

# THE PAMPA NEWS

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## ATF official: Explosion accidental

By **MARILYN POWERS**  
 Staff Writer

Preliminary casework by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms office in Lubbock indicates that Tuesday morning's explosion at

Titan Industries, near Highway 152 west of Pampa, was accidental.

"The explosion was accidental. At this point, no determination of the cause of the accident has been made. The victim was mixing two items, potassium perchlorate and magne-

sium. Somehow during the process, an accident occurred causing the explosion," said Jake Gonzales, acting supervisor of the ATF office in Lubbock, during a telephone interview this morning.

Gonzales said the ATF investiga-

tion was not yet completed and the case was still open.

The victim Gonzales referred to is Karen Standefer, 41, who was killed in the 7:30 a.m. explosion. Two

See ATF, Page 3



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

### After 55 years

**Bill Waters and his wife Sandra were guests of honor at a retirement reception held in Waters' honor Tuesday in the Combs-Worley Building. Waters, a partner in the law firm of Waters, Holt and Fields, retired from the firm with 55 years' experience practicing law.**

## Former Enron chair Lay indicted, claims innocence

HOUSTON (AP) — Enron Corp. founder and former chairman and CEO Kenneth Lay was involved in a wide-ranging scheme to deceive the public, company shareholders, government regulators and others, according to an indictment unsealed Thursday.

The federal indictment, which adds Lay to charges already filed against his hand-picked protege, former CEO Jeffrey Skilling, and former top accountant Richard Causey, accuses Lay of participating in a conspiracy to manipulate Enron's quarterly financial results. It also accuses him of making public statements about Enron's financial performance that were false and misleading and omitting facts necessary to make financial statements accurate and fair.

The contents of the indictment were released a few hours after Lay, who says he committed no crimes at the scandal-ridden energy company, was taken away in handcuffs after turning himself in to the FBI Thursday morning to face criminal charges.

"Nice of you all to show up this morning," Lay, accompanied by a pastor, told reporters

before entering the FBI offices. About 20 minutes later, he left in cuffs for the federal courthouse and a scheduled appearance before a judge.

The superseding indictment, now totalling 53 counts, accused Lay, Skilling and Causey of enriching themselves through salaries, bonuses, grants of stock and stock options.

It names Lay in 11 counts: one of conspiracy, two of wire fraud, four of securities fraud, one of bank fraud and three of making false statements to banks.

A grand jury returned a sealed indictment against Lay on Wednesday, 2 1/2 years into a methodical investigation that has produced charges against some of his once most highly trusted lieutenants.

"I have done nothing wrong, and the indictment is not justified," Lay, 62, said in a statement Wednesday.

Prosecutors from the Justice Department's Enron Task Force had presented the indictment to U.S. Magistrate Judge Mary Milloy

See ENRON, Page 3

## Library clears ground for one more sculpture

By **DAVID BOWSER**  
 Staff Writer

They're killing the ground cover at Lovett Memorial Library, but that's a good thing, Pampa City Secretary Phyllis Jeffers said.

It's for the landscaping of two statues to be located on the grounds of the library.

One of the statues, a bronze of mother and son in front of the library, is already in place, she said. The other will be placed in the library's garden on the south side of the building sometime in August.

Jeffers said the formal dedication of the statues is being planned for Sunday, Oct. 10.

"If you've not seen the one that's there," Jeffers said, "it's magnificent."

"It's beautiful," said City Manager John Horst.

Last summer, R.L. Franklin approached the library board with a proposal to erect one statue on the

lawn in front of the library to honor Virginia Green, Betty Henderson, Louise Franklin, Annie Thut Buckler and other women of the Texas Panhandle who contributed to the community.

*'If you've not seen the one that's there, it's magnificent.'*

— Phyllis Jeffers  
 City Secretary

The board recommended the project to city commission in June, 2003, who also approved.

Working with Michael Grauer, art curator for the Panhandle Plains Museum in Canyon, invited 28 sculptors to submit proposals.

See STATUE, Page 3



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

**Barbara Craig, an employee at Lovett Memorial Library, 111 N. Houston, stands amid the ground cover which will have to be cleared for a statue in the reading garden on the building's south side.**

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8311 Cole Addition ... \$22,500  
420 Purviance ... "Commercial"



Sandra Schuneman

## Obituaries

### Otto "Bryan" Dickerman, 40

CLINTON, S.C. — Otto "Bryan" Dickerman, age 40, of 409 E. Ferguson St., died Thursday, July 1, 2004, in Chicago, Ill.

He was born in Borger, Texas, and was a son of William Scott and Lela Pearl Pierce Dickerman of Pampa, Texas.

Mr. Dickerman was employed with Jevic Transportation, Inc. as a driver; was a member of the A Company 151st Signal Battalion in Laurens; a Red Cross Volunteer; and served in the U. S. Navy from 1986 to 1989.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Lori Ann Dickerman of the home; one son, Brandon Wade Dickerman (Dunham) of Pampa, Texas, and a stepson, Andrew David Winton of Pampa, Texas; two daughters, Casey Lynn Dickerman (Dunham) of Pampa, Texas, and Lela Brianna Dickerman of the home; one grandson, Nicholas Ryan Mize of Pampa, Texas; a stepdaughter, Kayli Joan Winton of the home; two brothers, Anthony Scott Dickerman of Denton, Texas, and

Jeffrey Kyle Dickerman of Colorado; one sister, Debra Leanna Cook of Coffeyville, Kan.

The funeral service will be conducted Friday, July 9, 2004, at 2 p.m. in the Laurens Armory with burial in Rosemont Cemetery with military honors.

The family will receive friends this evening from 7 to 9 p.m. at Gray Funeral Home in Clinton.

Memorials may be made to the American Red Cross, 28024 Hwy 76 E., Clinton, SC 29325.

### Inez Sumner Hess, 91

Inez Sumner Hess, 91, of Pampa, died Wednesday, July 7, 2004.

Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Hess was born May 12, 1913, at Wayne, Okla. She came to Pampa in 1930 where she worked as a cashier for One Hour Martinizing for nine years.

She was a member of First Baptist Church.

Mrs. Hess married B.A. "Pete" Sumner on Sept. 19, 1932, at Purcell, Okla.; he died Aug. 15, 1972.

She later married George Washington Hess on Dec. 9, 1976, at Pampa; he died June 10, 1994.

Survivors include a daughter, Nancy Crocker of Pampa; a stepson, Ronald Hess of Pampa; two stepdaughters, Janice Peacock of Dallas and Delores Matter of Mobile, Ala.; 12 grandchil-

dren; 17 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Edward Abraham Memorial Home, 803 Birch, Canadian, TX 79014 or to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whitley.com](http://www.carmichael-whitley.com).

### Services tomorrow

DICKERMAN, Otto "Bryan" — 2 p.m., Laurens Armory, Clinton, S.C.

## Emergency Services

### Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

#### Monday, July 5

An employee at Hasting's Books, Music & Video, 1205 N. Hobart, reported a series of thefts that have occurred over at least two months involving DVDs. Suspects have been identified, and the case has been turned over to the department's Criminal Investigation Division.

#### Tuesday, July 6

A citation was issued for a minor in possession, and a report made on violation of alcohol laws. Location of the incident was not reported.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 1100 block of Duncan.

#### Wednesday, July 7

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1300 block of East Francis. A purse and contents, lottery tickets and a knife were taken, for an estimated loss of \$180. No damage to the vehicle was reported.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 800 block of East Francis. Cigarettes valued at approximately \$30 were taken. No damage to the vehicle

was reported. Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1200 block of East Francis. A briefcase and contents valued at approximately \$50 were taken. No damage to the vehicle was reported.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1100 block of East Francis. A purse and contents were taken, for an estimated loss of \$30. No damage to the vehicle was reported.

Burglary of two motor vehicles was reported in the 1400 block of East Francis. A speed loader and gray gun case were reported taken from one of the vehicles, for an estimated loss of \$18. No damage to either vehicle was reported.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 500 block of Doucette. A purse and contents were taken, for an estimated loss of \$51. A window of the vehicle was broken. No estimate of damage was given.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 400 block of Frost. The rear driver's side window was broken out, with damage estimated at \$80. Contents of the vehicle were disarranged, but nothing was

reported taken. Theft was reported in the lobby of the police department. The incident occurred in the 400 block of Wynne. A bicycle valued at \$56 was taken.

Burglary of a habitation was reported in the 800 block of North Lefors. Jewelry and money valued at \$4,343 were taken. No forced entry was found.

Theft was reported in the 400 block of Carr. Tools valued at \$511 were taken.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1900 block of West Carter. Windows valued at approximately \$200 were broken.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of South Cuyler. Windows were broken, for an estimated loss of \$400.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of South Cuyler. Windows were broken, for an estimated loss of \$650.

Assault was reported in the 1000 block of North Sumner. No injuries were reported.

Harassment was reported. The report was forwarded to Gray County Sheriff's Office.

A runaway was reported at

Genesis House, 615 W. Buckler.

Sally Ann Innis, 21, 1031 N. Sumner #222, was arrested in the 1000 block of North Sumner for assault and two municipal warrants.

Christina Berryman, 19, 1031 N. Sumner #209, was arrested in the 1000 block of North Sumner for assault.

Amanda Ruth Sexton, 23, 800 E. Foster, was arrested in the 800 block of East Foster for assault causing bodily injury.

Tequilla Yvette Hall, 18, 1024 Neel Rd., was arrested in the 1100 block of East Foster for possession of a controlled substance less than one gram, no valid driver's license and parking, stopping or standing on a roadway. The controlled substance is believed to be crack cocaine.

### Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office today reported the following arrests.

#### Wednesday, July 7

Myrna Demetria Solis, 21, 1044 Neel Rd., was arrested for Pampa Police Department for failure to maintain financial responsibility, no driver's license and

failure to appear concerning a bail jump.

Wayne Joseph Hart, 49, Apache Junction, Ariz., was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for having a prohibited weapon.

### Fire

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

#### Wednesday, July 7

10:44 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a motor vehicle collision at 23rd and Aspen streets.

4:33 p.m. — Two units and six firefighters responded to a lifting assist in the 400 block of Pitts.

4:59 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a motor vehicle collision in the 600 block of North Hobart.

### Ambulance

Rural/Metro Ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

#### Wednesday, July 7

10:43 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to 23rd and

Aspen and transported a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

12:06 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Davis. No transport.

1:09 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Baten prison unit and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

4:01 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient(s) to Northwest Texas Hospital.

4:34 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Pitts and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

5:01 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of North Hobart and transported two patients to PRMC.

### Clarification

In a follow-up article about the explosion at Titan Specialties, it was reported that a medical fund had been set up for burn victim Merry Jenkins. Mrs. Jenkins' medical expenses are covered by insurance. The fund established at Cabot & NO Credit Union, 320 W. Francis, is to help her husband and children. For more information, call the credit union at 665-0847.

## Gray County Weather

Today: Partly cloudy, with a high around 95.

South southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. South wind between 15 and 20 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 3 p.m. Partly

cloudy, with a high around 95. South wind between 15 and 20 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low near 66. South wind between 15 and 20 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thun-

derstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 94. South wind around 15 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. South wind around 15 mph.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thun-

derstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high around 94. South wind around 15 mph.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. South wind around 15 mph.

Monday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 96. South

wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low near 68.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 95.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 68.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 94.



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## Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by the Albany Grain of Pampa:

Wheat	3.35
Milo	3.82
Corn	4.58
Soybeans	7.46

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edvard Jones & Co. of Pampa:

OXY	48.80	+0.36
BP	54.02	+0.32
Cabot Corp.	38.25	0.50
Cabot Oil Gas	42.80	+0.15
Coca Cola	50.97	+0.55
AT&T	77.45	+0.13
HAL	30.19	+0.11
Triad	36.40	+0.20
NOI	32.29	+0.09
KMI	60.46	+0.24
XCEL	16.76	+0.01
Kerr McGee	52.56	+0.31
Limited	19.30	+0.26
Williams	13.30	+0.10
MFD	36.40	+0.02
NOM	45.42	+0.05
Atmos	25.66	+0.16
Pioneer Nat	35.25	+0.05
JCP	37.09	+0.88
COP	77.12	+0.25
SLB	62.68	+0.28
Tenneco	12.38	+0.17
CVX	93.72	+0.28
Wal-Mart	52.06	+0.26
OKI	22.03	+0.08
NS Corp	16.93	+0.11
New York Gold	402.75	
Silver	6.10	
West Texas Crude	39.08	

## CITY BRIEFS

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

**GAR. SALE** 1916 N. Wells. Tv, VCR, clothes, dishes, misc. Fri. only, 8-12 noon.

**LONESTAR WELCOMES** Country & Southern Rock Band "Gray County Line" Sat. July 10th, 5-1. 1300 S. Barnes.

**MIKE TOWRY** Benefit, Sat. July 10, 2004, WW Sports Bar, 4:00pm-1:00am. For more info call Kelle Staus, 665-5651, WW Sports Bar, 665-8889. All Proceeds go to Mike Towry Medical Fund.

**FISHING-DILLS** Catfish Ranch, 4 mi. west of Lefors, on Hwy. 2375, south on Rd. 12 1/2. Open Sat. 665-7500

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## ATF

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Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers

## Roof rover

This canine gets a better view of his territory by setting up a guard station on the roof of a car parked under a carport in the 200 block of Warren Street. His companion, a basset hound, has also been seen on the car's roof, although it is unknown how the short-legged pal could make it to the top of the vehicle.

## ATF

Continued from Page 1

Other employees were injured in the blast. Merry Jenkins was flown by LifeStar medical helicopter service to a Lubbock burn center, and Ron Hurst suffered injuries to his right hand.

The ATF case agent investigating the Titan case was not available for comment, Gonzales said.

The Texas State Fire Marshal's office in Austin had not returned a call from *The Pampa News* by press time today. A message was also left at the Lubbock office of the state fire marshal.

Gray County Sheriff's Department has completed

its investigation and closed its case on the explosion.

"We have completed our investigation of the explosion at Titan Industries. The state fire marshal and ATF are continuing their investigation. We believe it was an accident. As far as our investigation goes, it was ruled an industrial accident. We don't know what caused it or what set off the exploding agent. We find no indication of foul play," said Lt. Joe Hoard of the sheriff's department.

Gray County Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Joe Martinez has received preliminary autopsy results concerning Standefer. The victim's remains were sent to Lubbock County Medical Examiner's Office for autopsy.

"Explosion fragment wounds of the face and

chest" are listed as the preliminary cause of death by the Lubbock medical examiner, Martinez said. The "comments" section of the preliminary autopsy report listed "grinding metal wheel fragments, a piece of its casing, recovered from wounds," along with pieces of "an aluminum mixing bowl and its rim." Injuries to the hands were mentioned, along with "flame burns of the face, arms and abdomen."

Complete autopsy reports will likely not be available until mid-August, Martinez said.

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, is also involved in investigating the explosion, according to Martinez and Hoard.

ed his gift to the city to include both sculptures.

One of the pieces of art, a bronze woman and child by Don Ray of Channing, was delivered to the library earlier this year.

The second piece, a life-sized statue of a woman by David Frech, a New York sculptor, is expected to be delivered in August, Jeffers said.

George W. Bush who led Enron's rise to No. 7 in the Fortune 500 and resigned within weeks of its stunning failure. Lay is the 30th and highest-profile individual charged.

The indictment particularly focuses on Lay's behavior after Skilling, in August 2001, abruptly resigned in

the weeks leading up to Enron's collapse. Skilling had succeeded Lay as CEO six months earlier. He was indicted in February on nearly three dozen counts of fraud and other crimes.

Prosecutors allege Lay knew Enron was preparing to announce massive third-quarter losses.

## Commission hears reports on city items

Pampa city commissioners met in special session Tuesday at City Hall, voting to cancel the July 13 regular meeting because not enough commissioners would be able to attend the meeting.

Most of the meeting was reported in *The News* on Wednesday, July 7. City commissioners also heard the following reports at the meeting.

Interim City Manager John Horst presented the commission with the proposed budget for Hidden Hills Golf Course.

The commission discussed the possibility of buying two loans made by the PEDC to the Cross Calf Ranch and rolling them into one loan with a lower payment.

City Secretary Phyllis Jeffers reported that the skate park was in operation, although some fencing remained and more equipment would be added next week.

Fire Chief Kim Powell reported that Guardian Ambulance Service was ready to move into Fire Station Three and Pampans could expect to see their bright yellow ambulances on the street within the next week or two.

## Scientists hold their breath as \$200 million observatory threatened by wild fires

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — The telescopes at the Mount Graham International Observatory peer into the heavens, seeking drama miles up in the sky. These days, though, the drama is much — much — closer to home.

A mountainside wildfire was within a quarter-mile of a \$200 million mountaintop observatory Wednesday and firefighters are struggling to save the facility and the promises it can offer science.

It is the second time in eight years that a forest fire has threatened the observatory and scientists fear that even if the building doesn't burn, the smoke and heat could damage the delicate instruments inside.

The observatory is surrounded by a broad cleared area and has sprinklers. Fire lines around the blaze were holding Wednesday evening,

said fire crew spokesman Bill Duemling. Firefighters turned their attention to saving summer homes in two small communities.

The observatory's third and largest telescope is partly finished. Once completed, the \$120 million Large Binocular Telescope will become the world's most powerful optical telescope, capable of producing images nearly 10 times sharper than those from the Hubble Space Telescope.

One of its honeycombed glass mirrors — 8.4 meters in diameter — is in place and its twin is being polished. The second mirror could be installed as early as the fall of 2005.

Coupled with technology called adaptive optics to adjust and correct for the Earth's turbulent atmosphere, the telescope will have unprecedented capabilities.

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## Statue

Continued from Page 1

Franklin saw two proposals that he liked and expand-

## Enron

Continued from Page 1

in Houston on Wednesday, and at their request she sealed the indictment and an arrest warrant.

"Ken was not in any conspiracy," Lay's attorney, Michael Ramsey, said Thursday before entering the courthouse.

Ramsey said he would push for Lay to go trial ahead of other executives. He maintains Lay did nothing wrong and cast blame on former chief financial officer Andrew Fastow, who pleaded guilty to two conspiracy counts in January.

Fastow admitted to orchestrating partnerships and financial schemes to hide Enron debt and inflate profits while pocketing millions of dollars for himself. Fastow is waiting to testify for the prosecution.

"Andy is obviously a liar and a thief," Ramsey said. "He admits that."

In a separate action, the Securities and Exchange Commission filed civil charges Thursday against Lay, accusing him of fraud and insider trading and seeking recovery of more than \$90 million in what the agency said were illegal proceeds from stock sales.

Prosecutors have aggressively pursued the one-time celebrity CEO and friend and contributor to President

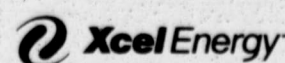


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Tom, Lineman

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JULY 2004



# Viewpoints

## Our bodies belong to us, not government

According to an article posted recently on WebMD Health, doctors don't wash their hands often enough.

The subtitle of the article "Study: Doctors Don't Wash Hands Enough" stated that not even half of doctors are washing their hands between patient visits.

They must be too busy to effect good hygiene.

The study, reported the article, looked at 163 doctors, all of whom were monitored and were given a survey to fill out.

"Internists and medical students were the most diligent about washing their hands ... Surgeons and anesthesiologists washed their hands least often," the

article stated.

"On days when doctors had a busy workload, they were less likely to wash ... If they thought they were being watched, they were more likely to wash."

You would think good hygiene would not only benefit the patients of these doctors but would be in the best interests of the physicians themselves.

Meanwhile, the obesity fanatics were well-represented in another article at WebMD titled "Time to Prevent Child Obesity: Before Birth."

Before birth?

Don't you think that might be taking it a little too far?

The article begins: "The fight to stop child obesity begins before a child is born, a new study shows."

"Children are twice as likely to be obese if their mother was obese during pregnancy," reports Robert C. Whitaker, MD, MPH.

Whitaker, now with Mathematica Policy Research Inc. in Princeton, N.J., performed the study while at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Talk about heaping untold guilt upon mothers!

Mothers, it seems, get blamed for everything. I suppose it is a measure of how blessed I've been in that department that this is a malady I ponder in absolute bewilderment.

But blaming mothers for obesity for eating while the infant is still in the womb? Please.

Again, quoting from the article:

"By the age of 4, one in four children born to obese mothers was obese. That's true for fewer than one in 10 kids born to normal-

weight mothers.

"Viewed one way, the data show that kids born to obese mothers may be in trouble from birth. But Whitaker stresses a more optimistic view."

The article quotes Whitaker as saying: "The time before a mother conceives, during her pregnancy, and in the early years of her child's life may provide important opportunities to prevent obesity."

They call that optimism? The good doctor praises WIC which is, according to the article, "already taking steps to intervene."

Who needs a lowly birth mother when Mother Government is involved?

Could it be that these children are more likely to be obese because obesity runs in their families? But, no, we must regiment every aspect of human life, even that of conception!

A pregnant woman bears a tremendous amount of stress, whether she is a mother "in waiting" or a mother with one or more children behind her and another on the way.

No woman (or man) is perfect, and you cannot eliminate obesity unless you control every facet of human activity, unless you legislate and mandate everything that the public puts in its collec-

See **BODIES**, Page 5

**Skyla Bryant**

Columnist



## Today in History

(AP) — Today is Thursday, July 8, the 190th day of 2004. There are 176 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On **July 8, 1776**, Col. John Nixon gave the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, in Philadelphia.

**On this date:**

In **1663**, King Charles II of England granted a charter to Rhode Island.

In **1853**, an expedition led by Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in Yedo Bay, Japan, on a mission to seek diplomatic and trade relations with the Japanese.

In **1889**, The Wall Street Journal was first published.

In **1891**, Warren G. Harding married Florence K. DeWolfe in Marion, Ohio.

In **1907**, Florenz Ziegfeld staged his first "Follies," on the roof of the New York Theater.

In **1919**, President Wilson received a tumultuous welcome in New York City after his return from the Versailles Peace Conference in France.

In **1947**, demolition work began in New York City to make way for the new permanent headquarters of the United Nations.

In **1950**, Gen. Douglas MacArthur was named commander-in-chief of United Nations forces in Korea.

In **1975**, President Ford announced he would seek the Republican nomination for the presidency in 1976.

In **1993**, a jury in Boise, Idaho, acquitted white separatist Randy Weaver and a co-defendant of slaying a federal marshal in a shootout at a remote mountain cabin.

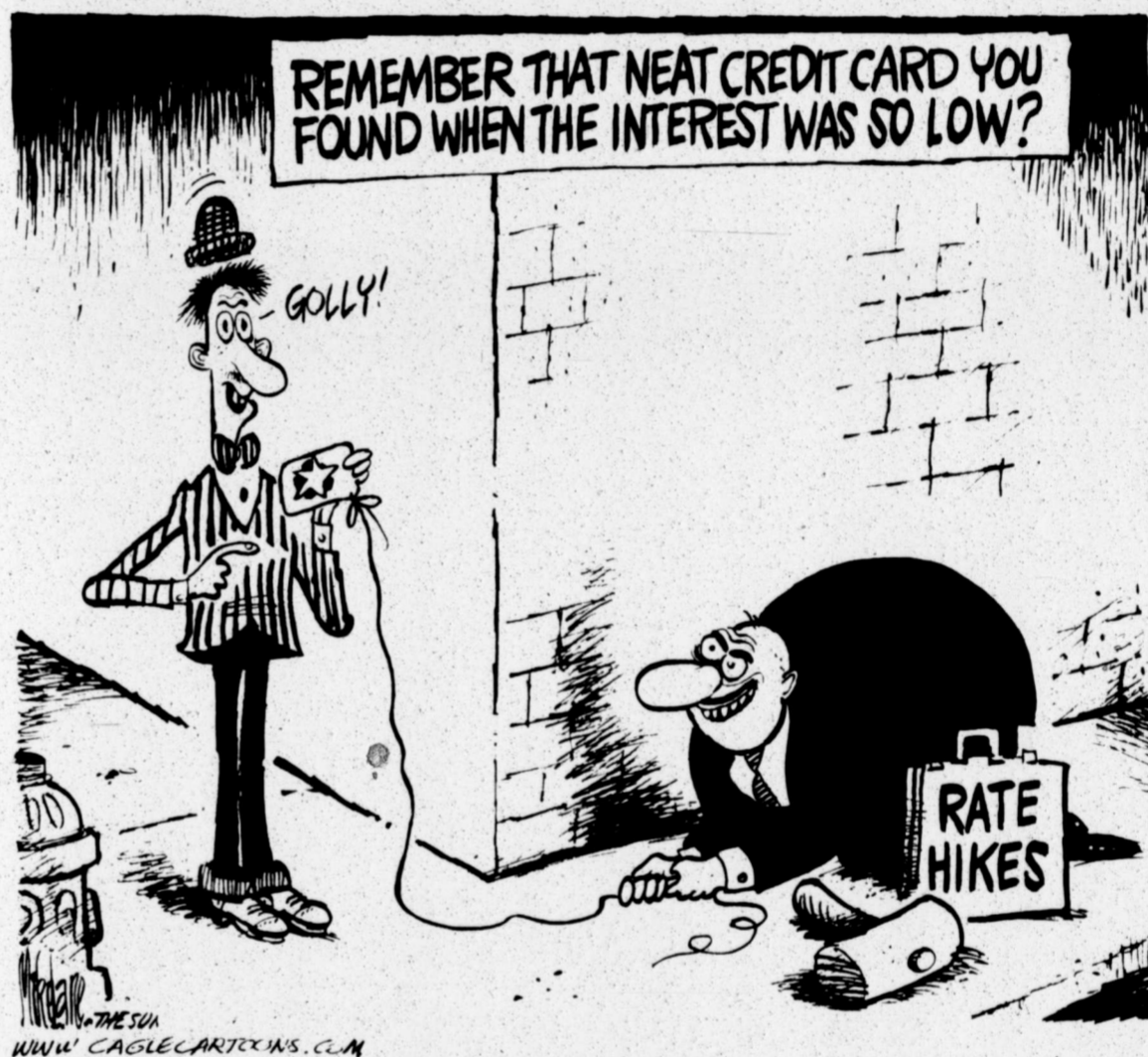
**Ten years ago:** Kim Il Sung, North Korea's communist leader since 1948, died at age 82. O.J. Simpson was ordered to stand trial on charges of murdering his ex-wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. Leaders of the Group of Seven nations opened their 20th annual economic summit, in Naples, Italy. The space shuttle Columbia blasted off on a two-week mission.

**Five years ago:** An Air Force cargo jet took off from Seattle on a dangerous mission to Antarctica to drop medicine for Dr. Jerri Nielsen, a physician at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Research Center who had discovered a lump in her breast. (The mission was successful; Nielsen was evacuated the following October.) Astronaut Charles "Pete" Conrad Jr., the third man to walk on the moon, died after a motorcycle accident near Ojai, Calif.; he was 69.

**One year ago:** In Senegal at the start of a five-nation tour of Africa, President Bush called American slavery one of history's greatest crimes as he stood at the very spot where hundreds of thousands of Africans had been bought and sold like cargo.

*"The soul has more diseases than the body."*

Henry Wheeler Shaw  
American author



## Disaster lurks in campaign \$

John Kerry's choice of John Edwards as his vice presidential candidate is getting predictable but sincere applause from Democrats, relieved that some charisma will enliven their presidential ticket. But the initial positive reaction may not last long as the Bush campaign zeroes in on Edwards' vulnerability: his presidential campaign contributors.

During his run for the top job, John Edwards relied heavily on leading trial lawyers. Twenty-two of his top 25 donors were trial attorneys. And those donations likely cloak a multitude

of sins and violations of the campaign-finance laws.

Edwards' trial lawyers bundled massive contributions from their assorted law firms and client lists to float his presidential run. Bundling isn't illegal — except when the donors are straw men and women putting up money given to them by a wealthy patron.

For example, \$1 million of Edwards' funds came

from trial lawyers' wives — identified merely as "home-makers" in the campaign-finance filings. If the money came from their husbands, there could be a violation of law.

More significant is the example of Little Rock trial lawyer Tad Turner, whose firm gave \$200,000 to the Edwards campaign and associated committees. But Slate found last Aug. 29 that many of the "contributions ... appear to

be illegal." The online magazine reported that "one clerk who gave \$2,000 said that Turner had 'asked for people to support Edwards' and assured them 'he would reimburse us.'" Another clerk told much the same story.

When that came out, Edwards returned \$10,000 to Turner employees. Tad Turner himself — a noted trial lawyer — said that he didn't know his promise of reimbursement was illegal.

How many more stories like Turner's are there buried

See **DISASTER**, Page 5

**Dick Morris**

Columnist



## Powell convinced of Darfur crisis

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was the leather shoes that caught the eye of U.S. officials with Secretary of State Colin Powell in a camp for Sudanese uprooted by ethnic violence.

Sudanese forced from their homes by war or famine normally have the most primitive footwear or none at all. Many had leather shoes at the camp and obviously didn't belong there. As U.S. officials saw it, they were assigned to intimidate actual residents who might be inclined to tell their harrowing stories to Powell and his party, including reporters.

In the days before Powell's visit to Darfur region in western Sudan last week, he and his colleagues had been aware that the Sudanese government might try to put the best face on a dire situation.

Powell has said repeatedly that the visit to the al-Shouk camp was not to investigate but rather to call international attention to the Darfur crisis, for which he believes Sudan's Islamic government bears heavy responsibility.

The number of Darfur's displaced by raiders exceeds 1 million, many of whom are expected to die.

Powell also was relying on other sources to keep tabs on the situation. He got an earful from private U.S. relief groups and U.N. officials during an hourlong meeting before visiting al-Shouk, where 40,000 people are sheltering. He was told of the murders, rapes and the razing of villages, all said to have been committed by

government-backed ethnic Arab militias against Darfur's black African population.

The government denies any role in supporting the so-called Janjaweed militias. It attributes the unrest to competition over land and resources.

After meeting with the relief experts, Powell boarded his van, which had been flown from Washington for the occasion. His aides worried that the van, its weight substantially increased by armor plating, could sink in Darfur's mud.

See **CRISIS**, Page 5

### THE PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065

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email: editor@thepampanews.com

Publisher: L.W. McCall

Editor: Dee Dee Laramore

Advertising Director: ReDonn Woods

Composing Supervisor: Brenda Cook

This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Saturdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, by The Pampa News. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

All carriers are independent contractors and The Pampa News is not responsible for advance payments of two or more months made to the carrier. Please pay directly to the Pampa News any payment that exceeds the current collection period. There are no mail subscriptions available within the city limits of Pampa. Mail subscriptions must be paid three months in advance.

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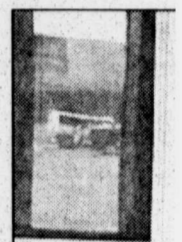
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# Boy, 14, arrested in deaths at journalist's ranch

HONDO, N.M. (AP) — The 14-year-old son of the manager of ABC newsman Sam Donaldson's New Mexico ranch was arrested Wednesday on charges of murdering his father, stepmother and stepsister, authorities said.

Cody Posey was arrested at a friend's home near the Chavez Canyon Ranch around 5 p.m., Lincoln County Sheriff Tom Sullivan said.

The bodies were found at the ranch in south-central New Mexico after Donaldson went to the manager's house on Tuesday and discovered an "obvious crime scene," Sullivan said. Deputies searched the area and found the three bodies in a shallow grave. No other details of the slayings were released.

The dead were identified as Delbert Paul Posey, the teen's father; stepsister Mary Lee Schmid, 14; and stepmother Tryone Posey.

Cody Posey was detained on three counts of murder and four counts of tampering with evidence. An initial court appearance was scheduled for Thursday, Sullivan said.

In a prepared statement, Donaldson said he and his wife, Jan, hired Paul Posey to work at the ranch in October 2001. "Jan and I are so very, very sorry about the loss of these fine people," he said.

District Attorney Scot Key said Cody Posey would be tried in juvenile court but could face

an adult penalty if convicted. He said punishment could range from probation under juvenile law to 30 years in prison, the standard sentence in New Mexico for an adult convicted of murder.

"We've never seen a triple murder, and the circumstances of a juvenile committing a crime against family members hasn't been experienced

here," Key said. The Donaldsons were in Santa Fe in northern New Mexico during the Fourth of July

weekend, when the slayings apparently occurred.

"We didn't see them Tuesday morning or Tuesday afternoon, so I went over — and on the porch was a large stain that was instantly recognizable," Donaldson told Albuquerque television station KOB-TV. He then called the sheriff's office.

Donaldson described Cody Posey as "withdrawn, like any typical teenager."

Donaldson's Lincoln County ranch is in rolling pastureland about 125 miles northeast of Las Cruces. Donaldson, a journalist with ABC since 1967, owns three ranches in south-central New Mexico and has extensive ties to the state. He grew up on a cotton farm in New Mexico and graduated from New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell.

*'We didn't see them Tuesday morning or Tuesday afternoon, so I went over — and on the porch was a large stain that was instantly recognizable.'*

— Sam Donaldson  
ABC Journalist



Pampa News photo by ReDONN WOODS

## A spot of vacuuming

J.P. Butler vacuums the new carpet at the Texas Furniture store which is set to open soon at its new location on North Hobart.

## Bodies

Continued from Page 4

tive mouth. I am terribly afraid such a

frightening scenario is a distinct possibility if we aren't vigilant in reigning in these well-intentioned, yet menacing, "Nazis for Perfect Public Health" before they succeed in trampling on our right to life, however we want it.

## Disaster

Continued from Page 4

in Edwards' filings? The Bush campaign's negative-research operatives will be crawling all over the trial lawyers' firms to find any other donations that were similarly disguised. Since more than half of Edwards' donations came from trial

lawyers, there's a vast ground to pick over looking for scandal.

A running mate is really a presidential nominee's first appointment, widely seen as an indication of what kind of administration and Cabinet he would appoint. Kerry's choice of Edwards sends all the right messages. The pick of a Southerner assuages worries about Kerry's liberalism, and the North Carolina senator will lend a

dash and attractiveness to the ticket.

But these apparent positives could be overcome by big-time negatives if the trial-lawyer donations blow up in Edwards' face. No candidate would relish having to spend the first month of his campaign explaining away donations to his No. 2, but that could be exactly how John Kerry will have to spend the next few weeks.

## Crisis

Continued from Page 4

It made the trip to al-Shouk without incident. In terms of relief supplies, the camp is better off than perhaps any other in Darfur. Some camp residents told reporters about the murder of close family members. Others balked, citing the presence of government agents.

Powell made a 25-minute walk through the camp, accompanied by relief experts. He moved hurriedly because he did not want to get caught in a sandstorm brewing nearby.

When he finally reached a shelter at the end of his tour, a group of women presented him with a petition suggesting that all was well in Darfur.

His delegation realized that the women were government agents. Not only were they well-dressed, they were overweight.

For weeks, Powell had been in almost daily contact

with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan on ways to pressure Sudan to lift curbs on delivery of humanitarian supplies to Darfur and to permit the safe return of the displaced to their homes. Another goal was a peace settlement between Darfur's Arab and black populations.

*'Where are the people?'*

— Kofi Annan  
U.N. Secretary General

When Powell learned that Annan was planning to visit Sudan last week, he decided go there at the same time, adding Khartoum at the end of two-city trip in Europe.

The plan called for Powell and Annan to deliver back-to-back messages to President Omar el-Bashir that he must act to end the suffering. The one-two punch by the world's two best-known diplomats would be difficult for el-

Bashir to ignore, or so officials hoped.

By week's end, el-Bashir had pledged to send troops to Darfur to end militia violence and to remove all obstacles to delivery of relief supplies. There also were promises to start a peace dialogue among the rival factions. It remains unclear whether these assurances will be fulfilled.

Sudan's effort to orchestrate perceptions about camp life in Darfur did not stop with Powell. The day after he visited al-Shouk, Annan made a stop at the Meshtel settlement, where he expected to find 1,000 displaced people. To Annan's astonishment, all had been loaded on trucks and carted away.

"Where are the people?" Annan asked incredulously. A Sudanese official explained that the people were removed because conditions were too grim.

Annan turned down an offer to tour the same camp visited by Powell the day before.

## Community calendar

- **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1657, 105 S. Cuyler, Charity Bingo** every Wednesday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Doors open one hour early. No one under 18 allowed. Public is welcome. License No. 1-75-6037422-9. For more information contact Danny Martin, (806) 835-2906.
- **White Deer Land Museum Advisory Board meets** at 4:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the museum, 116 S. Cuyler St., Pampa.
- **Pampa Downtown Business Association meets** at 8:30 a.m., the first Thursday of the month at The Coffee Shop on Cuyler. All members are urged to attend.
- **Golden Spread Coin Club, originally Amarillo Coin Club,** meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month. GSCC is a member of American Numismatic Association. For more information, call (806) 352-8281 or (806) 342-9536.
- **Gray County Association for Retarded Citizens** meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of every month at Pampa Sheltered Workshop.
- **Gray County Extension Education meets at 1:30 p.m.** the first Monday of each month at Gray County Courthouse Annex.
- **Gray County Genealogical Society meets at 7:30 p.m.** the fourth Monday of each month in the Gray County Sheriff's Department classroom. (Enter through the north door of the jail building.) For membership inquiries, contact Harley Madison at 669-6294.
- **Las Pampas Water Garden and Koi Society** meets the second Saturday of each month. Anyone interested in the hobby of water gardening and fish keeping is welcome. For more information, contact Gary Stevens at 669-7956, Jack Chisum at 665-2878 or Debbie Davis at 665-0123.
- **Magic Plains Chapter of the American Business Women's Association** will meet at 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Clint and Sons Smokehouse, 1421 N. Hobart. Working business women are invited to attend. For more information, call Pat Winkleblack at 669-7828 or Estelle Malone at 669-9614.

# FREE PREVIEW

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JULY 8 2004



THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have read your column for years and usually agree wholeheartedly with your advice. However, I was stunned to read your reply to "On the Spot" in New Jersey, who chose not to invite her neighbor's 8- and 6-year-old children to her son's bar mitzvah.

Yes, it's true that children are invited to bar mitzvahs. But in this case, the neighbor's children are not family and are too young to be playmates of the bar mitzvah boy. The parents are within their rights to exclude these children from the guest list, especially when the cost of additional guests is taken into consideration. Furthermore, it was rude of the invitees to RSVP that their uninvited children would attend. — LINDA M., ROCKVILLE, MD.

DEAR LINDA: You're right — I goofed. My readers were quick to set me straight. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am 14 and recently had a bat mitzvah myself. I understand the situation. This was a challenge for our family, too.

Abby, these affairs are expensive, and it is not always affordable to include kids who are not close to the family. Also, young children can't sit through a three-hour service. That mother should discuss the situation with her neighbors and tell them that due to budget and space restrictions, the number of guests is limited.

— ASHLEY S., FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CALIF.

DEAR ASHLEY: Where were you when I needed you?

DEAR ABBY: The bottom line is, it takes "chutzpah" to include uninvited

children. — SUE K., WEST ORANGE, N.J.

DEAR SUE: It also takes a lot of nerve or gall ("chutzpah") to bring uninvited guests to weddings, anniversaries and other invitation-only events. However, if my mail is an indicator, chutzpah is one commodity that's never in short supply.

\*\*\*\*\*

DEAR ABBY: I am planning a small, intimate wedding this summer. Most of our guests will be family and very close friends.

My mother asked me to invite a longtime friend and co-worker. We sent the woman a save-the-date card. When Mother saw her the next day at work, the friend said she would be happy to attend -- if she didn't have a "band gig." Mother felt embarrassed and slighted. She would now like to start working from home to avoid this person and has asked me not to send an invitation. What should I do?

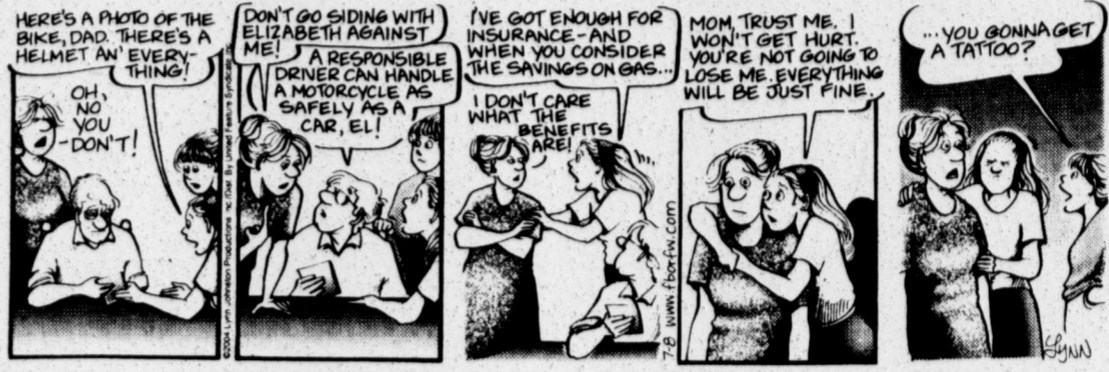
— SOON-TO-BE BRIDE IN VIRGINIA

DEAR SOON-TO-BE BRIDE: Since the co-worker has indicated that if a job comes up she might be absent, take the hint and don't send the invitation. Better that she was honest in advance about the fact she might be able to attend, rather than being a no-show.

P.S. Although your mother is disappointed, she should not let her co-worker's reaction spoil a warm workplace relationship. Avoiding the woman is not the answer. Forgiving her and moving on is.

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For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Com-

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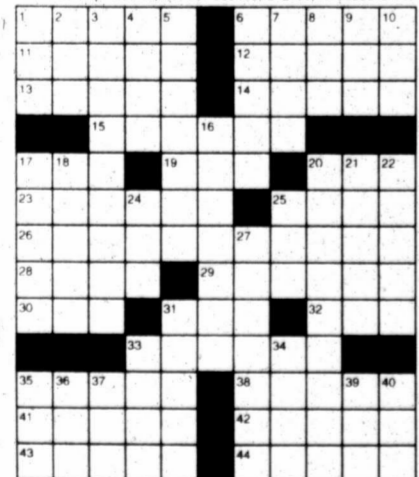
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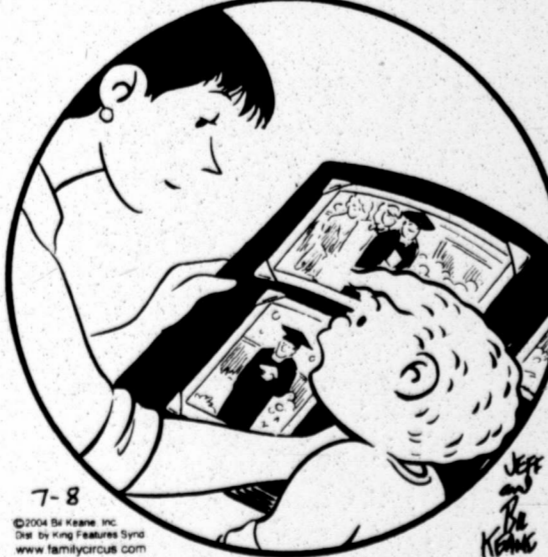
NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.50 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

Marmaduke



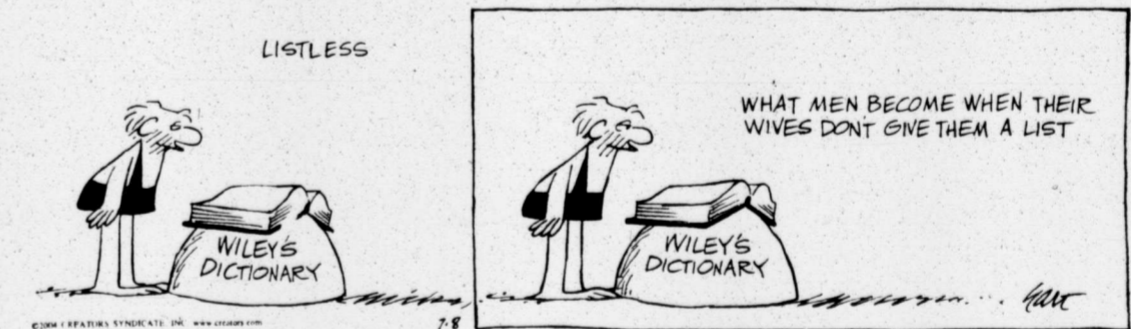
"Would you wait for me to move before you scratch your back?"

The Family Circus



"Why did Uncle Tom graduate in a black nightgown?"

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



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Flo & Friends



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# Sports Day

## FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

### She's an American Idol now

As you get to know me a little better, you will pick up on a few things regarding me and my style. Subliminal by design as there is no value in tooting my own horn. I'm not sure I even have a horn yet.

Some have already gleaned that I am, to say the least, opinionated. I consider this to be a healthy trait quite frankly. There is nothing wrong with stirring emotion. In causing another to form a thought or an opinion. To agree or disagree. This is what keeps the cranium from turning to dust.

So when I tell you I am not in the business of promoting a professional athlete, bank on it. More often than not, to verbally herald an athlete will come back to haunt you at some point. Virginia Tech's Marcus Vick is an excellent example. My how the pundits were singing his praises just a few short months ago. And how have they been repaid? By being embarrassed by Vick.

You will rarely, if ever, read my endorsement of a pro athlete. I don't consider this to be my role. Heaven knows they don't need my help, though a few would be wise to accept it.

My role, in particularly each Monday and Thursday with this column, is to offer thought, observation or opinion with regard to sport. As I continue to become more acclimated with the community, I intend to focus on local interests. However, I have been chomping at the bit to get to this offering.

With all that is wrong in sports today, it is refreshing if not a real blessing to see and hear an athlete speak with clarity and a true sense of appreciation for what he or she is receiving.

Recent Wimbledon women's single champion Maria Sharapova is such a person.

I have had a few chances to see and hear her speak since winning the crown less than two weeks ago. And each time I am more and more impressed with her. Yes, she is a beautiful young seventeen year old. Nothing wrong with that. In fact, she could become one for the most influential women in sport I think. Why not aspire to be like her? To look like her? To have skill like her? Far better to want to be like this young

lady than to dream of being like most any show biz or music celebrity today.

To understand why I believe Maria Sharapova has the opportunity to be the most influential female in sport, you need to know her story. The Reader's Digest version is that this girl was born into poverty in Russia. Her family realized at an early age, she had some skill with a tennis racket but her odds of attaining anything other than mediocrity were extremely limited. So, dad packs her up at the age of six and heads for the U.S. where he then has to leave her alone for long stretches of time so he can work. She trains and gets better. Two years or so later, mom is able to join them. She enters, wins some tournaments. She wins Wimbledon.

Okay, I'm missing some elements but you get the picture.

As I listen to her speak now, I can't help but be impressed with her english. Extremely good for one that has only had 11 years or so to learn it. But obviously she did learn it. She speaks better than most athletes in fact. But it is more than her mastering of the American language. Her wisdom is amazing. She is humble. She knows where she has been and knows where she wants to be. She has no preconceived notion that her future is now guaranteed nor that it will be handed to her. She recognizes despite the Wimbledon win, she will still need to focus on her game to insure future wins. More than that however, she already speaks of preparing for her future.

And to see her go to her father after winning Wimbledon was among the best thank-yous I have ever seen in sport.

Look, it's fair to say that tennis isn't high on my list of favorite sports. But I was fortunate enough to have watched that final match. And I have caught a few interviews since. And though I doubt I will watch more tennis because of Maria Sharapova, I believe she will provide the positive influence that all sports are crying out for today. And she will do so honestly and from the heart. This is the difference between earning it and having it handed to you.

Maria, don't let me down. Better yet, don't let those who will now idolize you down.

**Michael J. Stevens**

Sports Editor



## Tucker and crew go CanAm

By **MICHAEL J. STEVENS**  
Sports Editor

New Wheeler head football coach Toby Tucker will be among the American coaches pacing the sideline Saturday in Canada during the 8th annual CanAm Bowl.

The game pits the best 6-man U.S. players against Canada's best.

Players participate by invitation. Among the Americans is Andrew Jennings of Lefors and Cody Schaffer of Groom.

Wheeler head coach Toby Tucker is listed on the game's official website as one of three American coaches attending.

The annual CanAm Bowl takes place in Outlook, Saskatchewan, located on the banks of the picturesque South Saskatchewan River, 100 km south of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Following is the roster of U.S. players

invited to take part in the game.

**TX- Brian Reid, Blum High/Blum Bobcats, 5' 10", 160lbs.**

**TX- Andrew Jennings, Lefors/Lefors Pirates, 5' 9", 150lbs**

**NM- Rusty Hale, Tatum High/TatumCoyotes, 5' 10", 168lbs.**

**CO- Jeff Fehringer, Peetz High/Peetz Bulldogs, 6' 0", 180lbs.**

**MT- Jeff Fehringer, Peetz High/Peetz Bulldogs, 6' 0", 180lbs.**

**MT- Ace Mills, Augusta High/Elks, 5' 11", 170lbs.**

**MT- Josh Weekes, Lima High/Lima Bears, 5' 10", 165lbs.**

**TX- Cody Schaffer, Groom ISD/Tigers, 6' 2", 180lbs.**

**MT- Greg Reid, Geraldine/Tigers, 5' 10", 170lbs.**

**TX- David Moore, Witharral High/Panthers, 6' 1", 180lbs.**

**MT- Skyler Wipplinger, Roberts High/Rockets, 5' 10", 190lbs.**

**MT- Jasper Schroder, Lima High/Lima Bears, 6' 3", 210lbs.**

**CO- Jared Koester, Peetz High/Peetz Bulldogs, 6' 2", 200lbs.**

## Pampa to host tournament

The West Texas 11-12 Cal Ripken State Baseball Tournament will get under way in Pampa Saturday at Optimist Park at 1 p.m., according to state Commissioner David Lee of Pampa.

Deaf Smith County will play Denver City in the initial game of the tournament. The host team, Pampa, takes on Plainview at 3 p.m., Lee explained. In the first round North Randall County and Abernathy drew a bye.

At 6 p.m., Saturday, the winner of the 1 p.m. game plays North Randall County. At 8 p.m. the winner of the Pampa-Plainview game challenges Abernathy. Deaf Smith County (Herford) is the No. 1 seed from

District I. North Randal and Abernathy are the district champions from District II and District III. Plainview is No. 2 seed from District II while Denver City is the No. 2 seed from District III.

Pampa won the District I championship in Hereford last week by defeating Canyon 5-1, Deaf Smith County 5-4 and North Randall County 11s 9-8.

Ronnie Haynes, the Commissioner of the Pampa Optimist 11-12 Cal Ripken League, will serve as the tournament director. James Davis is the state commissioner in charge. Kevin Davis is the district commissioner.

The Pampa Optimist Youth Club is a Pampa United Way agency.

## Matta reportedly accepts offer at OSU

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Thad Matta accepted an offer to become Ohio State's next basketball coach.

Ohio State sports information director Steve Snapp said the school would hold a news conference Friday to formally introduce Matta.

Matta took Xavier to the NCAA tournament's regional finals in March. He had a

78-23 record in three years with the Musketeers. He was 24-8 in his only season as head coach at his alma mater, Butler.

Matta was thought to be one of the favorites for the Buckeyes job from the beginning.

Xavier athletic director Dawn Rogers confirmed Matta's hiring in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

## Twins KO KC; Ishii tosses 1 hitter

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### American League

The Minnesota Twins' starting pitchers played a game of can you top this against the hapless Kansas City Royals.

And everyone came out a winner.

Kyle Lohse followed Johan Santana and Brad Radke by throwing the Twins' club-record third straight shutout, beating the visiting Royals 12-0 Wednesday night.

"You don't want those kind of thoughts to cross your mind, but you obviously don't want to be the guy to give it up," Lohse said after his sixth-inning.

Santana started off the series by throwing a three-hitter. Radke pitched a four-hitter, and Lohse closed out the sweep as Minnesota shut out an opponent in three consecutive games for the first time in its 44-year history. The streak of 27 scoreless innings is a franchise high.

The Twins' trio became the first to accomplish the feat since September 1995 when Baltimore's Mike Mussina, Scott Erickson and Kevin Brown did it.

"Everybody's going to look like Cy Young right now, the way we're swinging," said Dee Brown, who had three hits for the Royals. Kansas City has lost eight in a row and 13 of 14, scoring one run in their last 37 innings.

In other AL games, it was: Detroit 10, New York 8; Toronto 12, Seattle 4; Boston 11, Oakland 3; Texas 9, Cleveland 8; Tampa Bay 13, Baltimore 3; and Anaheim 12, Chicago 0.

### National League

Kazuhiya Ishii cruised to his latest win over Arizona in only 2 hours, 20 minutes. It was a long night for the Diamondbacks, though.

"He threw a lot of strikes tonight. And when he throws strikes, he's very effective — especially against us," Steve Finley said. "He got the big lead and he just went right after us."

Ishii faced just 29 batters in his first career one-hitter, leading Los Angeles to its fifth consecutive victory — an 11-0 rout at Dodger Stadium.

The left-hander, who has not allowed an earned run in six of his 10 career starts against Arizona, retired his first 12 hitters before giving up a leadoff walk in the fifth to Luis Gonzalez and a line single to left by Shea Hillenbrand.

That was all the Diamondbacks could manage. Gonzalez and Hillenbrand advanced on a two-out wild pitch, but Juan Brito grounded out. No one else reached base against Ishii, who pitched a no-hitter in Japan in 1997 for the Yakult Swallows.

Ishii (10-4) threw 103 pitches in his second career shutout, improving to 6-1 lifetime against Arizona. Three of his wins this season have come against the Diamondbacks.

"I just wanted to go as long as I could to give the relievers some rest," he said through a translator.

Elsewhere in the NL, it was: Atlanta 14, Montreal 2; Pittsburgh 4, Florida 3; New York 10, Philadelphia 1; Milwaukee 4, Chicago 0; St. Louis 4, Cincinnati 2; Houston 5, San Diego 1; and San Francisco 8, Colorado 4.

*'Everybody's going to look like Cy Young right now, the way we're swinging.'*

— Dee Brown  
Outfielder, Kansas City Royals

## PHS Rodeo Club to host membership drive

The Pampa High School Rodeo Club invites students to attend a membership drive to be held Monday, July 12, at City Lake.

New and future members encouraged to attend.

For additional information, contact Kay Talley at 664-3514.

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# A stroke of brilliance for U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Michael Phelps claimed the first spot on the U.S. Olympic swim team with a world-record performance. He believes he can go even faster in Athens.

The 19-year-old from Baltimore broke his own record in the 400-meter individual medley with a time of 4 minutes, 8.41 seconds Wednesday on the opening night of the trials.

"I wanted to go into the Olympics with the fastest time in the world," he said.

Phelps set the previous record of 4:09.09 last year in the world championships in Barcelona, where he became the first swimmer in history to break five world records in one meet.

There's no telling what he'll do in his other five events in the eight-day trials. Phelps' goal is to break Mark Spitz's 32-year-old

record of seven Olympic gold medals.

"There are a few things I can fix, so at least I hope there's another hundredth or tenth in that race," he said about possibly lowering his latest world mark in Athens.

Natalie Coughlin, also expected to emerge as a star in Athens, will swim her first event Thursday in the 100 backstroke.

Three-time Olympian Jenny Thompson, who has a record 10 Olympic medals but not an individual gold, qualified for the 100 butterfly final Thursday night. She was fifth fastest in the semifinals at 59.17 seconds.

"I look to get better and better," she said.

Ed Moses and Brendan Hansen, who shared the American record, set up a showdown in the 100 breaststroke final Thursday night. Hansen's semifinal time

of 1:00.13 gave him sole possession of the American record and just missed the world mark of 59.78 set by Japan's Kosuke Kitajima.

Moses qualified fourth at 1:01.82.

Phelps was off record pace through the opening butterfly leg of the 400 IM, but made up for it in the backstroke. He even had a chance to sneak a glimpse at the scoreboard.

"If there's a clock there, I'm going to look," Phelps said.

The crowd of more than 7,000 fans chanted "Go! Go! Go!" each time Phelps poked his head above water during the breaststroke.

They rose to their feet as he powered to the wall during the freestyle portion.

"Maybe it looked effortless, but it didn't feel effortless," he said, grinning.

Erik Vendt finished second to Phelps, more than 5 1/2 seconds behind in 4:14.09.

"For me, getting second and making the team is just as good as winning," Vendt said.

Phelps wasn't the only impressive swimmer in the 400 IM.

Katie Hoff, a 15-year-old from the same North Baltimore club as Phelps, swam the second-fastest time by an American to win in 4:37.67. She just missed

Summer Sanders' 12-year-old national mark of 4:37.58.

"During the first 200, I was going, 'OK, OK, don't worry about anybody else. Just stick to my plan,'" she said. "On the breaststroke, I tried to start passing people. On the last 100, the crowd came in and started cheering. I tried to come home very fast."

Kaitlin Sandeno, an Olympic medalist from Sydney, was second in 4:40.39.

Klete Keller won the 400 freestyle with an American record of 3:44.19, more than 2 seconds better than Phelps' mark set last August. Larsen Jensen was second at 3:46.56 — also under the previous record.

"I was more nervous than I've ever been," said Keller, who won a bronze medal in the same event at Sydney

four years ago. "I almost felt like I was going to cry before the start. I don't know why. I just remembered what my coach said, 'You don't have to feel good to swim fast.'"

Keller has his work cut out for him in Athens. He was still more than 4 seconds slower than Australian star Ian Thorpe, who has the eight fastest times in history.

"I'm just going to enjoy this and keep working hard," Keller said. "Maybe I'll see if I can go a little faster."

Phelps was relieved to make it through the first event in Long Beach, where the U.S. team is being decided in a temporary pool set up on a parking lot along the shoreline.

"The trials are probably more stressful than the Olympic finals," he said.

## Weather unkind as stage five began

AMIENS, France (AP) — The fifth stage of the Tour de France began under adverse conditions Thursday with Lance Armstrong in the leader's yellow jersey.

Intermittent rain and chilly wind had many riders breaking out their rain jackets and bracing for wet roads along the 124.59-mile stretch from Amiens to Chartres. Conditions were similar the day before, when a handful of riders crashed.

Germany's Jan Ullrich, considered the greatest threat to Armstrong's aspirations for an unprecedented sixth Tour title, was 55 seconds behind the Texan in the overall standings at the start of the stage.

Ullrich's T-Mobile team was fourth in Wednesday's team time trial, which Armstrong's U.S. Postal Service team mas-

terfully claimed.

But Ullrich, an athlete of exceptional endurance, is expected to get stronger and sharper as the race moves into its more treacherous stages in the second week.

For now, Armstrong has the garish yellow jersey that is awarded daily to the Tour leader. But he says he is ready to relinquish the cherished shirt — temporarily — to reduce the pressure that comes with defending it every day.

"The only real yellow jerseys that matter are the ones that the guy wears on the Champs-Elysees," Armstrong said, referring to the race's finish on July 25.

In Wednesday's team event, Armstrong opened important time advantages over Ullrich and other key rivals.

## Mystics, Sparks WNBA winners

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chamique Holdsclaw scored 17 of her 23 points in the second half, and Tamicha Jackson made two key plays late to help the Washington Mystics defeat the Seattle Storm 72-69 Wednesday night.

Holdsclaw scored eight of the team's final 11 points and Washington (7-8) held off Seattle (10-5) despite blowing a 16-point second-half lead. Jackson also was a big help, hitting the tiebreaking jumper with 2:19 left and then making a steal seconds later that led to Holdsclaw's 3-pointer and a 68-63 lead.

The Storm threatened again and just missed sending it into overtime as Sue

Bird's 25-foot jumper fell short.

Seattle's Lauren Jackson scored 22 points, but got only two in the second half.

Meanwhile Lisa Leslie's layup with 4.4 seconds to play gave Los Angeles the win. Leslie finished with 13 points and 12 rebounds. Mwadi Mabika added 14 points as the Sparks (12-6) used their fourth consecutive victory and ninth in 10 games to move into first place in the Western Conference.

Diana Taurasi scored 25 points and Penny Taylor added 22 for the Mercury (8-9), who made 11 of 23 shots from 3-point range.

## Joel Quenneville named new Avalanche coach

DENVER (AP) — Joel Quenneville was hired to coach the Colorado Avalanche, replacing Tony Granato, who will become his assistant.

Quenneville was the coach of the St. Louis Blues from January 1997 until this February, when he was fired during a six-

teen game skid during which the Blues went 4-12.

In five of his six full seasons at St. Louis, Quenneville led the Blues to at least 40 regular-season wins. They won 307 regular-season games but went 34-34 in the post-season.

## Wednesday's MLB box scores

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**AMERICAN LEAGUE**  
Detroit 031 033 000 — 10 13 0  
New York 021 000 500 — 8 10 1

Bonderman, German (7), Yan (7), Urbina (9) and IRodriguez, DiFelice (1); Halsey, Prinz (5), Heredia (6), Quantrill (8) and Flaherty, Posada (9). W—Bonderman 6-6. L—Halsey 1-2. Sv—Urbina (12). HRs—Detroit, CGuillen (12), Monroe (3). New York, ARodriguez (21), Matsui (16).

Oakland 003 000 000 — 3 6 2  
Boston 151 002 20x — 11 15 1

MRedman, Duchscherer (3), Bradford (7), Lehr (8) and Melhuse; PMartinez, Embree (8), Timlin (8), Foulke (9) and Varitek. W—PMartinez 9-3. L—MRedman 6-6. HRs—Boston, Bellhorn (10), MRamirez (23), Garciparra (3).

Seattle 000 300 100 — 4 13 1  
Toronto 001 034 40x — 12 11 0

Blackley, JMateo (6), MMyers (7), Hasegawa (7), Guardado (8) and Borders; Towers, Ligtenberg (7), Speier (9) and Zaut. W—Towers 3-3. L—Blackley 1-1. HRs—Toronto, JPhelps 2 (9).

Texas 111 001 410 — 9 14 0  
Cleveland 200 301 002 — 8 11 1

Drese, Mahay (5), Francisco (7), FCordero (9) and Barajas; JaDavis, Robertson (6), RiWhite (7), Howry (8) and VMartinez. W—Mahay 2-0. L—Robertson 1-1. Sv—FCordero (26). HRs—Texas, ASoriano (16), Fullmer (10), Teixeira (17), Matthews (5), Cleveland, Lawton (15).

Anaheim 024 001 203 — 12 13 0  
Chicago 000 000 000 — 0 4 1

Washburn and BMolina; Schoeneweis, Diaz (6), MJackson (8), Adkins (9) and SAlomar. W—Washburn 9-4. L—Schoeneweis 5-7. HRs—Anaheim, GAnderson (7), JGuillen 2 (15).

Kansas City 000 000 000 — 0 6 2  
Minnesota 420 302 10x — 12 15 0

DReyes, Huisman (2), Sullivan (4), Seanez (7), Bukvich (8) and Buck; Lohse and Mauer. W—Lohse 3-6. L—DReyes 2-4.

Tampa Bay 300 000 307 — 13 14 0  
Baltimore 000 000 003 — 3 6 3

RBell, Colome (8), JoSosa (9) and THall; Parrish, Rodriguez (3), DeJean (7), Grimsley (9), Bauer (9) and Machado, Huckaby (9). W—RBell 3-3. L—Parrish 5-3. HR—Baltimore, RPalmeiro (12).

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**  
Pittsburgh 001 030 000 — 4 8 0  
Florida 101 000 100 — 3 10 1

OIPerez, Meadows (6), Grabow (7), WRoberts

(7), STorres (8), Mesa (9) and Kendall; Pavano, JManzanillo (7), Koch (9) and Treanor, Redmond (9). W—OIPerez 5-4. L—Pavano 9-4. Sv—Mesa (22).

Atlanta 033 003 005 — 14 17 2  
Montreal 000 100 100 — 2 9 0

JSWright, Alfonseca (7), Gryboski (7), Reitsma (7), TDrew (8), Mconnell (9) and JEstrella, EddPerez (7); LHernandez, Tucker (3), Bentz (5), SKim (7), Vargas (9), Horgan (9) and Schneider, EDiaz (8). W—JSWright 6-5. L—LHernandez 6-8. HRs—Atlanta, Furcal (7), JDrew (20), Laroche (3), AJones 2 (15), Thomas (1). Montreal, Sledge (8).

Chicago 000 000 000 — 0 4 0  
Milwaukee 012 010 00x — 4 9 0

Zambrano, Mercker (6), Beltrani (7), Wuertz (8) and Barrett; DDavis, Adams (9) and Moeller. W—DDavis 9-6. L—Zambrano 9-4. HR—Milwaukee, Jenkins (12).

Cincinnati 000 110 000 — 2 4 1  
St. Louis 100 100 11x — 4 10 0

JSanchez, Riedling (7), TJones (8) and LaRue; WWilliams, King (7), Tavarez (8), Isringhausen (9) and Matheny. W—King 2-0. L—Riedling 4-2. Sv—Isringhausen (20). HRs—Cincinnati, Larson (3). St. Louis, Edmonds (18).

New York 031 240 000 — 10 18 1  
Philadelphia 000 000 100 — 1 6 0

Trachsel, Moreno (8), Parra (9) and JPhillips, VWilson (9); BMyers, Geary (4), BPowell (5) and Lieberthal, Pratt (5). W—Trachsel 9-6. L—BMyers 5-6. HRs—New York, Floyd (13), Wigginton (11), Cameron 2 (12). Philadelphia, Burrell (15).

Houston 300 100 100 — 5 12 0  
San Diego 000 000 100 — 1 7 0

Oswalt, Lidge (8) and Chavez; Peavy, Witasick (5), Stone (7), Beck (9) and Quintero. W—Oswalt 8-6. L—Peavy 5-3. Sv—Lidge (6). HR—Houston, Vizcaino (2).

Arizona 000 000 000 — 0 1 1  
Los Angeles 601 03100x — 11 11 0

Sparks, Randolph (5), Villafuerte (8) and Brito; Ishii and Lo Duca. W—Ishii 10-4. L—Sparks 3-5. HRs—Los Angeles, Cora (6), Werth (5), Grabowski (6).

Colorado 010 000 210 — 4 7 0  
San Francisco 013 001 30x — 8 13 1

Bernero, Lopez (7), Dohmann (7), Reed (8) and Greene; Rueter, Walker (7), Eyre (8), Brower (8) and Pierzynski. W—Rueter 5-6. L—Bernero 1-1. HRs—Colorado, Greene (4), Gonzalez (7). San Francisco, Bonds (23).

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**July 9, 2004:**  
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**ARIES** (Mar) ★★★★★  
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**TAURUS** (Apr) ★★★★★  
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**GEMINI** (M) ★★★★★  
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One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

### 7-8 CRYPTOQUOTE

U E L J N V X Z R R J D Z J V  
G J V J W T X V J K X Z U H

X H D G I S H U H R I S - U - Z -

W X V - I - V - G J V I

**Yesterday's Cryptoquote:** WE MIGHT BE MORE EAGER TO ACCEPT GOOD ADVICE IF IT DIDN'T CONTINUALLY INTERFERE WITH OUR PLANS.  
—L.L. LEVINSON

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, July 9, 2004:

Many dump their responsibilities on you this year. Make it your pleasure, as you will have an opportunity to work on a political campaign or key cause. You accomplish your dominance in the public eye. You can make a difference. If you are attached, you and your partner might want to do more together or share a key cause that means a lot to you. Be partners in the outside world as well. If you are single, you will be in a position to meet new friends and expand your horizons. Meeting your new sweetie happens easily. You are a sign that enjoys sharing his or her home. In the winter, you will want to be with a special person. If you are attached, you will become closer as a result of doing more together. ARIES pushes you into the limelight.

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

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
\*\*\*\*\* Dig into any project that must be done before you split for the weekend. You might have a difficult time staying present with your work and those you are with. Take off as soon as you can. Work on being efficient. Tonight: Take off. If you can, get out of town.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
\*\*\* Your ability to read between the lines directs your activities in the next few days. A partner has a lot to share. Carefully listen to news around work or from someone in charge. Make the calls that you must. Don't gab away. Tonight: Vanish. For now.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
\*\*\*\*\* Aim for more of what you

want. You could be surprised by how easily everything falls into place. Groups and crowds are particularly lucky for you. Flex with others as only you can. Use care with spending. Tonight: You are the party.  
**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
\*\*\*\*\* Take charge when others seem to flake out. Your abilities might be tested, but you'll come out on top. A mini-reorganization might be necessary if you want to clear out your work. Invite associates to join you. Tonight: Out and about.  
**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
\*\*\*\*\* Your mind is everywhere but on the moment. Hop on the computer. Do some research. Think in terms of gains by detaching and using your endless imagination. You can organize yourself and become more efficient. Tonight: Do something a bit different. Break out of your routine.  
**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
\*\*\*\*\* Do what you need to do in order to get ahead. Ask for a partner's or associate's help. Whatever is on your plate or must be done, you'll accomplish with ease if you ask for another's support. Say thank you in a way that is meaningful to this person. Tonight: Indulge yourself and another.  
**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
\*\*\*\*\* Others dominate, and there is nothing that you can do about it. Of course, you cannot be responsible for what others do. Be open for discussions, as they will be one of the few avenues in which you can express your feelings. Tonight: Just don't be alone.  
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
\*\*\*\*\* You might have too much to do and could be overwhelmed. Stay steady. If you need to purchase an item to help complete your work or a project, do just that. Think in terms of effi-

### 21 Help Wanted

**PETROLEUM** Bulk Drivers join our team driving for Eastex Crude Co. Eastex now taking applications for day driving position in Pampa, Tx. Applicants must Class A CDL w/ HAZMAT & tanker endorsement & petroleum delivery exp. \*Home Daily \*Benefit Pkg. 903-856-2401 Ext. 129. 800-443-8580 for Clint.

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ciency. Yes, you can be an efficiency expert too. Tonight: Relax tonight, because tomorrow ...  
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
\*\*\*\*\* You're finally in sync with others, although you might want to do something different at the last minute. Others enjoy your enthusiasm and spontaneity. Be the free spirit that you are known to be. Tonight: How 'bout a ballgame or a concert?  
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
\*\*\* Head home as early as you can, even if it means bringing work with you. You need to get through a lot of paperwork before tomorrow. Make it your business to do what you have to do. After all, you do want to enjoy yourself this weekend. Tonight: Order in.  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
\*\*\*\*\* You flagrantly flip through your messages and take long coffee breaks. Call a spade a spade. You're not in the mood to work. Why not take off and do your thing, if you can? Know that you will have to make up what you don't do right now. Tonight: Hang out with friends.  
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
\*\*\*\*\* Balance your budget. Handle your finances with care. You might need to deal with a boss about money. Or perhaps you are asking for overtime. Take care of your needs before you decide to plunge into your weekend. Tonight: Lie low. Rest -- you will need it.  
**BORN TODAY**  
Actor Tom Hanks (1956), singer, actress Courtney Love (1964), actor Fred Savage (1976)  
\*\*\*  
Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.

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GARAGE Sale: Tools, books, something for everyone! 1821 Lea Fri & Sat 8-5

3 Family Garage Sale!! Friday 8-? 1000 E Browning

FURNITURE, lots of clothes, toys, dishes, & misc. 2339 Cherokee Fri & Sat 7-?

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AWESOME Stuff! 1900 Charles, Fri. 8 a.p. Sectional couch, dressers, tables, more furniture, luggage, Resistol hats, name brand clothing from sz. 6-12, lots of knick knacks.

TRAVEL trailer, furniture, baby items, toys, bedding, electrical box, Fri. 9th, 8-2, Sat. 10th, 8-? 2309 Comanche.

416 N. Sumner, Piano, couch, end tbls, bdr set, gas dryer, dishes, day bed, & tools Sat. 8-? No early birds!

YARD Sale: 1615 Williston, Fri. 1-5, Sat. 8-? Baby stuff, clothes, exerc. equip., lots of misc.

CLUTTER Bugs Meets clean sweep, decorative items, kids stuff, men's clothes, iron bed frame, 1209 N. Russell, Fri. 8-5, Sat 8-12

MULTIPLE Family Sale Saturday July 10th 7-? 2628 Fir Street

FRI, Sat. 8 a.m. Handyman supplies, yard, kitchen, luggage, typewriter, toys, more! 2729 Navajo

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FRI, Sat. 8 a.m. Handyman supplies, yard, kitchen, luggage, typewriter, toys, more! 2729 Navajo

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103 Homes For Sale Twila Fisher Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 663-1442, 669-0007

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## Local storyteller attending conference

Pampa performing artist to attend conference in Washington state

Loralee Cooley, a local storyteller who has "Storyspinning," is planning to attend the National Storytelling Conference today through July 11 at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash. Held annually in July, the theme of this year's conference is "Embracing the Power of Storytelling."

Ms. Cooley, a professional storyteller since 1977, will participate in a pre-conference day-long seminar entitled "The Healing Voice of Story: Transforming Lives and Community." Cooley will also attend various workshops and other activities and concerts while at the conference.

Since moving to Pampa in 1994 with her husband, Ed, who is pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Pampa, Cooley has served as president of Pampa Fine Arts Association. While PFAA president, she was involved in bringing ARTrain to Pampa in 1998 and is currently president of Pampa's Tribute to Woody



Local storyteller and member of Texas Commission of the Arts Touring Artist Roster, Loralee Cooley is seen here leading students to the "storytelling" corner at Pampa's Lovett Memorial Library.

Guthrie.

Pampa's Tribute to Woody Guthrie, headquartered downtown in the former Harris Drug Store where Guthrie once worked, is gearing up for its annual "tribute" Sept. 30-Oct. 3, when the Vanaver Caravan

of New York will return to present its concert "Pastures of Plenty." Guthrie's granddaughter, Anna Canoni, will also be on hand with rare family film footage to share with the public.

Cooley has "spun" her stories in libraries, art cen-

ters, hospitals, retirement centers, businesses, churches, schools and universities throughout the Texas Panhandle and the South Plains.

From 2000-2003, she worked closely with the International Cultural Center of Texas Tech University, presenting a series of programs on "Stories Around the World," from Stratford to LaMesa as well as on campus.

On an unplanned hiatus for the past 12 months due to a car accident in July 2003, Cooley views her attendance at the conference as her re-entry into the profession of storytelling.

Cooley's conference expenses are underwritten in part through a travel subsidy grant from Texas Commission on the Arts. She has been a member of TCA's Touring Artist Roster since 1996.

Held in a different location each year, the conference, according to Cooley, will be in Oklahoma City, Okla., in 2005. It is sponsored by the National Storytelling Network based in Jonesborough, Tenn.

## Islamic Army Group takes responsibility for Fallujah killings

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A militant group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq claimed responsibility for the March 31 killings of four American contractors whose bodies were mutilated in the restive city of Fallujah.

The claim was made in a CD-ROM obtained by Time magazine that also showed footage purported to be of the attack, identification papers of the victims and papers with the logo of their company, Blackwater Security Consulting.

The slaying and mutilations of the four Blackwater employees — two of their burned bodies were hung from a bridge by an Iraqi mob — was one of the factors that prompted a bloody three-week siege of Fallujah by U.S. Marines.

The assault ended with the Marines withdrawing and handing the city over to an Iraqi force, but Fallujah remains a stronghold of guerrillas and Islamic militants.

There has been no prior claim of responsibility for the killings.

The CD-ROM, obtained Wednesday from Time, features a series of explosions and attacks the group says it orchestrated, and one masked man gives an account of the March 31 ambush.

"One of our operatives in the intelligence department of the Islamic Army told our leaders that members of the CIA would be passing through Fallujah on their way to the base at (the nearby town of) Habbaniyah for an important meeting," said the masked man, whose voice was distorted in the recording.

Militia leaders decided to target the two cars at the city's main traffic junction, the man said.

The Islamic Army's attack was successful on both fronts.

## Officials: Prisoner abuse happened in private jail

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Three Americans arrested in Afghanistan were on a self-appointed counterterrorism mission that included abusing eight inmates held in a private jail, Afghan officials said Thursday.

The U.S. Embassy identified one of the men detained Monday in a raid in Kabul as Jonathan K. Idema, a purported former Green Beret who claims to have links with Afghan militia forces.

The American military has warned that Idema had been posing as a U.S. military or government employee.

Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali said the three men had, along with four Afghans also arrested Monday, "formed a group and pretended they were fighting terrorism."

"They arrested eight people from across Kabul and put them in their jail," Jalali said at a news conference.

Another Afghan security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said intel-

ligence and police officials found the prisoners hung by their feet.

*'Idema allegedly represented himself as an American government and/or military official. The public should be aware that he does not represent the American government and we do not employ him.'*

— U.S. Military Press Statement

"They were hanging upside down," the official said on condition of anonymity. The official said reports on the case showed that the men were beaten, though he had no details.

Jalali said the eight were released. They weren't identified.

Jalali described the group

as "rebels" with no "legal link" to any Afghan or other authorities.

The intelligence official said the three foreigners were wearing uniforms that appeared to be from the U.S. military and were armed with assault rifles.

Idema, described in media reports as an ex-special forces soldier in his 40s, cropped up in Afghanistan in the winter of 2001 when U.S. and allied Afghan forces routed the Taliban.

He offered his services to Western television networks, including a videotape showing a purported al-Qaida training facility near Kabul, and later featured in a top-selling book called "The Hunt for Osama bin Laden."

Afghan police and intelligence officers seized the men in downtown Kabul on Monday. Jalali said the men were operating in Kabul under the guise of working for an export company.

The security official denied reports that shots were fired during the raid.

He said security forces had been trailing the men and caught them by surprise.

The U.S. military took the unusual step on Monday of distancing itself from Idema, who "allegedly represented himself as an American government and/or military official."

"The public should be aware that Idema does not represent the American government and we do not employ him," the statement said.

A spokeswoman insisted that Afghan authorities are leading the investigation.

## Al-Qaida trial over Cole bombing starts

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) — A security court charged six alleged al-Qaida members Wednesday with plotting the attack on the USS Cole, opening the first trial in the suicide bombing that killed 17 American sailors. Among the defendants is reputed mastermind Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri.

Police and soldiers cordoned off the security court in San'a, and marksmen watched from rooftops, as five of the defendants were brought in to hear the judge read their indictment. Al-Nashiri, the sixth defendant, is in U.S. custody.

The attack occurred in October 2000 when two suicide bombers brought a small boat alongside the destroyer as it refueled in Aden harbor. The bombers detonated explosives stashed on the boat, killing themselves and 17 sailors, and blasting a huge hole in the ship's hull.

The United States announced al-Nashiri's arrest in 2002. He was detained in the United Arab Emirates and transferred to American custody. U.S. officials believe the Saudi-born al-Nashiri is a close associate of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

In addition to the Cole attack, he is suspected of helping direct the deadly 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

A diplomat at the U.S.

Embassy in San'a refused to comment on the trial or disclose al-Nashiri's whereabouts. Nor would he say whether the accused would be handed over to the Yemeni authorities. U.S. diplomats attended the hearing.

The United States reportedly pressed Yemen to delay the trial until all facets of the case had been thoroughly investigated. Journalists in San'a often heard the trial was about to begin, and then found it had been postponed.

Judge Najib al-Qaderi said the court would publish a statement in local newspapers summoning al-Nashiri to appear. Yemeni officials have said they have asked the United States to hand him over.

The five defendants, all Yemenis, refused to plead and asked the judge to grant

them access to lawyers.

Al-Qaderi, who approved their request, said they were charged with belonging to the al-Qaida terror network, forming an armed gang with the purpose of carrying out crimes against the state, resisting the authorities and forging documents.

The judge said the attack was planned over three years. He named the two suicide bombers for the first time, Ibrahim al-Thawr and Abdullah al-Misawa, both Yemenis. He said some members of the cell had met in Afghanistan, which was an al-Qaida stronghold before the U.S.-led invasion of that country after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

If convicted, the defendants could be sentenced to up to 15 years in prison, or to death.

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