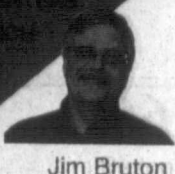


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Jim Bruton

The PAMPA NEWS

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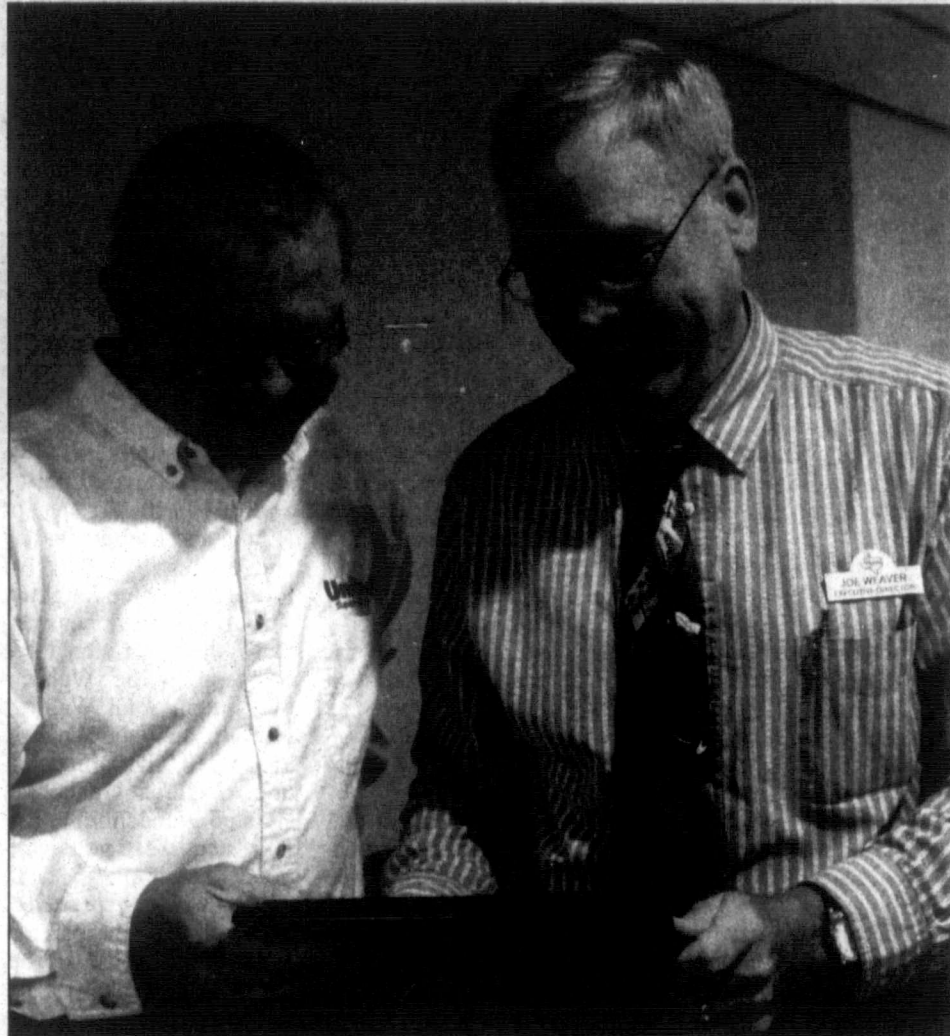
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Troy Newton, left, president of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce, and Joe Weaver, the new executive director of the chamber, examine a plaque recognizing a winner in the Burning of the Bricks barbecue cook-off during the monthly chamber luncheon Tuesday.

New director outlines area Chamber's role

BY DAVID BOWSER
dbowser@thepampanews.com
Joe Weaver, the new executive director of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce, said that all communities are similar to some extent. He wants to find the one thing that makes Pampa stand out over all other communities.
"What makes Pampa distinctive?" Weaver said. "That's what I want to find out, and that's what I want to promote."
He said he likes the sculpture trail and Woody Guthrie.
"The things we have here are so neat," Weaver said, "and I want to promote those."
He said he's an ardent capitalist.
"I believe people do their best under a capitalist system," Weaver said. "I like to see people succeed."
Speaking at the month-

ly Pampa Chamber of Commerce luncheon Tuesday, Weaver said the city's chamber of commerce has a long and successful history, but he said commerce is part of the organization's name and that's the organization's business.
"That's what the chamber of commerce is about," Weaver said.
The purpose of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce, according to the organization's bylaws, he said is to preserve the competitive enterprise system of business and to promote business and community growth.
"That's what the chamber of commerce is," Weaver said.
He said that everything the chamber does needs to be tested against that concept.
"Is it helping promote

STORY cont. on page 3

8 soldiers confirmed with swine flu

McALESTER, Okla. (AP) — Eight soldiers at the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant have tested positive for the swine flu in what health officials say is the largest single outbreak of the virus in the state.
The base's medical director Dr. Norman McAlester said Wednesday most of the soldiers already have recovered. He says all the soldiers who were ill wore face masks and were isolated from the rest of the soldiers who were taking part in a national training exercise at the base.
Base spokesman Mark Hughes says the soldiers were from Texas and Puerto Rico but declined to identify which military units they were with.



staff photo by **Randy Pribble**
Flying Saucer with whipped cream—at least that is how one newspaper staff member described this unusual cloud formation snapped last week in Pampa. For a more expert opinion, we sent the photo to Steve Drillette, chief meteorologist with the Amarillo office of the National Weather Service. Drillette replied: "While the base of this cloud looks lenticular, the rising cumulus above it goes against that line of thinking. Looks to me like a "mini" mesocyclone (rotating updraft) associated with a developing LP (Low Precipitation) supercell. It is a bit unusual cloud feature." Lenticular clouds, technically known as altocumulus standing lenticularis, are stationary lens-shaped clouds that form at high altitudes, normally aligned at right-angles to the wind direction. They have been mistaken for UFOs (or "visual cover" for UFOs) because these clouds have a characteristic lens appearance and smooth saucer-like shape.

RELAY FOR LIFE



staff photo by **Betsy Phillips**
Young volunteers receiving awards for the Relay for Life, held June 26 are Yancie McCuiston, Chaney Mc Cuiston, Haven Doucette, Ethan Oxley and Crowley McCuiston (in hat). Braydon Oxley also volunteered, but was unable to be at the ceremony. All these volunteers have been helping during the Relay for Life for the last four years.

"Relay" funds at \$44k and climbing, awards presented to volunteers

The 2009 Gray County Relay for Life Relay for Life raised a over \$44,000 with money still coming in.
Tuesday evening, July 21, volunteers gathered in the Pampa Regional Medical Center cafeteria to receive team awards and start the process for next year's relay, to be held June 25 and 26 in Recreation Park.
This money raised is used for many local services such as Road to Recovery for transportation to cancer treatments, Reach to Recovery for Breast Cancer patients, Guest Room program to assist with hotel rooms while patient is out of town for treatment, Medical equipment loans, medical supplies and various support services.
Awards given to teams Tuesday evening, July 21 were:
Best Game - UPS
Most money raised by a large company - Pampa Regional Medical Center, for raising over \$12,000
Best Youth Team - First United Methodist Church Youth
Best Volunteer Team - United Supermarkets of Pampa
Loyal Team (every year) - Shepard's Crook Home Health has participated in Gray County Relay For Life every year from the beginning 1996
Loyal Underwriter (every year) Shepard's Crook Nursing has helped underwrite the event every year since 1996
Most money raised by a small company - Cabot raised over \$5600
Most laps - B&G Electric
Best Campsite - Ford Chiropractic
Best Family Team - Team Nana
Funnest Fundraiser - Accolade
All of the teams were recognized at the ceremony.
RELAY cont. on page 3

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Junior Rodeo
Aug 8th at 8a.m.
Kid Pony Show
Aug 9th at 4 p.m.
For more info contact Cindy Kempf at the
Top O' Texas Rodeo office 669-0434



For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		
High 95 Low 71	High 95 Low 66	High 88 Low 62

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 66. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 95. Southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 71. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 95. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. South southeast wind around 5 mph becoming north.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 88. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 87. South southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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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 six traffic stops and followed up on four investigations.

Authorities responded to 15 animal-related calls. Wednesday

Medical emergencies were reported in the 1200 block of Christine, 100 block of West 30th and the 1200 block of Faulkner.

A purse and wallet with debit and credit cards and \$290 in cash along with an iPod was reported stolen from a vehicle in the 2100 block of North Christine.

A warrant was served in the 300 block of Wells. An assault was reported in the 1000 block of West Wilks.

A dumpster fire was reported in 1000 block of South Huff Road.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 200 block of West 17th.

Officers provided an escort in the 200 block of North Russell.

A Nintendo system was reported stolen to the police department.

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

Officers performed a welfare check in the 300 block of North 30th.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 300 block of North Warren.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 400 block of Elm.

An assault with minor injuries was reported in the 300 block of North Dwight.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at 25th and Navajo.

Obituaries

Rose Linda Wagner, 66

Pampa— Rose Linda Wagner, 66, died July 20, 2009, Pampa, Texas.

Vigil will be at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 23, 2009, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel, and funeral mass will be at 3 p.m. Friday, July 24, 2009, at St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church, with Rev. Joseph Ravi, associate pastor, officiating.

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

Mrs. Wagner was born June 12, 1943 in Clarksville, Tennessee. She was reared as a military child, traveling extensively with her family, living in Germany, Colorado, Arizona, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin, to name a few. Rose Linda had been a resident of Pampa since 1968. She was an active member of St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church where she served in many roles. In her spare time, Rose Linda liked to exercise at the Pampa Youth

& Community Center and spend time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Survivors include two sons; Blue Wagner of Pampa and Cody Wagner of Dallas, three daughters; Bobbie Wagner of Wichita Falls, Cory Janzen and husband Todd of Berlin, Wisconsin, and Windy Hadley and husband Chris of Page, Arizona, two sisters; Cookie Olson of Jacksonville, Florida and Barbara Knott and husband Bill of Lakeville,



Wagner

Minnesota, seven grandchildren and two nephews. MEMORIALS: St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church, 810 W. 23rd, Pampa, Texas 79065.

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

Marion Franklin Waldrop, 76

Funeral service for Marion Franklin Waldrop, 76, Elgin, OK will held Friday, July 24, 2009 at 1 p.m. at Richard's Spur Baptist Church with Rev. Carlton Campbell, officiating.

Burial will be Monday, July 27, 2009 at 11 a.m. at the Ft. Sill National Cemetery under direction of the Elgin Funeral Home. Visitation will be held Thursday, July 23, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Elgin Funeral Home.

Mr. Waldrop died Wednesday, July 22, 2009, in Elgin.

Marion Waldrop was born in Vinita, Oklahoma to Francis and Celia (Allen) Waldrop on February 16,

1933. He was the second son of four sons.

Marion joined the Air Force in 1952 and served his country for 4 1/2 years. After retiring from the service he taught auto mechanics in Clinton.

He worked and owned an auto salvage business for many years. He married and had three sons then years later moved to Pampa, TX where he worked at the Celenease Plant until he retired at the age of 55.

He married again and then moved to Oklahoma. Marion married Janice Lindley on April 23, 1990 in Wheeler, Texas.

He is survived by his wife Janice Waldrop of the home, three sons; James

Myron Waldrop, Anthony Leon Waldrop and his wife Amelia, and Duane Eugene Waldrop all of Pampa, two adopted daughters, two stepsons; Steve Lindley and his wife Trisha of Hinton and Luther Lindley and his wife Nally of Florida, a stepdaughter, Twani Ellis and her husband Allen of Hinton, three brothers: Willie Waldrop of Clinton, John Waldrop of Elgin, and Don Waldrop of Cordell, five grandchildren, one great grandchild; six step grandchildren and four step great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Francis and Celia Waldrop.

Special thanks to his caregiver, Petra Roumillat,



Waldrop

Richard Spur Baptist Church, and to Victory Home Health and Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Victory Home Health and Hospice (104 Thoma Dr. Suite 1 Elgin, OK 73538) or to Richard's Spur Baptist Church (10534 US Hwy 62 Elgin, OK 73538).

An Online Guestbook is available at FletcherAn-ElginFuneral.com.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

A suspicious person was reported in the 400 block of North Wynne.

A suspicious person was reported at Ballard and Foster.

SHERIFF

The Gray County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday
Charlotte Christine

Phillips, 43, of Pampa, was arrested by Pampa police officers on a warrant charging her with failure to identify herself, giving false information, having an expired drivers license and failure to appear.

Jennifer Nichole Jones, 18, McLean, was arrested

by Gray County deputies on a warrant charging her with failure to identify herself.

CORRECTIONS

Rodeo tickets cut to \$5 not by \$5— Yesterday's story on the Top O' Texas Rodeo prices was off by two letter, but important ones. The story read—It was eight dollars for adults and six dollars for kids, but each of those prices have been cut by five dollars. It should have read to \$5.

In Wednesday's story about the 5-1 victory of the Pampa Optimist 11-12 Cal Ripken All Star Team which resulted in the West Texas 11-12 Cal Ripken State Championship, the story mistakenly read that this was the first time in 11 years that the 11-12 all stars have participated in the regional tournament. The story should have read that it was the first time in 11 years that the 11-12 all stars participated in the regional tournament as state champions because last year's team was 2-2 in the regional tournament.

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

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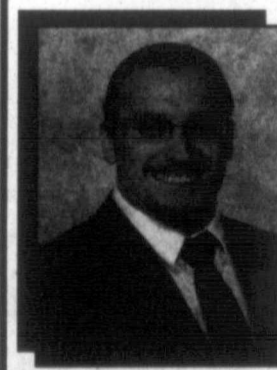
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Lance W. Krogh, D.C.

In a continuing effort to accommodate practice growth and demand, Ford Family Chiropractic is pleased to announce that Lance W. Krogh, D.C. has recently joined our practice.

Dr. Krogh is a native of Canadian, TX. He received a BS from WTAMU and his Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Parker College of Chiropractic in Dallas, TX.

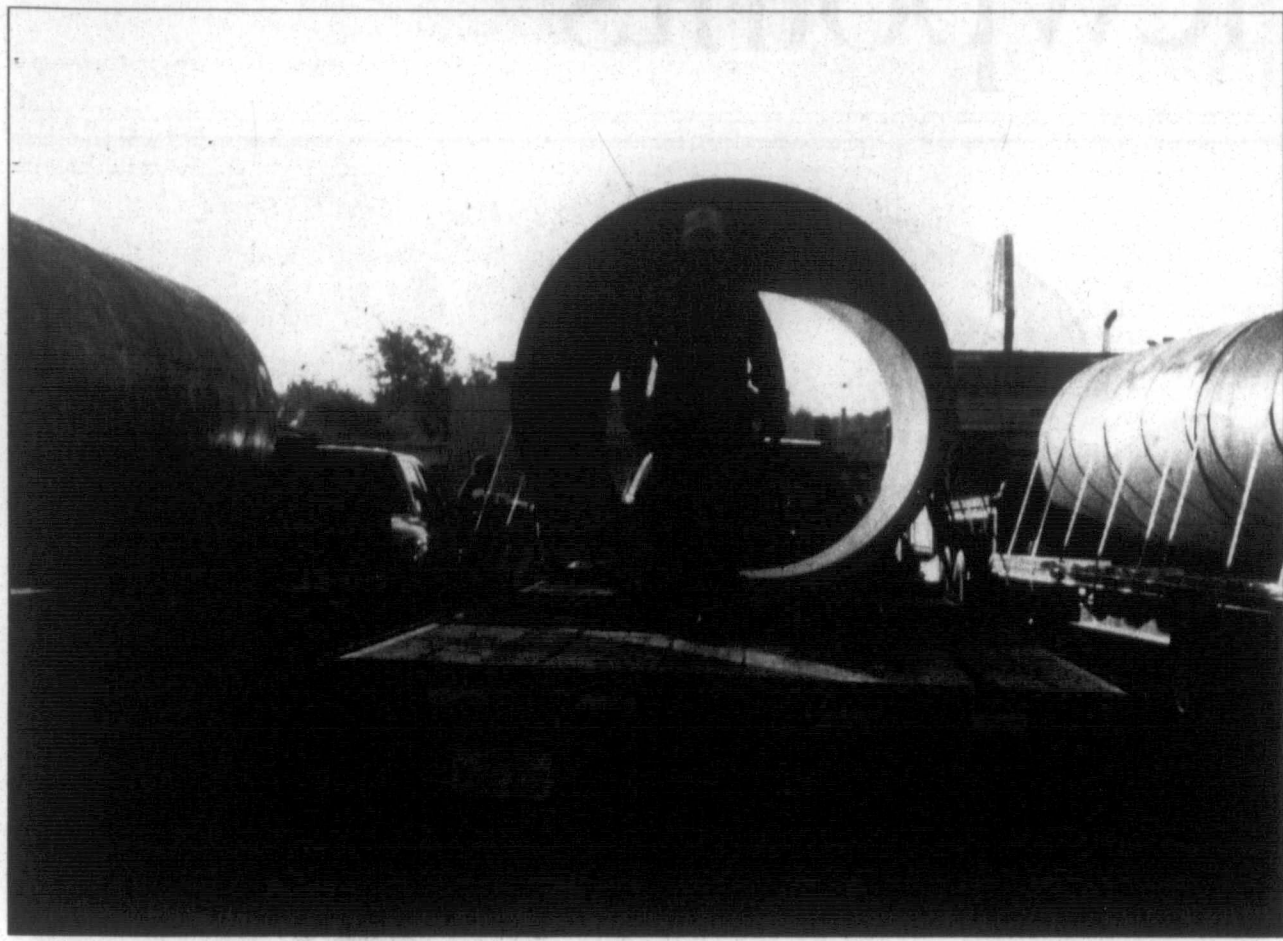
Dr. Krogh has a special interest in laser therapy as well as chiropractic care of children and pregnant women.

Dr. Krogh is licensed by the Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

Call to set up an appointment to discuss a care program for you that may include specific spinal adjustments, exercise recommendations, nutritional advice or other conservative methods of care based on your health history.

FORD FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC Rehabilitation & Wellness Center

BIG PIPE



staff photo by **Betsy Phillips**

These loads of extremely large steel pipe were parked at McDonald's in Pampa early this morning, before being taken to the site of the Canadian River Municipal Water Association's project north of town. An official there said there will be approximately 10 loads a day delivered between now and next week.

Oil above \$66 amid Dow rally

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil prices were pulled higher Thursday by a rally on Wall Street and a rise in home sales that suggested the country may soon regain its appetite for energy.

Benchmark crude for September delivery added \$1.15 cents to \$66.54 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. In London, Brent prices rose \$1 to \$68.21 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Oil prices lifted in morning trading as the Dow Jones industrial average rose above 9,000 mark. The last time the blue chips closed above that was on Jan. 6.

Investors also cheered a National Association of Realtors report that said sales of previously occupied homes rose for the third month in a row. The last time that happened was in the middle of the housing boom in early 2004.

Crude prices increased

even though U.S. storage facilities are still swollen with a huge surplus of unused crude, said Andrew Lebow, senior vice president and broker at MF Global.

"Demand has been unimpressive, and yet the market has shrugged it off," Lebow said. "And they have for the past few weeks."

Government reports released this week showed U.S. gasoline supplies growing even though pump prices are well below what they were last year. Heating oil stores also have swelled to higher levels than they've been in decades.

On Thursday, the government reported that natural gas supplies also grew as expected last week. Stores of natural gas, a key energy source for power plants, increased by 66 billion cubic feet to about 2.95 trillion cubic feet for the week ended July 17.

Texas public hunts offer affordable, quality experience

AUSTIN, Texas — Sportsmen looking for an affordable family activity should consider Texas' public hunting opportunities. The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department will be offering adult and youth only hunts by special drawing for a wide variety of species. Hunt schedules and applications are available upon request and online now. Don't miss out on a chance to take a kid hunting.

During the upcoming hunting seasons, almost 5,000 hunters will be selected through random computer drawings allowing access to some of the state's high-quality managed wildlife habitat. Wildlife management areas, state parks and leased private property will be available for these quality supervised hunts for white-tailed deer, mule deer, pronghorn, javelina, alligator, exotics, feral hog

and spring turkey. Through an application process, hunters can select from among 25 different hunt categories, including eight specifically for youth only, and choose a preferred hunt date and location from hunt areas stretching across the state. There's even a provision for hunting buddies to apply as a group — in some cases up to four hunters can apply together on one application.

Eight free youth-only hunt categories are available to hunters who are between the ages of 8-16 at the time of application. All hunt positions are randomly selected in a computer drawing from all correctly completed entries received by the specified deadline. In addition to exceptional hunting opportunities for big game, such as white-tailed deer and mule deer, TPWD's special drawing hunts will offer

some unique opportunities. A guided bighorn sheep hunt at a West Texas wildlife management area will again be offered this year depending on the availability of a bighorn sheep permit.

There are also some unique guided hunt opportunities on Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area, including hunts for white-tailed deer, scimitar-horned oryx and gemsbok.

Hunters drawn in the special permit hunts are not required to use a tag off their hunting license on white-tailed or mule deer that are taken during the hunt. The hunters will be issued a free TPWD legal deer tag at the area when they bring their harvested animal to the check station. This will allow the public hunters additional opportunity to use their license tags.

In order to maintain current programs and services, public hunting permit fees have increased to \$80 for the standard period drawn hunt permit fee, \$130 for the extended period drawn hunt permit fee, and \$20 for the Regular (daily) Permit fee. Non-refundable application fees for drawn hunt have not increased and remain \$3-10 for each adult applicant 17 years of age or older. There are still no application fees or drawn hunt permit fees for youth age 8 to 16.

There are three new areas offering drawn public hunts this season: Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Lake Texana State Park and Stephen F. Austin

State Park. In addition Pedernales Falls State Park and the Pedernales Falls State Park Annex will be offering public drawn hunts again.

Special Permit fees do not apply to drawn hunts for pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, guided hunts at Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area, and drawn hunts on private land. Application fees for the Guided hunt packages and private land hunts cost \$10 per adult applicant.

The application deadline for alligator hunts is Aug. 5. For pronghorn antelope hunts on private land or the Rita Blanca National Grasslands north of Dalhart, the deadline is Aug. 12. Bowhunters also have until Aug. 12 to apply for special drawn public archery hunts. Entries for the general (gun) season deer hunts must be received by Sept. 3. Deadline for the Guided Bighorn Sheep Hunt is November 4.

Last year TPWD received 43,684 applications for the 5,739 positions offered in special drawn hunt categories.

Information and applications for Special Permit hunts are available on the Public Hunting Web site. Application booklets have been mailed to hunters who applied for special permit drawn hunts last year. The booklets are also available at TPWD law enforcement offices. Information about Special Permit drawn hunts can be found on-line or by calling toll free (800) 792-1112.

Relay

cont. from page 1

they were:

Pampa Regional Hospital - four teams, Shepard's Crook Home Health, Cabot, First United Methodist Church youth, United Supermarkets, Wal-Mart, U.P.S., B&G Electric, Top of Texas Rodeo, Team Nana, CVS Pharmacy, Accolade, Ford Chiropractic.

Patients may call 1-800-ACS-2348 to speak to an oncology nurse 24 hours a day or visit our website at www.acs.org for information. The American Cancer Society is also a leader in research, funding many Nobel prize winners.

"We appreciate all the support from the business who helped underwrite the event and all of the

community support, Relay organizer Pamp Dalton said. "Relay for Life is more than just a fundraiser it is a community coming together to support those who have been diagnosed with cancer and to honor those lost to the disease along with education and advocacy to eradicate cancer forever."

Plans for Gray County Relay For Life 2010 were announced. The event will be June 25, 2010 at Recreation Park. For information on how to become involved contact Ann Ochiltree at 665-3721, Christie Robinson at 663-2856, or Lagayla Wheat at 665-0356.

Chamber

cont. from page 1

business in our trade area?" he said.

The second question that must be asked, he said, is does it help pay for the chamber of commerce.

"Are we raising money for the chamber of commerce so we can do the first thing?" Weaver said.

The third tier of concern, he said, is the parades, parties and picnics.

"These are kind of the fun things," Weaver said, "but is it something the chamber really ought to be doing?"

He said too often chambers of commerce become locked into being the community party organizer.

"They can be active all the time," Weaver said, "but they're not helping business."

He said that while he loves the Texas Panhandle,

he hasn't had much experience in the Eastern Panhandle.

"Any time I've come through here," Weaver said, "I've always thought it was one of the prettiest areas of the state."

He said he tells friends down state that it's the other hill country.

"It's the one without all those danged trees," Weaver said. "You can actually see something. It's a beautiful part of the state. I think we need to promote that a little more. We need to promote the scenic area around here."

He said he likes Pampa because it's a nice-sized town.

"You've got a lot going for you here in Pampa," Weaver said.

Jurors weigh sex-crimes charges against pastor

TEXARKANA, Ark. (AP) — Jurors began deliberating Thursday in the federal sex-crimes case against an evangelist accused of taking underage girls across state lines for sex.

The charges against 74-year-old Tony Alamo could land him in jail for the rest of his life if he's convicted.

The jury began deliberating early Thursday at Texarkana federal courthouse, a day after listening to prosecutors and defense attorneys offer their final portrayals of Alamo.

Alamo fell asleep several times during Jenner's closing argument. At one point, his mouth hung wide open as his head rolled back in his chair. A member of his legal team woke him by throwing a pen onto the defense table. Alamo is accused of taking five young girls across state lines for sex between 1994 and 1995 after "marrying" them.



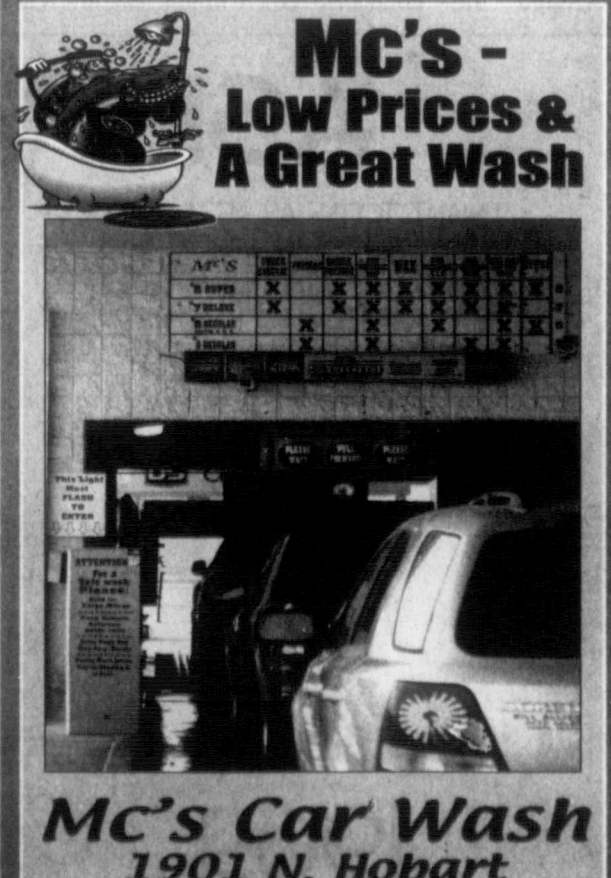
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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, July 23, the 204th day of 2009. There are 161 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

- 1588 - English army assembles at Tilbury to repel invasion by Spanish Armada.
- 1595 - Spanish land at Cornwall, England, and burn Mousehold and Penzance before returning to their ships.
- 1785 - Prussia's Frederick the Great forms Die Fuerstenbund (League of German Princes).
- 1829 - The first typewriter is patented by William Burt of Mount Vernon, Michigan.
- 1882 - Koreans attack Japanese legation in Seoul, the Korean capital, provoking intervention by Japanese and Chinese troops.
- 1904 - The ice cream cone was invented by Charles E. Menches during the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis.
- 1913 - "Second Revolution" breaks out in south

China to force from power military commander Yuan Shih-kai. He wins the armed struggle, ending hope for democracy in China after the abdication of the emperor.

1993 - British Prime Minister John Major survives a vote of confidence and a reluctant House of Commons

'To be proud and inaccessible is to be timid and weak.'

— Jean Baptiste Massillon, French clergyman

approves a treaty of European union on his terms.

1994 - Gambian soldiers proclaim military government in Dakar, Senegal.

1995 - United Nations orders the first combat unit from its rapid reaction force to Sarajevo, in Bosnia, to take out any rebel Serb guns that fire at U.N. peacekeepers.

1996 - Aided by U.S. spy photographs, war crimes investigators in Bosnia recover more than a dozen bodies thought to belong to Muslims executed after the fall of the city of Srebrenica.

1997 - Swiss banks publish lists of World War II era depositors in newspaper advertisements throughout the world.

2000 - American Lance Armstrong wins the prestigious and grueling Tour de France for the second year in a row, four years after being diagnosed with cancer.

2001 - Indonesia's National Assembly impeaches President Abdurahman Wahid in an overwhelming vote and elects his deputy, Megawati Sukarnoputri, as head of state.

2002 - Israeli fighter jet drops a 1-ton bomb on a crowded residential neighborhood in Gaza City, killing Salah Shehada, a Palestinian militant, and 14 civilians. The strike draws widespread condemnation for the high civilian death toll.

Today's Birthdays:

Francesco Sforza, Italian mercenary and duke of Milan (1401-1466); Lord Allanbrooke, English soldier (1883-1963); Raymond Chandler, U.S. author (1888-1959); Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia (1891-1975); Elio Vittorini, Italian novelist, translator and literary critic (1908-1966); Don Imus, U.S. radio personality (1940--); Woody Harrelson, actor (1961--); Daniel Radcliffe, actor (1989--); Philip Seymour Hoffman, actor (1967--); Alison Krauss, country singer (1971--).



Analysis: Obama missteps confuse health overhaul

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP)

Determined to avoid the fatal missteps of the Clinton White House, President Barack Obama is wobbling along his own precarious path to try to overhaul the nation's health care.

Where Hillary Rodham Clinton micromanaged the 1990s effort, Obama has given lawmakers lots of room and held back from offering a detailed plan of his own — but with no indication his strategy is working any better.

The sense of bipartisanship the president infused into the effort in March has been dissipated; lawmakers may never have taken it seriously. And the clear, confident message of last year's presidential campaign has turned into confusing policy options and messy politics, a standoff on Capitol Hill over how to expand and improve health coverage — and somehow pay for it.

It's all recasting Obama's image. The cool, crisp candidate who captivated voters last fall has been replaced by a president who is constantly calling for action, with little to show for it and his credibility at stake.

Democrats are putting on a brave face, noting that in Congress a legislative standstill can quickly shift into high-gear action.

"I have no question we have the votes on the floor of the House to pass this legislation," Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Wednesday. But she hasn't scheduled a vote.

Around the country,

doubts are creeping in. A majority of Americans — 56 percent — still think Obama can pull off an overhaul. But a new Associated Press-Gfk poll found that disapproval of how he's handling health care spiked in the past three months. Disapproval stands at 43 percent, up from 28 percent in April. Overall, just half approve of the way Obama is dealing with the issue.

Obama says it's not about him. "I have great health insurance and so does every member of Congress," the president said in remarks prepared for his news conference Wednesday night. "This debate is about the letters I read when I sit in the Oval Office every day, and the stories I hear at town hall meetings. This debate is not a game for these Americans, and they cannot afford to wait for reform any longer."

But confidence in his approach is slipping. Independents, middle-of-the-roaders who were vital for Obama's election, are increasingly skeptical. Forty-seven percent disapprove of how he is handling health care, up from 30 percent in April, the AP poll shows.

What went wrong?

The quest to guarantee health insurance for all Americans has never been easy, because it means raising taxes and expanding the role of the federal government. Add to that Obama's goal of taming medical costs, and the degree of difficulty gets much higher.

The last Democrats to attempt it — President Bill Clinton and first lady

Hillary Rodham Clinton — were accused of micromanagement after they handed Congress a 1,300-page bill that had taken months to draft in the isolation of the White House office complex. Bill Clinton went on to wave his veto pen at a Democratic Congress, saying he'd settle for nothing short of coverage for all.

He settled for nothing. Obama was going to take a humbler path, but one that he hoped ultimately would reach the goal. His strategy was to set the tone, paint the big picture and let seasoned leaders in Congress work out the details. Everybody would have an ownership stake in the legislation.

The problem: He may have cut his Democratic allies in Congress too much slack, both on policy decisions and political strategy. He underestimated the depth of ideological divisions on health care.

In the House, liberal committee chairmen drafted a bill that doesn't even represent a consensus of their own members, moderates and conservatives whose votes they need to pass it on the floor. In the Senate, Democrats headed off in different directions. One group produced a partisan bill; another keeps searching for a compromise with Republicans.

Obama — like a modern-day father with a somewhat dysfunctional family — has tried to encourage, not criticize. With Congress, that doesn't seem to be working.

Battles have broken out over major issues: How to raise \$1 trillion to \$1.5 trillion over 10 years to cover the uninsured; whether the

government should offer a plan that competes with private insurance; how to make sure employers and individuals contribute their fair share.

Not wanting to alienate lawmakers who have taken sides on an issue — but could be allies later on — Obama for the most part has avoided coming down hard. And because he lacks his own public plan, it's often unclear where the administration stands.

"He doesn't have a plan," said Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, one of the bipartisan negotiators. "He's given some broad guidelines of what ought to be done, but you find (the congressional bills) now being completely contrary to the letter that the president sent up here on June 2 when he said that he wanted to bend the inflation curve of medical care downward."

It's created the impression that the administration is trying to have it all ways.

For example, Obama insisted from the beginning the overhaul won't add to the deficit. But this week his budget director said that pledge doesn't include an estimated \$245 billion in the House bill to restore programmed cuts in Medicare payments to doctors.

It's unclear how Obama will move forward. Bipartisan talks continue in the Senate, but there seems to be little chance of resuming the civil dialogue Obama sought to launch at the beginning by inviting all sides to a White House summit on health care.

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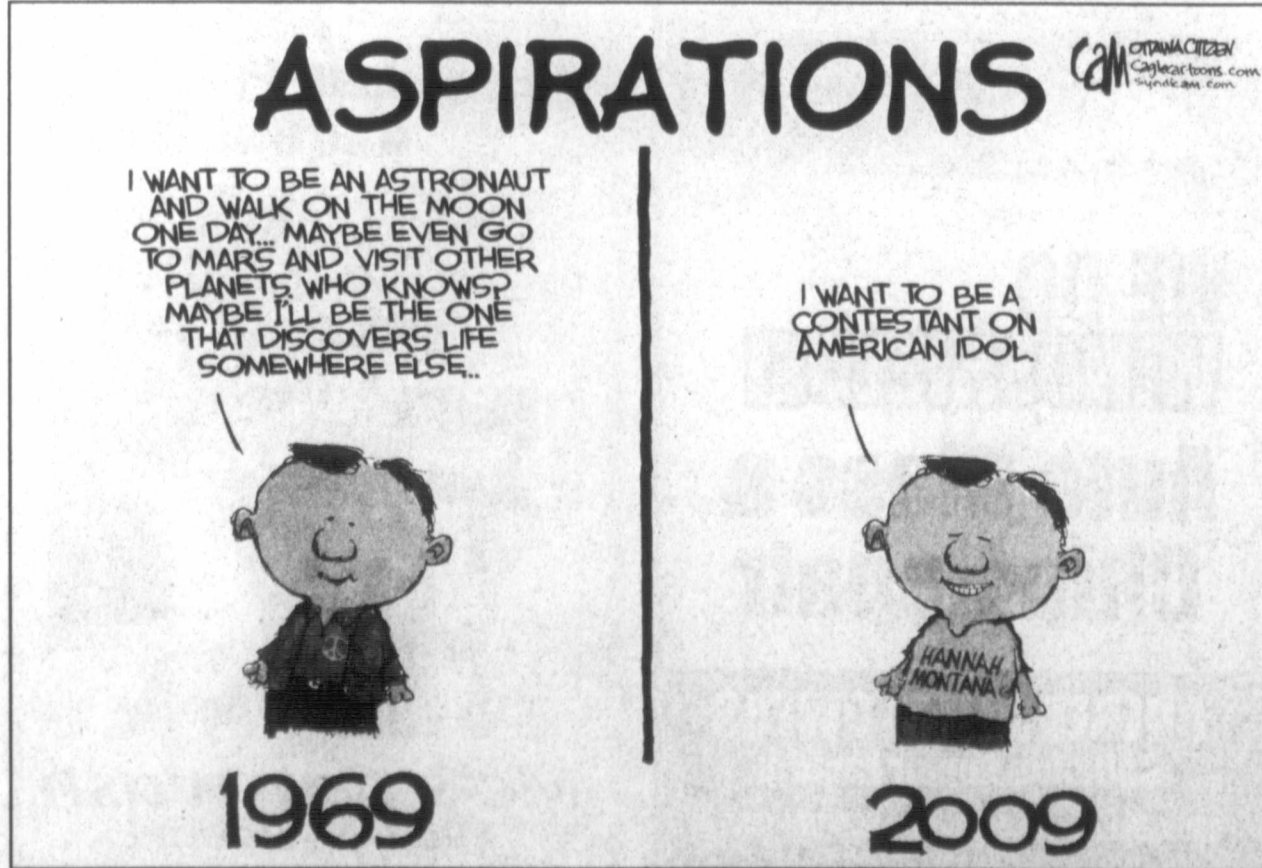
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MOVIE STAR CAR



Pampans Carl and Helene Baumgardner's 1976 Chevrolet Silverado four door pickup was purchased by Disney Studios of Orlando Florida for the movie, *The Proposal*, starring Sandra Bullock. Baumgardner says that he and his wife have seen the movie. "It was kind of neat to see your truck on the big screen. I bought it in 1999, it had 23,000 original miles on it with a 454 engine that could climb a tree, if you'd let it," Carl said. Baumgardner took the truck to Amarillo to a dealership that specializes in selling and buying vintage automobiles. "They put it on Ebay and Disney Studios bought it."

Equine Encephalitis found in east Texas

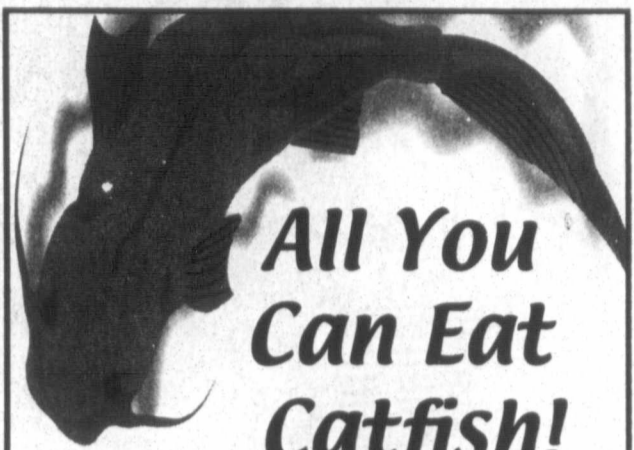
Two horses, one in Jasper County and the other in Newton County, in East Texas have died from Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

Humans also are susceptible to EEE, which causes inflammation of the brain. The disease is spread by mosquitoes, and measures should be taken to prevent human and animal exposure to the biting pests.

"As part of their routine health care, horses in all parts of the state should be vaccinated to protect against dangerous mosquito-borne diseases, including West Nile Virus, and Eastern and Western Equine Encephalitis (EEE and WEE)," said Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas' state veterinarian and head of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency.

"It takes a week to 10 days after vaccination for the animal to devel-

op protective antibodies, and booster shots must be administered as directed by the vaccine manufacturer to maintain the highest level of protection," he said. "As effective as vaccines are, however, they are not foolproof, and rare instances of disease can occur. Therefore, it is essential that you protect yourself and your horses against mosquito exposure with a repellent containing DEET."



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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My 16-year-old son, "Derrick," recently stopped talking to me. Frustrated about not being able to open the lines of communication, I installed a keystroke recorder on our home computer. It enabled me to see what Derrick was writing in his e-mails. I know it was a violation of his privacy, but I was afraid and didn't know who else to ask what was going on.

I learned that Derrick has gotten his girlfriend pregnant. They are discussing various options, and he is thinking about running away from home.

How can I help my son through this, having gained this information in an underhanded way? If I reveal how I learned about this, I will lose his trust forever. But if I don't help him, I don't know what will happen. Please help me. -- SPY DAD IN TEXAS

DEAR SPY DAD: You may not have to tell Derrick how you got the information. You are his father. Sit him down, tell him you love him, that he's the most important thing in this world to you and that you're worried sick because he has become secretive and uncommunicative. Tell him that if he's in any sort of trouble he won't be punished or lectured to and that you will do whatever it takes to help him. And do not let him get up until he has finally told you what is wrong.

DEAR ABBY: Why is President Barack Obama considered to be African-American? Isn't he bi-racial? -- WONDERING IN GOLDSBORO, N.C.

DEAR WONDERING: He is both. The term African-American is used in this country as a label that describes skin color -- although in President Obama's case he is literally African-American because his father was an African from Kenya, and his mother was an American from Kansas. However, the term bi-racial is equally accu-

rate because it describes mixed-race ancestry.

DEAR ABBY: I have been a professional musician for more than 25 years, playing piano in restaurants, lounges, stores, etc. My problem is I have never been able to talk and play at the same time. I must wait until I'm through with a song to talk to a customer.

I know that pianists appear to do this in movies, but those are actors who aren't really doing the playing -- someone else is.

When someone tries to talk to me in the middle of a song, I can either: (a) stop playing and answer the question, making the rest of the audience 'unhappy,' or (b) struggle to answer and end up making mistakes and, perhaps, even losing my job.

I can't be the only pianist with this problem. Do you have any advice for me -- and can you print this so people will be more respectful to musicians? -- WAIT 'TIL IT'S OVER IN OHIO

DEAR WAIT: I have it on good authority, as well as personal experience in piano bars years ago, that many pianists can not only play and talk, but also play and sing. Having made it through a quarter of a century at the keyboard,

I doubt you need much advice, but I'll offer this tidbit: Post a discreet sign atop your piano asking listeners to please refrain from making requests while you're playing. You might also consider a small metal tray upon which they can place their "requests."



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Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

3	2	6	1	4	9	8	7	5
4	1	5	8	2	7	3	9	6
9	7	8	5	3	6	4	2	1
7	6	3	4	5	8	2	1	9
1	8	4	7	9	2	6	5	3
2	5	9	3	6	1	7	8	4
5	3	7	9	8	4	1	6	2
8	4	2	6	1	5	9	3	7
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Level: Intermediate

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Open meetings violation suit filed against PISD

Debate on name of PJHS mascot favors unity

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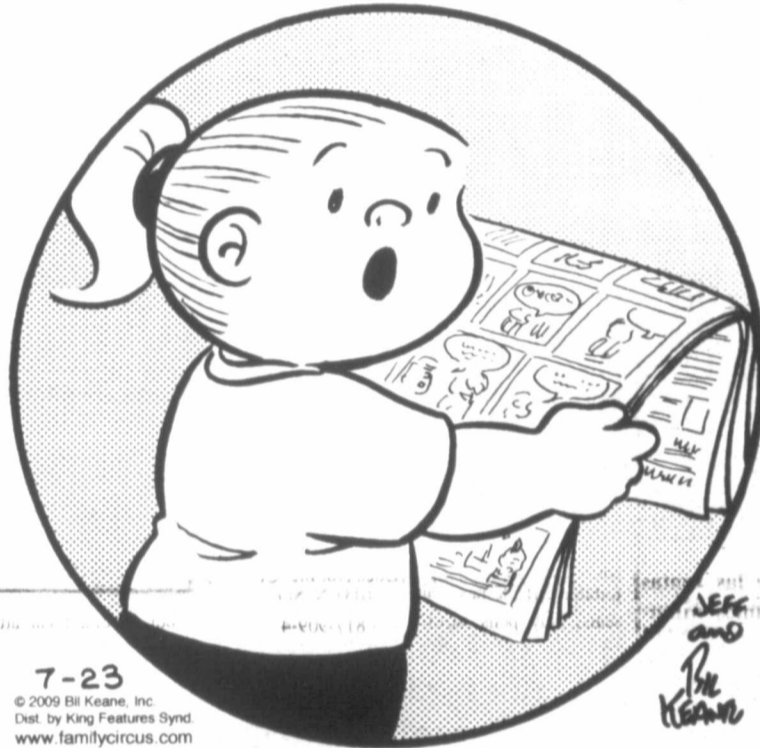
Marmaduke



"No, he's not disturbing me now, but his rumbling snores show promise."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



7-23
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"Mommy, what does #@X&! spell?"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 43 Become
 - 1 Mil. sch. prevalent
 - 5 Personnel
 - 10 Hamlet
 - 12 Wistful one
 - 13 Sheet material
 - 14 Polygon corner
 - 15 Fury
 - 16 Neighbor of Germany
 - 18 Ring competitors
 - 20 Pen filler
 - 21 Tina's TV co-star
 - 23 Guitarist Paul
 - 24 Skin hole
 - 26 Farm crops
 - 28 Big weight
 - 29 Speaker's place
 - 31 Copy
 - 32 Lawyer's summaries
 - 36 Horror movie sort
 - 39 Brewery sight
 - 40 Bring to mind
 - 41 City on the Mohawk River
- DOWN**
- 1 Wing it
 - 2 Capital on the Nile
 - 3 Building wing
 - 4 Ruby of film
 - 5 Health clubs
 - 6 Coloration
 - 7 With fury
 - 8 Cats
 - 9 Aberrations
 - 11 Tangled
 - 17 Apply
 - 19 Plug's place
 - 22 Twitter
 - 24 Hollow muffin
 - 25 Limited in range
 - 27 "Do — say!"
 - 28 Least wild
 - 30 Jurist Fortas
 - 33 Juan's wife
 - 34 Aspect
 - 35 Fixed look
 - 37 Tattoo site
 - 38 Watch over
 - 42 Slugger Williams

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Yesterday's answer

- 1 Wing it
- 2 Capital on the Nile
- 3 Building wing
- 4 Ruby of film
- 5 Health clubs
- 6 Coloration
- 7 With fury
- 8 Cats
- 9 Aberrations
- 11 Tangled
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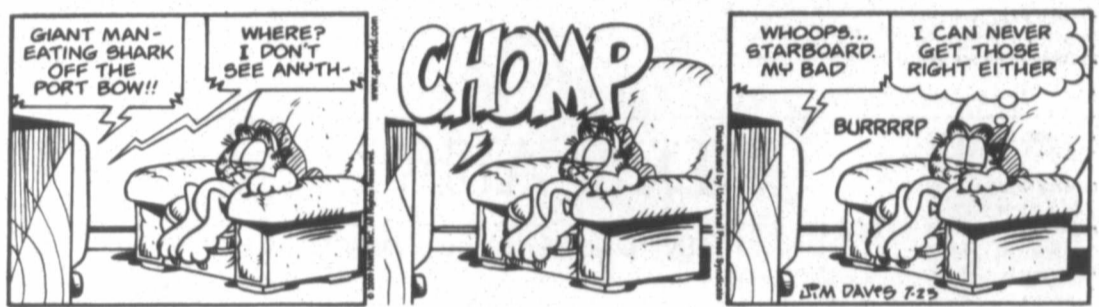
For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



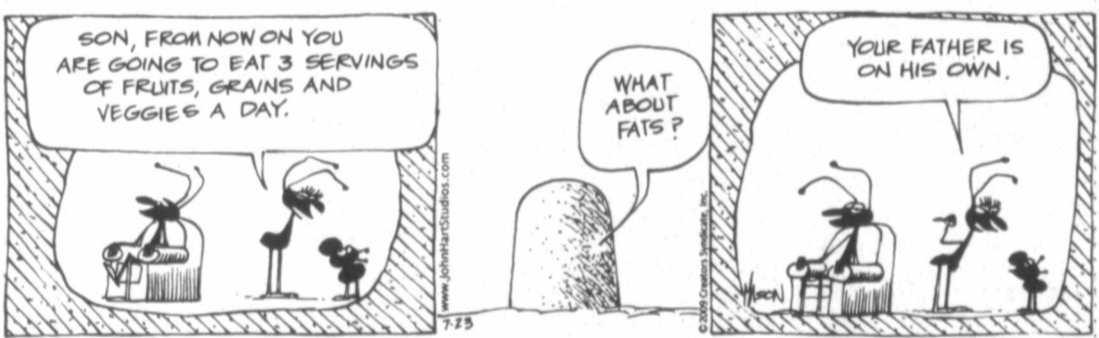
Beetle Bailey



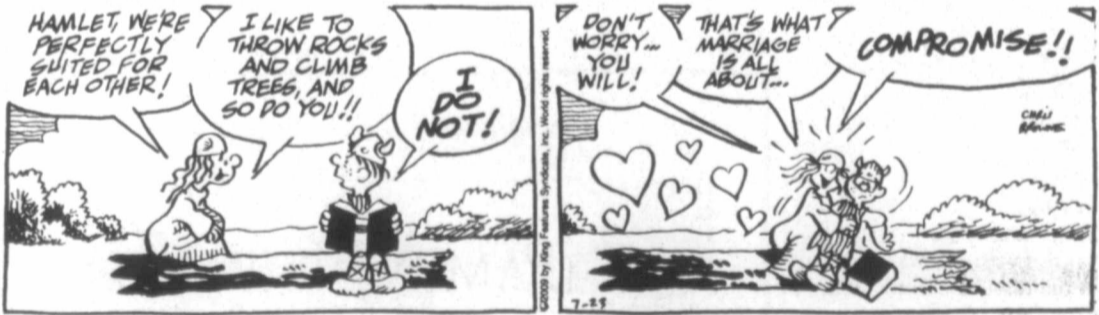
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B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



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Nippert on spot for Rangers, who sweep Sox

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Nelson Cruz and Josh Hamilton were entwined in a hug, having avoided a bone-rattling collision. One of Texas' All-Star outfielders even had the ball in his glove.

Cruz's running catch to end the seventh inning, when the right fielder ended up in the arms of Hamilton, helped preserve a 3-1 victory for the Rangers on Wednesday night and a three-game sweep of the slumping Boston Red Sox. "That ball falls, you don't know how that game turns out to be," manager Ron Washington said.

With speedy Jacoby Ellsbury on first base, and Kevin Youkilis and David Ortiz waiting to hit, Dustin Pedroia hit a ball into the right-center gap. Both Cruz and Hamilton were calling for the ball and racing toward it — and were virtually face-to-face and smiling by the time Cruz held up his glove to show the ball.

"The crowd was so loud, we couldn't hear. I peeked at the last second. He was still running at it with his eye on the ball, so I slowed down a little bit," said Hamilton, who has already been on the disabled list twice the season for making catches while crashing into the wall.

"That was a weird play," Cruz said. "I wanted to make sure I got it. He gave me a hug. He asked me, 'You got it?'"

Dustin Nippert (2-0) pitched into the sixth inning of a spot start for flu-ridden Vicente Padilla and David Murphy, who played despite flu-like symptoms, scored on a squeeze bunt

as the Rangers completed their first series sweep of Boston since 2004.

The Red Sox have lost a season-high five straight. After losing the AL East lead Tuesday, Boston is two games behind the New York Yankees, who have won six straight after beating Baltimore on Wednesday.

Boston is hitting .192 with 13 runs in six games since the All-Star break.

"There's no explanation for it," Ellsbury said. "We obviously have very good hitters on the team. We're just going through a rough patch."

The close contact between Cruz and Hamilton came only hours after Rangers told the players of preventive measures to avoid the flu, including limited personal contact. Washington even joked before the game that players had to "stay away from hugging and kissing."

Afterward, Washington was "real glad they were hugging out there because that was a big play."

Cruz pointed out that neither of them has any flu symptoms.

But Padilla, the scheduled starter, was home with the flu, as was reliever Eddie Guardado. Texas put closer Frank Francisco on the 15-day disabled list Monday, retroactive to July 11, with a slight case of pneumonia. Murphy and utility infielder Omar Vizquel also had flu-like symptoms.

Nippert threw 94 pitches — about 25 more than Washington had hoped for. He left after striking out J.D. Drew for the second out in the sixth, and Doug

Mathis pitched the final 3 1-3 innings for his first career save.

"Nippert gave us way more than we expected," Washington said.

Nippert struck out five and walked two in his third start of the season. He had been moved to the bullpen after going only 3 2-3 innings in both of his previous starts.

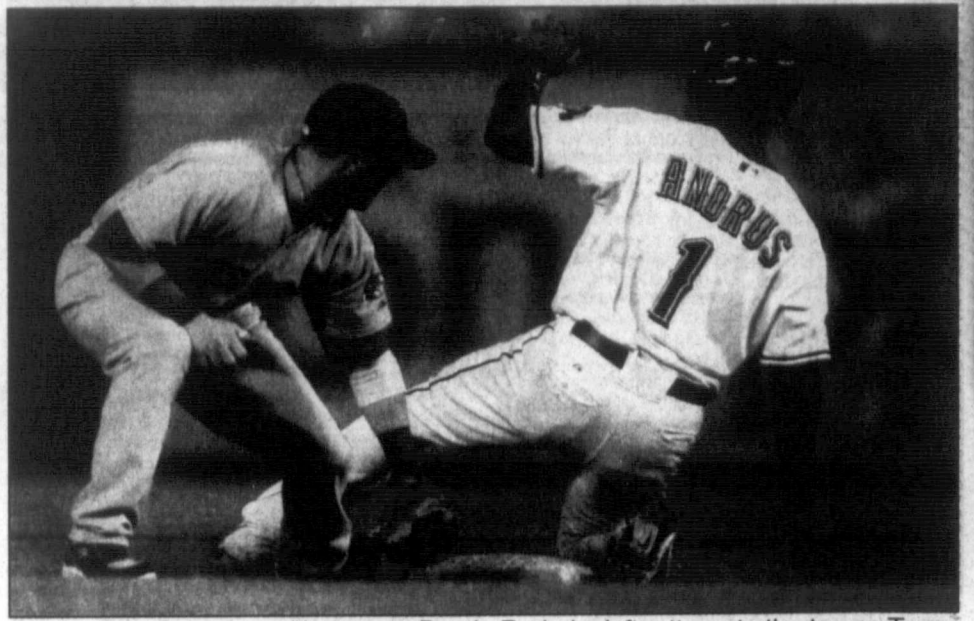
Clay Buchholz (1-1) allowed three runs and six hits over four innings. The right-hander started in place of All-Star knuckleballer Tim Wakefield, who was put on the disabled list Tuesday with a lower back problem.

Boston led 1-0 when Nick Green ended a 1-for-17 skid with a leadoff homer in the third. Ian Kinsler led off the bottom of the third with a tying homer.

Cruz and Murphy had consecutive singles to start the fourth, Murphy going to second on Boston's failed attempt to get Cruz out at third. Taylor Teagarden then had an infield chopper that scored Cruz and Murphy came home on rookie Elvis Andrus' squeeze bunt.

"Elvis did a great job," Murphy said. "It was just great placement by him and I scored easily."

The Red Sox made two trades Wednesday. They acquired first baseman Adam LaRoche from Pittsburgh for two minor leaguers and got outfielder Chris Duncan from St. Louis for shortstop Julio Lugo, who had been designated for assignment Friday.

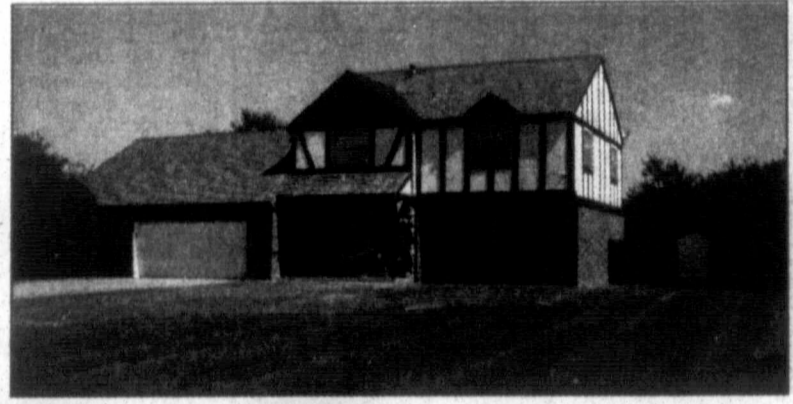


Boston Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia, left, attempts the tag as Texas Rangers' Elvis Andrus (1) steals second standing up in the sixth inning of a baseball game in Arlington, Texas, Wednesday, July 22, 2009. The Rangers had six stolen bases, one shy of a club record, in the 3-1 Rangers win.

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Fastpitch teams finish season

Two Pampa teams recently completed their seasons in the 12U division of the High Plains Fastpitch spring softball league based out of Amarillo. The Lil Lady Harvesters, coached by Carlos Regalado, Chris Arnzen, and Jerry Carrillo finished the regular season with a 1-8 record. In the end-of season single elimination tournament, the team suffered an 8-7 first round loss. Team members included Kaylee Arnzen, Lena Dyer, Elizabeth Gill, TyRanda Johnson, Baile Johnson, Tyler Lambright, Shiann Regalado, Natalie Rodriguez, Cameron Schaub, Jacie Studebaker, and Raeli Walker.

The Texas Terminators, coached by Michael Hunt, Steve Roberson, and Joe Martinez finished the regular season with a 4-5 record. After an opening round 10-4 victory in the end-of-season tournament, they were dealt an extra-inning 17-15 defeat in the second round. The Texas Terminators roster included Bailee Budd, Britney Green, Kindle Hunt, Kylie Kreider, Shelby Langley, Khori Lott, Quila Martinez, Kendra McIntyre, Taylin Neff, Ally Roberson, and Tori Robles.

Six Pampa players were selected to represent the 12U league in Lubbock as All-Stars. From the Lil Lady Harvesters, Shiann Regalado and Raeli Walker played for the High Plains All-Star Black, and Cameron Schaub played for High Plains All-Star White. From the Texas Terminators, Taylin Neff and Kylie Kreider played for High Plains All-Star White, and Kindle Hunt played for High Plains All-Star Black. The All-Star tournament was held in Lubbock July 16-19 and consisted of 105 teams from all over West Texas.

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