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INSIDE

Lottery results 2
Sports 3
Midday stocks 7
Business directory 8
What's Up 10

WT-Int. Crude - $23.47
WTIC Posted - $20.25
Natural Gas - $3.120

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
April 15, 2002
Vol. 53 No. 298
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Kolby Kubena

County puts Lorber on notice on back taxes

By Brian Brisendine
SDN Staff Writer

Scurry County commissioners' court this morning opted to notify Lorber Industries of Texas of its non-compliance on a tax-abatement agreement, but stopped short of pursuing back taxes for now.

County Attorney Mike Hartman told the court the notification would "allow the county more options" and that it is just the first step in the recovery section of the abatement agreement.

Snyder ISD trustees Thursday began the process of attempting to collect some $130,000 in back taxes. The county, city and Western Texas College granted an eight-year tax abatement to Lorber when it opened in 1998.

Hartman said the county has abated roughly $125,000 since that time.

Roy Baze, a former DCOS board member, urged Scurry County not to seek the back taxes, which would result in additional burden to the company.

"In my opinion, the best interests of the community will be best served to refrain from active pursuit of such abated taxes," Baze said. "In my view such action will put a cloud on legal title to property that is up for renewed use or operation.

"All parties entered in tax abatement with good intentions," Baze continued. "Unfortunately the project failed for the time being."

Precinct 1 commissioner Ralph Trevey questioned whether notification would be made to Lorber of California or Lorber of Texas, but Hartman said a letter would be sent to both companies.

Trevey moved to send the notification and the motion passed unanimously.

Representatives from Big Country Electric also were on hand to discuss economic development with the court and talked at length about Lorber and the industrial park.

Big Country General Manager Jerry Stapp said a number of factors contributed to the spinning mill's October, 2001 closing.

"There was a drop in cotton prices, a decrease in the spun yarn market, world-wide competition and the death of company founder Arnold Lorber," he said. "It was a bunch of circumstances that hit at the wrong time."

Stapp said the closing of Snyder's mill was not unique, as more than 100 similar facilities closed in 2001.

He also told the court Big Country built a substation at the park large enough to accommodate the planned growth of Lorber, to include a second spinning mill, a knitting plant and a bleaching and dying facility.

"We've got more invested in this than anyone else," he said.

Stapp also suggested the court should extend the tax abatement if it hoped for Lorber to return to Snyder.

In other business, the court heard a report on construction projects underway at Cogdell Hospital and viewed blueprints of the proposed assisted living facility.

Hospital administrator George Parsley said the projects are "progressing pretty well."

Emergency room renovations are moving along, according to Parsley, with foundations, plumbing and underground electrical amenities installed.

The surgery unit is being remodeled and expanded and Parsley told the court he is seeking a waiver for fewer recovery beds, which will better suit the hospital's needs.

Parsley told the court the assisted living facility, which was originally designed as a 16-bed unit on the southeast corner of the Cogdell grounds, will now be constructed with 24 beds.

Parsley also discussed possible funding opportunities for the site.

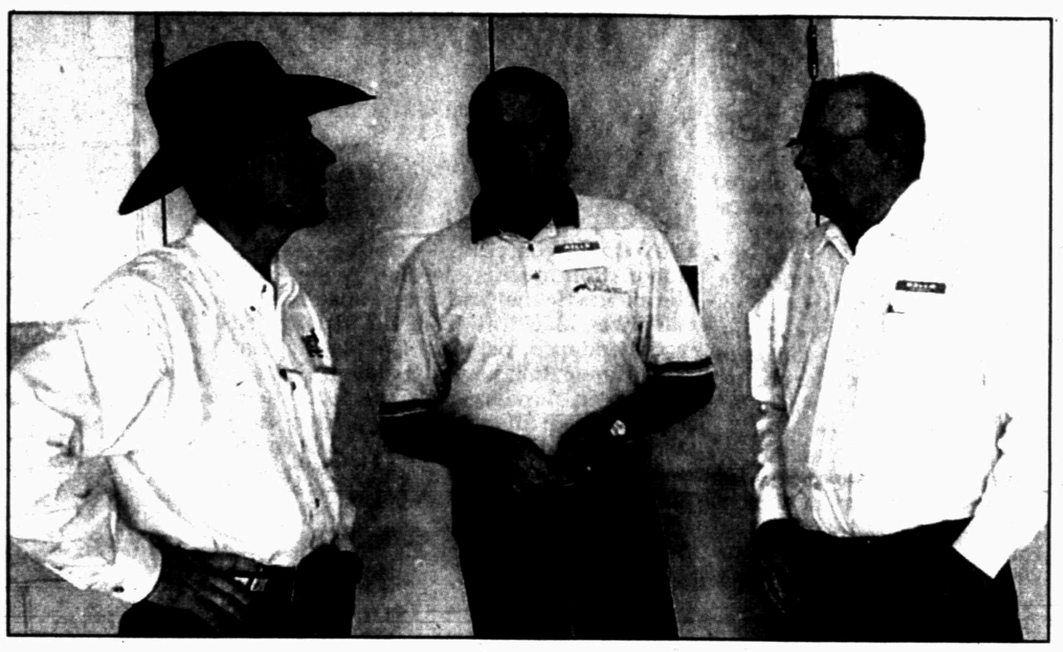
A request from Boy Scout leader James Garvin for use of Towle Park pond in May for a fishing tournament was approved.

The court convened in executive session to discuss real estate for 25 minutes, but took no action after returning in open session.

The real estate under discussion is the proposed site of the assisted living project on the southeast corner of the hospital grounds. The assisted living project would require 2.1 acres.

One line-item transfer of $4,000 was approved for repairs in Precinct 1 and a budget amendment was okayed for $6,058 at the airport. The money will be used for a storm-water prevention plan and repairs to a transmitter.

County Judge Ricky Fritz presided over the meeting and all members of the court were present to include Trevey, Howard Limmer, Roy Idom and Chloanne Lindsey.



ANNUAL MEETING — The First Ag Credit annual meeting was held Friday evening at the Scurry County Coliseum. First Ag Credit has 39 offices in 113 counties. Robert Laird, president of the Snyder office, handed out $30,000 in patronage checks to stockholders. Visiting prior to the dinner were, from left, WTC rodeo coach Greg Rhodes, director Keith Corzine of Sagerton and director Don Jones of Fluvanna. Following the meeting, the group attended the WTC rodeo. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Trial starts in death of corrections officer

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Defense attorneys for a state prison inmate accused in a corrections officer's slaying say one of their challenges in his capital murder trial is the client's prior record.

Attorneys for Robert Lynn Pruett prepared to present opening statements today. Pruett, who is already serving a life sentence for murder out of the Houston area, will stand trial this week for the December 1999 killing of McConnell Unit correctional officer Daniel Nagle.

Defense attorney John Gilmore and co-counsel Joe Collin must account for jurors' knowledge that Pruett was previously convicted of murder. That fact alone, they say, was apparently enough for some potential jurors to believe that Pruett was capable of killing again.

Nagle, 37, was stabbed to death Dec. 17, 1999, at the McConnell Unit near Beeville. It was the first time a Texas corrections officer was killed in the line of duty since Minnie Houston was stabbed to death at the Ellis Unit, near Huntsville, in 1984.

"We all have our prejudices, and some people just cannot be fair to someone who's been in the trouble with the law before," Collin told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times in today's editions.

He said attorneys had difficulty finding 12 jurors willing to suspend that belief.

The defense team and prosecutors took about six weeks to interview more than 250 prospective jurors.

Officers investigating sexual assault charges

Snyder officers today are holding a 23-year-old Hispanic man on sexual assault charges.

Fernando Ramirez, an illegal alien who was also wanted by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, is the suspect in the assault that occurred Saturday afternoon.

Officers responded to a residence in the 200 block of 29th Street at 5 p.m. Saturday after the incident was reported.

The victim is a 19-year-old woman, according to Snyder Police Sgt. Brian Haggard, and the incident remains under investigation.

Information on the police blotter indicated the subject fled the residence on a bicycle.

Tuesday evening...

Relay for Life team captains set meeting

Team captains for the Scurry County Relay for Life will turn in donations Tuesday evening between 5:30 and 7:30 at West Texas State Bank.

Captains also will take delivery of the event T-shirts for their teams. Relay for Life Team captain chairperson Ann Everett said that the waiver sheet that was signed by each team member also should be turned in at this time.

Cancer survivors wishing to participate in the Survivors' Lap of Hope and Victory that will kick off the event Friday at 6 p.m. are also invited to pick up their complimentary T-shirts Tuesday evening. Any survivors who have not registered with Janet Wesson are encouraged to do so at this time.

Luminaries that will be lit during a special ceremony at the Relay for Life may also be purchased Tuesday evening.

The luminaries can be purchased for a minimum donation of $5 to honor someone who is battling cancer, or who has survived the battle, or in memory of someone who has been lost to cancer.

The donor's name and the names of those they are honoring will be read during this solemn ceremony at 10 p.m. Friday at Tiger Stadium.

Executive session planned...

DCOS sets early monthly meeting

The Development Corporation of Snyder board of directors will meet in closed session at 4 p.m. Tuesday to discuss real property.

This will be the board's regular monthly meeting.

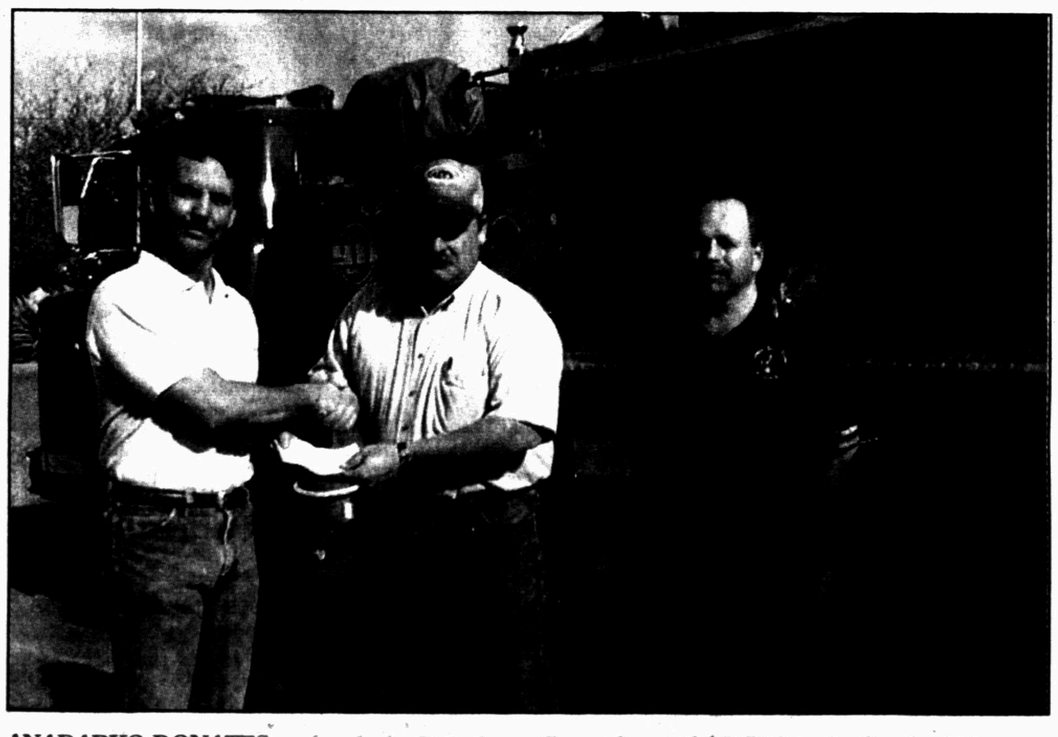
The topic is expected to be the property owned by Lorber Industries of Texas that is located in the industrial park.

The company is delinquent on its taxes owed the Snyder ISD, and last week the school board voted to file a tax warrant to collect $130,000 in back taxes.

This action will allow the district to seize the property and if so desired, sell it after 10 days.

It is hoped, however, that the main creditor of Lorber — General Electric Capital Credit — will pay the back taxes to avoid the building coming under the control of out-of-town interests.

Besides meeting in closed session, the board will review last month's financial statements, and hear the monthly report from Executive Director John DeLille.



ANADARKO DONATES — Anadarko Petroleum Corp. donated $2,500 to the Snyder Volunteer Fire Deptment. Making the presentation this morning was Roger Lollar, (left) Anadarko area supervisor. Firemen accepting were Phillip Kincheloe, president; and Doug Scott, treasurer of the volunteers. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunely)

Ira ISD board names officers for 2002-2003

Ira ISD board of trustees met for about an hour this morning and cancelled the May 4 election, declaring three incumbent board members duly elected.

The trustees are Sid Wall, Fran Farmer and Lance Autry. All were unopposed for re-election.

Trustees then elected Dirk Dunn to serve as president for the coming year, and Keith Clements as vice president.

Farmer was elected board secretary.

Trustees accepted the resignation of English teacher and one-act play coordinator Sherron Miller, and made minor changes in the requirements for serving as a cheerleader.

Supt. Jim Rumage said cheerleader candidates must have an 80 average or above in core subjects in order to tryout for cheerleader

Trustees approved budget amendments, and adopted a resolution for the Snyder Daily News to be named to the media honor roll.

The board also heard the monthly reports from Rumage and principal Mike Duke.

ASK US

Q—How much do jurors get paid for serving on a Lubbock federal court jury?

A—Federal court jurors receive $40 per day, plus 34.5 cents mileage reimbursement.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 76 degrees; low, 57; high Sunday, 85; low, 57; 7 a.m. Monday, 60; no precipitation; total for 2002, 5.67 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy, breezy, 30% rain chance; large hail and damaging winds possible; low around 60. Tuesday, high around 85.

Ashton Burton
Windy, stormy

Sunset: 8:12 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:14 a.m.
Of 104 days in 2002, the sun has shone 99 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Belief in a thing makes it happen.
—Frank Lloyd Wright

APR 15 2002

Lubbock High team happy with results

LUBBOCK (AP) — The spotlight was just a little much Sunday night for Catherine Lee, one of the Lubbock High School academic decathlon team members returning from nationals.

"I feel like if I get this much attention I shouldn't have to go to school tomorrow, but I do," Lee said, against a backdrop of flashbulbs and applause as the team members moved through the airport.

The team finished third in the large-school national competition in Phoenix and fourth overall.

"This victory is sweet because we worked hard and it's the best Lubbock High has ever done," the 16-year-old senior said.

The controversy of the past few weeks was only a memory as the team was greeted by about three dozen people, mainly family and friends.

It wasn't until the day before the competition began that the team knew with certainity they would represent Texas. Late last month, Pasadena's J. Frank Dobie contested the results of the state competition, arguing that scoring discrepancies cheated its team out of points.

The school took its claim to court and for two weeks the case bounced between courtrooms in Houston, Lubbock, Amarillo and Austin, before the Texas Supreme Court weighed in on the issue: the courts have no place in deciding these types of contested outcomes.

The controversy really didn't affect the Lubbock team once, members said, they learned on a layover in Albuquerque, N.M., on Wednesday that the Supreme Court had ruled and Lubbock retained its certification as state champions.

Early on in the controversy, the on-again, off-again win did get to some of the students, senior George Busby said

"But then we stopped listening to it, ignored it and got down to work," he said. "It was kind of nerve-racking."

The court cases didn't have any effect on her expectations of the team or how it performed, Lee said.

Busby said he kind of understood Dobie wanting to fight for a place at nationals. They have been there before. "They were the people to beat," he said. "We went a lot further than we thought we would at the beginning of the year."

Lubbock Superintendent Jack Clemmons is convinced the students would have finished in second place nationally without the early distractions.

In addition to the third-place finish, the team ranked fifth in Super Quiz and was named the Rookie Team of the Year in the large-school category. Team members also captured 17 individual medals.

The overall champion across all divisions was Waukesha West High School in Waukesha, Wis. The team earned a total of 48,871 points.

Lindbergh's grandson begins re-creation of historic flight

CHESTERFIELD, Mo. (AP) — Pushed by strong tail winds, the grandson of aviation icon Charles Lindbergh touched down Sunday in this St. Louis suburb in the first leg of a journey to duplicate his grandfather's historic 1927 solo crossing of the Atlantic.

About two hours ahead of schedule, Erik Lindbergh, 36, arrived Sunday evening in the New Spirit of St. Louis, a state-of-the-art Lancair Columbia 300 equipped with modern communications technology and safety gear.

The flight re-creation is part of the 75th anniversary celebration of Charles Lindbergh's cross-Atlantic flight, which began in San Diego, where the original Spirit of St. Louis was built.

Wearing a blue flight suit, the young Lindbergh left San Diego's Lindbergh Field Sunday morning without speaking to reporters. Arriving at the Spirit of St. Louis Airport, he stepped from his tiny plane and gave a couple of thumbs-up signs.

Lindbergh called the flight uneventful, besides three hours of turbulence he weathered while trying to eat a sandwich.

"I'm ready to rest for a couple of days," Lindbergh said. He was asked what he thought his famous grandfather might say about his plans.

"He might say, 'Why are you doing this crazy thing?' I have no idea," Lindbergh said. "I'm very excited."

Lindbergh's arrival was greeted by about 20 spectators, some with binoculars and cameras. The observers applauded and wished him well.

He plans to fly on April 20 to Farmingdale, N.Y., where he will begin the 17- to 21-hour flight to Paris on May 1. The cross-Atlantic trip took Charles Lindbergh 33 1/2 hours.

The quest will be monitored by a mission control center at the St. Louis Science Center.

The new aircraft, made of a glass and carbon composite, was built in Bend, Ore., for $289,000. Its average cruise speed is 184 mph, compared with the 108 mph of the original Spirit of St. Louis, which was built for $10,580.

The Missouri stop was significant because two St. Louis movers and shakers of decades past financed the 1927 flight. En route to New York in his new silver monoplane, Charles Lindbergh stopped in St. Louis to show his backers what their money had built.

In San Diego, dozens of reporters and supporters gathered to see off the young Lindbergh, a commercial pilot and artist who lives in the Seattle area.

The adventure is intended to raise awareness of rheumatoid arthritis, which disabled Erik Lindbergh for 15 years before drug treatment helped restore his mobility.

DRAWING WINNERS — Not being absent and making the A Honor Roll during the fall semester paid off for these Hermleigh School students whose names were drawn for special prizes. Back row from left, Brittany Kelley, 7th grader, perfect attendance, personal CD player; Shae Rinehart, 9th grader, A Honor Roll, personal stereo. Front row from left are Tyler Nachlinger, kindergarten, perfect attendance, personal CD player; Lelan Shankles, 5th grader, A Honor Roll, personal stereo. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

events

LOTTO TEXAS™

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — No ticket matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket was worth an estimated $6 million.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 2-5-9-28-44-53

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $9 million.

Pick 3

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

2-8-0

The Mosser MASSACRE

The Southwest's Greatest Manhunt

by Glenn Shirley

Revised Edition of Born To Kill

THE MOSSER MASSACRE

by Glenn Shirley

The nation's greatest manhunt began the morning of January 3, 1951, with the routine investigation of an abandoned car, mired in the mud near Tulsa, Oklahoma.

A quick glance into the interior of the car revealed evidence of one of the most shocking crimes in U.S. history-the brutal, senseless murder of a whole family.

In the twelve days that followed, 2,000 peace officers trailed a gun-crazy, mad-dog terrorist through fourteen states and Mexico, uncovering in his wake six murders and as many kidnapings.

This is the true story of William (Billy) E. Cook, whose orgy of violence overshadowed anything in the John Dillinger-Pretty Boy Floyd era.

Only $24.95

Snyder Daily News

3600 College Ave. 573-5486

Berry's World

An OPPORTUNITY
City Wide Clean-up Campaign
NO CHARGE

The dump truck will be available in these areas of town on these days. Please schedule ahead by calling 573-4960 or 573-4969 by April 19th, 2002

April 22nd - West of College Ave and South of 30th St.
April 23rd - East of College Ave and South of 30th St.
April 24th - West of College Ave and North of 30th St.
April 25th - East of College Ave and North of 30th St.

THESE SERVICES ARE FOR INDIVIDUALS, NOT TO BE USED BY PERSONS IN THE BUSINESS OF DEMOLITION OR CLEAN-UP AND WILL BE LIMITED TO 1 (ONE) LOAD PER RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS INSIDE THE CITY LIMITS ONLY.

If the schedule is full when you call, you may take your current utility bill, with the items you wanted picked up, into the landfill at no charge during the four (4) day clean-up campaign.

Sponsored by:
City of Snyder
Snyder Chamber of Commerce
Snyder Beautification Committee

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

In the year ahead, continue to stick to any endeavor that you've been working on. With resolve, perseverance and diligence, you could at long last realize a harvest.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You may not accomplish your aims, not because you didn't think your moves through thoroughly, but because you could carelessly change directions without cause. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Stay the course and avoid taking any gambles — or associates who may be prone to take them. Either could set you back on your heels.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — When it comes to any partnership arrangements, the rules of the game must be clarified and fully enforced. Without them in place, either party could go astray and cause trouble.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You may start off on the right foot by working slowly and carefully. However, should time start to run out, you could become reckless and spoil the entire endeavor.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Stick with your tried and true friends and forego getting involved with an unknown entity. Someone about whom you know little may betray your trust.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — If you get sidetracked by petty issues, there's a chance that you won't conclude an endeavor to which you've devoted considerable time, which could cause negative effects.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Follow your own counsel and do what you know to be correct. If you listen to unwise advice from another, it could sabotage your aims.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Think twice before involving yourself in a financial endeavor, such as putting up your hard-earned money on something that's not yours. You could lose it all.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Keep those with whom you share a special endeavor informed about your intentions. If you don't, they could thwart your efforts when it comes time to implement them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You can often discern what the end results might be before you embark on an endeavor, but that may not be the case this time, however. Don't take chances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — You are still in that cycle where the impression you make on people will be strong and lasting. Beware that you don't make it a bad one.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Partial victories will not have any significance in the large scheme of things. Nothing is a fait accompli just because you've worked on it for a little while.

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Protests bring felony charges for activists

MIAMI (AP) — Fourteen Greenpeace activists and a freelance photographer were charged with trying to board a ship carrying Brazilian mahogany they said had been illegally logged.

The Coast Guard detained members of the environmental group Friday after they used inflatable rafts to intercept a cargo vessel carrying at least 8,750 cubic feet of the wood.

The U.S. Attorney's Office charged the protesters and photographer with forcibly interfering with law enforcement, a felony, and illegally boarding a vessel on the high seas, a misdemeanor. They could spend up to five years in prison if convicted.

"We're totally surprised by the severity of the charges," said Greenpeace spokesman Mike Roselle. "Our intent was certainly not to obstruct the ship, only to put a spotlight on illegal trade."

All imported shipments of big leaf mahogany are being held in U.S. ports until the federal government decides whether they violate international treaties, said Jim Rogers, spokesman for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for the United States Department of Agriculture.

Authorities said two Greenpeace members boarded the ship while members in two rubber rafts zigzagged in front of it to block the Coast Guard.

The protesters came from the United States, Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands.

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National

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By Phillip Al

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Mineta announces new fed security directors for Dallas

GRAPEVINE (AP) — Two former federal law enforcement agents will be the federal security directors at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and Dallas Love Field, U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta said Sunday.

Jimmy Wooten is the new federal security director at DFW Airport and Michael J. Restovich will be the federal security director for Love Field.

"They will be in charge of two of America's most important airports," Mineta said as he stood in front of an American flag near a security checkpoint at DFW Airport, Wooten and Restovich behind him. "These are the people who serve as our field marshals in aviation security."

Wooten served more than 30 years with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. He served as the division director/special agent in charge of the Dallas field division since April 2000.

"We have several things in mind that we want to implement," Wooten said. He said he could not go into details.

He said he feels comfortable flying now, but that doesn't mean there isn't room for improvement.

Restovich has been director of asset protection for Exodus Communications in Dallas for two years. He previously headed the Network Integrity group for MCI WorldCom in Richardson.

Before joining WorldCom in 1993, he served 22 years as special agent with the Secret Service.

"My job is to come in and enhance the existing security," Restovich said.

Mineta said the two will be on the front lines in the war on terrorism.

"Frankly, we could not have found better people for these two jobs," Mineta said.

The federal security director position was created by the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, signed by President Bush on Nov. 19.

The directors will oversee federal security operations at the airports. They will be responsible for airport security, enforcement and oversight.

Mineta said that in the weeks ahead, as new passenger screening procedures are rolled out, consistency will be important. The new procedures have been tested at Baltimore-Washington International Airport

He said among the testing successes, they've cut wait time during peak hours from more than 20 minutes to 15-10 minutes. They have also increased the number of passengers going through checkpoints by 40 percent.

Besides Wooten and Restovich, nine directors have begun duty at U.S. airports so far. According to the Transportation Security Administration Web site, the basic salary ranges for the director are between $104,800 and $150,000.

Transportation Security Administration: www.tsa.gov

Mayor bedeviled by order banning Satan from town

INGLIS, Fla. (AP) — The last time an agent of temptation came to this sleepy hamlet near the Gulf Coast, throngs of screaming girls followed his every move.

Forty-years later, a more pernicious force than Elvis Presley was apparently stalking the town — Satan.

Or so the mayor believed.

Mayor Carolyn Risher began seeing growing examples of what she deemed Satan's work: instances of fathers abusing their children, increased drug use and children wearing devil costumes for Halloween.

So Risher did what she thought any good public servant would do for the town's 1,400 residents. She wrote a proclamation banning Satan from the town's three square miles.

"We exercise our authority over the devil in Jesus' name," the Nov. 5-dated proclamation read. "By that authority ... we command all satanic and demonic forces to cease their activities and depart the town of Inglis."

The mayor ended the proclamation by saying she was taking this action "in accordance with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

What followed was an international uproar that has raised questions about the appropriateness of religion in government.

Risher has received hundreds of letters, from as far away as Australia and Spain, praising her for taking a stand against evil. She also has been condemned by advocates of church and state separation.

The town hall now frequently receives phone calls from pranksters claiming to be Satan. Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" sent a correspondent who put a person in a red-devil's costume and had residents chase him out of town for the camera.

Some residents talked about getting a petition to remove the mayor from office but that effort has been put on hold.

"She used this for self-glorification, trying to make a name for herself and I can't condone it," said town commissioner Floyd Craig, who plans to run against Risher next year.

The American Civil Liberties Union considered filing a lawsuit but backed off after town commissioners said the proclamation was not an official town act because it wasn't approved by the commission.

Risher reimbursed the town more than $13 for the costs of stationery, copying and telephone calls related to the proclamation.

"It's not like we're on a witch hunt for the mayor, we just want to make sure she's following the Constitution," said Gary Edinger, an ACLU attorney in Gainesville.

Risher, a 61-year-old Pentecostal who has been mayor for 10 years, said she had no intention of offending anyone and doesn't believe she was violating the Constitution because she wasn't establishing a religion.

Inglis, located 75 miles north of Tampa, has a handful of churches and just a scattering of businesses. Many residents work at nearby power plants.

It is a community where the mayor has a painting of "The Last Supper" in her office. A sign behind the receptionist's desk in the police department reads, "Good morning. This is God. I will be handling all your problems today. I will not need your help, so relax and have a good day."

Some town residents said Risher is a good mayor and a well-meaning, friendly, no-nonsense leader. But many worry that her actions have made the town — where Presley filmed "Follow That Dream" — a laughingstock.

"People think it's kind of a joke in the area," said Sunny Price, owner of River Coast Realty. "She's entitled to believe whatever she believes in but don't do it in the name of the town."

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Wedding planner's dream is nightmare for her fiance

DEAR ABBY: I have been engaged for 18 months, and we still have not set a wedding date. Every time I talk to my fiance about it, he suggests we elope to Australia or something. At first, it was because of his job. When I finally pinned him down about what was bothering him, he confessed that he absolutely does not want a wedding reception. He wants to marry me, but he wants it to be just the two of us. No guests.

Abby, the irony of it is that I am a professional wedding planner. My dream is to have the wedding I have always pictured. I want about 100 friends around me at this important time. However, my fiance cannot stand to be the focus of attention, and he says he would be miserable if I make him go through with it.

I tried to draw an analogy by asking him how he would feel if I told him he could not be a policeman anymore because I would be miserable. He says it's not the same because that is his job. Well, I am a professional wedding planner and coordinator. This would be MY ultimate dream job. Please don't tell me to scale down the wedding — it is not possible to invite one cousin and explain you cannot invite the other, etc. I'm at a loss about what to do. — **FRUSTRATED IN TEXAS**

DEAR FRUSTRATED: I have good news and bad news. The good news is I'm not going to tell you to scale down the wedding. The bad news is I think you should rethink marrying your fiance at all. A man would have to have his head encased in concrete not to know that a woman's wedding day is one of the most important events of her life. As a professional event coordinator, your life revolves around social events.

Please think beyond the wedding to birthdays, anniversaries, events around babies — all the occasions you will want to mark with a celebration. He won't want to participate, and if he does, he won't enjoy it. You two can try counseling and perhaps compromise. But will you be happy with someone who is so introverted and self-centered? Only you can answer that one.

**

DEAR ABBY: My husband rejects my romantic overtures, my attempts at conversation or a social life with him, and any efforts to discuss our few disagreements. (We almost never argue because he often refuses to talk or even reply to my greetings.) He also refuses counseling of any kind and rejects literature on relationships or depression.

Abby, please tell your readers to run, don't walk, away from a man who's been divorced more than once. There's a reason why he's single. I trusted his version of how his past marriages fell apart. I trusted that his courting behavior was the real him. Wrong. It was just dating behavior. The happy part of our marriage lasted only a few months. His ex-wives must be laughing at me because I've discovered what they knew years ago. I am intelligent, capable and educated — and still I made a profoundly stupid mistake when it came to love. — **DISILLUSIONED IN MILWAUKEE**

DEAR DISILLUSIONED: Please don't be so hard on yourself. Intelligence, education and competence do not guarantee that a person of either sex will automatically choose the right spouse. And why do you think your husband's former wives are laughing at you? If anyone can empathize with your unhappiness, they can.

Since your husband refuses counseling and is unwilling to work on your marriage, go without him — if only to understand why you have tolerated this hostile living arrangement for as long as you have. After that, you'll know what to do.

**

Pauline Phillips and her daughter Jeanne Phillips share the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder

04-15-02

North
♠ Q 10 7
♥ K 8 6 5
♦ A K 7 6 3
♣ 2

West
♠ K 6 5 2
♥ J 3
♦ Q J 10 8
♣ Q 7 4

East
♠ A J 4
♥ Q 4 2
♦ 9 5 4
♣ 8 6 5 3

South
♠ 9 8 3
♥ A 10 9 7
♦ 2
♣ A K J 10 9

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

Opening lead: ??

Monday, April 15, 2002

More errors there than anywhere

By Phillip Alder

More errors are made at trick one than at any other trick. So, for the next three weeks, let's look at some of the possibilities faced by the three active players at trick one.

First, of course, is the taxing (on Tax Day) opening lead. If you were West, what would you lead against four hearts?

How often have you suffered like this? The bidding is over, and you are the declarer. No lead is forthcoming. You tell your left-hand opponent that it is his lead.

"It is? How did the bidding go?" And after you tell him, "Let me have that again." Then he starts to think about his lead.

You should analyze the bidding as it progresses, working out the hand-strengths of all three other players. Then most of the time your lead will be informed, not a guess.

Let's go through West's options here. A club is lousy, straight into declarer's first-bid suit. The diamond queen looks tempting, but again it is a suit bid by an opponent. A trump is potentially suicidal. That leaves the spade two, which would be my clear choice. Also, which is mega-important, the low-card lead guarantees an honor in the suit. (If you do not have an honor, lead high.)

Here, East wins the first trick with the spade jack, cashes the spade ace, and returns the spade four. West exits in a minor suit, and the defenders await the setting trick in hearts.

Note that on any other opening lead, declarer can get home. Also, if West leads the 13th spade at trick four, South can succeed with a Devil's Coup — try it and see.

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Texas millionaire won't develop big ranch

LIVINGSTON, Mont. (AP) — The Houston oilman who just bought 44,000 acres of ranchland in south-central Montana says he'll never develop it, not for real estate nor oil and gas nor wind energy.

"I don't believe in subdividing," Russell Gordy said. "I won't do that. I'll definitely never develop" the new ranch.

"I just love that country," he said. "It was a unique opportunity to put together a bunch of land without much state or federal land in it."

Gordy paid more than $40 million, reportedly the most expensive private ranch deal in Montana history.

Though he made his money in energy, Gordy said he won't drill for gas and oil on the property, nor will he develop wind energy.

At some point, he told the Bozeman Daily Chronicle in a telephone interview, he might put a conservation easement on the property, but not in the immediate future.

He won't live on it, either, because "my wife can't stand the cold," but he expects to be a frequent visitor. He loves to hunt upland birds, which abound on his new ranch.

"I'd rather hunt birds than eat," he said.

He said he'll probably build a home on the ranch, but plans no other big changes.

"I won't mess it up," he said. "I think people will find I'm a good neighbor."

Gordy hunts big game in Africa and Alaska.

This is his fourth ranch, including one south of Casper, Wyo., of more than 70,000 acres.

Dave Gibson, whose family owned one of the Montana ranches for more than 100 years, has been hired to manage the combined seven ranches as a single ranch.

"It'll be a cow-calf operation," Gibson said. "It'll be just like it was in the past.

Did you take

FEN-PHEN?

The diet drug Fen-Phen was marketed under several names including **Redux**, **Pondimin**, **Fenfluramine**, or **Dexfenfluramine**. If you took these diet drugs, you should know that it may not be too late to opt-out of the nationwide class action for the purpose of pursuing a lawsuit against the drug company individually

FOR MORE INFORMATION, AND TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A FREE, NON-INVASIVE ECHOCARDIOGRAPHIC SCREENING, PLEASE CALL US

713-963-0400 or **800-859-9009**

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THREE RIVERWAY, SUITE 940
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77056
dfriend@billbasslaw.com

Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.
We often work in conjunction with other law firms on clients' cases.

THE HAIR STATION
The cottage by the creek

The Hair Station is proud to introduce our new hair stylist, Melisa Bennett.

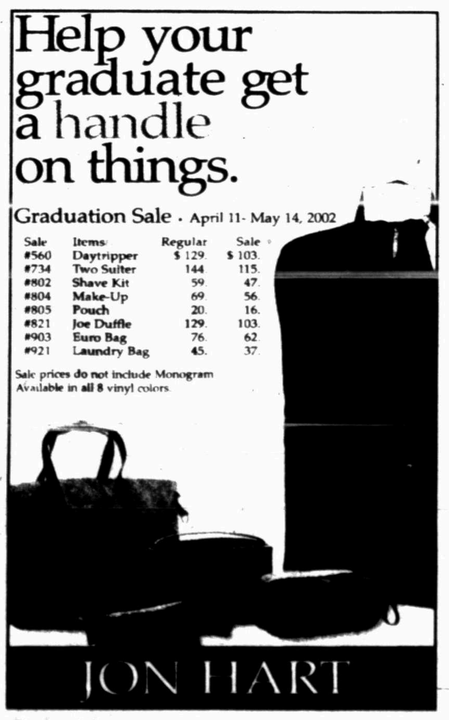
Melisa is a native to West Texas, and will be joining our staff beginning April 22nd. She will be accepting appointments Monday through Wednesday of each week.

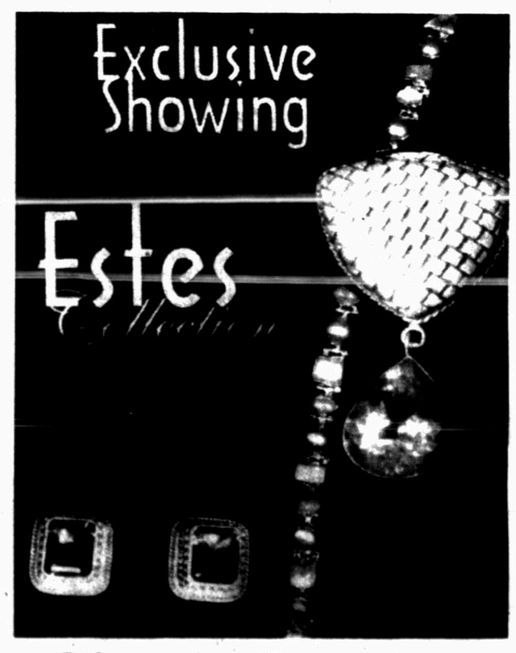
Melisa excels at all chemical processes as well as today's current hair styles. She also is a recognized esthetician.

Call for an appointment with Melisa Bennett 573-0885
2005 26th Street • Snyder, Texas

Mark Your Calendars Now...

Classic Interiors Spring Trunk Show - Thursday, April 25th, 2002
featuring





Free Monogramming for orders placed during trunk show

Classic Interiors
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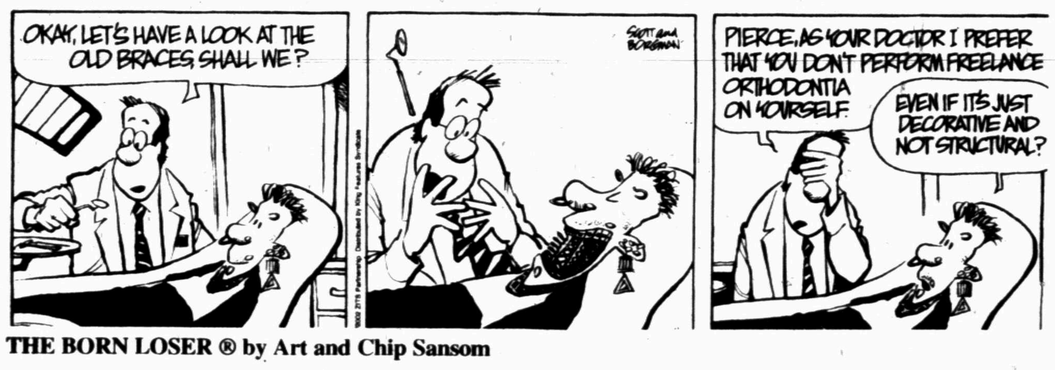
573-1701

APR 15 2002

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski

BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell

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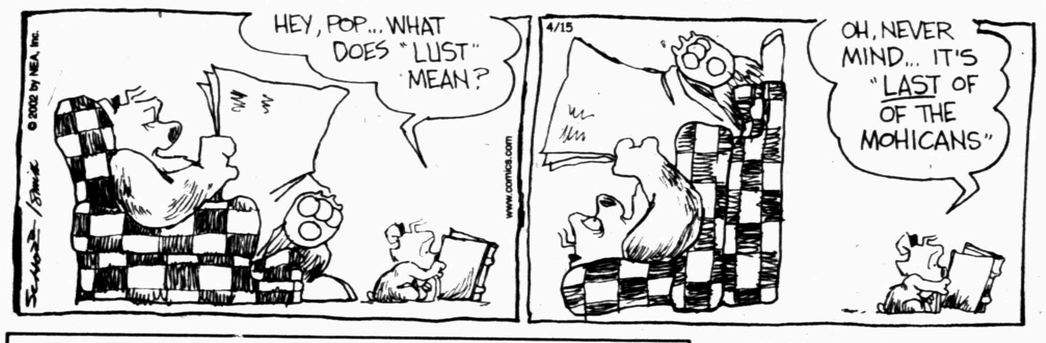
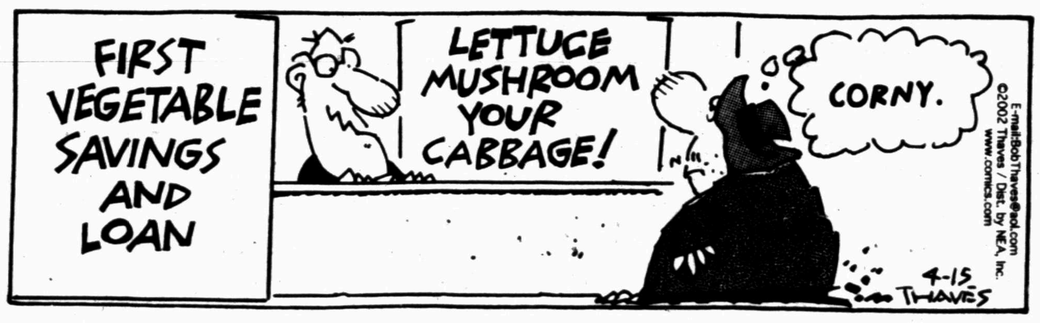
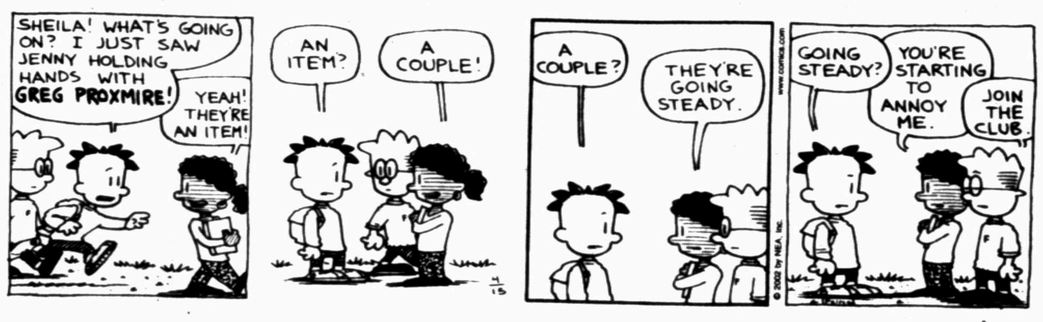


FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson

BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



MONTY ® by Jim Meddick

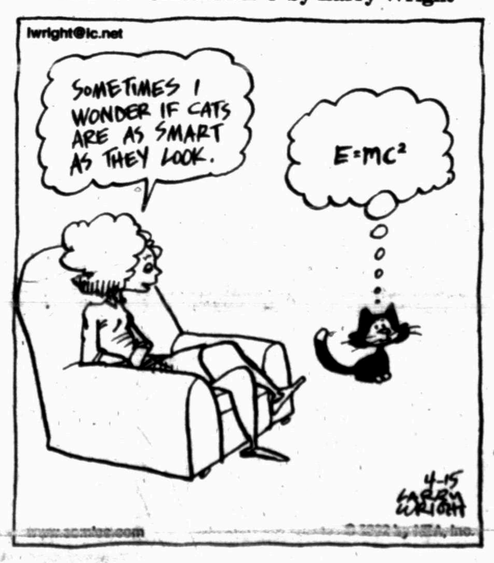
ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

"The sink was clogged!"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Poet Angelou
5 "Woof!"
8 Break suddenly
12 Dollop
13 Grassland
14 Pasternak heroine
15 Decorate again
16 Ghost — — chance
17 Mr. Sandler
18 Election committee
20 Chatter
21 Get sleepy
22 Brazil's — Paulo
23 Yes-man
26 Marshlike
29 Polishes
30 Clink
31 Sturdy tree
33 Vexation
34 Deep bell
35 Push a raft
36 Shut up
38 Trojan War cause
39 Lock opener
40 "The Gold Bug" author
41 Meet
43 Chair material
46 Huff and puff
47 Unduly
48 Artifact
50 Toon's light bulb
51 Debtor's letters
52 World's longest river
53 Hardy heroine
54 DJ's supply
55 Firms up

DOWN

1 Baseball VIP
2 Actor Baldwin
3 Luke Skywalker's guru
4 Teems
5 Audibly
6 Sports "zebras"
7 Air-traffic org.
8 Zigzag course
9 Nil, in Seville
10 Swift horse
11 Dawber or Shelley
19 Flirtatious
20 Phoenician deity
22 Quaff
23 Prefix for cycle
24 Not theirs
25 Busy as — —
26 Grit
27 Where to do laps
28 Ivy League member
30 Young kangaroo
32 Tenn. neighbor
34 Valley
35 Spying on
37 Curly-tailed dogs
38 Ad — committee
40 Preacher-like
41 Green stone
42 Singles
43 Timber
44 Brickell of pop
45 Coffee go-with
46 Hole
47 Muscular spasm
49 Bandleader — Brown

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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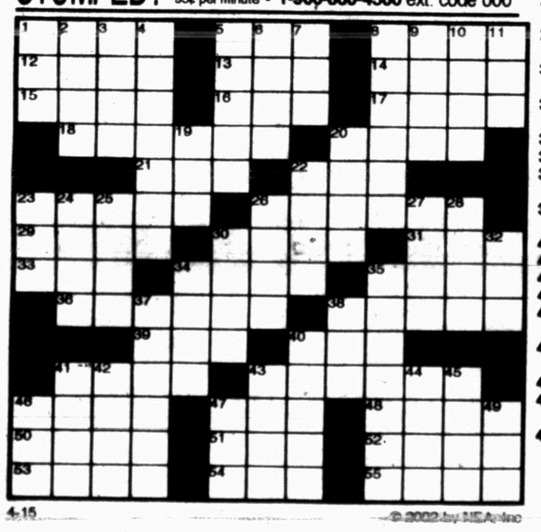

4-15 © 2002 by NEA, Inc

Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"YES, I'M SURE YOU'RE GETTING ENOUGH ROOT BEER IN YOUR DIET."

SPORTS

SHS boys repeat as 4-4A golf champions

ANDREWS — In the final round of the District 4-4A golf tournament, the Snyder Tigers picked up the league trophy and some momentum for the regional tourney.

Snyder fired its lowest district round of the year Saturday, carding a 287 to clinch the title by 20 strokes over runner-up Frenship.

Snyder II tallied a 316 to finish sixth overall.

It was the Tigers' second consecutive district crown and sends the squad to next week's regional tournament on a roll. Snyder won last year's regional crown before finishing eighth at state.

"I was hoping the guys would have their best rounds of the tournament on the last day," said SHS coach Matt Glenn. "Everybody played well and this should help us get one of the top seeds at regionals."

Snyder was solid from top to bottom, turning in nine scores of 76 or better.

Senior Clinton Calmes led the way with a 69, while Britt Sharrock came in with a 72. Brady Reed and Stafford Gray finished with a pair of 73s and Zach Starnes totaled a 76.

For Snyder II, Matt McCormick's 71 paced the squad. Vaughn Wiggins shot a 73. Jason Williams and Alan Gray posted a pair of 76s and Nathan Hines turned in an 84.

The Tigers take aim at defending their regional title next Monday and Tuesday at Quicksand Golf Club in San Angelo.

The Snyder boys will be joined in San Angelo by the Lady Tiger linksters who finished second last week in the district event.

TWO-TIME CHAMPIONS — Snyder High School captured its second consecutive District 4-4A golf crown Saturday with a closing-round 287 at Andrews. Members of the Tiger squad are, from left, Stafford Gray, Brady Reed, Britt Sharrock, Zach Starnes, Clinton Calmes and Coach Matt Glenn. (Contributed Photo)

SHS netters earn regional berths

LEVELLAND — Snyder's top two doubles teams stood up to the pressure of their top billing at the District 4-4A tennis tournament.

Pat Vargas and Andra Dunham won the girls doubles title, while Curt Phillips and Adam Rodgers were runners-up on the boys side to earn berths in next Monday's regional tournament in San Angelo.

The Vargas-Dunham duo never dropped a set en route to the crown.

After receiving a first-round bye, the Lady Tiger tandem knocked off the Pollard-Dolloff team of Andrews in the quarterfinals, 6-3, 6-0. Next came a 6-0, 6-1 rout of a Plainview twosome in the semifinals followed by a 6-4, 6-0 win over the Webb-Bain duo of Plainview in the championship.

Phillips and Rodgers were also open in the first round before disposing of a Frenship team in the quarterfinals, 7-5, 6-0. The Tigers ousted Big Spring's Wingert-Roffers tandem in the semifinals, 6-3, 6-3, before falling to another Big Spring squad in the finals, 6-4, 7-5.

Vargas Dunham Phillips Rodgers

The Lady Tigers' other tandem of Afton Sutter and Jackie Beccue secured third place with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Plainview.

In boys singles, Horacio DePaz cruised through the first round with a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Frenship's Trevor Watson before falling to top-seeded Jay Shroff of Big Spring, 6-2, 6-2.

In girls singles, both Lady Tigers advanced to the quarterfinals before bowing out.

After disposing of Plainview's Alana Dixon, 6-4, 6-4, Cozy Jones dropped a 6-2, 6-4 decision to Mimi Deveza of Andrews. Kara Brumley knocked off Frenship's Kali Drachenberg, 7-5, 6-1, then suffered a 6-0, 6-1 setback against top-seeded Veronica Villarreal of Big Spring.

The Tigers' other boys doubles tandem of Alex Best and Charlie Gorman won their opening match, 6-2, 6-3, before falling, 6-1, 6-2, in the quarterfinals.

Vargas, Dunham, Phillips and Rodgers begin their quest for regional titles next Monday at Bentwood Country Club in San Angelo.

WTC captures rodeo's top spot

Western Texas College crowned itself champion Saturday night at Scurry County Coliseum.

The WTC men used a solid effort in the short round to ride away with the title of the three-day collegiate rodeo, while the Lady Westerners struggled and finished well back in the pack.

"The men's team performed extremely well once again," said WTC coach Greg Rhodes. "Their performance here will be enough to put them in the regional lead.

"The women's team had the same type of problems that they had at Odessa, but we're working quickly to turn things around for the final two regional rodeos."

The Westerners didn't win any events in the short round, but used their depth to record enough top-six finishes to seal the victory.

Saddle bronc rider Sean Prater turned in WTC's best performance in the finals, registering 73 points to earn second place in the round and third in the average.

Teammate J.W. Todd tallied 70 points in the short go to rank second overall.

Tyson Thompson went into Saturday with the lead in the bareback riding and took third in the finals to win the average. Justyn Foltyn was only one spot back in second. Nathan Reid was sixth in the finals.

Cimarron Boardman's time of 8.9 seconds in the calf roping was third in the round and gave him third place in the average.

Prater returned in the bull riding to cap the Westerner's performance with a fourth-place ride of 71 points.

Only three Lady Westerners qualified for the short go.

Kassie Mowry turned in the squad's best effort of the night in the barrel racing, crossing the line in 13.54 seconds to finish fifth. Five spots back was teammate Jennifer Freeland with a 14.01.

In the goat tying, Tasha Stevenson was sixth in the finals with a time of 8.1

Also posting a top finish was Snyder native Russell Riggan who now competes for Texas Tech. Riggan and Tarleton's Chris Irwin combined to win the overall team roping title with a time of 11.9 seconds on two head.

MEN

Bareback Riding

Short round: 1. Wes Stevenson, Texas Tech, 79; 2. Will Lowe, Vernon, 78; 3. Tyson Thompson, WTC, 76; 4. Justin Foltyn, WTC, 75; 5. Austin Griffith, Tarleton, 73; 6. Nathan Reid, WTC, 70.

Total: 1. Thompson, WTC, 155; 2. Foltyn, WTC, 151; 3. Stevenson, Texas Tech, 150; 4. Lowe, Vernon, 148.

Calf Roping

Short round: 1. Jake Degreer, Howard, 8.3; 2. Chance Lindsey, Frank Phillips, 8.4; 3. Cimarron Boardman, WTC, 8.9; 4. (split) Shank Edwards, South Plains and Michael Otero, Odessa, 10.2; 6. Jason Dement, Tarleton, 11.2.

Total: 1. Lindsey, Frank Phillips, 16.6; 2. DeGreer, Howard, 17.2; 3. Boardman, WTC, 17.8; 4. Otero, Odessa, 18.0.

Saddle Bronc Riding

Short round: 1. Jesse Williams, Sul Ross, 78; 2. Sean Prater, WTC, 73; 3. Brandon Biebelle, Mesalands, 72; 4. (split) J.W. Todd, WTC and Neal Daniel, Texas Tech, 70; 6. Riley Harvie, Frank Phillips, 67. Also: Sam Spreadborough, WTC, NS.

Total: 1. Williams, Sul Ross, 152; 2. Todd, WTC, 148; 3. Prater, WTC, 146; 4. Biebelle, Mesalands, 139.

Steer Wrestling

Short round: 1. Bray Armes, Howard, 4.0; 2. Jeff Durfee, West Texas A&M, 5.0; 3. Chris Irwin, Tarleton, 5.2; 4. Michael Otero, Odessa, 7.2; 5. Will Lowe, Vernon, 8.2; 6. Eric Comley, West Texas A&M, 9.1. Also: Joseph Gernentz, WTC, NT.

Total: 1. Armes, Howard, 9.9; 2. Irwin, Tarleton, 10.2; 3. Durfee, West Texas A&M, 11.6; 4. Otero, Odessa, 12.8.

Team Roping

Short round: 1. Charlie Tully-Dean Salyer, Texas Tech, 6.1; 2. Russell Riggan, Texas Tech-Chris Irwin, Tarleton, 6.2; 3. Neal Stanfield-Lee Walker, West Texas A&M, 6.7; 4. Rachel Payne-Patrick Maas, Tarleton, 7.6; 5. Tim Abbott-Kyle Logsdon, Odessa, 8.0; 6. Tibba Smith-Patrick Maas, Tarleton, 12.6.

Total: 1. Riggan, Texas Tech-Irwin, Tarleton, 11.9; 2. Tully-Salyer, Texas Tech, 12.0; 3. Stanfield-Walker, West Texas A&M, 13.7; 4. Abbott-Logsdon, Odessa, 14.5.

Bull Riding

Short round: 1. Ely Ganzer, Odessa, 84; 2. J.W. McCuistion, Frank Phillips, 75; 3. Dusty Higgins, New Mexico JC, 72; 4. (split) Trent Cormier, WTC and Corey Terry, Sul Ross, 71.

Total: 1. (split) Higgins, New Mexico JC and Terry, Sul Ross, 148; 3. Ganzer, Odessa, 147; 4. McCuistion, Frank Phillips, 145.

WOMEN

Breakaway Roping

Short round: 1. Keli Smith, New Mexico JC, 2.3; 2. Michelle Alley, Tarleton, 2.7; 3. Brandi Harrison, West Texas A&M, 2.8; 4. Jodi Gray, Vernon, 2.9; 5. Jill Childers, Tarleton, 3.0; 6. Kacy Richards, West Texas A&M, 3.2.

Total: 1. Smith, New Mexico JC, 4.8; 2. (split) Alley, Tarleton and Childers, Tarleton, 5.0; 4. Gray, Vernon, 5.1.

Goat Tying

Short round: 1. Tessie McMullan, Vernon, 6.8; 2. Elisha Watt, West Texas A&M, 7.0; 3. Tibba Smith, Tarleton, 7.1; 4. Jill Childers, Tarleton, 7.4; 5. Lindsey Ezell, Odessa, 7.9; 6. Tasha Stevenson, WTC, 8.1.

Total: 1. Smith, Tarleton, 14.0; 2. Watt, West Texas A&M, 14.2; 3. McMullan, Vernon, 14.4; 4. Childers, Tarleton, 15.0.

Barrel Racing

Short round: 1. LeAnn Kay, Texas Tech, 13.36; 2. Kerbi Theil, West Texas A&M, 13.40; 3. Tibba Smith, Tarleton, 13.47; 4. Shayna Price, Tarleton, 13.50; 5. Kassie Mowry, WTC, 13.54; 6. Jamie Standifer, Tarleton, 13.58. Also: Jennifer Freeland, WTC, 14.01.

Total: 1. Kay, Texas Tech, 26.96; 2. Smith, Tarleton, 27.01; 3. (split) Theil, West Texas A&M and Johnna Garcia, Eastern New Mexico, 27.04.

National Basketball Association

By The Associated Press
All Times EDT

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
z-New Jersey	51	29	.638	—
x-Boston	47	33	.588	4
x-Orlando	43	37	.538	8
x-Philadelphia	43	37	.538	8
Washington	36	45	.444	15½
Miami	35	45	.438	16
New York	30	50	.375	21

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Detroit	48	32	.600	—
x-Charlotte	42	38	.525	6
Toronto	41	39	.513	7
Milwaukee	40	40	.500	8
Indiana	40	40	.500	8
Atlanta	33	47	.413	15
Cleveland	29	51	.363	19
Chicago	20	60	.250	28

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	56	24	.700	—
x-Dallas	56	24	.700	—
x-Minnesota	49	31	.613	7
x-Utah	44	36	.550	12
Houston	28	52	.350	28
Denver	26	54	.325	30
Memphis	23	57	.288	33

Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Sacramento	60	20	.750	—
x-L.A. Lakers	56	24	.700	4
x-Portland	48	33	.593	12½
x-Seattle	44	36	.550	16
L.A. Clippers	38	42	.475	22
Phoenix	35	45	.438	25
Golden State	20	60	.250	40

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

Saturday's Games
Atlanta 128, Cleveland 123, 2OT
Dallas 116, Seattle 99
San Antonio 113, Memphis 92
Detroit 124, Chicago 106
Denver 98, Phoenix 94
Utah 109, Golden State 101
Minnesota 101, L.A. Clippers 98

Sunday's Games
Philadelphia 95, Orlando 89
Indiana 86, Washington 80
Milwaukee 98, Charlotte 91
Toronto 101, New Jersey 82
Portland 128, L.A. Lakers 120, 2OT
New York 94, Miami 67
Memphis 98, Houston 95
Dallas 113, Sacramento 100

Monday's Games
Chicago at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Boston at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Seattle at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Astros end four-game skid

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Billy Wagner's first save of the season was a big one for the Houston Astros.

Wagner worked a scoreless ninth as the Astros, after leading by four runs in the fifth inning, ended a four-game losing streak and avoided a three-game sweep with a 5-4 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals on Sunday.

Wagner had to get by the heart of the Cardinals' order. J.D. Drew reached on an error by shortstop Adam Everett and advanced on a groundout by Albert Pujols. Wagner struck out Jim Edmonds and benefited from a running catch by right fielder Richard Hidalgo on pinch-hitter Placido Polanco's drive to end it.

Major League Baseball

National League
By The Associated Press
All Times EDT

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	7	5	.583	—
Florida	6	6	.500	1
Montreal	6	6	.500	1
Atlanta	6	7	.462	1½
Philadelphia	6	7	.462	1½

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	8	4	.667	—
Cincinnati	7	5	.583	1
Pittsburgh	6	5	.545	1½
Houston	5	7	.417	3
Chicago	4	7	.364	3½
Milwaukee	3	9	.250	5

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	9	3	.750	—
Arizona	8	5	.615	1½
Los Angeles	6	6	.500	3
San Diego	6	6	.500	3
Colorado	4	9	.308	5½

Saturday's Games
Montreal 9, N.Y. Mets 8, 11 innings
Pittsburgh 3, Chicago Cubs 2
St. Louis 2, Houston 1
Arizona 7, Colorado 5, 10 innings
San Francisco 3, Milwaukee 2
Florida 5, Atlanta 4, 14 innings
Cincinnati 5, Philadelphia 2
San Diego 6, Los Angeles 4

Sunday's Games
Florida 7, Atlanta 0
N.Y. Mets 6, Montreal 4
Philadelphia 3, Cincinnati 1
Houston 5, St. Louis 4
Arizona 6, Colorado 3
Milwaukee 4, San Francisco 3
Chicago Cubs 5, Pittsburgh 1, 7½ innings, rain
San Diego 1, Los Angeles 0

Monday's Games
Chicago Cubs (Wood 1-0) at Montreal (Pavano 1-1), 7:05 p.m.
Atlanta (Moss 0-0) at N.Y. Mets (Estes 0-1), 7:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (K.Wells 1-1) at Milwaukee (Rusch 1-0), 8:05 p.m.
Los Angeles (Perez 0-1) at Colorado (Chacon 1-1), 9:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Benes 0-1) at Arizona (Helling 0-2), 9:35 p.m.
San Francisco (Jensen 1-0) at San Diego (Jones 1-0), 10:05 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Chicago Cubs (Cruz 0-2) at Montreal (Yoshii 1-1), 7:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (Adams 0-1) at Florida (Penny 1-1), 7:05 p.m.
Atlanta (Glavine 2-0) at N.Y. Mets (Astacio 2-0), 7:10 p.m.
Houston (Mlicki 0-2) at Cincinnati (Acevedo 2-0), 7:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Anderson 1-1) at Milwaukee (Neugebauer 0-1), 8:05 p.m.
Los Angeles (Ashby 1-0) at Colorado (Jennings 0-1), 9:05 p.m.
St. Louis (B.Smith 0-0) at Arizona (Johnson 3-0), 9:35 p.m.
San Francisco (Rueter 0-1) at San Diego (Tomko 0-0), 10:05 p.m.

American League
By The Associated Press
All Times EDT

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	8	5	.615	—
Boston	6	4	.600	½
Toronto	6	6	.500	1½
Tampa Bay	5	6	.455	2
Baltimore	3	8	.273	4

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	11	1	.917	—
Minnesota	8	5	.615	3½
Chicago	6	5	.545	4½
Kansas City	4	6	.400	6
Detroit	0	11	.000	10½

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	10	3	.769	—
Oakland	8	5	.615	2
Anaheim	4	8	.333	5½
Texas	3	9	.250	6½

Saturday's Games
Boston 7, N.Y. Yankees 6
Cleveland 8, Kansas City 7
Chicago White Sox 4, Baltimore 3
Toronto 5, Tampa Bay 4
Minnesota 7, Detroit 3
Seattle 9, Texas 4
Oakland 7, Anaheim 2

Sunday's Games
N.Y. Yankees 6, Boston 2
Kansas City at Cleveland, ppd
Tampa Bay 5, Toronto 4, 10 innings
Minnesota 13, Detroit 7
Baltimore 9, Chicago White Sox 4
Seattle 9, Texas 7
Anaheim 4, Oakland 1

Monday's Games
N.Y. Yankees (Pettitte 1-0) at Boston (Lowe 1-1), 11:05 a.m.
Baltimore (Johnson 0-2) at Chicago White Sox (Garland 0-1), 2:05 p.m.
Seattle (Baldwin 2-0) at Texas (Burba 1-0), 8:05 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Boston (F.Castillo 0-0) at Toronto (Lyon 0-1), 7:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Wilson 1-0) at Detroit (Lima 0-2), 7:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Ponson 0-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Clemens 1-2), 7:05 p.m.
Kansas City (Reichert 0-2) at Minnesota (Reed 1-1), 8:05 p.m.
Cleveland (Finley 1-0) at Chicago White Sox (Rauch 0-0), 8:05 p.m.
Texas (Davis 2-0) at Anaheim (Sele 0-2), 10:05 p.m.
Seattle (Garcia 1-2) at Oakland (Lidle 0-2), 10:05 p.m.

Woods triumphant at Masters

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Tiger Woods' march toward Masters history could not be stopped by the best golfers in the world nor a tougher Augusta National course.

Woods made short work of the tournament's redesigned course Sunday, and had an even easier time against a collection of top-ranked players who scrambled for the sidelines.

He became only the third player to win back-to-back Masters.

An early burst of birdies gave him control, and Woods never let anyone closer than two strokes the rest of the way. He closed with a 2-under 70 to claim a three-stroke victory over U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen.

He finished at 276 and won a green jacket for the third time in five years. He became the first player to repeat as Masters champion since Nick Faldo in 1990.

Sports Briefs

Pro-Am golf tournament

The Scurry County Golf Association Pro-Am Tournament is set for next Monday at the country club golf course. There will be shotgun starts at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Players will team up with pros from around the area in a two-man lowball format. All amateurs will use their full handicap. Cost is $35 per player. For more information, call the pro shop at 573-7101.

WGA weekly play day

The SCGA Women's Golf Association holds a weekly play day each Tuesday at 9 a.m. Format is queen of the hill.

WTC Men's Golf Association

The Men's Golf Association of Western Texas College holds a weekly play day Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

SCGA weekly events

The Scurry County Golf Association holds a weekly scramble Tuesdays at 5:30. The Men's Golf Association holds an all-day MGA event each Thursday.

WTC athletic fundraiser

The Harlem Entertainers basketball team will take on several local teams at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the SHS gym. The event is a fundraiser sponsored by the WTC Athletic Committee.

Chances will be offered on a variety of items during the game. Tickets at the gate are $15 for adults and $10 for students. Advance tickets can be purchased for $10 and $7 at Barbee Medical Supply, Teachers' Credit Union, Purple Sage Motel, Snyder Daily News, KSNY and the WTC administrative offices.

For more information, call the college at 573-8511 or click on the activities link at the WTC Web site www.wtc.cc.tx.us.

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To those indebted to, or holding claims against the Estate of ODIE MILTON WALL, deceased, Probate Case Number 5,738:

The undersigned, having been duly appointed Independent Executor of the Estate of ODIE MILTON WALL, deceased, late of Scurry County, Texas, by RICKY FRITZ, Judge of the County Court of said County, on the 11th day of April, 2002, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said Estate to come forward and make settlement, and those having claims against said Estate to present them to BOBBY DWAYNE WALL, 2343 CR 461, Snyder, TX 79549, within the time prescribed by law.

EXECUTED this 11th day of April, 2002.

(s)BOBBY DWAYNE WALL
Independent Executor
of the Estate of
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Illinois panel recommends making sweeping changes to death penalty

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — A panel formed to revamp Illinois' death penalty has recommended dozens of changes — including drastically reducing the number of circumstances warranting execution — but a majority of panelists doubts the system can be fixed.

The panel, formed by Gov. George Ryan after he imposed a moratorium on executions two years ago, stopped short of recommending abolishing capital punishment, noting that panelists were asked only to recommend fixes to the current system. But a narrow majority of the commission would favor ending the death penalty, the panel wrote in a summary of their report, obtained today by The Associated Press.

"Those favoring abolition did so either because of moral concerns, because of a conclusion that no system can or will be constructed which sufficiently guarantees that the death penalty will be applied without arbitrariness or error or because of a determination that the social resources expended on capital punishment outrun its benefits," the summary said.

The 14-member panel's report, to be released at a news conference in Chicago today, contains 85 recommendations, ranging from videotaping all interrogations of suspects in capital cases to establishing a statewide commission that would determine whether local prosecutors can seek the death penalty.

The current list of 20 circumstances that warrant the death penalty would be reduced to five — murdering multiple victims, killing a police officer or firefighter, killing an officer or inmate in a correctional institution, murdering to obstruct justice or torturing the victim.

The panel also recommended banning the death penalty for mentally retarded defendants and defendants convicted solely on the evidence of a single eyewitness, informer or accomplice. And the report recommends creating a statewide DNA database and independent forensics lab.

Ryan spokesman Dennis Culloton said he couldn't predict how the governor would react to the commission's statement that the system can't be made foolproof. Ryan has said he needs to be sure with "moral certainty" that no innocent person is executed, Culloton said.

"Ninety-nine percent isn't good enough," he added.

Illinois became the first state in the nation to stop executing its prisoners, prompting other states to review their procedures. Nationwide, about 3,700 people await death for crimes committed in the 38 states that allow the death penalty.

"Many states and national leaders will look to see the recommendations that Illinois comes up with as a model for what else needs to be done in other states," said Richard Dieter, director of the Death Penalty Information Center in Washington, D.C., which researches capital punishment but takes no position on it.

Ryan imposed the moratorium after several cases in which men were freed from death row because new evidence exonerated them or because there were flaws in the way they were convicted. Since the 1977 reinstatement of the death penalty in Illinois, 13 men have been freed while 12 have been executed.

"This is an issue that's larger than Illinois. Illinois has had 13 cases, but most of these cases are outside of Illinois and there are problems in those places as well," Dieter said.

Panel co-chairman Frank McGarr, a retired federal judge, is not raising expectations about what will come of the commission's recommendations.

"The Legislature will have to decide whether they're going to adopt our improvements," he said.

Ryan's panel might get a cooler reception in the Illinois General Assembly than it would elsewhere in the nation. Ryan is a lame-duck governor weakened by a four-year federal corruption probe that brought indictments earlier this month against his campaign committee and two former top aides. He has not been accused of any wrongdoing, but decided not to seek a second term.

Some believe the General Assembly already has done enough.

Lawmakers have set up a trust fund to finance both prosecution and defense in capital cases and the Supreme Court adopted training and experience standards for lawyers and judges.

State Rep. Art Turner, sponsor of a bill that would substitute life in prison without parole for the death penalty, said neither legislative reticence nor Ryan's January departure will stand in the way of reform.

"Issues don't die or swing based upon who's in office," Turner said. "The momentum for your issue should continue. The death penalty issue, the momentum has been moving, and it's starting to pick up."

On the Net:
Death Penalty Info Center:
http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/

ME's office running out of space

GALVESTON (AP) — The Galveston County Medical Examiner's office is running out of space as 25 years of slides, thousands of autopsy records and medical supplies continue to pile up.

The problem is compounded by a law related to the preservation of biological evidence, officials say.

"We are full pretty close to bursting point," said Dr. Charles M. Harvey, the county's medical examiner. "I think we can store things for about another year, and then we're flat out of space."

The county medical examiner's workload has at least doubled since the facility was built in 1983. As a result, the staff at the medical examiner's office has also grown.

To accommodate the growth, the building's small lobby is now used as a workspace by three employees, and its conference room holds file cabinets and shelves full of autopsy records.

A file room is now packed with copiers, a computer server, office supplies and more file cabinets, while boxes of photographic slides and dozens of grocery bags filled with personal effects and clothes line the morgue, where about 700 autopsies are performed each year.

Officials in Harvey's office met with prosecutors and law enforcement agencies last year when space was getting tighter to discuss how long the medical examiner's office had to retain evidence and under what circumstances it could be disposed.

District Attorney Michael Guarino informed Harvey's office that a new law had just been passed requiring all biological evidence to be retained, properly stored and inventoried.

"We are now required to keep, in perpetuity is my understanding, the evidence that might possibly exonerate criminals," Harvey said.

To try to reduce what's in the facility, Harvey has those in his office examining what is there, what needs to be retained and what can be discarded.

"I think part of what they are going to have to do is inventory to find out what they have," Guarino said. "They do need additional space but they still are going to be able to thin down the existing body of evidence."

County leaders say they are working to accommodate the medical examiner's need for more space. They are considering building a storage building next to the medical examiner's office as a way to alleviate the space problems.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

The case of the shrinking brain

DEAR DR. GOTT: My husband, 69, is very forgetful and testy. He is also quite confused. An MRI scan showed "cortical atrophy." What is this? Could it be the cause of his problems? Is it treatable?

DEAR READER: As we age, our brains shrink. The current theory is that this inescapable situation is related to death of neurons (brain cells), probably caused by tiny blood clots that deprive the nerve tissue of oxygen and nutrients. Doctors believe that such clots form in cycles over a period of decades. Each event is so tiny that we fail to notice anything is amiss; however, the cumulative effect eventually leads to a significant loss of cognitive function, memory and judgment. No one knows why this process is accelerated in certain people. For instance, many adults in their 80s (and beyond) continue to function at relatively high levels of cognition; they may forget names and have to make lists, but their reasoning, judgment and personality characteristics are not dramatically affected. On the other hand, some men and women in their 60s and 70s suffer definite and progressive difficulty with thinking; they often exhibit early disability that quickly progresses to senility and dementia. On a positive note, many authorities are convinced that these neurological abnormalities can be arrested — or at least minimized — if older people continue to stimulate their brains with intellectual projects, such as learning, reading, problem-solving and working. The theory is that new neurons may form and begin to function (to compensate for the shrunken tissue) as a consequence of intellectual challenge.

Because your husband had an MRI, I assume that he has seen a doctor who ordered the scan. Therefore, I believe this physician is the logical resource to answer your specific questions about treatment. He may choose to refer your spouse to a neurologist — my preferred option. Or he may suggest that your husband take an aspirin a day (to reduce the formation of tiny clots) or have further testing (such as a carotid ultrasound to examine the arteries in the neck for sources of clots); he may prescribe Aricept (a medication that improves memory in some patients) or involve your husband in a program of intellectual stimulation designed for patients with cortical atrophy and other causes of dementia, such as Alzheimer's disease.

I suspect that the major thrust of therapy will be to retard the speed of intellectual deterioration; that is, your husband may not improve but even arresting the process at this point would be a worthy goal. Remember that the physician can also prescribe medicine to combat the rage, frustration and belligerency that commonly accompany the process of brain-cell malfunction. Such therapy may permit your husband to remain at home for several years, rather than having to be cared for in a nursing facility.

A NOTE TO READERS: For an updated and revised Health Report on "Losing Weight" (formerly "Winning the Battle of the Bulge") that includes my No Flour, No Sugar diet send $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to mention the title. Also, be on the lookout for more updated Health Reports.

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Date Book

Monday, April 15, 2002

Today is the 105th day of 2002 and the 27th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1817, the construction of New York State's Erie Canal was authorized. The canal, which cost $9 million, connected the Hudson River with Lake Erie.

On this day in 1986, the United States launched an air raid against Libya in retaliation for the terrorist bombing of a Berlin discotheque. Nearly 40 people were killed.

On this day in 1990, the crew of the space shuttle Discovery placed the Hubble Space Telescope into orbit.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Leonardo da Vinci (1452 - 1519), inventor/artist; Charles Wilson Peale (1741 - 1827), painter; Henry James (1843 - 1916), writer; Thomas Hart Benton (1889 - 1975), artist; A. Philip Randolph (1889 - 1979), labor leader; Bessie Smith (1894 - 1937), singer; Elizabeth Montgomery (1933 - 1995), actress; Evelyn Ashford (1957 -), track-and-field athlete, is 45; Emma Thompson (1959 -), actress, is 43; Emma Watson (1990 -), actress, is 12.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1947, Jackie Robinson made his debut for the Brooklyn Dodgers. While Boston held him hitless in three at-bats, the historical significance of his appearance is undeniable.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Savage is he who saves himself." - Leonardo da Vinci, "The Notebooks," (1508 - 1518)

TODAY'S MOON: Between the new moon (April 12) and the first quarter (April 20).

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	24.87	23.76	23.97	—1.03
AOL TimeWrn	21.65	20.90	21.45	+ 1.35
AT&T Corp s	13.77	13.61	13.68	+ .08
Albertsons	35.05	34.50	34.83	+ .13
Alltel	52.55	52.20	52.38	+ .18
AmEl Pw	47.90	47.20	47.25	—.64
AndarkPtr	54.12	52.90	53.61	+ 1.56
ATMOS Egy	24.44	24.16	24.16	—.23
Aviall	8.63	8.50	8.63	+ .08
BP PLC	51.20	50.93	51.13	+ 1.21
BakerHughes	35.32	34.70	34.90	+ 1.15
Bank of Amer	70.49	68.55	68.86	—1.19
BellSouth	32.26	31.60	31.62	—.46
vjBeth Steel	.40	.38	.39	+ .01
BurlNoSFe	29.27	28.81	28.81	—.62
Caterpillar	58.30	57.05	57.15	—.82
ChevronTex	86.00	85.30	85.43	+ 1.33
Citigroup	47.15	45.85	45.90	—1.20
CocaCola	53.01	52.45	52.56	—.80
ColgatePal	58.85	58.00	58.05	—.68
Comverses	44.51	43.65	43.66	—.84
Cooperin	43.90	43.38	43.59	—.12
DaimlrChry	45.17	44.88	44.88	+ .58
DeltaAirl	31.36	29.65	29.80	—1.29
Dillards Inc	25.55	24.65	24.70	—.49
DowChem	33.27	32.51	32.51	—.51
DuPont	47.00	46.29	46.41	—.53
EastmanChem	47.95	47.12	47.22	—.65
EstKodak	34.30	33.91	34.01	+ .50
EDS Corp	53.07	52.60	52.90	+ .25
Entergy	44.80	44.40	44.40	—.15
ExxonMobil s	42.30	41.81	41.99	+ .69
FstBksAm	41.00	40.50	40.50	—.11
FootLocker	16.25	16.05	16.24	+ .07
GenDynam	94.94	93.40	93.44	—1.17
GentElec	33.25	31.64	31.83	—1.72
GenMills	50.40	49.48	49.48	—.70
GenMotors	62.60	61.32	61.32	—.30
GaPacific	29.45	29.00	29.00	—.40
Goodrich	33.47	33.01	33.20	—.18
Goodyear	23.03	22.40	22.41	—.56
GtAtlPac	28.18	27.60	27.71	+ .11
Halliburtn	17.05	16.46	16.87	+ .49
Hanson ADS	36.97	36.70	36.91	+ .21
HarteHanks	32.75	32.40	32.40	—.16
HomeDepot	50.24	49.25	49.25	—1.11
Honeywellntl	40.85	40.01	40.11	—.46
IBM	86.60	85.25	85.29	—.31
IntlPaper	41.39	40.60	40.64	—.25
JohnsonJn s	63.20	61.98	62.06	—.61
vjK mart	1.42	1.38	1.41	+ .03
KinderMorg	50.00	49.60	49.76	+ .30
Kroger Co	22.57	22.07	22.37	+ .22
LockheedM	61.81	59.55	60.08	—1.46
Lowes Cos s	44.79	44.07	44.07	—.71
Lubys	7.20	6.82	7.20	+ .35
LucentTech	4.05	3.88	3.91	—.04
MarathonOil	28.55	28.27	28.37	+ .57
MayDeptStr	35.50	34.62	34.70	—.62
Medtronic	46.10	45.85	45.93	—.17
Motorola	13.95	13.65	13.87	+ .43
NCR Corp	43.14	42.72	42.72	—.25
Navistar	44.95	43.70	43.72	—1.18
PNM Rescs	28.70	28.20	28.23	—.26
Penney JC	21.69	21.16	21.42	—.26
PepBoys	16.98	16.40	16.40	—.38
PepsiCo	51.90	51.20	51.22	—.68
Pharmacia	45.06	44.57	44.60	—.45
PhelpDodge	39.28	38.79	38.97	—.23
PhilipPet	59.24	58.68	58.94	+ .84
PilgrmPrd B	14.00	13.91	13.95	+ .05
Praxair	59.18	58.25	58.37	—.80
ProctGamb	91.86	90.87	91.02	—.91
RadioShack	31.07	30.75	30.75	+ .51
ReliantEngy	24.45	24.08	24.09	—.41
RoyalDut	52.50	52.23	52.31	+ 1.07
SBC Comm	34.10	33.80	33.82	—.18
SaraLee	22.40	21.92	21.99	—.16
Scripps EW	83.99	83.50	83.94	—.59
SearsRoeb	53.84	52.85	53.10	—.74
SherwinW	31.20	30.45	30.45	—.52
SouthernCo	26.70	26.38	26.39	—.35
SwstAirl	19.24	18.70	18.71	—.55
SprintFON	14.46	14.15	14.15	—.10
SprintPCS	10.50	10.04	10.09	+ .13
Sunoco Inc	37.88	37.50	37.51	+ .56
TXU Corp	54.39	53.84	53.96	—.29
TempleInland	56.85	56.45	56.45	+ .05
TexInd	42.65	42.15	42.22	—.18
TexasInst	32.43	31.72	31.72	—.08
Textron	53.60	52.16	52.33	—.84
TriconGlbR	62.40	61.50	61.84	—.50
TrinityInds	25.43	24.76	24.77	—.71
TylerTech	5.70	5.48	5.52	—.11
UnionPacif	58.76	57.49	57.50	—1.50
USSteel	18.65	18.01	18.03	—.67
UnitedTech	73.25	72.70	72.70	—.09
Unocal	37.69	37.15	37.20	+ .54
VerizonComm	42.25	41.64	41.65	—.69
WalMart	61.16	60.02	60.02	—1.21
WellsFargo	50.16	49.80	49.82	—.16
WstnGasRs	38.44	37.94	38.30	+ .76
WinnDixie	18.39	17.71	18.31	+ .61
Xerox Cp	9.70	9.52	9.57	—.03

APR 15 2002

Some federal doctors with troubled pasts hired

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 100 federal government doctors have been convicted of crimes or disciplined by state medical boards, including one physician now treating veterans who was convicted of helping a terrorist group, an Associated Press review of medical licenses has found.

Federal agencies are required to check the backgrounds of doctors they employ but are not prohibited from hiring those with criminal records, revoked licenses or medical punishments.

All a doctor needs is a medical license valid in one state to get a government job.

Dr. Suzy Melkonian, who is paid $48 an hour as a blood cancer specialist at a Veterans Affairs hospital in Los Angeles, was convicted 21 years ago in Switzerland of extorting money for a group that staged terrorist bombings and assassinations.

Melkonian was reprimanded five years ago by California for failing to disclose her Swiss conviction when applying for a medical license.

Despite Melkonian's conviction, VA managers believed her training and patient care were good and "she'd be a qualified member of our staff," said Dr. Dean Norman, chief of staff for the Los Angeles VA hospital.

An AP review of medical board disciplinary records identified at least 118 federal doctors who have worked for the government in the past two years who were convicted of crimes or punished by state authorities for offenses ranging from sex and drug abuse to incompetence.

Three of those doctors have been fired in recent months, including one whose conviction for attempted child molestation should have legally barred him from getting his job, and two who had relapses of conduct that prompted earlier punishments.

In all, 0.5 percent of the more than 20,800 doctors employed by the government have been convicted of crimes or punished, the records showed. Nationally, the rate is 2.6 percent.

But advocates say the government's choice of doctors should be better than the public at large, particularly because federal physicians serve the vulnerable, the underprivileged and those who fought to keep the country safe.

"How many times do we have to get screwed over? Nobody seems to care all that much," said Sherri Siegle, a Choctaw nurse who worked for the Indian Health Service. Siegle said she checked the backgrounds of doctors at her Oklahoma hospital after seeing them make mistakes, and found several who had been previously punished.

Fourteen punished doctors currently work for IHS.

Punished federal physicians have treated veterans, soldiers, American Indians, astronauts and federal prisoners. They also have researched drug safety, investigated new addiction treatments and acted as agency medical advisers.

They include:

—At least five reprimanded for neglecting patients who died.

—11 convicted criminals, including doctors who ordered child pornography, defrauded Medicaid and stole drugs from the VA.

—18 punished for sexual misconduct, including a doctor disciplined for having sex with five patients.

—Thirty-seven punished for drug violations, including three whose drug use forced them to leave surgeries and three federal prison doctors who now treat prisoners for drug abuse and other ailments.

The majority — 75 — work for the VA, the largest federal health care agency. Some veterans' groups want VA Secretary Anthony Principi to investigate.

"If this is true — and these are some serious allegations — I assume the secretary will do something about it," said Dick Flanagan, a spokesman for the group AMVETS.

Federal officials acknowledge screening processes are not always thorough.

Dr. Thomas Craig, the VA's chief medical officer, said overworked hospital officials sometimes can miss problems or fail to check a doctor's background thoroughly. The VA has a new computer system to assist background checks.

Melkonian and other punished doctors said they told supervisors about their pasts.

Melkonian was convicted in 1981 of extorting about $6,000 from a Swiss businessman to help the now-defunct Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia, according to California medical board records and news reports. ASALA, identified by the U.S. government as a terrorist group, claimed credit for scores of bombings and assassinations, mostly of Turkish targets.

Melkonian was arrested in 1980 after an explosion in her Geneva hotel room led police to discover a partly assembled bomb. Afterward, ASALA and a splinter group began a bombing campaign aimed at freeing her and an ASALA leader.

Melkonian denied being a member of the terrorist group. The Swiss court convicted her of extortion, gave her an 18-month suspended sentence and expelled her.

"These events have nothing whatsoever to do with my practice of medicine," Melkonian, 46, said in a written statement. She attended medical school in Chicago after leaving Switzerland.

The California Medical Board reprimanded Melkonian in 1997 for failing to disclose her conviction on her 1996 license application.

Her lawyer, Theodora Poloynis-Engen, said Melkonian did not know she had been convicted because Swiss authorities never told her and the court proceedings were conducted in French, which Melkonian does not understand.

Other punished federal doctors include:

—Dr. Brian K. Bevacqua, head of anesthesiology at the VA hospital in Madison, Wis. In 1987, Bevacqua pleaded guilty to ordering child pornography and was sentenced to two years' probation and a $1,500 fine, according to Pennsylvania and Ohio medical board and court records. He declined comment.

—Dr. Robert H. Gerner, whose California license was suspended for 60 days in 1994 for having sex with a patient during psychotherapy sessions. Gerner now makes more than $52 per hour at the VA hospital in Los Angeles.

Norman, the hospital's chief of staff, said hospital officials knew about Gerner's punishment and required him to be supervised by another doctor.

—Dr. Stephen John Davis, who earned $111,245 at a Nevada federal prison last year. Michigan and Georgia suspended his medical licenses for six months in 1993 on charges he neglected one of his nursing home patients who died. Davis said prison officials knew about the case when they hired him.

"It happened at the time when nursing homes were under fire, so I was the example," Davis said. "Well, that's life."

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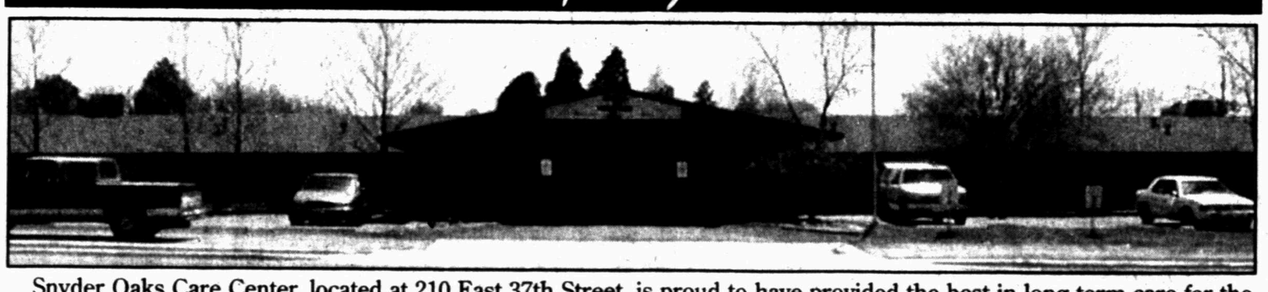

Snyder Oaks Care Center, located at 210 East 37th Street, is proud to have provided the best in long term care for the senior citizens of Snyder and the surrounding areas since 1977.

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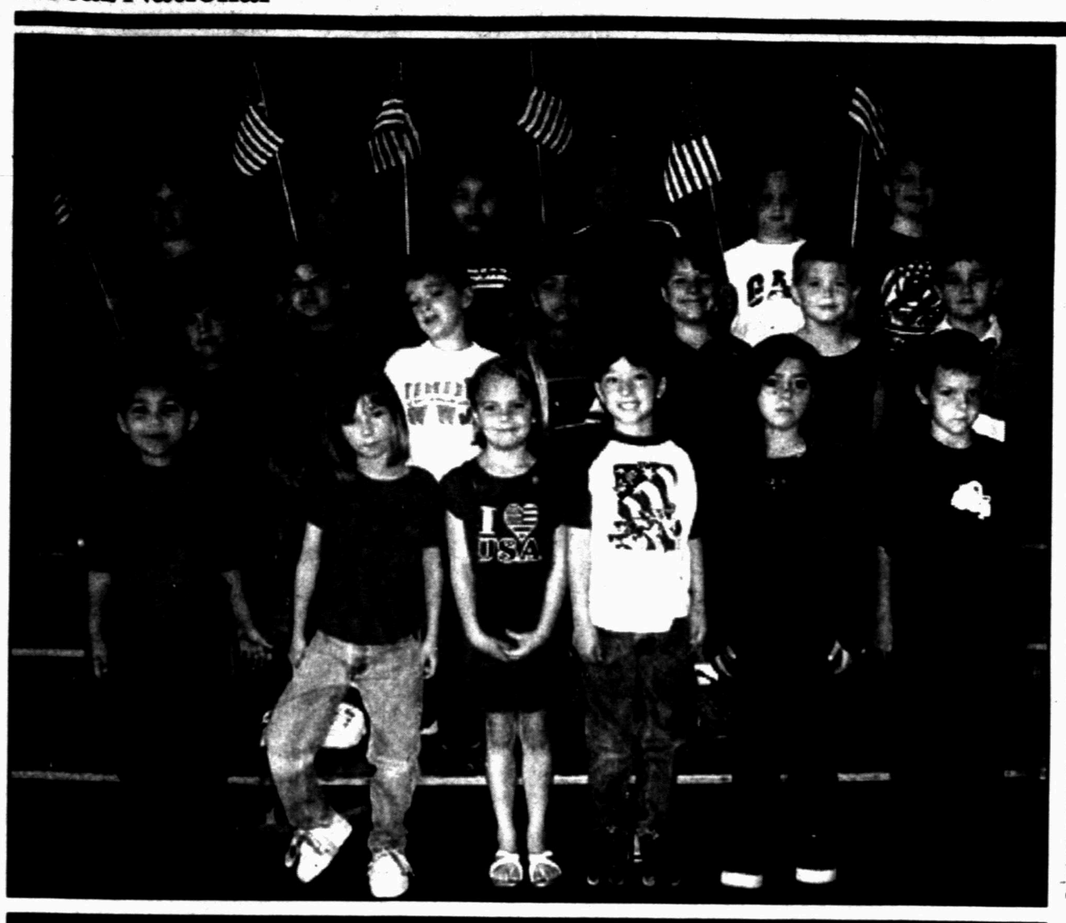

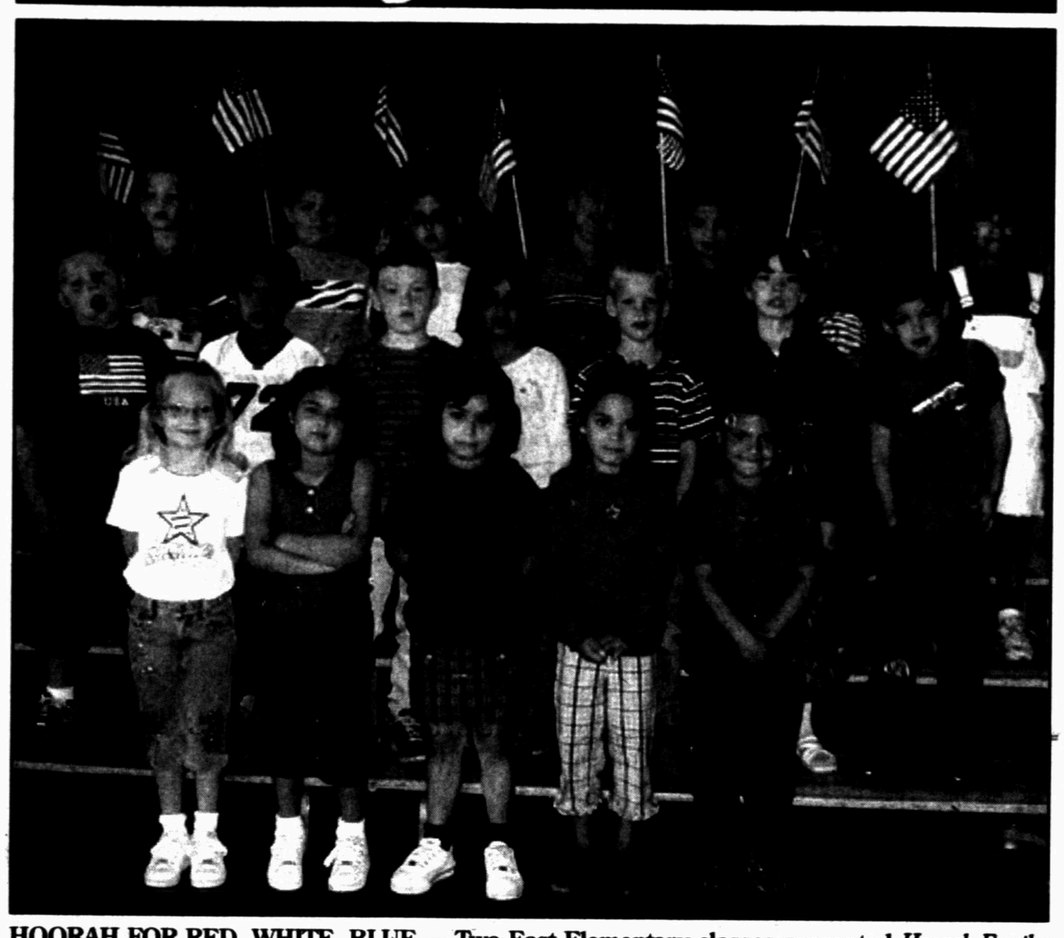

HOORAH FOR RED, WHITE, BLUE — Two East Elementary classes presented *Hoorah For the Red, White and Blue* last week. Sharlot Sparlin is the music director. Students in Jane Glass' class (top photo) include top row from left, Catherine Witte, Sabrina Salinas, Justice Terrazas, Crystal Sandoval, Connor Tollison, Mikey Kirby; middle row, T.J Villa, Ivana Valadez, Alex Steelman, Nicholas Hernandez, Jaysen Butler, Zachary Harris and Cade Towery; bottom row, Kalob Arteaga, Allie Hollingsworth, Christian Hinkle, Shane Robbins, Jessica Gomez, Christopher Sescil. Cyndee Gayle's students (bottom photo) include top row from left, Zachary Bowman, Bryce Roberts, John Overby, Joseph Hernandez, Andrew Velasquez, Jonathon Torres, Vanessa Ornelas; middle row, Riley Jenkins, Matthew Guzman, Austin Morris, Gloria Valdez, Alex Settles, Penny Holdren, Larry Huddleston; bottom row, Hayley Taylor, Heather Medrano, Alexzandra Luevano, Daphny Torres, Jesse Alaniz. (Staff Photos by Shirley A. Gorman)

Finalists narrowed for new Texas commemorative coin

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Designs including the Alamo and a lone star are among five quarter finalists emerging from thousands of entries for the state's new commemorative coin.

Final design concepts for the Texas quarter, which will be issued in 2004, are the choices of the Governor's Quarter Dollar Coin Advisory Committee.

The design finalists, which also include an outline of the state of Texas, will soon be submitted to the U.S. Mint to determine their suitability as coins.

Each design includes the year of issue and the date Texas became a state.

"We're trying to get an excellent representation of the spirit, history and symbolism of this great state on the back of a quarter," Gary Hill, a committee member and professional numismatist, told the San Antonio Express-News in today's editions. "It's extremely difficult."

Ruled out among the more than 3,000 other entries were two-stepping jalapenos, an armadillo covered with tire tracks and an electric chair.

The designs were submitted by children, students, artists and other citizens. Two of the finalists are from San Antonio, said Hill of Grand Prairie.

The final choice will be Texas' contribution to the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act, which features all the states in a series of 25-cent coins.

Although the Alamo appears in two of the final designs, committee members said the coin will signify Texas' statehood, not its status as a republic. The quarters are being issued in the order that the states achieved statehood.

That happened in Texas on Dec. 29, 1845, making Texas the 28th state and placing it between Florida and Iowa.

All the entries were reviewed by a committee of the Texas Numismatic Association, of which Hill is first vice president. Nineteen concepts were submitted to the governor's committee for review.

Among designs that didn't make the semifinal cut were a horse lassoing a space shuttle, an armadillo with long horns on its head and an electric chair surrounded by "Electrifying State," according to Hill.

He said narrowing down the state's symbols has proven a difficult task.

"There's a lot of wonderful designs that came in and you can't get everything on it," he said.

Bush welfare reforms would promote healthy marriages

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jaclin Kirkland should get married. At least that's what the Bush administration thinks.

Kirkland, 26, thinks otherwise. She can't imagine marrying the father of her 5-year-old son.

"We were Tyson and Holyfield," she said. "We're civil now, but marriage — that's not even a thought."

Women like Kirkland may start thinking about marriage if Republicans in Congress and the Bush administration get their way. They want to spend up to $300 million per year in welfare programs that will encourage marriage.

Backers emphasize that they won't be forcing anyone down the aisle. They say they have no interest in pushing bad or violent marriages. To emphasize the point, they constantly refer to "healthy marriages," in both conversation and legislation.

"The administration's interest is not in simply moving marriage numbers. It's healthy marriages," said Wade Horn, who heads the welfare agency within Department of Health and Human Services.

They point to uncontroverted research: Children who grow up with married parents are less likely to live in poverty.

"The decline of marriage since the 1960s is a substantial factor behind the current high levels of child poverty," concludes a report being released this week by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank.

Many Democrats in Congress, not wanting to appear anti-marriage, are uneasy about challenging the Bush plan. Some have quietly suggested that the marriage money be available for broader purposes — such as involving fathers in their children's lives, or reducing teen pregnancy.

But some argue government simply has no place promoting marriage — a view apparently shared by most Americans.

A recent poll by the Pew Research Center for People and the Press found that 79 percent of Americans believe government should "stay out" of these activities. A poll being released today by a coalition of liberal groups found that 86 percent of respondents prefer that any new money available for welfare go to programs that help people get good jobs, rather than programs that encourage marriage.

Single women who have been on welfare say the idea may make sense in theory, but there's no way it would work for them.

"It's hard being a single mother, don't get me wrong," said Kelly Siler, 31, who lives outside of Chicago with her three children. "But right now I'm happy to be single. I don't feel like taking care of a man who would act like a child."

The father of her 10-year-old son has been in and out of jail since the boy was born, she said. After her 5-year-old twins were born, she found out their dad was married to another woman.

There's no way she would marry either man, she said.

"If you gave me $15 million, it wouldn't be worth it," she said.

Kirkland, who also lives near Chicago, feels the same way, recounting a violent relationship with the father of her son.

"Obviously, yeah, it is best for kids to have both of their parents in the home, but everybody is not meant to be married," she said.

But some relationships might work out, proponents say. A few states are trying. Their efforts fall into two general categories:

—Offering financial incentives to get married. In West Virginia, for instance, married couples get an extra $100 in welfare benefits.

But this doesn't encourage "healthy marriages," Horn notes, because the benefits go to any couple, whether it's a good match or not. A program like that might not be funded if the Bush plan becomes law, he said.

—Working to reduce divorce. A few states are using their welfare money to try to strengthen existing marriages rather than create new ones. In Utah, couples who apply for marriage licenses get a free video with tips for a strong relationship. In Oklahoma, the state offers marriage workshops.

"Our goal is really not to get anybody to get married. That's probably an important distinction to the national debate," said Mary Myrick, project manager for the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative.

Most of the people on welfare are single mothers who have never been married. So what would a pro-marriage program geared at welfare recipients and other poor Americans look like?

Supporters point to new research that suggest there is a "magic moment" for unmarried couples that comes with the birth of a child. A national survey found that half of low-income unmarried parents are living together at the time of a child's birth. Another third are romantically involved. And nearly three in four mothers say their chances of marrying the fathers are 50-50 or better.

Horn suggests that these couples simply be offered marriage counseling.

Oil Patch News

Borden County

Texaco Inc. will drill the No. 4325 Jo-Mill field unit, 15 miles southwest of Gail. Planned for a depth of 7,750 feet, drill site is in Section 22, Block 33, T&P survey.

Texaco Inc. has completed the No. 6423 Jo-Mill field unit, 15 miles southwest of Gail. The venture was completed to produce three barrels of oil and 71 barrels of water. Perforations were from 7,254-302 feet, and location is in Section 35, Block 33, T4N, T&P survey.

Fisher County

Sunstone Energy Company will drill the No. 1-B James Cave in the Claytonville field, eight miles southwest of Roby. Planned for a depth of 7,500 feet, drill site is in Section 117, Block 3, H&TC survey.

Sinclair Oil will drill the No. 1 T.L. Dickenson in the Rough Ride field, 11 miles southwest of Roby. Planned for a depth of 6,200 feet, location is in Section 56, Block Y, T&P survey.

Nolan County

Sha-Jam Operating will drill the No. 2 Amanda in the J.A.M. field, one mile north of Blackwell. Planned for a depth of 4,500 feet, location is in Section 205, Block 1-A, H&TC survey.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

At least four U.S. troops die in mishap

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — At least four American soldiers were killed today and others were missing after ordnance they were trying to destroy exploded, U.S. officials said. Witnesses spoke of a series of blasts that rocked the area north of the city.

At the Pentagon, U.S. officials said about 10 Americans were handling Soviet-era missiles or artillery rounds when the blasts occurred about noon.

Maj. A.C. Roper, a military spokesman here, confirmed that four Americans were killed and at least one was injured. He was flown to the U.S. military clinic here.

However, a Pentagon official said the number of dead was expected to climb above four because a number of soldiers were unaccounted for.

Hours after the accident, a U.S. military helicopter circled over the site of the blast. Several American helicopters, one with a red cross painted on its underbelly, flew low over the city.

At Bagram air base north of Kabul, Maj. Bryan Hilferty said the team was disposing of "large caliber rockets" but gave few other details.

Yusuf Pashtun, chief spokesman for the regional government, said the explosion occurred next to Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar's former compound in an area where ordinance is normally destroyed.

Powell talks to Arabs and Israelis about peace talks

JERUSALEM (AP) — Secretary of State Colin Powell said today he is holding talks with Arab and Israeli leaders about an Israeli proposal to hold an international Mideast peace conference that might not include Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Powell said the United States would not host such a conference and that Arafat could send a high-level Palestinian official to represent him at such a meeting that would begin at the foreign minister level.

"We've got to move quickly to a political track and there are many ways to do that and one way is a regional or international conference," Powell told reporters as he returned to Israel from Syria.

"The conference in and of itself isn't the solution, but it's a way to get the parties together and talking."

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suggested the conference to Powell when the two met Sunday night in Tel Aviv, but the Israeli leader objected to Arafat's being included because he doesn't trust him. Powell met earlier in the weekend with Arafat in his besieged compound on the West Bank.

Powell said that a regional or international peace conference could start the process going to get the two sides back to the peace table.

"It doesn't necessarily require his presence to get started," Powell said of Arafat. "In fact, Chairman Arafat has the authority to appoint other Palestinians to represent him."

Powell's Mideast mission is in its ninth day with little sign that he has been able to get a timetable from Sharon to withdraw Israeli troops from the West Bank, or an unconditional pledge by Arafat to bring the violence down. A peace conference would give a positive twist to Powell's trip.

He reported to President Bush Sunday night from the residence of U.S. Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer and spoke also to Condoleezza Rice, the president's national security assistant.

Powell's public comment came after he took soundings in Syria and Lebanon earlier today on the proposed conference and warned leaders of the two nations that guerrilla attacks on Israel could spill over into a wider conflict.

After failing to draw concessions in separate meetings with Sharon and Arafat, Powell said in Damascus that he wanted Syrian President Bashar Assad's assessment on "a way forward to negotiations" to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He also took up with the Syrian leader, as he had with Lebanese leaders in Beirut.

Arrests increase in Snyder over weekend

•Arrests

Officers arrested a 41-year-old man Saturday afternoon for failing to identify and on a warrant for motion to revoke probation.

A 42-year-old man was taken into custody on 28th Street Saturday night on charges of Class C family violence after officers responded to a report of domestic violence.

At 11:45 p.m. Saturday, officers took a 22-year-old man into custody from Park Village Apartments for failure to identify to a police officer.

A 38-year-old man as arrested at 37th Street and College Ave. at 1 a.m. Sunday for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

Deputies arrested a 22-year-old man Sunday morning for public intoxication.

At 2 a.m. Sunday, a 43-year-old man was taken into custody in the 3700 block of Dalton for public intoxication.

An 18-year-old man was arrested on Ave. C for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

Just after noon Sunday a 20-year-old man was arrested on warrants for assault and driving while intoxicated.

DPS troopers took a 43-year-old man into custody Sunday for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated and for outstanding warrants.

Troopers arrested two men on Highway 180 at 11:45 p.m. Sunday for possession of marijuana, under two ounces.

The troopers had stopped the vehicle for speeding.

•Criminal trespass

9-1-1 dispatchers received a call from Dairy Queen on Coliseum Dr. at 10 a.m. Sunday reporting an ex-employee creating a disturbance. Officers responded and issued the former employee a criminal trespass warning to stay away from the restaurant.

A Woman called police to report a man at her residence with a criminal trespass warning to stay away from the home. Officers charged the man with criminal trespass.

•Criminal mischief

Tim Riggan Sunday afternoon reported damage done to his 2000 Ford pickup while in the coliseum parking lot. An offense report for burglary to a vehicle was submitted.

•Gas drive off

A clerk at Town and Country East reported a gas drive off in the amount of $39 Sunday morning.

A drive off worth $15.87 Sunday was reported from the Allsup's on College Ave.

Obituaries

Garnet Quiett

1914-2002

Garnet Quiett, a former Scurry County resident, died Saturday, April 13, in a Vernon hospital.

Graveside service for Mrs. Quiett, 88, was set for 11 a.m. today in the Dunn Cemetery. The Rev. James Merrill, Methodist minister, was to officiate. Arrangements were under the direction of Sullivan Funeral Home.

Garnet Quiett

Born Jan. 26, 1914 In Hasse, Tex., she married Houston Quiett on Dec. 16, 1933 in Dunn. He died in 1991. She also was preceded in death by her parents, Sterling and Pearlie Finley McDearmon; three sisters; and a brother.

A homemaker, Mrs. Quiett was a member of the Poetry Society of Texas and had several works published. She also was a member of the Poetry Club of Scurry County and was an office holder.

A member of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Snyder, Mrs. Quiett moved to Vernon on April 1, 1999. She was a member of the Lydia Sunday school class at First United Methodist Church in Vernon.

Survivors include a son, Howard Quiett of Vernon; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

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Willa Forbus

1923-2002

WHITEHOUSE — Willa Dean Forbus, the sister of Cecil Mearse of Snyder, died Thursday, April 11, in a Tyler hospital.

Funeral service for Mrs. Forbus, 79, was set for 4 .m. today in the First Baptist Church with the Rev. David McNary officiating.

A service is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday in the First Baptist Church in Loraine with the Revs. Orvel Brantley and G.A. McGee officiating. Interment will follow in the Loraine Cemetery.

Born March 6, 1923 in Mitchell County, she had lived in Loraine most of her life and was a member of the Loraine First Baptist Church. She worked in the family upholstery business.

She moved to Whitehouse two years ago where she was a member of the First Baptist Church and was a teachers' aide with the STEP program at Cain Elementary.

Her husband, Calvin M. Forbus; a brother, Nathan Mearse; and two sisters, Ora Richburg and Esta Black, preceded her in death.

Survivors also include a daughter, Marilyn Davis of Whitehouse; a sister, Geneal Caswell of Austin; and two grandchildren.

Cora Nance

1924-2002

ABILENE – Cora Nance, a former resident of Snyder, died Friday, April 12.

Funeral service for Mrs. Nance, 77, was set for 10 a.m. today in the Pioneer Drive Baptist Church with Dr. Jeff Reid and the Rev. Stan Allcorn officiating. Burial was to follow in the DFW National Cemetery.

Born April 20, 1924 in Granger, she was married to Hugh Winsett Nance for 56 years.

The family lived in Snyder, Odessa, Big Spring, Tyler and Abilene. She retired in 1985 from Wausau Insurance Co. in Abilene.

A member of the Pioneer Drive Baptist Church, she was a former member of the Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler and also a member of the Eager Beaver Good Sam Club.

Survivors include her husband, Bill Nance of Abilene; a daughter, Judy Satterwhite of Arlington; a son, Greg Nance of Tyler; a sister, Alice Johnson of Elgin; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Angelia Allen

1962-2002

CARTHAGE — Angelia Wallace Allen, Snyder native, died Sunday, April 14, in Tyler.

Service for Mrs. Allen, 39, of Carthage is set for 10 a.m. on Tuesday in Hawthorn Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Dale Reed will officiate. Interment will follow in the Odd Fellows Cemetery.

Born Aug. 15, 1962 in Snyder, she attended Carthage Schools and was a Baptist. She was owner and operator of Lone Star Grill.

She is preceded in death by her father, Arnold Wallace; and her grandparents, Ray and Agnes Taylor and E.E. Wallace.

Survivors include her mother, Pat Wallace of Carthage; her grandmother, Norma Wallace of Post; three daughters, Nicole Ray Wills, Amanda Lyn Wills and Kaitlin Alexandria Allen, all of Carthage; a brother, Arnold Shaun Wallace of Carthage; a sister, Kandi White of Carthage; a grandson, Koden Wallace Wills; two aunts and uncles, Gordon and Betty Taylor and Richard and Judy Alexander; and three nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be from 6-8 this evening at the funeral home.

Family suggests memorials to the Hospice Home Place of Tyler, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, 75701.

Births

Paul and Caroline Mata announce the birth of their daughter, Laila Valerienna Mata, at 8:14 p.m. on April 12 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. She weighed six pounds, nine ounces.

Grandparents are Roman and Janie Alvarado of Snyder and Guadalupe Perez of Beach Park, Ill.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Avenue D Baptist revival

The Avenue D Baptist Church, 324 30th St., is holding a revival through Wednesday. Jim Mosley is the evangelist and John Bullock will lead the music. Services are at 7 p.m.

AARP meeting

AARP Chapter 2063 will meet at 5:30 p.m. today for a potluck dinner at the Senior Center. Games will follow.

VFW auxiliary to meet

VFW Post 8231 Auxiliary will meet at 7 tonight in the post home. Nominations of officers will be made and members are urged to attend.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "Giving God His Due," followed by "Moral & Natural Evil."

Jury rescheduled

The jury called for Tuesday in 132nd District Court has been rescheduled to report next Monday at 8:30 a.m.

Gateway Family Services

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

4-H Horse Club

The Scurry County 4-H Horse Club will practice from 6:30 to 8 p.m Tuesday at the rodeo grounds.

Mesquite Country Emmaus

Mesquite Country Emmaus will have a community meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Calvary Baptist Church in Colorado City, 1025 E. 15th St.

Girls softball board

Snyder Girls Softball board of directors will meet at 8 p.m. Wednesday at 4507 Galveston.

Ira Project Graduation

There will be a meeting at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday at Ira Church of God youth center for all eighth grade and freshmen parents. For more information, call Rocky or Sheila Alexander at 573-8148.

FBC services televised

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

GED testing

Mandatory pre-registration for the GED tests will be held from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Thursday in the GED testing center, building 7B, on the WTC campus, Tests will be held Friday beginning at 8 a.m. For more information call Molly Kattes at 573-2919 or Emily Hataway at 573-8511, ext. 297, or 574-2112.

Hermleigh ISD transfers

Hermleigh ISD is accepting applications for transfer for 2002-2003. Applications may be picked up in the high school office and all transfer requests must be turned in by the end of April.

Church garage sale

Trinity United Methodist Church youth will have a garage sale Saturday from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the church Fellowship Hall at 5200 Trinity Blvd., across from the hospital. Funds will go to a summer mission trip.

Eighth grade parents meeting

Parents of all eighth grade students are urged to attend a meeting at 7 p.m. next Monday in the SHS auditorium. Debbie Phillips, counselor, will provide information and answer questions concerning high school registration procedures, course selection and requirements for the diploma programs. Students also are welcome to attend.

Basketball tourney

There will be a basketball tourney April 26-27 at the Hermleigh High gym for ages high school and up. Coed teams are welcome. Proceeds to benefit the Hermleigh junior and senior classes. Entry deadline is April 19. Call Reecie Sauceda at 863-2532 or Kentra Nachlinger at 573-2292 after 4:30 p.m. Cost is $100 per team and team size limit is 10.

Bake sale

Snyder Oaks Care Center will conduct a bake sale from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at Wal-Mart.

CNA classes

Snyder Oaks Care Center will start free certified nurses' aide classes toward the end of this month. Go by 210 E. 37th for application. Call 573-9377 for more information.

FBC support groups

Support groups dealing with divorce, death, cancer or caring for elderly parents meet at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the First Baptist Church educational building. A special group for students facing these problems is held at the same time.

SHS class of 1992 reunion

The 1992 class of Snyder High School needs addresses for classmates. Call Melanie at 573-4022, Julie at 573-1634 or Amy at 573-4793. The reunion will be held at the end of July.

Windbreak trees

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District has windbreak trees available for sale. Extra hardwood trees are $1 each. Call 573-6317 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Adult basic education classes

Adult basic education classes taught by certified teachers and Spanish-speaking aides are held at WTC from 8 a.m. until noon Tuesday through Thursday, and from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes include G.E.D., E.S.L., and refresher courses. For more information call 573-8511, ext. 322.