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INSIDE

What's Up 2
Lifestyles 3
Sports 5
Midday Stocks 7
Weather 10

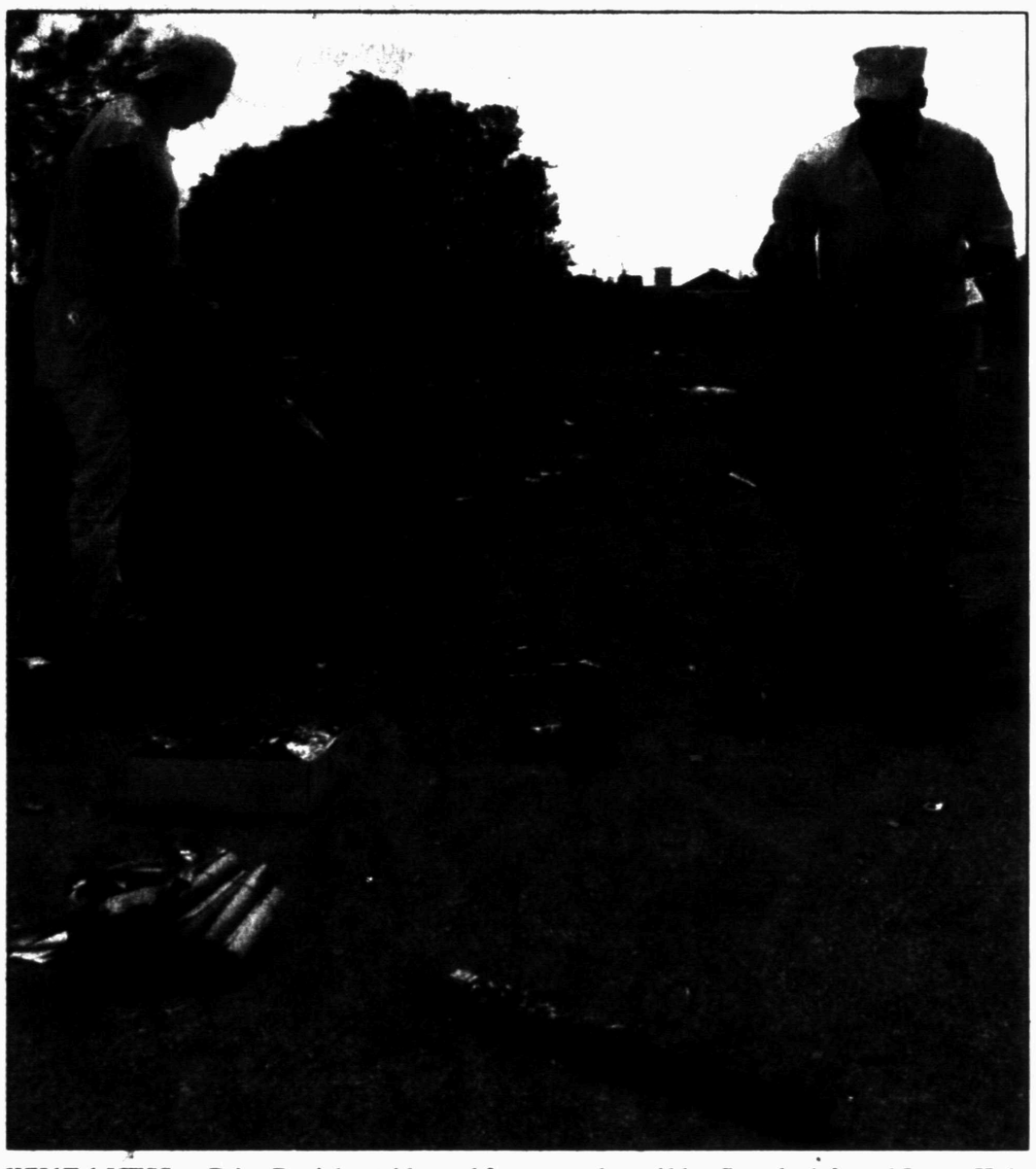
WT-Int. Crude - $30.13
WTIC Posted - $26.75
Natural Gas - $5.30

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

TUESDAY

July 8, 2003
Vol. 55 No. 59
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Marie Walton



WHAT A MESS — Price Daniel outside workforce members Alden Sepeda, left, and James Hubbard worked Monday to clean the substantial mess left at Winston Park by July 4 revelers. The park was strewn with litter, from used fireworks to empty beverage cans, and it took the parks department with help from the inmate laborers several hours to tidy up. (SDN Staff Photo)

Also animal control facility...

Insurance, budget are discussed by council

By Wade Warren
SDN Managing Editor

Snyder's city council took care of a number of yearly items and again worked on the 2003-2004 budget in a 4½-hour meeting Monday night.

The council approved the lone bid for employee health insurance for next year, and accepted the management letter from the city's auditing firm of Davis, Kindard and Co. It also approved the quarterly investment report as presented by finance director Jeanne Johnson.

The city unanimously accepted the bid from Blue Cross-Blue Shield for the insurance at a cost of some $38,000 more than the present year premiums.

The policy calls for retaining the present $500 deductible with employee premiums increasing from the present $299.88 to $338.56 per month. Dependent coverage will increase from $466.38 to $526.55 per month.

After those action items, the council went into executive session concerning real estate at 7:53 p.m. for about an hour.

When the council reconvened in open session, Mayor Francene Noah announced that no action would be taken.

Addressing the council during the session was Bettye Lynn of Fort Worth.

Discussion of the 2003-2004 budget took up the remainder of the meeting with talks centering on adding an additional clerk for municipal court, and the city either building or remodeling an existing building for an animal shelter.

Councilman David Harrell questioned the need for the additional clerk as recommended by the city's administration.

"I'm not saying this is not warranted, I'm just looking at where the big hit on the budget is," said Harrell.

Police Chief Steve Warren countered by saying the position is badly needed.

"One ticket can generate three hours work," Chief Warren said. "They need some help as their work load is tremendous."

"We're real behind on issuing warrants," the chief said.

Presently, there is one full-time clerk and she gets help from the city manager's secretary, Gloria Myers, as time permits.

In regards to the animal shelter, the city has been in contact with Jerry Early concerning the purchase of his former veterinary building located at 37th St. and Brick Plant Road.

The city now spends some $18,000 yearly at West Texas Animal Clinic for animal shelter services.

During the discussion on the shelter, Terry Martin suggested the city look into building a new facility on city-owned property.

"We might be able to build a new one for possibly less money and not inherit an old building's problems," said Martin.

City Manager John Gayle said the city would work on a design for a building, get some prices, and bring the information to the council next month.

The council will meet again at 6:30 p.m. Monday in a called meeting to continue looking at cuts to cover the increased costs of the health insurance.

Mayor Noah presided at the meeting and council members in attendance were Martin, Harrell, Vernest Tippens, Stephanie Ducheneaux, James Ashley and Ron Shaw.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "The only thing worse than the many who will argue over anything is the guy who will argue over nothing."

There are few things that rip our cord faster than citations being written to raise revenue.

New York City has a financial problem, and city administrators in the Big Apple are getting a black eye for a rash of tickets being issued.

A wire report says tickets are being handed out so feverishly that one might think there's a crime wave in NYC.

In recent weeks, an 86-yer-old man has been targeted for unlawfully feeding pigeons.

A teenager was cited for relaxing on a street corner for "unauthorized use of a milk crate." The maximum fine was $161.

And a shop owner was fined $400 for having too many letters on his awning.

Critics say the cash-strapped city has launched the ticketing blitz to help close its $3.8 billion budget gap.

However, the police union is so embarrassed that it has begun a "Don't Blame the Cop" public relations campaign.

The NYC mayor says there are no quotas, but does admit to some silly citations. He urged cops to go after things like double parking that has a more hefty levy.

But there's more bad news, many of the fines attached to various citations increased this summer.

For example, the fine for scavenging garbage will double from $50 to a $100. Shucks, if the guy had a hundred bucks, he wouldn't be eating out of the dumpster.

We've never bought the argument that seat belt laws are really about safety.

There is a mountain of evidence that should encourage the use of seat belts and we believe folks, for their own sake, should use 'em.

If they don't however, the only people they hurt are themselves. There is no crime against society.

But a $200 fine, in our humble opinion, for a seat belt violation, borders on being theft by taxation.

Think of the logic — or lack of it. Motorists must wear a seat belt for their own good, but a person on a motorcycle is not required to wear a safety helmet.

The reason we know seat belt citations are about revenue is the admission by our own state leaders. If voluntary compliance is not at a certain level, then certain federal funds are withheld.

Citizens would feel a whole lot better about a positive campaign to encourage seat belt usage, than the current zero tolerance policy and possible $200 fine.

And no, we haven't been cited. We wear ours — unless we just forget sometimes.

Grand jury returns three DWI indictments

Seven persons were indicted by the Scurry County grand jury Monday, including three for driving while intoxicated.

Charged with driving while intoxicated was Marcus Lee Sparlin, 26, of 1945 Santa Fe Ave. Sparlin is out of jail on a $5,000 bond for the April 19 offense.

Sparlin has a prior DWI conviction in Scurry County in 1996 and in Dallas County in 1999.

Henry Carrisalez, also known as Enrike Carrisalez, 42, is out of jail on a $5,000 bond for a June 3 offense of driving while intoxicated.

Carrisalez, of 903 N. Ave. Q was convicted of DWI in Scurry County in 1991 and 1993. He was also convicted of burglary in Scurry County in 1983.

David Paul West, 38, of 1212 29th St. was indicted for driving while intoxicated on June 20. He is out of jail on a $5,000 bond.

He was convicted of DWI in Coleman County in 1991 and in Scurry County in 1993.

Joshua Zane Arnold, 20, of 5863 W. Hwy. 180 was indicted for the June 2 offense of theft. He is accused of stealing currency from Michelle Thompson in the amount of more than $1,500 but less than $20,000.

The offense is a state jail felony and Arnold remains in jail on a $5,000 bond.

Jorge Aguirre Vazquez, 28, of 3009 Ave. N was indicted for the June 14 offense of evading arrest. He is accused of fleeing from Snyder police officer Jason McMillan.

Vazquez remains in jail in lieu of a $5,000 bond.

Two persons who were also indicted have yet to be arrested.

Cogdell Hospital to have open house on Wednesday

Cogdell Memorial Hospital will host an open house from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday to show off recently-completed construction projects.

The open house will focus on the new emergency-admitting entrance, front lobby, emergency-surgery waiting rooms, auxiliary gift shop, and the Sue Mize Chapel.

Also on Wednesday, a new telephone system for incoming calls will be implemented.

Callers will be able to dial any telephone in the hospital directly, including patient rooms.

Dial 574+7+the room number to reach a patient without going through the operator. The hospital's main number remains 573-6374.

House approves redistricting

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas House Republicans had their quorum this time and had their way with congressional redistricting.

The GOP-controlled House rolled over Democrats' objections and gave final approval 83-62 early today to a map that redraws the state's congressional districts in favor of Republicans.

Now the measure goes to the Senate, where its fate is uncertain. Senate Democrats have the numbers to block the bill from being debated if they stick together.

"Thank God for the Senate," said Rep. Jim Dunnam of Waco, leader of the House Democratic Caucus.

Two Senate Republicans have expressed reservations about the House plan, which was backed by U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, a Republican from Sugar Land. If implemented, it could send as many as 21 Texas Republicans to Congress.

Democrats hold the edge in the Texas congressional delegation now, 17-15.

Any new redistricting plan is likely to face a court challenge.

Texas House Democrats called the Republican plan authored by Rep. Phil King of Weatherford an unnecessary "power grab" that diminishes the voting rights of blacks, Hispanics and other minorities and of rural Texans.

King disputed that allegation, saying he expects the plan to easily win approval from the U.S. Department of Justice, which must rule on whether it meets the standards of the federal Voting Rights Act.

"I can assure you that there's no dilution of minority voting strength," King said. "It's a fair map that recognizes our voting patterns in Texas."

Normally, redistricting is done every 10 years after a new census. The Legislature failed to act in 2001, and a federal court drew the district boundaries.

The outnumbered legislative Democrats thwarted a redistricting bill in the House in the regular legislative session in May by fleeing to Ardmore, Okla., for four days.

Liberians swarm U.S. military experts today

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Thousands of Liberians swarmed American military experts today, pleading for help to end a ruinous three-year civil war in the West African country.

At a high school filled with people displaced by fighting, the refugees surrounded the U.S. team, waved American flags and chanted, "No more war, we want rest."

As the Americans moved on, crowds chased their 15-vehicle convoy. In the confusion, one diplomatic car ran into a young boy, who was brought to the American Embassy for treatment. Liberian police fired shots in the air to disperse the crowds.

The team, which arrived in the country a day earlier, is on a mission to evaluate how the United States can help restore order in the country.

The United States faces mounting international pressure to send troops to lead a peacekeeping force in Liberia, a nation founded by freed American slaves in the 19th century. But Washington is leery of becoming deeply involved in a complicated West African conflict and says it wants President Charles Taylor to step down first.

President Bush, speaking today in Senegal on the first stop of a five-nation African tour, said he had not decided on the extent of U.S. involvement in Liberia.

He also repeated his demand that Taylor relinquish power.

ASK US

Q—What is the annual budget for the Scurry County tax assessor-collector's office?

A—The budget this year is $203,168.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Madaleno Castillo...

...has lived in Hermleigh 35 years. He and his wife, Elvera, have five children and 12 grandchildren. Madaleno is a retired heavy equipment operator for Grimmett Bros. Hobbies include fishing at Lake Thomas and in the San Angelo river and working in the yard and around the house.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe.

—Saint Augustine

JUL 08 2003

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

SHS mini cheerleading camp

Registration for the July 28-31 SHS mini cheerleading camp, ages 4 to 12, is set for 5-7 p.m. today, Wednesday and Thursday at the Humble Smith Building. The cost, including T-shirt, is $40 per camper with $10 off for second and third campers in family. All campers will perform at halftime of Snyder's first home football game. Call Rhonda Ward at 573-3475 for more information.

Student success workshop

Snyder ISD will host a parent-child workshop from 10 a.m. until noon Wednesday at the Region 14 Education Service Center satellite office at 4300 College Ave. The make and take workshop is for children ages 3-5. For more information call 574-6012.

Cogdell open house

Cogdell Memorial Hospital will host an open house of the renovated emergency/admitting entrance, front lobby, surgery area, chapel and gift shop from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Nurses aide class

Due to low response, the orientation for the nurses aide class has been postponed until 2 p.m. Thursday. A certified nurses aide class will be held from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday until Aug. 16. Tuition is free and books may be purchased at WTC. For more information, call Maggie Barnes at 863-2426.

FBC services televised

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

JV cheerleader fundraiser

The JV cheerleaders will be selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts from 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. Friday for $6 a dozen at Wal-Mart. Call 573-1395 or 574-2995 to place orders.

Country and gospel music

For country and gospel music come to the Senior Citizens Center at 6 p.m. Saturday.

Sunday lunch

Martha Ann Woman's Club will serve lunch beginning at 11:30 a.m. Sunday at the clubhouse, south of the hospital. Tickets cost $8.50 for adults and $4.50 for children. Call 573-3427 for tickets. Reservations needed no later than Saturday morning.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "Three Messages from Balaam", followed by "Put Away Lying."

S.M.A.R.T. School

S.M.A.R.T School at Ira ISD with Carol Scott and Kim Allen will be held from 8-11:45 a.m. Monday through Thursday. Transportation is available. Call 573-2628 to reserve your spot.

Senior swimnastics

Swimnastics for senior citizens is held from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the WTC pool.

SHS football program ads

Advertisements are now being sold for the 2003 football program. Anyone interested in purchasing an ad can call Christy Smith at 573-6301.

Sonshine registration

Sonshine School at 37th St. Church of Christ is currently registering students for the fall semester. For more information, call director Wendy Barnett at 574-1960.

Cancer treatment transportation

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

American Airlines workers have low morale

DALLAS (AP) — Tim Schwagart is one of the few American Airlines employees feeling optimistic about his situation.

American pilots, mechanics and flight attendants agreed to thousands of layoffs and reduced pay and benefits in April to help keep the world's largest airline out of bankruptcy.

So Schwagart now works 10½ hour days in Chicago, and flies home on his days off to see his family in Arlington.

"At least we've got the paychecks coming in. I'm going to commute for as long as it takes," he told The Dallas Morning News.

American's parent company, Fort Worth-based AMR Corp., had been losing money steadily for about two years and was on the verge of filing for bankruptcy before winning employee approval for $1.8 billion in annual labor concessions, including $620 million from ground workers and $340 million from flight attendants.

Employees saw their pay slashed by 16 percent to 23 percent, with those cuts now showing up on paychecks.

Furloughs for 1,300 mechanics, 1,200 fleet service clerks and 3,100 flight attendants followed. About 2,200 pilots' jobs will be eliminated in July, according to an airline spokesman.

"Morale is very, very low," said Steve Blankenship, head of the national communications committee for the Allied Pilots Association. "But we clearly understand the long-term viability of this airline is directly related to the sacrifices we've made."

Barbara McGowan-McMurray, a flight attendant and American employee for more than three decades, now works 30 percent more hours to keep her paycheck about the same.

Her take-home pay has decreased not only because of pay cuts, but also because of additional cuts in vacation, overtime and increased medical premiums.

"We took a lot bigger cut," she said. "The people that are working are having such a hard time. I know pilots and flight attendants that have had to sell their homes. It's not because they overextended themselves. They believed they had a viable deal.

To make up the difference, McGowan-McMurray has canceled her cable and refinanced her truck.

"Many people didn't know how bad it was. I think they were floored when they got their checks at the end of June," she said.

But Schwagart and McGowan-Mc-Murray are among the luckier ones — Laura Lohrman, a 17-year flight attendant, committed suicide five months after being furloughed on her 40th birthday in January,

Lohrman's mother, Jackie Mayhew, said her daughter was devastated because of the layoff and that her life had spiraled out of control.

"It just wasn't a job; it was an identity. She had no other education, and she could only find minimum-wage jobs," Mayhew told the newspaper. "She just got to the point where she didn't see any way out."

Schwagart says that for now, the best thing he can do is go on living in an apartment in Chicago with three other mechanics. The men live near public transportation become none has a car. They're looking forward to getting a fifth roommate, because it will lower rent even more — and because the new guy has a truck.

"You've got to make the best of it. That's what everybody does," he said. "This is what we've been dealt since Sept. 11, and the farther we get away from that, the better we are. I'm confident that staying with American Airlines is the best thing I can do. It's the best thing for me."

Lawsuit settled: TNN can go ahead with changing name to Spike TV

NEW YORK (AP) — Spike Lee and Viacom Inc. have settled a lawsuit the filmmaker filed to keep the media giant from calling its TNN cable television network "Spike TV."

Lee had obtained a temporary injunction in June, preventing the name change, but on Monday state Supreme Court Justice Walter Tolub lifted the order after both sides reached the agreement

No details of the deal were available.

The ruling means Viacom, which also owns the CBS network and MTV, can proceed immediately with plans to rebrand TNN as Spike TV, the "first television network for men." Viacom said it was renaming TNN to attract more men to an audience already two-thirds male.

Lee, director of "Malcolm X" and "Do the Right Thing," got the injunction after claiming that Viacom was renaming TNN in a deliberate attempt to hijack his name, image and reputation.

Lee, whose real name is Shelton Jackson Lee, said he objected to being associated with lowbrow programming.

TNN broadcasts reruns of "The A-Team," "Baywatch" and "Miami Vice" and sports entertainment such as pro-wrestling, "American Gladiators," "Car and Driver Television" and "Trucks!"

The network also carries an animated series featuring Pamela Anderson as the voice of Stan Lee's "Stripperella," an undercover agent who is also a stripper.

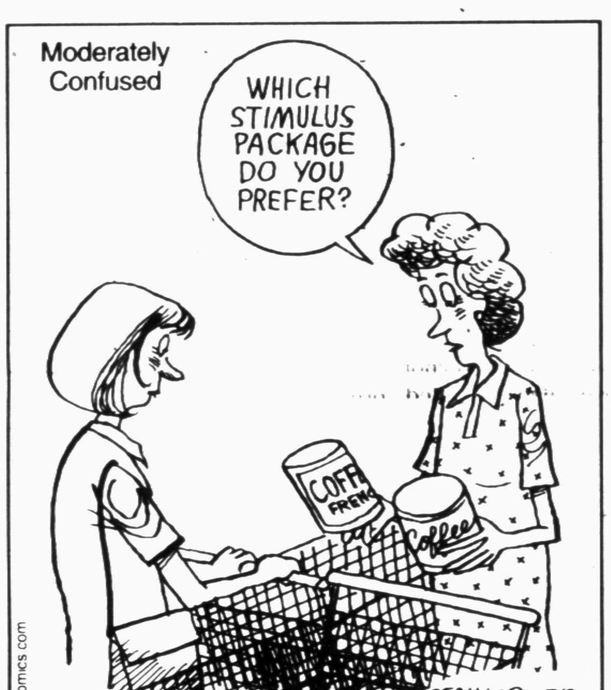
During the hearing, TNN vice president Kevin Kay said the network had lost millions of dollars since the injunction and stood to lose millions more if the ban continued.

"We have settled the case with Viacom," said one of Lee's lawyers, Terry Gross. He would not divulge details. "It's obviously good when parties settle."

Viacom officials didn't immediately return telephone calls seeking comment on the judge's order.

While the case was pending, Lee was in Los Angeles filming "Sucker-Free City" for Showtime, a cable network owned by Viacom.

The judge ordered both sides to meet him in his courtroom this morning.



Date Book

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Today is the 189th day of 2003 and the 18th day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1796, the U.S. State Department issued the first American passport.

On this day in 1835, the Liberty Bell cracked for the second time while being rung to mark the death of U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall.

On this day in 1889, the first issue of the Wall Street Journal appeared.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Nelson Rockefeller (1908-1979), U.S. politician; Roone Arledge (1931-2002), TV executive; Anjelica Huston (1951-), actress, is 52; Beck (Hanson) (1970-), singer, is 33.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1978, Bjorn Borg of Sweden won his third consecutive title at Wimbledon.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "I think my whole generation's mission is to kill the cliche." — Beck

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (July 6) and full moon (July 13).

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Chen returns as host

NEW YORK (AP) — A new season of "Big Brother" premieres Tuesday night, with Julie Chen returning as host of the CBS reality series.

The first names, occupations and hometowns of eight houseguests have been posted on the "Big Brother 4" Web site. But there's more to come because some of the houseguests' ex-flames also will be moving in.

CBS is hoping the "ex-factor" will make this summer's edition unique.

Classic Interiors



Introduces
VIETRI by Bugatti
Dinnerware & Flatware
• Heavy Guage 18/10 Stainless Steel
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• Durable & Dishwasher Safe
• Reasonably Priced
2520 Ave R 573-1701
Open Mon. - Fri., 9:30-5:30, Sat. 10:00 - 4:00

events
LOTTO TEXAS TEXAS LOTTERY RESULTS

Monday's Lottery Numbers
Cash Five
AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Monday by the Texas Lottery:
2-14-17-27-34
Pick 3
(Day) 4-2-4
(Night) 1-5-9

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Second Mars Rover launched

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — After nearly two weeks of delays, a rocket holding NASA's second Mars rover was launched into a night sky Monday on a mission to study whether the Red Planet ever had enough water to sustain life.

The rover, Opportunity, lifted off in a cloud of steam aboard a Delta II Heavy rocket at 11:18 p.m. EDT. NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe flew to the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station to watch the launch.

The launch was postponed more than a half-dozen times because of bad weather, a failed battery cell and a nagging problem with cork insulation failing to stick to the aluminum rocket.

Technical problems continued to plague the launch Monday night. Launch officials halted the countdown with seven seconds left during the first launch opportunity at 10:35 p.m. EDT because of a problem with a valve on the rocket.

NASA had until July 15 to launch Opportunity before Earth and Mars became too far apart. The next chance would be in four years.

NASA launch director Omar Baez joked after liftoff that the launch was beset by Murphy's Law. "Everything that could go wrong did go wrong," Baez said.

The failed battery cell was discovered over the weekend and replaced. Fixing the cork on the Delta II Heavy rocket had been more challenging.

The cork is believed to have peeled off from the rocket during fueling, when minus-300-degree liquid oxygen is loaded into the rocket. Workers replaced pieces of the cork and used a stronger adhesive.

Workers also fixed minor last-minute problems Monday night involving software and the replacement battery cell.

Opportunity and its sister rover, Spirit, which was launched last month, are scheduled to arrive at Mars in January and land on opposite sides of the planet as part of the $800 million mission.

The six-wheeled vehicles will roll across the rocky red soil of Mars and send back data that could help scientists determine whether there was ever enough water on the planet to support life.

The rovers are following two other spacecraft on their way to Mars. Japan's trouble-plagued Nozomi orbiter, originally launched in 1998, is scheduled to arrive in late December or early January. Scheduled to arrive at about the same time is the European Space Agency's Mars Express orbiter and its British-built Beagle 2 lander, which also were launched last month.

EVERY TUESDAY
5:00 p.m. until Closing
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4100 College Ave. 573-7620

MONROE QUALITY SHOCKS
8.99 Heavy Duty shocks. Each. 81-4700 ser.
9.99 Monroe Gasmatic shocks. Each. 81-3701, 3920 ser.
Installation Available
LOWRANCE WESTERN AUTO
East Side of Square 573-4911

Lifestyles



LIONS CLUB
Snyder Lions
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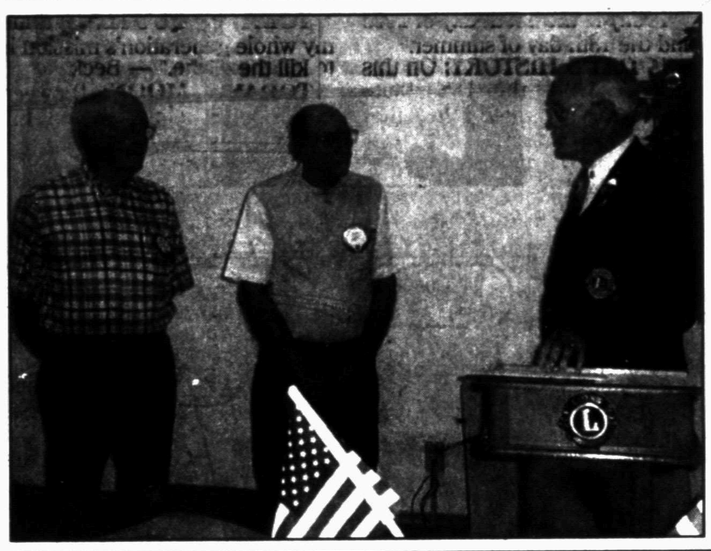
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LIONS CLUB OFFICERS — District 2T2 Governor Joe Hargrove from Crosbyton, left, installed Snyder Lions Club officers — Ted Crenwelge, president; Peggy Vernon, 3rd vice president; Jene Steakley, secretary; and Mac McCown, treasurer. Not pictured are Tommy Cotton, 1st vice president, and Jim Petty, 2nd vice president. Lions meet every Tuesday at noon at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. (Staff Photos by Jo Ann Nunley)





MORE OFFICERS — Lions District 2T2 Governor Joe Hargrove also installed officers including, from left, Ken Roark, Steve Warren, directors; Jack Denman, song leader; Max von Roeder, tail twister; and Olin Bunch and Horace Bostick, Lion tamers. Not pictured are Cy Posey, Carl Burleson, Fred Dillard and Brian Brisendine, directors; Kinney Robinson, song leader; and Juanita Glass and Gail Titus, tail twisters. In the photo at left, Hargrove installed Jerry Bob Cotton as a new member as his sponsor, Max von Roeder, left, looks on. The Lions Club hosted the July 4th Prayer Breakfast, headed by Von Roeder.

Tips for buying a used car for teenager

When teens are ready for their own set of wheels, there are steps parents can take to put them on the road to safety.

Auto industry and safety experts offer these tips on how to select a safe, affordable vehicle appropriate for novice teen drivers:

• Safety: Experts at Consumer Reports suggest choosing a vehicle with as many of the newer safety features-such as airbags and antilock brakes-as you can afford. Usually, a midsize car from the last six or seven years would be a good choice.

• Size: Phil Berardelli, author of Safe Young Drivers, recommends avoiding trucks or SUVs with a high center of gravity, which tend to have a higher rollover rate for inexperienced drivers who may more easily lose control.

• Condition: Examine the vehicle for wear and tear. Edmunds.com tells consumers to check the tires-they tell a lot about a vehicle. Is there adequate tread left? Are the wheels cracked or aging? If so, use this as a bargaining chip with the seller to cover the cost of the new tires it will need.

• Insurability: Vehicle type, in addition to the driver's age, is a factor in determining insurance rates, according to Cars.com. Sports cars can equal higher insurance premiums. A station wagon may be a better choice for your teen financially, if not socially.

• History: Know the truth about a used car by obtaining a vehicle history report to be sure there are no hidden problems in the vehicle's past, says Carfax.com, which offers a safe teen driver program. "A large part of our customer base is made up of parents concerned for their teenagers' driving safety," says Dick Raines, President of CARFAX and parent to 3 teenagers. The CARFAX Safe Teen Driver program aims to curb teen fatalities from motor vehicle crashes, the number one killer of teens, by educating parents and teens in safe driving principles.

"We decided to take the next step — to not just assist parents in locating safe cars, but to aid them in becoming better coaches to their teen safe drivers," says Raines. To learn more, visit the free online resource center at www.carfax.com/teen.

—

Maintain an elegant address even if you have to live in the attic.

—Aristotle Onassis

—

Pick your books as you would your friends.

—Fiorello H. LaGuardia

MAWC planning Sunday luncheon

Directors of the Martha Ann Woman's Club are planning a luncheon for Sunday and the public is invited. Reservations must be made by calling 573-3427 by Saturday morning. Serving will begin at 11:30.

Cost will be $8.50 for an adult and $4.50 for a child. Caterer Sandra Brace said the buffet will offer chicken fried steak or chicken on rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans or broccoli with cheese, pasta salad or tossed salad, rolls, punch bowl cake and tea or coffee.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 07-08-03
♠ A 8 6 3 2
♥ 8
♦ K 7 6 4 2
♣ A K

West
♠ K J 7
♥ J 9 7 4
♦ Q 9 5
♣ 7 5 2

East
♠ Q 10 9
♥ Q 10 6 5 2
♦ A J 10
♣ 4 3

South
♠ 5 4
♥ A K 3
♦ 8 3
♣ Q J 10 9 8 6

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
		1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ 4

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Bring the suit back to life

By Phillip Alder

When answering machines first appeared, we disliked leaving messages. But now, we get irritated if the phone keeps ringing and no machine picks up. Our attitude has changed by 180 degrees.

While on this subject, Judy Horacek, an Australian cartoonist, claims, "In Hell all the messages you ever left on answering machines will be played back to you."

Sometimes, a hellish partner will not keep quiet about sensible plays that turn out badly. West was particularly harsh after this deal. Was he justified in taking his partner to task? South was in three no-trump. West led his fourth-highest heart. How do you think the play proceeded?

The bidding might have followed several paths. If South had rebid three clubs, probably it would have ended the auction in a contract that would have made with one overtrick.

If North had bid three diamonds on the third round, South would probably have given preference to three spades. Then, maybe North would have continued with three no-trump.

South could see nine tricks via one spade, two hearts and six clubs. But given the lead, where was his hand entry after unblocking dummy's top clubs? Spotting his only chance, declarer smoothly ducked the first trick. East returned the heart five, so South took his two heart winners and discarded dummy's blocking clubs. Then, declarer claimed his six club tricks and dummy's spade ace.

West immediately took East to task for failing to shift at trick two, but who would really find that? South played well and deserved his success.

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"THANK YOU"

Historic Scurry Co., Inc. wishes to thank all who participated in their Silent Auction fund raiser on July 4th. We thank the donors of items, those who bid and purchased items and all who visited the Dermott School and the Dodson House. The funds collected will be used for the continuing restoration of the Dodson House.

Community Calendar

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

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

AA Big Book Study; closed meeting; contact numbers are 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

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Snyder, Texas 79549

Dale Huff, Minister

Answering "the question"

"Why?" That is the big question that comes up in life. Why do things happen the way they do? Why do good people suffer? Why does life seem so unfair? Why do bad things happen to me? Giving a good answer for these questions is not always easy. The Bible tells us that God loves us. It promises us that God loves us. That does not immediately answer the question. In some ways it makes the question bigger. If God loves us, why then do these bad things happen?

The Bible answers this question in many ways in many places, but the most helpful answer may be the one given in Romans 8:32. The answer is this, God gave His Son to die for us and our sins. If God did that, we can be certain that He is on our side. We can be certain that He loves us and wants the best for us. Nothing that happens to us in this life can change that. We can believe God's love and obey Him and be blessed. Or we can reject God's love, turn away from Him and be judged. But God does love us and wants us to be blessed and saved.

What about hunger, suffering, persecution and untimely deaths. All of those things raise the question, "Why?" No one is given a detailed explanation to understand. What the Bible does give us is assurance. If Christ died for us, and He did, then we know that God loves us! Then the question is put to all of us, "How will you respond to His love?" That's the biggest question of all.

Dale Huff

JULY 8 2003 3

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



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BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



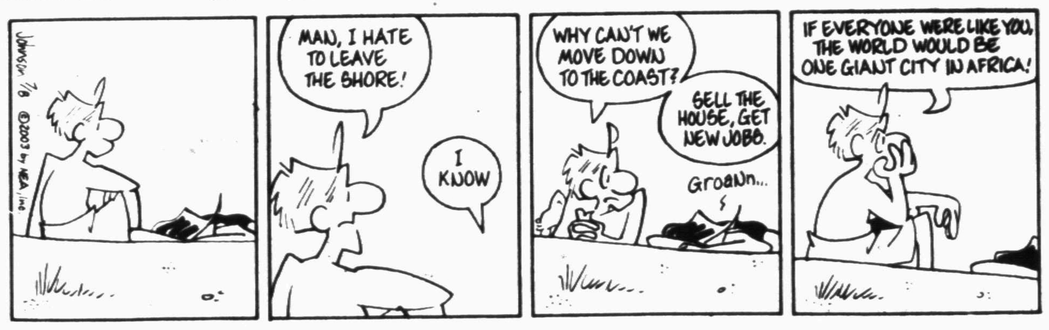
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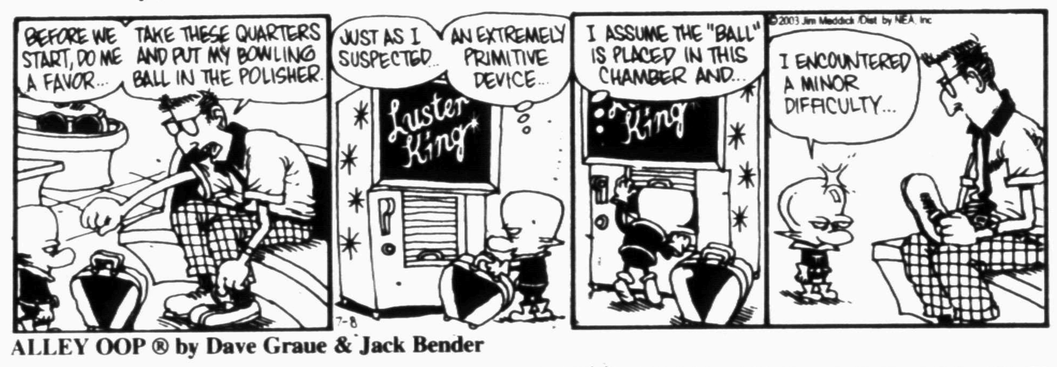
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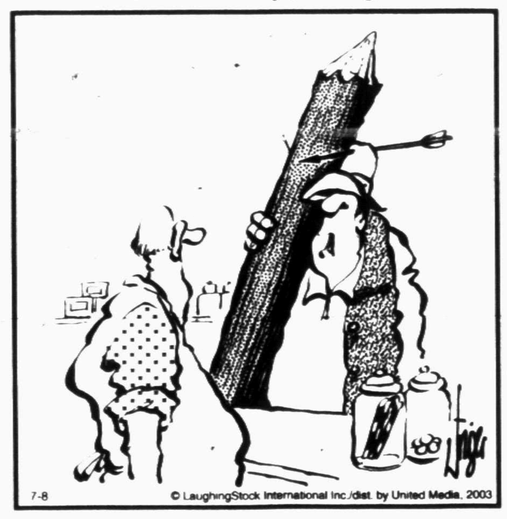
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"I need 400 of these and a pair of hinges."

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Maybes
4 Pushpin
8 Swamp
11 Blue or green
12 Comics pooch
13 Bad sign
15 Physician's org.
16 Zen riddle
17 Ms. Turner
18 Postpone
20 Sonnet stanza
21 Vain male
23 "Pipe down!"
24 Day unit
27 Bogus butter
29 Dessert choice
32 Lira successor
33 VI halved
34 Slip up
35 Chow mein enhancer
36 Moved swiftly
37 Spring formal
38 Fr. holy woman
39 Heart
40 Famous volcano
41 Ump's call
42 Health club
44 Custom
47 Sound off
51 Fasten boards
52 Words to Yves
55 U.N. locale
56 "Vogue" rival
57 Urgent
58 PBS relative
59 Feminine ending
60 Glided
61 Low-value coin

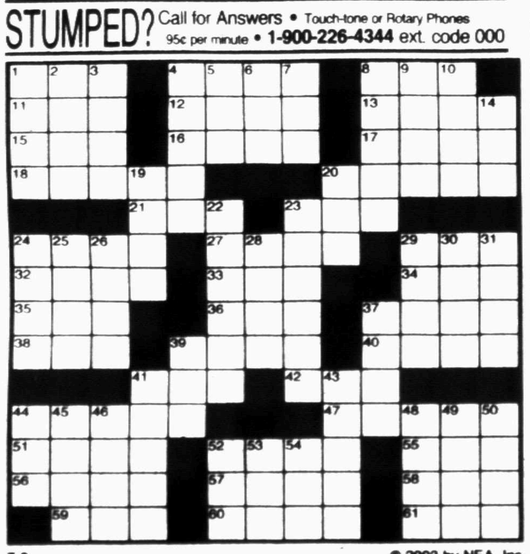
DOWN

1 "— — no idea!"
2 Get ticked
3 Zoo barker
4 Godzilla's city
5 Uproar
6 Hush-hush org.
7 Actor — Howard
8 Mess up
9 Skip
10 Kind of pool
14 "Unforgettable" singer
19 1960s hairdo
20 Exultant cry
22 Christie sleuth
23 Nets
24 Finishes a skirt
25 Expel
26 Encourage
28 Perjurer
29 Chipper
30 Tailor's need
31 Writer — Bombeck
37 Fall fruit
39 Billiard stick
41 Gawks at
43 Worked as a model
44 Single, in Paris
45 Discount event
46 Is not well
48 Blyth and Landers
49 Printed error
50 Neutral shade
52 Rx givers
53 Fossil fuel
54 Prefix for angle

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Snyder Daily News Comics

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KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



DA

EAGLE, Colo. take another we Angeles Lakers Bryant knows if will be filed again

Little informa Monday by pro the case against

Sideline Views

by Bobby Alle

The news th was arrested fo has shocked the

Bryant is one stars of the nev never been wit tance of a contro a felony.

But with this apply a couple learned from the we pass judgme the alleged victi

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When all felon him were drop reported with th eous judgement

So, it is impera the circumstanc before convictin by all accounts dite and ground court of public o

Which leads t son we've learn months: Public vate lives are se

Take the case

Puckett was t fielder in baseb early 90s. A por could run like the bat like a No

He helped le two World Serie superior teams.

He also was o ebrated athletes up as a parago symbol of all th the game.

Now we know and his mistres was not all he ap he was an ab who took great his flaws from t

Not that Bry thing, but no Puckett had either.

Bryant may guilty, which is let it play out b defending him.

The district orado handling today as saying may not be file

So until that what we can do these charges whether Bryan long list of ath grace.



DISTRICT II won the Distr Lovington. Th is front, from Price, Garret Simpson, ba Gutierrez, De Chris Smith, gon. (Contrib

SPORTS

DA reviewing case against Bryant

EAGLE, Colo. (AP) — It may take another week before Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant knows if criminal charges will be filed against him.

Little information was given Monday by prosecutors about the case against the 24-year-old NBA star who is accused of sexually assaulting a woman at a resort near Vail. But Bryant's lawyer, Pamela Mackey, said her client "expects to be completely exonerated."

According to an arrest warrant, Bryant attacked a woman June 30. Authorities said only that it happened at a hotel. Officials at the Lodge & Spa at Cordillera in nearby Edwards said Bryant stayed there June 30-July 2.

Under Colorado law, sexual assault could range from fondling to rape.

Bryant surrendered to authorities Friday and was released after posting $25,000 bond. Mackey said her client had been in Colorado for surgery on his right knee at Vail's Steadman Hawkins Clinic.

The accusations against one of the NBA's biggest stars made headlines nationwide and stunned the sports world. Dozens of reporters and camera crews descended on this mountain town about 100 miles west of Denver.

Since entering the NBA straight from high school, Bryant has drawn comparisons to the league's greatest players. He was married in 2001 and became a father earlier this year.

Eagle County District Attorney Mark Hurlbert said he is reviewing the merits of the case submitted by the sheriff's office and could make a decision on whether to file charges against Bryant within the next week.

"Sometimes it takes a while to get through everything," Hurlbert said Monday. "It may be beyond the end of the week."

He said Bryant might not be charged at all, but refused to discuss details of the allegations against the five-time NBA All-Star.

Mackey accused the sheriff's office of "complete bias," saying it ignored the wishes of the district attorney in obtaining the arrest warrant.

"We were told that the matter was under consideration by the district attorney's office but that there was insufficient information to issue a warrant or to file charges," she said in a statement.

Mackey did not return calls seeking elaboration.

At Monday's news conference, Hurlbert refused to address Mackey's claims.

"What's done is done," said Hurlbert, standing a few feet away from Sheriff Joe Hoy, whose office is leading the investigation. "I'm not going to comment on whether it was prudent or not. A judge found probable cause."

The sheriff's office sought the arrest warrant from a judge instead of making the request through the district attorney, which is the usual practice. Only the district attorney's office can file charges.

Hoy said his investigators learned of the case July 1 and spent nearly 30 hours on the case before contacting Bryant. Defense attorneys were notified on July 3 and Bryant returned to Colorado the next day, sheriff's spokeswoman Kim Andree said.

"There wasn't any urgency. We felt we were doing the right thing for everyone involved," Hoy said. "We wanted to give people the time to themselves to adjust" because of the holiday.

Hurlbert said he talked to the woman, who "seems to be doing OK considering the circumstances."

The case against Bryant unfolded as details of two other NBA players' legal troubles were released.

Orlando Magic guard Darrell Armstrong was arrested after being accused of fighting with a female police officer outside a Florida nightclub, and Portland Trail Blazers' Damon Stoudamire was accused of trying to pass through an airport metal detector with marijuana.

Sideline Views
by Bobby Allen



The news that Kobe Bryant was arrested for sexual assault has shocked the sports world.

Bryant is one of the shining stars of the new NBA and has never been within sniffing distance of a controversy, much less a felony.

But with this arrest, we must apply a couple of rules we've learned from the past year before we pass judgment on Bryant or the alleged victim.

First, Allen Iverson was arrested and charged with 14 felonies last summer after witnesses told police he had thrown his nude wife from the house, then went looking for her packing a big gun and a bad attitude.

Because Iverson had been in trouble before, we quickly took the story and the charges at face value. It turns out that story given by the witnesses was bogus — part of a "master plan" some yahoos cooked up to try and bleed Iverson in a civil suit.

When all felony charges against him were dropped, it was not reported with the same self-righteous judgement as the arrest.

So, it is imperative for us to hear the circumstances and evidence before convicting Bryant — who by all accounts is a mature, erudite and grounded man — in the court of public opinion.

Which leads to the second lesson we've learned in the past 12 months: Public images and private lives are seldom similar.

Take the case of Kirby Puckett.

Puckett was the premier center fielder in baseball in the 80s and early 90s. A portly fellow, Puckett could run like a horse and wield the bat like a Norse warrior.

He helped lead the Twins to two World Series titles against far superior teams.

He also was one of the most-celebrated athletes off the field, held up as a paragon of virtue and a symbol of all that was right with the game.

Now we know — from his wife and his mistress — that Puckett was not all he appeared to be, that he was an abusive philanderer who took great pains to conceal his flaws from the public eye.

Not that Bryant is hiding anything, but no one ever thought Puckett had anything to hide either.

Bryant may or may not be guilty, which is why we should all let it play out before branding or defending him.

The district attorney in Colorado handling the case is quoted today as saying charges may or may not be filed.

So until that moment comes, what we can do is ponder whether these charges are spurious or whether Bryant is another in a long list of athletes to fall from grace.



GETTING A GRIP — Will Stevens, 8, takes his turn throwing the pigskin at today's camp at the Scurry County Boys and Girls Club. Roughly 30 kids participated in the first day of the two-day camp. (SDN Staff Photo)

Armstrong conserving strength for tougher phases in Tour de France

SAINT-DIZIER, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong finished 69th in the third stage of the Tour de France, conserving his strength for an important time trial and the grueling mountainous climbs.

Italy's Alessandro Petacchi won his second stage of the Tour today, speeding to the line in a sprint marked by another crash.

Armstrong is taking it easy in the early stages as he attempts to equal Miguel Indurain's record of five consecutive victories in cycling's showcase race.

The Texan is 12th overall, 19 seconds behind leader French rider Jean-Patrick Nazon.

Petacchi beat Latvia's Romans Vainsteins and Spain's Oscar Freire in the dash into Saint-Dizier, the third of the three-week Tour's 20 stages. Petacchi also won the first stage Sunday.

Nazon finished in 14th place Tuesday and took the yellow jersey. He is the first Frenchman since Francois Simon in 2001 to wear the jersey.

Petacchi completed the race, run under hot, sunny skies, in 3 hours 27 minutes, 39 seconds.

The 104-mile stage was marked by a crash involving Rene Haselbacher of Austria. He was treated by doctors by the side of the road.

Armstrong entered the day in 10th place. He finished 54th in the second stage and was hardly concerned with 1,890 miles remaining.

His U.S. Postal Service team is setting its sights on team time trials Wednesday and the Alps, where Armstrong aims to start powering away from his rivals. The first Alpine stage is Saturday, up to the ski resort of Morzine.

"A team like us just hopes for the mountains to come as fast as they can and get out unscathed," Dan Osipow, the team's general manager, said at the start of Monday's stage, which was run under hot, sunny skies.

Armstrong's former teammate, Tyler Hamilton of the United States, completed Monday's stage with a broken collarbone from Sunday's crash.

Former Stars forward found dead in Turkey

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — New York Rangers forward Roman Lyashenko, who played in Dallas his first two years in the NHL, was found dead in a hotel room while vacationing in Turkey.

Turkey's Anatolia news agency reported it was a suicide.

Yuri Koritskiy, a Russian consular official, said the 24-year-old hockey player had been with his mother and sister in Antalya, a southern Mediterranean resort province popular with Russian and other European tourists.

The Anatolia news agency said Lyashenko apparently hanged himself with his belt in his hotel room.

Snyder thrashes Eastland

ROTAN — The Snyder All-Stars took advantage of three straight walks to lead off the game to score six runs in the first inning Monday night, topping Eastland 10-1.

Rey Juarez pitched a complete game, fanning six and issuing just two walks while not allowing an earned run, as the 11- and 12-year-olds dominated yet another squad in the Rotan tournament.

Gage West had two singles and an RBI, and Alex Hernandez had two RBI on a double and a single.

Zane Beryyhill had a pinch-hit single, and Benji Gutierrez was 2-for-4 with a pair of base knocks.

Rance Dunn, Riley Davis and Juarez all added key hits in the game.

The team will play Key City at 8 tonight. Key City appealed to the Little League governing body that it should receive the other seed in the final pool, based on beating Colorado City head-to-head. The team won the appeal, then was upended by Northern, 6-2, Monday.

The championship game will be at 8 p.m Thursday, with the sectional tournament in San Angelo getting underway Friday.

Major League Baseball

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	56	31	.644	—
Philadelphia	47	39	.547	8½
Montreal	48	41	.539	9
Florida	46	44	.511	11½
New York	39	48	.448	17

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	46	42	.523	—
Chicago	45	43	.511	1
Houston	45	43	.511	1
Cincinnati	40	47	.460	5½
Pittsburgh	38	47	.447	6½
Milwaukee	36	51	.414	9½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	54	34	.614	—
Arizona	49	39	.557	5
Los Angeles	46	41	.529	7½
Colorado	46	45	.505	9½
San Diego	33	57	.367	22

Monday's Games

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

Today's Games

Florida (Willis 8-1) at Chicago Cubs (Zambrano 6-7), 1:20 p.m.
St. Louis (Haren 0-1) at San Francisco (Ruetter 7-3), 2:35 p.m.
Philadelphia (Myers 8-6) at Montreal (Vargas 6-3), 6:05 p.m.
Atlanta (Reynolds 5-4) at N.Y. Mets (Roach 0-1), 6:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Fogg 5-3) at Milwaukee (Kinney 6-7), 7:05 p.m.
Cincinnati (Haynes 1-8) at Houston (Redding 4-8), 7:05 p.m.
Colorado (Neagle 2-2) at Arizona (Webb 5-2), 8:35 p.m.
Los Angeles (W.Alvarez 0-0) at San Diego (Eaton 3-7), 9:05 p.m.

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	54	33	.621	—
Boston	50	37	.575	4
Toronto	48	41	.539	7
Baltimore	39	46	.459	14
Tampa Bay	30	56	.349	23½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	47	39	.547	—
Minnesota	44	43	.506	3½
Chicago	43	44	.494	4½
Cleveland	37	50	.425	10½
Detroit	21	65	.244	26

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	55	32	.632	—
Oakland	49	38	.563	6
Anaheim	44	42	.512	10½
Texas	35	52	.402	20

Monday's Game

N.Y. Yankees 2, Boston 1

Today's Games

Boston (Wakefield 6-3) at Toronto (Halladay 12-2), 6:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Weaver 4-6) at Cleveland (Traber 3-5), 6:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Garland 6-6) at Detroit (Ledezma 2-2), 6:05 p.m.
Minnesota (Lohse 6-6) at Texas (Mounce 1-2), 7:05 p.m.
Kansas City (May 2-4) at Anaheim (Lackey 6-7), 9:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Johnson 7-3) at Seattle (Pineiro 9-5), 9:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Bell 0-2) at Oakland (Zito 8-5), 9:05 p.m.



DISTRICT III CHAMPS — The Snyder Babe Ruth All-Stars won the District III championship with a 21-4 shellacking of Lovington. The team, which will play this weekend in Seminole, is front, from left, Orlando Vasquez, Cole Lancaster, Wesley Price, Garrett Pinson, Caleb Gutierrez, Eric Martinez, Cade Simpson, back, from left, Corbin Clements, coach David Gutierrez, Danny Ortegon, Ryan Mitchell, Dustin Williams, Chris Smith, manager Herman Martinez and coach Frank Ortegon. (Contributed Photo)

Snyder tunes up for title tonight

The nine- and 10-year-old Little League All-Stars will close out the Snyder tournament at 6:30 p.m. today against Sweetwater in the final tune-up before the district championship game.

The team will take on Abilene-Cedar Creek at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the southern Little League field in Abilene for the District V title.

The winner will advance to the sectional tournament Friday, in Odessa.

Sports Briefs

Boys and Girls Club football camp

The SHS football players and coaches is hosting a camp from 10 a.m. until noon Wednesday for ages 7-14 at the Scurry County Boys and Girls Club. Those who did not attend today are welcome to attend Wednesday. Donations will be accepted, with all proceeds going to the club.

Hermleigh athletic physicals

All incoming sixth, ninth and 11th grade Hermleigh athletes are reminded to get a physical. Forms can be picked up at the high school and all paperwork must be completed prior to the physical.

Snyder athletic physicals

Physicals are required for students wishing to participate in SISD athletics. Those needing physicals include all incoming seventh, ninth and third-year high school students; all new students to SISD who plan to participate in athletics; any student who answered yes to questions 1, 4, 5, 6, or 7 on their medical history form; and any student who has not participates in athletics in the past.

The district will pay for physicals up until Aug. 1. With the following doctors: Raykov, Burleson, Cooper, Thompson and Wolboldt. Incoming seventh and ninth graders pick up physical forms at the doctor's office.

Payton looking for new team

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Free agent guard Gary Payton won't return to the Bucks after declining an offer from the team.

New Bucks general manager Larry Harris said he spoke with Payton's agent, Aaron Goodwin, who confirmed Payton has declined to stay with Milwaukee.

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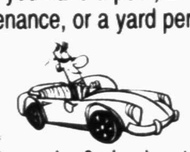
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Both conjoined twins are dead after surgical separation operation

SINGAPORE (AP) — Iranian twins Laleh and Ladan Bijani, joined at the head for 29 years, died within 90 minutes of each other today after doctors separated them but were unable to control their bleeding in the unprecedented surgery.

In their homeland, people cried out in shock or wept as state television broke into normal programming to announce their deaths during the third day of surgery in Singapore.

"Is my beloved Ladan really not with us anymore?" Zari Bijani, an elder sister of the twins, said after Ladan's death was reported. Seconds later, she fainted.

Hospital officials said Ladan died 90 minutes ahead of her sister Lelah, with both deaths because of blood loss. They died while still under anesthesia.

"Everyone upstairs is crying," said the nurse, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We treated them like family because they had been here for seven months."

It was the first time surgeons tried to separate adult craniopagus twins. The surgery has been performed successfully since 1952 on infants, whose brains can more easily recover.

The risky, marathon separation procedure began about 10 p.m. EDT Saturday. Before the operation, doctors warned that the surgery could kill one or both of the twins, or leave them brain-dead.

"When we undertook this challenge, we knew the risks were great. But we were hopeful. Ladan and Lelah knew the risks too," said Dr. Loo Choon Yong, chairman of Raffles Hospital. "As doctors there is only so much we can do as the rest we have to leave it to the Almighty."

From the start, doctors ran into unexpected obstacles not found in the infants that the operation has until now been performed on. It took longer to cut through portions of the sisters' skulls because their older bones were denser than previously believed.

And though the Ladan and Laleh's brains were separate, they had adhered to each other after years of growing and sharing the same skull. That forced doctors to meticulously cut the organs apart, "millimeter by millimeter," Raffles hospital spokesman Dr. Prem Kumar said.

"As the separation was coming to a close, a lot of blood was lost. The twins were subsequently in a critical state," said Kumar.

At one of the final points of the separation procedure, surgeons cut a finger-thick shared vein from Ladan.

Rerouting the shared vein was considered one of the biggest obstacles in the surgery. German doctors told the twins in 1996 that shared vein made surgery too dangerous.

"I am very sad, as all of us are," lead neurosurgeon Dr. Keith Goh said. "Over the last six months, everyone who came in contact with them was touched by their personalities and the kind of people they were."

For more than 50 hours, the team of 28 doctors and about 100 medical assistants worked in tight spaces in front of and behind the twins, who were in a sitting position in a custom-built brace connected to IVs and monitors. Classical music played softly, and surgeons whose expertise was not needed at the moment would slip out of the room for rest.

In the final hours, the surgeons had to contend with unstable pressure levels inside the twins' brains just before they worked to uncouple the sisters' brains and cut through the last bit of skull joining them, Kumar said.

The sisters' brains had "to be teased apart very slowly," Kumar said. "Cut. Teased apart. Cut. Teased apart. In the process, you encounter a lot of blood vessels and other tissues."

Although the sisters knew the operation could kill one or both of them, they decided to face those dangers after a lifetime of living conjoined and compromising on everything from when to wake up to what career to pursue.

"If God wants us to live the rest of our lives as two separate, independent individuals, we will," Ladan said before the operation.

The courage of the twins won them a place in the hearts of Iranians. Television devoted many programs to the twins. Newspapers published page after page about their life and the protracted operation.

Parents of the twins, Dadollah Bijani and Maryam Satari, thanked the Iranian nation for praying for their children, the state-run Tehran radio reported.

"It's a national tragedy," said Ahmad Mahmoudi, a photographer in Tehran.

Housewife Noushin Nowrouzi promptly parked her car after she heard the news on the radio so she could cry in peace.

The sisters were born into a poor family of 11 children in Firouzabad, southern Iran, but grew up in Tehran under doctors' care.

The Iranian government said Monday it would pay the nearly $300,000 cost of the operation and care for the twins.

Participating neurosurgeon Dr. Benjamin Carson, director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Children's Center in Baltimore, has separated three sets of craniopagus twins.

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	10.92	10.50	10.65	— .25
AOL TimeWrn	16.76	16.60	16.69	— .07
AT&T Corp rs	19.81	19.51	19.56	— .41
Albertsons	19.50	19.27	19.50	— .09
Alltel	49.99	49.20	49.88	+ .36
AmEl Pw	29.25	28.81	29.11	— .19
AndarkPtr	43.36	42.75	43.31	+ .08
ATMOS Egy	25.09	24.65	24.77	— .23
Avnall	11.94	11.72	11.94	+ .24
BP PLC	41.39	40.75	40.93	— .52
BakerHughes	33.39	32.37	33.29	+ .60
Bank of Amer	81.45	80.70	81.38	+ .48
BellSouth	27.38	27.01	27.19	— .17
BurlNoSFe	29.29	29.03	29.11	+ .03
Caterpillar	56.60	56.14	56.35	— .06
CenterPoint	8.19	8.05	8.15	+ .05
ChevronTex	73.44	72.85	73.22	— .08
Citigroup	45.31	44.50	45.21	+ .27
CocaCola	44.95	44.30	44.50	— .46
ColgatePal	57.79	57.30	57.61	— .39
CmclMetals	18.39	18.23	18.23	— .21
ConocoPhill	53.97	53.30	53.49	— .44
Cooper Inds	43.29	42.90	43.11	+ .26
DaimlrChry	36.37	35.98	36.28	— .43
DeltaAirl	15.57	14.01	14.66	+ .33
Dillards Inc	14.10	13.76	14.04	+ .28
DowChem	31.29	31.00	31.19	— .06
DuPont	42.35	42.05	42.11	— .05
EastmanChem	32.50	31.90	32.20	+ .15
EstKodak	27.65	27.27	27.53	— .12
EDS Corp	22.62	22.22	22.48	+ .13
Entergy	53.20	52.65	52.97	— .24
ExxonMobil	36.12	35.71	35.94	— .11
FootLocker	13.41	13.10	13.41	+ .18
GenDynam	74.40	73.60	74.16	+ .39
GenlElec	29.27	28.93	29.01	— .26
GenMills	47.60	47.24	47.59	+ .17
GenMotors	36.92	35.80	36.71	+ .81
GaPacific	20.30	19.66	20.30	+ .24
Goodrich	21.26	20.17	21.20	+ .08
Goodyear	5.57	5.35	5.48	— .07
GtAtlPac	9.03	8.75	9.03	+ .25
Halliburtn	22.84	22.00	22.79	+ .56
Hanson ADS	28.94	28.85	28.93	+ .24
HarteHanks	19.25	18.85	19.17	+ .08
HomeDepot	34.29	33.65	34.27	+ .50
Honeywellntl	28.42	27.25	27.77	— .29
IBM	86.09	85.19	86.08	— .01
IntlPaper	37.66	37.27	37.42	— .16
JohnsonJn	59.90	59.50	59.38	— .60
KinderMorg	54.50	53.70	54.08	+ .15
Kroger Co	17.36	17.03	17.34	+ .07
LockheedM	48.14	47.39	47.19	— .89
Lowes Cos	45.40	43.50	45.35	+ 1.84
Lubys	2.97	2.89	2.97	+ .04
LucentTech	1.92	1.82	1.95	— .06
MarathonOil	26.63	26.29	26.62	+ .17
MayDeptStr	22.43	22.27	22.42	+ .03
Medtronic	48.10	47.15	47.48	— .25
Motorola	10.16	9.85	9.99	— .04
NCR Corp	28.95	28.45	28.85	+ .05
Navistar	35.66	35.24	35.48	+ .34
PNM Resrcs	27.20	26.99	27.13	+ .10
Penney JC	16.34	16.16	16.34	+ .12
PepBoys	14.04	13.81	14.03	+ .31
PepsiCo	44.91	44.37	44.79	+ .42
PhelpDodge	38.40	37.80	37.93	— .73
PilgrmPrd B	10.13	9.87	9.95	— .28
Praxair	61.85	61.29	61.37	— .37
ProctGamb	90.69	90.02	90.16	— .63
RadioShack	26.60	26.29	26.55	— .10
RoyalDut	46.33	46.05	46.15	— .34
SBC Comm	26.30	25.75	26.18	+ .12
SaraLee	19.54	19.37	19.54	— .12
Scripps EW	89.59	89.00	89.36	+ .07
SearsRoeb	34.51	33.38	34.41	+ .68
SherwinW	27.66	27.33	27.59	+ .26
SouthernCo	30.39	30.10	30.33	+ .02
SwstAirl	17.88	17.59	17.87	+ .14
SprintFON	15.60	15.40	15.54	— .01
SprintPCS	5.88	5.77	5.87	— .02
Sunoco Inc	37.76	37.43	37.67	— .09
TXU Corp	21.73	21.52	21.61	+ .05
TempleInland	43.50	43.02	43.48	— .07
TexInd	25.00	24.67	24.92	+ .18
TexasInst	19.08	18.55	18.95	+ .06
Textron	39.25	38.84	39.19	+ .31
TrinityInds	19.44	19.08	19.44	+ .29
TylerTech	4.74	4.65	4.74	+ .14
UnionPacif	59.29	58.77	59.10	— .09
USSteel	15.98	15.63	15.97	+ .17
UnitedTech	73.15	72.21	73.13	+ .59
Unocal	28.83	28.58	28.75	— .02
VerizonComm	39.75	39.30	39.42	— .24
WalMart	56.77	56.28	56.52	— .03
WellsFargo	50.95	50.50	50.66	— .48
WstnGasRs	39.39	39.00	39.29	+ .13
WinnDixie	12.69	12.53	12.69	+ .05
Xerox Cp	10.95	10.80	10.91	— .02
YumBrands	30.70	30.23	30.59	+ .14

JULY 8 2003

3

Wing damage test called 'smoking gun'

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A chunk of foam insulation similar to the one that came off during Columbia's liftoff punched a large ragged hole in a shuttle wing mock-up, and the accident investigator in charge of the test said it proved that the debris doomed the spaceship.

"We have found the smoking gun," said Scott Hubbard, a member of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board.

The 1.67-pound piece of fuel-tank foam insulation fired at real shuttle wing parts Monday blew open a gaping 16-inch hole. The crowd of about 100 onlookers gasped and cried "Wow!" when the foam hit — the impact so violent that it popped a lens off one of the cameras recording the event.

The foam struck roughly the same spot where insulation that broke off Columbia's external fuel tank smashed into the shuttle's left wing during launch. Investigators had speculated that the damage led to the shuttle's destruction during re-entry over Texas in February, but Monday's test offered the strongest proof yet.

In the board's seventh and final impact test, the foam shot out of a 35-foot nitrogen-pressurized gun and slammed into a carbon-reinforced panel removed from shuttle Atlantis.

The countdown boomed through loudspeakers, and the crack of the foam coming out at more than 530 mph reverberated in the field where the test was conducted.

Sixteen high-speed cameras captured the impact, and hundreds of sensors registered movements, stresses and other conditions. The impact was so strong — packing a full ton of force — that it damaged some of the gauges.

"There's a lot of collateral damage," said Hubbard, a high-ranking NASA official.

Hubbard said the test results showed it would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible, for Columbia's astronauts to have repaired such a large hole in orbit. He stressed that the actual gap in Columbia's wing may have been a bit smaller — or possibly a bit bigger.

"We know that almost surely there was a breach on the order of 10 inches in diameter," he said. "Here we've got one 16, so that's in the same ballpark in my book."

He added: "The board's goal was to connect the dots between the foam-shedding event and the proximate or the direct cause of the accident, and that's what this whole test program has been about. I think today we made that connection."

Monday's test at Southwest Research Institute best replicated the blow from debris that occurred 82 seconds into Columbia's liftoff in January.

Nonetheless, Hubbard expressed surprise at the results.

"It was in here," he said, smacking his fist into his belly. "It was a visceral reaction... I felt surprise at how it appeared, such a dramatic punch-through. But it is the kind of damage, type of damage, that must have occurred to bring down the orbiter."

Two weeks ago, the investigation board identified the blow from the foam as the most probable cause of the accident that killed the seven astronauts. Hubbard said after Monday's test: "I think foam hitting the wing leading edge of the orbiter at 500 mph is the direct cause."

The board plans to release its final report by the end of this month. Much of the report "is going to deal with the other types of causes, contributing causes and other elements of the orbiter program over the last 20 years," Hubbard said.

One month ago, another carbon shuttle wing panel — smaller and farther inboard — was cracked by the impact, along with an adjoining seal. This time, the entire 111/2-inch width of the foam chunk — rather than just a corner during previous testing — hit the wing, putting maximum stress on the suspect area.

The five other previous tests in recent weeks involved fiberglass wing pieces taken from the shuttle prototype Enterprise, housed at the Smithsonian Institution. Those, too, were damaged.

Hubbard said it is questionable whether the best set of cameras trained on the shuttle during liftoff would have detected such a large hole, if they had been in focus, and they were not. He declined to say whether spy satellites would have observed such damage, but he noted that it was a black hole in a dark piece of reinforced carbon.

During Columbia's flight, shuttle managers rejected engineers' request for spy satellite images to ascertain the extent of damage to the left wing.

Among the board's preliminary recommendations to NASA: improve launch photography, use spy satellites to check orbiting spaceships, conduct better testing of wing panels, and devise an inspection and repair plan for astronauts in orbit.

Monday's test cost $3.4 million.

FDA approves new device for diabetics

WASHINGTON (AP) — Diabetics are about to get the first device that promises to calculate how much insulin they need after a meal and signal an implanted pump to emit that dose.

The Food and Drug Administration approved on Monday the Paradigm system, made by Medtronic MiniMed Inc. and Becton Dickinson.

Patients still will have to prick a finger to see how much blood sugar is in their systems and program in how many carbohydrates they plan to eat. But until now, they've also had to calculate their required insulin dose based on the two figures, math that if done wrong could result in dangerously high or low blood sugar.

The new machine does that math automatically, and specialists hope a result will be better-managed diabetes.

"The smarter these systems can become, ... the better our patients ought to be able to do," said American Diabetes Association past president Francine Kaufman, a pediatric endocrinologist at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.

Diabetes is a leading cause of blindness, kidney failure and amputations, and significantly raises the risk of heart attacks. It kills 180,000 Americans each year. Some diabetics control their disease with diet, exercise and various medications; others require regular injections of insulin, a hormone crucial to converting blood sugar into energy.

More than 200,000 diabetics have insulin pumps implanted in their abdomens, a programmable system that can provide more precise, regular doses, infusing even while the patient is sleeping if necessary. But patients still have to test their blood sugar and then do some math to decide how much their pumps should emit and when.

With the new system, patients still will perform the glucose test. The pager-sized glucose monitor uses wireless technology to beam the result straight to the implanted insulin pump.

Today's chuckle

Two pooper scoopers argue over slogan

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Talk about a stink.



The owner of a pooper scooper business here sued a competitor to protect a company slogan.

"We're No. 1 in the No. 2 Business" is the slogan registered with the Secretary of State's Office by Loren's Pooper-Scooper Service.

"You kind of take a stinky job, and you kind of try to make something bad into something good," said owner Loren Hoppens, who is hired to pick up pet waste.

But when a competitor, Stinky's Pet Poop Pickup Service, allegedly started handing out business cards with the phrase "No. 1 in the No. 2 business," Hoppens filed a lawsuit in Pima County Superior Court claiming that Stinky's and owner Tracy Sartain were infringing on his trademark.

Sartain said Friday the matter was resolved. "It's been settled," she said, declining further comment.

No mention of the slogan or the lawsuit was on the Stinky's Web site.

Simon Cowell will judge crooner contest

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "American Idol" villain Simon Cowell has signed a contract to judge the crooner contest for another three years, the Fox network said Monday.

Cowell agreed to return to "American Idol" if Fox would make his show-business dreams come true. He wanted help establishing his own production company, simcow Ltd., and a first-look agreement with the network to run a new reality-TV series from him.

He told The Associated Press that he doesn't think the new ventures will limit his appearances on "Idol."

"It's not a difficult show to do, 'American Idol,' apart from the audition sequence," he said. "Once we're into the studio side it's only two days a week, so there's loads of other time to do the things I want to do."

He refused to say how much he is being paid or what new shows he plans to produce. He already oversees the new dating program "Cupid," which is set to premiere on CBS Wednesday.

Cowell will begin judging auditions for a third season of "American Idol" later this summer. The new season is set to start in January 2004.

—

West Virginia is also known as the Mountain State.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Pizza delivery man spies mom at unscheduled stop

DEAR ABBY: I am a 20-year-old male and a full-time college student. On nights and weekends I hold down two part-time jobs. One of them is delivering pizza.

One night two weeks ago, I made a delivery to a nearby motel. As I was leaving, I saw a familiar car pull into the parking lot. It was my mother's Mustang. She was driving.

I was surprised to see her there, so I turned my car around and followed her to the rear of the motel. I watched her park, get out, knock on a door and enter. After several minutes of confusion, I returned to my job.

Two hours later, after more deliveries, I returned to the motel. Sure enough, her car was still parked in the same spot. After 20 minutes or so, I watched her come out of a room with a man I recognized from her office. He's in his late 20s, and I know he has a wife and two small children. (Mother is 41, but looks younger.) I froze. I didn't confront her.

Now I don't know what to do. Every time I look at my dad I feel guilty because I haven't said anything. The news would crush him. Should I continue keeping this to myself or tell someone? — **IN SHOCK IN CHICAGO**

DEAR IN SHOCK: It is unfortunate that you have been caught in the middle. The person you should talk to is your mother. Your father needs to be told, but she is the one who should do it. If her co-worker is cheating on his wife with your mother, he could also be cheating with others. In that case, your parents should both be tested for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

**

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Howard," and I are in our early 40s with two young children. I have had a problem with my father-in-law my entire marriage. He expects Howard to entertain him on weekends. As it is, they see each other Monday through Friday because they work together. My father-in-law is married, but he doesn't want to be home with his wife on weekends — he'd rather spend time fishing or bowling with his son.

I think Howard should be with our children and me on the weekends. When I complain to him about it, Howard accuses me of nagging. This Saturday morning when I objected, Howard stalked out and said over his shoulder, "See you tonight!" It's impossible to make plans for the weekends because Howard won't agree to anything until he checks with his dad first to see if HE wants to do something.

Am I selfish to want my husband's attention for our children and me on weekends? After all, his dad already sees him far more than we do. Should I try to accept this, or tell my husband to either grow up or move in with his dad? Please help me, Abby. The tension between us is unbearable. — **DESPERATE WIFE IN TENNESSEE**

DEAR DESPERATE WIFE: Your father-in-law is, and has been, a terrible role model for his son. Your husband is no longer a child; he is a grown man with responsibilities of his own that he is shirking.

Since Howard doesn't want to hear it from you, your next move should be to get some marriage counseling. If he won't go with you, take your mother-in-law and go without him. It may come to light that because of their business relationship, Howard feels he can't say no to Dad for fear of jeopardizing his financial obligations to you and the children. Whatever the reason, it needs to be brought out into the open.

**

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

**

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

(Editors: For editorial questions, please contact Alan McDermott, amcdermott@amuniversal.com)

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

In the year ahead, you will establish new relationships completely different from those you've cultivated in the past. You may be looking for more substantive thinkers.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — As time ticks on today, your gregarious mood grows and you'll desire to be with friends who are just as sociable. If you can't do lunch, be sure to make plans for the evening.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — It might seem like you're everybody's personal counselor today. More then a few pals are likely to seek out your confidential aid.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today you're more comfortable participating in activities that are more mental than physical. You'll select companions who share these inclinations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Your alertness will be responsible for spotting a development that could put extra money in your wallet. Use that sharp mind to make it happen.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — The news you've been waiting for could be coming today. It pertains to something that is outside your control but which offers personal benefits.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — A valuable lesson can be learned from observing how a successful associate handles a financial affair. You'll be able to use the same techniques.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Talk to a close friend about something that's brothering you. Some worthwhile ideas can come from an honest discussion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Don't ignore any ideas you get today concerning ways to advance your career. You're plugged into a success current.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Take the opportunity to share knowledge you possess about something interesting, and don't hold back on the information. Your listener will be very grateful.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Make constructive changes in your surroundings today, especially if they benefit your family or associates as well as you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You'll be a mentally energetic person today. Your ideas are full of creative thoughts for figuring out ways to improve everyday issues.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You won't wait for a repairman to show up today when something isn't working right. Instead, you'll figure out how to fix it yourself and save a bundle of money.

Cancer, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph year-ahead predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to state your zodiac sign. Visit: www.bernice4u.com.

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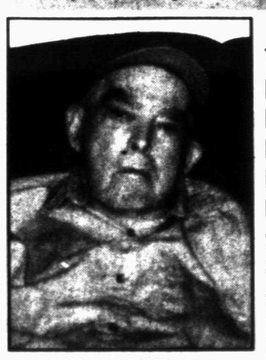
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Snyder Oaks Corner



Ferrell Nipp

Ferrell Nipp was born in Stephenville, Texas October 19, 1912. He married Lela Johnston, May 26, 1934. They have been married for 69 years. They have no children. He was a farmer in Dunn, Texas. He has always enjoyed being outside. He enjoyed playing 42 with his neighbors, and he and his wife enjoyed fishing. Mrs. Nipp says he is a wonderful husband. We are very glad to have Ferrell Nipp as part of our Snyder Oaks family.

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One in four U.S. bridges called deficient

WASHINGTON (AP) — Motorists hitting the open road this summer will drive across thousands of newly repaired or replaced bridges, but they'll still find one in four spans needing repairs or failing to meet current standards.

After billions of federal highway dollars over the last decade earmarked for repairing or replacing bridges, the number considered deficient — they need repairs, cannot adequately handle traffic loads or do not meet safety standards — declined 18 percent from 1992 to 2002, from 199,090 to 163,010, according to an Associated Press computer analysis of Federal Highway Administration data.

That new total still amounts to 28 percent of bridges.

"It seems like we have a tremendously long way to go," said Mantill Williams, a spokesman for the AAA motor clubs. "The longer we wait, the more expensive it's going to get."

The drop in deficient bridges coincided with passage of two federal transportation bills that earmarked $36.5 billion for repairs beginning in 1992 — more than double the $15.3 billion allocated during the previous decade.

"It bodes pretty well that the numbers dropped," said Mal Kerley, an engineer with the Virginia Department of Transportation and chairman of the subcommittee on structures and bridges for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

Congress is preparing to renew legislation that determines how much federal money flows to states to build and repair roads and bridges. The current six-year bill expires Sept. 30.

The Bush administration has proposed increasing highway and transit funding by 13 percent, to $247 billion over the next six years. House Transportation Committee chairman Don Young, R-Alaska, has said that's not enough and has discussed an increase in the gasoline tax to raise more money. Young wants to spend $375 billion over six years.

While federal lawmakers debate how much to spend, some state governments, already facing budget shortfalls, are cutting back. Maryland and Kansas have diverted money from transportation projects for other government services, and Wisconsin is considering it.

Failure to make timely fixes to aging bridges can have deadly consequences. Three people died in November when a century-old bridge across the Chickasawhay River collapsed in Waynesboro, Miss. A replacement bridge was being built nearby at the time.

There can be other costs as well.

The local hospital in Warren, Pa., has stationed an ambulance crew on the other side of town to avoid a time-consuming three-mile detour around the Hickory Street Bridge. The 86-year-old concrete arch bridge had deteriorated so thoroughly that it was closed at the end of March. A new $10-million span is more than a year away.

Progress in reducing the number of deficient bridges vary from state to state.

In New York, where 10 people died in 1987 in the collapse of an inadequately maintained state Thruway bridge, the number of deficient spans declined by 43 percent in the last decade, a higher percentage than any other state. The state had 6,501 deficient bridges at the end of 2002, down from 11,419 in 1992.

"Obviously, that has helped guide our efforts," department spokeswoman Jennifer Post said of the 1987 tragedy. The state also began following the federal standards for coding bridges rather than more stringent methods that increased its number of deficient bridges, Post said.

More than two-thirds of the bridges in the District of Columbia are deficient, the highest percentage in the nation. The list includes the Benning Road bridge across the Anacostia River, where 68,400 vehicles travel every day across a span rated in poor condition.

Nine states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, recorded an increase in the number of deficient bridges rose over the past decade. In Alaska, the number of deficient bridges more than doubled, from 200 in 1992 to 427 in 2002.

New Mexico reported an 18.2 percent increase in deficient bridges, from 615 in 1992 to 727 in 2002. Steve Quintana, a state bridge management engineer, said the figures don't reflect 55 bridges that were part of the $1 billion reconstruction of Interstates 25 and 40 in Albuquerque.

White House: Bush was wrong to say Saddam sought uranium

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid questions about prewar intelligence, the White House is acknowledging that President Bush was incorrect when he said in his State of the Union address that Iraq recently had sought significant quantities of uranium in Africa.

The White House acknowledgment comes as a British parliamentary commission questions the reliability of British intelligence about Saddam Hussein's efforts to obtain weapons of mass destruction in the run-up to the war in Iraq.

Democrats in Congress also have questioned how the Bush administration used U.S. intelligence on Iraq's weapons programs.

Bush said in his address to Congress in January that the British government had learned that Saddam recently sought significant quantities of uranium in Africa.

The president's statement in the State of the Union was incorrect because it was based on forged documents from the African nation of Niger, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Monday.

"The president's statement was based on the predicate of the yellow cake" uranium "from Niger," Fleischer told reporters. "So given the fact that the report on the yellow cake did not turn out to be accurate, that is reflective of the president's broader statement."

A British parliamentary committee concluded that Prime Minister Tony Blair's government mishandled intelligence material on Iraqi weapons.

John Stanley, a Conservative member of the committee, said so far no evidence has been found in Iraq to substantiate four key claims, including that Iraq was seeking uranium in Africa as part of an effort to restart a nuclear weapons program.

Claims about Saddam's weapons of mass destruction were a primary justification for the war, but U.S. forces have yet to find any such weapons. The House and Senate intelligence panels are looking into prewar intelligence on Iraq and how it was used by the Bush administration.

Fleischer's remarks follow assertions by an envoy sent by the CIA to Africa to investigate allegations about Iraq's nuclear weapons program. The envoy, Joseph Wilson, said Sunday the Bush administration manipulated his findings, possibly to strengthen the rationale for war.

Wilson, a former U.S. ambassador to the West African nation of Gabon, was dispatched in February 2002 to explore whether Iraq tried to buy uranium from Niger.

Writing in a New York Times op-ed piece, Wilson said it did not take him long "to conclude that it was highly doubtful that any such transaction had ever taken place."

In an interview on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press," Wilson insisted his doubts about the purported Iraq-Niger connection reached the highest levels of government, including Vice President Dick Cheney's office.

In fact, he said, Cheney's office inquired about the purported Niger-Iraq link.

"The question was asked of the CIA by the office of the vice president. The office of the vice president, I am absolutely convinced, received a very specific response to the question it asked, and that response was based upon my trip out there," Wilson said.

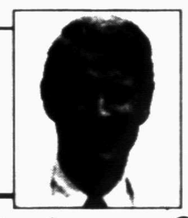
Yet nearly a year after he had returned and briefed CIA officials, the assertion that Saddam was trying to obtain uranium from Africa was included in Bush's State of the Union address.

The International Atomic Energy Agency told the United Nations in March that the information about uranium was based on forged documents.

After Bush repeated the British claim in his State of the Union address, the purported letters between Iraq and Niger were turned over to the United Nations, which found them to be forged.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



What does a speckled ANA test mean?

DEAR DR. GOTT: I had an ANA test that showed a speckled pattern. What does this mean?

DEAR READER: Most autoimmune diseases, such as lupus, are associated with protein antibodies against normal, healthy cells in the body. This reaction can be measured by the ANA or anti-nuclear antibody blood test, which shows a "speckled" (in contrast to a "smooth") pattern when antibodies are present.

Without more detailed information about your symptoms, general health and other tests, I can only conclude that your positive ANA shows the possibility of lupus. It's important for you to know that the test may reveal speckling in the presence of certain drugs (such as quinidine) or as a result of a "false positive" reaction. Therefore, you should ask your physician to interpret the test result and put it in its proper perspective.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: Ever since reading that lysine pills can abort or minimize the discomfort of cold sores, I have used this therapy with excellent results. Why do you dismiss this treatment?

DEAR READER: I don't. Lysine is highly effective for some people and I encourage its use. Moreover, it is safe and relatively inexpensive.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Are you aware of any evidence substantiating the claim that the only type of man who would have sex with a woman who is promiscuous (six or more partners) is one with low self-esteem? I recently read such a statement and would like your opinion as an impartial party.

DEAR READER: First of all, I'm not a psychologist, so I can't profess to offer an expert opinion. Personally, I don't believe this claim. For one thing, it's far too general. Although some men with low self-esteem might be attracted to promiscuous women, many other such males would — in my view — prefer inexperienced partners.

Also, I'm troubled by your definition of "promiscuous" as indicating six or more "conquests." While some women might fall into this category (if they have casual sex with multiple men with whom they avoid emotional attachment), in this age of sexual permissiveness, well-adjusted women may have had a significant number of sexual encounters by the time they reach middle age.

It seems to me that self-esteem problems would be manifest in other ways — for example, by frequenting prostitutes or engaging in addictive behavior, such as drug and alcohol abuse. Therefore, each case should be individually judged on the facts and the pattern of behavior. A male who enjoys a satisfying life with a woman who has "been around" may be experiencing a positive, loving relation that is unrelated to self-esteem.

As has been said before: Never generalize. (This is one of my favorite aphorisms, on a par with: Avoid cliches like the plague.)

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Partisanship may doom malpractice bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Legislation to cap damage awards in medical malpractice cases is headed for a partisan wreck in the Senate, where Republicans say frivolous lawsuits are creating a health care crisis, and Democrats argue that mistakes by doctors and hospitals are to blame for sharply rising insurance premiums.

"Caps don't bring malpractice rates down," Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said Monday as the GOP-controlled Senate clashed over legislation strongly backed by President Bush.

"Our current medical liability system encourages excessive litigation, drives up costs and is literally scaring doctors out of the medical profession," countered Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Senate GOP whip.

The legislation would limit noneconomic damages, commonly known as pain and suffering, to $250,000. Punitive damages would be capped at the greater of $250,000 or twice the amount of economic damages, which cover medical expenses, loss of wages, funeral expenses and similar costs. States would be permitted to enact higher limits.

Additionally, the measure would limit the money that attorneys could pocket if they accept a case on a contingency fee.

Eager to present an opposing view, Durbin and Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., were unveiling an alternative.

Officials said it included a voluntary national system for tracking medical errors, provide tax credits for doctors and hospitals to help defray the cost of malpractice insurance and repeal antitrust exemptions that the insurance industry enjoys with respect to malpractice insurance.

It also includes $10 million in grants to help local governments attract physicians in specialties where malpractice insurance is particularly high; and a system to penalize lawyers who file frivolous malpractice suits.

At its core, the legislation was a collision of special interests.

The American Insurance Association, American Hospital Association and American Medical Association, all of which generally align with Republicans, support the measure. Additionally, Republican aides said the bill marked an attempt by the party to repair relations with the AMA that were frayed during deliberations on a patients' bill of rights.

On the other hand, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America opposed the measure strenuously. ATLA has funneled millions of dollars into Democratic campaigns in recent years, and become an increasingly important and reliable pillar of the party's political structure.

The GOP-controlled House passed similar legislation earlier this year along party lines, and Sens. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and McConnell sought a bipartisan compromise. Hopes for a breakthrough faded, though, when Feinstein said the AMA had objected to a plan that would have doubled the $250,000 damage limit.

Whatever the alignment of special interests on the measure, the legislative prospect was for gridlock.

Senate Majority Bill Frist, R-Tenn., scheduled a test vote for Wednesday. Even Republican aides conceded the bill was likely to fall short of 60 votes — possibly failing to gain 50 — and predicted the measure would then be pulled from the Senate floor.

Republican aides predicted the issue would echo into the 2004 elections, though, and reappear in campaign commercials.

For the time being, both sides came to the debate equipped with tales of human tragedies — cases of individuals whose lives were grievously damaged by their contact with the nation's health care system.

Retests confirm DNA results in three cases

HOUSTON (AP) — Retesting has confirmed DNA results first returned by the Houston Police Department's troubled crime lab in three more cases, including a death row case, the Harris County District Attorney's office said Monday.

So far, retesting has been conducted and returned in 24 of the 369 cases sent by the police department to an independent DNA lab. The private lab, Identigene, has confirmed results in five of the 17 death row cases submitted for new testing.

The latest death penalty case involved John Reyes Matamoros, condemned for breaking into his 70-year-old neighbor's home and stabbing Edward George Goebel 25 times as he slept in 1990.

Harris County assistant district attorney Marie Munier, who is overseeing the case review, said DNA from blood at the crime scene submitted for retesting was matched to Matamoros.

Appeals attorney Stanley Schneider dismissed the retest results as less significant than other appeals in his client's case.

"The DNA is just a secondary issue. It always has been," said Schneider, arguing his client received ineffective legal assistance during his capital murder trial and is mentally retarded.

Roe Wilson, who handles capital murder appeals in the Harris County District Attorney's office, said Monday none of the DNA retest cases involving death row inmates are near an execution date setting and won't be set for execution while retests are pending.

Munier said results released Monday in the two other cases also confirmed previously reported results by the police crime lab's DNA section, where an outside audit last December revealed serious deficiencies, including lack of training, insufficient documentation and possible contamination of DNA samples.

In the other two cases reconfirmed Monday, one was a sexual assault case in 1999 where Charles Lopez was sentenced to 60 years in prison. The other confirmed blood splatter evidence in the case against convicted murderer Alon Morgan, sentenced in 1999 to 99 years in prison.

The review of more than 1,300 cases in which DNA analysis was done by the Houston Police Department is almost complete, Munier said Monday.

"There are a few cases that I am trying to make sure we get in the database," said Munier, who is re-examining her work before wrapping up her part of the investigation. "It feels very good."

The first retest returned in March excluded Josiah Sutton, sentenced to 25 years in prison for rape, as a contributor to the DNA evidence in his 1998 case. He was freed on bond days after the retest excluded him and now is seeking a pardon.

Retesting has confirmed results in a total of 19 cases, including that of Calvin Burdine, who last month pleaded guilty to capital murder in exchange for a life sentence.

Variety of calls include theft

Theft

Amanda Whisenhunt reported the theft of some money while she was attending summer school at Snyder Junior High, but requested no report.

Accident

Snyder officers responded to a minor accident in the Wal-Mart parking lot at 1:30 p.m. Monday.

Involved were a 1999 Toyota Corolla driven by Marvin Toombs III, 47, of 1609 Augusta Dr. and a 1999 Chevrolet van driven by Nathan Clement, 70, of 463 CR 112. No injuries were reported.

Assault

A man reported at 9:40 a.m. Monday that several girls assaulted his daughter. Officers spoke with him and advised of the proper steps.

Forgery

Maria Rubio reported at 1:35 p.m. her checks were stolen and forged. Officers contacted her and advised an offense report for forgery would be submitted.

Dog bite

A woman in the 500 block of 32nd Street reported that her dog was acting aggressive and had bitten her nephew and her son over the weekend. The dog as taken to the animal shelter and two reports for dog bites were filed.

Criminal mischief

A woman reported damage to her vehicle in the 700 block of 37th Street Monday and a Class B criminal mischief report was submitted.

At 3 a.m. today, officers were dispatched to West-T-Go after the alarm sounded. A window near the cash register was broken, but an employee advised nothing was missing.

A report for Class B criminal mischief was submitted.

Threat

A man reported at 9:30 p.m. Monday that another subject was threatening to assault him and wouldn't allow him to retrieve property. An officer stood by while he collected his belongings and a report for assault by threat was submitted.

Overdose

A woman requested an ambulance at a residence on Irving Ave. at 2:10 a.m. today in reference to a female subject overdosing on medication.

Snyder EMS transported the subject to Cogdell Memorial Hospital. An officer advised that MHMR was contacted and a report for overdose was filed.

Close patrol

A woman requested an officer after hearing someone in her backyard and her dog barking. Officers didn't locate anyone near the residence, but a close patrol was initiated for the remainder of the night.

Obituaries

Dee Maldonado

1941-2003

Delia "Dee" Maldonado, a resident of Snyder since 1980, died Sunday, July 6, in North Richland Hills Hospital.

Prayer service for Mrs. Maldonado, 61, is set for 7 this evening in the Wright Colonial Funeral Home Chapel.



Maldonado

Funeral service is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Wright Colonial Funeral Home Chapel with Henry Rodriguez of Lancaster and Jessie Trevino of Grand Prairie officiating.

Born Sept. 17, 1941 in Mission, she married Roy Maldonado on Jan. 18, 1958 in Lovington, N.M.

Mrs. Maldonado moved to Snyder from Hobbs, N.M., in 1980. She operated Dee's Burritos from 1992 until her retirement in 2002 when she moved to Fort Worth.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a daughter, Lisa Sandoval; a brother, Oscar Dennett; and a grandson, Cesar Fabela.

Survivors include her husband, Roy Maldonado of Belen, N.M.; four daughters, Eva Lopez of Saginaw, Emma Fabela of Odessa, Glenda Pesina of Belen and Leslie Jones of Keller; two sons, Roy Maldonado Jr. of Hobbs, N.M., and Isaac Maldonado of Fort Worth; three brothers, David Dennett and Robert Dennett of Benbrook and Daniel Dennett of Fort Stockton; two sisters, Mary Alice Macias of Lake Worth and Noe Dennett of Lovington; 11 grandchildren, Jessie Fabela, Joshua Maldonado, Dennis "DJ" Garcia, Myra Fabela, Amos De Los Santos, Greg Pesina, Tyson Maldonado, Tyrell Maldonado, Terran Maldonado and Shawnia Sisneros; and two great-grandchildren, Savannah Garcia and Damian Garcia.

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Maria Jaramillo

1937-2003

SWEETWATER — Maria DeJesus Jaramillo, the mother of Juan Jaramillo of Snyder, died Sunday, July 6, in Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital.

Rosary for Mrs. Jaramillo, 66, is set for 7 this evening in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel. Funeral mass will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Fr. Michael Rodriguez will officiate. Burial will follow in the Sweetwater Cemetery.

She was born on June 24, 1937 in Mexico and married Jose Hernandez Jaramillo on Dec. 16, 1954 in Mexico.

Survivors include her husband, Jose Jaramillo of Sweetwater; four other sons, Manuel Jaramillo, Carlos Jaramillo and Armando Jaramillo, all of Sweetwater, and Jose Jaramillo of Irving; eight daughters, Monica Jaramillo and Irma Escobar, both of Mexico, Bertha Gonzales, Rufina Avila, Paula Jaramillo and Leticia Jaramillo, all of Sweetwater, Maria Gomez of Granbury and Juanita Lopez of Longview; 36 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Manuel Jaramillo Jr., Joe Jaramillo, Alex Jaramillo, Jesus Escobar, Johnny Gonzales and Edward Jaramillo.

Bill Roberts

1916-2003

STEPHENVILLE — J.W. (Bill) Roberts, a former Snyder resident, died Friday, July 4, in the Baptist Memorial Center in San Angelo.

A graveside service for Mr. Roberts, 87, was held Monday in the Garden of Memory Cemetery.

Born Jan. 31, 1916 in Wilson County, he married Merle Winslett on March 20, 1936 in Coleman. She preceded him in death on March 8, 1990. He was also preceded in death by a granddaughter, Brandi Roberts.

Mr. Roberts had lived several years in Erath County before moving to San Angelo in 1995. A Baptist, Mr. Roberts was a retired field gauger for Chevron Oil Co.

Survivors include two sons, Tim Roberts of Sonora and Blake Roberts of San Angelo; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

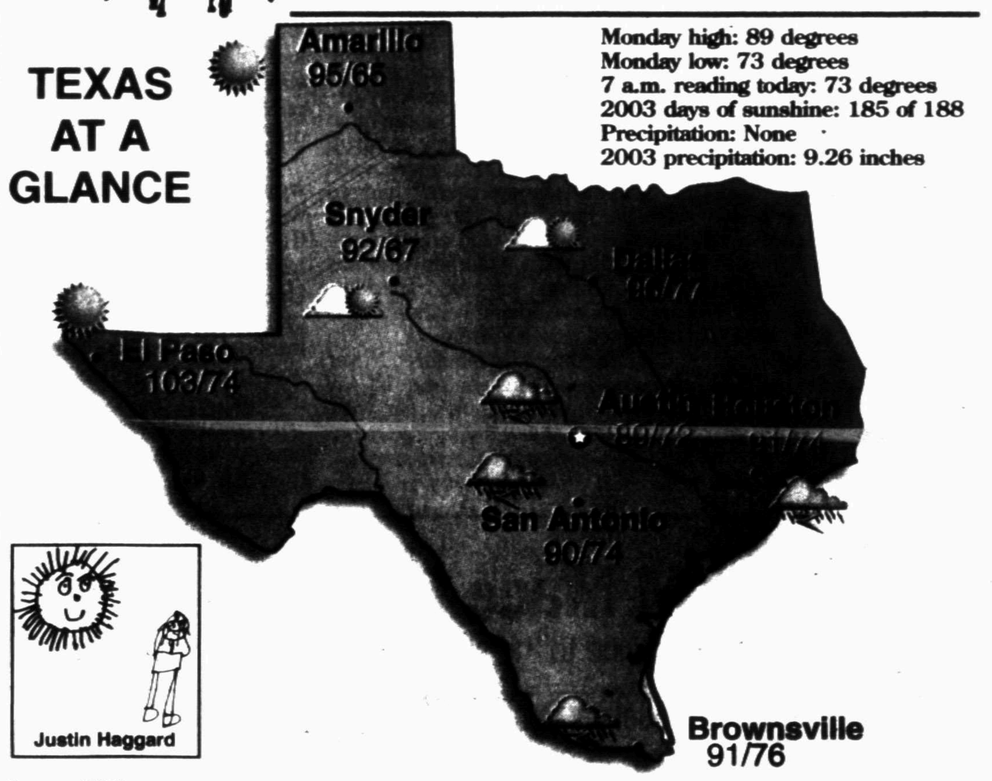
Wed 7/9	Thu 7/10	Fri 7/11
92/67	92/68	94/69
Partly cloudy. High 92F. Winds S at 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 60s.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the upper 60s.
Sunrise 6:43 AM, Sunset 8:54 PM	Sunrise 6:44 AM, Sunset 8:54 PM	Sunrise 6:44 AM, Sunset 8:54 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Monday high: 89 degrees
Monday low: 73 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 73 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 185 of 188
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: 9.26 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Abilene	93	71	pt sunny	El Paso	103	74	sunny	Midland	95	69	pt sunny
Amarillo	95	65	sunny	Fort Stockton	95	69	mst sunny	Raymondville	93	74	pt sunny
Austin	89	72	t-storm	Gainesville	96	73	pt sunny	Rosenberg	92	74	t-storm
Beaumont	92	74	t-storm	Greenville	94	73	pt sunny	San Antonio	90	74	t-storm
Brownsville	91	76	t-storm	Houston	91	74	t-storm	San Marcos	91	73	t-storm
Brownwood	95	70	pt sunny	Kingsville	91	73	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	95	72	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	90	76	t-storm	Livingston	92	71	t-storm	Sweetwater	93	69	pt sunny
Corsicana	94	74	t-storm	Longview	92	72	pt sunny	Tyler	92	74	t-storm
Dallas	96	77	pt sunny	Lubbock	95	67	pt sunny	Weatherford	96	72	pt sunny
Del Rio	93	76	t-storm	Lufkin	92	72	t-storm	Wichita Falls	98	73	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Atlanta	88	68	pt sunny	Houston	91	74	t-storm	Phoenix	114	86	sunny
Boston	84	66	pt sunny	Los Angeles	85	64	sunny	San Francisco	73	58	windy
Chicago	78	64	t-storm	Miami	89	79	pt sunny	Seattle	77	57	pt sunny
Dallas	96	77	pt sunny	Minneapolis	70	59	rain	St. Louis	90	73	t-storm
Denver	90	61	mst sunny	New York	85	69	rain	Washington, DC	86	74	t-storm

Moon Phases

First	Full	Last	New
Jul 7	Jul 13	Jul 21	Jul 29

UV Index

Wed 7/9	Thu 7/10	Fri 7/11
Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

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

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