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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY

Oct. 14, 1999
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Home Of Jessica Salazar

WICKED QUEEN — The Wicked Queen, played by Gretchen Hollis, admires herself in the mirror while Leslie Jackson, Ashley Jenkins, Destiny Proctor and Kelby Drum look on. Advance tickets are on sale for $3 for Snyder Junior High School's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" to be staged at 7 p.m. Saturday and Tuesday in the auditorium. (Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

City to pay less money for C.R.M.W.D. water

BIG SPRING – The cities of Snyder and Big Spring will pay less for water in 2000 while Odessa will pay more following action taken Wednesday by the board of directors of the Colorado River Municipal Water District.

Snyder's monthly charge for 2000 will be $52,161.50 – down $6,199.91 from this year's monthly charge of $58,361.41. The city's delivery fee will be 10.58 cents per 1,000 gallons.

Big Spring will pay $98,515.50 per month – down $9,766.17 from the current year's charge of $108,281.67. Big Spring will also pay a delivery fee of 33.19 cents per 1,000 gallons.

The city of Odessa will pay $506,273,08 per month – an increase of $19,580 from this year's monthly charge. The city will also pay .30.12 cents per 1,000 gallons as a delivery fee.

"Our fees are structured to recover our costs, not to make money," said CRMWD general manager John Grant. "If we have a wet year and the cities don't sell much water, it's not good for them. But if we have a hot, dry year and they sell a lot of water, they make good money."

Odessa's charges increased and Snyder and Big Spring's decreased because CRMWD gears its rates to the ratio of water taken by each member city.

In fiscal year 1999, Snyder received 928 million gallons, Big Spring got 3.45 billion gallons while Odessa took 7.537 billion gallons.

CRMWD assistant general manager Chris Wingert said Odessa's intake increased, while Snyder and Big Spring had decreased usage.

Grant told the board that the CRMWD is looking at a $300,000 loss of revenue next year.

"Midland's 1966 contract has a surcharge that falls off in December and we don't expect SACROC to renew their contract in December. They may be back, but not at the level they are now."

(See related story)

Besides new water rates, directors also approved a drought contingency and water conservation plan and authorized a groundwater availability study.

Wingert told board members that "essentially we are in a new drought of record at (Lake) Thomas and Spence (Reservoir)."

But he added that planning required by the passage of Senate Bill 1 by the 75th Texas Legislature indicates the district has more than an adequate supply of water.

"On paper, when we're not in a drought, it appears we have enough water through 2050," said Wingert.

Wingert told the directors that Lake Ivie is at 366,000 acre-feet, or 60 percent of its capacity while Spence is at 66,000 acre-feet, or 13.15 percent of its capacity.

Thomas is at 31,000 acre-feet, or 15.4 percent of its capacity.

Wingert also updated the board on drought conditions in the region.

He said San Angelo is currently taking between 15 million and 20 million gallons per day from Lake Ivie, while Abilene is looking at beginning the design process to build a pipeline to Ivie.

In Ballinger, city officials have implemented a rationing plan that prohibits all outside watering, while TXU Electric is in better shape in Colorado City after lakes there caught 4,000 acre-fee earlier in the summer.

Earlier in the year, TXU was considering purchasing water to operate its generating station.

Another hurricane takes aim at Florida's western coastline

HAVANA (AP) — Hurricane Irene dumped heavy rains across western and central Cuba this morning, prompting authorities to evacuate tens of thousands of people.

Flights between Havana and some parts of Central America, as well as the Mexican Caribbean resort of Cancun, were canceled as the storm battered the small Isle of Youth south of Cuba's main island.

At 8 a.m. EDT, Irene was centered about 125 miles southwest of Havana. It was almost stationary, but was expected to resume a slow northward track later in the day, taking it across western Cuba toward Florida.

Irene was only barely a hurricane — with 75-mph winds in a small area around its center — and forecasters said it would strengthen somewhat as it moved north.

Up to a foot of rain was expected in part of Cuba, and the country put its civil defense program into effect. Authorities evacuated about 130,000 people from communities in western and central Cuba. Classes at schools across the region were suspended.

Hurricane warnings were in effect for the Isle of Youth as well as the western provinces of Pinar del Rio, Havana and Matanzas on the main island's northern coast.

Morning traffic in the capital was extremely light today as many Cubans opted to take the day off rather than stand along the main thoroughfares to hitchhike a ride to work or get soaked waiting for Havana's infamously slow buses.

In Florida, a hurricane watch was issued for the Lower and Middle Keys, including the Dry Tortugas islands, extending up to Craig Key. Heavy rain already was falling in the Miami area, causing a rash of traffic accidents during this morning commute.

Irene could make landfall within 72 hours just north of Tampa, said John Guiney, a forecaster at the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

"But we don't want people focusing on that track because this storm will have effects felt in a wide area," he said. "We still need all the folks in Florida to still be vigilant here, because this system will affect a great portion of the peninsula."

Winds across south Florida were expected to rise, and by tonight southern coastal areas could experience winds of more than 39 mph, with higher gusts.

A full evacuation of the Keys is not anticipated, said Billy Wagner, Monroe County Emergency Management director, but officials Wednesday began asking visitors in the lower Keys to leave just in case.

Several public storm shelters were to open in the Keys for people with special needs.

Lawmen still seeking pair

Law enforcement personnel in the area are still searching for two men who robbed the Blackwell Post Office Wednesday morning.

The men escaped with an undetermined amount of cash and blank postal money orders.

One man is a black male, about 5 feet 10 inches, around 200 pounds with a stocky build and acne scars on his face. The white man is described as in his early 20s, thinly built, 150-160 pounds and about five feet 8 inches tall, possibly with "blondish" hair.

A spokesman with the Nolan County Sheriff's Department said this morning that all available law enforcement personnel in the county are investigating the heist. They are receiving assistance from the U.S. Postal Service and Texas Rangers.

The Postal Service is offering a $50,000 award for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the robbery.

The robbers fled the scene in a mid-1990s red Chevrolet pickup.

A composite drawing of the two was to be released to the media this afternoon. The drawing was taken from video stills from a surveillance camera that possibly caught the two in a store in Water Valley early Wednesday.

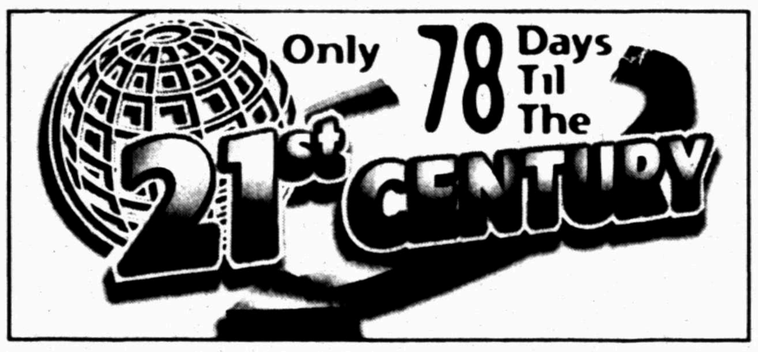
Band receives II in contest

Snyder High School's marching band received a two rating in the UIL Region XVI marching contest held Wednesday at Jones Stadium in Lubbock.

The band will not advance.

Other schools participating in the event were Lubbock Estacado, Wolfforth, Plainview and Levelland.

Bands had to receive a one rating in order to advance.



From water district...

SACROC seeking lower water costs

The fact that Devon Energy Company (formerly PennzEnergy) is not expected to renew its present contract for water with the Colorado River Municipal Water District is not an indication of curtailed activity at the SACROC unit.

It's actually a cost-saving action.

"Chevron had the contract with CRMWD for some 30 years," said Pete Hagist, Devon' production superintendent. "But for the past 10 or so years, we have not needed the water. But it was still costing us $25,000 per month because of the contract."

Hagist said the unit has been using CRMWD water as part of the unit's oil recovery program since April when oil prices were considerably lower than they are today.

"We curtailed the use of CO2 simply because of the oil prices," said Hagist. "We used water instead to keep the reservoir pressured up."

Hagist said Devon is negotiating with CRMWD for a new contract, but it must be competitive.

"There are other sources of water we can use," Hagist added.

Hagist said the unit presently uses about 1.2 million gallons of water daily in its water flood program.

Snyder trustees to meet

Textbooks will dominate this evening's Snyder ISD board of trustees meeting as the 1999-2000 textbook committee is up for approval, as well as a waiver for a math textbook at Snyder Junior High School.

Agreeing to serve on the textbook committee this school year are Betty Henderson, Pam Hart, Josefina Velasquea, Kay Hensley, Barbara Bowen, Sandra Baker, Kim Krueger and Nell Henry.

Also, Jean Baugh, Kathy Spoor, Carolyn Hamby, Brenda Billings, Triesta Lilly, Staci Bollinger, Billie Adams and Melissa Rosson.

Principal Kellye Starnes is requesting a waiver for a math textbook.

The board will also consider the approval of new forms for evaluating the superintendent and consider the first reading of two TASB policy updates.

Juvenile probation officer Larry Thompson will also give the board an update on the S.T.A.R. Program at the 6 p.m. meeting.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Adventure is the result of lousy planning."

DeeDee Wallace, the daughter of Ann and the late Jack Smartt, lives in Johnson City. She sent her mother the following story about lawn care.

"Winterize your lawn," the big sign outside the garden store commanded.

"I've fed it, watered it, mowed it, raked it and watched a lot of it die. Now, I'm supposed to winterize it? Grass lawns have to be the dumbest things we've come up with outside of the thong swimsuit.

We constantly battle dandelions, thistle, violets, chicory and clover that thrive naturally so we can grow grass that must be nursed through four-step chemical dependency.

Imagine the conversation The Creator might have with St. Francis about this.

"Frank, you know all about gardens. What in the world is going on down there. What happened to dandelions, violets and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no-maintenance garden plan…"

"It's the tribes that settled here. They started calling your flowers weeds and went to great extent to kill them and replace them with grass."

"Grass? It's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies – only grub worms. It's temperamental, do Suburbanites really want all that grass?"

"Apparently so. They go to great pains to keep it green, beginning each spring by fertilizing it. Spring rains and cool weather makes the grass grow really fast."

"That must make 'em happy."

"Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it. They don't even bale it. They rake it and bag it?"

"No, sir. Just the opposite. They pay to throw it away."

"They must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. It slows the growth and saves them lots of work."

"Not really. Those folks drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it."

"Well, at least they don't mess with the trees. In the autumn, leaves fall and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. As the leaves rot, they form a compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural cycle."

"Better sit down, Lord. They have a new cycle. As soon, as the leaves fall, they rake them and pay to have them hauled way.

"And that's not all. After throwing away your leaves, they go out and buy mulch, haul it home and spread it around in the place of leaves."

"And where do they get mulch?"

"They cut down trees and grind them up."

ASK US

Q-Over the years and in quite a few old movies, I've noticed the words, RKO Radio in the credits. What does that stand for?

A- Radio Keith Orpheum, a company started in 1921 as a joint venture of the Radio Corporation of America and the Keith Orpheum theatre circuit.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Wednesday, 88 degrees; low, 53; 7 a.m. Thursday, 55; no precipitation; total for 1999, 21.52 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, fair. Low, lower 50s. Friday, mostly sunny. High, mid 80s.

Joseph Hefner
Sunny

Sunset: 7:13 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:46 a.m.
Of 286 days in 1999, the sun has shone 279 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Being on a tightrope is living. Everything else is waiting.
—Karl Wallenda

Breast cancer resolution OK'd

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government, hoping to help uninsured women detect breast and cervical cancer early, pays for tests that diagnose the diseases. But once a woman finds out she has cancer, the government help ends.

Pending legislation in the House would help these women, about 3,600 each year who are too wealthy for Medicaid, too young for Medicare but have no private insurance. It would allow Medicaid to pay for treatments.

With a strong push from women's groups, the measure quickly gathered more than 270 co-sponsors, with support from both Democrats and Republicans.

But now it's stuck in the House Commerce Committee, which on Wednesday approved a resolution expressing the House's support for education, early detection and treatment of breast cancer. The payment bill was not acted on, prompting complaints from Democrats.

"This isn't the Make A Wish Foundation. This is the Congress of the United States," said Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., who is sponsoring the bill with Republican Rep. Rick Lazio of New York. "Once someone is screened and they come up positive with cervical or breast cancer, should we be telling them they're on their own?"

The bill is being held up to address concerns of Rep. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., who wants to address a common sexually transmitted disease called human papillomavirus, usually known as HPV. Some strains of HPV can lead to cervical cancer.

"To ignore prevention for the name of treatment is ill-conceived," Coburn said Wednesday.

Coburn has asked that the bill be amended to require the Centers for Disease Control to monitor HPV infections and to require that condom manufacturers put warnings on condoms that they do not prevent transmission of HPV.

Eshoo said Wednesday that she was working with Coburn on the CDC reporting and believed that he had dropped his concerns about condom labels.

Commerce Committee Chairman Thomas Bliley, R-Va., said Wednesday that he would move the bill this year, though advocates worry that time is running out. And they fear some members of Congress might conclude that the resolution on breast cancer was good enough.

"Members of the committee could say they were doing something for breast cancer," said Fran Visco of Philadelphia, president of the National Breast Cancer Coalition.

But she said it won't work: "We know the value of a resolution as opposed a piece of legislation that will get them treatment."

The treatment bill would allow federal Medicaid money to treat women who through the screening program and are diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer. States, which pay part of the cost of Medicaid, would get a larger share of federal funding for this treatment if they chose to participate.

It's expected to cost the federal government $315 million over five years.

Spy agency opens door to film makers

LANGLEY, Va. (AP) — Let you in on a little secret: The CIA has gone Hollywood.

By opening its doors to a movie crew to shoot a few scenes of "In the Company of Spies" at its cloistered headquarters in this Washington suburb, the CIA reaped a rare reward — a klieg-light-bright portrayal of a spy agency more accustomed to dark jokes about blown covers and bungled missions.

The movie, produced by Showtime and Paramount Network Television, depicts a heroic team of CIA officers and analysts who pull off a monumental covert operation that not only snatches one brave officer from the jaws of death but also saves the United States from nuclear disaster.

Oh, yes, and the acts of derring-do also avert a nasty dustup with the Russians.

The movie is scheduled to air on Showtime on Oct. 24.

To mark the most extensive CIA cooperation with movie makers ever, the agency's director, George Tenet, invited the film's stars — Tom Berenger, Ron Silver and Alice Krige — as well as CIA employees and a cast of Washington political luminaries to a screening and private reception Wednesday evening.

"They portrayed us in a very good light," Tenet told reporters.

His appraisal was affirmed in a spontaneous burst of applause from the audience at a point near the end of the movie when the president (played by Len Cariou) learns that the CIA effort succeeded in foiling a North Korean plot to import Russian missiles capable of striking the U.S. West Coast.

"When it's good, it's spectacular," he says of the agency.

The president's national security adviser, whose constant second-guessing of the CIA's daring plan is meant to represent the kind of political wishy-washiness that many believe has weakened the agency in recent years, responds by saying the agency's reputation was built on its mistakes.

"There's a lesson in that," the president replies. With that, the audience broke into applause.

That is precisely the message Tenet and the rest of the CIA want the American public to hear — that despite its setbacks, the usually untold successes are what makes the agency so valuable.

"What Showtime has done is given us a chance to tell our story," Tenet told the audience before the screening started. He even made a recruiting pitch, saying he was "not ashamed to say" that young Americans who see the film should consider the intelligence field as a rewarding career.

Robert Cort, one of the film's producers, said he was an analyst at CIA headquarters for two years in the early 1970s. He said his cover was that he worked for "some obscure Army agency," and in that period he realized how little Americans know about what the CIA does. "They have no idea who you people are," he said, addressing his comments to the CIA employees in the audience.

Tenet said he believes the movie will give Americans a more accurate picture of the CIA, which often is portrayed in Hollywood as an inept, even evil, enterprise operating beyond the White House's control.

"We are open," Tenet said. "This is a new world."

For the Showtime producers, the CIA provided technical advice to make the film more accurate and realistic, spokesman William Harlow said. That is the kind of cooperation the Pentagon often provides to Hollywood (there is even a full-time Pentagon staff to coordinate it), but it's new for the CIA.

Even in an era of more openness by the CIA, the idea of Hollywood stars descending on the agency's wooded compound along the Potomac River was remarkable — especially for those who work there.

"It's a change of pace, an enjoyable, fun thing" for CIA employees who spend most of their careers behind cloaks of anonymity, said Harlow, the agency's chief of public affairs. Only "overt" employees like him, whose names are publicly acknowledged by the agency, were attending, Harlow added.

There was nothing cloak-and-dagger about Wednesday evening's screening. In the fading light of a warm autumn day, a parade of black limousines deposited stars on the steps of the white headquarters building. Television camera lights glared and news photographers clicked away as several cast members stopped to chat with reporters.

Berenger, who plays a retired CIA operative who returns to save the day in a crisis with North Korea, said the CIA deserves more credit than it generally gets. "If they do something well and right you never hear about it," he said.

Tonight is
50's Night at
Pizza Inn 573-3542
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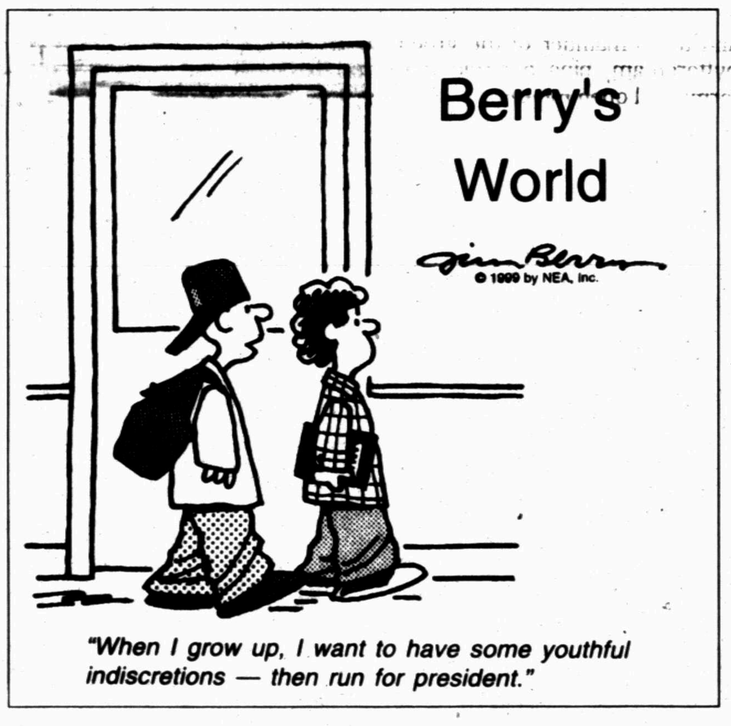

"When I grow up, I want to have some youthful indiscretions — then run for president."

Former resident lives through 41-hour ordeal

A former Snyder resident experienced a 41-hour ordeal in September which tested both her mettle and her spirit.

Burgandy Viscosi, 20, attended school in Snyder and is the granddaughter of John and Shirley Leftwich.

Last month, the U.S. Navy electrician stationed at Bremerton, Wash., had a very serious automobile accident, compounded because no help arrived until 41 hours later.

She was driving south on Interstate-5 from Seattle about 1 a.m. on a Sunday when her car left the road and hit a tree in the island between the freeway and the off-ramp.

Viscosi told the News Tribune that all she remembers is her car hitting the curb at the Kent-Des Moines off ramp from I-5.

Her car had landed upside down about four feet from the road, and a tree fell on the car's roof. By the time she regained consciousness, it was late that Sunday and the sun was setting.

Viscosi's foot was edged under the seat after the engine was pushed backward. She had so many injuries that she couldn't stand up.

But she was able to free herself and crawl from the wreckage. She got to the road and tried to flag a driver, but night had come, and apparently no one could see her.

It was so cold that she went back to her car where she had a blanket. But she was too chilled too sleep. After the sun rose Monday, she began drifting in and out of consciousness. After resting, she found a blackberry bush and the fruit helped quench her throat. She built up her strength and headed back to the road to try and get some help.

All the while, she practiced breathing exercises that kept her calm and minimized damage to her injured lung.

Viscosi told the News Tribune that she kept telling herself, "It's just a test of survival. You've got to stay calm. That's probably the one reason things aren't worse than they are."

She said some drivers might have seen her but were scared because of her beaten and bloodied condition. She was also difficult to spot in the grasses.

Meanwhile, her boy friend and the Navy reported her missing.

Viscosi's luck improved during Monday's evening rush hour when southbound cars began to slow and people rolled down their windows.

Her cries for help alerted a motorist, who called the State Police.

Her injuries include a shattered heel bone, a spine injury, a rib fracture that injured her lung, a head injury and a cut from her nose through her lip.

Her experience taught her a few lessons — such as the importance of staying calm and the value of a cell phone. And not making assumptions about people alongside a road.

"From now on," she told the News Tribune, "If I see anyone alongside of the road that looks hurt — even if I don't get out of my vehicle, I'm going to stop."

Viscosi's mailing address is: 4446 Forrest Dr. N.E., Bremerton, Wash. 98310.

Country singer aquitted in 1998 shooting death

UVALDE (AP) — Country singer Johnny Rodriguez has plenty of material for new songs after the year he has spent battling a murder charge.

Following his acquittal Wednesday in the shooting death of an acquaintance he said was an intruder, Rodriguez said he hopes to spend time with his young daughter and possibly rejuvenate his music career.

"I think my mind will be a little more clear now. I think I'm going to cut back on the drinking, too. I've learned a little about that," Rodriguez said after his murder trial adjourned.

Uvalde County District Attorney Tony Hackebeil argued Rodriguez was drunk and used a pistol to kill Israel "Bosco" Borrego, described as a drinking buddy of Rodriguez.

Defense attorneys claimed Borrego was unwelcome in the Rodriguez home and that the singer encountered him in darkness in the early morning hours and thought he was a burglar.

"You have the right to stop a burglar," said defense lawyer Alan Brown, who argued the shooting was justified under Texas law. "Johnny Rodriguez has a right not to be a victim."

Jurors deliberated almost two hours before acquitting Rodriguez. Borrego, 26, was shot once in the abdomen on Aug. 29, 1998, at the Rodriguez family home in Sabinal.

The 47-year-old singer could have faced life in prison had he been convicted. He put his face in his hands when the verdict was announced.

"I'm just sorry that the whole incident took place," Rodriguez said later. "I don't want to go through anything like this again."

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In Memory of Dolores Rios Jr.
July 21, 1924 - October 14, 1998

It's still hard to believe you're gone
There have been good days and bad ones
But luckily we've stuck together strong.
Knowing you would want it that way.

The 9 of us are different as night and day.
Some people hardly believe we are even related.
But we have you in various ways
In each one of us that you created.

There has been a lot of changes in our life
Since you left us that day.
Just know that we have tried to keep
The promises we made.

We miss you
But glad all your pain is eased.
We love you
But know you are in a better place.

You're still our #1 Dad.
You can never be replaced.
When we think of the good times we had
It always brings a smile to our faces!

Gone but not forgotten.

Your children: Alex, Pete, Robert, Eva, Mary, Frances, Delores, David & Lizzie, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS — Carole Haynes pins a pink ribbon on Bobbie Newton as Margaret Presswood looks on. October is breast cancer awareness month. They shared information with women on all aspects of breast cancer, urging women to take heed the three basic guidelines, have regular mammograms, get clinical breast exams and practice breast self-exam. They also dispersed information on coping with cancer. Ribbons and educational material were given to women who visited several businesses including United, Wal-Mart and Lawrence IGA. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Decorating Halloween cupcakes

Spiced Pumpkin Cupcake
Equipment:
2 Standard Muffin Pans
Halloween Baking Cups
3/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
2 ½ cups granulated sugar
3 eggs
1 (15 oz.) can solid pack pumpkin
1 cup buttermilk
2 1/3 cups flour
1 tblsp. pumpkin pie spice
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp ground ginger
1 tblsp. Baking powder
1 ½ tsp. baking soda
1 ½ tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Place baking cups in muffin pan. Cream butter and sugar until fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine pumpkin and buttermilk. Mix flour, pumpkin spice, cinnamon, ginger, baking powder, baking soda and salt; add to creamed mixture alternately with pumpkin mixture, mix thoroughly after each addition. Fill each cavity half full. Place a tablespoon of cream cheese filling on top of batter. Top with remaining batter.

Bake 20-25 minutes or until inserted toothpick comes out clean.

Makes 24 cupcakes.

Cream Cheese Filling
4 oz. cream cheese, softened
¼ cup (1/2 stick) butter, softened
2 cups confectioners' sugar
½ tsp. vanilla
½ tsp. cinnamon

In food processor fitted with steel blade or mixer, beat cream cheese and butter until light and fluffy. Beat in remaining ingredients, beat until smooth and creamy.

Milk Chocolate Cupcake
Equipment:
Muffin Pan
Halloween Baking Cups

7-ounce milk chocolate
¾ cup butter or margarine
1 tsp. vanilla
1 1/3 cups granulated sugar
4 eggs
1 cup all purpose flour
½ tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. salt
12 mini peanut butter cups

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line muffin pan with baking cups. Melt chocolate and butter; stir in vanilla. In a separate bowl combine sugar, unbeaten eggs, flour, baking powder and salt. Stir in chocolate mixture. Fill cups half full; place peanut butter cup in center of each and top with remaining batter. Bake 20-25 minutes or until toothpick inserted comes out clean.

Makes 12 servings.

Rich Dark Chocolate Cupcake
With orange butter cream center
Equipment:
Muffin Pan
Cake Decorating Bag
W/Tips #10 or #230
Halloween Baking Cups
1 cup sugar
½ cup butter or margarine, softened
2 eggs, slightly beaten
1/4 cup milk
3 oz. unsweetened chocolate, melted
3/4 tsp. vanilla
1/8 tsp. orange oil
2/3 cup all purpose flour
¼ tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. salt

Preheat oven 350 degrees F, fill muffin pan with baking cups. In mixer bowl, cream butter and sugar. Add eggs, milk, chocolate, vanilla and orange oil mixing after each addition. Add flour, baking powder and salt, mix just until blended. Fill each muffin paper full. Bake 20-25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in middle comes out clean.

Orange Icing
1 pkg. dry icing mix or favorite buttercream icing recipe
Zest of oranges, chopped fine
½ tsp. orange oil
Orange icing color

Follow package directions for making icing or prepared buttercream recipe. Stir in orange zest, orange oil and desired amount of color. Insert #10 decorating tips into decorator bag. Fill bag half full. Cut slit in top of cupcake with a sharp knife. Squeeze icing into slit until cupcake slightly puffs. Ice cupcake with remaining icing.

Makes 12 servings

SPIDER
Decorating Instructions
Background: Tint buttercream icing with violet icing color and ice cupcake.
Body: Place #2A tip in a disposable decorating bag. Fill decorating bag with buttercream that has been tinted with black icing color. May use chocolate icing and add black icing color. Using tip #2A make the top and bottom portion of the spider.
Arms and legs: Using thin black licorice, place three arms and legs on each side of the body.
Eyes: Use whit mint jawbreakers for eyes. Place tip #2A in the decorating bag filled with black buttercream and pipe two dots on eyes.
Nose: Place orange jawbreakers at the bottom of both eyes for the nose.

PUMPKIN
Pumpkin: Ice cupcakes orange and place tip #12A in the decorating bag filled with orange buttercream. From top to bottom of cupcake, pipe one line down each end. On side of the line, pipe one more line on a slight diagonal to form the pumpkin rind, then pipe middle line. You will have a total of 5 lines on the cupcake.
Face: Using brown M&Ms, place the eyes, nose and mouth in the appropriate place on the cupcake.
Stem: Place a green gumdrop at the top of the cupcake for the pumpkin stem.

MONSTER
Face: Tint buttercream icing with green icing. Ice cupcake.
Ears: Place #6 tip in disposable decorating bag and fill with remaining green buttercream. On either side of cupcake, about ¾ of the way to the top, pipe the ears.
Mouth: Fill decorating bag with buttercream icing that has been tinted with black icing color and color in open part of mouth. Smooth with spatula. Using tip #6 and the remainder of the green buttercream, pipe a circle that forms and open mouth.
Teeth: Place white tic-tacs all around the open mouth to form teeth.
Nose: Place a green M&M above mouth for nose.
Eyes: Use two white gumdrops for eyes. Attach tip #2 to decorating bag filled with black buttercream icing. Pipe black dots in the middle of gumballs and pipe eyebrows using the same tip.
Hair: Tint buttercream icing with orange icing. Use tip #16 in a disposable decorating bag. Fill bag with orange buttercream. Pipe hair at the top of cupcake.

WOLFMAN
Fur: tint buttercream icing using brown icing color or use chocolate buttercream icing. Attach tip #17 to disposable decorating bag, fill bag with brown buttercream. Pipe fur on top of cupcake in pullout star motion. Pipe with pull our star tip #17.
Eyes: Use two yellow gumballs for eyes. Attach tip #2 to decorating bag filled with black buttercream icing. Pipe black dots in the middle of gumballs and pipe eyebrows using tip #17.
Nose Use brown M&Ms.
Teeth: Use candy corn for teeth.

WITCH
Face: tint buttercream icing with green icing color and ice cupcake.
Nose: Attach tip #12 to decorating bag, fill with green buttercream. Pipe nose in center of cupcake.
Eyes and mouth: Use white gumballs for eyeballs. Attach tip #2 to decorating bag filled with black buttercream icing. Pipe black dot in the middle of eyes. Pipe mouth. Use a tic-tac for tooth.
Hair: Tint buttercream with orange icing color. Attach tip #16 on a decorating bag and fill with orange buttercream. Pipe hair on top of cupcake. Put black gumdrop that has been molded to a point on top of hair as a hat.

MUMMY
Ice cupcake with chocolate buttercream. Attach tip #47 to a decorating bag dilled with white buttercream icing. Pipe bandages on cupcake.
Eyes: Use green M&Ms for eyes. Attach tip #2 to disposable decorating bag filled with black buttercream. Pipe black dots in the middle of M&Ms.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 10-14-99
♠ 7 4 3
♥ J 9 8
♦ A 8 6 3 2
♣ Q 10

West
♠ K Q 10 6
♥ 7 4
♦ J 9 4
♣ A K 6 4

East
♠ J 9 8
♥ 3
♦ K Q 10 5
♣ 9 7 5 3 2

South
♠ A 5 2
♥ A K Q 10 6 5 2
♦ 7
♣ J 8

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Dbl.	2 ♥	3 ♣
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ A

As you might like it

All the world's a bridge table, and all the players merely North, South, East or West. They have their exits and their entrances.

As you like it — so might a latter-day Shakespeare have written! Still, bridge players must pay careful attention to their entrances and exits: their entries. In this deal, how should the play proceed in four hearts?

East is right to compete with three clubs. His length and points are all in his partner's suits. At first glance, five clubs seems to have only three losers, but if the defense is hot — diamond to the ace, diamond ruff, heart to the jack (!), diamond ruff, spade ace — five clubs doubled costs 500, more than the value of a nonvulnerable game.

In a pairs event, every declarer made four hearts. West cashed two top clubs before switching to the spade king. South won with his ace, played a diamond to dummy's ace, ruffed a diamond in hand, led a trump to dummy's eight, ruffed a diamond high, crossed to dummy with a heart to the nine, and ruffed a third diamond high. With an inward smile, declarer entered dummy with a trump to the jack, then cashed the established diamond eight: plus 420.

That's a good example of suit establishment, but did you notice that West could have thwarted this plan? Having to ruff three diamonds in hand, declarer needed four dummy entries: three for the ruffs and one to get to the established winner. If West had switched to a *trump* at trick three, one of the entries — and the contract — would have evaporated. Yet I think that is a tough play to find.

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Community Calendar

THURSDAY

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; horseshoe courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762; 7 p.m.

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; American Legion; 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Canyon Gun Club, 1910 25th Street; 7:30 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 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 573-9742.

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

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information cal 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Just For Today NA open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 10 a.m. p.m.

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Comic Page

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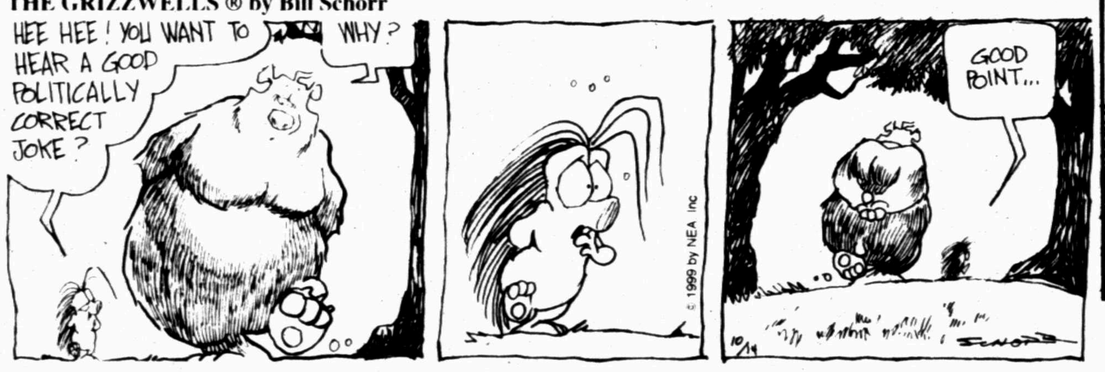

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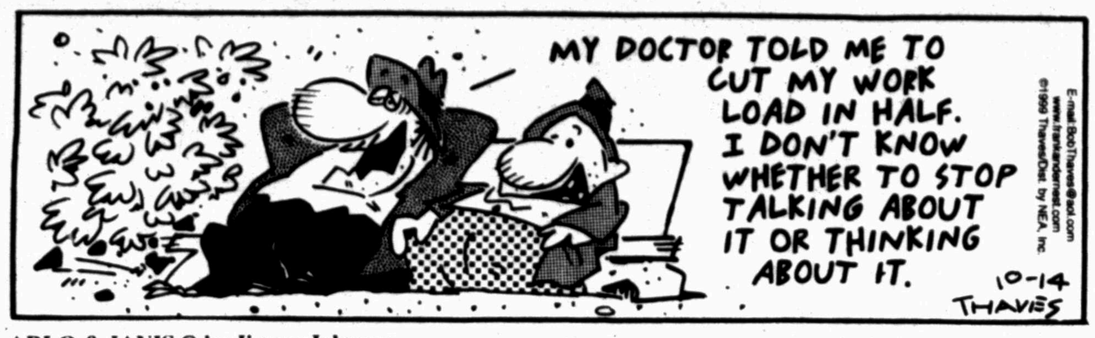

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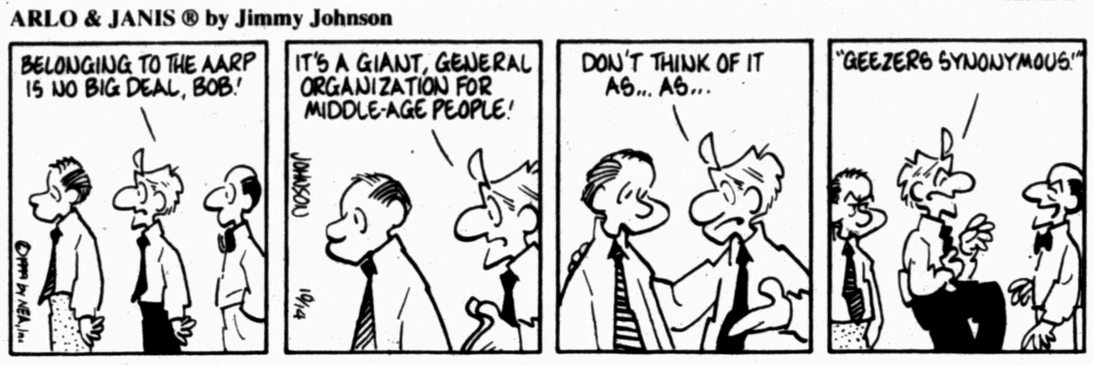

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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Stomach linings
7 Put in a warehouse
13 Four score
14 Get there
15 Footless
16 Chaste
17 Sun. speech
18 Collar shape
20 Anecdote collection
21 Mass — (trains and buses)
25 Showing scorn
28 Basketball player Malone
32 Singing voices
33 Madrid museum
34 Design on fabric
35 Encouraged
36 Serpent
37 Fixed portions
39 Stuck
41 Opp. of NNE
44 Lime drink
45 The girl
48 Hawk
51 Neater
54 Having feet
55 Like most winter jackets
56 Strong cords
57 Actress Lansbury

DOWN

1 Pekoe and Earl Grey
2 Ready for picking
3 Operatic prince
4 Prof.'s deg.
5 JFK info
6 Wooded
7 Rescues
8 Three, in Milan
9 Surgeons' places (abbr.)
10 Actress Gam
11 Author Hunter
12 Walter — — Mare (writer)
19 Pt. of ESL
21 Certain Russian carriage
22 Took a chance
23 Attribute
24 Hot and humid
25 Boxing punches
26 Gusto
27 Miss Kett of the comics
29 Starch
30 Biblical garden
31 Turfs
37 Like beets
38 Singer Franklin
40 Despises
41 Ninth mo.
42 Killed
43 Dry riverbed
45 Facet
46 Shoe part
47 Opera role
49 A Bobbsey twin
50 Paris summer
52 Charged atom
53 Dachshund, e.g.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

O	A	F	I	S	H		O	A	R	P	I	N
O	T	I	O	S	E		O	R	I	O	L	E
P	L	A	T	E	N		M	E	M	O	I	R
S	E	T	A		I	I	I		S	H	E	D
				C	E	D	A	R				
S	M	E	A	R		S	K	I	L	L	E	T
C	Y	N	D	I				N	O	O	S	E
A	R	I	E	S				S	P	I	T	S
B	A	D	N	E	S	S		E	S	S	E	S
				S	O	L	E	D				
L	A	R	K		R	Y	E		P	A	I	D
O	R	I	E	N	T		R	I	A	L	T	O
O	C	T	A	N	E		I	O	L	I	T	E
P	H	A	S	E	D		E	S	S	A	Y	S

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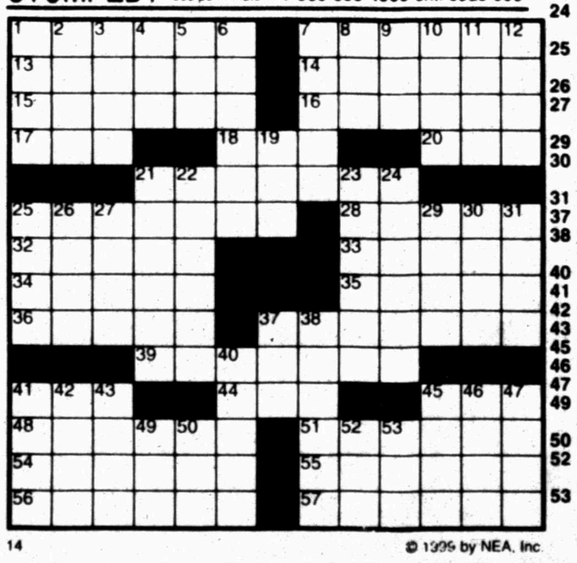

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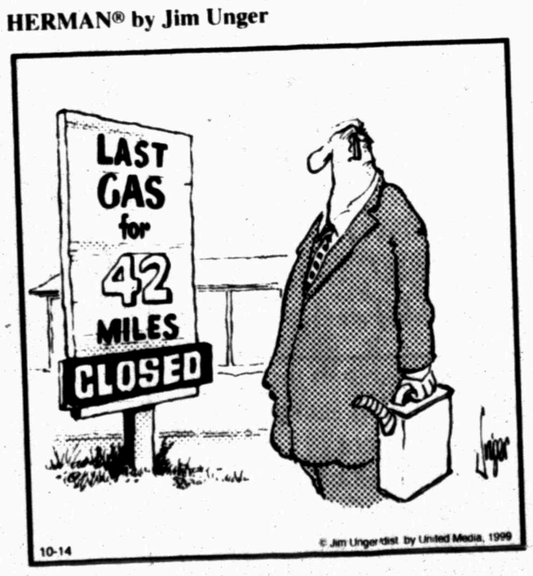

SPORTS

In Friday's district showdown...

Tigers look to tame tenth-ranked Steers

David Baugh's Snyder High squad turned in one of its best performances of the decade last week. Now Baugh will ask his team to turn around and duplicate the effort Friday night when it visits tenth-ranked Big Spring.

After routing Andrews, 39-8, in the district opener, Snyder's march through 5-4A action doesn't get any easier as it faces the undefeated Steers in a 7:30 match-up which will give the winner a foothold in the battle for the district crown.

"It will definitely take another effort like last Friday's," Baugh said. "Big Spring is probably a little better team than Andrews, so we'll have to be prepared and ready to play again."

Like Andrews, the Steers like to rely on their running game. Junior Colby Ford is averaging 152 yards per game and seven yards per carry this season, as Big Spring has rolled up 1,498 yards on the ground.

But facing a power rushing attack is nothing new to the Tigers who shut down the district's leading rusher last week.

"Our game plan for defending Ford is pretty much the same as it was against (Geremy) Woods," Baugh stated. "We want to make him run east and west, if at all possible. And we want a bunch of bodies in on the tackle."

Seeing more playing time this week defensively should be tackle Chase McJimsey and linebacker Brian Gordon. McJimsey is coming off a strong performance against Andrews, while Gordon may have to fill in for Jeremy Nelson, who hasn't practiced this week due to illness.

While the Tigers will be trying to stop the run, Big Spring may be trying to stop the pass. The Steers like to crowd the line of scrimmage, making it difficult to run, but opening up the passing game, which has flourished for Snyder this season.

"We'll try to do some of the same things we've done all year," Baugh said. "We're not setting a certain number plays that we want to run or pass. We'll let the situation dictate what we do offensively."

The Tigers registered their best rushing game of the year against Andrews, churning out 228 yards on 38 attempts. Fullback Tovares Brandon, who has been starting in place of injured senior Paul Camp, has also missed practice this week with illness. If Brandon is unable to go, senior defensive starter Michael Loper will get the nod.

Big Spring is coming off a 59-7 blowout of Fort Stockton, putting it in a tie atop the district standings with Snyder and Sweetwater. Friday is homecoming for the Steers, who will be looking to avenge last season's loss to the Tigers.

"They now consider us their No. 1 enemy for the district title," Baugh remarked. "Since we beat Andrews, they're looking at this as their district championship game."

In Friday's other action around the district, Sweetwater hosts Fort Stockton, while Andrews visits Lake View.

District 5-4A Football

	District		Season	
Team	W	L	W	L
Snyder	1	0	4	2
Big Spring	1	0	6	0
Sweetwater	1	0	2	4
Andrews	0	1	4	2
Lake View	0	1	2	4
Fort Stockton	0	1	2	4

Last week's results: Snyder 39, Andrews 8; Big Spring 59, Fort Stockton 7; Sweetwater 44, Lake View 20.

Friday's games: Snyder at Big Spring; Andrews at Lake View; Fort Stockton at Sweetwater.

Statistical Match-up
Snyder vs. Big Spring

Offense	Rushing	Passing	Total	Average	Points
Snyder	924	883	1,807	301.2	148
Big Spring	1,498	657	2,155	359.2	222

Defense	Rushing	Passing	Total	Average	Points
Snyder	895	698	1,593	265.5	101
Big Spring	576	419	995	165.8	75

Rushing	Carries	Yards	Average	TDs
Colby Ford, Big Spring	130	912	7.0	14
Josh Arizmendi, Snyder	41	230	5.6	3
Tovares Brandon, Snyder	33	129	3.9	3

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Yards	Int.	TDs
Sonny Cumbie, Snyder	48	93	862	2	7
Lance Brock, Big Spring	34	64	657	3	6

Receiving	Catches	Yards	Average	TDs
Matthew Grimmett, Snyder	21	405	19.3	4
Justin Phillips, Snyder	10	180	18.0	1

Area teams continue six-man playoff chase

Six-man district action will heat up Friday night when three area squads continue to battle for playoff berths.

Borden County travels to Ackerly for a first-place battle with the Sands Mustangs, while Ira and Hermleigh will be looking to even their league marks at 1-1. Ira visits Grady, with Hermleigh hosting Westbrook. All three contests kick off at 7:30.

Borden County at Sands

Borden County will be out for revenge against Sands, after the Mustangs halted its 21-game winning streak last season.

The Coyotes dropped their final non-district tilt to Whitharral two weeks ago, but responded with a 62-8 rout of Westbrook last Friday.

Borden County enters the match-up of first-place squads with a 5-1 record, with Sands sporting an unblemished 6-0 mark.

After facing the Mustangs, the Coyotes will return home Oct. 22 to host Grady.

Ira at Grady

For the first time this season, the Ira Bulldogs will be looking to rebound from a setback.

Ira fell for the first time last week in its district opener with Sands, and will be focused on leveling its league record against the Wildcats.

The Bulldogs cruised through non-district action with a 5-0 mark, including a victory over then tenth-ranked Three Way.

Ira will have to stop Grady running back Frankie Garza, who totaled 245 yards and five touchdowns last week.

The defensive unit has been an anchor for the Bulldogs this year, and should test Garza's durability.

After taking on the Wildcats, the Bulldogs will be back in Ira on Oct. 22 to host Hermleigh.

Westbrook at Hermleigh

The Hermleigh Cardinals will be looking to have four quarters Friday night, which resemble the opening period of last week's contest.

The Cardinals posted a pair of touchdowns and held the early lead against Grady, before falling, 54-38, in the end.

Hermleigh's versatile offense, which mixes the run and the pass, got on track in the first quarter against the Wildcats, and will need to be in full stride against Westbrook.

David Digby and Caleb Callaway are both coming off two-touchdown performances, and will be instrumental in the Cardinals' attack on Friday.

Last week's setback broke a three-game winning streak for the Cardinals, who can pull their district record to 1-1 with a victory over Westbrook.

Hermleigh makes the short trip to Ira next week for its third of five district tests.

WTC set to host Cisco in hoops scrimmage

Basketball fans will be able to get their first look at the Western Texas Lady Dusters when they scrimmage Cisco at 1 p.m. Friday at the WTC Physical Education Building.

The Lady Dusters have been battling some nagging aches and pains, but Coach Valery Jackson is expecting a full roster on Friday.

"We've had some girls out with various injuries, but most of them have been back at practice this week," Jackson said. "With almost everybody back, hopefully we'll execute better offensively and play better defense than we have been."

WTC will feature a more athletic squad than in years past, and should be strong in the paint.

"We've got the talent to do a lot of different things," Jackson stated. "We're more athletic, so we should be able to get up and down the floor better. Plus, we have a much better post game than we've had the past few years."

Drawing starting roles in the scrimmage will be freshman Akisha Waters and sophomore Crystal Williams at the guard spots, sophomore Heather Moon on the wing, sophomore Charsalynn Mitchell on the low block, and freshman Cherry Kendall at center.

The scrimmage will be played as a simulated game, with two 20-minute periods. A third 20-minute session with running clock might also be played.

The Lady Dusters will scrimmage again next Thursday against South Plains at Levelland, before opening non-conference play Nov. 1 at Cisco.

Local Sports Schedule

TODAY

Football: Big Spring at Snyder JV, 5:30.

Football: Snyder 9th at Big Spring, 5:30.

Football: Big Spring at Snyder 7th, 5 and 6:30.

Football: Snyder 8th at Big Spring, 5 and 6:30.

Tennis: Abilene Wylie at Snyder JV.

Football: Grady at Ira JH, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY

Football: Snyder at Big Spring, 7:30.

Football: Westbrook at Hermleigh, 7:30.

Football: Borden County at Sands, 7:30.

Football: Ira at Grady, 7:30.

Basketball: Cisco at WTC scrimmage, 1 p.m.

SATURDAY

Volleyball: Big Spring at Snyder 9th, JV and varsity, 2 p.m.

Tennis: Snyder varsity at Big Spring.

Snyder's Pigskin Prognosticators

STANDINGS

Floyd	78-42	.650
Cypert	75-45	.625
Rodriguez	85-35	.708
Drennan	69-51	.575

	WALT FLOYD Roe's Furniture	MARK CYPERT Bell-Cypert-Seale	CHON RODRIGUEZ Spanish Inn	ERIC DRENNAN SDN Sports Editor
Snyder at Big Spring	Snyder	Snyder	Snyder	Snyder
Ira at Grady	Ira	Ira	Ira	Ira
Westbrook at Hermleigh	Hermleigh	Hermleigh	Hermleigh	Hermleigh
Borden County at Sands	Borden County	Borden County	Sands	Borden County
Fort Stockton at Sweetwater	Sweetwater	Sweetwater	Sweetwater	Sweetwater
Andrews at Lake View	Andrews	Andrews	Andrews	Andrews
Colorado at Texas Tech	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado
Kansas at Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M
Michigan St. at Purdue	Michigan St.	Michigan St.	Michigan St.	Michigan St.
USC at Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	USC
Ohio St. at Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn St.
Syracuse at Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech
Arizona St. at Washington	Arizona St.	Washington	Washington	Washington
Green Bay at Denver	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay
Miami at New England	Miami	New England	Miami	New England
Tennessee at New Orleans	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
Seattle at San Diego	Seattle	Seattle	Seattle	San Diego
Washington at Arizona	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington
Minnesota at Detroit	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Detroit
Philadelphia at Chicago	Chicago	Chicago	Chicago	Chicago

Hokies highlight college football action

By RICHARD ROSENBLATT
AP Football Writer

Will homecoming haunt Virginia Tech again?

The No. 4 Hokies, one of college football's hot teams this season, try to avoid a third straight homecoming horror show Saturday when No. 16 Syracuse visits Blacksburg, Va.

This time, at least, Virginia Tech (5-0, 2-0 Big East) doesn't plan to overlook the Orangemen (5-1, 2-0) as the Hokies did Temple and Miami of Ohio.

Last season, the lowly Owls showed up and stunned the Hokies 28-24 in the biggest upset of 1998. Two years ago, the RedHawks of the Mid-American Conference pulled off the surprise with a 24-17 win. Both times, Virginia Tech entered the game undefeated.

The Hokies may be dwelling on a perfect season and national title again, but coach Frank Beamer is trying to keep his players focused on Syracuse.

"This is a real challenge for our team, making sure our minds are right this week," Hokies coach Frank Beamer said. "We're real excited about all the things that are going on around Tech football right now. But if you start thinking about all the things that are going on, you're not thinking about making a great preparation."

Quarterback Michael Vick is the biggest reason the Hokies are generating so much interest after years of being known as a solid Big East team that blocks lots of kicks.

Major League Baseball

All Times EDT

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
(Best-of-7)
American League
Wednesday, Oct. 13
New York 4, Boston 3, 10 innings, New York leads series 1-0
Thursday, Oct. 14
Boston (R. Martinez 2-1) at New York (Cone 12-9), 8:17 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 16
New York (Clemens 14-10) at Boston (P. Martinez 23-4), 4:22 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 17
New York (Pettitte 14-11) at Boston (Saberhagen 10-6), 7:50 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 18
New York at Boston, 8:17 p.m., if necessary
Wednesday, Oct. 20
Boston at New York, 4:20 p.m. or 8:12 p.m., if necessary
Thursday, Oct. 21
Boston at New York, 8:17 p.m., if necessary

National League
(NBC)
Tuesday, Oct. 12
Atlanta 4, New York 2
Wednesday, Oct. 13
Atlanta 4, New York 3, Atlanta leads series 2-0
Friday, Oct. 15
Atlanta (Glavine 14-11) at New York (Leiter 13-12), 8:12 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 16
Atlanta (Smoltz 11-8) at New York (Reed 11-5), 7:42 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 17
Atlanta at New York, 4:09 p.m., if necessary
Tuesday, Oct. 19
New York at Atlanta, 8:12 p.m., if necessary
Wednesday, Oct. 20
New York at Atlanta, 8:12 p.m., if necessary

WORLD SERIES
(Best-of-7)
(NBC)
Saturday, Oct. 23
American League at National League, 8:05 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 24
AL at NL, 8:05 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 26
NL at AL, 8:20 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 27
NL at AL, 8:20 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 28
NL at AL, 8:20 p.m., if necessary
Saturday, Oct. 30
AL at NL, 8:05 p.m., if necessary
Sunday, Oct. 31
AL at NL, 8:05 p.m. EST, if necessary

SDN Sports Briefs

Tuesday play day

The Women's Golf Association of Snyder Country Club will hold its weekly play day Tuesday at 9 a.m. Format will be low score on odd holes.

Lady Duster basketball

There will be no admission charge for the Western Texas College Lady Dusters' against Cisco at 1 p.m. Friday.

All home games will be played in the WTC Physical Education Building. Parking will be available on the north and east sides of the P.E. building, as well as in the southeast parking lot on campus.

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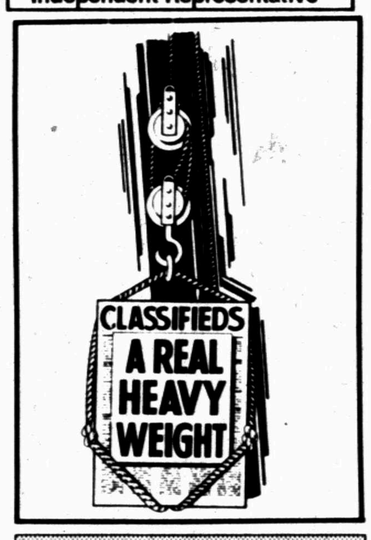

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More Garage Sales Next Page

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Dr. Gott by Peter Gott, M.D.

Hate is a learned emotion

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Is there such a thing as instant hate? For example, if I met someone to whom I took an immediate distaste, could anything be done about it?

DEAR READER: Hate is not an integral part of human nature -- as is, for instance, fear. Hate is learned and, therefore, avoidable. We are taught to hate from an early age; it is a cultural phenomenon that has a long historical heritage. This emotion is not the same as distaste, which is also a learned response.

Although hate is ordinarily a very negative attribute and usually stunts emotional and intellectual growth, there are instances when it can have positive implications -- for example, hate of evil, cruelty and injustice. Being a function of learning, hate can also be unlearned, as many people hope it will be in various parts of the world.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My grandson roughhouses with his 2-year-old son by grasping his ankles and swinging him around 360 degrees. How much is too much?

DEAR READER: I believe that this is too much and probably represents an instance of child abuse.

Children are amazingly adaptive in putting up with adults' wacky behavior. But this exceeds appropriate boundaries. Swinging a 2-year-old by the ankles is more than simple horseplay, even if your grandson is training the child for circus work or to be an astronaut.

From a medical standpoint, this activity has a dangerous potential. The centrifugal forces generated during swinging can increase pressure in the brain, which could cause headaches, blood-vessel rupture and head injury (should the youngster accidentally strike a hard object). An occasional scary swing, performed cautiously, is probably not harmful. However, I worry that the activity you describe is so clearly inadvisable that your grandson may inadvertently hurt the child. He should investigate other, less dangerous recreational activities.

DEAR DR. GOTT: About a year ago, I underwent an extensive program of radiation for cancer of the jaw. How soon can I expect the sensation of taste to return?

DEAR READER: I cannot give you a precise answer, because it depends on the extent of your malignancy, the amount of radiation and the area that was irradiated. For example, radiation treatment to the tongue will cause a temporary loss of taste; radiation (or a tumor) that involves the nerves of taste can result in a permanent disruption of the taste sensation. Ask your radiation therapist to clarify the situation for you. The doctor who administered your treatment is the best resource for information about your particular case.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Viruses and Cancer." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

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DR. GOTT

PETER GOTT, M.D.

Launch pad demolished at Cape

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — With hundreds of rocket scientists and launch pad workers cheering from the sidelines, historic Launch Complex 41 was blasted to pieces today with 180 pounds of explosives.

The crowd joined in the countdown preceding the demolition.

"Five-4-3-2-1! Blasting into the future!" shouted Adrian Laffitte, a launch manager for rocket maker Lockheed Martin Corp., which wanted the pad flattened to make way for more modern launch facilities.

As he shouted his words, the detonation button was pushed and the explosives were ignited. A few seconds passed before booms, flashes of flames and billowing gray smoke erupted at the bases of two launch towers. Within seconds, the towers, one 200, the other 300 feet high, crumpled to the ground, a heap of 7 million pounds of steel to be recycled.

"Wow!" one man in the crowd shouted. "Awesome!" shouted another.

A few hundred workers at Cape Canaveral Air Station had gathered a safe 2,500 feet away to watch the explosion. Hundreds if not thousands of others at the Air Force station and NASA's adjoining Kennedy Space Center viewed the show from afar.

Built in 1965, Launch Complex 41 was the starting point for NASA's Viking missions to Mars and Voyager missions to the outer planets, and innumerable spy satellites. In all, 27 Titan rockets blasted off from the pad.

By today it was obsolete, its two launch towers unnecessary for the company's new line of Atlas V rockets. That's why Lockheed Martin opted for the quickest, cheapest method of getting rid of them: explosion.

Like gleeful little boys, Laffitte and his colleagues could hardly wait for the demolition. Just the thought of blowing up a launch pad was irresistible for a crowd accustomed to preventing explosions at all costs.

"We're not going to kid you. This is a fun event for us," Laffitte said.

The last time a Cape Canaveral launch pad was deliberately blown up was in 1976, when John Glenn's deteriorating pad was brought down by the Army — hardly a festive affair. Today, though, there was a party.

To raise money for needy families at Christmas, Lockheed Martin sold 350 raffle tickets, at $5 each, for the chance to push a make-believe detonation plunger. (The real button was pushed by the pros.) An Air Force engineer, Jack Olski, won the raffle, but he let his 7-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter do the honors.

He, his wife and children wore gray T-shirts emblazoned with "Blasting out of the Past," which sold for $10 each.

"It's kind of nice in a way. It makes way for the new rockets," Olski said. "A lot of work went into keeping this pad alive. It's a little sadness."

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEWYORK(AP)

High Low Last	
AMR Corp	59 57 9-16 58¼
AT&T Corp s	46⅛ 45⅝ 45 9-16— 3-16
Albertsons	40 13-16 40⅜+ 5-16
AlldSignal	59 57⅞ 58⅝+ 7-16
Alltel	72 7-16 71⅞ 71⅞— ⅛
AmOnline s	114⅝ 112 113⅛+2 1-16
AndarkPtr	30 5-32 29⅝ 29 15-16+ 9-16
AtlRichfld	90 89 21-256 89⅞+ 1⅞
ATMOS Egy	24⅛ 23 13-16 23 15-16—29-256
Aviall	8⅞ 8⅝ 8 11-16— ⅛
BP Amoco s	56 1-16 55⅞ 55 15-16+ ⅞
BakerHughes	28 15-16 28⅜ — ⅛
Bank of Amer	52 3-16 51⅞ 51⅞— ⅛
BellAtl	64⅞ 63⅞ 64⅞— ⅛
BellSouth s	43⅞ 42⅞ 43 + 1-16
BethSteel	6⅝ 6⅛ 6 9-16— ⅛
BurlNoSFe	25 13-16 25 5-16 25 5-16— 5-16
CBS Corp	45⅝ 45 45 3-16— 3-16
Caterpillar	57 9-32 56 1-16 56 13-16+ ⅛
CenSoWst	21 20 13-16 20⅞— 1-16
Chevron	88⅞ 87⅞ 88⅛+ ⅛
Citigroup s	44⅛ 43 5-16 43 11-16— ⅛
Coastal	41⅞ 40⅞ 40 11-16— 5-16
CocaCola	50⅞ 49⅞ 50 3-16+ ⅛
ColgatePal s	51⅞ 50⅞ 51 3-16+ 7-16
ComclMetals	29⅞ 29⅞ 29 9-16+11-16
CooperIn	45 13-16 45⅛ 45⅛— ⅛
CyprusAmax	20 19⅞ 20 — 1-16
DaimlrChry n	75 1-16 74 1-16 74⅞+ 2⅛
DallSemicn	51⅞ 49 9-16 50⅜— ⅛
DeltaAirl s	52 3-16 51⅞ 52 + ⅛
Dillards Inc	20⅛ 19 13-16 20
DowChem	113 111⅞ 111⅞—1 15-16
DuPont	62⅛ 61 3-16 62 + 7-16
EastmanChem	39 3-16 38⅞ 38 9-16— 9-16
EstKodak	71 11-16 71⅛ 71⅛— 7-16
EDS Corp	50 13-16 47 15-16 48⅞— 2⅞
Entergy	28 13-16 28 5-16 28 9-16+ 5-16
Exxon	74 72⅞ 74 + ⅜
Flowers	15⅝ 15⅛ 15⅛+ ⅛
FordMotor	53 5-16 52⅞ 53 3-16+ 7-16
GTE Cp	74 9-16 73⅞ 74 —11-16
GenDynam	53⅞ 52 11-16 53⅞+15-16
GenElec	119 11-16 118 7-16 118⅞—13-16
GenMills	81⅛ 80⅞ 81 7-16+ 7-16
GenMotors	66 7-16 64 11-16 65 5-16+ 3-16
GaPacGP s	41⅛ 41 41 7-16+ ⅛
GlobalMar	16 5-16 15⅞ 16 — 1-16
Goodrich	27 1-16 26 13-16 26 15-16— 3-16
Goodyear s	48 9-16 47⅞ 48⅛— 7-16
GtAtlPac	31 30⅞ 31 + 7-16
Halliburtn	37⅛ 36 9-16 37⅛+ 1-16
Hanson ADS	37 7-16 37⅛ 37⅛+ ⅛
HarteHanks	23⅞ 22 13-16 22 13-16— 7-16
HomeDepot	71 5-16 70 1-16 70 3-16—1 1-16
IBM s	107⅞ 105⅞ 105 13-16+ ⅞
IntlPaper	51⅛ 50⅞ 51 + 1⅞
JohnsonJn	95 11-16 94 95⅞— 1-16
K mart	10⅞ 10 5-16 10⅞+ ⅜
Kroger Co s	22⅞ 21⅞ 22⅛+ ⅜
Litton	50⅞ 49⅞ 50 3-16+ 5-16
LockheedM s	27 7-16 26⅞ 26⅞— 1⅛
Lowes Cos	49⅞ 49⅞ 49 9-16— 5-16
Lubys	12⅞ 12 9-16 12 9-16+ 1-16
LucentTech s	63⅞ 62 5-16 63⅞+ ⅜
MayDeptStr s	36 15-16 36⅞ 36 13-16+ 7-16
MediaOne	72 9-16 71⅞ 72 3-16— ⅛
Medtronic s	34 1-16 33⅞ 33 9-16— 1-16
Mobil	97 3-16 95⅞ 96 15-16+ ⅛
Monsanto	37 13-16 36 15-16 37⅛+ 1-16
MorganJP	109⅞ 107⅞ 107⅞— 1⅞
Motorola	92⅞ 90⅞ 91⅞+ ⅞
NCR Corp	27 13-16 27 9-16 27 9-16+ 1-16
Navistar	45⅛ 44⅛ 44⅛—1 5-16
Penney JC	31⅞ 30⅞ 31 3-16— 3-16
PepBoys	13 9-16 13⅞ 13⅞— 1-16
PepsiCo	33⅞ 33⅞ 33 9-16+ 3-16
PhelpDodge	57⅞ 56⅞ 56 11-16—11-16
PhilipPet	46 15-16 46⅞ 46 13-16+11-16
PilgrmPrd B	8 88 + 1-16
Polaroid	24 7-16 22⅞ 22 5-16—3 1-16
Praxair	45⅛ 44⅛ 44 9-16— ⅛
ProctGamb	95⅛ 93 11-16 94 13-16— 5-16
PubSNwMx	17 15-16 17 13-16 17 27-32— 1-32
ReliantEngy	26⅞ 26⅞ 26 11-16— 1-16
RoyalDut	59 5-16 58 13-16 59 1-16+ 1-16
SBC Comm	52 50⅞ 51 — 1
SaraLee s	24 5-16 23⅞ 23⅞— ⅛
Scripps EW	46 11-16 46⅞ 46⅞+ ⅛
SearsRoeb	30 3-16 29 13-16 29 15-16— ⅛
SherwinW	21⅞ 20⅞ 20⅞— ⅛
SmithklBchm	64 15-16 64⅞ 64⅞+ ⅛
SouthernCo	25⅛ 25⅛ 25 7-16+ ⅛
SwstAirl s	16⅞ 16⅞ 16 13-16— ⅛
SprintFON s	66 65 1-16 65⅞+ ⅜
SprintPCS n	70⅞ 69⅞ 69⅞— 3-16
Sunoco Inc	25 5-16 24 13-16 25 5-16+ ⅜
TNP Ent	39⅞ 39⅞ 39⅞— 1-16
Tandy s	54⅞ 53 7-16 54 7-16— 1-16
TempleInland	59⅞ 58⅞ 59 1-16+ 1⅛
Tenneco	15⅞ 15 5-16 15⅞— ⅛
Texaco	61 3-16 60 3-16 60 15-16— 1-16
TexInd	37 13-16 36 13-16 36 13-16— ⅞
TexasInst s	85 15-16 84 1-16 84 1-16—1 7-16
TexUtil	38⅛ 38⅜+ ⅛
Textron	73⅞ 72 9-16 72⅞—13-16
TriconGlbR	39⅞ 38 15-16 38 15-16
TrinityInds	29 1-16 28⅞ 28⅞
TritonEngy	17⅞ 16⅞ 16⅞— ⅜
TylerTech	4 7-16 4⅜ 4 7-16
US West Inc	58⅛ 57⅞ 58 + ⅛
USX-Marathn	28 3-16 27⅞ 28
USX-USS	24⅞ 23 7-16 23 9-16— ⅜
UnCarbde	57 7-16 56⅞ 56 11-16— ⅞
UnionPacif	48⅞ 47 11-16 47 11-16— ⅞
UnitedTech s	54⅞ 53⅞ 53⅞+11-16
Unocal	36 3-16 35⅞ 36 1-16+ ⅜
Venator Grp	7⅞ 7⅞ 7⅞— ⅜
WalMart s	51⅞ 50⅞ 51 11-16+ ⅜
WellsFargo	40 5-16 39 9-16 39 15-16+ ⅛
WstnGasRs	18⅞ 18 1-16 18 3-16
WinnDixie	28 7-16 28 1-16 28⅛+ 1-16
Xerox Cp s	29 11-16 28 7-16 28 11-16— 1⅛

Local Interest STOCKS

Patterson	14	-5/16
Dell	44 1/2	+1/16
Wal Mart	51 9/16	+1/4
Compac	22 3/16	-3/16
Dol. Gen.	29 1/8	-1/2
GTE	73 13/16	-7/8
SBC Comm.	50 7/8	-1 1/8
Tx Instr.	83 11/16	-1 13/16
LU	63	+3/8
Cisco Sys.	69	-1 5/16

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No indictment in Ramsey case

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — It is an ending few seem happy with.

The JonBenet Ramsey grand jury was dismissed after 13 months of work Wednesday and prosecutors said there isn't enough evidence to charge anyone in the 6-year-old's strangulation nearly three years ago.

The girl's family responded by asking that the investigation go on until the killer is caught. Gov. Bill Owens said he may appoint a special prosecutor.

But the puzzling case that drew worldwide attention as much for its fingerpointing and charges of bungling as for JonBenet's death may be over.

"I don't know where to go from here," said Mimi Wesson, a law professor at the University of Colorado. "Barring some very important and convincing new evidence, it is unlikely anyone will be charged with this crime."

Boulder District Attorney Alex Hunter, who has said that John and Patsy Ramsey were under suspicion in their daughter's death, announced Wednesday that prosecutors "do not have sufficient evidence to warrant the filing of charges against anyone who has been investigated with this crime."

He reminded the grand jurors that state law forbids them from discussing their work. Owens, meanwhile, promised to review the case and decide whether to appoint a special prosecutor.

"While I am not presently in a position to comment on the work of this grand jury, I do know one fact: a little girl was brutally murdered in Boulder, Colorado, and the killer or killers remain free today," he said.

The death in this university town northwest of Denver led to a case of extraordinary interest. It created friction between police and prosecutors, led to accusations that the district attorney's office was too timid and invited scrutiny of the child beauty pageant circuit.

The prominence of the family — John Ramsey, the millionaire president of Access Graphics, and Patsy, a former Miss West Virginia — together with the beauty of the little blonde victim guaranteed coverage of every twist in the case.

The Ramseys issued a statement Wednesday night, saying the family "lives in a nightmare" and asking that the investigation continue.

"We take no satisfaction in this result because a child killer remains free and undetected," the statement said.

It was before dawn on the day after Christmas in 1996 when Patsy Ramsey said she found a 21/2-page ransom note on the back staircase in the family's home that demanded $118,000 for the safe return of JonBenet.

"Listen Carefully!" the note begins. "We are a group of individuals that represent a small foreign faction. We respect your business but not the country that it serves. At this time we have your daughter in our possession."

Eight hours later, Ramsey said he found his daughter's body in a basement room, wrapped in a white blanket. A rope was wrapped around her neck and a wrist and tied to a stick.

A red-ink heart was drawn on her left palm, and Ramsey told police he removed duct tape from the child's mouth before carrying her body upstairs.

An autopsy concluded JonBenet suffered a skull fracture, was strangled and beaten, and may have been sexually assaulted.

Authorities cleared JonBenet's brother, Burke, who was 9 at the time she died. The Ramseys initially told police Burke was sleeping when the ransom note was discovered, but his voice later was heard on an enhanced tape of Mrs. Ramsey's 911 call to police.

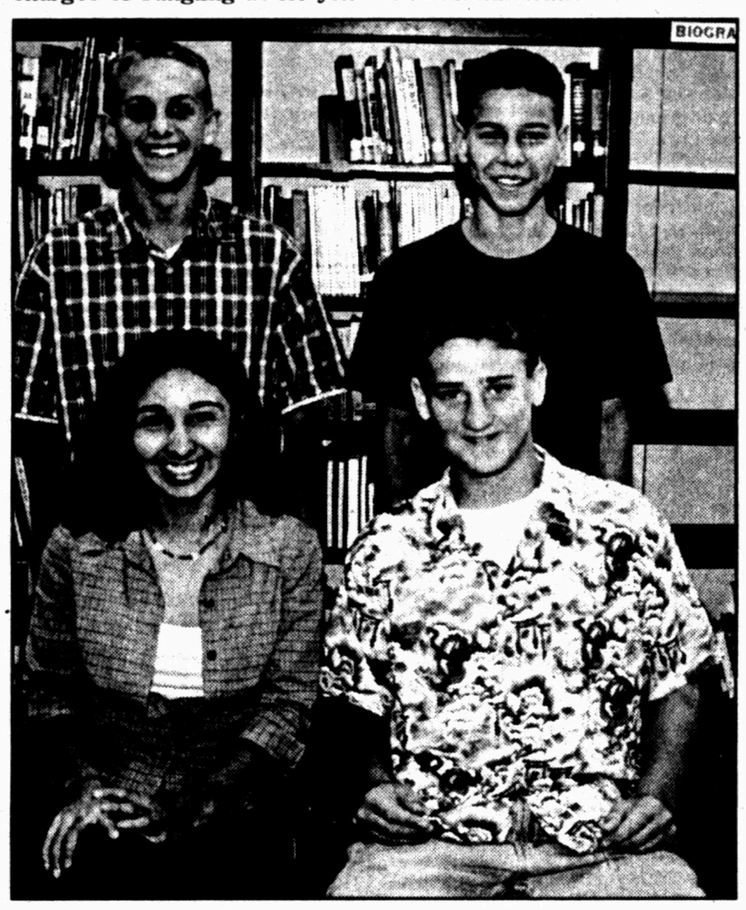
Critics claimed the investigation was compromised early when detectives, believing they were dealing with a kidnapping, allowed friends and family to roam through the Ramsey mansion. They also asked Ramsey to conduct a search, which led to the discovery of the body.

The investigation also was fractured by infighting between police and prosecutors over the best way to proceed. Two investigators resigned; one accused prosecutors of protecting the Ramseys and blocking police efforts to solve the case, while the other contended his fellow officers were improperly targeting innocent people — including the Ramseys.

The two investigators held two theories about JonBenet's killer: one focused on the parents; the other on an intruder. The Ramseys, who now live in suburban Atlanta, have repeatedly denied any involvement in the crime. They offered a $100,000 reward and mounted a newspaper campaign seeking JonBenet's killer.

Authorities amassed evidence that supported both theories.

Lab tests concluded the ransom note was written with a pen and pad that belonged to the Ramseys.



EIGHTH GRADE OFFICERS — Ira's eight grade officers for 1999-2000 are from left, seated, Franki Briseno, vice president; Jake Barnes, president; standing, Jess Wall, secretary; Nathan Wilkins, treasurer. (Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

MOBIL RETIREE — Edwin "Sully" Sullivan, right, was honored with a dinner party in Midland Sept. 24, celebrating his retirement after 30 years with Mobil Pipeline Co. David Day, area supervisor from Midland, left, is shown with Sullivan, a field gauger in Scurry County. He will retire at the end of this of month. (Contributed Photo)

Report: FBI cameras might have captured Waco footage

DALLAS (AP) — The FBI had closed-circuit cameras surrounding the Branch Davidian compound that may have captured footage of the 1993 standoff never seen by the public, The Dallas Morning News reported today.

Government documents obtained by the newspaper show that at least five FBI agents were sent to the compound near Waco to maintain closed-circuit cameras during the standoff and specifically on April 19, the day federal agents launched an assault against the compound.

Later that day, the Davidian compound erupted in flames. About 80 members of the cult, including leader David Koresh, died. Law enforcement officials insist the Davidians started the fire.

The government's conduct at Waco has come under renewed scrutiny from Congress and a special counsel appointed by Attorney General Janet Reno following the FBI's belated admission that its agents fired potentially incendiary tear-gas canisters in the hours before flames consumed the Davidians' retreat.

The videotapes may help to answer some of the lingering questions. The FBI has long denied that its agents fired any shots during the siege, and bureau officials have said rules of engagement did not permit deadly force against unarmed Davidians.

The records obtained by the newspaper contain written statements from FBI agents and technicians that recordings were made, even though no such videotape from the surveillance cameras has ever been released.

"CCTV (closed-circuit TV) monitoring sites ... were all around the compound," one agent stated in a June 1993 interview detailed in a three-page document.

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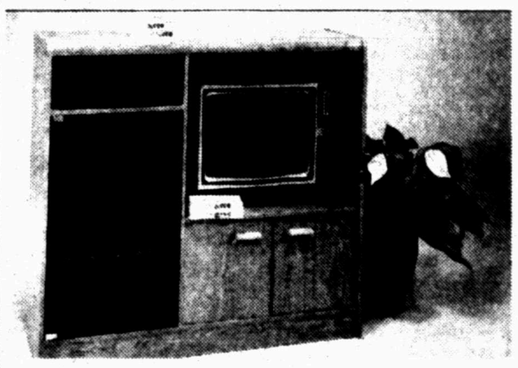

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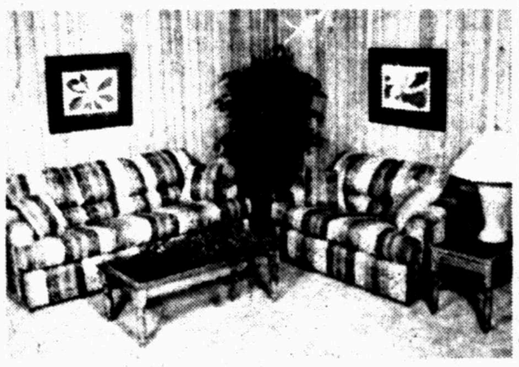

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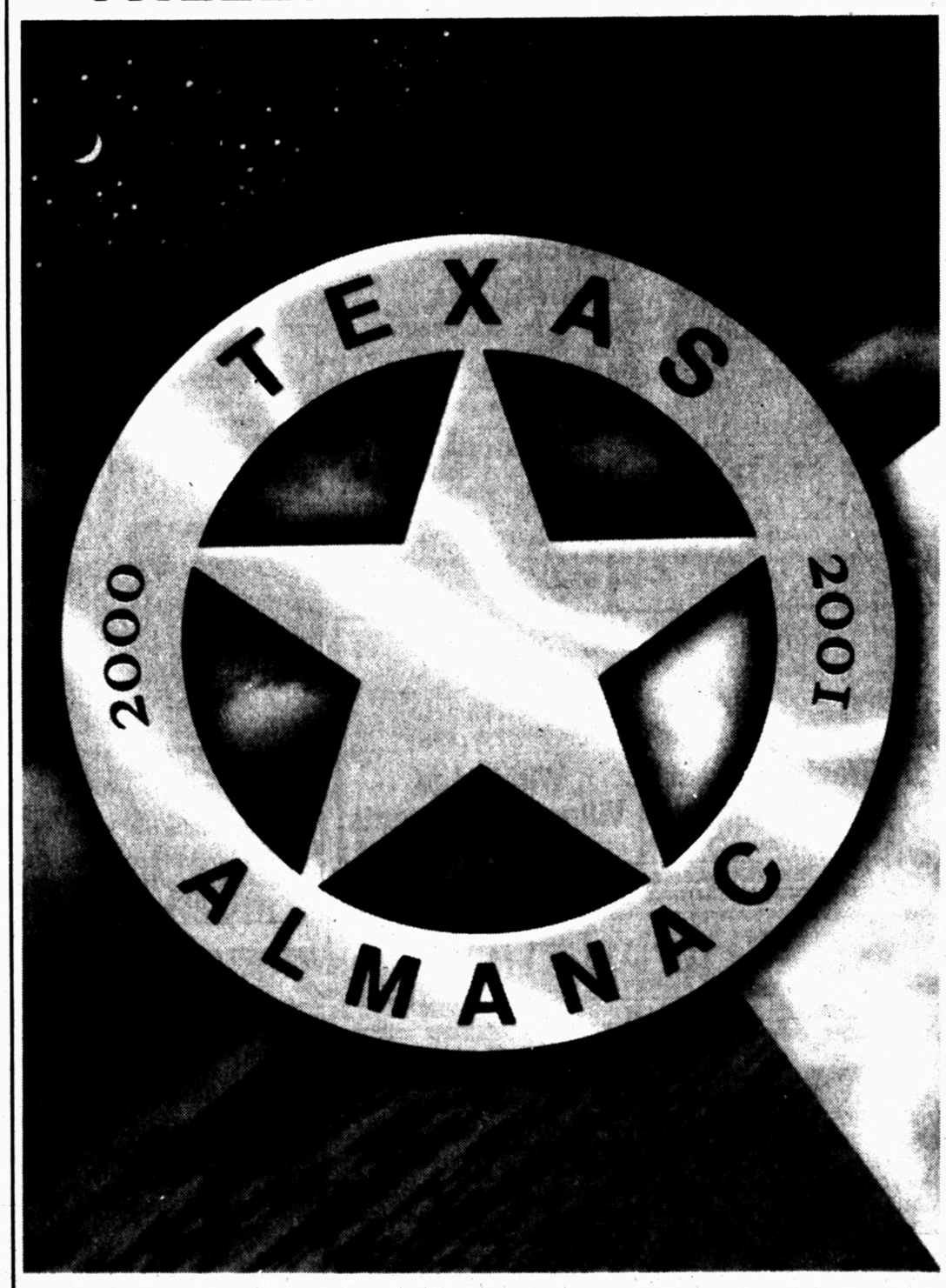

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Y2K contingency plans urged

MANDAN, N.D. (AP) — Bill Haag is getting a new computer system at his grain elevator, but ask him about Y2K and his answer is short.

A lot of hype, he says.

"I think they just blow it out worse than it is," Haag said. He doesn't think any of his equipment will be affected.

Researchers are not as confident. Those who have studied how the millennium bug could affect farm equipment are urging pork, dairy and grain operations to make contingency plans. And last-minute workshops in the Upper Midwest are planned to spread the word about how to prepare for equipment problems in case the bug bites worse than expected.

Charlotte Meier, executive director of the North Dakota Pork Producers, said she has received no calls about Y2K worries from the state's 750 pork operations.

"At this point, I would say there isn't that much concern," she said. "I think if they know the electricity is going to be running that's all they're concerned about."

Mike Adelaine, an extension specialist from South Dakota State University, thinks farmers should be concerned about more than that. He has put together an Internet list of Y2K-compliant software commonly used in farm operations and is planning a workshop in November for those who get a late start on preparations.

"Basically, what we're going to do is say: 'Hey, folks, be aware of this issue, make some contingency plans and let's see if we can get you through this time period,'" Adelaine said.

Y2K problems could arise from malfunctions in computers that read only the last two digits in a year and mistake 2000 as 1900.

In particular, owners of pork, poultry and dairy operations are being urged to make sure their climate-control devices will not collapse suddenly on New Year's Day.

Producers with livestock feeding or milking systems are encouraged to contact manufacturers to find out how they might be affected. The same goes for producers with any kind of environmental control mechanisms in barns or confined feeding operations.

Producers also should prepare to do farm work manually if automated machinery doesn't work, said Wayne Hansen, who has studied the issue for the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Electronic scales, moisture testers, grain drying equipment and crop storage ventilation systems used in grain elevators could be affected, he said.

The Y2K bug also could hamper farmers and ranchers who use computers to keep their books.

"We are seeing the medium-size smaller operations that do have the older machines that would need to get up to speed," Adelaine said.

Tentative deal is struck on oil royalty provision

WASHINGTON (AP) — A tentative agreement struck by congressional appropriators would resolve a contentious dispute over royalties for oil drilled on federal lands, clearing the way for regulators to implement long-delayed changes that would raise more money from oil companies.

The proposed deal, which provides a little something for both sides, would keep in place for up to six months an existing freeze that since 1998 has prevented the Interior Department from issuing new royalty valuation rules that are much disliked by the oil industry.

In a small victory for critics of the moratorium, which Congress enacted at the behest of Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, the agreement that House and Senate negotiators reached would cut by half the one-year freeze the Senate approved last month.

"I've done everything I can do," Mrs. Hutchison said Wednesday. Last month, she battled moratorium opponents during consideration of the Interior Department's fiscal 2000 spending bill.

The tentative deal would keep existing rules in place while the General Accounting Office, which is the investigative arm of Congress, conducts a review of Interior's rule-making, reporting back to lawmakers within six months.

Moratorium opponents questioned the need for new GAO input, citing a 1998 GAO report and testimony before Congress earlier this year.

"GAO has already found that the rule-making process was sound," said Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., who has long battled to change rules that she contends have deprived the taxpayers of hundreds of millions of dollars in uncollected royalties over the years. "I can't see any reason to further delay the rule."

A spokesman for Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., who led opposition to the moratorium during the Senate debate, said the deal is a mixed bag.

"Obviously, it's better than what the Senate narrowly passed but it will allow the biggest oil companies in the world to continue to take millions of dollars a month from America's taxpayers," said spokesman David Sandretti.

For years, the Interior Department has tried to impose new regulations on how oil from federal lands and offshore leases is valued, claiming that under the current system, oil companies routinely undervalue the oil and deprive the government of as much as $66 million in royalties a year.

The government collects about $1.2 billion from the 12.5 percent oil royalty each year and millions of more dollars from natural gas taken from federal land. The Interior proposal would require that oil value be pegged to a fair market indictor instead of permitting oil companies to set an arbitrary value at the wellhead.

Mrs. Hutchison and other Oil Patch lawmakers, echoing the industry's complaints, argue the new system is so complicated that it would end up overcharging oil producers who already are facing adverse conditions.

"My biggest fear in all this is that we are driving our jobs overseas," she said. "I've talked to the CEOs of major international oil companies and they are moving more and more their operations overseas because the regulatory environment is more stable."

Scientists breed tumor-resistant mice

By The Associated Press

Scientists reported today that they have created cancer-resistant mice by erasing genes that govern the formation of blood vessels — a breakthrough that could lead to new drugs for wiping out tumors in people.

The 57 specially bred mice were each injected with 100 million tumor cells. Many of them didn't develop cancer at all; others grew tumors, but they eventually shrank or didn't spread. Deleting most copies of the genes appeared to have no harmful side effects for the mice.

The finding is the latest advance in one of the most exciting and promising areas of cancer research: angiogenesis, or blood vessel formation. Scientists are trying to find ways to kill cancer by stopping the growth of the blood vessels that nourish tumors.

Last year, in one of the most celebrated developments in angiogenesis research, Dr. Judah Folkman of Harvard University reported that two proteins, angiostatin and endostatin, caused tumors in rats to shrink or disappear by cutting off their blood supply. Tests on people are about to get under way.

The mice study, published in today's issue of the journal Nature, involves two genes called Id1 and Id3 that were found to play a vital role in the little-understood process of angiogenesis.

"It's a very unexpected and significant finding," said Luisa Iruela-Arispe, a researcher at the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of California at Los Angeles.

One of the researchers, Robert Benezra, a cell biologist at New York's Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, said the findings could lead to drugs that target tumors by inactivating the genes. In particular, the findings could help scientists develop treatments that can distinguish between normal blood vessels and those sprouting from tumors.

James Pluda, a researcher at the National Cancer Institute, said: "This may be another piece in the puzzle which might bring us closer to better understanding the process and therefore coming up with better therapeutics for blocking the process."

But scientists stressed that further research is needed before any human applications are developed. For one thing, mice are much simpler creatures than humans. And the cancer-resistant mice were injected with malignant cells; they did not develop cancer naturally.

"People don't go around injecting themselves with 100 million tumor cells," Benezra said. "Rather, they develop these tumors as a result of genetic disposition or mutation."

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Commonsense Preparation Is Best Reponse to Y2K Fear

by Abigail Van Buren

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DEAR ABBY: You recently printed a letter from a reader in Chula Vista, Calif., regarding the "Y2K Hype." While it is indisputable that many are profiting through the Y2K-related sales of merchandise, this is America and, like it or not, when people see a way to make a profit, they are free to take it. We are also free to choose what we purchase.

Thousands of people have gone to great lengths and expense to keep all services, many of which we take for granted, fully operational during the Year 2000 transition. They deserve a standing ovation for their backstage efforts. Hopefully, the sources of any Y2K-related problems will continue to be found quickly and repaired easily.

Both the Red Cross and FEMA have posted emergency preparedness articles on their Web sites with *practical* as well as *affordable* suggestions for all climates. While I agree with the author of the "Y2K Hype" piece (i.e., "stay calm, don't panic, use your head"), proper emergency preparedness can make a world of difference by relieving inconveniences and uncertainty until services are restored. It may even save a life.

No one ever pencils in "possible date with an emergency" on one's calendar, but it makes sense to do so. Jan. 2, 2000, is on the calendar. Why not consider making some preparations — without the hype?

Since many of the people who need this information may not have access to it via the Internet, here are a few tips from the Red Cross disaster Y2K safety Web site. I hope you'll share it with your readers:

— Stock supplies such as canned foods, bottled water, instant soups, etc., to last several days.

— In the event of a power outage, plan to use alternative cooking devices in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. *never* use liquid-fueled heating and cooking devices without adequate ventilation.

— Organize your first aid supplies. This includes prescription as well as nonprescription medications.

— Have plenty of flashlights and batteries on hand. (If you have small children, keep flashlights available for their personal use and safety.) Do *not* use candles alone for emergency lighting.

— Plan to use extra blankets, coats, hats and gloves to keep warm, *not* gas-fueled appliances such as an oven.

— Listen to a battery-operated radio to keep yourself informed. Be prepared to relocate to a shelter for protection or warmth if necessary.

— Check with the emergency service providers in your community *before* an emergency arises, particularly if you or a loved one has special needs.

PAMELA RYAN, WILMETTE, ILL.

DEAR PAMELA: The essay I printed about Y2K has generated letters from readers who thanked me for it, and others who feel I treated the subject too lightly. For the latter, I will add:

My intuition tells me that for many people, Y2K may be the modern-day version of the backyard bomb shelters of the 1950s — yet the prudent thing to do is to hedge your bets. Unused supplies can be donated later to charities and food banks that feed the needy. Many families are already "emergency prepared" because they live in areas geographically vulnerable to earthquakes, hurricanes and tornadoes. Those who have not already done so should follow the Boy Scout motto ("Be Prepared") and plan ahead for possible disruptions in the municipal services we take for granted.

***

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, Oct. 15, 1999

Don't let the propitious cycle of the year ahead go by without exploring your new ideas and options. You could be extremely lucky in ventures or enterprises you originate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Push any pessimistic thoughts out of your mind today, because something about which you've been concerned has far greater chances for success than you've allowed yourself to believe. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that'll govern you in the year ahead. Send the required refund form and for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) If a go-getter approaches you today to join something she or he has in the mill, go along for the ride. Team efforts could turn out to be more fortunate for you than usual at this time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) It could be to your advantage today to focus on arrangements that can be meaningful to you materially, because Lady Luck is giving you a bit of the Midas touch at this time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Mingle with companions today who you find inspiring and influential. Their enthusiasm and optimism will be infectious and go a long way to lift up your spirits.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Envision positive results regarding the outcome of all your undertakings today. Your chances for success will be enormously enhanced when you focus on victory.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Try getting together with friends you've been neglecting for some time and do something with them other than your usual routine. Getting out of the rut will do you a world of good.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Make certain that you're doing all that you can to feather your own nest. Major improvements can be made at this time to shore up your financial position if you put forth the effort.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Don't wait on others to make things happen today. If you want to substantially advance your own personal interests, take an active role in furthering your desires.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) There's a chance that you may be able to fulfill two buried ambitions today that you've harbored for some time. First, you need to bring them out in the open where you can work on them.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A couple of valuable contacts could be established today when at a gathering comprised of persons you haven't met before. Develop your opportunities through social involvements.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Don't pay any attention to what others think, but give vent to your ambitions, even if your goals appear to be out of reach. You have an ace in the hole today called Lady Luck.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Situations that are not of a material nature can be extremely fortunate for you today, yet their ramifications could later turn out to be money makers as well.

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Date Book

Thursday, Oct. 14, 1999

Today is the 287th day of 1999 and the 22nd day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1912, Theodore Roosevelt, while making a campaign appearance in Milwaukee, was shot by a would-be assassin. Roosevelt refused treatment until he had made his scheduled campaign speech.

On this day in 1947, over the desert of southern California, test pilot Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in his XS-1 rocket plane.

On this day in 1954, the filming of Cecile B. DeMille's "The Ten Commandments" commenced in Egypt.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: William Penn (1644-1718), Quaker leader-founder of Pennsylvania; Eamon De Valera (1882-1975), Irish statesman; Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969), U.S. president; John Wooden (1910-), basketball coach, is 89; C. Everett Koop (1916-), U.S. surgeon general, is 83; Roger Moore (1927-), actor, is 72; Ralph Lauren (1939-), designer, is 60; Harry Anderson (1949-), actor, is 50; Greg Evigan (1953-), actor, is 46.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1965, in the seventh game of the World Series, Sandy Koufax of the Los Angeles Dodgers pitched a three-hit shutout against the Minnesota Twins.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him." — Dwight D. Eisenhower

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Oct. 9) and first quarter (Oct. 17)

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

4 of 7 U.N. hostages released

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — Four of seven U.N. officials kidnapped in the breakaway Abkhazia region have been released, a top Georgian security official said today.

Nugzar Sadzhaya, secretary of the National Security Council, did not provide details of the release or information on the condition of the remaining hostages.

Georgian national television reported that the released hostages were from Germany, Switzerland, Uruguay and the Czech Republic. The other three were U.N. observers from Sweden and Greece, and the group's translator.

The kidnappers had been demanding $250,000 for the release of the men, who were taken hostage Wednesday in Abkhazia, according to regional security chief Koba Matakharia.

Georgian officials have been in radio contact with the captors since Wednesday, and the country's Defense Minister Lt. Gen. David Tevzadze flew to the scene today to negotiate.

The group had just arrived by helicopter in the mountain village of Azhara to deliver aid when they were seized by the gunmen, officials said. The gunmen also tried to commandeer the helicopter, but the pilot managed to fly away.

The seven included U.N. military observers, two of whom were identified by their home countries: Uruguayan Army Maj. Gonzalo Agrelo, 40, and Swedish Air Force Maj. Joergen Oeberg, 38.

The ITAR-Tass news agency identified the rest as German medic Sgt. Dirk Krause, Swiss Capt. Marcus Stibleau, Greek Capt. Giorgos Kopanos, Czech Maj. Petr Pokovba and their Abkhazian translator, Artur Pogosyan.

Abkhazian separatists drove out Georgian government forces during a 1992-93 war and have run the breakaway province since then. They have balked at the return of more than 300,000 ethnic Georgian refugees who fled the fighting, and peace talks have stalled.

U.N. observers have been targeted previously in Georgia. A Polish woman was gunned down in July 1998 in the Georgian capital Tbilisi, apparently after spooking a burglar who was in her apartment when she got home.

Four U.N. workers were wounded in September 1998 when gunmen fired on their bus in Sukhumi.

Floor vote on cigarette tax increase set

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans are planning a floor vote next week on the cigarette tax increase and other revenue raisers in President Clinton's budget, putting on the spot Democrats who advocate higher taxes in order to boost spending.

"I'd like to see if the president's Democratic brethren would be willing to support his tax increases," said Rep. Jerry Weller, R-Ill.

The move Wednesday came as the GOP leadership struggled to pass routine spending bills without dipping into the Social Security trust fund. Clinton also says he wants to keep those funds safe, but he has proposed 75 tax increases totaling a net $89.7 billion over 10 years to generate the revenue needed for more spending on health, education and other areas.

Clinton's budget includes a 55-cents-a-pack cigarette tax increase, a measure closing corporate tax shelters, and a $6.6 billion reinstatement of a corporate environmental cleanup tax, among others.

Several Republican officials said the GOP leadership was confident Clinton's tax increases would be voted down on the House floor, just as his overall budget was resoundingly defeated earlier this year. House leaders have decided to hold the vote but have yet to determine the mechanics of bringing it to the floor.

Democrats and the White House today dismissed the idea as gimmickry.

"It sounds like, I'm afraid, another stunt, another effort at political advantage rather than sitting down and trying to figure out a budget," said House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo.

Republican and tobacco-state lawmakers pledged on Wednesday to head off the proposed cigarette tax increase.

Rep. Bill Archer, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, released an analysis by the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation showing that people earning less than $10,000 would see an effective 15 percent federal tax increase, compared with a 5 percent average increase for all U.S. taxpayers.

"Raising taxes to afford the extra spending the president wants is not the appropriate thing to do," Archer, R-Texas, told reporters. "It hits the hardest on the poor."

A few hours later, a bipartisan group of tobacco-state House members said they would fight any effort by Clinton or Democratic congressional leaders to use the cigarette tax to finance government spending or new programs such as Medicare prescription drugs.

"Enough is enough. That's the message the administration needs to hear," said Rep. Mike McIntyre, D-N.C.

White House spokesman Barry Toiv, noting that a new Philip Morris Internet site finally acknowledges the health hazards of smoking, said Clinton will "absolutely" continue to push for the tax increase.

"Raising the price of tobacco is good health policy that will discourage young people from smoking," Toiv said. "On a day that Philip Morris is admitting that smoking causes cancer, it's hard to believe that Chairman Archer still wants to protect this industry."

House Democrats are seizing every opportunity to push a bill that would crack down on abuse of corporate tax shelters.

Clinton expected to sign farm aid bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton is expected to sign a record $8.7 billion bailout of the farm economy, despite concerns about the way the money will be distributed and the lack of aid for producers washed out by Hurricane Floyd.

The measure approved by the Senate 74-26 on Wednesday is the second multibillion-dollar package of farm aid in as many years for growers hurt by low commodity prices and bad weather.

"It will mean the difference between some producers staying in business or not," said Bob Stallman, a Texas rice farmer.

The money is included in a $69 billion appropriations bill that will fund operations of USDA, with its myriad farm and nutrition programs, and the Food and Drug Administration for the 2000 budget year.

The first checks to farmers would go out within two weeks or so of the president signing the bill. Clinton hasn't threatened a veto, although his administration wanted Congress to come up with a new method of making payments to growers. Some of the money could go to growers who didn't plant a crop.

"There are some real issues and real problems with this bill; however, there are tremendous immediate needs that farmers are facing," said Linda Ricci, a spokeswoman for the White House budget office.

Congressional leaders are considering additional assistance for farmers who lost crops and livestock in Floyd's wake. Democrats estimated $1 billion would be needed, but USDA has not finished calculating the losses.

What opposition there was to the package Wednesday came primarily from Eastern senators who said it didn't provide enough disaster assistance or who wanted authority for New England to continue controlling its milk prices.

Most of the money in the measure, about $6 billion, is intended to help farmers cope with a second year of depressed commodity prices, with the bulk of the aid going to the Midwestern Corn Belt. Farmers in Iowa would share $610 million, the most of any state, followed by Illinois with $535 million, according to the Agriculture Department.

The measure also provides:

—$1.4 billion for weather-related crop and livestock losses, including $200 million earmarked for Eastern livestock producers who were hurt by this summer's drought.

—$328 million to compensate tobacco producers for falling cigarette sales.

—$125 million in subsidies for dairy producers.

Also, the legislation extends the government's price-support program for dairy products.

Obituaries

William Thornhill

1938-1999

Graveside service is set for 3 p.m. Saturday at the Dermott Cemetery for William M. (Billy) Thornhill, 61, of Harvey, La. His brother, Tom Thornhill of Georgetown, will officiate.

Born on June 11, 1938 in Abilene, he was an U.S. Army veteran. Dermott was named after Mr. Thornhill's grandfather, S.P. McDermott who had store at a crossroads that later became the post office that officially became the town Dermott. Mr. Thornhill never lived in Scurry County but spent summers here as a child.

Mr. Thornhill had lived in Harvey for the past 10 years where he was a member of St. Mark Episcopal Church.

Other survivors include a special cousin, Laverne Edmonson Herring of Snyder.

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Ousted Pakistani PM was unnamed target of warning

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was the intended but unnamed target of recent warnings by the Clinton administration about constitutionally questionable moves in the South Asian country, officials say.

Now that he has been ousted in a military coup, President Clinton is urging "a prompt return to civilian rule" in Pakistan. He sent the American ambassador to Islamabad "to undersore my view directly to the military authorities and to hear their intentions."

Sharif had been cracking down on demonstrators and the media, so senior U.S. officials issued pointed and thinly veiled warnings that he should not overstep constitutional lines.

While the administration also was signaling the military to stay in line, a look back on U.S. strategy toward Pakistan now that Army chief Gen. Pervaiz Musharraf has ousted Sharif in a coup suggests the Clinton administration inadvertently may have contributed to the prime minister's downfall.

As a U.S. official described the situation Wednesday, a day after the coup, there was "a lot of talk" within Pakistani circles that Sharif should be forced out.

The administration tried to make sure the prime minister knew "we didn't want to see unconstitutional actions," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In July, Clinton had applied a different kind of pressure on Sharif, urging him to have Musharraf withdraw his forces from the Indian-held side of the cease-fire line in the disputed territory of Kashmir.

Sharif had feuded with other military leaders in the past, and the order rankled the military and displeased Pakistanis whose nationalism rises and falls on the Kashmir issue. It did not help secure the prime minister's hold on office.

Two weeks ago, when Sharif extended Musharraf's term into 2001, rumors of tensions between them were put to rest — until Sharif almost immediately tried to fire the general.

Felony charge sends 1 to jail

Two arrests were made Wednesday, one on a felony charge.

Deputies took 23-year-old Daniel Fish of 3110 Avenue U into custody at 7:49 p.m. at his residence on a felony warrant for motion to adjudicate guilt.

At 10 a.m., officers arrested a 31-year-old male in the 1800 block of 24th Street for driving while license suspended.

In other activity, Snyder Police were notified at 9:21 a.m. that a 15-year-old girl reported as a runaway on Sept. 6 had been located by the Arlington Police Department. A supplement was added to the original offense report.

Officers worked a minor two-vehicle accident at 5:57 p.m. in the 3700 block of College. Involved were a 1976 Mercury Cougar driven by Maria Louise Torrez, 46, of 2819 South Hwy. 208 and a 1997 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup driven by Virgil David Gist, 62, of 2512 Towle Park Road.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Oct. 13-Kenneth Dacus, Tara Sanchez and Bobby Scott.

DISMISSALS: Jeffery Stewart, Jeremy Haynes and Bryant Jones.

CENSUS: 34 (Med./Surg.-9, Long-term Care-23, OB-1, Nursery-1)

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Stanfield parent council

Stanfield Elementary parent council will meet at 7 tonight in the school cafeteria.

Support groups

Support groups for Cancer, Grief and Divorce Recovery meet at 6:30 this evening at First Baptist Church. For information call 573-263. A new group for sexual assault survivors will meet at a confidential time and location. For information call 573-1822. Child care is provided.

Fluvanna homecoming planning

A Fluvanna community homecoming planning session is set for 7 tonight in the community building. Anyone interested is invited.

Book fair

East Elementary will be having a book fair Friday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. The public is invited.

3 on 3 basketball

The Boys and Girls Club will sponsor a 3 on 3 cage tourney for teenagers only starting at 8 p.m. Friday. Cost is $20 per team and there will be a three-point contest plus a slam dunk contest. Call 573-3344 to enter. The club is also sponsoring an "old school" – 19 and older three-on-three tourney Saturday for men and women. Cost is $30 per team.

His Joy Ministries Conference

The conference will be held in Snyder Friday and Saturday at Family Life Community Center, 904 26th St. Mercy and Truth of Rockwall will lead the worship and Barbara Murrell of Mesquite will be the speaker. To pre-register or for more information, call 573-8401 or 573-9812.

Youth car wash

The First Presbyterian Church youth will have a car wash from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday on the United parking lot. Funds will be used for a Year 2000 celebration in Indianapolis.

Snow White set

Snyder Junior High School will present "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" at 7 p.m. Saturday and Tuesday in the school auditorium. Advanced tickets are $3 each or $4 at the door. For reserved seats call 573-6356.

Annual trip meeting

Anyone interested in participating in the annual Washington, D.C. and New York City trip are asked to meet at 4 p.m. Sunday, at Snyder Junior High School. The trip dates are July 3-8 and the $1,500 cost includes all expenses. Deadline for signing up is Nov. 1.

Adult education classes

The classes will be taught in the WTC library, Room 209, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8-11 a.m. and 6-9 p.m. Classes are for those working on GED refresher courses and English as a second language.

Quilting Club

The Rock and Roll Quilting Club meets from 8 a.m. until noon each Monday at the Hermleigh Community Center. Everyone is invited for free quilting lessons. Call 863-2426 for more information.

Book fair

"Books are Fun," a one-day book fair will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday in the board room at Cogdell Hospital. Sponsored by the hospital auxiliary, proceeds will be used for the hospital.

AARP meeting

The AARP Chapter 2063 will meet Monday at 5:30 p.m. for a pot-luck supper and games at the Senior Center. Bring your favorite games.

Parkinson's support group

The Parkinson's Disease support group will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Cogdell Hospital board room. Program will be "What's New With You?" and a video, "Wonders of the Brain."

SHS choir boosters

Snyder High School choir boosters will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the choir room to work on yard signs.

Fajita cookout

The annual fajita cookout sponsored by First Christian Church will be before the Sweetwater game on Oct. 22. The fajitas will be served before the game beginning at 5 p.m.

Chili supper

The SHS basketball booster club will have a chili supper with homemade cobbler from 5-7 p.m. Oct. 22 before the Tigers play Sweetwater. Time is from 5-7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Tickets can be purchased from any high school basketball player or at the door. Carry outs available. Call 573-2553 for tickets. Funds will be used to purchase new uniforms.

Enchilada dinner

St. John's Catholic Church will sponsor an enchilada dinner with rice, beans, salad, dessert and drink from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 24, in the Hermleigh school cafeteria. Price is $6 for adults and $3 for children under 6. Proceeds will go to build handicap ramps at the church.

Glass donations sought

The Ira senior class is seeking donations of drinking glasses (any type) for the fall festival. Call the school at 573-2628 and the glasses will be picked up. Deadline is Oct. 27.

WTC Fallfest

Fallfest at Western Texas College will be held from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28, in the courtyard. Sponsored by the Student Government, all proceeds will help fund their trip to the state convention. There will be numerous booths and activities for all ages. Tickets are 25 cents each and prizes will be given away at all booths.

Fall festival

Games, concessions and door prizes will be part of the Fall Festival from 5-7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. The event is for birth through 6th grade.

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery, in order:

9-2-3

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The winning numbers were 16, 24, 25, 40, 46, 50.

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $22 million.