and even find a cure for cancer. This week, he'll hold a health care summit to start a massive overhaul he hopes to complete in 2009.

"I think that we are at an extraordinary moment that is full of peril but full of possibility, and I think that's the time you want to be president," Obama told PBS' "The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer" in an interview Friday. "I think there's a sense that right now we are having to make some very big decisions that will help determine the direction of this

country, and in ways large and small the direction of the world for the next generation.

"And I won't lie to you. I wish that they weren't all having to be made at once. It would nice to be able to stage them on one another," Obama added.

Big questions hover over his broad vision. Can Obama win enough support from lawmakers and the public to accomplish what he wants without major changes? If so, will his prescriptions for the country's ills work?

Politically, he's betting the rewards will be worth the risks. And there are many, as he tries to do so much so early in his presidency, with the country so deep in disarray.

"The major one is that you don't know what you're doing, that you move quickly without really understanding the problems," said Stephen Wayne, a Georgetown University government professor. But, he added, Obama has compensated by studying the issues and appointing an experienced Cabinet.

Obama could spread himself too thin to make the lasting change he promised as a candidate. Obama's advisers say that at the very least, he will get credit for setting the wheels in motion on a range of long-festering problems. But voters demanding immediate results may not see it that way, and others may balk at his broad expansion of government.

Congressional politics also could interfere. Many initiatives must move through the cantankerous House and Senate ahead of 2010 elections. On Capitol Hill, Obama faces the challenges of keeping his increasingly energized left-wing Democrats in line while continuing to reach out to reluctant Republicans.

If the recession doesn't turn around in the coming years, Obama could stand accused of focusing too much on the long term. He recently acknowledged that his re-election prospects could suffer if the economy

fails to rebound. He got no help Friday with news that the economy contracted 6.2 percent in the final three months of 2008, the worst showing in a quarter-century.

Working in his favor are a high job approval rating and loads of political capital. Even before he took office, it was expected Obama intended to spend that capital in a big way.

"You never want a serious crisis to go to waste," chief of staff Rahm Emanuel said last fall. He argued that the turbulent conditions opened doors for big changes in long-neglected areas.

In that sense, the new president is following an old model.

"Whenever there's a crisis in American life, whoever is in charge has used it for a backlogged agenda," said Leo Ribuffo, a history professor at George Washington University. "This is what leaders are supposed to do: take advantage of the situation to do what they think is good for the country."

That's not lost on Obama, who told Congress last week: "History reminds us that at every moment of economic upheaval and transformation, this nation has responded with bold action and big ideas."

Rightly or wrongly, he's often compared with Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt, president during the Depression and a worldwide war who seized on the public's angst to push his New Deal. He overhauled the banking and financial system, plowed money into public works and created Social Security.

Three decades later, Democrat Lyndon B. Johnson took advantage of intense social unrest to move ahead with his Great Society programs. The former Senate majority leader used his Capitol Hill savvy to advance anti-poverty measures and a civil rights agenda that granted blacks their first real entry into the political system. He also launched education and transportation initiatives. Medicare and Medicaid are among his legacies.

In the 1980s, Republican Ronald Reagan led a country faced with sky-high inflation and a growing Soviet threat. He used the public's anxieties over the Cold War and the economy to win support for an expanded military even as he limited the size of government, instituted across-the-board tax cuts and promoted supply-side economics.

Obama now will have to use the political skills and rhetorical devices that have gotten him this far.

"He laid out this huge agenda. Now, he's got to persuade people to trust him," said Robin Lakoff, a linguistics professor at the University of California at Berkeley.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Liz Sidoti covers the White House for The Associated Press and has covered national politics since 2003.

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THIS WEEK'S VERSE HOLY BIBLE (NKJV)

My **1**, **2** it all **3** when you **4** into **5** **6** **7** that the **8** of your **9** **10** **11**. But let patience have its **12** **13**, that you may be perfect and **14**, lacking **15**.

James 1:2-4

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Morning Worship 10:45
WEDNESDAY
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Dinner at 6:00 pm
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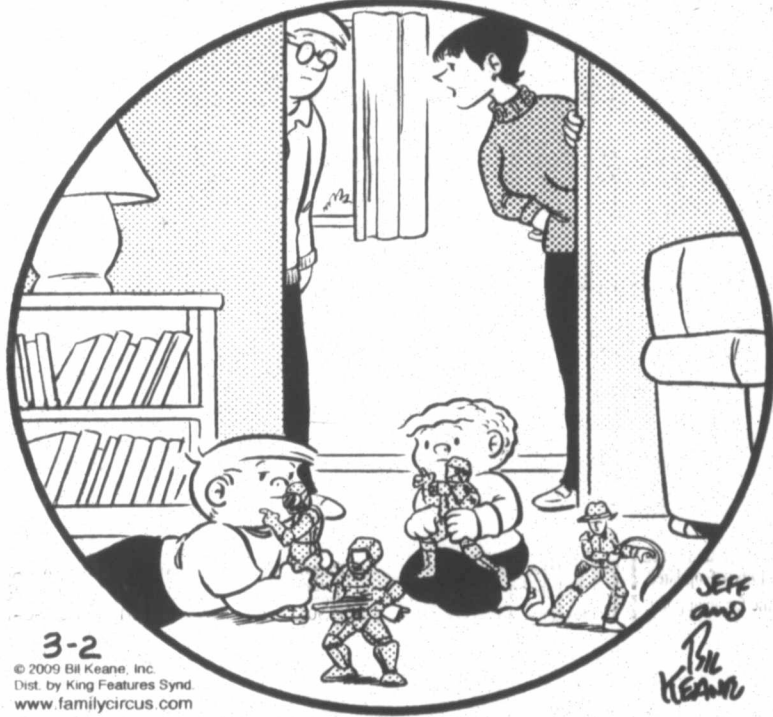
Marmaduke



"Will it be much longer? I'm losing feeling in my legs."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Those action figures are being played with by some NON-action figures."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 Shrek's love
 - 1 Window section
 - 5 Uncle Remus' — Rabbit
 - 9 Dancer Ailey
 - 10 Competitor
 - 12 Like monsoon season
 - 13 Higher than
 - 14 Trouble-ridden
 - 16 Gun-powder container
 - 17 Blues singer James
 - 18 Trembling trees
 - 21 Compass dir.
 - 22 R2-D2 and C-3PO
 - 23 Irritate
 - 24 Flirt with, in London
 - 26 Pouchlike part
 - 29 Statue metal
 - 30 Mexican coin
 - 31 Devour
 - 32 Snake oil
 - 34 Fund
 - 37 Rust, for one
- DOWN**
- 1 Flora
 - 2 Fly high
 - 3 Asian assassin
 - 4 "Orinoco Flow" singer
 - 5 Lingerie item
 - 6 Chest bone
 - 7 Drew out
 - 8 Baltimore team
 - 9 Zodiac ram
 - 11 Tripod trio
 - 15 Theater feature
 - 19 Bisque, for one
 - 20 Cobbler's cousin
 - 22 Scatter-brained sort
 - 23 Mythical piper
 - 24 Brain cases
 - 25 Frank
 - 26 Biased, in a way
 - 27 Stage comments
 - 28 Kitchen tool
 - 29 Stew meat
 - 30 Sprite
 - 33 Weather-map spots
 - 35 Low digit
 - 36 Bankroll

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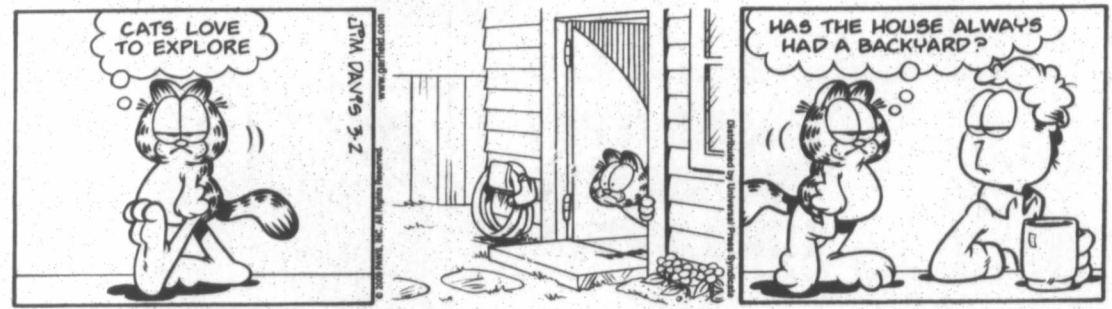
For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



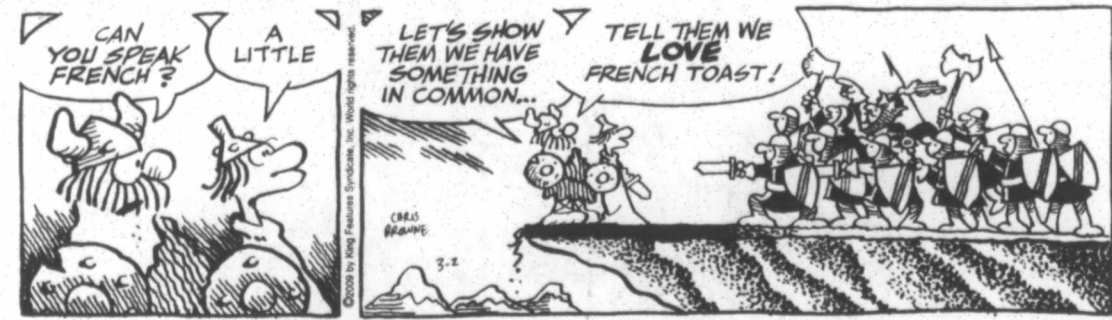
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B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



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Layoff turns hobby into job for Bristol man

BRISTOL, Texas (AP) — Steve Mensik's passion for his hobby of restoring classic cars and pickups may have become his livelihood, thanks to the economic downturn.

"My friend, Phil (Warner) and I did contract work for Home Depot and, thanks to the layoff, what we had as a hobby may work itself into our work," Mensik said.

Mensik, who hails from Ennis, has had an interest in classic vehicles since he attended high school at St. John's and began, in earnest, restoring them in 1989. He pointed out his prize project that he recently completed — a 1966 Mustang.

"This car has been in our family since 1970," he said. "My cousin drove it for a long time and then handed it down to his sister, who drove it until 1988. It sat up for years and I just recently got it and restored it."

Although he maintained much of the original look, he added a few subtle touches, including dual exhausts — each encased in a horseshoe.

And since his wife, Ginger, raises Arabian horses, he commemorated it by giving the pony insignia in the front grill of the Mustang custom paint with her brand embossed in it.

"It's easy to find parts for Mustangs," he said.

He also admits to being a regular customer at the Pate Swap Meet, once held in a field in Cresson in Johnson County, but has been moved in recent years to the Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth.

"Sometimes when I'm restoring a car, I have to buy a parts car in order to get the project finished," he said. "In work like this, you've got to spend money to make money."

Steve's multiple-bay shop behind his home is filled with projects to be completed. In one bay sits a 1957 Chevrolet panel truck he is planning to customize. He cut windows into the rear part of the body to

give it a Suburban look, and he's rigged the hood with the twin bullets that came off of a 1957 Chevrolet Bel Aire. The back of the truck has late model thin, inset vertical Cadillac tail lights.

"I'm probably going to go with a white color on this sort of like Moby Dick," he said with a laugh. "In fact, that's its name — Moby."

The walls in the main shop where he does most of his work are lined with photographs of the many cars and trucks he restored, including a couple of Studebakers, several mid-1950s Chevrolets and Mustangs.

Mensik believes there could be a future in restoring classic cars for him.

"I'm really not interested in doing body work on late model cars," he said. "But I love working with these classic vehicles and, you know, even with the economy being like it is, there are plenty of people around that love their toys and will pay money to have them restored."

Mensik's restoration projects haven't just been restricted to cars and trucks. He refurbished a little 1950s-style pedal car for his 18-month-old grandson, giving it a coat of soft purple paint and covering the seat with black tuck-and-roll upholstery. He also customized its hood with an airplane ornament that came off of one his Studebakers.

"Whenever I can get this Mustang finished, I want to work on my 1950 Studebaker business coupe," he said. "And, inside the shop, I have another Studebaker Starlight" coupe — the kind with the back wrap-around window glass. Now that one is going to be a bad boy" when I get it finished."

He's proud of the 1956 Chevy pickup that was his daughter's ride during her high school days. He restored and painted it a soft purple the same color as the pedal car.

"I love working with these classic vehicles," he said.

Killer of woman, 85, set to die Tuesday

LIVINGSTON, Texas (AP) — The elderly woman living alone in an elegant two-story Victorian house was a tempting target for a group of young men looking for a place to break in so they could get some money.

"At 19, you really don't think of the consequences," one of the burglars, Willie Pondexter, says.

By the time Pondexter and his companions fled Martha Lennox's home in Clarksville in far northeast Texas, the 85-year-old woman worth millions was dead of two gunshot wounds to her head.

They took less than \$20 in her purse and her Cadillac.

On Tuesday, Pondexter, now 34, was set for execution for the October 1993 slaying.

The high school dropout from Idabel, Okla., would be the ninth condemned Texas prisoner executed this year in Huntsville and the first of two set to die on consecutive nights this week in the nation's most active capital punishment state.

Attorneys were in the courts trying to block the punishment.

Pondexter was one of two men condemned for the slaying of Lennox, whose great-great grandfather signed the Texas Declaration of Independence and whose pioneer family had a long history in the Red River County area, accumulating substantial wealth and real estate holdings. Lennox herself donated a 374-acre forest preserve north of Clarksville to the Nature Conservancy of Texas and her family foundation — with assets topping more than \$16 million as of a year ago — continues to make charitable donations.

James Leon Henderson, 35, was tried separately and also went to death row but does not yet have an execution date. Evidence showed he first shot Lennox, then gave the gun to Pondexter, who shot her again.

"Basically out of stupidity and ignorance,"

Pondexter said last week from death row, explaining his role in the slaying. "I know what I did was wrong."

But he insisted his shot, which struck the woman in the jaw, wasn't fatal.

"I wasn't the guy that killed her," he said, blaming the slaying on Henderson for a burglary-robbery that got out of hand. "It shocked me. This wasn't what we had talked about."

"If we planned on shooting this woman, ain't no way I'd go along. It's crazy."

One of his trial lawyers, Craig Henry, agreed.

"I really truly believe he was not the cause of the death," Henry said.

A medical examiner, however, testified at the trials of Pondexter and Henderson that either shot could have been fatal. Jurors decided both should die.

Pondexter's attorneys and death penalty opponents contended the prisoner was a changed person since he'd been locked up and didn't deserve to die because he no longer represented a threat.

Jack Herrington, the former Red River County district attorney who prosecuted Pondexter, disagreed.

"I definitely think if he ever got out, he'd do it again," Herrington said. "There was a whole page of items that he'd been in trouble since he was a kid and he gradually was getting more and more violent."

Less than three weeks before the Lennox shooting, records showed he robbed and stabbed an Oklahoma woman. She would testify against him at his murder trial.

In 1997, some three years after arriving on death row, Pondexter nearly escaped with another condemned inmate by cutting through a recreation yard fence with a hacksaw blade.

Lennox, a benefactor of San Antonio's Trinity University, never married. She'd lived for decades in the landmark Clarksville home with her two older brothers, who also never married. They died a few years before the attack.

Texas in brief

Legislators say current sex ed law inadequate

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A group of Democratic state lawmakers is working to change Texas' sex education law that currently leans toward abstinence-only instruction.

Sen. Rodney Ellis of Houston and Rep. Joaquin Castro of San Antonio have introduced legislation they say would give teenagers complete, medically accurate and age-appropriate information. It would change current law that requires more attention to be devoted to abstinence than to any other behavior.

The lawmakers said Monday that sex education is inconsistent around the state. Some conservatives in the past have voiced concern with changing the system.

The Democrats stressed their proposal would let families opt out if they didn't want their children to receive instruction.

3 dead in apparent Longview double murder-suicide

LONGVIEW, Texas (AP) — Three people have been found dead at a house in Longview in what police are investigating as a double murder and a suicide.

A police statement Saturday afternoon said the cause of death is pending, but it appeared all three had been shot. Autopsies have been ordered.

Sgt. Ben Kemper says a call Saturday morning about the welfare of the residents led to the discovery of the bodies of two males and a female. All three were adults.

Kemper told The Associated Press that neighbors noticed that newspapers had been piling up in the front yard since Thursday.

Officers found no signs of a break-in. A handgun was near one of the bodies.

Names of the victims were not immediately released. Police declined to say if the three were related.

Tom Schieffer takes step toward run for governor

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Democrat Tom Schieffer, a former international diplomat with close ties to former President George W. Bush, is moving toward a race for governor.

Schieffer is forming an exploratory committee that will allow him to raise money and campaign for the office. If he ultimately runs, his relationship to the former Republican president is sure to be a top issue among Democratic primary voters next year.

Schieffer and Bush were business partners in the Texas Rangers baseball team. Schieffer also served as U.S. ambassador to Australia and Japan under Bush.

Partial ceiling collapse at Luby's

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Two women suffered minor injuries after part of the ceiling collapsed at a Luby's Inc. cafeteria in southeast Austin.

Austin-Travis County EMS spokesman Warren Hassinger says the accident happened during lunchtime Saturday when 37 people were in the building.

Hassinger says one patron and one worker were transported to hospitals. One person had a shoulder injury, while the other complained of neck pain.

Hassinger says a section of suspended ceiling fell, along with part of an upper ceiling and some light fixtures, in an area where food was being served. The ceiling and light fixtures did not directly fall on anyone.

The Luby's restaurant was closed for the rest of the day Saturday. Luby's is based in Houston.

Ike boil water notice lifted

CRYSTAL BEACH, Texas (AP) — A boil water advisory in effect since shortly after Hurricane Ike hit Bolivar Peninsula has been lifted as rebuilt supply lines return service to normal.

A statement from the Bolivar Peninsula Special Utility District says customers are no longer required to boil water prior to consumption.

Samples tested by the Galveston Health District found no harmful bacteria in the water supply.

Utility general manager Jennifer McKnight said Monday that state officials did not want the boil water order lifted until all lines were back in service, or disconnected.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a wonderful man I'll call "George" for the past 14 months. We have never had an argument or even a disagreement. We both have good jobs, like doing the same things, and we see each other every weekend. Our co-workers and family members have commented that we seem remarkably happy as a couple.

Don't get me wrong. George and I know what we like and dislike in life. We talk about things, have serious discussions and deal with whatever comes our way. But for some reason, my sister insists that by now my boyfriend and I should have had at least one good argument. She thinks it's weird that we haven't, and says we are "trying too hard" to make each other happy. She says George and I are ignoring things that could cause unhappiness.

My sister is younger, married, works full-time and has three kids. I think she may be secretly jealous of our relationship. So I ask you, Abby, DO all couples have to argue or have disagreements? — "MISS BLISS" in N.Y.C.

Dear "MISS BLISS": No, they do not. Some couples have a higher compatibility quotient than others. Intelligent, mature people do not necessarily agree on everything. However, they respect each other's right to disagree without it degenerating into an argument.

It appears that you and George recognize how lucky you are to have found each other. Whether your sister is jealous is beside the point. When you are ready to take the next step, premarital counseling — which I think is a good idea for all couples — can ensure that you and George are on the same page about the things you both think are important.

DEAR ABBY: Our 10-year-old son, "Harry," is a sore loser. If we play a sport or a board game with him, he ends up in tears if he doesn't win. Sometimes he will cheat if he thinks it will help him win.

He even becomes upset when his favorite NHL hockey team loses a game.

We have told Harry repeatedly that games are supposed to be fun, but he seems unable to grasp the concept. We do not know what else to do. Can you help? — HAVING NO FUN IN CANADA

DEAR HAVING NO FUN: Learning to handle and channel frustration is part of growing up. Nobody likes to lose, yet winning and losing are a part of every competition. If you catch Harry cheating, there should be a penalty, and you should let him know you are disappointed in him.

Continue to impress upon your son that the most important aspect of sportsmanship (or gamesmanship) is learning not only to be a gracious winner but also to be gracious in defeat. Tiger Woods is a glowing example of sportsmanship at its best. A cheat may win a game, but when the deed is discovered, no one respects the person. It's sad to say, but we have seen examples of that, too, in professional sports in recent years.

DEAR ABBY: Why is it that men, no matter their ages, are jerks? I am a single mom and have been divorced for two years. I date occasionally, and when I do, I try to date good guys who could possibly become more.

Abby, I never get a second date! I am sweet and can carry on a conversation. I go out with them or cook for them. I just don't understand why they never give me a second chance. — HURT IN ROSWELL, N.M.

DEAR HURT: Not all men are "jerks." Because you are consistently getting the same reaction from every man you date, it is time to seriously consider what you might be doing to chase them away. A good place to start would be by having a frank talk with some of your male relatives and/or platonic friends.

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Beginner

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