

# News-Sun



JAL EUNICE HOBBS LOVINGTON TATUM SEMINOLE DENVER CITY

## Warehouse fire



### HPD issues warning about scam

Yard workers take money up front, don't finish job

NEWS-SUN STAFF REPORT  
Hobbs police are asking area residents to look out for a group of traveling workers going door to door soliciting yard work and tree trimming. The men are involved in a scam, Hobbs Police Department spokesman Officer Mike Stone said.

According to Stone, the men will agree to do yard work or trim trees and request the money upfront, but will not complete the job.

"It's a scam," he said.

HPD has one suspect description of a white male in his mid to late 30s driving a white pickup with a black trailer.

The man's shirt had a logo and the pickup had a logo, Stone said.

"The logo could be magnetic and they could take it off and put a different one on," he added.

While HPD only received reports of the men Thursday, the suspects could have moved on to another community in the area, he said.

Stone said residents should be wary of anyone requesting pay upfront for any service, especially if the person is not familiar.

Anyone who has been defrauded or comes in contact with these men is asked to contact Hobbs Police at 397-9265.

### LOVINGTON

## New policy aimed to save money

Workers won't be able to take city vehicles home

KELLEY HOLMBERG NEWS-SUN

Beginning Monday, Lovington city employees will not be allowed to take their city vehicles home.

Lovington City Manager Michael Leighton said a mandate requiring city employees to leave their city vehicles at their department when off duty will become official Monday, but many of the city's employees are already observing the new mandate.

Leighton said he, the Lovington Police Department and Fire Department are included in the city employees who will now have to drive

SEE LOVINGTON, Page 5

## Cause unknown; no one injured 'It only took minutes'

DANIEL RUSSELL BETH HAHN NEWS-SUN  
A large warehouse building went up in flames Friday afternoon at the southwest corner of Marland and Leech.

No one was injured as the fire quickly swallowed the building, collapsing the roof and eventually the walls. The building is a total loss. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

"It only took a couple of minutes,"



said Michelle Kee, the Diamond Shamrock gas station attendant across the street about the fire starting and then spreading to the entire building. "I don't know what happened."

She said the building was engulfed quickly. Within minutes, flames and smoke could be seen on all ends of the nearly half-block long building.

"There was smoke coming out and a couple minutes later, it was like this," Kee said as flames danced several stories high.

Hobbs Fire Chief Manny Gomez said the 12:53 p.m. call came in as pallets on fire. When the first firetruck arrived, firefighters found pallets on a southeast loading dock on fire, but the porch eave to the loading dock was already on flames. The department suspects the fire had by then worked its way into the crawl spaces.

An isolated building, Gomez said the fire was contained to the warehouse building.

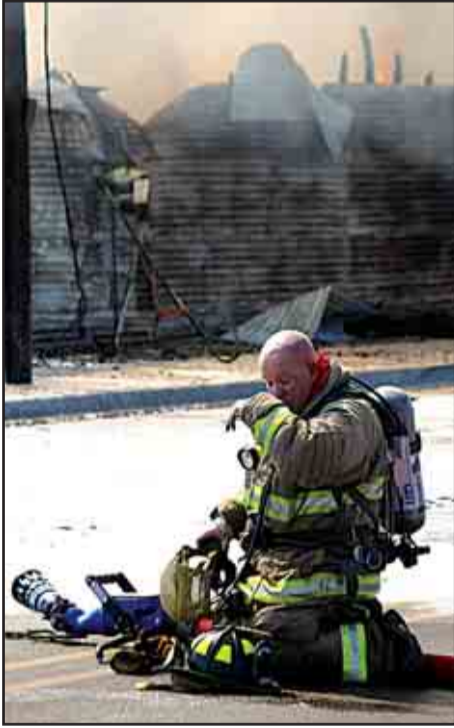
"We had zero surrounding exposures," Gomez said, although he said a small grass fire on the west side did burn for a few minutes.

HFD had 18 personnel plus commanders at the scene. Additional fire personnel were called in to

SEE FIRE, Page 5



TOP: The former Hobbs grocery warehouse building at Leech and Marland burned to the ground on Friday afternoon. The building was a total loss and there were no injuries.



FAR LEFT: Two dozen Hobbs firefighters and several trucks responded to the fire at Leech and Marland, diverting traffic off of Marland, which is Highway 62/180.

LEFT: A Hobbs firefighter takes a break from the heat and flames.

ABOVE: Hobbs firefighters spray foam on the northeast corner of the former Hobbs grocery building.

LEVI HILL/NEWS-SUN PHOTOS

### Inside Today

Obituaries .....2  
Neighbors .....4  
Opinion .....5  
Weather .....6  
Sports .....7  
Classifieds/Stocks .....9  
TV .....10  
Fun & Games .....12

### OIL PRICES

West Texas intermediate  
Spot \$71.77 +.08  
Posted \$68.25 NC  
Sour \$64.10 NC  
N. Gas \$4.770 -.193



## Not done enough? Nobel panel says Obama has

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Arizona State University declined to give President Barack Obama an honorary degree, saying it was too early in his presidency, Obama essentially agreed.

"I come to embrace the notion that I haven't done enough in my life," Obama told the class of 2009 last May.

On Friday, the Norwegian Nobel Committee begged to differ.

It stunned the world by awarding Obama the Nobel Peace Prize, citing global optimism fostered by calls for peace and cooperation by a president in office less than nine months. The committee also praised Obama's pledges to reduce the world's cache of nuclear arms, ease American conflicts with Muslim nations and strengthen the U.S. role in combating climate change.

Obama's reaction was about the same as it was in Arizona.

SEE OBAMA, Page 5

### What do you think about President Obama getting a Nobel Peace Prize?



Connell  
"It's fantastic that the rest of the world can see America's president as a peace-maker."  
Linda Connell  
62 Lovington Teacher



Olliff  
"It's too soon for that. There were others that deserved it more."  
James Olliff  
67 Hobbs Consultant's assistant



Haynes  
"It's beautiful."  
Brenda Haynes  
57 Hobbs Assembler for electric company



Wright  
"The Obama administration had a rocky start. Maybe the prize will make it better — get everyone on his side."  
Bobby Wright  
19 Hobbs Student



Terry  
"I think it's great for the United States."  
Dwayne Terry  
50 Hobbs Unemployed