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WT-Int. Crude - $29.75
WTIC Posted - $27.75
Natural Gas - $5.518

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY

Feb. 15, 2001
Vol. 52 No. 248
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Trey Roland

Top spellers to compete

Eight schools will send 16 students to compete in Scurry County's spelling bee beginning at 9 a.m. Friday in the Fine Arts Theatre at Western Texas College.

Rebekah Thornton, Northeast fifth grade teacher, will pronounce the words. Four Western Texas College staff members will officiate. Janet Halbert, professor of English, serves as head judge. Dr. Edward Barkowsky, professor of English and division chairperson, will be dictionary and recording judge. Other judges will be Sandra Hall, English instructor; and Emily Hataway, who administers GED tests.

The winner of Friday's bee will advance to the regional spelling bee in Lubbock to be held on March 24 at McInturff Center at University Medical Center.

The 16 spellers include the top two at each elementary and junior high school in the county as determined by campus bees.

Snyder Junior High School will be represented by Megan Crisp, the runner-up in the Feb. 7 campus bee, and Paige Anderson, who won third place. Megan's parents are Bert and Valerie Crisp. She is a seventh grader. Paige, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Anderson, is an eighth grader.

Paige replaces Patrick Jones, campus bee winner who will be unable to compete Friday. The eighth grader is the son of David and Julie Strunk.

West Elementary held the first campus bee on Feb. 1. Brandon Robbins was the winner and Claire Morris was the runner-up. Brandon is the grandson of Bill and Darlene Robbins. Claire's parents are Scott and Robin Morris.

Northeast Elementary's top spellers are Greg Resendiz, who won the Feb. 5 campus bee, and Alayna Alexander, runner-up. Greg's parents are Carlos and Juanita Resendiz. Alayna is the daughter of Laura Alexander.

East Elementary will send Jared Cave, who won the campus bee on Feb. 9, and Brittany Scott, runner-up. Jared is the son of Bryan and Vanessa Cave and Brittany is the daughter of Howell and Kathy Scott.

Contestants will include two from Ira Elementary School. Tyrelle Gilbert won the elementary bee on Feb. 8 and Mark Barnes was the runner-up. Tyrelle, a sixth grader, is the son of Jeff and LaChana Gilbert. He was also the runner-up in the 2000 campus bee. Mark is the son of Mike and Patti Barnes. He is a fifth grader.

Campus winners for Ira Junior High's bee, also held Feb. 8, include Terryn Autry, first place, and Wesley Kellner, runner-up. Terryn is in the seventh grade and the daughter of Lance and Sherry Autry. Wesley, an eighth grader, is the son of Jeff and Kathy Kellner.

Hermleigh Junior High School's representatives will be Samantha Berry, top speller in the Feb. 8 campus bee, and Karl Smith, runner-up. Samantha, a seventh grader, is the daughter of Tommy and Tammy Berry. Karl, the son of Charles and Joy Smith, is an eighth grader.

Hermleigh Elementary School will send two sixth graders to the county bee. They include Mike Barrera, who won the Feb. 7 campus bee, and Y.J. Fuentes, who was the runner-up. Mike is the son of Alice Howard and Y.J. is the son of Erlinda Portilla.

HISD trustees set date for board election

Hermleigh's school board called the May 5 election during the trustee's regular board meeting Monday evening.

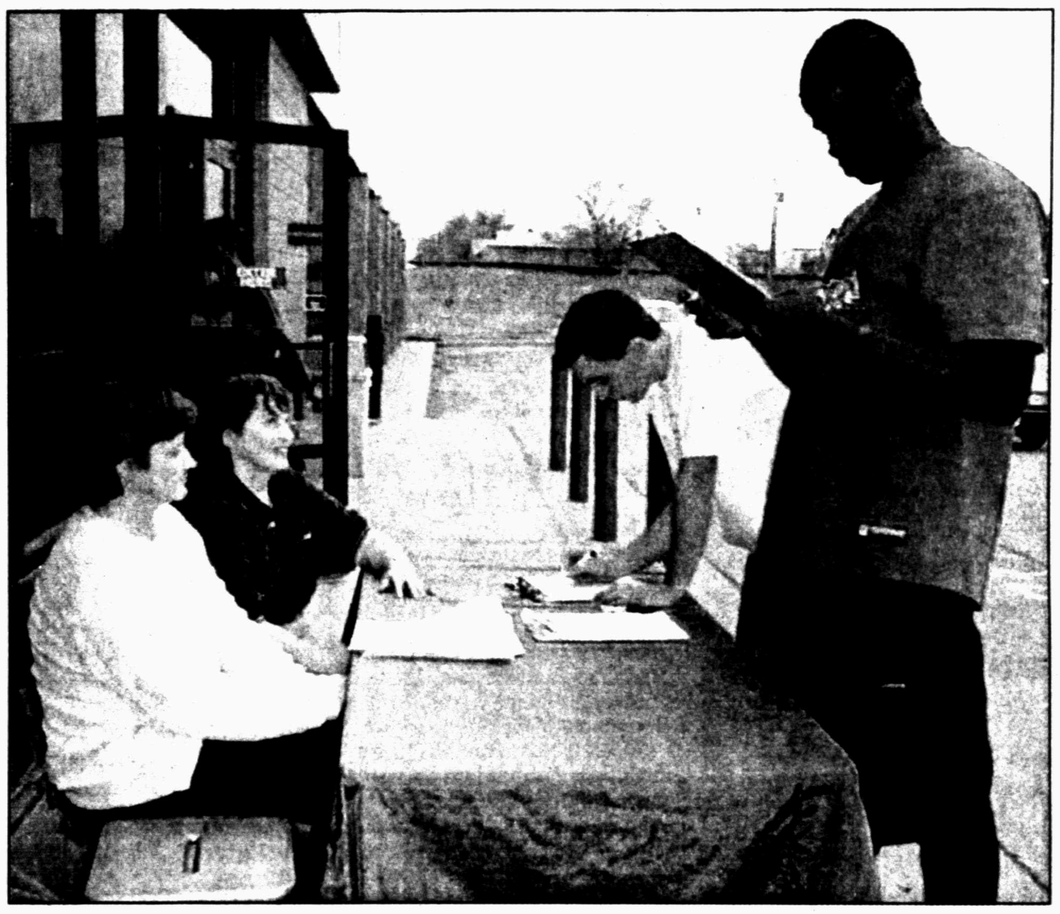
The terms of Sherene Digby and David Higgins, both at-large positions, will be on the ballot.

The board also okayed the sale of five lots the district has acquired through the non-payment of taxes.

In personnel matters, the trustees approved reducing the vocational ag teaching position to a half-day for the coming year, and extended the contract of school principal Clarence Spieker through 2003.

The action on the ag program is a result of low participation in the program.

The board also approved seeking a technology grant for the upcoming school year.



COMMUNITY SURVEY — Western Texas College is conducting community surveys through the end of this month to get input about how the institution is meeting local needs. Seated from front are WTC representatives Sandra Hall and Helen Fare. Filling out the survey, from front, are Shante Taylor and Nick Landes. Surveys are available for citizens to pick up in the Scurry County district's clerks office, American State Bank and Davidson's IGA. Tables will also be set up in front of Wal-Mart and United. (SDN Staff Photo)

Monday is holiday for some

Local financial institutions will be closed Monday for President's Day.

American State Bank, First American Bank, Snyder National Bank, Texas Savings Bank and West Texas State Bank will not be open.

County schools do not observe the holiday, but students will have some holidays over the next week.

Ira ISD students will be out Friday as a staff development day is scheduled. Snyder students will have the day off Feb. 23 as teachers have a workday set.

Hermleigh students get holidays on Feb. 23 and Feb. 26. The dates fall in conjunction with the Houston Livestock Show. The Hermleigh ISD also opts to have long weekends throughout the semester as opposed to taking a week off for spring break.

Western Texas College offices will be open Monday, but the Texas Workforce Commission, located on the college campus, will be closed.

Other Monday closings include county offices and the Scurry County Library. Scurry County Commissioners' Court will convene at 10 a.m. Tuesday instead of Monday.

Snyder Post Office will be closed. Mail will be placed in boxes, but there will be no home delivery.

City offices will be open for business.

Tipton to resign

Sam Tipton, Snyder High School girls' athletic coordinator and basketball coach, has submitted his resignation effective at the end of this school year.

Tipton will become executive director of the Texas Girls Coaches Association on Aug. 1.

See the complete story on Page 5 of today's issue.

SISD trustees to view heating, cooling bids

Snyder ISD board of trustees will consider bids to begin upgrading the district's heating and cooling systems when they meet this evening at 6 o'clock.

The upgrades will be funded with maintenance tax notes the trustees approved in the fall.

Expected to meet with the board in reference to the bids are representatives from BGR Architects-Engineers of Lubbock.

Also on the agenda is the extension of contracts for all present school administrators.

These include assistant superintendents at the administration building, Lee McNair and Dr. Melissa Jones, and at the high school, principal Larry Scott and assistant principals Thomas Fogleman and Al Phillips.

All the contracts are for two years, and will now expire June 30, 2003.

The board will also set the school board election for May 5 for the at-large posts held by Luann Burleson and Cathy Peoples.

The meeting will be at the school's administration building.

Snyder man receives 10-year prison sentence

A 27-year-old Snyder man will serve 10 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice following a guilty plea entered Tuesday in 132nd District Court.

Ramon Anthony Guzman of 3718 Highland Drive pleaded guilty to an Aug. 6 charge of injury to a child, hitting a child under the age of 14 with his hand.

District Judge Ernie Armstrong sentenced Guzman and also levied a $1,000 fine.

Area sales tax rebates

City	Feb. '01	Feb. '00	+/-	Year '01	Year '00	+/-
Abilene	$2,959,181	$3,171,932	-6.70%	$4,693,649	$4,928,227	-4.75%
Big Spring	$437,597	$369,958	18.28%	$687,378	$631,863	8.78%
Colorado City	$52,487	$47,504	10.48%	$83,434	$80,029	4.25%
Lamesa	$112,024	$99,748	12.30%	$170,173	$168,788	0.99%
Lubbock	$3,200,584	$3,331,930	-3.94%	$5,230,219	$5,315,035	-1.59%
Post	$31,820	$25,054	27.00%	$51,794	$43,536	18.96%
Roby	$4,228	$3,119	35.56%	$5,244	$4,638	13.05%
Rotan	$19,348	$13,735	40.85%	$27,204	$21,877	24.35%
Snyder	$153,720	$157,226	-2.23%	$255,365	$253,236	0.84%
Sweetwater	$229,057	$217,698	5.21%	$349,881	$353,908	-1.13%

SALES TAX REBATES — Sales tax rebates to the City of Snyder for February were down 2.23 percent from the same time period last year — $153,720 compared to $157,226. February's sales tax allocations include sales taxes collected by monthly filers in December and reported to the comptroller in January, plus quarterly returns for sales in October, November and December and returns from annual filers for the entire year 2000.

ASK US

Q—Can a person buy alcoholic drinks at a private club even if not a member?

A—At a club that has a private club exempt license, yes, if prior arrangements have been made with a member. This includes the VFW and American Legion, but not a country club.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Wednesday, 67 degrees; low, 33; 7 a.m. Thursday, 32; .20 of an inch precipitation; total for 2001, 2.10 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, mostly cloudy, 20% rain chance, low lower 30s, NW wind 10-20 mph. Friday, partly cloudy, high 55-60.



Zackary Pikyavit
Partly Cloudy

Sunset:
6:32 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:24 a.m.

Of 45 days in 2001, the sun has shone 39 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

To feel valued, to know, even if only once in a while, that you can do a job well, is an absolutely marvelous feeling.

—Barbara Walters

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "The best time to admit to middle age is when you aren't anymore."

The message is starting to sink in. We are no longer what they call middle-age.

It seems that rarely a day goes by that we're not reminded of this. At first we figured it was merely our loyal readers who figured we needed help with material for this space.

It is a fact that help is needed, but the flood of material on the autumn of life seems to point to a more pointed message.

This material, by way of Snyder's Herman Milton, is said to have surfaced at a senior adult conference at Oklahoma Baptist University.

Aging is when:

—Your children begin to look middle-aged.

—You're still chasing women, but can't remember why.

—You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.

—You turn out the lights for economic rather than romantic reasons.

—You regret all those mistakes resisting temptation.

—You're 17 around the neck, 42 around the waist, and 96 around the golf course.

—After painting the town red, you have to take a long rest before applying the second coat.

—Dialing long distance wears you out.

—You remember today that your wedding anniversary was yesterday.

—You just can't stand people who are intolerant.

—The little gray-haired lady you help across the street is your roommate.

—You have too much room in the house, but not enough space in the medicine cabinet.

—Part of you goes to bed, and part of you is left on the shelf.

—You have nothing better to do.

—It's like being on a plane in a violent storm. You can't stop and get off.

—You keep finding things where you've never been.

—Last year's new sport coat has shrunk.

—You can't remember if it's yesterday, today, or tomorrow.

—You lose your glasses and you can't see to find them unless you have them on.

—You can afford a thick steak, but you can't chew it.

—You have time to travel, but can't sleep except in your own bed.

—You have time to read, but your eyes think it's time for a nap.

—You have to sit down to put on your pants.

—You decide not to buy a toupee because there's no sense in buying a new top for a convertible when the motor's shot.

—When you find truth in some of the above observations.

Rainfall Reports

Snyder	.20
East of city	.70
Lake Thomas dam	.20
Southside of lake	.40
Polar	trace
Loyd Mountain	.27
Camp Springs	.50
Dunn	.80
Ira	.40
Dermott	.60
Union	.10
Inadale	1.0

Totals as reported by area residents for rainfall Wednesday night and early Thursday morning.

FEB 15 2001

Annual art contest for high schools slated March 23

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Charles Stenholm announced plans today for the 20th annual Congressional Art Competition for high school students in the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

Last year's winning entries, from across the nation, currently hang in the Cannon tunnel in our nation's capitol. The Artistic Discovery program provides members the opportunity to showcase the talents of creative high school constituents.

Students in grades 9-12 from Scurry, Fisher, Kent, Mitchell, and Nolan counties should enter a preliminary contest to be held in Colorado City March 23. Students may obtain release forms and further information at their local high school. Entries should be brought to Colorado City High School by 5 p.m. March 22 for the regional judging.

Other regional shows will be held in Abilene, Big Spring, Brownwood, Graham, Mineral Wells, San Angelo and Stephenville. Winners from the entire 32 counties of the 17th District will be announced at the awards brunch in Abilene on April 21. Rep. Stenholm and wife, Cindy, will host the honors brunch.

Artwork must be no larger than 32 inches by 32 framed (framing not required) and two dimensional. Eligible categories are paintings, prints, drawings, collages, computer art, or photography. Artwork must capture the flavor or depict the heritage of the West Texas area and 17th District in any category, which may include, but is not limited to landscapes.

For more information, contact Stenholm's Stamford office at 915-773-3623 or Carolyn Walker at the Colorado City High School art department.

events

RESULTS

Lotto Texas

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

The ticket was worth an estimated $18 million.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 54 were: 17-24-31-33-41-44

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $23 million.

Piuck 3

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

3-1-8

SHS students earn awards in UIL events

Sixteen Snyder High School students competed in the Hub of the Plains UIL Practice Meet at Coronado High School in Lubbock last weekend. SHS students competed against 19 other schools in districts 4A and 5A.

The SHS accounting team of Kate Wright, Leslye Starnes, Tyler Kerr and Melinda Langham placed first and received three individual awards. Wright received first place, Starnes, second, and Kerr, third.

Haley Elkins captured first in feature writing.

Dustin Whitson earned third in current issues and events.

In computer applications, Jennifer Bell was third; Anna Williams, sixth; and Jeremee Lester, seventh.

Other students on the SHS team include Maresha Rivera, Kendall Doty, Ashley Tucker, Zach Allred, Trent Boyd, Ryan McAnally and Cody Beaver.

The UIL district meet will be March 30 at Howard College in Big Spring.



PRACTICE UIL — Sixteen Snyder High School students competed in a practice UIL meet in Lubbock over the weekend. Back row, from left, are Anna Williams, Jeremee Lester, Kendall Doty, Ashley Tucker, Zach Allred, Trent Boyd, Ryan McAnally and Cody Beaver; front row from left, are Jennifer Bell, Tyler Kerr, Kate Wright, Leslye Starnes, Melinda Langham and Dustin Whitson. Not pictured are Haley Elkins and Maresha Rivera. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Giving antibiotics to livestock studied

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Scientists and veterinarians are debating whether antibiotics are still being fed to livestock in large quantities in the United States.

The Union of Concerned Scientists, in Cambridge, Mass., estimated in January that 25 million pounds of antibiotics are fed to healthy livestock annually for things like promoting growth, compared with 16 million pounds in the mid-1980s. The scientists say the heavier use will lead to more antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria that could be hard to control — in humans as well as animals.

South Dakota Veterinarian Sam Holland acknowledges that resistance to drugs is a legitimate concern. But he said the trend is toward fewer antibiotics on the farm, not more.

There is no documentation of that as yet, Holland said. But he argues that use is down because livestock facilities — at least larger ones — are cleaner than in the past. That has led to a dramatic drop in continuous antibiotics feeding across the nation, he said.

"Because of cleaner environments, you no longer have to treat for the worms and the mange and the lice that existed even just a few years ago."

Margaret Mellon of the scientists group testified before the Food and Drug Administration late last month. The FDA regulates animal drugs.

"While we invited people to come forward with better numbers, we haven't seen anything along those lines," Mellon said in an interview with the Aberdeen American News.

She said the Centers for Disease Control plans to examine the methods the scientists used to come up with their numbers. And the FDA has pledged to set up a data-gathering system to get a handle on the volume of antibiotics livestock consume.

Mellon said a governmental system is needed to verify claims by the livestock and antibiotic industries that use is falling.

South Dakota requires no reporting of antibiotics use in livestock, said Brad Berven of the state Department of Agriculture.

"We do require that feeds be reported, as far as how many tons are sold, but we do not require the feeds to be broken down by drugs they contain."

Special winery license could help ND farmers

BISMARCK, N.D. — A special winery license may help some North Dakota farmers become part-time vintners.

The state House approved a bill this week that allows the state treasurer to license farm wineries, which could sell no more than 1,000 gallons of wine annually.

"This ... is an attempt to help people who have a hobby, that maybe might make a nice little side income," said Rep. Tom Brusegaard, R-Gilby.

Under the legislation, the wineries could also give away free samples at wine tastings, and sell glassware, cheese and snack foods.

The wine may be made from grapes, other types of fruit, or honey. A farm that qualifies for a winemaking license must produce most of the wine's ingredients on the farm.

"There are farms across the state that are trying a new product, getting away from the old-fashioned wheat, barley, soybeans and sunflowers mode, and they're raising some grapes," Brusegaard said.

The legislation now goes to the Senate for its review.

On The Net:

Food and Drug Administration: http://www.fda.gov/

Center for Disease Control: http://www.cdc.gov/

Date Book

Thursday, Feb. 15, 2001

Today is the 46th day of 2001 and the 57th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1879, President Rutherford Hayes signed a law allowing women attorneys to appear before the U.S. Supreme Court.

On this day in 1898, the USS Maine exploded and sank in the harbor of Havana, Cuba. The disaster took the lives of 266 sailors.

On this day in 1989, Soviet military forces completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Galileo Galilei (1564-1642), astronomer; John Augustus Sutter (1803-1880), U.S. pioneer; Charles L. Tiffany (1812-1902), jeweler; Cyrus McCormick (1809-1884), inventor; Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906), social reformer; John Barrymore (1882-1942), actor; Harold Arlen (1905-1986), composer; Art Spiegelman (1948-), artist-author, is 53; Jane Seymour (1951-), actress, is 50; Matt Groening (1954-), cartoonist, is 47.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1953, Tenley Albright won the world figure-skating championship in Davos, Switzerland.

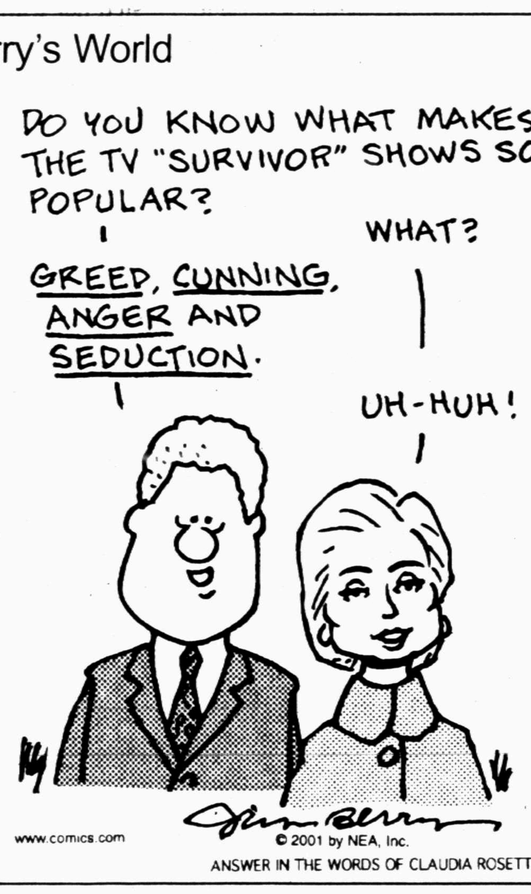
TODAY'S QUOTE: "Doubt is the father of invention." — Galileo Galilei

TODAY'S MOON: Day after last quarter (Feb. 14).

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The followers of the Prophet Muhammad spread the word of Islam westward from Mecca through North Africa to Spain and France in only a century, but it took seven centuries for the Christians to reconquer their territory.

Berry's World



ANSWER IN THE WORDS OF CLAUDIA ROSETT

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Intro

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SONATA-SONATINA CONTEST — Piano students of Mrs. Barbara Tune participated in the Lubbock Sonata-Sonatina Contest and Festival at Texas Tech Feb. 10. Students are from left, back row, Brittany Scott, 3rd place; Alayna Alexander, 3rd place; Casey Arnold, 3rd place; Ryanna Alexander, superior rating in the festival; front row, Charley Stewart, participant; Whitney Jones, 3rd place; Gretchen Hollis, participant; and Kristen Miller, 1st place, who had the honor of performing in the Winner's Recital Feb. 11. Not pictured is Jason Hall, 2nd place. All students received a superior rating. (Contributed Photo)



DAR MEETING — Virginia Clark, the first regent of the local Martin Prueuitt Jr. Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, hosted a meeting Tuesday at her home and gave a program on First Lady Caroline Harrison. Harrison, the wife of Benjamin Harrison who was elected president of the United States in 1888, was the originator of the DAR. Clark's daughter (center), Marsha Brown, of Fredericksburg, and Dorothy Campbell, right, assisted her with hostess duties. DAR will meet again May 9 at the Snyder Country Club to honor a Snyder High School senior with the good citizenship award. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

'M' can mean more fun, more color

This season, a snack food that's blasted off on the Space Shuttle and gone into battle with soldiers during World War II can make a colorful addition to sweet treats for every kind of celebration.

These candy-coated chocolate morsels add excitement to favorite recipes as a scrumptious part of irresistible cookies, decadent desserts and easy-to-make treats just for kids.

"M&M's"™ Chocolate Mini Baking Bits were first introduced in 1992, and have since become a popular addition to a variety of recipes.

A delightful recipe booklet is now available, providing dozens of possibilities for the tiny treats, from Chocolate & Malt Bars to Peanut Butter Mini Muffins, from Edible Easter Baskets to "Easier Than Pie" Pretzel Sticks.

For a unique gift, consider this recipe for an unusual "cookie jar." It allows you to supply the ingredients and the jar, and let the recipient do the baking. It's a colorful, homemade present that's a fun surprise at any time of the year-a tasty way to show someone how much you care.

"M&M's"™ GIFT JAR COOKIE MIX

¾ cup all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ cup chopped walnuts
1 cup "M&M's" Chocolate Mini Baking Bits, divided
½ cup raisins
¾ cup firmly packed light brown sugar
1¼ cups uncooked quick oats

In medium bowl, combine flour, baking soda, salt and cinnamon. In 1-quart clear glass jar with tight-fitting, resealable lid, layer flour mixture, walnuts, 1/2 cup "M&M's" Chocolate Mini Baking Bits, raisins, brown sugar, remaining Baking Bits and oats. Seal jar; wrap decoratively.

Give jar as a gift with the following instructions: Preheat oven to 350 F. Lightly grease cookie sheets; set aside. In large bowl beat ¾ cup (1½ sticks) butter, 1 large egg and ¾ teaspoon vanilla extract until well blended.

Stir in contents of jar until well blended. Roll into 1-inch balls and place about 2 inches apart on prepared cookie sheets.

Bake 12 to 15 minutes. Cool 2 minutes on cookie sheets; cool completely on wire racks. Store in tightly covered container.

Makes 4 dozen cookies.

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Community Calendar

THURSDAY

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

Rock and Roll Quilting Club evening meeting; Hermleigh Community Center; for more information call 863-2426; 6:30 p.m.

Snyder Chapter 450 Order of the eastern Star; Masonic Hall, 1912 35th Street; 7:30 p.m.

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; American Legion; 6:30 to 8 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information call 573-4048; 8 p.m.

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; for information call 573-8626; 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

Atheneum Study Club; MAWC; "African Safari," by Jimmy Don and Andrea Mason; 6:30 p.m.

Hermleigh Community Center Family Night; 6:30 p.m.

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-9458; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Just For Today NA open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

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

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



	North	02-15-01
	♠ A Q 3	
	♥ 7 2	
	♦ J 9 8 3	
	♣ J 7 3 2	
West		**East**
♠ 10 8 5 4 2		♠ K 9
♥ A 9 5 4		♥ Q J 10 8 6
♦ K 2		♦ 5 4
♣ 9 4		♣ 10 8 6 5
	South	
	♠ J 7 6	
	♥ K 3	
	♦ A Q 10 7 6	
	♣ A K Q	

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♠ 4

Thursday, Feb. 15, 2001

Dressed in deceptive clothing

By Phillip Alder

W.R. Inge, a former dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, wrote, "It is useless for the sheep to pass resolutions in favour of vegetarianism, while the wolf remains of a different opinion."

We also have an expression about a wolf in sheep's clothing. Some bridge deals are like that. It appears to require one play technique, when it actually needs something different.

Look at these North-South hands. How would you plan the play in three no-trump after West leads his fourth-highest spade?

Declarer counted six top tricks: one spade, one diamond and four clubs. The extras could come from diamonds, and perhaps overtricks were available with a winning spade finesse. So, he called for a low spade from the dummy. However, East produced the king, then unsportingly switched to the heart queen. South was a quick two down.

Probably you noted that you needed to keep East off the lead to avoid that dangerous heart return. So, maybe you won trick one with dummy's spade ace and took the diamond finesse. That works perfectly if West did lead away from the spade king at trick one, your heart king being safe from attack, lupine or otherwise. Here, though, West might continue with another spade, putting East on lead for the lethal heart switch.

A third option, which has a lot going for it, is to call for dummy's spade queen at trick one. If the queen wins, you take the diamond finesse in safety. And here, if East wins with the spade king, he might well return a spade at trick two, deceived about your holding in the suit.

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Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Feb. 14-John Ornelas, Tony Grimes, Delbert Jones, Crystal Rivera and Syvola Waller.

DISMISSALS: Vinita Warren, Matthew Bass, Robert Clements, Crystal Rivera and Elida Yruegas.

CENSUS: 47 (Med./Surg.-20, Long-term Care-23, OB-2 and Nursery-2)

Six couples marry in Valentine, Neb.

VALENTINE, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska's own "Heart City" lived up to its name on Valentine's Day as six couples wed in back-to-back ceremonies.

"It's been a long day for me here," said Clerk Magistrate Mary Galloway, who officiated the ceremonies Wednesday at the Holiday Inn Express.

Guests shuffled in and out of the hotel's hall throughout the day as the lucky couples had about an hour to savor their special moments.

One man who got married in Valentine that day was Dean Valentine of Fort Collins, Colo. His guests included his father, who lives in this north-central Nebraska town.

—

The Stars and Stripes officially was adopted as the United States flag in 1777.

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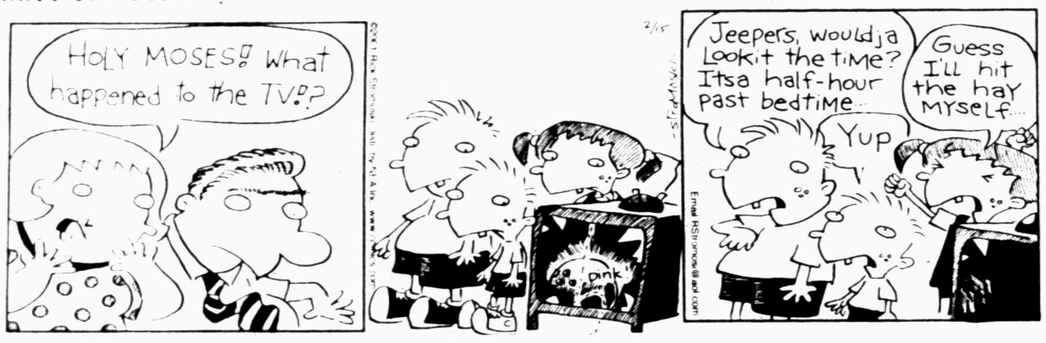
ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



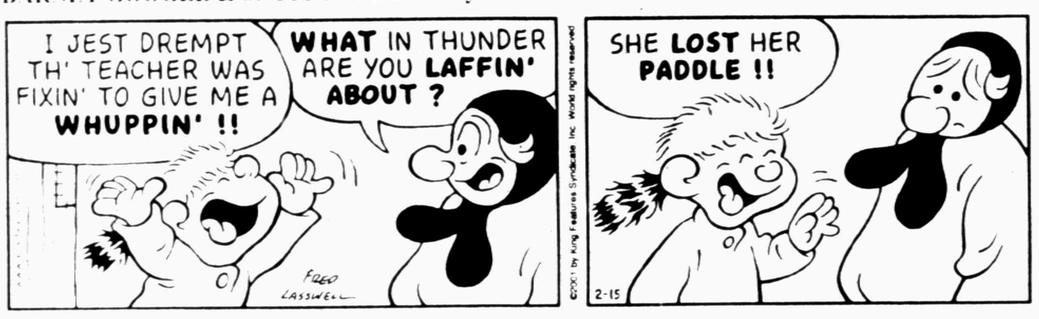
THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



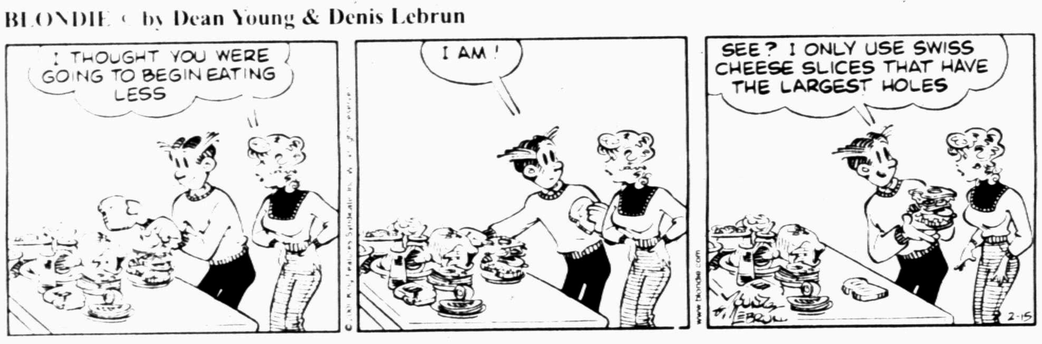
SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



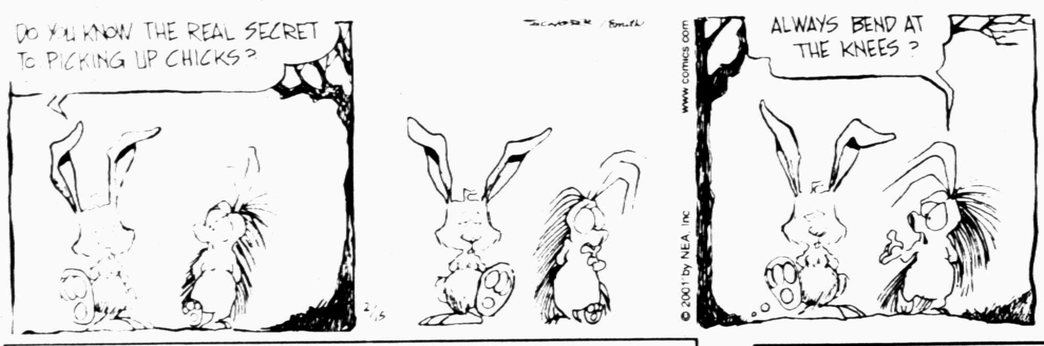
BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



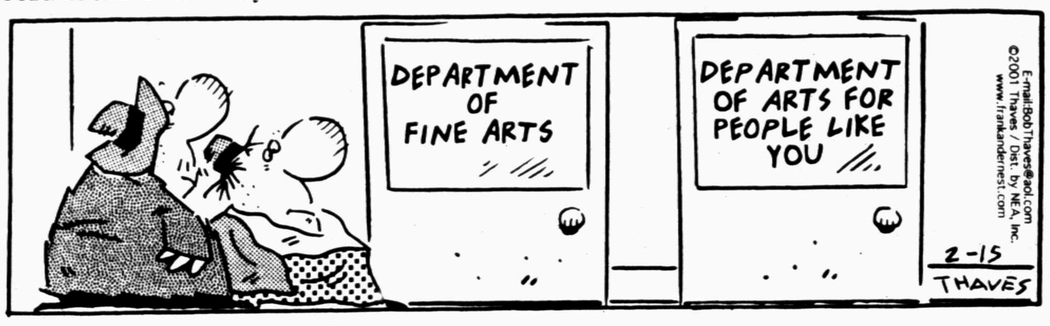
BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



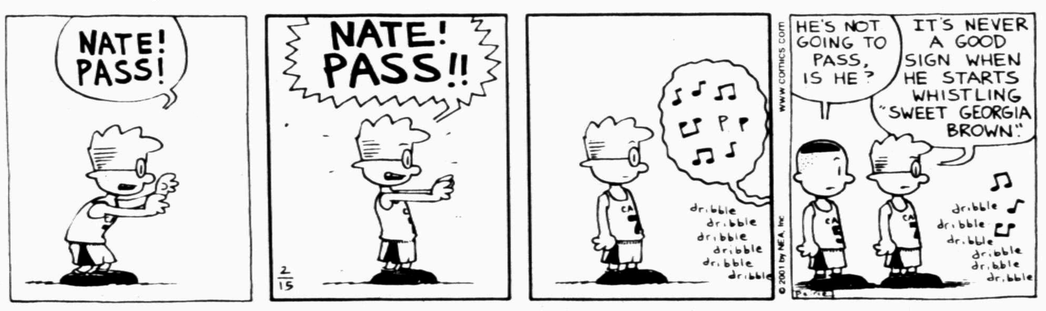
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ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"Forget about me meeting a willowy blonde! I just need the name of a horse that will win the Derby."

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Traffic-light color
6 Pleated circular collar
10 Scant
12 Less difficult
14 Comprise
15 A business with brokers
16 "Help!"
17 Honest —
19 Merriment
20 Eyeglass
23 Beneath
26 Devoured
27 Did a marathon
30 "No Exit" writer
32 Ancient Jewish ascetic
34 Wipes out
35 Supper
36 MD's chart
37 LP speed
39 — — lunch
40 Equality State
42 Ms. McEntire
45 Ms. Thurman
46 Yale graduate
49 Escapes adroitly
51 Device
54 Calm
55 Atlantic and Pacific
56 For fear that
57 Type of bear

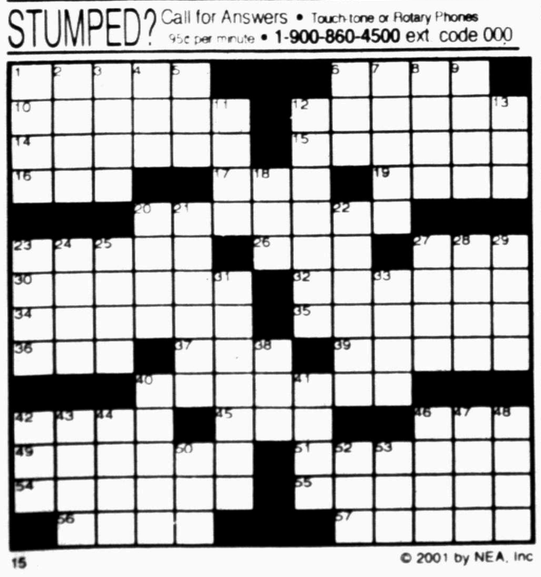
DOWN

1 Singing brothers
2 Office note
3 Streisand, to friends
4 Type of trip?
5 Primary color
6 Actress Charlotte —
7 Common practice
8 Fix a cavity
9 Lavish party
11 Nolan or Meg
12 Built
13 Deli bread
18 Feathery stole
20 Shea Stadium team
21 Model of the solar system
22 Skin problem
23 Plaintiff
24 Spy employed by the police
25 Type of race
27 Tenant's obligation
28 Work without — — (be daring)
29 Roman emperor
31 Embrace, as a cause
33 Like a bug in a rug
38 Roman 3,000
40 Walks in water
41 Character in "Othello"
42 Domicile (abbr.)
43 Daredevil Knievel
44 Uncovered
46 Mild oath
47 Grant temporarily
48 — -bitsy
50 Med. specialist
52 Emulate Harrison Ford
53 Poor grade

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



KIT 'N' CARL' 'LE ® by Larry Wright



Tipt SHS

By Eric D
Sports E

After 15 years of basketball, and re of programs along Tipton is hanging

Tipton, head g coach and girls at tor at Snyder Hi past two years, su ter of resignation tive the end of the

Tipton, who spe years as a coach, athletics. He begin executive director Girls Coaches Austin, and is look the challenges.

"I've spent the my life either coac ing to coach a ba said Tipton. "It's some time to ge doing that. It's ha to a game right no

"I've spent the l ing to build two what I thought t Now, I'm going to for girls' athleti state."

Prior to his tw Snyder, Tipton sp the helm of the gram. He retires with an overall re

"No matter wha never totally satis Tipton remarked. I've accomplishe that I set out for m ing good program and community of.

"I think the old goals begin to ch is probably the

Ground Hog

The Ground H Club. Format is a The field will be imum differential To enter, call the

Junior golf a

Junior golfers i pick up member shop.

Bass club me

Snyder Bass C meeting is open t cers and this yea 573-4031.

Girls Little L

Registration fo First Baptist Chu p.m. today and Fr Ages 8-12 are e accompanied by a

Thurman Th

DAVIE, Fla. (A do it as a Buffalo seasons.

The Miami Do running back to s day, and then ret During his 12 consecutive Supe Thomas will fin all-time list and j sixth in all-purpo

Rocker loses

NEW YORK (A with a loss in sala The Atlanta rel on minorities as f than $2.98 millio Shriftman ruled.

The left-hander season that bega comments to Spe and Asians.

Fake trading

SAN DIEGO (A trading cards of were later sold a ities said.

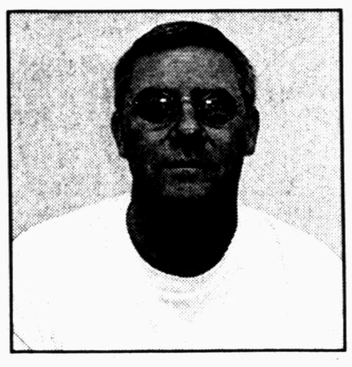
For two years, Gwynn, Dan Ma

At collectors' were then resolv an FBI agent.

SPORTS

Tipton steps down as head of SHS girls' athletics program

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor



Sam Tipton

After 15 years of coaching girls' basketball, and rebuilding a pair of programs along the way, Sam Tipton is hanging up his whistle.

Tipton, head girls' basketball coach and girls athletic coordinator at Snyder High School the past two years, submitted his letter of resignation Tuesday, effective the end of the school year.

Tipton, who spent a total of 24 years as a coach, will remain in athletics. He begins his tenure as executive director of the Texas Girls Coaches Association in Austin, and is looking forward to the challenges.

"I've spent the last 24 years of my life either coaching, or preparing to coach a basketball game," said Tipton. "It's going to take some time to get used to not doing that. It's hard for me to go to a game right now, as just a fan.

"I've spent the last 15 years trying to build two programs into what I thought they should be. Now, I'm going to try to do that for girls' athletics across the state."

Prior to his two-year stint in Snyder, Tipton spent 13 years at the helm of the Frenship program. He retires from coaching with an overall record of 274-175.

"No matter what you do, you're never totally satisfied as a coach," Tipton remarked. "But I feel like I've accomplished some goals that I set out for myself, like building good programs that the kids and community could be proud of.

"I think the older you get, your goals begin to change. Coaching is probably the most humbling profession, because one minute you're on the top of the world, and the next minute you're so low you need a step-ladder to see daylight."

Tipton rebuilt the Lady Tiger basketball program, and SHS girls' athletics as a whole.

The Lady Tigers were ranked as high as sixth in the state this past season, and under his direction, girls are participating in Snyder High School athletics in record numbers.

"Over the past two years, people here have grown accustomed to success in girls' athletics," said Tipton. "We have things going in the right direction now, and people are enjoying it.

"I really feel like we built the kind of program here that we wanted. Participation is up in every sport, and we're winning ballgames. We still have some finishing touches to put on this spring, but overall I'm really proud of Snyder High School girls' athletics."

Tipton credits his success at SHS to the administration, faculty and community.

In his resignation letter to SISD superintendent Gayle Lomax, the coach wrote, "My tenure at Snyder allowed me to become a part of the finest administration, faculty, student body and community I have ever had association with in my 24 years in the school business.

"Your style of day-to-day administration has allowed me, along with the loyal dedicated help of my entire coaching staff, to elevate Snyder girls' athletics to be recognized as one of the top overall programs in Texas."

Tipton will move to Austin this summer to begin his role with the TGCA, where he'll replace Billy McKown as executive director. McKown has held the post for the past 48 years.

"People talk about replacing a legend in coaching. Well, I have to replace an icon in girls' athletics," Tipton stated. "McKown is the only executive director the TGCA has ever had, but I'm looking forward to the challenge.

"With the emergence of girls' athletics in this state, the future and directions we can go are boundless. The role is somewhat similar to my job as girls' athletic coordinator. I built a program in Snyder the way I thought it should be built, and now I'm going to try to do the same for girls' athletics across the state."

A timetable for finding Tipton's successor has not been set. Tipton said a search committee would be formed, and would follow the proper channels for finding the best possible replacement.

Tigers' playoff game moved to Levelland

The Snyder Tigers are set to face the Hereford Whitefaces in a bi-district playoff Tuesday, and now the site is also set.

Snyder and Hereford will square off at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Levelland High School.

The game was originally slated for Lubbock High School, but had to be moved late Wednesday evening when Lubbock High officials realized they had double-booked the gym.

"Hereford called us, and said that Lubbock High told them we couldn't play there," said Snyder asst. coach Ben Reed. "So we spent about two hours looking for another gym.

"Levelland was the best facility we could get. We've played there this year, but it's closer to Hereford, so we figured it evened out."

Snyder enters the game with a 20-10 mark, while Hereford sports a record of 27-4.

The winner advances to face Fabens in the area round Feb. 23.

In the girls' Class A-Division II playoffs, the Ira Lady Bulldogs and the Borden County Lady Coyotes will be in action Friday in the sectional semifinals at Abilene.

Ira faces Balmorhea at 6 p.m. at Abilene High School, while Borden County meets Dell City at 6 p.m. at McMurry University.

The Ira boys open the playoffs at 7 p.m. Tuesday when they take on Blackwell at Abilene High School.

Sports Briefs

Ground Hog golf tourney

The Ground Hog Open will be held Feb. 24-25 at Snyder Country Club. Format is a two-man scramble, and entry fee is $80 per team.

The field will be pre-flighted by total handicap, with a five-shot maximum differential between players. Play will begin at 1 p.m. both days. To enter, call the SCC pro shop at 573-7101.

Junior golf applications

Junior golfers interested in the NTPGA Junior Golf Foundation can pick up membership applications at the Snyder Country Club pro shop.

Bass club meeting

Snyder Bass Club will meet at 7 this evening at Scifres Tire. The meeting is open to the public. On the agenda are election of new officers and this year's tournament schedule. For more information, call 573-4031.

Girls Little Dribblers

Registration for girls Little Dribblers basketball will be held at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. Players can sign up from 6-8 p.m. today and Friday, and from 9 a.m. until noon Saturday.

Ages 8-12 are eligible to play, and entry fee is $30. Players must be accompanied by a guardian, and bring a copy of their birth certificate.

Thurman Thomas to retire

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — Thurman Thomas has decided to retire. He'll do it as a Buffalo Bill, the team with whom he spent 12 of his 13 NFL seasons.

The Miami Dolphins are expected to waive Thomas, allowing the running back to sign with the Bills, remain with his former team for a day, and then retire.

During his 12 seasons in Buffalo, he helped lead the Bills to four consecutive Super Bowls.

Thomas will finish his career with 12,074 yards rushing, ninth on the all-time list and just 46 yards behind Franco Harris. Thomas also is sixth in all-purpose yards.

Rocker loses arbitration case

NEW YORK (AP) — John Rocker followed his most difficult season with a loss in salary arbitration.

The Atlanta reliever, known as much for his disparaging comments on minorities as for his pitching, will get $1.9 million this season rather than $2.98 million, arbitrators Jack Clarke, Jerome Ross and Elliot Shriftman ruled. He made $290,000 last year.

The left-hander went 1-2 with a 2.89 ERA and 24 saves last year in a season that began with a two-week suspension imposed because of comments to Sports Illustrated that disparaged blacks, women, gays and Asians.

Fake trading cards discovered

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A counterfeit ring produced thousands of fake trading cards of Mark McGwire and three other sports figures that were later sold at collector shows in at least two states, federal authorities said.

For two years, the ring printed fake rookie cards of McGwire, Tony Gwynn, Dan Marino and John Elway.

At collectors' shows, the fake cards sold for about $100 each and were then resold for several hundred dollars, said Jeffrey McKinney, an FBI agent.

Big 12 basketball round-up...

Missouri extends win streak to five games

By The Associated Press

In his first game back from an indefinite suspension, guard Clarence Gilbert attempted only seven shots and passed up at least that many to finish with eight points, well off his 17-point average.

"It tells you how committed he is to the team," Missouri coach Quin Snyder said. "He'll figure that out. We want him to be shooting."

The Tigers claimed their fifth straight win over Colorado 80-69. Missouri is now 12-0 at home this season.

In other Big 12 games Wednesday night, Nebraska defeated Kansas State 82-56, Texas A&M beat Texas-Pan American 81-78, and Oklahoma State downed No. 13 Oklahoma 72-44.

At Columbia, Mo., Wesley Stokes scored 13 of his 19 points in the second half and Arthur Johnson added 17 for Missouri as the Tigers led from start to finish. Brian Grawer, 3-of-7 from 3-point range, tied Jason Sutherland's school record with his 190th career 3-pointer. Grawer, who went 8-13 from 3-point range in Missouri's loss last weekend to Iowa State, ended the night with 15 points.

Jamahl Mosley had 17 points to lead Colorado (15-10, 5-7 Big 12), and D.J. Harrison added 15 and Stephane Pelle had 14.

In Lincoln, Neb., Kimani Ffriend scored 17 points and pulled down 11 rebounds as Nebraska pushed Kansas State's losing streak to seven straight with an 82-56 win.

Brian Conklin had 11 points and 16 rebounds and Cookie Belcher finished with 15 points for the Cornhuskers (12-12, 5-6 Big 12), who shot 53 percent (32-for-60) from the field.

Rodney Fields added 11 points for the Huskers, who swept a season series for the first time since beating Kansas twice in the 1998-99 season.

Kansas State (8-14, 2-9) trailed by 17 at halftime and never got closer than 14 in the second half.

In College Station, Andy Leatherman sank a pair of free throws with seven seconds left to give Texas A&M an 81-78 victory over Texas-Pan American.

Brian Merriweather, the nation's best 3-point shooter, missed a chance to give Texas-Pan American a tie at 78 with 32 seconds left when his perimeter shot rattled off the rim. After the Aggies hit only one of four free throws, Merriweather sank a 3-pointer to cut the Aggie lead to 79-78. Leatherman finished up the scoring.

Bernard King scored 22 points to lead A&M (9-15). The victory was the Aggies' third straight, the first such streak since 1998.

Mire Chatman scored 31 points to lead the Broncs (10-15). Merriweather was held to a 3-of-13 performance and 14 points.

At Stillwater, Okla., Victor Williams scored a career-high 26 points and was equally impressive on defense as Oklahoma State ended No. 13 Oklahoma's seven-game winning streak, 72-44.

Boys' Basketball Playoffs

CLASS 4A
Region I

EP Parkland (R-1) vs. Clint (T-2)
Lubbock Estacado (W-4), bye
Hereford (R-3) vs. Snyder (T-4)
Fabens (W-2), bye
Wichita Falls (R-5) vs. Justin Northwest (T-6)
North Crowley (W-8), bye
FW Poly (R-7) vs. Cleburne (T-8)
Southlake Carroll (W-6), bye
EP Bowie (T-1) vs. San Elizario (R-2)
Canyon Randall (W-3), bye
Canyon (T-3) vs. Plainview (R-4)
EP Ysleta (W-1), bye
WF Rider (T-5) vs. Grapevine (R-6)
FW Dunbar (W-7), bye
FW Southwest (T-7) vs. Crowley (R-8)
Burkburnett (W-5), bye

CLASS A-DIVISION II
Region II

Balmorhea (W-9) vs. Marathon (R-10)
Westbrook (W-11) vs. Trent (R-12)
Panther Creek (W-13) vs. Richland Springs (R-14)
D'Hanis (W-15) vs. Cherokee (R-16)
Sierra Blanca (R-9) vs. Grandfalls-Royalty (W-10)
Ira (R-11) vs. Blackwell (W-12)
Veribest (R-13) vs. Brookesmith (W-14)
Utopia (R-15) vs. Lometa (W-16)

Girls' Basketball Playoffs

CLASS 4A
Region I

Bi-District

EP Burges 47, Canutillo 42
Borger 76, Frenship 53
FW Boswell 56, Burkburnett 42
Stephenville 76, FW Eastern Hills 55
EP Riverside 56, Clint Mountain View 54
Canyon Randall 48, Levelland 35
Grapevine 57, Wichita Falls 51
Crowley 80, FW Southwest 53
WF Hirschi (W-5), bye

Area

EP Burges (R-1) vs. Plainview (W-4)
Borger (R-3) vs. Clint (W-2)
FW Boswell (T-6) vs. Cleburne (W-8)
Stephenville (T-8) vs. Southlake Carroll (W-6)
EP Riverside (T-1) vs. Canyon (W-3)
Canyon Randall (T-3) vs. EP Parkland (W-1)
Grapevine (R-6) vs. FW Wyatt (W-7)
Crowley (R-8) vs. WF Hirschi (W-5)

CLASS A-DIVISION II
Region II

Bi-District

Dell City 32, Buena Vista
Borden County 66, Blackwell 28
Rochelle 58, Santa Anna 45
Knippa 57, Mullin 44
Balmorhea 47, Sanderson 38
Ira 35, Trent 31
Brookesmith 75, Panther Creek 25
Utopia 49, Cherokee 44

Sectional Semifinal

Dell City (W-9) vs. Borden County (W-11)
Rochelle (R-14) vs. Knippa (W-15)
Balmorhea (R-9) vs. Ira (R-11)
Brookesmith (W-14) vs. Utopia (R-15)

National Basketball Association

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	38	14	.731	—
Miami	31	20	.608	6½
New York	29	20	.592	7½
Orlando	26	23	.531	10½
Boston	22	28	.440	15
New Jersey	17	36	.321	21½
Washington	12	38	.240	25

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	30	19	.612	—
Toronto	27	23	.540	3½
Charlotte	27	25	.519	4½
Indiana	21	28	.429	9
Cleveland	20	28	.417	9½
Detroit	20	31	.392	11
Atlanta	16	35	.314	15
Chicago	7	42	.143	23

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	33	16	.673	—
San Antonio	32	16	.667	½
Minnesota	32	20	.615	2½
Dallas	31	20	.608	3
Denver	28	24	.538	6½
Houston	26	25	.510	8
Vancouver	14	36	.280	19½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	30	15	.706	—
Sacramento	32	15	.681	2
L.A. Lakers	32	17	.653	3
Phoenix	30	20	.600	5½
Seattle	28	24	.538	8½
L.A. Clippers	16	36	.308	20½
Golden State	15	34	.306	20

Wednesday's Games

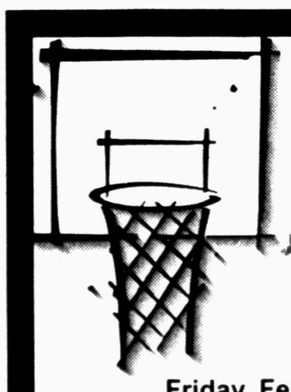
Milwaukee 102, Atlanta 98
Detroit 105, New Jersey 86
Orlando 114, L.A. Clippers 101
Philadelphia 112, L.A. Lakers 97
Phoenix 104, Minnesota 96
Utah 106, New York 90

Thursday's Games

Detroit at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Miami at Toronto, 8 p.m.
Cleveland at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Washington at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Boston at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Sacramento at Portland, 10 p.m.
Golden State at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Friday's Games

L.A. Clippers at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Houston at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at New York, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Denver at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.



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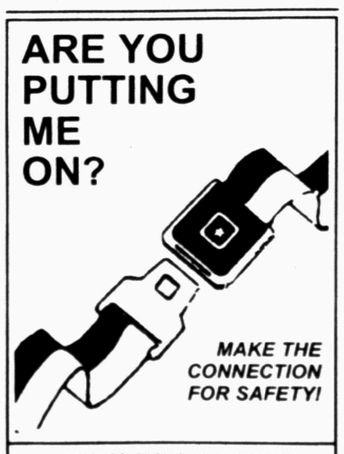
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Call 574-1744 after 5p.m.

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Low down payment. Will work with your tax refund on down payment. Low monthly. 3-1, 3201 42nd. Call Kelly, 915-425-9994.

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Real Estate

Owner Financed Homes

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*$1,500 down, $375/mo. 2-1, fenced, storage shed, large garden. $28,000, 20-years. **134 20th Place**
*$1500 down, $350/mo., 3-1, fenced, laundry room. Under repair. $28,000, 20 years. **126 20th Place**
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Court strikes anti-harassment policy

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — A federal appeals court overturned a school district's sweeping anti-harassment policy, saying the guidelines violate the free speech rights of students.

The suit had been brought on behalf of two State College Area School District students who wanted to express their view that homosexuality is a sin.

In its ruling Wednesday, a three-judge panel of the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the district went too far when it prohibited harassment based on everything from race and sexual orientation to "other personal characteristics," including clothing, appearance and social skills.

Experts said the ruling could force hundreds of school districts to reassess their own policies to ensure they comply with the ruling.

While the court acknowledged the district has a compelling interest in promoting a safe and conducive learning environment, it said officials failed to explain why it anticipated disruption "from the broad swath of student speech prohibited under the policy."

Judge Samuel A. Alito wrote that the policy, enacted in August 1999, "appears to cover substantially more speech than could be prohibited" under existing U.S. Supreme Court precedents.

A school may categorically ban "lewd, vulgar or profane language" and may regulate speech to meet a "legitimate pedagogical concern," he wrote. But other speech may be limited "only if it would substantially disrupt school operations or interfere with the rights of others."

David Warren Saxe, a Penn State University assistant professor and member of the state board of education, sued the district in October 1999 on behalf of two students, for whom he is legal guardian.

"They believe, and their religion teaches, that homosexuality is a sin," the suit said. "Plaintiffs further believe that they have a right to speak out about the sinful nature and harmful effects of homosexuality."

Saxe argued that rules were already in place that prohibited violence and other physical harassment.

"What this policy was about is the content of somebody's speech," Saxe said, "and it chilled the First Amendment rights of every child in that school, every teacher, every visitor."

The appeals court ruling overturned a lower court. The U.S. District Court had rejected Saxe's suit, saying harassing speech has never been protected under the free speech protection of the First Amendment.

Rulings by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals are binding over federal judges in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and the Virgin Islands.

Superintendent Patricia Best said she was disappointed with the decision, but had not had a chance to review it with other district officials or with the district's attorneys. She said she didn't know whether the district would appeal.

On the Net: Text of court ruling, http://pacer.ca3.uscourts.gov/reentop/day/994081.txt

More faulty cars recalled by Mitsubishi

TOKYO (AP) — Scandal-tainted Mitsubishi Motors Corp. announced a worldwide recall of 1.3 million vehicles today, including thousands of cars being recalled for the second time in the United States and Japan.

The $146 million recall is another serious setback for the Japanese automaker, which acknowledged last summer it had been systematically hiding driver complaints for more than 20 years.

Mitsubishi Motors has been trying to win back customer trust by working with a quality-control team from DaimlerChrysler AG, the German automaker which bought a 34 percent stake in Mitsubishi Motors after the cover-up scandal surfaced.

In the latest recall, Mitsubishi Motors reported to the Japanese government five types of auto defects in 11 models on the domestic market, recalling 401,106 vehicles. The defects include faulty airbags, leaking fuel tanks and smoking turbines.

Mitsubishi Motors President and CEO Takashi Sonobe said recalls on an additional 950,000 vehicles will be announced in the United States soon.

The U.S. recall is for loose parts on a joint in the front suspension that may cause the Mitsubishi Galant, Eclipse, Chrysler Sebring and Dodge Avenger sedans to stall, MMC said.

The sedans were recalled once last summer. In Japan, 232,514 sedans produced from 1992 to 2001 are being recalled for the second time for the same problem.

"It was truly a shoddy setup that deserves criticism," Sonobe said of having to recall the vehicles a second time.

Akira Okamoto, executive officer in charge of quality, said officials checking for defects the first time mistakenly assumed they only arose on the assembly line.

Mitsubishi Motors also recalled 4,452 Fuso AeroStar trucks for the second time for a weak, noisy turbine wing. In the first recall, Mitsubishi Motors found defective computer equipment that also caused turbine damage.

Sonobe — who took over as president after his predecessor resigned to take responsibility for the scandal — said it was still undecided how the automaker will book the costs for the latest recall.

Those costs will come on top of the $95 million it earmaked for last summer's recall of 620,000 vehicles. Mitsubishi Motors is forecasting a loss of $1.2 billion for the fiscal year ending next month.

Sonobe said the worldwide recall will likely balloon to more than 1.3 million, affecting cars manufactured in both Japan and Mitsubishi's U.S. plant in Illinois.

Two minor crashes linked to the loose-joint problem have been reported in Japan. The cars were damaged, but no one was injured. Owners are being notified of the problems by mail and will receive free repairs.

Widespread damage to soil found by satellite mapping

WASHINGTON (AP) — Much of the world's farmland is in such poor condition that farmers will have to find better ways to grow crops or else their production won't keep pace with the growing population, scientists say.

About 16 percent of the world's farmland is free of fertility problems, or "constraints," such as chemical contamination, acidity, salinity or poor drainage, according to a study by the International Food Policy Research Institute. The report was based on satellite maps.

In parts of Asia, as little as 6 percent of farmland is free of such problems. North America has the largest share of the best land at 29 percent.

"The basic story is that agriculture is being pretty successful at keeping the world in food. It's been somewhat less successful in nurturing the natural resources that underpin that production capacity," said Stanley Wood, the report's lead author.

Aluminum contamination is high enough on 17 percent of the farmland worldwide that it's toxic to plants, and salt deposits are a significant problem on irrigated land. Nearly 4 million acres of farmland is lost to excessive salt every year, or about 1 percent of irrigated area worldwide, the report said.

Depletion of organic matter in soil also is widespread, reducing fertility and moisture retention and increasing emissions of carbon dioxide into the air, which is believed a factor in global warming, the report said.

The report also cited "an urgent need" to use irrigation water more efficiently. Irrigation accounts for 70 percent of the fresh water withdrawn, and 30 to 60 percent is returned for downstream use, the report said.

"We must find ways to increase food production" without putting significant amounts of new land under cultivation, said Ian Johnson, a vice president of the World Bank and chairman of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

Putting more land into production would require cutting down forests and otherwise damage the diversity of animal and plant life, he said. The world's population is expected to grow by 1.5 billion over the next 20 years.

Biotechnology could help boost production, if crops were genetically engineered to need less water and to grow in poorer soil, but that alone won't be enough, Wood said.

In many areas, the problem is that there isn't an economic incentive for farmers to change the way they farm.

In Kenya, the soil is so poor that corn yields are 20 percent or less of what they are in the American Midwest, partly because farmers can't afford to leave stalks and other plant debris in the soil to improve its fertility. They feed the plant material to animals or use it as fuel.

Chemical fertilizers aren't effective unless sufficient organic matter remains in the ground, Wood said.

Poor transportation systems also make it difficult for poor farmers to sell crops or obtain the chemicals they need.

The report is among a series of studies being done on the condition of various ecosystems, the forests and marine areas.

Ethics committee OKs book deal for Hillary

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton has received approval from the Senate Ethics Committee for her $8 million book deal, her lawyer said Wednesday.

Clinton, D-N.Y., quietly submitted her memoir deal for the committee's approval Jan. 11, almost a month after she made the lucrative agreement with New York-based publisher Simon & Schuster. She was notified the committee approved the deal Feb. 13.

"The Senate Committee on Ethics has informed Senator Clinton that her agreement with Simon & Schuster to publish a book complies fully with the Senate rules," Clinton lawyer Bob Barnett said.

Clinton did not have to obtain the committee's approval for the deal, which was agreed upon before she was sworn in as a senator. She chose to submit the matter to remove questions surrounding it, aides said.

While Republican criticism for the former first lady's book deal has been muted, watchdog groups questioned its ethics. Gary Ruskin of the Congressional Accountability Project wrote a Dec. 18 letter to Clinton urging her to submit the deal to the committee and asking her to forsake an advance in favor of straight royalties.

Asked at the time if she would seek ethics committee approval, the Clinton camp said only that she was complying with ethics guidelines.

Ruskin said Wednesday the committee's approval demonstrates it had no teeth.

"This is part of the liberal permissiveness about public corruption of our ethics laws that has been embraced by both parties," Ruskin said Wednesday.

There was no comment from the ethics committee.

Controversy over Newt Gingrich's $4.5 million book deal prompted the House to revise its ethics guidelines to bar members from accepting advances, but there is no similar ban in the Senate as long as the deal is "usual and customary."

Clinton's $8 million advance is believed to be the second highest ever for a nonfiction book, trailing only $8.5 million received by Pope John Paul II.

Barnett said Wednesday that Clinton already received one-third of the advance on royalties, or about $2.7 million. The rest of the advance is to be paid out over several years.

The book is to be published in early 2003.

On the Net: Simon & Schuster: http://www.simonsays.com
Sen. Clinton: http://clinton.senate.gov
Senate Ethics Committee: http://ethics.senate.gov

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp s	33.10	32.75	33.04	+ .54
AOL TimeWrn	50.30	49.35	49.89	+ 1.36
AT&T Corp	22.35	21.53	22.02	+ .26
Albertsons	28.25	27.90	28.14	+ .10
Alltel	55.08	52.84	53.75	+ .64
AmEl Pw	45.26	45.00	45.10	— .22
AndarkPtr	67.51	66.10	66.32	— 1.48
ATMOS Egy	24.05	23.78	23.85	— .05
Avnll	7.95	7.75	7.95	+ .24
BP Amoco	50.10	49.59	49.95	— 1.10
BakerHughes	41.00	39.91	39.95	— 2.55
Bank of Amer	51.09	50.35	51.00	+ .20
BellSouth	41.84	41.27	41.67	+ .36
Beth Steel	2.55	2.40	2.40	— .04
BurlNoSFe	30.53	30.03	30.44	+ .32
Caterpillar	44.30	43.41	44.23	+ 1.31
Chevron	85.25	84.70	84.76	— 1.09
Citigroup s	54.37	53.56	54.34	+ .69
CocaCola	58.78	58.23	58.71	— .79
ColgatePal	56.50	55.81	56.45	+ .05
ComclMetals	24.62	24.51	24.61	+ .10
CooperIn	46.99	46.10	46.93	+ 1.04
DaimlrChry	50.11	49.72	49.79	— 1.18
DallSemicn s	39.00	37.65	38.54	+ 1.37
DeltaAirl	42.97	42.10	42.88	+ .88
Dillards Inc	18.70	18.00	18.15	— .55
DowChem s	32.18	30.70	32.00	+ .60
DuPont	43.70	42.27	43.68	+ 1.19
EastmanChem	51.31	49.41	51.27	+ 1.61
EstKodak	45.96	45.41	45.50	+ .04
EDS Corp	63.81	63.10	63.80	+ .13
Entergy	37.22	36.88	37.01	— .11
ExxonMobil	83.40	82.15	82.18	— 1.75
FstBksAm	21.80	21.65	21.80	+ .18
Flowers	17.29	17.15	17.28	+ .05
GenDynam	69.09	68.20	68.67	— .48
GenElec s	46.85	46.15	46.80	+ .54
GenMills	43.90	43.16	43.70	— .04
GenMotors	55.21	54.47	55.00	+ .54
GaPacGP	30.82	29.76	30.82	+ .65
GlobalMar	30.75	30.00	30.00	— .96
Goodrich	40.85	39.40	40.71	+ 1.12
Goodyear s	25.21	24.21	25.21	+ 1.01
GtAtlPac	11.00	10.83	11.00	+ .13
Halliburtn	42.85	41.36	41.53	— 1.61
Hanson ADS	32.35	31.95	31.96	— .74
HarteHanks	23.65	23.50	23.65	+ .15
HomeDepot	45.40	44.50	44.63	— 1.09
HoneywellIntl	48.41	47.50	48.40	+ .92
IBM	118.64	116.38	118.33	+ 3.23
IntlPaper	37.70	36.10	37.68	+ 1.58
JohnsonJn	95.70	94.00	94.15	— 1.18
K mart	9.04	8.76	9.01	+ .25
Kroger Co	24.29	23.91	24.23	+ .67
Litton	79.00	78.90	78.97	
LockheedM	36.59	35.10	36.29	+ .47
Lowes Cos	57.99	56.92	57.00	+ .59
Lubys	7.99	7.88	7.93	+ .08
LucentTech	13.59	13.01	13.51	+ .81
MayDeptStr	38.39	37.55	37.95	— .44
Medtronic	51.80	50.76	51.15	— .61
Motorola s	19.69	19.14	19.49	+ .39
NCR Corp	49.28	48.20	49.26	+ .91
Navistar	26.15	25.91	26.00	— .16
Penney JC	14.41	14.11	14.14	— .37
PepBoys	6.00	5.79	5.95	— .01
PepsiCo	46.75	46.25	46.67	— .03
Pharmacia	52.10	51.15	51.52	— .38
PhelpDodge	45.48	44.15	45.48	+ 1.23
PhilipPet	56.80	55.75	55.86	— .70
PilgrmPrd B	10.65	10.35	10.58	+ .18
Polaroid	6.37	6.21	6.28	+ .09
Praxair	46.38	44.35	46.38	+ 1.72
ProctGamb	74.00	73.07	73.96	+ .27
PubS NwMx	25.09	24.51	24.81	— .34
RadioShack	49.50	49.00	49.10	+ .72
ReliantEngy	40.44	39.96	40.13	— .31
RoyalDut	59.82	59.40	59.65	— 1.06
SBC Comm	48.30	47.02	48.11	+ 1.11
SaraLee	20.85	20.42	20.45	— .54
Scripps EW	63.70	62.80	63.32	— .48
SearsRoeb	38.91	38.35	38.41	— .36
SherwinW	27.10	26.40	27.04	+ .36
SouthernCo	30.21	29.67	30.10	— .12
SwstAirl	31.85	31.05	31.79	+ .78
SwstAirl wi	21.00	21.00	21.00	+ .20
SprintFON	23.85	23.01	23.40	+ .15
SprintPCS	25.60	24.75	24.95	— .15
Sunoco Inc	34.25	33.50	34.20	+ .60
TXU Corp	40.51	40.10	40.39	— .27
TempleInland	49.90	48.06	49.90	+ 1.42
Texaco	63.75	63.40	63.46	— .74
TexInd	29.21	28.99	29.16	+ .11
TexasInst s	41.19	39.76	40.77	+ 2.02
Textron	53.35	52.25	53.03	+ 1.23
TriconGlbR	36.10	34.41	36.10	+ 1.14
TrinityInds	23.05	22.50	22.99	+ .29
TritonEngy	26.70	26.05	26.15	— .70
TylerTech	1.71	1.71	1.70	+ .10
USX-Marathn	28.45	28.06	28.12	— .06
USX-USS	15.82	15.20	15.79	+ .49
UnionPacif	53.85	52.71	53.75	+ 1.08
UnitedTech	78.99	77.45	78.92	+ 1.92
Unocal	36.12	35.25	35.41	— .71
Venator Grp	12.24	12.03	12.14	— .15
VerizonComm	53.70	52.25	53.35	+ .85
WalMart	53.45	52.38	52.45	— .56
WellsFargo	50.62	49.81	50.44	— .34
WstnGasRs	28.20	27.35	27.75	— .08
WinnDixie	24.30	24.08	24.25	— .09
Xerox Cp	7.62	7.41	7.44	— .01

FEB 15 2001

Suspected serial killer convicted

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — A suspected serial killer described by prosecutors as "pure evil" was convicted of four murders in the San Joaquin Valley, and authorities suspect him in other killings and assaults across the West.

Wesley Shermantine Jr., 35, sat quietly as the verdicts were read Wednesday in a Santa Clara courtroom, where the case was moved because of publicity. The sentencing phase to determine whether he should be executed for the crimes or sentenced to life in prison is to begin next week.

"This is the verdict, frankly, we expected. But to me, it's 15 years too late," prosecutor Thomas Testa said. "For 15 years he's gotten away with a large number of sexual assaults, abductions, kidnappings, other crimes."

Testa said Shermantine had boasted of killing as many as 22 people, and authorities consider him a suspect in murders elsewhere in California and in Utah and Nevada.

Shermantine's attorneys declined to comment Wednesday.

Prosecutors had no witnesses to the four killings for which Shermantine was convicted, and only two of the bodies — those of Paul Cavanaugh, 31, and Howard King, 35, both killed in 1984 — have been found.

Shermantine was linked to the deaths by tire tracks matching his pickup near where the two men were shot to death in a car. In the other two killings, DNA tests years later provided prosecutors with the links.

Volunteers in action...

Ira girls' lockerroom renovated, gym painted

Thanks to a lot of hard work and cooperation between school principal Mike Duke and several parents, the girls' locker room at Ira School is sporting a new look this year. The Roy Sallee Memorial Gym, formerly called the new gym, is also being spruced up.

Each player now has her own locker, complete with her name. Keith and Carla Clements built the lockers and Kirby Sterling welded the frame to the bench. Keith is also building a marker board with full-length mirror that will be installed in the locker room, Duke said.

Gilbert Sanchez donated and installed the carpet in the girls' locker room.

The gym has also received a new coat of paint. Duke said workers from Price Daniel Unit began painting the walls, but parents finished the job.

Ira's FFA boys also built a new scorer's table for the gym.

According to Duke, gym improvements are an ongoing project, which is expected to be completed by the end of this school year.



NEW SCORER'S TABLE — These eleven Ira FFA members recently built this scorer's table for the Roy Sallee Memorial Gym, formerly called the new gym. From left are Jeremy Bowden, Cade Tucker, Terry Jamison, Casey Chaney, Blake White, Todd Wall, Nathan Smith, Case Hardy, Seth Sterling, Bryce Wilkins and Jerry Jamison. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)



NEW LOCKERS — Ira seniors Mikanna Herring, Morgan Clements, Tara Allen and Kristen Harless, from left, are pictured in the newly-renovated girls locker room. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

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Boy's Jeans $29.95
Ladies' Jeans $49.95
Girl's Jeans $34.95
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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Ties that bind father to son are not always based on blood

DEAR ABBY: You made some good points in your reply to "Used in North Carolina," who married his pregnant girlfriend and nine years later learned that his son was "not his own." This father resented that he was expected to take care of a child "who isn't even mine." However, you missed an important point. Because your column is so widely read, it's important to call attention to what it is that really makes a child "one's own."

I am a pediatrician. I interact with children from all sorts of families day in and day out. From a child's perspective, what makes a child "belong" to a parent is the emotional-psychological bond between parent and child. What makes a child emotionally healthy is the stability of that social bond. This emotional bond is essential for the child, regardless of biological relatedness. For the sake of our children, this cannot be left unsaid.

This man is the only father that child has ever known. It breaks my heart that he said, "I love this boy, but I don't feel he is my responsibility anymore ... I would like to live my life for myself and do what I want when I want, like his mother does." What does this "love" he professes mean if it doesn't mean taking responsibility? That boy needs his father. If his mother failed to love him, that's all the more reason why his father should not even consider letting him down.

It is, indeed, extremely difficult to be a single parent, especially if money is scarce. You're right to recognize his need for support and to connect him to Parents Without Partners. But you missed an important opportunity in advocacy for our children when you failed to directly call into question his assumption that only biological relatedness can make a child "one's own." Love is what makes us belong to each other. And love is about responsibility. — **CHILD ADVOCATE IN NORTH CAROLINA**

DEAR CHILD ADVOCATE: You're right. Mea culpa. Please read on:

DEAR ABBY: I hope that young father decides to keep the boy and give him the love and care he needs. He should follow your advice and get family and friends to help so he can have time for himself. That's important. He should also, short of adoption, bind the child to himself in a legal way — such as a conservatorship — so the mother, who appears to be both mean and irresponsible, cannot later reclaim her son, creating a tragedy for both. I say "short of adoption" because, as a child whose birth father is deceased, according to the mother, he may be entitled to Social Security benefits that may go a long way in helping the young man raise the boy. Adoption might eliminate that eligibility.

I hope this is helpful. He seems like a person who knows the right thing to do. He just needs to figure out how to go about it. Someone did that for me when I was ... **ORPHANED AT AGE 6, LAGUNA WOODS, CALIF.**

DEAR LAGUNA: Thank you for the excellent input. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: You've probably received a mountain of mail about this, but please inform that young father that God gives us opportunities to do good. What he's doing for his son may be the most important thing he does in his entire life.

He should ignore the DNA. It doesn't matter. Every smile that lights his son's face is part of his reward. There's a special place in heaven for a man who is the father he didn't have to be. My admiration and good wishes go out to him. — **ELLEN M., SAN DIMAS, CALIF.**

DEAR ELLEN: And so do ours.

**

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Student suspended for making 'hit list'

MIDDLESEX, N.J. (AP) — An eighth-grade student was suspended this week after school officials learned she had allegedly created a "hit list" of classmates.

The "People2kill" list contained the names and pictures of about 12 to 16 students who attend the Mauger School, Superintendent Patricia Johnson said Wednesday.

Johnson said a librarian found a copy of the list on Friday, but it later disappeared. The librarian then notified school officials, who spoke with several students and determined that the unidentified girl had created the list.

Johnson did not know what prompted the list and said the girl had no prior disciplinary record.

"There was nothing to suggest that there were any weapons or anything else that would have allowed this act to be carried out," Johnson said.

She said the list apparently had been widely circulated among students and also was posted on an Internet site.

Man convicted of promoting gambling

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A Coastal Bend jury has convicted an operator of electronic gambling machines in the first of a series of cases to go to trial since a raid on at least nine game rooms.

Robert Sanchez, 37, was found guilty Wednesday of gambling promotion. He could face up to a year in jail and a $4,000 fine for running an eight-liner gameroom.

The March raid resulted in the seizure of about 322 eight-liners, which are illegal casino-style gaming devices.

Police Chief Pete Alvarez said he was pleased with the verdict, and he hopes it will send a message to defendants in other eight-liner cases.

"We put in a lot man-hours into these cases," he said. "Hopefully these people will plea out."

A sentencing date has not yet been set.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Crew wraps up space station work

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Space shuttle Atlantis astronauts had a few remaining chores as they wrapped up their time on the international space station Thursday and prepared for a weekend return to Earth.

On the worklist for the five astronauts and three-person Alpha space station crew was the transfer of water and other supplies between the two spacecraft after having successfully installed the $1.4 billion Destiny laboratory.

The lab is the most expensive and intricate piece of the space station. Its 13 computers and other systems will enable NASA to assume control of Alpha from the Russians, and it is needed before any major research can be performed.

Atlantis undocks from Alpha on Friday and returns to Earth on Sunday.

Atlantis' crew on Thursday also began its last set of firings of the shuttle thrusters to carefully raise the shuttle-station complex's orbit. Atlantis will leave the station about 16 miles higher than when the shuttle arrived last Friday.

Shuttle commander Kenneth Cockrell and astronauts Thomas Jones and Robert Curbeam Jr. took some time off from their busy schedule on Thursday and talked with middle school students from the Baltimore area. Both Jones and Curbeam are from Baltimore.

"We hope that discoveries made on the Destiny science lab will make our lives actually better on Earth in the very near future," Jones told the students.

The bulk of the shuttle crew's work — mounting the lab to Alpha — was completed during three spacewalks by Jones and Curbeam. The critical job of removing the lab from its tight berth in Atlantis' payload bay with the shuttle robot arm and mounting it to Alpha was done by astronaut Marsha Ivins during the first spacewalk Saturday.

Jones had anticipated several little glitches during the spacewalks, but said they all went smoothly overall.

Demos announce own budget goals

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic congressional leaders announced their own broad budget goals Thursday, saying they favor a tax cut less than half the size of President Bush's proposal and aimed more at lower- and middle-income people.

Though they provided no details House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., also said they would set aside more of the projected federal surplus than Bush for debt reduction and spending for schools, new Medicare prescription drug benefits and other priorities.

"This debate is not the Democratic tax cut versus the Republican tax cut," Daschle told reporters. "This debate is about Republican priorities versus Democratic priorities."

According to the numbers the Democratic leaders used, their plan would result in a $750 billion, 10-year tax cut, though the government would lose an additional $150 billion in interest costs because there would be less debt reduction. Bush has proposed a $1.6 trillion tax reduction, which many analysts have said would also cost roughly $300 billion more in extra interest costs.

The Democratic effort to take the initiative in an area Bush has dominated so far came as an administration official rejected the notion that moderate Republicans were about to abandon Bush on the tax issue.

Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said he was not worried about comments by Sen. James Jeffords, R-Vt., that the president's proposal was too expensive. Jeffords' remarks, in an interview with the Burlington, Vt., Free Press, marked the first time a GOP senator has expressed reservations about the centerpiece of Bush's economic program.

O'Neill characterized Jeffords as wanting to use more of the projected surplus for government spending rather than tax relief.

"Someone who wants to spend more money is not a loss. They just need to be converted into a higher-level believer," O'Neill told reporters Thursday at his first news conference as treasury secretary.

O'Neill said the administration intends to hold the line against numerous special interests that are clamoring to get their special tax relief included in the bill.

"I really don't think it is advisable for this tax legislation to take on wings of its own and fly off into deficit-land again," he told reporters.

The support of Jeffords, who complained in the interview that Bush's tax proposal did not provide enough relief for low- and moderate-income people, is considered crucial because he is on the tax-writing Senate Finance Committee. The committee, like the Senate, is split 50-50 between the two parties. One Democrat, Sen. Zell Miller of Georgia, has announced his support for Bush's plan.

Senators want more older people in Medicare drug plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Several senators began work on Medicare reform with plans to cover prescription drugs for all beneficiaries, going beyond President Bush's proposal to initially cover only the poorest seniors.

Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., the top Democrat on the Budget Committee, criticized Bush's tax cut plan, saying it would interfere with Congress' efforts to overhaul Medicare.

"His tax cut is so big that he leaves no money to pay for a new prescription drug benefit without using the Medicare trust fund," Conrad said at a Senate Budget Committee hearing on the proposal to overhaul the Medicare program.

Many senators want broader legislation — adding a drug benefit and restructuring the program to add competition and save money. The Senate Budget Committee started hearings Thursday on paying the costs of Medicare participants' drugs.

The Budget Committee chairman, Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., said the president's plan doesn't go far enough. "It simply postpones, once again, the day of reckoning for Medicare and increases the burden this program will place on our children and grandchildren."

Like the Senate, the House held hearings, asking health and economic experts how prescription drug coverage could be added to the federal program, while maintaining its financial health.

Also on Thursday, Sens. John Breaux, D-La., and Bill Frist, R-Tenn., will introduce a pair of bills with bipartisan support. The first would restructure the program, forcing private health insurance companies — and the government — to compete to serve seniors. The second bill focuses on subsidizing prescription drug costs under traditional Medicare coverage.

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, chairman of the Finance Committee, said Wednesday he hoped to have a bill ready for the full Senate's consideration by August.

Both Grassley and Baucus said the committee will draw on various plans to widen the drug benefit but stop short of a far-reaching, politically divisive restructuring of Medicare. The 36-year-old program serves 39 million elderly and disabled Americans.

Bush has proposed a four-year plan to help states provide prescription drugs to poor seniors, hoping that, in the interim, Congress will work on more substantial changes to the program, including adding drug benefits. Meanwhile, some House Republicans contend government should help only the poorest.

"Even if we could afford to cover every single drug bill, we shouldn't try," Majority Leader Dick Armey of Texas said Wednesday. "Consumers who can afford to do so should pay the small routine bills."

Medicare has never paid for prescriptions drugs delivered outside a hospital. When the program was created in 1965, they were not as widely used.

Obituaries

Rev. Virgil Mott

1905-2001

The Rev. Robert Virgil Mott, a retired Baptist minister whose Sunday morning radio program spanned more than 30 years, died Wednesday, Feb. 14, in Snyder Healthcare Center after a lengthy illness.

Memorial service for Rev. Mott, 95, is set for 10 a.m. Saturday at Colonial Hill Baptist Church. The Rev. Miller Robinson, retired former pastor, and Dr. Tommy Culwell, pastor, will officiate. The memorial service and cremation are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.



Virgil Mott

Born Aug. 31, 1905 in Rio, Miss., he married Barbara Chapman in June, 1931 in Fort Worth.

Rev. Mott moved to Snyder from Pampa in 1958 where he had served as minister of the music for the First Baptist Church. Rev. Mott was well known for his deep singing and speaking voice and for playing the harmonica each Sunday morning on KSNY Radio.

Not only was his booming bass voice distinctive, but so was his trademark bow tie.

From 1958-64, Rev. Mott served as minister of music and education director for the First Baptist Church. From 1964-81, he was pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church. He also served as choir director of the Trinity United Methodist Church.

From 1981-83, he was minister of senior adults for Colonial Hill Baptist Church. In 1986, he became minister of music with Ave. D Baptist Church.

A member of the Colonial Hill Baptist Church, Rev. Mott was a member of the Snyder Ministerial Alliance and a former member of the Snyder Rotary Club.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara Mott of Snyder; a daughter, Barbara Kathleen Kaun of Houston; a son, Chapman Mott of Houston; a brother, Lonnie James Mott of Hattiesburg, Miss.; and a granddaughter, Arabella Kaun of Houston.

Autris Thompson

1934-2001

Autris Thompson, a resident of Snyder for the past 10 years, died Tuesday, Feb. 13, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital after a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mr. Thompson, 66, is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Stanley Peppers officiating. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Born June 6, 1934 in Georgetown, he was a longtime resident of Dallas and worked for a firm electroplating bumpers. He moved to Snyder in 1990 after he was paralyzed in a fall at his home in Dallas.

Survivors include two stepchildren, Ruby Potts of Duncanville and Robert Riley of Fort Worth; a sister, Ophelia Braziel of Snyder; two brothers, A.C. Thompson and Willie Thompson, both of Snyder; three step grandchildren and three step great-grandchildren.

Personal, Professional Service

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Stolen vehicle report a 'misunderstanding'

• ***Misunderstanding***

A.J. Frizzell requested officers attempt to locate his 1985 Ford pickup at 2:29 p.m. Wednesday in reference to the vehicle possibly being stolen from the Snyder High School parking lot.

The vehicle was later located, but no charges were filed. Snyder Police officials said the incident was a misunderstanding between the owner and a 19-year-old man.

• ***Close Patrol***

Law enforcement personnel were asked to keep a close patrol of the Western Texas College parking lot in reference to the criminal mischief of vehicles in the area.

• ***Felony arrest***

David Yates, 39, of 2817 First Place in Lubbock was taken into custody at 1:05 a.m. today in the 3900 block of Eastridge on a Lubbock County felony warrant for theft.

• ***Accident***

Officers filed a report for a two-vehicle accident at 9 p.m. Wednesday in the 1400 block of 37th Street. Involved were a 1999 Chevrolet pickup driven by Christopher Bruce Henson, 31, of 4109 Eastridge and a 1987 Chevrolet truck owned by Eddins-Walcher Company and driven by Jimmy Dale Pittman, 32, of 958 North Avenue M.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Eastern Star reception

Snyder Chapter #450 Eastern Star will have a reception honoring Jo Terrell, Humanitarian District 2 chairman of the Grand Chapter of Texas, at 6 this evening at the Masonic Hall. At 6:30 p.m., a meal will be served and all Master Masons and their wives are invited. At 7:30 p.m., a stated meeting will be held.

West family reading night

West Elementary holds its family reading night from 6-7:30 p.m. every Thursday. New sessions have been added. Childcare and refreshments are provided.

Nursing graduation

WTC's school of vocational nursing will have its graduation and pinning ceremony at 7 o'clock tonight at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Blue and Gold banquet

Cub Scout Pack 177 will have its Blue and Gold banquet at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the Stanfield Elementary cafeteria.

West Elementary yearbooks

Orders for West Elementary annuals will be taken Monday through Friday, Feb. 23. Cost is $7 each and must be pre-paid. No extras will be ordered.

CPR heartsaver course

A CPR heartsaver course will be taught at Western Texas College Wednesday. The course will be held from 6-10 p.m. and the cost is $35. Call 573-8511, ext. 350 for additional information.

GED testing dates

Testing dates this month for GED (high school equivalency) will be Friday, Feb. 23. For more information call Molly Kattes, 573-2919, or Emily Hataway, 574-2112 at home, or 573-8511, ext. 297 at WTC between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Enchilada dinner

The Knights of Columbus #8875 is hosting the second annual enchilada dinner from noon until 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 25, at West Elementary. For tickets, call 573-9855 or 573-8164. Adult tickets are $5 and children's tickets are $2.50.

Shattered Dreams 2000 tapes

Videotapes of Shattered Dreams 2000 are available by calling Lori or Penny at Snyder EMS at 573-1912. Proceeds will go to scholarships for students who participated in the program last April.

Spare change roundup

The American Heart Association is sponsoring a Spare Change Roundup during February, National Heart Month. Deposit coins in collection canisters located around Snyder, or call 573-2913 for locations.

Income tax help

An IRS-approved program for elderly and low-income persons of any age is held from 9 a.m. until noon and from 1-3 p.m. every Wednesday at the Snyder Senior Citizens Center.

1986 class reunion

The SHS class of 1986 is seeking current addresses of class members for a reunion set for July 6-7. To submit names and addresses or for more information call Mike McWilliams, 573-6543 or Xalyn Harris Palacios, 574-3343 or 573-2148.

Earthquake relief

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church is pooling financial help to reach out to the needs of earthquake victims in Bhuj, India. To contribute, call 573-3866 or write to 1311 Ave. K in Snyder.

Medical fund

A medical fund has been established at West Texas State Bank for four-month premature Christa Lane Arnold. The baby is in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. The account number at the bank is 3113906-01.

Adult basic education classes

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

Senior citizen swimnastics

Snyder Senior Citizen Center swimnastics is held from 1-2 p.m. on Thursdays, and from 10-11 a.m. on Mondays. For additional information, call 573-4035.

WTC swimming pool opens

The WTC swimming pool is now open for public use. Lap swimming: M-F 6:30-8 a.m., and 12-1 p.m. Open swimming: M-TH 7-9 p.m. Cost is $2 per person or $50 for a semester pass. The pool is also available for parties on Fridays and Saturdays. For more information, contact Lisa Christensen at 573-8511, ext. 290.

Glory Room open

The Glory Room, a Christian library located at Trinity United Methodist Church, is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Everyone is asked to return materials so that others may check them out. If other hours are needed, contact the church at 573-3988.

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients is available every day free of charge to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland. For more information, call Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993 or Blakely Fargason at 574-8041. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

Discovery School registration

Registration for summer Discovery School at First United Methodist Church is underway. The session is for June and July. Registration will continue until classes are filled. Summer hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for children ages six weeks through five years. For more information, call 573-4770.

FEB 15 2001

Increase in cable rates is due to hike in programming costs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumers footed heftier monthly cable bills last year, as companies boosted their rates for programming and equipment by 5.8 percent, according to government figures.

That means cable costs for basic programming, expanded basic services and equipment — like a remote control — rose faster than inflation for the 12-month period ending July 1, 2000.

The Consumer Price Index measured general price increases of 3.7 percent during the same period.

Cable companies said the hikes were the result of cost increases for the popular channels they must buy from programmers — such as sports shows — and money spent to upgrade their systems to provide new services.

The increase was the same both for cable companies that face competition in their markets as well as those that don't, according to the Federal Communications Commission report.

Cable subscribers living in markets without competition paid on average $32.25 for programming and equipment in July 1999. A year later, their monthly bill for those services increased to $34.11.

Consumers in places where cable operators are challenged by rival providers continue to pay slightly less than that, the commission said. As of July 2000, those subscribers paid $32.40, the FCC said.

The report prompted consumer advocates to renew their calls for the government to cap cable prices, arguing that competition from satellite TV services, like EchoStar and DirecTV, has failed to slow price increases.

"Consumers need a lid on these rates to prevent ongoing price gauging," said Gene Kimmelman of Consumers Union.

The FCC stopped regulating most cable TV services nearly two years ago, following the directive of a 1996 law. And the commission's new chairman, Michael Powell, has said he doesn't think that regulators need to step in now.

Cable companies say they actually have done reasonably well holding down their prices, even as they face burgeoning costs for popular programming — like sports channels. They also have invested money to upgrade their cable systems so they can offer high-speed Internet and local phone service to consumers.

"It's not possible for us to absorb the entire increase on our own," said Mike Luftman of Time Warner Cable, the nation's second largest cable business.

The company said its average price increases for basic and expanded programming will be under 5 percent for 2001.

The National Cable Television Association, the industry's trade group, also noted that cable operators have boosted the number of channels they offer consumers. That means the increase in cost per-channel was either unchanged or 1 cent depending on the market.

"Cable customers are receiving more channels and better value for their dollar than ever before, plus opportunities for exciting new services such as high-speed Internet access, cable telephony and other advanced services," said NCTA

State's official flower expected to bloom

WACO (AP) — Texas' official flower will bloom in greater numbers this year, thanks to above-average rainfall since last fall, plant experts say.

Some patches of blue have already been popping up in parts of the Hill Country and Central Texas during warm spells this winter.

"Driving down the highway you won't notice them right now," Skip Richter, a horticulturist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in Travis County, told the Waco Tribune-Herald for Thursday's online edition.

"You'd have to get out of your car and walk in order to see them," he said. "But it's been a good year for them with all the rain, so I am expecting an abundance."

Richter said bluebonnets appeared in the Austin area last week when some started blooming in a few isolated areas. But he said it will probably be late March before the flowers are noticeable and early April before they are in full bloom.

That's when roadsides, hills and pastures in many parts of the state will be blanketed with all sorts of wildflowers, luring people out of their cars for a photo or a run through the blossoms.

Heavy rains over the past few months have aided bluebonnets' growth tremendously, said McLennan County Extension Agent Doug Andrews.

He said the plants start germinating in the fall and develop during the winter months. In the Waco area, 3.29 inches of rain have fallen so far this year, according to the National Weather Service. The average for this time of year is 2.41 inches.

Debby Boyd, owner of Greenlife Nursery in Waco, said new varieties of native flowers have been especially popular with home gardeners. The maroon and white Texas A&M Bluebonnet topping the list this fall.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, Feb. 16, 2001

There are strong indications that you'll have more money to work with in the year ahead than you've had previously. This could come about through some unusual condition that's perfect for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Today something unexpected could occur that would prove to you that you have a greater influence over your peers than you may have realized. Use this clout wisely. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that'll govern you in the year ahead.

Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Resourcefulness and ingenuity are great asset, and today you may show the world that these are two of your abilities when you step in and solve a problem that has stymied another.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Somebody you'll be around today could mention something that could give you an idea for broad commercial application. It behooves you to be a good listener at this time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) There's a good chance you could pick up on some signals today overlooked by others that will prove to be financially advantageous for you. Be alert.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Don't be so quick to discount an idea expounded by your mate today. What might seem insignificant at first blush could be far more meaningful upon reflection.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) There's a possibility you could stumble across something today concerning your work or career that might prove to be a powerful weapon for creating more productivity for yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) By all means, accept a social invitation today, especially if it's an event where you could possibly meet new people. Someone special could be introduced to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Do-it-yourself projects around the house should work out quite well for you today. You could accomplish something you've wanted to that'll give you a great deal of self-satisfaction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Don't' let another day go by without contacting that person who has been on your mind lately. The communication could open up something that could make a desire of yours possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Keep your fingers crossed today, because there are aspects in the works that could bring you a financial windfall you totally didn't expect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You're known for being a quick thinker, and today those spontaneous thoughts could turn out to be your best ones ever. Be prepared to respond to a new inspiration.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) A reward for a past good deed could be in the offing for you today. However, this remuneration might not actually come from the person you helped.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Beware of calomel in cosmetics

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have a friend who got mercury poisoning after having used a cosmetic cream. How can this be?

DEAR READER: First reported in 1996 and confirmed in a recent study (Journal of Occupational Environmental Medicine vol. 42, 2000), such toxicity was discovered to be the result of chronic application of a cosmetic cream containing calomel (mercurous chloride).

Low-level poisoning produces subtle non-specific symptoms, such as headache, weakness, joint pain, depression, dizziness, fatigue and anxiety. Chronic mercury poisoning mimics everyday stress and overwork. The diagnosis is confirmed by a 24-hour urine analysis for mercury.

The United States has strict laws to prevent contamination and variations in potency of legitimate pharmaceuticals produced in the country. However, these quality control measures do not exist in the manufacture of health foods, home remedies, herbal preparations and other products imported from abroad.

Consequently, public health experts urge the public to be cautious in purchasing and using such items. It's probably safer to rely on products made in the United States and developed countries and to read the list of ingredients carefully. Creams and other lotions containing calomel should be avoided.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Fads I: Vitamins and Minerals." 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.

DEAR DR. GOTT: If a woman has sexual relations during pregnancy, will this have any effect on the baby's sex drive?

DEAR READER: None whatsoever.

As an aside, many mothers-to-be are surprised to discover that their sex interest (libido) actually increases during the first few months of pregnancy. For such women, carefully performed intercourse is a pleasure. Obviously, in the case of a high-risk pregnancy — or during the last trimester when she is uncomfortable — a pregnant woman should modify her sexual activity and probably avoid penetration. But whatever activity she chooses will not affect the baby's eventual libido.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My son and his wife are divorced and have a child. The reason for the divorce was that she is bisexual and has affairs with other women. I'm very worried that our bloodline has been contaminated and that my grandson will take after his mother. I like my ex-daughter-in-law and wonder how I should handle this situation.

DEAR READER: Reputable studies have, thus far, failed to show that homosexuality in men or women is inherited. Such sexual orientation appears to be learned, probably at an early age, rather then to be a product of the genes. Therefore, your perception of a "contaminated bloodline" is probably unfounded.

From the tone of your question, I assume that you disapprove of your former daughter-in-law's behavior. Certainly, this is your right. However, I think that you should be careful to avoid deprecating her as a person. She is, after all, your grandson's mother, and it's vital for him to maintain a good relationship with her. I cannot comment on whether or not your grandson will become gay, but I suspect that he will have a heterosexual orientation if his family life is stable, secure and balanced. You may wish to discuss your concern with her, the child's pediatrician and/or a family counselor if needed.

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