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Jim Bruton

The PAMPA NEWS



Wednesday, August 26, 2009 Volume 100 • No. 103 50¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

Fire ravages downtown Tulia business



BY DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

TULIA — Fire investigators were digging through the rubble of a Tulia business today trying to determine the cause of a blaze that destroyed the structure and an adjoining building used for storage.

Flames broke out in Tulia's Dollar General Store shortly before 10 a.m. Tuesday, destroying the business and an adjoining storage area.

Firefighters from Tulia, Kress, Happy, Nazareth and Canyon battled the flames, but were unable to save the structure, said Tulia Mayor Pro Temp Ross James.

"They came to our help," James said of the other fire departments.

There were no injuries in the blaze, he said, although the building was totally destroyed.

The building to the south sustained minor structural damage, James said. Three stores in the building to the north reported on smoke damage.

The adjoining buildings **TULIA** cont. on page 3

Assistant Fire Chief Buddy Washington sprays what's left of Tulia's Dollar General Store Tuesday afternoon. The store and adjoining storage building caught fire Tuesday morning, destroying both. Firefighters from Tulia, Kress, Happy, Nasarath and Canyon battled the blaze. Dollar General just finished building a new store nearby, which city officials say will open earlier than projected. Fire inspectors were combing through the charred remains of the old store a half a block from the Swisher County Courthouse today trying to determine the cause of the blaze.

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Sen. Edward Kennedy dies after cancer battle

HYANNIS PORT, Mass. (AP) — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, the last surviving brother in an enduring political dynasty and one of the most influential senators in history, died Tuesday night at his home on Cape Cod after a yearlong struggle with brain cancer. He was 77.

In nearly 50 years in the Senate, Kennedy, a liberal Democrat, served alongside 10 presidents — his brother John Fitzgerald Kennedy among them — compiling an impressive list of legislative achievements on health care, civil rights, education, immigration and more.

His only run for the White House ended in defeat in 1980, when President Jimmy Carter turned back his challenge for the party's nomination. More than a quarter-century later, Kennedy handed then-Sen. Barack Obama an endorsement at a critical point in the campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, explicitly likening the young contender to President Kennedy.

To the American public, Kennedy was best known as the last surviving son of America's most glamorous political family, father figure and, memorably, eulogist of an Irish-American clan plagued again and again by tragedy. But his career was forever marred by an accident at Chappaquiddick in 1969, when a car he was driving plunged off a bridge, killing a young woman.

Kennedy's death triggered an outpouring of superlatives from Democrats and Republicans as well as foreign leaders.

"An important chapter in our history has come to an end. Our country has lost **KENNEDY** cont. on page 3



In a Sept. 27, 2004 file photo Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., delivers his speech about the effect of the war in Iraq on America's security at George Washington University in Washington. Sen. Ted Kennedy has died after battling a brain tumor his family announced early Wednesday Aug. 26, 2009. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta/file)

CASA volunteers advocate for Gray County children

156 — a number that captures data about how many children were abused and neglected in Gray County last year.

The number tells how many but it doesn't tell the story of the children who were victims.

This number doesn't show the faces of the children who were hurt at the hands of the people who were supposed to care for them. These children were abused physically, sexually and emotionally.

Some of these children went without the food and medical care they desperately needed. Some were left to wander the streets until a stranger found them and took them to the police.

Some precious newborn babies were born with drugs in their system and had to endure the pain of withdrawal symptoms.

All 156 of these children were confirmed to be the victims of child abuse or neglect, but these are just the cases that were reported.

CASA of the High Plains served these children last year. CASA volunteers visited these children, advocated for these children in court and worked tirelessly to make sure that these children were on track to find a safe, permanent home.

Many of these children are in those homes today because of their CASA **CASA** cont. on page 3

Weapons plant to clean up soil, groundwater

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — A federal report says the cost to clean up soil and groundwater contamination at Pantex, the nation's only nuclear weapons assembly and disassembly facility, will top \$120 million.

A report released Monday by the Environmental Protection Agency said Pantex has completed building various systems designed to clean up the site. It was added as a Superfund site in 1994.

High explosives and chromium have been discovered at elevated levels on private land southeast of Pantex in an upper-level aquifer not normally used for drinking water purposes. Solvent contamination also has been reported in groundwater monitoring wells at the plant site.

Traces of contamination have been found in the Ogallala aquifer which is a major regional water source. But repeated samplings turned up no additional contamination.

Durable goods orders increase by most in 2 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders for durable goods rose last month by the largest amount in two years, as the U.S. manufacturing sector rebounded from the depths of the recession.

The Commerce Department said Wednesday that orders for goods expected to last at least three years increased 4.9 percent in July, the third rise in the past four months. Analysts expected a 3 percent increase. Orders for June were revised up to a 1.3 percent drop, from a 2.2 percent decline.

More good news came on the housing front. New U.S. home sales jumped 9.6 percent in July, a fourth straight monthly gain that beat analysts' expectations.

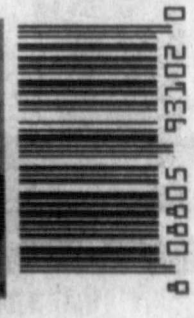
The Commerce Department said home sales rose to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 433,000 **GOODS** cont. on page 3

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For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		
High 84 Low 66	High 89 Low 62	High 88 Low 63

Tonight: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce heavy rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. Northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 84. North northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 66. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 89. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday Night: Clear, with a low around 62. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 88. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 63. Southeast wind around 10 mph.

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Boosters to hold car wash Saturday

The Pampa High School Swim Team Booster Club is holding their annual car wash fundraiser from 9-2 on Saturday, August 29. Please come to NBC bank parking lot and help support our swimmers.

Amarillo woman killed in motorcycle crash

Claude — Sheere Ann Brunson, 51 of Amarillo was killed in a one vehicle crash yesterday. The crash was located 11.1 miles NW of Claude on US 287 in Armstrong County. Steven Lee Brunson, 40 of Amarillo was driving a 2008 Harley Davidson Southeast on US 287 11.1 miles NW of Claude. The driver changed lanes and lost control of the motorcycle on the uneven lanes. Both driver and occupant were thrown from the motorcycle as it slid on the roadway. The motorcycle came to rest in the median of US 287. Sheere Ann Brunson was pronounced dead at the scene, she was not wearing a helmet.

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Obituaries

William Augustus "Bill" Toland, 91

Pampa— William Augustus "Bill" Toland, 91, died August 24, 2009 in Pampa, Texas.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, August 28, 2009, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel, with John Curry, officiating.

Burial will be in Miami Cemetery with military honors courtesy U. S. Army, Fort Hood, Texas. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Toland was born November 5, 1917 in Kefenic, Oklahoma. He

was a veteran of the U. S. Army Airborne Infantry from December of 1941 until November of 1953.

He attended officer's candidate school in 1942, and then served overseas for 2 years. Bill began working for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in 1948, retiring in the early 1980's. He married Darlene Fulton on July 23, 1949 in El Paso. She preceded him in death in 1992. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

The family would like to gratefully acknowledge his

special caregivers, especially Juanita Munoz.

Survivors include one sister, Sybil Toland Offield of Breckenridge; special friend, Lillian Esson of Pampa; extended family, David and Lynn Ferrell and their son Brett, all of Pampa, numerous nieces and nephews. Bill was preceded in death by a sister: Beatrice Toland Crouch; and 2 brothers: Dillard Toland and Hiram Toland.

MEMORIALS: First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1981, Pampa, Texas 79066-1981, or



Toland

BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, Texas 79065.

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

Neva Comer, 101

Pampa— Neva Comer, 101, died August 25, 2009 in Pampa, Texas.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, August 28, 2009, at Fairview Cemetery with Rev. Roy King, retired minister, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Comer was born August 22, 1908 in Milan, Kansas. She married Clarence L. Comer on June 22, 1931 at Hollis, Oklahoma. He preceded her in death on December 30, 1989. She had been

a resident of Pampa since 1941, moving from Salem, Illinois. She was a member of the First Christian Church.

The family would like to extend their appreciation to Mrs. Comer's caregivers for their dedication and devotion.

Survivors include two sons, Harold L. Comer and wife Jean of Pampa, and Jarold D. Comer and wife Sherrie of Abilene; one grandson, Christopher Comer and wife Stacy of Lubbock; three granddaughters, Carrie Cunningham and husband

Scott of Lubbock, Jan Comer of Abilene, and Laurie Reeve and husband Robert of Eustace; seven great-grandchildren, Avery, Tucker and Cooper Reeve, Jackson and Kennedy Comer, Tyler and Jordan Cunningham; and one nephew, Don Duenkel of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She was preceded in death by a sister: Eva Duenkel in 1991.

MEMORIALS: BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, Texas 79065, or First Christian Church, 1633 N. Nelson, Pampa, Texas 79065.



Comer

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

EMERGENCY SERVICES

SHERIFF

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests in the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Tuesday.

Monday, Aug. 24. Jennifer Elizabeth Sflagle, 29, was arrested by Gray County deputies on warrants charging her with not having liability insurance, speeding and failure to appear.

Pamela Lewis Covil, 41, was arrested by the Texas Department of Public Safety on warrants charging her with theft of property more than \$20 but less than \$500 by check, running a stop sign.

Jimmie Ray Fitzer, 48, was arrested by Pampa police officers on a warrant charging him with theft under \$50.

Michael Blaine Cochran, 25, was arrested by Gray County Sheriff's deputies on warrants charging him with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, failure to identify himself, forgery of a financial instrument and possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver.

Tuesday, Aug. 26. Dewayne Eugene Chilton, 30, was sentenced to jail for possession of a controlled substance.

PAMPA PD

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

There were 15 traffic stops by police officers in the last 24 hours.

Authorities responded to 12 animal welfare or complaint calls.

Tuesday, Aug. 25. A suspicious person was reported in the 300 block of East Craven.

A person was reported suffering minor injuries in an assault in the 200 block of West Kingsmill.

An alarm went off in the 400 block of North Ward. A civil matter was reported in the 300 block of East Tuke.

Harassment was reported in the 200 block of West Kingsmill.

A burglary was reported in the 400 block of South Ballard.

Theft was reported in the 300 block of East Brown. A gas drive off was reported in the 1300 block of North Hobart.

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

A 1999 Toyota Avalon was "keyed" in the 1800 block of West Alcock.

A welfare check was performed in the 900 block of East Francis.

A fire investigation was performed in the 800 block of East Campbell.

A theft was reported in the 600 block of North Banks.

A runaway was reported in the 1000 of South Huff.

A medical emergency was reported in the 1900 block of Hilton.

A prowler was reported in the 700 block North Naida.

A medical emergency was reported in the 200 bloc of North Russell.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 800 block of East Francis.

A suspicious person was reported in the 2200 block of North Wells.

Wednesday, Aug. 26. An assault was reported in the 1000 block of South Huff.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of Neel Road.

Theft was reported in the 100 block of South Starkweather.

A burglary was reported in the 200 block of South Henry.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 200 block of East Tuke.

LAST MINUTE CLASSIFIED LINE ADS

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

COMMUNITY CERAMIC TILE. Keith CHRISTIAN School Taylor, 874-1779 lv. msg. has openings for PreK and after school program until 5:30.

FALL SOCCER Registration, T-Shirts & More, thru Aug. 28 or <http://pampasoccerassociation.googlepages.com>

LOST 4 piece Rock Band for Chautauqua. We lost your number call us back. 665-0343 or 662-6777 You're to play before Woody Guthrie.

TAILGATE PICNIC Friday night Aug. 28th, 5:30-7:30 North of the McNeely field house by the PHS football field. Bring Lawn chairs or Quilts. Adults \$7, Children 10 and under \$4. Tickets can be purchased from any Lions Club member or contact Jay Johnson at 665-0921

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Contact any Lions Club Member or
Visit the Pampa News • 403 W. Atchison

Only a few tickets will be sold at the event, so please buy early!

Pampa Optimist Youth Club
Flag and Tackle Football Sign-Ups

When: August 24th, 25th & 27th
Time: 5:30-7:00 pm
Where: P.O.Y.C.
Players Fees: Flag-Grades 1&2-\$70.00
Tackle- Grades 3&4 and grades 5&6-\$100

All Tackle players must be present at sign-ups to be fitted for equipment!

Kennedy

a great leader, who picked up the torch of his fallen brothers and became the greatest United States senator of our time," Obama said in a written statement.

"For five decades, virtually every major piece of legislation to advance the civil rights, health and economic well being of the American people bore his name and resulted from his efforts," said Obama, vacationing at Martha's Vineyard off the Massachusetts coast.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, the conservative Republican from Utah who was alternately a political partner and opponent of the unapologetic liberal for three decades, said "Ted Kennedy was an iconic, larger than life United States Senator whose influence cannot be overstated." He listed of nearly a dozen bipartisan bills they worked on jointly, including a federally funded program for victims of HIV/AIDS, health insurance for lower-income children and tax breaks to encourage the development of medicine for rare diseases.

Kennedy's family announced his death in a brief statement released early Wednesday.

"We've lost the irreplaceable center of our family and joyous light in our lives, but the inspiration of his faith, optimism, and perseverance will live on in our hearts forever," it said. "We thank everyone who gave him care and support over this last year, and everyone who stood with him for so many years in his tireless march for progress toward justice, fairness and opportunity for all."

A few hours later, two vans left the famed Kennedy compound at Hyannis Port in pre-dawn darkness. Both bore hearse license plates — with the word "hearse" blacked out.

Several hundred miles away, flags flew at half-staff at the U.S. Capitol, and Obama ordered the same at the White House and all federal buildings.

There was no immediate word on funeral arrangements. Two of Kennedy's brothers, John and Robert, are buried at Arlington National Cemetery across the Potomac River from Washington.

In his later years, Kennedy cut a barrel-chested figure, with a swath of white hair, a booming voice and a thick, widely imitated Boston accent. He was first elected to the Senate in 1962, taking the seat that his brother John had occupied before winning the White House, and served longer than all but two senators in history.

His own hopes of reaching the White House were damaged — perhaps doomed — in 1969 by the scandal that came to be known as Chappaquiddick. He sought the White House more than a decade later, lost the Democratic nomination to President Jimmy Carter, and bowed out with a stirring valedictory that echoed across the decades:

"For all those whose cares have been our concern, the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives and the dream shall never die."

Kennedy was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor in May 2008 and underwent surgery and a grueling regimen of radiation and chemotherapy.

He made a surprise return to the Capitol last summer to cast the decisive vote for the Democrats on Medicare. He made sure he was there again last January to see his former Senate colleague Barack Obama sworn in as the nation's first black president, but suffered a seizure at a celebratory luncheon afterward.

He also made a surprise and forceful appearance at last summer's Democratic National Convention,

where he spoke of his own illness and said health care was the cause of his life. His death occurred precisely one year later, almost to the hour.

He was away from the Senate for much of this year, leaving Republicans and Democrats to speculate about the impact what his absence meant for the fate of Obama's health care proposals.

His death came less than two weeks after that of his sister Eunice Kennedy Shriver on Aug. 11.

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Kennedy's son Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., said his father had defied the predictions of doctors by surviving more than a year with his fight against brain cancer.

The younger Kennedy said that gave family members a surprise blessing, as they were able to spend more time with the senator and to tell him how much he had meant to their lives.

Kennedy arrived at his place in the Senate after a string of family tragedies. He was the only one of the four Kennedy brothers to die of natural causes.

Kennedy's eldest brother, Joseph, was killed in a plane crash in World War II. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas in 1963. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was gunned down in Los Angeles as he campaigned for the 1968 Democratic presidential nomination.

Years later, in 1999, John F. Kennedy Jr. was killed in a plane crash at age 38. His wife died with him.

It fell to Ted Kennedy to deliver the eulogies, to comfort his brothers' widows, to mentor fatherless nieces and nephews. It was Ted Kennedy who walked JFK's daughter, Caroline, down the aisle at her wedding.

Tragedy had a way of bringing out his eloquence.

Kennedy sketched a dream of a better future as he laid to rest his brother Robert in 1968: "My brother need not be idealized, or enlarged in death beyond what he was in life; to be remembered simply as a good and decent man, who saw wrong and tried to right it, saw suffering and tried to heal it, saw war and tried to stop it."

After John Jr.'s death, the senator said: "We dared to think, in that other Irish phrase, that this John Kennedy would live to comb gray hair, with his beloved Carolyn by his side. But like his father, he had every gift but length of years."

His own legacy was blighted on the night of July 18, 1969, when Kennedy drove his car off a bridge and into a pond on Chappaquiddick Island, on Martha's Vineyard. Mary Jo Kopechne, a 28-year-old worker with RFK's campaign, was found dead in the submerged car's back seat 10 hours later.

Kennedy, then 37, pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of an accident and received a two-month suspended sentence and a year's probation. A judge eventually determined there was "probable cause to believe that Kennedy operated his motor vehicle negligently ... and that such operation appears to have contributed to the death of Mary Jo Kopechne."

At the height of the scandal, Kennedy went on national television to explain himself in an extraordinary 13-minute address in which he denied driving drunk and rejected rumors of "immoral conduct" with Ms. Kopechne. He said he was haunted by "irrational" thoughts immediately after the accident, and wondered "whether some awful curse did actually hang over all the Kennedys." He said his failure to report the accident right away was "inde-

fensible."

After Chappaquiddick especially, Kennedy gained a reputation as a heavy drinker and a womanizer, a tragically flawed figure haunted by the fear that he did not quite measure up to his brothers.

Politically, his concession speech at the Democratic convention in 1980 turned out to be a defining moment. At 48, he seemed liberated from the towering expectations and high hopes invested in him after the death of his brothers, and he plunged into his work in the Senate. In his later years, after he had divorced and remarried, he came to be regarded as a statesman on Capitol Hill, with a growing reputation as an effective, hard-working lawmaker.

His legislative achievements included bills to provide health insurance for children of the working poor, the landmark 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, Meals on Wheels for the elderly, abortion clinic access, family leave, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

He was also a key negotiator on legislation creating a Medicare prescription drug benefit for senior citizens, was a driving force for peace in Ireland and a persistent critic of the war in Iraq.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada issued a statement that said, "It was the thrill of my lifetime to work with Ted Kennedy....The liberal lion's mighty roar may now fall silent, but his dream shall never die."

Former first Lady Nancy Reagan said that her husband and Kennedy "could always find common ground, and they had great respect for one another."

"Even facing illness and death he never stopped fighting for the causes which were his life's work. I am proud to have counted him as a friend and proud that the United Kingdom recognized his service earlier this year with the award of an honorary knighthood." — British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Whatever his national standing, Kennedy was unbeatable in Massachusetts. He won his first election in 1962, filling out the unexpired portion of his brother's term. He won an eighth term in 2006. Kennedy served close to 47 years, longer than all but two senators in history: Robert Byrd of West Virginia (50 years and counting) and the late Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, who died after a tenure of nearly 47½ years.

Born in 1932, the youngest of Joseph and Rose Kennedy's nine children, Edward Moore Kennedy was part of a family bristling with political ambition, beginning with maternal grandfather John F. "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald, a congressman and mayor of Boston.

Round-cheeked Teddy was thrown out of Harvard in 1951 for cheating, after arranging for a classmate to take a freshman Spanish exam for him. He eventually returned, earning his degree in 1956.

He went on to the University of Virginia Law

cont. from page 1

School, and in 1962, while his brother John was president, announced plans to run for the Senate seat JFK had vacated in 1960. A family friend had held the seat in the interim because Kennedy was not yet 30, the minimum age for a senator.

Kennedy was immediately involved in a bruising primary campaign against state Attorney General Edward J. McCormack, a nephew of U.S. House Speaker John W. McCormack.

"If your name was simply Edward Moore, your candidacy would be a joke," chided McCormack.

Kennedy won the primary by 300,000 votes and went on to overwhelmingly defeat Republican George Cabot Lodge, son of the late Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, in the general election.

Devastated by his brothers' assassinations and injured in a 1964 plane crash that left him with back pain that would plague him for decades, Kennedy temporarily withdrew from public life in 1968. But he re-emerged in 1969 to be elected majority whip of the Senate.

Then came Chappaquiddick.

Kennedy still handily won re-election in 1970, but he lost his leadership job. He remained outspoken in his opposition to the Vietnam War and support of social programs but ruled out a 1976 presidential bid.

In the summer of 1978, a Gallup Poll showed that Democrats preferred Kennedy over President Carter 54 percent to 32 percent. A year later, Kennedy decided to run for the White House with a campaign that accused Carter of turning his back on the Democratic agenda.

The difficult task of dislodging a sitting president was compounded by Kennedy's fumbling answer to a question posed by CBS' Roger Mudd: Why do you want to be president?

"Well, it's um, you know you have to come to grips with the different issues that, ah, we're facing," Kennedy said. "I mean, we can, we have to deal with each of the various questions of the economy, whether it's in the area of energy ..."

Long afterward, he said, "Well, I learned to lose, and for a Kennedy that's hard." Kennedy married Virginia Joan Bennett, known as Joan, in 1958. They divorced in 1982. In 1992, he married Washington lawyer Victoria Reggie. His survivors include a daughter, Kara Kennedy Allen; two sons, Edward Jr. and Patrick, a congressman from Rhode Island; and two stepchildren, Caroline and Curran Raclin.

Edward Jr. lost a leg to bone cancer in 1973 at age 12. Kara had a cancerous tumor removed from her lung in 2003. In 1988, Patrick had a noncancerous tumor pressing on his spine removed. He has also struggled with depression and addiction and announced in June that he was re-entering rehab.

Kennedy's memoir, "True Compass," is set to be published in the fall.

Casa

cont. from page 1

volunteer. Mark and Mary are now living with their aunt in another state and are happier than they have ever been. Sarah is with her aunt and her sister now and finally feels like she is home. Jason is home with his mom, who worked very hard to correct the problems that caused him to be taken away, and is full of smiles and giggles. Three sisters are in their adoptive home today, because their CASA refused to settle for them returning to their abusive

family. All of these children are facing a brighter future today because they had a CASA volunteer.

Without United Way funding, some of these children might have missed the opportunity to have CASA advocating for them. Fewer volunteers would be available and every case could not receive a CASA. Please support the United Way so a choice does not have to be made about which child gets a chance at a brighter tomorrow.

Tulia

cont. from page 1

were separated by firewalls, officials said.

Located in the middle of the block north of the Swisher County Courthouse, the store and storage area were a block south of the Tulia fire station.

Dollar General had just built a new store and was

about to move into it when the fire broke out.

Downtown Pampa had its last big fire in 1986. Fire Chief Kim Powell said it was the first big fire that occurred after she joined the department. The fire started in Saeds, a clothing store on Cuyler.

Goods

cont. from page 1

from an upwardly revised June rate of 395,000. But the median sales price of \$210,100, was down 11.5 percent from \$237,300 a year earlier.

The better-than-expected durable goods and housing data followed positive readings Tuesday about consumer sentiment and home prices. But analysts remain concerned that all-important consumer spending will stay muted as Americans try to rebuild savings decimated by falling home prices and reduced stock portfolios.

"The factory sector is obviously enjoying a rebound in demand, some of it from abroad and some of it linked to inventory rebuilding," Paul Ashworth, senior economist at Capital Economics, wrote in a note to clients. "However, with the consumer still supine, we don't yet have the foundations for a sustainable recovery."

Economists are looking for other parts of the economy, such as business spending, to take up the slack.

The financial markets edged up in morning trading after the housing data were released. The Dow Jones industrial average added 25 points, and broader indices also rose.

Orders for transportation equipment, which rose 18.4 percent, drove the overall increase in durable goods. Commercial aircraft orders, a volatile category, more than doubled after falling 30 percent in June. Motor vehicle orders increased 0.9 percent.

Excluding transportation goods, orders rose 0.8 percent. That was the third straight increase, but just below analysts' expectations of a 0.9 percent rise.

Economists at Barclays Capital said before the

report that orders for Boeing Co. aircraft rose in July to their highest level since last August.

Auto production improved last month as General Motors and Chrysler reopened many plants that were shut in May and June while the companies restructured and emerged from bankruptcy protection. The industry also benefited from the government's Cash for Clunkers program, which spurred thousands of people to trade in older vehicles for new cars.

Growth in the auto sector also boosted orders for steel, aluminum and other primary metals.

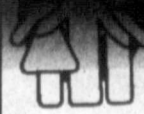
"Now the question is whether or not these gains can be sustained without government incentives," said Tim Quinlan, an economic analyst at Wells Fargo Securities.

Ford Motor Co. earlier this month said its sales rose 2.4 percent in July from the same month last year, its first year-over-year increase since November 2007. Chrysler Group LLC posted a smaller year-over-year sales drop compared with recent months, helped by clunkers deals. GM's sales fell 19.4 percent, a slower pace than earlier this year.

Tuesday's consumer and housing reports, along with President Barack Obama's reappointment of Ben Bernanke as Federal Reserve chief, sent the financial markets modestly higher. But economists warned that consumer confidence remains far below levels associated with a healthy economy and might not lead to the increased spending critical for a broad recovery.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 26, the 238th day of 2009. There are 127 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing American women the right to vote, was certified in effect by Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby.

On this date:

In 1883, the island volcano Krakatoa began cataclysmic eruptions, leading to a massive explosion the following day.

In 1939, the first televised major league baseball games were shown on experimental station W2XBS: a double-header between the Cincinnati Reds and the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field. (The Reds won the first game, 5-2, the Dodgers the second, 6-1.)

In 1958, Alaskans went to the polls to overwhelmingly vote in favor of statehood.

'Suffering belongs to no language.'

— Adelia Prado, Brazilian poet

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson was nominated for a term of office in his own right at the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, N.J.

In 1968, the Democratic National Convention opened in Chicago.

In 1972, the summer Olympics games

opened in Munich, West Germany.

In 1978, Cardinal Albino Luciani of Venice was elected the 264th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church following the death of Paul VI. The new pontiff took the name Pope John Paul I.

In 1986, in the so-called "preppie murder case," 18-year-old Jennifer Levin was found strangled in New York's Central Park; Robert Chambers later pleaded guilty to manslaughter and served 15 years in prison.

Ten years ago: Attorney General Janet Reno pledged that a new investigation of the 1993 Waco, Texas, siege would "get to the bottom" of how the FBI used potentially flammable tear gas grenades against her wishes and then took six years to admit it. (Special Counsel John Danforth later concluded a junior FBI lawyer had failed to tell superiors about the use of pyrotechnic tear gas canisters, and said he was certain federal agents did not start the fire that destroyed the Branch Davidian compound.)

Today's Birthdays: Former Washington Post Executive Editor Benjamin C. Bradlee is 88. Former Democratic vice-presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro is 74. Actress Francine York is 73. Singer Vic Dana is 67. R&B singer Valerie Simpson is 63. Pop singer Bob Cowsill is 60. Actor Brett Cullen is 53. Basketball coach Stan Van Gundy is 50. Jazz musician Branford Marsalis is 49. Country musician Jimmy Olander (Diamond Rio) is 48. Actor Chris Burke is 44. Actress-singer Shirley Manson (Garbage) is 43. Rock musician Dan Vickrey (Counting Crows) is 43. TV writer-actress Riley Weston is 43. Rock musician Adrian Young (No Doubt) is 40. Actress Melissa McCarthy is 39. Latin pop singer Thalia is 38. Rock singer-musician Tyler Connolly (Theory of a Deadman) is 34. MLB player Morgan Ensberg is 34. NFL player Jamal Lewis is 30. Actor Macaulay Culkin is 29.



TED KENNEDY 1932-2009

Bernanke a safe choice for Obama

WASHINGTON (AP)

— Giving Ben Bernanke a second term as Federal Reserve chairman was the politically safe course for a president beset by multiple crises and wanting no new battles.

The decision also helped soothe jittery financial markets, while drawing applause across party lines.

President Barack Obama cited the former Princeton economist's role in navigating the nation through the worst economic distress in decades in offering him a second four-year term on Tuesday. In so doing, Obama followed the pattern of other recent presidents in reappointing a central bank chief first appointed by a predecessor on grounds that he was doing a good job.

To do otherwise could have jeopardized the still-fragile recovery that Bernanke played a central role in engineering.

While other potential candidates were considered, including top White House economic adviser Lawrence Summers, any choice other than Bernanke might well have roiled Wall Street and touched off a fierce political battle in Washington.

"He couldn't have nominated anybody else," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. "It would have been destructive to the financial markets and nobody would have ever understood it."

Bernanke, 55, now faces the challenge of meeting the high expectations from the White House — and the rest of the country — to repair the battered economy. To keep inflation at bay, he also must tread carefully in unwinding hundreds of billions of dollars in Fed financial rescue programs once the

recovery is under way.

The mild-mannered economist, who has taken some of the boldest, costliest actions of any Federal Reserve chief, does not bring heavy political baggage to the job, even though he served briefly as chairman of President George W. Bush's Council of Economic Advisers.

"I'm sure he hasn't made all the right calls, but he doesn't have a political cell in his body, and that's what you need in a Fed chairman," said Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn.

Reconfirmation seems all but sure. White House officials feel certain that any vote of no confidence in Bernanke would come at much too high a political cost to lawmakers with the economy still in a fragile state.

Although his present term doesn't expire until early next year, Obama moved to end speculation percolating in political circles and on Wall Street, announcing his decision Tuesday morning on the Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard, where the president is vacationing with his family.

"Ben approached a financial system on the verge of collapse with calm and wisdom, with bold action and out-of-the-box thinking that has helped put the brakes on our economic free-fall," said Obama, with Bernanke standing by his side. "Almost none of the decisions he or any of us made have been easy."

The announcement's timing also helped the White House divert attention from a pair of gloomy economic reports issued Tuesday by the administration and Congressional Budget Office predicting a slow recovery and giant deficits for years to come.

First appointed chairman by Bush in early 2006, Bernanke has been widely praised by economists, and his reappointment was generally expected. Still, there remained some uncertainty. Bernanke has been criticized by some lawmakers for not doing more to head off the crisis, and by others for doing too much to combat it with what some see as an overly accommodating monetary policy.

He also drew criticism for strong-arm tactics, along with former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, in pressuring Bank of America to acquire the failing Merrill Lynch & Co. And Bernanke put himself at odds with the administration recently by resisting its plan to create a consumer protection agency for risky financial products, arguing that those responsibilities should stay with the central bank.

"Changing Fed chairmen at this point in both the economic recovery and in the midst of ongoing financial rescue efforts would have added uncertainty and would have been disruptive to markets," said Tony Fratto, a former economic spokesman for Bush and himself a former Treasury Department official.

White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner were the chief voices advising Obama to reappoint Bernanke. Obama decided about a month ago it was the appropriate move and told Bernanke of his decision last week during a meeting in the Oval Office, administration officials said Tuesday.

Obama followed a pattern established by the past four presidents in reappointing Fed chiefs who had been

in place when they took office. Republican Ronald Reagan in 1983 reappointed Democrat Paul Volcker, who had been first named chairman by Jimmy Carter. Alan Greenspan, a Republican first appointed by Reagan, was reappointed by George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. The Bushes are Republicans and Clinton a Democrat.

Bernanke's re-nomination "will bring continuity to the Federal Reserve that will send the right signal to the marketplace," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. He said he expected Senate confirmation.

Even so, some lawmakers' remarks were pointed, suggesting Bernanke's confirmation hearings could produce fireworks even if the outcome seems assured.

Senate Banking Committee Chairman Chris Dodd, D-Conn., said, "Serious questions will be raised about the role of the Federal Reserve moving forward and what authorities it should and should not have."

Richard Shelby of Alabama, the committee's senior Republican, said he wanted to explore "the impact ad hoc decision-making had on the financial markets during the crisis," including what he called a "panicked response" by some regulators.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said he hoped the confirmation hearings would offer lawmakers "greater insight into the cumulative impact the administration's trillions in new spending, borrowing and debt will have on the American taxpayer."

San Antonio Express-News on talks with Iran:

No country has benefited more from President Barack Obama's reset of U.S. foreign policy than Iran. And no government has done more to discredit itself in the eyes of its own people and the international community than the clerical rulers in Tehran.

One year ago, the great worry was that with the clock running out on the Bush administration, the United States might take military action against Iran's nuclear infrastructure or give Israel the green light to do so. Those concerns came to naught.

Yet despite a change in Washington and repeated efforts by the Obama administration to initiate a dialogue, nothing

has changed in Tehran. International concerns about the mullahs developing a nuclear weapon have only heightened.

The heart of the issue is the lack of transparency in a program the Iranian government claims is for peaceful civilian purposes. Iran continues to deny the International Atomic Energy Agency access to facilities and information that would confirm that claim.

As it locks IAEA inspectors out of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's government has been locking up and attacking opponents within Iran. The recent show trials of Iranians who peacefully protested the results of June's presiden-

tial election have generated broad international condemnation.

The Obama administration has set a September deadline for Iran to enter into talks. In a recent interview with the Wall Street Journal, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that deadline was "not an open window for just delay and kind of rope-a-dope you have to get somewhere."

One way to make that point clear is to ratchet up economic sanctions if the Iranian government doesn't cooperate. Both the House and Senate have passed measures that target Iran's gasoline imports, its Achilles' heel. While Iran is one of the world's largest crude oil exporters, it

must import 40 percent of its refined petroleum products.

The House and Senate proposals would force international energy companies to make a choice: Sell to the United States, or sell to Iran. Those proposals must be reconciled when Congress returns from recess in September — the same time as the White House deadline.

While President Obama had appeared reluctant to play the gas card, in recent weeks administration officials have begun to broach the issue with U.S. allies. If Obama's deadline is not to be an open window, then the threat of increased sanctions needs to be made real.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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

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Women's Equality Day August 26



Women's Equality Day is a celebration of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which gave U.S. women full voting rights in 1920. Every president has published a proclamation for Women's Equality Day since 1971 when legislation was first introduced in Congress by Bella Abzug. This resolution was passed designating August 26 of each year as Women's Equality Day.

JOINT RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1971 DESIGNATING AUGUST 26TH OF EACH YEAR AS WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have been treated as second-class citizens and have not been entitled the full rights and privileges, public or private, legal or institutional, which are available to male citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have united to assure that these rights and privileges are available to all citizens equally regardless of sex; and

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have designated August 26th, the anniversary date of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, as symbol of the continued fight for equal rights; and

WHEREAS, the women of United States are to be commended and supported in their organizations and activities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that August 26th of each year is designated as "Women's Equality Day," and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation annually in commemoration of that day in 1920, on which the women of America were first given the right to vote, and that day in 1970, on which a nationwide demonstration for women's rights took place.

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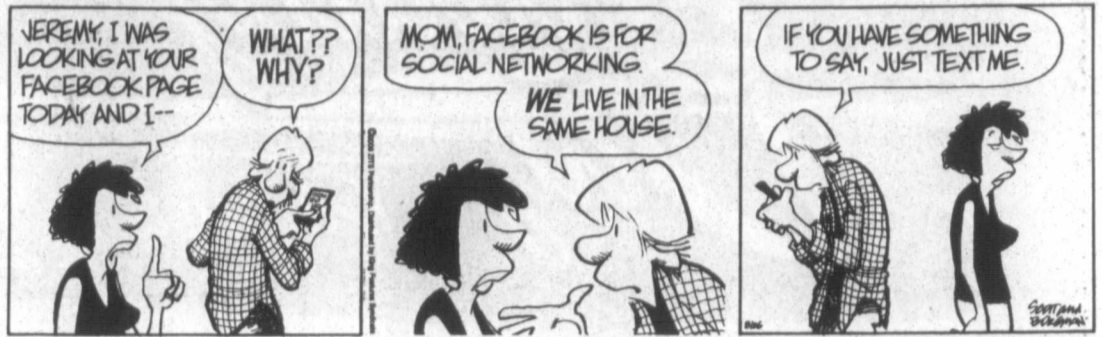


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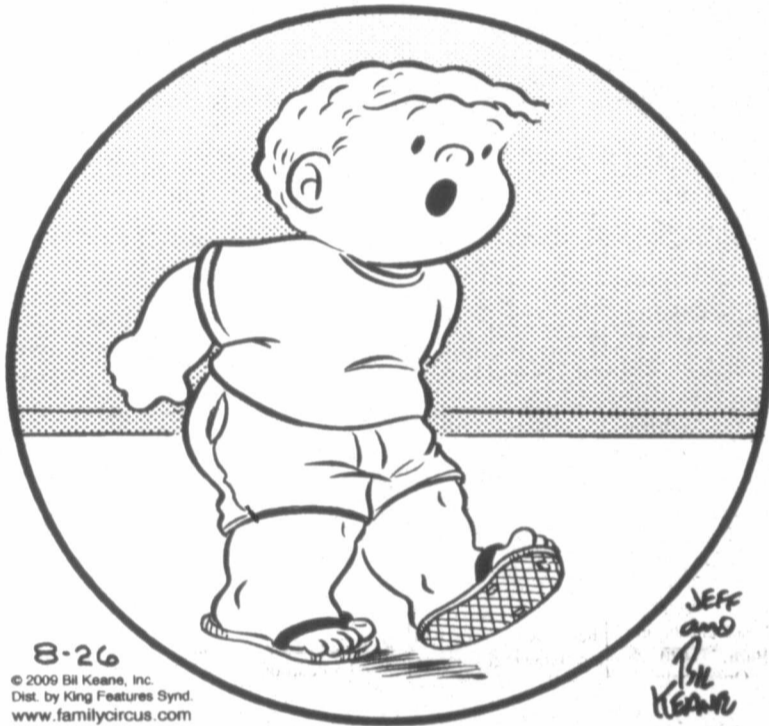


Flo & Friends



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Mommy, which of these is my flip and which is my flop?"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 41 Tear
 - 1 Toward the stern
 - 6 Card collection
 - 10 Solitary sort
 - 11 Mason's partner
 - 12 With fervor
 - 13 Foreword
 - 14 "Yeah, right!"
 - 15 Dr. Phil's last name
 - 16 Gangster's gun
 - 17 Solid wood
 - 18 Green and Gore
 - 19 Sports contests
 - 22 Go across
 - 23 Inning count
 - 26 Expeditions
 - 29 Yank's foe
 - 32 Chiding sound
 - 33 Gallery fill
 - 34 Kuwait setting
 - 36 Vivacity
 - 37 Column style
 - 38 Navajo home
 - 39 Find cute as a button
 - 40 Laughable
- DOWN**
- 1 "King of the Trumpet"
 - 2 Blunders
 - 3 Started a pot
 - 4 Fedora material
 - 5 Essay
 - 6 Bell sound
 - 7 Superfluous
 - 8 Pink shade
 - 9 Understands
 - 11 "Be-witched" co-star
 - 15 West of films
 - 17 Formally warned
 - 20 Rule in India
 - 21 Weather-map icon
 - 24 Riot queller
 - 25 2005 George Clooney movie
 - 27 Can. neighbor
 - 28 Rocks
 - 29 Airport aid
 - 30 Eat away
 - 31 Tycoon
 - 35 Rail or quail
 - 36 Dog's treat
 - 38 That fellow

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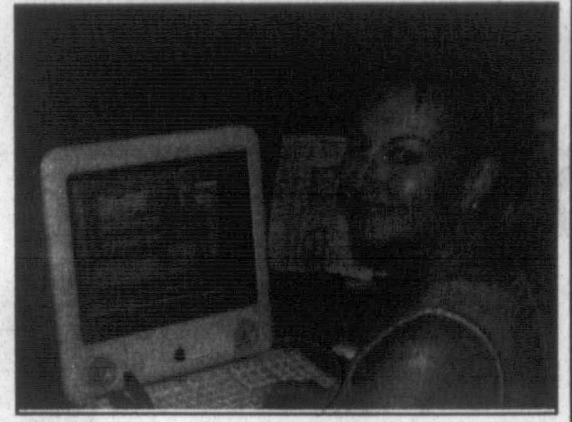
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CK CI CHFEIICATM KE MVXEG

CNTCVJ KDESEQJDTG QVTMI

EVM DLI FTMVKG EW OESZ KE

NE. — XMSEHM Z. XMSEHM Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MORE PERSONS, ON THE WHOLE, ARE HUMBUGGED BY BELIEVING IN NOTHING THAN BY BELIEVING IN TOO MUCH. — P.T. BARNUM

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50 Building Suppl.

White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

69 Misc.

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

FURNITURE CLINIC 52 Yrs. Experience Furniture Repair 662-6357

NEW Mattresses. Tw. set \$149, Q. \$266, 1 have 2 ea., chests, etc. Red Barn, 1420 S. Barnes. Open only on Sat. You can call and buy today, 665-2767.

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1996 Ford Ranger XLT, \$2000 cash, and 1992 Cadillac Seville for sale. Call 665-4541 or 663-9054.

121 Trucks

TAKING Bids-1989 Ford F350 truck, has a crack block. Call Thomas Automotive, 806-665-4852, for info.

2002 DODGE RAM 1500 SLT Quad Cab Short Bed Pickup Leather with all the extras! Heated seats, power windows & seats, premium sound and wheels. Bedliner. Too many to list. One Owner, 81,000 mi. \$10,200 Call JUDI 669-2522 or 665-3687 aft. 5pm

ESTATE Offers 3 br, 2 ba., 1620 N. Dwight. 2008 construct., open floor plan, walk-in closets split master, patio, fireplace, sprinkler system. \$199,900. 826-3373

FOR SALE 3/2/1 Approx. 1700 sq ft. 2nd lot (100 ft X 60 ft) 1414 Williston, Pampa 900,000 665-0511 or 681-7131

HIGHEST CASH PAID FOR HOUSES! CALL 665-1875

OWNER will finance. Easy terms. No closing costs. 3 br., 1 ba. 1809 N. Banks. Trustar RE 665-4595.

PAMPA, 2501 Evergreen. FSBO. 4B/2B, 2370 sq. ft. Beautiful. Move-In Ready! 402-960-3105.

Open House Sat. Aug. 29, 10-1pm.

TRUSTAR Real Estate Now Open at 1716 N. Hobart. Gary Winton, Realtor, 665-4595.

115 Trailer Parks

TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

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BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009:

This year, focus is on your home life and chosen direction. Be honest with yourself if you're not comfortable with everything that might be going on. Use special care with your finances, especially with spending involving your home. In relationships, you might have a tendency to say one thing yet do another. This behavior could be confusing to your sweetie, if you are attached. If you are single, you long for company, but might move too quickly to the live-in phase. Be smart. SAGITTARIUS can be an anchor, a very heavy one.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Find solutions and create innovative ideas to achieve your desired results. At this moment, nearly anything is possible. You have a unique ability to see what others don't even notice. Tonight: Brainstorm time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Deal on an independent level; you'll feel more in control. More information comes forward by remaining on a one-on-one level. Someone might be in your way or seems to prevent you from establishing a goal. Discussions could take many turns. Tonight: In the thick of life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Deferring might not only be smart, it might be the easiest approach. Though you might not sense any animosity or barriers, letting others have their way is enormously powerful. They can see the results of their ideas. Nothing can

replace experience. Tonight: Sort through your options.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

An easy approach gets you much more of what you want. Laughter plays a big role in events and what goes on. Listen to news that surrounds a project or matter that has a lot of impact on your daily life. Integrate everything that is happening, but also step away. Tonight: Choose a stress-buster.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Your imagination steps forward and takes the lead. A boss or parent could take a stand and rain on your parade. Obviously, you have far too many ideas for this person to integrate. He or she needs more boundaries and control. Say less. Tonight: Go for fun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Basic security needs to take over. If you can work from home, do. Your downtime will be slightly more relaxing. Your ideas are well-received in your immediate environment. Communication improves later today. Tonight: Buy a card or token of affection.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Try another approach with a key associate. You might be making more of a slight. Quite possibly, the person involved didn't even intend it as you are taking it. Openness allows you to express your caring. Tonight: Dinner with a friend. Swap news.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Know when to head in another direction. Though you have a lot to offer, don't overestimate your value. Use good fiscal thinking to stabilize your budget. You might need to say "no" to an expenditure. Tonight: Express your gratefulness.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Claim your power and handle exactly what you want. Others might make judgments or try to get you to veer in another direction. Remember, it is your choice. Listen to news that comes forward. A meeting gives you a new-found resourcefulness. Tonight: Whatever puts a smile on your face.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Assume a low profile. Much is being said, and many opinions given. Meanwhile, your mind is active, producing many thoughts. Sit back today, and just note what comes forward. Regroup and rethink a situation. Listen to news with an open mind. Tonight: Do something ultimately for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Emphasize the positives in your life. Your friends mean more to you than most signs. Honor your priorities. A meeting or get-together could become a lot more because of how you value certain people there. A key associate could be put off by your gregarious nature. Tonight: Where the gang is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

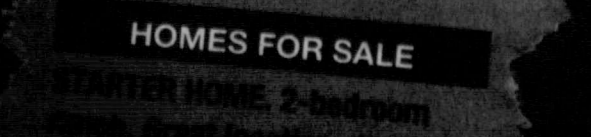
A must appearance is important. Realize what you need and where you are going. You must take the first step, as others might be frightened and not as sure of their direction. A partner could feel like an albatross right now. Relax; this too will pass. Tonight: A must appearance.

BORN TODAY

Actress Barbara Bach (1947), musician Jeff Cook (1949), writer Ira Levin (1929)

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

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HOMES FOR SALE
 2 BR. 2 BATH, 1000 SQ. FT. \$115,000
 3 BR. 2 BATH, 1500 SQ. FT. \$145,000
 4 BR. 3 BATH, 2000 SQ

Sports

Pirates set to open season against the Owls

BY ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Lefors Pirates open the season, 7:30 p.m. Friday, against the Hedley Owls at Lefors.

Coach Joe Czubinski (Coach Ski) said his team performed well in their opening scrimmages.

"We scrimmaged tough division one teams," Ski said. "I wanted to scrimmage tough teams to see how we were. I'm happy with what happened. Against the other teams we scrimmaged, we held our own."

The Pirates opened the season with scrimmages against Hedley, Groom, Follett, McLean and Ft. Elliot. Coach Ski said Hedley is an old fashioned running team.

"They don't do a lot of open passes," Ski said. "If they do pass, it's play action. That won't be too much trouble if each of our players play their role on defense. If Hedley plays a good game they are tough to beat."

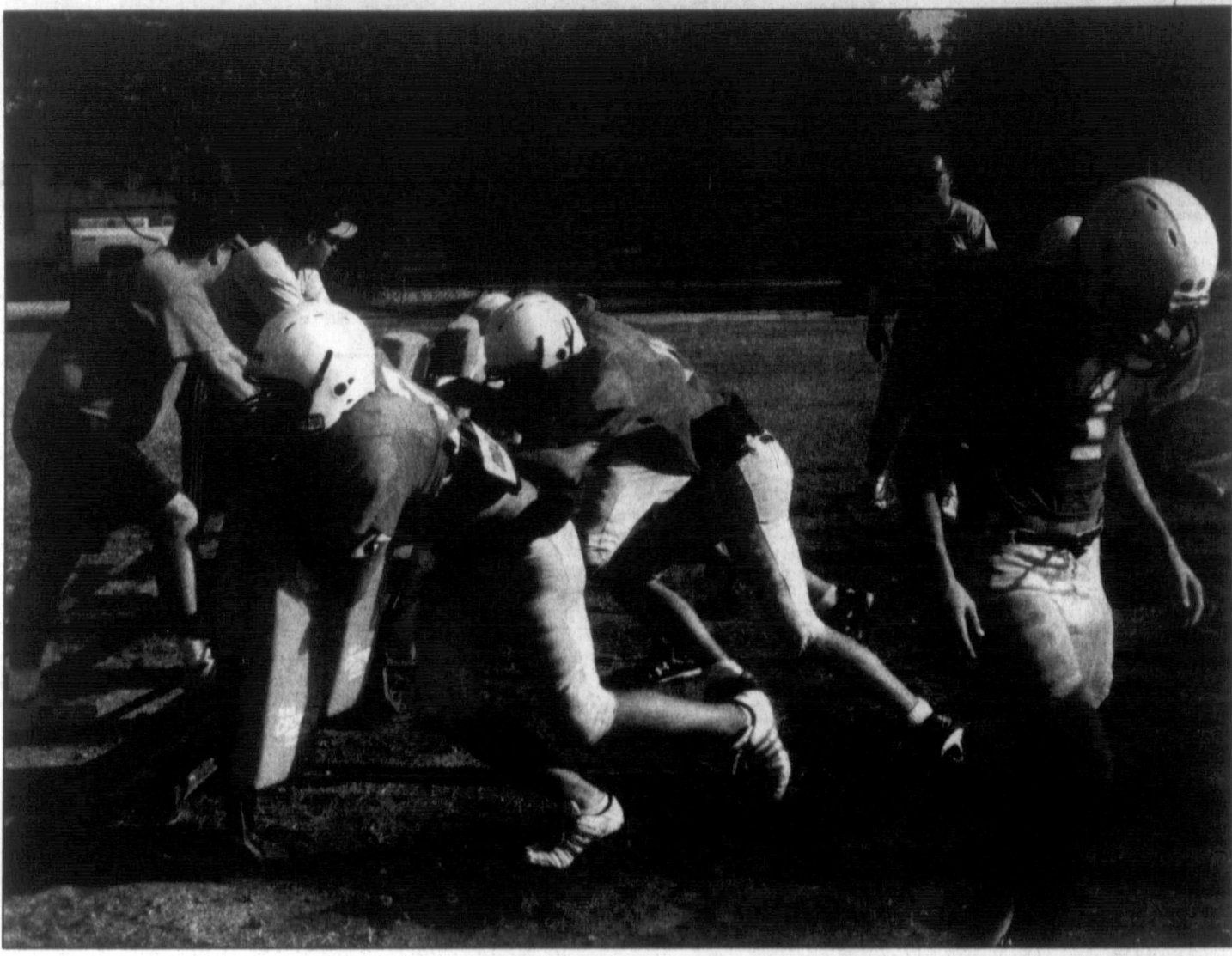
Coach said Hedley mostly uses a three-man front, meaning they have three linemen up front.

"Sometimes they will rotate to a four-man front, with four linemen," Ski said. "It depends on how we lineup on offense."

The Pirates will play the Owls again at Hedley, because they are in their district. Coach Ski said this game will tell how tough his team is. Coach said he will look to his senior class and skill positions for leadership.

"At quarterback, running back, wide receiver and kicking we are intact," Coach Ski said. Lefors coach said their challenge this season is depth.

"We have a lot of new guys in new roles," Coach Ski said. "So I hope they can turn up for us."



Lefors football players try to hit the sled in a practice earlier this month. The season opener is Thursday. staff photo by Andrew Glover

Rangers hold off Yankees' ninth inning challenge

MIKE FITZ PATRICK
AP BASEBALL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Young and the Texas Rangers chased Joba Chamberlain early, then hung on for a nail-biting win at noisy Yankee Stadium.

If this was a first-round playoff preview, there's plenty to get excited about.

Rookie shortstop Elvis Andrus turned Melky Cabrera's line drive into a game-ending double play, and Texas held off the New York Yankees 10-9 on Tuesday night in a game of momentum swings that took 3 hours, 50

minutes. "We believe we can beat anybody, no doubt about that. But to put 10 runs on the board, you feel like you should win that game, and that's what was big for us," Rangers starter Kevin Millwood said.

Young and Nelson Cruz homered for the Rangers, who scored seven two-out runs off Chamberlain (8-4) to overcome an early four-run deficit. They took a 10-5 lead into the ninth inning before New York started storming back against Texas' bullpen.

Robinson Cano's two-run single cut it to 10-9 and left runners at first and second with nobody out. But with the crowd of 46,511 roaring, Nick Swisher popped up a foul bunt attempt for the first out and Cabrera hit a low liner that Andrus caught on the fly.

Pinch-runner Jerry Hairston Jr. tried to scramble back to second base, but Andrus beat him by a half-step for the final out.

"My first idea was to let the ball hit the ground," Andrus said. "Right there you just want two outs any way you can."

Andrus also drove in a career-best three runs from the No. 9 spot in the lineup. About an hour after the game, he turned 21 years old.

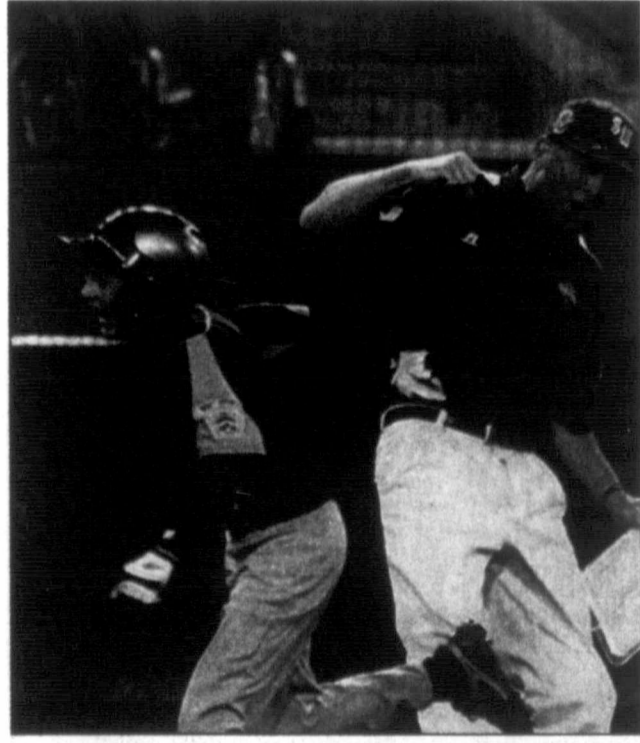
"I don't think I'm going to do (anything). I'm pretty tired tonight," Andrus said with a smile. "I'll probably just go and have dinner with my sister."

Josh Hamilton had four hits and Millwood (10-8) rebounded from a rocky start, exemplifying the gritty pitching that's put the surprising Rangers in contention for their first postseason berth since 1999.

Texas took the opener of a three-game series against the AL East leaders and remained 1½ games behind Boston in the wild-card race.

Young, the reigning AL player of the week, also had three RBIs.

Posada and Cano homered for the Yankees, who still own the best record in the majors at 78-47 — but their division lead over the Red Sox was trimmed to six games.



San Antonio, Texas' Wyatt Willis celebrates his two-run home run with his father and coach Lee Willis in the sixth inning against Chula Vista, Calif., in Little League World Series.

Long ball lifts Texas over Cal

(AP) — Travis Daves and Wyatt Willis each hit two-run homers to lead San Antonio, Texas past Chula Vista, Calif., 6-3 on Tuesday night at the Little League World Series.

Texas stayed undefeated and will play Staten Island, N.Y., in one U.S. semifinal Wednesday night, while California gets Warner Robins, Ga., in the other semifinal Thursday night.

Daves' homer followed a two-run triple by Drew Brooks to put Texas up 4-2.

California got a run back in the fourth before Willis' shot to straightaway center gave Texas a three-run cushion. The 13-year-old outfielder stomped on third base in delight before getting high-fives from teammates at the plate.

Willis said with an ear-to-ear smile afterward that he wasn't looking for the long ball.

"I just went up there with confidence. I felt that I wanted to get another base hit, make some contact," Willis said.

Kiko Garcia's two-run homer in the first had given California a 2-0 lead.

But it was the only homer allowed by Texas pitching, quite a feat given California had smacked 10 blasts in its previous two games.

California manager Oscar Castro said his team plans to hit the batting cage on its off day Wednesday after he noticed his players taking more unsuccessful upper-cut hacks.

"Maybe they're going for the long ball," he said. "We're just trying to get those swings straightened out a little bit."

Reliever Kyle Pollard got two strikeouts over the last two innings for the save.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 16-year-old male high school sophomore in what I think is a pretty common predicament. A lot of my friends have had sex, and some are having it pretty regularly. Abby, I've never even kissed a girl!

How can I deflect attention from myself when my friends ask me how far I've gone? And what can I do to make sure I am not in this spot forever? — IN THE MINORITY IN PALATINE, ILL.

DEAR IN THE MINORITY: Some of your friends may be having sex, but I have a flash for you. A lot of the boys who say they are may be lying to each other.

You don't need to "deflect" attention from yourself when the guys start asking about something that isn't their business. News has a way of traveling -- fast. If they're your friends, they would know if you were interested in someone and the feeling was mutual. If you're asked, just say you're not seeing anyone.

P.S. In order to kiss a girl (etc.), you first have to become friends with one. Be patient and let nature take its course. You won't be in this "spot" forever. It'll happen when the time is right.

DEAR ABBY: My stepmother would like us to have a closer relationship. She and my father married eight years ago while I was in college. She was his mistress. I don't

like her for a variety of reasons not all having to do with the divorce. Until now, it has been easy to remain "cordially distant."

All of a sudden she has become pushy. She says we "have" to be closer and that she's got "rights in my life as my mother." She wants me to call her "Mom" and to get me to tell her I love her. It is not going to happen. But I care about her feelings and also about keeping peace in the family.

How can I let her know that I liked things better when we were more distant and avoid telling her I love her? I need her to back off. Talking to Dad won't help. He's defensive about anything related to his wife and can't understand why everyone doesn't like her as much as he does. — NOT IN LOVE WITH DAD'S WIFE

DEAR NOT IN LOVE: Your father's "bride" appears to have the hide of an alligator and a voracious appetite to match. She's trying to "devour" you.

It would not be rude to remind the woman that you already have a mother, and as long as you are blessed to have one, you do not intend to call anyone else by her name. As for your being asked to tell her you "love" her, explain that while you are grateful to her for making your dad happy, love is something that needs to blossom over time -- and enough time hasn't passed yet. (It should not be necessary

to mention that "enough time" will never elapse.)

DEAR ABBY: My friend "Rob's" boss has invited him to be a Facebook "friend." The problem is, Rob and his friends gripe about work as well as the usual personal stuff. It's not the kind of info you want your boss to have access to. He feels uncomfortable about the invitation, but how do you say "no" to your boss? Rob is angry to have been put in this situation. — ROB'S FRIEND

DEAR FRIEND: A polite way to refuse, if it comes up in conversation, would be for Rob to say that he prefers to keep his work life separate from his private life. But your friend should be careful about what he posts on the Internet because employers -- and prospective employers -- have been known to gain access to what folks assume is "private" communication. A word to the wise ...

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate