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Group heading to Haiti to help after earthquake

By REBECCA BRIA
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When the Rev. Charles Gommer thinks of Haiti, Carlo Dupree comes to his mind.

The two met while walking up the mountains into the province of Jérémie in Haiti. Dupree, a 10-year-old Haitian, was tasked to see that the Rev. Gommer and other missionaries safely made it up the mountain.

By the time the group reached the top of the mountain, the Rev. Gommer knew all the words to the song "Frère Jacques" thanks to the boy.

"He said he'd go to school every day of the week if he could," the Rev. Gommer said. "We tried to get what was so attractive about school. He was the first kid in a family of nine to go through school. He will be the

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first one to get off that mountain and find out what his destiny is."

The Rev. Gommer, of Dallas Township, is a retired United Methodist minister. He was the pastor of Trucksville United Methodist Church from 1965 to 1970 before becoming district superintendent for the Wilkes-Barre district of the United Methodist Church, which included the Back Mountain.

In 1994, the Rev. Gommer helped initiate missions to Haiti through the Wyoming Confer-

ence of the United Methodist Church, Council on Ministries. Since then, at least three teams travel to Haiti each year.

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"Our plan is to begin to gear up," the Rev. Gommer said. "We're also going to raise a lot of money. We're also being asked to make up health kits.

The Rev. Gommer has been on eight or nine trips to Haiti and has also gone on mission trips to Cuba. For the past 10 years of his retirement, he has been the Volunteers in Mission coordinator for the Wyoming Conference of the United Methodist Church. His wife, who was a nurse educator for many years, has also done mission work in Haiti and Africa.

Although the Rev. Gommer does not know yet exactly what the volunteers will do to help, he is ready to go to the distressed island and do whatever he can. He says the leadership of the Haitian churches will outline

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Haitian Volunteers in Mission United Methodist Church interpreter Jean Claude, left, and the Rev. Charles Gommer pose for a photo in front of a map at John Wesley School in Verretts, Haiti. The Rev. Gommer, retired as the district superintendent for the Wilkes-Barre district of the United Methodist church, is planning to go to Haiti to help with the aftermath of a devastating earthquake.

Rainforest comes alive

Those in the audience at "Live on Stage, The Rain Forest" at Lake-Noxen Elementary School felt like they were in the middle of the tropical rain forest with beautiful sights and sounds of the Amazon region. Participants had the opportunity to get up close and personal with exotic birds, alligators, jungle cats, monkeys and snakes.



Kelly Kostrobala has a macaw land on her arm during a live animal presentation at Lake-Noxen Elementary School.



The Yurko family, of Sweet Valley, purchases tickets to a live animal presentation at Lake-Noxen Elementary School from Erica Bicknell.



Animal handler Mike Kohlraeser explains the habits of a boa constrictor to, from left, Levi Tatsko, Emily Dale and Trey Leo during a presentation at the Lake-Noxen Elementary School.

ATTENTION: SUPER BOWL FANS

Do you have a prediction for Super Bowl 2010? Are you willing to go out on a limb and share that prediction with Dallas Post readers?

Today's NFC and AFC championship games will determine the teams that will face off in the Super Bowl on Sunday, Feb. 7.

If you've got the courage to make a prediction, e-mail us at news@mydallaspost.com. We'll need your name, your hometown, the name of the team you think will win and a score.

And, if you're a die-hard fan of one of this year's Super Bowl teams, let us know that, too. Maybe you'll be really daring and let us take your picture cheering on your favorite team.

KT Police investigating rash of vehicle thefts

The Kingston Township Police Department is investigating another rash of thefts from vehicles.

The entries into not less than 13 vehicles happened overnight from Sunday, Jan. 17 into Monday, Jan. 18. Items re-

ported taken included, but were not limited to, electronics, jewelry and cash. In every instance, the vehicle entered was not locked.

The thefts occurred between the area of Harris Hill Road in Trucksville and East Center Street in Shavertown.

Police continue to urge residents to lock their car doors and not leave electronics visible, cash or jewelry in their vehicles.

Anyone having any information regarding the thefts is asked to call township police at 696-1175 or 911.



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