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# PAMPANEWS



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**JUNIOR CHEER TIME** 



staff photo by Betsy Phillips

Every year about this time since the 1990s, Harvester cheerleaders have presented Junior Cheer Camp for kids entering kindergarten through the eighth grade. This year 135 participants were registered as of Monday evening for the event that is one of the largest fund-raisers for the cheerleaders. Camp will continue the rest of the week, ending with a performance for parents at 7 p.m. Friday. Campers will also perform during half-time of he first PHS home game, currently scheduled for August 28.

# New credit union to open in September

BY RANDY PRIBBLE rpribble@thepampanews.com

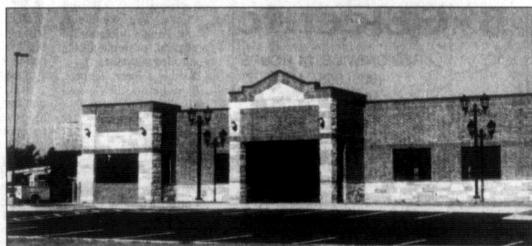
Construction work is almost finished on the new 1063 North Sumner location of the Cabot and NOI Employees Credit Union.

"We will be able to move tentatively somewhere between the last of August and the middle of September," said Jana Bentley, ceo/ manager. "It is primarily finish work now putting in counter tops, seats, water sprinklers, landscaping.

The eight full time and two part time employees at the company are looking forward to the extra space, increasing from approximately 2,000 square feet at the present 320 West Francis facility to more than 5,000 square feet at the new facility.

"We are going to have two drive through lanes instead of one," Bentley said, "an ATM,

CREDIT UNION cont. on page 3



staff photo by Randy Pribble

Construction is nearing completion on the Cabot and NOI Credit Union's new location at 1063 Sumner. The office is expected to open by mid-September.

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Texas Secretary of State Hope Andrade reaches into a hat for numbers that represent proposed constitutional amendments, Tuesday, July 28, 2009, in Austin, Texas. Her drawing determines the order of the 11 proposed amendments that will appear on the Nov. 3, 2009 election ballot.



HOUSTON (AP) — Condemned killers in Texas will get more legal help with their appeals when a state-backed office opens in 2010.

State to open

An alliance of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and public defense advocates endorsed the measure before the 2009

State Sen. Rodney Ellis of Houston, who sponsored the law that created the office in response to reports about how death row inmates' lawyers had mismanaged appeals, said "the status quo has been an "international embarrassment." He first introduced the bill

The Houston Chronicle reported Tuesday that Texas was one of the only capital punishment states that lacks a public defender to oversee key death row

appeals.
APPEALS cont. on page 3





# For the record

#### Pampa Forecast Wednesday Thursday Friday High 75 High 87 High 81 Low 61 Low 66 Low 60

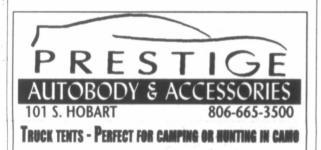
Tonight: Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly before 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. Eas t northeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming west northwest. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.

Wednesday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 81. Northwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south southwest. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday Night: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60. South southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming east northeast. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 75. North northeast wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday Night: A 30 percent chance () This information brought to you by...





#### **Judiciary Committee OKs** Sotomayor for high court

WASHINGTON (AP) The Senate Judiciary Committee has voted to approve Supreme Court

nominee Sonia Sotomayor to be the first Hispanic jus-

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The committee voted 13-6 Tuesday morning to send Sotomayor's nomination to the full Senate, where she's expected to be confirmed easily next week.

Just one Republican, South Carolina's Lindsey Graham, joined Democrats in voting for President Barack Obama's first high court nominee. The panel's chairman, Vermont Democrat Patrick Leahy, called Sotomayor restrained, fair and impartial judge who has not favored any one group of people over another. But the top Republican, Alabama's Jeff Sessions, said her speeches and some rulings revealed beliefs that conflict with the idea of blind justice and fidelity to the law.

#### AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-28

**CRYPTOQUOTE** 

MFTTROFFG YTEOD

OMDUD XUFC

CWJVEZD DEOM FVMDU XFU

CFSWD JVEUJ. — XUDG ETTDK Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WE CAN KNOW NOTHING OF ANY NATION UNLESS WE KNOW ITS HISTORY. — AGNES REPPLIER

## **Obituaries**

Kathy Crawford, 59

Pampa-Kathy Crawford, 59, died July 25, 2009, in Albuquerque, NM.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 29, 2009, at First Baptist Church, with Rev. Richard Bartel, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, officiating.

Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Crawford was born May 18, 1950 in Vernon. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1955. She married Tommy Crawford

Juarez, Mexico. Kathy had been the business manager for Family Medicine Center of Pampa since 1998, and she was the business manager for Medical & Surgical Clinic in Pampa for 30 years. She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church where she loved teaching the children.

Survivor include her husband Tommy Crawford of the home, two daughters; Jennifer Hinchliffe and husband Jason of Amarillo, and Lori Crutchfield and husband Brian of Pampa, one brother; Danny Boyd on November 25, 1968 in of Pampa, two sisters;

Lynda Whitmarsh of Howardwick and Phyllis LaRue of Mobeetie, seven grandchildren; Alex Clark, Megan Clark, and Zachary Clark, all of Amarillo, Zoe Crutchfield and Tucker Crutchfield, both of Pampa, Cassidy Crutchfield and Claire Crutchfield, both of White Deer; many dear friends and a wonderful church family. She was preceded in death by her parents: Ray and Freda Boyd; and brother: Kevin

**MEMORIALS:** Calvary Baptist Church, 900 E. 23rd, Pampa, Texas 79065

Boyd.



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Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whatley.com

#### **EMERGENC**

#### Sheriff

The Gray County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests during the period between 7 a.m. Saturday, July, 25 and 7 a.m. Tuesday, July, 28.

John Edward Towe, Jr., 36, of Eustace, V/P sexual assault, DWI/revocation, Childress County

Steven Ray Jolly, 33, of Windsor, CO, Insufficient bond, DWI third or more. Whitney John Oxley,

34, of Pampa, DWI. James Henry King, Jr., 33, of Pampa, warrant open container, warrant -

failure to appear Faith Danyell Vespetad, 20, of Pampa, warrant violation of probation theft by check, warrant -other county theft of property by check, warrant - other county, theft by check, warrant - violation of proba-

tion, theft by check. Jason Collin Jarlan, 28, of Pampa, warrant - capias pro fine, no seat belt, warrant - capias pro fine, no valid driver's license.

Tyson Lee Waycaster, 25, warrant - Capias pro fine, possession of drug paraphrenalia.

Ricky Lee Reynolds, 27, of Pampa, violation of probation, possession of a controlled substance.

Leslie Glenn Tibbets, 67, of Lefors, DWI, second.

Austin Doss Bruner, 20, of Pampa, tampering/ fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair a police investigation, failure to report change of address on driver's license.

Robert Roy Robicheaux, 42, of Pampa, burglary of a habitation.

#### **Ambulance**

Guardian EMS responded to the following calls during the period between 7 a.m. Friday, July 24 to 7 a.m. Tuesday, June 28.

Friday 11:06 a.m..—An MICU unit responded to the 200 block of Evergreen, transported one patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

11:12 a.m.— An MICU unit responded to the the 1900 block of Helton Road, transported one patient to PRMC.

12:18 p.m.— An MICU unit responded to the 1900 block of Helton Road, transported one patient to PRMC.

2:14 p.m.— An MICU unit responded to the 900 block of E. Browning, one patient to PRMC.

Saturday

6:50 a.m. — An MICU unit responded to the 1200 block of N. WElls, transported on patient to PRMC.

12:17 p.m.— An MICU unit responded to the 2800 block of Charles, transported one patient to PRMC.

3:15 p.m.— An MICU unit responded to PRMC, transported one patient to BSA.

4:56 p.m.— An MICU unit responded to the 700 block of E Frederic, transported one patient to PRMC.

7:47— An MICU unit responded to the 700 bock of W. Browning, transported one patient to PRMC

10:23 p.m.— An MICU unit responded to the 1500 block of W Kentucky, one patient to PRMC.

Sunday 3:11 a.m.— An MICU unit responded to the 1200 block of N. Wells, no

transport. 4:59 a.m.— An MICU unit responded to the 1200 block of Finley, transport-

ed one patient to PRMC. Monday 11:14 a.m.— An MICU unit responded to the 2200 block of N. duncan,

transported one patient to PRMC 12:49 p.m.— An MICU unit responded to the 1200 block of S. Faulkner,

transported one patient to PRMC. 2:52 p.m.— An MICU

unit responded to the 1100 block of Huff Road, one patient to PRMC.

4:50 p.m.— An MICU unit responded to 14th

Street in Amarillo, transported one patient to the 220 block of N. Charles. 9:07 p.m.— An MICU

unit responded to the 1900 block of Helton Road, one patient to PRMC. 11:35 p.m.— An MICU

unit responded to the 100 block of S. Nelson, one patient to PRMC. Tuesday

12:17 a.m. An MICU unit responded to the 400 block of S. Nelson, one patient to PRMC.

5:00 a.m.— An MICU unit responded to PRMC, one patient to BSA. 5:13 a.m.— An MICU

unit responded to the 900 block of S. Faulkner, one patient to PRMC.

#### Pampa PD

The Pampa Police Department responded to the following calls during the period between 7 a.m. Monday, July 27 to 7 a.m. Tuesday, July 28.

**Animal Control Officers** responded to 13 calls or

Pampa Police Officers made six traffic stops, conducted six follow-up investigations, and responded to four requests for informa-

A traffic complaint was taken in the 2800 block of

N. Hobart. Found property was reported in the 1100 block of S WElls. St.

A motor vehicle accident was reported in the

1400 block of N. Hobart. A motor vehicle accident was reported in the

200 block of Kingsmill. A welfare check was conducted in the 50 block

of N. Cuyler. Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block

of S. Prairie Drive. A runaway was reported from the 1100 block of S.

Terrace St. Criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block

of Lefors St. A motorist assist was rendered in the 2200 block of Perryton Parkway.

A motor vehicle accident was reported at Starkweather and Tyng.

A suspicious person was reported in the 300 block of E. Tyng Ave.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 700 block of N. Banks. A burglary was report-

ed in the 400 block of S. Hughes St., property reported at \$3,200 in value. An assault was reported in the 2100 block of N. Dogwood.

A suspicious person was reported inthe 500 block of W. Brown St.

A theft was reported in the 300 block of S. Tignor

Criminal mischief was reported int he 800 block of S. Hobart St. Found property was reported in the 400 block of S. Starkweather.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 200 block of N. Williston. Criminal mischief was reported in the 300 block of S Miami Street.Criminal trespass was reported in the 400 block of Hill.

Theft was reporte in the 1100 block of N. GArland

Disorderly conduct was reported int he 400 block

of Graham St. A suspicious person was reported in the 100 block

of N. Cuyler. A suspicious person was reported in the 300 block of Jean St.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of N. Hill.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 100 block of N. Houston.

An assault was reported in the 100 block of S. Starkweather.

Theft was reported in the 1900 block of Hobart

a burglary was reported in the 400 block of Pitts.

A suspicious person was reported in the 500 block of N. Lefors.

# Senators near bipartisan health deal

WASHINGTON (AP) - A bipartisan group of senators is closing in on a health care compromise that omits key Democratic priorities but seeks to hold down costs, as lawmakers on both sides of the Capitol struggled Tuesday to deliver sweeping health legislation to President Barack

Obama. In the House, Democratic leaders continued to negotiate with conservative and moderate rank-and-file party members with time running out for a vote before lawmakers leave Friday for a monthlong vacation.

The fiscally conservative Blue Dogs were at odds with the leadership over how to pay providers in a government-run health plan that would compete with private insurance. The House bill models the payments based on

Medicare, but the so-called Blue Dogs want a negotiated rate similar to private insurance. Other issues remain sticking points for the Democrats. "We're not ready to

support a bill yet," said Rep. Baron Hill, D-Ind., a member of the Blue Dog group, who added: "We'll get there. We are going to pass a health care bill, whether it's now or in the fall remains to be seen."

Without the backing of the 52-member Blue Dogs, it would be difficult for Democratic leaders to pass a bill, especially since no Republican supports the legislation.

"I think there's still a bit of daylight between the positions," said Rep. Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D. "I think the bottom line of Blue Dogs has not been met as

of this time.'

leaders

Democratic

are still holding out hope of floor passage before the summer break, and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer is looking at keeping the House in session some days past its scheduled Friday adjournment date.

After weeks of secretive talks, three Democrats and three Republicans on the Senate Finance Committee were edging closer to a compromise that excludes a requirement many congressional Democrats seek for large businesses to offer coverage to their workers. Nor would there be a provision for a government insurance option, despite Obama's support for such

a plan, officials said. The Finance senators were considering a tax of as much as 35 percent on very high-cost insurance policies, part of an attempt to rein in rapid escalation

of costs. Also likely to be included in any deal was creation of a commission charged with slowing the growth of Medicare.

"We're going to get agreement here," Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., the Finance Committee chairman, said Monday. "The group of six really wants to get to 'yes."

The president's domestic priority has suffered numerous setbacks in recent weeks and a Senate vote has been postponed until September. Administration Democratic leaders hope to show significant progress before lawmakers begin their monthlong August

recess. The legislation in the House includes both a penalty and a requirement for large companies to share in the cost of covering employees.

# Only one in seven agencies to get police aid

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - The Obama administration on Tuesday announced \$1 billion in grants to help keep police officers on the beat during the economic downturn — and tried to assure cities not getting aid that they won't be stiffed.

The aid announced by Vice President Joe Biden and Attorney General Eric Holder is just a fraction of what police departments across the country had hoped to get. For every \$1 to be delivered, another \$7 in requests will go unanswered under the grant program, Community Oriented Policing Services, commonly called COPS.

Four major U.S. cities are finding this out the hard way: New York, Houston, Seattle and Pittsburgh are among those that will not get money because the Justice Department decided other parts of the country simply needed it more, officials said.

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"These officers will go to where they are needed most," Holder said, adding that the decision about who gets money was made "based on crime rates, financial need and community policing activities."

The demand - from more than 7,000 agencies — is indicative of the tough times they are facing, he said.

The money will not only keep 4,700 men and women officers on the street, but will enable them to make house and car payments, make ends meet, and save for their children's future, he said.

Biden called paying cops' salaries "a moral obligation."

Governors and mayors who are getting the help were grateful.

"Thank goodness, thank goodness, that we are doing something not only to save jobs but to protect communities across America," Gov. Jon Corzine of New Jersey said at the announcement in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia's mayor, Michael Nutter, called the \$10.9 million his city will get "an incredible opportunity and a full demonstration that the federal govcan do something to make our cities safe and enjoyable for all of us.'

About 7,000 state and local agencies applied for aid under the COPS program that is part of the \$787 billion stimulus package passed earlier this year. Of those, only about 1,000 were approved. Each state is entitled to at least \$5 million in COPS money.

Other big winners in the COPS grant program are:

-The police department in Rochester, N.Y., which will get money to create or save about 30 law enforcement jobs.

-Kalamazoo, Mich., which will get nearly \$2 million for 10 officer positions.

The roughly 1,000 places getting COPS aid also include: Mobile, Ala., Mesa, Ariz., Tulare County, Calif., Monroe County, Fla., the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Baltimore, Providence, R.I., Salt Lake City, Utah, and Huntington, W.Va.

As local governments bleed red ink and officials look to plug budget gaps, they have swamped the government with a record number of requests for aid under the program. There is only \$1 available in grant money for every \$8 sought. As a result, the Justice

Department decided the most worthy cities were those that faced serious budgetary problems and those that have relatively high crime rates.

New York is less needy by both measures, officials said, because of its low crime rate and stable city budget. New York also has the largest single police force in the country, and received some money from a different stimulus program earlier this year, about \$29 million.

Seeking to quiet the chorus of complaints even before the announcement was official, the Justice Department said Tuesday that New York City will get \$7 million from another grant program. New York was almost certain to get those funds anyway, since that program delivers money based mostly on

The Big Apple also has a touchy history with Washington when it comes to federal aid for police costs. In 2006, the Bush administration sparked an uproar when it slashed homeland security money for New York.

Rep. Peter King of New York, the senior Republican on the Homeland Security Committee, criticized the COPS decision.

"It is disgraceful for New York City to be shut out just because the NYPD is doing such a great job under trying circumstances and Mayor (Mike) Bloomberg is doing such a wonderful job of managing the city's finances," said King, adding that the city "is the No. 1 terrorist target and should not be penalized for its success.'

Bloomberg, in a statement, called the decision "disappointing, to put it mildly. To punish our police department because they have driven down crime with fewer resources shows the backwards incentive system that is sometimes at work in Washington." He said the 9/11 attacks "were attacks on the nation and we should be receiving strong federal support for the NYPD to fight terrorism in the nation's largest city."

Officials familiar with Tuesday's announcement said the Justice Department estimates the grant awards will help hire 3,818 new officers, and retain 881 positions that would otherwise be lost to budgetary belt-tightening.

That makes a total of 4,699 officers — still short of the program's announced goal of hiring 5,000 officers.

Under the COPS program, the federal government pays the officers' salary and benefits for three years, after which the local government is responsible for the costs.

Local police chiefs have been waiting anxiously for months to learn what they will receive, and understood even before the decisions were announced that many of them would be

upbeat housing news NEW YORK (AP) are back to mid-2003 lev-There were fresh signs els.

The report: The Case-

Index adds to spate of

in much of the country are Shiller index measures stabilizing and the housing home price increases and market is on the mend. decreases relative to prices Home prices in May in January 2000. The base posted their first monthly reading is 100; so a readincrease since the suming of 150 would mean mer of 2006, according that home prices increased to the Standard & Poor's/ 50 percent since the begin-Case-Shiller 20-city index. ning of the index.

Tuesday that home prices

while still weak, is the best

The news: The 20-city

home price index rose 0.5

are heading back toward

206.52 three years ago.

The 20-city index has

it's been since the fall.

May a year ago.

positive territory.

and Boston.

Prices rose from April in 13 of the cities tracked, notably Cleveland, Dallas The news follows upbeat reports showing sales of newly built and existing homes rose in June for the third straight month. And new home construction, types of homes sold. Sales

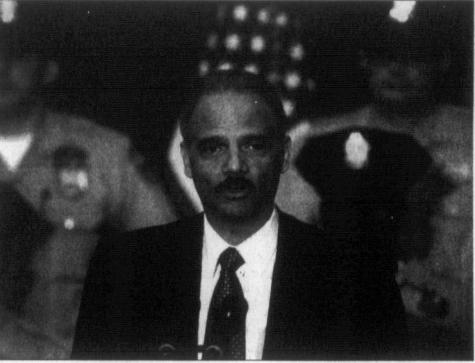
What it shows: The index tracks repeat sales of a designated group of homes in each city. By measuring the sales price of the same properties over time, the index prevents the data from being skewed by a change in the

between related parties,

such as family members, are excluded because they may not reflect true market values.

What it doesn't show: The indexes only measure price data in 20 major metropolitan areas located in 15 states and the District of Columbia. So many areas of the country are not represented.

Why it matters: Investors closely watch the Case-Shiller indexes to gauge the level and direction of home prices. The indexes include a broader mix of properties compared to the index created by the Federal Housing Finance Agency.



Attorney General Eric Holder makes remarks during a news conference at City Hal in Philadelphia, Tuesday, July 28, 2009. The Obama administration on Tuesday announced \$1 billion in grants to help keep police officers on the beat during the economic downturn and tried to assure cities not getting aid that they won't be stiffed. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

#### ernment has a role to play, a pre-set population-based Credit union

more space, more storage, some privacy rooms and more of a secured area."

She also noted that, "We will be looking to hire two or three additional parttime people once we get into our new building."

NOI Cabot and Employees Credit Union is a select employee group credit union, which means it is available to all member employees, include Cabot employees here and anywhere they are employed with the company. Member companies include National Oilwell Varco and CTW Brake and Rim.

"We are also working with other employers here in Pampa to see if they are interested in becoming members," Bentley said.

has been Bentley employed with the local facility for 12 years, begin-

New to town? Subscribe to

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16

cont. from page 1 ning there as a teller.

"We are like the old home town bank," she said. "We have a one-onone relationship with our members, whom we know

on a first-name basis. It is a real relaxed atmosphere. Construction began on the new facility on Feb. 3.

Appeals percent from April to a reading of 139.84, but was still 17.1 percent below

The Office of Capital Writs, with an annual bud-The 10-city index rose get of about \$1 million and 0.4 percent from April to a nine-person staff, will a measure of 151, but was be funded by redirecting off 16.8 percent from May money already in the state last year. It was the fourth budget. Its attorneys are consecutive month both expected to handle most indexes indicated prices state appeals. have turned the corner and

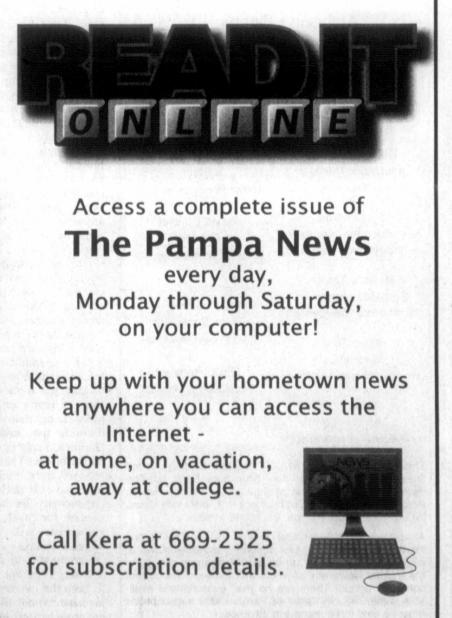
"Better late than never," said Juan Edward Castillo, whose state appeals were never filed by an attorney lost more than 32 percent assigned to represent him. since its peak reading of "This is a start. There's a lot of cases" that have been That means home prices screwed up, Castillo said.

cont. from page 1

Texas, the nation's most active capital punishment state, put 18 convicted killers to death last year. "I think that everyone

agrees (death row inmates) deserve one fair shot at presenting their issues, whether they're meritorious or not," said Andrea Marsh, executive director of the Texas Fair Defense Project. "We saw too many cases where poor state habeas representation forced people to lose appeals."





# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Tuesday, July 28, the 209th day of 2009. There are 156 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 28, 1609, the English ship Sea Venture, commanded by Admiral Sir George Somers, ran ashore on Bermuda after nearly foundering at sea during a storm. The 140 or so passengers and crew, originally bound for the Jamestown settlement in Virginia, founded a colony on the island.

On this date:

In 1540, King Henry VIII's chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, was executed, the same day Henry married his fifth wife, Catherine Howard.

In 1821, Peru declared its independence from Spain.

In 1914, World War I began as Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

In 1929, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis

All youth is bound to be misspent; there is something in tis very nature that makes it so, and that is why all men regret it.

> Thomas Wolfe, American author

was born Southampton, N.Y. In 1945, a U.S. Army bomber crashed into the 79th floor of New York's **Empire** State Building, killing 14 people. The U.S. Senate ratified the United Nations Charter by a vote of 89-2.

In 1959, in preparation for statehood, Hawaiians voted to

send the first Chinese-American, Republican Hiram L. Fong, to the U.S. Senate and the first Japanese-American, Democrat Daniel K. Inouye, to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced he was increasing the number of American troops in South Vietnam from 75,000 to 125,000 "almost

In 1977, Roy Wilkins turned over leadership of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to Benjamin L. Hooks.

In 2002, nine coal miners trapped in the flooded Quecreek Mine in Somerset, Pa., were rescued after 77 hours underground.

Ten years ago: The Senate opened debate on the Republicans' \$792 billion tax cut bill. Surgeon General David Satcher declared suicide a serious national threat, saying, "People should not be afraid or ashamed to seek help.

Five years ago: The Democratic National Convention in Boston nominated John Kerry for president. A car bomb exploded outside a police station used as a recruiting center in Baqouba, Iraq, killing 70 Iraqis.

Today's Birthdays: Musical conductor Riccardo Muti is 68. "Garfield" creator Jim Davis is 64. Singer Jonathan Edwards is 63. Actress Linda Kelsey is 63. TV producer Dick Ebersol is 62. Actress Sally Struthers is 61. Actress Georgia Engel is 61. Rock musician Simon Kirke (Bad Company) is 60. Rock musician Steve Morse (Deep Purple) is 55. Broadcast journalist Scott Pelley is 52. Altcountry-rock musician Marc Perlman is 48. Actor Michael Hayden is 46. Actress Lori Loughlin is 45. Jazz musician-producer Delfeayo Marsalis is 44. Actress Elizabeth Berkley is 37. Country musician Todd Anderson (Heartland) is 34. Rock singer Jacoby Shaddix (Papa Roach) is 33.



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# A sampling of editorial opinion around Texas

Austin American-Statesman on the Texas budget:

The old caution about looking gift horses in the mouth doesn't apply in politics. Gov. Rick Perry, for example, saddles up and rides away after looking in the horse's mouth and complaining loudly about what he sees there.

During the session, the all-GOP legislative leadership team would grudgingly admit that if it weren't for the federal government's stimulus money, Texas budget cuts would have been wide and deep.

But that didn't keep the governor and others from criticizing Washington for its wasteful ways. At one point, Perry mentioned secession in stoking up an anti-tax crowd.

It was tough talk but as is usually the case in politics, the gap between rhetoric and reality was as wide as the gap between the state's income and demands for services. Without the federal assistance, Texas would be in a tough financial fix.

According to a report released last week by the nonpartisan National Conference of State Legislators, Texas led other states in using stimulus money to plug the holes in its 2010 budget. The stimulus that the governor reviled on stump helped Texas legislators avoid tax increases and kept them from reaching into the state's rainy day fund.

According to the report, federal money provided 96.7 percent of funds required to close Texas' budget gaps, the highest of any of the states. Nebraska came in second at 88 percent.

The percentage might have been even higher had not the governor quite ostentatiously turned down federal money to bolster the hard-hit Texas Unemployment Insurance Fund. Republicans in the legislature urged him to take the money in the face of rising unemployment claims that were fast draining the funds. Like Horatius, Perry stood firm on the bridge. Then,

Now, he's budging a little but still defiant. His commentary on this page speaks for itself. Texas employers will see an increase in taxes and state government will have to ask the feds for a loan to keep the unemployment insurance fund afloat, the governor writes. He nonetheless defends the decision to turn down the stim-

ulus money.

The governor reminds us of people who complain about an obnoxious table companion whose volume is exceeded only by bad table manners. But what the heck, he picks up the Anyone who can

read knows by now that Perry's derisive use of the word "Washington" is a double shot: one aimed at Democrats in general and U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, in particular. Hutchison has announced that she will challenge Perry in the March 2010 Republican primary.

The party's hard-right base has been reliable for Perry, and the anti-Washington talk is what they want to hear. It would all be very amusing little political operatta if it weren't for the fact that real people with real lives are getting chewed up the machinations.

Don't expect expressions of gratitude or even an acknowledgement that if it hadn't been for the stimulus package, Texans would have mighty sore feet because there would be no gift horse to ride.

The Dallas Morning News on Exxon going green:

Exxon's often sharptongued skepticism about alternative fuel technologies would seem to make it an unlikely candidate to bankroll research designed to turn algae into fuel.

But in a hopeful sign that attitudes can change, Exxon just announced its first significant foray into biofuels research, a groundbreaking \$600 million investment to turn algae into fuel. Its partnership with Synthetic Genomics, a California firm whose founder is best known for decoding human DNA, could shift biofuels' future away from products culled from food crops.

We're pleased that the Irving-based energy giant has put its considerable financial muscle and credibility behind biofuel technology because U.S. companies have trailed

behind European firms in this work. The research needs Big Oil's deep pockets and commitments, and no domestic energy company has deeper pockets and more influence than Exxon.

While there is no guarantee of success and Exxon says the first large-scale commercial plants to produce algae-based fuels could be five to 10 years away the investment is well timed. Right now, dozens of

companies and universities are vying to find the most suitable strain of algae, the best way to grow it and how to mass-produce it economically. The federal government also is pressing for renewable energy and biofuel breakthroughs to lessen the nation's dependence on fossil fuels.

Corn-based ethanol, the most common biofuel in the United States, has lost some of its luster in recent months. Corn grown for fuel competes with what is produced for food and feedstock, resulting in shortages and rising grocery prices.

Algae-based fuel production would not interfere with the food cycle; nor would it require fresh or even clean water. It would use less land than cornbased ethanol and would consume carbon dioxide, a contributor to climate change. This opens the possibility for algae-to-fuel research having broader applications on initiatives designed to capture CO2 from cement and power plants.

Exxon also deserves praise for the innovative approach it is taking to this research. Instead of growing a plant that can be used as a fuel, Synthetic Genomics will try to produce an algae strain that can be turned into a hydrocarbon-like liquid and pumped through Exxon's pipelines and refineries and delivered to service stations. This isn't traditional biofuel production, but rather seeks to genetically engineer fuel to be used by cars, truck and planes without significant engine modifications.

Like any smart company, Exxon is looking to make a profit and has astutely picked this particular time and technology to mark its alternative energy turf. The company may have been painfully late to the competition, but now that it's on the field, the Exxon work looks to be a gamechanger

El Paso Times Staff on Texas' uncollected fees:

Texas is looking at nearly \$1 billion in uncollected traffic-violation fees under the Driver Responsibility Program. Soon, Texas will be looking at the company responsible for collecting those fees, because Municipal Services Bureau, which has the collection contract, has brought in less than 40 percent of nearly \$1.5 billion that's out there.

That's a lot of money that Texas could put to good use.

John Steen, commissioner with the Texas Public Safety Commission, said, "Can we do better? That's what we're looking into."

The TPSC will look into collections during its August meeting.

Admittedly, such collections aren't easy. El Paso struggles with collecting outstanding fines and other assessments. But not collecting fines presents an unfortunate message.

First, as mentioned, it deprives the state of money that's needed. It also effectively lets the violator off without having to pay the fee. That's not a good precedent, though driver's licenses can be suspended for unpaid bills. And, in fact, about 2.7 million Texas driver's licenses have been suspended for nonpayment.

The state program itself has come in for criticism because, foes say, the punitive fees are excessive and because the program victimizes the poor.

If there is legitimate concern, the program should be examined.

Meanwhile, those fines and surcharges are the law. The law should be enforced and the fees collected.

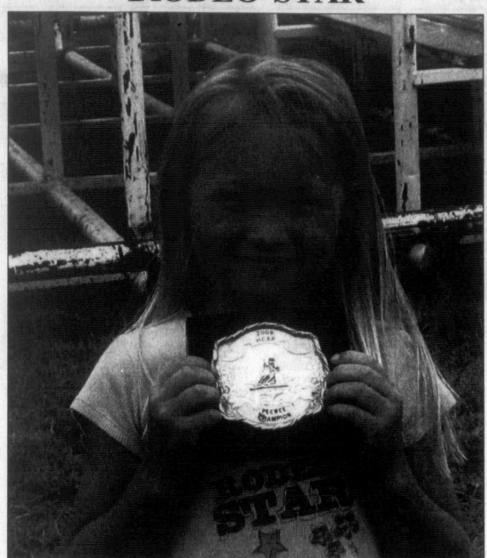
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\*All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published. •Defamatory comments will not be published.

· E-mail submissions are welcome.

## RODEO STAR



Shelby Watson is 6 years old and competes all over the Texas panhandle. She is currently standing number one in the Borger buckle series, and number one in the Canyon series. Shelby also won pee wee champion in the Hutchison county rodeo. Shelby has won several trophies so far this year and belt buckles. Shelby is the daughter of Jessica Watson. Her grandparents' are Tommy and Molly Watson of Pampa, JoLean and Jerry Dorsey of Dennison, and Roberta and Billy Klapper of Pampa.

## Parents like school flu shots

WASHINGTON (AP) -Most parents like the idea of vaccinating children against swine flu at school, but they're not so eager to roll up their own sleeves.

Parents do seem to be listening to warnings that this novel flu strain strikes the young more often than the old, an Associated Press-GfK poll suggests. Nearly two-thirds said they were likely to give permission for their children to be inoculated at school - if the government's evolving plan to try that pans out and 40 percent said very

likely. However, even as the government races to get enough swine flu vaccine for Americans in time for fall's expected rebound of the virus, only a third of people say they're very likely to get vaccinated themselves once shots arrive.

"I don't think I am going to die from the swine flu, says Seattle truck driver Luis Gonzalez, 40, who adds that neither he, his wife nor their three children ever have had a flu shot or caught influenza.

He's far from alone. The AP-GfK poll shows 56 percent of Americans aren't worried that they or their family will catch swine flu.

The complacency doesn't surprise flu experts. While swine flu still is spreading around the country strange, since most influen-

they are being examined --

and possibly judged -- by

someone who is stone cold

sober. As to the birthday

girl who felt she had to

offer an apology or expla-

nation for not drinking, she

may have done it out of

concern that turning down

the alcohol might make the

guests feel less inclined to

order it themselves.

za viruses can't hack summer's heat and humidity it has killed relatively few, 300, of the more than a million Americans estimated to have been sick-

"We're in a lull now," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the National Institutes of Health's infectious diseases chief. "People really like vaccine when they see people getting sick. That's ust human psychology."

It's another story for parents, perhaps rattled by last spring's swine flu-caused school closings.

"With kids at school, at a close proximity to each other, disease can spread quite easily," said Lance Griffin, 38, a Wichita, Kan., commodities broker and father of three. "Some people have died, obviously, from it. So if one of my kids were to (die) and I had the opportunity to get them vaccinated and I chose not to, I would feel very stupid. ... It's hard for a parent to live with that."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say the swine flu virus so far hasn't been much more deadly than the flu strains seen every fall and winter. However, health officials fear the virus could contribute to a potentially heavier flu season than usual or mutate to a more dangerous form.

Get ready for a confusing fall: The regular winter flu is expected to make its usual rounds — infecting up to one in five Americans and killing 36,000 — at the same time swine flu spreads. But it will take two separate vaccinations protect against both kinds.

"Don't forget the seasonal vaccine," pleaded Dr. Carol Baker of Baylor College of Medicine, who fumes that between 50 and 100 U.S. children die from regular influenza every year and "it seems the public doesn't care."

About 40 percent of Americans get an annual flu vaccine, and 30 percent of children do. The poll finds the population split on whether they or their children will go through

that rite this fall. On Wednesday, the government's top vaccine advisers meet to debate who's first in line once limited supplies start trickling out, a list expected to include school-age children, younger adults with flu-risky conditions like asthma, and health work-

A solid minority third of adults and just over one in four parents opposes swine flu vaccination.

"Unless it is a mandate for school attendance, my children will not be (vaccinated) against any flu virus," said Rebecca Theismann, 38, a Rochester, Minn., special education teacher and mother of two. She views all flu vaccine as unnecessary except for the very young, elderly or people with weak immune

Two-thirds of people are concerned the new vaccine might bring side effects. Regular flu vaccine is one of the world's safest inoculations and the swine flu shots are just a recipe change. But the last mass vaccination against swine flu, in 1976, was marred by reports of a rare paralyzing condition called Guillain-Barre syndrome, so scientists will carefully watch for any sign of problems.

Yet side-effect fears don't predict who will shun swine flu vaccine. Complacency is the chief predictor

William Aeschbacher, 55, a recreation center owner in Industry, Pa., said he decided the virus was "really, you know, nothing to worry about that much." He thinks the vaccine should be targeted to children— he wants it for a 5-year-old he's helping care for — and said he'd consider it for himself only if it were very convenient: "It's just one of those things that I wouldn't go out of the way for."

In fact, the people most interested in swine flu vaccination are those who get inoculated every year. Four of every five who plan on a regular winter flu shot want the swine flu vaccine, too. So do two-thirds of those over 65, the age so far least likely to get swine flu but a population well-versed in influenza's dangers.

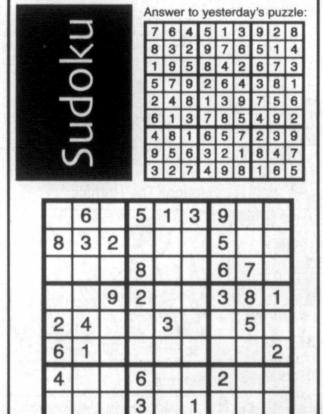
"It seems like a scary thing should that go through our country, and it seemed like it started very fast," said Darlene Woodard, 73, of Stockton, Calif., the sole caregiver for five grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She wants them and herself vaccinated as soon as it's available because "otherwise they might run out," Woodard said. "I need to stay healthy and stay well for these kids.

### Wheatheart Festival Aug. 22

A "Wheatheart Festival" is being planned in conjunction with the Wheatheart of the Nation Celebration for Aug. 22 from 11am - 5 pm at Leatherman Park in Perryton.

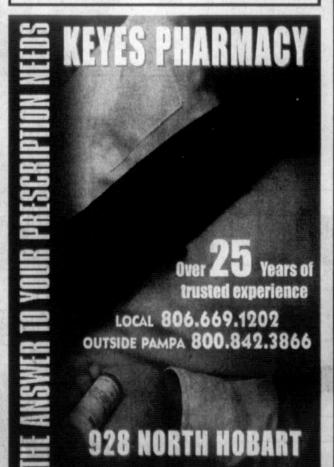
The Celebration committee is seeking food and game booths and arts and crafts booths for the event. There is no charge to participate, but those interested can call 806-435-5458 between 9 am - 5 pm to sign up. All non-profit organizations, church groups and clubs are encouraged to



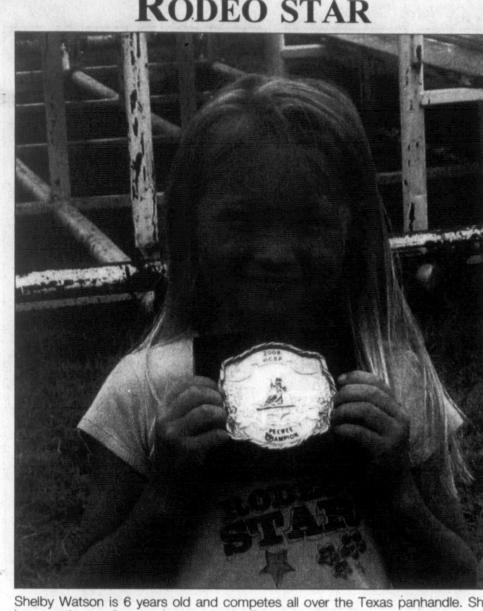
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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

should mind their own

(beverage) business. Their

concern ought only to be

whether I am social, not

whether I'm imbibing or

not. Thanks, Abby, for let-

ting me vent. -- SOBER IN

a non-drinker turns down

alcohol, I suspect it makes

the drinkers either curious

or slightly uncomfortable

because they imagine, in

their "relaxed" state, that

DEAR SOBER: When

SCOTTSDALE

DEAR ABBY: "Ralph" and I have been married two years. Two nights ago we had an argument, and he got mad and left. He was gone three hours. When he returned he screamed at me for what seemed like an hour. Finally, he went to

bed. I looked through his phone and found several text messages to his exwife. One said he still loves her. So I went through his e-mail and found more correspondence. When I woke Ralph up and confronted him, the first thing out of his mouth was her name.

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Driver

They have an 18-yearold daughter and have been divorced for 13 years. To top it off, she's married and pregnant.

Ralph swears he doesn't know why he was texting her, that he doesn't love her and that the e-mails were about a job.

Abby, I thought we had a happy marriage. I'm crushed, and my whole world is falling apart. My husband obviously has feelings for his first wife -(I'm No. 3) and is thinking about her. He swears over and over that I'm the love of his life, and he will spend the rest of his life proving it to me. Is it time to throw in the towel? HEARTBROKEN IN **MONTANA** 

D HEARTBROKEN: If you hadn't already smelled a rat, you wouldn't have

checked his cell phone history and computer. The text messages you discovered are explicit proof that your husband isn't being honest with you.

For many wives this would be the time to cut their losses. But if you love him and are willing to risk giving him one more chance, the two of you need to consult a licensed marriage and family therapist. You have little to lose by giving it a try, and it's possible that your husband really is contrite -- but keep your eyes wide open.

DEAR ABBY: I am a non-drinker. I don't like the taste of alcohol, and I prefer to remain sober.

Why is such a big deal made about alcohol and who's drinking? I attended a friend's birthday luncheon, and she apologized to the group for NOT drinking, saying she'd had enough partying the night before. Another time I went to a bar with a boyfriend to see a band perform. His friends -- all of them "buzzed," by the way -- asked me repeatedly why I wasn't drinking. This isn't the only time my choice to abstain has been questioned and scrutinized.

To me it makes no difference whether it's vodka or water in a glass. In a restaurant that served meat, you wouldn't question the food choices of a vegetarian, would you? Drinkers

# Comics

Marmaduke



"If I want to hide something from him, I put it behind the vacuum cleaner."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Which is this, Daddy — a woods, a torest or a jungle?

Daily Crossword Puzzle

#### CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

sights

1 First letter

Women"

2 "Two

star

3 News

item

My

4 "Losing

band

5 Mason's

Religion"

**ACROSS** 41 Chilled

1 Like good 42 Tale watchmen 43 Circus

6 Blueprint data

11 Romantic DOWN one 12 Director

Almodóvar 13 Sandra Bullock

film 15 Rooster's

mate 16 Pale

17 Hauler's unit

18 Patriotic tunes 20 Mamie's

mate **21** Pub

supply 22 Couplet creator

23 Chinwags 26 Ranch staff

27 Violent anger

28 Gear part 29 Go astray 30 Party

supplier 34 Sports drink suffix

35 Good times 36 Lennon's

love

37 Sandra Bullock film 40 Glutton



Yesterday's answer

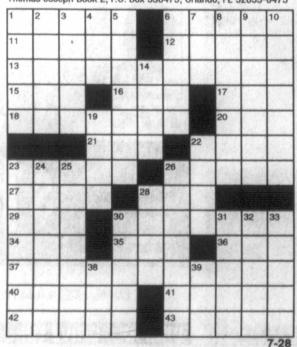
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14 Resume dish starter 31 Violinist's 19 Despise stuff

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#### For Better Or Worse





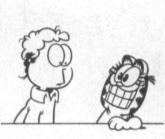




GASP . ONE LAST DESPERATE BURST

Garfield







**Beetle Bailey** 





Marvin





WHERE'S SHE



I WISH IT

WOULD RAIN .

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



**Peanuts** 





Blondie





Flo & Friends



Classified Special June, July

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July 29, 2009:

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday,

You might have a more serious tone than

you've had in years. Others wonder

where their bright and sunny friend, fam-

ily member or loved one has gone. You

are in a period of thought, rebuilding and

restructuring your basic life. Physical

changes might not be needed, as you are

making an internal adjustment. Key rela-

tionships transform to a new level of

comfort. If you are single, you might be

resistant to plunge into any bond. If you

decide to, show acumen and insight. If

you are attached, whether you are aware

or not, you are testing this bond. Be open

with your thoughts and feelings. SCOR-

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

\*\*\* Conversations have a sober

tone. Be ready for some hard work.

Avoid boredom through breaks that

mean something! Take a walk if you can-

not concentrate. Others respond to your

intensity. Tonight: A discussion over din-

\*\*\*\* Get on top of a personal mat-

ter. How you juggle different demands is

unique to you. Coming from a secure

place impacts many. Listen to creativity

and your inner voice. Tonight: Go with

\*\*\* Sometimes others would like you

to hush up and just do what you need to

do. Emphasize daily life, effectiveness

and perhaps streamlining your must-dos.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

an appealing suggestion. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

4-Positive;

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A family member continues to weigh you

\*\*\*\* Talks open doors, giving you

permission to change your tune. Listen to

another person's perspective. Though

you might not want to follow someone's

path, you don't have to shrug off his or

her ideas. Consider what is happening

behind the scenes. Tonight: Say what you

\*\* Honor a need to close your door or

stay home. You have a lot of work to do.

On the other hand, don't underestimate

the role of self-discipline in making what

you want happen. You might be tired or a

\*\*\*\* Be aware of the impact of

your attitude. If you are being critical or

difficult, it will have an impact. Keep

communication flowing and get to the bottom of a problem. Listen to your

thoughts - how negative are they?

\*\* Take your time with a problem.

Open up talks with a trusted adviser. Get

feedback before you make a key deci-

sion. Your finances need to be dealt with

appropriately before they handle you!

Tonight: Buy a little treat on the way

\*\*\* How you deal with someone

and the choices you make could be more

important than you realize. Handle your-

self accordingly. You keep tolerating a

difficult person. Do you really want to do

that? Be honest with yourself. Tonight:

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Tonight: Visit with a pal

home. You deserve it.

As you like.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

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down. Tonight: Put your feet up.

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\*\*\* You might want to rethink a sit-

uation that involves a boss, work and/or

your true inner desires. A must appear-

ance seems inevitable, though you might

not want to be involved. Take needed

time to center yourself. Don't act until

you know what you are doing. Tonight:

\*\*\*\* A meeting proves to be bene-

ficial, giving you even more information.

Investigate your options by tossing out

ideas to a group of like-minded people.

What comes back not only is interesting,

but also could be what you need to hear

\*\*\* Complete a project. Feedback

comes forward that allows you to close

off a difficult situation. A partner could

be tough. Listen to his or her feedback.

Listening is different from agreeing

\*\*\* Reach out for others at a dis-

tance. How you deal with someone could

be very different once you grasp another

person's limits. He or she might keep

putting out his or her true intent, but no

until recently have you grasped it. Most

no's need to be honored, as you will

Politician Elizabeth Dole (1936), singer

Martina McBride (1966), newscaster

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