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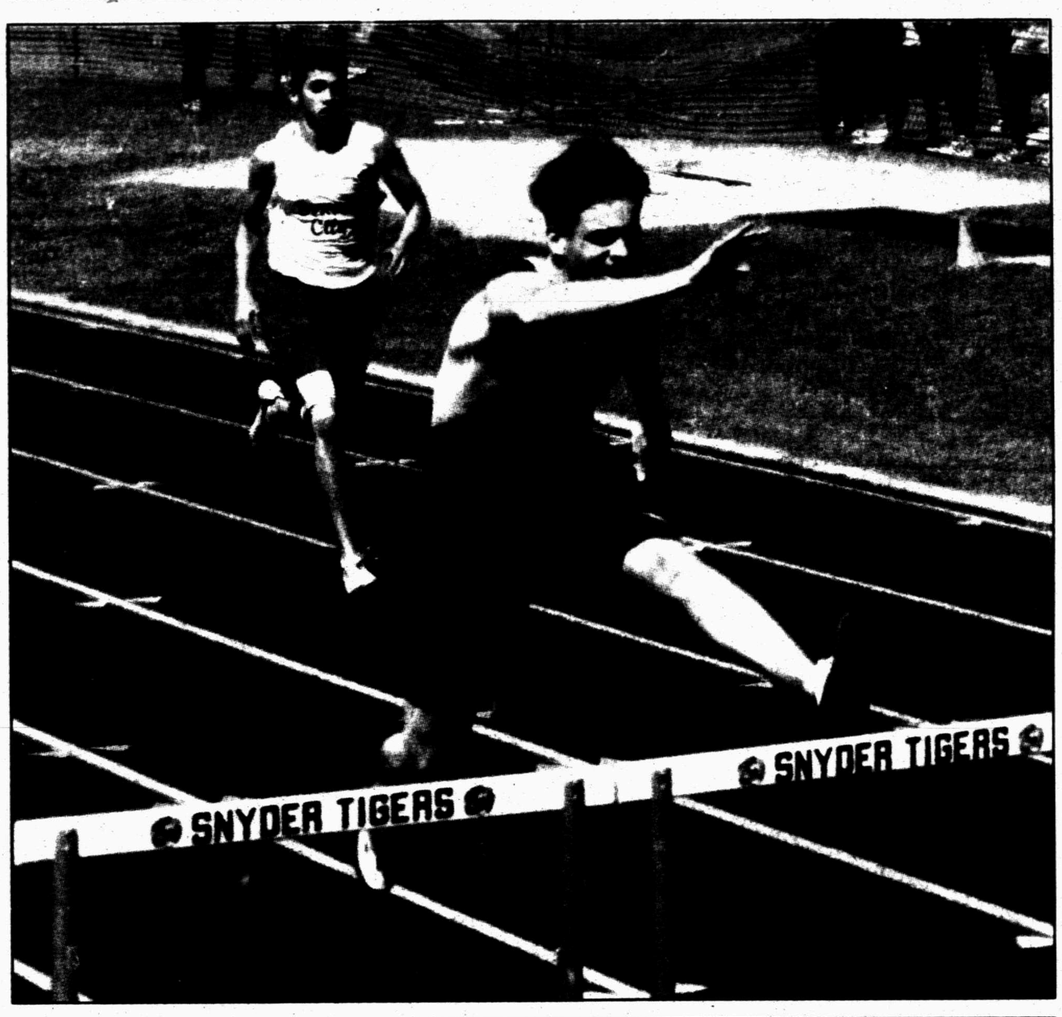
WT-Int. Crude - $36.72
WTIC Posted - $33.50
Natural Gas - $5.74

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY

April 15, 2004
Vol. 55 No. 301
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Tonja Ashworth





QUALIFY FOR FINALS — Snyder thinclad Garrent Pinson qualified for Saturday's district finals in the 300 meter intermediate hurdles. At right, Tiger Malcome Wells won a preliminary heat in the 200 meter with the best time of the day. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

Iraqis execute Italian hostage

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi militants executed an Italian hostage, officials confirmed, in the first known killing among nearly two dozen foreigners being held in Iraq.

The militants who killed the Italian hostage demanded the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq and threatened to kill three other hostages, the Arab TV network Al-Jazeera reported.

The killing could further heighten fears among international aid workers, contractors and journalists, some of whom are already restricting their activities in the country.

Al-Jazeera said it had video of the killing but did not broadcast it because it is too graphic. Al-Jazeera did show footage of the four Italian security guards sitting on the ground, holding up their passports and surrounded by armed men.

The Italian ambassador to Qatar, where the network is based, watched the video and confirmed the man killed was Fabrizio Quattrocchi, who had been kidnapped, Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said.

Frattini said the government would do "what is possible and impossible" to free the remaining three.

Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi has ruled out any withdrawal of troops. "They have cut short a life. They have not damaged our values and our commitment to peace," he said.

Earlier Wednesday, a French television journalist was freed unharmed at a mosque in Baghdad, saying he suffered constant movement and threats to his life during a four-day hostage ordeal.

Alexandre Jordanov, who works for Capa Television in Paris, was kidnapped Sunday while videotaping a U.S. military convoy under attack. He was traveling with cameraman Ivan Ceriex, who was released the next day.

Jordanov, 40, said his abductors switched his location eight times, passing him from one armed group to another.

"It was: 'We're going to cut your throat' to 'You're part of the Mossad,'" Jordanov said, referring to the Israeli secret service.

Herve Chabalier, president of Capa, told LCI television that negotiations with Sunni religious authorities led to Jordanov's release.

A U.S. spokesman said Tuesday that 40 foreigners from 12 countries are being held by kidnappers — but an Associated Press count put the number at 22, with Wednesday's release of the French journalist and the apparent abduction of two Japanese freelance journalists in a Baghdad suburb.

The Japan Visual Journalist Association received an e-mail from unidentified "Iraqi sources" who arranged a car for the two Japanese to the site of an emergency landing of a U.S. military helicopter on Wednesday. The freelance journalist and an aid worker were grabbed by gunmen, the e-mail said.

Japan said it was investigating the report. Three other Japanese are among the foreigners abducted and still being held.

"The reports are unconfirmed, but it appears two more people had been kidnapped," Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi told a parliament committee.

Two indicted by grand jury are arrested

Two persons indicted by the Scurry County grand jury earlier this month have been taken into custody.

Ruth Ann Kerry, 39, of 1622 Voss Lane was arrested at 2:05 p.m. at her residence Wednesday by Sheriff Darren Jackson.

She is charged with credit card abuse by using the Visa card of Troy D. Botts in November 2003 without Botts' permission. The offense is a state jail felony. Kerry is out of jail on a $5,000 bond.

James Leroy Raney, 45, of 1902 Coleman was arrested April 6 following his indictment for manufacturing a controlled substance, a first degree felony.

Raney, who is out of jail on a $15,000 bond, was indicted for the Jan. 28 offense of manufacturing methamphetamine in the amount of four gram or more, but less than 200 grams.

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN

by Jeff West



As a newcomer, one of the first things I noticed was some of the signs around Snyder, and some of the signs that aren't here.

One of the first signs was one of the churches welcoming me to town. Now these signs are pretty common in the area. Some towns have competing signs. Kind of a 'we're more pleased your in town than that other church,' kind of sign.

One town I went through solved the plethora of welcome signs by getting one sign and putting all the churches that were glad to see me on at the bottom. I don't know for sure if they were the only churches in town or not.

The sign might have served as a warning, if you're not a member of one of these denominations, just keep driving, or it may be that some churches just don't believe in welcoming people to town. I've notice that, in general, around the state, Methodists and the Church of Christ are the most welcoming, but I hope that this is not a difference in religious doctrine.

But I digress.

The sign I noticed in Snyder had obviously been painted and put up with great pride, but that has obviously been some time ago. I'm hoping the church that put it up is not as dilapidated and neglected as their sign. Maybe the current members aren't all that thrilled about newcomers, but that's probably not the case.

There seem to be a number of abandoned signs in the city, many announcing a business. Many are painted on the building or awnings or such and others are on poles near the street. Tell someone that what they are looking for is next to the abandoned grocery store and they could end up in nearly any part of town. Some buildings host thriving businesses but not the ones listed on the sign out front.

I've also found a reason not to name a business after yourself. If the business goes under, and you've painted your name in letters three-foot high, there is a monument to that person's business skills that probably wasn't intended.

Maybe city leaders should make a rule that when your business closes you have to remove all signs, especially the ones that say "now open" when they are not. Maybe make new businesses opening up to put up a sign removal deposit or something.

Speaking of signs, especially for newcomers, I've noticed some cities have gotten into the habit of putting signs up on the corners of street intersections. I don't know if this idea will ever catch on, but motorists in the cities that have them really seem to like them, especially newcomers, like me. I realize many folks have lived here for a long time. It's fairly easy to spot these long-time residents when asking directions, which I have to do since many of the streets aren't marked.

Some of the directions refer to turning at businesses that no longer exist, where people live or used to live, or thought about moving into or former landmarks that have since been moved, changed or just fallen down.

I realize the creeping orange barrel monster that has set up semi-permanent residence here may have eaten some signs. Maybe temporary signs should be put up, like "this is the Corner of Main and 145th Street but you really don't want to turn here." Well it's a thought anyway.

Be good to one another, and be good to yourselves.

After fourth firefighter dies...

HFD training is questioned

HOUSTON (AP) — Proper training could have prevented four firefighters' deaths in the last four years, according to a state investigator appointed to review the latest fatality.

Mike Herman, co-chairman of the state fire marshal's team investigating the death of rookie firefighter Kevin Kulow during a nightclub fire in northwest Houston last week, says that the four fatalities may have been prevented if the Houston Fire Department better trained its personnel to retreat from dangerous, fully engulfed buildings.

"In four years, you have four dead firefighters," Herman said. "That's too many."

All four perished while inside buildings. Officials said HFD has a reputation as one of the nation's most aggressive at fighting blazes from inside structures.

Herman said a 16-member state marshal's team will look at whether any procedural or communication breakdown played a role in Kulow's death.

The state panel has not yet made a preliminary determination in the Kulow case.

Three people have been charged in connection with the fatal blaze. Harris County prosecutors say one man allegedly posted his girlfriend as a lookout at the northwest Houston club while he and another man poured gasoline around the building's perimeter, preparing to set the April 4 blaze.

The fire department practices aggressive interior firefighting tactics, but trains personnel to retreat when their lives are endangered, said HFD spokesman Jack Williams, a district chief.

Williams said he would not second-guess decisions made by the firefighters who perished.

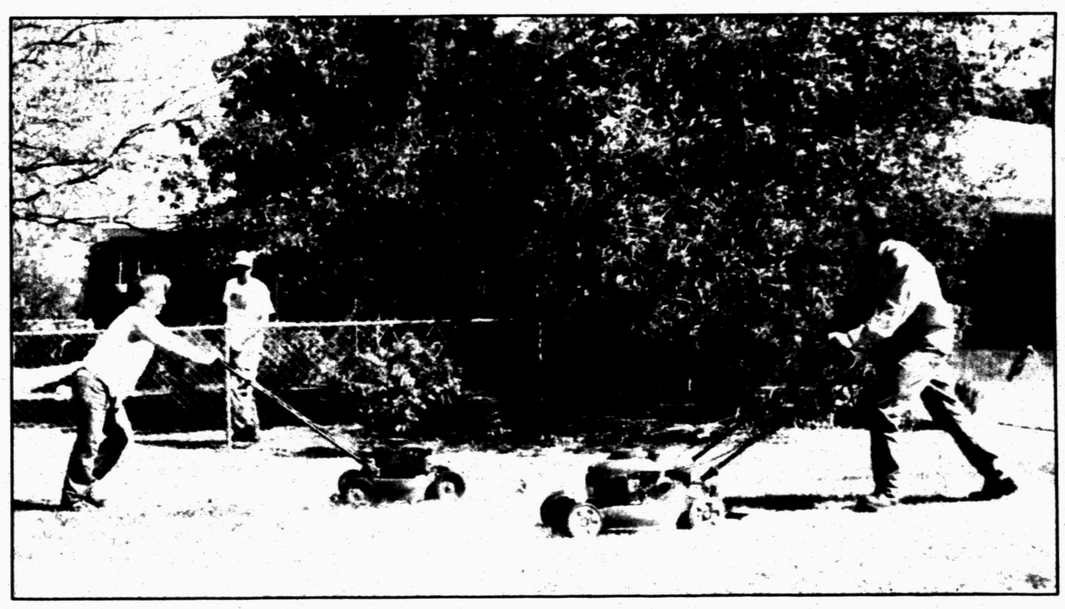
"We've pulled a lot of people out of fires by being aggressive," he said. "I don't think we should pull up at every scene where there is a little smoke and squirt water from the outside."

A former high-ranking HFD officer who left the department a year ago, Herman angered the firefighters' union and some firefighters when he helped write an HFD report on what went wrong when Capt. Jay Jahnke died in a Four Leaf Towers fire on Oct. 13, 2001.

Herman said the union has never forgiven him for not concluding that understaffing was a factor in Jahnke's death.

The firefighters' group is urging the state fire marshal to remove Herman from the investigation into the April 4 fire at El Festival Ballroom because some members doubt that he can help produce an "impartial" report, said Steve Williams, president of Houston Association of Professional Fire Fighters, Local 341.

Firefighters killed on duty the past four years, in addition to Kulow and Jahnke, were Lewis Evans Mayo III and Kimberly Ann Smith, who died at a McDonald's restaurant on Feb. 14, 2000.



TEAMWORK TACKLES TURF — Dot Zohar, James Zohar and Brian Glasco (from left) prove it's spring when Dot and James Lawn Care mows and trims a yard Wednesday. (SDN Staff Photo by Jeff West)

ASK US

Q—What is the date of the Winston Field Fly-In?
A—Saturday, June 19.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Lila Cantrell...

...has lived in Snyder for 49 years and is married to Billy and has three sons. Clint lives in Lubbock, Cody in Springfield and Lance who lives in Snyder. Lila works as a field technician for Texas Boll Weevil and sells Avon. She loves antique cars, crafts and raising dogs.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

I understand the rules of war in politics. No one has practiced them more.
—Huey P. Long

APR 15 2004

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Hermleigh ISD Relay for Life

The Hermleigh ISD Relay for Life team will have a Mexican salad supper from 6-7:30 p.m. today in the school cafeteria. Adult plates are $5, children's plates under 12 are $2.50.

Choir booster club

The SHS Choir Booster Club will meet at 6 p.m. today in the choir room.

Game night

The adult singles class of First Baptist Church meets the first and third Thursdays at the old bus barn across the street from the church in the Desperados meeting room. Learn to play bridge. All singles welcome.

Snyder Healthcare birthdays

Snyder Healthcare Family Council will sponsor a residents birthday party at 2:30 p.m. Friday.

Hermleigh Masonic Lodge meeting

The Hermleigh Masonic Lodge will meet at 6 p.m. Friday for work on the EA degree. All Masons are welcome.

His Joy Ministries conference

The conference will be at 7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. Saturday and 7 p.m. Sunday at Thee Place, 904 26th St. Bobbie Jean Merck of A Great Love Ministries of Georgia is the speaker and Mercy & Truth of Dallas will provide the music. Doorkeepers of His Glory of Snyder will bring worship into motion. For more information, call 573-9799.

Ag playday for Relay for Life

The First Ag Credit team, "The Starlights", will have an ag playday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday at the First Ag Credit parking lot, 5111 College Ave. There will be a petting zoo, horseback rides, tractor rides, hot dogs and drinks. All for a small admission fee.

Fish-A-Thon

The 9th annual Fish-A-thon to benefit the Boy Scouts will be held from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday at Towle Park pond.

What's up guidelines

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

MAKE SNYDER BRIGHTER
City Wide Clean-up Campaign
NO CHARGE

Anyone signing up for the city dump trucks will need to call:
City Utility Department: 573-4960 or 573-4969
By April 16, 2003

Participation by all citizens and business within the city limits:

Citizens:
Clean up on property.
Mow
Pick up trash
Clean alley at back of their property
Remove weeds
Remove old appliances

Businesses:
Clean up on property
Mow
Pick up trash
Remove weeds from parking areas, around utility poles and in landscaped areas.
Clean alley at back of property

Dump trucks and drivers will be available from 8.30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on April 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd to pick up tree limbs, lumber and appliances; items that can be lifted manually and placed over the sides of a dump truck. **NO TIRES PLEASE!**

The dump truck will be available in these areas of town on these dates and limited to 1 (one) load per residence or business:
April 19th - West of College and South of 30th Street
April 20th - East of College and South of 30th Street
April 21st - West of College and North of 30th Street
April 22nd - East of College and North of 30th Street

Please indicate the type of items you are wanting picked up and schedule it for the day the dump truck will be in your area. Have the items placed next to the curb, driveway or alley leaving access for through traffic. Small items must be placed in bags and stacked near the curb, driveway or alley. City personnel will not be allowed to go onto the property and into any structures to retrieve objects. Please keep brush in a separate pile from other items. Please keep appliances and metals in a pile separate from other items. Any appliance that uses freon/coolant, must have the coolant removed and tagged by a licensed re-coverer. Please be available to assist in loading the items. If you can't be available, indicate so when scheduling the dump truck. Tree limbs, lumber, etc. will need to be cut into pieces that can be easily handled by one person.

Please schedule pick-up before placing items at curb or in the alley. If the schedule is full when you call, you may take your current utility bill, with the items you were wanting picked up, and get into the landfill at no charge during the four-day clean-up campaign.

THESE SERVICES ARE FOR INDIVIDUALS, NOT TO BE USED BY PERSONS IN THE BUSINESS OF DEMOLITION OR CLEAN-UP AND WILL BE LIMITED TO 1 (ONE) LOAD PER RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS INSIDE THE CITY LIMITS ONLY.

City of Snyder
Snyder Beautification Committee
Snyder Chamber of Commerce



IRA SENIOR UIL — These Ira seniors participated in the district UIL contests held March 27 at Western Texas College. Students front row from left are, Amanda Calley, 6th computer applications, 6th headline writing; Lindsey Wilson, number sense, social studies, headline writing; Franki Briseno, current issues and events, persuasive speaking; Lacie Thompson, science; Suzie Pendergrass, 2nd accounting, 2nd computer applications; Vicky Rivera, news writing, feature writing, editorial writing. Back row from left are, Bubba Walker, spelling, editorial writing, headline writing alternate; Jake Barnes, 3rd current issues and events, persuasive speaking; Serena Kornegay, news writing alternate, feature writing; Rusty Josey, calculator, persuasive speaking; and Jess Wall, number sense, science. Suzie Pendergrass and Jakes Barnes advanced to regional. (Contributed Photo) Additional pictures on page 7.

U.S. Marines trade 'culturally sensitive' training for bullets

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP) — On a rooftop overlooking Fallujah's industrial wasteland, Lance Cpl. Tom Browne pokes his machine gun muzzle out of a hole in a barrier wall, singing to himself to pass the time.

In the street below, the corpse of an insurgent suspect lies baking in the sun. Browne, from Boston, says he has killed several rebels, probably Iraqis, so far.

"I don't even think about those people as people," he says.

It wasn't supposed to be this way.

The band of Marines in this insurgent stronghold received two big orders this year. They were told to return to Iraq to stabilize the Sunni areas west of Baghdad, Iraq's toughest patch of territory. The normally clean-shaven Marines were also told to grow mustaches in an attempt to win over Iraqis who see facial hair as a sign of maturity.

"We did it basically to show the Iraqi people that we respect their culture," said Lance Cpl. Cristopher Boulwave, 22, from Desoto, Texas.

But after the brutal killing of four American contractors in Fallujah on March 31, they tossed aside such pretenses. First to go were the mustaches.

"When you go to fight, it's time to shoot — not to make friends with people," said Sgt. Cameron Lefter, 34, from Seattle.

In the fight for Fallujah — which has killed more than 600 Iraqis, according to city doctors, and around a dozen Marines — the Marines now seem to be following the second half of their famous motto: "no better friend, no worse enemy."

The Marines say it's easier to cope with the daily work of killing inside Fallujah, where a seemingly unending supply of rebels continues to fight, if they don't think about the suspected Iraqi rebels they are targeting as people who, under different circumstances, they might have been trying to help.

"If someone came and did this to our neighborhood I'd be pissed too," said Capt. Don Maraska, of Moscow, Idaho, a 37-year-old who guides airstrikes on enemy targets in the town. "I've never had people look at me the ways these people look at me. I don't know what came before, but at this point, what else can we possibly do but fight?"

The Marines were hoping to lull Fallujah and al-Anbar province into a state of well-being by passing out $540 million in rebuilding funds, and showing off a more educated attitude about Arab sensitivities than they believed their U.S. Army predecessors displayed.

Before returning to Iraq, the Marines took a crash course in cultural training that included a video teleconference with an Arabic studies professor and the distribution of a culture handbook with tips warning against showing the soles of their feet or eating with their left hands.

Around three dozen Marines from one unit took a three week intensive language course in Arabic. And of course, they grew mustaches.

"We grew them for the Iraqi people. We shaved them off for us," Lt. Col. Brennan Byrne, who originally ordered his men to sport the facial hair, said.

These days, the Marines are speaking a more familiar language.

"We didn't initiate this," said 1st Marine Regiment Commander Col. John Toolen. "I came in here with more money than bullets. Now I'm running out of bullets but the money is still in my pocket."

The Marines are frustrated with the negotiations to halt the firing in Fallujah. Many say they want to finish the battle, take control of the rebel city by brute force — whatever it takes — rather than wait for Iraqi negotiators to thrash out a deal to stop the fighting.

Today's chuckle

Firefighter rescues cat, litter from tree

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — In most places, the days of a firefighter getting a cat out of a tree are long gone.



It's true here, too, though an exception was made when the number of stranded felines added up to five.

Battalion Chief Tom Bergstrom agreed to respond to the plea of a woman whose pet had a litter of kittens in the crook of a branch some 40 feet off the ground.

The woman called a veterinarian for advice, and he told her the tiny newborns might not survive the nighttime cold. Even if they did withstand the elements, the pet doctor said, the babies — with their eyes still closed — would probably fall out of the tree once they became mobile.

The woman had tried everything else and it was getting dark. Bergstrom decided firefighters would come to the rescue with an aerial ladder.

The mother cat, Bergstrom said, wasn't too happy that anyone had touched her babies but was calmer when the whole family was safely on the ground.

DRAGON CHINA BUFFET
Great Food at A Great Price
Prom Date Special
Chicken Fried Steak,
Baked Potato, Salad Bar,
Drink plus Regular Buffet Bar,
Dinner For Two
only $15 (tax included)
4604 College Ave.
573-8999

Rescued girl said recovering

MORENO VALLEY, Calif. (AP) — A 6-year-old girl found in a ravine survived for 10 days on dry noodles and Gatorade while remaining near her dead mother following a car crash, relatives said.

Ruby Bustamante was in good condition Wednesday at a hospital where she was recovering from dehydration.

"She's a strong little girl, strong, real strong," Juan Morin, Ruby's uncle, said as he fought back tears.

Her great-grandfather Bill Cooney said she didn't appear to remember much about the crash in which her mother, 26-year-old Norma Bustamante, was killed.

State transportation department workers repairing a road barrier Tuesday found the girl, her mother's decomposing body and a wrecked Ford Taurus 150 feet down a ravine off the 60 Freeway, some 70 miles east of Los Angeles, said Chris Blondon, spokesman for the California Highway Patrol.

Cooney said Ruby told him she survived on ramen noodles and Gatorade. Ruby also said her mother was alive for "a couple days" after the crash, he said.

The highway workers gave Ruby water and a cup of lime Jell-O before she was taken to the hospital.

"She didn't say much beyond 'I want some water,'" said Gerry Magnuson, who helped rescue her. "But she was cute as a bug's ear. I think it's a miracle she survived. She's a brave soul."

Norma Bustamante, of Indio, had five other children ranging in age from 8 months to 8 years, said relatives, who described her as a doting parent.

World Almanac

Thursday, April 15, 2004

Today is the 106th day of 2004 and the 27th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1912, the Titanic sank after hitting an iceberg.

In 1924, Rand McNally published its first road atlas.

In 1959, the new Cuban leader, Fidel Castro, began a visit to the United States.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Leonardo Da Vinci (1452-1519), artist/scientist; Henry James (1843-1916), novelist; Bessie Smith (1894-1937), blues singer; Neville Marriner (1924-), orchestra conductor, is 80; Emma Thompson (1959-), actress, is 45.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1947, Jackie Robinson played his first regular season game with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "I don't want everyone to like me. I should think less of myself if some people did." — Henry James

TODAY'S FACT: Among U.S. taxpayers, New Jersey residents (in 2002) received the lowest amount of federal outlays back for each tax dollar paid: 62 cents.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 828,000 — Area (in square miles) of the Louisiana Purchase.

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (April 11) and new moon (April 19)

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events

LOTTO TEXAS
TEXAS LOTTERY
RESULTS

Wednesday's Lottery Numbers
Lotto Texas

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

Winning numbers drawn: 4-11-16-17-28. Bonus Ball: 10.

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

Number matching five of five: 4. Prize: $7,187.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 14. Prize: $1,863.

Number matching four of five: 669. Prize: $83.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 561. Prize: $88.

Number matching three of five: 24,737. Prize: $5.

Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 6,280. Prize: $5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 27,620. Prize: $3.

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: $30 Million.

Cash Five

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

Winning numbers drawn: 10-14-15-16-29.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Matching four of five: 110. Prize: $526.

Matching three of five: 3,844. Prize: $11.

Matching two of five: 38,406. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Pick 3
(Day) 0-9-4
(Night) 5-5-5

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Published each Sunday morning and each evening, except Saturday, by Snyder Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 College Ave., Snyder, Texas 79549.

Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Snyder, Texas, Publication Number USPS611-520.

POSTMASTER send change of address to P.O. Box 949, Snyder, Texas, 79550.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier in Snyder, $9.25 per month.

By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $88.80 balance of Texas and out of state $113.85.

Roy McQueen, Publisher
Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to use for republication all news dispatches in this newspaper and also local news published for republication of special dispatches.

TxAggie Muster
Wednesday, April 21
6:00 p.m.
Anyone Interested in Attending Call
Mark or Amy Hargrove
573-4793 or 573-8975
RSVP by Friday, April 16

Lifestyle



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INSTRUCTION IN WATERCOLOR — Esme Glen from Abilene gave instruction in watercolor to Snyder Palette Club members last Thursday. From left are Paul Hudgins; Lila Guinn; Glen, visiting artist; Ann Walton and Nena Mitchell, background. Artists meet the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at the airport terminal. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Americans spent billions for gardening

By ED HUTCHISON
For AP Special Edition

When it comes to buying lawn and garden products, Americans are not stingy. They shelled out $38.4 billion last year for such products and services, according to the National Gardening Association.

Just five years ago, the sum was $30.2 billion. That's a lot of money to keep gardens and lawns in good shape.

Much of that cash flows in spring, when homeowners typically repair lawns battered by winter weather. True, autumn is usually better because of more predictable weather in most parts of the country. But the months of April or May usually provide plenty of warm weather and rain to give new grass a boost.

Some lawn damage is almost inevitable. If you live on a busy street and in a cold climate, salty slush is likely thrown onto the edges of your lawn and damage can result. Reseeding is often an annual chore.

But many of the bare spots we see can be avoided. Common causes are too little water during the heat of the summer, fertilizer and gasoline spills, pet damage, or thin spots from foot or play traffic.

Bare or weak spots can be repaired with sod, plugs or seed. The choice depends a lot on where you live, the kind of lawn you have and the area to be improved.

For successful repair, look for the one most important trait: direct and sure contact with the soil surface. And almost as important is ever-present, but not soggy, moisture.

If you spill fertilizer on the lawn, remove it with a broom, brush or shop vacuum. Do not water it in. Liquid pesticide and gasoline spills, on the other hand, are better watered in heavily so it is diluted beyond a point where it would harm the grass. Of course, the best solution to these spills is to avoid them. Fill the spreader or lawn mower on a hard, non-grass surface.

A healthy lawn is remarkably resilient to damage from pets, especially dog urine. But high levels of nitrogen in urine will often cause grass to turn rich green or brown. And it can kill grass, leading to unsightly spots. A lawn that is kept watered and fertilized can "erase" these spots by its robust and continual growth.

A well-watered lawn seldom, if ever, develops off-color spots. In most parts of the country, fertilize the lawn three to five times each year, with the first being in late spring and the last being in late fall.

Timing depends on where you live. The continental United States encompasses at least three distinct grass-growing zones; your county extension office can help, as can Web sites offered by lawn products companies. These sites will show a bias toward using the company products — no surprise there — but most of them have horticulturally sound information that is targeted by ZIP code.

The method you use for making the repair depends a lot on the type of grass and extent of damage. Probably the most common and practical is re-seeding the area. Larger areas may be better candidates for sod, although there is no reason why seed cannot be used successfully here, too.

Lawns less than three years old should be repaired with the same blend of grasses that are in the original lawn. If sodded, check your record of where the sod was purchased; the nursery or sod farm should be able to provide you with an exact match.

Seeding can be a bit trickier, but if you purchased the seed from a local garden center or a pre-packaged national brand, chances are you can buy the same mix. This is especially important for newer lawns, because in many parts of the country, a lawn mix is made up of six or more different types of grasses, most of them perennial. Usually there is a combination of fescues, ryes and bluegrasses, especially in the cool-season range that includes most of the Midwest, Northeast and Plains states. Even lawns built on all bluegrass typically have two or more types of bluegrass in the blend.

It is less critical with older lawns, as an established lawn likely has been "infiltrated" by grass not in its original mix — from seed blowing in or being carried by birds or pets, or subsequent over-seeding.

Choose a blend that is suitable for the sun-shade conditions you have and the look you are after. Some mixes are blended to withstand wear and tear, while others are more in the showplace department. Labels should clearly indicate these distinctions. Be wary of a mix that describes itself as fast-growing, drought-resistant, tough and can grow in either sun or shade. One mix doing all those things can't do them all well.

MAWC directors plan upcoming events at meeting

Several upcoming events were planned at the Martha Ann Woman's Club directors meeting.

Discussed were a garage (and bake) sale to be held in May, and June activities to include the annual Silver Tea set for 3-4 p.m., June 7 and a Sunday luncheon with the date pending.

Carol Roark, Bobbie Taylor, Beth Bowen and Jamie Hall were welcomed as new directors.

The next meeting was set 4 p.m. on May 10 at the clubhouse.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

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

A cool twist on a classic breakfast

Blue Bunny's recipe for Banana Split Pancakes is a cool twist on classic breakfast fare! These pancakes make a great addition to brunch, or to any other breakfast.

LE MARS, Iowa — Your family will hop up and down with excitement when they discover their hotcakes are made with ice cream! Made with Blue Bunny® Reduced Fat No Sugar Added Banana Split ice cream, Banana Split Pancakes are sure to please everyone.

BANANA SPIT PANCAKES

1¼ cups Blue Bunny Reduced Fat No Sugar Added Banana Split Ice Cream, softened
1 medium banana, sliced
1 egg
1 cup original pancake mix
Fresh fruit, confectioner's sugar

Lightly oil a large skillet and heat over medium-high heat. In a blender container, combine the ice cream, banana and egg, process until well blended. Add pancake mix, process just to combine. Pour slightly less than ¼ cup batter for each pancake onto oiled skillet. Turn when pancakes appear dry around edges and bottoms are golden brown. Top with fresh fruit and sprinkle with confectioner's sugar.

Makes 10-12 pancakes.

Find more Blue Bunny recipes at www.bluebunny.com.

The Scoop on Blue Bunny Ice Cream

Since 1913, the colossally creative artisans at Wells' Dairy, Inc., the largest family-owned and managed dairy processor in the United States, have been hard at work adding a little joy to life putting all things chunky, chewy, rich and gooey into Blue Bunny® ice cream.

Today, ice cream aficionados throughout the United States, Mexico and Puerto Rico can indulge themselves and choose from nearly 500 tantalizingly tasty Blue Bunny ice cream flavors, frozen dairy desserts and delectable novelties — many of which are made to add flavor and delight to low-fat or low-carb lifestyles.

Blue Bunny is made in Le Mars, Iowa: *The Ice Cream Capital of the World.* More ice cream is made in Le Mars than any other place on the planet. Visitors to Le Mars are always welcome at The Ice Cream Capital of the World Visitor Center.

While there, they'll learn all about the history of ice cream, Wells' Dairy and Blue Bunny, experience fascinating interactive exhibits and get a glimpse at how America's favorite treat is made.

Afterwards, they can stroll next door to an authentic, old-fashioned, honest-to-goodness soda fountain and indulge in their favorite ice cream creation.

Vet treats elephant

SANTA FE, Argentina (AP) — Veterinarians had to be called in to treat an elephant "depressed" about being separated from her circus troupe.

Mesry was taken from the circus grounds last week after local authorities said her participation in the public shows violated a city ordinance.

The elephant showed signs of distress soon after being transported to El Recreo, a town 300 miles north of Buenos Aires.

—

The Marine Corps was created in 1789 by an act of Congress.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 04-15-04
♠ A J 7 6 3
♥ 8 5 4
♦ 7 4
♣ K J 6

West
♠ K 8 2
♥ J 10 9 7
♦ A 10 9 6
♣ 5 2

East
♠ Q 10 9 5
♥ A 6 3 2
♦ 8 3
♣ 7 4 3

South
♠ 4
♥ K Q
♦ K Q J 5 2
♣ A Q 10 9 8

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	5 ♣	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ J

Thursday, April 15, 2004

Preference can be false and correct

By Phillip Alder

We are studying responder's giving preference to one of the opener's two suits. First, though, look at today's North hand. Your partner opens one diamond, you respond one spade, and he rebids two clubs. What would you do now? (I hope it isn't too taxing on Tax Day!)

Once you have decided, look also at the South hand. If you were South, the declarer in five clubs, what would be your line of play? West leads the heart jack. East wins with the ace and returns a heart to your king.

This is a key building block of bidding: If game is still possible, you must keep the auction going. Here, North has nine points. South has shown some 12-17 points (maybe even 18 when short in spades, the responder's first-bid suit). So, since the partnership could have 25 or 26 combined points, North must try to find another bid. And there is only one possibility: He should rebid two diamonds. This is called false preference, because he really prefers clubs to diamonds. If South passes, it is possible that the partnership will be in the wrong partscore. However, if South bids a third time, promising 16 or 17 points, the North hand will be worth game. Here, when South does continue, showing a good 5-5 in the minor suits, North jumps to five clubs.

If you hold a two-suiter in your own hand, it is usually best to establish the side suit first. Drive out the diamond ace, ruff the third heart, cash the diamond queen, ruff a diamond high, draw trumps, and claim.

Giving preference can be both false and correct.

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St. Elizabeth Sausage Festival

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT
Sausage Dinner Complete With All The Trimmings

•Game Booths
•Raffles • Country Store

Sunday, April 18
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
St. Elizabeth Parish Center
30th at Ave. A, Snyder, Texas
Meal Tickets Sold At Door
$7.00 Adults
$4.00 Children 12 & Under
$7.00 All Take Outs

Sausage Sold By The Pound
$3 Lb. (Uncooked)
$4 Lb. (Cooked)

BUSINESS REVIEW
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ROTAN HEALTHCARE CENTER

Finding the right care facility takes time. It is important to search for a suitable home well in advance of seeking admission to the facility. Planning ahead also makes the transition of moving into a care facility much easier.
ROTAN HEALTHCARE CENTER, at **711 East 5th Street** in **Rotan,** phone **735-2233,** offers care to the people who cannot be cared for at home. They provide skilled nursing care, rehabilitation services, nutritious meals, activities, help with daily living and supervision. They encourage residents to stay active and to participate in a variety of community services and social activities. They offer 24-hour guidance by a qualified, compassionate staff with both private and semi-private rooms available. Their staff oversees the administration of medication and insures the health and safety of the residents. Safety concerns are also addressed with up-to-date fire and smoke alarms, as well as an emergency call system.
As you and your family assess your needs, it's important to acknowledge financing options. Payment for care can be made through Medicare, Medicaid and Private Insurance.
We, the editors of this 2004 Spring Business Review and Reference Guide, give our unconditional recommendation to ROTAN HEALTHCARE CENTER for providing compassionate care in a home like setting. They invite you to stop by their fine facility for more information or a tour.

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Each consumer of **BIG COUNTRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** is a member entitled to vote in the affairs of the cooperative. Through a democratic organization, a professional manager is employed to oversee trained personnel who perform necessary duties for **BIG COUNTRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** to function.
The votes of **BIG COUNTRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S** members elect a board of trustees who establish rates that are based on actual costs to provide you, the member, with dependable electric service. **BIG COUNTRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** has rates designed to cover expenses. This means money in your pocket, as members receive a portion of excess revenues, based on the amount of electricity they use.
They recognize each member of their electric service as an owner, and their non-profit service is a direct reflection of their dedication to you. You're in for a shock if you have never experienced the benefits of an electric cooperative-get involved today!
The writers of this 2004 Spring Business Review and Reference Guide commend BIG COUNTRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE for their dedicated service to this community. ***Phone them at 573-3161 for more information or stop by their office, located at 2100 College Avenue in Snyder or call 776-2244 in Roby or 773-3684 in Stamford.***

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COLORADO CITY LIVESTOCK MARKET auctions all types of livestock, and are able to transport them to and from the sale for your convenience. They are extremely knowledgeable and continually monitor the market conditions and current cattle prices in an effort to gain the best price available for your livestock. ***Sale time is 11am every Wednesday, weather permitting.***
The writers of this 2004 Spring Business Review and Reference Guide suggest that you trust COLORADO CITY LIVESTOCK MARKET for all of your livestock auction needs!

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JAY INGRAM, GENERAL MANAGER

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Some of us have old vehicles that we have owned for years and the thought of sending them to the car graveyard isn't something we really want to do. Not only does **Ray Cooley** perform excellent restorations, the customized painting is a beautiful asset for any show or family vehicle. This shop offers complete auto body work and expert color matching. Mr. Cooley offers quality workmanship, combined with honest prices. Your vehicle will be handled with care, using top of the line service you can't find anywhere else.
The editors of this 2004 Spring Business Review & Reference Guide urge you to call RAY COOLEY RACE CARS & RESTORATION at (325) 573-4302 now and get that older car back on the road again!

APR 15 2004

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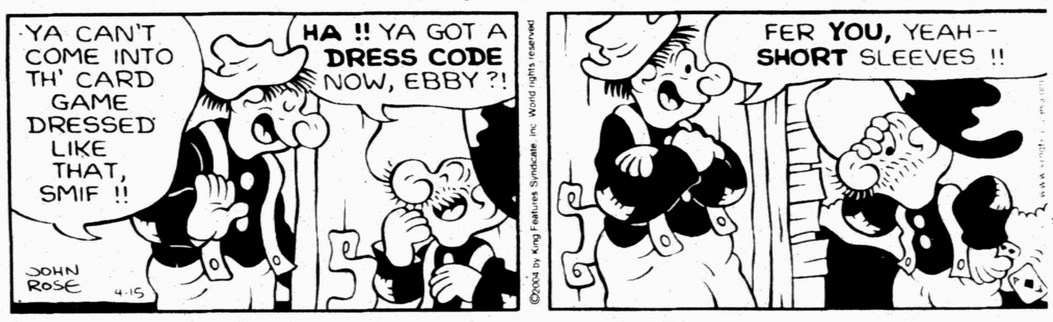
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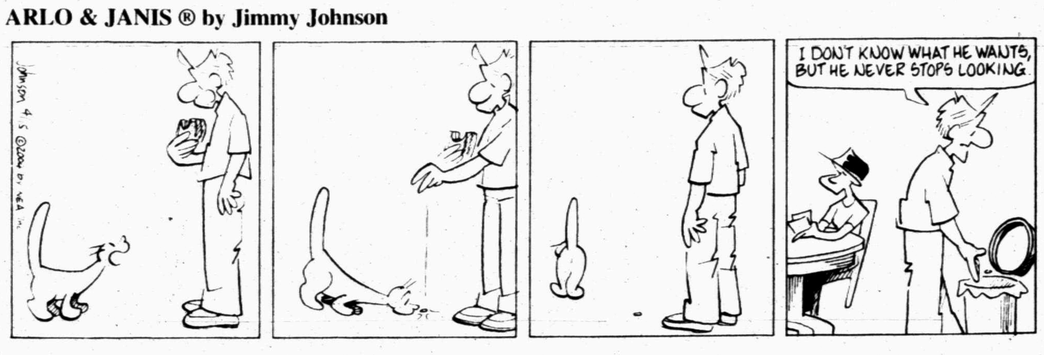
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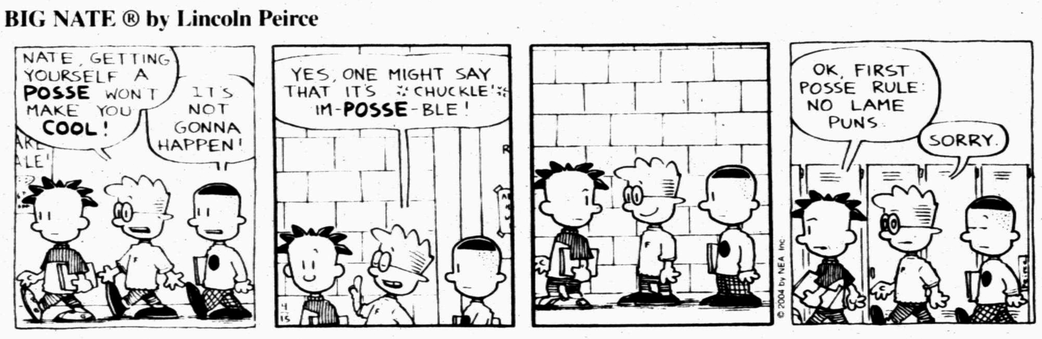
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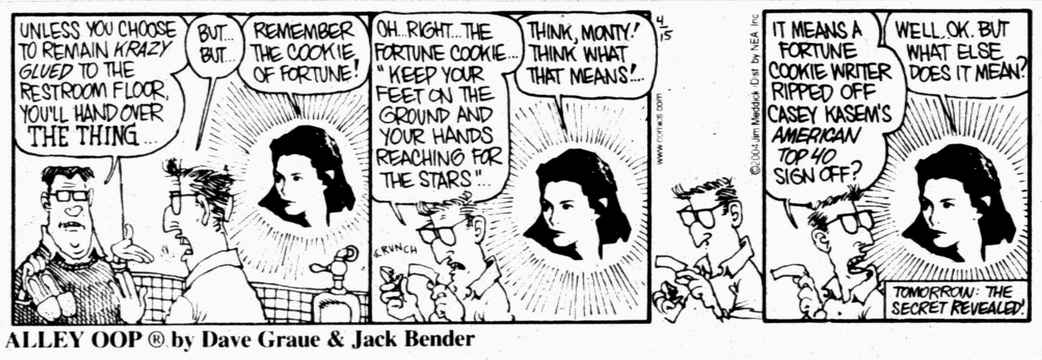
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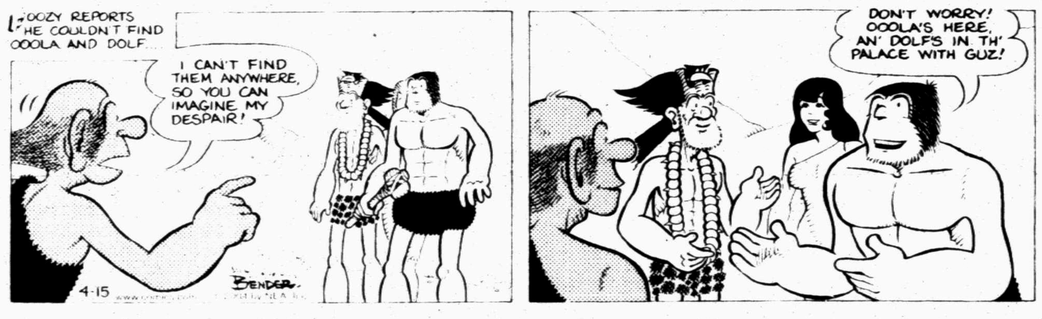
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MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"I ordered a coffee when I came in. When will the beans leave South America?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Floor model
5 Hypnotized
10 Dangerous bear
12 Wonderful
13 Natural
14 Food processor
15 Polite address
16 Building wing
18 Airline to Stockholm
19 Sudden urge
23 Riviera summer
26 Leo mo.
27 Clucking sounds
30 Rutabaga
32 Rose pest
34 Light bulb filler
35 Fancy
36 Young horse
37 "— to Billie Joe"
38 Cornhusker st.
39 New plants
42 Opposite of cheer
45 Arrogance
46 Technical sch.
50 Massaged
53 Remodel
55 Squirrel hoard
56 Lox source
57 Yonder
58 Over one's head

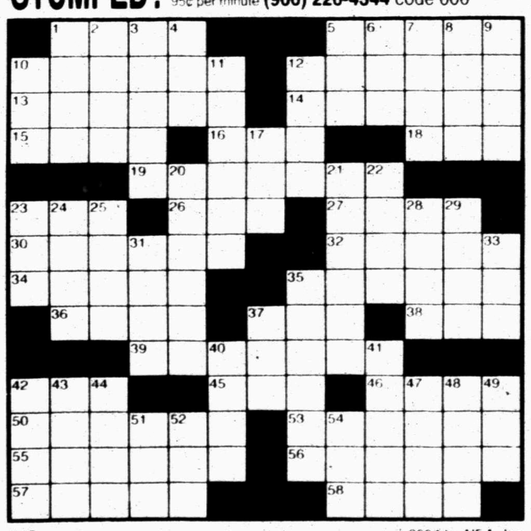
DOWN

1 Spanish lady
2 Ferber of "Show Boat"
3 Florida port
4 Mare's tidbit
5 Coffee brewer
6 — Perce tribe
7 Week fractions
8 Jane Austen title
9 Cereal grains
10 Kipling novel
11 Maintain (2 wds.)
12 Wooded valley
17 Tote
20 Chiefly
21 Gawked
22 Cable channel
23 LAX info
24 Domain
25 Consequently
28 Kublai — Position
29 Webster or Wyle
31 Rookie socialite
33 Detestable
35 Dot-com alternative
37 Furniture items
40 Edge past
41 Holy terror
42 Surprised cry
43 Orchestra member
44 Specify
47 Pause
48 Decimal base
49 Subzero comment
51 Vane dir.
52 Tablet
54 Tablet

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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SPORTS





DISTRICT CHAMPS — The Snyder boys and girls varsity golf teams repeated as district champions and will head to regionals in Odessa and Midland Monday. The girls team finished the tourney Wednesday at Seminole. The team is, above from left, head coach Ricky Hunter, Christi Williams, Shannon Mangis, Ashley Luecke, Cami Trout, Brooke Jackson, and coach Cody Cox. Below, the boys concluded the tournament Tuesday at Denver City. The boys team is, from left, Hunter, Jake Cottrell, Cole Robertson, Alan Gray, Tanner Bloom, Jay Weaver and Cox. (Contributed Photos)

2004 district golf tourney...

Girls defend district title

GAINES COUNTY — The faces have changed, but the results have been just as impressive thus far.

The Snyder girls varsity golf team went through a complete roster turnover in the offseason, and — just like the boys — took the challenge of following a state championship squad and responded with a second consecutive district title.

Snyder fired a 343 Wednesday at Seminole, holding off a charge from Sweetwater to claim the District 3-3A crown in the last year of the current UIL alignment.

Leading Sweetwater — which finished with a team total 1,003 — by five strokes going into the final round, the Lady Tigers and the Lady Mustangs played neck-and-neck all day, with Sweetwater carding a 345 to take the second seed.

"It wasn't decided until the last score came in," head golf coach Ricky Hunter said. "I am very proud of these girls. This is a young team that has made huge strides."

Cami Trout carded a three-round total of 239 after a final round 86 to lead the squad.

Ashley Luecke saved her best for last, shooting an 83 to pace the ladies in the final round, while Christi Williams concluded her consistent tournament with an 84. Williams shot an 88-78-84 250 in the 54-hole tourney.

Shannon Mangis and Brooke Jackson each stroked a final round 90.

Hunter said the district championship came as no surprise to him.

"I knew it would be close," he said. "This was one of our goals and we have worked hard to obtain it."

Brittany Mercer of Sweetwater was the top medalist 223, with teammate Kelly Rainbolt second with a 232.

Trout was third individually with a 239, while Williams tied with Meagan Harris for fourth with the 250.

Luecke rounded out the top five with a 253.

The Snyder B team took fourth in district with a 1,216.

Heather Derington paced the team with a 91 in the final round. April Boyd had a 101, Kaylee Lacik shot a 115 and Chelsea Hackfeld carded a 119.

The regional golf tournament will be held Monday and Tuesday at Ratliff Ranch Golf Course in Odessa.

District 3-3A Golf Tournament
Final Round
April 14, 2004
Gaines County Golf Course
Team Totals

1. Snyder A 341-312-343 996; 2. Sweetwater A 332-326-345 1,003; 3. Seminole 367-351-410 1,128; **4. Snyder B 408-382-426 1,216**; 5. Merkel 415-387-426 1,228; 6. Sweetwater B 437-380-419 1,236.

Snyder A

1. Trout 79-74-86 239; 2. Williams 88-78-84 250; 3. Luecke 86-84-83 253; 4. Jackson 88-79-90 257; 5. Mangis 90-81-90 261.

Snyder B

1. Derington 85-82-91 258; 2. Boyd 102-95-101 298; 3. Lacik 89-99-115 303; 4. Hackfeld 132-106-119 357.

Stars on the brink of elimination

DALLAS (AP) — Rookie Marek Svatos played just four games this season, yet it was enough to convince the Colorado Avalanche to include him on their playoff roster.

The Dallas Stars sure wish they hadn't.

Svatos had assists in Colorado's first two victories, then scored the winning goal in Game 4 on Wednesday night, a wrister 5:18 into the second overtime that gave the Avalanche a 3-2 victory and sent them home with a 3-1 lead in their first-round series.

A Slovakian drafted in the 10th round in 2001, Svatos made the team in training camp. Then he injured a shoulder in the second game of the season and didn't return until the final two.

He showed his scoring touch in his limited time, scoring twice, including a game-winner.

"After all he went through in the regular season, we couldn't wait to give this guy an opportunity," Avs coach Tony Granato said.

His big chance came in the second overtime, when he skated into the Dallas zone. He saw Milan Hejduk take out one defenseman and spin around another, clearing a path for his shot. It landed in the upper right corner of the net.

"I was just trying to get a shot on net and it went in," Svatos said. "It's the greatest feeling in my hockey career."

Goaltender David Aebischer kept Colorado in the game by making 41 saves, bouncing back after letting a two-goal lead dissolve into a 4-3 loss in Game 3. He blew another two-goal lead this time, but there were extenuating circumstances.

The first goal came on a two-man advantage. The second changed directions after hitting a defenseman's skate.

"He showed poise and confidence," Granato said. "They got a good bounce on the second goal, but it didn't rattle him. His body language was that nothing is getting past me. We were confident he'd stop anything."

Now Colorado heads back to Denver with a chance to end the series in Game 5 on Saturday.

Ira golfer in regionals

The Ira girls varsity golf team finished third in the District 9A tournament Wednesday at Jayton, shooting a team total 535.

Laci Thompson advanced to regionals as the first medalist, leading the way for the Lady Bulldogs with a 110, while Lindsey Wilson carded a 136.

Aryn Calley fired a 141 and Jessica Odom stoked a 148.

Grady and Borden County will represent the district at regionals in both the boys and girls divisions.

The boys concluded its district tourney Tuesday at Jayton.

The team shot a 458, led by Justin Taylor's final round 98.

Chad Nickerson totaled a 112, Bubba Walker fired a 123, Brandon Crane shot a 125 and Chris Dobbs finished with a 143.

The Class A Region I regional tournament will be held Monday and Tuesday at Maxwell Municipal golf course in Abilene.

Boys well ahead at district track meet; girls in second

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

The Snyder boys are well on their way to winning their first district championship in 24 years.

The girls are locked in a three-team battle.

Teams finished the first leg of the District 3-3A track and field meet Wednesday, with running preliminaries and half of the field events completed.

Snyder sits on top of the district with 53 points, 18 points up on Lamesa, thanks to wins in three of the five events that concluded on the first day.

Justin Boyd qualified for regionals by winning the high jump (6-2), while Ricky McNatt claimed gold and a spot at regionals in the discus throw (156-0).

Josh Muniz grabbed the gold in the two-mile run (10:54.32), and Malcome Wells earned a trip to Odessa with a second-place leap in the long jump (21-04). Boyd (21-3) was third in that event.

D'Angelo Davis was sixth in the high jump (5-8) and Jeremy Torrez finished fifth in the two mile (11:49.48).

Snyder got six unexpected points from a pair of pole vaulters, as Chris Smith and Patrick Jones each earned 3 points with both vaulting 9-6.

"I was hoping to come out with 54, and we got 53," said head track coach Roger White, who had tallied up pre-district scores and projected an order of finish for each event. "We got points in some different areas. I'm real tickled."

Boyd is the top seed in the 400 run after a 50.22, while Eder Borrego also will race in the finals in the 400.

Three boys will run in the mile, with Josh Muniz taking the top seed with a 4:47. He will be joined by Jeremy Torrez and Arthur Hernadez in that event.

Wells is the top seed in the 200, blowing past the field with a 22.91 in the prelim.

Garrett Pinson, Zach Cain and Israel Sosa will compete in the 300 hurdles, while Pinson and Barret Bowlin reached the finals in the 100 hurdles.

Barrett Munson will be joined by Hernandez and Borrego in the 800 run, and Jesus Juarez will compete in the 100 dash.

The sprint relay team will be the top seed in the finals, and the mile relay squad also advanced.

The girls currently sit in second after four events, garnering 27 points on the first day to trail Sweetwater by one and lead Seminole by just two points.

October Wells shattered her personal record in the 100m dash to take the top seed in the finals for that event with a blistering 11.80. Her previous best came last weekend at Colorado City when she crossed the line in 12 flat.

Dominquie Barziel also is in the finals of the 100 with a 13.58.

Wells also moved on the regionals by winning the triple jump, while Nicki Traylor was fourth.

Wells and Traylor are seeded first and third, respectively, in the 200 dash, with Wells topping the next closest competitor by almost a full second with a time of 26.62.

"We're sitting in good shape," girls track coach Todd Pollard. "We've got somebody in every race, and I think the girls will step up to the challenge (Saturday). We knew it was going to be tight — it will probably come down to the last race."

The girls sprint relay team of Wells, Traylor, Terann Ragland and Jordan Stansell will be the top seed in the finals Saturday. The 4x400 team of Erin Burleson, Ragland, Candace Chandler and Stansell are the second seed.

Ragland will run in the 100m hurdles finals after a time of 17.17 in the prelims.

Fran Leighton and Stacey Williamson are in the finals of the mile run, while the 4x200 relay team earned a third seed with a 41:54.20.

Wendy Reed, Casey Gregory and Chandler reached the finals in the 800 run, while Chandler and Dalesa Traylor will run in the 400 dash finals and Stansell will challenge for regionals in the 300 hurdles.

Several JV thinclads are set to go in the finals.

Glyn Wright, Whitney Fulford and Sara Traylor qualified in the 100 and the 200 sprints, while Sydney Wright made it to the finals in the 100 and 300 hurdles for the girls.

For the JV boys, Will Floyd qualified for the 800 and the mile runs, while Cody Reed and Chris Vera also made it to the finals in the 800.

Kyle Sanchez will run in the 110m hurdles, Michael Ford and Matthew Hernandez are in the 100 dash, Brent Burleson qualified for the finals in the 400 sprint, and Corbin Smith made it to Saturday in the 200 dash.

Landry Matthies and Trent Early also advanced in the mile.

The district track meet concludes Saturday at Tiger Stadium, beginning at 10 a.m.

Area Sports Calendar

	FRIDAY
Baseball:	SHS varsity at Denver City, 7 p.m.
	WTC vs. Midland JC, DH, noon
Softball:	SHS varsity vs. Denver City, 5 p.m.
	SHS JV vs. Denver City, 7 p.m.
	SATURDAY
Softball:	WTC vs. Clarendon, DH, 2 p.m.
Baseball:	WTC vs. Midland JC, DH, noon
	SHS JV vs. Sweetwater, DH, noon
Track:	District meet, Snyder

Major League Baseball

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Florida	7	1	.875	—
Atlanta	4	4	.500	3
New York	4	4	.500	3
Montreal	2	6	.250	5
Philadelphia	1	6	.143	5½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	5	2	.714	—
Houston	6	3	.667	—
Milwaukee	5	5	.500	1½
Chicago	4	4	.500	1½
Pittsburgh	4	4	.500	1½
St. Louis	4	6	.400	2½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	5	3	.625	—
San Francisco	5	4	.556	½
Colorado	4	4	.500	1
San Diego	4	4	.500	1
Arizona	2	6	.250	3

Wednesday's Games

Houston 11, St. Louis 1
Chicago Cubs 8, Pittsburgh 3
Milwaukee 3, San Francisco 0
Florida 9, Montreal 0
Cincinnati at Philadelphia, ppd., rain
Atlanta 6, N.Y. Mets 1
Colorado 14, Arizona 4
Los Angeles 11, San Diego 4

Today's Games

Cincinnati (Acevedo 1-0) at Philadelphia (Padilla 0-1), 12:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Fogg 0-1) at Chicago Cubs (Zambrano 0-0), 1:20 p.m.
Florida (Pavano 0-0) vs. Montreal (Day 0-0) at San Juan, 1:35 p.m.
Arizona (Daigle 0-1) at Colorado (Elarton 0-1), 2:05 p.m.
Atlanta (Ramirez 0-0) at N.Y. Mets (Leiter 0-0), 6:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Sheets 1-0) at Houston (Redding 0-1), 7:05 p.m.
Los Angeles (Nomo 1-1) at San Diego (Lawrence 1-0), 9:05 p.m.

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	4	3	.571	—
New York	5	4	.556	—
Tampa Bay	4	4	.500	½
Baltimore	3	4	.429	1
Toronto	2	6	.250	2½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	6	2	.750	—
Chicago	5	3	.625	1
Kansas City	4	4	.500	2
Minnesota	4	4	.500	2
Cleveland	3	6	.333	3½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	6	2	.750	—
Anaheim	6	3	.667	½
Texas	4	5	.444	2½
Seattle	1	7	.125	5

Wednesday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 5, Tampa Bay 1
Chicago White Sox 10, Kansas City 9
Baltimore at Boston, ppd., rain
Detroit 5, Toronto 3
Minnesota 10, Cleveland 6
Oakland 9, Texas 4
Anaheim 6, Seattle 5

Today's Games

Toronto (Halladay 0-2) at Detroit (Johnson 1-1), 12:05 p.m.
Oakland (Harden 0-0) at Texas (Rogers 1-0), 1:05 p.m.
Kansas City (B.Anderson 0-0) at Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 1-0), 1:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Ponson 1-0) at Boston (P.Martinez 1-1), 6:05 p.m.
Minnesota (Radke 1-0) at Cleveland (Stanford 0-0), 6:05 p.m.
Seattle (R.Franklin 0-0) at Anaheim (Lackey 0-1), 9:05 p.m.

Sports Briefs

Friday swingers

The SCGA will host a couples play day at 5:30 p.m. each Friday. Format is handicap scramble, and the cost is $10. Call the pro shop at 573-7101 for more information.

Gateway Golf Classic

The third annual Gateway Golf Classic will be held Saturday at Sammy Baugh Golf Course at WTC. Format is four-person scramble, and cost is $240 per team. Shotgun starts are set for 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. All proceeds benefit Gateway Family Services. Call 573-4351 for more information.

Gordon leaving UConn

STORRS, Conn. (AP) — Ben Gordon of NCAA champion Connecticut will skip his senior year to enter the NBA draft, he announced at a news conference.

Gordon averaged a team-leading 18.5 points for the Huskies, who beat Georgia Tech last week for the title. The junior guard averaged 21.2 points during six NCAA tournament games.

Rangers put Callaway on DL

ARLINGTON (AP) — Texas pitcher Mickey Callaway was put on the 15-day disabled list, a day after he gave up six runs in 1 1/3 innings in a loss to Oakland.

Callaway is the Rangers' No. 5 starter.

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CLASSIFIEDS



IRA SOPHOMORE UIL — These Ira sophomores participated in the district UIL contests held March 27 at Western Texas College. Front row from left are Sara Caldwell, social studies; Terryn Autry, 2nd spelling; and Rachel Caldwell, social studies, spelling. Back row from left are Ashton Smith, calculator, mathematics, number sense; Chris Dobbs, current issues and events, ready writing, informative speaking; Whitney Payne, editorial writing; and Brittany Dickerhoff, prose. Terryn Autry advanced to regional. (Contributed Photo)



IRA JUNIOR UIL — These Ira juniors participated at the district UIL contests held March 27 at Western Texas College. Back row from left are Sarah McCown, literary criticism, poetry; Amber Sanchez, ready writing; Brenda Torres, prose; Amanda Cink, 3rd news writing, feature writing alternate. Back row from left are Kevin Graves, mathematics; Justin Taylor, calculator alternate; Brandon Crane, calculator, mathematics, science; Devin Gutierrez, science. Amanda Cink advanced to regional. (Contributed Photo)



IRA FRESHMEN UIL — These Ira freshmen participated in the district UIL contests held March 27 at Western Texas College. Front row from left are, Aryn Calley, calculator; Jared Bailey, headline writing; Kelbi Pitner, news writing. Back row from left are Kate Wall, current issues and events, editorial writing alternate; Jon Beaird, social studies; Jessica Odom, 4th feature writing, ready writing. (Contributed Photo)

Horseback trip to include capital cities

TROY (AP) — Gene Glasscock, who is used to traveling and taking the long way around, is on the road again.

This time, he's on horseback, visiting all the capitals in the lower 48 states. Earlier this week, he visited Austin, the 29th state capital on his list.

The Farmersville native has been on the road for 19 months and estimates he has another 22 or so months to complete the ride.

Glasscock, who stables his horses at rodeo arenas and rents motel rooms between hosts, is funding the capital trip himself.

Before Glasscock's latest venture, his longest road trip was from the Arctic Circle to the equator.

This time, he's trying to raise awareness for a program at Pensacola Christian College that educates Paraguay students if they sign a contract promising to return to Paraguay when their school is finished.

Glasscock, 67, said it's an opportunity to invest in the future of another country.

"This is a chance to educate the poor people," he told the Temple Daily Telegram.

"It's not immigration. I'm against immigration. They have to go back to Paraguay."

Glasscock spent two years in the country teaching English as a second language and Bible classes to Paraguay children. But hearing loss in his right ear made it hard for him to continue teaching so he left, but his thoughts often drift back to those children and their parents.

"It's easy to tell somebody you love them, but more often than not it's just empty words," he said. "I've always believed if you love somebody you want to help them make their life better if you can."

Glasscock, who can trace his Texas roots back to the 1820s, says Austin was the first state capital where no state government representative greeted him. He shrugged off the omission.

But Tammy Brown, a member of the Texas Equestrian Trail Riders Association who provided lodging for Glasscock on Tuesday and Wednesday night, was critical.

"I think it's embarrassing no one in Austin thought enough of what he's doing and how he's doing it to even greet him," she said.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Congestive heart failure related to gravity

DEAR DR. GOTT: In your column concerning the 65-year-old wife who suffered from breathlessness in bed at night and obtained relief from standing or sitting, you answered in a treatise of 320 words that the cause was gravity.

Gravity? No way.

The heart is to blame. It is suspended by tissues in a sac in such a way that allows it to work best in the vertical position. When in a horizontal position, the heart is compressed by other organs in the chest cavity, causing stress. You knew all this but got sidetracked.

DEAR READER: No, I didn't get sidetracked. And, I'm sorry to say, I disagree with you completely. Your analysis is way off base.

In the column you read, I discussed congestive heart failure (CHF), a cardiac weakness (at least you were correct on this point) that leads to a fluid accumulation in the lungs. This, in turn, causes difficulty breathing at night (medically known as paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea) because of — are you ready? — gravity.

Here is a brief synopsis of what goes on.

A failing heart pumps inefficiently. As a consequence, the body retains excess fluid, sometimes several pints of extra fluid. This fluid leaks out into various tissues, causing congestion and swelling (edema). This is why cardiac patients often have swollen ankles. Because of gravity, the excess fluid is moved to the lowest portion of the body: the feet and ankles.

However, when such a person assumes a supine (lying down) position, the fluid — because of a different effect from the gravitational pull — tends to leave the lower extremities and pool in the lungs. Therefore, patients with CHF may have difficulty breathing at night, but the discomfort can be lessened if they stand or sit to allow gravity — once again — to pull fluid out of the lungs and into the lowest part of the body: the feet and ankles.

Patients with CHF also experience other symptoms, such as malaise and exercise intolerance, but, basically, symptoms reflect the effects of gravity on the body's fluid content.

The situation is not — repeat, not — related to the tissues around the heart. The heart is not "compressed" by other organs in the chest cavity. In fact, the heart is basically surrounded by lung tissue that is light, fluffy and full of air — until a cardiac patient lies down. Then part of the lungs become literally flooded.

CHF therapy is relatively straightforward: medicine to increase the strength of the heartbeat and to reduce the work of the heart, and — most important — drugs to stimulate the kidneys to excrete the extra fluid that moves from one part of the body to another, depending on gravity.

Remember that CHF is a symptom, not a disease. Any patient who exhibits exercise intolerance, edema or nocturnal dyspnea should be meticulously tested for the cause of these symptoms. More often than not, the affliction is a consequence of coronary artery blockages, cardiomyopathy (a primary disorder of heart muscle) or hypertension, diseases that need to be treated in parallel with CHF.

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

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

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Valley health centers will train workers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal Department of Labor awarded money and services totaling $4 million to a Weslaco-based group to train health care professionals and address nursing shortages in the Rio Grande Valley, government officials said Wednesday.

The grant to the Rio Grande Valley Allied Health Training Alliance is part of a national effort by the Labor Department to address health care labor shortages, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said in a statement.

About $24 million in money and in-kind contributions from hospitals is to be awarded this year.

The Rio Grande Valley alliance is a partnership of area hospitals and health care centers working to to attract and train more health care workers to the area.

The alliance will get $1.62 million and $2.84 million worth of in-kind contributions in training services from hospitals. The award will help businesses and community leaders develop, attract and retain a local workforce.

The group is to use the money and services to add students to current training programs, create a Skills Workforce Academy for nursing and allied health candidates, a training program for high school students and for financial aid.

"I strongly believe that programs like this one are critical to our efforts to get our economy moving again, give people the training they need to succeed, and address current and future health care needs," Cornyn said.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison said the award is "another heartening sign that the unique health care needs of the Valley are being recognized," she said.

Also Wednesday, the Department of Health and Human Services awarded a $16 million grant to Neighbors in Need of Service.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	12.80	12.35	12.37	— .25
AT&T Corp	18.96	18.81	18.90	+ .07
Albertsons	22.70	22.15	22.59	+ .43
Alltel	50.39	49.99	50.25	+ .53
AmEl Pw	30.96	30.55	30.84	+ .36
AndarkPtr	55.62	54.25	55.20	+ 1.08
ATMOS Egy	24.89	24.72	24.80	+ .04
Aviall	15.77	15.55	15.57	— .03
BP PLC	53.89	53.62	53.70	+ .69
BakerHughes	36.26	35.67	36.20	+ .52
Bank of Amer	80.64	79.65	79.65	— .44
BellSouth	26.48	26.15	26.42	+ .19
BurlNoSFe	32.49	32.07	32.16	+ .04
Caterpillar	81.96	80.90	80.98	— .05
CenterPoint	11.11	10.91	10.97	+ .08
ChevronTex	92.04	91.03	91.53	+ .53
Citigroup	50.80	49.63	49.64	— 1.31
CocaCola	51.55	51.30	51.51	+ .32
ColgatePal	55.30	54.90	55.24	+ .39
CmclMetals	29.40	29.15	29.18	+ .13
ConocoPhill	73.07	72.16	72.65	+ .59
Cooper Inds	56.99	56.35	56.45	— .21
DaimlrChry	40.64	40.30	40.34	+ .14
DeltaAirLines	7.60	7.34	7.35	— .35
Dillards Inc	17.67	17.16	17.35	+ .29
DowChem	41.47	40.98	41.04	+ .04
DuPont	45.00	44.61	44.67	— .33
EastmanChem	43.11	42.64	42.69	— .11
EstKodak	25.41	24.90	24.99	+ .01
EDS Corp	20.12	19.72	19.89	— .13
Entergy	56.84	56.11	56.21	+ .09
ExxonMobil	43.54	43.27	43.46	+ .16
FootLocker	27.20	26.35	26.73	+ .52
GenDynam	93.29	92.55	92.58	— .14
GenlElec	30.78	30.30	30.43	— .05
GenMills	46.65	46.27	46.61	+ .25
GenMotors	46.20	45.42	45.46	— .50
GaPacific	34.93	34.27	34.59	+ .34
Goodrich	29.55	29.20	29.26	+ .03
Goodyear	8.98	8.76	8.77	+ .09
GtAtlPac	7.80	7.60	7.71	+ .13
Halliburtn	30.09	29.72	29.88	+ .08
Hanson PLC	38.40	38.31	38.35	+ .07
HarteHanks	23.43	23.05	23.20	— .25
HomeDepot	36.14	35.83	35.89	+ .07
HoneywellIntl	34.74	34.20	34.31	— .17
IBM	93.96	93.51	93.54	— .16
IntlPaper	42.20	41.66	41.72	— .18
JohnsonJn	53.44	52.87	53.22	+ .62
KinderMorg	61.10	60.60	61.10	+ .65
Kroger Co	17.14	17.00	17.02	+ .07
LockheedM	47.40	46.90	47.09	+ .32
Lowes Cos	53.19	52.50	53.11	+ .67
Lubys	5.97	5.90	5.97	+ .14
LucentTech	4.32	4.22	4.22	— .05
MarathonOil	33.80	33.41	33.50	+ .13
MayDeptStr	33.66	33.25	33.35	+ .10
Medtronic	50.38	49.96	50.14	+ .11
Motorola	17.72	17.31	17.39	— .15
NCR Corp	47.07	46.57	46.66	— .21
Navistar	48.24	47.36	47.65	+ .12
PNM Rescs	29.69	29.12	29.51	+ .40
Penney JC	34.62	34.29	34.56	+ .45
PepBoys	27.24	26.95	27.08	+ .12
PepsiCo	55.48	54.50	54.77	— .14
PhelpDodge	74.05	72.70	73.39	+ .46
PilgrimsPride	23.07	22.80	22.80	+ .28
Praxair s	38.49	38.02	38.13	+ .23
ProctGamb	106.76	105.75	106.11	+ .30
RadioShack	31.48	30.87	31.21	+ .45
RoyalDut	49.51	49.28	49.35	+ .62
SBC Comm	24.50	24.11	24.49	+ .33
SaraLee	22.22	22.02	22.09	— .02
Scripps EW	106.60	105.50	105.80	+ .15
SearsRoeb	42.71	42.17	42.35	+ .16
SherwinW	38.64	37.87	38.40	+ .49
SouthernCo	29.59	29.15	29.19	+ .08
SwstAirl	15.05	14.63	14.64	— .42
SprintFON	19.20	18.86	18.97	+ .03
SprintPCS	9.57	9.44	9.48	— .02
Sunoco Inc	63.75	62.20	62.48	+ .37
TXU Corp	28.10	27.65	28.01	+ .24
TempleInland	62.57	61.75	62.28	+ .53
TexInd	37.00	35.97	36.08	— .75
TexasInst	29.18	28.22	28.23	— .45
Textron	53.25	52.43	52.44	— .47
TimeWarner	16.78	16.56	16.59	— .15
TrinityInds	28.42	27.74	28.12	+ .38
TylerTech	9.81	9.70	9.70	— .10
UnionPacf	57.71	57.29	57.36	+ .05
USSteel	37.25	36.29	36.50	+ .21
UnitedTech	88.45	87.59	87.80	— .37
Unocal	37.92	37.51	37.80	+ .31
VerizonComm	37.20	36.96	37.20	+ .12
WalMart	57.99	57.43	57.71	+ .29
WellsFargo	55.45	54.78	54.80	— .44
WstnGasRs	53.75	52.77	53.51	+ 3.03
WinnDixie	7.77	7.55	7.69	+ .14
Xerox Cp	14.43	14.00	14.01	— .42
YumBrands	37.81	37.10	37.15	— .66

APR 15 2004

Student charged with faking abduction

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A criminal complaint against a woman accused of staging her own disappearance suggests she was motivated by a desperate desire to get back her boyfriend's attention.

Audrey Seiler, a 20-year-old sophomore at the University of Wisconsin, was charged Wednesday with two misdemeanor counts of obstructing officers. Each charge carries up to nine months in jail and a $10,000 fine.

Seiler disappeared from her off-campus apartment March 27 without her coat or purse. She was discovered curled in a fetal position in a marsh four days later, and told police that a man had abducted her at knifepoint.

Police concluded Seiler made up the story after obtaining a store videotape that showed her buying the knife, duct tape, rope and cold medicine she claimed her abductor used to restrain her. Seiler confessed after she was confronted with the tape, according to authorities.

"I set up everything. I'm just so messed up. I'm sorry," they quoted her as saying. But she later recanted the statement, insisting she had been abducted.

The criminal complaint depicts Seiler as a young woman upset by a fading relationship with her boyfriend, Ryan Fisher.

Friends said the two had been fighting, and Seiler's roommate, Heather Thue, told officers that Fisher did not pay as much attention to Seiler as she wanted. Seiler's mother told police her daughter had not been herself lately and was "extremely needy" of Fisher.

Three days before she disappeared, her laptop was used to log onto Fisher's e-mail account and read exchanges "with romantic overtones" between him and another woman, according to the complaint.

Hundreds of people from Madison and Seiler's hometown searched for her after she disappeared, and her claim about an armed man touched off a major manhunt that authorities said cost the police about $96,000.

Her first court appearance was scheduled for today, but her attorney was expected to appear in her place.

Lawyer Randy Hopper would not say Wednesday whether she would contest the charges. He called Seiler a "model student, a model citizen."

"A lot of this is just sinking in," Hopper said in an interview on NBC's "Today" today. "Audrey is dealing with a lot of trauma, as is her family. She is dealing with a lot of emotional pain and some physical pain as well due to the circumstances that occurred."

A message left at Seiler's home in Rockford, Minn., was not immediately returned. There was no answer at the campus telephone number for Fisher.

Hopper said Seiler was home with her parents and receiving "medical care and the care and support that she needs from her family."

Father of hit-and-run suspect says he sought help for his son

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The father of a man accused of going on a deadly hit-and-run rampage said he repeatedly warned mental health officials that his son was a danger to himself and others.

Abdullah El-Amin Shareef, 25, is charged with first-degree murder and three counts of first-degree attempted murder stemming from the hit-and-runs, in which five pedestrians were struck. One victim was killed, and another was critically injured.

Authorities said Shareef stole a Fayetteville city-owned van, then a truck, and drove across three counties seeking out pedestrians.

The younger Shareef was held without bond and taken to Dorothea Dix Hospital, the state's mental hospital.

"That's not the son I raised," Abdullah Shareef, 70, said by phone from a friend's home in Raeford late Wednesday. "He was an academically gifted child, a disciplined child. He has definitely always had a great respect for people."

Police and witnesses said the rampage began shortly after 7 a.m. Wednesday, with the theft of a city van in Fayetteville. It ended with Shareef's arrest a little over two hours later in Fuquay-Varina, more than 40 miles north.

Lonel Bearl Bass, 56, of Linden, died after he was hit by the van and pinned. Gary Lee Weller, 55, was in critical condition early today at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

Also struck were David McCaskill and Robert Fortier in Cumberland County. McCaskill was hit while walking his two dogs, and said the driver beat him after an unsuccessful attempt to back over him.

"I was holding my hands above my head trying to block him. I asked him, 'What have I done to you?' but he never opened his mouth," said McCaskill, 65.

The attacker drove off when neighbors came out of their houses.

Neither man suffered life-threatening injuries. An unidentified victim was hit in Harnett County, apparently with a truck taken from Bass.

Shareef said his son had in recent years been troubled by psychological problems, family troubles and drug use.

He said the younger Shareef had been living at a Salvation Army shelter in Fayetteville for the past week, after a three-day stint at Dix Hospital in December and two short jail terms.

"He's had some difficulties," Shareef said. "We tried to help him."

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Girl with big dream is encouraged to go for it

DEAR ABBY: I read the letter from "I Have a Dream," the 13-year-old girl who wants to be president of the United States, while en route to meet with our state assemblyman and senator. I have never written a Dear Abby letter before; however, that girl's letter touched my heart. I am angry she is being ridiculed.

When I was in elementary school and told people that I wanted to be a doctor, they told me that my dream was also impossible. There were few women doctors then. We were poor, so I started my career in nursing school. I worked my way through college and medical school. Today, I am not only a doctor, but also a teacher in medical school.

Please tell that young girl to ignore those who are jealous of her and to strive for her goals. She can do it!

Today, I met a young man in his 20s. He is the legislative director to Sen. Nick Spano of the New York state Senate. I asked his advice for "I Have a Dream." He said:

(1) First, do not listen to those who laugh at you or don't support you.

(2) Stay involved in your knowledge of current events.

(3) Read the newspaper.

(4) Become involved in your community. This is how you meet people. You may be able to volunteer for someone during this election year.

(5) Run for school office/student government.

It is also a good idea to have a mentor — someone in government or politics — and always stay in touch with him or her.

As I was leaving the New York State Capitol building, there was an exhibit showing photographs of women in New York state senior government positions. They numbered 47!

I hope this inspires that girl and gives her the courage to follow her dream. I wish her all the best — and hope she'll let us know when she runs for her first office. — **FRANCES MCGILL, M.D., BRONXVILLE, N.Y.**

DEAR DR. MCGILL: I concur with you on all points. Bless you for the wonderful pep talk. I'm betting your letter inspires many more young women than the one who wrote. You're a wonderful role model. **Read on:**

DEAR ABBY: This message is for the little girl who dreams of being president. I saw a bumper sticker once that should encourage her: "A woman's place is in the House ... the Senate ... and the Oval Office." — **FEMINIST IN AUBURN, ALA.**

DEAR FEMINIST: I agree. A woman's place is wherever she wants to be, and feels she can make a contribution.

DEAR ABBY: When I was 11, I decided I wanted to be an astronaut. Peers and adults laughed. They said I was silly to think a girl (and a poor one at that) could ever become an astronaut or even study science.

Due to vision problems, I never became an astronaut. But I did earn a Ph.D. in a scientific field. I am a tenured professor at a research-oriented university. So, who's laughing now? I am! — **RHONDA A. HYDE, Ph.D.**

DEAR DR. HYDE: And I'm laughing with you. A woman can travel as far as her dream can take her — and sometimes even beyond. More on this subject tomorrow.

**

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.

**

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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'93 Chevy SWB Reg. Cab	$5,850
'01 Chevy S10 Reg. Cab auto, 8K miles	$10,850
'00 Chevy S10 Excab automatic	$11,200
'02 Ford Ranger Supercab XLT loaded	$12,850
'03 Ford Ranger Supercab XLT 1 owner	$14,850
'99 Chevy Excab 1500 4x4 automatic	$11,000
'02 Ford F150 Supercab XLT must see	$17,000
'02 Chevy 1500 Excab LS Pkg. Ranch hand grill guard	$18,500
'02 Chevy 1500 Excab 19K miles, red, neutral leather	$22,400
'02 Chevy 1500 Excab pewter, V-8, LS pkg., tow pkg.	$20,250
'03 Chevy 1500 HD Crew Cab LS white	$26,600
'03 GMC 1500 HD Crew Cab SLT leather	$28,650
'03 Chevy 2500 HD Crew Cab Duramax Diesel red, 4x4	$37,235
'02 Chevy 2500 HD Crew Cab Duramax 4x4	$35,425

SUVs!

'03 Chevy Tracker 4x4 ready to be towed, auto	$16,250
'02 Chevy Trailblazer white, 1 owner	$18,550
'99 Chevy Blazer LS 4 door, great transportation	$8,950
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'01 GMC Yukon XL SLT Pkg 4 bucket seats	$24,650
'03 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer Pkg. crimson, sandstone	$29,350
'02 Chevy Tahoe 3rd Seat LS Pkg. one owner	$24,250
'98 Olds Sillouhette Van great value	$8,950

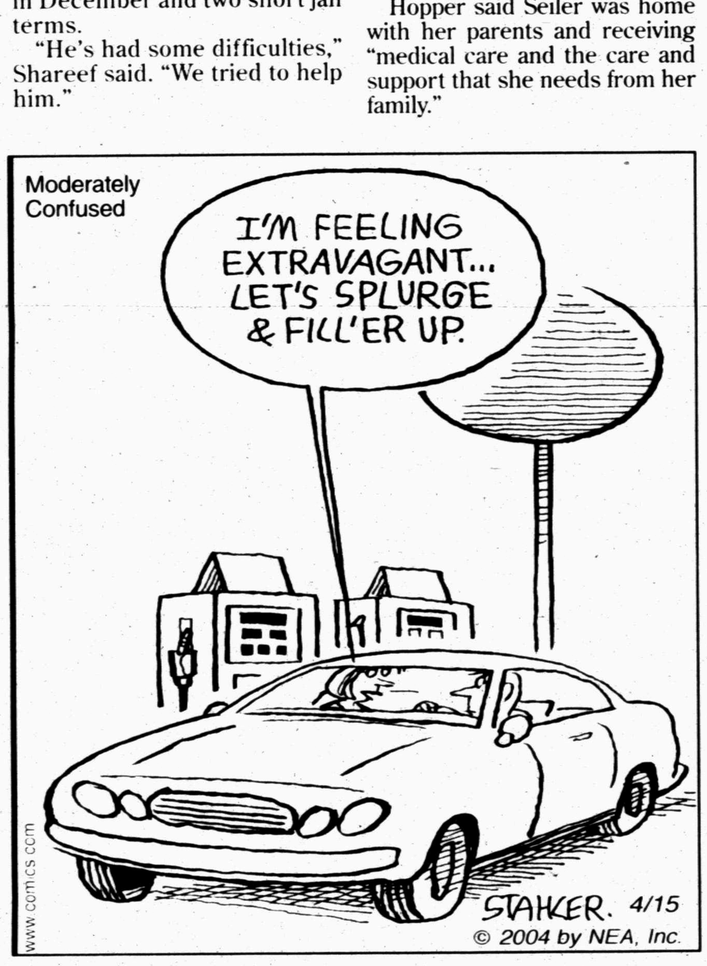
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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Friday, April 16, 2004

Take advantage of any opportunities you get in the year ahead to further your education in your chosen field of endeavor. Anything you can add to your reservoir of knowledge can lead to advancement and financial reward.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Substantial achievements are possible today through matching wits with others. Nobody is better than you at bold, imaginative thinking, so use all that's in your artillery to gain the upper hand.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Keep your own counsel today, especially if what's on your mind has anything to do with business or finances. Don't discuss your affairs even with one of your closest friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Finding time to attend a social gathering today could prove to be of substantial value. Someone may introduce a topic and impart valuable information that you'll be able to put to good use.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Don't allow yourself to get bogged down by petty issues or nonessential housekeeping today. You can achieve an important objective if you keep your mind on what's important.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — When it comes to matters that are personally significant to you today, chances are you'll be more visionary and farseeing than those with whom you're associating. Keep your own counsel.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Be doubly alert today to tidbits of information being imparted to you by a confidant. What is being said is meant for you personally and could turn a tidy profit if acted upon.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Put your personal imprint on any agreement or transaction you find yourself involved in today. It may take a bit of boldness, but being passive could be the only thing that would defeat you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Before calling in any expensive repairman today for a minor job, see if you can correct things yourself. If you put out the extra effort to try, you may not have to put out the extra bucks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — It'll be your magnetic personality that could help you get your points across today when dealing with those who aren't in the habit of listening. You'll initiate ways to get their attention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — When it comes to dealing with a family issue today, it may take common sense and practicality rather than emotion to settle the matter. You're the one who can determine what's best for all.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Now is the day to further develop any idea or project you have been mulling over lately. Your sharp mind and creative imagination will be particularly perceptive and insightful.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — By letting common sense prevail in your material or financial affairs today, everything will work out in your favor. You'll know how to separate what is of real value from what is superficial.

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

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Warehouse worker charged with looting

NEW YORK (AP) — A warehouse worker has been charged with looting personal items that belonged to John F. Kennedy Jr., including a Father's Day card from 1963.

Patrick Gallagher, 50, of Queens, pleaded innocent Tuesday to grand larceny and possession of stolen property. He was released on $5,000 bail.

Authorities accused Gallagher of stealing nearly three dozen items that had been stored in a Sotheby's warehouse.

More Texas soldiers killed in Iraq

ROCKSPRINGS (AP) — When the father of a southwest Texas soldier saw a military representative at his front door, he realized that the news Army parents dread most had arrived at his home.

"Ronnie went to the door and saw the uniform, and he walked away," his wife, Terri, said Wednesday, "like he was trying to wish him from the porch."

The message, delivered Sunday to the Rocksprings couple, was that their son, Sgt. Cody Eckhart, 25, was killed Saturday in Iraq. Eckhart, who was stationed at Vilseck, Germany, was a cavalry scout with F Troop, 4th Cavalry, his mother said.

The soldier, who conducted reconnaissance, had survived missions in Bosnia and Kosovo. He had been in Iraq since February.

Another Army sergeant, who loved spending time with his family in Edinburg and dreamed of settling down in his hometown, died Wednesday, his family said. Military officials told the family that Sgt. Christopher Ramirez of the 3rd Infantry Division based in Fort Stewart, Ga., died in an ambush.

The military would only tell the Eckharts that their son died from shrapnel wounds to his legs. The wife of a comrade told Terri Eckhart that her son died in a rocket-propelled grenade attack about 30 miles north of Baghdad.

Eckhart was a poor student who struggled with what he wanted to do after high school, Terri Eckhart said. He excelled as a cross-country runner.

He loved being outside and found himself in the Army. But it was only during a trip home at Christmas that he discussed his secretive job with his family for the first time.

"He wasn't going anyplace that was going to be a safe duty station," his mother said. "He liked the adventure, the excitement and the whole big deal of it."

Those who knew him found him to be a different person than the skinny loner they had been acquainted with in his teenage years, she said.

"He liked rappelling down mountains out of helicopters," she said. "The Army gave him a confidence. Everyone who saw him after he joined the Army was totally amazed by the person he changed into," she said.

"The Army has been so good to him," she said. "Even in losing him this way, he was happy there."

At least half the 1,200 people of the ranching community attended a memorial service Monday night honoring Eckhart, the San Angelo Standard-Times reported.

Another vigil is being planned for later this week, and the funeral will be in Hondo, where Eckhart was born.

"The amount of support we have is overwhelming," his sister, Staci Eckhart, said. "There has been so much support we almost feel like we don't deserve it all. But things like this are everyone's loss because people realize the sacrifice soldiers make on their behalf."

Another Texas soldier who died, Sgt. Ramirez, did not want to be in Iraq, said Cynthia Ramirez, his sister-in-law.

"He only wanted to be there for his troops, to lead his platoon.

AA plane makes an emergency landing

CHICAGO (AP) — An American Airlines flight from New York made an emergency landing Wednesday at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport after some flight attendants were injured when the plane hit turbulence.

Flight 117 departed New York's John F. Kennedy Airport at 2:30 p.m. Eastern time and was headed to Los Angeles when the Boeing 767 experienced turbulence as it was climbing at 30,000 feet, said American Airlines spokesman Tim Wagner.

Four flight attendants received minor injuries, such as bruises or strained necks, and were taken to an area hospital after the flight landed in Chicago, Wagner said. The plane had nine flight attendants.

None of the flight's 137 passengers were injured because the sign was on instructing them to fasten their seat belts, Wagner said.

The passengers transferred to a new aircraft — a Boeing 757 — in Chicago so the 767 they were on could be examined for possible damage, Wagner said.

The flight departed from an O'Hare gate Wednesday evening on its way to Los Angeles, Wagner said.

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MSRP $17,045
Customer Cash ..-$2,500
AQHA Rebate ....-$500
WM Discount .....-$800
CASH PRICE $13,245

2004 Ford Taurus SES

#4015, V-6, leather, CD, keyless, power seat



MSRP $22,180
Customer Cash ..-$3,000
FMCC Bonus Cash-$1,000
AQHA Rebate ....-$500
WM Discount ....-$1,535
CASH PRICE $16,145

2004 Ford Mustang

#4012, V-6, auto, power windows/locks, CD/MP3, Pony Pkg.



MSRP $20,535
Customer Cash ..-$3,000
AQHA Rebate ....-$500
WM Discount ....-$1,212
CASH PRICE $15,823

2004 Ford Ranger Reg. Cab Edge

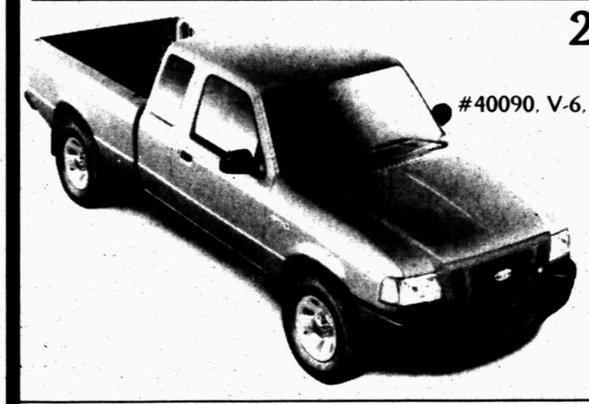
#40104, V-6, auto, 6 disc CD/MP3, cruise, A/C



MSRP $18,975
Factory Discount ..-$970
Customer Cash ..-$3,000
AQHA Rebate ....-$500
Commercial Rebate-$1,000
WM Discount ....-$1,193
CASH PRICE $12,312

2004 Ford Ranger Super Cab XLT

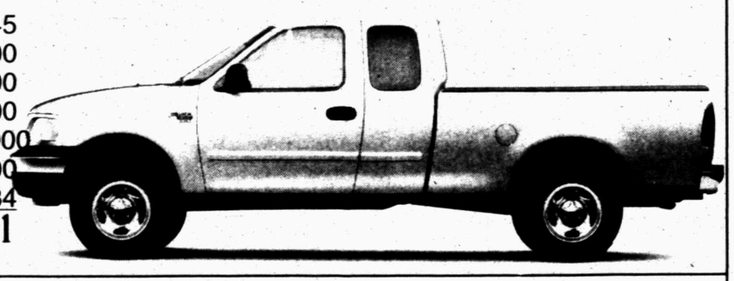
#40090, V-6, auto, power windows/locks, CD, keyless



MSRP $22,050
Factory Discount ..-$675
Customer Cash ..-$3,000
AQHA Rebate ....-$500
Commercial Rebate-$1,000
WM Discount ....-$1,553
CASH PRICE $15,322

2004 Ford F150 Super Cab XL

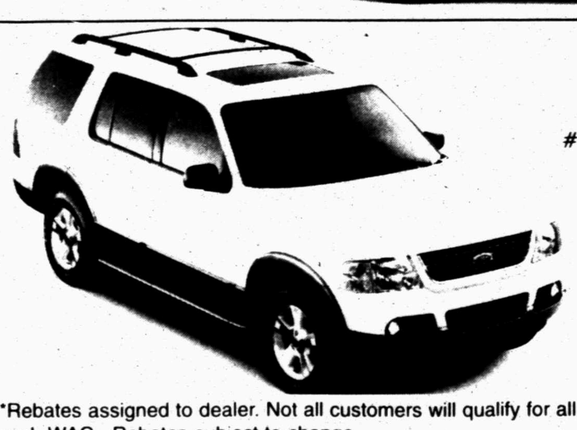
#40065, V-8, auto, A/C, cruise, trailer tow, work truck.



MSRP $25,145
Customer Cash ..-$2,500
FMCC Bonus Cash -$500
AQHA Rebate ....-$500
Commercial Rebate-$1,000
Fast Cash .....-$1,000
WM Discount ....-$2,634
CASH PRICE $17,011

2004 Ford Explorer XLS

#40232, V-6, Sport pkg., cruise, keyless, CD



MSRP $28,630
Customer Cash ..-$3,000
FMCC Bonus Cash -$500
AQHA Rebate ....-$500
WM Discount ....-$2,011
CASH PRICE $22,619

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5.4, power windows/locks, keyless, 59K miles

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Power windows/locks, keyless, CD, only 18K miles

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Leather, fully loaded, factory warranty, 21K miles

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APR 15 2004

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Iran tries to resolve al-Sadr dispute

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — An Iranian envoy headed to Najaf today to try to resolve the U.S. standoff with a radical Shiite cleric, an intervention by a nation Washington has tried to keep out of Iraqi affairs and a sign of the eagerness to avert a U.S. attack on the holy city.

Hours after the announcement, gunmen killed a high-ranking diplomat from the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad. It was unclear whether the killing was linked to the mediation effort.

Khalil Naimi, the first secretary of the Iranian Embassy, was shot in the head in his car near the embassy, Foreign Ministry official Mohammad Nouri told The Associated Press in Tehran.

Also today, the military acknowledged it wants to boost its strength in Iraq, though it was unclear whether that meant requesting more troops.

The top U.S. generals in the Middle East and in Iraq, Gen. John Abizaid and Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, have "decided they want more capability given the current security situation here in Iraq," said Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chie's of Staff.

Myers said the need to defend supply lines for U.S. forces was "part of the calculations" by Abizaid and Sanchez in making their request.

Iraqi militants executed an Italian security guard who was taken hostage, the first captive known to have been killed among dozens of foreigners kidnapped during in a surge of violence this month.

21,000 soldiers will stay in Iraq longer

WASHINGTON (AP) — For about 21,000 American soldiers, the Army's promise to limit tours of duty in Iraq to no more than 12 months has fallen victim to the surge in anti-occupation violence.

Approximately 14,500 soldiers of the 1st Armored Division, which is based in Germany, plus about 3,200 support troops and about 2,800 soldiers of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment from Fort Polk, La., have been told that they will remain in Iraq for another three months instead of coming home this month, defense officials said today, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The decision breaks the Army's pledge to soldiers and their families that assignments in Iraq would not exceed one year. The affected soldiers already have been in Iraq for a year.

About 3,000 soldiers in a number of transportation and other support units based in Kuwait will be extended beyond one year, an official said today. Many of them are in the National Guard or Reserve. They are deemed critical to resupplying the troops based in Iraq.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld was to announce the decision today. He had said last week that he would approve Iraq tour extensions if commanders believed it was necessary to maintain enough combat power to deal with the recent escalation of attacks by insurgents.

At a Baghdad news conference today, Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was asked whether the troop extensions indicate plans for large-scale offensive operations. He did not answer directly, saying the move was deemed necessary given "extremist and terrorist acts that must be dealt with."

Myers said it has yet to be determined how long the added combat power will be kept in Iraq.

"It will depend on events here on the ground," he said. "But I think what it shows is our resolve to see this situation through." Myers was in Baghdad for talks with U.S. and coalition commanders and to meet with L. Paul Bremer, Iraq's U.S. administrator.

The troop extensions come at a particularly delicate moment. April has become the deadliest month for U.S. forces in Iraq since they set foot in the country in March 2003. The number of wounded also has skyrocketed.

The advantage of keeping soldiers of the 1st Armored and the 2nd Armored Cavalry in Iraq for an extra three months is that these soldiers have unmatched combat experience in Iraq and familiarity with insurgents' tactics.

The Army is so stretched by its commitments in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans and elsewhere that it has few forces immediately available to substitute in Iraq for the 1st Armored or 2nd Armored Cavalry.

Man claiming to be bin Laden offering 'truce' with Europe

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — A man identifying himself as Osama bin Laden offered a "truce" to European countries that do not attack Muslims, saying it would begin when their soldiers leave Islamic nations, according to a recording broadcast today on Arab satellite networks.

Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain quickly spurned what appeared to be an attempt to drive a wedge between Europe and America.

The tape, which ran in full at more than seven minutes, also vowed revenge against America for the Israeli assassination of Hamas founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin and denounced the United States as using the Iraq war for corporate profiteering.

"I announce a truce with the European countries that do not attack Muslim countries," the taped message said as the stations showed an old, still picture of al-Qaida leader.

The message said "the door to a truce is open for three months," but the time frame could be extended. "The truce will begin when the last soldier leaves our countries," the speaker said without elaborating.

A CIA spokesman said the agency was reviewing the tape to determine its authenticity.

Palestinians dismayed by Bush endorsement for Israeli plan

JERUSALEM (AP) — The strong U.S. endorsement of Israel's "disengagement" plan left angry Palestinian leaders scrambling to galvanize international opposition today.

Yasser Arafat vowed to "defend our land and sacred places," and to stand by a demand that Palestinians be allowed to return to their homes in Israel.

Also today, Israel's attorney general ordered an unprecedented freeze on funding for settlement construction, saying the government broke a promise not to divert money to unauthorized settlement outposts in the West Bank.

In Gaza, 20 Palestinians were hurt, four of them critically, when an Israeli helicopter gunship fired a missile during a raid of a refugee camp, doctors said.

Sharon's disengagement plan won the strong backing Wednesday from President Bush. Israel would withdraw from all of the Gaza Strip and four small West Bank settlements, and impose a boundary on the Palestinians.

While voicing support for an independent Palestinian state, Bush also gave unprecedented U.S. backing for Israel to hold on to some settlements in the West Bank. He also ruled out allowing Palestinian refugees to return to Israel after a Palestinian state is created.

Those concessions enraged the Palestinians, who want an independent state in all of the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem, area Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war.

Arafat did not directly refer to Bush's speech today, but said that "our destiny is to defend our land and sacred places and our rights in freedom and independence and the return of the refugees ... to their homeland."

Palestinian leaders held a series of meetings to try to gather international support.

The White House meeting gave Sharon a welcome lift at home, where he faces hard-line opposition. Sharon has scheduled a May 2 referendum among 200,000 members of his Likud Party on the withdrawal, and the chances of approval are uncertain.

"Sharon: The Great Achievement," read the main headline in Yediot Ahronot, the country's largest newspaper, above a photo of a smiling Sharon and Bush.

A poll commissioned by Israel Army Radio showed growing Likud support for the plan. It said 57 percent of Likud voters plan to vote in favor and 35 percent against. Earlier polls had given Sharon barely 50 percent support. No margin of error was given.

Two arrested; theft, reckless driver reported

• ***Arrests***

A 23-year-old female was arrested at 10:35 a.m. Wednesday at the adult probation office on a warrant for no liability insurance.

At 12:19 p.m. Wednesday, a 50-year-old man was arrested on county warrants for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated and city warrants for public intoxication and failure to appear.

• ***Theft***

Police were dispatched to Gill's Chicken at 5:50 p.m. Wednesday after someone reportedly stole money from a fundraiser jar located there.

• ***Found property***

A cordless phone was turned into police at 10:42 a.m. Wednesday after being found in the street by a motorist.

• ***Disturbances***

Reports of a disturbance between juveniles were reported at 11:32 a.m. Wednesday behind Eckerd's.

At 4 p.m. Wednesday a fight was reported in the alley of the 3000 block of 37th. No fight was found at either location.

A noise disturbance was reported in the 400 block of 29th at 1:57 p.m. Wednesday.

A family disturbance involving a 14-year-old boy was reported at 2:12 p.m. Wednesday.

• ***Reckless Driver***

A reckless driver in the Western Texas College parking lot was reported at 10:43 p.m. Wednesday.

• ***Close Patrol***

At 9:55 p.m. Wednesday a close patrol was requested in the 1100 block off 30th Street.

• ***Hit and Run***

A hit-and-run accident was reported in the First Baptist Church parking lot at 8:33 p.m. Wednesday.

• ***Accidents***

A 1986 Mercedes driven by Estella Castelean was in collision with a 1989 Chevrolet pickup driven by Mariatta Jones at 3:39 p.m. Wednesday at the intersection of College Avenue and 39th Street.

An accident was reported at the intersection of College and 23rd Street. A 1994 Cougar driven by Sherlee Baudreau and a 2001 Chevrolet pickup driven by David Cain were involved. No injuries were sustained in either wreck.

Obituaries

Geneta Richards

1930-2004

Geneta Richards died Wednesday, April 14, at her home in Snyder.

Funeral service for Mrs. Richards, 74, is set for 2 p.m. Friday in the Wright Colonial Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Dan Crawford, pastor of Victory Baptist Church, will officiate. Burial will follow in the Ira Cemetery and arrangements are under the direction of Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

Born April 7, 1930 in Content, Tx., she married Wilmer Richards on Nov. 16, 1946 in Novice.

Mrs. Richards, a member of Victory Baptist Church, worked in the meat department for Furr's and IGA for 20 years, retiring in 1990.

Survivors include her husband, Wilmer Richards of Snyder; a son and daughter-in-law, Larry and Barbara Richards of Snyder; a brother, Ch[illegible]es Stephens of Novice; a sister, Louise White of Snyder; a grandson, Tim Richards of Denton; a great-grandson, Lucas Richards of Denton; and two step grandchildren, Stephan Kirk of Snyder and David Kirk of Alabama; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Family visitation will be held from 7 to 8 this evening at Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

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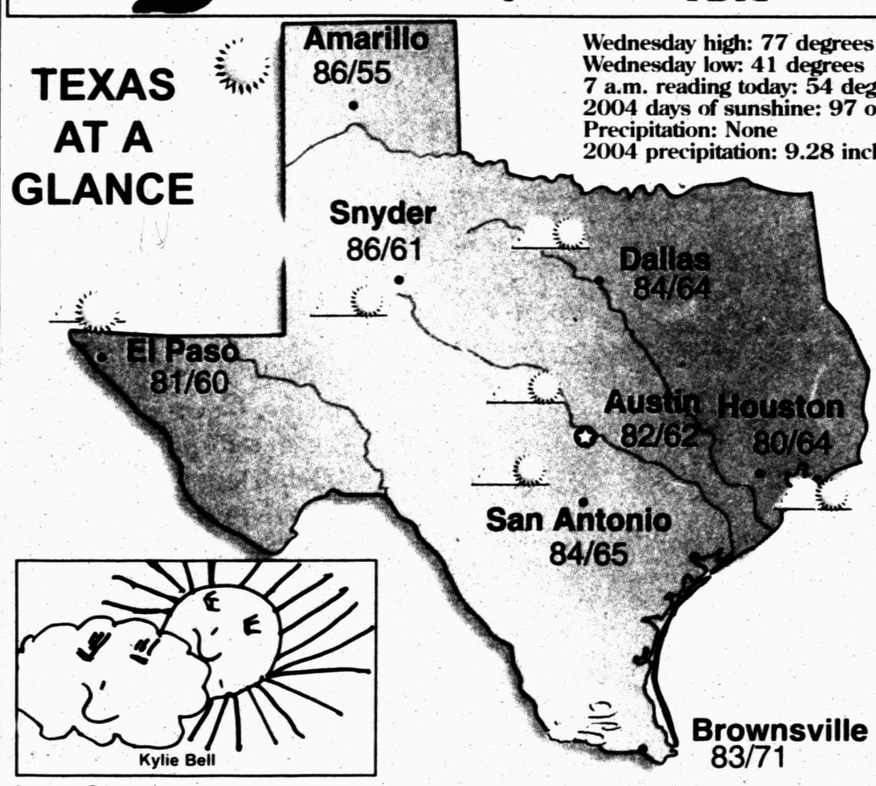
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Fri 4/16	Sat 4/17	Sun 4/18
86/61	81/61	84/58
Partly cloudy. Warm. High 86F. Winds SSW at 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a stray thunderstorm.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 50s.
Sunrise 7:12 AM, Sunset 8:15 PM	Sunrise 7:11 AM, Sunset 8:15 PM	Sunrise 7:10 AM, Sunset 8:16 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Wednesday high: 77 degrees
Wednesday low: 41 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 54 degrees
2004 days of sunshine: 97 of 105
Precipitation: None
2004 precipitation: 9.28 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	86	63	pt sunny	El Paso	81	60	mst sunny	Midland	86	61	mst sunny
Amarillo	86	55	sunny	Fort Stockton	88	60	mst sunny	Raymondville	85	68	windy
Austin	82	62	pt sunny	Gainesville	83	61	pt sunny	Rosenberg	81	63	pt sunny
Beaumont	79	62	mst sunny	Greenville	82	61	pt sunny	San Antonio	84	65	pt sunny
Brownsville	83	71	windy	Houston	80	64	pt sunny	San Marcos	84	62	pt sunny
Brownwood	88	61	pt sunny	Kingsville	84	68	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	82	60	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	81	69	windy	Livingston	81	59	mst sunny	Sweetwater	87	62	pt sunny
Corsicana	83	62	pt sunny	Longview	81	59	mst sunny	Tyler	83	60	mst sunny
Dallas	84	64	pt sunny	Lubbock	86	58	sunny	Weatherford	83	61	pt sunny
Del Rio	84	66	cloudy	Lufkin	83	60	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	88	63	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	76	48	sunny	Houston	80	64	pt sunny	Phoenix	89	62	mst sunny
Boston	51	40	sunny	Los Angeles	64	51	pt sunny	San Francisco	57	47	pt sunny
Chicago	78	56	pt sunny	Miami	76	68	pt sunny	Seattle	55	41	rain
Dallas	84	64	pt sunny	Minneapolis	73	46	pt sunny	St. Louis	82	63	sunny
Denver	71	45	mst sunny	New York	59	45	sunny	Washington, DC	64	50	mst sunny

Moon Phases

Last	New	First	Full
Apr 12	Apr 19	Apr 27	May 4

UV Index

Fri 4/16	Sat 4/17	Sun 4/18
9	8	8
High	High	High

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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