Group to meet later this month...

Air Force flight opponents gathering steam

While one group of Scurry County and area citizens were touring Dyess Air Force Base and getting an up-close look at B-1 bombers, those opposing new flights of those airplanes over the area were planning a function to rally support for their cause.

Members of HEPA (Heritage Environmental Preservation Association) have set a general membership meeting Monday, March 27th at the Wagon Wheel Ranch. The meeting will provide those in attendance with the latest developments with HEPA in their fight against the proposed flight training over Scurry and seven other counties.

Red Steagall, country singer and poet, will entertain at the HEPA meeting, said Buster Welch, the organization's founder and president.

"In light of recent developments, I think all citizens and officials need to take a fresh look at what the Air Force is telling us," said Welch. "The near-disaster involving a B-1 bomber out of Dyess AFB on March 8 shows us all how close we will be to a potential tragedy."

"Seven-hundred students were evacuated from Dyess Elementary because of fires caused by burning fuel dropping from a B-1 bomber," said Welch.

"Imagine what might have happened. We will not always be this lucky."

The fact that the Air Force has said 33 jobs would be generated in Snyder when the plan is approved has not swayed Welch.

"It is sometimes tempting for communities to be shortsighted in their planning when faced with the instant gratification of a few more jobs, rather than the long term benefits of quality of life which might seem intangible," said Welch.

Welch said the interests of Abilene and Dyess Air Force Base would eventually control the quality of life in the rural area, as well as the communities in the eight-county area.

"In fairness to all, I think the elected officials of Snyder need to rethink their position in the matter," said Welch.

Welch added that Lubbock officials are opposed to the flight training in this area because it could interfere with future commercial flights from that city.

"We have also learned that the Air Force flights might affect medical helicopters transporting patients in this area," said Welch.

It had been expected that the Air Force's final decision would have been made by now, but Lubbock's opposition has delayed the announcement.

DYESS AFB TOUR - A number of local citizens were hosted by the Air Force Friday on a tour or the Abilene base. The group is shown posing in front of a B-1 bomber. (Photo courtesy of Julie Williams)

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WT-Int. Crude - $30.93
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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND

March 18-19, 2000
Vol. 51 No. 275
40 Pages 75¢

Home Of Ashley Delce

One-act play to compete

While most Snyder students were relaxing during spring break, Snyder High School's one-act play cast and crew were hard at work preparing for the district 2000 contest set Tuesday at Big Spring High School Auditorium.

Snyder's *Midsummer Nights Dream* will be the third play to perform that day. The performance is set for 3 p.m.

Casting for Snyder's one-act play includes Corey Knipe as Theseus/Oberon; Hayli Henderson as Hippolyta/Titania; and Chad Rice as Egeus/Peter Quince.

Liz Brown has the role of Hermia and Zach Alred will portray Lysander. Brandon McCraw will be Demetrius, Cheryl Reed will play Helena and Mark Haines will portray Puck.

Michael Gibson will play Bottom/Pyramus; Austin Haire will be Flute/Thisby; and Chris Shoemake will portray Snout/Wall.

Others in the cast include Kelli Henderson as Snug/Lion/Mustard Seed; and Vallery Haines as Peaseblossom (main fairy).

Colby Stolker has the roles of StarVeling/Moon. Haley Elkins will play the Moth/Lady In Waiting.

Josh Gonzales is the stage manager. Randy Green serves as assistant stage manager.

Jon Hensley is the light tech and Buddy Whittenburg will be the sound tech.

Understudies include Josh Heaton, Sarah Cantu, Amy Braziel, Josh Ortegon, Morten Edzards.

Jerry Worsham is the director.

SIGNS — Snyder Police Officer Kyle Haley examines a real estate sign in a yard. The officer located several signs Thursday morning at the Snyder ISD administration building. Local realtors have grown frustrated with subjects stealing the signs and say they will pursue legal action if it continues. (SDN Staff Photo)

Special Olympic events set

Price Daniel Unit employees are planning a variety of activities in the coming weeks to raise money for Special Olympics.

Beginning Monday, classrooms in the Snyder schools will participate in "Mile of Quarters for Special Olympics."

Collection jars will be placed in each classroom for the two-week time period so students and teachers can make donations to the Area 14 Special Olympics program.

On Friday, Snyder Police Officers will participate in the "Tip a Cop" fundraiser. Officers will be serving tables from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Spanish Inn and all tips will be given to the Special Olympics.

PDU employees will also sponsor a softball tournament next weekend.

Chamber board to meet

Snyder Chamber of Commerce directors will meet at 11:30 a.m. Monday for their regular monthly meeting during which the board will hear two requests for funding from the hotel-motel tax.

Making applications for the funds will be representatives from the Snyder High School drama department and the second annual Sammy Baugh Celebrity Golf Tournament.

Other business will include reviewing bids for the chamber health insurance for six employees and discussion on relocating the chamber storage building presently located on the lot now owned by the post office.

Plans for upcoming events at the coliseum will be discussed to include the WTC Rodeo, April 6-8; Snyder Arts and Crafts Show, April 29-30; Senior Citizens May Day, May 6; West Texas Western Swing Festival, May 16-21; and Snyder High School graduation, May 26.

County to consider hospital appointee

Scurry County Commissioners are expected to name a replacement for Dr. Mark Weaver on the Cogdell Memorial Hospital board when they meet at 10 a.m. Monday.

Dr. Weaver resigned his position on the board effective March 1, citing personal reasons for the action.

The court will also consider line-item transfers and budget amendments if necessary and consider the bills for payment.

Sign thefts may prompt filing of criminal charges

Local realtors, frustrated with the theft of real estate signs from yards around town, want to send a message to the culprits: bring our signs back or we will take legal action.

Debby Miller, president of the Snyder Board of Realtors, said the problem first arose around Christmas break and began again this spring break week.

"Approximately three months ago, we had a whole lot of signs missing out of yards. We started getting calls from sellers who wanted to know why their signs were not up," Miller said.

She said she called the police and Snyder High School.

I talked with the principal [Larry Scott] and he got right on it. I think he talked over the PA system and as soon as he did that our signs started appearing again," Miller said.

"We had one mother call and say a bunch of signs were found in her yard. She brought signs back to each office. This stopped the problem temporarily, but now it has started again."

The realtors took no legal action after the first incident.

"This time we will be pressing charges," she said.

On Thursday, signs had been stolen from homes and placed in front of the Snyder ISD administration building.

Miller said she wants the person or persons responsible to know that they are not just doing an innocent prank.

"I don't think they realize the ramifications of what this does to our business. We are in a business contract with the sellers," she said. "I don't think whoever is taking these signs realizes how much it is costing each office and the seller whenever each sign is removed."

Miller said the estimated cost of replacing the signs runs anywhere from $75 to $80. This is for a double-faced sign in a frame.

In addition, the sellers are losing potential sales with the signs removed.

Sgt. David Holley with the Snyder Police Department said due to the cost of the signs, the offense is a Class B misdemeanor. It is punishable by a fine not to exceed $2,000 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days or both.

"As far as taking the sign, a person commits an offense of theft if he unlawfully appropriates the property with the intent to deprive the owner of the property," Holley explained.

"Technically if you move a sign from where the owner left the sign to an unknown location, you are depriving the person of the property. You are looking at a Class B misdemeanor due to the value of the signs."

Miller asks that if anyone locates one of the signs, to contact any of the local offices. Local offices include Stevenson Real Estate, Elizabeth Potts Realtors, Jack & Jack Realtors and Heritage Homes Realtors.

"Please call any one of the offices. It doesn't matter which one it is. If you know where the signs are, please return them. We won't press charges if they will just return the signs to us and leave them alone," she said.

Coliseum is site of calf sale

The "Generation Next" calf sale will be held in the Scurry County Coliseum Sunday, hosted by Mike Mustian of O'Donnell, Brian Martin of Burkburnett, Dan Young of Hereford and Clint Ritzold of Clinton, Okla.

Ranchers from all over the state are expected. Mustian said they wanted to have it in Snyder "because it is a central point and it is a real good facility."

The sale is open to the public and is set to begin at noon.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "It's a fact. Half of the lies told the IRS are not true."

Just in case you haven't noticed, it's one month until that fateful day when the income tax return needs to be in the mail to the Infernal Revenue Service.

Citizens have until April 17 this year because the traditional 15th falls on Saturday. We all know what procrastinators will be doing that weekend.

We don't put things off — well not everything. We've had our return done for more than a month, but we are holding the check until the last minute.

Those IRS pamphlets tell some untruths. Take for example the time it should take to fill out a simple 1040. Not only can't it be done in the prescribed time, it can't be done by some of us, period.

We tried to help our son. Here we are around the dinner table (the first time in more than three months). Two out of three had advanced degrees.

It would have been easier to read the directions to assemble a B-1 bomber. But sane thinking prevailed. We turned it over to a tax professional and left for the golf course.

Other tax-time tidbits:

—There's a gift for your favorite tax guru who already has everything. "April 15th Blues" is a collection of songs about taxes. It contains such classics as "A Tax Accountant Isn't So Romantic" and "Schedule C Shuffle."

—The new, friendlier and kinder IRS:

Responding to a question about reports that the agency is trying to be more customer-friendly, one agent quipped, "What it means is we'll give you a warm handshake, but we just won't let go."

—Sen. Connie Mack argued for elimination of estate and gift taxes. "Death and taxes both may be inevitable, but they should not be simultaneous."

—Rep. Bill Archer had a similar comment:

"No one should have to visit the undertaker and the IRS on the same day."

—Sobering jailhouse news:

Two men pleaded guilty in federal court to filing false claims for income tax refunds. The two filed their claims while already in the Worchester County House of Corrections in Massachusetts.

They now have plenty of time to study all the new tax rules and regulations – and to accurately file this year.

ASK US

Q—Will the Scurry County Library have its book sale again this year?

A—Yes. The sale is set Wednesday through Saturday.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Friday, 61 degrees; low, 33; 7 a.m. Saturday, 46; no precipitation; total for 2000, 1.86 inches.

Area Forecast: Saturday night, clear, breezy; low, lower 30s; N wind, 15-25 mph. Sunday, sunny, high around 70. NW wind 10-20 mph.

Daniel Peterson
Sunny

Sunset: 6:55 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:49 a.m.

Of 77 days in 2000, the sun has shone 76 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

He who would learn to fly must first learn to walk and run and climb and dance; one cannot fly into flying.
—Nietzsche

MAR 19 2000

Ramseys' book favors intruder theory

DENVER (AP) — An unexplained palm print. A length of white cord. A mysterious footprint next to JonBenet Ramsey's body.

All are among the evidence pointing to the possibility that an intruder killed the 6-year-old girl, parents John and Patsy Ramsey write in a new book, "The Death of Innocence."

"Patsy and I know one thing for certain: this deranged assailant of children walks among us, for the moment, undetected by authorities," John Ramsey wrote.

Their book hit the shelves Friday as the Ramseys began a carefully orchestrated book tour, granting six interviews with local and national media outlets.

Rolf Zettersten of Thomas-Nelson Publishers, which published the book, said the Ramseys let him decide which interviews to grant. They were not accompanied by attorneys and they answered every question, he said.

JonBenet was found beaten and strangled in the family's Boulder home on Dec. 26, 1996. A grand jury disbanded in October after investigating the case for 13 months. No charges were filed.

Police have said the Ramseys are under suspicion, and the parents have steadfastly maintained their innocence.

Much of the book outlines events and evidence made public previously.

The Ramseys cite seven pieces of evidence they say point to an intruder as JonBenet's killer, including the palm print on the door to the room where her body was found; unidentified DNA under the girl's fingernails; and an unmatched boot print found near her body.

They note that police did not find the source of the white cord that was wrapped around the girl's neck or the duct tape that covered her mouth.

They also refer to a theory by retired Colorado Springs Police Detective Lou Smit that a stun gun was used on the girl. Smit was a prosecution consultant for 18 months before resigning in 1998, contending the Ramseys were innocent.

The Ramseys also identify several people in the book they believe could be suspects, but police say all of them have been cleared.

"This book is a statement by people who have not been excluded from the investigation," District Attorney Alex Hunter said Friday through a spokeswoman.

Police Chief Mark Beckner estimated police spent half their time looking at suspects outside the family.

"We still have some questions we are trying to answer. We've outlined what needs to be done and we're staying on course," he said.

On The Net: Excerpts from the book are available on the Thomas-Nelson site: http://www.deathofinnocence.com

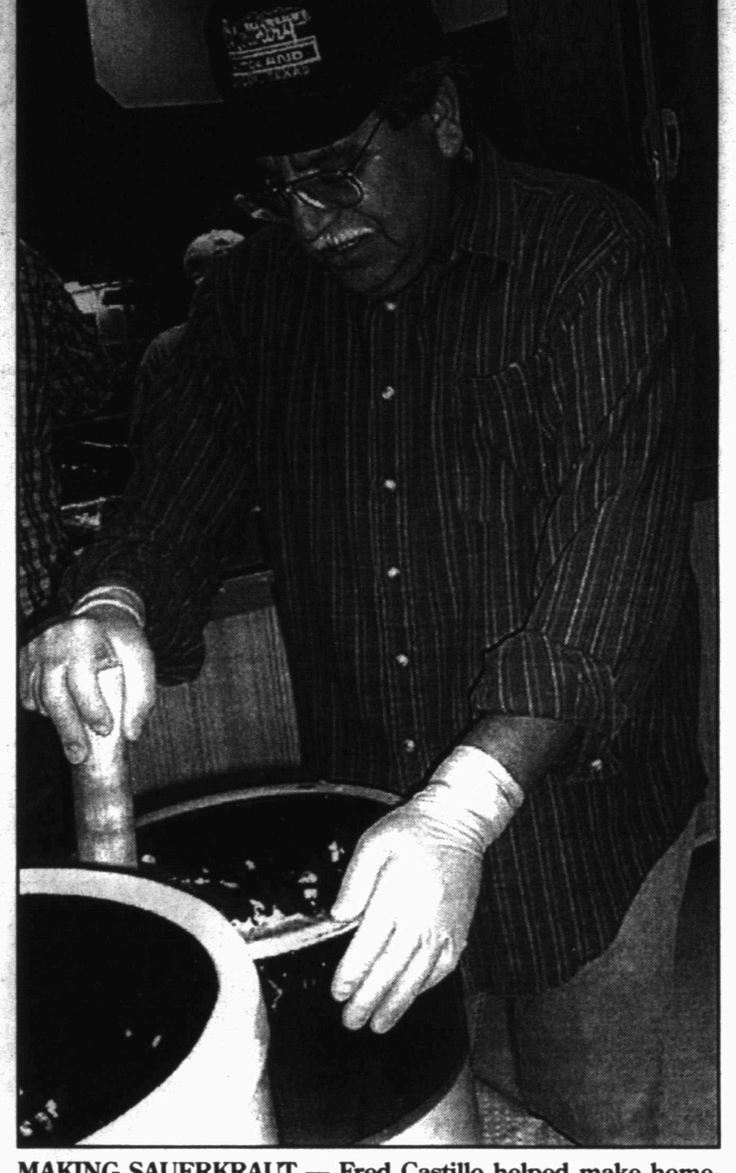
Key To The Kingdom
"Why WE Need The Church"
Historical Christian Evidences
Lesson 5
Cox Cable TV Channel 2,
March 20, 7:00 pm

Bosher will speak at Calvary

The Calvary Baptist Church of Snyder will host a revival featuring Clark Bosher Sunday through Wednesday. Bosher will speak at 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday. Services will begin at 7 weeknights. A nursery will be provided and the public is invited.

Bosher is a nationally-known evangelist from Arlington. He is a director of the Firm Foundation Conferences and is on the staff of Arlington Baptist College. He has spoken at revival meetings and conferences around the world and is popular with adults as well as teens.

Bosher formerly served on the staff of the 4,000 member Temple Baptist Church in Odessa. Calvary Baptist is located at 2405 35th St.



MAKING SAUERKRAUT — Fred Castillo helped make homemade sauerkraut last week for the St. Elizabeth Sausage Festival set April 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. Tickets will be sold at the door and are $6 for adults and take-outs and $3 for children under 12. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Mechanics at Alaska Airlines say they were ordered to cut corners

SEATTLE (AP) — Alaska Airlines has put a top manager on leave while it investigates claims by Seattle mechanics that they were "pressured, threatened and intimidated" to cut corners on repairs.

In a statement, Alaska Airlines said it would immediately ground any planes found to be potentially unsafe.

The airline said it had also notified federal prosecutors and the National Transportation Safety Board, which is probing the Jan. 31 crash of Alaska Flight 261 off the California coast in which 88 people died.

The complaints from the 64 mechanics were contained in a letter delivered to the airline on Thursday and quoted this week by The Seattle Times.

A draft of the letter said workers were directed to do things "specifically contradicting" federal aviation regulations, and alleged they had been "pressured, threatened and intimidated ... in the daily performance of our work."

During a recent repair on an MD-80 — the same type of plane as Flight 261 — mechanics said there told not to replace worn parts.

The airline and Federal Aviation Administration officials have begun interviewing the mechanics.

NTSB Chairman Jim Hall said this week that most major components of Flight 261's tail section have been recovered. He also said investigators had found no grease on a crucial portion of the jackscrew that helped control the movement of the jet's horizontal tail stabilizer, long a focus of the crash probe.

A spokesman for the plane's manufacturer said the part normally should be lubricated, but he refused to speculate about what the NTSB finding might mean.

The Times reported that the mechanics' letter was triggered by concerns over a recent repair to the horizontal stabilizer and jackscrew assembly on an MD-80 jetliner.

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Published each Sunday morning and each evening, except Saturday, by Snyder Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 College Ave., Snyder, Texas 79549.

Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Snyder, Texas, Publication Number USPS611-520.

POSTMASTER send change of address to P.O. Box 949, Snyder, Texas, 79550.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier in Snyder, $9.00 per month.

By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $85.80 balance of Texas and out of state $113.85.

Roy McQueen, Publisher
Wade Warren, Managing Editor
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The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to use for republication all news dispatches in this newspaper and also local news published for republication of special dispatches.

Save our Economy! Stop the Bombers!

A few jobs don't replace quality of life!

IMPORTANT EVENT!
MONDAY, MARCH 27th
"Red" Steagall to perform at HEPA Membership Meeting!

On Monday, **March 27th**, HEPA is holding an important general membership meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. **Famous country singer/poet Red Steagall will perform for us.** Red has agreed to contribute his performance free of charge to support our fight against the RBTI.

Brady Bowen and his swing Country Band will provide music before and during a chili-dog supper, followed by an update on the latest developments with the RBTI. Red Steagall will begin his performance after the RBTI update.

A donation of $20 per person will be accepted at the door to raise money for HEPA and cover the cost of the meeting. Every HEPA member is urged to attend and bring any prospective members along! Even though we are 1,000 strong, we need all like-minded people to join us in our fight.

The meeting is at Wagon Wheel Ranch located on CR 2128 about 10 miles north of Snyder. The music will start at 5:30 so come early if you'd like. PLEASE BE THERE!

From Snyder: Go 8 miles west on US 84 to FM 1142. Turn right and go 3 miles to CR 2128. Turn left on CR 2128 and go 1 mile to the ranch.

From Post: Go about 32 miles east on US 84 to CR 2128. Turn left on CR 2128.

H.E.P.A.
Heritage Environmental Preservation Association, Inc.
Phone: 915-735-3289
P.O. Box 209
Snyder, TX 79550

Thanks

Thank you for the support and encouragement you gave to me during the primary election. I would appreciate your support in the future.

Thanks again,
Donna Gray

Paid Political Advertisement By Donna Gray, Snyder, Texas

Parker gets Rotary award

Snyder Police Lt. Jerry Parker received the law enforcement service award during the Rotary Club meeting Thursday.

Lt. Parker, a native of Fisher County and graduate of Sweetwater High School, earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry at Hardin Simmons University in Abilene.

Parker and his wife, Karen, have twin daughters, Stacey and Lacey, seniors at Angelo State University.

Parker has been in law enforcement for 26 years and began his career with the Snyder Police Department in the 1970s, working as a dispatcher on the midnight shift.

Working as a patrolman for a short time on the Breckenridge Police Department, he returned to Snyder in 1977 working for the Snyder PD. He has been a patrolman, evidence officer, patrol sergeant, investigator, narcotics officer, training sergeant and now heads up the criminal investigation division.

"Jerry continues to be a dedicated hard-working individual performing behind the scene tasks that help make the Snyder Police Department a success," said Rotarian Frank Miller, who made the presentation.

Rotarian Glenda Glasscock heads the project to recognize an individual in club service, community service, international service and vocational service.

LT. PARKER RECEIVES AWARD — Lt. Jerry Parker was given the Rotary Club's vocational service award. Rotarian Frank Miller, right, made the presentation. Standing with Parker is his wife, Karen. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Prosecutors will file more charges

NEW YORK (AP) — Prosecutors plan to rewrite an indictment to add charges against a man accused of aiding a plan to smuggle explosives into the the United States from Canada.

Assistant U.S. Attorney David Kelley did not describe the nature of the new charges against Abdel Ghani Meskini, 31, of New York.

Meskini pleaded innocent in January to charges of providing and concealing support for Ahmed Ressam, an Algerian national accused of trying to sneak explosives into the United States just before the New Year.

Kelley told U.S. District Judge John F. Keenan on Friday that the new charges would stem from evidence already collected in the case.

Meskini has been held without bail since his December arrest in Brooklyn.

Ressam was arrested Dec. 14 after allegedly trying to smuggle timing devices and a powerful demolition explosive into Washington from Canada.

Municipal Court

Snyder Municipal Court heard 23 cases from March 13-15. Cases included a 17-year-old female charged with disregarding stop sign; fine and court costs of $82 were assessed. She opted to take defensive driving to get the ticket dismissed.

A 16-year-old female that was charged with minor consuming alcohol was given deferred adjudication and ordered to take an alcohol awareness class and 30-day driver's license suspension.

A 16-year-old male charged with disorderly conduct and fighting was ordered to attend the STAR program for 6 weeks.

A 15-year-old male was charged with two counts of minor in possess of tobacco. He was given community service in lieu of a fine and court costs of $298.

A 15-year-old male charged with reckless damage was given 6 added weeks in the STAR program.

A 20-year-old female charged with speeding was given extended time to pay fine and court costs of $103.25.

A 28-year-old female was charged with no insurance, failure to carry driver's license and an expired driver's license. The case was continued to show proof of insurance and driver's license renewal and she was given time to pay fine and court costs.

A 21-year-old male was charged with no driver's license. Fine and court costs totaling $79 were assessed. He was given 7 hours of community service.

Male charged with public intoxication was given credit for jail time served. Fine and court costs totaling $49 was assessed. He was ordered to take an alcohol awareness class and 30-days driver's license suspension.

A 29-year-old male was charged with public intoxication. Fine and court costs totaling $449 with credit for 2 days jail time and ordered to take an alcohol awareness class and a 60-day driver's license suspension.

A 17-year-old male was charged with minor in possession of tobacco. He was given deferred adjudication and ordered to perform 12 hours of community service and to take a tobacco awareness class.

A 36-year-old male charged with public intoxication and possession of drug paraphernalia was assessed fine and court costs totaling $298. He was given time to pay.

A 40-year-old male charged with public intoxication pleaded not guilty and was set for pretrial.

A 31-year-old male was charged with public intoxication. Fine and court costs totaling $139 and credit for jail time was given.

Five cases for failure to attend school and thwarting compulsory were handled in court. The fine and court costs were set at $549, but deferred adjudication was given and the cases will be dismissed if juvenile attends school regularly and does not commit any other offenses against the state of Texas.

Three individuals were summoned to court for not completing community service ordered by the court. They did not appear and warrants were issued for their arrest.

A 24-year-old female charged with failure to control speed and two counts of no insurance, fine and court costs totaling $548 was given an extension of time to pay.

A 17-year-old male was charged with disregard stop sign, no driver's license, no insurance, was assessed fine and court costs totaling $373. He was given extension of time to pay.

A 32-year-old female charged with speeding and failure to appear, was ordered to pay fine and court costs of $240 and given 20 hours of community service.

A 27-year-old male was charged with failure to carry driver's license, no insurance and failure to identify. He was given time to pay fine and court costs totaling $580.

A 28-year-old male was charged with public intoxication. He was given credit for time served and fine and court costs of $148.

A 31-year-old male was charged with public intoxication. Fine and court costs of $148 were handed down with time to pay.

A 24-year-old male was charged with public intoxication. Fine and court costs totaling $149 was paid in full.

Nikki Sixx pleaded no contest

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Motley Crue bassist Nikki Sixx received a suspended jail sentence and 18 months of supervised probation after pleading no contest to three misdemeanors.

Sixx made the plea Thursday for kicking security guard John Allen in the head and urging fans to attack him. Sixx also was ordered by a judge to pay a $150 fine and court costs.

Last week, co-defendant and former band drummer Tommy Lee entered a no contest plea for assault and also received supervised probation.

Both men faced charges stemming from a 1997 concert at the Greensboro Coliseum. Allen, who is black, contends band members shouted racial slurs at him and incited the crowd to attack him. He says Sixx kicked him and spit on him and that Lee poured a cup of beer on his head.

Sixx's lawyer, Joe Williams, told the court Thursday that Sixx regrets what he said that night.

Nebraska lukewarm on Hollywood's version of murder

FALLS CITY, Neb. (AP) — So far, the reviews have a common theme: The Falls City portrayed in the Oscar-nominated "Boys Don't Cry" doesn't look at all like the real thing.

The critically acclaimed movie about Teena Brandon opened here Friday. Nearly everyone in this southern Nebraska farm town knows the story of Brandon, a woman who posed as a man, dated a woman and then was killed by two men after they learned her true identity.

Virginia Ernst manages River Twin Cinema, which sits across the street from the courthouse where a jury convicted Brandon's killers.

Ernst expected large crowds for the film's opening at the 220-seat theater that sits along one of the city's narrow, brick streets, but the theater was only half full at Friday's showing. Ernst anticipated larger crowds Saturday.

After previewing the movie Thursday with her staff, Ernst said she did not know how the community would respond to the movie's lesbian love scenes and a portrayal of Falls City with most characters depicted as drunks.

"It's nothing like the town that's in the movie," Ernst said.

After watching the film on Friday, resident Jared Kirkendal agreed.

"That's not Falls City," he said. "It's weird they made it more of a love story than a crime."

"Boys Don't Cry" opened nationwide in November, but did not reach Nebraska screens until last month, when it opened at multiplex theaters in Omaha, the state's largest city. Area theater managers shied away from the film until actress Hilary Swank won the Golden Globe Award for her portrayal of Brandon.

Swank is nominated for the best actress Academy Award to be presented March 26. Chloe Sevigny, who played Brandon's girlfriend, Lana Tisdel, is up for the best supporting actress award.

It has been six years since Brandon was murdered in a farmhouse near Humboldt, about 20 miles west of Falls City. Her friends, Lisa Lambert, 24, and Philip DeVine, 22, also were killed because they witnessed Brandon's death.

Brandon, who used the alias Brandon Teena, was a 21-year-old woman who ran around the Falls City area with a rough crowd, including her killers, John Lotter and Marvin Nissen.

Her death came after she told police that the men raped her when they learned of her true identity and were upset that she had dated their female friend, Tisdel.

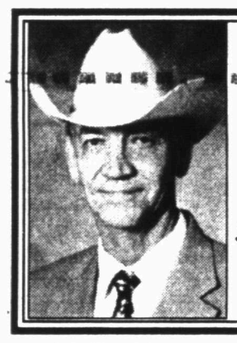
Lotter is on death row awaiting execution. Nissen is serving a life prison sentence after agreeing to testify against Lotter.

Sarah Nissen was among the 110 people at Friday's premiere. The 18-year-old high school student is a cousin to Nissen, who also goes by Tom.

"From what I understand, and from what Tom's told me, the movie is wrong," she said after seeing the film. "There's none of it that's right. It was just weird."

Tisdel, who still lives in Falls City, has sued the film's makers. according to Tisdel's lawsuit.

On the Net: http://www.boysdontcry.com



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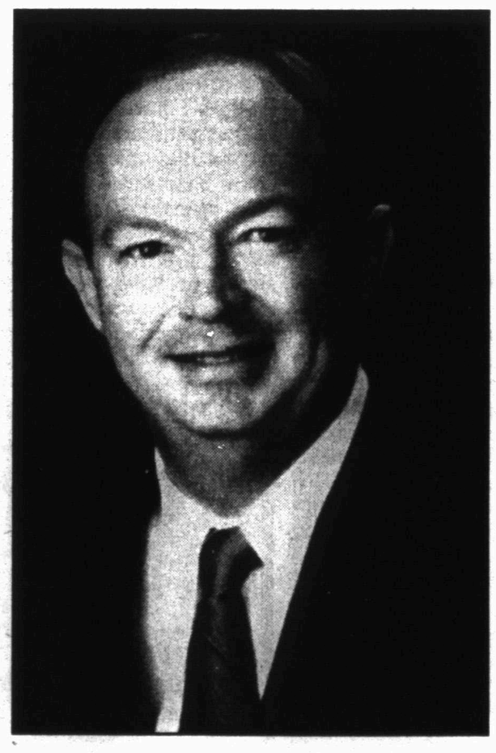

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of the wonderful people of Scurry County. During the last few months, many of you have not only given me your vocal and financial support, but many of you also gave me one of the most fundamental, yet most precious, of all freedoms - your vote. Please know that the friendships I've made during the campaign far outweigh any political loss, and for this I am very grateful.

Sincerely,
Joe M. Bass

Paid Political Advertisement By Joe Bass.

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Suspect in cockpit attack to undergo mental health test

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A judge has ordered a psychological examination of the man accused of bursting into the cockpit of an Alaska Airlines jet and attacking the co-pilot.

Magistrate Bernard Zimmerman on Friday ordered the evaluation for Peter Bradley, 39, who showed up in court with a black eye and bruises police say he got when passengers and crew members tackled him on the jet Thursday night.

Bradley faces a single charge of interfering with flight crew members and attendants, punishable by up to 20 years in prison and a $250,000 fine. Zimmerman scheduled a second hearing for Wednesday.

Public defender Ron Tyler said Bradley has no history of substance abuse or psychiatric problems. Neighbors said he has a wife and a teen-age son. Both were headed to the San Francisco Bay area Friday.

Witnesses said Bradley began to exhibit strange behavior shortly after Flight 259 left Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, for San Francisco with 48 people aboard. He stripped off his shoes, socks and shirt, wandered from seat to seat and spoke incoherently.

Flight attendants repeatedly intervened, asking him to put his shirt on and take a seat. He obeyed, but not for long. He roamed the aisles, muttering to himself.

"He was saying things like, 'It's not about what fell on the floor, it's not about lost love. I know he's here, I know he's here somewhere,'" said Donnie Benjamin of West Linn, Ore.

At one point, the captain came back to talk to the man, but it did little good. He became more agitated, and the flight attendants were unable to control him.

He allegedly tried to open an outside door and shoved a flight attendant. Chris Honochick, a former Southern Oregon University football player and wrestler, saw the man batter his way into the cockpit.

"The plane actually took a dip," Donnie Benjamin said. "Everybody could feel it go down."

The pilot used an ax to fend off Bradley, a 6-foot-2 carpenter weighing 250 pounds, who lunged for the controls and shouted "I'm going to kill you," according to a court affidavit.

Honochick and others grabbed the man and the co-pilot lashed the man's feet and hands with plastic ties. Police met the flight and an ambulance crew strapped the man to a gurney and took him to a nearby hospital.

Nestle recalling formula for baby

WASHINGTON (AP) — About 2.5 million cans of Nestle concentrated baby formula are being recalled because they may not have been properly sterilized.

Nestle of Glendale, Calif., recalled 33 batches of the formula after the company discovered that during processing, the liquid concentrate formula may not have reached high enough temperatures to be sterilized, the company and the Food and Drug Administration said Friday.

No illnesses have been reported, and Nestle said it has tested the batches and found no problems.

"Our concern is the remote possibility that there could be a bacteria in there that could make a child sick when they drank it," said John Guzewich, a scientist with the FDA's Center for Food Safety. "Even though there's no evidence that that has happened, rather than taking a chance, they're removing it from the market."

STORY TIME — Gayle Lomax, Snyder ISD superintendent, recently read a story to Linda Cozart's first graders at Stanfield Elementary. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

It's in the mail - Academy copes with stolen Oscars

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — The Oscar drama has started awfully early.

Academy Awards officials on Friday said a shipment of Oscars bound for next weekend's ceremony had gone AWOL — the latest embarrassment for the Academy, which had to scramble to send new voting forms after 4,000 ballots got lost in the mail.

The 55 statues vanished last week and are presumed stolen, said Bruce Davis, executive director of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

"We think everybody should watch the entire Oscar show to see if we have enough on hand to get through the end of the show," Davis wisecracked, adding that the Academy might hand out a "really nicely engraved I.O.U."

Actually, the Academy has about 20 Oscars in storage, and manufacturer R.S. Owens Co. of Chicago is busy making replacements. Oscar officials expect to have those delivered early next week, though the Academy is "going to be a little coy about that, just in case there is an Oscar gang out there," Davis said.

The statues were reported missing March 10 from a Roadway Express loading dock in Bell.

That's the same Los Angeles-area community where 4,000 Oscar ballots were misplaced at a post office earlier this month. The ballots were eventually found, but the Academy had already printed new ones and extended the voting deadline by two days, to next Thursday.

As things turned curiouser and curiouser over the stolen statues, Academy spokesman John Pavlik said he expects Oscar host Billy Crystal will have a field day over the missing statues and ballots during the March 26 show.

"We've told Billy Crystal not to go anywhere near Bell, California, in the next couple of weeks," Davis said. "It seems to be a Bermuda Triangle for Oscar things."

Roadway Express, which shipped the statues from Chicago, had no comment. Roadway has put up a $50,000 reward to help recover the statues, Davis said.

Los Angeles and Bell police, along with FBI art-theft experts, are investigating, Davis said.

The 55 statues represented enough Oscars to give to all of the winners on Academy Award night. But the exact number of statues needed isn't known until the big night because some nominations go to more than one person. For example, two people might win for collaborating on a screenplay.

The statues were packed in 10 boxes, all encased in shrink-wrap on a pallet. At 81/2 pounds each, the gold-plated statues would have weighed about 470 pounds, meaning whoever stole them would have needed a forklift and a truck, Davis said.

The manufacturing cost of the statues was about $18,000, though Davis said they have far greater intrinsic value. He said it would be difficult for anyone to fence a stolen Oscar, but "we don't like having 55 Oscars floating out in collector circles."

The statues were not engraved, since the Academy does not know the winners until the envelopes are opened awards night. The boxes were unmarked and Davis said he suspects whoever took them did not know what the cartons contained.

Besides the missing ballots and statues, the Academy has dealt with reports that The Wall Street Journal was polling Oscar voters to get a jump on the winners and a Web site that claimed to have a short list of potential nominees the day before the nominations were announced last month. The Web site's claim turned out to be false.

All the odd publicity may boost ratings for the Oscar telecast, which slipped 18 percent last year. It was the second-lowest rated Oscar telecast since 1991.

On the Net: Academy's official site: http://www.oscars.org

R.S. Owens site: http://www.rsowens.com

Daingerfield hsopitalized-

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Rodney Dangerfield was hospitalized a day after he wrapped up a six-night performance at the MGM Grand hotel-casino.

Officials at Sunrise Hospital said the comedian was in stable condition Thursday. Hospital spokeswoman Ann Lynch would not say why he was hospitalized and MGM officials had no comment other than to say Dangerfield had performed Wednesday night.

Ranch closed to BP

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — The U.S. Border Patrol no longer has access to much of the sprawling Kenedy Ranch.

Board members of the John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation voted Friday to cut all Border Patrol access to its land on the 200,000-acre ranch that encircles the Sarita checkpoint.

Foundation president Joseph Mueller said the action was prompted by two recent incidents in which undocumented immigrants were run over by Border Patrol vehicles on foundation land.

"This is about protection of human rights," Mueller said. "The whole idea behind this is to prevent further injury to people."

The Kenedy Foundation is a charitable foundation with ties to the Catholic Church and owns about half of the entire Kenedy Ranch.

Jose Garza, chief of the Border Patrol's McAllen sector, said he did not know the foundation was considering revoking access to the land.

"This will absolutely make our jobs more difficult," he told the Corpus Christi Caller Times. "How can you enforce the law from the highway?"

Fred Borrego, agent-in-charge of the Kingsville Border Patrol station, said his agents make the vast majority of their immigrant apprehensions on foundation land.

"Once the word gets out, smugglers are going to know we're not there, and it's like they're home free" he said. "But it's their property, and they can dictate."

The board voted to cancel a September 1999 agreement with the Border Patrol, which had allowed the federal officials on foundation land only if agents first notified the foundation before pursuing immigrants or driving their vehicles off the ranch's paved roads.

Mueller said the agreement was broken when Border Patrol agents left the paved roads and ran over the two undocumented immigrants.

On March 7, Border Patrol agents pursuing a group of suspected undocumented immigrants ran over Armando Leal, who, according to an incident report, was lying on the ground in an attempt to hide himself.

Leal suffered major injuries to his back and pelvic area and remains at Christus Spohn Hospital Memorial awaiting surgery.

Five days earlier, agents ran over the right arm of Victor Manuel while chasing a group of about 25 suspected undocumented immigrants on foundation land.

The agent who struck Manuel wrote in his report that he did not see him because he was lying in tall grass.

The foundation's action was greeted with applause by the local Mexican consulate and some immigrant advocacy groups, some of which called on other South Texas landowners to follow the foundation's lead.

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Financial Focus

We've enjoyed a booming economy for some time now, but few people are suggesting that we'll never again see a recession. In fact, all historical evidence points to the persistent strength of business cycles -- periods of economic expansion followed by periods of contraction. And these business cycles have a definite impact on you as an individual investor. Fortunately, there are moves you can make to strengthen your stock portfolio, even in a negative business cycle.

To begin with, you need to have a good understanding of which types of stocks are "cyclical" and which are "non-cyclical." The performance of cyclical stocks is typically tied to the overall economy, especially interest rates. These stocks tend to rise quickly when the economy turns up and interest rates are favorable, but they may fall just as quickly when the economy falters and interest rates rise. Cyclical stocks include construction, automobiles, chemicals, heavy equipment and paper.

Non-cyclical stocks are not as directly affected by economic changes. These companies produce products that people consistently desire or need. Not all non-cyclicals do well in every economic environment, but some of them are able to deliver steady profit increases year after year. These "stable-growth" companies produce consumer staples such as beverages, food and pharmaceuticals.

Once these stocks start showing dependable earnings growth, their long-term performance has often proven strong and consistent. That's why investors are so often willing to pay a "premium" for them, in the form of high price-to-earnings ratios (P/E), or multiples.

When you invest in a stable-growth company, you receive several potential advantages. First, these stocks, as a group, have tended to outperform the market over long time periods. Second, they do especially well, relative to other stocks, during down times in the business cycle. No matter what the economy is doing, people still need to eat, drink and take their cold medicine. And third, because they are usually worth keeping, you may not want to trade them, which means you'll generate fewer capital gains. That can be an important tax advantage, expecially if you own these stocks outside a tax-deferred retirement plan, such as a 401(k).

It's clear that stable-growth stocks are particularly good candidates for long-term investors. Of course, if you are going to own stocks, you really need to take a long-term perspective on all your holdings, because stock prices bob up and down a great deal in the short term. You'll also want to make sure that your stable-growth stocks are part of a well-diversified portfolio; diversification is another key to reducing investment risk.

To learn more about which stable-growth stocks may be suitable for your individual needs and goals, you might want to consult with a financial professional. Although there are no guarantees in the investment world, the words "stable" and "growth" are nice to have on your side.

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LOS ANGEL virility of Amer changed much decades, accord that says they many sperm as did.

The study research sugge wear, pollution might threaten

Researchers from 1,385 men ing fertility trea partners at Los USC Medical 1994 and 1997. tions were com reported in a 19

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The study is t al published in alternately show more, less or j their grandfathe say it points to t studies with sta of the squiggling

"There are showing sperm ing as there are not declining," s shultz, a urologi lege of Medicine another to the c they're not decli

The USC rese the March issu Fertility and Ster cent of men had tions of less tha milliliter of ser pares with 17 per ied in the 1950s.

Trio custo

DEATH VALL PARK, Calif. (A Saturday were i three people got with police as Nevada to Dea weapons-filled ca

The two men captured late Fri hours after the They had fled on broke down i National Park, ar surrounded by ment officers in nace Creek area.

No one was inj ities did not imm motive. The susp to the Inyo Count eastern Sierra t dence, where cha ing.

The trio was c sneak away in County Sheriff D

"They started of the ground te take them into anybody being said. "We had a h had been watch night vision and s

The car conta high-powered rif said sheriff's Cpl.

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Sperm counts remain same

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The virility of American men hasn't changed much in the last four decades, according to a new study that says they produce just as many sperm as their grandfathers did.

The study disputes other research suggesting tight underwear, pollution and bicycle seats might threaten sperm counts.

Researchers collected semen from 1,385 men who were seeking fertility treatment with their partners at Los Angeles County USC Medical Center between 1994 and 1997. Sperm concentrations were compared with those reported in a 1951 study.

"We shouldn't be alarmed," said Dr. Rebecca Sokol, a study co-author and professor at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine. "I don't think our sperm counts are declining or changing."

The study is the latest of several published in recent years that alternately show today's men are more, less or just as potent as their grandfathers. Some experts say it points to the need for wider studies with standardized counts of the squiggling gametes.

"There are as many studies showing sperm counts are declining as there are showing they're not declining," said Dr. Larry Lipshultz, a urologist at Baylor College of Medicine. "You're adding another to the column that shows they're not declining."

The USC research published in the March issue of the journal Fertility and Sterility found 18 percent of men had sperm concentrations of less than 20 million per milliliter of semen. That compares with 17 percent of men studied in the 1950s.

CLASSIC CAR – Wayne Woodard brought his 1955 Chevrolet to Central Elementary School recently to show to Judy Barkowsky's third graders. He is pictured with his granddaughter, Katy Spradlin, who is in Barkowsky's class. A part of the school's 50th anniversary celebration was dressing up like the 1950s. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Buchanan: Nation ready to pick him over Gore, Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pat Buchanan says American voters are ready to "roll the dice" and elect him president over Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Al Gore, despite the conservative commentator's dismal showing in the polls.

"The establishment of both parties lacks the hold on the country (they) used to have," Buchanan said Friday. "The allegiance to the two parties is smaller than it's ever been. The willingness to take a look at a third party is greater than it's ever been."

During an hour-long interview with The Associated Press, Buchanan predicted his candidacy would "re-shape" Ross Perot's factionalized Reform Party into an anti-abortion, anti-trade, anti-establishment voting bloc.

"What will come out will be populist, traditionalist, conservative, very strongly supportive of the ideas of mine on trade and foreign policy and immigration policy," Buchanan said. "At the end, it'll look like the Rockettes" for precision.

The former Nixon administration aide bolted the Republican Party last October and has crisscrossed the nation in pursuit of enough Reform Party support to acquire its presidential nomination.

He is not assured the nomination. There's no sign Perot is preparing to run, but he hasn't ruled it out and supporters of the Texas billionaire have gathered thousands of signatures for a petition to draft him.

"Am I afraid? Nope," Buchanan said.

His strong views on social and cultural issues clash with the Reform Party's, whose platform is silent on such matters as abortion because most member do not believe government should have a say in those subjects.

But Buchanan said he would find broad common ground with Reform Party members on trade and immigration issues, and he predicted that an alliance even with those on the far left would boost his standing in the polls out of their current low single digits.

He cringed, however, at a suggestion that some of his new allies subscribe to "political collectivism" — a term he apparently associated with communism.

Buchanan said Sen. John McCain's now-abandoned challenge to Bush for the GOP nomination underscores the public's yearning for anti-establishment candidate such as himself. "The American electorate is more ready to roll the dice than it has ever been in my lifetime," he said.

In the interview, Buchanan also:

—Said Bush hasn't "demonstrated the grasp of foreign policy or international affairs that would justify putting the presidency of the United States in his hands."

Names in the News

Michael J. Fox

NEW YORK (AP) — How will Michael J. Fox spend his time now that he's filming his last episodes of "Spin City?"

"I don't know. I'm just stepping off the curb and seeing what the traffic is like," Fox said Friday before filming the season finale of the ABC sitcom.

"The week has turned out to be fairly emotional," Fox said. "I learned how much I love the people in this show and the verisimilitude there is between my life and Michael Flaherty's life. Many things I'm saying as Mike Flaherty, I'm saying as me."

For four years, Fox played deputy mayor Flaherty, who is being written out of the sitcom. Charlie Sheen will join the cast next season in a new role.

The 38-year-old Fox, who revealed in 1998 that he has Parkinson's disease, announced in January that this would be his last season on the highly rated show.

"My immediate plans are to spend time with my family and hang out. I'll be busy launching my Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research," he said. "I wanted to call it PD Cure but I bounced it off a friend and she said 'Pedicure.'"

Fox and actress Tracy Pollan have a son and twin daughters.

Queen Elizabeth II

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II was given a book on Australian native flowers during the first official function of her two-week tour of the country.

It is the queen's 13th visit to Australia, and the first since a landmark referendum that rejected a plan to cut ties with the monarchy and make Australia a republic.

At a short ceremony at Yarralumla, the residence in the national capital of Canberra set aside for Royal visits, Prime Minister John Howard presented the queen with the third volume of a scientific series called "The Banksias," a type of flower unique to Australia.

She received the first two volumes during visits in 1982 and 1992.

"Thank you very much indeed," the Queen told Howard. "This will now join its friends at Windsor (castle)."

Wallace Langham

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In a deal with prosecutors who dropped a hate crime charge, "Veronica's Closet" actor Wallace Langham pleaded no contest to battery after an attack on a gay man.

Langham, who plays a closeted homosexual on the NBC show, entered the plea Friday and Superior Court Judge Abraham Kahn placed him on three years' probation and ordered him to serve 450 hours of community service.

Langham also was ordered to donate $10,000 to the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center and pay victim John Luciano's medical bills.

The judge warned him he will go to jail if he doesn't complete the community service within three years. He also was ordered to stay at least 100 yards from Luciano.

Langham, 34, allegedly assaulted Luciano at a gourmet market on Sept. 7, 1999, while shouting anti-gay slurs.

"It's something that arose out of a heated argument and I yelled out the most hateful slur that I could," the actor said outside court.

In exchange for the plea, the city attorney's office dropped a misdemeanor hate crime charge against the actor. He could have been jailed for 45 days.

Carroll O'Connor

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hollywood celebrated Carroll O'Connor's Irish heritage with a St. Patrick's Day star in the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

More than 300 people gathered at Hollywood Boulevard and La Brea Avenue on Friday for the unveiling of O'Connor's star, the 2,115th in the famous walk.

"I feel very honored," said O'Connor, who wore a green tie and joked with former "All in the Family" co-star Sally Struthers. "I've been a citizen of Hollywood for 40 years. Now my grandson can come visit the star, kind of like you visit a headstone. And he can bring a flower and so can all of you."

Man found innocent in gas bomb case

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A man who left incendiary devices at nine Mormon churches and left Post-It notes across Las Vegas in an apparent effort to get caught has been found innocent by reason of insanity.

James Carbullido will be held in a federal medical center until he is no longer considered dangerous. The verdict was returned Thursday.

Federal prosecutors said he placed the devices at Mormon churches throughout the Las Vegas Valley. Three devices ignited, but the fires were put out quickly. There were no injuries or major damage.

Most of the devices were one-gallon milk or water containers filled with gasoline, with a fuse attached. Some were tossed into the churches, others left in church parking lots.

"Thank God he was not proficient at constructing incendiary devices," federal prosecutor Thomas O'Connell said. "People were inside the churches when the devices were discovered. He was definitely dangerous."

Prosecutors said they do not know why Carbullido targeted Mormon churches. Experts said he suffers from paranoid schizophrenia.

The incidents began in 1998 and continued for a year until Carbullido began placing Post-it notes with cryptic messages about the fires on mailboxes and light poles in downtown Las Vegas, O'Connell said. He also placed some in an elevator in the Clark County Courthouse.

Trio in custody

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP) — Authorities Saturday were investigating why three people got into a gun battle with police as they sped from Nevada to Death Valley in a weapons-filled car.

The two men and woman were captured late Friday, more than 18 hours after the incident began. They had fled on foot after the car broke down in Death Valley National Park, and they had been surrounded by 100 law-enforcement officers in the bleak Furnace Creek area.

No one was injured and authorities did not immediately offer a motive. The suspects were taken to the Inyo County jail in the small eastern Sierra town of Independence, where charges were pending.

The trio was captured trying to sneak away in the dark, Inyo County Sheriff Dan Lucas said.

"They started to move and one of the ground teams was able to take them into custody without anybody being injured," Lucas said. "We had a helicopter up that had been watching them with night vision and saw them move."

The car contained a cache of high-powered rifles and bullets, said sheriff's Cpl. Scott Stell.

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SPORTS

NCAA tourney round-up...

Waves upset Hoosiers; Heels topple Missouri

By The Associated Press

The first round of the NCAA tournament ended with a pounding — Pepperdine over Indiana by 20 points.

On a day that featured three overtime games, the Waves' 77-57 rout of coach Bob Knight's Hoosiers in the East Regional at Buffalo, N.Y., was the talk of the tournament.

The loss came with Knight engulfed in controversy over allegations that he once choked a player. Asked if his team might have been distracted by the charges leveled against him by former player Neil Reed, Knight said: "Not a bit. That didn't even enter the game."

Brandon Armstrong scored 18 of his 22 points in the first half as Pepperdine (25-8) used a 12-0 run to take a 24-8 lead. Indiana (20-9) missed 12 of its first 14 shots and All-American A.J. Guyton had only three points — on first-half free throws. Guyton, averaging 20.3 points per game, took only two shots.

On Sunday, Pepperdine plays Oklahoma State (25-6), which routed Hofstra 86-66 Friday.

"I thought we went out and executed our game plan extremely well," Pepperdine coach Jan van Breda Kolff said. "We got our confidence right away and got the press going which is the key to our team."

In the three OT games, it was Seton Hall 72, Oregon 71 at Buffalo, N.Y., and Florida 69, Butler 68 and Kansas 81, DePaul 77 in the East Regional at Winston-Salem, N.C.

Also, Connecticut's Khalid El-Amin limped off with a sprained right ankle as the defending NCAA champion advanced with a 75-67 victory over Utah State in the South Regional in Birmingham, Ala.

X-rays were negative, and the star point guard most likely will not practice Saturday. The Huskies play Tennessee on Sunday.

El-Amin and Albert Mouring each had 14 points for the fifth-seeded Huskies (25-9). Troy Rolle had 18 points for Utah State (28-6).

At Winston-Salem, N.C., eighth-seeded Kansas outscored DePaul 10-0 in the final 1:57 of OT to advance to the second round for the 17th consecutive year. The Jayhawks (24-9) face top-seeded Duke, an 82-55 winner over Lamar.

Kenny Gregory matched his season high with 22 points, shooting 11-for-12 from the field, and Nick Bradford added 14 points and had a key block in the final seconds.

In the opening game in Buffalo, Seton Hall beat Oregon on Shaheen Holloway's full-court dash in the final seconds.

Executing a play called "Quick" to perfection, Holloway banked in a shot with 1.9 seconds left. The last of Holloway's 27 points sent 10th-seeded Seton Hall (21-9) into the second round against second-seeded Temple, a 73-47 winner over Lafayette.

Mike Miller scored on Florida's "Home Run" play to give the fifth-seeded Gators their win over Butler.

Miller drove through the lane to hit the winning shot at the buzzer. Officials went to video replay, using a rule that was added at midseason, to verify the basket.

Miller, who finished with 16 points, got the chance to win it after Butler's LaVall Jordan missed two attempts with 8.1 seconds left. Florida (25-7) plays Illinois, a 68-58 winner over Penn.

East Regional

Oklahoma St. 86, Hofstra 66

Desmond Mason scored 30 points, two off his career high, as third-seeded Oklahoma State improved to 16-1 in the first round.

Speedy Claxton and Norman Richardson each had 20 points for Hofstra (24-7).

South Regional

North Carolina 84, Missouri 70

Brendan Haywood had a career-high 28 points and 15 rebounds for eighth-seeded North Carolina (19-13).

Ed Cota had 10 assists to become only the third player in NCAA history to reach 1,000.

Tulsa 89, UNLV 62

David Shelton scored 21 points as Tulsa beat UNLV, the seventh-seeded Golden Hurricanes' fifth first-round win in six years.

Tony Heard and Greg Harrington each scored 16 points for Tulsa (30-4).

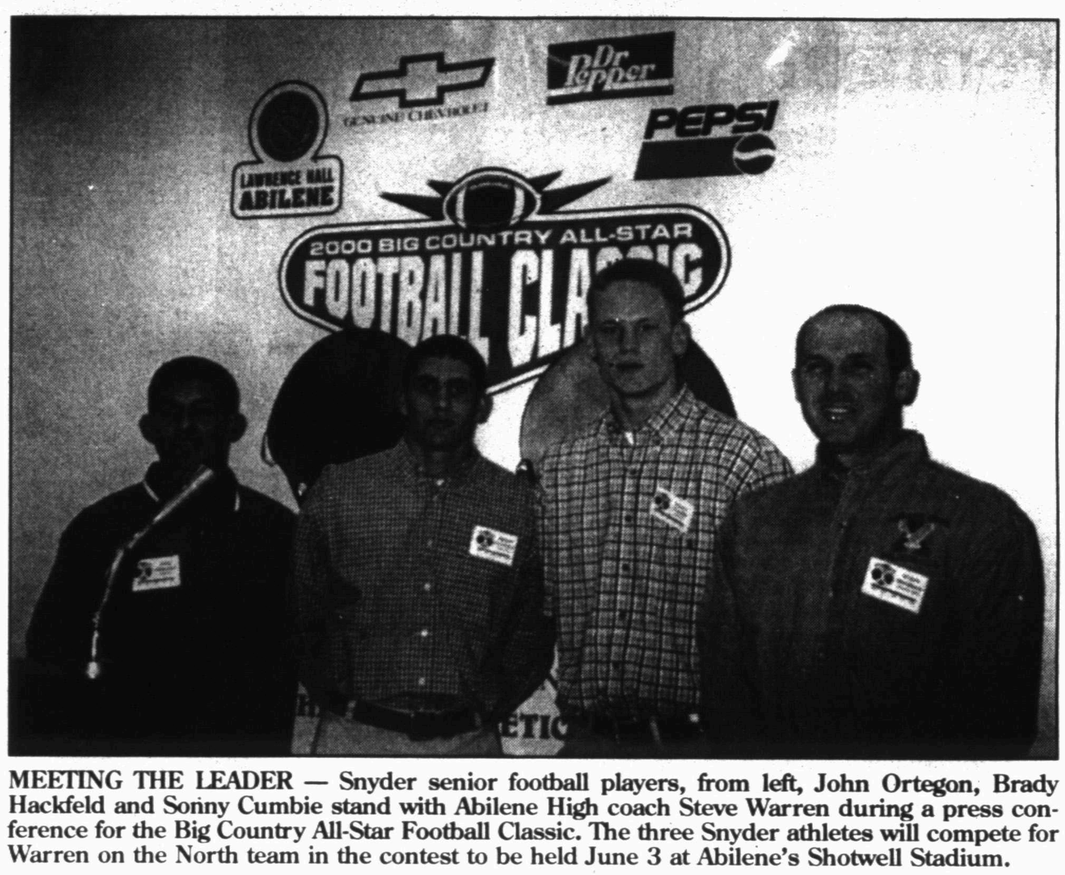
Ohio St. 87, Appalachian St. 61

Scoonie Penn scored 23 points as third-seeded Ohio State opened its bid for a second straight Final Four appearance.

Penn was 9-for-11 from the field, hitting 5-of-7 3-pointers. Michael Redd added 21 points for Ohio State (23-6), which will face Miami on Sunday. Tyson Patterson led Appalachian State (23-9) with 15 points.

Miami 75, Arkansas 71

Johnny Hemsley hit five 3-pointers and scored 20 points for sixth-seeded Miami. John Salmons added 16 for the Hurricanes (22-10). Teddy Gipson led Arkansas (19-15) with 14 points.



MEETING THE LEADER — Snyder senior football players, from left, John Ortegon, Brady Hackfeld and Sonny Cumbie stand with Abilene High coach Steve Warren during a press conference for the Big Country All-Star Football Classic. The three Snyder athletes will compete for Warren on the North team in the contest to be held June 3 at Abilene's Shotwell Stadium.

Three Snyder players chosen for gridiron all-star game

Three Snyder High School seniors still have some football left to play.

Sonny Cumbie, Brady Hackfeld and John Ortegon were selected to play in the inaugural Big Country All-Star Football Classic to be held June 3 in Abilene's Shotwell Stadium.

Cumbie, the District 5-4A offensive MVP, will quarterback the North team, while Hackfeld and Ortegon will roam the defensive secondary.

About 100 players were nominated for the game, which features schools from an approximate 75-mile radius of Abilene. A selection committee made up of eight all-star coaches, former McMurry College coach Wilford Moore, retired sportswriter Bill Hart and radio sportscaster Jimmy Pogue, chose the teams.

The North team will be coached by Abilene High's Steve Warren who led the Eagles to the state semifinals. He will be assisted by Sweetwater's Hank Dowell, Albany's Denny Faith and Colorado City's Gerald James.

Hugh Standifer of Abilene Wylie will lead the South squad, along with assistant coaches Steve Freeman of Brownwood, Randy Quisenberry of Abilene Cooper and Danny Slaughter of Ballinger.

The teams will be comprised of players from all five 11-man classifications, along with two players from Abilene Christian High School.

Teams will report for two-a-day workouts on May 30, and all proceeds from the game will benefit the Big Country chapter of Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

All players must try to raise $500 for event. Anyone wishing to donate to the cause can do so by contacting any of the three Snyder participants.

National Basketball Association

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Miami	41	23	.641	—
New York	40	24	.625	1
Philadelphia	36	28	.563	5
Orlando	31	35	.470	11
Boston	29	36	.446	12½
New Jersey	27	36	.429	13½
Washington	21	45	.318	21
Central Division				
Indiana	45	21	.682	—
Toronto	38	26	.594	6
Charlotte	35	29	.547	9
Detroit	32	32	.500	12
Milwaukee	31	34	.477	13½
Cleveland	25	39	.391	19
Atlanta	24	40	.375	20
Chicago	13	51	.203	31
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
Utah	43	21	.672	—
San Antonio	41	24	.631	2½
Minnesota	38	26	.594	5
Dallas	27	37	.422	16
Denver	27	38	.415	16½
Houston	24	41	.369	19½
Vancouver	18	48	.273	26
Pacific Division				
x-L.A. Lakers	54	12	.818	—
x-Portland	49	16	.754	4½
Phoenix	41	23	.641	12
Seattle	40	26	.606	14
Sacramento	37	27	.578	16
Golden State	17	48	.262	36½
L.A. Clippers	14	52	.212	40

x-clinched playoff berth

Friday's Games

Indiana 111, Houston 102
Philadelphia 99, Utah 97
Toronto 95, Orlando 91
New York 118, Charlotte 99
Boston 114, Atlanta 90
L.A. Lakers 110, Detroit 82
Denver 114, L.A. Clippers 87
Golden State 95, Chicago 92, 2OT
Phoenix 101, Vancouver 86

Saturday's Games

Milwaukee at New Jersey, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Washington, 7 p.m.
Charlotte at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Miami at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Denver at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Portland at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

L.A. Lakers at New York, Noon
Utah at New Jersey, 1 p.m.
Houston at Toronto, 3 p.m.
Detroit at Vancouver, 3:30 p.m.
Dallas at Atlanta, 6 p.m.
Orlando at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Golden State, 9 p.m.

NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament

All Times EST

EAST REGIONAL

First Round

Friday, March 17

Seton Hall 72, Oregon 71, OT
Temple 73, Lafayette 47
Oklahoma State 86, Hofstra 66
Pepperdine 77, Indiana 57
Illinois 68, Pennsylvania 58
Florida 69, Butler 68, OT
Kansas 81, DePaul 77, OT
Duke 82, Lamar 55

Second Round

Sunday, March 19

Oklahoma State (25-6) vs. Pepperdine (25-8), 12:10 p.m.
Temple (27-5) vs. Seton Hall (21-9), 30 minutes after previous game
Illinois (22-9) vs. Florida (25-7), 2:30 p.m.
Duke (28-4) vs. Kansas (24-9), 30 minutes after previous game

SOUTH REGIONAL

First Round

Friday, March 17

Cincinnati 64, North Carolina-Wilmington 47
Tulsa 89, UNLV 62
Ohio State 87, Appalachian State 61
Miami 75, Arkansas 71
Tennessee 63, Louisiana-Lafayette 58
Connecticut 75, Utah State 67
North Carolina 84, Missouri 70
Stanford 84, South Carolina State 65

Second Round

Sunday, March 19

Cincinnati (29-3) vs. Tulsa (30-4), 2:15 p.m.
Ohio State (23-6) vs. Miami (22-10), 30 minutes after previous game
Stanford (27-3) vs. North Carolina (19-13), 2:20 p.m.
Tennessee (25-6) vs. Connecticut (25-9), 30 minutes after previous game

MIDWEST REGIONAL

First Round

Thursday, March 16

Kentucky 85, St. Bonaventure 80, 2OT
Syracuse 79, Samford 65
Michigan State 65, Valparaiso 38
Utah 48, Saint Louis 45
Auburn 72, Creighton 69
Iowa State 88, Central Connecticut State 78
Maryland 74, Iona 59
UCLA 65, Ball State 57

Second Round

Saturday, March 18

Syracuse (25-5) vs. Kentucky (23-9), 1:10 p.m.
Michigan State (27-7) vs. Utah (23-8), 30 minutes after previous game
Iowa St. (30-4) vs. Auburn (24-9), 5:38 p.m.
Maryland (25-9) vs. UCLA (20-11), 30 minutes after previous game

WEST REGIONAL

First Round

Thursday, March 16

Texas 77, Indiana State 61
LSU 64, Southeast Missouri State 61
Arizona 71, Jackson State 47
Wisconsin 66, Fresno State 56
Oklahoma 74, Winthrop 50
Purdue 62, Dayton 61
Gonzaga 77, Louisville 66
St. John's 61, Northern Arizona 56

Second Round

Saturday, March 18

LSU (27-5) vs. Texas (24-8), 3:20 p.m.
Arizona (27-6) vs. Wisconsin (19-13), 30 minutes after previous game
Oklahoma (27-6) vs. Purdue (22-9), 5:30 p.m.
St. John's (25-7) vs. Gonzaga (25-8), 30 minutes after previous game

NCAA Women's Tournament Glance

All Times EST

EAST REGIONAL

First Round

Friday, March 17

Stephen F. Austin 73, Xavier 72
LSU 77, Liberty 54
Clemson 64, Drake 50
Connecticut 116, Hampton 45

Saturday, March 18

Oklahoma (23-7) vs. Brigham Young (22-8), 6 p.m.
Dartmouth (20-7) at Purdue (22-7), 8:30 p.m.
Marquette (22-6) vs. Western Kentucky (21-9), 5 p.m.
Campbell (22-8) at Duke (26-5), 7 p.m.

Second Round

Sunday, March 19

Stephen F. Austin (28-3) vs. LSU (23-6), 8:35 p.m.
Clemson (19-11) vs. Connecticut (31-1), 9:07 p.m.

MIDEAST REGIONAL

First Round

Friday, March 17

Boston College 93, Nebraska 76
Virginia 74, Pepperdine 62
George Washington 79, UCLA 72
Notre Dame 87, San Diego 61

Saturday, March 18

Tulane (26-4) vs. Vermont (25-5), 7 p.m.
Tennessee Tech (24-8) at Texas Tech (25-4), 9:30 p.m.
Arizona (24-6) vs. Kent (25-5), 5 p.m.
Furman (20-10) at Tennessee (28-3), 7:30 p.m.

Second Round

Sunday, March 19

Boston College (26-8) vs. Virginia (24-8), 7:35 p.m.
George Washington (26-5) vs. Notre Dame (26-4), 6:35 p.m.

MIDWEST REGIONAL

First Round

Friday, March 17

Illinois 75, Utah 58
Iowa State 92, St. Francis 63
Auburn 78, Southwest Missouri State 74
Penn State 83, Youngstown State 63

Saturday, March 18

North Carolina State (20-8) vs. Southern Methodist (21-8), 6 p.m.
Wisconsin-Green Bay (21-8) at Old Dominion (27-4), 8:30 p.m.
Louisiana Tech (28-2) vs. Alcorn State (22-8), 7:30 p.m.
Vanderbilt (20-12) vs. Kansas (20-9), 10 p.m.

Second Round

Sunday, March 19

Illinois (23-10) vs. Iowa State (26-5), 9:35 p.m.
Auburn (22-7) vs. Penn State (27-4), 2:07 p.m.

WEST REGIONAL

First Round

Friday, March 17

St. Joseph's 69, Texas 48
Rutgers 91, Holy Cross 70
Mississippi State 94, St. Peter's 60
Alabama-Birmingham (19-12) at Oregon (23-7), 11:59 p.m.

Saturday, March 18

Montana (22-7) at Georgia (29-3), 7:05 p.m.
Michigan (22-7) vs. Stanford (20-8), 9:35 p.m.
North Carolina (18-12) vs. Maine (20-10), 9:35 p.m.
Rice (21-9) at UC Santa Barbara (30-3), 11:59 p.m.

Second Round

Sunday, March 19

St. Joseph's (25-5) vs. Rutgers (23-7), 7:07 p.m.
Mississippi St. (24-7) vs. Oregon-Alabama-Birmingham winner, 11:07 p.m.

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N.Y. Islanders 21 42
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Toronto 40 24
Ottawa 35 24
Montreal 30 33
Buffalo 28 34
Boston 21 32
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Washington 38 22
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Vancouver 24 33
Calgary 28 35
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Los Angeles 34 28
Phoenix 35 29
San Jose 30 33
Anaheim 29 31
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SPORTS

TELLING STORIES — Former Texas A&M standout John David Crow (center) visits with other celebrities during last year's Slingin' Sammy Baugh Celebrity Golf Tournament in Colorado City. The event will be held again June 22-24, but has been moved to Western Texas College. (SDN Staff Photo)

Celebrity event slated for WTC

After a successful event last year at Colorado City, the Slingin' Sammy Baugh Celebrity Golf Tournament has had a change in venue.

More than 35 celebrities will join Baugh for this year's three-day tournament June 22-24 at Western Texas College.

The event, sponsored by The Panhandle-Plains-Permian Basin Chapter of the Sul Ross Ex-Student Association and Southwest Airlines, was deemed a success last year by tourney director Bob O'Day.

"Last year was a big success," said O'Day. "But this year could be even better. We have a lot of the same celebrities coming back, plus some new ones. And with the tournament in Snyder this year, we should have a lot of community support."

Once again, autographed memorabilia will be on sale. Spectators are welcome and there will be no admission fee.

Joining Baugh at the event will be Donny Anderson, Norm Bulaich, Red Cashion, Dick Compton, John Conley, Bobby Joe Conrad, John David Crow, Koy Detmer, Ty Detmer, Sonny Detmer, Cotton Davidson, Spike Dykes, Hollis Gainey, Walt Garrison and Pete Hart.

Also scheduled to play are E.J. Holub, Pierce Holt, Jeff Ireland, T. Jones, Don Maynard, David McGinnis, Bud McFadden, Dave Parks, Jim Parmer and Darrell Royal.

Others participating will be Jack Spikes, Grant Teaff, Bake Turner, Johnny Vaught, Dean Weese, Bill Yoeman, Mac Percival, Bill Grimes, Yale Lary, Dennis Gentry, Mickey Sullivan, Larry Grantham and Cornell Green.

Baugh, who lives on his ranch near Rotan, was a two-time All-American at TCU, before being selected as the top draft choice in 1937. He was the NFL's top passer for six consecutive seasons, and still holds the record for punting.

Baugh, father of Snyder High School coach David Baugh, was enshrined as a charter member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Western Texas riders secure spots in finals

LOVINGTON, N.M. — Western Texas didn't let up in the second performance of the Lovington rodeo.

After a strong opening effort Thursday night, the Western Texas rodeo squad moved into position to secure 10 more spots in Saturday's final round.

In men's action, Rawley McFarland's 75 in the saddle bronc competition was still tops, but three Westerner teammates joined him in the top-10.

Jeff Cavey tallied a 74 to move into second place, with Brandon Mayberry posting a 73 to sit fourth. Harper Sharp was seventh with a 68.

Luke Richards, who was first in the steer wrestling heading into Friday night, slipped to second place, while B.J. Scott fell from second to third in bareback riding.

Kent Aikin garnered a score of 69 in the bull riding to move into 10th place.

Tibba Smith and Cimmaron Boardman remained in sixth place in team roping, with Cavey and Chad Beaver sitting ninth.

In women's competition, Brandee Brock slipped from first to fourth in the breakaway roping, but teammate Kacy Henard jumped into second place with a time of 3.0 seconds.

Jill Childers registered a time of 9.3, and Jamie Standifer had a 9.5, to put them in fourth and fifth places in the goat tying competition.

Brock rode home in 18.11 seconds to move into third place in the barrel racing, while Terra Bynum was ninth with an 18.51. Smith slipped from second to seventh place.

The final performance of the event was scheduled for Saturday night.

Snyder frosh outlast Grape Creek, 15-10

GRAPE CREEK — Snyder held off Grape Creek in an offensive shootout, 15-10, during Friday's action at the Grape Creek freshman baseball tournament.

The Tigers, who pounded out 14 hits on the day, took control early with eight runs in the first inning. Snyder led the entire game, with the Eagles posting three runs in the final frame to trim the deficit.

Tyler Pollard and Randall Rich paced the Tigers' at the plate with three hits apiece.

Josh Key rang up nine strikeouts while working the first four innings on the mound, before Josh Gutierrez struck out five more Eagles during the final two frames.

Snyder was to have met Ballinger Saturday morning in the tourney championship.

Snyder 15, Grape Creek 10

Snyder: Pollard and Rich, three singles; Alderete, double; Gutierrez and Harbin, two singles; Pena, Greenwood and Key, single.

Sports Briefs

Little league sign-ups scheduled

Registration for Snyder Little League, ages 8-12, will be Monday through Wednesday from 5 to 8 p.m. at Caprock Securities.

Registration fee is $30 and players must bring a copy of their birth certificate.

Senior league needs help

Snyder Senior Baseball League is in need of board members. Anyone interested in serving on the board, or helping in any capacity, should contact Joel Hook at 573-4872 or 573-5213.

Pitching clinics held weekly

Fastpitch softball pitching clinics will be held every Wednesday. Class size is limited. For more information, contact Herman Martinez at 573-0390.

Hawks release Rider

ATLANTA (AP) — Isaiah Rider was released by the Atlanta Hawks after he refused to accept a three-game suspension for showing up late for a game.

Rider called himself the scapegoat for the Hawks' problems and accused two of his teammates, Dikembe Mutombo and LaPhonso Ellis, of going to team management with allegations of marijuana abuse.

NBA withdraws fines

NEW YORK (AP) — The NBA withdrew $100,000 fines levied against the Seattle SuperSonics and Toronto Raptors after their coaches refused to wear microphones for an NBC telecast. The league also said it will continue to give coaches the option for the rest of the season of whether to wear a wireless microphone or have a boom microphone lowered into their huddles during selected national broadcasts.

The compromise was first offered Tuesday following an outcry among coaches who felt the microphone policy was heavy-handed and intrusive.

Lindros out with headaches

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Eric Lindros made recurring migraines worse by taking too many ibuprofen pills since his latest concussion two weeks ago, according to his doctor. The Philadelphia Flyers captain has missed two games and will miss at least three more before he can return to the lineup, but he should make a full recovery.

Lindros' fourth concussion in two years resulted in migraines that became more severe because of the number of over-the-counter painkillers he was taking, said Dr. Stephen Silberstein.

A hospital spokeswoman said Silberstein's file on Lindros indicated the player took an average of two ibuprofen pills every three to four hours he was awake.

Lewis could lose WBA, IBF belts

LONDON (AP) — Lennox Lewis might not be the undisputed world heavyweight champion for long, although he won't lose his titles in the ring.

Promoter Panos Eliades said that both the WBA and IBF are trying to take their belts back from Lewis because of disputes over who he should fight.

National Hockey League

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
x-New Jersey	40	24	8	5	93	219	174
Philadelphia	37	21	12	2	88	202	157
Pittsburgh	29	33	8	6	72	201	205
N.Y. Rangers	28	33	11	3	70	201	204
N.Y. Islanders	21	42	8	1	51	168	234

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	40	24	7	3	90	219	188
Ottawa	35	24	11	2	83	207	177
Montreal	30	33	8	3	71	168	167
Buffalo	28	34	10	3	69	182	191
Boston	21	32	17	6	65	179	209

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	38	22	11	1	88	193	168
Florida	36	29	5	5	82	206	178
Carolina	30	31	10	0	70	189	196
Tampa Bay	17	45	8	7	49	178	261
Atlanta	12	51	6	4	34	143	263

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
x-St. Louis	45	17	9	0	99	219	143
x-Detroit	42	21	8	2	94	235	182
Chicago	28	36	7	2	65	214	223
Nashville	25	40	7	7	64	183	212

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	34	27	11	1	80	204	181
Edmonton	27	29	16	8	78	199	187
Vancouver	24	33	14	8	70	187	209
Calgary	28	35	8	5	69	186	222

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	39	25	7	4	89	180	158
Los Angeles	34	28	9	3	80	219	204
Phoenix	35	29	7	2	79	209	197
San Jose	30	33	9	7	76	200	191
Anaheim	29	31	12	2	72	189	198

x-clinched playoff berth

Overtime losses count as a loss and a regulation tie.

Friday's Games

Washington 4, Carolina 2
Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 1
St. Louis 4, Los Angeles 0
Edmonton 4, Ottawa 2
Nashville 4, Phoenix 3, OT
Anaheim 4, San Jose 2

Saturday's Games

Pittsburgh at Boston, 3 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Philadelphia, 3 p.m.
Dallas at Chicago, 3 p.m.
Detroit at Colorado, 3 p.m.
Atlanta at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Florida at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Ottawa at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Boston at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Washington, 1 p.m.
San Jose at Dallas, 3 p.m.
Florida at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh, 8 p.m.
Calgary at Edmonton, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Anaheim, 8 p.m.
Nashville at Los Angeles, 8 p.m.

Major League Baseball Exhibition Results

All Times EST

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.
Oakland	11	2	.846
Tampa Bay	11	6	.647
Minnesota	11	8	.579
Cleveland	9	7	.563
Toronto	9	7	.563
Baltimore	8	7	.533
Detroit	8	7	.533
Anaheim	8	8	.500
Texas	7	8	.467
Seattle	6	7	.462
Chicago	8	11	.421
Boston	7	10	.412
Kansas City	6	11	.353
New York	5	13	.278

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.
Houston	12	5	.706
Pittsburgh	10	5	.667
Arizona	11	6	.647
Chicago	10	6	.625
St. Louis	10	6	.625
Montreal	9	6	.600
Philadelphia	10	7	.588
San Diego	8	6	.571
Atlanta	8	8	.500
New York	9	10	.474
Cincinnati	9	11	.450
Milwaukee	5	10	.333
Colorado	5	11	.313
Florida	5	11	.313
San Francisco	4	9	.308
Los Angeles	3	13	.188

(NOTE: Split-squad games count in the standings, ties do not; games against non-major league teams do not.)

Friday's Games

St. Louis 4, Los Angeles 2
Atlanta 9, New York Yankees 5
Cleveland 10, Philadelphia 5
Pittsburgh 2, Minnesota 1
Kansas City 1, Houston 0
Boston 6, Cincinnati 3
Texas 13, Baltimore 8
Toronto 8, Tampa Bay 1
Detroit 2, New York Mets 1
Arizona 6, Colorado 3
San Diego 9, San Francisco 7
Milwaukee 8, Anaheim 3
Chicago White Sox 12, Chicago Cubs 3
Seattle 9, Oakland 5
Montreal 4, Florida 1

Saturday's Games

Philadelphia vs. Cincinnati at Sarasota, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
New York Mets (ss) vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
St. Louis vs. Montreal at Jupiter, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Kansas City (ss) vs. Florida (ss) at Viera, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Los Angeles vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh vs. Texas at Port Charlotte, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Minnesota vs. Baltimore at Fort Lauderdale, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Toronto vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
New York Yankees (ss) vs. Kansas City (ss) at Haines City, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Atlanta vs. Tampa Bay at Caracas, Venezuela, 1:05 p.m.
Florida (ss) vs. New York Mets (ss) at Port St. Lucie, Fla., 1:10 p.m.
Cleveland vs. New York Yankees (ss) at Tampa, Fla., 1:15 p.m.
San Francisco vs. Milwaukee (ss) at Phoenix, 3:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (ss) vs. Chicago Cubs (ss) at Mesa, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Oakland (ss) vs. Colorado at Tucson, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Arizona (ss) vs. Anaheim (ss) at Tempe, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
San Diego vs. Chicago White Sox (ss) at Tucson, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (ss) vs. Oakland (ss) at Phoenix, 3:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (ss) vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Arizona (ss) vs. Anaheim (ss) at Hermosilla, Mexico, 3:05 p.m.

Sunday's Games

New York Mets vs. Florida at Viera, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Houston vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Texas vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Detroit vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Boston vs. Baltimore at Fort Lauderdale, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Kansas City vs. Cleveland at Winter Haven, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Toronto vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Atlanta vs. Tampa Bay at Caracas, Venezuela, 1:05 p.m.
Cincinnati vs. New York Yankees at Tampa, Fla., 1:15 p.m.
Montreal vs. Los Angeles at Vero Beach, Fla., 2:05 p.m.
San Francisco (ss) vs. Arizona at Tucson, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Colorado vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Milwaukee vs. Oakland at Phoenix, 3:05 p.m.
Seattle (ss) vs. San Diego at Yuma, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
San Francisco (ss) vs. Seattle (ss) at Peoria, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox vs. Anaheim at Tempe, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.

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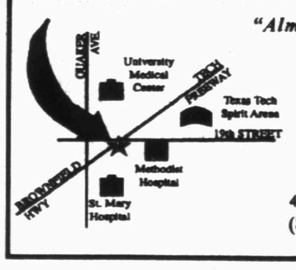

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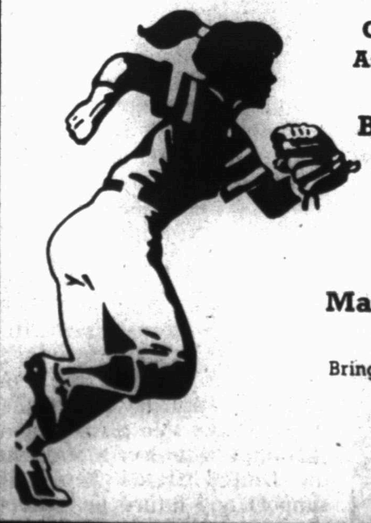

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MAR 19 2000

Free speech dispute erupts over one speed trap in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — It was last August when Alan and Matt Dayton decided to have a little fun with the speed trap down the road from their parents' house in Ogden.

They made a sign out of poster board that read "Radar Trap, 25 mph" and held it up along the road, much to the delight of passing motorists. Before long, the two brothers had the full attention of police and the beginning of an odd free speech squabble that has wound up in court.

"It was actually my idea," said Matt Dayton, 25. "We were just having fun. It's a Saturday afternoon, and we were having a few laughs."

For the first 20 minutes last Aug. 28, motorists driving by honked their approval and gave thumbs up signs. Then a patrol car stopped and a few minutes later, Alan Dayton was unconscious on the ground.

Police say Dayton, 31, started a scuffle with police and resisted arrest, but the brothers say he was manhandled by an angry officer.

"I managed to get Dayton in a headlock and after several seconds he stopped struggling. I put Dayton face down on the grass and handcuffed him," Officer Bob Hanselman wrote in his police report.

"After handcuffing Dayton I noticed that he appeared to be semiconscious and he began shaking. This lasted 5 to 10 seconds, and Dayton was alert and conscious after that."

Dayton was arrested and charged with obstruction of justice, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct. That was only the start — Dayton, after all, is an attorney and adviser for a Salt Lake County commissioner.

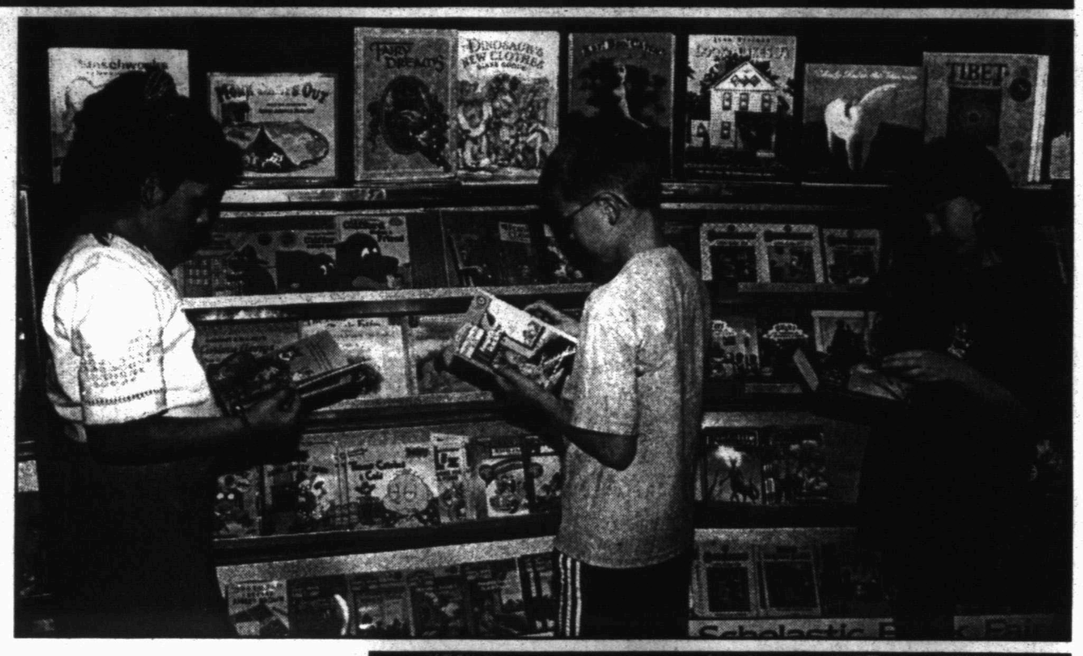
Dayton refused prosecutors' offer of a plea bargain, which would have meant fines of about $2,750. Instead, he paid his attorneys more than $10,000 to defend him. All charges against Dayton were thrown out during a Feb. 25 hearing.

Judge Michael Glassman said Dayton had a right to be where he was, holding the sign. The judge also said Dayton wasn't lawfully arrested.

"I had only the sign, they searched me and found a golf ball and two tees in pockets," Dayton recalled.

His longtime friend and attorney, Jere Reneer, plans to sue the city of Ogden and the police for civil rights violations.

"I'm a law-and-order guy and so is Alan. This is a very conservative Republican. Here he is expressing his views about something and he gets beat up," Reneer said.



BOOK FAIR — Central Elementary School's recent book fair offered something for everyone. Students looking at the books are (top photo) Maria Murillo, Jared Cave and Alix Rieser, from left; and (photo at right) David Strayhorn and Rubi Jaimes. (Staff Photos by Shirley A. Gorman)

Hastings Entertainment Inc.: class-action suit unwarranted

AMARILLO (AP) — Hastings Entertainment Inc., a chain of book, movie and video stores throughout West Texas, says a class-action lawsuit accusing the company of misstating financial performance to enhance its stock is unwarranted.

The federal lawsuit, filed in Amarillo, claims the revenues reported by the company raised the stock price beyond its value. Hastings first went public with an initial offering of 3.37 million shares on June 12, 1998. The stock rose to $13 a share.

Last week, Hastings announced it had discovered a mistake in how merchandise receipts were entered into the inventory control system for a small portion of vendor deliveries. The company said the mistake caused merchandise cost of revenue to be understated, according to the Amarillo Globe-News.

On March 7, Hastings said it would restate its earnings for up to four fiscal years and that its noncash charge to earnings would be between $23 million and $27 million.

In the lawsuit filed Monday, lead plaintiff Mitchell S. Warstadt said the charge nearly equals the company's total earnings for the past four fiscal years.

The lawsuit also claims the price of Hastings stock dropped to an all-time low of about $3.06 cents a share on March 8, about 84 percent below the stock's high and more than 23 percent below the prior day's closing price.

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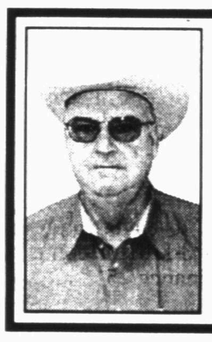

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Indian Casino plan stirs opposition

ROSEVILLE, Calif. (AP) — Nearly two-thirds of California voters backed Indian gambling last week, with some seeing it as a way to help tribes help themselves.

Not so in Placer County, a fast-growing area northeast of Sacramento where the United Auburn Indian Community plans a $100 million casino. There, 56 percent of voters opposed Proposition 1A and so did 51 percent of those in neighboring El Dorado County.

"People here are a bit more educated about what tribal gaming can be. It can expand and it can come close to your community," said Brian Swearingen, chairman of the Placer County opposition group Citizens for Safer Communities. "This thing is going to come within four miles of my house."

Opposition to Indian gambling has been sporadic across California. There is concern in Palm Springs that tribes will make it a casino center, but last week's ballot measure allowing Nevada-style games on tribal land was supported by 65 percent of voters.

Tribal and Placer County officials want to put a 200,000-square-foot casino in an industrial park, where its nearest neighbors are a county landfill, several factories, a towing yard, sludge treatment plant and recycling center.

"We have the same fears and hopes as everyone else," said Jessica Tavares, chairwoman of the tribe. "I wouldn't want to have my house back up to a casino. Here we're talking a place where there aren't any homes."

But that won't last long. Already, subdivisions are popping up near the site, a grassy field where cattle now graze.

The tribe already has a signed compact with the state, but opponents still hope to block the casino as the tribe applies to the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs and Department of Interior, then through local zoning decisions and ultimately in the courts if other avenues fail.

That could push back the casino's opening, slated as early as 2001.

"It brings an element to the community that we don't want," Roseville Mayor Harry Crabb said. "We want to place a lot of emphasis on the families, and certainly gambling is not a family activity. No one is saying there is no compassion for the Indians. There is. But we can only go so far."

The casino would draw a projected 8,000 gamblers each day, around the clock. Tribal spokesman Douglas Elmets pointed to the 1,100 new jobs and $80 million a year in expected revenue. Gamblers from as far as San Francisco may stop there instead of continuing along the main route over the Sierra to casinos in Reno.

But critics and supporters alike say the casino would likely draw many of its customers from the surrounding area, including two nearby retirement communities.

"That's not the type of thing people think about when they moved here," said Yvonne Maxfield, who relocated to Rocklin in July. "It doesn't matter who's running it — it's just the wrong place for it."

Cheryl Schmit opposed the casino, but credits tribal officials with going beyond federal law to work with the community. That effort came as the tribe tried to rebuild relations after its unsuccessful attempt four years ago to put the casino near Schmit's home, close to two day-care centers and a Buddhist temple.

This time, the tribe agreed to make up for lost local property taxes, pay $900,000 a year to compensate for increased police, fire and emergency services and contribute $50,000 annually to fight compulsive gambling in the county.

Most importantly to Schmit, the tribe agreed to create an advisory committee that will hear community grievances and submit to arbitration despite the tribe's immunity from lawsuits.

Tavares and tribal vice-chair David Keyser say they have sensed resentment since the Indian community was recreated by an act of Congress in 1994, 27 years after it officially ceased to exist. The ill will was particularly noticeable after the tribe began pushing for a casino, they say.

"I really resent the Indian privilege that goes along with all this," said Steve Hare, who lives near the tribe's reservation in Newcastle. "Number two, they're trashy, the Indian casinos I've seen. They're more like arcades."

Tavares acknowledged the reservation, called the Auburn Rancheria, isn't pretty, with dozens of junk cars and deteriorating house trailers scattered among the small homes.

The tribe hopes to use money from the casino to buy 1,100 acres near Sheridan, to be divided among as many of the approximately 220 tribal members as wish to relocate.

A school and medical facility would be built there, in accordance with federal requirements for the money, and individual tribal members would get some share of the rest.

Tavares and Keyser hope that will help compensate for the childhoods they spent in unheated trailers and hand-me-down clothes.

"Money is at the base of all things. I'm not saying it can buy happiness, but it ought to buy a little bit of something," Keyser said. "It's not like we're going to all be rich — but not poor, I guess."

U.N. to provide condoms to its peacekeepers

WASHINGTON (AP) — As a precaution against AIDS, the United Nations has decided to distribute a condom a day to each of the 16,000 male peacekeeping troops it plans to send to Congo and Sierre Leone this year, The Washington Post reported.

The decision to distribute condoms in high-risk countries, which in effect acknowledges that U.N. peacekeepers visit brothels, came after weeks of pressure by Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, the Post said in its Saturday editions.

Holbrooke told a meeting of U.N. diplomats last month that the United States would not support any future peacekeeping operations that failed to address the threat of AIDS.

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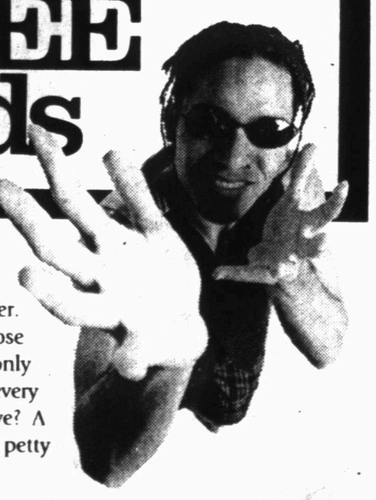

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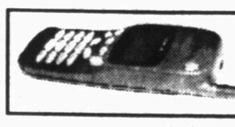

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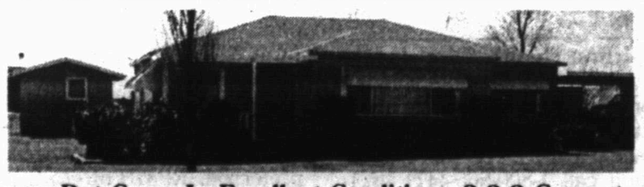
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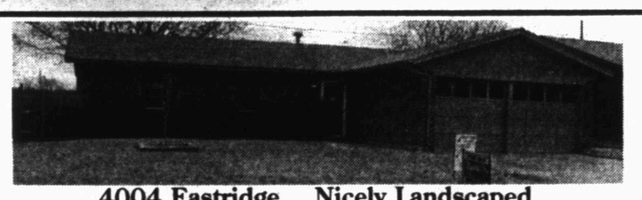
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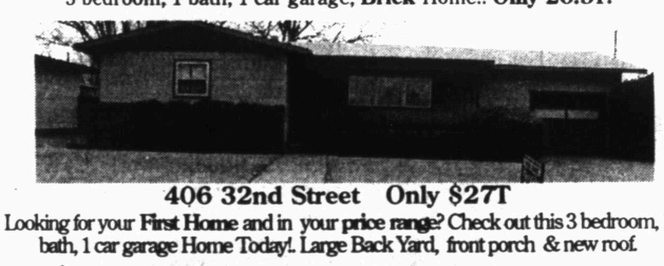
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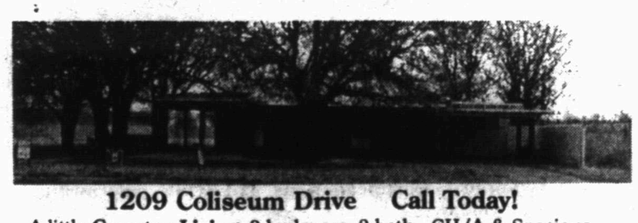
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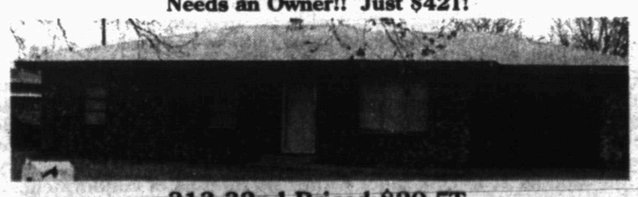
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2706 28th St. 3-2½-2..... $95.5T
4123 Jacksboro 3-2-2..... $79.5T
3303 Irving 4-2-2..... $112T
2310 Sunset 2-1-1..... $24.5T
2601 Ave. W Assume Loan 3-2-1.... $45T
3310 Ave. V 3-2-2 w/extra lot $69.5T
3604 Ave. V 3-2-2..... $69.5T
Hermleigh 880 Harlan 3-2-2 Lg. Lot $38T
212 43rd 3-1..... $34.9T
1901 29th 3-2-1..... $27.5T

2112 28th 2-1-Corner Lot..... $24.5T
2311 40th 3-1-1..... $25T
3734 Dalton 2-1-1..... $18.9T
312 36th 2-1-1..... $17.5T
3810 Noble Drive 2-1-1cp..... $12.5T
3001 39th 3 or 4-2 Breezeway.. $37.5T
5310 Etgen 3-2-2 Liv. & Den/fpl... $86T
2210 32nd Street 3-1..... $39.9T
3001 Crockett 4-3-2cp.....Now..$79.5T
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Nutrition By Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

How can teens bulk up?

DEAR DR. BLONZ: My son is almost 17, a junior in high school and on the football team. He has played football for eight years and has always been one of the most skilled and valued players — until the last two years. He shot up in height (6 feet), but is quite thin (155 pounds) for this sport. The larger guys (250 pounds plus) are getting the plays. He lifts weights four mornings a week and takes physical conditioning. We feed him as much and as healthfully as possible, but he is not able to eat huge meals like a lot of teen-age boys. He is interested in a health-food supplement to help bulk him up, as his senior year is coming and he would like to make the most of his football career. He mainly plays the position of running back. What would you suggest in the way of a supplement? Thanks. — L.W., Aurora, Ill.

DEAR L.W.: There is a limit to what you can do, as a teen's growth in height does not always parallel his increase in weight. Then there is the overriding influence of your son's genetic predisposition: If most of his family members are tall and thin, he's less likely to become a 250-pound running back. This is not to say there are no possible remedies, but they might not achieve the desired results.

A well-balanced diet and weight-lifting and conditioning programs are important adjuncts to any weight-gain program. Consider, though, that in order for your son to gain one pound a week, he must ingest 500 calories a day above his normal caloric intake. There are weight-gain milkshake products that can help accomplish this, but be advised: Studies have found that the body does not always gain weight as expected.

Your son is not the first to face this dilemma. It will be up to you to support him through this transition, whether it's to another position on the team or into another sport that is better tailored to his new body type.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: How good is zinc in an everyday dosage, and what is it good for? — P., Vancouver, Wash.

DEAR P.: You say "everyday dosage," and by this I assume you are speaking of zinc intakes at the recommended levels. For individuals at least 11 years old, the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) is 15 milligrams for males and 12 milligrams for females. The Daily Value (DV), the measure used on food and supplement labels, is set at 15 milligrams of zinc per day.

It would be great if more people met their daily requirements. I say this because, according to the USDA's "Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals," only 17 percent of women and 32 percent of men over the age of 20 have diets that contain the RDA for zinc. What is zinc good for? Zinc is an essential part of one of the key enzymes that works with the immune system — the body's internal security force, which helps determine how often we get sick and how long it will take us to recover.

In addition to this, zinc is needed for a wide variety of bodily functions, including normal skin and hair, and proper bone calcification. It also plays an important role in the development and operation of the sexual organs and the sensation of taste. Zinc is a key ingredient in a number of enzyme systems that control digestion and the release of energy from foods. Finally, zinc plays a role in normal insulin production, the hormone that regulates the level of sugar in the blood.

Having sufficient zinc can even affect the outcome of pregnancy. A study in the "Journal of the American Medical Association" examined 589 pregnant women who had low levels of zinc in their blood. Half the women received zinc supplements of 25 milligrams per day during their pregnancy. The study found that the zinc supplementation improved the outcome of the pregnancy by significantly increasing the birth weight of the children.

It is theoretically possible to get too much zinc, but the chances for toxicity are remote if your only source is the zinc in your diet. When taking zinc in supplement form, it's prudent not to take more than 30 milligrams a day, unless your health professional specifically advises you to.

Send questions to: "On Nutrition," Ed Blonz, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. For e-mail, address inquiries to: ed@blonz.com. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Ed Blonz, Ph.D., is a nutrition scientist and the author of "Power Nutrition" (Signet, 1998) and the "Your Personal Nutritionist" book series (Signet, 1996).

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GAO pans Russian space station parts

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Space station crews will have to put up with increased risk and noise because of Russia's failure to meet NASA safety standards, the General Accounting Office says.

Russian components for the international space station do not meet NASA safety requirements for shielding, windows and noise levels. In addition, equipment in the orbiting Zarya segment and the yet-to-be-launched Zvezda service module will fail if cabin pressure is lost, and that could jeopardize the entire station.

Those preliminary findings were presented to the House Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics on Thursday by the GAO, the investigative arm of Congress.

NASA space station chief Michael Hawes said the problems will not delay the planned July launch of Russia's service module with life-support systems. The module is more than two years late because of Russian money woes and, more recently, Russian rocket problems.

NASA has known about these problems for some time, Hawes said, and they will be resolved in orbit. The Russians have agreed to NASA safety standards even though their own requirements are less stringent, he noted.

"We have been making progress with the Russians on all of these, and I don't see any of these that would keep us from launching the service module this summer," Hawes said Friday.

While the Russians have complied with most of NASA's space station safety standards, their equipment falls short in four critical areas, said Allen Li, an associate director for the GAO.

The service module, which will double as living quarters, provides inadequate protection against space junk, Li said. It was supposed to have no more than a 2.4 percent probability of a penetration over a 15-year period, but instead has a 25 percent probability.

NASA and the Russian Space Agency have agreed to add shielding in orbit. But until that's completed in 2004, astronauts and cosmonauts will be exposed to additional risk, Li said.

The space station program also requires that equipment in pressurized modules be able to function if cabin pressure is lost because of leaking seals or holes caused by space junk. But the equipment in Zarya and the Zvezda service module would fail if pressure were lost, and the station would go out of control, Li said.

To work around this problem, NASA plans to install navigation and guidance equipment in U.S. components, but not until 2001.

NASA has yet to verify that the service module windows meet space station specifications, Li said. And like the orbiting Zarya, the service module is too noisy.

Astronauts and cosmonauts plan to install mufflers in the service module after it's launched. They still may have to wear earplugs, though, which could prevent them from hearing alarms.

Zarya was launched by the Russians in November 1998. NASA followed with the second component, Unity, in December 1998.

Everything is on hold until the third part — Russia's service module — can be launched.

On the Net: NASA human space flight site: http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/index-m.html
General Accounting Office site: http://www.gao.gov

Neighbors stunned following shooting

ATLANTA (AP) — For more than 20 years, the former black militant known as H. Rap Brown has lived here as Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, a Muslim leader known as a pillar of his community.

Residents of his neighborhood find it difficult to believe that Al-Amin shot two sheriff's deputies who had come to arrest him.

Al-Amin is the subject of a manhunt, charged with murder in the death of one Fulton County deputy and aggravated battery in the wounding of the other during a gunfight Thursday night.

Ricky Kinchen, 35, died Friday afternoon. Aldranon English, 28, shot in the chest, arms and legs, was listed in stable condition.

Authorities believe Al-Amin was also wounded. Officers followed a trail of blood to a vacant house around the corner, but did not find him.

Hasan Abdullah, on his way to a nearby mosque Friday, called the idea of Al-Amin shooting anyone "preposterous."

"He's like a senator, like a politician in the community, except he's not been elected," Abdullah said.

Non-Muslim neighbors said the former activist worked hard to keep drugs out of the neighborhood.

"From what I knew about him, he's helped clean up the neighborhood and helped people in general," said Ronald Mathis, who lives nearby. "I just don't believe he's the shooter."

Known in the 1960s as H. Rap Brown, Al-Amin was chairman of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and justice minister of the Black Panthers. He called on blacks to arm themselves, once saying, "Violence is as American as cherry pie."

In recent years, Al-Amin, 56, was known more for his religious beliefs and efforts to improve the lives of Atlanta's West End neighborhood than his violent past. He came to Atlanta in 1976 after converting to Islam while serving five years in prison for his role in a robbery that ended in a shootout with New York police.

"He did a 180-degree turn on that. He was the epitome of the peace of Islam," said Wendell Muhammad, a Nation of Islam spokesman who has spent time in the neighborhood.

Kinchen and English did not know that Al-Amin was a former Black Panther when they tried to serve the arrest warrant at a store he owned, Fulton County Sheriff Jacquelyn Barrett said.

The warrant was issued after Al-Amin failed to appear in Cobb County court in January on charges of theft by receiving stolen property, impersonating an officer and having no proof of insurance.

Al-Amin allegedly was stopped in a stolen car last May and flashed a badge in an attempt to convince the officer that he also was a policeman, court documents say.

Police Commission orders chief to cooperate with DA

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Civilian overseers have ordered the Police Department to cooperate with the district attorney in hopes of ending a bitter turf war in the unfolding police corruption investigation.

By unanimous vote on Friday, the five-member Los Angeles Police Commission ordered Chief Bernard Parks to tell his command staff and everyone involved in the probe to fully cooperate.

The vote followed weeks of public sniping between Parks and Los Angeles County District Attorney Gil Garcetti.

At least 29 officers have been relieved of duty, and dozens of convictions have been overturned amid allegations that anti-gang officers at the Rampart station shot, beat and framed innocent people.

Parks has criticized Garcetti for not bringing criminal charges against any of the officers the LAPD has investigated. Garcetti has said he doesn't want to jeopardize any cases by rushing the investigation.

Garcetti said Wednesday that Parks was impeding his investigation. Police, he said, had quit cooperating with his department in favor of the U.S attorney's office.

"We have never withheld information from the DA," Parks told reporters after the commission meeting. He released a letter he sent Thursday to Garcetti that said he intended to cooperate and described Garcetti's view as a "misunderstanding."

Garcetti praised the commission's decision and stuck by his allegations that police had refused to cooperate with his office.

"I'm very hopeful now that the Police Commission has acted, that we will in fact have the complete cooperation of LAPD," Garcetti said.

The five-member civilian panel said it would investigate whether the LAPD cooperated.

CARDS OF THANKS

THANKS

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,
If so we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,
As any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all,
Just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did say to console our hearts,
We Thank You so much whatever the part.

Elnora Curtis & family **Dewayne Curtis & family**
Eugenia Bates & family **Randall Curtis & family**
Janet Davis & family

Local Interest
STOCKS

Patterson	26	-3/4
Dell	56 7/16	+1 7/16
Wal Mart	55 3/4	+1 1/8
Compac	30 1/4	+5/8
Dol. Gen.	23 3/4	0
GTE	69	+1 1/2
SBC Comm.	45 3/4	+5/8
BJ Services	65 3/8	-1 1/8
LU	69 7/8	+7/8
Cisco Sys.	135	+3 21/64

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MAR 19 2000

NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF SCURRY

Date and Time of Sale: The first Tuesday of the month, April 4, 2000 at 2:00 p.m.

SuitNo: 20,337
SCURRY COUNTY
VS.
JO ANN BENITEZ, ET AL

TRACT #1, Lots 3 and 4 in Block 1 of the Casstevens Subdivision of Block 15 of the Cody Heights Addition, City of Snyder, or as more fully described in Volume 394, Page 923 of the Deed Records of Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. R9543)

Date of Judgment: December 8, 1999
Date of Levy: March 10, 2000

SuitNo: 19,282
SCURRY COUNTY
VS.
PETE JALOMOS A/K/A PEDRO JALOMOS, ET AL

TRACT #1, The East seventy-two feet of Lot 4, Block 20, out of the Lundy Park Addition, as described in Volume 305, Page 141, of the Deed Records of Scurry County, (Account No. R2085)

Date of Judgment: December 8, 1999
Date of Levy: March 10, 2000

SuitNo: 19,399
SCURRY COUNTY
VS.
JODY GILBERT, ET AL

TRACT #1, 4.0 acres, more or less, S1/2 of the S1/2 of Section 293, Block 97, H&TC Ry. Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas, described by metes and bounds in tracts of 3.0 and 1.0 acre in Volume 372, Page 823, Deed Records, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. R19680)

TRACT #2, 19' X 76' 1978 Skidmore Carter Mobile Home, TEX052700. (Account No. M5394)

Date of Judgment: September 3, 1997
Date of Levy: March 10, 2000

SuitNo: 19,521
SCURRY COUNTY
VS.

ABIGAHI SANCHEZ, ET AL

TRACT #1, Being all of the East Seventy-three feet (E 73') of the North One Hundred Forty feet (N140') of Lot Number One (1), in Block Number Sixty-five (65) of the Grayum and Nelson's Second Addition to the City of Snyder, Scurry County, Texas, as described in Volume 333, Page 469, Deed Records of said County. (Account No. R6921)

Date of Judgment: May 15, 1997
Date of Levy: March 10, 2000

SuitNo: 19,750
SCURRY COUNTY
VS.
JOHN RODRIGUEZ

TRACT #1, 1.0 acre, more or less, out of the Southeast 1/4th of Section 208, Block 97, of the H&TC Ry. Survey, being more particularly described in Volume 385, page 735, Official Records of Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. R2232)

Date of Judgment: January 6, 1999
Date of Levy: March 10, 2000

SuitNo: 19,943
SCURRY COUNTY
VS.
J.E. COMPTON, ET AL

TRACT #1, Lot 3, and the West 15 feet of Lot 4, Block 76, Grayum and Nelson Second Addition, to the City of Snyder, Scurry County, Texas, or as more particularly described in Volume 271, page 95 of the Deed Records of Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. R6954)

Date of Judgment: December 8, 1999
Date of Levy: March 10, 2000

SuitNo: 20,080
SCURRY COUNTY
VS.
EVA ANDRADE RODRIGUEZ

TRACT #1, The East 100 feet of Lot No. 1 and the South 50' of the West 50' of Lot No. 1, Block No. 38, Original Town of Snyder, or as more particularly described in Volume 379, page 348 of the Deed Records of Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. R6069)

Date of Judgment: September 3, 1998
Date of Levy: March 10, 2000

SuitNo: 20,217
SCURRY COUNTY
VS.
RABUL B. MALDONADO, ET AL

TRACT #1, All of Lots 4, 5 and 6, Block 19, Andress Heights Addition, City of Snyder, or as more fully described in Volume 348, Page 467 of the Deed Records of Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. R5572)

Date of Judgment: January 6, 1999
Date of Levy: March 10, 2000

SuitNo: 20,537
SCURRY COUNTY
VS.
LAVELLE EICKE, TRUSTEE OF THE MUMSE TRUST

TRACT #1, Lot 1, Block B, Towle Place Addition, City of Snyder, or as more fully described in Volume 377, Page 97 of the Deed Records of Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. R15561)

Date of Judgment: December 8, 1999
Date of Levy: March 10, 2000

SuitNo: 20,536
SCURRY COUNTY
VS.
A R T J FARM, COMMON LAW TRUST, LAVELL EICKE, TRUSTEE

TRACT #1, A tract of land containing 1.0 acre, more or less, located in the SE/4 of Section No. 249, Block 97, H & T C Ry. Co. Survey, or more fully described in Volume 369, Page 505 of the Deed Records of Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. R8790)

Date of Judgment: December 8, 1999
Date of Levy: March 10, 2000

SuitNo: 20,493
SCURRY COUNTY
VS.
FREDDIE HULL, ET AL

TRACT #1, Part of Lots 1, 2 and 4, Block 13, Manry Subdivision, more fully described in Volume 334, page 603 of the Deed Records of Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. R2587)

TRACT #2, Lots 1 and 4, Block 20, Manry Subdivision, more fully described in Volume 334, page 603 of the Deed Records of Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. R2627)

TRACT #3, Personal property consisting of a 28'X71' 1979 Heritage Mobile Home, located in Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. MS9755)

Date of Judgment: December 8, 1999
Date of Levy: March 10, 2000

SuitNo: 19,791
SCURRY COUNTY
VS.
PAUL C. TEAS, III,

TRACT #1, IRA UNIT TR 66: Being North 36 acres of Lot 6 in Northwest (NW/4) of Section 98, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N18405)

TRACT #2, TOMLINSON: Being out of Section 122, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (N19436) RIU:0.006250 (Account No. N19436)

TRACT #3, SACROC UNIT TR 70: Being the Southeast one-fourth (SE/4) of Section 160, Block 3, H&GN RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N123724)

TRACT #4, SACROC UNIT TRACT 214: Being 80.647 Acres, being the W. part of NE 1/4 of Sec. 249, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (N24191) RIU=0.000417 (Account No. N24191)

TRACT #5, WALDRIP: Being the East 76 acres of North 456 acres, in Section 98, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N25545)

TRACT #6, SACROC UNIT TRACT 217: Being the East 120 acres of SW 1/4 of Section 249, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (N26095) RIU=0.006944 (Account No. N26095)

TRACT #7, SACROC UNIT TR 52: Being West one-half (W/2) of Tract 12 of Dallas Trust and Savings Bank Sudivision of Grimes Ranch Lands, a part of Section 20, J.P. Smith Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N26353)

TRACT #8, SHARON RIDGE CANYON UNIT TRACT 19-A: Being out of the North One-Half of Southwest One-Fourth of Section No. 179, Block No. 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N27747)

TRACT #9, SHARON RIDGE CANYON UNIT TRACTS 6,18,19,22,32: Being a part of Section No. 163, Section No. 179, Section No. 180, and Section No. 182, Block No. 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N28548)

TRACT #10, SACROC UNIT TR 75: Being the East one-half (E/2) of Section 18, Block 1, J.P. Smith Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N29592)

TRACT #11, SACROC UNIT TR 176: Being Northeast one-fourth (NE/4) of Section 251, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (N29816) RIU=0.001042 (Account No. N29816)

TRACT #12, IRA UNIT TR 68: Being South 40 acres of Lot 6, in Section 98, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (N31375) RIU=0.010995 (Account No. N31375)

TRACT #13, HARDEE: Being out of West one-half (W/2) of the Southwest one-fourth (SW/4) of the Northwest one-fourth (NW/4) of Section 99, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N33659)

TRACT #14, IRA UNIT TR 66: Being North 36 acres of Lot 6 in Northwest (NW/4) of Section 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (N34460) RIU=0.010995 (Account No. N34460)

TRACT #15, IRA UNIT RT 58: Being East one-half of Northeast one-fourth (E/2 of NE/4) and Northeast one-fourth of the Northwest one-fourth of the Northeast one-fourth (NE/4 of NW/4 of NE/4) of Section 103, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N34551)

TRACT #16, SACROC UNIT TR 49: Being Tracts 9 and 10 of Dallas Trust and Savings Bank Subdivision of Grimes Ranch Lands, a part of Section 20, J.P. Smith Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N34920)

TRACT #17, Being out of Southwest one-fourth (SW/4) of Section 99, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (N35693) RIU=0.004427 (Account No. N35693)

TRACT #18, SACROC UNIT TR 85: Being Tracts 21 and 22 of Dallas Trust and Savings Bank Subdivision of Grimes Ranch Lands, a part of Section 40, Kirkland & Fields Subdivision, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N36615)

TRACT #19, SACROC UNIT TR 129: Being East 160 acres out of the North 240 acres of Section 177, Block 3, H&GN RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N36783)

TRACT #20, SACROC UNIT TR 203: Being Tract 31, of Dallas Trust and Savings Bank Subdivision of Grimes Ranch Lands, a part of Section 39, Kirkland and Fields Subdivision, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N37305)

TRACT #21, SACROC UNIT TR 50= Being Tract 11 of Dallas Trust and Savings Bank Subdivision of Grimes Ranch Lands, a part of Section 20, J.P. Smith Survey, Scurry County, Texas.) (Account No. N38331)

TRACT #22, SACROC UNIT TR 141: Being out of Northwest one-fourth (NW/4) of Section 16, Block 1, J.P. Smith Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N39152)

TRACT #23, IRA UNIT 55: Being North one-half of the Southeast one-fourth (N/2 of SE/4) of Section 114, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N39493)

TRACT #24, SACROC UNIT TRACT 213: Being 80.702 acres, being the E part of NE 1/4 of Sec. 249, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N39521)

TRACT #25, SACROC UNIT TR 172: Being East 141.60 acres of West 281.64 acres of Section 252, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N40965)

TRACT #26, IRA UNIT 55: Being North one-half of Southeast one-fourth (N/2 of SE/4) of Section 114, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N41484)

TRACT #27, TRACT UNIT TR 138: Beings Tracts 27 and 28 of Dallas Trust and Savings Bank Subdivision of Grime Ranch Lands, being out of the Northeast one-fourth (NE/4) of Section 16, and the Southeast one-fourth (SE/4) of Section 17, of the J.P. Smith Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N41944)

TRACT #28, IRA UNIT TR 67: Being part of North 456 acres of Section 98, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N43877)

TRACT #29, SACROC UNIT TR 143: Being Lot 20, being South part of Section 40 and North part of Section 39, Kirkland and Fields Subdivision, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N44608)

TRACT #30, SACROC UNIT TR 53: Being East one-half (W/2) of Tract 12 of Dallas Trust and Savings Bank Subdivision of Grimes Ranch Lands, a part of Section 20, J.P. Smith Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N44735)

TRACT #31, SACROC UNIT TR 68: Being South one-half (S/2) of Section 159, of Block 3, H&GN RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (N47487) RIU=0.000208 (Account No. N47487)

TRACT #32, SACROC UNIT TR 171: Being the west 140.04 acres out of West 281.64 acres of Section 252, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N49596)

TRACT #33, SACROC UNIT TR 173: Being 10 acres of Northwest one-fourth (NW/4) of Section 251, and East 283.58 acres of Section 252, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N49641)

TRACT #34, DIAMOND-M UNIT TRACT 8: Being all of Section 181, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N51060)

TRACT #35, ROBINSON TRACT 3: Being part of North 456 acres, of Section 98, Block No. 97, H&TC RR Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. N4323)

Date of Judgment: December 8, 1999
Date of Levy: March 10, 2000

SuitNo: 20,399
SCURRY COUNTY
VS.
JOE RAY SHY, ET AL

TRACT #1, Lot 2, Block 6, Marshall Survey of the Scarborough Addition to the City of Snyder, as described in 343, Page 138, Deed Records of Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. R4126)

Date of Judgment: December 8, 1999
Date of Levy: March 10, 2000

SuitNo: 20,332
SCURRY COUNTY
VS.
BENJAMIN G. BRUMIT

TRACT #3, Lots 3, 11, 13 and 14, Block 9 of the Green Hill Addition to the City of Snyder, as described in Volume 380, Page 527 of the Deed Records of Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. R13884)

TRACT #4, Lots 15 and 16, Block 8, Green Hill Addition, City of Snyder, as described in Volume 380, Page 529 of the Deed Records of Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. R5867)

TRACT #5, Lots 3-8, Block 8, Green Hill Addition to the City of Snyder, as described in Volume 380, Page 527 of the Deed Records of Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. R7257)

TRACT #6, Lots 1 and 2, Block 8, Green Hill Addition to the City of Snyder, as described in Volume 380, Page 527 of the Deed Records of Scurry County, Texas. (Account No. R6514)

Date of Judgment: December 8, 1999
Date of Levy: March 10, 2000

Listed in the caption above are delinquent tax suits in which Judgments of Foreclosure have been rendered and Orders of Sale have been issued. The listing for each suit sets out: (1) the Cause Number; (2) the Plaintiff Tax Unit; (3) the Defendants; (4) the date of the Judgment; (5) the date of Levy; and (6) the Property Description. Under the Order of Sale issued pursuant to each Judgment above listed, I did at the time specified for each suit levy upon each Property in such suit as described above as the property of the Defendants named or designated in such suit. On the sale date specified above, which is the first Tuesday of said month, I will offer and sell at public auction, for cash, each property described above, and all the right, title, interest and estate in and to each such property owned or claimed by the Defendants named in connection with each such property; PROVIDED, however, that no property shall be sold directly or indirectly to anyone other than a Tax Unit which is a party to that specific suit for less than the total amount of taxes, penalties, interest and costs due against that particular property or any adjudged value decreed, whichever is lower.

The foreclosure sales under this notice will be held on the first Tuesday of said month, at the Courthouse door of said County, at the time set out above, by and through the LAW OFFICE OF HENRY GATES STEEN, JR., P.C., 3001 N. Lamar Blvd., Suite 306, Austin, Texas 78705, Telephone (512) 476-4688 and Telecopier (512) 476-0325, my authorized representative. The sale of each property shall be subject to the rights of the Defendants named in connection with each particular property, and any successors in title, to redeem such specified property in the time and manner provided by law; and subject also to the rights of any defendants to have each particular property owned or claimed by such defendants divided and sold in less divisions than the whole as provided by law. The sale as to each property is to be made to satisfy the Judgment rendered against that particular property and the Defendants named in connection with that particular property. The proceeds of the Sale of each property are to be applied to the satisfaction of the Judgment against that particular property, and the remainder of the sale proceeds, if any, are to be applied as the law directs.

Dated at Snyder, Texas, being the County Seat of Scurry County, Texas, on this the 10th day of March, 2000.

DARREN JACKSON
Sheriff OF Scurry County

By: Barry Boadin
Deputy

Chain Reaction

When someone starts advertising,
Someone starts buying;
When someone starts buying,
Someone starts selling;
When someone starts selling,
Someone starts making;
When someone starts making,
Someone starts working;
When someone starts working,
Someone starts earning;
When someone starts earning,
Someone starts buying.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Emergency heating oil reserve sought

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton Saturday asked Congress to create an emergency heating oil reserve in the Northeast to blunt future shortages, but said there is "no overnight solution" to the current high oil prices.

Clinton said he was concerned about the hardships facing many Americans because of the soaring gasoline and heating oil costs. Still, he said in his weekly radio address, "we also need to take a longer view" to protect consumers and "strengthen America's energy security."

None of the president's proposals was aimed directly at alleviating the high prices and low supplies. Meantime, energy officials have suggested gasoline prices may climb even more this summer.

Some lawmakers have urged Clinton to release oil from the government's emergency petroleum reserve and to halt the export of about 60,000 barrels a day of Alaska crude oil to Asia, diverting it to West Coast markets.

Clinton addressed neither option Saturday.

"There's no overnight solution to this problem," said Clinton, adding he wanted to avoid "taking shortsighted and risky steps now we might regret later."

Administration officials said no decision would be made on whether to free oil from the government's Strategic Petroleum Reserve until after Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries oil ministers meet March 27 to decide on additional worldwide production.

On Friday, the president appealed to OPEC members to agree to "substantial production increase" when they meet — big enough to rebuild depleted reserves and bring down high prices.

At the same time, he said oil producers deserve "a fair return" that would avoid the see-sawing market that produced $10-a-barrel oil in 1998 and more than triple that price now, 14 months later.

In addition to stockpiling heating oil in the Northeast — which will need congressional approval — for quick distribution during supply shortages, Clinton Saturday urged Congress to:

—Quickly reauthorize the government reserve "to insure that we have all available tools in the event of a crisis." The authorization expires at the end of the month, but Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said even if it expires, he still could draw on the supply if needed.

—Approve a package of tax incentives to promote energy efficiency, use of nonfossil fuels and domestic oil production. Republicans in Congress have accused the administration of ignoring the domestic oil industry.

—Pass "common sense tax credits" the White House has proposed in each of the past two years to promote the development of highly fuel efficient automobiles and energy-efficient homes.

Clinton said on Friday that he had spoken with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd about the need to stabilize oil prices at levels that satisfy both producing and consuming nations. Saudi Arabia already has said it favors increasing production.

"I think everybody's struggling now to find a consensus" on easing oil prices, Clinton told reporters.

The OPEC oil ministers are expected to agree to additional production when they meet in Vienna.

Taiwan elects opposition president

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Defying China's threats of war, Taiwanese ended more than a half century of Nationalist Party rule Saturday and elected opposition leader Chen Shui-bian to the presidency.

Chen, of the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party, defeated Nationalist Vice President Lien Chan and populist independent James Soong as Taiwanese overcame any fears of an attack by Beijing. Chen had 39 percent of the vote, with Soong second at 37 percent and Lien getting just 23 percent.

Beijing did not immediately comment on the result of the election, in which 82.7 percent of eligible voters participated.

Thousands of Chen's followers celebrated with blaring air horns, fireworks and deafening cheers as the results flashed on a huge TV screen set up on a blocked-off street in front of his Taipei campaign office.

"We brave Taiwanese used love and hope to overcome terror and used our votes to show our determination to maintain our democracy," Chen said in a 10-minute victory speech to rapturous supporters after paying visits to the losing candidates.

Nationalists who supported Lien or Soong were somber, many of them weeping as they wondered what had gone wrong.

Lien, surrounded by glum party leaders, conceded defeat on live television but offered his congratulations to Chen.

"Lien's concession was a sign that Taiwan would likely clear a key hurdle for all young democracies, the smooth transition of power from a ruling party to the opposition. The island held its first direct presidential election in 1996.

Ex-U.S. hostages are divided over warming toward Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — The highest ranking former American hostage held in Iran welcomes the olive branch the United States is extending to his former captors.

"It's the right thing to do," said Bruce Laingen, chief of mission when the U.S. Embassy was seized by militants in 1979.

But enthusiasm is by no means unanimous following the announcement Friday that the United States is seeking what Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called a "new relationship" with Iran.

"I wouldn't have anything to do with them," said Malcolm Kalp, the former embassy commercial officer, who along with Laingen and 50 other hostages was held in Iran for 444 days.

Albright said the ban will be lifted on U.S. imports of Iranian nuts, caviar and carpets and invited Iran to work with the United States to stabilize the Persian Gulf and reverse more than two decades of estrangement.

"Iran lives in a dangerous neighborhood," Albright said. "We welcome efforts to make it less dangerous."

Laingen, now president of the American Academy of Diplomacy in Washington, said he is curious to see how the Iranians will react, "what signal they give."

"This has to be a mutual process, and we haven't been getting enough from them for the past year," he said.

Kalp, who remains bitter about the 1983 terrorist bombing fatalities in Lebanon, said he believes Iran should first demonstrate "major corrections in their international behavior," including ceasing to send arms "through Syria to attack Israel."

"Let them pay major sums of money to the 241 U.S. servicemen they killed at the Marine barracks and the embassy people they killed in Beirut — and then I'd be more than happy to eat their nuts, eat their caviar and lay on their rugs," Kalp said.

Others with long-held grievances against Iran agreed.

Slaying suspect in standoff

DUNDALK, Md. (AP) — A man suspected of killing four people last week held at least three people hostage early Saturday at a home just outside Baltimore, authorities said.

Joseph Palczynski, 31, had at least three firearms, Baltimore County police Cpl. Vickie Warehime said. Police said the home belongs to a relative of Tracy Whitehead, Palczynski's former girlfriend, whom he is accused of briefly kidnapping last week.

"We have no indication that anybody's been harmed," Warehime said.

Sonny Collins, a cousin of Whitehead, said he believed her mother, her stepfather and her 12-year-old brother were in the house.

"I was coming home from the grocery store and I heard a lot of gunshots," said Collins, who lives in the neighborhood. "The police tell me he was trying to shoot his way into the house."

Police spokesman Bill Toohey said those shots were fired to break locks.

Police converged on the house just east of Baltimore around 9:30 p.m. Friday, and were negotiating with Palczynski by telephone. Authorities blocked off the area and evacuated residents from the block.

Palczynski had broken into another home earlier and stolen weapons, Warehime said.

Palczynski has been in a similar situation before. In 1992, he kept police in Idaho at bay for 16 hours following a domestic violence complaint by a girlfriend. He was finally forced out with tear gas.

Friends of Palczynski made repeated pleas on live television for him to release the hostages.

Two subjects plead guilty

Two subjects pleaded guilty Friday in 132nd District Court.

Charles Richard Mulkey, 32, of 14311 Skyfrost in Dallas, pleaded guilty to a Jan. 17 charge of driving while intoxicated and was sentenced to 10 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

He has two prior DWI convictions including one in Lubbock County in November 1991 and Tom Green County in June 1992. He also has an August 1989 conviction of possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine.

Randy Don Bryan, 36, of 14090 Fawn Drive in Carlsbad, Tex., pleaded guilty to third-degree felony theft. He was indicted in December 1999 on the charge.

He was sentenced to two years in a state jail facility, probated for five years and assessed a $750 fine.

Bryan must also make restitution to local and area merchants in the amount of $10,836.11. Restitution must be paid in full on or before April 14, 2000, or Bryan must surrender to a restitution center for a period not to exceed 24 months or until restitution is paid in full.

3 jailed Friday, early Saturday

Alcohol and drug related charges sent two subjects to jail early Saturday morning, while outstanding warrants landed a man in jail Friday.

At 9:43 p.m. Friday, officers arrested a 21-year-old male on warrants for no liability insurance, public intoxication, no driver's license, and three counts of failure to appear.

Department of Public Safety troopers took a 21-year-old male into custody at 12:18 a.m. Saturday for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated. He was arrested at the intersection of F.M. 1606 and Hwy. 208.

An 18-year-old male was jailed for misdemeanor possession of marijuana Saturday morning. Officers took him into custody at 1:15 a.m. on Tiger Drive.

In other activity, David McKinney contacted officers at 1:29 p.m. Friday in reference to the theft of a bicycle. An offense report for Class B theft was submitted.

Susan Lara reported the vandalism of her 1207 26th Street residence at 2:54 p.m. Friday. Officers took a report for Class B criminal mischief.

Snyder Fire Department responded to a grass fire at 4:42 p.m. Friday in the brush area near 35th Street and Avenue V. Damage was limited to grass.

Births

Toby and Jennifer Neves announce the birth of their daughter, Kellee Nicole Neves, at 4:47 p.m. on Feb. 24 in Lakeside Hospital in Metairie, La. Kellee weighed seven pounds, 14 ounces. Two siblings, Tiffany and Tanner Neves of San Antonio, also welcomed her.

Grandparents are Roy and Ruby Neves of Snyder, Les and Carol Surroch and David and Sherry Territo, all from San Antonio.

Cole and Kandi Herring are parents of a daughter, Jennifer Nicole, born at 2:42 p.m. on March 9 at UMC in Lubbock. The Herrings have three other daughters, Jamie, Jodi and Katie Herring, and one son, Jesse Herring.

Grandparents are Ray and Gwen Herring of Fluvanna and Ken and Kay Kendrick of Clyde.

Lance and Rachael Wilson of Midland announce the birth of their son, Morgan McLain Wilson. Morgan was born at 3:32 p.m., March 15 in Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo. He weighed seven pounds, 10 ounces.

Paternal grandparents are Jimmy and Donna Wilson and maternal grandparents are Jerry and Beatriz Cline, all of Snyder, and the late Brad Morgan. Great-grandparents are Tommy and Sue Lock and Juanita Cadena, all of Snyder.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Calvary Baptist revival

Calvary Baptist Church, 2405 35th St., will have a revival Sunday through Wednesday, featuring Clark Bosher of Arlington, nationally-known evangelist. Service times are 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. each weeknight. A nursery will be provided and the public is invited.

Church dedication service

The Snyder First Church of Nazarene will hold a dedication service at 10:45 a.m. Sunday for the new entryway at the church. Lunch will be served after the service and everyone is invited.

AARP meeting

AARP #2063 will meet Monday at noon at the Senior Center. Dee Wilson, executive director of Gateway Family Services, Inc., will present the program.

UW board meeting

The board of directors meeting of the Scurry County United Way will be held at noon Monday at the Snyder Area CADA office, located at 2513 College Ave.

Bible study tapes

Bible study tapes air weekly on TV channel 2. The videos to be shown at 7 p.m. Monday are "Why We Need the Church," followed by "Historical Christian Evidences, Lesson 5."

'Inhalants: The Silent Epidemic'

"Inhalants: The Silent Epidemic" will air at 5 p.m. on Channel 2 Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The film is sponsored by Cox Communications and Snyder CADA. "A Parent's Guide to Preventing Inhalant Abuse" is available at the CADA office, 2513 College Ave. Call 573-1141 or come by for a free copy.

Fellowcraft degree work

Scurry County Lodge #706 will work in the Fellowcraft degree at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

4-H horse club

The Scurry County 4-H horse club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at East Elementary.

Diabetes support group

The Diabetes Support group will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday in Cogdell Memorial Hospital's Cafeteria.

Immunization clinic

Scurry County Health unit immunization clinics this month end on March 30. Thursdays dates in April are the 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th. Hours are 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-4 p.m.

Eighth grade party

The end of school party planning committee for SJHS eighth graders will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday at 2211 41st St. All eighth grade parents are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Gaylan Mason at 573-7125.

FBC worship service

The First Baptist Church Sunday morning worship service airs at 3 p.m. each Thursday on TV Channel 2.

American Diabetes Association Walk

The American Diabetes Association Walk for East Elementary's fourth graders is scheduled next Friday. Christi Smith, PE instructor, asks everyone to "help the students with this worthy cause." For more information, contact Smith at 573-1769.

Annual sausage festival

St. Elizabeth Sausage Festival is set for Sunday, April 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Parish Center. Meals tickets are available at the door for $6 for adults and take-outs, and $3 for children under 12. The sausage dinner with all the trimmings is all-you-can eat. The festival will also have game booths, raffles and a country store. Sausage sold by the pound is $2.75 uncooked and $3.75 cooked.

Golden K fish fry

The Golden K Kiwanis will host a fish fry from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 9, at the Senior Citizens Center. Plates, including carryouts, are $6.50 each. Children under six may eat free.

Building fund sale

Lighthouse Assembly of God Church is accepting items of any kind for its building fund sale. The church will pick up items. Call 573-5124 or 573-2947.

1990 SHS reunion

The 1990 senior class of SHS is planning a 10 year reunion this summer. If you are a graduate, or have contact with a graduate, contact Anne Osborn @Echostar.com, or call Jennifer Pate at 915-223-9110 in San Angelo.

LCU chorus

Lubbock Christian University's Parise! Chorus will perform at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 25, at East Side Church of Christ. Allison Bowden, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Bowden of Snyder, and Jenise Judah, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Judah, are members of the LCU chorus. The concert is free and open to the public.

MAWC luncheon

Martha Ann Woman's Club will host a luncheon Sunday, March 26, starting at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are $8 for adults and $4 for children six and under. For reservations call 573,3427, 573-6443 or 573-6717.

Texas Million

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Million numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery: 25-26-62-68

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-6-9

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery: 12-15-18-28-34

MARCH 19, 2000

Movie is revived

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) — The spinning head. The scary voice. The projectile vomiting. "The Exorcist" is back.

More than 25 years after the horror movie won Academy and Golden Globe awards, a new version of the film was released Friday in three college towns as a preview to its national release later this year.

"The Exorcist — The Version You've Never Seen" was released here, in Austin, Texas, and in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Based on the best-selling novel by William Peter Blatty, the film graphically depicts the demonic possession of a 12-year-old girl (Linda Blair) and the efforts by a priest (Max von Sydow) to exorcise her demons. In the new film, a full reel of material was restored to director William Friedkin's 1973 version.

Among the new scenes is an eerie depiction of the girl, Regan, "spider walking" down a flight of stairs upside down and chasing two other characters. It was one of the few scenes that drew gasps from the audience Friday at the Beechwood Stadium 11 theater.

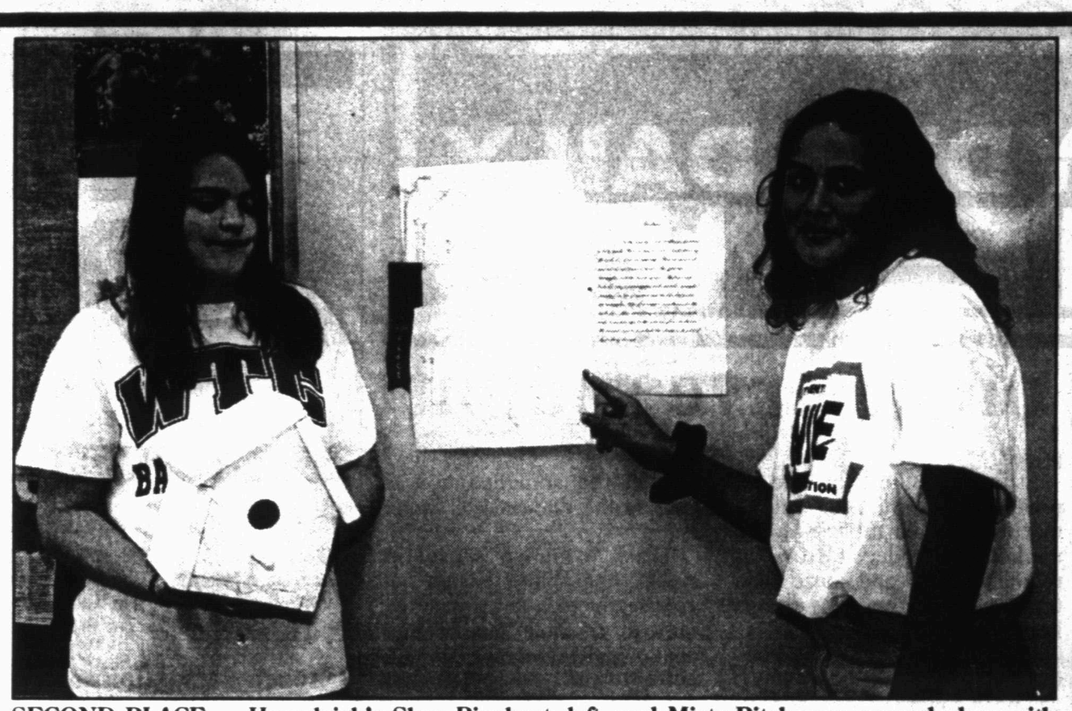
The film's most famous scene, showing Regan's head spinning 180 degrees and projectile vomiting, drew laughs.

"I wasn't as scared as I thought I would be," said Amanda Janilus, 27, who attended Friday's screening but had not seen the original.

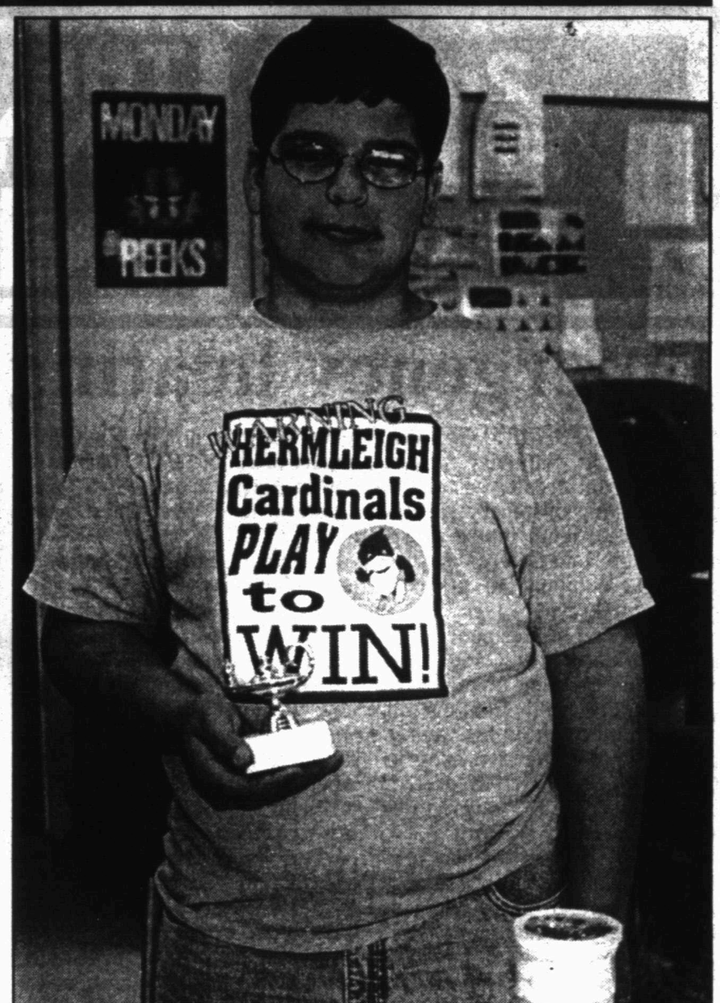
Blatty said that scaring moviegoers was not his original intention.

"When I wrote the novel and also when I wrote the screenplay, frightening people was not my primary intention. It was the furthest thing from my mind," he told Atlanta radio station WSTR.

The original film was a critical and a commercial success, winning awards on at least two continents and becoming the second biggest money-maker in American cinematic history, after the 1972 classic "The Godfather."



SECOND PLACE — Hermleigh's Shae Rinehart, left, and Misty Ritch won second place with their bird house in the junior high division of the Big Country Math Fair held earlier this month in Abilene. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)



FIRST PLACE — Hermleigh's Justin Kelley and Cassie Harbin, not pictured, won first place with their kaleidoscope in the junior high division of the Big Country Math Fair held recently in Abilene. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Slaying suspects charged in three fires at synagogues

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Two white supremacist brothers already charged with murdering a gay couple have been accused of setting fire to three synagogues and a medical center that houses an abortion clinic.

Benjamin Williams, 32, and James Williams, 29, have been in jail since July, when they were arrested in the shootings that month of Winfield Mowder and Gary Matson. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

The latest indictment, returned Friday, accuses the brothers of conspiracy, arson and destruction of religious property. The charges carry up to 235 years behind bars.

The brothers' intent was to destroy the buildings, provoke violence and "intimidate, terrorize and harm Jews, providers of reproductive health services and other groups of persons whom the defendants regarded as inferior or undesirable," the indictment says.

The June 18 synagogue fires caused more than $1 million in damage. The brothers, who are from Palo Cedro, were also charged in the July 2 fire at the Country Club Medical Center.

No one was injured in the fires.

Benjamin Williams, who uses the name Matthew, has told news organizations that he alone was responsible for the slayings and fires. Investigators said Tyler Williams' handprint was on the pistol used to kill Matson and Mowder on July 1 at the couple's home in Happy Valley.

Since the arrest, Matthew Williams has repeatedly professed anti-Semitic, anti-gay and white supremacist beliefs. He recently grew a Hitler-style mustache and has said he wants to wear a Nazi-style uniform in court.

Matthew Williams said his defense in the murder case will be based on his belief that the Bible condemns homosexuality. His brother has not talked to the media.

According to the arson indictment, the brothers gathered information on Jews and other groups they opposed, researched how to conduct arson attacks without getting caught and produced leaflets espousing their ideology to leave at the scene of the attacks.

Assistant U.S. Attorney R. Steven Lapham wouldn't say if others were involved in the fires, but said investigators would not "close the door to that possibility."

Rabbi Brad Bloom of Congregation B'nai Israel said he hopes the brothers will "be sent to jail for a long time" and do not use their trial as a platform for their racist views.

"I hope this trial will remind us that this hate is part of the American landscape," Bloom said. "I'm hoping the ultimate message is that evil will fail and good people will triumph."

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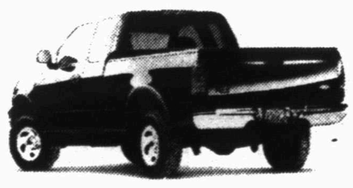

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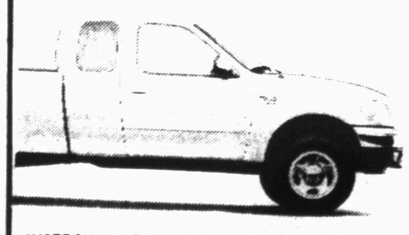

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Scurry County Service Men & Women

(Editor's Note: Citizens are invited to write their servicemen and servicewomen stationed stateside and overseas. Anyone having additions, changes or corrections to the list should submit them in writing to the Snyder Daily News, P.O. Box 949, Snyder, TX, 79550, or bring them by the office at 3600 College Ave. Sorry, no addresses will be accepted over the telephone.

PFC Marisa Barrera
263 Mt. Co.
Box 78
Ft. Hood, TX 76544

LCPL Joe Bilano Jr. USMC
1/1 A CO.Wpns. Plt.
U.I.C. 39712
FPO AP 96609-9712

MN 2 (SW) Delton C. "Cole" Drum II
Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Eleven
2214 W. Old Tom Rd.
Goose Creek SC 29445-8608

Sgt. Cory & Jamie Fisher
C Co 702D MSR
Unit II 15092 Camp Cosey
APO AP 96224-0353

Capt. Amadeo B. Garza
CJSOTF/ILIZDA Complex Operation
Joint Endeavor
APO AE 09780

Scott & Amy Graham
29 Ridgecrest Dr.
Hope Mills, NC 28348

AOAN, Gulseth, Sharon D
63 DIV/Weapons Dept.
USS Kitty Hawk (CV63)
SPO AP 96634-2770

SR Justin C. Herrington
456-39-8525
First Division
USS Dubque LPD-8
FPO AP 96663-1711

Sgt. Michael R. Hill
ALPHA Co. 10th Signal BT.
10640 South Riva Ridge Loop
Ft. Drum, NY 13602

PFC Jones, N.J.
Assault Amphibian School Battalion
MCB Box 555041
SCOLS Co. 2100 Awaiting
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5041

LCPL Quintin L. Kasparek
47-016 C Hui Iwa Place
Kanohe, HI 96744

Clinton Albert Lewis
VMAQ4...OOPL
Cherry Point, N.C. 28533-0061
Phone: 252-223-0435

Sgt. Michael D. Long
C-Trp ¼ Cav.
CMR 464 Bx. 306
APO AE 09226

Chase Minter
4300 Horizon North Parkway
Apartment #1626
Dallas, TX 75287

St. Edwin A. Neeley
51 MXS
PSC 3 Box 2689
APO AP 96266

Melchor Para
2/1 Weapons CO. 81 PLT
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055

Lt. Col. Greg Pavlik
15015 Preston Court Drive
San Antonio, TX 78247

Michael A. Perez
HHC 2-35 INF. 25 ID
Schofield Barracks, HI 96857

SRA Brad Pilgrim
40 AS (Det. 1)
Unit 70414 Box 14
APO AE 09882

Mark & Stacy Pilgrim
#72 Baer Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89115

Angie Ramirez
Avi Dept. b-4Div.
USS-Wasp (LHD-1)
FPO AE 90 556-1660

Lance Cpl. Freddie & Christy Rocha
6675-B Larkspur Ct.
29 Palms, Calif. 92278

Jason Sealy
P.O. Box 71402
Ft. Bragg, N.C. 28307

Johnathan A. (Adams) Scott
5509 B Langley Way
Bolling AFB DC 20336

Roy Tavarez
WPNS Co. 3/3 Dragons
MCBH
KanoeheBay, HI 96863

SSgt. W.S. Warren
PSE 559 PO BX 5530
FPO AP 96377-5530

Pvt. E-l Daniel A. Wells
B Co. 73d Ord. ETL 1st PLT
Fort Gordon, Ga. 30905

Col. Joe Dan Wilson
CMR 460
Box 121
APOAE 09703

EM3 Wittie, Shawn D.
NPS 0001-2
101 NN PTC Circle
Goose Creek, S.C. 29445

Since 1985, 36 percent of all bills passed by congress concern the establishment of commemorative days, weeks and months.

Wyoming is also knmown as the Equality State.

Regulators try to stem rapid demand for new area codes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The explosion of cell phones, pagers and fax machines — along with a monopoly era system for allotting digits — is endangering one of the most basic forms of personal information: the telephone number. Federal regulators Friday tried to fix the problem.

The country could run out of area codes within the next eight to 10 years, requiring callers to punch in more numbers than they do now.

The Federal Communications Commission Friday adopted rules that would allow states to more efficiently allocate and manage phone numbers, such as taking back numbers that carriers are holding but not using.

The FCC also voted to change the system so that numbers can be allocated in blocks of 1,000 — instead of 10,000 — to carriers. Under the existing system, created before there was competition in the phone market, competing local carriers acquire a block of 10,000 numbers for every billing region they wish to serve. An area code may cover dozens or hundreds of such regions.

If a carrier has only 100 customers in a given region, the remaining 9,900 numbers of the block are tied up.

"It is high time that we revamp this 50-year-old numbering process," said FCC Chairman Bill Kennard.

Some states have successfully implemented other methods of allocating numbers. Illinois, for example, has been conducting trials of giving out blocks of 1,000 numbers.

In Maine, regulators were told by the administrators of the numbering plan two years ago that they would have to add another area code. But when the state examined the situation more closely, it discovered that there were 3 million numbers that had been assigned to carriers that were not being used.

The FCC let the state institute measures that included requiring carriers to use at least 75 percent of their number block or be within six months of running out of their numbers before they can ask for more.

"We're not trying to keep people from numbers they need," said Trina Bragdon, staff attorney with the Maine Public Utilities Commission. But the state wants to make sure the need is there before allotting numbers.

Since May, the commission has granted ten states temporary authority to implement measures to conserve phone numbers. The FCC also has been looking at steps to ensure that carriers are asking for numbers based on actual usage rather than projected need.

The numbering system, which also covers Canada and the Caribbean, began with 84 area codes being assigned in 1947. Sixty-four codes were gradually added through 1994, according to the North American Numbering Plan Administration, which oversees the system.

But then the number of area codes being assigned rapidly increased, adding 23 in 1996, 44 in 1997, 28 in 1998 and 42 in 1999.

The advent of competition in the local phone market, as well as the popularity of new services like wireless, have contributed to the pressure on the numbering system.

"All of that demand is racing in and that puts us in the unique position we're in Friday," said John Manning, senior technical liaison for the numbering administration.

Regulators say they want to minimize disruptions to consumers and businesses. Each area code change forces people to learn new dialing patterns, and many must upgrade equipment and reprint business cards, stationery and advertising. Alarm companies also must reprogram auto-dialing equipment.

Federal regulators will continue to review some proposals that would require a more extensive overhaul.

California recorded both hottest, coldest temps in'99

WASHINGTON (AP) — California cornered the nation's hottest times and chilliest moments last year, reporting the communities with the most daily high and low temperatures in the 48 contiguous states.

Death Valley, Calif., lived up to its hot reputation. It had the nation's highest temperature 86 times in 1999, more than double the runner-up, McAllen, Texas, which was hottest on 41 days, according to an annual compilation in Weatherwise magazine.

Death Valley also scored the year's hottest high, 123 degrees on July 1. The lowest low was -43, recorded Jan. 1 at Tower, Minn.

On the other side of the ledger, Bodie, Calif., a ghost town 50 miles south of Lake Tahoe, was the coldest place on 71 days, followed by Wisdom, Mont., which was coldest on 45 occasions, according to the report compiled by David Hickcox of Ohio Wesleyan University.

Rounding out the five cities recording the most daily highs were Lake Havasu City, Ariz., 34 days; Laredo, Texas, 31 days; and Lajitas, Texas, at Big Bend National Park, and Thermal, Calif., each with 27 days.

The rest of the coldest five were Shirley Basin, Wyo., coldest on 24 days, and Tower, Minn., and West Yellowstone, Mont., 22 days each.

On the Net: Weatherwise magazine: http://www.weatherwise.org.

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MAR 19 2000

MAWC SUNDAY LUNCHEON — Martha Ann Woman's Club will host a luncheon Sunday, March 26, with serving to begin at 11:30. Proceeds are used to maintain the clubhouse. Tickets are $8 for an adult and $4 for a child six and under, and reservations are needed by Friday. Tickets will be delivered by calling 573-3427, 573-6443 or 573-6717. Dorothy Rosson, right, buys her tickets from board member Sherry Johnson. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 03-18-00
♠ Q 10 6 5
♥ A Q
♦ A 7 4 3
♣ 9 6 2

West
♠ 3
♥ J 9 6 2
♦ 9 6 5 2
♣ J 8 7 3

East
♠ 7 2
♥ K 10 8 5 3
♦ K 10 8
♣ K Q 10

South
♠ A K J 9 8 4
♥ 7 4
♦ Q J
♣ A 5 4

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: South

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

Opening lead: ♥ 2

Counting cannot be beat

By Phillip Alder

There was a late-season snowstorm that night. It had blanketed the town in almost two feet of the white stuff. Still, the snowplows had cleared the streets by midmorning, so there was a fair crowd in the bar following the afternoon duplicate.

"Would you like some coffee and a Danish?" a young woman asked the Senior Life Master.

"Thank you, but please may I have a cup of tea and a donut?"

When she returned, the SLM asked her to sit in an adjoining chair.

You remind me (the SLM began) of a woman called Cynthia Blythemere-Bunthorpe. Cynthia was a very good bridge player, but hard on her partners.

The SLM wrote down the North-South hands, auction and opening lead from today's diagram. After giving his companion a few moments to absorb the details, the SLM continued.

Cynthia was playing with Courtney Stratfield-Strepford, who was a dashing young man from a wealthy family. Courtney finessed the heart queen at trick one, but East won with the king and switched to the club king. Courtney ducked this, won East's club-queen continuation, drew trumps ending in hand, and tried the diamond finesse. However, that lost. East still had a club left, so the contract went one down.

"I was unlucky to find both finesses wrong," observed Courtney.

"You imbecile," replied Cynthia harshly. "Count your tricks. You have six spades, one heart, two diamonds and one club. Just win the first trick, draw trumps, and take the diamond finesse. Even you couldn't go down from there."

She was right, of course, and instantly their romance died.

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Bridge Scores

Duplicate Bridge Club met at the Snyder Country Club with Monte West directing Friday games and Jane Hinton directing Sunday and Tuesday.

FRIDAY

A Group
1. Sue Reed, Anita Talbott.
2. Dorothy Rosson, Martha Fagin.
3. Louise Thompson, Nona Morrison.
4. Ann Davis, Monte West.

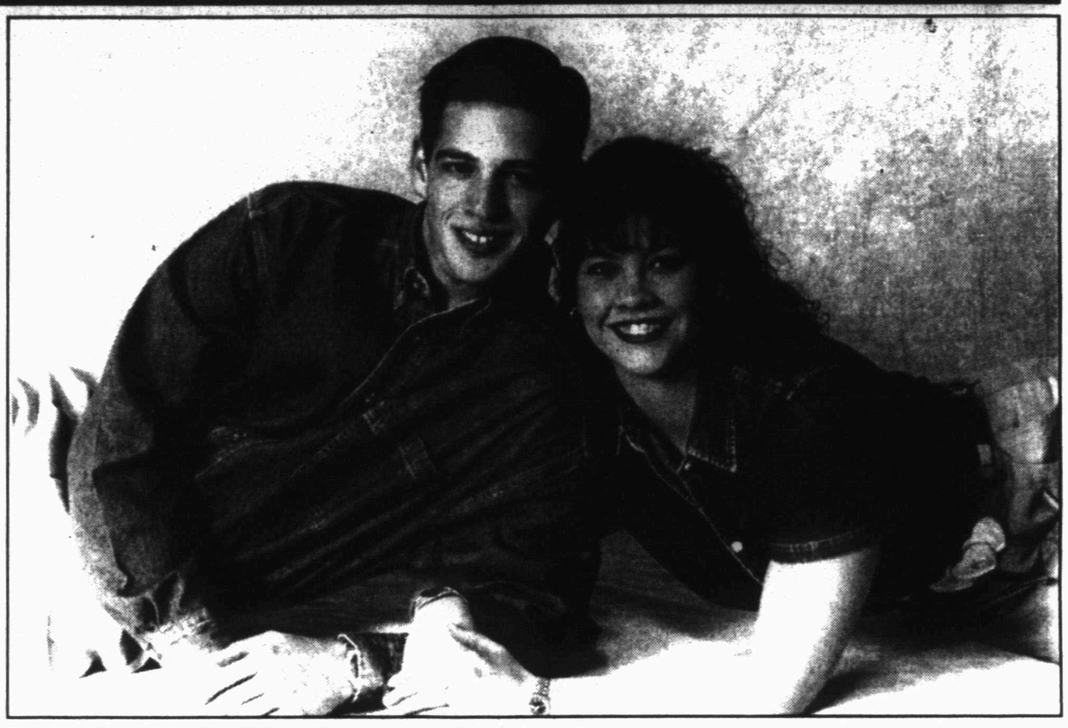
B Group
1. Sue Reed, Anita Talbott.
2. Dorothy Rosson, Martha Fagin.

SUNDAY

1. Margaret Birdwell, Jane Hinton.
2. Dot Casey, Louise Thompson.
3. Martha Fagin, Pat Floyd.

TUESDAY

1. Jane Hinton, Billisue Stuard.
2. TIE: Dora Blakey, Barbara Yorgesen and Mippy Brownlee, Shirley Stewart.
3. Pat Floyd, Robbie Floyd.



JUNE NUPTIALS UNDERWAY — Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Harris of Jayton announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter, Kristi Lynn Harris, to Jeremy Paul Howard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Howard of Ira. The couple plan a 5 p.m. ceremony on July 29 in the First Baptist Church in Lubbock. (Contributed Photo)

Publisher's Weekly top 10 best sellers

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. "The Brethren," by John Grisham (Doubleday)
2. "Carolina Moon," by Nora Roberts (Putnam)
3. "Daughter of Fortune" by Isabel Allende (HarperCollins)
4. "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason" by Helen Fielding (Viking) (F-H)
5. "Gap Creek" by Robert Morgan (Algonquin)
6. "Day of Reckoning" by Jack Higgins (Putnam)
7. "The Lion's Game" by Nelson DeMille (Warner)
8. "Tough Cookie" by Diane Mott Davidson (Bantam)
9. "Moment of Truth" by Lisa Scottoline (HarperCollins)
10. "Sick Puppy" by Carl Hiaasen (Knopf)

NONFICTION/GENERAL

1. "Who Moved My Cheese?" by Spencer Johnson (Putnam)
2. "Body for Life" by Bill Phillips and Michael D'Orso (HarperCollins)
3. "Tuesdays With Morrie" by Mitch Albom (Doubleday)
4. "The Rock Says..." by the Rock, with Joe Layden (Regan Books)
5. "Eating Well For Optimum Health : The Essential Guide to Food, Diet, and Nutrition" by Andrew Weil (Knopf)
6. "Relationship Rescue," by Phillip C. McGraw (Hyperion)
7. "The Millionaire Mind" by Thomas J. Stanley (Andrews McMeel)
8. "Sugar Busters!" by H. Leighton Steward, Morrison C. Bethea, Sam S. Andrews, Luis A. Balart (Ballntine)
9. "'Tis" by Frank McCourt (Scribner)
10. "A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius" by Dave Eggers (Simon & Schuster)

MASS MARKET PAPERBACKS

1. "Certain Prey" by John Sandford (Ballantine)
2. "The Testament" by John Grisham (Dell Island)
3. "Bittersweet" by Danielle Steel (Dell)
4. "Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution" by Robert C. Atkins (Avon)
5. "Angela's Ashes" by Frank McCourt (Touchstone)
6. "Witness in Death" by J. D. Robb (Berkley)
7. "Rain" by V. C. Andrews (Pocket)
8. "False Pretenses" by Catherine Coulter
9. "The Cider House Rules" by John Irving (Ballantine)
10. "SSN," by Tom Clancy and Martin Greenberg (Berkley)

—

The state tree of California is the California Redwood.

School Menus

Snyder

All meals are served with milk and the breakfast menu offers a choice including assorted dry cereal, toast with jelly and juice.

BREAKFAST
Monday
Scrambled Eggs
Tuesday
Oatmeal
Wednesday
Breakfast Burrito w/Salsa
Thursday
Biscuits w/Sausage
Friday
Pancake w/Syrup
LUNCH
Monday
Hamburger on a Bun or
Chicken Sandwich
Macaroni and Cheese
Green Peas
Applesauce
Tuesday
Chili Dog on a Bun or
Chili Mac
Seasoned Corn
Tossed Salad
Fruited Gelatin
Wednesday
Pizza or
Enchiladas
Pinto Beans
Spanish Rice
Chocolate Cake
Thursday
Oven Fried Chicken w/Roll
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Gelatin
Friday
Corn Dog or
Cheese Sandwich w/Tomato Soup
Corn on the Cob
Tossed Salad
Cookie

Hermleigh

All meals are served with milk.
BREAKFAST
Monday
Fruit
Buttered Grits
Toast
Tuesday
Juice
Biscuits & Gravy
Wednesday
Fruit
Toast & Jelly
Thursday
Juice
Blueberry Muffins
Friday
Fruit
Pancake/Syrup
LUNCH
Monday
Chicken Strips/Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
English Peas
Hot Biscuits
Gingerbread
Tuesday
Burritos/Chili/Cheese
Spanish Rice
Tossed Salad
Crackers
Chilled Pears
Wednesday
Frank Wraps
Potato Wedges
Pinto Beans
Orange Wedges
Thursday
Fried Ham
Parsley Potatoes
Hot Biscuits
Chilled Peaches
Friday
Beef & Cheese Nachos
Refried Beans
Tortilla Chips
Banana Pudding

Ira

Monday
Chicken Nuggets
Parsley Potatoes
Green Beans
Bread
Cake
Tuesday
Beef Patties
Creamed Potatoes
Fried Okra
Hot Rolls
Peaches
Wednesday
Steak Sandwiches
French Fries
Applesauce
Thursday
Steak Fingers
Whole Potatoes
Ranch Style Beans
Bread
Apple Crisp
Friday
Sandwiches
Chips
Shape-ups

Community Calendar

MONDAY

Rock and Roll Quilting Club; Hermleigh Community Center; everyone is invited for free quilting lessons, and special projects are to help someone in need; call 863-2426 for more information; 8 a.m. to noon.

Weight Watchers meeting; Trinity United Methodist Church; for more information call Nathalie at 573-1868 during the evening; weigh-in is at 5 p.m.

Al-Anon Brown Bag Open Meeting, Snyder Park Club in Winston Park; noon.

Scurry County Museum's hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Stargazers Family Community Education Club; 7 p.m.

Manic Depression (Bipolar) support group; Family Life Community Church, 904 26th Street; 7 p.m.

Scurry County AA; closed meeting; Park Club; for more information, call 573-8268, 573-9458 or 574-1292, 8 p.m.

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Art Guild Study Club; MAWC; 5 p.m.

SC Library News & Views

Scurry County Library will hold its annual book sale Wednesday through Saturday. The staff would like to remind everyone to come and look at the selection. They are still accepting donations for the sale.

The staff expresses appreciation for the support of the library.

BOOK FEATURE

"When Christ Comes," by Max Lucado.

Thoughts of the final days stir our questions and fears. We don't understand many of the concepts involving the end of history. Max Lucado believes the day Christ comes will be the "beginning of the very best." Our primary task is to be prepared and at peace while we wait. In this book, the author shows us how to be both.

NEW NON-FICTION

"Pros and Cons: The Criminals Who Play in the NFL," by Jeff Benedict.

"ESPN Sports Century."

"What Houseplants Where," by Roy Lancaster.

"Healing Herbs," by H. Winter Griffith, M.D.

NEW FICTION

"Gap Creek," by Robert Morgan.

"Every Little Thing About You," by Lori Wick.

"Whispers From Yesterday," by Robin Hatcher.

LIBRARY HOURS

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.—Mon., Wed. & Fri.

10 a.m. to 9 p.m.—Tues. & Thurs.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.—Sat.

Woman could be president

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — A woman could get elected president if she worked hard enough, says one of President Nixon's daughters.

"I think it could happen tomorrow if the right woman ran," Julie Nixon Eisenhower said at Southwest Missouri State University on Thursday. "It's true, though, that women have more to prove when they get into politics."

Bridal Registry

Christa Rosson and Brett Littlejohn
Rachel Huddleston and Justin Locknane
Rachel Moore and Ralph J. Shanafelt
Stephanie West and Cody Lewis
Angel Scarber and Robert Kee Patterson
Laura Collins and Matthew White
Kelly Gonzalez and Banks Alexander
Kathryn Robbins and Scott Hall
Jamie Bass and Daniel Schlumpfi
Amy Lewis and Chad Martin
Mary Hollis and Ramsey Castillo
Amanda Keils and Heath Porter
Karrah Griswold and Todd Iglehart
Karan McAnelly and Charles Kittles
Michelle Roemisch and Matthew Byrom
Tabitha Gilbreth and Chad Carter
Jackie Beck and Eric Robertson

Infant Registry

Wedding Invitations
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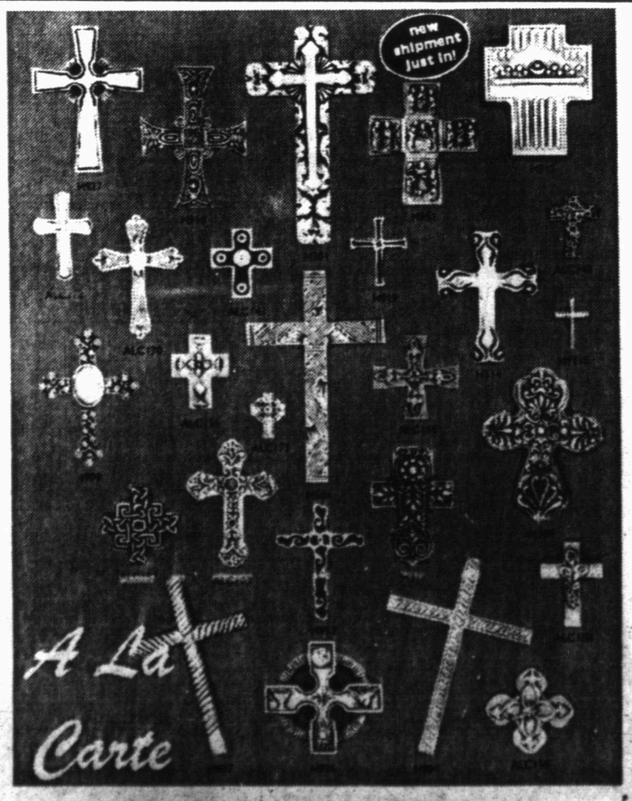
Phone In Orders Welcome
Free Delivery To Bridal Shower

Classic Interior
2520 Ave. R
East Side of Square
573-1701
Open Mon. - Fri., 9:30-5:30, Sat. 10:00 - 4:00



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574-2000
M-Tu-Th-Night
4-7 pm
This Week:
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Beefy Macaroni
King Ranch Chicken
Chicken Spaghetti
Hashbrown & Sausage
All Frozen Casseroles 30% Off

Advertisement
Quick Vinegar Weight Loss Shocks Woman
Ms. Jeanne Galend
Now Ms. Galend has reason to smile. She found an easy way to lose pounds without pills, diets or calorie counting. Her secret? The healthy vinegar plan. "I dropped 30 pounds so fast it scared me," she writes. Just a few tablespoons of vinegar daily will have you feeling and looking better as you melt away unhealthy pounds. For FREE information packet without obligation, write to: The Vinegar Plan, Dept. FD4564, 718-12th St. N.W., Box 24500, Canton, Ohio 44701. To help us cover printing and postage, $1 would be appreciated, but not necessary. http://www.trescoinc.com ©2000 TCO FD0000502

"COTTAGE INDUSTRIES" PROGRAM — Members of Cosmorama Study Club met Wednesday afternoon for a program by Fran Farmer, owner of Farmer's Design Group, a fixture display manufacturing business for major department stores located internationally. The business is located near Ira. Cosmorama meets every third Wednesday at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Shade trees grow only so fast each year even with lots of care

By ED HUTCHISON
For AP Special Edition

In a world smitten with speed, some things still take their sweet time to develop, and no amount of prodding will speed things along. Case in point: shade trees.

A good shade tree grows only so fast each year, even with soil, weather, moisture, nutrients and other conditions to its liking, according to Douglas L. Caldwell, a horticulturist with The Davey Expert Tree Company in Kent, Ohio, which provides tree and related services to residential, utility and other markets throughout the United States and Canada.

"So fast" is pretty slow. That's 6 to 9 inches of twig growth each year for many of the most popular species of shade trees. That means growth up and out, so the tree is increasing its overall size, not just height.

Admittedly, some species grow more than that each year, Caldwell said. But most need 25 years or longer to reach their mature height. Outward growth slows as the tree grows older, but there is still plenty of growth going on in the roots and elsewhere.

Patience as a tree grows is well rewarded.

Most good shade trees provide spectacular autumn color in yellows, reds and oranges.

But what makes a shade tree a good shade tree, in Caldwell's opinion, is its other virtues acquired by way of genetics that will stay with it for its life. Examples are a sturdy branch structure that isn't prone to twist and rip in storms, wood that is strong so the ground is not littered with twigs and stems after high winds, and the gumption to withstand stress brought on by insects, disease, drought and lousy weather.

In other words, a good shade tree is, well, a good overall tree.

This contrasts sharply with trees that may provide relief from the summer sun and look nice in the fall but are less desirable for a number of reasons. One is short life. The common birch, for example, begins to die out when it reaches 25 years of age. Cottonwood is messy because of its puffy seeds that float through the air in early summer and the brittleness of its stems. Weeping willow, while a dramatic sight with its shimmering yellow leaves in spring, also has brittle, messy wood and the added disadvantage of not dropping its leaves until around Thanksgiving — just when you don't want to be outdoors raking.

While there is no minimum height that a tree must reach to qualify as a true shade tree, Caldwell said that 30 feet is about entry level. That is tall enough so that its canopy provides cover from summer sun when it is at its highest and most brutal.

Which trees, then, make good shade trees and have the other attributes of strength, good manners and fall color? Quite a few, actually. Divide the country into three climates (cold, warm, hot), and consider these on Caldwell's shortlist:

Cold, Warm and Hot

— Black tupelo, sour gum (Nyssa sylvatica) averages 40 feet in height with a slightly smaller spread. Autumn color moves from yellow to orange to scarlet and finally, purple. This tree is highly prized for its stair-step branch structure and very dependable fall color.

— Red maple (Acer rubrum) reaches about 50 feet tall and wide. Fall color can be pale yellow, yellow or brilliant red. Which color depends a lot on where in the country it is growing and if the tree is a hybrid or a species specimen.

Cold, Warm

— Sugar maple (Acer saccharum) reaches 60 to 75 feet tall and about two-thirds as wide. Fall colors are brilliant yellow, burnt orange and red; colors vary depending on climate and soil type.

— Franklin tree (Franklinia alatamaha) is small — 10 to 20 feet high and about half as wide — as shade trees go but is highly valued because it bears showy white flowers as the leaves change to orange, red or purple in the autumn. The contrast is striking.

— Ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba) can top out at 100 feet; 80 feet is more typical and the spread is about one-half its height. It has bright yellow autumn foliage. However, a hard freeze can cause leaves to drop virtually overnight.

— Bradford Callery pear (Pyrus calleryana) reaches up to 50 feet tall with a spread of about one-half its height. Smaller trees on the order of 20 to 30 feet are more common. Fall color comes on late and is usually glossy scarlet and purple. This tree bears plenty of white flowers in spring.

— Thornless honeylocust (Gleditsia triacanthos) can grow up to 70 feet tall and about as wide, but seldom gets that high or wide. Leaves are small, arranged on a stem, giving the tree an airy look. Leaves fall early in the autumn and are yellow-green or brilliant yellow.

Hot

— Chinese pistache (Pistacia chinensis) grows about 35 feet tall and almost as wide. Dark green foliage turns orange and orange-red.

— American sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua) will grow in most zones and is one of the few trees that has exceptional autumn color in hot climates. It also grows pretty quickly — up to 3 feet a year. Deep green foliage takes on yellow, purple and red tones in the fall.

Jake Enget likes pi, not pie

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Jake Enget likes pi. Not pie — pi.

Jake, who last year memorized 1,001 digits of the number pi, did better this week: He recited 5,005 digits to win first place in his school's annual pi memorization contest.

The Fargo South High School senior's recitation, checked by math teacher Steven Durow, spanned some 40 minutes. The first 20,000 digits of pi would fill eight standard sheets of paper.

Pi is the non-repeating, never-ending number you get when you divide a circle's circumference by its diameter. Most people who use the figure round it to 3.14.

Not Jake. This year, he spent two weekends and most of his spare time cramming more than 5,000 digits of pi into his brain, rattling off the numbers in rap rhythm.

He said he memorized the last 1,000 of his 5,005 digits Sunday night.

"Usually, if I pay absolute attention to something and concentrate, I can memorize it," Enget said. "I can see it in my mind."

Enget said the contest's top prize, a $90 graphic calculator, wasn't his motivating factor this year, since he won the calculator last year.

"I just wanted to hold up my reputation from last year," he said.

Harry Potter books...

Author sues, claims ideas were hers

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — An author is suing the writer and publishers of the Harry Potter books, claiming that plots and characters in the wildly popular children's series originated with her.

Three books about Harry Potter, a young orphaned wizard, have sold 19 million copies in the United States, and a fourth is due for release in July.

The author, J.K. Rowling of Scotland, has become a cult figure in her own right among the novels' readers. A movie based on the first book, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" is in the works.

But Nancy K. Stouffer of Camp Hill argues in her federal lawsuit that ideas for the Potter series were lifted from her 1984 book "The Legend of Rah and Muggles," which includes a character named Larry Potter.

"I think coincidences happen, but I still say if it looks like a duck and acts like a duck, it's a duck," said Stouffer, who also claims she owns the trademark to the word "muggle."

In Stouffer's book, muggles are little people who care for two orphaned boys who magically turn their dark homeland into a happy place. In Rowling's books, "muggles" is the word wizards use for humans.

Stouffer's book has a character named Lilly Potter; Rowling's books have a Lily Potter. The Stouffer book has characters identified as "Keepers of the Gardens"; Rowling's books have a "Keeper of the Keys."

Stouffer filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court on March 6 against Rowling and Scholastic Inc., the U.S. publisher of the Harry Potter books. Her lawsuit also names Time Warner Entertainment Co., which owns the film rights to two of Rowling's Potter books, and Mattel and Hasbro, which have licenses to create and market related merchandise.

Scholastic, Rowling and Time Warner filed their own lawsuit in November in New York, asking a judge to rule that the Harry Potter books do not violate Stouffer's trademark and copyright. That suit was filed after attempts by Stouffer to negotiate an out-of-court settlement apparently failed.

Stouffer's claims are "completely meritless," said Judy Corman, a spokeswoman for Scholastic.

"Unfortunately, success often leads to frivolous claims, and we're confident the court will find in our favor," Corman said.

After its publication in 1984, Stouffer's book was sold mostly on the East Coast, in Giant supermarkets and Rite Aid drugstores. Stouffer believes Rowling may have come across it when she was on a work-study exchange in Baltimore in 1987 and 1988.

COUPLE TO MARRY SATURDAY — Eddie and Renea Nettles of Ira announce the upcoming marriage of their son, Jay Edward Nettles, to Elaine Diane Sanderlin, daughter of Garen and Theressa Edans of Alvarado. Eddie's mother is Donna Nettles of Dallas. The couple, both graduates of Devry Institute of Technology, Academic Dept., are planning a wedding at 2 p.m. on March 25 in the First Nazarene Church in Mansfield. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

COUNTRYPLACE
MERLE NORMAN COSMETIC STUDIO
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Florist
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Gifts
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"Bride & Groom"
Karrah Griswold & Todd Iglehart
Amanda Keils & Heath Porter
Amy Lewis & Chad Martin
Michelle Roemisch & Matthew Byrom
Tabitha Gilbreth & Chad Carter
Mary Hollis & Ramsey Castillo
Karen McAnelly & Charles Kittles
Kathryn Robbins & Scott Hall
Vee Ann Fitzgerald & Philip Carter
Rebecca Ramey & Jeff White
Christa Rosson & Brett Littlejohn
Angel Scarber & Robert Kee Patterson
Laura Collins & Matthew White
Rachael Huddleston & Justin Locknane
Deanna Moss & Dustin Moore

"Baby Shower"
Bill & Wendy Cooley
Banks & Kelly Alexander

School Personnel Register
(with purchase)
For $100 Giveaway
February Winner
Edilyn Smith, Central Elementary

Free Setups, Call In Orders Welcome, Decorated With Personal Touch

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1215 College Ave. 915-573-1817 Snyder Visa Discover Mastercard

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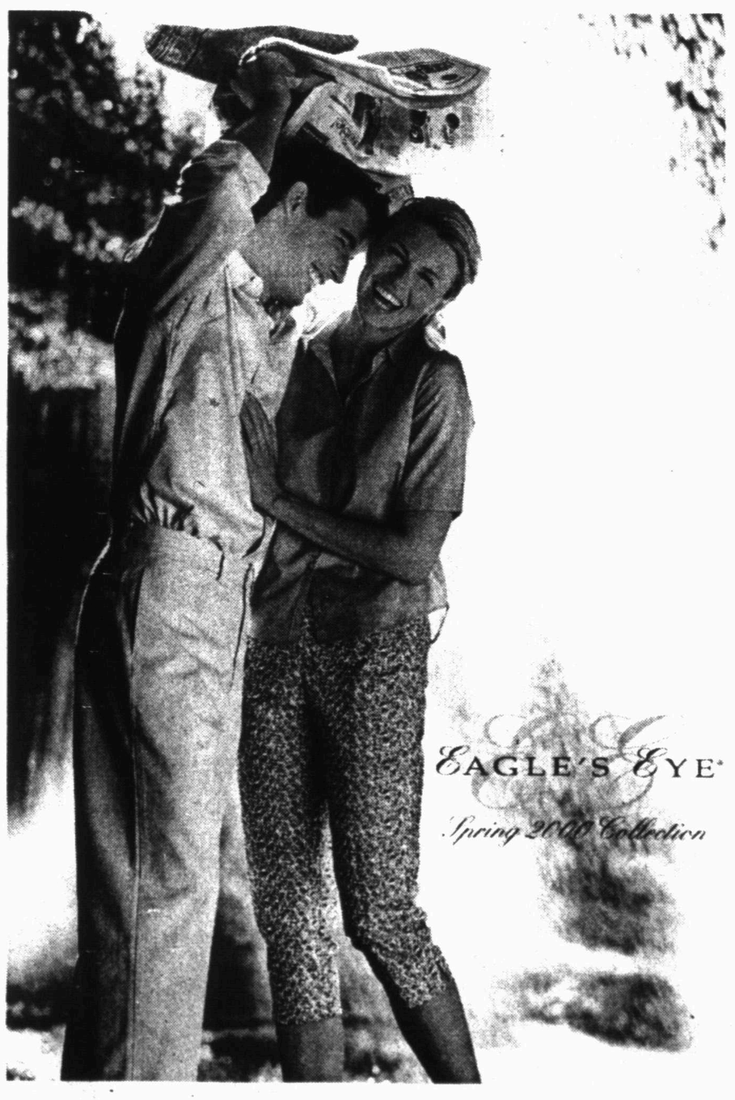

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MAR 19 2000

$5 billion oil spill civil verdict...

Exxon's appeal is rejected

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — An appeal by the Exxon Corp. on the $5 billion Valdez oil spill civil verdict was rejected Thursday

The San Francisco-based Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the verdict should not be thrown out because of irregularities during jury deliberations.

The appeal was one of several filed by Exxon and co-defendant Joseph Hazelwood, who was in charge of the tanker Exxon Valdez when it drove onto a charted reef in Prince William Sound in March 1989 and spilled 11 million gallons of Alaska crude oil.

The spill, the nation's worst ever, polluted more than 1,000 miles of shoreline, killed tens of thousands of birds and marine mammals, and disrupted fishing.

The appeal in question focused on the behavior of Don Warrick, a court bailiff who escorted the jury and served it food during the five months of trial and deliberations in 1994.

After the verdict, an Anchorage newspaper reported that the deliberations were highly emotional, and that juror Rita Wilson was especially stressed out by the process and not getting along well with the others.

Judge H. Russel Holland convened a hearing after the story was published.

Doug Graham, another of the jurors, told the judge during the hearing that the bailiff suggested to him one morning that the others might want to put Wilson "out of her misery."

While saying this, the bailiff pulled out his gun and took out one of its bullets, the juror said. The bailiff at first denied the allegation, but later admitted he made the comments as a joke. Warrick lost his job. He died from a heart attack a few months later.

Exxon argued that the bailiff's comments were inappropriate and coercive.

Holland ruled that a new trial wasn't warranted because Wilson didn't know during the deliberations about a conversation between Warrick and Graham.

Exxon spokesman Bob Davis would not comment on the ruling Thursday, and plaintiff's attorneys did not return phone calls.

Senior Menu

Monday

Steak fritter w/cream gravy, fried potatoes, savory peas, tossed salad, red applesauce

Tuesday

Chili con carne w/beans, cheese stick, sliced onion, chilled pears, peanut butter cookie

Wednesday

Braised pork chop, baked potato, green beans, jellied citrus salad, white cake w/strawberries

Thursday

Creole steak, wild rice, chopped broccoli, peaches & cottage cheese, chocolate cake w/cream cheese frosting

Friday

Fried fish, pinto beans, crinkle cut fries, tossed salad, Jello cake

Senior News

Monday

Bridge play begins at 9:30 a.m. and daily exercise at 11 a.m. AARP members will be meeting at noon in the Senior Center conference room.

Tuesday

"88" play begins at 10 a.m. and the Hoss Clayton band will be entertaining in the dining room at 11 a.m. The Golden K Kiwanis will meet at noon. Senior swimnastics will resume at Western Texas College on Tuesday and Thursday from 2-3 p.m., if the pool has been repaired. Call 573-4035 for more information.

Wednesday

A volunteer will be available from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1-3 p.m. to help citizens with income tax filing. Phone 573-4035 for more information.

Thursday

The Sunshine Choir will be entertaining at Snyder Oaks at 10 a.m. Daily exercise begins at 11 a.m. Swimnastics at WTC is from 2-3 p.m.

Friday

The blood pressure clinic and bridge begin at 9:30 a.m. "88" play begins at 10 a.m., exercise at 11 a.m. and the sing-a-long begins at 11:30 a.m. Line dancers and cloggers practice at the Senior Center at 2 and 3 p.m., respectively.

The Golden K Kiwanis Fish Fry is set for April 9 at the Senior Center. Cost per plate will be $6.50. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the center or from any Golden K Kiwanian. Tickets will also be available at the door. Take-out plates will be available. Make plans to support the Golden K Kiwanians. This organization is a support and service organization for the center as well as other organizations in the community.

MayDay is advancing rather quickly and everyone is encouraged to mark their calendar for May 6 and make plans to assist in the effort to raise funds for the center.

The quilt auction will consist of at least 30 quilts, a minimum of seven afghans, several baby quilts and dolls. Seniors are working on crafts for the craft booth. Yarn and other material that can be used for crafts has been donated for the fund-raiser. If interested, let the staff know.

The divorce rate among police officers is higher than that of any other occupational group in the country - 40 percent.

Auction houses share top lists

NEW YORK (AP) — Sotheby's and Christie's shared confidential lists of exceptionally rich clients who were spared from paying fees charged to other sellers, The New York Times reported Friday.

The lists were honored by both of the powerful auction houses in deciding which customers were charged lower commissions or none at all, the Times reported, citing people close to the companies and a federal antitrust investigation.

Sotheby's and Christie's simultaneously charged rates up to 20 percent to other sellers, the Times said.

The Justice Department began investigating the houses in 1997, focusing on alleged price-fixing in commissions. The auction houses, which control 95 percent of the $4 billion worldwide auction market, have said they are cooperating with prosecutors.

Spokesmen for both houses said Thursday they would have no comment during the investigation.

The lists — about 50 names, including some of the world's wealthiest families — were compiled separately and closely held by top executives, the Times reported. In 1995, with the art market suffering, the companies switched from a flat seller's commission to a sliding scale of 2 percent to 20 percent, depending on the size of the sale.

They then shared the lists of preferred customers to protect the other's special deals and avoid new deals with others.

Public Records

New Vehicle Registrations

Neil Moore, 2000 Lincoln from Wilson Motors.

Jerry Scrivner, 2000 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Tyson Price, 2000 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Jolley Well Service, 2000 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Patterson Drilling, two 2000 Chevrolet pickups from Big Country Autoland.

Steve Hall, 2000 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Randall Bankhead, 2000 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Jessica Martinez and Frank Martinez Jr., 2000 Chevrolet from Big Country Autoland.

Charles A. Northcutt, 2000 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Glenn and Oleta M. Dower, 2000 Chevrolet from Big Country Autoland.

Virginia Clecker, 2000 Buick from Big Country Autoland.

Max and Valerie Drum, 2000 Lincoln from Wilson Motors.

Niewoehner Inc., 2000 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Earl D. and Kathy Watts, 2000 Chevrolet from Big Country Autoland.

Ferris Equipment Sales, 2000 Ford Expedition from Wilson Motors.

Stacy Dove, 2000 Buick from Big Country Autoland.

Terry Juarez, 2000 Pontiac from Big Country Autoland.

Mike Herrington, 2000 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Bobby Horton LJD Ranch, 2000 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Brian Bassham, 2000 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Larry Price, 2000 Ford Mustang from Wilson Motors.

Action in District Court

In the marriage of Linda Kay Gartman and Dennis Wayne Gartman, divorce granted.

In the marriage of Karen Ann Lewis and Norris Lewis, divorce granted.

In the marriage of Frankie Rodriquez Sanchez and Tara Jocarol Sanchez, divorce granted.

In the marriage of Billy Joe Brown Jr. and Julie Marie Brown, divorce granted.

General Motors Acceptance Corporation vs. Brandin Roberge and James Wenetschlaeger, order of nonsuit as to Brandin Roberge.

Sandra Rushing vs. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company, George Walter Lyons, Kenneth Dale Barrow and Gilbert Texas Construction, order of dismissal.

Scurry County vs. Julia Pettit Phillips, et al, order to release excess funds to defendant.

Scurry County vs. Julia Pettit Phillips, et al, order to release excess funds to defendant.

David and Nina Harrell vs. Lois K. Eicke, order of dismissal.

Deed Records

Morris and Sue Sewell to Jan Kruse, tract one being all the east 110 feet of Lot 6 and the south 110 feet of Lot 5 in Block 10 of the Original Town of Snyder; tract two being the west 30 feet of Lot 6 and the west 30 feet of the south 10 feet of Lot 5, both in Block 10 of the Original Town of Snyder.

Gerald and Lila M. Thompson to Phillip and Jackie Goldsberry, 2.02 acres out of the northwest corner of the northwest one-quarter of Section 211, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Norma D. Wallace to E.A. Wallace, a part of Lot 2, Block 5, Original Town of Snyder.

Deborah S. Olsen, individually and as attorney-in-fact for Theodore M. Olsen Jr., to Roland J. and Leona S. Bruns, 1.5697 acres in Tract 50 of the Dallas Trust and Savings Bank Subdivision of the Grimes Ranch Lands in Section 38, Kirkland and Fields survey.

Bruce Ward Stewart to Micky and Amy Benitez, the west 130.5 feet of Lot 1 and the north 13 feet of the west 130.5 feet of Lot 2 in Block 5 of the A.D. Dodson Addition.

Kenneth Roy Rogers, Sharon Sue Mason and Kimberly Kay Rogers to Mildred D. Rogers, Lot 7 in Block 3 of the A.D. Dodson Addition.

Rhodes Welding Company and Rhodes Inc. to C.E. Rhodes, tract one being Lots 19-26 in Section 1 of the Townsend Subdivision; tract two being the south 100 feet of Lots 27-34 and the north 70 feet of the south 100 feet of Lot 35 and the north 10 feet of the south 100 feet of Lot 35 in Section 1, Townsend Subdivision; tract three being Tract 36 out of Section 14, J.P. Smith survey.

Richard Wayne and Cathy Lynn Trout to Dalton D. Priest and Nancey I. Ebarb, Lot 6 in Block 5 of the Cedar Creek Addition.

Dorothy Taylor to Bonifacio and Maria L. Rubio, Lot 3 in the Walter Hales Subdivision of Lots 1 and 2, Block 19 of the Lundy Park Addition.

Copyright dispute lands in court

AUSTIN (AP) — The Austin Board of Realtors is suing one of its own members, e-Realty.com, claiming in a federal lawsuit that the online firm is violating copyright laws by allowing customers full access to property listings meant only for registered real estate agents.

The local board is seeking to deny the Houston-based Internet company access to the listings, a move e-Realty officials say would shut them down. The company denies it is breaking copyright laws.

At issue is whether or not e-Realty.com is illegally allowing its customers access to Multiple Listing Service data. MLS data is maintained by professional realty boards as a way for members to exchange information about sales listings. The information is protected by copyright and members are required to follow strict rules regarding the access and distribution of the information.

The Austin Board of Realtors runs its MLS through the Austin Central Texas Realty Information Service. E-Realty joined the board in October 1999 and subscribed to the list service.

E-Realty, through its Web site and advertising, claims visitors can search the entire listing service for the Austin area and that the practice is endorsed by the Austin board. Neither claim is true, the lawsuit claims.

"E-Realty does not appear to be willing to comply with the MLS regulations it agreed to abide by when it joined," said David Foster, executive vice president of the Austin board.

"We have more than 4,300 members, and for one broker to play by its own set of rules in unfair. Furthermore, we cannot allow one member to confuse the public by giving the false impression that we have approved this site," he said.

E-Realty, which launched in Austin in January, is one of only a handful of Web real estate agents where customers search listings as well as actually complete a home purchase online.

Chief executive Russell Capper said Friday that his company followed the associations' rules by limiting the number of listings registered clients have access to.

Capper said he was shocked by the lawsuit because he worked closely with Austin board officials before e-Realty was launched to make sure the company was in compliance with regulations.

The rules were changed in January to specifically address online usage of listings, a move Capper said specifically targeted e-Realty as traditional realtors struggle to embrace e-commerce.

"We were very surprised with their action. First and probably foremost is that we always thought that realty associations were much more concerned with outsiders who wanted to do away with or replace the MLS," Capper said.

Foster, who said the online company originally agreed to follow the rules, denied Capper's claim.

"We clearly prohibit that and always have," he said Friday. "We were surprised by what they were doing, which was basically knowingly misusing our information owned by us."

"We embrace the Internet ourselves as a logical extension of our own work. It's the future and we know that," said Foster. "But e-Realty is trying to take an illegal shortcut by using the information that we own."

U.S. District Judge James Nowlin last week issued a temporary restraining order that allows e-Realty to remain in operation while the lawsuit continues. Nowlin was scheduled to issue a permanent decision on the order Tuesday.

On the Net: Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital: http://www.mhhs.org/locations/mher/mher.html

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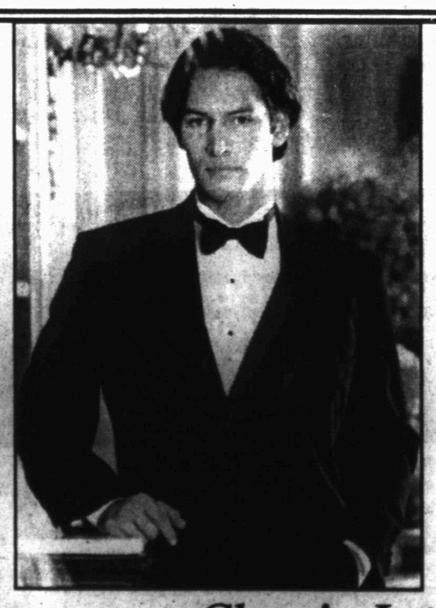

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Wayward winds may warn of storms

WASHINGTON (AP) — Residents of the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico worried about hurricanes may want to keep track of which way the wind is blowing — out over the Pacific Ocean.

It turns out that Caribbean and Gulf storms are four times more likely when Pacific winds blow from the west rather than from the east, according to a new study by researchers at the University of Washington in Seattle.

"This is somewhat surprising," Eric D. Maloney and Dennis L. Hartmann note in Friday's issue of the journal Science, since the area of Pacific winds is separated from the storm region by the mountains of Mexico and Central America.

But they found that the likelihood of hurricanes in the Gulf and Caribbean increases about two weeks after a change in wind movement over the Pacific called the Madden-Julian Oscillation. That oscillation begins in the Indian Ocean and moves across the Pacific, Maloney explained in a telephone interview. The oscillation occurs every 30 to 60 days, he said, and results in a shift in winds from easterly to westerly.

When westerly winds — that is, winds blowing from the west — reach the side of the Pacific near the Americas, hurricanes are four times more likely in the Gulf and Caribbean than when Pacific Ocean winds blow the other way, Maloney said.

"You can say maybe a week in advance that there are likely to be hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, but I can't tell you whether they're likely to hit New Orleans or Galveston," he noted.

Florida is particularly vulnerable, being much more likely to be hit by a tropical storm or hurricane when Pacific winds are from the west, he added.

Ants Leetmaa, director of the federal Climate Prediction Center in Camp Springs, Md., called their report "pretty exciting."

He said evidence is growing that the Madden-Julian Oscillations affect hurricanes both in the Atlantic and Pacific.

"How they do that is not obvious," Leetmaa said, but depending on the position of the oscillation it can turn off hurricanes almost completely.

The oscillation also is being studied by government researchers, Leetmaa said, noting that it does not have an impact on the number of hurricanes in a given year, but does seem to alter when they occur during the year.

Maloney, a doctoral student, and Hartmann, a professor, are still trying to determine why winds over one ocean seem to increase storms over another.

One possible explanation, Maloney said, is that when there are westerly winds over the eastern Pacific it tends to create counterclockwise rotation just to the north of the strongest westerly winds.

Counterclockwise circulations at the lower levels are usually associated with low pressure which can develop into storms.

In addition, he noted that low-pressure areas also form north and just to the east of the westerly winds and these tend to draw winds toward the center, which can foster hurricanes and tropical storms.

But they were surprised by the correlation because of the high terrain, including many mountains, in Mexico and Central America which they had expected to block much of the wind movement.

On the Net: University of Washington: http://www.washington.edu

National Weather Service http://www.nws.noaa.gov

Texas Tech begins building $42 million academic complex

LUBBOCK (AP) — Texas Tech has broken ground on its first new academic building to be constructed in 25 years.

The $42 million English/Philosophy/Education Complex was the most expensive academic building ever approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Committee in 1998.

The project is scheduled to be completed in time for the fall 2002 semester.

It will include classrooms, a large lecture hall, offices and lab space. A large landscaped courtyard will connect the two buildings that will make up the 211,000-square-foot complex.

Even though workers removed asphalt from a parking lot and installed a construction fence around the area where the building is to be constructed, faculty members were hesitant to express their enthusiasm. The building originally was scheduled to be completed by spring 2001.

"We're certainly glad they've started and hope they finish on time," said Walter Schaller, interim chairman of the philosophy department. "We're looking forward to classrooms that aren't overheated in the summer and roofs that don't leak water. We'll just wait and see."

Due to delays, the cost of construction is now listed at $42 to $49 million.

Q & A

Inhalants

(In response to a growing concern among parents, educators and other members of the community, Snyder Daily News, in cooperation with Al-Anon support groups and the Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, is devoting this column to your questions about the increasing threat of substance abuse.)

Most abused solvents are central nervous system depressants, which can lead to unconsciousness and death at high concentrations and prolonged exposure. At low concentrations and short durations of exposure the user often exhibits excitation before the depressant effects (Pryor 1990).

In many ways inhalant symptoms resemble those of alcohol and barbiturate intoxication, with a comparatively quicker onset (within five minutes) and a shorter duration after use. Although many solvents are depressants, they have extremely different pharmacological and neurotoxicologic characteristics.

The effects of a solvent mixture cannot be predicted simply from the pharmacology of its components or vice versa (Pryor 1990). Prolonged exposure to inhalant and volatile solvents produces toxic effects such as: (a) acute encephalopathy (brain disease); (b) cerebellar ataxia (staggering gait); and (c) peripheral neuropathy (visual and hearing impairments).

A few case reports suggest effects on newborns. Chronic use of inhalants may lead to psychological dependence, or occasionally, physical dependence (WHO 1986). "Sudden sniffing death" can occur with one time use due to asphyxia or heart malfunction.

Most volatile solvents have a high affinity for lipids (fats), hence their high distribution to organs rich in lipids (e.g., brain, liver, and adrenal). These fat-soluble products are eliminated through the kidneys after several biochemical breakdown reactions that render them more water soluble (Rosenberg 1990).

As a result of these reactions, additional compounds are produced, and some are more neurotoxic than the parent chemical (Goetz 1985; O'Donoghue 1985; Spencer & Schaumburg 1980; Allen 1979, Sharp & Rosenberg, in press).

Identifying the exact solvent or solvents responsible for observed effects has been very difficult because of the following conditions: the commercial and industrial products used are typically mixtures; the formulations and choices of the mixtures change over time; and the subjects involved are often influenced by a variety of factors (e.g., use of other drugs) that might be responsible for any observed disorder (Pryor 1990).

There are hundreds of available household and commercial products which can be inhaled. Generally speaking the abused inhalants include volatile solvents (e.g., gasoline, glue, paint, polishes), anesthetics, nitrites, and aerosols. In addition, there are many chemical substances found in these commercial products which are responsible for the inhalation effects.

Common Inhalant adhesives includes airplane glue, rubber cement and PVC cement. Aerosols include paint sprays, hair sprays, deodorants, air fresheners, analgesic spray and asthma spray.

Anesthetics include gaseous nitrous oxide. Common cleaning agents are dry cleaning, spot removers and degreasers. Solvents and gases are polish remover, paint remover, paint thinners, correction fluid thinners, fuel gas, lighter butane and fire extinguisher.

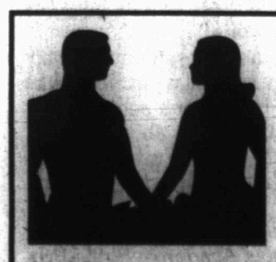
In general, inhalation is by nose or mouth (bagging or huffing), or sometimes absorbed through the skin or stomach.

The effects of inhalant abuse upon the unborn child are unknown. Since chronic abuse produces functional and structural damage in the mature individual, it is reasonable to expect that the developing fetus would be at particular risk.

Dysmorphic features, as well as physical and neurological impairments, have been reported, although conclusive evidence for a fetal solvent syndrome is not available (Hersh et al. 1985; Hersh 1989; Hunter et al. 1979). Anecdotal published personal observations include acute neonatal withdrawal, transient neonatal renal tubular acidosis, intrauterine growth retardation, developmental delay, and impairments of vision and hearing.

More information is needed to characterize the consequences of solvent abuse during pregnancy in order to devise effective strategies for dealing with this problem.

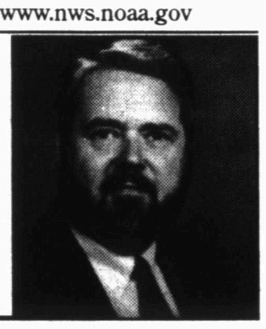
Send questions on drugs or addiction to P.O. Box 695, Snyder, Texas 79550. All questions and personal inquires may be submitted anonymously. Twenty-four-hour confidential information is available by calling (915) 573-1141 or 1-800-658-6722. Information on help groups and individual's phone numbers may be found in the SDN Community Calendar.



Want to improve your marriage for free? **A Free Marriage Enrichment** class will be starting on **Thursday, March 23 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.** at the **Christian Student Center at Western Texas College.** It will be every Thursday for 9 weeks. We will utilizing the **MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT** videos by **Carl Brecheen and Paul Faulkner.** For more information you may call **573-0154.**

Minding Your Own Business

By Don Taylor



Would of, Could of, Should of...Reflections on Success

I once attended a "success" seminar with an interesting icebreaker. To encourage the attendees to get acquainted, we were all asked to write down our biggest failure and then share it with other members of the group.

The answers included: marrying their high school sweetheart or not marrying their high school sweetheart; investing in a friend's business or not investing in a friend's business; taking a job offer or not taking a job offer; and buying something that went down in value or not buying something that went up in value.

Most of us have a few regrets from our lifetime of experiences. There are always a few decisions we wish we could make again. I would buy that 1962 Corvette for $2,400 instead of offering $2,200. Yes, there are some things we would have done, could have done, or should have done if we only had known the outcomes ahead of time.

Unfortunately, we don't get many second chances. Therefore, our best chance for future success is to avoid mistakes. Here are some suggestions I hope will be helpful.

You'll never be sorry...
—for thinking before taking action.
—for listening more, and speaking less.
—for loving more, and judging less.
—for always doing what is right.
—for holding your temper in check.
—for helping someone with genuine need.
—for the time you spend with your kids.
—for ignoring gossip and turning a deaf ear toward rumors.
—for the time you spent increasing your knowledge of worthwhile information.
—for thanking God for another great day.
—for standing up for what you believe.
—for taking time to vote.
—for forgiving someone who has wronged you.
—for rereading a good book.
—for standing in a summer shower, getting soaking wet and breathing in the freshest air ever.
—for being nice.
—for setting high goals and working hard to achieve them.
—for showing kindness to someone who can't help you in return.
—for being the first to apologize.
—for not lighting your first cigarette.
—for not taking your first drink.
—for not doing drugs.
—for turning off the TV and using the time in a more productive way.

You'll never regret...
—keeping your promises.
—developing your public speaking skills.
—giving every new project your very best effort.
—forgetting where you started and concentrating on where you want to go.
—using your talents and watching them increase.
—paying the price for success. It's so much cheaper than the price of failure.
—writing a nice long letter to your Mom.
—telling your Dad how much you love him.
—being a positive example for your kids.
—respecting our flag.
—praising someone when praise is due.
—finishing what you start.
—being faithful to your friends and your spouse.
—overlooking a close friend's faults.
—having a hobby that doesn't cost much.
—saying "I haven't yet" instead of "I can't."
—saying "I will" instead of "I should."

Don Taylor is the co-author of Up Against the Wal-Marts. You may write to him in care of Minding Your Own Business, PO Box 67, Amarillo, TX 79105.

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Syrup-maker hopes for one more cold snap this winter

PICKENS, W.Va. (AP) — Forty-degree nights and 50-degree days are not the kind of temperatures people like Mike Richter hope for in March. He wants a nightly freeze and a morning thaw to prime the natural pumps in his 4,000 mighty maples.

There are hundreds of people like Mike Richter across West Virginia — people who at this time of year are punching holes in tree trunks and inserting small metal taps to drain a watery sap they will cook down to a dark, sweet syrup.

At Richter's Maplehouse, a 60-acre tree farm deep in a hollow on Turkeybone Mountain, the taps are running slower than usual.

In a good year, Richter will bottle about 1,000 gallons of syrup for sale; last year, he made about 700.

"This year, it's hard to tell. It's early yet," he says, dumping out the contents of a galvanized bucket hung on the side of a tree. "But this warm spell isn't doing me any good."

Richter's Randolph County operation is one of four commercial syrup-making ventures in West Virginia, a state that is no maple syrup powerhouse.

Bob Williams, marketing director for the state Department of Agriculture, doesn't even keep records about the volume produced each year.

"Our conditions are right at the fringe," he says. "Even though the sugar maple is our state tree, we have mostly oak hardwood forests."

Sugar maples also grow at higher elevations, where fewer people live, and the climate is too warm to trigger the freeze-thaw routine. "We're a bit too far south," Williams says.

Syrup-making is labor-intensive, so few people have invested the money needed to make a commercial go of it.

So far, Richter has about 600 gallons stored up from this season, some collected from buckets, the rest from 22 miles of interconnected plastic tubes.

He bottles syrup and makes candy and cream year-round, but the actual production period is intense and short, about four to six weeks between Feb. 1 and the end of March.

Richter generally gets about a gallon a day from each tap, but some days, there is only a pint.

The amount of sap needed to make a gallon of syrup varies. Ordinarily, he says, it takes about 50 gallons. But this year, the sap has more water than usual, so he needs about 70.

Conditions earlier in the year were good for sap production, and Richter is at a loss to explain the high water content.

Good Samaritan saves the life of a dog

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — A battered and bloodied dog was recovering Thursday after being rescued from a man who tied its leash to a car bumper and dragged it for 10 blocks to teach it a lesson.

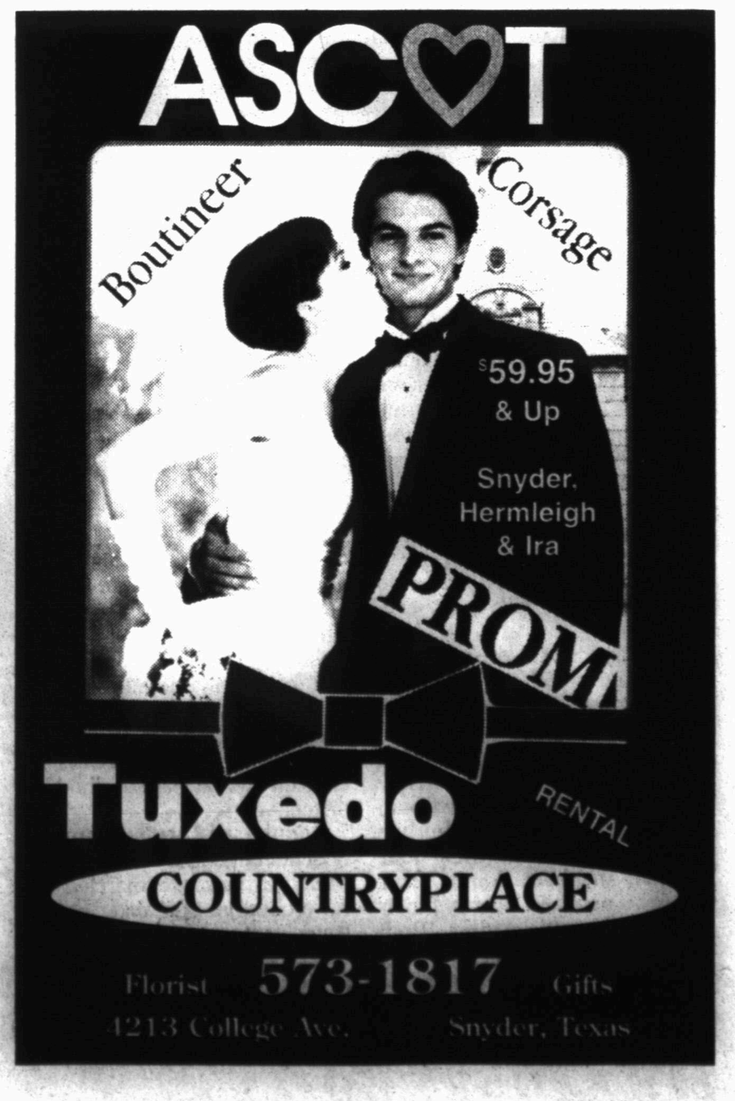
The 3-year-old chow mix's paw pads were torn off and its shoulders and belly were rubbed raw.

"You could follow the trail of blood. It was so disgusting," said David Naas, a 43-year-old computer programmer who rescued the animal Monday night.

Naas said he yelled at the driver to stop, and followed behind him, honking his horn. When the man stopped, Naas said he explained that the dog had refused to get in the car, so he decided to drag it to teach it a lesson.

Naas said he failed to get the car's license plate number.

The dog, nicknamed Phoenix, was resting at the Humane Society of Santa Clara Valley animal hospital.



Letters to the editor

Other side of gun control

Dear Editor:

Sunday's article on gun control should have the other side told in defense of the Constitution, citizen's right and NRA.

Britain is experiencing a steady rise in drive-by shootings and gangland-style executions. Police attribute the increase to nearly three million illegal guns smuggled there. A third (1/3) of young crimi8nals, age 15 to 25, own or have access to guns, from Beretta submachine guns to Luger pistols, according to researches.

Chris Price, chairman of the Gun Traders' Association said, "the criminals have not suffered, but the legitimate gun owners and gun dealers have suffered."

The 6-year-old black boy that shot a 6-year-old white girl in Michigan, was raised in a crack house whose father and grandfather are both in prison. If you want to find the culprit, seek it from the high-level drug pushers and addicts, and for lack of enforcement and prosecutions of breakers of thousands of gun and drug laws already on the books. Since the 6-year-old tragedy, Attorney General Reno has said, "don't look for any improvements in enforcement and prosecutions."

The problem is not the police of neighbors who have guns. When 83-year-old A. D. Parker of San Francisco, Calif., heard an intruder in his house late one night, reached under his bed for his .38 caliber, 51-year-old Smith and Wesson. The intruder, one Michael Moore, 48, a convicted felon, was standing armed at the foot of his bed. Parker said, "I shot just once ... if I had waited a second longer, I would have been the dead one."

He was old and feeble but the gun was the equalizer.

Handguns prevent more than 1/3 of all crimes.

Now, the NRA (National Rifle Association), has spent $20 million on gun safety training for children to leave a found gun untouched and report it to authorities. The government has spent nothing.

In fact, the GAO (General Accounting Office), the investigative arm of Congress, is now looking into the Clinton Administration's misappropriation of 10s of millions of dollars raised from Excise Tax on firearms and ammunition. It was to be used by state wildlife agencies for hunter and gun safety training programs and firing range construction.

It was used, however, to fund "animal rights" groups and to provide junkets and huge bonuses for top federal bureaucrats. The Pittman-Robertson Trust Fund (1937) has raised $3.4 billion from this Excise Tax on guns and ammunition.

Please, read a NEW book written by an attorney, titled (CALL 911 and DIE. It's well researched with stories and facts from all 50 states. The courts have ruled that the citizen is responsible for his and his family's safety. Law enforcement cannot be held accountable if they are late of unavailable. Think about it.

Thanks,
Carl Nunn

Some things are positive

Dear Editor:
Citizens of Scurry County

I always read the letters to the editor in the Snyder Daily News. The majority of them are gripping. I want this to be a positive letter backing some of the things that go on in Snyder.

First, I want to thank God for Snyder doctors. If it was not for Dr. Cooper and Dr. Kerr, my husband, Elbert Hill, might be dead, but for the Lord's Will. Monday, Feb. 28, Elbert began having strange actions all day. My son, Levi, and granddaughter, Shastade, were at our house that evening and saw him have one of those spells. I told them that if he wasn't better the next morning, the 29th, I was taking him to Dr. Cooper's office and he told me to take Elbert to the emergency room.

Dr. Kerr was on duty out there, they began all kinds of different tests to see what was wrong. They checked him into the hospital and ran other tests to see if he was getting enough oxygen to his brain. Drs. Cooper and Kerr conferred with each other. Early Thursday morning he was on Floor 3 on a heart monitor his heart rate became very high for four minutes. They were about to shock him, but the rhythm came back on its own. The doctors talked and decided he needed a defliberator device with a pacemaker and a device to shock the heart back into rhythm. Thursday evening they sent him by ambulance to Methodist in Lubbock. The ambulance workers are very kind and efficient. They took care of the problem in Lubbock.

I also want want to tell the people what a good hospital and nursing staff we have at Cogdell. They are very gracious and you don't have to spend too much time waiting. The food is also excellent and healthy. We need this hospital here so much.

One comment I want to make is why can't the county and hospital get along. That is food for though. We need Cogdell.

I am a person who has lived in Snyder 48 years. We raised our seven children here. I don't want to live any other place. I know many people here by being a crossing guard and going to Calvary Baptist Church. I love people especially the young ones.

Dorothy Hill
2311 27th
Snyder, Texas

Campaigns take time and effort

Dear Editor:

I have had the honor of serving as campaign treasurer for Joe Bass, candidate for Commissioner Precinct 3. During the campaign, I learned quite a lot about the political process and just how much time, effort, pride and money goes into campaigning for even a primary election.

We are so privileged to live in a country that allows us the freedom to select those that will serve us. We are also privileged to live in a community with so many willing to serve us. Regardless of where we stand on so many complicated issues or how we will vote in the upcoming elections, we owe our thanks to those that are willing to serve in some thankless positions for very little monetary return.

To those that will continue campaigning into November: Congratulations. Please speak the truth to your constituents and be above reproach in ever decision in your campaign and in your office if elected.

To those that finished this race Tuesday night — thank you for being willing to stand for what you believe to be right and best. I thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,
Angie Strickland

Country Life

by Deanie Francis Mills

Writer defends alternative lifestyle

A few years ago, after doing a book signing and talk at a Fort Worth bookstore, I became friends with the man who worked publicity for the bookstore chain. He was a big fan of my work, and was instrumental in arranging all sorts of helpful events for me, including one corporate speaking engagement for which I was paid a fee of $1,000.

So the next time I was scheduled to speak at my friend Steve's bookstore, he invited me to spend the night in his home with him and his "roommate," so that I wouldn't have to be alone in some anonymous Fort Worth motel. By that time, I had figured out that my friend Steve and his roommate, Scott, were not just a couple of guys sharing a house—they were a gay couple. I talked it over with my husband, and we agreed that there was no reason I shouldn't feel comfortable in taking my friend Steve up on his invitation.

And that is how I came to spend the night with a gay couple.

Steve and Scott were in no way flamboyant or otherwise stereotypical gays. Both men were hardworking and successful in business, and neither of them "looked" or "acted" gay. They lived in a nice three-bedroom house in a tree-lined suburban neighborhood with their four German shepherd dogs. Their lawn was neat and trim and their home warm and inviting. Both men consider themselves strong Christians. We talked late into the night about what it means to be gay in America, and about the misconceptions people have about the gay community.

Through the years, since that time, I have come to count Steve as one of my closest friends, and I think of him so often, especially times like now, when *Newsweek* magazine features a cover story about the issues that most affect gays, from their right to include partners on company health insurance plans to their desire to adopt children. And it never ceases to amaze me, how many ideas so many people hold about gays that are not only wrong, but even dangerous.

For example: It is a widely-held belief that a homosexual male should not be allowed in a position in which he works with children, either as a teacher or scout leader or coach—because it is feared that he may prey on young males.

But what people who think that need to understand is this: there is a difference between a *homosexual* and a *pedophile*. A pedophile is a sexual predator. They may prey on boys or girls or both genders. Pedophiles collect massive amounts of child pornography. Each pedophile selects one certain age group upon which to prey: pre-schoolers, elementary-aged children, or teenagers.

And the vast, statistical majority of pedophiles are *hetero*sexual. Many, in fact, are married and have children of their own. The tragic truth about pedophiles is that they tend to turn up in places where they are least expected, and are generally trusted by adults because this is how they get close to the children.

But a homosexual is not a pedophile. A homosexual is not going to prey on same-sex children any more than a heterosexual is going to prey on children of the opposite sex. Their brains are not wired that way.

Another misconception about homosexuality is that it is a *lifestyle* that somebody *chooses*.

Spend half an hour in a conversation with a homosexual and they will tell you that *nobody* is going to *choose* to be vilified, spat upon, beat up, and discriminated against—not to mention ostracized by their families and generally treated by society as deviants and perverts. Who in the world would *want* such a thing?

A gay person does not choose to be gay any more than a straight person chooses to be straight. They just *are*. When I was in junior high and first started to go boy-crazy, it just never entered my mind to be attracted to other girls. I wasn't made that way, period. And gays will tell you that when they first started to develop crushes, it was on people of the same gender. They couldn't help it.

In fact, that is the very reason that the suicide rate among homosexual teenagers is so shockingly high—they're told at every turn that what they are, at the very core of themselves, is sinful, perverted, and *wrong*, and that the only way they can ever be accepted into polite society is to somehow change a thing over which they have no control. Some would just plain rather die.

Another confusion some people have is that if a gay couple raise a son or daughter, that child will then be gay. This is nonsense—especially when you stop to think that almost all gays are raised in homes with two heterosexual parents, and have brothers and sisters who are heterosexual. A child is going to be the way they were wired while still in the womb. As for who raises them—from my experience dealing with the criminal world, I can tell you this—*any* child would want to be raised in a secure, loving home no matter who his parents are—rather then abused, abandoned, beaten, or otherwise mistreated in a home with heterosexual parents who don't love him.

The last argument held by people who are filled with loathing for homosexuals is that the Bible considers homosexuality a sin. Maybe—but the Bible also considers adultery a sin that should be punished by stoning the sinner to death. I figure if we followed the Bible literally on that subject, there would be a public stoning in the town square every single day.

The bottom line, as I see it, is that my Lord stated, clearly, that he who was without sin should cast the first stone—and as I recall, no one could step forward. But if we're going to concentrate on sin, well, there are a whole lot of sins way worse than loving the wrong person.

In any event, I love my friend Steve, and there's nothing in the world wrong with that.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Dallas Morning News

On Hispanic voters:

Over the last two decades, the number of registered Hispanic voters in Texas has more than tripled. Today, an estimated 1.8 million Hispanics are eligible to vote in Texas. The national press corps will pore over their voting patterns in Tuesday's Texas primary like archaeologists searching for meaning in their most recent discoveries.

Gov. George W. Bush, of course, has drawn considerable attention within GOP circles for his rapport with Hispanics. Almost 40 percent of Hispanic voters supported his 1998 gubernatorial re-election. And a December Southwest Voter Registration Education Project showed him running even with Vice President Al Gore among Texas Hispanics.

Bush will have an added interest in scoring well with Texas Hispanics Tuesday since Gore won over 50 percent of Hispanic voters in California last week. Democrats tend to do better with minority voters because of their party's position on job creation, health care and social inclusion.

Indeed, the lack of access to health care will likely resonate among Hispanic voters both Tuesday and in November. A recent Commonwealth Fund report shows that Hispanics are twice as likely as the general population to not have health coverage. It would behoove Bush and his advisers to work on a strong health care plank. The issue makes for both good social policy and good politics.

Of course, some Republicans have preferred to ignore Hispanic voters. They argue Democrats already have them, so why bother.

Fortunately, others like Bush take a different tack. They have opposed efforts to cut off aid to immigrants, preached small business development and urged strong relations with Mexico. In short, they have urged their party to add Hispanics to the political equation. Texas will provide a testing ground for just how far that message has gone and how competitive the Hispanic vote will be this year.

The Victoria Advocate

On crime rates and children:

In the space of a few days, the public's gaze has been torn from a child who was killed by another child in Michigan to the fatal shooting of a bright young deputy in Kansas, son of a lawman father who also was slain in the line of duty.

Then, in Pennsylvania, three white men died at the hands of a black man, who seems to have been conducting his own private race war. Next, in Memphis, two firefighters and a sheriff's deputy were slain in a rampage by another firefighter, who also killed his wife. And these are just a few of the major crime-related headlines.

The crime rate is down nationally, authorities tell us. Part of the reason is that prison populations are at an all-time high, meaning that a lot of people are locked up who would otherwise be preying on society. But even as life becomes statistically safer than it was a few years ago, the enormity of some of the more sensational acts of violence gnaw at the national psyche.

This may be partly due to the perception that something new and different is happening. But it can also be explained in terms of the short memory of society collectively. People may find comfort in telling themselves that an acceleration of senseless, soul-shattering violence has occurred in the past decade or two. But Charles Manson, Richard Speck and Charles Whitman went on their rampages a third of a century ago. Four decades have already passed since Charles Starkweather, a half-century since Bill Cook.

To find some of the worst instances of pathological crime, one has to go back 80 or 90 years to the wave of racial violence directed against minority-group members in many parts of the country.

Still, the crimes that so repulse society today sometimes seem to be of a different character. They are more senseless in some ways, more infuriating.

Perhaps it's because they're current. The more intense treatment by today's no-holds-barred television, which tends to strip away the dignity of both the victims and the investigators, may be a factor. Or perhaps it's because so many of the ugly and evil things that happen have such obvious roots in the mistreatment and subsequent alienation of a child.

It's true, sometimes, that bad children come from good families. But the far, far more common pattern is that criminals come from a background of deprivation — not deprivation of material goods, but deprivation of the spirit.

Waco Tribune-Herald

On standardized tests:

We have problems. We have solutions. We can test solutions to problems. But saddling students at public colleges and universities with new standardized tests is a solution in search of a problem. It sounds:

(a) expensive;
(b) time-consuming;
(c) like something that would homogenize higher education;
(d) like something conceived by people with way too much time on their hands.

For "all of the above" reasons, Texas should plunge a No. 2 pencil through this sucker's heart.

A small group of university professors proposes standardized tests for students who seek bachelor's degrees from public colleges and universities. They say the tests wouldn't be used to penalize students who fail but to grade professors and colleges.

Students would be tested in their subject majors and in such core subjects as history, government, English composition and algebra.

One's first reaction to this proposal is: Show us the crisis. No glaring evidence exists that Texas colleges are falling down on the job or lagging behind in a national higher education system which is the envy of civilization. Certainly there are questions about how much time professors spend teaching as opposed to researching, writing and coming up with ridiculous proposals like this.

Even if there is a problem, a one-size-fits-all approach like this is not the solution.

Expensive? We don't know the cost of these proposed tests, but proponents say that's no problem. Just sock it to the students with fees. They and their families have all sorts of spare change rattling around in their pockets after tuition, room, board and books.

Time-consuming? Well, sure; but shoot, what harm comes from taking away a day of class for a no-stakes test that can only get your professor in hot water? Imagine the possibilities.

Homogenizing? Experience with the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills necessary as this testing of our secondary schools has become shows that if an educator's job, or bonus, or a school's reputation, is pinned to a test, that test will get attention above all else. A state test would dictate more of what gets taught in higher education than anything else, regardless of what our finest professors' well-honed instincts might say.

Incoming Texas college students already have to show their math and writing skills by passing the Texas Academic Skills Program (students who score sufficiently high on TAAS or college entrance exams are exempt).

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Wise Words To Live By Provide Food For Thought

DEAR ABBY: I recently received the enclosed creed and enjoyed it very much. I thought perhaps you and your readers would be inspired by it, too. — **MRS. N.J.S. IN WESTERN SPRINGS, ILL.**

DEAR MRS. S.: Thank you for sharing it. I can see why it inspired you, and I'm sure it will make many other people stop and think. **Read on:**

A CREED TO LIVE BY
by Nancy Sim

Don't underestimate your worth by comparing yourself with others. It is because we are different that each of us is special.

Don't set your goals by what other people deem important. Only you know what is best for you.

Don't take for granted the things closest to your heart. Cling to them as you would your life, for without them, life is meaningless.

Don't let your life slip through your fingers by living in the past or for the future. By living your life one day at a time, you will live all the days of your life.

Don't give up when you still have something to give. Nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying.

Don't be afraid to encounter risks. It is by taking chances that we learn how to be brave.

Don't shut love out of your life by saying it's impossible to find. The quickest way to receive love is to give love; the fastest way to lose love is to hold to it too tightly; and the best way to keep love is to give it wings.

Don't dismiss your dreams; to be without dreams is to be without hope; to be without hope is to be without purpose.

Don't run through life so fast that you forget not only where you've been, but also where you're going.

Life is not a race, but a journey to be savored each and every step of the way.

**

DEAR ABBY: I can't top the letter from the lady in the body cast who was receiving obscene telephone calls, but I do have a tale about weird phone calls.

In 1967, I was hired as a claims examiner at the unemployment insurance office in my hometown. Since ours was the only listing in the phone directory under our unusual last name, I was advised to have our home number changed and unlisted. Unfortunately, I procrastinated. Then I began getting evening calls from men asking for a half-dozen or so girls by name. ("Candy" was the most popular.) They usually hung up if my husband answered — and he finally began to look askance at me!

One morning before I left for work, I received a call from a collection agent demanding payment on a long overdue bill. Armed with a first and last name, I grabbed the phone book and found our number listed to that woman's name. Her address? Smack dab in the middle of our city's red light district! Quick action by the telephone company saved our marriage; we're still together after 41 years.

Please don't reveal my location or name. Just ...? **CALL ME 'MADAM'**

DEAR 'MADAM': Bravo! And "Candy is dandy" — and probably long "retired." Your letter is a compelling lesson to those who procrastinate.

**

Abby shares her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "Abby's More Favorite Recipes." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 per booklet ($4.50 each in Canada) to: Dear Abby Booklets, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

DEAR ABBY: I am dating a lovely 29-year-old woman who has a 3-year-old son. We are both very much in love, but the boy is extremely unruly when I am around. My girlfriend is getting tired of having to discipline him all the time. He misbehaves in stores and restaurants and embarrasses us both.

Frankly, it is starting to have an impact on our relationship. She says that he only acts up when I am around. Is there anything I should do so that this doesn't destroy our relationship?

DEAR JASON: Your girlfriend's son may be only 3, but he's not stupid. He recognizes a rival for his mother's affection, and is doing everything he can at his tender age to drive you away.

I recommend a visit to your local library or the nearest bookstore. Much has been written about "blended families." Also, a short series of sessions with a therapist who specializes in child psychology would give you insight into reassuring the little boy and would be money well spent.

**

DEAR ABBY: This is my first letter to you, but after reading several letters recently regarding the etiquette of name placement for newly married ladies, I had to write.

I have a son who went the extra mile and had HIS last name changed to his wife's. How many men do you think would be willing to do that? You wouldn't believe the red tape and disbelieving looks he got when he went through the process of having his name legally changed. It was almost as if his masculinity was in question!

He and his wife are both proudly serving our country in the U.S. Army, stationed in Fort Bragg, N.C., and I'm very proud to be the mom of two of our finest soldiers. **— JODY HAHN, ADVANCE, MO.**

DEAR JODY: Although a man changing his name to that of his wife's is unusual, it is not unheard of. I believe the practice originated in England, when men married into families that had no male heir to carry on the name.

Today the "name game" has many variations. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to "Shirley B. from Roswell, N.M." about how a woman should change her name when she marries was good information — but presented only half the equation. There are many of us men who choose to hyphenate our last names with those of our wives. As a married couple, we share our money, our home, our bed, our hearts and souls — why not our names?

For me, it was a matter of practicality. We both wanted to have the same last name and saw no reason why we shouldn't. Also, by using both names, our children could have the last name of both of us.

After my family's initial shock (which they quickly got over), the only problem I've encountered is that it's a bit awkward filling out forms with my "maiden name." **— DANIEL SAPON-BORSON, A HAPPY HYPHENATED HUSBAND IN PORTLAND**

DEAR DANIEL: If this idea takes hold, creators of forms will have to change the designation to "surname or maiden name" to accommodate secure gentlemen such as yourself. Now that women are coming into their own, it's encouraging to know that some men are willing to meet them halfway. Bless you all.

**

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Quicker handling of veterans claims has not been achieved

WASHINGTON (AP) — Douglas Cohen says he was one day from foreclosure on his home earlier this year when a $248,000 disability benefits check arrived from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Cohen said his case lingered for nearly 11 years through initial rejections, a successful appeal — and months when VA officials told him "paperwork was sitting on top of somebody's desk" due to a backlog of claims.

"They said they had so many claims that I'd have to wait for them to get to mine," Cohen said, with a final delay causing his frightening brush with foreclosure.

Cohen's case illustrates a problem with the Veterans Benefits Agency that has angered former servicemen and service organizations — and will be the subject of a House hearing in May: It takes far too long for the VA to make decisions on disability claims.

Despite spending more than $200 million to upgrade its computers, the benefits agency that distributes compensation for 3.2 million veterans and their survivors takes longer to process claims than it did a decade ago, according to records and interviews.

With more than a half million veterans expected to die this year — some while awaiting final resolution of claims — a modern, computerized system was considered essential to track cases, reduce backlogs and provide applicants with current information.

But the VBA still maintains hundreds of pages of paper in a typical file and takes an average of 205 days to complete an original disability claim, compared with 164 in 1991, an Associated Press review found.

Cohen, 52, of Niagara Falls, N.Y., said he believes the turning point came more than a year ago, when he went through his mother's possessions after she died and found letters he had written home describing his experiences with precise dates.

Until the VA reversed itself last January, Cohen was unable to convince the agency that his sleeplessness, depression and anger resulted from the rocket and mortar attacks he endured in Vietnam.

But even after the discovery of the letters, he said, his VA service representative told him that there were so many claims that it would be a while before anyone could work on his case. When finally approved, he received the $248,000 lump sum in retroactive benefits just before the planned eviction. He now receives $2,153 a month in benefits.

"After hundreds of millions of dollars spent over the past 10 years on VA computer modernization for processing veterans claims, there has been no tangible return for the veteran or the taxpayer," said Rep. Terry Everett, R-Ala., whose House Veterans Affairs subcommittee is investigating what he describes as "terrible" service to disabled veterans.

The director of VBA's disability compensation and benefit programs, Robert Epley, acknowledged attempts to upgrade computers have gone through "fits and starts" and bounced "from issue to issue" without a long-term plan.

But he promised dramatic changes within two years in the programs that dispense $22 billion a year in disability payments to veterans suffering from injury or disease related to their service. The agency also distributes pension benefits to eligible survivors of veterans.

He pledged new computer systems, operated by a better trained workforce and a reduction in errors. Currently, the agency makes an error on about a third of claims. About 8 percent of the errors involve improper benefit amounts.

"Teams are forming who will understand the responsibility of processing claims efficiently, telling veterans not just that we got it (the claim), but here's what we see, here's what we expect, here's an estimate of what it's going to take" to get a decision, he explained.

The VBA, which is part of the Department of Veterans Affairs, says it spent $238 million since 1991 for hardware, software, contractors and the salaries of VA employees.

AP's review found that despite the spending:

—Most information in a veteran's file is still on paper. Of 58 regional service centers, only the office where a claim was filed has full access to case records and is able to provide a beneficiary with a complete picture of his or her status.

—A computer program called VETSNET, which was supposed to unite all the VA's diverse agencies from loans to health care to cemeteries to benefits, has only limited links.

—VBA caseworkers are saddled with antiquated programs, which date to before the advent of Microsoft Windows. The old software prevents them from quickly maneuvering through a veteran's file. Unable to point-and-click with a mouse, they have to painstakingly scroll through one screen at a time.

On the Net: The Department of Veterans Affairs site is http://www.va.gov.

The Veterans Benefits Administration is http://www.vba.va.gov.

Spam accounts for 75 percent of the canned luncheon meat sold in the United States.

The basic monetary unit of Indonesia is the rupiah, and its chief fractional unit in the sen.

INS says it has exhausted its allotment of high-tech visas

WASHINGTON (AP) — It took less than half the fiscal year to exhaust the annual allotment of visas for skilled foreign professionals, the government said Friday. The announcement likely boosts the prospects for congressional action temporarily raising the ceiling on the visa program.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service, given authority by Congress to dole out 115,000 H-1B visas for the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30, said it already has handed out 74,300 visas and has more than 45,000 petitions pending. Last year, the cap was hit in mid-June.

The agency will stop accepting visa petitions on Tuesday.

The announcement was noticed on Capitol Hill, where several measures have been introduced that would expand the cap for the visas, which are popular with high-tech employers who contend there isn't enough domestic talent to meet their surging industry's needs.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan "has made clear that the continued strong job market is placing strains on our economy, and these H-1B numbers underscore that fact," Rep. David Dreier, R-Calif., said Friday.

Dreier is sponsoring a bill that would raise the annual cap to 200,000 visas for three years "so that enough skilled workers are available to keep our economy growing."

An industry trade group, the Computing Technology Industry Association, claims nearly 269,000 high-tech jobs are unfilled. The problem costs U.S. businesses $4.5 billion a year in lost productivity, according to the association.

Organized labor contends the industry is looking overseas chiefly to hold down wages and procure young talent.

High-tech industry officials are optimistic Congress will act this year to raise the ceiling for the visas, which are good for up to six years.

The fact that the cap — established by Congress in 1990 — was hit earlier this year than any time previously "clearly shows there is a tremendous demand for highly skilled individuals," said Bob Cohen of the Information Technology Association of America.

Salem woman starts online grocery checklist at home

SALEM, Va. (AP) — Ever return home from the grocery store and realize you forgot something?

Well, a Salem woman is among a growing number of people creating online tools designed to jog your memory.

Gina Thomas late last year started a small Internet company called My Grocery Checklist, which features scores of common grocery items on its Website — www.mygrocerychecklist.com. Shoppers for free can select and print items to create a quick, personalized grocery list.

Thomas, a 37-year-old mother of four, started making her own grocery list on a computer a few years ago to save time.

"It's just such a tedious job that everyone has to do," said Thomas, a stay-at-home mom. "This makes it much easier."

The way it works is shoppers log on to the Website and peruse a list of more than 300 items from fruits, vegetables, and meats to household cleaning supplies.

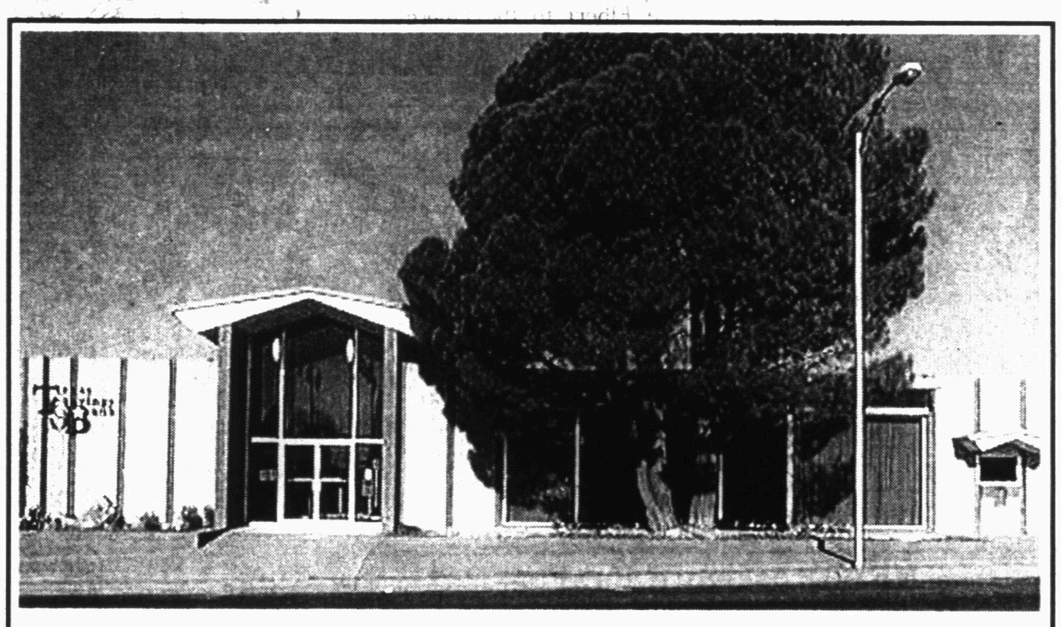
A personal list can be created by clicking on the boxes next to the item you need. The list can be formatted to include only the grocery items the shopper selects.

Users can either print or e-mail their list to another person. Thomas sometimes e-mails the list to her husband if he's stopping by the store on his way home from work.

The company targets homemakers like Thomas who may have their hands full looking after their children and working mothers who don't have a lot of time to spend preparing to shop.

Susan Kelly, a single, working mother in Waco, Texas, heard about Thomas' Website through a friend.

"I like it because you can see a list of products you didn't think of," Kelly said. "It's a lot quicker than grabbing a piece of paper and writing things down."



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Comic Page — THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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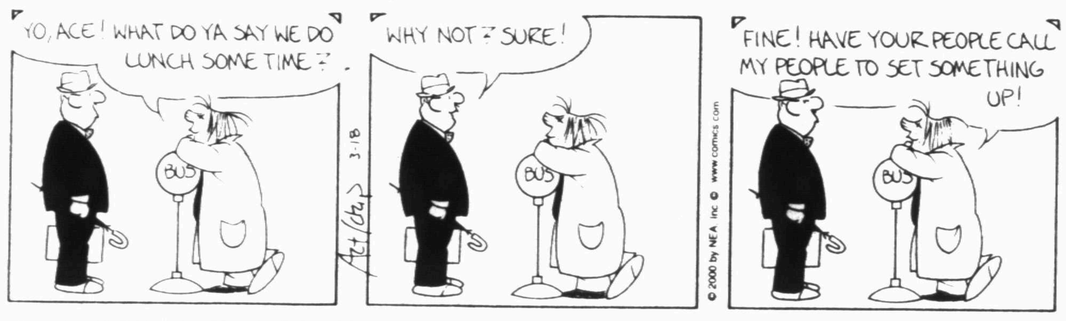
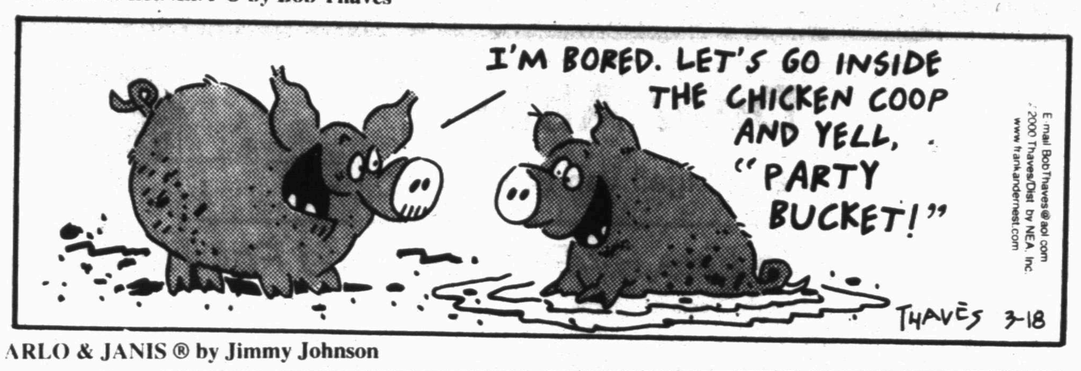
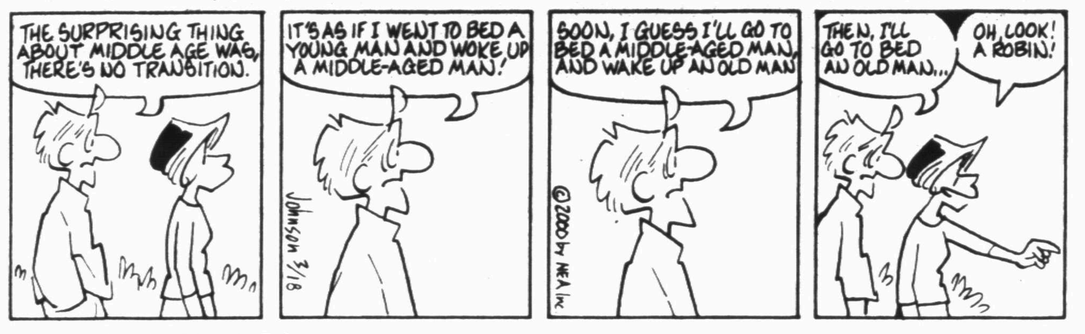


FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



EEK & MEEK ® by Howie Schneider

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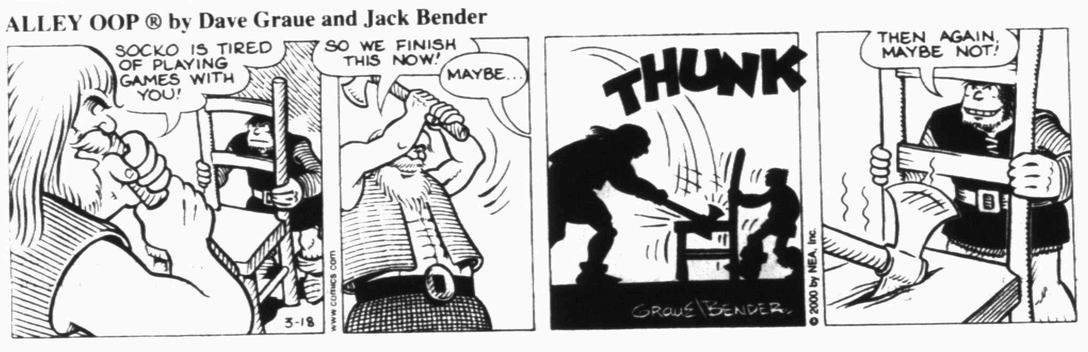
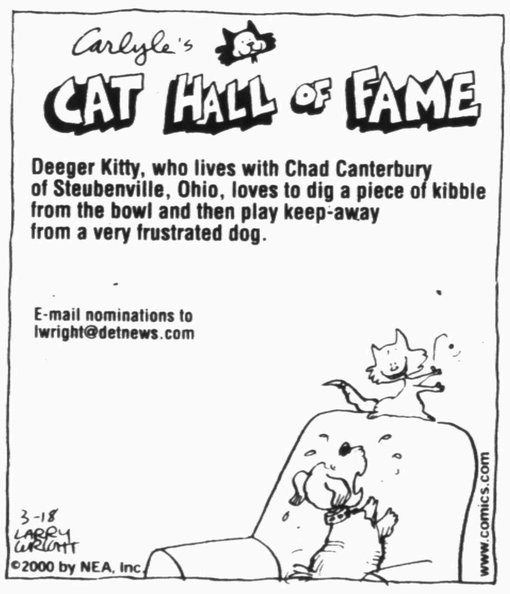
ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Crouches
7 Adult insect
12 Illuminated naturally
13 Traps
14 Puzzling problem
15 Aquatic mammals
16 Man-mouse connector
17 Singer Peggy —
18 Between Colo. and Mo.
21 Alluring woman
23 Greek letter
26 Pronto (abbr.)
28 Seaver and Sawyer
29 "Velvet" finish
30 Sacrament
31 Dig up
33 Entertaining
36 Ms. Hayworth
37 Rugged rock
38 Soup ingredient
40 Bakery buy
41 12/31, e.g.
42 Fraught
44 Poor mark
45 Soak, as flax
46 Small island
48 Waste
51 Shipworm
55 Indian language group
56 Of the eyes
57 Fishhook connector
58 Pine leaf

DOWN

1 JFK lander
2 Can. prov.
3 Actress Merkel
4 In addition
5 Rows
6 Neck of water
7 Profound
8 Spouse
9 100 sq. meters
10 Neighbor of Fr.
11 CIA's forerunner
13 Like some vows
18 Hard-handed defense
19 Writer Isaac —
20 Character
22 Used facial cosmetics
23 Punctuation mark
24 Colonize
25 Take a breath
27 Footlike part
32 Timetable abbr.
34 Prohibited by law
35 Spruce up
39 Actress Diane —
43 Female relative
45 Actor Julia
47 Real
48 Draft agcy.
49 German one
50 "— is me!"
52 Old age
53 Pigeon pea
54 Unrefined metal

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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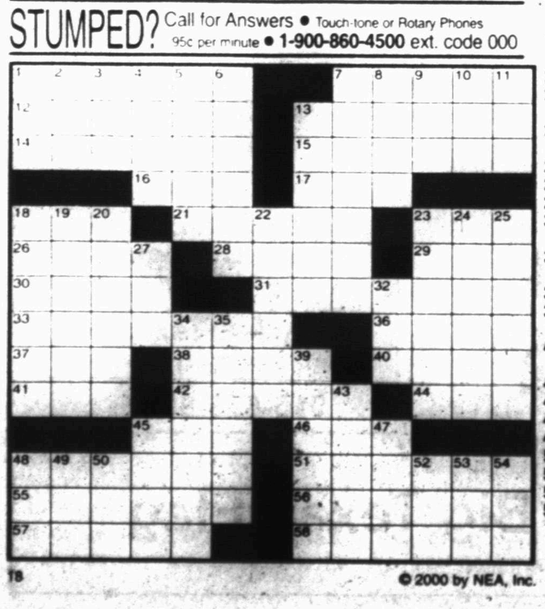

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HERMAN® by Jim Unger

"I wish you wouldn't keep reading while I'm trying to watch TV."

"YOU MEAN THAT GUY SLEPT FOR 20 YEARS, AND NEVER BRUSHED HIS TEETH?"

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Sunday, March 19, 2000

Your greatest successes in the year ahead will come from enterprises or projects you tackle solely on your own. Alliances can be tricky and could muddy the playing field for you.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Even if you secretly feel a bit superior to someone today, don't treat this person in a condescending manner. Others are watching, and you could hurt your image. Pisces, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper. P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Whether you're doing a favor or a paid job for another, record the instructions given and document what you do. There's a chance you could be held accountable for another's mistake.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) If you can't do something yourself today, it's best you put it off until another day. Any help you might be expecting may not be forthcoming.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Adhere to this motto today: "What you see here, say here, stays here when you leave here." If you don't, big problems could be in the works for you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) If you keep in mind that a mouse may learn to roar like a lion, but he's still a mouse, you'll keep your cool should you have to deal with an arrogant individual.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) The need for instant gratification could easily get the better of you today, so if you can't afford to go into debt, don't go to any stores where you might be tempted to give in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Don't kid yourself into believing that you will somehow find a way to fulfill a promise you'd like to make. If it seems infeasible now, don't make the pledge.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) What you do today could cause you problems down the line. It's best you prioritize your duties and procedures and know your limitations before beginning any tasks at this time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Keep your emotions under wraps today or they could quickly override your logical evaluations and cause you to behave in a manner you'll regret.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) What appears to be courageous could, in reality, be very foolish, no matter how much you believe in what you want to do. Remember, fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Offering an opinion on something about which you know little could put you in the delicate position today of having to defend what you say. You're vulnerable in this area; be careful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Your value judgment may not be up to par today, so stay away from large ticket items or purchases you can't return. You're a prime target to get stuck with a lemon.

***

Monday, March 20, 2000

A special dream or ambition you've been nurturing could be fulfilled in the year ahead. Dare to pursue that which you envision by actively going after it.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Some unusual benefits from a development authored by another might be offered to you today. This is because you'll perform a special function that would fit neatly into the arrangement. Major changes are ahead for Pisces in the coming year. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) From time to time we need to assure those who are number one in our hearts that we love them. Today might be your day to take the time to do just that. Don't put it off.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Strive to do your very best at every task you undertake today, even the little ones. Productive efforts at this time yield greater benefits than usual.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) The aspects favor your relationships today, so if there is one with whom you might have been having some problems, use this day to shore up the relationship.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Although this might be the start of a work week for you, your family will be foremost in your thoughts at this time. Spend as much time as possible at home with kin.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Focus on meaningful communication issues today, because words and ideas will flow easily for you now. Utilize this talent to your advantage while it comes naturally.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Instead of issuing orders bluntly or demanding anything today, use soft sell and understatements when dealing with others. Subtle suggestions will work better.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Think win today and don't give negative thoughts any opportunities to alter your mind set. If your attitude is positive, imaginative and determined, you can achieve anything.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Give expression to your nobler, charitable instincts today by quietly coming to the aid of those who you see are faltering or stumbling in life. It'll do much for your psyche.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You have the ability to set the example and tone today when out in public. If you're looking for unity and compliance from others, be the first to offer both.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) When it comes to financial or career matters today, your perceptions should be pretty much on target, so don't be afraid to heed your instincts or intuitions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) It behooves you to be very attentive to what others have to say today, especially those for whom you hold great respect. You could learn something that would otherwise slip past you.

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Moratorium set on RR mergers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government Friday ordered a moratorium on railroad mergers while it considers new rules for such combinations.

The Surface Transportation Board issued the order following hearings on the proposed $6 billion merger of Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Canadian National Railway, which would create a network of 50,000 miles of track from Nova Scotia to Los Angeles and the Gulf of Mexico to Vancouver, British Columbia.

That proposal came on the heels of a string of mergers during the 1990s that caused rail car shortages, shipping delays and depressed stock prices.

The board said it has directed railroads not to pursue further mergers until it adopts new rules, which should occur within 15 months.

Burlington Northern and Canadian National had asked the board — part of the Transportation Department — to let their merger move forward while the government developed new rules.

But the agency rejected that plea, contending it did not want to be creating new merger regulations in the middle of what might turn out to be the final round of railroad combinations.

If that happened, the board said, the companies would not know what evidence to present and might be forced to go through the entire approval process again once the new standards were in place.

Merger implementation has not always gone smoothly, the board said: "The railroad industry and the shipping public have not yet fully recovered from the service disruptions associated with the previous round of mergers."

The board also noted that during its hearings on the Burlington Northern-Canadian National request, there were indications that four other large railroads might consider mergers in response to that combination.

At hearings on the merger last week, rail customers pleaded with government regulators to slow the trend toward consolidation in the rail industry. Recent consolidation has left two major railroads in the East, two in the West and two in Canada.

"If our dilemma sounds a bit like a vicious cycle — service problems undermine confidence, which undermines investment, which in turn undermines improved service — it is," board Chairman Linda Morgan said at the hearing. "And to me, the best way to break the cycle is to restore some stability to the rail sector."

Diane Duff, who directs the Alliance for Rail Competition, a coalition of rail customers pushing for laws and regulations that promote more competition, said at the hearing: "The next merger approved — regardless of the merger partners — will inevitably cause a domino effect, the outcome, in all likelihood, being a two-railroad system throughout North America."

"In some regions, such as Buffalo, service has been so bad that customers have been forced to shift production to other regions," Duff, adding that some rail customers have started using trucks instead of trains.

Date Books

Saturday, March 18, 2000

Today is the 78th day of 2000 and the 88th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1850, American Express was founded by Henry Wells and William Fargo.

On this day in 1931, Jacob Schick invented the world's first electric razor.

On this day in 1965, Soviet cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov became the first man to walk in space.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: John C. Calhoun (1782-1850), U.S. politician-lawyer; Grover Cleveland (1837-1908), U.S. president; Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908), composer; Peter Graves (1925-), actor, is 74; John Updike (1932-), writer, is 68; Charley Pride (1939-), singer, is 61; Wilson Pickett (1941-), singer, is 59; Bonnie Blair (1964-), speedskater, is 36.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1953, Indiana defeated Kansas 69-68, winning the NCAA basketball championship.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "True democracy... seeks to lighten the burdens of life in every home and to take from the citizen for the cost of government the lowest possible tribute." — Grover Cleveland

TODAY'S MOON: Day before full moon (March 19).

***

Sunday, March 19, 2000

Today is the 79th day of 2000 and the 89th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1831, the first bank robbery in the United States took place, in New York City.

On this day in 1953, the Academy Awards were broadcast on television for the first time. "From Here to Eternity" won the award for Best Picture.

On this day in 1974, Jefferson Airplane began their first tour as Jefferson Starship.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: David Livingstone (1813-1873), explorer-physician; Richard F. Burton (1821-1890), scholar-explorer; Wyatt Earp (1848-1929), lawman; William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925), U.S. politician; Earl Warren (1891-1974), Supreme Court justice; Richie Ashburn (1927-1997), baseball great; Philip Roth (1933-), writer, is 67; Glenn Close (1947-), actress, is 53; Bruce Willis (1955), actor, is 45.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1938, the Toronto Maple Leafs scored eight goals against New York in less than five minutes.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Honor is not the exclusive property of any political party." — Herbert Hoover

TODAY'S MOON: Full moon.

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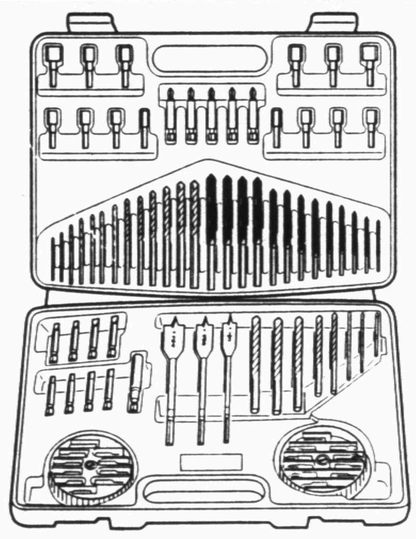

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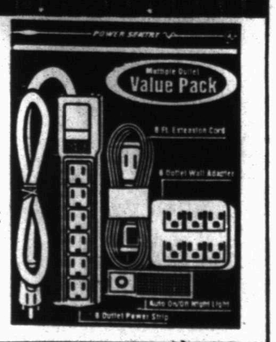

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Ear problem could be allergy

DEAR DR. GOTT: My doctor has been unable to help me. I am 70 years old and wear pierced earrings. However, after a few days, my ear lobes become hot, tender and swollen, then they drain and become flaky. What's going on?

DEAR READER: I assume that your doctor has ruled out infection. If not, he should, by obtaining a bacterial culture of your inflamed ear lobes. However, I suspect that infection is not your problem.

More likely, you have developed an allergy to nickel, a metal that is used in the manufacture of many earrings, especially inexpensive varieties. Nickel allergy can raise havoc with the skin. The best plan is avoidance.

I suggest the following: Discontinue use of all earrings until your ear lobes are completely normal. Then try using high-grade gold earrings. The higher the karat, the less the nickel. For example, 12 karat gold is only 50 percent pure gold. Switch to 18 karat. If this ploy doesn't work, see an allergist for specific testing.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Allergies." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY **10156. Be sure to mention the title.**

DEAR DR. GOTT: Why does Medicare cover the cost of a penile prosthesis ($10,000) but refuses to reimburse me for hearing aids ($5,600)?

DEAR READER: Beats me. But, then, if government policies made sense, we wouldn't be able to complain, right? Look at the situation this way: Your hearing aids will improve the quality of your life and they don't cost as much as a good used car. I'd bite the bullet and buy 'em.

DEAR DR. GOTT: In a recent article, you reported on using nitroglycerine cream to relieve the pain of hemorrhoids. When I showed your column to my gastroenterologist, he said: "Nitroglycerine is used to treat anal fissures, not hemorrhoids." Is he correct?

DEAR READER: As I mentioned originally, the use of nitroglycerine cream to treat painful hemorrhoids is a new therapy that was just reported at the June 1999 meeting of the American College of Colon and Rectal Surgeons. Most physicians are not aware of this breakthrough, so I'd have to conclude that your gastroenterologist was not informed of the meeting I described. True, nitroglycerine can help the pain of anal fissures, but it is apparently also effective for hemorrhoids.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Like your reader, I too have breast overendowment — and I used to suffer from summertime sores under my breasts. Talc was of no help, so I followed the advice of an older friend. Now I rub a little baby oil under each breast and have had no sores whatsoever. I just thought that your readers would welcome such an effective solution.

DEAR READER: Thank you for writing. I had not previously heard of the baby-oil technique, but I'm passing on your suggestion in hopes that some women might benefit from it.

* * *

DEAR DR. GOTT: How is the Oregon Death with Dignity Act working out?

DEAR READER: About two years ago, the citizens of Oregon voted overwhelmingly to legalize physician-assisted suicide for certain terminally ill patients. Despite vociferous objections by a few special-interest groups, who believed that such a law would be an invitation for misuse, the Oregon Health Division has been unable to find a single instance of abuse.

Therefore, given the success of the law, proponents have been stunned by a recent effort in the U.S. Congress to thwart it. If this effort is successful, doctors who prescribe drugs to allow terminally ill patients to end their lives would be subject to federal prosecution, punishable by 20 years in prison. In essence, this means that mercy and compassion, especially in doctors, are traits to be rooted out. The bill's opponents urge citizens to contact their representatives to block it in both houses of Congress, for fear of allowing the government to usurp states' rights and overturn the perfectly reasonable Oregon decision. In my opinion, the Oregon law works well and should be copied by other states. Surveys indicate that most Americans and their doctors believe that a Death with Dignity provision should be nationally available. It is hard to believe that a meddlesome Congress would so misuse its authority.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm a 64-year-old Catholic widower. After my wife died three years ago, I began indulging in regular masturbation. I know that the Church disapproves of this practice, but will it harm me physically?

DEAR READER: Not in the slightest. Masturbation is a safe and harmless way to resolve your sexual tension until you feel comfortable enough to reach out to a prospective partner.

DEAR DR. GOTT: About two years ago, my doctor had me self-injecting medication into my butt for severe pain. This helped for about a year but now the pain is back. Moreover, my left foot is now paralyzed. Some doctors say this is permanent, others say it will pass in time. In the past two weeks, I have noticed pronounced weakness in the foot. I now have a dropped foot and cannot walk without a limp. I have no money and am desperate. What can I do?

DEAR READER: This is a truly bizarre situation.

First off, I'd have to know the cause of your pain. Judging from the sequence of events, you are suffering from continuing spinal nerve damage that could be caused by a herniated disc or some other abnormality in your lower spine. Frankly, I am surprised that your physician apparently failed to test you two years ago, with, at the minimum, X-rays of your lower back. Ideally, you should have had an MRI.

Second, I am shocked that you were prescribed injectable drugs for the pain in the absence of a diagnosis — or, at least, a referral to a spine specialist. A dropped foot is a serious sign of nerve malfunction. Unless the process is addressed and reversed, you are a candidate for a permanent handicap.

To get at the root of the problem, you should see a specialist: a neurologist, an orthopedic surgeon or a neurosurgeon. Don't delay. While you may be financially strapped, you should be able to find appropriate help from a doctor who is more interested in your welfare than in the almighty dollar. Good physicians perform a certain amount of charity work for deserving patients. Make an appointment with a specialist and let me know how events transpire.

DEAR DR. GOTT: On occasion, you seem to be insensitive in answering readers' questions. Why not be more diplomatic?

DEAR READER: Me? Insensitive? Yah, your mother wears tennis sneakers.

Definition of diplomacy: The art of saying "nice doggie" until you can find a stick.

I'll try harder.

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Ireland grows as landscape for films

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A bit of blarney on the movie screen to go with your pint of stout?

Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, two movies about Ireland were in theaters Friday, "Agnes Browne" and "The Closer You Get" — the latest offbeat films catering to American audiences' interest in all things Irish.

"I think the kind of wonderful thing about Ireland at the moment is that it's a country that feels it's on the rise. Culturally, it's very confident," said Scottish director Aileen Ritchie, who made "The Closer You Get," a tale about a group of lonely bachelors on Ireland's isolated west coast who advertise for brides in an American newspaper.

"Until now, the film genre hasn't really exploited all the talent that's there in Ireland," Ritchie said.

The last 10 years or so have brought a string of Irish-themed movies to U.S. theaters, dealing with politics and rebellion ("Michael Collins," "In the Name of the Father"), myth and legend ("Into the West," "The Secret of Roan Inish"), music ("The Commitments," "Hear My Song") and the oddities of Irish families ("Dancing at Lughnasa," "The Snapper").

"There seems to be an enormous amount coming out of Ireland these days. Dare I say a glut?" said Anjelica Huston, director and star of "Agnes Browne," the story of an impoverished Irish widow coping with seven children. "There's a lot of good stuff from Ireland these days, very much like the wave of films that came out of Britain in the '60s."

The actress lived her early years in Ireland and starred in the last film by her father, legendary director John Huston, an adaptation of James Joyce's "The Dead," about a lively Dublin holiday gathering and its aftermath.

Some Irish movies have become breakout hits, such as "Waking Ned Devine" and "The Crying Game," which received five Academy Award nominations, including best picture, and a screenplay Oscar for writer-director Neil Jordan in 1992.

Ireland has caught Hollywood's interest in decades past with such classics as John Ford's "The Informer" and "The Quiet Man," perhaps the quintessential St. Patrick's Day flick. "The Quiet Man" starred John Wayne as an American boxer who returns to the Irish town of his birth and takes up with the locals, including hot-tempered Maureen O'Hara.

"If you're looking for an actress who represents Ireland, Maureen O'Hara would be it," said Sean O'Malley, a member of the Sons of Erin of Westfield, Mass. "A beautiful woman, she's got that temper, and certainly the fiery red hair. And playing with John Wayne, who's all-American, I think in anybody's mind, you can't beat it."

The Irish-born Jordan, whose other movies about Ireland include "Michael Collins" and "The Butcher Boy," is among a cadre of directors who have sparked Hollywood's current interest in Ireland.

Others include Jim Sheridan, who co-produced "Agnes Browne" and directed "My Left Foot" and "The Boxer," Alan Parker, director of "The Commitments" and "Angela's Ashes," and Stephen Frears, who made "The Snapper" and "The Van."

Feeding interest in the island has been news coverage of peace efforts in Northern Ireland after 30 years of "the troubles" over British rule.

Frank McCourt's Pulitzer-winning memoir "Angela's Ashes" and Irish fiction by such authors as Roddy Doyle ("The Commitments," "A Star Called Henry") also have contributed. And music by Irish performers such as U2, the Pogues, Van Morrison and the Cranberries has helped drive Ireland's renaissance.

"I think we're the flavor of the month now," said Phyllis Towey Brugnolotti, who grew up in Ireland and now is assistant librarian at the American Irish Historical Society in New York City.

When she went to college in London in the 1950s, "it was very bad to be Irish. It was the lowest level of society," Brugnolotti said. She said it was a different story last summer, when she visited England and a woman overheard her Irish accent at a bookstore in Cambridge.

"This woman said, 'You're Irish, aren't you? You're so lucky,'" Brugnolotti said. "It was funny, because we never thought of ourselves as people to be envied."

Ford will purchase Land Rover line

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — Ford Motor Co. has agreed to buy the Land Rover brand from BMW AG for less than $3 billion, adding the luxury sport utility vehicle builder to its stable of European automakers.

The move comes as BMW sheds the British-based Rover group after years of losses. BMW announced plans Thursday to sell the ailing Rover passenger car division to Alchemy Partners Ltd.

Details of the Ford-BMW pact were expected to be announced Friday. But Ford chief executive Jac Nasser said Ford planned to buy Land Rover's assets and expected to complete the deal in the third quarter of this year, assuming European regulators approve.

"When we think of our strategy of developing the premier markets, particularly in off-road and 4x4 vehicles, we can't think of a better group of brands and products than Land Rover," Nasser said.

Nasser said Ford would get the four models of sport utility vehicles made by Land Rover and Land Rover's manufacturing and engineering offices, but no debt.

Land Rover will join Jaguar, Volvo, Aston Martin and Lincoln in Ford's Premier Automotive Group for luxury vehicles.

Tandy Corp. will change its name

FORT WORTH (AP) — Tandy Corp. said Friday it plans to change its name to RadioShack Corp. in what the company called a sign of confidence in the future of its electronics stores.

"The reason we want to change the name is simple: Tandy is RadioShack and RadioShack is Tandy," said Leonard Roberts, the Fort Worth-based retail company's chairman, president and chief executive.

Tandy owns or franchises about 7,100 RadioShack stores in the United States, selling electronics accessories, phones, computers and other gadgets. The company has closed, sold or cut back other chains, including Incredible Universe, Computer City and McDuff, to focus on RadioShack.

The company said Friday that it recently filed the proposed name change with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The change would require approval by stockholders, who are scheduled to vote on the issue May 18 in Fort Worth.

Tandy has gone through several major changes since its creation as a leather goods business in 1919. The leather craft and hobby stores were eventually spun off into a separate company. In 1963, Tandy bought RadioShack, which then had nine stores in New England. Other chains were bought and sold.

Last year, Tandy bought Amerilink, a cable-installation company, and announced a $100 million investment from Microsoft Corp., which will create kiosks within RadioShack stores.

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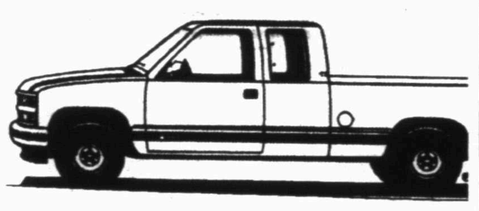

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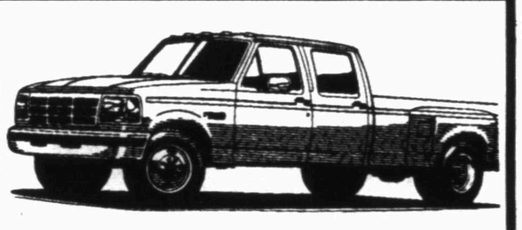

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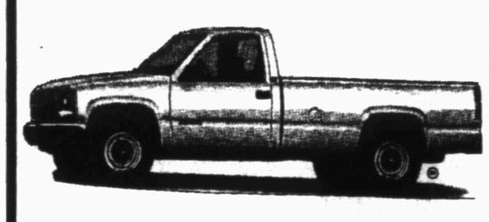

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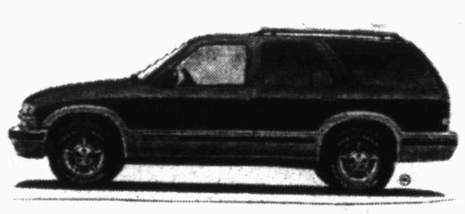

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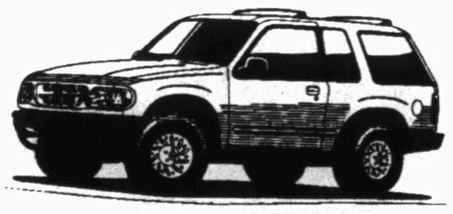

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