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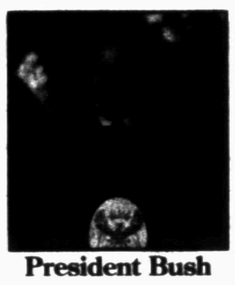
WT-Int. Crude - $30.22
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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY
July 9, 2003
Vol. 55 No. 60
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Donna Fowler

Bush defends use of prewar intelligence

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — President Bush today defended his use of prewar intelligence on Iraq, saying he is "absolutely confident" in his actions despite the discovery that one claim he made about Saddam Hussein's weapons pursuits was based on false information.


President Bush

Democrats have argued that the White House's acknowledgment that Bush misspoke earlier this year when he said Saddam tried to buy uranium in Africa justifies a broad review of how the administration used prewar intelligence on Iraq.

Bush, at a news conference here with South African President Thabo Mbeki during a five-nation African tour, took on his critics.

"There's no doubt in my mind that when it's all said and done the facts will show the world the truth," he said. "There's going to be, you know, a lot of attempts to try to rewrite history, and I can understand that. But I'm absolutely confident in the decision I made."

Bush did not directly address the misstatement itself, made during his State of the Union address. Instead, he defended his decision to go to war based on a larger body of information.

"There is no doubt in my mind that Saddam Hussein was a threat to the world peace," the president said. "And there's no doubt in my mind that the United States ... did the right thing in removing him from power."

Back home, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told the Senate Armed Services Committee today that the administration decided to use military force in Iraq because the information about the threat of Saddam's regime was seen with a different perspective after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

"The coalition did not act in Iraq because we had discovered dramatic new evidence of Iraq's pursuit of weapons of mass murder," Rumsfeld said. "We acted because we saw the existing evidence in a new light through the prism of our experience on Sept. 11."

The uranium claim was raising concerns among Democrats, who said more was needed despite several investigations now under way in Congress.

"This is a very important admission," Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota said Tuesday. "It's a recognition that we were provided faulty information. And I think it's all the more reason why a full investigation of all of the facts surrounding this situation be undertaken."

Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, said: "The reported White House statements only reinforce the importance of an inquiry into why the information about the bogus uranium sales didn't reach the policy-makers during 2002 and why, as late as the president's State of the Union address in January 2003, our policy-makers were still using information which the intelligence community knew was almost certainly false."



FINISHING TOUCHES — Russell Abston of Slaton was installing insulation this morning as volunteers stay busy putting the final touches on the new Lighthouse Assembly of God church on South College Ave. Pews are to be delivered soon and church members hope to begin worshiping in the renovated building by August. (SDN Staff Photo)

U.S. envoy meets Palestinian officials to ease crisis in peace

JERUSALEM (AP) — U.S. Middle East envoy John Wolf met with a top Palestinian official today to try to ease a crisis within the Palestinian leadership that prompted Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas to threaten to quit, a diplomat said.

Israeli media reports said Wolf would also meet with Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz and urge Israel to release more Palestinian prisoners and dismantle more illegal settlement outposts, moves that Palestinians have been demanding and which would bolster Abbas' position.

Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said Wolf was "exploring ways of how to advance the peace process, how to speed it up, how to move it along."

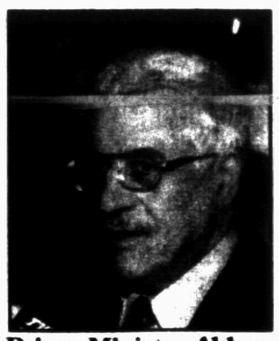
A diplomat confirmed the meeting with Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan and indicated that meetings with Israeli officials were also planned.

On Tuesday, Abbas threatened to resign unless his party backed his tactics in talks with Israelis, Palestinian officials said. The three largest Palestinian militant groups declared a unilateral cease-fire June 29, but say it will collapse unless Israel releases the bulk of thousands of Palestinian prisoners it holds.

Today, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, founder of the militant group Hamas, said the release of prisoners "is a red line which we cannot pass."

Speaking after a meeting with Egyptian security officials in the Gaza Strip, Yassin said his group remained committed to the truce but needed to see a mass prisoner releases by Israel.

"We ... told them that we are going to be patient, but patience is limited," he said.


Prime Minister Abbas

Egyptian officials said the delegation would meet leaders of the three main Palestinian militant groups, urging them to maintain the cease-fire.

Underscoring the fragile state of Israeli-Palestinian peace moves, Israeli soldiers overnight shot and killed 27-year-old Iyad Halanesh and seriously wounded his 26-year-old wife during an operation in the West Bank to arrest Halanesh's brother, a member of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, Palestinian sources said.

The Israeli army confirmed that soldiers shot a man during a raid. They said soldiers were fired on during an arrest operation and returned fire, hitting the gunman. The army said the militant they arrested had planned to carry out a shooting attack today. They could not confirm the name or condition of the man who was shot, or say whether a woman also was wounded.

On Tuesday, as internal tensions rose in the Palestinian leadership, Abbas called off a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon set for today. Some officials blamed Israel's refusal to release more prisoners and others cited a lack of support for Abbas from fellow political leaders.

Also Tuesday, in a largely symbolic gesture, Abbas resigned from Fatah's central committee, Fatah officials said. In his decades as Arafat's deputy in Fatah and the PLO, Abbas has resigned or threatened to resign many times. Fatah insiders said this time, too, it was a ploy to force Fatah to back him. Sakher Habash, an Arafat loyalist on the central committee, said today that the committee had rejected the resignation

"Abu Mazen (Abbas) will not be able to continue as prime minister if he is not a member of the central committee. that's why we have rejected his resignation," he said.

Sheriff's department receives grant money for bulletproof vests

Sheriff Darren Jackson has been notified that his department is the recipient of a federal grant to purchase new bulletproof vests.

The $779 grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice under the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program.

Jackson said the money will cover half the cost of three new vests for his deputies.

"We're always extremely happy to get grant funds and help save money for our local taxpayers," the sheriff said. "And of course, officer safety is one of our top priorities."

More than 6,500 applicants for vest grants were submitted nationwide this year and 5,700 were awarded. The funds will be available next month.

Jackson said the vests, at a cost of about $600 each, will be purchased once the grant money is in the bank.

Vests normally last about five years, unless they are shot, Jackson said.

"Thankfully, we've not had that happen," he said. "We've been able to get the full life span out of our vests."

Hospital open house is today from 4-6 p.m.

Cogdell Memorial Hospital will have an open house from 4-6 p.m. today for the new emergency-admitting entrance, front lobby, emergency-surgery waiting rooms, Auxiliary Gift Shop, and the Sue Mize Chapel.

A new telephone system for incoming calls was implemented today at the hospital.

You can now dial any telephone in the hospital directly, including the patient rooms.

Dial 574+7+the room number and you will reach the room without going through the operator.

The hospital's main number remains 573-6374.

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN

by Jo Ann Nunley



There are lots of ways to fish.

A few illegal ways include:

Grappling, also called "noodling." This method is illegal in Texas but legal in some states. Grappling, normally for catfish that spawn in rocky crevices where they protect their nest from any intruder, is done by reaching the larger fish by hand.

Shocking — was initially done with an altered crank-type telephone by dropping two wire leads into the water and turning the handle on the phone. That produced an electric charge between the ends of wire, shocking the fish to the surface. The device is illegal in all states and has been nicknamed a "cricket."

Snagging — is where a person using a rod and reel casts a heavily weighted hook or hooks into the water and then makes a retrieve with sharp, hard jerks of the rod in an attempt to snag any fish the hooks bump against. Snagging is illegal in Texas but legal in some states.

Dynamiting — is illegal in public waters nationwide. A parks and wildlife department official tells a story relating to this extremely dangerous method of fishing about three men who found their stock tank iced over and decided to use a stick of dynamite to blow a hole through the ice.

One of the men lit the fuse and threw the stick onto the pond. As the dynamite slid across the ice, a black Labrador retriever owned by one of the men raced across the ice to retrieve the stick.

Realizing the dog was bringing the dynamite back to them, the men ran for their pickup truck and jumped inside and the well-trained dog literally "loaded up" in the back of the truck. The men survived the blast, but the dog and truck didn't.

Spearing and archery — bowfishing is a legal method that has been around for ages. Virtually all states have special bowfishing regulations.

Traps and nets — has been around a while. The Indians weaved strands of reeds to create fence-like structures called "weirs" to capture fish. The weirs were placed across streams where fish would swim through them but soon found themselves with no way of escape.

Fish traps and nets are illegal in public waters but legal in private waters. Most modern traps are made of hardware cloth and different types of wire. Nets are made of monofilament line.

We had a relative who once tried the shocking system in private tanks, but we enjoy fishing under the enforced rules of Bass Clubs in tournaments for the last three or four years — obtaining a fishing license; using artificial bait, plastic worms being our favorite.

The length of fish caught and kept for weighing is regulated by individual lakes, 14 inches in some lakes and 18 inches in others with smaller ones placed back in the lake.

The fish must be kept alive and released back in the lake after they are weighed and fishing time is scheduled, usually from daylight to 3 p.m.

Life jackets must be worn and safe boating rules must be followed or risk the chance of being disqualified.

Fishing the safe and legal way from the water's edge or in a boat, for the young and the young-at-heart, is a good thing.

ASK US

Q—Is the city still spraying for mosquitoes?
A—Yes.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Dana Welsh...

...has been a bank teller at Snyder National Bank for three years. She has lived in Snyder for 28 years and she and her 10-year-old son, Gage Welsh, spend a lot of time playing basketball and riding bikes. Gage will be a fifth grader at Northeast Elementary. Dana also enjoys doing yard work and spending time with her fiancé, Alan Buchanan, and his five-year-old son, Zachary.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

More men fail through lack of purpose than through lack of talent.
—Billy Sunday

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

SHS mini cheerleading camp

Registration for the July 28-31 SHS mini cheerleading camp, ages 4 to 12, is set for 5-7 p.m. today and Thursday at the Humble Smith Building. The cost, including T-shirt, is $40 per camper with $10 off for second and third campers in family. All campers will perform at halftime of Snyder's first home football game. Call Rhonda Ward at 573-3475 for more information.

Cogdell open house

Cogdell Memorial Hospital will host an open house of the renovated emergency/admitting entrance, front lobby, surgery area, chapel and gift shop from 4 to 6 p.m. today.

White elephant auction

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

Nurses aide class

Due to low response, the orientation for the nurses aide class has been postponed until 2 p.m. Thursday. A certified nurses aide class will be held from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday until Aug. 16. Tuition is free and books may be purchased at WTC. For more information, call Maggie Barnes at 863-2426.

FBC services televised

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

Scurry Masonic Lodge

Scurry Masonic Lodge will have work in the Fellowcraft Degree at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Masonic Hall. All Masons are invited.

JV cheerleader fundraiser

The JV cheerleaders will be selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts from 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. Friday for $6 a dozen at Wal-Mart. Call 573-1395 or 574-2995 to place orders.

Masonic installation

An installation of Masonic officers will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday at the lodge hall. All Masons, families and friends are invited and refreshments will be served.

Class of 1993 reunion

The SHS class of 1993 is planning a 10-year reunion Saturday. Classmate addresses are needed. Contact Catalina Jones at 573-5045, or e-mail class of 93shs@yahoo.com.

Country and gospel music

For country and gospel music come to the Senior Citizens Center at 6 p.m. Saturday.

Sunday lunch

Martha Ann Woman's Club will serve lunch beginning at 11:30 a.m. Sunday at the clubhouse, south of the hospital. Tickets cost $8.50 for adults and $4.50 for children. Call 573-3427 for tickets. Reservations needed no later than Saturday morning.

Bible study tapes

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

S.M.A.R.T. School

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

Senior swimnastics

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

SHS football program ads

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

Sonshine registration

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

Cancer treatment transportation

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

Powerball mania underway as jackpot hits $250 million

EAST MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Denise and James Webster were going fishing when they took a detour to test their luck first elsewhere: buying their first Powerball lottery ticket in Vermont.

The couple, along with hundreds of thousands of people in 25 states and territories where the game is played, have been lured by a jackpot that stood at $250 million Tuesday and could climb higher by Wednesday evening's drawing.

"Everybody's got a chance to win," James Webster said. "Now we're gonna try our luck at fishing."

To many Vermonters, the high stakes game is entirely new and the jackpot mind-boggling. Some Vermonters are buying lottery tickets for the first time and they're picking up five or 10 at once.

"I've got a lot of people buying who've never have been buying before," said Mike Finnell, owner of Mike & Terry's Exit 4 Sunoco in Putney.

State lawmakers approved including Vermont in the Powerball lottery last winter. Powerball profits will go to the Vermont Education Fund.

Lottery officials say the game's novelty and the size of the jackpot lured more players than expected the first week. The jackpot has already rolled over 17 times since May 10, making Wednesday's jackpot the game's fourth largest.

Motive sought in deadly plant shooting

MERIDIAN, Miss. (AP) — Police were trying to determine why an assembly-line worker described as "mad at the world" left a business meeting at an aircraft parts plant only to return and gun down 14 colleagues, killing five.

Doug Williams shot himself Tuesday following his lethal rampage at the Lockheed Martin plant. Co-workers said the 48-year-old worker had had run-ins with management and several fellow employees.

Some of the 138 employees at the plant said Williams, who was white, was known as a racist who did not like blacks. Eight of the 14 shooting victims were black, including four of the five fatalities.

Nevertheless, Sheriff Billy Sollie said it appeared Williams fired at random. "There was no indication it involved race or gender as far as his targets were concerned," Sollie said.

Hubert Threat, who has worked at the Lockheed Martin plant since the 1980s, said Williams was "mad at the world." He said Williams, employed at the plant since 1984, had a big heart, "but then 'boom!' it's like Jekyll and Hyde."

"This man had an issue with everybody," Threat said. "It's not just about race. It was just the excuse he was looking for."

The shooting stunned residents of Meridian, a city of 40,000 near the Alabama line whose economy is largely dependent on the military. It's home to the Lockheed plant, a naval air station and an Air National Guard training center.

"We know one another, almost everyone knows someone who works in the building, or has a relative who works in the building," said Craig Hitt, president of the Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors.

Williams and other employees were attending an annual business ethics meeting that the company requires of all its workers when he left. He returned with a 12-gauge shotgun, a .223-caliber semiautomatic rifle and a bandolier of ammunition.

Police said Williams, dressed in a black T-shirt and camouflage pants, shot several of the meeting's participants in an annex next to the plant before moving on to the main factory, where he shot at least three others.

Several co-workers said they were not surprised when Williams was identified as the killer.

"When I first heard about it, he was the first thing that came to my mind," said Jim Payton, who is retired from the plant but had worked with Williams for about a year.

One victim was Lanette McCall of Cuba, Ala., 47, a black woman who had worked at the plant 15 years. Her husband, Bobby McCall, said she expected Williams to harm someone someday and that Williams had made racist threats in the past.

"Obviously he was sick," McCall said. "I wish somebody had given him some help before he ... destroyed my life and my kids' life."

The other dead were identified as Micky Fitzgerald, 45, of Little Rock, Miss.; Sam Cockrell, 46, of Meridian; Charlie Miller, 58, of Meridian; and Thomas Willis, 57, of Lisman, Ala.

"We're going to turn this thing around," said John Willis, Thomas Willis' nephew and a local pastor. "This is life. God in some way will help us get through it."

Sollie said all the shooting victims had been hit by shotgun blasts and there was no evidence the rifle had been fired. Authorities said three other guns were found in Williams' truck in the parking lot.

It was the nation's deadliest workplace shooting since a software tester in Wakefield, Mass., killed seven people the day after Christmas in 2000.

Lockheed Martin Aeronautics president Dain Hancock called the shootings "a horrible tragedy, a senseless crime." The plant, located near Meridian, builds parts for C-130J Hercules transport planes and vertical stabilizers for F-22 Raptor fighter jets.

"There are no words that can express the amount sorrow that has been felt by all of those who have been touched," Hancock said. He said the company will provide emotional and financial support for workers at the Mississippi plant.

Gov. Ronnie Musgrove said: "Mississippi's family grieves today for this senseless tragedy. My thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of those lost."

Lockheed Martin is the biggest defense contractor in the United States. The corporation had sales of $24 billion in 2001 and employs about 125,000 people.

Foster mother arrested after two boys left in vehicle die

LANCASTER, Calif. (AP) — The foster mother of two young boys who died after being left five hours in a sweltering sport utility vehicle was arrested for investigation of child endangerment.

Leslie Sue Smoot, 48, was booked late Tuesday night and held on $100,000 bail. No court date was scheduled.

Sheriff Lee Baca said earlier Tuesday that those responsible for leaving the children in the car would be charged with child endangerment and possibly manslaughter.

"Vehicles are not playpens," he said. "Vehicles are not baby sitters. And vehicles, when they are not properly ventilated, are death traps."

Smoot told authorities she left the boys, ages 3 and 5, in the car around 9 a.m. outside A Child's Place Daycare, which she ran.

"She indicated she thought someone else was going to get the children out of the car, possibly her husband," Los Angeles County sheriff's Lt. Al Grotefend said. "There was some miscommunication."

Smoot told investigators she discovered the boys in their car seats when she returned in the afternoon and pulled them from the vehicle.

The 5-year-old was dead. His brother, who was severely dehydrated, died a short time later at a hospital, sheriff's Sgt. Paul Patterson said.

Afternoon temperatures hovered around 100 degrees in the high desert town about 70 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

Officials from the Department of Children and Family Services said they will investigate.

A woman who answered the phone at A Child's Place Daycare declined to comment. Friends and parents gathered Tuesday at the 24-hour day care center.

Naeemah Edwards, whose daughter attended the center, told KABC-TV she was shocked.

"They come in with my daughter, and they play together," she said, adding that she would not let her child to return to the center.

Today's chuckle

Injured canine walks to hospital for help



BECKLEY, W.Va. (AP) — It was canine intuition when an injured black Labrador retriever did a doggone good job of getting medical attention.

The dog, apparently struck by a car on July 4, found his way to Beckley Appalachian Regional Hospital, hobbled through the sliding glass doors and waited for assistance in the hallway.

"It's the darndest thing," said Ted Weigel, marketing director at Beckley. "The dog limped in and laid down where people could see it. It seemed to know exactly where to go for help."

Hospital workers gave the dog water, called a veterinarian and offered to pay the bill.

"There's no way they were going to put an injured animal back on the street," Weigel said.

Dr. Roger Ward treated the animal, and the vet said the canine suffered road burns, scrapes and an infected wound on his leg.

The 7-year-old male dog has been a model patient, Ward said.

"He is incredibly calm and patient," Ward said. "He has a wonderful temperament. He's very gentle and he's been easy to treat."

Ward and hospital officials are searching for the dog's owner.



Date Book

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Today is the 190th day of 2003 and the 19th day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1900, the Commonwealth of Australia was constituted by an act of the Imperial Parliament, signed by Queen Victoria of England.

On this day in 1850, Zachary Taylor, the 12th president of the United States, died from an attack of cholera. He was succeeded by Millard Fillmore.

On this day in 1956, Dick Clark became the host of the television music show "American Bandstand."

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Nikola Tesla (1856-1943), inventor and electrical engineer; David Hockney (1937-), artist, is 66; Tom Hanks (1956-), actor, is 47; Courtney Love (1964-), musician and actress, is 39.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1877, the first Wimbledon Championships were held.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Our virtues and our failings are inseparable, like force and matter. When they separate, man is no more." — Nikola Tesla

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (July 6) and full moon (July 13).

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events

LOTTO TEXAS TEXAS LOTTERY RESULTS

Tuesday's Lottery Numbers
Texas Two Step

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

1-16-21-32. Bonus ball 23.

(Estimated jackpot: $700,000

Cash Five
8-10-14-22-28

Pick 3
(Day) 9-9-3
(Night) 4-2-1

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor

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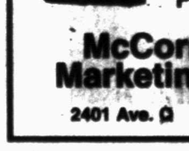
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By Abigail

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Lack of cooperation could hamper investigation

WASHINGTON (AP) — A lack of cooperation from the Bush administration could hamper an independent inquiry into the Sept. 11 terror attacks, the commission's leaders say.

"The task in front of us is monumental, and time is slipping by," said Thomas H. Kean, the commission's chairman. "Every day lost complicates our work."

Kean and the panel's vice chairman, Lee Hamilton, gave a blunt status report Tuesday after arriving in Washington for the commission's third public hearing, to be held today on Capitol Hill. The hearing focuses on terrorism, al-Qaida and the Muslim world.

Kean, a Republican former governor of New Jersey, and Hamilton, a Democratic former congressman from Indiana, singled out government departments including Defense and Justice that they said were not cooperating fully with the 10-member National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.

They said they took the unusual step because the administration's level of cooperation during the next few weeks will determine whether the panel can write a thorough report by its May 2004 deadline.

Kean said today, however, he wasn't yet ready to accuse the administration of trying to thwart the probe.

"Ask me about this two months later. I may change my mind, but I don't think it's intentional foot-dragging," he said on NBC's "Today" program.

"I think, really, nobody anticipated the breadth of the commission's work," Kean added. "We're looking at seven or eight different areas, everything from border security to money laundering to investigating the airlines."

"It's just a huge task," Kean said, adding that "the White House, by the way, has tried to be helpful, and we appreciate that."

The White House and Congress formed the commission last year following a congressional inquiry into intelligence failures. The panel is investigating the government's actions before the attacks on such issues as aviation security, immigration and diplomacy.

Kean said Bush and his aides have tried to help, but "it is also clear that the administration underestimated the scale of the commission's work." The commission has requested 26 briefings and made 44 requests for documents, which cover millions of pages, from 16 government agencies.

In their interim report, Kean and Hamilton said the degree of cooperation has varied by office and agency:

—The commission is receiving access to "a wide range of sensitive documents" from Bush's office and from the National Security Council, but "conditions have been imposed, in some cases, with respect to our access to and usage of materials."

—The CIA assembled a team of analysts to review events leading up to Sept. 11, 2001, and their work has been invaluable. The CIA has not responded as quickly to the commission's requests for internal documents on management and resources.

—Records requested from the Justice Department are overdue, and the department has yet to resolve how to help the commission review the case of Sept. 11 conspiracy suspect Zacarias Moussaoui, who is awaiting trial.

—Problems with the Defense Department "are becoming particularly serious." The commission has received no responses to requests related to national air defenses among other topics.

—Within the Homeland Security Department, elements of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service "have been slow in providing briefings, although there are recent signs of improvement."

The FBI, State Department and Transportation Department received generally positive reviews.

Man sought in shooting deaths of five

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP) — A nationwide manhunt was under way for an elementary school vice principal considered a possible suspect in the shooting deaths of five people, including his children.

The FBI and law enforcement agencies across the country were asked to help search for Vincent Brothers, 41, after police discovered the three children, their mother and grandmother dead Tuesday morning in their Bakersfield home.

Police Capt. Neil Mahan said today that Brothers became a possible suspect based on witness statements, crime scene information and details about his prior behavior. He said more information would be released later in the day.

"That does not mean we are not looking at other angles," Mahan told ABC's "Good Morning America." Asked whether Brothers had fled, Mahan said "Mr. Brothers did have travel plans during this time frame."

Brothers' blue pickup was found Tuesday, but police would not say where.

The victims were identified by the Kern County coroner as Joanie Harper, 39; Harper's three children, Marques Harper, 4, Lindsey Harper, 23 months, and Marshall Harper, 11/2 months; and Harper's mother, Earnestine Harper, 70.

Police described Brothers and Harper as married but separated. The two were seeking an annulment, but it was unclear Tuesday whether a judge had approved it.

Brothers is the father of the children and had periodically lived with the family, said Darren Dixon, 22, a nephew of Earnestine Harper.

Police were called to the home at 6:55 a.m. Tuesday by a friend who had gone to check on the family. The bodies of Joanie Harper and her three children were found in a bedroom; Earnestine Harper was in another room.

Neighbors said the streets have been noisy with firecrackers for days because of the July 4 holiday so gunshots might have gone unnoticed.

The neighborhood has a reputation for gang activity, but friends and family described the family as active in the community and very religious.

The family was last seen alive Sunday morning at church. They ordinarily attended both morning and afternoon services at the local Church of Christ, but didn't show up in the afternoon, Dixon said.

"It's shocking," he said. "These people weren't the low-down type."

Joanie Harper was a standout high school basketball player who worked with troubled children and refereed NCAA Division I basketball games, said Dixon. He said he saw no friction in her relationship with Brothers and didn't see any potential for violence. Mahan also said there was no indication of violence in the relationship.

"She liked him a lot. He was a very nice guy," Dixon said.

Brothers has had a history of marital difficulties, according to court records and police.

Two previous marriages ended quickly, and he and Joanie Harper formally separated less than two weeks after their marriage in January 2000. He cited "irreconcilable differences," while she checked "nullification based on fraud" as the reason she wanted a divorce.

They stayed involved in each other's lives and even lived together at times, friends and family members said.

In one earlier marriage, Brothers was convicted of spousal abuse, police said. In his 1992 marriage, his wife filed for a restraining order, saying Brothers "is violent and has threatened to kill me."

Brothers worked at Emerson Middle School, across the street from where the victims were found, from 1989 to 1996. He started as a teacher and worked his way up to vice principal, said Michael Lingo, an assistant superintendent with the Bakersfield City School District. Since 1996, he has been an administrator at Fremont Elementary School, which has more than 1,000 students from pre-kindergarten through sixth grade.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Woman's 'best friend' may not be marriage material

DEAR ABBY: I have had an exclusive relationship with "Brad" for almost four years. We love each other dearly. We will soon be seniors in college and spend a lot of time together, including holidays, vacations and family functions. He is my best friend, and it's hard to imagine life without him.

Lately, however, as I think about our future more seriously, I am beginning to question whether Brad and I are right for each other. We do not see eye-to-eye on some important issues — including politics, religion and having kids. It also concerns me that he's not as ambitious as I am when it comes to career goals and opportunities. Brad has never been one to plan very far into the future, whereas stability and security are important to me.

When I try to discuss my concerns, Brad claims I'm being hysterical and says, "Here we go again!" If I pursue it, we end up arguing and nothing gets resolved.

Should I break up with Brad now so that we can both meet other people in our senior year — or am I being unreasonable? — **LOVESICK IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR LOVESICK: Not at all. You are asking intelligent and mature questions about a decision that will affect the rest of your lives. I commend you for it.

Do not allow Brad to minimize your concerns and your differences. He needs to do some growing up before he makes a lifetime commitment to anyone — including you. Some time apart would benefit both of you.

**

DEAR ABBY: I was with my boyfriend, "Marty," for six years before we had our daughter. She is now 3 years old. On Valentine's Day, Marty finally gave me an engagement ring. I couldn't have been happier — until the other day when someone asked Marty what kind of ring it was. He said it was a "friendship ring." Can you believe this?

Abby, I am a person who believes in family values. I want my daughter to have a full-time father. I am thinking it might be time for me to leave Marty. Should I ask him if we are ever going to be married, or are we just going to continue to play house? — **NOT LAUGHING IN MARYLAND**

DEAR NOT LAUGHING: There is a big difference between friendship and engagement. Of course you should ask him. But before you do, tell him why you're asking. If he can't bring himself to set a wedding date, the family YOU value will have to include someone other than Marty.

**

DEAR ABBY: I'm an attractive 18-year-old single female from a good family. I enjoy wonderful friendships and am about to begin my first year of college. I was wondering if you could figure out what my problem is, because nobody else can.

Whenever I like a guy, I make it clear with friendly, "interested" actions. (But believe me, I'm not too forward.)

At first, guys seem to like me, too. But then they quickly become uninterested and end up never asking me out — or even talking to me again! This has happened sooo many times.

Please help. What am I doing wrong? — **DATELESS ON SATURDAY NIGHTS IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR DATELESS: Your friendliness and "interest" may be being interpreted as needy and desperate. This is a huge turn-off for members of both sexes. Tone it down a little, and see if you get better results.

P.S. You might more closely observe what your girlfriends do.

**

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

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To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

(Editors: For editorial questions, please contact Alan McDermott, amcdermott@amuniversal.com)

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Bullard's Computer Solutions, Inc. Adds Spam Filter

Bullard's Computer Solutions, Inc. has added e-mail spam and virus protection for its customers at no extra cost.

"We have been checking this service out for several months and it is working great," said Drew Bullard, president of Computer Solutions. "Spam has gotten to be a serious problem on the Internet and this service is very efficient at determining what is spam and what isn't. Plus, the customer can go to a message center and check what the filter has caught. The virus protection on the e-mail is also a nice feature because without protection, the odds are high that you are eventually going to get a virus."

To activate the spam filter simply go to the snydertex.com website and click on the "Free Virus and Spam Protection" button. Enter your e-mail address and password and click "login." That signs one up. The next time customers log in, they will see the message center which contains the spam. The program can also be customized from here.

"If you are a member of our Internet family, we take care of you, no busy signals, courteous service," said Bullard. "If you have a problem, we want to hear about it. There are so many elements to an Internet connection that it is sometimes difficult to know which one is giving the trouble. It can be the phone line, the customer's computer, our equipment, or a general Internet problem. Our policy is to get you going again at no charge and we can honor that guarantee because we are here locally and can physically determine what is happening."

In addition to offering a premium Internet service, Computer Solutions sells Dell computers, repairs and upgrades machines, offers broadband wireless Internet to business customers, and does networking. They are located at 3405 College Avenue or can be called at 573-4801.

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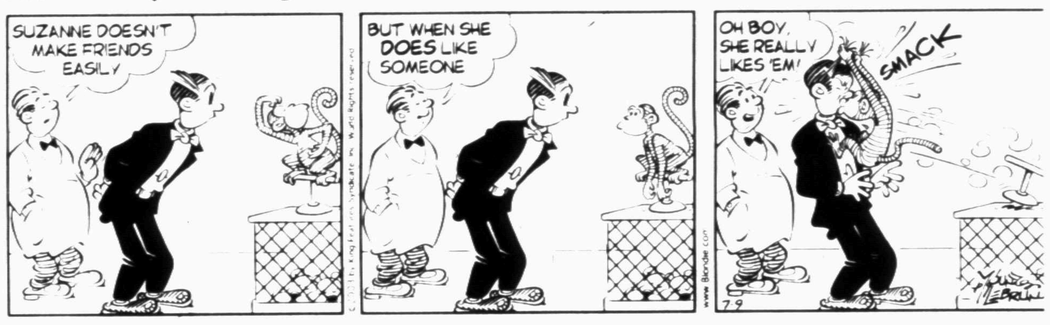
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1 Cove
6 Norway bay
11 Shirt part
13 Establish
14 Drink
15 Tower builder
16 High mountain
17 — Leppard
18 Serpent
21 Paved the way
23 Fast plane
26 Large parrot
27 Point a gun
28 Femur, .e.g.
29 Trespass
31 Ex-superpower (abbr.)
32 Speckof dust
33 Hobbyist
36 Raised, as horses
37 Lab animal
38 Ski instructor
39 Boathouse item
40 Drop by
42 Yacht pronoun
43 White lie
44 Name
46 Papeete's island
49 Make possible
53 Puccini works
54 Got close
55 Stair post
56 Bed supports

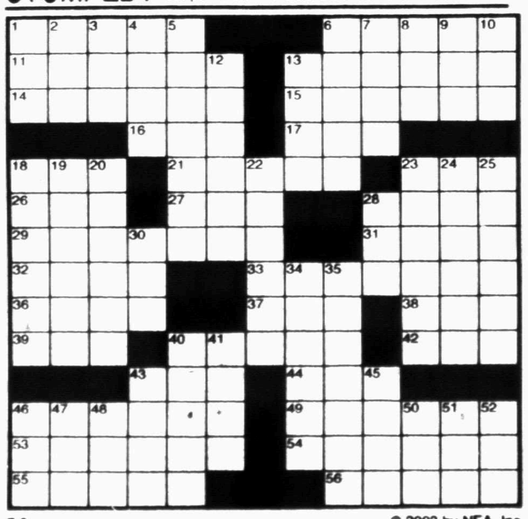
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6 Cooked in oil
7 Bridges or Goldblum
8 Klutz
9 Country addr.
10 PC key
12 Gave back
13 Yield territory
18 Hands-on-hips
19 Lady from Madrid
20 Glib speech
22 Smudges
23 Actor — Cotten
24 Make certain
25 Extreme fear
28 However
30 Wine category
34 Kind of voyage
35 Harmonizes
40 Urgent
41 Wading bird
43 Clambake need
45 Phoenician deity
46 Large weight
47 Gorilla
48 Wield an axe
50 Half a bikini
51 Rent out
52 Newspaper execs

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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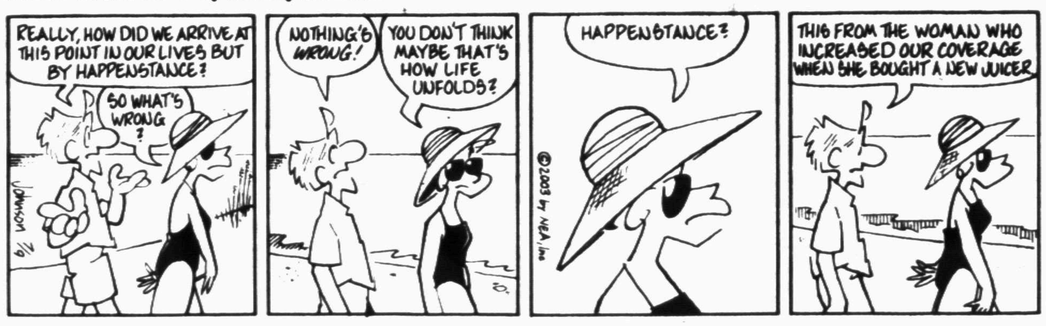


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Snyder Daily News
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SPORTS



THREE-POINT STANCE — SHS gridder D'Angelo Davis gives seven-year-old Rachel Bernird tips on the right way to set up during the Boys and Girls Club camp hosted by SHS football coaches and players. (SDN Staff Photo)

Payton ready to join Lakers

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) — Gary Payton is set to join the Los Angeles Lakers, and Karl Malone may not be far behind.

The Lakers have been negotiating with Payton over the past several days, general manager Mitch Kupchak said.

"It is the Lakers' intention to enter into a contract with Gary Payton once the moratorium period ends. Due to NBA rules regarding free agency I am unable to further comment at this time," Kupchak said in a statement.

With nine-time All-Star Payton teaming up with Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant, the Lakers would be favored next season to win their fourth NBA title in five years. If two-time MVP Malone also decides to sign, Los Angeles would be even more imposing, featuring four superstars.

Payton and other free agents are not allowed to sign contracts until July 16.

Payton's agent, Aaron Goodwin, told ESPN.com that the longtime member of the Seattle SuperSonics has chosen the Lakers.

"He could have taken a lot more money to go somewhere else," Goodwin said. "But he's going to Los Angeles to follow his dream."

The free-agent guard severed ties with his former team, the Milwaukee Bucks, on Monday.

Payton, dealt by Seattle to Milwaukee at last season's trade deadline, would be limited to earning $4.9 million with the Lakers in the first year of a multiyear contract.

Malone, a two-time league MVP, reportedly has said he'd be willing to take the veteran's minimum salary — $1.4 million — with the Lakers in order to have a chance to win his first NBA championship.

Malone has mentioned San Antonio, Dallas, Sacramento and the Lakers as possibilities. His agent, Dwight Manley said the power forward has narrowed his choices to a handful of teams.

Manley would not identify those but said, "They would probably be the favorite if he were on the team."

Malone met last week with the Lakers.

Armstrong, USPS team wins time trials at Tour de France

SAINT-DIZIER, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong's team captured a time trial today as the Tour de France began in earnest.

Armstrong entered the day in 12th place, and this victory in the 43-mile leg strengthens his position for a record-tying fifth title in cycling's premier race.

This was the first time the U.S. Postal Service squad won the team event since Armstrong captured the first of his four victories in 1999.

U.S. Postal, wearing tear drop-shaped helmets and riding aerodynamic bikes to go faster, won in 1 hour, 18 minutes, 27 seconds. It was the team's first win on this Tour.

Armstrong's teammate, Victor Hugo Pena, claimed the yellow jersey as overall leader. He is the first Colombian to wear the jersey in the Tour's 100-year history.

"Sure, I'll be the one wearing the yellow jersey," Pena told French TV. "But this is a victory for the team. It's one of the best teams that's ever existed in the world."

The win gave U.S. Postal a lead of 30 seconds over the second-placed ONCE team and 43 seconds over the Bianchi team. Both squads have riders who could threaten Armstrong.

Armstrong wanted to use the time trial to build a lead over his competitors before the Tour heads into the Alps on Saturday. The Texan is aiming to match Spanish great Miguel Indurain's record of five straight wins.

"This is simply the proof that when he wants to be, Armstrong can also be the best teammate in the world," Pena said.

Before the time trial, Armstrong had been content to play it safe.

Eight-year-old burned with fireworks at baseball game

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — An 8-year-old boy watching the Oakland Athletics' game against Tampa Bay has suffered burns on one of his legs when another fan tossed an explosive device from the upper deck of the Coliseum.

The boy was taken to a hospital on Tuesday night for treatment. No further information was immediately available.

"That was a shame," Devil Rays manager Lou Piniella said. "I saw the kid fall down in the left-field bleachers. It startled everybody."

A suspect was in police custody, the A's said. The device, commonly known as a cherry bomb, made a loud boom as it fell from the third deck to the first tier of bleachers in left field. Players turned to look, causing a short delay during the third inning.

"I thought a bomb went off it was so loud," Tampa Bay center fielder Rocco Baldelli said. "It was shaking."

It was the latest in a string of trouble with fans this season at the Coliseum.

On April 19, a fan threw a cell phone at Texas Rangers outfielder Carl Everett.

The phone was tossed from the second deck of the Coliseum, said David Rinetti, the A's vice president of stadium operations. The person arrested for throwing the phone was intoxicated, he said.

Security was heightened for the following day's game. Rinetti said staffing was increased and a uniformed police officer was stationed at the visitor's bullpen. In addition, an in-house video monitoring system was being used to monitor the right-field area.

Later in April, a man at an A's game nearly bit off a police officer's pinkie finger when the officer tried to help Coliseum security break up an argument.

Rangers upend Twins, lose OF Mench to broken wrist

ARLINGTON (AP) — Kevin Mench was finally getting into a groove for the Texas Rangers, who suddenly — and maybe consequently — were starting to win a few more games.

Now the Rangers will be without the young outfielder for at least a month.

Mench broke his left wrist when he was hit by a pitch in the Rangers' 8-6 win over the Minnesota Twins on Tuesday night. Manager Buck Showalter said he will be out a minimum of four-to-six weeks.

"He had worked so hard to get back and finally gets locked in here, and this happens," Showalter said. "He's been playing the game hard like he does. I feel worse for him than I do for us."

It was a bittersweet win for the Rangers, who overcame a 5-0 deficit for their ninth win in 14 games. Before that, Texas had a 2-20 stretch that was its worst in 30 years.

Mench had two doubles before being hit by a pitch from reliever Juan Rincon to start the fifth. He ran the bases, but was replaced in center field by Donnie Sadler to start the sixth and went for X-rays.

"It's a tough loss," said first baseman Rafael Palmeiro, who hit his 511th career homer.

Mench, already with a cast on his hand, wasn't in the clubhouse after the game.

"It's really frustrating, and it's emotional for everybody," Showalter said. "It breaks my heart."

Since being recalled from Triple-A Oklahoma on June 6, Mench has hit .354 (33-of-93) in 27 games to raise his average to .320. Including Tuesday, he hit .380 (19-of-50) in his past 15 games, coinciding with the Texas surge.

The team's top rookie last year, Mench started this season on the disabled list after pulling his left oblique muscle in spring training. He hit just .219 in his first 10 games with Texas before being sent to Oklahoma for 29 games.

Meanwhile, Juan Gonzalez, an outfielder expected to soon become part of Texas' past, started an inning-ending double play with a perfect throw from right field before hitting a tiebreaking homer.

Gonzalez led off the third with his 21st homer, breaking a 5-5 tie and putting Texas ahead to stay. Gonzalez drove in another run an inning later with a sacrifice fly.

In the top of the third, Bobby Kielty tagged up on Chris Gomez's fly to right, but Gonzalez threw a line-drive to All-Star third baseman Hank Blalock for the third out. His AL-leading 10th outfield assist matched a career high.

Texas worked out a deal last month to send Gonzalez to Montreal. But the two-time AL MVP blocked the deal with the no-trade clause in his contract that expires after this year, even though the Rangers have made it clear they don't plan to re-sign the slugger.

Both teams scored five times in the second when the starters combined to throw 83 pitches — 38 for Texas' Tony Mounce, 45 for Kyle Lohse (6-7).

Palmeiro led off the second with his homer, and the Rangers got everything else with two outs. Mark Teixeira had an RBI double and Todd Greene a run-scoring single before Alex Rodriguez's infield single with the bases loaded drove in two runs.

"I can't figure out what's going wrong," said Lohse.

Astros top skidding Reds, 6-3

HOUSTON (AP) — Morgan Ensberg hit his 17th homer of the season Tuesday night to help the Houston Astros beat the Cincinnati Reds 6-3.

Ensberg was hitting .324 (33-for-102) in his last 34 games, raising his season average to .304 with 42 RBIs.

Tim Redding (5-8) won for the first time in a month, allowing two runs and four hits in 5 2-3 innings.

It was Redding's first win since beating Tampa Bay on June 8. Billy Wagner pitched the final 1 1-3 innings for his 23rd save.

"I just tried to clear my head and throw the ball," Redding said. "I've had some good games, but I've been getting tough breaks and not too many runs to work with, and getting no decisions or tough-luck losses.

"I've been getting down on myself and thinking that I had to go out and pitch a perfect game and win 1-0. Today, I wiped the slate clean."

Jimmy Haynes (1-9) lost his fourth straight decision, giving up six runs, six hits and five walks in 5 2-3 innings. The Reds have lost six in a row.

Cincinnati, which allowed three unearned runs, is on its longest skid since losing eight straight June 16-24 last year.

"You are going to go through periods like this. We are in a little rut," Aaron Boone said. "I don't think its a big deal, but unfortunately we are not scoring a bunch of runs right now. But I think we will come out of it.

"We stink right now. Pick an area, offense, defense and pitching."

With the score tied in the fifth, Houston went ahead when Jeff Bagwell walked and came around on Berkman's double. Bagwell walked three times.

Snyder falls to Key City, 7-4

ROTAN — The Key City Little League All-Stars used a seven-run outburst in the third and fourth innings Tuesday to hand the Snyder nine a 7-4 loss — their first — in the round-robin final pool at the Rotan tournament.

Rance Dunn scored twice for the 11- and 12-year-old squad, and Rey Juarez was 3-for-3 with an RBI double.

Key City tagged starter Jake Alaniz in the fourth on three base hits and a walk, all of which resulted in runs.

Alaniz went 3 1/3 innings, allowing seven runs on eight hits. He walked two and struck out three.

Benji Gutierrez pitched the final 2 2/3, shutting out Key City on one hit over that span while fanning four.

The team will play undefeated Northern at 8 tonight.

Sports Briefs

Lamesa golf tournament

The Lamesa Senor-Senorita scramble will be held Saturday and Sunday. Tee times are 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Cost is $120 per team, and private carts are welcome. Call 806-872-3059.

Hermleigh athletic physicals

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

Snyder athletic physicals

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

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

Hasek set to return

DETROIT (AP) — Dominik Hasek announced that he's coming back to the Detroit Red Wings.

Detroit late last month exercised an $8 million option on the 38-year-old goalie, who retired a year ago and now lives in the Czech Republic. Hasek won the Stanley Cup with the Red Wings in 2002.

Major League Baseball

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	57	31	648	—
Philadelphia	48	39	552	8½
Montreal	48	42	533	10
Florida	47	44	516	11½
New York	39	49	443	18

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	46	43	517	—
St. Louis	46	43	517	—
Chicago	45	44	506	1
Cincinnati	40	48	455	5½
Pittsburgh	39	47	453	5½
Milwaukee	36	52	409	9½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	55	34	618	—
Arizona	50	39	562	5
Los Angeles	46	42	523	8½
Colorado	46	46	500	10½
San Diego	34	57	374	22

Tuesday's Games

Florida 4, Chicago Cubs 3
San Francisco 8, St. Louis 3
Philadelphia 13, Montreal 6
Atlanta 5, N.Y. Mets 3
Houston 6, Cincinnati 3
Pittsburgh 8, Milwaukee 7, 10 innings
Arizona 9, Colorado 3
San Diego 8, Los Angeles 5

Today's Games

Atlanta (Ru.Ortiz 11-4) at N.Y. Mets (Glavine 6-8), 11:10 a.m.
Florida (Pavano 6-9) at Chicago Cubs (Wood 8-6), 1:20 p.m.
Philadelphia (Millwood 9-6) at Montreal (Ohka 7-8), 6:05 p.m.
Los Angeles (Ishii 7-3) at St. Louis (Tomko 5-5), 6:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Benson 5-8) at Milwaukee (Rusch 1-11), 7:05 p.m.
Cincinnati (Graves 4-8) at Houston (Robertson 7-3), 7:05 p.m.
San Francisco (Foppert 5-7) at Colorado (Cook 2-6), 8:05 p.m.
San Diego (Peavy 8-6) at Arizona (Batista 6-3), 8:35 p.m.

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	54	34	614	—
Boston	51	37	580	3
Toronto	48	42	533	7
Baltimore	39	47	453	14
Tampa Bay	31	56	356	22½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	48	39	552	—
Minnesota	44	44	500	4½
Chicago	43	45	489	5½
Cleveland	38	50	432	10½
Detroit	22	65	253	26

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	56	32	636	—
Oakland	49	39	557	7
Anaheim	44	43	506	11½
Texas	36	52	409	20

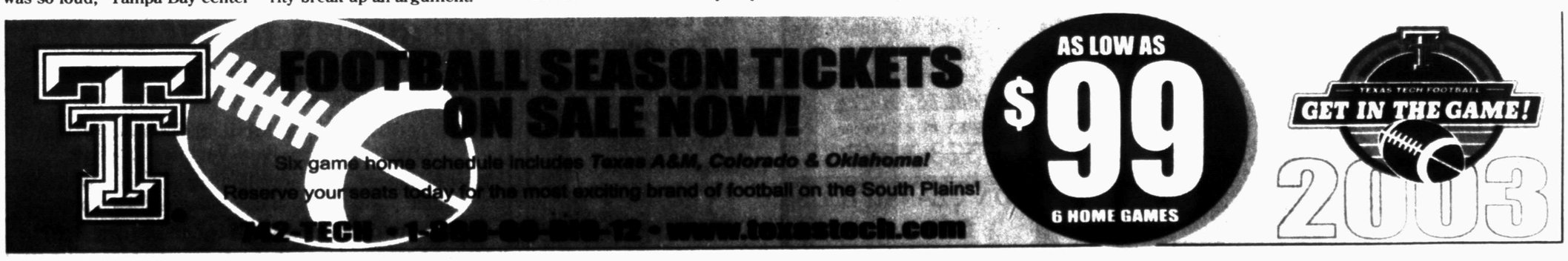
Tuesday's Games

Boston 2, Toronto 1, 12 innings
Cleveland 4, N.Y. Yankees 0
Detroit 2, Chicago White Sox 1
Texas 8, Minnesota 6
Seattle 6, Baltimore 5
Kansas City 4, Anaheim 0
Tampa Bay 9, Oakland 3

Today's Games

Tampa Bay (Kennedy 3-5) at Oakland (Lilly 5-7), 2:35 p.m.
Boston (Lowe 10-3) at Toronto (Escobar 5-5), 6:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Wells 10-3) at Cleveland (Sabathia 8-3), 6:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Colon 6-7) at Detroit (Bonderman 2-13), 6:05 p.m.
Minnesota (Rogers 7-4) at Texas (Benoit 3-4), 7:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Helling 5-6) at Seattle (R.Franklin 6-7), 9:05 p.m.
Kansas City (Affeldt 5-4) at Anaheim (Appier 6-5), 9:05 p.m.

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Legal Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

KINDER MORGAN SACROC LP, 4632 W. Hwy. 180, Snyder, Texas 79549, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject water, CO_2 with H_2S & Hydrocarbon gas into the Canyon Reef formation, SACROC Unit Lease, Well No(s). 82-2, 140-5 & 140-6. The proposed injection wells 140-5 & 140-6 are located approximately 3.5 Miles Northwest from Snyder, Texas and injection well 82-2 is located 6.0 Miles SE from Snyder, Texas in the Kelly-Snyder Field, in Scurry County. Water & CO_2 with H_2S & Hydrocarbon gas will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth intervals from 6350' to 7250'. LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967 (Telephone 512-463-6792).

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Occidental Permian Ltd., PO Box 4294, Houston, TX 77210 has applied to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Canyon Reef, Cogdell Canyon Reef Unit, Well Numbers 108A, 109A, 1037, 1044. The proposed injection well in located 22 miles Northeast of Snyder, TX in the Cogdell (Area) Field in Kent County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 6300 to 7000 feet. LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Underground Injection Control Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

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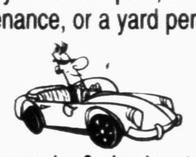
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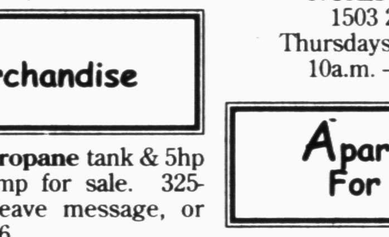
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House defense bill seeks balance between older, newer programs

WASHINGTON (AP) — In approving a $368.7 billion defense spending bill, the House sought to make sure older weapons systems that have proven their value aren't prematurely discarded in the transition to a more mobile, high-tech fighting force.

The bill, for the budget year beginning Oct. 1, cuts some Pentagon requests for newer weapons systems in favor of continuing some older ones. It was approved 399-19 Thursday.

It represents an increase of about 1.3 percent over the amount approved for this fiscal year — not taking into account a $62.4 billion midyear spending bill that paid for the war in Iraq. The 2004 bill doesn't include the costs of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, which probably will be financed by another spending bill.

The Senate Appropriations defense subcommittee approved a similar bill Tuesday with bipartisan support. Most details of that bill will be withheld until the full committee considers it today, but senators described it as supporting President Bush's defense spending priorities.

Both bills are about $3 billion below Bush's request. Lawmakers are expected eventually to make up this gap.

The House Appropriations defense subcommittee chairman, Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-Calif., said the House bill "reflects very much the direction of the commander in chief as well as the Department of Defense regarding the war on terrorism that we are pursuing in the Middle East at this point but also recognizing its great threat around the world."

Those priorities include Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's desire to transform the military into a sophisticated, lighter force able to mobilize quickly in response to crises around the world.

But the House Appropriations Committee, in a report accompanying the bill, warned against cutting existing programs too severely.

"Accelerating transformation by reducing current force structure to pay for future systems may undermine the readiness and capabilities of the forces we rely on today," it said.

The House bill includes $458 million not sought by the Bush administration for 144 upgraded Bradley fighting vehicles, 43 Abrams tanks and other equipment to modernize the 3rd Armored Calvary Regiment.

The House included $11.5 billion for building ships, a $2.4 billion increase, including one Virginia-class submarine, the Navy's most advanced attack submarine. It rejected an administration request for authorization to buy seven of the submarines through 2008. Lawmakers have expressed frustration over the submarines' rising costs and delays.

The Senate subcommittee's bill would authorize five submarines through 2008, said Senate Appropriations Chairman Ted Stevens, R-Alaska. It does not include the heavy equipment for the 3rd Armored Calvary Regiment.

The subcommittee also would provide the $9.1 billion sought by the Bush administration for missile defense. The House bill included $8.9 billion.

Both the House and Senate bills would cut $161 million from the administration's request for $3.7 billion for F-A-22 Raptor stealth fighter-bombers for the Air Force. The long delayed Raptor, the Air Force's planned replacement for the F-15 Eagle and the F-16 Fighting Falcon, has been plagued by cost overruns and software problems.

Though the defense bill accounts for about one-sixth of federal spending, it has generated little debate. After the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, lawmakers have been reluctant to deny the Pentagon the equipment it says it needs to defend the country.

Court stops Farmers from sending settlement notices

AUSTIN (AP) — An appeals court has put on hold the approval of a $117.5 million settlement Farmers Insurance Group reached with the state in November.

The decision by the 3rd Court of Appeals in Austin on Monday to stay the preliminary approval of the settlement until further order by the court prohibits the company from sending out notices to its customers that explain the settlement.

Farmers spokeswoman Michelle Levy said the company was still trying to figure out what the stay will mean to customers.

"We don't see this as a serious obstacle and fully expect to reach a final settlement quickly," Levy said.

But attorney Joe Longley, who represents Austin resident Jan Lubin, praised the decision, saying "It's highly likely that this case could be reversed." Lubin is challenging the settlement.

The settlement between the state and the company came after Texas last year claimed that Farmers used unfair and discriminatory practices to overcharge its homeowners insurance customers. The state said it would seek $25,000 per every individual harmed plus $150 million in restitution for Farmers customers.

Farmers, in turn, said it would stop renewing homeowners policies for its 700,000 customers.

The agreement the two sides reached in November required Farmers to lower its rates by 6.8 percent and give customers refunds and credits for overcharges. The agreement also kept the company from leaving the state.

A hearing was held on the settlement in May and State District Judge Scott Jenkins gave it preliminary approval, although he did not sign the order until June.

Under the agreement between the state and Farmers, the settlement became a class action, a point of contention for Longley.

The plan was set up so that Farmers customers were to get notice about the settlement once it was approved and were automatically considered to be a part of it unless they opted out. If they opted out, they could pursue their own legal action.

Longley has said that people who receive nothing under the settlement would not be allowed to sue the company on grounds of anything related to the lawsuit if they didn't opt out and he has said that customers should be allowed to opt in to the settlement.

He said Tuesday that Lubin also objected to the settlement because she did not think it was enough.

Robert Black, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Insurance, said the ruling was disappointing because the intervenors' actions will postpone benefits of the settlement.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 07-09-03
♠ 9 5 4
♥ K Q J 10
♦ K 3 2
♣ A 8 7

West
♠ 8 6 3
♥ 9 7 6 4 3 2
♦ —
♣ Q 6 3 2

East
♠ A 2
♥ A 8 5
♦ 9 8 5 4
♣ K J 9 5

South
♠ K Q J 10 7
♥
♦ A Q J 10 7 6
♣ 10 4

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

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

Opening lead: ♣ 2

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

They paint a picture; you read a map

By Phillip Alder

Author and journalist Bill Bryson wrote, "You can always tell a Midwestern couple in Europe because they will be standing in the middle of a busy intersection looking at a wind-blown map and arguing over which way is west. European cities, with their wandering streets and undisciplined alleys, drive Midwesterners practically insane."

Today's deal was played in Omaha, Neb. East used the road map painted by South to defeat the contract. If you were in his position, what would you have done? Look at the North and East hands. Against four spades, your partner (West) leads a fourth-highest club two. Declarer wins with dummy's ace and calls for a trump. Do you see any chance to rake in four defensive tricks?

North's two-club rebid was fourth-suit game-forcing, asking partner for more information.

What did South's sequence show? At least 5-6 in spades and diamonds. (With 5-5, South would have opened one spade, not one diamond.) So, you know that your partner is void of diamonds. Also, if partner has four clubs, declarer began with a doubleton. South must have 5-0-6-2 distribution.

This gives you the winning route: Go up immediately with the spade ace and lead your lowest diamond as a suit-preference signal for clubs. Do not lead the diamond nine to ask for a heart, because declarer will ruff away your ace.

After trumping, West will return a club. You win with the king and give partner a second diamond ruff.

Listen carefully to the bidding and analyze it.

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	11.60	11.15	11.24	+ .17
AOL TimeWrn	16.80	16.53	16.54	— .22
AT&T Corp rs	20.00	19.62	19.90	+ .17
Albertsons	19.47	19.29	19.30	— .20
Alltel	49.81	49.28	49.38	— .24
AmElPw	29.08	28.76	28.89	— .20
AndarkPtr	43.50	42.97	43.20	+ .10
ATMOS Egy	25.50	24.50	24.52	— .13
Avall	12.14	11.98	12.07	
BP PLC	40.68	40.40	40.46	— .69
BakerHughes	33.75	32.95	33.48	+ .54
Bank of Amer	82.07	80.11	81.74	+ .26
BellSouth	27.30	26.99	27.02	— .26
BurlNoSFe	29.57	28.99	29.21	— .07
Caterpillar	56.87	56.20	56.36	— .35
CenterPoint	8.28	8.16	8.21	+ .06
ChevronTex	73.47	72.61	72.74	— .73
Citigroup	46.46	45.60	45.94	+ .57
CocaCola	44.94	43.90	43.97	— .25
ColgatePal	58.00	57.56	57.71	— .29
CmclMetals	18.20	18.01	18.20	+ .01
ConocoPhill	53.32	53.00	53.09	— .30
Cooper Inds	43.15	42.34	42.38	— .61
DaimlrChry	36.00	35.63	35.81	— .71
DeltaAirl	14.99	14.75	14.85	
Dillards Inc	14.17	13.62	13.70	— .45
DowChem	31.32	31.03	31.12	— .08
DuPont	42.25	41.75	42.06	+ .10
EastmanChem	32.49	32.18	32.33	
EstKodak	27.28	26.85	27.05	— .29
EDS Corp	22.75	22.41	22.46	— .17
Entergy	52.59	52.10	52.45	+ .04
ExxonMobil	36.00	35.31	35.39	— .26
FootLocker	13.50	13.26	13.35	+ .10
GenDynam	75.65	74.73	75.29	— .11
GenlElec	28.94	28.65	28.68	— .13
GenMills	47.65	47.06	47.14	+ .04
GenMotors	36.62	35.99	36.06	— .52
GaPacific	20.47	20.03	20.20	— .52
Goodrich	21.86	21.36	21.40	— .40
Goodyear	5.43	5.24	5.35	+ .10
GtAtlPac	10.80	9.70	10.69	+ 1.55
Halliburtn	23.90	23.40	23.51	+ .68
Hanson ADS	29.05	28.82	28.93	— .02
HarteHanks	19.37	19.20	19.29	+ .13
HomeDepot	34.49	33.60	33.65	— .90
HoneywellIntl	28.35	27.90	27.96	+ .15
IBM	86.35	85.30	85.54	— .71
IntlPaper	37.52	37.00	37.05	— .52
JohnsonJn	52.49	51.80	52.00	— .48
KinderMorg	53.96	53.50	53.72	— .20
Kroger Co	17.56	17.29	17.31	— .19
LockheedM	48.34	47.60	47.78	— .25
Lowes Cos	45.46	44.96	45.07	— .23
Lubys	2.66	2.62	2.70	— .19
LucentTech	1.94	1.88	1.91	— .01
MarathonOil	26.84	26.53	26.59	— .12
MayDeptSt	23.90	23.37	23.44	+ 1.02
Medtronic	47.55	46.75	46.88	— .57
Motorola	10.09	9.87	9.87	
NCR Corp	32.49	29.40	31.90	+ 3.49
Navistar	36.90	35.76	35.94	+ .12
PNM Resrcs	27.16	26.90	27.15	+ .14
Penney JC	17.12	16.86	16.88	— .07
PepBoys	14.53	14.17	14.34	— .24
PepsiCo	45.22	44.24	44.36	— .76
PhelpDodge	38.09	37.59	37.72	— .21
PilgrmPrd B	10.40	10.15	10.16	— .30
Praxair	61.34	60.29	60.40	— .66
ProctGamb	90.33	89.36	89.52	— .56
RadioShack	27.48	26.95	27.44	+ .16
RoyalDut	45.87	45.46	45.50	— .79
SBC Comm	26.30	25.94	25.98	— .13
SaraLee	19.61	19.27	19.34	— .23
Scripps EW	89.79	89.33	89.34	— .26
SearsRoeb	35.33	34.80	34.91	+ .01
SherwinW	27.80	27.55	27.62	— .09
SouthernCo	30.19	30.02	30.13	— .05
SwstAirl	18.24	17.94	18.07	— .08
SprintFON	15.65	15.44	15.49	— .19
SprintPCS	5.98	5.85	5.88	— .02
Sunoco Inc	38.65	38.14	38.39	+ .12
TXU Corp	21.52	20.22	21.46	— .05
TempleInland	43.43	42.95	43.02	— .54
TexInc	25.17	24.98	25.09	+ .03
TexasInst	19.43	18.85	19.06	— .01
Textron	39.60	39.24	39.26	— .33
TrinityInds	19.65	19.26	19.64	+ .24
TylerTech	5.00	4.90	4.90	— .09
UnionPacf	59.50	58.60	58.73	— .65
USSteel	16.24	15.81	16.03	+ .02
UnitedTech	73.84	72.70	72.85	— 1.09
Unocal	28.98	28.62	28.69	— .11
VerizonComm	39.22	38.70	38.72	— .79
WalMart	56.70	56.06	56.16	— .54
WellsFargo	51.00	50.56	50.61	— .19
WstnGasRs	38.80	38.40	38.60	— .16
WinnDixie	12.69	12.48	12.53	+ .03
Xerox Cp	11.07	10.86	10.92	— .06
YumBrands	30.95	30.20	30.25	— .57

Scurry County Country

Scurrying Around Snyder

Beth Dennehom, CEA - Family and Consumer Sciences, 2605 Avenue M, Snyder, Texas 79549

Summer Treats
Did You Know...

That the average American consumes 5 gallons of ice cream each year. We are a nation of ice cream lovers, and since July is National Ice Cream Month, this is the perfect time to dish it up.

Is it a waffle or an ice cream cone?

When the ice cream cone was originated, it was both. A waffle vendor at the World's Fair in St. Louis in 1904 is reported to have come to the rescue of a neighboring ice cream vendor who ran out of serving dishes. The waffle vendor rolled some warm waffles into a cone shape to hold the ice cream and, as you can guess, the rest is ice cream history.

It's So Good
Ice Cream In A Bag

This recipe is great to do with children.

Note: As in all recipes, results can vary depending on humidity, conditions, etc. Try any recipe out before attempting in a group setting.

- 1 Tablespoon Sugar
- ½ Cup Milk or half & half
- 1/4 teaspoon Vanilla
- 6 Tablespoons Rock Salt
- 1 pint-size plastic bag
- 1 gallon-size plastic bag

Fill the large bag half full of ice, and add the rock salt. Seal the bag. Put milk, vanilla, and sugar into the small bag, and seal it. Place the small bag inside the large one and weal again carefully. Shake until mixture is ice cream, about 5 minutes. Wipe off top of small bag, then open carefully and enjoy.

TIPS: Use sprinkles and nuts or fruits to top it off.

Stirrin' Up Flavor
Excitement
Flavored Iced Tea

Jazz up your list of standby summertime thirst quenchers with your own flavored iced teas:

Keeping Your Cool with Water

When the mercury rises and the temperature is hot, hot, hot, we need to keep our bodies well hydrated. Here are some guidelines:

- Drink at least eight 8-ounce glasses of water per day (remember, the average glass holds 16 ounces).
- If exercising, or working outdoors, drink more than the recommended 8 glasses.
- Don't depend on other beverages to keep you hydrated. Caffeinated beverages like coffee and tea (including iced versions of both), sugary drinks, and alcoholic beverages may actually cause dehydration, so stick with water. It's your best bet.
- Buy portable bottles or, even more economical, fill up your own containers to take along with you during the day.
- Freeze water in freezer-proof containers the night before using (leave a bit of air in the top). The water will be nice and cold when you or the kids are ready to drink them, plus they'll help keep everything else cool in your lunchboxes.

—

A tomato is the fruit of the tomato plant. However, in 1887 the U.S. Supreme court ruled that tomatoes are vegetables because they are eaten as a principal part of a meal, rather than for dessert.

Good cucumber crop is expected

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — This year's pickling cucumber crop won't leave sour looks on producers' faces, Texas Cooperative Extension reports.

Joe Pena, extension economist in Uvalde, said even though some cucumber fields were lost to late spring freezes and rain, production will still be good this season.

"Pickling cucumbers are grown almost 10 months out of the year in Texas. So even though some fields were damaged by cold weather earlier this spring, producers were able to replant quickly and pick up where they left off," Pena said.

Approximately 10,000 to 11,000 acres of pickling cucumbers are grown in the state, he said, with most produced in the Winter Garden Region in Southwest Texas.

Texas annually produces about 10 percent of the U.S. pickling cucumber supply.

In fact, Texas is the third largest supplier of cucumbers for pickling in the nation following North Carolina and the highest producing state, Michigan, he said.

"While cucumbers are consumed fresh and as pickles, the difference between pickling cucumbers and slicers, as fresh market varieties are usually called, is the varieties," Pena said.

Pickling cucumbers are better adapted to absorb the pickling brine. Slicers have thicker skins, are usually bigger in size and are better suited to be eaten fresh in salads."

PANHANDLE: soil moisture very short to surplus. Corn has just begun to silk and is rated fair to good. Some fields were treated for spider mites and corn borers. Sorghum planting is almost finished and is rated fair to excellent with no pest problems. Cotton is benefiting from warmer temperatures. Wheat harvest is 90 percent complete. Peanuts are rated fair to excellent with most fields rated good. Rangeland is rated mostly fair to excellent. Cattle are in good condition but continue being pestered by horn flies and mosquitoes.

SOUTH PLAINS: soil moisture ranges from adequate to surplus. Hot weather this week with temperatures near 100 degrees. Pastures and ranges are in fair to good condition. Supplemental feeding continues. Winter wheat harvest is 90 percent complete with most dryland and irrigated fields yielding below normal. Corn is in good condition with early planted fields in the tassel stage. Peanuts are in good condition and have made considerable progress this week. Soybeans are 85 percent planted.

ROLLING PLAINS: soil moisture adequate. Wheat harvest has wrapped up and producers are preparing land for the fall. Hay producers trying to get their crops laid down and bailed. Washed-out cotton has been replanted and crop is off to a good start. Range and forage conditions are good, but producers are looking for rain. Palo Pinto, Parker and Foard counties need runoff to fill stock tanks. Cattle conditions are good throughout district.

NORTH TEXAS: soil moisture short to adequate. Corn and sorghum are rated fair to good. Wheat and oat harvest is coming to a close.

Diversified

By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

West Nile Virus (WNV) and Encephalitis a Threat to Horses in Scurry County; Vaccination Can Provide Protection

A few moments with your local veterinary practitioner in Scurry County can help protect horses, mules and donkeys against mosquitoborne diseases, advises Dr. Terry Conger, veterinarian and state epidemiologist for the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock health regulatory agency.

Vaccines are available to protect horses against three viral diseases that pose a risk to Texas horses: West Nile Virus (WNV), and Eastern and Western Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and (WEE). The three diseases are forms of "sleeping sickness," that can cause infected horses to develop debilitating fever, swelling of the brain, muscle tremors, weakness and extreme fatigue, and in about a third or more of cases, death of the animal.

"As of June 24, 26 cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) have been reported this year by the Texas Department of Health's (TDH) Zoonosis Control Division, which maintains the state's statistical database for reporting laboratory confirmed WNV cases in humans, mosquitoes, birds, and horses," said Dr. Conger.

"According to the TDH, the 26 cases have been confirmed in one horse each in Angelina, Calhoun and Van Zandt Counties. WNV also has been detected in six birds and four mosquito pools in Harris County; one bird in Orange County; one bird and two mosquito pools in Dallas County; four mosquito pools in Tarrant County, three mosquito pools in Jefferson and two in Nueces Counties."

"In June 2002, Texas had its first case of WNV, and by year's end, 1,699 equine cases had been reported. Scurry County had five equine cases. Denton County was hit hardest, with 69 equine cases," explained Dr. Terry Conger, TAHC's state epidemiologist.

"More unreported cases undoubtedly occurred across the state, as owners may have been reluctant to ask their veterinarian or the TAHC for assistance. Only laboratorycon firmed cases are included in the state's database. Most private veterinary practitioners send blood or tissue samples for WNV testing to the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) in College Station or Amarillo."

WNV infection was first detected in the U.S. in New York in 1999, and since then, the virus has swept across the country, spread by infected mosquitoes that have fed on birds carrying the disease. Only four states on the U.S. mainland have not reported cases: Arizona, Nevada, Oregon and Utah. Dr. Conger said it is likely that these states also will eventually have cases of WNV.

"Sporadic outbreaks of WEE and EEE also occur throughout the U.S., and this year we may have cases in Texas, as South Carolina, Florida and Georgia have already confirmed EEE in horses. Because Texas has a large mosquito population and history of infection in past years, it is prudent to have equine animals vaccinated against WEE and EEE every year," said Dr. Conger. "It is important to note that the vaccines for WNV, WEE and EEE do not provide crossprotection.

For example, WNV vaccine protects only against WNV." As of late June, 14 horses in South Carolina have been diagnosed with EEE. In Florida, more than 110 EEE cases in equine animals have been confirmed, and in Georgia, a dog, three birds and 16 horses have tested positive for the disease.

"WNV, EEE and WEE are going to be with us always, as these diseases have become endemic in our country. Even if you try to reduce the mosquito population in your area, vaccinating against these mosquitoborne diseases still needs to be part of routine horse health maintenance," said Dr. Conger.

Dr. Conger explained that the WNV vaccine for horses vaccination requires a series of two shots, administered three to six weeks apart. After the second injection, several more weeks must pass before full immunity is developed. Equine animals vaccinated last year should receive a single WNV booster this year. In areas where mosquitoes are a continual problem yearround, animals should receive a WNV booster every six months.

"Owners should take action now to get their equine animals vaccinated, before cases become more widespread," urged Dr. Conger. "EEE and WEE vaccines are available in a combined product. To develop disease protection, the animal will need two injections, 30 days apart. A booster shot is then needed annually or biannually," said Dr. Conger. "In most cases, horses can be vaccinated for WNV, EEE/WEE at the same time."

He said some veterinarians also employ the EEE/WEE vaccine in an offlabel use to protect ratites (emus, rheas and ostriches) against the disease.

"While no vaccine can guarantee 100 percent protection, it's much better than no protection," commented Dr. Conger. "Last year, Colorado State University followed more than 500 equine animals infected with the WNV in Colorado and Nebraska.

The death rate was greater than 36 percent in animals that had not received vaccine. The death loss dropped to around 20 percent for animals that had received at least one dose of WNV vaccine. Of the 13 animals properly vaccinated with two doses of vaccine, a dozen survived."

Dr. Conger said equine animals infected with WNV, EEE or WEE, may exhibit similar signs, including fever, irregular gait, teeth grinding, drowsiness, an inability to swallow. Affected animals may be paralyzed and be unable to rise. He said TAHC and public health officials advise owners to have sick animals tested to diagnose the disease that caused illness or death, because rabies always must be considered when an animal is disoriented or staggers.

If an owner has been exposed to rabies while caring for a sick horse, appropriate preventive health measures must be taken immediately, he said.

"WNV, EEE and WEE impact a community's animals, and owners should take advantage of opportunities to protect their stock by reducing mosquito populations and vaccinating," said Dr. Conger.

"Although these "sleeping sicknesses" aren't regulatory diseases, veterinarians are required to report cases, so that disease trends or outbreaks can be followed and all preventive and educational measures can be taken."



HEY SNYDER...

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

Ad must be placed by noon, Wednesday, July 16, 2003.

•Garage Sale Ads Published Friday, July 18th in the Snyder Daily News

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

•Sale ads will be grouped by location

•Get 4 Garage Sale Signs

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

CITY WIDE GARAGE SALE!

JULY 19

GET ALL THIS FOR $6.75

PAYMENT IN ADVANCE

Snyder Daily News

3600 College Ave.
573-5486

COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

WEEKLY LAKE AND WATER DELIVERY REPORT

LAKE J. B. THOMAS (200,604 ACRE FEET AT ELEVATION 2258.00 FT.)

	ONE YEAR AGO	LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK
	7-7-02	6-30-03	7-7-03
ELEVATION (FEET)	17.24	19.13	19.03
CONTENTS (ACRE-FEET)	18,188	22,124	21,905
PERCENT FULL	9.07	11.03	10.92
RAINFALL (INCHES) *		0.00	0.00
IVIE TO LAKE THOMAS (Gal.)		0	0
SPENCE TO THOMAS (Gal.)		0	0

*RAINFALL MEASUREMENT AT BIG SPRING/ODESSA INTAKE.

E.V. SPENCE RESERVOIR (517,262 ACRE-FEET AT ELEVATION 1898.00 FT.)

	ONE YEAR AGO	LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK
	7-7-02	6-30-03	7-7-03
ELEVATION (FEET)	42.19	43.40	43.44
CONTENTS (ACRE-FEET)	48,501	52,517	52,653
PERCENT FULL	9.38	10.15	10.18
RAINFALL (INCHES) *		1.30	0.20

*RAINFALL MEASUREMENT AT SPENCE PUMP STATION.

O.H. IVIE RESERVOIR (554,340 ACRE-FEET AT ELEVATION 1551.50 FT.)

	ONE YEAR AGO	LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK
	7-7-02	6-30-03	7-7-03
ELEVATION (FEET)	30.27	28.65	28.41
CONTENTS (ACRE-FEET)	239,692	222,699	220,259
PERCENT FULL	43.24	40.17	39.73
RAINFALL (INCHES) *		0.21	0.10

* RAINFALL MEASUREMENT AT DAM.

INFORMATION BASED ON NEW AREA CAPACITY CURVE DATA

MUNICIPAL WATER DELIVERIES IN GALLONS

	LAST WEEKS DAILY AVERAGE 6-30-03 6-24-03	THIS WEEKS DAILY AVERAGE 7-7-03 7-1-03	THIS WEEKS PEAK DAY 7-7-03 7-1-03
BIG SPRING	4,992,857	5,674,286	6,284,000
ODESSA	26,559,857	25,388,143	28,384,000
SNYDER	2,376,429	2,819,857	3,276,000
MIDLAND	29,469,286	29,555,571	30,940,000
SAN ANGELO	10,243,429	8,981,000	13,747,000
STANTON	179,286	168,000	189,000

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Cable TV rate hikes outpace inflation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cable television rates rose faster than inflation last year, the Federal Communication Commission said in its annual report on the industry's prices.

The FCC said the average consumer's cable bill, including programming and equipment, rose by 8.2 percent during the 12 months ending last July, from $37.06 to $40.11. During the same period, the inflation rate was 1.5 percent.

The commission also said that cable operators increased the number of channels they offered, meaning the cost per channel rose only 1.2 percent.

The FCC report, released Tuesday, found rates were lower in areas where two or more cable customer companies competed for customers. The average monthly charge in competitive areas was $37.84, compared with $40.26 for cable monopolies, a 6.4 percent difference.

During the past five years, cable rates rose an average of 7.1 percent annually. During the same period, the annual rate of inflation averaged 2.3 percent.

The industry's trade association defended the price hikes, saying they reflected the increased costs to operators, including technical improvements to cable systems, better customer service, new and improved channels, and additional services.

"Although cable prices have increased, cable consumers are also enjoying increased value for their entertainment dollar," said Rob Stoddard, a spokesman for the NCTA.

Man who killed three set to be executed

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — More than five years after 17-month-old Katrease Houston was gunned down at a home in Killeen, police officer Eric Bradley still can recall details that marked the horrendous scene where the girl's grandmother and an infant also were fatally shot.

"The toddler in the high chair was eating crinkle-cut french fries and corn," Bradley said, talking this week about the Feb. 7, 1998, massacre where the girl; her grandmother, Gwendolyn Black, 36; and Black's 5-month-old daughter, Christina Marie, were killed. "She was just sitting there in the high chair where she had been eating."

Black's estranged husband, Christopher Black Sr., was set for lethal injection today for the spree. The retired Army sergeant, who would be 44 next month, would be the 18th condemned Texas inmate executed this year and the second in as many weeks. Two more are set to die later this month.

Black called 911 to report the shootings and neighbors also called the emergency number telling dispatchers of hearing gunshots from the home. He was still inside when Bradley and his sergeant arrived and was talking to authorities on the telephone.

"He wanted us to know he put the gun down and he'd be coming out without the gun," Bradley recalled. "When he came out, he was holding the infant across his chest. We approached him and he said he wasn't going to put the baby down on the cold ground.

"As I reached up to grab the baby from him, he said: 'I want to kiss my baby.' I said go ahead. I went to grab the baby and noticed an exit wound on the left shoulder blade. As I pulled the baby toward me, the baby's head kind of just rolled to the left... The eyes were open, fixed, no pulse, no respiration, no nothing."

After Black was taken into custody by other officers, Bradley and his partner went inside where they found Gwendolyn Black dead.

"The glasses that his wife had on were shattered because he initially shot her right in the side of the head," Bradley said.

U.S. envoy meets Palestinian officials to ease crisis in peace

JERUSALEM (AP) — U.S. Middle East envoy John Wolf met with a top Palestinian official today to try to ease a crisis within the Palestinian leadership that prompted Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas to threaten to quit, a diplomat said.

Israeli media reports said Wolf would also meet with Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz and urge Israel to release more Palestinian prisoners and dismantle more illegal settlement outposts, moves that Palestinians have been demanding and which would bolster Abbas' position.

Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said Wolf was "exploring ways of how to advance the peace process, how to speed it up, how to move it along."

A diplomat confirmed the meeting with Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan and indicated that meetings with Israeli officials were also planned.

On Tuesday, Abbas threatened to resign unless his party backed his tactics in talks with Israelis, Palestinian officials said. The three largest Palestinian militant groups declared a unilateral cease-fire June 29, but say it will collapse unless Israel releases the bulk of thousands of Palestinian prisoners it holds.

Today, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, founder of the militant group Hamas, said the release of prisoners "is a red line which we cannot pass."

Speaking after a meeting with Egyptian security officials in the Gaza Strip, Yassin said his group remained committed to the truce but needed to see a mass prisoner releases by Israel.

"We ... told them that we are going to be patient, but patience is limited," he said.

Egyptian officials said the delegation would meet leaders of the three main Palestinian militant groups, urging them to maintain the cease-fire.

Underscoring the fragile state of Israeli-Palestinian peace moves, Israeli soldiers overnight shot and killed 27-year-old Iyad Halanesh and seriously wounded his 26-year-old wife during an operation in the West Bank to arrest Halanesh's brother, a member of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, Palestinian sources said.

Secret Service to take over security for GOP convention

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Secret Service will oversee security at the Republican National Convention in New York, which is scheduled for the week of Aug. 30, 2004, within days of the third anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said today his agency is designating the convention a National Special Security Event. That puts the Secret Service in charge of designing and operating a security plan and coordinating with state and local law enforcement "to prevent terrorist attacks and criminal acts," the Homeland Security Department said.

The Democratic National Convention in Boston, scheduled for the week of July 26, 2004, received the security designation in May.

New York Governor George Pataki had requested the designation for the GOP convention.

About 48,000 people are expected to attend the event, which will create thousands of jobs for the city, said Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

"The convention will also give us a tremendous opportunity to show the world how far we've come since the attack of 9-11 — a tribute to the spirit of a great city in a free nation," he said.

There was no immediate estimate on how much federal aid the 2004 GOP convention would receive. The city has pledged $27 million for police protection, insurance, sanitation and other costs.

The U.S. Treasury paid $250 million of the $310 million security bill for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, which received the same designation. The 2002 Super Bowl in New Orleans also was a national special security event, and the federal government provided $6 million in security.

On the Net:
Department of Homeland Security: http://www.dhs.gov

Police arrest five in Snyder

Arrests

DPS troopers arrested Michael Anthony Krebs, 40, of Abilene at 9:50 a.m. Tuesday on numerous outstanding warrants, including felony driving while intoxicated, misdemeanor driving while intoxicated, motion to revoke probation, and Class B theft by check.

A 19-year-old man was taken into custody on U.S. 84 Tuesday morning for driving with a suspended license.

Rudy Ornelas McMillan, 38, of 3910 Eastridge was arrested in the 2200 block of Rose Circle at 1:40 a.m. today for felony driving while intoxicated.

A 20-year-old man was arrested in the 3700 block of Noble at 4 a.m. today for Class C driving under the influence as a minor.

At 6 a.m. today, officers arrested a 24-year-old man in the 2200 block of 28th Street on an outstanding warrant for theft by check.

Thefts

Scott Crenwelge Tuesday morning reported money stolen from the Towle Park pool. Officers advised a report for burglary of a building would be submitted.

Maria Castillo reported at 2:30 p.m. that her wallet was stolen from her car in the 2800 block of Ave. K. A report for burglary of a vehicle was filed.

Disturbance

A man reported a family disturbance on Ave. V at 5:30 a.m. today and advised a man was yelling and banging on a door. Two officers responded and advised one subject was taken into custody on a warrant for motion to revoke probation.

Criminal mischief

A man reported damage to his property in the 2400 block of 32nd Street at 9:15 a.m. Tuesday and officers submitted a report for a hit and run accident by an unknown vehicle.

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Environmental permit bill may have a short life

AUSTIN (AP) — Legislation to streamline the process for businesses to obtain environmental permits, one of the issues Gov. Rick Perry added to the agenda of the special session, appears as though it will have a short life.

A key state senator said Tuesday he does not believe the Senate will take up the issue.

A hearing was held Tuesday on two bills that have been filed on the topic. Environmentalists were critical of them, saying they would limit the public's ability to participate in the permitting process, while a sponsor of one of the bills said the current process for state permits is burdensome to business.

Sen. Ken Armbrister, chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, said the issue is on his list for a study between legislative sessions. His committee would typically handle such a bill.

"I think we need some more information," said Armbrister, D-Victoria. "I doubt if we would take up the issue here."

After conferring with Armbrister, Rep. Dennis Bonnen, said if the Senate was not moving forward on the issue, he was not going to push for support in the House either. Bonnen is chairman of the House Environmental Regulation Committee, which held the hearing Tuesday.

Bonnen, R-Angleton, said there needs to be changes to the permitting process, but he added: "I am just not sure in this special session, in this hurried of a process, it's the appropriate way to do that."

Bonnen had filed one of the bills.

Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa, filed the other. His would have limited who could request a permit hearing to people that live within a certain distance of the affected site. The bill also would have shortened the public comment period during the permitting process.

Chisum said the process needed to be streamlined because it could take as many as 650 days for a permit to be approved.

"It's a huge deterrent to business to have a permitting process that takes sometimes 650 days," Chisum said. "There's tremendous amount of expense that goes along with that depending on the complexity of the permit."

He also said his bill would provide for adequate public participation.

Kelly Haragan with the Texas Chapter of Public Citizen said, however, that the legislation would limit the public's ability to participate in the permitting process.

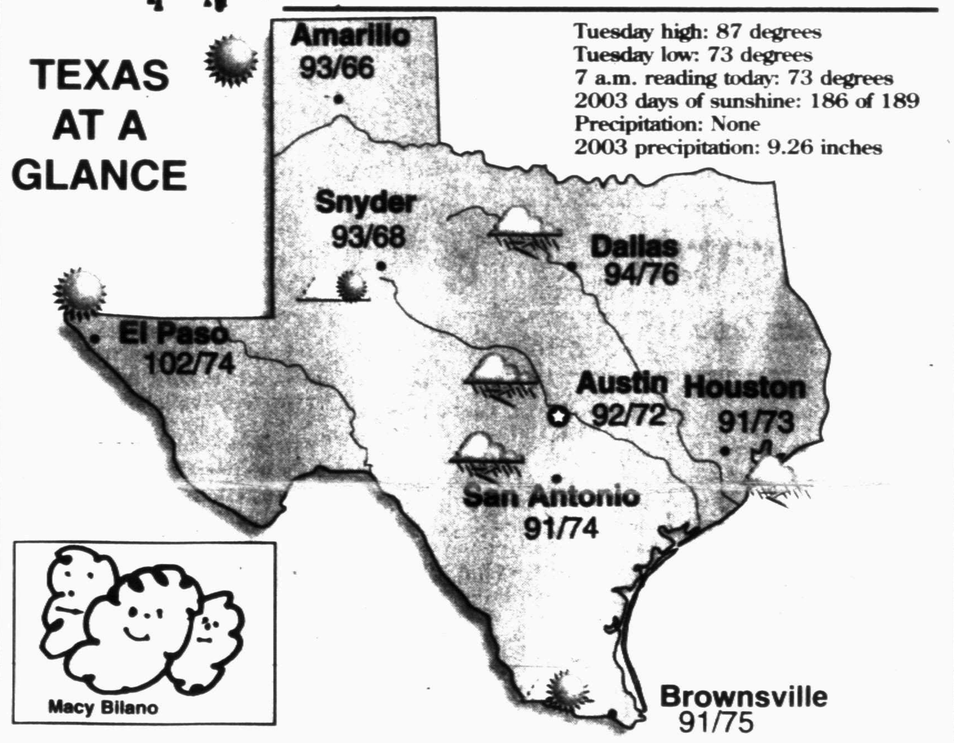
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Thu 7/10	Fri 7/11	Sat 7/12
93/68	93/68	94/68
A few passing clouds, otherwise generally sunny. High 93F.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 60s.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the upper 60s.
Sunrise 6:44 AM, Sunset 8:54 PM	Sunrise 6:44 AM, Sunset 8:54 PM	Sunrise 6:45 AM, Sunset 8:54 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Tuesday high: 87 degrees
Tuesday low: 73 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 73 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 186 of 189
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: 9.26 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	93	71	mst sunny	El Paso	102	74	sunny	Midland	93	70	mst sunny
Amarillo	93	66	sunny	Fort Stockton	92	69	sunny	Raymondville	93	73	pt sunny
Austin	92	72	t-storm	Gainesville	94	71	pt sunny	Rosenberg	91	73	t-storm
Beaumont	89	73	t-storm	Greenville	91	71	t-storm	San Antonio	91	74	t-storm
Brownsville	91	75	mst sunny	Houston	91	73	t-storm	San Marcos	91	73	t-storm
Brownwood	95	71	mst sunny	Kingsville	92	72	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	91	70	t-storm
Corpus Christi	91	75	pt sunny	Livingston	90	70	t-storm	Sweetwater	93	69	pt sunny
Corsicana	91	73	t-storm	Longview	92	71	t-storm	Tyler	93	73	t-storm
Dallas	94	76	t-storm	Lubbock	95	69	mst sunny	Weatherford	94	71	pt sunny
Del Rio	92	76	t-storm	Lufkin	91	72	t-storm	Wichita Falls	97	71	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	84	67	t-storm	Houston	91	73	t-storm	Phoenix	114	88	sunny
Boston	73	62	pt sunny	Los Angeles	84	66	sunny	San Francisco	74	59	windy
Chicago	78	63	cloudy	Miami	88	79	pt sunny	Seattle	84	58	pt sunny
Dallas	94	76	t-storm	Minneapolis	73	56	cloudy	St. Louis	85	68	t-storm
Denver	91	61	mst sunny	New York	77	67	pt sunny	Washington, DC	82	73	t-storm

Moon Phases

First	Full	Last	New
Jul 7	Jul 13	Jul 21	Jul 29

UV Index

Thu 7/10	Fri 7/11	Sat 7/12
Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

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

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FDA to force companies to put trans fat content on all foods

WASHINGTON (AP) — Until now, trans fat didn't get the attention its infamous cousin, saturated fat, earned through government warnings and labels.

That's about to change, now that the government is requiring food labels to reveal exact levels of the artery clogger.

Doughnuts, french fries, crackers and fried chicken are just some of the tasty foods that include trans fat. But it's at least as dangerous to the heart as saturated fat — and many doctors consider it worse.

Food and Drug Administration regulations to be unveiled today will require nutrition labels to include a new line listing the amount of trans fat in each food right under the amount of saturated fat, say consumer advocates and industry representatives familiar with FDA's decision.

Add the two lines together to learn the total of heart-risky fats in every serving.

"It's a good first step," said Margo Wootan of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, which petitioned FDA 10 years ago to make the change. "People will be able to compare different products and determine which ones are worse for their hearts."

Wootan said the comparisons won't be easy: The labels won't tell consumers how much a candy bar or doughnut counts against their daily allotment of total unhealthy fat. Nor will they bear a message FDA debated this spring — that trans fat consumption should be as low as possible.

In recent weeks, FDA Commissioner Mark McClellan has promised the change, first proposed in 1999. Agency officials wouldn't comment Tuesday.

The FDA has estimated that merely revealing trans fat content on labels would save between 2,000 and 5,600 lives a year, as people either chose healthier foods or manufacturers changed their recipes to leave out the damaging ingredient.

Food companies already are preparing. Frito-Lay has announced it is eliminating trans fat from its popular Doritos, Tostitos and Cheetos, and became the first major manufacturer to voluntarily begin adding trans fat content to the labels of other brands earlier this year.

Although FDA will allow companies to phase in the switch, consumers will see many revealing trans fat content within just a few months, said Tim Willard of the National Food Processors Association.

"Clearly this is going to be a major change to food labels, and it's going to help consumers who are seeking information about trans fat content of foods to find it," he said.

Saturated fat is found primarily in meat and other products containing animal fat. People are advised to eat no more than 20 grams a day, about 10 percent of calories.

Some surveys suggest trans fat comprises up to another 10 percent. Both types can increase the risk of heart disease, although some research suggests trans fat may be the worst culprit.

Trans fat is in numerous products, from meats and dairy products to pastries. The most common source is partially hydrogenated vegetable oil, where liquid oil is turned into a solid to protect against spoiling and maintain long-term flavor.

Typically, the harder a margarine or cooking fat, the more trans fat it includes. Soft, spreadable margarine in tubs, for instance, contains little if any trans fat, while stick margarine can contain a lot. In other foods, the only way consumers could tell which contained trans fat was to check the ingredient list for the word "hydrogenated."

The National Academy of Sciences, which sets nutrition levels, last year ruled that while eating some trans fat may be unavoidable, there is no safe level that it could set as an upper limit. So while product labels today list what percent of total calories a food offers in saturated fat, the new trans fat labels will won't.

FDA had considered putting a footnote on labels recommending eating only a little trans fat, but consumer testing found that had the unintended consequence of scaring people back to foods high in saturated fat, said Stephanie Childs of the Grocery Manufacturers of America, which lobbied against the move.

For now, FDA plans to do more research on how to educate consumers about heart-damaging fats so that they make better food choices, Childs said.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Scabies infection is curable

DEAR DR. GOTT: Can scabies be transmitted by being around someone who has them? What about bed linen and clothing?

DEAR READER: Scabies is caused by the itch mite, a tiny parasite that burrows into the skin and lays its eggs, leading to profoundly itchy, fine, wavy red lines. The mites are spread by direct person-to-person contact; hence, entire households (or nursing home wings) are often affected.

The parasite cannot exist for extended periods off the human body, so treatment with permethrin lotion is almost always curative, without the need to clean or fumigate clothing or bed linen.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Please comment on recurring tonsillitis in older adults. I've averaged about four bouts a year since my early adult years, first treated with penicillin, then later with erythromycin when I developed a penicillin allergy. An ENT specialist OK'd the use of antibiotics at the earliest sign of infection, but now that I'm in my 60s, I'm fed up with the discomfort and inconvenience. What can I do?

DEAR READER: Chronic or recurring tonsillitis in adults is marked by sore throat, fever and malaise that periodically disrupt an otherwise healthy person's life.

In the past two or three decades, otolaryngologists have become loath to remove tonsils in children, because these lymph glands appear to play a major role in protecting youngsters from upper respiratory infections. Also, children's tonsils ordinarily regress in size, starting at about age 12.

Although most young people stop getting tonsillitis by their mid teens, some continue to suffer repeated infections into adulthood and old age. In such instances, tonsillectomy (using a method of freezing) is often required. The major criterion for surgery seems to be three or more serious bouts of tonsillitis a year.

I have several adult patients who were not satisfied with taking multiple courses of antibiotics and opted for surgery, which was successfully completed with excellent results. You may be such a candidate. Ask your doctor to refer you to another otolaryngologist who would, I am sure, be willing to operate when he learns that you have symptoms as often as you do.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: I've been married 52 years to my husband of 78. He is not interested in sex anymore. We kiss and hug each other, but abstain from anything else. What would you suggest I do?

DEAR READER: I suggest that you be content with intimate cuddling and touching. With respect to their sexual interest and ability, most men in their 70s lose these qualities. If you are truly concerned, I suggest that your husband see a urologist for advice and treatment.

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Thursday, July 10, 2003

What you know and how well you put it to work will become very important to your level of success in the year ahead. Lay out a good game plan and follow it to get your rewards.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — If you wake up with a negative temperament today, shed off its effects by doing a few rote jobs. Then you can tackle more important assignments.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Watch out for those false hopes you place on a speculative venture today or you'll end up severely disappointed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Irritation over something not yet complete must not cause you to make unnecessary concessions. In the final analysis, what you gain in return won't help a bit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — A disappointment today will be no one's fault but your own. Double check the details before you start pointing fingers.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — If you care about your financial conditions at all today, hold onto your wallet, because this could easily turn into an extravagant day of spending. Wasting hard-earned funds is foolish.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Looking for a shortcut will lengthen your race to the finish line today, not shorten it. Maintain patience, because success is possible by following your blueprint.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Rely upon your logic today. Don't place your faith in hopes and wishes, especially if the matter pertains to a judgment call you'll have to live with.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Invest your time in an endeavor that will help your fellow man instead of a financial gamble that could explode in your face. Keep your resources intact.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — If something doesn't come easy for you today, it will be due to you complicating matters to make them seem more worthy. Take things for what they are.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Hold your temper if your associates do not perform up to your expectations today. It could be that your instructions were faulty or unclear. Give it another shot.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — It's best not to make any major changes simply out of annoyance today. Rather than taking any drastic actions, take into account all the ripple effects they might cause.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Arrangements made out of exasperation aren't likely to survive. Take another deep breath, pour another cup of coffee and take more time to iron out all the details.

Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker wheel can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. For more help, visit: www.bernice4u.com.

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Nugents have moved

JACKSON, Mich. (AP) — Ted Nugent's family has moved to one of his northern Michigan cabins because their home near Jackson is contaminated with mold, the rocker's wife said.

Shemane Nugent said the contamination apparently stems from a water leak in the roof of the house, where the family lived for more than a decade.

"It's been an absolute nightmare," she told The Macomb Daily of Mount Clemens. "We've been told that we can't go back in there, that there's mold ... throughout the house."

She told the newspaper the family left the house in March.

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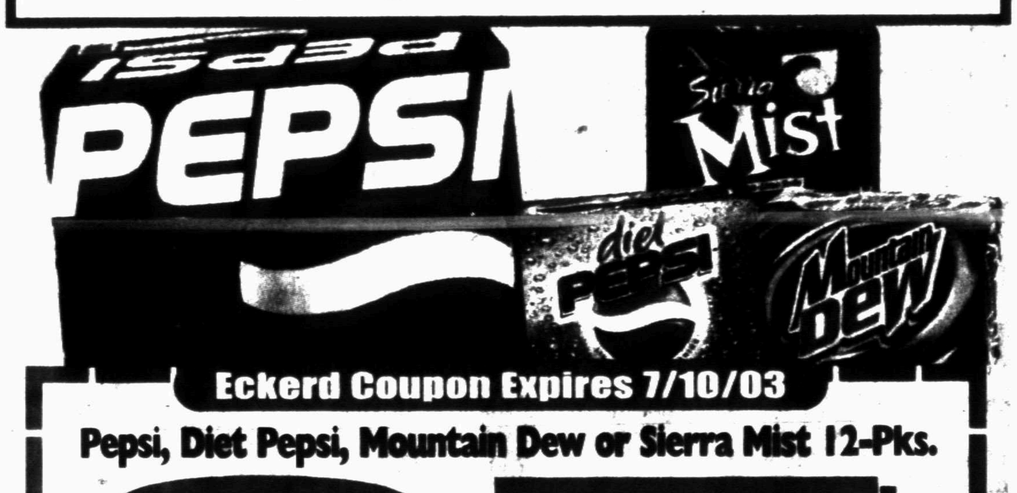
Bring us any Manufacturer's Coupon, for items carried in our stores, and we will **Double the Face Value of that coupon up to $2 in total savings.** Sales limited to stock on hand. No rainchecks. **Good 4 days only, July 9 thru July 12, 2003.** As an example, a Manufacturer's Coupon that saves you 50¢ on Tylenol, from Sunday's Paper, will be **Doubled to SAVE YOU $1.00** and you will see your $1.00 savings on your register receipt. This offer applies ONLY to valid MANUFACTURER'S COUPONS. **IT DOES NOT APPLY TO ECKERD COUPONS.** Manufacturer's Coupons valued at more than $1 and less than $2 will be rounded up to $2 in savings. **Manufacturer's coupons valued at $2 or more will be redeemed at face value.** Savings amounts cannot exceed the price of the item. Alcohol and Tobacco products are excluded. "FREE" Coupons are excluded.

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