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WT-Int. Crude - $26.58
WTIC Posted - $23.25
Natural Gas - $2.945

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

TUESDAY

July 30, 2002
Vol. 54 No. 77
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Cameron Brown

$10,000...

Creek project will receive motel tax funds

Snyder's Deep Creek renovation project got a big boost Monday as the chamber of commerce board of directors voted to give $10,000 in hotel-motel funds to the project.

This, along with $11,965 given by the Board of County Development last year, will greatly aid the project, said Donna Fowler, executive director.

In addition, directors approved a request by Development Corporation of Snyder executive director John DeLille for $1,000 to be used for the U.S. Air Force open house at Winston Field on Aug. 9.

Scott Crenwelge, county parks and coliseum manager, requested $2,000 for brochures needed for highlighting planned improvements at Snyder's parks and recreation facilities. This request also was granted.

Mike Thornton presided in the absence of president Darren Jackson. Others attending were Billy Grimmett, Paula McWilliams, Elois Pruitt, Carl Burleson, Jeffrey Martin and assistant chamber manager Sandra Barboza.



NEW COAT OF PAINT — Ashley Stroud, a junior at Snyder High School, finishes painting the trim on the front of her house during the cool early morning hours today. Forecasts for today call for high temperatures with a slight chance of rain. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

Ira board works on budget

Ira ISD's school trustees met for some 3½ hours Monday night as they began work on the school's 2002-2003 budget.

"This was a very preliminary budget workshop," said business manager Jan Duke.

"We do know that we will have to take some cuts across the board due to the drop in the valuation," said Duke.

Duke said the district is looking at a shortfall of just under $200,000.

"The cuts won't include personnel," said Duke.

The board will meet again Aug. 12, and could have more budget workshops before school starts Aug. 15, added Duke.

West Elementary will be site of two programs

A relocation of two Snyder Independent School District programs for the youngest of its students will occur at the start of this school year, according to Dr. Melissa Jones, assistant superintendent.

The programs moving to West Elementary are the Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD) and the Pre-Kindergarten programs. Previously, the PPCD has been offered at Stanfield and West elementary schools while the Pre-Kindergarten has been offered at Stanfield, Northeast and West elementary sites, Jones said.

The moves are being made to better meet the needs of students through enhanced curricular opportunities, as well as to maximize the use of available certified staff.

The PPCD gives every child with disabilities, including preschool children with disabilities, the right to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).

State and local education agencies are required to provide education in the least restrictive environment to ensure, to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities are educated with children who are not disabled.

These requirements apply to all preschool children with disabilities ages three through five who are entitled to receive FAPE.

The assumption of the law is that consideration for placement of services for each child with disabilities will begin in the general education classroom. The local education agency must ensure that a continuum of alternative placements is available to meet the needs of children with disabilities for special education and related services.

A committee must determine and provide the accommodations, modifications, support and supplementary aids and services needed by each child with a disability to be successfully involved in the general education curriculum.

The program, planned for Snyder ISD during the 2002-2003 school year, will enable the district and the education-service center staff to engage in a program analysis.

The goals for this effort are to increase the number of preschool students served in least-restrictive settings, to assist Snyder ISD in assessing its current preschool practices for disabled children and to improve the quality of service.

The Pre-Kindergarten program is a program that will help students become prepared to learn in the regular education kindergarten classroom. The program will work on preparatory skills and motor skills.

The Pre-K program consists of assessment, diagnosis and prescribed learning path. Each student will be assessed and evaluated as to their readiness to learn, skills needed to learn and any handicapping condition that might hinder learning.

Each student is evaluated relative to mastery on a standards-based skill. Then each student will have a customized learning path to address his or her individual set of emerging skills.

The program will include an English language development program, phonics and phonemic awareness. It includes interactive decodable books and a thematic multi-sensory approach to language. The program's approach combines cutting-edge technology with a direct instructional curriculum.

Thomas Fogleman, principal at West Elementary said, "I think having all of the PPCD and Pre-K programs on one campus will be of great benefit for all students. Teachers will be able to plan a comprehensive program, share materials and direct the student's learning for the time they are in the program."

Would-be suicide bomber arrested

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A would-be suicide bomber with more than a half-ton of explosives packed into his car was just 300 yards from the U.S. Embassy when he was stopped by a chance traffic accident, a top Afghan intelligence official reported today.

Foreign intelligence information indicated the alleged terrorist, who was captured by Afghan authorities on Monday after a car chase through Kabul, was a foreigner and a member of the al-Qaida terror group, said Amonullah Barakzai, deputy director of the Afghan intelligence service.

"He was on a suicide mission," Barakzai said. But he said Afghan authorities were not sure whether his target was the embassy, other foreign installations or the Afghan leadership, including President Hamid Karzai, whose palace offices are about a half-mile from the accident scene.

"Unfortunately for the past 24 hours we have not been able to make him speak," he said.

One unidentified Afghan in the car also was arrested, and another Afghan escaped, said Gen. Din Mohammad Jurat, chief of Interior Ministry police. The investigation's focus has been on the foreigner, suggesting the Afghans were believed to be playing secondary roles.

The Kabul government sent additional troops into the capital's streets late Monday to guard against new attacks.

The alleged car-bombing attempt was the latest development feeding concern about security in Kabul in the wake of the killing of Vice President Abdul Qadir three weeks ago. A Turkish-led international security force patrols Kabul as foreigners train a new Afghan national army, police force and bodyguard contingent to protect the Afghan Cabinet.

A spokeswoman for the international security force, British Maj. Angela Herbert, said today she had no information to offer on the incident, and added, "Nobody can confirm either way who the target was."

A government television report Monday night on the arrest was accompanied by video of the man's Toyota Corolla, whose door panels were exposed to show yellow blocks of what the intelligence service statement said was explosives.

The report also showed a photo of the suspect, a heavily bearded young man in a waistcoat and open shirt. His dress and appearance seemed Afghan or Pakistani, but the government statement read by the station said only that he was a foreigner and the plan was developed abroad.

Rainfall Reports

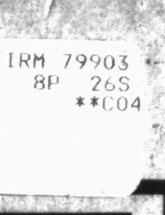
Snyder	.60
North of city	.50
East of city	1.1
West of city	.50
CRMWD office	Trace
Lake Thomas	.70
Hermleigh	Trace
Fluvanna	.80
Polar	1.7
Loyd Mountain	.60
Camp Springs	1.5
Dunn	.10
Ira	.40
Dermott	1.35
Union	.40
Gail	Trace
Gins	
Farmers Co-Op	1.00
Inadale	.20

Totals as reported by area residents for Monday.

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN

by Bobby Allen



If you have children, you'll understand exactly what I'm about to say.

If you don't, you may want to stop reading this column right now.

It used to drive me absolutely batty to hear my friends with children talk about their baby's bodily functions and first steps and new words. I could never understand the fascination with eating with a fork or learning how to use the toilet. I've done all of those things since I can remember, and no one ever celebrated my ability to use my opposable thumbs.

Now I'm the one boring everyone with tales of my double dose of delight and disaster, known in my house as Trevor and Trent.

See, what I failed to understand then was that children become the most dominant part of most parents' lives. Every coo, smile and "poo-poo" takes on monumental importance, so that when they occur, we mamas and dadas are hard-wired to repeat the feats to anyone within earshot.

I've taken to telling diaper stories while waiting in long lines at the grocery store. Once I begin, people suddenly remember that new flavor of ramen noodles they just must have.

I have been blessed with twin boys, and everyone who doesn't have kids always says, "How fun!"

Those who have kids usually say, "Oh my God!"

A 21-month-old boy can devour a box of cookies, pull all the hair from a dog and destroy a living room within 15 nanoseconds. Two of them cut that time to the point where I'm afraid to leave the room without putting mittens and a leash on them. I usually come home from work to the sight of Trent shaking a knick-knack shelf to hear the glass objects as they bounce around and my wife attempting to corral Trevor as he runs across our kitchen table. I've heard "no" more times in the last 21 months than a one-armed hunchback in a singles' bar.

Another annoying thing parents do is use months instead of years when asked the age of our kids. I've gotten so used to the concept that I recently listed my age on an application as 376.

Trent and Trevor can't talk yet, but still communicate with each other and us through a series of clicks, yells and banshee-like squeals. If you've ever been in a zoo's monkey house when the females are in heat and the males have leaf-blowers, you get the idea of what my house sounds like from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. I don't hear the television anymore; I read the lips of the actors.

While it may sound like chaos reigns, we have actually come up with a system that moves things along quite nicely in the evening. After my wife and I scrape dinner off the walls, we turn the boys loose in the backyard with a hose and the sandbox.

After making puddles of mud and frightening the dogs, it's bath-time, story-time and then bedtime, whereupon my wife and I collapse into gelatinous heaps of fatigue.

So, for those of you without kids, you can now continue reading today's paper.

For those blessed with them — ain't it great?

ASK US

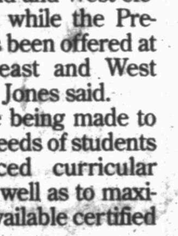
Q—I heard that Mickey Mantle's younger brother is now coaching at Klondike. Is that right?

A—Larry Mantle, younger brother of the baseball legend took Randy Jones' place at Klondike. Jones is now at Ira.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Monday, 84 degrees; low, 64; 7 a.m. Tuesday, 64; .60 of an inch precipitation; total for 2002, 14.31 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy; 20% rain chance; low lower 70s. Wednesday, partly cloudy; high mid 90s. Wednesday night, partly cloudy, low lower 70s.



Michelle Flores
Partly Cloudy

Sunset:
8:41 p.m.
Sunrise:
7 a.m.

Of 210 days in 2002, the sun has shone 203 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

All men having power ought to be distrusted to a certain degree.

—James Madison

JUL 30 2002

Pilot whales return to Cape Code and get stranded again

EASTHAM, Mass. (AP) — About 40 pilot whales became stranded on a Cape Cod beach today, just one day after volunteers pushed them back out to sea from another beach. The development is "pretty bad news" and may be a sign the whales are dying, an expert said.

The small black whales, which had been tagged on Monday before being freed from Chapin Beach in Dennis, were found stuck in shallow water this morning about 25 miles to the east.

About 20 people were at the remote beach in Eastham trying to keep the whales wet until they could be returned to deeper water again, said Chris Bailey, of the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

It was not immediately known why the whales became stranded. Bailey said blood samples may be taken to determine if they were ill, in which case the whales might need to be euthanized.

"This is pretty bad news for them considering they've refloated once," said Kristin Patchett, of the Cape Cod Stranding Network. "The fact that they've stranded again probably means they're in pretty bad shape. It's not a very good day, unfortunately."

Patchett said the pilot whales go into shock when they strand, and if that can't be reversed they will wind up stranding again or dying at sea.

Mass strandings of pilot whales are not unusual since they are highly sociable animals that travel and feed in groups and frequent areas near the coastline.

On Monday, hundreds of people worked feverishly to free 55 whales that were stranded in shallow water at Dennis.

One whale was already dead when rescuers arrived, and another was euthanized after going into shock, said Sallie Riggs, director of the stranding network. Seven others died in the hot sun.

The rising midday tide helped the volunteers push the remaining 46 whales into deeper water.

Another whale died Monday night on a beach in the Cape town of Sandwich, about 15 miles from Dennis.

Interest soars in volunteer program

DALLAS (AP) — Everytime she hears of a child-abuse case — a girl locked in a closet for months, two girls killed by their father following a messy divorce — Mary Jo Crow cringes.

Finally, she was moved to join a group — "Court Appointed Special Advocates" — that provides a voice for children whose parents have been accused of abuse or neglect.

Others with similar reactions after at least 31 children died last year from abuse, neglect or violence in Dallas County also learned about CASA and signed up.

"I was just appalled by the abuse and neglect in the system, that people may be overlooking their responsibilities," Crow said. "If I can be a link in where they are now and where their future is going to take them, I want to do my part."

Being a CASA volunteer means finding the best place for a child to live. Because CASA is independent, parents sometimes open up to a volunteer before they would to a CPS caseworker or a prosecutor.

The volunteers provide children with consistency by visiting homes and attending events such as sporting activities and graduations. They are friends of the children and the court, volunteers say.

The number of CASA volunteers who are receiving their first cases this month is triple the usual number for those undergoing the 30-hour training session, The Dallas Morning News reported in its Tuesday editions.

Typically, 12 people join each class. This time, 37 were sworn in by state District Judge Cheryl Lee Shannon to represent children in court.

"People say, 'I've heard about all these horrible cases,'" said Stephanie Beck, who reviews prospective volunteers. "What they say is, they didn't realize they could help. They just feel helpless when they hear about abused children."

Officials say there are about 3,200 children in the court system in Dallas County because they were living in unsafe homes. Their parents or guardians have been accused of abuse or neglect, and Child Protective Services has removed the children from the homes.

Interest has also picked up in the national CASA organization; inquiries have jumped 20 percent in the past six months. That follows an increase in the months after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

"After all the awful cases we've had, something good is coming from it," Beverly Levy, executive director of Dallas CASA, told the Morning News. "Other children will be helped because these people heard of the ones who weren't."

CASA has about 175 volunteers, who typically have one case each. Those who have been there longer have more cases, but each case can be time-consuming.

Although Shannon said she would like a CASA volunteer on every case, there are only enough volunteers to work with about one-fourth of the cases.

"CASA is another voice," Shannon said. "They bring us more information, another perspective. With more information, I make better decisions."

Of all the voices in a courtroom, sometimes the child's is the hardest to hear, CASA volunteers say.

"We focus on the child," Levy said. "We're all there for the best interest of the child, but we have different roles to play."

Ron Jarvis, a retired Exxon-Mobil executive who received his first case last week, said that he planned to volunteer after retirement and that the increased awareness about abused children had reinforced his commitment.

"I hate to use the trite phrase of 'making a difference,' but that's what I wanted," said Jarvis, who lives in Plano. "I just went out on my first case. I'm excited to actually be starting, apprehensive that I'll be able to help these kids and say the right thing, but I know that I can."

Unlike CPS caseworkers and attorneys, a CASA volunteer follows a case until a child leaves the system — through adoption, returning to the parents or at adulthood.

Volunteers are trained in areas such as advocacy skills, communication, cultural awareness, child abuse and not becoming too attached to the children. They are not foster parents, volunteers say they are told.

CASA also offers orientation sessions to acquaint volunteers with the program before committing to training.

Crow, who works for HBO, said she volunteered because minority children in abusive situations don't often see positive role models from their own race.

Union leader demands better training to avoid 'friendly fire'

HOUSTON (AP) — The president of the Harris County Deputies Association is demanding better training in the wake of the second "friendly fire" shooting of a deputy in as many months.

Homicide Detective Craig Thomas, 40, was working as a security guard at an apartment complex in northeast Harris County when he was shot shortly after midnight Sunday by another deputy, who was also working security there.

Thomas, an 18-year veteran of the department, was in good condition Monday afternoon in an intensive care unit at Memorial Hermann Hospital. On June 12, Deputy Shane Bennett was killed by friendly fire in a shootout with two armed suspects during a home invasion.

Although sheriff's department officials have said Bennett and two other deputies in that incident followed proper procedures, police work can be made safer for Harris County deputies if they are trained better, said Ed Christensen, president of the deputies' union.

"We need to throw as much emphasis on training as possible to avoid friendly fire situations," Christensen told the Houston Chronicle. "Tactics need to be improved to prepare these officers for the situations they will see on the streets." In the latest incident, Thomas and two fellow deputies working security at the Oaks of Woodforest Apartments confronted two men about 12:30 a.m. in a car tht had been reported stolen.

The three deputies were not in full uniform but were wearing jackets and other gear that clearly identified them as officers, said Lt. Robert Van Pelt, spokesman for the department.

Thomas said when he ordered the car's driver to step out, Van Pelt said, the car accelerated toward him. He said the other deputies opened fire as the car hit him. Thomas said one of the shots hit him in the upper leg just as the car rammed him,

Thomas was flown from the scene by a Life Flight helicopter. The department has not released the names of the other two deputies.

The car's driver and passenger were arrested.

In the shooting that killed Bennett, three deputies entered a darkened home in northeast Harris County. The residents there had called 911, saying at least one armed man was inside threatening them.

Gunfire erupted, and Bennett was shot in the leg. He shot two suspects. As Bennett was standing, another deputy, who was behind him, mistakenly shot Bennett in the back of the head.

Deputies are trained to avoid friendly fire incidents, said Sgt. Joy Nelson, basic training coordinator at the department's academy. Among the 878 hours of basic training are scenarios in which deputies are placed in possible friendly fire situations.

events

Texas Lottery

RESULTS

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Monday by the Texas Lottery:

3-6-12-15-31

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:

4-8-6

Date Book

Tuesday, July 30, 2002

Today is the 211th day of 2002 and the 40th day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1942, President Roosevelt signed an act establishing the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). More than 80,000 women served in the WAVES during World War II.

On this day in 1965, Medicare became the first health insurance plan enacted by Congress. It was enacted as part of the federal Social Security system to help pay the cost of medical care for people age 65 and over.

On this day in 1975, labor leader Jimmy Hoffa disappeared. He was last seen outside a restaurant near Detroit, Mich.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Emily Bronte (1818-1848), writer; Thorstein Veblen (1857-1929), economist; Henry Ford (1863-1947), auto manufacturer; Casey Stengel (1890-1975), baseball manager; Paul Anka (1941-), singer and songwriter, is 61; Arnold Schwarzenegger (1947-), actor, is 55; Chris Mullin (1963-), basketball player, is 39.

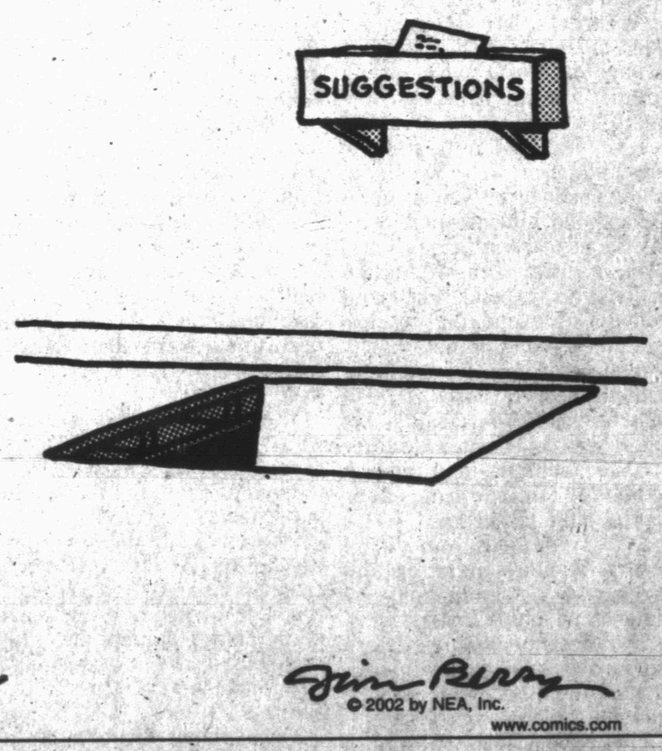
TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1908, George Schuster came in first in the first automobile race around the world.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Chop your own wood, and it will warm you twice." — Henry Ford

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (July 24) and last quarter (Aug. 1).

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Berry's World



Money is raised

KELOWNA, British Columbia (AP) — A jersey and cap autographed by Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong is helping to raise money for a local hospital's radiology lab.

Armstrong won his fourth straight Tour de France title Sunday.

The clothing was donated by Jodi Merckx, who lives in Monaco and is married to Belgian cyclist Axel Merckx, who rode on the tour. Her father-in-law, Eddy Merckx, won the tour five times.

Her mother has cancer and she wanted to help raise money for the hospital in this Okanagan region city, so she asked Armstrong, a cancer survivor, for the autographs.

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Continuing Education Division
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Dale Huff, Minister

37th Street
Church of Christ
2500 37th Street
Snyder, Texas 79549

Can People Change?

For some people it would be a silly question. Of course people can change. Others are not so sure. They have tried to change and have found it difficult. Choosing a different path in life or developing different character traits seems almost impossible. The Bible would find truth in both convictions. Yes, we can change. Yes, it is extremely difficult.

There are several things working to bring about change in the life of those who follow Christ. II Peter 1: 4 teaches us that God has given us great and precious promises. Through believing these promises we can change. We can live more like God and escape the life that we lead if we simply follow our desires. What promises has God made? He has promised he loves us, John 3:16. He has promised eternal life to those who believe and obey Jesus, John 14:6-15: 16. He has promised eternal punishment to those who refuse the offer of life and refuse to change, Romans2: 8. God has promised forgiveness and the Holy Spirit to those who repent(decide to change) and are baptized into Jesus. God has given us the motivation and the means to change the way we live.

How do we change? The Bible is clear that change is a process in the life of a Christian. This change is called the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5: 22, 23. It is something that God produces in us. At the same time it is also something we pursue. Paul describes almost exactly that same qualities in Colossians 3 and teaches that we must pursue these qualities in our life as well. If we do, we always will grow. We will change, II Peter 1:5-11. The good news is that we can change to be more like God. It doesn't happen overnight, but it does happen! We can change.

Dale Huff

"For the Young at Heart"
Get Lost!
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Add years to pet's life and life to his years

We've heard it all before, whether it's for ourselves or our pets: Eat right and exercise. Now, a new study reveals it's more important than ever to make sure our pets are in ideal body condition-it could literally add years to their lives.

In the first-ever lifelong canine diet restriction study, Purina researchers have proven a dog's median life span can be extended by 15 percent by feeding to ideal body condition through diet restriction. According to findings of the 14-year study, published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, dogs that consumed 25 percent fewer calories than their littermates maintained a lean or ideal body condition, resulting in a longer life.

However, while the study reveals the crucial role ideal body condition plays in health and longevity, obesity remains the number one nutritional problem among dogs with at least 25 percent of dogs in the U.S. estimated as being overweight. As with humans, obesity is a serious concern that can lead to or exacerbate certain health conditions. Maintaining an ideal body condition reduces the likelihood your dog will develop weight-related conditions that can be painful and even life-threatening.

"Many pet owners don't realize the effects just a few extra pounds can have on their pet's health," says Aine McCarthy, veterinarian and executive director of the Purina Pet Institute. "For instance, five extra pounds on a 20-pound dog is like a person weighing 200 pounds when they should weigh 160 pounds. Unfortunately, many pet owners don't know what a healthy weight looks like or how to maintain it."

Ideal body condition

Body condition refers to the evaluation of body physique as an indicator of a pet's overall health and well-being, generally falling into three categories: underfed, ideal and overfed.

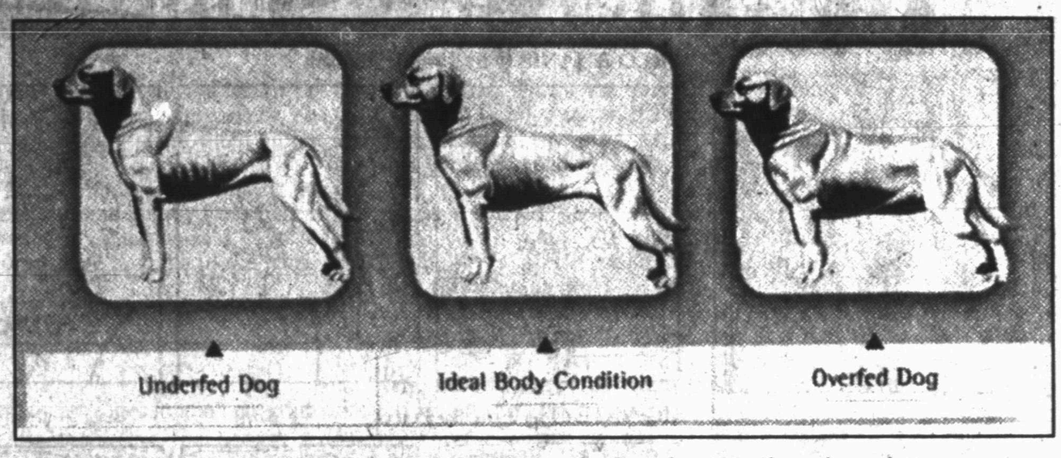
- Underfed: The ribs are highly visible.
- Ideal: Able to feel and see the outline of the dog's ribs. The dog has a waist when viewed from above and the belly appears tucked up when viewed from the side.
- Overfed: Dog has no waist when viewed from above, and the belly is rounded when viewed from the side.

A lean or ideal body condition supports joints and helps maintain healthy blood sugar levels, blood pressure and heart rate, improving your dog's overall well-being throughout his life.

Additional guidelines for pet care

Monthly rib check. Perform the following hands-on and visual evaluation once a month to determine your pet's condition:

- Ribs: Place both thumbs on your dog's backbone. Run your fingers along the rib cage. If you can't easily feel the bony part of each rib, the dog may need to lose weight.
- Overhead: Stand directly over your dog as he's standing and look down. You should see a clearly defined waist behind the ribs. If he doesn't have an "hour glass" figure, he may be carrying a few extra pounds.
- Profile: Check your dog's profile. If you don't see a clearly defined abdomen tucked up behind his rib cage, he is probably overweight.



Start young. Owners should evaluate their puppy's body condition from the start to positively affect their dog's health long-term. Though puppies require more calories than the average adult dog, if their portions aren't controlled, such a high-calorie diet can lead to excess weight early in life that may lead to obesity.

Limit treats and table scraps. Reduce calorie-laden treats in your dog's diet; instead use your time and attention as rewards. If you prefer to continue providing food as a reward, stick to commercially prepared treats and factor them into your pet's total caloric allowance. Refrain from giving your dog any table scraps.

Measure it. Many people simply overfeed their dogs at meal time without realizing it. Always measure how much food you give your dog. The instructions on dog food packages offer a good starting point.

Exercise. The best weight loss results are achieved when better eating habits are combined with moderate exercise. Taking walks a few times a week or regularly playing a game of fetch are great ways to be active with your dog. Check with your veterinarian to determine the type and duration of exercise that is appropriate.

For more information on the Purina Life Span study findings, visit the Purina Pet Institute Web site at www.purina.com.

Pet owners should understand what an ideal body condition looks like, and make sure their dog maintains it through the proper diet and exercise.

Recipes using foil

BAKED SPAGHETTI

Prep Time: 25 min. Cook time: 45 min. Makes: 6 servings

1 package (8 oz.) spaghetti, cooked and drained
2 tablespoons butter or margarine
1 cup grated Parmesan cheese, divided
1 container (24-oz.) ricotta cheese or cottage cheese
1 pound ground beef
1 jar (about 28 oz.) chunky garden-style pasta sauce
1 package (8 oz.) shredded Mozzarella cheese

PREHEAT oven to 400 F. Line a 13x9x2-inch-baking pan with Reynolds Wrap Release Non-Stick Foil with non-stick side toward food.

COMBINE hot cooked spaghetti with butter; stir until butter melts and coats spaghetti. Add ½ cup Parmesan cheese; stir to coat. Arrange spaghetti in an even layer in foil-lined pan. Spread ricotta cheese over spaghetti. Sprinkle with ¼ cup Parmesan cheese. Brown ground beef, drain; add pasta sauce and heat until bubbly. Spoon over cheeses. Top with Mozzarella cheese and remaining Parmesan cheese.

COVER with non-stick foil. Bake 30 minutes. Remove foil cover and continue baking 15 minutes or until cheese is lightly browned. Let stand 15 minutes before serving.

Nutrition per serving: 763 calories, 45 grams fat, (53 percent calories from fat), 156 milligrams cholesterol, 1093 milligrams sodium, 44 grams carbohydrate, 4 grams fiber, 46 grams protein.

ROASTED POTATOES

Prep time: 10 min. Cook Time: 40 min. Makes: 6 servings

2 tablespoons olive oil
2 teaspoons seasoned salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
6 large red potatoes (about 2 lbs.) each cut in 8 wedges

PREHEAT oven to 450F. Line a shallow baking pan with Reynolds Wrap Release Non-Stick Foil with non-stick side toward food. Combine olive oil, seasoned salt and pepper in a large bowl. Add potatoes; toss to coat. Spread potatoes in a single layer in foil-lined pan.

BAKE 40 to 45 minutes or until potatoes are browned and crisp.

SOUTHWESTERN ROASTED POTATOES

Substitute the following for the seasoned salt and pepper: 1 ½ teaspoons chili powder, ½ teaspoon ground cumin and ½ teaspoon salt.

Nutrition per serving: 205 calories, 5 grams fat, (5 percent calories from fat), 0 milligrams cholesterol, 219 milligrams sodium, 38 grams

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 07-30-02
♠ A 9 8 7 5
♥ 8 5 2
♦ A 3
♣ J 7 2

West
♠ J 2
♥ 10 7 6
♦ Q J 10 7 4
♣ K 10 5

East
♠ —
♥ A K Q J
♦ 9 8 6 5
♣ 9 8 6 4 3

South
♠ K Q 10 6 4 3
♥ 9 4 3
♦ K 2
♣ A Q

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♦ Q

Tuesday, July 30, 2002

Giving both sides a chance for sagacity

By Phillip Alder

Oscar Wilde wrote many sapient pieces, but this is highly debatable: "The man who sees both sides of a question is a man who sees absolutely nothing at all."

Most instructive bridge deals contain a single facet, but occasionally one comes along that gives both sides a chance to glitter.

South is in four spades, and West leads the diamond queen. If you were the declarer, what would you do at trick two?

North makes a limit raise, showing four or more trumps and 10-12 support points (counting high-card points and shortage points — here, one for the doubleton diamond).

You have nine tricks: six spades, two diamonds and one club. Your plan should be to take the club finesse. If it wins, no problem. But if it loses, perhaps West won't find the killing heart shift. However, if you start with a round of trumps, East can make the position clear to partner by discarding the heart ace. (True, discarding the club three should work as well, but the heart ace is much more dramatic. That card won't be overlooked by partner.)

You can do better, though. You should win trick one in the dummy and immediately take the club finesse. If it wins, you draw trumps and claim. And here, when it loses, West hasn't seen his partner's eye-opening discard. Perhaps West will plod on in diamonds. Then dummy's club jack will be your 10th trick. But if West is on the ball, he will have noticed his partner's discouraging diamond five at trick one and will find the heart shift by a process of elimination.

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Community Calendar

TUESDAY

Weight Watchers meeting; Colonial Hill Baptist Church; for more information call Kathy at 573-1289 during the evening; weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m.

ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 7 p.m.

Beginners' AA open meeting; Snyder Park Club, 1212 37th Street; 573-8268, 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for more information call 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

TOPS TX56 (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Trinity United Methodist Church. For more information call Phillis Leatherwood at 573-6105.

WEDNESDAY

NA Just For Today, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-1438; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; horseshoe courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762.

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; at the coliseum annex; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information call 573-8268, 573-4048 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

Free blood pressure clinics; Senior Citizens Center; 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Blood pressures will be taken at Cogdell Hospital Home Health Services, 1800 Cogdell Blvd., Suite B; 1-2 p.m.

ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 1:30 p.m.

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment, call 573-0538 or 573-0770.

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club at Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 573-3733, 573-2101 or 5731141; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

NA-Just For Today open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-1438; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 10 a.m.

Carrey to play reporter

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Actor Jim Carrey will play a disconsolate TV reporter in the upcoming comedy, "Bruce Almighty," which will be shot on location in Buffalo and Niagara Falls in September.

Carrey's character, Bruce, exasperates God with his constant grousing to the point where he's given the chance to run the universe for a day.

Director Tom Shadyac, who also directed Carrey, 40, in "Liar Liar" and "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective," said the actor watched Buffalo TV stations while growing up across the border in Canada and learned everything he needed to know for his role from local news broadcasts.

If the recipe calls for whipped egg white, you'll get more volume if the whites are at room temperature.

It's a dog story, not a fish story

SEA GIRT, N.J. (AP) — It's no fish story — one angler really caught a pit bull.

Twenty-one-year-old Keith Blauvelt and his family had been fishing off the coast and were about to head home when he saw something in the water.

"I thought it was a piece of wood and then I realized it was moving," Blauvelt told the Asbury Park Press of Neptune. "I said, 'I think I see a dog,' and my dad looked at me like I was crazy. But my brother said, 'It is a dog.'"

The animal, an 11-year-old American pit bull terrier named Rok-C, apparently fell off another boat while its owner was scuba diving with friends. Authorities estimate that the 40-pound dog was in the water for at least 25 minutes before Blauvelt saw it.

Rok-C was heading east at the time, but she then began paddling toward Blauvelt's boat. He reached into the water, scooped up the panting pet, toweled her off and brought her back to shore.

The family alerted the Coast Guard about their discovery about the same time Lorraine Rooker noticed her dog was missing.

"It was like terror," Rooker said. "I was looking in places where she couldn't even be, because I was just hoping that I'd find her somewhere."

Rooker said the Coast Guard informed her after a few minutes that the dog had been found, and she was reunited with Rok-C.

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JUL 30 2002

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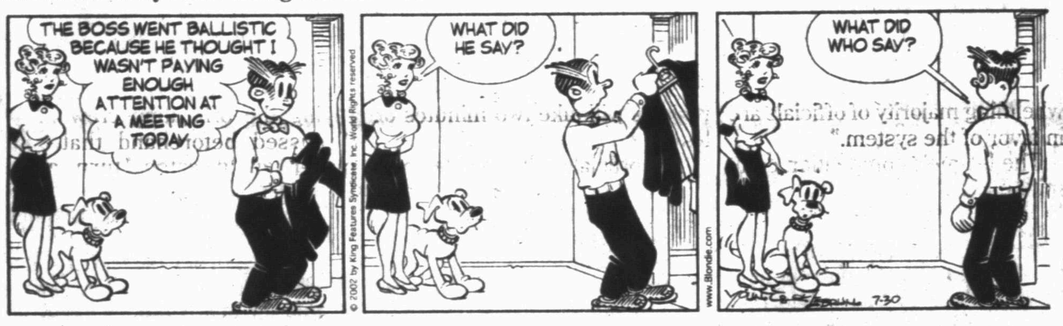
SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



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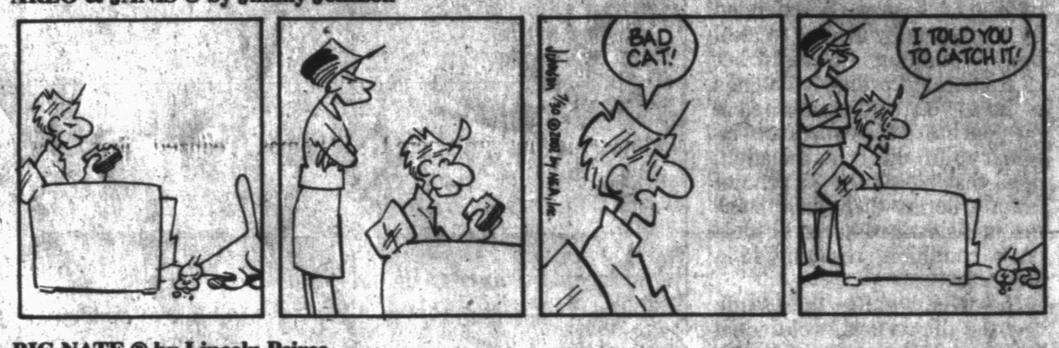
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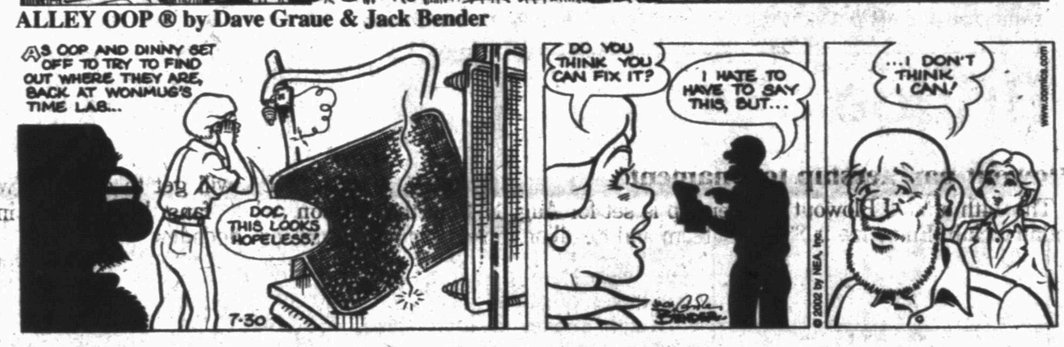
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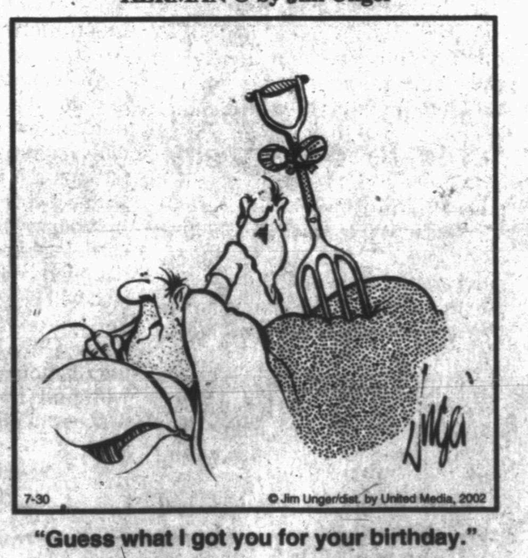
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HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"Guess what I got you for your birthday."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Snow boot
4 Intelligent
8 One of ten
11 Nabokov novel
12 She, on the Riviera
13 Loafing
15 Actor Max — Sydow
16 Shoe brand
17 Try out
18 Type of question
20 Stone worker
21 Ebenezer's outburst
23 Crony
24 Sector
27 Helm position
29 2001 in old Rome
32 — out (scraped by)
33 Extinct bird
34 — Marie Saint
35 Tenn. neighbor
36 Skillet
37 Sports channel
38 Circuit
39 Waiter's offering
40 Highland girl
41 Plenty of fresh —
42 Senorita's aunt
44 Search
47 Junk food, maybe
51 Halts
52 Cheer
55 Succeeded
56 Enjoy a feast
57 — vera lotion
58 Before, to Keats
59 Make lace like granny
60 Classroom sound
61 Viewed

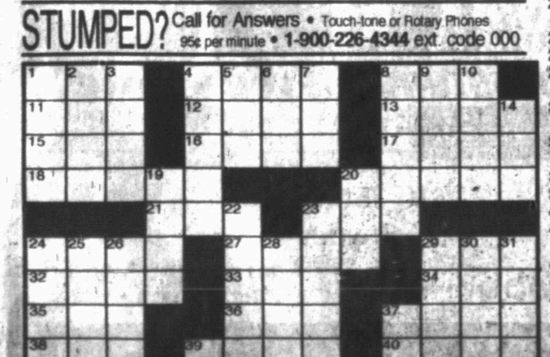
DOWN

1 Use asphalt
2 Turmoils
3 Preserves
4 African country
5 Yale alumnus
6 Large deer
7 Born as
8 Type of pool
9 Some poems
10 Tar's saint
14 Immeasurable time
19 Not up yet
20 West of Hollywood
22 Impede
23 Kind of gallery
24 Fervor
25 N. Mex. neighbor
26 Half-moon tide
28 Temporary gift
29 Oater backdrop
30 Sports honorees
31 McKellen and Holm
37 Panache
39 Cal Tech rival
41 Investment
43 Small land mass
44 Theorem finale
45 Squadron
46 Author — Ferber
48 Bowls over
49 Mr. Dithers' wife
50 Felt certain
52 Kennel sound
53 Windy City trains
54 Part of LAX

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"I CAN SEE A LOT OF COMMUNITY SERVICE IN THAT BOY'S FUTURE."

SPORTS

Following last season's injury...

Dallas fullback eager to play

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — That hearty laugh of Robert Thomas can be heard again at the Dallas Cowboys training camp. The stocky fullback is recovered and renewed.

While Thomas never felt more miserable than he did last season when he missed the final 11 games after left ankle surgery, he got something positive out of the experience.

"I just thank God because he blessed me to get my fire where I needed it," Thomas said. "I have more desire now than I did when I was a rookie. That's the one thing positive I pulled out of that injury. It refocused my mind and put it back where I needed to have it."

Thomas realized just how much he loved the game when he was unable to play it. He couldn't wait to get back on the field.

Then the Cowboys, who finished last season without a true fullback, only provided more motivation when they got Ohio State's Jamar Martin in April's draft.

Dallas considered Martin the best blocking fullback available and got him in the fourth round. The plan was to add depth at fullback, and also to let Martin compete to be the primary lead blocker for Emmitt Smith, who is just 540 yards shy of becoming the NFL's career rushing leader.

That changed Monday when Martin tore left knee ligaments during a live tackling drill in the first of two practices. He will have surgery soon and is out for the season.

"He was going to push me and I welcomed the challenge. That young man was good and he was getting better every day," Thomas said after Monday's second practice. "My new fire was not so much because of him, but because I sat out so long last year."

Thomas went on to express his concerns for Martin, remembering all too vividly what he just went through last season.

The drafting of Martin wasn't an indication that the Cowboys had lost confidence in Thomas. They just didn't want to get in the same situation as last year when they didn't have a true fullback after Thomas got hurt.

"Robert is a tough guy, he likes to play the game and he's good for our team," coach Dave Campo said. "He's kind of a locker-room guy and keeps things loose when things are going tough. I like that part of him."

The 6-foot-1, 273-pound Thomas wasn't drafted out of Division II Henderson State in Arkansas, and played in Canada before signing with the Cowboys as a free agent linebacker in 1998.

After a season primarily playing special teams, Thomas made the switch to fullback in 1999 because of a glut at linebackers and the likelihood he wouldn't make the team at that position.

A year later, he had replaced Daryl "Moose" Johnston, who was forced to retire because of a neck injury. And now the former linebacker is now ready to be part of Smith's historic pursuit.

"I'm blessed. Emmitt and Daryl, they baked the cake. I'm just thanking God that he's putting me in position to help put the icing on it," Thomas said.

"My ideal play for the record would be me on a linebacker and Emmitt running off my hip. He's scampering and I'm smiling."

And probably letting out a hearty laugh.

Sports Briefs

Snyder football program

Anyone wishing to place an ad in the Snyder Tiger football program should contact Christy Smith at 573-6301.

Ad prices are $75 for 1/2 page, $60 for 1/4 page and $40 for 1/8 page. Proceeds benefit the student council.

Football booster club

Snyder Tiger Football Club meets at 6 p.m. next Tuesday at the SHS athletic film room. The public is encouraged to attend.

Hermleigh physicals

Incoming sixth, ninth and 11th grade Hermleigh football players need to receive a physical before workouts begin Monday. Forms must be picked up in the school office and appointments can be made with the following doctors: Raykov, Burleson, Cooper, Thompson, Wolboldt and NP Beth Ashley.

Volleyball camp

Snyder Volleyball Camp for junior high and high school players begins Wednesday and runs through Friday. Lean Ann Roberts, head coach at Veribest High School, will serve as director.

Junior high players will workout from 2-4 p.m., while freshmen practice from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sophomores, juniors and seniors will go through drills from 8-10 a.m. and again from 5-7 p.m.

Cost is $20 for junior high and freshman athletes and $30 for upperclassmen. To register, call Coach Roberts at (915) 486-2660 or SHS coach Laura Moses at 573-8531.

Softball tournament

The USSSA Men's Class E State Softball Tournament is set for Aug. 9-11 at Winston Field. Cost is $175 per team and deadline to enter is Aug. 8.

To enter, call Chris Maxfield at 573-6862 (day) or 573-4332 (evening).

Blowout partnership tournament

The 14th annual Blowout Partnership is set for Aug. 17-18 at the country club. Entry fee is $300 per team and deadline to register is Aug. 10.

Format is scramble the first day and lowball for the final round. Teams will be pre-flighted by certified combined handicaps. Each flight will receive cash prizes.

Junior golf tournament

The Western Texas College Junior Golf Championship is scheduled for Aug. 9. Entry fee is $10 for players 11-under and $15 for ages 12-up. For more information, call the pro shop at 573-9291.

Cargile golf tournament

The Kiwanis Cargile Scholarship Foundation benefit Golf Tournament is set for Aug. 10 at Western Texas College. Format is four-person scramble and cost is $30 per player.

Cash prizes will go to the top four teams. Contests for closest-to-the-hole, longest drive and hole-in-one will be held. To register, call the pro shop at 573-9291.

SISD athletic physicals

Physicals are required for students wishing to participate in SISD athletics. Those needing physicals are all incoming seventh and ninth grade athletes, students new to SISD athletics, athletes in their third year of high school, and all students who answered "yes" to questions 1, 4, 5, 6 or 7 on their medical history form.

The school district pays for physicals through Friday with the following doctors: Raykov, Burleson, Cooper, Thompson, Wolboldt and NP Beth Ashley. Incoming seventh and ninth graders can pick up physical forms in the doctors' offices.

Friday swingers

The SCGA Women's Golf Association holds a weekly swingers event at 5:30 each Friday. It is open to all members and prospective members. Cost is $10 per couple and the format is scramble.

Cash prizes go to the top three finishers as well as closest to the hole. For more information, call Barbara Leatherwood at 725-7875.

Sunday couples tournament

A couples golf tournament will be held the first Sunday of the month at 1:30 at the country club golf course.

Iverson cleared of charges

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — NBA All-Star Allen Iverson was cleared of all but a misdemeanor at a hearing into charges he stormed into his cousin's apartment with a gun and threatened two men while looking for his wife.

Two counts of making terroristic threats were left standing after the six-hour preliminary hearing to determine whether prosecutors had enough evidence to try Iverson.

The ruling followed testimony from Iverson's two accusers and his cousin Shaun Bowman.

Rolen traded to Cardinals

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Slugging third baseman Scott Rolen was traded to the St. Louis Cardinals, ending his unhappy tenure with the Philadelphia Phillies.

The Phillies get third baseman Placido Polanco, pitcher Bud Smith and reliever Mike Timlin for the three-time Gold Glove winner and minor-league pitcher Doug Nickle and cash.

Faulk gets new deal with Rams

MACOMB, Ill. (AP) — Marshall Faulk signed a seven-year contract with the St. Louis Rams, a deal that will enable the running back to finish his career with the team.

Woods, Nicklaus take down Garcia, Trevino

PALM DESERT, Calif. (AP) — They should have called this the Battle of Birdies.

Tiger Woods poured in birdie putts on his first three holes before he could even get warmed up in 107-degree heat.

By the time the Battle at Bighorn ended under the lights Monday, Woods made nine birdies in 16 holes and carried Jack Nicklaus to a 3 and 2 victory over Sergio Garcia and Lee Trevino in a best-ball match between two generation of stars.

One of them shone the brightest.

"I had a great partner," Nicklaus said.

The Golden Bear was hardly a hack, even though he had to bend over and grab his calves to keep his ailing back from tightening. Nicklaus mustered enough strength to a hit a signature shot — a 7-iron that knocked down the flag for a tap-in birdie at No. 9.

"Jack loves to knock it stiff when he's got all the people watching," Trevino said.

A national TV audience watching in prime time saw Woods at his best, a far cry from the 81 he had in the third round of the British Open that ended hopes of a Grand Slam.

The two 62-year-old partners watched a different game.

That was evident early.

Trevino stopped talking just long enough to send his driver down the middle of the fourth fairway, a good 10 yards ahead of Nicklaus.

One problem.

Garcia was 40 yards past him. Woods was another 23 yards beyond Garcia.

"How come your balls get all the roll?" Trevino cracked.

The only consolation for Trevino came late in the match when he went with his driver off the tee, while Woods selected a 2-iron.

"I told Tiger he could not hit that 2-iron past my driver," Trevino said. "And I got him, too — by 6 yards."

More evidence came on the 202-yard eighth hole.

Nicklaus hit first, rifling a 2-iron that landed 12 feet past the hole. Woods followed with a 5-iron that hopped and rolled within 10 inches of the cup. He caught Nicklaus staring at his club selection with amazement.

"I took a little off it," Woods shrugged.

Nicklaus did contribute two birdies — on both of them, Woods had putts of 8 and 10 feet that, if he had made them, would have made his round that much more spectacular.

Woods got off to a blazing start by hitting his approach to 6 feet for birdie on the first hole, then making a 15-footer for birdie on No. 2.

"If he keeps doing that, there's no sense putting the lights up," Trevino said to Garcia.

NBA approves replay for last-second shots

NEW YORK (AP) — Referees in the NBA will get to do next season what fans have been doing for decades — watch replay after replay of last-second shots.

The officials, though, will finally be able to do something about it.

The league on Monday approved instant replay for this season, starting with exhibition games this fall. The decision comes just months after some disputed calls in the closing moments of playoff games.

Replay will be used primarily to determine whether last-second shots beat the buzzer.

"The officials themselves are very much in favor of an instant-replay system," said Stu Jackson, the NBA's vice president for basketball operations. "The overwhelming majority of officials are in favor of the system."

The league's competition committee recommended the move to the Board of Governors last week, and the board approved the measure by an "overwhelming majority" Monday. At least three-quarters, or 22 of 29 members, needed to vote in favor for the rule to pass.

"I don't think there's any one event that drove this decision," Jackson said. "There have been a number of instances where, quite frankly, for any human being it would have been impossible to determine whether the shot got off in time."

For any reviewable call to be overturned, officials will need to have "clear and conclusive" evidence. The league said the reviews will take two minutes or less.

The officials will use video provided by the game's telecast. Jackson acknowledged the possibility of inconsistencies if a game is not televised.

"We're mulling that over as we speak," he said. "Maybe we can't review during those games. What we could do is use the in-arena feed."

The replay rule will be "reviewed on an ongoing basis," Jackson said, with the first meeting most likely to take place at the All-Star game in February.

A replay will be triggered whenever a last-second shot falls, but coaches will not be able to prompt them.

Officials can also determine if a player was fouled before time expired — but not whether the foul call was correct — and if a 24-second shot clock or eight-second backcourt violation occurred before a shot.

In an April playoff game between the Hornets and Orlando Magic, Charlotte's Baron Davis banked in a shot that clearly beat the buzzer after the Hornets inbounded with 0.7 seconds left and the score tied.

Referee Bernie Fryer waved the shot off while it was in the air, saying the officiating crew had discussed beforehand that no player could catch, turn and shoot in that amount of time.

The Hornets went on to beat the Magic in overtime, but the episode showed that the league needed to address its policies regarding last-second shots.

In the Nets-Pacers series, Indiana's Miller forced overtime in Game 5 with a shot that left his hand after the clock reached zeros.

And in Game 4 of the Kings-Lakers series, a 30-footer by Los Angeles' Walker to end the first half was allowed even though it left his hand too late.

All of those shots would have been reviewable under the new rule, but replay will not be used to determine whether the clock started on time.

This was an issue in March, when Cleveland's Lamond Murray made a 3-pointer at the buzzer to give the Cavaliers a 100-97 win over New Jersey. Only 0.5 seconds remained when Andre Miller inbounded and Murray was able to catch the ball and shoot before the buzzer.

At the time, Nets coach Byron Scott urged the league to use instant replay.

Major League Baseball

National League
By The Associated Press
All Times EDT

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	67	38	.638	—
New York	54	50	.519	12½
Montreal	52	53	.495	15
Florida	51	54	.486	16
Philadelphia	49	55	.471	17½
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
St. Louis	58	44	.569	—
Cincinnati	54	50	.519	5
Houston	53	51	.510	6
Pittsburgh	47	58	.448	12½
Chicago	44	59	.427	14½
Milwaukee	38	67	.362	21½
West Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Arizona	64	41	.610	—
Los Angeles	59	46	.562	5
San Francisco	58	47	.552	6
Colorado	48	57	.457	16
San Diego	43	62	.410	21

Monday's Games

No games scheduled

Tuesday's Games

Colorado (Chacon 5-7) at Pittsburgh (Beimel 1-5), 7:05 p.m.
Arizona (Batista 5-7) at Montreal (Vazquez 8-6), 7:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Benes 0-3) at Florida (Tejera 6-3), 7:05 p.m.
San Francisco (Rueter 8-6) at Philadelphia (Myers 1-0), 7:05 p.m.
Houston (Saarloos 2-2) at N.Y. Mets (D'Amico 5-8), 7:10 p.m.
Los Angeles (Ishii 12-6) at Cincinnati (Dempster 5-11), 7:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Quevedo 6-7) at Atlanta (Moss 6-4), 7:35 p.m.
San Diego (B.Jones 7-5) at Chicago Cubs (Prior 4-3), 8:05 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

San Diego (O.Perez 3-3) at Chicago Cubs (C.Zambrano 2-2), 2:20 p.m.
Colorado (Stark 6-2) at Pittsburgh (Benson 3-5), 7:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Sheets 5-12) at Atlanta (Millwood 9-6), 7:05 p.m.
Arizona (Johnson 14-4) at Montreal (Yoshii 2-3), 7:05 p.m.
St. Louis (T.Smith 4-1) at Florida (Beckett 3-4), 7:05 p.m.
San Francisco (Jensen 10-7) at Philadelphia (Duckworth 5-8), 7:05 p.m.
Houston (Miceli 3-6) at N.Y. Mets (Estes 3-8), 7:10 p.m.
Los Angeles (Nomo 10-6) at Cincinnati (Dessens 7-5), 7:10 p.m.

American League
By The Associated Press
All Times EDT

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	66	38	.635	—
Boston	61	43	.587	5
Baltimore	48	54	.471	17
Toronto	44	59	.427	21½
Tampa Bay	34	70	.327	32
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Minnesota	64	42	.604	—
Chicago	50	56	.472	14
Cleveland	46	58	.442	17
Kansas City	44	61	.419	19½
Detroit	40	64	.385	23
West Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Anaheim	63	41	.606	—
Seattle	64	42	.604	—
Oakland	60	46	.566	4
Texas	44	61	.419	19½

Monday's Games

Tampa Bay 6, Baltimore 1
N.Y. Yankees 9, Texas 2
Kansas Ci., 4, Toronto 1
Anaheim 5, Boston 4
Seattle 4, Detroit 3
Cleveland 8, Oakland 6

Tuesday's Games

Detroit (Maroth 3-3) at Seattle (Halama 5-3), 6:35 p.m.
Baltimore (Stephens 0-0) at Tampa Bay (Kennedy 5-8), 7:15 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (D.Wells 11-5) at Texas (Myette 0-2), 8:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 13-7) at Minnesota (Lohse 10-5), 8:05 p.m.
Toronto (Walker 3-2) at Kansas City (Asencio 2-3), 8:05 p.m.
Boston (P.Martinez 13-2) at Anaheim (Ortiz 9-7), 10:05 p.m.
Cleveland (Drese 8-8) at Oakland (Lidle 3-8), 10:05 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Cleveland (Nagy 0-2) at Oakland (Mulder 11-6), 3:35 p.m.
Baltimore (Lopez 11-3) at Tampa Bay (De Los Santos 0-2), 7:15 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Mussina 13-4) at Texas (Bell 3-3), 8:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Garland 8-8) at Minnesota (Mays 1-2), 8:05 p.m.
Toronto (Parris 3-2) at Kansas City (Sedlacek 1-1), 8:05 p.m.
Boston (Wakefield 4-3) at Anaheim (Lackey 2-1), 10:05 p.m.
Detroit (Powell 1-0) at Seattle (Baldwin 6-7), 10:05 p.m.

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Legal Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Kinder Morgan CO2 Company, L. P., 4632 W. Hwy. 180, Snyder, Texas 79549, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject produced water into the Canyon Reef formation, SACROC Unit Lease, Well No(s) 51-1, 51-4, 57-2, 60-2, 70-2, 71-1, 72-1, 86-9, 89-1, 89-2, 127-1, 129-5. The proposed injection wells are located approximately 3.5 to 6 miles North & Northwest from Snyder, Texas in the Kelly-Snyder Field, in Scurry County. Produced water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth intervals from 6491' to 7250'.
LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967 (Telephone 512-463-6792).

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Full Time Tank Cleaners Needed: Midwestern Services, Inc. in Snyder is currently accepting applications for tank cleaners. Will train. Crews average 50-55 hours per week. 70% travel required, transportation provided to and from the job site. For information call (915) 573-6666. **Hourly wage + bonuses**. 100% drug free. EOE

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Part-time animal shelter keeper needed. Must be able to lift at least 50 lbs; feed, water, accept, release, adopt out, assist with euthanasia of animals, handle money and clean pens. Approximately 22 hours per week including some hours on Sat. or Sun. Apply in person at City Hall, 1925 24th Street, Snyder, EOE, Employer paid ad.

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POSITION: Small Engine Repair Instructor (1 Class - Fall Semester) Department: Golf & Landscape Technology SALARY: College Scale. **DUTIES:** Teach fundamentals of small, air-cooled engines including repair and testing. "Hands-on" instruction. Course will meet Monday evenings, 6:30–9:30, Aug. 26 thru Dec. 9. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Certified mechanic with 3 to 5 years experience. Strong communication skills. Ability to lecture and demonstrate. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Open till filled. **SEND APPLICATION/RESUME TO:** Human Resources, Western Texas College, 6200 College Avenue, Snyder, TX 79549-9502. Applications may be picked up in the WTC Payroll/HR Office, Mon–Thurs, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., or printed from our website at www.wtc.cc.tx.us **DATE OF EMPLOYMENT:** August 26, 2002. Employment is contingent upon enrollment in class.

WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION AND IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED AND CONSIDERED WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, CREED, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, VETERAN'S STATUS, OR DISABILITY.

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Ag official warns farmers to change terrorism mindset

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — In the rural Midwest, people tend to live by a different set of rules. They trust their neighbors. They leave their tractors and livestock out in the open. They don't lock their doors.

That's going to have to change, a top U.S. Department of Agriculture official said Monday.

"It's going to take a lot to change the mindset of a lot of people," said Jim Moseley, deputy U.S. agriculture secretary. "The threats are real. Nine-eleven was not the end. Nine-eleven was the beginning."

Moseley spoke before a crowd of about 150 representatives from 13 states at the Midwest Governors' Conference summit on agricultural terrorism. Speakers at the two-day summit led by Nebraska Gov. Mike Johanns and Missouri Gov. Bob Holden included scientific experts and federal and state officials.

"Located in the Heartland, we have never felt we were the target of our foreign enemies," said Moseley, a former pork producer from Indiana. "I have to tell you with all sincerity, this is one farmer who now understands the risk."

The summit's genesis can be traced more than a year ago to the outbreak in Europe of the fatal livestock disease foot-and-mouth.

Then came the terrorist attacks last fall.

"We quickly realized the importance of collaboration," said Johanns, chairman of the Midwest Governors' Conference.

Some farm states already have taken steps. Holden noted he signed into law this year a measure that makes agriculture terrorism, such as spreading diseases among livestock, a felony in Missouri.

Other Midwestern states must also begin building an infrastructure to protect the nation's farms and food supply against terrorist attacks, said Holden, vice chairman of the conference.

Kent Kutnink, a Kansas City, Mo.-based regulatory manager with farm chemical distributor Agriliance LLC of St. Paul, Minn., said farmers can take simple steps to prevent terrorism.

"That could mean having a fence around a locked building that contains your chemicals, and locking up your most ... volatile chemicals within the locked building," Kutnink said. "That's three barriers of protection."

Members of the Midwest Governors' Conference besides Nebraska and Missouri are Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky.

LA Times building evacuated following bomb scare Monday

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Police arrested a man who threatened to blow up the Los Angeles Times newspaper building, but found only paper documents in his backpack after his threat evacuated a square block in the heart of downtown.

Despite the evacuation, the presses kept rolling and today's editions were published on time.

Frederick Bernard Cheaves, 31, was taken into custody shortly before 10 p.m. Monday after a 4½-hour standoff. Cheaves, a transient from Los Angeles with an outstanding warrant for marijuana possession, was booked on a single felony charge of criminal threat with intent to harm.

The newspaper combined its Los Angeles, Ventura County and San Fernando Valley editions into one section to meet the main press run and continued to produce its Orange County edition at another office. The newspaper's Tuesday circulation is just under 1 million.

Editors decided to run a 350-word article about the standoff inside the second section, said managing editor Dean Baquet.

"It's caused a great inconvenience for us, but it's not a huge story in the scheme of what happened in the world today," Baquet said.

It appeared the man picked the Times building at random. Lt. Horace Frank, a police spokesman, said the man had never been an employee of the newspaper.

It was not immediately known how many people fled, but employees said nearly everyone, except people in the editorial department, had gone home when the call to evacuate came.

Tax to fund ad spots

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — Avocado growers nationwide and abroad have agreed to tax themselves to fund a national ad campaign in hopes of doing for their industry what the "Got milk?" ads did for the dairy industry.

In voting sessions over the past few weeks, growers approved the creation of a research and promotion program, said George Chartier, a U.S. Department of Agriculture spokesman.

An assessment of 2½ cents a pound will be collected.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp		11.62	11.17	11.27 + .17
AOL TimeWrn		11.65	11.15	11.57—.01
AT&T Corp		9.86	9.44	9.82 + .08
Albertsons		29.80	28.25	28.32—1.36
Alltel		39.26	38.06	39.02 + .40
AmEl Pw		31.95	30.67	31.83 + 1.16
AndarkPtr		43.34	42.70	42.99—.32
ATMOS Egy		21.50	20.79	20.90—.57
Aviall		13.20	12.71	12.76—.59
BP PLC		45.65	44.80	45.16—.14
BakerHughes		28.49	27.67	28.00—.26
Bank of Amer		63.85	63.00	63.56—.74
BellSouth		25.20	23.76	24.65 + .34
BurlNoSFe		28.77	28.60	28.70—.19
Caterpillar		45.65	44.41	44.42—1.48
ChevronTex		73.13	71.53	72.09—2.29
Citigroup		33.19	32.30	32.97—.34
CocaCola		49.20	48.45	48.49—.94
ColgatePal		52.00	51.16	51.36—1.11
CmclMetals s		19.14	18.67	18.67—.33
Cooper Inds		29.45	28.75	29.33 + .25
DaimlrChry		44.58	43.65	44.13—.59
DeltaAirl		16.12	15.67	15.72 + .27
Dillards Inc		25.50	24.20	24.27—1.14
DowChem		30.41	29.41	29.52—1.13
DuPont		43.50	42.48	42.49—1.46
EastmanChem		45.08	43.39	43.39—1.69
EstKodak		30.71	30.07	30.71 + .12
EDS Corp		34.20	32.95	33.89 + .24
Entergy		38.21	37.05	38.13 + 1.23
ExxonMobil		36.37	35.50	35.60—.73
FstBksAm		39.40	39.40	39.40—.10
FootLocker		11.75	11.29	11.30—.33
GenDynam		83.74	81.30	83.22 + 1.54
GenElec		30.30	29.64	30.09—.27
GenMills		40.80	40.05	40.58 + .31
GenMotors		46.29	44.92	45.51—.58
GaPacific		23.76	22.51	22.75—1.01
Goodrich		23.00	22.55	22.58—.42
Goodyear		17.75	17.10	17.34—.51
GtAtlPac		15.00	12.14	12.26—3.09
Halliburtn		13.85	13.46	13.68—.19
Hanson ADS		30.51	30.30	30.51 + .27
HarteHanks s		19.40	18.80	18.99—.34
HomeDepot		30.97	29.90	30.33—.65
Honeywellntl		33.15	32.40	32.52—.60
IBM		71.88	70.02	71.71 + .53
IntlPaper		40.50	39.37	39.40—1.10
JohnsonJn		51.56	50.20	50.28—.98
vjK mart		.71	.67	.69 -
KinderMorg		40.31	39.40	40.31 + .86
Kroger Co		19.92	19.20	19.29—.66
LockheedM		63.00	61.80	62.58—.22
Lowes Cos		37.41	36.77	36.91—.74
Lubys		6.11	5.87	5.88—.27
LucentTech		1.71	1.61	1.67 + .06
MarathonOil		23.24	22.75	23.05—.29
MayDeptStr		30.99	30.00	30.24—.87
Medtronic		38.80	38.16	38.45—.44
Motorola		12.08	11.75	11.93—.16
NCR Corp		26.86	25.85	25.92—.65
Navistar		26.90	25.81	25.94—.96
PNM Rescs		19.31	19.05	19.31 + .21
Penney JC		18.62	17.97	18.07—.55
PepBoys		13.56	13.11	13.14—.42
PepsiCo		42.29	41.57	41.88—.66
Pharmacia		43.09	42.37	43.02 + .02
PhelpDodge		35.97	34.95	34.95—1.02
PhilipPet		50.45	49.10	49.18—1.02
PilgrimPrd B		10.85	10.20	10.26—.74
Praxair		53.80	51.91	51.97—1.83
ProctGamb		87.48	86.00	86.07—1.15
RadioShack		26.96	26.00	26.10—.99
ReliantEngy		9.89	9.32	9.84 + .84
RoyalDut		45.44	44.60	44.75 + .37
SBC Comm		26.48	25.55	26.24 + .03
SaraLee		18.41	17.90	18.36 + .15
Scripps EW		76.96	76.31	76.57—.19
SearsRoeb		48.80	47.77	48.07—1.68
SherwinW		28.61	27.87	27.94—.76
SouthernCo		27.50	26.70	27.42 + .79
SwstAirl		13.40	13.07	13.27 + .26
SprintFON		7.85	7.16	7.75 + .45
SprintPCS		3.72	3.35	3.48—.06
Sunoco Inc		35.05	34.36	34.53—.49
TXU Corp		42.55	40.70	42.42 + 1.28
TempleInland		54.99	52.80	52.94—2.29
TexInd		28.38	27.75	27.75—.63
TexasInst		23.85	22.97	23.60 + .10
Textron		39.66	38.90	39.40—.63
TrinityInds		18.87	18.10	18.10—.77
TylerTech		4.89	4.65	4.66—.22
UnionPacif		58.76	57.75	58.19—.30
USSteel		17.16	16.65	16.70—.45
UnitedTech		70.81	69.53	70.32 + .22
Unocal		32.19	31.48	31.55—.43
VerizonComm		30.91	29.94	30.49 + .06
WalMart		49.20	48.50	48.76—.77
WellsFargo		49.41	48.55	48.65—.90
WstnGasRs		31.20	30.27	30.33—.07
WinnDixie		16.20	15.35	15.37—.80
Xerox Cp		6.54	6.30	6.50 + .11
YumBrands s		29.48	28.90	29.00—.68

JUL 30 2002

Romaine lettuce brand linked to E. coli bacteria

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumers nationwide are being warned to avoid romaine lettuce made by Spokane Produce following an E. coli outbreak apparently caused by contaminated lettuce.

At least 29 people in Washington state have been sickened, authorities said Monday.

The lettuce was sold under several different brand names, and the Food and Drug Administration doesn't have a complete list and isn't sure if other states received shipments, FDA acting commissioner Lester Crawford said.

The FDA urged all consumers to throw away 5-pound bags of "Romaine Toss" sold by Spokane Produce, and to ask grocery store produce managers if smaller packages of romaine came from that company.

The unusual consumer warning followed an episode at a Washington cheerleading camp in which 29 people became sick with E. coli, including a teenager whose kidneys were so damaged that she is on dialysis, the FDA said.

Doctors are investigating another 16 people who didn't attend the camp but also are suspected of having E. coli linked to the lettuce, Crawford said. The Spokane Regional Health District said five cases had been confirmed.

Dan Petek, spokesman for Spokane Produce, said lettuce is washed thoroughly before it is packaged, and he does not believe Spokane Produce is responsible for the outbreak. He did not fault the FDA for investigating the company, however. "It is their job to protect us," he told KXLY-TV in Spokane.

A week ago, 19 million pounds of ConAgra hamburger were recalled because of E. coli contamination blamed for sickening at least 20 people, mostly in Colorado.

E. coli is a bacterium often found in the intestinal tracts and feces of livestock. In people, it can cause bloody diarrhea, abdominal cramps and sometimes death. Most at risk are the very young, the elderly and people with weak immune systems.

Most illnesses caused by E. coli stem from eating undercooked ground beef, but manure or feces-contaminated irrigation water sometimes taints fresh produce too.

Mine investigation turns to faulty maps

SOMERSET, Pa. (AP) — Maps of the state's long-abandoned coal mines have come under scrutiny by authorities trying to prevent future accidents like the one that left nine miners trapped in a flooded shaft for three days.

State authorities will review operations at 34 other mines around the state that are located next to abandoned mines to determine whether changes are warranted, and a new state commission will review mine safety issues.

A joint state-federal investigation also will focus on underground maps in investigating how the men became trapped 240 feet underground after breaking through the wall of a flooded adjacent mine.

The miners' maps showed the adjacent mine to be 300 feet away. Richard Stickler, director of the state Bureau of Deep Mine Safety, said those maps will be a key focus of the joint investigation into the Quecreek mine accident.

"You rely on those maps as being accurate and safe," said Dave Lauriski, assistant secretary for the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration.

One retired miner suggested Monday that details had been deliberately left off an old map used by the miners to cover up how much coal was removed from the abandoned mine.

The special Pennsylvania commission — to include coal mine operators, union representatives, mine engineers and surveyors — will scrutinize the accident as well as the state's mine-permitting process and emergency-response procedures.

The nine miners have already been interviewed about what happened the night of the accident at the mine, which had a regular inspection only a week before, Lauriski said.

Retired miner Joseph Jashienski said the map of the abandoned mine, the Saxman, was wrong because of improper mining techniques used the day before it was abandoned.

Jashienski, 89, said the now-defunct Saxman Coal and Coke Co. gathered all the coal it could that day by using a machine to carve out a large space in the shape of a baseball diamond. He said the now-deceased mine superintendent who made the map left that detail out because such a procedure would raise red flags with regulators.

"He didn't want anybody to know he made a ballfield the last day of work," said Jashienski, who declined to identify the manager. "If you put on the map that you made a ballfield, the state inspector is going to wonder what you are doing."

Scott Roberts, the head of the mineral resource management division of the state Department of Environmental Protection, said he wasn't aware of Jashienski's claim but said it sounded valid.

"Those type of things happen," Roberts said. "I wouldn't dispute what he said a bit. If he mined in it, he's firsthand information."

According to records, the old mine opened in the 1920s, closed in the 1930s, and then reopened in 1942. Roberts said it seems to have largely shut down in the mid-1950s, but production records indicate some activity may have continued until 1963, perhaps to retrieve columns of coal left to support the roof.

A spokesman for the Quecreek Mining Co. and the Black Wolf Coal Co., of Friedens, the operator of the Quecreek mine, had no immediate comment.

At a news conference, five of the rescued miners thanked the public for their support throughout the ordeal. There were smiles and laughter as they talked, three sitting in wheelchairs and the others standing behind them.

The men recalled their relief when a corned beef sandwich and some soda turned up in Dennis Hall's lunch box.

"One guy took a bite and passed it around," said Thomas Foy, 51. "I figured we were good for another couple days."

Only Randy Fogle, 43, remained hospitalized Monday with a bad case of heartburn. None of the men suffered serious injuries, doctors said.

Another rescued miner, John Phillippi, went to the mine with his wife, Michelle, shaking hands with all of the workers and watching as crews dismantled equipment used during the 77-hour rescue effort.

The men were divided on whether they would ever go back into a mine.

"I have my doubts; I mean I've got almost 30 years in and that's just too much," Foy said. "I've got seven grandkids and I want to see them guys grow up. That's it."

Hall, 48, who has been mining since he left high school 30 years ago, has already made up his mind: He's going back to work.

"It's inevitable. Everybody's got to work," he said. "I love my job."

Former deputy receives 30 years

HOUSTON (AP) — A former Fort Bend County sheriff's deputy has been sentenced to 30 years in prison on Monday in the death of his girlfriend's 11-month-old daughter.

Mark A. Parmer, 29, pleaded guilty to a first-degree felony charge of injury to a child in state District Judge Brady Elliott's court, prosecutor Fred Felcman said.

Parmer was indicted late last year on a charge of capital murder in the death of Aubrey Hardcastle. The charge was changed to injury to a child as part of the plea bargain, Felcman said.

"He will have to serve 15 years before he is eligible for parole," Felcman said.

An autopsy showed the child died from brain damage and had multiple contusions to the face and head.

Parmer joined the Sheriff's Department in October 1999 and worked as a detention officer. He was fired after officials learned he was a suspect in the criminal investigation.

In a statement to internal affairs officers Oct. 12, Parmer said he became angry when the little girl threw up on his shirt.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Doctor's wandering hands deserve an official slap

DEAR ABBY: When I read the letter from "No Doctor's Playmate," whose doctor reached into her bra when she consulted him about an ear infection, I couldn't help but sympathize. The same thing happened to me. My surgeon walked into my hospital room and fondled my breasts when he checked my abdominal incision. When my gastroenterologist came, I told her I wanted him removed from my case and explained why.

Abby, she defended him! She said it was probably a routine breast exam. I told her that I'd had more than 30 years' worth of breast exams, and this was nothing like them. I also told her it was not authorized by me, and he was not my gynecologist. She then had the nerve to imply that I was dreaming or having a drug-induced fantasy. This happened eight years ago. I'm still furious about it.

He still has his shingle. So, ladies, if your doctor pulls anything funny — report him! — **MAD IN OKLAHOMA CITY**

DEAR MAD: Since he did this to you, he may be sexually abusing other women patients. After complaining to the referring physician and getting no satisfaction, you should have taken your complaint to the head of the hospital and to the state medical association. It's not too late to do it now. **Read on:**

DEAR ABBY: The same thing happened to me when I was 18. It happened a second time when I returned for a follow-up visit. I was so upset I told the nurses I didn't want to see that particular doctor again. (He was part of a group.) I was too embarrassed to explain exactly why.

Two years later, I was called by the Office of Professional Medical Conduct in New York state. They were investigating the doctor. Five women wound up testifying against him. None of us knew each other or heard each other's testimony, but similarities in our stories proved the doctor was guilty.

He took advantage of his medical license and his authority. The state eventually revoked his license to practice in New York. Talking about what he did to me was difficult, but it was also therapeutic. Doctors like that need to be stopped. I hope other victims will not be as scared as I was to speak out. My mistake was in not questioning when I knew something was wrong. — **WISER NOW IN OCEANSIDE, N.Y.**

DEAR WISER NOW: I hope other women will take your experience to heart.

**

DEAR ABBY: I consulted a general surgeon about a problem totally unrelated to my breasts and the doctor did the same thing to me. I reported him to the state medical licensing board, and he now must have a nurse or staff member present during exams.

He claimed he "always" did breast exams on his patients, but I was able to provide names of two other women who saw him for surgical consultations, and he did not examine their breasts.

I am close to 50 and have had many breast exams. No doctor ever performed one while I was fully clothed. I join you in urging "No Doctor's Playmate" to report the incident immediately. — **ONLY MY HUSBAND'S PLAYMATE IN KENTUCKY**

DEAR HUSBAND'S PLAYMATE: You handled the situation effectively. Good for you. And thank you for sharing with my readers how you dealt with the frisky-fingered physician.

P.S. This goes for readers of both sexes. If something doesn't seem "right," you have every right to question it. And if the answers don't make sense to you, get a second opinion.

**

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Wednesday, July 31, 2002

Something rather grand may transpire in the year ahead involving arrangements between you and another person with whom you have strong emotional bonds. Those who love you will bring you much happiness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Keep your guard up today, because it is doubtful that someone with whom you may have dealings will be as sincere, generous or compassionate as you. Don't get burned. Leo, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and an SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Happiness is dependent upon your frame of mind, not your pocketbook. It could prove to be a sheer waste of time, energy or money to overindulge in hopes of having a good time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Lady Luck may not be as supportive of you as she usually is, so if an ambitious desire is dependent upon her intervention, it is best you put it off until another day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — There is a possibility that information that comes your way today may be grossly exaggerated. Don't believe everything you hear, especially rumors about your boss or company.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — If you are hoping to get something for nothing, it is a pretty good bet today that you'll get the nothing part. It is not a very good day for any involvements that are of a speculative nature.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — If you make your expectations disproportionate to reality, there is no doubt that you will end up being disappointed. Guard against tendencies today to expect more than you should.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — A philosophy that may suit a friend comfortably may not necessarily fit your needs. Imitating another could bring you unhappiness today. Be your own person.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Be mindful of your behavior in your social involvements today and be as gracious and tolerant as possible. A poor display could leave a lasting impression that would be difficult to erase.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Try not to do anything today at the expense of another or in ways that would inconvenience anyone. Somehow you'll be made to pay for it in greater measure.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Using excessive flattery in order to manipulate another into being supportive of views or to get him/her to do something for you will backfire. Insincerity will be perceived and you'll be rejected.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Those ugly extravagant whims you get from time to time could be very much in evidence today. Take extra precautions not to spend excessively and not to make foolish purchases.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Just because you were up to handling challenges the other day doesn't mean you can take on another without much forethought. Don't underestimate the competition or be cocky.

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Leading Democrats test economic message

NEW YORK (AP) — Targeting President Bush, Democratic presidential hopefuls are making their case to centrist Democrats on how they would frame the debate on the economy.

Top Democrats on Monday contrasted the booming stock market, federal surpluses and job growth of the roaring 1990s with the tax cuts, volatile stocks and shrinking economy since Bill Clinton left office.

"In just eighteen months, this administration has unraveled the fiscal discipline it took us eight years to build," Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman told the Democratic Leadership Council's annual policy meeting.

The DLC was hearing from House Democratic leader Dick Gephardt and North Carolina Sen. John Edwards today.

Gephardt planned to talk to the group about his efforts to bridge the gap between the pro-business DLC and Democrats like himself who work closely with unions.

"If we learned anything in the '90s, it was that we do better by avoiding false choices — helping workers vs. boosting business, environment vs. growth, fiscal responsibility vs. prosperity, free vs. fair trade," Gephardt said in remarks prepared for the DLC meeting. "In the information age, we know that union members benefit when businesses grow and interest rates stay low. We know that companies prosper when employees have the tools they need to build better lives."

And he compared Bush to his father, the former president, who he said didn't talk about the nation's economic troubles and didn't act on them in losing the 1992 presidential election to Clinton.

"George W. Bush seems to know things aren't working. So he talks about it and talks about it and talks about it. But he doesn't do anything about it," Gephardt, D-Mo., said.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle and Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry also spoke to the group Monday.

"There is no economic leadership coming from the White House," Daschle said. "If they won't lead, Democrats will."

"In the span of a year, this administration has turned fiscal responsibility on its ear," said Kerry, "turning a budget surplus into a budget with endless deficits spurred on by an irresponsible and unfairly structured tax cut."

Some at the gathering said they sense Democrats could have a shot in the 2004 presidential race now that the political landscape is shifting amid the nation's economic troubles.

Republican national chairman Marc Racicot said the Democrats' criticism rang hollow coming from senators who had failed to pass a budget during a time of war and economic uncertainty. He described that failure as "an abdication of responsibility and failure of leadership."

DLC members call themselves New Democrats, who believe in blending a pro-business approach with traditional Democratic values. They say it's fair to criticize the Bush administration for being too closely allied with big business.

But some were still grumbling about an economic populist tone that crept into the presidential campaign of Gore, who did not attend the event.

"We're not into class resentment and warfare," said Al From, the group's founder and chief executive. "We've been pretty clear what we think about 'the people vs. the powerful.'"

DLC Chairman Evan Bayh, a senator from Indiana, said populist rhetoric "tends to alienate swing voters."

From said he can't tell what approach Gore might take in a new campaign based on his speeches so far this year. Gore is undecided whether he will run again.

Gore aide Jano Cabrera said Monday the former vice president's campaign had embraced the same values as the New Democrats.

"They have a theory in search of the facts," Cabrera said of Gore's critics in the group. "The fact is that Al Gore's message won more votes than any other Democratic candidate in the history of the country."

Ethics case could be postponed if not closed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The ethics committee weighing action against New Jersey Sen. Robert Torricelli could be forced to postpone its work indefinitely unless it reaches a conclusion this week.

Chairman Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, said there is a precedent for open Senate ethics proceedings to be halted when an election draws near. Torricelli is seeking a second term in November, and the Senate adjourns for a monthlong recess at the end of this week.

"That being the case, if we're not able to resolve this by this week, we're in a terrible fix," Inouye said Monday as he left a closed-door meeting of the ethics committee. "We may have to postpone the whole thing. You'll place a cloud over everyone, and I'm not for that."

Inouye reiterated his hope that the committee's six senators — three Republicans, three Democrats — will conclude their work this week. He said they would meet again on today.

The panel is looking into allegations by a former friend and supporter of Torricelli, David Chang, that he lavished gifts and cash on the senator in exchange for help with business ventures overseas. Senate rules bar most gifts worth $50 or greater.

A source familiar with Torricelli's defense said Monday the senator acknowledges receiving some merchandise from Chang but contends he reimbursed Chang, making those items legal under Senate rules.

The source said Torricelli maintains Chang's allegations about other gifts are fabricated.

The Senate's gift ban makes an exception for "anything for which the member ... pays the market value, or does not use and promptly returns to the donor."

The Senate ethics manual states that a member "may rectify the inadvertent receipt of an impermissible gift by promptly returning it or reimbursing the donor for the full, fair market retail value."

But Chang's lawyer, Bradley Simon, denied there were any reimbursements.

"Never happened. It's fanciful thinking on (Torricelli's) part," Simon said. "But it's a nice try on his part. At this late hour, it's a nice try."

Chang, a New Jersey businessman, is serving an 18-month prison sentence for making illegal campaign donations to Torricelli.

Chang says he bought Torricelli about 12 Italian suits, a cashmere coat, a 42-inch television set, a stereo system, camera equipment, a $9,200 Rolex watch and a Persian rug, and also gave the senator $4,000 to buy a grandfather clock at an antique store in Lambertville, N.J.

Chang also alleged he made more than a dozen deliveries of cash to Torricelli's home, each $8,000 to $9,000.

Federal investigators explored Chang's claims during a lengthy criminal investigation that ended in January with no charges against Torricelli. The prosecutor in the case, Mary Jo White, sent material to the Senate ethics committee for a review.

After meeting for nearly three hours Friday with the ethics committee, Torricelli said he never accepted "inappropriate gifts."

Asked about that phrase, he said, "'No inappropriate gifts,' 'no gifts,' 'no illegal gifts' are distinctions without a difference. There simply were no gifts, and I believe the evidence contradicts overwhelmingly the allegations."

The committee has interviewed only Torricelli, although it also has the material forwarded by federal prosecutors. "We've got pages upon pages of grand jury" transcripts, Inouye said. "That should be more than sufficient."

The ethics committee can dismiss a case or, in cases of inadvertent or technical violations, issue a public or private letter of admonition. In more severe cases, it can recommend that the full Senate expel or censure a member.

Texas governor's race is heating up

AUSTIN (AP) — A new television commercial aired Monday by Gov. Rick Perry says his Democratic opponent, Tony Sanchez, knew or should have known that his now-defunct savings and loan laundered drug money.

Sanchez countered that neither he nor the thrift was accused of wrongdoing.

The 30-second commercial, based on selected court records, is titled "Suitcase" because of the delivery method of suspected drug dealers who ran $25 million through the thrift in 1983 and 1984.

"Can Texans really trust Tony Sanchez?" the ad asks.

The Sanchez campaign said the depositors, not Tesoro Savings and Loan officials, were to blame.

"The accusation is false. We're going to answer it swiftly. We're going to answer it truthfully," Sanchez said. "He's crossed the boundaries of honesty and decency and truthfulness."

Late Monday, the Sanchez campaign unveiled a response ad that stated the IRS, two federal judges and the Justice Department "totally exonerated" the bank.

"In fact, the Sanchez bank worked with law enforcement to help the investigation," the response ad states.

Sanchez was Tesoro's chairman of the board at the time of the money laundering.

He said thrift officials realized there was drug money in the savings and loan when Internal Revenue Service issued levies for accounts in June 1984 held by two men linked to Miguel Felix Gallardo, a kingpin in the Guadalajara drug cartel in Mexico.

The next month, Tesoro released $7 million in wire transfers to Panama requested by Mexicans who said they were the account holders on 68 accounts placed by the two men, Mardoqueo Alfaro and Tomas Valles.

Perry has said he believes Sanchez, as head of the thrift, either knew or should have known drug money was being laundered.

"I think most Texans will look at it as I do — shocked that an institution would receive cash money in a suitcase from Mexico and not have some clue, some indication, some warning sign that this was drug money, inappropriate money," Perry said Friday.

"I can't for the life of me buy into the 'Gosh, we just didn't know' response that we're getting," he said.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



'Medical students' disease'

DEAR DR. GOTT: My mother is 76, in pretty good health and loves your column. The problem is that, about 50 percent of the time, she develops the very symptoms you write about. How can I know when she is really ill?

DEAR READER: There is a fascinating syndrome, called "medical students' disease," that affects many healthy med students when they are learning about various health problems; they tend to experience the same symptoms as the patients whom they study. This phenomenon typically disappears by senior year. I suppose that a similar syndrome could easily affect an older person, too.

You know your mother well and, I am sure, are perceptive enough to determine if she is truly ill — or simply exhibiting medical students' disease. On the other hand, if you are really worried, you could ask your mother's doctor to advise you. Some symptoms, such as joint stiffness and urinary frequency, do come with age. But other symptoms, such as chest pain and fever, can indicate a problem that should be addressed. The physician should be able to sort out the real from the imagined.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My father complains of intermittent stomach pains that he thinks are caused by an ulcer. Because he leads a relatively stress-free life, and we have always been led to believe that ulcers are related to stress, we question his self-diagnosis. Can an ulcer be treated by our family doctor, or should a specialist be involved?

DEAR READER: The family doctor should certainly be the first step.

Although the classic teaching has been that stress causes peptic ulcers, this dogma is not necessarily true. Stressed and nervous people often have cast-iron stomachs, and unstressed patients frequently develop ulcers. The precise cause of ulcers it not fully understood, although many authorities believe that the majority of peptic ulcers are related to an intestinal bacterial infection called H. pylori.

Other experts emphasize alternative causes. For example, aspirin, ibuprofen and related drugs (used to treat pain and arthritis) often produce peptic disease. This is a recognized, common side effect of these medications. Excessive use of alcohol can also lead to ulcers.

If your father suffers recurring, burning, abdominal pain that is relieved by eating or taking antacids, he should be checked for a peptic ulcer. An upper GI series (special X-rays of the stomach and first part of the small intestine) will likely demonstrate an ulcer if one is present. As an alternative, ulcers can readily be seen during endoscopy, when a specialist examines the stomach with a fiber-optic device.

In your father's case, I'd be more influenced by the location and nature of his pain than by his stress-free lifestyle. A family doctor can diagnose and treat peptic ulcers. Specialists are not necessary unless endoscopy is required or the abdominal pain remains undiagnosed after testing.

That's the simple part of the problem. In reality, many serious medical conditions mimic peptic ulcers. These include angina and heart attack, gallstones, acute inflammation of the pancreas and aortic aneurysm (when blood leaks from a distended artery in the abdomen). Therefore, attention may have to be paid to organs other than the upper gastrointestinal tract. A well-trained primary care physician should be able to sort this out and request a consultation with a specialist as needed.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Peptic Ulcers." Other readers who would like a copy should send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope plus $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to mention the title.

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WSJ staffers return to HQ

NEW YORK (AP) — The broken windows have been replaced and the piles of silt and debris that littered the headquarters of The Wall Street Journal after the Sept. 11 attacks have been removed.

Editors and reporters returned to the newspaper's headquarters next to the site of the World Trade Center on Monday for the first time since the building was evacuated during the attacks.

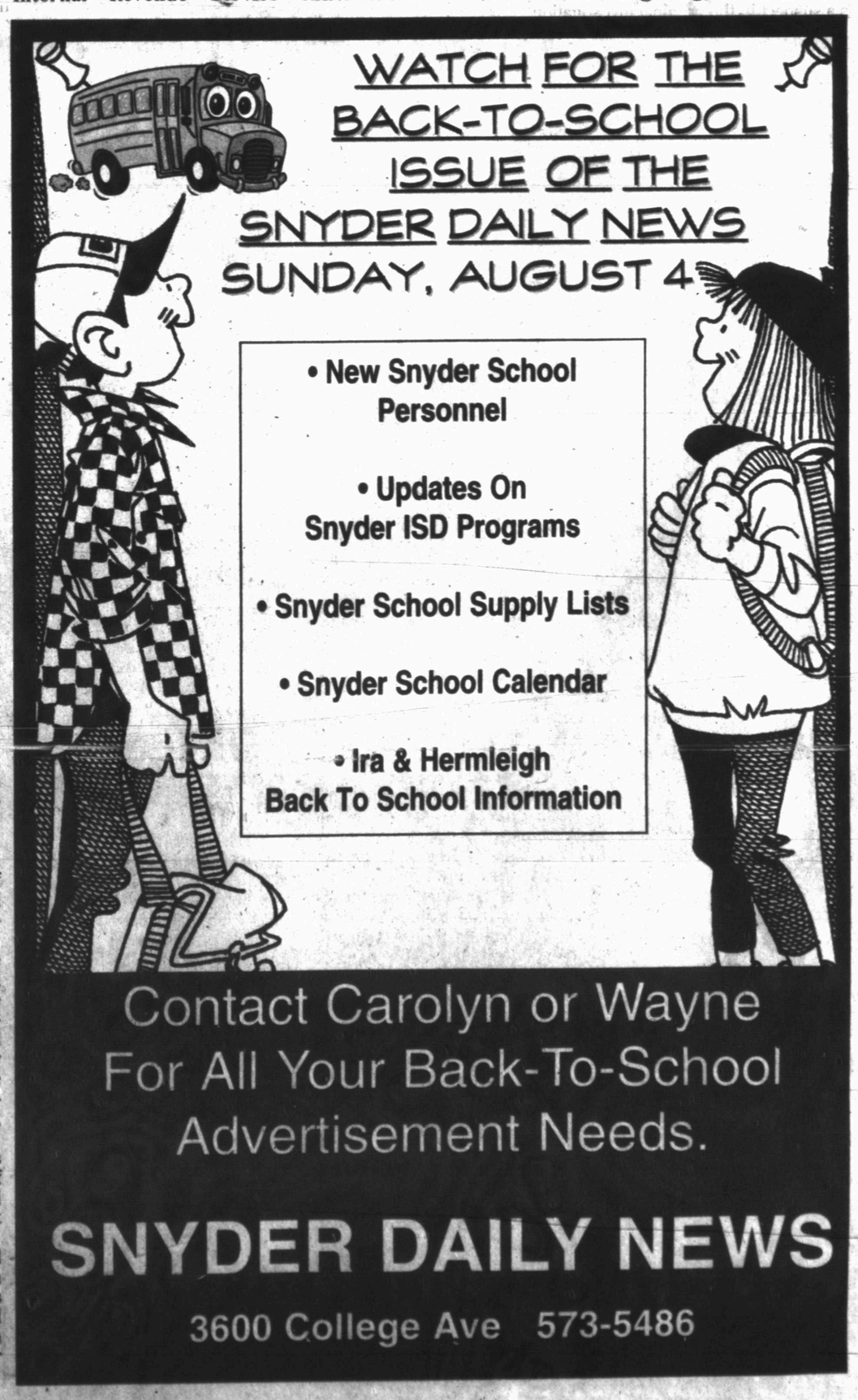
"It's strange now to have that huge space in the sky," said technology editor Laurie Hays, whose office overlooks the ragged expanse where the twin towers once stood. "It's very disorienting."

For many, the return is an uneasy one. According to a union survey in June, 72 percent of respondents wanted the Journal to find permanent space elsewhere.

"There's a number of people who didn't want to come back; I'm not one of them," personal finance editor Neil Templin said. "Everybody in the country was attacked on Sept. 11, and people in New York particularly, but I'm not one of the people who dreaded coming back here. I can't tell you why, but I'm not spooked by it."

Before Sept. 11, the Journal's offices occupied seven floors of the 40-story building at 1 World Financial Center, which did not sustain any structural damage.

Since the attacks, editorial staffers have been working from the company's New Jersey offices as part of a transition planned independently of the attack and in rented space in SoHo and other parts of Manhattan.



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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Stocks enjoy stellar rallies

NEW YORK (AP) — When the Dow Jones industrials surge more than 400 points twice in the span of four trading days, it's safe to say investors are feeling more confident about buying stocks.

Whether the good mood continues remains to be seen.

Analysts aren't all convinced that Wall Street's recent bursts of buying mean the market has shaken off earnings and accounting worries altogether and found a new upward path.

"We have to see this consistently. Not up 400 points, but up," said Stephen Carl, principal and head of equity trading at The Williams Capital Group in New York.

The latest surge came Monday when the Dow jumped 447.49 points to 8,711.88. Last Wednesday it experienced a 488-point bounce. The Nasdaq and S&P 500 also posted healthy gains, giving hope to investors that the market reached a bottom last week amid a 10-week frenzy of heavy selling.

The market retreated in early trading today, but the pullback was to be expected after Monday's huge advance. The Dow was off about 127 points at the 8,584 level, while the Nasdaq composite index declined 16 to the 1,318 level and the Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 11 to 887.

For now, lower prices following 10 weeks of heavy selling deserve much of the credit for the market's strides, analysts say.

"It feels to me like there is a technical bounce going on in the market. The market is severely oversold," said portfolio manager John C. Forelli of Independence Investment LLC in Boston. "Investors are just realizing that the market looks pretty cheap today."

Vanguard Airlines suspends service

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Vanguard Airlines suspended operations today, saying it would lay off nearly all its employees and file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy organization.

The Kansas City-based discount carrier has never shown an annual profit in eight years of operation. A recorded announcement on its reservation line early today said all Wednesday flights had been canceled and all other flights scheduled after that have been suspended indefinitely.

"The company is seeking funds in order to resume operations," the announcement said. "The company intends to file for protection under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code."

On Monday night, calls to Vanguard headquarters were met by a recording saying all circuits were busy. The airline's Web site had still been accepting reservations earlier in the evening, but by 11 p.m. the site was blank except for a link to another carrier, Frontier Airlines.

By early today, the Website carried a new message: "I'm sorry our booking server is temporarily down! Sorry for the inconvenience!"

Scott Dickson, Vanguard's chairman and CEO, told The Kansas City Star that the failure to secure the financing it needed was forcing the company to plan the Chapter 11 filing.

"This is a sad day for Vanguard, for its employees and for Kansas City," Dickson said. "Today's events hurt people ... We have done everything in our power to avoid today's actions."

Elizabeth Cattell, Vanguard's vice president of marketing and advertising, said nearly 1,100 employees, including about 915 in Kansas City, will be terminated before the Chapter 11 filing. A skeleton crew of about 60 will stay.

Did heat cause Amtrak derailment?

KENSINGTON, Md. (AP) — Crews put derailed Amtrak cars back on track today, and investigators probed whether summer heat could have contributed to the accident that sent a passenger train plowing off its rails and injured 101 people.

The derailment Monday afternoon sent bleeding passengers crawling out windows and left a 150-yard stretch of twisted rails and ties ripped from the gravel bed.

Seventeen of the 101 people were admitted to hospitals and the others were released after treatment, Amtrak spokeswoman Karina Van Veen said today. The train was carrying 161 passengers and a crew of 13, she said.

Workers used cranes to pick up six of the 11 derailed cars and put them back on the tracks, she said. The two engines and some train cars were taken to Washington's Union Station, the train's destination.

Two event recorders had been recovered from the train, said Carol Carmody, National Transportation Safety Board vice chairwoman. The recorders, similar to "black boxes" on airplanes, provide information including speed and what the engineer was doing, such as braking or throttling.

"From the position of controls, the operation looked normal," Carmody said today on NBC's "Today" show, adding that the train was traveling at about 60 mph.

The speed limit on that stretch is 70 mph, said Dan Murphy, spokesman for CSX Corp., which owns, operates and maintains the tracks.

The possibility that heat could have buckled the track will "certainly" be looked at, Carmody said. Temperatures were in the mid-90s at the time of the accident.

"Heat can cause track disconfiguration just as extreme cold can," Carmody said.

Asked on CBS' "The Early Show" if it is safe for passenger trains to use the same tracks that carry heavier freight trains, Carmody said: "It was appropriate for the weight it carried."

Crew members were being interviewed and the investigation could take months, she said. The train's engineer will be tested for drugs and alcohol use, as is routine.

Judge rejects Traficant's double jeopardy argument

CLEVELAND (AP) — Preparing to sentence former Rep. James A. Traficant Jr., a federal judge today rejected his argument that he should not be sanctioned because he has already been punished by expulsion from the House.

U.S. District Judge Lesley Wells made her ruling at the start of Traficant's sentencing hearing on federal corruption charges. Prosecutors were urging Wells to send Traficant, 61, to prison for at least 7 1/4 years.

Traficant had planned to argue that a prison sentence would represent double jeopardy or being punished twice for the same crime.

In her ruling, Wells agreed with federal prosecutors, who had argued in a motion that Traficant's expulsion "was not criminal punishment. The action was inherently political and nonjudicial in nature."

Prosecutors had said that if Traficant's motion were upheld, "no member of Congress who was first expelled could ever be tried, convicted and sentenced."

Dozens of reporters surrounded Traficant as he arrived on the courthouse steps. He would only repeat, "All of Ohio and America knows I've been railroaded."

Since his conviction in April, the Youngstown Democrat has filed a flurry of motions seeking to have his conviction overturned. On Monday, Wells dismissed his request for a new trial.

After a raucous trial lasting about 2 1/2 months, he was convicted April 11 of 10 counts of bribery, tax evasion and racketeering. He was found guilty of requiring staff members to do personal chores for him and kick back a portion of their paychecks and of accepting cash bribes and various favors from businessmen who were seeking his help in Washington.

Although he is not a lawyer, Traficant defended himself both before jurors and fellow lawmakers, insisting he was innocent and the victim of a government vendetta. Traficant hired a Cleveland lawyer, Richard Hackerd, to represent him for the sentencing.

He defended himself in 1983 when he won a racketeering case in which he was accused of taking mob money while Mahoning County sheriff. He also said his efforts in Congress to limit the powers of the IRS made him a target.

Last week, Traficant filed motions arguing the testimony of Virginia business executive Richard Detore before the House ethics committee raised questions about the conduct of prosecutors.

Detore, who is accused by the government of funneling bribes from his company to Traficant, didn't testify during Traficant's trial. Before the ethics committee, he said government prosecutors tried to pressure him into lying about Traficant so they could convict the congressman.

Two more burglaries reported

Burglaries

Noel Gomez requested to talk to a police officer at 12:43 p.m. Monday in reference to his residence in the 400 block of 29th Street being burglarized the previous evening.

Just after 4 o'clock Monday afternoon, Virginia Castillo reported the burglary of her residence in the 1100 block of Avenue N.

Assistance from deputies

Garza County requested back-up from Scurry County around 2 p.m. Monday in reference to a man on a motorcycle outrunning a DPS trooper and exceeding speeds of 100 miles per hour on east U.S. 84. Deputies assisted, and the man was taken into custody by Garza County deputies and the motorcycle seized.

Criminal mischief

Randi Head reported criminal mischief to doors at Farm Source Foods, 1600 Scott, causing $1,200 worth of damage.

Suspicious juveniles

Brandon Morris reported at 7:30 Monday evening four male juveniles possibly smoking marijuana at a residence in the 3100 block of Avenue T.

Albert Guzman reported five female juveniles smoking at Central Elementary just before 11 p.m. Monday.

Hit and run

Officers responded to a hit and run report in the Davidson's IGA parking lot at 9 o'clock Monday morning involving a 1999 Pontiac owned by Gary Crawford, 55, of 112365 Hwy. 208 in Hermleigh.

Obituaries

Chrystalene Woolsey

1924-2002

Chrystalene "Chick" Woolsey, longtime Snyder resident, died Sunday, July 28, at her home after a lengthy illness.

Service for Mrs. Woolsey, 77, is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Wright Colonial Funeral Home Chapel. Dr. Tommy Culwell, pastor of Colonial Hill Baptist Church, will officiate. Burial will follow in the Hillside Memorial Gardens.

She was born Dec. 25, 1924 in San Saba County. Her husband, C.L. Woolsey, died in March of 1972.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; two brothers; and two sisters.

Survivors include two daughters, LaVerne Smitherman of Arley, Ala., and Beverly Goble of Clay, Ala.; two sisters, Opal Wigington of Snyder and Iona Cheney of Sweetwater; five grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Church of God VSB

"Can Do Buckaroos of Can Do County" for ages 5-12 is theme for Vacation Bible School at the Snyder Church of God, 21st and Ave. O, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. today and Wednesday.

Genealogical society

The Scurry County Genealogical Society will meet at 7 this evening at the Scurry County Library. Officers will be elected and visitors are welcome.

Gateway Family Services

Gateway Family Services has a parenting discussion group from 10:30-11:30 a.m. every Tuesday, focusing on parenting issues and special challenges. The family violence support group also meets from 6:30-7:30 p.m. every Tuesday.

FBC services televised

First Baptist Church services are televised on channel 2 at 3 p.m. each Thursday.

Cheerleader fundraiser

SHS freshmen cheerleaders will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts from 7 to 11 a.m. Monday at Wal-Mart.

Head Start registration

Head Start registration will be held Aug. Monday through Friday, Aug. 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children must be at least three years old and family must meet income guidelines or child must have a diagnosed disability. Birth certificate, current immunization records, Social Security Card and proof of family income are required. For information, call 573-7403.

East Side Bug Safari

Make a beeline to join us at Vacation Bible School at East Side Church of Christ to study David, a little guy who did big things with God's help. Classes for kindergarten through fifth graders will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Aug. 9.

Alzheimer's meeting

An Alzheimer's meeting to help families and caregivers will be held from 6-7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 13, in the library at Colonial Hill Baptist Church. Call Kinney Robinson at 573-9377 for more information.

Fall poetry contest

Mesquite Country Writers Guild is accepting entries for its fall poetry contest. Theme is open and there is a 20-line limit. Deadline is Thursday, Aug. 15, and entry fee is $2. First prize is $50, second is $30 and third is $20. Mail entries to Yvonne Nunn, 9221 S. State Hwy 208 in Hermleigh, 79526.

Sonshine School registration

Sonshine School for ages two through five, is underway and informational packets are available at 37th Street Church of Christ office weekdays from 8:30 a.m. until noon, and from 1-4:30 p.m. Registration fee is $30 and monthly tuition is $45. Open house and registration is 9 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 15. Call 574-1960 for more information.

Museum exhibit

A special exhibit of Harley-Davidson, Indian motorcycles and Cushman motor scooters continues through Thursday, Aug. 22, at the Scurry County Museum on the Western Texas College campus. The free exhibit is entitled Ready To Roll and all bikes are owned by residents of Scurry County.

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland is available free of charge. Call Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993 or Blakey Fargason at 574-8041. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

Calling all poets

The Mesquite Country Writers Guild is inviting poets to send an original poem to be published in the fall newsletter, "Bards of a Feather." Theme is open with a 20-line limit. Mail entries to Yvonne Nunn, 9221 S. Hwy 208 in Hermleigh, 79526.

Oregon wildfires may force some residents to evacuate

SELMA, Ore. (AP) — Two wildfires that have charred almost 100,000 acres of southwestern Oregon threatened to combine today as they marched toward a string of towns.

All 17,000 residents of the Illinois Valley were told to prepare for possible evacuation.

The fires formed a front 25 miles long stretching between the communities of O'Brien and Selma, 20 miles north of the California line.

Both fires originated in the Siskiyou National Forest. The first was 71,000 acres today and was pushing south on a course that would link it up with a 25,000-acre blaze. Three homes had been destroyed.

Officials were preparing a massive backfire plan to halt the blazes' advance.

Officials in Colorado had closed Mesa Verde National Park and evacuated 2,000 employees and visitors as a fast-moving wildfire grew to 1,400 acres, destroying two park employees' homes and a sewage treatment plant.

The park was without drinking water because the fire burned off the top of a million-gallon tank, contaminating the contents.

Four air tankers and three helicopters were fighting the fire, and more firefighters were en route, fire information officer Sue Johnson-Erner said today.

The park, 240 miles southwest of Denver, has an estimated 25,000 archaeological sites left by the ancestral Pueblo Indians, a civilization that vanished more than 700 years ago. Firefighters said their top priority was protecting a research center that holds artifacts and human remains, and park officials said they also were worried about archaeological sites.

The blaze was believed to have been started by lightning. No injuries were reported. Two wildfires in 2000 burned more than a third of the park's 52,000 acres.

Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber said this year's fire season is already the most difficult of his tenure even though it is not yet August, the usual height of the state's wildfires.

More than a dozen fires, all started by lightning, had burned across 350,000 acres in Oregon, according to the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center. More than 12,100 firefighters battled the blazes.

Firefighters in the Illinois Valley toured homes in the path of the fires on Monday.

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