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WT-Int. Crude - $33.66
WTIC Posted - $30.50
Natural Gas - $5.205

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

FRIDAY
Jan. 17, 2003
Vol. 54 No. 10
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Hailey Putnam, Katie Kerley

With more than 250 competitors...

Strickland hog named grand champion

Snyder fifth grader Jake Strickland's lightweight Hampshire edged 253 other hogs Thursday night to capture overall grand champion honors in the swine division of the Scurry County Junior Livestock Show.

With temperatures dropping fast outside the coliseum, competition was heating up in the show ring.

This year's hog show, with an earlier start time and fewer placings, wrapped up several hours earlier than last year's marathon show.

Winners were announced by 11 p.m., in contrast to last year's early morning finish at almost 3 a.m.

The show continues today at Scurry County Coliseum with judging of the steers and heifers at 7 p.m. James Rathman of Bastrop will be the judge.

Evaluation of the lambs will begin 30 minutes after the steer and heifer show and the judging of goats will begin after the lamb show. Judge in the last two events is Jerry Bearden of Mason.

Entered in today's events are 106 goats, 80 lambs, 23 steers and two heifers.

Strickland's overall grand champion winner was a 193-pound lightweight Hampshire.

Snyder High School ag instructor David Frazier said he was elated with the choice, because the winning hog was bred in Scurry County.

"We've been waiting for this for a long time," Frazier said. "It's nice to have an animal bred right here to win the show. And Jake and all of our competitors did fantastic jobs with their animals."

The swine judge was Cody Hill, Parmer County agent.

Overall reserve champion was a 244-pound heavyweight Hampshire shown by Jacinda Judah of the Snyder FFA.

Senior showmanship champion was Lacie Thompson, a junior in the Ira FFA.

The junior showmanship trophy went to Rance Dunn, a sixth grader, also of the Ira FFA.

Other first place exhibitors in the swine division were Valerie West, lightweight Duroc; Judah, heavyweight Duroc; Kellner Odom, mediumweight Hampshire; Judah, heavyweight Hampshire.

Other winners were Ashton Burton, white OPB; Sarah Gunset, lightweight black OPB; Lacie Thompson, heavyweight black OPB; Celeigh Sterling, lightweight Yorkshire; Keagan Herrley, heavyweight Yorkshire.

Other first place animals were shown by Emma Nunley, lightweight cross; Jordan Derryberry, medium-lightweight cross; Corbin Smith, mediumweight cross; Brandon Lunsford, light-heavyweight cross; Sterling, heavyweight cross.

Breed reserve champions were shown by West, Duroc; Strickland, Hampshire; Chelsea Young, White OPB; Gunset, Black OPB; Sydney Glass, Yorkshire; and Sterling, Cross.

The show continues Saturday. Buyers will have a meal at 5 p.m. Saturday, followed by the awards presentations at 6. The sale begins at 7 p.m.



GRAND CHAMPION — Jake Strickland's lightweight Hampshire took home grand champion honors at the Scurry County Junior Livestock Show underway at Scurry County Coliseum. Strickland, a fifth grader at Northeast Elementary and a member of Snyder Junior FFA, is shown with his entry and with Snyder ag instructor David Frazier. (SDN Staff Photo)

Discovery of chemical warheads called 'serious'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House said today that chemical warheads found in Iraq had not been declared by Saddam Hussein's government as required by U.N. rules, and called the discovery "troubling and serious."

Presidential spokesman Ari Fleischer stopped short of calling the weapons cache a breach of an anti-arms U.N. resolution, saying the United States has already found Saddam in violation of several U.N. rules.

U.S. officials hope the discovery of 11 empty chemical warheads at a storage area 75 miles south of Baghdad will bolster their case against Saddam. Iraq said the weapons were on its 12,000-page declaration required by the U.N., an assertion disputed by Fleischer.

"Chemical warheads were not, not on the ... list of weapons Iraq issued," he said. "The fact that Iraq is in possession of undeclared chemical warheads ... is troubling and serious."

He repeated the line when asked if the discovery represented the long-sought "smoking gun" against Saddam.

Fleischer also dismissed Saddam Hussein's claim today that Iraqi enemies would face "suicide" at the gates of his capital if an attack were launched.

"We are much less interested in Saddam Hussein's talking and much more interested in Saddam Hussein's disarming," Fleischer said.

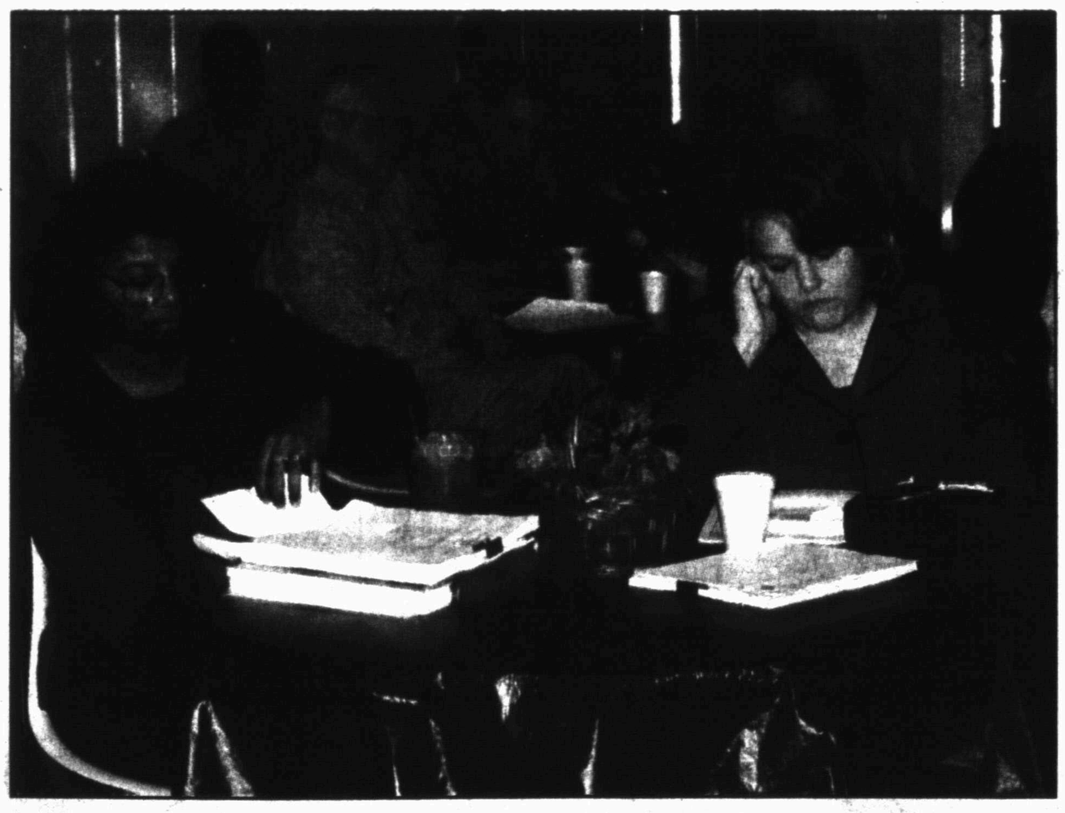
Sen. John Kyl, R-Ariz., says that if Iraq had not declared the warheads, they would be in "material breach" of U.N. resolutions.

"That is a big deal," Kyl said, adding that it would only be the tip of the iceberg. "There's a whole lot more we're never likely to find because it's too hard to find in a country as large as Iraq."

Though Fleischer stopped short of labeling the discovery a "material breach," which Bush and the United Nations could use as justification for war, the press secretary said it "doesn't get them out of material breach."

He added that Iraq is barred from possessing chemical weapons.

"Iraq's statement here is they forgot that they had these chemical weapons ... which raises the question of what other memory lapses they have which could ... bring harm to their neighbors or our allies," he said.



WARDEN'S MEETING — Price Daniel Unit was the site today for a TDCJ warden's meeting. Local warden Wilhelmenia Howard listens in with TDCJ Human Resources Administrator Brenda Griffin of Plainview. (SDN Staff Photo)

Federal holiday...

Banks will be closed Monday

Monday is a federal holiday honoring the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., prompting the closure of Snyder's five financial institutions.

West Texas State Bank, American State Bank, First American Bank, Snyder National Bank and Texas Savings Bank all will close their doors for the day, to reopen Tuesday.

City and county employees will be on hand as all municipal offices will remain open.

The library and museum also will remain open.

No mail will be delivered to homes, but it will be placed in post office boxes.

The landfill will remain open Monday.

All county schools and Western Texas College also will be open on the holiday.

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN

by Wade Warren



Our first thought was of Izora Milliken after reading an account of a 79-year-old woman being abducted and robbed last week in Ruidoso.

It wasn't the age of the kidnapped woman that made us connect the incident with Izora (I think she's just over 50 anyway), but it was the feistiness of the New Mexico woman.

The woman told local police officers that she wasn't scared while in the hands of the abductor, she was just mad.

"He just made me madder than heck, so mad I could squeeze a grape (sounds like something Izora might say)," said Bessie Ellis.

The woman, an auxiliary worker at the local hospital (another connection) was leaving the facility when the man grabbed her around the neck and pressed what she believed to be a gun to her neck.

"The man said don't do anything foolish and you won't get hurt," said Ellis.

"I replied that I was already hurting," said Ellis.

The man drove Ellis to a branch bank on one of Ruidoso's main streets and had her cash a check, and then they drove to another bank to cash another check.

The quick-thinking woman said she pulled in to the drive-in lane and stopped her car as far as she could from the outside teller equipment.

"I can't reach the machine so I'm going to have to get out," the woman told her abductor.

The woman did get out but fearing for her life, she did not run.

"I mouthed to the teller to help me, but she did not understand," said Ellis.

Ellis said the teller finally caught on to what she was saying, but the money had already been sent to the car.

"We drove off fast and he told me to go back to the hospital and he jumped out before I even stopped the car," said Ellis.

"He had my cell phone and when he left, he threw it at me," said Ellis.

"I then called 9-1-1."

When asked by Ruidoso officers why she had taken the chance to try and communicate with the bank teller, Ellis replied, "I'm nearly a thousand years old, what difference would it make?"

Feisty.

The next day, the 79-year-old was back doing line dancing at the local senior center — another similarity.

We lived next door to Izora for a number of years and saw many changes in her family, just as she did in ours.

Her backyard was a perfect baseball field for our two sons Jason and Tyler, plus Molly Wilson, Ben Brown, the Coronado boys and others.

We saw her survive a family tragedy only to be diagnosed with cancer a few years later.

She overcame that as well, so you can see why she might be compared to the woman who refused to be dominated by the petty criminal in Ruidoso.

We don't think much can get Izora down.

And she's also a pretty good cook, or at least she used to be.

We say that because we haven't had a pot of her world famous red beans in a long, long time.

JAN 17 2003

ASK US

Q—When is the Sweetwater Rattlesnake Roundup?
A—March 6-9.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Dianne Ratliff

... is a clerk at Hackfeld's Quality Clothing and favorite pastime activities include sewing, yard work and watching grandchildren participate in sports. She and her husband, James, are farmers and ranchers and have lived at Camp Springs six years. They have three children, Jim Ratliff and family of Abilene; Kim Knipe and family of Snyder; and Teressa Standlee and family of Lubbock.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

We are generally the better persuaded by the reasons we discover ourselves than by those given to us by others.

—Blaise Pascal

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Class reunion meeting

The SHS Class of 1983 will have a reunion planning meeting at 2 p.m. Saturday at the home of Kirk Herrley. All class members are encouraged to attend. Call 573-3204 for information.

Benefit enchilada dinner

There will be a benefit enchilada dinner for Carol Carrasco Garza from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Sunday at West Elementary Cafeteria to help defray medical expenses. For advance tickets for a $5 donation, call Mickey Carrasco at 573-3343.

Support groups

Adult family violence support group and children's family violence support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Monday at Gateway Family Service. For information call 573-1822.

Technology association boosters

Parents of Technology Student Association members will have a booster meeting at 7 p.m. Monday in the shop classroom at SHS to plan the end-of-year banquet.

Hermleigh Masonic Lodge

Hermleigh Masonic Lodge will have its monthly stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday. All Master Masons are welcome.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "Walk the Walk, Talk the Talk," followed by "What Does God Look Like?"

Lions Club meeting

The Snyder Lions Club will meet at noon Tuesday at Snyder Country Club while repairs are being made at Martha Ann Woman's Club.

WTC testing dates

Western Texas College's testing dates for LVN ASSET COMPASS QUICK-TASP include Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.; and Jan. 28 at 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact the counseling office at 573-8511 ext. 313.

Emmaus community meeting

Mesquite Country Emmaus Community meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at The Word is Life Deliverance Church, 312 Coliseum Drive. Babe chicks meet at 6 p.m.

Women's Bible study

A 10-week Bible study at First Baptist Church will start at 6 p.m. on Wednesday. The class is on "Beloved Disciple, the Study of the Life and Ministry of John" by Beth Moore. All women are invited. For more information, call Linda Franklin at 573-0397.

FBC services televised

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

Wednesday night Bible study

Beloved Disciple, a small group study by Beth Moore led by James Patterson, will be starting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 29 at First United Methodist Church. If interested, call Andra at 573-5416.

Book fair

Scurry Community Services will hold its annual book fair from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Jan. 27-31, and 6-8 p.m. on Jan. 30.

Relay for Life cookbooks

The cookbooks of the Cogdell Memorial Hospital Relay for Life team are now available for a $10 donation. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. Call Becky Craig at 573-2472, Jo Schooler at 573-7807 or 573-6374.

SHS booster club fundraiser

The SHS drama booster club is collecting old cell phones and used printer cartridges for recycling. Drop off at the sheriff's office. For more information, call Jan Scott at 573-8027.

Tiger's Lair Yearbook deadline

The deadline for orders for the 2003 Tiger's Lair Yearbook is Feb. 3. Balances will have to be paid in full at that time and orders are taken at Snyder High School. Cost is $50 each, with additional options available. Call 574-6138.

WTC adult basic education classes

Adult basic education classes at WTC will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. until noon, and from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes include E.S. L., GED and refresher courses. Certified teachers and Spanish speaking aides teach the classes. Call 573-8511, ext. 322.

Windbreak trees

Orders for windbreak trees and drip irrigation are being taken at the Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation office through Jan. 31. The office is located in the Scurry County USDA office complex at 5309 Big Spring Highway. Call 573-6317, ext. 2.

Choir trip planned

SHS choirs are also planning a trip to Boston on Easter weekend, April 17-21. There are six available positions for anyone who wants to make the trip. For more information, call Ronda Haire, choir director, at 573-6301.

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.

FBC support groups

Support groups dealing with divorce, death, cancer or caring for elderly parents meet at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the First Baptist Church educational building. A special group for students facing these problems is held at the same time.

State losing billions in sales tax exemptions

AUSTIN (AP) — With Gov. Rick Perry and others vowing not to raise taxes, lawmakers may not even want to take a peek at a new report that says the state is losing out on $22.4 billion a year because of sales tax exemptions.

The Senate Finance Committee report details exemptions on items such as manufacturing materials, medicine, food and fuel.

The report says Texas could generate about $2.4 billion a year in revenue by repealing some exemptions. Not taxing some services such as construction labor will cost the state about $9.9 billion over the next biennium, the report said.

The report, to be released today, could be tempting to lawmakers though. Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn said this week that the current $114 billion budget is expected to be $1.8 billion short.

The next budget needs at least $8.1 billion to keep services and programs the way they are now, Strayhorn said.

—

HIV MEDICINE:

Dozens of people infected with the HIV virus who said they fear Texas' growing budget problems could kill them made themselves heard in Austin on Thursday.

Seventy-nine people — many of them HIV patients who depend on the Texas HIV Medication Program to survive — pleaded with Texas Department of Health officials not to cut their access to medicine they need.

Officials are considering whether to reduce the income levels of those who qualify to get state money for HIV drugs, rendering only the poorest of the poor eligible.

The change would affect as many as 2,500 people, about 20 percent of the 12,000 Texans who use the program.

John Tuttle of Houston, who was diagnosed in 1994, said he makes $14,000 annually but needs $15,000 worth of medicine each year.

"Look at me and know without the meds I'll probably die, probably rather painfully," he said. "I'd rather not do that."

—

BUDGET CUTS:

The cuts are coming, and the Texas Conservative Coalition has some suggestions. At least, it has the "starting point" for dealing with the state's budget dilemma, said Sen. Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, a co-chair of the coalition's finance task force.

The group put out a 137-page report Thursday containing an estimated $3 billion to $4 billion in cost-saving recommendations. The comptroller has said the state will face a budget shortfall of $9.9 billion.

Coalition suggestions include tightening Medicaid enrollment rules, upping health care costs for state employees and abolishing some state agencies, including the Texas Cancer Council.

Democrats said the conservative group wants to pass state budget problems on to ordinary citizens and local governments.

—

KING FOR A DAY:

The Senate passed a resolution honoring Martin Luther King Jr., a day after the anniversary of the slain civil rights leader's birthday. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a state and federal holiday Monday.

"We ought to think about how far Texas has come and yet how far it has yet to go," said Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, who with Democrat Royce West of Dallas are the only black senators.

—

RULES, RULES:

Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick now will be able to appoint members to the Appropriations Committee, fueling Democrats' fears that they will be cut out of the budget-writing process.

The House voted 138-4 in favor of changing rules pushed by Craddick, a longtime Midland lawmaker who became Speaker this week.

Assignments to committees, which oversees the writing of Texas' two-year budget, traditionally have been based on seniority.

—

MINORITY REPORT:

Democrats in the Texas House of Representatives selected Rep. Jim Dunnam of Waco as chairman of the House Democratic Caucus. The Democrats are the chamber's minority party.

As chairman, Dunnam will be charged with helping House Democrats promote their values and themes during the legislative session.

"While I do not advocate the organization of the Texas House on a partisan basis, I absolutely believe that Democratic beliefs have a place in our state and must be strongly voiced," Dunnam said.

Rep. Dawnna Dukes of Austin was appointed the caucus vice-chair.

—

BIVINS' BUDGET:

A Republican has been tapped to head the Senate committee charged with writing the Senate version of the budget.

State Sen. Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, will chair the Senate Finance Committee, replacing state Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, who was chair during the last legislative session.

Under the new committee assignments announced Thursday by Lt. Gov.-elect David Dewhurst, Republicans will get nine chairmanships, while Democrats will get six. Republicans control the Senate 19-12.

—

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Can any one of you look me in the eyes and sentence me to a slow, painful death without medication? ..."Is my life not worth a little red ink on a page? I think it is." — Bill Cooksey of Houston, an HIV-infected Texan, on possible cuts in a state program that helps to pay for his medicine.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Mom and daughter's distance is more than matter of miles

DEAR ABBY: I am 39 and never had a good relationship with my mother. I have known all my life that I am her least favorite of my siblings. Until recently, I accepted it.

The last time I visited Mom and Dad, I brought my children. Mother was so rude and mean to them that my 5-year-old refused to go into her house. We ended up staying at my grandmother's. My 5-year-old asked me why his grandma doesn't love him like she does his cousin. I wasn't sure how to answer.

When we returned home I wrote Mother a letter telling her exactly how I feel, and why. I said she could treat me as she pleased, but not to take it out on my children. I told her if she ever found it in her heart to treat us with the love and respect we deserve, she knows how to reach me.

A few months later, my father had open heart surgery. Mother never called to let me know. It really hurt. I have called and left several messages on their answering machine without a return call. Should I give up and accept the fact that my parents gave me life, but do not want me in their lives? Or should I keep trying? It has been eight months since we last spoke. We live 1,500 miles apart, and I know long-distance relationships are difficult, but I am their daughter. — **DISTRAUGHT IN FLORIDA**

DEAR DISTRAUGHT: The physical distance between you and your mother is not the problem. The "distance" between you was created long ago, and unless your mother is willing to cooperate, I see no reason to continue courting rejection.

Talk to your siblings and ask them to keep you informed about what's going on with your parents. If you expect nothing, you can't be hurt. You are a parent now, and it is your duty to protect and nurture your children. Please do not feel guilty. Perhaps through neighbors and friends you can "adopt" some loving grandparent substitutes who are closer to home. It might be a healthier solution for all concerned.

**

DEAR ABBY: Our precious mother passed away in 1983 and left me her mink stole. I didn't think I'd ever wear it, so I gave it to my older sister. This year for Christmas, my sister gave me the delightful gift of a teddy bear made from Mom's stole!

It arrived in a large box filled with packing peanuts. At the bottom of the box was a very worn penny. The date on it was 1997, the same year our brother passed away after a brief illness.

A few months before his death, he and his high school sweetheart had married after 40 years of marriage to other mates. They were like teenagers, so in love and so happy. Needless to say, his death was devastating. My sister swears she didn't put the penny in the box.

I can usually find a logical explanation for strange phenomena, but this really touched me. My sister and I believe the penny symbolizes a link between Mom and our brother, who are now with Dad — and together they sent us this "article of faith." I hope you'll print this, Abby. So many people need reassurance to help them through. I did, and now my faith has been restored. — **LINDA L. JOHNSON, MIDLOTHIAN, VA.**

DEAR LINDA: I'm not sure which I find more impressive — your finding the penny or your sister having found such a creative way to recycle the mink!

**

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

**

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

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Date Book

Friday, Jan. 17, 2003

Today is the 17th day of 2003 and the 28th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1871, Andrew S. Hallidie received a patent for a cable car system that began service in San Francisco in 1873.

On this day in 1961, Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered a farewell address to nation wherein he said, "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and persists."

On this day in 1995, Japan suffered its second most deadly earthquake in the 20th century when an earthquake struck the region of Kobe and Osaka and lasted 20 seconds, leaving 5,500 dead and more than 21,000 injured.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), statesman; Vidal Sassoon (1928-), hair stylist, is 75; James Earl Jones (1931-), actor, is 72; Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay Jr.) (1942-), athlete, is 61; Jim Carrey (1962-), actor, is 41.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1971, the Baltimore Colts defeated the Dallas Cowboys 16-13 in Super Bowl V.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "I am America. I am the part you won't recognize. But get used to me. Black, confident, cocky; my name, not yours; my religion, not yours; my goals, my own; get used to me." - Muhammad Ali

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Jan. 10) and full moon (Jan. 18).

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Fire engines are rarely used in La Paz, Bolivia, because the city is at an elevation of about 12,000 feet. At that altitude, it is difficult for fires to get started because there is less oxygen in the atmosphere.

events

LOTTO TEXAS TEXAS LOTTERY RESULTS

Thursday's Lottery Numbers
Pick 3
(Day) 4-9-8
(Night) 4-2-7
Cash Five
1-2-22-23-30

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 01-17-03
♠ Q 10 9 7 2
♥ 4
♦ A Q 10 8 4
♣ A 5

West
♠ K 8 6 5 3
♥ Q 2
♦ J 7 3
♣ Q 9 8

East
♠ A J
♥ A 7 5
♦ K 9 6 2
♣ J 10 4 3

South
♠ 4
♥ K J 10 9 8 6 3
♦ 5
♣ K 7 6 2

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
			1 ♦
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♦ 3

Friday, Jan. 17, 2003

Different Italians win at the wire

By Phillip Alder

The world open pairs championship was a nail-biting affair. It looked as though Michael Rosenberg and Zia Mahmood (U.S.A.) were going to win, but the young Italians Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes had an incredible run over the second half of the last session to win by a whisker.

The Italians got their biggest slice of luck on this deal from the final session.

Most declarers went one down in four hearts, losing one spade, two hearts and one minor-suit trick. When Fantoni was the declarer, West led the diamond three. Declarer won with dummy's ace and continued with the diamond queen to ruff out East's king. Now there was a way to succeed: Play a club to dummy's ace, ruff a low diamond to bring down West's jack, cash the club king, ruff a club in the dummy, and discard the spade four on the diamond 10. West ruffs, but at the cost of his trump trick. A moment later, declarer leads his heart king to squash West's queen.

However, Fantoni didn't do that. After crossing to the club ace, he called for the diamond 10, hoping to pin the nine in West's hand. When East didn't cover with the jack, declarer ruffed, cashed the club king, ruffed a club in the dummy, and discarded his spade on the diamond eight. You would expect East to win this trick with his nine, but West, losing concentration after many days of play, ruffed his partner's winner! When Fantoni played the trumps correctly, he made his contract.

Plus 420 was worth 64 match points out of 70. Minus 50 would have been only 25 and second place, not first.

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Faces no charges

DETROIT (AP) — A police officer who cut off a woman's fingertip with a knife while trying to handcuff her will not be charged with a crime, a prosecutor said Thursday.

Wayne County Prosecutor Michael Duggan said the injury was not intentional and cannot be considered an assault.

Officer Anthony Johnson was using a 4-inch utility knife to cut the sleeves off Joni Gullas' jacket while trying to arrest her Jan. 5. The knife severed her left ring finger at the top knuckle.

Microsoft heeds calls to share some wealth

SEATTLE (AP) — With its coffers now topping $43 billion, Microsoft Corp. is finally heeding calls from impatient investors who want the world's largest software company to share some of the wealth.

After Microsoft splits its stock 2-1, the Redmond-based company will pay its first dividend — 8 cents per share. The split takes effect Jan. 27, the company said Thursday.

Microsoft long had opposed calls from some shareholders to use some of its cash reserves to pay a dividend, arguing its vast prosperity was better spent on research and product development.

But Microsoft's board voted unanimously Thursday to issue a dividend since many of the company's antitrust and other legal issues have been largely resolved, chief financial officer John Connors said. They included a $1.1 billion settlement of a class-action lawsuit filed by California consumers.

"We were the only Dow 30 company that has not declared and paid a dividend," Connors noted, calling the small payment "a starter dividend. If you stack us up against other big tech companies, we're right in the ballpark and it's a good place to start," he said.

Microsoft chairman Bill Gates would own about 1.2 billion shares after the stock split — giving him a $99.5 million dividend payment.

Connors said the Bush administration's proposal last week to eliminate the federal dividend tax was "just coincidental in timing." But that proposal was certain to increase shareholder pressure.

The dividend is payable March 7 to shareholders of record Feb. 21. Microsoft will review the dividend program regularly, but hopes to make it an annual payout, Connors said.

After the stock split, Microsoft will have 10.8 billion shares outstanding, for a total dividend payout of about $864 million.

"This is the news that Microsoft investors have been waiting for," said Michael Gartenberg, research director for Jupiter Research. "With $40 billion in cash, it was hard for Microsoft to justify keeping that all set aside for research and development and legal fees."

The dividend itself "is a step in the right direction," said Marty Shagrin, a research analyst with Victory Capital Management. Still, he called it "pretty small."

Also Thursday, the company also announced an earnings boost for its quarter ended Dec. 31, although investors seemed unimpressed as they drove the stock price down nearly 5 percent.

For the quarter ended Dec. 31, Microsoft reported a profit of $2.55 billion, or 47 cents a share, up 12 percent from $2.28 billion or 41 cents a share in the year-ago period, slightly beating analysts' expectations.

The company reported record revenue of $8.54 billion for the quarter, a 10 percent increase over the $7.74 billion last year.

The company said its quarterly performance was due to strong sales of computer server software, which increased 12 percent to $1.7 billion.

Sales of Xbox game consoles were on the lower end of the company range, comptroller Scott Boggs said, declining to disclose how many units Microsoft sold in the quarter. Since June 30, the company has sold about 4 million consoles. The company also said more than 250,000 people have signed up for its new Xbox Live online video-game service.

Landlord finds 3 dead bodies

TOPPENISH, Wash. (AP) — A landlord trying to collect rent found three people dead from stab wounds in a trailer at a rural mobile home park, Yakima County sheriff's deputies said.

Detectives said they had few leads and no one in custody.

The bodies were found Thursday morning in the trailer off a dirt road about halfway between Toppenish and Wapato, about 130 miles southeast of Seattle. The deaths did not appear to be murder-suicide, Sheriff's Lt. Stew Graham said.

The dead were identified as Toni Marie Green, 43, and Charmaine Rose Sanchey, 47, who rented the 20-foot burnished aluminum trailer, and Steve Varela Alvarado, 52, who had been staying with them, authorities said.

All three victims had extensive criminal records with numerous drug-related felonies and lesser offenses, deputies said.

Graham said landlord John Gehlen, who lives in a house near the four trailers and a motor home, found Alvarado's body just inside the unlocked door when he went to collect rent. Sheriff's deputies later found the women dead inside in a sleeping area.

One neighbor said a car drove through the area early Thursday but could give no description, Graham said.

Today's chuckle

Marijuana takes up room in gas tank

CARLSBAD, N.M. (AP) — A sheriff's deputy who assisted two women and five children in a van after it ran out of gas here found there wasn't enough room in the tank because it was full of marijuana.



Eddy County sheriff's deputy Kelly Calicoat was dispatched to a location near the New Mexico-Texas state line Wednesday to help a motorist who ran out of gas.

Calicoat arrived to find the women and children had been given some fuel. He decided to follow them to ensure they had enough to reach Carlsbad, Bobby Sullivan of the Pecos Valley Drug Task Force said Thursday.

Calicoat stopped the van after the driver exceeded the posted speed limit.

Calicoat contacted the drug task force after speaking with the women and becoming suspicious.

The agents found a concealed compartment in the gas tank containing 72 pounds of marijuana. The also seized $700 in cash.

The compartment significantly reduced the van's fuel capacity, Sullivan said.

Leticia Guadian, 24, and Vanessa Chavez, 22, of Fabens, Texas, were arrested and charged with distribution of marijuana and conspiracy. Both were being held at the Eddy County Detention Center on Thursday on $10,000 secured bonds.

Chavez's five children — ranging in age from 18-months to five-years — were kept in police custody until their father arrived to get them.

Berry's World



"FOR AN APPETIZER, I'LL HAVE THE PECAN PIE A LA MODE; FOR THE ENTRÉE, I'LL HAVE THE BLACK FOREST CHOCOLATE CAKE; AND FOR DESSERT, I'LL HAVE BAKED ALASKA."

Serena Williams' skintight outfit is retired

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Remember the skintight outfit Serena Williams wore in the U.S. Open? It's history.

"Catsuit is retired," the 21-year-old said Thursday. "You can see it in a museum."

Serena and her sister, Venus, have never been shy about pushing fashion boundaries on the tennis courts, but Serena's jet-black outfit that stretched from neck to mid-thigh set a benchmark.

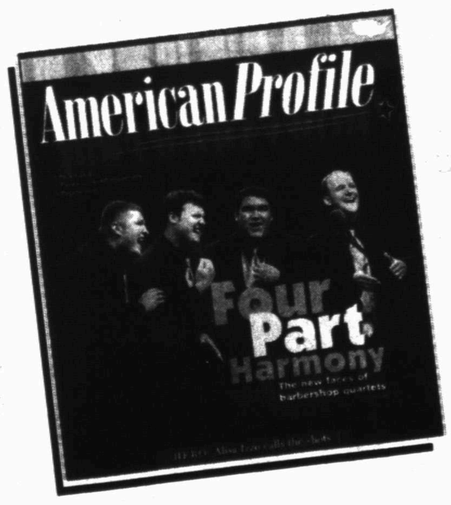
She wore the catsuit four times in the U.S. Open and then left it in the closet until the season-ending Tour Championships.

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In Next Week's American Profile...

The most perfect form of harmony

If your vision of a barbershop quartet is four dapper guys wearing striped vests, armbands, and straw hats, then wake up and hear today's four-part harmonies.



In Addition...
- Fancy covered meatballs
- Puppy love

American Profile
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#OL2561A, 31K miles
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#P9035, 31K miles

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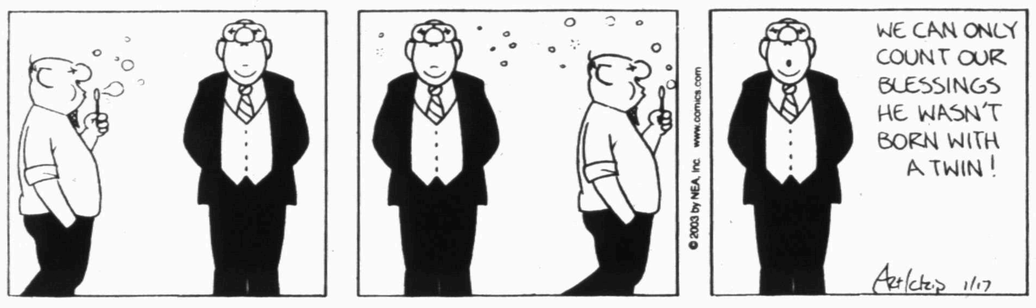
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1999 Ford Contour $5,800
#P4445, 4 door, white
1994 Buick Century $3,900
#C5127C, 4 door, white, V-6
1996 Olds Cierra $3,200
#A5542A, runs great
1995 Ford Contour $4,400
#A8054A, 66K miles
1999 Chevy Malibu $5,300
#TCP5555A, V-6
1994 Chevy Caprice $5,300
#CP5505A, 81K miles
1998 Plymouth Neon ES $5,300
#TPT5553B, red, 78K miles
1997 Chrysler Sebring $6,300
#TC5081A, 2 door, V-6
1998 Mercury Mystique $4,500
#A6980A, 88K miles
1990 Mazda 323 ..... $1,800
#P9694B
1994 Lincoln Town Car $4,900
#P8989A, luxury
2000 Ford Focus $6,500
#P8906

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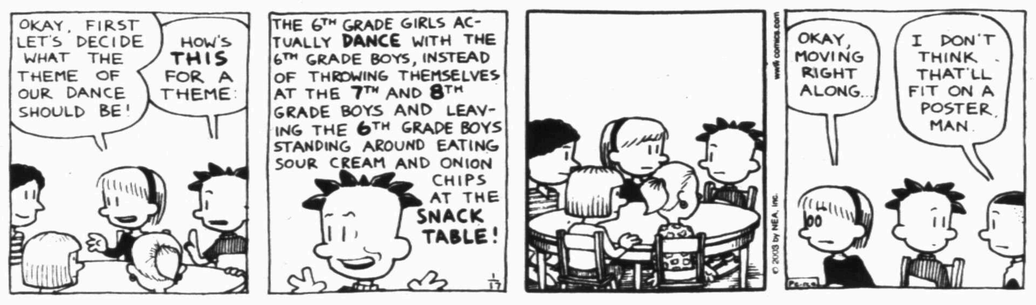
FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



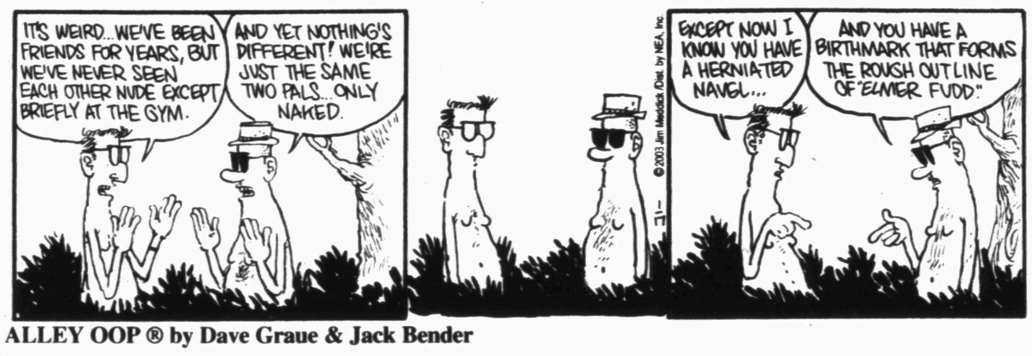
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HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"He said this stuff made his hair turn purple."

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Tug sharply
5 Shack
8 Green mineral
12 Savvy about (2 wds.)
13 Geologic division
14 Done with
15 Citrus tree
16 Hotel
17 Rounded projection
18 Must-haves
20 Minnesota team
22 A great many
23 Comic Charlotte —
24 Rapture
27 Was becoming
30 Place to sleep
31 Lb. or tsp.
32 Young grizzly
34 Shortstop — Ripken Jr.
35 Plow into
37 1930s util. program
38 Meat on skewers
40 Teen bane
42 Emissions watchdog
43 Wood ash product
44 Clenched hands
46 Ludicrous
49 Reflect
50 Poultry buy
52 Apply paint
54 Ignore
55 Lodge member
56 — von Bismarck
57 Clutter
58 Insult, slangily
59 Bird abode

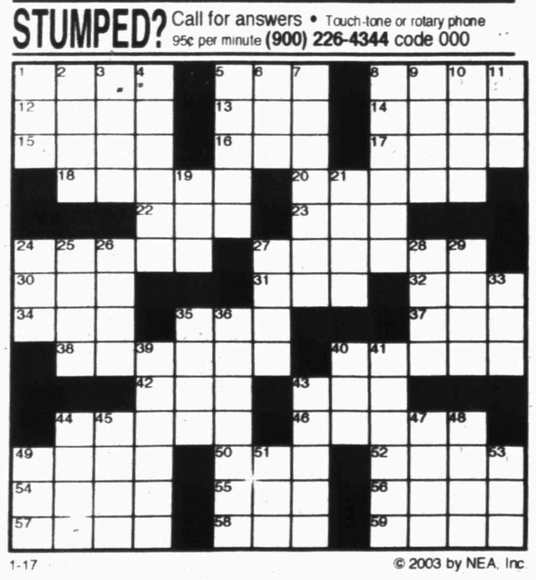
DOWN

1 "Westworld" name
2 Neat as — —
3 Alaskan port
4 Pays homage
5 Bank job
6 Subject of an ode
7 Kid's snit
8 Illinois city
9 Bard's river
10 Rookie socialites
11 Before, to Byron
19 Old PC system
21 Hang around
24 London radio
25 Plumbing problem
26 Like some curiosity
27 Shepard and Spade
28 Beige
29 Sword fight
33 Cave dweller
35 Spellbound
36 Flustered
39 Assails
40 Novelist — Rand
41 Minister's helper
43 Golf course
44 Sulk angrily
45 Nile goddess
47 Quick letter
48 Refreshments
49 Dad's companion
51 Bulldogs backer
53 Toddler

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"OH, HE HAS HIS GOOD SIDE, ALL RIGHT... AND YOU'RE LOOKING AT IT."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



SPORTS

Sideline Views



by Bobby Allen

The fog was as thick as soup Tuesday night coming home from the Tigers' varsity basketball games with Merkel.

Vehicles that would pass me on the left vanished within a matter of seconds. The drive was much longer than normal, taking me close to two hours to make the trek.

There were no such treacherous drives for the Kodiak basketball team.

The Alaskan island team and its opponents from the Kenai Peninsula — Kenai, Palmer, Soldotna and the various schools from Anchorage — had to use less conventional modes of travel to play.

They had to fly, sometimes into fog as thick as what we encountered in West Texas Tuesday evening.

Kodiak is the wettest and foggiest place I have ever seen. During the winter, rain and snow seal out the sun, leaving folks on the island to go stir crazy.

Then the madness begins.

Every March in Kodiak, the Joe Floyd basketball tournament turns the remote outpost into a weeklong basketball paradise.

The crowd is frenzied, and they back their Bears zealously, making the gym at the high school sounds like an airport runway.

The folks of Kodiak would use and — when I was there — were encouraged to bring all shapes and sorts of noisemakers, from foghorns to metal trash can lids.

Though it is costly, opposing teams love the atmosphere and the environment, and the players from Kodiak get a chance to meet people other than those cooped up on "The Rock," as Kodiak as known by its residents.

Given the cost and logistics that go into getting teams from the mainland and the island, a 60-mile drive to Lamesa doesn't seem like such a burden.

The NFL conference championship games are upon us again, and this year's match-ups are as compelling as any in recent memory.

Last weekend was a mini-vacation for me, as I watched all four games in between luxurious catnaps and being used by my sons as a trampoline.

In the NFC, we like the Eagles to return to the Super Bowl for the first time since 1980.

The Philly field is an accident waiting to happen, and weather is expected to be freezing.

Also throw in the fact that this is the final game at the Vet, and the always-fanatical Philadelphia fans will be whipped into a lather (and inebriated) before kickoff, and you have the ingredients for an old-fashioned beating of the Buccaneers.

In the AFC, the Titans will be a one-dimensional team for the second half of the game as they play catch-up.

Tennessee just doesn't have the offense to sustain any kind of pressure on the Raiders, who will use their own daunting home-field advantage to meet up with the Eagles in a rematch of Super Bowl XV.

Rumors are once again circulating that Troy Aikman may attempt a comeback, with the Cowboys being the team to give him another chance.

Aikman retired after a series of concussions and back injuries left him unable to get back onto the field to compete.

And when he was on the field, his performances only highlighted how far his skills had diminished after years of physical toil in the roughest of all team sports.

Here's hoping Aikman reconsiders. He has emerged as one of the most articulate and incisive commentators on television, and he has a young family.

Most fans now would rather hear him describe the brutality and speed of the Eagles' defense than see him demonstrate it on his back.

Rangers stick to budget restraints this offseason

ARLINGTON (AP) — Texas general manager John Hart made it through the offseason without a bunch of budget-busting moves involving big-name players.

Hart instead stuck to the offseason plan laid out in November by the Rangers' brass, including new manager Buck Showalter and an owner with new budgetary restraints.

It's a stark contrast to a year ago when Hart, then new in Texas, transformed the roster with nearly two dozen moves and pushed the payroll over $105 million, the third-highest in the majors.

The Rangers say they completed their offseason moves Wednesday with the return of starting pitcher Ismael Valdes. He was the seventh free agent signed — all to one-year, relatively inexpensive contracts.

"We did exactly what we said we'd do in late November," said owner Tom Hicks. "We stayed on plan, stayed on course and mostly stayed within in our budget."

Texas added starting pitchers with Valdes and John Thomson, improved the bullpen with several additions, including two-time All-Star closer Ugueth Urbina, and tried to solidify their defense up the middle by acquiring catcher Einar Diaz and signing center fielder Doug Glanville.

The payroll will be slightly above the projected $90 million and the team will lose money again this season — "this is going to be the last one," Hicks said.

An uncertain market helped the Rangers stick to their plan. Many of the high-priced temptations that would have been available in the past were negated in the wake of baseball's new labor agreement and a shaky economy that made most teams unwilling to be free spenders.

Ivan Rodriguez and Kenny Rogers have certainly found that out. Both are still unsigned since the Rangers let them go in December. Texas didn't offer the 10-time All-Star catcher arbitration (likely for at least $12 million) or a new contract. And the 38-year-old Rogers turned down a two-year deal worth more than $10 million, a cut from the $7.5 million the left-hander made last season.

The Rangers, who have finished last in the AL West the past three seasons, haven't showed such restraint in recent years.

All-Star shortstop Alex Rodriguez got his record $252 million, 10-year contract from Texas two years ago. Last winter, Hart gave Chan Ho Park a $65 million, five-year deal and brought two-time AL MVP Juan Gonzalez home for $24 million over two seasons.

The biggest contract the Rangers gave out this offseason was $4 million to Urbina. Valdes, who was traded from Texas to Seattle in September, got $2.5 million to return.

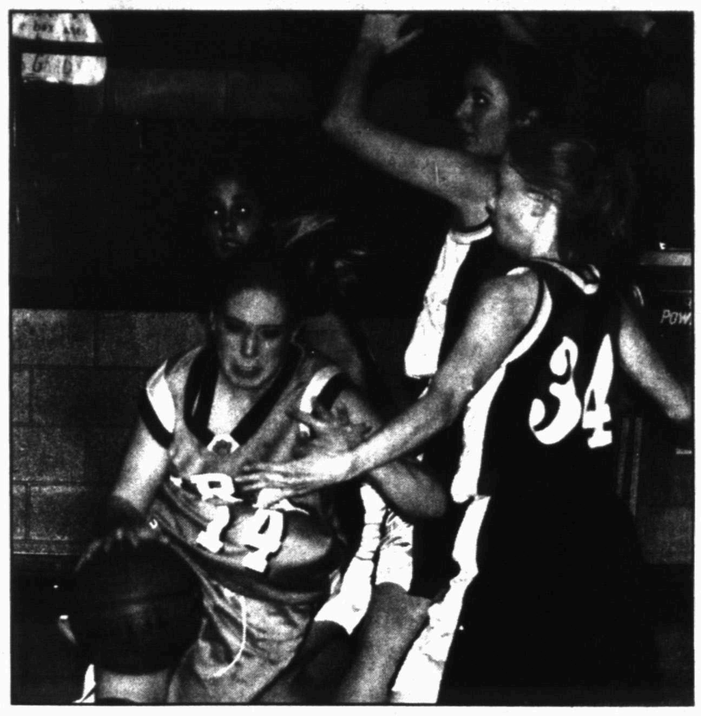
"We had a pretty good read on the market and felt it could be a buyer's market," Hart said. "We went after people we needed, identifying people that could help us and give us short-term deals."

Texas also signed relievers Aaron Fultz and Esteban Yan, and catcher Chad Krueter. Diaz came in a four-player trade with Cleveland, which will pay part of his $1.75 million salary.

While filling some needs, the Rangers still have plenty of flexibility after 2003.

By giving only one-year deals, immediate needs were filled without long-term commitments that could hamper the development of young players.

Park, Valdes and Thomson appear set in the rotation.



TRAFFIC JAM — Ira's Amanda Calley drives the lane against Grady during the Lady Bulldogs' district opener. The team will face a tough test tonight at Borden County. (SDN Staff Photo)

Tigers tackle Lamesa tonight

The Snyder Tigers will square off against the Lamesa Golden Tors tonight, with each team looking to notch its first district victory.

Lamesa (10-13, 0-2) suffered a 20-point defeat against Sweetwater Tuesday, while the Tigers (9-13, 0-2) made a late run before falling at Merkel.

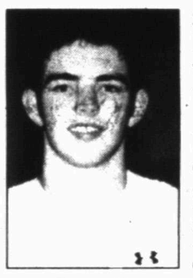
Tip off for the boys' tilt is at 8 o'clock.

The Lady Tigers (16-8, 1-3) will try to upend Lamesa (12-11, 3-1) at 6:30 p.m.

In other area action, the Ira varsity teams will take on the Coyotes at Borden County tonight, with the Lady Bulldogs getting underway at 6:30 and the boys starting at 8.

The Hermleigh teams both seek their first district wins when they host Highland.

Post player earns spot on All-State Academic team



Jarrett Vickers

Post High School gridiron standout Jarrett Vickers, grandson of Howard and Dolores Jones of Snyder, was recently selected to the Texas High School Coaches' Association's All-State Academic second team.

Vickers, a 6'6", 215-pound senior, has been named to the *Lubbock Avalance Journal's* All-South Plains team the past two years.

The Antelope tight-end is the son of Kathy and Dane Vickers, formerly of Snyder.

District 3-3A Basketball Standings

BOYS

Team	District W	District L	Season W	Season L
Merkel	22	2	2	0
Sweetwater	10	9	2	0
Seminole	8	14	2	0
Denver City	16	7	0	2
Lamesa	10	13	0	2
Snyder	9	14	0	2

GIRLS

Team	District W	District L	Season W	Season L
Sweetwater	21	4	3	1
Lamesa	12	11	3	1
Denver City	12	10	2	2
Snyder	16	8	1	3
Seminole	12	12	1	3

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	27	11	.711	—
Boston	21	17	.553	6
Philadelphia	20	18	.526	7
Washington	20	19	.513	7½
Orlando	20	21	.488	8½
New York	14	22	.389	12
Miami	13	26	.333	14½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	28	10	.737	—
Detroit	25	12	.676	2½
New Orleans	20	20	.500	9
Milwaukee	18	20	.474	10
Atlanta	14	24	.368	14
Chicago	14	24	.368	14
Toronto	10	29	.256	18½
Cleveland	8	32	.200	21

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	31	6	.838	—
San Antonio	24	14	.632	7½
Utah	23	15	.605	8½
Houston	22	15	.595	9
Minnesota	21	17	.553	10½
Memphis	12	26	.316	19½
Denver	9	29	.237	22½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	29	10	.744	—
Portland	23	14	.622	5
Phoenix	24	16	.600	5½
L.A. Lakers	18	20	.474	10½
Seattle	16	21	.432	12
Golden State	16	22	.421	12½
L.A. Clippers	14	24	.368	14½

Wednesday's Games

Boston 86, Atlanta 66
Indiana 104, Miami 81
Milwaukee 99, Toronto 87
Philadelphia 108, New Jersey 107
Houston 102, Phoenix 96
L.A. Lakers 90, New Orleans 82
Utah 92, Denver 81
Sacramento 123, Dallas 94
Portland 100, Memphis 92
Golden State 108, Cleveland 80
Minnesota 95, L.A. Clippers 64

Thursday's Games

Washington 108, Orlando 93
Utah 92, Seattle 85

Friday's Games

Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
New York at Detroit, 8 p.m.
Atlanta at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Chicago at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.
Dallas at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Cleveland at Denver, 9 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Houston, 9:30 p.m.
Memphis at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Minnesota at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games

New York at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Washington, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Miami, 8 p.m.
Boston at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Utah, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Portland, 10 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Orlando at Toronto, 12:30 p.m.
Dallas at Seattle, 9 p.m.

NFL Playoffs

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 4
AFC
N.Y. Jets 41, Indianapolis 0
NFC
Atlanta 27, Green Bay 7
Sunday, Jan. 5
AFC
Pittsburgh 36, Cleveland 33
NFC
San Francisco 39, N.Y. Giants 38

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 11
AFC
Tennessee 34, Pittsburgh 31, OT
NFC
Philadelphia 20, Atlanta 6
Sunday, Jan. 12
NFC
Tampa Bay 31, San Francisco 6
AFC
Oakland 30, N.Y. Jets 10

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 19
NFC Championship
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia, 3 p.m. (FOX)
AFC Championship
Tennessee at Oakland, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)

Super Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 26
At San Diego
AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 6:18 p.m. (ABC)

Parcells continues to shore up Cowboys coaching staff

IRVING (AP) — Dallas Cowboys coach Bill Parcells added two more assistants to his staff Thursday, hiring John McNulty as wide receivers coach and Kacy Rodgers as defensive tackles coach.

McNulty spent the past five seasons with Jacksonville, the last three working with receivers.

Rodgers was defensive line coach at Arkansas last season, and before that had the same position for three seasons at Middle Tennessee State.

Parcells, hired Jan. 2, has already brought in eight new assistants, including offensive coordinator Maurice Carthon from Detroit. He has also retained five coaches from former coach Dave Campo's staff, among them defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer.

When Parcells took the job two weeks ago, he said the staff of 15 assistants would be "moderately reduced." But there was no indication Thursday if he had completed his staff or would make additional moves.

Sports Briefs

Baseball booster club

The baseball booster club will meet Monday night at 7:30 in the film room. Final preparations are being made for the Jan. 25 "Meet the Tigers" night at Scurry County Coliseum.

Football banquet

All high school football players and their parents are invited to the football banquet. The banquet will be held Saturday at the First Baptist Family Life Center at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are $5.00 and can be purchased at the high school or at the door.

Jags hire Del Rio for head job

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Jacksonville hired Jack Del Rio, the Carolina Panthers' defensive coordinator, as the second coach in Jaguars history.

The 39-year-old former NFL linebacker is the second-youngest coach in the league.

Carter going to Cooperstown as an Expo

NEW YORK (AP) — Gary Carter will be the first player to go into baseball's Hall of Fame with a Montreal Expos logo on his hat.

Bowe sentenced to prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Former heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison for the 1998 abduction of his estranged wife and children.

Hill still struggling with health

WASHINGTON (AP) — Grant Hill's ankle could only bear 12 minutes of basketball, and Orlando Magic coach Doc Rivers said it might be time to give the six-time All-Star another extended rest.

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35 yrs. Experience Free Estimates
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FRED GREEN Lic. TACLA003458E
INSPIRATION HOME IMPROVEMENT CO.

Electric

DALE'S ELECTRIC
We Do All Kinds Of Electrical Work
New & Repairs
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573-5330
Mobile 338-1227
Dale Swigert

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Stewart Insurance Services
• GREAT RATES
• GREAT SERVICE
All Lines of Insurance
904 26th St. Snyder, TX
573-8401

A PROUD PAST WITH A SOLID FUTURE
GERMANIA SINCE 1896
Property • Auto • Life Insurance
KUBENA INSURANCE AGENCY
915-863-2754
Marsha Kubena, Agent

Painting

West Painting
Interior, Exterior Painting
Drywall, Acoustical Ceilings
Wallpapering
30 Years Experience
Owner: Richard West
573-2490
721-2875 (mobile)

Plumbing

Plumbing Repair Service
Telephone
(915) 573-3085
Coventry Plumbing
M-19955
1311 College Ave.
Snyder, Texas 79549
Jim Coventry
Owner

Roofing


Free Estimates
(915) 267-5478
FULLMOON, INC.
Roofing
Commercial, Residential, Industrial
Insured • Bonded
$500,000 General Liability
Big Spring, Texas
Henry Backes

Storage Rentals

New storage units now available in downtown **Hermleigh**, located at 688 Harlan Ave.
J & K Rentals
573-0859
or come by 3609 W. Hwy 180 for more information.
12x30 units & other sizes available in **Snyder**

North Ave. E Storage Buildings
10' x 20'
DAVID HOLT
573-3255

Tree & Lawn Services

TREEMASTERS
Professional Tree Trimming & Deep Root Fertilization
Now Is The Time!!
21 yrs. experience. References available.
915-573-4937
If no answer, leave message.

Internet Service

Bullard's Internet Service
Dell "white box" computers. Check our prices!
Local support. Something new. Dell prices with no long waits on hold trying to get help!
• *Local Storefront, New Computers, Repairs Upgrades, Software, Networking*
• *If you are our customer, we fix your Internet problems for free*
3405 College Ave.
573-4801

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Call 573-5486 for more info.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINE
Tuesday through Friday
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3:00 p.m. Friday
Snyder Daily News
3600 College Ave.
P.O. Box 949
Snyder, Texas 79550

For Classified Power Call
573-5486
Fax 573-0044

ERROR
Advertisers Should Check Their Ad On The First Day of Insertion!
The Snyder Daily News cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Claims cannot be considered unless made within 5 days from date of first publication. No allowance can be made when errors do not materially affect the value of the advertisement. All ads are cash unless customer has an established advertising account with The Snyder Daily News.
The Publisher is not responsible for copy omissions, typographical errors, or any unintentional error that may occur further than to correct it in the next issue after it is brought to his attention.

Classified Ads $17.55 for 5 days, get the 6th day FREE!!
15 words or less
(Excluding Garage Sales & Displays)

Legal Notice

BID NOTICE
The Snyder Independent School District will accept sealed bids for a HVAC at West Elementary until 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, January 30, 2003 at the School Administration Building, 2901 37th Street, Snyder, Texas 79549. Plans and specifications may be obtained from BGR Architects - Engineers, Inc., 2118 34th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79411. A deposit of $50.00 is required for each set of plans and specifications. Deposit is refundable upon return of plans and specifications. A pre-proposal meeting will be held, Tuesday, January 21, 2003 at 3:30p.m. Prospective proposers shall meet at West Elementary at 3601 El Paso, Snyder, Texas, and meet at the East main entrance. The Snyder Independent School District reserves the right to reject all proposals or bids, waive any and all technicalities and accept the proposal which will best meet the needs of the district.

NOTICE
The Snyder Independent School District will hold a meeting for private schools and home schools with tax exempt status to explain the Title 1 (and other Title programs) services available to eligible private school students and conditions for participating in such services. Please contact Karen Waller, Assistant Superintendent at 573-5401 for further information.

Lost & Found

LOST DOG
Female Beagle/Terrier mix, white w/brown spots, red collar.
574-2293

LOST
Grey & white 10-mo. old kitten, red collar w/tag #30377. Vicinity of 36th Place (behind Skinnys).
574-2262

LOST
Male, long hair Terrier mix, about 20 lbs, blondish brown hair. Vicinity Midland & Houston Aves. Please call 573-0034.

Vehicles

1987 Ford F-150, 4-wheel drive standard, white w/blue stripe & interior. 573-6270 after 6p.m.

1991 Aero Star van for sale. Runs. $1,500 OBO 573-2991

1997 Ford F350 crew cab, 4-wheel drive, gasoline or propane. Excellent condition. New motor & clutch. Will wholesale. 915-737-2403 or 338-4949.

Business Services

A COMPUTER PROBLEM?
"Don't Unplug, we come to you."
Repair, Upgrades, Networking, Tutoring, etc.
Fast Track Computer Service
573-8995

Chimney Cleaning & Repairs
Walter Banks or Darrell Craig
573-4736 573-2472
Leave Message

HANDYMAN
Can fix anything, inside or out. Painting, cut trees, haul, yard work.
573-3894 725-2151

Classified
The link between buyer and seller
573-5486

Business Services

R & J CONSTRUCTION
Metal buildings, Roofs
Carports & Fences
John Green 573-3976

Tilling–Leveling
Front-end loader, Walk-behind tiller, Tractor tiller, Small acreage plowed. 915-573-8264

WILL HAUL
Clean your garage or house.
Will move furniture.
For estimates call
Tim **573-3047**

Employment

COX COMMUNICATIONS
has an opening for Field Service Rep. Must have HS Diploma or GED, good driving record, lift 70#. Sales experience helpful. Apply 2211 Ave. R or on line www.cox.com. EOE/M/F

Experienced director needed for Drug & Alcohol Council. Will consider full or part time. Please send resumes to P.O. Box 302, Sweetwater, TX 79556 or fax to (915)235-5856.

KITCHEN HOSTESS
First Baptist Church
Responsible for planning, total preparation and serving of a meal for approximately 100 people on Wednesday nights. This also includes purchasing supplies and the cleaning and sanitation of the kitchen. Experienced in food service a plus. Training in food safety and sanitation rules preferred. Pick up application in church office at 1701 27th and return by January 31st.

Need experienced helper in carpentry, plumbing, painting skills. Pay commensurate with ability. 573-2251 after 8p.m.

Now taking applications for CNAs, all shifts. Apply in person at Snyder Oaks Care Center.

POSTAL JOBS $9.04-$14.21
+ Benefits, No Exp. FOR INFO,
1-800-495-5514 Ext: 7262
8a-9p/7Days-avail. varies

SELL AVON
No door to door selling.
$10 to start.
573-1271 Ind. Rep.

Taking applications for LVNs, all shifts. Apply in person at Snyder Oaks Care Center or call 573-9377.

NOW HIRING
Lone Star Industries is now taking applications for two permanent employees at our cement plant in Maryneal, Texas. High school diploma or GED is required. Mechanical skills or mobile equipment experience would be helpful. Starting salary is $12.58/hr. Excellent benefits include Group Medical and Life Insurance, Vacations, Holidays, Retirement, and 401K.
To receive an application, please contact Judy Hill at (915) 288-4221 between 9:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. Monday thru Friday. You may also contact her by email at jhill@lonestarind.com
Applications will be taken until Friday, January 31, 2003.
Lone Star Industries is an Equal Opportunity employer.

CALL FOR RESULTS!
573-5486
CLASSIFIEDS

Plant a classified ad ... reap a cash crop.
Call 573-5486

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

ALWAYS A WINNER

Farmer's Column

HAY FOR SALE
Round Coastal & #2 Alfalfa
Square-Wheat, Sudan, Coastal
Also, 6700 Ford Tractor
w/cab & air, 4950 hrs.
Ross Preston
573-1217 725-9444

Boats

1994 bass boat, well equipped. $3,650 Will trade for pickup or camper trailer. 573-6714 before 1 p.m.

Merchandise

(2) extra cool trick bikes, $100 each. Call 573-3840.

(4) lighted glass cases.
(6) flower bedding tables.
(1) Refrigerated flower box.
735-2581 or 735-3211

Firewood Delivered
Mesquite & split oak.
573-1535, leave message.

FIREWOOD!! Mesquite!
Local cutter. Part seasoned.
24"-22"-20"-18". Some split.
Delivered. **573-1216**

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

Morgan hot tub, used twice. 915-573-9444, ask for Helen.

Moving! Must Sell!!!
Sleeper sectional, 7-pc. dining room set, Dishwasher, Refrigerator. 573-1402

Waterbed for sale, headboard, frame, lining, heater & sheets. $200 Call 573-2553.

YOUR TRASH CAN BE MY TREASURES
I buy/sell estates. Call Jackie,
573-1800 573-3631 721-4430

Newspaper End Rolls
$1.00 & Up
Call 573-5486 or come by Snyder Daily News today!

PALLETS FOR SALE
2 For A $1.00
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Building Materials

FLOOD SALE
Texas factory has 3 never erected steel buildings. 25x30, 30x44, 30x60 1-800-283-5903

SDN Classifieds
A Great Place To Buy, Sell, Trade or Rent!

Garage Sales

CARPORT SALE
2001 Ave. E
Saturday 8:30a.m. – Noon
Boy's & girl's clothes, Misc. items, 1990 van & more!

GARAGE SALE
4704 El Paso
Saturday 9a.m. – ??
No Early Birds
Lots of clothes, CB radios, Exercise equip., Treadmill, Fishing supplies, Toys, Cajun bass boat & lots of misc.

INSIDE GARAGE SALE
3203 Ave. T
Saturday 8a.m. – 3p.m.
New cherry wood baby bed w/Noah's Ark bedding set, Infant furniture, Clothing (newborn to adult), Maternity clothes, 16" Goodyear tires (good condition), Car parts, Infant toys & lots, lots more!

GARAGE SALE
3103 38th Place
(behind Humble Smith)
Saturday 10a.m. – ??
Washer & dryer, Chipper shredder, Welder, Stand-up tool box, Table saw, Round hay stand, Hog barn, Tools & lots more!

Apartments For Rent

2 bedroom apartment available in clean, quiet, 16-unit complex. Locally owned. 573-0340 or 575-4934

Efficiency furnished apartment in Hermleigh area. All bills paid, quiet person, no drinking. 863-2284

Furnished 1 bedroom apartment for rent. Nice & clean. Located in Hermleigh. Call 863-2700.

NEW RATES! $300/mo.
2-bedroom, furnished or unfurnished. All bills & cable paid. No pets. 573-5773.

Western Crest & Windridge Village
3901 Ave. O
Snyder, TX
573-1488
Quality Living At An Affordable Price
1 Bedroom, 1 Bath
Pool
2 Bedrooms, 2 bath
W/D Connections, Pool & Playground

Houses For Rent

2409 28th
2-1, fenced backyard, storage building. No pets. 6 month lease required. 573-4454

Houses For Rent

HOUSE FOR RENT
Available Now
3004 40th St. 3-2 .....$375
Elizabeth Potts Realtors 573-8505
Suzan Pinkerton 573-0004

Mobile Homes

CASH BARGAIN
3B/2B houses. 1811 Huffman, 959 N.Ave.R, 1711 Ave.I
Minimum $2500/dwn, $500/mo.
573-2251 after 8p.m.

Real Estate

Beautiful Brick Home
Newly updated 3 bdrm-2bth, CH/A, fireplace, 2-car garage, large corner lot, new 6 ft. privacy fence. 3014 El Paso 573-5922 or 573-6496

BY OWNER
5603 CEDAR CREEK DR.
3 BEDROOM, 3 BATH, BONUS ROOM. FAMILY FRIENDLY.
573-9780

FOR SALE
2 story, 3 bedroom, 2 bath home located at 703 23rd. As low as $800 down. No closing cost. Call Todd, 1-800-944-1559.

House w/2 lots priced to sell. 111 24th St. 915-523-5897 or 806-894-6891

OWNER WILL FINANCE
3-4 bedroom, 1 bath, w/an apartment in back. Low down, low monthly. 2109 41st. 806-790-0827

SNYDER
160 acres, all cultivation, on pavement. 3-1 3/4-2 brick home, storm cellar, new carpet/paint. Possession on closing. Ready to farm. Call 806-780-6399.

DRASTIC REDUCTION
20 Acres, 4-1 3/4-2
Beautiful pool & yard
Jack & Jack Realtors
Ford & Doris Spikes
573-8571 573-3452

JACK & JACK Realtors
611 Coliseum Dr.
Ford Spikes, Owner/Broker
573-8571 573-3452

Corner 3-1¾-2 + RV shed + shop & other
Gorgeous Home 1986 Sq. Ft. on 12 + Acres
Lrg. Home Nice neighborhood 5-1¾ ..$59.5T
Shop Bldg. + 3 Lots 407 College & 2-1 Merrill
Stock Farm 146 Acres Near Dermott
REDUCED! 2510 Towle Park Rd 3-2-2cp, 1Acre
5 Business Shopping Complex 606 Coliseum
2 Living Areas, 3-1¾-1+2cp....2111 43rd
Nice Storm Cellar 3-2-2cp 314 36th $37.5T
Good Floor Plan 3-1¾-2 4006 Jacksboro $54.9T
1.89 Acres 2-1-2cp South of Hermleigh. $20T
80 acres 5 mi. SE of Hermleigh, 3-2-2 + office + shop & out building.....Call
Stonewall Co. 1,315 acre cattle operation. Water well + 6 earth tanks. Deer, quail, turkey & hogs.....Call
We Will Work For YOU!
We Need Listings
Doris Spikes.....573-6602

Elizabeth Potts Realtors
573-8505
Temi Matthies, Owner/Broker

BEAUTIFUL Large Austin Stone Home..$109.5T
1508 Preston Trail 3-2-2 Very nice! $147.5T
Round Top Acres 6 to 21 acre tracts...Owner Finance
Outskirts of Town 3-2 + 1 acre.....$33T
Comm Bldgs 1801 22nd, 2703 College, 401 37th
Country! Cute Brick 2-1½ w/FP, 13 acres...$38T
4000 Jacksboro 3-1¾-2, Huge kitchen $87.5T
3003 40th 4-2-1 CONTRACT PENDING ..$27.5T
5603 Cedar Creek RV Garage Reduced Call
Rolling Hills Rd. 5 acres, w/well, electricity $12.5T
1505 39th 3-2, CH CONTRACT PENDING ..34T
3211 Cherry 4-2½ CONTRACT PENDING ..7.5T
New Listing 100 acres, 55 acres wheat cult., 45 acres pasture, mobile home ..$40T
513 34th Neat 2-1.....$17T
Edge of Town 3-2-2 CONTRACT PENDING $65T
New Listing! 3402 40th 3-1½ corner lot $48.9T
3766 Ave. V 2-1-1, CH/A.....$14.5T
3100 Ave. U Beautiful! REDUCED!...Call
New Listing 96 acres - all cultivation, water well, pen, net wire.....$40T
New Listing! 4021 Eastridge.....Call
3104 41st 3-1¾-2cp, den & sprinkler syst. $55T
New! 1701 39th 2-1-1cp.....$26.5T
New! Country 5320 FM 1607 3-1¾-2cp, 19 As $65T
List With Us Today!
Listings Are Selling Fast!!!
Dee Kemp.....573-1152
Keith Hackfeld.....573-2873
Annette Waller.....573-9467
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Real Estate

HERITAGE HOMES REALTORS
3405 Snyder Shopping Center Suite B
915-573-5056

S. 208 - Country - 10 acres, 2-2-shop $100's
3606 Kerrville 3-2-2 .....$60's
Gary Brewer Rd. 3-2-cp, 1 acre .....$70's
3403 Irving - Large 4/5 bedroom, 2 LA's, FP $50's
2901 Ave. M - Lots of possibilities! 3-2, 2 story .....$30's
2105 42nd 3-1, fenced ....Low 20's
2212 Towle Park - Great Area - 3-2, 2 living areas, 2 car garage, office ...100's
Colonial Hills 3-2½-2 .....Call
2212 43rd - Nice 3-1 .....$30's
Country 4-3 3 acres .....$60's
2901 38th New 3-1 .....$35T
3112 Ave X - Must see to appreciate! 3-2-2 lovely yard .....Call
1508 Preston Trail Beautiful 3-2-2 private patio 2 living areas .....$100's
2508 27th - Rental 3-1 .....$20's
4009 Irving 3-2-2, shop/boat parking ...$80's
3000 38th - 2-1-1 .....$20's
2212 42nd Cute 3-1, fenced .....$30's
Reduced 3207 40th 3-1-1, covered RV space $28.5T
2304 43rd Pl. Cul-de-sac, 3-2-2 Lots of potential $50's
3010 Ave. W - Old Contract Pending ...$25T
5603 Cedar Creek Dr. - Dream Home! .....Call
2509 48th - Entertain- 3-2½-2 & RV space $110T
1 acre tracts to build your custom home ..Call
Own your own home with zero to minimum down.....Call Us
E-Mail us at heritagehomes@snydertex.com

Joan Tate 573-8773
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STEVENSON REAL ESTATE
2405 25th Street
573-5612 or 573-1755
Bill Dryden Broker/Owner

2409 36th 3-3-3, sprinkler syst. Red. $155T
2800 34th 3-3-2 LA's, pool.....Red. $149.9T
211 37th 3-2-2.....$88T
4000 Jacksboro 3-2-2.....$87.5T
4105 Jacksboro 3-2-2.....$85T
2501 32nd SOLD ving areas $84.5T
2950 Gary Brewer Rd. 3-2½-1 + shop $79.5T
3004 Beaumont 3-2 liv. areas-2-2 $79.5T
3309 Ave. U 3-2-2.....$79.5T
3600 41st 3-2-2.....$78.5T
2200 30th 3-2½-2 w/2 LA's.....$75T
4505 Denison 3-1 3/4-1.....$68T
2204 45th 3-2-2 LA's.....Reduced $65T
7233 W. Hwy 180 3-2-3, 2.5 A's Red..$55T
2209 30th 3-2-1 + 1cp....Reduced $49.5T
2108 41st 4-2 living areas-1.....$45T
2203 43rd 3-2-1.....$45T
2315 42nd 4-2.....$43.5T
3742 Avondale 3-2-1.....$37T
2609 Ave. U Duplex.....$35T
2507 College 3-1-1cp.....$34T
207 36th 3-2-1cp.....$32.5T
West 180 3-1-2.....$31.5T
W. Hwy 180 3-2, 1 acre.....$30T
2307 28th 2-1 + shop.....$25T
2105 42nd 3-1.....$23T
501 35th 2-1.....$22.5T
Beautiful country home w/small acreage Call
McBeth Pecan Farm - House, 15+ acres, some equipment included.....Reduced
E. 180 Lots avail. w/mobile hook-ups Call
College Ave. Large office bldg.....$48T
Car Lot w/comm. bldg 709 Hwy 180.....$40T
1402 College Commercial lot.....$8T
600 37th Large Commercial Bldg....Call
3607 College - Lg. Comm. Bldg. ....Call
Comm. buildings downtown .....Call
Land, Farms, Acreage listed.

Kayla Moreland 573-4809
Lora Lord.....573-1700
Wenona Evans 573-8165
Bill Dryden 573-9739
Broker Owner
Visit Our Web Site At
snydertex.com/stevensonrealestate/index.htm

ARE YOU PUTTING ME ON?

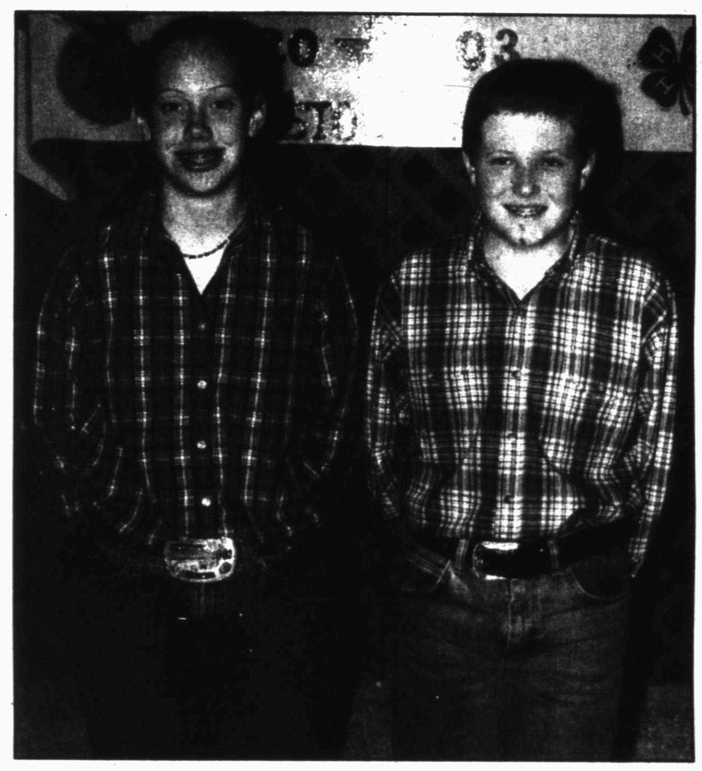


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A MESSAGE FROM THIS NEWSPAPER AND THE DPS TROOPERS

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RESERVE GRAND — Jacinda Judah's heavyweight hampshire was good enough for reserve grand champion honors at the Scurry County Junior Livestock Show underway at Scurry County Coliseum. Judah, a senior at Snyder High and a member of Snyder FFA, is shown with her entry. (SDN Staff Photo)



SHOWMANSHIP HONORS — Lacie Thompson, left, and Rance Dunn, both Ira students, took home the senior and junior showmanship awards Thursday at the Scurry County Junior Livestock Show underway at Scurry County Coliseum. Both exhibitors are members of Ira FFA. (SDN Staff Photo)

See Stock Show story and pictures on Page 1

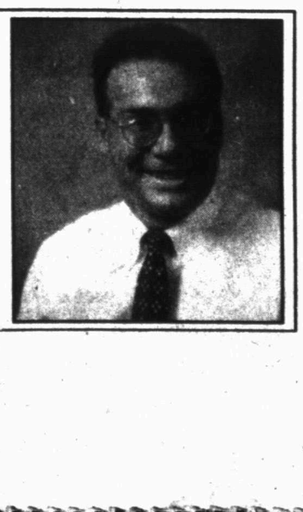
Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	6.07	5.80	5.80	—.30
AOL TimeWrn	15.17	14.85	14.90	—.40
AT&T Corp rs	26.59	26.31	26.33	—.14
Albertsons	22.84	22.60	22.63	—.26
Alltel	51.65	51.10	51.11	—.54
AmEl Pw	27.08	26.75	26.82	—.29
AndarkPtr	46.76	46.20	46.25	—.50
ATMOS Egy	22.80	22.39	22.39	—.28
Aviall	7.99	7.74	7.78	—.21
BP PLC	39.50	39.27	39.35	—.10
BakerHughes	31.27	30.89	31.01	—.34
Bank of Amer	71.28	70.36	70.76	—.24
BellSouth	25.93	25.30	25.47	—.48
BurlNoSFe	26.87	26.63	26.75	+.05
Caterpillar	47.47	46.86	47.00	—.26
CenterPoint	8.23	8.05	8.05	—.25
ChevronTex	68.80	68.19	68.20	—.12
Citigroup	37.23	36.69	36.79	—.32
CocaCola	46.01	45.45	45.60	—.07
ColgatePal	54.62	53.60	53.60	—.40
CmclMetals s	15.89	15.70	15.70	—.16
ConocoPhill	48.55	48.16	48.39	+.14
Cooper Inds	36.80	36.22	36.27	—.73
DaimlrChry	30.92	30.50	30.51	—.52
DeltaAirl	12.70	12.40	12.52	—.23
Dillards Inc	16.90	16.60	16.74	—.21
DowChem	31.23	30.90	30.98	—.17
DuPont	42.54	41.94	42.19	—.19
EastmanChem	37.40	37.00	37.07	—.13
EstKodak	39.36	38.33	39.00	+.19
EDS Corp	19.78	19.22	19.25	—.74
Entergy	48.08	47.43	47.53	—.64
ExxonMobil	35.09	34.73	34.83	—.26
FootLocker	10.80	10.66	10.70	—.05
GenDynam	77.60	75.67	75.76	—1.32
GenElec	24.99	24.25	24.67	—.36
GenMills	48.06	47.50	47.54	—.30
GenMotors	40.02	39.25	39.88	+.15
GaPacific	16.72	16.49	16.50	—.28
Goodrich	19.04	18.85	18.89	—.21
Goodyear	6.92	6.80	6.88	+.02
GtAtlPac	6.00	5.95	5.95	—.12
Halliburtn	19.20	18.96	19.01	—.18
Hanson ADS	23.64	23.37	23.37	+.48
HarteHanks s	19.02	18.65	18.73	—.31
HomeDepot	22.70	21.12	22.29	+.12
HoneywellIntl	25.10	24.10	24.99	—.16
IBM	83.85	82.15	82.18	—3.87
IntlPaper	38.33	38.00	38.06	—.34
JohnsonJn	55.15	54.53	54.90	+.22
KinderMorg	44.99	44.50	44.69	—.17
Kroger Co	16.55	16.20	16.31	—.04
LockheedM	53.82	53.00	53.15	—.60
Lowes Cos	37.81	36.92	36.94	—.88
Lubys	2.88	2.80	2.88	+.05
LucentTech	1.65	1.52	1.53	—.16
MarathonOil	22.05	21.77	21.82	—.03
MayDeptStr	23.47	23.07	23.16	—.41
Medtronic	47.13	46.65	47.04	—.09
Motorola	9.00	8.85	8.88	—.25
NCR Corp	20.30	19.30	19.60	—.13
Navistar	26.54	25.65	26.32	+.48
PNM Rescs	22.55	22.10	22.17	—.53
Penney JC	22.40	21.87	21.87	—.58
PepBoys	11.60	11.45	11.47	—.13
PepsiCo	43.97	43.50	43.70	—.03
Pharmacia	41.25	40.30	40.87	—.03
PhelpDodge	35.60	35.25	35.50	—.20
PilgrmPrd B	8.40	8.12	8.14	—.31
Praxair	57.80	57.35	57.36	—.47
ProctGamb	87.24	86.51	86.52	—.35
RadioShack	22.65	22.16	22.19	—.16
RoyalDut	44.28	44.00	44.08	—.33
SBC Comm	28.06	27.30	27.39	—.46
SaraLee	22.47	22.22	22.25	—.11
Scripps EW	82.95	82.45	82.84	—.03
SearsRoeb	28.95	28.14	28.35	—.18
SherwinW	28.75	28.41	28.41	—.31
SouthernCo	28.73	28.35	28.54	—.22
SwstAirl	13.82	13.60	13.63	—.20
SprintFON	15.40	15.00	15.35	—.14
SprintPCS	4.81	4.67	4.71	—.26
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TXU Corp	20.08	19.81	20.05	+.12
TempleInland	49.50	47.78	47.78	—.43
TexInd	24.58	24.36	24.37	—.23
Texasinst	14.83	14.30	14.50	—.57
Textron	43.73	43.43	43.48	—.37
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TylerTech	4.00	3.90	3.91	—.02
UnionPacif	60.22	59.75	59.75	—.15
USSteel	17.73	17.00	17.47	+.21
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Snyder Devotional Page

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1 Corinthians 12:8

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Job 5:2

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Report: State teachers' pension fund hit hard

HOUSTON (AP) — The state teachers' pension fund, which an auditor's report says lost $16.2 billion in the value of its stock portfolio over the past two years, faces a potential freeze on cost-of-living increases for retirees the rest of this decade, according to a published report.

The report by state Auditor Lawrence Alwin, obtained Thursday by the Houston Chronicle, also shows that the retired teachers health plan will be insolvent by Aug. 31, 2005, if state lawmakers do not pump an additional $720 million into the Teacher Retirement System of Texas during the next biennium.

The shortage, according to the report, could result in benefit cuts or premium increases for retired teachers.

"We could be looking at a double whammy with (retirement) benefits ... going flatline while they have to increase what they pay in premiums for health care benefits," Richard Kouri of the Texas State Teachers Association told the newspaper in today's editions. "That's tough for people on a fixed income."

Funds needed for the retired teacher health care system is not included in the $9.9 billion state budget shortfall predicted Monday by Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn. If lawmakers try to fix the system, the TRS situation could drive the state shortfall up by as much as another $1.2 billion.

The system is paying out more in benefits than it is taking in as contributions. Alwin said financial problems could force a freeze in retired teachers' benefits if contributions are not increased from the state and active educators.

He said the $71.7 billion TRS is actuarially sound now. But lawmakers in 1995 decreased the state contribution to 6 percent of the active teacher payroll — the lowest amount allowed under the Texas Constitution.

The auditor told the Chronicle that benefit payments in 2002 exceeded contributions by $1.6 billion.

Last year, he said, sharp declines in the stock market pushed the TRS market value from $79.4 billion to $71.6 billion. In that year, the TRS reported it had lost $93 million in WorldCom stock and another $30 million with the collapse of Houston-based Enron Corp.

Investment losses totaled $16.2 billion over the past two years.

"While it has not yet categorized the plan as unsound, the system's actuary anticipates that unless the plan's contribution rate and/or investment returns increase, it might not be possible to provide benefit increases within most of the current decade," said Alwin.

The TRS has a million members, both active employees and retirees, with 201,000 receiving retirement benefits and 148,000 covered by the health care plan.

Although the investment decline offset many gains from earlier in the 1990s, TRS Communications Director Howard Goldman noted that the plan's value has grown by $34 billion over the past 10 years.

But even holding the line on benefits for retirees would effectively be a cut because of inflation, said Brock Gregg, with the Association of Texas Professional Educators. He said it took a decade of legislative benefit increases to raise some retired teachers out of poverty.

"They're on a fixed income and have just gotten caught up," said Gregg.

Loss of 500 Kmart jobs big blow to Corsicana

CORSICANA (AP) — Shutting down the Kmart Superstore and regional distribution in this North Texas town will wipe out more than 500 jobs — a blow that one Corsicana official said will cause more economic damage than if a tornado were to hit.

"K-Mart employs about 8 percent of our (county's) total work force," Chamber of Commerce Director Daryl Schliem said. "That's what you'd consider a catastrophe."

The closings will mean 508 job losses: 130 at the supercenter and 378 at the distribution center. The Corsicana store is among 54 in Texas to shut down as the company works to emerge from bankruptcy.

Schliem said many families will be financially devastated by the impending layoffs, and local government will lose millions of dollars in property and sales tax revenue.

Corsicana, with a population of about 25,000, is in Navarro County about 50 miles south of Dallas.

Schliem said he asked Rep. Byron Cook, R-Corsicana, to push for state assistance for the displaced workers. He wants the state to pay for new training, expanded unemployment benefits and help for government entities that are owed property tax money from Kmart.

Kmart owes the city about $748,000 in taxes from 2001 and 2002. The city already planned to reduce spending because of that and a general decline in sales tax revenue.

Some employees have worked for decades at the distribution center, which opened in 1980 and will close in about 60 days. The 108,000-square-foot store opened nine years ago and is expected to close within three months.

Store employees said they were told not to speak with reporters, who were not allowed access to the distribution center. Kmart Corp., hoping to get out of bankruptcy by the end of April, announced on Tuesday it would close 326 stores and eliminate 37,000 jobs.

Mayor April Sikes said Kmart chairman and CEO Jim Adamson told her the Dallas and Houston stores were the worst-performing in Texas, and it didn't make any business sense to keep the Corsicana distribution center open. Kmart announced it will close about 70 percent of the approximately 100 stores served by the Corsicana distribution center.

The distribution center was the fifth largest employer in Corsicana last year, with a payroll of about $12 million, and the top property tax payer, assessed nearly $2 million a year for city, county and school coffers.

Kmart officials would not give annual sales or payroll figures for the Corsicana store.

But Schliem said the store had steady sales, even while competing with a Wal-Mart store across the street.

"We already were considered a low-income county," Schliem said. "This was a break-even year before this happened."

Wal-Mart is building a superstore next to Kmart that is to open this fall. Wal-Mart spokeswoman Daphne Moore said the company would transfer workers from its existing store and hire about 100 more employees, considering those who worked at Kmart.

Schliem said he is negotiating with two other distribution centers that could locate in Corsicana, providing 1,100 jobs. But those warehouses likely would not open for at least 18 months.

Other top employers in Corsicana include the Russell Stovers candy plant, the Corsicana Independent School District, Collin Street Bakery and Navarro College.

Harry and Betty Moore of Athens said they probably won't return to Corsicana after the closing. Athens is about 37 miles northeast of Corsicana.

"We come here for Kmart and then eat somewhere and shop at several other stores," said Betty Moore.

Margaret Barnes said she'll probably do most of her shopping at the nearest competitor.

"Everybody is upset about the closing," she said. "But I'll just go to Wal-Mart."

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Saturday, Jan. 18, 2003

Fortunately for you in the year ahead there could be some positive changes in the wind concerning your career or financial conditions. When it sweeps you up, go with the flow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — If there isn't any harmony of purpose in an arrangement you have with another today, it will never get off the starting block. Make a concerted effort to pull together so things won't fall apart.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — When on the job today, don't get caught up in playing that old buck-passing game. Do your job well and set the example for everybody. Otherwise, that buck might stop with you.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — If the odds aren't with you today, don't take a chance on something over which you know you'll have no control. Your chances of getting what you want will be nil.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Don't attempt to push something through today that isn't ready to go into action. Prematurely introducing it is asking for failure. Be patient and wait until it is completed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Only sincerity will be effective today. Attempting to sugarcoat things or disguise the truth will be discerned. Instead of having others believing in you, you will lose all credibility.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You had better check out that wallet you're carrying today to make certain it isn't a sieve. There's a possibility you could let your money slip through your fingers like water.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — What will determine success or failure for you today will be the motivation behind your actions. It you attempt to do something purely out of spite, you can expect the results to be dire.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Try not to make life tough on yourself by being negative about everything. Instead of letting the sun shine through, your attitude will cloud up the good.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — It may not be easy to do today, but if you've made any pledges or commitments, you must honor them. Not to do so would severely damage your reputation with one who is important to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Be extremely careful about the methods you use in pursuing your ambitious objectives today. If you handle things properly, you'll earn supporters. Handle them improperly, you'll make enemies

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Concentrate on your positive attributes today and not on your shortcomings. Self-esteem will be important in getting others to believe in your ideas and thinking, and to take you seriously.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Be open and up front in all your business dealings today. If you hold back important information or data from those with whom you're negotiating, the deal won't withstand the test of time.

Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Treatment of uninary incontinence

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm a widow, age 83, with an embarrassing problem: I wet myself frequently and unexpectedly. My doctor doesn't know how to proceed, but I desperately need help. How can I attack this problem?

DEAR READER: As women age, they may experience urinary incontinence because of unpredictable bladder spasm, coupled with a weakness of the sphincter (muscle-ring) that ordinarily permits voluntary control of urination. The reasons for this phenomenon are varied and include a weak pelvic floor from childbirth, an estrogen deficiency or a low-grade urinary tract infection.

To keep matters simple, I suggest the following. Ask your physician to order a urine culture. This will indicate if an infection is present and, if so, the test will also identify the precise cause and which antibiotics would be the most effective therapy. Your doctor can then easily treat the infection and, I hope, reduce the frequency of incontinence.

If your urine is sterile (as it should be), the practitioner may then choose to prescribe a bladder anti-spasmodic medication, such as Detrol.

Should these steps be ineffective, I'd recommend a consultation with a urologist — or a nurse incontinence specialist — who can assess the mechanics of your bladder outlet and, perhaps, prescribe strengthening exercises, a gynecologic evaluation, estrogen cream or an estrogen ring.

Most women should not have to put up with frequent incontinence. Help is available. Even if no physical or infectious cause can be identified, the use of adult diapers, such as Depends and others, may at least make the malady bearable.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Bladder/Urinary Infections." 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: If, as you stated, mitral valve prolapse is a benign condition, how do you explain my daughter's sudden death from it?

When, in pre-school, she was diagnosed with a murmur, the doctors did nothing about it. Thirty years later — perhaps because of my ignorance and blind trust in the medical profession — she suddenly died. I wonder how many other people will die of a "benign" valvular disorder.

DEAR READER: I can well understand your anger and frustration following the tragic and unexpected death of your daughter. Nonetheless, in the majority of cases, MVP does not adversely affect health — with one exception. As I have repeatedly written before, some patients with the disorder experience episodes of rapid heart rate that can be dangerous. In your synopsis of your daughter's problem, you don't mention whether or not she suffered limited bouts of tachycardia (rapid pulse). If she and her doctors knew about it, preventive medication would have probably been prescribed; if she and doctors weren't aware of this serious complication, they wouldn't have been able to prevent a catastrophe.

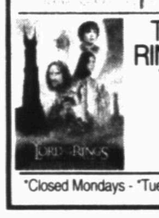
To bring closure to your grief and remove the unnecessary burden of responsibility, I urge you to meet with your family physician, the doctor who was probably most familiar with her cardiac condition, to sort out the issues that trouble you. I believe that more information about MVP would go a long way in resolving your concerns.

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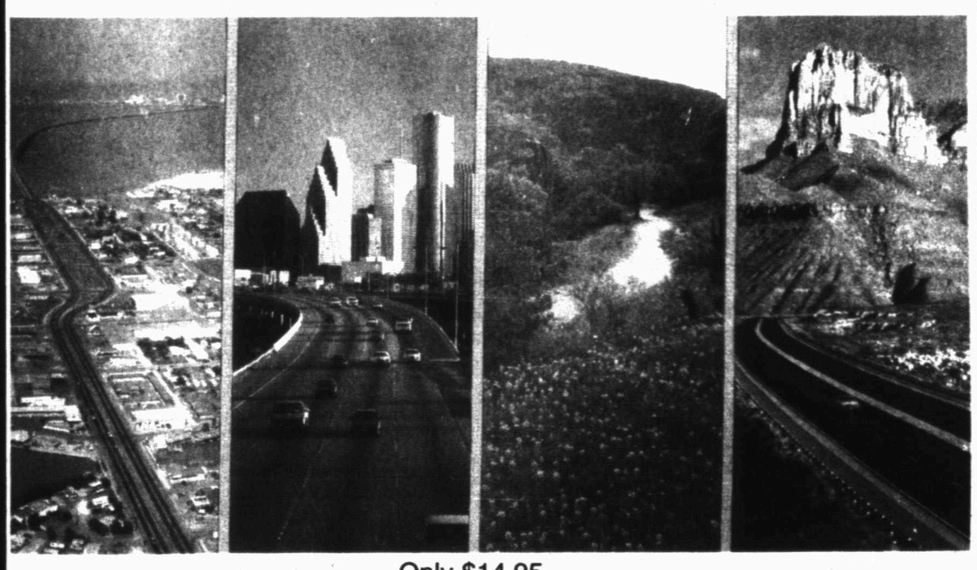
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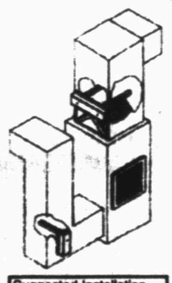
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JAN 17 2003

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Weekend of protests planned across U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fearing war could start in weeks, protesters are massing in Washington and cities around the country to press for a peaceful way out of the crisis with Iraq and an end to America's own weapons of mass destruction.

The weekend demonstrations coincide with America's military buildup in the Persian Gulf region and a time of remembrance for the nonviolent struggle embodied by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Even as U.S. military personnel ship out, protesters are packing Washington-bound buses and organizing local marches and vigils from Tampa, Fla., to San Francisco.

"We are attacking a poor country that has enough problems," said Al Svitesic, a retired pile driver and World War II veteran who will be rallying in Pittsburgh next week. "It is unjust."

The largest crowds are expected in the nation's capital, where President Bush and many in Congress are united on the move toward war and protest leaders hope they can draw tens of thousands, at least, to march in dissent.

Police said today they will be ready for trouble but don't expect much. They've been in close touch with demonstrators.

"They say it's going to be peaceful and our hopes and goals are not to make arrests," said Sgt. Joe Gentile, speaking for the force. "We've met with the organizers. They don't plan any civil disobedience."

Nonviolent civil disobedience was pledged by other demonstrators in a smaller rally planned Sunday outside the White House. Gentile said a "few arrests" were likely in that event.

President Bush is going to the Camp David retreat in Maryland for the weekend.

The organization International Answer planned the national rally Saturday in Washington and one in San Francisco, exhorting war opponents everywhere to "stop the Bush administration from threatening and killing the people of the world who are not our enemy."

Crime lab analysis may help in case of two missing women

CENTERVILLE (AP) — Investigators hope crime lab analysis of blood and hair in a truck-trailer will provide key clues in the disappearance of a woman and her teenage daughter.

Gay Wise Clinton, 42, and Samantha Rene Clinton, 14, were last reported seen on Dec. 20.

"Until we can make a final determination based on the evidence we have, we cannot say exactly what has happened to Samantha and her mother, Gay," Leon County Sheriff Mike Price said after the trailer was discovered last week. "But we are almost certain that they have met with foul play, and the trailer is our best lead. It holds a large amount of evidence."

Gay Clinton's estranged husband, Doug Clinton, 50, committed suicide on Jan. 9 in Grand Prairie.

He had not been listed as a suspect but had been questioned about their disappearance.

Grand Prairie police Detective John Brimmer said that Doug Clinton called police from a motel and said he was about to kill himself. He gave permission for the use of his organs or body parts.

Brimmer said police arrived at the motel four minutes later and, after getting the manager and a pass key, found Clinton dead from a gunshot wound to the head.

"I think while in this motel room, he called his daughter and said he had done a terrible thing," Brimmer said.

Leon County sheriff's deputies said a truck-trailer that was being used to store furniture, boxes and various household items was on Clinton's property in Centerville when investigators there early on the morning of Jan. 2, but was gone when they returned the next day.

Later on the day of his suicide, the trailer was discovered three counties away in the town of Oakhurst, about 80 miles southeast of Centerville, officials said.

Inside the truck-trailer was a large quantity of blood, officials said. A man who law enforcement officers said was apparently unaware of what was inside told investigators that Clinton had hired him to move it to Oakhurst.

Gay Clinton's Toyota pickup was found at the Grand Prairie motel where Doug Clinton killed himself, officials said. A significant amount of evidence, including blood, was found in the vehicle, authorities said.

Sherald Wood, editor-publisher of the Buffalo Press, a weekly newspaper in Leon County, reported that Doug Clinton was reported to have been seen in the pickup Dec. 21.

Gay Clinton and her daughter lived about 15 miles northeast of Centerville.

Senate considers Ridge to head new Homeland Security Dept.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's choice to lead the Homeland Security Department told senators that the new agency in charge of improving defenses against terror will face a "hate-filled, remorseless enemy."

"We are only at the beginning of what will be a long struggle to protect our nation from terrorism," Tom Ridge said in prepared remarks to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee today, as he neared Senate confirmation.

Ridge said terrorism threatens "the foundations of our nation."

"We face a hate-filled, remorseless enemy that takes many forms, has many places to hide and is often invisible," said Ridge, nominated to lead a department that represents the largest federal reorganization since the Defense Department was set up in 1947.

"I know you appreciate the enormity of the task ahead of you," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman, top Democrat on the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, who joined other senators in stressing that Ridge will be responsible for assuring that his new department will have the resources and the proper direction to reduce the terrorist threat.

Lieberman, D-Conn., said that since Sept. 11 the administration's response to the threat of terrorism has been "too weak, its vision has been too blurry and its willingness to confront the status quo, including with resources, has been too limited."

Senate rejecting Demo effort to add police funds to spending bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate killed a Democratic plan to add $500 million for local police to a mammoth $390 billion spending package today as Republicans banded together behind President Bush in a drive to keep the bill's costs from ballooning.

The 52-46 vote demonstrated anew the GOP's ability to hold its slim majority against Democrats trying to increase spending for a range of programs. Bush wants to limit the bill's price tag as the country battles terrorists, an economic slump and revived federal deficits.

Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., said Republicans had "cockamamie" priorities and were shortchanging the FBI and other law enforcement programs.

"I think you guys have got it backwards," he said.

Republicans said the bill already has plenty of money for police. And Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, chief author of the bill, said that though the Senate measure has nothing for the Byrne grants program for local police agencies, he would restore funds when the House and Senate write a compromise package in coming weeks.

"I guarantee you it will survive," he said.

All 50 Republicans present were joined by Sens. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., and Zell Miller, D-Ga., in the vote.

Afterward, Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., abandoned his amendment seeking to add $150 million for equipment for detecting nuclear weapons that might be smuggled into ports. The Senate instead accepted a compromise by voice vote that would use some of the $24.7 billion already in the bill for domestic security for the initiative.

Democrats also were ready to seek added drought aid to the $3.1 billion the measure has for farmers. And they planned to try erasing across-the-board cuts of 2.9 percent that Republicans made in the bill to make room for extra spending for farmers, education, and overhauling local election systems.

Ethics cloud now hangs over nuclear lab in Los Alamos

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP) — The laboratory that built the atomic bomb and is entrusted with some of America's most sensitive defense secrets has lost track of millions in equipment and credit-card expenses in a scandal that has claimed five top managers, including the director.

Los Alamos National Laboratory is under investigation by the FBI and at least three congressional committees, which are looking into allegations of theft, fraud and management cover-up. The allegations surfaced after two internal investigators were fired last year.

Los Alamos' new interim director, Pete Nanos, on Wednesday told University of California officials who oversee the lab that he will have to "drain the swamp" at Los Alamos, and start with a wall-to-wall inventory.

"We are not a bunch of crooks — the problem is, I can't prove it," he told lab employees on his first day on the job last week.

The scandal is the latest embarrassment for the elite research lab in the past several years. In 1999, Wen Ho Lee was accused of mishandling nuclear weapons codes, but the government's case fell apart and ended with a plea bargain that freed the Taiwanese-born scientist. The next year, two computer hard drives with top-secret nuclear-related material disappeared, only to turn up mysteriously behind a copy machine.

Now Los Alamos is under scrutiny from the Energy Department and other agencies looking into allegations it lost $2.7 million in computers and other equipment. In addition, a lab-commissioned audit found nearly $4.9 million in questionable credit card transactions over four years.

Separately, the FBI is investigating two workers suspected of using $50,000 in purchase orders to buy fishing and camping gear and other items for themselves. Four other employees allegedly used lab purchase cards — sort of like credit cards — for such things as cash advances at casinos and jewelry. One even tried to charge a customized Ford Mustang.

The scandal cost Director John Browne his job last month. He and four other managers have either resigned or been reassigned. The University of California, which runs the lab for the Energy Department, has assumed oversight of the lab's audit office and other business operations.

Woman's probation to be modified

• ***Arrest***

Sheriff Darren Jackson took a 26-year-old woman into custody in 132nd District Court at 10:43 a.m. Thursday for modification of her probation.

At 8:50 p.m. Thursday, officers arrested a 23-year-old man in the 800 block of 37th Street for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

• ***Theft***

A Wal-Mart employee reported the theft of property from the store at 9:15 a.m. Thursday and an offense report for Class B theft was submitted.

Sherry Bidwell reported the theft of her cellular phone Thursday afternoon and requested a criminal trespass warning be issued to a 32-year-old man.

• ***Forgery***

A woman reported the theft and forgery of her checks Thursday afternoon and officers advised a report for forgery would be filed.

• ***Criminal mischief***

A man requested officers at Wal-Mart at 4 p.m. Thursday and reported someone hitting his car with paintballs while he was at work. He advised he did not own the car and he would have the owner call police if he wished to file a report.

• ***Close patrols***

A report of damage to an electric panel and tanks that belong to Anadarko near Ira was filed Thursday.

A man requested a close patrol of the 1900 block of 29th Street at 5:15 p.m. Thursday after seeing juveniles go onto his neighbor's property while she is was away.

At 8 p.m., a man requested a close patrol of Winston Field after seeing an unfamiliar yellow pickup driving slowly around the hangar section.

• ***Gas drive off***

A clerk at Town and Country East reported a gas drive off in the amount of $23 at 7:42 p.m. Thursday.

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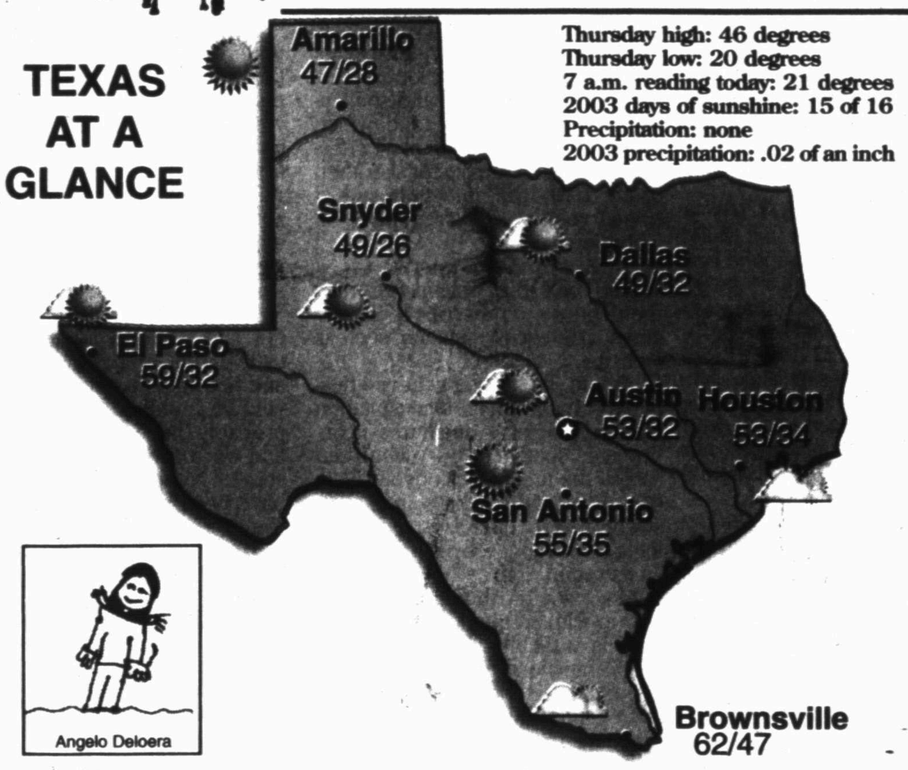
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Sat 1/18	Sun 1/19	Mon 1/20
49/26	59/40	64/31
Sunny skies. High 49F. Winds NNW at 5 to 10 mph.	Plenty of sun. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 40s.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise 7:45 AM Sunset 6:03 PM	Sunrise 7:45 AM Sunset 6:04 PM	Sunrise 7:45 AM Sunset 6:05 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Thursday high: 46 degrees
Thursday low: 20 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 21 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 15 of 16
Precipitation: none
2003 precipitation: .02 of an inch

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	50	31	sunny	El Paso	59	32	mst sunny	Midland	52	32	sunny
Amarillo	47	28	sunny	Fort Stockton	55	33	sunny	Raymondville	59	41	pt sunny
Austin	53	32	mst sunny	Gainesville	46	22	mst sunny	Rosenberg	53	33	pt sunny
Beaumont	52	32	pt sunny	Greenville	46	23	mst sunny	San Antonio	55	35	sunny
Brownsville	62	47	pt sunny	Houston	53	34	pt sunny	San Marcos	54	33	sunny
Brownwood	52	29	sunny	Kingsville	58	40	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	45	24	windy
Corpus Christi	56	40	pt sunny	Livingston	52	28	pt sunny	Sweetwater	51	28	mst sunny
Corsicana	50	30	sunny	Longview	45	25	pt sunny	Tyler	50	32	mst sunny
Dallas	49	32	mst sunny	Lubbock	51	27	sunny	Weatherford	48	25	mst sunny
Del Rio	57	39	mst sunny	Lufkin	52	31	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	49	29	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	34	22	mst sunny	Houston	53	34	pt sunny	Phoenix	74	50	mst sunny
Boston	23	17	mst sunny	Los Angeles	73	53	mst sunny	San Francisco	61	48	pt sunny
Chicago	21	11	sn shower	Miami	65	44	mst sunny	Seattle	52	39	pt sunny
Dallas	49	32	mst sunny	Minneapolis	16	5	sn shower	St. Louis	28	15	flurries
Denver	47	27	mst sunny	New York	24	16	mst sunny	Washington, DC	28	18	pt sunny

Moon Phases

First	Full	Last	New
Jan 10	Jan 18	Jan 25	Feb 1

UV Index

Sat 1/18	Sun 1/19	Mon 1/20
Low	Low	Low

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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