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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY

March 1, 2004
Vol. 55 No. 262
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Margaret Weaver

MAR 01 2004

County commissioners okay senior tax break

By Annie Rowe
SDN Staff Writer

Scurry County senior citizens and those who are disabled are getting a tax break from Scurry County.

County commissioners this morning unanimously approved the Over-65/Disabled Residence Homestead Ceiling as enacted in the 2003 regular session of the Texas Legislature.

The tax ceiling is almost identical in operation to the tax ceiling that has been in place for school districts for years.

David Ellis, a tax attorney for the county who is with the law firm of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins and Mott, answered questions for commissioners court and explained the implementation and the effects of the ceiling for the county during today's meeting.

Ellis provided a printed overview to aid in his explanation.

"As you know, this provision is similar to the one already in effect for schools," said Ellis. "It's been extended to cities, counties and junior college districts."

According to the handout, the ceiling is not a limitation on value, it is a limitation on the tax levy of the particular taxing entity which chooses to enact it. Once a taxpayer qualifies his or her homestead for the ceiling, the assessor will make a note of the levy that first year. In the next full year, the assessor will compare the second years levy with the first year and the ceiling will be set at the lesser of those two amounts. The reason for this is that if a taxpayer qualifies a property as a residence after January 1 of any given year, they will only receive the exemption for that homestead in that year. Should the home have an optional percentage exemption, it would go into place the next year, which would lessen the amount of levy and the amount of the ceiling.

"Should you choose to adopt the ceiling, the appraisals will still fluctuate," said Ellis. "It allows the tax rate to go down if the appraisals go down so long as the qualified owner or surviving spouse is living in the home."

While considering the option, the commissioners were faced with the decision of deciding how the ceiling would be put into effect. According to the overview, it could be done by either the court enacting it by a majority vote or by a petition signed by five percent of the registered voters in the county that would force an election.

Prior to the approval, Judge Rod Waller pointed out the cost factors involved with holding an election.

"The cost of the election for the hospital district was approximately $6,000. In the September general election, 82 percent of Scurry County voters were in favor of setting a ceiling for ad valorem taxes. Calling for five percent of the population to sign a petition would not be cost-effective. We would spend more holding the election," he said.

Technically the ceiling will go into effect immediately as residents will begin qualifying for the ceiling for the 2004 tax year. However, the impact will not take effect until 2005.

There were no line item transfers or budget amendments submitted to the court.

Judge Waller presided over the meeting with all commissioners present to include Howard Limmer, Ralph Trevey, Jerry House and Chloanne Lindsey.

City manager evaluation on evening's council agenda

Snyder's city council will meet at 6:30 this evening and among the agenda items is the annual evaluation of City Manager John Gayle.

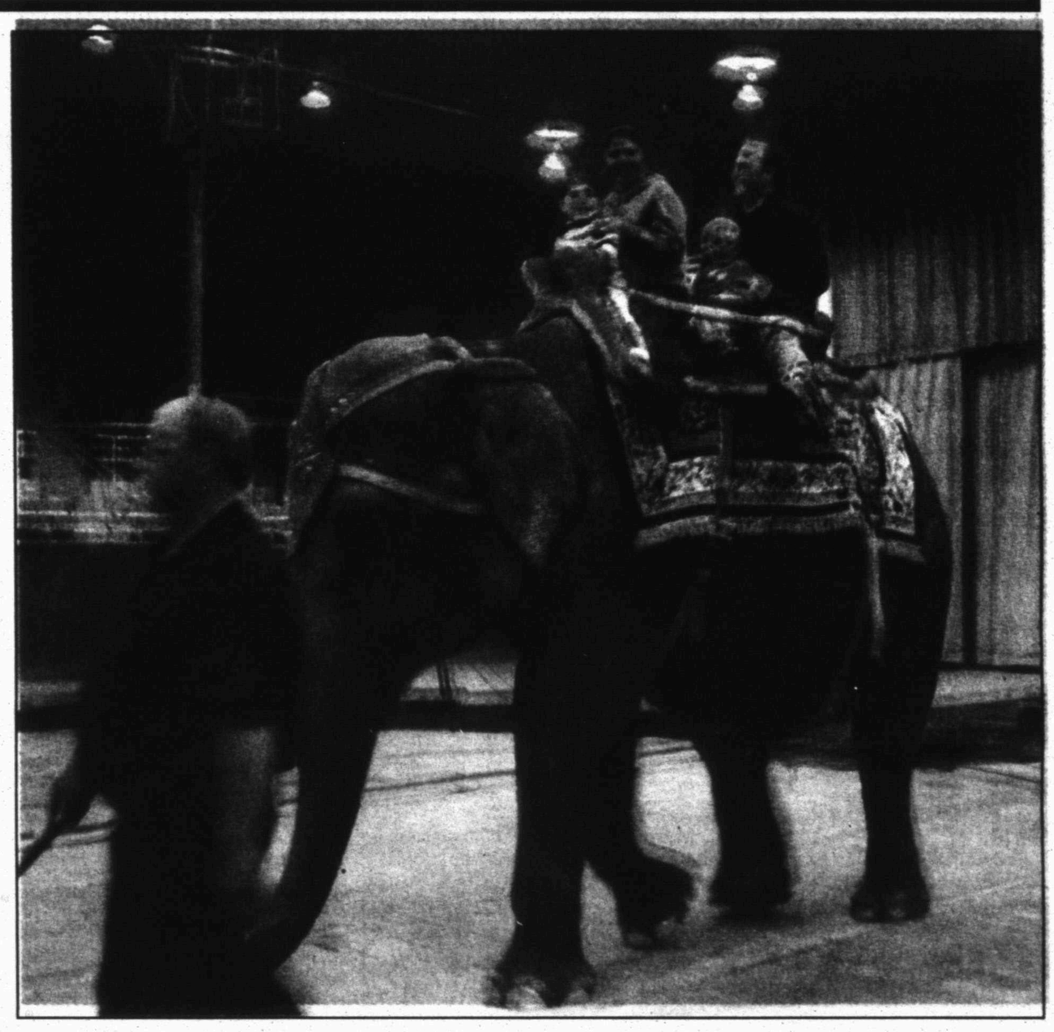
The council will conduct the evaluation of Gayle in closed session.

Police Chief Steve Warren also will present the annual racial profiling report, and the council will consider a request to name April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The council also will review the city's "set-back" ordinance as it pertains to building in back yards of residences.

Bids will be reviewed for a sanitation truck and two pick-ups, plus maintenance on the West water tower.

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



PACKED PACHYDERM — Kids of all ages enjoyed a ride around the ring on "Wanda", one of the star attractions of the performances of Circus Gatti at the Scurry County Coliseum on Sunday. Katherine Rivera and mother Maria Pineda, along with Andy and Jax Weaver were among the attendees who enjoyed the rare treat. (SDN Staff Photo by Annie Rowe)

Snowstorm closes roads in four states

By The Associated Press

Heavy snow blown by wind up to 45 mph closed hundreds of miles of highways today in South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska, shutting down schools and at least one city government.

More than a foot of snow had fallen in parts of Wyoming, with 30 inches in the Colorado mountains, and snow drifted on roads in South Dakota on today as fast as plows could clear them.

"It's been snowing since Saturday night," totaling about 15 inches, said manager Norene Dvorak at the Mid-America Travel Plaza at Belle Fourche, S.D. Drifts were 5 feet high, as high as the letters on some stop signs, she said.

Four teenage boys from the Lead-Deadwood area of South Dakota's Black Hills were missing on a drive home from a wrestling tournament at Aberdeen in the northeastern part of the state, said Sue Black, dispatch supervisor with the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office in Deadwood.

They called a friend in Newell, about 30 miles north of Deadwood, late Sunday "and they haven't been heard from since," Black said today. She didn't know where they called from or how they were traveling.

The storm was headed toward the northeast, and the National Weather Service issued winter weather advisories for eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota, saying light snow and freezing rain were possible.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol closed 110 miles of Interstate 90 from Wall to the Wyoming state line because of snow, drifting and visibility that was down to zero in places.

"We're pretty full here with truckers," said Debbie Olney, a cashier at the Badlands Travel Stop along I-90 at Kadoka, S.D. "It's snowing and blowing, and we've got drifts."

Western Nebraska had 8 to 10 inches of snow, and a 100-mile stretch of Interstate 80 was closed from Big Springs to the Wyoming line, along with other highways in the Panhandle and southwestern Nebraska.

"A lot of cars are stalled in the streets because there are so many drifts," State Patrol dispatcher Dave Jacobs said in Scottsbluff, Neb.

SNOW EVERYWHERE —While snow was hampering travelers in South Dakota, Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming today, heavy snow Friday collasped this gas station canopy in North Carolina. (AP Photo)

Relative of missing family faces charges

YAZOO CITY, Miss. (AP) — A relative of three family members who vanished on Valentine's Day will face charges related to their disappearance, a law enforcement official said today.

Earnest Lee Hargon, arrested Friday on unrelated drug charges, was taken today to a Yazoo County courtroom to face multiple felony counts directly related to the disappearance of Michael and Rebecca Hargon and their 4-year-old son, James Patrick, said Warren Strain, a spokesman for the Mississippi Highway Patrol.

Earnest Hargon is an adopted cousin of Michael Hargon.

Blood and spent bullet casings were discovered at the family's home in Yazoo County after the three disappeared. Investigators have not found a .22-caliber weapon that apparently was fired in the home.

Strain said investigators went back to Smith County, where Hargon lives, after "some profound developments" happened overnight. Strain would not elaborate.

A hearing that had been set for the cattle truck driver from Taylorsville was postponed until today afternoon.

Over the weekend, teams of investigators using tracking dogs, off-road vehicles, horses and a helicopter had searched areas near Hargon's rural Smith County property about 100 miles southeast of here.

Strain said earlier that authorities still had no idea as to the whereabouts of the couple and their son, all of the Vaughan community.

In Smith County, Earnest Hargon was named in a single charge of possession of methamphetamines while also in possession of a firearm. Hargon was carrying less than an ounce of the drug, authorities said Sunday.

Strain said possible evidence was found Saturday at Hargon's property in Smith County but would not elaborate.

"We've done everything we can do here," Strain said Sunday. "Not being able to locate the Hargon family will have zero effect on going forward with the charges."

Investigators also have been checking a piece of land that Michael Hargon recently inherited from his uncle, Charles Hargon, to determine if it is linked to the disappearance, said Jennifer Hargon, Michael's sister.

Earnest Hargon, Charles Hargon's adopted son, was not included in the will, she said. Strain said the Madison County property is a consideration in the case, but not necessarily a motive.

"It could be a potential motive, but it's not the only one," Strain said, adding that other evidence collected in the searches has linked Earnest Hargon.

ANSWERS QUESTIONS — Mississippi State Highway Patrol spokesman Warren Strain, left, and Smith County Sheriff Charlie Crompton respond to questions about the family's disappearance. (AP Photo)

Hermleigh ISD to hold open house

Hermleigh schools will hold an open house this evening from 5:30-7 in observance of Public School Week in Texas.

In addition, the Hermleigh Masonic Lodge will have a pancake supper from 6-7 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

Snyder schools traditionally hold open houses in the fall, but Stanfield and West Elementaries have special events planned this week.

Tuesday morning, Stanfield will have Donuts for Dads beginning at 7:30, and Muffins for Moms Wednesday morning at 7:30.

West Elementary will have Muffins for Moms at 7:45 Tuesday morning, and Donuts for Dads Wednesday morning at 7:45.

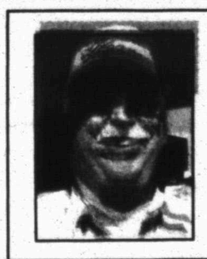
Ira ISD will hold an open house later this month on March 23.

ASK US

Q—When is Texas Tech's last home conference basketball game?

A—Saturday at 12:30 p.m. against Iowa State.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Gary Bergeron...

...was raised in Snyder, moved away and returned two years ago. He is married to Tommie Sue and they have three children, Tracy Bergeron of Garland, Brett Bergeron of Houston and Caroline Vega of Palm Springs, Calif. Gary enjoys the outdoors, especially fishing and hunting.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Don't talk unless you can improve the silence.
—New England saying

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Football booster club

The SHS football booster club will meet at 7 p.m. tonight at China Dragon.

Pancake supper

The Hermleigh Masonic Lodge will host its annual pancake supper at 6 p.m. Monday in conjunction with open house at the Hermleigh school.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "The Threat of Apostasy," followed by "Live Life."

AA meeting

An AA meeting is held at noon every Tuesday at the Witherspoon house next door to the First Presbyterian Church. The meeting is non-smoking and closed. For more information, call 574-2656.

Stanfield reception

To celebrate public school week, Stanfield Elementary will host Donuts for Dad at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday and Muffins for Mom at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday.

West Elementary invites parents

As part of public school week, West Elementary will host Muffins for Mom Tuesday and Donuts for Dad on Wednesday. Both events are from 7:45 to 8:20 a.m.

West science fair

The West Elementary 6th Grade Science Fair will be held Tuesday and Wednesday at the Towle Park Barn. The public is invited to view the exhibits on Tuesday, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and on Wednesday from 8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. There is no admission charge.

FFA boosters to meet

Snyder FFA Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the high school ag building.

Free income tax help

There is free help with income taxes every Wednesday from 9 a.m. until noon and 1-3 p.m. at the senior center at 2603 Ave. M.

What's up guidelines

Items for What's Up will be published twice at no charge, the day before and the day of the event. Events or activities requiring additional publicity will be referred to the advertising department where a special non-profit rate is available.

Troops are focused on Iraq duty while readying for return home

TIKRIT, Iraq (AP) — With only weeks before thousands of war-weary American soldiers return home, the U.S. military is reminding them to stay focused on Iraq's lingering threats while preparing them for reintegration with their families and communities.

Recognizing the anxieties facing soldiers wanting to return to their loved ones, military commanders have been drilling their forces to keep concentrated on their daily missions in order to prevent any casualties occurring so late into their year-long deployments.

At the same time, many soldiers are facing difficulties of a different kind on the home front, from relationship dramas to financial woes, realities that the military is also trying to counter by sitting soldiers down to compulsory briefings on how to acclimatize to their home environments after spending the past year in a war zone.

Recognizing that the hardships of war, anxieties about their return home and an inability to readjust into American society can be a deadly mixture, the military has embarked on an awareness offensive to keep troops' minds focussed.

The chaplain of the Tikrit-based 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, Capt. Xuan Tran, 42, said Sunday that in June-July 2002, five American soldiers from Fort Bragg, N.C., returned from duties and either killed their wives, children or themselves.

"We want to have our soldiers avoid that," he told The Associated Press between one of several counseling sessions he delivered to soldiers in Tikrit.

After returning to the United States, soldiers will also undergo about a week of counseling to help them settle back into ordinary American life.

"When soldiers get home they are tired, stressed and exhausted," Tran said. "If they don't have the ability to resolve conflicts peacefully they will use force or weapons. Over here they can use force every day to handle situations and that is they only thing they know.

"If some don't know how to resolve conflicts peacefully, they will kill their wives, children and themselves and we want to avoid that."

Tran said unfaithfulness from spouses, relationship separation and financial difficulties were the hardest things returning soldiers could be expected to face, and it was such potentialities that he said the military was trying to deal with before the troops leave Iraq.

Lt. Col. Steve Russell, the 1st Battalion's commander, said for many soldiers, Iraq was their first combat deployment, and, therefore, its experiences have affected them in various ways.

"For most of these young men, this is the longest they have been away from home and the first time they have experienced wartime service," Russell said. "Now, the men are excited about going home but they also understand that they can't let anything prevent them from getting there."

Doing so looks like it won't be too hard.

Many soldiers interviewed here say they will be doing whatever it takes to stay safe with so little time left in Iraq.

"After spending all this time here, it would be terrible to have something happen to stop me from making it over the finishing line," said Staff Sgt. Temu Gibson, 33, of Fort Hood, Texas, where the 4th Infantry Division is based.

Gibson, who like most of the thousands of soldiers based in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit has been in Iraq for about a year, said he was virtually counting down the minutes until he returned home in early- to mid-March.

"Going home is all I think about."

But he said there was one doubt he had about his departure.

"That drive to Kuwait from Tikrit is the only concern for me," he said. The insurgents' "usual methods of attack are mere cowardice, where they use IEDs. (improvised explosive devices) and RPGs (rocket propelled grenades). They don't confront us face-to-face."

Southern California grocery workers ratify tentative pact

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Long-idled Southern California grocery workers will soon be back stocking produce and manning checkouts after union members approved a new contract, ending a strike that inconvenienced millions of customers and cost millions more in lost sales.

After a two-day vote, 86 percent of grocery workers who cast ballots approved a three-year contract negotiated by the United Food and Commercial Workers union, concluding their five-month strike and lockout.

The contract covers 70,000 workers, a majority of them employed by Albertsons Inc.; Kroger Co., which operates Ralphs stores; and Safeway Inc., which operates Vons and Pavilions.

It requires employees to pay for health benefits for the first time and includes two one-time bonuses for hours already worked. The contract does not include raises.

It's expected to take several days for the grocery clerks to return to their jobs, said Barbara Maynard, a union spokeswoman. "It simply takes time to schedule everyone," she said Sunday. "Some people may or may not go back."

It was not yet known whether replacement workers would be immediately released.

Many employees who said they voted to ratify the contract said they were eager to return to their jobs. Some said the contract was not much different from one they received from their employers in October — one that was rejected at the time by the union.

Sunny Kim, 32, a service manager at Ralphs, said she was disappointed with the final results, even though she hadn't seen the contract. "Why did we go on strike? I lost a lot of money for nothing. I think the guys were misled," Kim said.

Still, she said she felt "wonderful" about the opportunity to go back to work.

That feeling was shared by Letecia Sartain, 36, a Ralphs cashier, who said the contract looked "pretty good." She expects to answer a lot of questions from customers about the strike in the coming weeks.

"It's going to be kind of weird going back after almost five months of being out," she added.

The new contract separates current workers from those hired after Oct. 5, when the old contract expired. New employees would receive a lower wage rate, and it would take them longer to get raises, according to a union fact sheet given to workers.

The new contract also relegates new hires to a separate, "basic" health plan. Current employees won't have to pay premiums in the first two years of the contract, but they could end up having to pay $5 a week for individual coverage or up to $15 a week for family coverage in the third year of the deal.

Under their previous contract, workers paid no premiums for health benefits and a $10 copay for doctor's visits and prescriptions.

Union leaders ordered a strike against Vons and Pavilions chains on Oct. 11. Albertsons and Ralphs then locked out their employees. In all, about 59,000 workers were idled. Others continued working at other markets through a special agreement.

Union leaders said they wanted to protect affordable health care, pensions and job security.

Houston having billion dollar shortfall in pension program

HOUSTON (AP) — City officials say they will have to change Houston's generous city pension program, which has a billion dollar shortfall after a firm underestimated how much it would cost to implement.

The Houston Municipal Employees Pension System, which covers about 12,000 workers, offers benefits far more generous than those offered in Dallas, Phoenix, Denver and Philadelphia, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The funding problems can be traced to 2001, when former Mayor Lee Brown's administration agreed to increase benefits, based on a report by a firm that does work for the city's independent pension boards, all of which are controlled by employees and retirees.

The report, by Towers Perrin, indicated Houston would not have to contribute more than 14 percent of its payroll, but last year the firm refigured its numbers and told the city it should now be contributing 32 percent of payroll.

The revised program gave retirees with 25 years of service 89 percent of their annual income, compared with just 53 percent in 1993. It required only 20 years of service to qualify for 65 percent of income, while other cities require 25 to 35 years.

A special deferred-retirement program could allow some long-time employees to get million-dollar payouts in addition to their monthly benefits.

While many public pensions across the nation are underfunded because of the recent poor performance of their investments, Houston's problem was due to the generous plan and poor understanding of its effects, said Joe Esuchanko of Actuarial Service Co. of Troy, Mich., who wrote a new analysis for the city.

Esuchanko said Towers Perrin seriously underestimated the true cost of the benefit changes.

Towers Perrin declined to comment.

Current Mayor Bill White said the city will be forced to make changes.

Terry Nichols trial underway

McALESTER, Okla. (AP) — Terry Nichols, already serving a federal life sentence for his role in the Oklahoma City bombing, went on trial today on state murder charges that could bring the death penalty.

The trial began with the start of jury selection. It was expected to take two weeks to select 12 jurors and six alternates. About 150 prospective jurors filled the court today and awaited questions from the judge and attorneys.

"The process is going to take some time," District Judge Steven Taylor told the prospective jurors. "Your candor and your frankness is extremely important. I'm going to do the best I can to keep the inconvenience factor as low as possible."

Earlier today, Taylor rejected a defense motion to postpone the trial pending an FBI review of some aspects of the bombing investigation.

After disclosures in an Associated Press story last week, the FBI on Friday ordered agents to determine why some documents did not properly reach the bureau's Oklahoma City task force during the original investigation. The documents concern the question of whether there may have been additional accomplices.

Taylor said federal and state government officials have assured him that all relevant material that Nichols' attorneys could use to show his innocence has been provided. But he said that if it turns out some important material has not been turned over, he will dismiss the case.

Prosecutors allege that Nichols conspired with Timothy McVeigh to build a 4,000-pound bomb of ammonium nitrate fertilizer and fuel oil that destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building to avenge the FBI siege at Waco two years earlier.

Nichols' attorneys say there is evidence of a wider conspiracy and that Nichols was set up.

Today's chuckle

Some moviegoers don't like 666 on ticket

ROME, Ga. (AP) — Tickets at one movie theater screening Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" are being deemed decidedly unholy.

The number 666, which many Christians recognize as the "mark of the beast," is appearing on movie tickets for Gibson's film at a Georgia theater, drawing complaints from some moviegoers.

The machine that prints tickets assigned the number 666 as a prefix on all the tickets for the film, said Gary Smith, owner of the Movies at Berry Square in northwest Georgia. The 666 begins a series of numbers that are listed below the name of the movie, the date, time and price.

"It's from our computer and it's absolutely a coincidence," Smith said. "It has nothing to do with the film company or any vendor. It's completely in our computer."

In the Bible, the book of Revelation says 666 is the "number of the beast," usually interpreted as Satan or the Antichrist.

Several patrons have made comments about the numbers, and one person who was uncomfortable having 666 on her ticket asked for a pass to be substituted for a ticket.

"A lot of people have asked what the numbers mean, some said it seemed odd, some said it was inappropriate," said theater employee Erica Diaz.

The movie, which opened Wednesday, is a bloody depiction of Christ's final hours and crucifixion.

Oil Patch News

Borden County

Patterson Petroleum will drill the No. 2 Anderson in the Good northeast field, 12 miles southwest of Gail. Planned for a depth of 8,300 feet, location is in Section 29, Block 32, T4N, T&P survey.

Chevron will drill the No. 4339 Jo-Mill field unit, 15 miles southwest of Gail. Contracted for a depth of 7,500 feet, location is in Section 22, Block 33, T4N, T&P survey.

Mitchell County

Sharpe Image Energy will drill the No. 1 EZJ Ranch east in the Ray Albaugh field, 17 miles southwest of Colorado City. The re-entry project is planned for a depth of 8,100 feet, and location is in Section 26, Block19, Lavaca Navigation survey.

Howard County

Sharp Image Energy will drill the No. 1-4 Vincent East in the Coronet field, 25 miles northeast of Big Spring. Planned for a depth of 3,000 feet, drill site is in Section 4, Block 25, H&TC survey.

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: 5-10-14-19-28. Bonus Ball: 21.

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

Number matching five of five: 5. Prize: $5,155.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 20. Prize: $1,169.

Number matching four of five: 680. Prize: $73.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 684. Prize: $65.

Number matching three of five: 23,336. Prize: $5.

Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 7,011. Prize: $5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 28,684. 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: 26-6-7-35-27.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Matching four of five: 100. Prize: $638.

Matching three of five: 4,166. Prize: $11.

Matching two of five: 44,782. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.

Pick 3

(Day) 7-8-8

(Night) 0-5-1

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World Almanac

Monday, March 1, 2004

Today is the 61st day of 2004 and the 71st day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1781, the Articles of Confederation — the precursor to the U.S. Constitution — were adopted.

In 1864, Rebecca Lee Crumpler became the first African-American woman to earn a medical degree.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Glenn Miller (1904-1944), bandleader; David Niven (1909-1983), actor; Ralph Ellison (1914-1994), writer; Yitzhak Rabin (1922-1995), former prime minister of Israel; Harry Belafonte (1927-), musician and actor, is 77; Roger Daltrey, (1944-), lead singer of The Who, is 60; Ron Howard (1954-), actor and director, is 50.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1969, Major League Baseball star Mickey Mantle announced his retirement.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The act of writing requires a constant plunging back into the shadow of the past where time hovers ghostlike." — Ralph Ellison

TODAY'S FACT: Since the Peace Corps' inception in 1961, more than 160,000 volunteers have served in 134 countries to work on a variety of issues.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 65,270,444 — number of Roman Catholics in the United States in 2003.

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Feb. 27) and full moon (March 6)

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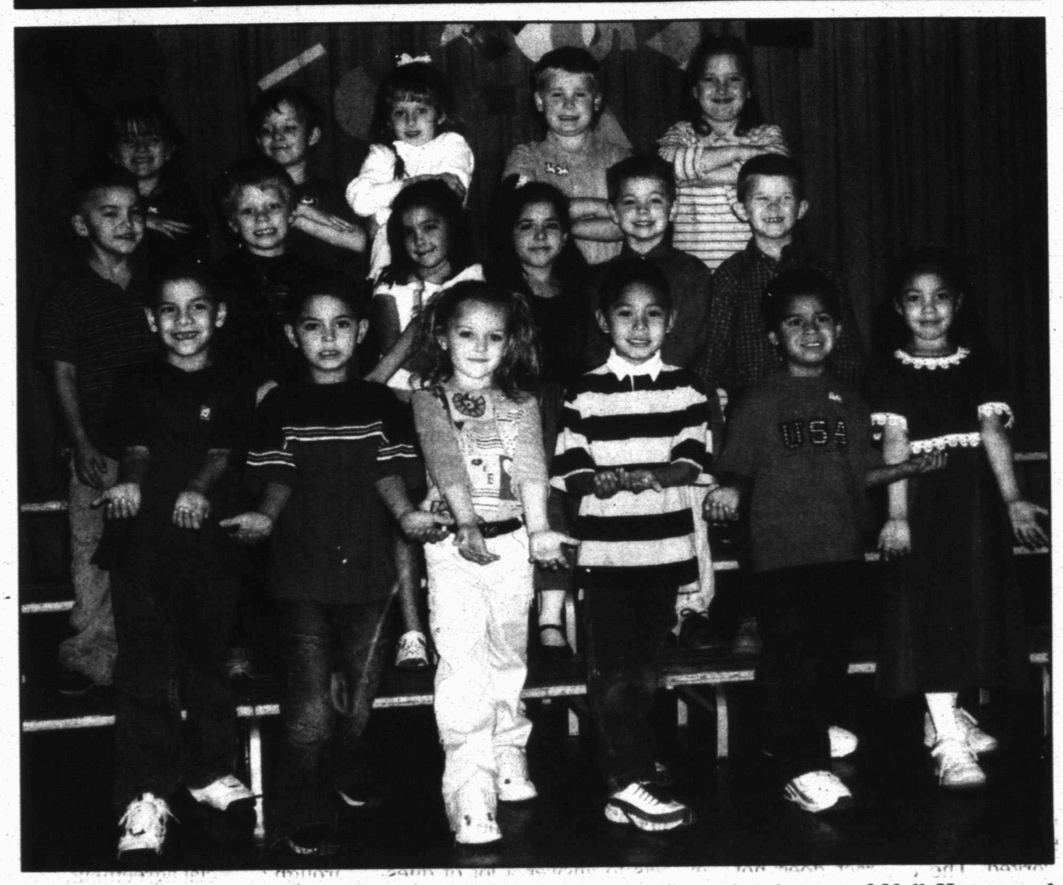


AMAZING SHAPES — East Elementary kindergarten students in classes of Nell Henry and Brooke Mackey presented *Amazing Shapes.* Sharlot Sparlin is the music teacher. Anna Henson, SHS senior, decorated the stage. Mrs. Henry's students (top photo) are top row from left, Jessica Ramirez, Miranda Rivers, Sterling Lee, Claudia Gutierrez, Serah Johnson and Adrianna Torres; middle row, Leia Romero, Shanice Cobb, Tyler Northcott, Dylan Reid, Jessica Guadiana and Alexus Derrick; bottom row, Anthony Sosa, Willow Gray, Troy Luevano, Ruben Munoz, Zoe Escalante and Conner Escalera. Mrs. Mackey's students (bottom photo) are top row from left, Kailee Atkinson, Jeffrey Ellis, Tahnee Summers, Cameron Johnson and Audra Robertson; middle row, Ricky Meza, Eric Pool, Tamara Sanchez, Amber Torres, Keagan Parham and Cooper Hatley; bottom row, Joshua Flores, Jake Guerrero, Chloee James, Julio Padilla, Adrian Martinez and Lori Medrano. Nicholas Davis is not pictured. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Harvard University planning new stem cell research center

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Harvard University plans to launch a multimillion-dollar center to grow and study human embryonic stem cells, the school said Sunday.

The center, to be announced April 23 at a scientific conference, could be the largest privately funded American stem cell research project to date, the Boston Sunday Globe reported. President Bush, citing ethical considerations, has limited federal funding for embryonic stem cell research to existing lines of cells.

Harvard issued a statement Sunday confirming its plans, saying the school is "proceeding in the direction of establishing a stem cell institute." Final details are not complete, it said.

"Harvard believes stem cell research is essential in advancing potential treatments for serious human ills. Harvard will continue to work within the laws and regulations in advancing these treatments," the statement read.

Harvard has not decided how much money needs to be raised for the center, said Provost Steven E. Hyman. Scientists involved, however, told the Globe that the fund-raising goal is about $100 million.

"Harvard has the resources, Harvard has the breadth and, frankly, Harvard has the responsibility to take up the slack that the government is leaving," said Dr. George Q. Daley, an associate professor at Harvard Medical School and Children's Hospital who is involved in planning the center.

The center, tentatively called the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, would bring together researchers from the university and all its affiliated hospitals, the Globe reported.

Stem cells are found in human embryos, umbilical cords and placentas, and develop into the various types of cells that make up the human body.

Killington to decide whether to join NH

KILLINGTON, Vt. (AP) — The sign welcoming visitors to Killington heralds this ski-resort town as the heart of Vermont.

On Tuesday, though, residents will vote on whether they want the town to secede and join New Hampshire following a simmering dispute over property taxes.

The town has spent $20,000 so far on the effort, researching the advantage of joining the state 25 miles to the east and possible ways to accomplish it.

"People are frustrated," said David Lewis, Killington's town manager.

The resulting two-page resolution on the town ballot reads like a throwback to the 1700s, when the restive American colonies chafed under the rule of the British monarchy.

Historians said the town's push to join New Hampshire is fueled by the same secessionist impulse that's run throughout Vermont history.

"It's a strong impulse," said historian Paul Gillies. "It's imprinted on us."

Killington was originally chartered in New Hampshire in 1761. In 1777, Vermont, including the town of Killington, declared its independence from New York and New Hampshire, states that both had claims to the territory.

Five years later, the towns of Guilford and Halifax tried to secede from the then-Republic of Vermont, claiming the state was an illegal entity. That movement was quickly squashed, said state archivist Gregory Sanford.

This time, Lewis said he and other residents among the town's population of 1,092 are tired of paying millions of dollars in state taxes and getting little in return.

At the heart of the displeasure is the state's system of financing education, which dramatically increased property taxes in communities deemed to be property wealthy.

That frustration drove Killington to challenge parts of the law in state Superior Court, a battle it won in 2002 when a judge ruled in favor of the town. Killington's jubilation over the decision was short-lived, however; In October the Supreme Court overturned the ruling.

"That was the last nail in the coffin," said Lewis.

Secession activists say the town's restaurants, inns and other businesses send $20 million a year to the state capital in sales, room and meal taxes, but the state returns just $1 million in state aid.

Secession, said Lewis, is the town's final recourse for challenging the state, and he believes the legality and economics behind the move are sound.

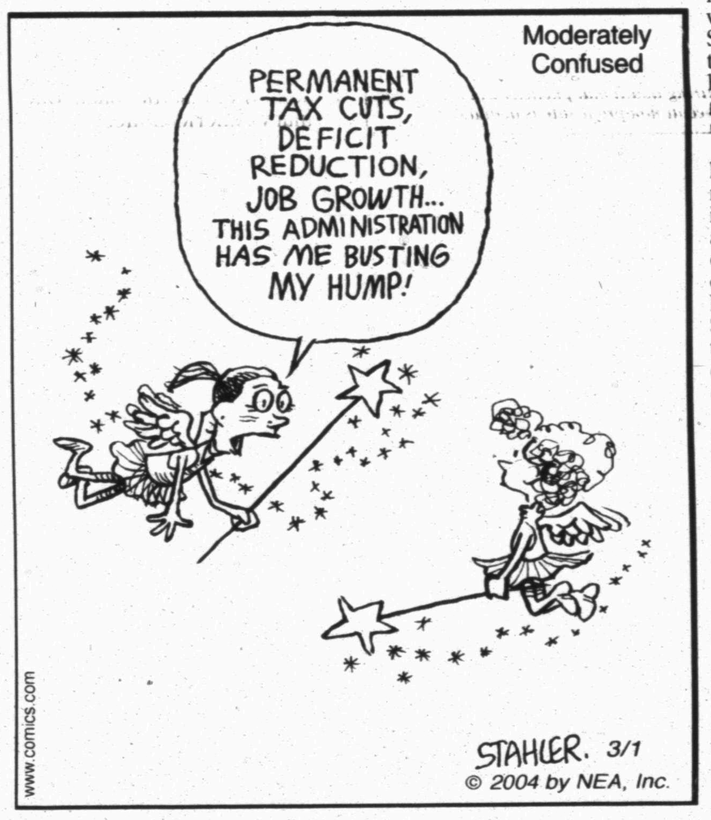
An analysis by the firm Northern Economic Consulting shows Killington residents and businesses will benefit from New Hampshire's lower property taxes and, most importantly, the state's lack of a general sales and personal income tax, Lewis said.

But even if voters agree, that won't put the definitive stamp on the issue; rather, it will trigger a lengthy process of selling the idea to New Hampshire and Vermont officials, he said.

"The whole issue is predicated on whether New Hampshire feels they wish to take us, whether they feel the political and other ramifications are worth them accepting us," said Lewis. "That's not going to be an easy issue."

New Hampshire officials said they would wait until after Tuesday's vote before taking action on the idea.

"We'll wait to see what the results of the vote are and we'll go from there," said Wendell Packard, spokesman for New Hampshire Gov. Craig Benson.



Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 03-01-04
♠ K Q 5
♥ 10 5
♦ 8 6
♣ A K Q 10 9 8

West
♠ 7 2
♥ A K 8 7
♦ A Q J 9
♣ J 6 3

East
♠ 4
♥ 9 4 3 2
♦ K 10 5 3 2
♣ 7 5 4

South
♠ A J 10 9 8 6 3
♥ Q J 6
♦ 7 4
♣ 2

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
3 ♠	Dbl.	4 ♠	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ A

Monday, March 1, 2004

Propose a lead; wait for the play

By Phillip Alder

According to an ancient tradition, a woman may propose to a man only on Feb. 29, an opportunity that occurrs every four years. Yesterday was Feb. 29, but I doubt that the tradition is still observed or even remembered.

At the bridge table, defensive signals are proposals, not command performances. You suggest a lead to partner, but if he knows better, he may overrule you. However, if he cannot see anything better, he should accept your proposal, if only to show you that he was watching your cards.

On this deal, look at the West hand. Defending against four spades, you lead the heart ace. The dummy appears on your left. How would you plan the defense after partner plays the heart two and declarer furnishes the six?

From the dummy, it should be obvious that your partnership needs to win four red-suit tricks: two hearts and two diamonds. But who has the diamond king? If partner, you can take your two heart winners, then shift to diamonds. If South has the diamond king, though, you must hope partner has the heart queen, so that he can get in and push a diamond through declarer.

Partner's trick-one signal should help. When he plays the two, he is making a discouraging signal; he is proposing that you a shift to another suit. In principle, he is denying the queen, the honor equivalent to the honors your heart-ace opening lead promised. So, continue with the heart king, then shift to the ace and another diamond. Here, that achieves the desired aim.

When defending, ask yourself whence the tricks you need may come.

I wonder if any woman availed herself of the opportunity offered.

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The basic monetary unit of Western Samoa is the tala, and its chief ffractional unit is the sene.

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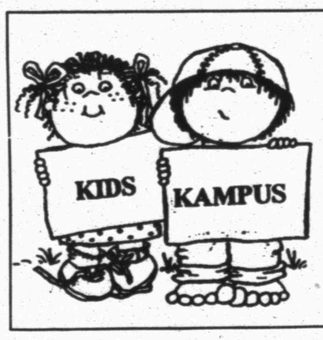

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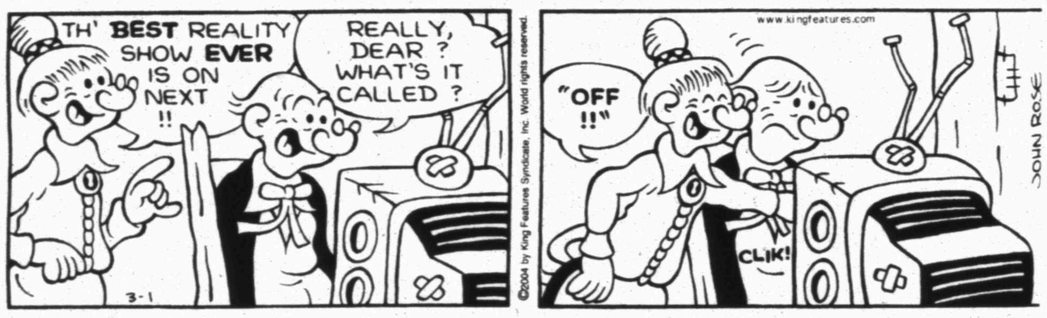

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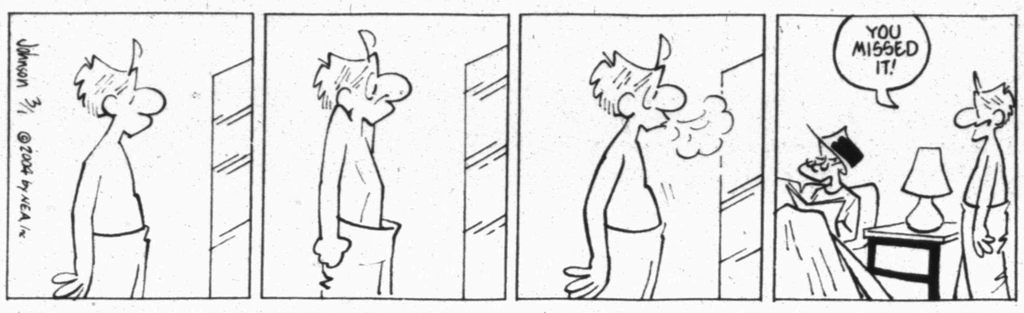

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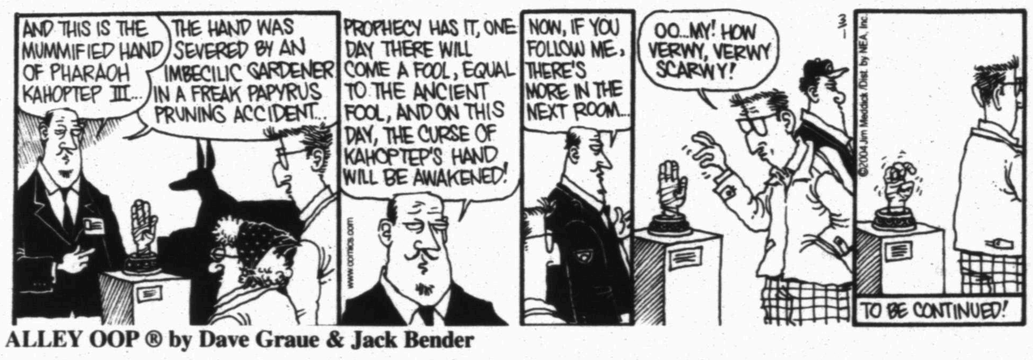

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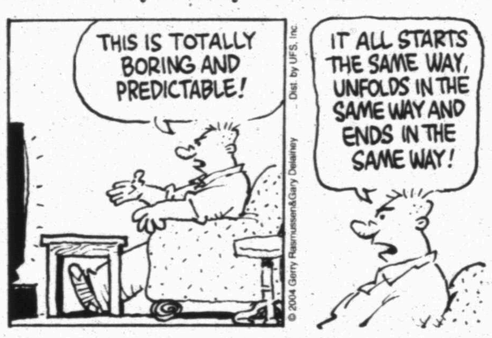

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Units of length
5 Honey maker
8 Thick slice
12 Eight bits
13 Country addr.
14 Vagrant
15 Tax shelters
16 Web site, for short
17 "Jeopardy!" host
18 Heir's legacy
20 11th-grade exam
21 Sorbet
22 Old soldier
23 Paid homage
26 Countenance
29 Mindful
30 Edict
31 Ply the oars
33 The gentleman
34 Flake off
35 Trig function
36 Brand names
38 Grove
39 Spoil
40 Nada
41 Achieve
43 Annually
46 Food flavorer
47 Weep
48 Novelist Jean —
50 Gambling stake
51 Hockey great Bobby —
52 World's longest river
53 Jam or pickle
54 Teachers' org.
55 King Harald's capital

DOWN

1 "Most Wanted" org.
2 Bronte governess
3 Sweater letters
4 Grumpily
5 Animal
6 To be, to Balzac
7 Moray
8 Daisy or volcano
9 Ms. Falana
10 Help
11 Container
19 Feign
20 Fly, e.g.
22 Bottle
23 Utility bill abbr.
24 Secure
25 Writer — Bombeck
26 Competes
27 Tight hold
28 Time periods
30 Snow-boot liner
32 Petite, plus
34 Unskilled laborer
35 High voice
37 Payola
38 KGB counterpart
40 Striped animal
41 Trait carrier
42 Painting and dance
43 Long ago
44 Mr. Bunuel
45 Shout
46 Radio operator
47 Daughter's brother
49 Name for a lion

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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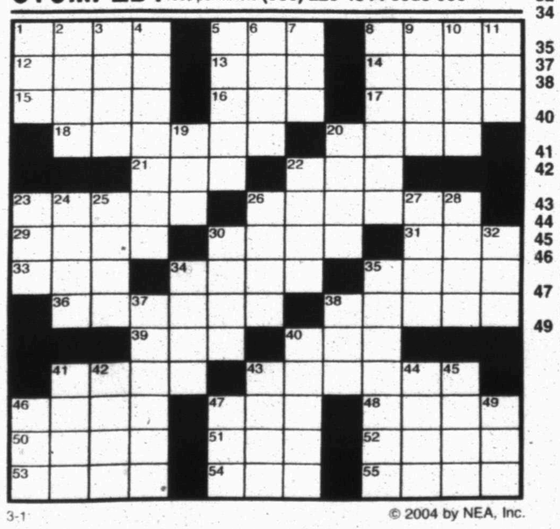

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SPORTS

Tigers brave weather, complete sweep of Wylie, Pecos Saturday

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

After waiting a week to get on the field, the Snyder Tigers expected cooperative weather for Saturday's scheduled doubleheader.

Instead the Tigers opened the season with the wind whipping a cold drizzle across Moffett Field.

And it didn't matter.

The Tigers got the 2004 campaign underway with a pair of wins, pounding Pecos, 11-1, in six innings in the opener, before topping Wylie, 10-6, in the nightcap.

"I thought our defense and our pitching looked sharp," head coach Charles Bollinger said. "Our offense is a little behind, but I'm extremely pleased after not being outside all week. We will improve, and starting 2-0 is a big confidence booster."

Snyder easily dispatched Pecos, taking advantage of four errors to 10-run the Eagles in six.

Ty Collier got the first win of the season, going five innings and striking out seven while allowing just two hits and one earned run. Ryan Mitchell threw one inning of scoreless relief.

"I felt good," Collier said. "My curve ball was working and I felt really good about the defense. We've got a really sound defense and they made good plays."

Jordan Dea started his productive day at the plate right away, going 2-for-3 against Pecos with a pair of doubles and three runs driven in.

Dea was 4-for-4 against Wylie to start his season hitting .857.

Blake Grimmett, Bradley Price and Marcus Villarreal each collected a pair of base hits, while Alex Neal, Isaac Ramon, Eric Martinez and Hadley Hirt had a base knock apiece.

Grimmett said the club was at first chagrined by the weather, but forgot it once they hit the field.

"It was the first game and we were all pumped," he said. "No matter what the conditions were, we were going to come out and play our game. Establishing that first win is key. If you lose, you can come back, but inside morlae is going to be low."

Pecos was stomped by Wylie in the second game, and the Tigers spotted the Bulldogs four first-inning runs in the nightcap before coming back to claim a 10-6 win.

Alex Neal struggled in the first inning, issuing three walks before being relieved by Lico Castillo.

Castillo took over with one out in the first, pitching 4 2-3 and striking out two while giving up three runs on four hits.

Dustyn Williams closed out the game, getting the final six outs while not allowing a run.

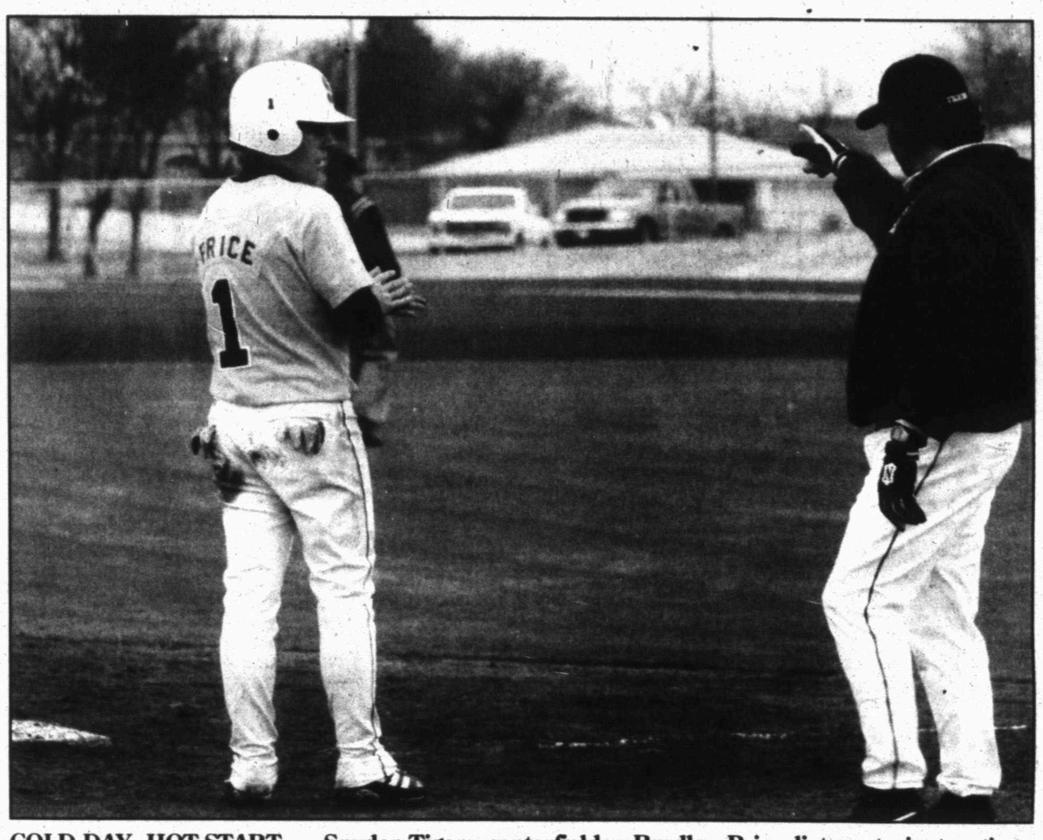
"He was a little excited," Bollinger said of Neal. "He'll get another shot. The guys played well. I was really proud of them for the way they came back. Maybe they were too fired up to play Wylie. Our guys know they have talent."

Snyder responded to the 4-0 deficit with five runs in the bottom of the first.

Dea led the way at the plate with 3 RBI, while Grimmett and Price again slapped a pair of hits each.

Collier had a bunt single, Nathan Hernandez added a hit and run driven in, and Williams had an RBI on a sacrifice fly.

The Tigers host Trinity Christian at 7 p.m. Tuesday.



COLD DAY, HOT START — Snyder Tigers centerfielder Bradley Price listens to instructions from head coach Charles Bollinger during the teams' season opener Saturday against Pecos. Bollinger and the rest of the coaching staff wore ear muffs against the cold wind that swept across Snyder. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

WTC claims last game at Howard

The Westerners secured their second win of the season Saturday, topping Howard College, 7-6, in the final game of a four-game weekend series.

After losing 10-0, 8-0 and 7-5 in the first three games, the Westerners (2-16) claimed a see-saw battle with Howard to salvage a victory in the eighth inning of the final tilt.

"I'm happy we were able to win a close game," head coach Billy Hefflinger said.

Shay Franks got the win, pitching the final three innings to close out a solid game from starter Cody Guzman.

"Cody threw the best he's thrown in his two years here," Hefflinger said. "He pitched six strong innings and Shay shut them down. To be able to have these guys step up for us is huge."

Hefflinger said he shuffled his lineup a bit for the series, and it paid off as new leadoff hitter Landon Thompson was 3-for-5.

Tanyon Reeves went 2-for-3 with three stolen bases in three attempts, including hustling around the circuit in the eighth inning to score the winning run.

After being hit by a pitch, Reeves stole second, then third, scoring the game-winner on an errant throw home.

"It was pretty exciting, and that's our philosophy — to be aggressive and make them play catch," Hefflinger said. "We needed this win. It shows the heart and character of this team. If we play solid against Odessa, we are right in the hunt for conference."

The team will travel to Abilene Christian University for a 2:30 p.m. tilt Wednesday in a game that was originally scheduled to be at home. A collapsed steel beam at the field caused the team to relocate all home games until repairs are made, with no timetable set for a return to the home field.

The Westerners travel to Odessa JC Friday and Saturday for a four-game set.

Varsity golfers fifth at Midland

The Snyder varsity boys golf team finished fifth in the Midland Tournament over the weekend, finishing 57 strokes behind tournament champion Monahans with a two-round total of 668. The Tigers fired a 330 on the first day and closed out the second round with a 338.

Jay Weaver was the first medalist for the second tournament in a row, carding a 73-78 151.

"Jay had another great weekend," said coach Ricky Hunter. "If we can just get a few more guys to play close to their ability levels, we will be in good shape."

Hunter said the Midland Tournament is a good gauge of what the regional tourney will look like, and said this year's regional field is as tough as ever.

"If there was ever any doubt about how tough our region is, there should not be any now," he said. "After this weekend, it's clear that we are not where we need to be at this time of the season. We have to realize that there are other talented golf teams out there who want to win just as bad as we do."

Blake Seale shot an 82-85 for the Tigers, while Alan Gray fired an 84-86 170.

Jake Cottrell had the fourth-best score for the Tigers with a 91-89 180, while Wyl Wiggins finished with a 92 93 185.

While Monahans ran away from the field with a 323 318 611, Canyon took second with a 328 324 652. Fort Stockton was third with a 661, while district rival Seminole finished four shots ahead of the Tigers with a 664.

The Snyder junior varsity was 11th in the tournament with a 357 343 700.

Cole Robertson led the way with an 87 83 170.

Tanner Bloom stroked a 90 86 176, Syd Wiggins shot an 88 89 177, John Whitworth carded a 92 96 188 and Matthew Schoolcraft ended the tourney on a strong note, shaving 21 strokes off his first round total of 106 to fire an 85 in the final round for a 191.

The boys head to the Andrews tournament this weekend, and Hunter hopes to see some improvement before the district tournament begins.

"We have two more invitationals and about four weeks to go to get ready for district," he said. "Time is starting to get short. I hope we can rise to the occasion and get back on track as a team."

JV girls fifth

The junior varsity girls took fifth at the Sweetwater Tournament last weekend.

Heather Derington paced the team with a 102-100 202.

April Boyd fired a 100-104 204 and Kaylee Lacik shot a 104-101 105.

Chelsea Hackfeld carded a 124-124 148.

BRONZE FINISH — Snyder senior Justin Boyd comes in second in the 200M at the Frenship meet Saturday. The Tigers finished third and topped all 3A schools. (Contributed Photo)

Thinclads race out of blocks at Frenship meet

The Snyder thinclads took third at the first track meet of the season at Frenship Saturday, using nine top-five finishes to best every other 3A school in the field.

Snyder scored 81 points, five behind host Frenship. Amarillo Palo Duro won the meet with 113 points.

"I'm extremely pleased," head coach Roger White said. "I was hoping to score 50-60 points and we had 81. Our times and distances were right where they need to be."

Malcome Wells, Zach Cain, Garrett Pinson and Justin Boyd took home the gold in the 800M relay, while Wells, Boyd, Pinson and Jesus Juarez were second in the 400.

Wells clocked in under 11 seconds to take the silver in the 100M dash, and Cain grabbed a silver in the 300 hurdles. Pinson was fourth in that event and earned a second-place finish in the 110 hurdles.

Boyd got the bronze in the 200M run, while Demetrius Brandon was third in the shot put.

Juarez captured fourth in the long jump and Marcus Villarreal was sixth.

Snyder had some competitors on the diamond at Moffett and did not enter in a handful of field events.

"A couple of ifs and buts and we had a chance at winning the thing," White said.

The Tigers will host the Snyder meet Saturday.

Area Sports Calendar

TUESDAY

Baseball:	SHS varsity vs. Trinity Christian, 7 p.m.
Softball:	SHS JV vs. Kermit, 5 p.m.
Tennis:	SHS JV in Snyder Tournament

WEDNESDAY

Baseball:	WTC at ACU, 2:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Softball:	SHS varsity in Snyder Tournament
Baseball:	SHS varsity at Frenship Tournament

FRIDAY

Baseball:	SHS varsity at Frenship Tournament
	WTC at Odessa JC, DH, noon
Softball:	SHS varsity in Snyder Tournament
Tennis:	SHS varsity at Regional Team Tennis, Levelland
Golf:	SHS varsity boys at Andrews Tournament
	SHS varsity girls at Midland Tournament

SATURDAY

Baseball:	SHS varsity at Frenship Tournament
	WTC at Odessa JC, DH, noon
	SHS JV at Big Spring, DH, noon
Softball:	SHS varsity in Snyder Tournament
	WTC vs. El Paso CC, DH, 1 p.m.
Tennis:	SHS varsity at Regional Team Tennis, Levelland
Golf:	SHS varsity boys at Andrews Tournament
	SHS varsity girls at Midland Tournament
Track:	SHS varsity and JV at Snyder

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	36	22	.621	—
New York	26	35	.426	11½
Miami	25	35	.417	12
Boston	25	36	.410	12½
Philadelphia	24	36	.400	13
Washington	18	39	.316	17½
Orlando	17	44	.279	20½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	43	16	.729	—
Detroit	38	24	.613	6½
Milwaukee	32	27	.542	11
New Orleans	32	27	.542	11
Toronto	25	34	.424	18
Cleveland	24	35	.407	19
Atlanta	19	40	.322	24
Chicago	17	42	.288	26

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	43	17	.717	—
San Antonio	39	20	.661	3½
Dallas	38	20	.655	4
Memphis	35	24	.593	7½
Houston	34	25	.576	8½
Denver	33	28	.541	10½
Utah	30	30	.500	13

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	43	15	.741	—
L.A. Lakers	38	20	.655	5
Portland	29	30	.492	14½
Seattle	27	32	.458	16½
Golden State	25	33	.431	18
L.A. Clippers	25	33	.431	18
Phoenix	20	41	.328	24½

Sunday's Games

Boston 91, Toronto 82
Milwaukee 108, Miami 104
Detroit 100, L.A. Clippers 88
Seattle 97, Houston 80
L.A. Lakers 100, New Jersey 83
Philadelphia 81, Minnesota 74
Sacramento 108, Phoenix 94
Denver 107, New York 96

Today's Games

Orlando at Boston, 6 p.m.
New Orleans at Washington, 6 p.m.
Cleveland at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Memphis at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Utah, 8 p.m.

Sports Briefs

Football booster club

The SHS football booster club will meet at 7 tonight at China Dragon.

BCS to add fifth game

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The Bowl Championship Series agreed to add a fifth game Sunday, increasing access for schools not part of college football's most lucrative postseason system.

The champions of the six BCS conferences — the Big East, ACC, SEC, Big 12, Big Ten and Pac-10 — will maintain automatic berths in one of the five games. The remaining four spots will be at-large berths to be decided by a complex formula using national rankings.

U.S. women top Mexico

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — The United States defeated Mexico 2-0 Sunday and both teams moved on to the semifinals in the women's Olympic soccer qualifying tournament.

The winners of the semifinal games will qualify for the Athens Olympics. Mexico's Maria Castillo scored an own goal in the 10th minute and Abby Wambach scored the other in the 28th.

Groundhog Open

Groundhog Open
Feb. 28-29
Scurry County Golf Course

Championship Flight

1) David Sharrock-John Medlicott 132; 2) Alton Patterson-Billy Brock 133; 3) Levi Mandrell-Clay Berryman.

First Flight

1) James Barnhill-Stacy Ogle 139; 2) Mike Rodriguez-Brandon Martin 141; 3) Joe LaRue-Johnny Powell 142

Second Flight

1) Joe Medrano-Rob Reyes 144; 2) James Caldwell-Paul Goebel 148; 3) Bobby Velasquez-Rueben Olvera 149

Third Flight

1) Steve Wilson-Wes Wilson 153; 2) Don Sealey-Reese Grimmett 159; 3) Juan Hernandez-Bo Alverez 162

Fourth Flight

1) Buddy Powell-Dink Foree 156; 2) Bryan Brunson-Robert Palacios 165; 3) Danny Alvarez-Kevin Burcheti 167

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'Return of King' sweeps Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP) — They slew beasts, toppled tyrants and destroyed a ring of ultimate evil, becoming lords of the Academy Awards for their troubles.

In an all-around predictable evening at the Oscars, the rag-tag heroes of "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" hoisted the fantasy genre to a new artistic high Sunday, earning a record-tying 11 awards, taking best picture and sweeping each of its categories.

Peter Jackson, who shepherded J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle-earth saga to the screen, won the best director Oscar and shared the adapted-screenplay award with his two co-writers.

"I think the fact that we had goblins and trolls and wizards and everything else made it hard for people to take it seriously," Jackson said backstage. "I appreciate that the academy and voters tonight have seen through all that."

Tolkien's themes — "forgiveness, courage, faith, friendship" — are "themes that go straight to the heart," Jackson said.

All four acting front-runners won, each claiming their first Oscar. Sean Penn took the best-actor prize as a vengeful father in "Mystic River," and Charlize Theron won for best actress as serial killer Aileen Wuornos in "Monster."

Supporting-performance Oscars went to Tim Robbins as a man emotionally hamstrung by childhood trauma in "Mystic River" and Renee Zellweger as a hardy Confederate survivor in "Cold Mountain."

Theron joked that since everyone in New Zealand — where "Lord of the Rings" was shot — had been thanked, she had to thank everyone in her home country, South Africa.

"And my mom," said Theron, who gained 30 pounds for "Monster" and was unrecognizable behind dark contact lenses and unflattering makeup. "You have sacrificed so much for me to be able to live here and make my dreams come true, and there are no words to describe how much I love you. And I'm not going to cry."

Penn — who has been dismissive of awards in the past but graciously accepted after skipping the Oscars the three previous times he was nominated — was taken by surprise when the audience gave him a standing ovation.

"I did arguably feel I was there to debunk the notion that it was a popularity contest," Penn said backstage. "But they took that away from me in the room."

Sofia Coppola's Oscar victory for original screenplay for "Lost in Translation" made her family the second clan of three-generation Oscar winners, joining Walter, John and Anjelica Huston. Her father is five-time winner Francis Ford Coppola, who was an executive producer on "Lost in Translation," and her grandfather, Carmine Coppola, won for musical score on "The Godfather Part II."

"I never thought my dad would be watching me get one," Coppola said. "So it's just a thrill."

Oscar voters saved the best for last on "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, showering the final installment with prizes after parts 1 and 2 won only technical or music awards. The sense from the time "The Fellowship of the Ring" hit theaters in 2001, followed by "The Two Towers" a year later, was that academy members would withhold their big accolades for the concluding chapter.

"There's a 7-year-old kid in me that used to make films in my parents' back garden, and I never dreamt I'd be here," Jackson, 42, said backstage alongside some of his "Lord of the Rings" collaborators.

"Return of the King" also won for song, musical score, visual effects, editing, makeup, art direction, costume design and sound mixing.

Composer Howard Shore took his second Oscar for writing "Lord of the Rings" music, having won two years ago on "Fellowship of the Ring."

"Into the West," the wistful tune of farewell from "Return of the King," won the best-song Oscar. The song was written by Fran Walsh, the film's co-screenwriter, Shore and Annie Lennox, who sings the tune.

Edwards hammers away at Kerry

By The Associated Press

Fighting against time and his inability to move to the top of polls in Super Tuesday states, John Edwards sharply attacked front-runner John Kerry as a Washington practitioner of politics as usual.

The North Carolina senator abandoned his mostly congenial style in a debate Sunday in New York — a mostly two-way face off that had contenders Dennis Kucinich and Al Sharpton grousing about too little airtime.

Of 10 contests scheduled on Tuesday, Edwards already has virtually ceded the four New England states to Kerry and stands little chance of victory in the biggest battlegrounds, New York and California, or in Maryland. That leaves Georgia, Ohio, Minnesota as his targets — and polls show him trailing in those states.

Edwards hopes to score multiple victories there to keep his candidacy alive until March 9, when four Southern states vote. But even his own supporters say the odds are long, with the end of his campaign seemingly near.

But on Sunday, his aim was to sharpen differences between himself and Kerry, who has won 18 of 20 delegate-selection contests so far. Edwards has won only in his native South Carolina.

In his harshest criticism yet of the Democratic front-runner, Edwards charged that Kerry had voted for bad trade agreements and that his proposals on a range of issues, including health care, would "drive us deeper and deeper into deficit."

Returning the fire, Kerry, a 19-year-Senate veteran, said the country needs a president with experience and "proven ability to be able to stand up and take on tough fights." The unmistakable suggestion was that Edwards, a first-term senator, has too little experience.

Polls show Edwards trailing in all the states that vote on Tuesday, and he faces increasing pressure to bow out if he can't turn it around. He rejected the suggestion that he was angling to become vice president.

"Oh, no. Oh, no, no. Far from it," he said.

When Kerry said that he and Edwards had the same position on trade, Edwards ticked off a list of agreements where they differed — pacts with Singapore, Chile, Africa and the Caribbean that Kerry voted for and he opposed.

When Kerry said he would have a 120-day review of all trade agreements, Edwards said that would be of little comfort to the jobless. "Don't worry, we've got a Washington committee that's studying this for you," Edwards mocked.

Kerry questioned how someone who served five years with him in Congress can call anybody a Washington insider. "That seems to me to be Washington, D.C.," the Massachusetts senator said in the debate sponsored by CBS and The New York Times.

Power wheelchair industry lobbying against Medicare

WASHINGTON (AP) — Medicare is refusing to pay for Andy Campbell's recently delivered $6,242 motorized wheelchair despite the advanced prostate cancer and heart disease that makes his every step painful.

Campbell, a former California policeman who lives in Henderson, Nev., will not be stuck with the bill under Medicare rules. Unless the government changes its mind, the Scooter Store, based in New Braunfels, Texas, will absorb the loss.

The medical equipment company and four other businesses are undertaking a national lobbying campaign, starting with a commitment of about $250,000, to challenge Medicare's new get-tough policy on reimbursements for power wheelchairs.

The coalition says companies will be reluctant to provide the wheelchairs without any upfront payments from the patient.

In September, officials with the government health care program for 40 million older and disabled people ordered more scrutiny of claims for power wheelchairs, whose prices range from $5,000 to $6,000 or more, depending on accessories. The program ordered its insurance contractors to enforce strictly a policy that normally limits reimbursements to those unable to walk.

Cara Bachenheimer, a vice president at Invacare, a large manufacturer of home medical equipment, said the lobbying effort would "turn over every stone" to convince the White House and the Health and Human Services Department that "they made a mistake."

Disclosure records show the company, based in Elyria, Ohio, spent $260,000 last year to contact the Bush administration and Congress to ensure favorable treatment of medical equipment in the Medicare legislation.

Timothy Hill, Medicare's chief financial officer, said the lobbying is more about profits than patients.

"Much of what we have seen in the increase the last few years is a direct result of consumer marketing in the industry, which creates the appearance the benefit is broader than it is," he said.

Hill said he does not accept the industry theory that more claims will be rejected under heightened scrutiny for wheelchair claims. He said the companies behind the lobbying are large ones with big marketing operations.

These companies, he said, "have a stake in raising this issue. We're not hearing from therapy centers and small mom-and-pop stores working with physicians on a one-on-one basis."

Campbell, who was a policeman in Santa Monica, Calif., is more concerned with his newfound freedom to move around the house than a high-stakes lobbying effort.

"My wife is my primary helper, and I had to ask her to bring everything to me," said Campbell, 62. "I sat all day in my room. Now I can go into the kitchen and restroom. I can go outside and get fresh air. I'm able to do a lot of things without bothering her."

Cigna Medicare, the contract insurer that processed the claim submitted by the Scooter Store, ruled in Campbell's case: "These are noncovered services because this is not deemed a 'medical necessity' by the payer."

When a Medicare beneficiary wants a motorized wheelchair, a supplier evaluates whether the patient would be likely to qualify for the program's 80 percent reimbursement.

A supplier that believes the claim might be rejected may provide the chair only if the beneficiary signs a form agreeing to pay.

If the supplier believes the patient would qualify, the store would provide the chair and submit the claim, but could not, under Medicare rules, bill the patient later if the claim were rejected.

The Scooter Store determined that Campbell would qualify for reimbursement and took the chance, submitting the claim without first requiring payment.

The Scooter Store says it will not take back the chair from Campbell. That is a store policy; Medicare rules do not prevent the supplier from repossessing the chair.

Claims for power wheelchairs have increased from 62,000 in 1999 to 168,000 in 2003. Payments in 1995 came to $22.3 million; in 2003, they rose to $666.5 million.

In November, The Associated Press reported the HHS inspector general identified $167 million in fraudulent power wheelchair claims and had 50 active investigations in close to two-dozen states.

Medicare's policy of allowing reimbursements mainly for those confined to chairs or beds has not changed. But there is evidence that the four regional insurance contractors that administer medical equipment claims for Medicare approved reimbursements for people who walked with great difficulty.

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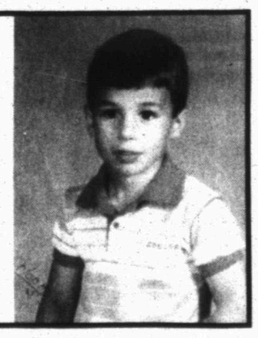

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Albertsons	25.25	24.89	24.93	+ .19
Alltel	51.82	51.46	51.50	—.30
AmEl Pw	34.92	34.41	34.81	+ .31
AndarkPtr	52.26	51.33	52.09	+ .84
ATMOS Egy	26.54	26.39	26.42	+ .07
Aviall	15.53	15.41	15.47	+ .09
BP PLC	49.99	49.67	49.96	+ .76
BakerHughes	37.89	37.60	37.87	+ .25
Bank of Amer	82.57	81.97	82.02	+ .10
BellSouth	27.76	27.43	27.44	—.12
BurlNoSFe	32.04	31.51	31.52	—.66
Caterpillar	76.94	75.85	76.60	+ .85
CenterPoint	10.61	10.48	10.54	+ .08
ChevronTex	89.74	88.75	89.65	+ 1.30
Citigroup	50.90	50.37	50.47	+ .21
CocaCola	49.83	49.50	49.51	—.45
ColgatePal	56.17	55.55	55.75	+ .30
CmclMetals	30.42	29.90	30.38	+ .68
ConocoPhill	70.00	69.46	69.95	+ 1.08
Cooper Inds	53.38	52.74	52.92	+ .01
DaimlrChry	45.26	44.80	44.85	—.08
DeltaAirLines	9.12	8.90	9.12	+ .14
Dillards Inc	18.10	17.73	18.07	+ .47
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Entergy	59.21	58.85	59.03	—.26
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West Texas Centers for MHMR is the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation ("TDMHMR") designated mental health and mental retardation Local Authority (LA) established to plan, coordinate, develop policy, develop and allocate resources, supervise, and ensure the provision of community based mental health and mental retardation services for the residents of Andrews, Borden, Crane, Dawson, Fisher, Gaines, Garza, Glasscock, Howard, Kent, Loving, Martin, Mitchell, Nolan, Reeves, Runnels, Scurry, Terrell, Terry, Upton, Ward, Winker and Yoakum Counties, Texas. The LA is publishing this Request for Information (RFI) Notice to request responses from potential providers or other interested parties interested in the community services described in the RFI Document. This RFI Process is only to determine interest and does not address any intent to contract or procure services. From information provided by the responders to the RFI Document, a determination will be made regarding actual contracting through a procurement process.

Copies of the RFI Document may be obtained by written request to WTCMHMR Attn: Cindy Smith, Director of Network Management; 319 Runnels, Big Spring, Texas 79720 or via internet at www.wtcmhmr.org INTERESTED PARTIES MUST RESPOND TO THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION BY 3:00 O'CLOCK P.M. CST, APRIL 30, 2004, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS IN PARAGRAPH 2.1 OF THE RFI DOCUMENT.

Questions regarding the RFI Process should be directed to Cindy Smith at 319 Runnels, Big Spring, Texas 79720 or cindy_smith@wtcmhmr.org.

NOTE: Similar RFI Notices are being published for many local service areas in Texas. Those interested in responding for a county other than the one(s) identified above, should contact that county's Local Mental Health and/or Mental Retardation Authority for further information or the RFI Document.

MAR 01 2004

Best Available Copy

President's first campaign ads target conservatives, Hispanics

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tune in to a NASCAR race on Fox Sports Net sometime soon, and you'll see a political ad praising President Bush. Same for the Golf Channel or Dennis Miller's new talk show on CNBC.

The first advertising of Bush's re-election campaign begins Thursday, and the multimillion-dollar buy, the cable stations chosen for the spots and the type of ad provide a window on his spring strategy: appeal to the conservative base.

The campaign also looks to make inroads with Hispanics, the nation's fastest growing minority group.

Bush's approval ratings have dropped steeply after months of criticism by Democrats out to take his job. Campaign officials are directing his ads on national cable channels to energize core supporters and, perhaps, boost his national poll numbers.

At least $4.5 million worth of airtime has been bought on CNN, MSNBC, CNBC and other networks for ads over three weeks. Political analysts say it's the first significant advertising buy on national cable stations by a presidential campaign.

About half the buy so far is for airtime on Fox News Channel, which Bush opponents contend reports most favorably on the GOP among the 24-hour news networks, and Fox Sports Net, mostly during NASCAR programs. The sport is watched heavily by white males, many with Southern or rural roots.

The campaign also has indicated to networks that it will place ads on ESPN, watched mainly by 18- to -34-year-old men, and the Golf Channel, where the average viewers are affluent, 45-year-old males. It also has checked rates on others, including Home and Garden, favored by older, wealthier women, and the History Channel, also popular among men.

Political analysts say advertising through cable TV allows the campaign to target its advertising to specific constituencies and be on the air everywhere, including in states that may not be in play in the election.

"It's a fairly efficient way to engage voters without having to cherry-pick states," said Evan Tracey, president of TNS Media Intelligence/Campaign Media Analysis Group, which tracks ad spending.

Bush-Cheney advisers say polling shows that Republicans watch less broadcast TV than Democrats, which suggests that the best way to reach the GOP base is to target cable networks with high Republican viewership.

The ads' principal message will be about Bush's "steady leadership in changing and dangerous times." The Bush-Cheney campaign started buying airtime Friday with local broadcast affiliates in at least 50 media markets in 17 states that were competitive in 2000.

The campaign also has made courting Hispanics a major part of its ad strategy. Ads will start next week on Spanish-language networks Univision and Telemundo in markets in New Mexico, Florida, Nevada and Arizona, advisers say.

"President Bush feels that it's very important to reach out to citizens throughout this country who may not have English as their native tongue," said Scott Stanzel, a campaign spokesman. "Our media and advertising campaign will reflect that effort."

Hispanics traditionally have favored the Democratic Party in presidential elections, but support has dropped in recent years. In 1996, 72 percent of Hispanics voted to re-elect President Clinton, versus just 21 percent for Republican Bob Dole. Four years later, Democrat Al Gore won 62 percent of the Hispanic vote compared to 35 percent for Bush.

States with large Hispanic populations, such as Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and Florida, were competitive in 2000, with contests being decided by 6 percentage points or fewer. They are considered in play again in 2004.

"If the Republicans take 5 (percent) to 10 percent of the Hispanic vote, they're going to kill the Democrats in those key states," said Joe Velasquez, a Democratic consultant with Moving America Forward, a group trying to mobilize Hispanic voters.

The number of Hispanics in America has more than doubled in the past decade to 35 million, and about 9 million are expected to be registered to vote by November.

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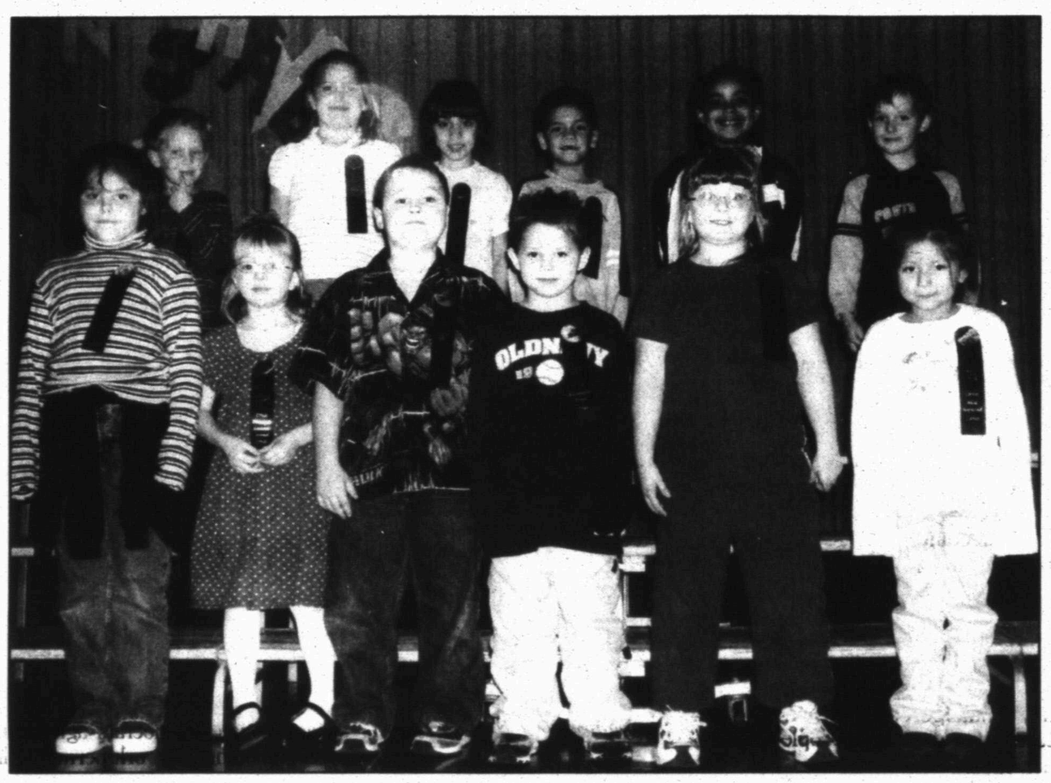
FOURTH SIX WEEKS AWARDS — East Elementary fourth graders received awards for the fourth six weeks. Academic achievement recipients are back row, from left, Kenner Escobedo, Valentin Medina, Tyson Sullenger, Jentri Driggers, Cody Day, Timothy Hagins and Angela DeLoera. Chris Garza and Diego Hernandez are not pictured. Citizenship award recipients on the front row are from left, Cole Etheredge, Samantha Edwards, Bernice Soberon, Tessa Aguilar, Monica Torres, Kaitlin Stewart, Amy Baker, Emilio Felan and Virginia Torres. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)



EAST PRIMARY AWARDS — East Elementary kindergarten students received awards for the fourth sixth weeks. Back row from left are Tyler Campbell and Audra Robertson, academic awards; Claudia Gutierrez and Joshua Flores, citizenship awards; and Miranda Rivers and Jeffrey Ellis, most-improved. First graders who received awards are on the front row from left, Emily Parmer and Brooke Clinkinbeard, academic awards; Brenon Brunson and Brandon Sewell, citizenship awards; and Jessica Clark and Brieanne Gutierrez, most-improved. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Man of wife's dreams outgrows her fantasy

DEAR ABBY: Seven years ago, I met the man of my dreams and was lucky enough to marry him. "Mike" is intelligent, caring, loving, witty, romantic and a great father. Every day he tells me he loves me and that I'm beautiful.

So what's the problem? Mike weighs 80 pounds more than he did when we met. I thank God for him every single day, but the "zing" is gone.

Don't get me wrong. We're still intimate, but I miss the "butterflies" I used to feel just looking at him. I am also worried about his health and the effect his eating habits have on our children. This has seriously damaged his self-esteem, too, and that is the hardest thing for me to deal with.

If life gets in the way, and intimacy goes by the wayside for a couple of weeks, Mike accuses me of purposely avoiding him, looking for someone new, never taking the initiative, etc. Abby, I love my husband. I've done everything I can to help him with his weight problem — to no avail. In fact, if I mention it, he tells me saying something only makes it worse.

I take good care of my own health and try to teach the kids to do the same, even when they ask why Dad doesn't take care of his.

Am I being petty when I tell you I'd give anything to have my slimmer, sexier, healthier husband back? I miss his energy and confidence and the respect I had for him. Abby, are my feelings valid? Or should I just get over it and be happy with all of his good qualities? — **FEELING WEIGHTED DOWN**

DEAR WEIGHTED DOWN: You are not being petty. You are being human. Ask your husband to make an appointment with his doctor for a complete physical or make the call for him. The lecture about diet and health should come from the doctor. Your husband is not alone in his problem. It's one that is shared by millions of people in this country.

The solution lies in a willingness to make lifestyle changes. Since you are already providing healthy meals at home, please consider a physical activity you and your husband can enjoy together to help him burn those extra calories. (If he's reluctant, remind him that it will put him in better shape for lovemaking.) Reward any progress with compliments and praise. If all else fails, make sure his life insurance is up-to-date and enjoy him as long as you can. Nobody's perfect.

**

DEAR ABBY: In our office we often send cards and gifts as a group to anyone who has a birthday, new baby, etc. Usually everyone signs the cards. We are a big department, so there are a lot of names.

What is the etiquette on group sympathy cards? Should everyone sign it, or is that too flippant? Should it read, "Your friends in the department"? — **CURIOUS ABOUT ETIQUETTE**

DEAR CURIOUS: Either one is proper — however, for each person to sign it would be much warmer and more personal.

**

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married just over a year, and we are not ready to have children for another year or so.

How can I get the message across to well-meaning family and friends that it is none of their business when we are planning to have children? I have endured enough personal questions. I would love to hear your advice. — **NOT READY FOR CHILDREN**

DEAR NOT READY: Here it is. Say with a smile, "Thank you for your interest, but we're waiting to see if the marriage works out."

**

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

**

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

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Soap for leg cramps?

DEAR DR. GOTT: You asked to hear from readers experienced with the soap cure for leg cramps.

Let me begin my answer by saying that I am a college graduate and a professional scientist who is naturally skeptical of unproven treatments and cures.

However, I do have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and check in periodically with the related Web sites (such as www.copd-international.com) to check on recent updates. For decades, I have been troubled by leg cramps that disrupt my sleep five to 10 times a night. All the standard therapies, including quinine pills and massage, have been ineffective. Several people on the Internet have touted the soap cure: a bar of soap placed under the mattress cover near my legs.

Did this sound ridiculous? You bet. But I gave it a try. Did it work? Yes, indeed. I haven't had a cramp since. The proper technique is simple. Unwrap a fresh bar of soap (don't use Dove) and discard the wrapper. It doesn't need to be a huge, bath-size bar; even the small bars common in hotels work for most people. Then place the unwrapped bar directly under the bottom sheet or on the bed where the legs are usually located. That's it. Some people may need to rub the legs with an extra bar of soap, but, in most instances, this is not necessary. The cramps are gone. Why? I haven't a clue.

DEAR READER: Nor have I. But I am publishing your letter — which is one of dozens I have received since mentioning the soap cure for leg cramps —because the therapy is, apparently, an effective preventive for a common human malady. In such circumstances, we probably don't need an explanation of how the technique works, but it does. Thanks to you, and other readers, for writing.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm 73 and relatively fit. On occasion, my pulse rate falls into the 50s. A doctor once told me that a normal pulse rate is 82. Do I need to be concerned?

DEAR READER: Actually, there is a range of normal pulse rates: readings between 60 and 90 beats per minute are acceptable. While active seniors may occasionally have pulses that drop into the 50s, this is, in my experience, OK.

If, on the other hand, you experience symptoms such as faintness and weakness when your pulse slows to below 60, you should see your family physician for an exam and other tests, including a cardiogram.

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

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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Wildlife feeders could be fined

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — There's a new warning for visitors at state parks: don't feed the wildlife.

Giving handouts to hungry animals can result in a fine of up to $500, under a new law that goes into effect this month.

The law is designed to protect state park visitors from close encounters with wild animals and to keep deer, raccoons, javelina and other animals from disrupting their natural feeding, said Walt Dabney, the state parks director.

Last year, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said, workers shot and killed a javelina at Choke Canyon State Park and a feral hog at Fairfield Lake State Park when they endangered campers after learning to associate people with their meals.

Southern lawmakers crafting compromise to immigration plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conservatives balking at President Bush's proposal to grant illegal immigrants three-year work permits are floating a counteroffer that would hamper his efforts to woo Hispanic voters in November's election.

It's a dicey political predicament for the president, one that seems likely to push a final vote on key elements of his plan into 2005, well after the November balloting.

Rep. Charlie Norwood, R-Ga., and Sens. Zell Miller, D-Ga., and Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., are conditioning their support for Bush's plan on Congress agreeing to also broaden the power of state and local police to arrest suspected illegal residents.

"If they don't have this in it, they'll pass that bill over my cold, dead political body," Sessions said of Bush's proposal.

Sessions, Miller and Norwood say they speak for thousands of conservatives who believe stronger enforcement of immigration laws must accompany any plan that would let illegal immigrants remain in the country legally.

Because federal immigration agents are stretched too thin, they argue, 650,000 local police officers should be given the authority and resources to go after immigrants still undocumented after Bush's plan takes effect. Immigrant advocates say the distrust that would raise between Hispanics and police would erase any political advantage the president might hope to gain.

"Latinos very much support law enforcement, which is why we think making police officers immigration agents is a terrible idea," said Cecilia Munoz, vice president for policy at the National Council of La Raza. "If the victim of domestic violence feels she can't be calling police because they might be asking for papers, that's bad for the public safety."

Many Senate Democrats agree that conditioning the work permits for illegals on deputizing local police to help enforce immigration laws would do more harm than good.

"Our police officers have gone about the business of protecting their communities, and left the federal government to enforce civil immigration laws," said Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy, senior Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee. "The division of labor makes a great deal of sense, and the burden faced by those who would change it should be awfully high."

Norwood said his Clear Law Enforcement for the Criminal Alien Removal Act could actually be popular among Latinos because it targets law breakers, particularly those identified as crime suspects in a national computer database.

"If you got tough with the enforcement of our laws, I honestly believe you would get more votes from the Hispanic community," Norwood said.

Administration officials are treading carefully on the concept of local enforcement, but supporters of the Norwood and Sessions bills are interpreting some of their recent comments to mean they might be open to the idea.

Questioned by Sessions at a recent hearing, Asa Hutchinson, the Homeland Security Department's undersecretary for border and transportation security, conceded there are not enough federal agents to go after illegal immigrants every time the police call them in.

Hutchinson then pointed out that Bush is asking Congress to double work-site enforcement, detention and removal facilities in the 2005 budget.

At another hearing, Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, asked Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge to consider forging "cooperative law enforcement agreements" with local police rather than spending money on training new federal immigration agents.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

The year ahead should be a good one for you for adding to your resources or acquiring material possessions. Nevertheless, you need to make wise investments because times may not always be this prosperous.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Chances are your sales resistance is quite low today, so it might be wise to stay far away from stores or outlets that contain merchandise too pricey for your wallet.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Even if you're running out on a brief errand to the grocery store, be sure to look your best, because chances are you'll run into someone you are eager to impress.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today's events aren't apt to turn out very satisfactory at this time if you allow your emotions and feelings to dominate your thinking. If you want successful conclusions, make logical decisions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Normally you're very practical concerning large financial matters, but today you could be unduly influenced to foolishly waste your money by a friend who has poor judgment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — It might be advisable to put off getting involved in difficult objectives today. Unless things come easy for you, you're not apt to stick to the discipline and will quickly abort the task.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Pay heed to your instincts today, especially if they should warn you against getting either commercially or romantically involved with someone your intuition warns you against.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Try not to let material considerations come between you and a close friend today. Place more value on friendships than you do on money or worldly goods. They're harder to come by.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Be friendly if you meet someone new today, but don't be overly awed by outward appearances that are superficial and have little meaning. It's the substance of the person that counts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Associates will be peeved and will let you know in no uncertain terms if you look upon them as labor-saving devices today. Don't try to trick them into doing some of your work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Being protective of those you love is an admirable quality, but you must be careful not to carry things to extremes today. Be able to distinguish between sheltering and smothering.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Guard against a tendency to demand agreement from family or close friends when they think otherwise about something. Believing differently is not a form of disloyalty.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Do not attempt to use flattery on others today in order to accomplish your goals. They will quickly see through your tactics and be outraged by your attempts at deceiving them.

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Heavy rains blamed for two deaths

CROWLEY (AP) — Two people, including an 18-year-old woman swept away by rushing water, died Sunday as heavy rains moved through North Texas.

Crowley police Officer Dave Barrington said Dominique Christin Roberts of Crowley was sucked into a concrete drain pipe while wading across a rain-swollen stream in the city's Bicentennial Park. Roberts was accompanied by two younger sisters, who were not injured.

Eight-year-old Brielle Parks made sure that her sister Briana Parks, 3, was safe and then yelled for help from some men playing Disc Golf, Barrington said. A police officer searching for the teenager waded into chest-deep water and was almost swept away.

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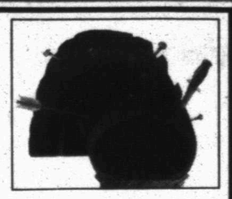

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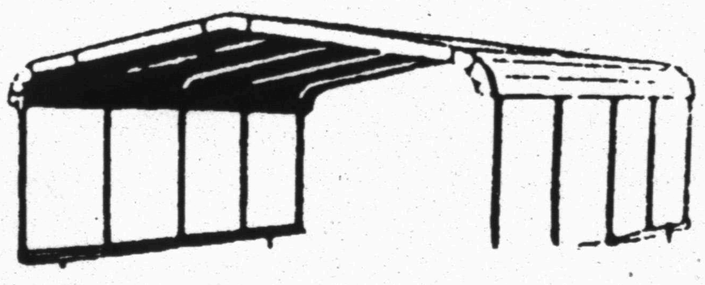

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Coast Guard resumes search

PORTSMOUTH, Va. (AP) — The Coast Guard resumed the air search today as hopes dimmed for 18 missing crewman of a tanker carrying 3.5 million gallons of ethanol that exploded at sea, killing three.

The Coast Guard suspended its search of the frigid Atlantic Ocean at nightfall Sunday — nearly 24 hours after the tanker made its distress call. Officials sent up a C-130 again this morning shortly before daybreak, Petty Officer Jeff Montgomery said.

Montgomery would not speculate about when the Coast Guard would suspend its search.

"The discussions will be held today on this," Montgomery said. "As of now, we can't speculate."

Five people arrested over weekend

Arrests

Five people were booked into the Scurry County jail over the weekend.

At 4:38 a.m. Sunday, two 18-year-old and two 17-year-old males were taken in to custody at North Huffman and Hwy. 208 charged with minor in consumption of alcohol.

Officers made an arrest at 7:06 p.m. Sunday as Joel Cordero, 26, of 1500 27th St. #17 was taken into custody on a Midland County warrant for possession, violation of bond, no driver's license, two violations of promise to appear and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Burglaries

At 8:20 a.m. Sunday, a report for a stolen safe was made from the 3500 block of Business 84.

A caller reported at 3:54 a.m. today the theft of six to 8 DVDs from her residence at 4400 Ave. U.

At 12:56 p.m. Saturday, a caller reported the theft of a portable DVD player from his vehicle while parked at Snyder Lanes.

A sword was reported stolen at 3:15 p.m. Saturday from Mulligan's Mall.

Criminal mischief

Several reports of damaged mailboxes in Snyder and Scurry County were received Saturday and Sunday.

Beginning at 9:26 a.m. Saturday damaged mailboxes were reported in the 300 block of 33rd, 3600 block of Ave. B and the 4600 block of CR 465, and Sunday at 7:57 a.m. damage was reported in the 3200 block of Hill Ave.

At 3:25 p.m. Saturday a caller reported that a rock had been thrown through the windshield of her vehicle while parked with a flat tire on Hwy. 350 three miles south of Ira.

A DPS trooper discovered at 7:29 p.m. Saturday that glass windows in the East Elementary loading zone doors had been broken.

Prowler

At 8 p.m. and 8:46 p.m. Saturday two reports were made of possible prowlers in the 1300 block of 30th St. and the 800 block of 23rd St.

Dog bite

A caller contacted deputies at 1:23 p.m. Sunday to report being bitten by a dog while in the 400 block of James St. in Hermleigh.

Dumping

At 1:32 p.m. Sunday a caller reported some subjects dumping some burnt refuse in a vacant lot in the 700 block of Ave. R.

Rebel convoy rolls into Port-au-Prince

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Rebels rolled into the capital today and were met by hundreds of residents dancing in the streets and cheering the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. U.S. Marines and French troops secured key sites.

People clapped and waved as they yelled "Good job!" and the name of Guy Philippe, a key rebel leader. The convoy first rolled through Petionville, a wealthy suburb, before moving into the heart of Port-au-Prince.

Rebels riding atop pickup trucks pumped their fists in the air as hundreds spilled into the streets to greet the insurgents as they rolled into downtown Port-au-Prince, shouting "Guy Philippe!"

The convoy then arrived at a large square outside the National Palace and some of the vehicles stopped at a police station nearby.

Not everyone was joyful as the rebels drove past. Some watched indifferently, their arms folded. At one point, the convoy stopped and rebels jumped out, aiming their weapons from side to side, then moved on.

Scores of U.S. Marines and French forces, meanwhile, prepared to fan out from Port-au-Prince's airport and protect key sites — the vanguard of a multinational force approved by the U.N. Security Council.

Aristide, who fled Haiti under pressure from the rebels, the political opposition, the United States and France, arrived today in the Central African Republic for "a few days," according to state radio.

Aristide said in a short broadcast on the African nation's state radio that those who overthrew him had "cut down the tree of peace," but "it will grow again."

An Associated Press correspondent traveling with more than 70 rebels under the command of Philippe, a former assistant police chief and military officer, set out before dawn from the western town of Gonaives, driving past scenes of death and destruction.

Births

Rosa Gutierrez and Eloy Salazar of Snyder announce the birth of their daughter, Alicia Maria Salazar at 4:54 p.m. on Feb. 26 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Alicia weighed eight pounds, three ounces.

Her grandmothers are Christina Salazar of Ballinger and Felipe Aguinaga of Colorado City.

Travis and Susan Goswick of Snyder are parents of seven-pound, 15-ounce McKenzie Renea Goswick, born at 11:01 p.m., Feb. 26 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Paternal grandparents are Joe and Joyce Groves of Hermleigh and great-grandmother is Bea Reynolds of Clyde. Maternal grandparents are Mike and Carolyn Robbins of Snyder.

Obituaries

Inez Rinehart

1912-2004

Lola Inez Rinehart, 91, died Saturday, Feb. 28, at her home in Hermleigh.

Funeral service is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Wright Colonial Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Tony McCreery of Central Baptist Church in Hermleigh, officiating. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Inez Rinehart

Born on Oct. 31, 1912 in Oletha, Texas, she married Earl Rinehart in 1949 in Snyder. Mrs. Rinehart had worked at Perry Brothers and was a past member of the Wastella Baptist Church and People Without Partners. She was a member of the Central Baptist Church in Hermleigh, the Scurry County Senior Citizens Center and volunteered for the American Cancer Society.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James Napoleon and Ann Tonie Buffington; her husband, Earl Rinehart; three brothers, Earnest, Alvie and Marvin Buffington; and two sisters, Mae Edmonds and Vera Gasper.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, James and Vivian Rinehart of Hermleigh; two stepsons and a step daughter-in-law, Billy and Barbara Rinehart of Arlington and Wallace Rinehart of Burleson; two sisters, Clara Buffington of Snyder and Merle Dittrich of Amarillo; a grandson, Charles Sweatt of Austin; a granddaughter, Shae Rinehart of Hermleigh; five step-grandchildren and several great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Jack McCartney

1927-2004

Jack McCartney, longtime Snyder resident, died Saturday, Feb. 28, at his home after a lengthy illness.

Service for Mr. McCartney, 76, was held at 1 p.m. today in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home with Monsignor Curtis T. Halfmann officiating. Burial was to follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

He was born on May 11, 1927 in Rochelle, and married Winifred Jean Clennan on July 24, 1950 in Perryman. She died Feb. 11, 1987. Mr. McCartney moved to Snyder in 1954 and worked as a welder for Holder Construction Co. for many years before starting his own welding service. He retired in 1986. Mr. McCartney attended Rochelle high school until enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1944. He was one of the youngest petty officers to serve in the Navy.

Survivors include two sons, the Rev. James McCartney of Plainview and Charles McCartney and his wife Cindy of Lubbock; three sisters, Velma Oliver, Betty Phelps and Mildred Lindhorn; four brothers and sisters-in-law, L.V. and Nona McCartney, Willie Ray and Barbara McCartney, Junior and Ann McCartney and Bobby and Evelyn McCartney; and a granddaughter, Jaqueline Salter of Lubbock.

Personal, Professional Service

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME

3101 College Ave. 573-5454

DeEtta Musgrove

1908-2004

SWEETWATER — DeEtta Musgrove, mother of Jane Scott of Snyder, died Saturday, Feb. 28, in Lakeview Christian Home in Carlsbad, N.M.

Service for Mrs. Musgrove is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in the Sweetwater Cemetery.

Born on May 26, 1908, Mrs. Musgrove had lived in Sweetwater almost all her life, moving to Carlsbad almost five years ago. She had worked in the welfare department office for many years.

Survivors include two sons, R.D. Samuels of Kansas City and Robert Musgrove of Minnesota; another daughter, Jean Evans of Carlsbad; 11 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

Visitation is set for 7-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Mrs. Parker

1928-2004

Joyce Ynell Parker, longtime Snyder resident, died Saturday, Feb. 28, at her home in Snyder after a lengthy illness.

Mrs. Parker

Service for Mrs. Parker, 75, is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in Colonial Hill Baptist Church. The Rev. Miller Robinson, retired pastor, and Dr. Tommy Culwell, pastor, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born on July 20, 1928 in Oglesby, Texas, she married Leland Hobbs on May 16, 1947 in Lamesa. He died Dec. 30, 1990. She married Hood Parker on Aug. 8, 1991 in Abilene.

Mrs. Parker had been a resident of Snyder since 1954 and was a charter member of Colonial Hill Baptist Church.

A son, Robert Hobbs, also preceded her in death as well as five brothers and two sisters.

Survivors include her husband, Hood Parker of Snyder; a son and daughter-in-law, Dale and Yvette Hobbs of Frederick, Md.; a stepdaughter and her husband, Pam and Don Copeland of Lubbock; two sisters, Pearl Jones of Gatesville and Marie McFadden of McGregor; two brothers, Carold "Blackie" Kinsey of San Antonio and Luther Virgil Kinsey Jr. of Mineral Wells; three grandchildren and their spouses, Michelle and Daryl Hale, David and Shandra Copeland and Daniel and Emily Copeland; and two great-grandchildren, Annabell Brace Copeland and Callie Joy Copeland.

Visitation will be from 6-7 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Johnny Panter

1923-2004

CARROLLTON — Johnny Panter of Farmers Branch, a former Snyder resident, died Friday, Feb. 27, in a Dallas hospital after a brief illness.

Service was held at 11 a.m. today in the Rhoton Funeral Home Chapel. Burial was to follow in the Hilltop Cemetery in Carrollton.

Born Dec. 24, 1923 in Pilgrim Rest near Emory, he was a Snyder High School graduate.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robbie and Johnny Panter; his wife, Gineva Panter; and three brothers, Paul Panter, Kenneth Panter and Larry Panter.

Survivors include two sisters and a brother-in-law, Jean Jones of Snyder and Maxine and Jim Scrimshire of Seven Points; and several nieces and nephews, including Connie Collier, Debbie Tubb, both of Snyder, and former Snyder residents, Pam Collum of Midland and Kim Rice of Sundown.

Independently Owned & Operated

WCFH

WRIGHT COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME

200 East 37th St.
Snyder, Texas
325-573-6200

Today's Weather

Local 3 Day Forecast

Tue 3/2	Wed 3/3	Thu 3/4
60/50	68/49	60/36
Cloudy skies with a few showers later in the day. High near 60F.	Windy, slight chance of a thunderstorm.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sunrise 7:10 AM, Sunset 6:42 PM	Sunrise 7:09 AM, Sunset 6:43 PM	Sunrise 7:07 AM, Sunset 6:44 PM

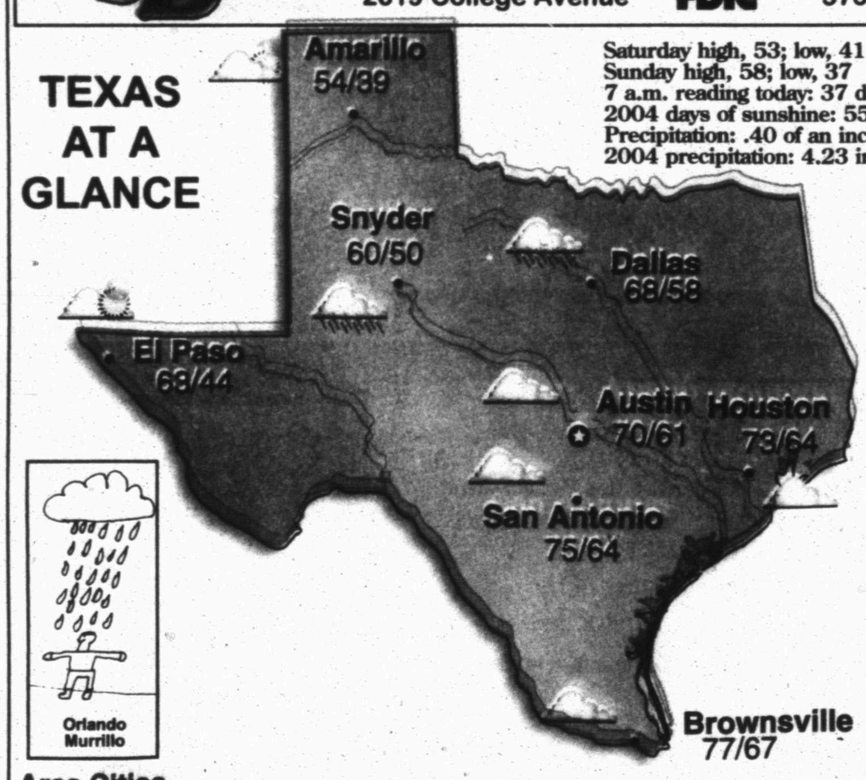
Texas Savings Bank

"MOVE IT ON OVER"

2619 College Avenue FDIC 573-9305

TEXAS AT A GLANCE

Saturday high, 53; low, 41
Sunday high, 58; low, 37
7 a.m. reading today: 37 degrees
2004 days of sunshine: 55 of 60
Precipitation: .40 of an inch
2004 precipitation: 4.23 inches



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	64	55	rain	El Paso	63	44	pt sunny	Midland	64	51	cloudy
Amarillo	54	39	cloudy	Fort Stockton	69	52	cloudy	Raymondville	78	65	cloudy
Austin	70	61	cloudy	Gainesville	64	54	rain	Rosenberg	73	63	cloudy
Beaumont	73	63	t-storm	Greenville	67	55	rain	San Antonio	75	64	cloudy
Brownsville	77	67	cloudy	Houston	73	64	cloudy	San Marcos	71	62	cloudy
Brownwood	68	57	rain	Kingsville	77	65	cloudy	Sulphur Springs	67	55	cloudy
Corpus Christi	73	65	cloudy	Livingston	71	60	t-storm	Sweetwater	63	54	rain
Corsicana	68	58	rain	Longview	69	58	t-storm	Tyler	68	58	t-storm
Dallas	68	58	rain	Lubbock	58	45	cloudy	Weatherford	66	55	rain
Del Rio	73	63	cloudy	Lufkin	70	62	t-storm	Wichita Falls	61	50	rain

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	66	49	rain	Houston	73	64	cloudy	Phoenix	55	46	rain
Boston	52	39	rain	Los Angeles	59	47	rain	San Francisco	59	44	windy
Chicago	47	33	cloudy	Miami	77	69	pt sunny	Seattle	53	36	mst sunny
Dallas	68	58	rain	Minneapolis	38	21	cloudy	St. Louis	54	35	pt sunny
Denver	43	28	pt sunny	New York	58	42	rain	Washington, DC	67	45	rain

Moon Phases

First	Full	Last	New
Feb 28	Mar 6	Mar 13	Mar 20

UV Index

Tue 3/2	Wed 3/3	Thu 3/4
4	5	6
Low	Moderate	Moderate

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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