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High today mid 50s
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For weather details see Page 2.

PAMPA — Work to replace the planks at the railroad crossing on U.S. 60 near FM 2300 began yesterday. The work will require traffic to be narrowed to one lane in each direction for the duration of the project which should be finished in about two weeks, said Pampa Area Engineer for TxDOT Jerry Raines.

PAMPA — The annual Shine Barbecue is Sunday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Sportsman's Club on Barnes Street. The money raised will be used to pay travel needs to hospitals for crippled children and their families. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12 and are free for children under 6.

AUSTIN (AP) — Republican presidential front-runner George W. Bush is in excellent health, although the 53-year-old does suffer some stiffness in his back and one knee, his doctor said today.

"He has totally abstained from alcohol during the past 13 years. He has no history of any alcohol, drug, mental or psychiatric treatment or rehabilitation," Dr. Kenneth H. Cooper said in a written, three-page medical summary released by Bush's campaign.

Cooper said Bush has been examined annually at his Dallas clinic since 1989. The Texas governor received his most recent comprehensive physical exam on June 17.

• John Cecil Back, 87, retired Phillips Petroleum employee
• Elizabeth J. 'Betty' Schwind, 77, retired nurse

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City budget passage near Concern voiced over future needs

By KATE B. DICKSON
Associate Publisher

Pampa's 99-00 budget is expected to be passed on second reading late this afternoon following a special City Commission meeting Monday in which the plan was approved on first reading by a vote of 4-0.

The new budget calls for operational expenditures of \$13.5 million and capital outlays total \$613,372. There are also payments to be paid from the bond fund and a sewer rate hike for residential and commercial customers is also included.

Monday's meeting was required after the budget failed to pass on first reading last week when the vote was 2-1 with Mayor Bob Neslage and Commissioner Faustina Curry voting for the budget and Commissioner Jeff Andrews casting a no vote.

Though a quorum was present last week, City Attorney Don Lane said the city charter requires a minimum of three affirmative votes in order for a measure to pass.

On Monday, Neslage, Curry, and Commissioners Bob Dixon and Jeff McCormick cast yes votes. Andrews was not present because he was out of town on business.

Previously, Andrews, a certified public accountant, has expressed concern that city reserves are being used to help fund the budget, something he sees as dangerous to long term city financial health.

"I am beginning to get concerned as a commissioner," Andrews said at a meeting earlier this month. "Our directors have done creative things to save money but there is a point now where tough decisions have to be made, political decisions."

Andrews said commissioners should not ignore the situation saying, "If any contingency funds are used (during the new budget year) we will be in a lot worse shape ... things are getting tighter."

The commissioner noted large spending needs such as the \$800,000 being spent to bring the sewage treatment plant into compliance with state effluent discharge laws and an estimated \$1.5-\$2 million needed for water tank refurbishment.

Mayor Bob Neslage agreed the commission may have some "drastic decisions" to make in the future including "cutting people and services."

Andrews replied, "I am not saying do it with people cut, we should be more efficient."

The Commission will meet for its work session at 5 p.m. in City Hall followed by the 6 p.m. regular meeting. Both sessions are on the third floor and are open to the public.

County fire pact will cost \$146,000

Gray County will pay the City of Pampa an additional \$16,000 during the upcoming calendar year for fire services in the unincorporated areas of the county.

After city-county negotiations, it was agreed the new yearly contract of \$146,000 will be paid in four equal, quarterly payments and both entities have included the amounts in their budgets.

Under the contract, the city and county once again agreed to hold meetings in August to iron out the pact for the subsequent year.

According to City Manager Bob Eskridge, the county has begun raising the amount the it pays the city — a trend Eskridge expects to continue based upon the amount of runs the Pampa Fire Department makes outside the city limits.

Before the current year's contract was approved, the city and county almost came to an impasse over the contract payment with the city threatening to cancel the pact if more money wasn't paid.

A check of 1994-98 fire runs shows 17.8 percent of the calls answered by the city department were to fires outside Pampa, Eskridge said.

If the county paid based upon use, Eskridge said the yearly contract, at 17.8 percent of the fire budget, would amount to \$225,000.

Morning mishap



(Pampa News photo by Jeff West)

Rosario Campos, 18, was treated for a cut to the head this morning when her late-model Ford Taurus collided with a Chevrolet pickup driven by James Jeffrey Huddleston, 27, at Barnes and Frederic. Police said preliminary indications are that the pickup made a left turn onto Frederic in front of the Taurus. Police were still investigating at press time.

European diary ... The Authobahn; sightseeing begins

By LOIS STRATE
For The News

(Editor's note: This is the second in a series, "The Essence of Europe," about a Pampa group's summer trip).

After the 36 of us boarded our air-conditioned bus (this doesn't mean much to you, but you will soon learn that it meant a great deal to us spoiled Americans) we headed off down the Autobahn.

Now, I'm sure that you've heard of the Autobahn, but, have you driven down it and lived to tell about it? There is only one rule on the Autobahn and that is the speed limit for buses is 65 kilometers an hour. There are NO other rules —

none. Cars can do whatever, whenever and however they want and they do. No speed limit, no rules. They do, however, drive on the "correct" side of the road — you know, like we do — normal.

Our tour director was Stetanie Kaehler. Stetanie shares an apartment with two other women in Heidelberg, Germany. Stetanie was a wonder. She was fluent in all the languages that we encountered. You would think that going to six countries would only mean six different languages — nope! Doesn't work that way in Europe. There are so many dialects and regional subtleties that the number was probably more like 20 languages. But, Stetanie had it all under control. And, as a native,

(See DIARY, Page 2)

Tips lead to drug arrests

Tips from citizens helped lead to the arrest of two men on charges of drug possession with intent to deliver.

Jerry K. Mabry, 46, Pampa, was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. Curtis McGill Lee, 42, 1201 E. Frederic, was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver along with failure to identify himself, failure to appear and a warrant for theft under \$50.

Police report receiving several calls Friday evening about two men selling drugs out of a

white Ford pickup.

When Officer David Conner spotted a vehicle matching the description he saw it make a turn westbound from Highway 70 onto Highway 60 without using a turn signal, police reported. Conner turned on his lights and made a traffic stop. He was almost immediately joined by Officer Fawnsa Burrows to back him up.

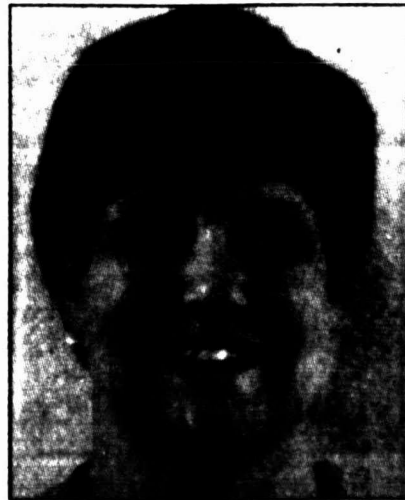
After talking to the two occupants, Conner asked for consent to search the pickup which was granted, according to police reports. Inside the

(See TIPS, Page 2)

Quite frankly... When do you think Pampa will have its first freeze?



Nov. 6.
— Astrid Gonzalez



Nov. 2.
— Judy Sims



Nov. 15.
— Betty Beyer

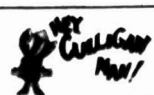


Nov. 7.
— Angie Beyer



Nov. 15.
— Gary Jackson

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Cabot donation



Saint Matthew's Episcopal Day School Playground Committee recently accepted a donation in the amount of \$500 from Cabot Community Relations Team. Above are: Christina Sackett, Dori Miller, Brenda Zedlitz of St. Matthew's, Dannie Miller and Liza Harrison of Cabot, Charlie Sackett of St. Matthew's and children Ashtin Sackett, Trey Miller, Reid Miller and Aaron Sackett. Not pictured: Committee members Charles Smith and Kristi Hardin.

Calendar of events

TOASTMASTERS
The Toastmasters will meet every Wednesday night from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. at the Furr's Cafeteria.

PAMPA PRISON MINISTRY
The Pampa Prison Ministry meets the first Tuesday of every month at Central Baptist Church located at Francis and Starkweather at 7 p.m. sharp. For further information call Bob Andersen 665-4252 or J.B. Walker at 669-2266.

PANHANDLE ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL
A support group for the mentally ill and family members meet the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at 218 N. Russell. There is no charge. For more information or if you need a ride call Sharon King, 665-2818.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR
Pampa Chapter No. 65, Order of the Eastern Star, has changed their meeting nights from the first and third Tuesdays to the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at 420 West Kingsmill.

OPEN DOOR ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Open Door Alcoholics Anonymous at 910 Kentucky (across from Albertson's) meeting schedule - seven days a week - two meetings a day - noon till 1 p.m. no smoking, and Tuesday and Thursday 8-9 p.m. call 665-9702 for information.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER
Women's Support Group for Child Management offers parenting skills to assist parents and children in dealing with anger and behavioral issues resulting from peer pressure, sibling rivalry, family violence and/or sexual abuse from 7-8 p.m. Thursdays. For more information, call Tralee Crisis Center, 669-1131.

CLASS OF 2000
An organizational meeting for the parents of the Class of 2000 will meet at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 30, at Pampa High School Library to discuss the after-graduation All-Night Party. For more information, call Vanessa Buzzard at 665-8814 or Sissy Curtis at 665-7828.

CROWN OF TEXAS HOSPICE
Crown of Texas Hospice will present "Hospice - Living Life to the Fullest" from 1-4 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays, Sept. 28-Oct. 29 at the Meredith House, 812 W. 25th St. For more information, call (806) 372-7696 or 1-800-572-6365. This educational series is being offered free as a service to the community. Contact hours are available for nurses and the course is worth 3.0 CEUs for other professionals.

IRS announces 'First Thursday' program

DALLAS — The Internal Revenue Service will set aside the first Thursday of each month to meet with North Texans who need to talk with someone about their tax problems. The "First Thursday" program gives people a chance to sit down with IRS employees and talk face-to-face. It could be an opportunity to set up installment agreements for unpaid taxes, clear up account problems, correct misapplied payments or to ask the IRS to re-evaluate a tax audit. An upcoming First Thursday will be Oct. 7 in Abilene at the IRS office at 341 Pine St. Each First Thursday event is free and no appointments are necessary. For more information, call (915) 676-5709.

Lipscomb fiddler receives recognition at symposium

A Lipscomb fiddle player has been honored recently in Lubbock. Frankie McWhorter, manager of the Abraham ranch in Lipscomb County, was honored during the American Cowboy Culture Awards Show, part of the Cowboy Symposium held in Lubbock. McWhorter, a working cowboy and former fiddle player with Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys, was recognized with the All-

Around Cowboy Culture Award and, with Lanny Fiel of Lubbock, for his music. McWhorter and Fiel have released several compact disks of ranch dance music. The Pitchfork Ranch of Guthrie won the ranching award. Bill Cauble, Albany, won the chuckwagon award. Billy George Drennan of Dickens won the working cowboy award. Canada's Cowboy Festival, Calgary, Alberta, won the cowboy culture event award. Cheyenne

Frontier Days, Cheyenne, Wyo., won the rodeo award. Dale Robertson, Yukon, Okla., won the western movies and television award. Kenneth Wyatt, Tulsa, won the western art award. The western wear and equipment award was won by Paul Bond of Nogales, Ariz. Dr. Jim Hoy, Emporia, Kan., won the founders award. Others honored for their music during the banquet were Britney Bennett, Lubbock, and the Jimmy

Burson Band, Silverton; Jeff Gore; Ceder Park, and Washtub Jerry, Fort Davis; Buddy and Tina Wright, Lubbock; Jean Prescott, Ovalo; Wayne Gardner, Whiterocks, Utah; Blue Prairie, Lubbock, and Ed Stabler, Mertzoh. Honored for poetry were J. Mack Bohn, Cement, Okla.; Bill Bryant, Wickenburg, Ariz., and Rudy Gonzales, Eagle, Idaho. Television and movie star Barry Corbin, a Lamesa native and Texas Tech graduate, emceed the awards show along with Shelly Williams, Miss Rodeo America 1999, from Kuna, Idaho. Dr. Walter L. Bishop, of Litchfield, Ill., was awards chair-

FPC Lyceum to present Rauscher piano recital

BORGER — Frank Phillips, College Lyceum will present a solo recital "Music of Frederic Chopin" by Dr. Jim Rauscher, pianist, at 3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 3 in the Fine Arts Building Auditorium. Rauscher, an Amarillo resident for the past 19 years, began studying music at age six in his hometown of Medford, Wis. He is professor of piano at Amarillo College and serves as chairman of the Music Department. A solo recitalist, accompanist, teacher and adjudicator, he made his professional debut with the Amarillo

Symphony Orchestra in 1985. He has performed Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" with the orchestra in two different seasons and was a guest artist in 1994 during a performance of Camille Saint Sean's "Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor." Rauscher has also studied and performed on the trumpet and holds a bachelor of music education degree from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire with majors in both piano and trumpet. He

also earned a master of music in piano performance and literature degree in 1981 from the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign and received his Ph.D. in fine arts degree in 1991 from Texas Tech University. In 1986, he was named Music Teacher of the Year by the Amarillo Music Teachers Association. He and wife, Vanessa, are music ministers at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Amarillo and have two children, John and Ann.

Down Under focus of WT events

CANYON — Art and music from Down Under will take center stage at West Texas A&M University Sunday, Oct. 3. The afternoon will begin with an art lecture at 2 p.m. followed by a music recital at 4 p.m. in Mary Moody Northen Recital Hall. The lecture and recital are in conjunction with Amarillo's Eighth International Week Oct. 3-9. Judy Sutton Kracke, WTAMU instructor of art, intends to focus the lecture on the origin of the images that create the Aborigine's abstract art. Kracke will primarily show examples of Aborigine art on slides and sculptures that she acquired in Australia from various artists. "Aborigine means the original people," Kracke said. "They are the longest living continuous culture in the world that has changed very little in the past 100,000 years." According to Kracke, the location of the tribe determines how

different stories and styles are portrayed by the artist. "Aboriginal art is passed down from generation to generation," Kracke said. "Mythology and culture are two driving forces behind the concept of Aborigine art." Kracke has spent a great deal of time with the Koori tribe of Australia and is looking forward to a future visit. "The Aborigine's concept of thinking is exceptionally different from ours, and it is something we should explore to gain a different perspective," Kracke said. Following the lecture, a reception will be held in the Mary Moody Northen Hall Atrium and will be sponsored by the Friends of Cornette Library. An Australian music presentation will begin at 4 p.m. in the Recital Hall. The lecture and recital are free and open to the public.

Local United Way holds luncheon

The local United Way received \$40,918.69 — 11.9 percent of its \$343,000 goal — at a recent check-in luncheon. Community Day Care Center, Pampa Meals on Wheels, High Plains Epilepsy Association and The Bridge provided the meal. The next check-in luncheon will be held at 12 noon Thursday, Sept. 30 in the large meeting room in Pampa Community Building, 200 N. Ballard. Participants need to bring their pledge cards and money. Those unable to attend may drop off pledge cards at the UW office. The next luncheon will be sponsored by Tralee Crisis Center, Gray County Latch Key and American Red Cross. Commercial, Public, Special Gifts and Professional pledge cards should be completed in two weeks.

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Sat. & Sun. Matinee 1:55

6th Week
Sixth Sense (PG-13)
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Sun. thru Thurs. 7:05
Sat. & Sun. Matinee 1:50

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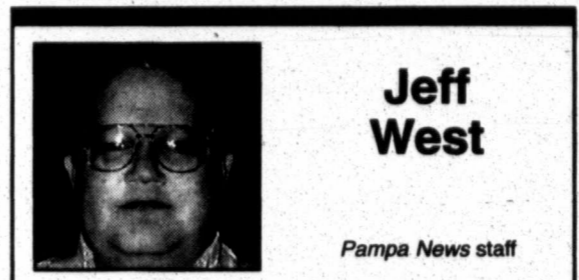
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No mail subscriptions are available within the city limits of Pampa. Mail subscriptions must be paid 3 months in advance.

Some days work's a high

Some days my job is pretty cool. Not every day of course. A lot of days my job resembles a giant Hoover vacuum but some days it's alright. Like last week when I went to Perry Lefors Airport (or Field, I've heard both) to talk to Pilots' Association President Dave Wavra about the open house last weekend and all the changes that have been made. I'd even come up with an idea for a picture with someone flying right at the camera. I thought it would look cool. Dave thought it would get kind of messy with a fast, sleek propeller and a slow, non-sleek photographer. Since he was going to be the pilot I said I trusted him. The look he gave me made me think it wasn't his skills that had him worried. He came up with an idea that sounded good, too, and didn't involve my moving fast. That's the picture you saw in last



Jeff West
 Pampa News staff

Friday's paper. (If you missed last Friday's paper copies are still available and for a small fee I'll autograph the picture for you). But that wasn't the coolest part. The coolest part was he offered to take me up in his plane, for free. I even got to take a few pictures while flying over Pampa. That was fun. I didn't realize that Pampa had so many

"concrete ponds". Everything looks so clean and orderly up there. Probably most of you have had a chance to go up in a commercial jet where the entire country looks that way but we were low enough to make out stuff like the hospital and the football field. It made me wish I could fly. I could except that I can barely keep a Tempo running and out of the ditch. But I was getting the best part last week without that pesky crashing and burning thing hanging over my head. I've also ridden with the police without having to go through the academy and stood out in the freezing snow watching people fix water mains (well, that last thing wasn't all that great but it sure made me glad I wasn't chest deep in the water.) Sometimes this is job is cool. Be good to one another and be good to yourselves.

Today in history

By The Associated Press.
 Today is Tuesday, Sept. 28, the 271st day of 1999. There are 94 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
 On Sept. 28, 1939, during World War II, Germany and the Soviet Union agreed on a plan to partition Poland.
 On this date:
 In 1066, William the Conqueror invaded England to claim the English throne.
 In 1542, Portuguese navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo arrived at present-day San Diego.
 In 1781, American forces in the Revolutionary War, backed by a French fleet, began their siege of Yorktown Heights, Va.
 In 1787, Congress voted to send the recently completed Constitution of the United States to state legislatures for their approval.
 In 1850, flogging was abolished as a form of punishment in the U.S. Navy.
 In 1924, two U.S. Army planes landed in Seattle, having completed the first round-the-world flight in 175 days.
 In 1967, Walter Washington took office as the first mayor of the District of Columbia.

Opinion

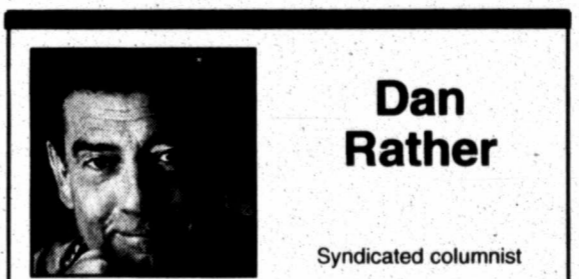
Golf is an exercise in free enterprise

• Today's Nike Permian Basin Open competitors are entrepreneurs of sorts. The professional golf circuits — including the Nike Permian Basin Open — offer a perfect and elementary example of free market economics. Instead of being paid multi-million dollar salaries generated by guaranteed contracts, these athletes have to go out and succeed or fail on their own talents, mental toughness and staying power. (This is similar, incidentally, to running most businesses.) But if a golfer is good enough, and has the "right stuff" that includes an elusive brand of charisma that charms fans, he (or she, in the case of LPGA tour players) can build quite a "business" of himself or herself. Playing golf for a living week after week on courses that present different challenges and conditions certainly isn't easy. (The "playing fields" of private enterprise, also, are quite difficult in the changing world of today.) But it is the ultimate exercise of capitalism. Play well (and score well) and you take home a paycheck. Don't do your job right and it's on to the next stop with a bit more pressure on your back. You can make a case that the golfers visiting the Permian Basin were to be admired most among those who choose to seek their fortunes with a bag of clubs and a dimpled ball. For the most part, the guys walking the fairways of Mission Dorado are the small businessmen of the golfing world. The Nike Tour is where they have an opportunity to earn their stripes and advance to the highest rung of their profession, the PGA Tour. Once in that arena, they have the chance to play well enough to negotiate endorsements, with that revenue guaranteeing comfortable stipends beyond their prize money. But just as it is in the business world, attaining the pinnacle in golf is easier said than done. Some competitors literally have investors who are buying a piece of the action. In return for front money, the financial backers for a young golfer could receive an accompanying percentage of the success — the sports equivalent of investing in a small business and hoping it turns into a financial giant. Finishing in the top 15 on the money list of the Nike Tour earns a golfer a shot at the PGA ranks, where he must swim among bigger fish. Enough notable golfers have graduated the Nike ranks to make an elusive dream seem attainable. So you have a couple hundred aspiring "businessmen" making courses in places like Odessa and Fort Smith, Ark., their "company offices." But, as is the case in big business, only a few will reach the heights. Many of the competitors are destined to be something else eventually. They may stay in the business as club and teaching pros, or they may have to become insurance salesmen, financial consultants, or whatever; most do have college degrees, at least, to fall back upon. However, at the worst, each of these golfers will have had a chance to make their fondest fantasy come true. Such is the case with many so-called ordinary citizens whose dream of independence ended with a failed business. That is the "American Way." You work to make your own opportunities and, if you're ambitious enough, you may succeed. Those who are talented, lucky and in the right place could become the next Bill Gates or Tiger Woods. The odds are long against such ascension, but notables such as David Duval, Ernie Els, John Daly, Tom Lehman and Stuart Appleby used the Nike (or its predecessor, the Ben Hogan Tour) as a springboard to sports notoriety. So here's to practitioners of a unique brand of free enterprise. May they have their successes; if not, then we hope they will be left with nothing worse than fond memories of their quest for glory in the Nike Permian Basin Open. (By the way, it's a lot more fun watching a golfer try to succeed than it would be to watch a fledgling accountant, for example, doing the same. We recommend attending a Nike event as a wonderful way to see the "American Dream" in motion.) —Odessa American



Clearing the air about Columbia

Word comes that President Andres Pastrana of Colombia is not pleased with some things written in this space a several weeks ago. They were written as part of an on-scene report about the battle to prevent Marxist-style revolutionaries, heavily financed by cocaine and heroin profits, from taking over Colombia and spreading their considerable influence even further than it already is in neighboring Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil and Panama. The battle is not going well. The guerrilla army of the narco-revolutionaries is growing rapidly. So is its power. The guerrillas now control at least one-third of Colombia's countryside, and their tentacles reach deep into the larger cities. The government of Panama is so skittish over what to do about them that it reportedly no longer sends troops into most of the southern part of that country. The combined Colombian narcotics and revolutionary forces have spread over, and appear to operate freely in, a wide area across the Ecuadorian and Peruvian borders. They are also in a somewhat smaller, but still considerable, cross-border part of Venezuela and, to a lesser degree, in remote northern sections of Brazil. Recognition of just how bad this situation is, and how dangerously it is threatening to destabilize northern South America and southern Central America, has come late to the Clinton administration. But it has finally come. High administration



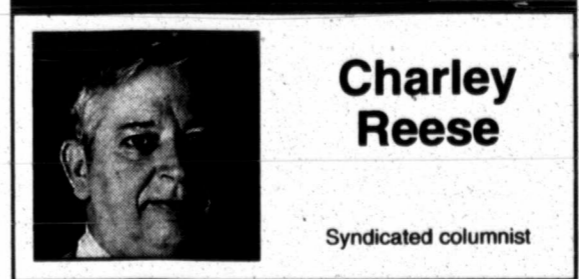
Dan Rather
 Syndicated columnist

sources insist that no large infusion of U.S. military forces is even being considered, but they confirm that a dramatic increase in military equipment and training, intelligence resources and economic aid to Colombia now is in the works. Just how much aid, to whom and for what specific purposes are still being decided. The U.S. State Department likes Pastrana, but U.S. diplomats worry about the Colombian army's human rights record and its ties to right-wing paramilitary units, including death squads. Those are facts. But when those two particular facts were mentioned in this column in early August, Pastrana worried. Through intermediaries, it was said he considered some of the report "misleading at best." Apparently, what worried him most is that someone might infer that HE, somehow, supports paramilitary activity. Frankly, it is difficult to see why he worried on the basis of what was written here. But,

from all accounts, he is a good man under excruciating pressure, currently on the losing end of an effort to bring peace to his country. So, in an extra effort to be fair and accurate with as much context as possible, let it be underscored for the record: So far as can be determined, Colombia's President Pastrana is not, and never has been, connected with any paramilitary force, or with alleged corruption within the Colombian army. To the contrary, the best available evidence and testimony strongly indicate that he is, and consistently has been, on a campaign to eradicate both. None of that, however, should mislead anyone into ducking the hard realities of Colombia today. The army is, overall, weak and ineffective in the field. And many questions remain about possible army corruption, connections with paramilitary units and undue influence by wealthy families. The best fighting by Colombians is being done by the smaller, but more effective, national police force, specially trained and nurtured by the United States all through the 1990s. It is undermanned, under equipped and is suffering great losses. But, based on the record, it's still the best the country has. So, neither Pastrana nor anyone else should be surprised when the police get the most help in the late-starting Clinton administration drive to slow the momentum of the narco-guerrillas and prevent destabilization of the region.

The Constitution's original intent

One way to understand how far off the track we've gone from our constitutional roots is to think about how government was supposed to be in the United States. The federal government, as intended by the founders, was to be, in the words of George Washington (the man whose prestige won ratification for the new Constitution), "a stronger confederation." In other words, not something radically different — just a stronger confederation of sovereign states. James Madison, in the Federalist Papers, said that in time of peace, 95 percent of the governing would be done by the states, only 5 percent by the federal. If you will sit down and read the Constitution, you will see clearly that it was to be an agent for the states and would do only those things that made sense. It made sense, for example, to have one standard of measurements, one monetary system, one trade policy and one foreign policy rather than 13 different ones. It made sense to have the mechanism in place for all the states to act in unison if attacked by a foreign power. The proof of its intent lies in the wording (as well as the historical record) of the Constitution. It was to be ratified by the states, not by a majority vote of the people in all the states. It would take effect if nine states ratified it. What about the other four? They would remain what they were, independent countries with their own constitutions.



Charley Reese
 Syndicated columnist

In the original Constitution, senators were selected by state legislatures. Their duty was clearly to represent the interests of their respective state governments. They were described in one instance as "ambassadors from the states to the new federal government." Now, was that a better system than the one we have today? Today, the Constitution is occasionally paid lip service but not otherwise heeded, with the federal government ruling practically every aspect of our lives, either directly or indirectly. I think the old system was infinitely better because it was pragmatic. It's impossible for a handful of people in a central government to wisely govern a large area and millions of diverse people, whether we are talking Washington, Rome or Moscow. Central governments always collapse eventually from sheer incompetence if nothing else.

The other disadvantage of centralized government is that concentrating so much power in so few hands facilitates corruption and coups. There are, so to speak, only a few pockets to fill or, in the case of a coup, only a few heads to lop off. One bad attorney general with central power can cause a lot of problems. It is unlikely that all 50 states would have had attorneys general. Finally, of course, the advantage of the old constitutional system was that the government that did most of the governing were closest to the people. They could watch them and understand them. They could get to know their officials. That's much less easy to do when dealing with the federal government. One size does not fit all, and one centralized government mucking about in everybody's lives is bound to make a mess of things. Keep in mind that advocates of centralized government generally imagine themselves wielding the power, not you or I. American children would have a better chance of education, for example, if all 50 states were free to adopt their own ideas. Today, the bureaucrats in Washington, in direct and indirect ways, control the system. The arguments for individual liberty apply to states. Odds are better that 50 states trying to find an answer to a problem will find it than if only one federal bureaucrat is in charge of seeking the answer.

Your representatives

- State Rep. Warren Chisum
 Pampa Address: 100 N. Price Road, Pampa TX 79065
 Pampa Phone: 665-3552
- State Sen. Teel Bivins
 Amarillo Address: P.O. Box 9155, Amarillo, TX 79105
 Amarillo Phone: (806) 374-8994
- U.S. Rep. William M. "Mac" Thornberry
 Washington Address: 131 Cannon Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
 Washington Phone: (202) 225-3706
- U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison
 Washington Address: 283 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
 Washington Phone: (202) 224-5922
- U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm
 Washington Address: 370 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
 Washington Phone: (202) 224-2934
- Texas Gov. George W. Bush
 P.O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711
 Constituent Hotline: 1-800-843-5789

Certified Chimney Sweeps Bring More Than Good Luck

DEAR ABBY: I read your column faithfully and hope you'll print my letter for public awareness. Two years ago I met the man who would "sweep me off my feet." When I asked him what he did for a living, he said, "I am a certified chimney sweep."



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

Although I always "knew" that people who have fireplaces or wood stoves need to have their chimneys cleaned, I never realized that chimney sweeps save lives every day!

Many homeowners and landlords are unaware that chimneys — or any heating systems — need to be inspected every year.

With new heating technology, furnace appliances are more efficient. They put less heat up the chimney and more into the home, causing condensation that can damage a chimney at a remarkable rate. This can create blockages, water and structural damage to the home, as well as carbon monoxide poisoning.

Homeowners can check for many of these things by looking in the bottom of their chimney. If there is any debris or flaking inside, if they can't see to the top with a flashlight, if there are water stains or missing bricks, the homeowner should contact a certified chimney sweep to inspect the venting system. These professionals have the training to properly install, replace and repair venting systems to meet national codes for safety, and they are qualified to give the best and safest solutions to homeowners and their families.

lies. **SWEPT OFF MY FEET IN PA.**

DEAR SWEPT: Thank you for wanting to educate others about a danger many of us face without being aware of it. Homeowners, if you observe any of these warning signs, please contact a certified sweep and have your venting system inspected before you light your next fire (renters should contact their landlords). A certified chimney sweep is usually as close as your telephone directory.

DEAR ABBY: You printed a letter from a group called "The Ya-Yas," who asked you to provide some words on friendship. I would like to submit a quote from Stephen E. Ambrose's book "Comrades" (Simon and Schuster, 1999). In his book, the author describes friendships between brothers, peers, father and son, combat buddies and others.

Lewis and Clark: "Friendship is different from all other relationships. Unlike acquaintanceship, it is based on love. Unlike lovers and married couples, it is free of jealousy. Unlike children and parents, it knows neither criticism nor resentment. Friendship has no status in law. Business partnerships are based on a contract. So is marriage. Parents are bound by the law, as are children. But friendship is freely entered into, freely given, freely exercised.

"Friends never cheat each other, or take advantage, or lie. Friends do not spy on one another, yet they have no secrets. Friends glory in each other's successes and are downcast by the failures. Friends minister to each other, nurse each other. Friends give to each other, worry about each other, stand always ready to help. Perfect friendship is rarely achieved, but at its height it is an ecstasy."

WILLIAM FRITTS, TEMECULA, CALIF.

DEAR WILLIAM: That's a terrific quote, and I'm sure it will be appreciated by more people than the Ya-Yas. The most precious gift one person can offer another is a hand outstretched in friendship.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Horoscope

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29, 1999

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

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) ***** Be careful with another's "brilliant" idea. Though you might really like it and feel quite inspired, you are best off not committing, presently. Make calls in the later afternoon. Reach out for others. Another seems controlling — because he is! Tonight: Out and about.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ***** You might shake your head at the decisions a boss makes. Be supportive, yet explain any reservations you may have. Money matters fall out of sync. Don't count on anyone besides yourself. Start ruling the roost financially. Tonight: Avoid an argument — why bother?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ***** You might opt to keep news to yourself, but you still don't know all the details. Use your creativity and work within boundaries. More will be revealed later. Another might be difficult and contrary, fighting with him will not resolve the problem. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ***** Be skeptical about the information a partner is disseminating. Listen to another, but be sure of yourself. Ask

appropriate questions. Take time for a family member or a domestic matter. Only you can make the decisions here. Tonight: Head home for some time off.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** Listen to information that comes forward, but consider its source. Take charge. Be willing to put that extra effort into your work. Friends surround you, make plans that bring you together. Network. Worry less about a child or loved one. Tonight: Hang out with the gang.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Others count on you to carry the ball at work, and rightfully so. You do quite a job. Laugh more. Listen to feedback from a co-worker. Your sense of where and when to spend is right on. Trust your judgment — others do! Tonight: Working late.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** Understand that another has a wild imagination. The two of you make quite the duo. Find someone to play devil's advocate. Recognize your limits in communication, especially while another is sidetracked. Tonight: Go for a drive or get away for a few hours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** Defer to others in home and domestic matters. Your intuition is right on. Think through a decision. Your ability to read another remains key in a relationship. Be careful with spending; someone has great ideas for your money! Tonight: It's time someone pulled his weight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** You are far more challenging than you realize. Others often get upset and become difficult when dealing with you.

Recognize that you are the common denominator, drawing the energy. Your instincts tell you when to make a call. Tonight: Let another decide where and when.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ***** Work demands an unusual amount of attention today. You might want to invest much more of yourself and your funds in your professional image. Do a reality check with plans before launching into action. You might not be in the right frame of mind to make a decision, presently. Tonight: Go for a workout.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** You frequently inspire others to break patterns and do things differently. You don't have to agree with everyone, and you might not agree with a friend. Meetings could be tough. Take an overview and present the big picture. Others will respond. Tonight: Browse a favorite record store or bookstore.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ***** Pressure builds from many different directions in your life. Bosses could become difficult; the situation looks like a no-win. Take care of your own priorities. Build security. Don't let another shake you up — consider pulling away from this person or situation. Tonight: Vanish home, turn on the answering machine and lock the door!

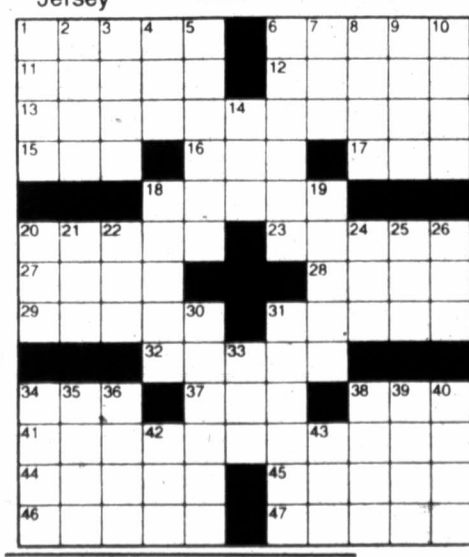
BORN TODAY
Actress Madeline Kahn (1942), TV host Bryant Gumbel (1948), actress Anita Ekberg (1931)

Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

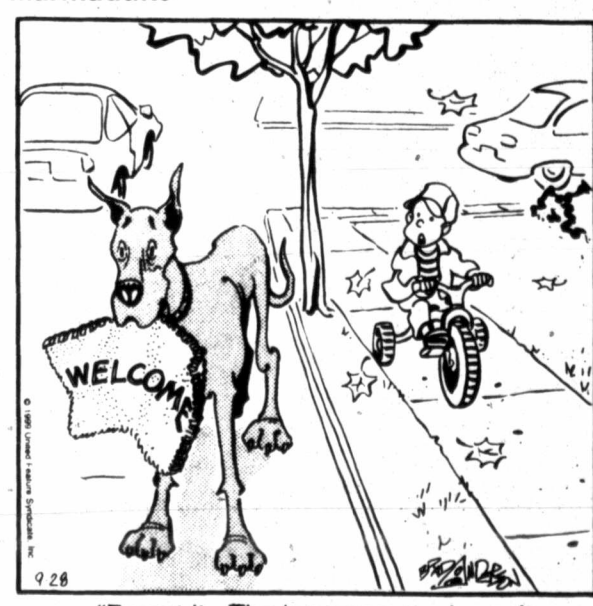
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- 10 Agitate
- 11 Pub brew
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- 14 Milk buy
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- 98 Whip
- 99 Church part
- 100 Agitate



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377/ 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Marmaduke



"Forget it. The ice cream truck won't be back until next summer."

The Family Circus



"Taking care of the little things is a big thing."

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore

