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PAMPA NEWS

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WIND ENERGY Boom one step closer

> ment from the Texas Panhandle to Economic Development Corporation, "Cross Texas is one the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, or ERCOT, grid downstate. of them. They're the ones that are An affiliate of LS Power, Cross responsible for our area, but there Texas Transmission is one of eight are a number of different service service providers that will cover providers throughout the state."

> > Cross Texas will be responsible for the competitive renewable energy zone that includes Gray, Briscoe, Carson, Cottle, Childress, Collingsworth, Donley and Hall

> > The \$4.9 billion in new statewide electric transmission

infrastructure will carry renewable energy from competitive renewable energy zones, or CREZs, to electric customers in other parts of the state.

"Throughout the state," Rice said, "the demand for energy is growing.

Rice said the selection of the transmission provider was a key part of the plan to move electricity generated by wind farms around Pampa and other parts of the pan-

Wind-cont. on page 3

Fire nearly contained, but danger remains high during rest of week

by Rachel Stennett rstennett@thepampanews.com

by David Bowser

dbowser@thepampanews.com

puzzle fell into place last week

Commission of Texas announced

the transmission providers who

will carry the panhandle wind to

Cross Texas Transmission, LLC,

was chosen to build, operate and

maintain over 200 miles of double

circuit 345-kV transmission lines

along with the associated equip-

the rest of the state.

A key piece of the wind energy

the Public Utility

Three days have passed since a downed power line sparked a fire that ravaged Wheeler County, burning 15,000 acres and causing the evacuation of Wheeler.

"I'm amazed it didn't do more damage than it did. The fire was headed straight into the town, and the firefighters took it on head on as it was coming into town and they stood their ground and got it out," Wheeler County Public Information Officer David Rushing said.

Agencies from across the panhandle worked together— the fire has been reduced to hot spots and non-threatening burning embers.

The fire started by a river

IRE DANGE

VERY HIGH

USE EXTREM

CAUTION

NO OPEN

BURNING

near Magic City, and quickly small sparks were turned into a large blaze, spread by wind gusts reaching nearly 70 miles per hour. Now, the fire has been 75 percent contained according Rushing.

more than 2,300 miles with new

high-voltage transmission lines

designed to increase the state's

capacity by 18,456 megawatts of

service providers," said Clay Rice,

executive director of the Pampa

"There are a number of different

renewable energy.

Four firefighters were treated at a Canadian hospital, and about 20 others were treated by paramedics on the scene and at the fire station, with routine procedures after large fires, according to Rushing. The firefighters were released from the hospital the same day, and instead of going home, they wanted to get straight back

"They were told not to go back to the fire," Rushing explained of the hospitalizations. "They still wanted to help, so they stayed at the stations and helped with radios and load the trucks."

It was this attitude, and the cooperation of 40 agencies working as one, that is the reason the city of Wheeler still stands, Rushing said.

Of the eight homes that were destroyed, five were occupied.

Three houses in Wheeler sustained damage, but they still stand. Rushing said the fences and outbuildings near the houses were burnt completely down by the fire, but the work of the firefighters

Fire- cont. on page 3



Remains of a power pole smolder over the weekend in Wheeler during a fire that has claimed 15,000 acres. Fire danger remains very high for the next few days the public is urged to use extreme caution. (AP photo)

Thornberry: Small businesses key to recovery

by David Bowser

dbowser@thepampanews.com AMARILLO — Back in his district for the April recess, Congressman Mac Thornberry talked taxes.

Pampa's congressman stopped in Amarillo Monday afternoon to rail against taxes on small businesses and the proposed elimination of tax incentives for independent oil and gas produc-

Thornberry said he is concerned about tax incentives such as the ability to write off intangible drilling costs, percentage depletion, geological and geophysical amortization and mar-

ginal well tax credit. "I know some of them are in the President's budget proposal to do away with," Thornberry said. "The net result is that we will produce less energy here at home, and we will buy more oil from overseas. I just don't think that makes any sense."

He said that eliminating the tax incentives would dry up investment capital for independent oil producers.

Thornberry said that local oil and gas produc-

ers came to see him in Washington recently. Their point was that Exxon and Shell will be fine," Thornberry said. "The little guys who drill many of the wells are small businesses, and they're the ones that are going to be affected by this.'

Standing in the service bay of Ditch Witch of West Texas Monday afternoon, Thornberry said that in each of the last 10 years, small businesses have created 60 to 80 percent of all the net new jobs in the nation.

"The key to economic recovery in this coun-

try is small business," Thornberry said. Thornberry said he thinks there will be a major battle on Capitol Hill concerning energy.

While the new administration is talking about renewable energy sources to replace fossil fuels, Thornberry said he is disappointed that the Production Tax Credit for wind energy was extended last year for only two years.

"I think it needs to be longer," Thornberry said. "Five or ten years."

Taxes - cont. on page 3



Knife & Fork Club Meeting At the Country Club at 7 pm

Contact Ruth Riehart at 665-3362 for more information



PAMPA FORECAST

Wednesday

Thursday







Low 39



Friday

Low 38

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 77. Wind chill values between 32 and 42 early. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph

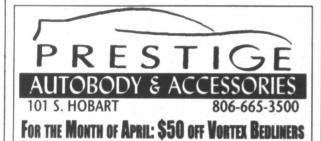
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 47. South southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 72. Windy, with a west wind 20 to 25 mph increasing to between 30 and 35 mph. Winds could gust as high as 55 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 39. Windy, with a north northwest wind 25 to 30 mph decreasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 50 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 62. North northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 38. East southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

() This information brought to you by...



Grain prices

The following grain quotations are provided by Atterbury Grain of White Deer. Prices quoted are for the close of the last market day.

Wheat	\$4.9
Milo	\$5.4
Corn	\$6.9

Texas Two Step results

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 9-12-34-35. Bonus Ball: 13. Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball; 1. Prize: \$425,000

Winning ticket purchased in: Houston.

Number matching four of four: 4. Prize: \$3,797. Number matching three of four, plus Bonus Ball: 32. Prize: \$58

Number matching three of four: 1,051. Prize: \$24. Number matching two of four, plus Bonus Ball: 870. Prize: \$19.

Number matching one of four, plus Bonus Ball: 5,726. Prize: \$7.

Number matching Bonus Ball alone: 10,064. Prize:

Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing:

Cash Five Texas results

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 32-3-25-24-8. Number matching five of five: 0. Matching four of five: 69. Prize: \$564 Matching three of five: 2,654. Prize: \$10 Matching two of five: 26,780. Prize: \$2 Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Emergency Services

SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests.

Monday Teddy Horace Coleman, III, 36, of Detroit, Mich. was arrested by GCSO for violation of probation on possession of marijuana.

Shawleen Michelle Brown, 33, of McLean was arrested by GCSO for bond failure

manufacture/delivery of a controlled substand, posession of a controlled substance, and theft over \$50 and under \$500.

Valerie Lynn Greene, 34, of Friona was arrested by the GCSO for bond failure on possession of a controlled substance.

Anthony Roberty McMonigle, 26, of Wichita Falls was arrested by the Department of Public Safety for possession of marijuana greater than 50 pounds, but less than 2,000 pounds

Kymberelee Sue Smith, 48, of Pampa was arrested by the Pampa Police Department for driving while license invalid, and theft under \$50.

Alan Michael Smith, 20,

ofwichita Falls was arrested for possession of marijuana greater 50 pounds, but less than 2,000 pounds. Tuesday

David Lee Ellison, 43, was arrested by the PPD for resisting arrest or transport, and public intoxica-

Keith Ross Franks, 31, of Lefors was arrested by the GCSO for driving while intoxicated.

AMBULANCE

Guardian EMs ambulance service reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m.

Monday

11:49 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local elderly care facility and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

12:37 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of North Hobart and transported a patient to PRMC.

4:06 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to a local elderly care facility.

For the Record

Obituaries

Jessie Marvin Young, 68

CLAUDE (Formerly of longtime resident of Pampa) —Jessie Marvin Young, 68, died on Saturday, April 4, 2009 in Pampa, Texas.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at Trinity Fellowship Church in Ronnie Pampa with Goode, Associate Pastor, officiating.

Interment will be with US Navy Honors will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Pampa.

Arrangments are being Robertson made Directors Funeral Clarendon.

Jessie was born July 28, 1940 at Shreveport, Louisiana to Jack Theron and Elizabeth Alma McPherson Young. He spent six years in an orphanage with his two brothers. He married Edna Harvey on February 13, 1965 in North Bend, Oregon. He was a US Navy veteran for 14 years and served during the Vietnam War. He also played football in high

Pampa before moving to Claude a year and a half ago. He was a longtime member of the VFW. He was the best husband, father, and grandfather.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a sister, Jacquelin Dean Bufkin.

CA, and Bill

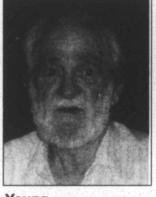
Young and wife

665-8921

Survivors include his wife, Edna Young of White Deer; a son, Brian David Young of Borger; four daughters, Ocie Garza and husband Joe of Victoria, Katrina Huston and husband Chuck of Wells, NV, Jessica Shaw and husband James of White Deer, and Tamara Kitchens and boyfriend RyanMears of Pampa; two brothers, James Young of Stockton,

Ethelene of Louisiana; a half brother, Fred Young of Lodi, Calif.; a son in law, Randall Kirkland; a brother in law, Jimmy Bufkin of Sibley, LA; his grandchildren, Kody and Amy Kirkland, Khristen and Jon school and was an avid bil-liard player. He had been a Francis, and Gregory

FREE CEMETERY SPACE emorp Cemetery & Mausoleum of Pampa 23rd St and Price Rd memory-gardens.tripod.com



Huston, Manisha Bergdoll, Keith Young, Ashley and Hailey McCord, Codie and Callum Shaw, James, Cheyene, Kenda, and Destany Young, Stormy Brawley, Nathan and Trista Alexis Mears, Richard Ochoa, and Brittany

Legér, Angie Moss; and grandchildren, great Makenzie Lewis, Kadence Kirkland, Jon Rockwell IV, Pierce Trenton Channing Pierce, Jose, Michelle, Jessie Ochoa, and Laden Legér.



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Young

Viewing will be held from 12:30 p.m. until service time Wednesday at the

Church. Food & Flowers may be sent to 600 Popham in White Deer. MEMORIALS - The

family request memorials be to a local VFW of choice.

SIGN OUR ONLINE GUEST BOOK AT www.RobertsonFuneral.c

Emergency Services

gated.

PAMPA PD

Due to training of police department personnel and the holiday Friday, we will be unable to bring you the blotter for Pampa PD until Monday. At that time, the blotter for Wednesday through Monday will be run.

The Pampa Police Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. Tuesday.

Monday Officers conducted 22

A total of 13 calls and/or stops concerning

animals were made. One attempt to serve papers was made.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2300 block of North Hobart, where two windows were shot out of a 1989 Chevy Suburban, and the 1300 block of West Kentucky.

A violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 800 block of North Wells.

Phone harassment was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Traffic complaints were received from the intersection of Rider and Montagu streets, and the 800 block of North Duncan.

Civil matters were reported in the lobby of the PD.

LAST **MINUTE** ASSIFIED LINE ADS

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

APPLI.

Serv., Cody, 662-1841

ANDERSON

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One alarm was investi-2400 block Suspicious person calls were received from the 1200 block of East Foster,

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1400 block of West Somerville.

and the 1100 block of

Lost property was reported in the 1500 block of North Hobart.

Theft was reported in

Comanche, where a lawn mower was stolen, value \$700; and Tayler mart, where a 24 ounce beer was stolen. Prowlers were reported

in the 400 block of North Magnolia, the 1400 block of West Somerville, and the 1100 block of Prairie. Tuesday

Suspicious person calls were received from the

block of North Starkweather, and the intersection of Alock and Hobart. Disorderly conduct was

reported in the 2600 block ofNorth Hobart, the 500 block of North Dwight, the 1300 block of North Coffee, and the 1000 block of North Sumner. Agency assistance was

rendered in the 400 block of West Brown.



If you have any questions please call your sales representative: ReDonn, Sue or Beverly at 669-2525

Wheeler fire update

Fire - cont. from page 1

to protect the houses was successful.

"Embers were flying over the houses catching the front yards on fire, but the firefighters contained them and saved the homes."

"I'm totally impressed with the firefighting that went out," Rushing said.

A total of 26 outbuildings, which included garages and barns, were destroyed by the fire. Early reports say that only four cows were lost in the fire, and a number of calves. Rushing expects those numbers to increase as landowners assess the land and livestock, but he said those numbers are still remarkable.

Rushing said that "fantastic" reports have been received from all **Emergency Management** System personnel involved in the fire. On top of law enforcement agencies, a number of local business helped contribute to the success in battling the blaze.

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Firefighting units from Oklahoma, Perryton, Fritch, Borger, and other cities from the Panhandle participated in fighting the fire. The Red Cross of the Eastern Panhandle was at - the fire, providing water to fighters and victims.

Steve Walker, a local businessman in Wheeler, provided barbeque for the firefighters, since the meal was already planned for a chamber of commerce ban-- quet Saturday evening.

TxDOT provided maintainors and bulldozers out of Childress. They also provided gasoline and diesel trucks, which were staged at different places along the 15,000 acres.

Wind energy

power

Wind— cont. from page 1

handle to growing elec-

Rice explained that the

transmission lines will be

the highway that will carry

the electricity produced by

providers in the panhandle

to metropolitan areas of

the state that are demand-

Up until the Texas

Legislature formed the

competitive renewable

energy zones and began

the infrastructure process,

there was no way for ener-

gy generated in the pan-

handle to reach the mar-

With the transmission

lines now being planned

and built, wind energy

developers can go ahead

with their plans for wind

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) -

independent

ing more power.

kets downstate.

tricity markets downstate.

enabling fire trucks to refuel on location. Oil and gas companies also donated 30 water trucks for the cause. They were stationed along with the TXDOT vehicles.

"It was a well coordinated effort," Rushing said of the different companies working together.

The Texas Forest Service dropped fire retardant from tanker plans, which Rushing said was a "big asset in getting the fire contained.

Rushing said a pilot told him it was some of the best wild fire fighting on the ground he had ever seen.

"You can't say that was just one fire group. They were all intermingled and working together. This is a tribute to new emergency management systems in place.

The EMS systems are in place after the panhandle was effected by severe wild fires in 2006, which Rushing said were not handled as successfully as this

"We are refined, we showed a local and state system that worked."

In a wrap-up meeting held Sunday evening, Rushing said that EMS crews discussed what was done well and what changes need to be made with the next emergency situation. Overall, 95 percent of crews had good

"The biggest help was that this was not chaotic," Rushing explained of EMS work. "It was executed well. We evacuated the entire city and got all the people out with accident or injury. Everything worked like a charm."

"Unless something bad happens with horrific

farms to generate that

Rice said the transmis-

sion lines have been the

missing link in the way to

get the wind power gener-

ated in the panhandle to

customers that are willing

spokesman for Cross

Texas, said the wind farms

could be built as the trans-

mission lines are planned

should be a draft plan

soon. That will go through

"They've been working

on this for quite some-

time," Rice said of Cross

Texas. "They want to be

Fredkin said construc-

Accused Texas employees had limited experience

to pay for that electricity.

Cameron

and constructed.

Fredkin said

a series of reviews.

ahead of the curve."

update

Fredkin,

there

winds, the fire is in good shape," Texas Forest Service spokesman Lewis Kearney said. "Today is almost a day of reprieve. It's almost a day our guys can work on equipment to get ready for later this

week." Several new fires broke out across the state Monday. Three homes and four other buildings were destroyed in a fire in Gregory, which is located in San Patricio County across the bay from Corpus Christi. R.J. Thomas, deputy fire chief for Ingleside's fire department, said in a story for the online edition of the Corpus Christi Caller-Times that the buildings weren't occupied. The San Patricio County Sheriff's Office said the fire in Gregory was out late Monday.

New fires also were reported on Monday in Anderson, Hardin, Tyler, Marion, Taylor, Brooks and Kleberg counties, according to the Texas Forest Service. The largest appeared to be about 200

Fire officials say the outlook gets worse later in the week. Thursday, all of Texas will be under critical wildfire danger when low humidity and high winds are forecast, Kearney said.

Rushing has an optimistic look at what the fire could mean for the land. He sees the fire as a "cleansing" for the land, much like the 2006 wild fires cleansed the land, which became very furtile and plush after rain.

"It's kind of a disaster, but it's a cleansing too in a way. It's just nature. It real-

tion could begin by late

2010. The PUC has man-

dated that the transmission

lines be complete by 2013.

be a series of public meet-

ings concerning the right-

of-ways for the transmis-

sion lines over the next

"We're very excited," Fredkin said. "We're get-

ting ready to hit the ground

Rice said he's excited

that after years of talking

and planning, there is

finally something solid

"Now there's a sched-

ule," Rice said. "There's a

plan. There's something

running.

happening.

concrete."

Fredkin said there would

PRIDE CONTEST WINNER



Rick Blain, winner of the Gray County Scenes portion of The Pampa News' photo contest, picked up his \$100 check Friday.

SMOKE ON THE ROAD? DON'T DRIVE INTO IT!

Texans have lost their lives during severe wildfire seasons because wildfire overtook them in their vehicles. The following safety tips have been provided by the Governor's Division of Emergency Management.

Never drive into dense smoke. You could become a fire fatality.

High winds may cause wildfires to spread rapidly and jump across natural barriers such as roads and even waterways. Strong winds can force smoke to stay low to the ground, obscuring roadways and traffic signs. Texas wild-

by wind gusts as high as 60

During severe fire sea-

sons, pay attention to TV radio broadcasts BEFORE you travel. Be aware of fire and weather conditions along your route. Avoid traveling into areas where wildfire activity has been reported. Delaying your trip could save your life.

As you travel, monitor local radio and TV news broadcasts - and watch for highway signs providing information on fire danger.

Watch for traffic control personnel, fire fighters and law enforcement officers. fires have been propelled Slow down and be prepared to stop if they signal you to do so.

If you encounter dense smoke - slow down as you prepare to stop and turn around.

Activate your emergency flashers to warn vehicles behind you that you have decreased your speed or stopped. Do not turn around until you have checked for oncoming traffic and can turn safely.

For more information on fire danger and advisories, see the Texas Forest Service Web site at: http://texasforestservice.ta

He said it makes sense

for the U.S. to beef up its

efforts in Afghanistan. He

said he thinks the country's

He said that much time is

"Every two years," Thornberry said, "is not enough. You can't build a

He said he doesn't understand why Production Tax Credits for solar energy were extended for a longer period than for wind ener-

"I really don't under-stand that," Thornberry said. "In last year's energy bill, I really tried to make the point that they needed

A member of the House Services Armed Committee, Thornberry also said that, while he hadn't seen Secretary of Defense Robert Gates list of weapons programs to be cut, he understands that it would mean no more orders for F-22 fighter aircraft, but it would mean more F-35 aircraft, the

joint strike fighter. Gates

"I don't know of any changes in the V-22 or H-1

Small business recovery key

programs that would affect

our area," Thornberry said.

forming very well in Iraq.

He said the V-22 is per-

Taxes - cont. from page 1

needed to make investment decisions in that field.

wind farm in two years."

to be treated the same."

But he said that now debates on global warming and health care reform are coming up in Congress and he's concerned about them.

announced Monday that he was capping the F-22 program at 187 aircraft, the number that the Air Force had requested. He is also pushing for more unmanned air-

"I'm sure it will be in NATO allies ought to do Afghanistan soon." more Thornberry said.



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work experience abilities. In in 2000, he was suspended from the

All 11 former Corpus State School employees accused of encouraging fights among mentally and developmentally disabled residents at the troubled school had litbeyond fast-food jobs, according to a review of personnel records.

The employees have either left the Corpus Christi State School or have been fired over the orchestrated fights, which were recorded on a cell phone camera on 16 days between late 2007 and early this year. Six of the employees face criminal charges over the mistreatment, which involved at least 16 state school residents.

Two of the employees had already faced disciplinary action from the Department of Aging and Disability Services. One failed to report a fight that resulted in an injury; the other was found to have verbally abused a resident,

Dennis Borel, executive director of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, called hiring such employees "managerial incompetence."

Timothy Dixon, the 31year-old former state school employee accused

of filming the late-night fight clubs on his cell phone camera, was hired at the Corpus Christi facility despite being fired from previous jobs at Wendy's and a community care facility for people with dis-

center over allegations of rough horseplay and teasing. Those who face criminal charges are Dixon, Jesse Salazar, Guadalupe De La Rosa, Vincent Johnson, D'Angelo Riley and Stephanie Garza.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, April 7, the 97th day of 2009. There are 268 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1652 - The Dutch under van Riebeeck settle Cape Town in South Africa.

1897 - Turkey declares war on Greece.

1933 - A purge of Jews, socialists and democrats in public office begins in Germany, with the Nazis coming to power a month earlier.

1936 - Cape Parliament passes native representation bill permitting natives to elect three Europeans to represent them in Union Parliament in South

1945 - U.S. aircraft carrier planes sink Japan's largest battleship, the Yamato, in World War II.

1948 - The United Nations World Health Organization is established to research and prevent disease and improve public health world-

'Real generosity toward the future consists of giving all to what is present.'

> Albert Camus, French writer

wide. 1953 Hammarskjold, Swedish diplomat, is secretaryelected general of United **Nations**

1957 - New York City's last electric trolley completes its final run from Queens Manhattan

1966 - U.S. hydrogen bomb lost from

bomber is recovered in Mediterranean Sea off coast

1987 - U.S. President Ronald Reagan announces that American diplomats will not occupy the new embassy in Moscow until he is sure that it is secure from Soviet eavesdropping.

1988 - Iran and Iraq bomb each other's capitals and other towns, killing and wounding scores of people.

2000 - Iqbal Masih, a slain-Pakistani boy who rose from virtual slavery at a carpet factory to become a symbol of the fight against child labor, is named the winner of the first World's Children's

2003 - An audio tape purportedly made by Osama bin Laden, the fugitive leader of the al-Qaida terrorist organization, is delivered to The Associated Press urging Islamic followers to devote themselves to "martyrdom," by engaging in suicide attacks against the U.S. and Britain.

2007 - A Russian rocket carrying the U.S. billionaire Charles Simonyi and two cosmonauts blasts off on a 13-day trip en route to the international space station. Simonyi, the fifth paying space tourist to make the trip, paid \$20 million.

2008 - A coroner's jury in London rules that Princess Diana and boyfriend Dodi Fayed were unlawfully killed through the reckless actions of their driver and paparazzi in 1997.

Today's Birthdays St. Francis Xavier, Jesuit missionary (1506-1552); William Wordsworth, English poet (1770-1850); Sir David Low, New Zealand cartoonist (1891-1964); Billie Holiday, U.S. jazz singer (1915-1957); Francis Ford Coppola, U.S. director (1939--); David Frost, British television personality (1939--); Jackie Chan, Hong Kong movie star (1954--); Russell Crowe, Australian actor (1964--).



Texas newspapers' opinions

The Dallas Morning News on North Texas' support for a localoption transportation bill:

North Texas support for a local-option transportation bill is shaping up in the state Senate as befits a traffic-choked metro area.

By our nose count, a majority of the region's nine-person delegation are solid or likely supporters of this important legislation. At stake is the right of voters to decide whether to raise new revenue to attack job-killing road congestion, and these members

The remaining senators are still digesting details or working through apprehensions about the bill (SB 855) authored by Dallas Sen. John Carona. We urge them to get engaged quickly and become part of the effort to ease gridlock by expanding rail transit and improving roadways.

The bill may come up for full Senate consideration as early as this week, and strong North Texas backing will send a message about urgency. We urge Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst to give the bill the prompt hearing it deserves. Senators from Austin, San Antonio and El Paso have come aboard as

supporters. For years, state leaders have been negligent about meeting the transportation needs of metro areas. If they insist on freezing the gas tax at its 1991 level of 20 cents a gallon, and if they are unfazed by traffic congestion's toll on the quality of life and the economy, top leaders must at least let urban areas solve those problems

thèmselves. The fundamentals of Carona's bill are sound. The measure allows county elections on new transportation projects and new taxes and fees to fund them. Communities could choose to expand the region's transit network a goal of local leaders for more than five years; Dallas and other DART cities could build roads or make other transportation

improvements. Sen. Florence Shapiro of Plano said in helping pass the bill out of committee, "Local voter determination of future transportation and mobility projects is what this is all

Fort Worth Star-Telegram on health care outsourcing:

The state Health and Service Commission's latest adventure in government privatization will mercifully end May 31, when it terminates its contract with UnitedHealths Evercare program.

The program, which sought to coordinate care for more than 74,000 elderly and disabled North Texas Medicaid clients, produced more than 1,300 complaints and assessed more than \$1 million in fines by the state for inadequate staffing and other bureaucratic sins in its first 11 months

State Sen. Bob Deuell, R-Greenville, filed SB 2417 in mid-March to repeal the integrated-care management program. In theory, program case managers coordinate care for Medicaid beneficiaries to maintain independent living by minimizing institutionalized care and, of course, save the state

Dr. Robert Gunby Jr., then-president-elect of the Texas Medical Association. hailed the program in 2005 as "what managed care is supposed to be. It creates a medical home, monitors best practices, seamlessly shortens hospital stays, improves health care for Medicaid clients and allows patients to stay in their communities.

This failed miserably under Evercare. The contractor and state officials blamed each other, but it does not change the fact that local vulnerable residents were ill-served.

Deuells bill would allow the state to attempt integrated-care management under a different contractor or try another model of care. On June 1, local Medicaid clients will receive services through existing Medicaid programs and traditional feefor-service.

The outsourcing scenario is familiar. The state contracted with Bermudabased Accenture Ltd. in 2005 for more than \$898 million to handle enrollment in a number of state services such as Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Plan, food stamps and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. One-stop shopping, they called it, designed to save \$646 million over five years.

The state pulled the plug in 2007 after computer glitches and bureaucratic snafus that would make

any state government hang its head in shame. Texas newspapers had a field day reporting on Accentures comedy of errors. For example, the company misprinted a fax number on its forms, resulting in CHIP applications going to a warehouse in Seattle rather than Health and Human Services in Austin.

But there is no humor in the fact that eligible Texans were denied basic human needs and health care because of incompetence. State workers have been rehired and are still working to repair the damage, which included more than 200,000 children falling off CHIP rolls because of shorter enrollment periods and red tape.

Gov. Rick Perry and the Texas Legislature have been enthusiastic advocates of outsourcing government functions. Faced with skyrocketing health costs. lawmakers seem compelled to naively buy into the argument that the private sector can always deliver services more efficiently and effectively. So far, overwhelming evidence suggests otherwise.

It is one thing to use contractors to pick up trash. It is quite another to cavalierly entrust health and welfare services to those insulated from political repercussions. Lives are at stake.

San Antonio Express-News on guns and the Mexican cartel:

The figures from a Mexican army raid on a stash house used by a drug cartel in Reynosa are stag-

Express-News investigative reporter Todd Bensman recently revealed that the November operation uncovered 540 rifles, 500,000 rounds of ammunition and 165 hand grenades, along with other military ordnance.

Gangs don't have armories like that. Militias do. And this one one of countless others in Mexico was sitting right across the Rio Grande from McAllen.

Here's another shocking figure. The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives was able to trace the serial

numbers from 383 of the rifles seized in Reynosa. Eighty percent of them were purchased from licensed firearms dealers in Texas.

Mexican instability is an American problem. Violence south of the border can easily spread to violence on this side of the border.

Moreover, the American appetite for illicit drugs is fueling the narco wars in Mexico. And guns purchased in Texas and illegally transported across the border are arming the cartels.

State Sen. Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands, has introduced a measure that would raise the penalty for unlawfully carrying a weapon or transporting prohibited weapons across the border, unauthorized use of another person's motor vehicle while crossing the border and harboring a fugitive with the intent to cross the border.

All these offenses would be upgraded to seconddegree felonies.

Given the gravity of the situation in Mexico, those are appropriate changes to Texas law. But the more important issue doesn't have to do with state law or even federal law. It has to do with the manpower to enforce those laws.

Firearm tracing through ATF's Project Gunrunner provides valuable information about the flow of weapons into Unfortunately, Mexico. southbound inspections by the Customs and Border Patrol to stop that flow is inappropriately funded as only a minor facet of border security.

That needs to change. Congress and the Obama administration need to put more emphasis on uncovering weapons transfers before they reach Mexico, and the administration is vowing to do so.

That's a necessary commitment. Tougher laws are only as effective as their enforcement. In the case of gunrunning, an ounce of prevention on the U.S. side could stop tons of weaponry from reaching the drug cartels and creating havoc on both sides of the border.

The Pampa News

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This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, by The Pampa News. Periodicals postage. paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198

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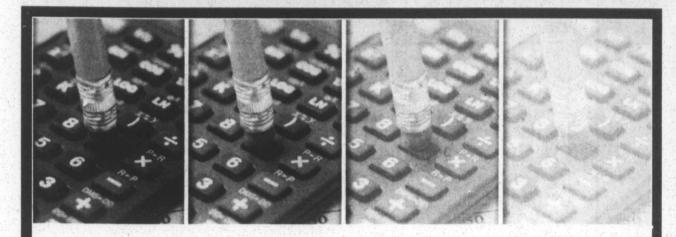
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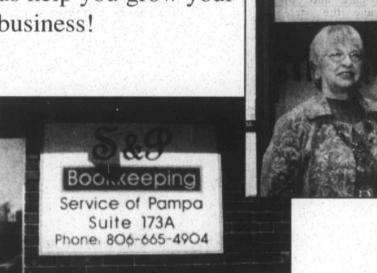
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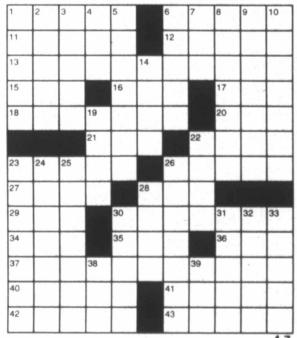
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Offer **Ends** 04/17/09 Dear Abby...

I have no reason to believe Helene is cheating, and I am certainly not cheating on her. We are raising my son from a previous marriage, and sometimes I wonder if this is what is bugging her.

with me.

My ex-wife lives in another state, and we communicate only once in a while. My boy is a pre-teen, and Helene and I have had him since he was a baby. He considers her his "Mama," and she considers him her

I am very much in love with my wife, and I can't figure this out. Can people just fall out of love? --FREEZING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

FREEZING: DEAR Rarely. More often they are either pushed or lured away.

As much as you love your wife, I hope you realize that her behavior is both passive-aggressive and abusive. Could she have emotional problems? Whatever has caused her to withdraw, unless she's willing to talk things out like a mature adult, there is no way to fix the problem.

Your marriage is in serious trouble. It's time to consult a licensed marriage and family counselor. If your wife won't go, you should go alone.

DEAR ABBY: Our 23year-old daughter, "Kristy," lives at home. She works full time and goes to school, but lives here with free room and board, cable TV, etc. She has been seeing a man for a month and now is spending two or three nights a week at "his place."

I am not unreasonable or naive, but I feel that because Kristy is living under my roof, she should live by my rules, which do not include sleeping over at some man's house after only one month of dating. To top it off, we have never met him, although we have asked several times to be introduced.

We know that Kristy is an adult, but I believe that as an adult she should have enough respect for us to refrain from spending the night at his place until she knows him better and we have at least met him. Am I being unreasonable?

My wife throws up her hands and says, "What can we do?" I believe parenting does not end at 18. I am not a prude, but this seems

wrong to me. Any advice? -- DAD IN DISTRESS

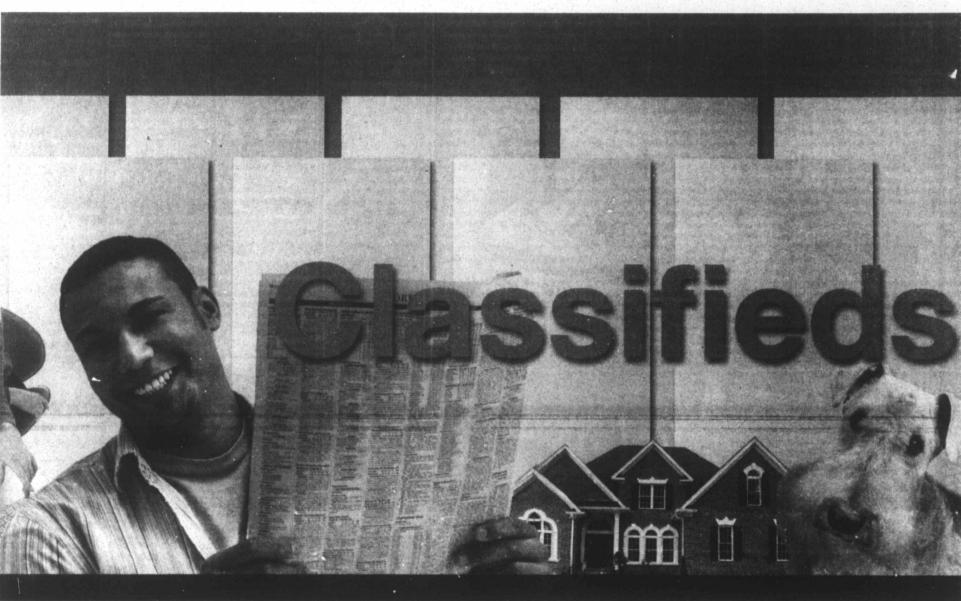
DEAR DAD: daughter is a self-supporting adult with a full-time job, so stop treating her like a child. It is her right to come and go as she pleases, but if she does, she should have a place of her own. That way she won't be obligated to introduce you to her men friends, some of whom might not feel ready to meet her father. It will give her some degree of privacy, and you can keep your illusions about your daughter intact.

Bottom line: It is your house. You and your wife have every right to make the rules and be comfortable in it. My advice is to suggest kindly to Kristy that all of you might be happier if she got an apartment.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Others seek you out, as they find your manner very appealing. Your high energy seems to be contagious; your enthusiasm floats to others. Consider a boss or higher-up who could be pushing hard. Become sensitive to the winds of fate, and you won't be unprepared for a major change. You would do well as a troubleshooter, if needing to change your work. If you are single, finding a potential mate is easy, but choosing the right person could be more taxing. Your popularity soars. If you are attached, let your significant other play a bigger role. Learn to respect his or her opinion. Agree to disagree. LIBRA has the same issue as you but manifests it differently. Learn from each other.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average: 2-So-so: 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

*** Proceed with a project. Timing is important, but also recognize that you don't need to rush. Be steadfast and sure of what you are doing. Listen to what an associate shares. Know that you can handle a problem in many different ways. Tonight: Easy does it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*** You hit a clear period in which you can think and associate different ideas. Others cooperate with you. Use the moment to accomplish many projects or to start one. Be painstaking and careful. You don't need to rush. Tonight: Try to get a good night's sleep.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) **** Creativity bubbles up. Mix ingenuity with a little work ethic, and

you might be surprised by the end result. Success follows focused energy. Others enjoy your uniqueness and energy. Help inspire others. Tonight: Let your hair

down. CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** Face facts: Look at what you can get done, even without an associate's help. Laughter and a positive attitude could make all the difference. Loosen up. Find good reasons to continue with or without another's support. Tonight: Home is where your castle is.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** Keep communication flowing, even if someone throws a big boulder in your direction. Don't stop or even take a detour; stay on topic, knowing where you are heading. A conversation could be quite distracting. Listen more. Tonight:

Talk up a storm. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

** Be sensitive to what you have to offer and what you do need to handle. Laugh and relax in the company of a friend. Someone quite clearly needs control. Don't get into a power play. Know when to say that enough is enough. Tonight: Gather your bills.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) **** Empowered, there is little that you cannot do. Remain upbeat and direct with others. Many seek you out for advice. A personal issue needs to be handled as such and not interfere with your work and immediate issues. Tonight: All

smiles. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

** Know when to back off and listen more. A problem in your immediate circle could invade your thinking and mood. Look at the issue of power and control. Are you sick of these games? Do not play. Tonight: Take some time off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** Zero in on what you want. You can decide what works best and proceed in just that manner. Understanding will grow to a new level if you listen and digest another's view. Revamp your savings and spending. Tonight: Where your friends are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** Inside, a revolution could be beginning where you no longer want to do the same old, same old. What might be critical is how you handle this issue. Meanwhile, continue in a former role until you are ready to make a dramatic change. Tonight: Late, very late. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Take an overview. Refuse to fall prey to your inner dialogue or someone else's attitude. The direction you head in could make all the difference. With detachment, you won't need to put on mental armor and can be quite compassionate. Tonight: Follow the music. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** You might discover that your goals are no longer aligned with someone else's. You don't need to immediately detach, but it might be wise to verbalize your perception in a nonconfrontational manner. Avoid black-or-white thinking. Tonight: Go with another's

BORN TODAY

Olympic figure skater Sonja Henie (1912), former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan (1938), singer, songwriter Julian Lennon (1963)

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102 Bus. Rental

5 bedroom, 3 bath, 2 DOWNTOWN office car, 2 fireplaces, c h/a, space for rent. Utilities OFFICE Space for rent,

AUSTIN Sch. Distr. 4 ask about 3 months free LARGE Shop Bldg. for lease. Great Downtown Location! Won't last.

> 103 Homes For Sale 1105 Charles, lovely 3

665-1875.

bedroom 1 3/4 bath, 1240 sq. ft. very nice neighborhood, \$70,000 PICK up rental list, in Must have good refer-Available. 806-665-Available, 0370, or 760-447-8531.

103 Homes For Sale 103 Homes For Sale 116 Mobile Homes

HIGHEST **CASH PAID** FOR HOUSES! CALL 665-1875

OWNER WILL FINANCE

1145 Terrace 2/1 Carport

1331 Garland 2/1 **Call Milton** 806-790-0827

TruStar RE

Owner Will Finance 1108 S. Faulkner 2 bdr., 1 ba. Call Gary

Trustar Realty

806-665-4595

NICE 2 bdr. home, 103 Burdett, Skellytown slides Sleeps 6. Ex. Owner, fin. avail. Gary, cond. Blue bk. \$70,000, Trustar RE, 665-4555. asking \$60,000. Amarillo, 480-540-5571.

PANHANDLE, \$69,000. Lrg. corner lot. 1350 sq. ft., c h/a, 12x24 stor. b. 537-3096 08 Chevy Cobalt, 4 dr.,

SKELLYTOWN. 4/1. dition. Needs work. \$12,000 as eve., 681-6683 days is or OWC \$1000 down, \$220 mo. Also 12 lots of land, has been a trailer park, \$7500. 662-8566, 848-2517

121 Trucks UPDATED brick splitlevel, tons of room! 3 2008 bdr., 2.5 ba., 2753 sq. SR5 4x4 CrewMax Truck. 8500 mi. Like ft., sunroom, deck. 1930 Dogwood. Call 665-New! 3 in. lift, bedliner, 2130, 806-206-7666 cover. 440-4023.

115 Trailer Parks

TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

122 Motorcycles

07 28' Gulf Stream

Class C. 15,500 mi. 2

14K mi. Excellent con-

1999 Dodge Durango

\$1500

Needs motor

662-3135

122 Motorcycles

FOR SALE

1998 Kawasaki

\$1800.00 obo

662-2024 interested

Toyota Tundra

806-883-2703

120 Autos

122 Motorcycles

122 Motorcycles

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

CRYPTOOUOTE

YHA QMHHYI IPFHZ UAEE,

EYTA UAEE, JEAAG UAEE, FL

YHA PMJ HYI NFHAN UAEE.

TFSBFHFM UYYEL Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE BEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS IN THE WORLD CANNOT BE SEEN OR EVEN HEARD. THEY MUST BE FELT WITH THE HEART. — HELEN KELLER

Your Guide to

Local Beauty Professionals



No Clouds Aloud Tanning

1506 N. Hobart 665-4101

Chez Tanz

2137 N. Hobart 669-6836

Above the Clouds **Beauty Salon**

1405 N. Banks 665-1101

Wail Salon

LA Nails

Coronado Center 665-8424

Gel-Us Nails

Hwy 152 & Western 669-6245

auty Sale

Hot Headz

All Purpose Salon 1600 N. Hobart 665-2233

Beauty 2000 329 N. Hobart

665-6549

Tangles Hair Salon 2121 N. Hobart

665-4422 A Cut Above

We're A Full Service Salon! 2000 N. Hobart 665-4071

Massage Therapy

Massage Therapy

Cathy Porter & Holly Albert 1224 N. Hobart, Ste. #9 669-0013

Is your salon not listed? Call Beverly at 669-2525 for information.

Sale good through April 30, 2009

2008 Model Clearance

2009 Model Sale

NEW 2009 TOYOTA STK# T08314

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..\$1,500

C/S DISC..... MANUF REBATE. CLEARANCE PRICE.....\$14,401

MANUF REBATE

..\$1,500 CLEARANCE PRICE.....\$13,220

NEW 2009 TOYOTA

\$424

\$2,000

NEW 2009 TOYOTA

NEW 2009 TOYOTA COROLLA"

\$17,525 C/S DISC..... MANUF REBATE. .\$2,000

NEW 2009 TOYOTA

\$23.97 C/S DISC \$1,544

CLEARANCE PRICE.....\$15,001

MANUF REBATE. CLEARANCE PRICE.....\$19,424

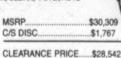


C/S DISC

MANUF REBATE.

CLEARANCE PRICE....

THE ALL NEW 2009 TOYOTA





NEW 2008 TOYOTA

MANUF REBATE.. ..\$1,000

TUNDRA

CLEARANCE PRICE.....\$26,011

\$26.01

C/S DISC.

MANUF REBATE.

CLEARANCE PRICE.....\$22,170

NEW 2008 TOYOTA

HIGHLANDER

.\$35.03 C/S DISC. \$3,500

MANUF REBATE.....\$2,000 CLEARANCE PRICE.\$29,351

\$1,896 ..\$4,500

NEW 2008 TOYOTA STK# T08126

C/S DISC \$3,500 MANUF REBATE \$2,000 CLEARANCE PRICE.

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WHEN YOU BUY A NEW CHEVY VEHICLE.

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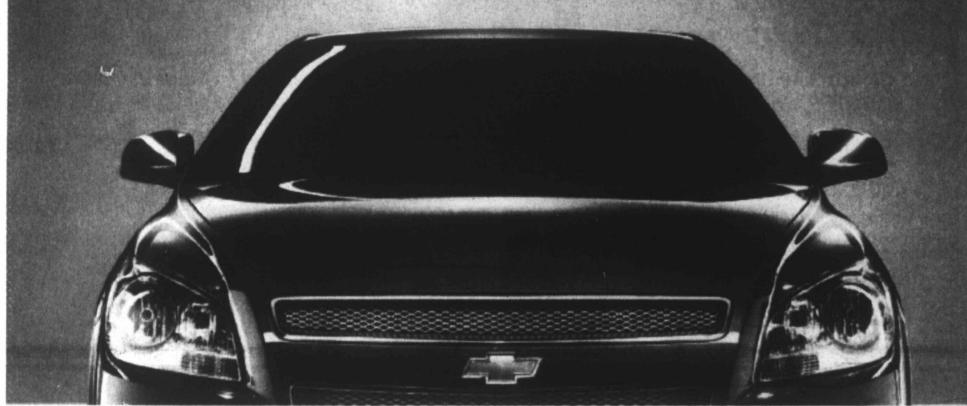
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SAFETY AND SECURITY OF ONSTAR - STANDARD

AUTOMATIC CRASH RESPONSE, VEHICLE DIAGNOSTICS, STOLEN VEHICLE ASSISTANCE - STANDARD FOR ONE YEAR ON ALMOST EVERY CHEVY.

ON EVERY 2008 AND 2009 CAR, PICKUP, SUV, AND CROSSOVER WE MAKE.





2009 CHEVY SILVERADO

HALF-TON CREW CAB XFE

EPA EST. 21 MPG HWY.

NO COMPETITOR CAN BEAT IT



FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS

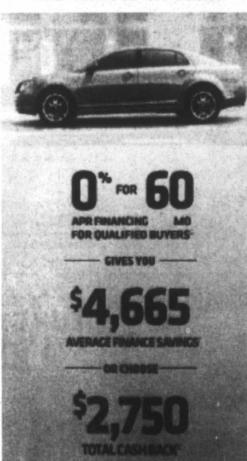
TOTAL CASH BACK

2009 CHEVY MALIBU

WITH AVAILABLE 6-SPEED AUTO TRANSMISSION

EPA EST. 33 MPG HWY.

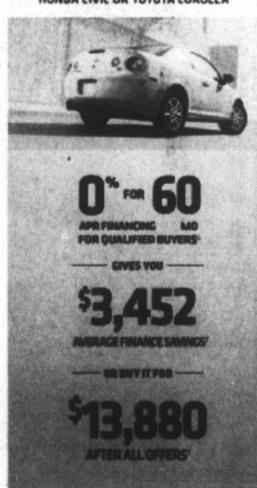
BETTER MILEAGE THAN A COMPARABLE HONDA ACCORD OR TOYOTA CAMRY



2009 CHEVY COBALT XFE

EPA EST. 37 MPG HWY.

BETTER HWY. MILEAGE THAN A COMPARABLE HONDA CIVIC OR TOYOTA COROLLA



1 From cynoSure Financial, Inc. Must be gainfully employed for at least 30 hours per week for 90 days after vehicle purchase or lease. Excludes active GM employees.

Take retail delivery by 4/30/09. Offer excludes medium-duty trucks. 2 From ServicePlan, Inc. You must trade in or pay off your loan on the vehicle and purchase or lease a new GM vehicle. Up to \$5,000 on trade-ins (and up to \$2,500 for

private sales) after making all scheduled monthly payments through the first half of the original loan term. Take retail delivery by 4/30/09. At participating dealers only. Offer excludes medium-duty trucks.

3 Whichever comes first. See dealer for details.

4 Visit oristar.com for details and system limitations.

5 Based on CM Large Pickup segment.

6 Monthly payment is \$16.67 for every \$1,000 financed. Average example down payment is 10.6%. Some customers will not qualify. Not available with other offers. See dealer for details. Take delivery by 4/30/09.

7 Savings compare 0% APR to a Bankrate, Inc. national average bank loan rate.

8 Includes Bonus Cash. Not available with some other offers. See dealer for details. Take delivery by 4/30/09. 9 EPA est MPC city/hwy. (2 4L): Malibu (with 6-speed automatic) 22/33. Accord DX (with 5-speed manual) 22/31, Carrry LE (with 5-speed automatic) 21/31.

10 EPA est. MPC hwy.: Cobalt XFE 37; Civic DX 34, Corolla LE 35.

11 Price based on MSRP less all offers. Includes Bonus Cash. Tax, title, license, dealer fees, and optional equipment extra. Not available with other offers. See dealer for details. Take delivery by 4/30/09. The names, emblems, slogans, vehicle body designs, and other marks appearing in this document are the trademarks and/or service marks of Ceneral Motors Corporation, its subsidiaries, affiliates, or licensors. ©2009 CM Corp. Buckle up. America! 1-800-950-2438 or chevy.com