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SEE PAGE 6



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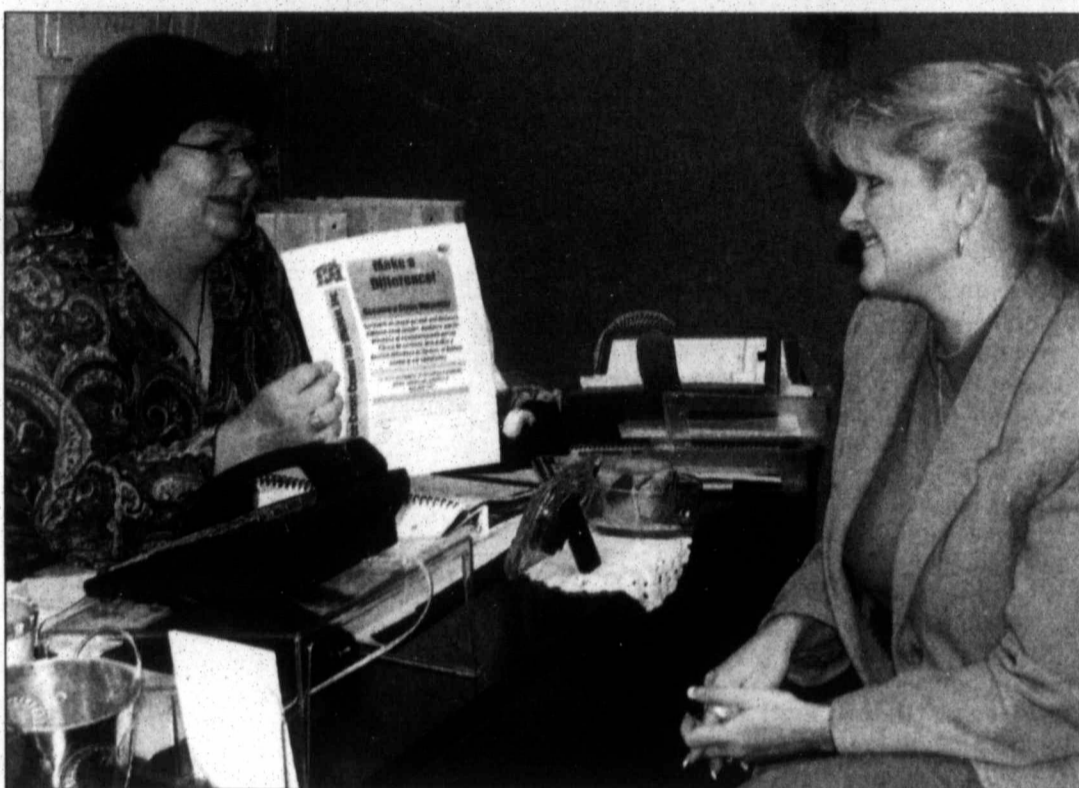
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Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS
Lyn Ledbetter, left, and Lori Covil of Tralee Crisis Center examine a notice concerning volunteering at the center. The center is currently seeking volunteers to perform a variety of tasks for its clients.

Tralee seeks volunteers

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Volunteers may do anything from clerical work to retail sales to providing one-on-one support for crime victims at Tralee Crisis Center.

The center is currently seeking volunteers. All volunteers receive 24 to 30 hours of training, divided into 10 training sessions, with the first session scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Oct. 9.

Tralee staff, the district and county attorneys' offices, and law enforcement will conduct the training.

Volunteers who work with clients may be on call to provide face-to-face contact with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crime, said Lori Covil, executive director of the center.

"They may go to the scene and accompa-

ny the victim to the hospital," Covil said.

Volunteers may also perform clerical duties at the center, work in the center's resale shop, help with fund-raisers, and teach basic life skills to clients. Bilingual workers are also helpful, Covil said.

Last year, Tralee provided services to 554 victims, the majority of whom were involved in domestic violence cases. The center serves clients in Carson, Gray, Childress, Collingsworth, Donley, Hemphill, Roberts and Wheeler counties.

All those victims result in a lot of work to be done, Covil said.

"We're in desperate need of volunteers," she said.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer may call Lyn Ledbetter, volunteer coordinator and educator, at 669-1131.

Bell TAKS meeting rescheduled

Democratic gubernatorial nominee and former U.S. Congressman Chris Bell will be in Amarillo on Thursday to meet with members of the Organization of Proud Parents Opposing State Enforced TAKS.

The meeting was previously scheduled last week but was postponed.

The Amarillo-based parents' organization will hold a forum to discuss high-stakes testing in Texas public schools with Bell at 10 a.m. at the Holiday Inn, 1911 E. Interstate 40.

Oppose TAKS is a volunteer group of parents, step-parents, guardians, and caregivers

of schoolchildren in Texas who firmly believe that accountability should be accompanied by an atmosphere of moderation and common sense.

Their desire is to create awareness among Texas lawmakers as to the mental state of public school students before, during, and after taking mandated standardized tests.

Following the discussion, Bell and Oppose TAKS representatives will be available for comment.

For more information about Chris Bell, visit his campaign Web site at www.chrisbell.com.

Emergency livestock grazing extension proposed

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed a two-month extension to the traditional deadline for emergency livestock grazing on Conservation Reserve Program acres for Texas farmers and ranchers who have been impacted by drought.

The traditional deadline for emergency grazing on CRP acres is Sept. 30. The proposed new deadline is Nov. 30, according to a USDA news

release.

The USDA's Farm Service Agency state committee and Natural Resources Conservation Service state technical committee must agree on the need for the emergency grazing extensions before they are finalized.

"Extremely dry weather conditions have created significant hardships for agricultural producers in Texas," said Matthew Street, FSA

state county executive director for the Gray County FSA. "This emergency relief measure will provide feed and forage to producers who have lost hay stocks and grazing lands because of drought."

In mid-July, USDA announced that CRP rental payments will be reduced by only 10 percent instead of the standard 25 percent on CRP lands that are grazed during 2006.

CRP is a voluntary program that

offers annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term resource-conserving cover on eligible land. The USDA may allow producers to graze or hay on CRP acreage under certain conditions such as during times of drought or other natural disasters.

Farmers and ranchers can graze no more than 75 percent of the

See **GRAZING**, Page 3

New vehicle tax values to be taken from Black Book

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

The values of used vehicles to be employed in determining what tax is owed on a private party vehicle purchased on or after Oct. 1 will be provided by Auto Black Book Car Values, according to a Texas Department of Transportation representative in Austin.

The source for vehicle values to be used was originally reported in the Sunday edition of The Pampa News as NADA Blue Book.

"This is going to be based on Black Book, a national vehicle evaluation guide that will calculate the prices for vehicles based on Texas sales data. It will be done

just for us," said Kim Sue Lia Perkes, public information officer for TxDOT's vehicle titles and registration division.

Auto Black Book Car Values is a service of the National Auto Research Division of Hearst Business Media Corporation, according to the web site of CarQuotes.com. Black Book Online states that its information reflects the latest wholesale prices of vehicles sold at weekly dealer auctions.

A link on TxDOT's home page at <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/> will be the means of access-

See **TAX**, Page 3

'Gator in the gravel'



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS
Passersby at this home in north Pampa might pick up their pace on first glimpsing this alligator sculping, which appears to be swimming along a river made of gravel.

+

+

Shiver me timbers



Pampa News photo by REDONN WOODS

Employees of Accolade Home Care of Pampa, Amarillo and Shamrock visited Pampa businesses Wednesday dressed like pirates. Pictured are Rhonda Harralson, Janet Metcalf, Laura Garrison, Gayla Chester, Debbie Archer, Freda Kelley, Jamie Holland, Brandy Green, Sonya Britton, Amanda Crawford, Lisa Esper and Suzanne Courtney.

Bush praises Abbas after private talk

NEW YORK (AP) — President Bush tried to boost Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas today as “a man of peace” who can help advance Mideast talks that have been stalled with militant Hamas leaders controlling the Palestinian parliament.

Abbas told Bush, “We are in dire need of your help and support.”

Abbas assured Bush that Palestinians want peace, despite the election of Hamas, which is sworn to Israel’s destruction and has rebuffed international demands to recognize Israel and renounce violence.

“The Palestinian people desire peace, and there is no power on Earth that can prevent the Palestinian people from moving toward the peaceful solution and living and coexisting in peace,” he said.

The meeting came while the two leaders were in New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly. In a speech there Tuesday, Bush said achieving peace in the Middle East was one of the great objectives of his presidency.

“I fully understand that in order to achieve this vision there must be lead-

ers willing to speak out and act on behalf of people who yearn for peace.” Bush said at the end of his meeting with Abbas when reporters were invited in. “And you are such a leader, Mr. President.”

The two leaders spoke briefly to the media and did not take questions.

The U.N. Security Council plans an open meeting Thursday that is intended to revive the peace process.

In his talk Tuesday, Bush had said: “I’m optimistic that by supporting the forces of democracy and moderation, we can help Israelis and Palestinians build a more hopeful future and achieve the peace in a Holy Land we all want.”

He challenged Hamas to reject terrorism, recognize Israel’s right to exist, honor existing agreements and work for peace.

Hamas is sworn to Israel’s destruction. Abbas has been trying to persuade Hamas leaders to moderate their anti-Israel policies and join with his Fatah Party in a coalition government.

U.S. officials have been concerned that Abbas has not shown greater leadership, while Fatah leaders complain

that the United States has done next to nothing to support Abbas.

After the Hamas-led Cabinet took office in late March, the United States and European Union, the two biggest donors to the Palestinian Authority, cut off hundreds of millions of dollars in aid. Abbas wants to resolve the political stalemate in hopes of restarting the flow, but discussions have stalled over the U.S. demand that Hamas fully renounce violence, recognize Israel and agree to abide by commitments made by the previous secular Palestinian leaders.

Abbas met Monday in New York with Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, the first working session between high-ranking Israeli and Palestinian officials in four months. Afterward, Livni said Israel wants to reopen a serious dialogue with Abbas and work with him to establish a Palestinian state.

The U.S.-backed peace plan aimed to establish a Palestinian state by 2005, but Israel and the Palestinians have failed to carry out their obligations and it has languished.

Third infant dies from drug overdose

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A third premature infant has died after being accidentally given an adult-sized dose of a blood thinner medication at a hospital last week.

“We are all saddened by this news and our hearts are with this family, and all the families who have been affected,” Methodist Hospital spokesman Jon Mills said in a news release today.

The baby girl named Thursday Dawn Jeffers died late Tuesday at Riley Hospital for Children, where she was transferred after being born at Methodist.

Two other girls, D’myia Sabrina Nelson and Emmery Miller, both less than a week old, died Saturday at Methodist’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

They and three other babies were given too-strong doses of heparin, which is often used to prevent blood clots that could clog intravenous tubes, after a pharmacy technician accidentally stored adult doses in the neonatal unit’s drug cabinet. The other three babies were still in critical condition because they are premature but were not considered in danger from the overdoses, Mills said.

The hospital will offer to pay for family counseling and provide restitution to all six families affected, said Sam Odle, president and CEO of Methodist Hospital, which is part of Clarian Health Partners.

“We are acutely aware that nothing can adequately compensate these families for their loss,” Odle said.

Since the overdoses, the hospital has taken steps to ensure the mistake does not happen again.

Tax

Continued from Page 1

ing used vehicle values which will be employed in calculating taxes owed by the buyer, Perkes said.

The new law means that no longer will a vehicle buyer be able to use the purchase price they paid for a vehicle as the determination for the sales tax they pay on the purchase. The sales tax

will be calculated on a minimum value of 80 percent of the assigned value of the vehicle, if the amount declared by the buyer is less than that assigned value.

Only private party sales of used vehicles are affected by the new law, which does not apply to sales involving a dealer. The only vehicles currently to be affected by the new law are passenger cars, motorcycles, and light, medium, and heavy duty trucks.

If the buyer paid 80 per-

cent or more of the new law’s designated value, called the private party transaction value, of the vehicle, the quoted value will be used to determine amount of tax due. If the sale price is less than 80 percent of the PPTV, the amount equal to that 80 percent will be used. If the buyer paid less than 80 percent of the private party transaction value and wishes to provide a certified appraised value, they may do so.

Grazing

Continued from Page 1

stocking rate. They also can only graze 75 percent of

a field or contiguous field that is enrolled for wildlife habitat.

Texas is one of 30 eligible states for which an extended deadline for emergency livestock grazing on

CRP acres was proposed by the USDA.

For more information on USDA disaster assistance, call the local service center at 665-6561 or go online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

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Viewpoints

Politics: Neither side deserves to be re-elected

At the start of Congress, right after Bush's reelection, two topics dominated your agenda: Social Security and Immigration Reform. Neither passed.

Congress punted on Social Security after it got scared to death by the reaction of senior citizens to Bush's proposed reforms. Ironically, the group least affected by the changes — the elderly who were exempt from their provisions — was the most opposed. And the people directly impacted — current wage earners — were largely supportive, albeit apathetic. Democrats never got to stop the reforms by waging the gallant filibuster for which they were hoping. The Republicans quietly killed Bush's proposals by an agreement never to talk about them again.

And the record on immi-

gration hasn't been any better. Again, the Democrats didn't have to obstruct action. The Republicans did it for them. The compromises between the Senate bill's emphasis on an earned path to citizenship and the House's tough border protection is to adopt one from column A and one from column B. The public supports both border protections and an earned path to citizenship. But the House and Senate leaders don't have the guts to pass the obvious compromise, and Bush won't force their hand.

Then, as the session unfolded, two other issues became prominent. The Abramoff scandals put ethics and lobbying reform on the agenda and the rise of gasoline prices made energy a center-stage issue once more. And again, Congress

did next to nothing.

It hasn't even considered anything approaching tough ethics reform, conspicuously rejecting bans on congressional travel paid for by private organizations and earmarking limitations, apart from the tepid disclosure

requirements that are now up for consideration. Congress won't even consider such items as banning employment of spouses on campaign payrolls or limitations on lobbying by sons, daughters and wives. Those should be major priorities. Otherwise, a campaign contribution that pays for a wife's salary becomes a direct cash payment to the member's checking account

and a job as a lobbyist becomes an avenue to exploit special access.

On energy, Congress passed a weak bill without Alaskan drilling or any aggressive alternative fuels legislation except for some marginally helpful items on ethanol production.

This year, according to the whip's schedule, the House will be in session for fewer than 90 days, even projecting until the end of the year.

A Congress dominated by allegedly fiscally conservative Republicans has set all-time records on earmarking, and members, not challenged by the whip's lackadaisical schedule, spent most of their time funding

their pet projects in return for campaign donations from the businesses and lobbyists involved.

The raise in student-loan interest rates and the so-called bankruptcy reform bills were especially cruel to the families the GOP professes to care about. They make a higher education harder to afford and the resulting possible bankruptcy impossible to escape.

And, in a broader perspective, what good has the Republican Congress done since Bush took office? The tax cut was excellent and the good record of the economy bears it out. The No Child Left Behind bill is a landmark piece of legislation that is proving its worth. And the Patriot Act has done a lot to keep us safe.

But lately? In the past four years, what has this

Congress done to deserve reelection? Precious little.

All the pundits are focusing on whether the Republicans keep power in the 2008 election or whether the Democrats take over. But both parties have a dismal record this Congress — a record of non-achievement.

This has been, truly, the do-nothing Congress of all time!

Eileen McGann coauthored this column.

—Dick Morris was an adviser to Bill Clinton for 20 years. Eileen McGann, an attorney and consultant, is a CEO of VOTE.com and Legislativevote.com.

She works with Dick Morris on campaigns and around the world, specializing in using the Internet to win elections.

Dick Morris

Columnist



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 20, the 263rd day of 2006. There are 102 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 20, 1519, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan set out from Spain on a voyage to find a western passage to the Spice Islands in Indonesia. (Magellan was killed en route, but one of his ships eventually circled the world.)

On this date:

In 1870, Italian troops took control of the Papal States, leading to the unification of Italy.

In 1873, panic swept the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in the wake of railroad bond defaults and bank failures.

'Ninety-nine percent of the failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses.'

— George Washington Carver
American botanist
(1864-1943)

In 1881, Chester A. Arthur was sworn in as the 21st president of the United States, succeeding the assassinated James A. Garfield.

In 1947, former New York City Mayor Fiorello La Guardia died.

In 1958, civil rights activist the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was seriously wounded

during an appearance at a New York City department store when an apparently deranged woman stabbed him in the chest.

In 1962, black student James Meredith was blocked from enrolling at the University of Mississippi by Gov. Ross R. Barnett. (Meredith was later admitted.)

In 1973, in their so-called "battle of the sexes," tennis star Billie Jean King defeated Bobby Riggs in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3, at the Houston Astrodome.

In 1973, singer-songwriter Jim Croce died in a plane crash near Natchitoches, La; he was 30.

In 1976, Playboy magazine released an interview in which Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter admitted he'd "looked on a lot of women with lust."

In 1984, a suicide car bomber attacked the U.S. Embassy annex in north Beirut, killing a dozen people.

Ten years ago: President Clinton announced his signing of a bill outlawing homosexual marriages, but said it should not be used as an excuse for discrimination, violence or intimidation against gays and lesbians.



Iraq: It's kill or be 'PC' and lose

One of my dad's more memorable lines was his response to the question about what his strategy was for fighting the Cold War. Simple, he said, "We win, they lose."

That's the way it worked out; we won, they lost.

We won because the Reagan strategy was to apply relentless pressure on the Soviets with unflinching resolve, to never let up, and to grind the Communists' faces in the mud at every opportunity while the world looked on, no matter how much it shocked the media and the go-easy-on-the-Kremlin liberals who feared giving offense to our sworn enemies by treating them unkindly and incurring the condemnation of the world's wimps.

We are now fighting a war that demands similar resolve and a rigid determination to defeat the enemy, whatever it takes, without regard to how it will shock the media and the anti-war left.

We are not meeting those demands and as a result the mightiest nation on the face of the earth — with the finest military force ever assembled in all the world's history — is losing the war, not by being defeated in combat, but by default.

In Afghanistan, as both the media and the Defeatocrats have joyfully proclaimed, the Taliban we drove out is back and giving the NATO and coalition forces arrayed against them a very hard time.

Nothing could drive a stake in the heart of that reborn Taliban insurgency better than the killing of their top leadership, yet when faced with a golden opportunity to do just that we did nothing

but stand by and watch.

According to NBC, 190 top Taliban leaders attending a funeral and packed in a tight formation were seen by an eye-in-the-sky drone, presenting an easy target for a quick air strike that could have decimated the Taliban leadership and perhaps brought an end to the insurgency in Afghanistan.

Michael Reagan

Columnist



A black and white photo published on the front page of the New York Post shows what NBC told the Associated Press are the Taliban militants standing in several rows, like cattle being led to the slaughter pens.

It would have been an easy kill and a major victory in the fight against the Taliban, yet our military were forced to sit and do nothing but watch because the oh-so-sensitive rules of engagement forbid attacking cemeteries.

And that's not all. While U.S. intelligence officers in Afghanistan were still raging about the lost opportunity, the military brass was up in arms — not because of a missed chance — but because the embarrassing drone photo was leaked to the media.

According to the Associated Press, Lt. Tamara Lawrence, a spokeswoman with the U.S. military in Kabul, said the photograph was released to NBC by someone who did not have the clearance to hand it out.

"It is an operational security issue and the photo was released at an inappropriate level," she sniffed to the AP. "Inquiries are being made into how it was released."

This incident is an example of the out-of-control political correctness that is driving the U.S. strategy in Iraq and Afghanistan. Out of fear of offending the people whose freedom we are fighting to ensure, we are waging a war by half-measures.

Our enemy is a furtive force lurking hidden among the civilian population, using civilians as human shields. The only way to deal with these fanatical insurgents is to kill them all, and in order to kill them all you have to be willing to inflict unintended damage on the civilian population, just as we did when we bombed Berlin and Tokyo and Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

When you fight this kind of war, you incur the wrath of the media and the anti-war left, who remain ever-alert for any chance to charge the U.S. with committing "atrocities." When you allow fear of their reaction to dictate the rules of engagement, you allow them to lead you to defeat.

"War is Hell," Sherman once said. It still is, and always will be. Live with it, or go hide someplace and hope the victorious enemy won't find you and cut your head off, a form of political incorrectness that doesn't bother them one bit.

—Mike Reagan, the eldest son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is heard on more than 200 talk radio stations nationally as part of the Radio America Network.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348

Fax: 806-669-2520

email: editor@thepampanews.com

Publisher: Sean Smith

Editor: Dennis Spies

Advertising Director: ReDonn Woods

Composing Supervisor: Brenda Cook

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

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a 13-year-old girl entering the eighth grade. Even though I have friends, I feel like I am invisible. Many of the people who claim I am their "friend" don't even take the time to call me. I could take the first step and call them. I suppose, but then I always feel like I'm not really their friend. I have only one girlfriend whom I can call on for advice. Please help me, Abby. I have just spent a long, miserable summer with no one to talk to. I want to change that. When I'm in high school next year, I don't want to just fade into the shadows like in middle school. I could really use some advice. — **ALONE AND SHY IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR ALONE AND SHY: Here it is. If you spent the entire summer waiting for people to call you, then it's no wonder you spent it alone. I know very few people who sit back, wallowing, as it were, in the adulation of others, while making no effort on their own behalf. If you want to stand out in high school, you are going to have to become proactive in promoting yourself. An effective way to do that is to join clubs, become active in sports, activity groups, drama and/or student government. In your signature line you identified yourself as "shy." Did you know that about one-third of the population is afflicted with shyness to some degree? It's true! And do you know why so many people are shy? Because they're afraid of rejection -- and holding back is the only way they think they can protect themselves from being hurt. In my booklet, "How to Be Popular," I review topics including "The Art of Conversation," "The Friendly Personality," "Grooming," and what makes a clever conversationalist. If these are topics you would like to learn more about, my booklet can be

ordered by sending a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Postage is included in the price. (Allow six to eight weeks for delivery.)

DEAR ABBY: I am 22 years old and have been with my boyfriend, "Carl," 3 1/2 years. We have lived together for three of them. Carl is 25, and this is the first, and hopefully, last, serious relationship for both of us. We have bigger issues than the one I present to you now, but this is the only one that has me mystified: Carl never calls me by name! We both called each other "Baby" and "Sweetie" in the beginning, but as soon as I noticed it, I changed my ways. Carl said he always preferred calling me by my middle name (a family custom), which seemed sweet and was fine by me. Abby, all that has changed is what Carl calls me when speaking in the third person. Anyone observing our interactions would -- and rightly so -- assume my name is "Babe"! Why is he doing this? What can I do? I'd truly appreciate your help. — **MIFFED IN MIAMI**

DEAR MIFFED: Calling you "Babe" may be a lazy speech habit, may be his "special" pet name for you (although I'm not putting money on it), or he may have trouble remembering names -- including yours. Because being called "Babe" upsets you, tell Carl once more that you prefer being addressed by your given name. And if he has another memory lapse after that, "re-train" him by reminding him what you prefer to be called each and every time he slips up.

For Better Or For Worse



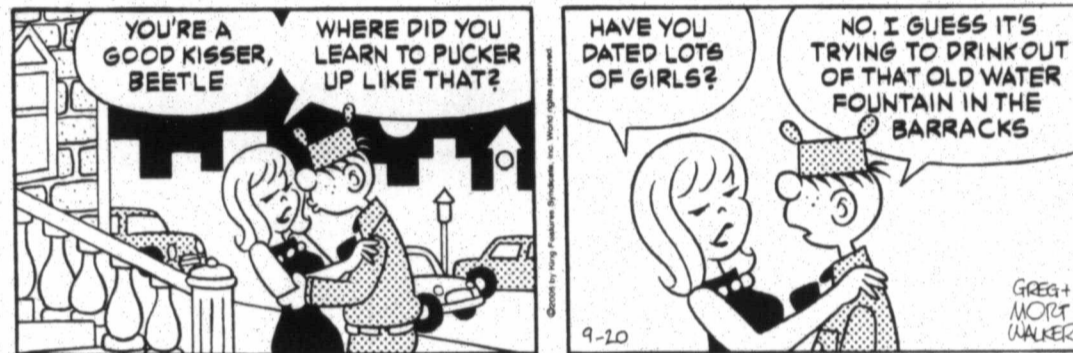
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

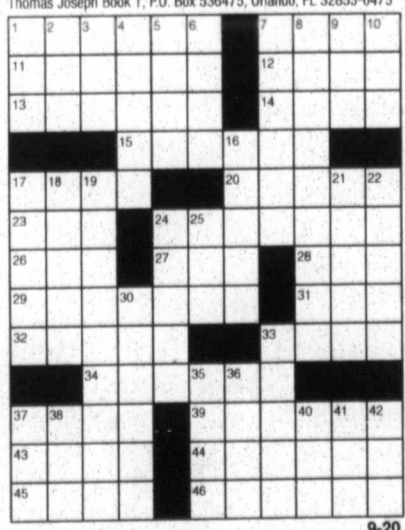
- 1 Cups without a jolt
- 7 Deliberate
- 11 Stressed type
- 12 Moon goddess
- 13 Yacht spot
- 14 Like tea in summer
- 15 Audio-ophile's storage
- 17 Fill completely
- 20 Conquers
- 23 Outback bird
- 24 Profitable success
- 26 Snapshot
- 27 Schedule B
- 28 Maiden name label
- 29 Short socks
- 31 Keg need
- 32 Schlemiel
- 33 Ellipsis parts
- 34 Contained
- 37 Some sisters
- 39 Florid
- 43 Poker payment
- 44 Add
- 45 Greets the villain
- 46 Convenient

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SPA DIN PIE
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GOONS ORGAN

Yesterday's answer

- 18 Acid type
- 19 Eats heartily
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- 16 Ocean trench
- 17 Flower part
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