PROOF SHEET FOR AD 780
SS SOUTHWEST MICRO
PAID IN 2000?

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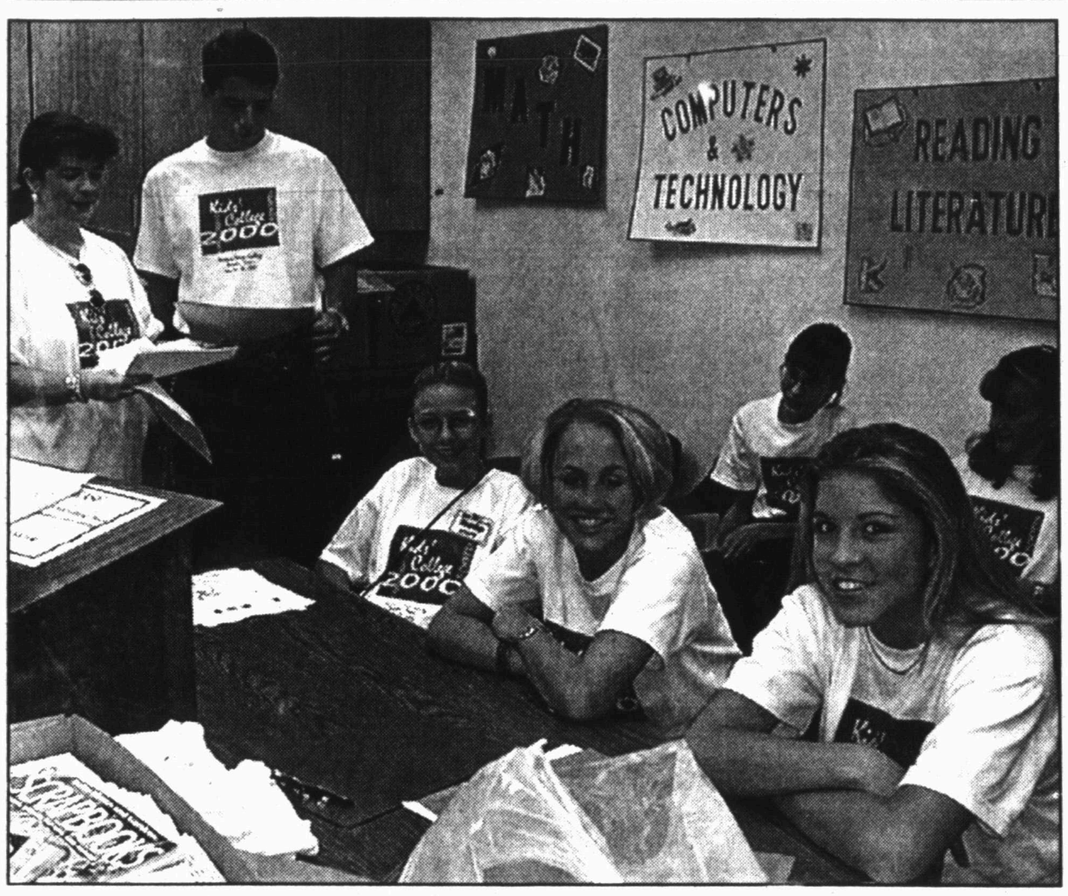
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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY

June 12, 2000
Vol. 52 No. 37
10 Pages 50¢

Home Of Liffin Molter



LAST MINUTE PREPARATION — Staff orientation was underway this morning at Western Texas College for Kids College. The T-shirts were designed by Ben Sum, instructor at WTC. Shown from left are Liffin Molter, director; Reid Johnson, magic; Nikki Timora, staff assistant; Bailey Stoker, cheerleading; Kasey Crill, cheerleading; and in back, Jamie and Mikanna Herring, assistants. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

SISD trustees to open bids on cooling tower for high school plant

Several personnel items on agenda

Action to make class attendance at Snyder High School more bearable during sweltering temperatures is on tonight's Snyder ISD board agenda at 6 o'clock.

Trustees will look at bids for the purchase of a new cooling tower at the high school.

The present cooling tower is approximately 20 years old.

Three bids have been received with the lowest being $30,400 from Mulltex Mechanical Inc. of Abilene. Other bids were for $46,824 and $50,413.

Trustees will also consider yearly changes to the student code of conduct handbook, and formally act on the contracts of Nancy Schaap as assistant principal at Snyder Junior High School, Brad Wikse as high school tennis coach, and Donnie Reston as the SHS band director.

Schaap is a graduate of Texas Tech and Wayland Baptist University, and she has been teaching in Abernathy since 1991.

Wikse is a graduate of Angelo State University and has been employed by the U.S. Tennis Association for the past two years. He has also been the tennis pro at Mission Country Club in Odessa and the Midland Racquet Club.

Reston, also a graduate of Angelo State University, has been the band director in Seminole for the past six years. He has also directed bands in Seagraves, and was the Snyder Junior High band director from 1985-1989.

The board will also act on the resignations of several teachers and staff members.

The administration has received letters of resignation from Kathy Moore, Central Elementary third grade teacher; Ashley Pitner, elementary counselor; Susan Stowe, diagnostician; Paula Howard, Central Elementary music teacher; Gust Witt, SJHS band director; Kathy Conring, elementary counselor; and Jerry Conring, vocational agriculture instructor.

Trustees will also appoint a delegate to the Texas Association of School Board meeting in Houston, and hear the preliminary TAAS results.

Cathy Peoples also will be sworn-in as a trustee. She was appointed last month to fill the unexpired term of the late Bill Moss.

New board member to be seated at WTC

The Western Texas College board of trustees will have a number of personnel items to consider when it convenes at 7 this evening.

But prior to the business portion of the meeting, new board member Scott Richburg will be sworn in, and the board will vote on officers for the coming year.

Presently, Dr. Jay Kidd serves as president.

Richburg defeated Dr. James Hanks in a run-off election Thursday for the spot held since the college opened by R. C. Patton. Patton did not run this year.

The board also is expected to ratify the employment of Jim Clifton as dean of student services, and Pam Murray as director of human resources.

The board also is expected to ratify the contract of Wade Hatter as the pro shop director.

Other contracts to be considered include that of Edward Petty as the correctional officer training instructor to replace J. D. Barham who has resigned to begin teaching in Weatherford.

Another contract is for Matt Rose as an English instructor. The board will also consider the promotion in rank of Duffy Wilks to associate professor.

Trustees will also hear a proposal concerning an assistant coach for the rodeo team.

In new business, the board will be presented the small class report, and it will consider a revision of board policy relating to security clearance for employees.

The board will also get its first look at the proposed budget at tonight's meeting.

In other informational items, the board will hear pre-bid information on new carpet for various offices and classrooms, and review expenses related to the college golf team's recent trip to the national tournament in Dothan, Ala.

Trustees also will review fees charged at the campus golf course, and hear the enrollment report for summer school.

The meeting will be held in the college board room.

Court tables opening bids on road machinery

Not an agenda item, but audit presented

By Joyce May
SDN Staff Writer

Scurry County Commissioners' Court this morning tabled action on bids for a vibratory compaction roller to allow time to determine if there is a need to purchase the equipment.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Ralph Trevey made the motion to table action on the bids and Precinct 3 Commissioner Howard Limmer seconded his motion.

Limmer explained that during the reclaiming project on Round Top Road, which is a joint venture between precincts 3 and 4, it was noticed that a grid roller appeared to be performing better than a compactor.

"We were running a grid roller right beside the compactor and we thought the grid roller was doing a better job," Limmer noted.

Limmer said, however, that the reclaiming application done on Roundtop Road is rarely used.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Roy Idom said he recently leased a compactor for a caliche road job and it worked well for that application.

"We want a fair comparison," Limmer said.

Therefore, he explained, a compactor would be leased for a week when the two precincts begin putting caliche on Round Top Road next week.

"We will lease it for one week and give it a fair test," Limmer said. "The caliche application will give us the information needed to make a better educated decision on whether to purchase another used compactor."

The motion passed unanimously. The two bids received will remain sealed until a future court meeting.

The item was not listed on the county's agenda, but representatives from Condley and Company, LLP of Abilene presented the court with the annual audit of the county and Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Both were determined to be "clean audits" with no problems found. Commissioners did not discuss the item and did not take any action, which is normal for the first presentation of the audit, according to Judge Ricky Fritz.

The audit also will be listed on a future agenda for discussion and approval by the court.

In other business, the court approved four line-item transfers and one budget amendment.

A transfer was granted for the Scurry County Airport, moving $500 from equipment into operating supplies.

The court also granted a $215 transfer for the juvenile probation department, moving the funds from equipment into other equipment.

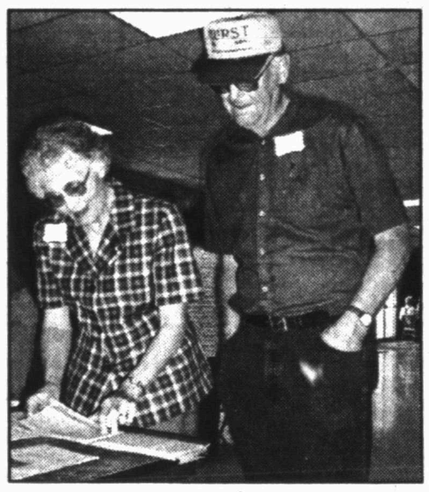
For Precinct 2, a $5,000 transfer was approved. The money will be moved from the capital outlay line into the machine hire line for the rental of a compactor.

A line-item transfer in the amount of $3,625 was approved for the tax office, moving the funds from the supplies line to the equipment line.

The one budget amendment was for the juvenile probation department, adding $1,750 to the budget for the department's auditing expense. The bills were also approved for payment.

Fritz presided and all commissioners were present, to include Trevey, Limmer, Idom and Chloanne Lindsey.





Large crowd attends Fluvanna Homecoming 2000

HOMECOMING — In the top photo, Alice Boatman Autrey of Amarillo (left) and Maggie Boatman Autrey of Canadian register for the Fluvanna 2000 Homecoming. In the right photo, Rona Sikes (left) and Silas Flournoy look over a Fluvanna basketball scorebook from 1929 for a game in which Flournoy's and Sikes' fathers played. (SDN Staff Photos)

Snyder captures national crown

Snyder is the home of a national champion for Girls' Little Dribblers.

The Snyder Major All-Stars held off Bryan in overtime Saturday, 31-29, to capture the title of the Girls' Little Dribblers National Tournament.

For the complete story on the championship run, see Page 5.

ASK US

Q—Are all of the city's paid firemen going to be given the opportunity to apply for the position of Snyder fire marshal?

A—A fire marshal has to be certified as a peace officer, and at this time only one local fireman has the certification.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 87 degrees; low, 68; high Sunday, 87; low, 70; 7 a.m. Monday, 70; no precipitation; total for 2000, 11.27 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, mostly cloudy; 20% storm chance; low 65-70; SE wind 5-15 mph; Tuesday, partly cloudy; 30% storm chance; high upper 70s.



Kira Bilano
Partly Cloudy

Sunset:
8:49 p.m.
Sunrise:
6:40 a.m.

Of 163 days in 2000, the sun has shone 160 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Whatever you are, be a good one.

JUN 12 2000

Trial system said 'seriously flawed'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two-thirds of death penalty cases that were appealed from 1973 through 1995 were successful, report researchers who contend the nation's capital punishment system is "collapsing under the weight of its own mistakes."

A study of 4,578 appeals during those years showed that most cases "are so seriously flawed that they have to be done over again," said Columbia University law professor James Liebman, the lead author.

"It's not one case, it's thousands of cases. It's not one state, it's almost all of the states," Liebman said in an interview. "You're creating a very high risk that some errors are going to get through the process."

The study comes at a time of increased debate over capital punishment.

Earlier this year, Republican Gov. George Ryan of Illinois imposed a moratorium on capital punishment in his state after 13 death row inmates were exonerated. Texas Gov. George W. Bush recently approved his first 30-day reprieve in a death penalty case — to allow time for DNA testing — after permitting 131 executions.

But public support for capital punishment remains high. A Gallup Poll in February showed 66 percent back the use of death sentences, down somewhat from Gallup polls during the 1990s that showed support ranging from 71 percent to 80 percent.

The Columbia study said only 5 percent of the 5,760 death sentences imposed from 1973 through 1995 were carried out.

The study, written with professor Jeffrey Fagan and graduate student Valerie West, examined 4,578 death penalty cases in which at least one round of appeals was completed. Of those cases, a state or federal court threw out the conviction or death sentence in 68 percent of the cases.

"Our 23 years worth of findings reveal a capital punishment system collapsing under the weight of its own mistakes," the study said.

Richard Dieter of the Death Penalty Information Center, a group critical of how capital punishment is administered, said, "It's amazing how many mistakes are being made. ... Those supporting the death penalty might look at it and say this isn't getting us anywhere."

Dudley Sharp of Justice for All, a Houston-based victims' rights organization, said, "We all know that these cases get the closest scrutiny imaginable. ... All systems can be improved and the death penalty is certainly one of those systems." But, he added, there has been no proof of an innocent person being executed in the past century.

The study said the rates of reversals varied widely from state to state and among federal appellate circuits.

Texas, which executed 104 people during the study period, showed 52 percent of its death penalty cases reversed on appeal. Florida, which executed 36 people, had a 73 percent reversal rate.

On the other hand, Virginia, which executed 29 people, had a reversal rate of only 18 percent. The study suggested that may be partly due to Virginia's strict limits on appeals in death penalty cases and the overall low reversal rate in the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which hears appeals from that state.

Liebman said the 68 percent reversal rate appears to have come down some since 1995. A second study to be released later this year is expected to look at those numbers, as well as the reasons why death penalty convictions are thrown out.

The main reasons appear to be incompetent defense lawyering and misconduct by prosecutors, the Columbia study said.

Capital punishment resumed in 1977 after a Supreme Court-imposed moratorium, and 313 people were executed by the end of 1995. In recent years, the Supreme Court and Congress have acted to speed up death penalty reviews in federal courts, and there have been 642 executions to date.

On the Net: The study, after 12:01 a.m. EDT Monday: http://www.thejusticeproject.org

Date Book

Monday, June 12, 2000
Today is the 164th day of 2000 and the 85th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1825, President John Quincy Adams went skinny dipping in the Potomac River. He nearly drowned and had to be rescued.

On this day in 1964, Nelson Mandela and seven others were sentenced by a South African court to life in prison for sabotage.

On this day in 1991, Boris Yeltsin was elected president of the Russian Federation.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Sir Anthony Eden (1897-1977), British prime minister; George Bush (1924-), U.S. president, is 76; Vic Damone (1928-), singer, is 72; Jim Nabors (1933-), actor-singer, is 67; Marv Albert (1943-), sportscaster, is 57; Ally Sheedy (1962-), actress, is 38.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1939, the Baseball Hall of Fame opened in Cooperstown, N.Y.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "If you've broken the eggs, you should make the omelette" — Anthony Eden, on the Suez Crisis

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (June 8) and full moon (June 16).

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East Field Day Fun



Boys running in the 100 meter run are from left Ricardo Perez, Fabian Contreras, Cody Burney, Juan Hildago.

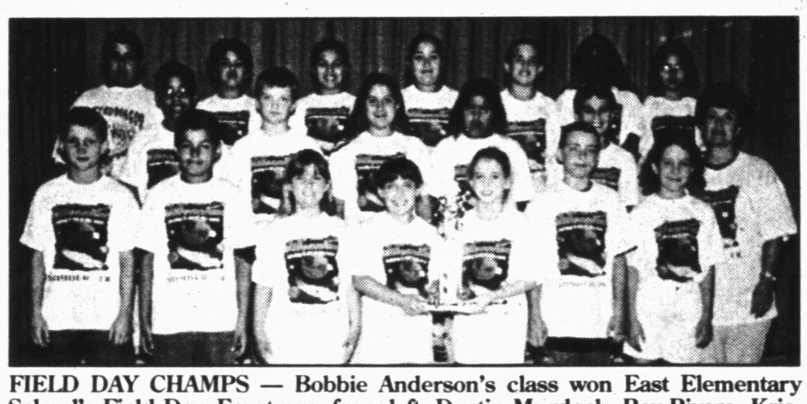


Girls running the 50 yard dash are from left, Virginia Rivera, Houston Flores, Megan Velasquez, Casey Loveall.

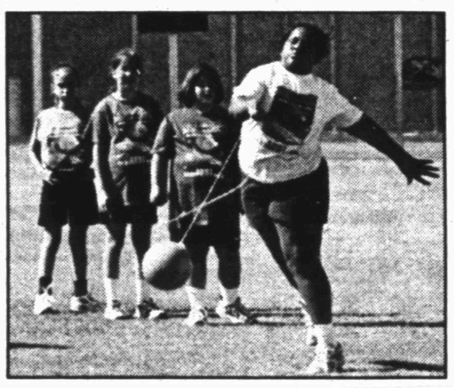




Ashley Farquahar tosses the Frisbee while Rachel Scott waits her turn. In the photo at right, Brandee Harbin competes in the long jump.



FIELD DAY CHAMPS — Bobbie Anderson's class won East Elementary School's Field Day. Front row, from left, Dustin Murdock, Roy Rivera, Kristen Miller, Destinee Naegele, Aaren Walker, Eldon Morris, Devin Brown, Bobbie Anderson; middle row, Will Clay, Tyler McCormack, Vallie Foreman, Marcy Carrillo, Corey Jaramillo; top row, Williams Ornelas, Eliseo Medrano, Angela Alamanza, Brittany Hernandez, Blane Knipe, Cassie McDonald, Josie Torres. (Staff Photo By Joyce May)



Rachel Scott tries her hand at the hammer throw while Michele Yruegas, Alayna Alexander and Allison Cox, from left, wait their turn.

Photos By Joyce May

Some physicians oppose death penalty

CHICAGO (AP) — With new medical technology reshaping the debate over capital punishment, a group of public health physicians hopes the American Medical Association will seek a national moratorium on executions.

The American Association of Public Health Physicians argues all executions should be stopped until questions about the death penalty system — including the availability of DNA evidence — are resolved.

"The possibility exists that in several states innocent individuals may be executed because medical technology will not be made available in time to prevent their death," says a resolution by the association.

The resolution was prepared for the policy-making arm of the AMA, the nation's largest doctors group. On Monday, it was expected to be considered by a committee, which could refer it to the 550 AMA delegates for a vote later this week during its annual meeting.

The AMA has addressed other social issues in recent years, including coming out against physician-assisted suicide and tobacco use. Its own code of medical ethics states that "a physician, as a member of a profession dedicated to preserving life when there is hope of doing so, should not be a participant in a legally authorized execution."

Capital punishment has come under increased scrutiny, particularly in Texas, which has executed more people than any other state, and in Illinois, where Gov. George Ryan imposed a moratorium on executions.

Ryan's decision earlier this year came in light of the 13 death row inmates who were cleared and released since the state restored capital punishment in 1977.

The resolution asks the AMA to express support for Ryan's moratorium and those proposed by other legislators, and to recommend the nationwide halt to the National Governor's Association.

Earlier this month, Texas Gov. George W. Bush granted a 30-day reprieve in a scheduled execution to allow for DNA tests.

On Sunday, the Chicago Tribune reported that dozens of Texas inmates have been executed during Bush's administration despite defenses marred by unreliable evidence, disbarred or suspended defense attorneys and questionable psychiatric testimony.

Bush defended his record, saying Texas has "adequately answered innocence or guilt" in its death penalty cases.

On the Net:
American Association of Public Health Physicians: http://www.aaphp.org
American Medical Association: http://www.ama-assn.org

New York police urged to boycott concert

NEW YORK (AP) — There will be plenty of police on hand Monday for the opening night of Bruce Springsteen's 10-concert stand at Madison Square Garden.

But the officers not on duty are being urged by their union, the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, to boycott the concert and not attend on their own.

A Springsteen song inspired by last year's police slaying of an unarmed West African immigrant in the Bronx has prompted a call for a boycott of his concerts by the police union.

Amadou Diallo, 22, was hit by 19 bullets and killed in the vestibule of his apartment building. The four officers involved in the shooting were acquitted of murder in February.

Springsteen's unrecorded and unreleased song, first performed in Atlanta a week ago, opens with the words "41 shots, 41 shots" — the number of bullets fired at Diallo.

It includes the line, "You can get killed just for living in your American skin."

"I happen to like Springsteen," Officer Orlando Vega told the Daily News. "But we're trying to work in this community, and him opening up old wounds just makes our jobs more difficult."

A Springsteen spokesman had no comment last week on the new song or its inspiration.

Normal hairstyles needed on show

RADNOR, Pa. (AP) — Sarah Jessica Parker says the actresses on her HBO show "Sex and the City" can't have impossible 'dos — they have to have hairstyles that a normal woman could wear.

"The hair rules are, if you can't do it yourself, you can't do it," Parker said in the June 17 issue of TV Guide.

The actress has other rules — "no scrunchies, no butterfly clips, no hair ornaments of any kind, period."

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Message sent by car ads is offensive to safe drivers

DEAR ABBY: I was pleased to see the letter in your column referring to the commercial showing two "ladies" driving aggressively to get a parking space ahead of each other. The third time we saw it, my husband and I decided to disconnect the television cable.

Whatever happened to "let others go first" and "do unto others as you would have them do unto you"? How can I teach my grandchildren to be polite when selfishness is presented as "sport"?

I refuse to buy a vehicle from a company that uses such advertising, even if it means keeping my old car. — **ANN VANCE, GREENWOOD, MISS.**

DEAR ANN: The writer of that letter was Valerie Rivard. Her letter struck a chord with many people. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are professional freight truck drivers. When a new auto ad comes on the air, we know we will see that kind of driving within 24 to 48 hours. People seem to think that if the driver in an ad can drive that way, they can, too. Because it didn't happen in the commercial, they fail to take into account that their reckless driving could cause a crash! We see it all the time.

One ad showed a car pushing through three big rigs as it came on the highway, cutting off at least one of them and almost sideswiping another. The driver in the ad gets away with it! What kind of example does that set for teen-agers and new drivers?

Please, everyone: Drive in a defensive, courteous, legal, professional manner. The result will be safe and happy roads for all. — **HENRY A. PASCOE, HARP TRANSPORT INC., SNOHOMISH, WASH.**

DEAR HENRY: Hear, hear! Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Being a teen-ager myself, I can tell you that commercials for "fast" cars do not encourage me to drive fast. They are meant only to show the maneuverability of the vehicles. Some people actually drive off-road for a living and appreciate a car that can perform sharp turns.

I do not believe that these commercials send subliminal messages to make young drivers drive faster or recklessly. Anyone of any age can drive fast and irresponsibly. — **TIFFANY IN WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS**

DEAR TIFFANY: I agree that anyone of any age can have a lead foot and drive recklessly. Unfortunately, too many people do. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I see many SUV and car commercials portraying vehicles driving off-road, driving through streams and nature. This is an irresponsible message to send to people. Off-road driving is extremely destructive to our environment. Why can't car companies promote good citizenship while they market their cars? — SICK OF SUVS IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR SICK: Good point; good question. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I have also become angry while watching those ads. Driving is portrayed as a competitive blood sport. To even suggest that there is something "glamorous" about ignoring traffic regulations and common civility borders on the criminal.

What can we do to get auto manufacturers and their ad agencies to stop contributing to the anarchy and carnage on the roads? Would a letter-writing campaign to car companies and their ad agencies be of any use? How about a boycott of the most irresponsible manufacturers? — **MAD IN ATLANTA**

DEAR MAD: I can think of no more effective way to communicate that message than by opening one's pen and closing one's checkbook.

**

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 $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby's "Keepers," P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 06-12-00
♠ 10 3
♥ K Q J 7 5 4 3
♦ 8
♣ Q 8 6

West
♠ 9 8 7 5
♥ 10 9 8 6
♦ 5
♣ A 7 3 2

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

South
♠ A J 6
♥ ---
♦ A K Q J 10 7 4
♣ J 9 4

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: North

South	West	North	East
		2 ♥	Dbl.
3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠ 9

Monday, June 12, 2000

More bridge from reality

By Phillip Alder

During the month of April, I ran a duplicate in Hobe Sound, Fla. One day, due to a clash with a major golf tournament at the club, we had only five-and-a-half tables, half the normal turnout. That meant a good 30-minute sit-out for one pair each round. So, we called Anne Chatham to ask if she would be willing to partner me. Anne arrived in time for the second round. This was our first board out of the slot.

North should have opened three hearts. If you are holding an excellent seven-bagger, start with a three-bid (or sometimes a four-bid, especially when nonvulnerable against vulnerable opponents).

Over my takeout double, I think South should have shut her eyes and jumped to three no-trump. She has eight tricks, and a decent partner will produce number nine. Note that that contract can be made.

Four diamonds was too high when Anne led the spade nine. After winning my queen with her ace, declarer drew trumps; Anne discarded an encouraging club seven and two of her useless hearts. Now came a spade to dummy's 10; I won with the king and exited safely with a spade.

This left declarer to broach the clubs herself, and she couldn't win. If she played low to dummy's eight, I would win with the 10. If she led low to the queen, I would win with the king and switch to the heart ace. Yet when South tried the club jack from hand, my partner won with the ace and played another club, giving me two more tricks in the suit for one down.

With a long minor, always think three no-trump.

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RIBBON CUTTING — Scifres Tire and Auto Inc. owners George and Shirley Scifres were welcomed to the Snyder Chamber of Commerce last Thursday with a ribbon cutting hosted by Snyder Goldcoats. They also received a plaque denoting their membership. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Girl trampled to death at party as hundreds flee fight

DALLAS (AP) — A teen-age girl was trampled to death at a weekend party at bowling lanes when several hundred revelers fled from Mace used by security officers to break up a fight.

Mayere Tilmon fell down stairs at Don Carter's All Star Lanes-West about midnight Sunday while running from the altercation at an upstairs area leased for a party, Dallas police said. Three other partygoers were injured.

Tilmon, 15, was taken to Parkland Memorial Hospital where she was pronounced dead. Her death was ruled as accidental by the Dallas County medical examiner, who listed the cause as traumatic asphyxia.

"We're investigating this to see if there are any possible criminal charges," police Sgt. Larry Lewis, a homicide-unit supervisor, told The Dallas Morning News in Monday's editions. "Right now, the incident is an accidental death, so we're looking at the events surrounding this accident."

The three witnesses who were hurt were also taken to Parkland. But Dallas police said their injuries were not life-threatening.

Tilmon's mother, Marietta Allen, said her daughter's asthma may have led to an attack that caused her to fall under the stampeding students.

Lewis said homicide detectives are investigating the death to determine whether a criminal act occurred. But police had not determined exactly how many people attended the party or how many were fighting.

Off-duty Dallas County constables and Dallas Area Rapid Transit officers working at the northwest-side bowling alley tried to break up the fight, police said. But partygoers assaulted the officers, and one of the officers sprayed mace for protection and to end the fight.

If detectives can determine who assaulted the officers, charges will be filed, said Lewis. He said detectives interviewed several witnesses on Sunday from the bowling alley, which police and Tilmon's family called a popular teen hangout.

Two people who had leased the bowling alley space were arrested for operating a dance hall without a license. But Lewis said no one who worked at the bowling alley was detained.

An honor roll student, Tilmon had just finished her sophomore year at MacArthur High School in Irving and excelled in math and science. She had planned to become a mechanical engineer and was looking forward to her 16th birthday next month, relatives said.

"She was my world. I had nothing else. I have nothing," Allen said Sunday.

No strike; workers approve contract

DALLAS (AP) — After successful 11th-hour negotiations with Fort Worth-based Bell Helicopter Textron Inc., assembly workers Sunday accepted a new contract and avoided a strike scheduled for midnight.

Members of Local 218 of the United Aerospace Workers overwhelmingly accepted the company's final contract offer 1,946 to 225, said union president J.J. Birchard.

"We think we satisfied our members, and the work force will calm down. We have a lot of projects we need to work on and keep, and I think this will do it," Birchard said.

The Fort Worth plant is home to the V-22 Osprey and the H-1 helicopter upgrade program.

Under the contract, which goes into effect Monday, workers will receive 3-percent increases in general wages each June until 2002 and a signing bonus of $1,700 on June 23.

The union also won a 25-percent increase in monthly pension rates from $37 to $46 per year of service. For example, 20-year employees who retire on or after Sept. 1 will see their monthly retirement checks increase from $740 to $920.

Retirement issues led the union's concerns because the average age of workers at the site is about 55, due to a defense industry buildup decades ago when hiring was necessary to produce Cobra and Huey helicopters for the Vietnam War.

"This is a critical period at Bell Helicopter as we begin production of the V-22 Osprey and development of the H-1 helicopter upgrade program," P.D. Shabay, Bell's executive vice president for administration, said in a statement Sunday. "The signing of this contract today allows Bell to continue these important programs with no work stoppage, and that is a significant achievement for our customers and employees."

With the vote, Bell avoided joining a number of aerospace companies that have faced strikes from workers demanding more benefits because of the booming economy.

Prince Charles' art to be displayed

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles and Saudi Prince Khalid Al-Faisal will bring a touch of royalty to the art world this week.

The princes, both amateur artists, will open a joint exhibition of their paintings in London, aides said Sunday.

Titled "Painting and Patronage," it features 30 recent watercolors by Charles and 26 oil paintings by the Saudi prince.

The exhibition will run June 16-21 at the Banqueting House in Whitehall, near the Houses of Parliament, and will be shown in Saudi Arabia next year.

Charles and Prince Khalid, son of the late King Faisal bin Abdul Aziz, have known each other for many years and share interests in the arts and in painting.

Charles, who periodically makes solitary painting trips to rural Britain or abroad, has completed more than 450 works since the early 80s.

The exhibition will include Charles' new landscapes of Scotland, Provence, Greece and Turkey, as well as two views of mountain scenery in Asir.

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Three killed in train and van accident

MIDLAND (AP) — A Midland man, his wife and 11-year-old son were all killed when the van they were riding in was struck by a train.

The driver, 44-year-old Daniel Martinez, and his son, Matthew died in the accident on Saturday afternoon, the Midland Reporter-Telegram reported.

Early Sunday, 37-year-old Debbie Martinez died at Midland Memorial Hospital.

The sole surviving member of the family is 13-year-old Zachary Martinez, who also had been a passenger in the van.

Zachary escaped serious injury. A fifth passenger, family friend Jesse Pena, 13, of Odessa, is also expected to make a full recovery.

Eyewitnesses said that although the train sounded its horn a number of times, the driver apparently did not see the train. The train struck the front part of the van, spinning it around and over.

Evelyn Gould, who has led a campaign to increase the number of crossing guards at railroad intersections, said the tragedy might speed up the process by which transportation officials address the lack of proper safety features at city railway crossings.

Gould successfully lobbied the Midland City Council and the Texas Department of Transportation to pursue funding for crossing gates in the city. Although the money has now been earmarked, they have yet to be installed. Gould's neighbor, Bill Walker, was killed Jan. 27 in a van-train accident.

Debbie Martinez had been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis eight years ago, and her disease had been growing progressively worse, family members said. She was confined to a wheelchair and required daily in-home assistance.

"My brother was very dedicated to his boys and his wife," said Daniel Martinez' sister, Ginny Martinez.

—

Colorado is the 38th state.

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BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Easter flowers
7 Leo's son
13 Nome's place
14 Put into a container
15 Distasteful
16 College in Poughkeepsie, New York
17 View
18 "Cycle" start
20 Drone
21 Tree-covered areas
25 Dyed
28 Make amends
32 Bedeck
33 More pallid
34 Crystal-containing stone
35 Iron
36 Restaurant patron
37 Repeat
39 TV series about the Carringtons
41 Elsie, e.g.
44 Uncle
45 — and saucer
48 Legally obligated
51 Become fond of (2 wds.)
54 United
55 Two- — (small car)
56 Stockings
57 Writer Hemingway

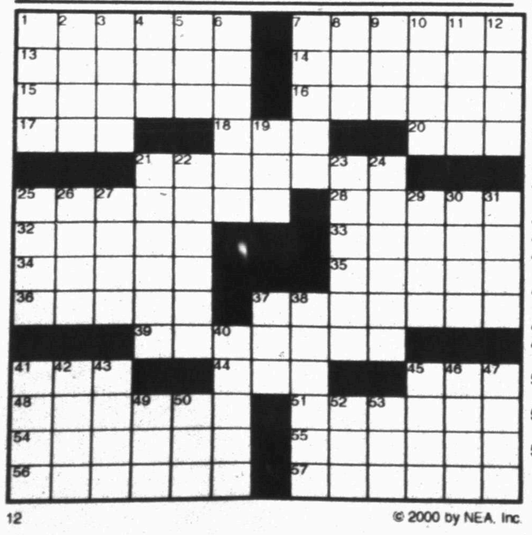
DOWN

1 Science rooms
2 Tennis player Nastase
3 Tardy
4 "Social" end
5 — out (use thriftily)
6 Author Jean-Paul —
7 Jeans trademark
8 Two peas — — pod
9 Mil. school
10 Poet Ogden —
11 Jacob's sibling
12 Semester
19 Like beets
21 Crossed a river
22 Cantankerous
23 Machine part
24 Astral
25 Zoo home
26 Music halls
27 Stolen property
29 Genus of olive trees
30 Bird's home
31 Scottish-Gaelic
37 "I think, therefore, — —"
38 Sleeping-sickness fly
40 Requires
41 Highlands group
42 Greasy
43 Room part
45 Order of whales
46 Southwestern Indians
47 Dock
49 Life story, for short
50 Bernstein's nickname
52 — Lingus (airline)
53 Between Colo. and Mo.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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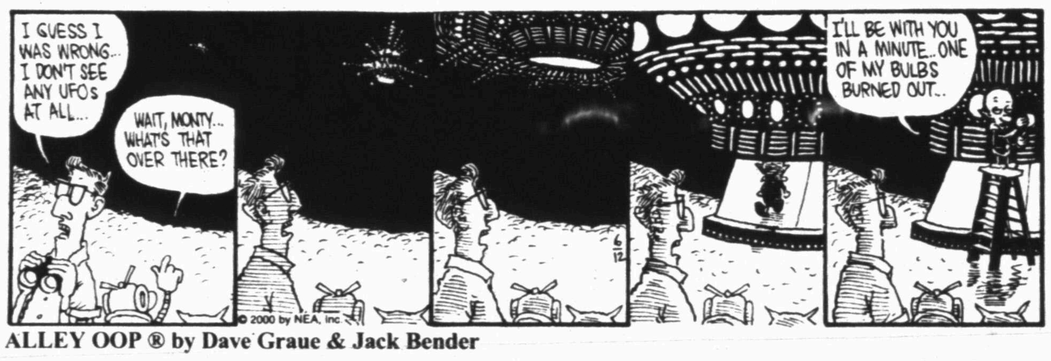
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Snyder Daily News Comics

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"MOM'S GOT IT MADE. WHILE DAD GOES OFF TO WORK, SHE GETS TO STAY HOME."

SPORTS

Snyder Major All-Stars capture national crown

LEVELLAND — They had to hold off an old nemesis in their first game on Saturday, then put in some extra work in their second contest, but Snyder's Major All-Stars walked off the court as national champions.

Snyder edged out Bryan in overtime, 31-29, to capture the title of the Girls' Little Dribblers National Tournament. It was the second national crown for the Snyder girls in the Major Division.

The local squad had to advance through the losers' bracket after falling to Levelland in the third round.

But Snyder eliminated Levelland with a 27-26 victory in the semifinals to earn a shot at the title.

In the championship game, Snyder drained four free throws in the extra session, and limited Bryan to only one bucket to secure the two-point win.

Sequoya Powell, who finished with a game-high 12 points, dropped in two free throws in overtime, with Breanna Talavera sinking the other two.

Snyder trailed, 8-4, after the first quarter, before grabbing a 14-12 advantage at the break.

Bryan regained a one-point lead in the third quarter, followed by a Snyder rally to tie it in the fourth.

Powell and Terann Ragland poured in four points apiece in the fourth period, and Sirena Medrano added two more, to knot the tally at 29-29, heading into overtime.

Medrano finished with six points, while Talavera registered five. Ragland accounted for four points, and Shaela Thompson chipped in two.

In the semifinals, Snyder avenged an earlier 30-29 setback to Levelland.

Once again, Levelland grabbed an early lead, before Snyder answered with 12 points in the second quarter to even the score at 14-14 at halftime.

After falling behind in the third quarter, Snyder outscored Levelland, 9-7, down the stretch to pull out the 27-26 victory.

Powell paced Snyder with 17 points, while Ragland added four. Talavera, Medrano and Alana Culp notched two points each.

Snyder finished the tournament with a 6-1 record, with earlier wins coming against Pflugerville, Plainview, Georgetown and Hobbs, N.M.

Also competing for Snyder were Teddi Crenwelge, Aeryal Peoples, Jessica Taylor, Katie Curry, Erica Little and Kaitlyn Greenlee.

The Major All-Stars were coached by Joel Talavera, Thomas Peoples and Kevin Jones.

Snyder 31, Bryan 29
Snyder: Sequoya Powell, 12; Sirena Medrano, 6; Breanna Talavera, 5; Terann Ragland, 4; Shaela Thompson, 2.

Snyder 27, Levelland 26
Snyder: Powell, 17; Ragland, 4; Talavera, Medrano and Alana Culp, 2.

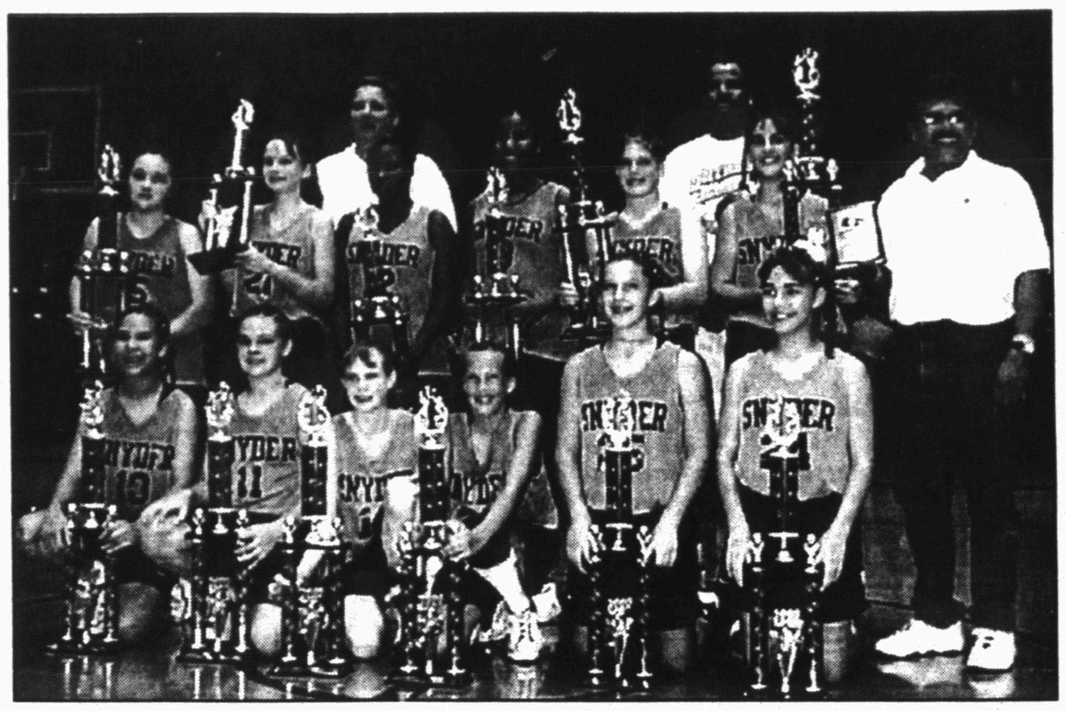
Snyder 32, Georgetown 28
Snyder: Powell, 10; Talavera and Aeryal Peoples, 8; Medrano, 6.

Snyder 34, Hobbs, N.M. 19
Snyder: Talavera, 13; Powell, 8; Ragland 4; Thompson, 3; Peoples, Medrano and Culp, 2.

Levelland 30, Snyder 29
Snyder: Powell, 12; Ragland, 4; Medrano and Thompson, 3; Talavera, Katie Curry and Teddi Crenwelge, 2; Peoples, 1.

Snyder 40, Plainview 20
Snyder: Thompson, 20; Powell, 5; Talavera and Medrano, 4; Crenwelge, Peoples and Curry, 2; Culp, 1.

Snyder 31, Pflugerville 13
Snyder: Powell, 11; Talavera, 6; Ragland, Curry, Thompson and Crenwelge, 2.



NATIONAL CHAMPIONS — Snyder Major All-Stars captured the title of the Girls' Little Dribblers National Tournament on Saturday. Members of the team are, front row from left, Beanna Talavera, Teddi Crenwelge, Jessica Taylor, Terann Ragland, Kaitlyn Greenlee and Erica Little. On the middle row are Sirena Medrano, Alana Culp, Sequoya Powell, Aeryal Peoples, Shaela Thompson and Katie Curry. On the back row are coaches Kevin Jones, Thomas Peoples and Joel Talavera. (Contributed Photo)

Pacers get physical in victory

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Take away Kobe Bryant, add 18,345 enemy fans and clamp several defenders onto Shaquille O'Neal. Suddenly, the Los Angeles Lakers don't look so invincible.

Erasing any notion that the NBA Finals would be merely a coronation, the Indiana Pacers emphatically defended their home court with a 100-91 victory in Game 3 on Sunday night, cutting Los Angeles' series lead to 2-1.

After losing two games in Los Angeles without much of a fight, the Pacers were talking trash, shoving the Lakers around and reveling in the support of the basketball fanatics crammed into Conseco Fieldhouse for the Pacers' first finals home game.

"We're not a team that's going to be pushed around," Indiana's Jalen Rose said. "We're not a team that's coming into the series like we're the JV team. We have to be on edge (and) we have to be excited."

Reggie Miller, who had 33 points after struggling in the first two games, exemplified the Pacers' newfound swagger when he muscled his way into Los Angeles' huddle during a fourth-quarter timeout to "save" teammate Mark Jackson, who became trapped behind several angry Lakers.

"It always comes down to me. This is my team," Miller said. "I've got to step up and I've got to do everything."

The Lakers struggled in their first full playoff game without Bryant, who asked to play on his sprained left ankle but was held out by the team's medical staff. None of the Lakers assumed Bryant's scoring load, and his absence on defense was obvious with every open shot taken by Miller and Rose, who had 21 points.

"His defensive energy is probably what we missed the most," said Lakers guard Derek Fisher, who had 10 points and 10 assists. "We feed off of him, and he's tough to replace."

O'Neal, who dominated the series' first two games, had 33 points and 13 rebounds but had to work for each one. The Pacers' defensive rotation against Shaq improved dramatically, and he faced two or three defenders almost every time he touched the ball.

The league MVP had just one shot in the first 11 minutes while Indiana went ahead to stay, and he rarely got the prime low-post position he claimed in Los Angeles.

"I thought we went a little harder tonight," said Indiana forward Dale Davis, who had 12 rebounds and fouled out playing tough defense on Shaq. "We forced them to make turnovers, and we were the aggressors tonight."

Game 4 in the best-of-seven series is Wednesday night, with Game 5 on Friday.

The Pacers never trailed and never lost control despite two Lakers runs in the second half. Indiana led by just five in the third before a 12-0 rally punctuated by Sam Perkins' 3-pointer. Moments later, Miller hit a long jumper and a 3-pointer to give the Pacers a 76-58 lead.

Los Angeles pulled within three with 14.8 seconds to play, but Miller — 20-for-20 from the line in the series — hit two free throws to seal it.

"It's not really anything they did. We shot ourselves in the foot," said O'Neal, who was 3-of-13 from the foul line.

Western Texas opens competition at CNFR

CASPER, Wyo. — Western Texas begins its bid for men's and women's titles today at the College National Finals Rodeo.

The opening round of slack is slated for today, with nine WTC competitors scheduled to ride.

In today's men's events, Wes Stevenson will compete in the bareback riding, along with bull rider Wes Dinwiddie. Houston Hutto and Cimarron Boardman are on today's draw sheet for calf roping, and Luke Richards will participate in the steer wrestling.

Saddle bronc rider Rawley McFarland will make his first appearance in the arena on Tuesday.

All four of the Lady Westerners are due up today.

Brandee Brock and Jamie Standifer will make their first runs in the barrel racing event, with Jill Childers scheduled in the goat tying. Tibba Smith will join Brock, Standifer and Childers in the breakaway roping.

Slack continues Tuesday afternoon, with the first performance getting underway Tuesday night.

Preliminary rounds of competition continue through Friday. The championship round will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Local players named to A-J baseball squad

Six local baseball players received honorable mention on the Avalanche-Journal Baseball Super Team.

Three Snyder players and three from Ira were named to the squad, which recognizes the South Plains' top players in all classifications.

Garnering honors from Snyder were senior utility player Sonny Cumbie, junior catcher Ralph Ramon and junior outfielder Matthew Grimmett.

Cumbie was a first-team selection on the Avalanche Journal's 5A-4A squad.

Receiving honorable mention from Ira were senior utility player Jerek Brown, sophomore pitcher Jase Olvera and freshman utility player Eric Dickerhoff.

Like Cumbie, Brown was a first-team honoree on the 2A-1A team.

Athletes can register for workouts

Participants in Snyder High School boys' athletics can sign up this week for the summer training program.

Athletes can register at the field house at 9 a.m. or 5 p.m. Cost of the six-week session is $50.

The program is not affiliated with Snyder ISD, and will be run by former SHS athletes Cory Mandrell and Sonny Cumbie.

Morning and evening workouts will be held to accommodate athletes' schedules.

The program will stress strength, flexibility, speed training and technique, with an emphasis on personal safety.

College World Series

All Times EDT
Omaha, Neb.
Double Elimination
Friday, June 9
Clemson 10, San Jose State 6
Stanford 6, Louisiana-Lafayette 4
Saturday, June 10
Southern California 6, Florida State 4
LSU 13, Texas 5
Sunday, June 11
Stanford 10, Clemson 4
Louisiana-Lafayette 6, San Jose State 3, San Jose State eliminated
Monday, June 12
Game 7 — Southern California (44-18) vs. LSU (49-17), 3 p.m.
Game 8 — Florida State (51-18) vs. Texas (46-20), 7 p.m.
Tuesday, June 13
Game 9 — Clemson (51-16) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (48-19), 3 p.m.
Game 10 — Game 7 loser vs. Game 8 winner, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, June 14
Game 11 — Stanford (49-15) vs. Game 9 winner, 7 p.m.
Thursday, June 15
Game 12 — Game 7 winner vs. Game 10 winner, 3 p.m.
Friday, June 16
Game 13 — Game 5 winner vs. Game 11 winner, 3 p.m., if necessary
Game 14 — Game 7 winner vs. Game 12 winner, 7 p.m., if necessary
Saturday, June 17
Game 15 — Game 11 or 13 winner vs. Game 12 or 14 winner, 2:30 p.m.

NBA Playoffs

Finals
(Best-of-7)
Wednesday, June 7
L.A. Lakers 104, Indiana 87
Friday, June 9
L.A. Lakers 111, Indiana 104
Sunday, June 11
Indiana 100, L.A. Lakers 91, L.A. Lakers lead series 2-1
Wednesday, June 14
L.A. Lakers at Indiana, 9 p.m.
Friday, June 16
L.A. Lakers at Indiana, 9 p.m.
Monday, June 19
Indiana at L.A. Lakers, 9 p.m., if necessary
Wednesday, June 21
Indiana at L.A. Lakers, 9 p.m., if necessary

Major League Baseball

American League
All Times EDT

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	33	24	.579	—
Boston	33	26	.559	1
Toronto	33	31	.516	3½
Baltimore	26	34	.433	8½
Tampa Bay	23	38	.377	12

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	37	24	.607	—
Cleveland	34	25	.576	2
Kansas City	32	29	.525	5
Minnesota	28	35	.444	10
Detroit	23	35	.397	12½

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Oakland	34	28	.548	—
Seattle	32	27	.542	½
Anaheim	32	30	.516	2
Texas	30	31	.492	3½

Saturday's Games
Cleveland 6, Cincinnati 5
N.Y. Yankees 13, N.Y. Mets 5
Chicago White Sox 4, Chicago Cubs 3
Montreal 11, Toronto 2
Anaheim 10, Arizona 3
Seattle 5, San Francisco 2
Florida 5, Tampa Bay 1
Detroit 10, St. Louis 1
Baltimore 11, Philadelphia 4
Milwaukee 5, Minnesota 3
Atlanta 6, Boston 0
Colorado 12, Texas 6
Kansas City 2, Pittsburgh 1, 12 innings
Los Angeles 7, Oakland 2
Sunday's Games
St. Louis 7, Detroit 3
Toronto 8, Montreal 3
Boston 5, Atlanta 3
Tampa Bay 7, Florida 6
Baltimore 7, Philadelphia 2
Milwaukee 5, Minnesota 3
Chicago Cubs 6, Chicago White Sox 5
Pittsburgh 10, Kansas City 8, 10 innings
Cincinnati 7, Cleveland 5, 13 innings
Colorado 9, Texas 8
Seattle 9, San Francisco 2
Oakland 6, Los Angeles 0
Arizona 3, Anaheim 2
N.Y. Mets at N.Y. Yankees, ppd., rain
Monday's Games
Toronto (Castillo 1-5) at Detroit (Nomo 2-5), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Eldred 6-2) at Cleveland (Rigdon 1-0), 7:05 p.m.
Boston (Rose 3-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Hernandez 6-4), 7:05 p.m.
Seattle (Moyer 3-2) at Kansas City (Batista 2-5), 8:05 p.m.
Oakland (Heredia 8-3) at Minnesota (Milton 5-1), 8:05 p.m.
Only games scheduled

National League
All Times EDT

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	39	22	.639	—
New York	34	27	.557	5
Montreal	32	27	.542	6
Florida	28	35	.444	12
Philadelphia	23	37	.383	15½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	34	28	.548	—
Cincinnati	32	29	.525	1½
Pittsburgh	27	33	.450	6
Chicago	26	37	.413	8½
Milwaukee	25	37	.403	9
Houston	22	40	.355	12

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Arizona	37	25	.597	—
Coloraco	34	25	.576	1½
Los Angeles	33	27	.550	3
San Francisco	28	31	.475	7½
San Diego	27	34	.443	9½

Monday's Games
Atlanta (Millwood 4-5) at Pittsburgh (Ritchie 4-3), 7:05 p.m.
Florida (Penny 3-6) at Philadelphia (Politte 0-0), 7:35 p.m.
Montreal (Vazquez 6-2) at Milwaukee (Bere 3-5), 8:05 p.m.
St. Louis (An.Benes 5-3) at San Diego (Clement 5-5), 10:05 p.m.
Arizona (Anderson 5-1) at Los Angeles (Dreifort 4-3), 10:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (Bell 4-4) at San Francisco (Nathan 2-1), 10:15 p.m.
Only games scheduled

Sports Briefs

Jr. tennis camp scheduled

The Tiger Junior Tennis Camp will be June 26-30 at Snyder Tennis Complex behind the junior high.

All incoming sixth through ninth graders are eligible to participate, and cost of the camp is $100. Deadline to register is June 21.

For more information, call Brad Wikse at 573-5420.

Snyder volleyball camp set

Snyder Volleyball Camp will be held July 17-20 at the SHS gym. All incoming fifth through ninth grade girls are eligible.

The camp will meet from 9 a.m. until noon each day, and will cover technique, drills and team volleyball skills.

Cost is $40, and includes a camp T-shirt. Regsitration deadline is July 15. To sign up call Patty Grimmett at 573-9416.

Basketball tourney slated

The Boys and Girls Club will host a 5-on-5 basketball tournament July 14-15. Incoming seventh, eighth and ninth graders are eligible to participate.

Format will be double elimination, with teams divided into boys' and girls' divisions. Entry fee is $100 per team. Registration deadline is June 27.

For more information call the boys club at 573-3344.

Volleyball league to begin

A summer volleyball league for high school girls will host games at 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday until July 25.

Teams from Snyder, Colorado City and Sweetwater will compete in JV and varsity divisions. Cost is $20 per player. For more information, contact Patty Grimmett at 573-9416.

Dates set for basketball camp

The Bubba Edwards Basketball Camp will be June 27-30 for incoming third through seventh grade boys and girls.

The camp will meet from 9 a.m. until noon each day at the Ira High School gym. Cost is $40 and includes a camp T-shirt.

For more information, contact Coach Edwards at 573-2628 or 573-2227.

Basketball clinic scheduled

The Sam Tipton 2000 Basketball Camp will be held June 20-23 at Snyder High School.

The co-ed division is open to incoming third through sixth graders and will run from 9 a.m. until noon. Seventh through ninth grade girls only will be from 1 until 4 p.m.

Cost is $60 and includes a camp T-shirt.

For more information, call Coach Tipton at 573-6301 ext. 30, or 573-4437.


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3-1 1104 28th.....$325
3-2-w/alarm system, 3904 Eastridge.....$425
Park Village Apartments
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For Rent: 2 bedroom, brick duplex w/appliances & CH/A. 573-1012.

HOUSES FOR RENT
2307 41st.....3-1 3/4.....$400
3724 Austin.....3-2.....$450
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2608 48th.....3-2-2.....$675
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Real Estate

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For Sale By Owner: Colorado City, low down payment, low monthly. Nice 3-1, 405 E. 14th. Nice, cute 2 bedroom, 1332 Locust. Both homes close to school. Call Kelly, 915-425-9994.

For sale or rent: Muriel Drive. Call 573-4872 after 6:00 p.m.

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2210 32nd 3-2-2cp + Utility.....$39.5T
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Price Lowered Country Dream Home 4-1 1/2-2 Wonderful Storage, 20 A's, Pool, Outbuildings.....$175T
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2-1-2 + 2cp 3 Lots 911 17th.....$37T
Fixer Uppers 2107 27th, 1011 28th & 2311 Ave M
3774 Dalton Drive Lg Home 3-1 3/4-1cp $37.5T
Great Area 3-1 3/4-2 + 2cp 2304 43rd Pl $65T
1907 15th 3-1-2cp.....$20T
2-2-1 + 1cp + 2 Apts 2812 Ave. W.$30T
Stock Farm Wheat Field-Pasture 2 Earth Tanks
2810 El Paso 5-3, Sunroom, 2865 sq ft...$98T
Very Nice Starter 3714 Noble Dr. 2-1-1cp $19.8T

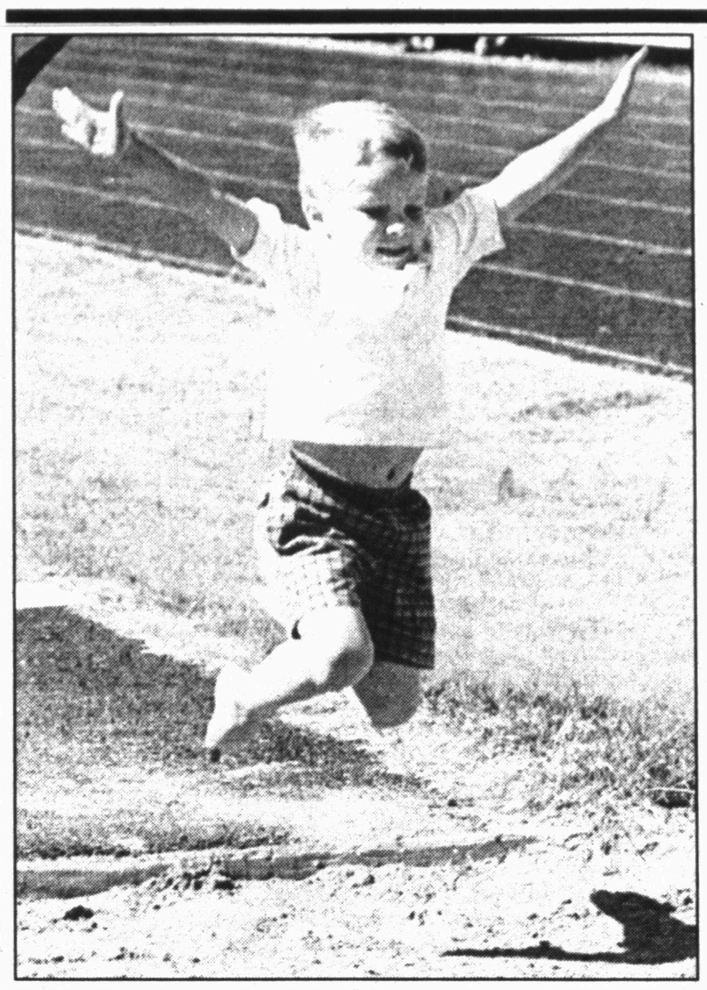
Doris Spikes.....573-6602
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Small 2-bedroom house, 2804 Ave. Q, $6,000 cash/or arrangements can be made. 573-5880/or cell 725-7496.

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FUTURE GOLD MEDALIST — Opting not to be just a spectator at East Elementary's field day activities, four-year-old Clancey Gruben practices his long jump. (SDN Staff Photo by Joyce May)

Shark attack victim chose to fight for life

GULF SHORES, Ala. (AP) — Confronted by a shark that had already sheared off a fellow swimmer's hand, Richard Watley knew he had the fight of his life.

"It came up under me, and I looked down and saw him staring me right in the face. I thought, 'I'm going to die,' and I decided I wasn't going to die without a fight," Watley said Saturday from his hospital room.

The shark attacked 55-year-old Watley, a barber shop owner, and Chuck Anderson, 44, a coach and vice principal at nearby Robertsdale High School, Friday morning as they swam in the Gulf of Mexico training for a triathlon.

It was the first unprovoked shark attack in Alabama waters in 25 years.

Anderson lost his right arm a few inches below the elbow and Watley was bitten all the way up the right side of his body.

"It hit Chuck first. I didn't even know what was going on," Watley said.

The shark chased Anderson all the way to shore, then came after Watley, who was about 80 to 100 feet out. He had seen Anderson stagger out of the water but thought he had just run into some jellyfish.

"It bit my thigh and would have taken a chunk out of me, but I hit it again," Watley said. "I thought it might leave me alone, but it came at me again and again."

"I would punch him, he would retreat, and then I would swim as fast as I could for about 5 to 10 seconds, but then I would have to turn around and face him again.

"He chased me all the way to shore."

George Burgess, director of the International Shark Attack File at the University of Florida, said the men were probably attacked by a full-grown bull shark. They can be up to 11 feet long and weigh 500 pounds.

"Their teeth are designed to incise chunks out of their prey and shear off flesh, much like what happened to Mr. Anderson's arm," Burgess said.

Public beaches along the coast were reopened to swimmers at noon Saturday.

Drunken gambler settles lawsuit over casino debt

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Two Las Vegas casinos have reached an undisclosed settlement with a man who claimed he was plied with drinks while he gambled away more than $1 million.

Nevada prohibits serving alcohol to anyone who is visibly intoxicated and allowing such a person to gamble.

Stephen Roel, 54, had filed suit in January in federal court accusing the Las Vegas Hilton and the Mandalay Bay Resort of capitalizing on his alcoholism. One month earlier, the Hilton had sued Roel, seeking $300,000 he borrowed and lost during a three-day binge.

Details of the recent settlement were not filed with the court and Roel and his attorneys would not comment.

The construction company executive said in court documents that he had the Hilton send its private plane to pick him up last September. He had been gambling regularly at the Hilton for 15 years and had a $50,000 credit line.

Roel, of Encinitas, was visibly intoxicated when he arrived at the Hilton and promptly lost $117,000 in cash at blackjack, his lawyers said in court papers. He continued drinking and signed markers for $839,000 in losses.

A Mandalay Bay representative encouraged him to switch casinos. Roel's lawyers said he lost several hundred thousand dollars there and had $100,000 in overdue markers. Mandalay Bay did not file suit seeking repayment.

Roel said he had entered a treatment program for alcoholism.

Nutrition By Ed Blonz, Ph.D

Can herbs counteract the pill?

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I read how St. John's Wort deactivates birth control pills and that I should not rely on this method of birth control if I use this herb. I have been taking birth control pills for six years, and they have been working well. During the past year, I have been taking St. John's Wort for periodic bouts of mild depression. I also eat well and take a multivitamin/mineral. There is no question that I was disturbed to read this news, but does it apply to everyone equally? I ask this because I have had little success with the other antidepressants I have tried. Does the fact that I have not had any problems indicate that I can continue with my St. John's Wort? Does it have any effects on the vitamins or minerals in my diet? — S.C., San Francisco, Calif.

DEAR S.C: Let me answer your last question first by saying that there is no evidence that St John's Wort has any significant effect on the vitamins and minerals in your diet.

As for your concern about the use of this herb and your birth control pills, we will need a brief explanation of the processes that are involved. I consider this important because the news about St. John's Wort is not the first report on a potential interaction between an herb and a medication, and it certainly won't be the last.

First, you need to appreciate that the body has sophisticated systems designed to protect it from potential dangers posed by unfamiliar substances. These systems try to detoxify, breakdown or eliminate foreign compounds that enter the body through everything from herbal products and prescription/over-the-counter drugs to pesticides and environmental pollutants.

The situation becomes complex when there are two or more compounds present at the same time. This is because there can be interactions between herbs and drugs — not only in the way they work, but in the process and rate at which they get eliminated from the body.

One of the key pathways by which drugs and other unknown compounds are metabolized (broken down) is a pathway referred to as cytochrome P450. A list of compounds that are broken down via this pathway includes drugs used to treat heart disease, HIV infections, seizures, depression, certain cancers, those used to prevent the rejection of transplanted organs, and oral contraceptives.

St. John's Wort also uses this pathway, and it apparently tends to increase the rate at which P450 breaks down compounds. (Note: Other compounds might affect P450 by slowing the rate at which compounds are broken down.)

In short, when St. John's Wort is being used, the levels of the other affected drugs in the blood can be lower than expected — sometimes too low to have a therapeutic effect. In the case of birth control pills, the effect would be a decreased level of "control." As to whether the level is sufficient in your case is a discussion you need to have with your physician. If you are going to continue taking St. John's Wort, it is a discussion you need to have immediately.

Why are we learning about this now? Before prescription drugs are approved by the Food and Drug Administration, they have to undergo rigorous testing for safety and efficacy. Tests are also done to determine how a drug works, the effective dosage, potential side effects or adverse reactions, how long the drug lasts, and how it is eventually eliminated from the body. All this helps to provide the information used by health professionals when dispensing the drugs. For over-the-counter drugs, this info is available for you either on the package or in the package insert.

Herbs have been in use for centuries, and they have great potential to improve health. Our knowledge, however, about side effects and how herbs might interact with other medications is still in its infancy. That is one of the reasons why people are encouraged to approach the use of herbs with caution in health conditions such as pregnancy and lactation and whenever using other medications. The real key is to educate our health professionals so that have the savvy to answer questions from their patients about the appropriate use of herbs.

Send questions to: "On Nutrition," Ed Blonz, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. For e-mail, address inquiries to: ed@blonz.com. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Ed Blonz, Ph.D., is a nutrition scientist and the author of "Power Nutrition" (Signet, 1998) and the "Your Personal Nutritionist" book series (Signet, 1996).

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Kelsey Grammer will play title role in 'MacBeth'

RADNOR, Pa. (AP) — Kelsey Grammer, who will play the title role in "Macbeth" this summer on Broadway, says he is returning to the stage partly because of a heightened sense of mortality.

The 45-year-old star of the sitcom "Frasier" says the untimely deaths of his father and sister made him more aware of how short life is.

"I will always be foolhardy because, to me, the best fruit of life is the idea that you don't always play it safe. If you don't reach beyond where you're comfortable, you will not grow," he says in the June 17 issue of TV Guide.

He also says he's expecting some tough reviews from New York drama critics.

"I haven't had this much fun since I rolled my car," he says, referring to the 1996 wreck that nearly killed him and sent him into drug rehab.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp s	30 3/8	29 5/16	29 3/8 —	1/2
AT&T Corp	34 3/4	34	34 1/8 —	1/4
Albertsons	37 3/4	37 3/16	37 1/4 —	1/2
Alltel	66 3/4	66 1/4	66 1/4 —	3/8
AmerOnline s	54	52 5/16	52 13/16 — 2	3/16
AndarkPtr	52 3/8	51 3/8	52 1/2 +	1 3/8
ATMOS Egy	19 1/8	19 1/16	19 1/8 +	1/16
Aviall	4 5/8	4 1/2	4 1/2 —	1/16
BP Amoco s	56 3/16	55 5/8	56 +	1/8
BakerHughes	34 1/4	33 1/4	34 1/8 +	1 5/16
Bank of Amer	56 7/16	55 15/16	56 5/16 +	5/16
BellAtl	54 3/8	54	54 1/8 +	3/16
BellSouth	47 1/8	46 3/8	46 9/16	
Beth Steel	3 15/16	3 13/16	3 7/8 +	1/16
BurlNoSFe	26 3/16	25 1/2	25 7/8 +	3/4
Caterpillar	38 3/8	37 11/16	38 3/8 +	1/8
CenSoWst	20 15/16	20 5/8	20 7/8 +	1/2
Chevron	94 1/2	92 13/16	94 3/8 +	2 3/8
Citigroup	64 15/16	63 3/4	64 11/16 +	11/16
Coastal	61 7/16	59 5/16	61 3/8 +	1 7/16
CocaCola	53 7/16	52 1/4	53 1/4 +	15/16
ColgatePal	58 9/16	57	58 3/16 +	1 5/16
ComclMetals	26	25 3/4	25 3/4 —	1/8
CooperIn	33 3/8	33	33 11/16 +	3/4
DaimlrChry	57 5/8	57 1/4	57 3/8 +	3/8
DallSemicn s	44 15/16	44	44 9/16 —	1/4
DeltaAirl	53 15/16	53	53 5/16 —	5/8
Dillards Inc	14 3/8	13 15/16	14 —	1/8
DowChem	106 3/8	102 11/16	106 1/8 + 2	7/16
DowChem wi	35 3/4	35 3/4	35 3/4	
DuPont	50	48 1/16	49 15/16 + 1	1/16
EastmanChem	48 7/8	48	48 3/4 +	9/16
EstKodak	58 9/16	57 11/16	58 9/16 +	1 5/8
EDS Corp	44 1/4	42 5/8	43 3/8 +	3/8
Entergy	30 3/8	30 1/16	30 1/4 +	3/16
ExxonMobil	81 7/16	79 7/8	81 3/8 + 2	3/16
FstBksAm	17 15/16	17 15/16	17 15/16	
Flowers	18 15/16	18 1/2	18 11/16 +	11/16
FordMotor	50 5/8	49 5/8	50 5/16 +	11/16
GTE Cp	65 9/16	65	65 1/16 +	5/16
GenDynam	55 5/8	55 3/8	55 7/16 +	1/4
GenIElec s	50 1/8	48 7/16	49 —	1/4
GenMills s	39 3/16	38 3/4	39 3/16 +	1/4
GenMotors	70 1/4	69 3/8	69 15/16 +	1 3/8
GaPacGP	29	28 1/2	28 13/16 —	3/8
GlobalMar	28 7/16	27 11/16	28 1/8 +	1
Goodrich	37 3/16	36 5/16	37 3/16 +	3/4
Goodyear s	27 5/16	26 15/16	27 —	1/8
GtAtlPac	18 5/16	18 1/16	18 1/16 —	1/16
Halliburtn	47 15/16	46 5/8	47 15/16 +	2 1/4
Hanson ADS	36	35 15/16	36 15/16 —	1/4
HarteHanks	24 5/8	24 3/8	24 7/16 —	3/16
HomeDepot s	47 9/16	45	46 1/8 —	1 7/8
HoneywellIntl	52 3/16	51 1/2	51 3/4 —	5/16
IBM	120 7/16	119	119 3/8 +	3/16
IntlPaper	33 1/2	33 1/16	33 5/16 —	1/8
JohnsonJn	87 3/8	86 1/8	86 1/4 +	1/8
K mart	7 7/8	7 11/16	7 3/4 +	1/8
Kroger Co	18 7/16	18 1/8	18 5/16 —	1/16
Lilton	45 7/16	44 3/8	44 7/8 —	1/2
LockheedM	25 15/16	25 7/16	25 13/16 +	1/2
Lowes Cos	42 9/16	41 11/16	41 3/4 —	1 5/8
Lubys	9 5/8	9 1/16	9 1/2 +	5/16
LucentTech	60 7/16	58 9/16	59 —	11/16
MayDeptStr	27 1/8	26 11/16	26 13/16 +	1/16
MediaOne	67 7/16	66 7/8	67 1/8 —	1/16
Medtronic s	48 1/2	47 3/4	48 —	1/2
MorganJP	131 1/2	129 3/16	131 7/16 +	2 7/8
Motorola s	36 1/4	34 7/8	34 15/16 —	1/16
NCR Corp	41 3/4	39 5/8	40 1/8 —	1 5/8
Navistar	31 13/16	30 15/16	31 1/8 +	1/4
Penney JC	17 13/16	17 9/16	17 9/16 —	1/16
PepBoys	7 3/8	7 1/8	7 1/8 —	5/16
PepsiCo	42 7/16	41 1/2	42 1/4 +	1
Pharmacia	53 1/2	52 13/16	53 1/16 +	1
PhelpDodge	44 9/16	43 5/16	44 1/16 +	3/4
PhilipPet	56	54 7/16	55 13/16 +	1 3/8
PilgrmPrd B	8 1/4	8 3/16	8 3/16 +	1/16
Polaroid	16 13/16	16 1/16	16 11/16 —	1/8
Praxair	40 7/16	39 9/16	40 1/4 +	9/16
ProctGamb	57 3/16	56 11/16	57 +	5/16
PubS NwMx	16 3/8	16 3/16	16 3/8 +	1/8
RadioShack	41 3/8	40	40 —	1 1/16
ReliantEngy	28 9/16	28 1/4	28 5/16 +	1/16
RoyalDut	63 3/8	62 3/8	63 13/16 +	1 5/16
SBC Comm	47 11/16	46 11/16	46 15/16 —	1 3/16
SaraLee	18 5/16	17 13/16	18 1/4 +	1/8
Scripps EW	49 7/16	49 1/8	49 5/16 —	1/8
SearsRoeb	34 7/16	33 7/8	34 1/8 +	3/8
SherwinW	24 1/4	24	24 1/16 —	1/16
SmithklBchm	61	60 9/16	60 3/4 +	1/2
SouthernCo	25 3/8	25 1/8	25 3/16 +	3/16
SwstAirl s	21 1/8	20 11/16	21 +	1/2
SprintFON	66 7/16	65 1/4	65 5/16 —	9/16
SprintPCS s	58 1/2	57 1/4	58 7/16 +	1 1/4
Sunoco Inc	32 7/16	31 5/16	32 7/16 +	15/16
TXU Corp	34 1/4	33 15/16	34 1/8 +	3/16
TempleInland	47 1/8	45 1/2	45 9/16 —	2 1/16
Texaco	59 11/16	58 3/8	59 +	1 1/4
TexInd	30	29 11/16	29 11/16 —	1/4
TexasInst s	83 3/8	80 7/8	81 1/16 —	2 11/16
Textron	58	58 1/2	58 3/4 —	1/8
TriconGlbR	29 7/16	28 13/16	28 3/8 —	1/2
TrinityInds	20 9/16	20 1/8	20 1/4 —	5/16
TritonEngy	34 3/8	32 13/16	34 +	1 9/16
TylerTech	4 1/4	3 15/16	4	
US West Inc	80 3/16	79 11/16	80 1/16 +	1/4
USX-Marathn	27 7/8	26 15/16	27 3/4 +	1 1/8
USX-USS	22 1/4	21 3/4	22 1/4 +	3/8
UnCarbde	55 1/2	53 7/8	55 7/16 +	1 9/16
UnionPacif	42 5/8	41 15/16	42 9/16 +	3/8
UnitedTech	59 1/8	58 7/16	59 1/8 +	7/16
Unocal	37 3/4	36 3/8	37 +	1
Venator Grp	10 7/16	10 3/8	10 3/8 +	1/16
WalMart	54 3/8	52 9/16	52 5/8 —	1 3/8
WellsFargo	44 1/4	43 1/2	44 1/8 +	15/16
WstnGasRs	21 1/2	21 7/16	21 1/2 +	3/16
WinnDixie	15 1/2	15	15 3/16 +	1/8
Xerox Cp	26 1/8	25 11/16	25 15/16 +	1/16

Local Interest
STOCKS

Patterson	23 13/16	-9/16
Dell	44 3/16	-7/8
Wal Mart	52 5/8	-1 3/8
Compac	26	-1/2
Dol. Gen.	16 7/16	-1/8
GTE	65 1/16	+5/16
SBC Comm.	47 1/8	-1
BJ Services	67 5/16	+2 9/16
LU	59 3/8	+1/4
Cisco Sys.	63 3/4	-5/8

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JUNE 12, 2000

Park Service discontinues 'prescribed fires'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Until last month, the National Park Service had been sharply increasing the number of fires set to clear brush and rehabilitate landscapes, tripling the area burned in just four years.

That changed when a fire set at Bandelier National Monument got out of control, leading to an inferno that destroyed more than 200 homes in Los Alamos, N.M., and caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damage.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt halted all "prescribed fires" by the Park Service in the West indefinitely, saying an investigation found "serious systemic problems in the way the Park Service conducts prescribed burns."

Park Service Director Robert Stanton told a House panel last week that the agency is changing its policies and training to prevent similar problems.

It was Babbitt who changed policy in 1995 to encourage use of such fires. He even helped set a prescribed fire in an Idaho national forest in 1998.

Congressional critics say federal land managers should rely more on "mechanical thinning" — using people and machines to cut down trees and undergrowth. Rep. Helen Chenoweth-Hage, R-Idaho, said the Clinton administration relies too much on prescribed fires because of a "dogmatic, anti-science, anti-technology, anti-people bias."

"Fire alone is not sufficient to the task," she said.

But forestry experts say that when properly monitored, prescribed fires are among the best and cheapest ways to prevent catastrophic wildfires.

"As you get away from developed areas, fire becomes a more viable alternative — there's a reduction in cost, and in threats to life and property," said Park Service fire specialist Tom Zimmerman. "... We're just trying to provide the most appropriate and cost-effective treatment."

Last year, the Park Service set a record 326 fires that burned 139,000 acres, according to a computer-assisted analysis of the agency's fire data. That was a 62 percent jump over the previous year and triple the acreage burned in 1996. But it still represented only 0.2 percent of Park Service land.

In all, the Park Service set 3,760 prescribed fires since 1970, burning about 926,000 acres, an area nearly the size of Rhode Island. By contrast, agency workers battled 43,456 wildfires that burned nearly 5.5 million acres during the same period.

Some agency officials and outside experts say more prescribed fires are needed to prevent the kind of catastrophic wildfires that blackened 1 million acres of Yellowstone National Park in 1988.

"Even when that number (of prescribed fires) is doubled, it's a drop in the bucket," said Ronald Myers, director of the National Fire Management Program of The Nature Conservancy, an environmental group. "I hope Congress is patient and lets this thing run its course."

Besides the low cost, prescribed fires can help prime soil for new seedlings and spur the reproduction of species such as giant sequoias, said Nate Stephenson, a U.S. Geological Survey scientist who studies fire in Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks in California. On the other hand, he said, mechanical treatments produce less smoke and do not leave fire scars on surviving trees.

"I think land managers would be shooting themselves in the foot to limit themselves to one tool or the other," Stephenson said.

While the current debate focuses on the West, prescribed fires also are set elsewhere, most notably Florida. The Park Service's top site for prescribed fires is the Big Cypress National Preserve, which had 388 set blazes since 1980 that burned nearly 534,000 acres — an area equivalent to 74 percent of the preserve.

"We burn throughout the year, whenever the conditions are appropriate, to remove those hazardous fuels so we don't get those big, screaming fires we can't control," said Larry Belles, the preserve's fire chief.

Second was the adjoining Everglades National Park, where 363 fires that burned 105,244 acres have been set since 1970. Officials at the Florida parks said their ecosystems depend on fires every three to 15 years.

"Two hundred years ago, lightning would strike somewhere out in what are now the Miami suburbs, and over the next few weeks the fire would burn into the center of the Everglades," said Bob Panko, fire manager for the Everglades.

On the Net:
National Park Service fire management office:
http://fire.nifc.nps.gov/fire/

Matchmaker leaves 400 matches

HYANNIS, Mass. (AP) — Edna May Lattimer spent most of her life looking for love, but not for herself.

She looked for everyone else.

Long known as Cape Cod's "original matchmaker," Lattimer is credited with having introduced up to 400 couples who are now married. She died May 24 at age 82.

"She could sometimes tell what people were looking for even when they were only saying what they thought they should be looking for," longtime friend Mary Buttaro said. "Maybe that's what made her a good matchmaker."

Friends, family and couples who still thank her for changing their lives planned to gather Monday for a service in her memory at Hyannis.

For more than 30 years, Lattimer found mates for single adults who came to her for help. If she didn't succeed at first, friends say she would always keep trying until she found a match.

Her client list included everyone from young adults frustrated by the nightclub scene to an 88-year-old woman who had outlived the two husbands Lattimer already found for her.

She asked for donations of $10 or $20 for her services, but was known to waive her fee for people who could not pay.

"She was not out to just give people a night on the town," said Mark Cerulli, of Mashpee, who met his wife of 19 years through Lattimer. "I guess that's the difference between a dating service and a matchmaker."

Born in New York, Lattimer came to Cape Cod after her car was sideswiped by a drunk driver in the 1950s. After a long recovery, the divorced mother used her settlement money to bring her family to the Massachusetts coast.

An antique store clerk, she befriended dozens of divorcees, widows and widowers who came in to sell their heirlooms.

Their stories of loneliness convinced her to change careers, friends say.

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Urban districts revolving door for some

WASHINGTON (AP) —The toughest spot in American education is the helm of a large city school district, say leaders and educators trying to stop the revolving schoolhouse door.

Such districts, whose students are among the poorest and neediest, can't hold onto their leaders. They pay high salaries, launch aggressive searches and even hire non-educators presumably gifted with business and management acumen, but a big-city superintendent's tenure averages two years. And many top candidates try their hand in various systems.

Nine top vacancies, and recent high-profile hires in Los Angeles and New York, highlight the growing discontent in urban school systems — and the challenge of finding the right people to turn them around.

"Many boards are asking superintendents to be messiahs," said Michael Casserly, executive director of the Council of the Great City Schools, a coalition of nearly 60 large districts. "Urban districts are a political stew composed of corporations, the unions, the press and community groups ... they're all fighting with scarce resources over the one thing they feel most passionate about: their children.

"It's not realistic that any superintendent could turn around some of these systems within two years," Casserly said.

District of Columbia Superintendent Arlene Ackerman quit last month after two years.

Since 1970, the capital city has had eight school chiefs. Ackerman left to head San Francisco's schools after concluding she couldn't help a 70,000-student district controlled by a mayoral board, independent auditors and budget committees in the U.S. Congress.

"D.C. needs to fix its convoluted and utterly debilitating governance structure," said Casserly. "Unfortunately, the schools can't do it because so much is determined elsewhere."

Los Angeles' superintendent, Ruben Zacarias — permanently replaced last week — was ousted last October after two years.

Philadelphia's chief, David Hornbeck, who quit last week, stands out as a six-year veteran. The average tenure for all school leaders is 71/2 years.

Casserly said that 15 years ago, systems were being led by career educators who stayed five times as long. Today, districts spend six months to a year on searches for superintendents that can cost $30,000 to $130,000, he said. Then boards must win public support for salaries that average $175,000, but can reach $250,000.

The candidate pool is dwindling as the overwhelmingly white and male population of school leaders retire, Casserly said.

Educators point to other factors, among them increasing pressure to cut budgets and raise test scores and impatience with career educators — leading boards to hire generals, lawyers and politicians. There's also confusion and conflict about who should run these schools: the board, the mayor, the state, or in the case of the District of Columbia, the federal government.

"Everyone wants to be involved in some way, shape or form in reforming the school system," said Daniel A. Domenech, who runs the 154,000-student Fairfax County, Va., system. "Superintendents find that in a very relative short period of time, two or three years, that in fact they can't please all of the masters."

Mayors in Philadelphia, New York and Detroit have publicly clashed with school leaders as more politicians seek control over education, a popular voter issue. And that has taken a toll on career educators who are not politically astute, some leaders say.

"You are in a fishbowl," said Libby Socorro Gil, Chula Vista, Calif. schools chief, who was a deputy in Seattle. "I'm not sure too many traditional educators are prepared for that kind of scrutiny."

Domenech, a school administrator for nearly three decades, said enough 4-3 board votes on issues near and dear to him taught him to join the political arena. "Most of us got into this business because we care about kids, but this is not a job anyone is successful in doing unless you have those alliances. On your own you're dead in the water," he said.

Some districts have turned away from educators — with mixed results. Retired Gen. John Stanford led the Seattle schools with charisma and success from 1995 to 1998, when he died of leukemia. But Julius W. Becton Jr., a former three-star Army general, quit as D.C. superintendent in 1998 after 16 months.

In New York, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani eventually agreed to give Harold Levy, a corporate lawyer with no previous school leadership experience, a chance to run the 1.1 million student system.

Educators say no one can run a system without resources and patience.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Ask doctor to send reminders

DEAR DR. GOTT: My vet regularly sends me postcards to notify me that it's time to bring in my retriever for his shots. How come I've never heard of a doctor doing this?

DEAR READER: Because we don't take care of your dog. Alternative explanation: veterinarians give superior medical care.

Seriously, many physicians do make an effort to alert patients that a routine exam — or periodic routine testing — is in order. However, many practitioners do not, preferring instead to put the responsibility on the patients' shoulders. Retrievers, for some reason, do not fit into this category. If you prefer to be reminded, ask your doctor to do so. Most physicians — me included — welcome the opportunity to jog patients' memories, but in many practices, this is not routine.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My recently married daughter is convinced that she is allergic to her husband's sperm. After having had relations, she itches terribly. Is there such a condition?

DEAR READER: Women can sometimes exhibit allergic reactions to their partners' semen, but such a condition is unusual. An allergy of this magnitude is less likely to cause itching than it is to lead to infertility, because the woman's secretions inactivate the sperm if an allergy is present. Your daughter should see a gynecologist; her symptom of itching is probably due to an infection or to an allergy caused by some other component in her environment, such as birth-control devices (condom, diaphragm and so forth).

DEAR DR. GOTT: At 61, my husband committed suicide. He was on antidepressant medication and was due to retire. To my knowledge, there was no warning of this, and from conversations we had had during our life together, I got the distinct impression that he never believed in suicide. Could the medicine have contributed to his depression?

DEAR READER: Although I am sorry to hear of this unpleasant outcome, I doubt that the medicine was the cause of your husband's suicide. It's far more likely that he took his life while in the depths of depression; perhaps he wasn't medicated enough. Ask his doctor to discuss with you the causes of this tragic consequence. To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Mental and Emotional Illness." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

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Farmers search Web for help in the fields

ALBANY, Ga. (AP) — When farmer Mike Newberry returns from the fields, he sometimes plows through Web pages for information that could increase his productivity and profits.

Newberry, a cotton and peanut grower in the southwestern Georgia town of Arlington, can find declassified spy satellite photographs of his fields. He can check commodity prices and weather forecasts. He also can read about the benefits of various types of fertilizers and seeds.

His wife, Sherri, orders books and clothing from online merchants.

"There's no limit to what we'll do with it," Newberry said. "The information is there. Much of it is ag-related."

Now, instead of ordering bib overalls from a mail-order catalog, farmers have access to Web sites where they can purchase everything from tractors to straw hats. While they're logged on, they can chat with other farmers or surf online auctions to potentially sell their corn, cows or pigs.

An Agriculture Department survey last year found that 40 percent of U.S. farmers owned or leased computers, compared with 31 percent in 1997. Twenty-nine percent of farms had access to the Internet, up from 13 percent in 1997.

Warren E. Clark, a communications consultant with Memphis, Tenn.-based Farms.com, said the number of farmers with computers and Internet connections probably has doubled since the 1999 survey was taken.

Farms.com has grown from just a few visitors a month when it was launched in 1995 to about 500,000 per month, Clark said. Its focus is the $180 billion U.S. agricultural industry.

The company's Web page provides weather, news, market information, chat forums, bulletin boards and links to sites that focus on specific commodities. Users also can take part in online auctions and order supplies.

"Farmers in the past have been forced, unfortunately, to buy everything ... retail and sell ... everything wholesale," Clark said. "What Farms.com does is level the playing field by providing price discovery and price reporting in a neutral environment. The buyer can see what other buyers are offering. Sellers can see what other sellers are selling for."

Stuart Pocknee, a University of Georgia graduate student, has seen firsthand the growth of agricultural Web sites. He has helped generate some of the growth.

In 1996, the Australian-born Pocknee began designing university Web sites focused on precision farming, a type of high-tech agriculture that uses global positioning satellites, aerial photographs and computers to manage fields more efficiently.

Iranian defector called imposter

WASHINGTON (AP) — The CIA and FBI reportedly have concluded that an Iranian defector who claims to be a former intelligence official and terrorist mastermind is an impostor.

The defector claimed to have masterminded the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, and the 1996 attack against a U.S. military installation in Saudi Arabia. Two Libyans are now on trial for the Pan Am bombing.

A U.S. intelligence official quoted anonymously in The Washington Post on Sunday said the CIA and FBI concluded the defector lied during interviews with intelligence officials and lacked basic knowledge of Iran's intelligence apparatus.

"When it comes to serious stuff that he should know, he comes up empty," the Post quoted the official as saying. "He still has not provided anything that has led CIA and FBI folks to believe his story."

U.S. officials have doubted the defector's credibility since he first told his story on CBS's "60 Minutes" June 4.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

This might be a year of ups and downs for you, but armed with new knowledge and experience, you can get the jump on things more quickly than before and come out on the plus side of the ledger.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Tasks you dislike doing may be made even more distasteful to you today because of a negative attitude. Put a smile on your face and things will run more smoothly. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) When in charge or in possession of someone else's property today, take extra care to be protective of his or her belongings. If you break something, you'll be held accountable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Should a disagreement arise today between you and your mate, talk things out and resolve your differences promptly. Letting things linger would prolong the tension and agony.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Take extra precautions over what you say today to a person who is a known gossip. Given half the chance, this individual will distort your comments, and you will be blamed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Situations that have the elements of being a financial risk should be avoided today. It isn't likely you would be able to overcome the odds.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) The very people who are near and dear to you could put your patience to the test today, but try to be understanding and allow them a little human frailties. They'll appreciate your kindness.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Although you love to chat with everyone, you might be a little too free about what you say today. You could reveal some important information to someone who'll use it against you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You could end up outsmarting yourself today when bargaining or negotiating with someone who is a sharp horse trader if you try to be too coy about things. Lay all your cards on the table.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Be careful how you conduct yourself in front of an audience today, because your image could be a bit fragile at this time. Poor behavior would lessen the esteem in which you're held.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You should profit from your past experience should a situations arise today that is very similar to one that previously caused you trouble. Stop and remember before you leap again into the fray.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Because your judgment could be a trifle faulty today, you might allow yourself to be unduly influenced by the advice of people who are more off the mark than you are. Be careful.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Lead by example today, not by issuing orders or using pressure tactics to get your way. If you behave in a dictatorial or demanding way, it'll only aggravate associates.

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Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Anadarko Petroleum will drill the No. 2-A Byrd-Frost in the Sharon Ridge field, four miles west of Ira. Planned for a depth of 1,798 feet, location is in Section 131, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Anadarko Petroleum will drill the No. 11 P.P. Boyles in the Diamond M field, 10 miles west of Snyder. Contracted for 4,000 feet, drill site is in Section 201, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Anadarko Petroleum will drill the No. 11 P.P. Boyles in the Diamond M. field, 10 miles west of Snyder. Also planned for a depth of 4,000 feet, location is in Section 201, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Anadarko Petroleum will drill the No. 13 P.P. Boyles in the same field, 10 miles west of Snyder. The venture will be drilled to 4,000 feet, and location is in Section 201, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Borden County

Ricks Exploration Inc. has completed the M.S.W Brown in the Blackard field, seven miles west of Gail. The well was finaled to produce 317 barrels of oil and 50 barrels of water. Location is in Section 467, Block 32, T5N, T&P survey.

Garza County

Shenandoah Petroleum Corp. will drill the No. 102 Macy-Lot unit in the Lazy JL field, 10 miles south of Post. Planned for a depth of 6,100 feet, drill site is in Section 19, Block 1, Jasper Hays survey.

Howard County

Midland Oil and Gas Inc. will drill the No. 1 Rocky, a 7,800-foot wildcat located five miles southeast of Vincent. Location is in Section 12, Block 26, H&TC survey.

Santa Fe Snyder Corp. will drill the No. 2-15N in the Signal Peak field, three miles south of Coahoma. Planned for a depth of 8,300 feet, location is in Section 15, Block 31, T1S, T&P survey.

Santa Fe Snyder will drill the No. 1-16 Choate in the Signal Peak field, five miles southwest of Coahoma. Planned depth is 8,300 feet, and location is in Section 16, Block 31, T1S, T&P survey.

Santa Fe Snyder will drill the No. 1-16 Martin in the Signal Peak field, four miles southwest of Coahoma. Also planned for a depth of 8,300 feet, drill site is in Section 16, Block 31, T1S, T&P survey.

Santa Fe Snyder will drill the No. 3-18 Marchbanks in the same field, seven miles southwest of Coahoma. Planned depth is 8,300 feet, and location is in Section 28, Block 31, T1S, T&P survey.

Anadarko Petroleum will drill the No. 113 Snyder in the Snyder field, seven miles southeast of Choahoma. Planned for a depth of 3,900 feet, drill site is in Section 28, Block 30, T1S, T&P survey.

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JUNE 12 2000

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Two killed in small town carjacking

JOHNSTON, R.I. (AP) — Jason Burgeson's family spent part of the weekend picking out his casket, the finality almost too much to bear.

"We can't make sense of it," Kellie Surdis, 26, said Sunday of her brother's slaying. "We're just completely shocked."

What began as a night of dancing for the 20-year-old college student and a friend, ended with the pair kidnapped from downtown Providence, then taken to a golf course in Johnston and both shot in the head.

The slayings were the first in this community of 26,500 in five years.

"You can read about it happening elsewhere but when it comes in your back yard it frightens you," said Johnston Mayor William Macera.

Burgeson, of Lakeville, Mass., and Amy Shute, 21, of Coventry, were forced at gunpoint into Burgeson's sport utility vehicle early Friday morning. The carjackers took the victims to the golf course under construction then argued about whether to kill the pair. Burgeson was shot twice; Shute once.

Workers discovered the bodies later that day. They were together in a "semi-sitting position," Police Chief Richard Tamburini said.

An engagement ring that belonged to Shute was found at the scene by investigators.

"She removed it in an attempt to hide it from the assailants," Tamburini said. The victims, who were not engaged, were robbed of a small amount of cash.

Five suspects have been charged with murder, kidnapping and carjacking and were scheduled to be arraigned Monday, police said. One suspect was stopped by police while riding in Burgeson's vehicle less than an hour after the investigation began. The others were arrested Saturday.

Burgeson's family said they would push for the death penalty under a federal carjacking statute. The statute allows for the death penalty if the crime results in murder. Rhode Island does not have the death penalty.

"This was a random act," said Surdis, of Fall River, Mass. "Jason was picked out of nowhere. We'll do what we can to get the death penalty."

Tom Connell, spokesman for U.S. Attorney Janet Reno, said it would ultimately be up to her to seek the death penalty under the federal statute. A grand jury would first have to indict the suspects on the charges.

Gregory Floyd, 19; Harry Burdick, 21; Sammie Sanchez, 20; Raymond Anderson, 19, Kenneth Day, 21, were being held at the state prison. Burdick is from Pawtucket; the others are from Providence.

Some fed suits against HMOs rejected

WASHINGTON (AP) — Patients cannot sue health maintenance organizations under a federal law for giving doctors financial bonuses to hold down treatment costs, the Supreme Court ruled Monday.

Such financial incentives are how Congress intended for HMOs to work, the justices said in a unanimous ruling that closed one legal avenue for patients' lawsuits but still leaves open the possibility of lawsuits in state court.

The justices barred a lawsuit by an Illinois woman who blames her ruptured appendix on inadequate care.

The court said federal law does not allow Cynthia Herdrich of Bloomington, Ill., to sue her HMO on a claim that it violated its duty to act in patients' best interests.

Writing for the court, Justice David H. Souter said, "Since the provision of profit is what makes the HMO a proprietary organization, (Herdrich's) remedy in effect would be nothing less than elimination of the for-profit HMO. ..."

"The fact is that for over 27 years the Congress of the United States has promoted the formation of HMO practices," Souter said. "The federal judiciary would be acting contrary to the congressional policy of allowing HMO organizations if it were to entertain (a claim) portending wholesale attacks on existing HMOs solely because of their structure."

The case is only one of several fronts in the war over managed care. Other lawsuits against HMOs accuse them of violating a racketeering law by concealing doctors' financial incentives to hold down treatment costs.

A number of states have enacted their own laws barring managed-care plans from giving doctors bonuses for providing inadequate care. Congress also is considering patients' rights legislation that could set new standards for managed care and might broaden patients' right to sue their HMOs.

Today's case does not affect the right to file lawsuits in state court alleging that an individual doctor committed medical malpractice. Souter noted that health care is "a subject of traditional state regulation" and said that allowing federal lawsuits might have pre-empted some state claims.

By deciding Herdrich cannot sue her HMO under federal law, the court appeared to be leaving open the possibility of filing such lawsuits in state courts, if allowed by the law of a particular state. Some patients' rights advocates prefer that alternative because the federal law on which Herdrich based her lawsuit strictly limits damage awards.

Herdrich sued the Carle Clinic Association in 1992, saying her appendix ruptured and peritonitis set in because her doctor delayed diagnostic tests for eight days so the tests could be performed at a facility owned by the HMO.

Herdrich was awarded $35,000 in damages for medical malpractice under Illinois law. But she also sued under a federal law that governs employee health benefits and pensions, known as the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, which requires health plan managers to act in patients' best interests.

She contended the HMO violated its duty to patients because it deprived them of proper medical care and kept the cost savings.

On the job...

High court makes it easier to file discrimination suits

(AP) — The Supreme Court made it easier on Monday for employees to prove they were victims of on-the-job discrimination, or at least to get their claims before a jury.

Employees can win such lawsuits without direct evidence of an employer's illegal intent, the court ruled unanimously.

The decision reinstated an award of nearly $100,000 won, and then lost, by a Mississippi man who said age discrimination cost him his supervisory job at a toilet-seat manufacturing plant.

The decision is likely to extend beyond age-bias disputes and carry enormous practical impact for all other forms of employment-bias lawsuits as well.

Among other actions on Monday the court:

—Though sharply divided, made it harder for convicted killers to challenge their death sentences in federal court after they were barred from telling jurors they would be ineligible for parole if sentenced to life in prison. By a 5-4 vote the justices said Virginia killer Bobby Lee Ramdass' death sentence was valid even though he was not allowed to give jurors such information.

— Ruled that patients cannot sue health maintenance organizations under a federal law for giving doctors financial bonuses to hold down treatment costs. Such financial incentives are how Congress intended for HMOs to work, the justices said in a unanimous ruling that closed one legal avenue for patients' lawsuits but still leaves open the possibility of lawsuits in state court.

—Let stand a Texas law that lets voters in federal elections cast their ballots prior to the November election day without having to state a reason. The justices rejected an appeal that said Texas' early-voting law nullifies the notion, reflected in federal law, that all federal elections in any given year should be held on one day nationwide.

—Rejected an appeal by John DuPont, the heir to a family chemical fortune convicted in 1997 as a mentally ill murderer. The justices, without comment, turned down his a challenge to a Pennsylvania law that allowed a jury in Media, Pa., to find DuPont guilty of third-degree murder but mentally ill.

In a series of employment-bias decisions, the nation's highest court has imposed various requirements on employees who say they were treated illegally. They must show they were subjected to adverse treatment and that the employer's asserted reason for such treatment was phony.

Obituaries

Jim Light

1934-2000

Funeral service for Jim "Carroll" Light of Odessa is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Bob Todd, pastor of the Fountain of Life Missionary Church, will officiate. Burial will follow in the Pyron Cemetery.

Mr. Light, 66, died Saturday, June 10, in Odessa's Medical Center Hospital following a lengthy illness.

Born Jan. 23, 1934 near Inadale, he attended school in Hermleigh and worked on ranches in the Crane area during the 1950s and '60s.

He married Marjorie Vandiver on Aug. 31, 1957 in Scurry County.

Mr. Light was an oilfield welder and had lived between Odessa and Crane for many years.

Survivors include his wife, Marjorie Light of Odessa; four sons, Jimmy Light of Miami, Tex., Doyle Light of Amarillo, Evert Light of Wasilla, Alaska and Robert Light of Seguin; three sisters, Wilma Campbell of Lamesa, Mabel Riggs and Velma Tolbert, both of Odessa; and 18 grandchildren.

Personal, Professional Service

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Six subjects jailed over the weekend

Six subjects were taken into custody over the weekend.

Deputies arrested a 22-year-old man at 10:40 a.m. on a Lewisville warrant for assault, family violence.

Outstanding warrants for disorderly conduct, language, and public intoxication sent a 39-year-old female to jail Saturday. Officers took her into custody at 9:06 p.m. in the 600 block of 29th Street.

At 12:49 a.m. Sunday, officers arrested a 45-year-old man in the 900 block of Old Lubbock Highway for driving while intoxicated.

A 22-year-old male was taken into custody at 12:51 a.m. Sunday in the 2900 block of Avenue O on warrants for public intoxication and failure to appear.

Officers arrested a 26-year-old man at the Plaza Truck Stop at 2:04 a.m. Sunday on warrants for speeding and failure to appear.

Department of Public Safety troopers took a 53-year-old man into custody at 11:59 p.m. on U.S. Highway 84 on outstanding DPS warrants for no valid inspection sticker, failure to appear and no liability insurance.In other weekend activity, officers were called to United Supermarket at 12:18 a.m. Saturday in reference to someone breaking into a soft drink machine. An offense report for burglary of a vehicle was filed.

At 4:08 p.m. Saturday, officers submitted an offense report for Class C assault.

A two-vehicle accident occurred at 5:48 p.m. Saturday in the 2100 block of 40th Street. Involved were a 1994 Ford Thunderbird driven by Adrian H. Escareno, 25, of 1011 27th Street and a 1993 Saturn driven by Leah Janine Williams, 18, of 3741 Avenue V.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: June 9 — Timoteo Bernal, Augustina Rios, Silva Martinez; June 10 — Rhonda Essery, Kenneth Rinehart, Pam Black, Joe Martin; June 11 — Jessie Cadena, Michael Lindsey, Tommy Riley and Dax Stokes.

DISMISSALS: June 9 — Timoteo Bernal, Velma Hester, Ruby Holt, Carolyn Horton, Helen Hoyle, Joe Michie, Rebecca Sookraj, Mary Vestal; June 10 — Stella Pylant; June 11 — Rhonda Essery, Pam Black and Michael Lindsey.

CENSUS: 38 (Med./Surg.-14, Long-term Care-23 and OB-1)

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Vacation Bible School

"Son Zone Discovery Center" Vacation Bible School will be held for grades K through 6th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. daily through Friday at North College Ave. Baptist Church. For more information call 573-7527 or 573-9540.

Bible study tapes

Bible study tapes air each week on Channel 2. Tapes to be shown at 7 this evening are "When Miracles Stopped," followed by "I Can Do All Things."

American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 181 will elect officers at 7:30 tonight.

AARP board meeting

The AARP board meeting will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Snyder Senior Center.

Diabetes support group

The Snyder diabetes support group will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Cogdell Memorial Hospital cafeteria.

Cub Scout day camp

Summer Safari 2000, the Cub Scout day camp, will be from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, and from 1-9:30 p.m. Friday at the Hughes Aquatic Base and Training Camp at Lake Colorado City. For more information, call 573-3310.

FBC worship service

The First Baptist Church Sunday morning worship service airs at 3 p.m. each Thursday on TV Channel

Northeast reading night

Northeast Elementary will host a parent-student reading night from 6:30 to 8 each Thursday throughout the summer. There will be refreshments and door prizes. Spanish classes also will be available. All students and families are welcome.

Reception

First Christian Church will host a reception for Dr. Tim Griffin, pastor, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday. He has resigned as pastor and will be moving to Orange.

GED exams

GED examinations will be administered Thursday and June 29 in the testing center at WTC. Call Emily Hataway at 573-0284 or Molly Kattes at 573-2919 for more information.

Weigh down workshop seminar

Registration is still open for the Exodus out of Egypt workshop set for 7 p.m. next Monday at the Word of Life Church, 312 Coliseum Drive. Call Donna Nehring at 573-7471 to sign up.

First Baptist VBS

"Ocean Odyssey" is the theme for vacation Bible school at First Baptist Church. VBS will be held from 9 a.m. until noon June 26-30 and is for grades K through 6th. The public is invited to family night on Wednesday.

American Legion officers

American Legion Post 181 will elect officers on June 26.

LVN class testing

Students wishing to enroll in the fall Licensed Vocational Nursing class at Western Texas College should contact the counseling office to arrange for the pre-entrance exam to be given through July 25. Interviews will be conducted through Aug. 7. For more information, call the counseling office at 573-8511, ext. 313.

Computer courses

A variety of computer courses will be offered this summer by the Continuing Ed division of WTC. Call 573-8511, ext. 390, for a list of classes.

WTC basic education classes

Adult basic education classes at Western Texas College are taught Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. until noon during June. Classes include G.E.D., E.S.L. and refresher courses. For additional information, call 573-8511, ext. 322.

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients is available every day free of charge to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland. For more information call Martha Schiebel at 573-8626 or Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

Pick 3

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

3, 5, 8

Lotto Texas

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

The ticket was worth an estimated $4 million.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 50 were: 11, 17, 19, 23, 34, 39.

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $6 million.

New operating plan outlined in court

MIAMI (AP) — A titan of the tobacco industry took the stand in defense of his business Monday after a judge ruled he could tell jurors about how his company had changed.

Philip Morris Inc. CEO Michael Szymanczyk was the first of five tobacco executives expected to testify about new company operating procedures. It is part of a bid to dissuade a Florida jury from punishing tobacco companies with a potential multibillion-dollar punitive damage request by 300,000 to 500,000 sick Florida smokers.

Szymanczyk opened by telling jurors he is the "top decision-maker" in his company.

Szymanczyk took the stand after plaintiffs attorney Stanley Rosenblatt argued that the executive shouldn't be allowed to give jurors "a public relations spiel about how they do business today."