

New beginnings on brink

Aries (March 21 – April 20)
You can be forgiven for feeling like things have become stuck. You're on the brink of new beginnings, with a chance to create a buffer zone between the past and the future, where you can put things into perspective and get your bearings.

Taurus (April 21 – May 21)
The focus is on friendship, teamwork and networking – your personal, social and professional associations. Obtain the right work/life balance, for later there'll be no pressure when you're veering off course. Make up for lost time or retrace your steps.

Gemini (May 22 – June 21)
Don't make unnecessary decisions. Explore options and keep an open mind. There is an opportunity to develop a sustainable balance between work and play.

Cancer (June 22 – July 22)
Focus on your financial sector is deepening. Put your game cap on. Seize any opportunity you can this week to ditch the 9 to 5 routine.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)
Conditions improve on both financial and relationship fronts, along with growing personal confidence. Make up for lost time. If energy levels are low or it's hard to get motivated, step back. Take things down a gear, wait and see.



Shannon O'Brien

• Weekly
Horoscope

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 23)
A lot of turning points are coming together at the same time, with a clear perspective of where you've been and where you're going. Don't worry if there are more questions than answers, for without questioning you run the danger of remaining on autopilot.

Libra (Sept. 24 – Oct. 23)
The already auspicious forces operating on the work front deepen. Yet in romance, it's more about putting things on the right path for the future than where things stand now. Having balance between work and play will keep your mind open and your creativity sharp.

Scorpio (Oct. 24 – Nov. 22)
Follow your heart and do some of the things you want to do. Seize any opportunity you can to have fun. One of the most powerful confluence of forces to converge on your romantic sector in decades is in effect.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23 – Dec. 21)
There's a lot of focus on the home

front this week. Make your home your castle and create something that will give you the strength and confidence to go out and conquer. If things are functioning well on the home front, everything else will benefit.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 20)
Focus on your financial situation, which is likely to boost your confidence across the board. Mars gives you an intellectual approach to your income situation and an intuitive read on professional undercurrents. This is an advantage, with your confidence growing as the week progresses.

Aquarius (Jan. 21 – Feb. 19)
The Sun in your income sector reveals many opportunities. This boosts not only financial but personal confidence as well. Reconsider all options, especially on the personal and relationship fronts, where you're in the process of closing old doors.

Pisces (Feb. 20 – March 20)
The Sun's light reveals how many options and advantages you have. You can't afford to move into your new solar year assuming it's a rerun of previous years. From the get-go, believe that luck is on your side, ready to act your way to success.

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Sobriety scholarship offered

The Kansas Department of Transportation is sponsoring its fourth annual art contest that encourages Kansas youth to resist pressure and abstain from drinking alcohol until reaching the legal age limit of 21.

The contest allows Kansas youths to express themselves creatively through music, art, writing or public service announcements in hopes of winning as much as \$4,000 in scholarships. Kansas residents 14 to 20 may enter by logging onto www.sobrietyrock-sks.net. Entries are due April 15.

Four separate \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in June for best music, best art, best writing and best public service announcement. One contestant could win in more than one category.

"Half of Kansas high school seniors report having consumed alcohol in the last month, many of them binge drinking," reports Pete Bodyk, manager of the department's traffic safety section.

The updated home page features 2009 winners and runners-up, he said.

Entries will be judged by instructors and professionals in the

Underage drinking facts

- In 2009, 36 percent of Kansas high school sophomores and 50 percent of high school seniors reported having consumed alcohol in the previous 30 days.

- In 2009, 21 percent of Kansas high school sophomores and 32 percent of seniors reported binge drinking – five or more drinks – in the previous two weeks.

- Underage drivers make up less than 10 percent of drivers, but are a factor in almost 20 percent of alcohol-related crashes, 15 percent of which are fatal.

- It is illegal to furnish alcohol to persons under the age of 21, except as provided by law.

- It is illegal for persons of any age to intentionally host individuals under the age of 21 who are in possession of, or drinking, alcohol (including

beer), while on property owned, rented, or otherwise controlled by the host.

- The Surgeon General's 2007 Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking characterized underage drinking as a "widespread and persistent public health and safety problem [that was] not an acceptable rite of passage, but a serious threat to adolescent development and health, as the statistics related to adolescent impairment, injury and death attest."

- The Kansas Department of Transportation offers an anonymous 24-hour tipline, (866) Must-B-21, or (866) 687-8221, designed to encourage citizens to report underage drinking, parties, purchases for underage persons or retailers making underage sales.

four categories, department representatives and student advocates from across the state. Judging will

be based on creativity, originality, craftsmanship and the passion of the message.

Goodland students in state contest

SkillsUSA winners at Northwest Kansas Technical College announced Feb. 12 will move on to Wichita on April 14, 15 and 16 for state competition.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry.

"The organization helps every student excel by teaching leadership and employability skills as they learn their technical and academic skills in their classrooms," said faculty advisor Candee Cottam.

The Northwest Tech SkillsUSA Club was chartered three years ago and in the second year had one of its member place first in the state and eighth in the national competition.

"I am excited about going to Wichita for the state competition," said carpentry first-place winner Jonathan Johansen, "because each time I compete, it helps me improve in my carpentry skills."

Northwest winners included:

Auto Tech: Rigo Valverde, first; Ryan Scott, sec-

ond; Juan Yanez, third.

Computer Graphics Tech: Kyle Willems, first; Molly Dumler, second.

Carpentry: Johansen.

Communications Tech: Justin Horinek, first; Christ Pitts, second.

Diesel Tech: Brent McArtor, first; Joet Ramsey, second; Trent Rieman, third; Taylor Bliss, fourth.

Electrical First year – Wiring: Dale Quast, first; A.J. Ostmeier, second; John Morris, third.

Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning: Linc Ostmeier, first; Nathan Baker, second; Riley Ducan, third.

Computer Maintenance: Dillon Near, first; Jacob Bishop, second; Drew Hardwick, third.

Internet Networking: Taylor Hobbs, first; Shane Pfeifer, second; Joshua Simon, third.

Welding: Chad Pace, first; John Meitl, second; Michael Allacher, third.

Tongue-twisters theme of Golden Plains play

By Ashley Arnberger

Golden Plains Middle School

The Golden Plains Middle School students have been busy

this year preparing for their spring play. This year's play, "Tongue Twisted," documents one school's quest to regain tongue-twisting glory after a 30-year losing

streak.

The middle schoolers will present "Tongue Twisted" at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Tuesday.

Thomas County Jail

Booked into the Thomas County jail:

- Diedre Dianne Brantley, 51, McCook, Neb., Feb. 6, possession of a narcotic drug with intent (two counts), possession/distribution of hallucinogenic drugs, possession of opiates, opium, narcotic drugs (two counts), no drug tax stamp, paraphernalia, possession with intent to store, paraphernalia, intent to manufacture, cultivate, plant, Colby Police Department, released Thursday on \$100,000 bond.

- Brittani Anne Vallow, 21, Colby, Feb. 6, failure to appear – bad check, from Jasper County, Mo., released last Wednesday to other agency.

- William Marshall Vasbinder, 25, Selden, Feb. 13, domestic battery, Sheridan County Sheriff's Office, released Feb. 16 on bond.

- Arther Lee Johnson, 53, Kan-

sas City, Kan., Feb. 15, possession of hallucinogenic drug with intent to sell, no drug tax stamp, Thomas County Sheriff's Office, released last Wednesday on \$25,000 bond.

- Stacey Allen Deufriend, 42, Colby, Thursday, violation of protective order, Colby Police Department, released Friday on bond.

- Michael Dean Jones, 22, Colby, Thursday, disorderly conduct, Colby Police Department, released same day on notice to appear.

- Edward Ralph Combs, 38, Cottonwood, Calif., Friday, pos-

session of certain hallucinogenic drugs, Thomas County Sheriff's Office, released same day with charges pending.

- Larry Wayne Hurlbut, 47, Colorado Springs, Friday, hitchhiking, Thomas County Sheriff's Office, released same day on notice to appear.

- Earla Jean Connell, 51, Brewster, Saturday, domestic battery, Thomas County Sheriff's Office, released same day with charges pending.

Square dance is Saturday

The Shooting Stars Square Dance Club will have a square dance from 8 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, March 6, at Roosevelt Elementary School, 2000 MacArthur in Hays.

Steve Bailey will call the squares. The dance is open to singles and couples of all ages.

For information, call Opal Flinn at (785) 726-4432.

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