By Cody Arndt
Staff Writer

A decline in usage is hard to track because Facebook does not release its own statistics.

Students may not be ready to delete their Facebook entirely, but they are taking steps to log in less often.

DMACC freshman Jayden Ott uses Facebook about every other day or so. “I use it way less now than I ever did then. I don’t have any free time.”

Ott catches for the DMACC softball team, and is on a tight schedule with class, workouts, and individual pitching and catching sessions.

She has thought about getting rid of her Facebook. “I really don’t like Facebook because I rarely use it and it’s all full of drama and younger people I never talk to anyways.” She really wouldn’t have one but feels like she’s missing out on the pictures and things she gets tagged in.

On the other hand freshman Madison Mickelson also plays on the softball team and is an avid Facebook user.

“I use it every day,” said Mickelson. “Sometimes an hour or three to six hours depending on how my day looks.”

She said she has at least thought about going off the grid, “Just getting rid of it, and not checking it.” So far she hasn’t acted on that thought.

She doesn’t like to see certain things on Facebook and finding out stuff she shouldn’t. By getting rid of her Facebook, it would give her more time for other things. For now, when she gets bored she gets on Facebook.

Mickelson is from Ames and was close to her friends in high school.

“I’m in college now,” she said. “Just something about it [Facebook] keeps me connected to them and lets me know how and what other people are doing.”

DMACC counselor Shelby Hildreth believes that Facebook in what she likes to call a “time bandit.”

“It’s like ‘oh, I’ll get on real quick just to check it’ and you look up at the clock and two hours have gone by.”

She said poor time management is the number one killer of success for college students. “There are only 24 hours in a day and students don’t plan what to do with it very well.”

She does want students to go out, have fun and have a social life but to set time aside for it and study.

“Facebook is not bad. It’s how you connect with friends, and that’s OK. But it’s important that you know the difference.

Changes made to probation

By Cody Arndt
Staff Writer

This fall all Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) campuses began a new academic probation program.

The old program had a primary focus on a student’s grade point average, this fall however there is a new focus on not only students’ GPA but also on credit hours earned.

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (FAS-AP) requires a minimum GPA 2.0 to remain eligible for financial aid. Students’ academic records are reviewed at the completion of every term of enrollment to determine satisfactory progress.

“Don’t bite off more than you can handle,” said Shelby Hildreth, academic advisor. “If you’re taking a course and you’re not prepared, take the refresher course.”

Students with GPAs lower than 2.0 are placed on academic warning for the next term of enrollment.

As soon as a student returns either, or in some cases both, their GPA or raises their CCR they are placed into “good academic standing.”

Credit hours from a repeated course are counted as attempted hours every time the course is repeated. Once the course is repeated.

Cont. on page 4

An About-Face(book)?

By Jessica Kinnetz
Staff writer

Some DMACC students are making a change in their lives by dropping Facebook or shorting the time spent using it.

“I do not have a social network,” said DMACC Freshman LaTree Russell. “Social networks are a lot of crazy nonsense. Reminds me a lot of high school and I don’t like the past. The past is the past more on and don’t worry about it.”

Russell did at one point have a Facebook but got rid of it for personal reasons.

“I like to keep low key,” he said. “It bothers me when people would come up to me and ask me why I don’t have one or that they tried to look me up and couldn’t find me. It’s my choice and I just don’t have time for it.”

Russell said it does bother him that people update their statuses with every move they make. “It’s pointless and stupid, I’d rather watch ESPN.”

Facebook had more than 710 million users as of September, according to Inside Facebook, a company that tracks Facebook usage.

A decline in usage is hard to track because Facebook does not release its own statistics.

Students may not be ready to delete their Facebook entirely, but they are taking steps to log in less often.

DMACC freshman Jayden Ott uses Facebook about every other day or so. “I use it way less now than I ever did in high school,” said Ott. “I have more going on now than I ever did then. I don’t have any free time.”

Ott catches for the DMACC softball team, and is on a tight schedule with class, workouts, and individual pitching and catching sessions.

She has thought about getting rid of her Facebook. “I really don’t like Facebook because I rarely use it and it’s all full of drama and younger people I never talk to anyways.” She really wouldn’t have one but feels like she’s missing out on the pictures and things she gets tagged in.

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“Facebook is not bad. It’s how you connect with friends, and that’s OK. But it’s important that you know the difference.

There’s a time for you to socialize and a time to study.”
No student health services offered at Boone campus

By Stacey Walker
Copy Editor

Students seeking medical assistance won't be able to find any on the Boone campus.

DMACC’s Ankeny campus is currently the only campus to have its own health specialist.

While the Boone DMACC campus does not have health facilities for students to utilize, the Ankeny campus is willing to serve students from anywhere.

“As long as students can pay for their physicals and any prescriptions they might need filled, there is no reason for them to worry about coming in,” said Sandra Foster, Health Specialist on DMACC’s Ankeny campus.

“We have students come into the health department on a daily basis,” she said.

With the winter cold finally setting in, more students are feeling a little under the weather.

“I haven’t felt the best lately, and I can’t really afford to go to the doctor timewise or financially,” said a student on campus.

Services at the health department include various types of medical care, emergency response and referrals.

“We give a lot of immunizations here on campus,” said Foster. “Lately we’ve been getting lots of students with upper respiratory complaints.”

Most visits to the health department are free or at a low cost for students.

At this point in time there will be no effort towards putting in a health department on the Boone campus.

“I think it is important that students understand that if needed, they can utilize those services [at Ankeny] as well as any other students from any of the other campuses,” said Tom Lee, provost of the Boone Campus.

“We have looked into trying to get some type of health care for students, but for now students have the option of going to the area hospitals,” said Lee.
Expressions and get your work published in
The Banner News is accepting applications for the Editor-in-Chief position for the Spring 2012 semester.
Applicants must be a current DMACC student in good standing.
Deadline
Dec. 9 at 3 p.m.
For more information and an application, contact Julie Roosa, faculty adviser, jkroosa@dmacc.edu.
"My mom gave me my brother’s presents. At first it was OK things that could go either way, then it got weird.”

“I got a Shake Weight...It kind of works.”

“Box of rocks, my grandpa was being a smart aleck that year.”

“A really ugly sweatshirt. Really, it was fugly.”

“I never got Rock'em Sock'em Robots and I'm still devastated by it to this day.”

Deep Thoughts by DMACCANS

WHAT WAS YOUR WORST CHRISTMAS PRESENT?

Anna-Kate Bruns

Asher Van Sickle

Trey Hall

Rebecca Levenhagen

Brian Green

AmeriCorps: cont. from page 1

not as big as it is today at $1,000, but she did serve a short term.

“Roughly one third of AmeriCorps’ volunteers are college students,” said Sandy Scott, a spokesperson for the Corporation for National and Community Service which oversees AmeriCorps. The fraction is of an estimated 55,000 volunteers. Of those 25,000 students, all are eligible for the Segal Education Award after their terms of service are successfully completed.

The Segal Award can be used to pay education costs at qualifying institutions, educational training and student loans. As of 2011, the amount of a full-time education award is around $3,550.

Since the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act went into effect in Aug 2010 the Segal Award amount has increased as the U.S. Department of Education’s Pell Grant has. The amount of the award each year is tied to the maximum dollar amounts of the Pell Grant.

“The Segal Award was very helpful in paying for my graduate tuition in Ithaca,” said Justin Villere, a college student who served in AmeriCorps programs twice before coming to his current position with the Iowa Commission on Voluntary Service.

“In NCCC we did a significant amount of hurricane recovery post-Katrina in the Gulf Coast,” said Villere. “So learned a great deal about perseverance, teamwork, how to lead other volunteers, sacrifice, tangible construction skills, and a bunch of other things. Because NCCC service was done with a team of peers ages 18-24, the teamwork and sacrifice piece is very important.”

“$1,000 was substantial,” said Heater about the Segal Award. “I wasn’t working a job. I’d just started school and after I paid off some tuitions I was able to use the rest for just any day use. It didn’t have to be for education.”

While it is recommended that the award be used for education, there are no barriers.

“The most frustrating part of volunteering was not quite knowing what my job would be,” said Heater in reference to her job as a “Green Ambassador,” a position sponsored by the Iowa DNR for NCCC.

“I basically went through garbage every day.”

To emphasize, Heater completed an annual trash audit, which the DNR is required to do by the state. The practice is in accordance with Iowa’s attempt in becoming a “cleaner state.”

Heater’s experience is akin to many jobs served in the NCCC or AmeriCorps*State. This position approximates more of a professional office setting. Bolt’s programs were extremely valuable, but in very different ways.”

In addition to receiving financial assistance, volunteers also receive health benefits and a modest living income during the duration of their service, which depending on the program can be anywhere from $5,000 to $12,000 for a duration of 9 to 12 months.

Lastly, as students volunteer, loans are eligible to be placed into forbearance. Which means “as you volunteer, your student loans will continue to accrue interest, but upon completion of service the corporation elects to pay said interest rates,” said Villere.

“I am non-traditional,” said Heater. “But I think volunteering would be good for [younger students]. Definitely. It wasn’t like I hadn’t learned any life lessons, but I’d already been in the field for a long, long time, graduating high school 20 years ago.”

For more specific information, contact details and questions about enrollment, go to www.americorps.gov.

Students should evaluate which type of AmeriCorps program and which service area (education, health, environment, economic opportunity, disaster recovery) they are interested in,” said Villere. “They should talk to a supervisor who oversees that AmeriCorps program to evaluate whether that position will provide the prospective member with a service opportunity that fulfills their goals for (1) volunteering in a cause they are passionate about; and (2) gaining professional development and experience.”

Probation, cont. from pg. 1

passed, the credit hours are counted as both attempted and completed credit hours. Students who have extenuating circumstances may appeal their financial aid suspension one time. For details on how to appeal, contact an advisor.

If a student is placed on academic warning and earns a GPA of 2.0 or less or a CGR of less than 67 percent in their next term, they will be placed on academic conditional enrollment. Once a student is placed under conditional enrollment, they may be subject to financial aid suspension.

As a student enters conditional enrollment they are required to meet with a campus advisor to discuss the implications of their choice and complete an Academic Improvement Plan (AIP).

When students meet with an advisor to create an AIP, the student, instead of scheduling one semester at a time, schedules their next four semesters of enrollment. “The AIP is meant to focus on the future,” said Hildreth. “Not just one semester at a time. We’re placing a larger focus on goals.”

Any student that is in conditional enrollment and does not meet of the two standards will be placed on academic disqualification and will not be allowed to enroll in credit coursework for a period of one semester.

Disqualified students, after waiting one term will meet with an advisor, fill out an AIP and be placed on conditional enrollment.

“It’s still just the first semester we’ve implemented the new policy,” said Hildreth. “It’s still being tested so it may still be tweaked.”
Bears fight close battle, not enough in the end

By Jessica Kinnetz
Staff Writer

DMACC Women’s basketball team suffered their second loss at home Wednesday night, 68-63 to Southeastern Community College.

The game started out with a technical on the Bears for miscommunication of the line-up. It wasn’t far into the game when Kelsey Fynaardt, no. 42, fell to the ground, rolling her ankle.

The Bears put up a close fight and applied full court pressure to stop Southeastern’s offense. But the Blackhawks broke right through it.

“Joscelyn is our emotional leader,” said Head Coach Steve Krafcisin. “We couldn’t get into rhythm. It was a different game for us.”

However it was not enough to stop Southeastern defense on the Bears. A ball handling error led to a throw down the court for a lay up to take the lead and make the score 23-21.

The Bears took a time out to settle down. They came back and tied but had a missed bounce pass by Hagadorn, which led to Marci Robeoltman, no. 45, to foul with her second of the game.

Southeastern had the lead of 29-28 at the half. The Blackhawks came out scoring but did not have the lead for long. It was a back and forth battle the rest of the quarter.

As time started ticking down, Hagadorn quickly got the ball pointer by Hagadorn followed by a three pointer by Hagadorn, which led to Marci Robeoltman, no. 45, to foul with her second of the game.

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Hagadorn quickly got the ball back with a minute left and made a 3-point shot.

“We were right there to have a chance and come back,” said Krafcisin. “When we don’t shoot well, it affects everything we do. We were trying to get back into the game, we had a plan and it fell through and broke down because of bad communication.”

The final score was 68-63.

“We just overthink the plays and it’s a learning process,” Krafcisin said. “We’re putting this game behind us and getting back to work and coming and getting the next one.”

The Blackhawks made a three pointer, which made the score 64-60. At time starting ticking down, Krafcisin called another time out.

There was a missed three pointer by Hagadorn followed by a failed attempt shot by Robeoltman.

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It’s the time to find your fir

Your holiday guide to finding the perfect tree, and information on how to properly dispose of it at the end of the season

By Alayna Barnett
Staff Writer

“I think that I shall never see, a gift as lovely as a freshly cut Christmas tree!”

OK, OK, apologies to poet Joyce Kilmer. For families that do want to cut down their own tree, however, there are several options in Story and Boone Counties.

In Maxwell, Sandra Hunter runs The Christmas Tree Farm. Open seven days a week from Thanksgiving to Dec. 19, the farm features five tree varieties, as well as amenities to enhance the tree cutting experience.

Hunter says there is no real “average” amount of time for choosing a tree, and that the process is about the family interaction. For many, choosing and cutting the tree is a family tradition, complete with negotiation and squabbles.

“In some families, we’re seeing the next generation,” Hunter says. “I even have a family that comes from Montezuma every year. Of course, not every family that wants to cut their own tree has to go quite so far from home. Boone resident Jessica Baber and her family got their tree from Morgan Tree Farm, just south of Ogden.

“My dad and uncles had a tree farm when I was growing up, so we always cut our own tree,” she explains. Hunter encourages families to prepare for their visit by “knowing” the size of tree they want to cut, particularly the diameter. The trees always look a lot smaller in the field than they do in the house.”

Situated on 7 acres, planting at The Christmas Tree Farm begins in April. In 2010, Hunter planted 1,100 trees, and 850 in 2011. She aggressively pursues weeds as well, and Roundup regularly.

Amenities vary from farm to farm. The Christmas Tree Farm offers a variety of services, including the saw for cutting and a sled for hauling the tree back to the shop area. Staff then shake out loose needles and other debris while families warm up inside the shop, where there are warm drinks.

Prices range from $25 to $40, depending on variety and in some cases size. Some farms also carry a limited number of pre-cut trees for those who want varieties or sizes not grown on-site. This pricing is another factor for Baber and her family.

“We usually are able to get a bigger tree for a better price, and the tree lasts longer because it’s fresher,” she says.

Fresh-cut trees are not really any different to care for than pre-cut, although Hunter says most won’t need the bottom cut off. Warm (not hot) water is recommended when possible, and the water level should be checked frequently, as recently-cut trees do drink more than others.

Hunter adds that families should, “Dress appropriately for the weather. Boots, gloves, hats. Wear clothes that can get dirty.”

Baber summed it up by telling of Christmas 2010, when her family was visiting her mother in Wisconsin. It was the first year all of her children were old enough to go, and “we took a tractor ride to the center, and there was hot chocolate and the kids were making snow angels.”

When the Christmas tree is droopy and sad it’s too late to figure out what to do with it; the time to make plans for after Christmas is now.

In Boone, “clean” Christmas trees that have been stripped of all ornaments, lights, bags, tree stands, and every single strand of tinsel can be “TreeCycled” between Jan. 1 and 15 at locations throughout the county (see below).

Beginning in January, Ames Chatty customers can call 515-382-3808 no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday for pickup Wednesday. This service is available to current Chatty customers only, for $5 per tree.

Shannon Broadway, of Waste Management, says there is “no extra charge to customers” for Christmas tree removal.

Boone residents simply place the trees curbside on any usual trash pickup day in January. Ames residents should call the number on their bill to arrange Thursday curbside pickup through Feb. 2.

Lisa Anderson, Environmental Education Coordinator for Boone County, says the Boone TreeCycle program started in the 70s, and is open to residents of Boone County only. The county chips/mulches the trees and then uses the result in county and city parks.

She adds, “It does not cost Boone County residents anything to drop their tree off at the designated sites.”

By Alayna Barnett
Staff Writer

Residents of Boone County may take their stripped Christmas trees to the following locations:

• In Boone, drop off is at Herman Park (at south end of Greene Street).

• In Boxholm, drop off is at the Boxholm city water tower.

• In Luther, drop off is at the Luther city water tower.

• In Madrid, drop off is at the Madrid city maintenance shed.

• In Ogden, drop off is at the Ogden city maintenance shed.

• At Don Williams, drop off is at the park maintenance shed.

For more information, call the Boone County Landfill at 515-433-0591 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday or 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday.

Local Tree Farms:

Enchanted Valley Tree Farm
Joseph and Janice Reutter
1323 Montana Rd.
Boone, IA 50036
Phone: 515-275-4161

Morgan Tree Farm
1475 H Ave
Ogden, IA 50212
515-275-4161

The Christmas Tree Farm
Sandra Hunter
33459 663rd Ave
Maxwell, IA 50016
Phone: 515-387-4878

Strutman Tree Farm LLC
Ronald McMillen
58976 290th St
Cambridge, IA 50046
Phone: 800-862-5942

Deal’s Orchard
1102 244th St.
Jefferson, IA 50129
Phone: 515-866-8279

Rettig Tree Farm
Vermont and Sarah Rettig
7602 NE 114th Ave
Bondurant, IA 50035
Phone: 515-967-4013
Editorial

Freedom from the press

Editor in chief passes the keyboard to new leader

by Lori Harvey

Health Writer

About two months ago I inter-
vied Dr. Mayer Eisenstein with
Home First Clinics near Chi-
ago, IL. Dr. Eisenstein has over
40,000 patients with virtually no
asthma or autism in his practice.

I have attended many of Dr.
Eisenstein’s webinars online thru
his website homefirst.com. He
concentrates on health without
the intervention of mainstream
medicine.

The following five questions
are what I asked him and my
summary of his response follows
each question.

What is the number one
health issue facing college
students today?

There are actually three is-

sues facing students today. Obes-
ity, smoking and the taking of
birth control pills. The obesity af-
facts a students blood pressure &
can cause diabetes. Obesity can
also lead to metabolic syndrome
which ultimately leads to choles-
terol problems. Cigarette sales are
higher than ever. Quit smoking,
your body will thank you for it.

What is the best way for
students to stay healthy for
taking off on and off campus?

Going away to college is too
much change at one time. Perhap-
s a junior or community college
first. Most college students who
head off to college right away
don’t eat right or get the right
amount of sleep. Monosodium is
very prevalent in students in col-
leges.

What would you recom-

mend to students who are
starting to feel sick or who
are sick?

If you live close enough to
home, go home. Eat chicken
soup, take your Vit. C & D3. Stay
away until you are well. Tylenol
& aspirin just mask things over.
If you stay in school while you are
sick, you’ll just be sick longer.

What is your opinion
about the flu shot?

The flu shot has never been
shown to work. 75% of doctors
don’t get it. The flu shot is one of
the biggest hoaxes ever perpetu-
ated on the U.S. population. The
best way to avoid getting sick is
to take lots of Vitamin D3.

Many colleges require
students to get certain vac-

cinations before moving into
student housing or get-
ing into medical programs.
What would you recommend
for students that want to
avoid these vaccinations?

Many schools will accept a
religious waiver for vaccinations.
(40 out of 50 states have reli-
gious exemptions) Many college
students are not educated on the
risks or benefits of vaccines. Stu-
dents need to do their homework,
weigh the pros & cons and then
make their decision.

Have a great and

safe holiday!

~The Fall 2011 Banner News Staff~

Kevin, Stacey, Cody, Dwight, Alayna, Jessica, Lori, Kodie, Gary, Josie and Julie

MHO

(My Humble Opinion)

Need a place to blow off some steam?
Maybe make a shout out or two?

The Banner News MHO is a place that’s dedicated to you. Place
your opinions and shout-outs in locker 32 by the East entrance of the
school, or drop them off in room 115, and we’ll do our best to get
your word out in this space.

Please submit any ideas to the mailbox.

Sincerely,

Kevin C. Langel
Editor-in-Chief

In response to “school sucks,” if
you are not a part of Student Ac-
tivities Council, you need to join.
Use your time to help plan “fun
events.”

•Get Involved

Finals at it in the morning are
an inconvenience to us all...

•Too Tired

Why can’t we put up a Menorah
in the Courter Center?...

•Not so Jolly

Let it snow, let it snow, let it
snow...

•Frosty

We elves try to stick to the four
main food groups: candy, candy
canes, candy corn, and syrup!

•Buddy

Why is it that gas prices
can’t stay the same for more
than a week at a time?...

•Payin out the Bum

Campus should host an “Ugly
Sweater Contest” for finals week...

•Idea for the SAC

Funnymudge...

•Ralphie

*All items are printed at the discretion of the Banner Staff

*Submissions may be public or anonymous
Citrus Pork Roast

**Ingredients:**
- 2-3 pound pork roast
- 2-3 potatoes, chunked
- 2-3 carrots, chunked
- 1 oz can pineapple juice

**Seasoning blend of choice**
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/3 c. superfine sugar
- 1/2 c. butter, softened
- 1 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground ginger

**Directions:**
- Place pork fat-side-up (if there is one) in a glass baking dish. Season liberally. Surround with potato and carrot chunks. Pour pineapple juice over vegetables.
- Roast at 325°F for 20 minutes per pound, up to a 5 pound roast. Over 5 pounds total, cook 30 minutes per pound. Baste about every 15 minutes.
- Allow to rest, covered, for 10 minutes before carving or meat will be dry.

By Alayna Barnett
Staff Writer

So here we are, our final week together.
This week is a little different. Instead of finding two recipes that were pretty similar, I went for more of a total meal approach.

Since roast takes the longest, I recommened starting this first. The prep is as simple as it gets, and other root vegetables could easily be substituted or added. For seasoning, I like the McCormick Grill Mates line, especially the dry rubs, but really any blend to taste or create would be fine.

Pork can be tricky to judge doneness by sight, so this is a good time to invest in a meat thermometer if you don’t have one. Pork should be between 145°F and 160°F for safe eating.

While the pork is making everyone drool, it’s a good time to think ahead to dessert. Since the oven is occupied for a good few hours, the microwave makes a great choice here.

This recipe is not difficult, but the superfine sugar might baffle some. It’s located in a carton on the baking aisle, right next to the other kinds of sugar, and there really is no substitute. Super fine sugar blends better and more easily, and is all-around superior when baking.

I used an 8” square pan, since I didn’t have a round one, and it worked out nicely. I also didn't use the cherries because, well, I didn’t.

Don’t worry if you have to add an extra minute or two for the cake to firm up, this is one recipe where the variations between microwaves definitely matters.

The cake itself came out beautifully, and was well received. I hope you’ve enjoyed these visits as much as I have, and that you will continue to push your culinary boundaries.

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Today’s Birthday (12/08/11):
Artistic beauty calls you to, whether through a song, a painting or some other form of expression. Give in to the desire to create. Regarding investment ideas, get trusted counsel before signing papers. Go ahead and fantasize. Do the research. To get the advantage, check the day’s rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 7 -- There could be elements to the puzzle that are hidden from view. Because of this, avoid expensive purchases or big decisions today. Those elements will be revealed later.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 9 -- When you’re feeling good, it’s possible to lose perspective of the world around you. Be considerate of others. Spread the love and the good fortune.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) -- Today is a 5 -- A lucky hunch could turn quite profitable. You have the confidence to make your plan work: Put your back into it! Try again at something you failed at before.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) -- Today is a 6 -- Find a trustworthy friend to help you solve any dilemmas. Don’t take it all so seriously. Not everything that glitters is gold. Inject a sense of humor.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Sputter your crazy side for a moment. Complete unfinished business (and impress others in the process). Attention to detail comes in handy. Figure out what you really want.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- The adventure continues, and there’s more work on the way. Don’t be childishly by fantasy. Check your oil and tire pressure, and bring a sack lunch.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Business interferes with fun. Don’t get off! Plan a trip, and research the best tickets. Then focus on productivity to pay for it all.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Respect the people that helped you get where you are, and show some appreciation. Be careful not to lose what you have in order to get more, even if you’re busy.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- As you get lost in the maze today, don’t forget your goal. Don’t be afraid if you don’t know the way. Use your network: Call someone whose view is wider.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 9 -- Don’t worry about the money. Conserve resources anyway. There’s plenty to keep you busy, and more work coming in. Stay focused. It all works out.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is an 8 -- Make sure what you build is solid. Fantasies fade in the sunlight. Romance is a growing possibility. Choose substance over symbolism, and have fun.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Don’t let anyone else’s plan for you get into a household phase. Think about your roots, and where you came from. Choose where you’re going.