Gov. Culver visits Iowa Crawford House

The Crawford House, located one block south of the Boone County Courthouse, received $297,610 from Gov. Chet Culver’s $830 million, 3-year plan called IJOBS. Gov. Culver held a press conference at the Crawford House on Jan. 29 at 1 p.m. The money will be used to renovate the Crawford House, so it can be used as a homeless shelter for families, single women, and women and children.

This plan is Culver’s initiative to help the state recover from the natural disasters of 2008. IJOBS will preserve and create thousands of jobs in the state of Iowa. It has an 11-member Board of Directors who will develop rules, review applications, and make decisions for the IJOBS Local Infrastructure Program related to Disaster Recovery & Prevention.

“I think this is a great opportunity for Boone County to be able to care for those who are in need, that have been affected by these natural disasters,” says Mary Ann Koch, Koch is the Director of the Academic Achievement Center at DMACC Boone Campus and a member of the Homeless Prevention Committee. “We don’t know how many students are homeless or close to being homeless.”

Eric Hammer of R.H. Grabau Construction, Inc. of Boone said they are the general contractor for this renovation.

Haiti Relief efforts provided locally

As the Grammys have turned celebrity hype, local efforts to help the people of Haiti still continue. In recent comments from Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive, he stated that comments from Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive, he stated that the food problem in Haiti is not going to go away, said Nancy Woods, DMACC professor and Phi Theta Kappa advisor. “A common problem is everyone thinking other people are taking care of it,” said Woods. “They see the celebrity telethons and the text Haiti commercials and think the problem is being taken care of.” Woods wants to remind people that the food problem in Haiti isn’t a new thing.

Before the earthquake Haiti was one of the poorest nations in the western hemisphere, with 80 percent of the population living in poverty according to the CIA World Factbook.

Last year Outreach International sent 2 million meals to the people in need of help, during these tough times,” says Woods. “They want to remind people that the food problem in Haiti isn’t a new thing.

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SAC provides entertainment

The Student Activities Council will receive extra money this term due to the increase in enrollment on Boone Campus and at the Ames Huxucker Center. The SAC met Feb. 3 at 10:05 a.m. to discuss intramural activity plans for the current spring term at the Boone Campus.

At the next SAC meeting, Feb. 17, student club budgets will be reviewed. At a later meeting different activities will have a chance to discuss the percentages they would like to receive for the 2010-2011 school year. Each SAC member will vote on the final percentage of the student activity fee money for each activity.

Some of the activities students have to look forward to this spring include the Seven Oaks ski opportunity on Friday, Feb. 19.
The iPad was officially in public eye in a symbolic manner. Steve Jobs, Apple co-founder and CEO, brought the iPad into the spotlight, running iPhone OS but on a slightly larger screen. The experience is like that of reading a book or magazine, which is why Apple has named it after the TrackPad in its all-in-one desktop computer, the 27-inch quad-core iMac, displaying a still frame from Star Trek on its giant LCD monitor. While Star Trek took viewers on a wild ride of exploration, and the iMac took all-in-ones to a whole new level, Apple’s latest portable device will boldly go where no computer has gone before—everywhere.

The iPad was officially introduced to the world on Jan. 27, 2010, amidst intense anticipation by vendors, software designers, and end-users alike. As an audience of press and people cheered, Jobs introduced the iPad to the spotlight.

As noted by Jobs, the iPad is much more than a laptop, running iPhone OS but on a much larger screen. The experience is like that of reading a book or magazine, which is why Apple has named it after the TrackPad in its all-in-one desktop computer, the 27-inch quad-core iMac, displaying a still frame from Star Trek on its giant LCD monitor. While Star Trek took viewers on a wild ride of exploration, and the iMac took all-in-ones to a whole new level, Apple’s latest portable device will boldly go where no computer has gone before—everywhere.

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**Artist to speak Feb. 11**

**DMACC**-A Des Moines mural artist will be speaking at all six DMACC campuses in February in observance of Black History Month.

The presentations by Jill Wells are sponsored by DMACC’s Diversity Commission.

Wells will be speaking at the Boone Campus, Feb. 11 at 11:15 a.m. in the Campus Theatre. Wells earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting from Drake University. For the past nine years, Wells has been creating public and private murals across Iowa, Arizona and New Orleans.

Wells is the owner of JJ Wells Art in Des Moines.

- **Phi Theta Kappa induction ceremony**
  - Tuesday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m.--annual spring Phi Theta Kappa induction ceremony. The ceremony lasts about an hour with a reception to follow.

- **DMACC ‘Pink Out’ night**
  - Wednesday, Feb. 17 The DMACC Women’s Basketball team will be hosting a “Pink Out” for breast cancer awareness.

- **Free income tax help**
  - Free income tax help is being offered each Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at DMACC Boone Campus from Feb. 5 through April 9.

- **DMACC artist to speak**
  - Thursday, Feb. 11 at 11:15 a.m. in the Theater Jill Wells, a Des Moines mural artist, will be speaking on the DMACC Boone Campus.

- **Fighting famine**
  - Throughout the entire month of February Phi Theta Kappa will be taking donations to help send meals to Haiti. Cans have been placed around DMACC Boone Campus and a donation of 25 cents will supply one meal. The current goal is to raise $2,500 to $5,000.

- **2010-2011 scholarships**
  - Students looking for a little help with their tuition and have a GPA of 2.0 or higher and plan on taking 6 or more credits next fall or spring are encouraged to send an application into the DMACC Foundation at www.dmacc.edu/foundation.

- **Alumni Association sponsors racing trip**
  - The DMACC Alumni Association is sponsoring a bus trip to the Indianapolis 500, May 29-31.

  The trip includes two nights lodging, two breakfasts, a reserved $70 race ticket and transportation aboard a 49-passenger Windstar motor coach. The cost is $426 per person for double occupancy.

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**Bear Briefs**

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**Jill Wells’ work as posted at JJ Wells Art, wellsart.multiply.com**

Mural: Creative Visions Center “Running Out of Time” 11th and Forest Avenue Des Moines,1999

Heritage Gallery: CBML Conference Exhibit Des Moines, 1999

Scottsdale, Arizona: Bergman Family Trip, 2000

Art 110 Gallery: Interpretations Exhibit Des Moines, 2001

Art 110 Gallery: Family After Exhibit Des Moines, 2002

Iowa Home and Garden Show: Exhibit Booth Des Moines, 2002

Iowa Interior Design/Home Show: Exhibit Booth Des Moines, 2003

Anderson Gallery: Invited Exhibit Drake University, Des Moines, 2003

Des Moines Art Center: Ice Cream Social Exhibit Des Moines, 2005

Anderson Gallery: Invited Exhibit Drake University, Des Moines, 2005

Anderson Gallery: Collaboration Exhibit Drake University, Des Moines, 2005

The Great Frame Up: FEI Exhibit 2007 West Des Moines, IOWA

Artist: Invited Exhibit 2008 West Des Moines, IOWA

Mural: YMCA Pool Mural Windsor Heights, Iowa 2006

Mural: Des Moines Hospital Children’s Health Unit Des Moines, Iowa 2006

Mural: Debord Family Commission Two Murals: Ankeny, Iowa 2006

Boston Red Sox “Green Giant”: Baseball gear, Babe Ruth

Mural: Richardson Family Commission. One Mural S.E. Des Moines, Iowa 2006

Giraffe theme in the safari nursery

Mural and Free Hand Lettering: Debord Family Commission Pleasant Hills, Iowa 2006

Family Letters “JF” Brothers playing football

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Valentine’s Day ideas
Tips on how to make your day special

Jill Ackerman
Feature/Entertainment Editor

Whether you are looking forward to the “day of love” or dreading it, Cupid and his arrow are right around the corner! Valentine’s Day is known, as a holiday for the ladies, but this is a holiday where everyone should feel appreciated by their special someone.

If you need help with some romantic plans on Valentine’s Day look no further: Here are some ideas to help make it look like you have been constructing plans for weeks.

Make a scavenger hunt.

This is a great way to incorporate gifts into your Valentine’s plans. A scavenger hunt is a great way to give different gifts at each destination. The places might have some significance to your relationship or they can be random places, but just make sure to have the final destination be you!

Double date. The more the merrier! Get some couples friends together and do one of these activities together or do some sort of competitive activity to connect with your valentine! You can always spend time together later on in the night.

Go to an event.

Look for plays, comedy shows, musicals, concerts, or a sporting event to take your valentine to. The atmospheres at these kinds of events are fun and can be a great way to spend the day of night together!

Whatever you decide to give or do on Valentine’s Day just remember to make it personal!

What athletes to look for in the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics

Jill Ackerman
Feature/Entertainment Editor

Beautiful Vancouver is making its last minute preparations as the countdown for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games is getting smaller and smaller. Opening ceremonies are scheduled to begin Feb. 12, with the first event taking place that night, and the games will conclude Feb. 28.

With fifteen sports it’s hard to catch all the competitions. Here is a quick look at some events and key competitors to watch for.

There are fifteen sporting competitions, which include: Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, Bobsleigh, Cross-Country Skiing, Curling, Figure Skating, Freestyle Skating, Ice Hockey, Luge, Nordic Combined, Short Track, Skeleton, Ski Jumping, Snowboard, and Speed Skating.

So what is Team USA’s chance of bringing home the most gold medals this winter Olympics? The Bleacher Report gives us hope by stating, “America will likely move into second on the all-time list of medal winners in 2010.”

Interested in the Olympics but not sure what to tune into? There are some sports that are said to be “the ones to watch this Olympics,” one of those being Ski Jumping. The U.S. is sending three to compete in this event, Nick Alexander, Peter Frenette, and Anders Johnson. They will compete on the first day, Feb. 12.

Snowboarding is another one to look for, with the U.S. having a 25 percent chance of going home with the Gold. In the 2006 Olympics, America took home seven of the eighteen medals in Snowboarding, with three being Gold medals. The men’s snowboarding competition will start Monday, Feb. 15.

Watch for Steven Holcomb, one of the two riders in the U.S. bobsled team, on Feb. 21 trying to bring a Gold medal back home for the U.S. since the last medal in 1948.

The men’s USA Hockey team is trying for another “miracle” like the past 1980 win. With a great line-up (one of the goalies, Tim “Tank” Thomas has two NHL-All Star titles) we will be sure to have a good advantage. The defense and offense line-ups are said to be great. If they can work together they will surely be coming home as champions.

In the last winter Olympics, the U.S. came out on top with seven speed skating Gold medals. Shani Davis held the world record in the 1500m and 1000m for distance skaters. “Newcomer Trevor Marsicano, who is only 20 years old, won four Gold medals in the 2009 Worlds and has the potential to do the same in Vancouver” says NBC.

Whether it be Shaun White shredding on the slopes or waiting on the men’s Hockey team for a Gold make sure to watch the world’s most fierce winter competitions. NBC will have full coverage of the 2010 winter Olympics in Vancouver, starting Feb. 12.
DMACC women send Spartans home empty handed

By Kevin Langel
Contributing Writer

The DMACC Bears beat the Spartans from Southwestern Community College (Creston), with a score of 75-55. The women sent the Spartans home with another loss on their record.

As of Feb. 3, the Bears record is 15-7 and 9-3 in their conference.

"Wins are always good, and we overcame a couple of runs by SWCC to gain the victory," said Steve Kraftcisin, women's head basketball coach for the Bears. "The idea is to keep getting better during February, so we peak for the regional tournament. We defended very well except for the first nine minutes of the game. Our energy level was very good, and we played together to get a good team win," said Kraftcisin.

Cassie Naoholz, a guard for the Bears, was injured during the game. She drove to the basket and was hit in the side of her knee when she collided in the air with a Spartans player. She was carried off the court by Kraftcisin. Naoholz said, "I got an MRI on my knee and found out that I tore my ACL. I will be out for the rest of the season." Surgery is scheduled for Feb. 19.

The Bears will go up against the Eagles of Kirkwood Community College (Cedar Rapids) on Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 5:30 p.m. in the DMACC Boone Campus gymnasium.

DMACC men shut down Spartans

By Shannon Jefferson
Sports Editor

The DMACC Bears competed against the Southwestern CC Spartans, beating them 60-52. The men’s basketball team as of Feb. 5 was 20-3 for the 2009-2010 season.

Leading scorer Brad Burton had 13 points and 11 rebounds. Also, Isaiah Gandy contributed 11 points to the Bear’s win over the Spartans.

"We rebounded better, and played better defense," McGinn said. The Bears had 39 rebounds compared to the Spartans, who had 31.

The Bears controlled the pace of the game. They didn’t allow their opponent to slow them down.

“When we lost Scott we had to make a lot of changes, I had to step up a lot," Burton said. Forward, Scott Windom, was recently dismissed from the men’s basketball team because of contact with an official at a game in Clinton, Iowa. A suspension and the conference office. Forward, Scott Windom, was recently dismissed from the men’s basketball team because of contact with an official at a game in Clinton, Iowa. A suspension and the conference office.

"To be fair Scott was very remorseful and certainly did not dispute consequences," Salmon said. "Scott Wisdom is a good kid," Salmon said. However, the Bears are moving forward and making strides toward the future.

The Bears are ranked number eight in division II basketball in the nation according to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). The Bears will compete against rival Kirkwood Community College on Feb. 10 at home.

“I think it will be a fun game. It should have a lot of excitement,” McGinn said.

Mays named athlete of the week

DMACC—First year DMACC women’s basketball player Tia Mays of Des Moines has been named the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference Athlete of the Week for Jan. 20–Jan. 27. Mays led the DMACC Bears in a big upset victory over #6 ranked Iowa Central Community College on Jan. 21. Mays had 14 points, 21 rebounds and six blocked shots in the Bears’ 66 to 40 victory.

She followed up her performance in Fort Dodge with another double-double against Ellsworth Community College. She had 13 points and 16 rebounds in DMACC’s 75 to 62 victory over the Panthers.

Mays said she plans to graduate from DMACC and continue her education and basketball career at a four-year school.

Pink Out night, Feb. 17

DMACC—Pink is the new favorite color of the DMACC Bears women’s basketball team, at least it will be on Wednesday, Feb. 17. The Bear’s basketball team host a PINK Out night when they face Iowa Central Community College in the Boone Campus Gym. The women’s game tips off at 5:30 p.m.

The Feb. 17 PINK Out night is part of the DMACC Athletic Department’s support for breast cancer awareness and the efforts of the Susan G. Komen Foundation’s fight against breast cancer.

Special pink adult-sized DMACC Bears T-shirts that read “Real DMACC Bears Wear Pink” are on sale now at the Boone Campus Student Activities Council Office on the Boone campus and at all home basketball games. Shirts sell for $5 each. Proceeds from the T-shirt sales will go to support the Komen Foundation. Fans who wear their shirt to the game will be admitted free.

This is the second of two DMACC Bears events planned this school year to highlight breast cancer awareness. Nov. 3, 2009, the DMACC women’s volleyball team held the first PINK Out night. For more information, contact DMACC Athletic Director Orry Salmon at (515) 433-5650.

Brad Burton takes a jump shot.

Women’s Schedule

2009-2010

2/10/2010 Wednesday vs. Kirkwood @ Boone, IA 7:30 pm
2/13/2010 Saturday vs. Ellsworth @ Iowa Falls, IA 1 pm
2/27/2010 Saturday vs. AIB @ Des Moines, IA 6 pm
3/2/2010 Tuesday Region XI Quarterfinals TBA 7 pm
3/4/2010 Thursday Region XI SemiFinals @ Creston, IA TBA
3/5/2010 Friday Region XI Finals @ Creston, IA TBA
3/9/2010 Tuesday District Championship @ Council Bluffs, IA 7 pm

DMACC Bears

Photo by Derrick Roffman

Women's Schedule

2009-2010

2/10/2010 Wednesday vs. Kirkwood @ Boone, IA 5:30 pm
2/13/2010 Saturday vs. Iowa Lakes @ Estherville, IA 2 pm
2/17/2010 Wednesday vs. Iowa Central @ Boone, IA 5:30 pm
2/20/2010 Saturday vs. Ellsworth @ Iowa Falls, IA 1 pm
2/27/2010 Saturday vs. AIB @ Des Moines, IA 6 pm
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Consider This
By Sam Nelson
DMACC Student

I have learned a lot during this past month, things that will not so much as haunt me but more or less make me a stronger person.

Consider that ice cracks, snowmen melt, snow flies. I have learned that a relationship that was never meant to be would not work out to be anything more than a strong friendship.

Consider that cold, distant hands can be sweaty, nervous hands. I have learned that the human mind can put up big walls.

Consider that the human mind can demolish even bigger walls.

I have learned that strong friendships can form any way you choose them too.

Consider that people mentally are very strong; it is just how much strength they allow to shine through in themselves.

Consider that human mental links are created and broken by one act of physical compassion.

I have learned I can be impatiently supportive along with how to be supportively comforting.

Consider that dessert before supper is not always bad.

I have learned cognitive thoughts are rationalized and make clear that anything is limitless.

Consider that the heart wanders in a single person, age has no decimating factors.

Consider that there is more to life than finding happiness, you have to enjoy the ride.

Spent your refund wisely
By Capray Canada
Staff Writer

Student financial aid refunds were disbursed Jan. 29. Guys can’t wait to buy video games and ladies can’t wait to get some new shoes.

Some are getting their oars fixed; others are going to gentle- men’s clubs, throwing their money to waste.

Just like last semester. Are you thinking about the future? When you were broke and looked back on what dumb things you were spending on, what went through your head? Why did I do that? “I’m stupid!” should have been one answer. Why didn’t I budget?

According to a recent poll posted on Yahoo, 63 percent of students don’t spend their refunds on the right things. Many spend it the weekend they get it.

Maria Del Mar Melendez, DMACC student, said, “I don’t even get a refund, but if I did, I would buy some of my books and pay for my classes, maybe some shoes. Some people just don’t know how good they have it.”

DeMarco Dawson, another DMACC student, said, “I do get a refund and I couldn’t wait for it to come. I’m thinking about getting my car fixed, but lately, I haven’t been buying too many things. At the rate I’m going, this is about to be gone. The next thing I’m wait- ing on are taxes.”

Something students should really start doing is budgeting their money, especially if they don’t have a job. It would require budgeting your refund money for the remainder of the semester. PlayStation or Xbox isn’t too im- portant if you are broke. If you do get another refund of something like free money, make and list and think of the important things you need—not the items you want.

Windows 7
Revised
By Austin Leeds
Photo Editor/Columnist

Since the introduction of Windows 7 last autumn, Micro- soft’s latest incarnation of their best-selling operating system has started slowly filtering into main- stream use. After more extensive usage, I’m prepared to offer my insights about this emerging phe- nomenon.

“I bought Windows 7 to fix Vista”

More often than not, that is the reason current Windows users buy 7, and this reasoning holds up quite well. While my first article focused on an un-activated copy of Windows 7 running on a Mac Pro, this analysis focuses on the typical hardware for a home user:

- HP Pavilion a660f desktop
- Shipped with Windows Vista Home Premium 32-bit
- Now running Windows 7 Ultimate 64-bit
- Phenom Dual Core E2200 64-bit processor @ 2.2 GHz
- 2 Gb RAM
- Intel G33/31 graphics chipset

With this setup, I was able to experience the Vista->7 switch (which I performed myself), and I was very impressed. While this is not a typical problem, this Pavilion, from day one, suffered from random lock-ups, where the computer would completely freeze and require a restart. Even with Ubuntu 9.10 64-bit, this remained a problem. With Windows 7 Ultimate 64-bit, this problem has not appeared after a week of normal usage. Additionally, Windows 7 gives users the ability to less- en the frequency of “permission” dialogs without sacrificing security, solving some major headaches among Vista users.

“I wanted something that just works”

While it is still my personal opinion that Mac OS X is much easier to use than any version of Windows, I found myself actually enjoying working on Windows 7.

Just like Mac OS X, Windows 7 found and automatically installed the drivers for an HP Desktop F4180 all-in-one printer, and was able to distinguish that it featured a scanner, which was a big improvement over Vista’s “tech sniffing” skills. Best of all, I didn’t realize it had done this until the time came to use the printer—and it was ready to go.

Internet Explorer 8, Google Chrome 3, and Firefox 3.6 all run perfectly with Windows 7. Of the three, Chrome has already distinguished itself as the fastest and simplest.

Microsoft Office 2007 Enterprise ($10 from the DMACC book- store) is very smooth and much less error-prone than in Windows Vista. The old Start Menu is now gone, replaced by the Windows XP/ Vista Start Menu. While some may mourn the loss of an old friend, I believe the new Start Menu is a step forward in ease-of-use.

The new taskbar in Windows 7 is much like the Mac OS X Dock, consolidating all open windows based on their application. This wasn’t much of a leap for me, being an avid Mac user, but even long-time Windows users should be able to figure out the interface in seconds, just by moving their cursor over the taskbar icons.

“Games?”

Windows 7 will play any game that runs on Vista. InkleBull, from the Windows Games collection, is noticeably absent, though. As consola- tion, the long-exinct Windows Internet Games—Checkers, Backgam- mon, and the rest—have returned.

“How hard is it to switch?”

This depends from person to person, but for me it was very sim- ple. If you’re sick of Vista and just want to run it over, the process is intuitive—just stick in your upgrade DVD while running Vista, then open the upgrade program and follow the instructions. In an hour or less, you should have a working version of Windows 7 on your screen, provided you have high-speed Internet. Dial-up connections will take much longer, and those without Internet access may want to delay their upgrade—Windows 7 may need to update your drivers, for which it needs an Internet connection.

For those who still want Vista, try searching Google for “Windows 7 Vista dual-boot.” Many people have already accomplished this and have been so generous as to explain how to do it in step-by-step instructions.

In the end, Windows 7 exceeds my expectations as an operating system—the first Windows version to do so since Windows 3.1 (when I was “mystified” by the screen savers at seven years old). I would highly recommend you buy a copy from the DMACC bookstore and install it on your home computer. I can’t wait for DMACC to switch over as well.
Dear Editor,

I believe the school newspaper has great potential, but to see something like that article on medical marijuana (January 27, 2010) was disappointing. I got the feeling that the person just picked the subject because the topic was marijuana.

While I am a supporter of medical marijuana, I do not support it because it is considered a “cool” drug. I support it because I believe it has many positive aspects and the federal taxation of its legalization could significantly help our economy with the current issue of the budget deficit. The research of cannabinoids found in the plant would create jobs and maybe even cures or treatments for major diseases and disorders.

I have a friend who is battling for her life against Lupus. She was prescribed marijuana for a one time use, and it helped her significantly. The article in Banner News lacks facts to support what the teacher says in the quote, and while it is addictive, caffeine, cigarettes and alcohol are all more addictive—yet legal. In a report written by the American Medical Association titled “Use of Cannabis for Medicinal Purposes” it states information about a recent study they have done. “Results of short term controlled trials indicate that smoked cannabis reduces neuropathic pain, improves appetite and caloric intake especially in patients with reduced muscle mass, and may relieve spasticity and pain in patients with multiple sclerosis.”

The story has many grammatical errors that make the article seem unimportant and make it hard to take seriously. The story focuses on New Jersey and should have been titled “Medical marijuana in New Jersey.” I wish it would have been completely directed towards Iowa.

On the other hand, I enjoyed the sports and features. The entertainment was interesting, and I liked the cartoons.

Devon Greer
DMACC Student
What would be your ideal Valentine?

Nathan Meade
“My wife is my Valentine. We hope to spend some intimate time together!”

Raymond Pankey
“Maybe I have a Valentine! My ideal gift would be a car, a yacht, and a boat.”

Reed Schwarck
“My ideal Valentine gift would be a new gun. We’re going to a movie and out to dinner.”

Jesse Laumer
“Yes, I have a Valentine; I’ll surprise her with a dinner after work.”

Casey Williams
“Valentine’s Day and my birthday are close, and my birthday’s more important”

Valentines Day Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-April 19)
-- Today is a 6 -- Begin the day by recording dreams any you had immediately upon awakening. Share them in a social setting if appropriate. Celebrate this evening.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)
-- Today is 5 - Relax into happiness. Your values have served you well to this point, and you have much to be grateful for.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
-- Today is an 8 -- Your mind is made up early in the day. You’ve worked on a plan, and now it gets rolling (just as you figured it would). Don’t exhaust yourself.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
-- Today is a 7 -- A female finds more than one reason to complain about work. Listen closely. Then make slight adjustments to satisfy her need to feel in control.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
-- Today is a 7 -- You have everything you need to add the final touches to something you’ve worked hard for. A female steadies your emotions as you sign off.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
-- Today is a 6 -- Get a practical gift that shows you’ve been paying attention to your partner’s desires. No need for extravagance. Your contribution speaks for itself.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
-- Today is a 5 -- It would be easy to get into an argument now. Postpone discussions on everything but absolute essentials. Refuse confrontation, and stand for love.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
-- Today is a 6 -- The key to today’s success is pacing yourself. Begin the day with hearts and flowers, and end with endearing words.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
-- Today is a 5 -- A party is in order. Expect an unexpected guest. Someone is queen for the day. Save your independent act for later, and focus your attention on your partner.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
-- Today is a 6 -- Change plans if necessary in order to stay at home and enjoy private conversation and a cozy atmosphere. Indulge in comfort food and keep preparations to a minimum.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
-- Today is a 5 -- Brunch or lunch provides just the right atmosphere for sharing your deepest feelings. Adding a touch of glamour can’t hurt, so dress for a romantic role.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
-- Today is a 5 -- The Moon conjuncts your planet Venus today, indicating that the power of love in your life is taking a creative, dynamic new direction.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)
-- Today is 5 - Relax into happiness. Your values have served you well to this point, and you have much to be grateful for.

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