

INS plans to add 95 new Border Patrol agents to Del Rio sector

The Del Rio sector will gain 95 new Border Patrol agents this year, bringing the total to 792, according to Immigration and Naturalization Service Commissioner Doris Meissner.

The 14 percent boost in agents represents part of the agency's plans to deploy 616 new positions, including 430 new Border Patrol agents to strengthen its efforts to deter illegal immigration while supporting legal immigration. This deployment focuses on enhancing the security of U.S. borders and removing illegal aliens.

"This marks the seventh year of progress in implementing INS' successful border enforcement strategy. Over these last seven years, we've seen significant improvements in border control in San Diego, El Paso and other areas where we've focused our resources. This deployment will allow us to replicate these successes in other border communities, most notably Arizona and southern Texas," said Meissner.

INS is allocating 405 new agents to the most critical Southwest border operations and 25

positions to address northern and coastal border enforcement requirements as part of the FY 2000 deployment. With the 430 new positions in FY 2000, the number of Border Patrol positions has grown by 123 percent since FY 1994. The agents will be on the ground once hired and trained.

The FY 2000 budget also provides additional resources to detain and remove criminal and other illegal aliens from U.S. prisons and workplaces. By adding 1,216 detention bed spaces and 186 new positions, INS expects to remove a record 187,500 criminal and other illegal aliens this year. This budget also includes resources for implementing and enforcing new detention standards, fulfilling INS' commitment to providing a safe, secure and humane environment for all detainees.

Border enforcement
 • INS will build on the success of its national border enforcement strategy and bolster control of illegal immigration by adding 430 new Border Patrol agents. The majority of the agents, 405, will be deployed to support the most

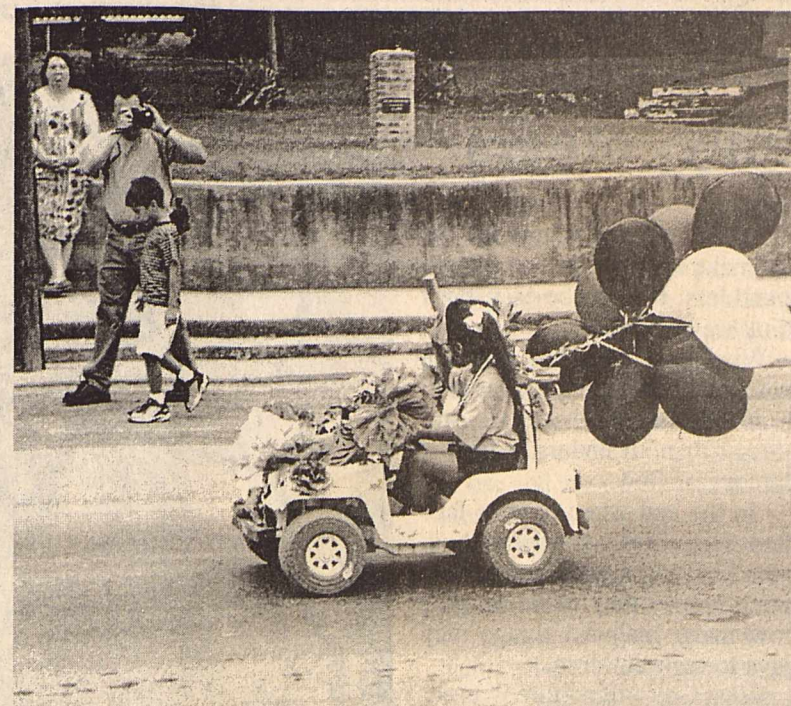
critical Southwest border operations. In addition, 25 positions will be deployed to the northern and coastal borders to address increases in illegal immigration.

Removal of criminal and other deportable aliens

• Congress provided 186 new positions for the detention and removal of criminal and other deportable aliens. INS estimates that it will remove 187,500 criminal and other illegal aliens in FY 2000, a 6 percent increase over FY 1999's record level of 176,980 removals.

• 176 of the positions will support detention and removal operations throughout the country. These positions also support an increase of 1,126 new beds, bringing the total number of beds to 18,535.

• Ten of the staff will be responsible for development of detention standards and to begin implementing those standards in INS Service Processing Centers, contract detention facilities, and local jails used by the INS to house detainees.



Young and old celebrate Juneteenth

The Juneteenth Parade last Saturday marked the beginning of numerous events that took place Saturday and Sunday in Brackettville. The events were sponsored by the Seminole Indian Scout Association. "Members of the Association have celebrated Juneteenth ever since the 1950s, thanks to the efforts of Ms. Charles Emily Wilson," said Clarence G. Ward, Association president. Juneteenth marks the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation which was signed on June 19, 1865. Proceeds from the Juneteenth events will go to help pay for the upkeep of the Seminole Indian Cemetery and the Carver School grounds.

Jobless rate remains low, drops to 4.4 %

The Texas labor market continued to grow in May, as the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 4.4 percent from the previous month's rate of 4.5 percent, the Texas Workforce Commission announced today.

"This is a remarkable time for the Texas labor market," said TWC Chair Diane Rath.

"We've added 288,100 jobs since May 1999, while our unemployment rates have remained low. Texas employers are hiring at a rapid pace."

Seasonally adjusted Nonagricultural employment gained 49,800 jobs in May, with particularly significant gains in two sectors.

"The Goods Producing Sector gained 2,800 jobs, despite losing 800 in Construction," said Commissioner Representing Labor T.P. O'Mahoney. "That's the first drop for Construction in 11 months."

"Government gained 31,500 jobs in May, due primarily to hiring by the U.S. Census Bureau," said Commissioner for Employers Ron Lehman.

The lowest unemployment rate among the Metropolitan Statistical Areas was 1.5 percent in Bryan-College Station. Austin-San Marcos was next at 1.9 percent, followed by Lubbock at 2.4 percent, and Dallas and San Angelo tied at 3.0 percent.

The highest unemployment rate was 12.5 percent in the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission MSA, followed by El Paso at 8.5 percent, Brownsville-Harlingen at 8.4 percent, Beaumont-Port Arthur at 8.2 percent and Laredo at 6.9 percent.

American Electric Power, Central and South West Corporation merge

Columbus, Ohio - American Electric Power (AEP) and Central and South West Corporation (CSW) completed their merger June 15, creating a national leader in electricity generation, trading and distribution.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) approved the merger late yesterday.

"Although the approval process was a lengthy one because of the involvement of many state and federal agencies, this merger was well worth the wait," said E. Linn Draper Jr., AEP's chairman, president and chief executive officer, who noted the companies announced their intention to merge on December 22, 1997. "Completion of the merger solidifies AEP's position as an industry leader and positions us to succeed in the new energy marketplace."

The merged company will retain the American Electric Power name and will continue trading on the New York Exchange under the "AEP" stock symbol. Under terms of the merger, each share of CSW stock will be converted to 0.6 shares of AEP stock. CSW share-

holders will receive information about converting their shares from Equiserve, the company's exchange agent, in approximately 10 days. No action is required by holders of existing AEP stock.

The merger of two of the nation's lowest-cost utilities creates an energy company with:

- combined 1999 revenues of approximately \$12.5 billion;
- combined 1999 electricity sales of almost 200 million megawatt hours;
- total assets of more than \$35 billion in the United States, Australia, Brazil, China, Mexico and the United Kingdom;
- an energy trading operation that ranked second in the U.S. electricity volume and in the top 20 in natural gas in 1999 and is expanding its operations outside the U.S.;
- more than 4.8 million customers in 11 states;
- more than 4 million customers outside the U.S.;
- more than 38,000 megawatts of low-cost generating capacity in the U.S.;
- more than 38,000 miles of

transmission lines;

• more than 186,000 miles of distribution lines;

Efficiencies gained through the merger will result in at least \$2 billion in savings over 10 years. All AEP and CSW customers benefit from the merger either through agreements with individual states signed by the companies or through generic industry restructuring rulemakings in the states.

Draper said AEP's post-merger strategy consists of three key elements: wholesale, energy delivery and retail. "Each of these business lines has its own characteristic set of skills and capital requirements, but the two that will be most important for us initially are the wholesale and energy delivery businesses," Draper said.

"We are already substantial players in the wholesale business and expect to continue to grow," Draper said. "People who follow our industry know that our energy trading business has quickly grown from a start-up two years ago into the second-leading trader of electricity and a top-20 trader of natural gas today."

"But trading is only part of our wholesale business," Draper said. "For AEP, wholesale includes everything from the time the raw material leaves the ground to the point the energy is sent to the customer. This includes the acquisition of fuels, the conversion of fuels in power plants, selling the trading of electricity and natural gas in bulk, operating intrastate gas pipelines, and the processing and storage of natural gas."

Energy delivery includes the operation of transmission and distribution networks to move electricity from the power plant to the customer. "The name of the game in the energy delivery - or wires - business is to be an efficient operator with low costs and high customer satisfaction," Draper said. "That's been a traditional strength for both AEP and CSW."

"We're well positioned to be successful in the energy delivery business with more than 200,000 miles of wires in the U.S. and a strong focus on customer satisfaction," Draper said. AEP and CSW tied for second among electric utilities in the American Customer

Satisfaction Index announced in May. The companies have been among the industry's best each year since the index was first published in 1994. The American Customer Satisfaction Index, developed by the National Quality Research Center at the University of Michigan Business School, is an economic indicator that measures customer satisfaction.

NAMI names Gallego Distinguished Legislator

State Rep. Pete P. Gallego has been presented the Distinguished Legislator Award by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI). He was recognized for advocating increased mental health funding for new generation medications and treatment services. Another award recipient was Senator David Sibley, chairman of the Texas Senate Economic Development Committee. "Both Representative Gallego and Senator Sibley are champions for

those in Texas with a mental illness and their families. Their support of mental health initiatives - which provided lifesaving new generation medicines and quality services - are legislative accomplishments which benefit the entire state. Today we salute these lawmakers for their leadership and commitment to assure that persons with mental illnesses receive adequate health care and treatment," said Lynn Lasky, executive director of NAMI Texas in Austin.

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Keep the rain falling

Making a Difference
By Taylor Stephenson

Summer has officially arrived on June 21! The days will begin to get shorter as we work our way toward the end of the year.

My rain gauge measured 2 inches. I know there was more in many parts of the county. It appeared to cover most of Kinney County. It's beautiful and green here now. So far, we've been blessed with cooler than normal days and nights. I know that will change, but it's nice. Keep the rain falling!

Welcome back, Jim McDaniel

I want to thank all of those folks who offered to serve on the school board. This is one of the few boards that pays nothing for serving. It's a difficult job.

We have a great board in Brackettville. Jim McDaniel was selected by the school board and will be sworn in Thursday night. Jim is an experienced ex-board member who brings a wealth of understanding to the board.

According to school board policy, Tim Ward the vice-president will now serve as President. The board will elect another vice president. Tim will provide good leadership for the board because of his vast experience that includes budgets, construction, staff management, and public relations.

Corpus Christi visit

This past week end, I was able to visit Corpus Christi. We stayed at a hotel that had a window overlooking the ocean (Bay of Corpus Christi). The USS Lexington was about 200 yards from the hotel. Also, the Texas state aquarium was close. The seafood was wonderful. It has been many years since I had been in Corpus. The ferry trip across to Mustang Island was fun. We fed lots of bread to sea gulls and had a great time. So, if you're looking for a vacation spot, think about the coast of Texas.

New scoreboard due

This next week, our new scoreboard should arrive. The Bank and Trust paid for half of the new scoreboard and the taxpayers of Kinney County paid for the other half through school funds. We're thrilled to have the new scoreboard coming our way. This week, the younger boys are holding a football camp. They're having a great time learning about football and improving the skills of being stronger and faster.

Summer school

Our summer school and school cafeteria will continue to operate through Thursday, June 29. We have lots of activity at school this summer.

Kudos to library staff!

I'm impressed with the summer library program. Sara Terrazas and her staff have done an outstanding job providing summer reading, arts and crafts and games for the young children of our community. The library is a hub of activity. I believe this is the best summer program that I have seen in a small town. Thanks for a job well done!

Have a great week!

On Campus

Joshua Crumley honored

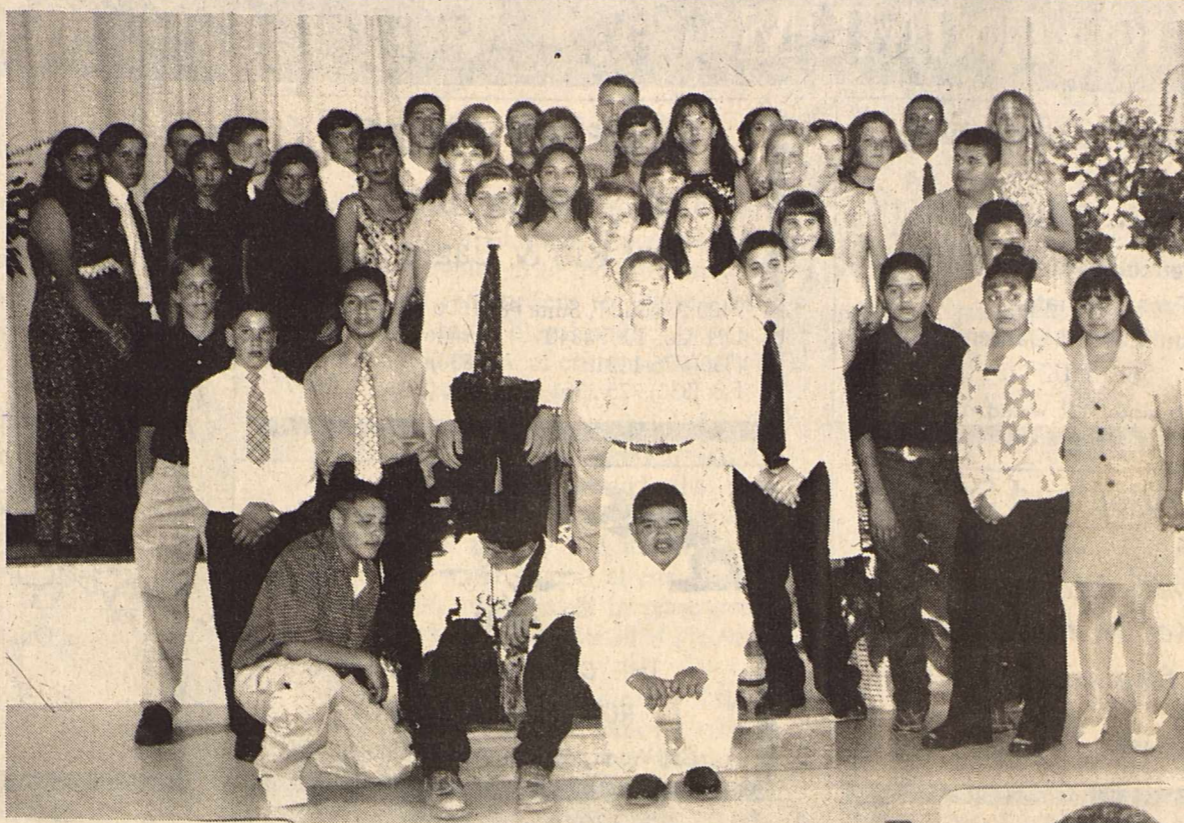
Joshua J. Crumley has been named to the Dean's List at the School of Applied Arts and Technology at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. He was recognized for outstanding academic achievement. He maintained a grade point average of 3.75 during the spring semester.

Caleb Crumley recognized

Caleb Luke Crumley has been named to the Dean's Honor List at the College of Engineering at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. He was recognized for scholastic achievement. He maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or better during the spring semester.

Brotherton earns degree

Brandy Leigh Brotherton of Brackettville graduated summa cum laude from Texas A&M University in College Station recently. She was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science. She was among 4,500 graduates.



Members of the Class of 2000 at Brackett Middle School graduated May 26 during ceremonies at the school. Beth Ballew delivered the Highest Graduate Address.



Susannah Davis is congratulated by James Crumley, West Nueces-Las Moras Soil and Water Conservation District official. She won first place and \$100 in an essay contest.

National Society of Collegiate Scholars inducts Caleb Crumley

Caleb Crumley of Brackettville has accepted membership in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and will be honored during a campus ceremony this fall at Texas Tech University.

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) is a highly selective, national, non-profit honors organization. Founded in 1994, NSCS recognizes first and second year undergraduate students who excel academically.

The Society was established on the principle that with scholarship

comes a responsibility to develop leadership and a duty to perform service.

"NSCS provides the opportunity for students like Caleb to be recognized for their outstanding academic accomplishments early in their college experience," said Steve Loflin, NSCS executive director.

"Caleb will also have the opportunity to join other high achieving college students in developing leadership skills and a sense of civic responsibility."

Super S Foods awards Laura Lee Ballew \$1,000 scholarship

Laura Lee Ballew, Brackettville High School graduate, and valedictorian of the Class of 2000, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from Super S Foods.

Ballew will be attending Texas A&M University this fall.

The Texas family owned and operated chain of supermarkets has awarded over \$47,000 in academic scholarships this year to high school graduates throughout Central and South Texas.

These scholarships will be used by the recipients to continue their education in various colleges and

universities this fall.

All recipients of the scholarships were chosen by their school principal and the selection was based on the students' outstanding scholastic achievements.

"This is an exciting time of year," said John Dieterle, president of Super S.

"The scholarship awards is just one of the many ways we support the communities we serve and I can think of no better way to reinvest our funds than by helping further the education of our youth."

Jerritt Meeks sets sights on technology summit

Jerritt Meeks of Brackettville has been selected to join 1,000 intensely motivated high school students at the first-ever NexTech: The National Summit of Young Technology Leaders.

The Summit will take place in Austin from July 16-26 and is designed to introduce exceptional high school students to a career in the rapidly exploding field of technology.

"The NexTech Summit will provide a superb educational experience for those like Jerritt Meeks who are interested in pursuing a career in technology," said Mike Lasday, president of Envision EMI, the company that sponsors NexTech.

"We're extremely proud to bring together a group of inquisitive young people to learn from the cutting edge leaders of the technology industry, and are pleased with the support we've received from Austin city officials as well as leading business executives."

Throughout the experience,

NexTech participants will hear from, and interact with, technology gurus and will be challenged to apply what they learn by creating a hypothetical new business. Students will explore the ins and outs of technology including: engineering, semiconductors, telecommunication/multimedia, manufacturing, software development and biotechnology.

NexTech participants will be challenged to learn about career choices and educational decisions. Unique perspectives will be gained from addresses by such pioneers as Tim Berners-Lee, creator of the World Wide Web; Marc Seriff, co-founder of America Online; Fred Seibert, president of MTV Networks Online; Nicholas Donofrio, senior vice president of IBM; and Gina Smith, ABC News technology correspondent.

Among the many corporate entities taking part in the NexTech Summit are: 3M, Dell Computer Corporation, IBM, Motorola and Origin Systems.

46 eighth graders graduate

Forty-six eighth grade students took part in graduation exercises May 26 at Brackett Middle School.

Elizabeth Goebel played the piano for the processional and the recessional. Ashley Smith offered an opening prayer and Sabrina Silver led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Highest Graduate Address was given by Beth Ballew. Amanda Davis then introduced Taylor Stephenson who gave a speech to praise and inspire the young graduates.

George Burks and Candice Bader presented diplomas to all graduates.

Special Presidential Academic Achievement Awards were presented to Beth Ballew, Amanda Davis, Dietrich Davis, Celeste Hill, Allison LaMascus, Sarah Meyer, Emily Petrosky, Sabrina Silver, Ashley Smith and Trey Smith. Dietrich Davis offered a closing prayer.

Members of the Eighth Grade Class of 2000 are:

Elizabeth Ballew, Stacey Castilla, Paloma Conner, Stephanie Coronado, Amanda Davis, Dietrich Davis, Crystal DeLeon, Jose DeLeon, Hector Febres, Gilbert Fernandez, Ryan Frerich, Hilario Garcia, Amanda Gerardo, Chestin Hatley-Clark, Nancy Hill, Tony Jamail, Dulce Jimenez, Allison LaMascus, David Lattimer, Nathan Luna, Bessie Martin, Avelardo Martinez, Nancy Martinez, Sarah Meyer, Cesar Montoya, Marcos Perez, Emily Petrosky, Arnold Pinales, Jaime Puente, Davina Rios, Nataly Rodriguez, David Samaniego, Sabrina Silver, Ashley Smith, Jason Smith, Star Smith III, Amanda Swindle, Angelica Talamantes, Blanca Talamantes, Wacy Taylor, Stacy Terrazas, Ashley Thourrot, Blake Ward, Martha Wardlaw, Beau Watkins, Caitlin Wylie.

Susannah Davis wins local, area awards

Her essay on soil and water conservation earns praise

Susannah Davis' essay on soil and water conservation has won local and area awards.

"Susannah did an outstanding essay on the topic of soil and water conservation, touching on soil erosion and water management issues that are being addressed to conserve these valuable resources," according to officials at the West Nueces-Las Moras Soil and Water Conservation District.

The award for first place also

included a \$100 prize.

Every year the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District sponsor the Conservation Awards Program. The purpose of this program is to promote the conservation and wise use of our renewable natural resources.

At the local level, the West Nueces-Las Moras Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

encourages student participation in the Essay and Poster Contests. These are annual contests that are open to all students.

As the local recipient of this award, Susannah's essay also won at the area level and it has been submitted to the state level.

West Nueces-Las Moras SWCD officials congratulate Susannah Davis for a job well done and wish her well in the state competition.

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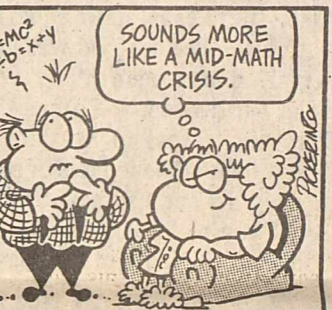
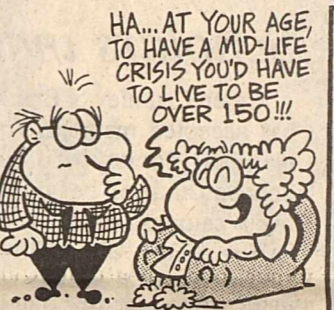
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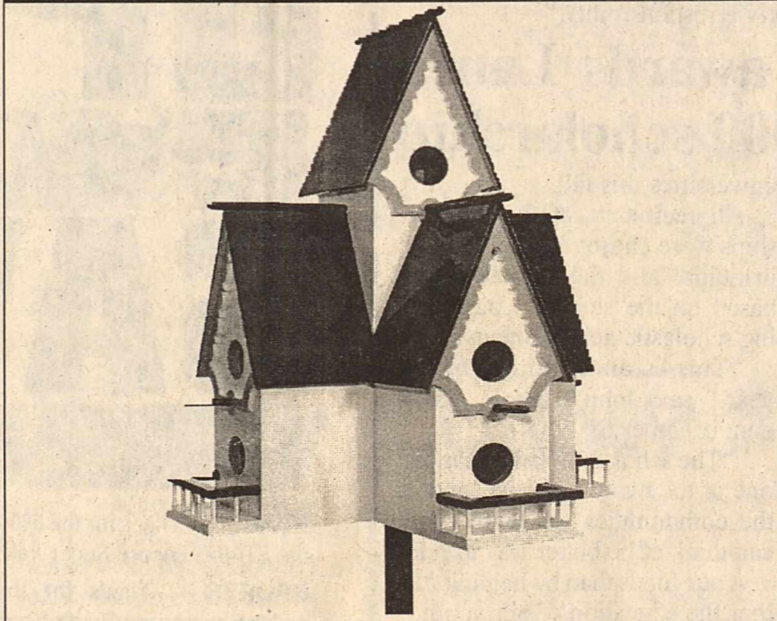
ACROSS

- Hautboy
- Society
- Kim setting
- "It was the ___ of times..."
- Carpet-layer's calculation
- Cacophonous
- Sleights of hand
- Poet John
- Comstock
- Pact acronym
- Clears, as profit
- Fish-eating eagle
- ___ of Eden
- Followed
- Laborer
- Bray start
- Clemency
- Shutterbug's request
- St. Louis landmark
- Plant again
- Marlene's costar in The Blue Angel
- Was fond of
- Conestoga, e.g.
- Whew!
- Renter
- Most slick
- Like summer latte
- Cognizance

DOWN

- Kabuki accessory
- Toller
- Munch's city
- Musical practice pieces
- "Bali ___"
- Smooth out
- Rowlands of Night on Earth
- Reckless speed
- Gary's st.
- Midday
- Eat formally
- "___ She Lovely"
- Supportive votes
- Truth
- Stable morsel
- Not even once, in poems
- Distress call
- Like a haunted house
- Busses in the back seat
- A Barrymore
- Tree projections
- Prufrock's creator
- Depend
- Actress Juanita
- Auditor's inits.
- Baseballer Berra
- Wait a second
- Tick's companion
- Calendar mo.
- Dorothy, to Em
- Poet's dusk
- Charm
- Negotiates
- Cat quarries
- Strong ___ ox (2 wds.)
- Ingredient in refried beans
- Over
- Dixie corn dish
- Hungarian king
- Huff
- Heartless man
- Zealand
- Corn place

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June 22.....Jacqueline Green	June 24.....Susan Harrison
June 22.....Manuel Morin Jr.	June 25.....Engarcia Villarreal
June 22.....Beau Smallwood	June 26.....Gladys Humphrey
June 23.....Maria DeLeon	June 27.....Rubie Kelley
June 23.....Emily Honeycutt	June 27.....Joe Rivas Jr.
June 23.....Hazel Ivey	June 28.....Leah Fuller

HOROSCOPES

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 Getting money any way you can is not the answer to your problems. Be honest with yourself, and you will uncover the real problem. Your week will be dominated by the color red. Its influence on your life will be extensive.

Taurus April 21-May 21
 Your stubborn streak could be a source of major trouble for you at work. You are not always right, no matter what you think. It's time you listened to the instructions of someone else. You have let a true friend down again.

Gemini May 22-June 21
 You're facing the decline of a long-running personal relationship. Sit down with your partner and talk realistically for a change. You both have been avoiding the realities of the relationship. A friend will be a source of comfort.

Cancer June 22-July 22
 An old family friend or mentor could give you ideas to help you through a career change. You never know how someone can help until you ask them. Take a negative comment from a co-worker with a grain of salt.

Leo July 23-August 23
 Someone in authority is testing your loyalty. Your usual work is a testament in itself. An eating problem is getting out of hand. Seek professional help before it's too late. You can't do it on your own. You've tried that before.

Virgo August 24-Sept. 22
 It's important you be mature this week. A personal relationship is suffering on a number of fronts, and immaturity will only hurt it more. A new project at work needs your expertise, but you need to be mature there, too.

Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
 A high-paying job is on the horizon. Is it worth risking your current job or a personal relationship? Don't linger over your decision. You can't continue to be so judgmental concerning a friend. You don't know the whole situation.

Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
 Let humor guide you through your week. A tough situation at home doesn't have to pull you down. Rely on your good humor; it will get you through. Do not overcompensate for a friend who has let so many others down.

Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21
 You can disagree with someone without biting off his/her head. Domestic changes are on the horizon. This could cause some problems for the extended family-be sensitive. Don't buy into a rumor circulating through work.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
 Pay attention to small matters. They will become more important to you as the month continues. With all the facts on hand, you'll be able to solve a problem that's heading your way. Don't expect much help on the home front.

Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
 Additional training could be just what you need to jump-start a stale career. It may be worth the price you have to pay - financially and socially. If you decide to take on the training, do it wholeheartedly. Halfway won't get you there.

Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
 You'll see changes in your personal and professional life in the next few months. Be prepared for anything, and you will have no problems coping with all the new and different things. New information could impact your life.

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