

Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH
90
LOW
68

See expanded weather on Page 2

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High speed chase runs though three counties

By MARILYN POWERS
The Pampa News

Pursuit of a driver in a stolen car resulted in a three-county chase Friday morning with speeds in excess of 120 miles per hour before the suspect was stopped by spike strips.

At around 9:46 a.m. Friday, Pampa Police

Detective Dave Thomas was investigating a stolen vehicle report when he saw a white 2002 Mazda Miata in the 1800 block of Hamilton. The Mazda had been reported stolen at 6 p.m. Wednesday from the 500 block of East Francis.

"As Thomas approached the car on foot and was asking the driver to exit the car,

the driver put the car in gear and took off across the yard and back onto Hamilton Street southbound," said PPD Sgt. Donny Brown.

Thomas pursued the Mazda north on Perryton Parkway, continuing north as Perryton Parkway became Highway 70. Gray County Precinct 2 Constable Chris Lockridge joined in the

attempt to stop the vehicle.

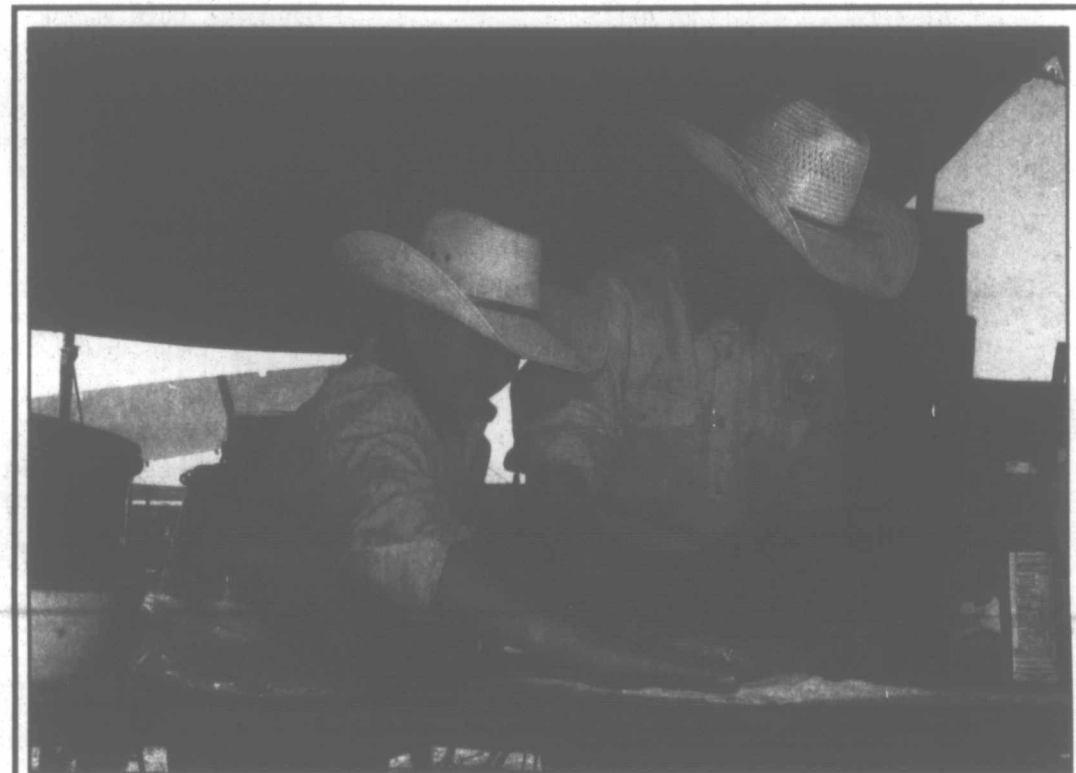
"The pursuit continued north on Highway 70 in excess of 120 miles per hour from Gray County into Roberts County and then into Ochiltree County, where Texas Department of Public Safety troopers and sheriff's deputies from Roberts and Ochiltree counties got involved," Brown said.

The chase ended a few

miles after the Mazda ran over a set of spike strips across Highway 70 about 18 miles south of Perryton. The strips had been placed by the Ochiltree County sheriff, Brown said.

The vehicle traveled about two miles further north on Highway 70 after running over the strips, but the driver then pulled off the highway

See CHASE, Page 3



staff photo by David Bowser

Gatlin Duncan, right, rolls out dough for cinnamon rolls at the Honey Do Spoiler Chuckwagon at Cowboy Roundup USA while Drake Tolbert, his cousin, directs the operation.

Pampa youth win ribbons in chuckwagon competition

by DAVID BOWSER
The Pampa News

AMARILLO -- In their distinctive yellow shirts with blue collars marking them as part of Pampa's Honey Do Spoiler Chuckwagon Team here at the Chuckwagon World Championship, Gatlin Duncan and Drake Tolbert spent Friday morning pounding pecans and rolling out dough to make their grandfather's world famous cinnamon rolls.

Working under the fly of the vintage chuckwagon that belongs to their grandfather, Kevin Romines of Pampa, the two boys worked diligently practicing their culinary skills for the afternoon's Junior Cooking Competition.

Both were awarded blue ribbons from the American Chuckwagon Association, but finished out of the money in the cooking contest.

Their grandfather, however, fared better. Romines won the ice cream crank-off with his butternut ice cream and scored in potatoes, beans and bread.

Now in its 20th year, the Cowboy Roundup USA hosts the world championship chuckwagon cook-off at the Tri-State Fairgrounds the first weekend of each June. This year there are 20 chuckwagons from as far away as Colorado and Kansas vying for top honors.

While Romines will be fighting for the world championship Saturday morning, his two grandsons have entered Friday's

Junior Cooking Competition.

Gatlin, 15, who lives at Mobeetie, said they would be making cobbler for the Friday afternoon contest, but they haven't been told what flavor yet.

Romines said they would be assigned by lot to different wagons for the contest. Romines will host another youngster for the Junior Cooking Competition.

The ingredients will be provided, Romines said, although each contestant will be allowed to make minor changes and put his or her own imprint on the finished cobbler.

The cobblers will be cooked over an open fire in a Dutch oven.

Drake, 10, who lives north of Pampa, said he likes the idea of the cooking contest.

"I want to see if I can win," he said. Both he and Gatlin have inherited their grandfather's competitiveness.

"I like competing," Gatlin said. "It's fun."

While this is Drake's first time to compete at a chuckwagon cook-off, Gatlin is a veteran. The elder of the two, Gatlin's has already competed at several cook-offs.

Both boys have joined their grandfather at different chuckwagon events around the country.

"I've taken them with me several times," Romines said, grinning from beneath his bushy mustache as he proudly watches them make the morning's cinnamon rolls.

PRMC earns 'Seal of Approval' from Joint Commission

Pampa Regional Medical Center has earned a "Gold Seal of Approval" from an independent agency monitoring a voluntary health care accreditation program.

The Joint Commission performed an on-site survey of the local hospital in last month, looking for compliance with the commission's national standards for health care quality and safety. The Joint Commission, founded in 1951, is dedicated to continuously improving the safety and quality of the nation's health care through voluntary accreditation.

"Above all, the national standards are intended to stimulate continuous, systematic and organization-

wide improvement in an organization's performance and the outcomes of care," says Darlene Christiansen, executive director, hospital

accreditation program of the joint commission. "The community should be proud that Pampa Regional Medical Center is focusing on the most challenging goal -- to continuously raise quality



Pampa Regional Medical Center has earned a 'Gold Seal of Approval' from an independent accrediting agency.

See PRMC, Page 3

City Commission to meet

The Pampa City Commission will consider on second and final reading three ordinances Tuesday afternoon during their regular meeting.

They will also consider an interlocal agreement, hiring new personnel and changing the date of their next meeting.

The commission will consider on second reading an ordinance establishing a tax freeze on residential homesteads for persons who are disabled or 65 years old or older.

They will also consider on second reading an ordinance amending the city's budget in order to pay for a scale house and new scales at the city landfill.

The commission will consider on second reading an ordinance giving Pampa firefighters collective bargaining rights. This ordinance was passed earlier this year, but due to typographical errors is

being reconsidered.

The city commission will also consider an agreement among local taxing entities to pay for a joint election administrator. The agreement would include the city, Gray County, Pampa Independent School District, the City of Lefors, Lefors Independent School District, the City of McLean, McLean Independent School District and the Grandview-Hopkins School District.

The commission will also consider hiring a field officer for the Code Enforcement Department.

They will also consider moving their next commission meeting from June 24 to June 23.

The Pampa City Commission normally meets at 4 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in the commission chambers on the third floor of City Hall.

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COOL

Chase

Continued from Front Page

and stopped with the Mazda pointing eastbound on Ochiltree County Road W. Jessie Richard Salley, 23, of Pampa, the driver of the Mazda, surrendered and was taken into custody without further incident, Brown said. He was taken to Ochiltree County Jail, where he was arraigned and then transport-

ed back to Gray County Jail on a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

"Other charges are being filed after officers found two handguns and what appears to be a military-issue body armor vest in the vehicle," Brown said. "It is a felony crime for a convicted felon to be in possession of both the body armor and the handguns."

Salley was ultimately

charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, evading arrest or detention with a vehicle, possession of a firearm by a felon and possession of metal or body armor by a felon.

He was released from Gray County Jail on Saturday on \$50,000 bond per charge, or a total bond of \$200,000, according to jail records.

A theft was reported at the

same time and location as the stolen car. Taken were a laptop valued at \$1,000, a digital camera valued at \$500, a nail gun valued at \$300, a carrying case with tools and a purse with contents. No information was given on whether the auto theft and the other theft are considered related.

The case remains under investigation.

American Airlines increases fares \$20 on all U.S. flights

DALLAS (AP) — American Airlines has increased domestic roundtrip fares \$20 in the latest attempt to offset skyrocketing fuel prices.

Spokesman Tim Wagner said Monday the airline implemented the increase Friday night. He says the airline is sticking with the increase but has no update on whether other major airlines

have matched it.

Airlines have increased fares about a dozen times this year.

American also has announced other new fees recently. One was a \$15 charge on the first checked bag that drew the ire of passengers.

The price of jet fuel has doubled in the past year.

PRMC

Continued from Front Page

and safety to higher levels." Pampa Regional Medical Center, founded in 1950, is a 115-bed acute-care community hospital serving a population of approximately 65,000 residents in the Texas Panhandle.

"The physicians, staff, and volunteers at Pampa Regional

Medical Center work tirelessly to provide the highest levels of quality care and patient safety and achieve our mission of adding measurable value to the delivery of healthcare," said Todd Lorenz, chief executive officer. "Their dedication to our patients is inspiring. It is an honor to work with individuals of this caliber. The decision

by a well-respected organization like Joint Commission to award accreditation provides great satisfaction and validates the efforts of our community's exceptional healthcare providers."

Pampa Regional employs more than 275 full-time and part-time staff members. In 2007, the hospital invested over

\$25 million into the Texas Panhandle through taxes, discounted care, capital investment and salaries. Recently, the Quality Program of Pampa Regional Medical Center gained recognition in The Quality Improvement Report.

PRMC is an affiliate hospital of Signature Hospital Corporation.

President orders federal contractors to check legal status of employees

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush has signed an executive order requiring contractors and others who do business with the federal government to make sure their employees can legally work in the U.S.

Bush signed the order Friday and the White House announced the order Monday.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez planned an afternoon news conference to discuss the order and other ways the administration has stepped up its

crackdown on illegal immigration.

The order says federal departments and agencies must require contractors to use an electronic system to verify that the workers are eligible to work in the U.S.

The order is aimed at cracking down on hiring of illegal immigrants. But people who overstayed visas or came to the country legally but do not have permission to work, such as some students or those awaiting work permits, also could be snagged with the system.

"It is the policy of the executive branch to enforce fully the immigration laws of the United States, including the detection and removal of illegal aliens and the imposition of legal sanctions against employers that hire illegal aliens," in the executive order says.

The order comes as a worker verification bill has essentially stalled in Congress. A Democratic immigration enforcement bill would require employers to check the citizenship and legal status of all their employees.

The issue has long been debated but has run into opposition over the years from business groups who say the E-Verify system is flawed and civil libertarians who say it will lead to discrimination and job losses by U.S. citizen workers misidentified as illegal workers.

Comprehensive immigration bills considered by Congress in 2006 and 2007 included worker verification measures. But after they failed, states began passing their own laws to keep employers from hiring undocumented workers.

About 300 attend debut of film about Crawford

CRAWFORD, Texas (AP) — Instead of limousines and a red carpet, there were pickup trucks and a grassy football field for the local premiere of a documentary film about a tiny farming town that suddenly became home to the Western White House.

About 300 people turned out Sunday night for "Crawford," which started playing at dusk on a 50-foot-tall inflatable outdoor screen at the football field; the town has no movie theater. Folks sat on blankets and lawn chairs on the warm, windy night and munched on \$2 bags of popcorn.

David Modigliani's documentary tells how small-town life changed for many of the 700 residents after George W. Bush, while governor, bought a 1,600-acre ranch here in 1999 in the early days of his presidential campaign.

The movie shows residents' varied reactions to the influx of tourists, the media and war protesters as the town's economy initially boomed with new souvenir shops and other businesses.

"All those people in the movie are my friends, and it was neat to see them up there on the screen," Cindy Damon said after the film. She said she's lived in

Crawford for 53 of her 54 years.

The crowd laughed Sunday night during a scene showing several elderly men playing dominoes and playfully bickering over their views on Bush.

Some laughed when resident Ricky Smith bragged about — and the footage showed — riding through town with his friend on horses emblazoned with "Cindy go home" and other messages during Cindy Sheehan's war protest during the summer of 2005. The California mother's four-week protest during Bush's vacation drew more than 10,000 people and sparked counter protests.

Not everyone in the crowd was from Crawford. Robin Pfeiffenberger of Dallas, who had never been to Crawford, said she went to see the film Sunday because she was intrigued by what she heard about it.

"It showed the various points of view of the town," she said. "I can certainly see how it's been turned upside down and back again. And I think it has some very colorful characters."

Modigliani, who moved to Austin several years ago, said he made the film after feeling "betrayed" when he learned that Bush was not from Crawford. The documentary has been

shown at several festivals.

The film spans about eight years, although Modigliani filmed in Crawford from 2004 through last fall. He also used news footage and residents' home videos — such as when Bush spoke at the school's high school graduation in 2000 and when the band played at his first inauguration.

Among those featured in the film are a college administrator, Baptist minister and souvenir store owner who support Bush, and a teacher and student whose dislike of the president increasingly make them feel like outsiders.

"Before he came here this was an overwhelmingly Republican community — or else he wouldn't have bought a ranch here — but it wasn't an 'it's us or them' mentality," Misti Turbeville, a history and debate teacher, said Sunday. "Suddenly it brought to the surface these tensions, and it made politics feel like more of a divisive issue than a difference of opinion."

Turbeville said she believes the ranch purchase was a public relations ploy to help get Bush elected. But she said the town has benefited in some ways, such as when students were able to see Bush, some of his Cabinet

members and even world leaders in town during ranch visits.

In 2001 after their summit at the ranch, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Bush spoke to the school's sixth- through 12th-graders. The leaders even answered students' questions.

"That still gives me chills," Turbeville said. "I wish every teacher in America could have that opportunity. It was really exciting to bring those discussions about politics into the classroom, but you have to be careful because a lot of teenagers and parents don't want to have their thoughts challenged."

Warren Johnson, a McLennan Community College administrator in nearby Waco, said the positives of having Bush as a sometime-neighbor have outweighed the negatives. In addition to expanding children's awareness of the world, property values in town increased, he said.

Johnson said he is pleased with the film and said it may surprise people who think that all residents unilaterally support Bush.

"Crawford is not lockstep pro-George Bush," Johnson said. "We're probably a cross-section of mid-America. It's probably the same as a million other little communities."

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Viewpoints

Texas Tales: Search for historic battle site continues

"They've found a rifle," one of the searchers says, pointing to a couple kneeling in the distance.

Under an unforgiving sun, along with five or six other volunteers they had been crisscrossing the field with a metal detector. Their discovery just might be the once-smoking gun that could solve one of Texas' most enduring archeological mysteries: Where was the 1813 Battle of Medina fought?

Almost as puzzling as where the battle took place is why so few have ever even heard of it.

"The Battle of Medina was the biggest and bloodiest battle ever fought on Texas soil," says Austinite Dan Arellano, author of "Tejano Roots: A Family

Legend."

As he points out in his self-published book, more than 1,000 men died in the battle or faced execution not long afterward. While the back story is complicated — a combination of events involving American filibustering and the beginning of Mexico's revolution against Spain — the numbers are enormous.

Some 4,000 Spanish royalists and 1,500 Tejanos and Americans fought a running battle on Aug. 18, 1813. More than a dozen artillery pieces loaded with solid iron projectiles or grapeshot (which converted them to giant shotguns) left the field littered with body parts. What the cannons did not do soldiers with bayonets and

swords did.

Arellano, a descendant of one of the participants, is spearheading the effort to pinpoint where it happened. He's spent more than a decade researching the battle.

One thing's for sure. Despite its name, the Battle of Medina did not occur on the Media River. Most sources say the military confrontation took place "about 20 miles south of San Antonio." But incredibly, in nearly 195 years, no one has fixed the exact site of the battle.

The only comparable

mystery in this state is what ever happened to the famed Twin Sisters, the two cannons that helped Sam Houston win the Battle of San Jacinto.

Speaking of cannons, a cannon ball was what started

things rolling in the latest search for the Battle of Medina field.

In the spring of 1977, San Antonio native Edgar Ferguson, then a 31-year-old heavy equipment operator, bought 14 acres about 13 miles beyond Military Road off U.S. 281 south of the Alamo City.

One striking feature of the

property is a massive oak, its multiple thick trunks shading an area of at least 20 yards. Ferguson decided to locate his mobile home near the huge tree, which must be 500 to 600 years old.

While doing work preparatory to laying a foundation, he found six rusty iron balls in the sand that covers much of this part of Bexar County. They lay in his yard until, as he put it, "I got tired of mowing around them and reburied them under the tree."

Well, he kept one. More than three decades later, while roasting corn for an event at nearby St. Carmen Catholic Church, Ferguson met a couple visiting from Massachusetts. They were doing genealogi-

cal research and expressed interest in the Battle of Medina. (The church stands near a crypt containing the remains of many of the battle's victims.)

Ferguson told them about having found the iron balls on his property years ago. Aware of Arellano's efforts to locate the battle site, the couple contacted him. Arellano in turn got in touch with Ferguson, who gave him permission to conduct an archeological survey of his property. That happened May 31.

After Arellano briefed the volunteers on the battle, Ferguson went to his house and returned carrying the ball he had kept all these

See COX, Page 5

Mike Cox

Columnist



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, June 9, the 161st day of 2008. There are 205 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 9, A.D. 68, the Roman Emperor Nero committed suicide.

On this date:

In 1870, author Charles Dickens died in Gad's Hill Place, England.

In 1940, during World War II, Norway decided to surrender to the Nazis, effective at midnight.

In 1953, 94 people died when a tornado struck Worcester, Mass.

In 1954, during the Senate-Army Hearings, Army special counsel Joseph N. Welch berated Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, asking: "Have you no sense of decency, sir?"

In 1969, the U.S. Senate confirmed Warren Burger to be the new chief justice of the United States, succeeding Earl Warren.

In 1973, Secretariat became horse racing's first Triple Crown winner in 25 years by winning the

'History is a romance that is believed; romance, a history that is not believed.'

— Horace Walpole
English author
(1717-1797)

Belmont Stakes.

In 1978, leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints struck down a 148-year-old policy of excluding black men from the Mormon priesthood.

In 1980, comedian Richard Pryor suffered almost fatal burns at his San Fernando Valley, Calif., home when a mixture of "free-base" cocaine exploded.

In 1985, American educator Thomas Sutherland was kidnapped in Lebanon; he was released in November 1991 along with fellow hostage Terry Waite.

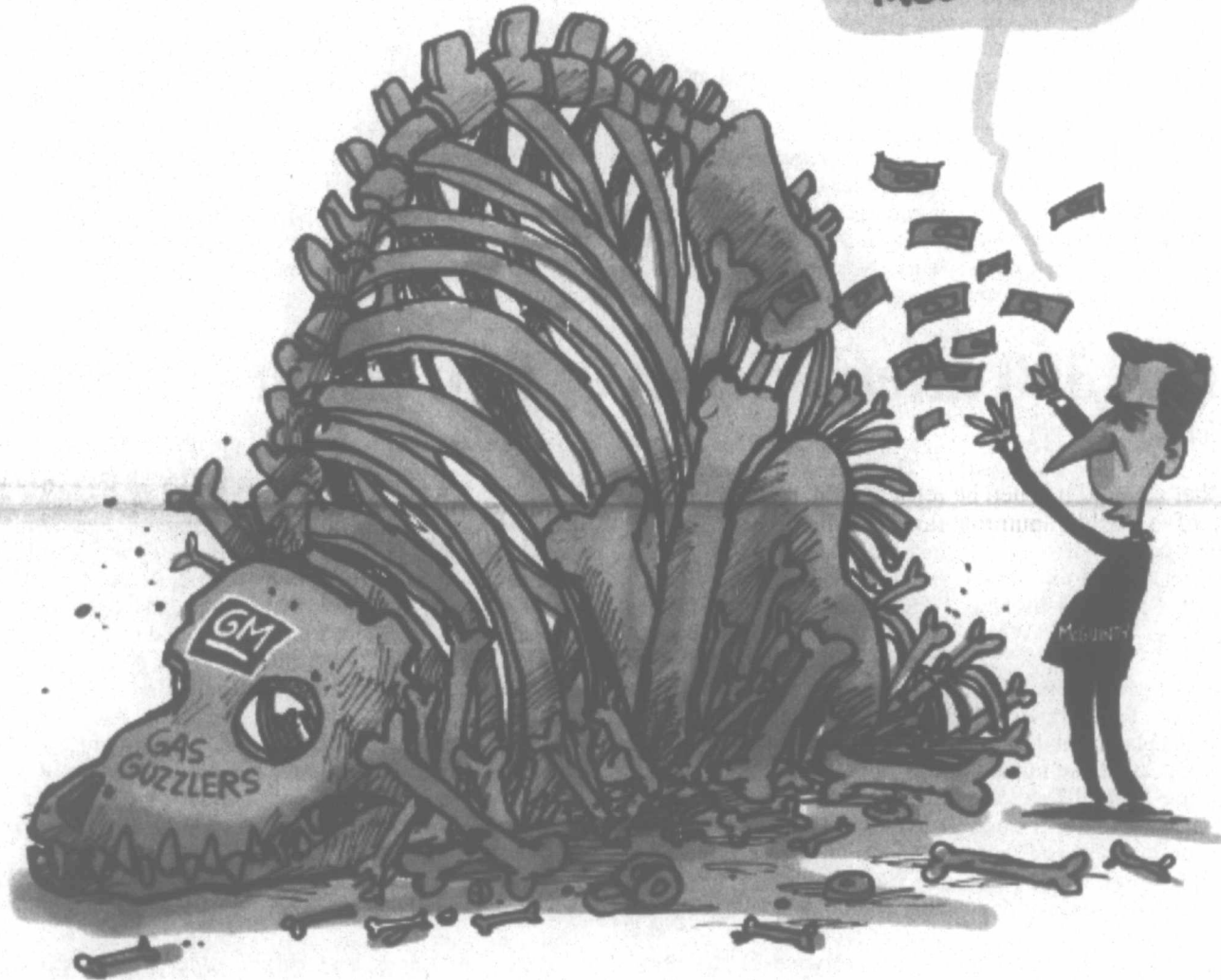
In 1986, the Rogers Commission released its report on the Challenger disaster, criticizing NASA and rocket-builder Morton Thiokol for management problems leading to the explosion that claimed the lives of seven astronauts.

Ten years ago: Three white men were charged in Jasper, Texas, with the brutal dragging death of James Byrd Jr., a black man. President Clinton unleashed a torrent of public works money, signing a \$203 billion transportation bill.

Five years ago: As rebels bore down on the capital of Liberia, French helicopters rescued more than 500 Americans, Europeans and other foreigners. The New Jersey Devils won the Stanley Cup, defeating the Anaheim Mighty Ducks 3-0 in Game 7.

One year ago: President Bush, denounced by anti-American protesters on the streets of Rome, defended his humanitarian record as he met at the Vatican with Pope Benedict XVI, who expressed concern about "the worrisome situation in Iraq."

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Politicians have cheapened holidays

OK, here is my post-Memorial Day gripe. Memorial Day is not the Fourth of July, Flag Day, Armed Forces Day or Veterans Day. It is a day to remember the war dead. You don't do that with picnics, brass bands, parades, pompous speeches and hype for the current war. "Memorial" and "celebration" are not synonyms. The day was intended for visiting cemeteries, not beaches or amusement parks.

The great cheapening of the event began some decades ago when the federal-employee unions persuaded Congress to make federal holidays into three-day weekends. It was a crass decision that cheapened the concept of patriotism.

I don't think that many

Americans are really patriotic anymore. For some, patriotism is rooting for whatever the current war is and saluting whichever

cheap politician happens to be occupying the White House. It doesn't seem to matter to these folks whether the war is just or unjust, necessary or unnecessary. It doesn't seem to matter if the politician is an honest public servant or a devious liar. Such mindless jingoists remind me of the crowds who cheered for Adolf Hitler.

We are all going to die, of course, but it has always seemed to me that one of the

worst deaths is the unnecessary death. It ought to be, but obviously is not, the goal of American politicians to never send young men and women to an unnecessary war. "Unnecessary" is easy to define. It means you don't go to war against a country that is not a threat to the U.S.

No American takes an oath to defend a foreign country or overthrow a foreign tyrant. We take an oath to defend our Constitution and our country. End of story. American patriotism has become so diluted that crowds don't even blink when a politician running for

public office publicly proclaims "undying support" for a foreign country. On such occasions, the politician should be booed and reminded that he is an American in America running for an American office to represent and serve the American people. If he loves a foreign country more than his own, then he is free to emigrate. He should not be free to sacrifice the lives of young Americans on behalf of any foreign country.

No American has "died defending freedom" since the end of World War II. Americans have died in the Korean Civil War, the Vietnamese Civil War and in several imperialistic forays for presumably various cor-

See REESE, Page 5

Charley Reese

Columnist



THE PAMPA NEWS

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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ June 1

Houston Chronicle on the energy crisis:

Dow Chemical Co. Sunday raised the price of all its products 20 percent, reflecting the steep climb in the cost of crude oil, gasoline, natural gas and electricity. Blaming irresponsible politicians, Dow Chairman and CEO Andrew Liveris stated, "The country now faces a true energy crisis, one that is causing serious harm to America's

manufacturing sector and all consumers of energy."

Consumers, already hit by \$4 gasoline and rising food prices, now will see rises in the price of almost every product and many services, including essential government services such as education and police protection.

Across the nation, school districts are limiting field trips and, in some cases, canceling classes one day a week because they can't pay the doubled cost of operating school buses. In Texas, the Legislature is going to have to revisit the subject of school finance, again, because the Rube Goldberg system

won't let school districts increase revenues to pay for higher fuel costs, threatening some districts with teacher layoffs, even bankruptcy.

Gasoline at \$4 a gallon is burdening most consumers and changing behavior in a way that \$3 gasoline did not. Before, Americans could afford to pay more for gasoline by spending less on recreation and other discretionary activities and goods. But the sharp rise in the price of basic food items and, to come, almost everything else means many families just can't buy the gas

See ENERGY, Page 5

Sailor a hero for helping save five others

GALVESTON (AP) — Four students and a safety officer had less than a minute to escape their sinking ship once it began taking water during a regatta on the Gulf of Mexico, the safety officer said Monday.

The survivors praised the boat's other safety officer, 53-year-old Roger Stone, for rushing them off the craft within seconds of realizing it was taking water, putting their lives ahead of his own. Divers pulled his body from the boat Sunday afternoon.

"Roger was a friend, a great sailor, a good coach and a true hero," safety officer Steve Conway said on NBC's "Today." "Our hearts and prayers go out to his family in their time of loss."

Conway said the students kept their composure over 26 hours in the choppy water. They used belts and rigging to hook themselves together,

with the five men sharing four life vests, Conway said. He told them stories to keep them encouraged.

"They remained positive, they didn't panic," Conway said. "They kept working as a team and helping each other."

Three of the students — Steven Guy, Joe Savana and Travis Wright — attend Texas A&M at Galveston. The fourth, Ross James Buzbee, attends Texas A&M in College Station.

Buzbee said Conway kept their spirits up while they waited for rescue.

"Steve, he told us stories to keep us entertained and to keep us focused," Buzbee said on "Today." "It basically gave us a positive outlook on everything."

The five spent Sunday visiting with family and nursing minor sunburn and dehydration.

The survivors praised the boat's other safety officer, 53-year-old Roger Stone, for rushing them off the craft within seconds of realizing it was taking water, putting their lives ahead of his own. Divers pulled his body from the boat Sunday afternoon.

R. Bowen Loftin, CEO of Texas A&M at Galveston, expressed condolences to Stone's family — including his wife and two children — in a message posted on the school's Web site.

"We hope they can take some comfort in knowing all five survivors of this tragic accident credit Mr. Stone with heroic efforts that were instrumental in making possible their survival," Loftin said on

the school's Web site. "We now know that Roger Stone died a hero in the classic sense of the word."

Conway is the director of computer information services at Texas A&M at Galveston and assistant coach of the school's Offshore Sailing Team, the school said. Stone was another of the team's assistant coaches, according to the school Web site. He also was a logistics officer at the

University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, according to the UTMB Web site.

The search for the sailors began Saturday morning after the 38-foot sailboat Cynthia Woods missed a radio check. The boat, which lost communication around midnight Friday, was one of 26 vessels competing in the Regata de Amigos. The race from Galveston to Veracruz, Mexico, has occurred every even-number year since 1968, according to the regatta's Web site.

Loftin said Conway used a flashlight to signal Coast Guard searchers. The five stayed afloat in 4- to 6-foot seas, Loftin said.

Coast Guard officials said the keel of the overturned vessel was ripped off, indicating the sailboat may have hit something in the water, according to the school. Race

director Kevin Box said the loss of the keel can cause a boat to overturn in seconds.

Conway said it was "premature to speculate" about whether the keel broke off before the Coast Guard completes its investigation.

A helicopter crew from Air Station Houston pulled the five men from the water 23 miles south of Freeport about 2 a.m., Coast Guard Petty Officer Renee C. Aiello said Sunday. They had drifted about five miles northwest of their capsized boat.

In an interview Monday, Lt. Justo Rivera, the helicopter pilot, said his crew searched the Gulf of Mexico for two hours before they had to return to their Galveston base to refuel. The crew resumed their search when Petty Officer Louis Bishop, the flight mechanic, spotted the flashlight's tiny glimmer.

Cox

Continued from Page 4

jectile size for a field gun of the early 1800s.

Charlie Yates of Dripping Springs, a Republic of Texas era military re-enactor who owns a six-pound cannon, says such weapons could propel a four-pound ball up to 1,700 yards. The balls traveled at a relatively low muzzle velocity of around 750 feet per second, but they could bounce around and do a lot of damage, especially to massed troops or the enemy's cannons.

Seeing that artifact whet the appetite of the assembled volunteers, a group ranging from ninth graders on hand with their history-minded geography teacher to several retirees ready to play Indiana Jones. They spent a hot half-day digging in the sand around that ancient tree. Ferguson showed them where he reburied the balls, but none turned up.

Meanwhile, other volunteers walked a 10-acre field and a smaller 2-acre tract on Ferguson's property. The husband-wife team from San Antonio found the rifle on the larger field.

After photographing the visible portion of the rifle, the man who found it carefully removed the rest of the sand that covered it. Then he retrieved the rusted remnants of a child's pump-action BB gun from the 1950s.

"I haven't given up," says Arellano. "Wherever it is, the site of the Battle of Medina needs a fitting monument, a museum ... maybe someday a state park."

But all those on both sides who died fighting for what they believed in cannot be honored until someone finally figures out where it happened.

years. About the size of a baseball, the rusty iron sphere bore pits and dents. Ferguson said it weighed about four pounds, a common projectile size for a field gun of the early 1800s.

Events calendar

• **Amarillo Botanical Gardens** will stage its "Music in the Gardens" June 9, 16, 23 and 30 with various musicians and vocal artists. Gates will open at 7 p.m. Performances will last from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Visitors must provide their own lawn chairs, blankets and sunscreen. Admission will be \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors and \$2 for children 2-12. Children under 2 are free. Membership Card holders also get in free. For more information, call the gardens at (806) 352-6513.

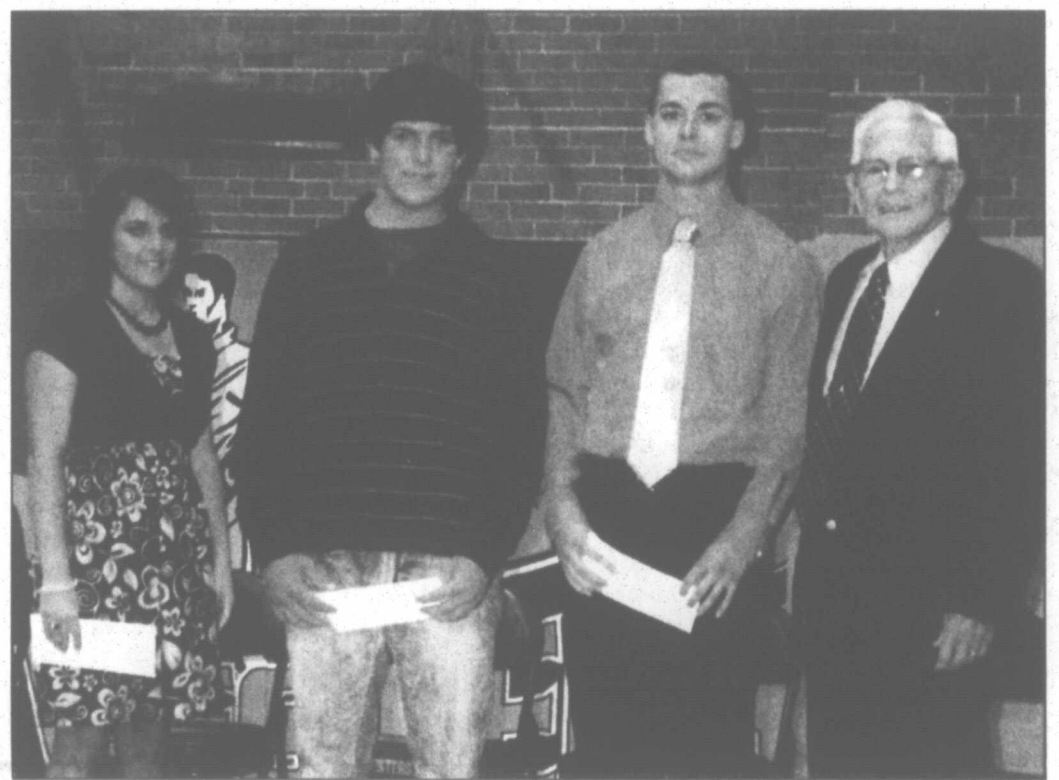
• **A Pampa High School Class of 1969** "reunion meeting" is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. June 12 at Innovatie Staffing Solutions, 1327 N. Hobart.

• **Make plans now to attend the Frontiers in Writing writer's conference**, June 13-14, 2008 at the Fifth Season Inn in Amarillo. New York Times Bestselling author Bob Mayer will be the featured guest speaker and a workshop provider. Mayer has worked with thousands of writers and taught at numerous workshops and conferences. Other presenters will include Doris Wenzel of Mayhaven Publishing, Robert Ray, multi-published author of "The Weekend Novelist," and several editors and regional authors. Private paid critiques with freelance editor Kim Campbell will also be available. For more information, visit Panhandle Professional Writers at www.panhandleprowriters.org.

• **Copper Breaks State Park** near Quanah will celebrate National Trails Day and host a campsite talk on the "Romance of the Cowboy" June 14 at the park. National Trails Day will be observed from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Volunteers are sought for a general cleanup effort along the park's 10-plus miles of trail. The campsite talk will begin at 8:30 p.m. and include cowboy poetry performances with award-winning poets Doc Wood and Hal Newsom. For more information, contact the park at (940) 839-4331.

• **The Texas Department of State Health Services** will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). Flu vaccines may also be offered at designated clinics. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinic(s) will be offered: 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., June 18, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa.

Scholarship



Courtesy Photo

Pampa's Celebration of Lights recently awarded scholarships to Valerie Rushing, Cody Copeland and Nick Burklow. Pictured with the scholarship recipients is Celebration of Lights Vice President Carroll Clark.

THE WORLD BRIEFLY

News in brief ...

Severe weather kills 8 with winds, lightning, flooding from Midwest to Connecticut

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Wicked weekend storms pounded the country from the Midwest to the East Coast, forcing hundreds of people to flee flooded communities, spawning tornadoes that tore up houses and killing at least eight people.

Rescuers in boats continued to pluck people from rising waters in Indiana on Sunday, a day after more than 10 inches of rain deluged much of the state.

In Iowa, pumps and thousands of sandbags were sent to the Iowa City area, where officials fear a reservoir could top a spillway and flood the city of about 63,000 by Tuesday.

The Indiana flooding killed at least one person, a man who drowned in his vehicle about 50 miles south of Indianapolis, said John Erickson, a spokesman for the state Department of Homeland Security. Another person was reported missing after falling off a boat about 30 miles southwest of Indianapolis.

In Michigan, two delivery workers for The Grand Rapids Press drowned early Sunday when their car became submerged in a creek that washed out a road near Lake Michigan in Saugatuck Township, the newspaper said.

Oil retreats from last week's record rally, but worries linger over global supply, weak dollar

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Oil prices dropped Monday, retreating from a record surge late last week, and traders said the market would remain choppy amid jitters about supplies, growing global demand and a weak dollar.

Crude futures made their biggest single-day jump ever Friday, soaring nearly

\$11 for the day to \$138.54 a barrel, a rise of more than 8 percent that battered stocks on Wall Street. That came after an increase Thursday of almost \$5.50, taking oil futures more than 13 percent higher in just two days, easily a record on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Late Monday afternoon in Singapore, light, sweet crude for July delivery was down \$2.21 to \$136.33 a barrel. The price decline accelerated as trading began in Europe.

"We're likely to see some pullback... and a choppy period of ups and downs," said Victor Shum, an energy analyst with Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.

"We're not going to see a substantial reduction in demand," he said. "Supply side concerns will continue to support pricing."

'We're not going to see a substantial reduction in demand. Supply side concerns will continue to support pricing.'

— Victor Shum
Energy analyst

Reports: Tokyo stabbing rampage suspect warned 'It's time' in Internet post just before attack

TOKYO (AP) — A man suspected of killing seven people in a knifing rampage foretold the mayhem in a series of messages posted on the Internet, including one just before the attack saying, "It's time," police and media reports said Monday.

Tomohiro Kato, the 25-year-old man accused of ramming pedestrians with a truck and then stabbing 17 bystanders in Tokyo's popular Akihabara district on Sunday, posted the messages on an Internet bulletin board from his cell phone, a police spokesman said.

The police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing protocol, refused to release the Internet messages, but news reports said they were posted in a message board thread titled, "I will kill people in Akihabara," hours before the stabbings.

Reese

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to a widow or a grieving mother why her loved one had to die over there.

Other than profits to the war corporations, what did 58,000 dead Americans accomplish? If we're going to accept communism in Vietnam now, why not then? Where are all the terrible consequences politicians told Americans we had to avoid by going to war in Vietnam? If you find one, let me know. I suspect they're in the museum of political lies, next to the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Memorial Day should be a solemn and sad day as we remember all the young men and young women who were denied the joys of a normal life span. War is cruel and vicious, but whether the war is just or unjust, necessary or unnecessary, those who die in it die honorably in the service of their country. Never blame the soldier for the politician's war, and never allow anybody else to do so in your presence.

Whatever deceit and corruption oozes out of Washington, the men and women of the armed forces are innocent and untainted by it. They follow duty, honor and love for their comrades in arms. They die for each other and for the people they love at home. That love deserves to be respected and honored. In the worst of circumstances, they demonstrate the best a human can be.

—Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.

porate interests. Given the fact that communist Vietnam is now an object of American investments, I would hate to have to explain

Energy

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without paying and siphoning gasoline from other cars. Some crooks, defeated by locked gas tanks, dangerously drill holes in gas tanks, risking fire and explosion that could destroy property and take life.

It's unlikely, but perhaps now the U.S. government will adopt a sane energy policy that will provide the nation with more fuel both hydrocarbons and alternatives and place downward pressure on price. URL: <http://www.chron.com>

they once did. An added hardship inflicted by high fuel prices is the rise in crime: Thieves are driving off from gas stations

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have a beautiful 3-year-old niece I'll call "Serena." She is my brother "Simon's" daughter. Serena is mildly autistic but has made amazing progress. We're optimistic that she'll be indistinguishable in a few years. The problem is, Simon is adamant that he does not want our parents to know about Serena's condition. Mom and Dad are good people, but lousy grandparents. Simon thinks they would be judgmental toward him and would gossip about matters he would prefer be kept private. He might be right. But because he is keeping them in the dark, his relationship with them has deteriorated. Our parents haven't seen Serena since she was a baby. Simon has threatened that if I tell our parents about Serena's autism, he will never speak to me again. That would cost me a relationship not only with him, but also with my niece. I have encouraged him to come clean, but he refuses. What should I do? Should I stay out of it, or intervene? And is this kind of situation typical with families who have children with special needs? -- **UNCLE WITH A SECRET**

DEAR UNCLE: When a family member is diagnosed with a mental health disorder, some families consider it to be something shameful, and "circle the wagons" to hide it. While it is regrettable, this is the path your brother has chosen. Not knowing your parents' level of sophistication, I'm guessing he may be right about them and that he prefers to allow them into his daughter's life only after her problem has become "indistinguishable in a few years" -- if ever. If you value your relationship with Simon, do not reveal his secret. Obviously he trusts you, or he wouldn't have taken you into his confidence. If you betray him, your relationship will never be the same.

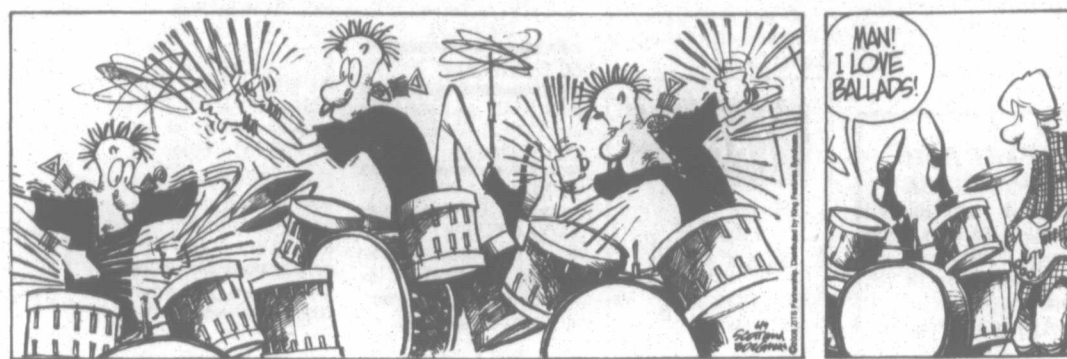
DEAR ABBY: I come from a dysfunctional family. I was never close to my brothers and sister. About 10 years ago, I became friends with a gentleman I'll call "Eric." Our relationship is platonic -- we're like siblings. We "talk" almost every day by e-mail because he now lives out of state. When I mention to my other friends that I have a male friend, I get a funny look because they assume Eric and I are having some kind of affair. They say men and women can't be friends without something sexual going on between them. When I tell them this isn't the case, they don't buy it. What can I say or do to get them to believe me? -- **TELLING THE TRUTH IN OHIO**

DEAR TELLING THE TRUTH: Nothing. So stop arguing. When someone tells you that men and women can't be friends without something sexual going on, that person is telling you something about him- or herself. Obviously, as you already know, there are no hard-and-fast rules governing friendship. Sometimes people have "good chemistry" and click -- and this happens with same-sex friendships as well as those with the opposite sex.

For Better Or Worse



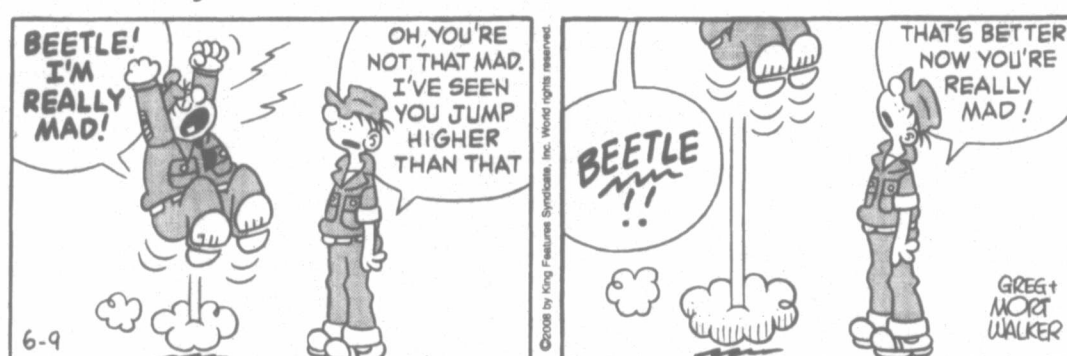
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin

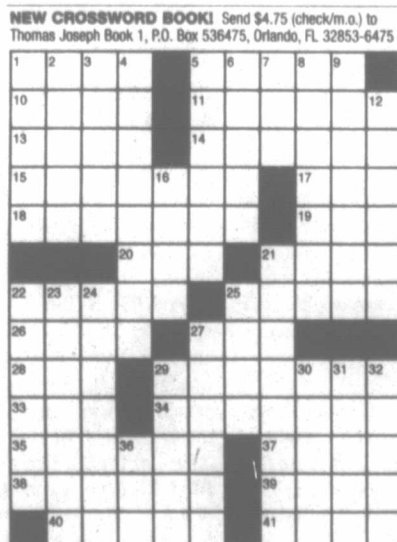


Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mineral springs
 - 5 Stogie
 - 10 Song-writer Porter
 - 11 Sports settings
 - 13 Heaps
 - 14 Catch sight of
 - 15 Very masculine fellow
 - 17 Kitten call
 - 18 Likes better
 - 19 Top card
 - 20 Singer Charles
 - 21 Walk of Fame symbol
 - 22 Signaled "hello"
 - 25 Saloon orders
 - 26 Busy as --
 - 27 Wager
 - 28 Watchdog sound
 - 29 Golfer's first stroke
 - 33 Basketball pioneer Holman
 - 34 Chew-bacca's pal
 - 35 Book worker
 - 37 Woody Guthrie's son
- DOWN**
- 1 Rascal
 - 2 Like the urban icecaps
 - 3 Without others
 - 4 Releases
 - 5 Yellow bird
 - 6 Presses
 - 7 Obtain
 - 8 Bring to life
 - 9 Indy auto
 - 12 Homes to 27 Chin urban covers
 - 16 Anthro-pology's Margaret resi-dent
 - 22 "Siegfried" 31 Stan's comedy partner
 - 23 Rubbed classic sounds
 - 24 Hitchcock 32 Horn
 - 25 "It's -- 36 Playing marble



Marmaduke

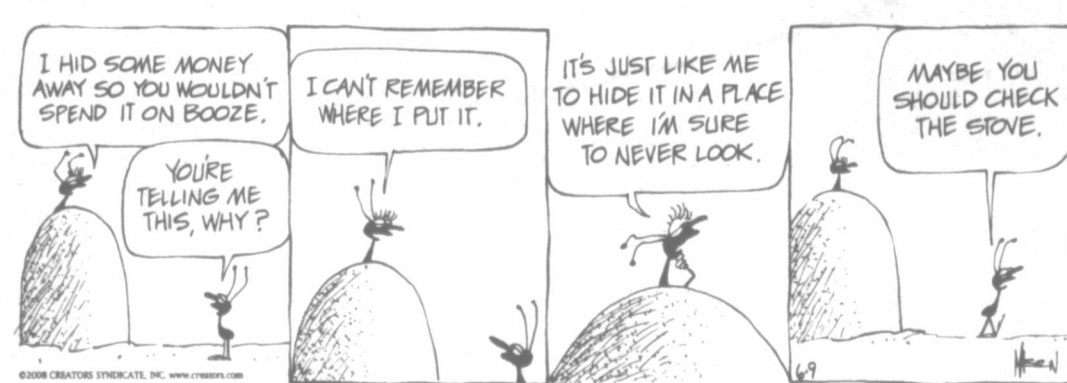


The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie

