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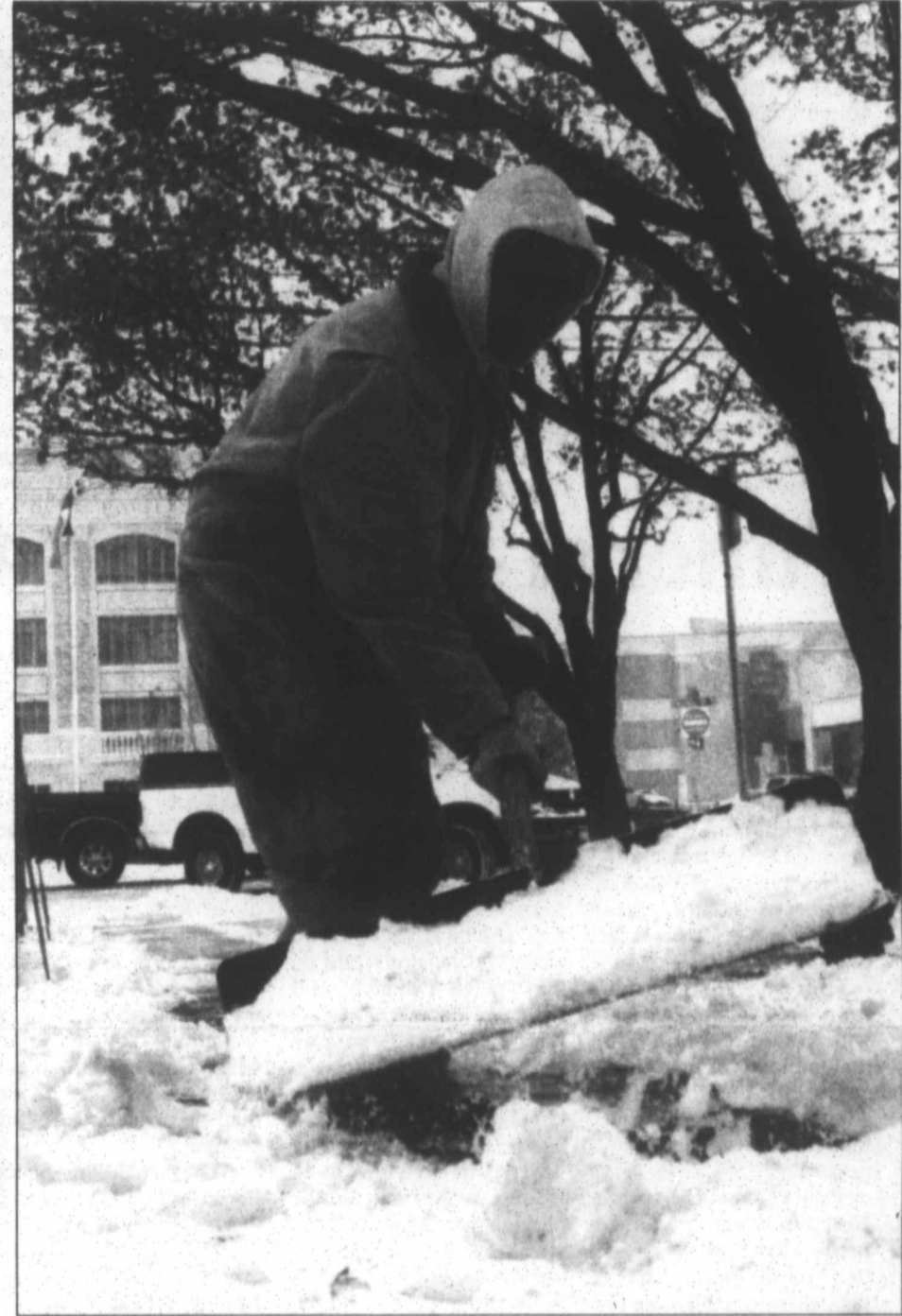
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SHOVELING OUT Spring blizzard cripples county



staff photo by David Bowser
 Cesar Holguin, left, and Mark Wood with the City of Pampa, were out in the snow Friday afternoon shoveling the heavy wet snow from City Hall sidewalks as street crews sanded and cleared city streets.

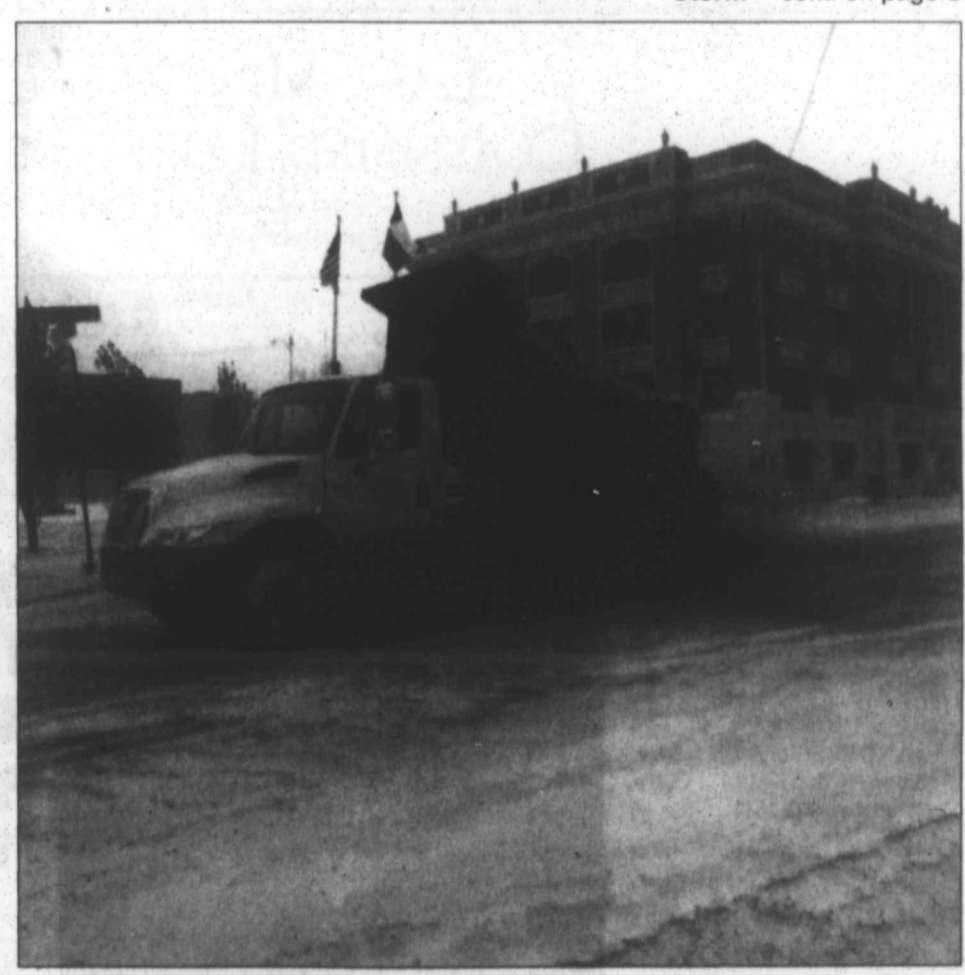
by David Bowser and Rachel Stennett
 Pampa and the Texas Panhandle continued to be pounded by a blizzard Friday.
 Throughout the day, winds reached 45 miles per hour creating white out conditions, closing major highways and causing accidents across the region.
 Paul Bran with the Texas Department of Transportation said that crashes had been reported throughout the Panhandle and Troopers were responding to the scenes.
 "Due to the extreme winter weather conditions, travel north, west, and east along I-40 is strongly discouraged. We have had many crashes reported throughout the Panhandle."
 Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Wayne Williams said Friday, "we've had several accidents, several tractor-trailers jackknifed but no fatalities."
 Braun said that police response in these areas may be delayed due to the weather conditions and call increase.
 Lt. Joe B. Hoard of the Gray County Sheriff's Office said that there has been a high amount of accidents on Interstate 40 in Gray County between Carson County lines and Wheeler County lines, but none of the accidents have been very severe. No major accidents have been reported as of Friday afternoon in Gray County.
 Hoard believed that the lack of severe accidents in

Pampa may be in part due to the effort done by the Emergency Management Committee to prepare citizens for the blizzard weather conditions.
 "We started warning people yesterday at noon as a part of a long-range plan to deal with the weather situation," Hoard said. "Pre-planning by Emergency Management has helped keep people aware of the situation and assisted in keeping people

The blizzard is part of a storm system that's all over the Southern High Plains affecting a million people.
 safe."
 Emergency Management committee members met yesterday at 9 a.m. and at 3 p.m. to discuss the major weather event.
 The Red Cross, law enforcement agencies, medical personnel, school systems, county commissioners, city and governmental agencies all worked together to be informed and "on the same page," Hoard explained. "The long-range plan has helped people be aware of what is going on."
 Hoard said no extra road crews had been brought on to deal with the weather.
 Bob Douthit Motor Company reported that they pulled only four vehicles out of the snow
Storm— cont. on page 3

School Board renews teacher contracts

by David Bowser
 dbowser@thepampanews.com
 The Pampa Independent School District board of trustees renewed contracts for all teachers except one and hired one new teacher for the high school.
 In its meeting Thursday night, the school board voted to terminate the contract for Rebecca Terrell, a history and geography teacher who had requested that all deliberations involving her contract be held in public session.
 She told the board that she questioned why her evaluations by school administrators were lower than by Region 16 officials.
 Terrell told the board that Region 16 officials told her she was doing a nice job, but school district administrators gave her unsatisfactory recommendations and then refused to discuss those recommendations with her.
 School Superintendent Barry Haenisch recommended to the board that Terrell's contract be terminated. He said she had unsatisfactory evaluations by administrators.
 The board hired Cindy Fulgham as an English as a second language teacher for Pampa High School. Members also renewed all teaching contracts for next year submitted to them.
 They tabled a motion to revise employment contracts that would make several minor changes until wording concerning background checks could be clarified.
 The major change, Haenisch said, was in delineating the time period covered by the contracts. The contracts do not end






staff photo by David Bowser
 City of Pampa crews were out sanding streets as snow and ice slickened the pavement across town and around the Texas Panhandle. With the exception of the City of Pampa, government offices, schools and many businesses closed due to the spring blizzard that began Friday night and was expected to bring up to ten inches of snow.

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PAMPA FORECAST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		
High 59 Low 40	High 58 Low 36	High 55 Low 26

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 59. South southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 58. Northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 36. North northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 55. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east southeast.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 36.

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Barge heads to Texas with Maine-made module

BREWER, Maine (AP) — A barge carrying four massive steel modules to be used in an oil refinery project has left Brewer for what's expected to be a 15- to 20-day trip to Port Arthur, Texas.
 Scores of people lined the Penobscot River on Thursday to watch the seagoing tug Emma Foss haul the 350-foot barge from Cianbro Corp.'s Eastern Manufacturing Facility in Brewer.
 The modules, which weigh up to 700 tons each, are the first of 53 such units being built at the former paper mill site for the Motiva Enterprises expansion.
 About 10 to 12 barge shipments are expected to make the 2,500-mile voyage before the refinery project goes on line in early 2012.

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For the record

Editor's Note: Due to an early press deadline because of the blizzard, features normally run on this page were not available.

Iraq vets may sink KBR contract in Texas county

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A small Texas county is rethinking a \$617,000 contract with KBR Inc. to build a rural, mile-long road near the home of two anti-Iraq war veterans trying to stop the deal with the defense contractor.
 KBR is the lone finalist for the Hays County project, but former soldiers Bryan Hannah, 22, and Gregory Foster, 28, helped put the approval in doubt after criticizing the company's battered image at a commissioner's court meeting in San Marcos this week.
 That led a KBR official in attendance Tuesday to deny allegations of exposing U.S. soldiers to toxic chemicals and deadly showers in Iraq in order to save a contract for a small, four-lane road leading to a new suburban high school near Austin.

Commissioners say they're now weighing KBR's record and have delayed their decision until next month.
 "I didn't have a lot of faith going in," Hannah said. "But I saw how genuinely open and concerned they were."
 Houston-based KBR, which oversees maintenance at most U.S. facilities in Iraq, has been criticized after soldiers there have been shocked or electrocuted while using showers or appliances. The family of one electrocuted soldier has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against KBR, which denies responsibility.
 KBR, a popular target for opponents of the war, also faces a lawsuit from soldiers who allege the company knowingly exposed them to carcinogens while guarding an

Iraqi water pumping plant.
 Marit Babin, director of government relations for KBR, told the Democrat-controlled commissioner's court the allegations were false.
 "I would remind everyone that there are two sides to every story," Babin said. "Just because you read something on the Internet doesn't mean it's true."
 Babin was partly addressing an article by a local news Web site, newstreamz.com, which had laid out allegations against KBR in a lengthy story about the county's road project last month.
 Hannah said he served with the 1st Calvary Division in Iraq for 15 months before his tour ended in January 2008. He is a self-described activist who proudly said he heckled John Ashcroft when the former U.S. attorney gen-

eral spoke in Austin earlier this week. Hannah told commissioners he put his life on the line in Iraq to escort empty KBR trucks. Foster said the county shouldn't give its money to KBR because of the way the company does business.
 Commissioner Jeff Barton said the veterans made a powerful case.
 "Firms should be held accountable," Barton said. "I don't want to prejudge, but I take very seriously the concerns that were raised."
 Commissioners probably will decide whether to award KBR the contract April 7. KBR spokeswoman Heather Browne said in an e-mail that the company is following up with the county and that KBR is "proud of the work it performs in Iraq."

Funeral begins for 4 slain Oakland, Calif., police

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Thousands of mourners gathered with the families of four slain Oakland police officers for a joint funeral Friday that drew law enforcement officers from around the world.
 Officers Mark Dunakin, John Hege, Ervin Romans and Daniel Sakai were remembered for their dedication to their families, friends and a gritty job they loved despite the dangers.
 Police said Hege and Dunakin were gunned down March 21 when the two motorcycle officers pulled over a 26-year-old parolee during a traffic stop. Romans, Sakai and the parolee died later in a shootout when the city's

SWAT team stormed an apartment where the man was hiding.
 The violent confrontation was the biggest single day, gun-related loss of life for law enforcement since four federal agents died 16 years ago during a raid on the Branch Davidian cult in Waco, Texas.
 The officers' caskets were draped in American flags and shepherded to the Oracle Arena that passed under a giant U.S. flag held up by two fire truck ladders as they entered the parking lot. Among those speaking at the service Friday were Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, U.S. Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and state Attorney General Jerry Brown, a former Oakland

mayor.
 A spokesman for Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums said the mayor was attending the service, but was asked not to speak by at least one family of the victims. Paul Rose said he did not know which family made the request or the reason.
 "Acting Oakland Police Chief Howard Jordan said at the start of the service that the officers were 'our brothers.'
 "They rest in peace, because they were men of peace," he said.
 President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama thanked the officers in a letter read

by Oakland police chaplain Jayson Landeza, saying: "Our nation is grateful for the men and women who work in law enforcement. Their commitment to their fellow man will never be forgotten."
 New York City Police Lt. Tommy Ng, who attended the ceremony, said the tragedy brought back memories of Sept. 11. He said he was not surprised by the outpouring of support for his colleagues in Oakland.
 "When one of us is hurt, all of us are hurt," Ng said before the service. "We're all brothers."

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Saturday, March 28, the 87th day of 2009. There are 278 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1800 - Act of Union with England passes in Ireland's Parliament.

1801 - Peace of Florence between France and Naples goes into effect, whereby British vessels are to be excluded from Neopolitan ports.

1854 - Britain and France declare war on Russia, joining Turkey in the Crimean War.

1898 - First German naval bill, introduced by Alfred von Tirpitz, begins Germany's naval expansion; the U.S. Supreme Court rules a child born in the United States to Chinese immigrants is a U.S. citizen, and therefore could not be deported under the Chinese Exclusion Act.

1930 - The names of the Turkish cities of Constantinople and Angora are changed to Istanbul and Ankara.

'You can't shake hands with a clenched fist.'

— Indira Gandhi
India prime minister

1939 - Madrid surrenders to forces of Gen. Francisco Franco, ending Spanish Civil War.

1942 - British naval forces raid the Nazi occupied French port of St. Nazaire during World War II.

1945 - Germany's V-rocket attacks on Britain end during World War II; United States invades Cebu in heart of Philippines.

1957 - Britain releases Archbishop Makarios, an advocate of union between Cyprus and Greece and later president of Cyprus.

1962 - Syrian army revolt fails; European secret army organization in Algeria proclaims all-out guerrilla warfare against French forces.

1967 - U.N. Secretary-General U Thant proposes general truce in Vietnam, followed by peace talks. The United States says it will go along.

1970 - Amsar sect supporters of Imam El Mahdi rebel in Sudan.

1974 - Mounting civil unrest virtually paralyzes foundering government of Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie.

1979 - America's worst commercial nuclear accident occurs inside the Unit Two reactor at the Three Mile Island plant near Middletown, Pennsylvania.

1993 - Israel announces it is sealing off the occupied Gaza Strip following a day of Arab knife attacks on Jews and retaliatory attacks by Israelis.

2002 - U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft announces he has approved a request from federal prosecutors to seek the death penalty against Zacarias Moussaoui, an accused conspirator in the September 11 attacks.

2008 - Cuban President Raul Castro issues a decree allowing ordinary Cubans to have cell phone service, a luxury previously reserved for the select few.

Today's birthdays:
Raphael, Italian artist (1483-1520); Saint Teresa of Avila, Spanish nun and mystic (1515-1582); Aristide Briand, French statesman and Nobel Peace laureate (1862-1932); Mario Vargas Llosa, Peruvian writer (1936--); Dianne Wiest, U.S. actress (1948--); Reba McEntire, U.S. country singer/actress (1955--); Vince Vaughn, U.S. actor (1970--).



Texans sound off on the economy and health care

by U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison

Listening is often the most important part of a conversation. That is why in my weekly column at the beginning of this year, as Americans welcomed a new President and a new Congress, I invited Texans to share their opinions with me on the most critical issues facing our state and nation. Thousands of Texans responded with their thoughts and concerns on issues such as the economy, health care, education and transportation. As their responses demonstrate, Texans are as committed as I am to overcome the challenges that currently face us.

People across Texas pointed to the federal government's response to the recession and rising health care costs as the two most alarming issues confronting our nation. For this reason, I'd like to focus on these two topics in this column, before exploring respondents' other legislative priorities in the weeks ahead.

When asked how the government should react to our current economic challenges, approximately 25 percent believe the government should prioritize infrastructure spending. Another 25 percent said the government should pay down the national debt. But over 50 percent of survey respondents said tax cuts should be the key component in efforts to revitalize the economy.

Texans have common sense, and they know taxing, borrowing, and spending won't fix our economy; this approach will only prolong and worsen the recession. The best way to stimulate economic growth is to lower taxes for small businesses and families.

Earlier this year, I introduced legislation that would prevent future tax increases on Texas families by allowing them to permanently deduct state and local sales taxes. As a matter of principle, people shouldn't have to pay taxes on their taxes. I also introduced legislation to make

the marriage penalty relief permanent. Unless Congress takes action, a significant number of married couples will again pay more in taxes starting in 2011. Given the challenges many families are facing to make ends meet, we must make sure we do not backtrack on this important form of tax relief.

Although Texans favor tax cuts, the majority in Congress want to spend their way out of the recession. In March, the Senate considered the enormous Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which spends over 8 percent more than Congress approved for Fiscal Year 2008. I introduced an amendment to the legislation that would have shown the American people that Congress is ready to exert fiscal responsibility. My amendment would have reduced the size of the bill to the overall spending level approved in 2008, with adjustments made for inflation. Unfortunately, the Senate was unwilling to make these modest cuts and do away with billions of dollars of wasteful, duplicative spending. Therefore, I felt it necessary and responsible to oppose the final bill.

The survey results also indicate that Texans are very anxious about rising medical costs and health insurance premiums. Almost 40 percent said limited or no access to health insurance and difficulty understanding insurance coverage plans pose the most significant obstacles to medical care. But nearly 60 percent chose the high cost of insurance and health care services as the primary barrier to care.

To address these problems, Congress must champion small business health plans. Between 2000 and 2006, the median rise in income fell far behind the 80 percent increase in family health care premiums for Texas subscribers to employer-based insurance. Because of these costs, fewer employers are offering medical coverage. The Small Business



Health Plans Act makes it easier for small businesses to purchase affordable health insurance through their trade organizations.

I am also a co-sponsor of a new bill that will allow all Americans to deduct 100 percent of their health insurance premiums as long as they purchase qualified private health insurance. This change to the tax code will benefit individuals who purchase coverage from the individual market. It will also allow benefits to be carried from job to job. Both bills will lower costs for families and small businesses, and they will increase the number of Americans with health insurance.

Moving forward, I will continue to work to reduce the tax burden on American families and small businesses and address the rising cost of health care. These issues are far too important to be neglected by Congress. But, as so many Texans remarked in their survey responses, the solution to our growing challenges is not to give more power to the government; it's to give more power to the American people.

Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas and is the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Clinton pushes for stronger China role

WASHINGTON (AP)— Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has moved aggressively and quickly to secure a stronger role in what she has called the world's most important relationship: U.S. dealings with China. But military and economic tensions between the two powers keep getting in her way.

As the international financial crisis worsens, the two colossal economies have bickered over their intertwined interests. China is nervous about its position as Washington's biggest foreign creditor, holding an estimated \$1 trillion in U.S. government debt.

Beijing and Washington also have sparred over military matters, including a confrontation between American and Chinese vessels in the South China

Sea and harsh words over Pentagon claims that China's rapidly growing military strength could allow it to win short, intense conflicts against high-tech adversaries.

These issues will demand high-level attention from the Treasury and Defense departments. Clinton is pushing, however, to ensure that her diplomatic corps is not marginalized as the United States engages a country the Obama administration needs as a partner in efforts to solve the world's major problems.

Clinton began staking out her claim on China early. A week after President Barack Obama's Jan. 20 inauguration she signaled her determination not to stand on the sidelines in her first comments to reporters at the State Department.

"The strategic dialogue that was begun in the Bush administration turned into an economic dialogue," Clinton said. "That's a very important aspect of our relationship with China, but it's not the only aspect of our relationship."

In Beijing last month, on her first foreign trip as secretary, Clinton said she and new Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner "will both be fully engaged" in discussions with China. Clinton then pleasantly surprised China by saying the Obama administration would not let its human rights concerns interfere with cooperation with Beijing.

Clinton's efforts mark a change from the Bush administration. George W. Bush's treasury secretary, Henry Paulson, led the main discussions with

China; former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice relied on her deputy to handle another set of talks.

Inevitably, with the world economy in danger, treasury will continue to play a top role in dealings with China.

Geithner is consumed with efforts to lift the U.S. economy, and this might allow Clinton to take an early leading role. But, Economy said, the State Department lacks "the depth and the breadth to manage the full range of economic issues with China."

Still, it is unclear how much time Clinton, who must address tensions in the Middle East, South Asia, North Korea and Latin America, will be able to devote to the China relationship.

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At 88, Little Jimmy Dickens of a generation

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)— His performances on the Grand Ole Opry are memorable. Wearing a flashy rhinestone suit, Little Jimmy Dickens charges onto the stage carrying a J-200 Gibson guitar about as big as he is (4 feet, 11 inches). He launches into a song, probably a funny one like his 1965 hit "May the Bird of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose." Later, there's a quip or two, like this comment to 6-foot-6 country singer Trace Adkins: "You're so tall, if you fell down, you'd be halfway home when you got up." But for a couple of months over the winter, the songs and jokes were

silent. The 88-year-old Dickens was sidelined with health problems, and the usual Opry verve was diminished. He returned to the stage in late February, resuming his career as one of the oldest performers in any genre of music still entertaining. (B.B. King is 83, Tony Bennett 82 and Andy Williams 81.) In country music, he's among the last of the generation that included Hank Williams, Roy Acuff, Minnie Pearl, Bill Monroe and Ernest Tubbs. Kitty Wells, "the queen of country music," is 89 but retired except for occasional public appearances. His illness hasn't dimin-


ished his drive to perform and he's mining his age for new jokes. "I could do two, 45-minute shows and never repeat one," Dickens says. On a recent Friday night Opry show, he joked: "You know you're 88 when your wife says, 'Let's run upstairs and make love,' and you say, 'I can't do both.'" "You know you're 88 when you see a pretty girl in a bikini and your pacemaker makes the garage door go up." Dickens clearly still relishes performing. And fans respond with a chorus of camera clicks when he takes the stage of the Opry.

He missed six weeks this year after surgery for a subdural hematoma (a form of brain injury) and a month last year for blood-stream and urinary tract infections. "It hurt because I couldn't do what I love to do," he said in an interview in his dressing room two hours before a show. While ill, he didn't even listen to the Opry radio broadcast or watch the televised part, explaining, "I just wanted to get in the harness." His popularity is not lost on the younger generation. Brad Paisley, 36 and young enough to be Dickens' grandson, uses a big screen at his concerts as part of a multi-

media presentation to show Dickens playing "Guitar Zero," a takeoff on a video game. "He stands taller than anyone else, in my mind," Paisley says. Dickens' resume is packed with achievements. A member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, 60 years on the Opry singing country classics like "Out Behind the Barn" and "I'm Little but I'm Loud." He's made more than a dozen trips to perform in Europe and entertained troops in Vietnam three times. This night, he's not feeling well, bothered by the sniffles. Dickens also is frustrated because he can't find a guitar pick, lament-

ing, "I left 'em at home." A colleague comes to the rescue and locates four down the hall. (What better place to find a guitar pick than the Grand Ole Opry?) Dickens is resplendent in a white cowboy hat, blue jeans and a colorful shirt with crimson and black stripes offset by a gold watch and a gold chain peeking out around his neck. Several rhinestone suits hang against the wall. Dickens is credited with introducing rhinestone suits to country music around 1950. He has no idea how many rhinestone suits he owns, though he still has the first one he ever bought.

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Around town

WEEKLY MENUS

<p>Southside Senior Citizens Center Tuesday March 31</p> <p>Menu Chili Beans Cornbread Crackers Salad Dessert</p> <p>Briarwood Kid's Cafe April 2 Tacos Beans Salad Dessert Drink</p> <p>Pampa ISD Menu Monday PBJ Uncrustable Grilled cheese Uncrustable (Travis Only) or pizza Sliced potatoes Sliced carrots Mixed fruit Breakfast Toasts</p> <p>Tuesday Spaghetti or chicken nuggets Green beans Tossed salad Fresh fruit Garlic toast Breakst: French toast</p> <p>Wednesday Oven fried chicken or chef salad Whipped potatoes Englis peas Peaches Hot roll Breakfast Breakfast pizza</p> <p>Thursday Mini twin cheeseburgers or cheese anchos Western beans Broccoli florests Pineapple tidbits Breakfast Biscuit, sausage patty</p> <p>Friday Popcorn shrimp or hot dog French fries Vegetarian beans Applesauce Gelatin Breakfast Cereal toast Pampa Senior Citizens Menu Monday...Chicken fried steak or salmon patties Mashed potatoes, spinach, beets,</p>	<p>beans Slaw, tossed, Jello salad Strawberry cake or chocolate pie Hot rolls or cornbread Tuesda...Baked porkchops/Spanish rice or Salisbury steak Potato Wedges, cheese hominy, peas, beans Slaw, tossed, Jello salad Black forest cake or coconut creme pie Hot rolls or cornbread Wednesday...Roast beef brisket/brown gravy or cook's choice Mashed potatoes, broccoli spears/cheese, carrots, beans Slaw, tossed, Jello salad Lemon poppyseed bundt cake or cherry cobbler Hot rolls or cornbread Thursday...Chicken strips or barbeque sausage/onion rings Cheese potatoes, Italian green beans, corn cobettes, beans Slaw, tossed, Jello salad Pineapple upsidedown cake or cheesecake Hot rolls or cornbread Friday... Catfish and hushpuppies or cabbage rolls Potato wedges, turnip greens, beans Slaw, tossed, Jello salad Brownies or tapioca cups Garlic breadsticks, hot rolls, cornbread</p> <p>Pampa Meals on Wheels Menu Monday Steak fingers/gravy Broccoli casserole Carrots Pears</p> <p>Tuesday Turkey Rice Pilaf English peas Sweet potatoes Plum</p> <p>Wednesday Hamburger patties Mashed potatoes Pinto beans Cornbread Peaches</p> <p>Thursday Oven-fried chicken Corn Baked Potatoes Pudding</p> <p>Friday Baked fish Rice Pilaf Garlic bread Green beans Apricots</p>
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Rogers, Murtishaw to wed

Colonel Mark and Mrs. Susanne Rogers of Boerne are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Megan Marie Rogers to Adam Walsh Murtishaw. Megan and Adam will exchange vows Sunday May 24, at Messiah Lutheran Church in Boerne. The bride-elect is a 2003 graduate of Arizona State University with a masters degree in business administration through Troy University in 2006. She currently serves as a captain in the United States Air Force stationed in Anchorage. The prospective groom serves in the United States Air Force Reserves in Anchorage and attends Embry University. The grooms parents are Jean Walsh of Pampa and David Murtishaw of Alen Rose.



DPS graduates 104 from academy

The Texas Department of Public Safety graduated more than 100 troopers today from the Texas Department of Public Safety's Training Academy.

"DPS is a vital organization in protecting the citizens of Texas," said keynote speaker State Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine, "Texas will be a safer place thanks to the men and women before me today. I am humbled by their commitment to serve and protect the people across this state. I thank them for choosing this challenging career, and wish them the best of luck in the future."

Thirty-nine of the 104 graduates had previous military experience. Anyone interested in becoming a state trooper can call the toll-free line, 1-866-TXTROOP (898-7667), or visit the DPS website, www.txdps.state.tx.us, for more information.

The troopers began the 28-week training academy in September. Instruction covered more than 100 subjects, including counter-terrorism, traffic and criminal law, arrest and control procedures, accident reconstruction, first aid and Spanish. They also received extensive use of force, communication

skills, firearms, driving, criminal interdiction, cultural diversity and physical fitness training.

Col. Stan Clark, director of the DPS, told the graduates that the people of Texas will depend on them for safety and protection.

"You will be on the front lines protecting the citizens of Texas, who will expect you to act with the highest integrity. Make all of us proud," he said.

In about three weeks, the troopers will move to their new duty stations. They will spend the first six months in on-the-job training with a senior trooper.

Detroit Free Press, AP win top Headliner Awards

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Newspaper reporters in Detroit who uncovered a scandal that led to the mayor's downfall and a staff photographer for The Associated Press whose work was described as "absolutely amazing" won top honors Friday in the 75th annual National Headliner Awards.

Broadcasters in Texas and Ohio were also honored with grand awards, the highest prizes given as part of the national journalism contest, run by The Press Club of Atlantic City.

The four grand awards come with \$1,500 prizes. Judges cited the Detroit Free Press for the "tough, courageous stand" it took in pursuing the story involving the now-resigned mayor, Kwame Kilpatrick, and his affair with an aide.

The newspaper — which also won first place for editorial writing — in January 2008 published the first excerpts of text messages between the two from the staffer's city-issued pager.

The texts revealed a torrid extramarital affair and contradicted testimony Kilpatrick and the staffer gave during a 2007 whistle-blowers trial, when they denied having a relationship and lied about their roles in the firing of a police official. Kilpatrick served more

than three months in jail after pleading guilty to charges including obstruction of justice. The aide served more than two months in jail.

"Publishing the truth about a mayor, standing firm against his threats, pursuing the story against the odds, and bringing the story home with more hard-hitting reporting and clear, strong editorials," the judges said. "A hometown newspaper serving its readers with courage and honesty despite the threats."

In the photography division, the AP's Emilio Morenatti — who is based in Islamabad, Pakistan — received the grand prize and won the portfolio category. The judges called his work "simply the most stunning pictures entered in this contest. Absolutely amazing!"

In describing Morenatti's photos, the judges noted "the small details in wide reaching images give such depth to the work. The portraits are handled so delicately, with respect and dignity. Wide variety of images with a consistent style, great toning, overall excellence."

The AP also won two other photo awards. It swept the spot news category for magazines, news services and syndicates, with Los Angeles-based Chris Carlson earning top honors for "Supporting

Hands," and took the top two spots in feature photography, with Alaa Al-Marjani — who works in Najaf, Iraq — winning for "School Time."

The grand award in radio went to WKUT in Austin, Texas, which won the documentary or public affairs category for "Amazing Grace: The Story of Willie Nelson." The judges cited David Brown and Michael May for "skillful reporting that draws from the voice of a man who rarely reveals his heart fully in interviews on air."

In television, the grand award went to WBNS-TV in Columbus, Ohio, for "Lima Company: A Portrait of Service," reported by Lindsey Seavert and Jeff Ritter, which the judge said depicted "soldiers from one of the bloodiest battles of the Iraq War — immortalized on canvas. A moving story of the soldiers, their families, and the artist who preserved their legacy."

The reporters also won first place in the feature, sports or human interest category.

In the past, the grand awards have been presented — along with dozens of other Headliner Awards — at the club's banquet in Atlantic City, but that will not happen this year because of the slumping economy.

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Special Egg Hunt for Parents

Easter Activities

Trichomoniasis management topic of statewide programs

Fort Worth, Texas - Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association announces a series of educational programs across the state to help provide cattle producers with information on the management of trichomoniasis. The educational programs are being co-sponsored by Fort Dodge Animal Health.

The educational programs will provide cattlemen with an overview of trichomoniasis from Fort Dodge Animal Health technical veterinarians focusing on the detection and management of trichomoniasis in cattle herds. The educational program is free to the public and dinner will be served at each meeting.

The dates and locations of the Fort Dodge/TSCRA Trichomoniasis Meetings are as follows. All meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. local time, unless noted below:

- April 6: Pearsall Livestock Auction, Pearsall
- April 7: American Legion, Gonzales
- April 8: Victoria Community Center, Victoria
- April 14: Hopkins County Civic Center, Sulphur Springs (starts at 7:00 p.m.)
- April 16: Pitchford Genetics, Athens (starts at 7:00 p.m.)
- April 22: Mid-Tex Livestock Auction, Navasota
- April 27: Jordan Cattle Auction, San Saba
- April 28: County Livestock Facility, Graham
- April 30: Texas Cattle Exchange, Eastland
- May 1: Bonds Ranch, Marlin
- May 4: Bowie Livestock Auction, Bowie
- May 7: Cagle's Steak House, Lubbock

On February 27, 2009, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) announced the adoption of the Texas Cattle Trichomoniasis Program. Rules affecting interstate movement of cattle become effective April 1, 2009, and in-state rules become effective January 1, 2010. Trichomoniasis is now a reportable disease in Texas, and is a significant animal health problem with a major economic impact on breeding cattle herds.

To RSVP for the meeting, please contact TSCRA at rsvp@texascattleraisers.org or call 800-242-7820, ext. 192. On-site meeting registration will begin one hour prior to the meeting.

For more information about the Texas Animal Health Commission's trichomoniasis program, please visit: http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/news/Chapter38_Trichomoniasis.pdf

Houston man sentenced for smuggling guns to Mexico

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston man who says he fears for his family's safety after working for an organization that bought military-style firearms that ended up with drug traffickers in Mexico was sentenced to nearly four years in prison on Friday.

Prosecutors say Juan Pablo Gutierrez was one of 23 people who purchased 339 weapons in a 15-month period. At least 40 of these weapons have been recovered in Mexico and three have been found in Guatemala, according to court documents.

"He was arming an infantry squad," prosecutor Mark White told U.S. District Judge Gray Miller. "He wasn't just arming local street thugs. This defendant was doing something a lot more serious."

The 24-year-old pleaded guilty in January to eight counts of making false statements to a federal firearms licensee, claiming he was buying the

weapons for himself. White said Gutierrez refused to identify his customers.

But prosecutors suspect Gutierrez was purchasing the guns for a cousin, and White said Gutierrez has a

cousin whose father-in-law is Osiel Cardenas-Guillen. The drug kingpin was extradited in 2007 from Mexico to Texas and is set to be tried in Houston in September.

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Around town

Johnny Wayne - Sturgis Vargas

Johnny Wayne - Sturgis Vargas was born to Ignacio III and Janice Marie Vargas at 1:48 a.m., March 3, 2009 at Pampa Regional Medical Center. He weighed 6 pounds 12.7 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long at birth. Johnny is welcomed by grandparents Brenda and Larry Bennett of Pampa and Louise Moss of Del Rio, TX; a brother, Wayne Vargas, and sisters; Mae and Vanessa Vargas all of Pampa.



Preceptor Theta Iota club meetings notes

Preceptor Theta Iota club met at First Christian Church on March 9, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Ann Franklin, president, presided over the meeting. Nancy Blogdin, recording secretary, called roll and read minutes from previous meeting, which were approved as read. Janice Hubbard, treasurer, gave report. Minca Leonard, vice president, reported. The speaker was on a phone call she made to International. Nita

Hill and Pat Kindle are eligible for the order of the rose.

Correspondance:

Founders Day Information has received a card from Phyllis Jeffers requesting a leave of absence. It was granted. Information on the Texas State Convention at Galveston, May 29-31, 2009 was received.

Committee reports were given. Nancy Broggin was the hostess.

Dwight, Shepherd engagement

Dan and Susie Dwight of Pampa are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Dwight to Tyler Shepherd, of Dallas.

Lisa and Tyler will exchange vows Saturday, April 18, at the Halbot House in Corsicana. The bride-elect is a graduate of Pampa High School and Midwestern State University with a BA in Mass Communications. She is employed as a loss mitigation associate with GMAC.

The prospective groom is a graduate of Corsicana High School and is currently employed as a Petroleum Landman for Dixon Services in Shreveport, LA.

The groom's parents are Tom and Dianne Shepherd of Seabrook.



Preceptor Theta Iota club met at the Dixie Cafe March 23, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Ann Franklin, president, presided. Nancy Broggin, Recording Secretary, called roll and read minutes of previous meeting which were approved as read. Janice Hubbard, Treasurer, gave report. Correspondance from International: order of rose certificates were received for Nita Hill and Pat Kindle. Committee reports

were heard: Card was sent to Chucky Leonard. A couples social was held March 17 at 6:30 p.m. at First Christian Church. Founders day will be April 30, at 6:30 p.m. at the Country Club. Program was given by Janice Hubbard on her Carribean Cruise. The next meeting will be April 13, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at Nancy Brogdins, 405 Magnolia, Pampa.

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FirstBank Southwest announces new VP

Jeri Joiner was appointed to Vice President at the Pampa location by the Board of Directors of FirstBank Southwest at the March meeting. Joiner has supervised the teller operations for many years and has additionally served as Retail Manager for the last two years.

She has over 29 years experience with FirstBank

Southwest, originally being employed with the DECA program while a student at Pampa High School.

She and her husband Warran have three children; Beth, Josh and Susie.

FirstBank Southwest is a locally owned, Panhandle based banking organization with 685 million in total assets.

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Consumers can be stuck when Web sites change terms

AP — A recent e-mail from Eastman Kodak Co. didn't lead to a Kodak moment for Vanessa Daniele. It got her angry.

On May 16, the company's Kodak Gallery online photo service will delete her picture albums unless she spends at least \$4.99 by then and every year thereafter on prints and other products.

That's the new rule for people whose photos take up less than 2 gigabytes of space on Kodak's servers - enough for around 2,000 1-megabyte photos. People over that limit must spend at least \$19.99 a year. And customers who signed up under the old rules won't be given a pass.

"I don't ever think it's a good idea to change terms of service on customers after they've signed up, and demand a new storage fee or threaten deletion of photos," said Daniele, 26, who lives in Chicago. "That action doesn't value the customer or attract new ones."

Kodak Gallery, once known as Ofoto, said it wants to focus on its best customers, not folks who merely want to take advantage of free picture storage. And its new rules are hardly unusual in the online photo business.

But the company's decision to change its policies illustrates the risks people face as they increasingly rely on privately run services to handle their digital memories and communications. These services often state in the fine print that

they can change the rules at any time, and users have little recourse when they do.

Many online photo services offer free storage of images as a way to lure customers who might buy prints or things like mugs with pictures imprinted on them. One such site, Hewlett-Packard Co.'s Snapfish, offers unlimited storage to users who make an annual purchase of any amount.

These sites typically store users' original, high-resolution files on their servers, and display lower-resolution versions that are fine for Web viewing but might not be clear enough for good prints. So users who fail to keep copies of their original picture files might have no way to get them back from a Web site unless they pay extra for the service.

Kodak, for instance, charges \$9.95 to send users 50 of their photos back on a CD, or \$39.95 for up to 1,000 photos. Every additional 1,000 images costs \$14.95.

Daniele's situation is complicated because the albums she organized and stored at Kodak Gallery are made up of pictures taken by friends and family and uploaded to the site by them. She doesn't have copies stored elsewhere. Now those images would be deleted even if she makes purchases above the site's new minimum but her friends and family don't.

That means she'll have

to upgrade to a \$24.99-a-year premium account to download high-resolution versions of the images, or spend \$19.95 plus shipping if she wants to have Kodak give her the 200 pictures on a CD, so she can upload them to another photo site.

Kodak is essentially saying that "even though you own this stuff, unless you pay us you're going to lose your access to it. That hardly seems fair," said Steve Jones, a communications professor specializing in new media at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Kodak said it has required an annual purchase for the past five years without setting a minimum amount. The new policy, adopted in March and announced in recent e-mail notices, sets a minimum.

"For folks who have been using us just for free storage, they may decide they just want to make a small purchase," said Mark Cook, director of product marketing at Kodak Gallery. "Or, they may decide to leave."

Cook said Kodak is still adding value for consumers: This month, it began offering free shipping for people buying at least \$5 worth of pictures in most sizes, as an added incentive to purchase more prints.

Other photo sites, including Google Inc.'s Picasa, Fotki Inc., Yahoo Inc.'s Flickr, News Corp.'s Photobucket and Adobe

Systems Inc.'s Photoshop.com still offer free services that let people share photos with others, although there are storage limits. You can buy additional storage or upgrade to a paid account for unlimited uploads.

Even more generous options are available at Shutterfly Inc., which offers free, unlimited photo storage, and on social-networking sites such as Facebook, which doesn't have a limit.

But it's not unusual for photo-sharing sites to start out free and then require payment, such as a now-defunct service from Sony Corp., said Terry Sullivan, associate editor of digital imaging at Consumer Reports magazine.

Sony closed ImageStation in 2008 to focus on its core business, nearly eight years after launching the photo-sharing site. Sony said it has destroyed all images left on its servers.

Time Warner Inc.'s AOL ended its photo-storage site in January to cut costs. It transferred images to American Greetings Corp.'s PhotoWorks, which requires an annual purchase or else photos will be deleted.

Given all the varying policies, it's best to back up your pictures on your own computer. That should greatly reduce the chance you'll lose something irreplaceable.

If your organization has an article to news to submit, the fastest way to get it into the newspaper is to email it to Editor Betsy Phillips at:

editor@thepampanews.com

HARVESTER SPORTS SCHEDULE



2009

BASEBALL

MONDAY • MARCH 30
Harvester JV VS Caprock • 5:00 pm at Pampa

TUESDAY • MARCH 31
Harvesters VS Caprock • 5:00 pm at Caprock

FRIDAY • APRIL 3
Harvesters VS Hereford • 5:00 pm at Pampa

SATURDAY • APRIL 4
Harvester JV VS Hereford • 1:00 pm at Hereford

SOFTBALL

MONDAY • MARCH 30
Lady Harvester JV VS Hereford • 5:00 pm at Pampa

TUESDAY • MARCH 31
Lady Harvesters VS Hereford • 5:00 pm at Pampa

FRIDAY • APRIL 3
Lady Harvester JV VS Canyon • 5:00 pm at Canyon
Lady Harvesters VS Canyon • 7:00 pm at Canyon

TRACK

APRIL 3-4
Harvesters At Herford Invitational Track Meet • at Hereford

TENNIS

APRIL 3-4
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Harvesters VS Amarillo • 8:00 am at Amarillo

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DPS license supervisor arrested in document scheme

DALLAS (AP) — A federal indictment accuses a supervisor in Texas' drivers license division of conspiring to provide illegal identification documents.

Texas Department of Public Safety Lt. Alvaro Ivan Adame was arrested Friday morning in Dallas on a charge of conspiracy to transfer unlawfully issued identification documents. He has worked in drivers license offices in Dallas and Wichita

Falls.

The indictment alleges that the 40-year-old Adame conspired with others to exchange illegally obtained New Mexico identification cards and drivers licenses for Texas ones. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Document and Benefit Fraud Task Force led the investigation.

Adame is scheduled to appear before a federal magistrate Friday afternoon.

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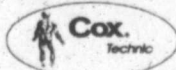
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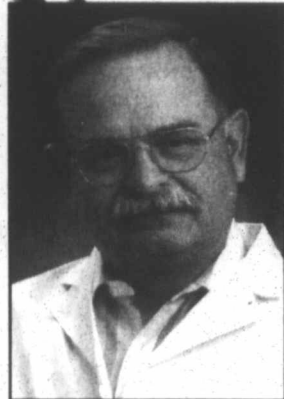
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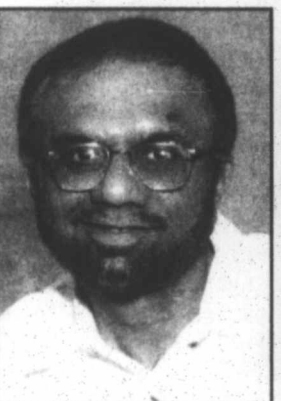
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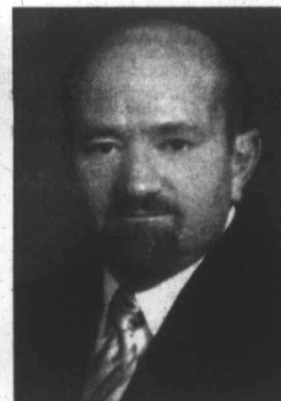
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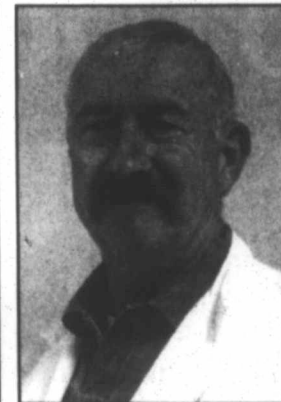
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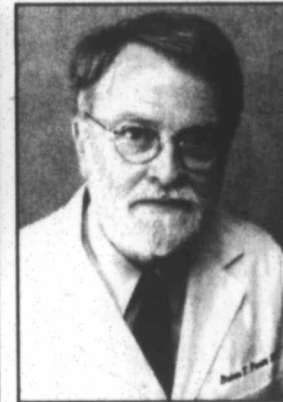
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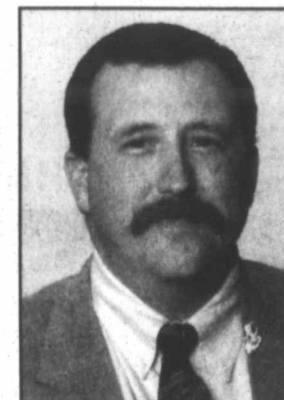
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Global warming giving nuclear new claim to clean

MIDDLETOWN, Pa. (AP)—The nation's worst nuclear power plant accident was unfolding on Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island when an industry economist took the rostrum at a nearby business luncheon.

It did not go well. Those in the standing-room-only crowd listened raptly to economist Doug Biden's thoughts about cheap, reliable nuclear power, but Biden could not calm their nerves or answer their pointed questions: Should they join the tens of thousands of people fleeing south-central Pennsylvania? Should they let their children drink local milk?

Three decades later, fears of an atomic catastrophe have been largely supplanted by fears about global warming, easing nuclear energy into the same sentence as wind and solar power. Dogged by price spikes and an environmental assault on carbon dioxide emissions, fossil fuels are the new clean-energy pariah.

"There's a lot of support for nuclear now, and most of that support is borne out of a concern for the desire to have emissions-free energy sources," said Biden, who still advocates for power companies as the president of Electric Power Generation Association in Pennsylvania.

Policymakers in numerous states are warming to nuclear power, even in states where the facilities are banned. Nuclear reactors generate one-fifth of the nation's power. Some see nuclear as a stable, homegrown energy source in light of last year's oil price spikes. Others see it as a way to meet carbon-reduction goals.

Public interest is emerging, too: A Gallup Poll released in recent days shows 59 percent favor the use of nuclear power, the highest percentage since Gallup first asked the question in 1994.

If the U.S. nuclear industry is hitting a new high point, Saturday marks the anniversary of its low

point. Thirty years ago, the meltdown of Three Mile Island's Unit 2 puts its perils and shortcomings came under the world's microscope.

No one was seriously injured in the accident, in which a small amount of radiation was released into the air above the Susquehanna River island 12 miles south of Harrisburg. Studies of area residents have not conclusively linked higher rates of cancer to radiation exposure.

Since then, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has not granted one license for a nuclear power plant. The industry says it has made major safety advances, but huge obstacles remain.

It takes years to license and build a reactor. Construction costs billions of dollars. The nation has no long-term storage site for the 2,000 tons of radioactive waste being produced annually by the 104 reactors operating in 31 states.

While some environmental groups grudgingly accept nuclear power as part of the energy landscape, others continue to oppose it. Counting waste costs and government subsidies makes nuclear no more effective than a combination of efficiency measures, desert solar stations, wind power and geothermal energy, they say.

Last month, President Barack Obama called for a cap on greenhouse gas emissions that would almost certainly raise the cost to operate coal- and gas-fired plants. It was another arrow in the quiver of nuclear power advocates who argue that there is no other reliable source of power that is free of greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide.

In the last two years, 26 applications for new reactors have poured into the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which expects to issue a license no earlier than 2011. No such application was filed in the 28 years following the TMI accident.

In red states and blue states, public

officials are paving the way for new reactors to call their states home. Even lawmakers in fossil fuel-rich Oklahoma, are advancing a bill that would effectively lift a moratorium on nuclear power.

"It makes sense to at least have other options out there," Oklahoma House Speaker Chris Benge said.

Republican Charlie Crist of Florida and Democrats Ed Rendell of Pennsylvania and Martin O'Malley of Maryland, governors who get high marks from environmental groups, all support proposals for new reactors in their states.

"By no means is (nuclear power) the sole answer to our energy problems, but I think it actually has a definitive place in the whole array of things we need to do to reach our goals of producing enough to meet demand," Rendell said.

In the past year, the Florida Public Service Commission has approved four new reactors, including two at a proposed Progress Energy Inc. plant along central Florida's Gulf Coast.

Bill Johnson, chief executive of the Raleigh, N.C.-based utility, said the proposal met two important criteria for public acceptance: It dovetailed with Crist's anti-global warming agenda and the desire for reasonably priced power.

Down the Susquehanna River from Rendell's office in the Pennsylvania Capitol, the destroyed TMI Unit 2 remains sealed.

Its core was shipped away years ago and what is left inside the containment building remains highly radioactive.

Next to it is TMI's Unit 1, now owned by Exelon Corp. and still churning out electricity. Three Mile Island would even make a fine place to build another reactor. "If we were it not for the memory of the 1979 accident, perhaps."

"I think politically that would be difficult," Biden said.

A timeline of major events in nuclear power

— 1955: A U.S. government reactor makes Arco, Idaho, the world's first town electrified by nuclear power.

— 1957: The U.S.' first commercial nuclear power plant becomes operational in Shippingport, Pa. (Nuclear reactors were already in service in the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom). It was retired in 1982.

— March 29, 1979: Three Mile Island Unit 2 in Middletown, Pa., melts down. No one was killed or seriously injured that day, but the public relations disaster sets back the industry for decades.

— April 26, 1986: Chernobyl nuclear power plant explodes in Soviet Ukraine, killing thousands. A radioactive cloud floats over much of Europe and large areas of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus are contaminated.

— 1996: The U.S.' last new reactor comes online at Watts Bar nuclear power plant near Spring City, Tenn. It took 22 years to finish Unit 1 and Unit 2 remains unfinished, becoming a poster child of the industry's inefficiency.

— 2001: Worries about terrorist plots against nuclear power plants prompts new security measures. Governors send National Guard troops to watch over plants as public confidence about the safety of the installations drops.

— 2002: Inspectors discover an acid leak nearly ate through a reactor vessel cap at the Davis-Besse plant in Oak Harbor, Ohio. Owner FirstEnergy Corp. acknowledges that employees covered up damage and company pays a record \$28 million in fines.

— 2007: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission receives first full power plant application in 28 years. NRG Energy Inc.'s proposal for two reactors near Bay City, Texas, is one of 26 licenses pending at the agency.

— February 2009: President Barack Obama calls for a cap on greenhouse gas emissions. The proposal would almost certainly raise the cost to operate coal- and gas-fired plants and is seen as a boost for nuclear energy.

Commission adopts sweeping changes to deer regulations

AUSTIN, Texas — The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted a series of wildlife and hunting-related regulations that expand special buck antler restrictions and liberalize antlerless harvest opportunities in dozens of counties. The new rules take effect during the 2009-10 hunting seasons.

Citing strong support for the changes during the public comment period, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff said the new rules reflect a shift toward biologically-based communities for managing deer populations.

One of the biggest changes involves further expansion of the department's successful antler restriction regulations into 52 additional counties where biologists have identified a need to provide greater protection of younger buck deer.

According to Clayton Wolf, TPWD big game program director, the antler

restrictions have significantly improved age structure while maintaining ample hunting opportunity, based on data to date in the 61 counties where the rule is currently in effect.

New counties under the antler restriction rule this fall include: Anderson, Angelina, Archer, Atascosa, Brazos, Brown, Chambers, Clay, Cooke, Denton, Ellis, Falls, Freestone, Grayson, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Henderson, Hill, Hood, Hunt, Jack, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Kaufman, Liberty, Limestone, Madison, McLennan, Milam, Mills, Montague, Montgomery, Navarro, Newton, Orange, Palo Pinto, Parker, Polk, Robertson, San Jacinto, Smith, Stephens, Tarrant, Trinity, Tyler, Van Zandt, Walker, Wichita, Wise, and Young.

The department got overwhelming support to increase whitetail bag limits in several areas of the

state with growing deer numbers or populations sufficient to support additional hunting opportunity.

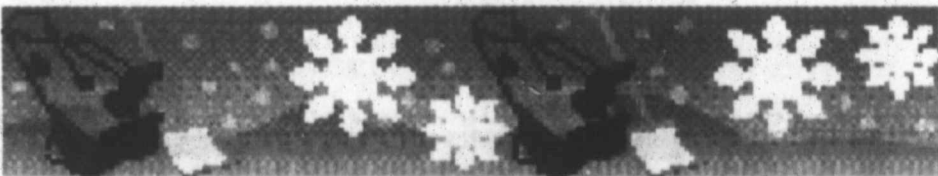
The department is increasing the bag limit in most Cross Timbers and Prairies and eastern Rolling Plains counties from three deer (no more than one buck, no more than two antlerless) or four deer (no more than two bucks and no more than two antlerless) to five deer (no more than 2 bucks). Counties affected include: Archer, Baylor, Bell (West of IH35), Bosque, Deer — cont. on page 3

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State changes deer regs

Deer — cont. from page 1

Callahan, Clay, Coryell, Hamilton, Haskell, Hill, Jack, Jones, Knox, Lampasas, McLennan, Palo Pinto, Shackelford, Somervell, Stephens, Taylor, Throckmorton, Wichita, Wilbarger, Williamson (west of IH35), and Young.

In addition, the department is increasing the bag limit from four deer to five deer in Pecos, Terrell, and Upton counties. White-tailed deer densities throughout the eastern Trans-Pecos are very similar to densities on the Edwards Plateau, where current rules allow the harvest of up to five antlerless deer.

Another change increases the bag limit from three deer to five deer (no more than one buck) in selected counties in the western Rolling Plains. Counties affected include: Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Childress, Collingsworth, Cottle, Crosby, Dickens, Donley, Fisher, Floyd, Foard, Garza, Gray, Hall, Hardeman, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Kent, King, Lipscomb, Motley, Ochiltree, Roberts, Scurry, Stonewall, and Wheeler.

The department also extended whitetail hunting from 16 days to the full general open season in Dawson, Deaf Smith, and Martin counties (three deer, no more than one buck, no more than two antlerless).

Areas of the state having sufficient antlerless deer populations to warrant additional hunting opportunity will be getting more doe days this fall. The department is increasing antlerless deer hunting in the following areas:

--from 16 days to full-season either-sex in Dallam, Denton, Hartley, Moore, Oldham, Potter, Sherman and Tarrant coun-

ties; --from 30 days to full-season either-sex in Cooke, Hardeman, Hill, Johnson, Wichita, and Wilbarger counties;

--from four days to 16 days in Bowie and Rusk counties;

--from four days to 30 days in Cherokee and Houston counties;

--from no doe days to four doe days in Anderson, Henderson, Hunt, Leon, Rains, Smith, and Van Zandt counties.

The department is also expanding the late antlerless and spike season into additional counties. Counties affected include: Archer, Armstrong, Baylor, Bell (West of IH35), Bosque, Briscoe, Callahan, Carson, Childress, Clay, Collingsworth, Comanche, Cooke, Coryell, Cottle, Crosby, Denton, Dickens, Donley, Eastland, Erath, Fisher, Floyd, Foard, Garza, Gray, Hall, Hamilton, Hardeman, Haskell, Hemphill, Hill, Hood, Hutchinson, Jack, Johnson, Jones, Kent, King, Knox, Lampasas, Lipscomb, McLennan, Montague, Motley, Ochiltree, Palo Pinto, Parker, Pecos, Roberts, Scurry, Shackelford, Somervell, Stephens, Stonewall, Tarrant, Taylor, Terrell, Throckmorton, Upton, Wheeler, Wichita, Wilbarger, Williamson (West of IH35), Wise, and Young. In Pecos, Terrell, and Upton counties, the season would replace the current muzzleloader-only open season.

In East Texas, the department is establishing a special muzzleloader season in additional counties, lengthening the existing muzzleloader season by five days to be equivalent in length with the special antlerless and spike buck seasons in other counties, and altering the current muzzleloader bag composition to allow the harvest of any buck (not just spike bucks) and antlerless deer without permits if the county has "doe days" during the general season.

New counties affected include: Austin, Bastrop, Bowie, Brazoria, Caldwell, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Colorado, De Witt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Goliad (North of HWY 59), Goliad (South of HWY 59), Gonzales, Gregg, Guadalupe, Harrison, Houston, Jackson (North of HWY 59), Jackson (South of HWY 59), Karnes, Lavaca, Lee, Marion, Matagorda, Morris, Nacogdoches, Panola, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Upshur, Victoria (North of HWY 59), Victoria (South of HWY 59), Waller, Washington, Wharton (North of HWY 59), Wharton (South of HWY 59), and Wilson.

The department is also adding one additional weekend and 10 additional weekdays in January to the current youth-only season.

The department also established a one buck only, antlerless by permit, nine-day mule deer season for Parmer County, the first ever deer season for that county.

In other action, the commission approved a temporary, indefinite suspension of the current lesser prairie chicken two-day season in October until population recovery supports a resumption of hunting.

Hunters are urged to check the Outdoor Annual of hunting and fishing regulations for county and species specific rules before going afield this fall. The annual will be available online and wherever hunting licenses are sold beginning Aug. 15.

Two exceptions pertain to larger craft. Those vessels 26-40 feet in length would increase by \$40 and 40-foot-plus vessels would go up by \$110. A complete list of proposed fee changes can be found online at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/releases/news_roundup/license_and_boats_fees/.

The public is invited to comment on these proposals by visiting the TPWD Web site or by writing TPWD Public Comment, attn. Robert Macdonald, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744 or email robert.macdonald@tpwd.state.tx.us.

TPWD proposals would increase dove bag, season

AUSTIN, Texas -- Changes proposed for the 2009-10 Texas dove season include a 70 day season and 15 bird daily bag statewide, pending adoption of federal guidelines. Additionally, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department announced a proposal to move the South Zone opening to the Friday nearest Sept. 20, but no earlier than Sept. 17, which means it will open on Sept. 18 this year if approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in late June.

TPWD staff announced the proposed dove season changes during the Regulations Committee meeting of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, Wednesday, March 25.

The changes to season length and bag limits reflect anticipated implementation of new federal guidelines for dove management based on the Adaptive Harvest Model (AHM) now being applied to doves as it has been for ducks for the last decade. AHM harvest management uses variables such as monitoring data, population data and harvest information from band recoveries to develop season structures.

The Service has developed three options for mourning dove bags, all based on a 70 day season, including a 22-bird liberal bag, a 15-bird moderate bag and an 8-bird restrictive bag.

Application of this new approach in a mock format using data from the past 30 years demonstrated that the moderate package would have been in place all during that period.

The Service has evaluated factors affecting mourning doves and concluded the Central Management Unit, which includes Texas, will be in the Moderate Package (15 birds) for the next three years. Final adoption by the feds is expected in late June.

Under this season structure, changes will be an increase from 60 to 70 days in season length in the North Zone and an increase from 12 to 15 birds in the daily bag in the Central and South Zones.

The proposed dove season in the North and Central Dove Zones would run Sept. 1-Oct. 25 and reopen Dec. 26-Jan. 9, with a 15-bird bag and not more than two white-tipped doves.

TPWD is also looking at altering the South Zone opener to offset calendar shifts that have penalized Texas hunters in the past. Currently, federal frameworks prohibit Texas from opening the South Zone prior to Sept. 20. TPWD Commission policy has been to open the dove season on the first Friday after

Doves — cont. on page 3

TPWD seeks increase to licenses, boat fees

AUSTIN, Texas -- Most hunters, anglers and boaters in Texas could see a modest \$2-\$4 bump in license and boat registration/titling fees if a proposed 5 percent across-the-board increase is approved in May by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department says the fee increase is necessary to address critical needs.

"As you know license fees were last increased in 2004 and prior to that there had been no increase in eight years," Gene McCarty, TPWD's deputy executive director for administration, told commissioners. McCarty said the department initially considered a 10-15 percent increase, but scaled back due to the current economic downturn.

"Instead we are proposing a very slight increase of 5 percent rolled up to the next dollar," he explained. "This fee increase will not create new programs or services. The last fee increase in 2004 was just enough to maintain current levels of service. This increase will do the same."

Under the proposed increase, hunting licenses would go from the current price of \$23 to \$25, while the popular Super Combo all-inclusive license would increase from \$64 to \$68. Fishing packages would increase by \$2. McCarty noted the cost for all of the special endorsement stamps would not go up.

The vast majority of boat owners in Texas would also see only a small increase in boat registration and titling fees under the proposal. Biennial boat

registration for vessels less than 16 feet in length would increase from \$30 to \$32 and those in the 16-26 foot range would go from \$50 to \$53.

Two exceptions pertain to larger craft. Those vessels 26-40 feet in length would increase by \$40 and 40-foot-plus vessels would go up by \$110. A complete list of proposed fee changes can be found online at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/releases/news_roundup/license_and_boats_fees/.

The public is invited to comment on these proposals by visiting the TPWD Web site or by writing TPWD Public Comment, attn. Robert Macdonald, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744 or email robert.macdonald@tpwd.state.tx.us.

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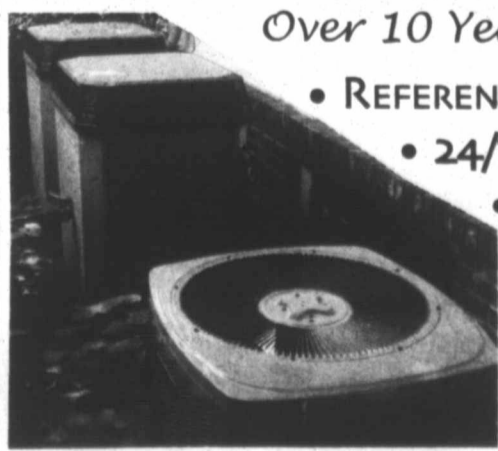
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Dove regs change

Doves— cont. from page 1

Sept. 20, unless the 20th falls on a Saturday. So, in effect, in most years Texas' South Zone has opened an average of three days later than federal frameworks allow and as late as Sept. 25.

This year, TPWD is proposing the South Zone open on the Friday nearest Sept. 20, but no earlier than the 17th. The Central Flyway Council approved the recommendation last week and TPWD migratory game bird staff has been discussing this proposal with the Service technical staff since last fall and it has been well received. If formally approved in late June b, the South Zone would open on Sept. 18 this year. Next year, the 20th falls on a Monday, so TPWD would propose opening on Friday, Sept. 17, 2010.

Under the proposal, the South Zone would run Sept. 18-Nov. 3, reopening Dec. 26-Jan. 17 with a 15 bird bag and not more than two white-tipped doves. Possession limit is twice the daily bag for all migratory game birds except light geese which currently does not have a possession limit.

The Special South Texas Whitewing Area would open to white-winged dove afternoon-only (noon to sunset) hunting Sept. 5-6 and 12-13 and reopen Sept. 18-Nov. 3 and again from Dec. 26-Jan. 13. The daily-bag limit is 12 birds, not more than four mourning doves during the first two weekend splits and two white-tipped doves. Once the general season opens the aggregate bag limit will be 15.

The Service is also reviewing a proposal to give TPWD the option to adjust a portion of the boundary of the special whitewing area. This potential change would remove portions of Jim Hogg and Starr counties. These areas are not as high a quality white-winged dove habitat as other portions of the area. If removed, these portions would fall under the South Zone dates and bag. TPWD plans to hold a public hearing prior to the May 27 commission meeting to evaluate public support of this proposal.

TPWD is proposing no changes to other early migratory game bird seasons other than to reflect calendar shifts.

If Texas gets a 16-day September teal season, the dates would be Sept. 12-27, while a nine-day season would run Sept. 19-27.

The proposed season for rail and gallinule is Sept. 12-27 and Oct. 31-Dec. 23; for snipe, Oct. 31-Feb. 14; and for woodcock, Dec. 18-Jan. 31.

The public is encouraged to provide comment on these proposals by visiting the TPWD Web site or by writing TPWD Public Comment, attn. Corey Mason, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744 or email corey.mason@tpwd.state.tx.us.



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By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a 14-year-old girl in high school. My family does not have a lot of money, but a lot of my friends' families do. (We have some money, but it's only enough to get by.) When my friends come to school with new clothes or concert tickets, I feel resentful because I can't afford them. I constantly compare myself to other girls and feel jealous of everyone around me. Is there anything I can do to combat this? -- JEALOUS OF EVERYONE IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

DEAR JEALOUS: I can think of few things so self-defeating as constantly comparing oneself to other people. No matter what income bracket a person is in, there will always be individuals who have more. Your worth as a person has nothing to do with what's in your closet, what's on your back or whether you can afford concert tickets.

One way to start feeling better about yourself would be to make a list of the qualities that make you special. You are obviously intelligent. Are you also a loyal friend? Are you sensitive to the feelings of other people? These important qualities will outlast any fashion fad - and the popularity of most music groups, too. The more time you spend dwelling on the important qualities you have, the less time you'll waste being preoccupied with the material things you don't.

DEAR ABBY: I have been living with a terrible secret for the past five years. I don't love my older son. He is very difficult and has been since infancy. Don't get me wrong -- I'd jump in front of a bus to save him -- but I don't like him.

I have a degree in psychology and have taught

child development. I have taken parenting classes and read every book that's available on hard-to-manage children. But I have yet to find something that can help me, and I feel terribly alone. My husband tries, but he doesn't understand what it's like because he is mostly at work.

I am involved in parenting groups, playgroups, etc., but the other mothers all seem to be doing everything "better" than I am, and I have never heard any other mom admit to having negative feelings toward her kid.

What makes it worse is I adore my younger son and feel a special bond with him. I know this must be awful for the older boy because I'm sure he senses it, no matter how hard I try to hide it. But I don't know how to change what I feel. Abby, how can I change things? I desperately want to be the kind of mother my son deserves. -- ASHAMED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ASHAMED: Nowhere in your letter did you mention that you have taken your older son to a child psychiatrist for any sort of an evaluation. Children who are "very difficult" can sometimes have a physical or psychological disorder. There may even be a support group for you comprised of other parents who are experiencing the same feelings that you have.

It is important that you seek professional help for both of you. Your son may have a disorder, but until you find out the cause of the behavior that makes him "unlovable," there will be no help for either of you.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

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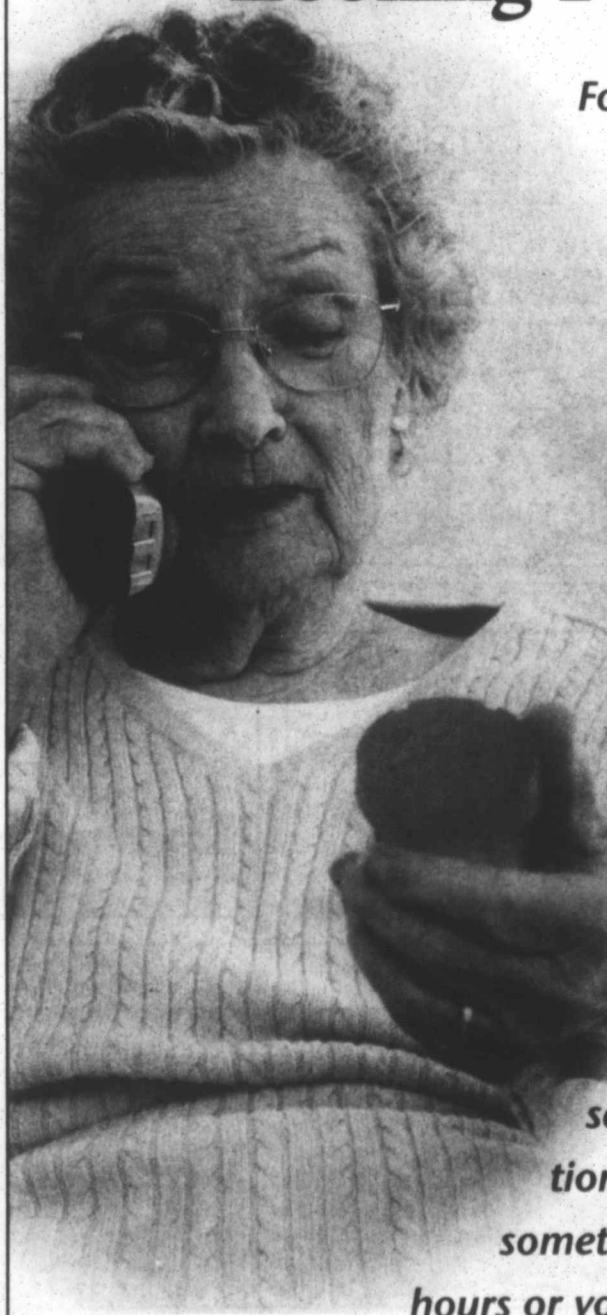
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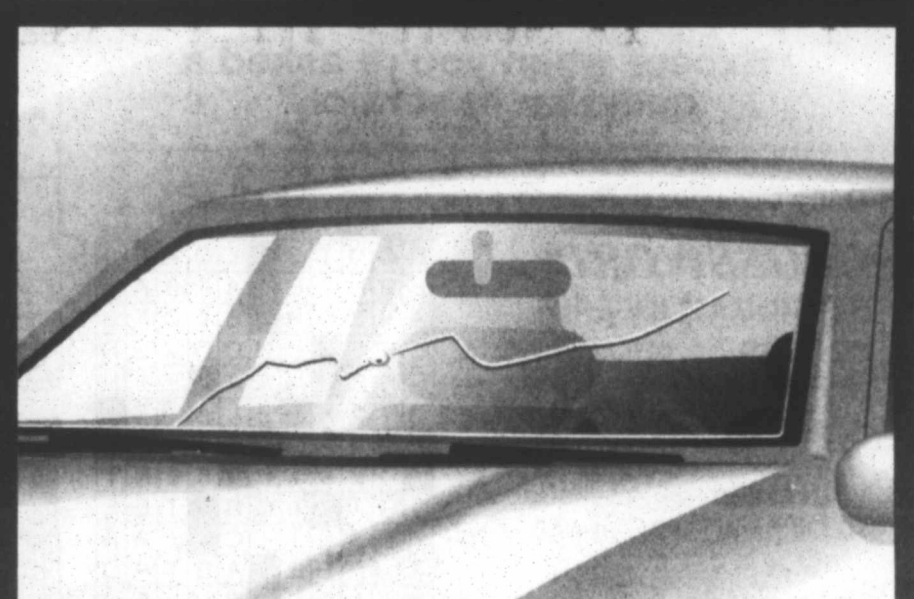


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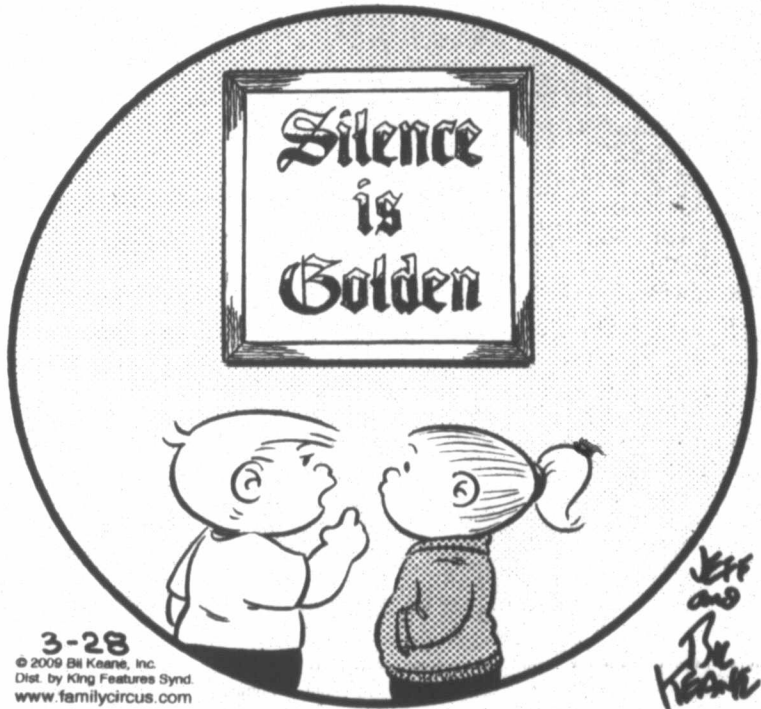
Marmaduke



"I know it's hard to say goodbye to an old friend."

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By **Bil Keane**



3-28
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"Except when you're asked a question in school."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS 42 Combines

- 1 Poker game
- 5 Rough guesses
- 10 Oil paint buys
- 12 Stampede cause
- 13 Make law
- 14 Buddy
- 15 Signing need
- 16 Melody piece
- 18 Game and lactose
- 21 Zorro attire
- 22 Pub order
- 24 Suggest
- 25 Bar sign
- 29 Con holder
- 30 Cover
- 32 Swimming unit
- 33 Sulky state
- 34 Milne youngster
- 35 Knock for a loop
- 37 Writer Calvino
- 39 Band output
- 40 Space sighting
- 41 Giraffe features

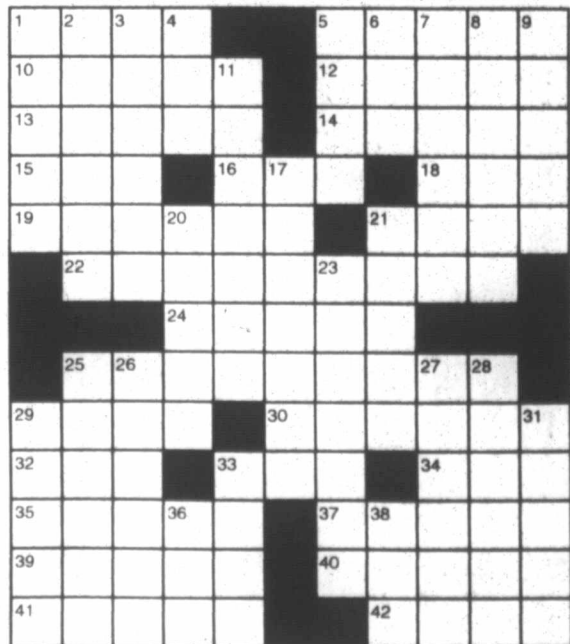
- DOWN**
- 1 Flight makeup
- 2 Garage job
- 3 River to the Congo
- 4 Last mo.
- 5 Rigging support
- 6 Small topper
- 7 Creature
- 8 Galoot
- 9 Tea cake
- 11 First-string player
- 17 U-235, e.g.

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

Yesterday's answer

- 20 Brat's opposite
- 21 Spiteful
- 23 Nut
- 25 Return to the Enterprise
- 26 City opposite Juárez
- 27 Angular home
- 28 Combined slang
- 29 Dollars, in slang
- 31 Alex Haley book
- 33 Chest muscles
- 36 Pimple, in slang
- 38 Highway rescue

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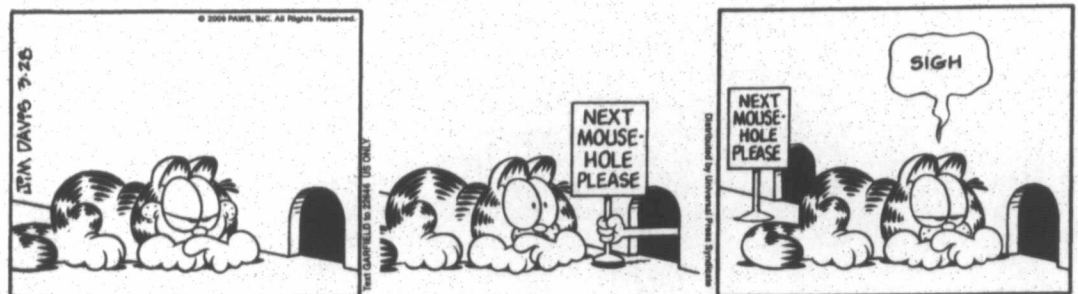
For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Doctors say kidney stones in kids are on the rise

CHICAGO (AP) — Doctors are puzzling over what seems to be an increase in the number of children with kidney stones, a condition some blame on kids' love of cheeseburgers, fries and other salty foods.

Kidney stones are usually an adult malady, one that is notorious for causing excruciating pain — pain worse than childbirth. But while the number of affected children isn't huge, kids with kidney stones have been turning up in rising numbers at hospitals around the country.

At Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the number of children treated for kidney stones since 2005 has climbed from about 10 a year to five patients a week now, said Dr. Pasquale Casale.

Johns Hopkins Children Center in Baltimore, a referral center for children with stones, used to treat one or two youngsters a year 15 or so years ago. Now it gets calls about new cases every week, said kidney specialist Dr. Alicia Neu.

In a 2007 study in the Journal of Urology, doctors at North Shore-Long Island Jewish Medical Center reported a nearly fivefold increase in children brought in with kidney stones between 1994 and 2005. In 2005, 61 youngsters were treated there for stones.

Dr. David Hatch at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill., near Chicago, also has seen an increase. His youngest patient was a cranky 8-month-old girl whose mother found a pea-size kidney stone in her diaper.

Kids' stones have been the talk of recent pediatric kidney specialists' conferences, said Dr. Uri Alon, director of the bone and mineral disorders clinic at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

So far, the only evidence is anecdotal. But Alon is involved in research trying to determine if the increase is real and not just the result of greater awareness and better ways of detecting stones. Alon also is studying whether improved nutrition can prevent kids' kidney stones.

Eating too much salt can result in excess calcium in the urine. In children, most stones are calcium-based, and Alon said their eating habits, plus drinking too little water, puts them at risk. Plenty of water is generally recommended to help prevent kidney stones.

Matty Billemeier is just 8 years old but already has had four bouts with stones, the first in 2007, the last a year ago in April. He was first stricken in his first-grade class; the school nurse, his parents and even the emergency room doctors all thought it was his appendix.

"It felt really painful and intense," the Doylestown, Pa., boy recalled. "I was really scared because it was hurting a lot."

Darryl Billemeier said it was frightening seeing his son writhing and screaming in pain. The boy was transferred from a local hospital to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where ultrasound tests showed kidney stones.

"We really didn't know what to make of it," Billemeier said. "I definitely thought they were more of an adult thing."

The first time, Matty needed surgery; the other times the stones passed during urination.

Now he takes diuretic pills to increase urination, brings a water bottle to school everyday, and has given up favorite foods, including sausages, pickles and packaged ramen noodles — all high in salt.

His parents are both busy teachers, and with four other sons, family meals used to include quick

processed foods like canned spaghetti or chicken nuggets. Until Matty's diagnosis, salt "wasn't something we really thought about," Billemeier said.

The main problem associated with kidney stones is extreme pain. It is caused by stones blocking urine flow, which, if untreated, could lead to kidney damage.

The preferred treatment is observation — giving kids pain medicine but

nothing else to see if the stones will pass on their own. Stones can be as small as a sugar granule or as large as a pearl. Bigger ones have been reported but are rare; most are less than 1/4 inch in diameter, which can usually pass on their own. But even small ones can mean incredible pain.

When that doesn't happen, the patient is anesthetized and doctors may thread a slender scope through the urinary tract to

break up and remove the stone. Other treatment may involve noninvasive shock-wave therapy that uses sound waves to break up the stone, or minimally invasive surgery.

Dr. Barry Duel, a pediatric urologist at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, said kidney stones can be a sign of underlying metabolic problems that result in too much calcium in the urine. But he said in most cases children have no underly-

ing disorder and are otherwise healthy.

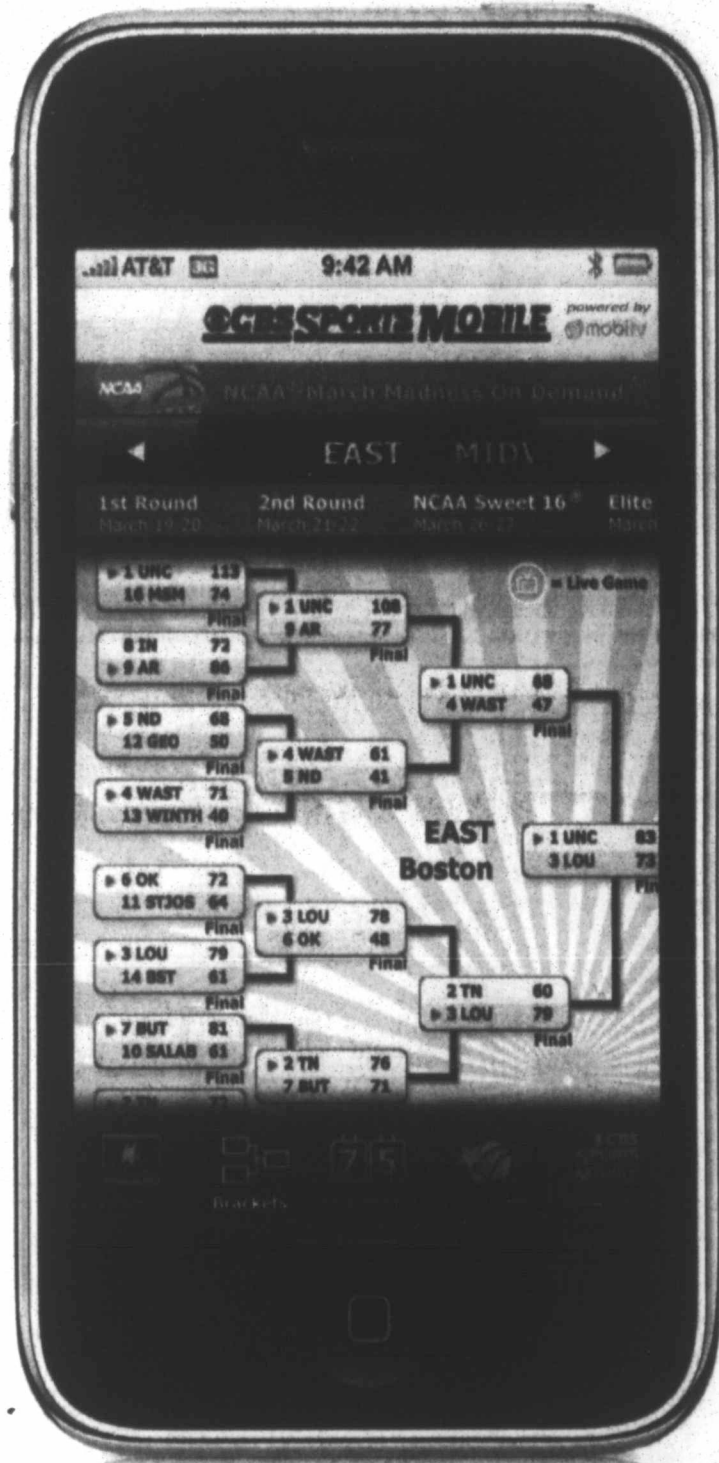
Still, because some metabolic problems can slow growth if untreated or lead to repeated bouts with kidney stones, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends metabolic testing for all children with kidney stones.

Hatch, the Loyola urologist, said the best prevention is plenty of water, so that the minerals in urine stay dissolved.

How much water depends on a child's size, but for an average-size 10-year-old it would be about four cups a day, on top of whatever else they are drinking. That is far more than most kids drink.

For children who have had one kidney stone, doctors sometimes recommend fresh-squeezed lemonade or other citrus juice, which can help keep the urine from forming stones.

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