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Monday, April 6, 2009 Volume 104 • No. 306 50¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

## Wheeler residents allowed to return

WHEELER, Texas (AP) — Wheeler County authorities said Saturday evening that residents of the town of Wheeler could return after being told to evacuate due to a wildfire hours earlier.

But an 11,000-acre fire continued to burn through the county's fields and brush lands, said Texas Forest Service spokesman Lewis Kearney.

Meanwhile, there were several traffic accidents on Interstate 40 in the Panhandle on Saturday after dust blown up in wind gusts up to 60 mph lowered visibility.

The instructions to evacuate came after a wildfire jumped the North Fork of the Red River and threatened Wheeler, a town of about 1,300 residents near the Texas-Oklahoma border, about 90 miles east of Amarillo.

Kearney said that the fire has destroyed two homes and damaged 12.

He said winds exceeding 30 mph and gusting past 40 mph prevented an aerial attack until late Saturday Fire— cont. on page 3



Smoke billows from a wildfire outside Wheeler, Texas, Saturday, April 4, 2009. Strong winds on Sunday hampered fire crews' efforts to control several wildfires that have destroyed four homes and damaged about 20 others.

## Local Red Cross chapter helps wildfire victims

PAMPA— The Eastern Texas Panhandle Chapter of the American Red Cross responded to the Wheeler County fire on April 4 that was threatening the community of Wheeler Texas. Volunteers responded from the Pampa office the day the fire broke out in Magic City with water, snacks and dinner for the fireman.

The Emergency Manager was contacted we were told that the people of Wheeler were being evacuated a shelter was set up in Elk City Oklahoma with the local chapter of the American Red Cross who provided mutual aid to our chapter.

The Red Cross provided shelter and a hot meal to those who came about 80 were reported to have taken shelter from the wildfire.

Sunday, April 5, teams from the Eastern TX Panhandle Chapter, disaster

assessment volunteers traveled to Wheeler to help the people of Wheeler with immediate needs so that they could start re-building their lives. All citizens were accounted for the Red Cross confirmed four houses were destroyed.

Red Cross services were provided for those families whose homes were destroyed to buy food, clothing, and the necessities needed for immediate care. Red Cross provided information on food safety to the community due to power outage and tips on how to clean up after a fire. Motel rooms were provided for those families that came back from the shelter that had no place to stay.

The Red Cross stayed at the Wheeler VFD facility until 5 p. m.

The assistance the Red Cross pro-

**Red Cross— cont. on page 3**

## Water rights discussion continues

by David Bowser  
 dbowser@thepampapnews.com

Groundwater purchases and water rights acquisitions will be among the topics of discussion when the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority meets in Plainview this week.

Representatives of the 11 member cities, including Pampa, will hear reports on the status of Lake Meredith, the Texas Environmental Infrastructure Program funding, the Canadian River Compact Commission and proposed

legislation in Austin that might affect CRMWA.

The CRMWA board of directors will also hear a report about Phase II of the Roberts County well field expansion, and they are expected to discuss right-of-way issues.

Jerry Carlson and Benny Kirksey represent Pampa on the CRMWA board.

The board will meet beginning at 10 a.m., Wednesday, at the Plainview Country Club and Convention Center, 2902 W. Fourth Street in Plainview.

## Thursday last day to register

Thursday, April 9, is the last day to register to vote for the May 9 election, according to Gray County Election Coordinator Linda Lewis.

"Voters may register in my office at the County Courthouse or at any DPS License office," said Lewis.

Any application that is mailed must be post-marked no later than April 9.

Applications for voter registration may also be obtained from any post office, library or from the Secretary of State's voter information Web site: www.VOTEXAS.org.

Any application that is mailed must be post-marked no later than April 9.

To register to vote, you must be a resident of the county in which you wish to vote, a United States citizen, at least 18 years old on Election Day, not a con-

victed felon (unless sentence, probation, and/or parole have been completed), and not declared mentally incapacitated by a court of law.

The registration process requires that you provide a Texas driver license number or personal identification number issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety. If you don't have such a number, simply provide the last four digits of your social security number. If you don't have a social security number, you need to state that fact. If you do not have one of these three identification numbers, you are still eligible to register to vote, but will be required to provide proof of your identity at the polling place.

After you apply, a voter registration certificate (your proof of registration) will be mailed to you within 30 days

## SCOUTING FOR FOOD



Scout Troop 413 participated Sunday afternoon in the Golden Spread Council's annual Scouting For Food project. The troop collected approximately 200 lbs of canned goods from local residents for donation to Good Samaritan Christian Services, the local food bank. Troop 413 is sponsored by St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. Scouts who participated, Dathan Reeves, Olin Boyd, Ryan Stoffle, Trevor McVay, Barak Reeves, Tyler Beller, Trace Leftwich, Gage Foshee, and Layne Stevens.

photo submitted by Jeff Boyd

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**PAMPA FORECAST**

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
High 76 Low 42	High 80 Low 46	High 69 Low 38

**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 76. Wind chill values between 23 and 33 early. Windy, with a southwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 42. West southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 80. West wind 10 to 15 mph becoming east southeast. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 46. South wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Thursday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 69. Windy, with a west northwest wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 38. Windy, with a north northwest wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing to between 10 and 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

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**Grain prices**

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

Wheat.....	\$5.08
Milo.....	\$5.44
Corn.....	\$7.01

**Cash Five Texas results**

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 5-20-12-31-28.  
Number matching five of five: 2. Prize: \$13,776  
Winning ticket purchased in: Sugar Land, Canyon Lake  
Matching four of five: 98. Prize: \$127  
Matching three of five: 2,738. Prize: \$11  
Matching two of five: 28,352. Prize: \$2  
Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.

**Winning Lotto Texas numbers**

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 17-53-20-19-43-31.  
Number matching six of six: 0.  
Number matching five of six: 17. Prize: \$2,616.  
Number matching four of six: 1,101. Prize: \$59.  
Number matching three of six: 25,916. Prize: \$3.  
Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$10 million.

**Man admits to unsolved murder before execution**

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A 17-year-old cold case murder was solved with the confession of a killer just moments from the death chamber.  
Luis Cervantes Salazar was executed last month for the stabbing murder of a woman in October 1997. But shortly before his death, he was encouraged by his spiritual counselor to speak with Texas Rangers about other crimes he committed.  
He confessed to the 1992 stabbing of a convenience store clerk in San Antonio, just an hour and a half before he was executed.  
San Antonio police say his confession solved the murder of Melissa Morales. Salazar had not previously been considered a suspect.

**Mother of accused says her son is bipolar**

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The mother of a 26-year-old man accused in the death of an Austin actor he had never met says her son has bipolar disorder with psychotic symptoms and wanted to be admitted to a psychiatric hospital earlier this week.  
After beating his mother's roommate with a garden tool at their Austin home Wednesday, Seth Tatum walked about three miles to the home of 67-year-old Louis Byron Perryman and killed him, according to an arrest affidavit.  
The next day, Tatum drove Perryman's car to the Travis County Courthouse and surrendered to authorities, homicide Detective Joseph Chacon said.  
Joan Tatum said her son had stopped taking his medications about a month ago because he didn't think they were helping him. She said he tried to get treatment Tuesday at a psychiatric hospital.  
"They wanted \$3,600 for the first three days, and I don't have that kind of money, so we left," she said. "He is 26 and doesn't have insurance anymore."  
Tatum has been charged with capital murder and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. He remained in the Travis County Jail on Saturday with bail set at \$1 million.  
"I just don't know what happened," Joan Tatum told the Austin American-Statesman in Saturday editions. "He's sweet, and everybody loved him and supported him and thought he was going to be OK. At least he turned himself in."  
Perryman was a character actor who had bit parts in films including "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre Part 2," "Poltergeist" and "The Blues Brothers" and in television's "Walker, Texas Ranger."  
Police said that on Wednesday, Tatum fractured Carl Drake's skull and cut his hands and head with a pair of garden shears. Police said Drake was treated and released from the hospital.

**For the Record**

**Emergency Services**

**PAMPA PD**

Pampa Police Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Friday and 7 a.m. today.

**Friday**  
Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of North Lefors, where a van was shot with a paintball, and the 1400 block of Williston.

One building check was made.  
Officers conducted 17 traffic stops.

Motor vehicle accidents were reported in the intersection of Somerville and Hobart streets, the lobby of the PD, the 1200 block of North Hobart, and the 1900 block of North Hobart.

One alarm was checked.

Assault was reported in the lobby of the PD, and the 500 block of North Somerville.

One open door was checked.

Civil matters were reported in the lobby of the PD.

Welfare checks were made in the 100 block of East Foster, and the 1400 block of North Russeel.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 1800 block of North Coffee, and the 600 block of North Doucette.

Missing persons were reported in the 1800 block of North Hamilton, and the 1000 block of South Wells.

A stolen vehicle was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of South Huff, the 1600 block of North Dwight, the 700 block of North Wells, and the 100 block of North Nelson.

A suspicious person call was received from the 300 block of East Frederic.

A burglary was reported in the 400 block of North Jupiter.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 100 block of South Starkweather.

Traffic complaints were received from the 2100 block of North Perryton Parkway, the 500 block of North Faulkner, and the intersection of 23rd and Perryton Parkway.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 300 block of West Miami.

**Saturday**  
Suspicious person calls were received from the 1800 block of North Hobart, the intersection of Hobart and Municipal Drive, the 700 block of North Hobart, the intersection of Brown and Gillespie, the 1800 block of North Wells, and the 400 block of East Frederic.

A suicide attempt was made in the 1100 block of Prairie.

Officers conducted 19 traffic stops.

A total of 13 calls

and/or stops concerning animals were made.

Found property was reported in the 800 block of South Hobart, where a bike was found.

Civil matters were reported in the 700 block of North Lefors, and the 100 block of North Ballard.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 800 block of East Craven.

One attempt to serve papers was made.

One alarm was investigated.

Traffic complaints were received from the intersection of Hobart and Alock streets, the 1100 block of Clark, the intersection of Hobart and Foster, the 2800 block of North Charles, and the 1600 block of West Somerville.

Agency assistance was rendered at County Road K.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1600 block of Russell, and the 1300 block of North Garland.

Theft was reported in the lobby of the PD, the 600 block of Red Deer, and the 500 block of Gillispie, where an iPod was stolen.

Civil matters were reported in the 500 block of North Faulkner.

Suspicious vehicle calls were reported in the 1300 block of North Hobart, and the 1200 block of South Osborn.

A burglary was reported in the 1100 block of Neel.

A welfare check was made in the 700 block of East Frederic.

**Sunday**  
Officers conducted a total of 23 traffic stops.

A total of 13 calls and/or stops concerning animals were made.

Suspicious person calls were received from the intersection of Varmon and Crawford streets, the 400 block of West Cook.

A welfare check was made in the 900 block of East Campbell.

One alarm was investigated.

Civil matters were reported in the 500 block of Yeager.

One attempt to serve papers was made.

Stolen vehicles were reported in the 300 block of South Anne, and the 1100 block of Crane, where a 2005 Harely Davidson, value \$15,000, a 4x8 trailer, drill, saws, and tools were stolen, value \$500.

A burglary was reported in the Pampa High School cafeteria.

Found property was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Harassment was reported in the lobby of the PD, and the 1000 block of West Wilks.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

A welfare check was made in the 900 block of East Campbell.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 1300 block

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of East Francis.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 2800 block of North Charles.

One alarm was investigated.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the intersection of Browning and Magnolia streets.

A traffic complaint was received from the 400 block of North Doucette.

A motor vehicle accident was reported in the 500 block of Magnolia.

A welfare check was made in the 1200 block of North Wells.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 400 block of North Jupiter.

**Monday**  
A domestic disturbance was reported in the 2300 block of West Alock.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 2300 block of West Alock.

Officers conducted a total of eight traffic stops.  
One open door was checked.

**AMBULANCE**

Guardian EMS ambulance service reported the following calls.

**Saturday**  
12:56 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of West Kentucky and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

6:29 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Christy and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:32 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of North Sumner and transported a patient to PRMC.

**Sunday**  
1:01 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to North West Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

2:18 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of Francis. No patients were transported.

3:24 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of South Starkweather and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:28 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Doucette. No patients were transported.

8:46 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of North Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:58 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Winters Quarters Road. No patients were transported.

9:15 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of East Browning and transported a patient to PRMC.

**Monday**  
1:59 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of North Wells and transported a patient

to PRMC.

2:19 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to NWTW.

**FIRE**

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today.

**Saturday**  
10:37 a.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to the intersection of 23rd and Price Road on a fire prevention program.

1:38 p.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to six miles south of Highway 70 on a grass fire.

6:31 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 300 block of North Christy on a med assist.

**Sunday**  
7:56 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 1000 block of North Wells on a downed power line.

**SHERIFF**

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests.

**Saturday**  
Steven Savont Compton, 29, of Gardena, Calif., was arrested by the Department of Public Safety for unlawful carrying of a weapon, and possession of marijuana in Fort Bend County.

Juan Castro Benavidez, 64, of Pampa was arrested by the Pampa Police Department for interfering with public duties, and theft of property.

**Sunday**  
Ricky Carl Clark, 47, of Lefors was arrested by the PPD for warrants on failure to maintain financial responsibilities, and no driver's license.

Anthony Ray Beebe, 23, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for public intoxication.

Kevin Lee Braddock, 46, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for warrants on speeding, and failure to appear.

Dezi Joe Contreras, 20, of Clarendon was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated, second, no valid driver's license, no proof of financial responsibility, possession of drug paraphernalia, minor in possession of alcohol, and warrants for no valid driver's license.

Lynda Mary Garcia, 61, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for fugitive warrants on Elkhart, Kans., for obscene communication.

Juan De Jesus, 27, of Pampa by the PPD for warrant charges.

**Fugitive charged with drug offenses arrested**

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A fugitive wanted for conspiring with narcotics agents to operate a major San Juan County-based drug ring has turned himself in to authorities.  
FBI Supervisory Special Agent Todd Hulsey says 28-year-old Daniel Tarango Jr. contacted the FBI from Mexico. He surrendered Friday at an El Paso, Texas, border crossing.  
The arrest ends a 16-month manhunt for Tarango.  
The U.S. Attorney's Office says Tarango conspired with former San Juan County sheriff's Deputy Levi Countryman and state police Officer Keith Salazar to elude Region II Narcotics Task Force agents while allegedly distributing drugs throughout the Four Corners region.  
Tarango is charged with conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance and four counts of using a telephone to commit a drug offense.  
U.S. Attorney's Office spokesman Norman Cairns said no additional charges were immediately filed against Tarango.  
"Now that he's in custody and there's actually a defendant, that may or may not change the way the case is being prosecuted," Cairns said.  
Countryman and Salazar pleaded guilty in federal court to conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance.  
In December, they were each sentenced to serve six years in prison.  
Countryman and Tarango allegedly processed and sold drugs throughout the region, using Salazar as a police lookout, the indictment said.

## Morning News layoffs begin today

DALLAS (AP)— The parent company of The Dallas Morning News said it will begin company-wide layoffs Monday.

At the end of January, A.H. Belo Corp. said it would lay off 500 employees across all of its properties and take other actions to save cash and cope with falling advertising revenue. The cuts represent about 14 percent of A.H. Belo's work force.

A.H. Belo has not said how many jobs will be cut at The Dallas

Morning News. The company also owns The Providence Journal and several smaller newspapers and Web sites.

The company said most of the layoffs will take place Monday and Tuesday.

"Our company continues to face unprecedented economic challenges during this prolonged recession, making this staff reduction a very difficult but necessary decision," said Jim Moroney, publisher and Chief Executive of The Dallas

Morning News.

The cuts come after A.H. Belo said last week it will cut some workers' salaries and suspend pension contributions for the year. Full-time employees making more than \$25,000 per year will see salary cuts of between 2.5 percent and 15 percent, depending on their base salary. The changes will go into effect around the beginning of May.

## Coming soon: Lone Star Texas license plates

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP)— The rhythmic thump-thump-thump reverberates throughout the noisy cavernous building like a heartbeat or the dance floor of a rockin' good club.

Several decades old, the warehouse-like structure in Huntsville is an exclusive club of sorts. More than 100 men, by invitation-only and wearing identical white outfits, tolerate the din five days a week. And the beat rarely changes.

What they turn out by the thousands daily is arguably the most common physical link some 20 million Texas vehicle owners have to their state prison system, the nation's second biggest.

License plates. "Everybody's got one," Tom Pierce, the warden at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Wynne Unit, said. "And they all came from the Wynne Unit."

Mini-assembly lines, four of them, staffed by Wynne Unit inmates, each spit out 35 to 40 Texas license plates every minute.

Stockpiles now are growing with the new general license plate design for passenger cars and trucks picked by Texans in an online poll conducted last year by the Texas Department of Transportation. The new "Lone Star Texas" plates should start circulating in a few months.

About 1.6 million of the current passenger vehicle plate, the one with the cowboy on the horse and the oil derrick and space shuttle, were left as of the end of February. As fewer Texans buy new cars during the economic downturn, the supply of old plates lasted longer than expected.

"Our numbers have been all over the map," Kim Sue Lia Perkes, a transporta-

tion department spokeswoman, said. "Sometimes only 300,000 a month are moving out, which is half our usual number for passenger plates."

"We originally expected to have our inventory exhausted by now, but we based our assessment on past trends. What we were unable to anticipate was the recent economic downturn that adversely impacted vehicle sales."

Perkes refused to allow The Associated Press to photograph the new plates coming off the production line, saying she "wasn't really ready" to show off the finished product and that the department would "make a big announcement when it's ready." An image of the new plate is on the agency's Web site.

The big switch to the new license design began around the first of the year at the Wynne Unit plate plant, which has been producing plates since the mid 1970s, said Dudley Park, 46, the plant manager.

The new plate has a white Texas star in the upper left corner over sky blue background splashed with red, "TEXAS" in bold white letters outlined in blue along the top, "The Lone Star State" in white script superimposed over a mountain horizon at the bottom. In the center, there are seven black digits, "1" one more than on the current plate.

The extra digit is needed to account for the state's population growth and corresponding jump in the number of cars and trucks. Simply put, the state ran out of unique combinations of six-digit numbers and letters after more than 31 million pairs.

An image of a state-shaped Texas Flag serves as a hyphen splitting the seven digits, "1" three on the left, four on the right.

Besides the new design and extra digit, the most

noticeable change is that the plate is completely flat, except for a raised edge that serves as a frame. The numbers and letters no longer are stamped.

Instead, a computer-generated digital image is transferred onto a roll of adhesive-backed reflective material that's affixed to a like-size strip of aluminum. The aluminum, unfurled from 2,500-pound rolls, is sliced into the plate-size rectangles that will wind up on everything from BMWs to VW Beetles throughout Texas.

St. Paul, Minn.-based 3M Co. supplied the technology that first was used in Texas a few years ago to make specialty license plates.

It's been extended to the general plate-making in what's hailed as a more environmentally friendly process. In the past, a machine stamped letters and numerals into the metal, and paint was then applied to the raised digits.

"Now, we don't have to do that," Park said. It means solvents are no longer needed for paint cleanup. Neither are the huge ovens that baked the freshly painted plates at 350 degrees.

One thing that didn't change is the cut of the chopping machines, which also knock out four mounting holes and produce the incessant thump-thump-thump that vibrates through the building at the northern edge of Huntsville just east of Interstate 45.

Once they're finished, each plate is inspected for defects by a team of inmates. They slip pieces of waxed paper between those that pass muster, pack them in boxes and then it's "out the back door," said Park.

The transportation department has been registering vehicles for nearly a century, taking over the

## Red Cross helps

Red Cross— cont. from page 1

from the public. You may mail donations to the Eastern TX Panhandle Red Cross at 108 N Russell Pampa, TX 79065 The Red Cross also provides

training for persons who wish to help on disasters or be a part of the Disaster Action Team If you wish to volunteer call 669-7121.

## Wheeler Co. fire

Fire— cont. from page 1

afternoon, when they diminished enough to bring in aerial tankers.

David Rushing, county information officer, said that the town's energy was shut off beginning at 8 a.m. Sunday for about eight hours for repairs.

He said two firefighters were treated and released for smoke inhalation and heat exhaustion and a third was expected to be kept overnight.

Amarillo fire Capt. Bob Johnson said 10 people

involved in accidents on I-40 were taken to the hospital. He said firefighters treated people in 10 tractor-trailers and 10 cars.

"This is a very hectic scene under extremely serious conditions," he told the Amarillo Globe-News.

I-40 was temporarily closed to clear up the accidents.

"You can't picture how bad the visibility is," Johnson said.

## Husband says he killed wife 15 years ago

TEMPLE, Texas (AP)— A 54-year-old Temple man has told sheriff's investigators that he shot his wife to death nearly 15 years ago.

Milton Britt Crowe walked into the Bell County Sheriff's Department on Friday afternoon and told investigators he wanted to confess to the July 1994 slaying of Linda Louise Crowe, according to a news release from the agency.

Crowe told them the matter had been bothering him and he had spoken with counselors at a local church. The counselors went with him to the sheriff's office.

Crowe was jailed on a charge of murder and was being held in the Bell County Jail on \$200,000 bond.

Linda Crowe, 47, a med-

ical transcriptionist at Scott & White Memorial Hospital in 1994, was reported missing by her husband, who said she did not return from a Sunday walk.

"Britt called me and said he had come home and Linda was gone. I remember driving around with him looking for her," the Rev. Don Paulson, their former pastor, said in Sunday's Temple Daily Telegram.

Her body was found about 10 feet from the side of a road, and autopsy results showed she died from a single gunshot wound to the head.

Officials said investigators in 1994 believed Crowe was involved in the murder, but that he left the state and the investigation stalled.

## Vulture caught in trap rescued in South Texas

Texas (AP) — A South Texas who man saw a vulture caught in a coyote trap in a watermelon patch threw a blanket over the struggling bird and freed it.

The rescue happened near Monte Alto after Johnny Herrera, who lives nearby, noticed the wing-flapping bird and feared the creature might not survive.

Herrera, in a rescue videotaped by KRGV-TV, is seen approaching the animal, which has a leg stuck in the trap. Herrera drops a blanket over the vulture. His wife, Paula, helps him hold down the bird, as Herrera gently opens the trap.

The freed bird flies away.

Herrera, who says he's had dogs stuck in similar traps, says "it's kind of a cruel way to die."

The incident happened Friday. Monte Alto is about 25 miles northeast of McAllen.

## Oil retreats below \$52 as stock markets turn red

PABLO GORONDI Associated Press Writer

Oil prices retreated to below \$52 a barrel Monday, tracking a downturn in stock markets, as investors worried about the upcoming U.S. corporate earnings season and the failure of a major takeover deal.

By mid-afternoon in Europe, benchmark crude for May delivery was down \$1.17 to \$51.34 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 13 cents on Friday to settle at \$52.51.

In London, Brent prices fell 95 cents to \$52.52 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Earlier Monday, the Nymex contract had risen as high as \$53.60 as investors sought to ride the momentum from a two-month rally in crude prices on expectations that the U.S. recession may be bottoming out.

But renewed worries about more troubles in the banking sector and the apparent collapse of IBM Corp.'s \$7 billion acquisition of Sun Microsystems Inc. pushed European

stock markets into the red and pointed to a lower opening on Wall Street.

Crude has jumped from below \$35 a barrel in February as investor concerns have eased that the ailing U.S. economy would enter a depression and drag the rest of the world with it. Traders will be watching corporate earnings announcements for signs the recession may have bottomed in the first quarter and for company guidance about coming quarters.

Aluminum producer Alcoa Inc. is set to kick off the first-quarter earnings season on Tuesday.

Still, some traders are skeptical whether oil demand that's reeling from a global recession can justify much higher crude prices.

"The good feeling is hanging on, but I still think this is a bear-market rally," said Christoffer Moltke-Leth, head of sales trading for Saxo Capital Markets in Singapore. "I think crude is going to see some pretty firm resistance around \$55, then go back down to the low \$40s."

Investors were cheered

last week by the G-20 meeting in London, where leaders agreed to avoid protectionist measures during the economic crisis. The nations also pledged more than \$1 trillion to combat the global financial crisis.

"The underlying sentiment after this meeting was pretty positive," Moltke-Leth said. "Compared to the depression of the 1930s, the international community is showing that it is committed to working together."

U.S. energy consultancy Cameron Hanover said several factors were contributing to the oil market gains.

"Prices have been advancing, more or less, for seven weeks, and traders seem to have bought into economically vague but hopeful events, a weaker U.S. dollar, higher equities and the seasonal tendency of prices to advance at this time of year," Cameron Hanover said in a note to clients.

Investors also brushed off a grim U.S. jobs report on Friday that showed the unemployment rate rose to 8.5 percent in March, a 25-

year high.

Concerns that growth could remain weak for years, as companies and individuals shed debt and credit remains tight, "I will likely dampen oil prices this year, Moltke-Leth said.

"Until the credit market really loosens up, you won't see a long-term sustained rally in commodities," Moltke-Leth said. "We may have to live with 2 to 2.5 percent growth."

Others, however, said the rising trend of the last two months was feeding on speculators' return to the oil market even despite the weak economy.

"With the growing acceptance that oil prices are on the rise, albeit gradually and almost certainly not without occasional hiccups, more and more hot money is likely to underpin prices," said a report by Britain's KBC Market Services. "The speculators are doing the oil market, and OPEC, a big favor."

In other Nymex trading, gasoline for May delivery fell 1.34 cents to \$1.4790 a gallon and heating oil lost 1.79 cents to \$1.4281 a gallon.

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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Monday, April 6, the 96th day of 2009. There are 269 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:  
One hundred years ago, on April 6, 1909, American explorers Robert E. Peary and Matthew A. Henson and four Inuits became the first men to reach the North Pole.

On this date:  
In 1830, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was organized by Joseph Smith in Fayette, N.Y.

In 1862, the Civil War Battle of Shiloh began in Tennessee as Confederate forces launched a surprise attack against Union troops, who beat back the Confederates the next day.

In 1896, the first modern Olympic games formally opened in Athens, Greece.

In 1917, Congress approved a declaration of war against Germany.

*'To be really cosmopolitan, a man must be at home even in his own country.'*

— Thomas Wentworth Higginson  
American clergyman-author

In 1954, after being criticized by newsman Edward R. Murrow on CBS' "See It Now," Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., was given the opportunity to reply with a filmed response in which he charged that Murrow had in the past "engaged in propaganda for Communist causes."

In 1959, "Gigi" won the Academy Award for best picture of 1958; Susan Hayward was named best actress for "I Want to Live!" and David Niven was named best actor for "Separate Tables." (To the embarrassment of the show's producers, the scheduled two-hour ceremony fell about 20 minutes short.)

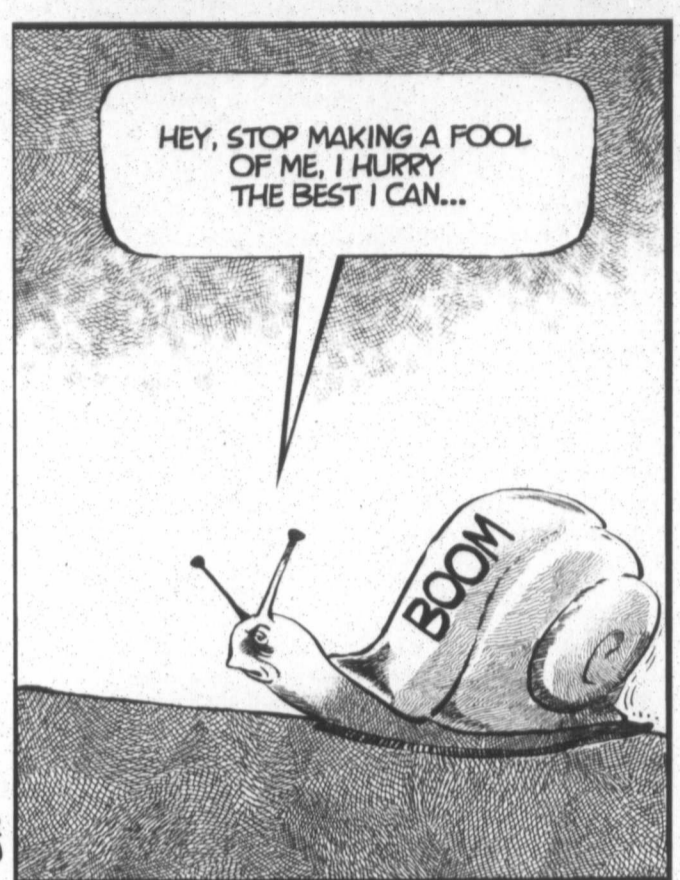
In 1963, the United States signed an agreement to sell the Polaris missile system to Britain.

In 1965, the United States launched the Intelsat I, also known as the "Early Bird" communications satellite, into orbit.

In 1983, rock-and-roll fans reacted with outrage and dismay to a published report in The Washington Post that Interior Secretary James Watt had decided to exclude groups like the Beach Boys from Washington's 4th of July celebration. A stand he later reversed.

In 1994, the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi were killed in a mysterious plane crash near Rwanda's capital; widespread violence and killings erupted in Rwanda over claims the plane had been shot down.

Today's Birthdays: Nobel Prize-winning scientist James D. Watson is 81. Composer-conductor Andre Previn is 80. Country singer Merle Haggard is 72. Actor Billy Dee Williams is 72. Actor Roy Thinnes is 71. Movie director Barry Levinson is 67. Actor John Ratzenberger is 62. Actress Marilu Henner is 57. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Janet Lynn is 56. Actor Michael Rooker is 54. Rock musician Warren Haynes is 49. Rock singer-musician Frank Black is 44. Author Vince Flynn is 43. Actress Ari Meyers is 40. Actor Paul Rudd is 40. Actor-producer Jason Hervey is 37. Rock musician Markku Lappalainen is 36. Actor Zach Braff is 34. Actress Candace Cameron Bure is 33. Actor Bret Harrison is 27.



## Analysis: Negotiating a minefield of bad news

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Does the name Byran Uyesugi ring a bell? Odds are not. What about Robert A. Hawkins? Or Mark Barton? Terry Ratzmann? Robert Stewart?

Each entered the national consciousness when he picked up a gun and ended multiple lives. Uyesugi, 1999, Hawaii office building, seven dead. Hawkins, 2007, Nebraska shopping mall, nine dead. Barton, Ratzmann and Stewart, 24 dead among them in 1999 (Atlanta brokerage offices), 2005 (Wisconsin church service) and last week (North Carolina rehab center).

And each has been largely forgotten as the parade of multiple killings in America melts into an indistinguishable blur. We bemoan, we mourn, we move on.

What's even more disturbing is that the list above was cherry-picked from a far lengthier tally of recent mass shootings in the United States. And now, this weekend, on a crisp, sunny Saturday morning in Pittsburgh, the lives of three police officers ended in gunfire after a domestic dispute turned lethal.

The mass shootings that left 14 people dead in Binghamton, N.Y., on Friday were horrifying, depressing, nationally wrenching. They were also, to some extent, unsurprising in a society where the term "mass shooting" has lost its status as unthinkable aberration and become mere fodder for a fresh news cycle.

"We have to guard against the senseless violence that this tragedy represents," President Barack Obama said in Europe on Saturday. Senseless violence: Two centuries from now, if we're not careful, it could be an epitaph for our era.

Even in a media-saturated nation that encourages

short memories, these numbers are conversation-stopping: More than 50 people dead in the past month in American mass shootings and their aftermaths. It's to the point where on Saturday, dizzily, the mayor of Binghamton found himself offering Pittsburgh his sympathies.

It becomes almost impossible to keep up. By Saturday night, there was more dispiriting news from another corner of the country: In Graham, Wash., five children between 7 and 16 years old were found shot to death in a mobile-home park, apparently at the hands of their father, who then killed himself.

Put aside for a moment the debate over guns. This isn't about policy. It's about asking the urgent question: What is happening in the American psyche that prevents people from defusing their own anguish and rage before they end the lives of others? Why are we killing each other?

This is not an era of good feeling in the United States. We have under our belt eight years of pernicious terrorism angst, six years of Iraq war weariness and, now, months of wondering how bad the American economy's going to get and when, or, worse, whether, it's going to come back. People are tense. There's less inclination to help out your fellow human being.

Meanwhile, anchors and analysts and witnesses and bloggers cast about in an information-age fog trying to make sense of something that is, in the worst way, nonsensical. They rush to offer solutions, but the thing they typically dodge is that we seem to be powerless to stop it all. That our community, our neighbors, may be next. That's too terrifying to contemplate, not to mention too open-ended for American news consumers

reared on tidy Hollywood endings.

The Binghamton newspaper, the Press & Sun Bulletin, seemed to acknowledge the resignation in a glum editorial Saturday that wondered if it was simply, sadly, and inevitably Binghamton's turn to give up a few of its people to the juggernaut.

"It is our turn to grieve and to rally in support of those whose lives have been shattered," the newspaper said. "And it's our turn to hug those in our own families and wonder how a quiet, rainy Friday in a peaceful place became the setting for such a nightmare."

The strangest of contradictions hangs over the Binghamton shootings. The shooter and many of the victims were immigrants, part of the pool of human beings who look to America as a place of opportunity and take often anonymous steps to realize their dreams here. On Friday, the idea that had beckoned them betrayed them.

The man believed to be the shooter, Jiverly Wong, had lost his job at an assembly plant, was barely getting by on unemployment and was frustrated that the American dream, so highly billed and coveted, wasn't coming through for him. Early reports suggest that the suspect in the Pittsburgh officers' killings, too, was angered at being laid off from a glass factory.

People are of course responsible for their actions, but it's hard to avoid wondering what's afoot in the darkest recesses of what we like to call American exceptionalism. For so long, the national narrative has been so bullish about equality of opportunity, so persuasive in its romance of possibility for all. Is it so subversive to speculate, then, that when the engine of possi-

bility runs into roadblocks, people can't cope?

Without excusing one whit of the violent tendencies that ended with so many bullets in so many bodies from Binghamton to North Carolina to Alabama to California in the past month, isn't it time, finally, to figure out where this national dream makes a wrong turn?

"Maybe research can prevent further tragedies of this type," a man named Charles Whitman wrote one day in 1966. Then he ascended a tower at the University of Texas, looked out over the campus, pulled out a shotgun, three rifles and three pistols and killed 16 people.

Forty-three years and countless reams of research and lost loved ones later, we have not figured it out. Today, the American Civic Association in Binghamton says so. The Pittsburgh Police Department says so. The vulnerable people at the Penelake Health and Rehab Center in Carthage, N.C., say so.

Of Jiverly Wong, Binghamton police Chief Joseph Zikuski had this to say Saturday: "He must have been a coward." Perhaps. But that's the beginning of an answer, not the end of one. On Friday, the federal government announced that 663,000 Americans lost their jobs in March. What's truly unsettling in America's new era of gloom and dead ends is wondering how many of those 663,000 might be deeply, irrevocably angry about it. And might have a gun.

Because the American tragedies that haven't happened yet are the most terrifying ones of all.

EDITOR'S NOTE—Ted Anthony covers American culture for The Associated Press.

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# Texas wraps spring practice with scrimmage

JIM VERTUNO  
AP Sports Writer  
AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — For one blustery spring afternoon, Colt McCoy looked like an average quarterback.

Nobody at Texas, however, least of all McCoy and Longhorns head coach Mack Brown, are worried. Texas wrapped up its spring practice Sunday with its annual Orange & White scrimmage on a sunny but windy day that wreaked havoc on the passing game. Steady winds of 18 mph and gusts up to 30 caused balls to float too far or knocked others down.

"This was not a quarterback-friendly day," Brown said.

"It's a challenge," said McCoy, who was 11 of 24 for 95 yards and an interception that was returned for a touchdown. Yet there are few concerns that McCoy, last season's runner-up for the 2008 Heisman Trophy, has somehow lost the touch

that completed an NCAA record 76.7 percent of his passes.

That's because spring games are more about watching up-and-coming players than about veterans having big days.

At Texas, that meant watching a receiving corps operating without last season's top two receivers, Quan Cosby and Jordan Shipley, who combined for 181 catches last season. Cosby has graduated and Shipley, who will be a sixth-year senior in 2009, sat out spring drills.

That left McCoy throwing to several young receivers who played well last season but have yet to step into a starring role. On Sunday, several of his misfires were dropped. A couple of others looked like the receivers got confused on a route.

McCoy shrugged those off after the game ended in 14-14 tie.

"Today was no indication of our spring ball,"

McCoy said. "Those guys have been great. We're getting our timing down. Today, we were running vanilla offense. The defense knows every play and every route."

Brandon Collins and James Kirkendall combined for six catches for 74 yards.

Texas is still looking for a running game to complement McCoy's right arm. McCoy was Texas' leading rusher last season and Vondrell McGee, Fozzy Whittaker and Cody Johnson are still locked in a battle to be the clear No. 1 tailback.

That didn't get settled on the field Sunday.

McGee got the first few carries but Whittaker was the leading rusher with 32 yards on 10 carries. Whittaker's first two covered 21 yards and the game's first touchdown. McGee later scored on a nifty 6-yard run when he burst through the middle of the line and sidestepped a defender at the 2.

"Both had some good runs," Brown said.

Johnson, who had impressed coaches during spring drills, was held out Sunday after hurting his left hamstring in practice.

Texas also held out senior linebacker Sergio Kindle. Defensive coordinator Will Muschamp said he was going to work Kindle some at defensive end to develop his pass rushing skills.

Kindle was in uniform but Brown said he and Muschamp decided before the game to keep him out to give other players a chance. Kindle had 10 sacks last season, only 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  fewer than All-American defensive end Brian Orakpo.

"He can be a great pass rusher, not a good one," Brown said.

A bright spot for Texas on defense was two interceptions. Texas had only six interceptions in 2008. Safety Earl Thomas

snagged McCoy's third pass and returned it 35 yards for a touchdown.

Sunday was the last game to be played on grass at Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium. Texas is replac-

ing its bermuda grass field with an artificial surface. Texas opens the 2009 season at home against Louisiana-Monroe on Sept. 5.

## Jury selection set for ex-soldier's trial

PADUCAH, Ky. (AP) — Jury selection has begun in Paducah for the trial of a former Fort Campbell soldier charged with crimes that include killing a family in Iraq and raping a teenage girl who was among those killed.

Former Pfc. Steven Dale Green of Midland, Texas, was a member of the 101st Airborne Division when the attack occurred in March 2006. Three other soldiers pleaded guilty at courts-martial to having

roles in the attack and a fourth was convicted. Green has pleaded not guilty. The lengthy jury selection process expected to run through mid-April began Monday in the case that could bring the death penalty.

Green is being tried in civilian court because he was discharged from the Army before being charged.

Opening arguments in the trial are scheduled to begin April 27.

## US airlines took some hassle out of flying in 2008

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. air carriers led by Hawaiian Airlines took some of the hassle out of flying last year.

The airline industry had its best performance in four years in 2008, private researchers said Monday in their annual study of airline quality, based on government statistics.

Right behind Hawaiian in the overall ratings of 17 airlines were AirTran Airways and JetBlue Airways. The legacy airlines — AMR Corp.'s American, Continental, Delta and UAL Corp.'s United — were clustered in the middle, while regional air carriers filled out the bottom rungs.

After its worst year for customer complaints in more than a decade in 2007, the airline industry last year flew fewer people but treated them better, arriving on time more often and losing fewer bags. Passengers also were not as apt to be bumped from flights by overbooking, which was a big problem when airlines were running at or over capacity.

The downside: Less flights, higher prices — some airlines now charge extra for any luggage — and fewer frills.

The study found consumer complaints dipped from 1.42 per 100,000 passengers in 2007 to 1.15 in 2008. Southwest Airlines had the best rate, only 0.25 complaints per 100,000 passengers; US Airways had the worst rate, 2.25.

Half of all complaints involved baggage or flight problems such as cancellations, delays or other schedule deviations.

The average on-time performance last year was 3 percentage points better than the year before, yet nearly one-quarter of all flights were late. The study said 12 airlines improved from the previous year, but only three airlines had better than an 80 percent on-time rate: Hawaiian, 90 percent; Southwest, 80.5 percent; and US Airways, 80.1 percent.

American, the nation's largest air carrier as measured by passengers flown the most miles, had the worst record, arriving on time only 69.8 percent of the time.

The rate of passengers denied boardings — usually bumpings due to overbooking — dipped slightly, from 1.14 per 10,000 passengers to 1.1 in 2008. Jet Blue had the lowest rate for the second year in a row, 0.01 per 10,000 pas-

sengers; Atlantic Southeast Airlines had the highest rate, 3.89.

All the airlines did a better job handling passengers' baggage. The mishandled baggage rate fell from 7.01 bags per 1,000 passengers in 2007 to 5.19 bags in 2008.

AirTran did the best job, with 2.87 mishandled bags per 1,000 passengers; American Eagle Airlines, which operates regional flights for American Airlines, did the worst, at 9.89.

The study, compiled annually since 1991, is based on Transportation Department statistics for airlines that carry at least 1 percent of the passengers who flew domestically last year. The research is sponsored by St. Louis University in Missouri and by Wichita State University in Kansas.

The improved performance was not surprising because 2007 was the worst year for airlines in the study, researchers said.

The aviation system suffered close to a meltdown in 2007 as domestic carriers recorded 770 million passengers — the busiest year for air travel since before the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Aviation experts said the air transport system had reached capacity.

There were 741 million passengers in 2008, and airlines are reporting weak travel demand through the first quarter of this year.

Co-author Brent Bowen, chairman of aviation science at St. Louis University's Parks College, said airlines are suffering from the poor economy despite lower oil prices.


"It remains to be seen if the airlines can benefit from lower oil prices alongside a severe drop in passenger revenue this year," Bowen said.

Dean Headley, an associate professor of marketing at Wichita State and co-author, urged Congress to take advantage of this "breathing room" to move forward on a system that would replace decades-old radar technology with satellite-based technology.


That new system is forecast to increase air transportation system capacity by enabling planes to fly closer together and more directly to their destinations, saving time and fuel.

"It's crazy to think we can keep going the way we were going with the volume of planes we have in the air," Headley said.

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# Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Beginner



## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Bob," and I have been married 12 years. One night three years ago, he beat me as I slept in our bed. Bob says he must have been having a nightmare and that he would never beat me.

His fists were clenched as he was hitting my head and body that night. I was pinned by the covers and couldn't defend myself. He has been sleeping in the guest room ever since. I lock my bedroom door every night.

I have gone to counseling, but Bob refuses because he says it's too expensive. I am unemployed and feel trapped financially by him. How long can a middle-aged woman survive in a loveless, pas-

sionless and distrustful marriage? — ALL ABOUT BOB IN ALABAMA

DEAR ALL ABOUT BOB: That depends upon the reason your marriage is loveless, passionless and distrustful. You say your husband says he has no memory of striking you. Has he ever raised a hand to you while he was awake? If the answer is no, then he should be evaluated for a sleep disorder.

People have been known to do unusual things in their sleep — including sleepwalking, driving a car, eating compulsively and striking out. Once you know the reason for what happened that night, you will then have enough information to decide

what to do about your future. DEAR ABBY: A few days ago, my 8-year-old daughter, "Mira," told me that one of her best friends, a girl named "Brittany," was handing out envelopes in class. When Mira asked what Brittany was doing, Brittany told her she was passing out invitations to her birthday party and that my daughter wasn't invited.

I understand that the birthday girl can invite anyone she wants to her party, but this was one of Mira's closest friends. I am also friendly with Brittany's mother. The girl did tell Mira that she is on the "cancellation list" — and if someone cancels, then she can attend.

My daughter is hurt and confused, and frankly, so am I. This was a huge blow to Mira's self-esteem. I can't understand how Brittany's mother could allow her daughter to do this, knowing full well that the girls are

close friends. Mira is the only one in the group who was excluded.

I need your help, Abby. How should I handle this without blowing things out of the water? — FEELING HER PAIN

DEAR FEELING HER PAIN: It appears that Brittany's mother isn't as much of a friend as you thought she was, or she would not have allowed her daughter to snub your daughter the way she did.

Being put on a cancellation list (a "B" list) is no compliment, and your daughter should not attend that party even if there is a cancellation. My advice is to make a point of doing something special with your daughter on that day so she won't feel so left out. She should also become involved in extracurricular activities where she can meet other children, so she won't be so dependent upon the clique that cliqued her out.

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c/o  
**Ben L. Sturgeon, Esq.**  
Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 2197  
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DATED the 1st day of April, 2009.  
Respectfully submitted,  
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By:  
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### 21 Help Wanted

**NEED Maintenance Man.** Must have tools & transportation. Apply at 800 N. Nelson.  
**MAINTENANCE** Make Ready Person. Must have own tools and transportation. Background check required. 665-4274.  
**CANADIAN Family** Physicians is now taking applications for the position of LVN. Benefits package offered. Apply in person 1025 S. 3rd St., Canadian.  
**SUPER RENTALS** under new management. Now taking applications for Delivery / Sales. FT / PT. Must be 18 yrs. old. Apply in person 1304 N. Banks.  
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### 95 Furn. Apts.

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.  
**ATTENTION Senior** Citizens, nicely furnished rooms. All bills paid, incl. cable & internet. Affordable mo. rates. 665-1875 or 883-2572.  
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2 bdr., 1 ba. Appliances are furnished. Call 440-2866  
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**LARGEST in Pampa.** Spacious 1&2 bdr. apts. Friendly neighbors. Reas. rates. 665-1875.  
**THE Schneider House,** now leasing apts., 1 & 2 bdr., utilities incl. 120 S. Russell or 665-0415.

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**PICK up rental list,** in Gray Box, at 125 S. Houston, Pampa.  
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**TUMBLEWEED** Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.  
**102 Bus. Rental**  
**DOWNTOWN** office space for rent. Utilities & cleaning service provided. Ample parking. 669-6823  
**OFFICE Space** for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.  
**LARGE Shop Bldg.** for lease. Great Downtown Location! Won't last. 665-1875.

### 103 Homes For Sale

**1105 Charles,** lovely 3 bedroom 1 3/4 bath, 1240 sq. ft. very nice neighborhood, \$70,000. Owner Financing Not Available. 806-665-0370, or 760-447-8331.  
**HIGHEST CASH PAID FOR HOUSES!** CALL 665-1875  
**NICE 2 bdr. home,** 103 Burdett, Skellytown. Owner fin. avail. Gary, Trustar RE, 665-4555.  
**1999 Dodge Durango** \$1500 Needs motor 662-3135

### 116 Mobile Homes

**07 28' Gulf Stream.** Class C. 15,500 miles. 2 slides, Sleeps 6. Queen bed. Ex. Condition. \$60,000. In Amarillo. 480-540-5571.  
**120 Autos**  
**FOR Sale:** 2004 Chevrolet Suburban. Excellent condition. Good tires. V8, 2WD. \$11,300 obo. Call after 5 pm. 806-665-1583.  
**WANTED 1968-1970** AMX or Javelin parts or parts cars. Call 580-512-8393.  
**2008 Toyota Tundra** SR5 4x4 CrewMax Truck. 8500 mi. Like New! 3 in. lift, bedliner, cover. 440-4023.  
**122 Motorcycles**  
**FOR SALE** 1998 Kawasaki \$1800.00 obo 662-2024 interested

### 118 Homes For Sale

**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

### 118 Homes For Sale

**1185 Charles,** lovely 3 bedroom 1 3/4 bath, 1240 sq. ft. very nice neighborhood, \$70,000. Owner Financing Not Available. 806-665-0370, or 760-447-8331.  
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**CERAMIC tile work.** Remodeling floor, shower, kitchen. Texturing, painting, dry wall. Free est. Call 665-3453 leave message, Jesus Barraza.  
**HOUSE Cracking?** In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563  
**COX Fence Company.** Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.  
**HANDYMAN** from yard work to siding, trim, and paint holes in fence or walls. Call Tyson, I do it all. 898-0571.  
**DIRT work.** Rock for driveways. Landscaping. Manure avail. 806-679-7985, 665-5859.  
**HONEST To Goodness** Handyman. Reliable. Reas. Ref. No job too small. Doug 665-0832, 440-9100

### 14r Plowing/Yard

**S&H Lawn Service.** Mowing & bagging, tree trimming, edging, weeding. Call 324-9397, 664-4189 for free estimate.  
**14s Plumbing/Heat**  
**JACK'S Plumbing,** 715 W. Foster, 665-7115.

### 19 Situations

**Private Elderly Care** Home has an Opening for Client. Total care incl. 24 hr in my home. We do everything the client needs. Have been open for 10 yrs. Do have references. 669-2271.  
**I Need More Houses To Clean!** Excellent References. Call 665-5859  
**HOME CARE CNA** Experienced. Have references. 806-332-9800

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## Voter ID bills will get public airing

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — State lawmakers are holding a new round of public hearings Monday on the controversial plan to tighten voter ID laws, a proposal that has already sparked partisan meltdown in the state Senate, consumed hours of testimony and triggered threats of federal lawsuits.

Fourteen experts, seven invited by Democrats and seven by Republicans, are expected to testify Monday before the House Elections Committee, according to a list provided by the panel. Then on Tuesday, the public will get a chance to speak out.

At issue are proposals to require that Texans furnish additional identification before being allowed to vote. Under current law, a voter registration card suffices, though Texans can show their driver's license if they don't have it.

Last month, the Senate passed a bill that would require either a photo ID, such as a driver's license,

or two alternative documents, including government mail, marriage certificates and utility bills. Democrats and their allies say lawsuits will be filed against the measure if it ultimately becomes law.

Republicans, who control both houses of the Legislature and all statewide elective offices, say new ID rules are needed to protect against voter fraud. Democrats complain that the GOP wants to suppress Democratic turnout by erecting hurdles that disproportionately impact poor, minority and elderly voters.

As the bill moves to the House, Rep. Todd Smith, the Euless Republican who chairs the Elections Committee, is pushing for a compromise. He said he'd like to delay implementation of the new rules for up to four years and wants to conduct a statewide voter education and registration campaign. The Senate bill, by con-

trast, would take effect in time for the 2010 elections.

Smith said he believes there's a little hyperbole on both sides of the debate.

"I do think there are some of my Republican friends who are guilty of hyping the evidence relating to instances of voter impersonation," Smith told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "But having said that, it is also certainly true that some of my Democratic friends are capable of hyping the notion that material numbers of voters will be disenfranchised by any additional forms of security."

Smith said he wants to avoid the kind of scene last month that visited the Texas Senate, which approved the legislation on a strict party-line vote and engaged in hours of partisan bickering. When the proposal was heard in a Senate committee, lawmakers debated past dawn the following day, forcing some quite stunned members of the public to spend

the night in cramped chairs in the Capitol, waiting for a chance to testify.

That's why Smith is breaking up the discussion into two days. Monday will be reserved for expert testimony only, and Smith allowed each side to invite an equal number of witnesses. A public hearing will be held the following day.

Among the experts Democrats asked to testify are Gary Bledsoe, president of the Texas NAACP, and Mary Scott, from the Texas branch of the retiree advocacy group AARP of Texas.

Republicans on the committee invited testimony from John Fund, a Wall Street Journal writer and author of the book "Stealing Elections: How Voter Fraud Threatens Our Democracy." The GOP lawmakers are also calling on Wesley Taylor, director of the Georgia Elections Division, to talk about how that state implemented a voter ID law.

## Perry speaks to Young Conservatives of Texas

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry tried to convince the Young Conservatives of Texas on Saturday that he should be their pick in the 2010 Republican primary for governor.

"It was well presented," Dustin Matocha, the still undecided chairman of Young Conservatives at the University of Texas told the Austin American-Statesman for its online editions. "I'm leaning towards Perry right now, but I still have a couple more months to decide. I want to hear what (U.S. Sen.) Kay Bailey Hutchison has to say first."

Perry faces Hutchison in the 2010 Republican primary for governor, a race that's already heating up.

Hutchison isn't scheduled to speak at the convention this weekend, but a representative was on hand.

Laura Elizabeth Morales, senior vice chairman for the group, said they just want the most conservative candidate in office.

"We don't say how somebody leans until we get their questionnaires, get their interviews and talk with the group," she said.

## Work fulfilling for Southern Baptist missionary

TEMPLE, Texas (AP) — Missionary work is God's work — and in Lori Price's case, it's farming peanuts.

"And I never thought I'd be doing any of it," she said.

But she is. She's a career missionary with the Southern Baptist Convention International Mission Board, and her daily life in the Samogho village of West Africa is consumed with two things: teaching Christianity and maintaining a peanut crop.

On furlough since Feb. 4, Price has been traveling the southern United States to visit churches and update them on the success of her mission.

"I go to share my experiences and talk about everything I've learned," Price said.

She's now settled at her home in Academy, looking forward to some vacation time with family and friends.

"Furlough's a time to refresh and renew your spirit," she said. "I'm looking forward to it. I'll be able to reconnect with my home church, First Baptist Church of Academy."

Not scheduled to return to Africa until Aug. 27, her furlough will continue for another five months. This is her first time home in three years.

Three years on and six months off is a common schedule among full-time missionaries, though there are options.

"You can work two years and come home for three months or do one year on, one month off," Price said. "It's up to your situation and whether you have a family. For me, the three-year routine works."

Becoming a missionary was never a goal or dream for Price. The thought didn't even occur to her until she was an adult.

"I was 33 years old, and my supervisor asked me what my goals were," she said. "I didn't have any. I had a company car, a secretary and paid vacation. Life was good. Why should I be looking for other goals?"

It didn't take long for God to answer. That same week she was teaching a Bible study called "Experiencing God" at FBC-Academy.

"The lesson was that we needed to be prepared for what God was going to throw our way," Price said. "And out of the 10 women who were there, it ended up being me we were praying about. God was working on a change in my heart. He wanted me to do his work. He wanted my new goal to be his mission."

Her first reaction was an eye roll.

"I laughed at him," Price said.

"Missionaries are holy, proper and dignified — not me. God is about loving all people all of the time, and there are people I don't even like. How could he be calling me?"

But she figured that God must have known what he was talking about.

"I realized it's not about me. It's about God," Price said. "It's about God doing things through people. God is big enough to do anything, even if it's using me to accomplish his goal."

So in 1997 she accepted the IMB mission of "evangelizing and church planting among unreached people groups" as her own. She taught gospel at an African village in Niger until 1999, and then she spent a few years studying doctrine at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Her mission work with the Samogho village started in 2002.

"It's become a home to me," she said. "And the people there are my family."

With no electricity or running water, the place is primitive. She lives in a cement-coated mud house.

"You'd be surprised at how much you can live without," Price said. "When things aren't there, you find a way to make it work."

Natural ventilation suffices for air conditioning, a cot can be a bed, and water can come from a well instead of a faucet. Yes, Price grants her Samogho home a fair amount of leeway — but it stops at the toilet.

"When I was interviewing, I told them I didn't mind not having life's luxuries, but I was too old to squat," Price said. "I was going to have to have something to sit on."

The IMB accommodated her request. Her hut in the Samogho village is the only one that is equipped with a toilet-like structure. It's metal and shaped like a funnel, but it does the job.

"It operates with well water and a manual bucket flush," Price explained.

Days in Samogho start at 4:30 a.m.

"I didn't know 4:30 happened twice a day until I moved there, but sure enough it does," Price said. "At 4:30 in the morning, you've got roosters crowing, chickens and goats moving around and women grinding corn to make flour."

By 5 a.m., it's time for the morning greeting.

"The West Africans are huge on greetings," Price said. "And we're not talking about a 'Hi, how are you?' We're talking about 30 minute conversations with

everyone in the village. First the chief, then the elders and then your friends."

She said the morning greetings generally start with the question of "Did you pass your night in peace?"

"And if you know any of the family members by name, you're supposed to ask about them," Price said. "It's drawn-out but heartwarming. All this takes place the minute someone sees you first thing in the morning. There's no such thing as going to the pump and getting water and running back to brush your teeth. The greeting happens at first sight."

After the greetings, the village gathers at the courtyard for a prayer to bless their day.

After breakfast, it's time to for the day's work to begin. Some begin preparing lunch, others pump water for the laundry and the farmers work the land.

Millet, corn, and peanuts are the staple crops of the Samogho village. Cotton, ginger, and vegetables are grown as supplementary produce.

"About 85 percent of the village's income is based on agriculture," Price said. "Families also raise chickens, goats, sheep and cows."

Price doesn't sit by and watch the villagers as they work.

"I'm right there beside them," she said. "I've got a tract of land and a peanut crop that I'm responsible for."

The evening is her main opportunity to teach the Bible. As the sun sets and everyone is resting from the day's work, she says she'll tell the familiar stories of Adam and Eve, Christ's birth and the resurrection.

"If we take a break out in the field, I try to take advantage of that time too," she

said.

She mostly works with adult men and women, and she communicates with them through the language the village uses for business and trade.

"The vernacular has been harder for me to learn," Price said. "There's no written or audio tape way to learn the language. It all has to be done by ear and conversation. I was able to pick up the trade language quicker."

The Christianity lessons, she said, have been received well.

"They've been very open," Price said. "It's a view they're not familiar with, one they want to learn more about. The chief has said, 'We know of the Muslim road but not the Jesus road. Now we do.'"

So farming and teaching — that's a typical weekday in the life of Price.

She spends her weekends in a modern house, with TV and AC, about an hour and a half outside Samogho. She drives her truck on the commute.

Why not make the commute everyday and live full-time in the comfortable house?

Well, Price doesn't want to do that. She wants to live with the people of Samogho and work beside them.

"There's a line in the Book of Revelation that says one day all nations will be around God rejoicing. That's what keeps me going," Price said, tears welling. "It breaks my heart to think that when Judgment comes, they won't be in heaven with me. It's just like someone telling you that your mother, father, brother or sister won't be with you in heaven. The people of Samogho are my family. I've grown to love them. And it kills me to think they'll be excluded."



# HAPP

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