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Jim Bruton

The PAMPA NEWS



Tuesday, August 13, 2009 Volume 105 • No. 97 50¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

City to lower property tax rate

BY BETSY PHILLIPS
 editor@thepampanews.com

If your property taxes go up this year, don't blame the city.

The City of Pampa Commission voted to approve a tax rate about four cents lower per \$100 of property valuation than the current rate during their regular meeting

Tuesday evening.

The tax rate approved for the 2009-10 fiscal year is \$0.62693, a drop from the current approximately \$0.665 rate.

The first public hearing on the tax rate is scheduled for a special commission meeting to be held at 5 p.m. September 1 in the commission chamber in city hall.

The second and final public hearing on the tax rate will be held during a September 8 commission meeting, beginning at 4 p.m.

Commissioners also set a schedule to tackle the budget process for the coming fiscal year.

Their first workshop will be held at 3 p.m., right before the regular August 25 meeting.

A public hearing and first reading of the budget will be conducted during the September 1 meeting.

The final reading of the 2009-1020 budget will occur during a special meeting at 11:45 a.m. Friday September 18.

At that same meeting a first reading of the resolution to set the property tax will be heard.

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Martindale's double career on track

BY DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com



staff photo by David Bowser

Pampa Attorney Matt Martindale pauses in front of the Gray County Courthouse before exchanging his wingtips for cowboy boots. Martindale will return to his roots Saturday night when he performs at the Top O' Texas Rodeo dance.

Saturday night, former Gray County District Attorney Matt Martindale will once again shed his Guccis for a pair of cowboy boots.

Martindale, who resigned his job as Assistant District Attorney in Gray County in the '90s to pursue a career in music, has come home in more ways than one.

That should be evidenced Saturday night when he performs at the Top O' Texas Rodeo.

"I'm playing with about four bands now," said Martindale. "I don't have a particular band that I play with."

He says he mainly plays with the Casey Berry Band and the Live Texas Mosquitoes and Charlie Shafter and the Gnomes. "Charlie is my brother-in-law," Martindale said.

Martindale, in addition to being a lawyer and musician, also produces recordings. He produced The Live Texas

MUSIC cont. on page 3

Court says condemned killer may drop appeals

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal appeals court Wednesday granted a condemned Texas inmate's request to drop his appeals and move forward with his execution for the slaying of an 84-year-old East Texas woman more than nine years ago.

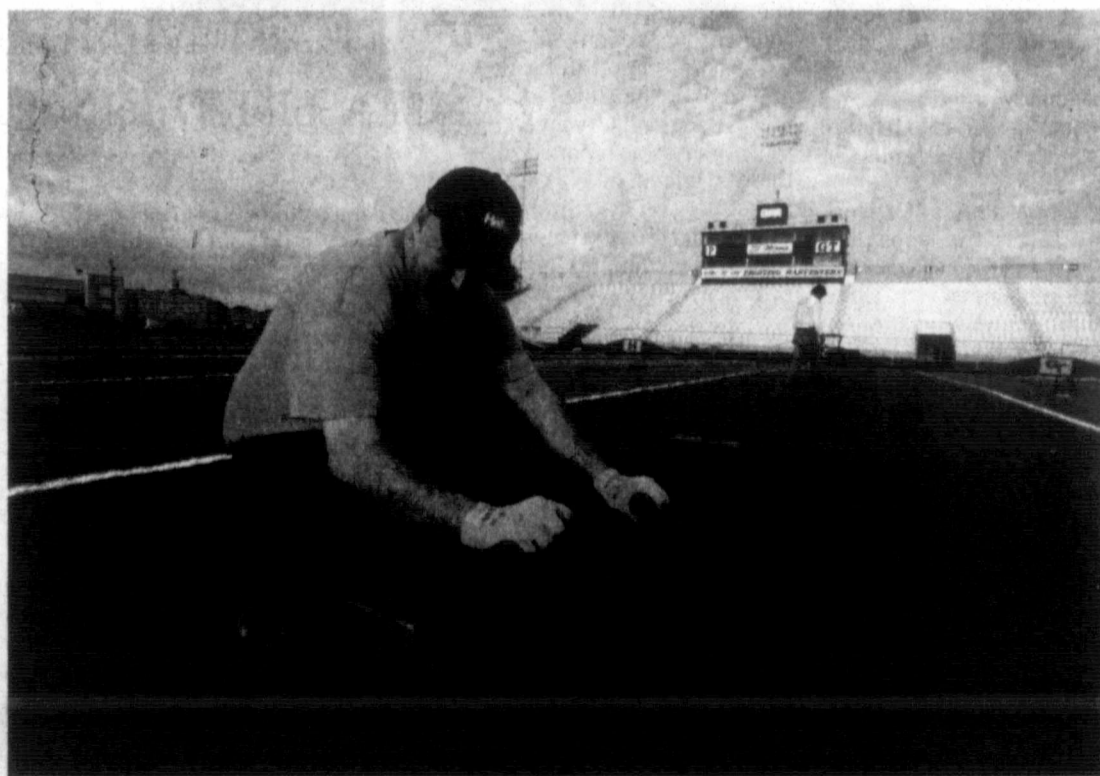
Danielle Simpson, 29, told the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals he's tired of being locked up and wants to die.

The court agreed to dismiss his appeals after a competency hearing, his attorney's sentiment that Simpson is sincere and a handwritten note to the court expressing Simpson's wishes.

The decision from the New Orleans-based appeals court clears the way for his trial court in Anderson County to set an execution date.

APPEALS cont. on page 3

HOME FIELD AT LAST



staff photo by David Bowser

Rick Townsend with Hellas Construction lines up the edges of the artificial turf at Harvester Field. Officials say the new surface should be ready for the Harvester's first game later this month.

Texas man charged in wrong-way crash that killed four

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A man has been charged with intoxication manslaughter in a wrong-way collision near Jonah that killed four people and injured two others.

Luke Anthony Looschen, 48, of Georgetown, was charged Tuesday with three counts of intoxication manslaughter in the deaths

of Pete Mendez, 44, Paula Martinez, 38, and Crystal Martinez, 16. A fourth person, Stephanie Valadez, 24, died Wednesday.

Looschen also was charged with three counts of intoxication assault.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Tom Vinger said Looschen was driving a pickup the

wrong way on Texas 29 on Monday night when he collided with a Jeep and a van carrying seven people. All the people who died were in the van.

Two young children who were in the van — 3-year-old Tristan Valadez and 6-month-old Jacob Valadez — were taken to Scott & White hospital in

stable condition Monday. Vinger said he did not have an update on their conditions Wednesday.

According to an arrest affidavit, Looschen told an officer he had been drinking and had taken the pain-killer hydrocodone, as well as antidepressants.

"There was evidence at the scene, within the

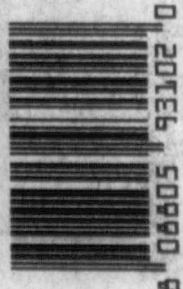
vehicle, as well as additional evidence that leads us to believe that (Looschen) was intoxicated," Department of Public Safety spokesman Tom Vinger told the Austin American-Statesman. Blood test results were pending, Vinger said.

CRASH cont. on page 3

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 The Ugly Truth
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 My Sisters Keeper (Digital)




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 Larry Hadley
 ASSOC 662-2779
 Jordan Oneal
 ASSOC 817-680-9022

CHAMBER LUNCHEON
 Tuesday, August 18 @ 11:45
 Sponsored by Harvester Ladies - Catered by The Plaza
 Speaker will be Julie Ramsey of Cross Texas Transmission
 Please RSVP by Monday Aug. 17 to 669-3241



For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		
High 90 Low 69	High 93 Low 71	High 88 Low 67

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 90. South wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 69. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 93. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 71. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 88. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Obituaries

Paul Simmons, 74

Canyon— Paul Simmons, 74, died August 11, 2009, in Amarillo, Texas.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, August 14, 2009, at First Baptist Church in Pampa, with Dr. Gil Lain, pastor of Paramount Baptist Church in Amarillo, and Rev. Fred Huff, pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church in Balco, Oklahoma, officiating.

Graveside services will be at 2:30 PM Friday, August 14, 2009, at the Ochiltree Cemetery in Perryton. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Simmons was born November 26, 1934

in Ochiltree County. He moved to Pampa in 1945 and attended Pampa schools, graduating from Pampa High School in 1953. He attended West Texas State University in Canyon.

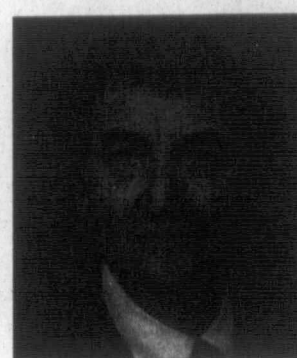
Paul married Ione Martin on August 9, 1956 in Perryton. He worked alongside his father at Simmons Business Services in Pampa for 30 years. For the last year and a half, he was a greeter at WalMart in Canyon.

Paul was a longtime member and deacon of First Baptist Church of Pampa and after moving to Canyon in 2005, became a member of Paramount Baptist Church of Amarillo. He was a former member of the

Pampa Independent School District Board of Trustees and was chairman of the Gray County Republican Party for many years. Paul was a veteran of the U. S. Army, serving during the Korean Conflict.

Survivors include his wife, Ione Simmons of the home; daughter, Vondel Stevens and husband Scott of Canyon; son, E. P. Simmons of Amarillo; grandson, Timothy Stevens and wife Alyssa of Amarillo. Paul was preceded in death by his parents: Edwin and Anabel Simmons.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The family will receive friends at Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Home in Pampa from 6 -7:30 p.m. Thursday, August 13,



Simmons

2009.

MEMORIALS: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 621, Pampa, Texas 79066-0621, or Paramount Baptist Church, 3801 S. Western, Amarillo, Texas 79109.

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

Guy T. Smith, 75

Miami— Guy T. Smith, 75, died August 11, 2009, in Miami, Texas.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, August 14, 2009, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel in Pampa, with Bill Burkholder, officiating.

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

of Pampa.

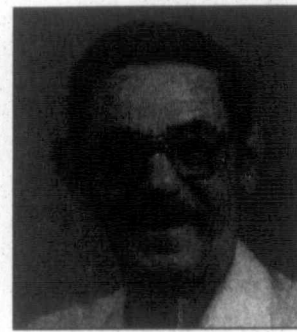
Mr. Smith was born March 15, 1934 in Roberts County. He had been a resident of Miami since 1955. He married Sue Chase at Hopkins, and she preceded him in death on February 13, 1999. He worked for Texas Department of Transportation for about 25 years as a section foreman.

Survivors include three

sons; Danny Smith of Pampa, Randy Smith and wife Tara of Nashville, Tennessee, and Monty Smith of Miami; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

MEMORIALS: SPCA, 11901 S. Coulter St., Amarillo, Texas 79119

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



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EMERGENCY SERVICES

PAMPA PD

The Pampa Police Department responded to the following calls during the period between 7 a.m. Wednesday, August 12 to 7 a.m. Thursday, August 13.

Monday
Animal Control Officers responded to 13 calls or stops.

Pampa Police Officers made 19 traffic stops, had 13 ongoing investigations, and responded to three requests for information.

A suspicious person was reported in the 600 block of E. Frederic Avenue.

An accident was reported on the 1300 block of N. Banks Street.

A welfare check was made in the 300 block of E. Tuke Street.

A civil matter was reported in the 2800 block of N. Perryton Parkway.

Theft was reported in the 200 block of Miami. Three birth certificates and three social security cards were stolen.

A traffic complaint was taken in the Sirroco/Juniper intersection.

A harassing call was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill Avenue.

Burglary was reported in the 300 block of N. Gray Street.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of E. Harvester Avenue.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1100 block of McCullough Street.

A suspicious person was reported in the 200 block of W. Foster Avenue.

An accident was reported in the 700 block of Reid Street.

Unlawfully carrying a weapon was reported in the 800 block of N. Nelson Street.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Violation of city ordinance was reported in the 100 block of S. Starkweather Street.

An alarm was reported in the 1500 block of N. Hobart Street.

An accident was reported at the Starkweather RR Crossing.

An alarm was reported in the 600 block of N. Hobart Street.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported in the 600 block of Cyler Street.

A runaway was reported in the 1900 block of N. Charles Street.

Assault was reported in the 800 block of E. Albert Street.

A 911 hangup was reported in the 2700 block of Rosewood Lane.

LAST MINUTE CLASSIFIED LINE ADS

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

AFTER SCHOOL program for K- 5th grade available at First Baptist Church Daycare. Includes pickup up from grade schools in Pampa, open Spring break and most scheduled holidays and snow days. Register today. 203 N. west 669-3529

BOB'S ROOM One, Men's Hair Cuts. NBC Plaza, 1224 N. Hobart, Tues.-Fri. 10-6. Bob Jeffers, 440-4113.

FLEA MARKET, 105 N. Cuyler, Lots of new goodies! Check us out, Sat. 9-4pm.

CERAMIC TILE. Keith Taylor, 874-1779 lv. msg.

SEW WHAT Embroidery has moved to 915 W. Wilks (Hwy 60)

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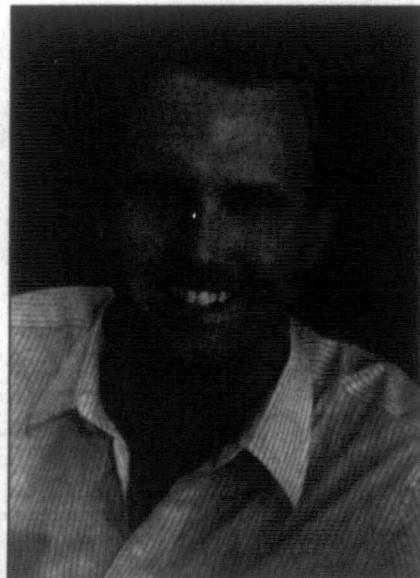
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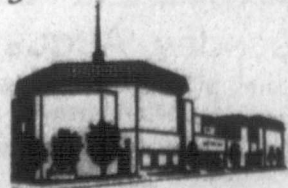


The Public is Cordially invited to attend!

Cullen Allen

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at 6 p.m

First Baptist Church
203 N. West St. Pampa



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THE STATE IN BRIEF

Firefighter struck by exploding ammo

MORGAN'S POINT RESORT, Texas (AP) — A Central Texas firefighter escaped serious injury when he was struck by ammunition that exploded during a house fire. Investigators searched for the cause of Thursday's fire at Morgan's Point Resort, in Bell County. Morgan's Point Resort Fire Chief Bill Richards says one woman from the home was treated at the scene for

smoke inhalation. Richards told KWTX-TV that ammunition stored inside the structure started to discharge during the blaze. Richards says a firefighter, wearing heavy gear, was hit in the chest by a bullet, but avoided serious injury. Morgan's Point Resort is a town of about 4,000, located along Belton Lake.

Lubbock recycler a repeat environmental offender

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — A Lubbock County recycling plant that caught fire leaving at least one worker injured has allegedly violated state environmental regulations for years before and its owner had just been fined \$100,000. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality first documented violations at I-27 Recycling Center and Public Scales in 2006 and has inspected the facility at least

twice a year ever since, spokesman Terry Clawson said Wednesday in the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. Fire broke out at the facility Monday night and sent one worker to the hospital. An Austin jury fined the plant's owner \$100,000 Friday for failing to get a waste permit for the business. A hearing is scheduled Thursday to consider permanently closing the plant.

One killed in plane accident

POTEAU, Okla. (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration says one person has been killed in an accident involving an ultralight plane at the Poteau airport. The victim's name has not been released. FAA spokesman Roland Herwig says it's believed the accident occurred as the Pegasus Quantum 15 aircraft was being moved into a hangar. He says the plane is registered to

Ronald Lynn Boyd of Humble, Texas. Oklahoma Highway Patrol Capt. Chris West says the accident occurred about 9 a.m. Thursday. Herwig says because it appears there was no intent to fly the plane, Poteau police will handle the investigation while the FAA will monitor the information. Poteau police did not immediately return a phone call for comment. Calls to the airport were met with a busy

Music

Mosquitoes last compact disk. "I'm impressed with Casey," Martindale said. "He's a great writer. He's a really good guitar player." Martindale, a Pampa native, also plays with the Texas Blues Renegades and with Lonesome Goat. The Pampa lawyer put his legal career on hold back in the 1990s, while he pursued a successful career in music, but he admitted that it wore him out. It's only been in the last couple of years, that he returned to music. "I play about 40 or 50 shows a year now," Martindale said, "as opposed to over 200." With a boyish smile, he added that he plays just enough to get him out of the house. "About the time my wife gets tired of me," he laughed, "she says, 'It's about time for you to go play a show.'" When he first stepped down from his music career, he admitted that he was tired of music. They had played about 10 years, most of it on the road. "We did play a lot," Martindale said.

"I was ready to do something different," he said. But now, after about a year or so, he's gotten back into the music scene much to his fans' pleasure. "Now," he admitted, "I'm really excited about music. I've got the fire back in me." Martindale admitted that he loves music. "I'm getting to do the things now that I always wanted to do," he said. Martindale said he's getting to spread himself out and do some things that he's wanted to do but didn't have the time. He's become involved in producing other people's music, and he's getting to experiment. "We'll just have to see what happens," Martindale said. He said he's able to write more music, and he's get-

ting to write a wider variety of music. It allows him to try different styles. Martindale should have a new CD coming out in late September featuring different friends. It features Tommy Alverson, Mando Saenz, Stony LaRue, Keith Gattis and others. "Keith played guitar for Dwight Yoakam," Martindale said, "and produced some of Dwight's records." "I've started co-writing a lot more than I used to," Martindale said, "and I think it's helped me." He said the new album is a little more soulful. "It has a little more feeling to it," he said. It was recorded in Lubbock. "I produced it myself," Martindale said. "Me and Charlie Shafter, my brother-in-law."

Crash

Looschen was taken to a Temple hospital after the crash and was transferred to the Williamson County Jail on Tuesday evening, Vinger said. Bail was set at \$650,000. An officer who answered the phone at the jail Wednesday night told The Associated Press he could not confirm whether Looschen was still in custody or say whether he

Appeals

Simpson was sentenced to die for the murder of Geraldine Davidson, a former Palestine school teacher and church organist who was abducted from her home during a burglary in January 2000. She was driven around in the trunk of her car, beaten, wrapped with duct tape, had cinder blocks tied to her ankles and then dumped into the Neches River. A passing motorist spotted her body floating in the river about 100 miles southeast of Dallas. A year ago, the 5th Circuit sent Simpson's case to a lower court to examine whether he was mentally impaired and ineligible for execution under Supreme Court rulings. Earlier this year, Simpson wrote the appeals court a handwritten motion in which he said he was "tired of being in a institution that's unjust, degrading, and corrupted."

"I'm tired of being imprisoned in a system that's devaluated, and struggling to survive under the cruel and unusual punishments of an unjust institution... I'm really looking forward to my execution because its just 'me against the world.'" Simpson was one of four Palestine residents convicted in the slaying. His brother, Lionelle, 15 at the time, received a life prison term. His wife, Jennifer, then 17, pleaded guilty and accepted a 40-year sentence. Both were certified for trial as adults but were ineligible for the death penalty because of their age. The fourth defendant, a cousin who was 13 at the time of the killing, was sent to the Texas Youth Commission then released in 2007 at age 21 to serve the remainder of his 13-year

sentence under adult parole supervision. Testimony at his December 2000 trial showed Simpson had burglarized Davidson's home at least two other times. The burglars were in her house when Davidson returned home. She was robbed of money from her purse, tied and taped, had a pillow case placed over her head then was carried outside and thrown in the trunk of her car. They drove around with the bound woman for much of the day, bought marijuana, had lunch and occasionally stopped to show friends their captive. Evidence also showed Simpson had a history of violence and gang membership and was on probation at the time of the killing after pleading guilty in 1999 to a charge of indecency with a child.



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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, August 13, the 225th day of 2009. There are 140 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:
1521 - Spaniard Hernan Cortes captures Tenochtitlan, completing the defeat of the Aztec Empire.

1624 - France's King Louis XIII names Cardinal Richelieu as first minister.

1704 - Forces of the English Duke of Marlborough and Eugene of Savoy defeat the French at Blenheim, Bavaria, driving around 18,000 soldiers to drown in the Danube and saving Vienna from the French.

1784 - Britain's India Act places East India Company under government-appointed Board of Control.

1787 - The Northwest Ordinance is enacted by U.S. Congress, outlining how the territory north of the Ohio River would be governed and how the land would evolve into states.

'You should avoid making yourself too clear, even in your explanations.'

— Baltasar Gracian, Spanish philosopher

1788 - Prussia joins Anglo-Dutch alliance to form Triple Alliance for preserving peace in Europe.

1792 - French revolutionaries imprison France's royal family.

1814 - Britain agrees to hand back all Dutch colonial possessions includ-

ing Indonesia.

1898 - U.S. forces in Philippines capture Manila from Spaniards in Spanish-American War.

1937 - Japanese attack Chinese city of Shanghai.

1945 - World Zionist Congress demands admission of 1 million Jews to Palestine.

1961 - East Germany seals off border between East and West Berlin, closing Brandenburg Gate to halt people fleeing the country.

1970 - Iraq and Syria reaffirms their opposition to Egyptian efforts to seek a peaceful solution of the Middle East crisis.

1976 - South Africa pledges support for U.S. effort to bring about negotiated settlement in Rhodesia, saying failure would invite Communist intervention.

1978 - Explosion in Palestinian building in Beirut kills about 200 people, including members of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

1983 - The Indian government starts to erect a barbed-wire fence along the entire 2,500-mile (4,000-kilometer) border with Bangladesh to prevent the entry of illegal aliens. Resentment of Muslim immigrants from Bangladesh flared into weeks of violence in which 3,000 were killed.

1990 - President Mikhail S. Gorbachev issues a decree absolving of wrongdoing the millions of victims of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin who had not been formally rehabilitated.

Today's Birthdays:

Andes Angstrom, Swedish physicist (1814-1874); Albert Sorel, French historian (1824-1906); John Logie Baird, British inventor of television (1888-1946); Alfred Hitchcock, British film director (1899-1980); Makarios III, first president of Cyprus (1913-1977); Fidel Castro, Cuban leader (1926--); Kathleen Battle, U.S. soprano (1948--); Paul Greengrass, film director (1955--).



Special Olympics
EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER
1921-2009

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Texas Our Texas

by Texas First Lady Anita Perry

This summer, I finally tackled a New Year's Resolution. Like most people, our family photos were calling — make that screaming — to be put into photo albums I bought years ago. As I sorted and scanned the piles of loose pictures (and there are a ton, because Rick is quite the gifted photographer), I got to relive everything from holiday, birthday and wedding celebrations to proms, pajama parties and vacations.

Oh the memories of road trips with Griffin and Sydney when they were still in grade school. Each year, we'd pile into the car and hit the wide open Texas highway for one last adventure to close out the summer. I wouldn't trade in even one of those moments; our car packed with games, snacks and maps, the excitement of catching sight of our final destination and countless hours tromping around creek beds in search of arrowheads.

As many times as I've traveled our beautiful state, I'm still awestruck by the great variety of things we can enjoy. Texas is one of the few places where you can drive a few hours in any direction and experience everything from dude ranches to cosmopolitan cities.

I've had the opportunity to promote Texas here at home, as well as all over the country and the world alongside representatives from many

Texas cities. And I have to tell you, international travelers look to Texas as a destination. The entire state of Texas is such a desirable place to vacation in fact, that in 2008, more than 194 million domestic visitors traveled to and within Texas. Total direct travel spending in the state that year reached \$60.6 billion.

The Gulf Coast Region alone saw total direct travel spending of \$17 billion in 2008, which was a 7 percent increase over the previous year.

Needless to say, Texas tourism is big business, even in the state's smaller towns and cities. It has of course been affected by the slowdown in the economy, but we are blessed that it hasn't been as drastic as what we've seen in other regions of the U.S. Travel is still one of the most important export-oriented industries in Texas. Spending by visitors generates sales in areas such as lodging, food services, recreation, transportation, retail and gasoline service stations, to name a few.

The industry also provides a significant contribution to job creation. During 2008, travel spending in Texas directly supported 544,400 jobs. State and local government also benefit from travel and tourism in the form of excise taxes on the goods and services purchased by visitors.

When you live in a place as great as Texas, it's sometimes easy to forget



Anita Perry

just how much there is to do and see, right here in our own backyard. But there is truly something for everyone. So, if you have a couple of days off coming your way, I encourage you to support the amazing cities and towns in Texas that are working hard to create distinct destinations. To make it easy for you, there are great travel planning tools at www.travel-texas.com, whether you want to visit the Texas Coast, the Hill Country or anywhere across the state.

Now, who's ready for a road trip?

Analysis: In attorneys probe, I burning question

WASHINGTON (AP) — Years after President George W. Bush fired nine U.S. attorneys, lawmakers are still searching for answers. But they seem to be asking the wrong questions.

In keeping the controversy alive, Democrats have muddied the discussion: Did Bush political adviser Karl Rove fire a prosecutor so his friend could get the job? Did the White House cut a deal with a senator and agree to fire a prosecutor in exchange for putting a judge on the bench? Did political operatives second-guess decisions about what cases prosecutors were filing?

Those are the questions House Judiciary Committee Democrats focused on this week after releasing thousands of pages of e-mails and transcripts of their interviews with Rove and former White House counsel Harriet Miers.

But politics in the Justice Department is nothing new. The real question is whether the Bush administration took it a step further and illegally used prosecutors to go after political enemies.

The Justice Department has a unique pedigree. It is a governmental descendent of the mythological Lady Justice, who carried a sword to fight evil and blindly balanced fairness. But it also has political DNA, inherited from a long line of presidents who used the department to champion civil rights, break up companies and

fight communists and terrorists as the White House saw fit.

There is built-in tension here before the president picks any of the nation's 93 U.S. attorneys. Job seekers in any administration can expect some variation of the questions, "What have you done to help elect the president?" and "Do you have anything in your past that could embarrass the president?"

On paper, a U.S. attorney has wide authority as the senior federal law enforcement official in his district. In reality, he gets his priorities from the attorney general and the White House. If the administration's priorities are terrorists, guns and gangs, the new U.S. attorney may shut down investigations into environmental crimes, corruption or computer fraud.

At its heart, that's a political decision. If the president promises to stop violent crime but a U.S. attorney is instead getting tough on polluters, the White House is going to notice.

In the run-up to the 2006 firing of New Mexico U.S. Attorney David Iglesias, the head of the state's Republican Party e-mailed the White House, complaining that Iglesias was soft on voter fraud. He asked that Iglesias be replaced so the state could "make some real progress in cleaning up a state notorious for crooked elections."

The Bush administration took the complaint to heart. In a June 2005

e-mail, White House adviser Scott Jennings said the New Mexico congressional delegation was also frustrated over the lack of voter fraud cases. He urged that Iglesias be fired.

"Iglesias has done nothing. We are getting killed out there," Jennings wrote to Rove's deputy.

Comments like this are what the controversy is really about. The firing only matters if it offers insight into whether the White House wanted Iglesias to take out its political opponents. Federal prosecutor Nora Dannehy is investigating that question, and House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers, a Michigan Democrat, says he gave her all the documents the panel collected.

The relationship between U.S. attorneys and Washington is not a simple matter.

A president who worries that voters think he's soft on crime might want a gang crackdown. The attorney general might demand more gun cases. Maybe the U.S. attorney in a high-crime swing state gets an ultimatum.

Political? Definitely. But not unheard of.

But what if the president tells the attorney general to spike a case against a major donor? To investigate a potential rival? This is the road toward the Watergate scandal and President Richard Nixon's resignation.

Republicans do not want to talk about what the U.S. attorney fir-

ings might reveal about political motives. Justice Department investigators have already concluded that Bush appointees improperly let politics influence decision-making. Focusing the congressional investigation and the public debate on political warfare would only underscore that finding.


Republicans want this to be about the firing of a few prosecutors. They say the president has that authority. Period.

Democrats are being disingenuous, too. They pretend the Justice Department is an independent body, that the Bush administration was the first to bring politics into the halls of Justice.

They ignore the fact that the department receives letters from Congress every day asking for investigations into situations that constituents or political allies are worked up about. They gloss over the fact that one of the perks of the Senate is being able to influence who gets picked as U.S. attorney, since the Senate confirms the president's nominees.

And they forget that the White House may never have had a closer ally in the Justice Department than when Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was his brother's most trusted adviser.

There's a long history of politics in the Justice Department. The question is where the line gets drawn, and whether it's been crossed.



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BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Aug. 14, 2009: This year, you might be carrying a lucky rabbit's foot. Wishes often become realities. Your popularity soars. Network in order to increase your opportunities. Your personal relationships start this year. If you are single, many people want to be your sweetie. Choose the right person, keeping in mind what type of bond you desire. If you are attached, the two of you make an excellent team. You feel a lot of good will from a partner. Count on GEMINI for friendship.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19) **★★★★** Speak your mind. Let others know where you stand. Your willingness to broker a cause or follow through on a commitment defines the next few days. You feel more together than you have in a long time. Be sensitive to your options. Tonight: Join your pals at some local setting.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) **★★★★** Your expenses could be out of kilter. Self-discipline might not happen easily. Look to a change in events and direction. A family member wants a lot from you, but at the same time you have many external responsibilities. Tonight: Stay within your means.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) **★★★★** You might be pleased as punch about what is happening. Remain in touch with your needs. Clear your desk. Returned calls could bring unusually good or positive news. Optimism reigns. Don't bet on a certain income. Tonight: Whatever you decide is perfect.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) **★★★★** If you choose to be an observer more than a participant, you could have a difficult time deciding which way to go. Dealing with a money matter that could be too good to be true is obviously very important. Use good sense when investing and making decisions. Tonight: Listen to your sixth sense.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) **★★★★** Zero in on what you want. Open up to potential. What others seem inclined to encourage could be out of sync with reality. Investigate what is happening between you and someone else. Tonight: Be where there are crowds.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) **★★★★** An ability to make a difference marks your actions. Others assume that you know what you are talking about. As much effort as you could put into a project, be sensitive to its liabilities. Verify your course of action. Tonight: Clear out of work ASAP, or ask associates to join you for an after-work drink.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) **★★★★** A leap of faith could have direct ramifications. Do needed research so you feel as confident as possible. You have the ability to empathize and understand others. Your creativity is endless, which allows you greater insight and knowledge. Remain goal-oriented. Tonight: Read between the lines.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **★★★★** Your demeanor and willingness count. A partner could play a pivotal role. Look at your demands, both professionally and personally, before taking on yet another responsibility. Tonight: Go with another person's wishes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) **★★★★** Others take action and run with the ball. You find yourself pulled

between many different situations. Detach if you feel overwhelmed by everything you hear. Get on top of a situation and look to positive changes. How you see a personal matter could change radically. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) **★★★★** Emphasize clearing out as much work as possible. Though you are optimistic about a money matter, it is clear that the final outcome is not in your hands. A partner has different concerns and ideas for security. Tonight: A discussion is inevitable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) **★★★★** Allow more creativity to come forward. Your way of handling a problem could be very different from many other people. Realize someone might be questioning your actions. A child or loved one tests his or her boundaries. The problem lies in that you scarcely see it. Tonight: Cruise on out the door.

FISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) **★★★★** On some level, you feel as if you are in a pressure cooker. Make this an early day or call in. You could be far happier with the end results. Your instincts could be telling you a lot, but still stay on track with a project. Listen to what is being shared. Tonight: Put your feet up and relax. Think "weekend."

BORN TODAY
Writer Russell Baker (1925), actress Susan St. James (1946), actress Halle Berry (1968)

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Fri. Deadline is Thurs. before noon. **Weekend Edition (Sat.-Sun.) deadline is Thurs. before 4pm.**

HUGE Moving Sale. furn., power tools, house items, 2528 Charles, Fri. & Sat. 8am

2119 Beech Clothes, Misc., Toys Fri & Sat

MULTI Fam. Sale. Sofa, chairs, mens, womens, girls clothes, shoes, games, craft supplies, craft books, much more. Fri. & Sat. 9-7 801 S. Main, White Deer

50 Building Suppl.

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GARAGE Sale. 2301 Mary Ellen. Fri. 9-4, Sat. 9-4. Lots of Avon & Holiday Decorations.

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A XYDLBAAXR 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.

8-13 CRYPTOQUOTE

RJ UCN ZUCNY DNYLZX RXPVYNL
KZV, KZV QBK JZYSNU UCN
RXPVYK; FVU RJ KZV RXPVYN
CRQ, KZV GRAA BAGBKL

YNQNQFNY. — WBCARA SRFYBX
Yesterday's Cryptquote: NEVER SAY YOU KNOW A MAN UNTIL YOU HAVE DIVIDED AN INHERITANCE WITH HIM. — JOHANN KASPAR LAVATER

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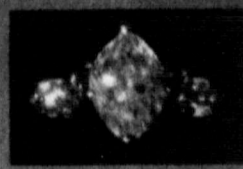
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545

Sports

Pampa six-year-old in mutton bustin' finals

BY ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

A six-year-old from Pampa qualifies for the Youth Bull Riding finals in mutton busting and dreams of being a bull rider.

Parker Ailport son of Kandice Ailport, started mutton busting in 2007, when he was four.

"He saw it at the Pampa Rodeo and said he wanted to do it," Kandice Ailport said.

According to the First Coast News web site, mutton busting is where a sheep is caught and held. A child is put on the sheep in riding position and the sheep is let go to knock the child off. The object for the rider is to stay on the sheep the longest.

Parker Ailport rides in two rodeo associations, the Out West Junior Bull

Riders (OWJBR) and the Junior Rodeo Cowboy Association (JRCA). The OWJBR is based out of Elk City, Oklahoma.

Parker Ailport qualified for regionals and was first with an 80 percent ride average.

Kandice Ailport said they are very proud of their son's accomplishments.

"He's worked very hard," Ailport said.

Ailport said Parker finished first at year's end with the JRCA.

Ailport's son will compete in the finals in August 2010 in Fort Worth. Parker will also be competing in the Texas Junior Bull Riding Association Invitational in Seminole, Texas, to qualify for the National Junior Bull Riding Association Finals in Shawnee, Oklahoma, in

November.

Ailport said her son told her that he wants to ride bulls in college and ride bulls in the professional bull riders association. Parker's mom also said her son has a couple of rodeo heroes: Mike White, the 1999 PRCA World Champion in bull riding, Kody Lostroh, a U.S. Border invitational winner. Ailport said another hero of his is retired bull rider Cody Custer.

"We rodeo with his kids," Ailport said. "So he (Parker) gets to meet him (Custer) all the time."

Ailport said Parker is already looking forward to next year.

"He starts riding calves with one association and can't wait to move up faster," Ailport said.



Young Pampa cowboy Parker Ailport has qualified for the JRCA mutton bustin' finals to be held in Fort Worth.

Hunter's pitching helps Rangers defeat Indians 5-0

CLEVELAND (AP) — Tommy Hunter had complete confidence in his pitches and the Texas Rangers' scouting report.

The rookie right-hander turned the shutout tables on the Cleveland Indians by pitching into the eighth inning to lead Texas to a 5-0 victory Wednesday night.

Hunter (5-2) faced Cleveland for the first time, but said he was well prepared and just followed the game plan.

"They gave me a sheet of paper that said they didn't hit off-speed stuff that well, so we went with that," said Hunter, who gave up six hits and struck out five without a walk over a career-high 7 2-3 innings. "Then we attacked with the fastball when we got behind in the count. It was all about preparation. I just tried to do what I was told."

Josh Hamilton had three hits and drove in two runs for Texas, which remained 1 1/2 games behind Boston in the AL wild card. The Rangers bounced back from a 5-0 loss to Cleveland on Tuesday with their league-leading eighth shutout.

"Tommy was tough," Texas manager Ron Washington said. "He had everything going, a good changeup, fastball, and was spotting it."

Hunter shut down a Cleveland offense that hit

.304 while averaging 6.4 runs in winning 12 of its previous 17 games, but was shut out for the fifth time this season. The right-hander has allowed three runs or fewer in eight of his nine starts. Since July 3, the 23-year-old is 5-1 with a 1.84 ERA in seven starts.

"I was very impressed by him," Indians manager Eric Wedge said. "He threw his fastball where he wanted. Early in the game he was utilizing his breaking ball and then he mixed in his changeup later."

C.J. Wilson came on in the eighth after Grady Sizemore singled for his third hit and went to second as right fielder Hamilton bobbled the ball for an error. The left-hander struck out Asdrubal Cabrera to end the inning, then worked a perfect ninth, striking out two more.

"Hunter threw everything but the kitchen sink to Sizemore," Washington said.

Hunter said he took that at-bat as a challenge since Sizemore had already singled twice.

"I wanted that out," Hunter said. "That's the first time since I've been up here that I've used four pitches in one at-bat. I threw four quality pitches. He fought one off and got another hit. That's why he's a great hitter."

Hamilton's two-run double off Fausto Carmona



Texas Rangers starting pitcher Tommy Hunter wipes his brow in the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Cleveland Indians Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2009, in Cleveland. (AP Photo/Mark Duncan)

(2-7) gave Texas a 2-0 lead in the third. Carmona hit one batter and walked another during the rally.

"Ham's at-bat turned the game for us, gave us a cushion," Washington said.

Hamilton is 6 for 10 in his career against Carmona and said he does feel comfortable against him.

"Every pitch he throws moves so much that you can't try to pull him," Hamilton said. "He threw a sinker away and I went with it."

"Against guys with nasty stuff, I keep my focus. I look at it as a challenge. I guess I've got work to do against some of those other guys."

Hank Blalock lined a run-scoring single off Rafael

Perez in the eighth. Omar Vizquel followed with an RBI on a squeeze bunt against Jensen Lewis, and Elvis Andrus' RBI single made it 5-0.

Carmona allowed two runs and five hits over six innings. He dropped to 0-4 in four home starts against Texas. The right-hander has a 2.65 ERA in three no-decisions since being recalled from the minors on July 31. A 19-game winner in 2007, he went 1-2 with an 11.57 ERA in five previous outings before being sent down June 5.

"I'm not feeling any frustration," Carmona said. "I want to win, but I'm happy with the way I'm pitching. I'm keeping my team in the game. I'm giving us a chance to win."

Texans LB Cushing injured, won't play against Kansas City

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston's top draft pick, linebacker Brian Cushing, won't play in Saturday's preseason opener against Kansas City and could miss the second preseason game as well because of a sprained left knee.

Cushing did not practice Wednesday and instead watched both workouts with a brace on his knee.

Coach Gary Kubiak said no one is sure when he was injured, but the knee started bothering Cushing on Tuesday night and he was taken for an MRI.

"It's no big deal," Cushing said. "It's a knee sprain. We'll move forward and I'll keep getting the mental notes and I'll be healthy soon."

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Comics

Marmaduke



"Mom, are you *sure* Marmaduke can't read?"

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By Bil Keane



8-13

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"PJ's eating his marshmallows raw!"

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Toneless
- 5 Test for purity
- 10 Floor cover, for short
- 11 Look up to
- 12 From the U.S.
- 13 Sawyer and Ladd
- 14 "Oh, that explains it!"
- 16 Dead-end sign
- 20 Swiss state
- 23 Clumsy guy
- 24 Starry hunter
- 25 Calendar items
- 27 Easter find
- 28 Gets up
- 29 Pitching feat
- 32 "Don't worry about it"
- 36 Beach tent
- 39 Arm bone
- 40 Plain wrong
- 41 Hen home
- 42 Oasis find
- 43 Hardens

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T	E	R	S	E		A	R	O	M	A	
U	S	E		N	E	B	U	L	A	S	
P	S	A	N	D	Q	S		V	I	E	
A	D	I	E	U		Y	E	N			
H	A	S		T	R	A	I	L			
R	A	N		J	O	U	R	N	A	L	
A	W	K		W	A	R	D		D	N	A
L	A	L		A	W		E	P	I	C	S
P	I	E	R	S		R	O	G	E	T	
H	I	S	S			T	O	S	S		

Yesterday's answer

- 20 "Fargo" director
- 21 Jason's ship
- 22 Close kin
- 25 Zwei follower
- 26 Some pistols
- 28 Ready to swing
- 30 Quite impressed
- 31 Copier need
- 33 Merriment
- 34 Acad.'s kin
- 35 Puts away
- 36 Cornfield cry
- 37 Copying
- 38 Diner sandwich

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	
10					11					
12					13					
14				15						
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20	21	22						23		
24						25	26			
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36	37	38						39		
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42								43		

8-13

Rap video lands Taft police, city mgr in trouble

TAFT, Texas (AP) — A rap video shot in a Southeast Texas town has led to the threatened firing of two police officers and disciplining of the city manager.

Taft Police Chief Paul Rivera has recommended two officers be terminated for their alleged help with production of the video, featured on YouTube, about "Swagn."

The profanity-laced video shows adults and some children dancing, shots of vehicles winding down streets, landmarks like the water tower and a police car. An officer is shown shaking his head.

The Taft City Council on Tuesday voted to issue a written reprimand to City Manager Flo Saucedo for giving permission for the video shoot.

Boy, 11, fatally shot in Houston accident

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston police say an 11-year-old boy died after being shot in the head in what appears to have been an accident at his home.

The name of the victim was not immediately released Thursday.

Detective J.T. Barringer says police believe the boy and two siblings, ages 14 and 10, were looking for a phone in a bedroom Wednesday night when a backpack that contained a pistol was moved.

The gun went off. Police say the victim was dead at the scene.

Barringer says the gun apparently belonged to the boy's mother.

Prosecutors will review the case.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: "Lisa in Phoenix" (June 12) questioned whether taking her 7-year-old son into the ladies' room would be better than having her wait outside the men's room. You advised her to stand outside the men's room and announce loudly that she will be "waiting right there." Abby, children have been violated in a matter of seconds in the play areas of fast food restaurants with the parents RIGHT THERE!

As a mother, I feel the advice you gave Lisa will give her a false sense of security and put her child in danger. I would have told Lisa that before they go anywhere, she should make sure her son goes to the bathroom at home. If he has to go while they are out, she should go to the men's room, knock on the door and announce that she is with a child. If there

is no answer, GO IN AND BE SURE NO ONE IS INSIDE. If she's uncomfortable doing it, ask an employee to check. Then wait outside the bathroom. If a man needs to go in, she can explain the situation.

Never assume that simply standing guard outside the door will deter a molester. They couldn't care less. -- VIGILANT MOM IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR VIGILANT: Your suggestions are helpful, and thank you for offering them. Other readers volunteered alternative solutions to Lisa's dilemma. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I have a 7-year-old son and I do not allow him to go unsupervised into a men's room. Anyone could be behind that door and anything could happen in less than a minute's time. We must protect our children even if it means that sometimes

they have to suffer embarrassment.

A friend with two sons offered an interesting alternative. She would allow her sons to use the men's room if they talked to her while she stood outside the door. If they stopped talking, they knew it meant she was coming in. -- DONNA IN TYNER, N.C.

DEAR ABBY: Your advice strikes a balance between commonsense safety and "helicopter parenting." Having been a teacher for 42 years, I see an alarming increase in the number of parents who want to be in lockstep with their children 24/7. It can be stunting, and it does not prepare them for life in the real world. Of course, parents should take some precautions for the sake of safety, but don't be so paralyzed with fear that you keep your children from becoming self-

directed individuals. -- MANHATTAN, KAN., TEACHER

DEAR ABBY: When my son was 7 or 8, he, too, was embarrassed about going into the restroom with me. I gave him a whistle with instructions to blow it if anyone bothered him while I waited outside the men's room. The whistle also came with additional instructions: "Never blow it as a joke just to see if I'll come running, because if you do, you are in DEEP trouble!" -- LORI IN TEANECK, N.J.

DEAR ABBY: Lisa should invest in a pair of two-way radios. This way, her son goes into the restroom with an additional layer of protection. She should also inform him to always use the stall so he can lock the door. -- MARK IN GATOR COUNTRY

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

9	2	3	6	1	8	4	7	5
6	5	7	4	2	3	9	8	1
8	4	1	7	9	5	6	3	2
5	3	6	2	8	7	1	9	4
4	1	9	3	5	6	7	2	8
7	8	2	1	4	9	5	6	3
2	6	5	8	7	1	3	4	9
1	7	8	9	3	4	2	5	6
3	9	4	5	6	2	8	1	7

						3	4
	2	3		1			
		8	5				
			7				
1				4			6
4			5				
3		7					1
	5			8			2
1				9			8

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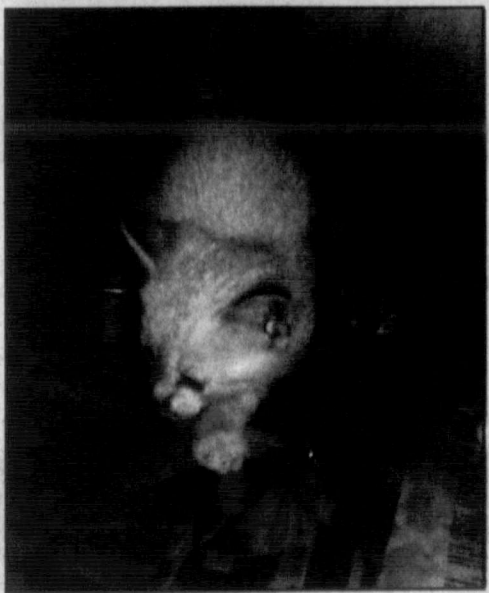
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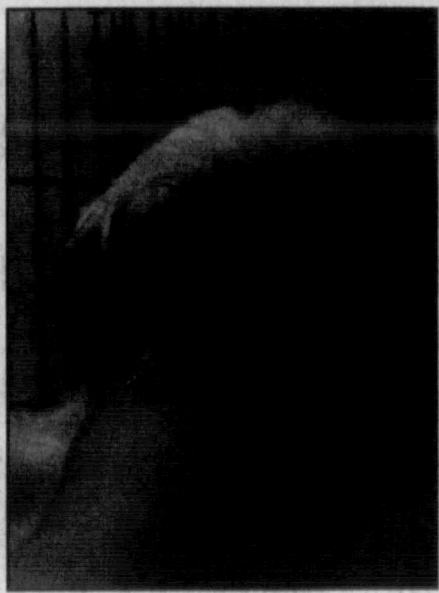
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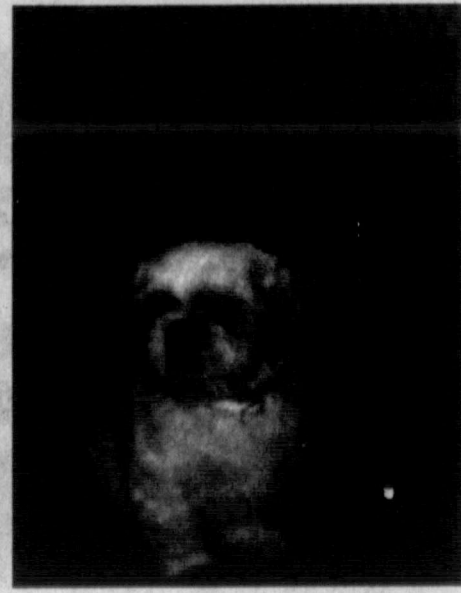
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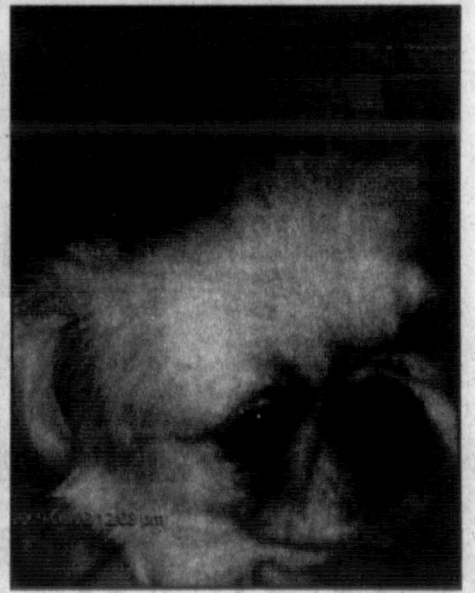
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