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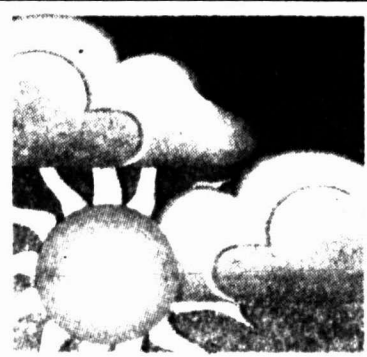
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Vol. 92 No. 80 • Pampa, Texas
50¢ Daily • Sunday '1

Pampa

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High today mid 90s
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For weather details see Page 2.

PAMPA — U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry will be in Pampa tomorrow at 5 p.m. at Lovett Library to host a town meeting on retirement security. The forum is part of a series of town meetings he is holding this year in all 38 counties of the 13th Congressional District. While the meetings are expected to cover a wide range of topics, one of the issues on which he plans to focus is retirement security.

HOUSTON (AP) — Two transplant patients at separate hospitals here have shared the same liver in what doctors say is an important way to extend the use of donated organs.

Surgeons split the donor liver and transplanted the halves in two operations. The doctors performed the first transplant at Hermann Hospital on Tuesday morning, then transported the second iced half to nearby Methodist Hospital, where another patient received it in the evening.

Patty Fleischman, a devoutly religious Bellville woman, received the second half.

"It's amazing what they can do now," the 56-year-old woman told the Hou. The donor liver came from a 21-year-old male who had been shot in the head Monday, she said. He was brain dead when his liver was removed Tuesday morning. The organ was then split in half in a complex procedure that requires tying off more than 400 blood vessels.

• **Kenneth Harold Hunt, 71**, bookkeeper, farmer, rancher.
• **Neva 'Tudy' Roling, 79**, hairdresser, deli owner.

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Sports9

You're Careful Behind The Wheel Are You As Careful Choosing Your Car Insurance?

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Top O' Texas Rodeo ... Volunteers scurry to get everything ready

By **DAVID BOWSER**
Staff Writer

Buck Arrington looked at the thunderstorm as he and other volunteers prepared the arena for next week. From under the brim of his sweat-stained gray cowboy hat, he could see the dark blue rain streaming to the ground in the distance.

He hoped that some of the moisture would fall on his family's place, the Rocking Chair Ranch, continuing a year of rain and lush green pastures instead of evaporating into the summer heat like last year.

Like most ranchers, Arrington is willing to take any rain he can get, except for July 11 through 17. That's when Pampa hosts the Top O' Texas Rodeo and associated Kid Pony Show.

William M. "Buck" Arrington is the president of the Top O' Texas Rodeo Association this year. While he would appreciate a good rain, he'd rather it waited until the rodeo was over.

A year's worth of planning and work will culminate when the chutes swing open beginning at 4 p.m. Sunday and the first pint-sized contestant in the Kid Pony Show comes barreling out on a stick horse. Monday and Tuesday performances will begin at 7 p.m.

"I get a kick out of watching these kids," Buck said. "They really have a fun time."

Arrington's been involved as a Top O' Texas Rodeo board member for a dozen or so years, but before that, his involvement in the rodeo dates to the Kid



The newly painted sign over the bucking chutes welcomes participants and guests to the Top O' Texas Rodeo and Kid Pony Show is reflected in Buck Arrington's sun glasses.

Pony Show when he was 6 or 7 years old.

"It was a lot of fun," he said. "That's one reason I'm doing this now."

The 53rd annual Top O' Texas Rodeo will follow later in the week beginning at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Preceding the nightly performances of the rodeo, sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, there will be mutton busting for boys and girls 7 and under, another Top O' Texas tradition.

Starting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, there will be free barbecue for ticket holders at the rodeo arena. Friday night is the rodeo queen pageant.



Scott Hahn, Buck Arrington and Rodney McCulloch gather at the Top O' Texas Rodeo arena as they have most of the summer to be prepared for next week's rodeo.

Saturday's celebration will begin at 10 a.m. with a parade. Each rodeo performance will be followed by a dance, another tradition.

But Buck Arrington knows about traditions.

His great grandfather, G.W. "Cap" Arrington, came to the Texas Panhandle with the

Frontier Battalion of the Texas Rangers more than a century ago. Cap Arrington stayed on to become one of the first sheriffs in the area and establish the family's ranching operation.

"I'm just going to try to keep it going," Buck said.

That applies to both the family ranching operation and the

Top O' Texas Rodeo.

Buck Arrington said the board and numerous volunteers and sponsors put together a lot of work and money to make sure the 53rd edition of the professional rodeo is a success.

He just hopes there's a nice shower on July 18. He'll be ready for one.

Investigators probe blast at 6666 Ranch Toddler hurt, mom killed

By **NANCY YOUNG**
Managing Editor

Robin Pennington, 34, was killed in an explosion early Tuesday morning which ripped through her ranch home on the 6666 Ranch 12 miles north of Panhandle.

Her 2-year-old daughter, Sage, was injured in the blast. A cowboy on the 6666s for several years, Shane Pennington, husband of Robin and father of Sage, had gone to the ranch bunkhouse to report the smell of gas in the home when the explosion occurred at 5:20 a.m. Tuesday morning, according to reports.

The early morning explosion leveled the house where the young family made their home. The entire contents of the home were also destroyed in the blast.

Investigators from the state fire marshal's office in Austin arrived at the ranch location Tuesday afternoon to investigate the cause of the blast as did investigators of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agency in Oklahoma City, Okla. Texas Railroad Commission and representatives of the of the Conoco Plant in Pampa were also assisting in the investigation.

(See BLAST, Page 2)

Today's Horseshoe clue

The Wednesday clue in the Golden Horseshoe Treasure Hunt in preparation for the Top O' Texas Rodeo was at Rheams Diamond Shop. The Thursday clue can be found at a bank.

The contest is being held in conjunction with Top O' Texas Rodeo to be held July 15, 16 and 17. Clues will be given each day that will help locate the horseshoe.

The lucky person who finds the horseshoe will receive a box seat to all three performances of the 53rd Annual Top O' Texas Rodeo. Value of the box seat is \$1150. The winner will also be able to ride in the rodeo parade on Saturday, July 17.

The clues will be placed in selected stores in Pampa and can only be obtained by going into that store. The kind of store will be listed daily in The Pampa News. The name of that store will be listed the next day along with the kind of store for the current day's clue.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Jane Jacobs at the rodeo office, 669-0434.



Laura Johnson in Miss Texas pageant

By **NANCY YOUNG**
Managing Editor

Pampa's own Laura Johnson is in Fort Worth this week competing in the Miss Texas Pageant for the second consecutive year.

Competing under the title of Miss Amarillo Area, Laura arrived in Fort Worth over the weekend for the pageant.

On Monday night she participated in the interview portion of the pageant. Her mother, Linda Johnson, said Laura felt very positive about the interview. Each contestant is interviewed by seven judges during the 12-minute session.

Tonight she will be in the pre-

liminary swim suit competition. On Thursday she will present her talent which is a vocal presentation of "Unforgettable".

Friday night she will be a contestant in the evening gown preliminary event. The new Miss Texas will be named Saturday night.

Laura, a 21-year-old student at Texas Tech, participated in the pageant as Miss Lake Meredith last year and was ranked 14th in the statewide pageant.

Laura's father, Dr. Jay Johnson and sister, Anna are already in Fort Worth for the pageant. Her mother, Linda, and grandmother, Evelyn Johnson, were leaving this



Laura Johnson

afternoon to be on hand for the events tonight.

The contestants have been busy with rehearsals and other scheduled activities throughout the week in preparation for the preliminary events.

Driver in fatal accident indicted by grand jury

Justin David Sober, 22, the driver in a May 30 fatal accident which also hurt two others has been indicted on two counts of intoxicated assault.

His was among indictments returned by a new grand jury yesterday in the 223rd District Court of Judge Lee Waters.

Sober's bond was set at \$15,000 on each count. He has already been indicted on charges of intoxicated manslaughter in the death of Stacey Kaye Schorn. The bond for that charge was set at \$25,000. He remains in Gray County Jail.

Other indictments include **Johnny Dale Aufleger**, 23, 528 Naida, was indicted on charges of possession of a controlled substance with a \$5,000 bond.

Scott Lee Baker, 36, 330 N. Wells, was indicted on charges of possession of marijuana with intent to deliver with a \$7,500 bond.

Kenneth Ray Black, 44, 408 N. Sumner, was indicted on charges of driving while intoxicated subsequent offense with a \$5,000 fine.

Jennifer Jo Bowers, 22, 330 N. Wells, was indicted

on charges of possession of marijuana with intent to deliver with a \$4,000 bond.

Kevin Lynn Boyd, 36, 320 Anne, was indicted on charges of burglary of a habitation with a \$15,000 bond.

Troy Dowill Britt, 36, Letors, was indicted on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle with a \$1,500 bond.

James Michael Brown, 26, 2129 N. Dwight, was indicted on charges of driving while intoxicated subsequent offense with a \$2,500 fine.

Michelle Annette Cole, 34, 408 N. Frost, was indicted on charges of possession of a controlled substance with a \$2,500 bond.

Tommy Joe Cox, 23, 1216 E. Kingsmill, was indicted on charges of credit card abuse with a \$1,500 bond.

Debbie Fondren Darby, 40, 1130 S. Hobart, was indicted on charges of tampering with a government record with a \$1,500 bond.

(See GRAND JURY, Page 2)

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JULY 07 1999

PFAA Summer Arts Program



(Community Camera photo by Kellie Mullican)

Pampa Fine Arts Association recently conducted week-long classes as part of its Summer Arts Program. PFAA expanded the program this summer to include youth classes in Miami and adult classes in Pampa. Youth classes were recently

taught in Pampa and, for a second year in a row, youth classes will be taught in McLean this week. Above: Keely Adams concentrates to play a piece of music she's learned this week in Kimberly Wellborn's recorder class in Miami.

Museum Show and Tell, lecture series

BORGER — The first speakers in a two-part series, hosted by the Hutchinson County Museum, will be held beginning at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 11. The series is part of the 18th Annual Quilt Show at the museum. The speakers will be Emily Nipp and Thunda Wigley from R&R Quilt and More in Amarillo.

Nipp began quilting 10 years ago, following the birth of her fifth child. Always an avid seamstress and crafter, when the "quilting bug" bit her, all of her other craft projects ended up in garage sales. She learned to make quilts the old-fashioned way — by hand, but soon realized that in order to make enough quilts to be able to pass them on to her children, she was going to have to speed up the process.

That learning process has evolved to the point of passing that knowledge on to others. Nipp teaches students the art of piecing, appliqueing and quilting by machine. She will be presenting a trunk show-lecture on the various quilts she

has made and the techniques she used. Some of her techniques include invisible machine appliqueing and machine quilting methods called stippling, free motion and echo. She also designs her own patterns. She was commissioned to make the quilt that appeared on the cover of the 1996 Southwestern Public Service Annual Report.

Emily's quilts have exhibited and won awards in several shows. She is a quilt show judge and lecturer. She is also a member of "Who's Who in American Quilting," published by the American Quilter's Society.

Wigley is a returning speaker from last year. She will be sharing about the in-store quilting club called "Thimbleberries." Her presentation will "Show and Tell" about the club's quilts and fabric patterns. Techniques will include easy speed piecing and utilizing bold and graphic fabric display to make a statement and show off the quilt.

Predator Management Training slated in Stinnett

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Agriculture will conduct a Predator Management Training Program at 1 p.m. Monday, July 12 in the Courthouse basement, 136 and Main St., in Stinnett. The training session will include identifying causes of predation, alternative methods of predator control and M-44 sodium cyanide application. Individuals who want to use M-44 to control coyotes, feral dogs and foxes preying on livestock should attend the course.

To continue using M-44 sodium cyanide, all M-44 applicators certified prior to April 18, 1988, must take this course to be recertified. Proper certification to use M-44 also requires possession of a private applicator certificate or license, a non-

commercial applicator license or a commercial applicator license to purchase restricted-use and state-limited-use pesticides. Information on obtaining

these types of licenses will be covered at the training session. For more information, contact Tom Benton, Hutchinson Co. Extension agent, at (806) 878-4026.

TDH to offer immunization clinics

CANYON — The Texas Department of Health will offer immunization clinics to protect against the following childhood diseases: polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough, measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae type B) and varicella (chicken pox).

TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount of money charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay.

Immunization clinics scheduled in the area are:
 • Pampa — 9 a.m.-5 p.m., July 7 and 21, Family Health Center of Pampa, 600 W. Kentucky
 • Canadian — 11 a.m.-12 noon and 1-4 p.m., July 26, City Hall, first floor, 6 Main Street
 • Groom — 2-4 p.m., July 29, Groom Rural Clinic.

Employer Day



(Special photo)

Sgt. Alan Olsen of Pampa (left), visits State Representative Warren Chisum and Major Ronnie Shell, Lubbock, during National Guard training late last month at Ft. Hood.

Calendar of events

TOASTMASTERS
 The Toastmasters will meet every Wednesday night from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. at Furrs Cafeteria.

WHITE DEER LAND MUSEUM
 The White Deer Land Museum (112-116 S. Cuyler) visiting hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. There will be history of the White Deer Land Co., and the early area settlers and outstanding arrowhead collection and art gallery. Elevator.

RED CROSS
 The Red Cross is offering free blood sugar and blood pressure testing every Friday from 10 a.m. - noon at Red Cross Office, 108 N. Russell.

EMMAUS REUNION
 Emmaus Reunion Group meets the second Thursday of each month. For more information call 669-3426 or 669-9226.

HIGH PLAINS EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION
 High Plains Epilepsy Association of Amarillo, funded in part by Pampa United Way, will have a licensed social work-

er in Pampa from 9:30-12 noon the second Tuesday of each month beginning Tuesday, June 8, at Pampa Community Building, 200 N. Ballard. The program assists people with epilepsy and their families. To make an appointment, contact the Amarillo office at 1-800-806-7236.

You're invited to a Special Town Meeting on

RETIREMENT SECURITY

Hosted by:

U.S. Representative Mac Thornberry

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Thursday, July 8th at 5:00 pm

Lovett Memorial Library, Meeting Room
 111 North Houston
 Pampa

For more information, please call #371-8844

hello.

8:07 a.m. "I'm running a little late..."

hello.

12:22 p.m. "Can you pick up the dry cleaning?"

hello.

5:14 p.m. "I'll get the kids, you get dinner."

good buy.

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Tarzan (G)
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 Daily Matinee 1:55

The General's Daughter (R)
 Nightly At 7:00 Only
 Daily Matinee 1:45

Austin Powers II (PG-13)
 Nightly At 9:15 Only

Big Daddy (PG-13)
 2 Shows Nightly 7:05 & 8:55
 Daily Matinee 1:50

Wild Wild West (PG-13)
 2 Shows Nightly 7:00 & 9:05
 Daily Matinee 1:45

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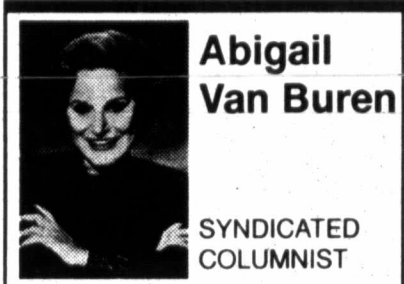
Husband Who Works at Home Pursues Extramarital Project

DEAR ABBY: My husband was downsized from a large company 16 months ago. He collected unemployment for six months, then began a business that he runs from our home.

I have been the sole support of our family during this period. Recently he began taking a class near his former office. His class began in the morning and ended at 2 p.m. When he returned home one evening, I asked him how his day had gone. He stated that he had gone to lunch with a lady from his old office. (She happened to call him last week for someone's phone number and mentioned that "no one ever takes her to lunch.") My husband generously offered because he was going to be in the area the next week. He never mentioned it during the week prior to what I call "his date."

His class needed to work through lunch, so he called her to tell her. She offered to wait for him and have a late lunch when his class was over. He called her on my cell phone before the end of class to say he'd pick her up. This was at 1:30 p.m. He picked her up at his former office, and they drove to an expensive restaurant because "he didn't want to run into any former co-workers from his old company."

As he told me this story, I started to get angry because he had told me the previous day that we could not go out to eat because money was tight. When he saw I was getting angry, he jokingly said he had just made up the story to see



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

my reaction. I decided to check it out by looking for a receipt from the restaurant that he originally stated he had gone to. I found it in his wallet and saw that his first story had been the correct one.

Looking back, I now realize that he cleaned his car — something he never does — in preparation for this date, borrowed my cell phone to confirm the date, and was unusually concerned about his appearance before going to this class that day.

He thinks I'm out of line for being upset that he took this divorced "friend" to lunch. He says I'm jealous.

I feel used and disrespected since he kept the date a secret, picked her up for the lunch and then lied about it. What do you think?

ANGRY WIFE

DEAR WIFE: I think your marriage could use a clean-up job. I smell a rat — and I think it's your husband.

DEAR ABBY: I would like to

share with you our son-in-law's clever and distinctive names for me and my husband.

He calls us "MIL" (or "Millie") for mother-in-law, and "FIL" for father-in-law. This nicely solves the multiple "Moms" and "Dads" problem when both families gather for parties.

On another note: His parents were already grandparents with their own special names before he and our daughter gave birth to a son.

When our grandson was close to 2, and we despaired of ever having a grandparent name, he began calling me "Mum" — his version of our daughter's "Mom" name for me.

Perhaps this will be of help to other families having difficulties with the "name game."

A HAPPY 'MIL' IN BONSALE, CALIF.

DEAR HAPPY 'MIL': You have an innovative son-in-law. His nicknames for you and your husband are refreshing when one considers what some in-laws are called.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

unwilling to work as part of a team. Take solid steps to ensure your long-term goals. Your charm melts others' barriers. Be the "personality kid" on your block! Tonight: Start the weekend early!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** Maintain a high profile. Don't let a partner cause a problem. Sometimes you simply need to ignore what is happening. Know on which side your bread is buttered. Stay focused on work. A hunch pays off with a boss or when making an important appearance. Take the lead. Tonight: In the limelight!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

**** Take an overview. Know exactly what you should expect. Stay abreast of changes. Your ability to root out a problem helps you shine at work. You might need to give another more space, now. Establish strong limits within a friendship. Tonight: Make plans to take off!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** Redefine your commitment to a partnership. You might feel that another has overstepped a boundary. Recognize what is important to you. Decide what you would really like. Add more enjoyment to a relationship with a child or loved one. Both of you will appreciate the excitement. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** You could find that another is uptight, as he puts the kibosh on what you think are really great plans. Allow spontaneity to play a larger role in your life. Take an overview; detach from petty details. Make plans for a mini-vacation in the very near future. How about tomorrow, for instance? Tonight: Follow

another's lead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** A lot of information comes to the surface. Another might be quite hard on you. Pace yourself; unexpected communication requires that a schedule be revamped. A partner pitches in and does his share. Together, you make quite a team. Tonight: Working late.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** Finances could go off the deep end if you take a money risk. Don't gamble. Maintain a conservative stance. A child or loved one seems to be in a sour mood. Right now, you can change anyone or anything. Be with those you enjoy. Tonight: Playfulness works.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Another demands more of you. Your response may be a resounding, "Enough!" Listen to what is happening with others, but opt to go in your own direction. Your personality melts barriers and allows greater flexibility in the work arena. Show your effectiveness. Tonight: Home, to prepare for the weekend!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** Listen carefully to what others say. Communication is tense. Be creative, open-minded and flexible. Doors open. You experience an unexpected insight, though your feelings might be hurt first. A flirtation could develop into more. Tonight: Kick up your heels!

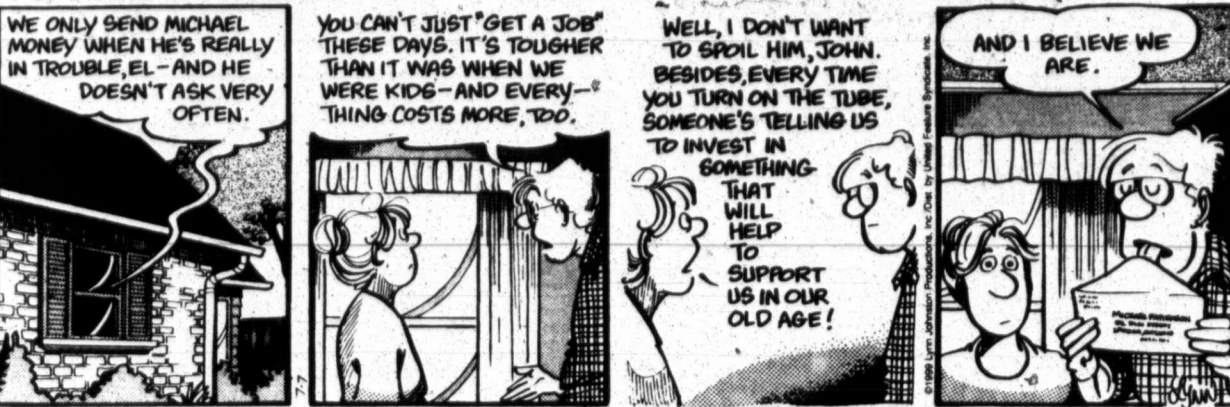
BORN TODAY

Actor Kevin Bacon (1958), actress Anjelica Huston (1951), actress Kim Darby (1948)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.coolpage.com/bigar>.

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For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



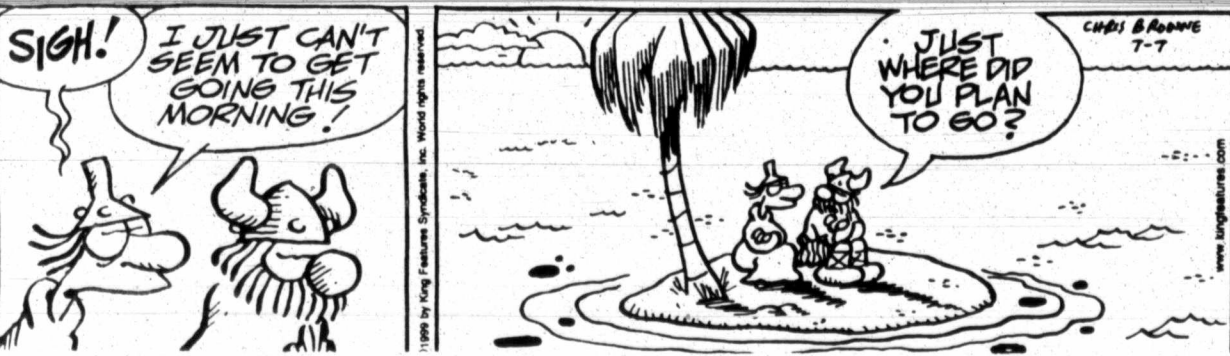
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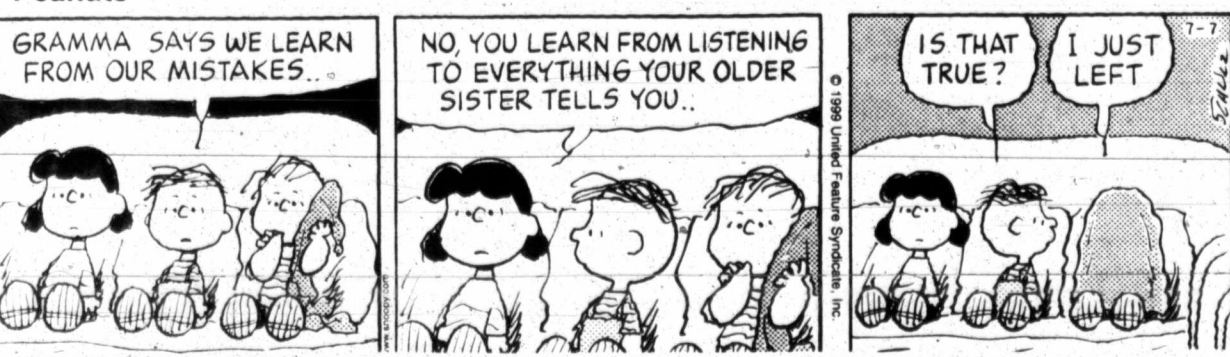
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



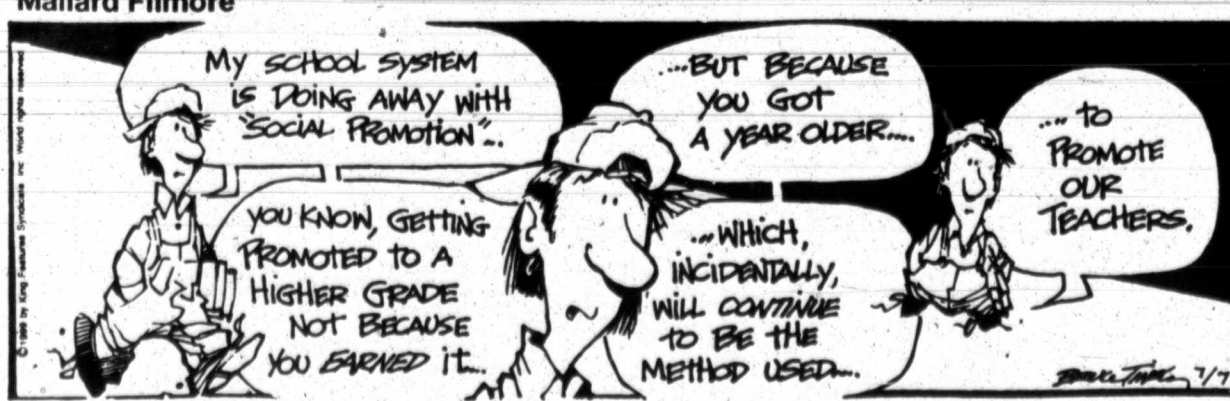
Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Horoscope

THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1999

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

**** Strong new beginnings are possible, financially. Decisions made now take on some unique qualities, nevertheless, they can work. Don't expect everyone to agree with you. Diversity of opinions gives you a new perspective. Tonight: Where your friends are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

**** A professional shake-up seems par for the course. Don't test another's limits, instead, work with what is. Sometimes you might feel that, because of your stability, others run over you like a freight train. You might just need to tighten your boundaries. Tonight: Getting into weekend mode.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**** News sends you into a tizzy. Don't let another get to you. Keep a high profile. Be clear about what you want. Listen carefully to the message behind the words. There is more there than you know. Intuition helps with a financial decision. Tonight: Take a night off to rest up.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

**** Bring others together. Make an important meeting happen. A key associate could be a bit rebellious or

Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Campaign funder
- 7 Pinnacle peak
- 11 Portugal's place
- 12 Enjoy gum
- 13 Let up
- 14 Traffic marker
- 15 Increase
- 17 Weight
- 20 Fire left-overs
- 23 Every-thing
- 24 Potential buyer, to a salesman
- 26 Carnival city
- 27 Top card
- 28 Exploit
- 29 "The Wizard of Oz" flowers
- 31 Total
- 32 Different
- 33 Envisions
- 34 Reduced
- 37 Quartet's makeup
- 39 Dog's African cousin
- 43 To boot
- 44 On the go
- 45 Call for
- 46 Took it easy

DOWN

- 1 Pine's kin



Yesterday's answer

- 2 Actor Vigoda
- 3 -Aviv
- 4 Wave
- 5 -
- 6 London gallery
- 7 Point a finger at
- 8 Place to order a steak
- 9 Stag party
- 10 Ram's mate
- 11 Makes roads
- 12 Silent brother
- 18 Prutrock's creator
- 19 Cheap hotel
- 21 Follow
- 22 Appears
- 24 Dens
- 25 Rink material
- 30 Tarking-ton
- 31 Religious groups
- 32 Not quite closed
- 33 Dolly
- 34 Makeup
- 35 Cheerer
- 36 Spanish cheer
- 37 Young fox
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Lima pitches Astros past Arizona Diamondbacks

PHOENIX (AP) — Another tough Jose was too much for the quiet bats of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

One night after they were beaten 1-0 by Jose Jimenez of St. Louis, Houston's Jose Lima shut the Diamondbacks down for seven strong innings Tuesday night in a 3-1 victory for the Astros.

Once again, the Diamondbacks wasted a good pitching effort, this time by Omar Daal. In five of its last seven games, Arizona has scored either one run or none.

"It's frustrating when your offense is struggling," Daal said. "You don't want to make too many mistakes."

Lima (12-4), on the other hand, was elated to get his first victory since June 12.

"It's about time, man," he said, dancing and singing to his favorite merengue music in the clubhouse. "It's about time."

Richard Hidalgo drove in all of Houston's runs with a two-run homer and a sacrifice fly.

Lima had gone 0-2 in his last four starts, and had moved up his start by one day because of the sore pitching wrist that was bothering Mike Hampton.

"I'm very happy," Lima said. "Three days rest and I go out there and pitch like that. I think it was the best game I've pitched all year."

Lima allowed four hits, struck

out nine and walked two in seven innings. Reliever Jay Powell got two outs in the eighth with Tony Womack at second, then Billy Wagner came in to end the inning and strike out the side in the ninth for his 21st save in 22 opportunities.

"Lima is a good pitcher," Arizona manager Buck Showalter said. "But somewhere along the line you have to beat guys like him, too."

Jay Bell, elected earlier in the day for his first All-Star start, hit his 23rd home run for Arizona.

Daal (7-5) lost for the first time since May 16. He had no decisions in four of his previous five starts.

Houston scored in the first inning when Craig Biggio led off with a bunt single, Jeff Bagwell singled and Carl Everett was hit by a pitch to load the bases with one out. Biggio scored on Hidalgo's sacrifice fly.

Everett singled with one out in the sixth, then Hidalgo hit Daal's 3-2 pitch into the left field seats, his 14th homer of the season, and Houston led 3-0.

"He's an up-and-coming star," Astros interim manager Mike Galante said of Hidalgo, who turned 24 last week. "He's got the pop in his bat. He's an excellent outfielder. He hasn't been hitting well lately, but a lot of us haven't been hitting well lately."

The Diamondbacks know all

about hitting woes.

Arizona ran its string of scoreless innings to 15 before Bell's leadoff homer in the sixth cut the lead to 3-1. But that was it for the Diamondbacks, who have gone into a collective slump after a hot start.

"Normally, when a team struggles offensively, it's quite a few guys — not all of them," Bell said. "I guess you can look at it positively and say we're a close-knit unit."

"We either do good together or do bad together, but we have no desire to struggle like we have."

Daal gave up three runs on six hits through seven innings. He struck out seven and didn't walk a batter.

Notes: With Hampton bothered by a sore pitching wrist, 22-year-old right-hander Wade Miller, called up from Triple-A New Orleans on Monday, will make his major league debut as Houston's starter tonight. ... Randy Knorr, called up from New Orleans earlier in the day, started at catcher for the Astros in place of Tony Eusebio, who has a bruised right eye. ... The Diamondbacks are 4-12 since June 20. ... Bell made a lunging stop of Everett's one-bouncer behind second base with two outs in the fifth, then threw to shortstop Andy Fox for a force-out.

Italian earns a stage victory in Tour de France competition

BLOIS, France (AP) — In a stage featuring a Tour de France speed record, Italy's Mario Cipollini surged past Germany's Erik Zabel in a photo finish today to win the fourth leg of cycling's showcase race.

Helped by a tail wind, cool weather and wide, flat roads, the record speed was an average 31.47 mph. The previous record was 30.885 mph.

In third place was Australia's Stuart O'Grady. Fourth was Tom Steels of Belgium, the winner of the last two stages.

Still holding the overall leader's yellow jersey was Estonia's Jaan Kirsipuu, who came in fifth today.

The Tour de France is still unable to shake itself of the drug scandal that overshadowed last summer's race.

Young fans along the route during Tuesday's third stage were well aware of the scandal but most didn't think drugs would ever be fully eradicated from the sport.

Spanish student Jose Luiz Catala was enjoying a folk concert in Nantes, in Brittany, before the riders came through.

"I think all the players are doped," said the 17-year-old Catala. "You know why? Because you can't win on a plate of spaghetti. You need

more."

His friend, Joan Albert Lairo, sporting red-and-yellow paint on his cheeks, agreed. "Doping is fair if they all do it," he said. "The problem comes when only some do. That's why it's wrong."

"It's only a bit dangerous — no more than smoking cigarettes," he added.

Meanwhile, the race goes on. On Monday, there was a dramatic crash during an ocean crossing. But the next day the third stage unfolded on dry ground and in classic style.

Rolling into the countryside of Brittany, with black-and-white Breton flags fluttering along the route, the stage began with an early breakaway and ended in a furious, shoulder-to-shoulder sprint.

For the second straight day, Steels won the stage, timing his attack perfectly and surging through his rivals across the finish line, arms outstretched.

Jaan Kirsipuu of Estonia kept the leader's yellow jersey and Steels moved into second place overall, followed by Spain's Abraham Olano and American Lance Armstrong.

Armstrong's teammate on a strong U.S. Postal Service team, George Hincapie, is in sixth. Armstrong, making a stunning comeback after fighting

testicular cancer, is waiting for Sunday's time trial and then the mountain stages to mount his challenge.

But this week, in the early, flat stages, it is the sprinters who excel.

Tuesday's 122-mile route stretched through picturesque northern countryside from the city of Nantes, which straddles the Loire River, to the town of Laval.

Two riders, Frederic Guesdon and Massimo Giunti, broke away early and maintained their lead for 76 miles, but were caught by the pack late in the race, making way for the sprinting specialists.

The pack maintained a swift pace — an average of 27 mph for the day — and the final sprint came at a blistering 42 mph.

Steels, with a winning time of 4 hours, 29 minutes, 27 seconds, was followed by Germany's Erik Zabel, Stuart O'Grady of Australia, Nicola Minali of Italy and, in fifth place, Hincapie. Armstrong finished 24th.

Cycling's governing body announced Tuesday that 16 cyclists have been certified to race with a hematocrit level that exceeds the 50 percent limit.

The hematocrit level measures the proportion of red blood cells in a blood sample —

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Opinions divided over possible Cards-Mets opener in Japan

By RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Talk about long road trips: The New York Mets and the St. Louis Cardinals are the leading candidates for a possible season-opening series in Tokyo next year.

Officials of the commissioner's office and the players' association were in Tokyo last week to discuss the unprecedented trip and hope to finalize details within a month.

"In concept, we certainly would support the exposure of major league baseball internationally," Cardinals president Mark Lampong said Tuesday. "I guess what they're trying to do is evaluate all aspects of the trip. Until such times as those details are made available to the teams, it's difficult to come to a position on it."

While nothing has been determined, the Mets and the

Cardinals are the No. 1 choices for the two-game series, several officials with knowledge of the talks told The Associated Press on the condition they not be identified.

"I'm absolutely against it," said the Cardinals' Mark McGwire, who would be the game's top attraction. "Major league baseball belongs in the United States. The Japanese have Japanese baseball, so there's no reason for us to go over there. I have nothing against the way they play baseball. It's not the travel. As a player, I just don't like it. The game belongs here."

If the Mets and Cardinals decline, there are two or three additional teams on baseball's short list.

"It will be a nice long road trip, that's for sure," Mets closer John Franco said. "It should be nice though. I've been there twice before and I enjoyed it."

David Howard, the Mets' senior vice president of business and legal affairs, declined comment.

Mets manager Bobby Valentine has a Japanese connection, having managed the Seibu Lions to a second-place finish in the Pacific League in 1995.

"We are always open to international opportunities," New York general manager Steve Phillips said. "We have been aggressive in terms of getting international players and in terms of marketing."

"Certainly it is in line with what we are trying to do. As far as the specifics, I can't comment."

Lampong said he had heard that the Cardinals and Mets were at the top of the list for the games but said he had not spoken yet with any of the officials who were in Japan for the meet-

The 2000 season is set to start on Sunday night, April 2, or Monday, April 3. The games at the Tokyo Dome probably would be the previous Tuesday and Wednesday, or on Wednesday and Thursday, and the teams involved wouldn't resume regular-season games until the following Tuesday or Wednesday to give them time to recover.

Tokyo is 7,392 miles from West Palm Beach, Fla., the nearest major airport from the Mets' and Cardinals' spring training camps, and 14 time zones away.

"I think if it is done properly and we are given an appropriate amount of rest both before we go and after we get back, it would be good for the game," Mets pitcher Al Leiter said. "It would give baseball great exposure and it would be a great experience for the guys who haven't been there before."

For some, the mileage is too much.

"We do enough traveling as it is," said Cardinals pitcher Lance Painter, who went to Taiwan as a minor leaguer. The Mets and Cardinals aren't set to open against each other, according to the draft schedule prepared by the National League, so there would have to be some switching to fit in the games.

In addition to the regular-season games, there also might be two or three exhibition games against Japanese clubs during the trip.

Lampong said that if the Cardinals are asked, he would have to talk to others in the organization before deciding whether St. Louis wanted to make the trip.

"Obviously, we would certainly need to solicit the opinion of our players and staff," he said.

Regular-season major league games have never been played outside North America.

In 1997, the New York Mets and San Diego Padres met in the first regular-season games outside the United States and Canada, playing three times at Monterrey, Mexico.

In the first season opener outside the United States and Canada, the Padres played the Colorado Rockies this year at Monterrey.

The Seattle Mariners, whose majority owner is Hiroshi Yamauchi, chairman of the Nintendo Co. Ltd. of Kyoto, Japan, proposed starting the 1995 season in Japan, but that idea was scuttled by the 1994-95 strike.

The Mariners were the first choice for next year's opener, but declined.

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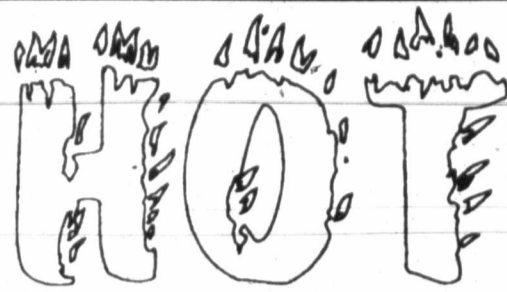
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(Special photo) Among those enjoying the fun at Mary Ellen & Havester Church of Christ's Jungle Bob's Bible Adventure are Daniel Brown, Christ Taylor, Angela Carlton, Heather Coffmann and Mary Joe Ripple.

Texas round-up

First Texas death row inmate convicted on DNA evidence set to die tonight

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Twice-convicted burglar Tyrone Fuller acknowledged he was present when a 26-year-old woman was raped and murdered at her northeast Texas home but persuaded authorities he was not involved in the 1988 attack.

Samples of body fluids and hair collected from the murder scene proved otherwise and Fuller became the first person on Texas death row condemned on the basis of the then-new technique of DNA testing.

Fuller, 35, was set to die this evening. He would be the 16th Texas death row inmate to receive lethal injection this year.

"When this first started, we thought Fuller was going to be a lesser player and we thought we'd make a deal with him," said Tom Wells, the former Lamar County district attorney who prosecuted Fuller. "When the DNA results came back, all of a sudden he jumped from being somebody involved into the lead player."

Fuller, who answered to the nickname "Evil," was on parole when Andrea Lea Duke was beaten, stabbed and raped during a burglary at her Paris home Jan. 20, 1988.

Bleeding profusely from some of her 44 wounds and unable to scream because one of the knife slashes had cut her vocal chords, the 26-year-old medical technologist crawled from her duplex to the front steps of her neighbor's home. Her body was found there the next morning.

The execution would be the second of three set for this month in Texas.

Judge questions Cisneros effort to suppress lover's tapes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal judge presiding over the conspiracy case against Henry Cisneros says he tentatively has decided that recordings secretly made by the former Housing secretary's one-time paramour don't violate federal wiretapping statutes.

U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin's comments came Tuesday in the eighth day of a pivotal pre-trial hearing on the admissibility of tape recordings made by Linda Jones as her relationship with Cisneros soured. The hearing is expected to continue through this week.

The tapes are central to Independent Counsel David Barrett's case that Cisneros, while under consideration for a post in the Clinton Cabinet, conspired with Ms. Jones and two aides to understate to the FBI "hush money" payments to her exceeding \$250,000.

During his Cabinet background check, Cisneros acknowledged providing financial support to Ms. Jones after publicity over their extramarital affair destroyed her marriage and career as a political fund-raiser. But prosecutors contend he falsely told the FBI he never paid her more than \$10,000 annually.

The 18-count indictment against Cisneros alleges he paid her more than \$264,000 between 1990 and 1993. He has pleaded innocent.

Use of the tapes at Cisneros' September trial would allow prosecutors — with Cisneros' own words — to bolster the testimony of a star witness with a problematic track record for the government.

Ms. Jones has acknowledged a lengthy history of lies to federal agents investigating Cisneros and currently is serving a 3 1/2-year prison sentence after herself running afoul of Barrett's office, in part for misrepresenting the tapes as unaltered originals.

Waco charter school CEO resigns

WACO, Texas (AP) — The chief executive officer and superintendent of the troubled Emma L. Harrison Charter School has resigned, but she'll maintain her role in the East Waco Community Center that runs the school.

Ida Pinkard announced she's stepping down at a news conference Tuesday night in the school cafeteria. She remains executive director of the center and a member of its board.

Her decision came two days before members of the State Board of Education start deliberating whether to revoke Harrison's charter. The state board is expected to take a preliminary vote Thursday and make a final decision Friday.

Mrs. Pinkard did not speak during the news conference, but a community center board member blamed the resignation on the Waco Tribune-

Herald.

The Tribune-Herald first reported the charter school's financial problems in February, which led to an audit by the Texas Education Agency and subsequent sanctions and investigations. The newspaper, which has published more than 70 related articles, had no response Tuesday night to Ms. Gooden's comments.

TEA auditors determined the school, which opened less than a year ago, owes between \$300,000 and \$400,000 to employees, businesses and government entities.

Bush visits Colorado as favorite of top GOP local leaders

DENVER (AP) — Texas Gov. George W. Bush celebrated his 53rd birthday in Colorado by adding to his record-setting campaign fund and telling supporters "prosperity alone is simple materialism."

About 200 people attended a \$1,000-a-plate fund-raising dinner of mashed potatoes, hot dogs and hamburgers at a luxury hotel downtown Tuesday night.

"My vision of America includes everybody," Bush said. "The worth of America has never been proven by cities of gold, but by citizens of character: men and women who work hard, dream big, love their family, serve their neighbor."

He also said he would keep his word and his promises. "I've done in office what I said I would do."

In one of several jabs at President Clinton, Bush said, "I don't run polls to tell me what to think." He told both the airport rally and the party donors, who included Coors Brewing Co. executive Peter Coors and Colorado Rockies co-owner Jerry McMorris, he would restore dignity to the White House.

He also repeatedly spoke about the need to improve the American educational system, saying, "We cannot give up on one child anywhere in America."

Bush departed from the text of his speech when talking about "kids who turn school yards into battlefields" to add: "You know that better than any state." Fifteen people died in a massacre at Columbine High School south of Denver on April 20.

Bush, who has already collected \$36.3 million in contributions and has a big lead in national polls, flew to Salt Lake City after the fund-raiser to meet with Western governors. He had already won the endorsement of top Colorado Republicans, including Fort Worth, Texas-born Gov. Bill Owens.

National DNA database could speed serial killer investigations

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — It took 21 months for police to name a suspect in the murder of Thomas Maier's son: Rafael Resendez-Ramirez, the rail-riding fugitive suspected of going on to kill seven other people.

Maier wonders whether that time could have been cut had authorities been able to use a national index of DNA samples.

Though many states have used genetic evidence derived from DNA samples as a crime-fighting tool since early this decade, an FBI computer index of DNA went online only nine months ago. Kentucky still is not a participant.

As a result, Maier said, DNA samples collected from the scene of his son Christopher's slaying in August 1997 proved largely useless in the search for the killer. The fact that Resendez-Ramirez is believed to have murdered again only underscores the importance of a national database, he said.

"We've stated from the day he (Christopher) died that we were afraid (his killer) would repeat this," Maier said. "It's sad that we've had to find him through such a means of all these other tragic deaths that he's generated."

Christopher Maier and his girlfriend, students at the University of Kentucky, were attacked late at night as they passed railroad tracks on their way to a party. The girlfriend was raped and left for dead.

During the investigation of his son's death, Maier was frustrated to learn that there was no national DNA index.

In the end, it was another FBI database — one that matched the killing to similar crimes in Texas — that led to Resendez-Ramirez — whose real name is Angel Leoncio Reyes Recendis — being charged with Maier's murder and labeled a serial killer.