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INSIDE

WT-Int. Crude - $31.28
WTIC Posted - $28.00
Natural Gas - $5.30

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY

July 14, 2003
Vol. 55 No. 64
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Fay Chastain

WTC board to look at maintenance contract

Western Texas College trustees will consider outsourcing its maintenance and custodial service when it convenes at 6:30 p.m. tonight.

Johnson Controls is the only company being considered and the contract was not bid out because there are no competitors in this market, according to Dr. Greg Williams, WTC president.

The college administration has been discussing privatizing maintenance for more than a year and the WTC facilities committee also has reviewed the proposal.

"It's something we've been looking at for a while and it's something we need to do," he said.

If approved, 10 WTC employees would be terminated, but all could apply to become employees of Johnson Controls.

Dr. Williams said contracting with the firm would not reduce costs.

"It's not designed to save money," he said. "It's designed to do a better job and make us a better campus and to help us provide better service to our students. Anyone who's walked around our campus knows that maintenance and cleanliness is important to us.

"This campus has been here 30 years and now it's time to prepare it for the next 30."

Johnson Controls already is used by WTC for monitoring energy usage and also uses outside firms to service the bookstore and cafeteria.

In other business, the board will consider approval of an advance degree program and a classified clerical advanced degree/certification compensation.

Employees who complete degrees or certification will be compensated with higher pay under the plan.

Ratification of resolution for tax abatement for Brazos Wind L.P. also will be considered. The board previously agreed to a 10-year, 100 percent abatement of taxes in exchange for annual payments from the company.

The college will garner $400,000 over the 10-year period.

An agreement will be considered with Scurry County for collection of college taxes. The fee will rise from .03 percent to .05 percent of collected taxes.

Also on the agenda is a pay increase for adjunct instructors and extension of the depository contract.

Several personnel matters are included.

The retirements of Mike Thornton, dean of continuing education, and Leanord Dodgen, director of correctional officer training, are on the agenda.

The resignation of Sam Fare, instructor of golf/landscape technology will be presented.

The board also is expected to add two new positions. Billy Heflinger will be considered as assistant baseball coach and director of intramural sports. LaVeeda Newsome will be recommended as English instructor.

Melanie Graf, instructor of English, will be considered for promotion from instructor to assistant professor.

Information and discussion items include the education report from Tammy Wesson, a summer enrollment report, the Upward Bound grant and annual performance report of Johnson Controls on heating and cooling.

An executive session for the annual evaluation of Dr. Williams also is set.

The meeting will be held in the administrative boardroom.



BABY DOOLITTLE — Thirteen-month-old Blake Hancock tends to two of his friends at home, a fawn found on the side of a highway near Fredericksburg and a raccoon discovered by family dogs. Blake is the son of Kenny and Miranda Hancock. The fawn is being nursed back to health and will be placed with the family's goats. (SDN Staff Photo)

Bush, Annan to discuss Liberia

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, mulling whether to send U.S. troops to enforce a fragile cease-fire in Liberia, is ready to face the world leader who has pushed most aggressively for American intervention in the strife-torn West African nation.

Bush and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan were to sit down Monday to an agenda jammed with global hotspots and seemingly intractable problems. Like Bush, who returned late Saturday from a tour of five sub-Saharan nations, Annan is just back from Africa, where he attended the African Union summit in Mozambique.

On their plate: the ongoing conflict in Congo, postwar Iraq, Afghanistan, the U.S.-led war on terrorism, the search for peace in the Mideast, and efforts to battle poverty and AIDS around the world.

It is the first meeting between Bush and Annan since Dec. 20, and since a divisive U.N. debate over a resolution backing a U.S.-led invasion to oust Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime.

Their discussion in the Oval Office was likely to involve the touchy subject of the United Nations' role in establishing a new Iraqi government. In the background, questions swirled around continuing attacks on U.S. troops in Iraq and Saddam's prewar nuclear program.

City council to mull shared services pact

Snyder's city council will discuss a response to Scurry County's offer to "review, discuss and update" the inter-governmental contract between the two entities when the council meets in a called session at 6:30 p.m. today.

Last month, the county commissioners' court voted to meet with the council after receiving a letter from the city giving a 90-day notice to terminate the 10-year-old agreement.

The city's letter said it would continue to honor the agreement on a month-to-month basis after the 90 days are up, or until a new agreement is reached.

The document outlines shared services between the two entities to include fire fighting and EMS services.

Dispatching and the jail also are included and the county has expressed its view that the contract should continue unchanged.

The city also will continue work on its 2003-2004 budget this evening.

The council is expected to hear recommended cuts from the administration as a result of the city's employee health insurance costs increasing by some $38,000 for the coming year.

The meeting will be held in council chambers at city hall.

Claudette heads for Texas

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas (AP) — A hurricane watch was posted Sunday along the South Texas coast as Tropical Storm Claudette crawled across the Gulf of Mexico, and campers packed up and left low-lying South Padre Island.

The storm was expected to make landfall at near hurricane strength as early as Tuesday, said Miles Lawrence, a forecaster at the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

A hurricane watch was in effect along the Texas Gulf Coast from Port O'Connor, about 70 miles northeast of Corpus Christi, to Brownsville and south along the Mexican coast to Rio San Fernando.

By 4 p.m. CDT, Claudette was about 315 miles east of Brownsville, with maximum sustained wind blowing at 60 mph, 14 mph shy of hurricane strength.

It had been almost stationary for several hours, but was expected to resume moving toward the west-northwest at about 5 mph, later Sunday with a gradual turn toward the west on Monday, the hurricane center said. The National Weather Service said swells were approaching the Texas coast and could create dangerous surf conditions.

"The circulation is strengthening," meteorologist Jesse Haro said at the National Weather Service in Brownsville. "That doesn't mean it's going to move any faster toward us, it simply means that it's becoming a stronger storm."

Owners of about 900 recreational vehicles parked for the summer on South Padre Island were warned that wind of more than 25 mph would mean they would not be allowed to drive their rigs across the sole bridge to the mainland. By Sunday, most of the campers had packed up voluntarily and left.

Workers on South Padre, along the coast a few miles from Brownsville, piled sand into berms at beach accesses, and Mayor Bob Pinkerton said the resort community was bracing for high water.

However, Pinkerton said there were no plans yet to evacuate.

On the mainland in the Brownsville area, Cameron County officials advised residents of low-lying areas to leave, and employed jail inmates to stack sandbags.

Area sales tax rebates

City	July '03	July '02	+/-	Year '03	Year '02	+/-
Abilene	$2,049,753.23	$2,046,280.66	0.16%	$14,971,338.92	$14,849,951.44	0.81%
Big Spring	$315,438.92	$293,216.11	7.57%	$2,107,723.20	$2,089,274.30	0.88%
Colorado City	$30,312.95	$31,215.82	-2.89%	$228,002.60	$232,017.09	-1.73%
Lamesa	$65,292.63	$58,112.79	12.35%	$496,542.63	$484,524.49	2.48%
Lubbock	$2,121,699.73	$2,186,879.46	-2.98%	$16,405,425.58	$16,581,402.17	-1.06
Post	$21,732.61	$20,571.55	5.64%	$152,707.92	$148,939.55	2.53%
Roby	$1,652.86	$1,394.34	18.54%	$11,457.98	$11,866.69	-3.44%
Rotan	$10,654.47	$8,709.93	22.32%	$76,446.27	$72,997.24	4.72%
Snyder	$159,539.47	$124,157.29	28.49%	$1,031,703.90	$807,793.49	27.71%
Sweetwater	$140,403.93	$131,676.88	6.62%	$1,154,925.80	$1,049,111.62	10.08

SALES TAX REBATE — Snyder's sales tax rebate check was up 28.49 percent this month when compared to the same period last year. The city's check for the month of July is for $159,539.47, compared to $124,157.29 a year ago.

Hermleigh ISD to consider resignation

Hermleigh ISD's board of trustees has a number of items on the agenda as it meets in regular session Monday evening at 7 o'clock.

Trustees will accept the resignation of special education instructor Sherry Holland and hear Supt. Marvin Beaty's recommendation for a replacement.

Trustees also will discuss coaching stipends for the coming year, and Beaty will update the board on a number of items that incluess board training and goals, updating the policy manual, and House Bill 1108.

Action items for the trustees include consideration of the contract for the school's copier with Xerox, the teacher appraisal calendar, bids on milk, procedure to follow for criminal history checks for new employees, and the student insurance contract.

Trustees also will review the employee handbook, consider repairs to the Cardinal Stadium bleachers and discuss the federal Title Programs.

The trustees will meet in the high school homemaking room.

Appeals on ARB agenda

The Scurry County appraisal review board will hear valuation appeals when it convenes for its annual meeting at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday.

According to Larry Crooks, Scurry County Appraisal District chief, the board will hear protests from 23 individuals and firms related to mineral and industrial appraisals.

Crooks said more protests were filed, but several have already been settled.

Representatives of Thomas Y Picket, the firm responsible for mineral valuations, will be on hand to assist the ARB.

Real estate valuations will be considered Wednesday.

The hearing will be held at the district's office, 2612 College Ave.

ASK US

Q—Is it too late to protest an appraisal valuation?

A—No. The appraisal review board meets Tuesday and Wednesday or you can call the appraisal district at 573-8549.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Sharon Latta...

...has owned and operated Daylight Donuts with her husband, Martin, for six years. They have two daughters, Sherry Latta of Nebraska who worked at the donut shop and just recently moved from Snyder, and Terry Muzzey, also of Nebraska; A son, Marty Latta, lives in Arizona. She enjoys time at home relaxing and likes to watch her husband team rope.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

When you walk what you talk...people listen.

—Anonymous

JUL 14 2003

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "Three Messages from Balaam," followed by "Put Away Lying."

S.M.A.R.T. School

S.M.A.R.T School at Ira ISD with Carol Scott and Kim Allen being held from 8-11:45 a.m. daily through Thursday. Transportation is available. Call 573-2628 to reserve your spot.

White elephant auction

Lions Club members will have a "white elephant" sale at the noon meeting Tuesday at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. Members will be charged $10 for not bringing an item.

Emmaus meeting

Mesquite Country Emmaus Community meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Colonial Hill Baptist Church. Babe chicks meet at 6 p.m.

Clothing workshop

A clothing workshop – just for girls ages 9-18 – will be held Thursday at the Scurry County extension office. Bring rubber flip-fops for decorating and $3 for other supplies. RSVP by Wednesday by calling 573-5423.

FBC services televised

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

Financial workshop

Snyder Oaks Care Center will sponsor a workshop on preparing financially for nursing home placement to protect assets and qualify for assistance. It will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 22. For more information call Ray or Joni at 573-9377.

First Methodist VBS

First United Methodist Church will hold Vacation Bible School from 6 to 8 p.m. July 28-Aug. 1. For ages kindergarten through 5th grade, theme is "God People Celebrate." Register at 2700 College Ave. or call 574-1547.

Star Boot Camp

Star Boot Camp junior military academy will be held from 8 to 11 a.m. July 18-Aug. 1. The camp is for ages 6 to 11. To register call 574-6090 or 573-3703.

Senior swimnastics

Swimnastics for senior citizens is held from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the WTC pool.

SHS football program ads

Advertisements are now being sold for the 2003 football program. Anyone interested in purchasing an ad can call Christy Smith at 573-6301.

Sonshine registration

Sonshine School at 37th St. Church of Christ is currently registering students for the fall semester. For more information, call director Wendy Barnett at 574-1960.

Cancer treatment transportation

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

Presidential gifts gathering dust

WASHINGTON (AP) — A $1 million painting from Saudi Arabia. An $18,000 pen from the United Arab Emirates. A $3 jar of fish bait from Morocco.

These sundry gifts to President Bush from foreign leaders share little other than the grace and goodwill with which they were given. Those gifts and hundreds more share a similar fate — they barely brush the president's hands before being carted off, crated and left to gather dust.

Gift-giving among foreign leaders is as common as a handshake. Much less common is putting those presents to use.

"The ironic twist is that all this money gets spent on things that no one ever gets to enjoy," says Jenny Sternaman, archivist at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif.

Sternaman says thousands of gifts are carefully stored. Only a relatively few make it into displays at the presidential libraries; there are simply too many to exhibit.

White House aides log the foreign gifts given to the president and send them to the National Archives. There, the gifts are packed up and put in storage for Bush's future presidential library. Some are on display in the White House or president's ranch in Texas during his term only.

Gifts given to Bush include wooden stirrups from Peru, a cowboy hat from Canada and a long-handled ax from the Slovak Republic — the president likes to clear brush at the ranch. If he chooses to keep them, he has to disclose the gifts on financial forms.

The Constitution says the president cannot accept any foreign present without the consent of Congress. Congress allows for acceptance if refusing the gift would probably cause offense or embarrassment to the giver or to the United States. That's usually the condition on which the gifts are accepted.

Generous were some world leaders, showering the president, first lady Laura Bush and others with the $18,000 "Stars and Stripes" Mont Blanc pen inset with rubies and diamonds on an American flag pattern. From Italy, there was an alabaster sculpture of four figures, titled "Allegory of the Triumph," valued at $30,000 and a wristwatch worth $14,500.

Another pricey gift, from Morocco, was a 17-inch knife made of 18-carat gold with diamonds and rubies on an ivory hilt. Value: $20,000.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair gave Bush a toiletries bag with the president's initials embossed in gold on the top ($351).

Russian President Vladimir Putin gave him an elaborately detailed silver coffee urn with six matching cups and a platter ($500).

Mexican President Vicente Fox gave Bush a $300 silver vase. Afghan President Hamid Karzai gave him a wool and silk rug worth $4,000.

Nashville witholding incentives to Dell

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The city government is withholding nearly $800,000 from Dell Computer Corp. until the Texas company can verify it is using only its employees to calculate its incentive payments.

The city annually pays Dell $500 per employee as part of the incentive package used to lure the Round Rock-based company. Since 1999, the city has paid the computer giant almost $1.6 million. This year's payment was due July 1.

City finance director David Manning has been out of town and can't be reached for comment. But in an earlier interview with The Tennessean, he said he asked Dell about the validity of its employee count after repeated inquiries from reporters and residents.

Dell hires workers through temporary staffing agency Spherion, but not all of those workers become full-time Dell employees. The city wants assurances that only Dell employees are included in the counts.

Dell has asked its auditor to review the employee counts, but Dell spokesman Mark Drury said "we don't anticipate that they will change."

The number of Dell employees in Davidson County has dropped because the company moved its manufacturing operations to neighboring Wilson County, Drury said.

Both city and company officials are confident the issue can be resolved.

"It's important to understand we're working with metro finance to arrive at some language that will satisfy the requirements of all the parties," Drury said.

Said city law director Karl Dean: "We're fairly confident that any problems or issues there are can be sorted through."

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Girl seeks a way to stay stepfather's heavy hand

DEAR ABBY: How can I get my stepfather to stop hitting me? He's never caused permanent damage, but it hurts! I don't want my mom to know about it because she loves my stepdad. Plus, he supports my mother and me financially. Before Mom married him four years ago, we had to live with my grandparents because we had no money. Everything would be OK now if I could just find a way of making him stop hitting me. Do you have any suggestions? — **SAD GIRL IN DENVER**

DEAR SAD GIRL: Your stepfather should not be hitting you. Please tell your mother ASAP. You are being physically abused, and it must be stopped.

If your mother is unable to stop the abuse, call the Childhelp USA National Child Abuse Hotline at (800) 422-4453 ((800) 4-A-CHILD). Also, there is the Girls and Boys Town National Hotline at (800) 448-3000. Tell the counselor you talk to what you have written to me. All calls are confidential.

**

DEAR ABBY: After reading the letter from "Heartbroken in Texas," whose 16-year-old son committed suicide, I would like to share a story with a happier ending. "Heartbroken" couldn't understand why her son's friends didn't alert her.

Three years ago, when my son, "John," and his best friend, "Mike," were young teenagers, I overheard a disturbing phone conversation. My son was saying, "Mike, don't do this! In five or six years none of this stuff will mean anything to you. It will just be a memory!" Later, John came to me and said, "Mom, you have to help Mike. He's talking about committing suicide, and nothing I say seems to help. Last night, he put a rope around his neck to see how it feels."

Although my son had been "sworn to secrecy," he realized someone had to alert Mike's parents. I did — and soon Mike was in counseling and on anti-depressants. Mike is now a happy teenager with a bright future, and he and my son have an even stronger friendship.

I'm proud of my son for trusting me enough to confide in me so I could intervene. Troubled young people tell their friends because they ARE reaching out for help. As long as parents have a history of trust and communication with their children, we will have more "happier endings." — **THANKFUL MOM IN MASSACHUSETTS**

DEAR THANKFUL MOM: Congratulations on raising a son who knew that saving a life was more important than keeping a secret.

**

DEAR ABBY: I have seen articles that list questions a person should ask his or her partner before becoming engaged, to ensure a happy marriage.

What do you think the most important questions are, Abby? — **YOUNG LADY WHO NEEDS TO KNOW IN MEMPHIS**

DEAR YOUNG LADY: Topics to discuss should include:

1. Are you ready for a monogamous relationship?
2. Are you both ready to establish a family independent of your parents?
3. Are you both self-supporting and capable of supporting each other and any children that come along should the need arise?
4. Are your philosophies about child-rearing and discipline similar?
5. Are your career goals compatible?
6. Do you think alike about sex, religion and politics?

If the answers to the majority of these questions are "yes," then your marriage will probably endure with little conflict.

**

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

**

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

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Date Book

Monday, July 14, 2003

Today is the 195th day of 2003 and the 24th day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1933, Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party banned all opposition parties in Germany.

On this day in 1789, a Paris mob stormed and captured the Bastille at the start of French Revolution.

On this day in 1868, A.J. Fellows patented the tape measure enclosed in a circular case.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Woody Guthrie, (1912-1967), folk singer and guitarist; Gerald R. Ford (1913-), U.S. president, is 90; Ingmar Bergman (1918-), film director, is 85; Tommy Mottola (1949-), record executive, is 54; Scott Rudin (1958-), producer, is 45.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1951, CBS broadcast the first sporting event in full color, a horse race.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "I hope I never get so old I get religious." — Ingmar Bergman

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (July 13) and last quarter (July 21).

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events

LOTTO TEXAS™

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

AUSTIN (AP) — Here are Saturday's Texas Lottery game results:

—

Lotto Texas results Saturday:

Winning numbers drawn: 3-23-32-33-37. Bonus Ball: 8.

No jackpot winner. Tuesday's est. jackpot is $28 million.

—

Cash Five Texas results Saturday:

5-14-26-34-35

—

Pick 3 results Saturday night:

9-5-7

—

Pick 3 results Saturday afternoon:

4-3-6

Wildfire threatens homes in the state of Washington

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — A wildfire raced across densely timbered slopes near this Washington community, prompting the evacuation of about 20 homes and threatening another 130 houses as firefighters battled the 1,200-acre blaze.

The fire near Tampico, 20 miles west of Yakima, leapt in intensity Sunday, up from 300 to 500 acres the day before, said David Widmark, spokesman for the Northwest Interagency Coordinating Center in Portland, Ore.

Firefighters worked to dig containment lines as the flames forced the closure of Ahtanum Road in Tampico as well as the Ahtanum Meadows campground, said Dale Warriner, a team spokesman.

Another wildfire north of Winthrop grew to more than 7,363 acres on Sunday, up from about 4,500 on Saturday. The lightening-sparked fire is "going to burn for a while," said David Widmark, a center spokesman.

The state's largest wildfire, a blaze on the Colville Indian Reservation, held to about 10,600 acres. It was about 80 percent contained Sunday.

In southern Arizona, where firefighters have been battling a fire on Mount Lemmon since mid-June, rain helped crews get closer to containing the wildfire that had destroyed hundreds of homes, officials said Sunday.

Firefighters proclaimed 85 percent containment of the 84,750-acre blaze. They said they expected 100 percent containment Tuesday. The cost to fight the fire is estimated at $15.5 million.

Elsewhere in Arizona, crews battled a fire that has already burned 1,500 acres in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. The lightning-caused fire wasn't threatening any structures and no evacuations were planned.

The fire near Yakima jumped control lines Saturday. No homes or buildings had been lost since the fire started Friday night. Fire trucks were stationed around the homes that were evacuated Sunday.

The cause was under investigation, but officials said fireworks are suspected.

In Montana, officials evacuated a rural subdivision east of Helena on Sunday after a 600-acre brush fire pushed toward their homes. Some 30 buildings were threatened.

In southwestern Colorado, residents were allowed to return home Sunday after being evacuated from six homes near Telluride, fire spokesman Lew French said. The fire had covered 120 acres and was 75 percent contained by firebreaks Sunday.

In New Mexico, a 5,370-acre wildfire that once threatened Taos Pueblo was declared 50 percent contained and some crews started heading for home, while a 3,082-acre blaze in the Santa Fe National Forest had a smoky flare-up. Both blazes were started by lightning.

—

On the Net:
National Interagency Fire Center: http://www.nifc.gov

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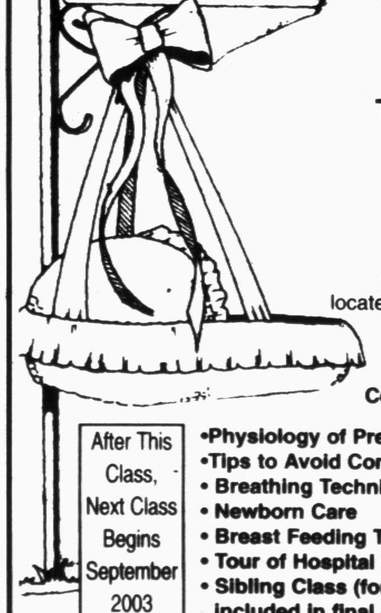
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By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $88.80 balance of Texas and out of state $113.85.

Roy McQueen, Publisher
Wade Warren, Managing Editor
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Free Prepared Childbirth Classes

Tuesdays 7-9 pm
(Total of Five Classes)
July 15 through August 12, 2003

Classes will be held at Cogdell Education Building located next to Prime Rehab entrance

Instructor:
Bonnie Carroll, RN
Certified Childbirth educator

After This Class, Next Class Begins September 2003

- Physiology of Pregnancy and Delivery
- Tips to Avoid Complications
- Breathing Techniques
- Newborn Care
- Breast Feeding Techniques
- Tour of Hospital OB Department
- Sibling Class (for future big brothers and sisters included in final class)

Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a coach.

FREE To Cogdell Memorial Hospital OB patients.
Fee - $40 per couple, payable prior to first class when delivering out of town. For more information please contact Cogdell Memorial Hospital OB Department 574-7050

Class Size Is Limited
To Reserve call
Thelma Garza 574-7240

Cogdell Memorial Hospital

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MONDAY, JULY 14TH

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★ ***Used Furniture***
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Too Much To List - Come See Our Bargain Prices



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Prewar assertions keeps president on defensive

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President Bush works to quiet a controversy over his discredited claim of Iraqi uranium shopping in Africa, another of his prewar assertions is coming under fire: the alleged link between Saddam Hussein's regime and al-Qaida.

Before the war, Bush and members of his cabinet said Saddam was harboring top al-Qaida operatives and suggested Iraq could slip the terrorist network chemical, biological or even nuclear weapons.

Critics attacked those assertions from the beginning for being counter to the ideologies of Saddam and al-Qaida and short on corroborating evidence. Now, two former Bush administration intelligence officials say the evidence linking Saddam to the group responsible for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks was never more than sketchy at best.

"There was no significant pattern of cooperation between Iraq and the al-Qaida terrorist operation," former State Department intelligence official Greg Thielmann said this week.

Intelligence agencies agreed on the "lack of a meaningful connection to al-Qaida" and said so to the White House and Congress, said Thielmann, who left State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research last September.

Another former Bush administration intelligence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, agreed there was no clear link between Saddam and al-Qaida.

"The relationships that were plotted were episodic, not continuous," the former official said.

A United Nations terrorism committee says it has no evidence — other than Secretary of State Colin Powell's assertions in his Feb. 5 U.N. speech — of any ties between al-Qaida and Iraq.

And U.S. officials say American forces searching in Iraq have found no significant evidence tying Saddam's regime with Osama bin Laden's terrorist network.

"One of the things that concerns me is the continued reference to the war in Iraq as part of the war on terrorism. There's not much evidence to support that linkage," said Sen. Bob Graham of Florida, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee and a presidential candidate.

In the weeks and months before the war, Bush and administration officials repeatedly said Saddam had ties to al-Qaida and other terrorist groups which could provide a pathway for weapons of mass destruction to find their way to terrorists. U.S. forces have not found any chemical, biological or nuclear weapons in Iraq so far.

"Evidence from intelligence sources, secret communications and statements by people now in custody reveal that Saddam Hussein aids and protects terrorists, including members of al-Qaida," Bush said in his January State of the Union speech.

"Secretly, and without fingerprints, he could provide one of his hidden weapons to terrorists, or help them develop their own," Bush said.

At the time, many terrorism experts criticized the claim. They noted that Saddam's secular regime was just the kind of Arab government bin Laden's Islamic extremists want to replace. Critics also pointed out the lack of hard evidence of links between Saddam and bin Laden.

The administration's case apparently was persuasive. In a poll conducted last month by Knowledge Networks, 52 percent of those questioned said they thought the United States found clear evidence in Iraq that Saddam was working closely with al-Qaida — although no such evidence has been found.

"You see the polls — lots of Americans believe that there was a link between Iraq and al-Qaida despite the lack of intelligence evidence on that score," said Gregory Treverton, a former chairman of the National Intelligence Council under President Clinton.

The administration's key evidence of a link was an operative named Abu Musab Zarqawi, who got medical care in Baghdad in May 2002 after being wounded in Afghanistan. In his Feb. 5 presentation to the United Nations, Powell called Zarqawi "an associate and collaborator of Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida lieutenants."

Community college trustee gets 12 years

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A community college district trustee has been sentenced to 12 years in prison in the first of several public corruption cases.

Jesse Gonzales received the penalty on Friday when jurors opted to hand down the prison term instead of probation.

"He's got 12 to do, thank God," District Attorney Susan Reed was quoted as saying in Saturday editions of the San Antonio Express-News. "This jury's voice will be heard in San Antonio, in the state of Texas and hopefully across the United States.

"Crooked politicians, we're going to hold you accountable."

The sentence came hours after Gonzales, 54, resigned from the Alamo Community College District board. He was convicted a day earlier of bribery and money laundering.

Gonzales was among nine men, including six elected officials, who were indicted in a corruption probe last October. Gonzales was convicted of accepting a $5,000 bribe and soliciting $20,000 in exchange for helping an architect receive a lucrative construction project.

Gonzales was silent while the verdict was read. His wife and two teenage children wept as he was led away in handcuffs. Quietly, he told them, "Everything is going to be all right."

ACCD board chairman Robert "Tinker" Garza, former ACCD trustee Donald McClure, former City Councilmen Enrique "Kike" Martin and Raul Prado, political aide John Delgado and architect Louis Cruz also were indicted on charges of felony bribery, vote-rigging and organized crime.

Prosecutors support murder trial transfer

MANASSAS, Va. (AP) — Prosecutors in the case of sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad say they now support moving his murder trial out of the Washington suburbs, where the string of apparently random sniper attacks terrorized residents for three weeks last fall.

Muhammad's attorneys have been arguing for a change of venue, and circuit Judge Leroy F. Millette Jr. said he would rule on the motion soon.

Prosecutor Paul Ebert said Friday he still believes an impartial jury can be seated in Manassas, where Muhammad is charged in the Oct. 9 slaying of Dean H. Meyers, 53, at a gas station. But Ebert said it would be inconsistent to leave the trial there, given that another judge approved a change of venue for Muhammad's alleged accomplice, Lee Boyd Malvo.

Ten people, all apparently targeted at random, were killed in the sniper attacks in the Washington area. Prosecutors have said the attacks were a scheme to extort $10 million from the government.

In all, Malvo, 18, and Muhammad, 42, have been linked to 20 shootings, including 13 deaths, in Virginia, Maryland, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Washington, D.C.

Malvo is facing trial first in the Oct. 14 shooting death of FBI analyst Linda Franklin, 47, outside a Home Depot store in Fairfax County.

The judge in Malvo's case, Jane Marum Roush, ruled last week that the wave of fear that gripped the Washington area during the attacks would make it impossible to find an impartial jury in Fairfax County. She moved the trial to Chesapeake, 200 miles to the south.



Bridge

Try for the valid, not a mistake

	North 07-14-03	
	♠ A K Q ♥ A J 4 2 ♦ K Q 10 ♣ 9 8 5	
West		**East**
♠ 10 9 6 2 ♥ K 8 ♦ 9 5 2 ♣ A K Q 10		♠ 8 7 5 3 ♥ 10 9 7 ♦ 8 6 4 ♣ 7 4 3
	South ♠ J 4 ♥ Q 6 5 3 ♦ A J 7 3 ♣ J 6 2	

Dealer: West
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
	1 ♣	Dbl.	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

Opening lead: ♣ A

Monday, July 14, 2003

By Phillip Alder

Have you ever been on the horns of a dilemma? That is a strange metaphor — imagine an ibex wondering whether to use as a weapon its left horn or its right!

At the bridge table, sometimes you will be faced with a dilemma. Should you take a legitimate line of play, although it is against the odds? Or should you play for a more likely distribution, although success requires an opponent to misdefend?

In this deal, you are sitting South, the declarer in four hearts. West cashes three top clubs (East follows throughout), then exits with a diamond. How would you continue from there?

Making a takeout double with 4-3-3-3 distribution is undesirable. However, North has no alternative. His hand is both unsuitable and too strong for a one-no-trump overcall. South's two-heart jump promises some 9-11 high-card points and, as you can see, requires only a four-card suit.

You need the rest of the tricks, so you must play the trump suit without loss. Obviously West needs the heart king for his opening bid. But does he have one, two, three or four hearts?

If West has either one or four, the contract is unmakable. If he has two hearts, you can lead a low heart to dummy's jack and cash the ace to drop the king.

If West has three hearts, you must lead your queen and hope he has not heard about covering an honor with an honor.

A priori, king-third is more likely than king-doubleton, but because success then requires West to make a mistake, you should assume he has only two hearts — finesse dummy's jack.

OfficeMax will be acquired by paper company for $1.2 billion

CLEVELAND (AP) — Boise Cascade Corp., despite a loss of over $27 million in the first quarter, has agreed to acquire OfficeMax Inc. in a cash and stock deal valued at $1.2 billion, the companies said early Monday.

Boise Cascade will purchase OfficeMax using 30 percent cash and 70 percent common stock, the companies said in a statement. The cash amount could increase if the value of Boise Cascade shares drop.

The deal has already been unanimously approved by both companies' boards of directors and is subject to customary approvals under antitrust laws and by the shareholders of OfficeMax and Boise.

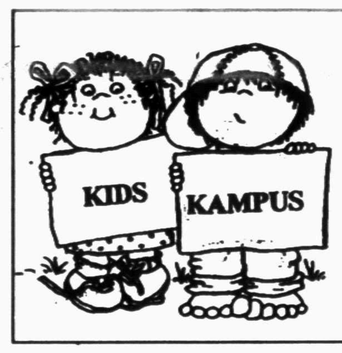
Boise Cascade is a producer of wood and paper that also distributes office products. OfficeMax is the third biggest U.S. office products retailer, behind Office Depot and Staples.

"This business combination gives the newly formulated organization the ability to better serve all channels of the office products market from home offices to small businesses to large corporations," Michael Feuer, OfficeMax's co-founder, chairman and chief executive officer, said in a statement. "Together, OfficeMax with Boise will be strategically and financially stronger and rival the size of its closest competitors.

About half of Idaho-based Boise Cascade's $7.4 billion in revenues comes from selling office products. Buying OfficeMax would allow it to better compete with its competitors.

Boise has been shedding jobs to cut costs and lost $27.5 million or 53 cents a share in the first quarter. Boise's stock has fallen 7 percent this year while shares of OfficeMax have gained 44 percent.

On the Net:
Boise Cascade Corp.: http://www.bc.com
OfficeMax: http://www.officemax.com



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Hearing Computer Unnoticed in Ears



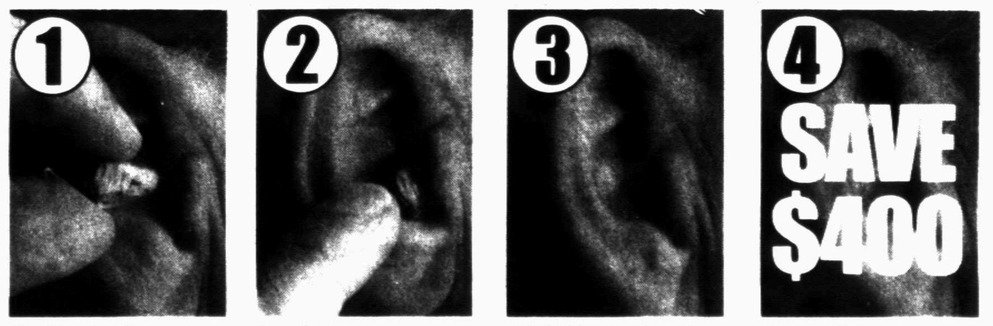
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THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Polishes
5 Fast-food chain (abbr.)
8 — and vigor
11 Cry
12 Not written
14 The works
15 Necklace part
16 One in a million
17 Small, in Dogpatch
18 Quota
20 Cocoon dwellers
22 Iced drink
23 Call for
24 Adjusted
27 Seines
29 Concorde, e.g.
30 Divided skirt
34 Cabbage kin
37 Comic-strip caveman
38 Has the flu
39 Pat's co-host
41 Engineering toy
43 Edge
44 Pops
46 Geeky
49 Physician's org.
50 Arab ruler
52 Pupil's lace
54 CD precedes
55 Flint or marble
56 Spanish lady's title
57 Change hair color
58 Barracks dwellers (abbr.)
59 Ruin a nylon

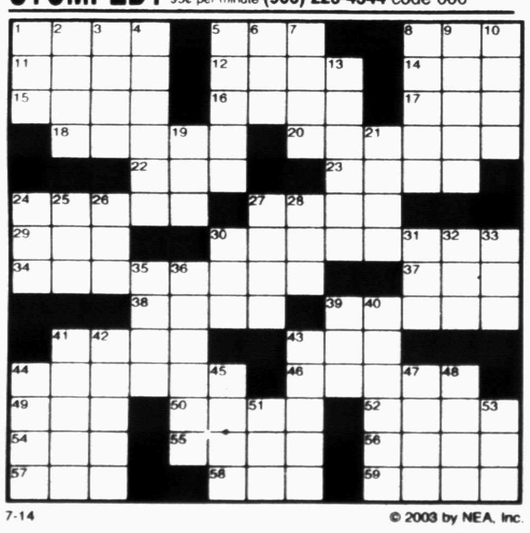
DOWN

1 Tease
2 "Has 1,001 —"
3 Unexciting
4 Not flighty
5 Yellow Sea country
6 Monk's title
7 Actor — Reiner
8 Trombone slide
9 Epic of Troy
10 Srta., in Paris
13 Outbuilding (hyph.)
19 Lipstick color
21 Take it easy
24 Disapproving cluck
25 GI support grp.
26 Extreme degree
27 Gists
28 Yale grad
30 Lo- —
31 Weight unit
32 Time period
33 Fitness center
35 Can't keep up
36 Tear gas target
39 Monsieur's wine
40 Plant parasites
41 Not smooth
42 Press the delete key
43 Skulks about
44 Lose hair
45 Dirty air
47 Soldering tool
48 — colada (rum drink)
51 Here, to Henri
53 Give in the middle

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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



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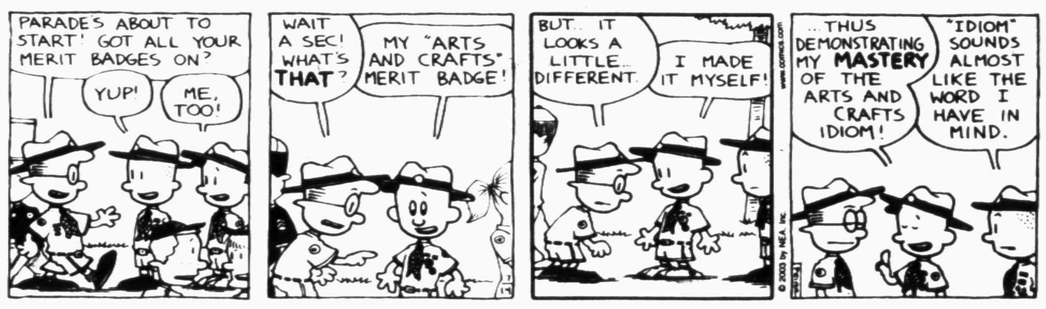
FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



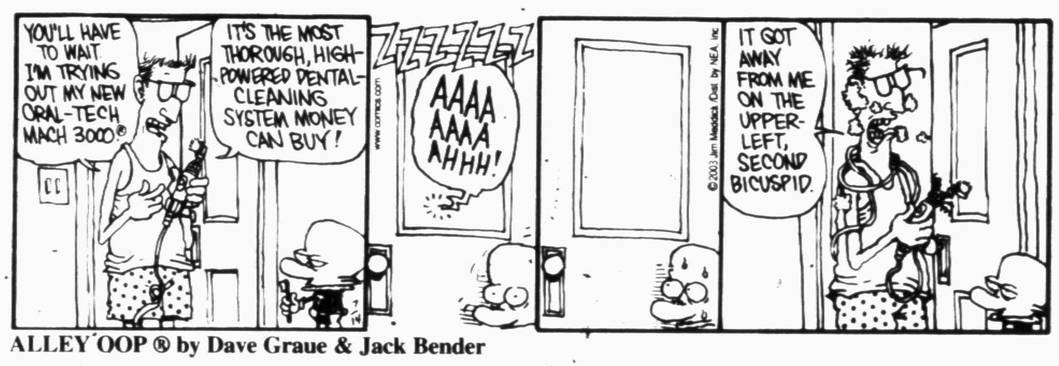
ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



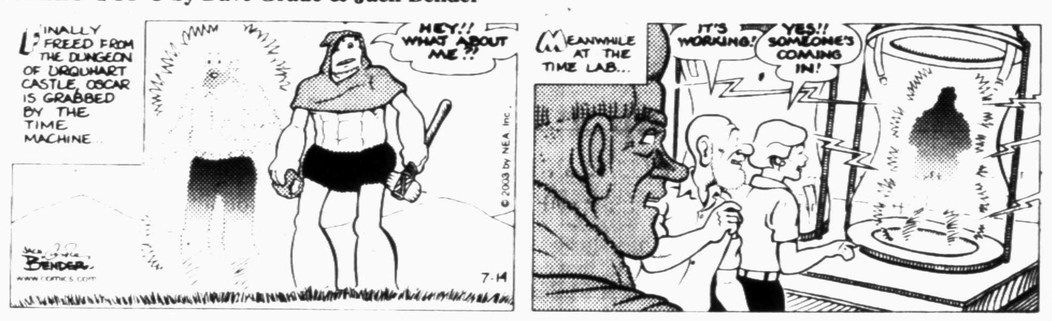
BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



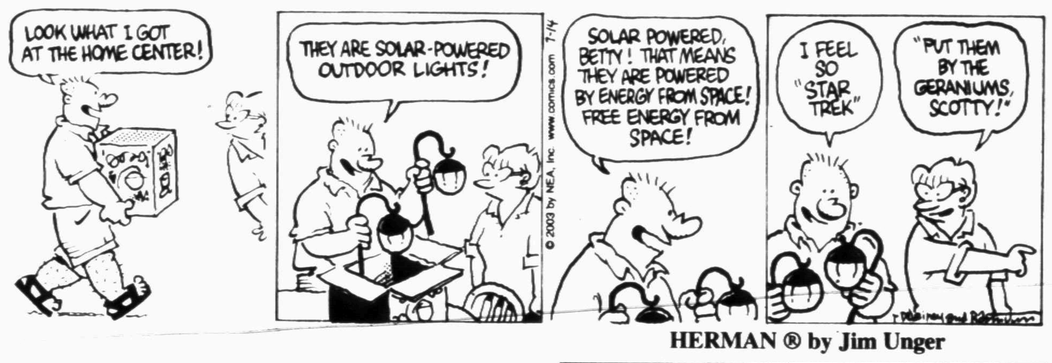
MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"Room 1708 doesn't have a plug for the bath!"

Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



Litt face week

13-y

DUMAS — offense explode end, leaving th Stars one vict being crowned champions.

Playing in te reached 106 de Snyder pounde Saturday and Plainview, 13-3, championship t tourney.

On Saturday dock and Rya had a single, do the 14-run Dumas.

Lance Day singled, and Ryan Arrend Shafer and Ry had two hits ap

Bollinger an pitched three recorded three

On Sunday, four doubles an seven in four in run beating of

Murdock pi inning of the ga

Bollinger an swatted triple Knipe had two

Day, Shafer a added key hits.

The team w West Texas cr Tuesday, with be decided toni

Should Snyde join two other teams from Tex al sectional Arkansas, the r road to the Litt Series.

Stadle Player

DEARBORN, Craig Stadler wa in earning his the Champions a 6-under 66 on the Senior Pla onship.

Playing in o tournament on t won the third of majors by three Kite, Jim Thorpe son at the TPC

Stadler, whos ed three consec the front nine, 72-hole total of 1 took advantage became the 17t Champions Tour

"I played pret said Stadler, who month. "I had tw days in a row. It since I putted co

The 1982 Mas played his first e iors circuit, th Championship, ing tied for 15th.

Majo

National East Di	
Atlanta	
Philadelphia	
Montreal	
Florida	
New York	
Central D	
Houston	
St. Louis	
Chicago	
Cincinnati	
Pittsburgh	
Milwaukee	
West Di	
San Francisco	
Arizona	
Los Angeles	
Colorado	
San Diego	

Sunday's

Florida 11, Montreal 4
N.Y. Mets 4, Philadelphia
Cincinnati 10, Milwaukee
Houston 5, Pittsburgh 2
St. Louis 3, San Diego 1
Los Angeles 9, Colorado
Arizona 7, San Francisco
Atlanta 7, Chicago Cubs

SPORTS

Little Leaguers face heat, talent at weekend tourneys

13-year-olds

DUMAS — The Snyder offense exploded over the weekend, leaving the 13-year-old All-Stars one victory away from being crowned West Texas state champions.

Playing in temperatures that reached 106 degrees both days, Snyder pounded Dumas, 17-3, Saturday and then pummeled Plainview, 13-3, to move to the championship tilt in the Dumas tourney.

On Saturday, Dustin Murdock and Ryan Claxton each had a single, double and triple in the 14-run domination of Dumas.

Lance Day also tripled and singled, and Brooks Gafford, Ryan Arrendando, Quinten Shafer and Ryan Gonzales all had two hits apiece.

Bollinger and Claxton each pitched three innings and recorded three strikeouts.

On Sunday, Murdock had four doubles and Day struck out seven in four innings in the 10-run beating of Plainview.

Murdock pitched the final inning of the game.

Bollinger and Claxton both swatted triples, and Blaine Knipe had two base knocks.

Day, Shafer and Gonzales also added key hits.

The team will play for the West Texas crown at 6 p.m. Tuesday, with the opponent to be decided tonight.

Should Snyder win, they will join two other championship teams from Texas in the national sectional tournament in Arkansas, the next step on the road to the Little League World Series.

Babe Ruth

SEMINOLE — The Babe Ruth All-Stars split a pair of games over the weekend, topping host Seminole Saturday before losing to Pampa Sunday.

In Saturday's 2-1 win over Seminole, neither team got on the board until the fifth inning. Dustin Williams and Chris Smith scored back-to-back runs in the inning for Snyder.

Smith finished the game 3-for-3, while Williams picked up the victory.

On Sunday, Snyder rallied for five runs in the sixth inning, only to fall to Pampa, 9-5.

Danny Ortegon had a three-run double in the fifth, driving home Cale Lancaster, Corbin Clements and Williams. He later scored on a sacrifice by Wesley Price.

Smith doubled and scored a run in the fifth.

The team will play at 7 tonight against the winner of the Seminole-Levelland contest. The championship games is scheduled for Tuesday evening.

9-10-year-olds

ODESSA — The Snyder 9-and-10-year-old Little League All-Stars saw their season come to an end over the weekend, as they dropped two games in the double-elimination tournament.

The team dropped a close contest to Borger, 7-6, Saturday, putting it in the loser's bracket for the first time in the tournament season.

The squad could not bounce back, however, against a much bigger Lubbock Western team, which ousted Snyder from the tournament with a 10-0 win Sunday.

Surprises, flops highlight first half of baseball season

CHICAGO (AP) — Bobby Cox was breezing out of town, and the Atlanta manager didn't mind leaving behind a bunch of his players.

Cox was headed for a three-day break. A half-dozen Braves were going crosstown for the All-Star game.

"The first part of the season has been terrific," Cox said Sunday night after the Braves boosted baseball's best record to 61-32 with a 7-2 win over Chicago at Wrigley Field.

All across the majors, there's been a lot to cheer so far. And along with those highlights, a fair amount of low points, too.

While fans have gotten to see plenty of history — Roger Clemens earning his 300th win, Sammy Sosa and Rafael Palmeiro hitting their 500th home runs, six Houston pitchers combining on the first no-hitter against the Yankees since 1958 — no one has been as fun to watch as Dontrelle Willis.

The Florida phenom known for his unusual windup high-kicked his way out at Olympic Stadium right after beating Montreal on Sunday.

At 9-1 with a 2.08 ERA, the 21-year-old lefty had a place to be — his first All-Star game.

"Dontrelle is a great pitcher," said his catcher, 10-time All-Star Ivan Rodriguez. "He got his ninth win of the first half and that's why he's in Chicago."

Seeing a rookie who was in Double-A only two months ago climb so fast has been among the most surprising stories this year. So was the fast start by the Kansas City Royals.

And so was the emergence of journeyman Esteban Loaiza. He's already matched his career high with 11 wins for White Sox and is a good bet to start at his home park against San Francisco's Jason Schmidt in the showcase Tuesday night.

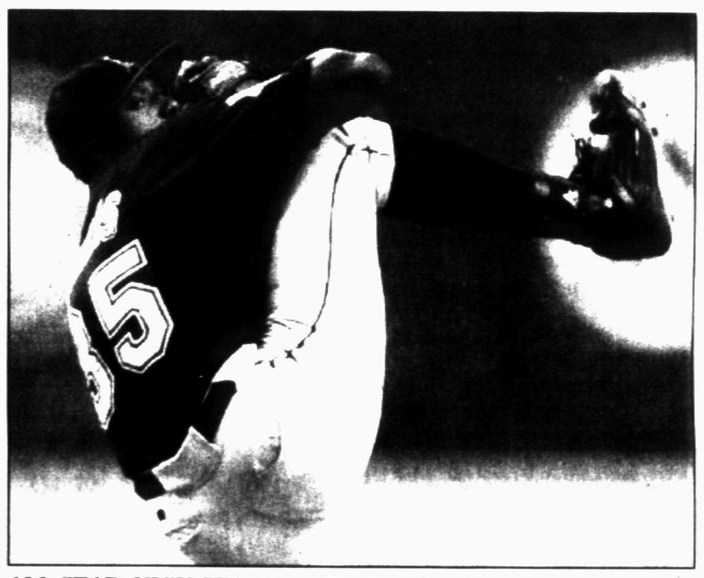
"I never thought I would make it," Loaiza said.

Clemens, Sosa and Palmeiro will be absent, however. Sosa, the most popular player in Chicago and perhaps in the majors, didn't win a starting spot in fan voting and his fellow ballplayers didn't pick him, either.

Chances are, a corked bat cost him. Slammin' Sammy was suspended for seven games after getting caught — since returning June 18, he's gone wild in hitting 12 home runs.

The episode was among many things fans probably never thought they'd see.

An umpire attacked at U.S. Cellular Field, site of the All-Star game. A camera — part of the Questec system that many umpires and pitchers dislike — clubbed by Curt Schilling. Then, that Italian sausage toppled by Randall Simon's two-handed chop.



ALL-STAR KICK START — Florida Marlins rookie sensation Dontrelle Willis was added to the National League roster after an injury to L.A.'s Kevin Brown. Willis has a 9-1 record with a 2.08 ERA. (AP Photo)

Red-hot Royals sweep Texas

ARLINGTON (AP) — Darrell May pitched five innings as Kansas City beat the Rangers 8-2 Sunday night, completing its first three-game sweep at Texas since 1980 in the final game before the All-Star break.

"I kept saying that's just the way baseball is, things will turn around sooner or later," said May, 0-4 with a 4.18 ERA in his first 16 games. "You've just got to have faith to do it, and sure enough it has."

May (4-4) gave up one run on seven hits over five innings. The left-hander has a 1.61 ERA, allowing just five runs over 28 innings during his winning streak.

The Royals (51-41) are the first team to follow a 100-loss season with 50 wins by the break. They lead the AL Central by seven games over the Chicago White Sox, their largest division lead since 1980, when they won the West by 13 games.

"We had a good spring training and we felt good coming into the season, but who would have thought this," May said. "It hasn't been one person, it's been everybody."

Seldom-used infielder Julis Matos was 3-for-5, including a two-run homer that started the scoring, Angel Berroa had a two-run homer and Carlos Beltran had two RBI singles.

Matos homered with one out in the third. Beltran followed with a single and scored on Ken Harvey's single one out later. Berroa then hit a liner that just cleared the wall in left for his ninth homer, giving Kansas City a 5-0 lead.

Manager Tony Pena put Matos in the starting lineup for only the third time since he was recalled from the minors July 3. Then Pena half-jokingly predicted that the third baseman would get three hits.

Armstrong grabs lead

L'ALPE D'HUEZ, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong took the overall leader's yellow jersey for the first time in the Tour de France, but he showed signs that he may not be the dominant force of years past.

The four-time champion struggled up the legendary ascent to the Alpine ski resort of L'Alpe d'Huez — a grueling climb he mastered just two years ago — and finished third in the eighth stage of the Tour.

"If you'd asked me a month ago: 'Are you going to suffer like that on L'Alpe d'Huez?' I would have said, 'No way!'" Armstrong said Sunday. "It was a hard day."

He did, however, complete the stage close enough to the winner, Iban Mayo of Spain, to take the overall lead in the race.

"I'm perhaps not as strong as the other years," said Armstrong.

Stadler captures Senior Players by three strokes

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — Craig Stadler wasted little time in earning his first victory on the Champions Tour, shooting a 6-under 66 on Sunday to win the Senior Players Championship.

Playing in only his fourth tournament on the tour, Stadler won the third of this year's five majors by three shots over Tom Kite, Jim Thorpe and Tom Watson at the TPC of Michigan.

Stadler, whose round included three consecutive birdies on the front nine, finished with a 72-hole total of 17-under 271. He took advantage of a hot putter to became the 17th winner in 18 Champions Tour events in 2003.

"I played pretty solid today," said Stadler, who turned 50 last month. "I had two good putting days in a row. It's been a while since I putted consistently well."

The 1982 Masters Champion played his first event on the seniors circuit, the Senior PGA Championship, in June, finishing tied for 15th.

Kite and Thorpe both made furious charges to finish tied for second. Kite, who tied the course record with a 63, made a 5-footer at No. 18 to cap a round that included eight birdies, one eagle and one bogey.

Kite finished just before a thunderstorm rolled in and forced a two-hour delay.

"That was a really fun day," Kites said. "Going into the round, I felt if I shot something like 64 I'd have a really good shot. As it turned out, I shot 63 and didn't come close."

Thorpe wasn't so lucky. After three straight birdies on Nos. 15-17, Thorpe had to mark his ball on the final hole and head for shelter.

"Seems like there's always something, always something to break the momentum," Thorpe said as he left the course.

He ended with a par.

Watson, tied with McCullough for the lead after three rounds, sank a 25-footer on No. 18 for a birdie and a 3-under 69.

Sports Briefs

Ladies play day

The SCGA hosts a ladies play day at 9 a.m. each Tuesday at Scurry County golf course. Format is queen of the hill.

Volleyball camp

SHS volleyball coach Laura Moses will host a volleyball camp July 21-22 for incoming 4th-6th-graders at the high school gym. The camp will run from 9 to 11 a.m. both days. Cost is $20 and includes a t-shirt. Contact Coach Moses at 436-9067 for more details.

Hermleigh athletic physicals

All incoming sixth, ninth and 11th grade Hermleigh athletes are reminded to get a physical. Forms can be picked up at the high school and all paperwork must be completed prior to the physical.

Snyder athletic physicals

Physicals are required for students wishing to participate in SISD athletics. Those needing physicals include all incoming seventh, ninth and third-year high school students; all new students to SISD who plan to participate in athletics; any student who answered yes to questions 1, 4, 5, 6, or 7 on their medical history form; and any student who has not participates in athletics in the past.

The district will pay for physicals up until Aug. 1. With the following doctors: Raykov, Burleson, Cooper, Thompson and Wolboldt. Incoming seventh and ninth graders pick up physical forms at the doctor's office.

Astros sink Pittsburgh

HOUSTON (AP) — Billy Wagner thinks someone might be tinkering with Minute Maid Park's radar gun.

The Houston closer was clocked at 101 mph as he struck out Reggie Sanders to start a perfect ninth inning Sunday in the Astros' 5-2 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Wagner retired the side on just eight pitches for his 25th save, the most he's ever had at the All-Star break. His single-season high is 39, in 1999 and 2001.

Starter Tim Redding (6-8) scattered five hits in winning his second straight start.

Major League Baseball

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	61	32	.656	—
Philadelphia	52	40	.565	8½
Montreal	49	45	.521	12½
Florida	49	46	.516	13
New York	40	53	.430	21

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	50	44	.532	—
St. Louis	49	45	.521	1
Chicago	47	47	.500	3
Cincinnati	43	50	.462	6½
Pittsburgh	41	50	.451	7½
Milwaukee	37	56	.398	12½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	57	37	.606	—
Arizona	52	42	.553	5
Los Angeles	49	44	.527	7½
Colorado	50	47	.515	8½
San Diego	35	61	.365	23

Sunday's Games

Florida 11, Montreal 4
N.Y. Mets 4, Philadelphia 3
Cincinnati 10, Milwaukee 8, 12 innings
Houston 5, Pittsburgh 2
St. Louis 3, San Diego 1
Los Angeles 9, Colorado 3
Arizona 7, San Francisco 4
Atlanta 7, Chicago Cubs 2

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	57	36	.613	—
Boston	55	38	.591	2
Toronto	49	46	.516	9
Baltimore	41	50	.451	15
Tampa Bay	32	60	.348	24½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	51	41	.554	—
Chicago	45	49	.479	7
Minnesota	44	49	.473	7½
Cleveland	41	53	.436	11
Detroit	25	67	.272	26

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	58	35	.624	—
Oakland	54	39	.581	4
Anaheim	49	43	.533	8½
Texas	38	55	.409	20

Sunday's Games

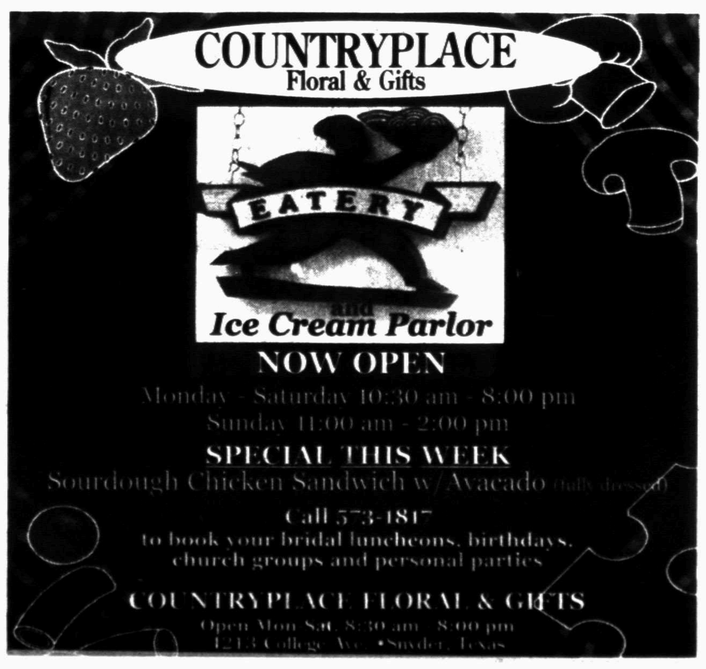
Detroit 3, Boston 0
N.Y. Yankees 6, Toronto 2
Chicago White Sox 7, Cleveland 4
Anaheim 8, Minnesota 3
Seattle 13, Tampa Bay 2
Oakland 1, Baltimore 0
Kansas City 8, Texas 2

Today's Games

No games scheduled

Tuesday's Game

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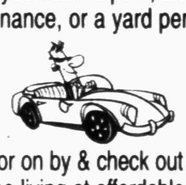
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Front-runner has work to do

HOPKINTON, N.H. (AP) — Raising $7.5 million for his Internet-fueled campaign was the easy part. Now Democrat Howard Dean says he must urgently expand his political machine, broaden his message and soften the rough edges of his personality.

Although two of his rivals, John Kerry and John Edwards, have collected more money overall, and others have put more cash in reserve, Dean's fund-raising haul from April to June has shaken up a race that now has three distinct tiers of candidates — but no front-runners.

His foes for the Democratic nomination are sharpening their rhetoric as Dean tries to ensure his momentum doesn't outstrip a relatively immature campaign based in Burlington, Vt.

"We're learning as we go along," the former Vermont governor said between stops in New Hampshire that drew large crowds and tested his acknowledged lack of patience.

Dean shares top-tier status with Kerry, the decorated Vietnam War veteran and favorite of much of the Democratic establishment, and former House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., a Midwest populist with strong ties to organized labor.

Support for the trio is evenly divided in Iowa, site of the first 2004 voting. Polls in New Hampshire, which holds its primary a week after Iowa's caucuses, show Kerry leading, followed closely by Dean, with Gephardt back in the pack.

Gephardt, whose advantage in Iowa has slipped with donors shying from his campaign, recently stepped up criticism of his rivals. His opponents hope the strategy is a sign of desperation; Gephardt says it's simply politics.

"In any election it is necessary and valid for candidates to engage in debate or discussion about the differences in their positions," he said. "That is beginning."

Kerry, too, plans to increase his attacks, but his target is Bush.

Amid questions about the president's justification for war against Iraq, the Massachusetts senator plans to question Bush's credibility next week by citing a pattern of deception on national security and domestic issues, aides said.

Democratic activists are watching three other candidates for signs of a breakthrough — Sens. Edwards of North Carolina, Joe Lieberman of Connecticut and Bob Graham of Florida. None can be written off.

Lieberman, who has money problems and a moderate message at odds with many primary voters, plans to sharpen his criticism of Bush's economic record next week, aides said. Edwards, a freshman senator loaded with campaign cash but lagging in polls, will spend more time on retail politics — his strong suit — and innovative policies. He may begin airing ads as early as August.

Graham trails in polls and has raised the least amount of money. The next three months are pivotal for his candidacy.

Al Sharpton of New York, former Illinois Sen. Carol Moseley Braun and Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich are long shots.

It's clear that Dean is not going away, at least not soon. He plans to open political offices next month in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Washington state, Michigan and Wisconsin, with other states to follow, said campaign manager Joe Trippi.

Moving beyond the Internet, where Dean's backers tend to be white and middle-class, the campaign can afford to launch traditional efforts to court blacks, Hispanics and other traditional Democratic constituencies.

In a series of staff meetings this week, Dean sought to bring a more formal structure to a campaign that often is ad hoc.

After attracting followers with his anti-war positions, Dean has begun to stress his more centrist credentials, including a fiscally conservative record in Vermont and a history of tangling with state liberals.

"Maybe they'll stop writing that I'm too liberal to be elected," Dean said Friday night as Kucinich, Sharpton and Braun endorsed gay marriage, universal college education and a federal Department of Peace.

"It's nice to be a centrist for a change," he said, grinning.

A day earlier, as more than 200 voters mingled on the front lawn of state Rep. Chris Hamm's white clapboard house here, Dean opened his speech with a question being asked of his candidacy: "He's so liberal — can he win?"

The answer is "yes," Dean said, because he can energize angry Democrats while showing swing voters why he was known as a pro-business centrist in Vermont.

A physician by trade, Dean usually is an affable politician, but he has a doctor's sense of superiority and a governor's expectation of instant results. Both traits can make him appear prickly and intense.

Asked in an interview what he needed to improve as a candidate, Dean fired back, "Lots of things."

Are you patient enough?

"No," Dean replied. A two-beat pause, and ...

"I'll get more patient. I'm very results-oriented. I want things to work, and I want them to work now."

Texas tribe wants to expand gambling along Mexican border

EAGLE PASS (AP) — The Lucky Eagle, a casino operated by the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas, is waiting to spread its wings along the Mexican border.

Gamblers have been flocking to the state's only legal casino, where the Kickapoos are awaiting a cash infusion to expand the facility and hasten a recovery from financial and political woes.

The Kickapoos say they hope that by year's end, a new 100,000-square-foot facility will be generating revenue to repay tribal debts and improve members' humble living conditions. The new casino will have room for boxing and other events.

With a Class II permit from the National Indian Gaming Commission, the Kickapoos offer blackjack, poker, about 340 pull-tab slots and bingo. Tribal leaders have also revived their request for a Class III permit that would allow a wider array of games, from craps to off-track betting.

"We're shooting for December," tribal attorney Gloria Hernandez told the Houston Chronicle in Monday's editions. "If we market it even more, we're going to have a lot of people upset because it's at full capacity now."

It's been a full house at the current casino building, where players must wait for turns at the Kickapoo Reservation, seven miles southeast of Eagle Pass near the Rio Grande. Managers are reluctant to boost attendance with advertising.

Texas lawmakers have rejected efforts to allow wagering at the state's two other reservations for the Tiguas in El Paso and the Alabama-Coushatta near Livingston. Texas Kickapoos have federal tribal status that allows gambling, while the other tribes have more restrictive state charters.

A Class III designation for the Kickapoos would add high-stakes "slot machines which we cannot have and it would bring in dice and pari-mutuel betting," the lawyer said, adding, "Class III is more attractive to gamblers."

The Kickapoos' push to improve the casino and reservation come comes less than a year after it was rocked by turmoil that culminated with the 2002 ouster of tribal leaders and the casino's former manager, Isidro Garza Jr., who was not a tribe member, and tribal leaders. With power shifted to a new faction, tribe officials last week said recovery is not only necessary but within reach.

"We have a lot of checks and balances in place which would provide for a trusting environment, we would hope," Hernandez said.

In May, a judge's ruling castigated the tribe for actions of the previous regime that launched an ambitious yet unlawful plan to acquire neighboring land.

Several federal agencies, including the IRS and gaming regulators, continue to investigate former tribal officials amid accusations of lavish spending and lax casino oversight.

Stowaway claims to be correspondent

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — A man who stowed away on a chartered plane for reporters covering President Bush's Africa trip claims he is a correspondent for a South African youth project, police say.

The man, who is believed to be South African, had no identification on him when he was arrested Friday in Uganda after a White House aide notified U.S. Secret Service that he had joined reporters traveling with the president.

During questioning by Ugandan police, he identified himself as Patrick Fello Litheko and said he covers AIDS issues for a South African organization called the Gauteng Youth Development Project, police spokesman Asuman Mugenyi said Saturday.

But Khulekani Ntshangase, a spokesman for the youth wing of South Africa's ruling African National Congress party, said Sunday he did not believe the organization was registered in South Africa.

The stowaway told police he lost his passport covering Bush's visit to Botswana on Thursday, Mugenyi said.

Still, he was able to board the United Airlines Boeing 747 that took journalists, White House staff and Secret Service agents from Pretoria, South Africa, to Bush's next stop in Entebbe, Uganda.

"He has not been very cooperative in releasing information and that is why we are still holding him to find his motive," Mugenyi said. "We are not convinced that he is telling the truth."

Mugenyi said the man could be charged with being an illegal alien or he could be deported.

Bush spent four hours in this East African nation Friday as part of his five-nation tour of Africa.

Adrenaline Drop is closed after injury

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP) — Authorities indefinitely closed the Adrenaline Drop, one of the most popular rides at the Orange County Fair, when a woman was injured during the its 110-foot bungee-like free fall.

Aidyl Sofia-Gonzalez, 30 of La Canada-Flintridge, landed harder than usual into the ride's safety nets, according to Barry Schaible, the fair's ride safety consultant. She was conscious when she was taken to Western Medical Center-Santa Ana for overnight observation for having "the wind knocked out of her," he said. She broke no bones.

Schaible said Sofia-Gonzalez told him, "I have two children. I know pain, and this isn't it."

Adrenaline Drop was shut down at 12:40 p.m. Sunday. The woman's husband and two children saw her jump.

Riders on Adrenaline Drop are placed in a harness and hoisted to a platform 130 feet up, then they jump 110 feet into a system of two nets designed to prevent riders from touching the ground, which is covered by 5-inch foam padding. Each ride costs $35 with an optional $15 video of the jump.

"She hit the first net harder than usual, but she never hit the ground," Schaible said.

However, witnesses disputed the events.

"I didn't even know anybody was ready to jump," said Rick Martinez, who was working in a booth by the ride. He said he noticed the net looked "crooked" as he was helping a customer. "Then I saw her hit the ground. I walked over there and she wasn't moving. I did that ride last year, but now I'll never do it again."

Martinez's co-worker, Reuven Sherr, said the woman hit the ground.

"She hit the net, then she hit the ground and bounced off the ground again," Sherr said.

Fairgoer Norma Rodriguez, 41, of La Mirada, said she was watching all the jumps.

"The net was quite a bit lower than it had been," Rodriguez said. "Usually when they hit, they bounce. But she slowly went down after hitting the net, and then she hit right on her back."

The ride never has had problems since it opened at the fair two years ago, fair organizers said.

Adrenaline Drop is operated by Amusement Management International of Carrollton, Texas. It will remain shut down until a state safety inspection is completed. It was inspected and tested before the fair opened on Friday.

The test included dropping a barrel filled with 55 gallons of water, more than the weight of the heaviest rider.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -Morning stocks

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	11.27	10.95	11.08	+ .13
AOL TimeWrn	16.80	16.61	16.69	+ .25
AT&T Corp rs	19.81	19.50	19.74	+ .35
Albertsons	19.11	18.95	19.08	+ .09
Alltel	50.00	49.42	49.82	+ .70
AmEl Pw	28.87	28.36	28.82	+ .55
AndarkPtr	44.81	43.65	43.87	— .94
ATMOS Egy	24.94	24.81	24.94	+ .15
Aviall	12.00	11.93	11.96	
BP PLC	41.07	40.21	40.60	— .03
BakerHughes	33.00	32.16	32.18	— .70
Bank of Amer	84.90	83.39	84.72	+ 1.84
BellSouth	26.93	26.48	26.87	+ .44
BurlNoSFe	29.13	28.70	29.11	+ .50
Caterpillar	58.48	58.12	58.45	+ 1.07
CenterPoint	8.31	8.18	8.20	— .08
ChevronTex	73.45	72.68	73.17	+ .17
Citigroup	47.99	46.90	47.67	+ 1.52
CocaCola	44.56	44.02	44.48	+ .57
ColgatePal	57.64	57.03	57.57	+ .32
CmclMetals	18.05	17.95	17.97	+ .02
ConocoPhill	54.15	53.71	53.87	+ .42
Cooper Inds	42.90	42.60	42.75	+ .49
DaimlrChry	36.65	36.05	36.65	+ .32
DeltaAirl	15.02	14.78	14.82	+ .14
Dillards Inc	13.98	13.69	13.95	+ .33
DowChem	31.42	30.90	31.39	+ .52
DuPont	42.47	42.25	42.40	+ .46
EastmanChem	32.05	31.90	32.01	+ .28
EstKodak	27.08	26.92	27.05	+ .37
EDS Corp	23.00	22.63	22.96	+ .55
Entergy	51.12	50.65	51.03	+ .55
ExxonMobil	35.83	35.51	35.70	+ .02
FootLocker	14.00	13.75	13.84	+ .26
GenDynam	73.50	72.90	73.18	+ .16
GenElec	28.74	28.30	28.69	+ .57
GenMills	48.80	48.27	48.68	+ .05
GenMotors	36.60	36.06	36.49	+ .75
GaPacific	19.70	19.28	19.54	+ .29
Goodrich	21.73	21.44	21.73	+ .28
Goodyear	5.37	5.19	5.36	+ .16
GtAtlPac	11.45	11.00	11.30	+ .29
Halliburtn	22.98	22.60	22.64	+ .04
Hanson ADS	28.40	28.19	28.19	— .21
HarteHanks	19.33	19.00	19.30	+ .36
HomeDepot	33.90	33.50	33.87	+ .70
Honeywellntl	28.60	27.84	28.58	+ 1.03
IBM	86.58	85.60	86.54	+ 1.65
IntlPaper	37.05	36.66	36.92	+ .54
JohnsonJn	53.70	52.61	53.59	+ 1.21
KinderMorg	54.04	53.79	53.89	+ .27
Kroger Co	17.87	17.65	17.86	+ .35
LockheedM	49.99	49.50	49.69	+ .31
Lowes Cos	47.50	47.08	47.27	+ .40
Lubys	2.80	2.70	2.71	— .05
LucentTech	2.06	2.02	2.03	+ .02
MarathonOil	26.50	26.24	26.38	+ .11
MayDeptStr	22.81	22.35	22.72	+ .46
Medtronic	49.73	48.90	49.55	— .06
Motorola	9.82	9.69	9.77	+ .26
NCR Corp	31.96	31.55	31.63	+ .13
Navistar	37.53	36.95	37.45	+ .18
PNM Rescs	26.72	26.55	26.68	+ .18
Penney JC	17.10	16.77	17.06	+ .46
PepBoys	14.50	14.17	14.47	+ .40
PepsiCo	47.56	47.02	47.24	— .18
PhelpDodge	39.47	38.60	39.42	+ 1.42
PilgrmPrd B	11.50	11.18	11.22	+ .56
Praxair	62.13	61.41	62.07	+ .88
ProctGamb	88.70	88.25	88.67	+ .11
RadioShack	28.50	28.10	28.39	+ .40
RoyalDut	45.80	45.34	45.78	+ .28
SBC Comm	25.74	25.41	25.72	+ .31
SaraLee	19.61	19.38	19.49	+ .23
Scripps EW	87.12	85.60	85.99	— 2.91
SearsRoeb	35.00	34.75	34.93	+ .44
SherwinW	27.99	27.30	27.90	+ .58
SouthernCo	29.45	29.10	29.38	+ .08
SwstAirl	17.70	17.42	17.51	— .15
SprintFON	15.35	15.15	15.23	+ .08
SprintPCS	5.94	5.80	5.91	+ .15
Sunoco Inc	38.54	37.92	38.40	+ .45
TXU Corp	21.00	20.49	20.98	+ .08
TempleInland	43.90	43.48	43.79	+ .41
TexInd	24.05	23.94	24.00	+ .27
TexasInst	19.23	19.08	19.20	+ .44
Textron	38.76	38.25	38.53	— .23
TrinityInds	22.70	22.15	22.40	+ .67
TylerTech	5.20	5.04	5.12	— .06
UnionPacif	59.49	58.76	59.44	+ .72
USSteel	16.38	15.92	16.27	+ .51
UnitedTech	73.80	73.20	73.80	+ .40
Unocal	28.69	28.50	28.62	+ .02
VerizonComm	38.84	38.30	38.31	— .46
WalMart	57.35	55.89	57.18	+ .65
WellsFargo	53.61	52.26	53.49	+ 1.61
WstnGasRs	38.78	38.43	38.48	— .21
WinnDixie	12.60	12.50	12.59	+ .16
Xerox Cp	10.96	10.85	10.95	+ .15
YumBrands	31.00	29.98	30.34	+ .26

JULY 14 2003

Singapore tries to shed dull image

SINGAPORE (AP) — Singapore will now permit bungee jumping. Also, people can dance on the bar in saloons allowed to stay open 24 hours. And theater performances can use explicit language.

"In fact, so changed is our mind-set that we will even allow reverse bungee," Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said Saturday, in launching a "Remake Singapore" program designed to shake up the dull image of this famously uptight city-state.

Or at least try.

While being catapulted into the sky at the end of a giant rubber band is now allowed, jaywalking at bus stations is forbidden, under tougher rules also announced Saturday.

So Singapore's government remains in strict control, even in its efforts to loosen up and market itself as a media and arts center.

Among the committee's more than 100 proposals to remodel society is an "Audience Development Fund" to "educate" citizens about art and encourage flea markets with no government permit.

Earlier, the prime minister also said his administration would begin employing openly gay people, a surprising development in Singapore, where homosexuality is thought to violate conservative Asian social norms.

"Not every room needs to be furnished to the same taste," Goh said. "Some may like their room to have cool colors, while others may prefer to decorate it with pinups."

Permitting bar-top dancing — once a legal offense — also was announced earlier this week, along with the longer bar hours.

"If we want our people to make more decisions for themselves, and if we are to encourage a dering-do society, we must allow some risk taking and a little excitement," Goh said.

Singaporeans enjoy one of Asia's highest standards of living under some of the world's strictest laws. The government regularly fines people for spitting and not flushing public toilets and only recently allowed the sale of chewing gum.

Critics have long argued that there is not enough room for dissent and that the pace of liberalization in this Southeast Asian island republic of 4 million is glacially slow.

Fox's party loses fourth of seats

MEXICO CITY (AP) — President Vicente Fox's party lost one-quarter of its seats in Mexico's lower house of Congress, a federal electoral official said Sunday, confirming frustration among voters with the president's first three years in office.

Fox, whose victory in July 2000 ended 71 years of rule by the Institutional Revolutionary Party, has battled a hostile Congress and failed to pass his proposals for energy, labor and tax reforms.

Early results, released hours after the July 6 midterm congressional elections, projected gains for the PRI and losses for Fox's conservative National Action Party.

On Sunday, federal electoral officials announced final vote tallies and party percentages, but refused to give a final breakdown in Congress.

However, a high ranking federal electoral official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the PRI had 224 seats, up from its current level of 207 and just 27 votes short of a majority.

The PAN dropped to 153 seats, and the leftist Democratic Revolution Party nearly doubled its stake in the lower house of Congress, winning 95 spots.

The remaining 28 seats were divided among smaller parties.

While Sunday's results reflected the final vote tally, electoral officials warned that several races will likely be contested and the outcome of some races could change.

Fox's party was hoping for a majority in the last three years of his term.

"The legislation that the PAN was looking for is not going to happen," said political analyst Ana Maria Salazar. "The president's going to have to find a way to renegotiate. He's going to have to give up something."

Also Sunday, the PRI was given the official lead in Campeche state's close gubernatorial race. PRI candidate Jorge Carlos Hurtado received about 4,000 more votes than the PAN's Juan Carlos del Rio, although the results had not yet been certified and were likely to be contested, state election official Luis Maury said Sunday.

In the Pacific coast state of Sonora, the PRI's Eduardo Bours was declared the winner of another close gubernatorial race with a lead of 1 percent, according to final results released Saturday.

Today's chuckle

Crop circles draw UFO enthusiasts

ROCKVILLE, Calif. (AP) — Throngs of UFO enthusiasts, New Age followers and assorted believers in the paranormal have been flocking to the Sacramento Valley to take in the dozen or so crop circles that mysteriously appeared in a wheat field two weeks ago.



Some hoped their ailments would be cured. Others looked for spiritual insight. Others came, crediting aliens with the phenomenon.

Now, though, it appears the most simple explanation is at hand for why this sleepy farming community, halfway between San Francisco and Sacramento, has been turned into a tourist destination: four bored teenagers.

They confessed to The Vacaville Reporter.

"Man, we had to rest sometimes," one teen told the paper of the quartet's hours-long handiwork done in the wee hours of June 28. "My back got tired and I laid down in the field."

The paper said in an editor's note that the confession "rang true."

"Because three of the four are juveniles, and three of the four are already on probation for unrelated matters, we decided their request for anonymity was reasonable," the paper said.

The teens, all from Fairfield, told the paper they were inspired by a documentary they had watched on the 400-year history of crop circles. Armed with a 30-foot rope, planks of wood and tape, the teens created a connected series of circles by pressing down on the wheat.

Your Complete Area

Business Directory

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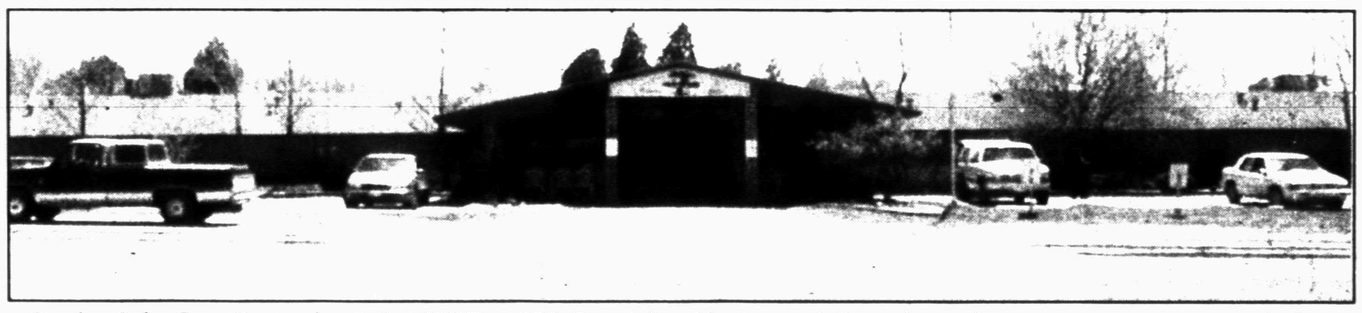
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BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

Spotlight



Snyder Oaks Care Center, located at 210 East 37th Street, is proud to have provided the best in long term care for the senior citizens of Snyder and the surrounding areas since 1977.

The facility is licensed to house 97 residents and is Medicare and Medicaid approved. Twenty-four hour nursing care is provided along with an in-house rehabilitation team specializing in physical, occupational and speech therapy. Respiratory therapy is a special service offered along with diabetes and oxygen therapy.

Dietary specialists insure that special diet needs are met and optional menu items are available. Residents dine in a large, open dining room.

A Social Service Director serves as a resident advocate, oversees advanced directives and provides a link to community services.

Daily activities are provided for the residents consisting of exercise programs, games, musical programs and church services.

The Special Care Unit is certified to address the needs of residents with Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia. This unit provides a secure, stable environment where residents are encouraged to maintain or reach their maximum level of independence through programs that are supportive and therapeutic.

At Snyder Oaks they believe that every resident should be provided the opportunity to reach their highest level of independence and their goal is to exceed the resident's and family's expectations for a care center.

Feel free to stop by for a tour or call 915-573-9377 for more information.

Snyder Oaks Care Center
210 E. 37th Street
Snyder, Texas
79549
Office: 915-573-9377
Fax: 915-573-8306
Home: 915-573-3132

Palestinian prisoners call for release of taxi driver

JERUSALEM (AP) — Representatives of Palestinian prisoners jailed by Israel called for the release of an Israeli taxi driver feared kidnapped by militants, a gesture that could help shore up fragile peace moves.

Also Monday, a top leader of the Islamic militant group Hamas warned that any attempts to disarm it would bring a return to violent attacks on Israelis.

Two weeks of relative quiet have brought hopes that the 33-month Palestinian uprising may be winding down. But efforts to implement the U.S.-backed "road map" to peace and Palestinian statehood by 2005 are still mired in disagreements.

In London, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon met with Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and planned a private dinner with Prime Minister Tony Blair. Sharon was expected to urge Britain to sever ties with Yasser Arafat, whom Israel accuses of fomenting terrorism and impeding the efforts of his moderate premier, Mahmoud Abbas, to end the violence.

"Arafat should be removed from any position of influence," Sharon told the Fox News Network, blaming the longtime Palestinian leader for the nearly three years of Mideast bloodshed.

Violence has decreased markedly since the main Palestinian militant groups declared a unilateral cease-fire on June 29, and Israel scaled back military action. But the militants warn the truce will collapse if Israel does not release some 7,000 Palestinian prisoners; Israel has agreed to free only several hundred.

Israeli officials have suggested that they are looking for ways to ease the prisoner crisis, and the statement by the prisoners was viewed as a gesture of good faith.

Orit Messer-Harel, spokeswoman for Israel's prison service, said the statement was released on Sunday by prisoner representative committees at the Ashkelon and Shatah prisons, which together contain hundreds of Palestinian inmates.

"We allowed the dissemination of this call because it helps peace," she said.

The statement calls for the release of 61-year-old Eliyahu Goral, whose cab was found abandoned and idling in an Arab section of Jerusalem on Friday.

No one has claimed responsibility for abducting Goral. Israeli officials fear he was kidnapped by militants hoping for a prisoner exchange. Palestinian security forces are helping Israeli troops search for the man.

On Monday, Israeli soldiers imposed a curfew in the West Bank city of Ramallah, which has been at the center of the search for Goral.

The prisoners' statement, which was issued by telephone to the media and other organizations, did not confirm that Goral was kidnapped.

Palestinian Minister for Prisoner Affairs Hisham Abdal Raziq said the statement "confirms the prisoners' belief that such actions (as kidnapping) only hurt the issue of releasing prisoners," and "confirms the firm commitment that prisoners have to abiding by the cease-fire agreement."

He said the declaration was issued on behalf of prisoners from all political factions.

Since the truce was declared, Israel pulled out troops from parts of Gaza and the West Bank town of Bethlehem. But it refuses to hand over more towns until the Palestinian Authority disarms militant groups.

Recent days have seen some signs of a nascent weapons-collection effort.

In Gaza, Palestinian security forces have confiscated illegal weapons and arrested several people in possession of unlicensed guns, a Palestinian security source said. The source said no particular militant group was targeted.

Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a top Hamas leader, said any attempts to disarm the group would scupper the truce.

"This is just a warning message to the Palestinian Authority that disarming the Palestinian fighters will lead to the end of the initiative declared," he said Monday in Gaza. "There is no one from the fighters of Hamas who has yet been disarmed."

On Sunday, Hamas and Islamic Jihad issued a joint statement that also warned that attempts to disarm the militants "might lead us to think seriously about going back on our initiative to suspend military operations."

The deadlock has sparked growing criticism of Abbas also from within the Fatah movement, which he has led together with Arafat for decades. Last week Abbas threatened to resign as premier unless he receives more support.

Israel puts much of the blame for problems with the peace process on Arafat, who reluctantly appointed Abbas as premier in April, bending to intense international pressure to share power.

The United States backs Israel's attempt to boycott the embattled Palestinian leader, but European countries retain some ties with Arafat. A delegation of British lawmakers visited his Ramallah headquarters on the weekend, and Russian Foreign Minister Rigor Ivan met with him on Sunday, urging Israel to restore Arafat's freedom of movement.

Arafat has been confined to his office building in the West Bank town of Ramallah for more than a year and a half, watching as Israeli forces knocked down almost all the buildings in the city block-sized compound. Israel's policy now is that Arafat is free to leave, but Israel will not guarantee that he would be allowed to return.

House committee will look into FAA's role in search for Demos

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats this week should get some of the details they've sought on federal involvement in the search for Texas lawmakers who left the state to prevent a vote on a redistricting bill.

A House committee hearing on Tuesday will focus on the Federal Aviation Administration's search for state Rep. Pete Laney's plane. The Transportation Department released an investigative report Friday evening.

Investigators found that a call from a staffer for U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay to the FAA's congressional liaison, David Balloff, triggered the search. The search stretched over eight hours and involved at least 13 employees and several FAA offices, the report said.

Since mid-May, Democrats have alleged that DeLay used his political influence to involve federal agencies in a political matter, an allegation DeLay denies.

The Democrats have demanded investigations in letters to Cabinet members and the White House. They've also used several legislative maneuvers to obtain telephone conversation recordings and other materials about the search. The Department of Homeland Security, which also helped look for the plane, conducted an investigation, but has refused to release recordings and unedited transcripts.

The Transportation Department investigation, which came in response to a request from presidential hopeful Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., provides the most details to date. More transcripts and materials are expected to be released Tuesday.

Laney, former Texas House speaker, used his private plane to join 50 other Democrats in Ardmore, Okla., on May 12. They stayed at a hotel to break the quorum required for a House vote on a congressional redistricting bill.

The Republican-controlled Legislature, at DeLay's urging, sought to redraw Texas' congressional voting districts to add to the GOP's ranks in Congress. Of Texas' 32 U.S. House members, 17 are Democrats.

The Democrats' four-day absence killed the bill. But in a special session called in late June, the House voted on a new redistricting bill. The Senate could vote as early as this week.

Alligator is found in Missouri pond

ST. LOUIS (AP) — There are plenty of critters you'd expect to see in and around a Missouri pond. An alligator, though, isn't one of them.

Kurt Brinkmeyer spotted a 3 ½-foot-long alligator in a north St. Louis County pond July 7 while mowing grass.

"He looked a lot bigger in the water," said Brinkmeyer's wife, Cathy.

The Brinkmeyers decided to defer to the Humane Society and animal control consults on the best way to trap the wayward reptile. They eventually were linked up with Keith and Connie Skiles, who own an exotic pet store in nearby Ferguson.

On Wednesday night, Keith Skiles and a Brinkmeyer relative, Eric Webb, 16, waded into the shallow pond. At 10:45 p.m., the American alligator surfaced. Webb shined a flashlight in its eyes to temporarily blind it while Skiles grabbed it.

The alligator, dubbed Wally, might be 3 years old. He — or maybe she, since it is too young to know for sure — is missing its left front foot and 6 inches of its tail. That's probably the result of an encounter with another gator, said Skiles.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, July 15, 2003

Lady Luck may play a prominent role in helping you reap excellent rewards in the year ahead. You'll have the opportunity to build upon it through solid use of your resources.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Joint ventures requiring a financial outlay on your part must be thoroughly scrutinized today. If you don't watch every move, you could come up short.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Don't take it upon yourself to make a major decision without first talking things over with others. There's a good chance something could go wrong.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — If you want to lighten your workload today, let your head figure out more sensible methods for performing the tasks. Don't rely solely on your back.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — You'll get more attention at a social gathering by taking a backseat to a dominating character who wants the whole stage to himself. In contrast, you'll be a standout.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Let everyone be heard concerning a major family issue today. The full mix will produce a solution that allows harmony to prevail.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Don't be so anxious that you present a plan prematurely. You will meet with serious opposition and you won't have the answers.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — There's nothing wrong with handling your own financial affairs today, but taking on someone else's is another story. Keep your counsel to yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Don't debate a contested topic with your mate while out with friends. Hold your tongue or it could lead to an airing in public.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — An opportunity will slip past if you believe you can put it off until tomorrow. It'll get snatched up in front of your eyes.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Don't act like the center or attention at a social gathering today. You'll gather more admirers than you would otherwise. Be a bit laid back.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — For the sake of your image, don't toot your own horn. Someone will step forward on your behalf and sing your praises for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Nothing will be gained by getting into a debate with a know-it-all. This smart aleck won't hear what you're saying anyway.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Medical care need not be limited by finances

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm a 57-year-old widow trapped in an 80-year-old body because I can't find a doctor to help me. I have constant pain or stones and can feel them moving around in my body. I have no health insurance, am disabled and cannot work. I really don't want to die, but I don't want to live this way either.

DEAR READER: Without further, more specific information about your symptoms and general state of health, I cannot possibly guess at the cause of your symptoms. However, I'm sure the situation could be resolved by appropriate medical care.

Although you may have difficulty finding a private physician, most hospitals (large and small) do have provisions and resources to help patients who are uninsured and can't pay. Check with your community hospital (where state and local assistance may be available) or go to a teaching hospital in your geographic area.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm female, 51, and overweight. Despite periodic dieting, I've been unable to trim down. I take Synthroid, and my last thyroid blood test was normal. Could there be a connection between the medication and my obesity?

DEAR READER: Unlikely.

You were probably prescribed synthetic thyroid hormone replacements to correct an underactive thyroid gland. If your blood tests show you are receiving the proper dose of medicine, you can ignore the thyroid gland as a cause of your weight problem. Ordinarily, an underactive gland does not cause obesity, although this has been a popular theory in the past.

Most cases of overweight are caused by too many calories in the diet. More precisely, people gain weight when their caloric intakes exceed their caloric requirements; those calories not burned for energy are stored as fat.

Granted, some obese people have a very low metabolism and require fewer calories than normal. But most overweight persons can lose weight by following a sensible, low-calorie diet.

Ask your doctor to refer you to a dietician and regularly monitor your progress. Or consider any of the popular diet plans, such as Weight Watchers or Slim-Fast.

Because I have had such a stunning success with my "no flour, no sugar" diet, I am sending you a free copy of my Health Report "Losing Weight." My diet, which actually works, is both inexpensive and relatively easy to follow. 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: For the past 12 years, I've experienced muscle tightness and spasms of my neck and back. I've seen a chiropractor and had physical therapy and acupuncture with temporary relief. Finally, a neurologist put me on nortriptyline at bedtime. Is this appropriate therapy?

DEAR READER: If it works, yes. For unknown reasons, this antidepressant medication often helps people with chronic pain. Stick with your neurologist's suggestion and see if your spasms improve. If not, the doctor may choose to give you specific muscle-relaxing medicine, such as Flexeril, Robaxin and others.

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Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 207-7 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, three miles northwest of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 7,200 feet, drill site is in Section 250, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 177-9 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, three miles northwest of Snyder. Planned depth is 7,200 feet, and drill site is in Section 17, Block 1, J.P. Smith survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 124-16 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, four miles northwest of Snyder. Contracted for a depth of 7,200 feet, location is in Section 17, Block 1, J.P. Smith survey.

Garza County

Burk Royalty Co. will drill the No. 125-R Southeast Garza field unit, two miles southeast of Post. Planned for a depth of 3,500 feet, location is in Section 5, Block 5, K. Aycock survey.

Howard County

Walsh and Watts Inc. will drill the No. 10-C Snyder in the Snyder field, seven miles southeast of Coahoma. Planned for a depth of 3,950 feet, drill site is in Section 28, Block 30, T1S, T&P survey.

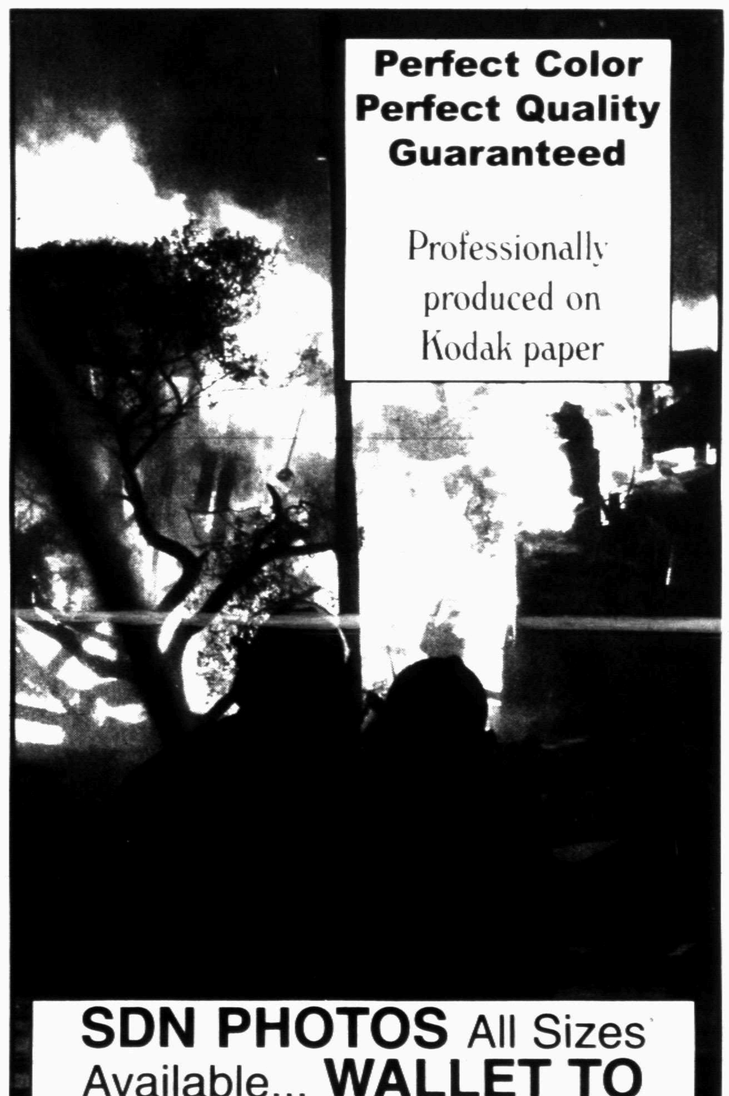
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SNYDER DAILY NEWS
3600 College Ave 573-5486

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

U.S. steps up pressure on rebels

BALAD, Iraq (AP) — Facing an increasingly organized and violent resistance, the U.S. Army stepped up pressure on pro-Saddam Hussein holdouts Sunday with a fourth large offensive in central Iraq.

At least four suspected loyalists were killed and big weapons caches were captured in the operation, called Ivy Serpent, which aims to blunt potential anti-American attacks ahead of now-banned holidays of Saddam's Baath Party.

Meanwhile, the military announced that one soldier was killed and two others injured early Sunday when a tractor trailer crashed accidentally into their vehicle, parked at a checkpoint outside a base in Diwaniyah, 100 miles south of Baghdad. The names of the soldiers were withheld pending family notification.

Also Sunday, Iraqi police and coalition forces exchanged fire at a military checkpoint in the Iraqi capital, witnesses said. They said a police vehicle drove up to a coalition checkpoint and started shooting, and U.S. soldiers returned fire. It was not clear if there were casualties, and the U.S. military had no immediate comment.

U.S. forces also detained nine "high-value targets" in raids near Mosul, in northern Iraq, none of them on the list of 55 most-wanted Iraqis from Saddam's old regime.

Ivy Serpent, launched late Saturday in Sallahadin and Diala provinces, has so far yielded over 50 detainees in about a dozen raids before key holidays supported by Saddam loyalists.

Weekend busy for police

Arrests

Snyder officers arrested a 19-year-old man in the 3800 block of College Ave at 11:15 p.m. Saturday on a warrant for motion to revoke probation on original charges of family violence and possession of marijuana.

At 3:12 a.m. Sunday, a 19-year-old man was taken into custody for possession of marijuana and consumption of alcohol by a minor.

A 64-year-old man was arrested on CR 4127 at 12:03 a.m. today for public intoxication. The man was found asleep in his vehicle.

Officers arrested a 55-year-old man in the 3100 block of Ave. E early today for Class C public intoxication.

Accidents

Officers responded to the 1900 block of 42nd Street at noon Saturday for a two-vehicle minor accident.

Involved were a 1992 Chevrolet pickup driven by Tom Machen, 73, of 2006 37th Street and a 1994 Mercury driven by Cindy Davidson, 31, of 3212 42nd. There were no injuries.

At 2 p.m. Sunday, a wreck was reported at the intersection of 25th Street and College Ave. Involved were a 1993 Mercury Sable driven by Juanita Bradshaw, 45, of 1711 Ave. I and a 1999 Pontiac Grand Am driven by Rebecca Gail, 19, of 7148 Pate Rd.

Both drivers and two passengers, Aurora Rivera, 69, and Pamela Bradshaw, 15, were transported to Cogdell Hospital.

Rivera was admitted for observation and was listed in good condition this morning and the other three were treated and released.

A minor accident was reported in the 2600 block of 33rd Street at 10:40 p.m. Sunday. A 2001 Chevrolet Cavalier driven by Justan Crawford, 19, of Colorado City struck a stone fence on the property of John Reed.

Theft

Rebecca Craig Sunday reported a stolen cellular phone. Buford Thompson reported Sunday that someone had taken money from his residence.

William Mayley reported two bicycles stolen from 406 35th Street Saturday evening.

A clerk at Days Inn advised at 1 a.m. Sunday that a patron reported a cooler filled with alcohol was stolen from her vehicle.

Disturbances

A man called 9-1-1 at 3:15 a.m. Sunday to report a disturbance at a residence on 21st Street. Officers served a male subject with a criminal trespass warning.

At 4:42 p.m. Sunday, a DPS trooper reported a disturbance at the Windridge apartments.

Criminal mischief

Jennifer Stewart, 2901 Ave. Z, reported at 6:45 a.m. Saturday that the back window of her vehicle was shattered. Officers were dispatched and advised another vehicle at 2905 Ave. Z also had a broken window.

Thomas Seyler, 3012 Austin Ave.. reported early Saturday that someone had thrown a sizeable magnet through his glass door.

At 9 a.m. Saturday, Wade Warren reported his windshield broken at 2610 32nd Street.

At 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Kathleen Huddleston reported damage to a vehicle while it was parked at Bealls and a report was submitted.

Births

Kimberly Cortes was born to Gilberto and Juana Cortes of Snyder at 7:06 a.m. on July 10 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Kimberly weighed six pounds, 12 ounces and has a brother, Juan Gilberto Cortes.

Paternal grandparents are Juan Cortez and Augustina Hernandez of La Glania Guanajuato, Mexico. Maternal grandparents are Alicia and Agustin Juarez of La Glania, Guanajuato, Mexico.

Obituaries

Chamber executive Fowler was community cheerleader

Donna Fowler

1944-2003

Donna Sue Fowler, executive director of the Snyder Chamber of Commerce, died this morning at her home in Fluvanna after a brief illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Fowler, 59, is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday in Colonial Hill Baptist Church with Dr. Tommy Culwell, pastor, officiating. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.



Donna Fowler

Born July 9, 1944 in Oakland, Calif., she was a 1962 graduate of Snyder High School. She married Joe Fowler on Aug. 26, 1962 in Gainesville. They lived in Houston before returning to Snyder in 1976.

Mrs. Fowler, a self-proclaimed "cheerleader" of Snyder and Scurry County, once owned the Sunshine Ice Cream Shop. For 16 years she was employed by KSNY Radio, 10 years as sales and operations manager. During those years she co-hosted an early morning radio program, "Coffee Break."

Mrs. Fowler became chamber manager on Jan. 1, 1995. At the time she was selected from a list of 18 applicants, Mrs. Fowler described the position as "the job I wanted all my life."

As chamber executive, she managed the Scurry County Coliseum for seven years and helped organize the White Buffalo Celebration and the Western Swing Festival.

She was a member of the economic development committee that worked to located the Price Daniel unit in Snyder and was part of the committee that helped raise funds to build a chapel at the prison unit.

She had served on the United Way, worked with the American Cancer Society, was a former Girl Scout leader, PTA president and Lucky 13 sponsor.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Bernice Parker, on Jan. 8, 1996; and her stepfather, Sterling Parker, on April 1, 1995.

Survivors include her husband, Joe Fowler of Fluvanna; a daughter, Lezli Guerrero of Snyder; two sons, Jimmy Joe Fowler of Snyder and Jeffery Fowler and wife Tiffany of Lubbock; a brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Mollie Shearer of Snyder; a father and stepmother, Elton and Peggy Shearer of Montgomery; and five grandchildren.

Personal, Professional Service
BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME
3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Manuel Young

1939-2003

LUBBOCK — Manuel Dean Young of Lubbock, the brother of Linda Walton of Snyder, died Saturday, July 12, in Covenant Medical Center after a long illness.

Service for Mr. Young, 63, was set for 10 a.m. today in the Sanders Memorial Chapel with George Johnson, pastor of Lubbock Primitive Baptist Church, officiating. Burial was set for 2:30 p.m. in the Afton Cemetery.

Mr. Young was born and reared at Afton in Dickens County and was a graduate of Patton Springs High School. He married Tommie Kaye Rinn on Feb. 20, 1971.

Mr. Young retired this year after a long career as senior technical specialist with CHR Solutions and Western Electric Company.

Survivors include his wife, Tommie Kaye Young of the home; two sons, Christopher Young of the home and Randy Young of Lubbock; his mother and stepfather, Shirley and Carl Barton of Roaring Springs; his mother-in-law, Sybil Prickett; two other sisters, Chloe Anderson of Lubbock and Barbara Winkler of Los Lunas, N.M.; a brother, Bill Young of Burton, Tex.; and one grandson, Clayton Young of Abilene.

The family suggests memorials to the Jo Arrington Cancer Center, 4191 22nd Place in Lubbock, 79410.

Pat Patton

1928-2003

ABILENE — Curtis Eugene "Pat" Patton, a former Snyder policeman, died Friday, July 11, in an Abilene hospital.

Funeral service for Mr. Patton, 74, was set for 10 a.m. today in the First Baptist Church in Tuscola with the Rev. Burtis Williams officiating. Burial will follow in the McBee Cemetery with arrangements under the direction of Community Funeral Home.

Born Nov. 20, 1928, he was a graduate of Norton High School. He began his law enforcement career in Winters, then moved to Snyder before becoming the first full-time security officer at Hendrick Medical Center.

He later moved to Houston to become chief of security at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center as well as the University of Texas medical complex.

After retirement, Mr. Patton moved to Tuscola where he was a deacon of the First Baptist Church. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and served as past master.

He was preceded in death by his father, Cecil Patton; and a brother, Cecil Wayne Patton.

Survivors include his wife, Gladys Patton of Tuscola; his mother, Clara Patton of Ballinger; a brother, Ronnie Patton of Abiquia, N.M.; three daughters, Deborah Foster of Big Spring, Donna Patton and Darla Swanner, both of Abilene; and five grandchildren.

Melvin Southern

1929-2003

ANDREWS — Melvin Southern, the father of Karen Gregory of Snyder, died Saturday, July 12, at his home in Andrews.

Funeral service for Mr. Southern, 74, is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Maranatha Assembly of God Church with the Revs. Roy Southern and Dean Williamson officiating. Burial will follow in the Andrews West Cemetery under the direction of McNett Funeral Home.

Born July 2, 1929 in Baskin, La., he moved to Andrews in 1955 from Winnsboro, La. He married Faye Duffy on March 11, 1983 in Andrews.

Mr. Southern was a farmer and a tool pusher, retiring in 1991.

Survivors include his wife, Faye Southern of Andrews; another daughter, Tonda Alexander of San Angelo; two sons, Steve Southern and Richard Southern, both of Andrews; three stepdaughters, Pam Stevens of Andrews, Patsy Bleven of Coahoma and Shirley Ann Pritchard of Midland; two brothers, Edward Southern of Gilbert, La.; and the Rev. Roy Southern of Fort Duchesne, Utah; five sisters, Georgia Clark and Juanita Bennett of Winnsboro, Wynell Eley of Gilbert, La., Sarah Homes of Duckhill, Miss., and Barbara Denney of Lakeville, Minn.; 22 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Irene Martin

1918-2003

AMARILLO — Irene Martin, the sister-in-law of I.E. Martin of Snyder, died Saturday, July 12.

Service for Mrs. Martin, 85, is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday in the San Jacinto United Methodist Church with the Rev. Royce Womack officiating. Interment will follow in Memorial Park Cemetery under the direction of Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors.

Born Jan. 8, 1918 in English, she and her husband Herbert Algie Martin moved to Amarillo from Scurry County in 1942 to work for the Amarillo Smelting Plant. They later owned and operated a Phillips 66 service station for 47 years. Mr. Martin died Sept. 9, 1995.

Survivors include two sons, Roland Jack Martin of Amarillo and Bill R. Martin of Vernon; a daughter, Mrs. Woody Melton of Amarillo; a brother, Odis Shoffner of Amarillo; a sister, Virgie Martin of Big Spring; eight grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Independently Owned & Operated
WCFH
WRIGHT COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME
200 East 37th Street
Snyder, Texas
915-573-6200

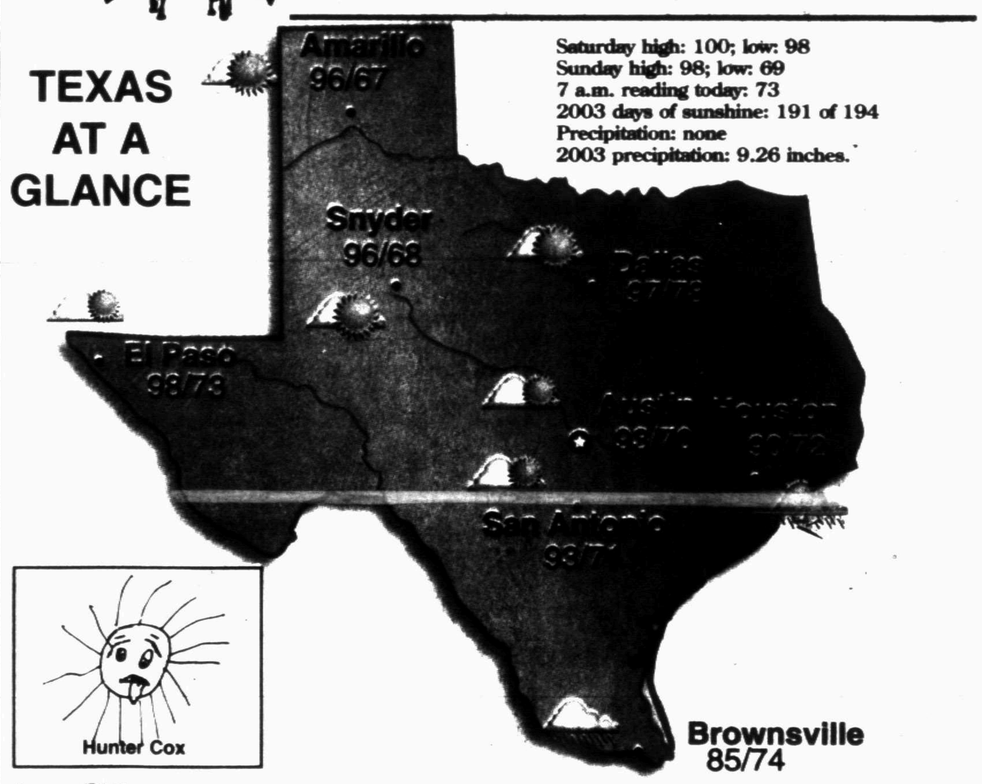
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Tue 7/15	Wed 7/16	Thu 7/17
96/68	95/68	97/68
Except for a few afternoon clouds, mainly sunny. High 96F.	Partial sunshine. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the upper 60s.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the upper 60s.
Sunrise 6:46 AM, Sunset 8:52 PM	Sunrise 6:47 AM, Sunset 8:52 PM	Sunrise 6:48 AM, Sunset 8:52 PM

WEST TEXAS STATE BANK
1901 26th Street • 573-5441
FDIC

TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Saturday high: 100; low: 98
Sunday high: 98; low: 69
7 a.m. reading today: 73
2003 days of sunshine: 191 of 194
Precipitation: none
2003 precipitation: 9.26 inches.

Hunter Cox

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Abilene	97	71	mst sunny
Amarillo	96	67	mst sunny
Austin	93	70	pt sunny
Beaumont	87	72	t-storm
Brownsville	85	74	rain
Brownwood	98	70	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	86	75	rain
Corsicana	95	73	mst sunny
Dallas	97	78	mst sunny
Del Rio	97	73	pt sunny
El Paso	98	73	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	96	69	mst sunny
Gainesville	97	72	mst sunny
Greenville	95	73	mst sunny
Houston	90	72	t-storm
Kingsville	90	72	rain
Livingston	90	71	pt sunny
Longview	93	71	mst sunny
Lubbock	97	69	mst sunny
Lufkin	91	72	pt sunny
Midland	97	70	mst sunny
Raymondville	87	73	rain
Rosenberg	91	71	t-storm
San Antonio	93	71	pt sunny
San Marcos	93	69	pt sunny
Sulphur Springs	95	72	mst sunny
Sweetwater	97	70	mst sunny
Tyler	94	74	mst sunny
Weatherford	97	73	mst sunny
Wichita Falls	100	73	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Atlanta	86	67	pt sunny
Boston	76	68	rain
Chicago	85	63	t-storm
Dallas	97	78	mst sunny
Denver	90	63	t-storm
Houston	90	72	t-storm
Los Angeles	86	65	mst sunny
Miami	86	78	t-storm
Minneapolis	83	62	mst sunny
New York	81	70	pt sunny
Phoenix	112	88	pt sunny
San Francisco	72	54	windy
Seattle	72	53	pt sunny
St. Louis	88	72	t-storm
Washington, DC	86	73	pt suhny

Moon Phases

Full	Last	New	First
Jul 13	Jul 21	Jul 29	Aug 5

UV Index

Tue 7/15	Wed 7/16	Thu 7/17
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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