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WT-Int. Crude - $37.74
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Natural Gas - $5.60

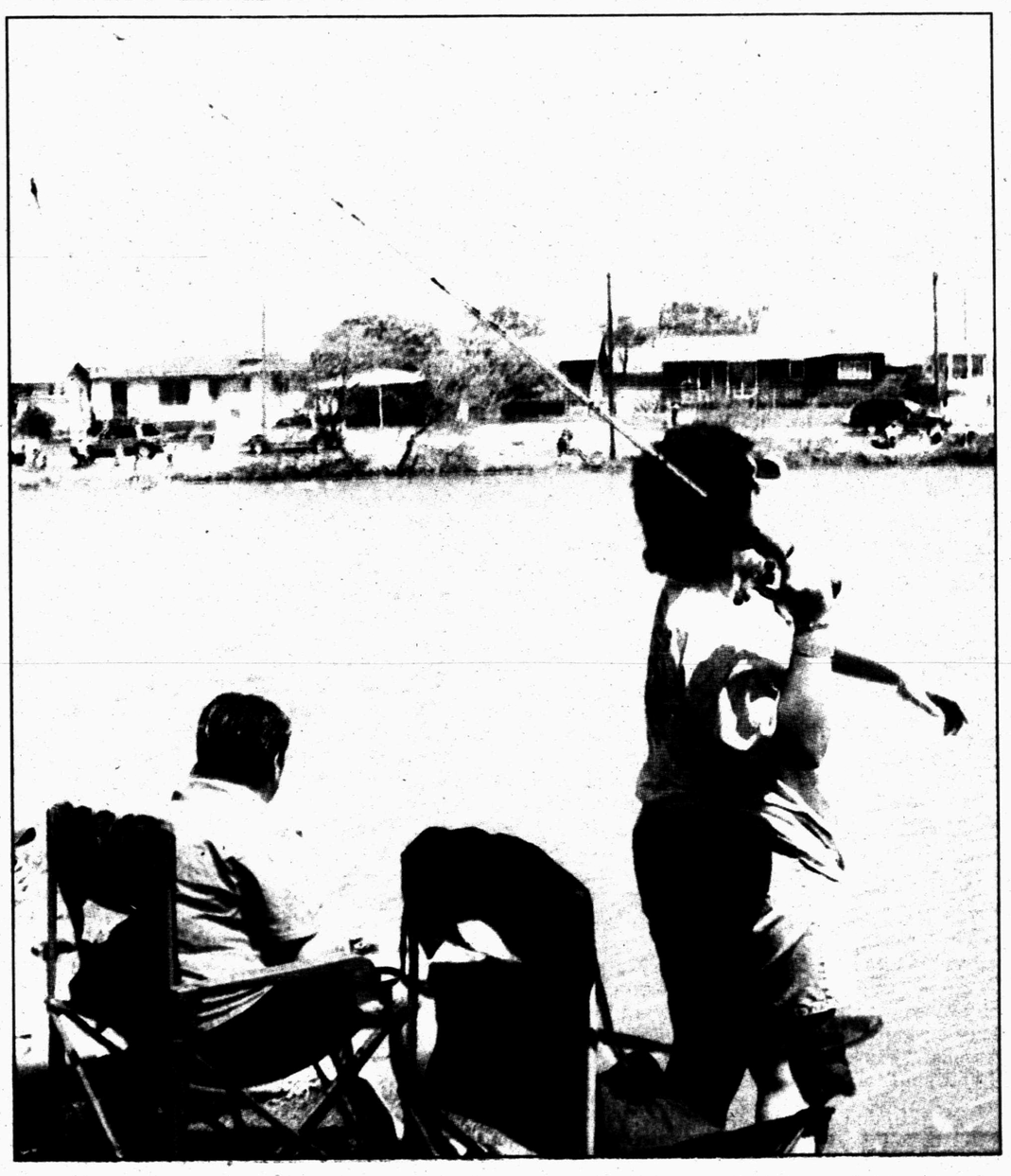
THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY

April 19, 2004
Vol. 55 No. 304
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Sarah Spradlin

APR 19 2004



CASTING AWAY CARES — Erica Ramirez makes a cast during the Boy Scout fishing tournament at Towle Park pond Saturday as Andrea Rodriquez watches. (SDN Staff Photo by Jeff West)

County supports DHS office remaining open

By Jeff West
SDN Staff Writer

The Scurry County Commissioners' Court expressed its support for keeping the local offices of the Texas Department of Human Services (DHS) open and to speak against a state plan that could close a number of DHS offices across the state.

Several employees of the DHS were at the court's meeting this morning to show their concern about Texas House Bill 2292 and the strong possibility the local office will be closed as part of a move to save money.

"We do not represent the Texas Department of Human Services (at the meeting) and our concerns do not, in any way, express representation of the Texas Department of Human Resources," said Kathy Hall, a DHS employee who works at several different offices in the region.

She said she and the others were there as private citizens and expressed several concerns the group had including loss of employment and affordable insurance for themselves, but she also worries about the clients.

"We're concerned about loss of services to those who do not have telephones at home and available access to the Internet, or the ability to use it.

"Also the hardship on those who have difficulty understanding programs, what they may be eligible for and what they are responsible to provide.

"And who is going to pay for medical care for persons who are denied Medicaid for whatever reasons?" she asked.

She then asked the judge and the county commissioners and "others in the community" to go a public hearing in Abilene Friday, April 30 at Abilene Christian University Bible Studies Building to speak.

JP staff on May agenda

Justice of the Peace Deborah Boyd asked the commissioners' court this morning for another clerk for her office.

She told the court that the county now has more Department of Public Safety troopers in the county "than we have ever had before.

"My office is being kept very busy with the increased number of tickets that the troopers are turning in to us. We are very fortunate to have this kind of problem," said Judge Boyd.

She said the highest average number of tickets per month in a given year was 491 and this year her office is averaging 519 per month and there are 442 tickets waiting to be processed.

"And we still have two weeks to go in this month," she said.

She also said her office has been given the responsibility for truancies and that number has also been increasing.

Precinct Four Commissioner Chloanne Lindsey gave some amounts collected in previous years and said at that time the JP office just had one full-time and one part-time clerk. Precinct One commissioner Ralph Trevey came back and asked what Boyd had collected so far this year and quickly added it up saying, "$260,000 a year more is not too shabby. This should have been an action item, but its not, and that's a shame."

Lindsey said, "I'm not saying I'm adamantly against it, but I think we should give it more time."

The court agreed to put the item on the May 17 agenda.

Commissioners also agreed, without an executive session to allow the judge to enter into a lawsuit against some oil companies. The Snyder ISD has also entered into the lawsuit.

Judge Rod Waller presided at the morning session and all commissioners were present.

Strayhorn: Perry's plan creates $10 billion deficit

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry's school finance and property tax reduction plan would create a $10 billion deficit in the state budget over the next five years, Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn said today.

A study by Strayhorn's office includes Perry's call for property tax reductions as well as new revenue the state would collect by expanding gambling with video lottery at race tracks, a $1-per-pack tax increase on cigarettes and a $5 tax on some adult entertainment.

"It factors in everything the governor has proposed," Strayhorn spokesman Mark Sanders said. "It stills leaves the state $10 billion short over the next five years."

Perry did not address Strayhorn's estimate during his opening remarks today to the legislative Joint Select Committee on School Finance.

"Texans want this Legislature to take decisive action to improve our schools and they want lower property taxes," Perry told the committee.

Perry called his plan a road map to reaching those goals.

"I don't contend that it is a perfect way. But, I do believe it is the best way," said Perry, who has called for a special legislative session on school finance to start Tuesday.

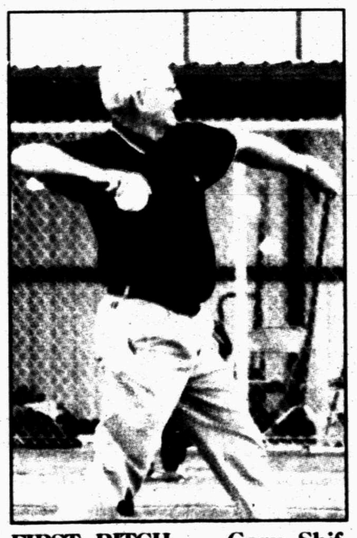
Strayhorn told Perry's office of her findings in a letter to the governor delivered today about an hour before Perry was to speak to the committee.

Strayhorn and Perry, both Republicans, have feuded publicly several times over the last two years over policy and state spending. Strayhorn has not ruled out a run for governor in 2006, when Perry would be seeking a second four-year term.

Perry says his plan would cut school property taxes by $6 billion and pump $2.5 billion into public schools

Perry's plan offers homeowners an immediate 17-percent property tax reduction, which could eventually reach 50 percent in the future if state budget surpluses are available to "buy down" the tax rate.

It would also separate the residential and business property taxes, making commercial property tax a statewide revenue.



FIRST PITCH — Gary Shifflett, store director at United Supermarket in Snyder, throws out the ceremonial first pitch of the series between the Lady Dusters and Clarendon College at the dedication of United Field at Western Texas College Sunday. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

Property renditions past due

By Jeff West
SDN Staff Writer

For many business owners in the state, April 15 wasn't just the deadline for the IRS, it was also the deadline to file renditions with the local county appraisal district.

Renditions are forms listing everything the business owns and that it uses in the production of income, according to Gloria Lopez of the Scurry County Appraisal District.

This amount is used to help determine taxes for a business.

The forms were mailed out to Scurry County business owners earlier this year with instructions on how to file them, but many have not been returned.

The good news is that, unlike the Internal Revenue Service, any business that files before the appraisal district takes legal action is usually in the clear.

But Lopez said delaying filing could be costly.

If the rendition has not been filed, a letter will be sent to the tardy business owner reminding them and warning that a 10 percent penalty will be added if not filed. Then a suit can be filed in district court to compel the filing of the rendition.

Within 30 days of receipt of the letter from the appraisal district, a business owner can request a waiver of the penalty.

If a waiver is not granted, an appeal can be filed with the appraisal review board, and that decision can be appealed, by either party, to district court. If the appraisal district prevails in district court it keeps up to 20 percent of the taxes and penalties and sends the remaining money to the taxing entities involved.



SERENDIPITY — Snyder High students enjoy a dance during their annual junior-senior prom held Saturday night at the Scurry County Coliseum. (SDN Staff Photo by Jeff West)

Funds being raised for Relay for Life

Relay For Life teams continue raising funds for the annual event set Friday and Saturday at Tiger Stadium.

The Snyder Junior High School team is offering chances to win a Play Station 2 for a suggested donation of $2.

Tonight and Tuesday, Bank Night will be held from 5:-7:30 p.m. at West Texas State Bank. Teams may pick up tee shirts also.

Following the theme "cancer never sleeps" the 2004 Relay For Life will begin at 8:30 a.m. Friday and conclude at 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

The Survivors Lap will kick off at 6 p.m. Friday. The candle lighting Luminary ceremony is planned Friday night.

Luminaries may be purchased for a $5 minimum. Contact Helen Mock at 573-8332 or 2711 Ave. V, Snyder 79549.

ASK US

Q—Is the city still accepting locations to pick up trash during this week's clean-up campaign.

A—Names will be put on a waiting list and city crews will make every effort to pick up all trash stacked curbside.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Ray Atkinson...

...has been a Snyder resident for 51 years. Retired from Chevron, Ray and his wife, Betty, have a son, Billy Don of Sweetwater, and a daughter, Kathy Powell, of Bronte. Ray enjoys sports of all kinds and travelling.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

No nation is better than the individuals who compose it.

—Cordell Hull

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "Nicodemus: Powerful Man with Powerful Questions," followed by "The Worship of the Church."

AA meeting

An AA meeting is held at noon every Tuesday and Friday at the Witherspoon house next door to the First Presbyterian Church. The meeting is non-smoking and closed. For more information, call 574-2656, or 207-1325.

Scurry Lodge 706

Scurry Lodge 706 will meet Tuesday to work on the E.A. degree. A chili supper begins at 6:30 p.m. The meeting begins at 7 p.m.

Mesquite Country Emmaus

The Mesquite Country Emmaus community meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Trinity United Methodist Church. Babe chicks meet at 6 p.m.

What's up guidelines

Items for What's Up will be published twice 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.

University of N.D., student's hometown hope for justice after her body is found

PEQUOT LAKES, Minn. (AP) — Feelings of anger, fear and pain fueled calls for justice in Dru Sjodin's hometown a day after the body of the University of North Dakota student was discovered in a ravine, marking a heartbreaking end to a five-month search.

The residents' target is Alfonso Rodriguez Jr., the man charged with kidnapping Sjodin.

"I've talked to a lot of people," said Dennis Weisman, 49, an usher at the nearby Crosslake Lutheran Church, which Sjodin's mother and stepfather attended.

"A lot of them want to string him up. They say 'Make him suffer like she's suffered,'" Weisman told the Star Tribune of Minneapolis on Sunday.

Searchers found Sjodin's body Saturday morning near a county road northwest of Crookston. Sjodin, 22, was last seen alive Nov. 22 at a Grand Forks, N.D., shopping mall.

Rodriguez, 51, has pleaded not guilty, but could face a federal murder charge now that Sjodin's body has been found. The convicted sex offender was arrested in December and is jailed in Grand Forks, N.D., on $5 million bail.

Attorneys familiar with the case have said federal prosecutors probably will take over the case, although the top federal prosecutors in Minnesota and North Dakota have said that is too early to determine. Neither state has capital punishment, but federal law allows the death penalty for murder committed during a kidnapping.

Ralph Eggert, 41, who works at a local golf course, said Rodriguez should face the death penalty.

"They should bring back public hangings," he said.

Eggert also said he was discouraged because the tight-knit community of 1,800 people — where everyone used to leave their doors unlocked and their keys in their vehicles — has become paranoid because of the Sjodin case.

Friends of Sjodin who were working at the Oasis restaurant Sunday tried to focus on Sjodin's life rather than her death.

"She was just a doll," said waitress Erica Doolittle, 22. "She would take you under her wing, no matter what, no matter who you were friends with or what you did. She was always there for you."

On the University of North Dakota campus in Grand Forks, several hundred mourners left candles on the lawn in front of Sjodin's sorority after gathering for a memorial Sunday night. Lillian Elsinga, the school's dean of students, spoke to the crowd and read a poem by Sjodin's grandmother.

"Now she has been initiated by God's angels and accepted her new job with her big blue eyes watching over us 'til we meet again someday," said Dani Mark, one of Sjodin's Gamma Phi Beta sorority sisters.

"It has been a long, long five months," Erinn O'Keefe Hakstol, adviser at the sorority, said earlier Sunday. "I can't say this is a happy ending, but now we can really celebrate Dru's life."

Bold leadership needed to solve mounting problems in Dallas

DALLAS (AP) — Surging crime, weak schools, job loss and civic leaders who seem not to notice the compounding problems have plunged "the city that works" into a crisis that can only be reversed by bold shifts in strategy, structure and services, according to a report by The Dallas Morning News published Sunday.

Dallas — lulled by past successes, cushioned by North Texas' robust growth, blinded by a lack of self-examination and hobbled by a legacy of racism and neglect — is at a tipping point, where wrong moves could precipitate decline, the News concluded, based on a far-reaching statistical comparison of Dallas and 14 other large U.S. cities by Booz Allen Hamilton.

"Dallas does not see itself as a city in crisis. ... But the data indicate that Dallas is a city in crisis," the firm concluded.

The Booz Allen study, commissioned by the News, used dozens of measures — from life expectancy to library visits — to produce a comprehensive picture of each city's performance.

Among the 14 peer cities, only three have worse violent crime rates, only four have lower student SAT scores, and none saw less economic expansion in the 1990s.

By those three measures — which are Dallas residents' top concerns — Dallas ranks No. 12 among the 15 cities.

The study showed that crime and troubled schools have driven families to Dallas' suburbs, causing the city's tax base and budget to shrink.

Some city leaders denied the study's conclusions while others fell back on habitual remedies.

Mayor Laura Miller said the report would send her into "despair" — were it not for her faith in a few big-fix projects, including a plan to develop the long neglected Trinity River corridor.

"The Trinity and downtown and Fair Park, that's the triumvirate that's going to get us there," she said. "I think a lot of ills will be solved by those three things happening."

But economists hired by the city estimated that, 10 years after completion, the city's $246 million investment in the Trinity River project would generate real estate, sales and tourism taxes equal to about one-half of 1 percent of the city's current budget.

City Council member Bill Blaydes called the Booz Allen report "a piece of junk."

"All you can do is find fault," Blaydes said. "There are tremendous positive things happening in Dallas, Texas, today."

The study found that Dallas has "tremendous natural advantages," such as location and climate. The cost of living is relatively low and Dallas' economy is diverse.

But Dallas' leaders are shortsighted, devoting little thought and fewer resources to planning for the future, the study found.

The city's once mighty economy has stalled. Although its gross city product rivaled its peers in 2000, its economy barely grew during the 1990s. Its liabilities outstripped its assets by $193 million in 2003. The commercial tax base is stagnating as businesses wither or leave the city.

Booz Allen sees the makings of a fiscal crisis: "an eroding tax base" set to collide with "long-term, underfunded liabilities."

The schools aren't producing enough educated workers. Comparing Dallas Independent School District with districts in peer cities, Dallas students scored an average of 850 on the SAT, more than 80 points below the average for the entire peer-city group in 2002. Nearly one-third of adults in Dallas did not graduate from high school.

Dallas' rates for both violent and property crime decreased slightly from 1997 to 2002. But on average, peer cities achieved four times the reduction in property crime and 14 times the reduction in violent crime.

The mayor and council members were surprised in 2003 to learn that among cities of at least 1 million people, Dallas was on track to record the worst crime rate in the nation — for the sixth year in a row.

Residents of the Dallas metro area spend more time stuck in traffic than residents of any peer cities except Houston and San Francisco. And there's a shortage of affordable homes for middle-income buyers.

All of these problems feed each other and set up "a cascading effect that creates a cycle of decline," Booz Allen concluded.

Fort Hood...

Army post preparing for welcome home celebration

FORT HOOD (AP) — At the Army's largest post, a welcome-home celebration for members of the 4th Infantry Division and other returning units is planned as relatives of other soldiers wounded or killed in Iraq deal with suffering and grief.

Texas cattle raisers are donating about 30,000 barbecue sandwiches for the "Task Force Ironhorse" bash on Thursday. Scheduled entertainment includes Drew Carey, Jessica Simpson, Ludacris, Lynyrd Skynyrd, the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders and the New England Patriots Cheerleaders.

Some organizers claim it will rival Woodstock.

Meanwhile, family members of recently deployed soldiers who may be stationed in Iraq more than a year watch and listen for word of their loved ones. And there's sorrow for the 96 Fort Hood troops killed and many more who were wounded in the conflict so far.

In Houston and other cities, funerals will be held for some of the 17 soldiers recently lost by the 1st Cavalry Division, which also is based at Fort Hood.

President Bush, at Fort Hood over the Easter weekend, had described a "tough week" of military casualties.

After four days off, returning members of the 4th Infantry undergo a mandatory program that helps them deal with issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder and alcohol safety or communicating with spouses and children. The division is almost completely back at Fort Hood after an 11-month deployment that took 79 lives.

"There is a certain degree of reintegrating with a family, and that's what all the training we're doing addresses," division spokesman Lt. Col. William MacDonald told the Houston Chronicle in Monday's online edition. "It gives you the awareness that it's a normal thing you go through."

While some returning troops are moving into refurbished housing units on the post, spouses who went home to relatives during the deployment are coming back to town.

The 4th Infantry will be regrouping in coming months, recouping their equipment from Iraq before resuming training for an inevitable future deployment.

"It's certainly a fair assumption that if you're in today's military — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines — your country can call on you anytime," said MacDonald.

Houston native Sharon Cecil's husband is in Iraq until 2005. She teaches kindergarten, manages a two-child household, stays active in a military family support network and looks forward to Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Cecil's letters and phone calls from his outpost near Baghdad.

"And when he calls, he really doesn't want to talk. He wants to hear me blather, to tell him everything. He wants to hear that grades are good. He wants to hear that the grass needs to be mowed. He wants to hear that the dishwasher works now and that the cars are running," she said.



events

LOTTO TEXAS
TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Saturday's Lottery numbers

Lotto Texas

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

Winning numbers drawn: 4-6-13-37-38. Bonus Ball: 2.

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

Number matching five of five: 3. Prize: $11,426.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 12. Prize: $2,593.

Number matching four of five: 663. Prize: $101.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 509. Prize: $116.

Number matching three of five: 24,822. Prize: $5.

Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 6,673. Prize: $5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 29,914. Prize: $3.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: $31 million.

Cash Five

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

Winning numbers drawn: 9-12-28-30-36.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Matching four of five: 119. Prize: $495.

Matching three of five: 4,029. Prize: $11.

Matching two of five: 39,939. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.

Pick 3
(Day) 9-3-2
(Night) 1-5-7

World Almanac

Monday, April 19, 2004

Today is the 110th day of 2004 and the 31st day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1775, the Revolutionary War began with the battles of Lexington and Concord.

In 1943, the Jewish uprising in Poland's Warsaw ghetto broke out.

In 1994, a truck bomb struck the Alfred P. Murrah building in Oklahoma City, Okla., killing 168 people.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Dudley Moore (1935-2002), actor; Tim Curry (1946-), actor, is 58; Al Unser Jr. (1962-), auto racer, is 42; Ashley Judd (1968-), actress, is 36.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1949, the New York Yankees held a pregame Opening Day memorial honoring Babe Ruth, who had died the year before.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Dad taught me everything I know. Unfortunately, he didn't teach me everything he knows." — Al Unser Jr.

TODAY'S FACT: The first Boston Marathon was held in 1897; women were not officially accepted into the race until 1972.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 100 billion — Approximate number of neurons (nerve cells) in the human brain.

TODAY'S MOON: New moon (April 19)

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Dinner conversation leaves deaf guest out of the loop

DEAR ABBY: I was at a dinner party recently. One of the guests, who was totally deaf, was completely ignored. Not once did anyone attempt to include him in the conversation. I don't know how he stood it.

After dinner I talked to him. He told me he is used to being ignored by hearing people at parties and hated attending them. He was there to please his wife, who is not deaf.

He spoke well and was good at lip-reading. He was intelligent, knowledgeable, and has a good job. He told me he would bring a good book to these gatherings if his wife didn't think it'd be rude.

Abby, how would you have handled this? I'm going to send your answer to every person I know. — **SHOCKED BY THE RUDENESS**

DEAR SHOCKED: A gracious hostess tries her best to assure that all of her guests will have a good time, and facilitates conversation. If I had been the hostess, I would have spoken with the couple in advance and elicited some interesting facts about the man. Then I would have shared them with the rest of my guests, as well as the fact that he could lip-read.

The alternative would be to "casually" mention that he is distantly related to Warren Buffett or Bill Gates, or that he's connected in the motion picture business. But then you'd probably have to hire police protection to keep the other guests from mobbing him. (Only joking!)

**

DEAR ABBY: My husband "Rick's" former wife, "Pearl," is determined to spoil Father's Day for my husband. It happens every year. They have four grown children; the youngest is 28. Pearl invites all of the children to her house for dinner on Father's Day. She also invites Rick's father. (Rick and his father don't have the best relationship.)

I know she does it to hurt Rick. There are 52 weeks in a year, and she could invite Rick's dad over on any of the other 51 weekends. She is so conniving that even a 4-year-old could see through her.

Rick and I never interfere with her plans for Mother's Day or any other holiday.

We can't make plans in advance and outfox her because she always issues the invitation so far in advance. Does she have a lack of class or what? How can we get around this? — **FRUSTRATED IN WISCONSIN**

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Discuss this situation with Rick's father and the children. Tell the children their father would love to have them spend Father's Day with him from now on. After all, it is supposed to be HIS special day. Say the same thing to Rick's father, and it might be a step in the right direction in mending their relationship. If they are unwilling to cooperate, the two of you should make special plans of your own on Father's Day.

**

DEAR ABBY: This question is very important to an elderly friend of mine, and I don't have the answer. Abby, if you are born on Feb. 29, what day do you celebrate on the years that are not leap years? No one I've asked seems to know. — **LULA IN LAKE CHARLES, LA.**

DEAR LULA: There are several ways to deal with it. Celebrate the big day on Feb. 28 or March 1 — or if he or she would prefer to age more slowly, celebrate the birthday only every four years!

**

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Families observe bombing anniversary

McALESTER, Okla. (AP) — Nine years after the Oklahoma City bombing, survivors and victims' relatives gathered to grieve again while bombing conspirator Terry Nichols hoped to avoid death row for his role in the blast.

Memorial services were scheduled in Oklahoma City and McAlester today to remember the 168 victims of the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

Without high-profile violence, some fear school safety will be slighted

DENVER (AP) — When 16-year-old Sean Fitzpatrick walked into his Spokane, Wash., high school last fall and fired a shot into a classroom wall, authorities quickly responded.

School officials evacuated 2,000 students and within 15 minutes of the first 911 call, a SWAT team had contained the teenager inside a chemistry lab.

Although the Spokane school was well-prepared, experts warned as the five-year anniversary of the Columbine High School massacre approached Tuesday that the focus on school security has declined.

Even in Colorado, some schools have not followed up on recommendations and the use of prevention programs has diminished.

"The problem is that when public attention fades away, momentum also does," said state Assistant Attorney General Don Quick, who served on the Columbine Review Commission and continues to meet with school officials on safety issues. "We're trying to prevent that."

On April 20, 1999, two teenagers walked into Columbine High School in Littleton with guns, knives and bombs and killed 12 students and a teacher before killing themselves.

In response, schools across the nation adopted violence prevention and response programs. They also worked more closely with law enforcement — a relationship that came under scrutiny in the aftermath of the Columbine attack.

At Columbine, no officers entered the building until about 40 minutes after the first 911 call from the school. Critics have said that decision might have contributed to the death of teacher Dave Sanders, who bled to death from gunshot wounds.

For decades, police were trained under a doctrine that had patrol officers wait until SWAT teams could be assembled to enter shooting scenes.

"We realize now that time is not on our side," said Curt Lavarello, executive director of the National Association of School Resource Officers.

After Columbine, a review panel recommended that Colorado schools develop violence prevention and response plans and update them regularly, and install a formal procedure to assess students as potential threats.

Children were encouraged to report suspicious behavior by other students, a tactic that has led to numerous arrests or expulsions nationwide, and schools began using anti-bullying programs.

But while Columbine prompted schools to catch up on a decade of negligence regarding safety planning, progress has stalled and schools nationwide are in a dangerous backslide, said Kenneth Trump, president of a Cleveland consulting firm, National School Safety and Security Services.

Administrators faced with a choice of hiring a security officer or a tutor are likely to go with a tutor because of the increasing emphasis on test scores, Trump said. And tight budgets leave teachers precious little time for crisis or anti-violence training.

"Because of our human nature, the reality is that we're at high risk of not moving forward again until there's another spate of high-profile (school violence) incidents," Trump said.

Surveys show that public school students in Jefferson County, the home district for Columbine, feel more secure and believe that employees deal effectively with bullies, said spokesman Rick Kaufman. Students also are increasingly willing to report threats or suspicious behavior by other students.

"A message we truly harp on is you can never let your guard down," Kaufman said. "It's when it surprises us that we wish we would have stayed vigilant."

U.S. Army snipers seen as 'political weapons'

NAJAF, Iraq (AP) — A U.S. Army patrol stops suspicious vehicles on the edges of this insurgent-controlled city.

Some 500 yards away, lying prone and hidden in the sand, two expert marksmen stalk Iraqis emerging from cars through the cross-hairs of their rifles.

If they detect a sudden, hostile move, the snipers should be able to kill the assailant with a single bullet before the patrol itself can react.

"We can't get enough of them," says Capt. Damien Mason, from Maui, Hawaii, a company commander who ordered the two shooters into position. "Snipers are vital in this kind of warfare."

Mason's commanding officer, Lt. Col. Karl Reed, describes snipers in Iraq as a "political weapon," ideally able to isolate and knock out combatants without harming civilians whom insurgents often use as human shields.

"You run into bad guys in a school with children. A regular infantry squad can't really cope. That's when you need snipers. They prevent civilian casualties, and thus political problems," said Reed, who commands the Stryker's Brigade 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment.

Officers say snipers in Iraq have inflicted the greatest number of casualties during counter-sniper fire or protecting an advancing unit by hanging back and watching for an insurgent to appear at a window or peer around a corner.

Despite thermal targeting devices and other battlefield wizardry, the technological advantage of U.S. forces drops sharply the moment a unit moves into the warrens of alleys, walled compounds and low, flat-roofed buildings that dominate Iraq's urban centers.

At such times, the finely honed skills of the snipers must kick in, and the fighting becomes close-up and dependent on raw instinct.

"It's more personal than regular combat. You see the man's expression before you pull the trigger, then the blood and the fall," says Cpl. Omar Torres, a sniper with the 2nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division.

The 23-year-old soldier and others rate their Iraqi counterparts low on training and ingenuity, saying opposing snipers invariably use upper stories of houses or rooftops and aren't armed with particularly accurate weapons. Nonetheless, they're among the main killers of U.S. forces after roadside bombers.

Today's chuckle

Trail of pennies lead police to suspects

VERONA, Pa. (AP) — A trail of pennies led police right to two suspects accused of robbing a private club.



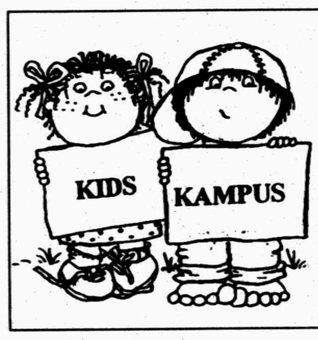
Police arrested a man and a teenage girl found at a home in Verona, after they followed pennies leading away from a Moose Club early Wednesday morning, police Chief Guy Truby said.

Outside the home, police said they found a claw hammer and a 3-pound sledgehammer they believe was used to smash open cash registers and a vending machine at the club. Police also said they found computer equipment stolen from another business, and cash, liquor and candy stolen from the club.

While police were searching the home, authorities said, 26-year-old Joshua May and a 16-year-old girl came back. May was arrested, arraigned Thursday on charges of burglary, receiving stolen property, theft and criminal mischief, and released. A reliable phone number for May could not be located and it was not immediately clear if he had an attorney.

The girl was turned over to her parents while she awaits a hearing in juvenile court, Truby said.

Verona is just outside Pittsburgh.



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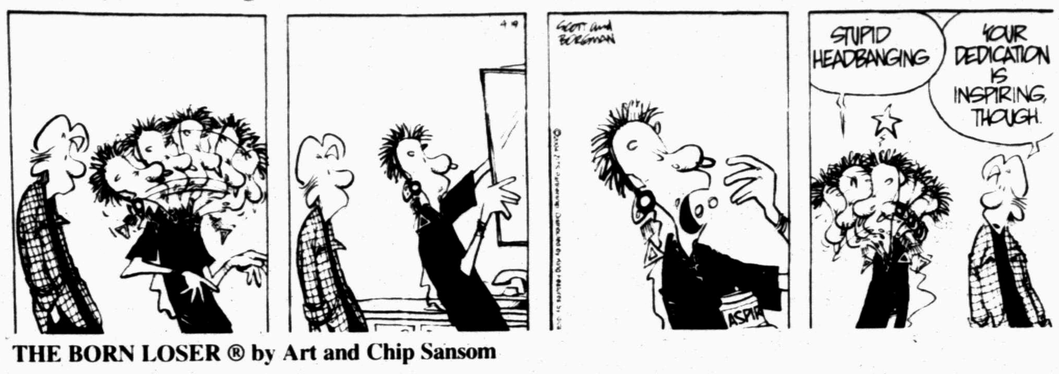
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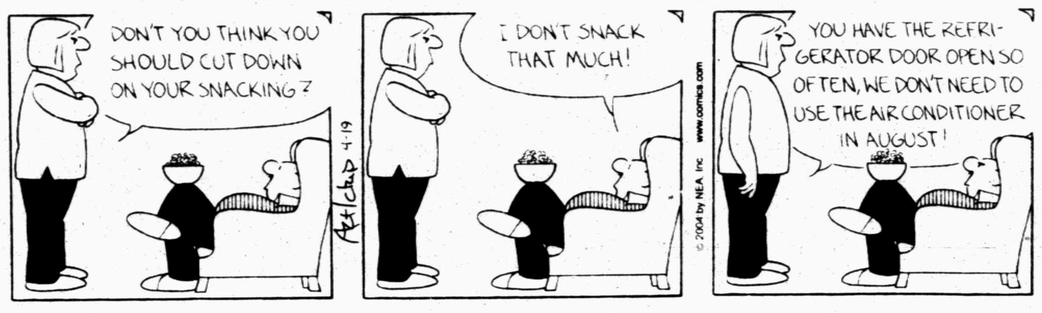
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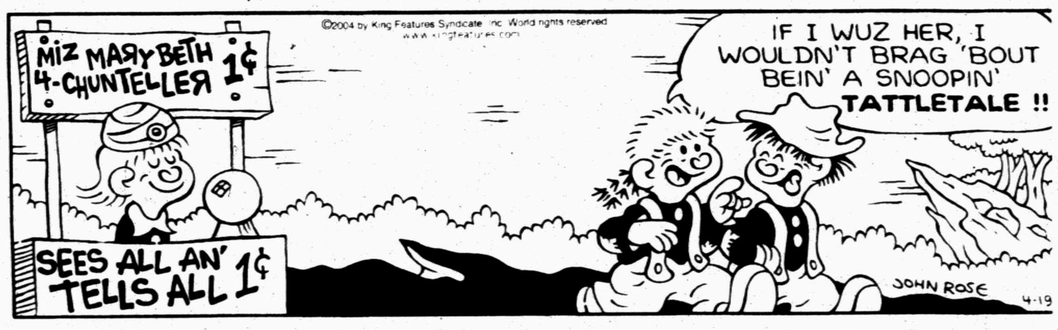
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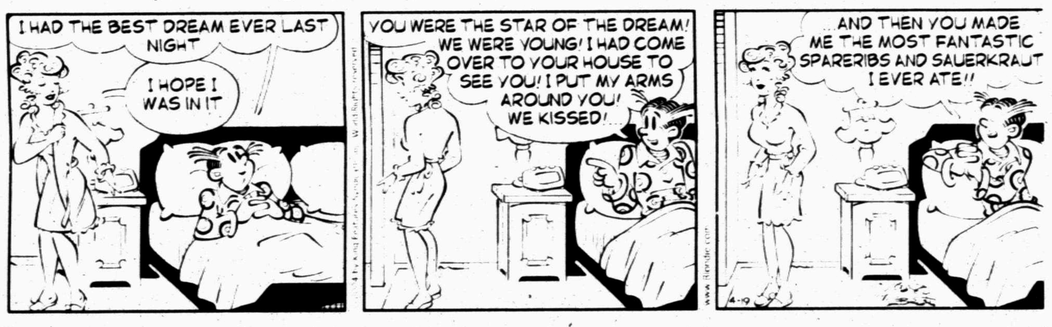
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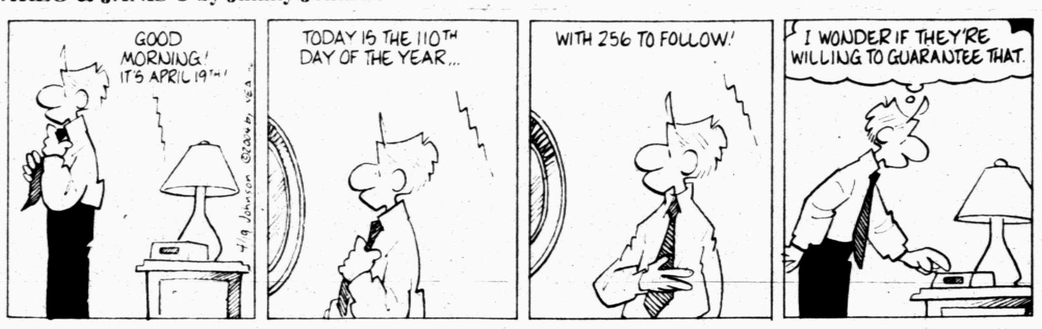
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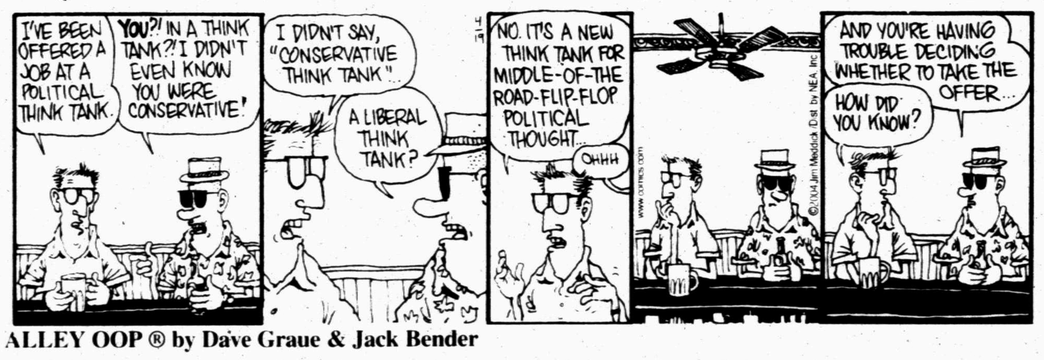
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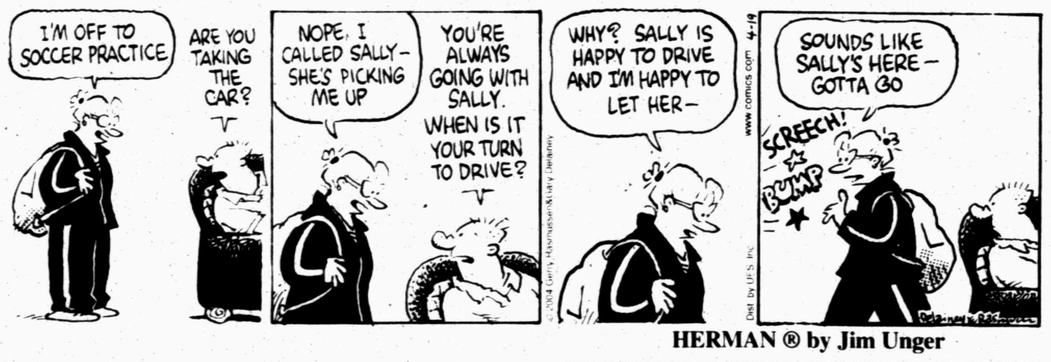
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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Berg
5 Friday, e.g.
8 Machine tooth
11 McKellen and Holm
12 Comic-strip moppet
14 Sugarloaf locale
15 Diamond stats
16 Standing on
17 Fla. neighbor
18 Spears
20 Complained
22 Uh-huh
23 Hardly — (rarely)
24 Degrade
27 Bundle of hay
29 Get-up-and-go
30 Airfield sight
34 Very bright
37 Ordinance
38 Grass stalk
39 AAA or EEE
41 Rostrum
43 Bilk
44 C-3P0 and R2-D2
46 Pine gum
49 Frothy brew
50 Author — Wiesel
52 Andes empire
54 Soccer goal
55 Capitol topper
56 Radio part
57 What bartenders check
58 Naughty
59 Sweater letters

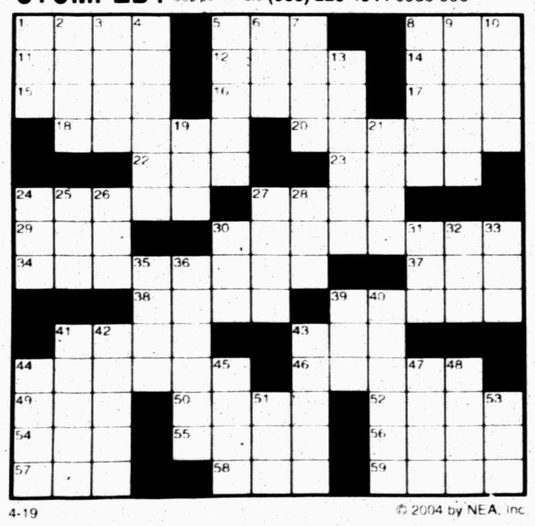
DOWN

1 Softwood
2 Experiment rooms
3 Sleep — — (decide later)
4 Attempts
5 Firm grip
6 Not at home
7 Till the soil
8 Derrick
9 OPEC vessel
10 Incite
13 Supported
19 Honey maker
21 Currier's colleague
24 Part of GPA
25 Puppeteer — Baird
26 "— — seeing things?"
27 Robin or cardinal
28 Whichever
30 Very small
31 Antique
32 Lynx or panther
33 Utility bill abbr.
35 Musical combo
36 Proven reliable
39 Deep distress
40 Kind of story
41 Gave sparingly
42 Drives the get-away car
43 The USPS has one
44 Asian princess
45 Neatnik opposite
47 Monogram ltr.
48 Sports org.
51 "— — Believer"
53 Hirt and Gore

Answer to Previous Puzzle

O	R	K			J	A	B		S	O	F	T
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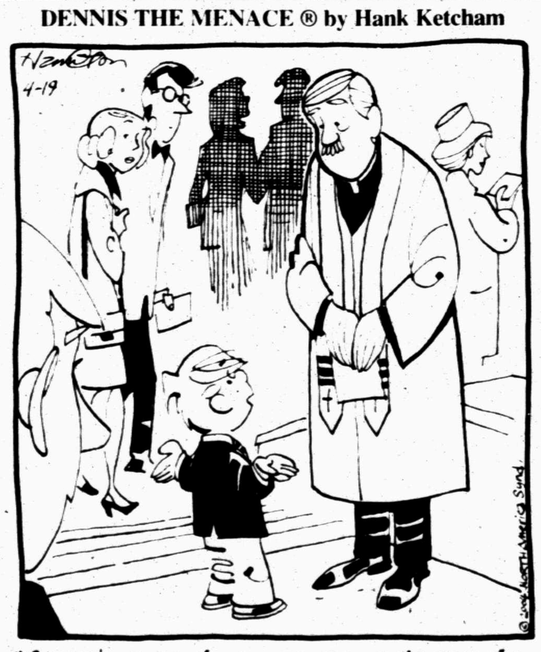
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"Of the smaller breeds, these are about the best guard dogs."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



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Shock: S. Arizmendi
Anderson 6; B. Toon
Wesson 2. **Sonics:** L.
J. Ibarra 3.
Storm 39, L
Storm: W. Avery 19
Nickerson 8; Aman
Raiders: K. Scott 6;
K. Fulford 2.
Fastbreak
Fastbreak: N. Davis
Castillo 3; V. Guzmar
H. Farmer 1.
Magic 2
Magic: J. Hamilton 1
A. Swigert 2. **Sting:** M
6; R. Jones 3; K. Pete
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Nation
East

Florida
Atlanta
Philadelphia
New York
Montreal

Centra

Houston
Cincinnati
Pittsburgh
Chicago
St. Louis
Milwaukee

West

Los Angeles
San Diego
Colorado
San Francisco
Arizona

Sunda
Atlanta 3, Florida 2, 10
Pittsburgh 8, N.Y. Mets
Philadelphia 5, Montre
Houston 6, Milwaukee
Colorado 8, St. Louis 5
Cincinnati 11, Chicago
San Diego 6, Arizona
Los Angeles 7, San Fr
Today
Cincinnati (Haynes 0-1
(Clement 1-1), 1:20 p.
Montreal (Ohka 0-2) at
6:10 p.m.
San Diego (D.Wells 0-
(J.Williams 1-1), 9:15 p

Americ
East

Baltimore
Boston
New York
Tampa Bay
Toronto

SPORTS

Tigers take track title; Lady Tigers place 2nd

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

The Snyder Tigers claimed seven events at the District 3-3A track meet Saturday, earning their first district championship in 24 years and sending seven boys in 11 events to the regional qualifiers Thursday in Roscoe.

Meanwhile, the Snyder Lady Tigers had their highest point total in the history of the program, garnering 139 points to finish in second, just eight points back of first-place Seminole.

"To my knowledge, that's the highest the girls have ever placed in district," girls coach Todd Pollard said. "It came down to the mile relay — nothing was decided until then."

October Wells qualified for regionals in five events, taking the gold in the 100 dash (11.91), the triple jump (35-2) and the 200 (25.91).

She also qualified by winning the silver in the long jump (17-3) and the 4x100 relay (51.22), along with teammates Terann Ragland, Sequoya Powell and Nicki Traylor.

Candace Chandler won the gold in the 800 run (2:32.08), and will join Erin Burleson, Jordan Stansell and Ragland on the silver medal mile relay team (4:21.58).

The boys collected 169 points finishing first in seven events, with Sweetwater coming in second with 148 points.

"I'm ecstatic," head coach Roger White said.

Justin Boyd took home two gold medals, winning the high jump (6-2) and the 400m dash (49.27).

Josh Muniz won the two-mile run (10:54.32) and finished second in the mile, and Zach Cain and Garrett Pinson helped Snyder sweep the hurdles, with Pinson pacing the field in the 110m hurdles (15.02) and Cain taking the gold in the 300 hurdles (40.54).

Ricky McNatt dominated the field in the discus throw with a distance of 157.04.25, 10 feet better than Sweetwater's Giles Montgomery.

The 4x100 relay team — Malcome Wells, Cain, Boyd and Jesus Juarez — earned gold with a time of 42.78, and the same group took second in the 4x200 relay.

Wells also qualified for the region with second place finishes in the 200 (22.27) and the long jump (21-4).

The junior varsity girls were second in the meet with 52 points.

Glyn Wright won two golds for JV girls, in the 100 and 200 dashes.

Amanda Rios took first in the shot put, while Natalie Martinez was third.

Sydney Wright finished second in the 300 hurdles and third in the 100 hurdles.

The junior varsity boys were third with 94 points. Merkel ruled the JV field, posting 208 points, 45 points better than second-place Seminole.

Michael Ford won the only gold for the JV boys, taking the 100 dash with a time of 11.23.

Cody Reed won the bronze in the 800 run as did Trent Early in the two-mile run.

District 3-3A
Track and Field Meet
Finals
April 17, 2004

Team Standings
Boys

1. Snyder 169; 2. Sweetwater 148; 3. Seminole 95; 4. Lamesa 80; 5. Merkel 72; 6. Denver City 56.

Girls

1. Denver City 62; **2. Snyder 52**; 3. Seminole 42; 4. Sweetwater 18; 5. Merkel 6.



CLEAN HANDOFF — Sequoya Powell hands off to Nicki Traylor during the 4x100m sprint relay at Saturday's district track meet finals. The relay team qualified for regionals, and the Lady Tigers placed second, their highest standing ever in district. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

WTC down to last rodeo

BIG SPRING — The Western Texas College men's rodeo team will need a repeat performance in the last rodeo of the year to grab the second spot in the Southwest Conference.

WTC scored over 200 points at the Howard College Rodeo, but finished in third place after being outpointed by second place Tarleton State and third place Odessa.

"The men's team had a great rodeo," coach Greg Rhodes said. "Anytime you score over 200 points, you expect to win the rodeo."

Sam Spreadborough won both the championship round and the average in saddle bronc, posting a 77 Saturday night, while Hadley Hunting took third in the short round and fourth overall.

Cody Carter was first in team roping with a 6.8 and Clay Bunney was nthird in the short go and first in the average in bareback riding.

"Our guys did a great job — it's going to come down to the last rodeo, and we've got a heck of a shot," Rhodes said.

The women's team was fourth in the rodeo, but held on to its second-place standing in the conference.

Sabrina Lay was third in the championship round and third in the average in barrel racing, and Jennifer Weeding third in the short round in breakaway roping.

WTC will participate in its last conference competition of the season beginning Thursday at the TSU rodeo in Stephenville.

WTC splits protested series

Western Texas College split the final two games of the regular season Saturday, coming from behind to score four runs in the bottom of the seventh to win, 5-4.

Trailing 4-1 with Matt Meredith reached on an error and scored on a double by Derek David.

David scored on a single by Eric Brown, who was driven home by Tanyon Reeves to tie it at 4-4.

Reeves scored the winning run on a Midland error on a slow chopper from Landon Thompson.

Shay Franks got the win for the Westerners.

Midland College coach Steve Ramharter protested the doubleheader because he disapproved of the selection of the umpires. However, Ramharter dropped the protest of the second game, which Midland won, 11-1.

The loss dropped Midland into third place, allowing Howard College to move into second.

Hefflinger said he could not find new umps for Saturday's games, adding that Midland should not have played since it disapproved of the officials.

"If they didn't like them, then they should have waited until we got new umpires," head coach Billy Hefflinger said.

WTC athletic director Dave Hanes said he was waiting to find out from the Western Junior College Athletic Conference, which was holding a meeting about the protest this morning, whether the teams would have to make up the protested game.

The teams also split Friday, with Franks getting the win in the 12-inning, 5-4 nightcap.

Midland took the opener, 7-3.

The Westerners (14-36, 8-24) doubled their conference win total from a year ago, beating every team in the conference.

Regardless of the outcome of the protest hearing, WTC will have a play-in game with New Mexico Military Institute at 10 a.m. Thursday in El Paso, with Logan Hill getting the start for WTC. The winner will earn a spot in the conference tournament.

"If we play the way we played this weekend and stay aggressive, we'll win," Hefflinger said.

Girls Little Dribblers

Majors
Sparks 30, Sonics 17
Sparks: C. Williamson 12; L. Urias 12; T. Gordon 4; L. Olivarez 2. **Sonics:** L. Arellano 7; J. Ornales 4; B. Rose 4; J. Ibarra 2.
Shock 28, Panthers 20
Shock: B. Toombs 8; K. Brewster 8; K. Anderson 6; S. Arizmendi 4; X. Northcutt 2. **Panthers:** M. Redman 9; M. Robbins 4; C. Harlan 2; X. Northcutt 2; J. Payne 2.
Shock 36, Sonics 26
Shock: S. Arizmendi 11; S. Arizmendi 6; K. Anderson 6; B. Toombs 6; K. Brewster 4; T. Wesson 2. **Sonics:** L. Arellano 13; B. Rose 10; J. Ibarra 3.
Storm 39, Lady Raiders 12
Storm: W. Avery 19; Amber Gutierrez 8; B. Nickerson 8; Amanda Gutierrez 4. **Lady Raiders:** K. Scott 6; B. Lewis 2; K. Grimes 2; K. Fulford 2.
Fastbreak 20, Mystics 10
Fastbreak: N. Davis 8; M. Gutierrez 6; A. Castillo 3; V. Guzman 3. **Mystics:** T. Tyrrell 9; H. Farmer 1.
Magic 28, Sting 27
Magic: J. Hamilton 14; J. Floyd 8; B. Perry 4; A. Swigert 2. **Sting:** M. Thompson 16; A. Baker 6; R. Jones 3; K. Peterson 2.
Juniors
Sharpshooters 36, Starzz 28
Sharpshooters: L. Richardson 19; K. Freeman 13; L. Perry 2; C. Pollard 2. **Starzz:** S. Bernal 18; V. Ornales 4; J. Garcia 2.
Comets 26, Wildcats 16
Comets: A. Hernandez 16; C. Gill 4; H. Medrano 2; K. Price 2. **Wildcats:** M. Jones 10; T. Reed 6.
Mercury 31, Swoopsters 20
Mercury: J. Driggers 16; B. Davis 10; J. Jordan 2; A. Wright 2, R. Thompson 1. **Swoopsters:** R. Martinez 10; M. Cearley 8; A. Luecke 2.
Fever 21, Rockets 20
Fever: T. Autrey 9. S. Mitchell 6, M. Warren 6. **Rockets:** S. Kellner 10; V. Martinez 5; J. Guardado 3; K. Perales 2.
Eight-year-olds
Red Hots 18, Suns 3
Red Hots: A. Hernandez 10; K. Pierce 8. **Suns:** B. Barbee 2; V. Diaz 1.
Little Tigers 20, Hoopsters 4
Little Tigers: K. Brock 4; V. Jaramillo 4; K. Rankin 4; J. Dean 4; K. Bernal 2; V. Quiros 2. **Hoopsters:** C. Browning 2; B. Doucette 2.
Hornets 22, Swifts 8
Hornets: M. Jones 12; K. Massingill 4; G. Sanchez 4; M. Moreno 2. **Swifts:** C. Romero 4; A. Claxton 2; T. Horlan 2.

JV sweeps Mustangs

Cade Simpson pitched a no-hitter in the opener, as the junior varsity Tigers swept Sweetwater in a doubleheader Saturday.

The JV Tigers won the no-hitter, 5-0, then prevailed, 8-3, in the finale.

Dustyn Williams threw three innings for the win and Ryan Mitchell belted a two-run homer and recorded the final six outs.

Sports Briefs

Ladies play day

The WGA hosts a ladies play day each Tuesday at 9 a.m. at Scurry County golf course. Format is queen of the hill.

Friday swingers

The SCGA hosts 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.

Sammy Baugh tournament

The Sammy Baugh Golf Tournament will be held May 1 Sammy Baugh Golf Course at WTC. Call the pro shop at 573-9291 for more information.

Devils coach has cancer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey Devils coach Pat Burns has colon cancer and will immediately begin treatment, he said Sunday, a day after the defending Stanley Cup champions were knocked out of the playoffs.

Burns, 52, said his status with the Devils will be determined in six to eight weeks, when the treatment ends. He will have treatment five days a week, beginning this week.

Byrd, Ruiz retain belts

NEW YORK (AP) — Chris Byrd fought Andrew Golota to a draw Saturday night to keep his IBF heavyweight title.

The fight was one of two heavyweight title fights on the card. In the other, John Ruiz stopped Fres Oquendo late in the 11th round to retain the WBA title.

Major League Baseball

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Florida	8	4	.667	—
Atlanta	7	5	.583	1
Philadelphia	5	6	.455	2½
New York	5	7	.417	3
Montreal	2	10	.167	6

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	9	4	.692	—
Cincinnati	7	4	.636	1
Pittsburgh	7	5	.583	1½
Chicago	6	6	.500	2½
St. Louis	6	7	.462	3
Milwaukee	6	8	.429	3½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	9	3	.750	—
San Diego	6	6	.500	3
Colorado	5	7	.417	4
San Francisco	5	7	.417	4
Arizona	4	8	.333	5

Sunday's Games

Atlanta 3, Florida 2, 10 innings
Pittsburgh 8, N.Y. Mets 1
Philadelphia 5, Montreal 4
Houston 6, Milwaukee 1
Colorado 8, St. Louis 5
Cincinnati 11, Chicago Cubs 10, 10 innings
San Diego 6, Arizona 5
Los Angeles 7, San Francisco 6

Today's Games

Cincinnati (Haynes 0-1) at Chicago Cubs (Clement 1-1), 1:20 p.m.
Montreal (Ohka 0-2) at N.Y. Mets (Yates 0-1), 6:10 p.m.
San Diego (D.Wells 0-1) at San Francisco (J.Williams 1-1), 9:15 p.m.

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	7	4	.636	—
Boston	6	5	.545	1
New York	6	6	.500	1½
Tampa Bay	5	6	.455	2
Toronto	3	9	.250	4½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	8	4	.667	—
Minnesota	8	4	.667	—
Detroit	7	5	.583	1
Cleveland	5	8	.385	3½
Kansas City	4	8	.333	4

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	8	4	.667	—
Anaheim	7	6	.538	1½
Texas	6	7	.462	2½
Seattle	4	8	.333	4

Sunday's Games

Baltimore 7, Toronto 0
Cleveland 9, Detroit 7
Chicago White Sox 5, Tampa Bay 0
N.Y. Yankees 7, Boston 3
Minnesota 8, Kansas City 3
Seattle 4, Texas 2
Oakland 7, Anaheim 1

Today's Games

N.Y. Yankees (K.Brown 3-0) at Boston (Arroyo 0-1), 10:05 a.m.
Detroit (Robertson 1-0) at Cleveland (D'Amico 1-1), 6:05 p.m.
Oakland (Redman 1-0) at Seattle (Garcia 0-0), 9:05 p.m.

Area Sports Calendar

TODAY
Golf: SHS boys at regional tournament, Nueva Vista, Midland
SHS girls at regional tournament, Ratliff Ranch, Odessa
Baseball: SHS JV at Merkel 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY
Golf: SHS boys at regional tournament, Nueva Vista, Midland
SHS girls at regional tournament, Ratliff Ranch, Odessa
Baseball: SHS varsity at Merkel, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: SHS varsity at Lamesa, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Tennis: SHS in regional tournament, Ratliff, Odesssa

THURSDAY
Tennis: SHS in regional tournament, Ratliff, Odesssa
Rodeo: WTC at Tarleton State Rodeo

FRIDAY
Baseball: SHS varsity vs. Seminole, 7 p.m.
Softball: WTC at Midland College, DH, 4 p.m.
Rodeo: WTC at Tarleton State Rodeo

SATURDAY
Baseball: SHS JV at Seminole, 1 p.m.
Softball: WTC at Midland College, DH, 4 p.m.

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Women becoming more involved with farm management

By The Associated Press

Leisa Boley-Hellwarth sees herself as an equal partner on her family's western Ohio dairy. She does her share of the milking, and deals with vets and sales people.

But it can be a struggle to get others to see her that way — like the machinery salesman who wouldn't let her write a check without her husband's approval.

Often, she says, "The first words out of their mouth is 'Is your husband home?'"

The number of women managing American farms has been increasing steadily. It rose 13 percent — to 236,269 — between 1997 and 2002, according to the latest census from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Nowadays, about one of every 10 farms is run by a woman.

Women have always worked on the farm, doing chores or keeping the books, but now more are deciding what equipment to buy, selling their crops and trading commodities.

"What surprises me is that women were locked into those traditional roles for as long as they have been," said Judy McClaughry, who took over the family's onion farm in Oregon when her husband took another job. "In the business world, they would call it the glass ceiling."

Farmers cite a number of reasons for the increase:

— More women are operating greenhouses and vegetable farms that cater to a growing segment of agriculture that markets directly to consumers.

— Many farmers have to take an off-farm job for extra income and health benefits, often leaving the wife to become the primary operator.

— More daughters are returning home when their parents die or can't keep up with the demands on the farm.

— Women are taking over the operations after their husbands die. Whether they do the work themselves or rent the land to a neighbor, they are still considered the primary operator.

Statistics support the idea that more widows are keeping their farmland.

Of the women who list themselves as the principal operator of all U.S. farms, about three out of 10 are 65 or older, according to the census. Only a fraction are 34 or younger.

Peggy Clark, who runs a 5,500-acre grain operation between Dayton and Cincinnati with her husband, Mike, rents farmland from 15 women who are either widowed or divorced.

Clark said it's unusual to find a woman who manages her own farm without any help.

"We're still in kind of a transition period between the old way and the new way," she said.

Some widows keep their farms because they must pay capital gains and estate taxes if they sell, said Ina Selfridge, president of Women Involved in Farm Economics, a national group of about 1,000 members.

"She can't afford to divest the property, and therefore she becomes a farmer at that point," said Selfridge, who lives on a cattle ranch in Burdett, Kan. "If I were widowed, I'd stay right here."

Women Involved in Farm Economics sued the federal government in the early 1990s and forced it to allow wives to receive farm subsidies for land they owned.

Previously, only women who were not married to a farmer were allowed to get the payments. The farm bill had considered the farmer and his wife as one person.

Selfridge said women on the farm "want to be treated just like a man. They don't want to be patronized."

But it still happens.

Boley-Hellwarth, an attorney who works at home on her dairy farm near Celina, Ohio, said she has found that not everyone has overcome those gender stereotypes.

She'll tell a salesman who insists on speaking to her husband to look at a calendar and remind him that women are allowed to own land now.

She learned long ago that farming wasn't just for the men.

"My mother could do everything my dad did," she said. "There's so much that goes on in a daily basis. Everybody does what they can until we go to bed for a few hours."

Linnea Kooistra, who runs a 1,200-acre grain and dairy operation with her husband, Joel, in Woodstock, Ill., said she hopes the agribusiness industry starts taking note that women often are making the decisions.

She's noticed a few advertisements that show a woman driving a tractor or a combine.



THIRD TRY IS CHARM – On the third attempt due to weather delays, the United Field at Western Texas College was dedicated Sunday with Gary Shifflett, Snyder store manager (second from left) representing United. Others from left are Dr. Greg Williams, WTC president; trustees Jay Kidd, Eddie Peterson and Carolyn Barbee; chamber manager Vicki Shroyer; and trustees Lee Presswood and Drew Bullard. (SDN Photo By Bobby Allen)

Bush to tout Patriot Act, stump for senator in primary election

WASHINGTON (AP) — Key provisions of the Patriot Act aren't set to expire until after the election, but President Bush picked Pennsylvania, an electoral swing state, to argue the law is critical for keeping tabs on terrorists and should be renewed.

Critics of the Patriot Act say Bush is touting the law now only to bolster his record on national security.

"Bush clearly is fighting a defensive battle against both Democrats and Republicans who are asking questions about the Patriot Act," Anthony Romero, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said in an interview. "Increasingly, there are hard questions coming from Democrats and Republicans about whether we went too far too fast."

On NBC's "Today" show Deputy Attorney General James Comey said the law is widely misunderstood. "The Patriot Act is a fairly narrow set of tools that apply the tactics we've used against drug dealers to counter terrorism," he said today.

He defended the act as an important tool, saying it lowered "the wall" between criminal and intelligence investigators to allow better communication.

At two events — in Hershey, Pa., today and Buffalo, N.Y., on Tuesday — Bush and law-enforcement officers will stress the Patriot Act's effectiveness.

During his 27th visit as president to Pennsylvania, an important state in his re-election bid, Bush also will attend a fund-raiser in Pittsburgh for Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., who is facing opposition in a GOP primary on April 27.

In his weekly radio address Saturday, the president said that allowing parts of the Patriot Act to expire next year would demonstrate a "willful blindness to a continuing threat."

The ACLU's Romero said those comments and the appearances in Pennsylvania and New York are as much an effort to silence critics within his own party as an effort to highlight differences between himself and Sen. John Kerry, the expected Democratic presidential nominee.

"The president is using the Patriot Act to distract attention from the fact that his administration has done a woefully inadequate job of fixing the intelligence system," Kerry spokesman Phil Singer said Sunday. "If he were truly interested in implementing reforms to improve intelligence sharing, he wouldn't be playing election-year politics with the Patriot Act."

Bush lost Pennsylvania to Democrat Al Gore in 2000 — 50.6 percent to 46.4 percent, and his desire to win its 21 electoral votes this year is evidenced by his frequent visits to the state.

Asked Friday whether Bush was making a campaign issue of the Patriot Act, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said it's an issue the president will continue to talk about, and was one that presents "clear choices" in the election.

About 10 percent of the Patriot Act expires at the end of 2005. Opposition to the law has led legislators to pass resolutions against it in Alaska, Hawaii, Vermont and Maine, according to the ACLU. It says more than 291 communities representing nearly 50 million people in 39 states have supported resolutions critical of the law.

Both liberals and conservatives in Congress are threatening to allow some of the act's provisions to die. Republicans have joined liberal Democrats in introducing multiple measures because they believe parts of the law are too intrusive on Americans' lives.

From Hershey, Bush flies west to Pittsburgh to attend a fund-raiser for Specter, who is seeking his fifth term but must first defeat Rep. Pat Toomey, who is painting Specter as a liberal, in a primary.

Vengeance rules at weekend box office

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Quentin Tarantino's "Kill Bill" saga slayed its movie rivals once again, with part two of the vengeance tale following its predecessor as the country's No. 1 weekend draw.

"Kill Bill — Vol. 2," with Uma Thurman as an ex-assassin continuing her bloody quest for revenge against former colleagues, debuted with $25.6 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

That was up 16 percent from the $22.1 million opening weekend that "Kill Bill — Vol. 1" delivered last October. Part two is expected to match or exceed the $69.9 million domestic total of "Kill Bill — Vol. 1," said Rick Sands, chief operating officer of Miramax, which released the movies.

Another tale of retribution, the comic-book adaptation "The Punisher," opened in second place with $14 million. The movie stars Thomas Jane as an ex-FBI agent targeting the crime boss (John Travolta) who wiped out his family.

"A very big weekend for revenge," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. "Revenge in movies is very cinematic. Everyone lives vicariously through characters in movies, and they can safely get their revenge fix without actually doing it themselves."

Nia Vardalos — writer and star of the weekend's other big new release, "Connie and Carla" — was unable to recapture the box-office magic that made "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" a blockbuster.

"Connie and Carla," about two musical-theater singers posing as men in a drag-queen revue while hiding from mobsters, finished well out of the top 10 with $3.26 million. The movie co-stars Toni Collette and David Duchovny.

Vardalos' "Greek Wedding" debuted in 108 theaters two years ago with little fanfare, grossing $597,362 and averaging a solid $5,531 per cinema over opening weekend. Audience word of mouth gradually built the romantic comedy into a $241 million sensation.

In contrast, "Connie and Carla" debuted in 1,014 theaters and averaged a weak $3,210.

Studio polls found audience reaction was good for "Connie and Carla," "so I hope there's a little bit of life left in it," said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal, which released the movie.

Neighbors remain horrified days after boy found in oven

BEAUMONT (AP) — Catherine Fayson has barely slept since Friday when she awoke to her next-door neighbor frantically ringing her doorbell and screaming.

"'Oh Lord! My baby's dead! Somebody please help me! My baby is in the oven! He killed my baby!'"

Fayson quickly opened her front door and saw her neighbor, Kathy Jo Odoms, running away from her home and across the street to another neighbor's house, still screaming in horror.

"It's something I can't describe," Fayson said this weekend, less than 48 hours after Odoms found her son in the oven.

Odoms' boyfriend, Kenneth Lee Pierott, 27, remained jailed Sunday on suspicion of capital murder.

"We just couldn't believe it," said Fayson, 71. "My neighbor on the corner, she just cried her eyes all red. I guess I just ran out of tears. It is hurting inside, but it hasn't really sunk in yet. I can't imagine nobody being that cruel to a child."

Tre-Deven Odoms, who was either 5- or 6-years-old, had a big smile and a lot of spunk, Fayson said Saturday as she looked toward the rose bush in her front yard that 'Little Tre' loved to shake every time he got a chance, sending all of the red petals to the ground.

"Just leave them on there Tre, and whenever they fall, then pick them up," she told the boy. "He just liked to shake them."

Three of the balls Tre-Deven played with almost daily — including a blue basketball and a red, white and blue soccer ball — remain in the front yard of the one-story beige home with blue trim, where he lived with his mother and younger brother.

Pierott fathered the younger boy and was around on-and-off, but didn't live at the home, neighbors said.

"He passed back and forth. He didn't hardly speak to people," neighbor Charles Goodie, 68, said of Pierott.

Tre-Deven and his younger brother were the only children that lived on the block, Goodie said.

"He was happy," Goodie said of Tre-Deven. "He would play in the yard when he came home from school, by himself most of the time."

Fayson already misses all the things that once were nuisances, such as Tre's constant desire to throw rocks from her driveway into the road.

"Leave those rocks alone," she would tell him.

"OK, yes ma'am," he would respond.

"Turn your back, and rocks were all over the street again," Fayson said smiling.

Fayson thinks "Little Tre's" spunk was replaced by fear when he was around Pierott.

She said about two weeks ago she noticed Tre didn't acknowledge her and had a strange look on his face as his mother dropped him off and left him with Pierott.

"It was like he was uncomfortable," she said of the boy, who normally greeted neighbors with a big smile and memorable greeting. "I thought it was very unusual."

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	12.38	12.03	12.05	— .33
AT&T Corp	18.70	18.53	18.60	— .23
Albertsons	22.79	22.44	22.46	— .23
Alltel	51.17	50.00	50.33	+ .10
AmEl Pw	30.99	30.64	30.67	— .32
AndarkPtr	56.14	55.75	55.89	— .40
ATMOS Egy	25.03	24.85	24.86	— .19
Avnall	15.80	15.55	15.56	— .08
BP PLC	54.03	53.73	54.01	— .24
BakerHughes	37.22	36.62	36.72	
Bank of Amer	80.90	80.40	80.75	— .03
BellSouth	26.24	25.91	26.17	+ .09
BurlNoSFe	32.50	32.23	32.45	— .09
Caterpillar	81.96	80.95	81.15	— .82
CenterPoint	11.14	11.06	11.12	— .02
ChevronTex	92.45	91.72	92.10	+ .37
Citigroup	50.14	49.71	49.86	— .24
CocaCola	52.94	52.30	52.91	+ .98
ColgatePal	56.29	55.82	56.22	+ .47
CmclMetals	30.28	29.79	29.86	+ .26
ConocoPhill	73.51	72.78	73.47	+ .68
Cooper Inds	57.60	57.10	57.34	— .11
DaimlrChry	40.18	39.97	40.09	— .55
DeltaAirLines	6.80	6.60	6.61	— .14
Dillards Inc	18.18	17.40	17.89	+ .50
DowChem	41.79	41.20	41.27	— .42
DuPont	44.88	44.63	44.77	— .21
EastmanChem	43.13	42.80	43.13	+ .17
EstKodak	25.29	24.97	25.10	— .25
EDS Corp	19.97	19.62	19.76	+ .08
Entergy	56.23	55.70	55.85	— .38
ExxonMobil	43.86	43.62	43.74	— .12
FootLocker	26.35	25.64	25.80	— .44
GenDynam	92.46	91.29	91.49	— .87
GenElec	31.19	30.98	31.05	— .18
GenMills	47.04	46.76	46.92	— .29
GenMotors	46.47	45.60	45.69	— .48
GaPacific	36.85	36.30	36.59	+ .14
Goodrich	29.61	29.43	29.50	— .21
Goodyear	9.15	8.88	8.98	+ .08
GtAtlPac	7.89	7.81	7.88	+ .03
Halliburtn	31.09	30.52	30.58	— .10
Hanson PLC	39.30	39.20	39.23	+ .30
HarteHanks	23.43	23.17	23.32	— .07
HomeDepot	36.10	35.62	35.69	— .51
HoneywellIntl	35.18	34.83	34.94	— .12
IBM	92.30	91.70	91.96	— .32
IntlPaper	43.25	42.94	42.94	+ .20
JohnsonJn	54.06	53.53	53.69	— .44
KinderMorg	62.85	62.20	62.52	— .33
Kroger Co	17.00	16.77	16.88	— .13
LockheedM	47.10	46.60	47.07	+ .07
Lowes Cos	53.31	52.81	52.87	— .37
Lubys	5.84	5.57	5.84	+ .27
LucentTech	4.27	4.19	4.24	+ .03
MarathonOil	34.40	34.01	34.10	— .31
MayDeptStr	33.35	32.49	32.61	— .93
Medtronic	51.24	50.35	51.11	— .03
Motorola	16.75	16.41	16.49	— .09
NCR Corp	46.72	46.10	46.53	— .10
Navistar	48.69	47.91	47.91	— .62
PNM Rescs	29.70	29.45	29.50	— .20
Penney JC	35.20	34.94	35.14	+ .10
PepBoys	28.34	27.62	28.25	+ .63
PepsiCo	55.08	54.62	54.93	+ .14
PhelpDodge	76.50	75.05	75.17	+ .07
PilgrimsPride	23.05	22.75	23.04	+ .24
Praxair s	38.46	38.12	38.38	— .12
ProctGamb	106.65	105.62	105.74	— .23
RadioShack	31.93	31.43	31.78	— .16
RoyalDut	49.95	49.56	49.95	— .05
SBC Comm	24.14	23.97	24.00	— .17
SaraLee	22.29	22.00	22.15	— .10
Scripps EW	108.56	107.24	107.38	— 1.18
SearsRoeb	42.31	41.38	41.56	— .70
SherwinW	39.06	38.76	38.82	— .38
SouthernCo	29.49	29.26	29.31	— .24
SwstAirl	14.72	14.53	14.56	— .16
SprintFON	18.79	18.54	18.55	— .20
SprintPCS	9.41	9.28	9.31	— .08
Sunoco Inc	63.75	62.46	62.99	+ .42
TXU Corp	28.40	28.10	28.38	— .13
TempleInland	64.95	64.35	64.62	+ .07
TexInd	36.40	36.06	36.16	— .18
TexasInst	28.05	27.57	27.94	+ .28
Textron	53.25	52.77	53.19	— .21
TimeWarner	16.85	16.65	16.83	+ .20
TrinityInds	32.93	32.30	32.62	— .30
TylerTech	9.70	9.56	9.58	— .12
UnionPacif	57.71	57.35	57.64	+ .12
USSteel	36.85	35.75	35.98	— .82
UnitedTech	88.60	87.50	87.62	— 1.10
Unocal	38.69	38.45	38.61	— .04
VerizonComm	36.95	36.62	36.86	+ .11
WalMart	58.44	57.94	58.44	
WellsFargo	55.93	55.64	55.78	— .29
WstnGasRs	54.40	53.00	54.17	+ 1.07
WinnDixie	7.98	7.78	7.81	— .18
Xerox Cp	14.06	13.81	14.03	+ .05
YumBrands	38.23	37.75	37.93	— .46

APR 19 2004

'Baghdad boil' afflicts U.S. troops in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sgt. Eric DiVona didn't notice the small bumps on his face and left earlobe until he returned from serving nine months in Iraq. Nothing much, he thought, probably just a spider bite.

But soon those bumps erupted into open sores, one growing to the size of a half dollar. The left side of his face puffed up, a swelling that wouldn't go away. And he noticed he was not the only one in his unit with such symptoms.

"A lot of people started coming down with sores," he said, sitting at Walter Reed Army Medical Center with an IV taped to his right arm. "It was like, 'You ain't cool unless you got it.'"

What DiVona thought was a spider bite was actually caused by a tiny sand fly with a fierce parasite stewing in its gut, an organism that causes stubborn and ugly sores that linger for months.

Scientists and doctors refer to the disease caused by the parasite as cutaneous leishmaniasis. But soldiers serving in sand-fly rich Iraq call it, with little affection, the "Baghdad boil."

The sores are not painful or contagious, but left untreated they can last up to 18 months and leave permanent, burn-like scars. Since the flies bite exposed areas, many soldiers have sores on their necks, faces and arms.

Doctors at Walter Reed have seen 653 cases of leishmaniasis, and the hospital's infectious disease wards until recently overflowed with soldiers undergoing a 20-day treatment regimen.

"We see a few cases every year, but not the numbers we saw come out of Iraq," said Col. Dallas Hack, chief of preventive medicine at Walter Reed.

The military has made a big effort to treat leishmaniasis, even pulling soldiers out of the field who have confirmed cases and flying them back to Washington for medical care.

But Walter Reed doctors say it was almost inevitable that they would see a high number of cases this year.

Leishmaniasis occurs in hot and tropical countries where sand flies dwell, Hack said. Still, only about 20 soldiers got leishmaniasis during the first Gulf War, and a handful more contracted it in Afghanistan.

This time, though, American forces arrived in Iraq during the peak season for sand flies and were in the field much longer. Many slept outside at night, exposing themselves at the sand fly's favorite feeding time.

Iraqis have also done little to control the problem, such as using insecticide to kill off the flies, Hack said. Local residents have come to accept the disease, he said, exposing young children to sand flies in hopes of building immunity.

Doctors have told soldiers in Iraq what to look for and implored them to wear bug spray. Medical teams with front-line combat troops have tested sand flies for the parasite.

But with enemy bullets flying, the first concern of most soldiers was not slathering on bug spray every morning.

"You didn't think about leishmaniasis too much," said Maj. Eric Moore, who contracted the parasite on the Iran-Iraq border with the 4th Infantry Division.

The lesions will eventually go away on their own and would not affect a soldier's ability to serve. Even so, the military thought it was important that soldiers with bad cases be flown out of Iraq for treatment so they wouldn't be disfigured.

On the Net:
Walter Reed Army Medical Center:
http://www.wramc.amedd.army.mil

Zero tolerance at schools cause concerns

KATY (AP) — Since school districts across the nation have been enforcing state and local "zero tolerance" policies, stories of students being suspended for bringing nail files or butter knives to school have become common.

Jewel Caillet, a 16-year-old in the Katy Independent School District, experienced the crackdown firsthand. She was accused of drinking at a high school football game and the district assigned her to the district's discipline school for 31/2 months.

Caillet said she was not drinking and was refused a breathalyzer test. A municipal court judge threw out her case, but the district still sent Caillet to discipline school.

As schools nationwide have tried to curb violence in high schools since the Columbine shootings five years ago, schools also have increased the number of offenses that constitute suspension, expulsion, tickets and even arrests, the Houston Chronicle reported in its Sunday editions.

Last November in Goose Creek, S.C., police charged into a high school with their guns drawn and forced students to the ground as they searched for drugs. They didn't find drugs.

Student searches have become more common since Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold killed 12 of their Littleton, Colo., classmates, a teacher and themselves on April 20, 1999, at Columbine High School.

In Katy schools, throwing food, carrying a pager and having a skateboard are listed in the student code of conduct as offenses that can warrant calling in the police.

This school year, KISD police have ticketed or arrested students in nearly 4,300 cases. Twenty-one percent of the infractions were classified as disorderly conduct, disruption or assault, the last of which includes anything from a shove to physically injuring someone.

The Houston school district has issued 1,200 fewer citations, even though it has five times more students, the newspaper reported.

State law requires zero tolerance for offenses such as selling drugs and alcohol, possessing a firearm and committing aggravated assault, arson, murder or other felonies.

Katy school officials say police are called only when legally required. But administrators admit "innocent until proven guilty" isn't the standard in school disciplinary matters.

"The intent of our policy is to create a learning environment," Katy school district spokesman Steve Stanford said. "If a kid flicked a french fry at another kid, you're not going to call the police."

Texas Education Agency spokeswoman Debbie Ratcliffe said too many calls to police for minor infractions could result in the school being classified as "persistently dangerous."

That would mean students could transfer and take state money with them.

"Many schools handle minor infractions through a visit to the school principal's office, rather than a call to police," she said.

Palmer drawn to show

RADNOR, Pa. (AP) — New York Giants second-string quarterback Jesse Palmer says what drew him to appear on the ABC television dating show "The Bachelor" was not the exposure — it was the anonymity.

"When this opportunity came up, I thought it was great because the women didn't know who I was or what I did for a living, which put us all on an even playing field," Palmer told TV Guide for the April 18 issue. "In the past, it became obvious that (some women) were more interested in saying to people, 'Hey, I'm dating a professional athlete.'"

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 04-19-04
♠ 9 8 6 3
♥ 9 5 4
♦ A Q 10
♣ 7 4 2

West
♠ 5 2
♥ A Q
♦ 8 4 3
♣ K Q J 9 8 5

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

South
♠ A K Q J 10
♥ K J 10 8
♦ 9 6 5
♣ A

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	2 ♣	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ K

Monday, April 19, 2004

The opposite of normal

By Phillip Alder

Abba Eban, a former Israeli foreign minister, said, "It is our experience that political leaders do not always mean the opposite of what they say."

Although bridge scribes do err, they never intentionally mean the opposite of what they write. However, at the table, occasionally one must do the opposite of the usual procedure to make or break a contract.

On this deal, how would you try to bring home four spades? West understandably leads the club king. Did West have a more productive opening salvo?

South won with the club ace, drew trumps, and played a diamond to dummy's 10. Unfortunately, East won with the jack and returned a club. Declarer, after ruffing, tried a second diamond finesse, but East won with the king and shifted to a heart. West took two tricks in the suit to defeat the contract. This meant that East didn't ask West why he had failed to find the killing diamond opening lead.

Declarer was unlucky, but sometimes one must ignore common techniques like taking finesses and leading up to honors. At trick four, South should have played the heart king (or jack) from his hand!

West wins with the ace (or queen) and shifts to a diamond, but declarer calmly finesses. East wins and returns a club. South ruffs and drives out the heart queen (or ace). Then, when West leads a second diamond, South can win with dummy's ace and cash his two heart winners, discarding dummy's last diamond. Finally, a diamond ruff on the board will deliver the key trick to go with five spades, two hearts, one diamond and one club.

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Church prays for return of soldier

BATAVIA, Ohio (AP) — Pastor Brent Snook drew several responses of "Amen" from the congregation as he spoke of the heroism displayed by an Army reservist taken hostage in Iraq.

About 900 people attended two morning services Sunday at First Baptist Church of Glen Este, near where Pfc. Keith M. Maupin grew up.

Maupin, known as Matt, has been missing since his convoy was attacked April 9 outside Baghdad. In footage first shown Friday on Arab television, Maupin did not appear hurt but was surrounded by insurgents who offered to exchange him for imprisoned Iraqis.

"I believe a hero is one who is willing to sacrifice his life to save the life of another," Snook said. "I would say that Matt Maupin is a hero, wouldn't you? Twenty years old, in the Army reserve and going off to Iraq to keep you and me free."

Maupin, who has been in Iraq for two months, was the first U.S. serviceman and second American confirmed kidnapped in a recent string of abductions.

During the patriotic service, "America the Beautiful" mixed with traditional church hymns. Many wore yellow ribbons and wiped away tears as they sang and prayed.

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Kerry entering critical phase in campaign

MIAMI (AP) — John Kerry is entering an important campaign stretch, acknowledging he remains largely unknown to millions of voters and needs to offer them a compelling reason to throw out a sitting president.

Aggressive advertising and help from former rivals are part of the first step. At the same time, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee and his aides contend they have survived a dangerous first phase of the campaign against President Bush, who has far outstripped Kerry in fund raising.

"We've remained competitive," said senior adviser Michael Meehan. "At worst, it's a neck-and-neck race."

Both Meehan and Kerry say Kerry has withstood an initial barrage of negative Bush commercials relatively unscathed. While Kerry's unfavorable ratings have crept up, most polls show the race a virtual dead heat.

Bush had aimed to define the senator as a tax-raising Massachusetts liberal, weak on defense and inconsistent on a range of issues.

"They're out 50 million bucks and got nothing to show for it," Kerry told reporters on his campaign plane, a reference to the Bush-Cheney campaign's initial burst of spending on ads.

Kerry's next step is to air new commercials offering voters his biography — heavily focused on his decorated Vietnam War record — and his policy proposals. Those commercials should appear by month's end.

Former rivals will take Kerry's message to competitive states. The four-term senator is concentrating on the states that probably will decide the election. Over the next four days, for instance, Kerry will spend at least part of the day in Florida, the state that settled the disputed 2000 election.

Kerry claimed the nomination after a relatively brief and mild primary season that left him with few lasting scars and the Democratic Party united.

Kerry and his aides are quick to point out that former President Clinton didn't secure the nomination until June 1992, just weeks before the nominating convention.

"To be where we are by April is pretty amazing," Meehan said. "All of our rivals are now out serving as surrogates."

Former candidate Joe Lieberman was to campaign with Kerry in Florida. During a New York campaign swing last week, Kerry met with Al Sharpton to discuss how to boost turnout among black voters.

Not only have former rivals come on board, but Kerry has mined their staffs for campaign talent.

Steve Elmendorf, once a top aide to Rep. Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., is Kerry's liaison to labor. Karen Hicks, a former aide to Howard Dean, has signed on as deputy field director.

Unions stand behind Kerry's candidacy. Kerry, who last year took out a mortgage on his Boston house to keep his candidacy alive, has demonstrated considerable success in fund raising since he essentially wrapped up the nomination.

Kerry collected some $50 million in the first quarter of the year; in just three days last week, he pulled in nearly $15 million. Democratic National Committee officials estimate that between the party and Kerry, they have roughly $70 million available with fund raising continuing at a good pace.

Still, millions of voters know little about the Democrat.

"I found that even in the primaries, people in New Hampshire who'd been seeing television in Boston for 20 years didn't know I was a veteran," Kerry said at a recent fund-raiser last week.

The Bush-Cheney campaign has used ads to try to portray Kerry as a tax-and-spend liberal and a potential president who would be less decisive than the current commander in chief.

"I am not a redistribution Democrat," Kerry said. "I am not somebody who wants to go back and make the mistakes of the Democratic Party of 20, 25 years ago."

Said Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, considered a possible choice as a vice presidential candidate: "Kerry can make the case he voted to balance the budget and he's the fiscal conservative."

Determined to counter GOP criticism of his Senate record on defense, Kerry stresses his military background, hoping that will negate any Bush advantage on national security.

Kerry acknowledged that he faces a tough task in defining himself, but said the money he has raised and the closeness of the race have left the door open.

"The level of communication that we still need to do is enormous," he said. "What the Republicans were counting on was a nominee they could easily define. For the first time we have the power of having a Democratic nominee who has the ability to talk back, to actually fight back."

Smoking restrictions fail to raise protest on some universities

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — Universities built or buttressed by cigarette fortunes once stood as majestic symbols of the power of Big Tobacco. Today, those same campuses have come to reflect a society turning away from the golden leaf.

At Duke University, Wake Forest University and the University of North Carolina, efforts to restrict smoking and the on-campus sale of cigarettes have given rise to much ironic commentary, but barely a whiff of protest.

"As long as they're not going to say no smoking on campus, it doesn't bother me," UNC art student Jessica Largent said after snuffing out a cigarette in the shadow of a campus building that bears the name of the daughter of a former R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. vice president.

The changing attitudes come at a time when an industry that was once one of North Carolina's economic mainstays has been pushed aside by a state increasingly focused on high technology.

With the decline in smoking and the rise of overseas growers, the number of tobacco farmers in North Carolina has fallen 39 percent in the past decade and the amount grown has been cut in half.

"Its importance has declined relative to the new economy," says UNC history professor Jim Leloudis. "The balance in some ways has tipped ... it's no longer so central that it is untouchable."

And while schools here and in Virginia and South Carolina still gratefully accept tobacco-related donations, they have not hesitated to impose smoking restrictions that put them in line with other schools nationally.

At Duke, where a statue of tobacco magnate and benefactor James B. Duke shows him proudly puffing on a cigar, smoking is banned in all buildings and only one campus outlet even sells tobacco.

Wake Forest may owe its very existence to tobacco. In 1956, heirs to the R.J. Reynolds fortune used the promise of a new, 14-building campus to persuade officials of the foundering Baptist school to make the 100-mile move from north of Raleigh to Winston-Salem. Over the years, the college has received nearly $130 million from Reynolds heirs or the company.

But that didn't stop Wake Forest from barring smoking in many campus buildings and limiting it in residence halls.

It also dropped the name of Bowman Gray, a former RJR president, from its medical school in 1997. School leaders insist the change had nothing to do with Gray's line of work, but some doctors had undoubtedly chafed at working under the name of a tobacco tycoon.

At North Carolina, school-run stores have been told no more cigarettes will be sold once existing stocks sell out, and smoking will be banned in dormitories beginning this summer.

Tobacco has deep roots at UNC. It has educated at least three R.J. Reynolds presidents and Reynolds heirs or company leaders have established trusts — one worth nearly $11 million — that have endowed scholarships, supplemented professor pay and financed other initiatives.

Duke continues to collect annual donations from an endowment built when tobacco was king. Now worth more than $2 billion, the endowment created by James B. Duke in the 1920s supports religion, education and health care in the Carolinas.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

An ambition you've harbored could be realized in the year ahead due to a couple of friends who go out of their way to help you. It's extremely important that you acknowledge and later reciprocate on their good deed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Beware of tendencies today to do things contrary to your common sense or exercise tactics you know are beneath you when you believe your chances of succeeding at something are slim.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You could be a bit too curious for your own good today and inadvertently poke your nose into places it doesn't belong. Don't let it be said of you by associates that you're a busybody.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — If you rely on help from a friend today, be sure to show the proper appreciation for your pal's efforts on your behalf. Give this person respect and all the credit she or he deserves.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Do not be cowardly about standing up for important issues that affect those who work at your side. Your failure to take a firm position will be annoying and confusing to your associates.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — There's a possibility that you could uncharacteristically be somewhat lazy today. You might have to make an extra effort to force yourself to perform at your usual high level.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Be particularly on guard today when operating in social situations, especially if someone is present whom you know from past experience is a bit deceitful. Don't be taken in by this individual.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — You will be eventually held accountable for any promises you make to others today, so be careful not to agree to do something you don't plan to do just to get someone off your back.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Important tasks of a mental nature should be attended to as early in the day as possible. By afternoon, chances are you might not be able to muster up your full concentration.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — When it comes to your normal everyday expenses, you should be able to manage them as prudently as always today. If you go out on the town, however, it'll be another story for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Conditions in general are relatively favorable for you today, yet you could be plagued with a great deal of self-doubt and fail to take advantage of those things that serve your best interests.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Keep to yourself anything told to you by a friend today who places his or her confidence in you. If this individual wants others to know what is told to you, your pal would broadcast it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Be kind and generous to the deserving today, but don't allow yourself to be taken advantage of by someone who has a history of using everybody and anybody to get what she or he wants.

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Ridge forms task force to bolster security for targets

WASHINGTON (AP) — With an eye on a large number of symbolic gatherings, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge is forming a new government task force to better coordinate public and private security — and hopefully prevent the next terrorist attack.

Beginning with the dedication of the new World War II Memorial in Washington over the Memorial Day weekend, Ridge said high-profile public events this year may be attractive targets for al-Qaida and like-minded terrorist groups.

"We are rich with opportunities this year for terrorists to shake our will," Ridge said in a telephone interview Sunday. "The message is that Homeland Security doesn't wait to raise the threat level in order to make us safer and more secure."

"We are going to increase our vigilance," he said later.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



The problem of inappropriate distrust

DEAR DR. GOTT: Although we have been married for 20 years, my husband continues to accuse me of having another sex partner. This isn't true and I have repeatedly sworn to him that he was my first and only intimate partner. His obsession has truly hurt our marriage. He insists that I am "no different than any other girls" as far as he is concerned.

I wonder if there are any other women out there who are facing this problem of distrust, when in fact it is groundless. What can I do?

DEAR READER: I am certain that such unfounded allegations are far from unusual. Some men may insist on this fantasy for a variety of reasons, including poor self-image, the necessity to be "in control," personality disorders, a need to justify their own infidelities and other factors.

In my opinion, you could permanently resolve this unpleasant situation by seeking marriage counseling. An objective, trained, professional third party — the therapist — can work with you and your spouse to discover the root of the unjustified distrust, and treat it.

Unless I miss my guess, your husband will balk at this option, so you may have to go it alone, at least in the beginning. Although I'm not optimistic about him changing his tune and respecting your honesty, at least you can learn, through therapy, how better to cope with his unflagging preoccupation. Then, as you become more confident and secure in your position, he may well choose to involve himself in the marriage counseling.

The best result would be a strengthening of your marriage, commitment and mutual respect. The worst consequence might be a separation or divorce. But, in either instance, you will be a winner because, emotionally, you will have grown and learned new techniques that will make you a better person. Then, you can move on with your life — either within a modified marriage or with new, realistic challenges that you can meet and eagerly conquer.

All "girls" do not have extramarital affairs; therefore, I worry that his sexist generalization may have, as its basis, a pathological obsession about women in general. You should not have to be the victim of this ridiculous belief. But, in my view, this — and other related issues — should prompt your husband to welcome professional intervention.

Now is the time to take care of yourself. Your husband's commitment to getting better has to be his decision, a choice that should not affect your need to resolve a troublesome prejudice.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Mental and Emotional Illness." 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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Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Parallel Petroleum Corporation will drill the No. 140-2 McLaughlin in the Diamond M field, 11 miles southwest of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 3,500 feet, drill site is in Section 182, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Howard County

Crownquest Operating will drill the No. 1WS Guitar Consolidated in the Would Have field, six miles northwest of Big Spring. Planned depth is 10,000 feet, and location is in Section 13, Block A, Bauer and Cockrell survey.

Borden County

Sharp Image Energy has completed the No. 3-69B South Lake Thomas, a wildcat located four miles north of Vincent. The well was finaled to produce 108 barrels of oil and no water. Perforations were from 7,228-236 feet, and location is in Section 69, Block20, Lavaca Navigation survey.

Mitchell County

Gruy Petroleum Management Co. has completed the No. 5445 Westbrook southwest field unit, four miles northwest of Westbrook. The venture was finaled to produce 13 barrels of oil and 153 barrels of water. Perforations were from 3,025-250 feet, and location is in Section 32, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

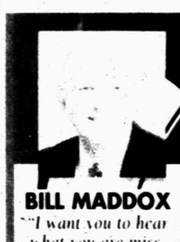
Nolan County

Pioneer Exploration will drill the No. 18 Petty in the E.A. field, three miles southwest of Nolan. Planned for a depth of 6,500 feet, drill site is in Section 6, Block Z, T&P survey.

Pioneer Exploration will drill the No. 1-A Jordan in the Hylton field, five miles southwest of Nolan. Planned for a depth of 6,500 feet, location is in Section 20, Block Z, T&P survey.

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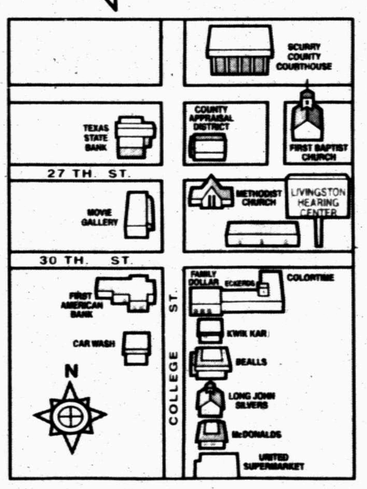
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APR 19 2004

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Insurgents asked to turn in weapons

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Fallujah's civic leaders joined American officials today in calling for insurgents battling Marines here to surrender their heavy weapons in return for an end to the U.S. siege of the city, according to a U.S. spokesman.

The commitments appeared to be the first fruits of direct negotiations between U.S. officials and a group of civic leaders and professions representing Fallujah residents. They have influence with Sunni insurgents who have been battling Marines who have besieged the city.

Much now depends on how guerrillas respond. Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt warned that if the deal falls apart, Marines are prepared to launch a final assault, meaning a resumption of heavy fighting after days of calm.

"It would appear there is an agreed political track," he told reporters. "There is also a very clear understanding ... that should this agreement not go through Marines forces are more than prepared to carry through with military operations."

Spain's new foreign minister, meanwhile, said in remarks published today his country's plans to withdraw its 1,300 troops from Iraq should not harm its long-term relations with the United States.

Foreign Minister Miguel Moratinos told the newspaper El Pais that the government of Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero will honor Spain's pledges at the recent Iraq Donor's Conference and help in Iraq's reconstruction and transition to democracy.

President Bush expressed regret at the "abrupt" withdrawal in a five-minute phone call with Zapatero on today, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

"The president stressed the importance of carefully considering future actions to avoid giving false comfort to terrorists or enemies of freedom in Iraq," McClellan said.

Kimmitt said there would be no power vacuum and officials had been discussing how to replace the troops since Zapatero won Spanish parliamentary elections in the middle of March.

On another front, the U.S. military began to reduce its forces outside the southern city of Najaf. The commander of the force said today there were no plans to move soon to capture rebel Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, holed up in the holy city.

A force of 2,500 Army troops that deployed outside Najaf on April 13 on a mission to capture or kill radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr began to rotate out, replaced by a smaller force on around 2,000 soldiers from the U.S. Army's 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Al-Sadr's militia "has for the most part been contained in Najaf," U.S. Army Col. Dana J. H. Pittard said.

Three nation crew blasts off today for space station

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan (AP) — A Russian-American-Dutch crew blasted into orbit today aboard a Russian spacecraft en route to the international space station on the third manned mission since the U.S. shuttle program was halted.

American Michael Fincke, Russian commander Gennady Padalka and Andre Kuipers of the Netherlands, representing the European Space Agency, waved farewell before boarding the Soyuz TMA-4 spacecraft.

"Until we meet again," Padalka shouted, giving a V-for-victory sign. Fincke flashed a thumbs up, while Kuipers held up a clenched fist.

Relatives and friends, standing with Russian and U.S. space officials at the Baikonur launch pad in the desolate steppes of Kazakhstan, craned their necks and squinted in the sunshine to follow the rocket's trajectory after it took off.

"Sitting on a ball of a fire, going to heaven, what more can you ask for a human being?" Fincke's father, Edward, said. He and other relatives later gathered around a monitor transmitting images from inside the capsule. The three astronauts shook hands after the spacecraft entered orbit approximately nine minutes after the 7:19 a.m. liftoff, then were shown taking notes on clipboards. A fuzzy animal swung on a string above their heads.

The spacecraft was due to reach the international space station Wednesday morning.

Padalka, 45, and Fincke, who were initially trained to fly on a U.S. shuttle, will spend 183 days on the space station, where they are to conduct two spacewalks.

Kuipers, a 45-year-old medical doctor, will return after nine days with the station's current crew, U.S. astronaut Michael Foale and Russian cosmonaut Alexander Kaleri, who have been in orbit since October.

Fincke, a 37-year-old native of Pittsburgh, is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force and has logged more than 800 flight hours in more than 30 types of aircraft.

The crew will perform various experiments in space, including geographic monitoring, biotechnology and medical projects, said Joel Montalbano, NASA's flight director, who watched the launch from Russian Mission Control outside Moscow. Padalka, who is in the Russian air force, was to cultivate the fourth generation of peas to be grown on the ISS.

Russian Soyuz crew capsules and Progress cargo ships have remained the only link to the space station since the U.S. shuttle fleet was grounded following the loss of the shuttle Columbia during its return to Earth in 2003.

Births

Ricky and Amanda Martin of Colorado City announce the birth of their eight-pound daughter, Jessica Rose Martin, at 4:24 p.m. on April 16 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Paternal grandparents are Bill and Rose Martin of Hamlin and maternal grandmother is Mary Proctor of Snyder.

Four arrested over weekend

• ***Arrests***

A 30-year-old male was arrested at 7:51 p.m. Saturday in the 3100 block of College Ave. on charges of no driver's license, no liability insurance and an open alcoholic beverage container.

At 12:19 a.m. Sunday, a 69-year-old male was arrested at FM 1606 and CR 3110 on charges of misdemeanor driving while intoxicated, second offense.

Police arrested a 27-year-old female at 12:41 p.m. Sunday in the 700 block of 37th Street on a warrant for expired operator's license.

A 26-year-old male was arrested for possession of marijuana, under 2 ounces, and possession of drug paraphernalia at 5:42 p.m. Sunday on U.S. 84.

• ***Suspicious Persons***

A report of teenage females entering an abandoned house was called in at 5:23 p.m. Sunday in the 2200 block of Sunset. Police found the juveniles, escorted them home, and secured the house.

Police responded to a report at 8:50 p.m. Saturday of a suspicious subject going in and out of a house in the 1100 block of Ave. R. Police secured the house and maintained a close patrol.

• ***Disturbance***

At 11:56 p.m. Saturday, police responded to a report of a disturbance in the 800 block of 27th. One person ran from the scene and has yet to be found.

• ***Theft***

A woman reported Sunday at 7:46 p.m. that someone had taken money from her bank account and property from her residence.

• ***Runaway***

A 16-year-old girl was listed as a runaway at 11:55 p.m. Saturday and entered into the national database. The girl was reported to be back home at 2:57 a.m. Monday.

• ***Vandalism***

Reports of vandalism were called in at 9:39 p.m. Saturday at United Supermarkets, at 12:46 p.m. in the 700 block of 37th, and at 11:31 a.m. and 12:46 p.m. Sunday in the 200 block of 36th Street.

• ***Family Violence***

A report of a man throwing beer bottles at his wife was reported at 4:04 p.m. Saturday in the 1900 block of Coleman.

• ***Accidents***

A report of a man running over a gas meter was reported at 9:17 a.m. Saturday. Oncor Gas and the Snyder Fire Department were dispatched.

At 11:03 p.m. Sunday, a one-vehicle accident was reported at CR 3132 and FM 1606. A 1995 Chevrolet pickup ran into some utility poles.

• ***Phone Harassment***

A female in the 500 block of 32nd St. reported at 11:44 p.m. Sunday that she was still receiving harassing phone calls. Police are attempting to locate the caller.

• ***Motorist assists***

Officers assisted four motorists in unlocking vehicles over the weekend.

• ***Loud music***

During the weekend, police responded to three complaints of loud music.

Obituaries

George Parker

1937-2004

ROBY — George Irvin Parker Jr., 66, died Friday, April 16, in an Abilene nursing home.

Funeral service for Mr. Parker was held Sunday in the Roby First Baptist Church. Allan Cartrite, Jerry Vincent and Richard Melton officiated. Burial followed in the Roby Cemetery.

Born June 3, 1937 in Fisher County, he was a member of the First Baptist Church, farmed and worked at the gin.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Mary Holland Parker; and two sisters, Willardene and Maurcene Parker.

Survivors include a brother and sister-in-law, Charles and Mary Kay Parker of Abilene; two sisters, Wanda McClendon of Abilene and Mildred Parker of Roby; a nephew and his wife, Randy and Jana Parker of Abilene; a niece and her husband, Tina and Ed Walker of Snyder; a great-nephew, Blake Parker of Abilene; and two great-nieces, Reanne Parker of Abilene and Kaylee Walker of Snyder.

Lee Hodges

1937-2004

TUSCOLA — Lee Roy Hodges, the father of Randy Vernon of Snyder, died Friday, April 16, at his home.

Funeral service for Mr. Hodges, 66, was set for 10 a.m. today in the First Baptist Church with the Rev. Burtis Williams officiating. Burial was to follow in the Tuscola Cemetery.

Born May 21, 1937, he moved to Arizona at an early age and moved back to Tuscola in 1944. He married Iva Jean Spears on Dec. 14, 1993.

Mr. Hodges was a professional rodeo calf roper, retiring in 1980. He also worked as an oil well driller and as a racehorse Trainer.

Survivors include his wife, Iva Jean Hodges of Tuscola; three daughters, Mina Kay Wilson of Coleman, Michelle Renfro of Sachse and Lesa Walker of McAllen; another son, Robby Lee Hodges of Moses Lake, Wash.; two sisters, Sherry Marshall of Tuscola and Drenda Kay Willis of Abilene; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Olivia Schroedter

1911-2004

SWEETWATER — Olivia Selma Schroedter, grandmother of Beverly Greene and Greg Sullenger of Snyder, died Sunday, April 18, in the Sweetwater Healthcare Center.

Service for Mrs. Schroedter, 92, is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in Faith Lutheran Church with Dale Snyder officiating. Burial will follow in the Roscoe Cemetery under the direction of McCoy Funeral Home.

Born May 4, 1911 in Yorktown, she married Herman Otto Schroedter on July 12, 1930 in Nordheim. She attended school at Garfield in DeWitt County where she played basketball and ran track. Living in Sweetwater since 1942, she was a longtime member of Faith Lutheran Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Herman Otto Schroedter on Oct. 22, 1975; a son, Delton Schroeder; two daughters, Myrtle Sullenger and Rosie McDonald; and one brother, Albert Buelter.

Survivors include three sons, Perry Schroedter and wife Trudy of Richmond, Roy Schroedter of Sweetwater and Bobby Schroedter and wife Linda of Roby; three daughters, Carlyn Dalton and husband Luke of Aztec, N.M., Fay Gardner and husband David of Crowley and Kay Carter of Hempsted; a sister, Helga Murry of Nordheim; 13 other grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren including Tana, Teryn, Tyson and Laci Sullenger, and James and Jason Greene, all of Snyder; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Paul McDonald, Skeeter McDonald, Greg Sullenger, Troy Schroedter, Jimmy Reed, Chad Schroedter; and honorary pallbearers will be Wayne Hagood and Kenny Landfried.

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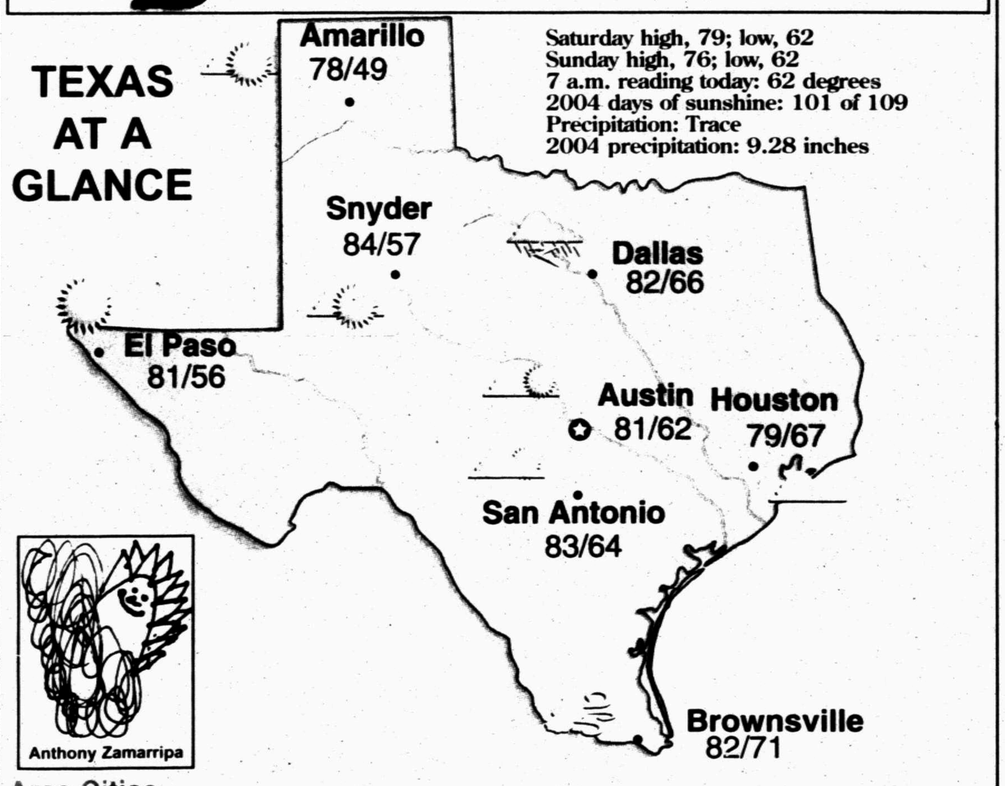
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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Tue 4/20	Wed 4/21	Thu 4/22
84/57	86/59	83/51
A few passing clouds, otherwise generally sunny. High 84F.	Sunshine. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 50s.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 50s.
Sunrise 7:08 AM Sunset 8:18 PM	Sunrise 7:07 AM Sunset 8:18 PM	Sunrise 7:06 AM Sunset 8:19 PM

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Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	84	61	windy	El Paso	81	56	sunny	Midland	85	57	sunny
Amarillo	78	49	mst sunny	Fort Stockton	85	57	sunny	Raymondville	84	68	windy
Austin	81	62	pt sunny	Gainesville	80	62	t-storm	Rosenberg	79	66	cloudy
Beaumont	78	65	cloudy	Greenville	80	62	t-storm	San Antonio	83	64	cloudy
Brownsville	82	71	windy	Houston	79	67	cloudy	San Marcos	82	62	pt sunny
Brownwood	85	61	pt sunny	Kingsville	84	68	cloudy	Sulphur Springs	80	62	t-storm
Corpus Christi	81	70	windy	Livingston	79	62	cloudy	Sweetwater	85	59	mst sunny
Corsicana	81	63	windy	Longview	78	61	cloudy	Tyler	80	63	pt sunny
Dallas	82	66	t-storm	Lubbock	82	54	sunny	Weatherford	82	62	t-storm
Del Rio	85	64	pt sunny	Lufkin	79	64	cloudy	Wichita Falls	85	59	windy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Atlanta	81	59	pt sunny	Houston	79	67	cloudy	Phoenix	85	62	sunny
Boston	61	43	windy	Los Angeles	69	56	pt sunny	San Francisco	61	50	cloudy
Chicago	58	54	rain	Miami	79	69	mst sunny	Seattle	53	46	rain
Dallas	82	66	t-storm	Minneapolis	61	45	t-storm	St. Louis	69	60	t-storm
Denver	63	41	pt sunny	New York	68	49	mst sunny	Washington, DC	74	54	pt sunny

Moon Phases

New	First	Full	Last
Apr 19	Apr 27	May 4	May 11

UV Index

Tue 4/20	Wed 4/21	Thu 4/22
10	10	10
Very High	Very High	Very 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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