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WT-Int. Crude - $26.98
WTIC Posted - $23.75
Natural Gas - $3.397

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY
June 27, 2001
Vol. 53 No. 50
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Paige Bell

Golf...
...it's a business and a pleasure

BOTH SIDES OF THE GOLFING WORLD — Six-year-old Jess Lyon and his grandfather, Bill Lyon, enjoy some practice time together this morning at the Western Texas College golf course. Meanwhile, WTC pro Wade Hatter was busy with paper work in the pro shop office. (SDN Staff Photos)

County judge defends coliseum subsidy cuts

By Brian Brisendine
Staff Writer

Scurry County Judge Ricky Fritz Tuesday afternoon defended the county's decision to decrease its subsidy for the chamber of commerce's lease of the county coliseum.

Fritz met with the executive board of the chamber Tuesday morning to inform them of the county commissioners court decision to reduce the annual subsidy amount by $30,000.

The chamber presently leases the coliseum from the county with an annual subsidy of $165,000. The chamber receives those funds in addition to any revenue the coliseum generates, including ticket sales and concession earnings.

Fritz said the coliseum generates between $60,000 and $70,000 per year.

The chamber has leased the coliseum since 1995. Under the contract, the chamber is also responsible for operating expenses, including all utilities.

Just this year the chamber was hit with a $31,000 gas bill for the coliseum. An exterior leak allowed millions of cubic feet of gas to escape, according to Fritz.

He said the gas bill was not a factor in the county's decision to reduce the subsidy, but it has generated a lot of interest in who is responsible for the coliseum.

"Our contract with the chamber clearly states that they are responsible for all operating expenses," Fritz said. "We've let our attorneys review the situation and have come to the conclusion that, even if we wanted to pay that bill for them as a gesture of goodwill, we wouldn't be allowed to by law."

The chamber is also responsible for any repairs, but is only required to pay the first $1,000. The balance of repair costs are paid for by the county.

"Last year we put a new roof on the coliseum at a cost of almost $200,000," Fritz said. "The chamber paid $1,000 and we picked up the rest of the bill. And we didn't complain about that because we understand that this is just how things go."

Fritz proposed to the chamber board an annual subsidy of $135,000 and added that a three-year contract would be necessary.

"I visited with each commissioner separately about the situation with the coliseum," Fritz said. "We feel that it is appropriate to reduce the subsidy to the chamber or to whomever operates the coliseum."

The county is obligated by law to issue requests for proposals for bids for the lease of the coliseum. Fritz said if the chamber or any other entity is not interested in leasing the facility, it will be placed under the parks and recreation plan commissioners are currently working on.

"We're trying to be as progressive as possible without tapping our taxpayers any more than we have to," Fritz said. "Right now we're forming a parks and recreation plan that includes all of our county parks and recreation facilities, including Moffett Field.

"We want to secure some grants and as much outside funding as possible to make this work," he said. "The $30,000 we're subtracting from the coliseum will go into the parks and recreation plan, which could include the coliseum if no one expresses interest in leasing it for the $135,000 we have budgeted."

Fritz added that the coliseum can be leased to anybody, whether it be another governing body or a private citizen.

Chamber Executive Director Donna Fowler said this morning that she did not see how the chamber could operate the coliseum with $30,000 less subsidy each year.

THE SDN COLUMN
By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Public business is public business – at least it's supposed to be."

The Scurry County Coliseum, like all other county facilities, belongs to the taxpayers of Scurry County.

Voters, by means of the election process, have chosen fellow citizens to take care of their business, and they have a right to do just that. Some decisions are popular, others may not be - but elected officials have that right.

The Commissioners Court is to act as a body, and a decision must come from a simple majority vote. In Texas, this decision-making process is governed by the Texas Open Meetings Law.

Generally speaking, boards and commissions in Snyder and Scurry County have attempted to follow the Open Meeting Law, but we're afraid that both the letter and spirit of the open meeting law has been violated by the county.

The lease or renewal of the lease of the Scurry County Coliseum has not been discussed in any public meeting, all of which have been attended by a representative of the Snyder Daily News.

Several months ago, we challenged a statement made by Commissioner Ralph Trevey concerning the prospects of seeking proposals for operation or management of the coliseum.

He said, "We (the commissioners) need to discuss this thing so we don't get out on a limb. We don't need to fight this battle in public."

We took exception to this in an SDN column last April. We wrote: "...the public exchange of ideas is not only healthy – it's the law."

Just a few days later, prior to a scheduled commissioners court session, County Judge Ricky Fritz seemed to agree. The judge's quote of April 22 read, "One thing needs to be clarified. All the discussion about this (the coliseum) will be made in open session."

On Tuesday, Judge Fritz met with the executive committee of the chamber and offered to renew the chamber's contract to operate the coliseum for three years at a reduced subsidy - $135,000 per year rather than $165,000 per year.

Questions:

—How, when and where was the decision to offer a renewal made?

—Who gave the judge the authority to make such an offer?

—How was the $135,000 arrived at?

—If funds are going to be shifted to the parks department, who, when and where was that decision made?

It's not a matter of agreeing or disagreeing with the decision, it's a matter of questioning how a decision can be reached without deliberations, and the law is clear on that.

"Any member or group of members of a governmental body commits an offense if the member or group of members knowingly conspires to circumvent this chapter by meeting in numbers less than a quorum for the purpose of secret deliberations in violation of this chapter."

Open government is the law in Texas, and it should be the law in Scurry County.

Funeral held for five children in Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — Four blue balloons and a pink balloon rose up from a makeshift memorial of stuffed animals, flowers and crayon drawings in the front yard of five children whose mother is accused of drowning them last week.

Two blocks away, the four brothers and the 6-month-old sister the balloons represent were within tiny white caskets arranged in the shape of an arc. The youngest of the siblings, little Mary, was at the top of the semicircle. Two brothers lay with their heads toward her feet. Two others laid with their feet aimed toward her head, all beneath a stained glass window at the front of Clear Lake Church of Christ's sanctuary.

Mary, dressed in a pink sleeper, looked like a doll. She has 3-year-old Paul to her left and 2-year-old Luke to her right. Noah, 7, wearing a multicolor sweater with a truck on it is at the far right of Luke. John, 5, wearing an orange and black sweater, is to the far left of Paul.

Each of the small white caskets was adorned with a different color spray of flowers, along with ribbons bearing the children's names.

Posters with at least a dozen pictures of each child, almost every single one with a smile, lined a table set up in one of the halls leading into the church's sanctuary where Russell Yates was to deliver his own children's eulogy this morning.

Yates and the Rev. Byron Fike had worked together on planning the service.

Ag and mineral values topic of board's meeting

The Scurry County appraisal review board was meeting this morning to discuss mineral and agricultural values in the district, both of which are expected to increase.

Members of the board, chaired by Jimmy McMillan, listened to reports from Chief Appraiser Larry Crooks concerning new values for minerals and land, both market and agricultural. The meeting was still in session at press time.

Board members Bob Stewart and C.A. McCowan signed oaths of office. Officers will remain the same as last year with McMillan as president.

The board voted unanimously in favor of an order to correct prior years' appraisal rolls, as well as approving changes to the review board procedures and hearing rules.

The board also approved the minutes from its last meeting.

McMillan presided with Stewart, McCowan and Jim Northcott in attendance.

Cogdell board meets Wednesday...

Oklahoma doctor not moving here

Cogdell Memorial Hospital's board of managers will meet at 8 a.m. Thursday in the hospital boardroom.

One item that will surely be touched on when CEO George Parsley gives his monthly report is physician recruitment as an Oklahoma general surgeon has told the hospital that he changed his mind about opening a practice in Snyder.

This follows an announcement last month that Dr. Frank Thomas, a general surgeon in Hobart, had signed a letter of intent to relocate his practice here.

"We have received a letter from Dr. Thomas that he will not be moving to Snyder," Cogdell board president Jim Bob Cave confirmed Tuesday.

"We thought everything was in order for him to be moving to Snyder," said Cave. "We had even received a bill from the physician-recruitment firm. I guess he thought he could not make enough money here."

Cave did praise the recruitment efforts of local citizens, including the medical community. "I think everyone did all they could to get Dr. Thomas here."

The board's agenda also includes the approval of the 2002 operating and capital budget, but this item has been moved to a called meeting on July 13. This will follow a budget workshop on July 11.

The only action items are the approval of the monthly financial statements, certification of accounts payable and the medical staff report as given by Dr. Bid Cooper.

The board will also hear a report concerning the Cogdell Hospital Foundation, and meet in executive session to consult with Lubbock attorney Mike Reed concerning the wording of a contract related to radiological services and the desire of a radiologist to obtain hospital credentials.

ASK US

Q—What is the penalty for violation of the Open Meetings Law?

A—A fine of not less than $100 or more than $500; one to six months in the county jail; or both.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Tuesday, 94 degrees; low, 70; 7 a.m. Wednesday, 71; no precipitation; total for 2001, 9.26 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, mostly clear, low lower 70s, S wind 10-20 mph. Thursday, partly cloudy, high 90-95, S wind 10-20 mph. Thursday night, partly cloudy, slight rain chance, low lower 70s.

Remington Bloom
Partly Cloudy

Sunset:
8:52 p.m.
Sunrise:
6:43 a.m.
Of 177 days in 2001, the sun has shone 165 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Tact is the art of convincing people that they know more than you do.
—Raymond Mortimer

JUN 27 2001 1

U.S. support not an affirmation of innocence

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States will say it hopes Lori Berenson's appeal will be heard soon in Peru. It will say humanitarian considerations should be taken into account. It won't say she is innocent of charges of collaborating with leftist guerrillas.

"I don't know how anybody could look at the evidence and arrive at a different conclusion than she knew more than she's admitting to," said Dennis Jett, U.S. ambassador to Lima from 1996-1999.

U.S. officials say it is not their role to judge the innocence or guilt of Berenson, convicted for a second time last week in Peru, this time by a civilian court. The first conviction, by a military court, was for treason. The second conviction was on lesser charges.

The 31-year-old New Yorker was sentenced to 20 years after a three-judge panel found that she helped the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement plan a thwarted takeover of Congress by gathering intelligence with a top rebel commander's wife. She also was accused of renting a house that served as the group's hide-out. She was acquitted of being a member of the rebel group.

A secret military court had convicted her of treason in 1996 without giving her a chance to confront her accusers. She was sentenced to life in prison and served five years in harsh mountain prisons. That conviction was annulled in August, leading to the civilian trial.

U.S. officials repeatedly denounced the first trial as unfair and called for her case to be moved to civilian courts. But saying the trial was unfair isn't the same as saying she was innocent.

Berenson, a former secretary to a Salvadoran rebel leader, admitted living in the house but said she didn't know her roommates were guerrillas. She claimed to be a journalist but had never been published. When arrested, a guerrilla leader's wife was with her as a photographer.

Arturo Valenzuela, a former high-level National Security Council official, said the circumstances of Berenson's arrest suggest she was somehow involved with the guerrillas.

"I don't think that anyone I talked to in the U.S. government doubted that," he said. "The question is whether her involvement or her association with these people really merited the kind of criminal charges that were brought against her."

Berenson and her supporters have denounced the latest verdict, claiming it was politically motivated, that the judges were biased and that witnesses were coerced.

State Department spokesman Philip Reeker last week said the new trial was "free of the most egregious flaws in the military trial." He declined further comment on the legal process, saying it would be addressed in appeals.

He also noted, "We haven't taken a position on her guilt or innocence in the process."

Both President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell discussed Berenson's case with Peruvian President-elect Alejandro Toledo during his visit Tuesday to Washington. Neither asked for a pardon or amnesty.

In addition to the rule of law, Bush asked that humanitarian factors be taken into consideration in a final resolution of the case, said White House spokeswoman Mary Ellen Countryman.

Gail Taylor, coordinator of the Committee to Free Lori Berenson, said she is not concerned that the U.S. government hasn't supported Berenson's claims of innocence.

"They're playing it cautious," said Taylor, whose group is led by Berenson's parents.

She said Jett and other former officials who question Berenson's innocence may be unaware of developments that support her case. "I think maybe if he were ambassador now, he would have a different opinion about it," Taylor said.

For Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., Berenson's insistence on her innocence, the length of time already served in prison and the flaws in her trials are reasons enough to release her.

"She has maintained that she's innocent and in our system of government, people are innocent until they are proven guilty," said Maloney, who represents Berenson's parents' district.

Toledo has said he won't interfere with his country's courts and told reporters again Tuesday that he wants to let Peru's judiciary system "do its job."

His election followed the downfall of Peru's hardline leader Alberto Fujimori, who was accused of manipulating the courts for political purposes.

A pardon of Berenson would be unpopular in Peru, where she is seen as a foreign terrorist in a country that suffered through years of guerrilla violence.

Ex-nurse says she molested patients

CHICAGO (AP) — A former nurse admitted he molested as many as 18 patients, one of them a 9-year-old comatose girl, over a five-year period, federal authorities said.

The alleged confession arose while Kenneth PeBenito, 29, of Lombard, was being investigated for child pornography. PeBenito pleaded guilty in federal court Tuesday to owning child pornography.

PeBenito admitted he molested patients while working as a nurse at several hospitals, including Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove, between 1995 and 2000, authorities said.

Officials said no federal charges will be filed against PeBenito in connection with the alleged molestation. DuPage County prosecutor Joseph Birkett vowed to investigate.

PeBenito, who has been fired from Good Samaritan, faces up to five years in prison on the pornography charge. Sentencing was set for Oct. 2.

A spokesman for the Illinois Department of Professional

events

LOTTO TEXAS

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Texas Two Step

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Two Step numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery:

3-17-23-28

Bonus number: 22

Cash Five

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

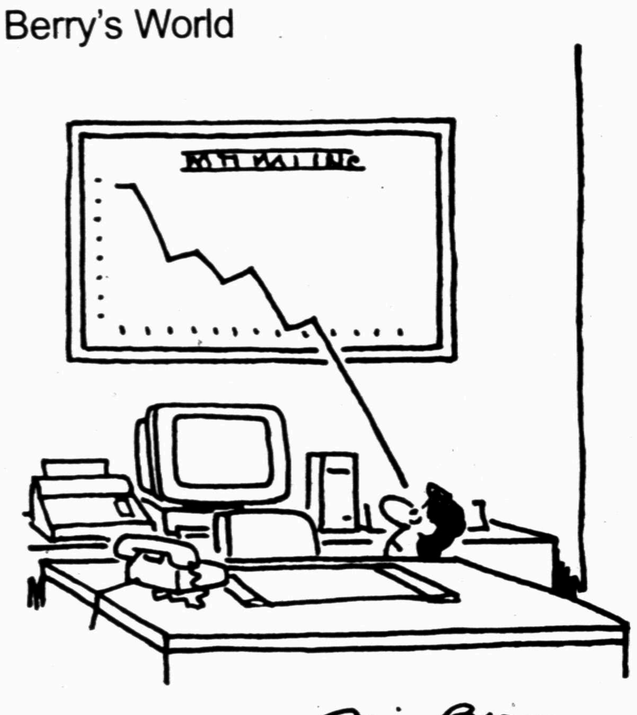
12-24-27-33-34

Pick 3

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

8-6-0

Berry's World



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Date Book

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Today is the 178th day of 2001 and the seventh day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1859, Mildred Hill of Louisville, Ky., wrote a tune that later became "Happy Birthday."

On this day in 1929, in New York City, the Bell company gave the first public demonstration of color television in the United States.

On this day in 1950, President Harry Truman authorized U.S. naval and air operations in Korea south of the 38th parallel.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Charles Stewart Parnell (1846-1891), Irish nationalist leader; Emma Goldman (1869-1940), political activist; Helen Keller (1880-1968), educator-writer; Willie Mosconi (1913-1993), billiards great; Bob "Captain Kangaroo" Keeshan (1927-), TV personality, is 74; Ross Perot (1930-), businessman-politician, is 71; Anna Moffo (1934-), opera singer, is 67; Julia Duffy (1951-), actress, is 50.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1972, Muhammad Ali knocked out Jerry Quarry in the seventh round.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The Great Society is a place where men are more concerned with the quality of their goals than the quantity of their goods." — Lyndon B. Johnson

TODAY'S MOON: First quarter (June 27).

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Bowen to attend leadership forum

Craig Bowen of Hermleigh will attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine (NYLF/MED) in Chicago July 8-17.

NYLF/MED is a career development program for high school students who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership potential and an interest in medicine. Bowen will join 350 other high school students from around the country.

Throughout the 10-day forum, NYLF/MED will introduce Bowen, the son of Gary and Barbara Bowen, to a variety of concepts in public health, medical ethics, research and general practice, including site visits to medical facilities and clinics. Students will be faced with problem-based learning, an educational method familiar to most students in medical school, where they are presented with a set of patient symptoms and must come to a diagnosis and prognosis for the symptoms.

In addition to site visits to cutting edge medical schools and clinical facilities, Bowen will hear from and have the opportunity to interact with leaders within the medical field.

Students have up-close personal contact with physicians, surgeons, researchers and medical educators as they go behind the scenes to view these professionals at work.

NYLF is a nonprofit educational organization that brings various professions to life, empowering outstanding high school students with the confidence to make well-informed career choices.

In addition to forums on medicine, NYLF offers programs for students interested in law or national security. Since its inception in 1991, more than 50,000 young people have benefited from NYLF programming.

For additional information, visit us on the Internet at www.nylf.org.

Parker named to A&M honor roll

COLLEGE STATION — John Andrew Parker, a political science major from Snyder, has been named to the Distinguished Student list at Texas A&M University for the spring semester.

Distinguished students must earn a 3.25-3.75 GPR while taking at least 15 hours.

Three Snyderites receive degrees

COLLEGE STATION — Three Snyder students have received degrees from Texas A&M University.

David Kevin Wilson received a bachelor of science in biochemistry.

Hale Casity Reneau received a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering.

Troy Steven Allen received a bachelor of science in political science.

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
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DEWALT CRAFTSMAN Kenmore Whirlpool RCA MAYTAG GE

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Geological activity eyed in Lock Ness illusion

LONDON (AP) — Sightings of the Loch Ness Monster may be the earth's fault, says an Italian scientist who suggests that the leviathan is an illusion created by geological activity.

Luigi Piccardi, a Florence-based geologist, said in a paper prepared for a scientific conference that he believes the monster is linked to the Great Glen Fault which runs along the loch.

Piccardi's paper was on today's agenda at the Earth System Processes Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, organized by the Geological Society of London and the Geological Society of America.

Adrian Shine, leader of the Loch Ness Project at Drumnadrochit, Scotland, said Piccardi's theory could not account for all the reports of a monster.

"Monster sightings are not restricted at times of seismic activity," Shine said in a telephone interview.

However, Shine added, "I think it is very interesting that the fault line origins of Loch Ness have now been highlighted."

Piccardi has previously theorized that the visions of the Oracle of Delphi were the result of hallucinogenic vapors seeping through a fault line from hydrocarbon-bearing rock strata, and he has suggested that other mythological sites in Greece are strongly correlated with active geological faults.

"Veneration of these places may have been a result of people seeing unusual natural phenomena there," Piccardi said.

"These may have been gas and flame emissions, underground roaring, shaking and rupture of the ground. Of course the Aegean is a very seismic area, so the association might be coincidental. But I think it can also be seen in less earthquake-prone areas."

In the case of Loch Ness, he said that association appeared to be borne out in St. Columba's reports of an encounter with a monster in the loch in the seventh century. These were written down by St. Adomnan, Abbott of Iona in his "Life of St. Columba," about 100 years after Columba's death.

"In the original Latin, the dragon appears 'cum ingenti fremitu' — with strong shaking," Piccardi said. "It disappears 'tremefacta' — or shaking herself."

The Great Glen Fault is a strike-slip fault — two pieces of the earth's crust sliding past each other — like the more active San Andreas Fault in California. The Great Glen, which includes the lochs of Ness, Oich and Lochy, slashes diagonally through northwest Scotland, dividing the central Highlands from the northern Highlands.

Shine, who has studied Loch Ness for nearly three decades, said there had been significant tremors in 1816, 1888, 1890 and 1901, and some minor shocks in the 1930s.

Gas emissions have also been observed in the loch, said Shine, who observed one vent spewing methane for at least two weeks.

Shine said boat wakes, especially from large craft, are the most common cause of monster sightings. Mirage effects above the lake can cause ducks or other small animals to appear much larger, he said.

It is also known that surface water can flow against the wind, which can create the illusion that a log is an animal paddling into the wind, he said.

The Loch Ness monster is a lucrative tourist draw, even if its existence has never been proven. Various monster investigators have suggested it could be a swimming dinosaur called a plesiosaur, a tree trunk, a giant eel or a hoax.

On the Net:
Loch Ness Project,
http://www.lochnessproject.org

Mice altered to resist breast cancers

By The Associated Press

Scientists have genetically engineered mice that are immune to some of the most common types of breast cancer, a development they say brings science a step closer to creating drugs to precisely block the spread of breast cancer in humans.

The research involves a protein linked to half of all human breast cancers. The bioengineered mice lack that protein, which tumors need to grow.

Though it could take years to develop a drug therapy targeting the protein, the findings are dramatic proof that certain breast cancers can occur only when the protein is present, said Christopher Widnell, scientific program director of the Atlanta-based American Cancer Society.

"This work is taking us to the next phase, where you can actually start designing intelligent treatments for individual tumors," said Widnell, who wasn't involved in the research.

The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute researchers produced the cancer-resistant mice by building on earlier success in engineering mice that don't express the protein cyclin D1, one of many proteins that regulate cell growth.

They wanted to test whether eliminating the protein in mice prone to certain breast cancers could keep them cancer-free.

The researchers bred the mice engineered to not express cyclin D1 with four other types of laboratory mice, each prone to different types of breast cancer, and monitored their offspring for signs of cancer. Two of the resulting cross-breeds were immune to the type of breast cancer for which they carried a gene.

Piotr Sicinski, a Dana-Farber researcher, said the findings clearly show two cancer genes called Neu and Ras can only turn normal cells into cancer cells by sending signals through the cyclin D1 protein.

The fact the mice with the two other cancer genes, called Wnt-1 and Myc, developed breast cancers means those cancer genes are capable of signaling though other cell-regulating proteins, Sicinski said.

The research appears in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

Sicinski said he and his colleagues want to see other researchers try to target cyclin D1 using existing cancer-blocking drugs.

He suggested pairing drugs that target a protein partner of the cell-regulating proteins that include cyclin D1 with Genentech's breast cancer drug, Herceptin, which aims to block the Neu cancer gene. That cancer gene has been linked to about 30 percent of human breast cancers.

"If you had a way to take out cyclin D1 you could completely unplug the (cancer gene) pathways from the cell cycle machinery without compromising the patient's health," Sicinski said.

In an accompanying Nature commentary, two Danish scientists said that when more is known about the cellular changes that the Neu and Ras cancer genes induce through cyclin D1, physicians might be able to create molecular profiles of breast cancer patients to target their unique mix of tumors.

"It might one day be possible to provide tailor-made treatments," say Jiri Bartek and Jiri Lukas of the Institute of Cancer Biology, Danish Cancer Society, Copenhagen.

On the Net:
The journal Nature:
http://www.nature.com

Eden's son found dead

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The bodybuilder son of actress Barbara Eden and character actor Michael Ansara was found dead in his pickup truck in a suburban gas station, authorities said.

But the cause of Matthew Michael Ansara's death was not immediately determined. An autopsy was scheduled for today.

Ansara, 35, of Covina, was found Monday night "lifeless" in his truck in Monrovia, about 20 miles east of Los Angeles, said Monrovia police Sgt. Tom Loy.

"There was no information or visible indications of trauma or any struggle," he said. "At this time there does not appear to be any foul play."

The bodybuilder and aspiring actor was the only child of Eden, who starred in the 1960s sitcom "I Dream of Jeannie." Eden and Ansara's father were married from 1958 to 1973.

Michael Ansara has appeared in scores of films and television shows, including "The Greatest Story Ever Told," "Star Trek" and the 1950s series "Broken Arrow."

Eden was planning the younger Ansara's wedding, scheduled for Sept. 1, said her publicist, Gene Schwam. Schwam said the actress was shocked by her son's death.

Ansara appeared with his mother in an episode of her show "Harper Valley PTA" in the 1980s, and in the TV movie "Your Mother Wears Combat Boots."

More recently he appeared in "To Protect and Serve," a mock documentary that has been screened at film festivals this month.

Pluto, the ninth planet in the solar system, was discovered in 1930 by Clyde Tombaugh, an astronomer working at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Ariz. Pluto is the smallest planet and the farthest from the sun.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

New neighbors modesty raises temperature of hottub guests

DEAR ABBY: We installed a hot tub several years ago. We are always naked when we use it. However, when we entertain guests, we let them know in advance that it is their choice whether to wear bathing suits or not. If they opt to wear suits, we ask if they care if we or other guests are naked. Most guests opt to soak in the nude; those who don't have no problem with others being naked.

Recently we invited new neighbors to our house for a welcoming party with other neighbors. They informed us they would be uncomfortable if other guests were nude. We have no problem with this — after all, we have plenty of opportunity to enjoy our spa naked — but some of our neighbors did. They felt put out that after years spent enjoying our hot tub in the buff, they now had to cover up.

This has created dissension in the neighborhood, and our efforts to be respectful of others is backfiring. Have you any suggestions on how we can resolve this? — **DOIN' WHAT COMES NATURALLY**

DEAR DOIN': Yes. Don't let your straitlaced new neighbors throw cold water on your hot tub tradition. Entertain them separately so your less-inhibited neighbors can enjoy all the therapeutic benefits of soaking in their birthday suits without anyone pointing fingers. I'm sure everyone would prefer it.

**

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I moved into a new house with our son about six months ago. After we moved, we realized we needed to set some house rules. One of them has to do with overnight guests.

The rule is simple: If a family member or friend asks to spend the night, each of us must check with the others before agreeing. We do this in case there is a conflict and out of respect for each other.

Last week, my sister, "Lisa," who lives out of town, called to ask me if she could spend the night. I told her I needed to check with my wife and son, but I didn't think it would be a problem. Lisa was appalled and insulted that I would have to check with my wife and son before "allowing" her to stay. In her wildest dreams, she couldn't imagine ever having to check with her husband and kids. After she hung up, she told a bunch of her friends about it. She told me they, too, were flabbergasted that I would say such a thing to my sister.

Abby, my wife, son and I have had no conflicts since we established that rule. Should I have gone ahead and told Lisa it was OK to stay without checking first? (By the way, my wife and son had no problem with my sister staying with us.) — **LITTLE BRO IN NEW JERSEY**

DEAR LITTLE BRO: No. You did the right thing. Your marriage is a true partnership, and you're teaching your son consideration for others. There would be far less conflict in most families if more people communicated as effectively as you do. Your sister owes all of you an apology.

**

DEAR ABBY: I live in a four-unit apartment complex in a lovely neighborhood. A young couple occupies the unit directly above mine. Although the apartments provide some privacy, I have a hard time ignoring the couple upstairs when they reach the highest peak of their passion.

Is there a subtle way to let them know I can hear their most intimate moments without embarrassing them — or me? — **SLEEP-DEPRIVED IN SCHENECTADY, N.Y.**

DEAR SLEEP-DEPRIVED: The next time it happens, consider dropping a subtle hint. Play "Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing" on your stereo and turn up the volume. It may not work the first time, but after a while they'll get the message.

**

Dear Abby is written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips.

**

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby's "Keepers," P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 06-27-01
♠ 10 2
♥ A Q 10 7
♦ 8 6 5 3
♣ 10 9 4

West
♠ 5
♥ 8 6 5 2
♦ J 9 7 2
♣ 8 6 5 2

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

South
♠ A K J 9 8 7
♥ K J
♦ A K
♣ J 7 3

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: Both

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

Opening lead: ♣ 2

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Double first, jump in a suit second

By Phillip Alder

To start, a clever verse from Robert Louis Stevenson:

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.

Yesterday, we discovered that to make a takeout double, then to name a new suit after partner replies with a minimum bid shows some 17-19 points. In other words, it's a hand a tad too strong for a simple overcall. But what if the doubler makes a jump rebid into a new suit?

The logical answer is a bit more power — 20-22 points — with at least a six-card suit. That South hand fits the bill nicely.

Opposite that good a hand, North should jump to four spades. He knows of a combined 26-28 points and at least an eight-card spade fit.

West leads the club two. East takes three tricks in the suit, then exits with a diamond.

Declarer must play the trumps for no losers. The correct play is to finesse on round one. So, he crosses to dummy with a heart and runs the spade 10. When it wins, South repeats the finesse, draws East's remaining trumps, and claims.

Note that cashing the spade ace, planning to finesse on the second round, works well when West has the singleton queen, but loses when West has any one of the four low singletons. Also, East is a heavy favorite for the spade queen as part

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Sandwich Menu Also Available

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JUN 27 2001

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ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson

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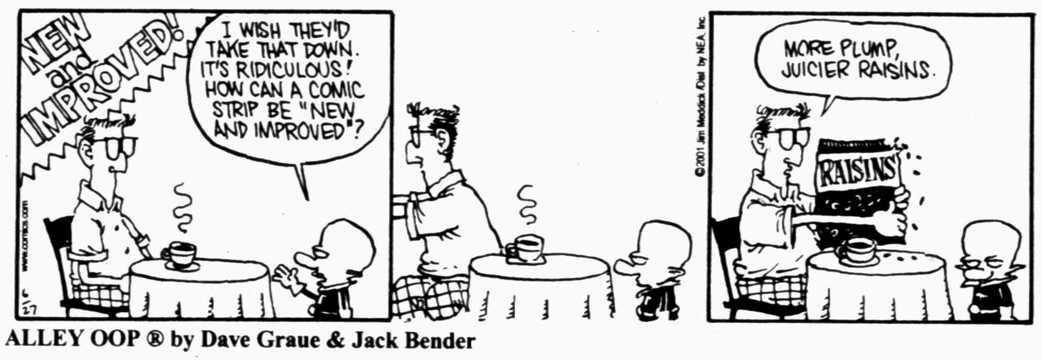
MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

"Have you seen my ice cream?"

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Halloween figure
6 Actress Loughlin
10 Spring festival
12 Hour fraction
14 English noblewoman
15 Stable worker
16 Sign at a full house (abbr.)
17 Photo- — (picture times)
19 Shades
20 Actress Parsons
23 Phantom
26 "Classic" start
27 — -Locka, FL
30 Acquired by labor
32 "Magic" pen
34 Playwright O'Neill
35 Stanley's wife
36 Artful
37 New Deal prog.
39 Warms
40 Showed appreciation to
42 Holding device
45 Compass pt.
46 Actress Dawber
49 Hawk
51 Army order (2 wds.)
54 Pokes
55 Ask to a party
56 "Positive!"
57 Seer's card

DOWN

1 Some stones
2 Tresses
3 Capital of Norway
4 Actress Hagen
5 Guided
6 Fleur-de- —
7 "— — Waterfront"
8 "Little —"
9 Fit to — —
11 Hindu peasant
12 Adherents of Islam
13 Ums' kin
18 Sty
20 Medieval slave
21 Offensive smell
22 Hate
23 Horse directives
24 Use a moving van
25 Wild party
27 Norman's st.
28 Untanned hide
29 Macaws
31 Pours wine
33 Coarse grass
38 Cable sta.
40 Quartet member
41 "The Bridge on the River —"
42 Victory sign
43 Infirmities
44 Hollywood's elephant boy
46 Duo
47 About (2 wds.)
48 Bump into
50 Mother sheep
52 Explosive (abbr.)
53 Spacewalk

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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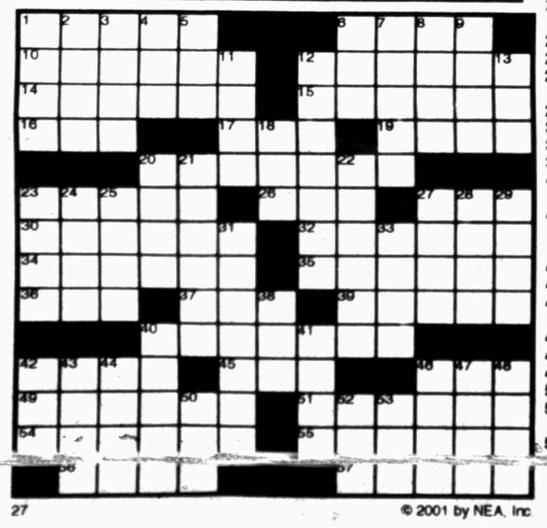

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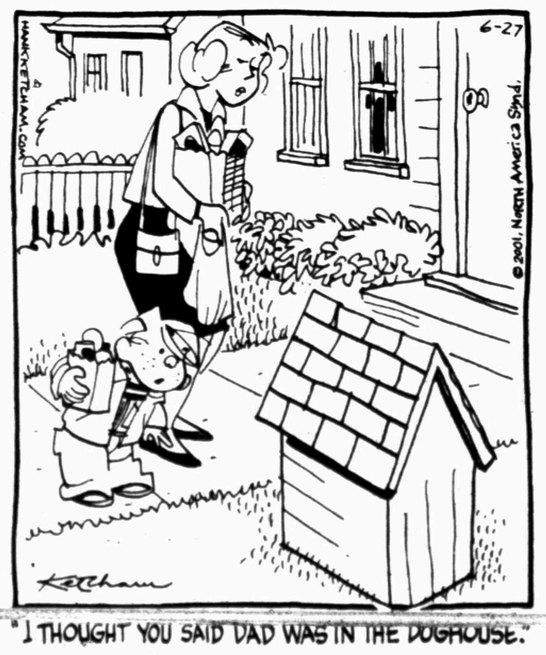
Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"I THOUGHT YOU SAID DAD WAS IN THE DOGHOUSE."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

Locals titles golf ev

WICHITA FA
High School
Calmes leads a g
golfers at the T
Junior Golf Cham
Calmes fired op
77 and 75 to put
ninth place early
year-old division.
The week-long
contested on four
Wichita Falls area
Saturday.
Fellow SHS se
caster opened wi
10th in the girls'
sification, while ju
ley is tied for 10th
old competition a
87.
In the boys' 11
Tyler McCormac
hole scores of 47
him 31st, with Jay
same spot in the
sion with rounds
Austin McCormac
the 14-year-old flig
In the 16-year-o
junior Stafford
locals' effort in 16
first-round 76. Bra
in a 78, and Matt
ished with a 85.
Joining Calmes
old division are
and Jason Willia
who moved back t
stint in Abilene
rounds of 78 a
Williams posted s
86.

WN Glar

All Times
EASTERN CO

Cleveland	
New York	
Miami	
Indiana	
Orlando	
Detroit	
Washington	
Charlotte	

WESTERN CO

Houston	
Los Angeles	
Portland	
Seattle	
Sacramento	
Minnesota	
Utah	
Phoenix	

Tuesday's
Cleveland 61, Portland 57
Los Angeles 98, Detroit 89
Wednesday'
Utah at Miami, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Charlotte, 7:30 p
Cleveland at Orlando, 7:30
Portland at Indiana, 8 p.m.
Washington at Houston, 8

Ma

National L
All Times
East Div

Philadelphia	4
Atlanta	4
Florida	4
New York	3
Montreal	3

Central Di

Chicago	4
Houston	4
St. Louis	4
Milwaukee	3
Cincinnati	2
Pittsburgh	2

West Div

Arizona	4
San Francisco	4
Los Angeles	3
Colorado	3
San Diego	3

Tuesday's
Chicago Cubs 4, N.Y. Met
Florida 3, Montreal 0
Pittsburgh 7, Milwaukee 6,
Atlanta 4, Philadelphia 1, 1
Cincinnati 10, St. Louis 9
San Diego 11, Colorado 3
Houston 10, Arizona 7
Los Angeles 14, San Fran
Wednesday'
Atlanta (Perez 5-5) at Phila
1:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Reed 7-3) at Cl
7-5), 2:20 p.m.
Montreal (Armas Jr. 7-5) a
0), 7:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Haynes 5-8) a
3-3), 7:05 p.m.
Los Angeles (Adams 2-2)
(Hernandez 6-9), 7:05 p.m
Cincinnati (Davis 0-0) at St
6-6), 8:10 p.m.
San Diego (Williams 5-6) a
4-4), 9:05 p.m.
Houston (Elarton 4-7) at A
10:05 p.m.
Thursday's
Milwaukee (Wright 7-4) at
8), 1:35 p.m.
Florida (Dempster 8-7) at
5-5), 5:05 p.m., 1st game
Florida (Clement 4-5) at Ph
0), DH, 2nd game
Chicago Cubs (Tapani 8-4
(Dessens 5-4), 7:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Hudson

SPORTS

Locals seek titles at jr. golf event

WICHITA FALLS — Snyder High School senior Clinton Calmes leads a group of 11 local golfers at the Texas-Oklahoma Junior Golf Championships.

Calmes fired opening rounds of 77 and 75 to put him in a tie for ninth place early in the boys' 17-year-old division.

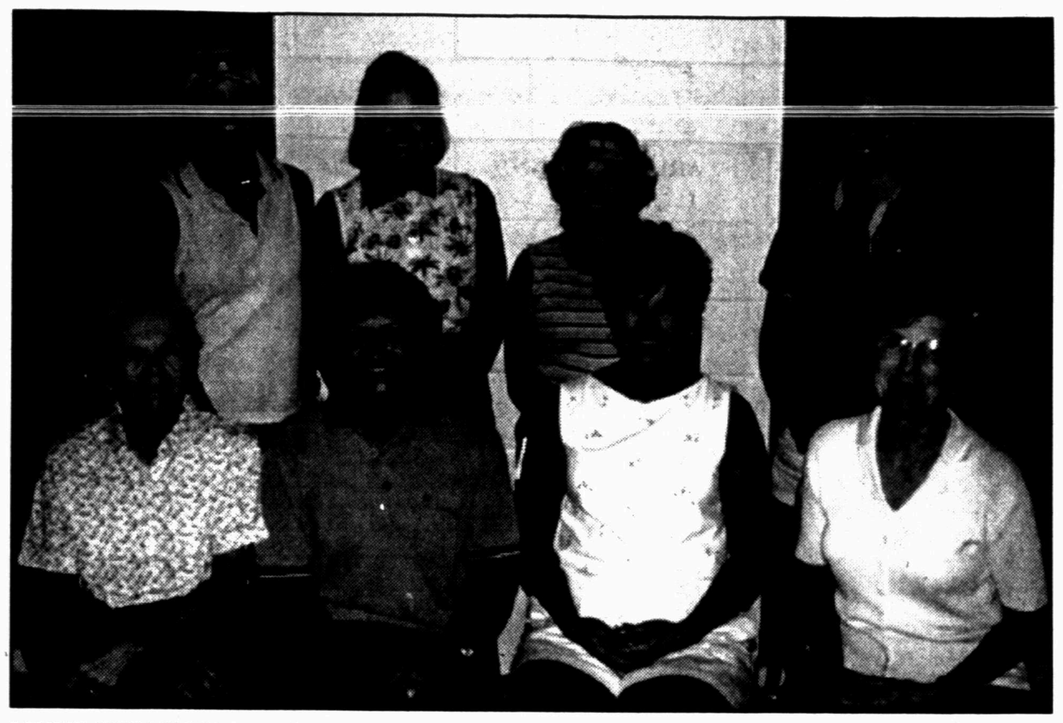
The week-long tournament is contested on four courses in the Wichita Falls area, and concludes Saturday.

Fellow SHS senior Andra Lancaster opened with an 80 to sit 10th in the girls' 17-year-old classification, while junior Katie Kerley is tied for 10th in the 16-year-old competition after posting an 87.

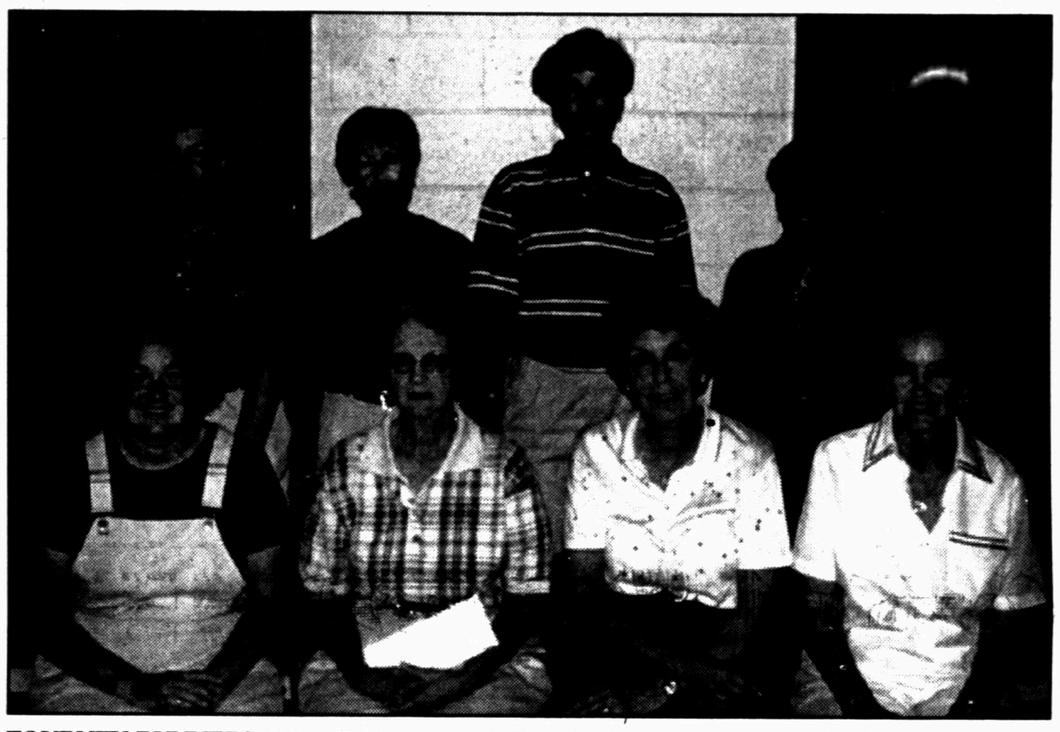
In the boys' 11-year-old event, Tyler McCormack tallied nine-hole scores of 47 and 43 to put him 31st, with Jay Weaver in the same spot in the 13-year-old division with rounds of 75 and 81. Austin McCormack carded a 91 in the 14-year-old flight.

In the 16-year-old class, Snyder junior Stafford Gray paces the locals' effort in 16th place with a first-round 76. Brady Reed turned in a 78, and Matt McCormick finished with a 85.

Joining Calmes in the 17-year-old division are Britt Sharrock and Jason Williams. Sharrock, who moved back to Snyder after a stint in Abilene, opened with rounds of 78 and 79, while Williams posted scores of 90 and 86.



LINKS CHAMPIONS — Earning top honors Tuesday in the first flight of the Ladies Invitational were, standing from left, Daysha Weaver, Liz Remy, Leslie Scott and Nicole Swann. Winners of the second flight were, seated, Karli Dye, Kay Bingham, Olivia Barton and Diana Stafford. (SDN Staff Photo)



TOURNEY RUNNERS-UP — Taking second place in the second flight of the Ladies Invitational were, seated from left, Barbara Leatherwood, Jo Sterling, Martha Fagin and Becky Knipe. First flight runners-up were, standing, Gladys Pavlack, Susan Bishop, Lori Wilson and Sharon Wright. (SDN Staff Photo)

Weaver team claims ladies' links crown

Former Snyder High School standout Daysha Weaver helped lead her team to a 10-under-par round of 62 Tuesday to earn the Ladies Invitational title at Snyder Country Club.

Weaver, a 1998 graduate of SHS and member of the University of North Texas golf squad, teamed up with Leslie Scott, Liz Remy and Nicole Swann to hold off the Lubbock foursome of Lori Wilson, Susan Bishop, Gladys Pavlack and Sharon Wright by two shots.

Juanita Hester, Susie Miller, Lisa Beck and Temi Matthies also carded a 64, but were edged out of second place on a scorecard playoff.

It took another playoff to decide the winners of the second flight. Diana Stafford, Olivia Barton, Kay Bingham and Karli Dye took top honors after winning the playoff against Martha Fagin, Becky Knipe, Barbara Leatherwood and Jo Sterling. Both squads posted rounds of 71.

Johnnie Carlisle, Mineola Stewart, Shirley Whitefield and Jean Hoover were only two strokes back in third place.

In other competition, Beck, Carlisle and Frances Nix won the closest-to-the-hole contests, while Lenita Fryar was first in the accuracy drive competition.

Ladies' Invitational at Snyder Country Club

FIRST FLIGHT

62 — Leslie Scott, Nicole Swann, Daysha Weaver and Liz Remy

64 — Lori Wilson, Susan Bishop, Gladys Pavlack and Sharon Wright

64 — Juanita Hester, Susie Miller, Lisa Beck and Temi Matthies

65 — Lucy Locke, Judy Cooke, Nancy Thrash and Barbara Hardin

67 — Esther Guelker, Doris Downing, Linda Duke and Rachel Swann

67 — Paula Overman, Sallye Ortiz, Beverly Ellison and Virginia English

68 — Susie Hernandez, Deborah Light, Linda Dewaters and Traci Pierce

69 — Anita Talbott, Suzy Reed, Joan Hood and Peggy Hardin

SECOND FLIGHT

71 — Diana Stafford, Olivia Barton, Kay Bingham and Karli Dye

71 — Martha Fagin, Becky Knipe, Barbara Leatherwood and Jo Sterling

73 — Johnnie Carlisle, Mineola Stewart, Shirley Whitefield and Jean Hoover

74 — Annette Sides, Dolores Carpenter, Kay Davidson and Frances Nix

75 — Daury Cockrell, Mary Gilbreath, Annie Ward and Mary Ruth Robertson

78 — Lenita Fryar, Joann Hilger, Dee Jenkins and Wanda Forbis

83 — Kathy Stephens, Gwen Sealy, Norma Thompson and Colleen Duke

WNBA Glance

All Times EDT

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	9	3	.750	—
New York	8	4	.667	1
Miami	5	5	.500	3
Indiana	4	6	.400	4
Orlando	4	6	.400	4
Detroit	3	7	.300	5
Washington	2	8	.200	6
Charlotte	1	10	.091	7½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	8	1	.889	—
Los Angeles	10	3	.769	—
Portland	6	4	.600	2½
Seattle	7	5	.583	2½
Sacramento	6	6	.500	3½
Minnesota	4	5	.444	4
Utah	4	5	.444	4
Phoenix	4	7	.364	5

Tuesday's Games

Cleveland 61, Portland 57

Los Angeles 98, Detroit 89, OT

Wednesday's Games

Utah at Miami, 7 p.m.

Detroit at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.

Cleveland at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.

Portland at Indiana, 8 p.m.

Washington at Houston, 8:30 p.m.

Rangers outlast Angels, 11-8

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — All-Star catcher Ivan Rodriguez has always been able to improvise.

On a play that looked like a pitchout to both managers, but wasn't, Rodriguez helped prevent a potential go-ahead run by Anaheim on Tuesday night. Rick Helling and two relievers blanked the Angels the rest of the way until the Texas Rangers used a seven-run 11th inning to beat them 8-1.

Garret Anderson led off the sixth with a double, then tagged up and took third on Tim Salmon's fly to center. Orlando Palmeiro got the sign to try a safety squeeze, but Helling's pitch was high and away and Anderson was trapped too far off third. Rodriguez tagged him out in the ensuing rundown.

"The pitchout was huge," Texas manager Jerry Narron said. "Give Pudge all the credit. He called it on his own. That was the play of the game."

Angels manager Mike Scioscia said, "To say that was a big play is an understatement. They guessed right, but that's baseball."

Helling insisted it wasn't a pitchout, however.

"Pudge called for a breaking ball first, and I shook him off for a fastball," the right-hander explained. "Then when I came up to get set, he was set up way off the plate — and I just assumed that meant he wanted me to miss off the plate, if I missed anywhere.

"Then I think he saw Garret creeping down the line, because he popped up right away. And as soon as I saw him pop up, I just tried to throw it to his glove."

Another bunt did in the Angels in the seventh. Texas first baseman Rafael Palmeiro caught rookie Larry Barnes' bunt in the air and flipped to second baseman Mike Young, who alertly covered first to retire Jorge Fabregas and complete the double play.

"That was a combination of a poor bunt and poor baserunning," Scioscia said. "We've been getting our bunts down, but tonight we couldn't execute at crucial times. And we paid the price."

Mark Lukasiewicz (0-2) was charged with all seven runs in the 11th after five scoreless innings by the Angels' bullpen.

"I don't think anybody likes to have an outing like that," the left-hander said. "I made some good pitches, but I couldn't get any breaks. Everything they hit found a hole."

Seven consecutive batters reached base against Lukasiewicz after he struck out Alex Rodriguez to open the inning. Andres Galarraga drove in the go-ahead run with a bases-loaded pinch single — his first hit in 11 at-bats, and 10th RBI in his last 38 games.

Ricky Ledee singled home another run, Mike Young's double drove in two more and Frank Catalanotto chased Lukasiewicz with a two-run single. Ivan Rodriguez capped the rally with a sacrifice fly.

Helling gave up eight hits, struck out three and walked two.

Major League Baseball

National League

All Times EDT

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	42	33	.560	—
Atlanta	42	34	.553	½
Florida	40	36	.526	2½
New York	33	45	.423	10½
Montreal	31	47	.397	12½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	45	30	.600	—
Houston	40	35	.533	5
St. Louis	40	36	.526	5½
Milwaukee	38	36	.513	6½
Cincinnati	29	46	.387	16
Pittsburgh	27	47	.365	17½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	46	31	.597	—
San Francisco	41	36	.533	5
Los Angeles	39	37	.513	6½
Colorado	37	40	.481	9
San Diego	37	40	.481	9

Tuesday's Games

Chicago Cubs 4, N.Y. Mets 2

Florida 3, Montreal 0

Pittsburgh 7, Milwaukee 6, 12 innings

Atlanta 4, Philadelphia 1, 11 innings

Cincinnati 10, St. Louis 9

San Diego 11, Colorado 3

Houston 10, Arizona 7

Los Angeles 14, San Francisco 8

Wednesday's Games

Atlanta (Perez 5-5) at Philadelphia (Wolf 4-8), 1:05 p.m.

N.Y. Mets (Reed 7-3) at Chicago Cubs (Wood 7-5), 2:20 p.m.

Montreal (Armas Jr. 7-5) at Florida (Sanchez 0-0), 7:05 p.m.

Milwaukee (Haynes 5-8) at Pittsburgh (Schmidt 3-3), 7:05 p.m.

Los Angeles (Adams 2-2) at San Francisco (Hernandez 6-9), 7:05 p.m.

Cincinnati (Davis 0-0) at St. Louis (Hermanson 6-6), 8:10 p.m.

San Diego (Williams 5-6) at Colorado (Bohanon 4-4), 9:05 p.m.

Houston (Elarton 4-7) at Arizona (Schilling 11-2), 10:05 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Milwaukee (Wright 7-4) at Pittsburgh (Ritchie 3-8), 1:35 p.m.

Florida (Dempster 8-7) at Philadelphia (Person 5-5), 5:05 p.m., 1st game

Florida (Clement 4-5) at Philadelphia (Coggin 0-0), DH, 2nd game

Chicago Cubs (Tapani 8-4) at Cincinnati (Dessens 5-4), 7:05 p.m.

N.Y. Mets (Rusch [illegible]), 7:35 p.m.

Los Angeles (Prokopec 6-4) at San Diego (Lawrence 1-0), 10 p.m.

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	45	30	.600	—
New York	42	33	.560	3
Toronto	37	39	.487	8½
Baltimore	35	41	.461	10½
Tampa Bay	22	54	.289	23½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	45	29	.608	—
Minnesota	45	30	.600	½
Chicago	36	37	.493	8½
Detroit	32	41	.438	12½
Kansas City	29	46	.387	16½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	56	19	.747	—
Anaheim	37	38	.493	19
Oakland	35	40	.467	21
Texas	29	46	.387	27

Tuesday's Games

Toronto 3, Baltimore 1

Boston 7, Tampa Bay 6

Cleveland 5, N.Y. Yankees 3

Kansas City 12, Detroit 5

Minnesota 7, Chicago White Sox 6

Texas 8, Anaheim 1, 11 innings

Seattle 7, Oakland 3

Wednesday's Games

Cleveland (Sabathia 7-2) at N.Y. Yankees (Mussina 7-7), 1:05 p.m.

Tampa Bay (Lopez 3-10) at Boston (Nomo 6-4), 7:05 p.m.

Baltimore (Mercedes 3-8) at Toronto (Loaiza 5-7), 7:05 p.m.

Chicago White Sox (K.Wells 4-3) at Minnesota (Lohse 0-0), 7:05 p.m.

Detroit (Lima 0-0) at Kansas City (Byrd 1-1), 8:05 p.m.

Texas (Davis 3-5) at Anaheim (Washburn 5-4), 10:05 p.m.

Oakland (Hudson 7-5) at Seattle (Halama 6-4), 10:05 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Baltimore (Ponson 4-5) at Toronto (Michalak 5-4), 12:35 p.m.

Chicago White Sox (D.Wells 5-7) at Minnesota (Radke 8-3), 1:05 p.m.

Detroit (Weaver 6-7) at Kansas City (Durbin 5-6), 2:05 p.m.

Oakland (Zito 4-6) at Seattle (Sele 8-1), 6:35 p.m.

Tampa Bay (Kennedy 2-1) at Boston (Castillo 7-5), 7:05 p.m.

Texas (Oliver 6-2) at Anaheim (Rapp 2-7), 10:05

Sports Briefs

WTC Classic

Western Texas College will host the WTC Classic Saturday and Sunday. Format is a three-person shamble.

All teams will be flighted after Saturday's round, and the field is limited to 40 teams. Cost is $210 per team, not including cart rental. To enter, call the WTC pro shop at 573-9291.

Volleyball tourney

A coed volleyball tournament will be held July 4 at Towle Park. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church youth group sponsors the event.

Eight players per team are allowed, and cost is $75 per squad. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. For more information, call Luis Alaniz at 573-7321.

Western Texas MGA

The Men's Golf Association of Western Texas College holds a weekly event at 6 p.m. each Tuesday. Players need to register in the pro shop by 5:30.

Volleyball camp

Snyder volleyball camp is scheduled for July 16-19 from 9 a.m. until noon each day. Incoming fifth through ninth grade girls are eligible, and cost is $40. Deadline to register is July 13.

For more information, call Coach Patty Grimmett at 573-9416 or 575-1785. If no answer, leave a message.

Tuesday scramble and all-day MGA

The Men's Golf Association of Snyder Country Club holds its weekly scramble at 5:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

Also, an all-day MGA event is held each Thursday.

WGA play day

The Women's Golf Association of Snyder Country Club holds its weekly play day at 9 a.m. each Tuesday. Format is all irons on the back nine.

A luncheon and business meeting will follow play.

Athletic physicals

Seventh and ninth grade SISD athletes, and anyone who has never participated in Snyder athletics must take a physical. SISD will pay for the physicals through Aug. 3.

An appointment should be made with one of the following doctors: Raykov, Burleson, Cooper, Thompson, Nussey, Wobolt, or P.A. Beth Ashley.

All SISD athletes must return completed athletic forms to the athletic director's office or Steve Kreuger.

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Decatur tire plant to be closed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. announced today that it will close the Decatur, Ill., plant that produced most of the 6.5 million tires the company was forced to recall last summer.

The tire maker sent a six-month notice of its plan to representatives of the United Steelworkers of America. It plans to close the plant by Dec. 31.

About 1,500 Bridgestone/Firestone employees and contractors work at the plant. About 450 other Decatur workers have been laid off since the recall.

Union and plant officials were meeting today morning to discuss the situation and were unavailable to comment.

Bridgestone/Firestone chief executive John Lampe said he feels "rotten, terrible" about the closing, but promised the company would live up to its contractual agreements with the workers.

"I guess when I took this job I knew it wasn't going to be easy and there would be decisions I wouldn't like to make," he said in a telephone interview from Tokyo. "The first was layoffs, which I hated, and the next was the difficult decision to end our relationship with Ford Motor Co. And I don't think either one of those were as tough as this one."

Last August, Bridgestone/Firestone recalled all 15-inch ATX tires, and the 15-inch Wilderness AT tires built just in Decatur, after discovering those lines had high failure rates. After a four-month internal investigation, Bridgestone/Firestone said a faulty design and a unique manufacturing process at the Decatur plant caused some tires to suddenly lose their tread or suffer other failures.

The Decatur plant uses a process known as pelletizing, in which rubber pellets are blended with a lubricant to create the rubber that coats the steel belts of tires. Other plants use rubber slabs, which require less lubricant. The company found the lubricant apparently can cause a tire breakdown.

At least 203 deaths and more than 700 injuries have been linked to Firestone tire failures in the United States. Many involved rollovers of the Ford Explorer, the world's best-selling sport utility vehicle, which had Firestone tires as standard equipment.

Bridgestone/Firestone has insisted all Wilderness AT tires made at other plants are safe, but last month Ford announced it would replace all 13 million Wilderness AT tires on its vehicles because of safety concerns.

That came a day after Bridgestone/Firestone announced it was ending a nearly century-long relationship with Ford because of what it said was Ford's refusal to acknowledge design flaws with the Explorer that were partly responsible for the rollovers. Ford says the Explorer is safe and the tires were the sole reason for the accidents.

Lampe said the company plans to close the Decatur plant because of reduced consumer demand for Firestone tires, not because of the manufacturing problems.

"I know it's going to appear that way to people, but I promise you that the fact that Decatur is the candidate we are looking at is that it's our oldest facility," he said. "It is very costly to maintain. It has nothing to do with the recall, other than that the recall hurt our demand."

The Decatur plant was built in 1942 and designed to make tanks for the Army during World War II. Firestone bought the plant in 1963 and modified the plant to build tires. It has been in continuous production since and is the oldest of Bridgestone/Firestone's facilities that make tires for cars and light trucks.

"Our entire company is committed to rebuilding this organization and the Firestone brand," said Mike Gorey, Bridgestone/Firestone's corporate controller. "In order to keep that promise, this company must be financially strong and viable. This is a necessary, but painful step to ensure our continued financial health and viability."

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has been investigating whether more Firestone tires should be recalled. It plans to wrap up its probe within a month.

On the Net:
Bridgestone/Firestone:
http://www.bridgestone-firestone.com

House hands Bush setback on trade

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush suffered an embarrassing setback in his drive for freer trade with Mexico with a House vote to limit Mexican truckers' access to U.S. roads. But lawmakers predicted the restrictions will be eased before becoming law.

In a move that surprised the Teamsters union and business interests on either side of the issue, the House voted 285-143 on Tuesday to bar the Transportation Department from issuing safety permits that would let Mexican trucks operate throughout the United States.

The Senate has yet to vote on the issue.

As part of the 8-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement, Bush had announced plans to let Mexican trucks begin making deliveries throughout this country starting next January. They currently are restricted to a narrow commercial zone just north of the Mexican border.

The vote was a blow to a president who as former Texas governor has long pushed for closer commercial ties to Mexico and who is a staunch advocate of freer trade. And it came on the very day that Mexican President Vicente Fox told executives and directors of The Associated Press that the slumping U.S. economy was hurting Mexico's hopes for prosperity. He also spoke of the close, cooperative relationship he has with Bush.

"We're going to work with Congress to ensure the final bill is consistent with our obligations under NAFTA and to ensure all U.S. safety standards are met," said White House spokeswoman Claire Buchan. She called Tuesday's vote "the first step in the process."

Making Bush's defeat even more stinging was that 82 Republicans joined 201 Democrats and two independents in voting to restrict the Mexican trucks.

The amendment was proposed by Rep. Martin Sabo, D-Minn., after the House voted 219-205 against his offer of a milder provision that would have required Mexican trucking companies and their vehicles to be inspected before the trucks enter the United States.

Bush has proposed permitting Mexican companies that say they comply with U.S. safety standards to operate here for 18 months while their claims are verified.

"This was a strong message to the administration that the public and Congress feel very strong about the safety issues involved," Sabo said.

Even so, he predicted the provision "will be modified" before Congress completes it, perhaps requiring the inspections he initially favored.

House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, agreed, saying of the vote: "I don't think that that's a big deal."

He attributed the vote — in which 38 percent of Republicans supported Sabo — to pressure from labor. "A lot of people were probably feeling they could be friendly to the Teamsters," he said.

The union, which endorsed Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore last year, has 1.4 million members, including 120,000 in the freight industry.

The issue pitted the Teamsters and some traffic safety groups against the American Trucking Association, representing trucking companies, and the businesses that ship goods with them.

Under NAFTA, Mexican trucks were to have full access to U.S. roads by January 2000. Citing safety concerns and feeling pressure from organized labor, the Clinton administration blocked that from happening. But a NAFTA arbitration panel ruled in February that the United States was violating the treaty. Bush had pledged to honor the free-trade agreement.

The truck-safety fight came as the House approved a $59.1 billion transportation bill for the 2002 budget year, which begins Oct. 1.

Final passage was by 426-1, with only Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, voting no.

The bill had included an additional $88 million the administration requested, for a total of $120 million, for extra border inspectors and facilities, but it was removed for technical reasons.

The House also voted 219-202 along partisan lines to uphold a provision ordering local officials to rename the Metrorail station at northern Virginia's Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport for the former president.

For the first time since the GOP took control of Congress in 1995, the transportation bill lacks language blocking the government from forcing automakers to boost the gasoline mileage of their vehicles. Manufacturers have been reluctant to continue the ban with Bush and politicians of both parties emphasizing the nation's energy problems.

Negotiators reach deal on charities legislation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Charities that want to run social service programs with government money will have to let participants opt out of any religious aspects of their programs, GOP negotiators agreed, allowing stalled legislation to move forward in the House.

That was one of a handful of new protections separating church and state that House Republicans and the Bush administration agreed to Tuesday as they settled differences over legislation allowing religious charities to compete for government money in 10 social service programs.

President Bush has outlined his vision for the legislation on several occasions, though his administration had never detailed precisely how the law should be written. Some of his advisers were loathe to support the bill introduced into the House, fearing it did not include enough safeguards to win support of Democrats or, possibly, to pass constitutional muster in the courts.

Those concerns were shared by Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., who refused to move the legislation until they were addressed.

Sensenbrenner's concerns were "driving everyone kind of crazy," said Rep. Mark Souder, R-Ind., a longtime supporter of giving government money to religious charities. But they were important, he said.

"It's better to err on the side of caution than to plunge ahead and not be able to get a bill passed or get sued on our weak link," said Souder.

Now, with the agreement in hand, the Judiciary Committee is expected to consider the revised bill on Thursday.

At issue were protections both for participants in religious social-service programs and for churches that might offer programs using government money.

Under the agreement, participants in social-service programs will be allowed to sit out any religious aspects, a concession by conservatives, according to officials on Capitol Hill and in the Bush administration who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In addition, House Republicans have agreed to make it clear that if the group takes money directly from the government, it must keep its religious programming or proselytizing separate from its secular, government-funded programming, an administration official said.

Churches will be encouraged to set up separate, nonprofit organizations to run their government programs in order to keep tax dollars separate from private church money. If they set up separate organizations, their church accounts will be protected from financial audits or lawsuits that arise from the government programs, the officials said.

These separate organizations may still be religious in nature — they will just be distinct from the church or synagogue.

Finally, religious charities that get government money will be allowed to consider religion when they hire staff. But they won't be allowed to consider someone's religious practices, as the House bill backed by Reps. J.C. Watts, R-Okla., and Tony Hall, D-Ohio, called for.

The deal essentially puts most of the key Republicans on the same page and allows the legislation to come before the committee and ultimately the House floor. But it is still likely to be opposed by most Democrats and outside groups, who were not part of the negotiations.

The White House had hoped that the House would approve the bill before next week's July 4 recess, but that's no longer feasible. Leaders now hope for a floor vote by the end of summer.

The bill is H.R. 7

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	33.84	32.90	33.84	+ .44
AOL TimeWrn	53.15	52.46	52.80	—.05
AT&T Corp	20.84	20.60	20.80	+ .09
Albertsons	29.88	29.45	29.46	—.11
Alltel	58.05	57.20	57.50	—.71
AmEl Pw	46.56	45.87	46.54	+ .55
AndarkPtr	56.65	55.52	55.80	—1.23
ATMOS Egy	23.40	23.20	23.33	+ .21
Aviall	10.86	10.62	10.82	+ .05
BP PLC	52.46	51.87	52.15	—.80
BakerHughes	36.79	35.80	36.04	—1.00
Bank of Amer	61.10	60.25	60.86	+ .46
BellSouth	38.49	38.05	38.26	—.48
Beth Steel	1.94	1.76	1.92	+ .23
BurlNoSFe	29.34	29.01	29.19	+ .18
Caterpillar	53.95	53.23	53.71	+ .51
Chevron	93.98	92.90	92.91	—1.79
Citigroup s	52.96	51.76	52.92	+ .77
CocaCola	44.35	43.90	44.28	+ .33
ColgatePal	60.57	60.26	60.42	—.28
ComclMetals	30.60	30.19	30.60	+ .41
CooperIn	38.95	38.15	38.80	—.05
DaimlrChry	44.74	44.57	44.63	+ .03
DeltaAirl	42.48	41.58	42.45	+ 1.17
Diliards Inc	15.87	15.45	15.55	—.08
DowChem	34.12	33.25	34.05	+ .89
DuPont	47.87	46.67	47.67	+ .76
EastmanChem	47.70	47.10	47.43	+ .30
EstKodak	47.19	46.75	47.09	+ .47
EDS Corp	60.90	60.54	60.59	+ .44
Entergy	40.20	39.60	40.00	+ .36
ExxonMobil	88.10	87.28	87.46	—1.10
ExxonMob wi	44.40	43.88	43.88	—.62
FstBksAm	25.40	25.35	25.40	—.13
GenDynam	75.05	74.40	74.75	+ .26
GenElec	48.78	48.24	48.24	—.55
GenMills	42.77	42.21	42.61	+ .31
GenMotors	62.67	62.00	62.21	—.39
GaPacGP	34.35	34.00	34.22	+ .72
GlobalMar	20.60	19.85	20.10	—.75
Goodrich	38.00	37.50	37.94	+ .74
Goodyear s	27.84	27.41	27.83	+ .44
GtAtlPac	13.95	13.80	13.85	+ .05
Halliburtn	40.52	39.56	39.81	—1.32
Hanson ADS	35.96	35.49	35.57	—.53
HarteHanks	24.23	23.95	24.23	+ .23
HomeDepot	48.25	46.90	47.80	+ .65
HoneywellIntl	37.50	36.21	37.34	+ 1.14
IBM	113.84	113.08	113.84	+ .80
IntlPaper	36.10	35.75	35.92	+ .42
JohnsonJn s	51.50	51.05	51.20	+ .09
K mart	11.15	10.94	11.12	+ .18
KinderMorg	54.68	54.18	54.56	+ .04
Kroger Co	25.05	24.[illegible]	25.05	+ .30
LockheedM	36.20	35.90	36.12	+ .12
Lowes Cos	76.39	75.72	75.91	+ .11
Lubys	9.50	9.15	9.43	+ .23
LucentTech	6.00	5.87	5.92	—.08
MayDeptStr	33.65	33.23	33.39	+ .08
Medtronic	46.69	46.00	46.41	—.44
Motorola	15.13	14.70	15.07	+ .42
NCR Corp	47.07	46.72	47.03	+ .31
Navistar	28.28	27.96	28.28	+ .53
Penney JC	25.25	24.35	25.14	—.31
PepBoys	11.23	10.90	10.93	—.27
PepsiCo	45.12	44.36	44.92	+ .09
Pharmacia	48.45	48.02	48.09	—.34
PhelpDodge	40.28	39.90	40.19	+ .24
PhilipPet	57.20	56.03	56.33	—1.55
PilgrmPrd B	12.36	12.35	12.36	+ .01
Polaroid	2.60	2.52	2.53	—.06
Praxair	46.72	45.94	46.59	+ .69
ProctGamb	64.33	63.57	63.72	—.14
PubS NwMx	31.57	31.20	31.37	—.10
RadioShack	28.10	27.69	27.95	+ .01
ReliantEngy	31.24	30.65	31.24	+ .74
RoyalDut	59.48	59.09	59.25	—.84
SBC Comm	39.36	38.88	39.26	—.18
SaraLee	18.59	18.43	18.51	—.02
Scripps EW	67.75	66.98	67.55	+ .47
SearsRoeb	40.97	40.45	40.70	+ .15
SherwinW	21.37	21.03	21.24	+ .13
SouthernCo s	23.69	23.36	23.66	+ .31
SwstAirl s	17.50	17.03	17.43	+ .42
SprintFON	20.80	20.52	20.75	+ .15
SprintPCS	22.37	21.81	22.35	+ .20
Sunoco Inc	35.20	34.45	34.66	—1.23
TXU Corp	48.37	47.95	48.35	+ .21
TempleInland	53.65	52.80	53.41	+ .74
Texaco	70.14	69.15	69.17	—1.13
TexInd	31.99	31.60	31.99	+ .45
TexasInst	30.75	30.06	30.53	—.38
Textron	56.75	56.20	56.63	+ .28
TriconGlbR	43.75	43.46	43.59	—.10
TrinityInds	21.43	21.26	21.43	+ .03
TritonEngy	32.00	31.03	31.78	—.72
TylerTech	2.60	2.49	2.50	
USX-Marathn	29.90	29.44	29.62	—.58
USX-USS	19.92	19.48	19.90	+ .40
UnionPacif	52.24	51.51	52.19	+ .93
UnitedTech	74.25	73.80	74.00	+ .39
Unocal	34.85	34.01	34.25	—.54
Veneator Grp	15.05	14.73	15.05	+ .30
VerizonComm	53.00	52.69	52.78	—.22
WalMart	49.70	48.90	49.24	+ .14
WellsFargo	46.33	45.25	46.26	+ .95
WstnGasRs	34.10	33.05	33.17	—.89
WmDiele	20.03	20.18	20.20	
Xerox Cp	8.80	8.08	8.77	+ .64

JUN 27 2001

Scurry County Country

Diversified

By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

(Editor's Note: This the first of two articles on how Texas prepares for emergency disaster)

Texas Prepares for Emergency Disaster

With 254 counties and more than 36 million head of livestock and wildlife at risk, Texas animal health officials cannot afford to wait until a foreign animal disease strikes to plan for disaster. For nearly four years, the Texas Animal Health commission (TAHC), the state's livestock regulatory agency, and the Texas staff of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Veterinary Services (USDA-APHS-VS) have prepared to respond to an animal disease or pest emergency, address bio-terrorists events involving livestock, or respond during a natural or man-made calamity, including a flood or hurricane.

Each member of the joint state and federal first-strike force, called the Texas Emergency Response Team (TERT), has advance duty assignment to lessen confusion when disaster strikes, says Dr. Linda Logan, Texas state veterinarian and head of the TAHC. Furthermore, nearly all of the state's 21 regulatory veterinarians are foreign animal disease diagnosticians, trained to recognize dangerous animal diseases, and properly collect and ship samples for laboratory diagnosis, she said.

In years past, said Dr. Logan, the USDA had sufficient funding to develop and maintain first-response teams, which were called READEOs, or Regional Emergency Animal Disease Eradication Organizations. Because of funding and staffing cuts, the USDA today operates only two READEOs, and states have to be able to respond immediately, Dr. Logan pointed out.

"The 216 TAHC staff and the Texas USDA alone could not sustain eradication efforts for a long-term or widespread animal disease outbreak, so we also joined forces with Texas Department of Emergency Management, where we can draw on services, technical expertise, equipment and manpower statewide," said Dr. Logan. "On March 29, 2001, Gov. Rick Perry, recognizing the importance of the Texas livestock industry to the state's economy, appointed the TAHCX as a full-fledged member of the 32-seat State Emergency Management Council."

Gov. Perry then established by a letter dated April 5, the Foreign Animal Disease Working Group, chaired by Dr. Logan. The objective to manage an animal disease emergency in the most efficient manner possible. More than 30 state agencies are members of this group, which is working closely with the Division of Emergency Management, Texas Department of Public Safety. Among the members are The Texas Department of Highways, Texas A&M University, and the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Logan said the TAHC also has organized a Stakeholder Advisory Group that includes all the major livestock industry organizations in Texas. This group will provide input and be a part of the planning process needed to manage an animal health emergency.

"With the industry's support, we can succeed. Without it, all our best efforts could fail," commented Dr. Logan. She said the 12 governor-appointed members on the TAHC commission also represent facts of the livestock industry, including cattle feeding, exotic livestock and few, equine, veterinarians and public members.

For several years, TAHC field staff across the state also have developed valuable contacts with local leaders, including county judges, local disaster agencies, agriculture teachers, county agents and private veterinary practitioners through the TRACE or Texas Rural Awareness, Compliance and Education effort. With increased threat of foot-and-mouth disease FMD, field-staff revisited community bellwethers or provide disease information and instructions on how to report suspect cases.

Dr. Logan pointed out that livestock producers might avoid reporting cases, for fear of crying, "wolf." Diagnosis can also be confused with vesticular stomatitis, VS, a viral disease that, during the past 10 years, has resulted in sporadic outbreaks in New Mexico, Colorado and Texas. Unlike FMD, however, VS can affect horses. In sheep, blisters and erosions also can be caused by bluetongue, or contagious ecthyma, better known as 'sore mouth.'

"If a producer sees an animal with erosions or blisters around the mouth, in the mouth, excessive slobbering, lameness or foot erosions, we want them to immediately contact their local veterinarian, the Texas USDA-APHIS-VS, or the TAHC," said Dr. Logan. "We have a 24-hour hotline, and one of our foreign animal disease diagnosticians to the premise to collect samples and assess the situation."

To promote livestock health awareness, TAHC staff is encouraged to actively seek speaking engagements for youth associations, producer groups and the Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions Clubs. The TAHC also distributes numerous new releases, information kits and brochures to keep producers and the public informed not only about regulations, but also disaster preparedness, said Dr. Logan.

Because it's not enough to just plant for disaster, Dr. Logan said five TAHC veterinarians have had month-long stints in Great Britain, as part of the USDA's international assistance to the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak. "Seeing field cases of TMD and working on-site in an eradication effort is the most valuable training for our foreign animal disease diagnosticians," she said.

This spring, Dr. Logan also attended a reunion of people who battled FMD in Mexico in the late 1940s and early 1950s. "These folks have a wealth of practical experience they can share," said Dr. Logan. "These men and women are heroes, having spent several years eradicating the outbreak so near to us."

With a common border stretching 1,237 miles, Texas continues to maintain communication and share livestock health formation with Mexico's livestock producers and veterinarians. Dr. Alejandro Perea, formerly a USDA veterinarian in Mexico, is the TAHC bi-national liaison, and works closely with the other border states: New Mexico, California and Arizona.

(The second article will run next week)

Markets

Colorado City

The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 664 head of cattle for the Saturday, June 23, sale. Compared to last week: Feeder steers and heifers were steady. Slaughter cows were $2 to $4 higher and bulls were steady. Bred cows and pairs were steady. Trade was active and demand good.

Feeder steers:
200-300: 1278-131
300-400: 110-111
500-600: 96-100
600-700: 87.50-90
700-800: 82.75-85
Feeder heifers:
300-400: 100-101
500-600: 87.50-90
600-700: 77.25-84.50
700-800: 71.50-81
Slaughter cows:
Breakers: 1000-1250 Lbs. 42-47.50
Boners: 1000-1200 Lbs. 45-49
Packer bulls: 52-61.25
Young bred cows: $580-$620
Young pairs: $725-970
Middle aged: $550-$625

Lubbock

The Lubbock Stockyards, Inc. had a run of 1,283 head of cattle for the Thursday, June 21, sale. Cows were $2 better. Calves and yearlings were steady. Trading and demand were good.

Slaughter cows
(High dressing — cutters — utilities: 43-52.50
Canner and low cutters: 38-44
Slaughter bulls: 53-61
Feeder steers — choice:
300-400: 110-130
400-500: 90-108
500-600: 85-100
600-700: 85-91
700-800: 81-87.50
Feeder heifers:
300-400: 100-115
400-500: 90-100
500-600: 85-92
600-700: 80-87
700-800: 75-85
Feeder Bulls — good and choice:
500-600: 85-95
700-800: 72-81
Cow and calf pairs:
Good: 650-800
Grade: 550-650
Springers: 400-725
Baby calves: 50-150
Doodlers: 125-250

Prosecutors won't retry man for murder

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Prosecutors have decided not to retry a man freed from prison after his sister uncovered DNA evidence that cast doubt on his murder conviction.

Kenneth Waters, 47, spent 20 years in prison after he was found guilty of killing a woman during a robbery in 1980.

His sister, Betty Anne Waters, proved that blood from the crime scene, believed to have come from the killer, didn't match her brother's, and in March a judge ordered Waters released.

On Tuesday, the Middlesex District Attorney's Office said it will drop its case against Waters.

"There is insufficient evidence to proceed with a criminal prosecution," prosecutors wrote, adding that the murder investigation will continue.

Waters' sister is a former high school dropout who put herself through law school hoping to clear her brother's name.

At the time of the trial, DNA testing of evidence was not possible.

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The basic monetary unit of Ecuador is the sucre, and its chief fractional unit is the centavo.

CITY WIDE GARAGE SALE!

July 21

HEY SNYDER...

Plan now for your City Wide Garage Sale. Gather up those items taking up space in your garage, attic and basement and sell them for cash at your garage sale!

Ad must be placed by noon, Wednesday, July 18, 2001.

•Garage Sale Ads Published Friday, July 20 in the Snyder Daily News

•Use up to 30 words to describe your sale (additional words 20¢ each)

•Sale ads will be grouped by location

•Get 4 Garage Sale Signs

•Rain Insurance... If it rains, your Garage Sale ad will be reprinted FREE!

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Interactive television brings safety concerns

WASHINGTON (AP) — Privacy advocates warn that the gee-whiz technology behind the upcoming interactive television could also be used to invade your privacy.

Jeff Chester, executive director of the Center for Digital Democracy, said that Internet privacy pales in comparison to how much a television can gather about viewers.

"This is a device that people use regularly for seven to eight hours," Chester said. "This is not a PC, this is a piece of furniture. People rely on it."

Most television watchers haven't seen interactive television yet, but a host of companies are pushing to bring it to the living room. It could include Web access, video on demand, shopping and targeted advertising based on what's known about the viewer.

With those features come an unprecedented power to collect customer data, from how often you use the remote control to which commercials you skip to how long you linger over an episode of "Baywatch."

Market research firm Carmel Group estimates that there will be 61.5 million interactive television users by the end of 2006.

A cable industry representative said Tuesday that a 1984 federal law puts their industry under more scrutiny. The law requires cable providers to tell viewers what information they're collecting and give consumers the chance to opt out.

"The fact that we've been dealing with that for the past 15 years actually gives us a heightened sensitivity and expertise to the issue," said Mark Smith of the National Cable and Telecommunications Association. "No other industry has been dealing with this stuff like we have."

The law doesn't cover satellite companies or devices like TiVo or Microsoft's UltimateTV, which use a phone line to connect with a central network. Earlier this year, TiVo said that it collected detailed information about its subscribers, like when they pressed the volume buttons on their remotes, but has stopped the practice.

The Association for Interactive Media, which represents interactive TV companies, is trying to keep lawmakers from passing laws that require a viewer's permission first.

AIM spent $18,000 to lobby Washington in 1999, according to the most recent available information from the Center for Responsive Politics. AIM's parent group, the Direct Marketing Association, spent $360,000 in lobbying efforts that year and $1 million the year before.

"We're trying to make sure that everyone knows that this group is working on this," AIM's executive director Ben Isaacson said. "We want to give self-regulation as much of an opportunity as possible."

NCTA hasn't yet taken a position yet on whether viewers should have to volunteer to be tracked or have to opt out of tracking.

The report identifies the top players in the burgeoning industry, including AT&T, Microsoft and Scientific-Atlanta, which makes digital cable boxes.

One of those companies, ACTV, has software that will let advertisers target consumers after learning everything it can about them.

The company's statement to the Securities and Exchange Commission reads, "We collect and store personal information from users of our One To One TV and HyperTV applications and plan to use such information to develop our businesses and generate revenues."

"Their vision for it is that anything is for sale," Chester said of the interactive companies. "These are unconscionable practices."

An ACTV spokeswoman said company executives would not be available to comment for this story.

Chester said he is aware that there have been few successes in pushing for Internet privacy laws but that Congress isn't aware of how powerful their televisions will become.

"It's clearly an uphill battle here in imposing meaningful safeguards," he said. "But the problem is simply getting out of hand. Today it's the PC, tomorrow it's the TV, and next it'll probably be the toaster reporting back about you."

On the Net:

Association for Interactive Media: http://www.interactivehq.org

Center for Digital Democracy: http://www.democraticmedia.org/

WatchPoint Media: http://www.watchpointmedia.com

Fireworks produce ground-level ozone

By The Associated Press

The fireworks that delight crowds during celebrations like the Fourth of July and New Year's Eve create more than just dazzling colors. They produce smog, too.

Scientists in India say fireworks can generate ground-level ozone — a key ingredient in lung-choking urban smog. They reached their conclusion after monitoring air quality during a Hindu festival when celebrants flooded New Delhi's streets to ignite sparklers.

Previously, the interaction of sunlight and air pollutants had been the only known source of ground-level ozone, which poses a health threat to people with respiratory problems.

But researchers from Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi found that the flickering light emitted by burning sparklers during the Diwali festival of lights in November 1999 was enough to cause an atmospheric reaction that produced ozone.

They said the findings could give air quality experts something more to worry about, particularly since big fireworks displays often occur during the peak summer ozone season. Their research appears in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

But fireworks are far from a big concern in one of the United States' most notoriously smoggy regions — the Los Angeles area — said a spokesman for that area's air quality district.

That's because the ozone increase detected in New Delhi — about 9 parts per billion — is minuscule in comparison to ozone produced in L.A. due in large part to auto pollution, said Bill Kelly, a spokesman for Southern California's South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Los Angeles recorded a peak of 180 parts per billion of ozone in 1999, far above the EPA maximum of 124 parts per billion.

"It's clear from their research that fireworks are producing ozone, but in terms of ozone, we're primarily concerned about the 10 million vehicles that operate in our region every day, 24-7," he said.

Ozone, or smog, is the result of sunlight interacting with a number of pollutants including hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides from tailpipes or evaporation from motor vehicles. At high levels, it is a severe irritant that can damage lung tissues and aggravate respiratory problems.

Arun Attri, an associate professor of biophysics at Jawaharlal Nehru University who led the research, said he suspects that all types of fireworks produce some amount of ozone.

But he noted that most of the fireworks lit during the Diwali festival are hand-held sparklers that keep the ozone close to the ground. That's markedly different from fireworks displays elsewhere that send incendiaries high above cities to produce colorful explosions.

He said his team's findings weren't entirely unexpected because many people with respiratory ailments flee Indian cities during the Diwali festival to avoid fireworks-induced pollution.

He hopes the research prompts Indian officials to consider fireworks restrictions during the November festival, which marks the victory of the Hindu god Rama over the demon king Ravana in Hindu mythology.

"Maybe they will listen to reason to make some changes," he said.

Air quality experts with the Environmental Protection Agency declined to comment on the study because they had too many questions about the researchers' methodology, said EPA spokesman Dave Ryan.

"There just wasn't enough information for them to make a judgment on the validity of the study. There's just not enough there," Ryan said.

He said the EPA has no regulations governing fireworks displays, although the Clean Air Act permits state and local governments to enact such restrictions.

On the Net:

Nature: http://www.nature.com

The South Coast AQMD: http://www.aqmd.gov

Girl gets 5-7 years in slaying

CHICAGO (AP) — A 14-year-old girl, convicted of killing her mother by stabbing her more than 200 times, was sentenced Tuesday to five to seven years in a juvenile detention center.

Under the sentence, if she commits any crime during her juvenile detention she could be sent to adult prison for 35 years.

Cook County Juvenile Court Judge Edward N. Pietrucha applied a 1999 state law allowing dual sentencing for juvenile offenders. The girl, whose name has not been released because of her age, was convicted earlier this month of the Sept. 2, 2000, slaying.

The girl, then 13, attacked her 34-year-old mother outside the suburban Chicago apartment where they lived

During the sentencing hearing, the girl said she was sad her mother was dead and accepted the sentence. She asked Pietrucha to give her the lightest adult sentence.

"I plan on doing everything in my power to stay out of trouble," she said. "I am not a bad person."

Kip Owens, an assistant Cook County state's attorney who prosecuted the case, described the girl's crime as "brutal, heinous and savage," and requested an adult sentence of 45 years.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Thursday, June 28, 2001

To recognize or appreciate the many opportunities that will surround you in the year ahead, you'll have to be on your toes. However, you'll spot enough of them to satisfy your needs.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — It could be one of those days when it will be difficult to please anybody, perhaps even including yourself. Nothing may seem good enough, nor correct enough, to suit you. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it.

The Astro Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Your sense of values may leave a lot to be desired today. You could throw your nose up at things that are truly of value to embrace all that is worthless.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Associations that have a direct effect on your career could be a trifle tricky. Be especially cognizant of how you treat or respond to all with whom you have to deal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Brooding over what could have or should have been is a waste of time. Get over it by being immersed in good old-fashioned work and things won't seem so bad.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Being your own worst enemy is easy to do if you knowingly allow others to take advantage of you. If you end up feeling taken, the one at fault may be found in the mirror.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — It isn't likely that parity will be achieved in any partnership arrangement today, be it with your mate or an outside associate. Settle for what you must and don't look back.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — "Idle hands are the devil's workshop" is how that old saying goes, and today you might fit this picture perfectly. If you don't keep busy, you could get yourself in trouble.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Hurt feelings could result from some kind of financial dealings with a friend today. There is a possibility you may feel slighted when an outsider's returns are greater than yours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Don't waste your valuable time and effort as tools of appeasement today. Let things work themselves out in their way without pushing and pleading.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Not everyone will be operating in accordance with your high standards today, so don't be too surprised if someone in whom you placed your trust disappoints you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Avoid taking chances on either your resources or a friendship. In either case, thinking you can abuse them and they will be forgiving is not likely to be the case.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Don't take anything or anybody for granted today. What you think may be going on might turn out to be just the opposite, and your plans or objectives could be fouled.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Second opinions may be necessary

DEAR DR. GOTT: I was moved by your reader's letter about untreatable cancer, and wish to share my experience. My mother, at age 59, was diagnosed with lung cancer a year ago and her doctor said that surgery was not an option because the disease had spread. They suggested radiation or chemotherapy, both of which she refused.

We were devastated. Finally, after intensive investigation, she decided to obtain a second opinion from a cancer center. To our surprise, these new doctors recommended surgery. The procedure was a success, and she had post-op chemotherapy. She is now cancer-free. I would like to encourage your readers to research problems such as this, and obtain second opinions. Medical people are wonderful, but in the final analysis, the patient has to take control and do what's best.

DEAR READER: Second opinions are, indeed, invaluable. And much advantage can be obtained from them. I am delighted to learn that your mother appears to have been cured of her cancer.

But the story is not yet over. Metastatic pulmonary carcinoma (lung cancer that has spread) is often difficult to manage, much less to cure. Therefore, your mother will have to undergo close medical follow-up for the next few years. Small areas of metastases are often not readily visible on testing, so she is not out of the woods yet.

Nonetheless, I hear your message: Hope is paramount. In fact, a positive attitude has been shown in medical studies to have a very beneficial effect on recovery from many diseases. And you're also correct that patients often improve if they believe they can maintain control of their lives.

I urge your mother, with the help of what is obviously a very supportive family, to follow her doctors' advice with respect to medical monitoring and future therapy. My prayers are with her.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Living With Chronic Lung Disease." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My 40 year-old daughter developed a strange syndrome last winter: Whenever she was exposed to cold, she developed hives. Her doctor diagnosed her with "cold hives" and gave her an antihistamine to be used when needed. It hasn't worked. She can no longer go swimming, eat anything cold or even use the garden hose to wash the dogs. This is scary. What is her next step?

DEAR READER: Indeed it is scary - and frustrating, too. Cold-induced urticaria is believed to be moderated by certain proteins in the immune system. The precise mechanism is still not fully understood but the syndrome is clearly an allergy to cold, much the same way that other people react adversely to foods or pollen.

I believe that she needs to be examined by an allergist. In the meantime, she should use a non-sedating antihistamine medication, such as Claritin, Allegra or Zyrtec every day, whether or not she is having symptoms. I am sure that the allergist will be able to suggest more specific therapy for her.

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JUN 27 2001

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Bush, Sharon disagree over key issues

WASHINGTON (AP) — Disagreements over key issues marked the second meeting in three months between President Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, just before Secretary of State Colin Powell left for the Middle East to try to shore up a shaky cease-fire.

Israelis expected the Bush-Sharon meeting Tuesday to underline U.S. backing for Israel's stand in a bloody, 9-month conflict with the Palestinians. Bush has yet to invite Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to the White House.

Differences over the extent to which Mideast violence can be controlled and a demand by an international commission for a halt to construction in the settlements marred the display of unity.

Bush pressed Sharon to move ahead with peace moves, but Sharon insisted that there must be a "total cessation of violence" before subsequent phases of the commission plan could begin. The commission, headed by former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, called for a cease-fire, a cooling-off period, confidence-building measures and finally, resumption of peace negotiations.

A cease-fire negotiated by CIA Director George Tenet formally took effect two weeks ago, but as far as Sharon is concerned, it has not begun because Palestinian violence continues. The Israelis say there have been dozens of gunfire and bombing attacks during the period.

Just before arriving in Bourg Al-Arab, Egypt, Wednesday, Powell told reporters: "We do not have the authority to tell either side when the cooling-off period begins. ... We want to get the cycle of violence down to a point both sides feel comfortable on a cooling-off period and for confidence-building measures."

The Palestinians charge that Israel is to blame for the ongoing conflict, because Israel has not removed roadblocks and travel restrictions in the West Bank and Gaza and is thereby crippling the Palestinian economy.

The Palestinians are furious over attacks by settlers, who themselves are frequent targets of Palestinian gunmen. The Palestinians charge that the settlers are acting with the approval of the Israeli military when they enter villages, damage property and attack people in reprisal raids.

Spelling out his demands for the first time, Sharon said there had to be 10 days of total calm even before the cooling-off period could begin, and that must last at least six weeks. If there were no acts of violence, a period of three to four months of confidence-building measures would follow, he said.

Fed Reserve may cut interest rate again

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve policy-makers are prepared to administer another bracing tonic to an ailing economy that's showing some signs of improvement: a sixth interest rate cut. But private economists are divided over what they believe is the right dosage.

Economists also are hopeful that the interest-rate cuts coupled with President Bush's signature on a $1.35 trillion tax relief bill would give a boost to economic growth in the coming months.

They predicted that the Fed's chief policy-making group, the Federal Open Market Committee, would cut interest rates for a sixth time this year at its meeting today. An afternoon announcement of the decision was expected.

But the economists were unsure whether the committee would order a sixth half-point rate cut, or a more moderate quarter-point move.

Regardless of the size of the expected cut, Lynn Reaser, chief economist at Banc of America Capital Management, says it could be the last. "The economy should in fact start to show signs of stabilizing during the next two months as the interest rate cuts and tax cuts take hold," she said.

As a rough rule of thumb, the Fed's interest-rate cuts take between six and nine months to make their way through the economy. Its first rate cut was on Jan. 3, so that reduction wouldn't show up in economic activity until July at the earliest.

Tax-cut refund checks are expected to begin arriving in mailboxes next month and if people spend some of that money, as economists predict, that would perk up economic growth, too.

Wells Fargo's chief economist Sung Won Sohn also believes the Fed's credit-easing campaign could be coming to an end.

"Why not cut by half a point and be done with it. That is my expectation," Sohn said, adding that a smaller quarter-point move would likely disappoint Wall Street, sending stocks lower. "I don't think the Fed wants to be in that position."

But economist Clifford Waldman of Waldman Associates believes that risks to the U.S. economy, including economic turmoil overseas, increases the odds of future Fed rate cuts.

"Problems remain ... whether half-point or a quarter-point cut on today, I don't think it will be the last one," Waldman said.

The Fed's five cuts this year have pushed the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other, from 6.5 percent down to 4 percent. The move has been matched by commercial banks, which have lowered their prime lending rate, the benchmark for millions of consumer and business loans, from 9.5 percent down to a seven-year low of 7 percent.

The Fed's decision today will depend on what carries greater weight: recent glimmers that the economy is starting to emerge from its yearlong funk, or concerns that the recovery could still be derailed if Americans suddenly grow worried about their job prospects and stop spending.

As Fed policy-makers opened their two-day meeting Tuesday, the government's latest economic reports depicted an improving economy: Consumer confidence rose in June to its highest point of the year, orders for big-ticket goods jumped in May and new-home sales were up last month.

Four tires taken from Dennis Quick Auto Tuesday morning

Burglary

Bubba Dennis at Dennis Quick Auto requested an officer at 11 a.m. Tuesday to report a burglary. Four tires were reported were taken, and officers were dispatched.

Dog at large

At 7 p.m. Tuesday Laura Johnston requested an officer at her residence at 302 24th Street in reference to a vicious dog at large. Johnston reported the dog had nearly attacked her and her husband. Police made contact with the owners of the dog and it was put up.

Overdose

A 30-year-old female was transported to Cogdell Memorial Hospital emergency room at 7:20 p.m. Tuesday after a possible overdose.

Criminal trespass

Officers issued a criminal trespass warning just after 9 p.m. Tuesday. The subject given the warning was ordered to stay away from another man who complained about problems between the two.

Fireworks

Snyder police continue to receive numerous complaints of fireworks within city limits. Dispatchers took eight calls Tuesday pertaining to fireworks, including one report of a possible grass fire caused by their use. The fire department was notified of fire.

Arrests

Two women were arrested in the parking lot of Park Village Apartments at 3 this morning. Three women were reportedly involved in an altercation as a result of a water balloon fight. Background checks showed two of the women had outstanding warrants and they were taken into custody.

A 23-year-old woman was arrested for outstanding warrants from Abilene and Brownfield. The other, a 38-year-old, was wanted for theft by check and failure to appear in Hays County.

Juvenile arrested

Police took a juvenile into custody at 2 p.m. Tuesday for possession of narcotic paraphernalia. Contact was made with the juvenile probation officer who advised the juvenile could be released to a guardian.

Prowlers

Orlando Aviles requested an officer at 11:20 p.m. Tuesday in reference to someone knocking on his front door. Officers were dispatched and neighbors reported four juveniles running from the area. Several juveniles were located nearby and were identified.

Accidents

Shortly after 1 p.m. Tuesday, police were called to the scene of a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of 28th Street and Ave. K.

Involved were a 1989 Buick driven by Bettye Anderson Thompson, 64, of 214 36th Street and a 1999 Chevrolet pickup driven by Max Douglas Horsley, 52, of 2611 Ave. K.

Obituaries

Gustavo Castillon

1974-2001

Gustavo Castillon Jr., a former Snyder resident, died Sunday, June 24, after being struck by a train near Abilene.

Rosary for Mr. Castillon, 27, is set for 7 this evening in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. Robert Ramirez will officiate.

Castillon

Funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday in Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church with the Rev. Leo Moras officiating. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Born Jan. 19, 1974 in Monterrey, Mexico, he married Angie Hammit on July 31, 1998 in Coahoma. A member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Snyder, Mr. Castillon had lived in Abilene the past 2½ years and was produce manager for Winn-Dixie.

Survivors include his wife, Angie Castillon of Abilene; a stepdaughter, Cherokee; two stepsons, Blake and Christopher; his parents, Gustavo and Juanita Castillon of Snyder; a brother, Gabriel Castillon of Snyder; and a sister, Griselda Castillon of Snyder.

Steve Bavousett

1927-2001

DALLAS — Steve Bavousett, a native of Scurry County, died Sunday, June 24, in Dallas.

A memorial service is set for noon Saturday at Vista Ridge United Methodist Church in Lewisville. The Rev. Tom Palmer will officiate.

He was born on April 9, 1927 in Camp Springs. Mary Olive Bavousett, his wife of 45 years, preceded him in death.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Mark S. and Deborah Bavousett of Coppell; a daughter and son-in-law, Carol and Steve Mattick of San Antonio; two grandchildren, Anne Marie and Stephen Michael Bavousett of Coppell; a sister, Oma Duff of Ponca City, Okla.; a brother, Lynn Bavousett of Weatherford; a sister-in-law, Alta Bavousett of Snyder; a nephew, Dan Bavousett, also of Snyder; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to Prairie Acres Nursing Home, Love Fund, 201 E. 15th St., Friona, TX 79035 or the Friona First United Methodist Church, Permanent Endowment Fund, 301 E. 8th St.

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DISMISSALS: James Dove, Willie Guynes, Clarence Hall Sr. and Rena Potter.

CENSUS: 42 (Long-term care, 22; Medical III, 17; OB, 2; Nursery, 1)

Births

Holly Sawyer and Justin Willson announce the birth of their son, Addison Travis Alexander Willson. He was born at 1:34 a.m. on June 19 in Highland Medical Center in Lubbock. He weighed six pounds, 13¼ ounces.

Grandparents are Cy and Charity Willson, Billie Sawyer, all of Snyder, and the late Travis Sawyer. Great-grandparents are John and Wynelle Redman of Snyder, Mr. and Mrs. Georgie Willson of Post and W.E. Smith of Arkansas.

Shanna and Michael Porter of Snyder announce the birth of their seven-pound, 15-ounce daughter. She was born at 8:13 p.m. on June 26 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Class of 1981 reunion

The SHS class of 1981 will hold its reunion Friday and Saturday. Registration should be turned in as soon as possible and an accurate count is needed by today. Contact Beth Bowen at 573-2670.

Lucky 13 rush dance

Lucky 13 will hold a rush dance from 8 p.m. until midnight Friday. For more information, call Jessie Keller at 573-7705 and leave a message.

Certified nurses aide course

Snyder Oaks Care Center will hold a certified nurses aide course of 75 hours beginning Saturday. The class will meet 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 573-9377 or Maggie Barnes at 863-2426.

Children's Saturday fun time/VBS

Children's Saturday fun time has joined the Vacation Bible School at Avenue D Baptist Church, 324 30th St.. Sessions are planned from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday, and each Saturday in July. The VBS is for those who have completed kindergarten through the sixth grade. This year's them is "Truth Trackers." For more information, call 573-6878 or 573-0971.

Christian concert

Christian singers, Mercy Me, Jonathan Moore and Macy Hill, will be live in concert at 7 p.m. Sunday at the Scurry County Coliseum. Tickets are $5 for general admission and $7 for floor seating. Tickets are available at The Rest Stop. For more information, contact Becky at 573-1517.

Snyder Lions Club

Snyder Lions Club will not meet Tuesday. The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 10. This meeting will the annual White Buffalo Sale and everyone must bring a White Elephant gift or be fined.

SHS 1986 reunion

The SHS class of 1986 will hold its reunion July 6-7. Classmates are still being contacted. Call Xalyn Harris Palacios at 574-3343 or 573-2148, or Mike McWilliams at 573-6543 for information on classmates.

Car wash

The SHS Student Council will sponsor a car wash from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday, July 7 in the Wal-Mart Parking Lot.

Class of 1966 reunion

The SHS class of 1966 will hold a reunion July 27-28. Anyone with classmates' addresses is asked to write to Janeen Patterson at Box 208, Snyder.

Class of 1976 reunion

The SHS class of 1976 will hold it's reunion July 28 at Jack Greene's pasture. For information, call Lorinda Hardin at 573-2700 or Sherry Thompson at 338-0026. The website is classmates.com.

Senior water aerobics

Senior water aerobics at the WTC pool will be from 11 a.m. until noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call Bobbie Taylor at 573-7144 or the Senior Center at 573-4035.

WTC swimming pool

The WTC swimming pool is open for public use. Lap swimming: M-TH 6:30-8 a.m. Open swimming: M-TH 2-5 p.m. Cost is $3 per person or $50 for a semester pass. The pool is also available for parties on Fridays and Saturdays. For more information, contact Mike Harrison at 573-8511, ext. 279.

Free lunch program

The free lunch program at Central Elementary continues through July 27. Meals will be served on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from noon until 1 p.m. All children who qualify for free lunches at school may eat. An adult accompanying a child will also be served. For more information, call 573-6915.

Cancer treatment transportation

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

Powell: U.S. cannot dictate start of cooling off period

BOURG AL-ARAB, Egypt (AP) — Secretary of State Colin Powell said today the United States cannot dictate to Palestinians or Israelis when they should begin a cooling-off period.

Powell, beginning a quick trip to the Middle East, said he was encouraged by the decline in violence but predicted a long road to new peace talks.

Powell said he would not challenge Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's demand for 10 days of complete calm before implementing the recommendation of an international fact-finding commission.

The Palestinians and other Arabs want to move more quickly to a freeze on construction of Jewish settlements and other recommendations of the panel headed by former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell.

"We do not have the authority to tell either side when the cooling-off period begins," Powell said before landing at an airport just outside Alexandria for a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"We want to get the cycle of violence down to a point both sides feel comfortable on a cooling-off period and for confidence-building measures," Powell said.

The 10 days would be followed by a six-week cooling-off period under the Mitchell commission's recommendation. But Powell said he would talk to Sharon and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Thursday about the steps proposed by the commission.

He called the report the only internationally accepted blueprint for ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"This is going to be a long, difficult process," Powell said.

He described the task as "going up a hill one step at a time."

Powell said he hoped to make progress "whether by inches, feet, meters, miles."

His comment minutes before his plane touched down along the Mediterranean echoed one by President Bush, who said after seeing Sharon at the White House Tuesday: