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The PAMPA NEWS

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Volume 105 • No. 369

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QUEENS IN WAITING

ARNIE AURELLANO
editor@thepampanews.com

It's about quality, not quantity at this year's Top O' Texas Rodeo Queen competition.

"We've got just the two girls, but they're both great," said organizer Cindy Kempf. "Both of them have committed to the contest, and they'll both be representing us quite a bit regardless of who wins."

The two contestants are Pampa's Megan Pirtle and Canyon's Emily Carpenter, and either one, Kempf said, would be a worthy choice to help restart the Top O' Texas Rodeo Queen tradition. This year's winner will be the first Queen since 2007, as the contest has been on hiatus for the last two years.

"The girls seem very evenly matched," Kempf said. "I know Megan a little better because she's competed with us before... but I've also spoken with Emily's mother and I can tell that she's a great girl."

Pirtle is the 16-year-old daughter of Steve and Abby Pirtle. A Pampa High School junior, she is a member of the Pampa High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad, Pampa High School Track Team, National Junior Honor Society, American Quarter Horse Association, Appaloosa Horse Club and SADD.

Pirtle has served as secretary for CASA Junior Volunteers and is a past member of 4H. Her past awards and honors include being named Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas Teen Runner-up in 2007, as well as Horsemanship winner and Pageant Director Award winner, Southwest Association of Western Horsemanship High Point Winner and Best Sportsmanship and ACA All-Star Tumbler and Cheerleader 2009 and 2010.

She enjoys training and riding horses, scrapbooking, cheerleading and hanging out with her friends. Her future plans are to attend Tarleton State University, where she will pursue a degree in Animal Science with an equine emphasis, and then attend a school of Veterinary medicine.

Pirtle is sponsored by Steve and Abby Pirtle.

Carpenter is the 17-year-old daughter of Gary and Marian Carpenter. Currently a senior at Canyon High School, Emily is a member of 4H, band, color guard, church youth group and church nominating committee.

Her awards and honors include First Place state team educational presentation, Reserve Champion at Western Nationals educational presentation, Top 10 individually and Fifth Place at State Round-Up in Horse Judging, Gold Star Award Winner, District Fashion Show winner for Randall County, finalist in



staff photo by David Bowser

Two girls will be vying for this year's Top O' Texas Rodeo Queen tiara: 17-year-old Emily Carpenter of Canyon and 16-year-old Megan Pirtle of Pampa.

Showmanship and Hunter Under Saddle at state horse show and High Point Individual at district horse judging.

Carpenter enjoys participating in speech, yearbook, the all-school musical and various community service projects. She also enjoys modeling, fashion and photography, as well as showing, judging and riding horses.

Her future plans are to attend CSU and pur-

sue a career in real estate.

She is sponsored by Texas Equine Veterinary Association, T-Anchor 4-H Club and Randall County.

Kempf said that this year's Queen competition would not be possible without the girls' cooperation and patience.

"Literally, we would not be able to have this QUEEN cont. on page 5

DPS motorcyclists to embark on Texas tour

SPECIAL TO THE PAMPA NEWS

When 20 motorcycle riders leave DPS headquarters in Austin at noon Sunday, July 25, they'll be carrying valuable pieces of the agency's history with them: uniform items from two motorcycle Highway Patrolmen who graduated in the 1930s.

The riders are traveling the state to mark the 75th anniversary of the creation of the Department of Public Safety. The Texas Legislature formed DPS in 1935 by combining the Texas Rangers with the motor officers of the State Highway Patrol. Motorcycles were the original vehicles used by the Highway Patrol; cars weren't used by the Highway Patrol until the 1940s.

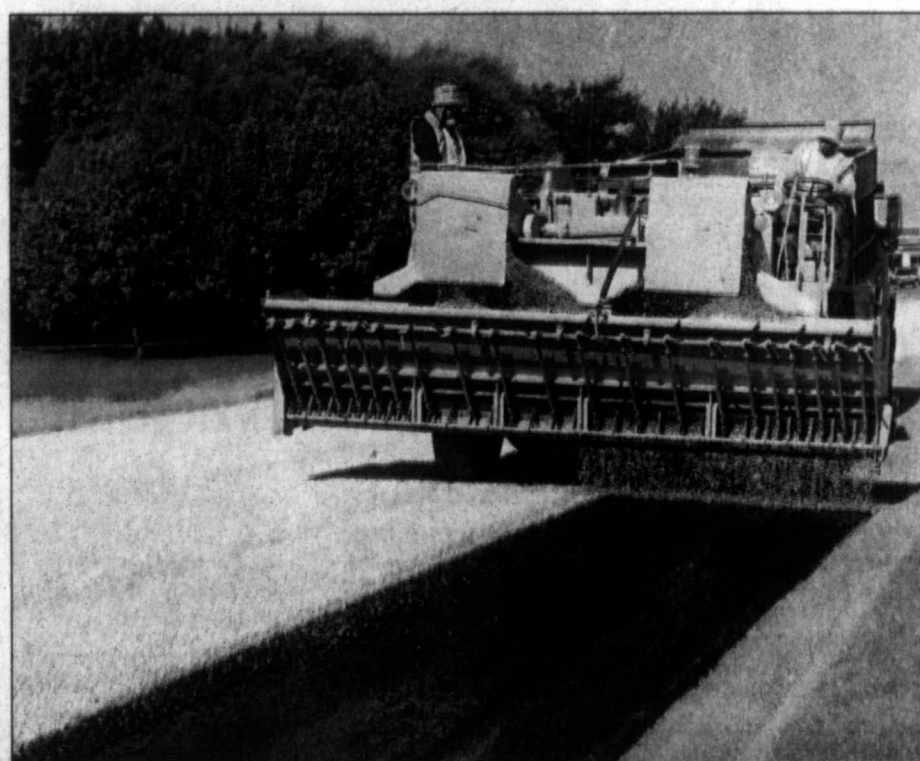
On their 13-day, 2,376-mile tour, riders will visit regional celebrations scheduled for July 26 in Houston. DPS cont. on page 5

Three teal remain

North Randall County, Texas Tri-County and Little Rock left in Cal Ripken tourney

See SPORTS, page 8

SUMMER STREET REPAIRS ROAD WARRIORS



staff photo by David Bowser

Valentin Diaz (left) and Nick Cobos of Lewis Construction spread crushed rock over a fresh layer of hot asphalt on 28th Street as the City of Pampa moves toward completion of its summer seal-coating project around town.

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For the record

Obituaries

PAMPA FORECAST

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		
20%		
High 90 Low 69	High 92 Low 71	High 93 Low 70

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 90. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. South wind around 10 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 92. South southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 71. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 93. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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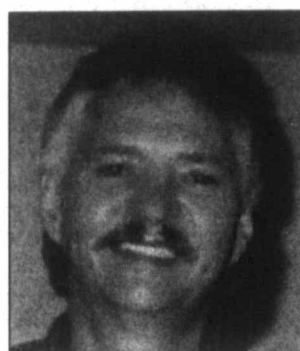
**Happy 22nd
Birthday,
Robert!**
We love you!
*Love,
Miranda, Gary,
Skeeter & Baxter*

Danny Bryant Hathcoat, 47

Danny Bryant Hathcoat, 47, died July 26, 2010 in Pampa.

Memorial services will be scheduled at a later date. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Hathcoat was born January 31, 1963 in Perryton where he attended school. He worked in the oilfield for many years. He



Hathcoat

was an avid bass fisherman and especially enjoyed tournament fishing. Danny enjoyed building hotrod cars and riding motorcycles. He was a Pentecostal. He was a good father, brother and son and enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his children.

Survivors include his daughter, Ashley Hathcoat of Pampa; son, Matthew Hathcoat of Pampa; his mother, Mary Hathcoat of Pampa; and three brothers, Kenneth Hathcoat, Jr., Darren Hathcoat, and Koby Hathcoat, all of Pampa. Danny was preceded in death by his father and grandmother.

Memorials may be made to a favorite charity. Sign the online register www.carmichael-whitley.com.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today.

Police reported three traffic-related incidents and three accidents.

Animal control reported 11 animal-related calls.

Pampa EMS reported six ambulance calls. The Pampa Police Department reported two medical calls.

Monday, July 26

Officers served a warrant in the 300 block of North Warren.

Police reported a violation of city ordinance in the 1000 block of Neel.

A theft was reported in the 100 block of North Somerville.

A forgery was reported in the 1000 block of West Alcock.

Harassment was reported to police.

A narcotics violation was reported to police.

Fraud was reported to police.

A narcotics violation was reported in the 300 block of North Dwight.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1900 block of North Hobart.

City water officials turned off the water in the 1600 block of East U.S. Highway 60.

A theft was reported in the 900 block of South Barnes.

City officials turned off the water in the 1600 block of Faulkner.

A theft was reported in the 2200 block of North Williston.

A theft was reported to police.

A burglary was reported in the 900 block of North Duncan.

An assault was reported in the 100 block of West 30th.

Officers made a welfare check in the 900 block of South Wells.

A domestic dispute was reported in the 400 block of South Hughes.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of South Neel.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1500 block of North Hamilton.

Officers performed a welfare check in the 100 block of East Brown.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1200 block of South Finley.

Tuesday, July 27

An assault was reported in the 300 block of North Warren.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 700 block of East Browning.

An alarm was reported in the 400 block of North Ballard.

A suspicious person was reported in the 500 block of South Huff.

Sheriff's Department

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today.

Monday, July 26

Joshua John-Michael Feltner, 23, of Lefors, was arrested by deputies on capias pro fine warrants charging him with criminal mischief and theft under \$50.

Skylar Teron Ramey, 19, was arrested by police on a capias pro fine warrant charging him with failure to maintain automobile liability insurance.

Destinie Ann-Marie Solis, 21, of Amarillo, was arrested by deputies on capias pro fine warrants charging her with running a stop sign and a minor in possession of tobacco.

Leonard Jay Kane, 40, was arrested by police on charges of possession of a controlled substance greater than one gram but less than four grams and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Carl Wayne Crow, 49, was arrested by police on charges of possession of a controlled substance less than one gram and possession drug paraphernalia.

U.S. braces for war disclosure blowback

WASHINGTON (AP) — Operatives inside Afghanistan and Pakistan who have worked for the U.S. against the Taliban or al-Qaida may be at risk following the disclosure of thousands of once-secret U.S. military documents, former and current officials said.

As the Obama administration scrambles to repair any political damage to the war effort in Congress and among the American public by the WikiLeaks revelations, there are also growing concerns that some U.S. allies abroad may ask whether they can trust America to keep secrets, officials said.

Speaking in the Rose Garden Tuesday, President Barack Obama said he was concerned about the massive leak of sensitive documents about the Afghanistan war, but that the papers did not reveal any concerns that were not already part of the debate.

In his first public comments on the matter, Obama said the disclosure of classified information from the battlefield "could potentially jeopardize individuals or operations."

The president spoke in the Rose

Garden following a meeting with House and Senate leaders of both parties.

In Baghdad, Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters he was "appalled" by the leak. He said "there is a real potential threat there to put American lives at risk."

The WikiLeaks material, which ranges from files documenting Afghan civilian deaths to evidence of U.S.-Pakistanian distrust, could reinforce war opponents in Congress who aim to rein in the war effort. But the leaks are not expected to dim the passage of a looming \$60 billion war funding bill.

Congress has backed the war so far, and an early test of that continued support came when the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, led by Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., opened a hearing on the Afghan war.

At the hearing, few members mentioned the leak of documents but several expressed frustration at the lack of progress in improving Afghan governance and in drawing more ordinary Afghans away from the Tal-

iban. In a tone of exasperation, Kerry questioned why the Taliban, with fewer resources, is able to field fighters who are more committed than Afghan soldiers.

"What's going on here?" Kerry asked.

In his only reference to the leak, Kerry called the new material "overhyped," said that it was released in violation of the law and that it largely involves raw intelligence reports from the field. He said he thought the document release could jeopardize the U.S. mission there.

Despite strong opposition among liberals who see Afghanistan as an unwinnable quagmire, House Democrats must either approve the funding bill before leaving at the end of this week for a six-week vacation, or commit political suicide by leaving troops in the lurch in war zones overseas.

Sen. Kit Bond, R-Mo., the ranking Republican on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Tuesday he worries that the leaks won't stop "until we see someone in an orange jumpsuit."

\$8.7 billion in Iraqi funds missing

BAGHDAD (AP) — The U.S. Defense Department is unable to properly account for over 95 percent of \$9.1 billion in Iraqi oil money tapped by the U.S. for rebuilding the war ravaged nation, according to an audit released Tuesday.

The report by the U.S. Special Investigator for Iraq Reconstruction offers a compelling look at continued laxness in how such funds were being spent in a country where people complain basic services like electricity and clean water are sharply lacking seven years after the U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein.

The audit found that shoddy record keeping by the Defense Department left the Pentagon unable to fully account for \$8.7 billion it withdrew between 2004 and 2007 from a special fund set up by the U.N. Security Council. Of that amount, Pentagon "could not provide documentation to substantiate how it spent \$2.6 billion."

The funds are separate from the \$53 billion allocated by Congress for rebuilding Iraq.

The report comes at a critical time for Iraq, which four months after inconclusive elections squabbling political factions have still not agreed on a new government. Despite security gains made since 2008,

bombings remain near a daily occurrence that compound the frustrations and fears of Iraqis increasingly weary of the political crisis — one many say reflects how the country's politicians are more interested in their own interests than those of the nation.

The continuing impasse was highlighted on Tuesday when Iraqi lawmakers gathered for the second time this month only to indefinitely postpone the parliamentary session because there was still no decision on the new government.

Acting speaker Fouad Massoum told reporters that the postponement was designed to give the political blocs more time to discuss contentious issues and agree on the distribution of positions in the new government.

"With every delay, the suffering of the Iraqi people and security risks are increasing," lawmaker Salman al-Jumaili told reporters, criticizing the move.

The U.S. audit is unlikely to do anything but further stoke that frustration felt by Iraqis who continue to suffer from poor infrastructure despite the billions spent.

The audit cited a number of factors behind the inability to account for most of the money withdrawn by the Pentagon from the Development Fund for Iraq.

AFTERNOON RUSH

DPS makes Gray County seizure

The Department of Public Safety found quite a cache of marijuana late last week when a traffic stop turned into a drug arrest.

At 8:58 a.m. on Friday, troopers stopped an eastbound 1999 Ford Expedition for a traffic violation near McLean on I-40. After becoming suspicious of the vehicle's occupants, troopers ask for consent to search and located 141 pounds of marijuana (worth an estimated \$61,335) concealed in the gas tank, spare tire, and center console. A DPS K-9 was used in locating the contraband.

The driver, 38-year-old John Helie of Des Moines, Iowa, was arrested and placed in the Gray County jail for possession of marijuana. Investigators believe that the drugs were destined for Iowa and originated out of Mexico. There were also two juvenile passengers who were released to Child Protective Services.

Fatal crash in Hutchinson County

A Sunday crash about three miles northwest of resulted in one fatality and injuries for two others.

At about 11 p.m., a 1996 Dodge pickup driven by Seth R. Searcy, 22, of Canyon was traveling northbound on RM 1319. Traveling with Searcy were Clayton M. Taylor, 20 of Hugoton, Kan., and Sara Beth Pinkard, 19 of Longmont, Colo.

The vehicle veered off of the roadway to the right and began to side skid, causing Searcy to overcorrect and sending the vehicle into an embankment. The vehicle overturned, ejecting all of its occupants.

Searcy suffered internal injuries and was transported to Northwest Texas Hospital and was in stable condition. Sara B. Pinkard suffered a broken pelvis and was also transported to Northwest Texas Hospital in stable condition. Clayton M. Taylor was pronounced dead at the scene.

Alcohol was a factor in the crash and none of the occupants were wearing their safety belts.

BP replaces embattled Hayward

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The American picked to lead oil giant BP as it struggles to restore its finances and oil spill-stained reputation pledged Tuesday that his company will remain committed to the Gulf region even after the busted well is sealed.

Robert Dudley will become BP PLC's first ever non-British chief executive, the company said as it reported a record quarterly \$17 billion loss and set aside \$32.2 billion to cover costs from the spill.

Ending weeks of speculation, BP confirmed that gaffe-prone Tony Hayward will step down Oct. 1 as the London-based company seeks to reassure both the public and investors that it is learning lessons from the spill.

"We are taking a hard look at ourselves, what we do and how we do it," BP Chairman Carl-Henric Svanberg said. "What we learn will have implications for our ways of working, our strategy and our governance."

Texas third in teenage births

AUSTIN (AP) — A new study shows Texas has the third highest rate of teenage births in the country.

The annual Kids Count report, released Tuesday by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, says more than 54,000 babies were born to girls between the ages of 15 and 19 in 2007. The rate has improved since 2000, but still earns Texas a 48th ranking nationally.

Overall, the study ranked Texas 34th for children's well-being. Texas ranks near the bottom in the number of children living in poverty.

With an anticipated state shortfall of \$18 billion, advocates for children and the poor are concerned that cuts to state services could exacerbate problems for the poor.

Starvation trial goes to jury

DALLAS (AP) — The jury is deliberating in the trial of a man accused of keeping three emaciated children locked in the bathroom of a Dallas hotel for as long as nine months.

The Dallas jury began deliberations Tuesday morning in the trial of Alfred Santiago, a day after the defendant told the jury the youngsters refused to eat the meals he prepared for him. The children — then 11, 10 and 5 — were gaunt and filthy when found by police in July 2009 in the bathroom.

Santiago also told jurors Monday that he never physically or sexually assaulted the children.

The 38-year-old faces charges of injury to a child and continuous sexual abuse. If convicted, he could be sentenced to life in prison.

The trial of the children's mother is expected to begin Wednesday on a charge of injury to a child.

Cold case killer gets 20 years

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A San Antonio woman has been sentenced to 20 years after pleading guilty to murder in a case that had been unsolved for nearly two decades.

Carmen Hinojosa Najera, who pleaded guilty last month, was sentenced Monday. The 51-year-old's unsolicited confession eventually led to her arrest.

Darren Holden was found shot to death in 1992 at the convenience store he managed. Najera had been fired from the store the day before.

The *San Antonio Express-News* reports that court documents said investigators suspected her, but didn't have enough evidence for an arrest.

In 2008, she told police she and her son had both participated in the slaying. Her son has been arrested for the slaying, but has not yet been indicted. He's denied involvement.

Squad car dismantled to rescue cat

VIENNA — This little kitty went home — but only after Vienna police and firefighters partially dismantled a police car to find it.

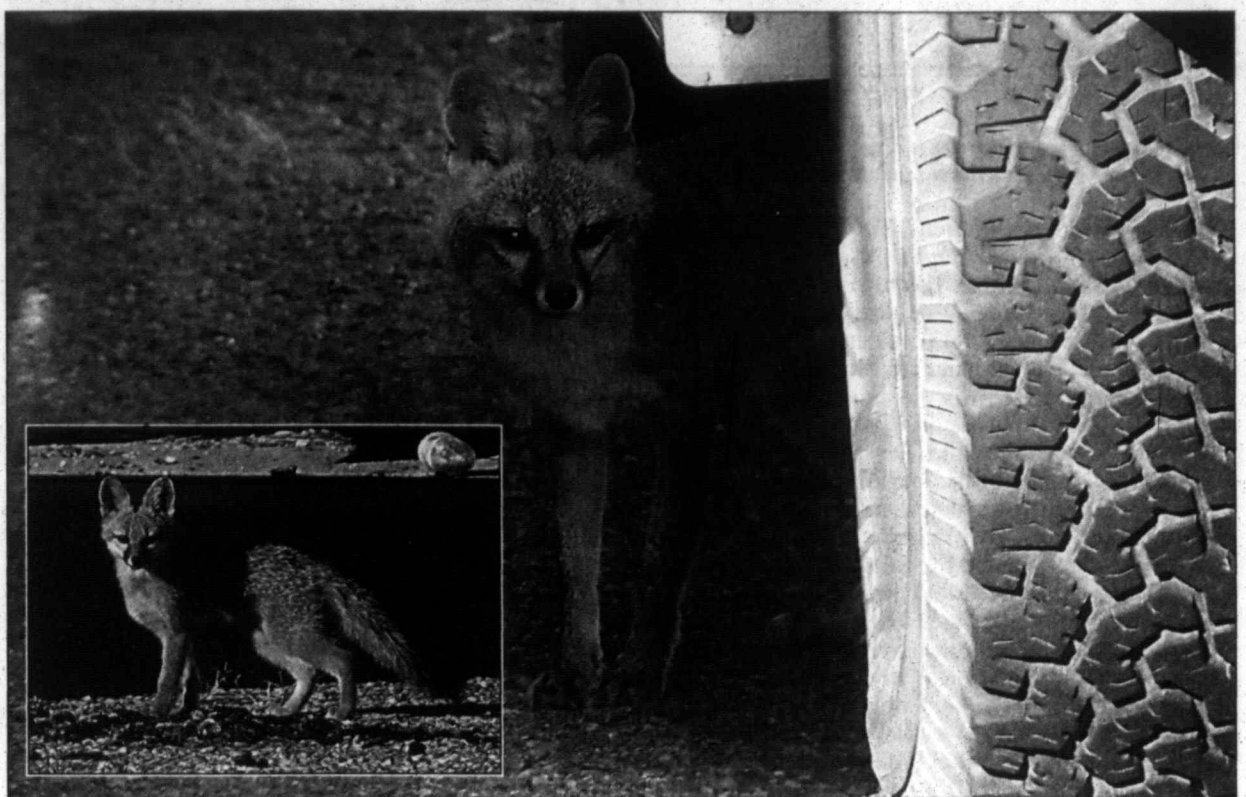
The naughty feline first woke residents of a Vienna neighborhood with its desperate meowing, then kept police and firefighters busy for much of the night.

She was found under the hood of a car but eluded her rescuers' grasp. The kitten took cover under several other cars before seemingly disappearing — except for her meow.

Firefighters and police finally struck paydirt after jacking up a police cruiser, then following the sound and tracing the wayward kitty to a small space inside the vehicle's floor panel. But it took half an hour of elbow grease before the critter was nabbed and taken to an animal shelter.

But not before having the last meow. "It bit my finger!" said firefighter Franz Zehetmeier, who finally collared the cat.

FOXY MAMA



staff photo by Randy Pribble

Jason Wheeler spotted this gray fox and her kit (inset) while passing by Thomas Automotive on East Atchison. Kit foxes are generally born in April or May, and an adult gray fox weighs from between seven and 12 pounds.

SHEPARD'S CROOK NURSING AGENCY

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Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest Road, has its heart in Pampa, but strives to provide quality in-home health care to the entire locality. The agency is symbolic of the care of a shepherd's staff (crook) guiding those in his care to a better path and safety. So are the goals of the Shepard's staff in assisting our clients to a healthier life.

Owners Ernie and Suzie Wilkinson, both Pampa natives, have been in business for 20 years. They are members and ministers of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Pampa.

Suzie and Ernie have a BA in business and a Masters in Health Management. They both have extensive background and training in federal and state regulations, and have served on many state and national boards and committees representing Home Health.

"Our nurses are board certified in home health, pediatrics and wound care," Suzie said.

The agency currently employs 75 skilled workers including licensed RNs and LVNs, a Licensed Occupational Therapist, a Licensed Physical Therapist, a Licensed Speech Therapist, a Physical Therapy Assistant and a number of Texas Certified Home Health Aides.

Michael Kirkpatrick acts as administrator and director of nursing. Teresa Henson is office operations manager. Both have been with Shepard's Crook since its inception.

Shepard's Crook currently serves all counties in the Texas Panhandle and has offices in Pampa, Amarillo, Borger, Clarendon and Shamrock.

Dedicated to meeting the needs of their individual clients, the Wilkinsons believe a successful business should give back to the community.

Don't trust your in-home health care to just any agency. Give Shepard's Crook a try. The number for the Pampa office is 806-665-0356. Visit our website at:

www.shepards-nursing.com

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, July 27, the 208th day of 2010. There are 157 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 27, 1960, Vice President Richard M. Nixon was nominated for president on the first ballot at the Republican national convention in Chicago.

On this date:

In 1789, President George Washington signed a measure establishing the Department of Foreign Affairs, forerunner of the Department of State.

In 1794, French revolutionary leader Maximilien Robespierre was overthrown and placed under arrest; he was executed the following day.

In 1866, Cyrus W. Field finished laying out the first successful underwater telegraph cable between North America and Europe (a previous cable in 1858 burned out after only a few weeks' use).

In 1909, during the first official test of the U.S. Army's first airplane, Orville Wright flew himself and a passenger, Lt. Frank Lahm, above Fort Myer, Va., for one hour and 12 minutes.

In 1919, race-related rioting erupted in Chicago; the violence, which claimed the lives of 23 blacks and 15 whites, lasted until Aug. 3.

In 1940, Bugs Bunny made his official debut in the Warner Bros. animated cartoon "A Wild Hare."

In 1953, the Korean War armistice was signed at Panmunjom, ending three years of fighting.

In 1974, the House Judiciary Committee voted 27-11 to adopt the first of three articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon, charging he had personally engaged in a course of conduct designed to obstruct justice in the Watergate case.

In 1980, on day 267 of the Iranian hostage crisis, the deposed Shah of Iran died at a military hospital outside Cairo, Egypt, at age 60.

Ten years ago: Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic called presidential, parliamentary and local elections for the following September.

Five years ago: NASA said a sizable chunk of foam insulation came flying off the shuttle Discovery's fuel tank during liftoff, prompting the space agency to ground future shuttle flights until the problem could be fixed.

One year ago: The presidents of Taiwan and China exchanged direct messages for the first time since the two sides split 60 years earlier.

Today's Birthdays: TV producer Norman Lear is 88. Rhythm-and-blues singer Harvey Fuqua is 81. Actor Jerry Van Dyke is 79. Sportscaster Irv Cross is 71. Actor John Pleshette is 68. Olympic gold medal figure skater Peggy Fleming is 62. Actor Maury Chaykin is 61. Singer Maureen McGovern is 61. Actress Roxanne Hart is 58. Comedian-actress-writer Carol Leifer is 54. Comedian Bill Engvall is 53. Jazz singer Karrin Allyson is 48. Rock singer Juliana Hatfield is 43. Actor Julian McMahon is 42. Comedian Maya Rudolph is 38. Singer-songwriter Pete Yorn is 36. MLB player Alex Rodriguez is 35. Actor Jonathan Rhys Meyers is 33.

Thought for Today: "The sentimentalist ages far more quickly than the person who loves his work and enjoys new challenges." - Lillie Langtry, English actress (1853-1929).



Race to judgment tramples innocent woman

Thanks to the work of one Andrew Breitbart, the NAACP came under attack; a White House, fearful of all things racial, saw its week of policy success derailed; and segments of the media, needing to fill air time, were misled.

Most importantly, an innocent woman was smeared.

There is enough crow on the plates of nearly everyone in Washington to keep the high and mighty eating bird until fall, when it's time to carve the turkey.

Here's the story. Twenty-four years ago, Shirley Sherrod was a member of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives /Land Assistance Fund, an organization that helped protect largely minority-owned farms. One day, a white farmer, Roger Spooner, appeared before her. He, too, needed to have his home saved from the mortgage lender. However, Sherrod was conflicted.

Sherrod was conflicted because so many black farmers needed help. Yet here she was, a black woman, expected to help a white farmer. It didn't feel right, helping this man when her own people needed her in far greater numbers.

In order to understand this feeling, you have to understand Sherrod's world. It was my world, too.

Sherrod grew up in the segregated South. When she was 17, a white man shot her father in the back. No charges were filed. That was just how things were.

So try to imagine Sherrod's struggle when she was approached by that white farmer. She wanted to get him off her hands. So she turned the farmer over to a white lawyer. Yet in her heart, she knew she had passed the buck. This action ("Because I took him to one of his own") revealed to her that she was in the wrong. She knew it.

Her own words speak best: "That's when it was revealed to me that it's about the poor versus those who have. (It is) not so much (about) white and black, it's



DONNA BRAZILE

not, you know — it opened my eyes."

"I was blind, but now I see," "Amazing Grace's" lyrics say.

Sherrod had not, prior to this revelation, given the farmer "the full force of what I could

do." That changed when she confronted herself about viewing a man's need through the corrosive lens of black versus white.

After that realization, Sherrod gave the farmer all she had. She saved his farm. She had worked hard, prior to her revelation, to get him a good lawyer. Roger Spooner told CNN "she stuck with me."

But this is not the story Fox News initially told. Andrew Breitbart supplied the media with a heavily edited video from an anonymous source. Skillfully cut, the video only showed Sherrod saying that, because the farmer was white, she considered withholding her best effort.

This deceptive video set off a mad scramble. The incompetence behind the reaction to this edited video resembled an old Keystone Kops movie where the cops all rush through the same doorway, wedging themselves in. However, this rush to judge wasn't funny.

There was a race to be the first to condemn Sherrod for racism. Fox News led the batting order. Conservative bloggers made it viral. Pundits salivated, and then the call was made to the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization to take a stand — without even the facts.

The NAACP, nagged by Fox News for comment, quickly described Ms. Sherrod's actions as "shameful." The Department of Agriculture weighed in, demanding and receiving Sherrod's resigna-

tion. The White House supported the firing. Senior White House staffers, according to reporting done by Politico, congratulated themselves for their speed (read that "haste") in reacting to the story.

Sherrod appeared on several news programs, clearly stunned and numb from the avalanche of reprimands, reproaches and blame.

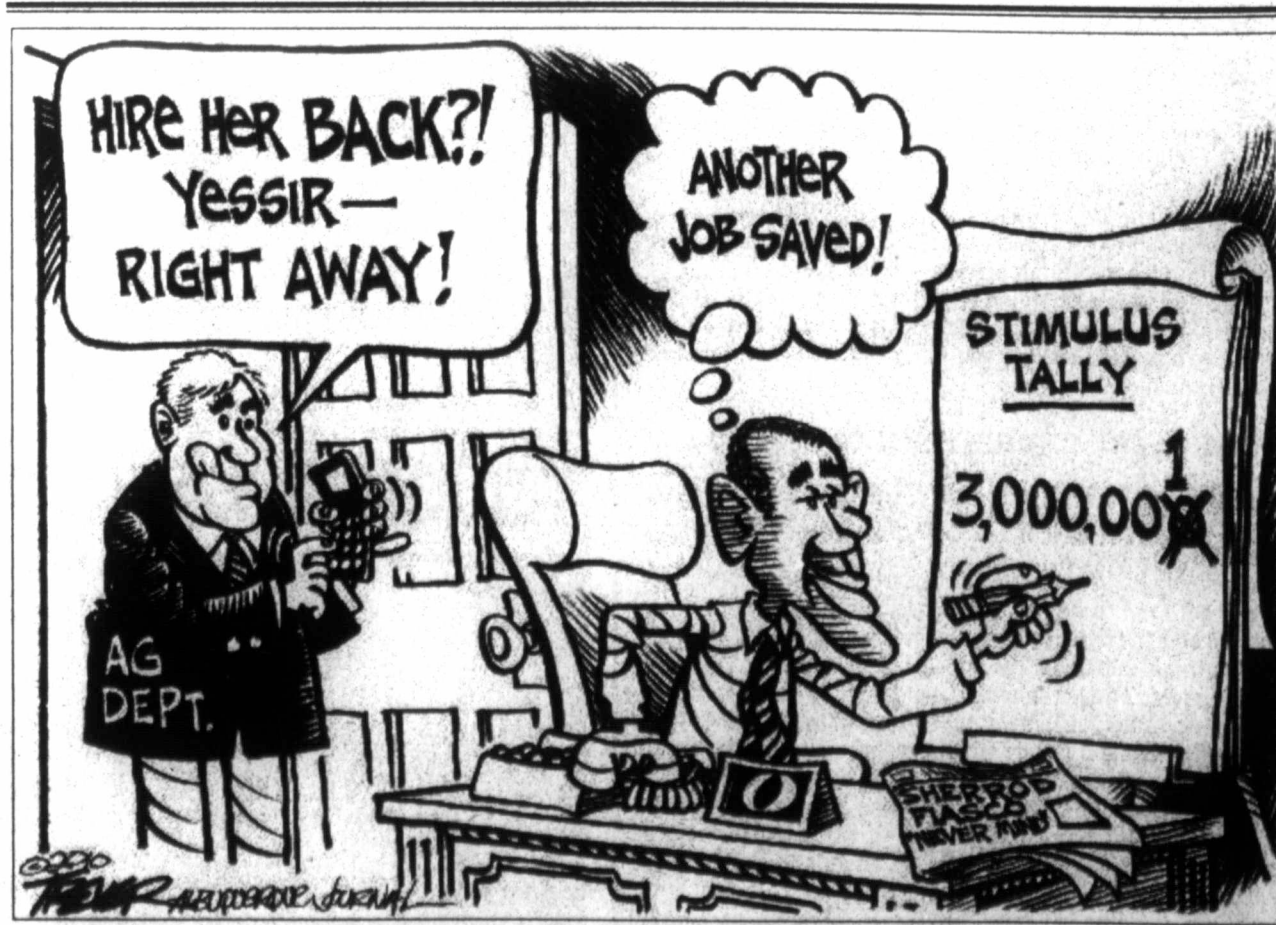
Sherrod thought she had told a story to demonstrate how she had overcome the bias of her own experience. Instead, she found herself the center of a national controversy, one clearly coordinated to divert the public's attention from a more serious and earnest conversation about racism.

"I could care less about Shirley Sherrod, to be honest with you," Andrew Breitbart said. Political veterans call this "hardball" politics, where the lust for power is so overpowering you can care less who you trample, even if they're innocent.

How and why this moral of her story in that speech was missed entirely by the news media, the Obama administration, the NAACP and others is beyond me. But what really angers me is a professional instigator out to get the NAACP for calling on the leaders of the Tea Party to repudiate any and all forms of racist behavior or actions by their members was the driving force behind both the NAACP's and administration's reactions.

Shirley Sherrod and the Spooners may end up teaching us something yet. The man who smeared her and those who rushed to judge her certainly have a lot to learn. What we must not do is tear to shreds those who speak of that struggle within. To them, we must be willing to listen, and learn.

Brazile is a weekly contributor and political commentator on CNN. She also appears regularly on ABC's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos" and is a frequent contributor to National Public Radio's "Political Corner."



THE PAMPA NEWS

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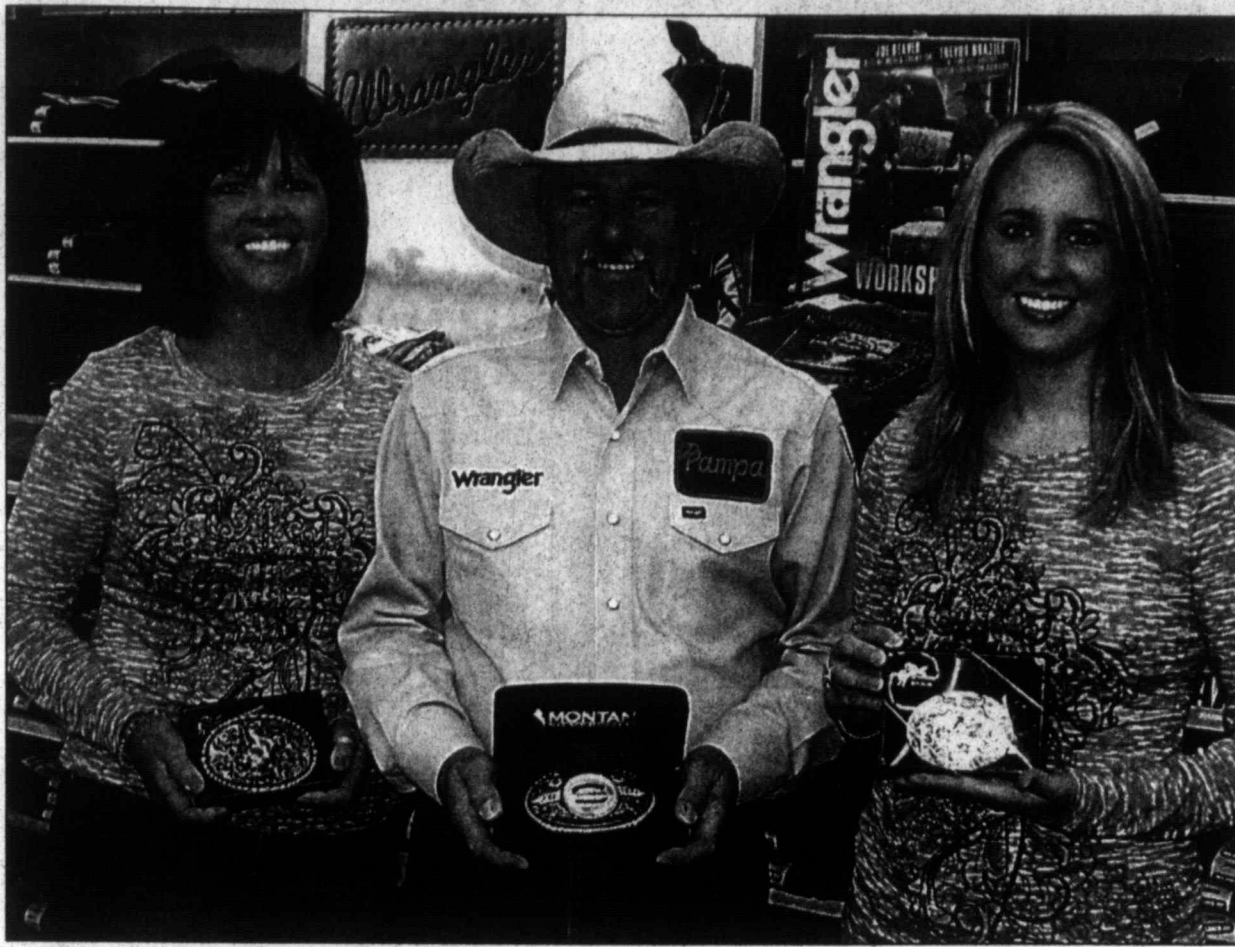
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BELT BUCKLE BLING



submitted photo

Michael Craig, co-chairman of the Top O' Texas Rodeo Junior Rodeo and Kid Pony show, is joined by Gebo's store manager **Dee Anna Ledbetter** (left) and assistant manager **Robbie Locke** in showing off some of the belt buckles that Gebo's donated to the rodeo. Gebo's contributed 10 buckles to this year's event.

Queen

cont. from page 1

competition if not for the flexibility of these girls," said Kempf. "When the other girl dropped out, we had to make some last minute changes, and the way these two girls have handled it just shows you how mature both of them are."

As for their rodeo skills, Pirtle and Carpenter will have a chance to show Gray County what they've got when the Rodeo Queen Horsemanship Competition opens at 9 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 12, at the

Rodeo Grounds arena.

The girls will be riding the same pattern as the one used in the Miss Rodeo Texas, Kempf said. The pattern rides will be followed by the interview portion, when a judge will, according to Kempf, "intensely quiz (the girls) on all things equine."

From there, it's off to the Queen Luncheon at noon at the AmericInn Event Center, where the two girls will be giving speeches on their

hometowns in front of a live audience.

The public is invited to attend; tickets are available at the rodeo office, 200 N. Ballard, and must be picked up by Monday, Aug. 9.

The new queen will be crowned during the rodeo barbecue, which starts at 5:30 p.m. in Thursday.

"We're real excited about it," said Kempf. "We have total confidence in both girls, and we can't wait to see them at the rodeo."

DPS

cont. from page 1

July 27 in Dallas, July 28 in Lubbock, July 30 in El Paso, Aug. 3 in McAllen, Aug. 5 in San Antonio, and Aug. 6 in Austin. They will be joined at various points of the ride by about 20 other motorcycle riders.

Ride participants will carry the DPS Diamond Jubilee flag to be flown at each regional location during its celebration.

The motorcycle tour honors all 83 DPS officers killed in the line of duty; all ride proceeds and voluntary contributions will go toward the building of a DPS Memorial and the DPS Disability Fund. For list of all DPS officers who died in the line of duty, please see <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/memorial/>.

DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, July 28, 2010:

This year, you often find that you are juggling conflicting issues, situations and people. Others seem to be changing before your very eyes, adding an element of unanticipated surprise. You easily could be on overload with communication. Talk is nice, but you need to act. Learn new ways of relaxing and letting go. Take up a stress-buster hobby. If you are single, those you meet could be very interesting, but because of the underlying theme of chaos in the year, insist on a slow and easy courtship. If you are attached, the two of you seem to be perpetually renegotiating your boundaries. Make that OK during changing times. A trio restores your bond. **PISCES** sees different ideas and visions from you.

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)

★★★ The tenor of the day, though confusing and fraught with misunderstandings, will seem much easier than in recent days. Just chug along and do what you must. Keep your ears to the ground. You will learn a lot and have the information you need. Tonight: Juggling a lot. **TAURUS** (April 20-May 21)

★★★★ You might want to try another approach or do something very different. Though an idea might seem off-the-wall, try it out. Look at the big picture. Understand what is happening behind the scenes. Tonight: Dancing the night away. **GEMINI** (May 22-June 20)

★★★ Stay anchored and know what

works. You might find some uproar surrounding the home front. Listen to news with a touch of cynicism. Maintain a high profile. You know what is happening in your immediate circle. Tonight: A must appearance. **CANCER** (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Look to greater give-and-take because of a new perspective. Understand what is happening around you by detaching. Fatigue could mark your plans. Tonight: Use the mind rather than the body. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You juggle the pros and cons of a situation. Your more possessive side emerges with a partner. Isn't this a reflection of your own insecurity? Think through a decision or action clearly. Tonight: Dinner for two. **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ If you can, try to handle a problem directly and with clarity. Others seem to be out there but willing to talk. The smart Virgo will agree to disagree. Creativity swirls around you. Use it. Tonight: Go with an invitation. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Knowing your limits could be important in your dealings. You see a situation a lot differently. Investigate an alternative more openly. How you handle a family member cannot always be the same. Tonight: Put your feet up in your favorite spot. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Let your imagination come forward. Your style of communicating with a person who seems inclined not to answer needs to be revised. Your creativity comes out in this situation. Tonight: Be light and easy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Knowing what is important and your understanding evolve. You might want to revise your money situation. Be aware of what is going on behind the scenes and others' inclinations. Get street smart fast. Tonight: Be cynical with a financial offer of "let's make a deal."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You have the knowledge and ability to transform your direction. Realize what needs to happen in order to change gears. As you change, others change. Be more direct in your dealings than in the past. Tonight: Hook up with friends. **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Clearly, your mind is working overtime. You might be revising your opinion of what is happening. Your instincts come out, especially with what you offer emotionally and financially. Tonight: Your treat. **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You'll see an opening in a meeting or interaction if you look carefully. Put out your sails and glide right on in. Within hours, you'll have an answer to what has been a hassle. At first you might not like it, but you will. Tonight: Relax with a trusted friend and/or loved one.

BORN TODAY

Keyboardist Richard Wright (1943), actress Sally Struthers (1948), rapper Soulja Boy (1990)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I was involved with "Ralph" for two years. We live in a senior apartment complex, and women have been coming on to him for years. He is now seeing "Joan," who happens to be my neighbor. This hurts me deeply.

This is a small complex and it's difficult to face them. I am desperately trying to hold my words and feelings inside because it is hard not to call the woman a "slut." I blame Ralph more. He made the decision to humiliate me, but how can Joan do this to her own neighbor? How do I handle this with class? — **SHATTERED HEART**

DEAR SHATTERED HEART: The smart way to handle it "with class" is to keep your temper in check and do no name-calling. If Ralph didn't make your relationship official, he was free to start seeing someone else.

While I agree that this is a painful disappointment, do not waste one more minute feeling "humiliated." Not all romances work out -- and a remedy for easing the pain is to become more active. Do not sit around feeling sorry for yourself watching Ralph and Joan come and go. Time can ease a broken heart -- but if it doesn't, consider trading rooms/apartments with someone on a different floor.

DEAR ABBY: Please settle something for me. As I was getting into my car, which was parked on the street, my cell phone rang with an important call. I took the call and wanted to finish the conversation before I pulled out and started driving. Meanwhile, someone had pulled up and wanted my parking spot.

He honked his horn at me repeatedly. It was a diagonal space, and he would not have seen my arm if I had waved him on.

I know it was frustrating for this person who wanted to park, but I thought it was more important for me not to drive while on the phone. My husband thinks I should have pulled out anyway, or postponed the call. Who do you think is right? — **CAREFUL IN LA JOLLA, CALIF.**

DEAR CAREFUL: You did the right thing by not pulling out. If the call was important -- as you say it was -- you were right to deal with the matter immediately. Until you vacated it, that parking spot was yours.

DEAR ABBY: My 50-year-old husband and his 27-year-old son from a previous marriage like to call each other profane names. Neither one seems to have a problem with it, and argue that they call their buddies these kinds of names.

I am personally offended by profanities and find it disturbing that such language would be used among family members, let alone in front of others. Am I the only one who thinks this is unhealthy behavior? — **OFFENDED STEP-MOM IN WASHINGTON STATE**

DEAR OFFENDED: Probably not. However, if neither your husband nor his son is offended, perhaps you should loosen up and be less judgmental. More important than what your husband and stepson call each other is the meaning behind the words. And more off-putting than the terms of "endearment" they're using with each other may

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.

7-27

CRYPTOQUOTE

JU ELCP AWJNURJ ELGDLKJWIQ

WY DWFL LCJWIQ AWJNURJ

PWQLYJWIQ. — LPTRIP ZREFL
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: CHARITY IS INJURIOUS UNLESS IT HELPS THE RECIPIENT TO BECOME INDEPENDENT OF IT. — JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER SR.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Beginner

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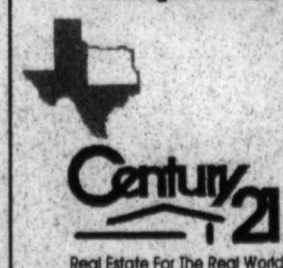
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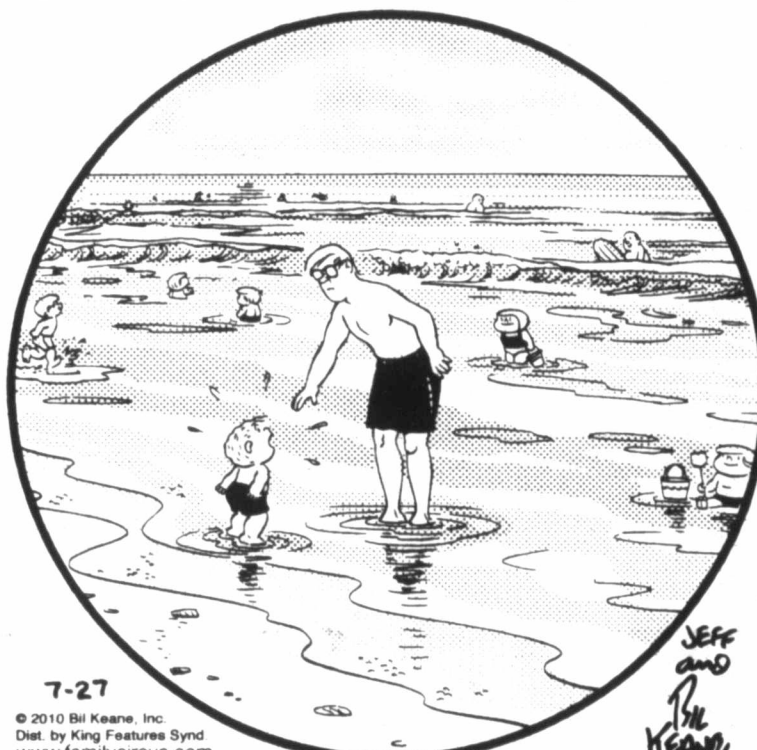
Marmaduke



"It's not cute! That beard is our banana cream pie!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



7-27

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www.familycircus.com

"Not so far out, Daddy, not so far out!"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 37 Car engine part
 - 1 British farewells
 - 6 High points
 - 11 Namely, in Latin
 - 12 "Spider-Man" director Sam
 - 13 A chef may stuff it
 - 15 Building wing
 - 16 Nest-egg acct.
 - 17 Stylish
 - 18 Over-zealous fan
 - 20 Hearty brew
 - 21 Twisty fish
 - 22 Lewd look
 - 23 Role for Heston
 - 26 Grasps
 - 27 "Clumsy me!"
 - 28 Quarter-back Marino
 - 29 Common title starter
 - 30 Typographical symbol
 - 34 Flamenco cry
 - 35 Warning color
 - 36 Gardner of movies

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

Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 1 Multiplied by
 - 2 Grown-up
 - 3 Physicist Nikola
 - 4 Volcano output
 - 5 Part of a baseball count
 - 6 Cheering loudly
 - 7 Engine part
 - 8 One of the arch-angels
 - 9 Contacted online
 - 10 Tea tasters
 - 14 Pitcher Hershiser
 - 19 Sediment
 - 22 Drawn out
 - 23 Drove
 - 24 Wolfish comment
 - 25 Limit ignorer
 - 26 Backfield exchange
 - 28 Losing plan
 - 30 Mild oaths
 - 31 Burger topper
 - 32 —garde
 - 33 Spanish snacks
 - 38 Bar cubes
 - 39 — Grande

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13					14				
15				16				17	
18			19					20	
		21				22			
23	24	25				26			
27					28				
29			30				31	32	33
34			35				36		
37			38				39		
40							41		
42							43		

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends





THE PAMPA NEWS

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To place an ad, call Beverly Taylor at 806-669-2525 or email classified@thepampanews.com

1 Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John L. Organ, Deceased, were issued on February 16, 2010, in Cause No. 9620, pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas, to: Larry Organ.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by

1 Public Notice

law.
c/o: Vanessa G. Buzzard
Attorney at Law
208 N. Russell St.
Pampa, TX 79065
DATED the 16 day of February, 2010.

Vanessa G. Buzzard
Attorney for
Larry Organ
State Bar No.: 03547900
208 N. Russell St.
Pampa, TX 79065
Telephone: (806)665-7281
Facsimile: (806)669-0972
F-38 July 27, 2010

1 Public Notice

Notice of Public Hearing Pursuant to the Texas Local Government Code 152.905, a Public Hearing will be held August 5, 2010 at 8:30a.m. in the District Courtroom, Gray County Courthouse, Pampa, Texas, for the purpose of setting salaries for the 31st District Court Reporter, 223rd District Court Reporter and the Gray County Auditor and Assistant Auditor for the coming budget year.
F-36 July 27, 2010

14d Carpentry

Carpentry, Roofing, Replacement Windows, steel siding & trim. Continuous gutters. Jerry Nicholas 669-9991, 662-8169

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14h Gen. Serv.

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21 Help Wanted

NOTICE

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21 Help Wanted

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EXPERIENCED

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NOW taking applications for host, wait staff & cooks. No phone calls. Please apply in person between 2 pm & 5 pm., at Dixie Cafe.

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PHARMACY Tech. Apply in person with resume B&B Pharmacy, 300 N. Ballard, Pampa

PART-TIME Maintenance Tech needed. Apply in person Meredith House, 812 W. 25th.

CLERK needed to work Thurs., Fri. & Sat. for Tralee Crisis Center ReSale Store. Applications may be picked up at the ReSale Store, 110 N. Cuyler, between 10am & 3pm Mon. thru Sat. No Phone Calls

50 Building Suppl.

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60 Household

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69 Misc.

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Sports

North Randall County advances to championship

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

Three teams remain in the Cal Ripken 10 year old Southwest Regional Tournament as North Randall County is in the championship and Little Rock and Texas Tri-County are battling for the other spot.

East Central Miss. eliminated Plaquemine, La., with a 6-4 victory Monday. Plaquemine had an early 4-0 lead before East Central turned things around in the bottom of the fourth. Louie Morgan hit a RBI double and scored Josh Avila. Brad Cumbest hit an RBI single and scored Morgan. In the bottom of the fifth, Morgan came up with another big hit as he hit a 2 RBI double to tie the game at four. Cumbest capped off the inning with an RBI single.

Cumbest pitched the final three innings to earn the win. Morgan led the team in hitting with two doubles, three RBI and scored two runs. Rhett Frioux pitched 4 2/3 innings and picked up the loss. Frioux and Boudreaux were the leading hitters, each getting an RBI double.

Texas Tri-County eliminated Benton, Ark., with an 11-1 victory in four innings. Tri-County took the lead early in the first and never relinquished it. Hudson Oliver hit a two RBI single to right that put Tri-County on top. Two more runs scored to

give Tri-County a 4-0 lead after one. Ryan Neisner led Tri-County in hitting with two doubles and two RBI. Ty Williams started and earned the win. Yates Prickett started for Benton and picked up the loss. Jared Kelly, Beau Brewer and Parx Pinnell all got base hits for Benton.

North Randall County advanced to the championship with a 6-2 victory over Little Rock. In the first inning, Little Rock took the lead with Jacob Negner scoring a run after he singled. Little Rock expanded their lead to 2-0, with Bryce Tenclove scoring on a single by Jake Paddie. The lead was short lived as North Randall hung a three spot in the bottom of the second. Mason Mays led off with a triple and was driven in by a Ryan Westlake single. Isaac Maes hit a double to score Trevor Andrus and tie the game at two. Rhett Maynard drove in Westlake with a single to give North Randall County a 3-2 lead. North Randall County broke the game open in the fourth with three runs on three hits.

Maynard pitched the whole game and earned the win. Maes led the team in hitting with three hits, one RBI and one run scored. Tenclove started for Little Rock and earned the loss. Negner led the team in hitting with a single and a run scored.

Texas Tri-County eliminated East Central Miss.,

with a 12-7 victory. Again Tri-County took an early lead in the first. Wyatt Stavinoha led off with a double and scored on a fielder's choice by Williams. Oliver hit a two RBI double to put Tri-County ahead 3-0. East Central cut into their lead in the bottom of the first. Blake Duvall led off with a double and Morgan singled with one out. Cumbest drove both runners in with a single. That's as close as East Central Mississippi would get, as Tri-County scored four runs in the second and three in the third to lead 10-2.

Oliver started for Tri-County and earned the win. Cole Garlin led the team in hitting with three hits including a double and scored twice. Duvall started at pitcher and took the loss. Cumbest was the leading hitter with three hits and three RBI.

Tri-County played Little Rock at 4 p.m. today with the winner facing North Randall County in the championship at 6:30 p.m. today. If North Randall County beats Tri-County or Little Rock they win the championship and will play in the Cal Ripken World Series at Ocala, Fla. If Tri-County or Little Rock beats North Randall then the final game will be played 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at Optimist Park.



staff photo by Andrew Glover
Vance Adamcik slides into third on a wild pitch in the second inning. Texas Tri-County won 12-7 and play for a spot in the championship 4 p.m. Tuesday.



staff photo by Andrew Glover
Austin Kitchens smashes a double in the top of the third. East Central Miss., lost 12-7 and were eliminated from the tournament after winning their last three.

Cal Ripken 10 year old Southwest Regional Tournament

