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WT-Int. Crude - $33.51
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Natural Gas - $5.560

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY

Feb. 3, 2003
Vol. 54 No. 238
10 Pages 50¢

Home of James Melton

Search continues for shuttle debris

NACOGDOCHES (AP) — Under rain clouds that threatened to hamper their search, authorities returned to the forests of East Texas today to hunt for more debris from the space shuttle Columbia and remains of its seven astronauts.

Hundreds of investigators with expertise in airline accidents, engineering and forensics converged on Texas and Louisiana to join in the painstaking job of retrieving pieces of wreckage from a huge swath of forested country bigger than the state of West Virginia.

Teams of global positioning satellite technicians were back in the field at daybreak to continue logging the location of debris for investigators, said James Kroll, director of the Emergency Geospacial Mapping Center at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches.

"We're still out there. We've got 15 teams mapping stuff all over, if they ever decide to come pick it up," Kroll said.

Overwhelmed local authorities scrambled to locate and guard objects in the sprawling debris field, as NASA established command posts in Lufkin and at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana to oversee recovery and examination of the wreckage.

Among those standing guard was school Principal Jay Tullos, waiting for experts to collect the 25 pieces of debris that had fallen on the grounds of a school in Douglass. Classes were cancelled today.

"They said they'd be here first thing in the morning. We're waiting on a call," Tullos said.

About 300 people from 30 agencies — including the FBI, Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Transportation Safety Board and the Texas Department of Public Safety — were being assigned to collect thousands of pieces as small as pebbles and as big as pickup trucks.

Once in hand, the wreckage will be trucked to Barksdale, where engineers from shuttle contractor United Space Alliance will sort through it in search of clues to what caused Columbia to break apart over Texas on Saturday morning just minutes before its scheduled landing in Florida.

Their goal is to reconstruct what is left of Columbia and establish a sequence of how each part peeled off during its high-speed re-entry into the atmosphere.

The salvage operation covers an area that stretches from the rolling hills of East Texas to a suburb of New Orleans, where authorities found what could be insulation from Columbia.

Louisiana state police confirmed more than a dozen chunks of debris in eight different parishes.

However, the search for wreckage has focused on Texas, where Gov. Rick Perry said 33 counties — a 28,000-square-mile area from north of Dallas all the way to the Gulf Coast — had reported debris. That amounts to about 10 percent of Texas' land area, or more than all of West Virginia.

The heart of the operation is East Texas, a region of thick forests of pines and oaks, expansive farm land and cow pastures. It holds four national forests, covering almost 700,000 acres, and two reservoirs that together span about 300,000 acres. The thick woods also are home to wild hogs and bobcats.

While the region is a magnet for hunters, boaters and anglers, its challenging terrain makes the job facing Columbia recovery teams that much more difficult.

"This is forest — dense forest," said Kroll. "There is no way to describe how many pieces there are and how spread over the landscape they are.

"Ten years from now, folks are going to be walking around the woods and finding stuff."

In Nacogdoches County alone, authorities have logged more than 1,200 confirmed debris sites. State troopers and local authorities didn't have enough personnel to protect every piece, but they manned 130 spots — alongside two-lane highways, restaurants and ranches — to guard debris against scavengers.

They said NASA had provided a list of priorities: anything that could contain data or resembles computer circuitry, or potentially radioactive materials.

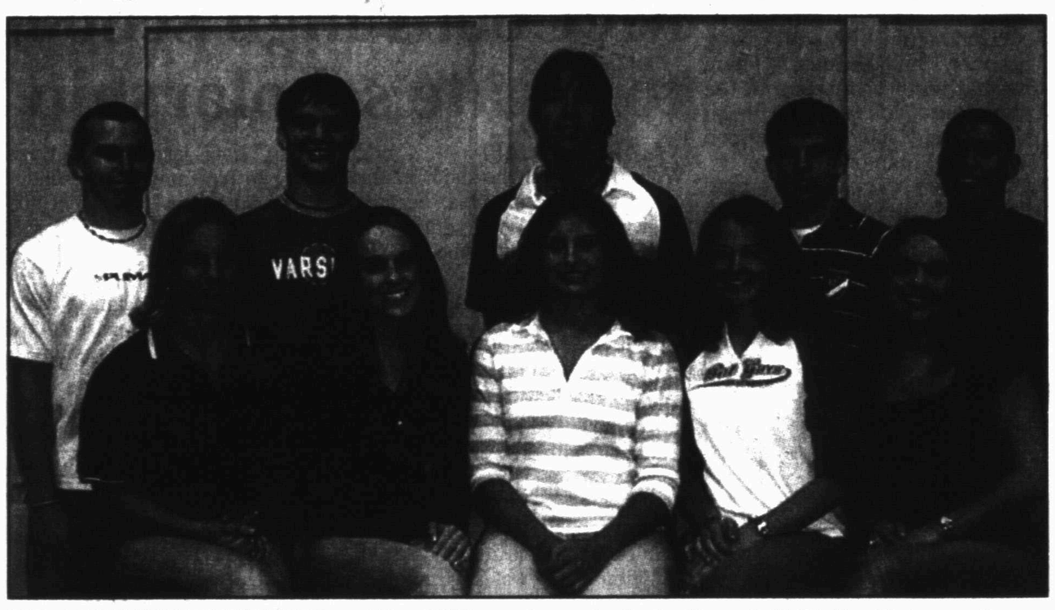
Among the items discovered so far: a car-size chunk that splashed into Toledo Bend Reservoir on the Texas-Louisiana state line, a 7- to 8-foot door-like fragment, what resembles part of a windshield and a 5- to 6-foot-long object authorities suspect could be part of the landing gear.



TRAGIC REMINDER — The Amber Alert signs in and around Dallas Sunday were used to tell citizens to report findings of space shuttle debris. (SDN Staff Photo)

In San Augustine, just east of Nacogdoches, Larry Epps placed a 55-gallon barrel to protect a piece of metal that landed in his hay meadow.

"If it hit me, my wife would have been a widow," he said.



MR., MISS SHS NOMINEES — Miss SHS nominees include (from left) Hailey Putnam, Amanda Hartzog, Cozy Jones, Jackie Beccue and Ira Gonzales. Mr. SHS nominees (from left) are T.J. Jones, Colby Driggers, Tanner Beard, Clay Williams and Josh Montoya. Mr. and Miss SHS will be crowned at a coronation Thursday. Class favorites and sweethearts also will be recognized. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

City working hard to cut water line losses

By Wade Warren
SDN Managing Editor

No one likes to pay for something and then lose it.

That's especially true for the city of Snyder as it relates to water purchased from the Colorado River Municipal Water District.

The city continues in its program of replacing aging water lines to improve the quality of water to citizens, and to reduce the "line loss" of water to the city.

Line loss and poor water quality prompted the city and the city council to support a program to replace aging cast iron and galvanized pipes scattered throughout the city's infrastructure.

When this program started, the line loss was more than 18 percent, now it is 7.75 percent.

The benefits of the program can be measured in several ways, including saving taxpayers money by reducing overtime spent repairing emergency leaks, reduction in customer complaints, and the all-important line-loss factor.

Vick Chambers of the city's engineering department, said there is water loss besides leaking lines, and it is caused naturally by evaporation during the filtering and treatment process.

Chambers said the city also loses water through theft, malfunctioning meters and even when there is a fire, or when fire hydrants are tested.

"The Texas Water Development Board has a rating system and sets standards for cities and other water providers to continually strive to reduce their line-loss numbers," said Chambers.

A city that has less than a 10 percent loss is rated "very good" said Chambers.

A line-loss of 11 to 14 percent is considered average, while anything over 15 percent is considered a serious problem for the provider.

"As you can see, we have dropped into the very good category from the serious problem category," said Chambers.

Chambers said if the current line-loss figures were compared to the figures in the late 80s, the loss to the city would be $351,070 annually.

Today's figures show a reduction of $144,490 annually that reflects the city saving some $206,580.

"Spread this amount over the 12 years of the water line replacement and you can see the city has saved almost $2,418,000 in water," said Chambers.

The water line replacement program started as problem areas in the city were identified.

Serious work on the problem began in the summer of 1992 and most of the major work at that time was contracted out.

"As the program progressed, it became evident to City Manager John Gayle and the city council that the city's objectives were not being met time-wise," said Chambers.

"Also, the contracted projects were buying less and less footage yearly," said Chambers.

The city began to use more in-house labor and a designated water-replacement crew.

"We feel this move far-exceeds our original expectations," said Chambers. "Since the council gave its blessing for this, the city has been contracting less and less of the project to outside companies."



WHAT A KICK — Alex Jaramillo of Snyder delivers a kick to Zach Pflueger of San Angelo during Saturday's Taekwondo tourney. Referee is Master Inho Oak of Lubbock. Complete tourney results are on Page 5. (SDN Staff Photo)

County extends abatement

By Brian Brisendine
SDN Staff Writer

County attorney Mike Hartman told the Scurry County commissioners' court this morning that the Lubbock Bankruptcy court had "signed off" on an agreement that calls for Lorber Industries to pay $115,000 for non-compliance of its abatement agreement and the commissioners' court formally adopted the order.

"This will put into the county clerk's official record that we are accepting payment and the four years of the abatement under question are settled," Hartman said.

The abatement, originally granted to Lorber for a period of eight years, was recently transferred to UCO Textiles, a Belgium firm now operating the local spinning mill.

Four years remain on the agreement with this year being the last that 100 percent of taxes are abated. Each subsequent year until the end of the period, 25 percent less taxes will be abated.

In a related matter, the county attorney informed the court that guidelines for abatements would have to be reconfigured before another agreement could be offered to a company in the future. Hartman also suggested the current guidelines be rethought.

The county's current abatement guidelines call for local investment and job creation, but Hartman said that could be detrimental in attracting some development such as the wind turbines planned for construction in Borden County.

"They are investing many millions of dollars in Borden County even though they don't create a lot of jobs," he said. "The county still would benefit greatly from a project of that magnitude, but our current guidelines would offer them very little incentive."

Hartman said he only wanted to draw attention to the matter so Scurry County could stay competitive with neighboring counties in attracting development.

Representatives from CIELO Wind Power, the company undertaking the wind turbine project in Borden County, addressed the court about a similar project in Scurry County.

Melissa Miller, with CIELO, said the caprock in the northern portion of the county "has a lot of good potential" and that her company wants to pursue development in the area.

The project on line in Borden County will consist of 80 turbines and Miller said the large windmills could spread east across Scurry County.

She said CIELO has had positive response from local landowners and that the company is obtaining right of way easements across the area.

See COUNTY, Page 10

Tax abatement on city council's agenda tonight

Matters related to the former Lorber Industries tax abatement agreement with the city is on the agenda of Snyder's city council this evening.

John DeLille, executive director of the Development Corporation of Snyder, will request the city transfer the remainder of Lorber's tax abatement to the new owners, UCO Spinning LP. And in doing so, the action will modify the original agreement for the second time.

The modification also has to have council approval.

In another matter related to the industrial park, the council will be asked to change the name of Lorber Street to Baze Way.

Also expected to be reviewed tonight is the interlocal contract between the city and Scurry County.

The agenda also includes calling the general election for May 3. The terms of Mayor Francene Noah, plus those of Terry Martin and John Reed will expire. Martin and Reed are both council members at-large.

An appointment to the Colorado River Municipal Water District board will be made. The new member will replace County Judge Rod Waller.

The council also will review the 2003-2004 budget calendar, and consider two resolutions.

One resolution relates to the city supporting the federal government's first responder initiative, while the other relates to state reforms in the electrical industry.

Bids also will be considered for a sanitation truck, a pickup for the water treatment department, and for two police cars.

The council also will recognize the employee of the month, and also the employee of the year.

The meeting will be in the council chambers at 6:30 p.m.

ASK US

Q—When will the new area code go into effect and what will it be?

A—April 5, and it will be 325. It will include the eastern third of the present 915 area code such as the San Angelo, Abilene and Brady areas.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Mary Aguilera...

...has lived in Snyder for more than two years, having moved here from Dallas. She has two daughters, Rita Aguilera of Lubbock and Cipriano Aguilera of Snyder. Mary is doing what a lot of people are doing these days, taking care of sick family members.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

There's an element of truth in every idea that lasts long enough to be called corny.

—Irving Berlin

FEB 03 2003

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Central Elementary parent course

Central Elementary will offer "Becoming a Love and Logic Parent" course beginning today. The course will be from 5:30-8 p.m. each evening. Interested parents may pick up a registration form at the Central Elementary office. Class size is limited to 25 participants.

VFW Auxiliary meeting

The VFW Auxiliary Post No. 8231 will meet at 7 tonight at the post home.

Support groups

Adult family violence support group and children's family violence support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Monday at Gateway Family Service. For information call 573-1822.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "Prophecy's Role in the Church," followed by "The Gospel of Your Salvation."

Stanfield parent council

The Stanfield parent council will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the teacher's lounge in the front hallway. The upcoming book fair will be discussed. All parents are invited to attend.

Snyder FFA booster club

The Snyder FFA booster club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the SHS ag building. Officers will meet at 6:30 p.m.

Snyder Bass Club

Snyder Bass Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Kinder Morgan office on East Hwy. 180.

Hospice volunteer training

Hospice volunteer training with Odyssey Healthcare will be held Wednesday, Feb. 6, and Feb. 12-13. Volunteers must attend all three sessions from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church.

West yearbook deadline

This is the final week to purchase yearbooks at West Elementary.

Country and Gospel music

Country and Gospel music will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Senior Citizens Center.

FBC services televised

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

Senior water aerobics

Senior water aerobics will be held from 10-11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the WTC pool.

Senior FFA student reception

Wilson Motors will host a reception for senior FFA students from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday at the dealership for the signing of scholarship applications. Parents are invited to attend.

GED pre-registration and testing dates

Mandatory pre-registration for the GED test will be from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Thursday at the GED testing center at Western Texas College, building 7B. The math segment of the GED will begin at 8 a.m. on Friday. For more information about the GED test call Molly Kattes at 573-2919 or Emily Hataway at 573-8511, ext. 297, or 574-2112. It is recommended that candidates receive some preparation before attempting the test.

FBC support groups

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

Hospice memorial service

A memorial service for familles who lost someone during 2002 will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, in the First Presbyterian Church.

Relay for Life cookbooks

The cookbooks of the Cogdell Memorial Hospital Relay for Life team are now available for a $10 donation. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. Call Becky Craig at 573-2472, Jo Schooler at 573-7807 or 573-6374.

Relay for Life teams needed

Teams are now being recruited for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life in Scurry County to be held April 25-26 at Tiger Stadium. For more information, contact Margaret Presswood, recruitment chairperson, at 573-4873.

2003 Ira annuals available

The 2003 Ira Bulldog annuals may be purchased until Feb. 17. Cost is $26 with name on cover or $22 without. Contact the school to purchase one.

WTC adult basic education classes

Adult basic education classes at WTC will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. until noon, and from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes include E.S. L., GED and refresher courses. Certified teachers and Spanish speaking aides teach the classes. Call 573-8511, ext. 322.

Choir trip planned

SHS choirs are also planning a trip to Boston on Easter weekend, April 17-21. There are six available positions for anyone who wants to make the trip. For more information, call Ronda Haire, choir director, at 573-6301.

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.

Lubbock remembers astronaut Husband

LUBBOCK (AP) — Col. Rick Husband, 45, who died in the breakup of the shuttle Columbia, was a Texas Tech graduate who never lost his fondness for the school and who never failed to include mementoes of the university among the personal belongings he carried into space.

"If you just wanted an All-American boy, that was Rick," Dr. James Lawrence, a Tech engineering professor who taught Husband, said. "I'm truly sad. It's sad to see someone who loved what he was doing die while doing it," Lawrence said.

Dr. Thomas Burton, director of the engineering department said: "He was just a wonderful guy. He was famous around here, regarded as a hero, but he never let it affect him. He was always low-key and unassuming."

It has been 23 years since Husband graduated from Texas Tech, but many students at the school were familiar with his countenance.

A large picture of Husband, floating in the space capsule during Discovery's May-June 1999 flight, is on display in the engineering school building. In it, Husband is flashing a toothy grin and holding his hands in a "two-gun" Red Raider salute.

There are other mementos in that case: the school patches and paperweights that Husband carried into space, the signed plaques and pictures, the Texas Tech T-shirt he had had autographed by the entire crew of that previous mission.

Husband had created another memento during his last flight, a picture of himself floating with a CD that had been dedicated to him by the Texas Tech choir.

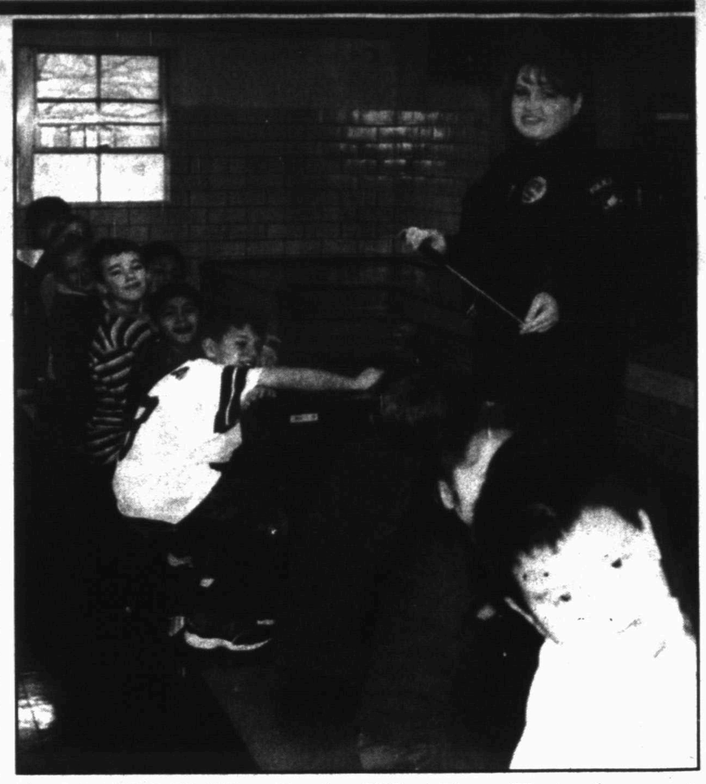
That CD, "Leonardo Dreams of his Flying Machine" by Eric Whitaker, deals with da Vinci's early infatuation with the idea of man in flight.

"He was going to present it to the school during a special performance March 7 in which the choir would sing that composition," said John Dickson, director of Tech's choral studies.

Dickson said he met Husband last spring. He got a call from the astronaut inquiring about the choir and asking if there was anything he could carry into space for it, Dickson said.

"I thought it was a wrong number," said Dickson. "Then, he told me he had been in the choir at Tech and in high school and had always been interested in choral music."

The two exchanged e-mail messages later, some of those coming to Dickson from the shuttle.



SAFETY PROGRAM — Snyder Officer Tonya Hestand presented a safety program for Stanfield second graders last week. Her daughter, Kaitlin, is a second grader. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Berry's World



Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 76-4 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, four miles northwest of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 7,200 feet, drill site is in Section 18, Block 1, J.P. Smith survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 77-10 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, four miles northwest of Snyder. Contracted for a depth of 7,200 feet, location is in Section 18, Block 1, J.P. Smith survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 77-8 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, five miles northwest of Snyder. Planned depth is 7,200 feet, and drill site is in Section 18, Block 1, J.P. Smith survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 79-11 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, four miles northwest of Snyder. The project will be drilled to 7,200 feet, and location is in Section 18, Block 1, J.P. Smith survey.

Permian Resources Inc. will drill the No. 2-GL M.A. Boyd in the Diamond M field, nine miles west of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 3,400 feet, location is in Section 213, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Permian Resources Inc. will drill the No. 1 J.L. Green in the Diamond M field, nine miles west of Snyder. Planned depth is 3,400 feet, and location is in Section 213, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Borden County

RAD Oil Company will drill the No. 1-587 Miller in the Gavett field, 12 miles north of Gail. Planned for a depth of 5,450 feet, drill site is in Section 587, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Sharp Image Energy will drill the No. 1-43 South Lake Thomas in the Von Roeder field, 21 miles southwest of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 7,500 feet, drill site is in Section 43, Block 25, H&TC survey.

Garza County

Anadarko Petroleum will drill the No. 603 Forbes field unit, 13 miles east of Slaton. Planned for a depth of 4,000 feet, location is in Section 1, Block 1, K. Aycock survey.

Howard County

Mulloy Operating Inc. will drill the No. 1 Murphy, a 11,000-foot wildcat located nine miles west of Big Spring. Location is in Section 12, Block 34, T1N, T&P survey.

L.C.S. Production Company will drill the No. 1013 Guitar in the Would Have field, five miles northwest of Big Spring. Location is in Section 13, Block A, Bauer & Cockrell survey.

Mulloy Operating will drill the No. 1 Guitar in the Would have field five miles northwest of Big Spring. Planned depth is 6,000 feet and location is in Section 7, Block A, Bauer & Cockrell survey.

McCool's high school to create scholarship

LUBBOCK (AP) — Cmdr. Willie McCool, who died on the space shuttle Columbia, became known as "Cool Willie" during his high school days at Lubbock Coronado High School.

He was born in San Diego, Calif., the son of a Navy officer, and moved from one base to another until he reached Lubbock when he was in junior high.

He quickly began to impress his teachers with his intellect and energy.

"He was my committee of one," Ed Jarman, 81, McCool's former science teacher at Coronado, said. "Anytime there was anything that needed doing, Willie was there to do it."

Jarman added: "That boy used to be on the track team and the swimming team all the time he was taking the hardest courses he could. He'd swim in the morning, then go to class, then run track in the afternoon. He didn't waste a minute.

"And he had this dry sense of humor. He'd crack a joke before anyone realized he was telling one."

McCool, 41, who graduated in 1979, also had varied interests. He was remembered for playing an array of music on the guitar as well as several other instruments.

"When it came time to graduate, he was hunting around for a scholarship," said Jarman. "He wasn't going to have any trouble finding one - he'd gotten 1,680 out of 1,680 possible points on his PSAT in 30 minutes.

"I suggested the Naval Academy and the space program to him. I don't know if anyone else advised him that way, but that's where he went."

Just before graduation, Jarman said, McCool called him one night from Annapolis.

"I asked him, 'What'd you do, flunk out?' " Jarman said. "He told me, 'Not exactly.'

"He had graduated second in his class. He said he just wanted to thank me."

McCool later married and he and his wife, Atilana, had three sons, ages 22, 19 and 14.

During the shuttle flight, the first for McCool, he told reporters in an in-flight interview of his enthusiasm for the mission. His duties included filling in for Husband during Husband's sleep breaks.

"The 'oh, wow' for me is I have the opportunity to be on the flight deck," McCool said.

"Probably more than my crewmates to look outside and really soak up the sunrises and sunsets and moonrises and moonsets, the views of the Himalayas, Australia, all of the continents except North America."

Jim Berry to retire his long-running cartoon

NEW YORK — BERRY'S WORLD, one of America's most widely syndicated editorial cartoons, will end Feb. 28. Jim Berry, who joined Newspaper Enterprise Association's editorial art department in 1961 and began

BERRY'S WORLD in 1963, has decided to retire the feature after four decades in syndication.

"It has been a pleasure and a privilege to create and produce my feature," said Berry. "I have had a great time doing it. Many, many thanks to all of you who have enjoyed my work. The BERRY'S WORLD phase of my career has ended. Now I look forward to the future and to pursuing new and interesting cartoon-related projects."

To celebrate BERRY'S WORLD's popularity, NEA has created a retrospective of classic BERRY'S WORLD cartoons that will run the entire month of February.

Berry created more than six daily cartoon panels and a Sunday color comic every week — and never missed a deadline.

"Jim is one of the most professional cartoonists I have ever worked with," said Lisa Klem Wilson, General Manager of United Media's two syndicates, United Feature Syndicate and Newspaper Enterprise Association. "He broke new ground on the editorial page by blending political and social issues and he created a unique cartoon for op-ed pages throughout the country."

events

LOTTO TEXAS™

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Saturday's Lottery Numbers
Lotto Texas

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

The ticket was worth an estimated $4 million.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 3-6-11-12-37-47.

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $5 million.

Pick 3
(Day) 1-8-2
(Night) 8-0-5
Cash Five
6-9-21-25-31

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ANTIQUES

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NASA's handling of safety issues to be reviewed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Shortages of key experts, tight budgets and mounting safety concerns all plagued the nation's space program in recent years, according to a trail of reports by congressional auditors, outside panels and NASA retirees.

How much of a forewarning they were to Saturday's space shuttle Columbia tragedy may be determined in the next several weeks.

NASA critics both in and outside the government and investigators into the accident are sure to comb the reports for anything that might explain the disintegration of the spacecraft nearly 40 miles above Texas as it screamed toward a landing in Florida at more than 12,000 miles per hour.

As President Bush took office, the investigative arm of Congress found in 2001 that NASA's shuttle work force over the years had declined significantly to the point of reducing the agency's ability to safely support the program.

Many key areas were not sufficiently staffed by qualified workers and the remaining work force showed signs of overwork and fatigue, the General Accounting Office stated.

There were other warnings, including a report to Congress last April on the shuttle program by a federally mandated safety panel of outside experts which expressed "the strongest safety concern" in 15 years.

"We just received a GAO report, I think last week, that looked at NASA's oversight of some of their private contractors and basically said it was inadequate," Sen. John Breaux, D-La., said Sunday on CNN.

Breaux and other members of Congress made clear Sunday that safety and the NASA budget will come under intense scrutiny on Capitol Hill this year, beginning today when the White House sends lawmakers details of Bush's priorities for the agency next year.

"Inevitably, there will be a discussion out of this about how much NASA should be funded, should there be another orbiter built, and in fact, has it been so poorly funded in recent years that maybe, just maybe it wasn't as safe as it should be?" said Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., a former astronaut who flew aboard Columbia.

The House Science Committee will take the lead in Congress's investigation of the tragedy, focusing on how much money has been devoted to the safety of the shuttle and other space programs and whether the disaster could have been prevented with more resources.

Nelson, appearing on CNN's "Final Edition" and on NBC's "Meet the Press," said he didn't think delays in utilizing new safety technologies contributed to the accident. "But sadly, because of this tragedy, we'll get those upgrades," Nelson said.

The senator added that if the White House won't increase NASA's budget to develop future programs, then some costs "could be borne by an agency that is flush with cash, such as the Defense Department."

The House panel's chairman, Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, R-N.Y., said he knows of no specific technology flaws that could have contributed to the accident.

"NASA has always had very high marks in terms of technological competence," he said. "It's been somewhat questionable and spotty in terms of financial management."

Last August, a retired NASA engineer, Don A. Nelson, wrote Bush about what he said was inadequate safety of the shuttle but was rebuffed by the White House's science adviser.

"Your intervention is required to prevent another catastrophic space shuttle accident," said Nelson, who is no relation to the senator. He suggested that shuttle crews be limited to four people, saying that "if this ... is ignored we can watch in horror and shame as the astronauts face certain death."

Bush science adviser John Marburger on Sunday defended the way the administration dealt with Nelson's concerns and said that even in the wake of Saturday's accident, he would still make the same decisions. Nelson advocated an escape module for the shuttle crews, a proposal that would require extensive redesign efforts, NASA official Bill Readdy wrote in 1999.

"When we looked at the way NASA was responding to those issues we decided it was not justified," said Marburger.

While many of the warnings in years past about shuttle safety were blunt, they were often tempered with qualified praise for NASA.

For example, the GAO said that to NASA's credit the agency discontinued downsizing plans for the shuttle program in December 1999 and initiated efforts to hire new staff. But even with these efforts, the training of new staff and dealing with critical losses due to retirements are "considerable challenges," the auditors said.

In last April's report to Congress, the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel noted that "safety has not yet been compromised. NASA and its contractors maintain excellent safety practices and processes as well as a world-class level of safety consciousness."

On the other hand, the safety panel's former chairman, Richard D. Blomberg, told Congress that many engineering improvements have been cut or delayed for budget reasons and "some of these would directly reduce flight risk."

Mysterious contamination of blood results in a quarantine

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Red Cross quarantined 70 percent of its blood supply in the Nashville region after a mysterious contaminant was found, agency officials said.

The tainted blood was discovered by the Tennessee Valley region of the Red Cross following reports of white particles in donated blood.

There have been no reports of harmful effects on patients.

The Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were testing the particles, which were not considered dangerous or infectious.

The quarantine has left the region dangerously low on red blood cells and plasma, the Red Cross said.

Some Southern hospitals canceled surgeries, and the Red Cross shipped blood from other regions to increase the supply.

Blood in bags manufactured by Baxter International Inc. had been found to be contaminated. A spokeswoman for Baxter said the particles were not related to the manufacturing of the bags. Baxter's test results could be ready today.

The Tennessee Valley Blood Services Region serves 84 counties in Tennessee and counties in southern Illinois, southwest Kentucky and eastern Missouri.

The 70 hospitals in Tennessee that receive TVR blood have been notified. All have expressed "general concern" about going ahead with scheduled surgeries, Red Cross spokeswoman Patricia M. Smith said.

Anne Neff, director of transfusion services at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, said the hospital's supply was not affected Sunday, but worried about problems later in the week.

Today's chuckle

'Singing Mailman' retires after 33 years

BLUEFIELD, W.Va. (AP) — The mail must go on, but the melodies will stop.



Charles Thompson, Bluefield's "Singing Mailman," has retired from the U.S. Postal Service after more than 33 years because recent knee surgery has hindered his ability to deliver mail.

Thompson is a member of the Scott Street Baptist Church choir and also sings mostly religious music at weddings and other events. He once sang "Happy Birthday" for a 90-year-old woman on his route.

"I can't deliver the mail on foot anymore," Thompson said. "I'm not really looking forward to" retirement, he said.

Thompson's last day was Saturday.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



House-sitting husband turns home into hotel

DEAR ABBY: I am a single mother and have taught school for 20 years. Two months ago, I began a sabbatical out of state and took my teenage daughter with me. Prior to leaving, a good friend, "Marjorie," accepted a job transfer that required her to move out of state as well. Marjorie suggested that since her husband wasn't ready to leave town due to some personal business, he would be the perfect candidate to house-sit for me. It seemed like a good arrangement.

Within a few weeks, former neighbors started calling and telling me that Marjorie's husband was having women stay overnight at my house. I have since learned that Marjorie had asked a mutual friend to keep an eye on her husband to find out if he's cheating. Our friend refused, but confided to me that it's as plain as day the guy IS cheating and everyone in town knows it.

We don't want to hurt Marjorie — nor do we want her husband to humiliate her. Should we tell Marjorie what's going on or let her find out on her own? — **UNSURE IN MESA, ARIZ.**

DEAR UNSURE: Tell her what the neighbors told you. Marjorie already has suspicions, so it won't be a shock. And get her husband out of your house. The last thing you need is strangers walking through and possibly helping themselves to your possessions.

**

DEAR ABBY: I am a 17-year-old girl in high school. Recently I was required to make a presentation in my science class. Naturally, I wanted to look my best. That morning I selected a denim skirt and black shirt — neither of which was too short or low-cut. Black nylons and chunky-heeled black shoes completed my ensemble. I headed off to school feeling confident about my appearance.

The minute I arrived on campus, I realized I had made a severe miscalculation. It was as though I had broken some unspoken, but well-known, rule. Kids looked me up and down and stared at my legs. One astonished girl gasped, "Oh, my god! She's wearing black stockings!"

Abby, I am a reasonably conservative person. I have never worn anything outrageous and would never intentionally go to school wearing something risque or improper. I still think the black pantyhose were appropriate for my outfit. Could you shed some light on this? — **DAZED AND CONFUSED IN THE MIDWEST**

DEAR DAZED AND CONFUSED: Perhaps your classmates were surprised to see you "dressed up." If you had violated a dress code, I'm sure you would have been told about it by a teacher or the principal. From what you have described, your outfit was appropriate for the occasion.

**

DEAR ABBY: I have a precious 6-year-old niece on the East Coast whose father just died. I have been searching for a sympathy card designed for a child, but have found nothing. "Thinking of you" cards don't seem quite right. How best can I let this little girl know how sorry I am for her loss? — **CONCERNED AUNT IN COLORADO**

DEAR CONCERNED AUNT: Buy a pretty blank card and write a short note of sympathy to your niece, in lettering she can easily read. Tell her how much you love her, that you're thinking of her, and how sad you are for her loss.

**

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

**

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

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder



	North 02-03-03 ♠ K 9 2 ♥ 6 5 3 ♦ A K 6 4 3 ♣ Q J	
West ♠ 8 4 3 ♥ J 10 8 ♦ 9 5 ♣ A K 10 8 5		East ♠ 5 ♥ K Q 9 2 ♦ Q J 10 7 ♣ 7 6 4 3
	South ♠ A Q J 10 7 6 ♥ A 7 4 ♦ 8 2 ♣ 9 2	

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

Opening lead: ♣ A

Monday, Feb. 3, 2003

Should you open or pass?

By Phillip Alder

T.S. Eliot wrote, "Footfalls echo in the memory / Down the passage which we did not take / Towards the door we never opened / Into the rose-garden."

Occasionally, you will be looking at your hand and asking yourself, "Should I open one of a suit, or should I pass?" If your point-count is borderline, there are several factors that you should weigh in making your decision. We'll look at them this week.

My number-one requirement for a thin opening bid with only 11 or 12 high-card points is the quality of the suit I will name. If we are outbid, do I want partner to lead that suit? If so, I am halfway to opening.

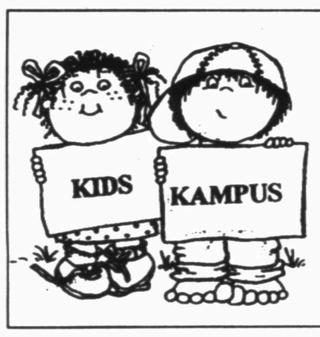
Look at the South hand in today's deal. It has only 11 high-card points, but it wouldn't occur to me to pass. The hand contains an excellent six-card spade suit. It pays to bid majors, and it is even better to have spades, because the opponents must always go up to the next level to outbid you.

The opening gets you into four spades. West cashes two top clubs, then shifts to the heart jack. How would you continue?

Faced with four losers (two hearts and two clubs) and only nine tricks (six spades, one heart and two diamonds), you must establish a long diamond. This probably requires two diamond ruffs in hand and, therefore, three dummy entries. These must be one diamond and two spades. Here is the correct sequence: heart ace, spade ace, dummy's top diamonds, diamond ruff high, spade to the nine, diamond ruff high, spade to the king, diamond six for a heart pitch.

More tomorrow.

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COX

A Good Thing Just Got Better


Tim Riggan
4204 College Ave.
Snyder


Trent Driggers
3203 College Ave.
Snyder

Investment Representatives Tim Riggan and Trent Driggers are pleased to announce that Edward Jones is now serving the investors of the Snyder area from another convenient location.

Trent joined Tim's office 24 months ago. Working together, they have continued to provide clients the exceptional level of service expected from Edward Jones, while extending those services to new investors in the Snyder area as well.

Due to the successful growth of their business, they are pleased to announce the opening of another Edward Jones office. Trent Driggers is located at 3203 College Ave. He is anxious to continue the tradition of service established by Tim. Together, they look forward to serving the investment needs of the Snyder area well into the future.

If Edward Jones can be of service to you, please feel free to contact Tim or Trent.

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•Sunflower canisters
•Garden items
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•Western items
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The Littlest Cake Shop in Texas
Now offering "Birthday Reminder Service" for those who can't seem to remember!! Call for details.

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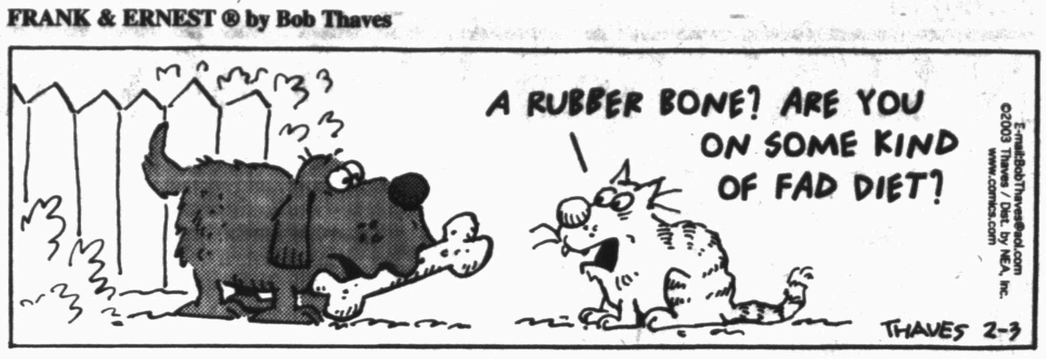
ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



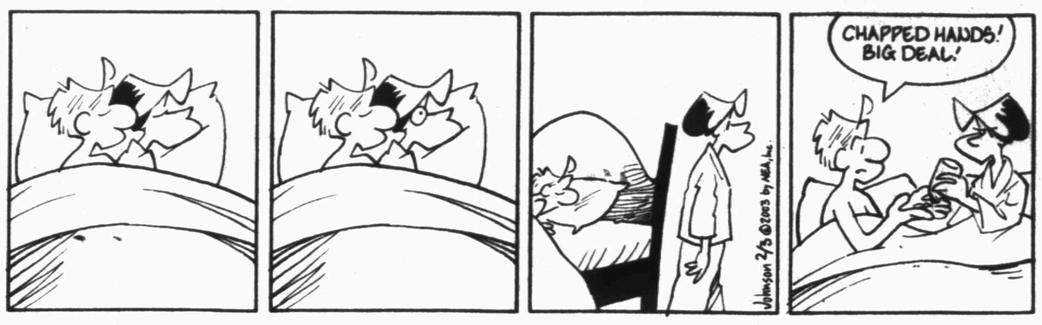
THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



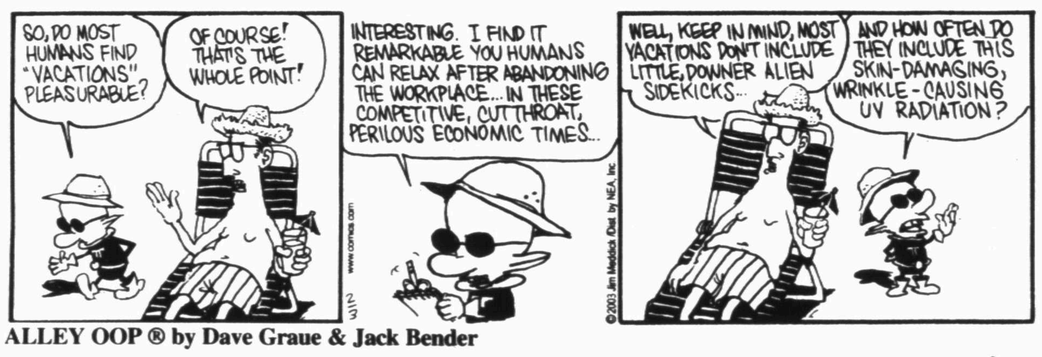
BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



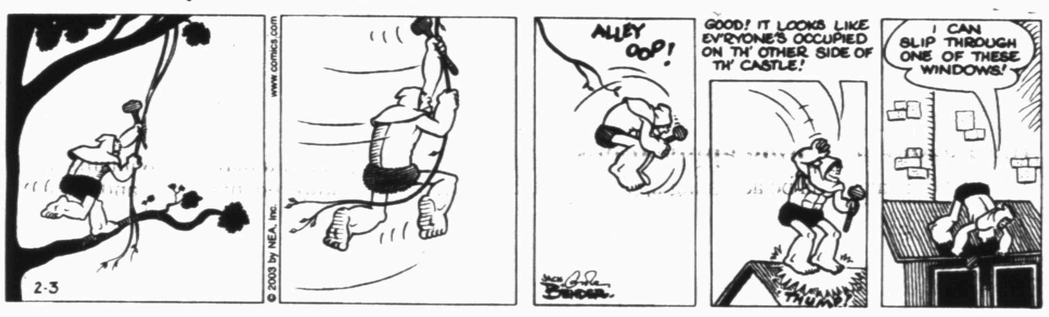
MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



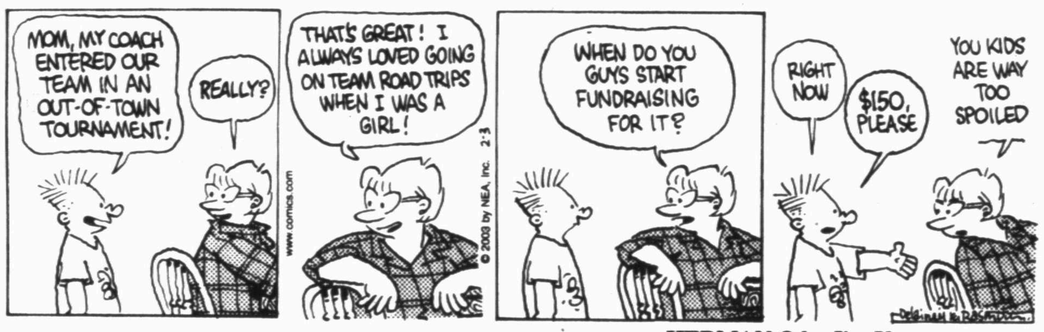
ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



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HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"Okay, my good woman. We'll go with the ol' strawberry shortcake and four small spoons."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Treasury Dept. gp.
4 Did well
8 Bold bird
11 Urban threat
13 Beak
14 Ms. Thurman
15 Sinister
16 Familiar digits
17 Murky
18 Conical abodes
20 Potato buds
21 "Have you — wool?"
22 Bench
24 Damages
27 Inn
30 Exec degrees
31 Hourly pay
32 — Wiedersehen
34 Sapporo sash
35 Came apart
36 "— Karenina"
37 Turkey's capital
39 Sleeve part
40 Hunky-dory (hyph.)
41 Swamp
42 Wagon pullers
45 Dixie pronoun (hyph.)
49 PFCs
50 Caterwaul
53 Actress — McClurg
54 Edge
55 New Age singer
56 Statistics
57 One, to Hans
58 Put away
59 Hankering

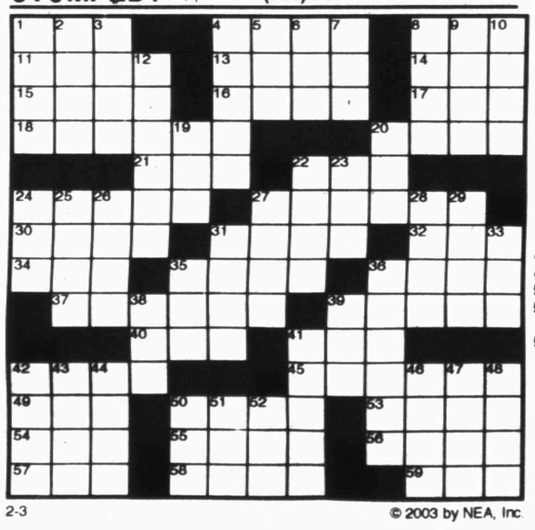
DOWN

1 "Is that all — —?"
2 Gush over
3 Cut
4 Restless
5 Murmur soothingly
6 Capt.'s heading
7 — Moines
8 Punch's partner
9 Brigitte's friend
10 Candied items
12 Sparkles
19 Annapolis grad
20 Pasture grazer
22 Book part
23 Day before
24 Insurance gp.
25 "Dancing Queen" group
26 Cloudburst
27 Scarlett's home
28 Asian princess
29 Cell habitants
31 Opus
33 Overweight
35 Way of Lao-tzu
36 Bickered
38 Nebr. neighbor
39 Court
41 Rule
42 Stare
43 VIII plus V
44 Sports channel
46 "Let's call it — —"
47 Lo-cal
48 Skinny
50 Da or Ja
51 Sudbury's prov.
52 Mont. neighbor

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

STUMPED? Call for answers • Touch-tone or rotary phone 95¢ per minute **(900) 226-4344** code 000



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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"I ALWAYS SAY WHAT'S THE USE OF HAVING SNOW IF YOU DON'T USE IT."

SPORTS





TOURNEY CHAMPS — The Tigers claimed the Snyder Invitational this weekend in both divisions. The Division I team is, top from left, coach Matt Glenn, and seniors Vaughn Wiggins, Matt McCormick, Brady Reed, Stafford Gray and Zach Starnes. At bottom, the Division II champs are, front from left, Seth Cooper, Cole Robertson, Wyl Wiggins and Alan Gray. In the rear are Jay Weaver, Tanner Bloom and Blake Seale. Wyl Wiggins and Cooper competed individually. (Contributed Photos by Barbara Gray).

Tigers top field at Snyder Invitational

The Snyder High School golf team got its spring schedule underway in resounding fashion, topping all 21 teams to win both divisions of the 2003 Snyder Invitational.

Despite claiming the tournament in both divisions this weekend, Snyder High School golf coach Matt Glenn thinks the Tigers can shoot better.

"I still don't think we played as well as we need to, and we know it" he said. "It wasn't pretty, but it was a win."

Glenn placed all five of his seniors in the first division, and they responded by firing an opening round 301.

The Tigers fired a 325 in the second round to help them top the Division I field with 11 strokes to spare.

Last place Greenwood ended up 80 shots behind the champion Tigers.

Zach Starnes carded a 73 on the first day, and earned the third place individual medal with a second round 81, after winning a playoff with Wes Wilson of Wylie.

He finished just three strokes out of first place, which was won by J. J. Brumley of Plainview who posted a 151 for the tournament.

Paul Slaughter of Andrews took the silver medal with a 152.

Snyder's younger players dominated the Division II field, firing a two-round total of 666, to best the next closest team, Lubbock High, by 45 shots.

Snyder's Jay Weaver and Blake Seale finished in first and second place, respectively, in the individual standings.

Weaver carded an 81 and an 82 to finish the tournament with a 163.

Seale posted an 85 in the first round and improved to an 81 in the final round for a 166.

Although the top five on the team is made up entirely of seniors, Glenn said, with the skill of his younger players, the top five on the team might change as the spring season progresses.

"We have some young kids who can challenge for the top spots," he said.

Two students from Snyder played the tournament as individuals. Wyl Wiggins recorded an 87 in both rounds to post a 174.

Seth Cooper shot 110 in each round to finish up with 220.

The varsity team will travel to Horseshoe Bay Friday and Saturday, and the junior varsity teams will be at Big Spring.

SNYDER INVITATIONAL

Division I

Team Standings: 1. Snyder 301-325—626, 2. Andrews 313-324—637, 3. Monterey 317-323—640, 4. Plainview 315-329—644, 5. Wylie 330-325—655, 6. Permian 315-329—658, 7. Memphis 334-378—672, 8. Big Spring 329-345—674, 9. Lee 330-350—680, 10. Seminole 345-361—704, 11. Greenwood 349-357—706.

Individual: 1. J.J. Brumley, Plainview 76-75—151, 2. Paul Slaughter, Andrews 72-80—152, 3. (tie) Zach Starnes, Snyder, 73-81—154; Wes Wilson, Wylie 78-76—154, 5. Tyler Dehay, Monterey 78-77—155.

Other Snyder: Stafford Gray 75-82—157, Brady Reed 77-80—157, Matt McCormick 82-82—164, Vaughn Wiggins 76-90—166.

Division II

Team Standings: 1. Snyder 332-334—666, 2. Lubbock High 374-337—711, 3. Levelland 360-357—717, 4. Sweetwater 374-360—734, 5. Lakeview 389-350—739, 6. Lamesa 387-358—745, 7. Frenship 370-379—749, 8. Odessa High 366-388—754. 9. Roosevelt 402-407—809, 10. Cooper 420-400—800.

Individual Standings: 1. Jay Weaver, Snyder 81-82—163, 2. (tie) Blake Seale, Snyder 85-81—166; Tobin Davis, Lubbock High 86-80—166, 4. Tanner Bloom, Snyder 82-85—167, 5. Alan Gray, Snyder 84-86—170.

Other Snyder: Tanner Bloom 88-88—176.

Varsity girls drive past 5A schools

SAN ANGELO — The Snyder girls faced a daunting field of 5A schools this weekend on the links.

At the end of the tournament, only one of those 5A schools bested the Lady Tigers.

The varsity girls took second place in the Orange division in the San Angelo Girls Classic, notching a two-round 691.

Only Snyder and division champion El Paso Coronado finished the tournament under 700 out of the Orange division.

The tournament consisted of 16 teams in the Orange and 16 teams in the Blue division, though Midland High, placed in Orange, withdrew from the tournament.

Kellie Dodson tied with two other golfers to earn the 10th-place medal at the tournament.

She shot a two-round, 166, including a 78 in the final round.

Lauren Day shaved nine strokes from her opening round 89 to post an 80, finishing with a 169 for the tournament.

Katie Kerley had a consistent round on both days, shooting an 85 in each round to post a 170.

Catherine Whitworth recorded a 186, shooting a 92 in the final round, while Cami Trout carded a 99 and a 100 to end up with a 199.

The varsity girls will get this weekend off before hosting their tournament Feb. 14-15 at the Scurry County Golf Course.

SAN ANGELO GIRLS CLASSIC

Orange Division

Team Standings: 1. EP Coronado 342-323—665, 2. Snyder 356-335—691, 3. Midland Lee 347-359—706, 4. Permian 361-354—715, 5. SA Reagan 367-352—719, 6. EP Hanks 386-349—735, 7. EP Eastwood 369-367—736, 8. Abilene Cooper 380-363—743, 9. Lubbock Coronado 371-378—749, 10. Lubbock Monterey 387-382— 769, 11. EP Franklin 383-388—771, 12. Central 380-407—787, 13. Lubbock High 421-392—813, 14. Abilene High 424-424-848, 15. Odessa High 429-439— 868.

Sports Briefs

Westerners drop first three

The WTC Westerners lost their first three contests of the season to Vernon JC Friday and Saturday.

Shaun Hanson was charged with the 9-3 loss on Friday.

The team generated plenty of offense in a 15-12 defeat in the first game of a doubleheader Saturday, with Scott Harris being the losing pitcher. The team was toppled, 8-4, in the second game, with Shawn Thompson the losing pitcher of record.

Little League accepting applications

Snyder Little League will be accepting applications for manager and coach positions for the eight-and nine-year-old minor and major leagues.

Applications can be picked up at Farmers Insurance Agency at 2517 College Ave., and must be turned in no later than Feb. 10.

No late applications will be accepted. No phone calls please.

Baseball booster club

The baseball booster club will meet Wednesday night at 7:30 in the film room.

WTC basketball tournament

The Western Texas College Student Government Association will host an Outsiders Basketball Tournament Feb. 28 and March 1 at the WTC Gym. The entry fee is $100 per team, and there is a limit of 10 players per team. The deadline to sign up is Feb. 26. For more information or to sign up, call Kendra at 573-8511 ext. 674 or Casey at573-8511 ext. 509.

Snyder Taekwondo Championship Results

Metroplex teams took the top three spots in the West Texas Taekwondo Tournament held Saturday in Scurry County Coliseum.

The first and second place teams were Eagle Park Taekwondo from Dallas, coached by Jared Nohr. The third place team was Southwest Taekwondo from Fort Worth, coached by Roy Gomez.

Results from the tourney by entrants from West Texas Taikwondo Academy are: Ronnie Martinez, adult black belt, second in free sparring; Derek Murphy, red belt, third in forms, first in free sparring; Slade Birkenfeld, yellow belt, first in form and free sparring; Seth Jaramillo, yellow belt, third in forms and free sparring; Karsten Morrell, green belt, third in free sparring; Xavier Jaramillo, blue belt, first in forms and second in free sparring; Hunter Wickline, green belt, first in forms and third in free sparring; Dalton Toland, yellow belt, third in free sparring.

Others include Alex Jaramillo, 9 & 10 year-old black belt, second in forms and first in free sparring; also competing were Stacey Elam as a green belt and Lauren Morrell as a green belt.

Other competitors from the local academy were: Lesa Jones, red belt, second in free sparring; Koe Alvarez, green belt, third in free sparring; Joseph Benz, red belt, third in forms and second in free sparring; Larry Jaramillo, adult red belt, second in forms and third in free sparring; James Robbins, adult green belt, second in free sparring; Fred Ramirez, adult green belt, second in forms and first in free sparring; Nelson Sears, yellow belt, second in forms and free sparring; Ray Newton, yellow belt, second in forms and fourth in free sparring; Clancey Gruben, orange belt, third in free sparring; Brandon Elam, green belt, fourth in free sparring; and Ryan Dennis, yellow belt, first in forms and second in free sparring.

Over 400 competitors competed in the tourney, said Greg Gafford, tournament organizer.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	32	15	.681	—
Boston	26	21	.553	6
Philadelphia	25	23	.521	7½
Orlando	24	25	.490	9
Washington	23	25	.479	9½
New York	20	26	.435	11½
Miami	16	31	.340	16

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	34	14	.708	—
Detroit	31	15	.674	2
Milwaukee	24	22	.522	9
New Orleans	24	24	.500	10
Atlanta	19	29	.396	15
Chicago	17	30	.362	16½
Toronto	13	34	.277	20½
Cleveland	9	39	.188	25

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	37	9	.804	—
San Antonio	31	16	.660	6½
Utah	28	19	.596	9½
Minnesota	28	20	.583	10
Houston	26	20	.565	11
Memphis	13	33	.283	24
Denver	11	36	.234	26½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	33	16	.673	—
Portland	30	16	.652	1½
Phoenix	28	21	.571	5
L.A. Lakers	22	23	.489	9
Seattle	21	24	.467	10
Golden State	20	26	.435	11½
L.A. Clippers	17	30	.362	15

Sunday's Games

Portland 114, Cleveland 95
Toronto 100, L.A. Clippers 86
Atlanta 97, Orlando 89
Minnesota 99, Philadelphia 91
Houston 105, Sacramento 89
Denver 93, Memphis 78

Monday's Games

Atlanta at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.
Dallas at Utah, 9 p.m.
Chicago at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Memphis at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

NFL Pro Bowl...

Williams nabs MVP vote in sloppy AFC victory

HONOLULU (AP) — Ricky Williams nearly collided with Rich Gannon while taking the handoff. Then Ricky ran right — and fullback Lorenzo Neal ran left.

It should have been a disaster of a play, but Williams just lowered his head and bulled over two defenders into the end zone. The AFC simply couldn't be stopped in yet another Pro Bowl — not by the NFC, and not even by themselves.

Williams ran for 56 yards, scored two touchdowns and forced a fumble on special teams to earn the MVP award as the AFC beat the NFC 45-20 on Sunday for their sixth win in the last seven Pro Bowls.

Williams' multifaceted performance was the highlight of a dominant afternoon for the AFC, which got three 100-yard games from its quarterbacks and six interceptions from its defense as the NFL wrapped up its season with another high-scoring all-star game.

"It seems every time we're over here, we do pretty well," said Kansas City tight end Tony Gonzalez, who had five catches for 98 yards. "The last couple of games I've played in, it wasn't even close."

With his dreadlocks, surfer wardrobe and profoundly mellow ways, Williams is right at home in Hawaii — both on its beaches and in its football stadiums.

In his first Pro Bowl, Williams won his second MVP award in a Hawaii all-star game. In 1999, he capped his Heisman Trophy-winning senior season at Texas by dominating the Hula Bowl.

Hawaii suits his famously detached personality, but his effort was anything but mellow.

"What's fun is how laid-back everything is," Williams said. "It's always great to get in the end zone, but it's especially great to do it against the best players in the world with millions of people watching."

Williams, who led the NFL in rushing for the Dolphins after three tough seasons in New Orleans, also caught three passes as the AFC jumped to a 28-6 halftime lead and eliminated the tension — already minor at best — from this good-natured exhibition.

"I always like coming here, because it's a free vacation," said Oakland safety Rod Woodson, who had two interceptions in his 11th Pro Bowl appearance. "We were able to jump on top early with some big defensive plays, and that's all you need in this game."

Youth rules NHL All-Star weekend; West wins shootout

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — If not for Dany Heatley's four goals in the All-Star game Sunday, Western Conference goaltender Marty Turco would have been the MVP.

Turco stopped seven shots in the third period, three in overtime, and was at his best in the shootout. The Dallas Stars' goalie stopped three of four shots in the decisive tiebreaker, which lifted the West to a 6-5 win over the East.

If not for Turco, a first-year starter making his first All-Star appearance, the West would have lost.

"Before the game I was a little nervous, and then sitting alone and freezing didn't help," said Turco, who played behind Colorado's Patrick Roy and Chicago's Jocelyn Thibault. "Once I got out on the ice, and the fans were excited, I felt fine and I wasn't that nervous."

Turco, in his third season with Dallas, spent last year backing up Ed Belfour. Belfour signed with Toronto in the offseason, leaving Turco to start for the Stars. He has made the most of the opportunity. After totaling 28 wins in his first two years, Turco already has 24 this season.

He also leads the league in goals against average (1.79) and is second in save percentage (.931). He has helped the Stars to 72 points, the most in the NHL, and first place in the Pacific Division.

He had a similar impact for the Western Conference on Sunday.

After allowing a goal to Olli Jokinen in the third period, Turco kept the East team almost quiet in overtime and the shootout. He stopped one-on-one scoring opportunities against Alexei Kovalev, Miroslav Satan and Jokinen.

Jokinen's shot hit the post and secured the West's victory.

"I don't like it one bit, but it worked for us tonight," Turco said of shootouts. "You heard the fans. They didn't want to go home without somebody winning."

Frosh girls end season with tourney triumphs

The freshmen Lady Tigers ended their 2002-2003 campaign this weekend, taking three of four games to win the consolation bracket at the Frenship tournament.

The team was scheduled to play tonight, but Sweetwater canceled the contest. The team finished the season with a sparkling 21-3 record.

The squad easily handled Evans in the consolation final, 46-31, behind 13 points from Teddi Crenwelge. Shaela Thompson added 10, and Glyn Wright posted eight.

"We played very well," said head coach Wendi Parks. "We played very consistently against Evans in the final."

Parks said the team was solid on both ends of the floor throughout the weekend.

"We played consistent defense and execute our offense well," she said.

The team reached the finals with a 45-20 drubbing of Atkins. Crenwelge led all scorers with 12, and Sarah Henson knocked in 10.

Amanda Murray had six, and Desiree Cortez added five key points.

The team suffered its only defeat of the tournament with a 39-27 loss to Levelland. Thompson had eight points, and Jessica Taylor and Wright banked in six each.

The frosh girls opened the tournament with a tight, 49-43 tilt against eventual consolation foe Evans, with all starters contributing key baskets in the tilt.

Crenwelge had a game-high 13, while Wright recorded nine points.

Taylor posted eight, Thompson canned seven and Emily Jones hit for six in the win.

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Employment

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Help needed at Burnett Safety Services. Start off salary possible. Apply in person at 307 N. College.

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If interested, please call Sunoco at 915-672-4888 for an application packet. EOE, M/F, D/V

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Grieving families comfort each other

By The Associated Press

The families of Columbia's crew urged the nation today to go beyond their grief and pursue "the bold exploration of space" to improve life on Earth for future generations.

The families had a private meeting Sunday, a day after Columbia disintegrated as it prepared to land following a 16-day science mission.

"They are doing remarkably well," Evelyn Husband, wife of Cmdr. Rick Husband, told NBC's "Today" show today. "We've gotten strength from each other, and it was great to see them yesterday. We just cried and laughed and hugged each other, and it was very helpful."

She read a statement from the families.

"On January 16th we saw our loved ones launch into a brilliant, cloud-free sky. Their hearts were full of enthusiasm, pride in country, faith in their God and a willingness to accept risk in the pursuit of knowledge — knowledge that might improve the quality of life for all mankind. ...

"Although we grieve deeply, as do the families of Apollo I and Challenger before us, the bold exploration of space must go on. Once the root cause of this tragedy is found and corrected, the legacy of Columbia must carry on for the benefit of our children and yours."

Appearing on CBS' "Early Show," the mother of payload commander Michael Anderson recalled his enthusiasm for the space program.

"He told me some years ago the word 'can't' should be taken out of the dictionary because there wasn't nothing that can't be done," Barbara Anderson said.

In Spokane, Wash., on Sunday, Anderson was mourned at the small Baptist church where he worshipped as a child and where his parents still attend.

"He was a young man who would always think deep," the Rev. Freeman Simmons said of the man who would later become one of only a handful of black astronauts. "He never said much. ... He would listen to what I said, especially scientific things."

In her final days on Columbia, Laurel Clark of Racine, Wis., looked at the Earth and told friends and family in an e-mail that the planet is magnificent and her perspective "truly awe-inspiring."

The Rev. Tony Larsen, wearing a tie decorated with the planets, read the e-mail to the congregation at Clark's hometown church, Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist.

"She was my big sister," said her brother, Dan Salton, who wore a space shuttle pin and quietly wept during the service. "Heroes to me are something other, something big. All of them are heroes. They were serving humanity."

In Oro Valley, Ariz., her mother recalled Clark's love of nature.

"She loved to take hikes be outdoors," Marge Brown told CBS's "Early Show." "Her favorite thing to do at home was taking care of her flowers. She worried about them not getting watered when she was away."

Col. Husband graduated from Texas Tech in Lubbock, and never lost his fondness for the school.

"If you just wanted an all-American boy, that was Rick," said James Lawrence, an engineering professor who taught Husband.

"He was just a wonderful guy," added Dr. Thomas Burton, director of the engineering department. "He was famous around here, regarded as a hero, but he never let it affect him. He was always low-key and unassuming."

Auto dealers: War will cause decline in sales

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — This year's U.S. vehicle sales likely will decline 1.8 percent and possibly even more if the nation goes to war with Iraq, but should remain strong by historical standards, the National Automobile Dealers Association predicted Sunday.

NADA chief economist Paul Taylor, speaking at the organization's 86th annual convention, projected new car and light truck sales of 16.5 million in 2003, down from 16.8 million last year, the fourth-best tally on record.

If the U.S. goes to war with Iraq, Taylor says total volume likely will decline by another 200,000 vehicles as the conflict chills Americans' spending.

His predictions are in line with most industry forecasts, which range from 15.9 million to some 17 million.

"Given that the preceding four years were the best in the history of automotive retailing, there's momentum for the long-run," Taylor said. "Positive underlying economic fundamentals are working in the industry's favor."

Some of the 25,000 dealers and industry observers here said they've been encouraged by recent economic indicators, such as Friday's news that Americans boosted their spending in December by the largest amount in five months.

Part of that surge was attributed to year-end financing deals and other incentives on cars and trucks.

At the same time, Americans' incomes, including wages, interest and government benefits, rose by a solid 0.4 percent in December, up from a 0.3 percent rise the month before.

Both measures were stronger than analysts had expected.

Ford Motor Co. chairman Bill Ford said Saturday he remained optimistic his company would top Wall Street earnings forecasts this year, though he acknowledged the uncertainty related to a possible war.

"I think there's just a general tone of skepticism out there toward all businesses right now," Ford told reporters. "I think with the threat of international conflict hanging over the stock market, it doesn't help any of us."

Firefighters kept busy over weekend

Fire reports

Saturday was a busy day for Snyder's firefighters as the department responded to six calls in seven hours.

At 11:45 a.m., firefighters were dispatched to a reported grass fire 11 miles southeast of Snyder on U.S. 84.

Three minutes later at 11:48 a.m., two units were dispatched to 24th Street and Ave. Q on a report of a strong smell of gas. The firemen were unable to locate an odor and spoke with several residents in the neighborhood who didn't smell anything.

Heavy smoke was reported in a residence at 3630 Pleasant Hill Rd. at 12:04 p.m. Firefighters advised the automatic cleaning mode had been set on an oven in the home and caused the smoke. No fire was detected, but fans were used to blow the smoke out of the home.

A dumpster fire was reported at 106 Ash at 12:28 p.m. High winds blew cinder from the dumpster into a yard and caught grass and a tree on fire, but the firefighters quickly extinguished the small blaze. No other damage was reported.

A fire was reported on the Western Texas College campus at 3:26 p.m. Firefighters responded to the WTC apartments and found a pile of mulch on fire. The flames were extinguished in short order and a cause could not be determined.

At 6:31 p.m. units were dispatched to a reported grass fire three miles north of Dermott on U.S. 84, but they contacted the land owner who advised it was a controlled burn.

Arrests

A woman reported her grandson creating a disturbance at her home in the 3300 block of 48th Street. Officers took the 20-year-old man into custody for Class C family violence and threats. An offense report also was submitted for the disturbance.

DPS troopers arrested a 49-year-old man on Texas Hwy. 350 at 1:30 a.m. Sunday for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

Another subject, a 32-year-old man, was arrested on 37th Street at 2 a.m. Sunday for the same offense.

Officers were requested at a residence in the 100 block of Ash at 2:40 a.m. Sunday and it was reported that a 37-year-old man was assaulting his daughter.

Officers arrested the man for injury to a child.

At 5:30 p.m. Sunday, DPS troopers took a 42-year-old man into custody on CR 122 for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

Accidents

Several accidents were reported around Snyder over the weekend.

At 11:50 a.m. Saturday, a 1996 Dodge pickup driven by Mary Aguirre, 34, of 2300 Ave. I struck a metal pole in the 1200 block of 27th Street. There were no injuries.

An accident at 2900 Ave. W at 4:30 p.m. Saturday involved a 1996 Saturn driven by Marcus Rios, 20, of the same address and a parked 1996 Ford Thunderbird owned by Bobby Huddleston of 109 25th Street.

At 5:30 p.m., Officers responded to the Wal-Mart parking lot where a two-vehicle accident occurred involving a 2001 Ford pickup driven by Jay Roemisch, 46, of 3109 Irving and a 2000 Chevrolet Impala driven by Estella Martinez, 34, of 1003 Ave. U.

At 9:34 a.m. Sunday, emergency personnel responded to the 2100 block of 28th Street to a wreck involving a 1998 Plymouth Voyager driven by Elaine Galyean, 55, of 2811 Ave. V.

Galyean struck a telephone pole and suffered minor injuries. She was transported by Snyder EMS to Cogdell Hospital, where she was treated and released.

Theft

Paul Wilson reported someone leaving a bicycle at his house, 221 Ave. Z and then taking his son's bike. Reports were submitted for Class B theft and for found property.

Robert White reported the theft of his barbecue pit from 1406 N. Ave. R at 5:35 p.m. Sunday and a report for Class B theft was submitted.

Disturbance

A woman in the 1900 block of Ave. R reported an intoxicated subject breaking all the windows out of her mother's vehicle.

Officers responded and the woman advised the man left, but threatened to return. She declined to file charges, but said she would notify officers if the subject refused to pay for the damage.

Juveniles

A clerk at Town and Country East requested an officer at 8:48 p.m. Sunday and reported a juvenile in a horse costume bothering customers while two other juveniles recorded the antics.

Officers contacted the subjects who advised they were conducting a class project and reported that everything was in order.

Several calls were received around 1 a.m. Sunday reporting juveniles knocking on doors and running away from 44th Street to 36th Place.

Close patrols

A woman in the 1900 block of Tuscola reported a possible prowler entering her home and being seen through a window at 8:12 p.m. Saturday. Officers were unable to locate anyone near the home and began a close patrol.

Gas drive off

A clerk at Town and Country East reported two gas drive offs worth $10 each at noon Saturday.

Ira Menu

All meals are served with choice of milk.

BREAKFAST
Tuesday
Oatmeal or Cream of Wheat
Wednesday
Scrambled Eggs
Biscuit
Sausage
Thursday
Pancakes Bacon
Friday
Breakfast Burritos

LUNCH
Tuesday
Grilled Cheese or Peanut Butter Sandwiches
Stew
Cookies
Wednesday
Pig-n-Blanket
Ranch Style Beans
Potato Wedges
Banana Pudding
Thursday
Baked Chicken
Parsley Potatoes
Peas
Fruit Salad
Friday
Stromboli
Carrots
Broccoli Sticks w/Ranch Dressing
Jell-O

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	3.40	2.76	2.92	+ .02
AOL TimeWrn	11.89	11.60	11.80	+ .14
AT&T Corp rs	19.65	19.25	19.27	—.21
Albertsons	21.71	21.42	21.61	+ .11
Alltel	47.43	46.98	47.28	+ .41
AmEl Pw	24.17	23.37	24.02	+ .40
AndarkPtr	46.12	45.15	45.28	—.83
ATMOS Egy	22.47	22.30	22.44	+ .04
Aviall	8.20	7.65	7.95	+ .25
BP PLC	39.01	38.50	38.67	—.34
BakerHughes	30.61	30.02	30.39	+ .13
Bank of Amer	70.48	69.85	70.17	+ .12
BellSouth	23.89	23.19	23.78	+ 1.00
BurlNoSFe	26.00	25.68	25.82	—.15
Caterpillar	44.58	44.10	44.41	+ .43
CenterPoint	7.17	6.99	7.12	+ .15
ChevronTex	65.31	64.25	64.85	+ .45
Citigroup	35.01	34.38	34.82	+ .44
CocaCola	41.70	40.10	40.50	+ .04
ColgatePal	51.35	50.81	50.84	—.07
CmclMetals s	14.64	14.50	14.61	+ .06
ConocoPhill	49.69	48.03	48.70	+ .51
Cooper Inds	37.30	35.79	36.93	+ 1.50
DaimlrChry	31.65	31.25	31.62	+ 1.02
DeltaAirl	9.31	9.01	9.20	+ .06
Dillards Inc	15.50	15.10	15.17	+ .17
DowChem	28.99	28.63	28.67	—.39
DuPont	38.45	37.99	38.35	+ .48
EastmanChem	34.49	34.20	34.41	+ .18
EstKodak	32.08	31.00	31.77	+ 1.47
EDS Corp	17.30	17.01	17.19	+ .24
Entergy	45.78	44.89	45.59	+ 1.14
ExxonMobil	34.50	34.03	34.22	+ .07
FootLocker	10.41	10.20	10.40	+ .30
GenDynam	66.35	65.43	65.96	—.18
GenElec	23.65	23.23	23.62	+ .48
GenMills	45.01	44.70	44.89	—.04
GenMotors	37.11	36.56	36.92	+ .59
GaPacific	16.30	15.61	16.25	+ .87
Goodrich	17.27	16.94	17.10	—.10
Goodyear	5.36	5.21	5.32	+ .02
GtAtlPac	5.59	5.35	5.43	+ .07
Halliburtn	19.11	18.74	18.83	+ .07
Hanson ADS	22.09	21.70	21.85	—.17
HarteHanks s	18.55	18.10	18.17	—.21
HomeDepot	21.49	20.95	21.37	+ .47
HoneywellIntl	24.65	24.09	24.58	+ .14
IBM	78.87	77.75	78.03	—.17
IntlPaper	36.10	35.60	35.95	+ .25
JohnsonJn	53.85	53.25	53.62	+ .01
KinderMorg	45.45	45.04	45.36	+ .25
Kroger Co	15.22	14.95	15.04	—.05
LockheedM	50.49	49.50	49.90	—1.15
Lowes Cos	35.55	34.51	35.46	+ 1.28
Lubys	1.89	1.75	1.75	—.23
LucentTech	1.95	1.83	1.85	—.01
MarathonOil	21.32	20.94	21.16	+ .26
MayDeptStr	21.12	20.53	20.83	+ .33
Medtronic	45.15	44.81	44.99	+ .07
Motorola	8.19	8.01	8.16	+ .18
NCR Corp	19.70	19.14	19.51	+ .22
Navistar	24.75	24.11	24.70	+ .63
PNM Rescs	21.50	21.20	21.49	+ .38
Penney JC	19.91	19.47	19.48	+ .09
PepBoys	10.69	10.49	10.62	+ .21
PepsiCo	41.10	40.28	40.74	+ .26
Pharmacia	42.05	41.56	41.95	+ .18
PhelpDodge	34.84	34.57	34.65	+ .10
PilgrmPrd B	7.43	7.27	7.40	—.12
Praxair	55.02	54.30	54.74	+ .20
ProctGamb	86.10	85.30	85.82	+ .25
RadioShack	20.40	20.10	20.28	+ .33
RoyalDut	41.95	41.60	41.84	—.05
SBC Comm	25.43	24.90	25.40	+ .96
SaraLee	20.27	20.06	20.18	+ .24
Scripps EW	82.38	81.10	81.97	—.01
SearsRoeb	26.95	26.44	26.71	+ .26
SherwinW	27.02	26.71	27.00	+ .36
SouthernCo	28.80	28.32	28.79	+ .62
SwstAirl	13.05	12.52	12.53	—.52
SprintFON	12.43	12.03	12.39	+ .25
SprintPCS	3.88	3.72	3.85	+ .09
Sunoco Inc	31.72	31.26	31.51	+ .19
TXU Corp	18.70	18.35	18.67	+ .32
TempleInland	44.10	43.32	44.01	+ .79
TexInd	22.81	22.51	22.77	+ .27
TexasInst	16.10	15.51	15.97	+ .07
Textron	38.98	38.34	38.75	+ .19
TrinityInds	17.39	17.20	17.30	—.09
TylerTech	3.99	3.90	3.99	+ .09
UnionPacif	57.14	56.20	56.53	—.53
USSteel	14.62	14.42	14.53	+ .18
UnitedTech	64.91	63.91	64.91	+ 1.33
Unocal	28.00	27.58	27.75	—.10
VerizonComm	38.90	38.18	38.73	+ .45
WalMart	48.49	47.71	48.24	+ .44
WellsFargo	47.99	47.35	47.78	+ .41
WstnGasRs	34.26	33.89	34.03	—.19
WinnDixie	13.97	13.61	13.62	—.38
Xerox Cp	9.03	8.79	8.98	+ .13
YumBrands s	23.84	23.27	23.69	+ .51

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2003

There will be real opportunities available to you in the year ahead. Be alert for them so that you won't have to rely on unproductive wishful thinking and you'll be free to accomplish something quite gratifying.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — When out socializing today, don't allow yourself to get caught up in a spending contest with someone who lords money over others. Let him or her, not you, drop a bundle.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Do one thing at a time today and stick to it until it is done properly. Otherwise, you can't give anything your full attention.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You're kidding yourself if you think you'll be able to talk others into doing something distasteful today that you don't want to attend to yourself. You won't find a patsy in the crowd.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Should your fear of losing take precedence over your will to win today, you could either not even try, or go the opposite extreme and take risks you shouldn't. Play things by the book.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — As resistance to your efforts stiffens today, there is a strong possibility that you'll allow yourself to buckle under and slow down instead of pushing forward. Be tenacious.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Make every effort to be your wisest advisor today, not your worst enemy. Unless you're very careful about how you go about things, you could create unnecessary problems for yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Realistically assess your finances and spend accordingly today. If you truly cannot afford to be extravagant or borrow money, be responsible with your budget.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — It could be all too easy to drift off on tangents rather than keeping your objectives clearly in focus today. Something opportune may go unachieved if you fall prey to getting sidetracked.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — The wisest thing to do today is temper your grandiose conceptions with a healthy dose of realism. It may be fun to allow your imagination to dwell on wishful thinking, but it's not sensible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — A proposition presented to you today by someone you may not know too well could have strings attached. Take extra precaution to examine the package from all sides and angles.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Unless you find mutual agreement on how the collective resources of you and your mate are to be allocated, you could find yourself immersed in a tug-of-war session today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Make certain you're on the spot to check the work of one who is performing a service for you today. Otherwise, there may be confusion over your instructions and wishes.

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N. Jersey doctors curtail rallies in deference to shuttle disaster

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey doctors canceled rallies and agreed to pare down protests over malpractice insurance costs in deference to the space shuttle disaster.

But they stressed that today's work slowdown won't cease completely.

"Despite this great tragedy, the need for patient care remains the top priority of physicians throughout the state," said Dr. Robert S. Rigolosi, president of the Medical Society of New Jersey.

"So, we will continue onward with the job action."

Physicians planned to withhold nonemergency services, but it was not clear how many of New Jersey's 22,000 doctors would take part. New Jersey doctors are the latest in a line of medical professionals around the nation to launch such protests in recent months.

Doctors scheduled rallies and other events to press their point, followed by a Statehouse rally Tuesday and lobbying efforts Wednesday. Consumer groups planned a Statehouse news conference today to argue against doctors' demand for limits on malpractice awards.

A major rally outside Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune was expected to draw at least 1,000 doctors, other medical workers and patients.

However, a rally planned for outside Christ Hospital in Jersey City, along with a march to the Hudson County Courthouse, were canceled because of Saturday's shuttle disaster.

Doctors say premiums rising above $200,000 for some specialists threaten access to patient care by forcing many doctors to retire early, move to states where premiums are lower or give up procedures that draw the most lawsuits, such as delivering babies and risky surgeries.

Students find own way to grieve and comprehend shuttle disaster

By The Associated Press

Four students from a Syracuse, N.Y., high school had waited more than three years for their science experiment — an ant farm — to fly into space.

They watched excitedly, and nervously, as the Columbia shuttle lifted off from the Kennedy Space Center last month with their project on board. The students even had a mascot: a big, stuffed ant they named "Anty EM."

"We knew that risks are present all the time. But we thought we were home free," said Abby Golash, one of the four students from Fowler High School, said Sunday as she and the others met at a teacher's home to discuss the devastating loss of the shuttle and its crew.

"Unbelievable," said Golash, 17.

She and the other students have asked their principal to keep any mention of the shuttle accident "low-key" at school today. A moment of silence, she and the others decided, would be the most appropriate way for students to pay their respects.

Teachers and children elsewhere — some with connections to the mission, but many without — also planned to remember or discuss the Columbia disaster as they returned to school.

"It's very tough. We had such a personal investment in this," Golash said. "But we want to keep the focus on the astronauts, as a tribute to them."

In Israel, the mood was also somber at the Ort technical high school in Kiryat Motzkin, a suburb of the northern port city of Haifa. Students at the school had sent their own experiment with Columbia and had been cheering on their countryman Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli astronaut.

Students covered desks with black table cloths and photo collages showing Ramon and the students' work on the project. During breaks Sunday, a regular school day in Israel, many of the school's 1,500 students crowded around the exhibits.

The shuttle disaster also destroyed the silkworm experiment of three students from South Central Los Angeles's Dorsey High School, in a poor, violence-plagued area. The students said Sunday they want to continue pursuing careers in science despite the tragedy.

"I told my sister, I want to go to space," said Atiabet Ijan Amabel, 16. "No matter what happens, I know people (can) die but you just tell me to go tomorrow, I'm going."

In Texas, Gov. Rick Perry warned school administrators in 93 counties to check school grounds for debris, including roofs, before letting children come to school today. At least two school districts in the area where many pieces of wreckage came to rest were closed today.

The loss of the shuttle and its crew did not hit nearly as close to home for most students across the country. Some teachers said they and their classes were not even aware that the shuttle was in space until the accident.

Still, at least one grief expert said it's important for any teacher to address the loss of the crew in some way — at the very least, by telling students they are free to voice their thoughts and concerns.

Sonja Gibson, a teacher in Los Angeles, said she spent a considerable amount of time talking to her first-graders about the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and expected to do the same today as she started a new job teaching sixth- and seventh-graders in nearby Sherman Oaks, Calif.

"You do have to spend time finding closure," Gibson said.

Tom McSheehy, a fourth-grade teacher, wants to make sure his students don't confuse the shuttle with travel on commercial airplanes.

Date Book

Monday, Feb. 3, 2003

Today is the 34th day of 2003 and the 44th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1913, the 16th Amendment was ratified, giving Congress the authority to levy taxes on income.

On this day in 1959, Charles Hardin "Buddy" Holley was killed in a plane crash. He was 22.

On this day in 1973, President Richard Nixon signed the Endangered Species Act into law.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Horace Greeley (1811-1872), editor; Gertrude Stein (1874-1946), writer; Norman Rockwell (1894-1978), artist and illustrator; James Michener (1907-1997), writer; Maura Tierney (1965-), actress, is 38.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1993, Major League Baseball suspended Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott after she was heard to be using ethnic and racial slurs.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "A writer should write with his eyes and a painter paint with his ears." — Gertrude Stein

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Feb. 1) and first quarter (Feb. 9).

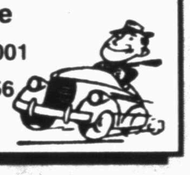
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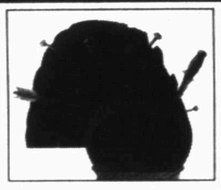
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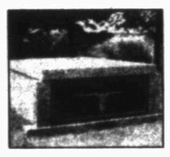
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Spotlight



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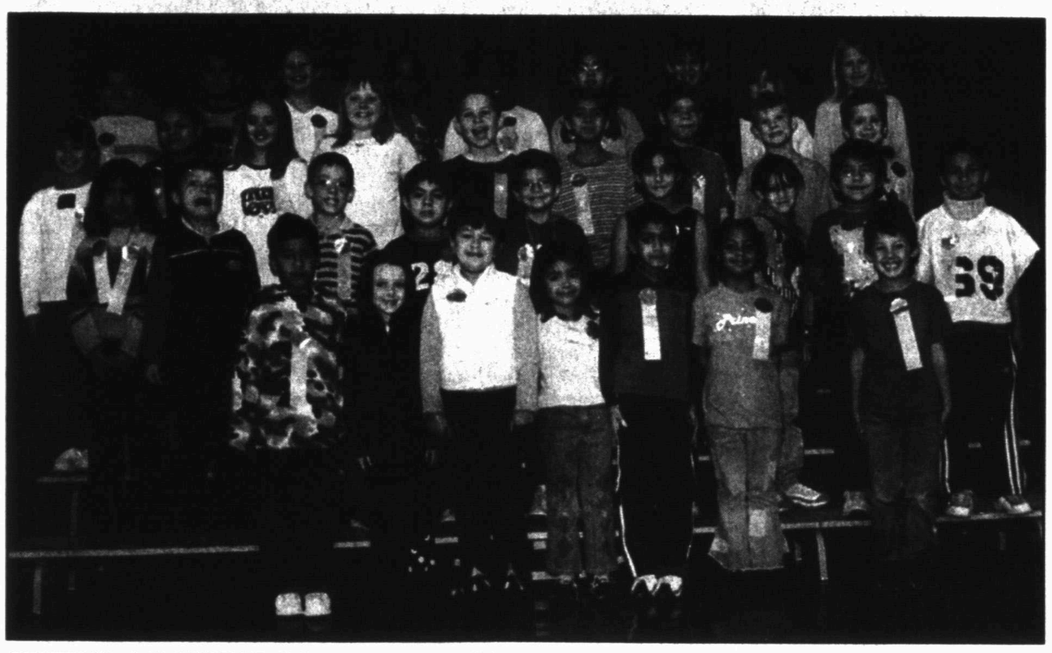
CENTRAL A-B
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Slade Birkenfe
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Evan Tedder, I
Mitchell, Maria
Timothy Igleha
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CENTRAL A-B HONOR ROLL — These Central students were named to the A-B Honor Roll for the fall semester. Students pictured are top photo, front row from left, Yesennia Cabrera, Jessica Torres, LaTasha Seale, Andrea Rodriguez, Ana Munoz, Kendall Alarcorn, Brianna Small and Tyler Ynguanzo; second row, Micah Henson, Jessica Villa, Malak Wills, Tyler Redman, Slade Birkenfeld, Corbin Holmesly, Randy Vera, Heraclio Juarez, Brittany Koska and Mario Ortega; third row, Manuel (M.J.) Diaz, Beto Arrellano, Victor Pena, Alex Rivera, Keenon Ward, Evan Tedder, Dalton Toland, Kayla Scott, Robby Luna and Flavio Borrego; back row, Samantha Mitchell, Mariah Cearley, Diego Hernandez, Hayley Collins, Robby Rinehart, Christopher Garza, Timothy Iglehart, Susan Lee and Riley Brown. Students in the second photo are from left front row, Danny Soberon, Chloe Glasscock, Priscilla DeLuna, Victorio Quiros, Shiv Bhakta, Jeanielle Dean and Matthew Lara; second row, Karina Rivas, Jose Angel Cabrera, Steven Seale, Michael Contreras, Timothy Hagins, Kristi Reyna, Macy Bilano, Raymond Vera and Christopher Esquibel; third row, Megan Smith, Sabrina Edwards, Aleya Sharp, Sarah Rath, Timmy Hart, Gene Alarcon, Jordon Olvera, Kyler Billingsly and Tyler Clanton; back row, Veronica Arriega, Valentin Medina, Sadye Nalzer, Patricia Brantley, Jasmine Jackson, Angela De Loera, Kenner Escobedo, Samantha Keener and Kyla Freeman. Not pictured are Joe Garza, Tessa Aguilar and Randi Sanchez. (Staff Photos by Shirley A. Gorman)

Infamous preppie killer due out of jail on Valentine's Day

NEW YORK (AP) — For 17 years, the family of Jennifer Levin has learned to live without the beloved teen who was strangled in Central Park: missed birthdays, anniversaries, holidays.

This Valentine's Day, the Levin family must endure a new form of agony: the release of Jennifer's killer.

Confessed "Preppie Killer" Robert Chambers will exit an upstate prison on Feb. 14 after serving the maximum time on his manslaughter conviction for killing Levin on Aug. 26, 1986.

"Obviously, this is a very difficult time for the family," said Linda Fairstein, who has remained close to the Levins since prosecuting the case against Chambers. "Their child will never come home."

For the Levins, the prospect of Chambers returning to the city where he killed their 18-year-old daughter is overwhelming. "I find that very unpleasant," said the slain girl's mother, Ellen Levin, as Chambers' release became imminent.

Levin's sister, Danielle Roberts, said she was "haunted by a feeling of dread" over Chambers' departure from the Auburn Correctional Facility.

The Levin slaying, splashed across the city's tabloids in the summer of '86, was a made-for-TV movie waiting to happen — a glimpse into the lives of callow youths on the Upper East Side bar scene.

The suspect, a college dropout with a taste for cocaine, was Hollywood handsome. The victim was pretty, a private school student from a well-to-do family. And the defense — consensual "rough sex" gone amok — was startling.

"Our lives became the media event of the year," Steven Levin, Jennifer's father, said at Chambers' sentencing.

Nothing that Chambers has done since going to jail in April 1988 has changed the negative perceptions of the 6-foot-4, dark-featured killer.

Chambers, now 36, racked up an assortment of violations behind bars — heroin possession, assaulting a guard, weapon possession. His bids for parole were rejected five times, and he spent about a third of his time in solitary confinement.

Shortly after his sentencing, a videotape surfaced showing Chambers snapping the head off a small doll. "Oops, I think I killed it," Chambers cracked, the doll's head in his hand.

Chambers admitted strangling Levin after they met in Dorrian's Red Hand, an Upper East Side yuppie bar. Her battered, partially nude body was found under a tree behind the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where the pair went after leaving the bar.

At a 1995 parole hearing, Chambers expressed no remorse about the crime.

"I guess I could also give you the party line and say I have learned my lesson, I will never do this again," Chambers said. "But that's not how I feel at this moment."

Chambers was about a month short of his 20th birthday when he was charged with murdering Levin.

Although his lawyer pressed the "rough sex" defense, Fairstein offered another motive: Chambers flew into a rage set off by his impotence. Jurors were in their ninth day of deliberations when Chambers opted to take a deal, pleading guilty to first-degree manslaughter in return for a 15-year jail term.

After Chambers' incarceration, Ellen Levin worked tirelessly to ensure he would serve the maximum sentence. She collected tens of thousands of signatures on petitions opposing his release, and was a constant presence at parole hearings.

His mother, Phyllis Chambers, worked equally hard at getting her son out early — efforts that proved fruitless. She will likely greet her son on Feb. 14 when he finally leaves prison, but nothing is certain, said family attorney Brian O'Dwyer.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



All medications have potential hazards

DEAR DR. GOTT: My physician recently prescribed an antibiotic for my sinus infection. Before I took the drug, I went to the Internet, where I learned that the medication has a long list of side effects and complications. Where does this guy come off giving me medication that is dangerous?

DEAR READER: Here we go again.

Every medication — yes, every drug, regardless of whether the drugs are prescription or over-the-counter — has potential side effects. However, in the overwhelming majority of cases, these complications are relatively trivial or occur in a very small proportion of users, usually less than 1 percent of patients. This is yet another example of the risk/benefit ratio. If, for example, you have a potentially serious sinus infection, and the antibiotic can cause nausea and diarrhea in extremely rare instances, the enormous benefits of therapy far outweigh the tiny risks of the drug. I often explain to patients that if they were aware of the long list of adverse reactions to aspirin and acetaminophen, these people would probably opt to take nothing. Ever. Obviously, the complications are more pronounced and more common the stronger the medication. This is a primary reason that antibiotics, for instance, are not appropriate therapy for viral infections, such as the common cold. The risks far outweigh the benefits. Thus, the decision to use (or not to use) medicine is a highly individualized matter that should be resolved in the physician's office. Rather than criticizing your doctor, you should share your concerns with him and learn about his rationale for prescribing a certain drug.

Although I am admittedly a computer technophobe, I acknowledge that the Internet can be a valuable source of information. However, it is far from being the last word and should not be accepted as gospel. The weird stuff is mixed in with the good material and is often difficult to untangle. So, don't rely on only one resource; check with your doctor or pharmacist. Information is always vital in decision-making, but you don't need to be burdened with scare tactics, hyperbole and inconsequential trivia.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Consumer Tips on Medicine." 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: I'm a healthy, active male of 44, who hasn't needed medical attention in more than 20 years. I like sardines and usually consume one can per day, complete with packing oils. Is there any harm in this, and are there international controls over which waters, polluted or not, can be fished by canneries?

DEAR READER: To a large degree, the answer to your first question depends on the brand of sardines: Where the fish were caught and how they were processed.

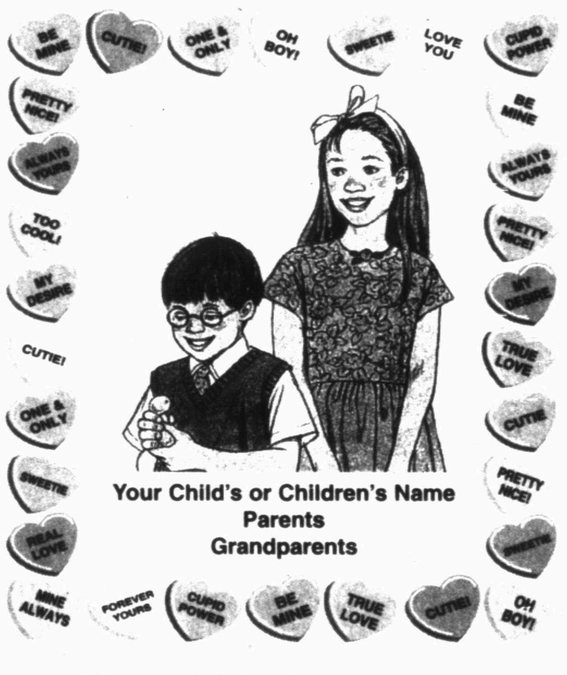
Fish is beneficial to health. This food contains protein, vitamins, calcium and omega oil. Sardines are no exception, providing they were not netted in polluted waters or canned under unsanitary conditions. Also the fish or olive oil used in the processing is not harmful to health and may be amply consumed by people with high cholesterol levels. Therefore, you'll have to read labels to make sure that the sardines are distributed by a reputable company and that the product doesn't contain inappropriate additives or ingredients.

To my knowledge, there are no regulations concerning the location of sardine fishing.

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FEB 03 2003

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Bush proposes $2.23 trillion budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush sent Congress a $2.23 trillion spending plan today that would accelerate tax cuts to bolster the weak economy, overhaul some of the government's biggest social programs and shower billions of additional dollars on defense and homeland security. "We have moved to secure the nation's safety," Bush proclaimed.

Even though hundreds of other government programs would be squeezed, the president projects the deficit will still hit record highs of $304 billion this year and $307 billion in 2004. Over the next five years, deficits would total $1.08 trillion.

Bush's budget plan for fiscal 2004 that begins Oct. 1 will set off months of heated debate in Congress. Democrats attacked the tax cuts as a boon for the wealthy that will do little to help the economy but will rob Social Security of the money needed for baby boomers' retirements.

"Instead of offering the nation a plan for long-term economic prosperity, the Bush budget burdens us, and our children, with trillions of dollars of new debt," said Sen. Kent Conrad D-N.D.

"His plan will push up interest rates, retard economic growth and create massive problems for the soon-to-be retiring baby boom generation," said Conrad, the Senate Budget Committee's top Democrat.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer blamed the deficits on "a recession, which began in early 2000."

Opening statements set in escapee's trial

DALLAS (AP) — Prosecutors seeking their fourth death penalty conviction in the Christmas Eve 2000 death of an Irving police officer say that prison escapee Joseph Garcia was a bully who taunted employees during a robbery before the fatal shooting.

Defense attorneys said during opening statements today that Garcia did not kill officer Aubrey Hawkins.

"He may be guilty of robbery and other offense, but he's not guilty of capital murder," said lawyer Hugh Lucas.

Under Texas law, prosecutors do not have to show Garcia fired a fatal shot at Hawkins to prove capital murder.

Prosecutor Toby Shook said all the defendants are equally guilty.

"This was not a whim," he said. "The plan was so complicated it would require the cooperation of all seven."

Garcia faces life in prison or lethal injection if convicted of capital murder.

He was serving a 50-year murder sentence when he and six other inmates escaped on Dec. 13, 2000, from the Connally Unit in Kenedy, 60 miles southeast of San Antonio.

The escapees were accused of killing Hawkins 11 days later while robbing an Oshman's sporting goods store in Irving.

One escapee, Larry Harper, committed suicide six weeks later as law enforcement officers circled a Colorado trailer park. Authorities received a tip from a Colorado trailer park resident who saw the group featured on a segment of the TV show "America's Most Wanted." The other fugitives were arrested.

Three other escapees, ringleader George Rivas, Donald Newbury and Michael Rodriguiz, have been convicted and sentenced to death.

Randy Halprin and Patrick Murphy are expected to be tried in Dallas County later this year.

County court meets

Continued From Page 1

Another CIELO spokesman, Terry Wellborn, said a project of this magnitude could create as many 20 jobs and a central office in Snyder.

No action was taken on the matter, but Miller said CIELO would have continued contact with the court.

In other business, the court approved a crack-sealing project at Winston Field.

Airport Manager Rodger Sullenger said the project is needed badly. "We need to correct this problem before we have a serious situation on our hands. Potholes and landing gear don't go well together."

The damage, Sullenger said, could cause a taxiing plane to lose control and result in serious damage.

The court opted to use cold-mix rather than hot-mix asphalt at the urging of Sullenger, who said hot-mix was used only four years ago and it already is in need of repair.

The project is expected to cost up to $12,000, but the department of transportation could fund half the amount through a grant.

Parks director Scott Crenwelge updated the court on the county's grant application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Crenwelge said Arlington firm of Schrickel Rollins and Associates "went above and beyond" on preparation of the grant and added that the completed application is "very impressive."

Crenwelge also said nothing would be known of the status of the application until at least July and maybe later.

He also informed the court that the breezeway enclosure worked well at the county stock show and that there was a noticeable difference in temperature control.

County Librarian Janie Romine provided the quarterly report and said total circulation for 2002 was 66,399 items checked out — an increase of more than 3,000 items over 2001.

Nelda Colvin provide the treasurer's quarterly report and advised cash balances in all accounts is $9,617,331.18.

Interest earned for the final quarter of 2002 was $47,747.48, a decrease of $5,146.39 since the previous quarter.

The yearly interest earned in 2002 was $87,147.21 less than the year before. Investment earnings are at 1.4629 percent.

The court also approved a resolution of support for Texas Heritage Trails Program.

R.E. Janes Gravel Company of Abilene was awarded the bid for gravel with a quote of $5 per ton and Alon USA, a Dallas company, submitted the chosen bid for asphalt at 76 cents per gallon.

Three budget amendments were approved, including the funds for the crack sealing project at the airport.

An amendment for $10,450 was approved for construction of the concession stand at the softball complex and another for $250 was okayed for audit costs in the juvenile probation department.

County Judge Rod Waller presided over the meeting and commissioners present included Ralph Trevey, Jerry House and Howard Limmer. Commissioner Chloanne Lindsey was absent.

Obituaries

Opal Minton

1913-2003

Opal Inez Minton, a native of Scurry County, died Saturday, Feb. 1, in Snyder Oaks Care Center after a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Minton, 90, is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in the East Side Church of Christ with Tom Holcomb, minister, officiating. Burial will follow in the Dunn Cemetery under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.



Opal Minton

Born Jan. 8, 1913 in Snyder, she married Robert Louie Minton on Dec. 24, 1931 in Snyder. He died in 1983.

Mrs. Minton was a homemaker and a member of the East Side Church of Christ.

Survivors include a daughter, Jeanie Fambro of Snyder; three sons, Bob Minton of Tucson, Ariz., Frank Minton of Crockett and Thomas Minton of Sweetwater; two sisters, Hazel Berry of Abilene and Bonnie Crenshaw of Snyder; a brother, Donald J. Jones of Longview; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Family visitation will be held from 7 to 8 this evening at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Helen Bolin

1933-2003

Helen Bolin, longtime Snyder resident, died Saturday, Feb. 1, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital after a long illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Bolin, 69, is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday in the First Baptist Church Chapel with the Rev. Mike Henson, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday in Resthaven Memorial Park in Midland. Arrangements are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral home.



Helen Bolin

Born Nov. 30, 1933 in Mount Vernon, she was the daughter of the late Joe and Willie Bolin.

Ms. Bolin was a homemaker and a member of the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include three daughters, Donna Fisher of Lubbock, Helen Deneese Pemberton of Garland and Donna Lynn Pemberton of Wylie; a brother, Joe Bolin of Orlando, Fla.; and four grandchildren.

Family visitation will be held from 8 to 9 this evening at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Personal, Professional Service

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME

3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Irma Haddox

1918-2003

Irma Deen Haddox, a native of Scurry County, died Monday, Feb. 3, after a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Haddox, 84, is set for 3 p.m. Wednesday in the Ira Church of God with her son, the Rev. Bobby Haddox, officiating. Burial will follow in the Ira Cemetery under the direction of Community Memorial Funeral Home of Abilene.

Born Aug. 12, 1918 in Ira to Bill and Mintie (Barnett) Giddens, she was a 1937 graduate of Ira High School, the first class to wear a cap and gown at Ira.

She worked for many years at the café in Ira as a cook and later owned and operated the café, Deen's Place until her retirement in 1983.

Mrs. Haddox lived in Ira until 1995 at which time she moved to Colonial Oaks Nursing home in Cross Plains to be near her daughter. When the nursing home closed in 2002, she moved to Coronado Nursing Center in Abilene. She was a member of the Ira Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Winfrey Giddens; two sisters, Ruby Brooks and Mayme Giddens; a granddaughter, Michelle Arnold; and a son-in-law, John Arnold.

Survivors include three children, Deena Levoy Arnold of Livingston, James and Deborah Griswold of Hawley and the Rev. Bobby and Lori Haddox of Welty, Okla.; eight grandchildren, David and Jeff Arnold, Stephen, Timothy and Michael Curry, LaTrisha Clark and Lee and Wesley Haddox; 14 great-grandchildren; and three step-grandchildren; and two sisters, Edna Branin of Jal, N.M., and Anna Perry of Lake Charles, La.

Memorials may be made to the Hospice of the Big Country, 4601 Hartford in Abilene, 79605; or to the United Way of Abilene, Box 82 in Abilene, 79604.

David Harveson

1969-2003

LUBBOCK — David Harveson, the husband of Joy McSpadden Harveson, died Saturday, Feb. 1, in St. Luke's Hospital in Houston after a lengthy illness.

Services for Mr. Harveson, 33, are pending with Sanders Funeral Home in Lubbock.

He is the son-in-law of Vera McSpadden of Snyder.

Charles Park

1947-2003

APTOS, Calif. — Charles Barton Park, son of Jo Ashley of Snyder, died Wednesday, Jan. 29, at his residence in Aptos.

A memorial service for Mr. Park, 55, is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in Aptos.

Born on Feb. 16, 1947 in Dallas, he moved to Snyder at age 2 and graduated from Snyder High School in 1965.

He was preceded in death by his father, Woody Park.

Survivors also include his wife, Vibeke von der Hude of the home; a son, Jacob Park of the home; two brothers, Paul Park and his wife Sandy of Ruidoso, N.M., and Barry Park of Baytown; one nephew, Dylan Park of Houston; and his stepfather, Carl Ashley of Snyder.

Thermon Moore

1918-2003

Funeral service for Thermon C. Moore, 84 was held today in the Colorado City First Baptist Church. Burial followed in Snyder's Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Mr. Moore, 84, died Friday, Jan. 31, in a San Angelo hospital.

Born April 10, 1918 in Big Spring, he married Friday Howell on July 17, 1944 in Big Spring.

Mr. Moore was a resident of Colorado City from 1952 to 1999 when he moved to San Angelo. He was a petroleum operator for Col-Tex Refinery and later for Fina in Big Spring. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Colorado City and the Immanuel Baptist Church in San Angelo.

Survivors include his wife, Friday Moore of San Angelo; a son, Cleve Moore of San Angelo; a sister, Faye Moore of Midland; three granddaughters; and one great-granddaughter.

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WRIGHT COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME

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Snyder, Texas

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

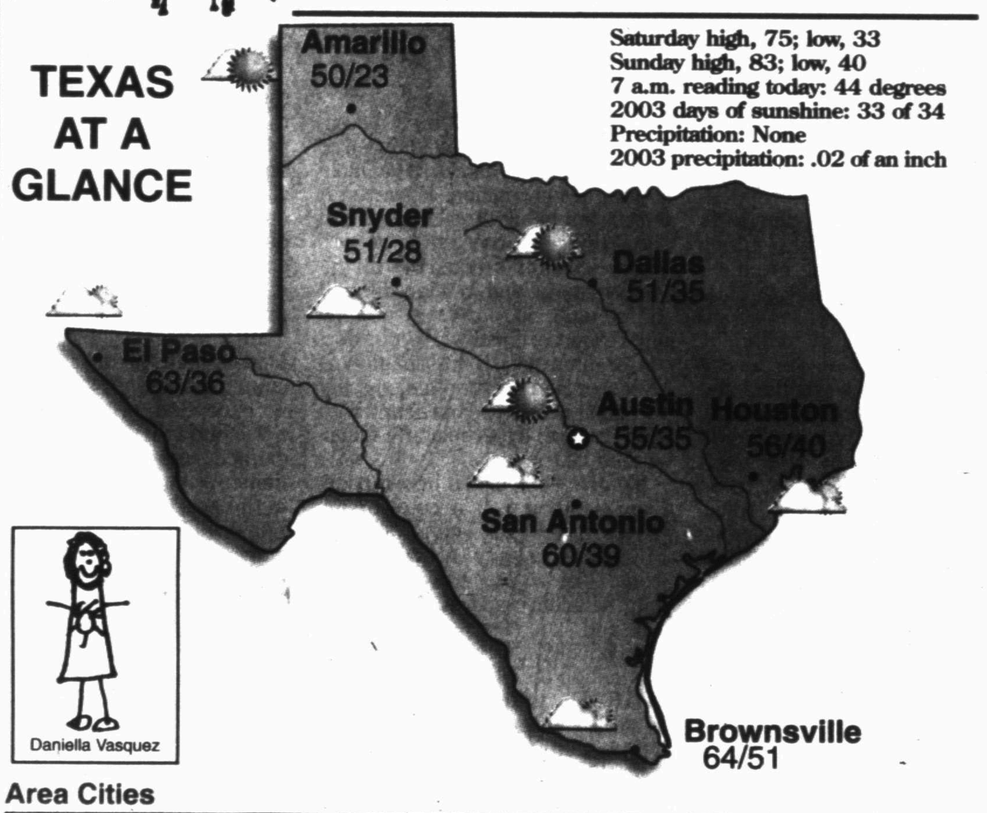
Tue 2/4	Wed 2/5	Thu 2/6
51/28	51/28	48/20
Sunshine along with some passing clouds. High 51F. Winds S at 10 to 15 mph.	Overcast. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 20s.	Mix of rain and ice in the morning.
Sunrise 7:36 AM, Sunset 6:19 PM	Sunrise 7:36 AM, Sunset 6:20 PM	Sunrise 7:35 AM, Sunset 6:21 PM

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FDIC

TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Saturday high, 75; low, 33
Sunday high, 83; low, 40
7 a.m. reading today: 44 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 33 of 34
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: .02 of an inch

Daniella Vasquez

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	51	35	mst sunny	El Paso	63	36	pt sunny	Midland	58	34	mst sunny
Amarillo	50	23	mst sunny	Fort Stockton	62	36	pt sunny	Raymondville	64	46	pt sunny
Austin	55	35	mst sunny	Gainesville	47	26	mst sunny	Rosenberg	56	39	pt sunny
Beaumont	56	38	mst sunny	Greenville	48	28	mst sunny	San Antonio	60	39	pt sunny
Brownsville	64	51	pt sunny	Houston	56	40	pt sunny	San Marcos	56	36	mst sunny
Brownwood	54	32	mst sunny	Kingsville	62	44	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	49	29	sunny
Corpus Christi	57	45	pt sunny	Livingston	55	33	mst sunny	Sweetwater	52	31	mst sunny
Corsicana	51	32	mst sunny	Longview	53	30	sunny	Tyler	53	34	sunny
Dallas	51	35	mst sunny	Lubbock	54	28	mst sunny	Weatherford	49	29	mst sunny
Del Rio	63	43	mst sunny	Lufkin	56	36	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	49	28	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	50	27	windy	Houston	56	40	pt sunny	Phoenix	70	46	pt sunny
Boston	45	26	rain	Los Angeles	71	48	pt sunny	San Francisco	59	43	pt sunny
Chicago	27	8	windy	Miami	81	62	pt sunny	Seattle	50	32	pt sunny
Dallas	51	35	mst sunny	Minneapolis	16	-6	pt sunny	St. Louis	32	14	windy
Denver	37	15	pt sunny	New York	50	27	rain	Washington, DC	55	30	rain

Moon Phases

New	First	Full	Last
Feb 1	Feb 9	Feb 16	Feb 23

UV Index

Tue 2/4	Wed 2/5	Thu 2/6
Low	Low	Minimal

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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