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Lefors man charged in child's hit and run— arrested on warrant

BY DAVID BOWSER dbowser@thepampanews.com

A Lefors teenager was in Gray County jail today in lieu of bonds totalling \$13,000 in connection with a hit-and-run Monday that sent a little girl to an Amarillo hospital.

Gage Dane Zeek, 18, was arrested by Lefors City Marshal Terry Hodge Monday evening on an outstanding warrant. Following subsequent investigation, Zeek was charged with causing an accident involving injury or death.

Officers said today that Hodge, Gray County Deputies Rhett Rollins, David Rushing and Brad Christian, and Gray County Constable Chris Lockridge stopped a gray Dodge pickup shortly before 9 p.m. Monday at the intersection of First and McLean Streets in Lefors.

Officers said they found paraphernalia in the back of the pickup that indicated the manufacture methamphetamine. Gray County deputies said Zeek was a

passenger in the pickup and was arrested on an outstanding warrant. After being taken to the Gray County

jail, officers questioned Zeek concerning a hit-and-run Monday morning in Lefors. A 7-year-old girl was riding her bicycle

about 10 a.m. Monday at the intersec-ARREST cont. on page 3



FIELD OF SAND



staff photo by David Bowsen

Harvester Stadium remained a field of sand today as installation of synthetic turf appeared to still be stalled. The Pampa Independent School District board of trustees will discuss the issue with their attorney when they meet Thursday evening. Texas high school football begins the week of August 28.

Donelson recovering in Lubbock hospital

Family grateful to firefighters for care

BY DAVID BOWSER dbowser@thepampanews.

She was back in the Intensive Care Unit in a Lubbock Hospital, but Brenda Donelson was doing better Monday afternoon.

"It's almost some kind of miracle," said her sister, Linda Austin, sitting by Mrs. Donelson's bedside Monday afternoon.

Donelson suffered a broken neck and broken back on shortly after 1 p.m., Friday, July 10, in a van-SUV crash at the intersection of U.S. Highway 60 and Loop 171. She was airlifted to the University Medical Center in Lubbock

by a LifeStar Helicopter. Authorities said he suffered two crushed vertebrae in her back and one in her neck. She also suffered injuries to her scalp, fingers and an elbow.

firefighters Pampa

worked an hour and a half Donelson. to cut Donelson out of the

sports utility vehicle. "We have a wonderful fire department," Austin

She said that one firefighter held Donelson's hand and reassured her

throughout the ordeal.

Pampa Fire Chief Kim Powell said one firefighter held her hand and another held her head still the entire time it took to get her out of the twisted wreckage.

"He lay there on the pavement in his bunker gear the entire time, holding her head," Powell said. It was 102 degrees that

Powell said Donelson was conscious throughout the process.

"She's a marvelous lady," Powell said.

Austin said the firefighters did an excellent job of successfully extricating

Powell said they had a difficult time getting their equipment into place to open up the vehicle to get Donelson out.

"It really had her closed in," Powell said.

"It took longer to get her out of the truck," Austin said, "than it did to fly her to the hospital in Lubbock."

Austin said the firefighters were very care-

Powell said that it was a group effort. She said one of the first people on the scene was with the Lefors Volunteer Fire Department.

"He stopped to render aid," Powell said, "and stayed the whole time."

Gray County Sheriff's deputies, Pampa Police officers, Texas Department of Public Safety troopers and Guardian EMS were RECOVERY cont. on page 3

Property tax break for severely injured vets

HOUSTON (AP) - Under a new Texas law, some disabled veterans will no longer have to pay taxes on their homes while others will have to fork over less money in property taxes.

The law, signed by Gov. Rick Perry in June, took

effect immediately and is retroactive to Jan. 1. The law allows disabled veterans to qualify for complete exemption if the Department of Veterans Affairs determines they are unable to work or are receiving 100 percent disability compensation due to their military service. Veterans with disability ratings of 30 percent, 50 percent or 70 percent will have different levels of exemption. Many states offer similar tax breaks.

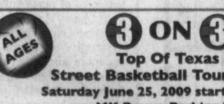
It is welcome relief for veterans like Sgt. Sergio

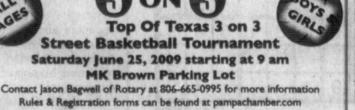
Trejo. He medically retired from the military in 2007, one year after a bombing on a road north of Iraq shattered his vertebra. He managed to walk again, but suffers from post-traumatic stress and traumatic

The Houston Chronicle reported Tuesday that Trejo and his wife accumulated \$15,000 in credit card debt while he sought work and she recovered from complications from the birth of their second

Trejo, 26, feared he might not be able to provide TAX BREAK cont. on page 3









For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Wednesday

High 85

Low 66



Thursday

High 93 Low 68



High 95

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 85. South wind between 5 and 10 mph. Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 66. South southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, 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. Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 95. South southwest wind around 10 mph. Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. South southwest wind around 10 mph becoming west northwest.

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Earnings, stock market driving oil higher

COLUMBUS. (AP) — Oil prices topped \$65 a barrel Tuesday as optimism pushed stock markets higher from the United States to Asia.

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Energy prices, except for retail gasoline, have been rising for a week on better than expected profits from major corporations. It could be a signal that the economy has bottomed out, and that demand for energy will bounce back

Benchmark crude for August delivery rose 76 cents to \$64.74 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. That's more than \$5 above last Tuesday's closing price.

Heavy equipment marker Caterpillar Inc. was among companies that issued an improved 2009 profit forecast on Tuesday, even as it said its secondquarter profit fell 66 percent on weak sales.

Answer to yesterday's puzzle: 9 4 8 2 7 1 6 3 5 6 2 7 3 5 8 4 9 1 1 5 3 9 4 6 8 7 2 2 6 9 5 3 4 1 8 7 8 1 4 6 9 7 2 5 3 7 3 5 8 1 2 9 6 4 5 9 2 1 8 3 7 4 6 4 8 6 7 2 5 3 1 9 3 7 1 4 6 9 5 2 8 2 3 8 6 8 2 9 2 1 5 4 5 3

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Obituaries

Leroy Boyer, 92

Leroy Boyer, 92, of passed away Sunday, July 19, 2009 at Pampa Regional Medical Center.

Leroy Anson Boyer was born Friday, January 5, 1917 to Fred and Alma (Miller) Boyer. He grew up in Kanopolis, KS during the depression where his father died in his arms when he was fourteen. He dropped out of school to work odd jobs to help support his brothers and sisters.

Leroy went on to work in the salt mines in his hometown and later to San Diego to work in the shipyards during the war.

After the war, he went to Denver where there was an active music scene and started playing professionally. He had started playing instruments at a very early age and decided he wanted to play guitar full time. Leroy became a popular attraction around Denver and especially Rita's Crossroads, where he played nightly.

After several years, he met Patricia Knight, and wanting to settle down, they married and moved to Borger where her parent lived.

He landed a job with Phillips in 1952, received his associate's degree in design engineering in 1965 and worked until 1981 when he retired.

All of this time, he continued his music throughout the Panhandle with many great musicians.

Some of the notable musicians he worked with over the years were Hank Thompson, Bob Wills, Willie Nelson and Johnnie Gimble.

After Pat's death in 1980, he continued to play and met Janie Parsons in 1985 while playing with "The Over The Hill Gang." After Janie's death in 1993, Leroy continued to play until his decision to retire at 86.

Mr. Boyer was preceded in death by his sons Larry and Michael, first wife Patricia Boyer in 1980 and second wife Janie Boyer in 1993.

Survivors include his son Richard and wife Glenda of San Antonio, TX, daughter Nancy Royse of Concord, CA, grandchildren Camillion McDonald and Corey Boyer both of San Marcos, TX, great grandchildren Shane Boyer and Michael Boyer both of San Marcos, TX, brother David Boyer of Midwest City, OK, sister Luella Malhado of Kanopolis, KS, several nieces and nephews and special son Danny Ekstrand.

Services will be held at



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Boyer

11 a.m., Thursday July 23, 2009 at Brown's Chapel Of The Fountains with burial to follow at Westlawn Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Elk's National Foundation, attention Michelle Easley, PO Box 1577, Borger, TX 79008-1577.

Send personal condolences to www.brownfuneraldirectors.net.

Emergency Services

PAMPA PD

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Officers made 16 traffic stops and worked three accidents. There were 17 animal-related calls. Officers followed up on

three investigations. Monday

A window was reported broken out of a Chevrolet Trail Blazer in the 600 block of North Dwight.

A medical emergency was reported at Fifth and McLean Streets in Lefors. Officers assisted a

motorist in the 1200 block of North Hobart. A medical emergency was reported in the 2500

block of North Perryton Parkway. An assault was reported

in the 1600 block of West Somerville. A domestic disturbance

was reported in the 500 block of North Somerville.

An unattended death was reported in the 1000 block of West Crane Road. A medical emergency

was reported in the 2800 block of North Charles. Harassment was reported to the Police

Department. An assault was reported in the 1000 block of North

Hobart. Found property was reported in the 2200 block

of Williston. The city shut off water at a building in the 1500

block of North Dwight. A medical emergency was reported in the 100

block of West 30th. The city shut off the water at a building in the

300 block of South Miami. Disorderly conduct was reported at Beryl and

Finley A vehicle was vandalized in the 800 block of South Barnes.

A suspicious person was reported in the 200 block of West Craven.

Tuesday

A suspicious person was reported at Gwendolyn and Banks. A burglary was reported

in the 200 block of North Sumner. A suspicious vehicle

was reported in the 1800 block of North Nelson.

An assault was reported in 2600 block of Seminole Dr.

A medical emergency was reported in the 1500 block of West Kentucky. The Gray County Sheriff's office reported the following arrests during the

SHERIFF the fittle giri was air-

24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. Monday

Lori Ann Palacios, 31, of Pampa, was arrested by Gray County deputies on warrants charging her with having an animal at large and animal nuisance.

Donald Gene Reynolds, 54, of Pampa, was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety troopers on

a Wise County warrant charging him with driving while disqualified. Tron Germel Nickerson,

37, was arrested by Gray County officers on a motion for enforcement.

Gage Dane Zeek, 18, of Lefors, was arrested by Marshal Terry Hodge of Lefors on charges of possession and transportation of chemicals with the intent to manufacture a controlled substance and causing an accident involved injury or death.

Eryca Sovanah Annette Pierce, 19, Yukon, Okla., was arrested by Marshal Hodge for driving without a valid ID.

Tuesday Dierre Lionel McLennan, 29, Pampa, was arrested by Pampa Childress County warrant charging him with possession of marijuana and

Pampa charges of driving

without a valid license.

Senate heads toward vote on F-22s

- The Senate debated Tuesday whether to spend

\$1.75 billion on seven additional F-22 jets, a decision that pits the possible loss of thousands of defense jobs against Obama administration assertions that the Pentagon has enough of the fighters and the program should be terminated.

Lawmakers from states that would benefit from manufacturing the jets want the money pumped into the aerospace and defense industries. Defense Secretary Robert Gates counters that the money would be better spent on ensuring that the military has the tools it needs to fight the unconventional wars taking place in Iraq and Afghanistan.

chamber The was expected to vote on the issue Tuesday.

Gates has been calling wavering senators to urge their support for cutting off spending for new F-22s. Vice President Joe Biden and other White House officials have also been calling lawmakers to press the issue and remind Congress that President Barack Obama has threatened what would be the first veto of his presidency if the money isn't removed.

"What I have not heard is substantive reason for adding more aircraft in terms of our strategic needs," Gates said Monday while reiterating his opposition to the purchase.

Pentagon spokesman

Geoff Morrell said Tuesday

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fighter would "inhibit our ability to buy things we do need," including Gates' proposal to add 22,000 soldiers to the Army. The \$1.75 billion is cur-

that spending on the stealth

rently part of a \$680 billion defense spending policy

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., and the top Republican on the panel, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, sponsored the amendment to take out the F-22 money.

"The Senate has heard from the senior leadership of the Defense Department both civilian and military that we should end F-22 production. The recommendation is strong and clear, as strong and clear as I have ever heard," Levin

But there's strong resistance, particularly from senators representing states where the plane and its parts are made.

According to Lockheed Martin Corp., the main contractor, 25,000 people are directly employed in building the plane, and another 70,000 have indirect links, particularly in Georgia, Texas and California. Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., a supporter of the program, said there are 1,000 suppliers in 44 states.

Dodd, speaking on the Senate floor last week, questioned why Congress should approve \$65 billion to prop up the automobile industry but can't spend \$1.75 billion to support an important segment of the aerospace industry.

Supporters of the program also argued that it would undermine the nation's security to terminate the F-22 when China and Russia are both developing fighter jets that can compete with it.

The Senate took up the F-22 issue last week, but then put it aside to deal with two amendments having nothing to do with defense. On Thursday senators voted to adopt a major expansion to hate crimes law, and on Monday they turned to a proposal allowing people with concealed weapons permits in one state to carry their weapons into other states. A vote on the gun law was expected Wednesday.

The House last month approved its version of the defense bill with a \$369 million down payment for 12 additional F-22 fighters. The House Appropriations Committee last week endorsed that spending in drawing up its Pentagon budget for next year. It also approved \$534 million for an alternate engine for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, another program that Obama, backed by the Pentagon, says is unwarranted and would subject

the entire bill to a veto. The defense bill authorizes \$550 billion for defense programs and \$130 billion for military operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and other anti-terrorist operations.

Soldier missing for a week after visit to Laredo

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — The Army and FBI are searching for a South Texas soldier who may have been kidnapped during a visit to Laredo, on the U.S.-Mexico border. J.C. Gonzalez, the brother of Pfc. James Gonzalez,

24, says the soldier has been missing for about a week. He says the FBI told the family that the Army had received a call demanding a \$100,000 ransom and a demand that all soldiers be withdrawn from the border.

Gonzalez, a soldier at Fort Hood in central Texas, failed to return to base July 13 as scheduled. He had told his family in Robstown two days earlier he was headed to Laredo to hang out with friends before

About 575 National Guard troops remain on the border, but the thousands that had been patrolling the area withdrew last year.

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Taxpayers fight city hall-

AUSTIN - Today, a Travis AFPF that citizens possess an County District Judge ruled against Friendswood city officials and in favor of five citizens who fought City Hall to support their city charter. The landmark decision sets a precedent.

"This is a huge victory for Texas taxpayers," said Peggy Venable, Texas director of Americans for Prosperity Foundation, "as this case has ramifications across the state."

Ms. Venable added: "The Friendswood Five are heroes of the taxpayer. They challenged City Hall, endured multiple attempts to have their voices silenced, and set an example for oppressed taxpayers everywhere. Today, the 53rd District Judge

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inherent right established in the Texas Constitution for local voters to have the ability to limit their local governments above what state law. I congratulate the Friendswood Five for their hard work and bravery."

This ruling comes as a result of a lawsuit filed by the City of Friendswood against its own residents, asking a state court to allow the city to issue debt in spite of provisions outlined in the Friendswood City Charter that bar any debt that isn't approved by the voters. Americans for Prosperity Foundation-Texas (AFPF-TX) filed an amicus brief in this case supporting the position of the Friendswood Five. AFPF-TX stated to the court that

the people of Friendswood "have declined to grant such flexibility in funding for government acquisitions and expenditures to their elected officials without their express approval in a bond election. The court must heed that exercise of sovereign power."

On Tuesday, July 14, more than a dozen Friendswood residents attended a hearing on the case to protest the city's actions. Five of the residents - Janis Lowe, Deborah Winters Chaney, Mel Austin, Kathy Rogers and Leslie Rocque - hired an attorney to represent the interests of the Friendswood voters. Dubbing themselves the "Friendswood Five," they presented the case that 1997 a voter-approved city charter is the highest authority under

which a city operates, according to the Texas Constitution.

Judge Scott H. Jenkins, 53rd Judicial District Civil Court, agreed. In his final judgment he ruled in favor of the citizens.

"A true democracy has elected officials working for their constituents. Our Friendswood City Council has a different view of their authority," said Mel Austin, former member of the city council and one of the Friendswood Five. "The issues facing us were simply our rights as taxpayers and our responsibility to police our government. Without citizen oversight, governments abuse their authority, ignoring their responsibility to serve the citizens they represent."

Friendswood Mayor David

Smith and attorneys representing the City of Friendswood argued last week that state law actually prevents people from being able to limit their local government when it comes to issuing debt. A bond attorney testified on behalf of the city of Friendswood that other cities in Texas - including Houston - have gone against their city charters to issue debt.

"Because other cities do it' is not a good enough argument for violating a city charter," said Venable. "We hope that city leaders across the state take notice that they work for the taxpayers and are required to follow their city charter.'

agreed with the taxpayers and Paris, Texas dragging death case ignites third rally

PARIS, Texas (AP) - Members of a black extremist group began assembling Tuesday morning near the courthouse before planned demonstrations in a town where murder charges were dropped against two white men accused in the death of a black friend run over by a vehicle and dragged beneath it.

About a dozen members of the New Black Panther Party were gathering in a parking lot near the courthouse, dressed in black cargo pants, black shirts, black vests and black berets. A separate "protest zone" was set up across the street for white supremacists and other counterprotest groups, but none had arrived shortly before the scheduled start time of the demonstrations.

The rally in Paris, about 90 miles northeast of Dallas, is the third courthouse protest over the death of 24-year-old Brandon McClelland, whose mangled body was found Sept. 16 on a country road outside of town. A prosecutor cited a lack of evidence in dropping murder charges last month against two white men arrested in his death.

demonstrations were expected to pit members of the New Black Panthers and Ku Klux Klan against one another. Others, including members of the Nation of Islam and a local group, the Concerned Citizens for Racial Equality, were also expected take part.

Arrest

ton of Fifth and McLean Streets in Lefors when she was struck by what was reported to be a silver sports utility vehicle.

Marshal Hodge said that when he arrived, the SUV had left the scene of the

Law enforcement offiincluding Gray County Sheriff's deputies, Gray County Constables and Texas Department of Public Safety troopers, joined Hodge in searching for a SUV with damage to the right front quarter

A spokesman for the sheriff's office said today he did not have any information whether the gray pickup in which Zeek was riding was involved in the hit-and-run.

The little girl was airlifted Monday morning to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo by a LifeStar helicopter. Authorities said today that she appeared to be doing well. Officers said her injuries were not municipal court in Lefors. as serious as first thought. Gray County Justice of

cont. from page 1

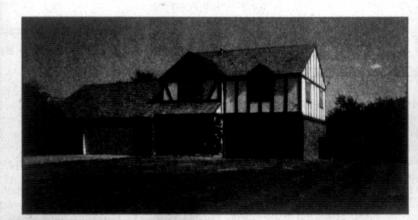
the Peace Joe Martinez set bond for Zeek at \$6,000 on the hit-and-run charge and \$7,000 on a charge of possession and transporting chemicals with the intent to manufacture a controlled substance.

Eryca Sovanah Annette Pierce, 19, of Yukon, Okla., driver of the Dodge pickup, was released on a charge of driving without a valid driver license. That charge has been filed in

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Tax break

for his family.

"You just feel like somebody's bear hugging you and you can't breathe," he said.

More than 1,500 veterans in the Houston area have contacted the Harris County Appraisal District for details.

"If your neighbor or relative is a disabled veteran, they may not know about this," said county tax assessor Leo Vasquez. "Please let them know and help them come forward. We're trying to get the word out. We want the money to stay in their pockets."

Trejo's house was built by Helping A Hero, a nonprofit that supports severely injured veterans and their families.

Meredith Iler, with the group's home program, said Helping a Hero has awarded houses to 15 veterans since 2006. The vets

cont. from page 1

will still be responsible for a \$50,000 mortgage, but Iler expects the new tax break will save each between \$4,000 and \$8,000

"This is a huge burden off their shoulders that will truly enable them to move forward and have a little breathing room to rebuild their lives without that financial strain," Iler said.

Recovery

there, she said.

The tow truck drivers from Douthit Wrecker Service swept the pavement so the LIfeStar helicopter could land without kicking up debris.

Austin said the crushed vertebrae in Donelson's neck and back had to be fused. She said the surgeon who cared for her sister commended the attention she received and the speed with which she was rushed to the hospital.

Donelson had been moved to a private room, but then over the weekend was returned to ICU.

Austin said that by Monday afternoon her sister was doing better and had been taken off her pain medication.

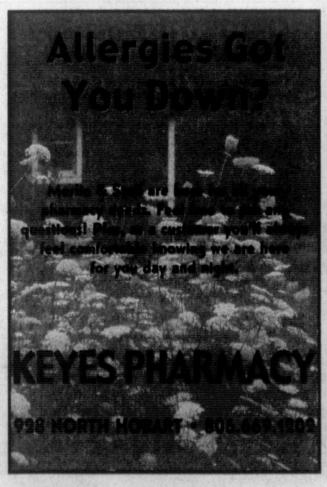
The outpouring of affection from people in Pampa, the panhandle and even Oklahoma, Austin said, has been wonderful.

Donelson and her husband, Roger, own The Coney Island, and Austin said it seems everybody who has ever eaten at The Coney has sent a get well card

cont. from page 1

"Everybody knows The Coney," Austin laughed. Cards can be addressed Donelson, Brenda to

University Medical Center, 602 Indiana, Lubbock, TX 79415.



Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, July 21, the 202nd day of 2009. There are 163 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History

On July 21, 1959, the NS Savannah, the first nuclear-powered merchant ship, was christened by first lady Mamie Eisenhower at Camden, N.J. On this date:

In 1831, Leopold I was proclaimed King of the Belgians.

In 1861, the first Battle of Bull Run was fought at Manassas, Va., resulting in a Confederate victory.

In 1925, the so-called "Monkey Trial" ended in Dayton, Tenn., with John T. Scopes convicted of violating state law for teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution. (The conviction was later overturned on a technicality.)

In 1930, President Herbert Hoover signed an executive order establishing the Veterans Administration.

'Happiness is good health and a bad memory.'

> - Ingrid Bergman,, Swedish-born actress

In 1944, American forces landed on Guam during World War II.

In 1961, Captain "Gus" Virgil Grissom became the second American to rocket into a suborbital pattern around the Earth, flying aboard the Liberty Bell 7.

In 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin blasted off

from the moon aboard the ascent stage of the lunar module for docking with the command module. In 1980, draft registration began in the United

States for 19- and 20-year-old men. In 1994, Britain's Labor Party elected Tony Blair its new leader, succeeding the late John Smith.

Ten years ago: Navy divers found and recovered the bodies of John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, Carolyn, and sister-in-law, Lauren Bessette, in the wreckage of Kennedy's plane in the Atlantic Ocean off Martha's Vineyard. Advertising executive David Ogilvy died in Bonnes, France, at age

One year ago: Eric Dowling, who helped excavate tunnels used in the breakout from a World War II German prison camp that became known as the "Great Escape," died in Bristol, England, a day before his 93rd birthday.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Kay Starr is 87. Movie director Norman Jewison is 83. Actor Paul Burke is 83. Actress Patricia Elliott is 67. Actor David Downing is 66. Actor Edward Herrmann is 66. Actor Leigh Lawson is 64. Actor Wendell Burton is 62. Actor Art Hindle is 61. Singer Yusuf Islam (formerly Cat Stevens) is 61. Cartoonist Garry Trudeau is 61. Comedian-actor Robin Williams is 58. Rock singer-musician Eric Bazilian (The Hooters) is 56. Comedian Jon Lovitz is 52. Actor Lance Guest is 49. Actor Matt Mulhern is 49. Comedian Greg Behrendt is 46. Rock musician Koen Lieckens (K's Choice) is 43. Rock singer Emerson Hart is 40. Country singer Paul Brandt is 37. Actress Ali Landry is 36. Actor Justin Bartha is 31. Actor Josh Hartnett is 31. Contemporary Christian singer Brandon Heath is 31. Reggae singer Damian Marley is 31. Actor Jamie Waylett ("Harry Potter" films) is 20.



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FORTY YEARS OF PROGRESS.

By Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

Today, driven by the incredible pace of innovation and the pressures of global commerce, demand for broadband, or highspeed Internet access, is sweeping the nation and changing the way we live. Small businesses that once relied solely on walk-up business and local customers may now offer their goods and services in the worldwide marketplace through the Internet. Students whose learning opportunities were once confined to their local schools and libraries today can access information from all over the world. Families once separated from loved ones by hundreds or thousands of miles can stay connected through the many communication portals available online. And, communities that previously lacked critical specialty care and diagnostic services can now access these services through telemedicine made possible by advanced communications networks.

Unfortunately, too many of our communities and small businesses still lack access to broadband infrastructure, and many that have access do not subscribe to the services that are offered. In both cases, communities lacking adequate broadband availability face the prospect of lagging behind other areas in education, economic growth and even healthcare delivery. Rural communities are particularly susceptible to falling into the technology gap because broadband infrastructure simply doesn't reach them. This has serious ramifications for a state like Texas, which is 80 percent rural.

In Congress, there is bipartisan consensus that we must encourage nationwide broadband deployment. But, exactly how we implement this remains a point of contention. Recently, the Obama administration committed more than \$7 billion in taxpayer funding for the deployment of broadband services to areas of the country lacking basic infrastructure. Yet, this money was put forward without a completed comprehensive map of broadband availability and before the Federal Communications Commission established a national broadband strategy. So much of the money allocated through these grants will be awarded before we know where the funds are needed most.

There is a role for public resources in bringing broadband to our unserved communities, but requiring additional taxpayer funding without a plan is the wrong approach. With that said, the stimulus funding has been allotted. This

The Hill

taxpayer investment will be maximized if grants are directed to unserved areas and focus on infrastructure for anchor institutions like schools, hospitals and libraries that can function as access points for many who currently lack broadband access. Doing so will make the stimulus funding for broadband an effective down payment on this national priority, which, moving forward, must be guided by a careful strat-Looking ahead,

Congress must establish a comprehensive plan with three key components. First, we must complete a national broadband map so we can target and prioritize our efforts. Second, we must encourage broadband deployment in unserved areas and enhance existing broadband services through additional investment. To be successful, we must engage the private sector through investment incentives. Finally, we need to improve broadband adoption in communities across the country because of the power of this technology to expand education, improve healthcare delivery, and open global markets for small

and businesses. To help implement this strategy, on Tuesday I introduced the Connecting America Act. This legislation is designed to stimulate investment and economic development activity over the next five years. The legislation would create limited duration tax credits that will encourage companies to make investments that they might otherwise delay due

to the economic downturn.

Targeted incentives will provide companies immediate access to capital and encourage broadband investment to maintain and improve infrastructure where we need it most. The bill would also create a technology-neutral bond program that will allow communities, rather than Washington bureaucrats, to raise funds for construction, assess their own infrastructure needs, and adopt the broadband technologies that are most appropriate. Under the legislation, we would also reform and streamline the numerous federal programs supporting broadband to focus the funding in a coordinated manner.

For many, broadband av be as familiar a technology as cable television. Others may not be aware of the advantages high-speed Internet service offers. It can place adults in a virtual classroom and allow them to get a college or graduate degree - from their own homes. It gives physicians



and hospitals instant access to medical records and enables remote diagnostic medicine, which can help enhance healthcare delivery in rural areas. It can allow a rancher in West Texas to sell every head of cattle in an online auction, expanding the reach of his business and raising his earning potential without the need to leave his ranch.

More than any other technology this century, broadband has the potential to truly transform our lives. We cannot leave half of America behind in the process. We must work now and work smart to deploy broadband from coast to coast.

AXYDLBAAXR 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

IF GZDJ UW HJPEGXQ GXRU UW ZDJRV IJSSFGXQ YUID HUIJX HVU'Y VTYOJXZY. RVSDD

EGX VTOOJSZ Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MANY IDEAS GROW WHEN TRANSPLANTED ANOTHER MIND THAN IN THE ONE WHERE THEY SPRUNG UP. — O.W. HOLMES

DAILY HOROSCOPE

night be a treat?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, July 22, 2009:

This year, your energy merges with your sense of direction. Your ability to greet "new" and handle multiple issues comes to the forefront. Mobilize your emotional and intellectual assets to create your desires. If you are single, there is no reason to maintain that status. If you are attached, remember, two lives merge in this relationship. Be active in your sweetie's life. LEO often feels challenged by

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

**** You could feel energy build-ing all day. In fact, after high noon, you might feel that no shoes are too big to walk in. Hopefully something triggers in your brain and says "whoa." With confidence as an ally, you will be able to accomplish a lot. Tonight: Fun and

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) How you deal with it and the choices you make could be critical. Have faith in the process and time, both of which are your friends. Tonight: Put your feet up. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**** No question, one needs to have money, but remember that Geminis are about ideas. See money as a symbol of a job done well. Approach your work and your life from that position. The results cannot help but be different. Tonight: Visit on the way home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) **** Be happy if someone steps in and wants to do it his or her way. Why fight this person? Often, it is out of habit rather than a sound decision. Consider your reasons as well. Take some time to recharge and energize. Tonight: What

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) **** Experience the surge of energy as the Sun enters your sign midday. Your innate confidence builds, as you no longer hesitate to share even on a vulner-able level. Your world becomes an even nore receptive audience. Tonight: All rins, and why not?

*** You simply know things, and that trend continues. "I just know" don't try this logic on others. New energy infuses your mind right now. Don't try to make it anything more or less than

it is. Tonight: Vanish. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) **** You move from the role of leader to participant, just for a while. The relief of being one of the gang has its own uniqueness and is quite liberating. own uniqueness and is quite liberating. Know what you have to offer. Tonight:

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **** Listen to others' logic, but be prepared to take a stand. Take time to explain a situation carefully, and you'll create less dissension. Everything will work out. Look to more peace and quiet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) **** Others count on your perspec-tive and insight. Though weighed down by another person's views at first, you will be able to see the bigger picture. No matter how much you do or where you go, others always seem to want to hear what you think. Tap into that knowledge Tonight: Reach out for someone at a dis

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** Others dominate. Don't continue to push your way into situations rather, relax and flow. If you want, you could also do nothing. Others will run around and intercede anyway. Why fight city hall? Your vision of what might be possible could change radically. Tonight Say "yes" to living.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Finish off one project before launching into another. In the p.m., you could find others distracting. Pull back and think about how to maximize the present energy. You will find a way that not only because they want center stage, but also because it works. Tonight: Sort

through invitations.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** Understanding could lead to a new level of interaction with a child or loved one. Though feeling quite mellow, as you look around, there is a lot to be done. Don't hesitate to go for what yo want, though you might need to re-evaluate action based on new information Tonight: Burning the midnight oil.

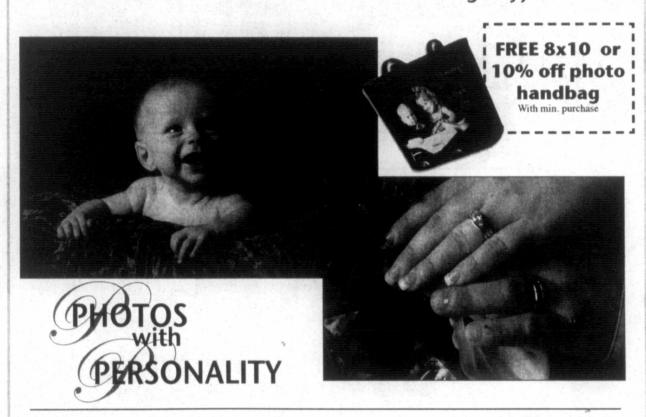
BORN TODAY Musician Don Henley (1947), composer Alan Menken (1949), comedian David Spade (1964)

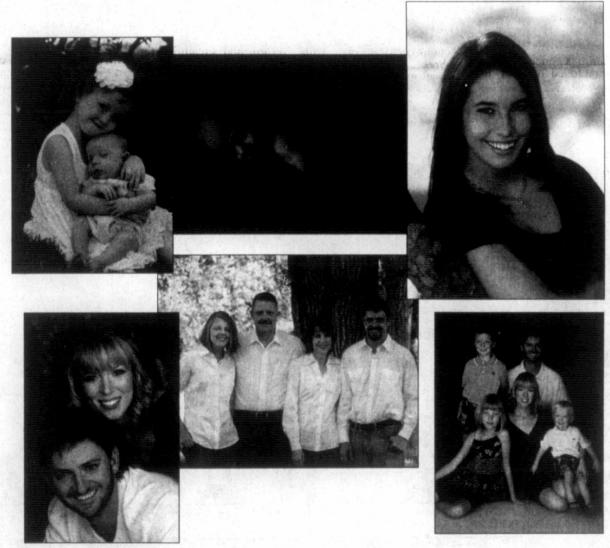
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BUSINESS REVIEW

JESSICA WHITELEY **PHOTOGRAPHY**

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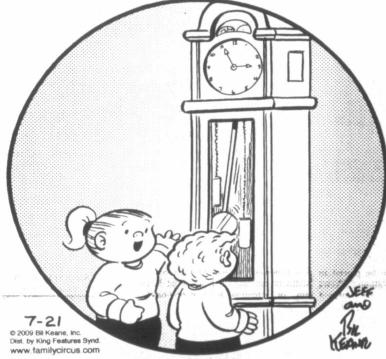
Marmaduke



"He's a four-letter dog and then some."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Grandma's clock is always tick-talking."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH 47 Velocity

DOWN

1 Race

finish

2 Singer

sound

base

6 Pantry

7 Make a

choice

desert

9 Thin coin

10 Large

14 Poem

type

5 Exertion

3 Lion

4 Tofu

Fitzgerald

ACROSS 1 Pithy

6 A lot

11 Standoff-

ish

12 Spring

month 13 Use

delaying

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15 Cochlea setting

16 Unusual 17 Grass

coating

18 Dog-show 8 Like the

category 20 Dizzying

posters 23 Eternal

City

resident 27 Long car

28 Costa —

29 College heads

31 Retirement age, for some

32 Enjoys

gum

34 Funny

Caesar

37 In the past

38 Nearest star

41 Article by a staffer,

for instance

44 Watch for 45 Evade

46 Half of a chess set



Yesterday's answer

31 Dueling

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33 Swelled

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35 Corn Belt

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39 Goad on

34 Trade

36 Tie

38 Team

19 Writer Lessing

20 Antique

21 Diner

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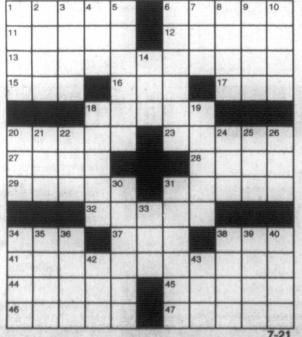
25 Play division

number 26 Opposi-18 Rodeo

tion vote 30 Mine

40 Demand 42 Family 43 Bunny

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dep. 440-4714

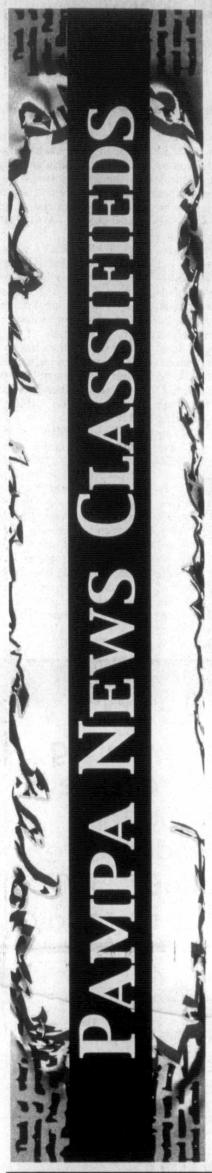
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TUMBLEWEED Acres. Storm Shelters. fenced, stor. bldg. avail.

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Christy. References re-Good cond. Set up in Borger M.H.P. \$5000 obo. 883-2364 lv. msg. 120 Autos

self storage 1994 Ford Ecoline 150 Conversion Van

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201 Duel Console with 225EFI Mercury 74 lb. thrust trolling motor (24 volts)

*3 new Optima batteries *3 bank Minn Kota on board charg

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*All

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Your Guide to Local Beaut Professionals





anning Salon

No Clouds Allowed Tanning 1506 N. Hobart 665-4101

> Chez Tanz 2137 N. Hobart 669-6836

Above the Clouds Beauty Salon 1405 N. Banks 665-1101

LA Nails Coronado Center 665-8424

Gel-Us Nails Hwy 152 & Western 669-6245

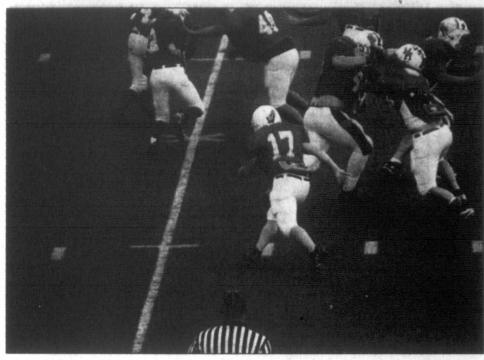
A Cut Above We're A Full Service Salon! 2000 N. Hobart

665-4071

Massage Therapy Cathy Potter, Holly Albert & Brittany Shuman 1224 N. Hobart, Ste. #9 669-0013

Is your salon not listed? Call Beverly at 669-2525 for information.

SIX MAN ALL STARS



Dustin Forsyth and Nick Hess of Lefors participated in the Texas Six Man All Star Game in Lubbock on July 17 representing Division II West. DII won against DII East 25-22. The boys were in Lubbock all week preparing for the game and participating in activities. Dustin is attending Dodge City Community College on a football scholarship this fall.



Noble Energy makes donation to local Red Cross

Eastern Texas Panhandle Chapter of the American Red Cross, accepted a gen-Energy's District Manager of the Texas/Oklahoma District 17 based in Weatherford, Okla., said the company has always tried to help the commua community oriented tents in the April grass

Jana Gregory, CEO of the company. We've donated fire. Jana Gregory said that funds for youth activities in Wheeler, Hemphill, and Gray counties, to the erous donation earlier this Cancer Center and other month from Noble Energy. non profits like that. We Bob Fanning, Noble just hadn't thought of the American Red Cross until one of our own company employees was helped out by them," Fanning said. Noble Energy employee Bret Moore, of Wheeler, nity. "We've always been lost his home and con-

the chapter was happy to have a portion of the funds replaced that had been utilized during the assistance program initiated during the Wheeler wildfire. Jana Gregory said, "During the fire, we aided the victims by supplying food, clothing, water, and rental and lodging assistance. Most of the time people don't see us until they need us."



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: We

were the poor folks in

the rich part of town. But

do you know where all

the neighbor kids wanted

to play? At our house.

My friends were jealous because I had parents who

were there to talk to us and

supervise. Our birthday

parties didn't have clowns,

ponies or caterers, but

everyone loved our home-

made cake, hot dogs, bal-

loons and backyard games. We had fun, and no

one had to worry about

what others thought. Sure,

there were some snobs. But their kids wanted to be

our friends. "Embarrassed"

should relax, enjoy her family and stop worrying

so much about appear-

ances. Appearances can

be deceiving. -- POORER,

husband, children and I are

fortunate to have a beauti-

ful home and luxury cars.

know that many of us do

not judge others by their

material possessions, but

rather for who they are inside. I encourage my

kids to go to any of their friends' homes, as long as

DEAR ABBY: My

should

BUT RICHER

"Embarrassed"

BEACH

DEAR ABBY: The letter from "Embarrassed in Ohio" (May 28), who lives in an affluent suburb and is ashamed for her daughter's friends to see her house and cars, hit home with me. We also live in a community where we can't keep up. We're in an apartment, while most of my children's friends live in beautiful homes with big yards. My husband and I both grew up with more than what we're able to provide our children.

Abby, your response made some excellent points, but I don't think you fully understand what it's like to live this way. We're the underdogs in a snooty community. Re-evaluating priorities and working on self-esteem are important. But they do not negate how we feel when our kids ask, "Why don't we have a yard like everyone else?" Or when the PTA moms snub us because of where we live.

I am thankful for my life, my loving husband and my beautiful, healthy children. I left a career to be a stay-at-home mom. The house a person lives in shouldn't matter, but the unfortunate reality is that, in our society, it does.
-- "GETS IT" IN THE 'BURBS

DEAR GETS IT: I appreciate your sincere comments. The response to "Embarrassed's" letter was varied, and many of the writers expressed different views from yours. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I grew up in a nice, middle-class neighborhood. My best friend, her three siblings and their single mom lived in a "dumpy" little house in a poor section of town. Abby, I LOVED going there and experiencing the feeling of family they gave

I had some of the best times of my life in that tiny house. There was always home-cooked food, warm conversation, and I was always welcome. As a young teen, I felt my opinions were valued there. Frankly, it was more of a home than my own house was. -- HALLY IN LONG

there is responsible adult supervision and similar values.

"Embarrassed": Show pride in what you have and keep things clean and tidy. If there's an issue with some of the other parents, then why associate with elitist snobs? -- MARIE IN **OREGON**

DEAR ABBY: I also began to feel discontented with my home and "things." Then I volun-teered at a soup kitchen. It changed my attitude to one of gratitude. I suggest that "Embarrassed" donate some time to help those less fortunate. It'll do wonders for her perspective. -- LOVES LIFE IN COPAKE, N.Y.

DEAR ABBY: We raised five children on my husband's salary as a teacher and lived in an upscale community. One day, when my 8-year-old had a friend over, I began to wash the kitchen floor. The little girl stood there watching with interest and said, "Our maid does that!" I replied, "Honey, I AM the maid!" It never hurts to give someone a reality check. -- MARILYN IN **GROSSE POINTE**



Be a tattletale, turn in a Texas litterbug

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) People who see Texas being trashed can be a tattletale online.

The Texas Department of Transportation has a spot on its Web site to report litter seen thrown from a vehicle.

TXDOT asks for the offender's Texas license plate number, the make of the vehicle, the time of day, location, date, and details on the tosser and what was discarded.

The agency compares the information to a vehicle registration database.

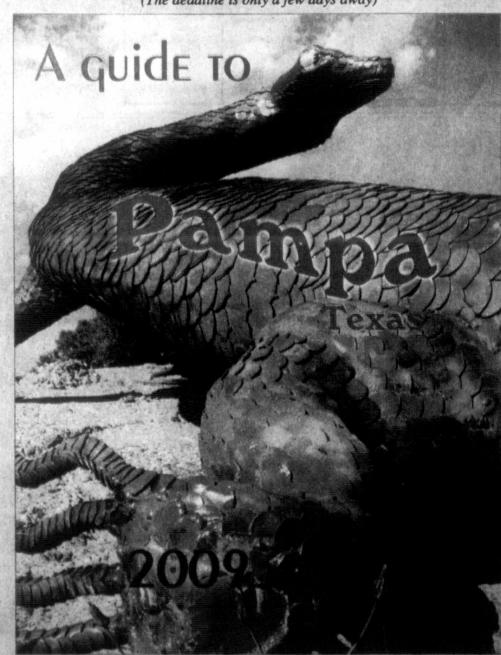
A litter bag is then sent to the offender, along with a letter reminding him or her to keep trash off roads, as part of the Don't Mess With Texas campaign

The form advises the person reporting the litter to "feel good about doing something to clean up our beloved Lone Star State."

School's out, drive with care!

Don't let this once-per-year promotional opportunity pass you by!

(The deadline is only a few days away)



Call 669-2525 and ask for ReDonn or Sue