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WT-Int. Crude - $33.58
WTIC Posted - $30.25
Natural Gas - $5.745

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY
Feb. 5, 2003
Vol. 54 No. 240
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Randy Glasscock

Powell tells U.N. Iraq 'in danger'

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary of State Colin Powell, making his case that Iraq had defied all demands that it disarm, presented tape recordings, satellite photos and statements from informants this morning that he said constituted "irrefutable and undeniable" evidence that Saddam Hussein is concealing weapons of mass destruction.

"Iraq has now placed itself in danger of serious consequences," Powell told the U.N. Security Council, saying Baghdad's denials constitute a "web of lies."

Three months after Iraq pledged that it would disarm, Powell presented his evidence in an appearance that was televised live around the world. The Council members sat around a large circular table with Powell and listened attentively.

Of the 15 Council members, only the United States and Britain have voiced support for forcibly disarming Saddam. China said immediately after Powell's testimony that the inspectors should be given more time to do their work.

Mohammed Al-Douri, Iraq's ambassador, was invited to take a seat at the large circular Security Council table to listen to Powell's presentation and to make remarks afterward. As he headed into the chamber, he was asked what message he would be delivering. "It's a message for peace," Al-Douri said.

Powell also detailed the U.S. claims that Baghdad and al-Qaida operatives are working together and that some followers of a senior lieutenant of Osama bin Laden are currently in the Iraqi capital, with the approval of Saddam.

Saddam, in an interview broadcast Tuesday in London, denied his government has a relationship with the al-Qaida or has weapons of mass destruction. He said it would be impossible to hide such arms.

"If we had a relationship with al-Qaida, and we believed in that relationship, we wouldn't be ashamed to admit it," the Iraqi leader said.

In his presentation, Powell:

—Asserted that Iraq "bulldozed and graded to conceal chemical weapons evidence" at the Al Musayyib chemical complex in 2002, and had a series of cargo vehicles and a decontamination vehicle moving around at the site. Powell said that was corroborated by a human source.

—Played an audio tape for the U.N. Security Council Wednesday between Iraqi military officers purportedly discussing hiding prohibited vehicles from weapons inspectors. He said the tape was an intercepted conversation between officers in Saddam's Republican Guard.

The voices were discussing a modified vehicle one of them had that was made by an Iraqi company, which Powell said was a weapons manufacturer.

"We have this modified vehicle," one of them said as the two discussed a pending visit by a U.N. weapons inspector.

"I'm worried you all have something left," the second voice says.

"We evacuated everything. We don't have anything left," the other replies.

—Cited human intelligence sources that he said shows Iraqis are dispersing rockets armed with biological weapons in western Iraq.



A FINE SHINE — Snyder firefighter Ben Poe works to clean the fire department's newest vehicle. The brush truck, used for fighting fires on pasture land, was constructed in-house by the firefighters. The truck is a modified 1989 International dump truck already owned by the city and was scheduled for auction. Redesigning the vehicle and doing the work in-house saved the department and the city thousands of dollars. (SDN Staff Photo)

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN

by Jo Ann Nunley



We're beginning to believe these things could happen...

Three old pilots are walking on the ramp.

First one says, "Windy, isn't it?

Second one says, "No, its Thursday!"

Third one says, "So am I. Let's go get a root beer."

A man was telling his neighbor, "I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect."

"Really," answered the neighbor "What kind is it?"

"Twelve-thirty."

Morris, an 82-year-old-man, went to the doctor to get a physical.

A few days later the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young lady on his arm.

A couple of days later the doctor spoke to Morris and said, "You're really doing great, aren't you?"

Morris replied, "Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful."

The doctor said, "I didn't say that. I said, 'You got a heart murmur. Be careful."

As a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, "Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on Interstate 20. Please be careful!"

"It's not just one car," said Herman. "It's hundreds of them!"

An elderly gent was invited to his old friend's home for dinner one evening. He was impressed by the way his buddy preceded every request to his wife with endearing terms — Honey, My Love, Darling, Sweetheart, Pumpkin, etc.....

The couple had been married almost 70 years, and clearly they were still very much in love. While the wife was in the kitchen, the man leaned over and said to his host, "I think it's wonderful that, after all these years, you still call your wife those loving pet names."

The old man hung his head. "I have to tell you the truth," he said, "I forgot her name about 10 years ago."

— — —

These quips were e-mailed to us, but they made us realize that the way we hear things doesn't always relate to age.

When we were about nine years old and visiting our grandparents on the farm we misunderstood a command.

While playing outside near the old two-story rock house, our grandfather called from the barn some distance away "Jodie, bring the .410."

What we thought we heard was "bring the water can." We hurriedly found it and ran for the barn.

When we arrived, a large snake he wanted the .410 to kill was slithering away as I stood there with a water can in hand.

My grandfather was very much "less than happy" with me, but he later would laugh about the incident over and again.

Royalty to be crowned at coronation

Snyder High School will crown Mr. and Miss SHS in ceremonies at 8:30 Thursday morning in Worsham Auditorium.

Candidates for Mr. SHS are Colby Driggers, Tanner Beard, T. J. Jones, Josh Montoya and Clay Williams.

Miss SHS nominees are Hailey Putnam, Jackie Beccue, Ira Gonzales, Amanda Hartzog and Cozy Jones.

A number of school, club and athletic sweethearts also will be recognized.

Sweethearts and the organization they represent are: Erin Cooley, band; Amanda Hartzog, baseball; Nickki McKinney, boys basketball; Tyler Kerr, girls basketball; Isaac Ramon, cheerleaders; Afton Schwertner, choir; Patrick Alderete, choir; Tamara Taylor, cross country; Arthur Hernandez, cross country; Kamie Drain, DECA; Trey Roland, DECA; Sara Cantu, drama; Caleb Durham, drama; and D'Angelo Davis, FCCLA.

Others are Kim Rivera, football; Beth Parsley, FFA; Julia Beck, Mathilde Frikke, and Samvel Margaryan, foreign exchange students; Blake Robertson, forensics; Bobby Sands, forensics; Katie Kerley, boys golf; Vaughn Wiggins, girls golf; Bonnie Cleveland, KTXS; Jacinda Judah, National Honor Society; Zach Starnes, National Honor Society; Katherine Johnson, powerlifting; and Josh Knox, powerlifting.

Others are Logan Hill, softball; Malorye Miller, SHS Today; Bret McClendon, SHS Today; Sarah Crawford, student council; Will Davis, student council; Jessica Ryland, TSA; Cory Cochran, TSA; Pat Vargas, tennis; Horacio DePaz, tennis; Kasey Wemken, Tiger's Lair; Ashley Edwards, Tiger's Tale; Starla Bruton, boys track; Jason Guynes, girls track; Janie Garcia, Visual Art Club; and Tucker Early, volleyball.

Musical entertainment will be provided by Jacinda Judah and Patrick Alderete, and Afton Schwertner and Stephanie Crisp.

Brad Vincent is master of ceremonies.

East principal Rosson announces retirement

East Elementary principal Jim Rosson told members of his staff Tuesday afternoon that he will be leaving the Snyder school district at the end of February.

This morning, Rosson said he would be retiring at the end of the school year, but would leave his post at the end of this month.

"I will be going into private business," said Rosson.

Rosson has served as East Elementary principal for the past three years, and had served as Central's principal for 10 years.

In all, he has been in the Snyder school district for 26 years. His first teaching job was in Big Spring.

Rosson's wife, Melissa, is a first grade teacher at Stanfield Elementary.

"I appreciate the opportunity the district has afforded me the past 26 years," Rosson said.

Lee Presswood, who retired from Northeast Elementary, will fill in for Rosson at East until the end of the year, said Jim Kirkland, SISD interim superintendent.

Snyder spellers to compete Thursday

Eight Snyder elementary students will vie for the right to compete in the March 22 regional spelling bee Thursday at Western Texas College.

The Snyder ISD Bee will get underway at 9 a.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre.

This bee takes the place of the county bee. For the first time, Ira and Hermleigh have held their own bees and will send their winners directly to the regional bee.

Shawn Burns and Ana Cabrera will represent East at Thursday's bee.

Shawn, the son of Belinda Toland, won the campus bee and Ana, daughter of Steven and Martha Cabrera, was the runner-up.

Northeast will send Brance Scott and Sami Dee Barrera to Thursday's contest.

Brance, son of Darby and Susie Scott, won the school's bee and Sami, daughter of Sammy and Rachel Barrera, was the runner-up.

Jared Cave and Gina Hermosillo will represent West Elementary.

Jared won the campus bee. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Bryan Cave.

The runner-up was Gina, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Hermosillo.

J.W. Wesson and Josi Presley will compete for Snyder Junior High School.

J.W. who won the campus bee, is the son of Jay and Tammy Wesson. Josi, the runner-up, is the daughter of Teri and Ricky Presley.

Pam Hart, Central principal, will serve as the master of ceremonies. Dr. Edward Barkowsky, English professor, will serve as the dictionary recording judge.

Judges will include Melanie Graf, English instructor; and Emily Hataway. Christy Smith, high school English teacher, will serve as the head judge.

Rebekah Thornton will be the pronouncer.

ASK US

Q—I noticed the WTC softball team was wearing baby blue uniforms Monday. Is that a school color?

A—No. The uniform company made the mistake and is sending correct uniforms.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Sherry Bilderback...

...is a Snyder native and a 1981 graduate of SHS. Her husband, Dave, is a healthcare salesman. Dave is outnumbered at home as the couple has two daughters, Morgan, a freshman at SHS, and Jessica, a sixth grader at West Elementary. Sherry enjoys reading fiction novels, interior decorating and chasing her busy daughters.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Not all learning comes from books. You have to live a lot.

—Loretta Lynn

FEB 05 2003

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

West yearbook deadline

This is the final week to purchase yearbooks at West Elementary.

Senior FFA student reception

Wilson Motors will host a reception for senior FFA students from 5-7 this evening at the dealership for the signing of scholarship applications. Parents are invited to attend.

FBC services televised

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

Hermleigh Booster Club

The Hermleigh Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in the school cafeteria. All parents are urged to attend.

Senior water aerobics

Senior water aerobics will be held from 10-11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the WTC pool.

GED pre-registration and testing dates

Mandatory pre-registration for the GED test will be from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Thursday at the GED testing center at Western Texas College, building 7B. The math segment of the GED will begin at 8 a.m. on Friday. For more information about the GED test call Molly Kattes at 573-2919 or Emily Hataway at 573-8511, ext. 297, or 574-2112. It is recommended that candidates receive some preparation before attempting the test.

Krispy Kreme donuts

Price Daniel Unit employees are selling Krispy Kreme donuts. To preorder, call 573-1114 by Friday and ask for Mrs. Merritt or Mrs. Cheyne. Orders will be picked up beginning at 7:30 a.m. Monday in the Wal-Mart parking lot.

Country and Gospel music

Country and Gospel music will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Senior Citizens Center.

8th grade parents meeting

There will be a meeting of all Snyder 8th grade parents to plan an end-of-school party. The meeting will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday at 3300 Ave. U. Anyone interested is invited. For more information call Cindy Brewster at 573-6337, Carlene Lee at 573-2709 or Tina Stansell at 573-4157.

Retired teachers meeting

Snyder Retired Teachers Association will meet at noon Monday at the Shack. Program, "What About Music," will be presented by Emily Hataway.

Support groups

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

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "Everybody Needs Jesus," followed by "Ingredients of a Godly Home."

Relay For Life captain to meet

Team captains for the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the teachers' lounge at Stanfield Elementary.

FBC support groups

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

Hospice memorial service

A memorial service for families who lost someone during 2002 will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, in the First Presbyterian Church.

Relay for Life cookbooks

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

Relay for Life teams needed

Teams are now being recruited for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life in Scurry County to be held April 25-26 at Tiger Stadium. For more information, contact Margaret Presswood, recruitment chairperson, at 573-4873.

2003 Ira annuals available

The 2003 Ira Bulldog annuals may be purchased until Monday, Feb. 17. Cost is $26 with name on cover or $22 without. Contact the school to purchase one.

WTC adult basic education classes

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

Jurors say they were denied key evidence

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A marijuana advocate and the jury that convicted him are making an unexpected show of solidarity: Jurors claim they were misled and the defendant says it isn't them he blames.

Ed Rosenthal, the self-described "Guru of Ganja," was allowed Tuesday to remain free on $200,000 bail until his June 4 sentencing on federal drug violations.

Outside court, Rosenthal told supporters that he had "no regrets. ... Both the jury and I were victims of persecution, of an illegal government action."

Jurors said they felt cheated because they weren't allowed to hear that Rosenthal supplied Oakland's medical marijuana program, an outgrowth of a 1996 medical marijuana initiative that conflicts with federal law.

"I feel like I made the biggest mistake in my life," juror Marney Craig said.

Bush pays tribute to Columbia's 7

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — President Bush said the drive to explore that led seven shuttle astronauts to their deaths was not a mere choice but rather a "desire written in the human heart."

Paying tribute to the Columbia crew on Tuesday along with at least 10,000 saddened NASA employees and fellow astronauts, past and present, the president pledged anew that "America's space program will go on."

Bush bowed his head and first lady Laura Bush wiped tears from her eyes as the United States Navy Band Sea Chanters led the crowd in song at the start of the service.

At one point, the president pulled a handkerchief from his pocket and handed it to a weeping relative of a crew member.

Columbia broke up Saturday as it was returning to earth.

"Their mission was almost complete, and we lost them so close to home," Bush said as he began his remarks in a plaza outside Mission Control at Johnson Space Center.

"Our whole nation was blessed to have such men and women serving in our space program," Bush said.

"This cause of exploration and discovery is not an option we choose; it is a desire written in the human heart. We find the best among us, send them forth into unmapped darkness, and pray they will return. They go in peace for all mankind, and all mankind is in their debt.

"Yet, some explorers do not return. And the loss settles unfairly on a few," he said. "The people of NASA are being tested again."

The service ended with seven tolls of a Navy bell — one for each downed astronaut — and a "missing man" formation flyover. Four NASA jets roared above the crowd, with one peeling away and soaring high and out of sight.

Aides said Bush told family members afterward in a private meeting: "I'm sorry that we have to meet under these circumstances. God bless you all."

Navy Chaplain Harold Robinson led the memorial service in prayer and said the astronauts found true humility while viewing "our little planet from outer space."

Fighting through tears, NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe said "our grief is overwhelming" and promised to find out what happened to Columbia and make sure it doesn't happen again.

"We will keep this solemn pledge," he told family members.

The president and first lady were accompanied on Air Force One to the ceremony by former astronauts Neil Armstrong, the first person to walk on the moon, and John Glenn, the first American to orbit Earth.

Crew members were remembered in separate eulogies that shared with the world their nicknames, habits, likes and dislikes and, in many cases, some of the last words they spoke.

O'Keefe recalled that mission specialist Kalpana Chawla, 41, told Mission Control how beautiful the Earth looked from miles above as she summoned her fellow crew members to the shuttle window, where the world was reflected in her eye.

"It is this image, the image of Columbia's crew joyfully joining Kalpana to see our beautiful planet reflected in their friend's eye, that we will remember and treasure forever," O'Keefe said.

The president spoke briefly about each astronaut.

Chawla, a native of India, wanted to reach for the stars, Bush said, and "she went there and beyond."

Col. Ilan Ramon, 48, son of a Holocaust survivor and Israel's first space traveler, spoke of the quiet of space and was quoted by Bush as saying, "I only hope that the quiet can one day spread to my country."

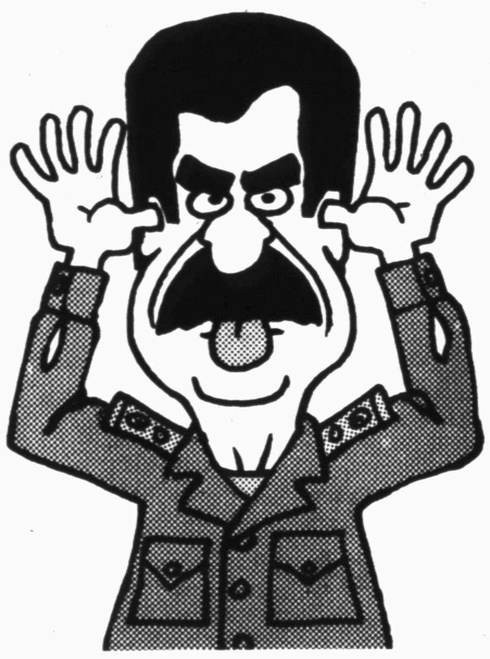
Navy flight surgeon Laurel Clark, 41, liked to say, "Life continues in a lot of places."

Air Force Col. Rick Husband, the shuttle commander, 45, loved the hymn "How Great Thou Art," which includes the phrase: "I see the stars. I hear the mighty thunder. Thy power throughout the universe displayed."

Columbia pilot William McCool, 41, was a former Eagle Scout and "fearless test pilot," Bush said.

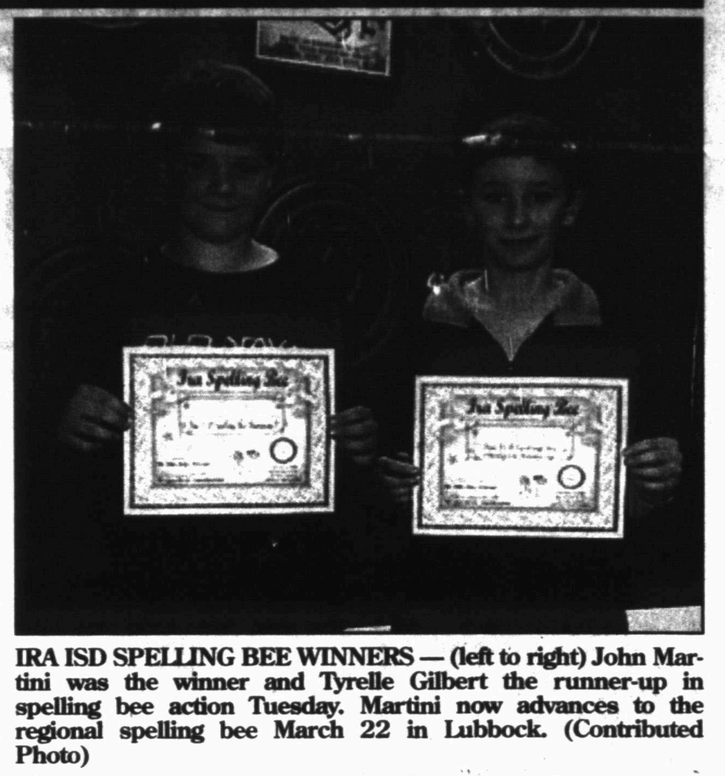
And payload commander Michael Anderson, 43, who Bush said recently told his pastor, "If this thing doesn't come out right, don't worry about me; I'm just going on higher."

Berry's World



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IRA ISD SPELLING BEE WINNERS — (left to right) John Martini was the winner and Tyrelle Gilbert the runner-up in spelling bee action Tuesday. Martini now advances to the regional spelling bee March 22 in Lubbock. (Contributed Photo)

Government finds flaws in meat safety programs

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than half of 35 large meat processing factories reviewed recently by the government had shortcomings in their plans for protecting meat from harmful bacteria.

A preliminary assessment showed that 21 of the plants had problems with their plans to prevent E. coli contamination, Garry McKee, the Agriculture Department's food safety administrator, said Tuesday.

The problems in the plans were "scientific design issues and not food safety issues," he said.

Steven Cohen, an agency spokesman, said most of the plants failed to keep records up to date.

Department officials began checking plants last fall to ensure they were following written plans to prevent E. coli, a bacterium that can cause food poisoning, from contaminating meat. Plants that didn't follow their strategies were sent letters telling them to correct the problems within 30 days, Cohen said.

The government requires plants to create their own prevention plans, known as Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point strategies.

"If plants don't conduct their hazard analysis correctly, or there's something wrong with their HACCP plan — the way that they reassessed it and so forth — there will be actions taken," warned Elsa Murano, the department's undersecretary for food safety.

The department has been criticized by members of Congress and consumer groups for how it handled large meat recalls last year that were linked to several illnesses. For instance, ConAgra Beef in Greeley, Colo., recalled 19 million pounds of ground beef after it was linked to an E. coli outbreak that sickened 22 people.

Carol Tucker Foreman, head of the Consumer Federation of America's Food Policy Institute, said plants are endangering public health in failing to adhere to their prevention plans.

Date Book

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2003

Today is the 36th day of 2003 and the 46th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1985, the longest war in history was finally ended when the mayor of Rome and the mayor of Carthage met in Tunis to sign a treaty of friendship officially ending the Third Punic War, which began in 149 B.C. The event was a stunt used to promote tourism in the area.

On this day in 1988, two federal grand juries in Florida indicted Manuel Noriega and 16 associates on drug charges. Noriega, who was often employed by the CIA to quell left-leaning uprisings in Central America, fell out of favor with the American government when reports came out that he had acted as a double agent for Cuba.

On this day in 1993, President Clinton signed the Family Leave Bill, requiring companies with 50 or more employees (and all government agencies) to allow employees to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave in a 12-month period to deal with the birth or adoption of a child, to take care of a serious health condition, or to attend to a sick relative.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: John Witherspoon (1723-1794), signer of the Declaration of Independence; Robert Peel (1788-1850), English statesman; Adlai Ewing Stevenson (1900-1965), American statesman; Henry Louis (Hank) Aaron (1934-), athlete, is 69; Christopher Guest (1948-), writer and comedian, is 55; Roberto Alomar (1968-), athlete, is 35.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1948, Dick Button became the first American to win an Olympic gold medal in figure skating.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "A hungry man is not a free man." — Adlai Stevenson

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Feb. 1) and first quarter (Feb. 9).

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events

LOTTO TEXAS™ TEXAS LOTTERY RESULTS

Tuesday's Lottery Numbers
Texas Two Step

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Two Step numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery:
12-19-21-27
Bonus number 24
Estimated jackpot: $200,000
Pick 3
(Day) 7-6-0
(Night) 6-9-9
Cash Five
1-6-12-15-27

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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By Abigail

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Dear Abby



By Abigail Van Buren

Rescue workers left in dark by poorly marked addresses

DEAR ABBY: I am a police officer in a small but very busy community in New England. I would like to impress upon your readers the importance of having their address numbers clearly visible on their homes and businesses. On too many occasions, police, fire and rescue personnel have wasted precious time trying to find the exact location of an emergency because the homes and businesses in the area were poorly marked — or not marked at all. This could mean the difference between life or death for the persons requiring assistance.

The numbers must be large enough to be seen from the roadway in all types of weather and lighting conditions. Their color must contrast sharply with their background. Put them directly on or immediately by the front door. If the structure is set too far back from the road, place the number at the entrance to the driveway. Make them large enough to be read from a moving vehicle. Individual apartment or condo doors should be clearly numbered or lettered as well. It is a wise investment that could save your life. — **PUBLIC SERVANT IN RHODE ISLAND**

DEAR PUBLIC SERVANT: You have written an important letter, and I'm pleased to pass along your message. Address numbers should be posted on both sides of one's mailbox, or near a porch light so they're clearly visible at night. Do not allow hanging plants, overgrown shrubs or partially opened doors to obscure them.

Once 9-1-1 is called, if at all possible, station someone at the door or in the yard to guide the police, firefighters or emergency medical personnel in. It's also a good idea to give the 9-1-1 operator a brief description of the house. A 15-minute search for an address during an emergency can be the difference between life and death.

**

DEAR ABBY: I am a 20-something new mother, as are most of my friends. On New Year's Eve, my husband and I invited all our friends who have small children over to ring in the new year together. The idea was that the children (all 20 months and younger) could play and fall asleep, while the adults sat back and enjoyed themselves.

The nursery was packed with little ones snug in their makeshift beds, as their moms and dads sang "Auld Lang Syne." A good time was had by all.

The next day, I received a phone call from my cousin, who attended the party. He's a police officer. He told me that two of my guests had reported $50 stolen from their purses sometime during the evening. I was flabbergasted. All of the guests who attended are so close that my husband and I would have trusted them with our children's lives. Now we don't know what to do. I've called each guest. No one else had money stolen, and any one of us would have gladly lent funds to whoever took the cash from those purses.

What do I do now, Abby? I have lost trust in my closest friends. I had scheduled play dates for our children, but have told the other mothers not to bring their purses. — **HEARTSICK IN CLEARWATER, FLA.**

DEAR HEARTSICK: By notifying your guests about the unfortunate incident, you have already done the responsible thing. You have prevented it from happening again.

**

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

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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 $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby — Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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House committee nixes 'Robin Hood' plan

AUSTIN (AP) — The House Public Education Committee voted 6-2 Tuesday night to get rid of the state's much-criticized Robin Hood school funding system, taking the first step in overhauling the complex and controversial way Texas pays for its schools.

The committee, in its first meeting of the legislative session, approved the bill by Education Chairman Kent Grusendorf. It moves to the House floor, where all 150 members will have a chance to vote on it.

The bill would end Robin Hood in 2005 but does not propose an alternative.

"This is just the first step in a long process. We've got a long way to go to fix this problem," said Grusendorf, R-Arlington. "Our attempt today is to send a message that we're serious about this problem and the Legislature's going to address this problem."

Grusendorf said the bill will force lawmakers to come up with a better way to fund the state's 1,040 school districts. It mirrors legislation filed first by Rep. Craig Eiland, D-Galveston, in December that would repeal Robin Hood Sept. 1.

"This announces a death sentence for Robin Hood," said Rep. Dan Branch, R-Dallas. "Ultimately, there will be a funeral."

The only two Democrats on the committee — Rep. Scott Hochberg of Houston and Vice Chairman Rene Oliveira of Brownsville — voted against the bill.

—

Chronically ill kids on state waiting list

AUSTIN (AP) — About 1,400 chronically ill Texas children suffering from diseases such as cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy would go without medical treatment under a Texas Department of Health proposal.

The Children with Special Health Care Needs program provides health care to 4,000 chronically ill children who would otherwise go without treatment.

The health department stopped enrolling children in the program when it predicted having a budget deficit. A waiting list with 1,400 names was created.

The health department now has a projected $12.8 million surplus in the program, including a $4 million federal grant.

The health department told the governor's office Tuesday that it would use the $4 million federal grant for the program, but believes the budget requires the rest of the money not be spent, said Gene Acuna, spokesman for Gov. Rick Perry.

Perry has ordered state agencies to cut their budgets by 7 percent as a way to help close a $1.8 billion budget deficit this fiscal year. Another shortfall of at least $8.1 billion is projected through 2005.

Health Department spokesman Doug McBride said Tuesday that the program for chronically ill children will not be included in the agency's cuts.

Perry's office said the 2001 Legislature ordered in the budget that any savings at the health department not be spent, including the projected $8.8 million surplus in the Children with Special Health Care Needs program.

—

Bill would prohibit state contracts with offshore corporations

AUSTIN (AP) — American businesses that move their headquarters offshore to avoid paying federal income taxes would not be allowed to do business with the state of Texas under legislation filed by state Sen. Eliot Shapleigh.

"It is just not right to reward companies that take advantage of a deficiency in our federal tax policy with state contracts that are paid for by hardworking, taxpaying citizens of Texas," Shapleigh said in a news release Tuesday.

Shapleigh, D-El Paso, said the legislation mirrors a bill filed at the federal level that is intended to ban the companies from receiving federal contracts.

The federal government stands to lose nearly $5 billion over the next 10 years because of such companies, Shapleigh said. Because Texas has received about 6.3 percent of every federal dollar spent the past few years, the state is looking at lost revenues of more than $300 million over the same 10 year period, he said.

—

Governor's office resists release of budget documents

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry is opposing attempts to release to the public drafts of the state budget proposal his office was working on before he came up with his "zero" budget in January.

Responding to requests from The Associated Press, the San Antonio Express-News and the Austin American-Statesman, the governor's office stated in a letter dated Monday that draft budget copies and other related materials should be kept private as allowed under the Texas Public Information Act.

Disclosing the documents would discourage the "frank exchange of information among government staff and agencies," Perry's office contends.

The governor is seeking a decision on the matter from Attorney General Greg Abbott, whose office has 45 days to make a ruling.

"It will probably take the entire 45 days to issue the opinion," said Angela Hale, a spokeswoman for Abbott. "On a request like this, I don't think it's black and white. It's not one of those things that's going to be easy to determine."

The three news organizations made their requests separately over a nine-day span in January after Perry proposed on Jan. 17 that Texas spend nothing in the next two fiscal years.

Perry's proposal listed amounts spent in previous budget years in each category, such as education and public safety, and then recommended zero be spent on that item for the coming two-year cycle.

Two designs are chosen as finalists for WTC

NEW YORK (AP) — The world's tallest building would soar over the New York skyline under two design proposals selected as finalists in the competition to rebuild the World Trade Center site.

Both the plan from Berlin-based architect Daniel Libeskind and one proposed by THINK, an international team of design firms, would build structures rising higher than Malaysia's 1,483-foot Petronas Twin Towers, the world's tallest buildings.

The final selection will be made at the end of the month.

"What we're doing today is advancing two extraordinary designs," said Roland Betts, head of the redevelopment planning committee. Neither plan is "set in stone," he said, but officials will try to retain the main concepts in the final plan.

Finalists selected Tuesday were praised for giving respect to a memorial for the nearly 2,800 victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack at the trade center.

"The memorial site drives the design," said Beverly Willis, founder of the community group Rebuild Downtown Our Town and president of the Architecture Research Institute.

But she called the aim to build the world's tallest towers "ostentatious, impractical and it's something that will only be the tallest building in the world for a couple of years until Asia builds a taller one."

A cluster of stark geometric buildings — one topped by a spire reaching 1,776 feet — forms the core of Libeskind's design. The THINK team, led by architects Rafael Vinyl and Frederic Stewart, conceived a "World Cultural Center" with two 1,665-foot towers.

The Libeskind design calls for 70 stories of offices, with airy "gardens of the world" beckoning tourists above office level. The THINK plan envisions a library, museum and other cultural attractions suspended inside latticework towers with offices concentrated at the site's perimeter.

Neither envisions office space at the top of the structures.

The height of the buildings has been an issue. While many New Yorkers have called for soaring structures that would replace the twin towers, a recent New York Times/CBS poll found 53 percent of New Yorkers unwilling to work in one of the higher floors at the site.

Bridge



By Phillip Alder

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2003

Other point-count recommendations

By Phillip Alder

We are looking at opening with a one-bid when you are holding only 11 or 12 high-card points.

Many bridge writers advocate adding distributional values to the bare point-count. Marty Bergen, for example, recommends the Rule of 20. You add your point-count to the lengths of your two longest suits. If the total is at least 20, open one of a suit. If it is fewer than 20, either pass, or begin with a pre-empt. Look at the East and South hands in the diagram. Would you open with either hand?

The Rule of 20 says to open both.

North 02-05-03
♠ A 3
♥ 8 7
♦ A Q J 3
♣ A J 7 6 4

West
♠ 8 5 4
♥ Q 10 9 6
♦ —
♣ 10 9 8 5 3 2

East
♠ Q J 2
♥ K J 3 2
♦ 7 6 5 2
♣ K Q

South
♠ K 10 9 7 6
♥ A 5 4
♦ K 10 9 8 4
♣ —

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	6 ♦	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ 10

However, I would never open that East hand. The clubs are not worth five points, and I would have to start by bidding one diamond — ugh! However, I am happy to open the South hand with one spade because it has no rebid problem. (You raise two hearts to three.)

In this auction, South's four hearts is a control-bid (cue-bid) showing that ace. North should investigate a grand slam, but settles for the safe small slam.

Taking 12 tricks after a heart lead should be no problem. You win with the heart ace, draw one round of trumps to get the bad news, play off dummy's spade ace, lead a spade to your king, and ruff a spade high in the dummy. When they split 3-3, you pitch a heart on the club ace, draw trumps, run the spades, and concede a heart trick at the end.

The bottom line: Do not be wedded to point-count. It is better to use judgment and the factors discussed in the last two days (suit quality and rebid problems).

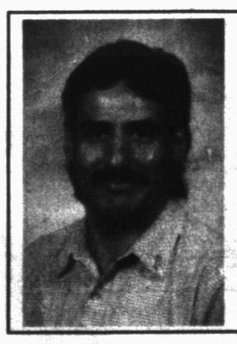
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Grammer signs up

RADNOR, Pa. (AP) — Kelsey Grammer, already signed for an 11th season of "Frasier," says he'd consider doing one more year.

That would make psychiatrist Frasier Crane the longest-running character on television, at 21 years, including the time on "Cheers."

Grammer tells TV Guide in its Feb. 8 issue that he's satisfied with his payday. At $1.6 million an episode, "I'm making enough," he says.



Lordy Lordy
Look Who's 40
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
GRANDPA!
Love
Amber, Bridget & Emily

ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER'S COURT OF SCURRY COUNTY, TEXAS APPROVING THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE FOURTH CALENDER QUARTER, 2002

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, BE IT KNOWN THAT:

THE COMMISSIONER'S COURT OF SCURRY COUNTY, TEXAS, did duly convene in REGULAR Session at its meeting place in the Courthouse in the City of Snyder At 10:00 o'clock A.M. on Monday, February 3, 2003 and, the entire membership of said court, viz., Rod Waller, Ralph Trevey, Jerry House, and Howard Limmer, Commissioner's for Precincts, 1, 2, 3, respectively, being present, the matter of the comparison and examination of the Quarterly Report of Nelda Colvin, Treasurer for Scurry County, for the period October 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002, came to the attention of said Court and the said Court compared and examined the same and inspected and counted all the actual cash, certificates of time and demand deposits, and other assets on the hands of the Treasurer belonging to the County at and as the time of such report: **NOW, THEREFORE,** the Commissioners Court finds that the Treasurer at and as of the time of her report did not have actually in her hands any money or other assets of Scurry County but the same were all on deposit in the Snyder National Bank of Snyder, Texas, the official County Depository, except the following, viz., Texpool; and that from the commencement of business at 8:00 o'clock A.M. on October 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002, the beginning and ending balance for each fund of the Treasurer of Scurry County, Texas for such quarterly period are fully and accurately reflected by the following tabulation attached hereto, incorporated herein by reference, and made a part hereof for all purposes;

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF we, the aforesaid and undersigned County Treasurer, County Judge, and each Commissioner, swear that the above and foregoing averments are complete and correct and that the requirements of Article 1636, Vernon's Annotated Civil Statues of Texas 1925, as amended, have been in all things duly complied with by the County Judge and each Commissioner aforementioned in the REGULAR Session of said Court of Scurry County.

Nelda Colvin,
County Treasurer
Rod Waller,
County Judge
Ralph W. Tevey,
Commissioner Precinct No. 1
Jerry House,
Commissioner Precinct No. 2
Howard L. Limmer,
Commissioner Precinct No. 3
Commissioner Precinct No. 4

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to by the said Nelda Colvin, Ricky Fritz, Ralph Trevey, Jerry House, and Howard Limmer before me, the undersigned Scurry County Clerk for Scurry County, Texas:

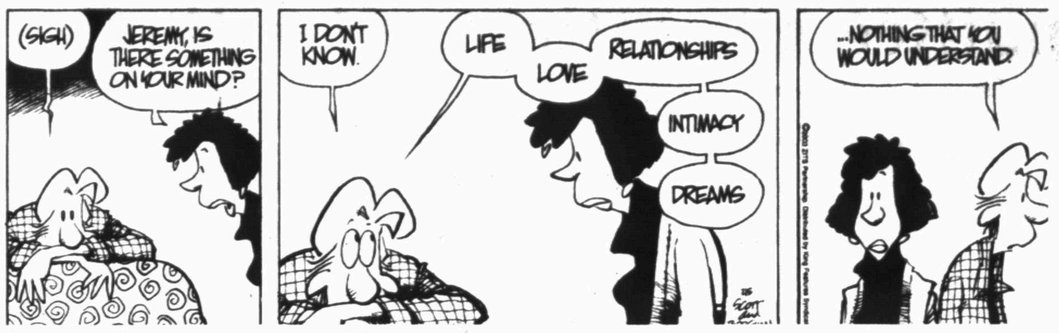
ATTEST:
(s) Joan Bunch
County Clerk of Scurry County, Texas
(SEAL)

SCURRY COUNTY TREASURER
FOURTH QUARTERLY SUMMARY

FUNDS	*CASH & INVESTMENT BALANCES DATE: 09-30-02*	*RECEIPTS*	*TRANSFERS IN*	*DISBURSEMENTS*	*TRANSFERS OUT*	*CASH & INVESTMENT BALANCES DATE: 12-31-02*
GENERAL						
Departmental				$772,826.70		
Jury				1,591.45		
Permanent Improvement				0.00		
Airport				22,704.92		
Health Unit				34,016.96		
Park & Coliseum				134,800.49		
Library				53,982.29		
TOTALS						
GENERAL FUND	$224,608.41	$3,694,731.88	$1,262,378.84	$1,019,922.80	$3,768,197.88	$383,598.45
PAYROLL CLEARING FUND	572.66	3,566.43	1,129,197.88	1,131,370.53	1,648.84	316.60
TEXPOOL FUND	7,938,032.42	34,470.73	4,136,403.80	0.00	3,664,153.50	8,446,753.15
ABANDONED VEHICLE FUND	3,566.84	77.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,643.04
SCURRY COUNTY CONST FUND	536.66	39,576.50	600,750.00	640,539.84	0.00	623.52
HEALTH UNIT FUND	1,134.43	7,524.60	0.00	1,929.47	5,730.00	999.56
JUVENILE PROBATION FEES FUND	4,912.56	449.93	0.00	1,027.47	0.00	4,335.02
LIBRARY DONATIONS FUND	3,528.96	378.91	0.00	299.84	0.00	3,607.92
COGDELL DEPRECIATION FUND	4,340.02	117,723.71	160,000.00	271,933.97	0.00	10,129.76
COGDELL REFUND FUND	246.18	530.38	32,631.84	32,891.84	0.00	616.76
COGDELL PAYROLL FUND	407.75	333.08	1,295,469.31	-1,295,662.02	0.00	548.12
COGDELL OPERATING FUND	308,042.43	4,381,777.91	460,000.00	2,481,496.16	1,927,396.88	700,928.50
D.M COGDELL HEALTHCARE	70,834.91	206,852.16	289,296.34	604,551.83	0.00	61,231.78
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	$8,561,063.22	$8,446,892.12	$9,367,126.91	$7,390,834.16	$9,367,126.91	$9,017,331.18

FEB 05 2003

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Necessities
6 Like a lot (2 wds.)
11 Type of computer
12 Suave
13 Power
14 Fruit cake ingredient
15 Baseball teams
16 "M*A*S*H" actor
17 Mock fanfare
18 Gulf st.
19 Inventor — Sikorsky
23 Postal delivery
25 Yep's opposite
26 Excavate
29 Act cranky
32 Absorbed, as costs
33 Very long time
34 Creepy
35 Impatient chuck
36 Ear cleaner
38 — — for the money
40 Petruchio's intended
41 Writing fluid
42 Equine fodder
46 Wolf tooth
48 Long-eared animal
49 Duplicity
52 Wane
53 Delphi's god
54 Feel at home
55 Campus buildings
56 Buy

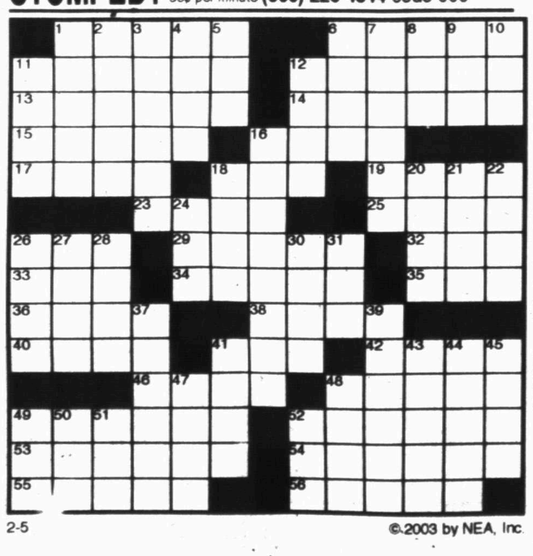
DOWN

1 Craze
2 Overturn
3 Place to fish
4 Clothing
5 Watch secretly
6 Network
7 Get hold of
8 Not close
9 Lennon's wife
10 Stimpy's cartoon pal
11 Advanced, as cash
12 Pac-10 team
16 Enticing
18 Passion
20 Kind of cheese
21 Casts a vote
22 Terrible smell
24 Mellow
26 Student's need
27 Sioux City site
28 Tiny insect
30 Luxury fur
31 Architect I.M. —
37 Happened to
39 Muss
41 Division word
43 Firebug's crime
44 Drift
45 Melody
47 Is not well
48 Electronic reminder
49 Not a dit
50 Envir. monitor
51 Mountain pass
52 FedEx units

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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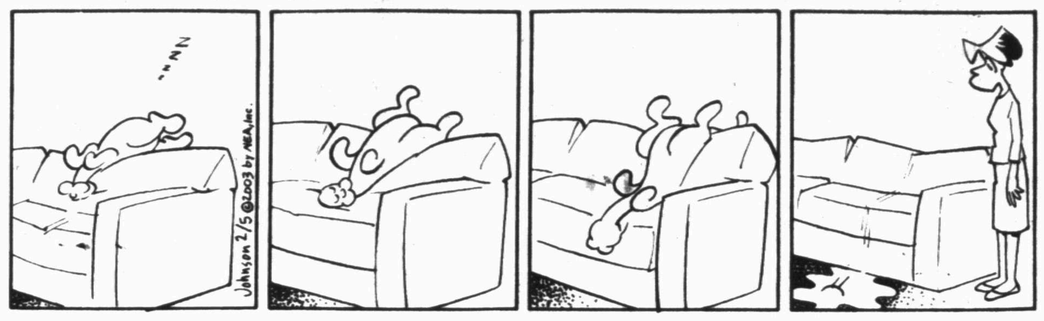


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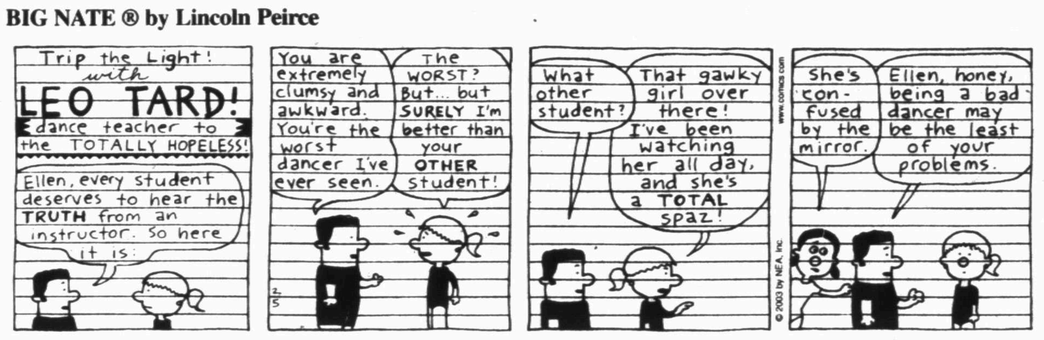
FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"That was close! We won by two votes."

Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

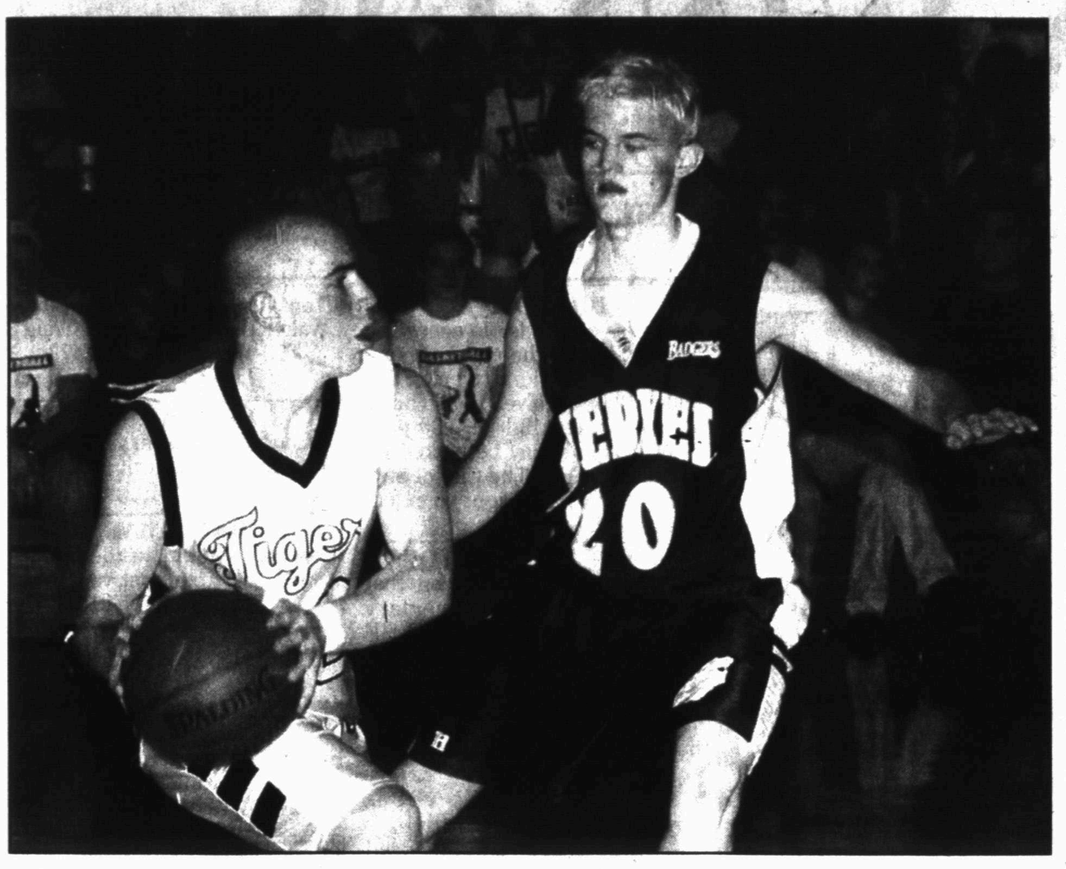


"AT LEAST THE MOSQUITOES AREN'T BITING. RIGHT, MR. WILSON?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



SPORTS



UNDER PRESSURE — Snyder Tigers point guard T.J. Jones looks for a passing lane against the smothering Merkel defense Tuesday. The Tigers rallied late, but scored just 11 points in the first half to fall to the Badgers, 59-37. The Tigers must win out to have a shot at the playoffs, while Merkel remained undefeated in district play. (SDN Staff Photo)

Badger defense smothers Tigers

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

Showing why they are undefeated in district, the Merkel Badgers harassed Snyder shooters and controlled the boards en route to a convincing, 59-37 victory Tuesday.

The Badgers (27-2, 8-0) pounced on the Tigers early, going on a 6-0 run to start the game, before heading into the second quarter with a 15-4 edge.

Things started off bad for Snyder and got worse, as the team was whistled for a backcourt violation on the initial possession.

Lee Scott hit the first basket for Snyder (12-17, 3-5) midway through the first period, as the decidedly taller Badger players gobbled the Tigers' errant shots up.

"They (Merkel) competed well — they're a good team," head coach Bud Birks said. "They have great size, good shooters and they played good zone. They have a chance to go to state."

Birks said his squad must focus on the remaining two games, and put this one behind it.

"The fact remains that if we win both games, at the very least we tie for third," he said.

Merkel used its size to clog the lane, forcing the Tigers to reroute their offense when they were not swatting away shots.

Because of the lack of penetration and inside position, Snyder shot just six free throws in the tilt.

"We need an inside threat against the zone," Birks said.

The Tigers also had a difficult time on the offensive glass, rarely getting second shots, while Merkel shot well and swarmed over any loose ball.

"The difference in the game was defense," Birks said. "When we made a good pass they recovered and guarded well."

Snyder scored 11 points in the first half, and trailed the Badgers by 18 heading into the locker room.

The Tigers' shooting warmed up after the intermission, with Colby Driggers draining four field goals — two from three-point range — and Lee Scott canned one from behind the arc, as the Tigers scored 17 in the third.

Snyder hit four free throws in the fourth quarter, but could never draw any closer than 15.

"Even when we did things right, they were everywhere," assistant coach Zack Williams said of the frenetic Merkel defense.

The Tigers travel to Denver City Friday in a must-win game for both clubs. The Mustangs (20-10, 3-5) were stopped by Seminole in overtime Tuesday, 81-76, putting them and the Tigers even in third place.

Tip off will be at 7:30 p.m.

Merkel	**15**	**15**	**14**	**15—59**
Snyder	**4**	**7**	**17**	**9—37**

Merkel — Taeff 3 5-9 11, Cobb 1 0-0 3, Garrett 2 0-1 5, Gohlke 5 2-4 13, Riggan 3 5-7 11, McElreath 1 0-0 3, Sweatman 1 1-2 4, Guenthe 0 0-2 0, Foss 3 3-5 9. **Totals 14 30-16 59.**

Snyder — McGaha 1 0-0 2, Hill 1-1-2 3, Driggers 4 0-0 10, Clifton 0 4-4 4, Villarreal 2 0-0 5, Scott 3 0-0 7, Mendoza 2 0-0 4, Early 1 0-0 2. **Totals 14 5-6 37.**

Three-point goals: Merkel 5 (Cobb, Garrett, Gohlke, McElreath, Sweatman), Snyder 4 (Driggers 2, Scott, Villarreal). Fouled out — none.

Lady Tigers end successful run

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

Looking to end the season on a positive note, the Lady Tigers accomplished it — even in defeat.

Playing with fire and enthusiasm, the Lady Tigers finished a successful season Tuesday, falling to Merkel, 49-38.

"I feel like we accomplished a lot this season," head coach Mike Martin said. "From where we started last year, we have come a long way."

The Lady Tigers (18-12, 3-7) led early in the contest, taking a 9-5 edge in the second behind five first quarter points from freshman Sequoya Powell.

Snyder held off Merkel early in the second stanza, but the Lady Tigers had trouble connecting on the few good looks they got.

Erin Burleson finally hit the first field goal in the quarter for Snyder with just over four minutes left in the half.

After a time out by Merkel (14-14, 7-3) with under a minute to play in the period, Kaycee New drilled a three to give the Lady Badgers a 16-15 edge.

Snyder would not regain the lead.

New had a game-high 19, hitting three from behind the arc and converting all four of her free throw attempts.

Merkel pulled away in the second half, taking an eight-point lead into the fourth.

A free throw by freshman Sirena Medrano pulled the Lady Tigers within six, but New responded with a three-pointer to push the lead to 11.

Martin said the team has laid a foundation for the future, playing hard all year.

The Lady Tigers opened the campaign with a 10-game winning streak, but faced stiffer competition once the district schedule started.

"We were in every game, and had a chance to win them all," he said.

Martin praised the effort of his seniors — Dara Chambers, Hailey Putnam and Zipporah Peoples — who played in their last high school game Tuesday.

"As a group, the seniors showed a lot of leadership," he said. "They are not real verbal — they lead by example. They are great kids, good role models and their parents have every right to be proud of them."

Martin said the team returns a solid nucleus of juniors returning next season, as well as Powell and Medrano, who stepped into larger roles as the season wore on.

"The freshmen came a long way," he said. "Over the last few games Sequoya has been more aggressive on both ends of the floor. Sirena did a great job playing out of position. That is a lot of pressure to put on a freshman to handle the ball so much."

Martin said the program is set for upcoming seasons, from jr. high all the way up.

"Our program is in good shape," he said. "We have a bright future ahead of us."

Ira teams finish with winning seasons

The Ira Lady Bulldogs were knocked from the postseason picture in Tuesday's season finale, coming up short against district champion Borden County, 49-41.

Ira (18-11, 6-4) led, 23-22, at the end of the first half, but were worn down by a potent Lady Coyote (25-5, 9-1) squad that heated up in the second half.

"I thought the kids did a good job," head coach Brent Parr said. "We were only down by three at the end of the third, but Borden County made all their free throws down the stretch. They are a good team and I hope they do well in the playoffs."

Celeigh Sterling and Lindsey Wilson finished their seasons they way they began, leading the Ira attack with an inside and outside one-two combination.

Wilson netted 15, and Sterling canned 13 in defeat.

Parr said his team did an outstanding job all season.

"Since the first scrimmage there has been tremendous improvement," he said. "I told them the other night it was like watching a different team. They accepted everything and they worked hard. They have a lot to be proud of."

The Bulldogs outplayed Borden County for three quarters Tuesday, but were outgunned, 12-6, in the second quarter to give the Coyotes a 41-38 triumph.

Jeff Fine led the way for the Bulldogs with 12 points, as Ira (13-12, 4-6) concluded its season with a winning record.

Borden County improved to 25-5 overall and 9-1 in district.

Cardinal coach positive about future of basketball program

Although their season ended with a loss to Highland, the Hermleigh Cardinals did some things in the finale to cause head coach Don Jones to feel positive about next season.

Jumping out to a 10-7 lead after the first period, Hermleigh got its first lead of the year, as the Cards' learning curve has risen sharply over the last several weeks.

"The last few games there has been a great deal of progress," he said. "The confidence has improved and that's what we need — just to relax and play."

Hermleigh was outgunned, 29-11, over the second and third periods, as Jones said the team began to press too much when some high percentage shots did not fall.

Terrel Culp ended his high school playing days by leading the Cards with nine points.

Robby Anderson posted eight, as all five Hermleigh starters scored.

Justin Williams notched six points, while twin brother Dustin canned five.

Jonathon McClure tallied three.

Jones said next year should see a marked improvement in the team.

"With the progress of the last two weeks, it will be a whole lot brighter here next year," he said.

Eighth graders split pair

The eighth-grade boys split a pair of games against Sweetwater Monday, with the Black squad claiming a 36-25 win to improve to 6-3.

Cody Reed was the high scorer in the tilt, draining 10points.

Stetson Kincheole added eight, while Michael Mann, Brandon Robbins and Wesley Price canned four each.

Michael Martinez, Lucas Munoz and Kyle Sanchez knocked in two points each for the team, which will play Thursday and Saturday in the Snyder tournament at the jr. high gym.

The Gold team was upended by Sweetwater, 44-40.

Ryan Mitchell paced both teams with 15 points. Donald Jeffery notched seven and Jamie Arnold canned six in the loss.

The team will compete in the Lamesa tourney Thursday and Saturday.

Franks gets victory over Lubbock Christian, 11-3

LUBBOCK — The Western Texas College Westerners garnered their first victory of the season Tuesday, thumping Lubbock Christian 11-3 in a nine-inning contest.

Snyder native Shay Franks allowed three hits and two runs over 5 2/3 innings to record the win.

He struck out five.

Tyrrell Henry reached base five times, going two-for-two with two runs scored.

Henry put the Westerners in the lead with an RBI double.

He was twice hit by a pitch, and walked twice.

The WTC nine will head to Weatherford Friday and Saturday to challenge Weatherford Junior College.

They will play a nine-inning tilt Friday at 2 p.m., followed by a twinbill on Saturday, with the first pitch coming at 1 p.m.

Sports Briefs

Baseball booster club

The baseball booster club will meet today in the film room at 7: 30 p.m.

Little League accepting applications

Snyder Little League will be accepting applications for manager and coach positions for the eight-and nine-year-old major and minor leagues.

Applications may be picked up at Farmers Insurance at 2517, and must be turned in no later than Feb. 10.

WTC basketball tournament

The Western Texas College Student Government Association will host an Outsiders Basketball Tournament Feb. 28 and March 1 at the WTC Gym. The entry fee is $100 per team, and there is a limit of 10 players per team. The deadline to sign up is Feb. 26. For more information or to sign up, call Kendra at 573-8511 ext. 674 or Casey at573-8511 ext. 509.

Area Sports Calendar

THURSDAY

Basketball:	Jr. High Gold at Lamesa tourney. Jr. High Black at Snyder tourney, jr. high gym.
Softball:	Snyder JV at Cooper, Abilene, scrimmage. Snyder varsity at Wylie, Abilene, scrimmage.

FRIDAY

Basketball:	Snyder varsity boys at Denver City, 7:30 p.m. Snyder frosh at Denver City, 6 p.m.
Baseball:	WTC at Weatherford JC, 2 p.m. Snyder vs. Ft. Stockton, scrimmage, 4 p.m.
Golf:	Snyder varsity boys at Horseshoe Bay. Snyder JV boys and girls at Big Spring.

SATURDAY

Baseball:	WTC at Weatherford JC, double header, 1 p.m. Snyder varsity at Lubbock High, scrimmage.
Softball:	WTC vs. Western Oklahoma, 2 p.m. Snyder varsity and JV at Odessa Permian.
Basketball:	Snyder jr. high Gold at Lamesa tourney. Jr. high Black at Snyder tourney, jr. high gym.
Powerlifting:	Snyder at Levelland, 9 a.m.
Tennis:	Snyder at Levelland quad meet, 9 a.m.
Golf:	Snyder varsity boys at Horseshoe Bay. Snyder Jv boys and girls at Big Spring.

Little Dribblers

Major

Raptors 35, Timberwolves 24
Raptors: Bubba Perales 22, Kenyon Gafford 8, Johnathon Kerr 3, Emmanual Hernandez 2. **Timberwolves:** Jared Cave 10, Dominic 8, Kasey Young 4, Will Stewart 2.

Blue Devils 32, Rockets 31
Blue Devils: Riley Davis 15, Jake Crenweige 12, Tanner Bragg 2, Eric Trammell 2. **Rockets:** Brandon Ramirez 12, Matthew Rios 4, Nathan Rose 4, Ryan Anderson 2, Jordan Gafford 1.

Magic 25, Celtics 14
Magic: Gabriel Acosta 8, Rey Juarez 6, Seth Sanchez 4, Clint McFatridge 4, Jake Lionbarger 2. **Celtics:** Kaden Seale 6, Taylor Davidson 4, Garrett Hale 2, Tye Holley 2.

Mavericks 21, Magic 17
Mavericks: Gage West 8, Lashondrick Richardson 7, Alex Hernandez 4, Gregory Williams 2. **Magic:** Rey Juarez 12, Gabriel Acosta 3, Clint McFatridge 2.

Blue Devils 28, Celtics 14
Blue Devils: Riley Davis 12, Jake Crenweige 12, Eric Trammell 4. **Celtics:** Tye Holley 10, Garrett Hale 2, Jacob Kemp 2.

Timberwolves 43, Rockets 32
Timberwolves: Jared Cave 25, Kasey Young 9, Dominic Cabrera 6, Will Stewart 3. **Rockets:** Jordan Gafford 11, Brandon Ramirez 10, Matthew Rios 6, Colby Barrera 2, Quintin Bass 2, Ryan Anderson 1.

Minor

Bulls 31, Lakers 18
Bulls: Anthony Taylor 22, Jordan Rodriguez 5, Lance Morris 4. **Lakers:** Jordan Peoples 9, Kolton Cox 6, Robbie Rinehart 3.

Trailblazers 29, Knicks 17
Trailblazers: Dakota Carroll 21, Seth Cotton 6, Roman Romero 2. **Knicks:** Kelton Garcia 12, Brandon Davis 2, Logan Tabor.

Bulls 38, Knicks 24
Bulls: Anthony Taylor 30, Kyler Billingsly 4, Jordan Rodriguez 4. **Knicks:** Kelton Garcia 16, Chance Young 7, Brandon Davis 1.

Nuggets 31, Wolfpack 28
Nuggets: Shade Roemisch 26, Tyson Sullenger 4, Steven Juarez 1. **Wolfpack:** Kylor Fine 20, Alex Alcala 5, Justin Gonzales 3.

Trailblazers 28, Lakers 19
Trailblazers: Dakota Carroll 14, Seth Cotton 6, Roman Romero 4, Dillon West 4. **Lakers:** Kolton Cox 9, Robbie Rinehart 4, Matthew Gomez 2, Troy Henry 2, Jordan Peoples 2.

Pistons 47, Bulls 37
Pistons: Keenon Ward 18, Garrett Snyder 13, Will Toombs 8, Wesley Anderson 4, Hunter Cox 4. **Bulls:** Anthony Taylor 33, Kyler Billingsly 2, Jordan Rodriguez 2.

Lakers 24, Kings 14
Lakers: Robbie Rinehart 12, Kolton Cox 6, Jordan Peoples 4, Dillon Clifton 2. **Kings:** Eric Morin 8, Adam Moncibais 6.

Kings 21, Grizzlies 8
Kings: Eric Morin 7, Adam Moncibais 6, Chase Price 4, Brandon Medrano 2, Reid Pinson 1, Dillon Randolph 1. **Grizzlies:** Brennon Rhodes 4, Jonny Mendoza 2, Noel Villa 2.

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Legal Notice

BID NOTICE
The City of Snyder is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of a 2003 complete dump truck. The bids will be received until Thursday, February 13th at 3:30 p.m. Specifications may be picked up at the City Hall. The City of Snyder reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JERRY WAYNE SORRELLS, Deceased, were issued on January 28, 2003, in Cause No. 5767, pending in the County Court of Scurry County, Texas, to: Mary Lloyd Sorrells.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: **Mark Hargrove**
Attorney at Law
2701 College Avenue
P.O. Box 194
Snyder, Texas 79549

DATED the 28th day of January, 2003.

(s) Mark Hargrove
Attorney for Estate
State Bar No: 00793900
2701 College Avenue
P.O. Box 194
Snyder, Texas 79549
Telephone: 915-573-3277
Facsimile: 915-573-5263

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Employment

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Best Home Care in Big Spring is seeking RN for supervision of branch office to be located in Snyder. Please fax resume to 915-268-9924, or call 800-750-3851 to schedule an interview.

Full-time parts person needed Mon.–Fri., 7a.m.–5p.m.?? Some mechanical knowledge preferred. Serious inquires only. Apply in person at 84 Truck & Trailer.

Help needed at Burnett Safety Services. Start off salary possible. Apply in person at 307 N. College.

Moore Controls looking for industrial electricians, journeymen and apprentices - Kinder Morgan. Call 574-2930.

Now hiring part-time help, CASHIER/COLLECTOR. Applications will be taken thru February 14, 2003. Starting pay $7.50/hr. Apply in person at 511 Coliseum Drive, Snyder.

Secretary/Bookkeeper
Approx. 20 hours per week. Apply at **Bowlin Automotive**.

Taking applications for housekeeping. Apply in person at Days Inn, 800 E. Coliseum Dr.

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Both 2-1, $300/mo., $100/dep. each. Call Julie 573-6193.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Female hormones do not help men

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm a 60-year-old man who wishes to get more in touch with my feminine side. Therefore, I'm considering taking Premarin (female hormone) to stir up any female hormones that I have. What effects can I expect from this?

DEAR READER: Before answering your specific question, let me address the basic issue. We're all stuck, to one degree or another, with stereotypes. We are taught from an early age that men "should" exhibit strength, stoicism, independence, self-reliance and other subjective characteristics. These also include (if you subscribe to this theory and watch sit-coms on TV) an intense interest in sports games broadcast on television, relative insensitivity, unremitting preoccupation with sex, sloppiness and other negative attributes.

On the other hand, women hold the rights for caring, gentleness, sensitivity, supportiveness, clear thinking (which is traditionally goal-directed), cleanliness, nurturing, a "look-but-don't-touch" mentality and other supposedly positive attitudes.

In our 21st century culture, this is pure crap.

Men can be sensitive, passive and caring; women can be aggressive, dominant and power-hungry. These qualities are not governed simply by gender or hormone levels. Your actions, as a man who wishes to enhance his feminine side, will speak volumes if you choose to break the male stereotype. Many of today's men have committed to being more human (read that as sensitive, loving and supportive). As you're probably aware, some women relish developing unattractive and traditional male characteristics, especially in the business community.

If you were to take female hormones — a serious error, in my judgment — you would experience predictable physical (and possibly, mental) consequences, including loss of libido (sex drive), weight gain, reduction in body hair and breast development, to mention a few.

I encourage you to express your healthful feminine side without resorting to drug therapy. In my view, you'll be a better man if you adopt certain attributes and a positive attitude.

Premarin will not "stir up" your female hormones; it will essentially override any male hormones. Remember that men normally produce low levels of estrogen from the adrenal glands (and women produce low levels of testosterone from the same glands), so there is an overlap that may become desynchronized as we age.

You don't need estrogen supplements unless you have chosen to change your gender-orientation altogether. But that is a complex issue that I don't choose to address this week.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My mother-in-law insists that the caffeine in coffee completely destroys the B complex vitamins if taken with them. I enjoy a cup of coffee in the morning and take my multivitamin capsules then. Am I rendering them useless?

DEAR READER: I am not aware that caffeine interferes with B vitamins, so you can continue your morning coffee. However, if your mother-in-law makes an issue out of this, you can easily satisfy her by taking your vitamin capsule with dinner or at bedtime.

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

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Tax cuts may mean new fees

WASHINGTON (AP) — To pay for some of his proposed tax cuts, President Bush wants to raise more than $2 billion by charging new or larger fees on everything from stockyard, kennel and poultry plant inspections to military veterans' health care and Medicare claims processing.

Big-ticket items include a new $250 annual enrollment fee for higher-income veterans seeking low-priority medical treatment at overcrowded Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals, raising the current $100 fee for processing visa applications and charging health care providers when Medicare claims are in error.

The White House anticipates raising $271 million next year from the visa fees, $230 million from new VA deductible and $195 million from Medicare providers who file claims improperly.

Other items include charging taxpayers for written responses to their questions as well as new fees kennels and humane societies would pay for animal welfare inspections, and food processors would pay anytime government inspectors had to work overtime.

The Bush administration expects to raise a total of $176.3 billion next year through user fees, about $6 billion more than the $170.4 billion now raised. Many of the charges date back to the birth of the nation, such as the $693 million in customs fees and the $70 billion the Postal Service will collect next year in mail charges.

Newer is the $2.5 billion in surcharges charged airline passengers — as much as $20 for round-trip tickets — to pay for increased security at airports and along borders after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Bush's budget proposal describes such non-tax payments it collects as user charges rather than fees, saying the terminology better reflects what the government collects for market-oriented activities and businesses it regulates.

The approach is not new. Some agencies such as the Federal Communications Commission pay for most of their budgets from fees. In the FCC's case, those come from license renewals and fees charged broadcasters or telephone companies.

Jeff Stein, a senior policy analyst for Taxpayers for Common Sense, a government watchdog group, said user charges can be good or bad depending on how much choice is involved.

"The benefit of user fees is that it more efficiently allocates resources. It gives the payers of the fee a choice as to whether they want to pay if there are alternatives to a particular program," Stein said.

"When you start imposing user fees on people and they don't have alternatives, it becomes more of a tax," he said. "Which would be ironic, given all the tax cuts in the rest of the budget."

Today's chuckle

$41 Kobe beef hamburger very popular

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — A $41 Kobe beef hamburger at the Old Homestead Steak House in New York City has done wonders for Idaho-based Snake River Farms and other producers.



Snake River Farms and other Kobe producers have been raising Japanese Wagyu cattle in the United States for a decade. The breed provides what the Boise company labels "butter knife beef."

While most people associate the meat with Japan, it is more likely to come from Idaho cattle. Producers are still struggling to put it on menus in the Boise area.

Old Homestead put a $41 hamburger on its menu, creating a media stir. Snake River provided the burger.

"The $41 hamburger really jolted our business. The phone has been ringing off the hook," said Jay Theiler, marketing director of Snake River Farms. "We had no idea it would get this crazy. We thought: Who would be silly enough to pay $41 for a burger?"

But many did.

In one day alone, the New York restaurant said, it sold more than 200 of the 20-ounce gourmet burgers to customers including "Sopranos" star James Gandolfini and New York Mets star Mike Piazza.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	2.90	2.75	2.89	+ .02
AOL TimeWrn	11.18	10.72	10.86	—.21
AT&T Corp rs	18.98	18.58	18.78	+ .21
Albertsons	21.01	20.54	20.77	—.15
Alltel	46.46	45.56	46.05	+ .09
AmEl Pw	23.26	22.85	22.94	—.19
AndarkPtr	45.86	45.05	45.21	—.35
ATMOS Egy	22.46	22.14	22.30	+ .04
Aviall	8.43	8.16	8.19	+ .03
BP PLC	39.22	38.75	38.93	+ .09
BakerHughes	31.92	31.51	31.74	+ .47
Bank of Amer	69.36	68.27	69.24	+ .60
BellSouth	24.40	23.75	24.15	+ .15
BurlNoSFe	26.19	25.77	26.19	+ .33
Caterpillar	44.40	43.64	44.20	+ .46
CenterPoint	7.14	6.98	7.04	—.06
ChevronTex	65.95	65.35	65.69	+ .22
Citigroup	34.45	33.69	34.30	+ .66
CocaCola	40.61	40.01	40.29	—.04
ColgatePal	52.12	51.45	51.57	—.62
CmclMetals s	15.24	15.11	15.23	+ .19
ConocoPhill	50.45	49.72	50.11	+ .06
Cooper Inds	38.22	37.09	38.21	+ 1.01
DaimlrChry	31.65	30.85	31.29	+ .68
DeltaAirl	9.45	9.16	9.32	+ .09
Dillards Inc	15.24	14.85	14.98	+ .04
DowChem	29.14	28.57	29.09	+ .47
DuPont	37.98	37.50	37.81	+ .21
EastmanChem	34.41	33.76	34.04	+ .09
EstKodak	31.75	31.31	31.64	+ .49
EDS Corp	16.69	16.25	16.40	—.10
Entergy	46.01	45.73	45.80	—.20
ExxonMobil	35.10	34.15	34.50	—.13
FootLocker	10.48	10.30	10.38	+ .02
GenDynam	66.80	65.92	66.66	+ .58
GenlElec	23.35	22.100	23.23	+ .18
GenMills	44.83	44.44	44.67	+ .13
GenMotors	36.88	36.25	36.81	+ .69
GaPacific	16.35	15.84	15.99	+ .02
Goodrich	17.65	17.38	17.59	+ .10
Goodyear	4.30	3.71	3.74	—.56
GtAtlPac	5.18	5.05	5.06	—.12
Halliburtn	19.37	19.11	19.20	+ .05
Hanson ADS	22.65	22.04	22.65	+ .65
HarteHanks s	18.23	18.00	18.15	+ .12
HomeDepot	21.35	20.75	21.14	+ .03
Honeywellntl	24.69	24.25	24.58	+ .53
IBM	78.45	77.19	78.35	+ 1.26
IntlPaper	36.70	36.05	36.56	+ .65
JohnsonJn	53.20	52.36	52.90	+ .14
KinderMorg	46.64	45.75	46.59	+ .31
Kroger Co	14.82	14.40	14.57	—.11
LockheedM	51.99	50.70	51.14	—.13
Lowes Cos	35.06	34.60	35.01	+ .22
Lubys	1.59	1.53	1.54	+ .04
LucentTech	1.72	1.61	1.67	+ .02
MarathonOil	22.19	21.77	21.98	+ .14
MayDeptStr	20.35	19.94	20.17	+ .06
Medtronic	43.98	43.44	43.93	+ .83
Motorola	7.97	7.75	7.82	—.09
NCR Corp	19.20	18.74	18.96	+ .29
Navistar	25.79	25.34	25.52	+ .25
PNM Rescs	21.50	21.26	21.31	—.03
Penney JC	19.55	19.18	19.42	+ .06
PepBoys	10.41	10.09	10.35	+ .11
PepsiCo	41.80	41.07	41.57	+ .37
Pharmacia	41.13	40.51	41.05	+ .17
PhelpDodge	35.60	35.24	35.60	+ .60
PilgrmPrd B	7.46	7.40	7.44	—.12
Praxair	55.07	54.04	54.86	+ .83
ProctGamb	86.24	84.97	85.50	—.41
RadioShack	20.43	20.21	20.31	+ .32
RoyalDut	41.95	41.37	41.76	—.02
SBC Comm	26.20	25.40	25.79	+ .17
SaraLee	21.00	20.64	20.75	—.06
Scripps EW	80.10	79.55	80.05	+ .47
SearsRoeb	26.19	25.40	25.59	—.19
SherwinW	27.45	27.12	27.25	+ .05
SouthernCo	28.69	28.30	28.42	—.03
SwstAirl	13.01	12.76	12.92	+ .09
SprintFON	13.32	11.75	13.03	+ .67
SprintPCS	4.10	3.40	4.01	+ .32
Sunoco Inc	33.71	33.25	33.64	+ .64
TXU Corp	18.56	17.76	17.91	—.65
TempleInland	44.92	43.99	44.72	+ .86
TexInd	22.50	22.09	22.43	+ .04
TexasInst	16.00	15.46	15.90	+ .41
Textron	39.14	38.52	38.94	+ .20
TrinityInds	17.46	17.14	17.40	+ .20
TylerTech	4.10	3.95	4.06	+ .26
UnionPacif	57.12	56.39	57.00	+ .61
USSteel	13.13	13.00	13.06	+ .01
UnitedTech	65.29	64.54	64.89	+ .47
Unocal	28.17	27.87	28.02	+ .06
VerizonComm	39.34	38.50	38.99	+ .34
WalMart	47.65	46.84	47.30	+ .15
WellsFargo	46.92	46.15	46.67	—.06
WstnGasRs	34.80	34.33	34.52	—.08
WinnDixie	13.22	12.90	12.90	—.23
Xerox Cp	9.00	8.81	8.91	+ .14
YumBrands s	23.40	22.78	22.98	—.19

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FEB 05 2003

Scurry County Country

Diversified

By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

Nandinas Are Excellent Landscape Plants

Nandina has been an important landscape plant material in the South for many years. Sometimes known as heavenly bamboo, nandina is known for its ease of culture, attractive red berries and fine textured foliage. A white fruiting nandina is described in Hortus Third but is rarely available in the nursery trade.

Cold damage is extremely rare to established plantings and drought tolerance is as good as that of many native plants. Few diseases or insects attack nandinas which can live for many years even when unattended.

Nandinas are members of the family Berberidaceae and are native evergreens of India and Eastern Asia. Propagation is usually by seed for the common nandina, but the new dwarf cultivars, such as 'nana' and 'Harbor Dwarf', are grown from cuttings or tissue culture since they rarely set seed.

In addition to the fine textured foliage and attractive fruit, nandina foliage often turns a bright red purple during the cold season. The dwarf forms such as 'Harbor Dwarf' or 'Gulf Stream' and 'Royal Princess' are excellent as ground cover plants, since they spread slowly by stolons and eventually form a mass if spaced from 2 to 3 feet apart. Another good use of nandinas is a specimen plants, either in the ground or in containers. They thrive in full sun but also do well in partially shaded areas.

Maximum height of Nandina domestica is 7 to 8 feet although in central and West Texas 4 to 5 feet would be more typical. 'Harbor Dwarf' grows to about 18 inches as does 'nana.' There is also a compact form ('compacta') which is intermediate in size between the dwarf and larger forms. 'Nana purpurea' is a low growing, highly colored form, which is often more delicate than standard nandinas.

Nandinas are of easy culture, with a wide tolerance to varying soil and moisture conditions. They perform best in well-drained soils and require little added fertility.

Availability of nandinas is good although the dwarf forms are much in demand and relatively expensive. Nandinas are a good choice for low-maintenance landscapes, and are adapted to all areas of Texas.

Hawaii cruise cut short because of illness

HONOLULU (AP) — An outbreak of viral infections similar to those that hit cruise ships in the Caribbean and Alaska cut short a Hawaiian cruise Tuesday after nearly 300 passengers and crew members became sick.

Ten days into the 15-day voyage from Los Angeles to four Hawaiian islands, Princess Cruises diverted the Sun Princess to Honolulu so nearly 2,000 passengers could take flights home.

About 100 passengers, about half of whom were sick, stayed with the ship as it left Tuesday for Los Angeles, Princess Cruises spokesman Tom Dow said. He noted that the cruise appeals to some people who are wary of air travel.

Most people who contracted the Norwalk or Norwalk-like virus recovered before the end of the voyage, cruise officials said.

Scurrying Around Snyder

Beth Danneheim, CEA—Family and Consumer Sciences, 2605 Avenue M, Snyder, Texas 79549

YOU CAN'T SERVE FROM AN EMPTY PLATE. SO, FEAST!

When the flight attendant reviews safety procedures as the plane takes off, you're shown how to use the oxygen mask. If you're traveling with someone who needs help, you're told to put on your mask before assisting the other person.

Likewise, you're advised to put on your own life jacket before trying to help someone else. It's easier to help another person if you're not struggling to keep yourself afloat.

If you're mountain climbing, you're better able to rescue a fellow climber when your own gear is working properly.

The examples go on and on. The message is clear: You're better able to help others if you take time to care for yourself.

Say "Yes" to Yourself

If you've spent a lifetime saying "yes" to the needs of others before you address you own, it can be hard to say "yes" to yourself. But, it's important – if you care about others – that you care for yourself, as well. Here are three powerful reasons why:

1. The Golden Goose is Only Good Alive

Many of us are familiar with the fairy tale of the goose who laid golden eggs. Under the owner's care, the goose produced her rich bounty every day. Things went well until the owner wanted all the riches at once. He killed the goose only to discover there were no eggs inside. In failing to understand how the goose served best, he destroyed the source of his wealth.

We often make the same mistake that the goose's owner made. Trying to be everything at once – all things to all people all the time – actually can limit our ability to serve others. Daily caring for ourselves enables us to continually help others!

2. Actions Speak Louder Than Words

Dr. Christiane Northrup cites her mother, an avid hiker throughout her life, as a role model. Her mother's motto? Don't lighten your pack, strengthen your back!

To encourage a healthy lifestyle in others, live one yourself. Which motivates more: A mother's words, or the sight of her hiking up a hill?

3. Sometimes We Must Say "No" to Say "Yes"

Every time we say "yes" to one thing, we're saying "no" to another. Stephen Covey in his book "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" tells how the "enemy of the 'best' is often the 'good'."

If we say "yes" to hours of volunteer time at meetings where little is accomplished, have we said "no" to spending important time with a friend or family member?

Remember: When people name important influences in their lives, they cite the teacher, not the textbook!

Plan a F-E-A-S-T for Yourself!

So, what ARE some ways to care for yourself? Since you can't serve others if your plate is empty, plan to have a

F-E-A-S-T. Encourage others to sit at your table. Here's how it works:

F = Food

Treat yourself – and others – at least as well as you do your car. Don't attempt to function on an empty tank... make time for regular, balance meals. Ask yourself: If I were an automobile, what type of mileage would I get from the foods I put in my tank?

While drive-by dashboard dining may be a necessity at times, continue to fit in sit-down meals with friends and family. The meal table should be more than a feeding trough. Dr. Rachel Remen in "Kitchen Table Wisdom" speaks of the importance of taking time to listen to each other as people do around the kitchen table. Sustain body and soul by sharing food and fellowship while eating together.

E = Emotional Well-Being

Perhaps you've read interviews with people who are over 100 and still healthy. Many credit diet, some don't. Most keep active. Many don't smoke, but some do. Some avoid alcohol, some drink daily. There are differing factors, but – you've probably NEVER heard ANYONE say they kept healthy by worrying and stewing and fussing and fretting! We need to keep that in mind.

A = Activity

If food keeps the engine going, activity keeps the body strong so we don't break down by the side of the road.

Think "active lifestyle" as you F-E-A-S-T through the week:

* Can you take the stairs (OK, maybe just take them walking DOWN, for starters!) instead of the elevator?

* Can you make it easier to walk briskly in the airport between planes by using a backpack rather than a suitcase as your carry-on luggage? (An added bonus: A backpack is easier to stuff under a seat! For added comfort, but a backpack with a padded back and shoulder straps.)

* Are there places within one to two miles from your home that you can walk to, rather than drive, to accomplish your errands? (Drugstore, grocery store, card shop, book store, post office, restaurant, movie theater, etc.)

S = Social Relations

Peoples who have meaningful, mutually supportive relationships with others tend to lead healthier, happier lives. Dr. Dean Ornish, author of "Love and Survival," notes people who feel lonely and isolated have a higher risk of premature death from various diseases.

How do you develop these positive relations with others? Here's a tale to start you thinking.

The story is told of two people moving to a new city. They each asked the same resident what the townspeople were like. In turn, the resident asked the first newcomer what the people were like in her former town. The first newcomer replied with such comments as: "mean," "selfish," "lazy" and "not friendly."

"Well, that's what you'll find the people are like here," the resident replied.

The resident then asked the second newcomer about the people in her former town. She described them as "friendly," "helpful," "caring" and "hard workers."

Again, the resident replied: "That's what you'll find the people are like here."

T = Time to Sleep

One in four adults has insomnia, according to the World Health Organization. Chronic insomnia can contribute to depression. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that more than 100,000 crashes occur yearly because drivers fell asleep at the wheel. Sleeping well is not only nice, it is a necessity.

Throughout history, getting a good night's rest has been considered a powerful tonic for promoting well being. As Lord Chesterfield (1694-1773) said: "A light supper, a good night's sleep and a fine morning have often made a hero out of the same man, who, by indigestion, a restless night and a rainy morning would have proved a coward."

Many a problem may go away if you just sleep on it!

F-E-A-S-T Frequently

By serving yourself generous portions of healthy behaviors, you'll be able to serve others as well! And when those you care about see your F-E-A-S-T, they may want to prepare one, too.

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Snyder Daily News
3600 College Ave. 573-5486

Markets

Colorado City

The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 780 head of cattle for the Wednesday, Jan. 29, sale. Market was active and demand good. Feeder and stocker calves were steady. Yearlings were steady. Bred cows and pairs were steady on light test. Packer cows and bulls were $1 to $3 higher.

Feeder steers:
200-300: 100-111
300-400: 92-107
400-500: 87.50-103
500-600: 80.50-96
600-750: 74-82
Feeder heifers:
200-300: 90-101
300-400: 80-96
400-500: 81.50-90
500-600: 76-83
600-700: 70-80.50
Replacement cows:
Bred cows: 550-675
Pairs: 650-710
Packer cows: 38-44.50
Packer bulls: 48-55.25

Lubbock

The Lubbock Stockyards, Inc. had a run of 584 head of cattle for the Thursday, Jan. 23, sale. Cows were steady. Calves and yearlings were $1 to $2 higher. Trading and demand were good.

Slaughter cows
(High dressing — cutters — utilities: 36-44
Canner and low cutters: 30-36
Slaughter bulls: 46-54
Feeder steers — choice:
300-400: 100-107
400-500: 90-107
500-600: 85-95
600-700: 80-87
700-800: 75-84
Feeder heifers:
300-400: 90-105
400-500: 85-95
500-600: 75-85
600-700: 72-82
700-800: 70-80
Feeder Bulls — good and choice:
500-600: 75-91
700-800: 68-77.50
Cow and calf pairs:
Good: 650-900
Grade: 525-650
Springers: 400-700
Baby calves: 150-225
Doodlers: 175-250

Crop Report

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas farmers are preparing land for the upcoming spring planting season, while cotton farmers are enthusiastic after a record-setting harvest, Texas Cooperative Extension reports.

A record 533 pounds per acre was produced on 4.5 million harvested acres, yielding 5 million bales of upland cotton, said Dr. Carl Anderson, extension economist in College Station.

"The previous record of 524 pounds was set in 1998," Anderson said.

Last year, upland cotton production was 4.26 million bales on 4.25 million harvested acres and a yield of 481 pounds, he said.

In 2002, 5.6 million acres were planted, but 1.1 million acres were lost mostly to drought, Anderson said.

The southern High Plains had a 52 percent increase in harvested acreage, the largest increase in the state, he said.

"This region harvested 481,000 acres, and production is estimated to total 2.18 million bales," Anderson said. "Average yields of 489 pounds per acre are 75 pounds per acre more than last year."

"The northern High Plains harvest, estimated at 1.02 million bales, is 6 percent less than last year, Anderson said. In the Low Plains, production is estimated at 595,000 bales, 188,000 bales more than the year earlier.

The Blacklands region reduced harvested acreage to 50,000 acres from the previous year's 81,000 acres, he said. This drop in cotton acreage results from low yields on marginally productive land, the persistent cost-price squeeze, and large capital requirements for growing cotton, part-time producers who opt to raise livestock or produce grain, and urban sprawl, Anderson said.

As defined by the USDA cotton classing offices, cotton quality in Texas this year is running close to 3.38/32nd of an inch staple, the same as last year, Anderson said. The mike and strength is averaging 4.4 mike and 29 grams per tex strength, which is slightly higher than last year.

Texas cotton quality was mixed, Anderson said. It was about average compared to recent years, even though the quality of a large part of the crop turned slightly gray and included above average leaf trash because of rain during harvest.

Cotton prices have improved substantially since last year, but the price still falls far short of production costs, he said. Presently, farmers are receiving about 42 cents per pound compared to 28 cents a year ago.

PANHANDLE: soil moisture short to surplus. Land preparation for spring planting is making good progress. Wheat is rated fair to excellent. Few greenbugs and bird cherry-oat aphids have been reported. Weed problems are becoming more obvious. Rangelands are in fair condition. Cattle conditions are fair to good; supplemental feeding continues.

SOUTH PLAINS: soil moisture is short to adequate. Major field activities include deep breaking of land where subsoil moisture was plentiful, application of pre-plant herbicides and fertilizer, and irrigation applications on wheat. The changes in the weather are causing increased sickness and death loss percentages among stocker cattle.

ROLLING PLAINS: soil moisture is short to adequate. Wheat has made some progress; some farmers will be top dressing their wheat fields over the next couple of weeks. Range and pasture conditions remain fair. Livestock body conditions are good; supplemental feeding continues. Hay supplies are good. Stocker cattle continue to make good gains on wheat pastures.

FAR WEST TEXAS: soil moisture is short. Range conditions continue to deteriorate. Cool season weeds have slowed their growth. Supplemental feeding continues to remaining livestock. Cotton and pecan harvests are complete. Sorghum and winter wheat are doing well.

WEST CENTRAL TEXAS: soil moisture is short. Wheat crops are showing moisture stress in many fields; green bug infestations continue to cause damage and spraying continues.

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Authorities crack down on shuttle looting

HEMPHILL (AP) — Recovery teams sent in a helicopter today to hoist a crucial piece of space shuttle Columbia wreckage from an east Texas forest as authorities cracked down on looting.

NASA also sent a team to California to inspect material that might be part of one of Columbia's wings. Possible debris found far west of Texas, where Columbia was seen breaking up, could shed light on the earliest stages of the disaster that killed the shuttle's seven astronauts, officials said.

Shuttle fragments and body parts continued to turn up in Texas and Louisiana, and after days of warning people to stay away from debris, law enforcement officials said they were taking action against looters.

Unoccupied vehicles collide

Accidents

Snyder officers filed a two-vehicle minor accident report Tuesday afternoon, but with a twist. Both vehicles involved in the mishap lacked one thing — a driver.

At 3:42 p.m., a 1998 Ford Windstar owned by Doylene Gilliland of 603 N. Ave. T was parked and unoccupied on 25th Street near Higginbotham-Bartlett when it was struck by an unoccupied 2002 Ford Mustang owned by Jessica Bradshaw of 595 S. CR 221.

The offense report filed by police said Bradshaw failed to set her vehicle's parking brake and the car rolled across the street, striking Gillaland's van. There were no injuries.

Close patrol

A man in the 2200 block of Ave. Z requested a close patrol of the area Tuesday night. He also reported someone getting into his vehicle, but advised nothing was missing.

Gas drive off

A clerk at United Fuel reported a gas drive off worth $15.06 at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

South Texas to get Toyota truck plant

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Toyota Motor Corp. has selected San Antonio for its sixth vehicle assembly plant in North America, a decision that promises to boost the economic prospects of a city hurt in recent years by the loss of thousands of military jobs.

The board of directors at Toyota, the world's No. 2 automaker, voted today in Tokyo in favor of San Antonio over other communities vying for the plant, which will build 150,000 of the company's light Tundra pickup truck starting in 2006.

The $800 million plant is expected to employ as many as 2,000 people, and carry an annual payroll of nearly $80 million. Construction work on a large, rural parcel on the city's southwest side could start by summer, officials said.

Gov. Rick Perry was to be joined by Toyota officials to make a formal announcement today in San Antonio.

The plant jobs will be among the most lucrative in what is generally a low-wage city. Toyota pays workers at its North American plants upward of $20 per hour.

Toyota said last September it hoped to add a production plant in North America near Mexico, where it is already building another plant set to begin production as early as 2005.

San Antonio officials, whose public tone was guarded while Toyota pondered its choice, were jubilant after hearing the news.

"This is a great day for San Antonio and for the state of Texas," Mayor Ed Garza said late Tuesday. "Our economy will never be the same. We're talking about manufacturing becoming one of our largest industries overnight."

The city is the nation's ninth largest, but its history has never included much manufacturing. The economy's pillars are now health care, tourism and the military — San Antonio has three Air Force installations and one Army post.

Kelly Air Force Base, with more than 12,000 workers, was the city's largest employer when it was marked for closure in the mid-1990s. The base's well-paid work force shrank steadily in the years leading up to its shutdown in 2001.

Births

Raymond and Karie House announce the birth of their son, Raymond Blaine House, at 12:52 p.m. on Feb. 5 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. He weighed eight pounds, one ounce.

Paternal grandparents are Jerry and Rita House of Snyder and maternal grandparents are Donald and Becky Logue of Guymon, Okla.

Obituaries

Polly Matthies

1921-2003

Georgia Pauline "Polly" Matthies died Tuesday, Feb. 4, in Snyder Healthcare Center.

Service for Mrs. Matthies, 82, is set for 3 p.m. Thursday in the First Baptist Church. The Rev. Clifton Griffith, pastor of Union Baptist Church, and the Rev. Mike Henson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Snyder, will officiate.

Burial will be at 4:30 p.m. in the Roby Cemetery in Roby under the direction of Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

Born Jan. 28, 1921 in Rotan, she married W.C. Carl Matthies on June 28, 1942 in Roby. He preceded her in death in 1987.

Mrs. Matthies was a member of the Roby First Baptist Church for over 35 years where she served in Sunday school, Mission Friends and working in the kitchen when necessary. She was also a member of the Gideons Auxiliary.

Mrs. Matthies and her husband along with T.O. and Georgie Upshaw were founders of Church Builders and Mrs. Matthies went on the trips from 1979 until 1995. She was a member of the Union Baptist Church before moving to Snyder.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, George and Maggie Ogden; three brothers; and four sisters.

Survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, Norman and Pat Matthies of Rotan and Keith and Temi Matthies of Snyder; two daughters and sons-in-law, Brenda and Tom Martin, and Susan and Clifton Griffith, all of Snyder; one sister, Cleatie Gruben of Rotan; 12 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Stanley Woolever

1942-2003

Stanley Dean Woolever of Snyder died Tuesday, Feb. 4, in Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene.

Funeral service for Mr. Woolever, 60, is set for 10 a.m. Thursday in the Union Baptist Church. The Rev. Jim Mosley and the Rev. Clifton Griffith will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Mr. Woolever, born Aug. 23, 1942 in San Diego, Calif., retired as service manager at the Chrysler dealership in Marfa. He returned to Snyder to help in the family business at Mulligan's Mall.

He was preceded in death by his father, O.C. "Buck" Woolever.

Survivors include his mother, Louise Woolever of Snyder; two daughters, Stacey Caplinger and Shannon Lucas, both of Marked Tree, Ark.; a sister and brother-in-law, Darlene and Bill Robbins of Snyder; eight grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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

David Harveson

1969-2003

LUBBOCK — David Andrew Harveson, the husband of Joy Harveson, died Saturday, Feb. 1, in St. Luke's Hospital in Houston after a lengthy illness.



Mr. Harverson

A remembrance service for Mr. Harveson, 33, is set for 7 this evening in the Sanders Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service is set for 11 a.m. Thursday in the Sanders Memorial Chapel with the Rev. Buddy Payne, pastor of Snyder's First United Methodist Church, officiating. Cremation services are under the direction of Sanders Funeral Home.

Born April 17, 1969 in Fort Worth, he was a 1987 graduate of Lubbock's Monterey High School and graduated from Texas Christian University in 1992 with a bachelor of science degree.

He married Joy McSpadden on Jan. 28, 1995 in Snyder and was a pharmaceutical representative.

He was preceded in death by his father, Herold Harveson; and his father-in-law, Dr. W. B. McSpadden.

Survivors include his wife, Joy Harveson of Lubbock; his mother, Judy Harveson of Lubbock; two sisters, Melissa Barthold and Amy Duggan, both of Lubbock; two brothers, Louis Harveson of Alpine and Ben Harveson of Fort Worth; his mother-in-law, Vera McSpadden of Snyder; and nine nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 7 this evening at Sanders Funeral Home.

The family suggests memorials to the Texas Heart Institute, Box 20345 in Houston, 77225-0345.

Hilda Feaster

1921-2003

COLORADO CITY — Hilda Feaster, 81, died Sunday, Feb. 2, at her home in Colorado City.

Funeral service for Mrs. Feaster was held today in the Calvary Baptist Church with Dr. Travis Monday and the Rev. Sammy Elliott officiating. Burial was to follow in the Colorado City Cemetery.

Born March 1, 1921 in Ruth, Miss., she married Lawrence R. Feaster on Oct. 18, 1952. Mr. Feaster worked for Sun Oil Co. and died in 1992.

A resident of Mitchell County since 1951, Mrs. Feaster was a longtime ward clerk for Mitchell County Hospital and a member of the Calvary Baptist Church.

Survivors include three daughters, Ada Feaster of Booker, Dorothy Stansel of Kermit and Nancy Feaster of Irving; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Ruth Finch

1917-2003

SWEETWATER — Ruth Olivia Finch, the sister of Dorothy Norwood of Snyder, died Friday, Jan. 31, at the Mariner Healthcare of First Colony in Missouri City, Tex.

Service for Mrs. Finch 85, was set for 2 p.m. today in the Cate-Spencer & Trent Funeral Home Chapel with Benton Finch and Mike Ensminger officiating. Burial was to follow in the Nolan Cemetery.

Born Aug. 18, 1917 in Rosebud, she married Norman Finch on June 9, 1935 in Abilene. He and a son, Larry Neal Finch, preceded her in death.

Reared in West Texas, Mrs. Finch had lived in Sugar Land for the past 33 years. She was a homemaker, artist and musician.

Survivors include three sons, Beal Finch of Sugar Land, Dale Finch of Sweetwater and Arnold Finch of Thompson, Tex.; a daughter, Mary Jane Wickersham of Allen; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the Sugar Land Fire Department, the First Baptist Church in Sugar Land or to the American Heart Association.

Susie Autrey

1922-2003

ANSON — Susie Morris Autrey, mother and mother-in-law of Ronney and Lindabeth Autrey of Snyder, died Tuesday, Feb. 4, at an Anson hospital.

Service for Mrs. Autrey, 80, will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Bethel Baptist Church with Revs. Emmett Autrey, Bill Dickson and Rufus Wilson officiating. Burial will be in Mount Hope Cemetery, directed by Lawrence-Adams Funeral Home.



Susie Autrey

Born Feb. 26, 1922, in Comanche County, Mrs. Autrey was a daughter of the late Marion Edward and Nona Gardner Morris. She married James "Jim" Autrey on Nov. 19, 1936, in Throckmorton. He preceded her in death Dec.6, 2001. Mrs. Autrey, a homemaker, moved to Anson from Ira in 1968. She was a member of Bethel Baptist Church.

Her parents, two brothers and two sisters also preceded her in death.

Survivors include three other sons and daughters-in-law, William and Maggie Autrey of Canadian, James and Neva Autrey of Yorktown and Emmett and Dean Autrey of Amarillo; two daughters and sons-in-law, Golda and Edwin Evers of Merkel and Linda and William Martin of Granbury; one brother, Alvin Morris of Truth of Consequences, N.M.; 13 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to West Texas Rehabilitation Center, 4601 Hartford, Abilene, TX 79605.

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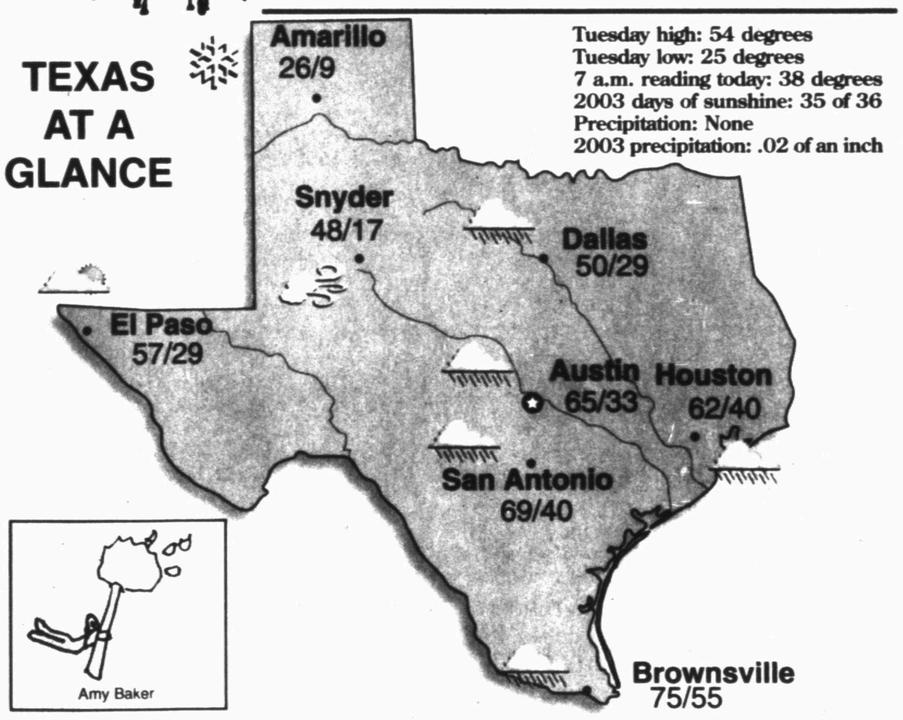
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Thu 2/6	Fri 2/7	Sat 2/8
48/17	32/18	47/24
Cloudy and windy. High 48F. Winds NNW at 20 to 30 mph.	Overcast. Highs in the low 30s and lows in the upper teens.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 20s.
Sunrise 7:35 AM / Sunset 6:21 PM	Sunrise 7:34 AM / Sunset 6:22 PM	Sunrise 7:33 AM / Sunset 6:23 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Amy Baker

Tuesday high: 54 degrees
Tuesday low: 25 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 38 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 35 of 36
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: .02 of an inch

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	51	23	windy	El Paso	57	29	pt sunny	Midland	53	22	windy
Amarillo	26	9	snow	Fort Stockton	59	25	windy	Raymondville	73	49	rain
Austin	65	33	rain	Gainesville	46	21	rain	Rosenberg	63	40	rain
Beaumont	60	41	rain	Greenville	47	23	rain	San Antonio	69	40	rain
Brownsville	75	55	rain	Houston	62	40	rain	San Marcos	67	34	rain
Brownwood	58	26	rain	Kingsville	70	45	rain	Sulphur Springs	47	25	rain
Corpus Christi	66	46	rain	Livingston	59	35	rain	Sweetwater	52	20	windy
Corsicana	51	29	rain	Longview	50	30	rain	Tyler	52	33	rain
Dallas	50	29	rain	Lubbock	39	15	sn shower	Weatherford	49	22	rain
Del Rio	71	41	cloudy	Lufkin	58	37	rain	Wichita Falls	41	20	mixed

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	39	36	rain	Houston	62	40	rain	Phoenix	64	40	mst sunny
Boston	32	26	mst sunny	Los Angeles	66	45	mst sunny	San Francisco	57	42	mst sunny
Chicago	27	10	flurries	Miami	80	66	pt sunny	Seattle	52	32	pt sunny
Dallas	50	29	rain	Minneapolis	9	-8	pt sunny	St. Louis	31	14	sn shower
Denver	34	-3	snow	New York	33	27	cloudy	Washington, DC	36	31	flurries

Moon Phases

New	First	Full	Last
Feb 1	Feb 9	Feb 16	Feb 23

UV Index

Thu 2/6	Fri 2/7	Sat 2/8
2	3	4
Minimal	Low	Low

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection. 0 — 11

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FEB 05 2003

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Thursday, Feb. 6, 2003

In the year ahead a change in circumstances will allow a testy social situation in your life to resolve itself in an extremely favorable way. You'll come out of it having better relationships with all involved.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — If there is a friend who can't come to you but with whom you'd like to share your time today, make arrangements to go to him or her. It'll turn out to be more fun than you expect.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — A way may be found today to acquire something material that you didn't think you could afford. Keep your eyes open for a sale or someone who is selling the item second hand.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — A project that is important to you is also important to others, so don't leave them out of the loop. It's OK to work alone on it, but check with them from time to time and share what's going on.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Conditions are extremely promising today for using your talents, know-how and past experiences to help your life right now. Rely on the past to brighten your future.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Should you see that a valued friend of yours could use some support today, speak up on his or her behalf in front of others so that everyone knows where your loyalties lie.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Be explicit concerning your goals or ambitions today and don't let your focus drift off onto something else. Assertiveness coupled with determination pays large dividends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You're more than up to handling challenging situations today. This includes involvements in sports, your social life, affairs of the heart or the commercial world.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Even though you may at first have doubts about a change instituted by outside influences today, conditions will work out to your ultimate benefit in the long run. Hang in there.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Should companions have suggestions for today's activities that oppose your desires, go along with the will of the group. All will work out well for you if you let the majority rule.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — When there are material rewards at stake, your ambitions will be easily aroused and come into play. Let your desires for gain provide the type of motivation you need to produce today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Social involvements might have to be managed with a delicate hand and much consideration today. It'll be worth it, because everyone involved will appreciate the way you handle things.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — It looks like you could be in for a pleasant surprise today in relation to a situation about which you had great skepticism. The outcome will be better than you had hoped it would.

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Webb receives award

NEW YORK (AP) — Jimmy Webb will receive the Johnny Mercer Award from the Songwriters Hall of Fame at the induction and awards ceremony on June 12.

"Jimmy Webb's work continues to grace a multitude of major recording artists' albums, from Tony Bennett to Reba McEntire, Linda Ronstadt and R.E.M.," the National Academy of Popular Music-Songwriters Hall of Fame said Tuesday.

Webb's hits include "By the Time I Get to Phoenix," "Wichita Lineman," "Galveston," "MacArthur Park," "Didn't We" and "Up, Up and Away."

This year's inductees, previously announced by chairman and chief executive officer Hal David, include Phil Collins, Queen, Van Morrison and Little Richard.

Experts: Data from last 32 seconds crucial

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Data from the last 32 seconds before space shuttle Columbia broke into pieces in the Texas sky was so faint and ragged that computers at Johnson Space Center did not display it.

But that information, if it can be pieced together, could answer key questions about the mission's last moments.

"In 32 seconds you would have probably gotten thousands of data points," said Donna Shirley, an aerospace mechanical engineering professor at the University of Oklahoma.

NASA engineers are still examining the data, which was stored in computers at a space communication center in White Sands, N.M.

If usable, it could give additional sensor readings on such measures as temperature and power levels, giving engineers a better timeline of the disaster, said Shirley, who was manager of the Mars exploration program at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in the mid-1990s.

NASA has said earlier sensor readings showed the temperature on Columbia's left side — the same side hit by a piece of debris during liftoff — shot up sharply just before the shuttle disintegrated.

But Shirley cautioned against putting too much emphasis on the data.

"I don't think you should think anything about the 32 seconds until you get a report from the engineers," she said. "It may or may not shed light on what happened."

Todd Curtis, a former airline safety analyst with Boeing Co., said the data could be crucial.

"West of Fort Worth they lost communications but had signals transmitting data. That says to me the voice communication system was off-line but parts of the data communication system were broadcasting. This implies the antennas for broadcasting this data were still intact," said Curtis, who helped investigate the 1996 crash of TWA Flight 800 off Long Island in New York.

"You could conclude certain systems, such as power sources, were still running," he said.

The temperature spikes were accompanied by an increased drag, or wind resistance, that forced Columbia's automated flight control system to make rapid adjustments to maintain stability.

"They could have some more data on the ailerons, trying to move and correct it back to its flight path. Did something happen to the flight controls, so they stopped working and the aircraft drifted off its attitude?" said Professor James Lewis, an aeronautical science professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Lewis said he believes NASA engineers will sort through the additional data, but it will take time. And if there are problems with the data, he said, it will take longer.

"I'll be an optimist and say they could get some good information from it, but there's no guarantee," he said.

Facts about insulating foam on shuttle exterior

By The Associated Press

Some questions and answers about foam insulation, under suspicion of causing the space shuttle Columbia tragedy:

Q. What does this foam on the external fuel tank normally do, and how large was the chunk that broke off?

A. The polyurethane material's job is to keep the liquid hydrogen and the liquid oxygen, stored separately in the shuttle's huge fuel tank, very cold. It's lightweight, somewhat like Styrofoam.

During Columbia's liftoff Jan. 16, NASA says, a fragment measuring about 20 inches by 16 inches by 6 inches, and weighing about 2.67 pounds, flew off. It may have damaged heat tiles that keep the ship from burning up during re-entry into the atmosphere.

Q. How could a piece of foam do so much damage?

A. The Columbia was flying so fast — more than twice the speed of sound — that a chunk of the material could strike a sharp blow. The chunk may have been coated with ice, making it heavier. And the tiles, made of a carbon composite or silica-glass fibers, are very fragile: They can shatter under finger pressure.

Q. How could tile damage doom the shuttle?

A. After initial damage, the fast flow of air in the damaged area could have peeled more tiles off. Without protection against the intense heat of re-entry, which can reach 3,000 degrees, vulnerable areas of the shuttle's structure and electronics could have been damaged, eventually leading to the breakup.

Q. Has foam come off in prior shuttle flights?

A. Yes. It damaged tiles of Columbia in 1992 and 1997, and a piece of foam struck the bottom of a booster rocket of Atlantis this past October. But the damage from those incidents wasn't serious enough to trigger catastrophe.

Q. Why wasn't damage to the Columbia tiles on Jan. 16 fixed before re-entry?

A. NASA says there was no way for the crew to repair tiles in orbit. The space agency also had concluded that the incident posed no danger.

Arizona declares 'emergency' after poultry tests positive for disease

PHOENIX (AP) — The governor declared a state of emergency Tuesday after a deadly bird virus was found in chickens at an Indian reservation in western Arizona.

The state Department of Agriculture was expected today to quarantine Yuma County, La Paz County and part of Mohave County south of the Grand Canyon, said Lori Faeth, natural resources adviser to Gov. Janet Napolitano.

"It's highly contagious," she said.

A USDA lab announced that the birds had contracted Exotic Newcastle Disease, which has led to the slaughter of 1.7 million chickens in Southern California and about 1,600 birds in Nevada.

The disease was discovered in Arizona after a farmer on the Colorado River Indian Tribes' reservation near the California border reported last week that about 30 chickens had died suddenly.

The rest of the flock, about 20 birds, was immediately euthanized and the tribal government quarantined all domestic birds on the reservation.

The disease is highly contagious among poultry and birds but poses no health risks for humans.

Declaring a state of emergency makes Arizona eligible to receive federal aid.

Meanwhile, officials in Nevada eased restrictions imposed in the southern part of the state last month after the discovery of the disease in some backyard chickens.

David Thain, Nevada's chief veterinarian, said the disease had been mostly stamped out in Clark and Nye counties and it was safe for businesses to sell all birds except poultry.

A quarantine remains in effect in those counties, meaning birds can't be transported outside the area and to neighboring states without a permit, officials said.

"We are not willing to go out on a limb and say it is eliminated," Thain said. "But we haven't found any spread to the pet-bird population."

Since the disease turned up in backyard poultry flocks in Southern California in September, authorities are conducting an intensive eradication campaign and have imposed a quarantine throughout that region to try to protect the state's $3 billion poultry industry.

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Tuesday, February 11



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