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WT-Int. Crude - $26.83
WTIC Posted - $23.50
Natural Gas - $2.835

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

FRIDAY

July 12, 2002
Vol. 54 No. 62
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Beth Titus

Police question juveniles about break-in, theft

Snyder police officers have four male juveniles identified as suspects in the break in and vandalism of the American Legion Hall that occurred sometime late Wednesday night or early Thursday.

Sgt. Keith Ward said patrol officers Thursday night received a tip and the Criminal Investigation Department followed up on it to identify the suspects.

"We've recovered the property," said Sgt. Ward, noting that among the loot recovered were two 30-gallon trash cans filled with liquor bottles.

Ward said the suspects ranged in age from 11 to 14.

"The break in occurred after 11:30 Wednesday night when everyone had left, and before 8 Thursday morning when it was discovered," said Ken Minyard, post finance officer.

Minyard estimated damage to the hall could run around $3,000 and losses are still being figured on beer and liquor that was stolen.

At least $1,000 in cash is also missing.

"They pretty well vandalized the place, besides knocking down two doors. They poured syrup on the floor and shot off a fire extinguisher, stole some veterans' items, and just made a mess," said Minyard.

Bingo games had to be cancelled Thursday night and Minyard said that cost the post about a $1,000, "and made some bingo players real mad."

"We appreciate the help we had Thursday getting the place cleaned up," said Minyard. "Some of those helping were not even members and we do thank them."

Minyard said the post was closed Thursday and Thursday night, but will be open during regular hours today.

WALK THIS WAY — Virginia Wade and her dog, Helfrich, take a leisurely stroll around the Towle Park pond Thursday afternoon. Aside from Wade and her dog, the park was virtually empty due to the high humidity and temperatures in the mid-90s. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "The guy who is always satisfied with himself may never satisfy anyone else."

It's been an interesting July. Unlike last year, we've had both cooler temperatures and needed moisture.

In 2001, Scurry County experienced good spring rains, but the rains stopped at the start of summer and temperatures hovered at the triple digit mark.

Not only has the area experienced timely rainfall, the high temperature for this summer is 96 degrees.

We're sure, however, that the dry, hot weather will arrive. Meanwhile, we're thankful for the moisture.

And we're even more grateful to have escaped the flooding that plagued much of Texas. Last weekend, we were stopped outside Brownwood and rerouted north up 183 to Cisco and then took I-20 back to Snyder.

And another Snyder family is grateful that they escaped serious injuries following a mishap in Louisiana.

Alan Celoria, new music minister at First Baptist Church, and his family were returning to Snyder on wet roads Sunday when cars began stopping suddenly in front of them.

Celoria turned to the right to avoid a vehicle in front, and that vehicle also turned right to avoid a vehicle in its path. The Snyder family's car skidded several hundred feet before hitting some trees.

The car was totaled, but the family suffered only minor bruises.

And more good news...about a former Snyder resident.

Many will remember Mike Banta, a former loan officer at American State Bank.

Mike left the banking business a few years back and is now a stockbroker with A.E. Edwards in Lubbock.

A few weeks ago, he was on the roof of his mother-in-law's home in Terry County when he fell off and sustained a serious head injury.

Banta underwent brain surgery in Lubbock, spent several days in intensive care and prognosis was uncertain.

We talked to Mike on the telephone this week, and he is making remarkable recovery. He is taking daily therapy and said he might get to return to work by the end of summer, although complete recovery may take up to a year.

Be grateful, and have a safe weekend.

FEMA releases money for Texas flood victims

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Emergency Management Agency today made millions of dollars available to Texans hurt by last week's flooding in the San Antonio and Abilene regions, according to Texas Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

FEMA released $500 million from its contingency funds, to be shared by Texas flood victims and people affected by wildfires in Arizona and Colorado.

"So many people lost so much in the floodwaters," Hutchison, who is scheduled to visit the New Braunfels area this afternoon, said in a brief written statement. "This FEMA funding will begin the process of rebuilding."

Hutchison said she will work to find more money for Texas flood relief.

Best of Texas show on tap this weekend at coliseum

The Scurry County Junior Livestock Association will host the Best of Texas Junior Livestock Show Saturday and Sunday at Scurry County Coliseum.

The show is open to anyone in the state.

Steers will be weighed in between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. Saturday, and the event will officially kick off at 10 a.m. when the lamb and goat show gets underway and will last the entire day. The steer show will begin at 10 o'clock Sunday morning.

Ricky Miller, vice president of the association, said he expected the show would draw 400 entries. He said the show plans to have about 175 entries for goats, 150 for lambs and between 100-120 steers.

"We are having sanctioned showmanship for the state of Texas for goats, " Miller said. "So we could get double the goats."

Miller said the show would help promote the county and bring in new money to businesses in Snyder. "It will help businesses that helped us with the premium sale in January," Miller said.

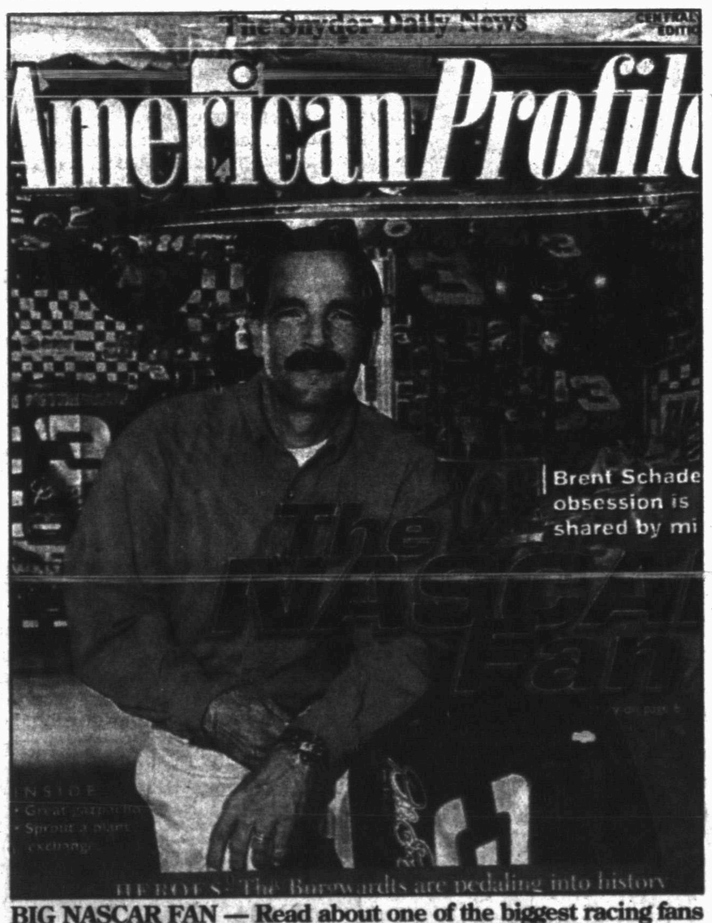
"This promotes young kids to be encouraged to show animals," said association board member Billy Grimmett.

Winners in the lamb show will receive a payback of 60 percent of the entry fee, while goats will get back 50 percent.

The best of breed winners also will receive a tote bag with Scurry County Jr. Livestock Association on the side, said Grimmett.

Grimmett said the senior class from Ira will be running concessions to raise money for a trip to Cancun. Admission to the show is free.

""We hope to have a large turnout," said Miller. "There will be some good animals here."



BIG NASCAR FAN — Read about one of the biggest racing fans in the country in this weekend's American Profile. The magazine is in each weekend edition of The Snyder Daily News.

First task force meeting targets business scandals

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush summoned top prosecutors and regulators to the White House for the first meeting of his corporate fraud task force today, seeking to reassure shaken investors and contain political fallout amid a string of business scandals.

Bush established the task force Tuesday, and gave Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson until July 19 to convene its first meeting. But in a surprise move, the president decided to hold the first session before week's end and do so at the White House, not the Justice Department, where the task force is essentially headquartered.

That ensures the president gets maximum credit for taking action. Photographers were permitted to capture and distribute images from the meeting, but reporters were barred.

The task force's members also include Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, FBI Director Robert Mueller, Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Harvey Pitt and the heads of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Federal Communications Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Pitt has been under fire for his ties to the accounting industry in recent days, and absent from Washington, reportedly on vacation. It wasn't clear whether he was attending today's meeting.

On Wall Street Tuesday, Bush described the new task force as a SWAT team for cracking down on accounting and other business wrongdoing. The executive order he signed creating it described it in more reserved terms: It is to "provide direction" on pursuing corporate fraud and "make recommendations" to Attorney General John Ashcroft and to Bush on how to enhance cooperation between agencies and improve corporate-crime policy.

Bush urged the business leaders to let their consciences be their guides in the board room, and he outlined proposals for tougher penalties for fraud.

Hermleigh ISD board to meet

Hermleigh's school board will convene at 8 tonight for a meeting that was postponed from Tuesday due to the lack of a quorum.

As part of tonight's agenda, the trustees will discuss changing their regular meeting time to one Saturday morning each month.

Other agenda items include setting a payment amount for unused sick pay by teachers, the inter-local agreement with the Hobbs Alternative School, the engagement letter for the year-end audit, and discussion of a cut-off date for payment of bills.

The meeting is in the high school building.

ASK US

Q—How far down Ave. Q will the replacement waterline go?

A—For now, the line will go just past Snyder Concrete in the 2300 block of Ave. Q.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Thursday, 92 degrees; low, 69; 7 a.m. Friday, 71; no precipitation; total for 2002, 13.09 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy, 30% rain chance; low upper 60s; NE winds 5-10 mph. Saturday, partly cloudy, 20% rain chance; high near 90; NE winds 5-15 mph

Ayeshia Greathouse
Partly Cloudy

Sunset: 8:50 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:49 a.m.

Of 192 days in 2002, the sun has shone 185 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Take pleasure not in the score, but in the game.
—Bobby Jones

JUL 12 2002

Perot denies marketing inside information

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Charges that H. Ross Perot's computer firm marketed inside information about California's energy market are "unfounded," the two-time presidential candidate told a state Senate committee Thursday.

Perot Systems, the Texas-based company that helped launch California's deregulated energy market, warned California's energy officials about flaws in its new market structure, Perot said.

The Senate Select Committee to Investigate Price Manipulation of the Wholesale Energy Market is investigating the role of Perot Systems in California's power crisis.

"Perot Systems did not contribute to the California energy crisis," and had no conflict of interest in its "unsuccessful attempt" to capitalize on its knowledge of California's markets, Perot testified. "These allegations are unfounded."

The committee invited Perot to testify about his company's marketing to energy companies — including presentations that discussed "holes" in the state's energy market that could be used to drive up wholesale prices.

Internal e-mails show Perot Systems tried to exploit what one Perot consultant called "over a thousand loopholes in the California system," committee attorney Larry Drivon said.

One e-mail between Perot Systems employees mentions "holes that they should plug (in cooperation with California energy officials) and holes that they should use" in marketing their knowledge to outside firms that could profit, Drivon said.

In one e-mail, consultant George Backus, president of Policy Assessment Corp., specifically suggested taking advantage of time between the discovery and closing of loopholes, Drivon said. Backus declined to testify Thursday, saying he couldn't afford the airfare from his Colorado home.

Enron Corp. described "fundamentally similar" strategies it used to "game" California's deregulated system a year after Perot Systems said it closed the relevant loopholes in cooperation with state energy officials, said committee investigator Chris Schriber.

Last year, a shortage of electricity led to the near-collapse of California's three largest investor-owned utilities and a round of rolling blackouts. State officials have blamed many of the problems on market manipulation by electric generating or trading companies, including the now-bankrupt Enron.

Committee investigators found the Perot Systems presentation in June among documents subpoenaed from Reliant Energy. Perot said he knew nothing of the materials, which he said were never reviewed by his office.

Perot said his company didn't sell any confidential information about the Independent System Operator, which manages much of the state's power grid, or the Power Exchange, the now bankrupt energy clearinghouse.

Information in the presentation to energy companies was publicly available, Perot said.

But Sen. Joe Dunn, D-Santa Ana, said the sales pitch was disturbing — especially since several strategies mirrored ones detailed in recently released Enron memos.

The company's presentations claimed unique insider knowledge that appeared to propose "market manipulative strategies," Dunn said. Nor did Perot Systems tell the ISO what it was doing until after a potential Perot client expressed concern.

"To some, it appears that Perot Systems was acting in secret to keep that from ISO," Dunn said after Perot's testimony. "We've got concerns about inconsistencies. They haven't been resolved."

Perot said the company hired three economists to review the marketing presentations, who all concluded Perot Systems didn't divulge any confidential information or violate conflict of interest clauses in the contract with the ISO or PX.

"The market rules were public knowledge. Everybody could have access to the market rules," Perot testified. The document "could not have been used as a blueprint for gaming the California market."

ISO managers objected when they learned Perot Systems was marketing to energy companies, but Perot insisted their objection was based on "a misunderstanding" of what his company was doing and the information it was using.

Perot said the ISO concluded the presentations didn't violate the contract, but the company never heard back from the ISO on proposed steps to avoid the appearance of a conflict. He took that as tacit approval, a conclusion sharply disputed by Drivon and Schriber.

"Quite to the contrary," said Drivon. "There had never been an approval of this activity."

Reliant and other companies never employed Perot Systems after the presentations, Perot said. "After that, we decided this was not a good business to be in. We never found a market for these services."

Paul Gribik and Dariush Shirmohammadi, former Perot Systems employees, also denied wrongdoing in testimony Thursday.

Gribik said he repeatedly recommended closing regulatory loopholes he discovered — often without result, both while he was employed by Perot Systems and after he left to join the California Power Exchange.

In at least one case, Gribik said, ISO officials said they couldn't fix a regulatory flaw because it would delay deregulating California's energy market by Jan. 1, 1998.

Some of those loopholes wound up in later Perot Systems presentations, Gribik said. He acknowledged, under questioning, that he participated in Perot Systems discussions over which energy companies might be best able to profit from the company's presentations.

However, Gribik and Perot repeatedly put the onus on company consultant Backus, whom committee members said wrote the most suspicious e-mails.

Mystery of Texas girl's death examined

ORANGE (AP) — Torn black and white fliers posted on telephone poles or crumpled up on the ground near her square, weathered home are all that remain of a community's effort to find 4-year-old Dannarriah Finley alive.

With authorities identifying a body found about 20 miles southwest of her home in Orange as Dannarriah, the focus has shifted to finding out how she disappeared from her bedroom early the Fourth of July.

Friends, family and neighbors remain shocked and saddened by her death. But those feelings are quickly being replaced by anger against whomever is responsible.

"We just need to find out who did this and soon. We're not talking about finding out six months or a year from now. Have them go on trial and justice will have been done correctly," said Jaime Planter, a friend of Dannarriah's family.

On Thursday, Planter talked with the girl's parents, Jaime Arnold and Johnny Edwards, who didn't wish to speak with reporters.

"They're doing all right, the best they can having found out their daughter was kidnapped and murdered," Planter said. "We're going to find out who did this, for all our children's sakes."

Arnold, 26, said she put her daughter and two other children, plus three cousins to bed at 1:30 a.m. July 4 after returning from work. She checked on the children about 4 a.m. and then awoke at 10 a.m. to discover Dannarriah was gone.

Horses, boats, four-wheelers and a helicopter were used for days in the search for Dannarriah. Pipeline workers stumbled upon her body Monday close to a waterway in nearby Port Arthur.

Sheila Perry, principal of North Early Learning Center, where Dannarriah was a pre-kindergarten student, said her pupil's death has shaken her community out of a complacency it had toward the safety of its children.

"If we see children outside unsupervised, we stop and ask them where is their mother," she said. "I think it's made all of us see how vulnerable we all are."

What is puzzling many residents of this small East Texas city near the Texas-Louisiana border is that while Dannarriah exhibited the sweetness and innocence found in many 4-year-olds, she was also taught at school to not go with strangers, said Deborah Mitchell, the learning center's family services coordinator.

"She was a very sweet child, very much a joy to be around," Mitchell said. "Once she knew you, she would be very warm. But she was not the type of child who would go to someone she did not know. We felt she was taught this."

This has caused speculation to swirl among many of Orange's 19,000 or so residents about how Dannarriah disappeared.

"I don't have a fear that there is someone out there targeting our kids," said Marva Paul, director of Beat the Street Boys Camp, a youth summer program a few blocks from Dannarriah's house.

"I feel there is an intrinsic motivation on someone's part, an act of malice, a payback type of situation," she said.

Police have not commented on the condition of the body when it was found or if authorities know the circumstances that led to the girl's disappearance. The coroner's office awaits toxicology results and had not determined a cause of death.

On Thursday, authorities did not release any new information but Port Arthur Police Col. Mark Blanton said investigators would be canvassing the neighborhood again to talk with residents.

Paul, 47, said the streets in Dannarriah's neighborhood, known as East town, with its rows of small, beat-up homes on blocks, overgrown weeds and narrow streets, can be unsafe for children.

"I notice kids are unattended at times in that area. It has a lot of alcohol and drugs and prostitution," said Paul, who has lived in the neighborhood for 43 years.

She said residents have made an effort to beautify the neighborhood and Orange, whose area industries include petrochemical products, steel fabrication and shipbuilding.

PUC vote on electricity hike delayed

AUSTIN (AP) — The Public Utility Commission on Thursday postponed a vote on whether some utilities can raise prices they charge residential customers.

Several utilities have proposed increases in their traditional service areas, citing high natural gas prices.

Under electric deregulation, which began Jan. 1, traditional utilities were required to cut their rates for customers within their service territory and not raise them for three years or until they lost 40 percent of their customers. However, the law allows utilities to pass along increases in the cost of fuel burned to create power.

"We are disappointed. We had obviously felt as though we presented all of the evidence necessary under the present rule and that present rule was to demonstrate that natural gas prices were higher than when they were originally set," said TXU spokesman Chris Schein.

TXU's proposed increase would raise average residential bills for its North Texas customers by about $4.18 a month.

Consumer groups argued against the companies' requests, saying they have not proven they need the increases. Deregulation was supposed to bring lower prices to consumers, and right away the companies are asking for increases, said Kristen Doyle, who represented several cities in the matter.

events

LOTTO TEXAS™ TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Thursday by the Texas Lottery:

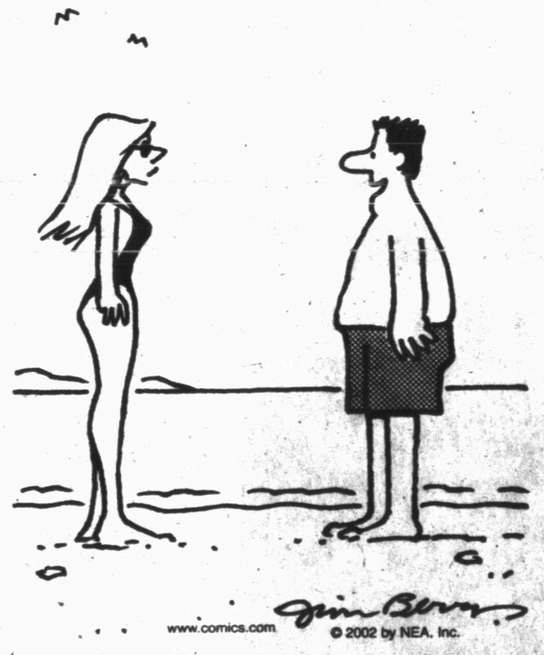
10-11-31-35-36

Pick 3

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

4-1-6

Berry's World



ARE YOU A DIABETIC?

DO YOU HAVE TROUBLE FINDING A PAIR OF COMFORTABLE SHOES?

YOU MAY BE ENTITLED THROUGH YOUR MEDICARE BENEFITS TO RECEIVE A PAIR OF EXTRA DEPTH THERAPEUTIC SHOES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT CALL OR COME BY

McWilliams Pharmacy

3706 College Avenue
Phone: 573-7582
Thursday, July 18 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HUNTING ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AT O.H. IVIE RESERVOIR

Application for public hunting permits on the O.H. Ivie Reservoir Wildlife Management Areas will be accepted ***by mail only*** beginning July 15, 2002 and ending August 16, 2002, at the O.H. Ivie Reservoir Field Office.

Hunting Permits will be limited, and requests for information and application packets should be made by calling the Colorado River Municipal Water District (CRMWD) at 915-267-6341, or by writing to:

CRMWD
P.O. Box 869
Big Spring, Texas 79721
Attn: Public Hunting

A public drawing for the WMA Public Hunting Permits for the 2002 Hunting Season will be held at 1:00 p.m. on September 6, 2002, at the O.H. Ivie Reservoir Field Office, located near the north end of the dam. All applicants are welcome to attend the drawing, if they desire.

Date Book

Friday, July 12, 2002

Today is the 193rd day of 2002 and the 22nd day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1774, citizens of Carlisle, Pa., met at a church to declare their independence from Great Britain.

On this day in 1916, the USS North Carolina became the first Navy ship to carry and fly aircraft.

On this day in 1984, presidential candidate Walter Mondale named Rep. Geraldine Ferraro, D-N.Y., as his running mate.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862), writer and naturalist; R. Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983), architect and writer; Pablo Neruda (1904-1973), poet; Milton Berle (1908-2002), comedian; Andrew Wyeth (1917-), artist, is 85; Bill Cosby (1938-), comedian-actor, is 64; Richard Simmons (1948-), fitness advocate, is 54.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1951, New York Yankee Allie Reynolds pitched a no-hitter against the Cleveland Indians. New York won 1-0.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "We are not going to be able to operate our Spaceship Earth successfully nor for much longer unless we see it as a whole spaceship and our fate as common. It has to be everybody or nobody." — R. Buckminster Fuller

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (July 10) and first quarter (July 17).

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to use for republication all news dispatches in this newspaper and also local news published for republication of special dispatches.

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By Abiga

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Thirteen-year-old killed in dispute over one dollar

NEW YORK (AP) — A troubled 13-year-old Brooklyn boy found beaten to death and stuffed in a closet earlier this week was killed in a dispute over a dollar, police said.

The grim details of Patrick Bhola's death came to light Thursday after an 18-year-old man and a 20-year-old woman were charged with his murder and kidnapping.

Delon Lucas and Clarine Jones, both of New York's Brooklyn borough, allegedly beat and stabbed Bhola to death Monday inside an abandoned building where they and other squatters lived in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood.

Investigators believe that shortly before the killing, Lucas and Bhola went to a bodega together to buy a "loosey," slang for cigarettes sold individually, authorities say. Lucas put a dollar down on the counter, but it was snatched away.

A short time later, Lucas and Jones accused Bhola of stealing the dollar, tied him up and physically attacked him, beating and stabbing him, police said. Lucas had lured Bhola into the abandoned building by offering him marijuana, police told The New York Times and the Daily News.

Both suspects are in custody. Police said they each made statements to detectives blaming the other for the killing.

Bhola's death was the end to a troubled life that included brushes with the law. He allegedly shoplifted and stole bicycles, and had reportedly been arrested once in connection with a stabbing near his school.

Bhola's parents had been investigated by child welfare authorities on multiple occasions but had never been charged. His family had recently been evicted from their home, and Bhola had been living with two relatives in a one-room apartment.

'Video Vigilante' tapes crime to help police; now he is criticizing arrest

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — For six years, self-described "video vigilante" Brian Bates has helped police find and prosecute prostitutes and their customers by making videotapes used as evidence against them.

Now he finds himself on the other side, saying police used more force than was necessary to subdue a suspect in an arrest he caught on tape.

Bates' video of police striking an unarmed man with batons has helped fuel a national debate on police use of force, along with footage of a police officer in Inglewood, Calif., slamming a teen-age boy onto the trunk of a patrol car and punching him.

Civil rights advocates have demanded discipline for the Oklahoma City officers and changes in department policies. But police officials reviewing the case have said the force appeared to be appropriate.

Police Chief M.T. Berry has asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation to look at whether there were any civil rights abuses.

"It's unfortunate anytime the city or some of its agents seem to be doing something wrong that everybody jumps all over it," Bates said Thursday. "But that shouldn't discourage people from voicing an opinion or putting something out there for the public to scrutinize."

Angered by open prostitution in his downtown neighborhood, Bates took it upon himself to help a prosecutors' task force curb lewd activity.

Armed with a video camera and hours of tape, the 32-year-old cruises southern Oklahoma City looking for prostitutes and their clients. He tries to catch them having sex in public places, a misdemeanor offense.

"This was in our driveways, grocery store parking lots and parks," Bates said.

He said police told him they couldn't do anything unless an officer witnessed a crime. Then a city official suggested he use his video camera to document the prostitution.

He boasts that more than 200 people have been convicted because of his videotaping.

Some local police officers appreciate what he does, but others feel he invades their territory, he said.

"We know him," said Sgt. Charles Phillips, spokesman for Oklahoma City Police Department. "We get a lot of calls from him and have worked with him before."

Two officers are now under investigation for the actions Bates recorded Monday night after dialing 911 to report a public sex act.

The tape shows Officer Greg Driskill attempting to handcuff Donald Reed Pete. Driskill had approached alone and on foot, police said.

"At some point, Driskill ordered Pete out of the van, and he observed him to take what appeared to be marijuana and begin eating it," police Capt. Jessica Cummins said. "He realized that Pete was destroying evidence and made an attempt to prevent him from eating all of it."

When Pete, 50, appears to refuse an order from Driskill, the officer swings him around. After eventually getting down on the ground, Driskill rolls Pete over and Pete says something to Driskill.

The officer yells at Pete to get down on the ground, then sprays pepper spray into Pete's face and puts his knee on Pete's neck. Pete tells the officer he is on the ground, but appears to refuse to put his other arm behind his back.

The pilot of a police helicopter hovering above the scene reported that Driskill was "losing it" and requested backup, Cummins said.

Officer E.J. Dyer arrived and helped Driskill subdue Pete, Cummins said. Dyer also used pepper spray and his baton.

The officers repeatedly struck Pete on the arms, legs and back, stopping after handcuffing the man.

Police later found a crack pipe in Pete's truck which tested positive for cocaine residue.

Bates, who makes money from a Web site and from regular appearances on a television talk show, said he believes the officers used more force than was necessary.

"He never once made a fist. ... From the get-go, the man was just very slow to respond to orders," Bates said.

During the altercation with Pete, Driskill lost his baton and asked Bates to get it. He did.

"I was there to document the lewd act charge," Bates said. "It got out of hand and instead of giving a verbal account of what happened I decided to take a video."

Three bodies found in car

PINE BLUFF, Ark. (AP) — Authorities have identified three bodies found last month inside a burning car.

Authorities identified the men as Martin Rodriquez, Antelmon Montez and Raul Lopez, all former residents of the Dallas area, Jefferson County chief deputy prosecutor Kyle Hunter said Thursday.

The men's ages and addresses were unavailable.

The three bodies were found June 14 in a burning car near the Jefferson exit from Interstate 530, about 15 miles northwest of Pine Bluff. Investigators said the victims were all shot but would not say whether they died from gunshot wounds or were still alive when the vehicle was set ablaze.

Investigators await DNA analyses to confirm the identities.

Police have not established a motive for the murders.

Authorities recently arrested Robert Morning, 22, of Alexander and Kennard Gatewood, 38, of Jacksonville. Each is charged with three counts of capital murder, kidnapping and arson. They are held without bond at the Jefferson County Detention Center in Pine Bluff.

The men are to be arraigned Aug. 6 before Circuit Judge H.A. Taylor.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Happy marriage can't satisfy husband's sexual longings

DEAR ABBY: I am a married man in my 30s, with two adorable little babies at home. My sex life with my wife is very good. I have no complaints at all. My problem is my feelings.

I love my wife and do not cheat; however, I desire other women. I have an instinctual desire to procreate. I can't afford more babies. In fact, my wife and I do not want more children.

Other women — even women I find unattractive — arouse me. As a result, I avoid looking at female coworkers and have become very disconnected at work. Even though I don't act upon my instinctual urges, I still wrestle with them.

Abby, how does a man get past this? Every woman I see makes me feel like I am in heat. — **FIGHTING TESTOSTERONE IN TWIN FALLS**

DEAR FIGHTING: Schedule an appointment with your physician to find out of there's a physical reason your hormones are in overdrive. If your problem isn't physical, ask for a referral to a psychotherapist who can help you to understand this obsession before it negatively impacts your career or your marriage. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am a college freshman. I am very happy. However, there is a large void in my life that I would like to fill. Abby, I want a baby. Not just any baby — I want a particular man's baby for genetic reasons. I have asked him to help me, but he says he has to think about it.

I do not want anything from this man other than his seed. I tell him that after I get pregnant, he can walk away and never look at me again. I am not trying to tie him down or ask for child support.

How can I convince this attractive man that I really do not want anything from him but the privilege of bearing his child? — **LOOKING FOR FULFILLMENT**

DEAR LOOKING: This isn't the answer you're looking for, but you are jumping the gun. As a college freshman, have you given serious thought to the emotional, physical and financial obligations you'll undertake along with motherhood?

It's imperative that you finish your education before taking on the added challenge of being a single parent. Once you are established in a career, you'll be better able to afford the help you'll need. It's a myth that one woman can "do it all" without compromise.

**

DEAR ABBY: The "birds and bees" stories in your column have given me great amusement. I have one from a different angle.

I was writing a story set in the Old West, and as research for it (with some reservations) I asked both my widowed grandmothers, who were born in the 1890s, about their sex education. They were both happy to share.

One said that her mother had told her nothing. She had learned everything from female cousins and books.

The other grandmother said that her parents had been quite modern for their time. They had told her everything. Here she paused and thought for a moment. Then with a twinkle in her eye, she said, "But they neglected to say what a rewarding experience it could be!" — **MARY ALEXANDER, SACRAMENTO**

DEAR MARY: Your grandmother's parents believed in the element of surprise.

**

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

**

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Saturday, July 13, 2002

New people and new activities may be in the offing for you in the year ahead. These fresh exposures will widen your horizons, bring you much knowledge and propel you forward towards achieving happiness.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Don't hold back your terms of endearment today. Visible signs of affection will draw those who are near and dear to you closer. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — If you focus your ingenuity on the ways and means of acquiring something you want but consider a luxury item, you will be able to work out a way of getting it today without breaking the bank.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Although assertiveness may be strong in you, you'll be smart enough to temper your urges with charm, tolerance and kindness. Smiles and thoughtfulness breed success.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — This might be the day to let someone you secretly admire know the extent of your feelings. This person will welcome the compliments and your friendship.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Believe in your dream and reach for the sky today. Something you've been hoping for is within the realm of possibility if you have faith in yourself and your abilities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Facades are deceptive, as you may find out today. Those things that had appeared to be the most challenging may turn out to be the easiest for you to achieve.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — If you realize that the entire world is a classroom from which you can gain wisdom and tremendous knowledge, you'll notice things today that you might not have previously. You'll profit from the study.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Someone you have admired for some time may openly admit that s/he has been fond of you as well. This association is about to bud with great beauty.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — A dreaded decision may have to be made today. Once you do so, however, you'll discover that your fears were unfounded.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — This is an excellent day to take care of jobs around the house. What you do will not only mend or clean up the area, but it will add artistry and beauty to your abode.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Be sure to make some social plans with friends today, because propitious developments may occur for you in this arena. It may be anything from a new romance to closing a business deal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Test your skills today in the culinary arts, or at decorating, changing your abode or entertaining. Expressing yourself domestically could provide you with considerable enjoyment and self-fulfillment.

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"Tell the World" Street Rally
Saturday, July 13
Under the Tent on the Eckerd's Parking Lot - Snyder
10:00 a.m. - Worship Music, **11:00 a.m.** - Puppet Ministry
12:00 Noon - Hotdogs & stuff
1:30 p.m. - Rock Concert with the band ***Warfare***
Praise Bands, Adults, and Rock 'n Rollers.
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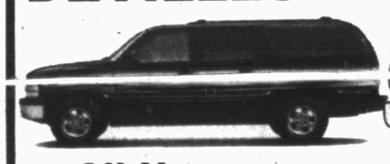
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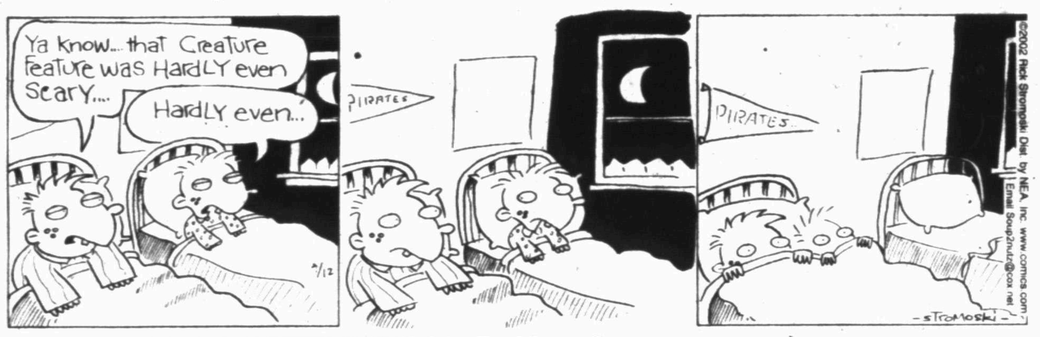

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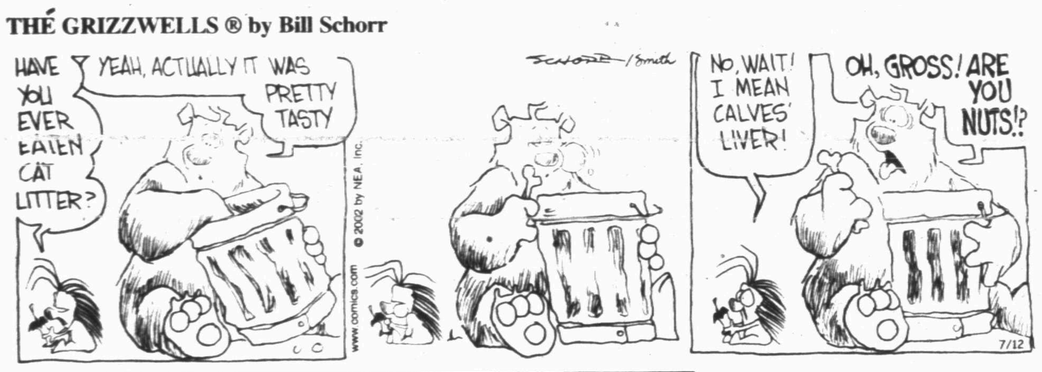
BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun

THÉ GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Quiet sound
4 Fitness center
7 Indent key
10 Overwhelm
11 Chest muscles
13 Proof word
14 Do batik
15 Ocean flier
16 Fed a line
17 — off (slowed)
19 Camera's "eye"
20 "— — recall ..."
21 Separate
23 Creep along
26 Lethargy
28 Grassland
29 Memorable time
30 Track down
34 Hotel entrance
36 Defense and electronics co.
38 Chatter
39 Ph.D. exams, e.g.
41 Bone-dry
42 Put a strain on
44 "Ick!"
46 Make war
47 Plywood layers
51 General — Bradley
52 Tsar name
53 Singer Yoko —
55 Guns the engine
56 Margarita ingredient
57 CEO, perhaps
58 Before
59 Fleur-de- —
60 Riviera summer

DOWN

1 Downcast
2 Rtes.
3 Dressy shoe
4 Eyeglasses
5 Jauntier
6 Teen problem
7 Nearer the facts
8 Secret —
9 Physiques, slangily
12 Hardtop
13 Bakery goody
18 Sign of content
22 Golfer's tap
23 Laid up
24 Recent (pref.)
25 Unpleasant
27 Worthwhile item
29 Bronte heroine Jane —
31 Skipper's okay
32 Freeway clogger
33 — out a living
35 Prize fighters
37 Tidal wave
40 Headache remedy
41 That ship
42 Gentler
43 Tequila plant
45 Heredity factors
46 Lasted well
48 More than bad
49 Ramble around
50 Grumpy mood
54 Unseal, to a poet

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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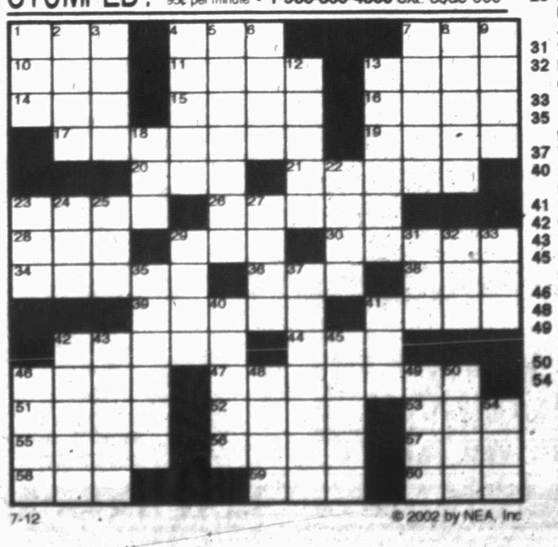

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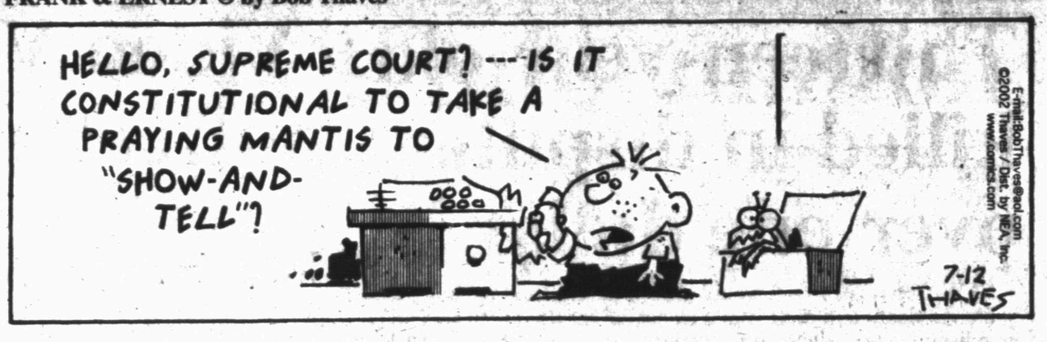
FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



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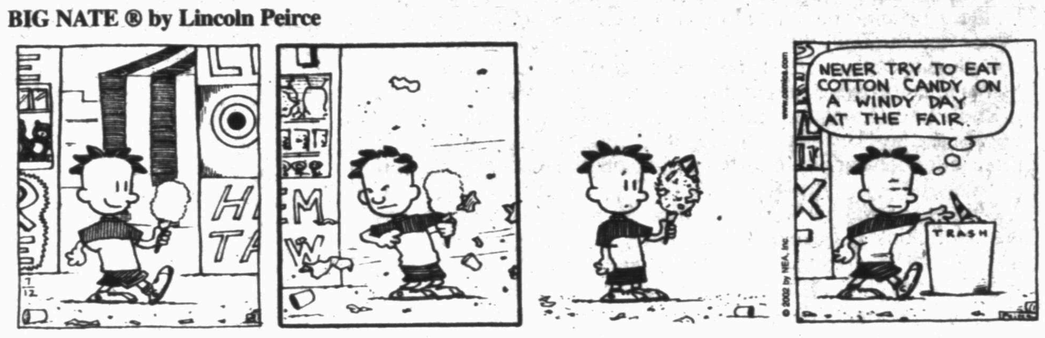

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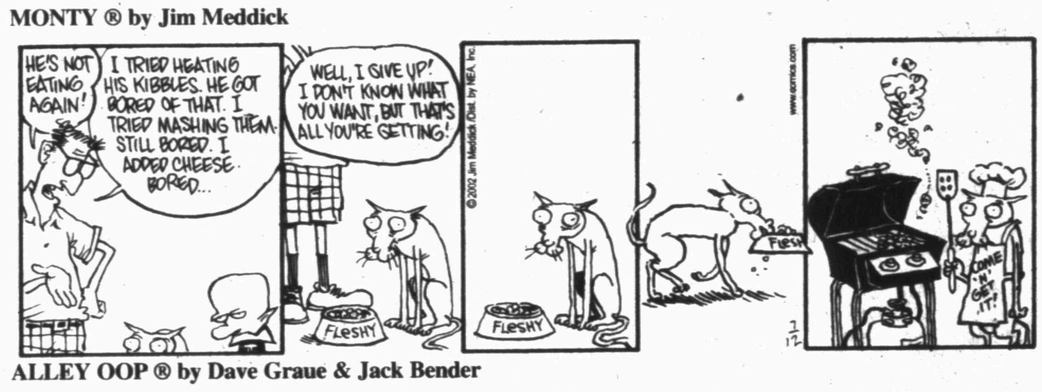

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HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

"If I give you a pay raise, you'll have to start worrying about tax shelters."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"WE HAD A PILLOW FIGHT, AND THE PILLOW LOST!"

SPORTS

Oswalt anchors streaking Astros

HOUSTON (AP) — The conditions were just right for Roy Oswalt.

Working in his home ballpark against a team that's never beaten him, Oswalt pitched seven-plus innings and Geoff Blum hit a three-run homer Thursday night, leading the Houston Astros to a 4-3 victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

Oswalt boosted his record to 13-3 at Minute Maid Park and 6-0 against the Reds.

"I felt a lot of energy the whole game," Oswalt said. "Even when I gave up those two hits in the eighth inning I felt the energy."

The 24-year-old right-hander allowed seven hits and three earned runs. He struck out five and walked two in winning his fifth start in his last seven decisions.

"He's always good," Reds left fielder Adam Dunn said. "He's one of the best in the league, I don't care how young he is. He's got such good stuff that he's good enough to make mistakes and make up for it. When he makes a mistake, it catches you off guard."

The Astros have won nine of 11, including a 7-2 road trip before the All-Star break. They have won their last four series.

"The games before the All-Star break were big," Blum said. "The thing about this team is we didn't have to do a lot of talking. We know what we have to do. This is a second-half club so I want to stay in there and be a part of it."

Jeff Bagwell and Daryle Ward led off the second inning with consecutive doubles off Elmer Dessens (5-5), scoring one run. After Orlando Merced singled, Blum hit his fourth homer to make it 4-1.

"He got a fastball in on me," Blum said. "Then he gave me one over the plate. He has a good fastball. I knew I hit it hard enough to get out. I just didn't know if it would stay up enough."

Aaron Boone gave Cincinnati a 1-0 lead with his 13th homer in the first inning, but Oswalt (10-5) then retired 13 of 15 batters until he walked two in the sixth and loaded the bases with one out.

Austin Kearns hit a grounder to shortstop Julio Lugo, forcing Dunn at second. But second baseman Jose Vizcaino failed to complete the double play, allowing Todd Walker to score Cincinnati's second run.

Billy Wagner pitched the ninth for his 15th save in 18 chances.

After his shaky sixth, Oswalt allowed a single to Barry Larkin to start the seventh and then struck out the next three batters. He allowed two hits to start the eighth before leaving the game.

Sean Casey's sacrifice fly off Octavio Dotel brought Cincinnati within 4-3 in the eighth.

Dessens pitched six innings, allowing four runs on five hits.

"I got behind on Merced and threw him a fastball," Dessens said. "But the pitch to Blum was a fastball in and that was the game. I felt pretty good but I just had that one little stretch."

Dixie edges Snyder

ABILENE — For Snyder, not even a pair of home runs were enough to overcome early miscues.

Snyder's 11 and 12-year-old all-stars committed four errors in the first inning Thursday night en route to a 5-4 setback to Abilene Dixie in the second round of the District 5 Little League Tournament.

Snyder took the early lead when Dustin Murdock led off the opening frame with a home run. The locals added another run later in the inning to go up, 2-0.

Dixie took advantage of four errors in the bottom of the frame to knot the tally at 2-2, then took a one-run lead in the second.

Snyder jumped back in front in the third when Lance Day singled in front of Jesse Conner's two-run blast that put the locals on top, 4-3. Day finished with a pair of singles and Ryan Arredondo also had a base hit.

Dixie plated two runs in the bottom of the inning to take the lead for good.

Day went the distance on the mound. The Snyder hurler allowed five hits and didn't walk a batter while registering five strikeouts.

In the round-robin event, Snyder faces Abilene Wylie at 6 this evening, then takes on Breckenridge at 6 p.m. Saturday.

The second-round winner advances to next week's sectional tournament at Midland.

Selig aide says financial woes have passed

NEW YORK (AP) — Paychecks won't be bouncing to baseball players next week like so many wild pitches heading to the backstop.

A day after commissioner Bud Selig said a team was in danger of not making payroll next week, his top aide insisted any financial problems had passed.

Selig did not identify the team during a Wednesday interview with several newspapers, and also said a second unidentified club had so much debt it might not be able to finish the season.

A top official of a major league team, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Thursday the Detroit Tigers and Tampa Bay Devil Rays had cash-flow problems earlier this year, but both teams denied any financial difficulties.

"There are teams that are continuing to work very hard to meet all of their expenses that come due," Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, said Thursday. "Whatever immediate issues there were with one or two clubs have been resolved in the short term."

Baseball teams can borrow up to $72 million each through a line of credit backed by the sport's central fund, which collects money from national broadcasting and licensing contracts.

A high-ranking baseball official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said that before the June 15 payroll, a team was having financial difficulty. The team, which the official didn't identify, secured additional credit from its bank after baseball provided a letter stating that a payment from the central fund would be made to the team in July, the official said.

"As far as I know, as far as I'm concerned, it's not the Devil Rays," Tampa Bay general manager Chuck LaMar said. "All I know is I'm not aware of any type of loan or bailout from major league baseball."

Tigers president Dave Dombrowski refused to say if baseball had provided any specific assurances to the team's bank, saying, "We don't get into our personal finances at all."

Dombrowski said the Tigers were not in danger of failing to have enough cash to pay players next week.

"We're going to meet our payroll," he said. "I can assure that they'll get paid on the 15th."

Selig, trying to gain concessions from the players' association, has spent more than 11/2 years saying that baseball has widespread financial difficulties. Union head Donald Fehr seemed surprised by Selig's remarks.

"It was sort of an odd thing to see said publicly," Fehr said. "And, hopefully, it's an issue that's behind us at this point."

Bargaining for a new labor contract, recessed since June 27, was to have resumed Thursday in New York, but the sides agreed to scrap the session and meet Friday.

The sides are far apart on increased revenue sharing among teams, the owners' proposal for a luxury tax to slow payroll growth, random testing for steroids and other drugs, extending the amateur draft worldwide, and management's attempt to change salary arbitration rules and eligibility.

Players fear owners might try to unilaterally change work rules this fall. While the union hasn't set a strike date, the players are expected to call for a walkout in August or September if there is no progress in talks. It would be baseball's ninth work stoppage and first since 1994-95.

Major League Baseball

National League
By The Associated Press
All Times EDT

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	57	32	.640	—
Montreal	46	42	.523	10½
Florida	45	43	.511	11½
New York	44	44	.500	12½
Philadelphia	39	48	.448	17

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	47	38	.553	—
Cincinnati	46	42	.523	2½
Houston	42	45	.483	6
Pittsburgh	39	49	.443	9½
Chicago	35	51	.407	12½
Milwaukee	33	56	.371	16

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	54	35	.607	—
Arizona	52	36	.591	1½
San Francisco	50	38	.568	3½
Colorado	42	47	.472	12
San Diego	35	53	.398	18½

Thursday's Games
Atlanta 8, Montreal 5
N.Y. Mets 9, Philadelphia 1
Houston 4, Cincinnati 3
Pittsburgh 3, Milwaukee 2, 10 innings
Arizona 4, Los Angeles 3
San Francisco 3, Colorado 2

Friday's Games
Florida (Burnett 8-6) at Chicago Cubs (Wood 8-5), 3:20 p.m.
Atlanta (Maddux 8-2) at Montreal (Ohka 8-4), 7:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (Person 3-5) at N.Y. Mets (D'Amico 4-7), 7:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (Dempster 5-8) at Houston (Miller 4-3), 8:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (J.Anderson 6-10) at Milwaukee (Rusch 5-7), 8:05 p.m.
St. Louis (W.Williams 6-3) at San Diego (Lawrence 7-5), 10:05 p.m.
Arizona (Schilling 14-3) at Los Angeles (Od.Perez 10-4), 10:10 p.m.
Colorado (Hampton 5-9) at San Francisco (L.Hernandez 6-10), 10:35 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Philadelphia (Padilla 10-5) at N.Y. Mets (Estes 3-7), 1:15 p.m.
Cincinnati (Dempster 5-9) at Houston (Miller 4-3), 1:15 p.m.
Florida (Tavarez 7-4) at Chicago Cubs (Prior 2-2), 4:05 p.m.
Colorado (Thomson 7-7) at San Francisco (Schmidt 4-3), 4:05 p.m.
Arizona (Helling 7-7) at Los Angeles (Ashby 7-6), 4:10 p.m.
Atlanta (Glavine 11-4) at Montreal (Ohka 8-4), 7:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (K.Wells 9-6) at Milwaukee (J.Wright 2-7), 7:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Morris 10-6) at San Diego (Tomko 4-6), 10:05 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets, 1:10 p.m.
Atlanta at Montreal, 1:35 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee, 2:05 p.m.
Florida at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.
Cincinnati at Houston, 2:35 p.m.
Colorado at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
St. Louis at San Diego, 5:05 p.m.
Arizona at Los Angeles, 8:10 p.m.

American League
All Times EDT

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	56	32	.636	—
Boston	53	33	.616	2
Baltimore	42	44	.488	13
Toronto	34	53	.391	21½
Tampa Bay	28	58	.326	27

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	51	39	.567	—
Chicago	43	46	.483	7½
Cleveland	39	48	.448	10½
Kansas City	33	53	.384	16
Detroit	31	55	.360	18

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	56	33	.629	—
Anaheim	52	35	.598	3
Oakland	51	38	.573	5
Texas	39	48	.448	16

Thursday's Games
Boston 10, Toronto 3
Oakland 4, Baltimore 1
N.Y. Yankees 7, Cleveland 4
Chicago White Sox 9, Detroit 2
Seattle 4, Tampa Bay 0
Minnesota 4, Texas 3
Anaheim 1, Kansas City 0

Friday's Games
Boston (Lowe 12-4) at Toronto (Halladay 9-4), 7:05 p.m.
Oakland (Hudson 6-7) at Baltimore (Johnson 3-5), 7:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Clemens 8-3) at Cleveland (Baez 7-6), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Ritchie 5-11) at Detroit (Redman 4-8), 7:05 p.m.
Seattle (Moyer 8-4) at Tampa Bay (P.Wilson 2-6), 7:15 p.m.
Texas (Valdes 5-6) at Minnesota (Reed 6-5), 8:05 p.m.
Anaheim (Appier 6-7) at Kansas City (Suppan 7-6), 8:05 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 12-6) at Detroit (Moehler 1-0), 1:05 p.m.
Boston (F.Castillo 5-9) at Toronto (Carpenter 1-1), 4:05 p.m.
Seattle (Baldwin 6-6) at Tampa Bay (Sturtze 1-9), 6:15 p.m.
Texas (Rogers 9-5) at Minnesota (Santana 4-1), 7:05 p.m.
Oakland (Zito 11-3) at Baltimore (Driskill 6-1), 7:05 p.m.
Anaheim (Sele 7-5) at Kansas City (Byrd 11-6), 7:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (D.Wells 9-5) at Cleveland (Drese 8-6), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Detroit (Maroth 1-3), 7:05 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Boston at Toronto, 1:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland, 1:05 p.m.
Seattle at Tampa Bay, 1:15 p.m.
Oakland at Baltimore, 1:35 p.m.
Anaheim at Kansas City, 2:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Detroit, 2:05 p.m.
Texas at Minnesota, 8:05 p.m.

WNBA Glance

By The Associated Press
All Times EDT
EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	14	5	.737	—
Orlando	9	7	.563	3½
Charlotte	9	8	.529	4
New York	10	9	.526	4
Indiana	8	10	.444	5½
Miami	7	10	.412	6
Cleveland	6	12	.333	7½
Detroit	2	16	.111	11½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	14	3	.824	—
Houston	15	4	.789	—
Utah	12	6	.667	2½
Portland	11	8	.579	4
Seattle	9	10	.474	6
Phoenix	8	10	.444	6½
Minnesota	6	11	.353	8
Sacramento	3	14	.176	11

Wednesday's Games
Detroit 66, New York 63
Utah 82, Indiana 69
Portland 75, Minnesota 72

Thursday's Games
Sacramento 71, Cleveland 69
Seattle 79, Los Angeles 60
Phoenix 58, Houston 52

Friday's Games
Charlotte at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at Indiana, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Portland, 8 p.m.
Cleveland at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Houston at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

Saturday's Games
New York at Washington, 1:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Utah, 2 p.m.
Minnesota at Charlotte, 6 p.m.
Orlando at Miami, 7 p.m.

Sunday's Games
No games scheduled

Sports Briefs

Softball meeting

Snyder Girls' Softball Association will hold a board meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Texas Savings Bank.

Youth football camp

The free Snyder Tiger Football Camp will be held from 9 a.m. until noon Tuesday at the boys club. Players from six-years-old through the eighth grade can participate. The camp is hosted by SHS coach Chad Rogers and the Snyder Tigers. Hot dogs will be served for a $1.00. For more information, call 573-3344.

Cargile golf tournament

The Kiwanis Cargile Scholarship Foundation benefit Golf Tournament is set for Aug. 10 at Western Texas College. Format is four-person scramble and cost is $30 per player.

Cash prizes will go to the top four teams. Contests for closest-to-the-hole, longest drive and hole-in-one will be held. To register, call the pro shop at 573-9291.

Golf tournament

The Golfers' Memorial Partnership is set for Saturday and Sunday at the country cub. Format is lowball the first day and scramble for the final round. Cost is $150 per team. For more information, call the pro shop at 573-7101.

Tennis events

Snyder Tennis Camp, hosted by SHS coach Ted Phillips, will be held July 22-25. Incoming fourth through seventh graders are eligible and cost is $30. Registration forms can be picked up at the SHS principal's office.

Snyder Tennis Booster Club is hosting a three-day tournament starting next Friday. There will be singles and doubles competition in five age divisions, 12-under, 14-under, 16-under, 18-under and open. There will also be mixed doubles in the open division.

For more information on either event, contact Ted Phillips at 573-2525.

Friday swingers

The SCGA Women's Golf Association holds a weekly swingers event at 5:30 each Friday. It is open to all members and prospective members. Cost is $10 per couple and the format is scramble.

Cash prizes go to the top three finishers as well as closest to the hole. For more information, call Barbara Leatherwood at 725-7875.

WGA weekly play day

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

Iverson will surrender Tuesday

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Allen Iverson will be charged with assault and other offenses for forcing his way into an apartment with a gun and threatening two men while looking for his wife.

The NBA All-Star will be allowed to surrender to police Tuesday morning after his lawyer returns from vacation, police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson said. Iverson must remain inside his suburban Philadelphia mansion until then.

Iverson and an uncle are accused of barging into a cousin's apartment on the morning of July 3 as the Philadelphia 76ers' guard searched for his wife, Tawanna. Iverson allegedly had thrown her out of their house naked.

Indians fire manager

CLEVELAND (AP) — Charlie Manuel was fired as manager of the Cleveland Indians.

Manuel, with the Indians organization since 1988, had a 220-190 record as manager and was in the final year of his contract. He was the seventh manager fired since the season began.

Third-base coach Joel Skinner was appointed interim manager. Skinner and his father Bob — who managed Philadelphia and San Diego in the 1970s — become the second father-son tandem to manage in the big leagues since George and Dick Sisler.

Armstrong remains in third place

ROUEN, France (AP) — On a day when two riders were hospitalized after a crash, Lance Armstrong played it safe and remained in third place in the Tour de France.

Armstrong, bidding for his fourth straight Tour title, finished in the pack trailing Jaan Kirsipuu of Estonia, who broke out early and later raced to a sprint finish in the fifth stage, the 120.9-mile trek from Soissons to the Normandy city of Rouen.

A group of riders crashed near the 105.4-mile mark, with Marco Pinotti of Lampre temporarily losing consciousness. He was forced to quit the Tour to receive treatment at a hospital for a broken nose and severe facial bruises.

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MEN IN BLACK II PG13
Jones, Rip Torn The Men in Black return for a second dose of the comedy sci-fi about dark suited men entrusted to save the Earth from aliens.
MINORITY REPORT
PG13 Starring: Tom Cruise, Max von Sydow, Steve Harris - Sci-fi thriller set in the future. Criminals are caught before they commit the crimes, but an officer in a special unit accused of one such crime sets out to prove his innocence.
HEY ARNOLD PG
Voices: Spencer Klein, Francesca Smith, Jamil Walker Smith - Family comedy about a fourth-grader and his best friend who set out to stop developers from bulldozing their neighborhood.

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Loaded, white, 42,000 miles. Excellent condition. 573-6665 after 6p.m.

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1985 Ford F-150 pickup, new motor. Also lots new parts. $4,000 573-3832 after 6p.m.

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Maintenance worker needed. Apply in person at Willow Park Inn, 1137 E. Hwy. 180.

!! NEW HIGHER WAGES !!
HIRING IMMEDIATELY!
Truck drivers needed with oilfield experience. Must be able to travel. No need to relocate. Class A CDL, good driving record a must. Call 1-800-588-2669 Mon.–Fri., 8a.m.–5p.m.

Now hiring at Plaza Restaurant, ~~wait-staff,~~ **dishwashers** and cooks. Pick up applications at restaurant.

NURSERY COORDINATOR for First Baptist Church. Part-time position. Must be able to organize, staff and maintain an efficient, caring nursery ministry. Pick up application at 1701 27th and return by July 19th.

RN full-time 7p.m.–7a.m. & PRN. LVN full-time 7p.m.–7a.m. & PRN. Nurses aide full-time & PRN. Nurse to patient ratio no more than 4–1. Attractive hourly wage, flexible scheduling, excellent working conditions. Contact Steve LeFevre, RN, DON, 915-735-2256, Fisher County Hospital. Rotan, TX 79546. EOE

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Management and Training Corporation are currently seeking qualified applicants to fill the position of Juvenile Detention Officer. You will report to the Shift Supervisor and ultimately to the Chief of Security. You will be responsible for care and custody of juveniles in the facility in compliance with MTC, Texas Youth Commission (TYC), Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC), and Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) directives.

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White Buffalo Cafe
Hiring wait-staff & dishwashers for day & evening shifts.
No phone calls please.

Instructions

MORRIS SHAW SCHOOLS of **Defensive Driving Course.** Saturday July 13th, 8a.m.-3p.m., Texas Savings Bank, 2619 College Ave. For more information call 573-2850. No reservations needed. CO199-CP315.

Financial

Advance-Fee Loans or Credit Offers
Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC HELP. A public service message from Snyder Daily News and the Federal Trade Commission.

Farmer's Column

Wanted: (4) young female Guinea hens. Please call 915-574-8008.

Wheat Seed Germination 96% & above, 0% weed seed. Bearded $4.50 a bag, Beardless $5 Available now or reserve. Greg Gafford 573-4136, 338-8719

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All Kinds of Stuff!!

2-FAMILY BACKYARD SALE
205 33rd St.
Saturday 9a.m. – ??
Woodwork, Clothes (all sizes), Baby items, Home decor., Bedding, Dishes, Toys.
Too much to mention!

2-FAMILY GARAGE SALE
3308 45th St.
Friday 6p.m. – 9p.m.
Saturday 8a.m. – 1p.m.
Carpet, Dinette set (wood), Dresser, Bikes, Clothes (all sizes), Kitchen & household items.

2 GARAGE SALES
112 Elm & 201 Hickory
Friday & Saturday
Lots of different things. Clothes for everyone. Coats, New throw pillows & bed pillows.
Reasonable prices.

3-FAMILY GARAGE SALE
2901 Ave. Z
Saturday 8a.m. – Noon
Tires, New car seat, Infant - teen & adult clothing, Books, Jewelry, Exercise equip. & LOTS MORE!

4-FAMILY GARAGE SALE
545 Reed St.
(Hermleigh)
Saturday 8a.m. – ??
Furniture, Web-TV, Child's battery operated car.
Something for everyone!!

BIG MOVING SALE
Sat. & Sun. 7a.m. – ??
1706 N. Ave. Q
Go to Huffman, follow signs (behind CSI)
Stove , Dryer, TV, Refrigerator, Toys, Uniforms, Tools, etc.

ESTATE SALE
706 East Burnside (Rotan, TX)
Saturday 8a.m. – 4p.m.
Sunday 1p.m. – 4p.m.
Antique furniture, Old glassware, Bavaria plates, Kelly bit, Red & white quilt & much, much more!! **Don't miss it!**

FRONT YARD SALE
3004 41st St.
Saturday Only 8a.m. – ??
Name brand kid's & adult clothing, Shoes, CD's, Movies, Games, Toys & Lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE
1 mi. west of Union on Lamesa Hwy., 1/4 mi. south on CR 361
Watch for signs.
Sat. 10a.m. – ?? 573-3076
Antique secretarial desk, Furniture, Little Tykes & Step 2 toys, Large playhouse, Lawn chairs & more.

GARAGE SALE
1070 N. Ave. R
Saturday 7a.m. – ??
Romance novels, Candle holders, Small metal desk, Costume jewelry & much more!

GARAGE SALE
2200 30th St.
Saturday 7a.m. – ??
Appliances, Furniture, Sporting goods, Toys, Lots of household items, plus too much to list!!

GARAGE SALE
2693 Pleasant Hill Rd.
Saturday 8a.m. – ??
Clothes, Knick-knacks, Electric scooter and much more!

GARAGE SALE
2807 Ave. U
Saturday 8a.m. – ???
Bike, Clothes, Toys, Refrigerator & lots more!!

GARAGE SALE
2812 Ave. V (South side of house)
Friday 5p.m. – 7p.m.
Saturday 7a.m. – 11a.m.
(2) recliners, Coffee table, 21" TV, Day bed, TV stands, Toddler bed, Car seats, Cradle, Little Tykes, Children's clothing, Toys & more!

GARAGE SALE
2902 El Paso
Saturday 8a.m. – 11a.m.
Baby stuff, Toys, Bar stools, Vacuum cleaner, Bean bag, Lots more!

GARAGE SALE
3 mi. west on Lamesa Hwy., 3rd dirt road- turn right past Von Roeder Seed Farms, 2nd house on right
Saturday 7a.m. – 4p.m.
6-pc. sectional couch, Recliner, Table, Stereo, Antique chair, King-size bed frame, Hair styling chair, Salon style hair dryer, Salon style hair wash station, Piano, Ice box, Desk & lots of misc. Come & see!

GARAGE SALE
3006 39th St.
Saturday 8a.m. – 2p.m.

GARAGE SALE
3108 39th St.
Friday & Saturday
7a.m. – Noon
Mattress & box springs, Clothes, Shoes & lots more!

GARAGE SALE
3605 41st St.
Friday 5p.m. – 7p.m.
Saturday 8a.m. – Noon
Shoes, Tools, Portable welder, TV & lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE
4700 Ave. R
Friday 2p.m. – 5p.m.
Saturday 8a.m. – 5p.m.
Men's, women's & children's clothes, 15" tires, Tools, Camping equipment. Too much to list!

GARAGE SALE
904 27th St.
Saturday 8a.m. – ??
Stove, Waterbed, Clothes (all sizes), Home interior. Lots of stuff.

GARAGE SALE
Friday 8a.m. – Noon
Saturday All Day
Go to Lake JB Thomas (Southside Park) & follow signs
Riding lawn mower, Swimming pool, Clothes, Toys, Water trailer, Tires, Camping equipment, Tools, etc.

GARAGE SALE
J & K Storage #21
Ave. G
Saturday 8:30a.m. – Noon
Clothes, Home interior, Figurines, Shoes, Dishes, Lots of misc.

LARGE GARAGE SALE
4704 El Paso
Saturday 9a.m. – ??
NO EARLY BIRDS
Lots of fishing stuff: Rods, Reels, Lures, Line, Tackle Boxes; CB radios, Radios, Clothes, Lots of new toys, Stereo, DSS Satellite, Lots of misc.

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Saturday 8a.m. – Noon
Component stereo, (2) pairs of speakers, (2) 12" subs w/box, Clothes, Diamond ring, Bicycles, Nintendo, Games, Computer printer & lots more!

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Friday & Saturday
9a.m. – ??
Hot Tamales, Hamburgers, Burritos & more!

YARD SALE
1202 20th St.
Saturday 8a.m. – 2p.m.
Antique Singer sewing machine, Some furniture, Clothes, Lots of misc., Craft items. A little bit of everything.

YARD SALE
2509 48th St.
Saturday 7a.m. – ??
Stereo, Chest, Bed rails, Bike, Kid's clothes & lots more!

YARD SALE
211 Birch St.
Saturday 10a.m. – ??
Sectional couch w/foot stools, Camero parts for 1984-??.
A Little Bit of Everything!

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Good used tiller or small garden tractor. 573-4138 days or 573-1865 evenings.

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2-bedroom, furnished or unfurnished. All bills & cable paid. No pets. 573-5773.

Houses For Rent

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***209 35th** 2-1, 1-car garage, $250 mo., $100/dep.
1-888-596-6218
915-669-1452, 915-669-1501

2-1-1, fenced, corner lot. 2807 38th St. Call 573-4454.

3-2-2 house located in south Snyder, CH/A, fireplace, W/D connections. $500/mo. Available Aug. 1st. Contact Corbin at 972-841-8452.

Available July 15th
4009 Eastridge: 2-1-2, CH/A, new paint, new carpet, fenced yard. $400/mo., $200 deposit. References.
Dupree Rentals 1212 25th 573-9001

House For Rent
2 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, w/carport. 3766 Dalton $400/mo., $200/dep. 573-9567, 725-4341

Large 2-bedroom brick home at Ira available now. Deposit & references required. 573-6733, leave message.

Quaint & roomy 2bd-1bth with washer & dryer. Centrally located. $300/mo. plus deposit. References required. 573-1047

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Val Trammell - Apartment Mgr.
$99 Summer Move-In Special
Quality Living At An Affordable Price

CITY WIDE GARAGE SALE
Saturday July 20th

Plan for your City Wide Garage Sale now!!

- **Ads must be placed by noon, Wednesday, July 17,2002.**
- **Garage sale ads will be published Friday, July 19th.**
- **Use up to 30 words to describe your sale (additional words are 20¢ each)**
- **Sale ads will be grouped by location**
- **You get 4 garage sale signs**
- **Rain Insurance - If the sales gets rained out, your ad will be reprinted FREE!**

GET ALL THIS FOR $6.75
(Payment is due in advance.)

Mobile Homes

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***2404** Merrill, 2B-2B-2CP
***1909** Peyton, 2B-1½B,w/shop
***207** 30th, 3B-2B-2CP
Beginning $1000/dwn, $400/mo.
573-2251

Real Estate

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LIST your property with *homePRO REALTORS* today and **MARKET "SOLD".**

NEW! 2218 45th
3-2-FP, large living area.....$57T
1901 KSNY Dr.
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Mobile Home Site w/Privacy Fence 807 16th St.
Lrg. Home Nice Neighborhood 5-1¾ $59.5T
Shave-Ice Sno-Cone in Triangle Bldg 701 Coliseum
5 Business Shopping Complex 606 Coliseum
2 Living Areas, 3-1¾-1+2cp....2111 43rd
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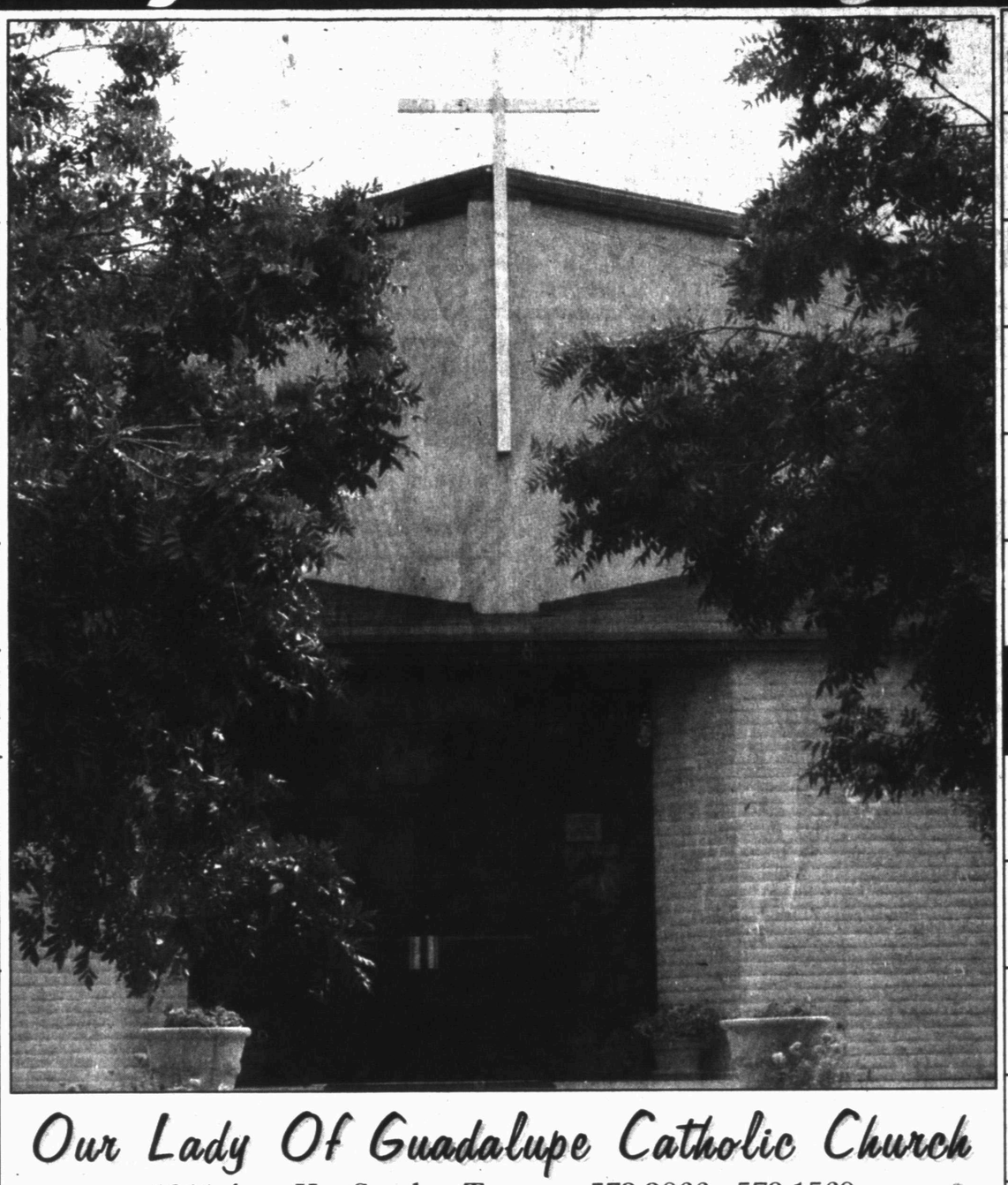

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

House mulls homeland security bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — A dozen House committees have completed work on the new Homeland Security Department President Bush wants, leaving it to a special House panel to put together one bill that reconciles some major differences with the president on the future role of such agencies as the Coast Guard and the INS.

The House Government Reform Committee, working past midnight Thursday, was the last to approve its portion of the legislation that would combine some 100 agencies with security functions, comprising some 170,000 employees, under one federal roof.

Deviating from other committee decisions, Government Reform went along with the president in including the Coast Guard, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Secret Service in the new department.

Retaining those agencies in the first new Cabinet department since Veterans Affairs in 1989, "is critical to the core mission and overall success of this new department," said committee chairman Dan Burton, R-Ind.

The focus now turns to the special panel headed by House Majority leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, who must deal with the dozens of suggested revisions to the president's proposals and meld them into one package. He said today his panel intends to complete its work by the end of next week so the full House can vote on it the following week.

The Senate also must pass its version of the legislation. Senate leaders have said they intend to act this month, although Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., has objected to that fast pace.

No new trial in church bombing case

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — A judge today rejected a request for a new trial from a former Ku Klux Klansman who was convicted of murder last year in the 1963 church bombing that killed four black girls.

Circuit Judge James Garrett issued a two-sentence order saying he was denying Thomas Blanton Jr.'s request "after considering all motions."

Blanton's attorney, John Robbins, had said he had expected the decision and planned to ask the state Court of Criminal Appeals to throw out the conviction.

Blanton was convicted in the Sept. 15, 1963, bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, a downtown rallying site for protesters seeking an end to racial segregation in the city. Another ex-Klansman, Bobby Frank Cherry, was convicted in the bombing earlier this year. Both were given life prison sentences.

One of Robbins' arguments on appeal appeared to be that prosecutors used all 16 of their jury strikes to eliminate whites from the panel and that 10 were used to eliminate white men.

Blanton was convicted by a jury made up of eight white women, three black women and one black man.

Prosecutor Doug Jones told Garrett at a recent hearing that he had "race neutral reasons" for eliminating each juror, including one who was removed "because he had a tattoo."

The defense also argued that it should not have taken nearly 38 years to bring Blanton to trial and that jurors should not have heard a tape recording secretly made by the FBI in Blanton's kitchen in 1965.

It took years to bring suspects to trial, partly because of former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's feeling that convictions could not be won at the time.

Afghan governors demand U.S. operations be cleared

AROQ, Afghanistan (AP) — In a move that could complicate U.S. efforts to move freely about the southern part of Afghanistan, six governors will require the United States to seek permission before launching military operations in their region after a U.S airstrike this month reportedly killed 48 civilians.

Gul Agha, governor of Kandahar province, said the governors also would establish a 500-member rapid deployment force to hunt for al-Qaida and Taliban fugitives in the southern region and would create a separate, 3,000-member force to guard parts of the border with Iran and Pakistan.

Agha told The Associated Press he would inform President Bush of the requirement for prior approval of combat operations when he visits Washington next week.

He said the governors of the provinces of Kandahar, Uruzgan, Helmand, Farah, Zabul and Nimroz would establish a commission to oversee the new armed forces and to sign off on any operational plans submitted by the Americans.

"We have already decided the matter," Agha said. "In the future, the Americans cannot conduct their operations without the approval of the council. They must also take Afghan forces with them."

U.S. special forces often are accompanied by Afghan fighters while searching for members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and the Taliban regime that harbored them. However, the governors want to ensure those fighters are loyal to them and not the Afghan Ministry of Defense or regional warlords who have cut deals with the Americans to support the war effort.

At the Tampa, Florida headquarters of American military commanders in charge of the war, spokesman Maj. Ralph Mills said the United States will continue its close cooperation with Afghanistan's government but drew a line at the idea that Afghans will be allowed to control operations.

"We have coordinated with the Afghan government over and over again and will continue to do so — this doesn't really change anything," said Mills, of the U.S. Central Command.

"We will continue to do what we can to coordinate, however if it's a situation of imminent danger, we are going to continue to do what we believe is right."

Obituaries

Talva Jones

1912-2002

COLORADO City — Mrs. Talva Mae "Sis" Jones of Colorado City, a former Snyder florist, died Thursday, July 11, in a Colorado City care center.

Funeral service for Mrs. Jones, 89, is set for 2 p.m. Sunday in the Kiker-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Elton Wyatt and Jim Baum will officiate. Burial will follow in the Colorado City Cemetery.

Born Oct. 9, 1912 in Mitchell County to Ruben D. and Lottie Dorn Hart, she had lived in the Mitchell and Scurry County areas all of her life.

Mrs. Jones owned and operated Colorado Floral in Colorado City and Friendly Flowers in Snyder for many years and was a charter member of the West Texas and New Mexico Florist Association. Mrs. Jones was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers and two sisters.

Survivors include a sister, Sue McCarley of Colorado City; and several nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Frankie Bridges

1940-2002

MIDLAND — Frankie Lee Bridges, the father of Frankie Bridges Jr. of Snyder, died Tuesday, July 9, in Odessa.

Funeral service for Mr. Bridges, 62, is set for 10 a.m. Saturday in the Thomas Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Dennis Hodge officiating. Burial will follow in the Fairview Cemetery.

Born Feb. 22, 1940 in Reagan, Tex., he had been a resident of Midland since 1951. A member of the Antioch Baptist Church, he was a retired chef at Midland Country Club and also was a chef at Green's Restaurant.

He was preceded in death by his parents, F.L. and Willie Mae Bridges; a son, Jimmy Ray Bridges; a sister, Jerolean Chambers; and a great-granddaughter.

Survivors include his special friend, Ollie Faye Mosley and her children; another son, Charles Bridges of Childress; two daughters, Ida Walker and Hattie Johnson, both of Midland; four sisters, Victoria McDonald and Annie Frison of Midland, Lola Washington of Arlington and Rose Lyons of Lubbock; a brother, Clyde Wayne Gary of Irving; and his stepfather, Claude Gary of Pleasant Grove.

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Largest fireworks and laser light show slated Saturday

BOSSIER CITY, La. — "Rockets red glare, bombs bursting in air" will be an understatement on Saturday when Boomtown Casino & Hotel presents Louisiana's largest fireworks display ever.

The fireworks and laser-light shows are the highlight of an outdoor festival that will be held on the grounds of Bossier City's newest and most exciting casino property.

The fireworks/laser show will be engineered by the world-famous Grucci family of New York, whose history as pyrotechnical experts dates back to 1850.

"America's First Family of Fireworks" has created displays for the 1976 bicentennial celebrations in New York and Boston, Olympic competitions in Lake Placid, NY and Los Angeles, consecutive World's Fairs in New Orleans, Knoxville, TN and Korea, centennial celebrations of the Brooklyn Bridge and the Statue of Liberty and for six consecutive presidential inaugurations from Ronald Reagan to George W. Bush.

In 1979, the Grucci Family became the first Americans to win the Gold Medal for the United States at the annual Monte Carlo International Fireworks Competition, the world's most prestigious pyrotechnic competition.

"Our outdoor festival is a celebration of our $23.5 Million investment in the community," said Boomtown General Manager Dale Darrough. "We want everyone to come experience the excitement of our new property."

Boomtown Casino and Hotel officially opened July 1, after operating nearly six years as Casino Magic. The property has undergone extensive renovations and has been re-themed to evoke the feel of the old Southwest. A landmark, 165-foot tall entrance sign greets guests with a massive video screen and changeable reader board that provides information on the goings on inside.

Woman arrested on warrant for failure to pay traffic fines

•Arrests

Deputies arrested 21-year-old woman at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at the courthouse on an outstanding warrant for failure to pay traffic fines.

At 11:47 a.m. Thursday deputies arrested a 38-year-old man in the 3200 block of Ave. L on a Midland County warrant for misdemeanor theft by check.

Troopers arrested a 23-year-old man just before 1 a.m. today on Hwy. 180 for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

•Suspicious behavior

A woman reported seeing a female juvenile shining a flashlight in vehicles at 2:43 this morning in the 3700 block of Sunset. Officers made contact with a 15-year-old female who denied looking into vehicles and she was advised to stay indoors.

•Minor accident

Officers responded to a minor mishap in the Burger King parking lot at 2:22 p.m. Thursday involving a 2002 Ford driven by Angeline Valdez, 35, of Dallas and a 1985 Pontiac driven by Bella Riggins, 41, of 700 E. 37th Street. An offense report for private property accident was submitted.

•Close patrols

Myron Fenton at 3 p.m. Thursday reported that a house had been damaged in the 1000 block of 28th Street. No report was filed and a close patrol was maintained.

Police maintained a close patrol in the area of 23rd and 24th Streets after receiving a call at 11 p.m. Thursday that several juveniles were at the storage buildings in the area.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Museum exhibit

A special exhibit of Harley-Davidson, Indian motorcycles and Cushman motor scooters continues through Aug. 22 at the Scurry County Museum on the Western Texas College campus. The free exhibit is entitled Ready To Roll and all bikes are owned by residents of Scurry County.

Medical fund

A medical fund has been established for James Weldon Buchanan at American State Bank to help with cancer treatment expenses. The account name is James Weldon Buchanan Medical Fund, #4802659.

Riley family reunion

The J.V. and Sarah Riley family reunion is Saturday at the Wagon Wheel Ranch. Friends are welcome to visit in the afternoon.

Street rally

Tell the World street rally is Saturday under the tent in Eckerd's parking lot. There will be worship music at 10 a.m., followed by puppet ministry at 11, and hot dogs at lunch. Warfare will give a concert at 1:30 p.m. There will be surprises and fun for kids, adults and rock 'n rollers. Sponsored by the Army of the Lord ministry and the Word is Life Church. Call 573-8015 for more information.

Country and gospel music

Country and gospel music will be played at the Scurry County Senior Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

Borden County reception

A reception to honor retiring educators Mickey and Shirley McMeans will beheld at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Borden County school cafeteria. The public is invited.

AARP meeting

AARP will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday for a potluck supper at the senior center. Guest speaker will be Gayle Lomax, Snyder ISD superintendent.

VFW auxiliary meeting

VFW Auxiliary Post 8231 will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the post home. All members are encouraged to attend.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "Love That Serves God," followed by "Mother."

Gateway Family Services

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

Mesquite Country Emmaus

Mesquite Country Emmasus will hold a community meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Word is Life Deliverance Church, 312 Coliseum Dr. Babe Chicks meet at 6 p.m.

Desert Reign Ministry

Desert Reign Ministry will perform at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Trinity United Methodist Church. The public is invited to hear country gospel music with a southwestern flair.

Open house

Snyder Healthcare Center will host an open house from 2 to 6:15 p.m. next Friday. Staff will provide tours of renovated facilities. There will be door prizes, entertainment and refreshments.

Girl Scout swim party

A Girl Scout swim party will be 5-7 p.m. Saturday, July 20, at Towle Park pool, followed by a hot dog supper in the park. Girl Scout membership card is required for admittance. There will be a leader meeting during the party. Contact your leader or call 573-3926 for more information.

Adventures with Paul VBS

Adventures with Paul Vacation Bible School will be from 9 a.m. until noon July 22-24 at 37th St. Church of Christ. It is for ages two years through the sixth grade. For more information, call 573-0154.

SHS class of 1992 reunion

The 1992 class of Snyder High School needs addresses for classmates. Call Melanie at 573-4022, Julie at 573-1634 or Amy at 573-4793. The reunion will be held July 20.

Head Start registration

Head Start registration will be held Aug. 5-9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children must be at least three years old and family must meet income guidelines or child must have a diagnosed disability. Birth certificate, current immunization records, Social Security Card and proof of family income are required.

Fall poetry contest

Mesquite Country Writers Guild is accepting entries for its fall poetry contest. Theme is open and there is a 20-line limit. Deadline is Aug. 15 and entry fee is $2. First prize is $50, second is $30 and third is $20. Mail entries to Yvonne Nunn, 9221 S. State Hwy 208 in Hermleigh, 79526.

Burglary, theft charges filed

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A handyman who once worked in the home of Elizabeth Smart, a 14-year-old who disappeared last month, has been charged with burglary and theft charges for allegedly stealing from his employers, police said.

Police said the charges filed against Richard Ricci on Thursday were not related to the disappearance of the teen.

Investigators have said Ricci is at the top of their list of potential suspects in Elizabeth's disappearance. But Salt Lake City Police Chief Rick Dinse said the man "has not been charged with that crime and is not the sole focus of the investigation."

Elizabeth was taken from her bedroom at gunpoint as her younger sister watched on June 5, authorities say.

On Wednesday, Ed Smart said he received a letter that he suspects may have come from someone with knowledge of his daughter's abduction. But Smart also said he could not say whether the unsigned letter, which he received Tuesday, was credible.

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Texas Briefs

Suspected victim of road rage dies

DALLAS (AP) — A former high school basketball star has died of his wounds from what police are calling a road-rage dispute.

Melvin Clemons, who attended Thomas Jefferson High School and planned to play college basketball, had spent two days in a coma since he was shot in West Dallas.

Clemons, 17, died at 8:50 p.m. Thursday at Methodist Medical Center, where relatives and friends had kept a bedside vigil.

Police said the Duncanville teenager was on his way to get a friend to play basketball Tuesday when he may have argued with or angered two men in a sport utility vehicle.

The shots were believed to have been fired from a red 1988 Chevrolet Blazer with a brown stripe along the vehicle's passenger side.

Melvin, who had planned to play basketball at Central Christian College in Kansas, led Thomas Jefferson in scoring last season with 21 points a game.

Family members described Melvin as a devoted Dallas Mavericks fan who got tickets, autographed shoes and basketballs from players.

At 5-foot-11, Melvin held on to nicknames such as "Little Black" and "Little Go."

Melvin was described Wednesday by his grandmother, Anthanette Hurd, as a "normal kid" who enjoyed eating junk food and disliked performing chores.

Man fined for shooting bald eagles

TYLER (AP) — Three East Texas men have been fined $1,000 each for shooting bald eagles, which are protected by the Eagle Protection Act and the Endangered Species, federal and state officials announced Thursday.

Delmar Hood, 73, of Murchison paid his fine on Wednesday in addition to $2,000 in restitution to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and $2,800 to Last Chance Forever, Inc., a bird-of-prey conservancy in San Antonio that treated the bird following its injury on Jan. 11, 2001.

Hood said he was shooting at some birds, trying to scare them away from his livestock. He said he shot what he thought was a hawk. Instead, it was an eagle. It is also illegal to shoot hawks, which are protected by the Migratory Bird Treat Act.

The eagle, found alive by a truck driver and rescued by a game warden, was taken to the Last Chance Forever facility. It was returned to the wild Nov. 18.

The prosecution of Hood was the second federal prosecution in the past six months.

On April 25, Parks and Wildlife agents were alerted that a bald eagle had been shot and killed, also in Henderson County.

Howard Chester Walker, 77, admitted that he thought the bird was a hawk and shot it from a tree. Officials said Walker then contacted a friend, Jimmy Thomas Mattingly, 68, who helped identify the bird and cut off a foot as a trophy.

Mother charged in death of infant

FORT WORTH (AP) — The mother of a 9-month-old boy who died after being left in a sport utility vehicle for five hours was charged Thursday with criminally negligent homicide.

Jessica Estrada, 27, surrendered to authorities Thursday and was released on $2,500 bond.

Lorenzo Rueda died Tuesday. The Tarrant County medical examiner's office has ruled the cause of death as exogenous hyperthermia.

The child was found still strapped to his infant car seat in the back of the Chevrolet Blazer where he had been left at 8:30 a.m., police spokesman Lt. Duane Paul said.

The mother of four told investigators that she arrived at the apartment complex where she worked as an assistant manager about 8:30 a.m. Tuesday. She had planned to drop her son off at a baby sitter within the complex, but became distracted after she was unable to find a parking place because workers were restripping the complex parking lot.

"By the time she finds a parking spot, it completely slipped her mind," Paul told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in Thursday's editions. "She got out of the car and went to work."

The woman discovered the baby when she went on her lunch break about five hours later to pick up another child at a summer school program.

Grounded passengers take bus home

ESPANOLA, N.M. (AP) — Two New Mexico siblings grounded in Indiana after Southwest Airlines required extra tickets because of their size came home by bus instead.

Marty McLaughlin of Espanola and his sister, Andrea Kysar of Albuquerque, arrived in Albuquerque on Wednesday after a 30-hour bus ride.

McLaughlin and Kysar have indicated they plan a lawsuit against the airline for alleged discrimination.

Southwest Airlines came under fire last month for charging overweight passengers for two tickets if they spill over into their neighbor's seat.

The Dallas-based airline has said it is trying to provide a comfortable flight for travelers seated next to large passengers. The policy has been in place since 1980.

Kysar said Tuesday she knew of the policy and checked with the airline when she booked the tickets. She said she was told at the time that she and her brother would not have to buy extra tickets.

Kysar and McLaughlin flew from Albuquerque to Indianapolis without incident last Friday for a memorial for their mother, who died recently. They were supposed to return Monday evening.

Customers who buy tickets over the phone, or on the Internet, sometimes don't tell agents they are overweight and might have a problem fitting into a seat, said Christine Turneabe-Connelly, a Southwest spokeswoman in Dallas.

The spokeswoman said the airline gave the siblings a refund for the tickets they didn't use for the return flight. The airline also apologized to the siblings for the inconvenience.

Fire destroys expensive Dallas home

DALLAS (AP) — The city's priciest home — a $44.9 million French chateau-style behemoth just down the road from billionaire Ross Perot — was destroyed in a massive blaze Thursday just weeks before its completion.

The mansion, called the Chateau Du Triomphe and listed on the Christie's auction site, burned for eight hours before firefighters were able to extinguish the blaze.

Dallas Fire Department Lt. Doug Dickerson said about 300 firefighters fought the blaze in the exclusive neighborhood of Preston Hollow but couldn't save the home. Damage was pegged at $20 million.

Four firefighters were injured as the flames erupted about 1 a.m. Thursday from the roof of the main house of the 10-acre estate. Two firefighters were treated for heat exposure, and two had minor burns when they were hit with falling debris.

"This is one of the largest house fires that we've had," Dickerson said. "It's more like a commercial structure. It's more like the size of a Wal-Mart than a house."

The home, along Dallas' "Billionaire Row," had never been occupied.

Dickerson said it was too early to say if the fire, which appeared to have started in the attic of the main house, was a work of arson or an accident.

Arson investigators at the scene met with building contractors and property owners, snapping pictures, examining building plans and taking notes as they surveyed the damage.

Nearby, a smoking timber jutted from the house like a lit cigarette, the tip occasionally flickering with flame. Firefighters in the house aimed their water hoses at the floors, blasting smoky, blackened debris through the shattered windows and onto the ground below.

Deputy Chief Mike Price said the house had a sprinkler system, although it was unclear if it was working yet. Numerous fire extinguishers distributed throughout the home were in place for use by construction crews, he said.

Dickerson said he did not know how long the investigation would take.

"There's a lot of work to be done. The fire cause is just beginning," Dickerson said. "They're going to go in very open-minded and consider all possibilities."

Authorities said they learned of the fire when a security guard reported seeing thick smoke coming from the front of the house.

According to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, the property was owned by Texas Treasure Fields, Inc. and was just weeks from completion. Construction began in 1995, and it had been listed for sale with New York's Christie's auction house, said Steve Malouf, attorney for the owner.

The main house, a 43,000-square-foot, three-story structure, had an Olympic-size swimming pool, two master baths with custom marble tubs carved in Italy from a single block of Carrera marble, a wine cellar with a tasting room, a garage for 16 cars with an indoor car-washing facility, 30 air conditioning units and other features.

There also was a 17,000-square-foot basement, plus a 2,448-square-foot gatehouse.

The realty agency representing the property, Adleta and Poston Realtors, did not immediately return calls seeking comment.

Malouf said it remains to be seen if the house, which was insured, will have to be razed or can be rebuilt.

Along with Perot, other high-profile neighbors include restaurateur Phil Romano and former Dallas Stars owner Norm Green, who lives next door.

Faye Reynolds, a 25-year resident of the neighborhood, said the area was among the most desirable for the wealthy of Dallas.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Biker's injury is a health concern

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am 35, healthy and an avid bicyclist. I usually ride about 100 miles a week. Recently, I've been bothered by an annoying symptom: Near the end of each ride, my penis becomes numb. Is this something that should concern me?

DEAR READER: Without question.

The nerves and arteries to the penis enter the organ in the soft tissues at the base of the gland in precisely the location where the horn of the typical bicycle seat exerts the most pressure. Penile numbness is a warning that permanent damage may be occurring. If untreated, this damage will lead to sexual problems, including erectile dysfunction.

When we sit, most of our weight is born on the ischial tuberosities, the "sit bones" in our bottoms. This is the normal situation and is entirely safe. Unfortunately, most cyclists use bicycle saddles that are not wide enough to support the tuberosities; hence the riders end up literally straddling the bike, with resulting unacceptable pressure on the delicate nerves and blood vessels that supply the penis. (The same holds true for improper seats on stationary bicycles.)

No one doubts that bicycling provides huge health benefits, with respect to cardiovascular conditioning and just plain enjoyment. More than 130 million Americans bike; the activity is appropriate for any age, year round, indoors or outside. However, penile damage is a serious concern of which most riders are unaware. This important health issue was recently reviewed in Focus on Sexual Health Medicine, Winter-Spring 2002.

Experts caution all male bicycle riders to become aware of the potential risks of the activity, to stop riding immediately if penile numbness occurs and to change to a wider, more comfortable saddle, such as the Super Saddle. For more information about the Super Saddle, contact ABS Sports, Inc. They can be reached by telephone at (609) 371-1554, by fax at (609) 371-7133 and online at http://www.abs-sports.com.

A NOTE TO READERS: For an updated and revised Health Report on "Diabetes Mellitus," send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to mention the title. Also, be on the lookout for more updated Health Reports.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am 77 and, following prostate surgery, developed urinary incontinence; I leak at inappropriate times. Because I am on a limited income, I choose not to take medication. Would a penile prosthesis correct the problem?

DEAR READER: I doubt it. However, I do not know the cause of your incontinence, so cannot answer your question with certainty. Perhaps the remaining portion of prostate gland is affecting your control. Or maybe the surgery somehow damaged the sphincter muscles that control urine excretion, an unusual but recognized complication of some prostate operations.

To shed light on this unfortunate condition, you should return to your urologist for an examination and testing, including cystometrics, a technique to assess bladder function.

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White, automatic, V-8, 90,000 miles

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Red, 4X4, solid SUV
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Silverado, 454 V-8, cruise, tilt, cloth bench seats
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Reg. Cab, automatic, 350 V-8, A/C, cruise, tilt

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