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WT-Int. Crude - $30.40
WTIC Posted - $27.25
Natural Gas - $4.68

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
Oct. 6, 2003
Vol. 55 No. 136
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Cortney Schmidt

Flooding woes...



Mud runs into an apartment early this morning while Lydia Moreno points out the water level

At least a dozen apartments at Western Crest Apartments were damaged early this morning following a thunderstorm that saw water and mud pouring into the complex.

Sheriff's dispatchers received a call at 12:58 a.m. that the apartments were being flooded and they needed sandbags.

Residents this morning were moving damaged items outside and carpet cleaning services were on site.

Val York, manager, said the mud and water came from the south of the complex where a city street is being worked on.

York said an underground drainage ditch had been built but it plugged up and the water had no where else to go but into the apartment complex, including the swiming pool.

The city's water plant recorded over 1.75 inches of rain in the thunderstorm that was spread over a wide area of West Texas.

Low water crossings in the city were quickly filled with water last night and one person reported his car stalled at the Avenue E crossing.

County approves new agreement on split vote

By Roy McQueen
SDN Publisher

Just one hurdle remains before a new two-year city-county shared services agreement becomes official.

Following a 3-1 vote of the Scurry County commissioners' court this morning, the county approved the new agreement, and if the Snyder city council does likewise this evening, the much debated contract won't show up on a public meeting agenda for another 24 months.

The agreement, tentatively reached last month, has been in the works for nine months after the city decided the expired contract, drafted 10 years ago, required updating.

Basically, the agreement remains the same, except that the city will now contribute $50,000 annually for ambulance equipment replacement.

The agreement calls for the county to provide EMS, jail services, emergency dispatching, seal coating and office space for the police department.

The city will continue to respond to fires both inside and outside the city limits.

The lone vote against the agreement this morning was cast by precinct 3 commissioner Howard Limmer who asked to explain his decision.

"I want my constituents to know why. I feel the county should be able to use the (city) landfill at no charge when we pick up mbs and trash off the roadway."

The court also acknowledged receipt of petitions asking the commissioners' court to call an election to create a hospital district in Scurry County.

The petitions, received last week, contained 393 signatures and only two names were not certified by the county clerk's office. Only 100 names were required.

The court voted unanimously to meet on Oct. 20 to hold a public hearing on the petitions seeking an election and to set a date for the election.

Backers of the petition hope that an election can be held before the end of the year. In a related matter, the commissioners' court engaged the law firm of Fulbright and Jaworski in San Antonio to advise the county on the election process.

"We want to be sure we do everything right," said County Judge Rod Waller.

County parks superintendent Scott Crenwelge asked for the approval of two items.

The first was the transfer of $70,000 from the general fund for permanent improvements. The funds were received from Coca Cola in exchange for exclusive vending rights at county facilities.

Crenwelge said the money would be used to improve the lighting at the Little League and Farm League fields and to rebuild the restrooms.

The parks director said that a turn-key job on the lights would be $70,000, but the use of volunteer labor would bring the cost down to about $40,000. That would leave $30,000 to build restrooms.

Also approved was a contract with Western Texas College allowing the girls softball program to use the east Cates Field for practice this fall at a cost of $2,500.

Crenwelge also updated the court on the status of the $500,000 Texas Parks and Wildlife grant for county parks improvement.

He said the additional land to be donated to the county should occur within the next two weeks as a first step.

All plans and improvements will require either a landscape architect or engineer approval, and Crenwelge said he will soon ask to seek request for proposals to engage such a firm.

Crenwelge said he also wanted the court to be aware of the need to replace the original air conditioning at the coliseum.

The court also approved two proclamations — October as Breast Health Awareness Month and also as Family Violence Awareness Month.

Budget amendments okayed were $5,725 for precinct 3, being the difference in a trade-in on a tractor; $4,500 for the sheriff's department for increased fuel costs; and $12,400 to rebuild the restroom damaged by vandals at Winston Park. The funds for the restroom are proceeds from the insurance claim.

Line-item transfers approved were $2,5000 for the parks department; $300 for the star program; $1,600 for the airport; $200 for the district attorney; $3,500 for precinct 1; $2,000 for precinct 4; $521 for the county attorney; $1,600 for the county clerk; $5,000 for the sheriff's department; $437 for non-departmental expense; $3,000 for precinct 2; $500 for the extension office; and $111 for Hermleigh water works.

City agenda includes interlocal agreement

Snyder's city council will consider the final draft of the new city-county intergovernmental contract when it meets this evening at 6:30.

The pact has been in the mill for several months as both entities have worked to draft an equitable a contract for shared services.

All seven items proposed by the city will remain in place for the agreement, and the city will pay $50,000 to the county to help subsidize the Snyder EMS.

This money is earmarked for ambulance repairs and for new ambulances.

The city will continue county-wide fire protection while the county will continue to provide EMS, jail services, dispatching and space for the police department, plus helping on the city's seal-coating program.

Following an extension last month, the present agreement was to expire today.

A closed session also is scheduled as the council will continue the discussion on a settlement offer and the discussion of the value of a house mistakenly torn down by city crews.

One bid item will be reviewed and it is for effluent water from the city's sewer plant.

Other agenda items include:

- A proposal by David Holt of Southwest Associates Inc. to represent the city and related entities in Austin for a monthly retainer fee.
- Nominating a citizen to be placed on the ballot to serve on the Scurry County Appraisal District board of directors.
- A proposal by Patterson-UTI to drill for oil and to drill an injection well in an area near 21st Street and Avenue T.
- The discussion of Cox Cable TV service by Lanny Covey.
- A proposal by BNSF Railroad regarding the installation of lights and railroad crossing gates at the 25th and 26th Street crossings pursuant to the Federal Signal Program.
- The quarterly investment report.
- A discussion of costs associated with utility customers being able to pay bills online.
- The reappointment of Jerry Boyd to the Permian Basin Airport Board.
- The second reading of an ordinance amending the existing franchise between the city and TXY Gas.

The meeting will be in city council chambers at city hall.

Next meeting Wednesday...

Redistricting battle is likely to delay primary

AUSTIN (AP) — Despite extensive negotiations, Republicans from the state House and Senate were unable to reach a deal on redistricting — a logjam that likely could affect Texas' role in Democratic presidential politics.

GOP negotiators from the state House and Senate hoped to reach a deal and have a bill filed by today to allow enough time to complete the redistricting process without delaying the March 2 "Super Tuesday" primary elections.

But after a weekend of extensive meetings, representatives from both chambers left Sunday and decided to convene again Wednesday. That meant a delay in the Texas primary became increasingly likely.

Democrats could lose influence in picking a nominee to challenge President Bush next year because a candidate might have the party's nomination sewn up before a delayed Texas vote.

The office of Secretary of State Geoff Connor has said the redistricting bill must be signed no later than today to maintain the primary date with new congressional districts.

"I know the Senate was very determined to get this done before we had to change any primary dates," said Sen. Robert Duncan, one of the Senate negotiators. "We have, in essence, missed that deadline."

Lawmakers can consider legislation until the special session ends Oct. 15. But a redistricting bill would not take effect until 90 days after it is signed by Gov. Rick Perry.

During the regular legislative session, the Texas presidential primary was moved from March 9 to March 2 to join California and New York and enhance Texas' role in the selection of presidential nominees.

In Sunday's House meeting, only Rep. Phil King and House Speaker Tom Craddick represented Republicans on the floor. About 15 Democrats, led by House Democratic Caucus chairman Jim Dunnam of Waco, tried to amend a routine motion to adjourn until Wednesday, wanting instead no specific date to return.

But the House parliamentarian later said a motion to adjourn sine die would not be possible because a quorum of members was not present and Craddick shut down proceedings, prompting protests.

The Texas Senate approved redistricting legislation Wednesday in an 18-12 vote mostly along party lines. The House earlier adopted its own GOP-friendly map.

Republicans, however, are arguing over the shape of three West Texas districts. Craddick wants a new Midland-based district that would represent the oil and gas industry by separating it from Lubbock. But Duncan, R-Lubbock, wants to maintain his region's farm and agriculture representation in Congress.

Republicans want a map that will increase their numbers in Texas' congressional delegation, which is now led by Democrats 17-15. Some GOP proposals would increase Republican seats by as many as six.

Democrats say the Republican maps would trample minority representation in Congress, while the GOP says voting trends show that Texas should have more Republicans in Washington.

Rainfall Reports

Snyder	**1.80**
East of city	**.80**
CRMWD office	**1.00**
Lake Thomas	**.90**
Hermleigh	**1.80**
NE of Hermleigh	**1.00**
Polar	**1.80**
Loyd Mountain	**1.00**
Camp Springs	**1.30**
Dunn	**.80**
Ira	**1.35**
Dermott	**1.25**
Union	**.90**
Gins	
Sc. County (W)	**.50**
Inadale	**.30**

Totals as reported by area residents for Saturday and late Sunday night.

Bush declines to criticize Israel

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush declined to criticize Israel today for its air strike inside Syria, saying Israel "has got a right to defend herself." But Bush also said he had cautioned Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to try to avoid escalating tensions in the region.

Bush decried the "needless murder" of 19 people in a suicide attack by a Palestinian militant group in Israel on Saturday that led to the Israeli attack on a suspected terrorist camp in Syria.

Bush said that the Palestinian Authority must do more to fight terror and "must use whatever means is necessary .... All parties must assume responsibility."

Bush commented after the new Palestinian prime minister, Ahmed Qureia, said he hopes to negotiate a quick truce with Israel, but won't use force against Palestinian militants under any circumstances — despite U.S. demands for a clampdown on armed groups.

The president was asked if he could work with a prime minister who would not use force against militants.

"We have not changed...the parties need to assume responsibility for their action in order for there to be peace," he replied.

During a White House news conference with Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki, Bush said that he had spoken with Sharon on Sunday.

"I made it very clear to the prime minister that...Israel's got a right to defend herself, that Israel must not feel constrained in terms of defense of the homeland," he said.

Bush added, "I said that it's very important all action should avoid escalation creating higher tensions."

ASK US

Q—Are football tickets available here for the Snyder-Sweetwater game on Friday?
A—Yes. They are on sale at the school administration building.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



James Manley...

...moved to Snyder in 1966 and worked 37 years for Chevron-SACROC. Now retired, he enjoys fishing, hunting and watching television and visiting with friends. Carla Coffee is his only child living in Snyder. He has seven grandchildren.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

The world doesn't care why you can't get the job done. It only pays off on results.

—Bum Bright

OCT 06 2003

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

United Way packets

United Way packets will be distributed to businesses today and will be picked up by Nov. 21. Packets are bright orange. For more information, call 573-5311.

Hermleigh booster club

Hermleigh's booster club will meet at 7 tonight in the cafeteria.

VFW meeting

VFW Post 8231 will meet at 7 this evening at the post home. The district president will be present and members are urged to attend.

SHS band boosters

The Snyder High School band boosters will meet at 7 tonight in the band hall.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "What is Baptism of the Holy Spirit?" followed by "Another Gospel."

TSA booster club

The TSA booster club will meet at 7:15 tonight in the shop building at the high school.

Scurry Lodge #706

Scurry Lodge #706 will have a stated meeting Tuesday at the regular time. All Masons are welcome.

Stanfield parent council

The Stanfield parent council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the teacher's lounge in the front hallway.

Snyder FFA Booster Club

Snyder FFA Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the SHS ag building. Officers will meet at 6:30 p.m.

Big Country open house

In observance of National Cooperative Month, Big Country Electric Cooperative will host an open house from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Wednesday at the office in Snyder.

SHS drama boosters

SHS Drama Booster Club will meet at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in the foyer of Worsham Auditorium.

Cub Scout bike rally

Snyder Cub Scout bike rally is set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the coliseum parking lot. For more information, contact Rhonda at 573-6090. The event was rescheduled due to rain.

Library to close

The Scurry County Library will be closed Saturday for Columbus Day.

Country and gospel music

Country and gospel music begins at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Senior Center.

Apostolic Faith concert

The Apostolic Faith Bible School Choir will give a concert at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13, at the church at 2510 25th St. The public is invited to attend. For more information, call 573-8115.

First Baptist support group

First Baptist Church is sponsoring a support group for people facing difficulties, including cancer, divorce, grief, etc. on the second Thursday of each month. The group meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first floor Adult 6 Department.

Missions conference

Calvary Baptist church, 2405 35th, will host a missions conference Oct. 15-19. Guests will include Bruce Garner from Mexico, Josh Warneke from Fiji, Jerry Abbott from Hungry and Jeremy Brann, church planter in Marble Falls. The feature speaker will be Mike Haley, pastor of Hallmark Baptist Church in Fort Worth. Services Wednesday and Thursday are at 7 p.m. The missions banquet is at 7 p.m. Saturday. Sunday services are 9:45 a.m. Sunday school, and 10:50 for worship.

Horseback riding club

The horseback riding club will begin Friday, Oct. 17, at 1368 Smith Ave. Contact Debbie Elder at 574-1622 for more information.

Snyder missionaries to speak

Charlie and Pat Reynolds, Snyder missionaries to the police in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, will speak at Trinity United Methodist Church Sunday, Oct. 19, at 6 p.m.

FUMC Lord's Acre

First United Methodist Church's Lord's Acre is planned for 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 26 at the coliseum. Booths open at 11 a.m. and a barbecue lunch will be served from noon to 1:30 p.m. Activities and games for children are planned. Everyone is welcome.

SHS 1958 class reunion

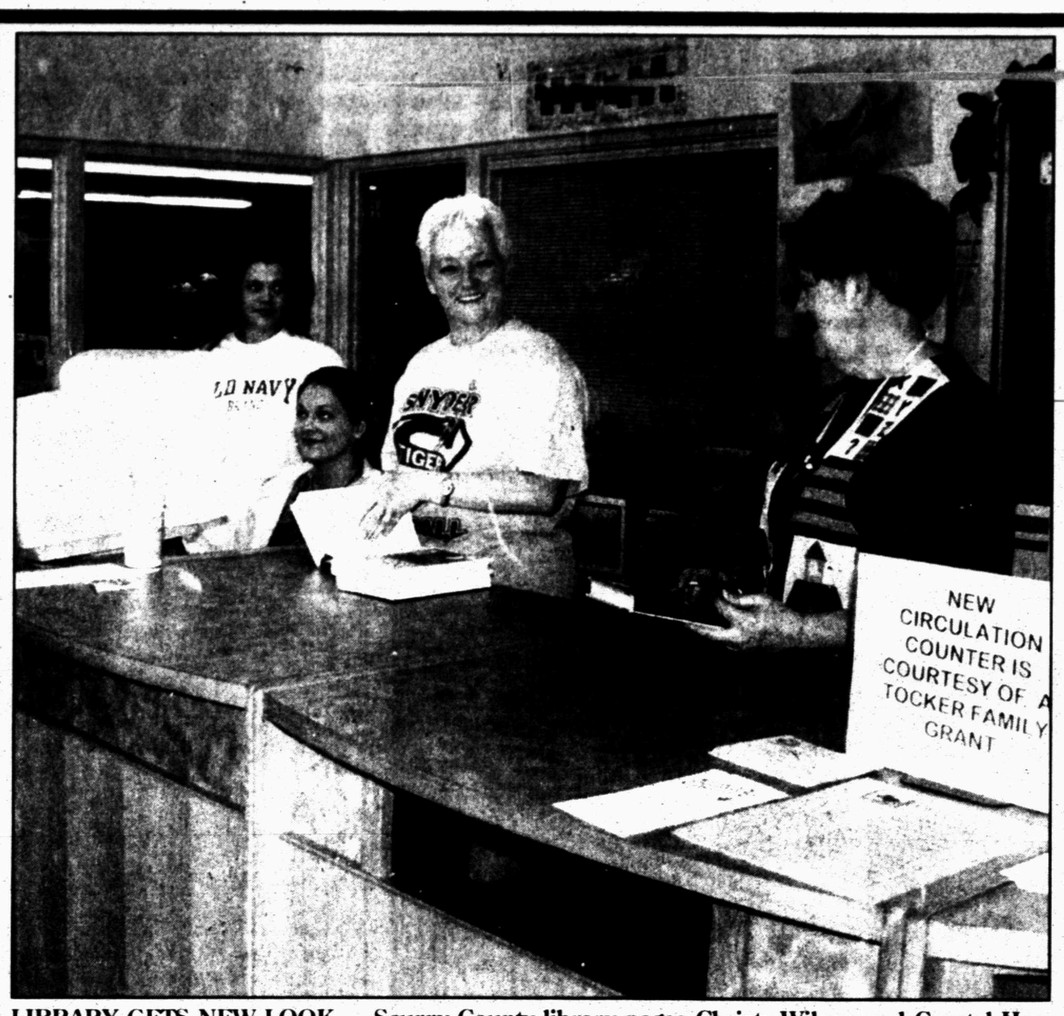
SHS class of 1958 has sets its 45th reunion for Nov. 7-8. The organizational meeting is slated at 1:30 p.m. Sunday in the Wedding Band classroom at First United Methodist Church.

SJHS yearbooks

Snyder junior high Tiger Times yearbook is on sale through Nov. 25 in room 110. Cost is $16 or students may make an $8 deposit. No extra copies will be ordered.

Free tutoring

Free tutoring for students is available Monday through Thursday at the Boys and Girls Club. Schedule a time between 4-7 p.m. or drop in from 5-6 p.m. Tutors will be members the Student Government Association at Western Texas College. To register call, 573-8511, ext. 276 or 573-3344.



LIBRARY GETS NEW LOOK — Scurry County library pages Christy Wilson and Crystal Hernandez, children's librarian Linda Jones and library director Janie Romine enjoy their work behind the new circulation counter at the library. Through the help of a Tocker Grant, the counter and adjoining furniture that came with the building have been replaced with new furniture built to house computers. The Tocker family supports many projects each year that assist small Texas public libraries in rural communities. (SDN Staff Photo)

Oldest American dies at age 114

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Elena Slough, documented as the nation's oldest person, died Sunday at the nursing home where her daughter died three days before. She was 114 or 115, according to different sources.

Slough died in her sleep at the Victoria Manor Nursing Home, where she and her 90-year-old daughter, Wanda Allen, lived, according to Judy Moudy, a supervisor at the Lower Township facility.

The Gerontology Research Group said Slough was born on July 8, 1889, making her 114 years old at the time of her death. But Krista Rickards, director of marketing at Victoria Manor, said Slough's son had a 1930 document that listed his mother as being born in 1888, which would have made her 115.

What is not in dispute is that Slough had been the oldest person in the United States since April, when 113-year-old Mary Dorothy Christian died in San Pablo, Calif. Christian was born on June 2, 1889.

"(Slough) is the oldest living American as of the time she died," Dr. L. Stephen Coles, executive director of the Gerontology Research Group, said Sunday.

The organization, which is affiliated with the UCLA School of Medicine, maintains a Web site of the oldest people alive. Three different types of documentation — birth or baptismal certificates, marriage certificates and census data — are used to verify ages.

According to the organization's Web site, Slough was the third-oldest living person in the world. Kamato Hongo turned 116 last month, and Mitoyo Kawate turned 114 in May. Both are Japanese.

The oldest person on record was Jeanne Calment, a Frenchwoman who was 122 when she died in 1997.

Slough, who was born Elena Rodenbaugh in a log cabin in Horsham, Pa., lived through 21 presidents and seven U.S. wars.

Charlotte Benkner of North Lima, Ohio, is now the nation's oldest person and the world's third-oldest, according to the research group. The German-born woman will turn 114 on Nov. 16.

On the Net:
Gerontology Research Group: http://www.grg.org



Oil Patch News

Kent County

Gaea Services Inc. will drill the No. 4 Wallace, a 6,900-foot wildcat located nine miles southwest of Jayton. Drill site is in Section 38, Block 98, H&TC survey.

Nolan County

Patterson Petroleum will drill the No. 1 Ben Patterson in the White Hat southeast field, six miles southeast of Blackwell. Planned for a depth of 4,500 feet, location is in Section 245, Block 1-A, H&TC survey.

Hawkins Oil will drill the No. 4 Petty in the Hylton northwest field, five miles southwest of Nolan. Planned depth is 6,120 feet, and location is in Section 12, Block Z, T&P survey.

Contract offer is rejected

CHICAGO (AP) — Striking garbage workers have overwhelmingly rejected a contract offer from Chicago-area private waste haulers, union officials announced Sunday.

Some 3,300 Teamsters who handle garbage for private waste haulers in the suburbs and in Chicago's high-rise dwellings have been on strike since Wednesday.

Teamsters union officials said the contract proposal, which the Chicago Area Refuse Haulers Association called its "best and final" offer, was rejected by a 92 percent margin.

"We've been telling the association for months that our members will not accept a subpar contract offer," said Bill Woldman, Teamsters Local 731 president, in a written statement.

The union is ready to negotiate again, said Teamsters spokesman Brian Rainville.

Waste-hauling association spokesman Bill Plunkett said late Sunday that his group was not planning new negotiations and had "nothing more to offer." He issued a statement saying it is up to the Teamsters to resolve the strike.

"The Teamsters began this strike, they have chosen to continue it, and the Teamsters will have to look the people of Chicago and the suburbs in the eye this week as the waste piles up," the statement said.

The association represents 16 of the largest private waste removal companies in Chicago and its suburbs.

Date Book

Monday, Oct. 6, 2003

Today is the 279th day of 2003 and the 13th day of autumn.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1961, President John F. Kennedy urged Americans to buy or build bomb shelters to protect themselves from the Soviet Union's impending nuclear attack.

On this day in 1973, a war broke out in the Middle East when Egypt and Syria attacked Israel on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. Egypt would go on to forge peace with Israel, however, and Syria would suffer greatly as a result.

On this day in 1981: Eight years after the Yom Kippur war, Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat was killed by Muslim extremists, in part out of opposition to Egypt's bid for peace with Israel.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Jenny Lind (1820-1887), singer; George Westinghouse (1846-1914), inventor; Shana Alexander (1925-), journalist, is 78; Elizabeth Shue (1963-), actress, is 40.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1947, the New York Yankees won the seventh game of the World Series, defeating the Brooklyn Dodgers 3-1.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "When two people marry they become in the eyes of the law one person, and that one person is the husband." — Shana Alexander

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Oct. 2) and full moon (Oct. 10).

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events

LOTTO TEXAS™ TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Saturday's Lottery Numbers

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 23-24-30-37-38. Bonus Ball: 2.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Number matching five of five: 3. Prize: $9,630.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 8. Prize: $3,278.

Number matching four of five: 481. Prize: $117.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 400. Prize: $124.

Number matching three of five: 18,345. Prize: $5.

Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 5,292. Prize: $5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 24,795. Prize: $3.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: $5 million.

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 10-11-20-26-35.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Prize per winner: $0.

Matching four of five: 156. Prize: $424.

Matching three of five: 4,235. Prize: $11.

Matching two of five: 44,542. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.

Pick 3
(Day) 3-1-9
(Night) 4-5-5

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
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FESTIVAL FUN INCLUDES QUILT SHOW — Joan Bunch shows off a quilt that will be on display next weekend during the White Buffalo Days Festival at the Scurry County Coliseum. For those who would like to display their quilts, call Bunch at 573-7404 during the day, or 573-0047 after 5 p.m. (SDN Staff Photo)

Police search for answers in shooting

ATLANTA (AP) — Shelia Chaney Wilson seemed agitated when she came to help prepare for Turner Monumental A.M.E. Church's upcoming 104th anniversary celebration, worshippers said.

Wilson and her 67-year-old mother, Jennie Mae Robinson, met briefly with the Rev. Johnny Clyde Reynolds, 62, in the main sanctuary after Sunday school. Then gunfire erupted.

Police believe Wilson shot Reynolds, then her mother once in the head before fatally turning the gun on herself. Police and worshippers were left searching for answers.

No motive was given for Sunday's triple shooting at the church on the city's east side. Worshippers who knew Wilson said she was disturbed and that something set her off Sunday.

"After the pastor greeted the suspect and was walking away from the suspect, apparently the suspect shot the pastor from behind," Atlanta police spokesman Sgt. John Quigley said.

Geraldine Andrews, Reynolds' daughter-in-law and a friend of Wilson's family, said Robinson had recently taken Wilson out of a mental health facility.

Church member Debra Mitchell said Wilson would show up infrequently to church and that she hadn't seen her in about three weeks. Mitchell said many knew Wilson, 43, to be unstable and that she recently lost her job.

"We knew she had some instability, but we didn't know it was this deep," Mitchell said.

Two other women were in the sanctuary at the time of the shooting, Quigley said. Once the first shot was fired, one of the women fled the room, while the other took cover behind a pulpit. An assistant pastor heard the shots and found the three bodies.

Dozens of people gathered outside the church after they heard the news, sobbing and hugging one another. Screams could be heard from inside, as church officials and family members were brought closer to the scene.

"A lot of persons came once they did hear the news, anticipating helping, providing ministry here," said Assistant Pastor Christy Miller. "There wasn't any hesitation for people to come."

Reynolds became pastor of Turner Monumental about six years ago but had been an elder in the church for more than 30 years. Many grieving outside the church described him as a mild-mannered and generous man.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



In this apartment three's company but five's a crowd

DEAR ABBY: "Karl" and I met a few days after he had broken up with his girlfriend, "Liza." My brother introduced us. I was leery at first. I had heard Liza was pregnant with Karl's child, but he told me it was over between them. I guess Karl said all the right things because we immediately hooked up and our relationship got serious fast.

A week later, Liza called Karl to "discuss the baby." At that point, Karl and I were living together. He went to see her and didn't return until morning. Liza called me in the middle of the night, announced that she and Karl were back together, and told me that I had to move out. Since there wasn't time to find a new apartment, I moved into the guest room.

Surprisingly, we have all been getting along really well, but there is something that I haven't told them — I am also pregnant with Karl's child.

I really don't know what to do. Karl has two kids on the way and they are less than a month apart. Please help. — **A HOPELESS PREGNANT WOMAN**

DEAR HOPELESS: The first thing you must do is consult a lawyer and discuss establishing paternity and child support for your child. Although the three of you are getting along now, there is no guarantee that it will continue when there are five of you. Bear in mind that Liza, not Karl, was the person who told you to move out. It's unlikely that Karl is ever going to give you an exclusive commitment.

**

DEAR ABBY: For the past five years, I have been concentrating on school in an effort to support my 5-year-old son who lives with his mother. We never married; I am gay. I see my son a couple of times a month.

I recently quit my job because it was too much to handle with school. I want to spend quality time with my son — something I never had with my own father — but I don't have much money and I don't remember what 5-year-old boys like to do.

This is my last chance to be a good father. Abby, can you think of some activities my son would enjoy? — **WANTS TO BE A GOOD DAD, RALEIGH, N.C.**

DEAR DAD: I applaud you for wanting to participate in your son's life. The child will enjoy just spending time with you and knowing you. Listen to what he has to say and take an interest in the things he likes.

Some excursions the two of you could enjoy together might include an age-appropriate movie, a sporting event, a trip to the zoo, going to get an ice cream cone, camping out and/or hiking, or a visit to a park playground. It doesn't have to be fancy or expensive. A picnic and game of catch are fun.

Reading to your son is another activity that he would like. Go to the library and ask the librarian to recommend books you and your son can enjoy together.

Readers: Any other ideas?

**

DEAR ABBY: Last week I went to a store to buy a greeting card. When I went to pay at the checkout stand, I saw the most beautiful girl smiling at me. When I handed her my money, I asked her name. She told me, but I was so nervous I didn't give her my name.

How can I get this fantastic stranger interested in me? — **CHECKING OUT THE CHECK-OUT GIRL**

DEAR CHECKING OUT: Go back to the store. Buy another card or two. If she's wearing a name tag, call her by name and introduce yourself. (Fortunately for you, the holiday season is fast approaching, and you can buy LOTS of cards ... one card at a time!)

**

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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Tiger, alligator get new homes

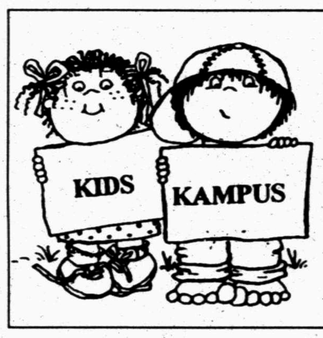
NEW YORK (AP) — A tiger and an alligator found in a Manhattan apartment were sent to wildlife sanctuaries in Ohio and Indiana on Sunday while their owner recovered from bite wounds inflicted by the more than 400-pound cat.

Police said Antoine Yates, 31, would face reckless endangerment charges after he gets out of a hospital in Philadelphia, where he fled. He was listed in good condition.

A team of animal control officers, police and Bronx Zoo workers removed the animals from Yates' fifth-floor apartment in a Harlem housing project on Saturday.

Wes Artope, director of the city's animal shelters, said the tiger, an orange and white Siberian-Bengal mix, had been kept in the apartment since he was a 6-week-old cub. The 20-month-old tiger now weighs at least 425 pounds, Artope said.

"He's huge," Artope said.



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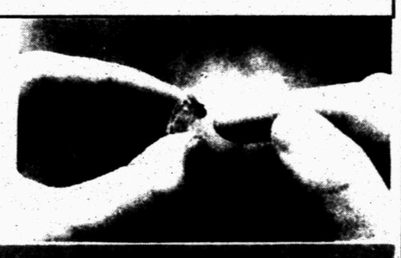
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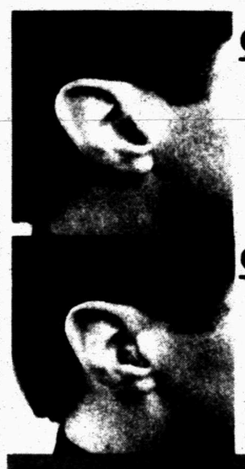
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SPORTS

Chicago wins first series in 95 years

ATLANTA (AP) — The Chicago Cubs had just won their first postseason series in 95 years — and they were already getting cocky.

Seriously.

The champagne had barely left the bottle when Moises Alou started looking toward an even bigger celebration.

"I know it's pretty huge," he said, savoring Chicago's 5-1 victory over Atlanta in Game 5 of the NL division series Sunday night. But when the Cubs go "all the way, which we will, I can't wait to experience that feeling."

Come on, let's savor this for a little while.

This was for Ron Santo and Ernie Banks, Harry Caray and Jack Brickhouse, the College of Coaches and the curse of the goat. The often-ridiculed, often-pitied Cubs had wiped away all the heartache with one magical evening.

Kerry Wood pitched another dominating game and Aramis Ramirez began the celebration with a mammoth home run, pushing Chicago past the Braves for the Cubbies' first postseason series victory since the 1908 World Series.

The Cubs move on to play Florida in the NL championship series. Game 1 is Tuesday night at Wrigley Field.

"Everybody now knows what a team we have," Alou said. "There's no doubt in my mind we can't beat anybody."

When Andruw Jones struck out swinging on the final pitch, flashbulbs went off around the stadium. Catcher Damian Miller threw his arms in the air, then charged the mound to embrace closer Joe Borowski. Sammy Sosa tore across the grass with his arm in the air, high-fiving his fellow outfielders.

In the stands, Chicago's fans shouted, hugged and derisively performed the "Tomahawk Chop" — the Braves' signature cheer. They also sang Caray's song, "Take Me Out To The Ball Game."

Back in Chicago, thousands of Cubs fans streamed into the streets surrounding Wrigley Field. The marquee outside the ballpark read simply, "Cubs Win!"

"I lived 'til next year," said an elated Norma Rolfsen of Chicago, a die-hard Cubs fan. "It's here! It's here! Thank God for Dusty Baker."

It was Baker, the first-year manager, who told the team on the first day of spring training to forget about the past.

The Cubs took his words to heart, winning a three-way battle with Houston and St. Louis in the NL Central, their first division title since 1989.

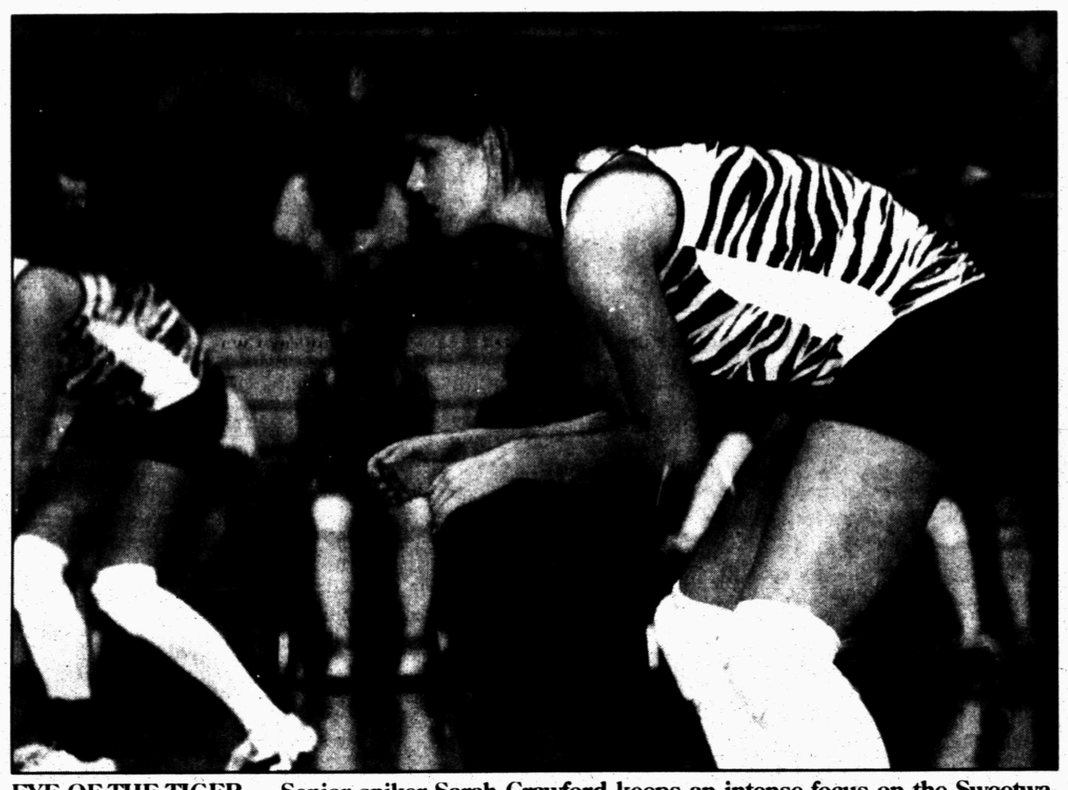
"This is 2003," Baker said. "When the year started we just said, 'Hey, whatever happened in the past, you've got to leave it in the past.'"

The Braves suffered another heartbreaking loss in the postseason, going down for the second year in a row in Game 5 of the division series.

Twelve straight division titles have produced only one World Series championship, and the Braves face an uncertain future. Gary Sheffield, Greg Maddux, Javy Lopez and Vinny Castilla are all in the last year of their contracts.

"With the team like we have, there's no way we should have lost like that," Lopez said. "We all know they've got pretty good pitching but our offense, we should have done better than we did."

A couple of former Pirates helped the Cubs break through. Kenny Lofton led off the game with a double and scored the first run. Ramirez put the Cubs up 4-0 with a homer in the sixth.



EYE OF THE TIGER — Senior spiker Sarah Crawford keeps an intense focus on the Sweetwater server during Saturday's match. The team won in three games to close out the first-half of the district schedule at 2-4. (SDN Staff Photo)

Lady Tigers cruise past Sweetwater in 3 games

The Snyder Lady Tigers closed out the first half of the District 3-3A schedule in convincing fashion Saturday, sweeping rival Sweetwater, 25-22, 25-20 and 25-13.

"We really expected it, but we needed the home win," head coach Laura Moses said. "I know Sweetwater kind of fell apart at the end, and they have been up and down this year like us. It's nice to get the win."

The Lady Tigers (2-4) used a forceful defensive presence at the net to force Sweetwater (1-5) to adjust its offense to compensate.

"We blocked well and they had to try and go around our blocks," Moses said. "We made the adjustments and picked up a lot of digs."

Emily Jones had four blocks and four kills, and Kelbi Drum added three blocks.

Snyder also had three players with double-digit digs, with Missy Vasquez picking up 14, Kelsi Johnson finding 12 and Beth Clements recording 12.

Drum added nine to go with her five kills and 12 assists.

Sarah Crawford was the big spiker in the match, posting nine kills, while Crenwelge hammered five.

The Lady Tigers will host a dual match with Lubbock Trinity and Midland Christian Tuesday, with matches getting underway at 4 p.m.

Tuesday was an open date in the district schedule.

"Last year we went to Lubbock Trinity (on the open date) and this year we invited Midland Christian, so everyone gets two games," Moses said. "I hope we can get a couple of wins (Tuesday) and go into district on a winning streak."

The junior varsity, which will also play Tuesday, won in three games, 25-7, 23-25 and 25-13.

A's face Martinez, elimination after blowing second straight

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Red Sox decided not to bring Pedro Martinez back on short rest, opting to keep him fresh for a possible Game 5 against Oakland.

The Athletics went the other way, lining up Tim Hudson and Barry Zito to pitch on three days of rest even though the record of pitchers trying to do that has been dismal.

The time for strategy is over, nothing to do now but see how the plans work out when Martinez faces Zito in Oakland tonight in the decisive game of the best-of-five AL playoff series.

"When we came back, it was just talk," Boston second baseman Todd Walker said Sunday after the Red Sox beat the A's 5-4 to avoid elimination for a second consecutive day. "Now we've done it and we're going to a fifth game."

And now they have their hitters going, too.

Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz snapped out of slumps just in time to save Boston's season as the Red Sox rallied from a 4-3 deficit in the eighth inning against closer Keith Foulke.

The teams then headed back to Oakland, where the A's won the first two games of the series and more regular-season games than anyone else in the league.

"This is the happiest I've ever been for a five-hour flight," Red Sox first baseman Kevin Millar said. "Usually at this time of year I'm barbecuing in the backyard with my boys and watching the playoffs. Now, they're watching me."

It was the eighth consecutive elimination game Oakland has lost — the longest slump of its sort in major league history. Despite making the playoffs each of the last four seasons, the A's have yet to advance past the first round.

Zito will start on three days of rest for the first time in his career. The track record of other pitchers is not impressive: Since the divisional format was changed in 1995, starters coming back a day early in the playoffs are 6-18.

"I think we have the better team," said Tim Hudson, who started Game 4 on short rest but left after just one inning because of a strained muscle in his side. "We have the best left-hander in the league."

But Boston believes it has the best right-hander.

"It's all right," Hudson said, "I'll take Barry Zito over Pedro Martinez any day."

The Red Sox were equally confident, remembering their rally in the 1999 playoffs when they came back from a 2-0 deficit to beat Cleveland in the first round. Martinez also pitched Game 5 that year.

WTC keeps pace in conference with 2nd-place finish at Alpine

ALPINE — The Western Texas College men's rodeo team used a pair of first place finishes to take second place overall at the Sul Ross rodeo over the weekend.

Clay Bunney posted a 78 in bareback riding to win both the short round and the average, while Sam Spreadborough used a 79 to win the final round and the average in the saddle bronc event.

The team finished just 20 points behind winner Tarleton State.

"We did a really good job — the men's performances were just great," coach Greg Rhodes said. "(West Texas A&M) didn't gain any points on us."

West Texas A&M leads the overall point standings after two rodeos, but totals were not available at press time.

The women took fourth at Alpine, with Sabrina Lay winning the short round and the average in barrel racing.

Lay had the best time at the rodeo in the short round, riding the circuit in 17.05 seconds.

Erin Anglin did not place in calf roping, but Rhodes said she had a solid rodeo.

"There were only 50 points between first and fourth. All of the teams were really close," Rhodes said. "We didn't hurt ourselves, and I was pleased with the results."

The rodeo team will saddle up Thursday for the Vernon JC rodeo, which is scheduled to run through Saturday.

8th Gold takes 2nd

The Snyder Junior High Gold volleyball team claimed second place at the Sweetwater tournament over the weekend, topping Odessa Crockett and Permian Nimitz.

The format for the tournament was pool play, with only two games per match. Each club started with five points, and the first to 25 claimed the game.

Destinee Neagle paced the junior Lady Tigers with 20 points in the tournament, and Christina Villa added 15.

Villa and Crystal Brown recorded nine points each in the opening match win over Crockett, 25-11, 25-16.

Snyder split with Colorado City in the second game, 25-20 and 25-24.

The team beat Permian Nimitz, 25-15, 25-15, getting five points each from Crystal Rodriguez and Alayna Alexander.

Kelby Sele added four points.

Jessica Garza had 19 points for the seventh-grade Gold team, who beat Odessa Crockett in the first match, 25-14, 25-17, before splitting the final three matches.

Desiree Alvarez had two aces and five points, and Kaliea Shaw served up 15 points in the tournament.

Lareisha Carey also had five for the seventh graders.

The team split with Colorado City, 25-14, 21-25; with Permian Nimitz, 25-16, 22-25; and with Odessa Bowie, 16-25, 25-24.

All the junior high teams will play at Big Spring tonight, with matches beginning at 5 p.m.

Ira subvarsity stays perfect

The Ira junior varsity and junior high gridiron squads each used lopsided wins to remain perfect on the season last Thursday.

The JV (4-0) downed Trent, 46-12, behind a monster game from Adrian Pedron.

Pedron scored on a 24-yard run, and returned one of his three interceptions 31-yards for another score.

Pedron also added nine tackles in the blowout.

Chris Gutierrez caught a 6-yard touchdown pass from Kerry Jamison, and sprinted in from 17-yards out.

Jamison returned a punt 39-yards for a score.

Corbin Clements added a 10-yard scoring strike to Kevin Graves, and Adam Rivera broke loose for a 39-yard touchdown run.

Rivera had 15 tackles for the junior Bulldogs, and Graves recorded 10 stops. James had nine tackles.

The junior high crushed Highland, 40-12, behind four touchdowns from Andy Rivera, who raced in from 75, 29, 20 and 10 yards. Rivera also made 11 stops on defense.

Justin Jones added a 42-yard scoring run and Austin Calley had a 3-yard TD dive.

Tony Martini connected on conversions to Rance Dunn and Gil Shafer, and Jones added another conversion as the junior high gridders moved to 3-0 on the season.

Sports Briefs

Toney punishes Holyfield

LAS VEGAS (AP) — James Toney stopped Evander Holyfield in the ninth round on Saturday night. Toney, making his heavyweight debut, had dominated the last few rounds when Holyfield's cornermen jumped in the ring to save their fighter from more punishment.

Golf booster club

The Snyder golf booster club will meet at 7 tonight in the student center.

Football booster club

The football booster club will meet at 7 tonight in the film room.

Girls softball

The Snyder girls softball association will meet at 8 p.m. Wednesday in the Texas Savings Bank basement.

WTC GLT tournament

Western Texas College will host the golf and landscape technology tournament Saturday. Format is nine-hole lowball-daylight and nine-hole select shot glow ball-dark with tee-off at 5 p.m. Cost is $70 per team with cash prizes. Contact the pro shop at 573-9291 for more information.

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By The Asso

Emmitt Smith day in the locker Stadium, his arm protect a sprained

Steve Mariucci in the cold wind moments at Cand

Mike Holmgre Lambeau Field, hope he'd be able friends who came

So much for su comings.

Smith returned Dallas Cowboys' but his old team NFL's leading ru game in the seco then beat his Ari 24-7.

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"It would like

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SPORTS

Reunions turn sour for Smith, Mariucci; Hall returns another kick as KC remains unbeaten

By The Associated Press

Emmitt Smith spent most of day in the locker room at Texas Stadium, his arm in a sling to protect a sprained left shoulder.

Steve Mariucci was shivering in the cold wind during the final moments at Candlestick Park.

Mike Holmgren was back at Lambeau Field, hoping against hope he'd be able to impress the friends who came to visit him.

So much for successful homecomings.

Smith returned to cheers from Dallas Cowboys' fans on Sunday, but his old team knocked the NFL's leading rusher out of the game in the second quarter and then beat his Arizona Cardinals 24-7.

"Just coming back here and seeing Texas Stadium and having a chance to play here in front of the Cowboys fans, it was wonderful," said Smith, who finished with minus-1 yards — the worst outing of his career. "It will go down as one of the unique experiences I've ever experienced."

Mariucci, coach of the Detroit Lions, was back in San Francisco for the first time since being fired after last season. He made it through the entire game, but the 49ers held on for a 24-17 victory.

"It was good to see them," said Mariucci, who was greeted by several 49ers after the game.

Holmgren paid a second visit to Green Bay since leaving to coach the Seattle Seahawks. He left with a 1-1 record after Brett Favre threw two TD passes and the Packers rolled to a 35-13 victory over the Seahawks.

"A loss is a loss, but I have a lot of friends here and you want to do well in front of them," Holmgren said. "I didn't do so well today."

In a fourth homecoming, former Tampa Bay coach Tony Dungy and his unbeaten Indianapolis Colts will play the Buccaneers tonight.

Three other teams remained undefeated after Sunday's games:

At Arrowhead Stadium, Dante Hall returned a punt 93 yards for a touchdown with 8:20 left to lift Kansas City to a 24-23 win over Denver. The Chiefs (5-0) are off to their best start ever; the Broncos (4-1) lost their first game of the season.

With his game-winning punt return, Hall extended his NFL record of returning a kick for a touchdown to four straight games, and equaled the season record for kick returns for scores.

At the Georgia Dome, Gus Frerotte filled in again for the injured Daunte Culpepper and threw two TD passes as Minnesota (5-0) beat Atlanta 39-26.

Thanks to Stephen Davis, Carolina is 4-0. At Charlotte, Davis carried 30 times for 159 yards and a TD, including crucial first-down yardage late in the game after returning from a bout of cramps.

And then there was the Game of the Weak — Jacksonville 27, San Diego 21. Byron Leftwich threw for 336 yards and two TDs in his first start as the Jaguars (1-4) gave new coach Jack Del Rio his first win. The Chargers (0-5) and the idle New York Jets (0-4) are the NFL's only winless teams.

49ers 24, Lions 17

Jeff Garcia threw for one TD and ran for another and Terrell Owens caught five passes for 79 yards and a touchdown.

San Francisco (2-3) ended a three-game losing streak, while the Lions (1-4) lost their 19th straight road game.

Packers 35, Seahawks 13

Ahman Green helped out Brett Favre with 118 yards rushing and two TDs.

"We needed this game for a lot of reasons, not who was on the other sideline," Favre said.

The Packers are 3-2; the Seahawks 3-1.

Patriots 38, Titans 30

Mike Cloud returned from a four-game suspension for violating the league's substance-abuse policy and ran for two TDs to lead New England (3-2) to a home win.

With a 31-27 lead, the Patriots sealed the game when Ty Law intercepted Steve McNair's pass and ran 65 yards for a score with 1:49 left. The Titans are 3-2.

Dolphins 23, Giants 10

The Giants shut down Ricky Williams (22 carries, 39 yards), but Olindo Mare kicked three field goals and James McKnight scored on a 68-yard reverse for the Dolphins (3-1).

New York (2-2) committed four turnovers at home, and lost kicker Matt Bryant to a pulled hamstring after he hit a 43-yard field goal to end the first half.

Bears 24, Raiders 21

Chicago (1-3) is unbearable no longer after Paul Edinger kicked a 48-yard field goal on the final play for the Bears' first win — and first celebration at new Soldier Field.

The Raiders (2-3), who blew an 18-3 halftime lead, got five field goals from Sebastian Janikowski. But he also missed the first extra point of his career and had a 47-yard attempt blocked.

Eagles 27, Redskins 25

Washington's rally fell a 2-point conversion short and Philadelphia (2-2) had its first win at its new stadium.

After John Hall kicked a 53-yard field goal to make it 27-19, the Redskins (3-2) recovered an onside kick and Patrick Ramsey hit Darnerien McCants on a 32-yard TD pass with 13 seconds left. Ramsey then overthrew Laveranues Coles on the 2-point try.

Donovan McNabb completed 16 of 30 passes for 157 yards and his first TD of the season. He was intercepted twice.

Bills 22, Bengals 16, OT

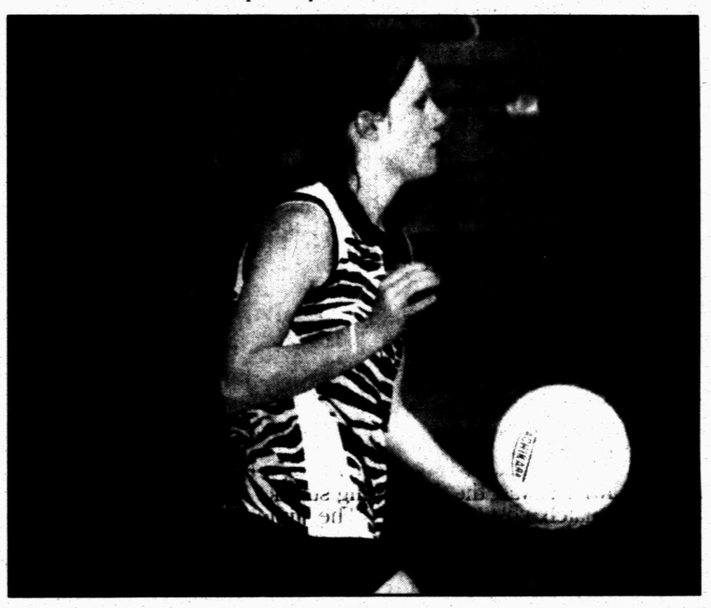
Travis Henry's 2-yard plunge 4:53 into overtime lifted Buffalo (3-2), which saw its top receiver, Eric Moulds, helped off the field with a groin injury after catching a 28-yard pass from Drew Bledsoe to set up the winning score.

The Bengals (1-4) led 16-13, but the Bills' Rian Lindell sent the game into OT with a 29-yard field goal with 28 seconds left in regulation.

Browns 33, Steelers 13

Cleveland (2-3) ended a six-game losing streak to Pittsburgh (2-3) as Tim Couch threw for two TDs and ran for another in his second start since replacing Kelly Holcomb.

Tommy Maddox had three turnovers for the Steelers, including an interception returned 75 yards for a TD by Daylon McCutcheon that made it 30-10.



WAITING FOR THE WHISTLE — Snyder senior Beth Clements readies to serve during the final game of Saturday's match with Sweetwater. The Lady Tigers will host Lubbock Cooper Saturday in their next district battle. (SDN Staff Photo)

Cowboys deck Smith, Cards

IRVING (AP) — Emmitt Smith left Texas Stadium with his arm in a sling and fewer rushing yards than he started with.

Not exactly the homecoming Smith had hoped for Sunday against the Dallas Cowboys, the team he played for the last 13 seasons while becoming the NFL's career rushing leader.

"Every player wants to play big in a game like this," Smith said. "Obviously, it's very disappointing."

Smith lost a yard on six carries, the first time in his 206 career games he didn't gain at least a yard. He left after spraining his left shoulder on his last play in the second quarter of Arizona's 24-7 loss.

Quincy Carter threw for 277 yards and two touchdowns and the Dallas defense had two safeties in a four-play span in the third quarter. Bill Parcells got his first home win as coach of the NFC East-leading Cowboys (3-1).

On the game's first offensive play, Smith was buried for a 4-yard loss by La'Roi Glover. That set the tone on the field below the banners commemorating Smith's rushing record and three Super Bowl titles he helped Dallas win.

Smith was pounded nearly every time he touched the ball. He lost yards on four of his eight touches and was stopped twice for nothing, with his only gains on a 6-yard catch and a 2-yard run.

"No, I didn't sense anything extra. It's not like they tried to twist my ankle or spit on me," said Smith, who was released by the Cowboys six weeks after Parcells was hired. "It was a very competitive game with their spirit being in the right place."

Cowboys defenders insisted they weren't trying to prove a point or get back at Smith for a "diamond surrounded by trash" comment about his last season in Dallas.

"We didn't treat him differently," safety Roy Williams said. "He used to play here, his name is on the stadium. But he plays for a different team now."

On his final play, Smith ran between the guard and tackle. Williams arrived in the hole at the same time as Smith, who didn't see the safety until the last second.

The extent of the injury wasn't immediately apparent. A trainer worked with Smith on the sideline and he even stood behind the coaches with his helmet on during the next series. Then he went to the locker room for X-rays and didn't return.

"We've still got to do a little testing to find out the seriousness of it, but I think I will be OK," Smith said.

Carter lost his starting job after an awful performance against Arizona last season. This time, he completed 20 of 31 passes and the Cowboys had 365 total yards, their fourth straight game with at least 360.

Yankees advance to ALCS

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The New York Yankees are expected to win it all. They sure look as though they can.

David Wells and the Yankees breezed into the AL championship series, blowing out the Minnesota Twins 8-1 on Sunday.

New York hit four doubles in a six-run fourth inning and wrapped up the first-round playoff series 3-1.

"You knew it was only a matter of time before this offense got going," Jason Giambi said.

The big-budget Yankees are under increasing pressure to win the World Series after going consecutive seasons without a title. They put themselves in a great position by finishing off the Twins on Sunday.

New York has two days off to rest before hosting Game 1 of the ALCS against either Boston or Oakland. Meanwhile, the Red Sox and Athletics play a decisive Game 5 on Monday night after making a cross-country trip to Oakland.

Pedro Martinez pitches for Boston against Barry Zito, so neither ace would be ready to face the Yankees on Wednesday.

"I'd like to believe we have an advantage, but when you get to the postseason the adrenaline gets you over that stuff," manager Joe Torre said.

Hockey player dies after wreck; teammate faces more charges

ATLANTA (AP) — All-Star Dany Heatley will face more serious charges after the death of Atlanta Thrashers teammate Dan Snyder, who never regained consciousness following a horrific car crash.

Snyder died Sunday night at Grady Hospital, the team said, six days after sustaining massive brain injuries in the wreck. He was 25.

Police said Heatley was driving his Ferrari at about 80 mph on a narrow two-lane road last Monday night when he lost control, spun off the road and smashed into a brick and wrought iron fence.

Snyder was a passenger. The car split in half, throwing both players into the road.

Heatley already was facing several charges, including a felony. The charges will be upgraded, Sgt. John Quigley, an Atlanta Police Department spokesman, said Sunday night. He said investigators will meet with the district attorney's office Monday.

"It would likely be vehicular homicide first degree," Quigley said.

That charge carries a prison sentence of three to 15 years. A plea bargain to the lesser charge of second-degree vehicular homicide, a misdemeanor, also is possible.

West Texas Taekwondo gets three top spots at Abilene

The West Texas Taekwondo Academy of Snyder was well-represented at the 7th annual Midwest Taekwondo Championships in Abilene last Saturday.

Slade Birkenfield claimed first place in both sparring and forms in the 8-9 division, and Koe Alvarez won first place in sparring in the 8-9 division.

Justin Armstrong also was victorious in sparring in the 12-14 division, placing fifth in forms.

Evan Tidder and Daniel Shlezinger both had top-five finishes in both categories for the 8 and 9-year-olds.

Tidder was second in both events, while Shlezinger took fourth in each competition.

Joseph Benz was second in sparring and fourth in forms in the 15-17 division.

The team was coached by Larry Jaramillo and Cheyenne Alvarez, under the guidance of master instructor Greg Gafford.

The next competition for the school will be Oct. 18-19 at the 22nd annual Ft. Worth International Championship.

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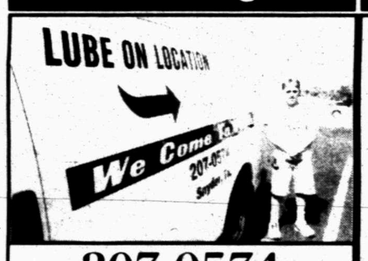
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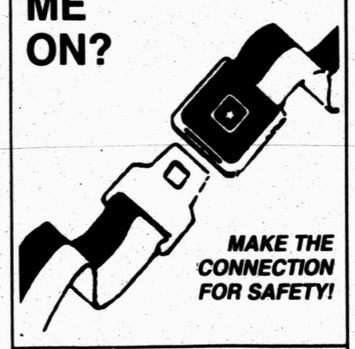
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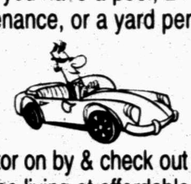


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Night raids a staple in Saddam's hometown

TIKRIT, Iraq (AP) — Spc. Moses Rodriguez suppressed a yawn as he eased himself onto a cushion and swung his machine gun into place on the open bed of a Humvee.

Sunrise was still hours away but a buzz of activity surrounded a dusty and darkened building at an American base in Saddam Hussein's hometown.

"There's times I get up for a patrol and get a weird feeling and those are the nights with RPG's or IED's," Rodriguez, 35, from Marcy, New York, said referring to rocket-propelled grenades and improvised explosive devices — homemade bombs usually made out of artillery shells.

Rodriguez's unit was going on a raid — one of dozens that U.S. troops have mounted in an effort to track down resistance fighters whose attacks are killing as many as six U.S. soldiers a week in Iraq.

Easing away from a base, Rodriguez's Humvee joined a raiding party of similar vehicles from the 1st Battalion, 22 Infantry Regiment, that slipped darkly through the quiet streets of Tikrit, darting at high speed through pools of light cast by dim street lamps.

As the Humvees careered through the streets, they approached RPG alley — a street named after the numerous rockets fired at American troops.

Their target during the Sept. 24 raid was a suspected bankroller of the Saddam Fedayeen — Saddam's militia and the organization thought responsible for deadly attacks against U.S. soldiers. Their favored weapons: RPGs, homemade bombs and AK-47 assault rifles.

Such financiers are top targets for the military as they often act as middlemen between those organizing the attacks and those pulling the triggers. They have been the targets of dozens of night raids.

"These individuals are involved in financing Fedayeen activity and organizing the cells for resistance," Maj. Bryan Luke said as he stood near the targeted house.

The attacks have become increasingly coordinated and sophisticated, while the resistance cells — some numbering just a few people — have grown more elusive as bankrollers and organizers seek to physically distance themselves from the scene of attacks.

Most of the people that carry out attacks are thought to be hired for as little as $100. In the past the attacks have been mostly "miss and run" strikes, as the Army calls them — but that has changed in recent weeks.

"The enemy has evolved — a little bit more lethal, a little more complex, a little more sophisticated, and in some cases, a little bit more tenacious," said Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the commander of U.S. forces in Iraq.

Fort Hood soldier killed in Iraq

By The Associated Press

An Army specialist from southern New Mexico died of injuries he suffered when his Bradley fighting vehicle was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade in Assadah, Iraq.

James H. Pirtle, 27, of La Mesa, a small community south of Las Cruces, died Saturday, when the vehicle was hit, authorities said.

"I was saddened to learn of Specialist Pirtle's tragic death and my sympathies go out to his family and friends," Rep. Tom Udall, D-N.M., said today. "America could not be more grateful for the commitment he made to his mission and his willingness to risk his own life for the sake of others."

Army officials were investigating Pirtle's death. U.S. troops have mounted in an effort to track down resistance fighters whose attacks are killing as many as six U.S. soldiers a week in Iraq.

As of Sunday, the U.S. Defense Department said 317 U.S. service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq. And since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations had ended, 179 U.S. soldiers have died.

Pirtle, who graduated in 1994 from Carlsbad High School and attended New Mexico State University, was with the 8th Infantry Regiment out of Fort Hood, Texas.

His mother, Kay Beeman of Silver City, said in April that her son joined the Army because he loves his country.

White Buffalo Festival events

White Buffalo Festival, sponsored by the Snyder Chamber of Commerce will be held Friday and Saturday at the Scurry County Coliseum.

Heritage Village

Tours of the Dermott school, Dodson House and the tent will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Pioneer skills

Pioneer skills will be exhibited from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. This will include wood carving, rug braiding, rope crosses, horse shoeing, lye soaping making, cowboy gear, knitting, biscuit making, crocheting, spinning wood and quilting.

Scurry County reunion

A reunion for current and former residents will be held at the Dermott School from 9 a.m. until noon Saturday. The reception is sponsored by the SHS classes of 1946, 1947 and 1948.

Car show

Snyder Wheels will sponsor a people's choice car show Saturday at the coliseum. Registration is from 9 to 11 a.m. All cars are welcome and there is no entry fee. Awards will be presented at 3 p.m.

Quilt show

Quilts are needed for the quilt display during White Buffalo Days at the Scurry County Coliseum. Persons wishing to put a quilt on display should call Joan Bunch at 573-7404. After 5 p.m. call 573-0047.

1950s dance contest

A '50s dance contest will be held Saturday, in conjunction with the White Buffalo Festival. Judging for the $100 prize will be 50% costume and 50% dance skills. The White Buffalo Committee also is 1950s yearbooks for the display. For more information call Jackie at the coliseum at 573-9811.

Antique tractor, equipment display

The Scurry County Antique Tractor & Equipment Club will have a display from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Most diet plans are too restrictive

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have relatives who have gone crazy over a liquid-diet drink. They plan to consume the beverage for the rest of their lives to maintain a higher energy level and still lose weight. Is there any hope for the rest of us who remain firm believers in the value of regular exercise and prudent eating habits?

DEAR READER: There are many diet programs and weight-reduction plans available today. Because they are so restrictive, they do enable people to shed unwanted pounds over the short haul. However, they're almost impossible to follow for any length of time. Thus any initial weight loss is customarily short-lived; the pounds invariably re-accumulate when the person eventually "relaxes" and begins eating as before. The resulting "yo-yo" effect (cycles of loss and gain) is unhealthful.

In my view — and in the opinion of experts — it makes more sense to exercise regularly and adopt sensible, long-term dietary modifications with which a person feels comfortable. For example, most stout people can lose weight (and keep it off) by reducing dietary fat, moderating alcohol intake, and avoiding foods that contain cane sugar (and corn syrup, a commercial sweetener) and flour. After reaching the weight-loss goal, such individuals can relax the diet, enjoy some pasta and an occasional sweet — and weigh themselves weekly. If their weight is up, then it's back to the diet. (It's easier to lose a pound or two rather than 20.) If the weight is stable, they can relax.

I also recommend that people who are serious about losing weight anticipate holiday seasons by dieting stringently in preparation, then feeling free to over-indulge at Christmas or birthdays.

Judging from the avalanche of mail I have received in favor of my "no flour, no sugar" diet, this plan — which is easy and cheap — may fit your "prudent eating" habits and provide a more realistic incentive for your family members, who may be over-reliant on expensive diet drinks. Therefore, I'm sending you a free copy of my Health Report "Losing Weight," which includes my "no flour, no sugar" diet. Other readers who would like a copy should send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What causes cluster headaches, and is there a cure?

DEAR READER: In general, cluster headaches are severe and throbbing, occur without warning, are probably related to migraine, and — as the name implies — appear in groups of three or four, often with extended periods of relief between the attacks. The cause is unknown.

Many specialists have had success in preventing cluster headaches with prescription beta-blockers (propranolol and others) or calcium-channel blockers (nifedipine and others). Acute episodes are usually treated with pain medication (such as ibuprofen), oxygen or cortisone.

In my opinion, patients with cluster headaches should be under the care of neurologists.

If readers would like to contact Dr. Gott, they may write him through your newspaper or send their mail directly to Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th fl., New York, NY 10016.

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North	10-06-03
♠ A 9	
♥ Q 6 5 2	
♦ A K 5 4	
♣ A K J	
West	**East**
♠ 10 8 7 2	♠ J 6 5 4
♥ —	♥ K J 7
♦ Q 10 9 8 3	♦ 6 2
♣ Q 8 6 5	♣ 9 7 3 2
South	
♠ K Q 3	
♥ A 10 9 8 4 3	
♦ J 7	
♣ 10 4	

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
2 ♥	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	6 ♥	All pass

Opening lead: ♦ 10

Monday, Oct. 6, 2003

Play carefully, especially in a slam

By Phillip Alder

George Orwell wrote an essay that included: "The high sentiments always win in the end, the leaders who offer blood, toil, tears and sweat always get more out of their followers than those who offer safety and a good time."

At the bridge table, if one expends blood, sweat and tears in finding the safest way to make or break a contract, one will have a good time. High sentiments are superfluous.

In this deal, you are sitting South, the declarer in six hearts. How would you plan the play after West has led the diamond 10?

Two hearts was a weak two-bid, showing a decent six-card suit and some 6-10 high-card points. North's two no-trump was an inquiry, which is usually made with a hand worth a game-invitation, because a raise to three hearts is pre-emptive. But occasionally, like here, the responder is thinking about a slam. After hearing that South had a maximum with a feature (normally the ace or king) in spades, North jumped to slam. (Yes, North might have raised immediately to six hearts; it couldn't be far wrong.)

Declarer won the first trick in the dummy and saw that everything was under control except for the trump suit. And he realized that he had a safety-play available. So, he called for a low heart, and when East played the seven, South covered with the 10. His care was rewarded when West discarded. Declarer cashed the heart ace and claimed his slam.

Notice that anyone who believes speed is of the essence would play the heart ace on the first round and lose two trump tricks.

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Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

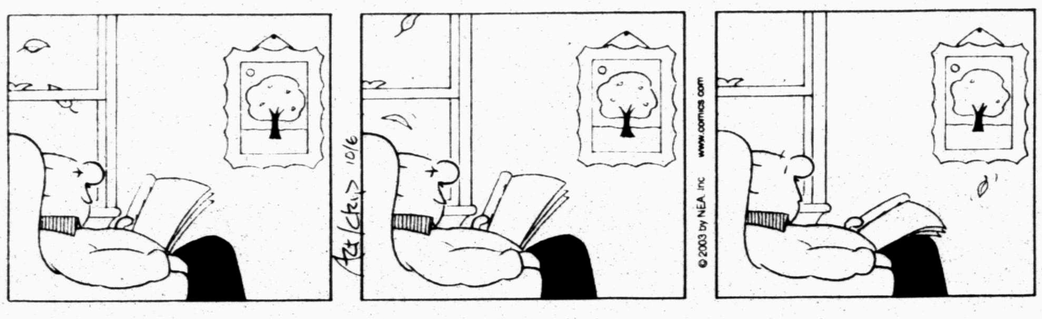
	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	13.16	12.86	13.08	+ .40
AOL TimeWrn	15.54	15.28	15.42	+ .03
AT&T Corp rs	20.40	20.10	20.18	— .06
Albertsons	21.08	20.85	21.07	+ .18
Alltel	49.80	48.30	49.20	+ .90
AmEl Pw	29.98	29.76	29.81	— .06
AndarkPtr	42.49	42.11	42.35	+ .35
ATMOS Egy	24.83	24.60	24.67	— .03
Aviall	13.43	13.31	13.43	+ .16
BP PLC	44.00	43.81	43.96	+ .39
BakerHughes	31.47	30.90	31.24	+ .10
Bank of Amer	79.97	79.55	79.77	+ .22
BellSouth	25.00	24.70	24.73	— .15
BurlNoSFe	29.52	29.35	29.44	— .06
Caterpillar	74.50	73.19	74.42	+ 1.04
CenterPoint	9.35	9.25	9.34	+ .08
ChevronTex	73.74	73.30	73.63	+ .55
Citigroup	47.34	46.85	47.15	+ .04
CocaCola	44.44	44.09	44.26	+ .22
ColgatePal	57.65	57.41	57.45	+ .11
CmclMetals	19.94	19.75	19.88	
ConocoPhill	56.13	55.95	56.06	+ .13
Cooper Inds	51.10	50.90	50.98	— .02
DaimlrChry	35.96	35.60	35.71	+ .13
DeltaAirl	13.69	13.45	13.64	+ .13
Dillards Inc	14.87	14.67	14.77	— .02
DowChem	34.48	34.15	34.37	— .08
DuPont	40.76	40.55	40.73	— .05
EastmanChem	33.20	33.05	33.07	— .10
EstKodak	21.72	21.43	21.55	+ .11
EDS Corp	21.35	21.05	21.05	— .31
Entergy	55.02	54.65	54.69	— .11
ExxonMobil	38.04	37.82	37.96	+ .21
FootLocker	16.84	16.50	16.56	— .24
GenDynam	79.60	78.27	78.48	—1.02
GenElec	31.04	30.73	30.92	+ .10
GenMills	47.16	46.89	46.94	— .11
GenMotors	41.78	41.44	41.66	+ .22
GaPacific	25.48	25.16	25.20	— .15
Goodrich	25.34	25.02	25.11	— .23
Goodyear	7.10	6.95	7.00	
GtAtlPac	8.69	8.51	8.64	+ .11
Halliburtn	25.40	25.15	25.25	— .14
Hanson ADS	33.85	33.80	33.85	+ .62
HarteHanks	19.00	18.80	18.99	+ .14
HomeDepot	33.85	33.53	33.84	+ .21
HoneywellIntl	27.26	26.99	27.09	+ .05
IBM	91.68	90.51	90.88	+ .24
IntlPaper	39.04	38.73	38.82	— .06
JohnsonJn	50.44	50.01	50.07	— .04
KinderMorg	55.55	54.92	54.92	— .73
Kroger Co	18.85	18.61	18.80	— .04
LockheedM	45.70	45.27	45.31	— .39
Lowes Cos	56.10	55.57	56.09	+ .60
Lubys	2.55	2.45	2.47	— .03
LucentTech	2.30	2.22	2.28	+ .06
MarathonOil	29.04	28.82	28.85	— .12
MayDeptStr	26.02	25.70	25.93	+ .13
Medtronic	45.88	44.65	44.69	— .19
Motorola	13.34	13.00	13.19	+ .01
NCR Corp	34.91	34.11	34.91	+ .63
Navistar	40.34	39.63	40.06	+ .15
PNM Rescs	29.03	28.85	29.01	+ .04
Penney JC	21.75	21.55	21.64	+ .02
PepBoys	16.46	16.11	16.46	+ .18
PepsiCo	47.68	47.25	47.30	+ .10
PhelpDodge	51.20	50.26	51.20	+ .39
PilgrmPrd B	13.33	13.07	13.15	+ .12
Praxair	65.19	64.65	65.00	+ .18
ProctGamb	94.82	93.78	93.96	— .94
RadioShack	29.20	28.89	29.20	+ .31
RoyalDut	45.74	45.37	45.45	+ .15
SBC Comm	23.00	22.48	22.55	— .06
SaraLee	18.98	18.80	18.94	+ .06
Scripps EW	87.64	87.30	87.46	+ .24
SearsRoeb	47.70	47.15	47.35	+ .05
SherwinW	30.55	30.33	30.46	— .13
SouthernCo	29.51	29.36	29.42	— .09
SwstAirl	18.61	18.33	18.53	+ .19
SprintFON	15.08	14.95	15.08	+ .08
SprintPCS	6.08	5.98	6.07	+ .09
Sunoco Inc	41.85	41.44	41.65	— .15
TXU Corp	23.34	23.12	23.16	— .12
TempleInland	48.65	48.35	48.62	— .02
TexInd	25.72	25.59	25.68	— .08
TexasInst	24.90	24.29	24.39	— .26
Textron	41.79	41.05	41.79	+ .99
TrinityInds	27.12	26.92	27.07	— .07
TylerTech	7.50	7.42	7.45	— .05
UnionPacif	59.28	58.70	58.80	— .44
USSteel	19.64	19.41	19.62	+ .02
UnitedTech	81.81	81.28	81.60	— .20
Unocal	32.30	31.82	31.90	— .40
VerizonComm	34.00	33.33	33.40	— .34
WalMart	57.89	57.49	57.72	+ .24
WellsFargo	53.23	52.88	53.22	— .01
WstnGasRs	38.96	38.86	38.86	+ .15
WinnDixie	10.05	9.88	10.00	+ .09
Xerox Cp	10.79	10.60	10.77	+ .10
YumBrands	31.10	30.86	31.00	— .07

OCT 06 2003

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



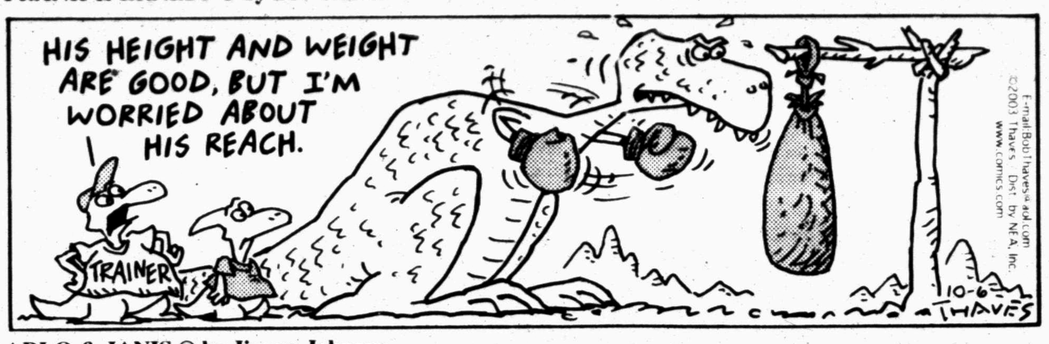
BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



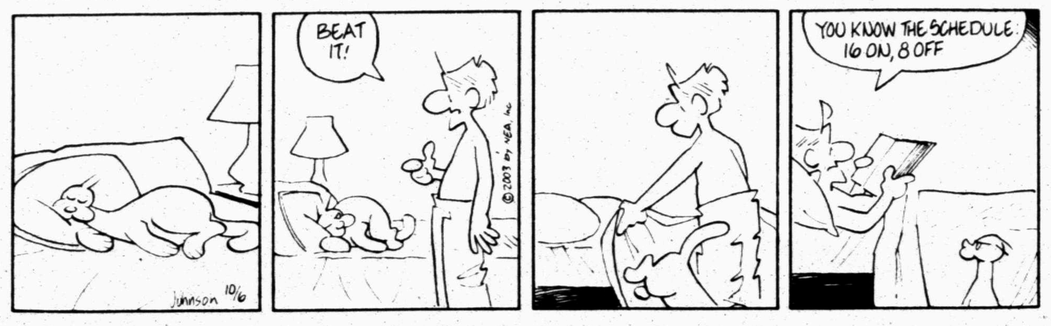
THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



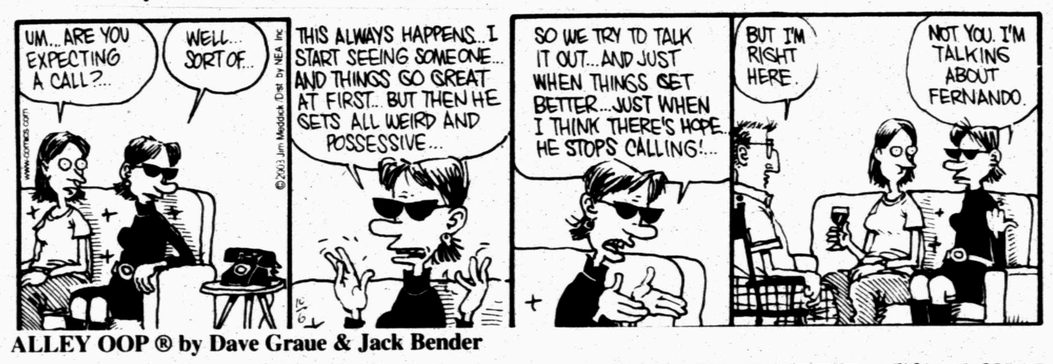
ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



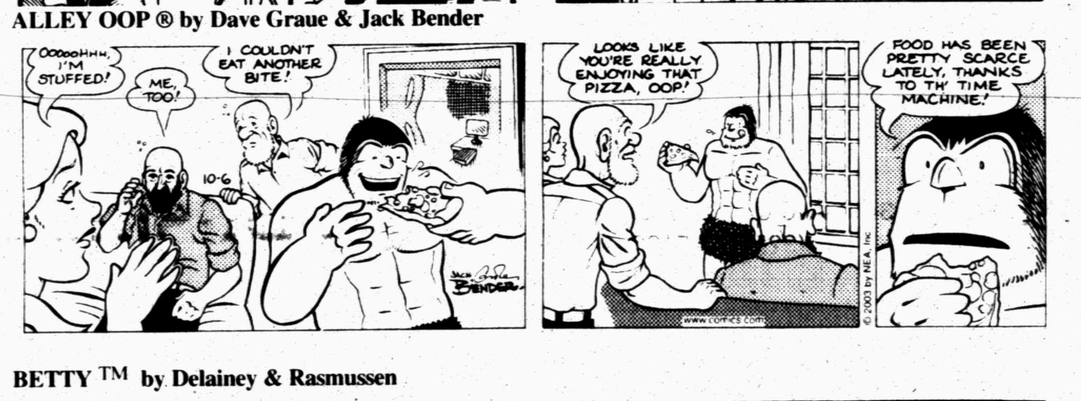
BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



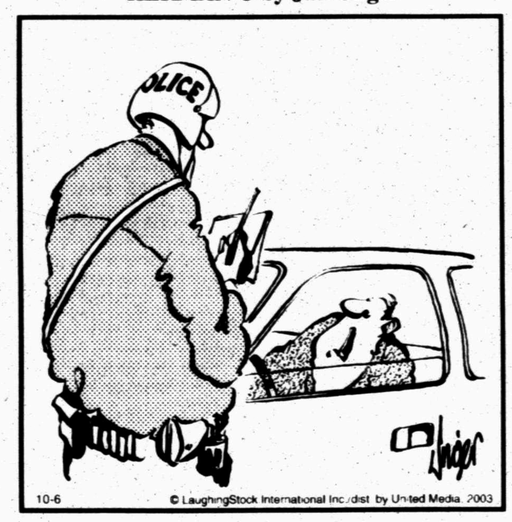
ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"I'll have a cheeseburger and a root beer."

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Parking lot mishap
5 Repair a seam
8 Cat's foot
11 Votes in favor
12 Big laugh (hyph.)
14 Frat letter
15 Uh-huh
16 Dickerson of the NFL
17 Response from space (hyph.)
18 Evaporated
20 Pics
22 Notes after dos
23 "— — the picture!"
24 Was compelled (2 wds.)
27 Completed
29 Earlier
30 City famous for art
34 Circumnavigator
37 Half of zwei
38 Do nothing
39 Foul-smelling
41 Reduced
43 "Unforgettable" singer
44 Least
46 Do well
49 Country addr.
50 Practically forever
52 Med. care providers
54 Royal pronoun
55 Kind of belt
56 Abu Dhabi leader
57 Family MDs
58 — Moines
59 Rajah's consort

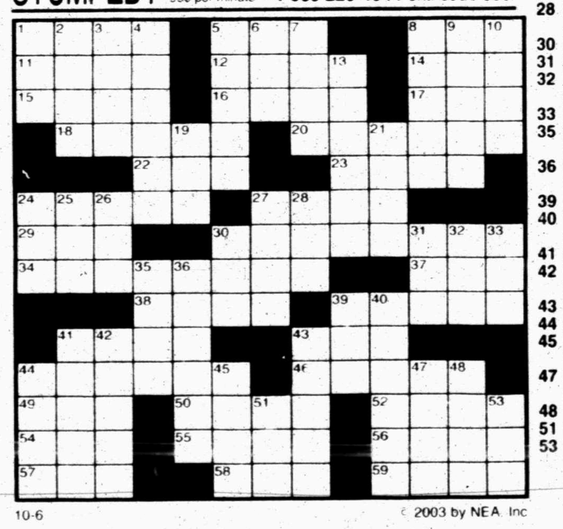
DOWN

1 24 hrs.
2 Viewed
3 Approach
4 Pullover (hyph.)
5 Drops
6 Corn unit
7 Beat
8 Chatter on
9 What an owl gives? (2 wds.)
10 Food steamers
13 More sore
19 Want-ad abbr.
21 Giant in fairy tales
24 Deli order
25 Turkish official
26 Pursue
27 Norse king
28 Wernher — Braun
30 Marlins' loc.
31 Hockey goal
32 102, to a centurion
33 Finish
35 "Who — was there?"
36 Insurance claims
39 Office machine
40 Writer on metal
41 Slowdown
42 Washstand items
43 Refuges
44 Amphibian
45 Drove a nail obliquely
47 Jane Austen title
48 Kind of roast
51 No, to a lassie
53 Hindu Mr.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"COULD I WATCH YOU COPE? MR. WILSON WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOU DO IT."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2003

In the year ahead it's possible that you may choose to make a change in course as to the direction you wish to take in life. It may not be an easy one, but if you're well equipped to do so, don't let others discourage you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — If you're not prepared to carry your share of the workload today, don't expect co-workers to do your jobs for you. Your cohorts will take their lead from the examples you set.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Don't be duped into buying something you can't afford just because someone else who is always competing with you does. Playing a game of one-upmanship can be expensive.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — It might be tempting to blame another for a mistake you make today just because you know you could get away with it. However, your scapegoat will find a way to make you pay in larger measures.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Life is a tough race in which to participate — adopting a negative attitude about it only lessens your desire to stay the course. Energize yourself with positive thinking before you enter the fray today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — This is one of those days when you could have your priorities mixed up and get them lopsided. If you reward the wrong people and ignore the deserving, it'll work against you.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Unless you are very careful today, you could put yourself in a position where the wrong people would control your agenda. Make certain that you are free to operate as you see fit.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You'd be wise not to be so anxious to tell everybody what you find disturbing about others. It opens up a discussion about your faults and whether you're qualified to judge anyone.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Although you like beautiful things and have great desires of acquiring them, hopes built upon fantasies today are destined for disappointment. Use realism in your drive for acquisition.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — It's far smarter to do what's important to you today on your own instead of dragging along someone who could confuse your thinking. Total focus on your cause is needed for success.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Show proper appreciation for another's participation in helping you today if you hope to have him or her stay on board until your project's conclusion. Praise for effort is little to ask in return.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — When a debt is other than financial, sometimes pressuring people who are obligated to you only makes them distance themselves further. Don't tell them when or how to reciprocate.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — It's a known fact that once Pandora's Box is open, it can be quite difficult to close again. If you know an issue arouses another's ire, there are good reasons why you should keep it under the lid.

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Discovery of remains ends agonizing wait

SEATTLE (AP) — For four terrifying years in the mid-1980s, dozens of missing women turned up dead in western Washington state, their bodies left near rivers and ravines, interstates and airports.

Then it stopped. One set of remains was found in 1989, but for the next decade there was nothing — and little hope of ever finding seven missing women listed among the 49 victims of the Green River killer.

That changed this summer, as detectives painstakingly searched sites old and new to discover four more sets of remains, three of them positively identified as members of the missing seven.

"You want this day to come but you don't want this day to come," said Marilyn Molina, 37, whose only sister, Marie Malvar, was the latest to be found.

Meanwhile, investigators are continuing to search. They returned Sunday to the Green River south of Seattle, where the first bodies were found in 1982 and where the killer got his name.

King County sheriff's detectives aren't saying what changed this summer.

Air group units back at base first time since 9-11

ABILENE (AP) — With the return of hundreds of airmen from overseas duty, all units of a Dyess Air Force Base support group are now back home together for the first time since the East Coast terrorist attacks, military officials say.

More than 200 members of the 317th Airlift Group returned Sunday from deployments in Asia, joining more than 50 others from the unit who had a homecoming Friday along with several airmen of the 7th Bomb Wing.

Family members and Air Force officers watched 12 C-130s land in formation, Col. Richard Johnston, commander of the 317th Airlift Group, said he felt "incredible pride" at its participation in military missions.

"In the past two years, the U.S., along with numerous coalition partners, removed the Taliban from Afghanistan, removed the Iraqi regime from power, and degraded and damaged worldwide terrorist networks," Johnston said.

Airmen of the 317th moved troops, equipment and prisoners as well as providing humanitarian relief and performing other missions. The forces faced extreme conditions ranging from heat and dust to snow and mud, said Lt. Col. David Miller, commander of the 317th Operational Support Squadron.

"The combat missions flown were under the most challenging conditions encountered since the Vietnam War," Miller told the Abilene Reporter-News in. They were flown at more than twice the pace they were maintaining before 9/11."

Units of the 1,200-member 317th Airlift Group have continuously rotated in and out of Central and Southwest Asia since deploying soon after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Among the hundreds of people at the latest homecoming was Amber Schutz, 7, who held a U.S. flag and a "Welcome home Daddy" poster moments before her father arrived in Abilene in a C-130 cargo plane. In the three months while her father, Lawrence Schutz, was deployed in Asia, she said she has missed "his big bear hugs."

Master Sgt. Bill Lincicome, a Dyess public information officer, said the 7th Bomb Wing had a similar homecoming late this spring.

Your Complete Area

Business Directory

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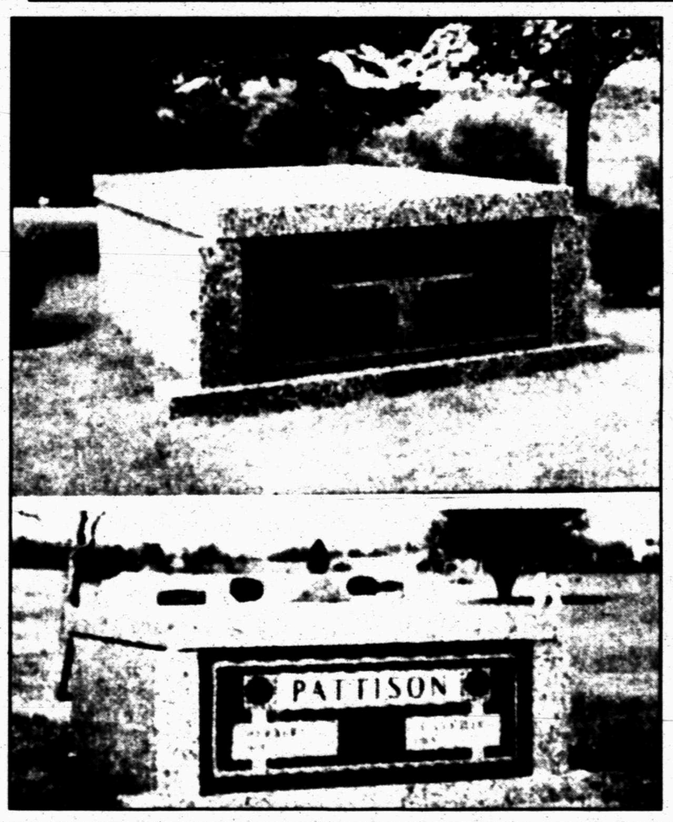
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Rodney & Theresa Dupree
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Snyder, Texas 79549
Phone: 325/573-3851, 325/573-5260

Daisy Lewis
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BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

Spotlight



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Hillside Memorial Gardens
Colorado City Hwy.
573-5251 Night 573-5536

Hillside Memorial Gardens, located on the Colorado City Highway, has been serving Snyder and the Scurry County area for many years.

Hillside Memorial Gardens is a perpetual care cemetery governed by the State Banking Department. The one price you pay for perpetual care is the only one you ever have to pay.

Lots at Hillside Memorial Gardens are reasonably priced and they offer a Pre-Need Financial Plan of only 20 percent down and small monthly payments without interest or carrying charges.

Granite and bronze memorials are available at Hillside Monument Works and Greg Graves goes to great lengths to see that the finished product is one that reflects the individualism of the loved one for whom it is created.

W.C. and Greg Graves realize they provide an important service to the community and work hard to maintain the trust and confidence of the people. Give them a call at 573-5251 and they will be happy to counsel with you concerning your present or future needs.

OCT 06 2003

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Bush establishes new task force for Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is taking a more direct role in the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan amid growing criticism over the high costs, rising casualties and frustrating setbacks.

A classified memorandum established the Iraq Stabilization Group within the White House under Condoleezza Rice, the national security adviser to President Bush. Officials said the move would give the White House more accountability for rebuilding efforts and provide Rice with authority to spur the bureaucracy.

"Condi's job, and Condi's team is going to make sure that the efforts are continued to be coordinated so that we continue to make progress," Bush said at an East Room news conference with the president of Kenya, Mwai Kibaki.

"And listen, we're making good progress in Iraq," the president said. "Sometimes it's hard to tell it when you listen to the filter (of critics). We're making good progress."

The move gives the White House stronger control over how the United States spends tens of billions of dollars in the rebuilding process. Bush has asked Congress for $87 billion for reconstruction and military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We're going to have a lot more resources when that passes," said presidential spokesman Scott McClellan. "We want to, here in Washington, help assist the Pentagon and the Coalition Provisional Authority to put those resources to the best possible use."

The memo gives National Security Council teams direct oversight in four areas: counterterrorism, economic issues, political issues and the media. The Pentagon and Coalition Provisional Authority will continue to play the lead role, but the order gives the White House a strong oversight responsibility, officials said.

The new step comes as polls show that doubts are growing about Bush's ability to deal with international crises. A CBS-New York Times poll last week found that 45 percent say they have confidence in Bush's ability on international crises and 50 percent said they do not.

Supreme Court passes on Bible club meeting at public school

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court turned aside a church-state fight over a Bible club given permission by a lower court to meet in a public school during classtime.

Attorneys for a school superintendent in the state of Washington argued that a federal appeals court was far out of bounds when it ruled in favor of the Bible club last year. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals held that the club, called World Changers, should be treated the same as other school clubs and allowed to use school space and supplies.

Spanaway Lake High School set aside classtime each morning for students to receive tutoring, do homework, attend assemblies or attend meetings of clubs approved by the school. Attendance at some approved activity was mandatory.

"No other court has ever held that religious clubs have the right to meet in a public school during instructional time when attendance is mandated," the school's lawyers argued in court papers.

The ruling by a three-judge panel of the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a lower court's dismissal of a complaint filed five years ago by Tausha Prince, then a sophomore at the Tacoma-area school.

Prince argued the school district violated her First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and religion, as well as the Equal Access Act, a 1984 law forbidding public schools that take federal money from excluding religious or political extracurricular clubs if they allow others.

Officials with the Bethel School District maintained that it allowed Prince and her classmates in World Changers to meet at school by establishing a separate category of student-run religious organizations.

The school noted that the club's stated goals include a pledge to "Evangelize our campus for Jesus Christ," and to "teach students that Jesus Christ is the Answer to the confusion, pain and uncertainty this world offers."

Attempted arson reported in Snyder

• ***Attempted arson***

Emalda Garcia of 2204 43rd St. requested to speak to an officer at 12:52 p.m. Sunday as someone had thrown a bottle wrapped in a rag through her window. Officer Kyle Burleson responded and filed a report for attempted arson that remains under investigation.

• ***Arrests***

At 49-year-old male was arrested Saturday afternoon in the 2500 block of Avenue V for no driver license, failure to have liability insurance and expired motor vehicle registration.

DPS troopers arrested a 24-year-old male at 1:59 a.m. Sunday near Dunn for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

• ***Thefts***

Sonny Hataway told officers at 1 p.m. Saturday that some tools had been stolen out of the back of his pickup. An offense report for burglary of a vehicle was filed from 900 28th St.

A Class C report for theft of a bicycle was submitted at 5:23 p.m. Saturday from the 4400 block of Avenue U.

• ***Attempted burglary***

Lawanda Bills told deputies at 7:40 p.m. Sunday that someone had tried to break out the windows in a door of a house on CR 465. A report for attempted burglary was submitted by Deputy Les Thomas.

• ***Criminal mischief***

Deputies were called to A&B Transport Saturday afternoon in reference to additional criminal mischief found at the business.

• ***Assault***

An offense report for Class B assault was filed Saturday afternoon following an altercation in the Greenhill Addition.

• ***Rattlesnakes***

Officers were called to the 4700 and 4800 blocks of El Paso over the weekend as rattlesnakes were spotted.

• ***Overdose***

An offense report for overdose was submitted at 11:26 Saturday night.

• ***Threats***

At 4:55 a.m. Sunday, a man came into the sheriff's department and reported another man had threatened him with a knife.

Obituaries

Mettie Caperton

Graveside service for Mettie Lee Westbrook Whitson Caperton is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Snyder Cemetery. The Rev. Charles Day, pastor of the Avenue D Baptist Church, will officiate. Arrangements are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Mrs. Caperton died Saturday, Oct. 4, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital after a long illness.

She married Raymond Whitson in the early 1930s in Brady. She married Ford Caperton on May 6, 1961 in Abilene. He died May 6, 1981.

A resident of Snyder since 1961, she and her husband operated several grocery stores in Snyder. Mrs. Caperton was a member of the American Legion and the Sons of Hermann Lodge.

Survivors include a daughter, Barbara Hollis of Corpus Christi; a son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Christine Whitson of Pacific, Wash.; two grandchildren, Shelby Wade Hollis of Edinburg and Heidi Johanson of Arcadia, Calif.; and two great-grandchildren, Sven Gunner and Ana Korin Johanson of Arcadia.

Memorials may be made to the Cogdell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Foundation Fund.

Paid Obituary

Jerrie Dolen

1954-2003

AUSTIN — Jerrie Lynn Dolen, a former Snyder resident, died Wednesday, Oct. 1, at her home in Austin.

Cremation was planned and a memorial service for Miss Dolen, 49, will be announced.

Born June 4, 1954 in Colorado City, she was the daughter of Marilyn Mace and Isaac "Ike" Dolen Jr.

She lived in Durango from 1954-72 and graduated from Durango High School in 1972. She attended Texas Tech University and the University of Houston, graduating in 1976 with a degree in art history.

Miss Dolen was a goldsmith jewelry designer. She owned galleries in Santa Fe and in Couer d'Alene, Idaho. She later earned her certification as a real estate appraiser in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Survivors include three sisters, Karen J. Marcea of Mancos, Anita A. Dolen of Green Mountain Falls and Molly'o Hoover of Bayfield; her grandmother, Beatrice Gilmore of Mancos; a special niece, Shannon Hoover; and a special friend, Renee Dolen.

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Hundreds keep vigil for injured magician

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Ildiko Pataki, a veteran acrobat of the Siegfried & Roy show, heard a loud commotion and instantly knew something had gone badly wrong at The Mirage.

Minutes later, Pataki watched as paramedics rolled out a bloodied Roy Horn on a stretcher. What many feared could happen had finally happened to the Las Vegas icon during a sold-out performance: A tiger had mauled him.

"I was just petrified," said Pataki, 42, who had been with the show for 14 years. "I still cannot tell you how I feel about it. It was a nightmare."

Pataki was one of more than 200 people, many of them show employees, who turned out for a candlelight vigil Sunday night at University Medical Center, where co-headliner Horn is being treated.

Horn, 59, suffered a severe wound to his neck when the 7-year-old male named Montecore attacked without warning Friday night in front of hundreds of people. Nobody was sure Horn would survive, but MGM officials finally delivered some good news at the vigil.

MGM Mirage Resort CEO Bobby Baldwin said Horn's prognosis had improved. Doctors told Baldwin that Horn, who was in critical condition, could move his hands and feet and also gave a thumbs-up sign. Horn remained in critical but stable condition Monday, the hospital said.

Those who attended the vigil chanted, "We love you, Roy!" They described the people who worked in the show as a "tight-knit family" that had been rocked twice.

First, they almost lost Horn. Now they had lost their jobs. With the co-headliner's future uncertain, MGM Mirage officials told the show's 267 employees Saturday night to look for new employment.

MGM Mirage officials said the show was "closed indefinitely." They added that even if Horn recovers, it's unclear whether he would ever be able to perform again in the rigorous show.

"We are not going to sugarcoat this," MGM Mirage spokesman Alan Feldman said.

That left show employees wondering about their future and whether the company would pay out the rest of their contracts.

"We are worried about him, but we also basically lost our jobs," said 42-year-old Mary Bryan, a single mother who worked with the acrobats. "We gave this show our heart and soul. It's awful we have to think about money at a time like this."

MGM Mirage officials have promised to help employees land new jobs.

Without the show, the fate of the tigers is also unknown. Montecore continues to be quarantined at the hotel, officials said.

Births

Alicia Wagner of Snyder announces the birth of her daughter, McKenize L'sha King, at 3:57 a.m. on Oct. 5 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. She weighed seven pounds, six ounces.

Paternal grandparents are David and Lola Wagner, and maternal grandmother is Burdie Anderson, all of Snyder.

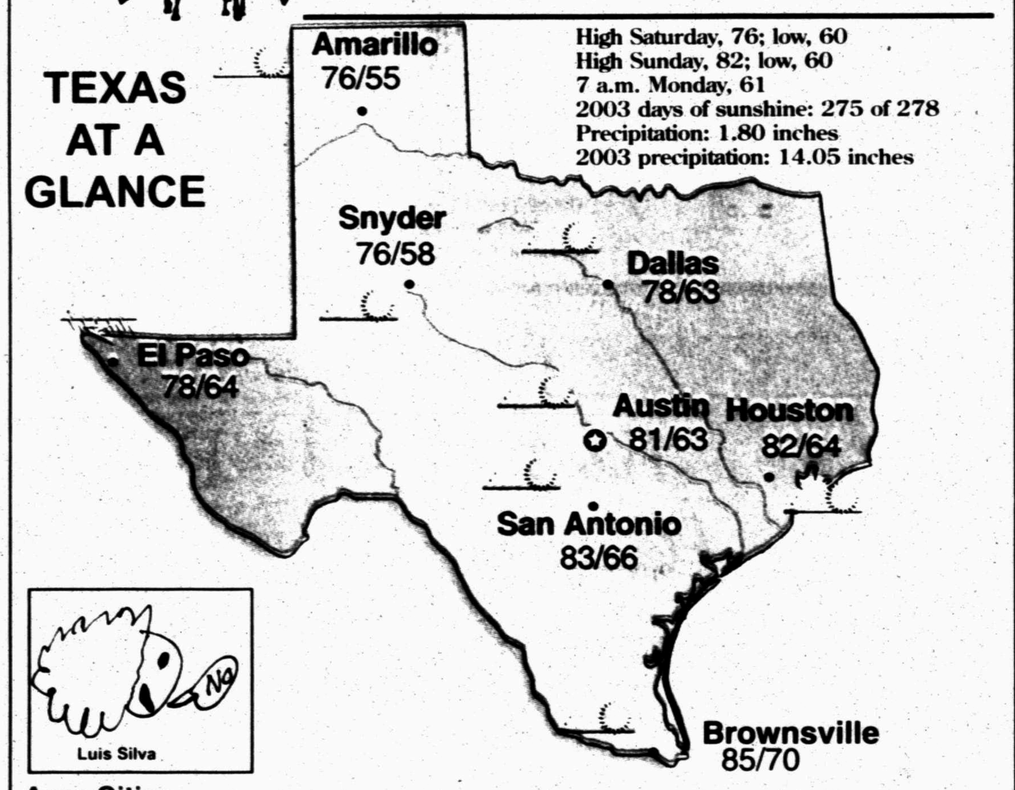
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Tue 10/7	Wed 10/8	Thu 10/9
76/58	78/59	79/57
Partly cloudy skies. High 76F Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 50s.	Slight chance of a thunderstorm.
Sunrise 7:42 AM Sunset 7:21 PM	Sunrise 7:42 AM Sunset 7:20 PM	Sunrise 7:43 AM Sunset 7:18 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



High Saturday, 76; low, 60
High Sunday, 82; low, 60
7 a.m. Monday, 61
2003 days of sunshine: 275 of 278
Precipitation: 1.80 inches
2003 precipitation: 14.05 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	78	62	pt sunny	El Paso	78	64	t-storm	Midland	80	62	rain
Amarillo	76	55	pt sunny	Fort Stockton	80	62	rain	Raymondville	86	67	pt sunny
Austin	81	63	pt sunny	Gainesville	77	57	pt sunny	Rosenberg	83	63	pt sunny
Beaumont	81	61	pt sunny	Greenville	77	57	pt sunny	San Antonio	83	66	pt sunny
Brownsville	85	70	pt sunny	Houston	82	64	pt sunny	San Marcos	82	64	pt sunny
Brownwood	82	61	pt sunny	Kingsville	85	67	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	78	56	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	83	68	pt sunny	Livingston	81	59	pt sunny	Sweetwater	78	60	pt sunny
Corsicana	79	59	pt sunny	Longview	78	57	pt sunny	Tyler	79	60	pt sunny
Dallas	78	63	pt sunny	Lubbock	77	59	pt sunny	Weatherford	78	57	pt sunny
Del Rio	85	69	pt sunny	Lufkin	80	60	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	78	58	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	69	54	t-storm	Houston	82	64	pt sunny	Phoenix	83	73	t-storm
Boston	61	47	mst sunny	Los Angeles	76	62	pt sunny	San Francisco	70	56	pt sunny
Chicago	77	55	mst sunny	Miami	86	75	pt sunny	Seattle	60	49	rain
Dallas	78	63	pt sunny	Minneapolis	78	58	sunny	St. Louis	80	55	sunny
Denver	76	48	pt sunny	New York	63	50	mst sunny	Washington, DC	68	53	pt sunny

Moon Phases

First	Full	Last	New
Oct 2	Oct 10	Oct 18	Oct 25

UV Index

Tue 10/7	Wed 10/8	Thu 10/9
7 High	7 High	7 High

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV index showing the need for greater skin protection. 0 — 11

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