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The PAMPA NEWS

Thursday, April 2, 2009 Volume 104 • No. 303 50¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

County approves CC's request

by Rachel Stennett
 rstennett@thepampanews.com

Gray County Commissioners Court met yesterday (April 1) and approved a request from Clarendon College. CC President William Auvenshine requested the county's participation in the issuance of revenue bonds for Pampa Center's proposed expansion project.

The first phase of the project will use funds to build two additional buildings located behind the current building, Auvenshine explained. The buildings will be used to teach vocational courses including welding, heating and air conditioning, wind energy, CAD (computer-aided design), law enforcement

programs, and nursing courses. The second phase of the project will be as soon as the first phase is completed on the property west of the Pampa campus, which is still being negotiated. Phase II will include building a student center, a library, and a cafeteria to attract younger students Auvenshine said. Phase III

will complete the building project, but Auvenshine estimated it likely won't begin for 15 to 20 years. The third phase will make the Pampa campus a complete college campus and will include dormitories, making the campus larger than the Clarendon campus. Last year, a five cent property tax law was

passed in Gray County, designating that a maximum of five cents to be allotted to the Pampa Clarendon College Campus for expansion. The law has already generated \$400,000 for the three-phase project, scheduled to start with groundbreaking on phase one this summer.

County— cont. on page 3

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The students of Community Christian School were the stars of the show last night at the school's Appreciation Banquet. The younger classes recited poems and scriptures, while 4th and 5th recited the entire Gettysburg Address. In the back row are: Chloe Vainrib, Braden McCullar, Connor Hampton, Cole Salazar, Daniel Garvin, Gavin Morton and Isaiah Chisum. In front are: Mary Martindale, Kyle Gordzelik, Leah Ohsfeldt, Chandler Petty, Noah Land, Isabella Hough and Jayton Whittington.

Short storm slams area

by Rachel Stennett
 rstennett@thepampanews.com

In the second snow storm this week, heavy, wet blowing snow caused dangerous travelling conditions for many drivers throughout Gray County early this morning. White out conditions, and a rapid accumulation of three to four inches of snow in some places, caused multiple cars to slide on the road on Highway 60, near the Jordan Baten prison. Zero

Snow— cont. on page 3

Cabot helps CASA

by Rachel Stennett
 rstennett@thepampanews.com

A financial donation from Cabot Corporation to CASA of the High Plains has made it possible to higher and recruit volunteers for the non-profit organization who aids children who suffer from abuse or neglect. The local chapter of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) survives largely because of their volunteer assistance. Only four full time employees work at CASA, but over 30 volunteers help represent children in court cases and help place the children in permanent homes as quickly as possible. Cabot decided to donate money to CASA when they heard about the Penny Campaign, a project done in elementary schools to raise money for CASA, Aubrey Milligan with the Cabot Community Relations Team said.

"Cabot has been here since 1927 and we try to help the community in any way we can," Milligan said. "We would like to see other businesses in the forefront, giving back to the community." For the Penny Campaign, students from each elementary school were asked to bring pennies from home for CASA and the classroom which brought the most pennies won the competition. Lisa Blandford, CASA case supervisor, said the money from the campaign and the Cabot donation will "go a long way to train volunteers locally." "We really appreciate Cabot's support. Their support encourages us," Stephanie Kelly, CASA Board secretary said. All volunteer training is done in the CASA office, located at 315 Ballard. CASA has a volunteer

CASA— cont. on page 3



Aubrey Milligan, Cabot Community Relations Team member, gives a donation to Stephanie Kelly, Board Secretary of CASA of the High Plains. The donation will help CASA recruit and train volunteers to help abused and neglected children.

Highlights from the Texas Legislature

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas Senate on Wednesday voted to adopt a \$182.2 billion state budget for the next two years, including \$11 billion in federal stimulus spending. The Senate voted 26-5 to adopt the two-year budget, the most important bill lawmakers will consider during the five-month legislative session. Using the federal rescue money, senators were able to craft a spending plan that would not dip into a projected \$9 billion balance in the state's Rainy Day Fund. Still, officials

cautioned that economic conditions could worsen before the budget can become law. The House is still working on its version of the budget, and details are likely to change as the measure moves along. State dollars, made up mostly of sales tax revenue and other taxes, comprise almost 48 percent of the total budget. **VETO OVERRIDE** The House approved a proposed constitutional amendment Wednesday that would allow the Legislature to meet to con-



sider overriding a gubernatorial veto, even if a legislative session has ended. The House approved the proposal 131-16. It also must be passed by the Senate before going to the state's voters. Rep. Gary Elkins, a Houston Republican, put forth the resolution. Lawmakers can decide to override a veto of a bill by the governor while in session. But Elkins said many times the Legislature is already out of session and cannot consider an override. His proposal would allow lawmakers to return

to Austin for a day to respond to a veto. A previous similar proposal failed in the 2007 Legislature. **KICKAPOO DEER HUNTING** A bill to allow members of the Kickapoo Indian tribe in Eagle Pass to hunt antlerless white-tailed deer for religious purposes throughout the year won tentative approval in the House on Wednesday. Hunting would be allowed for licensed Kickapoo hunters between one-half hour before sunrise and one-half hour after sunset.

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County approves request

County — cont. from page 1

The court and Clarendon College President William Auvenshine, as well as Pampa Dean Raymond Jaramillo discussed issuing the bonds, which would be repaid through the tax revenue built through the property tax law.

The law states that up to five cents out of each \$100 of property tax may be designated for the bonds. The county decides how much the college actually needs based on a yearly review of their budget, Peet said.

Auvenshine told the commission that anything less than five cents would put the project on a complete hold, which happened at the Perryton campus when a similar law was passed, and the Perryton court did not allocate the full five cents to the expansion.

Judge Richard Peet discussed the economic impact the bonds might have for a national economy that is already in significant debt, "People are asking how are we going to pay for it and how long it will take"

Auvenshine said that the money should not be considered debt — it is promised to be paid back with the tax law.

Originally, the college approached the commissioners court to only put the property tax designation on the ballot. Now, the college is seeking that the county issue bonds on behalf of the college because of their strong financial standing. The county has almost no significant debt, Peet said.

Peet expressed concerns

that the bonds would be in the name of the county, meaning the county technically owns the buildings. Peet said the court would not want to be liable for the buildings if the college ever ceased to perform.

"What if the college dies out and the county owns the buildings?" Peet asked the court.

Auvenshine said the court did not need to have concerns for the successful future of the college.

"That's terribly pessimistic," Auvenshine replied. "We have been here since 1898 and we are seeing all of our growth (over 15 percent last year) in Gray County."

Commissioner Joe Wheeler said the court was trying to be as thorough as possible, not pessimistic.

"This is new ground for us," Wheeler said. The only other time the county has issued bonds was for the court house to be remodeled. "Everyone here is for education."

Peet was a teacher for many years at Clarendon College before becoming County Judge. "I'm committed to the junior college," Peet said. "I taught there and I know it's a tremendous asset for Pampa and Gray County."

The court approved the next step in issuing bonds for the college, which is for Clarendon College to submit a bond proposal, the court to review the proposal and modify it if desired. The proposal then would be submitted to the state comptroller.

The process will take an estimated 30-60 days. "We are vehicles which

the college can use to grow," Commissioner Gary Willoughby said.

In other business: The burn ban in effect in Gray County was discussed, which technically expires April 15. The court did not lift the burn ban, and deferring any action on the ban until that time.

The Gray County Sheriff's Office requested the court's approval to apply for federal grants, created through the National Recovery Act in the stimulus package. GCSO would be applying for two separate grants, a total of nearly \$300,000.

One grant for \$58,567 would be split evenly with the Pampa Police Department. The portion for the sheriff's office would be used for videos and recording surveillance equipment in the jail, equipment the Sheriff Don Copeland said is much needed.

The second grant is for qualified rural law enforcement agencies. The grant, for \$250,000, would go towards the purchase of two new SUVs with law enforcement packages.

GCSO officials said the vehicles are needed for carrying equipment and supplies to more rural areas in the community, where more drug labs are being built.

The grant would also create a full-time deputy position, including benefits and retirement, for \$45,000. The grant is for three years.

Bids were received for a Ford Tractor for sale by the county. Les Chester won the bid for the tractor at \$5,232.

Senate adopts \$182 billion budget

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas Senate on Wednesday voted to adopt a \$182.2 billion state budget for the next two years, including \$11 billion in federal stimulus spending.

The Senate voted 26-5 to adopt the two-year budget, the most important bill lawmakers will consider during the five-month legislative session.

Using the federal rescue money, senators were able to craft a spending plan that would not dip into a projected \$9 billion balance in the state's Rainy Day Fund. Still, officials cautioned that economic conditions could worsen before the budget can become law.

"Sales tax collections are slowing down faster than what we thought," said Sen. Steve Ogden, who was the lead Senate budget writer.

"I would argue that ... the most prudent thing we can do in the state right now is to hold on to that Rainy Day Fund, make sure things don't get worse before they get better."

Attention next turns to the House, which is crafting a separate version of the budget before the two drafts can be reconciled.

The federal stimulus money, which was part of a law signed by President Barack Obama in February, is helping budgeters close a shortfall between available state revenue and spending needs.

"While other states are facing huge deficits, Senate Bill 1 invests in our state's future by increasing funding for education, higher education, job training programs and transportation," said Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who presides over the Senate. "This budget also uses federal stimulus funds responsibly by working to ensure they will not result in ongoing costs to the state, while allowing us to leave the Rainy Day Fund untouched so it can be used to balance the budget

in 2011."

Counting all funds, the plan spends about \$53 billion on public education, which makes up the largest portion of spending, based on current school finance law and projected student enrollment growth. But the bill also sets aside \$1.9 billion, contingent on the Legislature adopting a new school finance plan.

Democratic critics of the budget expressed concern about measures in health and human services spending, including a provision that Ogden said was intended to prohibit state money from being spent on research that destroys human embryos.

Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, called the budget a "fundamentally flawed document."

"It remains far from clear that this provision won't have a direct impact on scientists and researchers at some of the premier laboratories in the state," Watson said. "And this rider will doubtless damage our state's reputation for economic development and scientific discovery."

Watson, who voted against the budget, also criticized the plan for relying on the federal rescue dollars to enable "the state's worst fiscal habits without reforming them."

The budget significantly decreases funding to the Texas Youth Commission, which underwent a massive overhaul after a juvenile sex abuse scandal two years ago. The new proposal would cut spending on the juvenile agency by \$81 million and mandates

more than 700 employee cuts.

The Senate budget increases state spending by:

— \$600 million for cancer prevention and research;

— \$543 million for state schools;

— \$31 million to equip 2,500 school buses with seat belts;

— \$32.5 million to expand pre-kindergarten to 22,500 more children;

— \$27.1 million to buy and operate 450 patrol cars for the Department of Public Safety; and

— \$10 million to expand Boll Weevil eradication efforts made necessary in southeast Texas by Hurricane Ike;

The budget also prohibits the use of state dollars to purchase Microsoft Vista products.

State dollars, made up mostly of sales tax revenue and other taxes, comprise almost 48 percent of the total budget. Federal funds, including the stimulus money, make up about 36 percent of the budget.

The federal stimulus money is less than 10 percent of the total Senate budget. Another \$3.3 billion in federal stimulus money has been set aside for supplemental spending in the current budget period, which ends this summer.

The two-year state budget is the one piece of legislation lawmakers are legally required to adopt during the biennial legislative session, which convened in January and adjourns in June.

Storm blows through area

Snow — cont. from page 1

visibility was also reported by officers near the Pampa County Club just before 7 a.m. this morning.

The Pampa Fire Department responded at 5:13 a.m. to a downed

power line this morning on West Highway 152, between Gray County Roads 3 and 4.

Snows showers have stopped, but winds are expected to be high

throughout the weekend, with gusts up to 35 miles per hour today and tomorrow, and gusts reaching 50 miles per hour on Saturday.

Cabot helps CASA

CASA — cont. from page 1

board, which oversees the operations of the agency and deals with grants, Kelly said.

The month of April is child abuse prevention month. On April 14, all students in Pampa have been asked to wear blue in support of child abuse prevention and awareness.

The community is also asked wear blue. The last Sunday in April CASA will hold a balloon release on the last Sunday in April. A blue balloon will be released for every confirmed victim of child abuse. In the past, CASA has released a white balloon for deaths from abuse, but

this year there were none reported in the eight county area CASA of the High Plains serves.

Anyone interested in volunteering with CASA of the High Plains can contact the office by phone at 669-7638 or by email at ofelia@casahp.org.

House tentatively OKs journalist shield law

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas journalists are closer than ever to getting legal protections against revealing confidential sources, notes and tapes in court.

The state House of Representatives voted 146-2 on Wednesday to give initial approval for a journalistic shield law, known as the Free Flow of Information Act.

Similar proposals died in each of the past two legislative sessions after strong objections from district attorneys who said it would hurt their prosecution of criminal cases.

"We've been working since 2005 to create perfect legislation, and I will tell you the third time is the charm," said Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer.

The San Antonio Democrat has been pushing the bill through contentious debates and marathon compromise meetings with district attorneys and members of the news media.

The bill — which now has support from both media and district attorneys — gives a qualified privilege, meaning a judge can force broadcast and print journalists to give up

information or testify, but only if it is reasonable and necessary.

In debates this session, news media groups have said a shield law would give them a way to know in exactly what situations they have to give up confidential sources. They say the source protection would encourage whistleblowers to come forward to journalists to reveal corruption.

"The two interest groups that will be fighting over this issue in court, this sets up the rules so everybody knows what they are, everybody knows what the standards are," Martinez Fischer said.

Tomball Republican Rep. Debbie Riddle, one of the two lawmakers who voted against the measure, raised concerns about giving journalists a "special privilege" that she said doctors, lawyers and priests don't have when called into court.

"What makes journalists so special that they are in another category? If the pope came to America, the pope would not have the same privileges as these journalists, I don't think," she said.

Riddle was behind a technical objection in 2007 that killed a shield law proposal that district attorneys opposed.

Martinez Fischer stressed that reporters can be compelled to give up information if prosecutors can prove it is necessary and can't be reasonably obtained elsewhere. Prosecutors had said earlier versions of a shield law made it too difficult for them to prove they need information.

Bloggers are not protected unless the majority of their income comes from blogging.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, April 2nd, the 92nd day of 2009. There are 273 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1513 - In searching for the Fountain of Youth, Spaniard Ponce de Leon discovers Florida, but does not realize it is part of mainland North America.

1792 - U.S. Congress passes the Coinage Act, which authorizes establishment of the U.S. Mint and allows the government to make its own money.

1801 - British fleet under Horatio Nelson is sent to Denmark because of Danish action on Elbe River and is victorious off Copenhagen.

1917 - U.S. President Woodrow Wilson summons special session of Congress to declare war upon Germany.

1932 - Aviator Charles Lindbergh pays \$50,000 ransom in a New York cemetery to a man who promises to return his kidnapped son.

'Life is short. Live it up.'

— Nikita S. Khrushchev, Soviet Leader (1894-1971)

1947 - U.N. Security Council appoints United States as trustee for Pacific islands, formerly under Japanese mandate; Britain refers Palestine question to United Nations.

1982 - Argentina seizes the disputed

Falkland Islands from Britain. Britain takes the islands back the following June.

1986 - A bomb rips hole in TWA jetliner over southern Greece, and the blast blows a man, woman and child out of the plane to their deaths. The plane flying between Rome and Athens was carrying 121 people.

1992 - Mob boss John Gotti is convicted in New York of murder and racketeering; he is later sentenced to life in prison.

1993 - The United States and its NATO allies approve enforcement of a U.N.-imposed no-fly zone over Bosnia.

1995 - U.S. baseball owners accept the players' union offer to play without a contract, ending the longest and costliest strike in U.S. professional sports history. The strike began in August 1994.

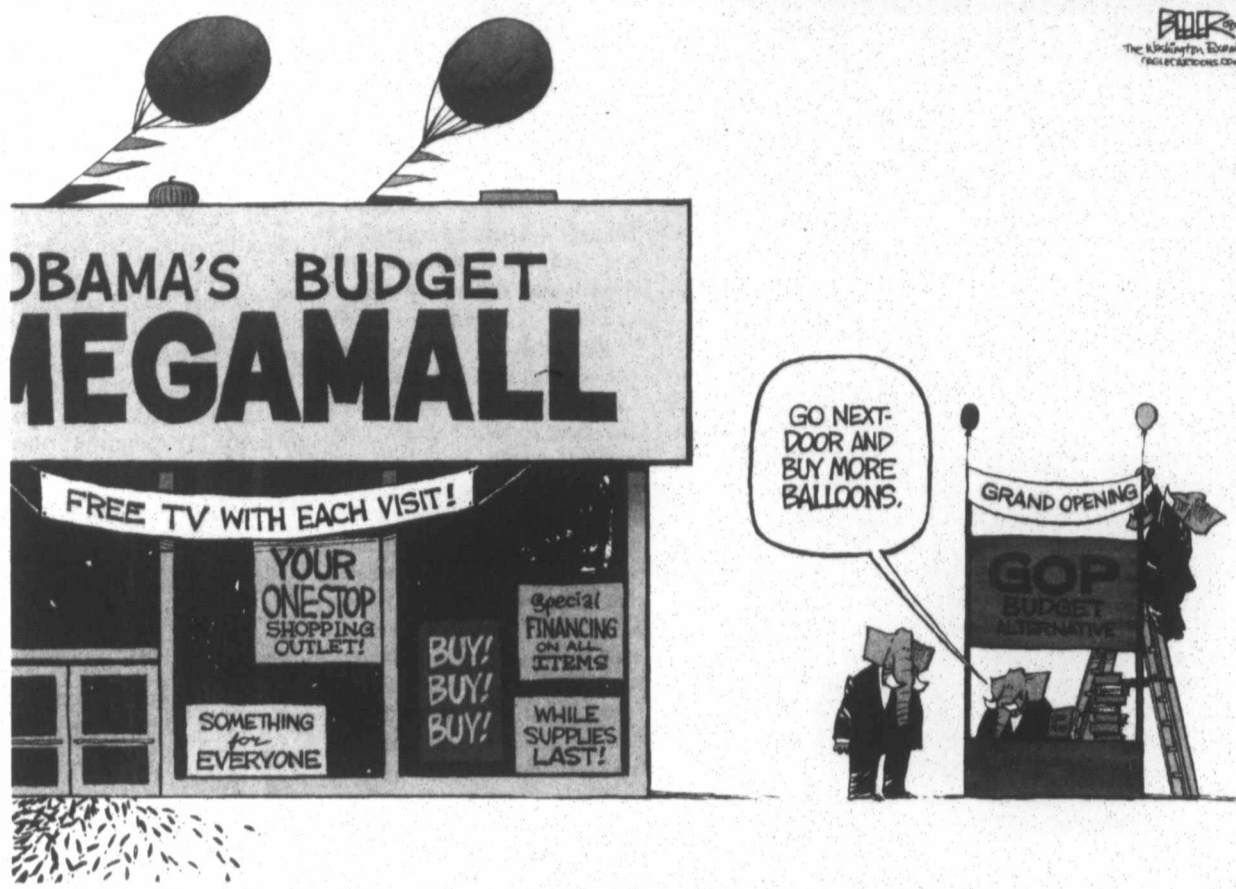
1999 - Serbian troops go house-to-house in the Kosovo town of Djakovica, making threats and killing men and sending thousands of ethnic Albanians fleeing.

2000 - French archaeologists announce the discovery of a 4,000-year-old queen's pyramid south of Cairo, complete with texts of special prayers previously found only with kings.

2005 - Pope John Paul II, who helped topple communism in Europe and left a deeply conservative stamp on the church that he led for 26 years, dies at age 84 in his Vatican apartment, ending a long public struggle against debilitating illness.

Today's Birthdays:

Charlemagne, Emperor of the West (742-814); Hans Christian Andersen, Danish writer (1805-1875); William Holman Hunt, English artist (1827-1910); Emile Zola, French author (1840-1902); Max Ernst (1891-1976); Buddy Ebsen, U.S. actor (1908-2003); Sir Alec Guinness, British actor (1914-2000); Emmylou Harris, U.S. country singer (1947--).



Drive safe to be safe

Observing National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 6-10

by Howard Holland
TxDOT Amarillo District Engineer

Navigating construction can be difficult, not to mention risky for both drivers and workers.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) manages more than 1,000 highway projects at any given time on 80,000 miles of Texas roads. President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will bring another \$2.25 billion to the state, substantially increasing construction. As work volumes increase, so do crashes.

TxDOT will join the Federal Highway Administration and other transportation partners the week of April 6-10 to observe the 10th annual National Work Zone Awareness Week. The event is designed to remember victims and raise safety awareness for workers and motorists.

Each year in Texas, there are more than 20,000 crashes and about 150 people killed in highway construction and maintenance work zones. Since 1938, there have been 268 TxDOT employees killed in work zones.

In 2007, the Amarillo

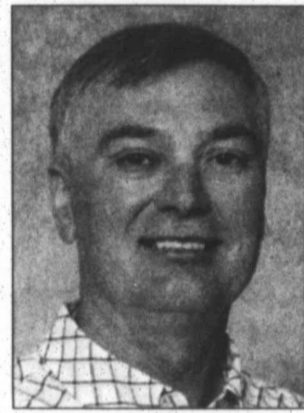
District had 5 work zone fatalities and 201 crashes. More than four out of five fatalities are motorists. Speeding and inattention are the most common causes cited. Rear-end collisions account for one in three crashes.

Safety is TxDOT's first priority, no matter what job - behind the desk or on the highway.

Slow down and follow posted speed limits. Traffic fines are double in work zones.

Pay attention. Workers are often close to traffic.

Be patient. Delays can be frustrating, but it only takes a few minutes to



Howard Holland

slow down in a work zone. Plan ahead. Leave early to reach your destination. Drive safe to be safe.

Opinions from across the state

Houston Chronicle on U.S.-Mexico relations

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spoke some truths the other day that may be difficult for many Americans to hear.

Clinton acknowledged that our drug habits and the ready availability of guns in this country are implicated in the escalating drug violence scarring Mexico.

And so they are. Getting out of denial about this could be our first step toward tamping down the narco-terror that threatens to spill over into this

country.

Focusing on our own piece in this is not to ignore Mexico's role in the worsening situation. Not at all. The corruptibility of that country's police and bureaucracy contribute enormously to the mindless brutality. In 2009, the term drug war is no longer metaphorical. Innocent lives are being lost on all sides.

Clinton was right to summarize things unflinchingly. "We have accepted that this is a co-responsibility," she said on her visit last week to Mexico. "We see it as a responsibility to help the

Mexican government and people defeat an enemy."

Victory will only come if both governments are willing to address root causes. For the Mexicans, that means cleaning up a legal and policing system that is still susceptible to the influence of la mordida, "the bite" taken by public officials in exchange for favors large and small.

On this side of the border, the day is coming when the country must look seriously at ways to rein in the multibillion-dollar market that enriches the drug lords while filling American prisons with inmates. This means

reassessing the generation-long national drug war, and should include debate on the merits and pitfalls of legalization of drugs. It must also feature a reasoned discussion on better controlling the flow of automatic weapons across the border.

Surely by now, people in both countries have had enough of finger pointing.

What's the old saying? Be careful: When you point your finger at someone else you have three fingers pointing back at yourself. When it comes to drug traffic, that's achingly true for both Mexico and the United States.

San Antonio Express-News on U.S. oil and gas production

For environmental reasons and national security reasons, the United States must decrease its reliance on oil and gas especially foreign oil and gas.

Clean energy, domestically produced, is the way of the future.

The future, however, is not now.

Not yet, anyway. Oil and gas currently supply nearly two-thirds of the energy consumed in the United States. You can't simply throw a switch and change the energy basis of the U.S. economy, from cars and planes to homes and factories.

The conversion to energy sources that are environmentally friendly and made in America will require years, perhaps decades. So will the tech-

nological advances necessary to make them affordable.

In the interim, maintaining a healthy domestic oil and gas industry is the best way to reduce U.S. exposure to the volatile energy market. Even the most ambitious plans to alter energy production in the United States such as the one promoted by T. Boone Pickens envision a transition period during which oil and gas remain important sources.

Unfortunately, elements of President Obama's 2010

budget proposal will substantially reduce domestic oil and gas production. The elimination of tax credits and the imposition of a new excise tax on production in the Gulf of Mexico would increase our nation's reliance on foreign sources and hurt the U.S. and especially the Texas economy.

This isn't a partisan issue. That's why a group of a dozen House Democrats, including Charlie Gonzalez, D-San Antonio, and Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo, sent a

letter to Budget Committee Chairman John Spratt, D-S.C., warning him about the dangers of the proposed changes.

The Obama administration's clean energy goals put the nation on the right track. Until those goals are attainable, oil and gas will remain crucial to the U.S. economy.

As long as that's the case, domestic sources are far preferable and far more reliable than foreign sources.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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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.

Recycling event nets 1,250 lbs

Keep Pampa Beautiful had a telephone recycling event from March 19 -30th, 2009 that resulted in approximately 1,250 pounds of recycled phonebooks being turned into the Amarillo Recycle Center on April 1, 2009.

Four boxes were placed in different locations in Pampa and the turn out was a success.

The phone book paper is made from recycled paper waste and wood fiber waste such as sawdust and wood chips that would otherwise go unused. Recycled phone books are made into useful products such as ani-

mal bedding, home insulation, bathroom tissue, cereal boxes, roofing shingles, and new phone books!

Keep Pampa Beautiful would like to thank the following businesses that helped them make this recycling event happen: Amarillo Recycle Center, AT&T, Calvary Baptist Church, City of Pampa, Harold Price/Franks True Value, Lovett Memorial Library, Mike Erhle with KGRO Radio, Mike's Water Well Service, The Pampa News and Trinity Fellowship Church.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- PHS Show Choir will be performing Grease, on April 18 (2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.) and 19 (2:30 p.m.) in the PHS Auditorium.
- Texas Department of Health Services will conduct an immunization clinic Pampa from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and from 1-3 p.m. April 15. For more details call 806-665-4752.
- Fourth Annual Hunting Heritage banquet, hosted by Pampa's Top of Texas Longbeard Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation will be held April 18, 2009 at the Chamber of Commerce, 200 N. Ballard St. Doors open at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 7:30 p.m. Reserve tickets by calling Richie or Heather Thompson at 806-669-7032.
- Gray County Genealogical Society will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month, except for December. Visitors are welcome.
- Members of Crowley, Texas, High School Class of 1989 are organizing a class reunion. For more information, e-mail chs89reunion@gmail.com or contact Nancy Dodgen Dyess (817) 994-0969 or Misty Shewmaker Hollis at (817) 991-8090.
- Pampa Book Club will meet at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the Texas Room of Lovett Memorial Library. The 2009 reading schedule is as fol-

- lows: April 8, "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls. The May 13 book for review will be announced at a later date. Public welcome.
- USS Maddox Destroyer Association Reunion is slated Sept. 9-13 in Phoenix, Ariz. To find out more, call (337) 616-8450 or e-mail cwgilles45@aol.com.
- Fawn Lake Press is offering free "Proud to be an American" flag decals to anyone sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Fawn Lake Press, 54 Fawn Lake Rd., Durango, CO 81301. Active servicemen and women need not send a SASE to receive the free 2 x 3-inch color decals. Fawn Lake will pay their postage.
- Manhattanville My Soldier is seeking volunteers to "adopt" a deployed United States Serviceperson. To find out more, visit www.mysoldier.com on-line or write to: Manhattanville College My Soldier Department, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase, NY 10577.
- T.O.P.S. Club, a weight loss group, is seeking new members. The club meets from 5:30-6:30 p.m. each Monday at 513 E. Francis. New members welcome.
- T.O.P.S. Club, a weight loss group, meets at 11:30 a.m. at noon each Monday at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 511 N. Hobart.

Pampa Defeats Dumas 11-6

by Kevin Hunt

The Pampa Harvesters got back on track by defeating the Dumas Demons by a score of 11-6 Wednesday at Harvester Field.

The win evens Pampa's district record at 2-2 and puts their overall record at 15-5.

Down 1-0, Pampa took the early lead after back to back walks to Blake Sieck and Brett Powell put runners on first and second.

Ryan Funderburg followed with a single to right field to load the bases. Braden Hunt then drew a walk that scored Sieck. It was one of two RBI's for Hunt on the afternoon.

With one out, Madison Wilson hit a sacrifice fly to right field that scored Powell.

Dumas added three runs in the top of the second inning to take a 4-2 lead.

In the home half of the second, Pampa added a run after Sieck drew a 2-out walk, and moved to second after Powell was hit by a pitch.

Sieck then stole third base and scored when the throw went into left field.

In the bottom of the fifth, and still down 4-3, Pampa finally took the lead back.

Sieck reached on an infield single and Powell walked. With one out, Hunt delivered a single over the left fielders head that scored Sieck. With two outs, Wilson singled to left center field to score Powell from 2nd base.

In the top of the fifth, Dumas would score 2 runs

to take a 6-5 advantage.

But in the bottom of the fifth, Pampa finally broke loose and had a big inning.

Anthony Allen, Casey Trimble and Sieck each walked to load the bases.

With one out, Allen would score on a ground out by Funderburg.

Hunt was then hit by a pitch, that loaded the bases again.

Jeremy Maxwell singled up the middle, scoring Trimble and Sieck and moving Hunt to third base.

Madison Wilson then hit a 2-2 pitch, over the right field fence for a 3-run home run, and an 11-6 lead. John Luke Covalt then tripled to right center field, but was stranded at 3rd.

Dumas would not score again, and Pampa would

come away with a much needed 11-6 victory. Blake Sieck picked up the win as he pitched 6 innings for Pampa, Sieck gave up 6 runs on 5 hits. He walked five batters and hit three. Sieck did however strike out 13 hitters.

Hunt pitched the seventh inning, gave up no runs on no hits. He hit one batter and struck out two.

Pampa's defense was solid once again only committing one error.

Madison Wilson was the offensive MVP for Pampa, as he went 2-2 with a single and a home run, a sacrifice fly and a walk. Wilson also collected 5 RBI's in the game.

Pampa's next game is Friday at 5 p.m. against the Hereford Whitefaces at Harvester Field.

Pistachio product recalls

By The Associated Press—The following recalls have been announced because the products may be contaminated with salmonella, an organism that can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections, especially in young children, the elderly and those with weakened immune systems:

Whole Foods Market is recalling its 365 Everyday Value brand in-shell Dry Roasted and Salted Pistachios. The company said it has received no reports of illness related to the product. The recall involves 16-ounce packages of 365 Everyday Value brand Dry Roasted and Salted Pistachios with best before dates of 07/08/2009 GL1, 07/08/2009 GL2, and 11/27/2009 GL1 and UPC code of 99482-40435. For more information, consumers can call 512-542-0656.

The Kar Nut Products Co. is recalling Kar's and Second Nature products containing pistachio nuts. No illnesses related to the products have been reported. The recalled products were sold in retail stores nationwide. For more information, consumers can call 800-527-6887.

The recall includes:

- Kar's Pistachios; 1.5 ounce bag; UPC 77034 01229; best by dates: 10 09 to 03 16 10.
- Kar's Pistachios; 2.25 ounce bag; UPC 77034 01331; best by dates: 12 11 09 to 03 23 10.
- Kar's Pistachios; 2.5 ounce bag; UPC 77034 01330; best by dates: 10 19 09 to 12 10 09.
- Kar's Pistachios; 4.0 ounce bag; UPC 77034 01476; best by dates: 12 08 09 to 03 18 10.
- Kar's Pistachios; 4.0 ounce bag; UPC 77034 01859; best by dates: 02 18 10 only.
- Kar's Pistachios; 5.0 ounce bag; UPC 77034 00467; best by dates: 10 08 09 to 03 17 10.
- Kar's Pistachios; 8.0 ounce bag; UPC 77034 01642; best by dates: 10 21 09 to 03 24 10.
- Kar's Pistachios; 8.0 ounce bag; UPC 77034 01836; best by dates: 10 13 09 to 12 15 09.
- Kar's Pistachios; 10.0 ounce bag; UPC 77034 00641; best by dates: 10 08 09 to 10 22 09.
- Kar's Pistachios; 12.0 ounce bag; UPC 77034 08553; best by dates: 11 22 09 only.
- Kar's Pistachios; 4 pound bag; UPC 77034 08584; best by dates: 12 04 09 only.

- Kar's Pistachios; 7 pound barrel; UPC 77034 08582; best by dates: 11 19 09 to 12 15 09.
- Second Nature California Medley; 6 ounce bag; UPC 77034 01103; best by dates: 01 12 10 to 03 18 10.
- Second Nature Sensible Sweetness; 6 ounce bag; UPC 77034 01105; best by dates: 01 19 10 to 03 18 10.

Pine River Pre-Pack Inc. is recalling small packaged items of Pine River-Deluxe Mix Nuts with Peanuts. The company said it has not received any reports of illnesses. The recall involves 5-ounce bags of Pine River — Deluxe Mixed Nuts with Peanuts; item No. P160; lot 39041; case item No. 16-00728; individual package UPC: 0 25231 00728 4.

The recalled items have been sold under the Pine River brand to various distributors and fundraising distributors in these states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin. For more information, consumers can call 800-722-4217, ext. 113.

Critical wildfire danger predicted for a large portion of Texas

Texas Forest Service urges caution

COLLEGE STATION, Texas-- Texas Forest Service (TFS) warns that critical wildfire weather conditions could occur Wednesday through Saturday in areas west of Interstate 35.

The critical wildfire weather was predicted to begin on Wednesday afternoon and continue through Saturday night categorized by extremely low humidity values and high winds.

Tom Spencer, TFS predictive services department head said that the

next four days could have serious implications for citizens and their property.

"This could be a very dangerous situation shaping up over the next four days across West and South Texas," Spencer said. "The predicted weather conditions have the potential to cause extreme wildfire behavior. These wildfires could be difficult to contain and pose a real threat to citizens."

Since Jan. 22, 2009, the beginning of the winter

wildfire season, TFS has responded to 510 wildfires for 72,445 acres. During the same period, local fire departments have reported an additional 3,500 wildfires for 82,843 acres according to an online database managed by TFS.

For more information on fire advisories and area conditions, go to <http://texasforestserviceta.mu.edu> and click on Fire Danger/Advisories.

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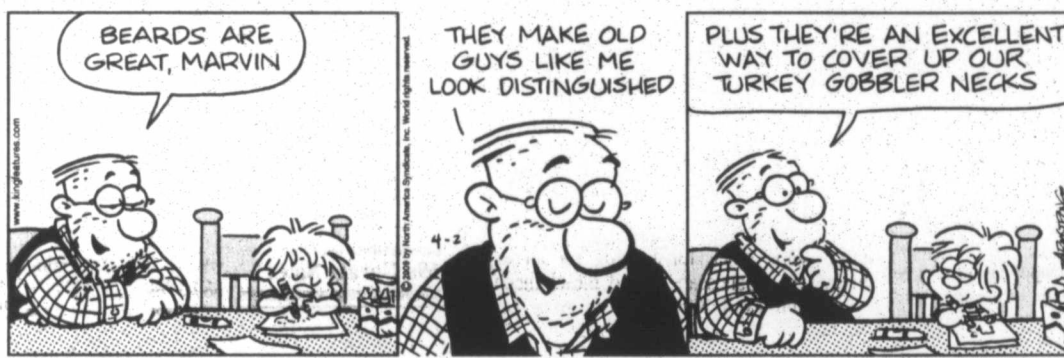
Garfield



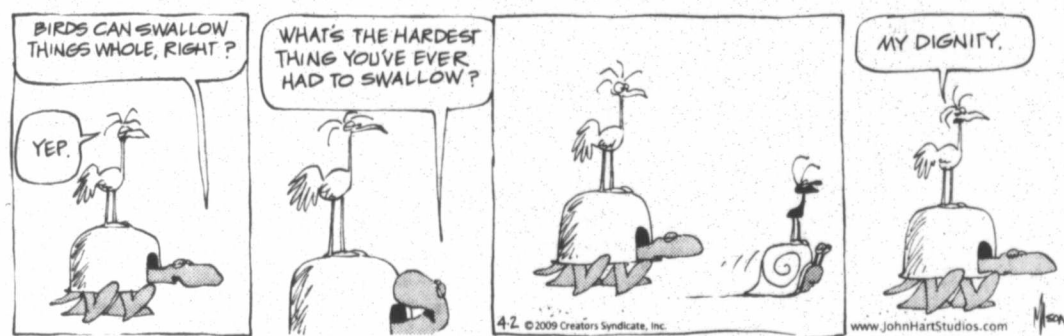
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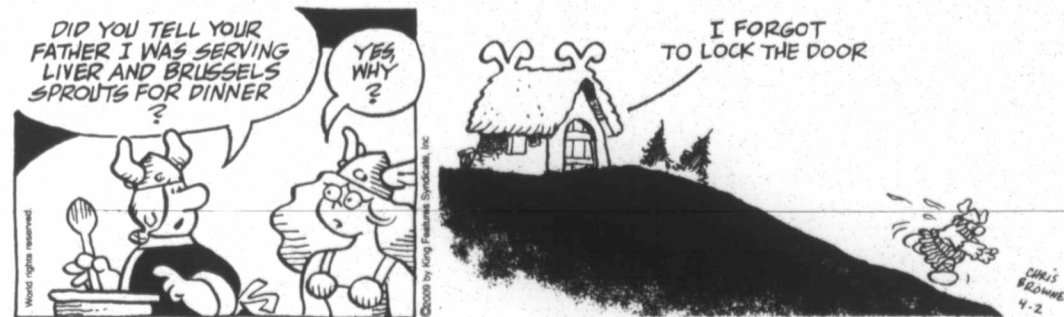
Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Singing? Just sounds like they're whistling."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 45 Worries
 - 1 Charity
 - 5 Night lights
 - 10 Drenches
 - 12 Apartment window sign
 - 13 Handyman's job
 - 14 Cartoon genre
 - 15 Mine matter
 - 16 Rainbow mnemonic
 - 18 Station worker
 - 20 Reduce drastically
 - 21 Kitchen pests
 - 23 "Lost" character
 - 24 Doting
 - 26 Niger neighbor
 - 28 Sermon subject
 - 29 Criticize harshly
 - 31 Fury
 - 32 Wears away
 - 36 Israeli city
 - 39 Maze runner
 - 40 Forsaken
 - 41 Gladden
 - 43 Metal fastener
 - 44 Recap
- DOWN**
- 1 Concerning
 - 2 River through Nantes
 - 3 — out (used to the limit)
 - 4 Enjoy
 - 5 Remain
 - 6 Secret society
 - 7 Cave raider of story
 - 8 Made dance records
 - 9 Director
 - 11 Maroons
 - 17 Be
 - 19 Sack
 - 22 Kerchiefs
 - 24 Like a cabin at night
 - 25 Bob Marley song
 - 27 Insurance grp.
 - 28 Indian lutes
 - 30 Island gift
 - 33 Inge
 - 34 Relish creation
 - 35 Flight makeup
 - 37 Fresh
 - 38 Dog docs
 - 42 Galoot

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T	E	E	N			P	L	E	A

Yesterday's answer

- 9 Director
- Soderbergh
- 11 Maroons
- 17 Be
- 19 Sack
- 22 Kerchiefs
- 24 Like a cabin at night
- 25 Bob Marley song
- 27 Insurance grp.
- 28 Indian lutes
- 30 Island gift
- 33 Inge
- 34 Relish creation
- 35 Flight makeup
- 37 Fresh
- 38 Dog docs
- 42 Galoot

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Wrong man cremated at Houston funeral home

HOUSTON (AP) — A funeral home that handles indigent burials apparently cremated the body of a man whose family had requested a viewing and sent a woman's body to be embalmed instead, prompting an investigation.

The mix-up was discovered after a mortuary school contacted Carnes Funeral Home to ask permission to embalm a woman's body who was supposed to be cremated. Employees at the funeral home thought the woman's body had been cremated, but checked their records and realized they had sent her body to Commonwealth Institute

of Funeral Service.

The funeral home had cremated the body of 91-year-old Fred Wood instead, said David Turkel, executive director of Harris County's Community Services Department, in Wednesday's online edition of the Houston Chronicle.

Turkel, who oversees indigent burials for the county, said the mistake was intolerable.

"It's beyond me how you could mix up a male and a female," Turkel said. He planned to thoroughly review the funeral home's policies and procedures.

Carnes Funeral Home spokesman Mike Millo

said his company was also investigating the incident, but added "this was nothing more than a human error."

"An employee made a mistake, and we're very sorry for the family," Millo said.

The funeral home has made nearly \$1 million burying and cremating paupers for the county in the last three years, according to county records the newspaper obtained. Its contract is set to expire this month and county Purchasing Agent Kelly Johnson said the funeral home probably would have been awarded the new contract later this month.

Thornberry supports tax reform and reduction plan

WASHINGTON, DC — Congressman Mac Thornberry (TX-13) today released the following statement outlining his principles for this year's budget debate and vote.

"Last week I released a package of tax reform principles and bills intended to encourage economic growth by focusing on small business and to make the federal tax system fairer to all taxpayers. With that background it should be no surprise that I am disappointed in the budget proposals offered by President Obama and the majority in the House. Instead of taking this opportunity to reach across the aisle and work together to achieve a tax system that is flatter and fairer, the President and his Party have offered a budget that raises taxes and spending to historic new levels."

"The good news is that over the next two days

there will be a debate and a number of votes on these proposals. I will be working to pass a budget that does not raise taxes and over time reduces federal spending and debt to a sensible level."

"Among the amendments and alternatives to the President's budget that I intend to support will be one to cut taxes and reform the tax system. Specifically, I hope we can pass an alternative that will allow individuals to choose to pay their federal taxes under the existing code, or move to a highly simplified system that fits on a post card, with few deductions and two rates. Under such a system, couples would pay 10% on their first \$100,000 in income (singles on \$50,000) and 25% above that. Capital gains and dividends would be taxed at 15%, and the death tax would be repealed perma-

nently. The proposal includes generous standard and personal exemptions such that a family of four earning \$39,000 would not pay any tax on that amount."

"I am also looking at various proposals to help revive peoples' lost savings and to create an incentive for risk-taking and investment. One attractive plan to accomplish that goal is to repeal the capital gains tax through 2010 for all taxpayers."

"While repealing the death tax and the capital gains tax will help encourage small business capital formation, our corporate income tax rate remains the second highest in the industrialized world. I am reviewing a variety of proposals to reduce the taxes on business to encourage them to maintain or expand their workforce."

Class 4 Winds to host seminar on CREZ transmission lines

AMARILLO — In an effort to educate the public on a broad range of issues related to wind energy, Class 4 Winds is sponsoring a seminar on the CREZ transmission lines that will be constructed across the Texas Panhandle in order to get the region's valuable wind energy to the ERCOT grid.

The seminar titled 'Transmission for Renewable Energy Zones,' will take place from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Monday, April, 27 at the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo, Texas. Representatives from the following organizations will deliver presentations:

The Public Utility Commission of Texas — The director of Electric Transmission Analysis will discuss "Regulatory Requirements for CREZ Transmission Projects in the Panhandle."

Sharyland Utilities — A representative of the Texas-based transmission and distribution electric utility will discuss the company's plans for transmission development in the central and western portions of the Texas panhandle.

Cross Texas Transmission LLC — A representative from the transmission company will speak about CTT and the process for transmission lines moving forward in the eastern portion of the Texas panhandle.

After the presentations, there will be a speaker panel with a Q&A session.

The April seminar will be the second in an ongoing series of seminars to be offered by Class 4 Winds. The cost to attend is \$25 for Class 4 Winds members and \$45 for non-members. To register for the event log on to www.class4winds.org

3,000-acre fire burning in Archer County

ARCHER CITY, Texas (AP) — Firefighters near the Texas-Oklahoma border are battling a blaze that has scorched nearly 3,000 acres.

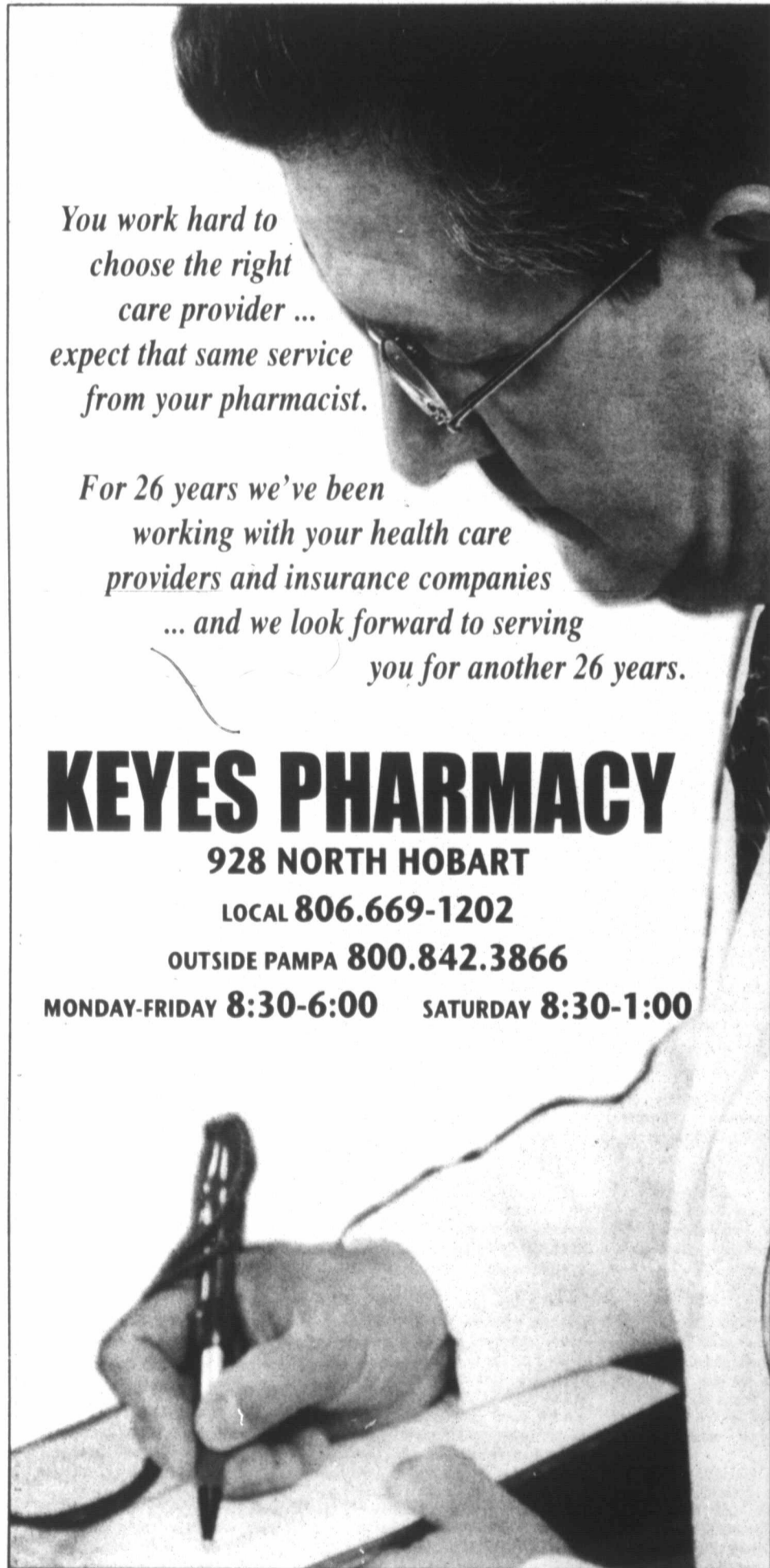
Officials had considered evacuating an Archer City nursing home and an apartment home with mostly elderly residents, but did not once firefighters got a handle on the fire in Archer County, Archer County sheriff's spokesman Jack Curd

said Wednesday.

The fire was about 90 percent contained late Wednesday night, said Texas Forest Service spokesman Lewis Kearney.

Curd said firefighters from Wichita, Clay, Young and Archer counties were battling the blaze along with the Texas Forest Service.

One barn was destroyed in the fire. No injuries were reported.



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