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news release from the Austin TxDOT office. Oil Change FWAZOIL Hand Car Wash & More

Family: Blast victim improving

'Her first words were 'What happened?' and then she told her husband she loved him.

> — Carol Dout Sister-in-law

By DEE DEE LARAMORE Editor

industrial explosion continues to Standerfer, 41, died at the scene. improve at a Lubbock burn center, family members said today.

Merry Jenkins suffered third degree burns to 22 percent of her body on Sunday," said Carol Dout, Jenkin's about 7:30 a.m. July 5 in an early morning blast at Titan Specialties perforating division, west of Pampa.

Immediately after the explosion, she loved him. Jenkins was flown to Lubbock Burn

A third victim, Ron Hurst, suffered burns to his right hand.

sister-in-law, this morning.

"Her first words were 'What happened?' and then she told her husband

"They started sitting her up and giv-Center for treatment of her injuries. ing her ice to suck on Monday," she A Pampa woman burned in an Another Titan employee, Karen said, adding that Jenkins is still in the burn center's intensive care unit.

Jenkins was probably standing about two to three feet to Standefer's "They took her off the respirator on right when the explosion occurred

"That's where she always stood,"

See **BLAST**, Page 3

City mailing water report to customers

By DAVID BOWSER Staff Writer

Pampa's annual water report began arriving this month at city homes and businesses.

The report is required by law to give citizens an idea of their city's water quality, according Richard Morris, Pampa's director of public works.

"In 1999, the EPA passed a law that we were to do a consumer confidence report on the water," Morris said. "We started doing that. The first one came out in the year 2000 for 1999."

"This consumer confidence report is for the year 2003," Morris said. "It has to be mailed out in 2004. We didn't have any violations at all."

Morris said Pampa has a good water operation.

"We've had really, really good results since 2001, when we put the new water treatment facility online," he said. "In 2002, we started using chloramines to treat the water instead of straight chlorine. That's worked out better for us. It has a longer residual effect."

See WATER, Page 3

TxDOT officials

to discuss funds

for area airports

By MARILYN POWERS

Staff Writer

Transportation will conduct a

planning meeting Wednesday for

general aviation airports located

in Pampa, McLean, Canadian,

Follett, Higgins, Perryton and

11 a.m. Wednesday, July 21, in

the M.K. Brown Room of Pampa

Community Building, 200 N.

provide approximately \$60 mil-

lion in funding for planning, con-

structing and maintaining general

aviation airports, according to a

Approximately 275 general

See FUNDS, Page 3

This year, TxDOT expects to

The meeting will be from 9 to

Department

Texas

Miami.

Ballard.



Pampa News photos by DAVID BOWSER

A visibly shaken Soloman Banda Silva makes his way to an ambulance after being struck by a car that ran through a window at a convenience store at Frederic and Barnes.

Man hurt when car hits store

By DAVID BOWSER Staff Writer

A man sitting in a Pampa convenience store suffered injuries to an arm and a leg Monday afternoon after a car jumped a curb and ran through the front window of the store.

Salomon Banda Silva, 53, suffered minor injuries when a 1995 white Nissan Maxima driven by Kristen Susanne Holmes, 41, plowed through a window at the Taylor Food Mart shortly before 4 p.m., Monday, at the intersection of Frederic and Barnes.

Officers said Silva suffered cuts to one arm and complained of pain in his leg.

Silva walked to the Guadian Ambulance that took him to the Pampa Regional Medical

Investigators said Holmes told them she was driving her husband's car and had difficulty finding the brake.

Although shaken, neither Holmes nor the two juveniles in her car were hurt, officers said.

While most of the front window of the convenience store caved in, the car appeared to have sustained little damage.



Pampa Police Sgt. Alvin Johnson uses a broom from Taylor Mart to brush glass from the store that sprayed the car after it plowed through a plate glass window into the building.



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JULY 25 THROUGH JULY 29 TRI STATE SENIORS **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

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For More Information On These Events ... Call The Chamber At 669-3241

Obituaries

Lambert "Buck" Bertram, 92

LAKE JACKSON Lake

92, of Jackson, died Monday, July 19, 2004. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Pampa.

Mr. Bertram was born July 30, 1911,

Bertram

Jackson. Mr. Bertram

was a farmer and rancher for more than 40 years and belonged to Church of the Nazarene.

He moved to

Pampa in 1965

and only recently

relocated to Lake

Survivors Concordia, Kan. He married include his wife, Carnelia whatley.com.

Carnelia Williams on Jan. 2, Bertram of Lake Jackson; a Lambert "Buck" Bertram, 1932, at Woodward, Okla. son, Jim Bertram of Lake Jackson; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchil-

The family requests memorials be to The Salvation Army, 701 S. Cuyler, Pampa, TX 79065: or to the American Red Cross, 108 N. Russell, Pampa, TX 79065. -Sign the on-line regis-

ter book www.carmichael-

Maria V. Cuellar, 66

HARRISONBURG, Va. Funeral Maria V. Cuellar, 66, died Harrisonburg. Sunday, July 18, 2004, at Rockingham Memorial Hospital in Harrisonburg. Graveside services are scheduled at 11 a.m. Memorial Gardens with Father Jim Gallagher officiating. Arrangements are

Home

Mrs. Cuellar was born Aug. 20, 1937, in Mexico, to the late Francisco and Eloisa Lozano Villarreal.

Survivors include four Thursday in East Lawn sons, Edward Cuellar and John Cuellar, both of Harrisonburg, Thomas Stuttgart, Cuellar of under the direction of Kyger Germany, and Primitivo

in "TV" Cuellar of Pampa; two brothers, Daniel and Jesus, both of Mexico; and six grandchildren.

The family will receive visitors from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday at Kyger Funeral Home and requests memorials be to Elkton Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 152, Elkton, VA 22827.

Mary E. Kramer, 79

July 19, 2004, at Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

October of 1966.

Mrs. Kramer was born Sherry of Amarillo; two and Ann She married Ernest Paradoski of Mesquite; one Clifton Daniels, and he pre-stepson, Marvin Kramer and ter She worked for J.C. Kramer of Borger and Cathy

did nothing other than

peaceably exercise their

written

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fresh, \$5 off per bushel! 2110

SWEET CORN, Becky

THE BURROWS of Clar-

produce Wed & Sat. 7am.

Weick will be @ M.K. Brown

parking lot, 7:30 a.m. Wed. &

Perryton Pkwy., Wed. 7 a.m.

Councilman Harry Deitzler,

book ceded her in death in wife Sherry of Skellytown; www.carmichaeltwo stepdaughters, Rita whatley.com.

-Sign the on-line regis-

Amarillo, TX 79101.

in 2002. moved to Pampa in The family requests 1932 and worked as memorials be to Odyssey a self-employed Hospice, 1000 S. Jefferson,

mechanic for 46 Oil in Pampa.

Fairview Cemetery

with the Rev.

Steven Taylor, pas-

tor of Pearl Baptist

Church of Pearl,

Mr. Taylor was

born Jan. 12, 1926,

at Walters, Okla. He

officiating.

Fred R. Sloan, Jr., 83

Fred R. Sloan, Jr., 83, of National Rifle Association. Marzus Sloan of Corpus Pampa, Texas, died Tuesday, July 20, 2004, at Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Sergeant. Funeral Directors.

Mr. Sloan was born June 18, 1921, in Panhandle, Texas, and was a longtime resident of Pampa.

He married Leona (Sid) Parkes on Oct. 31, 1941, in Pampa. He owned and operated White's Auto Store in Portales, N.M., for 10 years and later worked for the Montgomery Ward store in Pampa for 20 years, retiring in 1983.

He was a member of the First Christian Church. He was a life member of the

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Force where he attained the rank of Staff

Survivors include his wife, Leona (Sid) Sloan, of the home; two brothers, Jack Sloan and wife Betty and Herndon Sloan and wife Timmie, all of Pampa; two sisters, Margie Walters of

Carrizo Springs and Carol Harper and husband Bill of Amarillo; three grandchildren, Shelley Barrett of Savannah, Ga., Larry E. Sloan of Huntington Beach, Calif., and Tiffany Sloan of Corpus Christi; five greatgrandchildren, Breanna

Christi, Rachel Sloan, Jake Sloan, and Cody Sloan, all of Huntington Beach, Calif.; and one daughter-in-law, Ellen Spurgeon and husband Bobby of Palm Harbor, Fla. He was preceded in death by two sons, Larry Sloan in 1989 and Stephen Sloan in 1995.

The family requests memorials be to First Christian Church, 1633 N. Nelson, Pampa, TX 79065, or BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

-Sign the on-line regisbook www.carmichaelwhatley.com. Fletchall of Savannah, Ga.,

Rudy Taylor, 78

He married Dene Curtis Rudy Taylor, 78, of Pampa, died Monday, July on July 6, 1944, at Sayre, 19, 2004, at Wellington. Okla.; she died March 30, Graveside services will be at 2001. 10 a.m. Thursday in

Navy veteran, serving during World War II. He

was a member of Veterans of Wars, Foreign First Christian Church and Pampa Optimist major contributor towards the big

pro baseball for Magnolia ing as an umpire for many years, and sponsored a

women's bowling league at Harvester Lanes for more than 30 years.

Mr. Taylor was preceded Mr. Taylor was a U.S. in death by a sister, Dorothy Rinehart, and a son, Max Taylor, both in 2003.

Survivors include a son, Steven Taylor of Temple; a daughter, Brenda Dearil Taylor of Pampa; two brothers, Dearil Taylor of Amarillo and Don Taylor of Lake Whitney; seven grand-Club. He was a children; and four greatgrandchildren.

-Sign the on-line regisbaseball field at ter book years. He also played semi- Pampa Optimist Club, serv- www.carmichaelwhatley.com.

Mary E. Kramer, 79, of Penney until her retirement. Caruth of Wasilla, Alaska; Pampa, Texas, died Monday,

March 16, 1925, in Lindale. daughters, Gloria Kidwell Texas. She had been a resi- and husband Ottice of dent of Pampa since 1948.

CHARLESTON, W.Va.

(AP) — Charleston City

Council has apologized to

two protesters who were

arrested for wearing anti-

Corpus Christi, Texas, were

removed from the event in

restraints after revealing T-

shirts with President Bush's

front and the words "Love

America, Hate Bush" on the

dismissed last week. On

Monday, the City Council

MOORE'S FRESH Toma-

PET GRANNY for pets,

POWER UP for Jesus Vaca-

Banks, 669-6509. Children entering kindergarten thru chil-

dren entering 6th grade.

while learning God's Word.

plants, etc. Ref., call 669-7329.

toes, Lefors. Call 835-2253.

adopted a resolution to apol- a Democrat.

Trespassing charges were Republican, backed the reso-

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tion Bible School. July 26-30, Sat. weekly. Paul McCurley

6:30-9:00pm. Cornerstone of McLean, also w/other pro-

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lution

back.

West Virginia Capitol.

She was a member of the 13 grandchildren; and 24 Pampa Chapter #65 Order of great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a the Eastern Star. son, Ernest Wayne Daniels Survivors include one son,

Larry Daniels and wife Monahans

Charleston approves apology to anti-Bush protesters "If Nicole and Jeff Rank department," Jones said.

right of free speech and expression as guaranteed by Bush T-shirts to the presi- our Constitutions, they dent's July 4 rally at the should not have been arrested or charged with a crime," Nicole and Jeff Rank, of the resolution states.

Jones had earlier said the "The city does hereby apologize to Nicole and Jeff There was no official name crossed out on the count for the vote, but it appeared to have bipartisan Mayor Danny Jones, a

Soybeans		
The following	ng 9:30	a.m. N
Stock Market	quotatio	is are
nished by Edwa	ard Jone	& Co
Pampa		
OXY	49.45	-().55
BP	55.04	-().29
Cabot Corp		
Cabot Oil Gas .		-() 4]
Coca Cola	50.04	0.30
VLO	.77.52	-0.18
HAL	31.08	-() 18
Triad		-017
NOI	33.65	-().39
KMI	.60.50	+0.20
XCEL	.17.25	+().()7
Kerr McGee	52.97	-0.18
Limited	19.64	+0.21
Williams	.12.50	-().()]
MCD	28.02	+().()9
XOM	45 86	-0.04
Atmos	25.34	-0.04
Pioneer Nat		-0.12
JCP	38.22	+().31
COP	78.83	-0.29
SLB	.64.62	-().38
Tenneco	14.03	+1.68
CVX		-0.42
Wal-Mart	52.92	+().()()
OKE		+0.02
NS Grp		+()()1

"But we regret this happened, and quite frankly we want to put this behind us."

Trespassing charges were dropped Thursday after a judge determined that city ordinances do not apply to Statehouse grounds.

city officers who filed the trespassing charges were acting under the direction of the Secret Service, but a spokesman for the Secret Service denied the agency was involved in the arrests.

The following grain quotations are pro-

vided by Attebury Grain of Pampa.

Stocks

Corn Soybeans		6.33
Soybeans		
The following	ng 9:30	a.m.
Stock Market	quotatio	ns are
nished by Edwa	ard Jone	5 & C
Pampa		
OXÝ	49.45	-().55
BP	55.04	
Cabot Corp	38.00	+().5
Cabot Oil Gas.	43.00	-() 4
Coca Cola	50.04	() 3(
VLO	.77.52	-0.18
HAL	31.08	-() 18
Triad	37.66	-0.17
NOI		-() 34
KMI	.60.50	+0.2
XCEL	.17.25	+()()
Kerr McGee	52.97	-0.18
Limited	19.64	+0.2
Williams	.12.50	-().()
MCD	28.02	+0.0
XOM	45 86	-().()-
Atmos	25.34	-0.04
Pioneer Nat JCP	36.75	-0.13
JCP	38.22	+() 3
COP	78.83	-0.29
SLB	.64.62	-() 38
Tenneco	14.03	+1.6
CVX	94.75	-0.42
Wal-Mart	52.92	+().()
OKE		+()()
NS Grp	.19.15	+()()
New York Gold		106.25
Silver		6.57
West Texas Cru	de	41.64

Pampa PD

Taylor

Emergency Services

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

Sunday, July 18

Driving while intoxicated was reported at 19th Avenue

and Hobart Street. Aggravated assault was reported in the 2900 block of Rosewood. Minor injuries were reported.

Deadly conduct was reported in the 2600 block of Cherokee.

Monday, July 19

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 600 block of West Brown. Nothing was reported taken. Damage to a door which occurred during the burglary was estimated at \$100.

Burglary of a habitation was reported in the 1200 block of North Wells. Medication valued at \$30 was taken.

Burglary of a habitation was reported in the 2200 block of North Sumner. The incident reportedly occurred between July 9 and July 11. Tools and electronics valued at \$1,525 were taken.

Burglary was reported in the 1000 block of Love. Clothing and a television set were taken. Estimated value of loss is \$575.

Donald Ellis Rumsey, 40, 610 Carr, was arrested at 30th Avenue and Aspen Drive for possession of marijuana under two ounces. Possession of marijuana

1305 W. Kingsmill, was

arrested in the 300 block of

Jean on a warrant for run-

Tuesday, July 20

ning a stop sign.

was reported in the 400 block of East 29th.

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office today reported the following arrests.

Tuesday, July 20

Omar Toledana Barraza, 18, 1132 Crane, was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated and minor in possession of open con-

Fire

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m.

Monday, July 19 2:49 p.m. – Three units and seven firefighters

Debra Kay Howard, 48, responded to a report of smoke in a residence in the 700 block of East Browning. Firefighters discovered electrical problems. They isolated the problem and instructed the residents to call an electrician.

5:16 p.m. – Two units and six firefighters responded to a fire alarm in the 1200 block of North Wells. A resident with mental difficulties had sounded the alarm.

6:32 p.m. – Two units and six firefighters responded to a lifting assist in the 400 block of Pitts.

8:32 p.m. – One unit and two firefighters responded to a hazardous material spill at Randy Matson and Hobart streets. Approximately 5 to 10 gallons of oil had spilled on the roadway. Firefighters isolated the spill. 9 p.m. – One unit and two

firefighters responded to a two-vehicle collision at U.S. Highway 60 and U.S. Highway 70. No injuries or hazards were reported. Tuesday, July 20

1:46 a.m. - Two units and six firefighters responded to a reported structure fire in the 900 block of East Francis. Firefighters found a smoldering trash pile upon arrival.

Gray County Weather

a high near 94.

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South wind around 10

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a high

around 95.

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Play ce

◆ Diana Br and Berinda time to go to 24 at 7:30 p ing 665-936 will be avail is rated PG

Continued

The key to he said, is th treatment pl Kentucky. "The was

plant we hav state of the ar "We were or few in the Un put the syster in place. It wa economical highly mecha economical a treatment."

The water will produce lion gallons p "Our peak million," Mo only happens days a year.

over six milli often." The cit water cor from three

ferent source: "The wa that comes from Canadian Ri

Municipal Wa Authority Morris said, about 50 perc Roberts Cou well water 50 percent L Meredi water."

Normal Morris said, mix is 43 p County well percent lak because of l and the highe lake water, a ground water

Once it rea goes through ment plant an water from field south of "There's Morris said.

Last year

almost 1.2 bi water. "Our wate town supplie gallons," Mo **CRMWA** 885 million g

Fun

Continued

aviation a

are eligible according to Arrivals a from genera ports account three million vear and p facilities fo medical, bus muter use, a

release.

◆ Diana Bruner as Betina, Debra Sandefur as Jennifer, Gina Kane as Twyla, Kim Tatum as Lorene and Berinda Turcotte as Delores are five bank tellers gathered in the employee lounge waiting for time to go to work in ACT I's production of "Five Tellers Dancing in the Rain" playing Feb. 23 and 24 at 7:30 p.m. Karen Smith is the director. Season ticket holders may make reservations by calling 665-9369. The theater is located on the west side of Pampa Mall on Perryton Parkway. Tickets will be available at the door. The play is about the lives and heartbreaks of these five women and is rated PG-13 for its strong language. Also in the cast as the cleaning lady is Heather Kane.

Blast

Continued from Page 1

Dout said. "That's how they worked together."

Jenkins' burns are primarily on the left side of her upper body. She also suffered second degree burns to her legs, the family member said.

Skin grafts are beginning to take, Dout said, and Jenkins' hair has begun to grow back.

"They're using a new way to attach the grafts; it's experimental," she said. "They're not having to use staples like they used to do, except for on her left hand."

Family members have been weeks before Jenkins will be able to return to her home in Pampa.

While they're waiting for her return, family and friends are upgrading the plumbing and building a special shower for

'We're redoing the front yard and a friend has donated a pond. She's always wanted a pond," Dout said.

"We've got to get Merry home," she added. The family is amazed by the

Pampa community and churches in Pampa, Lubbock and even as far away as Tennessee, she said. During the first days after the

outpouring of help from the

explosion while the family gathered at the Lubbock hospital awaiting word on Jenkins' condition, churches from Lubbock took turns bringing food to the family as they waited, Dout said.

Officials of Gray County Sheriff's Office, the state fire marshall's office, and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) investigators have all said the explosion was an accident which occurred as Standerfer was mixing a combination of chemicals.

Dout said Jenkins has not been told of Standerfer's death.

She said the two women had told that it will be four to five been best friends for 17 or 18 years. They met in New Port Ritchey, Fla., where Jenkins ran a day care center and had hired Standerfer to work for her.

Jenkins encouraged Standerfer to move to Pampa about two years ago, Dout said. The two friends lived close to each other and often traded furniture and household goods, she said.

A fund to help Jenkins' family has been set up at the Cabot & NOI Employees' Credit Union, 320 W. Francis.

Water

Continued from Page 1

The key to the operation, he said, is the city's water treatment plant on West Kentucky.

"The water treatment plant we have right now is state of the art," Morris said. "We were one of the first few in the United States that put the system that we have in place. It was an extremely economical system. It's highly mechanized but very economical as far as water treatment."

The water treatment plant will produce up to six million gallons per day.

"Our peak is about eight million," Morris said. "That only happens four to five days a year. We don't go over six million gallons very often."

The city's water comes from three dif-

ferent sources. "The water that comes in from the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority, Morris said, "is about 50 percent put the system that Roberts County we have in place." well water and 50 percent Lake Meredith

water." Normally. Morris said, the

mix is 43 percent Roberts County well water and 57 percent lake water, but because of low lake levels and the higher salinity of the lake water, a higher rate of ground water is being used.

Once it reaches Pampa, it goes through the city's treatment plant and is mixed with water from Pampa's well field south of the city.

"There's 12 wells," Morris said.

Last year, Pampa used almost 1.2 billion gallons of

"Our water wells here in town supplied 313 million gallons," Morris said.

CRMWA provided about 885 million gallons of water.

This is the third year the city has done the report.

Everyone in the state, Morris said, that has base of at least 2,300 water customers has to meet certain guidelines. The report is mailed out if there are over 3,300 water customers.

"If you're less than that, you can do a direct delivery door-to-door," Morris said, "or post it at city hall, but that's not where we fall."

Pampa has more than 8,000 water users.

Morris said they mailed out Pampa's water report this month and posted it on the internet, but not on the city's website. Pampa's website is being redesigned so the city relied on a Pampa accountant and internet service provider that serves on the city's economic development corporation.

"Doug Locke was gracious enough to put this water qual-

ity report The water on his pantex.net treatment plant website. we have right now Morris said. "It's is state of the art. under We were one of the Pampa Water first few in the Quality." United States that When

the report

goes out, a

public

meeting

scheduled.

be

must

Richard Morris Public Works Director

> he said, so the public can ask questions and make comments.

> "We are going to have a public hearing," Morris said. He said the public will have an opportunity to ask questions about the report at 4 p.m., Tuesday, July 27, in conjunction with the regularly scheduled Pampa City Commission meeting in city hall.

> Morris said he'll make a short presentation of the report, and then the public will be able to comment.

> The city printed about than 8,600 copies of the report. About 8,200 were mailed out. Extra copies are available at city hall.

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Funds

Continued from Page 1

aviation airports in Texas are eligible for funding, according to the release.

Arrivals and departures from general aviation airports accounts for more than three million flight hours per year and provide aircraft facilities for agricultural, medical, business and commuter use, according to the release.

Airports to be discussed at Wednesday's Pampa meeting are Perry Lefors Field, McLean/Gray Pampa; County airport, McLean; Hemphill County airport, Canadian; Follett/Lipscomb County airport, Follett; Higgins-Lipscomb County airport, Higgins; Perryton Ochiltree County airport, Perryton; and Miami-Roberts County airport,

For more information, call Pampa Chamber of Commerce at 669-3241.

Viewpoints

TxDOT can't see the forest for the trees

I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathy to anyone who has lost a friend or loved one in a motor vehicle accident involving a tree. Nothing can make up for such a loss.

It is always tragic when something happens to cause an unexpected, sudden death. Whenever a fatal illness is the cause of death, the person and their family and friends generally have time to prepare themselves. No such preparation is possible when an accident, act of terrorism or other outside cause is the reason for death.

It is the responsibility of government and public service agencies to maintain the "general welfare" of its citizens. Measures to ensure the safety of the populace are enacted by government and enforced by federal, state and local agencies.

This is generally a good thing. Without laws and other safety measures, our world would be an even more dangerous place in which to live.

But sometimes, we go overboard in attempting to keep everyone safe. We focus on a few isolated events and let them grow in our minds until they overshadow all else, convincing us that the events represent a true menace to us all. These isolated events become, in some minds, a significant enough threat to justify dras-

people can't see the forest for

The Texas Department of Transportation, hereafter called TxDOT, has launched program

Marilyn

Powers

Staff Writer

to remove trees that are 30 feet or closer to . S . Highways 60 and 83.

This plan came about because from 1992 to 2001, seven fatalities and 11 injuries on those high-

ways involved trees. TxDOT did not develop this tree removal program just to be mean to trees or to incite some citizens' anger. I

In other words, sometimes believe they are sincerely trying to do their best to keep the public safe, as far as it is within their sphere of influ-

ence to do so.

In fact, I am surprised that TXDOT hasn't heard from The Sierra Club or any of the other environmentalists,

those persons referred to by some as "tree huggers." Maybe the environmentalists haven't heard about the tree removal plans yet, or maybe TxDOT just hasn't mentioned any communication from those

TxDOT has perhaps discovered the hard way that sometimes you can't save everybody even if you want to. We cannot protect everyone from every possible threat to their safety and

I think it is a dangerous trend when government seeks to be more and more involved in our lives. I also think that the way to make decisions is to consider what the majority of the population thinks and wants. If TxDOT wants to protect us from the trees, let them put guardrails around the trees.

I searched the Internet for laws involving trees. I read existing and proposed laws from a variety of states,

including Michigan and Maine. It is interesting to note that of all the sites I visited, none involved proposals to remove trees. All involved requirements to plant trees or refrain from removing trees.

I salute TxDOT for trying to do what they believe is best for the general public. In this instance, however, they may have lost their footing a little bit and started to slide down a slippery slope.

I think they're barking up the wrong tree.

No one can keep all accidents from happening. Sometimes, you just have to take the risks along with the benefits.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 20, the 202nd day of 2004. There are 164 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon as they stepped out of their lunar module.

On this date:

In 1810, Colombia declared independence from Spain. In 1861, the Congress of the Confederate States began holding sessions in Richmond, Va.

In 1871, British Columbia entered Confederation as a

In 1881, Sioux Indian leader Sitting Bull, a fugitive since the Battle of the Little Big Horn, surrendered to federal

In 1942, the first detachment of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps — later known as WACs — began basic training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

'Somehow a bachelor never quite gets over the idea that he is a thing of beauty and a boy forever.

> Helen Rowland American writer and humourist

In 1944, an attempt by a group of German officials to assassinate Adolf Hitler with a bomb failed as the explosion at Rastenburg Hitler's headquarters only wounded the Nazi leader.

In 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was nominated for an unprecedented fourth term of office at the Democratic convention in Chicago.

In 1976, America's Viking One robot space-

craft made a successful, first-ever landing on Mars. In 1977, a flash flood hit Johnstown, Pa., killing 80 people and causing \$350 million worth of damage.

In 1993, White House deputy counsel Vincent Foster Jr. was found shot to death in a park near Washington, D.C., a Ten years ago: Bosnian Serbs rejected an international

peace plan sponsored by the United States, Russia, France, Britain and Germany. Five years ago: After 38 years at the bottom of the

Atlantic, astronaut Gus Grissom's "Liberty Bell Seven" Mercury capsule was lifted to the surface.

One year ago: Gen. John Abizaid, the top commander of coalition forces in Iraq, predicted that resistance to U.S. forces in Iraq would grow in coming months as progress was made in creating a new government to replace the dictatorial regime of Saddam Hussein. President Bush welcomed Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi to his Texas ranch for a two-day visit.



Christian-Muslim clash inevitable

in Istanbul, Turkey, recently for the NATO summit, he steered away from talk about a "clash of civilizations" between Christianity and Islam. He is strategically shrewd and probably also factually accurate, as he explains our war on terror, to emphasize that most Muslims oppose homicidal bombers. But it's hard not to think in "clash" terms when you stand at one particular spot here in this city.

The spot is smack dab between two architectural wonders. Look one way from benches, and you'll see Hagia Sophia, the famous

world for nearly a thousand years. Century after century the church added beautiful medallions in Arabic and

Marvin

Olasky

Columnist

frescos and mosaics. A r a m p ascending Sophia balcony even provided

access for the disabled (or empresses too haughty to walk) before access was cool.

But Hagia Sophia became a mosque following the Muslim conquest of this city in 1453. The conquerors

When President Bush was domed cathedral that was a ripped off crosses and Christian wonder of the destroyed or plastered over the magnificent art. They added huge (and tacky)



the house of worship is a drab musethat shows off in

Quran.

sayings

from the

Today,

desolation its huge slabs of marble, with scaffolding aggressively entering what should be open space. Hagia Sophia is one sad site, and maybe that's the way Muslim Turkey wants it to

be, because look the other way from those outside benches and you'll see the mother of all in-your-face building projects: the magnificently-domed Mosque (aka the Sultan Ahmet).

Sixteenth-century Muslims were saying to Christians: "Anything you can do I can do better." The mosque, unlike the now-barren Hagia Sophia, is beautiful inside, with wall tiles in cobalt blue, aqua, red and white floral patterns. Advantage, Islam - but this architectural contest is

See CLASH, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Intelligence report just name-calling

Because this country is so politically divided, its hard to tell what impact the Intelligence Committee report will have on America.

We hope, of course, it will make a great deal of difference, but already there is name-calling and denial over the findings that reports of weapons of mass destruction were greatly exaggerated. Most troubling is that the report leaves many of us wondering who was and who is in charge of keeping our country safe from terrorism and protected against threats to world peace.

Perhaps we've watched

too many Steven Seagal or al security for generations to plots and counter plots take place in attempts to rule the

the guys in the white come along and make us safe and

Texas Thoughts Greenville Herald-Banner

Perhaps Sen. Jay Rockefeller, a member of the committee, summed up what our biggest concern should be as a result of this report: "Tragically, the intelligence failures set forth in this report will affect our nation-

Bruce Willis movies where come. Our credibility is diminished. Our standing in the world has never been world. We look for conspira- lower ... As a direct consecies against us and hope for quence, our nation is more vulnerable

> before." Now what do we

do about it? While the report mostly focused on the failing of intelligence, do we trust an administration under whose watch it happened? Do we believe any administration in the future when they want to take us to war over information supplied by the intelligence community?

Certainly this is not the first time questions of such a serious nature have been raised. There are many who still think Franklin D. Roosevelt's advisors encouraged him to ignore rumors of an attack by the Japanese and let it happen so we would be able to justify entering World War II. Then, of course, military actions in both Korea and Vietnam have been held up as examples of misguided (some now argue they were uninformed) efforts to stop the

See REPORT, Page 5

Marine who Iraqi insurge unit has step a deserter, always a Ma Cpl. Wass cloud of sus

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The rep good new ances are

U.S. Marine who disappeared in Iraq says he did not desert

Marine who was once feared beheaded by week Iraqi insurgents after disappearing from his always a Marine."

cloud of suspicion since failing to report for lenging time for me." duty June 20. Videotaped images later suremerged unharmed in Lebanon on July 8 and city of Fallujah and later turned up at the U.S.

QUANTICO, Va. (AP) - The U.S. was brought back to the United States last Embassy in Beirut. It remains unclear how he ing his brief appearance Monday. He is in the

"I did not desert my post," Hassoun told unit has stepped forward to deny he was ever reporters outside Quantico Marine Corps a deserter, insisting that "Once a Marine, Base on Monday. "I was captured and held videotape of a blindfolded Hassoun, a sword spotlight, officials said. against my will by anti-coalition forces for hanging over his head. At one point during Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun has been under a 19 days. This was a very difficult and chal-

Hassoun, 24, of West Jordan, Utah, disapfaced showing him apparently kidnapped; he peared from his base near the troubled Iraqi

traveled from Iraq to Lebanon, where he was midst of what the Marines call a "repatriation born and still has some relatives.

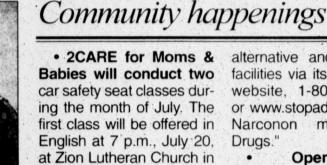
beheaded after being lured from the base by

Hassoun did not answer any questions dur- motto, Latin for "always faithful."

process" in which he is debriefed and given On June 27, Arab television showed a time to decompress and avoid the media

"I would like to tell all the Marines as well his disappearance, a group claiming to reprease all those others serving in Iraq to keep sent his captors announced that he had been their heads up and spirits high. Once a Marine, always a Marine, Semper Fi,"

Hassoun said, invoking the Marine Corps



p.m. July 21 also at Zion Lutheran. Participants must pre-register to attend. For more information or to pre-register for the first class, call 664-2459. If interested in the second class, call 1-888-892-2273. ext. 228.

Pampa. Another class will

be held in Spanish at 1:30

• The next Pampa Area Singles Dance will be held from 8-11 p.m., Saturday, July 24, at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa. The dance will feature Mike Porter. Admission is \$6 per person. No smoking or alcohol is allowed. For more information, call 665-7059.

· Narconon, active in the field of drug rehabilitation and education since 1966, provides free professional counseling, evaluation and referral services to internationally recognized

alternative and traditional facilities via its hotline and website, 1-800-468-6933 or www.stopaddiction.com. Narconon means "No

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. and 8-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday noon meetings are non-smoking. For more information, call 665-9702.

 Open Door Al-Anon meets at 8 p.m., Monday and Wednesday each week at 910 W. Kentucky. For more information, call 665-9702. Birthday night begins at 7:30 p.m., the fourth Wednesday of each month.

 Alateen Winners Group meets at 8 p.m., Wednesdays at 910 W. Kentucky.

 Outreach Health Services/WIC Nutrition education classes. Open to the public. For more information, call 665-1182.



(Pampa News photo by REDONN WOODS)

Long-time Lions

Pampa Lions Club members recently honored Ray Duncan for 53 years of service to the civic organization with a Monarch Chevron. Duncan joined Pampa Lions Club at age 28 on Lion Fred Carry's invitation. Also awarded with Monarch Chevrons were the following Pampa Lions Club members: Edward "Ed" Wiens, 45 years; Gene Barber, 40 years; Richard Kastein, 35 years; A.C. Malone and Harold Taylor, 30 years each; Bob Finney, Dr. Bill Horne and Dr. Jay Johnson, 25 years each; Larry Baker, Doug Carmichael, Dr. Ralph Depee, Lee Porter and Ray White; 20 years each; Dr. Craig Shaffer, 15 years; and Kenneth Cargill, Teresa Henson and Rusty Tapp, 10 years each.

Clash

Continued from Page 4

rigged. What about the larger confrontation? Will Muslim and Christian civilizations inevitably clash? They already are in Nigeria, but here in Turkey moderate Muslims hoping for peace are currently in charge.

Istanbul includes many reminders of past Christian-Muslim conflict, and other parts of Turkey have even more. The Cappadocia region east of here displays the remnants of conflict: When the armies of Caliph Omar invaded in 717-718, Christians turned cliff caves into worship and hiding places.

"warrior-saints"

swords. church commemorates the counter-attacks Nicephorus Phocas, who in the 900s took back Antioch and Tarsus from the Muslims. At the Karanlik (Dark) Church, where you can view by flashlight a wall

covered

paintings, one fresco of a muscular Jesus – tiple entrances and exits for big biceps and pecs - is most escape.

with

prominent. Christians used them clash of civilization that down eight levels and of weakness where all we again in that way after the went on for centuries, and

Seljuk Turk conquest in their paintings are very room, baptistry, storerooms, Frescoes in the cave Christian Soldiers motif, wine cellars, stables on the churches have regular bibli- with lots of red ochre, green, first and second stories, cal scenes but also scenes of and cobalt blue. In places of wells, tombs, and 52 ventila-

> 'We need to pray for peace and work to build honest Muslim-Christian friendship." Marvin Olasky

Columnist more, with mul-

Thirty-

included a church, class-

much in an Onward bedrooms, dining rooms, with Cappadocia without cliffs, tions shafts to a depth of 75 e to 90 yards. Christians Christians apparently built the city by w e n t hollowing out airshafts and excavating from the sides of ground: the shafts.

And talk about security: t w o Christians built not bolt under- locks but bolt stones - two ground feet thick and weighing half cities a ton - that could be rolled probably across passageways in case housed at of attack. Which leads to a t i m e s question: What kind of bolt stones do we have today? We need to pray for peace and work to build honest Muslim-Christian friendship. But we must also be I visited one underground discerning, so that terrorists Those Christians saw a city at Derinkuyu that went don't force us into a position can do is hide.

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Report

Continued from Page 4

spread of Communism. While the Korean effort did serve us well, no one on this side of the Evil Empire has ever been able to claim any type of victory in the

Vietnam debacle.

The report is not going to help our image abroad, but we are going to have to work diligently to convince other nations that ultimately each and every country is going to be impacted by the quality of security efforts do their duty to contribute to peaceful diplomacy.

particularly helpful to the Bush re-election campaign. President Bush says he finds the intelligence report useful and that he wants to know better. As someone hoping have thought that process

It's also not going to be would have already taken place. This report, albeit somewhat politically tainted as are all things out of Washington these days, needs to be taken quite serihow to make the agencies ously by the president, Congress and American citifor four more years in the zens. There is nothing more White House, we would comforting than to know someone is in control here.

Most state budgets may be on tail end of budget crises, but problems linger

(There are) still

some serious

concerns.'

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) the end of this fiscal year states had balance increases, through the Jobs and Growth be emerging from the economic downturn, a new report measuring the health mixed bag, of their budgets shows. But said Corina that doesn't mean states will Eckl, NCSL's celebrate with wholesale senior fiscal spending sprees, experts say. analyst. She

States wound up the fiscal said that while year in June with a collective 2004 was betending balance of more than ter \$6 billion more than this time expected, last year, according to a sur- there are "still vey by the National some serious Conference of State concerns." Legislatures, released during in Salt Lake City.

ances are expected to fall at this year. The report found 26 from the federal government enue performance," it said.

- Most U.S. states appear to after a one-time gift from the but 18 saw declines.

federal government runs out.

its annual meeting Tuesday compiled in July from 44 the national state budget pic- artificially inflated by the states, where year-end bal- ture. The report says it's not all ances collectively went from good news since those bal- \$12.2 billion to \$18.4 billion billion one-time infusion attributable to improved rev-

'It's a mixed bag. passed fiscal

New

and

Carolina

North

Corina Eckl NCSL fiscal analyst

Tax Relief Reconciliation The six states not included Act, states' general fund in the report spending grew a collective 2.4 percent, the report says, not and education was a prime benefactor. 2005 Spending for K-12 educabudgets yet tion grew almost 5 percent,

California, up 2 percent from two years Illinois, ago. Higher education saw a-Kentucky, 3.2 percent increase in Michigan, spending; it fell 0.5 percent York in fiscal year 2003, the report

Though the report cau-The report is based on data account for about a third of tioned that revenues were federal government's \$20 bil-Aided last year by a \$20 lion, "some of the growth is



Dear Abby. By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My family is dealing with a concern similar to "Trapped in Louisville." My teenage son is dating a lovely girl who attends a neighboring high school. She is being harassed by a boy who attends her school, rides her bus and lives in her neighborhood. I'll call him "Willy."

Willy has refused to honor repeated requests by the young lady to leave her alone. He makes unwanted advances toward her at school, follows her home and trespasses on her property.

The young lady's mother is not around during the daytime, due to her career. Her father is away defending our country. If my son becomes involved, I'm afraid there could be violence. I don't know what to do.

There are no witnesses willing to get involved. How do we get solid proof so Willy will not cause her harm? Who can we tell so that this will stop? We don't want to make this problem their own. worse than it already is. Willy has threatened retribution if he gets into trouble over this.

-DEEPLY CON-CERNED IN LAWRENCEVILLE, GA.

DEAR CONCERNED: It is time for the young lady's mother to pick up the phone and inform the police that her daughter is being stalked and threatened. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I read the letter from "Trapped in Louisville" with mounting alarm and a horrible sense of deja vu. She's the high school girl being stalked by a classmate who calls her once or twice every hour. When her family got call blocking, he bought a cell phone and continued to call. Now he does it from the homes of his

Yesterday's answer

29 Chip-

munk's

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34 Pop

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33 Goat part

35 Unbroken

Abby, I am a university professor in a small coastal town. Our university is still in shock from the kidnapping, beating, rape and murder of a sophomore student in her dormitory. The student who admitted the crime had been pestering the girl for dates, despite repeated rebuffs. After he killed her, he called her parents and said, "I've murdered your daughter."

During the police investigation, the girl's father said, "There was a boy who was stalking her, but we thought that had gone by the wayside."

I disagree with your advice that "Trapped" should speak up to her stalker or have her parents call his. They should go straight to law enforcement NOW.

Although the girl fears her stalker will call her a racist, this has nothing to do with race. Her family should not try to handle the situation on

-CONCERNED EDU-CATOR, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR CONCERNED: I stand corrected. My deepest sympathy goes to the family of that unfortunate woman.

Readers, there are laws against stalking in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. There are also laws against stalking at the federal level. Stalking is abusive, anti-social, sick behavior. It is not a compliment to the victim, and it is not benign. Stalkers are addicts, and the substance to which they are addicted is their prey. That is why stalkers should be considered dangerous and the police should be notified when stalking occurs.

For Better Or Worse

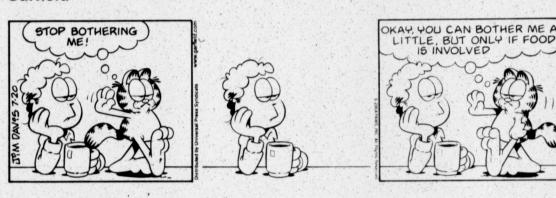


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Garfield



Beetle Bailey





Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

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CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH ACROSS DOWN

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surprise 30 Archaic pronoun 31 Facial feature 32 Nerdy 34 "Let's avoid that topic! 40 Writer Rice 41 Salem's state 42 Forest creature 43 Faked a signature

Marmaduke



"Did you forget a date? Your girlfriend sounds mad!"

The Family Circus



"I'd feel better if we had four leashes."

B.C.

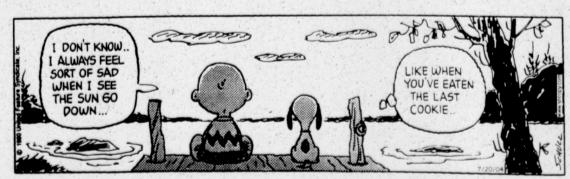


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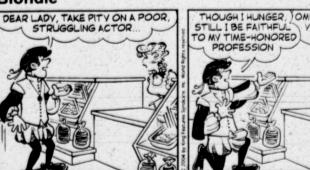
Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie







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new situation.

circumstances.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Eddie teroffer two to three months ago that would George insists he isn't being greedy, he just wants to be paid close to what he's worth.

Tennessee's career leading rusher rejected the team's latest contract offer Monday and asked the Titans to release him so he can land with a new team before training

"Change may be good," George told The Associated Press on Monday night.

"I hate to sever the ties here. My first and only option was to finish a

Tennessee Titan under fair circumstances. Unfortunately, that's not how I perceive it at this point. I look to move forward in a new situation."

The Titans declined comment Monday night on the run- option was to finish ning back's request.

George's agent, Lamont Smith, said team officials told him they wanted to "kick it around" and get back to them.

But Titans owner Bud Adams said in May he was "pessimistic" about George returning to the team, even as general manager Floyd Reese and coach Jeff Fisher said they were hopeful a deal could be reached.

George is only the second NFL running back to rush for 10,000 yards while never missing a start, joining Jim Brown. Only Walter Payton

(170) and Ricky Watters (114) have started as potential options and said he wants to more consecutive regular-season games than George's 128

Last December, George became the 17th running back to top 10,000 yards. He has 10,009 yards and 64 touchdowns for the franchise that drafted the 1995 Heisman Trophy winner in 1996. His best season was in 2000, with fullback Lorenzo Neal, when he carried 403 times for 1,509 yards.

George is under contract through 2006 and was due to make \$4.25 million this season. The Titans asked him in February to rework his contract and paid him a \$1 million roster bonus in March.

But the salary cap-strapped Titans, whose woes are only expected to worsen in 2005, need to clear space to sign their 13 draft picks before training camp starts July 31.

have shaved \$3 million from their salary cap, only to see team officials stick close to a proposal of approximately \$1.5 million this season with less money each year through 2006.

"In essence, the deal we had on the table doesn't assure me of anything but a oneyear deal," George said. "I don't plan on retiring after next year."

The Titans have evolved into an offense that now looks to pass first

behind Steve McNair, the NFL's co-MVP last season after leading the league with a quarterback rating of 100.4.

George has been known throughout his eight seasons for his work ethic, which includes regular yoga sessions to maximize his flexibility. He had one of his best games in a couple seasons last January during a playoff victory over Baltimore when he ran for 88 yards despite dislocating his left shoulder.

He attended the team's offseason minicamps as he recovered from operations on his right knee and left ankle. But NFL teams start opening camps over the next two - Eddie George

Running back, George, who turns 31 in Tennessee Titans September, spoke of Tampa Bay, Philadelphia and Dallas

join a team with a chance of winning a Super Bowl.

"It's just going to be a shock now to see the new faces in the locker room, different city, different circumstances. All that being said, it's also exciting what the uncertainty does bring," he said.

"It could be a great situation I walk into to help a team win a championship.'

If the Titans release George, it would leave them with second-year rusher Chris Brown, veteran Robert Holcombe and rookies Troy Fleming, Vick King and Jarrett Payton at running back.

Brown rushed for 221 yards last season, averaging 3.9 yards per carry. George averaged 3.3 yards a carry and had five touchdowns.



From left to right, Ronnie Wood appears to be signaling for a prize winner while Jamilou Garren gets ready to present prizes. John Wagner sports his hat and shades as he calls out winning names during the awards presentation at the 4th annual Kiwanis Club scramble at Hidden Hills golf course July 17.

Another successful Kiwanis scramble

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS Sports Editor

All indications are that the 4th Annual Downtown Kiwanis Club four person scramble was a great success. 24 teams competed in this years' event which benefited from gifts provided by 50 sponsors.

The tournament was held July 17 at Hidden Hills golf course.

The top four groups in the Love Flight were, in first place, Williams, Williams, Marlar and Hill. Second place went to the foursome of Montoya, Ashford, Cantrell and Westbrook followed Woodington, Hunt, Heuston and Hargus with Smith, Witacre, Noble and Baughn finishing

The Mickelson Flight was won by the

group of Wells, Blackman, Stroud and Schneider. Second place went to Fields, Neighbors, Manor and Fields. Davis, Knutson, Mabry and Sargent with Wilson, Woodruff, Woodruff and Anderson rounding out the top four.

The Goosen Flight was won by Marchman, Brame, Fleming and Carrol with Cook, Parnell, Parnell and Cook second. Third went to Glass, Glass, Basham and Harris. Stowers, Stowers, Hondaick and Wade finished fourth.

Jason Marlar had the longest drive on the fourth hole.

Pat Montoya was closest to the pin on the

Straight drive on the 10th hole went to Steve Williams.

Dodger comeback dooms Astros

in the game it is.

back-to-back home runs in the eighth inning that." to lift Los Angeles to a 7-6 comeback victory over the Houston Astros on Monday night, the Dodgers' seventh straight win.

"We expect to win every inning, every out, every at-bat," closer Eric Gagne said after the Dodgers came from behind to win for the fifth straight time on the road since the All-Star break.

"We're doing everything right right now," Gagne said.

Adrian Beltre added his career-high 24th homer for the Dodgers, who have won 13 of their last 14 games.

"It was a great victory," manager Jim

HOUSTON (AP) — The Los Angeles Tracy said. "It was back-and-forth and we Dodgers remain confident no matter how had some big step-up at-bats in the late many runs they're trailing by, and how late innings by Milton and Shawn. ... We made a couple of mistakes early, but it was Milton Bradley and Shawn Green hit because we were aggressive. You can't fault

> Green, hitting .412 (7-for-17) in the first five games of this road trip, appears to have shaken an early season slump.

> "I definitely think he's on an upward swing," Tracy said. "We want him to get very, very confident in this stretch."

> Green doesn't want to get too confident. "It's July," he said. "I don't want to get too caught up in this. But we're in a great stretch right now. I have felt a lot better the last 2 1/2 to 3 weeks."

> The Astros feel worse after losing for the fifth time in their last six games.

Earnhardt Jr. released from hospital

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Dale chin, according to a statement from the hos-Earnhardt Jr. was released from the hospital pital. The burns covered about 6 percent of — one day after being burned on the face and legs in a crash during a warmup for an American Le Mans Series race.

The NASCAR star, son of the late Dale Earnhardt, was flown to the University of California-Davis Medical Center on Sunday after the car he was driving crashed and turned into a fireball at the Infineon Raceway in Sonoma.

Earnhardt was treated for second-degree burns on the insides of both legs and on his

Steve Crisp, a spokesman for Dale Earnhardt Inc., said the younger Earnhardt will compete in next weekend's Nextel Cup race at New Hampshire International Speedway. Earnhardt, second in the Cup standings behind Jimmie Johnson, was supposed to be enjoying a weekend off from his regular series for a rare chance to race without pressure.

Time running out on Armstrong challengers

— The few remaining riders with an outside chance of derailing Lance Armstrong's bid for a record sixth straight Tour de France crown have just five

VALREAS, France (AP) the first foray into the Alps. Armstrong's team was hoping he would have the vellow jersey by the end of the 112-mile stage from Valreas to Villard-de-Lans.

Being in the overall lead days left to make their would give Armstrong the right to set out last on

Wednesday in a time trial to a Mecca of cycling, the L'Alpe d'Huez ski station. That would be the equivalent of pole position, allowing Armstrong to see how his rivals who go before him fare on the brutal climb with 21 hairpin bends.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, July 21, 2004:

move, starting Tuesday with

You make a difference when you focus your energy on what is key at the moment. Sometimes you are very hard on yourself. Loosen up more. Sometimes you see your professional status or work as a reflection of who you are. Resist thinking like that, and you will be much happier. Your ability to communicate develops to a new level so that others can hear your message. Make a point of reaching out for siblings, neighbors and those who might have shut down or are alone. You will tend to overdo it. If you are single, you easily could hook up with someone you don't realize is emotionally unavailable. Walk carefully into a new relationship. Check the person out. If you are attached, your relationship warms up because of your positive attitude. You have the choice of pessimism or optimism. Take the latter. A positive change occurs around your domestic life in 2005. VIRGO is fun to chat with. 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)

*** Although you're loaded with work, you go out of your way for others, and they react positively. Even though you might feel overloaded with chores, you do finish them. Change plans, if you must, to get as much work done as possible. Tonight: Take it easy. TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

**** Tap into your ingenuity, and you'll find many new ways of making money and/or enhancing a romantic relationship. A discussion, though serious, could take you in many different directions. You might need to adjust to partnership. Tonight: Play the night

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** You seem to smile no matter what happens, as you come from a very secure place. You might be thinking about increasing the size of your home or sprucing it up. A boss could be difficult, but knowing you have solace at home helps you push through the day. Tonight: Buy a favorite treat on the way

CANCER (June 21-July 22) *** You have the wherewithal to see what others don't. This perspective might make you a bit serious. New information continues to come out, which could keep opening up your mind. Flex with changes. Don't fight; rather, work with news. Tonight: Meet a friend at a favorite place

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Take your time before making a money commitment, as enticing as it might look. Play it cool and hold back. You won't do well risking right now. Play it conservatively, and you won't make a mistake. Do your research. Tonight: Don't break your piggy bank. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

*** Accept a contrary family member or roommate (even possibly the cat). Everyone else remains highly responsive to your suggestions. What you want to achieve might be difficult, but you will get there. Don't lose hope. Tonight: Keep on smiling.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★ Listen to your inner voice when

dealing with difficult bosses. You are letting go of a lot of problems that have been trailing you for the past 10 years. Be honest with yourself. Refuse to get into a power play. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** Seek out others, knowing

what you want. Working as a group proves more successful. Refuse to get your funds involved, as you might find that a commitment is an emptying well. Try to understand another's point of view. Don't close yourself off. Tonight: With the crowds.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) *** Maintain high visibility, even though you might feel pressured by a partner or a certain public appearance Remain confident. Don't turn yourself inside out about a problem. Don't be so critical. Tonight: In the limelight. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** You have the ability to detach and take an overview if need be. Your ability to realize what is your "stuff" and what is someone else's could make all the difference. Others might be overly serious but helpful. Tonight: Relax your mind by escaping into music, a movie or a reverie o

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** A partner's or associate's ideas take you down a new path of thinking. You might need to abandon a hope or wish that means a lot to you. A friend could disappoint you. Don't take on more than you can handle. Tonight: Togetherness works.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** When all's said and done you could be rethinking a decision, though you might not be comfortable with what might be coming down. You find that a loved one could be unusually difficult, or a child could be touchy. Indulge others. Tonight: Follow the BORN TODAY

Actor Robin Williams (1952), lawyer Kenneth Starr (1946), singer Cat Stevens (1948)



Can I keep'em

Five-year-old Ryan Hand needs a helping hand as he proudly shows off his string of crappie. The young angler hooked his catch at Lake McClellan on July 17, using minnows and worms. Total weight was approximately two pounds.



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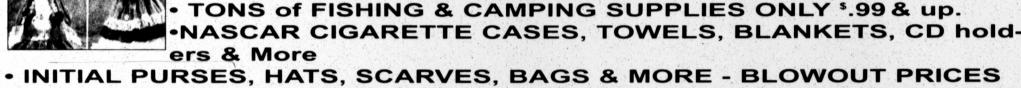
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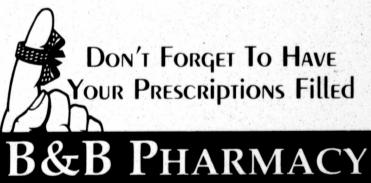
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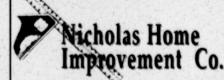
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WRDZTMR

NGTYM V D C J M T J Y J V T

PDZTWM TWMYMT. — QMW

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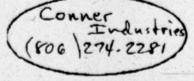
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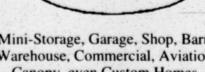
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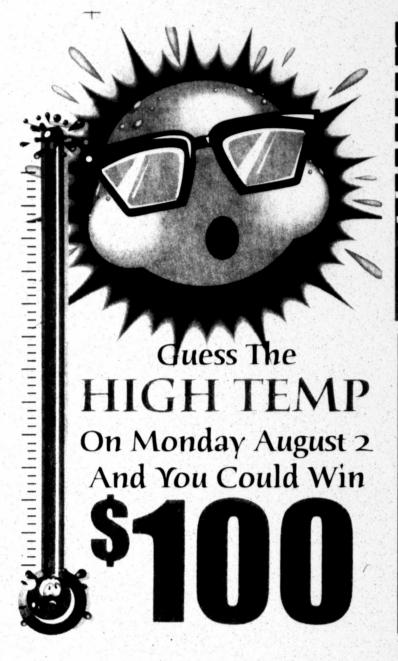
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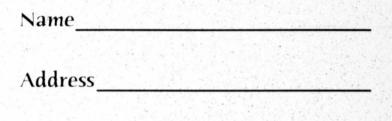
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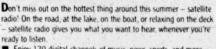
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