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WT-Int. Crude - $37.63
WTIC Posted - $34.25
Natural Gas - $6.52

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

TUESDAY

June 22, 2004
Vol. 56 No. 45
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Kailey Bennett

To help cut losses...

Increased up-front money sought by hospital

By Jeff West
SDN Staff Writer

Cogdell Memorial Hospital lost $1.4 million last year and new hospital CEO Carol Hanes has instituted new policies to try and stop the losses. At least one of those has met some resistance.

"We have apparently not been doing a good job preparing patients as to what their final bill will be," Hanes said. "As a result, some patients have left with balances they don't even know about."

To correct the situation, the hospital is starting to talk with patients before they check in for elective procedures to let them know the estimated costs and how much out-of-pocket expense those with insurance might have. Then the hospital will ask for at least part of that amount in advance.

"We have to protect the hospital, we tell the patients how much their bill is likely to be and encourage them to bring the money with them," she said.

Hanes said the hospital is trying to get 80 percent of the bill paid before someone is admitted for non-emergency procedures.

"If insurance pays 70 percent then we ask for the patient to pay 10 percent in advance and then we will work out a payment plan for the rest. That is unless someone wants to pay it all in advance," she said.

The policy has been in effect for a short time, and while most people have understood, there have been a few complaints.

"One lady told me that if we wouldn't treat her without the prepayment, she would go to Lubbock. I hate to tell her, but Lubbock wants to get paid too," Hanes said.

A handful of procedures have been postponed until the patient can get the money, but safety has not been risked Hanes said, "If a doctor says the procedure needs to be done right away, well, of course, we do it."

Emergencies will be treated as always, but what may be considered an emergency has changed. Everyone who comes to the ER will be evaluated as always.

"If the doctor determines it is not an emergency, then the same pre-pay policy should apply," she said.

Hanes said all applicable laws relating to emergencies are being followed, as is the current charitable policy, but a new policy toward charity may soon be put into place.

"We will present some changes in that policy to the board soon," she said. "We want to look at total assets, not just income. If someone only has $500 a month in income but owns 100 head of cattle and land, there are some assets there we need to look at."

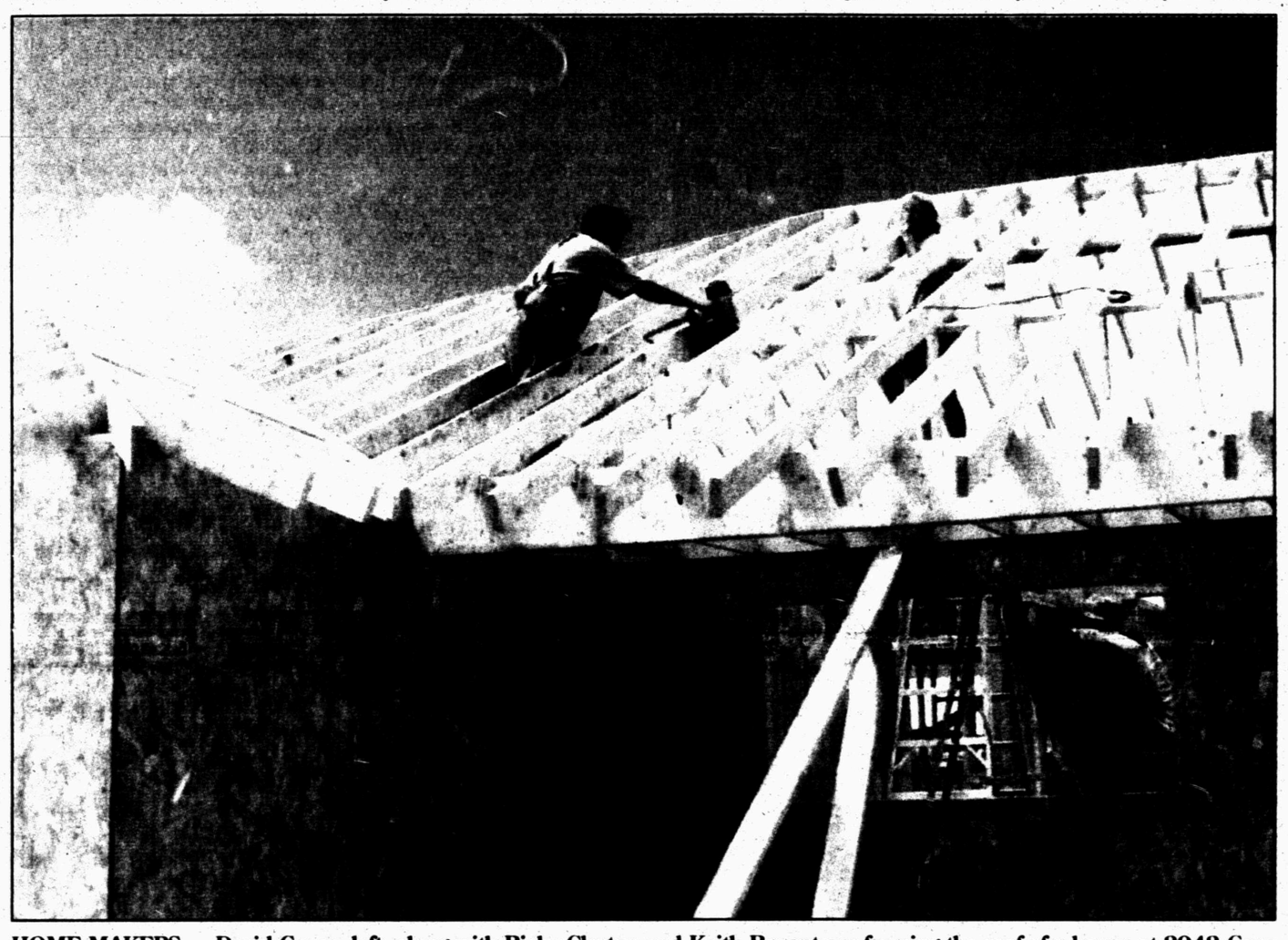
The hospital also is instituting other changes to try to rein in costs and generate more income. A utilization management program is being implemented where a group of nurses work with doctors to make sure patients aren't over-treated, Hanes said.

"If someone comes in to be treated for pneumonia, for instance, and we are told we will be paid $2,500 for that treatment, we can't afford to run $7,000 worth of tests for other problems."

She said the team would look to see if some tests and procedures can wait or be done later on an outpatient basis.

Hanes said the business office process also is being evaluated to determine if the billing is efficient, billed properly and that insurance is followed up on.

Hanes said she realizes that the new prepay-policy may cause some inconvenience and hard feelings, but related it to other businesses. "You don't get something from Wal-Mart for nothing."



HOME MAKERS — David Garza, left, along with Ricky Clayton and Keith Bryant are framing the roof of a house at 2942 Gary Brewer Road. The house is owned by E. B. Dennis. (SDN Staff Photo by Jeff West)

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "The best way to avoid trouble is not to go looking for it."

We appreciate loyal subscribers, regardless of their location.

Last month, the gals at the front desk of the SDN office fielded an unusual telephone call.

The caller reported that she was a subscriber and wanted her address changed, at least temporarily.

She continued that she was scheduled to appear in court later in the day and wanted her daily newspaper delivered to the Scurry County Jail.

We delivered a copy to the Law Enforcement Center, but the woman was told we didn't know the policy concerning delivery to inmates.

She said she would call the sheriff's department and inquire.

The woman called back a few minutes later and said she had worked out her delivery problem — a nephew would bring her the newspaper each day.

Not even being behind bars can keep the news away.

Folks are interesting, and those who study human nature are never bored.

We liked this story that came from a big university in the south. Psychology students were attending a class on emotional extremes.

Just to establish some parameters, the professor asked a student from Arkansas what was the opposite of joy.

The student replied, "Sadness."

And for the opposite of depression, he asked a young woman from Oklahoma. She replied "Elation."

And then there was a student from the Lone Star State who was asked for a word to describe the opposite of woe.

The Texan thought for a minute then responded, "Giddy up."

The first story was true, but we're not sure about this one, but it's worth a grin.

Having recently moved to town, a woman named Gladys Dunn decided to visit a nearby church.

She observed a well-appointed sanctuary and the singing was above par. But when the sermon begun, it went on and on and with little substance.

She noted others in the audience who were having a hard time paying attention and not nodding off.

After the service, to be friendly, she turned to a sleepy-looking gentleman and extended her hand in greeting and said, "Hello, I'm Gladys Dunn. "The man replied, "You and me both."

Chamber board approves money for ads for 4th

The Snyder Chamber of Commerce board approved one request for hotel-motel funds, the financial statements and heard several reports Monday about past and upcoming events.

The board approved $750 to be used by the chamber for advertisement and flyers for the Fourth of July Festival, and gave its approval to the May financial reports.

Vicki Shroyer, chamber executive director, reported on recent events to include the Sweet Shop anniversary, West Texas Western Swing Music Festival, and the fly-in held over the past weekend.

In reference to the swing music festival, Shroyer told the board that not all the bills had come in for the event, but felt when they do, the chamber would show a loss on the festival.

"But for all the good it does and the people it brings to town, I still feel it is worth it," said Shroyer.

Upcoming events discussed by the council were the business-after-hours gathering Thursday at Lake Alan Henry, the upcoming July 4th celebration to be held July 2-5, and the Scurry County Rodeo July 15-17.

Also, Shroyer said the Texas Department of Agriculture would hold a tourism workshop in Snyder July 26-27.

Christmas decorations also were discussed with Fran Farmer of Farmer's Designs, and discussion on partnering with the Snyder Rotary Club for a park in the burned out section of the square was postponed until next month.

Board president David Harrell presided and board members present were Dayton Robertson, David Boyd, Billy Grimmett, Elois Pruitt, Joni Gonzales, Jeffrey Martin and Greg Williams. Also present was Sandra Salinas, administrative assistant.

DCOS budget previewed

The Development Corporation of Snyder directors heard a preview of the 2004-2005 budget during its regular meeting this morning.

Executive director John DeLille said the proposed budget's administrative expenses are $139,388, as compared to the present year's $131,052. Most of the increase is in salaries and retirement benefits for DeLille and secretary Tati Jones.

There are some reductions in line items to include a drop in workmen's compensation insurance costs from $2,128 to $180.

Marketing expenditures are projected to be $20,000 — the same as this fiscal year.

DeLille also said he is planning on dropping the expenses associated with being a member of two regional marketing groups, one in Amarillo and the other the Texas Mid-West Community Network that serves the area with Abilene as the hub.

"This is just background information, a foundation for discussion later on," said DeLille.

It is expected the board will finalize the budget in August, as well as conduct the annual evaluation of DeLille that month.

The trustees approved the monthly financial statements and the bills payable, and went into an executive session at 8:05 to discuss possible incentives for a business prospect. No action was taken when the board came out of the closed session at 8:50.

Board president Dayton Robertson presided and all board members were present to include Rickey Daniell, Jeffrey Martin, Roy McQueen and James Brown.

Rainfall Reports

Snyder	.14
East of city	.25
West of city	.20
Lake Thomas	.01
Hermleigh	.25
Ennis Creek	.10
Loyd Mountain	.10
Camp Springs	.75
Ira	Sprinkle
Gins	
Inadale	.90

Totals as reported by area residents for Monday night and early Tuesday morning.

County librarian's pay to increase, not drop

When the Scurry County Commissioners revised a proposed pay schedule for county employees one of the changes showed a drop in the base pay for the head librarian.

While the amount of the base pay listed dropped from the first revision to the second, the librarian's pay is actually increasing by about $200 a month more than she is currently making, according to Commissioner Jerry House.

"The change in the base pay was because we had included a bonus for her master's degree in the base salary, and we can't put it there, because the next librarian may not have a master's degree," he said.

The incentive was placed in another category and the base salary is still an increase over the current pay scale. She will also get the two percent per year increase for the next nine years that all non-elected county employees will receive.

Clinkinbeard hearing Wednesday

The twice-postponed initial hearing for accused bank embezzler Anita Clinkinbeard of Snyder is at 3 p.m. Wednesday in Lubbock's Federal District Court.

The hearing had been scheduled the day of President Ronald Reagan's funeral on Friday, but was then moved to Monday since all federal buildings were closed.

However, Clinkinbeard was admitted to Cogdell Memorial Hospital and the hearing was postponed until Wednesday.

Clinkinbeard, who is a former assistant vice president of West Texas State Bank, is accused of taking $815,802.83 between Nov. 4, 1998 and Aug. 31, 2003.

Court records indicate Clinkinbeard will be represented by Dallas attorney Jay Michael Price.

Judge Mary Koenig will preside at Wednesday's hearing.

ASK US

Q—Do coaches have to pay to use school facilities for camps?
A—No.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Jean Richardson...

...has lived in Snyder since 1956. Jean has four daughters — Linda Rains and Sue Stroud of Snyder, Maryann Galyean of Ohio and Patsy Cannevy of Belton. She also has six grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. Jean is retired and enjoys working in the yard and chasing her grandkids.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

One essential ingredient for being an original in the day of copies is courageous vision.

—Charles Swindoll

JUN 22 2004

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

SHS cheerleader car wash

Advance tickets for the SHS cheerleader car wash are on sale now. To purchase tickets, call 573-3475. The car wash is Saturday at Wal-Mart.

Head Start registration

Scurry County Head Start registration will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today through Thursday. Call 573-7403 or go by the school at 2800 2nd Street. Children must be three years old and meet family income guidelines or have a diagnosed disability or development delay. Needed for registration is birth certificate, immunization record, Social Security card and proof of family income.

GED, ESL classes

GED and ESL classes at Western Texas College are held from 8 a.m. until noon every Tuesday through Thursday and from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays through June 30. Classes will then resume in August. For more information call 573-8511, ext. 322.

4-H horse club point night

The Scurry County 4-H horse club will have point night at 6 this evening in the coliseum annex. Members are asked to turn in their brisket sale money today. For more information call 574-2450, or the extension office at 573-5435.

East Side VBS

East Side Church of Christ will have Vacation Bible School from 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday nights through July 7. Call 573-3583 for more information.

Love and Logic classes

East Side Church of Christ will offer Love and Logic classes from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesdays through July 7. Pam Hart is the instructor. The classes are geared toward parents and grandparents. A meal will be served at 5:15 p.m. in the multi-purpose building Wednesday at the Family Life Building.

AA meeting

An AA meeting is held at noon every Tuesday and Friday at the Witherspoon house next door to the First Presbyterian Church. The meeting is non-smoking and closed. For more information, call 574-2656, or 207-1325.

Water aerobics

Water aerobics for seniors is held from 10-11 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday at the WTC pool.

Cancer treatment transportation

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

WTC GED testing dates

Western Texas College GED testing date is set for Thursday, July 8 and also and Aug. 18. To take the test or for more information contact Betty Thompson at 573-2310 or Emily Hataway 573-8511, ext. 297 or 574-2112. It is recommended that candidates receive some preparation before attempting the test.

SISD computer, ESL classes

SISD is offering free classes in basic computer skills and beginning ESL from 8 a.m. to noon in the Region XIV Service Center every Friday in June Call 574-6012 for more information.

What's up guidelines

Items for What's Up will be published twice at no charge, the day before and the day of the event. Events or activities requiring additional publicity will be referred to the advertising department where a special non-profit rate is availabl

New surgery regs aim for safety

WASHINGTON (AP) — Starting July 1, operating rooms are supposed to be a little safer: Surgical teams must take new steps to prevent operating on the wrong body part or wrong patient.

Among the requirements: Much as airline pilots go through a safety checklist before takeoff, surgeons and nurses must take what's being dubbed a "time-out" before cutting. It's to double-check that the right patient is on the table, if he's really to lose a kidney and not a gallbladder — and if so, on which side.

Hospital regulators hope the new rules will finally put an end to growing reports of wrong-site, wrong-procedure and wrong-patient surgeries.

"These should never happen," says Dr.. Dennis O'Leary, who heads the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. The agency can revoke the accreditation of hospital or other surgical sites that don't comply with the new safety steps.

This isn't wrong surgery because of a misdiagnosis, but mixups inside the operating room. In one infamous 1995 case a doctor amputated Willie King's wrong foot; indeed, the mixups are thought to be most frequent in orthopedic surgery.

But reports range the gamut from removing the wrong organ to drilling into the wrong side of a patient's skull to a recent case where the wrong patient was given a heart catheterization.

No one knows exactly how many such wrong surgeries occur, because the commission receives only voluntary reports, although they're a small fraction of the nation's 70 million annual surgeries.

Still, despite issuing two warnings to hospitals and surgical centers in recent years, the regulatory agency knows of 275 cases since 1999 — a steady increase each year and a problem it calls undoubtedly undercounted.

Consider the rushed pace of many operating rooms, where it's easy to wheel in the wrong patient from a queue of waiting stretchers, or to position X-rays backward as bustling workers ready dozens of high-tech gadgets.

"People should not underestimate the potential for confusion," O'Leary says. "The fact that you have M.D. or R.N. after your name doesn't keep you from making mistakes."

His regulatory agency is betting that if surgical teams have a mandatory system of double-checks, they can catch mixups before a patient is harmed. Among the rules:

—The surgeon must literally sign the incision site, while the patient is awake and cooperating if possible, with a marker that won't wash off in the operating room.

—Some doctors, and patients themselves, already do that voluntarily, but regulators found a confusing hodgepodge of styles. An "X" can mean "operate here" or "not here," and writing out "not this knee" backfires if the "not" gets smudged. So, don't place any mark on a non-operative site, the new rules stress. Avoid "X" in favor of doctor initials or some other mark used hospital-wide.

—The entire operating team must stop all other work just before surgery begins and go through a checklist to ensure the correct patient is on the table, and that everyone — surgeons, nurses, anesthesiologists, technicians — agrees what procedure is being done, on what body part. Have a system to resolve any confusion.

"My rule was you do not hand a knife to any surgeon until everything's cleared up," says Tom McLaren, surgical services administrator at Florida's Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare.

That rule averted one disaster at his previous hospital, McLaren recalls: A surgeon was ready to slice into a right kidney while a nurse argued for the left one. Technicians pulled back the scalpels as the frustrated doctor pointed to the posted X-ray — which a radiologist later noticed was placed backward.

Lay's lawyer doubts he will be indicted

HOUSTON (AP) — Enron Corp. founder and former chairman Kenneth Lay will never be indicted on charges stemming from the company's collapse, his attorney said Monday.

"Ken Lay didn't do a crime," attorney Michael Ramsey said. "I don't believe Ken Lay will be indicted at all, ever."

Ramsey said reports over the weekend that Lay would be indicted within weeks have prompted him to request a meeting with federal prosecutors investigating the case.

"Since they have met with us before, I am sure they will meet with us again," Ramsey said. "We have studied the case for 21/2 years. We are inviting them to ask us any question they have so we can give them an answer."

Justice Department spokesman Mark Corallo declined to comment Monday.

Speculation about possible charges against Lay have grown more intense since former Enron chief financial officer Andrew Fastow pleaded guilty in January to two counts of conspiracy and became the most highly placed former Enron executive to cooperate with the government.

Sources told The Associated Press over the weekend that prosecutors are aggressively pursuing Lay and probably focusing on his actions and statements when he took over as chief executive upon Jeffrey Skilling's abrupt resignation in August 2001. The Houston Chronicle first reported the possible indictment, expected by month's end, in Saturday's editions. The newspaper cited unidentified lawyers close to the case.

Fastow admitted to scheming to manipulate Enron's books by hiding debt and inflating profits while enriching himself on the side.

Ramsey said Lay didn't know there was any criminal activity in the company until after its collapse and media accounts began to surface.

"If a man is stealing from the boss or stealing from the company, he does not tell the boss," Ramsey said. "If somebody is inside the company stealing to feather his own nest and to corrupt the company and to corrupt other employees in the company, then that is criminal."

"Obviously Andy Fastow has admitted in open court that he essentially was running a gang of thieves inside Enron." Ramsey said. "It's unfortunate that that happened."

Ramsey has said Lay took over as chief executive officer to cure any problems that existed and build morale at the company, which collapsed into bankruptcy in December 2001 as a result of an accounting scandal.

Skilling and top accountant Richard Causey are awaiting trial on charges of conspiracy, fraud and insider trading.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Girl's weight problem eats away at her self-esteem

DEAR ABBY: I am about 70 pounds overweight. When I try to diet I just give up. I feel like crying every night because of the way I look. The older I get, the more concerned I am about my weight problem, but I can't help myself.

I'm not dating anyone, and my so-called "friend" said it's because I am so ugly.

I am also kind of scared that I'll wind up dead because of my weight, but I can't stop eating. I eat because I'm sad and I eat because I'm happy. I joined an athletic program at school. All it did was help me lose a little bit of weight — not much.

What can I do to feel better about myself and become more healthy? I don't want to die. — **SCARED AND SAD FAT GIRL**

DEAR SCARED AND FAT: Stop beating yourself up. You have a weight problem, but you're not alone. So do millions of other people. Give yourself a pat on the back. You have already taken the first important step in overcoming your problem. You joined an athletic program, which is important to your long-term health. An added bonus is that it helps to burn calories.

Now it's time to make an appointment with your physician so he or she can recommend a sensible weight-loss program. Once that's established, go to your phone directory and check the listings for Overeaters Anonymous. OA is a self-help group that has been around for more than 40 years, with more than 8,000 chapters in 50 countries. You will be welcomed with open arms into a fellowship of compassionate women, men and young people who share a common problem. It charges no dues or fees, and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively.

Allow me to quote from a letter I printed in 1999 from a member of Overeaters Anonymous:

"Before I found OA at age 19, I had failed at every diet I tried. I wasn't able to stop shoving food down my throat. Back then, I could easily consume eight candy bars, a pint of ice cream and half a pizza in one sitting. ... My emotional state was equally tortured.

"I lost 45 pounds, Abby, but more important, I have kept it off for more than 18 years. One of my closest friends lost 102 pounds through OA and has kept it off for nearly two years. My sponsor, who guides me through the program, lost 250 pounds and has kept it off for 27 years. I'm not making it up.

"Incredibly, I don't miss the foods I used to wolf down. I eat nothing sweeter than fresh fruit, and I haven't been plagued by the relentless cravings I used to suffer. OA changed the way I relate emotionally to food. I love life now, and often can't wait to get up in the morning."

"Sad and Scared," jump-start your diet by jettisoning the so-called "friend" you mentioned in your letter. With that kind of negative influence in your life, it's no wonder you turned to food for comfort. If you have trouble locating an OA chapter near you, visit the Web site, www.overeatersanonymous.org, or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to OA World Service Office, P.O. Box 44020, Rio Rancho, NM 87174-4020. You'll be glad you did.

**

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

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

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events

LOTTO TEXAS™ TEXAS LOTTERY RESULTS

Cash Five

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

14-19-22-30-34

(fourteen, nineteen, twenty-two, thirty, thirty-four,)

Pick 3 Day

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

4-3-5

(four, three, five)

Pick 3 Night

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

5-2-2

(five, two, two)

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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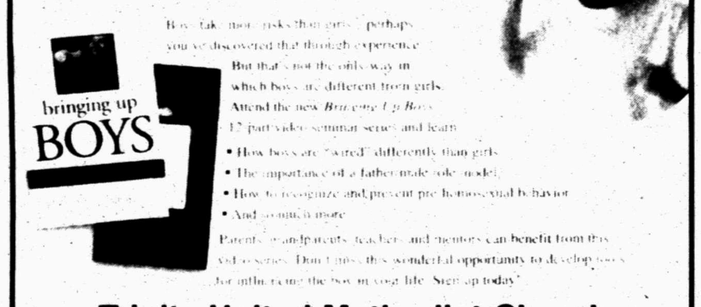
Being a Man Means More Than Just Shaving

Discover your impact on the boy in your life by attending Dr. James Dobson's newest video series based on his bestseller *Bringing Up Boys*.



Boys take more risks than girls — perhaps you've discovered that through experience. But that's not the only way in which boys are different from girls. Attend the new *Bringing Up Boys* 12 part video seminar series and learn:

- How boys are "wired" differently than girls
- The importance of a father (role model)
- How to recognize and prevent pre homosexual behavior
- And so much more

Parents, grandparents, teachers, and mentors can benefit from this video series. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to develop skills for influencing the boy in your life. Sign up today!

Trinity United Methodist Church
5200 Trinity Blvd.
Begins Wednesday, June 23
5:30 pm - Church Family Dinner (all invited)
6:30 pm - Seminar
Childcare Available
Purchase books & sign up for seminar at
PURPLE SAGE GIFT SHOP
(at the Purple Sage Motel)

$1.00 off *Bringing Up Boys*

This coupon entitles the bearer to $1.00 off the regular price of Bringing Up Boys by Dr. James Dobson. Redeem at your favorite Christian bookstore. One coupon per product. Coupon expires December 31, 2005.

bringing up BOYS
$1.00 OFF

Pizza Inn. EVENTS

TUESDAY NIGHT 5:30-8:30 p.m.
SENIOR BUFFET SPECIAL
$4.49 with coffee or tea
WEDNESDAY NIGHT 5:30-8:30 p.m.
KIDS 99¢ BUFFET
13 Years & Under with Adult Buffet at Reg. Price
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY NIGHT BUFFETS 5:30-9:00 p.m.
Featuring Our New White Sauce Pizzas & Pepperoni Wraps

We Accept Local Competitors Coupons And We Will Meet Or Beat Any Other Special

Fresh Dough • Great Pizza • Locally Owned

573-3542 • 3907 College Ave.

4th of July Plates, Napkins, Candles and Yard Decor

Wedding Registry...

Susan Bigham & William Taylor
Tara Price & Cody Nowlain
Laura Hamby & Bobby Griffith
Stormy Clark & Paul Camp
Courtney Martin & Jeffrey Levens
Cassie Tollett & Jerrod Rinehart
Lisa & Clark Church
Kelly Kallemeyn & Robert Strickland
Ivy Galindo & Derek Hollingsworth
Amy Herrera & Chad Furr
Kristin Martinez & Marciano Madrid
Nikki Kenny & Landon Day

Infant Registry...

Amy & Jeff James
Jeffrey & Dana Stockton
Lance & Andrea Nelson
Brad & Lindsey Robinson
Casey & Laura Johnson
Chris & Brooke Mackey

Special Occasions

507 Coliseum Drive 574-2004 Monday-Friday 10-5

BRIDAL SHOWER — Ivy Galindo, bride-elect of Derek Hollingsworth, was feted at a shower in her honor Saturday in the home of Nina Jones. From left are Pauline Walker, grandmother of the future groom; Miss Galindo; and Glenda Hollingsworth, his mother. The couple will be married at noon July 31 in the First Baptist Church in Saginaw. (Contributed Photo)

BRIDE FETED — Mrs. Jerrod Rinehart, nee Cassie Tollett, was honoree at a wedding shower in the home of Janice Beard on June 12. The couple married on June 7 in Las Vegas. From left are Joan Beach, maternal grandmother of the groom from Colorado City; Courtney Rinehart, his sister from Lubbock; Vicki Rinehart, his mother; the honoree; Julie Tollett, mother of the bride from Baird; and Wanda Rinehart, paternal grandmother of the groom. (Contributed Photo)

AG STUDENTS' PROJECT — Students of Jessica Colvin, Snyder High School ag science teacher, made and hung new signs for residents of Snyder Healthcare. An ice cream party followed. Students from left are Clayton Floyd, Chevy Block, Raymond Barrera, Matthew Garza, Tamra Taylor, Lacey Kincaid, Maresha Riveria, Candice Shoemaker, Adrian Brooks and Jessica Rodriquez. (Contributed Photo)

Community Calendar

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

Martha Ann Woman's Club game day and luncheon; serving begins at 11:30, games of choice will follow throughout the afternoon. Reservations should be made by Tuesday afternoon, call 573-3427.

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

THURSDAY

LLL Club; fellowship hall of First Baptist Church; 9:30 a.m.

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

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

AA Big Book Study; closed meeting; contact number is 573-1141; 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

NA-Just For Today; Park Club; 6-7 p.m.

ROCKIN' G GIFTS
Inside The W. R. Whistlestop
NORTH SIDE OF THE SQUARE
FEATURING
LASER Metal Arts - Color Fused:
Rock Art
Book Marks
Mini Wall Art
Ceiling Fan Pulls
Key Rings
Wall Art & Art Lites
Adult Soft-Touch Printed Tee Shirts
Over 600 Images on Soft-Print Tees
available at: www.rockinGgifts.com

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 06-22-04
♠ A Q 8 5
♥ 5 3
♦ K Q 5
♣ A K J 4

West
♠ 4 3 2
♥ K J 10 6 4
♦ 7 3 2
♣ 9 7

East
♠ 10 9 7
♥ Q 9 8
♦ 10 9 4
♣ Q 10 5 3

South
♠ K J 6
♥ A 7 2
♦ A J 8 6
♣ 8 6 2

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
			Pass
1 ♦	1 ♥	Dbl.	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 NT	Pass	6 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ J

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

The pedantic may suffer a pratfall

By Phillip Alder

This deal occurred during a supposedly friendly game in Denmark. It was reported by Ib Lundby, who occupied the West chair. How did the play proceed in six no-trump?

You can see that weak — emaciated? — overcalls appeal to Europeans. North's double was negative, showing exactly four spades. His second-round three-heart cue-bid forced to game.

If West had not overcalled, he would have had a difficult lead against six no-trump. But following East's helpful raise, it was easy to begin with the heart jack.

Declarer had 11 top tricks: four spades, one heart, four diamonds and two clubs. So, it looked as though he needed the club finesse to work. However, before committing himself, he won with the heart ace, played a club to dummy's king, and cashed his pointed-suit winners ending in hand.

Now South intended to take the club finesse, which couldn't be the right play, because West was known to have started with 3-5-3-2 shape, but he accidentally led a heart.

"Please allow me to take it back," implored South of West.

Lundby replied, "You know the rules." He played the heart 10, then immediately tried to cash the heart king. But North — illegally! — intervened: "It isn't your lead."

East had retained the heart queen and club queen-10. He had had to win trick 11 and lead into dummy's club ace-jack tenace!

"Why didn't you discard the heart queen?" wailed West.

"With that big mouth of yours, why didn't you swallow my queen with your king?" retorted East.

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Young love is a flame; very pretty, often very hot and fierce, but still only light and flickering. The love of the older and disciplined heart is as coals, deep burning, unquenchable.

—Henry Ward Beecher

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Strengthen those abs

DEAR DR. GOTT: Although I'm 75, I'd like to strengthen my abdominal muscles without using a weight machine. Can you recommend an exercise for this?

DEAR READER: Gladly. Two simple exercises will tighten up your abdominal muscles.

The first is sit-ups. Lie on your back on a comfortable surface, slightly bend your knees, put your hands behind your head, and sit up to the point that your elbows touch your knees. Start with a repetition of 10 sit-ups and gradually increase to 20 or 30. This exercise will strengthen your upper abdomen.

The second is leg-lifts. Again in the above position, raise your outstretched legs about a foot, hold for a count of 10, then relax. Begin with 10 repetitions and, as appropriate, increase them — or, as an alternative, hold your legs in the extended position for more than a count of 10. This exercise will strengthen your lower abdomen.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Following a mild stroke, I was prescribed 2.5 milligrams of Coumadin. I would prefer just aspirin. What strength would be equivalent?

DEAR READER: This is an issue that you should address with your physician.

Coumadin (warfarin) is a powerful anti-coagulant. However, you have been prescribed a low dosage. So, in keeping with the recommendation of many authorities, a switch to one 325 milligram aspirin tablet a day may be an appropriate — and safer — alternative. Follow your doctor's advice because he or she is most familiar with your health status.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: What can I do for a potbelly? I'm 5 feet 7 inches and weigh more now than I have in years. I'm not a big eater and take sweets in spells. Help!

DEAR READER: Outrageous as it may sound, the potbelly that many middle-aged people develop may be genetically determined. As you may have read, potbellied persons are at higher risk of heart attacks and other vascular disorders than are "pear-shaped" individuals who exhibit fat deposits on the buttocks and thighs.

Nonetheless, patients with central obesity can certainly take better control of their lives by losing that extra weight. I suggest the following: avoid sweets and alcohol, substitute diet products instead, exercise regularly, and have a physical examination by a doctor. This exam should include blood tests for diabetes and cholesterol levels.

If you have done all you can to reduce your paunch, you might consider liposuction by a plastic surgeon. Your family doctor can refer you, if appropriate.

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Dale Huff, Minister

Repentance and Forgiveness of Sins

The gospel of Luke records one of Jesus' last words to his disciples before his resurrection. In Luke 24: 46, 47 we read these words from Jesus:

This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Jesus' own description of the preaching of the gospel is different than we might expect. The gospel tells men and women of the good news of salvation. In the gospel the gift of the Holy Spirit is promised and the hope of eternal life is announced. Joy and love are set before all mankind as a real possibility in the middle of an evil world. But when Jesus describes the preaching of the gospel, it is the message of repentance and forgiveness of sins.

When Peter first preached the gospel, Acts 2: 37 tells us that the people in Jerusalem responded to the message of Jesus and the cross with a question, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter responded in Acts 2: 38, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." When Paul talked to the governor Felix in Acts 24: 24 and 25, he spoke about faith in Jesus Christ. We are told that Paul talked to Felix about righteousness, self - control and judgment to come. Paul talked about the need for repentance.

The gospel of Christ offers great things to the world, to those who will truly repent.

Dale Huff

CLASS REUNION OF 1989 POSTPONED

Due to lack of response and sufficient addresses the Class of 1989 is postponing their 15 year reunion until further notice. Scheduled date was July 3rd.

Please continue to forward addresses to Christy James at 573-5625.

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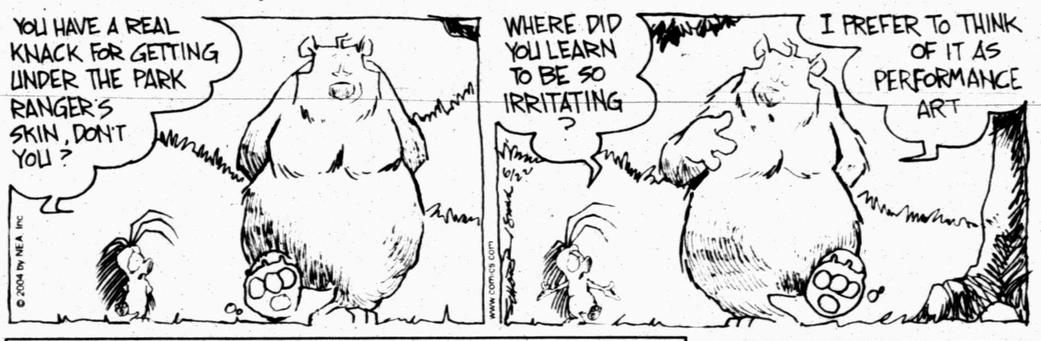


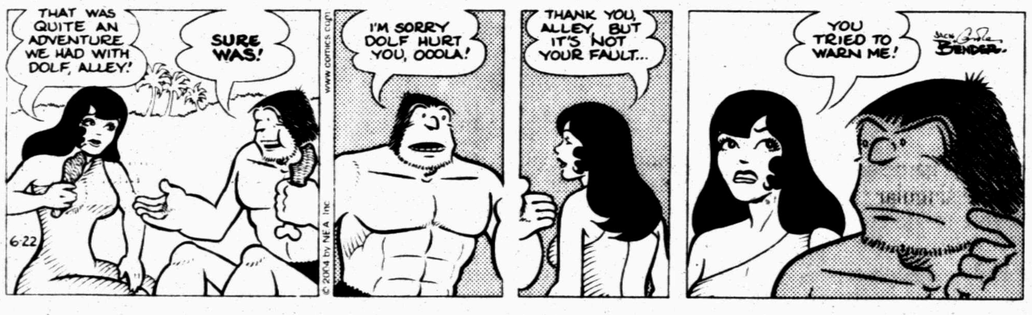
FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves

ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson

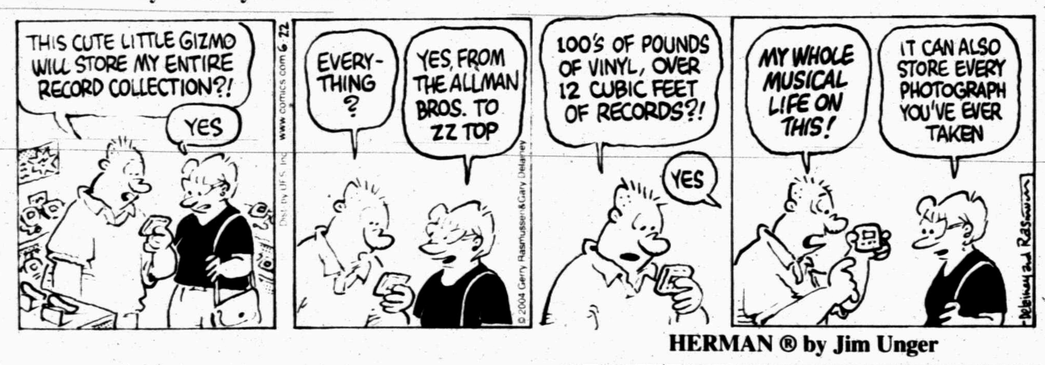
BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

MONTY ® by Jim Meddick

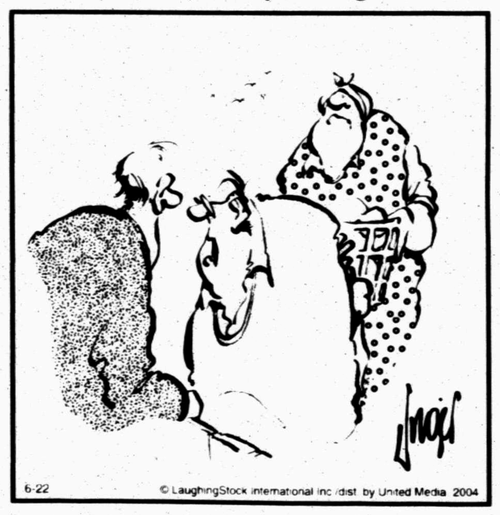
ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"She gave me a box of chocolates for my birthday with all the soft centers missing."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Gator Bowl st.
4 Strategy
8 Gullet
11 Tierra — Fuego
12 Ear part
13 Sasquatch cousin
14 "— been had!"
15 TVA supply
16 Poet Wilfred —
17 Breakfast food
19 Typewriter part
21 Airport estimates
22 Flood survivor
25 — up (got ready)
29 Dog reward
31 Positive
34 Graduate degs.
35 Skywalker's sister
36 Damage
37 Pollution control org.
38 Kon-Tiki Museum site
39 Best medicine
40 Happened next
42 Yes votes
44 Space preceder
47 Place to surf
49 Beset
51 Augur
54 Coax
56 Seine site
57 Caesar's worst day
58 Sledgehammer
59 Born as
60 Pipe joint
61 Gets the drift
62 Time divs.

DOWN

1 Acct. insurer
2 Embankment
3 Tip off
4 Polite word
5 Slouch
6 Vigoda of "Barney Miller"
7 Head support
8 Gull's cry
9 Chowed down
10 Outscore
13 Cellist — Ma
18 Enthusiastic
20 Terminate
23 Gorillas
24 Grab a cab
26 Famous last word
27 Knocks
28 Genesis hunter
30 Way of Lao-tzu
31 Droop-nosed flier
32 West Coast sch.
33 Suggestive
35 Pay dirts
40 Wind dir.
41 Art stands
43 Bleaters
45 Drizzling
46 Edmonton hockey player
48 Mooches
49 Fit of shivering
50 Bruce and Peggy
51 Morsel
52 Poetic tribute
53 Kiki or Joey
55 Comic Charlotte —

Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	I	E	D		R	U	B		B	A	C	K
E	N	V	Y		U	S	A		U	R	A	L
M	I	E	N		P	E	A		R	E	A	M
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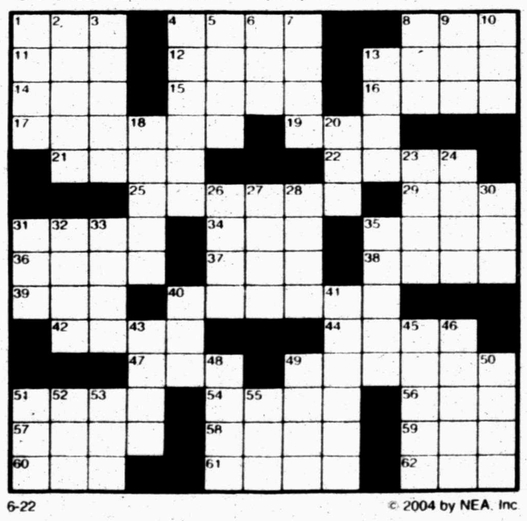

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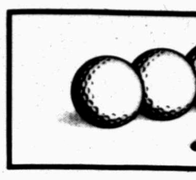
Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



Sideline Views
by Bobby Allen

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CONTROLLED
Mike Martin an
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Staff Photo by

SPORTS

Sideline Views

by Bobby Allen

Call it the blessing of A-Rod.

The Texas Rangers have spent the last half-decade locked in the basement of the AL West. But those days of darkness and ugly play are lifting, and it took a major trade and a complete trashing of the old way of doing things for it to happen.

Arlington is a pretty cushy place to play. The media is not particularly hard on the baseball team (the Cowboys still being the major preoccupation of Metroplex scribes), fans have been generally content to root for their fan favorites and expectations have not been demanding.

That's all different now, thanks to one guy: Buck Showalter.

Showalter is the most underrated manager in baseball. He is tough, exacting and does not suffer foolishness or lethargy from his teams.

He also has no compunction about benching "stars" (re: Juan Gonzales) in favor of more spirited, and in some cases more talented, younger players.

Because of his intransigence, Showalter has worn out his welcomes at his previous stops, even though he took two teams to the cusp of greatness.

He helped build the Yankees dynasty of the 1990s, getting the pink slip the season before the team went on its run.

He was dismissed from the team he constructed from the ground up in Arizona one year before that team won its only World Series trophy.

That the Rangers have benefited from the Rodriguez trade (and the long good-byes of Gonzales and Rafael Palmiero) is a testament to the notion that one man can not carry a baseball team through a 162-game schedule.

While the singular talent that is A-Rod continues to put up his typical numbers, the Rangers have gotten major production from Michael Young, who replaced him at short, and Alfonso Soriano, the "other" guy in the Rodriguez deal.

Young is leading the Rangers with a .326 average, and he and Soriano have driven in a combined 80 runs.

The Mariners improved from a 91-win season to 116-46 the year after A-Rod left. They have not won fewer than 93 games since.

The Rangers hope the trend continues. In first place for the first time since 1999, the team already has won 37 games, more than half of last year's total.

Showalter may not be the man to bring a pennant to Arlington, but he is certainly the guy to build the foundation.

The arrival of A-Rod was hailed as a new era in Texas baseball.

It took his departure to make it so.

Rockets, Magic close on deal to swap Francis for McGrady

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets are reportedly close today to sending top point guard Steve Francis to the Orlando Magic for two-time scoring champion Tracy McGrady.

Francis' agent, Jeff Fried, told the Houston Chronicle in its online edition early today that Rockets general manager Carroll Dawson told him the trade was near, but as yet incomplete.

"I spoke to Carroll, and it was not a done deal," Fried told the newspaper. "It's close. It's subject to a few contingencies."

Forward Kelvin Cato and guard Cuttino Mobley would also reportedly go to the Magic in the deal, which would bring the Rockets veteran forward Juwan Howard, point guard Tyronn Lue and a player exposed in Tuesday night's expansion draft, likely guard Reece Gaines, who was the Magic's first-round pick last season.

McGrady, 25, has made it clear he does not want to be in Orlando. Through Fried, Francis has also made it clear he does not want to be in Orlando, potentially setting up a last consideration for the Magic before sealing the deal.

Some maneuvering involving Tuesday's expansion draft was necessary to make the deal work, Fried said. Bernie Bickerstaff, Charlotte Bobcats general manager, told the newspaper he talked to Magic general manager John Weisbrod about a role in facilitating the trade, likely agreeing to another deal in which he would agree not to take Gaines.

But Francis said he wants to stay in Houston.

"I'm not mad. I'm not upset. This is what they're trying to do. But like I said, I still think we could be something." — Rockets' guard Steve Francis

"I thought we were really building something, something very good in Houston," said Francis, who has averaged 19.3 points, 6.4 assists and 6.1 rebounds in five seasons with the Rockets. "Obviously, that's not the direction they want to go. I still think we could be a very good team.

"I'm not crying. Like I told you before, I know this is a business. Things like that happen. I'm not mad. I'm not upset. This is what they're trying to do. But like I said, I still think we could be something."

Francis told Houston television station KRIV that he talked with Los Angeles Lakers star Shaquille O'Neal on Monday and wants him as a teammate if he goes to Orlando.

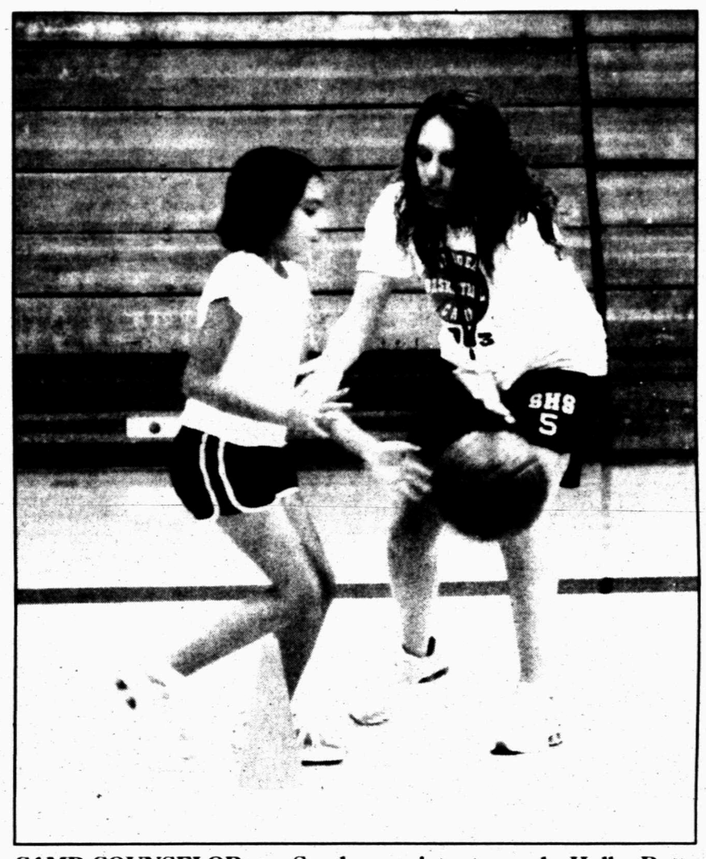
Another of Francis' agents, Nate Peake, told KRIV that the Rockets and Magic may need to get another team involved for a trade to work.

"Just like Tracy McGrady made it be known that he would like to come to Houston, I believe Steve Francis should be able to go to a place where he can succeed at," said Peake.

Fried told the Chronicle that Francis was unhappy with the prospect of playing for the Magic in a rebuilding situation.

"Steve's tasted the playoffs," Fried said, adding that the Rockets "got a series under their belts. He was looking forward to going further with the same Rockets team but with another year of experience together. This is certainly not his preference. He loves Houston."

McGrady led the league in scoring the past two seasons.



CAMP COUNSELOR — Snyder assistant coach Holly Potts guides nine-year-old Leslie Avila through dribbling drills at the girls basketball camp today. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

Mizzou hires ex-Aggie coach

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Missouri hired former Texas A&M coach Melvin Watkins as the new top assistant to Quin Snyder on Monday, filling a vacancy that opened in the fallout of an NCAA investigation.

Watkins, 49, resigned as the Aggies coach in March after Texas A&M went 7-21, including 0-16 in the Big 12, before losing in the first round of the conference tournament. A coach for 26 years, Watkins went 60-111 in six seasons at Texas A&M after posting a 42-20 record as the head coach at Charlotte.

Watkins succeeds Tony Harvey, who resigned last week. The NCAA has accused Harvey of paying former Tiger guard Ricky Clemons $250 and falsifying expense accounts to conceal meals purchased for high school and Amateur Athletic Union coaches. Harvey has denied giving Clemons any money.

Watkins told reporters Monday the NCAA investigation, which may not be resolved for months, didn't deter him from accepting Snyder's job offer.

Gorman to head Olton football

Richard Gorman, Snyder native and former intramural coordinator at South Plains College, has been named the new head coach at 2A Olton.

Gorman was an assistant at Eastland and also the head coach at Rotan from 1984-1987. He started his career at Cuero.

Before spending the past year at South Plains, Gorman was the head coach at Post High School for seven seasons.

He graduated from Snyder High School in 1974, and went to college at Angelo State University 1978 with a degree in kinesthesiology.

He is the son of Jack and Durelle Gorman of Snyder.

Lackey pitches Angels to first-place tie with Texas

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — The Oakland Athletics weren't able to compete with the Anaheim Angels in the free agent market last winter. They haven't done much better against them on the field, either.

The Angels have won five of seven meetings against their AL West rivals, including a 10-3 romp Monday night that kicked off a four-game series.

Vladimir Guerrero, who signed a five-year, $70 million contract in January, went 4-for-5 with a homer and four RBIs to raise his total to 62 and tie Boston's David Ortiz for the league lead.

"You always want to play well against teams in your own division," pitcher and Abilene native John Lackey said following his second victory in his last eight starts. "The way we've been playing lately, it's just nice to get a win against anybody."

Lackey (5-8) allowed two runs and seven hits in eight innings. The right-hander struck out four and walked none.

Cleveland beat Chicago 5-1 in the only other AL game.

The Angels — beginning a 10-game stretch in which they will play Oakland seven times — had won just four of their previous 15 games after holding a three-game lead over Oakland on June 3. The A's sixth loss in their last seven games overall dropped them into a first-place tie in the AL West with the idle Texas Rangers, a full game ahead of Anaheim.

The Angels, who swept the A's in a three-game series in Oakland the last time they met in late April, took a 4-2 lead in the fifth against Rich Harden after falling behind on Marco Scutaro's two-run single in the top of the inning.

Major League Baseball

National League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	36	31	.537	—
Florida	37	32	.536	—
New York	34	34	.500	2½
Atlanta	32	36	.471	4½
Montreal	22	45	.328	14
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
St. Louis	41	28	.594	—
Chicago	39	30	.565	2
Cincinnati	38	31	.551	3
Milwaukee	35	31	.530	4½
Houston	36	33	.522	5
Pittsburgh	26	40	.394	13½
West Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Los Angeles	37	30	.552	—
San Francisco	38	32	.543	½
San Diego	35	34	.507	3
Arizona	27	43	.386	11½
Colorado	25	43	.368	12½

Monday's Games

Houston 7, Pittsburgh 5
San Diego 3, Arizona 1
San Francisco 3, Los Angeles 2

Today's Games

Atlanta (Wright 5-5) at Florida (Pavano 7-2), 6:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (Myers 5-3) at Montreal (L.Hernandez 3-7), 6:05 p.m.
Cincinnati (P.Wilson 7-0) at N.Y. Mets (Ginter 1-1), 6:10 p.m.
Colorado (Jennings 6-6) at Milwaukee (D.Davis 6-5), 7:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Benson 5-6) at Houston (Oswalt 4-6), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Maddux 6-5) at St. Louis (Marquis 6-4), 7:10 p.m.
Arizona (Sparks 3-4) at San Diego (Eaton 3-7), 9:05 p.m.
Los Angeles (Ishii 8-3) at San Francisco (Hermanson 2-2), 9:15 p.m.

American League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	43	24	.642	—
Boston	39	29	.574	4
Tampa Bay	32	34	.485	10
Toronto	30	39	.435	14
Baltimore	28	37	.431	14
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Minnesota	38	30	.559	—
Chicago	35	31	.530	2
Cleveland	34	34	.500	4
Detroit	31	37	.456	7
Kansas City	26	40	.394	11
West Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Texas	37	29	.561	—
Oakland	38	30	.559	—
Anaheim	38	31	.551	½
Seattle	29	38	.433	8

Monday's Games

Cleveland 5, Chicago White Sox 1
Anaheim 10, Oakland 3

Today's Games

Minnesota (Lohse 2-4) at Boston (Schilling 8-4), 6:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Gaudin 1-1) at Toronto (Hentgen 2-6), 6:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Mussina 7-4) at Baltimore (Riley 1-2), 6:05 p.m.
Seattle (Nageotte 1-2) at Texas (Drese 3-4), 7:05 p.m.
Cleveland (Elarton 0-0) at Chicago White Sox (Loaiza 7-3), 7:05 p.m.
Detroit (Maroth 5-4) at Kansas City (Gobble 3-4), 7:10 p.m.
Oakland (Hudson 7-2) at Anaheim (Colon 4-6), 9:05 p.m.

Tech's Greenwalt to undergo preventative chemo treatment

LUBBOCK (AP) — Texas Tech's Cisti Greenwalt will undergo preventative chemotherapy after melanoma was found on her back, coach Marsha Sharp said Monday.

Greenwalt, who will be a senior next year, underwent surgery three weeks ago after the skin cancer was found during a routine checkup.

After tests revealed the spot was melanoma, a larger seven-inch portion was removed from her back. Three moles were removed from her neck as a precaution. All three tested negative.

"There are a lot of negatives and positives about doing chemotherapy, but I think more than anything, I was worried about what could happen in the future," Greenwalt said in a story in Tuesday's editions of the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. "I think with this, I know there is a good chance it's going away and that I don't have to worry about it right now. I'm still going to do all I can to get ready for the season."

Greenwalt, of Clovis, N.M., said she will begin chemotherapy July 5, and will receive treatment for one hour each day for a month. She is expected to return for the 2004-05 season.

The newspaper reported that early tests revealed that with the surgery there is a 15 percent chance the skin cancer could return in the future. A month of chemotherapy decreases the chance to 10 percent.

"We are not concerned about anything except for Cisti's health," Sharp said in a release. "We made sure that the Greenwalts and doctors knew that we would do whatever was needed for her long term health, and we will see where basketball fits in after that."

CONTROLLED CHAOS — SHS head girls basketball coach Mike Martin and assistant Wendy Parks give encouragment to the group of third through fifth graders this morning. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

Sports Briefs

Fun League needs pants, equipment

The Snyder Summer Fun League is looking for used baseball pants of all sizes and other baseball equipment. Contact Fred Rameriz at 575-3733 or 573-7034.

Friday Swingers

The SCGA hosts a couples play day at 5:30 p.m. each Friday at Scurry County Golf Course. Format is handicap scramble and cost is $10. Call 573-7101 for more information.

Football camp

Snyder head football coach Chad Rogers will host a football camp June 28-30 at the field house.

Incoming fourth through sixth grade players will work from 10 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. Camp for incoming seventh through ninth graders will take place from 1:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. Cost is $35 and includes a T-shirt and a cook-out the last day.

Applications can be picked up at the football field house or the athletic office. Contact coach Rogers or coach Martinez at 574-6039 for more information.

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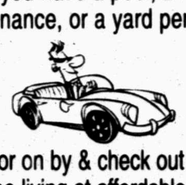

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Milk from California may have been contaminated by chemicals

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Young children and pregnant women who drink milk from California cows may be exposed to unsafe levels of a toxic chemical used in rocket fuel, according to a new study by an environmental group.

The study released today by the Environmental Working Group comes as state and federal regulators consider setting new standards to regulate perchlorate — the explosive ingredient in missile fuel that has been linked to thyroid damage.

"Perchlorate exposure is more widespread than we have been led to believe," said Bill Walker, vice president for the West Coast office of the EWG, a research and advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C.

The EWG did not call for Californians to stop drinking milk or giving it to their children, but said it does advocate tougher standards for perchlorate.

Perchlorate has been found in drinking water in more than 20 states, including California, which has extensive ties to the military, defense industry and the space program. The chemical has been detected in the Colorado River, the major source of drinking water and irrigation in Southern California and Arizona.

Researchers are divided about the effects of perchlorate on mental development and what exposure levels are safe.

In March, California health officials concluded that perchlorate could be dangerous at levels above 6 parts per billion in drinking water — a level that could be used later this year to set the nation's first state standard.

But U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials, and some environmental groups, say that standard would be too weak. The EPA advocates a standard of just 1 part per billion.

The new study on milk was based on laboratory tests the EWG commissioned as well as unreleased tests by the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

The EWG tests, conducted by researchers at Texas Tech University, found the chemical in 31 of 32 samples from milk purchased at grocery stores in Los Angeles and Orange counties. The average level of the chemical was 1.3 parts per billion,

The EWG said the Food and Agriculture Department tests found an average level of 5.8 parts per billion of perchlorate in 34 samples it tested from milk silos in Alameda, Sacramento and San Joaquin counties.

Department officials confirmed those results, but spokesman Steve Lyle said the findings didn't show any need for consumers to drink less milk.

"At this point, there is not enough information to suggest that eating foods with low levels of perchlorate poses a significant health concern," Lyle said.

The EWG study didn't determine how the chemical ended up in cows milk, but perchlorate has been found in many of the state's water sources, which are used to irrigate farmland and grow crops fed to cows.

California's dairy industry will work with state and federal officials to find out how perchlorate is getting into milk and how to remove the chemical, said Michael Marsh, CEO of the Western United Dairymen, which represents the state's $4.5 billion dairy industry. But Marsh said there is a "paucity of science" showing perchlorate's harmful effects on human health.

A recent study by the University of California, Irvine, found that healthy adults were not harmed by levels as high as 100 parts per billion of perchlorate. But the study did not draw conclusions about perchlorate's impact on pregnant women, children and infants.

Singapore lifts ban on American poultry

SINGAPORE (AP) — Singapore lifted a four-month ban on American poultry imports from all but Texas, saying today it was satisfied bird flu outbreaks in the other states have been eradicated.

The city-state's Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority also said in a statement it would resume imports of poultry products from the Netherlands and the import of ornamental birds from Taiwan where it is confident the countries are able to detect and contain the virus effectively.

Texas earlier this month was fighting its second outbreak of avian influenza and thousands of chickens have been destroyed after tests showed some of the birds were infected with the virus.

"AVA has assessed and is satisfied that they (the countries) have in place effective surveillance programs for detecting bird flu as well as effective systems for containing and eradicating any outbreaks," the statement said.

Bird and poultry imports from Taiwan and the United States were suspended immediately following outbreaks of avian influenza earlier this year.

Bird flu hit Asia earlier this year, killing or leading to the slaughter of about 100 million birds. At least 24 people died of the virus in Vietnam and Thailand before it tapered off.

Singapore imports 103,000 metric tons of chicken meat a year, mainly from Brazil. In 2003, Singapore imported 17,500 metric tons of chicken meat from the United States and 450 metric tons of poultry products from the Netherlands.

Most of the island nation's poultry supply comes in the form of live chickens imported from neighboring Malaysia.

Deputy sentenced in Texas toy scam

HOUSTON (AP) — A state district judge has sentenced a Harris County sheriff's deputy who was convicted of theft in what prosecutors said was a scam to convince donors that their contributions would be given to a children's toy program.

Ed Christensen, president of the Harris County Deputies Organization, was found guilty of theft between $1,500 and $20,000.

Judge Don Stricklin sentenced Christensen to four years' probation. He had already told Christensen to resign his post as union president and to stay away from union headquarters.

Christensen, an ex-Marine who has called the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program his "favorite charity," had full knowledge of the scam, prosecutor Russel Turbeville told the Houston Chronicle in Tuesday's editions.

The 51-year-old deputy denied the accusations, saying telemarketers and their subcontractors hired to raise money duped him and the union.

The Toys for Tots program had not given the union permission to use its name.

Burt Springer, Christensen's attorney, said after the verdict and sentence that he would appeal. The union's general counsel said he expected Christensen to be fired from the Sheriff's Department soon because of the conviction.

Turbeville said that between 1998 and 2000, the alleged scheme netted about $350,000.

The state attorney general's office and the Harris County attorney's office started investigating the alleged scam in November 2000.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	11.48	11.32	11.32	—.16
AT&T Corp	16.18	16.09	16.13	+.02
Albertsons	25.88	25.32	25.80	+.10
Alltel	49.75	49.40	49.43	—.28
AmEl Pw	32.11	31.70	31.72	—.26
AndarkPtr	57.97	57.50	57.86	+.08
ATMOS Egy	24.66	24.51	24.55	—.06
Aviall	17.65	17.50	17.52	—.20
BP PLC	53.62	53.12	53.12	—.57
BakerHughes	36.61	36.27	36.42	+.11
Bank of Amer	84.85	84.38	84.38	—.56
BellSouth	25.24	25.08	25.10	—.04
BurlNoSFe	34.31	34.02	34.11	—.18
Caterpillar	76.00	75.11	75.35	+.37
CenterPoint	11.28	11.21	11.26	—.01
ChevronTex	93.19	92.72	92.84	—.46
Citigroup	47.25	46.55	46.60	—.58
CocaCola	51.15	50.80	50.88	—.29
ColgatePal	58.26	58.07	58.18	—.10
CmclMetals	34.00	32.06	32.31	—1.64
ConocoPhill	76.88	76.28	76.34	—.30
Cooper Inds	56.94	56.75	56.76	—.04
DaimlrChry	46.46	45.95	45.95	+.03
DeltaAirLines	6.32	6.17	6.18	—.12
Dillards Inc	22.26	21.95	21.95	—.26
DowChem	39.38	38.95	39.00	—.74
DuPont	44.11	43.65	43.66	—.69
EastmanChem	43.88	43.08	43.44	—.01
EstKodak	25.41	25.05	25.35	+.12
EDS Corp	18.40	17.69	18.18	+.49
Entergy	55.14	54.77	54.90	—.08
ExxonMobil	44.81	44.40	44.50	—.23
FootLocker	23.54	23.10	23.26	—.12
GenDynam	98.98	98.50	98.65	—.29
GenElec	32.70	32.50	32.60	
GenMills	45.89	45.63	45.74	—.07
GenMotors	47.67	47.20	47.48	+.12
GaPacific	35.26	34.74	34.74	+.04
Goodrich	31.30	31.15	31.24	—.01
Goodyear	9.72	9.36	9.55	—.19
GtAtlPac	7.31	7.16	7.16	—.11
Halliburtn	30.02	29.75	29.83	+.02
Hanson PLC	37.18	37.00	37.00	—.50
HarteHanks	23.48	23.15	23.18	—.24
HomeDepot	35.41	34.93	34.94	—.78
HoneywellIntl	36.66	36.26	36.56	+.30
IBM	89.98	89.16	89.30	—.19
IntlPaper	44.12	43.64	43.64	—.25
JohnsonJn	55.35	55.05	55.06	—.22
KinderMorg	59.92	59.45	59.48	+.08
Kroger Co	17.74	17.08	17.63	+.26
LockheedM	50.70	50.32	50.63	+.13
Lowes Cos	53.55	53.00	53.06	—.61
Lubys	6.45	6.35	6.35	—.09
LucentTech	3.68	3.59	3.65	+.13
MarathonOil	36.76	36.26	36.30	—.46
MayDeptStr	28.29	27.94	28.06	—.23
Medtronic	49.30	48.19	48.20	—1.13
Motorola	18.03	17.60	17.91	+.37
NCR Corp	48.48	47.95	48.09	—.23
Navistar	39.40	38.80	39.02	+.08
PNM Rescs s	20.38	20.15	20.23	—.19
Penney JC	37.97	37.54	37.65	—.10
PepBoys	24.83	24.48	24.48	—.35
PepsiCo	54.94	54.61	54.92	+.02
PhelpDodge	72.70	72.00	72.16	—1.15
PilgrimsPride	27.57	27.22	27.33	—.09
Praxair s	37.73	37.43	37.58	+.10
ProctGamb s	56.34	55.55	55.79	+.29
RadioShack	28.77	28.55	28.63	—.29
RoyalDut	51.91	51.60	51.61	—.70
SBC Comm	24.42	24.27	24.30	—.10
SaraLee	23.13	22.99	23.05	—.03
Scripps EW	107.69	107.32	107.60	—.08
SearsRoeb	38.38	37.72	37.83	—.48
SherwinW	40.04	39.86	39.86	—.04
SouthernCo	29.31	29.09	29.14	
SwstAirl	15.91	15.71	15.80	+.01
SprintFON	17.47	17.16	17.21	—.26
Sunoco Inc	62.80	62.19	62.68	+.46
TXU Corp	39.37	39.11	39.30	+.05
TempleInland	65.79	65.32	65.32	—.27
TexInd	39.15	38.89	38.95	—.07
TexasInst	23.31	22.99	23.03	+.03
Textron	59.88	59.34	59.86	+.67
TimeWarner	17.57	17.31	17.33	—.23
TrinityInds	31.59	31.00	31.21	—.14
TylerTech	8.94	8.75	8.75	—.25
UnionPacif	57.49	57.01	57.04	—.44
USSteel	32.60	32.01	32.47	+.15
UnitedTech	88.45	87.60	87.65	—1.05
Unocal	37.32	37.03	37.27	+.25
VerizonComm	35.71	35.24	35.29	—.44
WalMart	54.75	53.73	53.83	—1.10
WellsFargo	58.84	58.42	58.68	+.16
WstnGasRs s	31.50	30.91	31.36	+.34
WinnDixie	6.50	6.35	6.50	+.07
Xerox Cp	14.45	14.25	14.36	+.06
YumBrands	37.65	37.03	37.22	—.21

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JUN 22 2004

Perry to focus on job creation

AUSTIN (AP) — As he prepared to travel to Mexico to talk about investment and job creation, Gov. Rick Perry predicted Monday that his four-day trade mission will send positive messages to the business world.

Perry was heading to Mexico today. He'll be meeting with President Vicente Fox, assorted Mexican state governors and other high-ranking officials. It's his first trade trip to the country since becoming governor in 2000. He has previously traveled to Mexico for other events.

Last fall, Perry met with Fox when the Mexican president visited Texas.

Those types of meetings show companies that the governments of Texas and Mexico trust each other and want to work together, Perry said.

"That is a message that continues to send good vibrations, if you will, through the economic sectors," he said.

Texas recently surpassed California as the top exporting state in the nation with $98.8 billion in exports last year. More than $41.5 billion in exports go to Mexico alone, making that nation the state's leading trading partner.

Perry's trip coincides with an energy trade mission to Mexico by representatives of about 50 Texas companies.

Along with energy, Perry said, he hopes to discuss investment possibilities in road construction, manufacturing and services.

Mexico's interest in liberalizing foreign ownership restrictions on oil and gas investments could make for more opportunities for Texas companies, especially if Mexican officials see potential economic benefits for their own citizens, Perry said.

One of the largest dry gas reserves in North America is located in Mexico, he noted.

On another subject, Perry said he expects Mexican truck safety to be discussed, but he said Mexican businesses likely will send safe trucks across U.S. borders as they are permitted to enter the country under new trade rules. If the trucks aren't safe, they'll be stopped, he said.

"I think these will be relatively well-funded companies that have modern fleets. I don't worry about their trucks coming in," Perry said.

He also said he continues to favor allowing Mexican visitors to stay in the country longer, as Canadians are allowed to do. Currently, Mexican visitors generally must stay within 25 miles of the border and for only 72 hours.

As for Mexico's repayment of its water debt to the United States under a 1944 water-sharing treaty, progress is being made, Perry said.

"The strategy of quiet diplomacy seems to be working," he said.

4-inch hail, high winds pound Texas Panhandle Monday night

By The Associated Press

Hail more than 4 inches in diameter and winds gusting to 70 mph pounded the Texas Panhandle overnight, damaging a hospital, businesses, houses and vehicles. Several twisters were spotted during the storms.

A patient at Baptist St. Anthony's Hospital was injured by flying glass Monday night as winds and hail knocked out almost all of the windows on one end of the six-story building.

The roof of a Wal-Mart Super Center on the city's west side was damaged, forcing the 24-hour store to close.

Lumber and home improvement retailers stayed open overnight to provide residents supplies for repairs.

At St. Anthony's Hospital, patients were evacuated into the hall and patients whose rooms had broken windows were eventually moved into other quarters following the storm.

"It blew out the lobby. The windows are shattered. They blew in on the patients," said Mary Barlow, director of corporate communications for the hospital on Amarillo's west side.

She said the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit was hit and about a dozen babies were taken immediately to the newborn nursery and were doing fine.

About 30 rooms in the 410-bed hospital were affected and about 100 patients had to be moved to other rooms by employees who put in play the drills practiced twice a year, Barlow said.

"One patient had a gash to his leg from flying glass," she said.

Glass littered the floor of hospital rooms, ceiling tiles had been tossed around and curtains were soaked.

A family member who was standing at a window as the storm approached told Barlow it "truly looked like tennis balls" coming at the windows.

Homes and vehicles on the city's west and southwest side were damaged by hail up to baseball size, said a Texas Department of Public Safety spokesman in Amarillo.

"Every one of our skylights is busted out," homeowner Faye Essary told the Amarillo Globe-News in today's editions. "My husband and I took cover. Glass flew everywhere. It looked like Coke bottles, half Coke bottles shooting through our skylights.

"It flew all over the house. It flew 10 feet away. It was that powerful."

Storm spotters reported several twisters, including one along Interstate 40.

Belden Dampf, a communication officer with the Potter County Sheriff's Department, said damage was reported at car lots and some underpasses were flooded.

Hartley County Sheriff Franky Scott said a section of Farm to Market Road 367 between Romero and Channing had to be closed for about an hour because of high water. Scott said water was as deep as 4 feet in some areas.

"It had the barbed wire fence covered up," Scott said. Usually empty draws were running full. "Water was getting across the country."

Scott said windows were knocked out of some ranch houses. He said hail covered the ground in one area, creating a solid white scene. "It was not big hail, just a lot of hail," he said.

Storms also developed in other parts of West and Southwest Texas. A car was reportedly blown off the road near San Angelo and another vehicle with three occupants was swept off of U.S. 277 by high water. No injuries were reported.

Trees were also knocked down in San Saba County.

Dan Dixon, a forecaster with the National Weather Service in Fort Worth, said a weak upper level disturbance and a cold front were responsible for the storms.

Former Dyess airman headed to prison for stealing military vests

ABILENE (AP) — A former staff sergeant at Dyess Air Force Base was ordered to report to federal prison in July for stealing military vests and selling them on eBay.

Brandon L. Berryhill, 23, pleaded guilty in March to theft of government property. On Friday, he was sentenced in federal court in Lubbock to six months in prison and ordered to pay $5,500 in restitution to the U.S. Department of Defense and $5,000 in court costs, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Dallas.

Berryhill worked in the supply section at the Abilene base. Prosecutors said he admitted that for more than a year, he sold 10-20 small-arms protective inserts, lightweight body armor worn to protect the chest area, and sold other government property.

The inserts, each worth more than $350, usually are destroyed unless they are reused by law enforcement officers. Investigators found that there were no surplus inserts being sold at the time and that Berryhill should not have had them, prosecutors said.

In April, the Defense Department announced a Philadelphia-based undercover operation to track down more than 150 people suspected of selling hundreds of pieces of stolen military body armor over the Internet.

Record ride at park

ST. LOUIS (AP) — And you thought you were wasting precious time going around in circles.

Six people say they have a claim on the world record for consecutive hours on a Ferris wheel after three days spent on a ride at Six Flags St. Louis.

The roughly 36-hour record will be submitted to Guinness World Records this week. The riders got off the wheel twice during the contest that began due to lightning.

Infant drowns in motel tub

McALLEN (AP) — A woman was held Tuesday in lieu of bonds in the drowning of her 10-month-old baby girl at a South Texas motel room.

Investigators say the 21-year-old Mexican national was arrested after the girl was found floating face up in a bathtub Sunday. The mother was accused of leaving two older children unsupervised in the tub with the water running while she left the room to make a call on a pay telephone, when the younger girl crawled in to join them.

Alma Luz Mendoza was arraigned Monday by McAllen Municipal Judge Kathleen Henley on two counts of child endangerment and one count of manslaughter. The judge set bond at a combined $20,000.

Police were called Sunday night to the Airport Inn Motel, where they found the baby unconscious and floating face up in the tub.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Your warm, outgoing nature will make you a pretty popular person in the year ahead. One person in particular to whom you extend a friendly hand will do something very beneficial for you in appreciation of your kindness.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — It isn't just your bright, clever ideas that make you such a big winner today, but your efforts to include others in your plans and make them feel they helped to achieve success.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Someone who is quite fond of you could be your benefactor and responsible for helping you achieve a material goal you couldn't have otherwise reached yourself. You'll have lots to cheer about today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Your philosophical and generous nature gives you a compassionate understanding today for those who are less than perfect. One may even give you a token of his or her appreciation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — It'll be the unobtrusive way in which you give of yourself today that actually will be responsible for putting you in the limelight. Sometimes when we ask for nothing, we get everything.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Friends will step forward today and let you know they believe in your hopes and dreams and are pulling for you. It's this support that will enable you to bring your goals into reality now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — You have the ability to play the game of life with a lot of heart today. Even your competitors won't be angry or jealous of you should you win the brass ring that all are reaching for.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Although you're quite capable of operating totally independently of others, anything worthwhile you achieve today is likely to happen because of teaming up with competent associates.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — You won't be dominated by the status quo today. In fact, starting now, you'll begin to make changes that will prove to be far more beneficial to you and your loved ones than to others.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Look to form partnerships today when it comes to anything important you'd like to accomplish. With the input of others you can derive greater benefits in your social and business life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Even though you might get a chance to take advantage of another at work today, much to your credit you won't. This will not go unnoticed and you'll be rewarded by those who would have suffered.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Anybody who needs help or even merely a boost in morale will be the recipient of your good nature today. You'll say and do whatever it takes to make others believe in themselves.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You could be quite successful today in your dealings concerning your personal affairs. This is because you'll know how to bring balance into all things and have fun doing so in the process.

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

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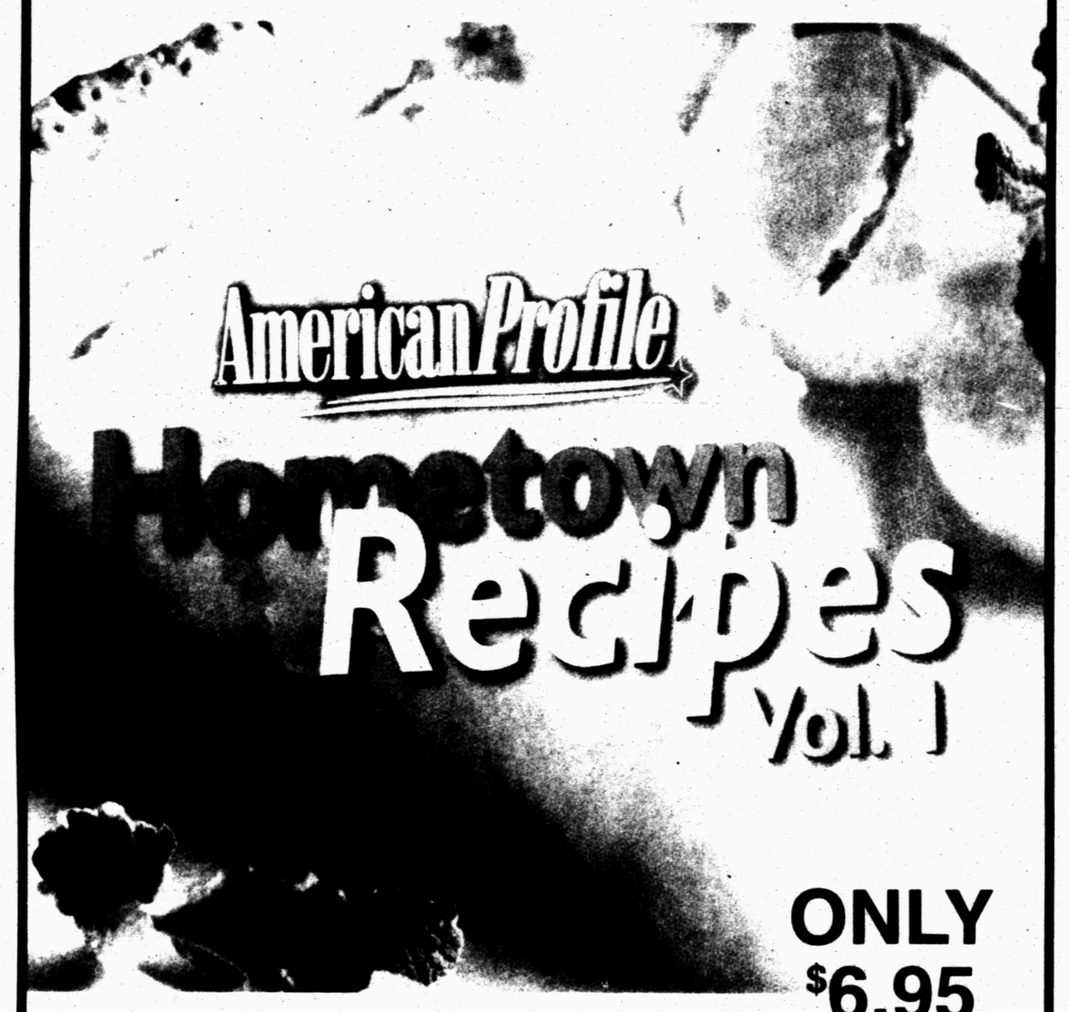

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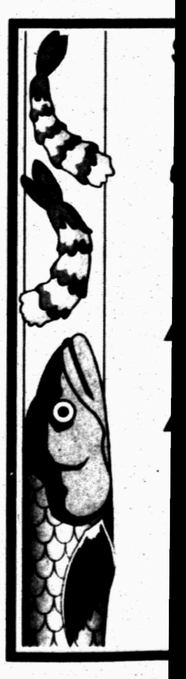

Coalition general denies he authorized abuse of prisoners

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — The commander of coalition forces in Iraq is denying that he had any involvement in authorizing prisoner abuse during interrogations.

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez said he welcomed a full investigation into his and his command's involvement in the Abu Ghraib prison scandal.

"An honest man's best friend is a good investigation," Sanchez, who grew up in Rio Grande City and graduated from what is now Texas A&M University-Kingsville, told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times in a telephone interview from Baghdad. "There is absolutely nothing that I am concerned about in terms of actions that I might have taken."

On Monday, lawyers for two defendants in the prison scandal won the right to question Sanchez and other top U.S. generals to bolster arguments their clients were following lawful orders in their treatment of inmates. The order, issued by a military judge at pretrial hearings, compels Sanchez to give a deposition.

"The actions I took were the best military judgment that was available," Sanchez told the newspaper. "The decisions were meant to protect our young men and women fighting here."

The commander stood by his congressional testimony in which he said he had no knowledge of the abuse before he initiated an investigation in January. He denied recent reports surfacing recently in The Washington Post indicating he witnessed abuse at the prison or had approved high-pressure interrogation tactics such as the use of military dogs, temperature extremes or reversed sleep patterns for use against Iraqi prisoners.

"None of those were ever approved," said Sanchez. "I never approved of any of those techniques being used."

Sanchez maintained that because of safeguards written into policies for Iraq, no violations of the Geneva Conventions could have been authorized from the top. But the abuse has been an unwelcome distraction, he said.

"There is absolutely no doubt in anybody's mind that this was a horrible incident," said Sanchez. "It was something I would probably characterize as a defeat for us in the strategic communications arena.

"It's also put us right on the verge of losing focus of what we're really doing here, and that is fighting a war," he said.

Today's chuckle

Buffalo celebrates 40th anniversary of 'wings'

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — This may be the only city in America where a man in a foam chicken wing hat would not be bounced from a meeting with top officials.

On the contrary, Buffalo's "wing king," Drew Cerza, was more than welcome Monday as Mayor Anthony Masiello, Erie County Executive Joel Giambra and the region's tourism chief, Richard Geiger, gathered to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the spicy Buffalo wing.

Invented at Buffalo's Anchor Bar in 1964, the wing has its own festival each Labor Day weekend. After the birthday festivities, the Buffalo Niagara Convention & Visitors Bureau sent Cerza on the road for a four-city tour to promote the festival, and the rest of the region's assets.

"We're going to use this great icon to promote Buffalo tourism," Geiger said, as dozens lined up for free wings in the city's Niagara Square.

Joining Cerza on the tour is Sonya Thomas, the 100-pound competitive eater who downed 134 wings in 12 minutes at last year's Buffalo Wing Festival.

The wing tour includes stops in Pittsburgh and Erie, Pa., and Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio

Separated twins said to be in good health

WASHINGTON (AP) — After months of fear about their infant twin daughters, who were joined from chest to abdomen from birth, Kevin and Melissa Buckles are looking forward to returning to a more normal life.

The girls, Erin and Jade Buckles, can probably look forward to normal lives, too, after their successful separation surgery, doctors said Monday at Children's National Medical Center.

For now, the four-month-old identical twins remain in critical but stable condition at the hospital. Dr. Gary Hartman, the lead surgeon, said the twins probably would be taken off ventilators within a week to 10 days and he expected them to be eating and "relatively active" in a few weeks.

The parents were already looking forward to someday telling the girls all about it.

"We won't make a big hoopla out of this. We'll tell them what happened, we'll show them the pictures and then we'll move on," said Kevin Buckles, a Marine Corps gunnery sergeant.

Jade and Erin, of Woodbridge, Va., had been joined from their chests to their abdomens. They were born Feb. 26, about six weeks early, at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. The girls shared a liver, and one baby's heart rested horizontally, protruding into the other girl's chest cavity.

Surgery to separate the girls and close up the cavities took six hours Saturday.

Doctors are now focusing on getting the girls to breathe on their own, Hartman said. Their bodies have swelled up with fluids — a common reaction to major surgery — and that must be monitored, he said.

The parents had known since November that the girls would be conjoined, Melissa Buckles said. That led to months of fear and worry, and the couple tried to keep their emotions in check when the final incision was made to separate the girls on Saturday, Kevin Buckles said.

"Both of us were extremely excited, but after that two seconds were over, we went back to focusing on the girls," he said.

Marriage initiative is pushed by president

CINCINNATI (AP) — President Bush raised money for the Republican Party and promoted his agenda of compassionate conservatism Monday as he and his Democratic rival focus on a key state in their battle for the White House.

On his 18th presidential trip to Ohio, Bush promoted his $1.5 billion proposal to offer premarital counseling to parents on welfare.

"I think one of the smartest things we can do is to encourage families" by spending money on grants to states, faith-based organizations and community-based groups that "teach people what it means to be in a successful marriage," Bush told supporters at an alcohol and drug addiction services center.

Bush's Healthy Marriage Initiative is part of welfare reform legislation stalled in the Senate.

"It's stuck" and "there's too much politics in Washington on this," said Bush. "Congress needs to get the welfare bill to my desk. It's a bill that will encourage work. It will encourage compassionate programs."

The proposal, which the White House developed in close consultation with conservative groups, ties the concept of healthier marriages to reducing drug use and other problems.

About 40 protesters, some carrying signs that said, "Bush You're Fired" and "Outsource Bush," demonstrated outside ADAS center, where the president spoke. Among them were Sierra Club members, who objected to Bush's environmental policies. Two women supported Bush and held anti-abortion signs that read, "Save the unborn."

Democratic presidential challenger John Kerry campaigned last week in Ohio, promoting a proposed federal program that would pay to keep schools open until early evening to help working parents. Kerry also raised $2 million at two events in Cincinnati and Columbus.

On Monday, Kerry spokesman Phil Singer said Bush has had more than three years to focus on the problems of families, saying he "looked the other way" while health costs, gasoline prices and other household expenses hit record highs.

Cincinnati Mayor Charlie Luken added in a statement: "What President Bush should realize, but does not, is that the single biggest factor in keeping families together is stability - a job, decent and affordable health care, and a quality education."

The national furor over gay marriage has complicated the task of officials and civic leaders who are trying to energize support for Bush's proposal to promote stronger marriages among heterosexuals.

Some groups contend the marriage program could discriminate against single women, pressure some into abusive marriages and convey that they should find a husband rather than seek self-sufficiency. Gay-rights activists are bitter that Bush would request funds to aid heterosexual couples while advocating a ban on same-sex marriages.

Bush also attended a fund-raiser at the home of longtime friend and investor Bill DeWitt. The event brought in $2.5 million for the Republican Party, while Laura Bush raised another $500,000 in Greenwich, Conn.

Mom, daughter sent to prison

DALLAS (AP) — A mother and daughter have been ordered to report to federal prison this summer for a scheme to steal more than $700,000 in health care benefit checks from a veterans medical center in Arizona.

Shirley J. Roberts, of Tucson, Ariz., was sentenced Friday to 21/2 years in prison and must surrender in August, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Dallas. She pleaded guilty earlier this year to conspiracy to commit theft in connection with health care, theft in connection with health care and aiding and abetting.

Her daughter, Tracy M. Oliver, of Wichita Falls, was sentenced last month to less than three years in prison and must surrender in July.

9-11 commission member says spy agencies should be merged

WASHINGTON (AP) — A member of the Sept. 11 commission predicts the panel will support centralization of the nation's intelligence agencies as the only way to prevent future terrorist attacks.

"You're going to see unanimous recommendations on the intelligence community ... They couldn't distinguish between a bicycle crash and a train wreck," commissioner John Lehman, a Republican, said Sunday in previewing a final report due for completion next month.

Centralization will enable information to get to people "in a position to make a difference," the former secretary of the Navy said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Change must be fundamental, Lehman said, "not just tweaking and moving the deck chairs or the organization boxes around," and the FBI should undergo a transformation as well.

He said FBI Director Robert Mueller is on the right track, but "we probably will go further in our recommendations to institutionalize changes" at the bureau.

The comments came amid a debate over the Bush administration's insistence that there were close ties between al-Qaida and Saddam Hussein, an assertion that provided the White House with an important justification for invading Iraq.

A commission staff report, released last week, said there were contacts between Osama bin Laden's terror network and the Iraqi government, but they did not appear to have produced a collaborative relationship.

Commission chairman Thomas Kean, a former Republican governor of New Jersey, said "we don't see any serious conflicts" between the panel's and the White House's positions. At the same time, he said, "We believe ... that there were a lot more active contacts, frankly, with Iran and with Pakistan than there were with Iraq.

"Al-Qaida didn't like to get involved with states, unless they were living there. They got involved with Sudan, they got involved ... where they lived, but otherwise no," Kean told ABC's "This Week."

Along with differences over ties between Saddam's government and al-Qaida, a new question arose over whether President Bush or Vice President Dick Cheney gave the order on Sept. 11, 2001, to shoot down the fourth of the hijacked airliners.

The two told the commission that Bush gave his approval after a discussion with Cheney, who was in the White House command center.

Newsweek magazine reports in this week's issue that an early draft of the commission staff report reflected skepticism by staffers about the account of Cheney getting Bush's approval for the shoot-down order. After objections by the White House, the panel removed the wording from the draft, it said.

On the issue of al-Qaida's ties to Iraq under Saddam, Lehman defended Cheney, the most aggressive promoter of that idea.

World Almanac

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Today is the 174th day of 2004 and the third day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1940, France was forced to sign an armistice with Nazi Germany.

In 1941, in one of the turning points of World War II, Germany invaded the Soviet Union.

In 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the GI Bill of Rights, providing benefits to veterans.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Anne Morrow Lindbergh (1906-2001), aviator, author; Billy Wilder (1906-2002), director; Bill Blass (1922-2002), fashion designer; Dianne Feinstein (1933-), U.S. senator, is 71; Kris Kristofferson (1936-), singer/actor, is 68; Meryl Streep (1949-), actress, is 55; Kurt Warner (1971-), football star, is 33; Carson Daly (1973-), talk show host, is 31.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1962, Major League Baseball's Stan Musial passed Ty Cobb to become the all-time total base leader, making his total 5,864.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Liberty is the air that we Americans breathe." — Franklin D. Roosevelt

TODAY'S FACT: Before Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, the two had signed a non-aggression pact in August 1939.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 3,284,662 — number of cases of veterans compensation and pension case payments in the United States in 2002.

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (June 17) and first quarter (June 25)

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Pool leak could spoil summer fun

GRAFTON, Wis. (AP) — Just as hot weather is finally arriving in Wisconsin, the village swimming pool has sprung a leak — to the tune of 35,000 gallons a day.

Local officials must decide whether to make the repair, which could shut down the pool for four weeks, or live with the leak through the swimming season — and pay $8,500 in extra expenses to keep the pool filled.

"At this point, the concern would be that should the repairs be significant, the swimming pool season would be disrupted for up to one month's time," Village Administrator Darrell Hofland said Monday. "That's not a favorable oGRAFTON, Wis. (AP) — Just hot weather is finally arriving in Wisconsin, the village swimming pool has sprung a leak — to the tune of 35,000 gallons a day.

Local officials must decide whether to make the repair, which could shut down the pool for four weeks, or live with the leak.

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JUN 22 2004

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Execution deadline extended

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Kidnappers of a South Korean businessman extended their deadline for his execution, an intermediary said today and the Seoul government said it would evacuate all its citizens working for businesses in Iraq by early July.

Kim Sun-il is alive and his abductors agreed to extend the deadline for his execution, said Ahmed al-Ghreiri, an employee of the NKTS security firm, which is acting as an intermediary.

"This is humanitarian issue and we are working on it and we expect good news," al-Ghreiri told The Associated Press.

Also this morning, a U.S. official said they would hand legal custody of Saddam Hussein and an undetermined number of former regime figures to the interim government as soon as Iraqi courts issue warrants for their arrest and request the transfer.

The United States will retain physical custody of Saddam and the prisoners, while giving Iraqi prosecutors and defense lawyers access to them, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

An explosion rocked a Baghdad residential neighborhood near the international airport Tuesday, killing two and wounding three others, witnesses said.

U.S. troops sealed off the area after the late afternoon explosion, but neither American nor Iraqi security forces were in the area at the time of the blast, witnesses said. Three cars were burned and four shops were slightly damaged in the Amiriya neighborhood.

On Monday, a mortar attack in Baghdad and two assaults on U.S. forces northeast of the capital killed one soldier and wounded nine others, the military said, as militants showed no sign of easing their attacks ahead of next week's transfer of sovereignty.

Suspected al-Qaida-linked captors had threatened to kill the 33-year-old Kim if the South Korean government did not cancel its planned deployment of 3,000 troops to Iraq by early Tuesday.

The South Korean government said today it will evacuate the last of its 22 nationals in Iraq by early next month. Most work for South Korean companies that supply the U.S. military, said Commerce, Industry and Energy Minister Lee Hee-beom.

Kim, who works for a trading company in Baghdad, was believed to have been kidnapped about 10 days ago. A videotape broadcast by the Arab TV station Al-Jazeera showed him pleading for his life.

The kidnappers claimed to be from the Monotheism and Jihad group led by Jordanian-born terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who is believed to have ties to al-Qaida.

The recent abductions and attacks appear aimed at undermining the interim Iraqi government set to take power June 30, when the U.S.-led occupation formally ends.

Coalition spokesman Dan Senor said that by week's end, all Iraqi government ministries would be under full Iraqi control.

The coalition official who briefed reporters about the prisoner custody issue said the Americans will keep Saddam and others under U.S. guard even after the June 30 handover because the Iraqi government does not yet have capacity to hold such prisoners, the official said.

U.S. troops captured Saddam in December near his hometown of Tikrit.

A mortar attack Monday in Baghdad and two assaults on U.S. forces northeast of the capital killed one soldier and wounded nine others, the military said, as militants showed no sign of easing their attacks ahead of next week's transfer of sovereignty.

Iran said today it plans to prosecute eight British navy sailors serving in Iraq on charges of entering Iranian waters, Iran's state-run television said today.

Three arrests, pair of thefts reported

• ***Arrests***

A 22-year-old male was arrested at 8:33 a.m. Monday in the 1700 block of 25th Street on a warrant for possession of drug paraphernalia.

At 9:16 a.m. Monday, a 20-year-old male was arrested at the sheriff's office on a warrant for motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana.

Officers arrested a 35-year-old woman on charges of theft by check at 11:02 a.m. Monday at the sheriff's office.

• ***Theft***

Police responded to a report of a theft in the 3200 block of Cherry at 9:40 a.m. Monday.

Theft from a Purple Sage Motel storage shed was reported at 6:22 p.m. Monday.

• ***Gas drive off***

Allsup's reported a drive off for $25 in gas at 3:45 p.m. Monday.

• ***Phone harassment***

Harassing phone calls from Levelland were reported in the 1200 block of 26th Street at 8:31 p.m. Monday.

• ***Loose livestock***

Four horses were reported loose on CR 252 at 6 p.m. Monday.

Cogdell finance panel will convene on Wednesday

The finance committee of the Cogdell Memorial Hospital board of managers will meet at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Board member Dr. Charles Church chairs the committee that consists of board member Terry Williams, interim financial officer Richard Murphy and county auditor Charlie Bell.

The hospital board will meet at 7:30 Thursday morning.

Both meetings are in the hospital boardroom.

Sexual assault of child probed by Snyder PD

Snyder police are investigating the reported sexual assault of a child.

The incident was reported at 12:55 p.m. Tuesday at a residence in the northeast part of the city.

Police released little information other than saying the case will be presented to a grand jury. No arrests have been made.

Births

Juanita and Jesus Martinez are the parents of a daughter, Yasmin Marlen Martinez, born at 2:24 a.m. June 21 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. She weighed 7 pounds and 13 ounces.

Paternal grandparents are Jesus and Lucina Martinez of Cohuilla, Mexico. Maternal grandparents are Jose and Luci Moran of Snyder.

Obituaries

Kenneth Goodlett

1954-2004

Kenneth Eunice Goodlett, a former resident of Snyder, died Monday, June 21, at his home in Lubbock.

Services for Mr. Goodlett, 49, are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Dec. 3, 1954 in Colorado City, he was a mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service and was a member of Trinity Church in Lubbock.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Elizabeth Goodlett, on March 10, 1973.

Survivors include two sons, Todd Goodlett of Los Angeles and Jeremy Goodlett of Lubbock; his parents, E.J. and Wanda Goodlett of Dunn; three sisters, Ruth Barrow of San Antonio; Carolyn Lara of San Angelo and Margaret Wilson of Houston.

Nick Gutierrez

1985-2004

Nicholas "Nick" Gutierrez, a 2003 graduate of Snyder High School, died Monday, June 21, in University Medical Center in Lubbock after a lengthy illness.

Nick Gutierrez

Rosary for Mr. Gutierrez, 19, is set for 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Wright Colonial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in the St. Elizabeth Catholic Church with the Rev. Roy Badilles officiating. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Born Jan. 2, 1985 in Big Spring, he was active in the Future Farmers of America in high school and was a member of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church.

Survivors include his parents, Juan and Mae Gutierrez of Snyder; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Naomi and Chris Barrera, Amanda and John Baez and Norma Gutierrez, all of Snyder; a brother, John Gutierrez of Snyder; three nephews, Christopher Barrera, Jacob Barrera and Ben Baez, all of Snyder; and two nieces, Kelsi Baez and Jenny Barrera, both of Snyder.

Brownie Hill

1934-2004

CASPER, Wyo. – Brownie Conger Hill, a former Scurry County resident, died Sunday, June 20, in Casper after a sudden illness.

Mrs. Hill

Funeral service for Mrs. Hill, 69, is scheduled for 2 p.m Saturday in the Lady of Fatima Catholic Church.

Born Nov. 28, 1934 in Cross Plains, she married H.T. Hill on Dec. 22, 1949 in Hamlin. He died April 26, 1983. She also was preceded in death by a daughter, Tammy Stallion.

A member of the Catholic Church, she had just retired as church secretary. She also was a member of the Mother Cabrini Circle.

Mrs. Hill had lived in Casper since 1971, moving from California. She had also lived in Hamlin.

Survivors include three daughters and sons-in-law, Vicky and John Rowland of Snyder; Helen and Glenn Kranzler of Mirana, Ariz., and Rojeana and Guy Nirenberg of Casper; three sons, Howard Hill of Florida, Howell Hill of South Dakota and Shane Hill of Littlefield; 27 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; and numerous brothers and sisters.

Adan Morales

1918-2004

BIG SPRING – Adan Morales Sr. the father of Adan Morales Jr. of Snyder, died Friday, June 18, in a Big Spring hospital.

Funeral service for Mr. Morales, 86, was set for 2 p.m. today in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. James Plagens officiating. Interment was to follow in Trinity Memorial Park under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Born April 5, 1918 in Big Spring, he married Jesusita Montanez on Feb. 7, 1945 in Kermit. She preceded him in death as did four brothers and one sister.

Mr. Morales worked at Webb Air Force Base and later worked for D.L. Dorland as a ranch foreman. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Survivors also include a daughter, Juanita Vega of Fort Worth; a brother, Tim Morales of Big Spring; and six grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the American Cancer Society.

Gilberto Castillo

1949-2004

ROTAN – Gilberto Campos Castillo, the brother of three Snyder residents, died Saturday, June 19, in Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital in Sweetwater.

Funeral service for Mr. Castillo, 54, is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Weathersbee-Ray Funeral Home Chapel with the Evaristo Granado officiating. Burial will follow in the Belvieu Cemetery.

Born Aug. 12, 1949 in Robstown, he married Concho Ramon in 1970 in Roby.

A member of the Roscoe Worship Center Church, Mr. Castillo farmed and worked at the Rotan Farmer's Gin.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Aurorar and Andrew Solis; and a grandson, Timothy Hernandez.

Survivors include three sons, Fabian Castillo of Lubbock, Stanley Castillo of Rotan and Patrick Castillo of Sweetwater; two daughters, Sherry Ann Castillo of Roscoe and Pat Castillo of Rotan; three brothers, Leo Castillo of Rotan and Lionel Castillo and Hector Castillo, both of Snyder; three sisters, Connie Hernandez of Roscoe, Maggie Castillo of Snyder and Rosa Simmons of Rotan; and 22 grandchildren.

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Wed 6/23	Thu 6/24	Fri 6/25
84/63	**91/65**	**90/65**
Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 84F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the mid 60s.	Slight chance of a thunderstorm.
Sunrise 6:37 AM, Sunset 8:55 PM	Sunrise 6:37 AM, Sunset 8:55 PM	Sunrise 6:38 AM, Sunset 8:55 PM

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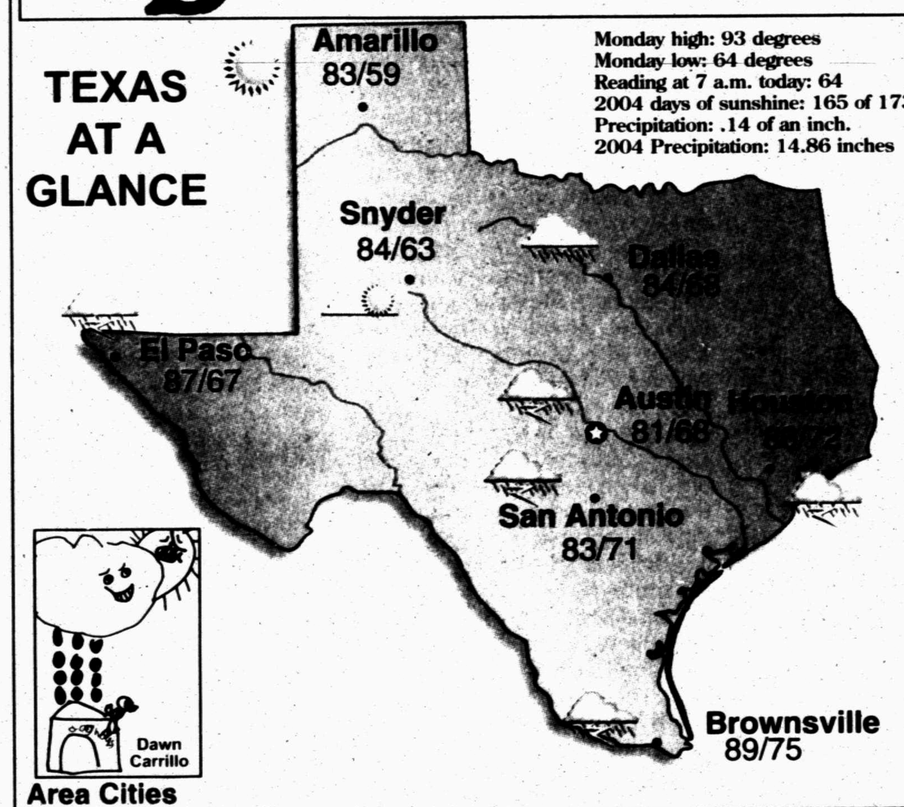
TEXAS AT A GLANCE

Monday high: 93 degrees
Monday low: 64 degrees
Reading at 7 a.m. today: 64
2004 days of sunshine: 165 of 173
Precipitation: .14 of an inch.
2004 Precipitation: 14.86 inches



Dawn Carrillo

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	83	64	pt sunny	El Paso	87	67	t-storm	Midland	87	65	pt sunny
Amarillo	83	59	sunny	Fort Stockton	83	65	t-storm	Raymondville	89	73	t-storm
Austin	81	68	t-storm	Gainesville	82	63	pt sunny	Rosenberg	86	72	t-storm
Beaumont	86	72	t-storm	Greenville	82	65	rain	San Antonio	83	71	t-storm
Brownsville	89	75	t-storm	Houston	86	72	t-storm	San Marcos	82	69	t-storm
Brownwood	84	64	pt sunny	Kingsville	87	73	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	82	64	t-storm
Corpus Christi	85	75	t-storm	Livingston	84	68	t-storm	Sweetwater	84	64	pt sunny
Corsicana	82	66	t-storm	Longview	82	66	t-storm	Tyler	82	66	t-storm
Dallas	84	68	rain	Lubbock	84	62	pt sunny	Weatherford	82	64	pt sunny
Del Rio	84	72	t-storm	Lufkin	83	68	t-storm	Wichita Falls	85	62	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	83	68	t-storm	Houston	86	72	t-storm	Phoenix	101	78	mst sunny
Boston	80	60	mst sunny	Los Angeles	74	62	mst sunny	San Francisco	69	54	windy
Chicago	78	61	t-storm	Miami	90	80	t-storm	Seattle	77	58	pt sunny
Dallas	84	68	rain	Minneapolis	70	51	t-storm	St. Louis	83	64	sunny
Denver	78	55	t-storm	New York	83	65	mst sunny	Washington, DC	84	65	t-storm

Moon Phases

New	First	Full	Last
Jun 17	Jun 25	Jul 2	Jul 9

UV Index

Wed 6/23	Thu 6/24	Fri 6/25
Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

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

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