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WT-Int. Crude - $37.46
WTIC Posted - $34.25
Natural Gas - $5.93

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY
April 29, 2004
Vol. 55 No. 313
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Shana Blackard

WTC's top students honored by faculty

Shinichiro Ito of Osaka, Japan and Stormy Clark of Snyder this morning were named the outstanding male and female students at Western Texas College.

Dr. Greg Williams, WTC president, presented the awards.

These and many fellow students received recognition during the annual awards ceremony in the campus courtyard.

Other nominees for the outstanding male student were Samuel Calvo, Donald D. Robertson and Sam Spreadborough.

Other nominees for outstanding female student were Stacey Garcia, Amanda Greenwood, Amber House, Dorothy Fredine Ward and Yee Man Yu.

Students and the departments they received awards from include: Brenda Albarran, most improved art student; Jeff Hernandez, top art student.

Outstanding students and departments included Bryce Meador and Lisa Parker, freshman English; Stephanie Wardlaw sophomore English; English 1301, Tate Stratton, Krisha Bush and Delores Chaidez; English 1302, Stacey Senn and Erin Brnak.

Jeff "Moose" Amato and Stormy Clark received the best in crew — "Week in Review" awards.

Others were Lisa Parker and Tate Stratton, freshman ag students; Amanda Greenwood, Cindy Nachlinger and Nathan Shrode, sophomore ag students.

Stormy Clark, business administration; Rebecca Phillips, top COSC 1300 student; Jason Guynes, outstanding COSC 1301 student.

Kazuhiro Inoue and Jeremee Lester; math; Delores Chaidez and Kasey Jeffery, human anatomy and physiology; and Evan Reed, chemistry.

Others receiving departmental awards were Greg McQuirk, geology; Shinichiro Ito, physics; Meagan Langham, American government; Korie Allen and Cara Brooks, top government students.

Erin Brnak, Ginger Walton, Katy Chester and Nancy Thomson, history; Denice Bradbury, psychology; Ryan Ballard, Jacob Harrison and Jeffrey Proctor, physical education.

Derek Davis, Landon Chase Gilbert, J. Tanyon Reeves and Kyle Toney top academic athletes in baseball; Jaymee Roach, top female student-rodeo athlete; Tate Stratton, outstanding male student-rodeo athlete.

Teresa Falcon and Rhonda Thomas, top CBT freshman students; Lisa Daniels, Robert Lane, Fredine Ward and Esther Zamarripa, top CBT sophomore students ; Lisandra Bueno and Oscar Hernandez; criminal justice.

Also Dalene Kempf and Kristi Sterling, top ECE students; Brett Conley and Stephen Gonzalez, golf and landscape technology (GLT) freshmen; Samuel Ramirez Calvo, Donald Dwayne Robertson, William Tinkler, GLT sophomores; Stacey Garcia, information technology; and Yee Man Yu, All-USA Academic Team.

The event is sponsored by the Faculty Association and Donny Brown, president, served as the master of ceremonies.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in honor of all recipients.

WTC TOP STUDENTS — Dr. Greg Williams congratulates Shinichiro Ito and Stormy Clark as the top male and female student at Western Texas College. The two were recognized during this morning's Faculty Association awards ceremony. (SDN Staff Photo by Jeff West)

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN

by Jeff West

It's always sad when you watch a faithful companion grow old, get to where it can't romp and run like it used to, where it seems to be in more pain with parts just wearing out and having it look more and more disheveled.

So this week I've had to deal with the coming demise of my ol' Fifth Avenue.

That's right, my Chrysler is now just pretty much out to pasture waiting on the inevitable.

I know, some people say its silly to get attached to something not human, but we've been through some tough times together.

I know folks who've seen us together wondered what I saw in it. After all its lost a lot on the top and age spots are starting to show. But until recently it never failed me on the road. Sure it couldn't get its air cold anymore and it couldn't control its cruise, but we could still run down the road together going to wherever life led us; or pushed us; or forced us kicking and screaming. And that's been a lot of places.

We found each other in New Mexico, perhaps the only good thing that I found in that God-forsaken third world country of a state. The one I was with at the time perished at a traffic signal, leaving no will and not enough insurance.

After searching at all the local spots I was shown my Avenue, kind of neglected in a back part of the lot. Sure, it was a little long in the tooth even then, but it had almost all its vinyl back then, just a small balding spot.

When I left New Mexico shortly after that, ol' F.A. and a bad taste in my mouth were the only things I took with me. We then started a number of adventures. Going to several cities and places, traveling as fast as the law would allow and moving to more environments than either of us care to recall.

It's chased fire trucks over highways, county roads, dirt paths and more than a few fields that were not really meant to be traveled by a former luxury automobile.

But lately it seemed less able to make the effort, it's ol' wheels just not able to line up like they used to. So I guess it deserves some time just relaxing for a while before it goes to that great parking garage in the sky.

Trying to find a replacement hasn't been the easiest adventure. With a new job in a new city, my choices were kind of limited. At first there were cars I could afford and cars that would run. Making payments for a number of years seems like a big challenge to a guy who was a little shaky about the time, but I needed something that could take me to the four corners of the state in a moments notice, (yes I realize the state has more than four corners, work with me,) chase flashing red and blue lights and not further endanger the oil fields.

So I talked to a lot of nice people, saw some new vehicles, but none of them could make me forget ol' F.A., or in some cases my bank account.

Then I met my '88. It's a pretty thing, but its mama was reluctant to let it go.

We've only been out a few times, the '88 and me, but we seem to get along just fine, it's still young enough to be able to cool me when I'm warm and can still control its own cruise. And doesn't seem to mind heading out on the road in a moments notice, maybe we were meant for each other.

(Man, I think I really need a date.)

Be good to one another and be good to yourselves.

APR 29 2004

Stapp retiring from co-op

After six years as the general manager of Big Country Electric Co-op, Jerry Stapp will be retiring, effective Friday.

Stapp will be honored with a reception from 2-4 p.m. Friday in the Roby Community Center.

Fredda Buckner will replace Stapp beginning the first of May.

Buckner has served as the assistant manager of the co-op for the past four years and has been with the company a total of 15 years.

Big Country's corporate office is headquartered in Roby and district offices are located in Snyder and Stamford.

No class Friday for SISD, Ira students

Both Snyder and Ira students will be out of class on Friday.

Snyder ISD will have a staff development day, and teachers and staff will report at regular time.

Ira's school district will be closed Friday and Monday as Monday was scheduled as a bad weather day.

Hermleigh schools will have regular classes on Friday.

For Cogdell Hospital...

CEO contract gets formal approval

By Roy McQueen
SDN Publisher

Formal approval of a contract for a chief executive officer, patient satisfaction and ways to streamline the "cumbersome" accounts payable process dominated this morning's Cogdell Hospital board meeting.

The board, as expected, offered a three-year contract to Carol Hanes of Linden to become Cogdell chief administrator, effective May 10.

The contract, unanimously ratified, calls for an annual salary of $100,000 and a $400 per month automobile allowance.

The new CEO also will receive a longevity incentive, in the event that the contract is terminated by the hospital, in the amount of $1,000 per month for each month employed, for a maximum of $25,000, or a total of $25,000. The administrator also will be eligible for any cost-of-living adjustments approved for Scurry County employees.

The agreement also calls for up to $5,000 in moving expenses. In addition the hospital is responsible for finding and paying for temporary housing, including utilities, for the new CEO for the first three months of employment.

Cogdell has been operating with an interim administrator since a 15-year management agreement with Covenant Healthcare Systems was terminated last December.

Hanes has been serving as CEO of the Linden Memorial Hospital in East Texas.

A public reception for Mrs. Hanes is set from 6 to 8 p.m. May 10 at Martha Ann Woman's Club.

Last month Cogdell's board discussed at length ways to increase participation in patient satisfaction surveys. Chuck Hurst, director of human resources, said a staff committee had been formed to develop a survey that would gauge "expectations against experience."

The committee suggested the implementation of a hot line for patients to call with a complaint that would get a same-day response.

Board members, however, said they would like to include personal contact and suggested a patient relations coordinator position be re-instated. The post was eliminated because of budget cuts.

Board member Mark Cullifer said he sees the value of an independent person to deal with patient concerns.

Richard Murphy, interim chief financial officer, recommended that the process to approve and pay bills for the hospital be streamlined to avoid late charges.

Murphy noted that one vendor alone has added more than $8,000 in late charges. Murphy called the current systems "cumbersome" and said he would make a similar presentation Monday to the Scurry County commissioners court.

Murphy noted that responsible personnel are in place and that no payments have ever been rejected. "This is an opportunity to raise the level of trust between the hospital and the commissioners court."

In other business, the board renewed a contract with the Texas Department of Human Services and heard a risk management report from Jo Beth Hardegree who said the hospital last claim paid was in 1995.

Hardegree said that compared with similar-size hospital, Cogdell is below state average in the number of claims filed against it.

An average of 10 cataract surgeries are performed at Cogdell each month.

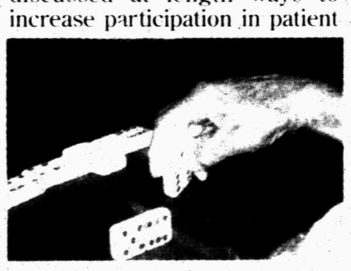
Laquita Culwell said that despite the low revenue and profit to the hospital, she feels that it is an important service provided to local citizens.

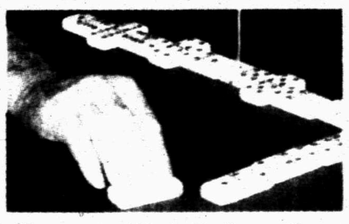
Also approved was a worker's compensation policy for the emergency room in attempt to avoid disputes over whether an injury is work-related. The new policy calls for a supervisor to accompany or send a letter with the patient, or a quick verification with the employee.

The board also discussed disposal of surplus hospital equipment, but no action was taken. Likely the equipment will be declared surplus at next month's meeting and turned over to the county for disposal.

For the month of March, total revenues were $2.6 million, resulting in an operating loss of $221,236. However, Murphy noted that depreciation adjustments and another $47,000 in upper limits payments to Medicare that will eventually be reimbursed, actually reduces the loss to $118,000. For the three months of 2004, the positive cash flow of the hospital is $599,172, Murphy noted.

Chairman Dink Foree presided and board members present were Charles Church, Bo Robinson, Terry Williams, Cullifer and Wade Warren.





PLAYING A HAND OR TWO — Troy Greenlee, R.B. Duke, Ernie Sears and Dale Swigert (from left) were among those playing a friendly game of dominoes at the Senior Citizens Center. (SDN Staff Photo by Jeff West)

ASK US

Q—How many justices of the peace does Scurry County have?

A—Just one presently, Deborah Boyd. She is the Precinct 1 JP. The other peace justice office is vacant.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Gloria Myers...

...has lived in Snyder all her life and is the administrative assistant to city mananger John Gayle. Huband, Ray, works for Kinder Morgan. The couple has three children — Thad Myers of Arlington, Misty Myers and Melissa Loveless, both of Dallas. She likes to crochet, ride motorcycles with her husband and spend time with her three grandchildren.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

I'll never write my memoirs. I would be treading on the blood of my men.
—Robert E. Lee

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

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.

Car wash

First United Methodist Church will hold a Lord's Acre car wash from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday in the Wal-Mart parking lot.

WTC cheerleader tryouts

Western Texas College is adding a cheerleading squad to its athletic department next fall. Tryouts will be held every Saturday in May — except May 29 — from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the WTC Gymnasium. Applications can be picked up at the Human Resources office of WTC or found on the Web site at www.wtc.edu. Applications are due at noon Friday prior to the Saturday tryout. Mail applications to Cheerleading Sponsor, Western Texas College, 6200 College Ave. Snyder, TX 79549. Scholarships are available.

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.

Teens plead quilty to beating girl into coma

BALTIMORE (AP) — Two teenage girls admitted Wednesday they attacked a 12-year-old girl at a birthday party because a boy kissed her on the cheek. The beating put the girl in a coma for three weeks.

The girls, ages 14 and 13, pleaded guilty in juvenile court to two counts of second-degree assault in exchange for prosecutors dropping charges of attempted murder, first-degree assault and reckless endangerment, said Roland Walker, an attorney for the older defendant.

In the Feb. 28 attack, Nicole Townes was pummeled, stomped and scratched until her body went limp. Authorities believe Nicole suffered brain damage.

Walker said the defendants' ages and their "collateral" role in the attack were taken into account by the state.

Stephen Bergman, a public defender who represented the younger girl, declined to comment as did juvenile court Judge Edward R.K. Hargadon and a spokesman for the city prosecutor's office.

The girls were released to stay with their families, on an electronic monitoring system, until their May 26 sentencing.

Another 13-year-old girl, a 15-year-old and two women were also charged in the assault and police charged a 24-year-old woman who lived with Nicole with child abuse and neglect for leaving the girl at the party.

CHIP over drug budget for fiscal year

AUSTIN (AP) — With the Children's Health Insurance Program already over its annual prescription drug budget, state lawmakers will face tough decisions about the program's future when the bill comes in early 2005.

The state health benefits for children from low-income families have used 115 percent of the prescription drug budget, leaving lawmakers to decide whether to cut the program further or take money from other state needs.

Prescription drugs are expected to remain available to children in the program.

"It's fairly clear to us that money's going out awful fast to a lot of people," House General Investigations Committee Chairman Rep. Kevin Bailey, D-Houston said of certain CHIP contracts. "Clearly at some point, we're going to have to look into this."

Health and Human Services Commissioner Albert Hawkins said CHIP caseloads have not declined as much as was projected by state officials.

The drug program is the first CHIP category to run out of money in the 2004 fiscal year, according to records obtained by the Houston Chronicle.

Documents show that instead of spending the allocated $42.5 million this budget year, the Health and Human Services Commission predicts a cost of $93.2 million for the drugs.

CHIP, which provides health insurance for children whose families cannot afford it but who do not qualify for Medicaid, had already spent $48.9 million for drugs from September through February.

Hawkins said the drug program is one part of an expected $525 million overall shortfall in CHIP and Medicaid over the next two years. Budget writers will have to cut other state programs to pay for the health programs.

While CHIP could face further cuts, the state is obligated to fund any growth in the federal Medicaid program which is an entitlement under law.

Anne Dunkelberg, health policy analyst at the Center for Public Policy Priorities, said CHIP spending might decrease because of new policies requiring prior authorization for medications and a preferred drug list.

Caseloads are more than 25,000 higher than the predicted monthly average for CHIP this budget year, said Hawkins. He said that could be one reason why the program is over budget despite 130,478 children being dropped from the program in the last seven months.

Rep. Craig Eiland, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, said there are no excuses for such a serious miscalculation on the budget.

"No matter how you want to explain it away or massage it, the assumptions or projections used to prepare this budget were off or wrong by an unacceptable percentage," Eiland, D-Galveston, told the newspaper in Wednesday's editions.

"The problem it causes is when we have to come in and pay for this miscalculation by taking money from somewhere else next session. Some programs will be under budget, some programs will be over budget, but you hope there are no $400 million monsters."

events

LOTTO TEXAS™

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Wednesday's Lottery Numbers
Lotto Texas

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

Winning numbers drawn: 1-6-13-23-32. Bonus Ball: 9.

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

Number matching five of five: 4. Prize: $17,228.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 20. Prize: $1,513.

Number matching four of five: 643. Prize: $101.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 542. Prize: $106.

Number matching three of five: 25,083. Prize: $5.

Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 7,364. Prize: $5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 32,249. Prize: $3.

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: $40 Million.

Cash Five

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

Winning numbers drawn: 1-2-14-30-34.

Number matching five of five: 0. Prize:$0.

Matching four of five: 78. Prize: $775.

Matching three of five: 3,152. Prize: $14.

Matching two of five: 35,019. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Pick 3
(Day) 6-0-4
(Night) 3-6-4

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Several W. Texas counties designated ag disaster areas

WASHINGTON, D.C.-U.S. Congressman Charlie Stenholm (TX-17) today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated several West Texas counties as primary agricultural disaster areas due to extensive drought conditions in 2003.

Stenholm reported the USDA has declared Kent and Palo Pinto counties in the 17th Congressional District as primary disaster areas. Other counties in Texas receiving a primary disaster designation include Dickens, Martin, Mason, and San Saba counties.

Contiguous counties — those counties that border primary disaster areas — may also be eligible for assistance from the USDA.

"As a farmer in West Texas, I know how hard it can be for us to overcome these dry conditions. The disaster assistance given to producers in these counties is going to help quite a few folks who lost their crops because it didn't rain enough at the right times last year," Stenholm said. "This will help those of us in dry areas pull through another year."

The designation makes all qualified farm operators in primary and contiguous counties eligible for low-interest emergency (EM) loans from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met.

Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs available, in addition to the emergency loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adverse weather events.

Contiguous counties include:

Scurry, Andrews, Borden, Brown, Burnet, Cottle, Crosby, Dawson, Eastland, Erath, Fisher, Floyd, Gaines, Garza, Gillespie, Glasscock, Hood, Howard, Jack, Kimble, King, Lampasas, Llano, McCulloch, Menard, Midland, Mills, Motley, Parker, Stephens, Stonewall and Young.

Producers in Primary and Contiguous counties should contact their local FSA office to determine if they are eligible for disaster assistance programs.

Brand new Texas State Quarters are free to all State Residents

To be among the first to get the brand new Uncirculated Texas State Quarter unveiled by Governor Rick Perry, residents are entitled to claim within 7 days

By: Shane Tedeschi
Universal Media Syndicate

The United States Mint has announced the release of the newest of the popular 50 State Quarters. And this one honors our own home state of Texas.

But here's the best part of this announcement.

You will actually be among the first to get the brand new Uncirculated Texas State Quarter free, just by sending three first class postage stamps to cover shipping of the coin's protective display capsule.

We are providing the address in the box to the right so residents can request the free Texas State Quarter right now.

The U.S. Mint's 50 State Quarter collection has been so popular that Texas residents may be left scrambling to be among the first to get the new State Quarters.

The Governor unveiled the "Lone Star State" Quarter design at an Official Texas State Quarter bash. "The Texas Quarter will reflect an immense pride in our state shared by every Texan," remarked Governor Rick Perry as reported in a press release on TexasGov.com.

But, the Governor's Office said it does not yet have plans for an Official Release Ceremony when the State Quarters come out in late June. Therefore, special arrangements have been made separately to ensure all Texas residents will get State Quarters free.

The United States Monetary Exchange has announced it is giving away the brilliant uncirculated Texas State Quarters free to all state residents who request one.

John Thomas White, Executive Director of the privately owned U.S. Monetary Exchange confirms: "We are giving away the brilliant uncirculated Texas State Quarters free in an effort to ensure that all state residents have an equal opportunity to get one."

"With no news of an Official Release Ceremony, there is no reason for residents to risk being left out. Every resident should have a fair chance of being among the first to get their own home state quarter."

The state coins that are being given away free are special because they are uncirculated. That means they have never been distributed to businesses or banks for use in trade, so they are mint fresh.

You can not find these uncirculated Quarters in your pocket change.

"When the U.S. Mint first started the 50 State Quarter program back in 1999, we knew that some of the State Quarters would probably increase in value. But none of us knew just how quickly many of the State Quarters would actually increase," White said.

Some of the uncirculated Quarters have already increased in value by as much as 516%. "Even though the values fluctuate dramatically, we are still able to give first priority to residents of the state by letting them have their own Texas State Quarter free. This is our way to help make sure local residents are among the first to get their own state quarter in its most valuable form--mint fresh, brilliant uncirculated condition," said White.

The Texas State Quarters are being given away free on a first come first served basis with a limit of one per household, in accordance with the announced delivery schedule from the U.S. Mint.

All requests must be made within seven days of the date of this publication. So, hurry--you don't want to miss out.

FREE – *The new Quarter Dollar honoring the Great State of Texas*

Here's How To Get the Free Texas Quarters

Follow these instructions to get your FREE uncirculated Texas State Quarter delivered to your home. Limit 1 per household:

1. Write your name and complete address neatly on a piece of paper.
2. Enclose along with three first class postage stamps. MONEY CAN NOT BE ACCEPTED.
3. Send the stamps loose inside your envelope. DO NOT remove adhesive backer. DO NOT staple, tape or affix the stamps.
4. Mail to:

U. S. Monetary Exchange
FREE Coin Dept. TX246
Southern Dist. Center
Special Drawer 3678
U.S. Postal Zip 44309-3678

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2004 AUTHORIZED

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By Phillip

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♦ 7 4
♣ K Q 10 9 6

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Opening

Thursday,

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2 pounds f
tomatoes, cut
cups)
8 slices

WAL-MART REOPENING CEREMONY — Wal-Mart had its reopening ceremony last Friday and the Snyder Goldcoats conducted the ribbon cutting. Wal-Mart has completed a reconstruction, enlarging and remodeling the retail store and the pharmacy. Snyder Chamber of Commerce executive director Vicki Shroyer congratulated Wal-Mart officials, including the local manager, R.J. Youngclaus. Earlier in the week (bottom photo, from left) Wal-Mart employees Cris Talbert, district remodeling associate; Drew Korte, floor assistant; Sherrill Harris, set-up supervisor; Youngclaus; said they would dress up in cheerleading costumes if the employees could raise $400 for the Relay for Life. They raised $450.17 to donate to the Relay for Life, fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; horseshoe courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762.

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

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

Governor wants cool music for hold button

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Add DJ to her duties: Gov. Jennifer Granholm wants it to be hip to hold when someone calls the state.

Last summer, Granholm called the state Department of Management and Budget to ask if something could be done about the boring acoustic music that people heard when they called the state and were placed on hold.

"She thought we should have cool music," said DMB director Mitch Irwin.

It seems that the hold music had been set on piano and guitar instrumental since 1996 during Gov. John Engler's administration.

Irwin set up a committee to try to juice up the state's 60,000 phone lines. First, officials tried to rock the phones, but after a few caller complaints, Led Zeppelin and Jimi Hendrix got dumped because "it was a little too hot," Irwin said.

Births

Cody and Shelley Shields announce the birth of their son, Carson Lynn Shields, at 11:24 a.m. on April 21 in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. Carson Lynn weighed six pounds, four ounces.

Maternal grandparents are Cindy Sharp and the late Gary Sharp and paternal grandparents are Ricky and Toni Shields. Maternal great-grandparents are Bernhard and Lois Bartels and paternal great-grandparents are Betty Perrie of Brownwood and Gloria Phillips of Conroe, Mardell Harmes of Cross Plains, Mildred Shields of Brownwood. Paternal great-great-grandmother is Mary Harmes of Coleman.

Bobby Garza and Elizabeth Hollaway announce the birth of their son, Brandon Lee Holloway-Garza. He was born at 6:13 p.m. on April 26 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Brandon weighed five pounds, eight ounces and was 18¾ inches long.

Paternal grandparent is Elio Garza of Snyder and maternal grandparents are Micheal L. and Charlotte E. Holloway of Hobbs, N.M.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

	North	04-29-04	
	♠ J 8		
	♥ A Q 2		
	♦ K Q J 10 9 8		
	♣ 7 3		
West		**East**	
♠ K 10 7 6		♠ Q 3 2	
♥ 9 6		♥ 10 8 7 4	
♦ 7 4		♦ A 5 3	
♣ K Q 10 9 6		♣ 8 5 4	
	South		
	♠ A 9 5 4		
	♥ K J 5 3		
	♦ 6 2		
	♣ A J 2		

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
		1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ K

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Are you in or out of the Bath water?

By Phillip Alder

Welcome back to the Alder Bridge Casino. If you have been a big winner over the last three days, feel sorry for the management and return to the table for today's teaser. If you have lost money, here is your chance to recoup those funds.

South is in three no-trump. West leads the king of clubs. Would you bet on the declarer or the defenders?

Clearly, South must duck the first trick, trying the Bath Coup. (If South wins trick one, when East gets in with the diamond ace, he returns a club to defeat the contract.) However, based on East's club four, West realizes it is time to shift. (If East has J-x of clubs, he should play the jack; with J-x-x, he should either signal encouragement with the higher spot-card or contribute the jack.)

First, suppose West switches to the spade six. Declarer takes East's queen with the ace and drives out the diamond ace. The defense collects only four tricks: two spades, one diamond and one club.

Now let's imagine that, at trick two, West leads the spade king. Then the defenders can leap out of the Bath-Coup water and yell "Eureka!"

If declarer wins trick two and plays a diamond, East takes his ace, cashes the spade queen, and leads his last spade through South's remaining 9-5 into the jaws of West's 10-7. The defenders get three spades, one diamond and one club.

If South ducks the spade king, West continues with a low spade to East's queen. Whether the declarer ducks (East shifts back to clubs) or wins, the defense comes out on top.

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Bistro sandwich is good for lunch

CHICKEN, TOMATO AND BACON BISTRO SANDWICHES

1/3 cup mayonnaise
2 tablespoons minced onion
1 tablespoon wine vinegar
¼ teaspoon salt
4 slices (1-inch thick) country-style bread, toasted and halved
Romaine lettuce leaves
4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves (about 6 ounces each, grilled and sliced*
2 pounds fully ripened fresh tomatoes, cut in chunks (about 4 cups)
8 slices bacon (about 6 ounces), cooked until crisp

In a small bowl, combine mayonnaise and onion. For the dressing: Transfer 2 tablespoons of the mayonnaise mixture to a cup; with a fork, whisk in vinegar and salt; reserve for later use. Spread toast with the mayonnaise and onion mixture; place one slide on each of four plates. Top each with romaine leaves and chicken breast. Spoon about 1 cup tomatoes on each sandwich; scatter bacon on top. Drizzle with reserved dressing.

YIELD: 4 portions

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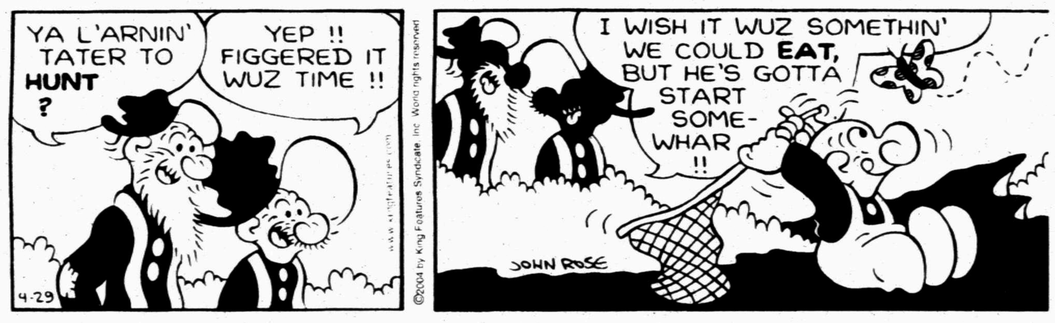

BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun

THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Love madly
6 Herd orphan
11 Storm drain
12 "Maria —"
13 Scribble in
15 Puts into words
16 Arctic sight (2 wds.)
18 Some whiskey
19 Baseball club
21 Of, to Fritz
22 Nautical position
23 Modicum
25 Everything
28 Mural undercoat
30 Round Table knight
31 Ms. Farrow of films
32 GI show sponsor
33 Not cooked
35 Change a text
37 Sixth sense
38 Unexciting
40 Retired
41 Natural resource
42 Pub. prosecutors
43 Churchill gesture
46 Force
48 Swallow up
50 Deli machine
54 Small crown
55 In a snit
56 Strangely
57 Improves the road

DOWN

1 Serpent
2 Billy — Williams
3 Have
4 Reads aloud
5 Viking name
6 Scissorhands portrayer
7 Bullring shout
8 Transmission part
9 Pitch-dark
10 Relaxation
14 First name in jeans
15 — Fe, N.M.
17 Pots and pans
19 Give approval
20 Fable writer
22 Flu symptom
24 Yes, to Angus
25 Microscopic animal
26 Rows
27 "Shane" star
29 Royal symbol
34 Standoffish
36 Sweet wine
39 Word on a towel
43 Reject
44 Sooner city
45 Maj. Hoople's word
46 Sticky soil
47 Trim back
49 Web addr.
51 Cleveland NBAer
52 Mademoiselle's summer
53 Thing, in law

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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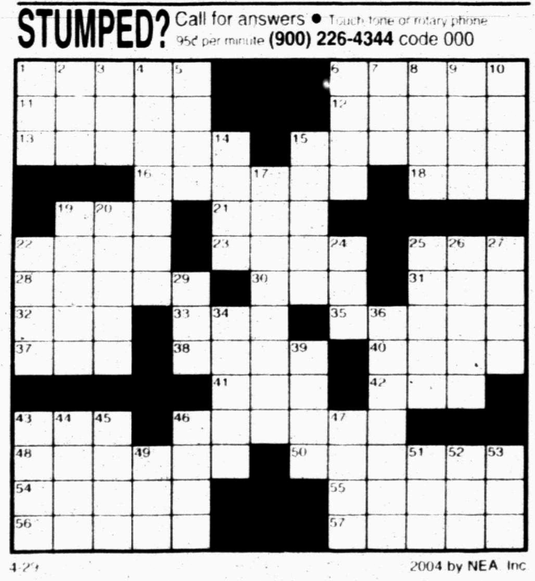

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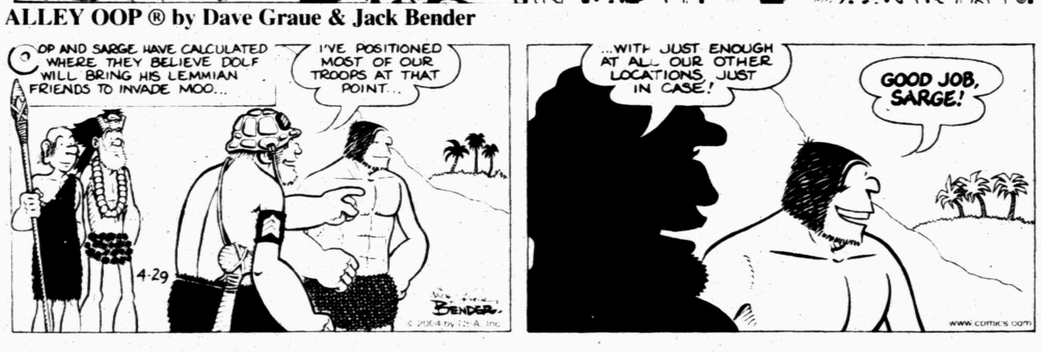

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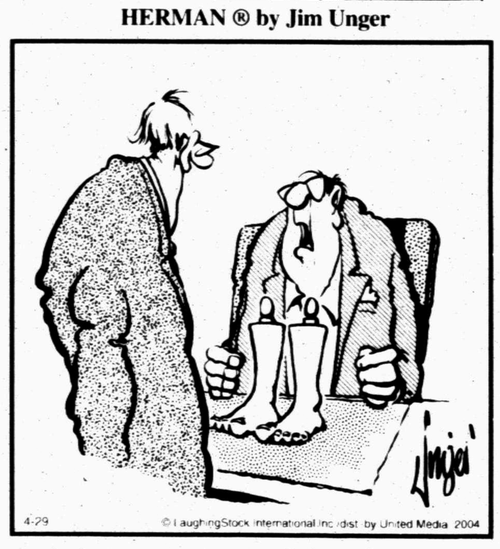

"You've got the job. Now, take these home and practice kissing them."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"YOU WON'T FIND MY SOCKS UNDER THERE, BUT YOU MIGHT FIND MY BUG COLLECTION."

Zach Ca

Snyc Regi field

The Snyder H
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Lady Tigers

The Lady Tige
District 8-2A cha

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Six-Man Coache

Friday swing

The SCGA host
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Ladies play

The WGA host
County golf cour

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Baugh Golf Cour
$105 per team, w
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Basketball c

Two basketball
High School. Th
until 10:30 a.m. fo
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The second can
iors from 10:45 a
all-state player a
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Snyder girls h
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Giants cut C

EAST RUTHER
released by the
traded for rookie

SPORTS

Zach Cain and Jesus Juarez at the district meet

Snyder kicks off Region I track and field meet Friday

The Snyder High School track and field athletes will try to book a trip to the state meet when the opening gun fires at the regional track meet Friday morning at Ratliff Stadium in Odessa.

Snyder will be represented in 16 events on the first day of the meet, beginning at 10 a.m. with October Wells in the girls long jump and Justin Boyd in the boys high jump.

At noon, Ricky McNatt will throw the discus and Malcome Wells will compete in the long jump.

The girls 4x100m relay team of Wells, Terann Ragland, Sequoya Powell and Nicki Traylor will kick off the running prelims at 2:30 p.m., followed immediately by the boys 4x100m relay team of Wells, Boyd, Zach Cain and Jesus Juarez.

Following the boys sprint relay, Candace Chandler will compete in the 800m run at 2:50 p.m.

At 3:25 p.m., Garrett Pinson will race in the 110m hurdles and Wells will run in the girls 100m dash 10 minutes later.

Wells, Boyd, Cain and Juarez will compete in the 4x200 relay at 4:05 p.m., and Boyd will run in the 400 dash at 4:25 p.m.

Cain will represent Snyder in the 300m hurdles at 4:50 p.m., followed by Wells in the girls 200m dash at 5 p.m.

Malcome Wells will compete in the boys 200m dash at 5:10 p.m.

The girls mile relay team of Erin Burleson, Jordan Stansell, Chandler and Ragland will close out the running prelims for Snyder at 5:20 p.m.

Wells will be the only Snyder thinclad in Saturday's field events, getting the final day underway at 9 a.m. with the girls triple jump.

The running finals will begin at 1:15 p.m. Saturday.

Gates open at Ratliff at 9 a.m. Friday and 10 a.m. Saturday.

Bryant arrives minutes before game, leads Lakers to showdown with Spurs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant wore a look of exhaustion as he held his 15-month-old daughter Natalia while addressing reporters.

He looked a lot more wiped out than she did, and it was way past her bedtime.

"All I have to do is go out there and play, then go to sleep," Bryant said.

It was a bit more in this case.

Following three round-trip flights to Colorado in as many days for pretrial hearings in his sexual assault case, Bryant had 31 points, six rebounds and 10 assists Wednesday night as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Houston Rockets 97-78 to win their first-round series 4-1.

By winning, the Lakers moved into the second round of the playoffs, where they'll meet the San Antonio Spurs in a matchup of the teams who won the last five NBA championships.

Game 1 will be Sunday in San Antonio.

Looking worn and surrounded by bodyguards, Bryant showed up at Staples Center 26 minutes before the opening tipoff following his third straight day in court.

He had by far his best game of the postseason, shooting 12-of-21, along with 6-of-6 from the foul line, while committing only one turnover in 41 minutes.

He shot 33.8 percent in the first four games of the series.

Bryant left with 6:16 remaining to a standing ovation and was warmly greeted when he reached the bench.

"A lot of people will remember 31 points, but I'll remember that he's been doing a lot of traveling in a short period of time," teammate Karl Malone said. "You put that ball in his hand, and he's ready to play. And that's what it's all about."

Bryant said he was more tired than he'd ever been while playing a game and didn't plan to get off his couch today.

"In the car on the way over, I just felt so tired. I didn't want to go to sleep," he said, explaining that would have made him sluggish after he awoke. "I tried to meditate on the way over.

"When I get on the basketball court, something just energizes me."

The Lakers trailed 52-49 early in the second half before putting the Rockets away with a 33-7 run to finish the third quarter and start the fourth. Bryant had 11 points and four assists during the spurt.

The Spurs, who swept Memphis in the first round, bring a 15-game winning streak into the best-of-seven series including a 95-89 victory over the Lakers on April 4.

The Spurs eliminated Los Angeles in the second round last spring on their way to the championship, ending the Lakers' bid for a fourth straight title.

San Antonio swept the Lakers in the second round in 1999 en route to its first championship.

"I think it's time — we are ready for them," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "They are playing as good as anybody, probably the best in the NBA right now, and we are going to have to elevate our game going into San Antonio to win."

The Rockets-Lakers game was the only playoff action Wednesday night. Milwaukee plays at Detroit and Dallas is at Sacramento tonight. The home teams hold 3-1 leads in both series.

Malone had 18 points, nine rebounds and five assists, and Shaquille O'Neal added 12 points, nine boards, five assists and four blocked shots.

Mavs face elimination tonight

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — When this playoff series began, defense seemed certain to be a dirty word. After all, the Mavericks and the Kings were the NBA's two highest-scoring teams — and usually two of the most indifferent on the other end of the court.

But in the three games since the Kings' 116-105 win in the opener, points have been shockingly scarce. What's more, two games turned on heady last-second plays by Peja Stojakovic, who isn't exactly known as a defensive stopper.

The Kings could end the series with a home victory in Game 5 Thursday night even though they're missing an unusual number of shots, laboring in their half-court offense and averaging nearly 17 turnovers per game.

And though the Mavs have shot even worse, they're on the brink of elimination despite leading Sacramento in most other statistical categories.

So what in the name of Mark Aguirre or Reggie Theus is going on? The Mavs and the Kings both say their fans don't recognize them because this strange series has been governed by defensive excellence, not offensive ineptitude.

Harvey home run sinks Rangers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Ken Harvey's first trip around the bases turned out to be a foul ball. He did it for real after the next pitch.

Harvey's three-run homer in the fifth inning broke a 1-1 tie and the Kansas City Royals went on to a 5-3 victory over the Texas Rangers on Wednesday night.

The Royals first baseman hit Kenny Rogers' first pitch down the left-field line for what third-base umpire Tim Welke ruled was a three-run homer. Rangers manager Buck Showalter argued the call and the umpires huddled and overruled Welke's call, changing it to a foul ball. Television replays indicated the ball was foul.

"It was foul," Harvey said. "I honestly didn't think it was a home run and was getting down."

Welke, the crew chief, said the ball was extremely close to the pole.

"I thought it was fair, but sometimes being on the line, you don't have the right depth perception, so I wasn't sure," he said. "So in a situation like that, we get together as a group.

"All four of us got together, the other three said it was absolutely a foul ball, so the goal was to get it right. After looking at the replays, it was really, really close. We were able to see it and we got it right and we're out there to get them right. He had to circle the bases twice, which was kind of unbelievable."

Royals manager Tony Pena came out to argue after the call was reversed and that gave Harvey a chance to compose himself.

"I'm a big guy," Harvey said. "I needed time to catch my breath. I had run around the bases. I was tired."

Harvey sent Rogers' next pitch into the Rangers' bullpen beyond the left-field fence. He went 3-for-4 and raised his batting average to .421, second in the AL.

Sports Briefs

Lady Tigers practice game

The Lady Tigers will host a practice game at 1 p.m. Friday against District 8-2A champion Idalou.

Wilson, Calley receive academic honors

Ira's Lindsey Wilson and Amanda Calley were named to the Texas Six-Man Coaches Association academic all-state basketball team.

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.

Ladies play day

The WGA hosts a ladies play day each Tuesday at 9 a.m. at Scurry County golf course. Format is most fours-back nine.

Sammy Baugh tournament

The Sammy Baugh Golf Tournament will be held Saturday at Sammy Baugh Golf Course at WTC. Format is three-man scramble and cost is $105 per team, with proceeds to benefit the high school golf program.

A silent auction of signed Sammy Baugh memorabilia will be held in conjunction with the tournament. Call the pro shop at 573-9291 for more information.

Basketball camps slated for summer

Two basketball camps are scheduled for May 31-June 3 at Snyder High School. The first will be a fundamentals camp from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. for incoming eighth-graders and below, and will be led by SHS head coach Bud Birks, assistant coach Zach Williams and graduating all-district varsity player Lee Scott. Cost is $35.

The second camp will be a shooting camp for freshmen through seniors from 10:45 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. It will be coached by former SHS all-state player and former Lubbock Christian Steve Henderson, and cost is $25.

Contact coach Birks at 574-6139 or 573-1297 for more information.

Girls basketball camp

Snyder girls head coach Mike Martin will host a girls basketball camp from June 21-24.

Incoming third through fifth grade players will go from 8 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. and incoming sixth and seventh-graders will receive instruction from 10:30 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. Camp for incoming eighth-graders and freshmen will be from 1:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Cost is $60 and includes a camp T-shirt, and forms can be picked up in the basketball office or the athletic office. Call coach Martin at 574-6040 or 575-1917 for more information.

Giants cut Collins

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Quarterback Kerry Collins was released by the New York Giants — less than a week after the team traded for rookie Eli Manning.

Major League Baseball

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Florida	14	7	.667	—
Atlanta	11	10	.524	3
Philadelphia	9	10	.474	4
New York	8	13	.381	6
Montreal	5	17	.227	9½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	13	8	.619	—
Cincinnati	12	9	.571	1
Houston	11	9	.550	1½
Milwaukee	12	10	.545	1½
St. Louis	10	11	.476	3
Pittsburgh	9	10	.474	3

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	13	7	.650	—
San Diego	13	9	.591	1
Arizona	9	12	.429	4½
Colorado	9	12	.429	4½
San Francisco	9	13	.409	5

Wednesday's Games

Florida 9, Colorado 4
Pittsburgh 4, Houston 2
Milwaukee 10, Cincinnati 9, 10 innings
Philadelphia 6, St. Louis 3
Chicago Cubs 4, Arizona 3
San Diego 5, Montreal 4
San Francisco 10, Atlanta 7
Los Angeles 3, N.Y. Mets 2

Today's Games

Houston (Pettitte 0-1) at Pittsburgh (K.Wells 2-2), 11:35 a.m.
Philadelphia (Millwood 2-2) at St. Louis (Carpenter 1-1), 12:10 p.m.
Florida (Penny 2-1) at San Francisco (J.Williams 3-1), 3:05 p.m.
Montreal (Ohka 0-4) at San Diego (D.Wells 0-2), 9:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Seo 0-3) at Los Angeles (Weaver 1-2), 9:10 p.m.

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	13	6	.684	—
Baltimore	11	8	.579	2
New York	10	11	.476	4
Tampa Bay	7	11	.389	5½
Toronto	7	14	.333	7

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	14	7	.667	—
Chicago	12	8	.600	1½
Detroit	12	9	.571	2
Cleveland	8	13	.381	6
Kansas City	7	12	.368	6

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Anaheim	12	9	.571	—
Texas	12	9	.571	—
Oakland	10	11	.476	2
Seattle	7	14	.333	5

Wednesday's Games

Chicago White Sox 9, Cleveland 8
Detroit 10, Anaheim 2
Boston 6, Tampa Bay 0
Baltimore 3, Seattle 1
N.Y. Yankees 5, Oakland 1
Minnesota 9, Toronto 5
Kansas City 5, Texas 3

Today's Games

Tampa Bay (Zambrano 3-1) at Boston (Kim 0-0), 12:05 p.m., 1st game
Anaheim (Washburn 3-1) at Detroit (Robertson 1-0), 12:05 p.m.
Texas (Park 1-3) at Kansas City (D.Reyes 0-0), 1:10 p.m.
Seattle (Pineiro 1-2) at Baltimore (DuBose 2-2), 2:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Moss 0-0) at Boston (Lowe 2-1), 6:05 p.m., 2nd game
Oakland (Zito 2-2) at N.Y. Yankees (K.Brown 3-0), 6:05 p.m.
Toronto (Hentgen 0-2) at Chicago White Sox (Loaiza 3-0), 7:05 p.m.

NBA Playoffs

FIRST ROUND
(Best-of-7)

Wednesday, April 28

L.A. Lakers 97, Houston 78, L.A. Lakers win series 4-1

Thursday, April 29

Milwaukee at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Sacramento, 9:30 p.m.

Friday, April 30

New Orleans at Miami, 6 p.m.
Denver at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 1

Detroit at Milwaukee, TBA, if necessary

Sunday, May 2

Miami at New Orleans, TBA
Sacramento at Dallas, TBA, if necessary
Minnesota at Denver, TBA, if necessary

Stanley Cup

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
(Best-of-7)

Wednesday, April 28

Toronto 4, Philadelphia 1. Philadelphia leads series 2-1
Colorado 1, San Jose 0. San Jose leads series 3-1

Thursday, April 29

Tampa Bay at Montreal, 6 p.m.
Detroit at Calgary, 9 p.m.

Friday, April 30

Philadelphia at Toronto, 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 1

Calgary at Detroit, 2 p.m.
Colorado at San Jose, 2 p.m.
Montreal at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m.

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Attn: Bonnie Miller
@ (325) 573-2134
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Weekend shift.
Requires State license.
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go east on US 180 6 mi., turn right on FM 644, go 1 mi.
Watch for signs.
Furniture, Dishes, Glassware, 18' Mad River canoe, Fishing tackle, Antiques, Collectibles, Linens, Yard furniture, Tools, Primitives, Desk & much more!
Must sell everything!
FMI call 207-2841 or 207-1424

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17 year collection of great stuff!
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Thurs. 3 - 7 Fri. 2 - 7:30
Sat. 8:30 - 12:30 Sun. 1:30 - 7
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Landes Storage #D1
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Friday 7a.m. – Noon
(3) refrigerated air window units, Baby items, Clothes, Knick knacks. Too much to mention!

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407 W North 1st ~ Roby, TX
Saturday 8a.m. – ??
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4-1¾, newly remodeled.
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***3724 Austin** 3-2, fenced $475/mo.
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Stevenson Real Estate
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Big, beautiful 3-2-2, formal living, den, new kitchen, isolated master, large covered patio. 2703 47th $118,900 573-1428

GOOD LOCATION!
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Household Goods will be sold on the same date at 10A.M.
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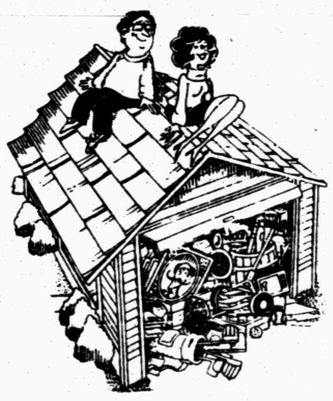

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Search underway by Kerry's campaign for running mate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrat John Kerry's campaign has begun background checks of top running mate prospects, including Dick Gephardt, John Edwards and Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, while other hopefuls anxiously await word that they're worthy of a Washington "vetting."

Several Democratic officials familiar with the selection process said Wednesday that background checks have been under way for several weeks. The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said individuals other than Gephardt, Edwards and Vilsack are under consideration, but they would not identify them — nor say how many there were.

The candidates are known only by Kerry, a handful of advisers and a team of lawyers conducting background checks that are described as unusually thorough.

Gephardt, a Missouri congressman, and Edwards, a North Carolina senator, challenged Kerry for the Democratic nomination. Vilsack is an two-term governor whose wife, Christie, helped Kerry to a surprise win in the Iowa caucuses.

A senior Iowa Democrat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Vilsack has submitted financial information to Kerry's search team and has been told to expect a more thorough review — called "vetting" in Washington parlance.

The man heading the search, Jim Johnson, has spoken with dozens of party leaders about the process and prospects. Officials who have talked to Johnson said he has expressed interest in Vilsack along with others, including Sen. Evan Bayh of Indiana and former Sens. Bob Kerrey of Nebraska and Sam Nunn of Georgia.

Judging by the cases of Gephardt, Edwards and Vilsack, the selection process may be farther along than previously thought. Still, campaign officials said Kerry will not make his choice anytime soon.

"There is certainly a good argument for waiting — to bring an element of excitement into the presidential convention in July," said Anita Dunn, a Democratic strategist who does not work for Kerry.

"On the other hand, the White House has the luxury of sending Vice President Cheney out in the traditional role of attack dog while letting the president deliver a positive message, which forces Kerry to try to figure out who he's going to answer on a given day," Dunn said. "Kerry may want help."

Besides Vilsack, several top Democratic officeholders are preparing for a background check — either because they've been told by the Kerry team to expect one or they hope to be subjected to the process. Vice presidential "vetting" is a status symbol in Washington, so much so that politicians have been known to claim they're on the list even if they're not.

Gephardt, 63, is the former House Minority leader who began the Democratic race as a favorite to win Iowa's caucuses. He finished fourth behind Kerry, Edwards and former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean.

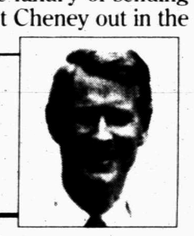
Many Democratic strategists consider Gephardt the safest choice — a man whose life and career has been open to scrutiny for years. He is a favorite of organized labor, a disciplined campaigner and his home state, with 11 electoral votes and bellwether reputation, is critical in the White House race.

But some Democrats worry that it will be hard arguing for change with a ticket headed by two creatures of Congress. Neither Kerry, a four-term Massachusetts senator, nor Gephardt is thought to be electrifying on the stump.

That isn't Edwards' problem. The 50-year-old freshman senator spoke passionately about "two Americas" — one for the rich and powerful, the other for everybody else.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Loss of appetite should be investigated

DEAR DR. GOTT: Here's a new one for you. I'm a female, 62, 5 foot 4 inches and 126 pounds, and don't like to eat. I take my medications for hypertension, my vitamins and fluids, but I am simply not hungry. I eat to live, not live to eat.

Do I have a problem?

DEAR READER: I don't know. You could certainly have a problem if your partner invites you out for a sumptuous repast in a fancy restaurant, but I cannot comment on the medical issues of your dietary habits except to say that if you are simply a person who chooses not to eat excessively, and your weight is stable, I believe that you can relax, continue as is and use protein supplements, such as Ensure and other products.

On the other hand, if you use laxatives or frequently vomit after eating, you need professional attention. Similarly, if your diminished appetite is a recent phenomenon and is associated with significant weight loss (more than 10 pounds in the last year), you should check with your doctor.

Many chronic diseases, such as hidden cancer or depression, can affect appetite and caloric intake. Therefore, it's very important to know whether or not your pattern is chronic (and stable) or acute (and ongoing).

Perhaps you can find an answer to your question from your family physician. I recommend that you share your concerns with him or her. After an examination and appropriate testing, the doctor should be able to address your concerns.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What is lupus? Is there any cure?

DEAR READER: Lupus erythematosis is a disease that affects the body's connective tissue, primarily in the kidneys and other organs. It is treatable, but not yet curable; the muscle aches, skin lesions and other symptoms can be relieved by medication, usually by steroid therapy.

I am sending you a free copy of my Health Report "Lupus: The Great Imitator." Other readers who would like a copy should send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm 77 and in reasonably good health except for slight emphysema. I would like to get more exercise, but I tire easily when I walk (because I'm out of shape). Would an exercise bike be a reasonable investment?

DEAR READER: Stationary exercise bicycles are excellent devices to use for regular physical activity. Their use doesn't depend on the weather (as do walking and running); they can be adjusted periodically to maintain an increasing level of work, do not require weight-bearing (hence, are useful for patients with arthritis), are relatively inexpensive, will improve cardiovascular fitness and are convenient (you don't have to go to a fitness center at 7 a.m. to be embarrassed by sweet young things in leotards).

If you need regular exercise, a stationary bike is a healthful and easy way to get it.

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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Markets

Midday Stocks

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	12.33	11.92	12.05	— .11
AT&T Corp	17.85	17.62	17.68	— .17
Albertsons	23.79	23.16	23.46	— .30
Alltel	51.65	51.23	51.62	+ .05
AmEl Pw	31.17	30.50	31.15	+ .75
AndarkPtr	55.54	54.89	54.94	— .73
ATMOS Egy	25.20	24.85	25.03	+ .12
Aviall	17.06	16.79	17.05	+ .19
BP PLC	53.32	52.97	53.10	— .01
BakerHughes	37.45	37.00	37.24	— .21
Bank of Amer	81.70	80.45	81.27	+ .37
BellSouth	26.23	25.85	26.18	+ .24
BurlNoSFe	32.97	32.52	32.94	+ .42
Caterpillar	80.30	79.38	79.80	+ .10
CenterPoint	11.20	11.11	11.16	— .01
ChevronTex	91.98	91.57	91.57	— .17
Citigroup	48.91	48.05	48.80	+ .77
CocaCola	50.25	49.78	50.25	+ .04
ColgatePal	57.05	56.41	57.00	+ .60
CmclMetals	27.85	26.86	26.88	— .64
ConocoPhill	73.89	72.90	72.90	— .85
Cooper Inds	56.40	55.84	55.91	— .12
DaimlrChry	46.72	45.77	45.99	+ .08
DeltaAirLines	6.65	6.50	6.57	— .02
Dillards Inc	17.28	17.01	17.07	— .13
DowChem	41.06	40.00	40.54	— .38
DuPont	43.86	43.15	43.60	+ .19
EastmanChem	42.90	42.40	42.68	— .03
EstKodak	26.00	25.48	25.99	
EDS Corp	18.74	18.45	18.48	— .35
Entergy	55.55	55.15	55.37	— .11
ExxonMobil	43.72	43.00	43.56	+ .44
FootLocker	24.80	24.20	24.32	— .48
GenDynam	93.41	92.40	93.12	+ .17
GenElec	30.30	30.05	30.26	+ .24
GenMills	48.45	48.11	48.42	+ .31
GenMotors	48.97	48.42	48.70	+ .20
GaPacific	36.02	34.80	35.53	— .15
Goodrich	29.82	29.36	29.58	— .36
Goodyear	8.91	8.50	8.67	— .25
GtAtlPac	8.62	8.31	8.36	— .17
Halliburtn	31.20	30.74	31.04	+ .03
Hanson PLC	39.06	38.85	39.06	— .24
HarteHanks	24.15	23.90	24.07	+ .07
HomeDepot	36.15	35.60	36.15	+ .16
HoneywellIntl	35.95	35.12	35.91	+ .74
IBM	90.28	89.36	89.85	— .56
IntlPaper	41.33	40.70	41.28	+ .11
JohnsonJn	54.26	53.76	53.92	— .27
KinderMorg	61.94	61.44	61.77	+ .47
Kroger Co	17.42	17.19	17.24	— .07
LockheedM	47.80	47.19	47.36	+ .01
Lowes Cos	53.20	52.22	52.96	+ .16
Lubys	5.12	5.02	5.10	+ .01
LucentTech	3.64	3.45	3.62	+ .17
MarathonOil	34.30	33.79	33.88	— .32
MayDeptStr	30.94	30.33	30.71	— .02
Medtronic	50.49	49.62	50.49	+ .84
Motorola	19.42	18.90	19.39	— .21
NCR Corp	46.50	45.50	46.28	+ .28
Navistar	47.27	46.00	46.26	— .61
PNM Rescs	30.00	29.70	29.93	+ .34
Penney JC	36.41	35.89	36.12	+ .11
PepBoys	28.96	28.70	28.96	+ .26
PepsiCo	54.20	53.60	54.19	+ .30
PhelpDodge	68.50	66.99	68.10	+ 1.21
PilgrimsPride	23.81	23.47	23.65	+ .28
Praxair s	37.15	36.65	37.08	+ .28
ProctGamb	105.69	104.28	105.63	+ 1.46
RadioShack	31.84	31.19	31.54	— .02
RoyalDut	49.11	48.74	48.76	+ 1.03
SBC Comm	25.66	25.12	25.60	+ .39
SaraLee	23.50	23.00	23.49	+ .35
Scripps EW	107.25	106.00	107.06	+ .06
SearsRoeb	40.80	39.67	40.10	— .35
SherwinW	38.32	37.72	37.87	— .54
SouthernCo	29.05	28.73	29.00	+ .25
SwstAirl	14.73	14.54	14.63	— .02
SprintFON	18.10	17.66	18.05	— .13
Sunoco Inc	65.50	64.75	65.50	+ .27
TXU Corp	35.16	34.86	35.11	+ .15
TempleInland	63.50	62.53	63.50	+ .84
TexInd	35.05	34.60	34.66	— .22
TexasInst	26.90	25.75	25.91	— .81
Textron	57.29	56.49	56.81	— .14
TimeWarner	17.65	17.01	17.19	+ .68
TrinityInds	31.63	31.15	31.40	+ .07
TylerTech	9.79	9.55	9.56	— .19
UnionPacif	59.98	59.62	59.81	— .08
USSteel	30.89	29.59	30.39	— .17
UnitedTech	89.32	88.34	88.98	— .09
Unocal	37.73	36.78	36.84	— .91
VerizonComm	38.03	37.66	37.99	+ .33
WalMart	58.35	57.70	58.20	+ .22
WellsFargo	57.25	56.30	57.15	+ .85
WstnGasRs	55.60	54.88	55.00	— .73
WinnDixie	7.74	7.63	7.64	+ .02
Xerox Cp	13.57	13.33	13.57	+ .10
YumBrands	39.37	38.73	39.16	+ .50

APR 29 2004

A KRISPY CHECK —R.J. Youngclaus, Wal-Mart manager, presented a $1,000 check to Chad Welsh, respenting the Scurry County Boys and Girls Club. The donation was a matching grant for the $1,000 worth of Krispy Kreme donuts that were sold in a special fundraiser at the store. (SDN Staff Photo)

Baltimore, others embrace K-8 schools

BALTIMORE (AP) — Ten years ago, this city embarked upon a quiet but ambitious quest to reshape the school environment for children in the middle grades, 6 through 8.

Those young adolescents and preteens were the children most given to fits of drama. They posed the most daunting discipline problems. They seemed most in need of special nurturing and attention.

And so, Baltimore — empowered by a rare consensus among parents, educators and politicians — began combining many elementary and middle schools in single K-8 facilities. It's part of a quiet movement seen in other urban systems across the country.

In the early 1990s, Baltimore had eight such schools. This year, there were 30.

"I'd say the majority of those parents who are knowledgeable prefer to have K-8 schools in their community," says Michael Hamilton, president of the Baltimore Council of PTAs. "Parents who don't want them at first start fighting for them once they learn more about what a K-8 school is."

Parents like K-8 schools because they extend the nurturing atmosphere of elementary school to the difficult early adolescent years.

Educators like them because they seem to improve test scores.

And elected officials like them because K-8 schools appeal to skittish middle-class parents who tend to flee to the suburbs in search of better schools as their children get older.

"The only issue, as far as I can see, is that parents complain that the only communities getting the schools are the ones where the parents know enough to demand them," says Hamilton. "People are wondering, if it's such a good idea, why don't we create them for everyone whether parents demand them or not?"

School board president Patricia Welch says that K-8 schools are popular with both middle-class families and those living in poverty.

Middle-class families feel comfortable with their children attending school with children from the same neighborhood, says Welch. Parents in disadvantaged communities feel there is greater stability and discipline in K-8 schools.

"As an educator, I think a successful school comes down to its leadership, regardless of how it's configured," says Welch, who is dean of the School of Education and Urban Studies at Morgan State University. "But let's face it, we are all very, very conscious of the need to recruit and retain the middle class — because they expand our tax base and because they add to the diversity of our city. If we can throw K-8 schools into the mix, we should do it."

City Councilman Melvin Stukes, who represents the predominantly black working and middle-class community of Cherry Hill, says K-8 schools "make all the sense in the world for all families. If I had my way, I'd tear down every elementary and middle school in the city and rebuild them along the K-8 model."

Some cities are coming close to doing just that.

In Philadelphia, schools chief Paul Vallas plans to replace virtually every middle school over the next few years as a key part of his strategy to boost student achievement. He was spurred by research from the nonprofit Philadelphia Education Fund suggesting that eighth graders at K-8 schools score higher than their counterparts at traditional middle schools, which typically are composed of grades 6-8.

"To not do so is the equivalent of educational malpractice since you can't argue with the facts and the facts are that large, high-poverty middle schools simply do not work in an urban environment," says Vallas, who participated in a similar initiative in Chicago.

Milwaukee, which had 10 K-8 schools three years ago, plans to have at least 60 by December 2005. Four other communities have petitioned to have K-8 schools as well, says Aquine Jackson, director of Milwaukee's Office of Neighborhood Schools.

In the future, the only middle schools in Milwaukee will be magnet schools specializing in subjects such as science or the arts, Jackson said. The majority of the city's preteens will someday attend small, community-based, K-8 schools, he predicts.

World Almanac

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Today is the 120th day of 2004 and the 41st day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1429, Joan of Arc lifted the siege of Orleans, France.

In 1945, U.S. troops liberated the Dachau concentration camp in Germany.

In 1992, riots broke out in Los Angeles after four police officers were acquitted of beating Rodney King.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: William Randolph Hearst (1863-1951), newspaper publisher; Duke Ellington (1899-1974), jazz musician; Dale Earnhardt (1952-2001), auto racer; Jerry Seinfeld (1954-), comedian, is 50; Daniel Day-Lewis (1957-), actor, is 47; Michelle Pfeiffer (1958-), actress, is 46; Uma Thurman (1970-), actress, is 34.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1987, outfielder Andre Dawson of the Chicago Cubs hit for the cycle in an 8-4 win over the Giants.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The whole object of comedy is to be yourself, and the closer you get to that, the funnier you will be." — Jerry Seinfeld

TODAY'S FACT: The five languages spoken as first languages by the most people are (in order) Mandarin Chinese, Hindi, English, Spanish and Bengali.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 24 — Number of consecutive games won by baseball pitcher Carl Hubbell between July 17, 1936, and May 27, 1937.

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (April 27) and full moon (May 4)

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Iran's censors approve 'Passion' film

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's censors have approved the screening of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" in the Persian state's movie theaters, the official news agency reported Wednesday.

A committee of clerics and officials within Iran's Islamic Cultural and Guidance Ministry unanimously decided Tuesday to let the film be played in its entirety, with Persian language subtitles, the agency said.

The state-owned Farabi Cinema Foundation, which is in charge of foreign movies, bought a copy of Gibson's controversial film in February and has negotiated with theater owners to screen it in May, the agency added.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Piercing debate highlights emotional vs. physical scars

DEAR ABBY: I just finished reading the letter from "Upset in Collegeville, Pa.," regarding the 15-year-old girl who wanted to get her belly button pierced. Your response included, "As long as the procedure is done hygienically, it shouldn't cause any damage."

I am a gynecologist. I have observed that navel piercings often cause significant permanent scarring, especially at the upper piercing site. These scars are far larger than one would expect. They can also be associated with darkening of the skin at the scar site, which makes them even more cosmetically unacceptable.

I can't explain why other piercings such as earlobes usually have no scarring while navel piercings often result in unsightly permanent scars. Anyone considering a belly button piercing should be aware of this potentially permanent problem. — **OREGON GYNECOLOGIST**

DEAR OREGON GYNECOLOGIST: Thank you for writing. Although I live in Los Angeles, probably the navel-piercing capital of the United States, I cannot claim to have seen as many belly buttons "up close and personal" as you have, so I bow to your expertise. Many readers commented regarding that letter. **Read on:**

DEAR ABBY: May I add a note to your response to the parents who agreed to let their daughter pierce her belly button, then changed their minds? I am 62 and still can't quite forgive my father for much the same thing. He was old-fashioned and wouldn't let my older sister drive. When I was 15, I begged to take driver's ed and get my license at 16. He agreed — on the condition that I pay for the lessons myself.

Well, I did — and passed with flying colors. But when I turned 16, he refused to allow me to get my license. When I asked why he'd lied to me, he said he hadn't lied. He simply thought I'd never be able to save enough to pay for the course. Even after 46 years, I still think he lied to me.

My advice to the parents: Do not break your word. It could damage your relationship with your son or daughter forever. — **MARJ G., WESLACO, TEXAS**

DEAR MARJ: I agree. She fulfilled her part of the bargain, so the parents shouldn't have reneged on their promise.

DEAR ABBY: In some states, piercing isn't legal before age 16, even with parental consent. If the parents relent, I hope they'll find out what the local laws are and go to the most reputable person who performs piercings. My advice to potential piercers: Stay away from those who will do the piercing regardless of state law. — **SUZANNE, PRIMEVAL INK TATTOO, MONROE, WASH.**

DEAR SUZANNE: Good advice.

DEAR ABBY: While I respect the right to change one's mind, the relationship of a parent to a child can be permanently damaged by relatively small betrayals. In today's world, belly button piercing is little more than a fashion statement, and the parents who are waffling over their promise to let their daughter pierce her navel in exchange for good grades risk far more by breaking their promise than by allowing the piercing. — **GEORGE (A YOUNG PARENT WITH CHILDREN), SANTA MONICA, CALIF.**

DEAR GEORGE: I agree. And you stated it very well.

**

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

**

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, April 30, 2004

Chances are in the year ahead you will explore several new areas where you have never trodden before. If you properly sort out those that hold value from what is useless, rewarding experiences will add to your material growth.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — It's always wise to treat your prized possessions with care, but today they could be particularly vulnerable. If you must transport valuables, wrap them well and lock them in your trunk.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Duties and responsibilities you owe to your family today should take precedence over any personal activities in which you'd like to partake. Think of them first, not last.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — There's a possibility today that you may be tempted to fudge a little when it comes to telling the truth in order to get others to see things your way. Once revealed, you'll pay a price.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Friendships cannot be bought, so don't deceive yourself today into thinking you can get others to like you if you spend lavishly on them. All you really have to do is simply be yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Pals will stand by you and come to your aid today, but you must allow them to do it their way and in their own good time. If you try to dictate the terms, they'll make a quick exit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Switching horses today in midstream in search of greener pastures will not only get you off course, but you could lose the ground that you already covered and get completely lost.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — If you're too easily influenced by others today, with the least amount of criticism you could easily get discouraged and pitch your entire game plan and disregard workable ideas.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Do not try to take control of a situation away from another who is presently doing a competent job. Interference could gum up the works and put you months behind schedule.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — The only way that you will get the results you desire in handling a complicated assignment is to use logical procedures at all times. Shortcuts could sabotage the entire project.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Be careful today that you don't kid yourself about the value of either a person or thing that others are trying to tell you is of dubious worth. Chances are your pals will see things more clearly than you.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — It's important today in your involvements with friends that you don't inadvertently show partiality or play favorites. You could hurt someone's feelings who doesn't deserve it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Delegating routine tasks you could easily do yourself today isn't apt to work out too well. Even if you get someone to do your bidding, this person isn't apt to do a creditable job.

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

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CBS obtains photos showing alleged abuse

NEW YORK (AP) — One photograph shows Iraqi prisoners, naked except for hoods covering their heads, stacked in a human pyramid, one with a slur written in English on his skin.

That and other scenes of humiliation at the hands of U.S. military police appear in photographs obtained by CBS News, shown Wednesday night on "60 Minutes II."

The images have led to criminal charges against six American soldiers.

CBS says they were taken late last year at Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad, where American soldiers were holding hundreds of prisoners captured during the invasion and occupation of Iraq.

In March, the U.S. Army announced that six members of the 800th Military Police Brigade faced court martial for allegedly abusing about 20 prisoners at Abu Ghraib. The charges included dereliction of duty, cruelty and maltreatment, assault and indecent acts with another person.

In addition to those criminal charges, the military has recommended disciplinary action against seven U.S. officers who helped run the prison, including Brig. Gen. Janice Karpinski, the commander of the 800th Brigade, a senior miiitary official said Wednesday in Baghdad.

The investigation recommended administrative action against several of the commanders, which could include punishments up to relieving them of their commands, said the official, speaking on condition on anonymity.

When the abuse charges were first announced, U.S. military officials declined to provide details about the evidence. But on Wednesday, at a news briefing in Baghdad, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt said the investigation began in January when an American soldier reported the abuse and turned over evidence that included photographs.

"That soldier said, 'There are some things going on here that I can't live with,'" said Kimmitt, who also confirmed that CBS had obtained the photographs.

One picture shows an Iraqi prisoner who was told to stand on a box with his head covered and wires attached to his hands. CBS said the prisoner was told that if he fell off the box, he would be electrocuted.

The Army ordered an investigation into the actions of 17 soldiers from the 800th Brigade, which is based in Uniondale, N.Y. Ten were investigated for criminal actions, six of whom were charged in March.

The other seven were officers who faced an administrative investigation. Those officers have received copies of the probe and will now have the chance to rebut the claims, with a final decision expected within a month, the senior military official said.

In an interview with CBS correspondent Dan Rather, Kimmitt said the photographs were dismaying.

"We're appalled," Kimmitt said. "These are our fellow soldiers, these are the people we work with every day, they represent us, they wear the same uniform as us, and they let their fellow soldiers down."

"If we can't hold ourselves up as an example of how to treat people with dignity and respect, we can't ask that other nations do that to our soldiers," Kimmitt said.

"60 Minutes II" identified one of the implicated soldiers as Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Chip Frederick, who described to Rather what he saw in the Iraqi prison.

"We had no support, no training whatsoever, and I kept asking my chain of command for certain things, rules and regulations, and it just wasn't happening," Frederick said.

"60 Minutes II" reported Frederick will plead not guilty to charges including maltreatment and assault, claiming the way the Army operated the prison led to the abuse of prisoners. He also said he did not see a copy of the Geneva Convention rules for handling prisoners of war until after he was charged, the show reported.

Four charged under new 'spam' law

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal authorities say they managed to pierce the murky underworld of Internet spam e-mails, filing the first criminal charges under the government's new "can spam" legislation

Court documents in the landmark case in Detroit describe a nearly inscrutable puzzle of corporate identities, bank accounts and electronic storefronts in one alleged spam operation.

At one point, investigators said, packages were sometimes delivered to a restaurant, where a greeter accepted them and passed them along to one defendant.

Officials at the Federal Trade Commission, who planned to announce the arrests in Washington on today, told U.S. postal investigators they had received more than 10,000 complaints about unwanted e-mails sent by the defendants.

Court records identified the defendants as Daniel J. Lin, James J. Lin, Mark M. Sadek and Christopher Chung of West Bloomfield, Mich., near Detroit.

They were accused of disguising their identities in hundreds of thousands of sales pitches for fraudulent weight-loss products and delivering e-mails by bouncing messages through unprotected relay computers on the Internet.

Today's chuckle

Cat lost for seven years, owner reunited

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Cheyenne, a cat that vanished in Florida seven years ago and was recently found wandering the streets of San Francisco, has been reunited with her owner.

Pamela Edwards was flown to San Francisco Wednesday at Ellen DeGeneres' expense to pick up her pet at the city's Animal Care and Control department. Edwards and her daughter then went to Los Angeles to tape a future episode of DeGeneres' show.

"Ellen is a huge animal lover," said Michelle Gross, a spokeswoman for the talk show host. "When she heard about this woman being separated from her cat, she just wanted to help reunite her and have her on the show."

Edwards adopted the black short-haired cat from animal shelter in Bradenton, Fla., in 1997. The cat disappeared a few months later.

Earlier this month, Edwards got a call from San Francisco, where city workers had scanned Cheyenne's implanted microchip and learned she belonged to Edwards, 2,800 miles away in Florida.

How did the cat make such a journey?

"Possibly, someone found her in Florida," said Deb Campbell, spokeswoman for Animal Care and Control. "Or sometimes cats get stuck in moving vans. We know she didn't walk here — her feet looked pretty good."

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5.4, leather, 6 disc CD, fully loaded, 77K miles

2001 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer $21,995
5.4, VCR, 6 disc CD, new tires, 44K miles

1999 GMC Yukon SLE $9,995
Power windows/locks, keyless, CD, power seat, 116K miles

2002 Ford Explorer XLT $16,995
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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Bush, Cheney quizzed by Sept. 11 panel

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney went behind closed doors today to answer questions from members of the Sept. 11 commission who want to know how followers of Osama bin Laden managed to pull off the worst terrorist attack in American history.

The 10 commissioners arrived at the White House at about 9:15 a.m. EDT and gathered around Bush and Cheney, who were seated on chairs near the fireplace in the Oval Office. White House counsel Alberto Gonzales and two members of his staff whom the White House would not identify joined Bush and Cheney in the session, which began sharply at the scheduled 9:30 a.m. appointment time.

Lee H. Hamilton, Democratic vice chairman of the bipartisan panel, who had a previously scheduled appointment to attend, and commissioner Bob Kerrey, a former Democratic senator from Nebraska, were seen leaving the White House around noon.

"This is a good opportunity for the president to sit down with members of the commission and talk with them about the seriousness with which we took the threat from al-Qaida, the steps we were taking to confront it, and how we have been responding to the attacks of Sept. 11," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said today, shortly after the session began.

"This is a private meeting," he said. "The discussion from this meeting will be reflected in their final report."

The White House initially opposed the creation of the panel investigating the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that killed some 3,000 people in New York City, Washington and Pennsylvania. Bush and Cheney agreed to answer questions jointly after sparring with the commissioners for months over ground rules for the meeting.

In the question-and-answer session, Bush faced a familiar challenge: convincing Americans that he responded appropriately to an intelligence system that CIA Director George Tenet said was "blinking red" with warnings of a terrorist strike. Except in this case, he had a very limited audience in a private setting.

The nation's top two elected officials were to be quizzed about why the Bush administration didn't make terrorism a more urgent priority.

Agreement reached to end Fallujah seige

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP) — U.S. Marines announced today an agreement to end a bloody, nearly monthlong siege of Fallujah, saying American forces will pull back and allow an all-Iraqi force commanded by one of Saddam Hussein's generals to take over security.

After the agreement was announced, explosions and shooting were heard in the city in new skirmishes, and warplanes circled overhead. The blasts went off in the Golan neighborhood on Fallujah's north side, a bastion of insurgents, and there were sporadic bursts of gunfire.

Elsewhere in Iraq, 10 U.S. soldiers were killed today — eight of them in a car bombing south of Baghdad. Two were killed in a convoy attack in Baghdad and roadside bomb in Baqoubah, north of the capital.

The Fallujah deal came after intense international pressure on the United States to find a peaceful solution to the standoff that killed hundreds of Iraqis and became a symbol of anti-U.S. resistance in Iraq, fueling violence that made April the deadliest month for American forces.

Pentagon officials confirmed an agreement has been reached to put Iraqi security forces in charge of Fallujah, allowing the Marines to withdraw.

Only last week, U.S. commanders threatened to launch an all-out attack on the city to root out an estimated 1,500 Sunni insurgents inside. Even after Washington decided to push ahead with political efforts instead, Marines and guerrillas continued to clash, with the heavy U.S. bombardment of the city the past two nights televised around the world.

U.S. Marines encircled the city of 200,000 on April 5, following the killings and mutilations of four U.S. contract workers on March 31. In addition to the hundreds of Iraqis killed, at least eight Marines died in the fighting, although a full American casualty count from the battle has not been released.

The agreement was reached late Wednesday night between U.S. forces and Fallujah representatives, including four Iraqi generals.

It provides for a new force, known as the Fallujah Protective Army, to enter the city Friday and provide security. It will consist of up to 1,100 Iraqi soldiers led by a former general from Saddam's military, said Lt. Col. Brennan Byrne.

Marine forces will gradually pull back from their positions in and around Fallujah to allow FPA forces to take positions enforcing the cordon of the city and move into some neighborhoods on Friday, Byrne said.

"The plan is that the whole of Fallujah will be under the control of the FPA," Byrne said, calling the deal "an Iraqi solution to an Iraqi problem."

MD locking 'em up

There's going to be a lot of people locked up today that won't make the police blotter. The arrestees are being hauled in to make money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The people who've volunteered to be arrested will be incarcerated for one hour while they raise "bail" for "Jerry's Kids."

Those arrested will be detained at American State Bank where they will be served what is called "great jailhouse chow."

To see if there is room for another jailbird or to contribute to the bail for MDA call 806-793-5632.

Arrests include Hale County warrant

• ***Arrests***

Anderson French, 20, of 3757 Highland was arrested at 9:39 a.m. Wednesday in the 1300 block of 26th on a Hale County warrant for possession of a controlled substance.

Police were called to the 200 block of 35th St. on a report of a disturbance at 9:39 a.m. Wednesday where a 21-year-old male was arrested for assault/family violence and interfering with an emergency phone call.

A report of family violence was made at 10:08 p.m. Wednesday in the 2400 block of 29th St. Police report the disturbance was only verbal, but they arrested a 24-year-old male on city warrants for no driver's license and failure to appear.

• ***Attempted theft***

Police responded to a report from UCO Spinning in the industrial park of an unknown male attempting to steal a lock box containing money from the break room. The attempt was not successful and the man left before police arrived.

A report of a female attempting to cash a check that did not belong to her was reported at the Cash and Pay. The unknown female left before police arrived.

• ***Fighting***

At 8:29 a.m. Wednesday, officers responded to a disturbance call at the junior high. Citations were issued to two juveniles for fighting.

• ***Vandalism***

Police responded to a report of juveniles throwing rocks at a vehicle near the Central Elementary playground at 8:20 p.m. Wednesday. The juveniles were found and warned about the behavior.

• ***Fire standby***

The Snyder Fire Department stood by at a tar pit fire at Ave. I and 33rd Street.

• ***Loose cow***

Deputies responded to a report of a loose cow on Highway 350 at 10:07 p.m. Wednesday.

Obituaries

Kenneth Lynch

1936-2004

Kenneth Ray Lynch, a former Snyder resident, died Monday, April 26, in Carl Hayden VA Hospital in Phoenix after a brief illness.

Service for Mr. Lynch, 68, is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in the Bell-Cypert Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Michael Howard of Oklahoma, formerly of Snyder, will officiate. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Kenneth Lynch

Born Feb. 11, 1936 in Snyder, Mr. Lynch was a lead guitarist in a number of bands.

His parents, John and Ethel Lynch; and two sisters, Ruth Land and Dorothy Lynch, preceded him in death.

Survivors include three sons, Tracy Alan Lynch of San Angelo, Christopher Lynch of Fort Worth and John Val Lynch of Globe, Ariz.; four daughters, Beverly Diggs of Snyder, Peggy Radelle Bird of Pleasant Grove, Patty Lunelle Southard of Flower Mound and Natalie Jo Sabastian of Globe, Ariz.; two sisters, Johnnie Murl Molinare of Snyder and Mary Helen Cunningham of Pecos; 23 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Family visitation is set for 6-7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Mae Cline

1927-2004

Mae Cline of Snyder died Wednesday, April 28, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Services for Mrs. Cline, 95, are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Personal, Professional Service
BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME
3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Lois Burney

1923-2004

Lois Irene Duerksen Burney, longtime Snyder resident, died Wednesday, April 28, in the Methodist Hospital Central in Oak Cliff after a lengthy illness.

Lois Burney

Service for Mrs. Burney, 80, is set for 10 a.m. Saturday in the First Presbyterian Church with Dr. Fay Downs, interim pastor, officiating. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Aug. 13, 1923 in Corn, Okla., she taught school in Corpus Christi before her marriage to Albert Sidney Burney who died in 1987.

She was also preceded in death by two sisters.

Mrs. Burney, a homemaker, was an avid artist, having paintings in the Scurry County Museum. She was a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church and the Snyder Palette Club.

Survivors include two sons, Ric Burney of Dallas and Jay Barney of Coppell; three grandchildren, Taylor Burney, Blair Burney and Andrea Burney, all of Coppell; and a brother-in-law, Marvin Westburg of Littleton, Colo.

Friendly Flower Shop
3203 1/2 College Ave
325-573-5260, 325-573-3851

Mrs. Payne

1929-2004

SEAGRAVES — Geraldine Grace Payne, the sister of Bernice Crow of Snyder, died Wednesday, April 28, in Brownfield Regional Hospital.

Funeral service for Mrs. Payne 74, is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in the First Baptist Church in Seagraves with the Rev. Ronnie Hedges officiating. Burial will follow in the Gaines County Cemetery under the direction of Ratliff Funeral Home.

Born Nov. 24, 1929 in Terry County, she married C.F. Payne on Sept. 9, 1950 in Seagraves. A homemaker, she was a member of the Friendship Baptist Church in Brownfield.

Survivors include her husband, C.F. Payne of Seagraves; five daughters, Laquita Hornung of Eastland, Pam Hulsey of Denton, Teresa Reece of Lubbock, Vicki Smith of Brownfield and Brenda Taylor of Seagraves; a son, Clinton Payne of Brownfield; a brother, J.W. Freeman of Denver City; 11 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

COUNTRYPLACE
Floral & Gifts
4213 College
325-573-1817

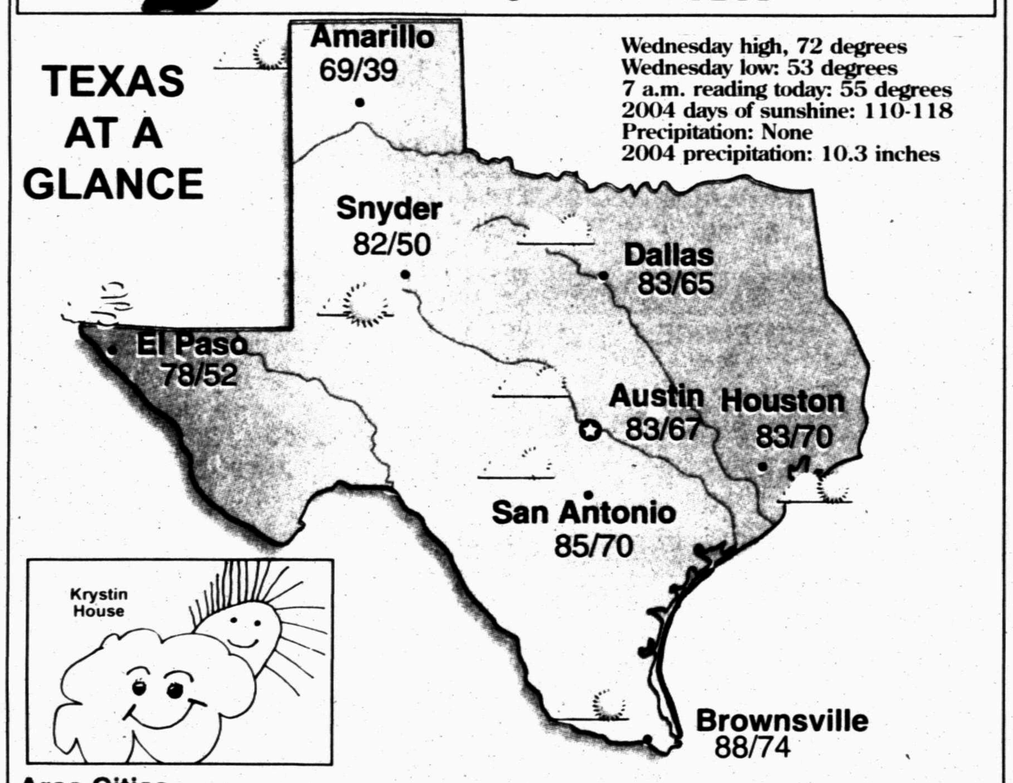
WCFH
Independently Owned & Operated
WRIGHT COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME
200 East 37th St.
Snyder, Texas
325-573-6200

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Fri 4/30	Sat 5/1	Sun 5/2
82/50	68/42	75/46
A few clouds in the morning, otherwise sunny. High 82F.	Morning clouds followed by late day sun.	Plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 40s.
Sunrise 6:57 AM, Sunset 8:25 PM	Sunrise 6:56 AM, Sunset 8:26 PM	Sunrise 6:55 AM, Sunset 8:26 PM

Texas Savings Bank
"MOVE IT ON OVER"
2619 College Avenue FDIC 573-9305



Wednesday high, 72 degrees
Wednesday low: 53 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 55 degrees
2004 days of sunshine: 110-118
Precipitation: None
2004 precipitation: 10.3 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	84	55	mst sunny	El Paso	78	52	windy	Midland	84	52	sunny
Amarillo	69	39	pt sunny	Fort Stockton	85	55	sunny	Raymondville	89	72	cloudy
Austin	83	67	cloudy	Gainesville	82	59	pt sunny	Rosenberg	83	70	pt sunny
Beaumont	82	70	pt sunny	Greenville	82	63	pt sunny	San Antonio	85	70	cloudy
Brownsville	88	74	pt sunny	Houston	83	70	pt sunny	San Marcos	84	68	pt sunny
Brownwood	86	60	pt sunny	Kingsville	88	71	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	82	64	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	84	72	pt sunny	Livingston	83	67	pt sunny	Sweetwater	84	53	mst sunny
Corsicana	82	66	pt sunny	Longview	82	66	pt sunny	Tyler	82	66	pt sunny
Dallas	83	65	cloudy	Lubbock	78	45	windy	Weatherford	82	59	pt sunny
Del Rio	86	69	pt sunny	Lufkin	83	69	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	85	53	t-storm

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Atlanta	72	60	t-storm	Houston	83	70	pt sunny	Phoenix	88	63	sunny
Boston	75	55	pt sunny	Los Angeles	74	58	mst sunny	San Francisco	73	53	sunny
Chicago	68	51	t-storm	Miami	82	75	pt sunny	Seattle	77	53	sunny
Dallas	83	65	cloudy	Minneapolis	54	36	cloudy	St. Louis	78	63	t-storm
Denver	40	33	mixed	New York	75	58	pt sunny	Washington, DC	79	62	pt sunny

Moon Phases

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

UV Index

Fri 4/30	Sat 5/1	Sun 5/2
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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