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SALES & RENTAL

PAMPANEWS

Tax freeze issue will go to voters

BY DAVID BOWSER

dbowser@thepampanews.com

Gray County voters will decide in November whether they want to freeze taxes for residents that are 65-years-old or older.

In a split vote, the Gray County Commissioners Court voted Wednesday to put the measure on the ballot in November's general election. Gray County Judge Richard Peet and Commissioners Gary Willoughby and John Mark Baggerman voted to put the measure on November's ballot. Commissioner Joe Wheeley voted against it. Commissioner James Hefley was absent.

Judge Peet, noting that the measure would freeze the tax rate for those 65 and over, but not the taxes, said he thought the decision should be up to the voters, a decision with which Jim Brashears, who brought the request to the commission, agrees.

"I agree," Brashears said. "Let the people vote."

In other business, the commission approved a request by Willoughby to go out for bids to repair and resurface Gray County Road 12 1/2, also known as Halliburton Road east of Pampa. Willoughby said he had the money for the project in his budget. He said he would like to have the bids ready for selection at the commis-

sion's Aug. 1, meeting. "I have the money budgeted for this," Willoughby said, "depend-

ing upon where the bids come in." The commission also changed a lease at Perry Lefors Airport from Andrew Smith to Daryl Downs.

Gray County Auditor Elaine Morris reported that the county had spent \$359,200 to date on the Levi King case.

"We tried and appealed Skinner for less than that," she said.

Henry "Hank" Watkins Skinner was tried and convicted about 15 years ago for the murders of his girl friend and her two sons. That trial was moved to Fort Worth on a change of venue.

Levi King is accused of killing a

VOTE cont. on page 3

Parade

cancelled

The parade scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 4, at VFW Post # 1657 has been

No Saturday

newspaper

cancelled.

RAIN HOPES ALIVE



staff photo by David Bowser

A rainbow brightens the sky after a thunderstorm moved across a corn field near White Deer Tuesday evening. Hire officials are hoping for rain here before the week end. The Fourth of July holiday usually means more fires, due to the public's use of fireworks. The National Weather Service gives us a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms Saturday and Sunday.

The Friday edition of the Pampa News will be larger than usual, and will retail for \$1.50. There will be no regular weekend edition so that our employees may observe the Fourth of July Holiday with their families. The Pampa News office will be closed Friday in observance of the holiday

measure in limbo

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - The House sponsor of a measure that would allow the state to continue contracting for privately built toll roads said Wednesday he is not sure the bill can pass before Friday

State leaders have said they want to keep the special legislative session short and hope to finish their business by Friday. But one of a trio of bills that Gov. Rick Perry wanted addressed may derail lawmakers' hopes of being finished in time for the July Fourth holiday on Saturday.

Officials said the toll road measure is only necessary to extend the timeline for toll road agreements made with private partnerships.

"The only reason we're doing this is for private toll roads? That can't be right," Rep. Jim Dunnam, D-Waco, said during a committee hearing on the

"Why is that so important but insurance reform is not? Or expanding the (Children's Health Insurance) Program for 300,000 children is not?"

Be patriotic: Drive safely for July 4 holiday

drive safely during the July 4 holiday weekend. Starting Friday and going through midnight on Sunday, Texas Highway Patrol troopers will be out in force, looking for people who are driving drunk, speeding or not wearing safety belts.

"Texans can avoid jail by driving sober. Designate a sober driver before the drinking starts and make sure the driver stays sober," said Highway Patrol chief David Baker. "We want to make sure people are safe.

Texas drivers are urged to sure that everyone is properly secured by seat belts or in car seats or booster seats.

> Last year during the extended holiday weekend (July 3-6), DPS troopers made 772 driving while intoxicated arrests and issued 12, 918 speeding citations. During that same weekend, they issued 3,026 tickets for safety belt violations and 434 for child safety seat viola-

Troopers are participating in Operation CARE (Combined Accident Reduction Effort)—a nationwide campaign by state police

tions.

agencies to reduce fatalities during holiday periods. They are also participating in Operation Holiday-a statewide effort by law enforcement to reduce fatalities dur-

ing holiday weekends. Here are some driving tips the DPS recommends for travelers:

 Slow down, especially if weather and road conditions do not allow for the designated speed.

· Secure everyone in the vehicle properly, either with a safety belt or in the appropriate car seat or booster.

SAFE cont. on page 3

It's important also to make TOLL cont. on page 3 exas Senate passes

JIM VERTUNO ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - The Texas Legislature convened a special session Wednesday and immediately took steps to extend the life of several key state agencies.

whether to extend the state's authority to enter public-private road building contracts that could end up getting makers try to wrap up the special session before the July Fourth holiday weekend.

Republican Gov. Rick Perry called the Legislature back to Austin to address three issues: preventing the agencies from expiring in 2010, authorizing \$2 billion in bonds for road building and the transportation contracts. Lawmakers failed to approve those items in the regular session that ended

June 1. The Senate quickly passed the bill extendthe Department ing of Transportation, the Department of Insurance and three other smaller agencies until Sept. 1, 2011. The House is expected to pass the bill as early as Thursday.

Those agencies were supposed to be part of the normal renew and review process under Texas law during the regular session. But they got shoved aside when partisan bickering over a voter identi-

fication bill and a standoff on transportation funding stalled bills in the final days before lawmakers left town.

The road bonds issue also is expected to get easy approval on Thursday. The bonds were already approved by voters statewide in 2007.

"Those are our top pri-orities," Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst said.

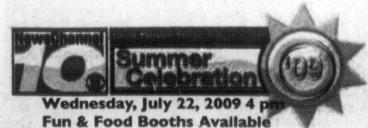
But there were several signs Wednesday lawmakers may not be interested in Perry's desire to extend transportation officials' ability to enter new public-private contracts. Known as Comprehensive Development Agreements, they have been used to finance, build and operate toll roads and other

projects. Several senators from North Texas were surprised to learn that three such projects already under way include one being

BILL cont. on page 3





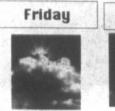


To register your activity or for more information please contact Holly at 669-3241



For the record

PAMPA FORECAST



Low 71



Low 70



Low 62

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 71. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 94. Southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 71. South southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Independence Day: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 91. West southwest wind 15 to 20 mph decreasing to between 5 and 10 mph. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 70. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 88. North northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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Cash Five Texas results

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 8 - 16 - 21 - 30 - 33. Number matching five of five: 0. Prize: \$0 Matching four of five: 74. Prize: \$472 Matching three of five: 2,276. Prize: \$11 Matching two of five: 24,253. Prize: \$2

Daily 4 results

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0 - 5 - 0 - 8. Sum It Up: 13 (zero, five, zero, eight. Sum It Up: thirteen)

Pick 3 results

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4 - 7 - 2. Sum It Up: 13

(four, seven, two. Sum It Up: thirteen)

Click it or ticket! Drive safely this holiday.

LAST MINUTE CLASSIFIED LINE ADS

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

1921 DWIGHT. Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-2; percussion kit, key board, 2 dirt bikes 80 & 400, clothes, toys, home decor, books, bicycles.

AKC LABS for Sale, 4 male, 1 female, \$250 OBO. 806-418-0040.

DRAMA CAMP for ages 6-11. July 13th-31st, 9-12, M-F. \$50 per wk. Call CREATE a Beat! 665-7474 or www.createabeat.org

GE REF. 19cu ft 3yrs old \$250. Call 665-0774

JAMMING AT Woody Guthrie Music Center, Fri.

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 There are no obituaries today

Emergency Services

AMBULANCE

Guardian EMS responded to the following calls during the period between 7 a.m. Wednesday, July 1 to 7 a.m. Thursday, July 2. Wednesday

An MICU unit responded to the 1500 block of W. Kentucky, transporting one patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

An MICU unit responded to PRMC, transporting one patient to the 1900 block of Sumner.

An MICU unit responded to the intersection of Hwy. 60 and Price Road, transporting one patient to **PRMC**

An MICU unit responded to the 1000 block of S. Nelson, no transport.

An MICU unit responded to the 700 block of Malone, one patient transported to PRMC.

FIRE

The Pampa Fire Department responded to the following call during the period 7 a.m. Wednesday, July 2, to 7 a.m. Thursday, July 2.

5:25 p.m.— One unit and three personnel responded to a two- car motor vehicle accident with injury and Hazmat at Price Road and Hwy. 60

SHERIFF

The Gray County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests during the period between 7 a.m. Wednesday, July, 1 and 7 a.m. Thursday, July,

David Ray Burrow, 29, of Clarendon, was arrested by Gray County Sheriff's Deputies and booked into Gray County Jail on the charges of insufficient bond for charges relating to the manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance, and insufficient bond relating to charges of possessing/transporting chemicals with the intent to manufacture a controlled substance.

Alfred David Wiles, 20, of Pampa, was arrested by Gray County Sheriff's Deputies and booked into Gray County Jail on the charge of insufficient bond related to a charge of sexual assault on a child.

Morris Lynn Powell, 57, of Pampa, was arrested by Gray County Sheriff's Deputies and booked in Gray County Jail on a charge of theft.

The Pampa Police Department responded to the following calls during the period between 7 a.m.

Wednesday, July 1 to 7 a.m.Thursday, July 2.

Animal Control Officers responded to 24 calls or

Pampa Police Officers made 34 traffic stops, had 11 follow-up investigations, and provided two funeral escorts and one agency assist.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 500 block of N. Nelson

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 lock of Christy St.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 700 block of E. Kentucky Ave. Disorderly conduct was

reported in the 608 Sloan A suspicious person was reported in the 400 block

of Starkweather St. A suspicious person was reported in the 300 block

of W. Foster Ave. A suspicious person was

reported at the intersection of Tyng and Cuyler. A suspicious person was reported at the intersec-

tion of Starkweather and Brown. A suspicious vehicle was reported at the intersection

of Tyng and Cuyler. A traffic complaint was taken from the 1300 block

of N. Russell. Theft was reported from

the 800 block of W 25th Ave.

A forgery was reported, from the 2800 block of N.

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An assault was reported in the 11 block of S. Prairie' Drive.

A welfare check was conducted in the 110 block' of Seneca.

Officer responded to a traffic accident with injuryat Price Road and Hwy. 60. A 911 Hang-up call

came in from the 100 block' of Huff Road. A domestic disturbance was reported in the 900.

block of Cinderella Drive. A stolen vehicle was' reported in the 500 block

of N. Nelson.

A runaway was reported form the 1400 block of W. Somerville.A prowler was. reported in the 700 block.

of Magnolia St. Harassment was reported in the 500 block of

Zimmers St. A runaway was reported in the 1500 block of N.

Williston. A runaway was reported in the 100 block of duncan

A suicide attempt was reported in the 700 block of Malone Ave.

A theft was reported in the 1900 block of N. Hobart St.

467K jobs cut in June; jobless rate at 9.5 percent

JEANNINE AVERSA AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) Employers cut a larger-than-expected 467,000 jobs in June and the unemployment rate climbed to a 26-year high of 9.5 percent. Workers also saw weekly wages fall, suggesting Americans will have little appetite to spend and the economy's road to recovery will be bumpy

The Labor Department report, released Thursday, showed that even as the recession flashes signs of easing, companies likely will want to keep a lid on costs and be wary of hiring until they feel certain the economy is on solid ground.

President Barack Obama, in an interview with The Associated Press, said he is "deeply concerned" about unemployment and conceded that too many families are worried about "whether they will be next" to suffer an economic blow. He also expressed disappointment over the weak employment figures, acknowledging that "what we are still seeing is too many jobs lost."

June's payroll reductions were deeper than the 363,000 that economists expected and average weekly earnings dropped to the lowest level in nearly a year.

However, the rise in the unemployment rate from 9.4 percent in May wasn't as sharp as the expected 9.6 percent. Still, many economists predict the jobless rate will hit 10 percent this year, and keep rising into next year, before fall-

All told, 14.7 million people were unemployed in June

If laid-off workers who have given up looking for new jobs or have settled for part-time work are included, the unemployment rate would have been 16.5 percent in June, the highest on records dating

"We were on the road of things getting less bad in the jobs market, and that has been temporarily

Ken Mayland, president of ClearView Economics. "But this doesn't change my view that the recession will end later this year. We're probably two

months away. On Wall Street, the employment news pulled stocks lower. The Dow Jones industrials lost about 175 points in afternoon trading, and broader indices also fell. Overseas markets dropped after a report showed unemployment in Europe rose to a 10-year high in May.

Since the recession began in December 2007, the economy has lost a net total of 6.5 million jobs.

As the downturn bites into sales and profits, companies have turned to layoffs and other cost-cutting measures to survive. Those include holding down workers' hours and freezing or cutting pay.

The average work week in June fell to 33 hours, the lowest on records dating to 1964.

"We are in some very hard and severe economic times," Labor Secretary Hilda Solis said in an interview. "The president and I

are both not happy.' Still, Solis thought it was too early to consider a second government stimulus, saying more time is needed for the current one to take hold. "I do think the public needs to be patient," she said. "We know they

are hurting. Layoffs in May turned out to smaller, 322,000, versus the 345,000 first reported. But job cuts in April were a bit deeper 519,000 versus 504,000, according to government

Even with higher pace of job cuts in June, the report indicates that the worst of the layoffs have passed. The deepest job cuts of the recession came in January, when 741,000 jobs vanished, the most in any month since 1949.

For the second quarter, job losses averaged 436,000 a month. That was down from a monthly average of 691,000 in the

waylaid," said economist first quarter. Economists predict the economy will continue to lose jobs through the rest of this year, although they hope at a slower pace. And there was some

other encouraging job news Thursday. Meanwhile, the

Commerce Department said orders placed with U.S. factories rose 1.2 percent in May, the most in 11 months. The increase also was better than economists expected.

Still, job losses last month were widespread. Professional and busi-

services slashed 118,000 jobs, more than double the 48,000 cut

in May. Manufacturers: cut 136,000, down from 156,000. Construction companies got rid of 79,000 jobs, up from 48,000 the previous month. Retailers eliminated 21,000, up from 17,600. Financial activities cut 27,000, following 30,000 in May. The government cut 52,000 jobs, up from 10,000 the previous month. Leisure and hospitality cut 18,000 jobs, erasing a gain of the same size in May.

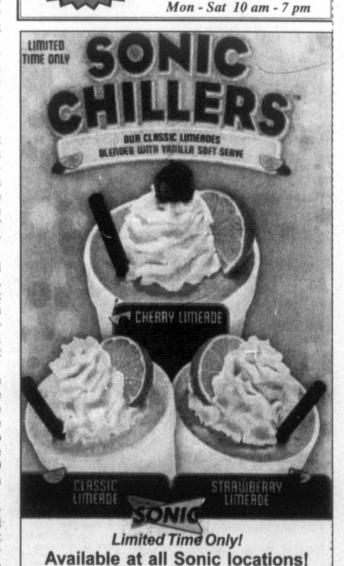
One of the few industries adding jobs: education and health services, which added 34,000 positions last month and 47,000 in May.

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Texas pastor protesting traffic stop arrested

had been stopped, he went

outside to ask what was

going on. He said he was

told to go back inside and

said the officer grabbed his

shirt when he said "I'm

the pastor." Moran said he

went back inside to get

witnesses and the officer

chased him and began to

Moran said that when

they came back outside

the officer started spraying

pepper spray as soon as the

door was opened. A sec-

ond officer shocked him

twice with a Taser, he said.

clubs and the bars where

bad things are happening?

Why do they need to come

to a church?" Moran asked

didn't lay a hand on the

Witnesses said Moran

Congregants say they

were in the church for an

early morning prayer when

The police said the pas-

the incident unfolded.

"Why don't they go to the

kick the door.

in Spanish.

officer.

ARELIS HERNANDEZ ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WEBSTER, Texas (AP) Webster police used a Taser on a pastor and pepper spray to disperse members of his congregation Wednesday after they said the pastor tried to interfere with a traffic stop of a member of his church.

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Jose Elias Moran, 42, was charged with interfering in the duties of a police officer during a traffic stop on the Iglesia Profetica Peniel parking lot southeast of Houston.

"This did not have to happen. It didn't have to go this far," Debbie Moran, the pastor's 15-year-old daughter, said.

An incident report on the department's Web site said Officer Raymond Berryman tried to calm Moran and arrest him. But police say he pushed the officer, went inside the church and returned with 40 other congregants.

Moran and his family disputed the police

Speaking from his hospitor did not have a certifital bed Wednesday night, cate of occupancy for the Moran told The Associated building. The pastor said Press that when he was told he had applied for the cera member of the church tificate in April.

Moran said he planned to hire an attorney to press charges against the officer.

Moran's son Miguel said 30 witnesses saw the police officer turn aggressive and repeatedly kick the door of the church.

"They treated him as if he were a drug dealer or murderer, but he is a pastor that tries to help the community," Moran said in Spanish. "The police always want to be right but they are not."

Moran's wife, Maria, said she tried to help her husband after he was hit with the Taser but police threatened to arrest her.

"My husband has a heart

condition and with electrocution who knows what could've happened," Maria Moran said.

The family saw Moran at Clear Lake Regional Medical Center for the first time late Wednesday night. He was to be kept overnight for additional tests.

A call to police for comment was not immediately returned Wednesday night.

"A pastor has to tend to his flock," Maria Moran said. "That is all he was doing.

The family posted bail Wednesday for Moran

Police said the driver of the car was cited for driving without a license.

Kids found in shed behind daycare

SEALY, Texas (AP) — A Southeast Texas couple are in jail after a state inspector found five children locked in tool shed behind an unlicensed daycare

State officials say the children were surrounded by lawn equipment, gasoline and insecticide when they were found Wednesday.

Austin County District Attorney Travis Koehn says 55-year-old Marietta Patek is charged with six counts of child endangerment, while her 47-year-old husband, Freddie Patek, faces an evidence tampering charged. Bond has been set at \$10,000 for each.

cont. from page 1

family south of Pampa in September, 2005. Jury selection in the case started Tuesday in Lubbock.

Morris said the mileage and motel bills for last week were a little over \$1,600. The jury selection is expected to take about six weeks. The trial is expected to last another four or five.

Morris estimated the county would end up paying about \$800,000 in the

Judge Peet said that despite the expense, he appreciates 31st District Judge Steven Emmert, the trial judge in the King case, trying to keep the costs down, noting that Emmert had selected Lubbock,

which is relatively nearby and that Lubbock County was giving the judge a courtroom and offices for

The commission also recognized Gray County Treasurer for continuing education credits that he recently earned.



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Safe

 Save phone calls for home or find a safe place to pull over to make your calls.

· Make sure you have enough gas in the fuel tank to make it to your destinacont. from page 1

 Drive with courtesy do not participate in road rage behavior.

· Make sure tires are properly inflated and fluids are at the appropriate levels. Check fan belts for excessive wear.

cont. from page 1

Rep. Joe Pickett, D-El Paso, the bill's House sponsor, said he's not sure the bill has enough support to pass, but lawmakers also could address it during their next regularly scheduled session in 2011.

cont. from page 1

built with federal stimulus money but drivers on a restricted lane will still pay tolls.

Finance Senate Committee Chairman Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, suggested the bill may not pass his committee and there were similar signs it would struggle to get a House vote as well.

"I'm going to try, but it's the first two (bills) that we have to pass," Ogden said.

A similar version in the House was left pending in a committee as Rep. Joe Pickett, the House sponsor, said he wasn't confident it could pass there, either.

Dewhurst said the Senate may be open to a version of the contracts bill that is limited only to a few projects set to be finalized in the next two years before lawmakers return for the 2011 session.

Opponents of such con-

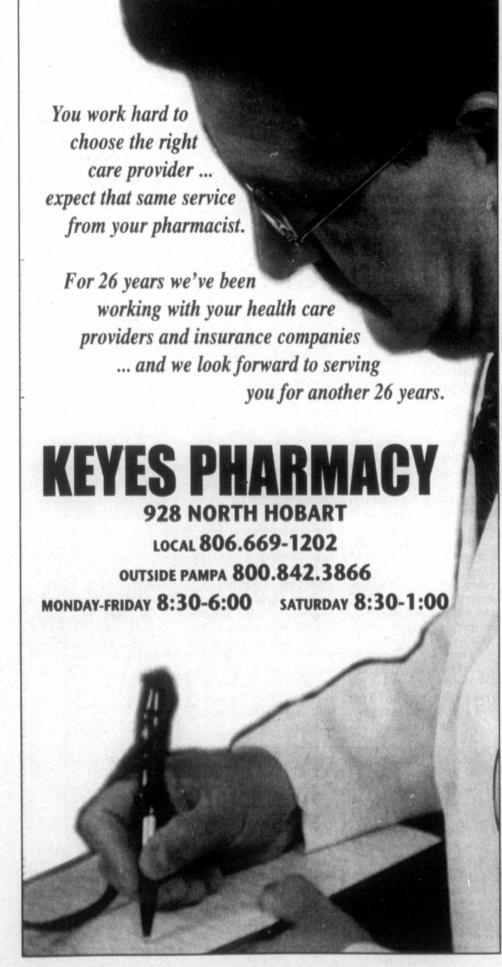
tracts worry they take control away from local governments. Supporters say they are needed to finance road projects that might not otherwise get built. "If the CDA financing

option is not available, Texas drivers will face one of two options: massive gas tax increases to pay for these roads or maddening traffic gridlock that is unimaginable even on today's congested roads," said Bill Noble, executive director for Texans for Safe Reliable Transportation.

Rep. Jim Dunnam of Waco, leader of the House Democrats, questioned whether the contracts are more important than expanding subsidized childrens' health insurance or reforming Texas' property insurance market, issues Perry refused to put on the special session agenda.

"The only reason we're







Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, July 2, the 183rd day of 2009. There are 182 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1502 - Conflict between French and Spanish over partition of Naples breaks out in open warfare in Italy.

1644 - British Royalists suffer their first major defeat against the Parliamentarians under Oliver Cromwell at Marston Moor.

1657 - Denmark attacks Sweden, already at war with Russia, Poland and Austria, but suffers a humiliating defeat the same winter.

1776 - The Continental Congress declares

American independence.

1777 - Vermont became the first American colony to abolish slavery.

1860 - Russians found Vladivostok near Korean

border.

1890 - Brussels Act is passed by international

'The soul has more diseases than the body.'

— Henry Wheeler Shaw, U.S. author

first airship in
Germany.
1937 - U.S. aviator Amelia Earhart
and navigator Fred
Noonan disappear
during an attempt to

peoples.

1900

Ferdinand

conference to eradi-

cate African slave trade and liquor traffic with primitive

Zeppelin flies his

Count

cross the Pacific.

1947 - An object crashes near Roswell in the U.S. state of New Mexico. Military authorities first say it was an alien spacecraft and later say it was a weather balloon.

1964 - A century after the Civil War was fought, U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act against racial discrimination.

1966 - France explodes an atomic bomb at a Pacific atoll in first of series of six tests.

1976 - North and South Vietnam are reunited officially after more than 20 years of war.

1988 - Salvage tugboats battle flames aboard two Iranian tankers after missile attacks by Iraq's air force in Gulf War.

1990 - A stampede in a pedestrian tunnel linking Mecca and a tent city leaves 1,400 pilgrims dead of suffocation or trampling.

1991 - Heavy fighting erupts in Slovenia with Yugoslav army using warplanes and artillery to help units trapped by Slovene forces.

1992 - The United States completes a worldwide withdrawal of their tactical nuclear weapons marking the end of an era that began with rapid nuclear buildup in the early 1950s.

2006 - Thousands of people march through Paris to protest plans to tighten restrictions on immigration and step up deportations of immigrant families with children who are in France illegally.

Today's Birthdays:

Christoph Willibald von Gluck, German composer (1714-1787); Sir William Bragg, British scientist and Nobel laureate (1862-1942); Herman Hesse, German writer and Nobel laureate (1877-1962); Wislawa Szymborska, Polish poet and Nobel laureate (1923--); Larry David, writer/director (1947--); Jerry Hall, model/actress (1956--); Lindsay Lohan, actress (1986--).



Fourth of July at Eddie Gabor's house

By Tom Purcell

When I drove by Eddie Gabor's old house, I was transported back 20 years -- back to the wonderful Fourth of July outings my family once enjoyed there.

Eddie Gabor was my grandmother's longtime companion. For the last 20 years of her life, Eddie treated her like gold.

She'd had a hard life, after all. Widowed in her late 40s, she struggled for years to pay the bills -- she struggled to tend to the last of her six children (who all went on to do well in life).

went on to do well in life).

Then Providence intervened.

My grandmother, a regular churchgoer, had caught the eye of another parishioner -- a colorful old bachelor named Eddie Gabor.

Eddie and his brother ran a successful officecleaning business. They had hundreds of employees who maintained the interiors and exteriors of Pittsburgh's biggest high-

rise buildings.

Though Eddie's brother married and raised a family, Eddie was never blessed that way. Many years went by and Eddie was still alone -- until he

met my grandmother.
The two hit it off instant-

ly. They were soon inseparable. They went to Mass together every day. Eddie took her to Pittsburgh's finest restaurants every night. My grandmother brought Eddie to every family event.

Eddie made the last 20 years of her life her best years -- he made our Fourth of July celebrations wonderful, too.

Eddie lived in a beautiful stone home up high on a hill. His home bordered a park. Every Fourth of July his township gave a fireworks display. Eddie's backyard offered a perfect view.

So every year, he set out tables and chairs. He made refreshments and food. Just before dusk, my grandmother's children, grandchildren, their spouses and others would arrive.

As the adults laughed and caught up with each other, the children danced around the yard, giggling as their sparklers burned bright.

Soon, the sky would fall black and the fireworks would begin. As we "oohed" and "aahed" -- as the sky exploded into light and just as quickly returned to darkness -- Eddie would be next to my grandmoth-

can be.

Eddie threw his last Fourth of July party in 1993, five years after my grandmother died. He died the following winter. Our sadness at the loss of both hit hardest the next Fourth of July when we could no longer gather at Eddie's to celebrate.

The fact is there was no better place to celebrate the Fourth of July -- not just because Eddie made my grandmother's last years so wonderful, but in part because of Eddie's father.

Eddie's father was born in Hungary. He came to America seeking a better life for himself and his family. He took the first job he could get -- janitor.

Where others may view mopping and cleaning as demeaning work, Eddie's father surely didn't. He saw a future.

He started his own cleaning business. He began by cleaning small commercial buildings and kept moving his way up.

His company was soon maintaining larger buildings. He soon had the means to send his sons to college -- to develop their business skills to help him keep growing the business.

be next to my grandmother, as contented as a man

He built himself a nice stone home in the suburbs

-- the home in which Eddie Gabor would live the rest of his life. vice

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The story of Eddie's father is an American story. Through hard work, he made an incredible life for his family, and he unwittingly made an incredible life for my grandmother.

As I first drove by Eddie Gabor's old house, I was initially filled with sadness -- sad that my grandmother and Eddie have been gone nearly 20 years already.

But as all the memories came flooding back -- as I pieced together what the old house really symbolizes -- I couldn't help but smile.

Despite America's temporary setbacks, I prefer to focus on the incredible blessings our country bestowed on Eddie's father, Eddie, my grandmother and my family.

I plan to drive by Eddie Gabor's old house every Fourth of July.

©2009 Tom Purcell. Tom Purcell, a humor columnist for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, is nationally syndicated exclusively by Cagle Cartoons newspaper syndicate.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Liberty—still worth the cost

Each Independence Day I think of my ancestor Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Two centuries and numerous generations later, I take much inspiration from what he and his colleagues committed to in the summer of 1776.

Just imagine how different the world would be had they not approached independence with a passionate commitment to lib-

But what if on Friday, July 5, 1776, the men who approved the Declaration of Independence merely headed home believing their work done? Sure, they declared the equality of men, extolling the inalienable rights to life and liberty. It must have felt good to vent frustrations about the king. What if each man decided the talk of freedom shouldn't inconvenience anyone too much?

Alas, there would have been no "new nation, conceived in liberty." Rather than Old Glory, our public spaces would today be festooned with the Union Jack – or worse. The world would be a darker place.

As a legal document only the president of the Congress – John Hancock – probably had to sign the

Declaration, but the others did as well. Benjamin Franklin reportedly said to Hancock, "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separate-

They pledged their "lives... fortunes... and sacred honor" to the cause of independence and liberty. No limits to that pledge; for them, everything was on the line. The cause of liberty was wrapped up in every facet of their lives.

Indeed, they saw the fight for political liberty as inextricably linked to providing for their families, serving in their churches, and ensuring the long-term prosperity of their neighbors.

They didn't know if they would be hung the next week, bankrupted the next month, expelled from social circles the next year, or lost forever in the ash

heap of history. But they believed in the righteousness of the cause. They knew liberty, as messy and inconvenient as it might sometimes be, was worth it for themselves and their posterity.

Let us not forget that it wasn't just those 56 signers who birthed our nation 233 years ago. Tens of thousands fought against the crown and for liberty, giving life to this democratic republic.

Over the course of the

revolutionary war, the fields of America were watered by the blood of men young and old who believed dying for the chance of liberty was better than living under the yoke of tyranny. Even as so many of their names are lost to history, their legacy is this brilliant city upon a hill, securing the blessings of liberty.

That's what they were willing to do the day after the Fourth of July in 1776.

In this year, once the parades conclude, BBQs end, and fireworks explode, what will we do for the cause of liberty on the Fifth of July? That's the day that counts, and each day after. While it's good to celebrate our national independence, we must daily take action to preserve our liberty.

The cause of liberty
-- in our cities, counties,
schools, state and nation
-- needs us more than ever.
And it is still worth it.

Michael Quinn Sullivan is president of Empower Texans and Texans for Fiscal Responsibility, working with more than 50,000 voters in the Lone Star State.

We welcome your letters

To insure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

*Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will edited for ength 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.

Come to church in a bar and bring your dog

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - A nondenominational church is conducting Sunday services in a bar and allowing dogs to attend with their owners.

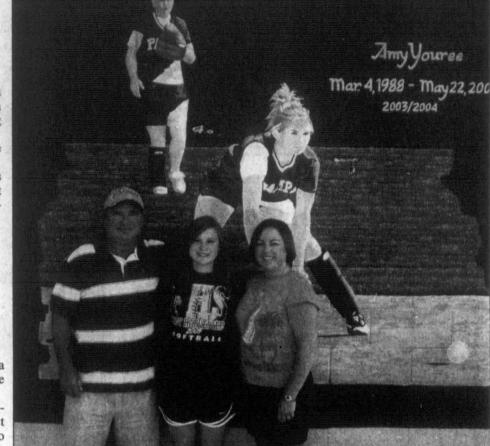
The City Community Church meets Sunday mornings at La Zona Rosa, a music venue and bar, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Church members say meeting in a bar and allowing dogs are ways to serve the community and make people feel comfort-

Organizers say it takes an hour and a half to make the switch from bar to church by cleaning up beer bottles and installing baby gates.

Scott Harmon says when services are over "it's back to a bar."

Rev. Matthias Haeusel says most dogs are well-behaved, although things got awkward when a German shepherd recently tried to eat one of the smaller dogs.



Kelby Doughty received the Amy Youree Memorial Scholarship fo rthis year. Every year Amy's family gives a Pampa High School softball player a scholarship from the fund. Amy was a very talented player until she was killed in a car accident in 2004 when she was 16 years old. Pictured in front of the mural honoring Amy at the Pampa High School Softball field are Doug Youree (Amy's father), Kelby Doughty and Melody Youree (Amy's Mother)

Oil slips below \$68 as US jobless rate rises

Associated Press Writer

Oil prices slipped below \$68 a barrel Thursday as rising unemployment in Europe and the U.S. helped strengthen the dollar and draw investors out of commodities.

By mid-afternoon in Europe, benchmark crude for August delivery was down \$1.64 to \$67.67 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Wednesday, it fell 58 cents to settle at \$69.31.

In the United States a Labor Department report showed the economy lost larger-than-expected 467,000 jobs in June, with the unemployment rate rising to 9.5 percent from 9.4 percent in May, underscoring concerns about the pace of economic recovery.

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Analyst had been expecting payroll reductions of 363,000 in June. Since the recession began in December 2007, the economy has lost a net total of 6.5 million jobs.

Meanwhile, unemployment in the 16 countries that use the euro spiked to a ten-year high in May, reinforcing concerns about the length of the economic recovery. The seasonallyadjusted unemployment rate for the euro zone in May stood at 9.5 percent, up from April's 9.3 percent and hitting its highest level since May 1999.

The euro slipped to \$1.4040 on Thursday from \$1.4148 late Wednesday in New York, while the British pound was down to \$1.6360 from \$1.6474.

Investors turn to commodities like oil to hedge against inflation and dollar weakness, but tend to drift back to the U.S. currency when it strengthens.

A rally from below \$35 a barrel in March stalled last month on investor concern that a sluggish global economy may not recover fast enough to justify surging oil prices. Oil will likely trade

between \$65 a barrel and \$75 in the July-September period, averaging \$71 in the third quarter and \$76 in the fourth quarter, Barclays Capital said in a report. "We expect the upward

momentum in many commodities to slow over the next few quarters, before fresh highs are reached when the cycle becomes expansive," Barclays said.

Wednesday by a weekly report from the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration which showed crude inventories fell more than some expected, losing 3.7 million barrels for the week ended June 26.

Prices were bolstered

Supplies have dropped 15.8 million barrels during the last four weeks, a sign crude demand may be picking up.

In other Nymex trading, gasoline for August delivery fell 4.54 cents to \$1.8136 a gallon and heating oil slid 3.52 cents to \$1.7305. Natural gas for August delivery dropped 7.5 cents to \$3.720 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, Brent prices fell \$1.37 to \$67.42 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Your response to "Frustrated Shopper in Idaho" (April 5) made me very upset. I am a cashier in a local grocery store. I understand a shopper's frustration when she/ he gets in the express lane only to find someone with a full cart up ahead. But we cashiers are between a rock and a hard place. If we ask a customer to please go to another lane, the customer will get upset, tell us we're rude and complain to the manager. If we say nothing to avoid upsetting that one customer, then the others waiting in line get angry.

Customers need to be respectful and not assume they're entitled to bring their fully loaded cart into the express lane. It's not the cashier's fault, and we do not need "more training"! -- CHRISTY IN OHIO

DEAR CHRISTY: Mea culpa. I heard from a slew of angry cashiers across the country echoing similar sentiments. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am a checker, and I'm frequently assigned to the express lane. I was trained very well and usually politely tell customers that it is a "10 items or less" line. However, it is beyond my control when the managers push them down my line to get them out of the store sooner, or when a manager tells me he/she is sending someone down with "a few extra things" without asking for my input. It is neither the customer's fault nor mine. I try to enforce this rule, but not all customers are polite or willing to listen. -- ANNOYED **CHECKER**

DEAR ABBY: A simple and effective solution to this problem would be to program the express lanes to accept no more than the posted limit for that lane, e.g., 10 items. If businesses can program their systems to accommodate senior discounts, bag rebates, double coupons, buy-one-get-one, etc., surely they can program an express lane limit.

-- VIRGINIA SHOPPER DEAR ABBY: I was a manager for 24 years at a national supermarket chain, and I can answer "Frustrated Shopper." A cashier would not be fired for enforcing the rules, but because of a higher number of customer complaints. Supermarkets want friendly cashiers. It's not the cashier's job to enforce rules; that's the manager's

To risk losing customers by embarrassing them is not something most managers are willing to do. Think about it: Who's spending more -- the person with a few items or someone with a full cart?

-- FORMER MANAGER IN ORLANDO

DEAR ABBY: I'm a checker for a national grocery chain, and I'll share with you a checker's "wish list" for grocery shoppers:

1. If you're shopping with a friend and have more than one order in the cart, please use the regular checkout line. While each order may be less than 15 items, two 10-item orders take more time than one large order, so please be considerate of others.

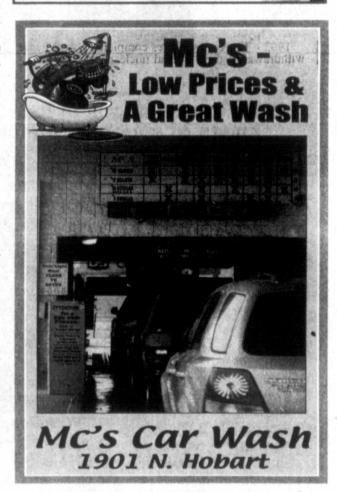
They're in a hurry, too. 2. If you're buying liquor, have your ID, wallet, debit card, cash, etc on your person, not out in your car.

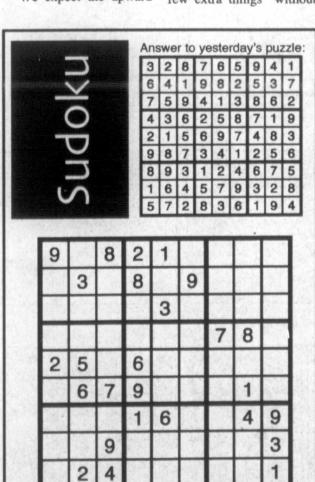
3. If you have special bagging needs, please use the regular lines. The express lane is not the place for this type of special handling.

4. While you're at the register, please stay off your cell phone. Checkers are people, too, and we may have questions and need your attention. Distracted customers slow us down.

In other words, treat the express lane (and the checker) the way you would like to be treated if you were in a hurry and the person who is standing behind you in line. -- FRUSTRATED CHECKER IN THE USA











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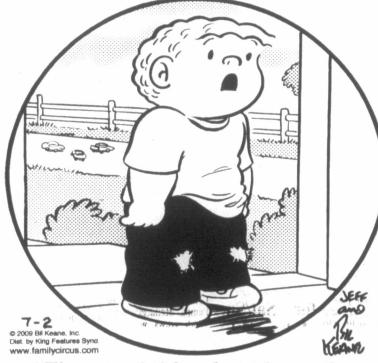
Marmaduke



"Steve called. He wants to know if you want to join his jogging group and get some exercise."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"The good thing is at least the knees of my pants match."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

42 Conver-

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44 Foe

DOWN

1 Slangy

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2 Kimono

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3 Close

4 Inkling

5 Ends

6 Asian

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43 Nervous

ACROSS 1 Like four Sandy Koufax

games 6 Silent

brother 11 Home

12 Island farewell

13 Electrician, at

times

14 Low point 15 Noted strong-

man 17 Great serve

19 Clock numeral

20 Plopped down

23 Enticing 25 Basilica part

26 Emmywinning reality series, with "The"

28 Computer parts

29 TV offering

30 Unbroken 31 Scoundrel

32 UFO pilots 33 Nanny's

kin 35 Snooty

ones 38 College houses

41 Bag

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HOLE GONGS Yesterday's answer

17 Texan landmark

31 Undemanding 33 Rudi-

retreat

37 Not at

turndown

18 Cook's spice

ments 20 US/USSR 34 Press competi-35 Relaxing

7 Singer Jackson tion 8 Curtain 21 Fancy tie 36 Tours

holder 22 Swarms 24 Verb

9 Greek letter

10 Galley item 16 Enrolls ending

home 25 Louvre fill 39 Small **27** Tall topper

40 Devious grazer NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to

Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475 13 33 34

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I'M GONNA BARF!





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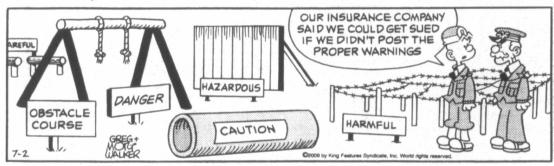




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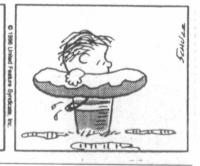
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Flo & Friends



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5 lines/ 7 days \$20.50

\$22.50

7 days

5 Special Notices

male Chihuahua Terrier mix. Call 669-6360

10 Lost/Found 14e Carpet Serv.

FOUND male 10 mo old black lab by clarks CLEANING SERVICE propane. 663-1201 or

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> HOUSE Cracking? In 9563

14s Plumbing/Heat JACK'S Plumbing, 715

ROOFING CO. Metal Roofs, Composi-Roofs. Free Estimates 806-665-7648, or toll free 888-664-7648.

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19 Situations

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able to balance check FOR books, telephone skills, male Tiny Toy Poodle. organizational skills. Date of birth 5-22outgoing personality. 2009. Adult weight will washer/dryer hookups, Drop Resume at 100 N. be approx. Cuyler, St. 200 (Bank \$400.00. Call 806-662- \$700 mo., \$500 dep. of America upstairs). 9172.

is LONGFELLOW

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.

CRYPTOQUOTE

EY UMR HZYER FZY ZRUM OR.

HZRS UMR EUBBRM RCRI HZUI

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHEN A WOMAN SAYS, "I DON'T WISH TO MENTION ANY NAMES," IT MEANS IT AIN'T NECESSARY TO MENTION ANY NAMES. — KIN HUBBARD

AMP

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in Pampa News, MUST through the News Office Only.

10 Lost/Found

FOUND Long haired Siamese Cat in 700 block of Magnolia. Call 663-0339.

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mates. Call 669-7769.

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21 Help Wanted

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now! 665-2767, Red Barn. Open Only on Sat., 1420 S. Barnes. 69a Garage Sales

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80 Pets & Suppl.

AKC Labs for Sale, 4 male, 1 female, \$250 month. 440-1610. OBO, 806-418-0040.

FREE Weimaraner to IN Lefors. #1, 2 bdr., 1

3

dow ac, newly remod-Sale--Apricot eled. \$400 mo., \$400. References. 595-0656 bdr..

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FOUND at Jay's Drive- OVERHEAD DOOR bricks or walls? Child- do it all, even trim trees

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Ability to work on rooftops

Ability to safely climb ladders with tools and equipment without exceeding weight limits of the ladder

Must be willing to climb towers (experience is a plus)

criminal background check

Must be able to work is all weather conditions Must have a high school diploma, a clean driving record, and be able to pass a

Will be required to pass drug and alcohol screenings AMA•TechTel- Provides employees with an excellent benefits package

> that includes insurance, 401K, paid holidays, and paid time off. Please email your resume to fieldtech@amaonline.com.



TexSCAN Week of June 28, 2009

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\$106 MONTH BUYS land for RV/motor home/

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on Lake Fork, \$690 down (\$6900/10.91%/7yr)

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BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, July 3,

2009: This year, you might be unusually creative, finding paths to goals that most people never would have considered. You often go on overload, as so much gets tossed on your plate. You demonstrate the ability to be effective and organized and to use your imagination. This is a great mix. Bosses appreciate your unique capabilities and talents. Caring comes naturally, as you are very enticing to many. Others find you to be magnetic. Choices need to revolve around what type of relationship you want. If you are attached, the two of you need to pitch in and help each other, as much will be on your plate. SAGITTAR-IUS provides different views, but is supportive at the same time.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19) *** Reach for the stars, knowing the potential available. Don't settle, even if you're a bit shaken up by an insight or heavy thought. Let that go. If you are triggered, detaching will be more effective. Tonight: A little too much fun and

excess is good for the soul. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) **** Teamwork is the key to growth. You might want to be open to the offer of someone who clearly cares a lot and can point you in the right direction. Ask yourself if control is the reason that you don't defer to this person's ideas. Good will surrounds you. Tonight: Dinner for two. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might not realize it as you get out of bed, but you are feeling vibrant and clear. Others will make an extra effort toward you, but in their own way. Network and get to the bottom of an issue during a morning meeting. Tonight: Continue to make it a people day.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) *** Listen to feedback from others. You could be slightly overwhelmed by what you have to do. Perhaps you might want to exercise and try out the word "no." You could be surprised by how well that might work. Tonight: TGIF. Join friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ** Basics count and allow you to use your imagination and ingenuity. You will want to tap into your imagination and head in a new direction. Feelings are extreme and jump back and forth. Tonight: Lighten up someone else's

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) *** Perhaps you can take some time off today, as you would be happiest close to home. Extreme feelings mark a key bond. A friendship could become more of a romantic or flirtatious relationship.

Tonight: Order in. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) **** Keep talking and opening up to others. The more someone trusts you, the better off you are. Accept new tech-

nology, and open up to a better and more effective manner of proceeding. Tonight: Speak your mind. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ** Be aware of how much you want certain things to go one way. Realize that you don't have control over others. You do have a lot to offer, and others know it,

even if they don't always acknowledge

it. Tonight: Stick to your budget! SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** You feel unusual energy, though you could waste it running around doing this or that. Try to focus on one issue at a time. Surprises head your way. Don't take a situation for granted. Tonight: All smiles, ready to christen the weekend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) *** Take your time - you could be tired and dragging. Investigate and see what is going on with strange communication. You are seeing windows to another person's soul. Someone demonstrates unusual caring. Tonight: Keep it low-key

if possible. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) *** Think positively about a friendship or a get-together. Worry less about money or whether you can afford this or that. Just relax, surrounded by your friends. How you see someone could change. Tonight: A little caring goes a

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** Others seek you out for guidance and want to know which way to go Your humor and caring come out. Be willing to help others pull their plans together. You might feel the need to bring others together. Tonight: All eyes turn to

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Novelist Franz Kafka (1883), actor Tom

Cruise (1962), actress Connie Nielsen

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BORN TODAY

(1965)

Blalock's blast gives Rangers 9-7 victory

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)— With their offense hitting the skids in June, the Texas Rangers were dropping fast in the division standings.

Texas broke out of its monthlong slumber in time to keep things interesting in the American League West.

Hank Blalock's second homer of the game, a two-run shot with two outs in the ninth inning, gave Texas a 9-7 victory Wednesday night and moved the Rangers within a half game of the firstplace Los Angeles Angels in the division.

Texas was hitting .221 in June before breaking out with five home runs in a 9-5 victory Tuesday over Los Angeles.

The Rangers played small ball early to get a 7-1 lead, then used Blalock's blast to hold off the Angels.

"There will be times when things don't go right, and that was one of those times," Texas manager Ron Washington said. "Those guys never dropped their heads. We try to play the game the way it's presented to us."

Michael Young singled off Justin Speier (3-2) leading off the Texas ninth. David Murphy dropped down a sacrifice bunt to move Young to second and Marlon Byrd struck out.

Blalock, who homered in the fourth, hit the first pitch into the grassy area beyond the fence in center field.

"I tried to throw a back-door slider," Speier said.
"That was not the right pitch."

Texas, who took two of three from the Angels, improved to 5-1 against Los Angeles this season. The teams meet again for a three-game set next week in California.

"I don't know if it's a statement," said Rangers starter Kevin Millwood, who allowed four runs in 6 1-3 innings. "I think the statement is that our offense looks like it's back to where it's been in the

The Angels rallied from their six-run deficit by scoring three runs in both the seventh and ninth. Juan Rivera's three-run homer with two outs in the top of the ninth off Frank Francisco (2-1) tied the game at 7.

Los Angeles squandered other chances by having four runners thrown out on the bases, including Chone Figgins getting thrown out trying to leg out a triple leading off the ninth.

"We did things that were out of character," Angels center fielder Torii Hunter said. "We all made mistakes." Yankees 4, Mariners 2

At New York, Alex Rodriguez hit a tiebreaking homer and Andy Pettitte pitched seven strong innings in New York's seventh straight victory.

Johnny Damon and Melky Cabrera also went deep for the Yankees, who overcame Ken Griffey Jr.'s 621st home run to win their 10th straight home game against Seattle since Sept. 4, 2007.

Mariano Rivera saved his third consecutive game, increasing his career total to 502 and getting his 20th in 21 chances this season.

Pettitte (8-3) outpitched fellow lefty Jarrod Washburn (4-6) in a game that took just 2 hours, 17 minutes. The Yankees (45-32) are a season-high 13 games over .500. White Sox 6, Indians 2

At Cleveland, Jose Contreras got a rare road win, pitching eight superb

innings as Chicago won its fifth straight.

Contreras (3-7) improved to 3-2 with a 2.17 ERA since being recalled from Triple-A Charlotte after a monthlong demotion. The right-hander, who was 1-6 in his previous 10 road starts, allowed two runs and five hits with eight strikeouts.

Cleveland has dropped five straight and 13 of 15.

Ramon Castro hit a three-run homer off Jeremy Sowers (2-6) in a four-run sixth as the White Sox improved to 12-4 since June 13.Red Sox 6, Orioles 5, 11 innings

At Baltimore, Boston used a four-run ninth inning to pull even, Julio Lugo singled in the tiebreaking run in the 11th and Jonathan Papelbon became the franchise's career saves leader.

Papelbon got three outs in the 11th for his 20th save this season and 133rd with the Red Sox, breaking the team record held by Bob Stanley. Less than 24 hours earlier, Papelbon yielded the key hit in the eighth inning of a game in which Boston blew a 10-1 lead before losing 11-10.

Ramon Ramirez (5-2) worked the 10th for the visiting Red Sox, who took two of three from Baltimore for their seventh straight series win.

Danys Baez (4-2) was the loser.Blue Jays 5, Rays 0

At Toronto, Ricky Romero pitched four-hit ball over eight innings, Rod Barajas, Adam Lind and Scott Rolen each homered and the Blue Jays ended Tampa Bay's seven-game winning streak.

Romero (6-3) matched the longest outing of his career in winning his third straight start. He walked four, struck out seven and lowered his ERA to 2.85. Romero allowed just two hits through the first six innings.

Toronto snapped a fourgame losing streak with a trio of solo home runs off James Shields (6-6). Twins 5, Royals 1

At Kansas City, Mo., Joe Mauer went 3 for 3, raising his average to .392 and backing pitcher Glen Perkins in Minnesota's victory.

After walking in the first inning, Mauer stroked three consecutive singles, driving in one run and scoring another as the Twins completed a 6-3 trip that began in Milwaukee and St. Louis. He was walked intentionally in the eighth.

Perkins (4-4) allowed one run for the second straight start, allowing 10 hits in seven innings. Joe Nathan got the final out for his 21st save in 23 opportunities.

Gil Meche (4-8), whose "dead arm" the previous two starts had created concern among the Royals, gave up three runs, Äî two earned, Äî six hits and five walks in six innings. Athletics 5, Tigers 1

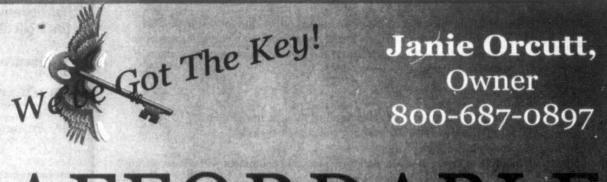
At Oakland, Calif., Jason Giambi and Jack Cust broke out of funks with two-run homers, and Oakland's Dallas Braden ended a four-start winless stretch.

Giambi's drive in the sixth off Detroit's Justin Verlander (8-4) was career homer No. 407, tying him with Duke Snider for 43rd place.

Braden (6-7) pitched seven strong innings to win for the first time in five starts since beating Baltimore on June 5.



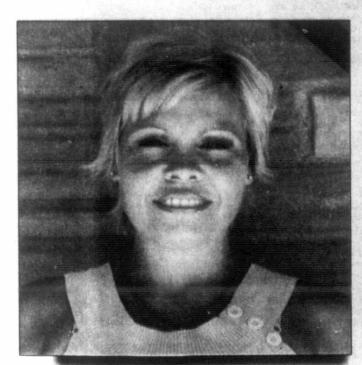
Texas Rangers' designated hitter Hank Blalock watches his solo home run in the fourth inning of their baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels in Arlington, Texas, Wednesday, July 1, 2009. (AP Photo/Donna McWilliam)



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