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**Texas town seeks new leadership**

NEVADA (AP) — It's been almost 60 years since a tornado and the Depression pulled this once-thriving cotton community to the brink of death.

Now, 26 registered voters in this town of 250 people have petitioned for a new government, and the town is hopeful of an Aug. 9 election to set up the first government in about 50 years.

The town is located 30 miles northeast of Dallas.

The town of Wylie, about five miles to the southwest, has pushed recently to annex land around Lake Lavan, just outside Nevada.

With no town council, Nevada can't do anything about the growth, but with a city government it could create a buffer and plan its own development.

Collin County commissioners are expected to set the Aug. 9 Nevada city election when they hold their regular meeting Tuesday.

The community does not have to re-incorporate because the vote to dis-incorporate in the 1930s didn't follow state voting regulations, officials said. So the only task left for the town is to elect government officials.

George Webb, 66, a retired farmer who saw the last town's mayor step down, is one of the 26 registered voters who signed the petition.

"We decided we want to control our destiny rather than have someone else in control," said Webb. "We'd at least like to have something to say about it, raise a fuss at least."

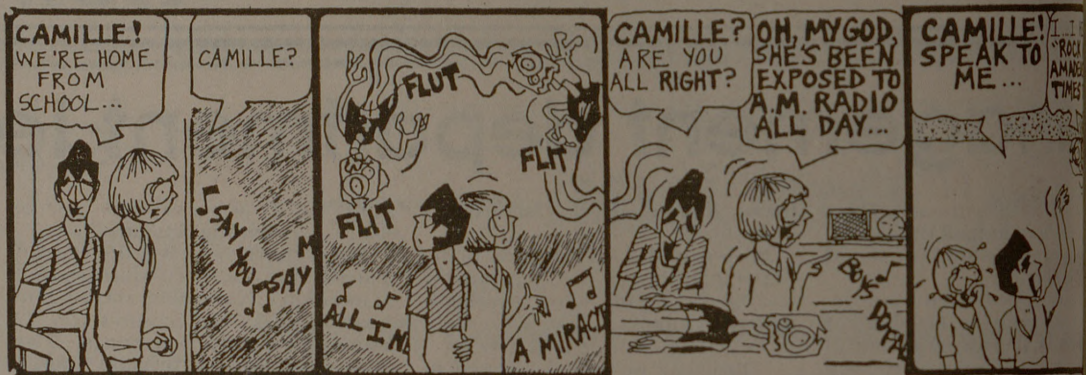
Nevada began slipping into obscurity on May 9, 1927, when a tornado killed 23 people and injured 60, destroyed development around the town square and levelled half the community's houses.

Six years later, the economic woes of the Depression forced the community's last bank to move to Farmersville. Businesses closed. Town leaders resigned. People moved away and the one-time boom town that exploded to life at a railroad station in 1891 became just a junction on a rural road.

In the 1920s, Nevada had 750 residents. But today, the population is 250, and the only structures are two gas station-markets, a post office, two churches and about 100 houses.

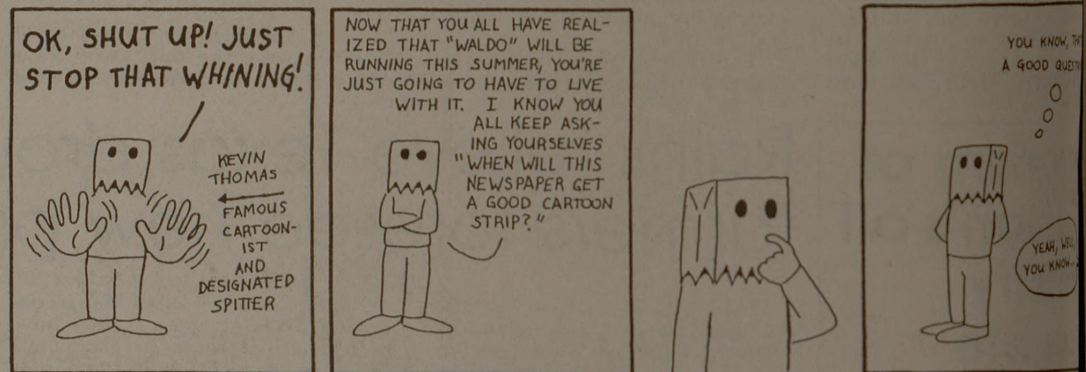
**Warped**

by Scott McC



**Waldo**

by Kevin Tho



**Shoe**

by Jeff Mack



**Funky Winkerbean**

by Tom Bo



**Peso makes shaky market comeback**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican currency markets reopened nervously Monday after the peso plunged more than 20 percent last week in a stunning dive that analysts blamed on the economy's uncertain outlook.

The peso's value held steady during the morning, began slipping at midday but then strengthened at some commercial banks.

Private exchange houses in Mexico City opened their windows to offer 715 pesos to customers who wanted to trade a U.S. dollar on the free market. For those wanting to buy a dollar, the cost was as much as 745 pesos.

By midday, the rates were 735 and 765. Commercial banks gave 730 pesos for a dollar and demanded 735 pesos for those wanting to buy one.

Later in the afternoon, it strengthened to 712 and 718 at some commercial banks.

A week ago, the rate was 554 and 559.

In El Paso, private banks on Monday quoted rates of 700 and 735, up from 660 and 690 at the end of the last week.

The decline in the free-market rate, which is used in tourism and for most border transactions, means travelers visiting Mexico can get more pesos for their dollars this week than last. Mexicans, though, have to come up with more pesos if they want to buy dollars.

The value of a second rate, regulated by the government, slid gradually last week, standing at about 546 pesos to the dollar on Monday. This rate, set daily by representatives of the nation's central bank and commercial banks, is used in about 80 percent of commercial transactions.

Currency traders and other analysts said the peso plunge was sparked by investors nervous about a string of bad economic news. In shaky economic times, investors often trade their own weaker currencies for stronger ones like the dollar.

An official at the Bank of Mexico, the central bank, said that "there's always concern" in the government about such sharp declines.

But the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the central bank "is not going to intervene in the free market. Let it get wherever it wishes." In the past, analysts suspected that the central bank was directly or indirectly supplying dollars to the currency markets to support the peso. The central bank denied it was taking such action.

Treasury Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog said over the weekend that the government would have something to say shortly about the deterioration of the peso.

Among the factors making investors nervous about the economy is the government's inability so far to work out a new financial aid package with the International Monetary Fund and foreign bankers.

The government needs to help it meet payments on a billion foreign debt, the second largest in the developing world, Brazil.

Silva Herzog raised the issue late last week in an interview. The Associated Press that might suspend payments if the negotiations were successful.

Moreover, there have been in local newspapers — reported by government officials — the administration of President Miguel de la Madrid is set a series of measures that will be strong medicine to the economy.

One currency trader, who asked not to be identified for reasons, said these factors and reports of divisions within Madrid's Cabinet over economic have contributed to a lack of confidence in the government.

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