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The PAMPA NEWS

Tuesday, June 30, 2009 Volume 105 • No. 64 50¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

King Jury selection begins today

BETSY BLANEY, ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Jury selection was scheduled to begin Tuesday in the capital murder trial of a man accused of killing a pregnant woman, her husband and young son in the Texas Panhandle in 2005.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty against Levi King, 26. He's already serving a life sentence for killing two people in his home state of Missouri the day before the Texas slayings.

Jury selection could take several weeks, a Lubbock County court official said. Prosecutor Lynn Switzer declined to comment on the case Monday, citing a gag order. King's attorney, Joe Mar Wilson of Amarillo, did not immediately return a call.

The bodies of Brian Conrad, 31, Michell Conrad, 35, and Zach Doan, her 14-year-old son were found slain in their home south of Pampa on Sept. 30, 2005. Michell Conrad was six months pregnant with the couple's first child.

Michell Conrad's daughter, 10 at the time, survived and called 911. Texas authorities have not released the 911 tape, any details about how the girl survived or what she might have seen. It was not clear

KING cont. on page 3

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New visitors' center for Old Mobeetie



Surrounded by guests to Mobeetie's Old Town Hoedown, Billy Miller, cavalry reenactor tells his audience about Fort Elliott, which was established in Wheeler County in the 1870s. staff photo by David Bowser

History in full view at the Hoedown

BY DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

OLD MOBEETIE — Sitting along the wall of the new visitor's center, waiting to be hung, is a painting of legendary gun-fight Bat Masterson shooting it out with a cavalry trooper over a saloon girl in Joe and Janie Van Zandt's living room.

Of course, it wasn't the Van Zandt's living room at the time. It was the Lady Gay Saloon in Mobeetie, a town filled with saloons in January, 1876.

Sgt. Melvin King was the cavalry trooper who died in the fight. His shot killed Mollie Brennan, the blue-eyed, black-haired beauty who threw herself in front of Masterson and saved his life. Brennan is buried in the neatly kept cemetery at Mobeetie, along with Cap. Arrington, Wheeler County's first sheriff and patriarch of a local ranching family, and Louise Houston, the three-

year-old daughter of Temple Houston, son of the first President of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston, who practiced law in Mobeetie.

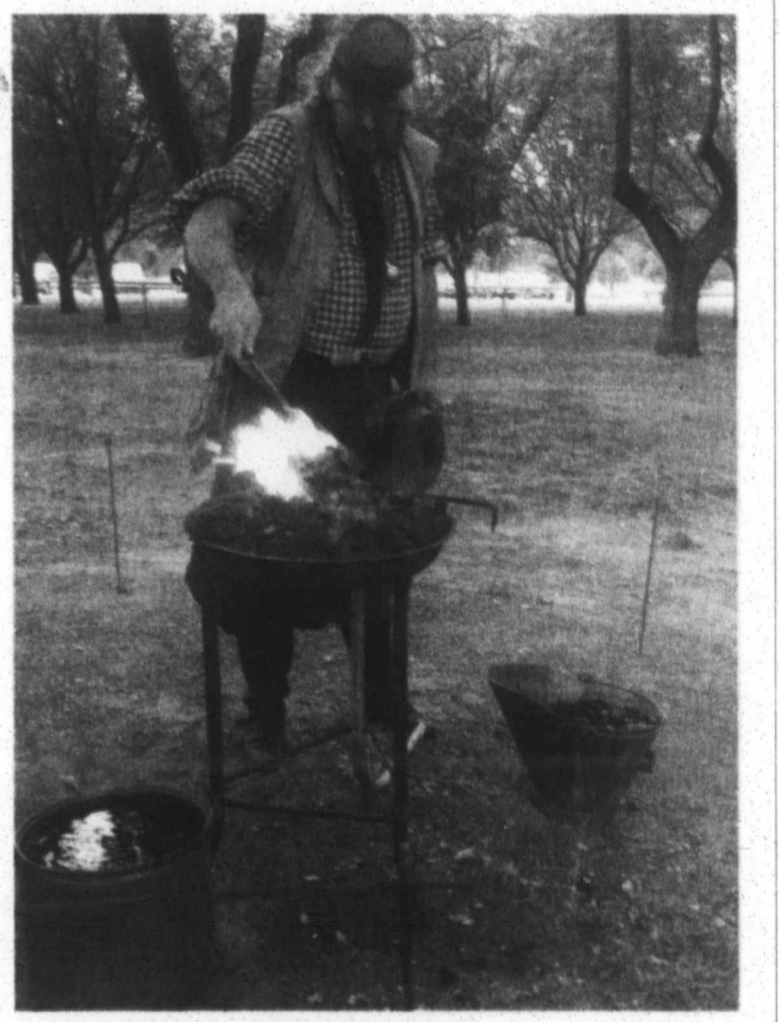
Such is the history that will meet guests at the new Old Mobeetie Visitor's Center.

Like most of Old Mobeetie, it's not new. It's the old school building. Actually, it was the second school built. The first one, a rock building, was torn down. The high school was built in New Mobeetie a mile or so to the north, or as local residents call it, "New Town."

The school district was established in 1882.

Joe Van Zandt was the moving

MOBEETIE cont. on page 5



Keith Latham gives a blacksmith demonstration during Old Mobeetie's Old Town Hoedown Saturday, June 27. staff photo by David Bowser

Pampa man dies in rollover accident

BY BETSY PHILLIPS
 editor@thepampanews.com

A Pampa man died in a one-car crash at around 2 a.m. Tuesday morning, according to The Texas Department of Safety.

Stephen Leon Alexander 51, of Pampa, Texas died as a result of a vehicle rollover crash that occurred 2.5 miles east of Pampa on US 60 in Gray County.

According to Trooper Gabriel Medrano, Public Information Officer for the DPS, Alexander 51, was the driver of a Ford Explorer traveling east on US 60 in Gray County. The vehicle veered off of the roadway to the south striking a light pole.

The vehicle continued along the south ditch and began to overturn, ejecting the driver as it rolled. Alexander was pronounced dead at the scene. Alexander was not wearing a safety belt at the time of the crash, according to the DPS report.

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For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
High 95 Low 70	High 93 Low 67	High 92 Low 71

Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. East wind around 5 mph becoming southwest. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 95. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 93. Southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 92. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 71. South southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

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Tribune-Herald to cease printing in Waco

WACO, Texas (AP) — The Waco Tribune-Herald will cease printing and packaging at its Waco shop, effective July 13.

Publisher Belinda Gaudet (gaw-DAY) says the Tribune-Herald will outsource those functions to its Cox Newspapers sibling Austin American-Statesman. She says that move and the elimination of 25 full-time and 18 part-time positions are aimed at cutting costs.

Gaudet says the affected workers will be offered severance of base pay and benefits for eight to 26 weeks, depending on seniority.

The cuts will reduce the staff to 162, down 31 percent from August.

Gaudet notes the consolidation is part of an industrywide trend. The Tribune-Herald will still be written, edited and designed in Waco with finished page layouts sent electronically to Austin.

The newspaper's roots date back to 1892. Cox bought the Tribune-Herald in 1976.

80 gang members arrested in Texas sweep

HOUSTON (AP) — U.S. immigration officials say 80 street gang members have been arrested in a five-day sweep through Houston, Beaumont and Corpus Christi.

Federal, state and local officers made the arrests as part of a national initiative targeting transnational gangs, officials said Tuesday. The sweep also nabbed 36 immigration status violators.

Sixty face criminal charges and 13 re-entered the country illegally after being deported. The remaining 43 were arrested on immigration violations and are in custody.

LAST MINUTE CLASSIFIED LINE ADS

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

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EARLY CLASSIFIED Deadlines for Thurs. July 2nd is Wed. July 1st at noon, for Fri. July 3rd, deadline is Wed. before 4pm. No Weekend edition on July 4/5!!!!

NO WEEKEND Edition for Sat/Sun (July 4/5th), so our employees may be with their families and friends. Happy July 4th, from Pampa News!!!

Obituaries

Ronnie K. Parsley, 57

Pampa— Ronnie K. Parsley, 57, died June 28, 2009 at Cottonwood Lake near Quitaque, Texas.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, 2009, at Central Baptist Church with Dr. Delbert White, pastor of Central Park Baptist Church of Carrollton, and Rev. Charles Lowry, pastor of CrossPointe Church, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Parsley was born July 18, 1951 in Pampa, and was a 1969 graduate of Pampa High School. He married Betty Parker on November 19, 1977 in Pampa. Ronnie was

associated with Parsley Roofing for over 40 years and also worked for Billy Parker Roofing for five years. He was a member of Central Baptist Church. He loved the Lord and his grandchildren, and he loved to fish and hunt.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Parsley of the home, 10 children: Deanna McGill and husband David, Tammy Damron and husband Dewayne, Vangie Hancox and husband Clint, Crystal Parsley and Calvin Parsley, all of Pampa, Ricky Parsley and wife Beth of Amarillo, Rodney Parsley and wife Elaine of Arlington, Tonja Harvey and husband James of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, JoNell

Parker and husband Billy of Kingwood, and Jessie Parsley of Houston; 1 brother: Randy Parsley and wife Michele of Pampa; 4 sisters: Viola Bray and husband Roger of Pocatello, Idaho, Kathy Cluck and husband Joe and Neta Mackey, all of Amarillo, and Rita Stephens and husband Clay of Mason City, Iowa; 19 grandchildren. Ronnie was preceded in death by his parents: A. C. and Marie Parsley.

MEMORIALS: American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 11454, Alexandria, Virginia 22312, or Senior Developmental Class at Pampa High School, c/o Jerilyn Wichert, 111 E. Harvester, Pampa, Texas



Parsley

79065. SPECIAL NOTICE: The family will be at 2323 Christine in Pampa. Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whitley.com

James Abram "Abe" Lewis, 92

Pampa— James Abram "Abe" Lewis, 92, died June 30, 2009, in Pampa, Texas.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 1, 2009, at Fairview Cemetery, with Pastor Bob Banks, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Lewis was born January 17, 1917 in Gray County to Joseph Henry and Leta Farrington Lewis. The Lewis family was one of the first settlers in Roberts and Gray coun-

ties. Abe was a longtime Gray County farmer and rancher, farming east of Pampa since 1946. He was a member of Gray-Roberts County Farm Bureau and the American Legion. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army, serving with the 90th Infantry Division during World War II, and achieving the rank of Sgt. He was preceded in death by his parents: a brother: Joseph Farrington Lewis; and a sister: Josephine Lawler.

Survivors include a

daughter, Grazia Moser of Pampa, one son, Danny Lewis of Pampa, three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren; special friend and longtime caregiver: Cheryl Harvill of Shepard's Crook Home Health Care; and caregiver: Deb Banks.

The family wishes to extend a special thanks to Hospice of the Southwest for their loving care of Mr. Lewis.

MEMORIALS: to a favorite charity.



Lewis

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whitley.com

Harmon Shipp, 93

Pampa—Harmon Shipp, 93, died June 30, 2009, in Pampa, Texas.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

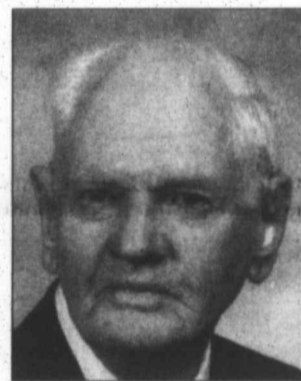
Mr. Shipp was born August 29, 1915 in Cross Plains. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1951. He married Barbara Jean Minyard on April 21, 2000 in Pampa. Harmon was a mail carrier for the U. S. Postal Service for 20 years,

retiring when he was 65. He was a member of Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ and was a veteran of the U. S. Army, serving during World War II.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara Shipp of the home, one daughter, Teresa Curfman and husband Kurt of Pampa, two sons: Clovis Shipp and wife Paulette of Brownwood and Don Shipp and wife Maxine of Wichita Falls, two sisters;

Opal West of Lubbock and Louise Woods of Richmond, Virginia and one brother, Marvin Shipp of Springfield, Missouri. Harmon was preceded in death by his parents, Claude and Ruby Shipp, a brother, Albert Shipp and two sisters; Claudie Tennon and Thelma Byrd.

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whitley.com



Shipp

Emergency Services

AMBULANCE

Guardian EMS responded to the following calls during the period between 7 a.m. Monday, June 29 to 7 a.m. Tuesday, June 30.

Monday
9:50 a.m. — An MICU unit responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center for the transfer of one patient to NWTX.

1:46 p.m. — An MICU unit responded to the 1500 block of N. Christy and transferred one patient to PRMC

1:52 p.m. — An MICU unit responded to the 600 block of N. Nelson, no transport.

3:09 p.m. — An MICU unit responded to the 100 block of W. 30th, no transport.

4:01 p.m. — An MICU unit responded to the 400 block of W. 30th, no transport.

5:47 p.m. — An MICU unit responded to the 1900 block of Helton Road, one patient to PRMC.

10:51 p.m. — An MICU unit responded to the 1200 block of N. Wells, one patient to PRMC.

11:56 p.m. — An MICU unit responded six and one half miles south on Hwy. 70, one patient transferred to PRMC

Tuesday
2:08 a.m. — An MICU unit responded two miles east on Hwy 60, no transport.

The Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls between 6 a.m. Monday, June 29 and 7 a.m. Tuesday, June 30.

1:54 p.m. — One unit and 3 personnel responded to the 600 block of N. Nelson on a medical assist.

1:57 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 1500 block of N. Faulkner on a dumpster fire.

3:11 p.m., One unit and three personnel responded to the 100 block of W. 30th on a motor vehicle accident.

PAMPA PD

The Pampa Police Department responded to the following calls during the period between 7 a.m. Monday, June 29 to 7 a.m. Tuesday, June 30.

Monday
Animal Control Officers responded to 16 calls or stops.

Pampa Police Officers made 18 traffic stops, had eight ongoing investigations, and responded to three requests for information.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 900 block on S. Wells.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1200 block of S. Wilcox.

A suspicious person was reported in the 700 block of W. Browning.

Officers responded to a traffic accident in the 300 block of N. Francis

Criminal trespass was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 300 block of S. Cuyler.

A welfare check was made in the 500 block of N. Lowry.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1000 block of S. Prairie Drive.

Theft was reported in the 500 block of N. Nelson.

Theft was reported in the 600 block of S. Reid St. Fraud was reported

in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

Theft was reported in the 600 N Wynne St.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 800 block of S Banks.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1200 block of Hobart.

Disorderly conduct was twice reported in the 100 block of W 30th Ave.

Officers responded to a traffic accident in the 100 block of W. 30th Ave.

A civil matter was reported in the 1800 block of N. Nelson St.

A burglary was reported in the 900 block of E. Bernard Ave.

A traffic complaint was taken in the 2200 block of N. Hobart.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 900 block of S. Llano St.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 800 block of E. Scott Ave.

An assault was reported in the 1800 block of N. Dwight.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1100 block of S. Prairie Drive.

Disorderly conduct was reported was reported 2600 N Hobart.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 600 block of N. Lefors.

A motorist assist was conducted in the 200 block of W. Cook Ave.

A suspicious person was reported in the 400 block of N. West St.

Tuesday
A suspicious person was reported in the 700 block of W. Francis.

A suspicious person was reported at 19th and Hamilton.

A prowler was reported in the 1200 block of E. Frederic Ave.

SHERIFF

The Gray County Sheriff's Department booked the following people into the Gray County jail during the period between 7 a.m. Monday, June, 29 and 7 a.m. Tuesday, June, 30.

Monday
Johnathan David Robinson, of Pampa Texas, was arrested by state law enforcement on a warrant for assault causing bodily injury.

Charles Franklin Mejia was arrested by the Pampa Police Department on a capias pro fine— assault by threat, capias pro fine— no driver's license, capias pro fine— failure to appear, and theft— Potter County.

Howard Othello Martin, Jr., of Pampa was arrested by Pampa police officers for capias pro fine— no valid driver's license, capias pro fine, failure to maintain insurance.

Randy Glenn Stover, of Pampa, was arrested by Gray County Sheriff's deputies for possession of a controlled substance.

Tuesday
Donny Wilbon, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa police officers for failure to identify.

Idray Fay Jones, of Pampa, was arrested by Pampa police officers for possession of marijuana, less than two ounces, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

OUT OF CONTROL



staff photo by **Betsy Phillips**
Pampa Police, fire and Guardian EMS responded Monday afternoon to a crash in the 100 block of W 30th. Police officials were still sorting out details Tuesday morning, but apparently a pick-up truck hit three parked cars and then struck a tree on 30th Ave. The Pampa News will publish further details when they become available.

King trial

cont. from page 1

whether she would testify.

King was apprehended the same day at a border crossing in El Paso, Missouri officials have said. Missouri authorities have said they believe King left the area after he killed the pair there, headed south and then west on Interstate 40. The Conrad home is about 10 miles north of Interstate 40.

Authorities believe Orlie McCool, 70, and Dawn McCool, 47, were shot to

death on the afternoon of Sept. 29, 2005, in their Pineville, Mo., home.

In March 2006, King was indicted on three counts of capital murder in the deaths. The indictment alleging King murdered the pair there, headed south and then west on Interstate 40. The Conrad home is about 10 miles north of Interstate 40.

A Gray County judge, Steven Emmert, ordered the trial moved to Lubbock.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

8	5	3	2	4	1	6	9	7
4	1	9	5	7	6	2	8	3
6	2	7	9	8	3	1	4	5
7	8	5	6	2	4	3	1	9
2	9	6	3	1	5	8	7	4
1	3	4	8	9	7	5	2	6
9	6	1	4	5	8	7	3	2
5	4	8	7	3	2	9	6	1
3	7	2	1	6	9	4	5	8

8			7			4		6
	2	4		3	5			9
	3		9					5
1							6	7
9		8		6		1	2	4
4							9	8
			3		4		5	
					6	7		2
5		6	2	7				

Level: Beginner

Mobeetie

force behind the new visitor's center, according to David Seitz, a Mobeetie resident who retired from the U.S. Natural Resources and Conservation Service. Van Zandt, a Wheeler County cattleman and retired Extension educator, not only lives in what was once the Lady Gay Saloon, he expanded it into a very comfortable home for him and his wife, Janie.

Van Zandt is also the head of the Old Mobeetie Historical Association and was instrumental in getting a \$750,000 in grants to renovate the old school

into a visitor's center complete with achieves filled with the rich history of this community.

Old Mobeetie was on display Saturday for the Old Town Hoedown.

Pampa's Keven Romines was there with his chuck-wagon fixing fajitas.

Ken Fields was there leading a contingent of cavalry reenactors in their blue wool uniforms on a warm summer's day.

Keith Latham of Amarillo slaved over a forge in the shade of the trees next to the old jail museum, giving a blacksmithing dem-

onstration.

Alice and Marc Ferguson of Montezuma, Kan., were there in period clothing, including parasol and six-guns.

The volunteers that rebuilt the old school into the new visitor's center mingled with the crowd, amid the bands, presentations and demonstrations.

"That's what we're proud of," Seitz said of the new visitor's center. "It was an elementary school when I went there. It was the high school when my mother and daddy went to school there."

cont. from page 1

In addition to a gift shop, auditorium and achieves, there are seven paintings by Western Artist Kenneth Wyatt depicting Fort Elliott that was Mobeetie's reason for being, the Cheyenne villages that once were common along Sweetwater Creek and, of course, the shootout in the Lady Gay Saloon.

Tonya Finsterwald, the organizer of the Old Town Hoedown and secretary of the historical association, said there are several more to be commissioned.

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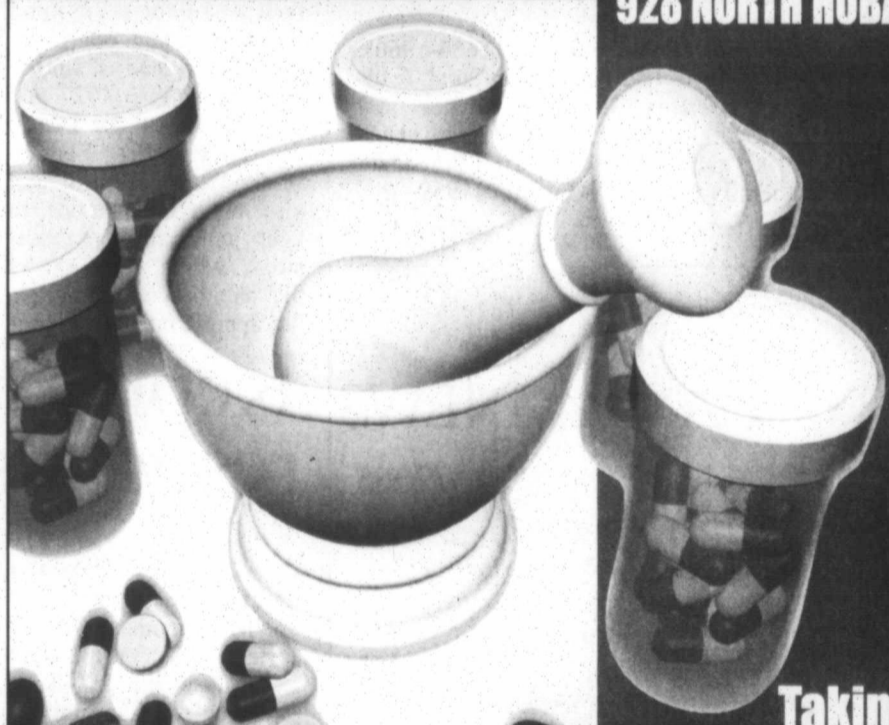
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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, June 30, the 181st day of 2009. There are 184 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:
1652 - England declares war on the Dutch.
1845 - Anglo-French expedition is sent to Madagascar against local ruler.

1859 - Frenchman Charles Blondin makes the first crossing of the Niagara Falls on a tightrope.
1876 - Serbia, under nationalist Jovan Ristic, declares war on Turkey.

1930 - Britain recognizes independence of Iraq.
1934 - Night of Long Knives: hundreds of leading Nazis are murdered on Hitler's orders.

1936 - Margaret Mitchell's epic "Gone with the Wind" is published. It becomes an all-time best seller.

1950 - U.S. President Harry Truman announces he has ordered U.S. troops stationed in Japan to help Republic of Korea repel North Korean invaders.

'I believe in the discipline of silence and can talk for hours about it.'

— George Bernard Shaw, Irish-born playwright

1956 - Leeward Islands Federation is dissolved to enable islands to enter Caribbean Federation.

1960 - The Belgian Congo becomes the independent Republic of the Congo. Civil war soon erupts.

1971 - Three Soviet cosmonauts, in space for more than three weeks, are found dead when their Soyuz 11 spacecraft lands. A leak had caused their craft to decompress.

1976 - U.S. spacecraft's photographs of Mars shows that planet once sustained abundant and rapidly flowing water.

1990 - Soviet government resumes oil shipments to Lithuania one day after that republic's parliament agrees to suspend declaration of independence.

1991 - Two top leaders of Algeria's rebellious fundamentalists are arrested, and clashes between their followers and Algerian security forces leave at least one dead.

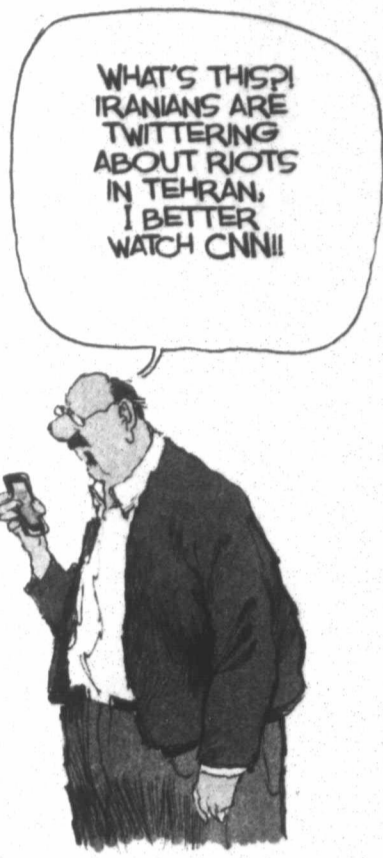
1993 - A federal judge blocks the North American Free Trade agreement with Mexico and Canada until the Clinton administration details its likely effects on the environment.

1997 - Hong Kong is transferred to China in an eight-hour farewell ceremony after 156 years of British rule.

2002 - The U.S. vetoes a U.N. Security Council resolution extending the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina by six months, citing U.S. concerns over the establishment of an International Criminal Court.

2008 — U.S. President George W. Bush signs legislation to pay for the war operations in Iraq and Afghanistan for the rest of his presidency and beyond, hailing the \$162 billion plan as a rare product of bipartisan cooperation.

Today's Birthdays:
George Duhamel, French author (1884-1966); Walter Ulbricht, East German Communist leader (1893-1973); Czeslaw Milosz, Czech poet and Nobel laureate (1911-2004); Lena Horne, U.S. singer (1917--); David Alan Grier, actor/comedian (1955--); Vincent D'Onofrio, U.S. actor (1959--).



TV news and the Fairness Doctrine

BY MARTHA RANDOLPH CARR

Let's bring back the Fairness Doctrine that required television journalists to at least attempt to be fair. That's right, there was a magic time in American when the suits at the three main networks, ABC, NBC and CBS had to set aside a certain amount of air time devoted to controversial topics or current affairs and all sides of an issue had to be presented. The regulation worked so well that Congress made it a law in 1959 and it lasted almost forty years and helped shape the way the American public viewed news anchors, at least before 1984 when it was repealed.

The Fairness Doctrine was started in 1949 just as television was barely making headway into living rooms and created an expectation by viewers that TV news producers had their best interests in mind when assigning news stories. Radio had a similar policy dating to 1927 and was started by the FCC's forerunner, the Federal Radio Commission. It was also common practice to keep entertainment divisions, which gave shows the axe based on ratings, far apart from news divisions.

News programs that didn't garner great ratings but were considered in the public good were left on the air as a means to fulfill the requirement. That at least gave average Americans a fighting chance at forming their own opinions rather than being spoon fed the bits that someone else, whether a liberal or conservative, had decided voters needed to know.

Policy makers saw the power of advertising and knew that dollars could drive a news show with the results being a skewed message. The public wouldn't have the resources to know whether or not they were receiving a fair and balanced broadcast or just what someone with enough money or political pull wanted them to know.

There is an old saw that things used to be better in America. That whole idea requires a lot of overlooking or denial in order to really pull off and is probably best attempted in locker rooms at country clubs. However, the economic debacles and looming health care crisis have left a whiff of reform in the air once again and TV journalism is something that could stand some tinkering. It used to be better in

America. And this is one reform that wouldn't silence either side because it doesn't address what can't be on the air but instead talks about what ought to be always available on the television airwaves. In the past, the Fairness Doctrine has ensured that those who held an opposing viewpoint, such as the National Rifle Association one day or Planned Parenthood the next, would still be heard.

Everyone could turn off their sets but the opportunity to voice how they felt was considered an American right. It's also a fundamental aspect of free speech to allow even those we don't agree with to have their say.

But since 1984 all of the major networks have come to see their news divisions as a part of the entire entertainment package and the quality of news has suffered as a result. Segments have become shorter and it's not unusual to see celebrity news lead a major newscast. It's obvious that ratings and therefore advertising dollars have become more important than 'affording reasonable opportunity for discussion of conflicting views on matters of public importance'.

It's why late night entertainer Jay Leno can walk down any street in America and ask who is the vice-president, drawing blank stares but get a rundown on who's left in the American Idol competition. It gets a lot of yucks when he finds a school teacher or a guy in college who can't name the three branches of government or even one branch but it has an eventual affect on the quality of our democracy.

It works like this: if no one ever presents all the topics of the day then a smaller and smaller group gets to decide for us because we aren't even aware there's a discussion. Average citizens have busy lives and don't have the resources to seek out the topics. Eventually, a pattern of bypassing the public emerges and a lot of our rights have quietly ebbed away. If that sounds at all familiar, start E-mailing your congressman and ask about bringing back the Fairness Doctrine and a more lively discussion that won't mention Paris unless the topic is France.

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Representative Scott Hochberg responds to Governor's veto

If Governor Perry was denied a voter registration certificate because a clerk spelled his name "Peiry" instead of "Perry", we'd never hear the end of it. But that's what happens to 70,000 Texas citizens each year, who have their voter registration certificates delayed or denied, because of typos or misread handwriting in county offices that cause their names or birthdates not to pass a state "matching" test against the Department of Public Safety (DPS) drivers license file.

These are not mistakes made by voters who somehow forgot how to spell their names. Nor are they fraudulent applications. Rather, they represent a relatively small number of data entry errors on the hundreds of thousands of applications typed into the system each year by clerks in voter registration offices.

There used to be even more rejections, until the Secretary of State agreed to not deny applications because of differences in hyphens and other punctuation in names. This bill would have taken the next logical step, directing the Secretary of State allow for

minor, obvious typos when matching to the DPS file, if the rest of the information matches.

Despite the governor's claim to the contrary, the bill does not take counties out of the process. In fact, for every suspected typo, the bill requires the county to go back and check the actual voter registration application to confirm that it really is consistent with the information on the DPS file. (See HB 1457, page 2, lines 11-18.)

This bill was the product of meetings with the Secretary of State, her predecessor and staff over the past interim, along with detailed research by my office showing that many Texans whose applications were rejected never got to vote. Even worse, our research showed that whether or not you are

ultimately put on the rolls depends on where you live, since some counties put a higher priority on fixing their errors than do others.

These errors have nothing to do with fraud. The governor's argument on this point is not supported by ANY facts. Anyone who examines a list of the rejections sees immediately that the great majority of them are minor, innocent typos that should not interfere with a Texas citizen's right to vote.

Indeed, if a person wanted to register fraudulently in someone else's name, as the governor alleges, that person could simply leave the drivers license space blank on the application, and the registration would be issued without ever attempting to match it against the DPS drivers license file.

In a session where voting issues were high profile, contentious, and partisan, this bill received unanimous bipartisan votes in committee in each chamber, and was passed on House and Senate consent calendars. A small allocation for the necessary computer changes was also included in the appropriations bill.

The right to vote is precious and fundamental. Our current registration process allows this right to be withheld in large numbers at no fault of the citizens trying to register. Why would any elected official, charged with upholding the Constitution, not want to do everything possible to keep this from happening?

State Representative Scott Hochberg

We welcome your letters

To insure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.
- All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.
- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.

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This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays, 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.

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Mosquito facts and protection from West Nile Disease

After a mild winter and recent early summer rains in West Texas, mosquitoes are coming. People will be suffering from the annoying itch of mosquito bites. Before you worry about West Nile infection, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center epidemiologist Ronald Warner, D.V.M., Ph.D., reminds us of some facts and methods to prevent this mosquito-borne disease.

Dr. Warner, in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, said between March and June, "West Nile" mosquitoes prefer to feed on birds such as crows, ravens, robins, sparrows and jays. July to October, these mosquitoes shift their feeding preference to mammals, including humans. The female mosquitoes need to feast on protein enriched foods (blood) to develop and form their eggs. Once winter arrives adult mosquitoes will seek shelter in attics and under shingles and the bark on trees. Some unhatched mosquito eggs will be resistant to winter weather and survive until the return of spring rains.

"Domestic pets, such as dogs and cats, are rarely infected with West Nile but horses, mules and donkeys are much more susceptible," Warner said. "There are several vaccinations to help prevent your horses from being infected by the West Nile virus."

Depending on a person's age and health condition, some may have serious effects from West Nile virus, if infected. Underlying diseases such as hypertension and kidney disease appear to increase the severity of West Nile disease. Younger people, especially transplant patients and others with immune suppression (e.g., cancer treatment), can also suffer severe effects.

On average, most West Nile diseases are acquired near the home because that is where people spend most of their outdoor time. Outdoor candles, torches and/or coils may be burned to produce a smoke that repels mosquitoes, but make sure the active ingredient contains the oil of citronella. Be aware of general fire hazards and use only under calm or windless weather conditions. A few more household tips to keep in mind: keep your grass fairly short, remove weeds in your alley, and always remember to practice the "4 Ds:"

□ DEET is the active ingredient in "Off," but avoid applying high-concentrations (no more than 50% DEET); no more than 10% on small children. Also, use skin

repellents sparingly; one application should last 4 to 6 hours, but apply after profuse sweating or swimming.

- Dress appropriately if outdoors; wear long sleeves, long pants and apply mosquito repellent to the remaining area of skin that is not covered by your clothing. Permethrin-containing repellents (permethrin) may be put on clothing, shoes and camping gear. Permethrin-treated clothing repels ticks, mosquitoes and other arthropods and retains this effect even after repeated washings. However, if a garment is dry-cleaned, the repellent will need to be re-applied.

- Dusk and Dawn are the times during the day when mosquitoes are the most active.

- Drain ALL standing water around your home. Wadding pools - drain

every other day; also flower pot basins, dog bowls, and kids toys. Any standing water will attract mosquitoes and provide a place for their eggs to develop and hatch.

There are many myths about mosquitoes. Warner said one myth is mosquitoes become larger with more rain; that is false.

"In Texas alone there are approximately 80 different documented species of mosquitoes. The time of year and local weather conditions determine what type of species we will have," Warner said.

Warner added that eating bananas, washing your mouth with Listerine and wearing dark clothes will not protect you from mosquito bites. Just remember to practice the 4 Ds and look for the active ingredients that help protect you and your loved ones.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Paul," and I have been dating for four years. He has recently started talking about purchasing an engagement ring for me. Paul is well-off, although very frugal, which is how he accumulated most of his wealth.

Paul has been searching online sites for a used ring. He says he "doesn't want to waste his money on a new engagement ring when he can buy a used one." This from a man who didn't think twice about spending thousands of dollars to buy his son a brand-new car or a brand-new boat for himself.

Am I wrong to feel I'm only worth a used engagement ring? This is the most precious gift he could give me -- a sign of our love and commitment -- and I would cherish it forever. I am deeply hurt and would appreciate your thoughts on how to pursue this issue. -- FEELING "USED" IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR FEELING "USED": There's a difference between frugal and just plain cheap. That Paul would tell you he considers buying you a new engagement ring is a WASTE shows insensitivity to your feelings. Would he also prefer that your wedding gown come from a thrift store? I know it has been four years, but please take a moment, step back and ask yourself how stingy Paul is about other things. Obviously, you are a

romantic, and Paul is pragmatic to the core. He wants his dollar to stretch as far as it will go. But shopping online for a used ring is risky. Unless he buys from a reputable dealer, he could wind up paying the price of a diamond for a lovely zircon.

Paul may seem like a "gem," but is this the way you want to live the rest of your life? Bear in mind that while not every woman would be averse to wearing a pre-owned diamond that was recycled and reset, you do not appear to be one of them.

DEAR ABBY: How can my daughter broach the subject of her matron of honor's "beard"? We're not talking about a few hairs here, but a growth that would make some young men envious. The wedding is coming up soon, and the bride and groom are concerned how it will look in the wedding pictures, but they don't want to hurt her feelings.

I, for one, have been taking quick swipes with my razor for years, and my whiskers haven't grown back thicker or darker, and I only have to do it once or twice a week. Ladies, if unwanted facial hair embarrasses you, forget the myth that shaving will make it worse. You don't have to lather up like a man at the sink, and no one has to know it but you. -- BRIDE'S MOM, ST. LOUIS, MO.

2 soldiers with Texas ties die in action

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon reports Tuesday that two soldiers with Texas ties have died in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A 28-year-old Fort Hood soldier from Michigan died from a roadside bombing in Iraq, while a 20-year-old soldier from suburban Fort Worth has died in a vehicle rollover while serving in Afghanistan.

Army Sgt. Timothy A. David of Gladwin, Mich., died Sunday in Baghdad of wounds suffered from the roadside

bombing in Sadr City, Iraq. He served with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood.

Army Pfc. Peter K. Cross of Saginaw died Friday at Combat Outpost Carwile, Afghanistan, of injuries from the rollover. He served with the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

Oil up to near \$72 on dollar fall

Oil prices rose to near \$72 a barrel Tuesday after briefly jumping above \$73, an eight-month high, due to a weakening U.S. dollar and attacks on oil installations in Nigeria.

Analysts also said prices were boosted by speculative trades and portfolio positioning by investment funds, which typically intensify at the end of a fiscal quarter.

By mid-afternoon in Europe, benchmark crude for August delivery was up 13 cents to \$71.62 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange after trading as high as \$73.38

earlier in the session. On Monday, it gained \$2.33 to settle at \$71.49.

The Schork Report edited by U.S. trader and analyst Stephen Schork said the gains by crude may

have been linked to "the desire of fund managers to get some energy exposure into their portfolios ahead of the close of business (Tuesday)."

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1. Identify every person in the photograph from left to right, front row first.
2. Give us some information about the trip and the landmark in the photo.
3. Give us a the name of a contact person and a telephone number/email address.

To see your photo in the paper faster, email the photo and information to: rpribble@thepampanews.com. Have a great summer and a safe trip!



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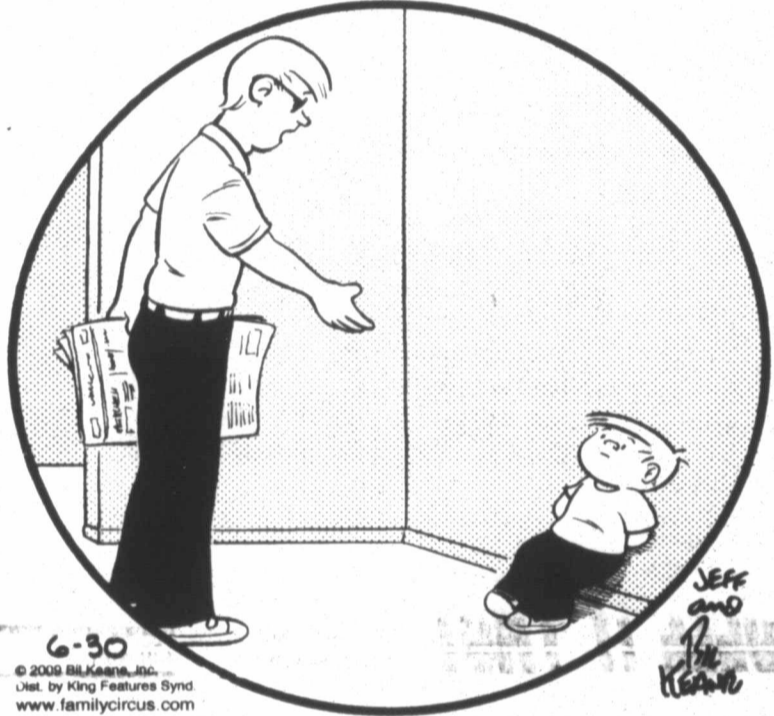
Marmaduke



"You really need to get his air conditioner fixed."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"What else are you planning to do today besides 'nothing'?"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Harpoon

1 Raced a toboggan

6 Bounds

11 Missouri river

12 Like bar drafts

13 Winded

15 Debate side

16 Cochlea setting

17 Flower visitor

18 Elastic

20 Bruin Bobby

21 Music store buys

22 Excellent

23 Counter-feits

26 String ties

27 Without repair

28 Cargo unit

29 Nasty dog

30 Became wild

34 Snaky shape

35 Diplomatic rep.

36 Diarist Anaís

37 Like some expenses

40 Swoon

41 Nick of "Affliction"

42 Runs away

DOWN

1 Belt

holders

2 Seize by force

3 Croc's cousin

4 Big head

5 Safe-guards

6 Brit's truck

7 Compass pt.

8 Seething

9 Penn State

coach Joe

10 Globes

14 Luggage

19 Frozen desserts

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Yesterday's answer

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23 Hockey

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24 Normally

State

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26 Sweet

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28 Office

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30 Floats on

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breeze

31 Tibia's

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32 Michelan-

gelo work

33 Door sign

38 Counting

start

39 Member

of the

force

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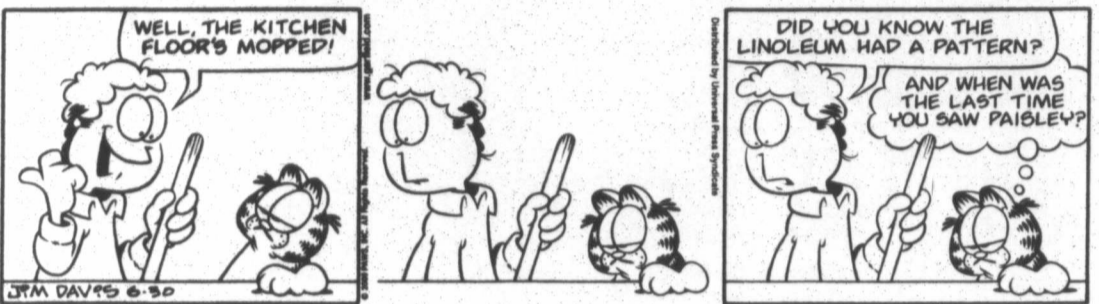
For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



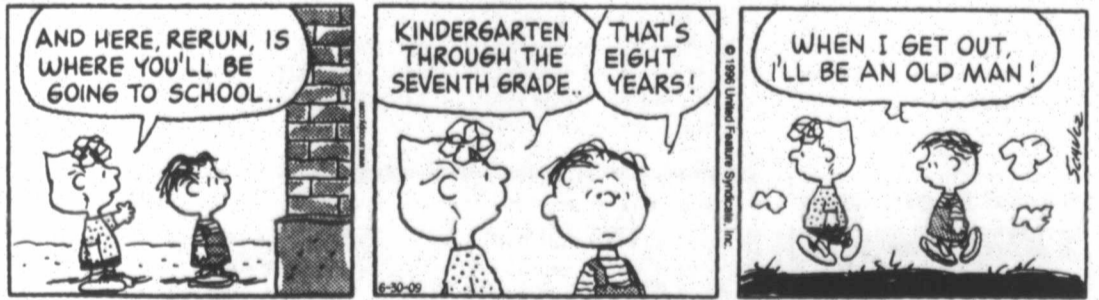
B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



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PART-TIME GAS PLANT OPERATOR. Near Wheeler, TX. Contact Gas Technology Corporation, 972-255-7800.

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LOCALLY owned medical equipment co. seeks friendly Warehouse Technician, to deliver equipment and supplies to Pampa and the surrounding area. MUST have clean driving record and pass a drug screen / physical and be able to lift 150 lbs. Hours are 9am-6pm. Mon. thru Fri. and rot on call. Salary depending on exp. Please apply at BritKare Home Medical, 912 W. Kentucky, Pampa, TX.

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CLOTHES dryer, nice dressers, tables, love-seat, rockers, end tables. 662-7557

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NO WEEKEND EDITION for Sat/Sun (July 4/5th), so our employees may be with their families and friends.

Happy July 4th!! Pampa News!!

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ATTENTION!! DEADLINE CHANGE

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Fri. Deadline is Thurs. before noon. Weekend Edition (Sat.-Sun.) deadline is Thurs. before 4pm.

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Para sus ventas en Los Clasificados del Viernes y La Edición del Fin de Semana, tambien incluye las ventas de Ultimos Minutos (Ciudad Breve) Ventas para el Viernes tiene que estar a lo mas tardar el Jueves para las 4 de la tarde.

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LARGEST Apts. in Pampa. Reduced rates. Work crews welcome. Call 665-1875.

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102 Bus. Rental

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BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, July 1, 2009: This year, get ready! A lot happens out of the blue. The good news is you cope with this energy and demand, and come up with very creative suggestions. You handle excitement well and flourish this year. Lose the word "no" from your vocabulary. Everything is possible once you commit to manifesting. If you are single, suitors surround you like bees to honey, as your libido energies are very high. If you are attached, you certainly can heat up your relationship in a positive manner. Think back to when you just met. Take your loved one back to those days. SCORPIO finds you exciting and deep.

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)

*** If you feel as if you are walking on a fault line, you might not be far from wrong. Unexpected events or realizations could prevent boredom but produce stress. Discussions with a trusted partner help you center. Tonight: Show your appreciation through actions and words.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*** Defer to others and stay on top of situations, especially at work. You could discover how unpredictable a friend is, and, in fact, what hits home is that what you thought was a given proves otherwise. You might feel as if you are walking in quicksand. Tonight: Listen to others, then decide.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** While others are distracted — and you are no exception — stay centered, knowing clearly the end results you

desire. Distance yourself from a major difficulty or issue before you even try to work on it. Answers are forthcoming. Tonight: Find your favorite chair and relax.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ***** News could come in from out of left field, and it might be quite shocking. Listen, but be willing to seek out your own information and facts. Though you could feel out of kilter, you will level out soon enough. Tonight: Time for a midweek break.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** You might want to understand what is going on with others behind the scenes. Listen to news and stay in touch with different aspects of a situation. Oddly enough, you do have the answers within. Center and re-evaluate. Tonight: Make it easy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** Keep communication rolling, even if you are not 100 percent happy with what you hear. Others seem to want to go overboard, and perhaps you don't care. Others seek you out en masse and could be overwhelming. What you hear could be presented in a novel, dynamic way. Tonight: Find the right person, and you could laugh a lot.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

*** Your more possessive side emerges, perhaps because you have been drained by recent demands. On some level, there can be no negotiating. You are prone to take a risk right now, anyway. Tonight: You don't have to break the bank in order to treat yourself to one item.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** Your personality melts barriers, and others are highly responsive. You are able to create a stronger bond

when people feel your warmth. Communication feels inspired on some level. Tonight: All smiles.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) *** Stop and take in all the different factors that surround an issue. Your instincts come through, be it with money or love. If you are nonreactive, you will get more information. You have much to think about, either way. Tonight: Hide out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** You have a sense of what you want and know where you are going. Take a stand and allow others to understand that they can join in and support you. But being against you would be a bad place. Tonight: Only what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** You are ahead of the game, as many ideas and energy stem from you. People will tap into you quite frequently because you think outside the box, thus coming up with unusual suggestions. Tonight: Start thinking "vacation."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

***** Go for something different, understanding that you might be blazing a new trail with a partner or friend. Listen to suggestions, but your resourcefulness is not to be laughed at. Use it, and the end results will be good. Tonight: Have a discussion over dinner!

Born Today
 Comedian Dan Aykroyd (1952), celebrity Pamela Anderson (1967), Olympian Carl Lewis (1961) ***

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com

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