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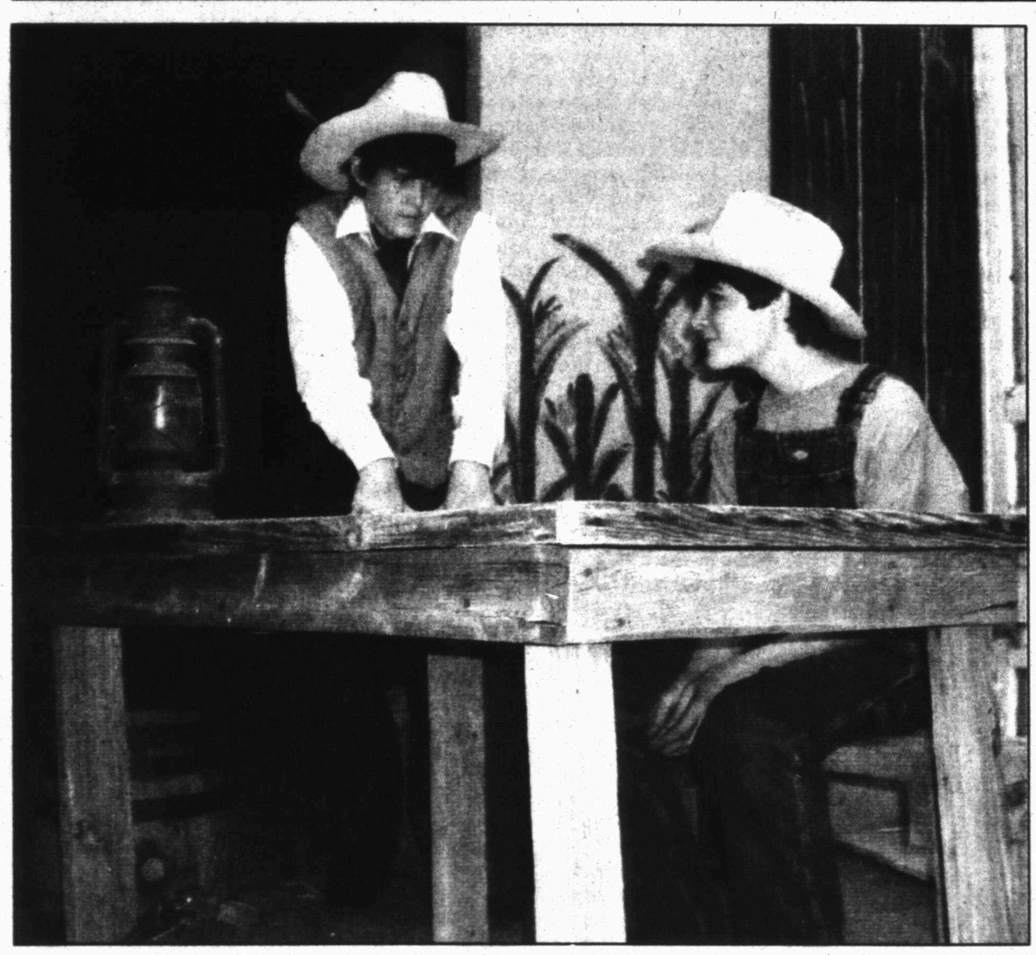
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WT-Int. Crude - $35.45
WTIC Posted - $32.25
Natural Gas - $5.35

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY
Feb. 19, 2004
Vol. 55 No. 253
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Jackie Murray



TO OPEN TONIGHT — Snyder Junior High School's *Oklahoma!* will open at 7 tonight at the school auditorium. Other play dates are 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and Tuesday. Tickets are available at the school office and cost $4 each. In this scene, Jud Fry and Curly both want to take Laurey to the box social. Joseph Hefner, left, plays Jud, and Craig Robertson is Curly. (SDN Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Former Enron CEO surrenders to authorities

HOUSTON (AP) — Jeffrey Skilling, the former Enron Corp. chief executive who resigned less than four months before the company shattered in scandal, surrendered today to the FBI and was taken in handcuffs to a federal courthouse where he pleaded innocent to three dozen criminal charges related to the company's collapse.

Skilling, 50, was named in a 42-count superseding indictment unsealed today that accused him and Richard Causey, Enron's former chief accounting officer, of participating in widespread schemes to mislead government regulators and investors about the company's earnings. Causey, 44, was indicted a month ago and is free on $500,000 bond.

"I plead not guilty to all counts," Skilling told U.S. Magistrate Judge Frances Stacy, who set bond for him at $5 million.

Skilling posted the bond with a cashier's check and emerged from the courthouse at midmorning.

Prosecutors said he faced a maximum total of 325 years in prison and over $80 million in fines if convicted of all the counts.

Prosecutors "were making a grave mistake" in pursuing Skilling "but they have decided to turn a blind eye," one of his lawyers, Dan Petrocelli, said.

"Jeff Skilling has nothing to hide," Petrocelli said. "He did not steal. He did not lie. He did not take anyone's money and in the 60 pages of charges filed by the United States government, they don't even accuse him of these things and it's not from lack of trying."

He said Skilling would have to live with the enormity of Enron's failure for the rest of his life, but said Skilling had cooperated fully with investigators and government panels looking into Enron's collapse.

"He has come forward, he has raised his right hand, he has answered the hard questions," Petrocelli said. "Jeff Skilling did nothing wrong... I guess they need a scapegoat. And I guess Jeff Skilling is their scapegoat."

Deputy Attorney General James Comey, who heads the Justice Department's corporate fraud task force, said in a statement from Washington that Skilling and other Enron executives were responsible for a "massive, complex scheme to give shareholders and the investing public the false appearance of financial strength and security at Enron."

Representative candidate here Friday morning

Mike Conaway, candidate for U.S. Representative in the March 9 Republican primary, will be in Snyder Friday morning.

He will be at the Scurry County Museum on the campus of Western Texas College from 9-10:30 a.m.

Conaway, a Midland resident, is vying with Brownwood college professor Bill Lester as the Republican nominee for the 11th Congressional district.

WTC production to open

Western Texas College Fine Arts Department will present *The Mai,* which opens tonight at 7:30 at the WTC Fine Arts Theatre.

The play follows the life of an accomplished, beautiful 40-year-old woman known as "The Mai", played by Meagan Bailey, and her ne'er-do-well husband, Robert, played by Ryan Ballard.

The Mai waits by the window of her fairytale castle for the return of Robert, whom she considers the love of her life. The drama opens on the day of Robert's return after an absence of four years.

Set in the inspiring surrounds of the West of Ireland, the tale intertwines the reunion with the idiosyncratic characters that comprise The Mai's family, including the irreverent and unapologetic 100-year-old matriarch (played by Tedrick George) who presides over everyone with comical tenacity.

The audiences' guide through the familial landscape is The Mai and Robert's daughter, Millie, tenderly played by Rhealan Wagnon.

The production, the first of the spring semester, is upheld by a supporting cast that includes Brandy Birkenfeld, Amber Ward, Monica Rose and Cassandra Darlin.

The show will be presented nightly through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and a matinee at 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are available at the WTC theatre box office. Admission is $5 for adults, $3 for students and senior citizens and WTC faculty and students are free. Additional information is available by contacting the WTC Fine Arts Department at (325) 573-8511, ext. 234.

C.T. and Claire McLaughlin...

Ranching center to honor early Snyder boosters

The C.T. and Claire McLaughlin Arbor and Memorial Garden will be dedicated at 11 a.m. Saturday at the National Ranching Heritage Center, commemorating a couple whose lives and generosity reflected the oil industry in Scurry County.

The new facility honors the McLaughlins, who founded the Diamond M Ranch, museum, art collection and foundation, all of which brought international attention to Scurry County and West Texas during their lifetimes.

A reception will follow the dedication in the Main Gallery of the DeWitt-Mallet Museum Building. The National Ranching Heritage Center is located at 3121 Fourth Street in Lubbock. The public is invited.

The arbor and memorial grove were made possible by a grant from the Diamond M Foundation and children of the late C.T. and Claire McLaughlin: Evelyn McLaughlin Davies of Lubbock, Jean McLaughlin Kahle of Fort Worth and J. Mark McLaughlin of San Angelo.

The gift was made to honor their parents and to permanently place the Diamond M brand at the National Ranching Heritage Center.

The arbor was selected by the foundation because of its significance in the history of the Old West.

A brush arbor was a gathering place, where the community and settlers came together from far and wide to socialize, observe holidays and special events in their lives.

"The arbor was the perfect place to pay tribute to a couple who was known for their hospitality and the enjoyment of their friends", said Jim Pfluger, executive director of the National Ranching Heritage Center.

The McLaughlin Arbor features a large, open-air expanse with a solid roof and patterned concrete floor. Lighting is provided by 18 hanging kerosene lanterns that were modified for electricity. Inside the arbor are oak benches, where visitors can relax as they enjoy the historical park area of the museum.

Snyder native, Gary Terrell, president of the Ranching Heritage Association, will serve as master of ceremonies of the dedication and direct the plaque unveiling and ribbon cutting. He also will relate the story of the McLaughlins.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1897, Clarence Thurston McLaughlin grew up near Titusville, where the first commercial oil well in the world was drilled. Both his father and grandfather worked in the oil industry, so it was natural that young C.T. would find an interest there.

Following his graduation from high school, C.T. spent 25 months in World War I. He used his discharge money to buy a train ticket to Texas to try his hand in the oil industry. He arrived in Burkburnett in 1919 and worked as a roughneck, learning the business.

He soon became a partner in a drilling company in Wichita Falls. It was there he met the young Evelyn Claire Littleton, a lovely, educated woman from Knoxville, Tenn. After a six-week courtship, they were married on Aug. 6, 1921.

See McLAUGHLINS, Page 9

DCOS board to meet Friday

The Development Corporation of Snyder (DCOS) board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7:30 Friday morning.

The board will hold an executive session to continue the annual evaluations of John DeLille, executive director, and Tati Nail, secretary.

Other items of business include DeLille's monthly report to the board and the review of the financial statements and bills for payment.



FALLING APART TOGETHER — The Mai, played by Meagan Bailey, tries to gain the attention of her husband Robert (Ryan Ballard) in WTC's presentation of *The Mai* opening tonight at 7:30. (SDN Staff Photo by Annie Rowe)

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN by Annie Rowe



One of the things I've noticed about Snyder is the ethnicity represented here and I've concluded that, along with the friendliness, the interesting mixture has helped me to feel welcome. I will cite, for example, my neighborhood.

On a typical Saturday, when the weather permits, I'll open the doors and windows and enjoy the fresh air and the sunshine.

Like me, my neighbors choose Saturday afternoon to take care of the necessary, albeit objectionable, chores such as manicuring the yard or washing cars. Out of necessity one has to make an attempt at making the atmosphere of drudgery a little more fun.

And somehow, crankin' up the stereophonic volume does the trick.

Since I moved into my house about three months ago, I'm able to hear the most incredible bands, mostly a form of music that I love, Tejano.

Growing up in South Texas, I was exposed to the Spanish-Tex-Mex infusion from a young age. The accordions, drums and bajo sexto (a bass guitar from Spain) can send me to my childhood without the necessity of leaving my front steps.

When I was in junior high, I was invited to spend the night with my friend, Dolores Perez. Her mother and older sisters had gone to a dance featuring Little Joe & La Familia. When they arrived home, Mrs. Perez had in her possession the latest eight-track (I know what you're thinking and yes, I'm old enough to remember eight-tracks so pipe down.) by Little Joe.

We slid it into the bright orange, round, portable eight-track player (Remember those?) and Dolores began to teach me to dance, or to be more specific, to Cumbia.

Now, my co-mingled family connections can be traced to Scotland, Ireland and Vera Cruz, Mexico. And while I've been the inheritor of the ability to carry on some family recipes, I was not afforded the grace, rhythm and beauty for dance that is possessed by Latinos.

In other words, I dance like a white woman.

But, sadly, that's another story.

But if we fast-forward to the present, that influence is still reflected in my CD collection. If one flips through they'll find George Strait, Johnny Cash, David Lee Garza, Coldplay, Puccini, Beethoven, La Mafia, Emilio, Willie and Waylon (together and separate) Flaco Jimenez, Loretta Lynn and Selena among others.

So as I'm sure you've guessed, my musical tastes are a tad eclectic.

And I'd be willing to bet that's why the folks who share my block don't know quite what to make of me. Often one can predict the personality of the resident by the rock or country music that's played there.

So far my neighbors have heard so many different musicians I'm sure they're saying "Don't talk to that woman, she's schizophrenic."

No, I don't think schizophrenia is my problem. But let me ask the voice in my head to turn down *Como La Flore* while I think it over.

ASK US

Q—How many beds does Dallas' Parkland Hospital have?

A—It is licensed for 990 beds.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Brian Dickson...

...has lived in Snyder for two years, moving from San Angelo. He is employed with National Gypsum in Rotan. He has a daughter, Tegan, 2, and his parents are Larry Dickson and Deborah Spradlin of Rotan. Brian's favorite hobbies are sports, reading, playing with his daughter and "hanging out with Neika".

TODAY'S THOUGHT

I think somehow, we learn who we really are and live with that decision.

—Eleanor Roosevelt

FEB 19 2004

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

SJHS to present *Oklahoma*

Snyder Junior High School drama and choir students is presenting *Oklahoma* at 7 p.m. today through Saturday and Tuesday in the school auditorium. Tickets are $4 per person and may be reserved by calling the junior high office.

Choir booster club

The SHS choir booster club will met at 7 this evening in the high school choir room.

Horseshoe pitching club meeting

Snyder Slingers horseshoe pitching club invites anyone interested to its 2004 kickoff meeting at 7 this evening at 2306 32nd St.

Hermleigh spaghetti supper

The Hermleigh Booster Club will host a spaghetti supper at 7 tonight. New coach Jason Brewer will be introduced.

Eastern Star meeting cancelled

Snyder Eastern Star meeting set for today has been cancelled.

Singles night out

Singles Night Out will be held from 7 to 8:30 this evening in the building south of First Baptist Church. Learn how to play bridge is for singles over 30. There is no charge. For information call John Fenton at 573-7337 or Bill Johnson at 573-2772.

Masonic Lodge

Scurry Lodge No. 706 will meet at 7 tonight with work in the Entered Apprentice degree. Chili will be served at 6:30 p.m. All Masons are invited.

WTC GED testing dates

Western Texas College has scheduled GED testing dates, the next set for Friday and registration is from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. today. The remaining dates are March 12, March 26, April 16 and April 30. To take the test or for more information contact Betty Thompson at 573-2310 or Emily Hataway 573-8511, ext. 297 or 574-2112. It is recommended that candidates receive some preparation before attempting the test.

Folkorico dancers

Our Lady of Guadalupe's Folkorico dancers will perform at 7 p.m. Friday at Worsham Auditorium.

Seedlings for sale

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District has extra hardwood and evergreen seedlings for sale. The extra seedlings are Afghan pines, Austrian pines, Italian Stone pine, green ash, bur oak, shumard oak, Russian olive, Catalpa, Walnut, Osage Orange, Sand cherry, Sand plum, Mulberry and nanking cherry. They are also taking orders for the large container trees. Some of the larger trees that we can get are Afghan pines, crape myrtles, golden rain-tree, multi-trunk live oaks and bur oaks. To place orders come by the USDA/NRCS building at 5309 Big Spring Highway in Snyder.

What's up guidelines

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

First lady stands by her man on the rocky campaign trail

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — Out on the campaign trail raising re-election cash and promoting reading, Laura Bush is staunchly defending her husband's credibility and taking a shot at Democrats who claim he skipped out on his National Guard duty.

"I think it's a political, you know, witch hunt, actually, on the part of Democrats," the first lady said in an interview with The Associated Press.

The president served in the Texas Air National Guard during the Vietnam War and did report for duty in Alabama where he was briefly assigned, Mrs. Bush said.

"He knows that he served honorably," she said. "He knows that he showed up the whole time."

Mrs. Bush spoke Tuesday as she flew west on a three-day trip to Arkansas, California and Nevada to attend four fund-raisers and four education events. It ends today in Las Vegas.

The first lady's demeanor is quiet and matter-of-fact, yet she sometimes must serve as the president's flak jacket when she's on the road, especially now as his approval ratings are drooping amid a recent barrage of Democratic attacks lobbed during the presidential primaries.

However, she seems to relish the role, traveling the nation to talk about education, especially reading among young students, and to bolster her husband's political positions.

Researchers: Vaccine can stop lung cancer in some patients

DALLAS (AP) — A newly developed vaccine can destroy lung cancer in some patients by stimulating their immune systems to attack cancer cells, a new study has found.

Results from a clinical trial published in Wednesday's Journal of the National Cancer Institute show that some patients with lung cancer who were injected with the vaccine, called GVAX, had no occurrence of the disease for more than three years afterward.

"The results are very promising for patients with non-small (cell) lung cancer, which is frequently resistant to chemotherapy," said Dr. John Nemunaitis, the study's lead researcher and oncologist at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas.

Non-small cell lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death, killing more than 150,000 people each year.

The disease is related to smoking and is often difficult to treat. Treatment usually involves removal of the tumor, chemotherapy or both.

The study is the first to show complete and durable regression of lung cancer using immune therapy, Nemunaitis said, adding that similar immune therapy studies have been done for skin and renal cell cancer.

In the study, each patient was treated with a vaccine that included cells from his or her tumors. A gene called CM-CSF was placed into the cancer cells to change the surface of the cells so the body could identify them as cancerous. Once the vaccine was injected, the body's immune cells traveled to the injection site and began attacking and destroying the cancer cells.

Bush economic team under fire

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush touts his economic stewardship as a top re-election asset, yet offhand remarks and mixed signals by leading members of his economic team are proving politically embarrassing and handing fresh ammunition to Democrats.

The White House found itself in the awkward position Wednesday of backing away from its earlier prediction that the economy would add 2.6 million new jobs this year.

White House officials already were reeling from the assertion of N. Gregory Mankiw, chairman of the president's Council of Economic Advisers, that "outsourcing" American jobs overseas was good for the U.S. economy in the long run. Mankiw later apologized and said he had been misunderstood.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan blamed the optimistic jobs projection on bureaucratic "number crunchers."

McClellan's explanation came after Treasury Secretary John Snow and Commerce Secretary Donald Evans declined to endorse the projection while on a bus trip in the Pacific Northwest to plug the president's economic program.

"My crystal ball is not any clearer than anybody else's," Evans said Wednesday when asked about the projection.

Marc Racicot, national chairman of the Bush-Cheney 2004 re-election campaign, said today he thinks the story has been "elevated beyond what it is."

"It's been mischaracterized," he said on NBC's "Today" show. "This is an economic model. ... Take a look: 112,000 new jobs produced in January."

Racicot called the economic report's references to job-creation "a theoretical discussion by economists. What the report actually produces is every degree of evidence to suggest that this economy is poised for recovery."

The flap comes as Bush is fending off attacks from Democrats over the 2.2 million payroll jobs lost on his watch, the worst job-creation record of any president since Herbert Hoover.

"I think there's a combination of a little bit of tone deafness on the part of some of the economic appointees, coupled with a little economic deafness on the part of others in the administration," said David Wyss, chief economist for Standard and Poor's in New York.

"Even if it's better for the country in the long run, you've got to do something for the people who get run over by the truck on the way," Wyss said.

Bush fired his first treasury secretary, Paul O'Neill, in December 2002 after O'Neill questioned the need for a fresh round of tax cuts.

Lawrence Lindsey was forced out at the same time as director of the president's National Economic Council after suggesting that a war with Iraq could cost $100 billion to $200 billion.

Bush is trying to show that the economy is rebounding and that dramatic job gains are on the way. There have been no clear signs of strong job production, and Bush's economic performance is under daily attack by Democratic presidential candidates John Kerry of Massachusetts and John Edwards of North Carolina, both senators.

Kerry called the president's economic policies "insane."

"What planet do they live on?" Edwards said after Mankiw told reporters that "outsourcing" U.S. jobs to India and elsewhere "is probably a plus for the economy in the long run" because it reduces costs for U.S. consumers and companies.

No matter that many mainstream economists agree with Mankiw or that he has apologized for seeming to be insensitive to workers who have lost their jobs.

"Economists and non-economists speak very different languages," Mankiw, a Harvard economist, told the National Economist Club this week.

His remarks caused a firestorm that included a rare rebuke from the top House Republican, Speaker Dennis Hastert. Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle predicted Mankiw would follow O'Neill and Lindsey out the door, although White House officials say the president stands by him. Six Democratic senators also sent Bush a letter lambasting the administration for both episodes.

Bush has tried to calm the dispute by telling audiences, "There are people looking for work because jobs have gone overseas."

On Wednesday, he steered away from specific job projections, saying he was pleased that 366,000 new jobs have been added since August. "I think the economy's growing and I think it's going to get stronger," he said.

Critics suggest a general lack of appreciation by the administration that the current economic recovery is one of the weakest in history for job growth.

Democrats accuse Bush and his advisers of caring more about the stock market than the jobs market. They point to Feb. 6 remarks by Labor Secretary Elaine Chao after a report showing 112,000 jobs were created in January, fewer than the 150,000 that had been forecast. Economists called the report disappointing.

"The stock market is, after all, the final arbiter. And the stock market was very strong this morning in reaction to the news that we have just received," Chao told CNN.

Gene Sperling, a top economic adviser in the Clinton White House, said comments such as Mankiw's on outsourcing "struck a chord of vulnerability and sensitivity about the overall record and attitude of President Bush's economic polices."

Search for missing woman turns up remains in home of fugitive

NEW YORK (AP) — A woman's body was found buried in cement at the former New Jersey home of a fugitive wanted for posing as a doctor.

The body was found Wednesday by detectives looking for Maria Cruz, a financial analyst who vanished from Manhattan last year. Cruz, 35, was last seen April 13.

Dean Faiello, of Newark, N.J., became a focus of the missing person investigation after police learned that Cruz may have had an appointment with him shortly before she disappeared, authorities said.

An autopsy was being performed on the body and results were pending.

Faiello was arrested in 2002 for allegedly practicing without a license. But he continued to work at a skin clinic in Manhattan before fleeing to Costa Rica in September, authorities said.

A New York City detective learned that around the time of the disappearance, Faiello had several bags of cement delivered to his home, prosecutors in New Jersey said. The cement was used to build a raised platform in a carriage house, they said.

Armed with a search warrant Wednesday, detectives found the remains inside a large suitcase that had been encased in the cement, prosecutors said.

Today's chuckle

Man gives AF replica of B-17 he crashed

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AP) — Six decades after his B-17 crash-landed in France, William Sheaves made amends by giving the Air Force an exquisitely detailed flying replica he built.



"Sixty-some years ago, I broke one of your airplanes," Sheaves told Peterson Air Force Base commander Brig. Gen. Duane Deal on Tuesday. "Here's a replacement."

Sheaves was the flight engineer aboard the B-17 that was shot down in 1943. Using plans from Boeing Co., which built the workhorse bomber, he built a radio-controlled model with a 10-foot wingspan.

Like the original, his model is powered by four gasoline engines with triple-blade props. It has movable gun turrets, working bomb bay doors and retractable landing gear.

He flew the model only once. It's so complicated it takes two people to operate.

Sheaves was captured by the Germans after his plane was shot down. After a career in the Army, he retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1975 and then started work on his model.

It is on public display at the Air and Space Museum at Peterson, in Colorado Springs.

World Almanac

Thursday, Feb. 19, 2004

Today is the 50th day of 2004 and the 60th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1807, former U.S. Vice President Aaron Burr was arrested for treason.

In 1861, serfdom was abolished in Russia.

In 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which led to the internment of Japanese-Americans.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543), astronomer; Stan Kenton (1912-1979), jazz musician; Lee Marvin (1924-1987), actor; Smokey Robinson (1940-), singer, is 64; Amy Tan (1952-), writer, is 52.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1995, Hakeem Olajuwon of the Houston Rockets got the 10,000th rebound of his NBA career.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Let no one expect anything of certainty from astronomy." — Nicolaus Copernicus

TODAY'S FACT: As of 2002, France got 78 percent of its electricity from nuclear power, more than any other nation except Lithuania (80 percent).

TODAY'S NUMBER: 29,035 — Height in feet of Mount Everest, world's highest mountain.

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (Feb. 13) and new moon (Feb. 20)

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events

LOTTO TEXAS™ TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Wednesday's Lottery Numbers

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 16-21-22-32-39. Bonus Ball: 09.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: $24,910.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 5. Prize: $4,522.

Number matching four of five: 425. Prize: $114.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 405. Prize: $106.

Number matching three of five: 16,388. Prize: $5.

Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 5,056. Prize: $5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 23,783. Prize: $3.

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: $10,000,000.

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 05-11-14-16-34.

Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: $39,553.

Winning tickets sold in: Houston, Main Food Store.

Matching four of five: 138. Prize: $129.

Matching three of five: 4,193. Prize: $10.

Matching two of five: 42,912. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Pick 3

(Day) 8-2-8

(Night) 3-3-4

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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CORONATION SWEETHEARTS — Sweethearts and escorts participating in the Mr. and Miss SHS coronation included from left, bottom row, Kelsi Shaw, football; Erin Burleson, boys track, cross country; Bobby Hernandez, FCCLA; Aurelie Semillon, exchange student from France; Pasha Porysev, exchange student from Russia; Emily Long, FFA; Arthur Hernandez, cross country. On the top row are Sid Gutierrez, escort of Shaw; Krista-Anne Burleson, escort of B. Hernandez; Paul Jackson, escort of Semillon; Jaedi Baze, escort of Porysev; Michael Parsley, escort of Long; and Casey Gregory, escort of A. Hernandez. Sweethearts and escorts were recognized prior to the announcement of Mr. and Miss SHS Kelsi Johnson and Sterling Millhollon. (Staff Photos by Jo Ann Nunley)



MORE SWEETHEARTS AND ESCORTS — Other sweethearts and their escorts recognized during the Mr. and Miss SHS coronation were, bottom row, Katherine Johnson, power lifting; Blake Robertson, drama; Meagan Langham, National Honor Society; Sharena Lewis, DECA; Anna Henson, FCA; and Cami Trout, boys golf. Top row, Jake Guzman, power lifting; Coleman Welch, drama; Rankin Hardin, National Honor Society; Anthony Perez, DECA; Josh Kemp, FCA; Wyl Wiggins, girls golf.



OTHER SWEETHEARTS AND ESCORTS — Also recognized as sweethearts and escorts during the Mr. and Miss SHS coronation included, bottom row, Ricia Gordon, Technology Students Association; Corie Hernandez, SHS Today; Beth Clements, student council; Andra Dunham, tennis; On the top row are D'Angelo Davis, Technology Students Association; Justin Cox, SHS Today; Austin Hatfield, student council; Joseph Ynguanzo, tennis. The event was held in Worsham Auditorium.

Jennifer Aniston promoting film in London

LONDON (AP) — Jennifer Aniston says she's looking forward to leaving "Friends" character Rachel Green behind after a decade on the hit NBC sitcom.

Aniston, in London Wednesday to promote her new romantic comedy, "Along Came Polly," said she'll always be grateful for the character that made her famous, but she wants to focus on big-screen roles.

"I loved 'Friends' so much, and I don't know how you would follow that act (on television)," she said. "No one can say, 'I would never go back to that, ever.' But for now, I feel like I've done it."

The final episode of "Friends" is due to be aired in May.

Aniston, 35, said she'd like to do more films such as 2002's "The Good Girl," in which she played against type as a frumpy and miserable small-town store clerk.

"It's so easy to be boxed into one part and one part only," she said at a news conference. But, she added: "I think there are opportunities for women in comedy. I've had some good luck over the last few years, in spite of the television thing."

NBC has announced that Matt LeBlanc will star in a spinoff series, but Aniston said she has no plans to revisit Rachel — and hopes her fans will let her move on.

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By Phillip Alder

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♥ 4
♦ K Q J 7 6
♣ A Q 8 7 3

West
♠ K Q J
♥ K Q J 8 5
♦ 4
♣ 10 5 4 2

East
♠ 10 9 5
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♦ A 8 3 2
♣ 9 6

South
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♦ 10 9 5
♣ K J

Dealer: West
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
	1 ♥	2 NT	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠ K

Thursday, Feb. 19, 2004

With both minors, think twice

By Phillip Alder

Your right-hand opponent opens one of a major and you have at least 5-5 in the minors with decent values. How do you tell partner?

You make a two-no-trump jump overcall — the Unusual No-Trump. (Overcalling one of a minor with two no-trump shows at least 5-5 in the two lowest unbid suits: hearts and the other minor.)

This is one of my least favorite conventions! You are competing in the minors when the opponents hold the majors. If you lose the auction, which is common, you have given their declarer a road map. But occasionally, you will find a worthwhile sacrifice or, if your side has the balance of power, buy the contract — as in this deal.

After North uses the Unusual No-Trump, what should South do?

Three no-trump is wrong — North is unlikely to win nine quick tricks. Instead, since North will have good suits, especially at the prevailing vulnerability, South should take a shot at five diamonds.

This is a strange deal. If West leads the spade king, declarer does best to duck, cutting the defensive communications. If South wins the first trick and plays on trumps, though, East should twice hold up his ace. Then South must resist the temptation to unblock the king-jack of clubs. If he does unblock, East will win the third diamond, put his partner in with a spade, and receive a club ruff. But if declarer calmly leads a third trump, East has no riposte.

However, if West leads the heart king, South wins and takes two rounds of trumps, East ducking. Now South must unblock his club honors before playing a third trump!

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People are like stained glass windows: they sparkle and shine when the sun's out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is light within.

—Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

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Community Calendar

THURSDAY

Cogdell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary; board room; all members are urged to attend; 10 a.m.

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

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

AA Big Book Study; closed meeting; contact numbers are 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

NA-Just For Today; Park Club; for information call 573-6179; 6-7 p.m.

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club at Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

NA-Just For Today open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-1438; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 10 a.m.

NA-Just For Today; Park Club; for information call 573-6179; 6-7 p.m.

Retired teachers met at Shack

Scurry County Unit of the Texas Retired Teachers Association met at The Shack Feb. 9 for a program by Matt Cross who presented the services available through Comfort Keepers.

Comfort Keepers offers non-medical care in the home. Bobbie Taylor was winner of two hours service by Comfort Keepers.

RTA officers elected to serve 2004-2005 were Margaret Presswood, president; Helen Mock, first vice president; Jerrald Bowen, second vice president; and Geraldine Parker, secretary.

RTA reports accrued volunteer hours of 6,266 in 2003. They meet every second Monday of each month.

Births

Kristi and Brian Bohannon of Snyder announce the birth of their son, Matthew Isaiah Leeander Bohannon, at 7:12 p.m. on Feb. 18 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Matthew weighed eight pounds, 13 ounces.

He also was welcomed by Trinity, Jayson, Brianna, Jacob, Doc and Zaden.

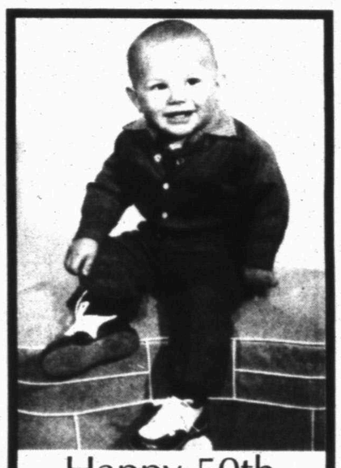
—

We come into this world crying while all around us are smiling. May we so live that we go out of this world smiling while everybody around us is weeping.

—Persian proverb

—

Colorado is also known as the Centennial State.



Happy 50th Birthday
Pop Paw Jackie
Love You Bethany

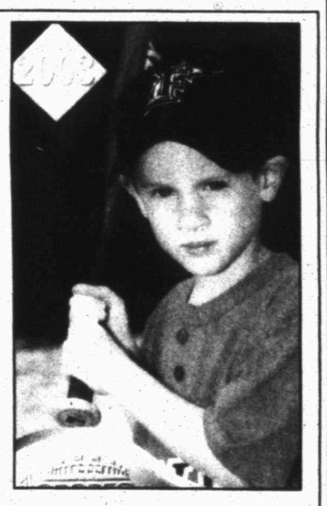
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Whatever they have accomplished, we want you to BRAG with a Brag Ad in the SDN.

Bring a photo and a Brag Message to our office and we'll publish it whenever you want - ***ONLY $25.***

Dylan Hargrove



6 year old son of Leslie and Rafe Hargrove of Austin and grandson of Carolyn & Wade Warren of Snyder and Lana & Raford Hargrove of Rotan.

Dylan is #8 on the Marlins in the LTYA League in Austin. He also plays basketball and loves to snow ski.

Give us their address and we'll mail them a copy of the SDN with their Brag ad in it.

Snyder Daily News
3600 College Ave. 573-5486

FEB 19 2004

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ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



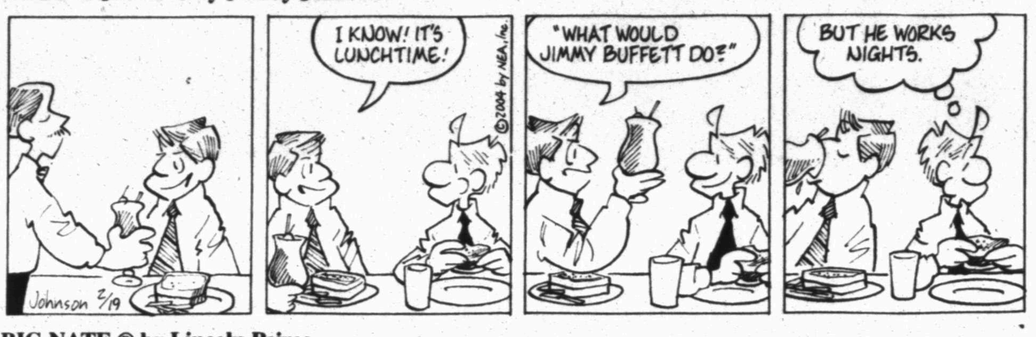
THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



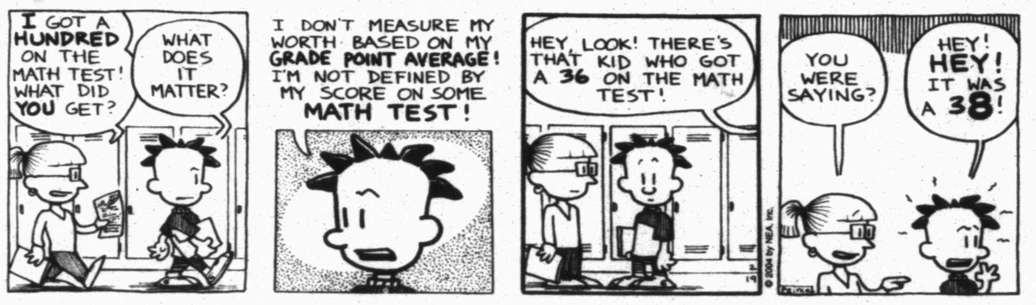
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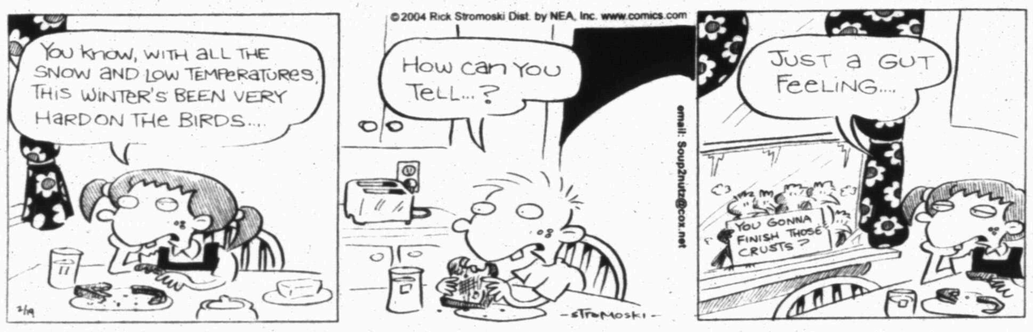
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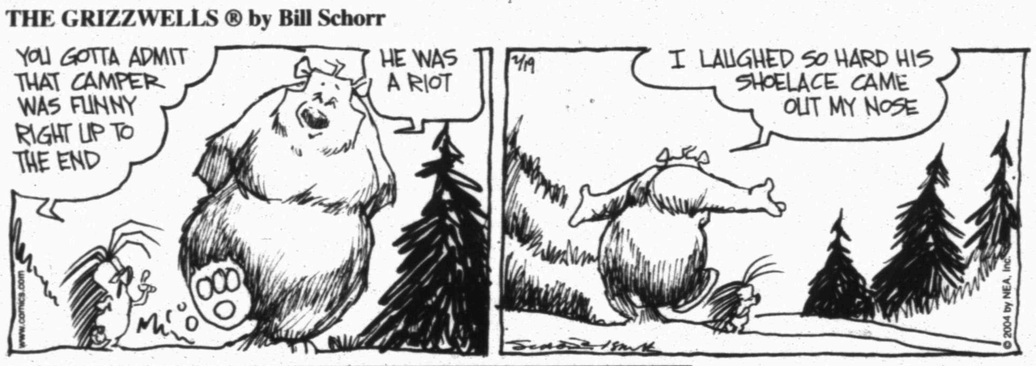
BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"She kept saying the dance floor was lumpy."

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Squeal
5 Crossed a creek
10 Black-belt sport
12 Spud
13 Pack animals
14 Silly tricks
15 Grand Canyon sight
16 Sun, in Acapulco
18 Any yacht
19 Thin slice of veal
23 401(k) cousin
26 Ham on —
27 Yin complement
30 Brawls
32 Talk
34 Linguine topper
35 Horse barn
36 Court jester
37 Originally named
38 Fragment of cloth
39 Fruit juices
42 Off-road vehicle
45 Surprised cries
46 Unrefined metals
50 Wall painting
53 NHL city
55 Antenna
56 Spice rack item
57 Give feedback
58 Finish a salad

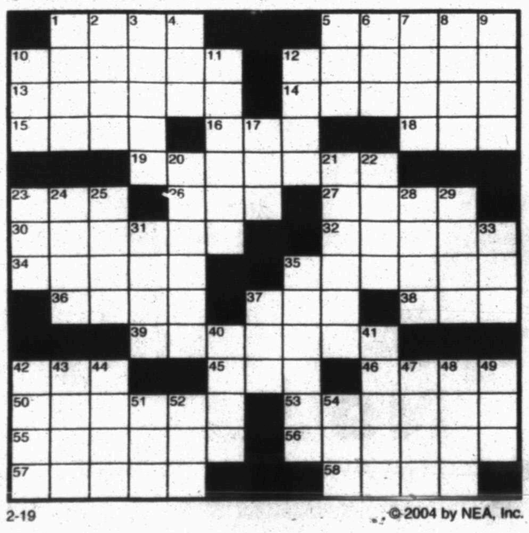
DOWN

1 Harvard rival
2 Important decades
3 Sand mandala builders
4 Educational org.
5 Hit the jackpot
6 LL.D. holder
7 Speaker's platform
8 Engrave
9 Rx amount
10 European airline
11 Themes
12 Lose interest
17 Olsen of vaudeville
20 Bayou dweller
21 Pearl maker
22 Family man
23 Mischievous one
24 Scuba-diving site
25 Plus
28 Lincoln's st.
29 Festival
31 007's alma mater
33 Toga-party delivery
35 Time of year
37 Last degree
40 Refreshing
41 — voce
42 Remote
43 Part of a grove
44 Aloe —
47 Plows into
48 Meadow browsers
49 Mattress problem
51 Incite Rover
52 Tabby
54 Famous mummy

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



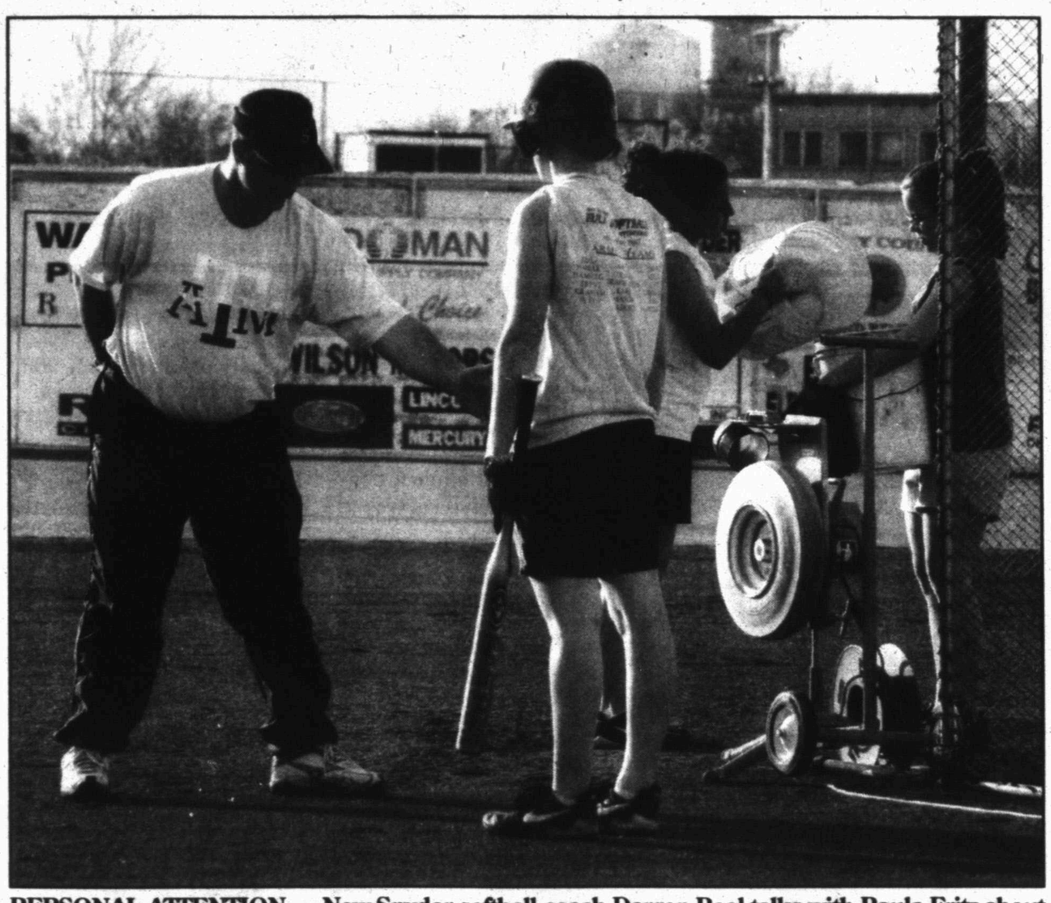
"OH, WELL... IT LOOKS LIKE THE SUN TOOK ANOTHER DAY OFF."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



Best Available Copy

SPORTS



PERSONAL ATTENTION — New Snyder softball coach Darren Pool talks with Paula Fritz about her swing while Erin Hackfeld and Rachel Clanton prepare to reload the pitching machine at practice Wednesday. The Lady Tigers open the season Friday in the Copperas Cove Tournament. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

Lady Tigers rebuild with new coach, roster

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

New Lady Tigers softball coach Darren Pool wants his team to face some adversity.

And he wants it to happen before the playoffs start.

"Our pre-district schedule is tough. I'm not going to go 32-2 and get bounced in the first round," Pool said. "We are going to be playing teams to prepare us."

After going 32-2 last season and rolling through the district, the Lady Tigers were stunned in a one-game playoff by lightly-regarded Perryton.

Now, with a new coach and an entirely new infield, the Lady Tigers and their coach are ready to rebuild — while still keeping their sights on the postseason and another district trophy.

Pool is in his third year coaching high school softball, coming here from Kermit. He graduated in 1997 from UT-Permian Basin in Odessa.

He said he has each player on the team write out their goals prior to the season, seal them up and not talk about them until the end of the season.

"I don't ask what their goals are," he said. "At the end of the season we will see what goals they had and if we met them."

He said he also wants to foster a family atmosphere on the club.

"The team family is real important to me," he said. "One heartbeat is the only way to get it done."

The Lady Tigers open the season Friday in the Copperas Cove Tournament to start a grueling pre-district schedule that will see the Lady Tigers face a number of 5A and 4A schools.

"I want us to take some knocks right off the bat. You have to play up to get better," Pool said.

And while the team lost five seniors from last year's district championship team, the cupboard is not exactly bare for Pool as he begins to implement his system and philosophies.

Seniors Kelsi Johnson, Ashley Martinez and Missy Vasquez bring a wealth of experience from last season, with Martinez and Johnson anchoring the rotation and Vasquez moving back into the infield after playing outfield last season.

"There's a good group out there. They are good athletes and they are hustling," Pool stated. "I'd put these girls up against anyone — that's the confidence I have in them. I think they can play with anyone."

Pool said he will use the Copperas Cove Tournament to determine what positions are solidified and which ones will remain in flux.

"This first tournament, I'm looking for wins, but also this early in the season I'm looking to find players who can play in certain spots," he said.

He said Martinez would take the mound for the first game of the tournament.

Vasquez and Brianna Bernal are in the mix at both shortstop and third base, Johnson will handle the second base duties on the days she is not pitching, and Heather Zajicek will man the catcher spot.

Pool said first base remains an open position, with Martinez expected to see time there, as well as Ashley Luecke and Rachel Clanton.

Laura Clanton, Lindsey Morin, Paula Fritz and Shaela Thompson will play the outfield.

Pool said pitching remains the strength of the squad, with the hitting slowly catching up with each practice. Wednesday's practice session was devoted almost exclusively to hitting.

Pool said a few girls would see time at both the varsity and JV levels, as the JV squad lacks depth in both position players and in the pitching rotation.

Only one player, Terann Ragland, is still in basketball, but Pool is content to get her whenever it may happen.

"It wouldn't hurt my feelings if we didn't get her until mid-March," Pool said, adding that many of the 27 players in the program are very young and somewhat inexperienced. "A lot of these kids it's their first year playing, but we can build them how we want them to be."

Even with the personnel turnover and a new coach, Pool expects the Lady Tigers to compete for the district title and for the team to secure a playoff spot.

"We're going to be there — I know I'll have them prepared, and I know they will answer the call," he said. "We just have to stay focused on one game at a time."

The Lady Tigers open the Copperas Cove Tournament against Junction at 10:30 a.m.

Bike race coming through Snyder

DALLAS — Hundreds of cyclists, community leaders and cancer survivors converged on the Hyatt Regency Dallas at Reunion Tuesday to celebrate the announcement by United Supermarkets and Market Street of the first-ever United Texas Tour, scheduled for fall 2005.

The race, sanctioned by USA Cycling, the official governing body of cycling competitions in the United States, will pass through more than 50 Texas cities with United or Market Street stores.

The winning purse of $175,000 is the largest of its kind in the United States.

The tour, which will begin in the Metroplex and will wind its way from Wichita Falls, through the Panhandle, the South Plains, the Abilene Big Country region, and through Snyder, is expected to draw the top national teams and the best Division I riders in the country. It will travel more than 1,000 miles and will consist of nine stages — some short and others as long as 150 miles in a day.

The event will be a boon for those communities that the tour will pass through, according to United's Chief Marketing Officer, Dan Sanders.

"The economic impact of the race on local communities will be substantial," he said. "Close to 1,000 people will pass through each community, from the racers themselves to the international press and additional members of the racing entourage to tourists from around the world."

The race is also a vehicle to raise funds for the Lance Armstrong Foundation, which aids cancer survivors and their families. It will provide a platform to raise awareness for cancer education and garner support for cancer research.

At the announcement, employees of United and Market Street presented the foundation with a check for $350,000.

All proceeds from the event will be given to the charity.

"We're hoping the money raised by this event will help researchers continue their efforts to find a cure for cancer," Sanders said.

Gary Shifflett, director of United Supermarket in Snyder attended the event, and said the event is expected to have a big effect on the local economy.

"There should be a lot of economic impact," he said. "How well it does in each town will depend on what each community does."

He said it is hoped the statewide race will raise more than the $360 million generated by the Super Bowl in Houston.

Shifflett also said the riders on the tour will not just be passing through each town, but will stop and get acquainted with the community. He said the Snyder store will be working in the months ahead to plan some community events for the race. No concrete date has been set for the launch of the race.

He said it's possible the riders would speak at local schools, adding that it's possible that Armstrong, who has won the Tour de France for five consecutive years, may race.

"I think it's going to be great," he said. "It will be neat if we can get some community things going."

Lady Tigers ready to play after bye week

The Snyder Lady Tigers open the playoffs Friday, facing a Perryton squad fresh off a grueling overtime win over Littlefield.

Snyder (27-2, 10-0) will battle the Rangerettes at 7 p.m. at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, hoping to secure an area trophy in the first playoff game of the Mike Martin era.

While Perryton (18-11, 6-4) already has the confidence and experience from a bi-district victory, the Lady Tigers have the fresh legs, having been idle for a week and a half awaiting word on their area round opponent.

"They are ready to play," Martin said. "They are looking forward to it. It's been 10 days since they played."

one for the Lady Tigers, none of whom have played a playoff basketball game.

The Rangerettes hold a size advantage inside against the Lady Tigers, with a quick, athletic post player in 6-0 senior post Cali Howard who has excellent ball-handling skills.

Martin said the Lady Tigers must do a good job on the boards against Perryton to help counter its inside presence.

Like Erin Burleson for Snyder, Howard is the only senior on her squad.

The Lady Tigers also must continue to get strong play from their guards, particularly point guard Terann Ragland and three-point threat Burleson, against a pair of juniors, Holly Yeary and Jacki McCallie.

District 3-3A third seed Denver City got past Monahans in the bi-district round, and will play number one Canyon in the area round tonight at Lubbock Christian University.

Number two seed Sweetwater runs into third-ranked Muleshoe at 6:30 p.m. Friday in Post, after topping Midland Greenwood in the bi-district round.

ACU tops WTC

Westerner head coach Billy Hefflinger thinks it's just a matter of getting some confidence to get the WTC baseball team over the hump.

"I'm really stressing the need for swagger," he said.

The Westerners fell to Abilene Christian Wednesday, 5-3, dropping to 1-9 on the season.

Eric Brown, Tanyon Reeves, Trey Roberson and Josh Heiney each collected two base hits, with Brown swiping three bases.

The aggressive baserunning has helped put runners in scoring position through the first 10 games, but the team has struggled plating those runners.

"We're doing a good job of getting on base and getting into scoring position," Hefflinger said. "We're going late into games in a position to win. Now we have to find a way to win. That's the biggest thing we're fighting."

WTC opens conference play Friday in El Paso.

Sports Briefs

Baseball scrimmage postponed

Today's baseball scrimmage between the varsity Tigers and Lubbock High has been rescheduled for Friday at 4 p.m.

Knight drops suit against IU

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Bob Knight dropped his breach-of-contract lawsuit against Indiana University almost four years after being fired as its basketball coach.

Knight sued Indiana in 2002, saying it failed to follow proper procedures in dismissing him. He said losing the job cost him $2 million in income from media contracts, basketball camps and endorsements.

Refs halt game after fight

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP) — Referees suspended a game between Rutgers-Camden and Montclair State after a fight under the basket.

The brawl halted the Division III game with 4:03 remaining in the first half.

Area Sports Calendar

FRIDAY

Baseball:	WTC at EPCC, DH, noon.
	Snyder varsity at Lubbock High, scrimmage, 4 p.m.
	Snyder JV vs. Lubbock High, scrimmage, 4 p.m.
Softball:	Snyder varsity at Copperas Cove Tournament
	WTC at Cowtown Classic, Ft. Worth
Golf:	SHS varsity and JV girls in Snyder Tournament
	SHS varsity boys at Burleson
	SHS JV boys at Abilene
Tennis:	Snyder varsity at Sweetwater Tournament

SATURDAY

Baseball:	WTC at EPCC, DH, noon.
Softball:	Snyder varsity at Copperas Cove Tournament
	WTC at Cowtown Classic, Ft. Worth
Golf:	SHS varsity and JV girls in Snyder Tournament
	SHS varsity boys at Burleson
	SHS JV boys at Abilene
Tennis:	Snyder varsity at Sweetwater Tournament
Powerlifting:	SHS at Snyder meet, Scurry County Coliseum
Baseball:	Snyder varsity vs. Midland Lee,scrimmage, 1 p.m.

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE							
Atlantic Division	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	31	14	11	5	78	174	137
New Jersey	30	16	11	1	72	136	114
N.Y. Islanders	28	21	8	2	66	168	146
N.Y. Rangers	21	27	7	4	53	150	170
Pittsburgh	11	40	5	4	31	122	233
Northeast Division	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	32	15	8	4	76	196	127
Toronto	32	16	9	3	76	174	151
Boston	29	14	11	6	75	156	138
Montreal	28	24	6	2	64	146	139
Buffalo	27	26	6	1	61	156	152
Southeast Division	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	31	17	7	3	72	164	130
Florida	20	25	12	3	55	133	159
Atlanta	23	30	6	2	54	163	189
Carolina	18	27	11	2	49	112	146
Washington	18	32	7	2	45	139	182
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	34	16	8	2	78	194	141
Nashville	28	22	7	2	65	148	158
St. Louis	28	22	7	1	64	137	145
Columbus	17	30	8	4	46	122	166
Chicago	16	30	7	5	44	132	170
Northwest Division	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	32	13	10	4	78	178	132
Vancouver	32	18	7	3	74	173	136
Calgary	30	20	5	3	68	144	129
Edmonton	24	26	9	1	58	154	153
Minnesota	20	22	16	2	58	132	134
Pacific Division	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	28	16	11	5	72	151	127
Dallas	28	22	10	0	66	129	135
Los Angeles	22	17	14	7	65	159	159
Anaheim	21	24	8	7	57	133	156
Phoenix	19	23	14	3	55	148	169

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

Wednesday's Games

Florida 1, Buffalo 1, tie
Detroit 5, Phoenix 2
N.Y. Islanders 4, Pittsburgh 3
Nashville 7, San Jose 3
Edmonton 5, Colorado 1
Dallas 4, Los Angeles 3
Anaheim 3, Columbus 1

Today's Games

Toronto at Carolina, 6 p.m.
New Jersey at Washington, 6 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at Ottawa, 6:30 p.m.
Calgary at Montreal, 6:30 p.m.
San Jose at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Boston at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Minnesota, 7 p.m.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	32	20	.615	—
New York	26	29	.473	7½
Boston	23	32	.418	10½
Miami	23	32	.418	10½
Philadelphia	22	32	.407	11
Washington	16	36	.308	16
Orlando	14	42	.250	20
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	39	15	.722	—
Detroit	34	22	.607	6
New Orleans	30	24	.556	9
Milwaukee	28	25	.528	10½
Toronto	25	28	.472	13½
Cleveland	20	34	.370	19
Atlanta	18	36	.333	21
Chicago	16	38	.296	23
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	38	15	.717	—
San Antonio	36	18	.667	2½
Dallas	34	20	.630	4½
Houston	31	22	.585	7
Memphis	31	22	.585	7
Denver	32	23	.582	7
Utah	26	29	.473	13
Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	38	13	.745	—
L.A. Lakers	33	19	.635	5½
Seattle	25	27	.481	13½
Portland	25	28	.472	14
Golden State	23	29	.442	15½
L.A. Clippers	22	30	.423	16½
Phoenix	18	38	.321	22½

Wednesday's Games

Orlando 90, Utah 77
Dallas 114, Cleveland 98
San Antonio 86, Toronto 82
Detroit 102, Milwaukee 98
New Jersey 98, Atlanta 92
New Orleans 120, Washington 98
Portland 101, L.A. Clippers 86
L.A. Lakers 100, Golden State 99

Today's Games

Sacramento at Minnesota, 6:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Seattle, 9 p.m.
Boston at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

The atmosphere will be a new

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Specializing in Briskets & Ribs
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(325) 207-2934 (mobile)

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• Residential • Roustabout • Concrete Work
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Fax: **325-573-8047**
7393 West Hwy 180 Snyder, TX 79549

Electric

DALE'S ELECTRIC
403 33rd St.
Commercial or Residential
573-5330
James c# 207-1228
Dale c# 207-1227

Farm/Dirt Work

• Blade Work
• Fire Breaks / Right of Ways
• Dirt Roads Built or Repaired
• Drives • Terrace Repair
$60/hr. Joe Dan Collier
c# 325-207-0191 573-3655
• Grubbing & Raking
• Stock Tank Cleaning & Building
$65/hr Steve Babcock
c# 207-1820 573-7292

Fitness

Tiger Health & Fitness
3409B Snyder Shopping Center
573-3414
Membership includes:
*24 hr access 7 days/wk *Group classes
*Over 5000 lbs of free weights *Circuit weights
*Cardio equip. *6000 sq.ft. facility
Also available:
*Certified personal trainers
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Stewart Insurance Services
• GREAT RATES
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All Lines of Insurance
904 26th St. Snyder, TX
573-8401

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573-4076

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Straight Line Masonry
*Brick *Block *Stone
*Custom Fireplaces
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Repairs - Houses
Retaining Walls
Free Estimates
Paul Dickerhoff
573-0258 436-9143 (C#)

Plumbing

Telephone
(325) 573-3085
Coventry Plumbing
M-19955
1311 College Ave. Snyder, Texas 79549
Jim Coventry Owner

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10' x 20'
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& Trailer Storage
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573-3255

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• Deep Root Fertilization Injection
• Bucket Truck for those high to reach spots
• Trees & Shrubs Planted & more
21 yrs. experience. References available.
325-573-4937

Complete Field, Lawn & Irrigation Service
** Fertilizer Available **
Foliar feed or Granular
For a healthy lawn call
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(325) 573-0878
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Local support if you buy from us
Internet Business Consulting
Now affiliated with
#1 Internet Consulting Corp.
Free Internet Business Analysis
Internet Access Provider
Dialup and Broadband Wireless
If you have Internet problems, we fix them for free.
Networking, Repairs, Upgrades
In house technician.
Bullard's Computer Solutions, Inc.
3405 College Ave.
573-4801
dbullard@snydertex.com

Business Hours
Monday - Friday 8a.m. – 5:30p.m.
Classified Deadline
Tues. – Fri. 4p.m. the prior day
Sun. & Mon. by 3p.m. on Friday
573-5486

FOR AS LOW AS $2.50 PER DAY
($65 per month)
You Can Advertise Your Services In The
BUSINESS DIRECTORY
Call 573-5486

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

PARALLEL PETROLEUM CORPORATION, P.O. BOX 10587, MIDLAND, TX 79702 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Canyon Lime Area Formation of Lion Diamond -M- Unit Lease Well Number(s) H-6, J-3, J-9, K-9 & L-10. The proposed injection well(s) is/are located 10 Miles Southwest of Snyder, in the Diamond -M- (Canyon Lime Area), in Scurry County.

Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 6610' to 6880'.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792).

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Abilene

Contract 6108-82-001 for REHAB PICNIC AREAS in HOWARD County, etc will be opened on March 18, 2004 at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of $206,928.50.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 12354

State Office

Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div. Office (s)

Abilene District
District Engineer
4250 N. Clack
Abilene, Texas 79604-0150
Phone: 325-676-6800

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex or national origin.

Classified
The link between buyer and seller
573-5486

Lost & Found

LOST
large black/white mix breed dog. Last seen Tues. 2/10, vicinity of CR 466 & S. 208, near Hart Ranch. Call 573-6332 (wk#), ask for Mary.

LOST
Large grey/white female Pit Bull. Also (2) 5-mo. old female Pit Bull puppies, (1 grey/white and 1 black brindle/white). Large reward.
207-3565 573-7702

Personal

Father seeking place to hunt with son. Responsible, Your rules, safety conscious. 6 yr. old wants to learn hunting, Varmints, Rabbits, Deer. Please call 574-2465.

Vehicles

1984 Chevy Caprice Classic 64K actual miles. Extra clean. $1,650 cash 573-6794

1992 "25th Anniversary" blue Camaro. $2,500 573-0699

1994 Dodge Ram 250 Cummins diesel. $7,500 573-3555 or 573-0069 after 5pm.

***1995 Lincoln Town Car** 4-dr, good condition! $3500
***1983 Chevy crew cab**, dually, 1-ton. Needs work. $1,250 OBO
573-1640 207-1622

Motorcycles

1981 Honda Motorcycle Custom 900 $1,200 cash Call 573-2950, leave message.

Business Services

Duke and Son
Concrete, Masonry, House Leveling, Patchwork (brick & concrete). 573-5911, 573-2477

BAR-R-DOZER
-Raygene Shipp-
•Brush control
•Road blading & repair
•Cleaning & building tanks
Free Estimates
No charge for road time!
325-338-5656 325-962-2416

Home Repairs, Remodeling, Painting, Flooring, Tile, Metal Roofing, Fencing, Yards, Trees, Etc.
Free Estimates
Wade 207-1514

Tilling–Leveling
Front-end loader, Walk-behind tiller, Tractor tiller, Small acreage plowed. 325-573-8264

HANDYMAN
Painting, Yard Work, Hauling, Repair Work, Cut Trees, etc.
573-7702 207-3565

Employment

Food service workers needed. Apply in person at cafeteria at Western Texas College.

Fun Fun Fun
now interviewing DJ's, bouncers, bartenders for Shaker's Night Club. Pick up application at Days Inn, 800 E. Hwy 180

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

Best Available Copy

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS
ALWAYS A WINNER

Employment

Housekeeper
needed part-time at Purple Sage Motel, weekdays and some weekends. Needs phone. Must be non-smoker & hard working. Training & uniforms provided. Apply in person.

Mature, dependable person needed for new sales position. Sales assisted training provided. Computer literacy & reliable transportation a must. Salary plus commission. FMI call 207-3010.

MINIMAL PHYSICAL LABOR!
Truck drivers needed. Must be able to travel. No need to relocate. Two years truck driving experience required. Class A CDL and good driving record a must. Call 1-800-588-2669 Mon.–Fri., 8a.m.–5p.m.

National Marketing Company is hiring for PT demonstrators to promote well known products for upcoming in store promotions in local area retail stores in the Snyder and surrounding areas. Must have own card table and white table cloth. Must be comfortable interacting with the public. Please call 1-800-726-0081 ext. 202.

Need students for summer jobs at Fun Valley Family Resort in South Fork, Colorado. Jobs available: office, housekeeping, dining room, horse wrangler, kitchen & others. Salary, room, board, bonus. Write: Personnel Director 9010 Ravenwood Granbury, TX 76049

NEEDED
Immediate openings for CNAs & full-time cook. Apply in person, Snyder Healthcare Center. 573-6332

Part-time Maintenance
20-25hrs. per week.
Experience needed.
Call & leave message, 573-5261.

Wanted: Retirees with own RV for summer employment at Fun Valley Family Resort, South Fork, Colorado for office, housekeeping, cooks, maintenance & RV parks. Write: Personnel Director 9010 Ravenwood Granbury, TX 76049

ATTN: SNYDER
Postal positions. Clerks/carriers/sorters. No exp. required. Benefits. For exam, salary, and testing information call (630)393-3032 ext. 2158 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. 7 days

Instructions

Concealed Handgun Classes
Call Gene Groce
574-2305

Farm Equipment

1950 Ford Tractor w/seven attachments including shredder, tiller, planter & scraper. Call 207-2841 or 573-7874.

CALL FOR RESULTS!
573-5486
CLASSIFIEDS

Merchandise

Blue sofa bed, love seat, coffee table, 1 end table. $400 OBO Twin size brass bed. 573-6390

CONVALESCENT NEEDS
Wheel Chairs, Walkers, Canes, Home Blood Pressure Kits, etc.
Sales & Rentals
3706 College **573-7582**

Firewood!! Mesquite & Oak
Local cutter. Part seasoned.
24"-22"-20"-18". Some split.
Delivered
573-1216, leave message

GUARANTEED USED APPLIANCES
Washers, Dryers, Refrigerators, Ranges & Freezers
WESTERN AUTO 2510 Ave. R

SPECIAL PRICING on freight damaged filing cabinets, lateral file cabinets, desks, storage cabinets, multi-drawer cabinets, chairs, bookcases, conference tables, lockers, break room cabinets, 4-drawer fireproof legal size. Also some used office furniture. **Stephens Office Supply**

Truck scales for sale. See at 1607 25th (old Tex-Pack Bldg). 207-0962

Garage Sales

3-FAMILY INSIDE SALE
806 23rd St.
Friday 8a.m. – 5p.m.
New boy's 32 husky pants, Lots of girl's & boy's clothes, (2) king bed-n-bags (complete), Lots of king sheet sets, Dishes, Clothes, Sesame Street toys & lots more.

GARAGE SALE
2200 45th St.
Friday 3p.m. – 6p.m.
Saturday 7a.m. – ??
Dryer, Ladies size 16 clothes, Tall men's clothes, Lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE
3309 Ave. A
Friday 9:30a.m. – 12:30p.m.
Lots of baby stuff! No early birds!

NOAH'S ATTIC
1503 26th St.
Thursdays & Fridays
10a.m. – 5:30p.m.

OUTSIDE/INSIDE SALE
700 20th St.
Thursday & Friday 8am – 5pm
Washer, Dryer, Bikes, Desk, Curtains, Clothes of all sizes, Lots of household goods, Shoes, Tapes, Computer parts.
A little bit of everything!

Multi-Family Garage Sale
2403 31st St.
Fri. 4 - 7p.m. & Sat. 9 - 11a.m.
Furniture, Children's & adult clothes, Baby accessories, Toys, & lots more! Come see!

Want To Buy

Want To Buy
Fixer upper house.
573-7702 or 207-3565

Apartments For Rent

2 room efficiency apartment.
Bills paid, $225/mo.
Cooper Apartments
573-7759

For best results, use Snyder Daily News classifieds. They really work! 573-5486

GARAGE/ESTATE SALE

GARAGE/ESTATE SALE
Sat. Feb. 21 8:30a.m. – 5:30p.m.
Sun., Feb. 22 1:00p.m. – 5:00p.m.
309 & 311 Campbell St. Loraine, TX
REAL ESTATE (2 HOMES ON 3 LOTS TO BE OFFERED AT 11 A.M. SAT. BY PUBLIC AUCTION)
Partial listing only!!!
Brass & Iron Daybed, Dining Table & Chairs, Dresser, Chest of Drawers, Nice Gas Cookstove, 2 Old Trunks, Bookcases, Wooden Chairs, Icebox Bar, Wardrobe, Cedar Chest, Twin Size Metal Bed, Metal Pantry, Old Quilts, 2 Lg. Oval Frames w/convex glass, Whirlpool Washer & Gas Dryer, Roper Refrigerator, Sm. Sofa, Coffee Tables, Sm. Freezer, Lots of Dishes, Pewter Tea Set, Sad Irons, Rooster Collection, Cast Iron Skillets, Kerosene Lamps, Lots of Rugs, Books, New Microwave, Metal Lawn Chairs plus Lots & Lots & Lots of Sm. Items (what-nots, linens, towels & etc) Electric Blankets.
"No Early Sales"

Apartments For Rent

Fieldcrest Apartments
1 bedroom/1 bath - $325
(very big bedroom)
2 bedroom/1+ bath - $350
***We pay water**
***You pay electricity**
700 E. 37th
(across from coliseum)
573-3519 573-1681

$99 Move In Special
Western Crest & Windridge Village
3901 Ave. O
Snyder, TX
573-1488
1 Bedroom. 1 Bath. Pool
2 Bedrooms. 2 bath
W/D Connections. Pool & Playground

Houses For Rent

FOR RENT
2 bedroom house. 2110 27th
$200/dep., $350/mo.
573-2818

Sale/Rent
2 bedroom brick house with garage on corner lot.
$300/mo., low deposit.
573-8699

Mobile Homes

CUTE LITTLE HOUSE
Very affordable.
Call (325)673-7353.

Ø DOWN LAND & HOME
NO CREDIT NECESSARY.
Call SYNERGY HOMES, your land/home experts.
(325)673-8488

Owner '99 Fleetwood 16x56 2 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A in Hermleigh (no land). $9,300 817-579-5965

Used Homes Under $10,000
Call Ron @ (325)725-4133.

Commercial Buildings for Sale or Lease

Office/shop building, with fenced yard, Old Post Rd. off College Ave. 573-0972, 575-2901, or 573-2461

Real Estate

2-1, excellent location, new roof. Very nice! Great starter home. $20,000 863-2723, leave message.

For Sale By Owner
Owner financing provided. Low down payment, low monthly. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 living areas, fenced backyard, close to schools. 418 29th St. Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

For Sale By Owner
Owner financing available. Low down payment. 3725 Rose Circle
505-937-1195

For Sale By Owner
Owner financing provided. Low down, low monthly. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 133 Milburn. Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

Owner Will Finance
*2811 Ave. X 3-1
Low down payment, low monthly payment.
Call Milton, 806-790-0827.

Classified
The link between buyer and seller
573-5486

Long-suppressed report details FBI agent firings for crimes

WASHINGTON (AP) — An internal FBI report kept under wraps for three years details dozens of cases of agents fired for egregious misconduct and crimes, including drug trafficking, attempted murder, theft, misuse of informants and consorting with prostitutes.

The report, released Wednesday by Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, found that about one in 1,000 agents was dismissed for serious misconduct or criminal offenses by the FBI during the period examined, from 1986 to 1999. The average was between eight and nine per year.

Although the numbers were small, the FBI's attempts to prevent the report's disclosure from the public and Congress since its completion in June 2000 is raising questions among FBI critics about an attempt to avoid embarrassment.

Grassley, a senior member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said in a letter Wednesday to FBI Director Robert Mueller that he was concerned about "a lack of response to the findings and recommendations, a general lack of support for the project and even efforts to prevent its completion."

Grassley said the report "almost never saw the light of day." It was only provided to lawmakers in July 2003, months after it was requested, and was accompanied by a Justice Department letter urging that it be kept confidential.

The FBI did not immediately comment on the letter or report.

The report was prepared by the FBI's Behavioral Sciences and Law Enforcement Ethics unit in an effort to identify trends among agents dismissed for serious offenses and determine if there were warning signs prior to the misconduct that led to their firings.

The report lists the circumstances — minus names, dates and locations — of more than 70 dismissals, including:

—An agent who was abusive to his family and used his FBI weapon to shoot his wife, resulting in attempted murder charges.

—One agent who was calling sex hot lines on FBI phones while on duty.

—Several agents who had improper sexual relationships with confidential informants or prostitutes, sometimes in FBI vehicles. One agent pleaded guilty to manslaughter for the killing of a female informant with whom he had "an inappropriate emotional and sexual relationship."

—Agents who disclosed sensitive or classified material to outsiders, including representatives of foreign governments and criminal enterprises.

—Firings stemming from drug, alcohol or gambling problems. One agent stole more than $400,000 in informant funds to feed his gambling and drinking problems; another used crack cocaine regularly and was arrested for possession of crack pipes.

—An agent who attempted to sell cocaine to someone who turned out to be an undercover FBI agent.

The report concluded that some of these agents were hired even though a background check had revealed negative information about them. Sometimes the check itself was not thorough enough. Before their firings, some agents exhibited "markers" for potential misconduct, such as a history of emotional or psychological problems or evidence of substance abuse.

Release of the report comes amid a separate review of the way the FBI investigates employee wrongdoing and imposes discipline. That review, by former Attorney General Griffin Bell and ex-FBI executive Lee Colwell, has been completed in draft form but is not yet ready for public release, FBI officials said.

On the Net:
FBI: http://www.fbi.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. 5113

APPLICATION Scurry County Gin, Inc., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for the renewal of Air Quality Permit No. 5113 which would authorize continued operation of the Cotton Gin located at 4288 West 180, Snyder, Scurry County, Texas. The facility will emit the following air contaminants: unburned hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and particulate matter.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on January 27, 2004. The application is available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Abilene regional office, and the Scurry County Courthouse, 1806 25th Street, Snyder, Scurry County, Texas. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Abilene regional office of the TCEQ.

The TCEQ executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. Information in the application indicates that this permit renewal would not result in an increase in allowable emissions and would not result in the emission of an air contaminant not previously emitted. **The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

PUBLIC COMMENT You may submit public comments, or a request for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. **The deadline to submit public comments is 15 days after newspaper notice is published.** After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to address in the permit process.

After the technical review is complete the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. If only comments are received, the response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will then be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who is on the mailing list for this application, unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING You may request a contested case hearing. The applicant or the executive director may also request that the application be directly referred to a contested case hearing after technical review of the application. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. Unless a written request for a contested case hearing is filed within 15 days from this notice, the executive director may act on the application. **If no hearing request is received within this 15-day period, no further opportunity for hearing will be provided.** According to the Texas Clean Air Act § 382.056(o) a contested case hearing may only be granted if the applicant's compliance history is in the lowest classification under applicable compliance history requirements and if the hearing request is based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission may only grant a hearing on those issues raised during the public comment period and not withdrawn.

A person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility is entitled to request a hearing. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number, and fax number, if any; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; and (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility. If the request is made by a group or association, the one or more members who have standing to request a hearing and the interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns. Requests for a contested case hearing must be submitted in writing within 15 days following this notice to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

If any requests for a contested case hearing are timely filed, the executive director will forward the application and any requests for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. Unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing, the executive director will mail the response to comments along with notification of Commission meeting to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for this application. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact relating to relevant and material air quality concerns raised during the comment period.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

MAILING LIST In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk for this application.

INFORMATION Written public comments and requests for a contested case hearing must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711- 3087. If you need more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at our web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us.

Further information may also be obtained from Scurry County Gin, Inc., 4288 West 180, Snyder, Texas 79549 or by calling Mr. Kelley Green, Director of Technical Services at (512) 476-8388.

Issuance Date: February 2, 2004

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	16.11	15.70	15.97	+.39
AT&T Corp	20.60	20.12	20.47	+.38
Albertsons	23.93	23.71	23.83	+.08
Alltel	51.90	51.72	51.81	—.09
AmEl Pw	34.27	34.00	34.00	—.08
AndarkPtr	51.30	50.98	51.04	—.09
ATMOS Egy	26.70	26.52	26.63	+.11
Aviall	15.50	15.43	15.44	+.01
BP PLC	48.34	48.10	48.27	+.37
BakerHughes	36.45	35.87	36.15	+.01
Bank of Amer	81.75	81.41	81.41	—.16
BellSouth	28.51	27.51	27.53	—.83
BurlNoSFe	32.50	32.19	32.39	+.15
Caterpillar	79.63	79.09	79.46	+.55
CenterPoint	10.68	10.56	10.67	+.17
ChevronTex	87.20	86.91	87.07	+.45
Citigroup	49.97	49.62	49.76	+.20
CocaCola	51.24	50.85	51.06	—.18
ColgatePal	56.20	55.61	56.15	+.65
CmclMetals	30.86	30.05	30.05	—.51
ConocoPhill	68.65	68.27	68.48	+.30
Cooper Inds	57.15	56.10	56.10	—.57
DaimlrChry	46.79	46.40	46.62	—.27
DeltaAirLines	9.94	9.75	9.86	+.12
Dillards Inc	17.53	17.31	17.31	—.03
DowChem	43.74	43.44	43.57	+.07
DuPont	45.75	45.36	45.69	+.54
EastmanChem	43.20	42.70	42.85	+.29
EstKodak	29.14	28.72	29.06	+.23
EDS Corp	20.70	20.10	20.15	—.55
Entergy	59.50	59.16	59.16	—.31
ExxonMobil	42.16	41.87	42.09	+.29
FootLocker	25.95	25.55	25.72	+.17
GenDynam	96.50	95.69	95.69	—.08
GenElec	33.10	32.87	32.95	+.20
GenMills	44.80	44.42	44.73	+.03
GenMotors	49.50	49.10	49.23	+.34
GaPacific	30.48	29.90	30.46	+.31
Goodrich	30.58	30.29	30.46	+.19
Goodyear	8.40	8.12	8.29	+.20
GtAtlPac	8.13	7.89	8.00	+.13
Halliburtn	31.24	30.83	31.10	+.15
Hanson PLC	42.75	42.40	42.55	+1.10
HarteHanks	22.62	22.55	22.57	+.12
HomeDepot	36.31	35.75	35.75	—.14
Honeywellintl	36.40	36.00	36.30	+.53
IBM	99.23	98.42	98.66	+.24
IntlPaper	43.49	42.94	43.44	+.58
JohnsonJn	54.15	53.63	53.66	—.23
KinderMorg	60.70	60.45	60.50	+.25
Kroger Co	19.05	18.81	19.00	+.07
LockheedM	48.98	48.65	48.68	—.07
Lowes Cos	58.04	57.55	57.80	+.33
Lubys	3.65	3.61	3.63	—.03
LucentTech	4.26	4.11	4.11	—.09
MarathonOil	34.31	33.91	34.23	+.33
MayDeptStr	36.13	35.73	36.00	+.27
Medtronic	48.62	48.22	48.30	+.05
Motorola	17.49	17.20	17.41	+.36
NCR Corp	45.68	45.22	45.22	—.09
Navistar	48.90	48.26	48.45	—.05
PNM Rescs	31.58	31.16	31.16	—.32
Penney JC	28.59	28.27	28.41	+.19
PepBoys	22.80	22.31	22.60	+.30
PepsiCo	51.75	51.39	51.65	+.38
PhelpDodge	83.00	80.92	81.30	—1.02
PilgrimsPride	21.15	20.51	20.61	—.29
Praxair s	37.37	36.65	37.07	+.82
ProctGamb	103.25	102.70	102.91	—.04
RadioShack	36.24	34.90	35.65	+2.34
RoyalDut	48.26	48.05	48.23	+.47
SBC Comm	24.54	24.39	24.41	—.04
SaraLee	21.55	21.37	21.49	+.15
Scripps EW	100.90	100.00	100.08	—.42
SearsRoeb	46.28	45.91	46.03	+.17
SherwinW	36.09	35.85	35.87	+.11
SouthernCo	30.11	29.91	30.05	+.14
SwstAirl	15.00	14.70	14.74	—.05
SprintFON	18.92	18.58	18.91	+.29
SprintPCS	10.11	9.71	9.86	+.01
Sunoco Inc	59.39	58.62	58.67	+.01
TXU Corp	25.15	24.92	24.96	—.04
TempleInland	64.21	63.60	64.15	+.57
TexInd	36.54	36.42	36.53	+.16
TexasInst	32.02	31.60	31.75	+.31
Textron	56.81	56.02	56.50	+.53
TimeWarner	17.89	17.78	17.79	+.04
TrinityInds	32.45	32.01	32.02	—.18
TylerTech	9.76	9.48	9.65	+.35
UnionPacif	64.49	64.12	64.25	+.23
USSteel	36.42	35.75	35.82	—.11
UnitedTech	97.80	97.00	97.21	—.15
Unocal	37.09	36.75	37.03	+.40
VerizonComm	38.15	37.58	37.58	—.53
WalMart	58.95	57.55	57.92	+.72
WellsFargo	57.16	56.82	57.00	+.05
WstnGasRs	49.79	49.06	49.40	+.10
WinnDixie	6.52	6.38	6.38	—.10
Xerox Cp	15.35	15.12	15.16	—.10
YumBrands	35.74	35.50	35.51	+.14

Author has baby

LONDON (AP) — Helen Fielding, author of "Bridget Jones's Diary," has given birth to a son.

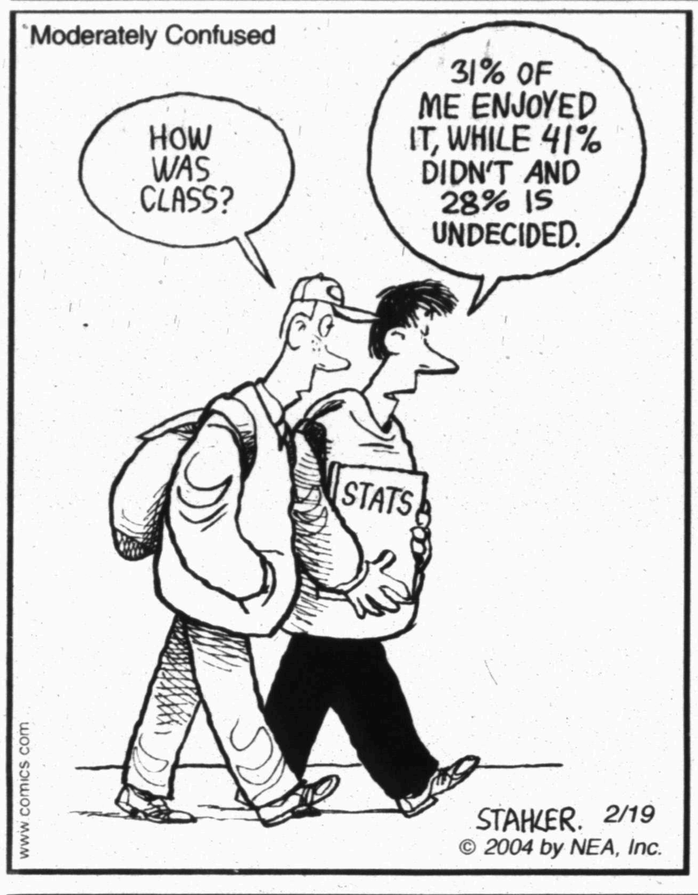
The 7 pound, 5-ounce boy was born to Fielding and her partner, Kevin Curran, on Feb. 11 at Cedars-Sinai hospital in Los Angeles, the author's London publicists said Wednesday.

"The baby currently has 12 names but we are working on narrowing it down a bit!" the couple said in a statement.

Fielding's "Bridget Jones" character became known to movie audiences worldwide with 2001's "Bridget Jones' Diary," starring Renee Zellweger.

FEB 19 2004

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U.S. soldier charged with trying to help al-Qaida terrorists

FORT LEWIS, Wash. (AP) — A National Guardsman is accused of trying to pass intelligence to U.S. military personnel who were posing as al-Qaida operatives, allegedly telling the phony terrorists that "I share your cause."

Spc. Ryan G. Anderson is charged with three counts involving attempts to supply intelligence to the enemy. He was charged Feb. 12, but the Army did not immediately release that information until Wednesday.

The Uniform Military Code says attempts to aid the enemy can be punishable by death. The charges do not allege that Anderson ever actually passed information to real al-Qaida members.

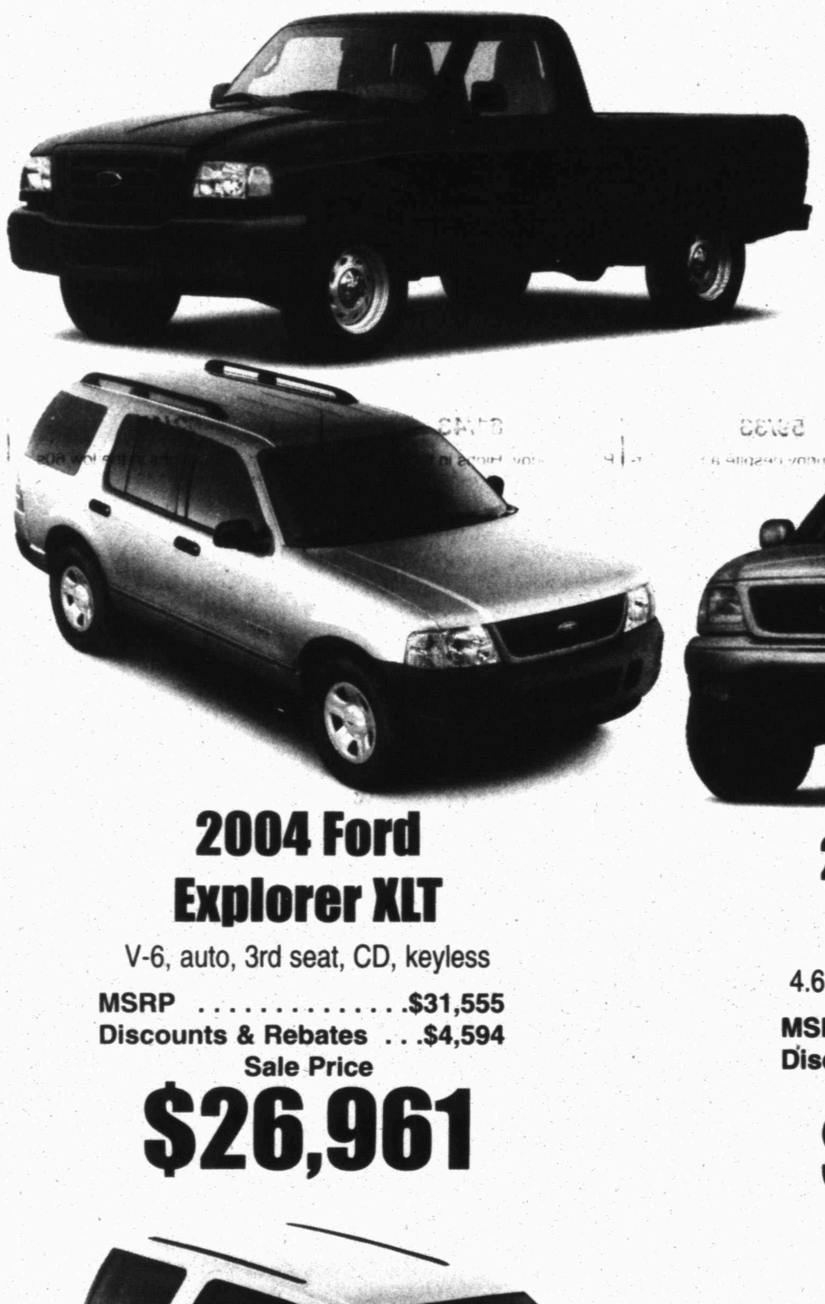
In the first count, Anderson, also known as "Amir Abdul Rashid," is alleged to have attempted to provide information about U.S. Army troop strength, movements, equipment, tactics and weapons systems, as well as methods of killing U.S. Army personnel and vulnerabilities of Army weapons systems and equipment.

Anderson is also alleged to have communicated by "oral, written and electronic communication" to the supposed "terrorists" that "I wish to meet with you, I share your cause, I wish to continue contact through conversations and personal meetings."

The second charge alleges Anderson passed sketches of the M1A1 and M1A2 tanks, as well as a computer disc with such personal ID's as his passport photo, weapons card and military ID card.

The last charge alleges he "wrongfully and dishonorably" provided information on Army troop strength, movements and equipment.

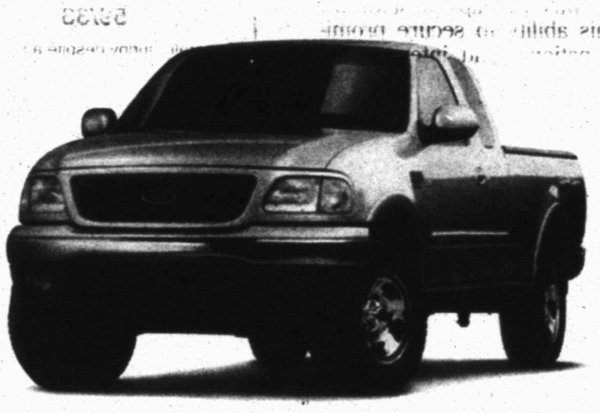
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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Five-year-old girls should not be walking home alone

DEAR ABBY: When my husband or I pick up our 7-year-old daughter at school — seven blocks from our home — we often see two 5-year-old girls who attend the same school. They walk the whole way home by themselves and pass our block every day. There are major intersections they must cross to get home. My daughter tells me that sometimes they don't look before stepping into the street. At one intersection, the light changes before you can reach the other sidewalk, and even I have to run before the traffic starts moving.

I am afraid for these children. Other parents have mentioned seeing them navigating the streets alone. To me that means there could be a predator watching, too.

On the days that my husband or I walk, we wouldn't mind inviting these little ones to walk with us. I want to give their guardians a note saying so, but the girls were probably told not to talk to strangers. I don't want a predator to see me talking to the children and realize there is no one protecting them.

Please tell me what I should do. **— AFRAID FOR THE CHILDREN**

DEAR AFRAID: You have every reason to be concerned. It frightens me to hear about two 5-year-olds walking home without supervision. Talk to the school principal about this so he or she can contact the parents. If that doesn't solve the problem, report it to the police. It is child endangerment.

**

DEAR ABBY: Last February, my husband suffered an anoxic brain injury — lack of oxygen to the brain. Needless to say, he is no longer the man he was.

Our friends have all disappeared. They tell me it's hard for them to see him like this. How do they think I feel?

Am I wrong to feel hurt? I don't understand why they can't even call. Talking has always been an outlet for me, but no one ever calls me anymore. No one knows how someone else feels until they've been there, but what happened to, "I'll be there for you," or "Call if you need me"? I wouldn't ask them for anything but conversation.

Is it normal for people to avoid friends when they are in trouble or pain? **— FRIENDLESS IN GEORGIA**

DEAR FRIENDLESS: It's human, it's common — but it's cowardly. You have my sympathy, but it's time you stopped waiting for calls that never come and do something on your own behalf. Rather than dwelling on how these supposed "friends" have let you down, your time would be better spent with a caregiver support group. You'll find you have much in common. Locate one by calling the National Family Caregivers Association, toll-free, at (800) 896-3650, or visiting the Web site at www.nfcacares.org. There is also an organization called Faith in Action that offers respite care to caregivers like yourself. The toll-free number is (877) 324-8411. Adult day care for your husband could give you some much-needed time to rest and rejuvenate. Please consider it.

**

DEAR ABBY: Once you have been married and then divorced, must you always check "divorced" when filling out forms? Or is there a time when you can go back to "single"? **— STEPHANIE IN GAINESVILLE, FLA.**

DEAR STEPHANIE: I'm not sure what kinds of forms you're referring to. Frankly, I find the question presumptuous, and I don't see why either has to be marked — unless it's for something like an insurance form or a background check.

**

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

**

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

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Friday, Feb. 20, 2004

The year ahead could yield the type of lucky breaks which have always seemed to go to others rather than to you. Lady Luck is telling you it is your turn, so get ready to take advantage of what she has to offer.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — A situation may be floating around today from which you could earn a commission or derive some type of special benefit. It might have something do with helping another nail down a deal.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today, several things you've been hoping to accomplish have excellent chances of becoming realities. Don't easily give up on your dreams and aspirations.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Throw your full weight behind your endeavors today as only you can, and several meaningful objectives that have been difficult to accomplish can be achieved. Don't use half-measures.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Someone who holds you in high esteem may offer to work on acquiring the information or answers you need in order to move forward on a personal matter. It'll be a big help.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You could reap some rather substantial benefits today from a situation where your primary purpose will be to help another further one of his or her own ambitions. It'll be a win-win situation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Because you'll present your points in such a humorous, harmonious fashion, others will readily respond to your ideas and suggestions today. You'll wisely use your winning ways to gain allies.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — If you don't know it by now, something in which you're presently involved has far greater potential and promise than you first thought. Start probing for new possibilities today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — This is an excellent day to do something with one to whom you are sociably obligated. Attempt to make it a memorable experience; wine and dine this individual at a special place.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Important matters that have been difficult to conclude can be successfully wrapped up today if you prepare a workable plan and are willing to put forth the effort to accomplish your aims.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Your natural skills as a salesperson can be even more spectacular than usual today by promoting something that holds benefits of equal significance for all who get involved.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Factors can be put in place today that could provide more opportunities than usual to improve your financial position. Put money matters at the top of your agenda.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — If you've come up with something terrific, don't be afraid to toot your own horn today. Ventures, projects or enterprises that you originate and personally direct should work out well.

Get a jump on life by understanding the influences which are governing you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph year ahead predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

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Best Available Copy

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Jobless claims fall sharply

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of people filing new claims for unemployment benefits fell sharply last week, offering hope that companies may be feeling better about business conditions and less inclined to hand out pink slips.

The Labor Department reported today that for the work week ending Feb. 14, new applications filed for jobless benefits plunged by a seasonally adjusted 24,000 to 344,000. It marked the largest decline since the beginning of November and left claims at their lowest level since the week ending Jan. 24.

That was better than economists were expecting. They were forecasting claims to decrease to a level of around 351,000 for last week. Part of last week's decline reflected fewer layoffs in weather-sensitive businesses in some parts of the country that had been previously hard hit by winter's harsh weather, a Labor Department analyst said.

After hitting a high last year of 459,000 in the middle of April, the number of new jobless claims since then has been drifting downward.

Even as companies have reduce the speed at which they lay off workers they havent' been in a rush to hire people back. Job growth has been painfully slow.

Today's report also showed that the number of unemployed people collecting jobless benefits for more than a week rose by 106,000 to 3.2 million for the week ending Feb. 7, the most recent period for which that information is available. This suggests that jobs are still hard to find for some workers.

The report comes as recent Bush administration comments about the job climate touched a political nerve and raise questions about the White House's economic grasp.

President Bush on Wednesday distanced himself from an earlier prediction by his economic advisors that the economy would add 2.6 million new jobs this year.

Before that flap, N. Gregory Mankiw, chairman of the president's Council of Economic Advisers, asserted that "outsourcing" American jobs overseas was good for the U.S. economy in the long run. While that comment is consistent with conventional economic thought, it was seen as insensitive to the millions of Americans who can't find a job. Mankiw later apologized and said he had been misunderstood.

The economy has lost 2.2 million jobs since Bush took office in January 2001.

NASA to have space shuttle on standby when flights resume

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — When shuttle flights resume, NASA will have a craft on standby for a rescue mission in case a crew ends up with a damaged ship and is stranded on the international space station.

Shuttle program manager Bill Parsons said today the second shuttle will not necessarily be on the launch pad, but will be ready to travel to the space station within 45 to 90 days. That is the current estimate for how long seven additional astronauts could remain on the orbiting outpost before food, oxygen and other supplies run out.

"We're certainly interested in reducing the risk," said Michael Kostelnik, deputy associate administrator for the shuttle and space station.

NASA has yet to decide which shuttle will make the first post-Columbia flight and which will be poised for a potential rescue. The fleet has been grounded since the Columbia disaster on Feb. 1, 2003.

The space agency had been targeting the next launch as early as this fall, but officials indicated today it will be bumped into 2005. A new launch date was expected later today, following a meeting by senior spaceflight officials.

Kostelnik said the next shuttle flight will incorporate more changes than previous ones, except for the first mission in 1981, and NASA wants to be ready to launch a rescue in case something goes wrong. He's not certain how many initial flights will require shuttles on standby.

In case of damage, the first shuttle crew would move into the space station. Astronauts assigned to the second flight would train in advance for such an emergency.

As for resuming shuttle flights, engineers are still trying to figure out how to keep fuel-tank foam insulation from breaking off like a section did during Columbia's final launch. The foam piece tore a hole in the left wing, leading to Columbia's destruction over Texas; all seven aboard were killed.

Other stumbling blocks identified by Parsons: developing wing repair kits and inspection booms, and improving the rudder speed brakes and other longtime shuttle parts.

"There are a lot of long poles out there," Parsons said at a news conference in Houston.

NASA and contractor officials met Tuesday and Wednesday in Galveston, Texas, to discuss the improvements that will be needed to keep the three remaining shuttles flying safely until 2010, the deadline set by President Bush for space station completion and shuttle retirement. Bush has targeted the moon as the nation's new space goal.

McLaughlins to be honored

Continued From Page 1

They honeymooned in Europe and returned to Wichita Falls, where they lived until 1945.

As his business expanded, and C.T. drilled in Big Spring, he kept an office in the fashionable Settles Hotel, while maintaining a tool yard in Coahoma. When business would allow, C.T. spent weekends at home with his family at their residence in Wichita Falls.

In 1935, while C.T. was active in the Big Spring area, he purchased a ranch in adjoining Scurry County, about 12 miles southwest of Snyder. He took possession on Jan. 1, 1936, and made it the Diamond M Ranch. He continued to acquire land until his death, when he owned four ranches in Texas, New Mexico and Colorado.

Over the years, a small house on the ranch was enlarged in stages to accommodate large parties that C.T. and Claire loved to host. He became interested in horses and sponsored some of the most well-attended horse shows in Texas.

At the end of World War II, the McLaughlins sold their home in Wichita Falls and moved to the Diamond M Ranch. By then their children were grown.

There had been some oil production in Scurry County since 1923, when the Sharon Ridge Field was opened, but nothing very exciting until mid-1948 when a well was completed from the Canyon Reef formation.

Then on Nov. 9, 1948, Standard Oil Co. of Texas completed the No. 1 Brown about nine miles north of Snyder, and the biggest oil boom to hit Texas in years was on. A second well in this new field was completed on Dec. 21. It flowed 650 barrels on a 24-hour test. It was the No. 2 McLaughlin, about 10 miles southwest of Snyder, and life for C.T. and his family was changed forever.

A year later, it was estimated that drilling crews were bringing in a producing oil well on the Diamond M Ranch on an average of every five days. Not long thereafter, Scurry County was the leading oil-producing county in the state, a position it maintained for several years.

The McLaughlins were well known as entertainers of friends, both local and international. Their parties were renowned. One writer reported that "Probably the thing which made C. T. and Scurry County known from Austin to Washington to London is the guest list at his famous parties. He'll give a party at the drop of a hat — especially if the hat is dropped into the political ring. All the Texas Governors from Coke Stevenson on, have been to the Diamond M Ranch, and so many minor state officials that they would have repopulated the town if all had stayed."

C.T. was indeed interested in politics, particularly in the Democratic Party, where he held various positions. He is quoted as saying "I am interested in politics because I want to help good men in office. There are no bargains in men for public office."

He was perhaps best-known for his ability to secure prominent national and international speakers for the Snyder Chamber of Commerce banquets. The McLaughlins also achieved wide renown as art collectors. They established the Diamond M Museum in 1964 in Snyder to exhibit their outstanding collections.

The art collection for the Diamond M Museum was assembled by C.T. and Claire through the Diamond M Foundation, which the couple established. The foundation was financed by royalties from the Diamond M Ranch. Grants supported educational and philanthropic undertakings, the arts and museums.

Following a 50-year marriage that allowed her to meet dignitaries and travel the world, Claire McLaughlin died on Nov. 30, 1971. C.T. followed her on July 29, 1975.

Much of the McLaughlins' art collection had been given to the Museum of Texas Tech University, which houses the Diamond M Gallery.

Two arrested and two accident investigated

• ***Arrests***

Officers took an 18-year-old man into custody at 10:12 p.m. Wednesday in the 900 block of 24th St. on DPS warrants for no driver license and no proof of liability insurance.

At 1:44 a.m. this morning a 19-year-old man was arrested in the 2700 block of Ave. O for minor in consumption of alcohol.

• ***Accidents***

An accident was reported at 8:07 a.m. Wednesday at 37th St. and Ave. V the mishap involved a 1996 Toyota driven by Jane Gamel, 42, 4012 Austin, and a 1999 Ford driven by Maria Lopez, 44, 3601 Ave. Y.

DPS troopers investigated a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 84 eight miles north of Snyder at 10:04 a.m. Wednesday.

• ***Disturbance***

At 7:54 a.m. Wednesday a caller reported a disturbance at a home on Ave. M between a parent and child.

A verbal disagreement was reported at a home on 40th St. between two men at 3 p.m. Wednesday.

• ***Harassment***

At 8:46 a.m. Wednesday, a caller reported from the 500 block of 29th St. that she was being harassed by another subject.

Obituaries

Charles Turner

1928-2004

GEORGIANA, Ala. — Charles Raymond Turner, brother of Sherlee Boudreau of Snyder, died Jan. 7 in a Hover, Ala., hospital.

Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery under the direction of Johnson Funeral Home. The Rev. Allen Stephanson officiated.



Charles Turner

Born Nov. 20, 1928 in Seminole, Okla., to Raymond and Alda Turner, he married Gloria Smith on Jan. 20, 1954 in Georgiana, Ala.

He was a Marine Corp captain, a pilot and a petroleum engineer. Mr. Turner was a former deacon of the First Baptist Church in Ira.

Survivors include his wife, Gloria Turner of Georgiana; two daughters and sons-in-law, Sharon and Wayne Chastain of Hover, Ala., and Lisa and Trul Stuart of Niceville, Fla.; another sister, Donna Vichinich of Honolulu; a brother-in-law, Archie Boudreau of Snyder; three nephews; three nieces; four grandchildren.

Emma Vasquez

1975-2004



Emma Vasquez

Emma Vasquez, a former Snyder resident, died Monday, Feb. 16, in Methodist Hospital in Houston.

Funeral Mass was held at 2 p.m. today in St. Elizabeth Catholic Church. Burial was to follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

She was born Dec. 17, 1975 in Hobbs, N.M., and was a resident of Odessa.

Survivors include her parents, Johnny and Hope Vasquez of Snyder; three brothers, Gabriel Vasquez, Anthony Vasquez and Johnny Vasquez Jr., all of Snyder; two sisters, Estella Gutierrez and Erica Rodriguez, both of Snyder; her fiancé, Richard Sauceda of Odessa; three nephews, Fabian, Arian and Avian Gutierrez; and two nieces, Alyssa Marie Sosa and Sierra Vasquez.

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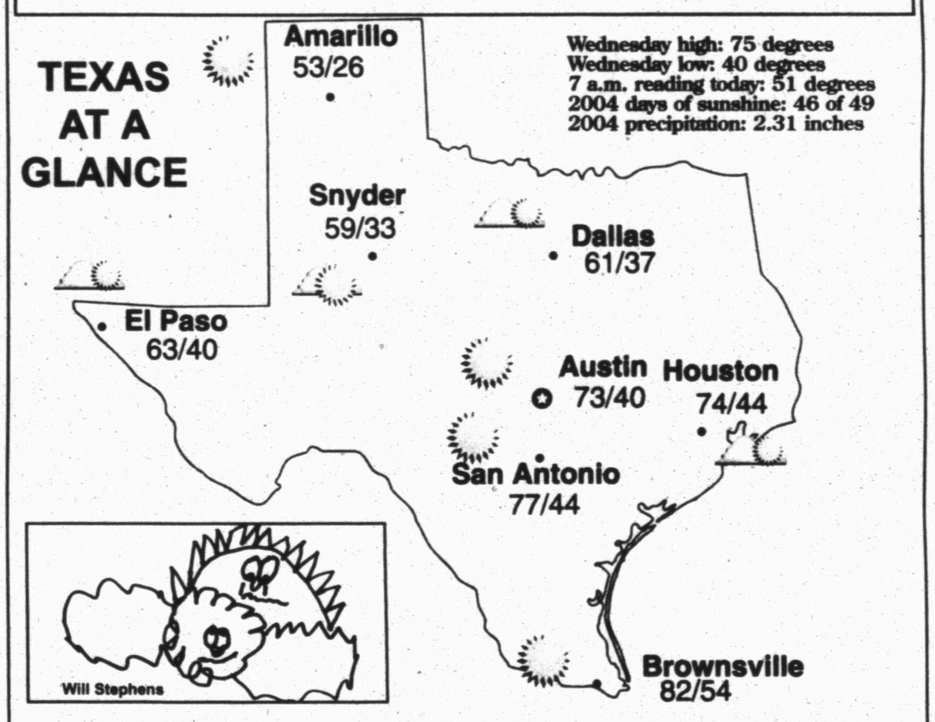
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Today's Weather

Fri 2/20	Sat 2/21	Sun 2/22
59/33	61/43	62/45
Generally sunny despite a few afternoon clouds. Cooler. High 59F.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.	Mostly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 40s.
Sunrise 7:22 AM, Sunset 6:33 PM	Sunrise 7:21 AM, Sunset 6:34 PM	Sunrise 7:20 AM, Sunset 6:35 PM



Abilene	61	35	mst sunny	El Paso	63	40	pt sunny	Midland	61	36	mst sunny
Amarillo	53	26	sunny	Fort Stockton	63	38	mst sunny	Raymondville	82	50	sunny
Austin	73	40	sunny	Gainesville	57	32	pt sunny	Rosenberg	74	43	pt sunny
Beaumont	73	44	pt sunny	Greenville	59	34	mst sunny	San Antonio	77	44	sunny
Brownsville	82	54	sunny	Houston	74	44	pt sunny	San Marcos	74	40	sunny
Brownwood	65	36	mst sunny	Kingsville	81	48	sunny	Sulphur Springs	59	35	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	79	49	sunny	Livingston	72	39	pt sunny	Sweetwater	62	35	mst sunny
Corsicana	62	36	mst sunny	Longview	64	37	pt sunny	Tyler	62	36	pt sunny
Dallas	61	37	pt sunny	Lubbock	58	30	sunny	Weatherford	60	33	mst sunny
Del Rio	76	46	mst sunny	Lufkin	69	41	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	59	32	pt sunny
Atlanta	67	51	pt sunny	Houston	74	44	pt sunny	Phoenix	69	47	pt sunny
Boston	42	33	mst sunny	Los Angeles	64	48	pt sunny	San Francisco	57	47	rain
Chicago	46	32	rain	Miami	77	67	pt sunny	Seattle	50	38	pt sunny
Dallas	61	37	pt sunny	Minneapolis	34	24	sn shower	St. Louis	52	33	rain
Denver	42	23	mst sunny	New York	42	37	pt sunny	Washington, DC	54	42	cloudy

Last	New	First	Full
Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 28	Mar 6

UV Index

Fri 2/20	Sat 2/21	Sun 2/22
5	6	5
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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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FEB 19 2004

Best Available Copy

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



The elderly deserve respect — do they not?

DEAR DR. GOTT: Your recent column on end-of-life issues was both provocative and poignant.

As a Certified Senior Adviser with a business that helps seniors and their adult children find answers when they are forced to address the issues of aging, I see and hear their concerns daily.

At the end of their lives, many of the elderly, who helped to make this country great, want the same things they demanded when they were younger: respect, honor and dignity. These people don't want a patronizing attitude from the "younger generation" of physicians, attorneys and financial planners. We need to honor the elderly for their experience, wisdom and contributions.

DEAR READER: I couldn't agree more. But, then, I am a "senior" and have difficulty finding the qualities you list. The "younger" generation has, unfortunately, been trained by their seniors to make a profit and be successful. Can we now blame the middle-aged for our own focus on success? In a sense, we are reaping the very grain we planted. We may deserve what we are getting. We asked for it, we bargained for it. We're not idiots. We have to assume responsibility. Tell me that you, as an adviser, don't expect to make money during your transactions with the elderly, the very generation that taught you how to succeed!

So, while I endorse the goals of respect, dignity and honor, I also recognize that we seniors don't have a free ride; we may be the victims of our very own lifestyles. Wouldn't that be a hoot?

DEAR DR. GOTT: My doctor gave me slow niacin for poor circulation, but I read that it can cause liver inflammation. As a result, I switched to regular niacin. What is the difference in the two medications?

DEAR READER: The two forms of niacin, a vitamin used to treat high cholesterol levels, are basically identical: both will lower serum cholesterol and both have the potential to cause liver inflammation. The timed-release product is more convenient, because in order to be effective the dosage of niacin must exceed 1,000 milligrams a day — that is, two or three timed-release capsules or several standard tablets daily.

Despite the possible side effects of skin flushing and liver inflammation, niacin is an appropriate choice for patients who cannot tolerate "statin" drugs — which, incidentally, may also cause liver inflammation.

Therefore, whether you use standard niacin or the timed-release form, you will still need to have periodic blood tests for liver function. Ask your physician about this.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Understanding Cholesterol." 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.

If readers would like to contact Dr. Gott, they may write him through your newspaper or send their mail directly to Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th fl., New York, NY 10016.

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Astromers see black hole ripping star apart

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Astronomers reported Wednesday the first strong evidence of a supermassive black hole stretching, tearing apart and partially gobbling up a star.

The event had long been predicted by theory but never confirmed.

"This is really fantastic stuff. This is one of the Holy Grails of astronomy," said astronomer Alex Filippenko of the University of California at Berkeley.

A powerful X-ray blast drew the attention of astronomers to the event, located near the center of an otherwise inconspicuous galaxy called RX J1242-11. The galaxy is about 700 million light-years from Earth.

The international team of astronomers believes the blast was produced as debris from the destroyed star was sucked into the black hole.

"The last cry of help before the matter falls into the black hole is radiated in X-rays, which we have detected," said Gunther Hasinger, of the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics in Germany.

The resulting flare was thousands of times brighter than all of the billions of other stars in the galaxy, astronomers said during a NASA news conference broadcast from Washington.

A black hole is a massive but unseen celestial object that has such an intense gravitational pull that nothing — not even light — can escape from it.

This particularly black hole is estimated to have a mass 100 million times that of the sun. Astronomers said an unlucky star about the size of our sun neared the black hole after veering off course following a close encounter with another star.

The tremendous gravity of the black hole stretched the star, ripping it apart in perhaps just hours or days. The star came apart at a distance from the black hole comparable to the 140 million miles that separates the sun and Mars.

"In this case, David can't outwit Goliath and Goliath wins because ultimately, gravity wins here," NASA astronomer Kim Weaver said.

The black hole consumed anywhere from 1 percent to 25 percent of the doomed star, flinging the rest out into space.

Astronomers used NASA's Chandra and the European Space Agency's XMM-Newton X-ray observatories to capture the event.

Similar events are estimated to occur just once every 10,000 years in a typical galaxy, depending on how closely packed it is with stars.

Twin rovers inspect holes on opposite sides of planet Mars

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Spirit rover rolled into a Martian hollow while halfway around the planet, its twin inspected a freshly dug trench for evidence that the Red Planet once might have been wetter and more hospitable to life.

During the Martian day that ended Wednesday morning, Spirit drove about 65 feet to reach a depression dubbed Laguna Hollow, NASA said.

The probe wiggled its wheels to scuff the soil, removing the dust-like outer layer so instruments on Spirit's robotic arm could have a better look at the elements underneath.

Observations in Laguna Hollow were to continue today. The dust-filled depression is likely an impact crater and is similar to the feature dubbed "Sleepy Hollow" immediately adjacent to the lander Spirit left behind.

Meanwhile, the Opportunity rover was to use its robotic arm to continue examining the clumpy soil of a 4-inch-deep trench it scooped out with one of its six wheels.

The trench is intriguing because it is not uniform, its bottom appearing different than its walls, project manager Richard Cook said.

Scientists chose the trench site because earlier observations revealed it is rich in hematite. The iron-bearing mineral typically forms in water.

Measurements should reveal if the mineral is limited to the surface or is present throughout the soil. The scientific observations could also turn up evidence of other minerals that might point to past water activity at the site.

9 HOUR



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