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WT-Int. Crude - $16.63
WTIC Posted - $14.00

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

FRIDAY
April 2, 1999
Vol. 50 No. 285
10 Pages 50¢
Home Of Daniel A. Martinez

Planning to start in June...

Snyder in line for larger post office

By Wade Warren
Managing Editor

More than 50 people attended the town hall meeting Thursday evening led by Mayor David Holt and State Rep. David Counts.

Perhaps the best news revealed during the 1 1/2 hour meeting is that Snyder is in line for an expanded, or new postal facility.

Postmaster Dale Lipsett said the decision had been made earlier in the day by postal officials to provide Snyder citizens with a larger post office.

"Currently, there are three alternatives to provide more space," said Lipsett.

"The postal department can expand our current facility. We can relocate to a current vacant building, or an entirely new facility can be built," Lipsett said.

Lipsett said the decision process would be started in June when postal authorities will meet with the Snyder City Council and discuss the options.

"There may be talk about Snyder drying up and blowing away, but at least the post office thinks the town will be here at least another 30 years," Lipsett added.

"That is how long our next lease will be," the postmaster said.

Following Lipsett's comments, Counts prefaced the public comment portion of the meeting with several observations about the current legislative session.

"This is my sixth session in the legislature and it has been very different," Counts said.

Counts noted the legislature is moving slower than normal, and he attributes this to a couple of factors.

"Number one, we have no real state-wide crisis," said Counts. "In the past, it was prisons or schools or something that we absolutely had to take care of almost immediately."

"Secondly, Gov. Bush is in the spotlight almost daily by out-of-state media. Everyone in the legislature seems to be doing things a little more slowly to make sure it is done right with the new media exposure."

Counts did say that the legislature is providing for schools such as Snyder ISD that have been hit hard by low oil prices.

A provision of the $97 billion state budget approved Wednesday by the House Appropriations Committee provides up to $166 million in the next fiscal year for school districts that will suffer losses due to declining oil property values.

It has been projected that the Snyder ISD might have a shortfall of upwards of $1 million next year due to falling oil property values and the subsequent loss of students from districts.

"We're going to take care of our students. We're going to take care of our teachers," Counts emphasized.

Counts said there has not been much discussion in the district about de-regulation of the electrical industry.

"Our electric service here with TU Electric has always been dependable," said Counts. "They are doing a good job for us."

The Knox City representative said he keeps hearing that California and New York de-regulated electricity, so Texas must also.

"Well, their rates were three times what they are here," said Counts. "That's why they de-regulated the industry."

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Kent County rancher John Oudt commented on the Air Force's plans for a low-level flight training area over Scurry and neighboring counties.

"Not one dollar will go to these eight counties," Oudt said. "Not one employee will live in Snyder. They'll all live in Abilene."

Oudt said he is not anti-Air Force, but emphasized that there is no reason that the local area needs to be included in a low-level flight area.

Counts said that he is a strong supporter of the group (H.E.P.A.) which is opposing the Air Force's plan.

The founder of H.E.P.A., rancher Buster Welch, told the crowd that the Air Force's plans would affect communities, just like it will farms and ranches.

Other topics briefly touched on by citizens in the meeting were the lottery, sales tax, cost of nursing home care and telephone access charges.

TNRCC VISITORS — City of Snyder Water Superintendent Darrell Callahan, left, shows the city's water plant to Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission chairman Robert Huston and Wynonna Henry. Henry is director of the commission's Abilene office. (SDN Staff Photo)

THE SDN COLUMN
By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Some people may not believe everything they hear, but it doesn't stop 'em from repeating it."

Keeping tabs on our neighbors:

Danny Andrews, in the Plainview Daily Herald, shared his collection of signs on church marquees.

One of his favorites was at the First Baptist Church of Fort Worth, located on 820 as you enter the North Richland Hills area.

He spied it on their "running" sign board. It contained a eye-catching and heart-pounding message:

"The following members are delinquent in their giving...Scared you didn't we?"

Here are some others:

--No God, No Peace. Know God, Know Peace.

--Free trip to heaven. Details inside.

--Try our Sundays. They are better than Baskin-Robbins.

--Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here.

--An ad for an Episcopal Church has a picture of two hands holding stone tables on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed and a headline that reads, "For fast, fast, fast relief, take two tablets."

--A singing group called The Resurrection was scheduled to sing. When a big snowstorm postponed the performance, the minister fixed the outside sign to read: "The Resurrection is postponed."

--People are like tea bags — you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are.

--God so loved the world that he did not send a committee.

--When down in the mouth, remember Jonah — he came out alright.

--Sign broken. Message inside this Sunday.

--How will you spend eternity — Smoking or Non-smoking?

--It is unlikely there'll be a reduction in the wages of sin.

--Do not wait for the hearse to take you to church.

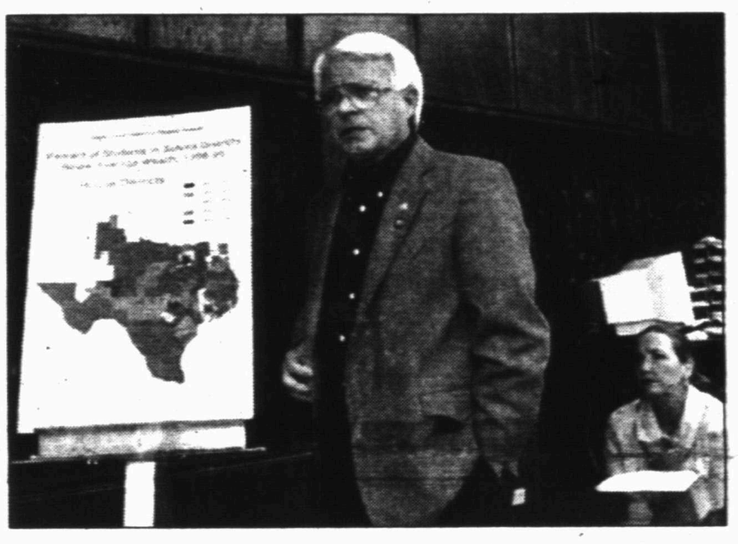
--If you don't like the way you were born, try being born again.

--Remember, Keep your eyes on Christ, and your knees on the floor.

--Looking at the way some people live, they ought to obtain fire insurance...Soon!

--Forbidden fruit creates many jams.

And have a good Easter weekend.



TOWN HALL COMMENTS — Rep. David Counts makes a point during Thursday evening's "Town Hall" meeting at City Hall. Over 50 people attended the event. (SDN Staff Photo)

For laid-off employees

Effort is underway to locate new work

Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Tony Garza and Texas Workforce Commission Chair Diane Rath today launched a statewide effort aimed at informing displaced oil industry workers of job transition programs available to them.

Garza, who was in Snyder Thursday and who toured Torch Energy, SACROC and the Sharon Ridge field, said that more than 37,500 Texans who had been working in the industry have already lost their jobs due to oil price declines.

The railroad commission and the workforce commission are working together to ensure essential information gets to those in the oil industry who have lost their jobs in a layoff or business closing.

"It's easy to lull ourselves into thinking the toughest days for the Texas oil industry are behind us simply because oil prices now appear to be firming up," said Garza. "But better oil prices today mean very little to those hardworking men and women forced out of work during the recent downturn in prices."

According to the latest TWC figures, the oil and gas industry has suffered 12 consecutive months of employment losses.

While much of the Texas economy enjoyed job growth and low employment rates during the same period, the oil and gas industry saw an employment decline of more than seven percent.

Rath pointed out that the workforce commission has programs in place to assist workers, including the trade adjustment assistance and displaced worker services.

These two programs can offer displaced oil industry workers useful options such as job search programs, job search and relocation allowances and job retraining.

"Our job in the workforce commission is to support individuals, employers and communities in parternship with the local workforce development boards," said Rath. "It's during times like these that our support is needed most, and we will do our utmost to ensure the workers in the oil and gas industry are not overlooked."

In addition, a toll-free hotline will be staffed at the Texas Workforce Commission. Those with questions may call TWC toll-free at 888-562-7489, or visit any of the workforce centers in the state.

The local workforce commission office is located on the campus of Western Texas College.

Virus travelling around country avoiding Snyder computers at this time

By Joyce May
Staff Writer

E-mail users cannot get the viruses "Melissa" or "Papa" just by reading their e-mails or looking at web sites, Drew Bullard, owner of Bullard's Computer Solutions said.

"Just by looking, you are not going to get the virus. You have to open the attached file," Bullard said.

He also said he hasn't heard of any individuals in Snyder who have received or opened either of the viruses.

"Everybody's talking about it and I have had people come in and ask questions. But I haven't heard of any instances here in Snyder."

Bullard said larger corporations, who generally have networked computers and do a lot of downloading and transferring, would be the most likely recipients of a virus.

"A number of viruses now are macro viruses that use Microsoft products to initiate the virus."

Since a lot of major corporations — Bullard estimated in the 90 percentile — use Microsoft programs such as Word and Excel, their computer systems are susceptible to viruses.

Viruses like "Melissa" are created by "hackers", Bullard explained.

"A virus is a software code that automatically runs in the computer like any program and does things you don't want it to do. Hackers are people supposedly with a high degree of programming knowledge that use it for harmful means."

Viruses can vary from trivial ones that run unwanted messages across a computer screen to vicious ones that destroy data or the computer's entire harddrive.

The "Melissa" virus — "W97M_Melissa" — is a macro virus sent by e-mail. If the attachment is opened, the virus reads the user's first 50 people in the address book and sends the e-mail and attachment to those listed.

The Microsoft Excel virus "Papa" sends itself to the first 60 people. Also, it sends out an e-mail every time the virus is activated, whereas "Melissa" sends the message only the first time it is opened.

In today's Internet-linked world, computer viruses are more and more common.

"Viruses are more and more of a problem because of the Internet. It is now so easy to transfer files. There is a tremendous amount of data being sent and received."

Bullard said there are anti-virus programs available that will check a person's downloads, floppy disks and computer.

"The anti-virus programs are not 100 percent because we are constantly getting new viruses, but now you can download the upgrades to the anti-virus programs off of their websites. Of course, there is a fee."

The best advice, Bullard offered, is to be careful what you download.

"Don't download files unless it is a site you are familiar with and have confidence in."

Democrats broadside Gov. Bush

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. George W. Bush, the likely GOP frontrunner should he decide to run for president, is taking an early political broadsides from the Democratic National Committee.

Joe Andrew, the DNC national chairman, accused Bush on Thursday of running scared from staking specific positions on some national issues.

"What is Bush afraid of? That reporters have only seen the sunny side up until now?" Andrew said.

Bush, who announced this week that he already has amassed some $6 million in campaign funds for a possible presidential run.

ASK US

Q—Is the city getting water from any source other than Lake Spence?

A—Yes. The water district began using water wells Wednesday.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Thursday, 82 degrees; low, 47; 7 a.m. Friday, 62; no precipitation; total for 1999, 2.69 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, cloudy, breezy; 30% rain chance. Low, 55-60. S wind 15-25 mph, gusty, NE late. Area lakes caution advised. Saturday, partly cloudy. High, mid 70s. NW-W wind 10-15 mph.

Angela Almanza
Rain Chance

Sunset:
7:04 p.m.
Sunrise:
6:30 a.m.
Of 91 days in 1999, the sun has shone 85 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

"Imagination is more important than knowledge."

Albert Einstein

Mine union leader fears for industry's future

CABIN CREEK, W.Va. (AP) — United Mine Workers President Cecil Roberts didn't take the top job in the wellspring of organized labor thinking the end of the union was in sight.

But he can see its demise — an end, he says, made possible through a mix of cheap coal, costly pollution controls and unrealistic demands of environmental activists.

"Like our brothers and sisters in the steel industry, the men and women who mine this nation's coal are under assault as never before," he said. "The American coal industry might well be eliminated."

At Roberts' order, about 30,000 union miners across the country planned a 24-hour, contract-sanctioned work stoppage today, originally meant to honor co-workers killed on the job.

This time, however, the day will memorialize the frail condition of America's most basic of smokestack industries. To Roberts, the future of the U.S. coal industry — and the cheap electricity it provides — hinges on several things:

— Stiffer air pollution standards beginning next year under the federal Clean Air Act, the first stage of which cost thousands of jobs in the high-sulfur coal fields of northern Appalachia and the Midwest.

— A looming international global warming treaty that would limit developed countries' emissions from the burning of fossil fuels, especially coal, while exempting big producer-consumers like China and Brazil.

— Environmental challenges to the industry's most productive mining techniques, especially the mountaintop removal strip mining that has been the focus of protests in West Virginia.

On these issues, the union known for its fierce opposition to coal operators has allied itself with the industry, including longtime nemesis Arch Coal Inc. of St. Louis, the nation's second-largest coal producer.

The alliance has disappointed environmentalists, who had counted on the union's rabble-rousing reputation to put it on their side.

"Don't they understand that this could mean more jobs?" asked Laura Forman, a spokeswoman for the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition.

"If they can't use mountaintop removal to strip it, they'll mine it underground," a much more labor-intensive method, she contends.

Roberts called that idea "ridiculous."

"If somebody could tell me how to mine this much coal with picks and shovels, I'd be glad to hear it," he said. "But it can't be done."

Roberts, the union's president since 1995, said he has an obligation to UMW members. He accused some environmentalists of living in a fantasy world.

"I have to live in the real world," he said.

In the real world, coal prices have dropped steadily since the post-oil embargo peaks of the late 1970s. Roberts remembers coal selling for $100 a ton; now it goes for $20.

Roberts also must confront the problems of an industrial-age union at the end of the 20th century — how to make his union grow while mine employment rapidly dwindles, and how to finance health care and benefits for a growing pool of retirees.

Between 1993 and 1998 alone, the number of U.S. coal miners fell from 101,322 to an estimated 80,000, according to the National Mining Association.

From a pre-World War II peak of a quarter-million, the number of union-represented miners sunk to 30,606 in 1997, based on data compiled by the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Roberts isn't ignoring the growing portion of nonunion mining jobs. He appeared in Cabin Creek recently for a rally just before 85 workers at Day Mining Co. voted for union representation after a long organizing campaign.

The union has also been recruiting workers from other industries: ambulance drivers and health care workers in southern West Virginia, corrections officers in western Pennsylvania, city employees and firefighters in Gallup, N.M.

At age 52 and a native of Cabin Creek, Roberts' personal profile could be the profile of his union or any of its members.

He is a sixth-generation coal miner whose grandfathers died in mining accidents. His parents, Evelyn and Cecil Roberts Sr., are union pensioners who still live in Cabin Creek about 15 miles east of Charleston.

No stranger to a fight, Roberts said the job now for the union founded in 1890 is to assure its survival in the 21st century. He said he won't stand by and watch members lose their jobs: "It's unfair, unwarranted and wrong."

Arthritic grandmother is beaten, robbed while trying to buy marijuana

WINNABOW, N.C. (AP) — At 53, Tinkey Mae Sullivan is a regular on the mean streets of Wilmington, where she ventures to buy marijuana.

"They wave at me when I go in there," she said Thursday, sitting in her double-wide mobile home in rural Brunswick County. "They all call me Grandma."

Usually Mrs. Sullivan goes alone to buy a quarter-ounce to an ounce of pot, which she says eases her rheumatoid arthritis and her other ailments.

But a week ago, she decided to make a pot run with her 13-year-old grandson in the car. Both were robbed and attacked, and now police are considering filing charges against her for bringing the child along.

Police Detective O.D. Horton said police were shocked by Mrs. Sullivan's actions — most significantly, that she took her grandson with her.

"That's the issue I'm going to address first of all," he said.

Mrs. Sullivan, who with her husband has taken care of Chris since he was 3 days old, had him along while running errands March 26 because he had been suspended from school.

"I left the bank, and it hit my mind, 'Why don't I just ride by there and see if I can get some stuff,'" she said. Chris didn't know why she was there, she said.

She made the 15-mile trip to Wilmington and circled through the neighborhood, then parked when two men indicated they had something to sell. Instead, they jumped in the back seat and attacked Mrs. Sullivan and Chris, taking more than $100 in cash, her grandson's wallet and her purse, wallet and credit cards. She called for help from her cell phone.

A proponent for the legalization of marijuana defended Mrs. Sullivan.

"Clearly you're not contributing to the delinquency of a minor if what you're doing is trying to get drugs that are in some cases lifesaving and relieve pain and suffering," said Keith Stroup, executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws in Washington, D.C. "It's almost a human right."

Since 1996, voters in six Western states have legalized medicinal use of pot, but patients could face prosecution under federal law if they use marijuana. North Carolina has not approved use of pot for medical purposes.

Teen to be tried as an adult

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A 15-year-old accused of killing a science teacher at a middle-school dance last April will be tried as an adult, a judge ruled Thursday.

The pain that the shooting caused the victim's family and the community outweighed Andrew Wurst's immaturity and claims of mental illness, wrote Erie County Judge Michael Palmisano.

Conflicting testimony from psychiatric experts also made it impossible to determine whether Wurst was truly mentally ill, or if he could be treated adequately at a juvenile correctional facility, Palmisano said.

"The evidence suggests the defendant made a conscious decision to arm himself with a deadly weapon and ammunition, after which he selected his victims and executed his plan," the judge said.

Wurst is charged with killing teacher John Gillette at a Parker Middle School graduation dance in Edinboro, near Erie. Wurst was 14 and in eighth grade at the time. He also faces two attempted murder counts for wounding two students, among other charges.

Pray for soldiers' return...

Family and friends tie yellow ribbons

By The Associated Press

With bright yellow ribbons newly laced across their hometowns, relatives and friends of three U.S. servicemen facing trial in war-torn Yugoslavia wept and prayed for their safe return.

Yugoslavia said the men were invaders and would be tried today as criminals before a military court, despite demands from President Clinton that the soldiers be released.

"Everybody is devastated. We're just praying to God he'll come out all right," said Frank Jasso, great-uncle of captive Staff Sgt. Andrew A. Ramirez.

Ramirez, 24, of Los Angeles, Spc. Steven M. Gonzales, 21, of Huntsville, Texas, and Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Stone, 25, of Smiths Creek, Mich., were captured Wednesday near the Yugoslav-Macedonian border.

Jim Stone learned his son had been taken by Yugoslav forces when a National Guard officer knocked on his door to deliver the news.

"Chris is a very special American and an incredibly proud soldier and we are very proud of him," Stone said, his voice breaking with emotion.

As U.S. networks showed Serb television images of the three men, relatives and friends strung yellow ribbons — symbols of families waiting for soldiers to return from war — all around their communities.

"When we saw him on TV it was a great relief, but of course we realize he's in a bad situation," said Gonzales' mother, Rosie.

"Steven and the two other soldiers are not criminals and should not be dealt with as criminals," she said. "They are innocent young men over there as part of their duty to their country."

Though Gonzales appeared battered and bruised, his family expressed relief he didn't look worse.

"We're dealing with it as best we can," said his father, Gilbert.

Gonzales was described as a likable, bright athlete during his high school days in Palestine, 90 miles north of Huntsville in east Texas. He graduated in 1995 and won a scholarship to Texas A&M, but left after a year to pursue a dream of joining an elite Army corps.

"He was the type of student you'd love to have: hard-working, always happy, funny," said teacher Kay Stroud, who had Gonzales in her advanced placement biology class.

Stone, whose wife, Tricia, and 4-year-old son, Ryan, live in San Antonio, was described as a talented athlete also blessed with the "gift of gab."

"I'm surprised he couldn't talk his way out of this," said Ken Marzka, Stone's cross-country coach at Capac Community Junior-Senior High School, about 50 miles northeast of Detroit.

"Chris is a tough kid ... he never quit," Marzka said. "Chris is going to be just fine."

School counselor Kathy Kish said Stone was well-liked by students and teachers. He was a member of Students Against Drunk Driving.

"It doesn't surprise us a bit that he's serving our country on a peace mission," she said.

During a vigil Thursday night at a Roman Catholic church, two of Stone's sisters — Dawn Reliford and Deanna Stone — joined others in praying for his safe return.

"I trust in God that he is going to come home," said Mrs. Reliford, 31.

She said she was shocked when she the televised news reports showing her brother's battered face with the two other servicemen. "I wanted to jump through the TV and say, 'Come back.'"

Said Ms. Stone: "I was shocked but happy in a way. I had no idea if he was dead or not."

In Los Angeles, outside the home of Ramirez's father, neighbors prayed for the captured staff sergeant and reminisced about the "all-American kid" they watched grow up.

Berry's World

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"We are NOT going to the Roller Derby and THAT'S THAT!"

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Snyder, Texas

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7:00 p.m.

The public is cordially invited to attend

You Are Invited To A
EASTER CELEBRATION
Snyder First Church Of The Nazarene
South 208 (across from Big Country) 573-5601
Sunday, April 4 at 10:45 a.m.
Pastor, Mike Howard
Song Leader, Diane Howard

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Phone call began oil industry merger

LOS ANGELES (AP) — With rock-bottom oil prices and mergers by rivals threatening his company last year, Arco chairman and chief executive Mike Bowlin launched a quiet search for a merger partner.

After unsuccessful overtures to smaller and comparably sized companies, Bowlin in January called BP Amoco, a huge multinational big enough to swallow Arco and give shareholders a significant premium in the process.

The fate of Atlantic Richfield Co. was revealed Thursday when the two companies announced that BP Amoco would acquire Arco in a $25.6 billion stock deal that will create the world's second-largest oil company.

The deal, expected to save the combined companies about $1 billion a year, would be the eighth merger of the past six months in an industry shaken by more than a year of plummeting oil prices and increasing demands for cleaner fuel.

Arco's senior management, including Bowlin, 56, will resign. The new company will be known as BP Amoco, but the Arco retail gasoline brand will continue for the time being.

Bowlin said he was confident Arco could have survived on its own but the combination with BP Amoco will be better for shareholders.

"We did this because we think it creates a really terrific company from our viewpoint, even though it's a bittersweet moment for us," he said.

About 2,000 jobs are expected to be eliminated from a combined work force of 115,000, mainly in the United States outside Alaska, officials said.

Idled workers will be able to pick from several severance options. Bowlin will leave Arco with $3.2 million in salary and bonuses plus another $29.3 million in stock options, according to estimates by Executive Compensation Advisory Services.

As crude prices began to fall in late 1997, Arco was hit harder than most. The company had shed its chemicals and coal mining operations, leaving it more dependent on oil and more vulnerable to price fluctuations.

Worried about Arco's ability to compete, Bowlin began looking around and finally called an old friend, BP Amoco chief executive John Browne.

Only weeks earlier, British Petroleum had acquired Chicago-based Amoco in a $57.6 billion deal. Browne jumped at the opportunity to deepen his reach in the United States by picking up Arco's Alaskan oil and gas reserves and its West Coast refining and retailing operations.

Together Arco and BP Amoco operate the giant Prudhoe Bay field in Alaska. Arco expects to have its 360 million-barrel Alpine field operating in about two years.

BP Amoco also will obtain Arco's natural gas interests in Asia.

Reported cases of child abuse down; still near 1 million

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite a decline in the number of reported cases, nearly 1 million children are victims of abuse and neglect, according to the government.

The Department of Health and Human Services on Thursday said reported cases of child abuse, provided by the states, decreased for the fourth year in a row in 1997.

But the states still found that 963,870 children were victims of abuse and neglect. There were nearly 3 million reports of alleged mistreatment investigated by child protective services.

"Though we're reporting a slight decline in children as victims of abuse and neglect, these numbers nevertheless represent an unacceptable human tragedy we must do more to prevent," HHS Secretary Donna Shalala said in a statement.

Parents and relatives comprise the majority of those responsible for abuse and neglect, according to the HHS. Parents account for 75 percent of perpetrators, relatives 10 percent and non-related individuals make up 6 percent of those responsible for maltreatment.

The department also stressed the link between substance abuse and child abuse. Substance abuse was a factor in one-third of all cases of child abuse and neglect. The HHS report recommended closer coordination between the child protection and substance abuse systems.

"Families where there is child abuse and neglect often face multiple problems that require comprehensive solutions," said Nelba Chavez, administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The figures are based on reported cases, and the department noted that separate studies have found that the number of victims may be higher.

Earlier this week, a private group that works against child abuse came out with a report that found a slight increase in reports of child abuse. In 1988, there were nearly 2.3 million reports of child abuse, which grew to nearly 3.2 million by 1997, according to the report by Prevent Child Abuse America, which bases its numbers partly on projections.

"Everyone is getting safer except for our children," said Kevin Kirkpatrick, spokesman for the group, which has just changed its name from the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse.

As part of National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month in April, the HHS plans to distribute information packets to child welfare agencies and community groups. The prevention material can also be obtained by calling the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect at 1-800-FYI-3366.

Lyme disease season begins; but help now said available

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's finally spring — have you had your Lyme disease shot yet?

This spring marks the first time that Americans can enter tick season armed with a vaccine against Lyme disease, and doctors in New England, Minnesota and other Lyme-plagued areas are starting to bug outdoors-loving patients to get the shots.

Why the urgency? Because it takes a series of three shots to build up to full immunity. So, "the time to start getting it is right now," advises Phillip Baker, Lyme disease chief at the National Institutes of Health.

Lyme disease is a serious illness caused by pin-sized ticks that live in wooded and grassy areas nationwide, but especially in the Northeast, from Maryland up to Maine, and in Wisconsin and Minnesota. About 16,000 new cases are reported each year, a number that scientists like Baker expect the new vaccine LYMErix will help drop in just a few years.

Typically, the illness — named for Lyme, Conn., where it was discovered in 1975 — starts with a telltale bull's-eye rash. Then comes fatigue, chills, fevers and joint pain that can persist for weeks. Some people develop serious arthritis. If untreated, Lyme disease also can severely damage the heart and nervous system.

Antibiotics can cure Lyme. But the earlier treatment starts, the better — yet there's no good test to diagnose Lyme, and not everyone suffers early Lyme symptoms and thus knows to seek care.

So until now, doctors' best advice was: Use insecticide containing the chemical DEET. Check yourself and your children regularly for ticks. Wear long sleeves and pants tucked into socks or boots when venturing into tick-prone areas like unmowed grass or brush.

But that last bit of advice is unrealistic. Ticks are most active in the summer when people are stripping down to shorts and bare feet. And it's not just campers, hikers or utility workers stomping through the brush who are at risk.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Small Percentage of Owners Account for Huge Pet Surplus

by Abigail Van Buren

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DEAR ABBY: The last time you mentioned SPAY/USA in your column, we received about 15,000 telephone calls in three weeks. SPAY/USA helps people locate veterinarians or programs with affordable spay-neuter services for cats and dogs. Because you printed the letter in the winter, before litter season, the births of several hundred thousand unwanted pups and kittens were prevented. Most of them would have ended up on the streets or in shelters — not in permanent homes.

During 1999 we are making a special effort to reach people who are still resisting, still procrastinating, still not making the time or effort to get their cats and dogs to the vet to be spayed/neutered and vaccinated. Abby, if we can reach that hard-core 1 percent of pet owners, we can prevent the killing of 6 million surplus cats and dogs in this country.

Our campaign is called "Start Targeting One-Percenters" (S.T.O.P.). Readers who want to help — or who have cats or dogs to "fix" — can call (800) 248-SPAY (7729). Our phone counselors will give them information on the nearest participating vet, clinic or program. Thank you, Abby, for caring.

ESTHER MECHLER, SPAY/USA,
A PROGRAM OF THE
PET-SAVERS FOUNDATION

DEAR ESTHER: The fact that only 1 percent of irresponsible pet owners are the cause of the destruction of 6 million innocent animals is certain to leave animal lovers aghast. Dogs and cats that are not intended for breeding should be spayed or neutered. This eliminates the risk of ovarian or testicular cancer, reduces the risk of prostate disorders, and eliminates the urge for the pet to wander and "mark its territory." Readers, spring is upon us, and with it, thousands of unwanted litters — so please don't delay getting your pets spayed or neutered.

***

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing regarding the letter in your column from the guy who complained about the freeloading guest. He and his roommates might want to seek the advice of a lawyer before taking any action.

I found myself in a similar situation and decided to get legal advice before changing the locks, etc. I was shocked to find that according to the law, my unwanted guest was now my "tenant" and I her "landlord." In order to get her out, I would be required to take her to court and evict her — a 60-day process — during which time she could remain in my home, placing me and my possessions at risk!

Another option my lawyer suggested was that I move out, and let my landlord evict her. Of course, that would mean I'd lose my deposit, ruin my credit, and leave myself open to a lawsuit from my landlord.

It took a month, but I tricked her into moving. I quit buying food, blocked all but local calls on my phone and disconnected the cable TV. I told her I had to move because my landlord had sold the house. I packed everything I own, but moved only a few of the valuables for safekeeping.

We now have a new rule at our house — no temporary houseguests.

BEEN THERE
IN SPRINGFIELD, MO.

DEAR BEEN THERE: Your letter, viewed from a legal perspective, is certainly an eye-opener. After reading it, many hospitable souls may be tempted to roll up their welcome mats.

***

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

	North	04-02-99
	♠ A K 10 5	
	♥ K 9 4	
	♦ 2	
	♣ A K Q 10 4	
West		**East**
♠ Q 9 4		♠ J 7 6 3 2
♥ Q 10 3 2		♥ ---
♦ K Q 8 7		♦ J 10 6 5 4
♣ 7 2		♣ 8 6 5
	South	
	♠ 8	
	♥ A J 8 7 6 5	
	♦ A 9 3	
	♣ J 9 3	

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: North

South	West	North	East
		1 ♣	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥	All pass

Opening lead: ♦ K

The wheel continues to turn

By Phillip Alder

Two weeks ago, I gave some suit combinations that had to be handled differently, depending on the full deal. It wasn't always sufficient to take the "textbook" line. Soon thereafter, I read about this deal, supplied by Ib Lundby from Denmark. Taking the heart suit in isolation, what is the correct play for only one loser? How would you try to make six hearts given the 26 cards on view? West leads the diamond king.

The safety-play to keep your heart losers to one is to cash the ace. You continue with a low heart, covering West's card as cheaply as possible or, if he discards, rising with dummy's king and leading back toward your jack. All well and good, but there are other considerations here.

At several tables, South did start with the heart ace. Yet each was given a reprieve because when he continued with another trump, West incorrectly split his honors, inserting the 10. If instead West plays low, the contract fails. True, declarer wins with dummy's nine, but what next? He has two losing diamonds in his hand. He cannot ruff one with dummy's heart king, because that gives West two trump tricks. And with West so short in clubs, South cannot get both diamond losers away in time.

South needs to ruff one diamond in the dummy and discard the other on dummy's second top spade. There are two better plays. Either lead a low trump toward the dummy immediately, planning to insert the nine if West follows low, or start with the heart jack. In both cases, everything is under control.

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Researchers take big step toward growing replacement body parts

WASHINGTON (AP) — In what may be a major step toward learning how to grow replacement body parts, researchers in Baltimore have isolated from adult bone marrow a master cell that can be induced to grow bone or cartilage.

A study published today in the journal Science reports that researchers at Osiris Therapeutics extracted a single mesenchymal stem cell from bone marrow and then grew it into a colony of more than a million cells that could be directed to produce either bone, cartilage or fat.

If the technique proves successful, researchers predict that precursor cells for bone could be used to replace tissue lost to cancer, osteoporosis, injury or dental disease.

Experts said the study is an important achievement for the new and rapidly expanding field of stem cell research.

"The fact that they can (isolate) a precursor cell like that, and direct it to produce specific cell types, is quite an advance," said Dr. James A. Thomson of the University of Wisconsin, a noted pioneer in stem cell research. "It may be that such cells can eventually be used for therapy and that would be quite exciting."

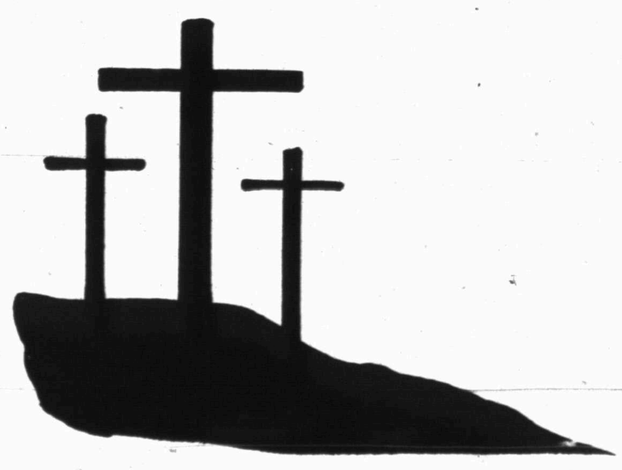
The study using adult stem cells is important also because it avoids the controversy of using stem cells from embryos, said Dr. Mark F. Pittenger, who led the team of Osiris researchers.

The
Music Ministry
Of
Colonial Hill Baptist Church

presents

The Easter Story....

"Celebrate Him"



Friday, April 2nd 7:00pm
Saturday, April 3rd 7:00pm

3506 El Paso No Admission Charge

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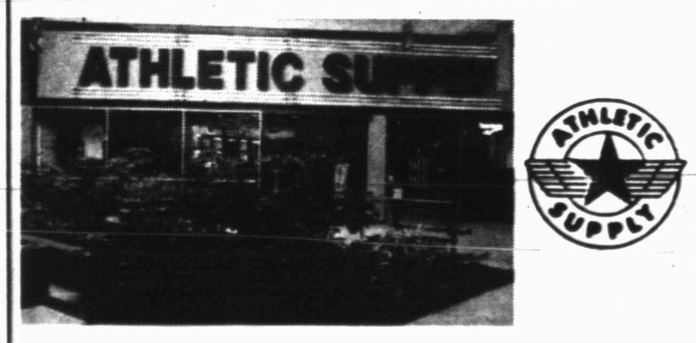

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PUBLIC NOTICE

**City Of Snyder
Texas Community
Development Program**

The City of Snyder is giving notice of the City's intent to submit a Community Development Fund application for a grant from the Texas Community Development Program. The grant application request is $250,000 for water system improvements in the northern section of town. The application is available for review at City Hall during regular business hours.

APR 02 1999

Comic Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

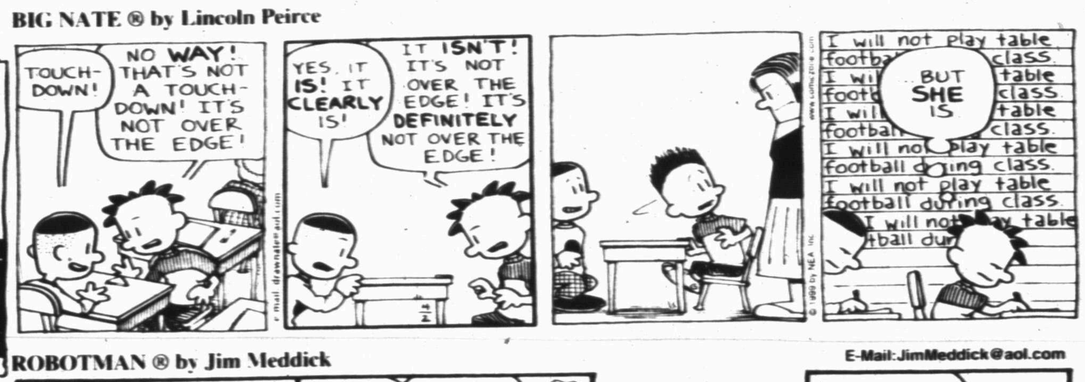
THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves

ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson

EEK & MEEK ® by Howie Schneider

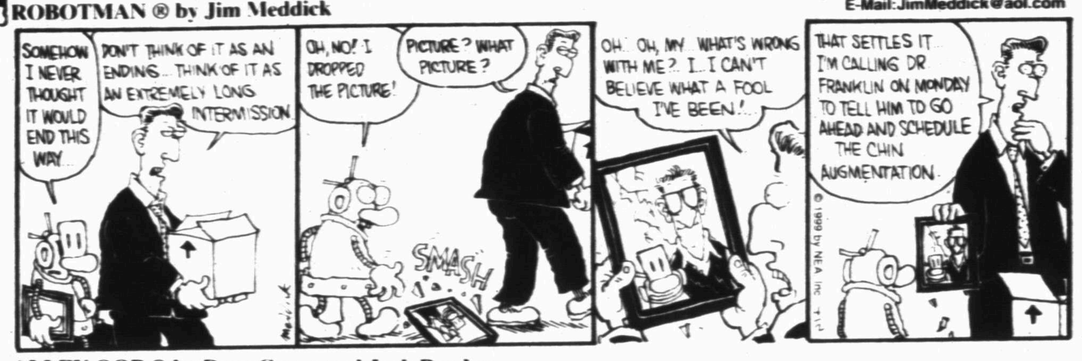
BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © By Fred Laswell

ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick

E-Mail: JimMeddick@aol.com



BLONDIE © By Dean Young & Denis Lebrun

ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender

THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Whirl
7 Plaster of Paris ingredient
13 Signaled for a cab
14 Actress Lasser
15 At reduced price
16 Easygoing walker
17 Glide on snow
18 Actor Sparks
20 CIO partner
21 Decimal numbers
23 — Francisco
24 Chills and fever
25 Mild expletive
27 Prickly herb
29 Suffix for press
31 Artful
32 Low island
33 Actor Mineo
34 Cooked tomatoes
37 Destroyer's targets
40 Greek letters
41 Ordinance
43 Come together
45 Regular: abbr.
46 Author Levin
47 9 Down brew
48 Sail fastener
51 Enjoys a cigar
54 Navigate in air
55 Exclusive right
56 Piece of mail
57 Mall occupants

DOWN

1 Visitor of Scrooge
2 New York ballplayer
3 Coming up
4 Cotton St.
5 — Aviv
6 Paradises
7 Elation
8 — Kippur
9 Tavern
10 Fodder
11 Effective
12 Actress Oberon
19 Take a meal
22 Chef's creations
24 Haven
26 Attract
28 Word of regret
30 Mascara kin
34 — Tuesday (Lent preceder)
35 Choice morsel
36 Women's patriotic soc.
38 Scientist's vessel
39 Goddess of the moon
40 Reef material
42 Stinging insects
44 Tries
49 Baseball club
50 Native of: suffix
52 Wrestler's surface
53 Nebraska Indian

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

A Little Bit Of Humor

Knock, Knock.
Who's there?
Accordion.
Accordion, who?
Accordion to the paper, it's gonna rain tonight.

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Phyllis.
Phyllis, who?
Phyllis in on the news.

Brittney: What has a foot on each side and one in the middle?
Jessica: A yardstick.

HERMAN® by Jim Unger

"I'd ask for a doggie bag, but my dog wouldn't eat that if I paid him."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

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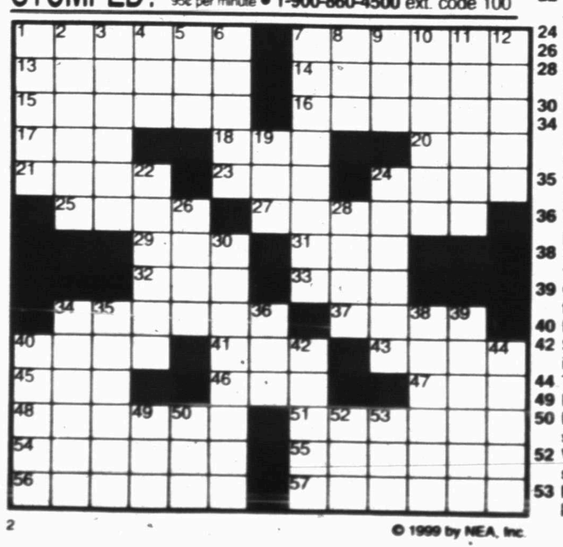

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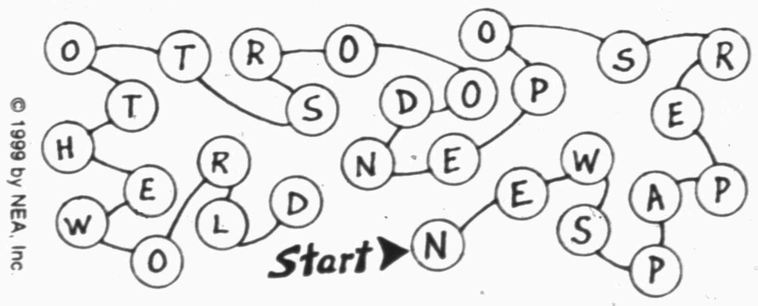
Follow the Leader

To discover the hidden message, follow the line. As you come to each letter, write it in the appropriate blank.



_ _ _ _

SPORTS

SHS netters grab titles at tourney

It took over 20 hours, but Snyder walked away from the Midnight Madness tennis tournament with its fair share of the hardware.

With matches beginning at 7 a.m. Friday and ending after 3 o'clock this morning, it was a long, but fruitful experience for the Snyder squad.

Leading the way for SHS was the boys doubles duo of Adrian Gonzales and Brett Gibson. The Tiger tandem knocked off eveyone in their path on the way to the doubles title.

Gonzales and Gibson didn't drop a set through the first three rounds, before defeating a pair of Frenship netters in the finals.

Snyder's other boys doubles team, Allen Smith and Gibson, took care of a Lubbock High duo to capture third place in the event. The Smith-Gibson pairing suffered its only setback of the day against the eventual runners-up from Frenship.

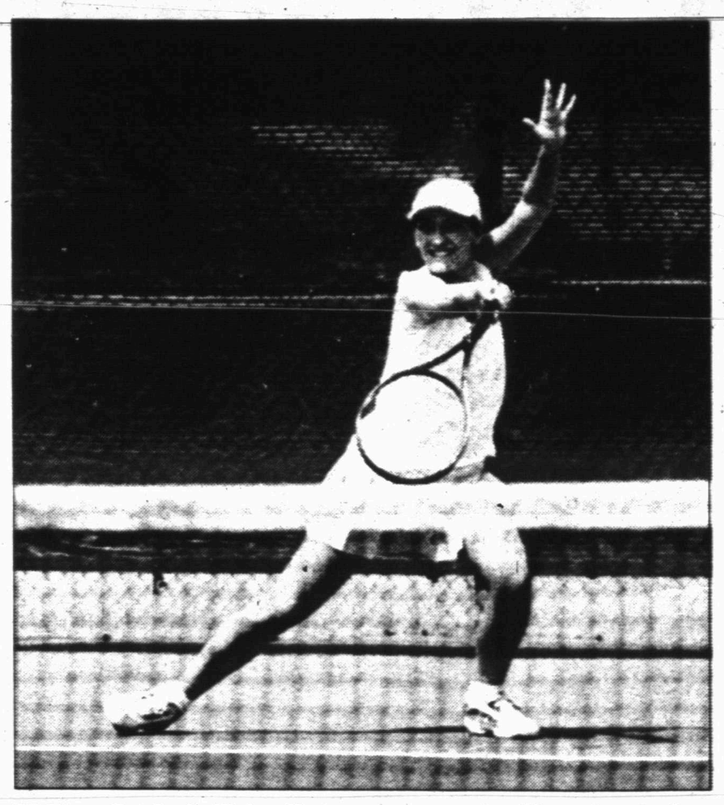
In the girls draw, Snyder took home two more doubles titles.

Cynthia Fennel and Angela Sanchez teamed up to take third place overall, while Claire Cotton and Jordan Hardin combined for the consolation crown.

Fennel and Sanchez were cruising along before sufferering their first loss in the third round. The Lady Tigers rebounded to win their next match for third place.

The Cotton-Hardin team fell in their opening match of the event, but answered back to win their next three straight, including the consolation final.

In singles play, Kris Casas and Justin Guy turned in strong performances for the Tigers, while Natalie Alexander and Whitney Webb did the same for the Lady Tigers.



OLE! — Snyder's Claire Cotton returns a shot Thursday during the Midnight Madness tennis tournament at the Snyder Tennis Complex. Cotton and Jordan Hardin teamed up to win the girls doubles consolation title. (SDN Staff Photo)

WTC performs well on opening night of rodeo

BIG SPRING — Carrying over the momentum from last week's pair of team titles, Western Texas College put six competitors in the running for the short round Thursday night at the Howard College rodeo.

With tonight's performance still to go, before Saturday's finals, Matt Gully was sitting in the top spot in team roping with a time of 7.8 seconds, while Eric Greer was in second at 8.2.

Also for the WTC men, Kyle Bowers was holding down the third spot in bareback riding with a score of 67.

For the Lady Westerners, Sequin Downey posted a time of 10.5 to grab fourth in the goat tying. In barrel racing, Tara Bynum guided her horse across the line in 16.59 for sixth place, while Shelly York was eighth in breakaway roping after turning in an effort of 3.8

Tonight's performance is slated for 7 o'clock, with the finals scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday.

Pena overpowers Mustangs from the mound, at the plate

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

It was probably the closest blowout the Snyder Tigers have ever had.

Thanks to a stellar performance from pitcher Johnny Pena and his teammates behind him, Sweetwater was never in the ballgame Tuesday night during a 5-0 district victory at Moffett Field.

Pena surrendered only one hit and struck out 11 Mustangs, while the Tiger offense was limited to five runs, but the contest wasn't as close as the score indicated.

For the Tigers, it was their second shutout in as many games as they start the 5-4A season with a 2-0 mark. The Mustangs slip to 0-2 in the league standings.

Pena didn't give up a hit until the sixth inning and allowed only four Sweetwater base runners the entire night, as the Mustangs never had a chance to start a rally.

"I attribute this win to Johnny's pitching and the defense behind him," said Snyder coach Roland Herrera. "I thought the kids responded well to playing on only one day of rest. Johnny threw a great game. He's the kind of you really need on a team, someone who can play pitch, play good defense, and get on base a lot."

The first time Pena reached base, he didn't have to stay there. In the bottom of the first inning, the right-hander belted the first pitch offered over the left-field wall for a solo home run, his fifth of the season.

The Tigers extended the lead to 2-0 in the second, when James Shields scored from third on a single by Josh Ward.

Snyder's advantage grew to 4-0 in the third, when Sweetwater's defense began to unravel.

Two errors, a wild pitch, and an infield single by Matthew Grimmett netted a pair of Tiger runs.

The Mustangs would go on to committ seven miscues on the night, giving no help to a pitcher Jeremy Maxwell.

On the other side, the Snyder defense matched Pena's performance with its second straight error-free outing.

The Tigers posted their final run in the sixth when Sweetwater misplayed a ground ball by Bebos Martinez, allowing Ward to score from second.

The Tigers, who remain locked atop the district standings with state-ranked Andrews, will play their first road game of the league season Tuesday at Big Spring.

The Steers, who entered Thursday with only one win on the year, knocked off Lake View 3-1 to gain some confidence for Tuesday's contest.

"You can't let anybody slip up on you and steal a win," Herrera said. "We have to be ready to play on Tuesday, because when Snyder and Big Spring get together on the baseball field, it usually turns into a barn burner. They've got some confidence now. So we must have two good days of practice and be prepared for a tough ballgame."

In other district action Thursday night, Andrews held off the Ft. Stockton Panthers, 4-1.

Sweetwater	ab	r	h	bi
Gee cf	3	0	1	0
Alexander 2b	3	0	0	0
Shelton 1b	3	0	0	0
Newberry dh	2	0	0	0
May rf	2	0	0	0
Price c	2	0	0	0
Gomez ph	1	0	0	0
Hefner 3b	3	0	0	0
Maldonado ss	1	0	0	0
Bishop ss	1	0	0	0
Phillips ss	2	0	0	0
Totals	23	0	1	0

Snyder	ab	r	h	bi
Pena p	4	1	1	1
Roemisch cr	0	1	0	0
Grimmett cf	3	1	1	0
Rodgers ss	3	0	1	0
Hook 1b	3	0	0	1
Shields dh	3	1	1	0
Ward 3b	3	1	1	1
Martinez 2b	3	0	1	1
Bedell lf	3	0	1	0
Alexander rf	3	0	0	0
Totals	27	5	7	4

Sweetwater.... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 — 0 1 7
Snyder ..... 1 1 2 0 0 1 x — 5 7 0

DP - Sweetwater 1. LOB - Sweetwater 4, Snyder 5. HR - Pena.

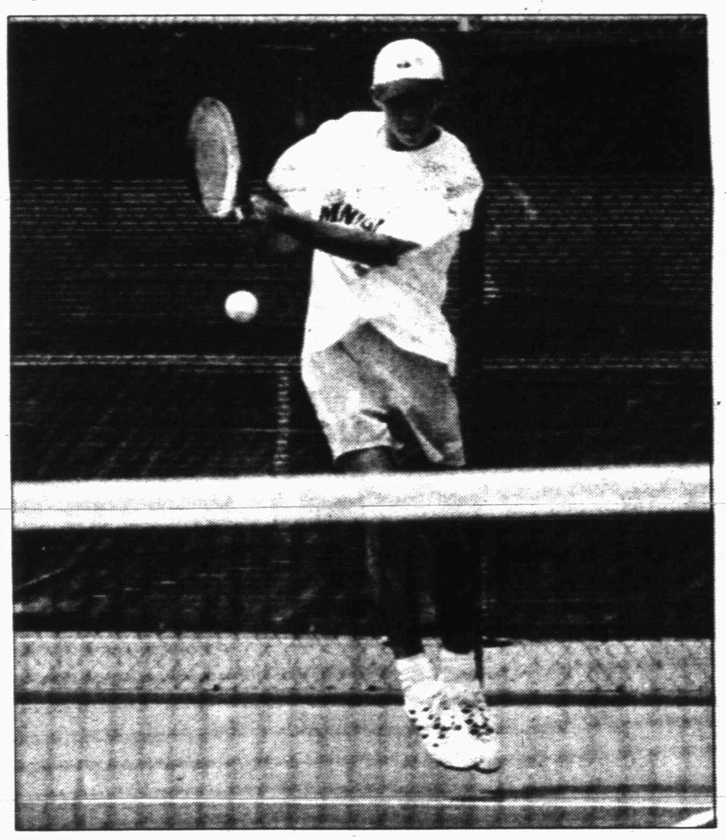
Sweetwater	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Maxwell	6	7	5	3	0	1
Snyder	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Pena	7	1	0	0	2	11

5-4A Baseball

	District			Overall		
Team	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Snyder	2	0	1.000	15	6	.714
Andrews	2	0	1.000	16	1	.941
Lake View	1	1	.500	9	8	.529
Big Spring	1	1	.500	2	14	.125
Ft.Stckton	0	2	.000	8	11	.421
Swtwater	0	2	.000	7	9	.438

Thursday's results: Snyder 5, Sweetwater 0; Big Spring 3, Lake View 1; Andrews 4, Ft Stockton 1.

Tuesday's games: Snyder at Big Spring; Lake View at Ft. Stockton; Andrews at Sweetwater.



POWER STROKE — Snyder's Brett Gibson blasts a shot back over the net during boys doubles action at the Midnight Madness tennis tourney. Gibson and partner Adrian Gonzales won all four of their matches to capture the boys crown. (SDN Staff Photo)

Davis blast fuels Lady Tiger blowout

SAN ANGELO — For the Lake View Maidens, maybe it would have been better if the umpires hadn't shown up at all.

Following a one-hour delay to wait on game officials, the Snyder Lady Tigers bested the Maidens with their bats, their gloves and their arms.

Snyder played an error-free ballgame and Starla Davis blasted a home run to blank Lake View, 10-0, in five innings Thursday evening.

The win raises the Lady Tigers' mark to 4-2 in district play, keeping them in second place overall.

"We're playing our best defense of the year," said Snyder coach Carmen Bohannon. "The Big Spring game on Tuesday was a turning point. We're playing with more confidence now and I'm very proud of these girls. Everybody is playing really well, right now."

Once the game got underway, it didn't take long for the Lady Tigers to strike.

After a leadoff walk to Whitney Webb and a single by Cameron Mackey, Davis crushed a three-run homer over the left-field fence and Snyder never looked back.

The Lady Tigers added another trio of runs in the third and four more in the fourth to cap the scoring.

Snyder got nine hits from nine different players on the night, while Lake View could muster only five base hits.

Kristin Martinez fanned three Maidens and didn't walk a batter to pick up the win for Snyder.

The Lady Tigers now turn their focus toward a rematch with first-place Andrews at Cates Field on Tuesday.

"We're playing smarter softball than we were when we played Andrews last time," Bohannon remarked. "Our communication is a lot better and the girls are playing well together as a unit. This time around we just have to hit the ball, last time we didn't. We committed too many errors also, but the girls are fielding and throwing the ball better than they have all year."

Tuesday's contest is slated for a 6 p.m. start. Following the action with the Lady Mustangs, Snyder visits Ft. Stockton next Friday at 6 o'clock.

Snyder	ab	r	h	bi
Webb lf	1	3	1	2
Mackey cf	3	2	1	0
Tomlinson ss	3	2	1	1
Davis c	3	1	1	3
Martinez p	3	0	1	3
Purcell 1b	3	0	1	1
Ricks 3b	3	0	0	0
Rinehart 2b	2	1	1	0
Haarmeyer 2b	1	0	0	0
Newman rf	2	1	1	0
Shoemake cr	1	0	1	0
Totals	25	10	9	10

Lake View	ab	r	h	bi
Burris 2b	3	0	1	0
Hill 3b	2	0	1	0
Moorehead cf	2	0	1	0
Morales p	2	0	0	0
Gomez dh	1	0	0	0
Harp c	1	0	0	0
Baker ss	2	0	0	0
Anchondo rf	2	0	0	0
Slate 1b	1	0	0	0
Bradbury 1b	1	0	0	0
Crisp lf	2	0	2	0
Totals	19	0	5	0

Snyder ..... 3 0 3 4 0 —10 9 0
Lake View ..... 0 0 0 0 0 — 0 5 3

2B - Webb. HR - Davis.

Snyder	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Martinez	5	5	0	0	0	3
Lake View	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Morales	5	9	10	8	2	3

5-4A Softball

	District			Overall		
Team	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Andrews	6	0	1.000	15	6	.714
Snyder	4	2	.667	15	8	.652
Lake View	2	4	.500	12	12	.545
Big Spring	3	3	.400	16	7	.682
Ft.Stckton	3	3	.500	14	6	.700
Swtwater	0	6	.000	7	11	.412

Thursday's results: Snyder 10, Lake View 0; Andrews 10, Ft. Stockton 0; Big Spring 8, Sweetwater 1.

NBA GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	22	10	.688	-
Miami	19	10	.655	1½
NewYork	18	14	.563	4
Philadelphia	16	14	.533	5
Washington	13	17	.433	8
Boston	10	19	.345	10½
NewJersey	6	24	.200	15
Central Division				
Indiana	20	11	.645	-
Detroit	20	12	.625	½
Milwaukee	18	12	.600	1½
Atlanta	19	13	.594	1½
Toronto	16	14	.533	3½
Cleveland	14	15	.483	5
Charlotte	12	17	.414	7
Chicago	9	22	.290	11

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	22	8	.733	-
Houston	22	10	.688	1
SanAntonio	21	10	.677	1½
Minnesota	17	13	.567	5
Dallas	11	22	.333	12½
Denver	9	23	.281	14
Vancouver	6	25	.194	16½
Pacific Division				
Portland	24	6	.800	-
L.A.Lakers	21	11	.656	4
Seattle	15	15	.500	9
Phoenix	15	16	.484	9½
Sacramento	14	18	.438	11
GoldenState	13	17	.433	11
L.A.Clippers	3	27	.100	21

Thursday's Games
Toronto 88, Indiana 87
Detroit 107, Chicago 75
New York 78, Cleveland 74
Philadelphia 88, Miami 84
New Jersey 90, Atlanta 85
Dallas 93, L.A. Clippers 84
San Antonio 103, Vancouver 91
Denver 113, Seattle 110
Utah 88, Houston 87

Friday's Games
Milwaukee at Boston, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Charlotte, 8 p.m.
Denver at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Orlando at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Seattle at Portland, 10:30 p.m.
Utah at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Miami at New Jersey, 1 p.m.
Washington at Toronto, 3 p.m.
Orlando at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Portland, 10 p.m.
Golden State at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Charlotte at Atlanta, 12:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Boston, 12:30 p.m.
Miami at Washington, 3 p.m.
New York at Indiana, 3:30 p.m.
Houston at Seattle, 6 p.m.
Philadelphia at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Cleveland, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Chicago, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Denver, 9 p.m.

Sports Briefs

MGA weekend tourney

The Men's Golf Association of Western Texas College will hold its monthly tournament Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

Format will be skins game. For more information, contact Wayne Monroney at 573-9920.

Lions Club golf tourney

The Snyder Lions Club golf tournament will be held April 24 at Western Texas College.

The format will be a four-man scramble, with each team having a minimum combined handicap of 50. All handicaps will be varified by April 17. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top five finshers, with $800 going to the winning team.

Registration fee is $50 per person and includes green fee, cart rental and a hamburger lunch. The field will be limited to 20 teams. Entry forms can be picked up at the WTC and Snyder Country Club pro shops.

WGA weekly play day

The Women's Golf Association of Snyder Country Club will begin its spring golf season Tuesday at 9 a.m. Players should meet at the pro shop, prior to teeing off. A luncheon and business meeting will follow play.

SCC tourney dates

Upcoming tournaments at Snyder Country Club include a three-man scramble April 17 and a pro-am event April 19.

Scramble teams must have a minimum combined handicap of 30, with a maximum of 15 strokes difference between the first and third player.

For more information, contact the SCC pro shop at 573-7101.

Pitching clinics scheduled

Pitching clinics for girls' fast-pitch softball are held every Wednesday. Classes are limited. For more information, contact Herman Martinez at 573-0390.

Dallas releases schedule

IRVING (AP) — Jimmy Johnson comes home on Thanksgiving Day to meet his former employers, the Dallas Cowboys.

Johnson, who won two Super Bowl titles as the Cowboys' coach, brings his Miami Dolphins to Texas Stadium for a 3:15 p.m. meeting on Thanksgiving, according to Dallas' schedule released Thursday.

Dallas owner Jerry Jones and Johnson decided they couldn't stand each other after winning back-to-back Super Bowls. Since they split the Cowboys won a Super Bowl under Barry Switzer, who was dumped in favor of Chan Gailey, who coached for the first time last year.

Johnson has yet to get his Dolphins to the AFC title game and even quit for 24 hours in the off-season before he decided to return and coach the team again.

"It will be an exciting game for me personally," Jones said.

Dallas will be featured a franchise-record six times on national television.

"It shows how much interest there is in the Dallas Cowboys," Jones said. "It's great to open our home season on Monday night football."

Dallas, which was 10-6 but lost in the first round of the playoffs to Arizona, opens the season at Washington on Sept. 12.

Then the Cowboys host Super Bowl runnerup Atlanta in a Monday night game on Sept. 20.

They get a bye week before hosting Jake Plummer and Arizona on Oct. 3.

Dallas has two other Monday night games, both on the road. They are at the New York Giants on Oct. 18 and at Minnesota on Nov. 8.

The Cowboys also have a Sunday night road game. They are at New England on Sunday, Dec. 5

Dallas has a rare Friday night game in New Orleans on Christmas eve.

Dallas concludes the season hosting the New York Giants at home on Jan. 2.

"Our schedule is quite a challenge," Jones said. "We will have to be ready early."

In addition to six nationally-televised games during the regular season, Dallas will be shown three times during the preseason.

Dallas opens against Clevleand in the Hall of Fame Game on Monday, Aug. 9 in Canton, Ohio.

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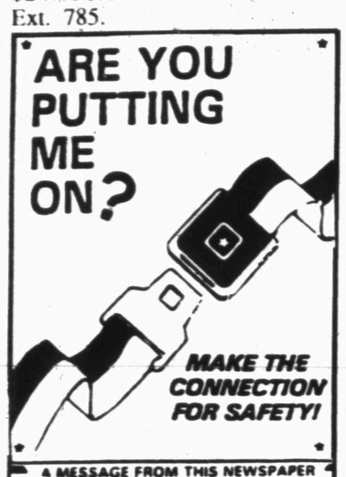

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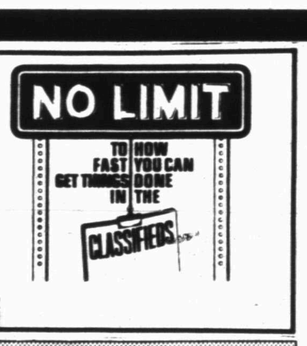

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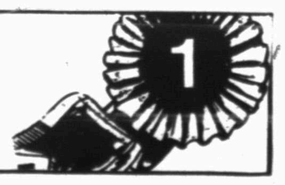

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1929 Sante Fe FP Out of City Limits! **3404 Jacksboro** 3-2-2..Reduced to $54T. **Brand New Home** 2700 47th 4-2-2 Special! **Two large lots** Reduced to $5T Make Offer. **3 Downtown Commer.** Bldgs-Sale or Rent! **Established** Elec. Business-Owner Retiring. **Land:** 138.9 A's East OR 182.18 A's West. **2206 42nd** 3-1½ + 2 Living Areas! **3718 Sunset** 3-1½-1cp Fireplace.....$55T. **3113 Ave. T** 3-2-2-detached CH/A $39.9T. **2803 47th** 3-1¾ Nice Decor.....$84.5T. **2901 Ave. Z** 3-1¾-1 Liv & Den CH/A $30T. **We Have Commercial Buildings and Land!** **MAKE OFFER!** 3111 38th Place 2-2-2. **Outside City-Nice** 3-2-2.....$95T. **3303 Irving** 4-2-2.....REDUCED! **4704 El Paso** Lg. 3-2-2 Needs Work Call. **CLOSE TO H.S.** 4-1½.....$50T. **4-1¾ + Effiency Apartment**.....$49.5T. **5 Acres** 3-3-cp Pool & Shop — Large. **MOVE IN!**.....3724 Ave U 3-1-1cp. **Red!!** 2607 Ave U $10T Great Investment. **EXCLUSIVE**.....4008 Jacksboro 3-2-2. **1926 Sante Fe**.....Neat Home! 3-2½-2. **2708 48th** 4-2-2+Fp Patio.....$90's Call. **Ira** 3-2½-2cp+Lg Shop & 12.7 Acres $78T. **3204 Irving** 3-2-2 Fireplace.... Call $64T. **3009 35th** 3-2-2 Appx 2036 sq ft..$70's. **3 Acres** 4-3-Corral—Call for Details! $60's. **3605 Irving** 3-1 Close to Schools...$34T.

Rita Knox	573-7082
Jackie Buckland	573-8193
Annette Waller	573-9467
Sarah Jamison	573-4028

DECLINE IT TO THE CLASSIFIEDS
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Serbs step up deportation of refugees

KUKES, Albania (AP) — Serb forces are systematically rounding up ethnic Albanians, herding them into trains and other vehicles and transporting them to neighboring countries, U.N. officials and arriving refugees said.

Refugees told of an apparent Serb campaign that NATO officials contend is aimed at altering forever the ethnic makeup of Yugoslavia's Kosovo province. Serb officials have said the refugees are fleeing NATO strikes.

Pristina, the provincial capital, has become a ghost town, said refugees arriving Thursday in Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro.

Residents of the city were crammed onto a train and carried away, said Judith Kumin, a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva.

Some 190,000 refugees have overwhelmed Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro since NATO airstrikes began March 24, the United Nations said.

"The situation is absolutely dramatic, it's reaching nightmare proportions," said Kumin.

Kumin said it appeared to be "a well-organized and orchestrated campaign of expulsions."

"For those of us who grew up in the postwar generation, the 'never again' that we keep hearing, I find it absolutely terrifying," she said.

Two people died in overloaded trains arriving at the Macedonia border Thursday, refugees said. A 72-year-old man, Rexhep Liman, survived the trip to the frontier with three dozen other people in a tractor-drawn wagon, but died after spending his first night on the road in the rain.

"He was not sick, but it was very cold," said Skender Mauriqi, the tractor driver. "We left Pristina at 1 p.m. yesterday. All the way, he kept saying that he wanted to go back."

Arrivals from Pristina told the same story — being dragged from their homes by Serb gunmen and herded onto a hillside.

A weeping elderly woman recounted how she and other people "were pushed, made to go faster and faster" to get to the train.

"They said they will kill us and the older people unless we moved faster," she said. "Oh my God, what have they done?"

Mauriqi said he counted about 15 dead in his street, including the body of a 17-year-old. "I know his father," he said.

He said some of his Serb neighbors cried to see them leave.

"One Serb who lived near the mosque came out begging the soldiers not to kick us out, but they were shooting in the air," he said.

Between the Albanian border crossing at Morini and the nearby town of Kukes, at least 350 cars packed with people waited on the road. The cars had been stripped of their license plates by Serb border guards. One car had a wheelchair tied to the roof.

Other refugees were jammed tightly in Albanian military transport trucks.

At Blace, the border crossing near the Macedonian capital, Skopje, thousands of people streamed down the railroad tracks through the no-man's land separating Yugoslavia and Macedonia.

International organizations have rushed to get more supplies to the refugees, while Western European nations who met in an emergency conference in Bonn, Germany, promised more aid.

The U.S.-based AmeriCares disaster relief organization announced it flew a plane Thursday to Skopje with medical supplies. It was planning four more flights in the coming week.

Three French planes carrying 25 tons of humanitarian aid, including medicine, milk for babies, and blankets and sleeping bags, left Marseille for Macedonia today.

Some fleeing refugees had no alternative but to walk. Women and children said they left men behind in the mountains on their two-day trek to Albania.

"They were afraid to come with us. They are hiding all over," said Bukurie Morina. "When the Serbs find men, they arrest them."

Jury will decide sentence for Marine who destroyed tape

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (AP) — A prosecutor today said a Marine aviator who admitted destroying a videotape he shot before his jet clipped an Italian gondola cable, killing 20 people, was "the perfect conspirator." The defense urged lenience for "a panic decision made in 20 or 30 seconds."

"Everybody trusted him," the prosecutor, Maj. Stu Crouch, said in his closing statement to a military jury that will recommend a sentence for Capt. Joseph Schweitzer.

"That makes the perfect conspirator, somebody who has that amount of trust built up over a period of time. ... That's what's wrong with a conspiracy among officers."

He urged the jury to recommend dismissal from the Marines and a prison sentence. He didn't specify what length of sentence he thought should be imposed except to say the maximum, 10 years, was too much.

Defense attorney David Beck said in his closing statement that dismissal from the Marines was too harsh a penalty.

"Do not judge Captain Schweitzer's 10 years in the Marine Corps ... based on a panic decision made in 20 or 30 seconds," he said. He told jurors that Schweitzer "looked you in the eye" and told the truth when he testified Thursday.

Schweitzer, 31, of Westbury, N.Y., pleaded guilty Monday to obstruction of justice and conspiracy to obstruct justice for destroying the tape after the Feb. 3, 1998, accident near Cavalese, Italy. He was the navigator of the EA-6B Prowler that severed the gondola cable.

The nine-man military jury will begin weighing what sentence to recommend later today. While Schweitzer faces up to 10 years in prison, dismissal from the service and forfeiture of pay, a more lenient sentence is possible under a plea arrangement that has not been disclosed.

Crouch told the jury today how after the jet piloted by Capt. Richard Ashby cut the cable, it landed at the Aviano, Italy, air base with a wing sliced nearly in half.

"After all this and everything they've been through, what is the first thing on their mind? The tape," he said.

Schweitzer testified Thursday that he was concerned his face was on the tape, which was made before the accident, and that it would be used in media reports about the tragedy.

The Italian media portrayed the radar-jamming jet's four-man crew as "Rambos" and "air assassins," Schweitzer said. "All I could think about was my face and I didn't want anybody to see it."

During more than an hour of emotional testimony Thursday, Schweitzer became choked up as he recalled learning that people had died.

"There are some days I just don't want to get out of bed because the burden is heavy," he said. "I deal with that every day. It's part of my life."

He called himself "an embarrassment to the Marine Corps."

Forming new government delayed

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Today was to have been the day when Northern Ireland's politicians formed a government together, the pivotal commitment of the Good Friday accord of 1998.

Instead, after a week of negotiations on the issue of Irish Republican Army disarmament, the British and Irish prime ministers gave the politicians until April 13 to mull over a new proposal.

Britain's Tony Blair and Ireland's Bertie Ahern announced the plan Thursday, a day before this year's Good Friday. It would allow the IRA-allied Sinn Fein party to receive their two allotted posts in the 12-member Protestant-Catholic government one month before the IRA would be required to hand over an arms cache.

The Ulster Unionists, the major Protestant party, have demanded that the IRA start to disarm before they will accept Sinn Fein as partners in the new government. Sinn Fein leaders insist they must receive two positions in the government first — without guarantees that the IRA would disarm.

Ahern and Blair proposed that a first act of disarmament should take place on a new all-Ireland peace holiday. They called it a "national day of reconciliation."

They envision that Northern Ireland's major pro-British paramilitary groups would make their own weapons offerings, while the British army and police would unveil a schedule for troop withdrawals and barracks closures.

The state flower of Alaska is the forget-me-not.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Kenneth Harbin, Ophel Woodson, Margie Pinkerton and Janet Russell of Carrollton.

DISMISSALS: Gwen Cox, Jessie Pierson, Vetta Underwood, Carl Ballard, Rebecca May and Phil Robinson.

CENSUS: 48 (Med., Surg.-22, Long-term Care-24, OB-1, Nursery-1).

Births

Hayden Springer announces the birth of his brother, Jacob Nicholas Springer. Jacob was born March 19 in Brownwood Regional Hospital to Thad and Charlotte Springer of Snyder. He weighed seven pounds.

Maternal grandparents are Bill and Geneva Garrett of Santa Anna. Paternal grandparents are Jerry and Bettye Springer of Fort Worth and Connie Otto of Snyder.

Three subjects are arrested

Three subjects were taken into custody Thursday and early today.

Deputies booked a 19-year-old female into jail at 8:10 p.m. on outstanding warrants for two counts of no drivers license and two counts of no liability insurance.

A 21-year-old male was arrested at 10:47 p.m. in the 3100 block of 40th Street for public intoxication.

At 12:29 a.m. today, officers took a 26-year-old male into custody in the 2800 block of Avenue K for Class C assault/ family violence.

In other activity Thursday, an officer was called to Wal-Mart at 10:37 a.m. in reference to a forgery. An offense report was filed.

An offense report for runaway was submitted at 4:27 p.m. following a report from a woman that her 16-year-old daughter had left the residence and not returned.

Dandy.
WESTERN WEAR
I-20 & Hopkins Rd.
Sweetwater
Mon. - Sat. 9 to 6 & Sunday 12 to 6

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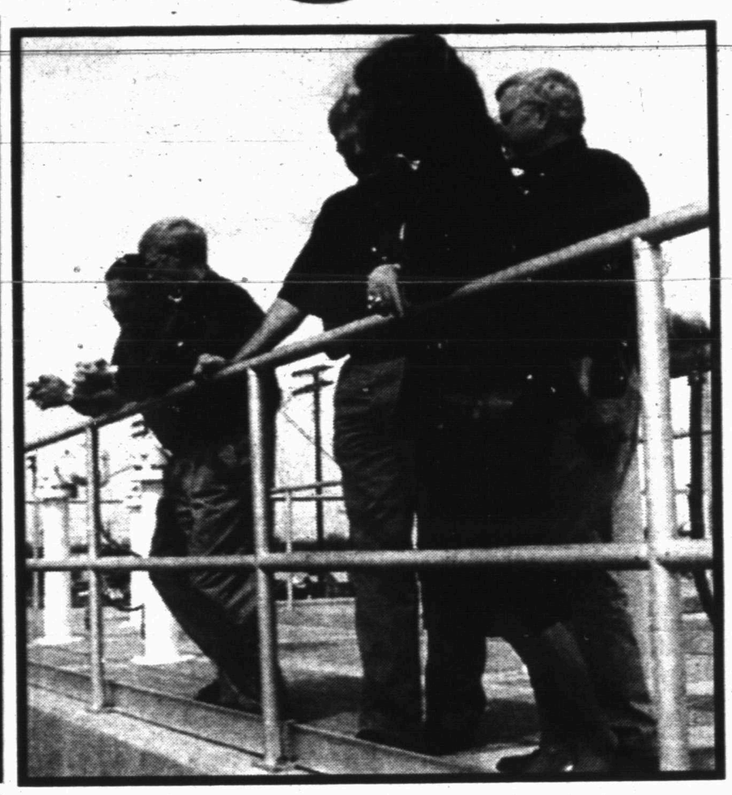
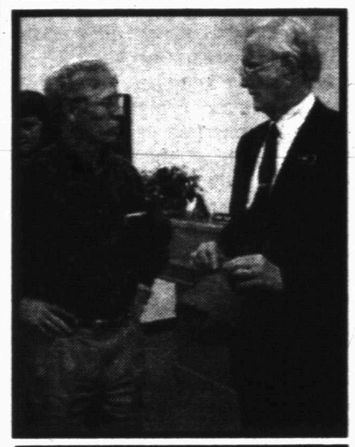
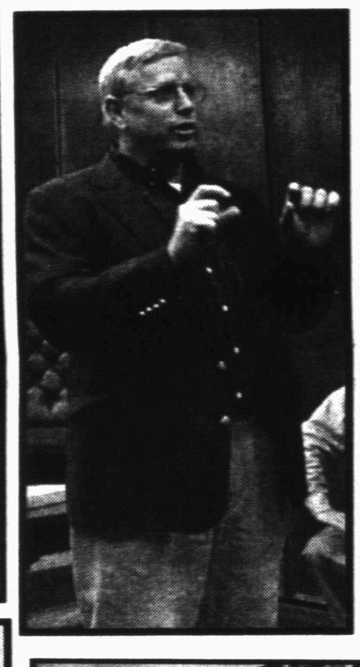
APR 02 1999

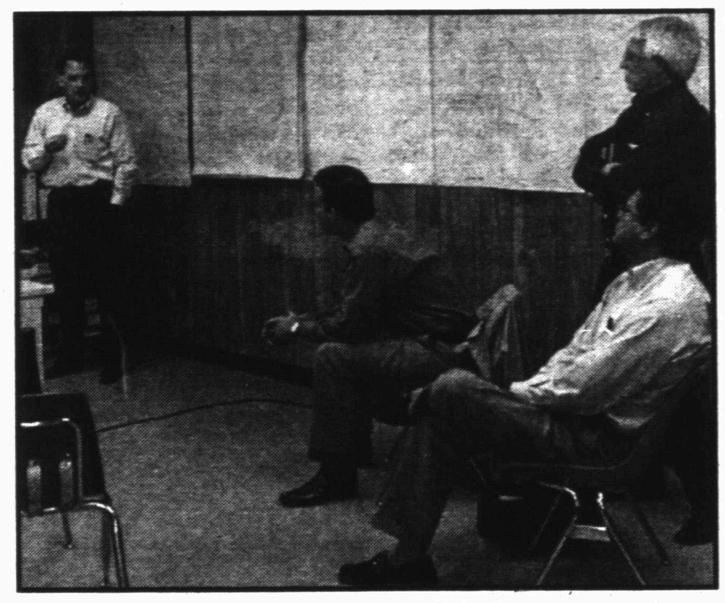
Snyder in the spotlight...

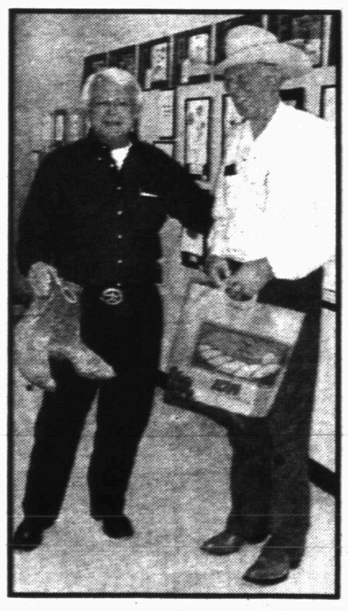


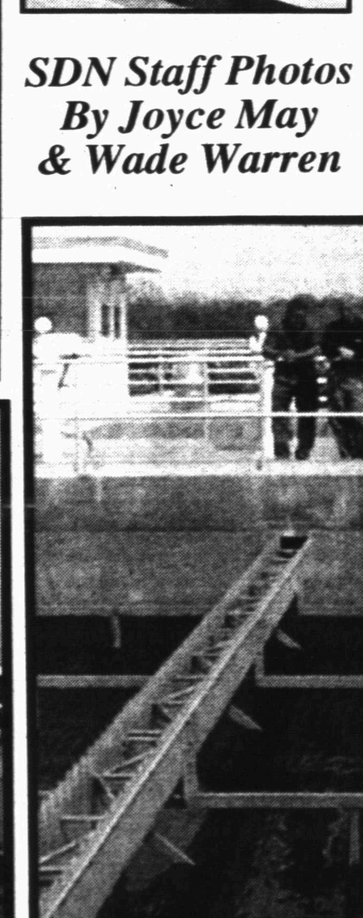
Rep. David Counts; Railroad Commissioner Tony Garza; Texas Natural Resource Conservation Chairman Robert Huston visit in Snyder



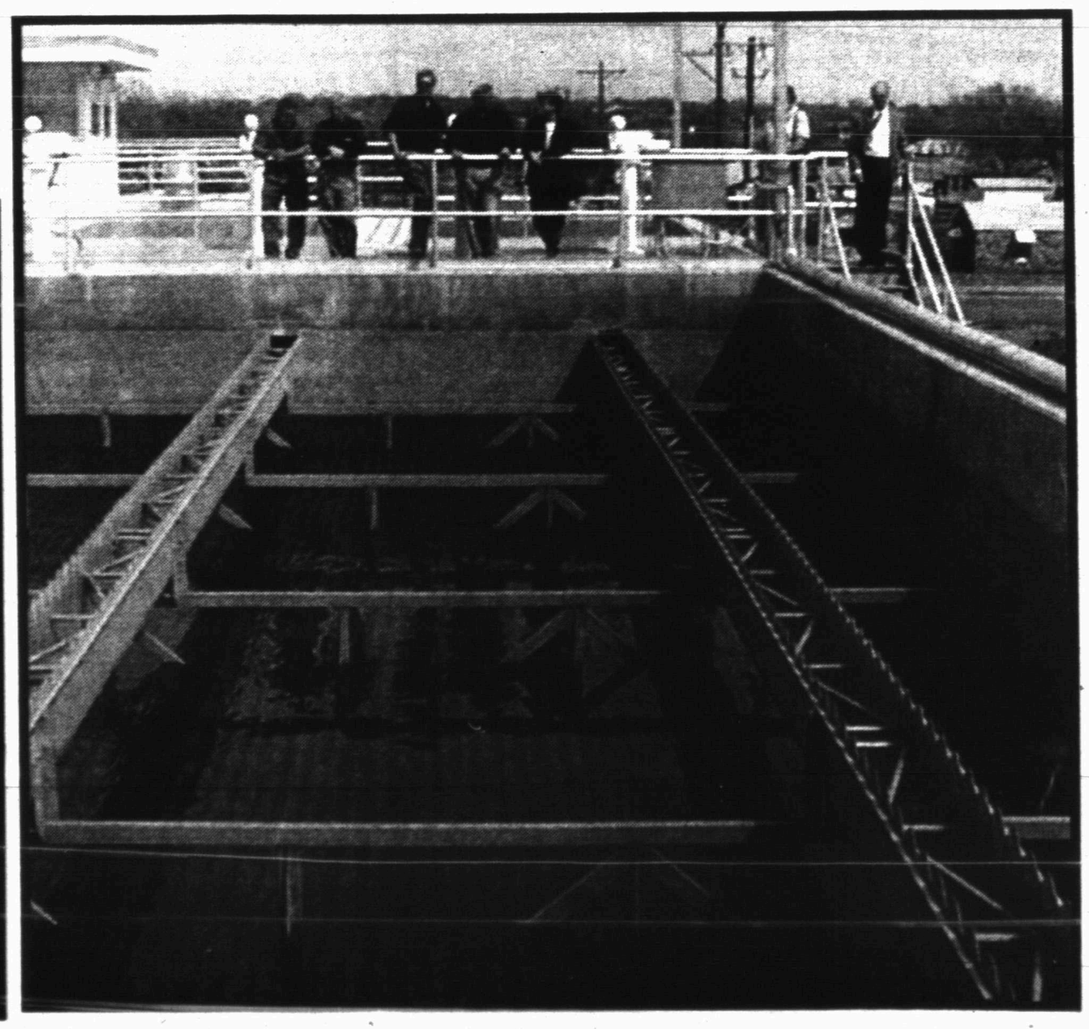


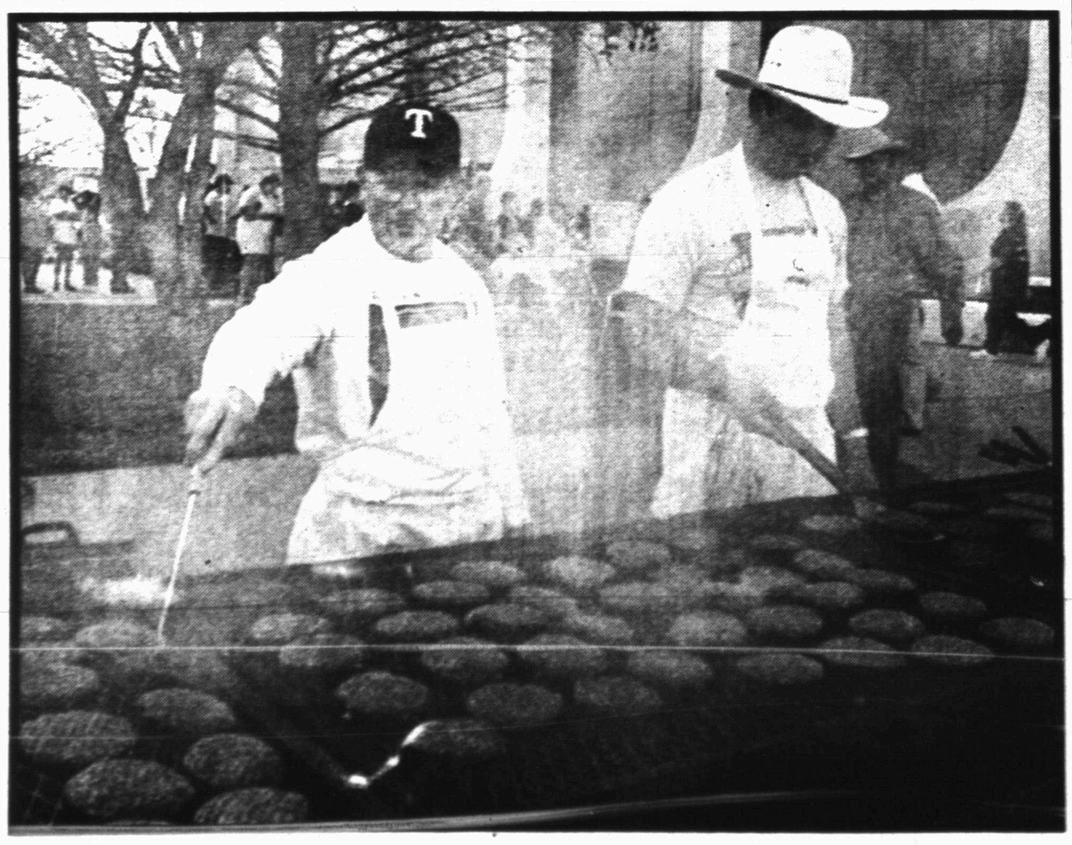






SDN Staff Photos By Joyce May & Wade Warren





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April 2,

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But could be there awhile...

Soldiers protected by law

WASHINGTON (AP) — As prisoners of war, the three U.S. soldiers captured by Yugoslav forces specific are protected by international law, but they also could be held by the Serbs legally until the armed conflict ends.

Treatment of prisoners of war is governed by the Geneva convention of 1949, signed by both the United States and Yugoslavia. Among other things, the treaty says the only information captured soldiers must provide is name, rank, serial number and date of birth.

"POW status is what is required under the circumstances," said Robert K. Goldman, an American University law professor. "If these people are mistreated, those who order the mistreatment and carry it out ... could be treated as war criminals."

Ruth Wedgwood, a senior fellow for the Council on Foreign Relations, said Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic "is a damn fool if he mistreats them."

President Clinton and Defense Secretary William Cohen initially avoided referring to the three men as war prisoners, instead saying that they were illegally abducted.

Later Thursday, however, Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said, "We consider them to be prisoners of war and covered by the Geneva Convention."

The Pentagon was investigating the possibility that the soldiers had blundered across the Macedonian border into Yugoslavia.

The 1949 Geneva convention is one of a series of international humanitarian treaties dating back to 1864. It applies in cases of "armed conflict" as well as when war has been declared.

Under the treaty, captured soldiers "must at all times be humanely treated." They cannot be mutilated, used as human shields or subjected to public humiliation. They also cannot be put on trial for engaging in ordinary acts of warfare for which the capturing country's own soldiers would not be charged.

Prisoners of war also can be held until the end of hostilities. However, Bacon told reporters the three soldiers still might be entitled to immediate release, for example, if they were captured in Macedonia.

Charlotte Ku of the American Society of International Law said there was little doubt the U.S. soldiers would be entitled to prisoner of war status and therefore to the Geneva convention's protections.

Prison fight leaves four inmates seriously hurt

WICHITA FALLS (AP) — Four Allred Unit prison inmates were hospitalized in stable condition after a fight involving at least 90 inmates, prison officials said Thursday.

Thirteen prisoners were stabbed during Wednesday's fight between black and Hispanic prison gangs, police said. The fight ended when dozens of guards descended on the inmates after first disorienting them with tear gas.

Four prisoners were still at United Regional Health Care System and all were in stable condition Thursday, Warden Les Woods told the Wichita Falls Times Record News.

Prison officials were adamant that the disturbance was not a "riot."

"In this large a number, it's probably a racial thing," said Larry Fitzgerald, public information officer for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Huntsville. "This appears that Hispanic gangs had banded together against the blacks."

The Allred Unit's "Eight Building," which holds 300 to 400 prisoners, was never in any danger of being taken over and there was no threat of a hostage situation, Assistant Warden Richard Wathen said.

The disturbance began about 1:30 p.m. in the recreational yard, an outdoor area where inmates spend about two hours a day playing basketball, handball, walking or jogging, Wathen said. He said the melee started with a fist fight shortly after the inmates entered the yard.

It wasn't clear whether the fist fight was connected to any previous trouble among inmates.

According to television station KFDX, a couple a guards received some "bumps and bruises" during a fight among 12 inmates at breakfast Wednesday.

Auditors warn...

Crop insurance open to abuse

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federally subsidized crop insurance system is prone to abuse, conflicts of interest and errors because most of the risk for losses is born by taxpayers rather than the private companies that sell and service the policies, government auditors say.

Sometimes the insurance system allows farmers to earn more from crops they do not harvest.

The companies "have little reason to effectively monitor risky policy holders, little reason to deny claims of questionable losses, and no cause to find fault with their own practices," said an internal report by the Agriculture Department's inspector general.

In addition to assuming most of the risk for losses, the government subsidizes the premiums farmers pay for the insurance and pays the companies a fee for handling the policies. The program has cost the government more than $1.5 billion a year, and Congress is considering doubling that to improve the coverage and make it less costly to producers.

The report said that in west Texas last year, 200 farmers obtained federally subsidized insurance on a type of cotton that wasn't feasible to grow in their arid region. They paid $4.4 million in premiums and then claimed nearly $15 million in benefits when most of the crop failed.

Farmers in North Dakota and surrounding states recently rushed out and bought seed for durum wheat, even in areas not suited for the crop, to take advantage of a new insurance policy offering benefits far higher than they could earn if they grew and sold ordinary wheat, the IG said.

And in another case cited by the report, sales agents were working for tomato farmers to whom they sold insurance. One agent received commissions totaling $284,000, and the farmer he worked for collected $2.4 million in insurance benefits.

Stephen Frerichs, a spokesman for the companies, dismissed the inspector general's report this week, saying it was merely "rehashing a bunch of old" audits.

The insurance companies have to pay some of the losses, with their share varying according to their government contracts. Nevertheless, they have made $2.8 billion in fees and underwriting gains — their gross profits after losses — over the last four years. That's $400 million more than they made in the previous 14 years combined.

Acreage covered by the insurance has doubled to about 70 percent of all farmland since the program was last overhauled in 1994, while losses have been relatively low. The weather has been good through most of the country since 1993 except for droughts in the South and Southwest last year that prompted Congress to provide $1.7 billion in disaster relief for lost crops and livestock assistance.

USDA's Risk Management Agency, which oversees the program, has been shifting more of the risk to the companies in recent years and cutting their fees, officials say. In the case of the durum policies, USDA sharply reduced the potential benefits and is now being sued by farmers to have them reinstated.

Datebook

April 2, 1999

Today is the 92nd day of 1999 and the 14th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1513, Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon landed in Florida. He was searching for the fountain of youth.

On this day in 1917, President Woodrow Wilson called on Congress to enter World War I, declaring that "The world must be made safe for democracy."

On this day in 1980, Toshiaki Shirai and Yukiko Nagata of Tokyo, Japan, set the record for the longest underwater kiss — 2 minutes, 18 seconds.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Giacomo Girolamo Casanova (1725-1798), writer-adventurer; Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875), writer; Emile Zola (1840-1902), writer; Alec Guinness (1914-), actor, is 85; Marvin Gaye (1939-1984), singer-songwriter; Don Sutton (1945-), baseball player, is 54; Emmylou Harris (1947-), singer, is 52.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1983, the Chicago Blitz defeated the Tampa Bay Bandits 42-3, in a game in which Luther Bradley intercepted six passes and returned one of them 93 yards for a touchdown.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "A work of art is a corner of creation seen through a temperament." — Emile Zola

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (March 31) and last quarter (April 8).

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

How much aspirin is too much?

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm 63 and have been taking aspirin for 30 years because of chronic back pain. I probably average six tablets a day — on bad days, up to 14. Lately, because of a sensitive stomach, I've switched to buffered aspirin. Is it dangerous for me to take more than 150 tablets a month? I notice that cuts bleed longer than usual and I hear "crickets" in my ears.

DEAR READER: Your "crickets" probably represent tinnitus, an early sign of aspirin toxicity. Six tablets a day is about the limit I'd recommend; 15 is clearly excessive.

As you've discovered, aspirin can slow clotting. This is the reason that low doses of the drug are usually standard therapy for patients with heart disorders.

I suggest that you check with your doctor. There are newer, more effective medications for back pain, and one of these might be more appropriate for your use.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: I've read that pork must be thoroughly cooked to kill trichinosis parasites. Is there a danger in handling raw pork and then preparing other foods without washing one's hands?

DEAR READER: There is no danger in handling raw pork, although the prudent cook should wash his hands after touching any raw meat in order to avoid bacterial contamination of uncooked edibles.

The trichinosis in pork muscle is in the form of cysts that cannot be released until the meat is digested. Trichinosis is almost unheard of in commercially raised hogs. The parasite formerly infected stock that was fed garbage. Modern pork production eliminates scrap-feeding; pigs are raised on animal feed. Although trichinosis may be present in home-grown porkers that are fed garbage, meat-market pork is considered safe. The major risk of trichinosis now seems to be from eating under-cooked game, such as bear. Nonetheless, it's still a good idea to cook pork thoroughly.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My grandma and grandpa claim that you can get a stiff neck from sitting in a breeze. Is this true?

DEAR READER: Your grandparents are probably a lot wiser than I am, so you better pay attention to what they say. I would be presumptuous to tell them that they cannot get stiff necks in the breeze if, in fact, they do.

Some people's muscles seem to be extremely sensitive to changes in temperature. Sitting by an open window, driving in the car with the window down or being exposed to a chilling breeze can cause neck cramps and muscle spasms in susceptible individuals. This pattern is not universal, however.

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Astro-graph By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Saturday, April 3, 1999

Seeds of success out of your fertile imagination can be sown in the year ahead. Give any unique or original ideas a chance to prove themselves, because this is where your successes could be reaped.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Especially when costs are involved, be extra careful in joint ventures today. Unless the expenses are distributed equally, things will fall apart. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) It's not like you to rely on others, so don't do so today. Partnerships could turn out to be more of a hindrance than a help. Fend for yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) By attempting to crowd too much into your workload today, you could end up accomplishing little or nothing. Establish a sensible agenda — one that can work.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) It'll be important today that you don't do anything to give someone who dislikes you a chance to gossip. Just be extra mindful of your behavior when out in social settings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Open disputes in the presence of outsiders, especially involving family problems, can make everyone look bad. Nothing will get resolved. Don't be party to further complications.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) If you haven't earned it, stay well out of the spotlight today and let those who deserve accolades take the bows. They'll resent you if you try to share their limelight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Should this be your designated shopping day, take care not to get carried away satisfying every frivolous whims you get. If you do, you'll have to live with a flattened wallet.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) It's hard to believe, but even you can have weak willpower at times, and this might be one of those days. Instead of succumbing to a setback, regroup and try, try again!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You'll be remorseful if you look the other way today when someone who has been kind to you needs assistance. Stop what you're doing and pitch in! Your project can wait.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Any lack of knowledge concerning a venture presented to you today should be taken seriously. Gambling in areas you know little about could prove costly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) That ego of yours that arose yesterday could still be giving you trouble today. Don't hang there defending an unpopular position that could continue to anger associates. Let it go!

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Emotions must be kept at bay today when it comes to decisions that could have an effect on your work or career. No matter how strongly you feel about something, let your logic rule.

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Cinema I & II
1907 Snyder Shopping Center
573-7519
Baby Geniuses
Rated PG
analyze this
Rated R
The Other Sister
"You'll Laugh, You'll Cry, You'll Cheer"
Rated PG-13
Call For Showtimes
Matinees Sat. & Sun. $3.00

Bad Things Happen To Good People
At Timely...We Understand
Let us help with your
$$$ Money Needs $$$
Personal Loans $50 - $450
"No Collateral Ever Required"
Fast, Friendly Service Since 1964
"Hometown Proud"
Timely Finance 1926 25th 573-9335

Saturday Night Live
Gabreal Castillo & Cyn - Tymento
9:00-1:00
AMERICAN LEGION
1600 Ave R
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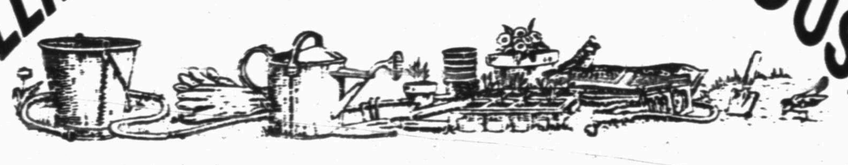

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APR 02 1999

2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Democrats broadside Gov. Bush

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. George W. Bush, the likely GOP frontrunner should he decide to run for president, is taking an early political broadsides from the Democratic National Committee.

Joe Andrew, the DNC national chairman, accused Bush on Thursday of running scared from staking specific positions on some national issues.

"What is Bush afraid of? That reporters have only seen the sunny side up until now?" Andrew said.

Bush, who announced this week that he already has amassed some $6 million in campaign funds for a possible presidential run, has declined to take specific positions on some issues in recent weeks, saying his top priority for now is the Texas Legislature.

But Democrats are trying to paint Bush as a side-stepping know-nothing.

"Hiding more than Easter eggs?" the Democrats asked in a Thursday release.

Supporters, however, told the Austin American-Statesman that Bush is working on answers.

"I think he gave us some clear pictures and answered some pretty direct questions," said Pennsylvania GOP Chairman Alan Novak, who met with Bush on Wednesday. "I think he convinced us he has good instincts, that he knows what he still needs to learn and he is committed to learn it."

Bush said his image as a candidate who is not fully known by the voters has reached the joking level with his family. But he added that he believes his supporters do know him.

"I don't think people would write a check like that unless they knew where my heart is, what my intentions are," Bush said. "I believe I've shown the people that I know how to lead. I'm the governor of the second largest state in the United States."

FOR THE CAPTIVES — Price Daniel Unit employees joined other Texas Department of Criminal Justice units across the state in displaying yellow ribbons to show support of the three American soldiers taken captive in the Yugoslavia conflict. One of the captives, Spc. Steven Gonzales, is the son of Gilberto and Rosie Gonzales, who work for TDCJ in Huntsville. Other captives are Sgt. Andrew A. Ramirez of Los Angeles and Christopher J. Stone of Michigan. The ribbons are to remain in place until the men are released from captivity. Pictured are Asst. Warden Vernon Pittman, Administrative Technician Debra Cheyne and Warden Wilhelmenia Howard. (SDN Staff Photo)

Cadaver dog sniffs for corpses at alleged sex-torture scene

ELEPHANT BUTTE, N.M. (AP) — A massive state-federal investigation of a bizarre sex torture case is moving closer to answers about whether homicide may also be involved, an FBI agent says.

A dog trained to sniff out human remains roamed Thursday around a trailer where two women claimed they were chained and sexually tortured.

"We have not as yet located any bodies," FBI agent Doug Beldon told reporters. But he added: "We are closer to knowing whether we have a homicide and how many."

More than 100 state police and FBI investigators worked on the case Thursday.

"There is much more to the case than is (publicly) known now, or we wouldn't have this investment of manpower here," Beldon said.

The investigation began last month when a woman fled the double-wide mobile home naked except for a padlocked metal collar and chain. A second woman later came forward and said she had been tortured at the home in February.

David Parker Ray, 59, and Cynthia Lea Hendy, 39, are charged with 25 counts including kidnap, sexual penetration, aggravated battery and conspiracy. Deputy District Attorney Jim Yontz said a preliminary hearing has been set for April 15. No trial date has been set.

Ray worked as an auto mechanic and a firefighter in Victoria, Texas, in the early 1970s. Police chief Tim Braaten said police received a complaint that a windshield from a stolen boat was seen on Ray's boat, but he moved to New Mexico before police could interview him.

Obituaries

Benny Sims

1933-1999

Funeral service for Benny Erman Sims of Westbrook is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in the Bell-Cypet-Seale Funeral Home Chapel.

Dr. Marty Akins, pastor of the Snyder First Baptist Church, will officiate. Burial will follow in the family cemetery near Hermleigh.

Mr. Sims, 65, died Thursday, April 1, in Abilene Regional Medical Center following a lengthy illness.

Born July 9, 1933 in Snyder, he married Mary Pate on April 1, 1980 in Alvin.

A member of First Baptist Church in Snyder, Mr. Sims was a tool manager and in the construction business.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Billy Sims, in 1976.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Sims of Westbrook; a daughter and son-in-law, Terrisue and Richard Mann of Snyder; two step-daughters and sons-in-law, Mary "Libb" and Stan McMullen of Loraine and Betty P. and Jerry Grissom of Shreveport, La.; a son and daughter-in-law, Stewart and Leia Sims of White Deer; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Beth and Sam McDaniel of Hermleigh and Ginny and Dave Griffith of Snyder; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Darrell and Neva Sims of Granbury and Bobby and Faye Sims of Snyder; three grandchildren, Michael Mann of Snyder and Krista and Amber Schrader, both of White Deer; six step-grandchildren; and three step-great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the American Heart Association, % Billisue Stuard, Route 2 Box 184-A, Hermleigh, 79526, or to the American Diabetes Association Texas Affiliate, 2209 N. Big Spring, Suite J, Midland, 79701.

Arturo Ramirez

1947-1999

LUBBOCK — Arturo Franco Ramirez, the brother of Alfredo Ramirez of Snyder, died Wednesday, March 31.

Graveside service for Mr. Ramirez, 51, was held at 10 a.m. today in the Resthaven Memorial Park with the Rev. Cornello Ramirez officiating.

Born June 6, 1947 in Lincoln, Neb., he married Stefanie Castillo on Aug. 30, 1995 in Lubbock. Mr. Ramirez was a self-employed cement finisher and was a member of St. Patrick' Church.

Survivors include his wife, Stefanie Ramirez of Lubbock; a son, Dominick Ramirez of Lubbock; a stepson, David Bastardo of Lubbock; a daughter, Monique Ramirez of Lubbock; two stepdaughters, Rachel Curtis and Patricia Castilleja of Lubbock; two sisters, Aurora Munoz of Midland and Angie Sanchez of Carlsbad, N.M.; another brother, Abel Ramirez of Lubbock; and eight grandchildren.

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Aircraft carrier may be added, U.S. official says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration is likely to add an aircraft carrier to the war against Yugoslavia, an escalation in the 10-day-old NATO air campaign that bolsters allied firepower and flexibility but stretches U.S. resources, senior defense officials said today.

With more than 300 allied aircraft flying from land bases in Italy and elsewhere, the air war has proceeded without carrier-based U.S. warplanes, although Navy ships have been firing Tomahawk cruise missiles.

Defense Secretary William Cohen was still weighing a decision but several officials speaking on condition of anonymity said it was likely he would order the USS Theodore Roosevelt to the Adriatic Sea. The Norfolk, Va.-based carrier is due to enter the western Mediterranean on Saturday.

The Roosevelt, carrying about 75 warplanes and accompanied by four ships armed with cruise missiles, is officially scheduled to transit the Mediterranean and take up station in the Persian Gulf. If Cohen gives the order, the carrier instead will stay in the Adriatic to join the fight against Yugoslavia.

The addition of a carrier battle group to NATO's Operation Allied Force would mark a significant expansion of the U.S. commitment to the war. It also would complicate Navy planning for other contingencies, since its carrier in the Persian Gulf — the USS Enterprise, whose planes are flying patrols over Iraq — is due to head back to the United States in mid-April.

The only other U.S. carrier on deployment now is the USS Kitty Hawk, which covers commitments in Asia. Senior officials speaking on condition of anonymity said it was likely the Kitty Hawk will be sent to the Gulf to replace the Enterprise, creating an unusual gap in U.S. carrier presence in the Pacific.

The Clinton administration, meanwhile vigorously condemned Yugoslav plans to put three captured U.S. soldiers on trial, calling for their immediate release or protection as prisoners of war from a military "kangaroo court."

Court proceedings against the three were begun today, although it was not clear whether they were taken to the courtroom in Pristina, the Kosovo capital.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

FBC Easter musical

"At The Name of Jesus," a musical for Easter, will be presented by the First Baptist Church at 7 tonight and Saturday. The public is invited.

Colonial Hill music ministry

The music ministry of Colonial Hill Baptist Church will present The Easter Story, "Celebrate Him" at 7 p.m. this evening and Saturday. There is no admission charge. The program will be broadcast on cable channel 2 at 8:30 Monday morning.

Nazarene Easter service

The public is invited to the Easter Celebration at the First Church of the Nazarene at 10:45 a.m. Sunday. There will be an Easter egg hunt for the kids after the service.

Calvary's Easter musical

The adult choir of Calvary Baptist Church, 2405 35th St., will present the Easter musical, "Rise Again." Easter activities include Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and the worship at 10:50 a.m. For more information or transportation, call 573-2191.

Easter Sunrise Service

Mount Olive and New Hope churches will combine with Allen Chapel in an Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. Sunday at 3401 Ave. M. The public is invited.

Hermleigh Cemetery Association

Hermleigh Cemetery Association will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the Hermleigh Community Center. For more information, call 863-2355 or 863-2338.

Joy School pre-registration

Pre-registration for Joy School for the 1999-2000 school year will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday in the east foyer of the East Side Church of Christ, 201 31st.

SHS choir concert Tuesday

Snyder High School's Choral Department will present its spring concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Worsham Auditorium. The choirs — Strictly Treble, Concert Choir and A Cappella Choir — will perform the music that has been prepared for Thursday's UIL competition at Texas Tech. The A Cappella Choir will give a demonstration of the Sight Reading portion of the competition. The concert will also feature the newly-formed Honors Choir at West Elementary.

Public hearing for bomber training

The Air Force will hold a public hearing on the proposed Realistic Bomber Training Initative (RBTI) on from 5-9 p.m. Wednesday in the Snyder High School auditorium.

Support groups

Four different support groups meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the First Baptist Church. The groups include divorce recovery, cancer-grief support group, a group for parents of teens and a group for adult-children caring for elderly parents. Child care is provided.

Golden K fish fry

Golden K Kiwanis Club fish fry will be held from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 11, at the Senior Citizens Center. Cost is $6 for adults and children under 6 can eat free. Takeout plates will be available.

Southern Gospel group

First Church of the Nazarene will present "Lighthouse," a Southern Gospel group, at the 11:45 a.m. service and evening service on April 11. Lunch will follow the morning service, according to Pastor Mike Howard.

American Legion officers

The American Legion Layne Kite Post #181 will elect officers on April 12.

Softball tournament

A men's softball tournament to benefit Special Olympics is planned April 17-18 at Winston Park. It will be double elimination and cost is $100 per team. Entry fee is due by April 9 by contacting Coach Stewart or Daisy Braziel at 915-573-1114.

Class of '79 reunion

The SHS class of 1979 is planning a class reunion. Anyone wanting to help plan or work on the reunion is asked to contact Susan Blackard at 573-0989.

1989 class reunion

The SHS 1989 class reunion committee is seeking addresses of former classmates for the 10-year reunion. Information is needed ASAP so it can be mailed out. Contact Christy Smith at 573-8392, or 573-1420 for additional information.

Free tax aid service

Free tax help is available each Wednesday at the Senior Center. Help is also available for shut-ins. Call 573-3822 or 573-4035.

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Thursday by the Texas Lottery:
19-22-23-24-35

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
2-8-3