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The Elk City Daily News

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New Charity Aims to Restore Written-Off Homes

By Bob Fisher
Managing Editor

The first steps are in place for a new non-profit entity in Elk City that is designed to help qualified home-owners bring distressed homes up to code, with the aim of possibly relieving some of the housing shortage in town, and restoring the integrity of neighborhoods in the older parts of town.

The founding board and officers of The Fuller Center of Elk City were named at a meeting Tuesday night at the Presbyterian Church.

President will be Scott Grubitz. It was Grubitz who first got in touch with the Fuller Center for Housing, a national group formed by Millard Fuller, who also started Habitat for Humanity. The latter group focuses on building new structures, while the Fuller Center works to restore existing houses.

The Fuller Center's mission statement says it is "faith driven and Christ centered, promotes collaborative and innovative partnerships with individuals and organizations in an unrelenting quest to provide adequate shelter for all people in need worldwide."

Grubitz got interesting in this while at a City Commission meeting where they were discussing tearing down a dilapidated home. He offered to help the family deal with the situation, and saw a local need for a non-profit entity.

The local group will be a covenant partner with the Fuller Center, and is going to

See New, p. 2a

NEW NON-PROFIT -- Above, the founding board members of The Fuller Center of Elk City are seen meeting Tuesday. From left are: back, Paul Currell, Michelle Kirby Roper, Jeff Jackson, Tony Mikles, Shonda Currell, Leroy Bruce, Danny Ringer and John Walker; front, Churck Hargrove, Shannon MacAbee, Brandon Culver, Elizabeth Perkinson, Scott Grubitz, Dave Tripp and Joe Thompson. (Staff Photo by Bob Fisher)

TODD RUSS RECEPTION -- District 57 Representative Todd Russ, at left, chat with (L-R) SWOSU President Randy Beutler, former Rep. Jack Bonney, and Dist. 60 Rep. Purcy Walker. When Dist. 60 moves east in November, Russ and Dist. 57 will include half of Elk City and most of Beckham County. (Staff Photo by Bob Fisher)

More Drilling in Store; But This Time It's for Oil

For the first time in 40 years, oil exploration is superceding natural gas in western Oklahoma. Chesapeake is slashing its natural gas production due to low prices.

By Bob Fisher
Managing Editor

It's no secret that drilling activity in western Oklahoma is picking up: anyone who has noticed the great number of petroleum-related vehicles on the roads can tell you that.

Indications are, however, that this time the wells are mostly drilling for oil, not gas.

One local authority, John Parrish, the senior land man at Arrowhead, says that oil prices are good, and natural gas prices are low.

"If it wasn't for the oil from the wells, the drilling right now would be dismal," Parrish said Tuesday. "Oil is sustaining the drilling. All of the drilling that has been done here for last 30 or 40 years has been primarily for natural gas, and any oil or condensate or distillate has been a byproduct." Now horizontal drilling allows for actual targeting of previously inaccessible oil rich formations.

They are drilling specifically for the oil now, for the first time in 40 years in this area.

Monday the natural gas price was below $3 per 1,000 cubic feet.

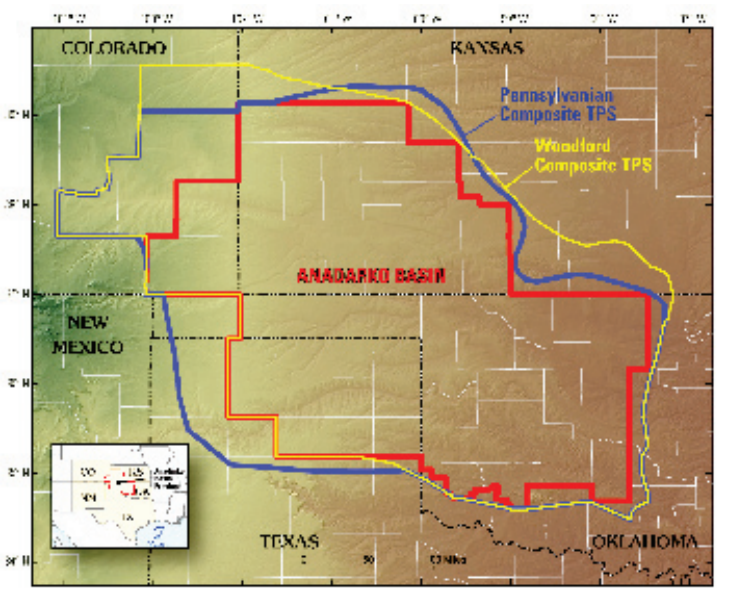
"In 2008 we saw some $12 gas (per 1K cubic feet)." Bloomerg's financial web page reported Monday that Chesapeake Energy Corp has announced it will cut spending in gas fields by 70 percent, cut output and idle rigs after the gas price hit a 10-year low.

The Oklahoma City-based company, the second largest natural gas producer, will cut production by 1 billion cubic feet a day, and drop spending on gas wells from $3.1 billion to $900 million this year.

Gas futures have fallen on the New York Mercantile Exchange by half this last year, the article said.

Chesapeake will idle half its drilling rigs in fields that produce only gas, such as the Barnett Shale of Texas, the Marcellus Shale and the Haynesville Shale.

Spending on undeveloped leases will fall to $1.4 billion in 2012 from $3.4 billion in 2011 and will be limited to areas where the company already is active, Chesapeake said.



ANADARKO BASIN Map showing boundaries of the Anadarko Basin Province (red line), the Woodford Composite total petroleum system (TPS), and the Pennsylvanian Composite TPS. Here lies 495 million barrels of oil, 27.5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and 410 million barrels of natural gas liquids. (From the U.S. Geological Survey)

Parrish noted that there was a kind of fall or crash in the fall of 2008, having more to do with traders and speculators, and the reluctance or inability of financial institutions to lend, than with the actual fundamentals of supply and demand.

He said that oil produced from points west of here will be trucked to Sayre, where Farmrail is upgrading its facilities to handle the rush and load it onto railroad cars.

Farmrail has applied for a grant, and the City of Elk City has agreed to provide in-kind assistance as a condition for obtaining the grant.

When asked about a rumor that there will be a drilling well on every section of land in Beckham County, Parrish said, "Those reports are optimistic. Some maps overstate the Granite Wash formation, showing it all down into Greer and Kiowa counties. That doesn't take into account some of the fault lines, and granite is up to near the surface not far down there." The granite is a barrier with present technology.

Only recently Jackson County got its first commercial well, but there's not much infrastructure, like pipelines, to handle gas that they find, he said.

What's in Store?

The forecast is for more drilling.

"From Clinton to Bessie west to Burns Flat and Canute, north

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ACADEMICS -- The Elk City Freshmen Academic Team attended the Froshmore Academic Tournament at Weatherford High School in Weatherford, Oklahoma on January 18th. These students finished 2nd place in the Social Studies Tournament and 3rd place in the Mathematics Tournament. Pictured in front are Dakota Davis, Justice Villa, and Daniel Miller; back row are Mrs. Stephanie Stanley, Sponsor, Carlos Ramirez, and Alison Hildebrand. (Photo provided)

College Scholarships to be Topic

Parents of Elk City High School Seniors are invited to "College 101" on Monday, January 30th at 6:00 p.m. at the ECHS Commons area. This meeting will provide important information about college/career planning, scholarship information, and assistance in understanding and applying for the different types of federal aid including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Ron Kistler, Director of Student Financial Services at SWOSU (Sayre Campus) will give information and training about various types of financial aid including information about completing the FAFSA. This form should be submitted by all families whose children will be attending any college or technical center in the fall of 2012.

Mrs. DeAnne Bell, career counselor at ECHS will be available to offer information about local scholarships students may apply for. She hopes all families of graduating seniors will attend this meeting regardless of what their student's plans may be after graduation.

She also stated that Elk City High School is very grateful to the groups, organizations, colleges, and individuals who have provided scholarships to the students throughout the years. She emphasized that any group or individual who may be interested in establishing a scholarship for the graduation call of 2012 may contact her office at Elk City High School.

Giffords Resigns House Seat

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a House occasionally known for untoward exits, Rep. Gabrielle Giffords stood among cheering, crying colleagues to say goodbye Wednesday, over a year after she was gravely wounded by a would-be assassin.

Giffords had come to the well of the chamber to resign, a formality since she'd signaled her intention earlier, as she recovers from a gunshot wound to the head during a shooting rampage in her home district in Arizona. It was one of the longer House goodbyes in recent times, as Democrats and Republicans lined up to see her off. A prolonged standing ovation followed a fusion of tributes and tears as colleagues praised her dignity and perseverance.

Surrounded by friends and colleagues and holding Rep. Jeff Flake's hand, Giffords heard her close friend, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, read her resignation letter to the chamber. In it, Giffords said she had "more work to do on my recovery before I can again serve in elected office."

Last January, a gunman opened fire at Giffords' "Congress on Your Corner" event in Tucson, killing six people and wounding 13, including Giffords who suffered the gunshot wound.

"I don't remember much from that terrible day, but I have never forgotten my constituents, my colleagues or the millions of Americans with whom I share great hopes for this nation," Giffords said in the letter to House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

After reading it, an emotional Wasserman Schultz helped Giffords slowly make her way to the podium where she hand

See House, p. 2a

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Tomorrow's WEATHER

High 51 | Low 33

Tonight
Partly Cloudy

Tomorrow
N wind 7-23 mph

Tomorrow Night
N wind 6-13 mph

Coming Up

Singles

Christian Singles will meet Friday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m. at Rebecca's House of Coffee in Elk City. A member of the group will be leading a Bible Study. Come hear God's word and enjoy great fellowship. For more information, call 580-821-1957.

CMF Super

The Christian Men's Fellowship at the First Christian Church in Elk City will host their Annual Groundhog Supper at the church on February 6 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Pancakes, waffles and drinks will be served. The supper is open to the public and costs only a donation.

Berlin Social

The Berlin Community Social will be Saturday, February 11, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at the Berlin Community Building. Please bring a salad or dessert.

Town Meeting Is Thursday To Discuss New School Facilities

Elk City Schools invites the public to a community meeting on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the High School Commons area. This is to gather input regarding our school facilities, and possible plans for a new facility.

Obama Delivers State of Union

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama delivered an election-year broadside to Republicans: Game on.

The GOP, from Congress to the campaign trail, signaled it's ready for the fight.

In his third State of the Union address, Obama issued a populist call for income equality that echoed the Occupy Wall Street movement. He challenged GOP lawmakers to work with him or move aside so he could use the power of the presidency to produce results for an electorate uncertain whether he deserves another term.

Facing a deeply divided Congress, Obama appealed to lawmakers to send him legislation on immigration, clean energy and housing, knowing full well the election-year prospects are bleak but aware that polls show that the independent voters who lifted him to the presidency crave bipartisanship.

"I intend to fight obstruction with action," Obama told a packed chamber and tens of millions of Americans watching in prime time. House Republicans greeted his words with stony silence.

The Democratic president's vision of an activist government broke sharply with Republican demands for less government intervention to allow free enterprise. The stark

See Obama, p. 2a

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New . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

apply to become a 501(c)3 nonprofit entity. Whereas Habitat requires groups to donate 10% to the national agency, the Fuller Center does not. All money raised locally stays for use in Elk City projects, Grubitz stressed. The Fuller Center has already offered $2,500 in matching funds for "our first successful project."

Other officers are: John Walker, vice president; Tony Miles, treasurer; and Michelle Kirby Roper, secretary.

Board members so far are: Paul Currell, Michelle Kirby Roper; Jeff Jackson; Tony Mikles; Shonda Currell; Leroy Bruce; Danny Ringer; John Walker; Chuck Hargrove; Shannon MacAbee; Brandon Culver; Elizabeth Wade Perkinson; Scott Grubitz; Dave Tripp; Joe Thompson and Bob Fisher.

The Fuller Center has an agreement with Do-It Centers nationwide to provide building materials at low cost. The local group will arrange to provide volunteer labor at no cost, and the home owners will agree to pay back the materials cost.

"That's the partnership," Grubitz said.

Michelle Kirby Roper, associate district judge, said it might be possible to recruit drug court participants to do this work as part of their community service. Volunteer opportunities here will abound for civic and youth groups, and churches.

Qualified applicants are being sought. A working phone number has been set up that people can call with applicant information, or to volunteer: 580 339-2205.

The group will meet again at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 13 in the Presbyterian church.

People who want to donate can do so right now by going to the Fuller web site, Fullercenter.org. Donations there will be set aside for the Elk City organization.

Applicants will be screened to see if they are in financial need. Some board members stressed that work such as this truly changes the lives of people receiving the help, since they see the commitment and love being demonstrated.

Grubitz said the City of Elk City's building inspector has agreed to call the Fuller Center first after inspecting homes on the dilapidated building complaint list.

Oil . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

of Elk City, is going to continue to be developed going west all the way to the state line," says Parrish. "Lot of wells proposed, lot of wells drilling."

"That will hold up as long as they are finding that oil. There's a lot going on right now, not only the Granite Wash, but other plays, like in Roger Mills county, Cleveland and Tonkawa formations. Over around Hinton, Watonga the Woodford Shale. Devon is leading the drilling over there, and that is probably the most active prospect in the state, with the number of rigs running.

Most of the drilling is with the new horizontal technology.

"Ninety-nine percent are horizontal."

Thank You
We are truly touched by the overwhelming support of the Ag community in Western Oklahoma. Your thoughts, prayers, and generosity has been greatly appreciated following the tragic loss of our show pigs.
Sincerely, Michael, Cristi, Kyler and Dalton Williams

House . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

ed the letter to a teary-eyed Boehner.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Giffords had become "an inspiring symbol of determination and courage to millions of Americans ... Her message of bipartisanship and civility is one that all in Washington and in the nation should emulate."

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., said Giffords' "strength against all odds serves and will continue to serve as a daily inspiration to all of us."

Moments later, the House, including Giffords, voted for her final piece of legislation—a bill that would impose tougher penalties on smugglers who use small, low-flying aircraft to avoid radar detection and bring drugs across the Mexican border.

The vote was 408-0.

Giffords submitted resignation letters to both Boehner and Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer, but it isn't effective until the end of the day.

It falls to Brewer to set a date for a special primary and general election to fill the Arizona seat.

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Obama . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

differences will be evident in the White House's dealings with Congress and in the presidential campaign over the next 10 months.

In the Republican response to the president's address, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, who once considered a White House bid, railed against the "extremism" of an administration that stifles economic growth.

"No feature of the Obama presidency has been sadder than its constant effort to divide us, to curry favor with some Americans by castigating others," Daniels said, speaking from Indianapolis. "As in previous moments of national danger, we Americans are all in the same boat."

Vice President Joe Biden said Wednesday the protracted policy fight with Republicans is "not about bad guys and good guys," but centers on how best to keep the middle class growing in America.

The administration has worked hard to strike deals with congressional Republicans on a wide array of issues, he said, including steps to rein in the mounting federal deficit. But Biden added that time after time in talks he held with congressional figures in both parties, he was told little could be accomplished because of the wall of opposition from 86 conservative House Republicans.

"It's like the tail is wagging the dog," the vice president said.

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., called the differences between the parties "stark" and said he thought little could be accomplished on the federal debt until the two sides come to grips with the skyrocketing costs of health care and the Medicare program.

"I don't think anyone wants to pay higher taxes," Cantor said. And he said Washington needs to "get out of the mindset" that the country's problems can be solved with new programs and accept that small business "is the backbone" of the economy.

Campaigning in Florida, GOP presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich rejected Obama's call for higher taxes on the wealthy.

"If he actually meant what he said it would be a disaster of the first order," said the former House speaker, who called it "the most anti-jobs single step he could take."

In his speech, Obama said getting a fair shot for all Americans is "the defining issue of our time." He described an economy on the rebound from the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, with more than 3 million jobs created in the last 22 months and U.S. manufacturers hiring. Although unemployment is high at 8.5 percent, home sales and corporate earnings have increased, among other positive economic signs.

Republicans say the president's policies have undermined the economy.

Obama "had the opportunity and the responsibility to level with the American people, admit that the policies of the past three years have delivered an underwhelming record of economic growth and job creation, and show an interest in changing direction and uniting, not dividing the nation," said Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga., head of the Republican Policy Committee. "The president failed to meet that responsibility."

Area Deaths

Modesta Barazza

Memorial services for Modesta Barraza will be conducted Friday, January 27 at 11 a.m. from the Doves of Peace Church with David Woodard officiating.

She was born June 15, 1945 at Molina, TX to Juan and Victoria (Chavez) Rios and died Monday, January 24, 2012 at the age of 66.

She came to Mangum in 1960 and then to Elk City a couple of years later where she has lived since. She was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Perry Padron; two sisters, Aveline and Mary and three brothers, Oscar, Raymond and Ernie.

Survivors include her husband, Lorenzo Barazza of the Elk City home; three children, SanJuanita White of Elk City, Ramiro Padron of Elk City, Priscilla Padron of Oklahoma City; several grandchildren and great grandchildren; four sisters, Connie Woodard of Elk City, Molly Herndon of Perryton, TX, Alyssa Izaguirre of Clinton, Rebecca Safranca of Phoenix, AZ and four brothers, Johnny Rios of Oklahoma City, Jessie Rios of Marlow, Roy Rios of Elk City and Wally Rios of Elk City.

An online registry is available @ www.martinfhok.com.

Lorene "Renee" Jones

Funeral services for Lorene "Renee" Jones will be conducted Friday, January 27, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. from the Martin Funeral Chapel. Interment will be in the Fairlawn Cemetery under the direction of the Martin Funeral Home of Elk City.

Lorene "Renee" Jones was born October 6, 1922 and died Tuesday, January 25, 2012 at the age of 89. A full obituary will follow.

Argus Hamilton

God bless America, and how's everybody?

President Obama delivered his State of the Union to a joint session of Congress in the U.S. Capitol House chamber on Tuesday. He began the speech by saying the state of the union is good. It's always a smart idea to start your speech with a joke to get the crowd on your side.

President Obama took off on a cross-country campaign swing Wednesday. He will fly from D.C. to Detroit to Des Moines to Denver to Las Vegas to Tucson. It's not a good sign for your fundraising when you can only campaign in cities serviced by Southwest Airlines.

Russian space scientists said their Venus rover took photos of human-like beings on Venus thirty years ago visible in the vapor. The spacecraft landed in L.A. before we took the lead out of the gasoline. Any re-run of the Rockford Files will give you the same images.

Hillary Clinton named Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as U.S. cultural ambassador to the world. He was a Lakers superstar in the Seventies. That's how far back they have to go to find a Muslim-American who's grandfathered out of any suspicion of being connected to Al-Qaeda.

President Obama hits the road today to highlight his first term successes. He got rid of Osama bin Laden, he got rid of Anwar al-Awlaki, he got rid of Moammar Kadaffi. It would guarantee his re-election if somebody would just re-name our top problem Nation al-Debt.

Newt Gingrich leaped to the top of the Florida primary polls on Sunday. His appeal is primal. Every Republican man in America loves the way he stands up to his ex-wives and every Republican woman secretly believes that she could be Mrs. Gingrich number four.

Newt Gingrich ripped CNN for bringing up his personal life in Thursday's debate. The message is crystal clear. If a U.S. congressman can't expect a big salary, twenty staffers, an office bar and an open marriage then government jobs will never attract our best people.

U.S. Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky refused an airport body scan in Nashville Monday after something mysterious inside the left leg of his pants triggered the metal detector. Everyone else knew what it was. All of the Pauls travel with a musket and a tri-corner hat.

Mitt Romney brought up Newt Gingrich's House Ethics Committee trial from a dozen years ago on ethics violations. He was fined three hundred grand and Bob Dole loaned him the money to pay the fine. It's the first time an airbag has ever been saved by a person.

Mitt Romney campaigned in Florida Monday after losing big in South Carolina's GOP primary, and this time he's trying a more populist approach. He told voters he was brought up on the real streets of America. The Michigan governor's mansion is in a really bad neighborhood.

The NAACP threatened action against Microsoft Thursday if it releases its new Avoid the Ghetto app, which uses GPS to help users avoid dangerous neighborhoods. Avoid the Ghetto was Microsoft's second try at an acceptable name. They were worried that if they called it the Cocaine Shopping Mall app it would crash the system.

Mississippi lawmakers proposed a law preventing last-minute pardons of convicted killers by its governors, like the ones Haley Barbour just signed. It's an exit tradition. Haley just resigned as governor of Mississippi to accept O.J. Simpson's invitation to become governor of Nevada.

The USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier led a group of U.S. and British warships into the Persian Gulf Monday. That morning the EU voted to cut off oil imports from Iran. The U.S. and Britain want to keep the Gulf open just to make sure the oil doesn't feel unwanted.

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