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# The PAMPA NEWS

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Friday, March 6, 2009 Volume 104 • No. 267 50¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

## CRASH LANDS AT INSURANCE AGENCY

No serious injuries

by Rachel Stennett  
rstennett@thepampanews.com  
A hummer flipped yesterday (March 5) after being struck by a car, and landed on two vehicles in front of the Farm Bureau Insurance office at Kingsmill and Gray.

The driver of the Hummer, Geneva Quilimaco Zamora, and two juveniles inside were transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center, but reports indicate that no one was seriously injured.

Kim Spearman, insurance secretary, witnessed the Hummer flipping outside of her office window. "I looked up and saw it spinning in the air," she said.

"Thank goodness everyone was OK, this could've been a lot worse."

Spearman confirmed that the unoccupied vehicles were Farm Bureau Insurance customer vehicles. Spearman and her fellow employees called 911 and checked on the peo-

Crash— cont. on page 3



Three people were injured Thursday afternoon, none seriously, when this green Pontiac Sunfire struck the black Hummer, causing it to flip and land on a white Honda parked in front of Farm Bureau Insurance at the corner of Kingsmill and Gray. staff photo by Rachel Stennett

Spring forward— set  
clocks ahead 1 hour  
at 2 a.m. Sunday

**DAYLIGHT  
SAVING TIME**

## Help available for laid off workers

by Betsy Phillips  
editor@thepampanews.com

Dozens of Pampans have been caught in recent layoffs from Celanese, National Oilwell and now Halliburton.

Phillip Flores of the Texas Workforce Solutions office in Amarillo, says there is a lot of help for those who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

Halliburton officials responded to questions about the layoffs occurring Thursday and today at their Pampa facility with a press release sent from spokesperson Diana Gabriel.

"Halliburton has suc-

cessfully weathered multiple industry downcycles, and it is clear 2009 will be a challenging year for both the company and the industry.

"We are confident we have the right people, technology, and financial strength to address the task of successfully operating in a contracting market and position us to benefit from the market's eventual recovery.

"Further, while positions around the world may be eliminated, Halliburton's strategy is to minimize personnel reductions, because if one looks at costs associated with severance, rehiring and then

retraining an employee base to handle an upside in the industry, it almost always is more than or at least equal to the cost of carrying that employee base through a downturn in the industry. At this time, the Company will continue to evaluate the market and see whether any further actions are necessary."

**The employment office**

For those laid off and who have not yet found other employment— there is help available.

Flores said his office tries to come in and do lay-off interventions, if possible, but often large compa-

Help— cont. on page 3

## County to add numbers for safety

by David Bowser  
dbowser@thepampanews.com

Gray County vehicles are about to get some new numbers...on their roofs.

Commissioner Gary Willoughby has devised a numbering system with Gray County Judge Richard Peet and County Emergency Coordinator Joe Millican to help identify county equipment from the air during wildfires, snowstorms, tornadoes or other disasters.

Willoughby said there was some confusion at times earlier this year when area and local emergency workers battled a grass fire around Perry Lefors Airport. Putting numbers atop the different vehicles should alleviate any confusion and make deployment of the equipment more efficient.

The use of the numbers is twofold. First, he said

**RED FLAG,  
WARNING**

No burning is ever allowed in the City of Pampa. Gray County is under a burn ban.

there is the safety issue. If he has a maintainer go down in a wildfire or snowstorm, he can direct a helicopter to it to check on the driver. The other reason is to direct equipment where it can best be used.

"It's a safety issue," Willoughby said, "but it's also an issue to redirect County— cont. on page 3

## Pirate signs football Letter of Intent



Witnessing the signing of a Letter of Intent Wednesday by Dustin Forsyth are Dustin's Pewee football coach, Kevin Burrows, Lefors principal Jeff Nicklas- and Dustin's parents Lindy and Kenny Forsyth. submitted photo

submitted by Roy Lott  
After helping lead his team to three straight playoff appearances, Dustin Forsyth of Lefors plans on continuing his football career.

Dustin signed a letter of intent to play college football for Dodge City Community College.

The Dodge City Conquistadors are a member of the KJCCC conference competing against other colleges thru out Kansas.

Standing 6-5 and weighing 275, Dustin was a dominating force on the Sixman grid iron. He is also been gifted with excellent quickness and determination. During his Pirate football career, Dustin contributed to the Pirates first ever Sixman playoff appearance in the in 2006. In 2007 the Pirates were defeated by Motley County who went on to be state Champions, knocking Lefors from the playoffs in the first round.

In 2008 The Pirates won their first Sixman District Championship and made it to the State quarter finals losing a heart breaking game to Silverton 70-62.

Dustin's presence will be missed greatly by the Pirate squad, not only on the field but as a leader off the field. He has made a community very proud and Lefors looks for more to come from an outstanding young man.

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**PIANAFIDDLE**

Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> • 7:30 pm  
For More Information Call 669-5790

**PAMPA FORECAST**

Saturday      Sunday      Monday



High 75  
Low 41



High 70  
Low 36



High 73  
Low 40

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 75. Windy, with a south southwest wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.  
**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 41. Windy, with a south southwest wind 20 to 25 mph becoming west 10 to 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.  
**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 70. West wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.  
**Sunday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 39. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.  
**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 73. West southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.  
**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. West southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 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.....\$4.55  
 Milo.....\$4.62  
 Corn.....\$6.22

**Cash Five Texas results**

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:  
 Winning numbers drawn: 12-3-8-33-27.  
 Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$25,345  
 Winning ticket purchased in: Alvin  
 Matching four of five: 117. Prize: \$97  
 Matching three of five: 3,105. Prize: \$8  
 Matching two of five: 29,109. Prize: \$2  
 Next Cash 5 drawing: Friday night.

**Texas Two Step results**

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:  
 Winning numbers drawn: 27-8-9-12. Bonus Ball: 4.  
 Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.  
 Number matching four of four: 13. Prize: \$2,170.  
 Number matching three of four, plus Bonus Ball: 68. Prize: \$51.  
 Number matching three of four: 2,552. Prize: \$19.  
 Number matching two of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1,633. Prize: \$19.  
 Number matching one of four, plus Bonus Ball: 10,230. Prize: \$7.  
 Number matching Bonus Ball alone: 17,216. Prize: \$5.  
 Estimated jackpot for Monday night drawing: \$1.9 million.

**Clarification**

In the March 2 story, "Process for shelter has begun, we reported that the cities of Brownfield, Dumas and Sunray all had not used bond funds for their water parks. Actually, Mr. Meaker was only speaking of Brownfield.

*Emergency Services*

**FIRE**

**Smoke/haze lingers**

According to Deputy Chief Randy Dunham of the Pampa Fire Department, the smoke odor and haze that has wafted into the city is mostly likely due to a fire that started last night and lasted into the early morning north of Borger. "We believe the winds aloft are bringing the smoke haze into our area. We have been out numerous times this morning trying to locate anything within or nearby the city, nothing has been found. The smoke odor and haze is blowing in with the winds," Dunham said.  
 Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m. today.  
**Wednesday**  
 12:53 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 500 block of Powell on a CO investigation.  
 5:49 a.m. — One unit and three personnel

responded to the 1900 block of Charles on a lift assist.  
 4:58 p.m. — Two units and three personnel responded to the 700 block of Craven on a grass fire.  
 6:29 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 300 block of North Price on a pit fire. Another call was received at 8:50 p.m. for the same incident.  
 9:00 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 1000 block of South Dwight on a good intent call.  
**Thursday**  
 4:13 p.m. — Three units and nine personnel responded to the intersection of Kingsmill and Gray streets on a motor vehicle accident.  
**Friday**  
 1:21 a.m. — One unit and five personnel responded to the 500 block of Magnolia on a med assist.

**For the Record**

*Obituaries*

**B. F. Dorman, 82**

Pampa, Texas — B. F. Dorman, 82 died on Friday, March 6, 2009 in Pampa. Services are pending.

**Dorothy Delia Brown, 93**

Dorothy Delia Brown, age 93, went to be with our Lord February 23, 2009 at Apple Meadows Assisted Living in Omak, Wash.. She was born May 29, 1915 to C.C. and Myo Mae Dodd in Pampa Texas where she spent her growing up years, graduating from Pampa High School. She married Arthur Peacock in 1935. They had three children, Ivan of Pampa Texas, Bob of Meadville, Pennsylvania

and Charles of Omak, Wash. Her hobbies were music, sewing, and stamps. She loved to travel and enjoyed singing in choral groups and on the radio in her earlier years. She married Allistar Brown in 1967 and lived in Burbank, Calif. She worked and retired from Lockheed Aircraft in Burbank.  
 She is preceded in death by her husband Allistar and her parents and sons Ivan in

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 memory-gardens.tripod.com

2006 and Bob in 2008. She is survived by her son Charles and his wife Marjie of Omak, Washi., 10 grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren.  
 At the request of the deceased there will be no services. Internment will be at Fairview Cemetery in Pampa, Texas. She will be sorely missed by her family and friends. May she rest in peace.



Brown

**Elisabeth Klara Newman, 80**

Mobeetie, Texas — Elisabeth Klara Newman, 80 died on March 4, 2009 in Amarillo, Texas.  
 Services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 7, 2009, at Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel with Pastor Johnny Crawford, associate pastor of the Reydon Community Church, officiating.  
 Burial will be at Mobeetie Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.  
 Mrs. Newman was born November 14, 1928 in Lambertheim, Germany and

she went home to be with her Lord on March 4, 2009. She married Delmar Newman on October 15, 1948 in Bremen, Germany; he preceded her in death on June 27, 2007. She has been a resident of Mobeetie since 1968 where she was a homemaker and a loving mother. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Mobeetie where she loved to serve the Lord. She became a citizen of the United States in 1968. She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, one son-in-law and one grand-

son.  
 Survivors include six children Nancy Craig and husband Orville of Pampa, Shirley Wadley and husband Jody of Okmulgee, Okla., Robert Newman and wife Cindy of Amarillo, Bill Newman and wife Sherri of Elk City, Okla., Martha Gardner and husband Terry of Allison, and Pat Newman and wife Marletta of Farmington, N.M., 20 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren.  
 MEMORIALS: Odyssey Health Care, The Atrium at Coulter Ridge, 6900 I-40



Newman

West, Suite 150, Amarillo, Texas 79106.

*Emergency Services*

**PAMPA PD**

Pampa Police Department reported the following calls.  
**Wednesday**  
 Abandoned vehicles were reported in the 100 block of Randy Matson, and the 1400 block of East Francis.  
 A violation of city ordinance was reported in the 2100 block of Christine.  
 Officers conducted 10 traffic stops.  
 A total of 14 calls and/or stops concerning animals were made.  
 Criminal trespass was reported in the lobby of the PD, and the 1000 block of South Varmon, where a window and frame was broken, valued at \$35.  
 Traffic complaints were received from the 800 block of South Hobart.  
 A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1800 block of North Somerville.  
 Burglaries were reported in the 400 block of North Crest, where ceramic floor tiles were damaged, value \$60; and the 400 block of North Wynne where a speaker was damaged and tools reportedly stolen, value \$75.  
 Theft was reported in the 800 block of South Banks, where a ring was reportedly stolen, value \$2,500; the lobby of the PD, and the 1300 block of North Coffee.  
 Welfare checks were made in the 500 block of North Faulkner, and the 1100 block of North Starkweather.  
 Motor vehicle accidents were reported in the intersection of Houston and Craven, and the 2200 block of North Hobart.  
 Fraud was reported in the lobby of the PD, where fraudulent checks were written on an account for \$220.  
 A civil matter was reported in the 1500 block of North Williston.  
 Criminal mischief was reported in the lobby of the PD.  
 Disorderly conduct was reported in the 300 block of North Sumner.  
 Suspicious person calls were received from the 700 block of East Murphy.  
 Suspicious person calls were received from the 1000 block of 23rd.  
 Welfare checks were made in the 1400 block of East Browning, and the

1000 block of East Browning.  
**Thursday**  
 Disorderly conduct was reported in the 300 block of North Hobart, and the 200 block of McCullough.  
 A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 100 block of North Sumner.  
 Harassment was reported in the 1300 block of East Kingsmill.  
 Officers conducted four traffic stops.  
 Two alarms were investigated.  
 A burglary was reported in the 2300 block of North Hobart, where a metal door with two deadbolts was damaged and money stolen, value \$1,000.  
 Suspicious person calls were received from the 400 block of Hughes.  
 Motor vehicle accidents were reported in the intersection of Brown and Cuyler, the lobby of the PD, the intersection of Crawford and Barnes, the intersection of Hobart and Kentucky, and the intersection of Kingsmill and Somerville.  
 An assault was reported in the 1000 block of South Neel.  
 Agency assistance was rendered in the 1100 block of South Dwight.

A total of 11 calls and/or stops concerning animals were made.  
 A welfare check was made in the intersection of Buckler and Faulkner streets.  
 A domestic disturbance was reported in the intersection of Huff and Crawford.  
**Friday**  
 Officers conducted a traffic stop.  
 Disorderly conduct was reported in the 500 block of North Powell.  
 Theft was reported in the 1300 block of North Hobart.

**SHERIFF**

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests.  
**Wednesday**  
 Samuel Ray Moore, 33, of Pampa was arrested by the Pampa Police Department for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.  
 Andrew Johnson, 61, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for theft of firearm, two counts.  
 Jamie Lee Aleman, 22, of Pampa was arrested by the GCSO for motion to

revoke probation for possession of controlled substance in Ochiltree County.  
 Rebecca Jane Carpenter, 36, of Pampa was arrested by the GCSO for manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance greater than four grams, but less than 200 grams, tampering with physical evidence with intent to impair, and assault on a public servant.  
 Jose Ramone Resendiz, 18, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for possession of drug paraphernalia.  
 Stacy allen Sandoval, 34, of San Antonio, Texas was arrested by the GCSO for possession of a controlled substance, and bond surrender, failure to identify.  
**Thursday**  
 Jose Alfonso Levya, 20, of Pampa was arrested by the Pampa Police Department for no driver's license and no insurance.  
**Friday**  
 Felipa Cano Ramirez, 58, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for public intoxication.  
 Justin Michael Arney, 22, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for no driver's license, and issuance of bad check, two counts.

**LAST MINUTE CLASSIFIED LINE ADS**

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

**CLEARANCE SALE**  
 March 10-21. 50% most. Closed Mondays. New hours 11:30-7:30. Le Chic Boutique. 113 W. Foster. 688-1530.

**GOSPEL SINGING,**  
 Sunday afternoon, 2-4, Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock. Everyone welcome.

**OPTIMIST BASEBALL/**  
 SoftBall Signups Mon-Thurs. 5:30-7:30 ages 5-15 at the Optimist Park. \$70 for afes 5-8, \$85 for ages 9-15

**PSA SOCCER Spring**  
 Sign-Ups, call 486-1646 to reg. \$55.

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

**SHAR-PEI PUPPIES** 1 male, 1 female. AKC Registered \$500 each, 898-6900.

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

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

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staff photo by Rachel Stennett

**Pampa police officers investigate a wreck in the intersection of Kingsmill and Gray Thursday afternoon that left this Hummer on top of two parked cars.**

## Wreck lands on parked cars

Crash— cont. from page 1

ple inside the Hummer, bringing them water and tissues.

The Hummer flipped after John Leslie West in a Pontiac Sunfire ran the stop sign and hit the right rear wheel well of the Hummer. The Hummer spun 180 degrees, then rolled and landed on two unoccupied vehicles in

front of the insurance company.

A white Honda Prelude parked in front of the building received the worst of the impact. It was pushed up onto the curb and the back end of the vehicle was heavily damaged.

The other vehicle the Hummer landed on, a Ford

Explorer, only received minor damage to the rear tail light and bumper. According to Spearman, the cars saved the Hummer from further flipping and damage.

John Leslie West was cited with failure to yield to row a stop sign.

## Abilene Christian's black student leader ousted

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Abilene Christian University's black student body president has been impeached six months after he reported finding a noose on his chair, although students and officials say that had no connection to his ousting.

The Students' Association Congress voted 25-5-2 Wednesday night to impeach Daniel Paul Watkins, saying he had not fulfilled the 20 hours of required work per week as an executive officer, was frequently late to meetings and talked to a professor disrespectfully.

Watkins said he "made a pretty compelling case" that he should remain in office, then was asked to leave the meeting. He said he was not disrespectful to anyone and was late and had missed some student government work when he broke his leg last fall.

Then members voted after he was out of the room for two hours, although the university's constitution says impeachment requires a three-fourths vote of the entire student government body — and all 43 members were not there. Then the association's vice president was named the new president.

"It feels like the rules were changed in the mid-

dle of the process, but I didn't know what my recourse was," Watkins, 20, a political science major from Fredericksburg, Va., told The Associated Press by telephone Thursday. "It feels like there's a concerted effort to get me out of office, for whatever reason."

In an e-mail to faculty, Jean-Noel Thompson, the university's vice president for student life and a co-adviser to the student government, said the impeachment process — a three-fourths vote of the members or those present — had been determined beforehand and adopted by the association's cabinet, including Watkins. Thompson said the co-advisers met with the school's attorneys to formulate the process because it was unclear in the bylaws.

Luke Cochran, the group's chief financial officer who presented the "charges" against Watkins that came from multiple students, told the AP the impeachment had "absolutely nothing" to do with his race or the noose incident. He said problems with Watkins had been going on since early fall but declined further comment.

Watkins, the student

body's vice president last year, said many students congratulated him last spring after he was elected to the one-year term as president. He said he thought things were going smoothly with his fellow student government members. Still, he said he is not sure if race was a factor.

"I don't look like other Student Association presidents, so it came down to a personal vendetta," he said.

About 13 percent of the 4,700 students at Abilene Christian University are black. The percentage of black students has doubled over the past decade, said officials with the Church of Christ-affiliated university about 150 miles west of Fort Worth.

The impeachment has been the talk of the campus and in online networking sites, but many students have been offended by Watkins' suggestions that his ouster may have been racially motivated, saying the majority of the mostly-white student body elected him.

The story on the Web site of the university's newspaper, The Optimist, was so popular it had more than 3,000 hits as of Thursday night, while top stories usually get about 300 hits, said editor Daniel Johnson-Kim.

## Safety in numbers

County— cont. from page 1

equipment."

Millican said several area ranchers and the Department of Public Safety had helicopters that would be put into operation during emergencies and the Texas Forest Service had aircraft as well that could help direct the county's heavy equipment where they needed to be to fight wildfires or clear roads to rescue stranded citizens.

"It's something that fire departments have been using for sometime," Millican said.

He said the Texas and U.S. Forestry Services have all their trucks numbered so they can be identified from the air.

"It makes it easier for spotter planes or whoever's helping to direct traffic," he said.

Millican said they've had motor graders and bulldozers out on the fire

line with no markings. That makes it hard to communicate with them, he said.

"With the numbering system they'll have on their roof that can be seen from the air," Millican said, "it will make it a lot easier."

He said the idea came through the county's safety committee that's constantly reviewing procedures. There's no state or federal mandate to do it.

"Our county wants to be pro-active," Millican said.

Judge Peet suggested that the numbers be preceded by a G for Gray County since often equipment from other counties or organizations may be involved and having several pieces of equipment with the same number painted on the roof would only add to the confusion.

Willoughby said the first number would identify the

precinct the vehicle is from. The following numbers would identify the type of equipment it is. Whether it is a road graders or tank truck or whatever the number indicates, an aircraft overhead can easily spot it and report its location back to a communications or headquarters unit.

"The county has a sign-making machine," Willoughby said. "We make all of our street signs. It was given to us through a grant from the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission."

The \$10,000 machine is housed at the Precinct 2 offices.

"We can make those letters and numbers," Willoughby said.

He indicated that he hopes the numbering will take effect this month.

## Help for job seekers

Help— cont. from page 1

ble, but often large companies won't work with them.

Such has been the case, he said, with all the entities who have laid off workers in Pampa.

We have a rapid response—if employers would call us—to lay out what employees can expect and how we can help," Flores said. "If you've been laid off, you qualify for services."

Once the job is lost, how can Workforce help? And what's the catch?

1) They can help keep your head above water. According to Flores, if a utility is about to be shut off, or you need gas to look for a job, they can help.

2) They have career counselors, job leads, grief and credit counselors.

3) If it is not likely that you can return to work in the same industry or type or job, Workforce will help you retrain.

And the catch? You have to sign up. Some money from the recently passed stimulus package is already available to the office.

"We have more money than we ever have before" Flores said and we're here to help people."

Flores said they can even pay for travel to a job interview the worker is qualified for and assist with relocation costs if needed.

"We're the employment office, not the unemployment office," he explained.

WIA can also now help with medical expenses, and prescription costs. To sign up, log on to [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org), or go to either the Pampa, 1601 W Kentucky, 665-0938 or Amarillo office, 1206 E 7th Ave., 806-372-5521.

### Workforce Fast Facts

The Texas Workforce Commission and the 28 local workforce boards working together have produced significant results.

- Provided training services to more than 77,000 adults, youth and dislocated workers through Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Skills Development Grants and other programs.

- Received \$50 million from the 80th Texas Legislature for the Skills Development Fund (SDF), an increase of nearly \$10 million over the appropriation

for the 2006-2007 biennium. Since its inception, more than 3,115 Texas businesses have obtained training for 188,941 new or incumbent workers.

- In FY 2007, SDF grants helped create or upgrade 20,831 jobs, which paid an average hourly wage of \$19.04. The grants assisted 281 Texas employers with their customized training needs.

- Awarded 10 Self-Sufficiency Fund grants in FY 2007 creating and upgrading more than 1,540 jobs. The grants, which totaled \$3,452,886, benefited 28 Texas employers. The jobs paid an average hourly wage of \$11.20. The Self-Sufficiency Fund, which began in 1998, has awarded 140 grants totaling over \$151.8 million to train workers.

- The Legislature appropriated \$3.1 million to the Self-Sufficiency Fund for each year of the FY 2008-2009 biennium.

- Launched the TWC Unemployment Insurance (UI) Debit Card providing faster access to UI funds, convenience, and security.

- Verified more than 52,000 work-search contacts in FY 2007.

- Met state and federal participation rates for TANF Choices employment services and reduced the number of welfare recipients by 78 percent since 1995.

- 123,411 children on average per day received child care through local workforce boards in FY 2007.

- 879,728 workers entered employment after obtaining services at Texas workforce centers in FY 2007.

- Recovered \$1.3 million in restitution for fraudulent UI cases in 2007.

- Recovered more than \$3.9 million in unpaid wages for Texas workers on 5,291 wage claims under the Texas Payday Law.

- Earned for Texans \$78.6 million in federal TANF high-performance bonuses related to job placement since 1999.

- Received \$12 million in federal Secretary's Incentive Awards for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) performance.

- Provided training services to more than 77,000 Texans.

- Implemented Internet options that allow Texans access to services 24/7/365 on a self-serve basis.



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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

By The Associated Press  
 Today is Friday, March 6, the 65th day of 2009. There are 300 days left in the year.  
 Highlights in history on this date:  
 1834 - The city of York in Upper Canada is incorporated as Toronto.  
 1836 - Alamo mission in San Antonio, Texas, falls to Mexican army after 13-day siege in which Davy Crockett and 186 other defenders die.  
 1853 - Verdi's opera "La Traviata" premieres in Venice, Italy.  
 1857 - In its Dred Scott decision, the U.S. Supreme Court holds that Scott, a slave, could not sue for his freedom in a federal court.  
 1922 - United States prohibits export of arms to China.  
 1936 - The British Supermarine Spitfire MKI takes to the air, as a prototype of German's fastest fighter plane.

*'Le sens commun n'est pas si commun (Common sense is not so common.)'*

— Voltaire,  
 French author

1945 - German city of Cologne falls to U.S. First Army in World War II.

1946 - France recognizes Vietnam as free state within Indochina Federation.

1953 - G.M. Malenkov succeeds the late Joseph Stalin as Premier of Soviet Union.

1962 - United States pledges to defend Thailand against Communist aggression without waiting for action by Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.

1965 - U.S. Defense Department announces that 3,500 Marines are being sent to South Vietnam, the first U.S. ground combat troops committed to fighting against Communist guerrillas.

1988 - Thousands of Tibetans demanding independence set fires throughout their capital city of Lhasa.

1995 - The dollar plummets to 92.70 yen, its lowest level against the yen anywhere in the world since modern exchange rates were established in the late 1940s.

1999 - Ta Mok, the last leader of the murderous Khmer Rouge, is captured by the Cambodian army and flown to the capital for trial.

2003 - An Algerian passenger jet crashes in the Sahara Desert shortly after takeoff, killing 116 people.

2006 - Several cats test positive for the deadly strain of bird flu in Austria and Poland reports its first outbreak of the disease, as the World Health Organization calls bird flu a greater global challenge than any previous infectious disease.

Today's Birthdays:

Michelangelo, Italian renaissance artist (1475-1564); Cyrano de Bergerac, French author-duellist (1620-1655); Elizabeth Barrett Browning, English poet (1806-1861); Ed McMahon, U.S. host/announcer (1923-); Lorin Maazel, French-born conductor of the NY Philharmonic (1930-); Rob Reiner, U.S. director/actor (1947-); Shaquille O'Neal, U.S. basketball player (1972-); Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Colombian novelist (1927-).



"SO ALL THIS IS BECAUSE WE TOOK OUT A HOME EQUITY LOAN TO REDO THE BATHROOM?"

## A tax, borrow, and spend approach won't fix the economy

By U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

When Congress was presented with a massive spending bill as the first major piece of legislation under the new Administration, many lawmakers, myself included, balked at the trillion dollar price tag. As massive as the stimulus legislation was, it was merely the preamble to a series of proposed big government tax and spend initiatives. On the docket is the largest budget in the history of our nation, a proposal that will raise taxes and swell the national debt, and an Omnibus Appropriations bill that will, for the first time in our nation's history, spend more than \$1 trillion for annual appropriations. With families and businesses struggling to make ends meet, the last thing Congress should attempt to do is tax, borrow, and spend our way out of one of the most challenging economic circumstances in a generation.

At the end of February, the Administration presented its \$3.6 trillion budget blueprint for 2010. Rather than prioritize spending, the plan proposes a \$1.75 trillion deficit, the highest since 1945, when America was in the throes of WWII. While the budget plan bears some meritorious spending, funding for worthy projects is overshadowed by twin liabilities: tax hikes and deepening debt.

First, in lieu of spending restraint, the budget will levy a \$1.4 trillion tax increase to partially fund an ambitious agenda that is teeming with initiatives that, given our economic state, are low priority. And those who will be hit hardest are

small businesses. Under this massive tax hike, economists predict that hiring will slow and the unemployment rate will continue to escalate. Savings and investment will be discouraged. And our nation's entrepreneurial spirit will be stifled.

Second, the budget will raise our rapidly accumulating national debt to perilous new heights. Today, the United States has a debt of \$10.8 trillion. The Administration projects that amount will rise to \$14 trillion next year; to \$17.1 trillion in less than five years; and to \$23.1 trillion dollars in a decade. We are dangerously approaching a situation in which we have so much debt that foreign investors will not buy it without a significant interest rate hike to protect them against increased risk. Furthermore, the debt we incur today will take years to bring down to a manageable size. Is this what the "New Era of Spending Responsibility" (as the budget blueprint is titled) looks like?

In early March, the Senate considered the Omnibus Appropriations bill, a piece of legislation to fund the government from now to October 1, 2009. It spends over 8 percent more than what Congress approved for FY 2008, over twice the rate of inflation. Democratic leaders in Congress pushed for the swift completion of this bill, refusing to allow passage of any amendments.

Most egregiously, the Omnibus bill includes 122 programs that not only are receiving astonishing increases over prior year appropriations levels, but were also funded in the Stimulus bill, passed in February. A more prudent approach would

have been to pass the annual Omnibus bill before crafting the \$1 trillion Stimulus measure so we could guard against this duplicative spending.

To that end, I introduced an amendment to this Omnibus bill that would have sent it back to the Appropriations Committee to bring the total spending level back down to the FY 2008 level with adjustments for inflation. The amendment would have required duplicative spending in the Stimulus and the Omnibus to be struck.

The Stimulus bill was merely the beginning. We will soon have to consider the \$1 trillion budget, including a \$634 billion "down payment" on the Administration's universal health care plan. On the horizon lies the Administration's housing plan, which will reportedly cost upwards of \$250 billion. And in the coming months, the White House will likely ask for another \$1 to \$2 trillion to shore up the financial sector.

I, along with so many Americans, am in sticker shock over the trillions of dollars at play in these efforts. Congress should pause and consider the consequence of every dollar we tax, borrow, or spend. Will these policies spur growth? Will they create jobs? Will they protect American families and small businesses? If not, the President must step back and reconsider these initiatives before it is too late.

Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas.

## Perry: Time to address gang threat

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry was today joined by Sen. John Carona and law enforcement officials to emphasize the need to combat the escalating threat of transnational gangs in our communities. Sen. Carona today filed Senate Bill (SB) 11, legislation that if passed will significantly disrupt the operations of transnational gangs in Texas.

"Today, we are sending a message to let these violent gangs know that they are not welcome here in Texas, and that we will do whatever it takes to drive them out of our state," Gov. Perry said. "It is time to act and I believe we should devote the necessary resources to properly address this gang threat head-on in communities across the state."

Gangs like the Mexican Mafia, the Texas Syndicate, Barrio Azteca and MS-13 are a threat to Texas citizens and growing increasingly sophisticated as they work to expand their influence across our state, recruiting members from our schools, communities and prisons. SB 11 will create an

offense for the online promotion of criminal gangs which will be a powerful tool in protecting young Texans and preventing them from being recruited into these illicit organizations. The bill will also allow parents, communities and government entities to file civil suits against criminal street gangs or individual gang members, enabling those parties to recover for damages caused by gang-related crimes.

Gov. Perry's gang initiative builds on the proven border security strategy of working with local law enforcement, increasing resources for surge operations, providing resources for investigations and

prosecutions, and establishing a multi-agency gang intelligence section in the Texas Fusion Center. The initiative calls for a multi-jurisdictional gang strategy that includes:

- Expanding the sharing of vital gang information at all levels of law enforcement across the state;
- Centralizing gang intelligence;
- Expanding effective local law enforcement gang operations in identified "hot spots";
- Increasing resources dedicated to multiagency criminal enterprise investigations that target leaders of the most dangerous gangs;
- Seeking enabling legislation to arm law

enforcement with essential gang fighting tools; and

•Expanding gang prevention efforts.

Securing our international border is a federal responsibility that Washington has yet to fulfill. As a result, the Texas Legislature took decisive action last session by providing necessary funding to secure the Texas border. Gov. Perry has urged the 2009 Legislature for continued leadership on this issue by supporting \$135 million to fund continued border security efforts and combat transnational gang activity across the state through the next biennium.

### We welcome your letters

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

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# Thursday's highlights from the Texas Legislature

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Transportation commissioners approved \$1.2 billion in highway work Thursday to be paid for with federal economic stimulus money, adding more projects requested by local officials and benefiting economically distressed areas.

Texas Department of Transportation officials proposed that more projects be added to the \$500 million in stimulus money maintenance work approved last week and to the \$1.2 billion in major projects that were under consideration Thursday. The extra money needed to complete the added projects would come from local or state funds.

Some state lawmakers had complained this week that economically distressed areas weren't given a priority in choosing projects, as required in the federal law signed by President Barack Obama in February. The transportation department's executive director, Amadeo Saenz, said distress was not a factor in deciding which roads and bridge maintenance projects would get stimulus money.

TxDOT spokesman Chris Lippincott said that requirement was taken into consideration with the group of 29 construction projects approved Thursday, as were other requirements such as a quick time for completing the projects and maximizing job creation and economic benefit.

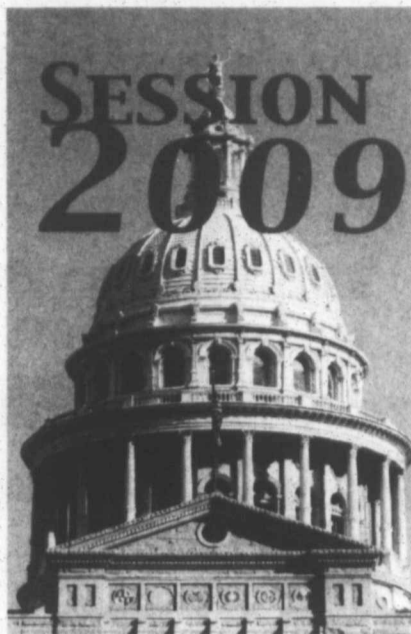
Among the projects approved are ones that would widen part of Interstate 35 in Bell County; construct a new interchange at U.S. Highway 281 and Loop 1604 in San Antonio; make improvements along U.S. 281 and U.S. 59 in the Pharr and Corpus Christi area; and construct an interchange.

Waco area officials complained that improvements to Interstate 35 in their city wasn't included.

Outside before the commission meeting, about a dozen activists gathered to protest the use of federal stimulus dollars on toll roads.

### GETTING TESTY

Public schools would get relief from the high stakes of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills in a proposed overhaul of the way Texas measures how well they are



doing. The legislation would minimize the importance of the much-criticized standardized tests, and instead encourage schools to prepare students for success after high school.

The proposed system would base annual school performance ratings on three years of test scores rather than the most recent year, allowing school districts and campuses to make up for a bad year of results with two positive years.

Under the current system, every school and district in the state is graded based on annual TAKS scores and student dropout rates. State ratings are anxiously awaited by superintendents, teachers and parents because they are the chief measure of how well schools are educating their students.

But educators and parents have increasingly voiced dissatisfaction with the grading system that was first implemented in 1994.

### CATASTROPHE FUND

A group of Texas legislators from Gulf Coast areas proposed Thursday requiring insurance companies to pay into a state catastrophe fund that the companies could tap if they sustain big losses from a hurricane or other natural disaster.

The Texas Windstorm Insurance Association — the state-sanctioned last resort insurer for some coastal counties — also would have to pay into the reinsurance fund.

Reinsurance is a backup policy for insurance companies.

Democratic Rep. Craig Eiland, sponsor of the House legislation, said property insurance companies would save money by not having to buy and renew reinsurance year after year from private companies based mostly in Europe or Bermuda and not regulated by the state. The savings would be passed along to consumers, he said.

The Legislature would have to invest an initial \$10 million, then all companies that sell residential property insurance in the state would pay into the fund. The money would be invested, much like a personal retirement account. If reinsurance money does not need to be distributed in a given year, the money would roll over for future years.

State Farm and Allstate insurance companies support the catastrophe fund plan. But some insurers, including USAA and Liberty Mutual, don't like the proposal and would prefer to keep buying reinsurance on the open market, which they contend spreads the reinsurance risk among a larger worldwide pool rather than confining it to Texas.

### ANTI-GANG BILL

Warning that Mexican drug cartels are spreading violence all over Texas, Sen. John Carona, R-Dallas, filed legislation Thursday designed to crack down on criminal gangs with civil lawsuits, stiffer penalties for online gang recruiting and mandatory rehabilitation programs for young gang offenders.

Carona, chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security, said criminal gangs were the "primary threat to homeland security today." He said his legislation, SB11, would allow businesses, communities and parents seek civil judgments and penalties against gangs in order to "cripple them financially."

### QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"This is a moving target. The rules seem to be written as we're going along — on the fly if you will — by our federal counterparts." — Gov. Rick Perry, complaining about the lack of clarity in the guidelines on how the federal stimulus dollars can be spent in Texas.

## Former editor gets 10 years in child porn case

MIDLAND, Texas (AP) — A former West Texas newspaper editor is going to prison for 10 years.

Richard Ellsworth McLaughlin, former editor of the weekly Winkler County News, pleaded guilty in September to possessing child pornography. He was sentenced Thursday in federal court in Midland.

McLaughlin, 62, was arrested in August after investigators found 600 minutes of child pornography videos on computers seized from his house and his newspaper office.

## Judge declares suspect in 6 murders competent

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A state psychiatrist has declared a man accused in the deaths of six people competent to stand trial.

State District Judge Brenda Kennedy ruled Paul Devoe incompetent Dec. 22. A Vernon State Hospital psychiatrist concluded Feb. 24 that Devoe is now competent. Prosecutors say they don't know when his next hearing will be.

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## Man arrested after SUV rams bar

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A man has been charged with first-degree aggravated assault after police say he drove his SUV into a bar that had denied him service in North Austin.

Austin police spokesman Sgt. Richard Stresing identifies the man as 21-year-old Dennis Aguilar Carachure of Austin.

Witnesses say Aguilar became belligerent late last night when an employee at La Preferida bar refused to serve

him any more drinks. Investigators say that after a bouncer pepper-sprayed and ejected the man, he got into his SUV and rammed it through the front door of the bar. He tried to drive away but lost control of his SUV and it overturned.

Bar customers followed and grabbed him and held him for police.

Police say one person in the bar suffered a broken arm.

## West Texas residents evacuated as wildfires spread

TUSCOLA, Texas (AP) — Residents near a small West Texas town were evacuated Thursday and some highways were closed as a 300-acre wildfire destroyed three structures and threatened 70 more, fueled by high winds and parched grass.

Helicopters and planes doused houses and other buildings in Taylor County south of Abilene, saving them from the flames as 15 fire departments worked to contain the blaze later in the evening, according to the Texas Forest Service. Parts of State Highways 83 and 84 were closed.

Earlene Hutto and her husband were watching the fire near their home that afternoon when a sheriff's deputy knocked on their door and asked them to evacuate. The couple packed up important papers and photos and then, with their son, drove away in the family's three cars, the

Abilene Reporter-News reported in Thursday online editions.

In Central Texas, firefighters on Thursday were putting out a few remaining hot spots of a 1,500-acre blaze in Bastrop County that started Saturday by a fallen power line and destroyed 28 homes and a dozen businesses.

In Brewster County, firefighters had contained about half of an 800-acre fire Thursday night.

In Ector County, firefighters had contained about three-fourths of a 640-acre fire that was narrow and about 8 miles long that started by an oil field heater-treater, according to the Texas Forest Service. Also Thursday, firefighters were battling a 15-acre blaze just west of that fire in Pecos County.

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We've probably all experienced an "Aha!" moment at some point in our personal or professional lives.

I'm talking about one of those illuminating moments when someone suddenly turns the light on and you can see clearly for the first time in a long time. It's one of those times when whatever was puzzling you, now makes perfect sense -- when confusion vanishes and understanding takes its place. It's when you realize you've just discovered something that is meaningful to you. An "Aha!" moment is a turning point -- a landmark juncture -- when you know your life is never going to be the same.

For Newton it was an apple falling on his head. For a young Albert Einstein, inspiration struck when he was handed a compass and realized that some unseen force in space was making it move. Have you heard the story of Archimedes? He discovered the principles of water displacement and buoyancy in the bathtub. His "Aha!" sent him leaping naked from the tub and running down the street shouting, "Eureka!" -- the Greek word for "I found it."

"Aha!" moments often grow out of hours of thought and due diligence. Many times defining moments arrive unexpectedly. Regardless of when or how they come, an "Aha!" brings us clarity, inspiration, motivation, and revelation.

Sometimes it just takes one "Aha!" moment to change you forever. Perhaps something you've experienced completely reverses the way you view life. Or something profound you've heard or read enlightens your consciousness and alters a long-held perspective.

O, the Oprah Magazine has been featuring a column on "Aha!" moments. Recently, Jill Scott, singer and star of "The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency" tells about one of her "Aha!" moments. Her aunt's untimely passing taught her a lesson about living life to the fullest.

We all have "Aha!" moments; no doubt we all need them. But once we get these insights, we need to seize them and utilize the newly discovered wisdom in order to reap the benefits they promise to provide.

Is it possible to be too busy to have time for the "Aha!" moment that has the potential to change your life?

I think so. Or at least I know that I've had days (or years) when my life felt consumed by trivial pursuits. In these times, I've often believed that I was missing something important. I've felt that some epiphany was just around the corner -- if only I could shorten the list that was monopolizing my time, energy and thought.

But perhaps this acknowledgement is a Eureka moment in and of itself. Or for me, it is as if I can't help but make the necessary changes in my life -- changes that make self-reflection and prayer a priority.

When an "Aha!" truly captures our attention, we know in our soul what we must do -- there is no going back. The "Aha!" is the realization that we already have been changed. An "Aha!" never leaves us where it found us. We will be pushed onward and forward, empowered, encouraged, strengthened and determined to use our newfound knowledge.

I have no doubt that anyone who heard Jesus preach had "Aha!" moments that transformed their lives, and they were never the same again. Multitudes were healed of their broken spirits and bodies.

Again and again following a healing, Jesus confirmed "Thy faith hath made thee whole." (Matthew 9:22) I think when our hopes rests upon faith and expectation that God will and can help and heal us, we ready our thought for the divine "Aha!" that brings healing.

The ability to change and be healed is within our grasp. We can understand what we need to know. That new, big idea is attainable. The needed turnaround is achievable.

"Aha!" moments are not for a chosen few. God gives all His children infinite ideas, and these spiritual ideas lead us Godward until we reach the earthshaking understanding that changes our human sense of things to the divine. Then as Paul says, "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye"...we shall all be changed." (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)

And so we are.

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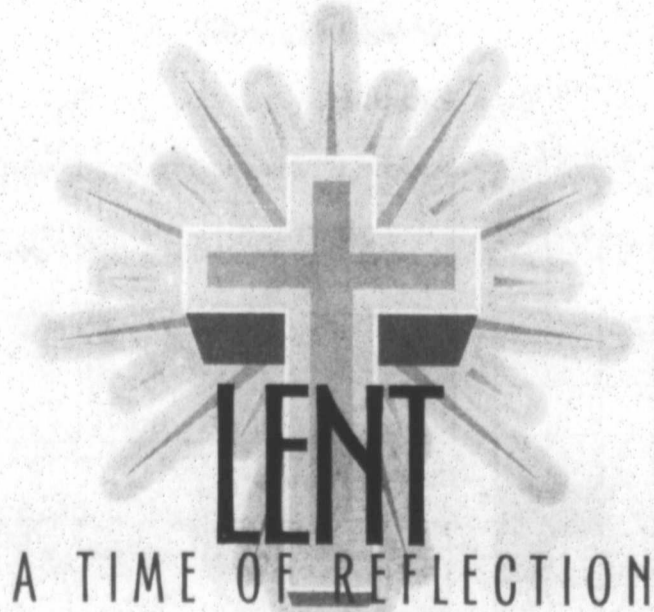
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# Comics

Marmaduke



"I'm calling the auto club... now don't you try to fix anything."

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

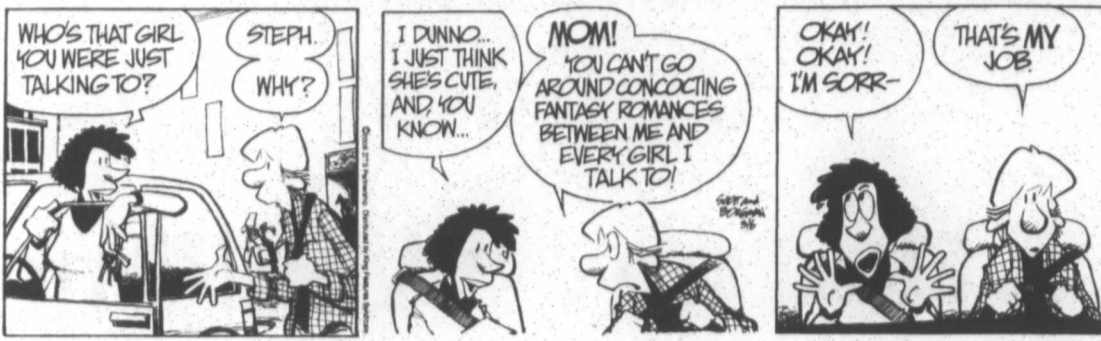


"... 'cause she's cryin'."

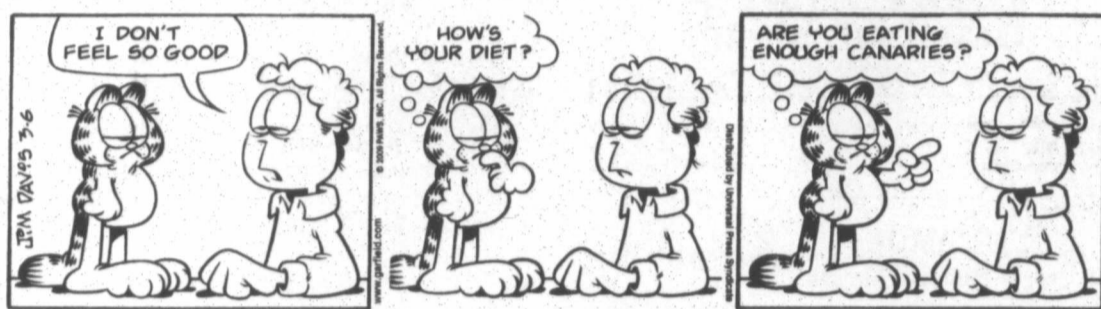
## For Better Or Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## B.C.



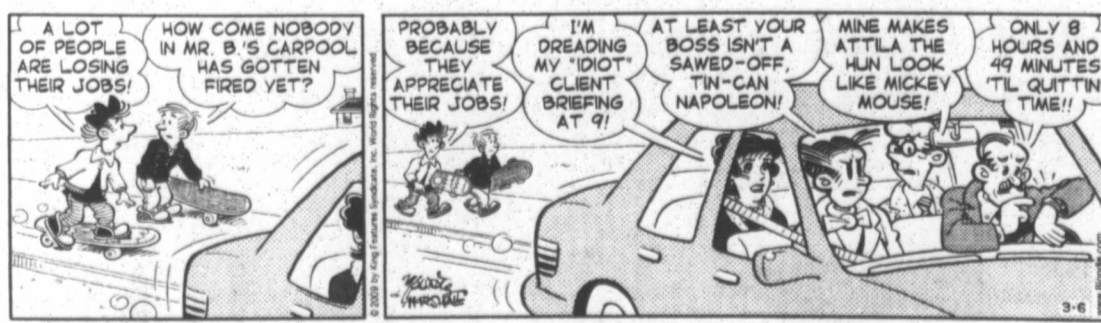
## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Flo & Friends



## Daily Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Matador's man\* star
  - 5 Hiker's up burden
  - 9 Spoken
  - 11 Has pains
  - 13 Sign after Virgo
  - 14 T-shirt choice
  - 15 Second person
  - 16 Set aside
  - 18 Like lackeys
  - 20 Tall tale
  - 21 Short-hand expert
  - 22 Squealer
  - 23 Panhandle
  - 24 Diner dessert
  - 25 Yodeling locale
  - 27 Afternoon TV
  - 29 Teachers' org.
  - 30 Morale booster
  - 32 North Carolina native
  - 34 Old auto
  - 35 Comic-strip worker
  - 36 Inquisitive one
  - 38 Furtive one
- DOWN**
- 1 Stories
  - 2 Relish-tray items
  - 3 Spenser's creator
  - 4 Owned by us
  - 5 Out of style
  - 6 Pinnacle
  - 7 Sax legend
  - 8 Temperature unit
  - 10 Bold
  - 12 Glossy
  - 17 "Evil Woman"
  - 19 Geese formations
  - 22 Edict
  - 24 Willow's cousin
  - 25 Nay voters
  - 26 Romance-writer
  - 27 Take in
  - 28 Blouse part
  - 30 Job bonuses
  - 31 Seoul setting
  - 33 Pre-side over
  - 37 Galleon setting

C	R	E	W	S	H	O	O	S		
R	A	V	E	N	T	A	U	N	T	
A	D	I	E	U	A	L	T	E	R	
F	A	T	R	U	N	L	A	T	E	
T	R	A	C	E	S	G	I	S		
		A	Y	E	S	E	M	S		
R	O	B	E	P	O	S	E			
M	O	P	V	I	E	W				
A	M	I		D	A	N	C	E	D	
R	U	N	A	M	O	K	A	L	E	
A	L	I	B	I		U	N	C	L	E
C	A	N	E	S		P	E	T	E	R
A	N	G	S	T		W	I	N	E	

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
9			10		11				12
13					14				
15			16	17					
18			19			20			
	21					22			
	23					24			
25	26			27				28	
29			30						31
32			33					34	
35						36	37		
38						39			
40								41	

3-6





# Inspector failed to flag salmonella-linked plant

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas agriculture inspector failed to note that a peanut plant at the center of a national salmonella outbreak was operating without a state health department license despite at least three visits in the years before hundreds of people got sick, according to interviews and documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The inspector responsible for certifying the plant to process organic products noted after each visit that the plant had such a license when it didn't. Health officials said problems at the plant operated by Peanut Corp. of America might have been flagged years ago had the inspector, who has since been fired, reported the plant's failure to obtain the required license.

When the plant was finally inspected earlier this year, Texas health officials found dead rodents, rodent excrement and bird feathers in a crawl space above a production area, leading them to order a recall of all products the plant had shipped since 2005.

Tests have since shown that ground peanuts at the Plainview plant were contaminated with the same strain of salmonella that sickened more than 650 people, is suspected of causing at least nine deaths, and led to one of the largest product recalls in U.S. history. Salmonella has also been detected in

peanut samples from a Georgia plant operated by Peanut Corp., which was filed for bankruptcy amid fallout from the outbreak.

Texas Department of Agriculture spokesman Bryan Black said if the lack of a license had been properly noted, the department would have denied it organic certification and notified the Department of State Health Services. The inspector, Gaylon Amonett, was fired on Feb. 13, the day after state health officials ordered the recall.

"We trust our inspectors to do their jobs," Black said. "Any time they do not follow the protocol, it is inexcusable."

Because the Plainview plant was not licensed, state health officials have said they had no record it existed and never sent their own inspectors to the facility to check for possible food safety problems. All food manufacturers in the state are required to obtain a license from the state health department.

Amonett, a 22-year TDA employee who worked out of the agency's Lubbock office, acknowledged that he checked "yes" to the question of whether the Plainview plant had records showing it was in compliance with health codes on worksheets he completed for inspections in 2005, 2006 and 2008.

The reason he checked "yes" the first time, he said, was because a plant manager told him an appli-

cation for state health department licensing had been completed and was in the hands of Peanut Corp. officials at the company's headquarters. He said he continued to check "yes" in succeeding years because he assumed that the license was granted.

Amonett said the matter was his "only mistake" in his years as an inspector. Agriculture department records show that he received a merit raise on Jan. 1.

"It's an inadvertent mistake, and I'm sorry for it," he said.

Jack McCasland, environmental inspector for the Plainview-Hale County Health Department, said plant officials led him to believe the licensing process was under way when he visited the facility before it opened.

"To be honest, I never really thought to follow up on it," McCasland said. "It just never occurred to me that they wouldn't be (licensed)."

Organic certification allows companies to market products as organically grown or produced. Processors must meet standards set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and are monitored by a USDA-accredited entity. The Texas Department of Agriculture has served as a certifying agency since 2002 and imposed the requirement that organic processors obtain a health license.

If the Plainview plant

hadn't been undergoing organic certification, the state agriculture department wouldn't have inspected it.

In a memo about the Plainview matter, TDA assistant general counsel Jim Pollard wrote that Amonett was trained as an organic inspector in 2004. Under agency rules, inspectors are required to make sure a company's licenses and other records are complete and current. The memo, obtained by the AP through a request under the Texas Public Information Act, cited the three inspections by Amonett.

TDA declined to release the inspection reports, contending that they are exempt from disclosure under the information act.

Although food safety is technically not part of the organic certification process, the salmonella outbreak has prompted the USDA to direct organic certifying entities to report any health or safety violations to the appropriate government officials.

"While we do not expect organic inspectors to be able to detect salmonella or other pathogens, their potential sources should be obvious from such evidence as bird, rodent and other animal feces or other pest infestations," the directive stated.

Associated Press writer Betsy Blaney contributed to this report from Lubbock, Texas.

## Judge orders FLDS teen to psych evaluation

<SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP) — A judge on Thursday ordered a 17-year-old mother who belongs to a polygamist group to undergo a psychiatric evaluation after Texas child welfare officials complained the girl brought someone else's baby to an appointment, claiming the baby as her own.

Texas District Judge Barbara Walther ordered the teen to see a psychiatrist this weekend, reported The San Angelo Standard-Times in online editions Thursday.

Walther made the ruling despite appearing skeptical about whether the evaluation would have much bearing on her custody case since Child Protective Services has already said it does not plan to put the teen back into foster care.

The girl previously said she was afraid authorities would take the infant born in June, shortly after she and 437 other children were released from foster care back to their parents. The children, once part of one of the largest child cases in U.S. history, were ordered returned after the state Supreme Court ruled Texas officials had overstepped in removing all the children from the Yearning For Zion Ranch.

CPS has said it only wants to make sure the teen's infant is safe.

State officials believe the girl was married to a man in the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints when she was 14.



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## Court says inmate can't draw on envelopes

HOUSTON (AP) — A convicted sex offender from Dallas has lost a court appeal of his challenge to rules that bar him from drawing pictures or writing messages on the outside of envelopes he mails from prison.

Robert Smithback, 29, who in 2002 began serving 45 years for aggravated sexual assault on a child under the age of 14, filed suit against Texas Department of Criminal Justice officials after corrections officers refused to mail envelopes on which he had drawn a cross or printed the words "Jesus," "LORD!" or "In God We Trust."

According to the ruling Thursday from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Smithback "decorates his envelopes in this manner to share his religious faith with those who come in contact with the correspondence."

Texas prison rules, however, say inmates can't embellish outgoing envelopes with illustrations or written messages.

In his suit, he argued the policy infringed his religious freedom and free-

dom of speech in violation of the Texas and U.S. constitutions and violated other laws covering religious freedoms.

A federal magistrate judge threw out the suit two years ago and Smithback, now an inmate at the Polunsky Unit near

Livingston in East Texas, appealed the dismissal to the New Orleans-based appeals court.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate

Please join us at the  
**"PJHS GROUND BREAKING"**

The Pampa ISD Board of Trustees invites you to join us at the ground breaking for the new Pampa Junior High School. This project is part of the 2006 Bond Improvements Program.

5:00 Tuesday, March 10, 2009

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