INSIDE

WT-Int. Crude - $27.83
WTIC Posted - $24.75
Natural Gas - $5.279

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND

March 3-4, 2001
Vol. 52 No. 262
40 Pages, $1.00

Home of Mary Webster

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "A con is an artist who deserves more than stripes painted on his suit."

Scam is a dirty word, but perhaps not ugly enough to describe what is happening to honest, hard-working citizens.

And too often, the victims are senior citizens.

A Snyder woman called Monday morning to relate a horrible tale that cost the life savings of her 77-year-old mother who lives in another West Texas city.

It all started last November, when a charming male posing as a representative of a law firm said that the elderly woman had been part of a class-action lawsuit against the Canadian Lottery.

The woman had, in fact, entered the Canadian Lottery three or four years ago, sending $30 to have her name put in a drawing.

The law firm rep explained in great detail how a large judgment had been won against the lottery system in Canada. That was good news, but even better news, he said, was that her share of the huge judgment was $96,000.

The law firm representative said he would call later with information on how to obtain the money to which she was entitled.

When the call came, the smooth-talking individual again painstakingly explained her rights. And in order to obtain her part of the judgement, she, of course, would have to pay taxes.

She was instructed to send a check for $29,000 to a certain address to cover the taxes owed on the $96,000.

Counting on the elderly's need to maintain independence, she was further advised that her banker would likely question the withdrawal, but simply explain that it was her business and it was personal.

The banker did question, but as instructed, the woman told the banker that it was personal.

The personable scam artist, on the third call, then said a payment of $7,200 was necessary for duty tax. Later, a call came needing $24,000 to insure the check and to hire a courier to deliver the $96,000.

The Snyder woman's mother explained that she didn't have $24,000. He then asked what she did have. "Send the $18,000 and we'll work around the balance," came the convincing instructions.

With an investment of $36,200 already, the woman was afraid not to continue. She sent the $18,000, bringing the scam total to $54,200 – her life savings.

When contacted by family members, the FBI agent in Odessa already knew about the Canadian scam.

The money's gone, and the best advice she was given was to warn her friends and neighbors. The FBI agent says the scam currently seems to be targeting an area of Texas from Big Spring west to El Paso.

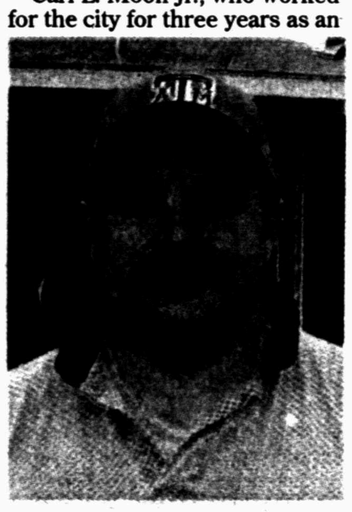
In our books, no punishment could be cruel and unusual enough for those who prey on senior citizens.

For at-large position...

Former Snyder employee files for council post

Snyder's city council got another candidate for the May 5 general election as a former city employee tossed his hat into the ring for an at-large position on the council.

Carl L. Moon Jr., who worked for the city for three years as an



Carl L. Moon Jr.

inventory control clerk in the maintenance department, signed up Friday.

He joins incumbent councilman Terry Martin and John Reed as candidates for the two at-large council positions.

Martin signed up a week ago, while Reed filed the necessary papers Tuesday.

Moon, who has lived in Snyder for three years, says he is running because he is "tired of being lied to" by the present council.

"I believe the council said last year that if water and sewer rates were increased, then city employees would get a raise. The rates were increased, but the employees did not get a raise," said Moon.

"I feel the city should either give the hourly employees a cost of living increase, or the increases for water and sewer should be repealed," said Moon.

Moon is presently employed in construction, and he and his wife, Holly, have two children – Ashley who is six, and four-year-old Amber.

He is a 1988 graduate of Travis High School in Austin.

Two candidates have filed for mayor, present councilman James Ashley and Francene Allen-Noah.

The mayor's post will become vacant as Dayton Robertson has said he will not seek another term.

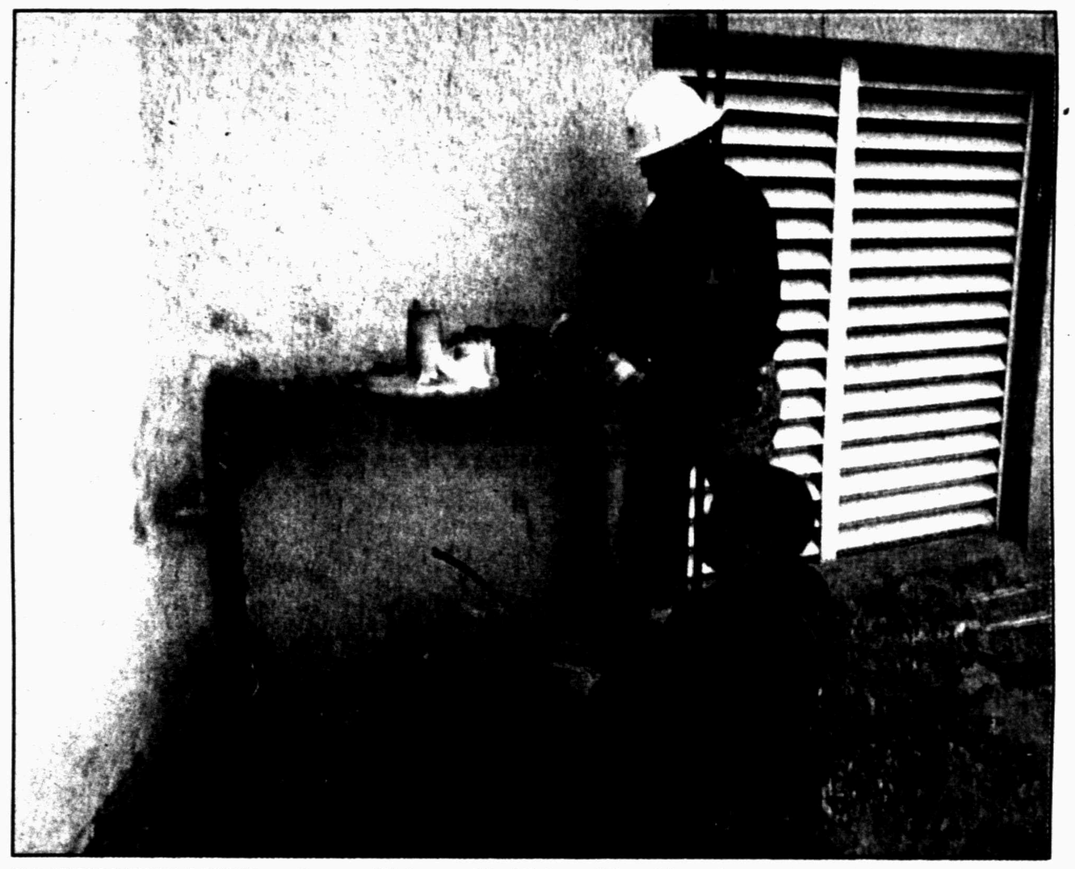
Two incumbents have filed for the Snyder ISD board – Luann Burleson and Cathy Peoples.

At Ira, Kirby Sterling has filed for the position currently held by Bo Robinson on the school board. Robinson is not seeking re-election.

Three incumbents have also filed at Ira – Shane Smith, Doug White and Keith Clements.

The terms of Sherene Digby and David Higgins expire at Hermleigh, but neither has filed for re-election.

The filing period for the Snyder city council and the school board posts ends March 21. Early voting runs from April 18 through May 1.



SOAPING THE LINES — James Melton with Melton Plumbing (bottom) and Sunny Ruiz, TXU Gas service technician soap the lines at the Scurry County Coliseum to test for leaks. (SDN Staff Photo)

Down from $37,000...

TXU Gas adjusts coliseum's gas bill, total is now $31,853

Snyder's Chamber of Commerce is receiving some help from TXU Gas for its astronomical February gas bill as the company is waiving the fuel cost adjustment and monthly customer service charge.

The company is subtracting some $6,000 in charges to bring the total to $31,853.

Also, the chamber will be able to pay this amount over a 12-month period.

"The total adjustment was $5,875.09," said Darryl Thomas, TXU Electric and Gas manager.

The chamber was contacted last week by a gas company representative when the monthly meter reading reflected a bill of $37,000 – up a staggering amount from January's $1,900.

The utility company immediately turned off the gas to the facility until the source of an apparent leak could be found.

It was first thought the leak was between the meter and the main facility, but it has been determined that the leakage was occurring in the line going to the annex.

Representatives from Melton Plumbing and TXU Gas were on the scene Friday to try and get the gas turned back on to the main building.

Sunny Ruiz, gas service technician, said the main line passed city inspection and the gas company was running some additional tests before turning on the gas.

However, the problem line has not been fixed. Ruiz said the leaking pipe was disconnected and everything else checked out okay.

Several events had been held at the coliseum during January and February, including basketball games and the Circus Gatti.

Circus personnel were all about the annex area during their stay here, but no one apparently noticed any gas odor.

Thomas said TXU Gas brought in two meter technicians with high tech equipment from its Sweetwater office to help locate the leak.

"I wish to commend our Sweetwater personnel, along with the county and chamber, for working together to solve this problem," said Thomas.

"Our company did everything it felt it could to adjust the chamber's bill to the actual cost of the gas purchased," summarized Thomas.

County has brief agenda

Scurry County Commissioners will meet at 10 a.m. Monday with one item of old business and one of new to consider.

The court is expected to wrap up board appointments and consider a bad weather policy.

Other items, if necessary, include line-item transfers, budget amendments and the bills for payment.

Henson takes over pulpit at First Baptist

Mike Henson begins his tenure at Snyder's First Baptist Church Sunday morning having moved here from Andrews.

Henson, 49, has served as pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in Andrews for 13 years.

He and his wife, Nancy, have four children. Leah Michelle Jeffries, 26, Anna Lea, 15, Sara Beth, 13, and Micah Lauren, seven.

Henson graduated from Howard Payne University in 1979 and the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1983.

His wife also attended Howard Payne University.

His first church was at Priddy in Hamilton County that he served for two years, 1977-1979.

Mike Henson

He then pastored churches in Eastland and Richland Springs before moving to Andrews in 1987.

"We're excited about this new opportunity," said Henson and his wife.

Initial water sample indicates no problems

The first of three city water samples sent to Sweetwater for analysis Friday tested negative for contaminants.

Darrell Callahan, Snyder utilities superintendent, said the first samples came back as clear, but he reminds citizens that there must be three days of consecutive testing with all testing negative for impurities before the boil-water order can be lifted.

The order is a precautionary measure ordered by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

"The TNRCC states that any time you have a drop in pressure and it falls below 20 pounds per square inch (PSI) there is a risk that contaminants may enter into your water lines," Callahan said.

He explained that impurities might have entered the water line from the mud and dirt surrounding the leak.

"We are not saying that that happened, nor is the TNRCC. We just want to provide protection to our customers."

The sampling process continues this weekend as the Nolan County Health Unit has agreed to remain open in order to allow for the three consecutive days of testing.

It is possible that the order could be lifted as early as Sunday afternoon.

While the Thursday samples came out good, Friday samples were to be tested Saturday and Saturday samples tested Sunday. Callahan explained that the samples must incubate for 24 hours before being tested.

The public will be kept up-to-date on the situation and notified as soon as the order is lifted through Cox Communications Channel 2, KSNY Radio and the Snyder Daily News.

While a frustration to some, the situation has been good news to local supermarkets that have seen a steady stream of customers purchasing water.

As of Saturday morning, United Supermarket reported selling 35 pallets or about 6,300 gallons of water.

Store director Rusty Carter said the store has plenty with a semi-trailer loaded with about 25 pallets and another 15 pallets in the store.

Davidson's IGA reported selling eight pallets, or about 1,440 gallons of water, as of Saturday morning.

Sid Medina, assistant manager, said the store has about two more pallets in stock and three more coming in on Monday.

Public schools took precautions including purchasing bottled water, covering water fountains and boiling water used in the cafeteria for 20 minutes.

ASK US

Q—I know items confiscated in drug deals usually become the property of a state or local agency, but what about the apples and oranges in the truck carrying marijuana in Colorado City this week?

A—They will be distributed to area food banks and other charitable organizations.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Friday, 52 degrees; low, 44; 7 a.m. Saturday, 45; no precipitation; total for 2001, 3.37 inches.

Area Forecast: Saturday night, cloudy, 20% rain chance, low upper 30s, NW wind 10-20 mph. Sunday, partly cloudy, high 60-65, N wind 5-15 mph.

Tosha McGlouthin
Partly Cloudy

Sunset:
6:44 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:07 a.m.
Of 61 days in 2001, the sun has shone 52 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

The difference between greatness and mediocrity is often how an individual views a mistake.

—Nelson Boswell

MAR 03 2001

Report on alleged rape by inmate advises three firings

DALLAS (AP) — Security lapses by two prison guards and their supervisor should result in their firings after investigators say they created the opportunity for a dangerous inmate to rape two nurses at a Lubbock hospital, according to a report released Friday.

The guards failed to properly search inmate Dekenya Nelson before they took him from the Preston Smith Unit in Lamesa to University Medical Center in Lubbock on Jan. 3, according to the internal investigation report by prison employees.

The guards also failed to properly restrain him with leg irons and chains during the 50-mile trip, investigators learned.

The incident began when Nelson, 25, a convicted rapist and burglar, complained of internal bleeding. He told guards that he had swallowed a metal bottle opener.

Guards strip-searched Nelson before taking him to the prison infirmary but they did not search him during the three-hour period before taking him out of the prison.

Two guards accompanied Nelson rather than three as Smith Unit policy requires when a high-security inmate is taken off prison grounds, the report states.

Nelson, who was under a blanket, freed himself from his handcuffs and produced what appeared to be a pistol. He took two nurses hostage and sexually assaulted both women while negotiating his surrender with Lubbock police, officials said.

The nurses have filed damage claims against the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the state agency that runs the prison system.

Police later determined the "pistol" was made from a hairbrush, deodorant bottle, soap and pages from a Bible. Later, an X-ray showed a handcuff key in his rectal area.

Glen Castlebury, a prison system spokesman, said the investigation has not determined where Nelson got the key, which is designed to fit all handcuffs.

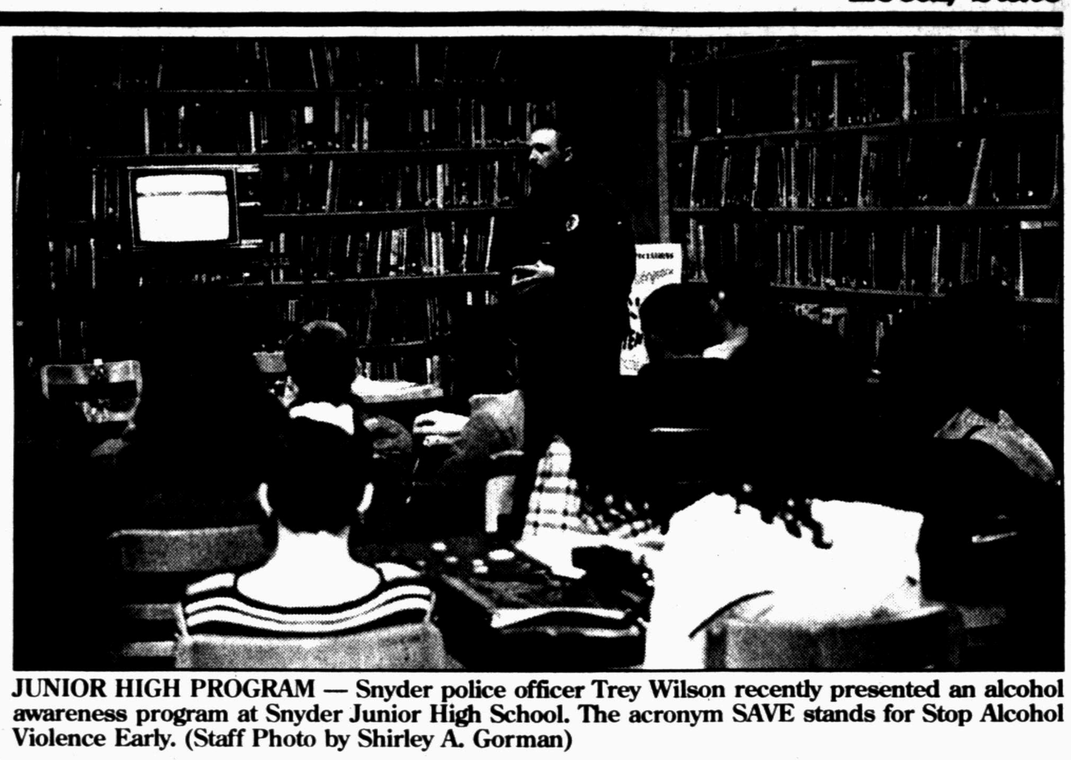
The report also said hospital X-rays showed the hairbrush hidden on Nelson, but no one alerted guards.

In 1996, Nelson was convicted of raping a female kitchen worker at the Telford Unit in East Texas. A 40-year sentence was added to the 20-year sentence he already was serving.

His Smith Unit cell, which he alone occupied, had last been searched Dec. 28, six days before the hospital trip.

The report said the high-security area at the Smith Unit was adequately staffed on Jan. 3.

Nelson, who is from Tyler, currently is being held at a prison psychiatric unit near Houston.



JUNIOR HIGH PROGRAM — Snyder police officer Trey Wilson recently presented an alcohol awareness program at Snyder Junior High School. The acronym SAVE stands for Stop Alcohol Violence Early. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Silent auction is underway to benefit PTK chapter

A silent auction is underway at Western Texas College to benefit the Psi Zeta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

A bulletin board displaying items to be auctioned is located in the Student Center, and anyone may place a bid by simply writing in an amount. Bidding will end at noon on Wednesday, March 7. Successful bidders will be announced at that time.

Funds generated from the silent auction will be used to help defray student costs for regional and international Phi Theta Kappa conventions. Items to be auctioned include a landscape painting by Jack Price; two original hand-thrown pottery pieces by Shane Christensen, a portrait of a subject of your choice by Ben Sum, three hanging flower baskets by the GLT department, three computer classes by the Continuing Education division, a WTC jacket from the WTC Bookstore, a hand-carved wood pen and pencil set from Dr. Ed Barkowsky, half a hog from the WTC Meats Judging Team, a pre-paid Cellular TracPhone, Medic Words medical spell-check software.

Also an AT&T answering machine, a $16 gift certificate from the Spanish Inn. a one-hour massage and two 15 minute chair massages. a 12-pack of Glaceau Vitamin Health Water, a stained glass jewelry box, a set of wooden heart shelves, a hand-thrown ceramic piggy bank and blue mixing bowl, a heart-shaped pendant, a chocolate chip pound cake, and an Italian cream cake.

Many of the above items are on display in the financial aid office at WTC. Bidders are encouraged to check the status of their bids frequently until the winners have been announced to be sure that their bid is the highest.

Ex-employer targeted in woman's fatal fall in 1996

BAYTOWN (AP) — News of an arrest in the death of Kathy Orellana's sister brought her a "sense of relief."

Her sister's former boss has been charged with murder in the death of Sandra Orellana, who fell to her death from a Los Angeles-area hotel balcony more than four years ago.

"It's been a long five years, an emotional roller-coaster, but it will be great to finally see the inside of a courtroom," Kathy Orrellana said.

Robert Salazar, 37, was arrested Friday in Baytown by investigators with the Los Angeles County sheriff's department, is charged with killing the 27-year-old Houston woman, whose body was found Nov. 13, 1996, after falling from an eighth-floor balcony.

Salazar and Orellana were on a business trip when, Salazar claimed, he and Orellana were having sex in her hotel room. Orellana accidentally fell while trying to position herself on the balcony rail, Salazar claimed.

But the Los Angeles County coroner's office said Orellana died from "an assisted drop" and ruled the death a homicide. Someone had to have helped the 5-foot-2 Orellana get on top of the 40-inch rail, the office said. Authorities had difficulty substantiating a murder case, and Los Angeles County investigators weren't available Friday.

Michael Sydow, the attorney representing Orellana's family, told the Houston Chronicle he was unaware of any new evidence that might have led to charges. However, he said he and the family had renewed hope when new Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley said he would take a fresh look at the facts.

"We were surprised," Sydow said. "Although the family had hope, they had begun to think the case might not be prosecuted ... and become just another forgotten crime."

Later Sydow added: "Only two people knew exactly what happened. One is unable to testify and the other can't be compelled to testify."

Orellana's family has maintained she did not have consensual sex with Salazar, and filed a civil lawsuit against him. The suit will be put on hold, Sydow said, adding that if Salazar is convicted and sent to prison, there would be no reason to pursue the civil case. He noted that Salazar filed for bankruptcy soon after Orellana's death, meaning he has no finances for the family to go after.

The family's suit against Skillmaster Personnel Resource Group, the employer of Salazar and Orellana at the time of her death, has been settled.

events

Texas Lottery

RESULTS

Texas Million

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Million numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
4, 15, 40, 83

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery:
2, 15, 23, 28, 38

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
4-1-7

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Judged by Our Lord
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Napster Inc. plans new screening system

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — In a move to pre-empt a court-ordered shutdown, Napster Inc. says it will deploy a new screening system to stop the free trade of thousands of copyright songs.

Napster's plan to bring the software online this weekend came as the company pleaded with a judge Friday to keep its music-swapping service alive.

Attorney David Boies said the screening system would block access to 1 million music files. He and Napster chief executive Hank Barry left it unclear whether the number represented different songs or spelling variations involving a much smaller number of songs.

The move amounted to a concession that Napster's days were over as an online clearinghouse for the free trade in copyright tunes. The company said it would offer membership-based swapping for a fee by July 1 and pay copyright holders royalty fees.

The recording industry, which provided Napster with a list of 5,600 song titles it wanted blocked, said its plan wasn't aggressive enough.

Music industry attorney Russell Frackman said a far greater number of songs should be screened out, including recordings not yet released to the public.

Hilary Rosen, president of the Recording Industry Association of America, said she will take Napster on its word that it is trying to develop a method to comply with copyright infringement issues.

"We think that the screening technology has the potential to be effective, but we'll see," Rosen said.

The software will be smart enough to block searches of name variations, such as "Bing's Christmas" for Bing Crosby's "White Christmas," or misspellings such as "Metalica" for "Metallica," Napster officials said.

But some experts wondered how long it would take before users find a workaround.

"What the well-intentioned mind can invent, the not-well-intentioned mind can destroy," said Robert Schwartz, a lawyer who has represented movie and television studios in copyright cases.

If the screening system works, however, frustrated Napster users can go elsewhere — to similar servers not under the control of the company or the courts, and file-sharing systems that use no central servers.

Where all of this will leave Napster is unknown. Its users downloaded with a vengeance as Friday's hearing began. More than 8,500 people were sharing more than 1.7 million files through just one of Napster's more than 50 servers.

The hearing was the result of a decision from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which ordered U.S. District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel to rewrite her earlier order that essentially shut the company down. The appeals court ordered her to come up with a much more limited way Napster can survive.

Specifically, Patel must find a way for Napster to block pirated songs without limiting the free speech rights of computer users trading other music.

Napster last week offered to settle the lawsuit brought by the recording industry for $1 billion in exchange for a 40 percent cut of online music sales. The offer was rejected by the recording industry.

Last fall, German media giant Bertelsmann AG, which owns the BMG label, partnered with Napster and said it would fund the development of a subscription-based service.

None of its competitors has joined in and all the major labels are developing online music distribution businesses of their own, even as other ways of getting free music are sprouting up.

Napster's popularity exploded in 1999 after founder Shawn Fanning released software making it easy for personal computer users to locate and trade songs stored as computer files in the MP3 format, which compresses digital recordings without sacrificing quality.

The five largest record labels — Sony, Warner, BMG, EMI and Universal — quickly sued, saying Napster could rob them of billions of dollars in profits.

James Grady, an analyst with Giga Information Group, said the screening technology coming this weekend from Napster is a valiant effort, but perhaps comes too late.

"I really think that this is Napster's opportunity to show that they are trustworthy," Grady said. "The question is do they want to take advantage of that, and will they be able to?"

On the Net:
Napster:
http://www.napster.com
Recording Industry:
http://www.riaa.com

Hunley work set

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Scientists plan to begin removing black sediment from the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley next week in their quest to find the crew's remains.

"Hopefully we are no more than weeks away from rendezvousing with the Hunley crew," said state Sen. Glenn McConnell, chairman of the South Carolina Hunley Commission.

The Hunley sank with its nine-man crew on Feb. 17, 1864, shortly after blowing up the Union ship Housatonic. It was raised last August and has since rested in a tank of cold water at the former Charleston Navy base.

In recent weeks, scientists have drilled out rivets from three semi-circular plates in the hull, allowing access to the crew area. They will use trowels to remove the sediment then sift it for any artifacts.

"There's no black box on this submarine," said Paul Mardikian, the senior conservator. "Every detail needs to be scrutinized so we can find out what happened."

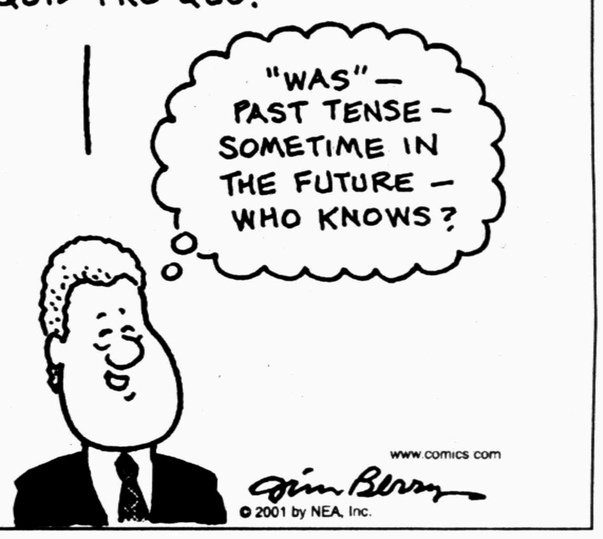
Any remains found will be buried in Charleston's Magnolia Cemetery next to two earlier ill-fated Hunley crews. After the Hunley is preserved, it will be displayed at the Charleston Museum.

Researchers said Friday that the submarine, the first in history to sink an enemy ship, increasingly appears to have been designed from the ground up, not fashioned from old locomotive boilers as first thought.

"There was a lot of engineering and a lot of thought," project manager Robert Neyland said.

Had the Hunley been made of boilers "it certainly could be cruder," Neyland said.

Berry's World



On Nutrition By Ed blonz,Ph.D.

What's the deal with Coumadin?

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I am on a post-heart-bypass Coumadin management program, which includes insertion of an artificial aortic valve. In one of your columns, you recommend an inappropriate diet regimen for a person on Coumadin, i.e., avoidance of green, leafy vegetables.

The Coumadin management program I am on adjusts the amount of Coumadin I take on the basis of the results of periodic Prothrombin Time (PT) testing. The PT test results are compared to the recommended range of values designed to provide safety against clot deposits on the artificial valve.

The amount of Coumadin is adjusted to get to the desired PT value to accommodate the patient's diet regimen, whatever it may be. The opposite, i.e., adjusting the diet to get the desired PT value so as to hold the Coumadin amount within a certain range, is not the normal or desired procedure.

The nutritional value of green, leafy vegetables is substantial. A diet lacking these veggies can be an unhealthy one and should be avoided.

One frequently unrecognized hazard for Coumadin users is the effects of some antibiotics on Coumadin's blood-thinning properties. The presence of antibiotics in conjunction with the Coumadin can result in over-thinning of the blood. This situation is especially serious if surgical procedures are contemplated, or if some bloodletting, traumatic accident were to cause hemorrhaging. If the patient is put on antibiotics, the cardiologist may need to reduce the Coumadin amount temporarily, possibly depending on the PT test values. - J.C., San Diego, Calif.

Dear J.C.: I did not intend to suggest that greens and other vitamin K-containing foods should be avoided by anyone on Coumadin (a brand name of the anti-coagulant drug warfarin). The key is that you need to keep your vitamin K intake constant once your Coumadin dose is set. The implication is that you need to be on a good diet when you start taking Coumadin. If you find that your diet is lacking some of these foods and you want to change, do so slowly and under the guidance of your physician. Thank you for pointing out the potential interaction between Coumadin and antibiotics. There are many medications that affect how Coumadin behaves in the body, so make sure you are fully informed if you are taking this compound.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: Our son has developed a taste for ramen and would like to eat a package a day. I know it's high in fat and salt, but since he's a kid and not overweight, should I be concerned about these issues? For a while he was using the flavoring stuff half-strength, but lately he seems to want it saltier. What do you think? — A.H.

Dear A.H.: It is not unusual for children and adolescents to develop preferences that border on cravings. Regardless of how you try to instill balance in their diet, they insist on their favorites, and you begin to wonder whether they are getting the nourishment they need. Ramen soups provide convenience and a reliable flavor, and the flavoring packets of some brands can be high in sodium. Most, however, are relatively modest in fat.

You might be able to find a different brand of soup with better nutritional value. If he is stuck on a particular brand that offers little besides noodles and salty soup, I would take solace in the fact that your son will be eating other foods during the day. Another potential fix would be to OK the ramen, but see whether he would be amenable to adding some peas, corn or other vegetable to the soup. Perhaps you could strike a deal in which he would have to earn points from the consumption of other "balancing" foods before the ramen is given the green light. In the end, keep in mind that food phases tend to pass with time.

Send questions to: "On Nutrition," Ed Blonz, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. For e-mail, address inquiries to ed@blonz.com. Because of the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided. Ed Blonz, Ph.D., is a nutrition scientist and the author of "Power Nutrition" (Signet, 1998) and the "Your Personal Nutritionist" book series (Signet, 1996).

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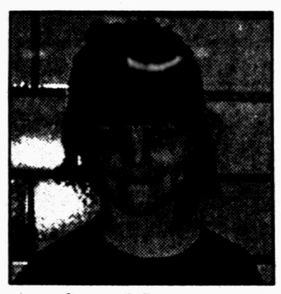
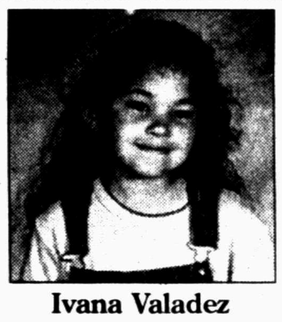
Sis-r-o will soon be the big 40!

Texas Savings Bank Congratulates East Elementary Kindergarten & 1st Grade Award Winners

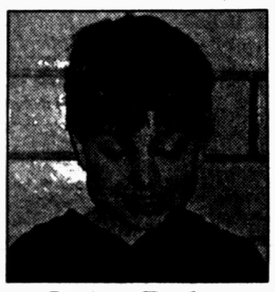
Hayley Taylor
Kindergarten Citizenship Award
Student of Nell Henry



Amy Massey
Kindergarten Citizenship Award
Student of Nell Henry



Ivana Valadez
Kindergarten Citizenship Award
Student of Patsy Massey



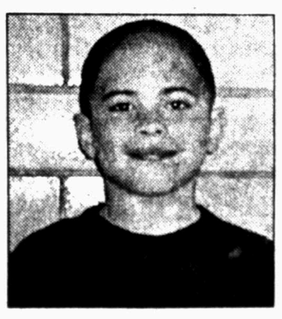
Jaysen Butler
Kindergarten Citizenship Award
Student of Patsy Massey

Samatha Mitchell
1st Grade Academic Award
Student of Cyndee Gayle

B.J. Rodriquez
1st Grade Citizenship Award
Student of Cyndee Gayle

Macy Bilano
1st Grade Academic Award
Student of Samijane Webb

Tyler Redman
1st Grade Citizenship Award
Student of Samijane Webb



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Class Begins: March 24, 2001
Class Ends: March 25, 2001
Location: WTC, 7D 106
Time: 8:30am - 5:00 pm
Days: Saturday & Sunday
Cost: $99.00 - 1.6 CEU's
Instructor: Donna Gore - Midland College

Note: This course will be taught in the Distance Learning Format. WTC will receive a live feed from Midland College that will allow you to see, hear and communicate with the instructor and fellow participants located on the Midland College campus.

Registration:
Please call the Continuing Education Division at 573-8511 ext. 390 to reserve your space.

Deadline to register is March 21, 2001.

Class space is limited, so register early!

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MAR 03 2001

Fonda donates $12.5 million

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Jane Fonda, who has been an activist for women's issues in real life and on the screen, is giving $12.5 million to Harvard University for the creation of a gender studies center.

The actress and university officials on Friday announced the donation to the Harvard Graduate School of Education for the center.

Researchers at the planned Center on Gender and Education will study how children's development and learning are affected by gender in such areas as math, science and athletics, and develop ways to strengthen their resilience and academic growth.

Fonda, 63, said she was inspired to donate the money after reading the book "In a Different Voice: Psychological Theory and Women's Development" by Harvard psychology professor Carol Gilligan. The donation includes $2.5 million for the creation of an endowed faculty chair in Gilligan's name.

Fonda discussed her image in the movie "Barbarella," directed by her then-husband Roger Vadim in 1968. In the movie, Fonda plays a 41st-century space adventuress who performs a strip tease during the opening credits.

"The issue that we're getting at is what made me as a 30-year-old woman when I made that movie feel that I had to look a certain way, behave a certain way."

Financial Focus

Don't Let Your Portfolio Get "Cash Strapped"

During the prolonged bull market we've enjoyed for most of the past several yeas, many people have grown to like stocks. In fact, some investors have filled their portfolios with them — often crowding out "cash" instruments, such as money market funds. In their minds cash is simply taking up valuable portfolio space that could be going to stocks.

Is that an appropriate attitude to have? Not really. By having a reasonable amount of cash in your portfolio, you get two important benefits: income and opportunity.

Let's look at income first. Many people may not realize it, but money market funds are not all the same. By doing your homework, possible with the help of an investment representative, you can find money market funds that offer reasonably good rates of return — enough to provide you with a level of income that can be quite beneficial.

Now, let's look at the other benefit: opportunity.

Through much of the '90s, we had a surging market, with stock prices climbing to unprecedented levels. The good times tasted so long that some investors have never experienced a lengthy downturn. Yet, as the last several months have shown, stocks do indeed go down as well as up. And that's why you need cash in your portfolio — to take advantage of the buying opportunities that arise when stock prices drop.

You may wonder why you'd want to invest in stocks whose prices have declined. Shouldn't you avoid stocks that fall in price? Not so. A stock can experience a temporary decline for many reasons — lackluster earnings reports, short-term product difficulties, and a negative business environment. When these factors are transitory in nature, they have the power to temporarily dampen the stock price of an otherwise sound company. And sometimes, the market itself can become overpriced — and ripe for a "correction."

In either case — individual stock difficulties or a general market decline — nobody can predict how long the price will stay low. It could be three days, or it could be three months. But, however long it lasts, this "down time" can be a window of opportunity for investors — at least those with cash on hand.

How much cash should you keep in your portfolio? There's really no one right answer for everyone. First, you need enough to cover living expenses and emergencies. Second, if you're considering adding stock to your portfolio, you'll want to make sure you have enough cash on hand to take advantage of buying opportunities. At the same time, there's definitely an "outer limit" where too much cash becomes superfluous.

Your investment representative can help you find the right balance for yourself. But, in any case, try to avoid having your cash level at "zero." When opportunity knocks, you want to be able to answer the door.

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6 speech students compete at state

TFA STATE QUALIFIERS — These Snyder High School speech students qualified for the state meet and are competing in San Antonio this weekend. Back row, from left, Will Davis, Lyndell Lee, Josh Kemp; front row, Austin McCormack, Jaci Smith, Mark Haines. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Six Snyder High School speech students are competing in the Texas Forensic Association State Meet at Reagan High School in San Antonio. The meet began Thursday and was to conclude Saturday.

The TFA qualifiers include Lyndell Lee and Will Davis, the Lincoln-Douglas Debate; Jaci Smith and Lyndell Lee, U.S. extemporaneous; Austin McCormack and Josh Kemp, alternate, Congress; Mark Haines, humorous interpretation; and Lyndell Lee, foreign extemporaneous.

They qualified through tournaments they attended this school year.

The most recent tournament wins include the district C-X Debate held Feb. 14 in Andrews. The SHS cross-examination debate team went 6-3 and placed third overall as a team.

Team members Austin McCormack and Josh Kemp, Tiffany Stanley and Janie Salinas; and Molly Mason and Jeff Turner, all advanced to the quarterfinals.

Students also won at the Canyon/Randall Swing Speech Tournaments. The Randall meet was on Feb. 9 and the Canyon meet was on Feb. 10.

Lincoln-Douglas debate: Will Davis placed third out of 52 debaters.

United State extemporaneous speaking: Lyndell Lee placed first out of 84 speakers.

Humorous interpretation: Mark Haines placed first out of 64 contestants and qualified for the state meet.

Dramatic interpretation: Kelli Henderson advanced to the semi-finals.

Duel acting: Kelli Henderson and Mark Haines advanced to the semi-finals.

COMPETE AT CANYON RANDALL — These Snyder High School speech students competed at last month's Canyon Randall Swing Speech Tournaments. Back row, from left, Will Davis, Jeff Turner, Lyndell Lee, Josh Kemp; middle row, Austin McCormack, Jaci Smith, Kelli Henderson, Mark Haines; front row, Tiffany Stanley, Janie Salinas, Molly Mason. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

CX DISTRICT — These Snyder High School speech students placed third overall at the district meet. Back row, from left, Austin McCormack, Josh Kemp, Jeff Turner, Molly Mason; front row, Tiffany Stanley, Janie Salinas. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

—

Philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre died in Paris in 1980. He was 74.

Continuing Education Division

Spring/Summer Computer Schedule – Snyder Campus
March 2001 – August 2001
***** Course descriptions listed on back*****

CLASS	HOURS	DATES	TIME	COST
MARCH				
Working With Windows 98	10	March 5, 7, 12, 14	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
Personal Computing -101	10	March 6, 8, 13, 15	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
Surfing the World Wide Web	10	March 19, 21, 26, 28	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
Computer Upgrades Made Easy	10	March 20, 22, 27, 29	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
APRIL				
Basic Computer Repair	10	April 2, 4, 9, 11	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
Web Page Design	10	April 3, 5, 10, 12	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
Microsoft Office 2000	10	April 16, 18, 23, 25	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
Windows 98 – The Next Level	10	April 17, 19, 24, 26	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
MAY				
Personal Computing - 101	10	May 1, 3, 8, 10	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
Computer Upgrades Made Easy	10	May 7, 9, 14, 16	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
Working With Windows 98	10	May 15, 17, 22, 24	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
Familytree.com	10	May 21, 23, 28, 30	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
JUNE				
Windows 98 – The Next Level	10	June 4, 6, 11, 13	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
Basic Computer Repair	10	June 5, 7, 12, 14	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
Surfing The World Wide Web	10	June 18, 20, 25, 27	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
Microsoft Office 2000	10	June 19, 21, 26, 28	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
JULY				
Personal Computing - 101	10	July 2, 4, 9, 11	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
Computer Upgrades Made Easy	10	July 3, 5, 10, 12	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
Working With Windows 98	10	July 16, 18, 23, 25	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
Going Digital	10	July 24, 26, 31, 8/2	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
AUGUST				
Surfing The World Wide Web	10	August 6, 8, 13, 15	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
Basic Computer Repair	10	August 7, 9, 14, 16	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
Microsoft Office 2000	10	August 20, 22, 27, 29	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40
Windows 98 – The Next Level	10	August 21, 23, 28, 30	6:30pm – 9:00pm	$40

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

To pre-register for any of these courses, or for more information, please call Western Texas College's Continuing Education Department at 573-8511, extension 390.

Western Texas College is an equal opportunity institution and is in compliance with the ADA. Applications are accepted and considered without regard to race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, veteran's status or disability.

Farish associates being interviewed

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — State Department officials have been interviewing friends and colleagues of Kentucky thoroughbreed breeder Will Farish, who may be in line for appointment as ambassador to Great Britain.

Officials have visited the places where Farish has homes — Kentucky, New York, Florida and Texas — to talk to Farish's associates in the last few weeks, James E. "Ted" Bassett III said.

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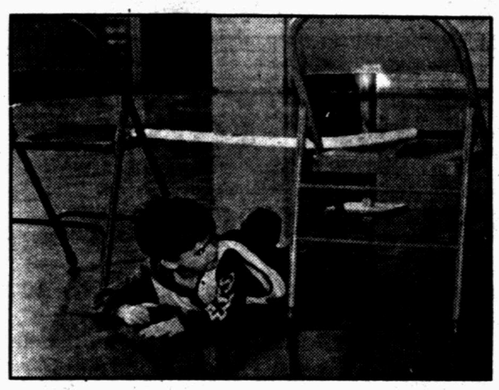

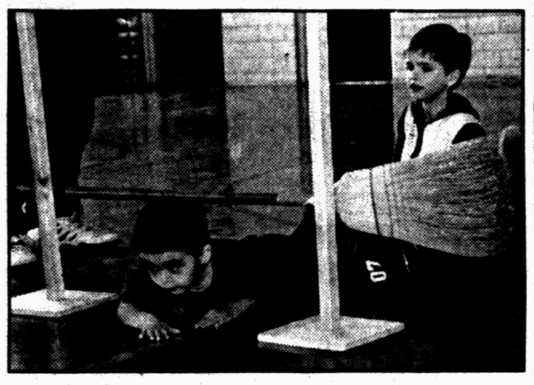

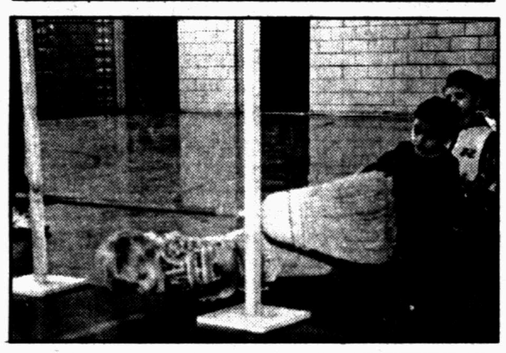

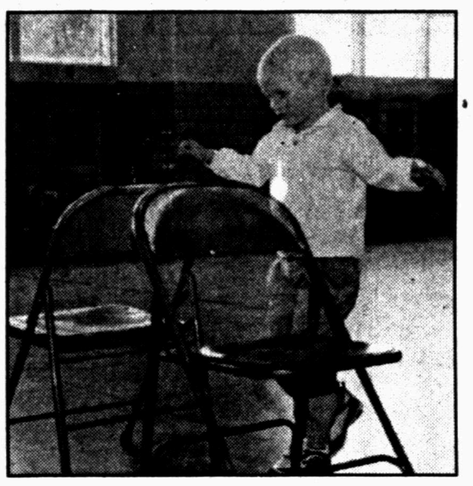

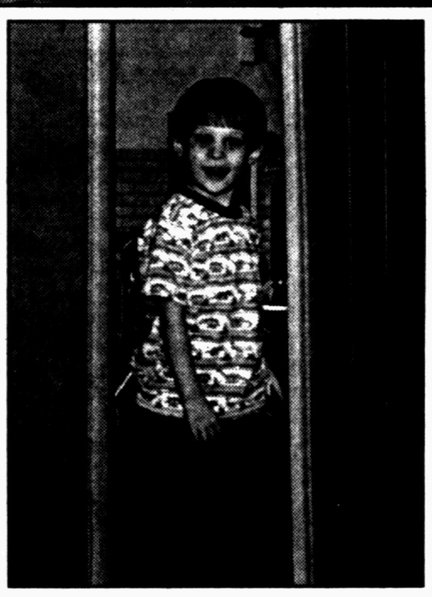

Coach Charles Porter recently had pre-kindergarten students at Northeast Elementary School navigate an obstacle course designed to test their spatial awareness. Students pictured are James Baze (top left); Robert Martinez (top right); Dustin Essery, (middle left); Zachary Halton (middle right); and Tyler Davis (bottom left).

SDN Photos By Shirley A. Gorman

Miss Texas named Miss USA

GARY, Ind. (AP) — Kandace Krueger, a 24-year-old journalism student at Texas A&M, was crowned Miss USA 2001 on Friday night.

When host William Shatner announced her as the winner, Krueger covered her face with her hands while reigning Miss USA Lynnette Cole put a sash on Krueger, handed her a bouquet of flowers and placed a tiara on her head.

Krueger then walked down the walkway before the audience in Gary's Genesis Convention Center.

Liane Angus of the District of Columbia was first runner-up, followed by Tiffany Fallon of Georgia.

The other two finalists were Gina Giacinto of Nevada and Larissa Meek of Missouri.

Krueger is the eighth Miss Texas to win the Miss USA crown. That is the most of any state in the pageant's 50 years.

She won the Miss Texas pageant last July 17 at Lubbock as Miss Austin.

Krueger said then that she had not expected to win the Miss Texas competition.

"I'm absolutely delighted," she said then. "This is an incredible feeling. I just really feel like I'm still in a dream. I really thought I'd just be first runner-up."

With Krueger winning the Miss USA title, first runner-up Miss Permian Basin, Mandy Jeffreys, will take over the role of Miss Texas USA.

Gary, a blue-collar steeltown, rolled out the red carpet on Friday as 51 women competed for the title of Miss USA.

Cole, 22, of Columbia, Tenn., won the title a year ago when the pageant was held in Branson, Mo.

The contest moved to Gary this year as city officials seek to revamp the gritty image of Gary, best known for steel mills lining the Lake Michigan shoreline and once notorious for having the highest murder rate in the nation. Miss USA will be held in Gary the next two years.

The pageant is half owned by Donald Trump, the New York real estate magnate who also has a 50 percent interest in the Miss Universe Organization, which puts on the Miss USA pageant. Trump's casino holdings include a riverboat in Gary.

A group called the AdHoc Committee for Good Government held a news conference Thursday criticizing Gary officials, alleging that the money spent by the city to host the pageant was not worth it.

Mayor Scott King said the media attention alone garnered by the event made it worthwhile.

"Just look at two minutes on a national newscast and the amount of exposure we'll get tonight during the broadcast and it's well worth it," King said. "The whole community's chest is puffed out a bit."

Gary residents waiting for the door of the Genesis Convention Center to open Friday evening said they believed bringing the pageant to Gary was a worthy investment.

"This is the first step in getting new business to come back in the city," said Calvin Johnson, 77, a lifelong city resident. "I think it's a great thing for the city of Gary, Indiana, because we had such a terrible image. This does a lot to destroy this image. If we're going to be a great city we have to destroy the image first."

The idea was repeated by others who spent between $50 and $250 to attend the event.

"It's given us a lot of pride. It's a start," said June M. Brown, a retired teacher. "You have to spend money to make money. I think this is money well spent. It's been a beautiful affair. It's uplifting."

The pageant winner will compete for the title of Miss Universe, which will be held in Puerto Rico in May. Miss USA also receives an employment contact with the Miss Universe Organization and travels the world representing the company.

Ten semifinalists were selected on Monday after modeling swimsuits and evening gowns and answering questions. Unlike the Miss America pageant, there is no talent portion in the Miss USA pageant.

Hostages return to U.S. after spending months in Ecuador

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP) — Four American oil workers held captive in the jungles of Ecuador for nearly five months are reportedly back on U.S. soil.

A private jet carrying three of the men, all employees for Erickson Air-Crane, arrived early Saturday at the airport in Medford, Ore., where they were quickly whisked away in a corporate vehicle, KDRV-TV reported. The company refused to confirm their arrival.

The plane bore the same tail number as the aircraft that delivered another freed American hostage to Centennial Airport near Denver, Colo., late Friday, the station said.

Arnold Alford, 41, Steve Derry, 41, and Jason Weber, 29, all of Gold Hill, Ore., and David Bradley, a Helmerich & Payne employee from Casper, Wyo., were among 10 hostages freed Thursday for a reported $13 million ransom.

Their captors, believed to be a professional gang of Colombian kidnappers, killed another Helmerich & Payne employee, Ronald Sander, 54, of Sunrise Beach, Mo., last month to pressure the companies to pay.

The five Americans, two French men who later escaped, a Chilean, an Argentine and a New Zealander were abducted at gunpoint Oct. 12 from an oil field in Ecuador's oil-rich northeast Amazon jungle near the border with Colombia.

The surviving hostages were picked up by a military patrol at a prearranged rendezvous point Thursday, and the Americans boarded a private jet in Quito, Ecuador's capital, late Friday.

Foreign Minister Heinz Moeller said Friday he feared the ransom allegedly paid for their release would be used by the kidnappers "to step up violence, perhaps other kidnappings or other crimes" along Ecuador's northern border region.

Moeller said the hostage crisis underscores fears that Plan Colombia, the anti-drug program partly funded by the United States, may drive other leftist insurgents across the border into Ecuador. Ecuador is appealing to the United States for $400 million to $500 million over five years to prevent the effects of "Plan Colombia" from spilling into the nation.

In a speech in Washington, Moeller said Ecuador's security forces stayed on the sidelines during the hostage ordeal at the request of the U.S., Chilean and Argentine governments.

The commander of Ecuador's air force, Gen. Oswaldo Dominguez, said of the widely reported ransom: "We celebrate their liberation, but this is a bad sign that could eventually promote a perverse industry of abduction."

Colombia has the world's highest kidnapping rate, with about 3,700 abductions ever year, most by leftist guerrillas and common criminals.

Tiny, impoverished Ecuador has suffered severe political instability in recent years, including two military-supported coups. It is seen as having little ability to control violence spilling over the border.

The chief of Ecuador's anti-kidnapping police unit, Bolivar Cardenas, said interviews with the freed hostages provided information that could help thwart future abduction attempts.

German Scholz, a Chilean consultant for European energy giant Repsol-YPF, told Channel 10 television shortly after being freed that the kidnappers told them Sander had been liberated as part of a ransom deal.

The companies have not publicly confirmed the ransom payment.

SW jet makes emergency landing

PHOENIX (AP) — A Southwest Airlines jet headed to San Antonio returned to Sky Harbor International Airport and make an emergency landing Friday night after smoke was reported in the rear cabin, authorities said.

Airport spokeswoman Suzanne Luber said there were 70 people aboard Flight 838, including crew members, and all of them used an emergency chute to get off the plane from the left front side.

One female passenger suffered an asthma attack, but there were no other reported injuries, according to Luber.

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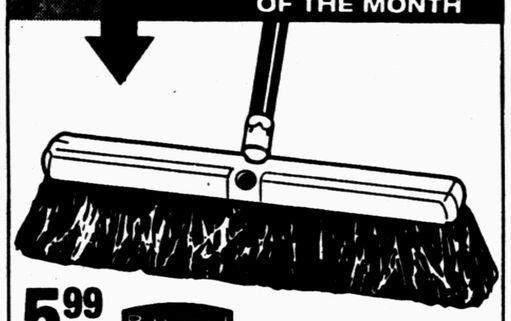

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MAR 03 2001

SPORTS

Lady Tigers place six on 4-4A squad

Despite missing the playoffs, six Snyder Lady Tigers were honored on the girls' 4-4A All-District Basketball Team.

Seniors Ashley Delce, T'Leah Eicke, Kameron Kallemeyn, Cameron Mackey, Kristin Murray and Rina Geiger garnered recognition for Snyder.

Delce was among five players placed on the first team. The 6-1 post lead the Lady Tigers in scoring and rebounding, and ranked among the regional leaders in both categories.

Joining her on the first team were Plainview's Alesha Robertson and Stephanie Shaw, and Levelland's Mika Robertson and Tawanna Flowers.

Eicke, Snyder's best long-range shooter, secured a spot on the third team. The 5-5 guard connected on close to 40 percent of her attempts from behind the arc, and was the Lady Tigers' top free-throw shooter.

Also on the third team were Levelland's Tara Vaughn, Frenship's Jennifer Bagwell, Estacado's Amber Shephard and Plainview's Tojinay Thompson.

The remaining four seniors received honorable mention.

Kallemeyn, a 5-11 post, was an integral part of the Snyder squad, before suffering a season-ending knee injury early in district action.

Up to that point, Kallemeyn was second on the team in scoring and rebounding.

Mackey, the Lady Tigers' 5-1 point guard, started every game her junior and senior seasons, and was a solid defensive player.

Murray gave the Lady Tigers quality minutes from her wing position. The 6-0 senior was also among the team leaders in rebounds.

Geiger, a 5-8 wing, stepped into a starting role when Kallemeyn was lost for the year. Geiger stepped up, providing offensive production, as well as defense.

The Lady Tigers finished district play in fourth place behind Plainview, Levelland and Frenship.

Plainview's Danny Wrenn was named coach of the year, while Chelsi Welch, also of Plainview, was voted most valuable player.

Freshmen Kim Wrightsill of Big Spring and Brittney Courtney of Andrews were named newcomers of the year.

Delce Eicke Kallemeyn

Mackey Murray Geiger

4-4A All-District Team

Coach of the year: Danny Wrenn, Plainview
Most valuable player: Chelsi Welch, 5-9, Jr., Plainview
Newcomers of the year: Kim Wrightsil, 5-8, Fresh., Big Spring; Brittney Courtney, 5-7, Fresh., Andrews
First team: Alesha Robertson, 5-11, Soph., Plainview; Stephanie Shaw, 5-7, Sr., Plainview; Mika Robertson, 5-9, Sr., Levelland; Ashley Delce, 6-1, Sr., Snyder; Tawanna Flowers, 5-10, Soph., Levelland
Second team: Stacy Russell, 5-11, Jr., Frenship; Dana Davis, 5-11, Sr., Estacado; Brittany Reinart, 5-6, Sr., Plainview; Katie Fariss, 5-11, Soph., Andrews; Melissa Forth, 5-6, Sr., Big Spring
Third team: Tara Vaughn, 6-1, Jr., Levelland; Jennifer Bagwell, 6-5, Sr., Frenship; T'Leah Eicke, 5-5, Sr., Snyder; Amber Shephard, 5-5, Sr., Estacado; Tojinay Thompson, 5-9, Soph., Plainview
Snyder honorable mention: Kameron Kallemeyn, 5-11, Sr.; Cameron Mackey, 5-1, Sr.; Kristin Murray, 6-0, Sr.; Rina Geiger, 5-8, Sr.

Astros look solid in win over Dodgers

VERO BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Pinch-hitting standout Dave Hansen, trying to win the third-base job with the Los Angeles Dodgers, broke a finger in Friday's spring opener and will be sidelined at least four weeks.

Hansen broke the middle finger on his left hand diving back into first base during the Dodgers' 5-4 loss to the Houston Astros.

Hansen, 32, set a big league record last season with seven pinch hit home runs. Overall, he hit .289 with eight homers and 26 RBIs.

Adrian Beltre, the Dodgers' starting third baseman, had an emergency appendectomy in the Dominican Republic on Jan. 12, and his subsequent infection hasn't healed. He remains on a liquid diet, and no date has been set for his return.

Among other possibilities at third are Chris Donnels, Jeff Reboulet, Hiram Bocachica and Tim Bogar.

"If something like this was going to happen, it's better to have it happen on the second of March than in the middle of the season," first-year Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said. "You hate to see something like this happen, but he's not missing any regular-season games at this point."

Octavio Dotel pitched three shutout innings and rookie Keith Ginter hit two homers for the Astros. Ginter's second homer leading off the ninth against Dodgers closer Jeff Shaw broke a 4-all tie.

Dotel, expected to be part of Houston's starting rotation, allowed one hit while walking none and striking out four. The hit was a bloop single by Shawn Green, who was thrown out trying to stretch the hit in the first.

"Everything worked today," said Dotel, 3-7 with a 5.40 ERA and 16 saves for the Astros last season. "I threw a lot of changeups, I've never felt this comfortable with the changeup. That's what I need to make a hitter think."

Dotel, who started 16 games a year ago, also hit a two-out single off Chan Ho Park to set up the Astros' first run in the second, and added a sacrifice bunt in the third.

"He was the star of the game," Astros manager Larry Dierker said of the 25-year-old right-hander. "He had better control than at anytime last year. It's not surprising considering what we've seen this spring.

"What I'd like to do coming out of spring training is pitch seven or eight innings in his first start, win 10 or 15 games this season."

The 24-year-old Ginter, player of the year in the Double-A Texas League last season, hit a 2-0 pitch far over the center field fence off Shaw. Ginter also hit a solo homer off Mike Judd in the seventh.

"I don't even know who he is," Shaw said of Ginter, adding he was just trying to throw a strike to avoid falling behind 3-0.

"To come out here the first day, do what I did, it feels great," said Ginter, a second baseman who was player of the year in the Double-A Texas League last season. "Hopefully I can stay up here for a

NFL free agents cash in

By RICHARD ROSENBLATT
AP Sports Writer

On the first day free agents were allowed to cash in, non-free agent Brett Favre crashed the party.

Favre re-upped with the Green Bay Packers on Friday for a reported $100 million over 10 years, while free agents Jerome Bettis of Pittsburgh and Jason Sehorn of the New York Giants were happy to stay put with $30-million plus contracts.

Favre, who had three years left on a $47.25 million, seven-year deal, agreed to a contract extension that makes him the NFL's first $100 million man. Last year, running back Stephen Davis signed a $90 million contract with the Washington Redskins.

"I do want to be a Packer for life," the 31-year-old Favre said during a conference call. "I couldn't envision myself playing with another team. ... Don't want to. If that was to ever come up, I probably would just retire."

In other moves Friday, Tampa Bay claimed bad-boy quarterback Ryan Leaf off waivers; Seattle acquired Packers backup Matt Hasselbeck for undisclosed draft picks; and Miami defensive tackle Tim Bowens agreed to restructure his contract rather than be released.

Favre, the ironman quarterback who set the NFL record for consecutive starts with 141, receives a $10 million signing bonus and the new deal cuts $4 million off his salary cap number which would have been $9,474,000. Favre hopes to play through 2006, making his deal essentially a six-year package for cap purposes.

The NFL's only three-time MVP winner, Favre threw for 3,812 yards with 20 touchdowns and 16 interceptions last season. Green Bay finished 9-7 and missed the playoffs for the second year in a row. The Packers are 1-1 in Super Bowls under Favre.

Sehorn, a seven-year veteran who helped the Giants reach the Super Bowl with several key post-season plays, staked his claim as the highest-paid cornerback when he re-signed for a reported $36 million over six years, including a $10 million signing bonus.

Last month, Atlanta cornerback Ray Buchanan signed a $36 million, six-year contract with an $8 million signing bonus.

"It's awesome to be able to stay in one place and have that one place be New York," Sehorn said. "It's a relief to have the contract done."

Bettis, who has seven seasons with 1,000 yards rushing in eight years in the league, agreed to a six-year deal worth $30 million that could jump to $35 million with incentives. Bettis said he passed up more lucrative offers because of "an opportunity to retire a Pittsburgh Steeler."

The 5-foot-11, 250-pound running back receives a $6 million signing bonus with a 2001 base salary of $484,000. In 2002, his base pay jumps to $2.5 million.

Last season, Bettis ran for 1,341 yards and eight touchdowns, but Pittsburgh finished 9-7 and failed to make the playoffs.

By midnight Thursday, the 31 NFL teams were required get under the $67.4 million salary cap, and many teams ended up cutting big-name players with big-time contracts to prepare for free agent signings. The Colts cut Cornelius Bennett, the Titans waived Al Del Greco, the Bills cut Doug Flutie and the Redskins parted with Dana Stubblefield.

The NFL listed 469 players as free agents Friday. The signing period for free agents ends on July 22.

Woods leads by a stroke

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Tiger Woods, finally making a bogey in this tournament, shot a 4-under-par 68 Saturday and leads by one stroke entering the final round of the Dubai Desert Classic.

Woods, who had 64s in the first two rounds, had trouble with his short putting and was at 20-under 196. In one stretch, he bogeyed three of five holes.

Playing partner Thomas Bjorn was in second place after a 67, and a tournament that after two rounds looked like a two-man show is now a chase.

Padraig Harrington of Ireland was three strokes behind at 199 after a 64. Jeev Milkha Singh of India shot 67 and is at 200. Four others were five strokes behind Woods: Ian Woosnam of Wales (64), Angel Cabrera of Argentina (65), Paul McGinley of Ireland (65) and Brian Davis of England (65).

Woods, nearly flawless in the first two rounds, was hurt by his three bogeys.

On par-4 No. 8, he missed his par putt from 4 feet, and Bjorn capitalized by dropping a 40-footer for birdie to move within one stroke. That ended a 43-hole streak of bogey-free golf.

National Hockey League

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	34	19	10	2	80	194	168
New Jersey	32	17	12	3	79	217	157
Pittsburgh	33	22	7	2	75	216	199
N.Y. Rangers	26	33	4	1	57	202	226
N.Y. Islanders	17	39	5	3	42	144	207

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	37	17	8	2	84	207	155
Buffalo	34	24	5	1	74	169	149
Toronto	30	22	10	4	74	197	164
Boston	27	24	6	7	67	173	194
Montreal	22	34	5	4	53	159	188

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	32	20	10	2	76	179	161
Carolina	28	25	8	3	67	166	177
Atlanta	19	33	10	2	50	171	223
Florida	17	33	8	8	50	155	200
Tampa Bay	16	39	6	3	41	155	227

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	39	16	7	4	89	199	165
St. Louis	39	16	7	3	88	212	151
Chicago	27	29	6	3	63	178	188
Nashville	26	30	8	2	62	153	168
Columbus	21	31	7	6	55	151	189

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	40	12	9	2	91	211	146
Vancouver	34	21	5	5	78	204	190
Edmonton	31	24	9	2	73	183	177
Calgary	22	25	12	4	60	155	179
Minnesota	22	30	9	3	56	135	158

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	36	22	5	2	79	183	158
San Jose	34	20	10	0	78	175	147
Phoenix	29	21	13	2	73	171	164
Los Angeles	28	26	9	1	66	203	191
Anaheim	18	35	8	5	49	152	203

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

Thursday's Games
Toronto 3, Washington 2, OT
Ottawa 8, San Jose 4
Philadelphia 2, Buffalo 0
Boston 3, Tampa Bay 1
Carolina 3, N.Y. Islanders 1
Columbus 5, Nashville 2
Los Angeles 2, Chicago 2, tie
Minnesota 1, Calgary 1, tie

Friday's Games
Atlanta 4, Florida 3
New Jersey 7, Carolina 3
Pittsburgh 7, N.Y. Rangers 5
Edmonton 3, Minnesota 1
Detroit 2, Phoenix 2, tie
Vancouver 3, St. Louis 2, OT
Dallas 5, Anaheim 2

Saturday's Games
San Jose at Boston, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Colorado, 3 p.m.
Ottawa at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Washington, 7 p.m.
Florida at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Calgary, 10 p.m.
Detroit at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Carolina at Chicago, 3 p.m.
Buffalo at Dallas, 3 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Nashville, 3 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Anaheim, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Snyder Bowling Leagues

Men's Commercial League

Team	W	L
Snyder Lanes	61.5	22.5
Cutting Edge	50.5	33.5
Snyder Iron	45.5	38.5
YZ Systems	45	39
Blue Sunco	43	41
The Shack	40	44
Larry's Trucks	39	45
Tiger Mart	32.5	51.5
Timely Finance	31.5	31.5
Tinder Storage	31.5	31.5
BCEC	11	13
J.Shea Jewelers	9	15

High series: Scratch: Cory Maxfield, 565; Daphene Thompson, 440. Handicap: Cory Maxfield, 694; Mary Eime, 597.
High game: Scratch: Cory Maxfield, 223; Daphene Thompson, 175. Handicap: Cory Maxfield, 264; Daphene Thompson, 216.

Roll N Hope League

Team	W	L
Snyder Nat'l Bank	52	28
Snyder Machine	49.5	30.5
NAPA	49	31
Martin Herefords	46	34
Allen Compressor	36.5	43.5

High series: Roger Pavlik, scratch, 554; Jessie Salas, handicap, 674.
High game: Barney Tate, scratch, 232; Bryan Brunson, handicap, 242.
Splits and special mentions: Jeff Smith, 3-10; Elbert Klein, 5-6-10; Roger Pavlik, 2-7, 5-10.

Jack N Jill League

Team	W	L
Snyder Iron	14	10
Countryplace	13.5	10.5
Renegades	13.5	10.5
Do Overs	11	13

High series: Karen Kittles, scratch, 451; Tammie Bassett and Jackie Martinez, handicap, 573.
High game: Cindy Aikin, scratch, 199; Carolyn Allen, handicap, 232.
Splits and special mentions: Jackie Martinez, 2-7; Karen Kittles, 5-6; Dorris Martin, 4-5.

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Softball to
SHS e berth semif

Riding the c three-game winn Snyder Lady Tige own tournamen determined to pro

The Lady Tig Pecos and Clyde Saturday's semifi der tournament.

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Del Rio receiv Eastland's first-r with Midland G slated for Saturda

Del Rio will fa Greenwood winn round, with the game squaring of the semifinals.

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Snyder's semi scheduled for 3 Field.

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SPORTS

Softball tourney...

SHS earns berth in semifinals

Riding the confidence of a three-game winning streak, the Snyder Lady Tigers opened their own tournament like a team determined to prove a point.

The Lady Tigers rolled over Pecos and Clyde to advance to Saturday's semifinals of the Snyder tournament.

Snyder blanked Pecos, 6-0, in the opening round, before whipping Clyde, 12-2, to earn its semifinal berth.

"I'm very pleased with what I'm seeing right now," said first-year Snyder coach Shelly Hayes. "We're hitting the ball all the way through the line-up, and our pitching and fielding are holding up, as well."

In other first-round action, Abilene Cooper shut out Everman, 9-0. Merkel trounced Amarillo Palo Duro, 17-1. Abilene High knocked off Copperas Cove, 6-1, and Coahoma took care of Eula, 7-3.

Del Rio received a bye, and Eastland's first-round match-up with Midland Greenwood was slated for Saturday morning.

Del Rio will face the Eastland-Greenwood winner in the second round, with the winner of that game squaring off with Snyder in the semifinals.

"There are a number of good teams here," Hayes stated. "If we want to win the championship, it's going to take another solid effort on our part in our next two games."

Snyder's semifinal contest is scheduled for 3 p.m. at Cates Field.

A victory would propel the Lady Tigers into the championship round at 8 p.m., while a setback would put them in the third-place game at 6:30.

Following tournament action, Snyder returns to the diamond Tuesday for its district opener against San Angelo Lake View at Cates Field.

SOFTBALL SIGNEE - – Snyder High School senior Cameron Mackey, seated center, signs a softball scholarship agreement Saturday morning with Seward County Community College, located in Liberal, Kan. Also seated are Cameron's mother Judy Mackey and Seward coach Brian Shearer. Standing, from left, are SHS principal Larry Scott, Lady Tiger coaches Shelly Hayes and Mechelle Chrane, Cameron's father Steve Mackey and brother Chris Mackey. (SDN Staff Photo)

Louisville coach to retire at season's end

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Months of speculation and weeks of verbal sniping between Louisville coach Denny Crum and athletic director Tom Jurich came to a peaceful end with the Hall of Fame coach announcing his retirement.

Crum ended a 30-year coaching career Friday by accepting a $7 million buyout. It was an about-face from his insistence throughout this season that he would be back next year.

Crum met with Jurich on Jan. 25 after the athletic director was quoted as saying he could not guarantee Crum would be back. Their strained relationship escalated last week with the release of confidential memos between the two. Louisville president John Shumaker called the release of the memos "not appropriate."

Shumaker denied then that university officials have held secret meetings, talked with boosters about buyouts or contacted other coaches.

In announcing his retirement, Crum hinted Friday that he ended months of speculation about his future in part to preserve the school's image.

"I honestly wish none of that had ever happened," said Crum, who turned 64 on Friday. "There's no way any kind of division is good for the university. I don't want this to be, nor did I ever want this to be something that could damage the university. Things happen, and sometimes you can't control them."

However, Crum insisted at the news conference attended by Jurich and Shumaker that he was not forced out.

"This is my decision and I feel really good about it," said Crum, who held off tears at times while standing at a podium. "Nobody's pushing me out of here. This is really what I wanted to do. I feel great about it."

Jurich said he has not set a timetable for hiring a successor.

"We've got to continue to build this program back to where it was," Jurich said. "I don't think anyone is happy with where this program's at. We want to make sure we get this house in order."

Crum's contract ran through the 2002-03 season. A clause required the university to pay Crum $2 million if his employment ended before June 30.

Nazareth wins 15th state title

AUSTIN (AP) — Whether playing for state titles or simply for bragging rights, Nazareth remains virtually unbeatable in Class 1A.

Stephanie Thiel scored 20 points and the Swiftettes struck for six 3-pointers in the second half as Nazareth defeated Kennard 61-44 in the Texas Cup, the mythical Class 1A state championship.

The University Interscholastic League this year split Class 1A into two divisions for the larger and smaller schools. Kennard (Division I) and Nazareth (Division II) already were declared state champions in each division by virtue of their state tournament victories on Thursday.

The Texas Cup was for bragging rights and Nazareth (33-4), playing in the division for smaller schools, is still walking taller than any other 1A school in Texas. The Swiftettes have won a national record 15 state titles.

The Swiftettes threatened to make it a rout early when they raced to a 13-0 first quarter lead. Whitney Hoelting had nine points in the run, including a steal and pull-up jumper and a 3-pointer.

After Kennard called timeout, Jessie Skinner finally broke the drought with six straight points. Kennard missed its first eight shots but had pulled within 15-10 by the end of the first quarter.

Skinner's baseline jumper drew Kennard even at 15-15 but she also picked up her second and third fouls in a minute. Thiel's driving layup and free throw put Nazareth up 23-19 at the half.

Skinner had 10 points in the first half but spent half the third quarter on the bench after picking up her fourth foul. With Skinner out, Nazareth opened up a 34-21 led on three consecutive 3-pointers, the last by Wendy Black.

Nazareth continued bombing from long range in the fourth.

Girls' Playoffs

STATE TOURNAMENT
at Frank Erwin Center, Austin

CLASS 5A

Semifinals
Mansfield 71, Sugar Land Dulles 61
Spring Westfield 52, Buda Hays 34
Final
Mansfield (35-1) vs. Spring Westfield (33-1), 8 p.m. Saturday

CLASS 4A

Semifinals
Plainview 56, Corpus Christi Calallen 33
Dallas Lincoln 71, Brenham 55
Final
Plainview (35-1) vs. Dallas Lincoln (29-5), 4 p.m. Saturday

CLASS 3A

Semifinals
Abilene Wylie 55, Sour Lake Hardin Jefferson 49
Winnsboro 60, Llano 52
Final
Abilene Wylie (32-2) vs. Winnsboro (36-4), 10:30 a.m. Saturday

CLASS 2A

Semifinals
Boyd 58, Somerville 49
Nacogdoches Central Heights 51, Wall 48
Final
Boyd (33-1) vs. Nacodoches Central Heights (33-4), 2:30 p.m. Saturday

CLASS A

Semifinals
Nazareth 61, Saltillo 51
Kennard 61, Windthorst 54
Final
Nazaerth (32-4) vs. Kennard (35-2), 9 a.m. Saturday

Boys' High School Basketball Playoffs

CLASS 5A

Region I Semifinals
at Midland College
The Colony 75, Odessa High 60
Duncanville 56, EP Montwood 34
Final
The Colony (29-1) vs. Duncanville (29-6), 1 p.m. Saturday

Region II Semifinals
at Baylor University
Bryan 66, Marshall 61
Houston Cypress Springs 69, Rockwall 65 (OT)
Final
Bryan (31-3) vs. Houston Cypress Springs (26-8), 3 p.m. Saturday

Region III Semifinals
at Aldine ISD
Sugar Land Willowridge 72, La Porte 68
Houston Lamar 79, Houston Nimitz 53
Final
Sugar Land Willowridge (36-0) vs. Houston Lamar (35-2), 4 p.m. Saturday

Region IV Semifinals
at UT-San Antonio
Converse Judson 66, CC Ray 59
SA Jay 73, CC Miller 64
Final
Converse Judson (31-3) vs. SA Jay (27-6), noon Saturday

CLASS 4A

Region I Semifinals
at Howard College
Hereford 62, Southlake Carroll 45
Canyon Randall 71, FW Dunbar 64
Final
Hereford (31-4) vs. Canyon Randall (33-1), 2 p.m. Saturday

Region II Semifinals
at Southern Methodist University
Dallas Lincoln 43, Highland Park 35
Dallas South Oak Cliff 77, Lancaster 57
Final
Dallas Lincoln (29-2) vs. Dallas South Oak Cliff (29-5), 7 p.m. Saturday

Region III Semifinals
at Lamar University
Houston Wheatley 77, PA Lincoln 70
Beaumont Ozen 51, Texas City 39
Final
Houston Wheatley (33-7) vs. Beaumont Ozen (33-0), 7 p.m. Saturday

Region IV Semifinals
at St. Mary's University
SA Lanier 48, Dripping Springs 40
SA Houston 72, Austin LBJ 48
Final
SA Lanier (30-5) vs. SA Houston (32-2), 5 p.m. Saturday

CLASS 3A

Region I Semifinals
at United Spirit Arena
Dimmitt 58, Graham 54
Seminole 68, Glen Rose 62
Final
Dimmitt (25-7) vs. Seminole (31-4), 5 p.m. Saturday

Region II Semifinals
at Texas A&M-Commerce
Everman 85, Texarkana Liberty-Eylau 45
Gainesville 53, Clarksville 36
Final
Everman (18-16) vs. Gainesville (22-10), 4 p.m. Saturday

Region III Semifinals
at Sam Houston State
Mexia 60, Cleveland 57
Crockett 65, Wharton 58
Final
Mexia (31-2) vs. Crockett (26-3), 1 p.m. Saturday

Region IV Semifinals
at Texas A&M-Kingsville
CC West Oso 57, Columbus 50
Gonzales 82, Hempstead 73
Final
CC West Oso (31-3) vs. Gonzales (29-3), 1 p.m. Saturday

CLASS 2A

Region I Semifinals
at Abilene Christian University
Olney 53, Plains 46 (OT)
Hale Center 52, Colorado City 47
Final
Olney (24-4) vs. Hale Center (28-7), noon Saturday

Region II Semifinals
at Tarleton State
Peaster 55, Farmersville 54
Ponder 56, Godley 42
Final
Peaster (23-7) vs. Ponder (25-7), 2 p.m. Saturday

Region III Semifinals
at Tyler Junior College
Grapeland 50, West Rusk 49
Corrigan-Camden 49, Bogota-Rivercrest 44
Final
Grapeland (25-9) vs. Corrigan-Camden (19-14), 2 p.m. Saturday

Region IV Semifinals
at St. Edward's University
Jarrell 73, Woodsboro 62
Danbury 89, Bloomington 84 (OT)
Final
Jarrell (24-8) vs. Danbury (26-8), 1 p.m. Saturday

CLASS A-DIVISION I

Regions I-II Semi-State Semifinals
at Odessa College
Stratford 72, Lorenzo 59
Brock 58, Frost 38
Final
Stratford (18-4) vs. Brock (33-2), 4 p.m. Saturday

Regions II-III Semi-State Semifinals
at Waco McLennan College
Evadale 62, Kennard 58
Christoval 68, Harper 40
Final
Evadale (28-5) vs. Christoval (29-4), 1 p.m. Saturday

CLASS A-DIVISION II

Regions I-II Semi-State Semifinals
at Midwestern State University
Nazareth 62, New Home 37
Westbrook 68, Utopia 66
Final
Nazareth (24-9) vs. Westbrook (25-3), 2 p.m. Saturday

Regions II-III Semi-State Semifinals
at Southwestern University
Fannindel 62, Roxton 55
Goodrich 112, Calvert 82
Final
Fannindel (23-4) vs. Goodrich (32-2), 2 p.m. Saturday

Local Schedule

SATURDAY

Track
Snyder boys and girls at Abilene Wylie's Bulldog Relays

Softball
Snyder at Snyder tournament

Baseball
Snyder at Seguin tournament

Tennis
Snyder at New Braunfels Open

Golf
Snyder varsity boys at Andrews Invitational
Snyder varsity girls at Midland Invitational

National Basketball Association

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	44	16	.733	—
Miami	35	24	.593	8½
New York	34	24	.586	9
Orlando	31	26	.544	11½
Boston	26	33	.441	17½
New Jersey	20	40	.333	24
Washington	13	46	.220	30½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	35	22	.614	—
Charlotte	33	26	.559	3
Toronto	32	27	.542	4
Indiana	26	30	.464	8½
Cleveland	22	35	.386	13
Detroit	21	37	.362	14½
Atlanta	18	41	.305	18
Chicago	10	47	.175	25

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	39	18	.684	—
San Antonio	38	19	.667	1
Dallas	36	22	.621	3½
Minnesota	35	24	.593	5
Houston	32	27	.542	8
Denver	30	30	.500	10½
Vancouver	18	41	.305	22

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	41	18	.695	—
Sacramento	38	19	.667	2
L.A. Lakers	37	19	.661	2½
Phoenix	34	23	.596	6
Seattle	31	29	.517	10½
L.A. Clippers	21	41	.339	21½
Golden State	16	42	.276	24½

Thursday's Games
Seattle 101, Cleveland 99, OT
New York 95, Boston 88
San Antonio 91, Phoenix 71
Houston 108, Milwaukee 91
Portland 94, L.A. Clippers 81

Friday's Games
Seattle 86, Indiana 83
Philadelphia 107, Washington 102
Toronto 107, New Jersey 90
Charlotte 105, Atlanta 99
Orlando 120, Cleveland 94
Boston 103, Utah 99
Miami 97, Detroit 93, OT
Chicago 81, New York 72
Minnesota 89, Denver 71
L.A. Clippers 88, Sacramento 81

Saturday's Games
L.A. Lakers at Vancouver, 3:30 p.m.
Houston at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Atlanta at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Chicago at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Denver at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Golden State at Portland, 10 p.m.

Sunday's Games
New York at Toronto, 12:30 p.m.
Orlando at Detroit, 3 p.m.
Charlotte at Boston, 3 p.m.
Utah at Washington, 3 p.m.
New Jersey at Indiana, 3 p.m.
Seattle at Minnesota, 3:30 p.m.
Miami at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

Sports Briefs

Football booster club

Snyder High School football booster club will meet Monday at 7 p.m. in the SHS student center. All parents of junior high and high school players are urged to attend.

Head Coach Chad Rogers, will be joined by Asst. Coach Chris Henson and other staff members to discuss the 2001 football season.

Spring Westfield 52, Buga Hays 34

AUSTIN (AP) — Mercedes Williams had 14 points and five assists and Spring Westfield struggled through an error-filled game for a 52-34 victory Friday over Hays in the Class 5A girls state semifinals.

The teams combined for 53 turnovers. Charity Thomas added 10 points for Westfield (32-1), which advances to Saturday's 5A final against two-time defending champion Mansfield.

Mansfield 71, Sugar Land Dulles 61

AUSTIN (AP) — Erin Grant scored 22 points and dished out 10 assists Friday as Mansfield continued its march toward a third consecutive Class 5A title with a 71-61 victory over Sugar Land Dulles.

Tori Wilson scored 18 and Brie Southall had 15 on five 3-pointers for Mansfield (35-1), which built a 21-point lead before Dulles rallied to get within four in the fourth quarter.

Nacogdoches Central Heights 51, Wall 48

AUSTIN (AP) — Jonni Ecker made four free throws in the final minute, including two with 3.4 seconds left, as Nacogdoches Central Heights rallied to beat Wall 51-48 Friday in the Class 2A state semifinals.

Central Heights led 49-47 after Ecker made a foul shot with 40 seconds left. Wall had a chance to tie when Brandi Weishuhn got to the line but missed the second shot of a one-and-one chance.

Wall got the rebound and Brooke Watson, who led all scorers with 22 points, pulled up in the lane for the go-ahead shot but it bounced off the rim to Ecker who was fouled.

Ecker hit both shots for a 3-point lead. Wall inbounded down court to Abby Smith, whose 3-pointer to send the game into overtime clanked off the back of the rim.

Wall led 36-28 midway through the third when the Hawks spread the offense to kill time.

Boyd 58, Somerville 49

AUSTIN (AP) — Crystal Averitt scored 21 points and Boyd took advantage of Somerville's sloppy first-half play to advance to the Class 2A state final with a 58-49 victory Friday.

Somerville struggled to hold onto the ball, turning it over 16 times in the first two quarters as Boyd (33-1) took a 30-21 lead into halftime.

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Legal Notice

BID NOTICE
The City of Snyder is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of a trailer mounted portable air compressor. The bids will be received until Friday, March 9th, 2001 at 3:30p.m. Specifications and quantities may be picked up at the City Hall. The City of Snyder reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Announcements

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REWARD
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For a challenging career, great rewards, excellent salary and benefits, submit resume to: Human Resources, Charlotte Wadleigh, Garza County Regional Juvenile Center, 800 N. Avenue F; Post, Texas 79356.

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2701 34th Updated-Nice 3-2-2+sunroom $86T
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155 Acres, 116 in CRP . . Close in N.

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CARD OF THANKS

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone in Scurry Co. for all the kindnesses, cards, gifts, prayers and love shown to our family since Stephan's accident Dec. 20th.

We would also like to thank Snyder EMS, the trauma team, Dr. Weaver and all the staff at Cogdell Memorial Hospital for their excellent care.

Our many thanks to Ira ISD, the local FFA programs and everyone who made donations at the Scurry Co. Stockshow and other events on Stephan's behalf.

A very special thank you to the Lollar and Jamison families for their love and support.

To the many visitors, we are so grateful for all the laughter and prayers, it has truly made a difference. We are transferring to the Pate Rehab Center in Carrollton and would appreciate your continued support and prayers.

The overwhelming kindness shown to us is a reminder of what a wonderful area we live in. May God bless you all.

Larry & Barbara Richards
& Stephan Kirk

Kiss unwanted items goodbye
by selling them in the
Snyder Daily News CLASSIFIEDS
573-5486

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Neurological symptoms need diagnosis

DEAR DR. GOTT: For the past two years, I have had trouble comprehending some concepts. I lose my balance and fall a lot. I have no control over my emotions. I often have a headache. Sometimes I have trouble speaking. Can you help me to address these problems?

DEAR READER: Indeed, I can. Start with your family physician. And do it soon. All your symptoms suggest a malfunction of your nervous system and brain. You need a thorough examination, testing and a probable referral to a neurologist. While I won't hazard a guess about the cause of your symptoms, the condition may be treatable — even curable — if you don't wait to seek medical attention.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm addicted to microwave popcorn, but whenever I eat it, I pay the next day with gas and bloating. Is there anything, besides the sodium, that is harmful and could cause my stomach upset?

DEAR READER: Popcorn contains a lot of roughage; the coatings of the popped kernels are hard and indigestible. They act like the fiber in raw vegetables. This roughage can irritate the intestinal tract of a person with a sensitive digestive system.

The gas and bloating are probably caused by bacterial action on the roughage. To overcome your distress, try eating less popcorn at less frequent intervals. Your symptoms may just be related to the amount of popcorn you consume.

To my knowledge, microwave popcorn does not contain any unhealthy additives, unless it is laced with butter and salt. However, you should read labels carefully. Certain brands, for example, are flavored with palm and coconut oils. These tropical oils contain no cholesterol, but, for unknown reasons, can raise blood cholesterol levels in certain patients who are on low-fat diets.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My 88-year-old stepfather is in perfect health. I don't understand why. He was born in Newfoundland, ate salted fish and meats for decades, worked for 22 years in a paint shop, smokes a pack of cigarettes a day, and now lives in New Orleans which, I am told, has one of the highest cancer rates in the nation. Is there some relationship between longevity and geographic location?

DEAR READER: Our resistance to diseases, especially cancer and heart ailments, is most likely genetically determined. Some people can eat highly salted food, work in unhealthy environments — even smoke and drink too much — and live to ripe old ages. Other, less fortunate patients succumb early to such environmental factors. Also, as you know, some people who lead exemplary lives of moderation and good health may die young unexpectedly.

In a very real sense, each of us has a genetic time clock that defines our age limit. No matter how sensible and fastidious we are, we won't exceed that age; nonetheless, we can definitely shorten out genetic life spans by living imprudently and not taking care of ourselves. I do not believe that geographic location, in its strict sense, plays a significant role in longevity.

Your stepfather has either inherited a terrific set of genes or is a living testimonial to Dixieland jazz and Cajun cooking.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Is there a medical test to differentiate between Alzheimer's disease and arteriosclerosis?

DEAR READER: At present, there are no reliable tests to discriminate between Alzheimer's disease — a progressive neurological disorder causing severe loss of higher intellectual functioning — and arteriosclerotic brain disease, which is marked by vagueness and confusion. The diagnosis is usually made on clinical grounds, meaning how the patient looks, thinks and behaves.

Alzheimer's disease, for example, customarily begins at a younger age; patients are typically in their 50s and 60s. It is usually much more progressive and debilitating; patients lose the power of cognitive thinking to a greater degree; they may exhibit emotional outbursts and become mentally handicapped more quickly. The extent of the neurological impairment is more profound. Alzheimer's patients often cannot carry out simple, everyday tasks such as eating and bathing without help and supervision.

On the other hand, arteriosclerotic senility is characterized by a slowly worsening, bland loss of memory and judgment in the very elderly (over 70). Some authorities do not accept the diagnosis of arteriosclerotic senility. They believe that such patients really exhibit a form of Alzheimer's or another disease causing neurological defects, such as multi-infarct dementia, traumatic dementia (following a head injury) or metabolic dementia (caused by thyroid disorders, pernicious anemia, alcoholism, Parkinson's disease or reactions to medications).

Regardless of whether Alzheimer's disease and arteriosclerotic senility are different ailments or manifestations of the same affliction, the treatment is the same: close supervision, emotional and physical support (for both patients and their caregivers), medicine to control the panic, frustration and aggressiveness these patients experience, and nursing home care when necessary.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm now 30 and have been diabetic since childhood. About five years ago, I developed red spots on my shins. My doctor diagnosed necrobiosis lipoidica and said nothing could be done about it. What's the story?

DEAR READER: Necrobiosis lipoidica diabeticorum is an uncommon disorder of the skin seen in diabetics. It consists of oval, red plaques on the shins. The lesions are painless and harmless, but they readily ulcerate if injured, and they can become infected. The cause is unknown; some authorities have speculated that the skin changes may be due to microangiopathy, poor circulation caused by blockage of tiny arteries that feed nutrition and oxygen to the skin. To my knowledge, the condition is untreatable. However, it may improve or disappear if the diabetes is brought under strict control.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I chew my fingernails. Am I missing something in my diet? I admit that I am nervous and can't keep my fingers out of my mouth, but I would certainly welcome a physical cause for my problem.

DEAR READER: Unfortunately, fingernail biting is a stress-reliever — nothing more, nothing less. Therefore, I feel confident in concluding that your problem does not have a physical or nutritional basis.

As you have discovered, it is difficult to overcome this habit. You might want to try stress counseling or substances applied to the nails to make them bitter, but — in my experience — the most consistent cure is the realization "This is dumb, it's affecting my appearance, I'm going to stop it." And you do.

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LOST

Two black and white Siberian Huskies, one male, one female. Male needs medication.
Both were wearing collars w/rabies & ID tags.
Male has brown eyes and female blue eyes.

REWARD!!
Call 573-4889

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President Bush
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Survivors incl
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and Sandi Good
a sister, Eunice

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Bush pushes his tax relief plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush returns to the road next week to ask audiences in states with Democratic senators to "send a message in favor of tax relief" to every member of Congress.

"After all, the surplus is your money," Bush said in his weekly radio address Saturday.

Bush planned a campaign-style swing through North Dakota, South Dakota, Louisiana and the Florida panhandle. He'll begin the week on Tuesday with a speech on economic issues before the Mercantile Exchange in Chicago. He has already pitched his $1.6 trillion, 10-year tax-cut plan to audiences in Pennsylvania, Iowa, Nebraska, Arkansas and Georgia.

The aim is to try to move public opinion in as many states as possible in a bid to sway votes in Congress, especially in the Senate, which is equally divided between the two parties.

"Every day, in every way, whether it's at the White House or it's in travel, the president looks at how to get his plan across to the voters so the voters can get their message to the senators and the congressmen," White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said Friday.

Even in the Dakotas, Fleischer added. "In a 50-50 Senate there is no such thing as a small-populated state."

Asked if Bush really believed he could win over South Dakota's Tom Daschle, the Senate Democratic leader, or North Dakota's Kent Conrad, the Senate Budget Committee's top Democrat, Fleischer said: "I'm not going to start defining who's gettable and who's not gettable, but the president is going to try to build support for his plan everywhere he can."

In the radio address, Bush told Americans he is determined "to bring my case directly to you."

He restated the main elements of that case, repeating themes he developed in his speech last Tuesday night to a joint meeting of Congress.

"My tax rate plan reduces income tax rates across the board, giving the largest percentage reductions to working families who need the most help," Bush said. "It will boost the economy and help create new businesses, new jobs and new growth, at a time when we need all three."

Democrats continued to hold out for a tax cut of about half the size Bush is proposing, contending that the projected 10-year surplus on which it is based may have evaporated by the time it is needed.

Pardon investigation continues

WASHINGTON (AP) — Denise Rich, ex-wife of pardoned fugitive Marc Rich, pushed nearly $500,000 toward Democratic causes after a Rich confidant sent an e-mail saying she should be sent on a "'personal' mission to NO1" — whom congressional investigators identify as President Clinton.

Republicans and a federal prosecutor in New York have been trying to find out whether there was a money-for-pardon deal in Clinton's grant of clemency to the billionaire commodities trader. Clinton has denied there was any "quid pro quo" for the pardon.

Rich, who fled the United States in 1983 rather than face racketeering and other criminal charges, was pardoned by Clinton on Jan. 20 just before George W. Bush assumed the presidency.

Records examined Friday show there was a flurry of donations from Denise Rich — who divorced Rich in 1991 — following the "personal mission" e-mail, which was released Thursday at a House Government Reform Committee hearing.

Clinton supporters have said Denise Rich's contributions to the Clinton presidential library project came months before talk of a presidential pardon request.

Indeed, she made three donations to the library foundation totaling $450,000 — $250,000 in July 1998, then $100,000 in August 1999 and finally $100,000 in May 2000, two months after the e-mail was written.

The March 18, 2000, e-mail talks about sending Denise Rich "on a 'personal' mission to N01 with a well-prepared script.

Washington lawmakers face quake and budget problems

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Lawmakers already grappling with major financial headaches, including a budget shortfall in the hundreds of millions, now have a larger problem: finding funds to repair damage from this week's 6.8-magnitude earthquake.

Preliminary estimates peg the quake's damage at $2 billion, but Gov. Gary Locke and lawmakers are unsure what the state's cost will be. Besides the shortfall, lawmakers are stymied by a state spending limit and the need to make $10 billion in highway improvements.

"We don't know the cost to the state, except that it will be in the millions of dollars," budget office spokesman Hal Spencer said. "We don't know how much aid we will get from Uncle Sam at this point."

Lawmakers first need to find a place to work.

The quake left two visible cracks in the heavy sandstone Capitol dome, and all 20 office buildings in the Capitol complex remained closed Friday for inspection and cleanup. All but the Capitol itself have now been cleared for occupancy.

Legislators plan to hold some hearings next week in buildings a block away from the Capitol. Engineers were expected to spend the weekend determining when it will be safe to use the 1928 building.

Some of western Washington's worst damage was in Olympia, 11 miles from the epicenter of Wednesday's quake. Piles of rubble still blocked downtown sidewalks Friday, and major buildings remained shuttered and buckled roads were blocked off.

The earthquake — its impact minimized by its depth 33 miles below the Earth's surface — was roughly equivalent to a 5.8-magnitude "California-style" quake, said Steve Kramer, a University of Washington civil engineering professor. California quakes tend to occur closer to the surface, he said.

The injury tally climbed to 410 by Friday, but most were minor.

Curtis Johnny Sr., 48, found a bright side to the serious back injury he suffered when a chimney fell on him in his Seattle apartment.

Obituaries

Bernice Keenan

1921-2001

AMARILLO – Bernice Starnes Keenan, a former resident of Scurry County, died Tuesday, Feb. 27, in So. Paris, Maine.

Graveside service for Mrs. Keenan, 79, is set for 11 a.m. Monday at Llano Cemetery in Amarillo under the direction of Griggs and Sons Funeral Home in Amarillo.

Mrs. Keenan

Born Nov. 21, 1921 in Durant, Okla., she grew up in the Ennis Creek area and graduated from Snyder High School. She married Frank "Red" Keenan on July 25, 1942 in Snyder. He preceded her in death.

A homemaker, Mrs. Keenan moved to Amarillo in 1957 and to So. Paris about two years ago. She was a member of San Jacinto United Methodist Church in Amarillo and the Eastern Star.

Survivors include a son, Mike Keenan of McAllen; two daughters, Julia Haverinen of So. Paris and Sandi Goodman of Garland; a sister, Eunice Houston of Snyder; a brother, Scott Starnes of Fort Worth; a niece, Nita Brown of Snyder; a great-niece, Debbie Early of Snyder; a great-nephew, Dave Brown of Snyder; a sister-in-law, Beulah Starnes of Snyder; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to Maine Veterans Home, 477 High St., So. Paris 04281.

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Delbert Jones

1914-2001

Delbert Clyde Jones, 86, a Snyder resident since 1928, died Saturday morning, March 3, at Cogdell Memorial Hospital following a lengthy illness.

Graveside service at Snyder Cemetery is set for 11:30 a.m. Tuesday with Rev. Mike Henson, pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Sept. 23, 1914 in Concho County, he married Amanda McClammy on May 8, 1946 in Lamesa. She died Dec. 30, 1988. He later married Wilma Rodman in November 1991. She died May 19, 2000.

Jones was a long-time farmer and retired Scurry County employee. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the 82nd Airborne Division, fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. He was also a member of the VFW and the American Legion.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Rita and Jerry House of Snyder; a sister, Elura Comer of Odessa; two brothers and sister-in-laws, Eugene and Olafay Jones of Allen and John and Betty Jones of Mesa, Ariz.; four grandsons; one great grandson; one great-granddaughter; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Marian Head in 1991, and a brother, Virgil Jones in 1960.

Family visitation will be at Bell Cypert-Seale from 6-8 p.m. Monday.

Barbara Mott

1912-2001

A memorial service for Barbara Dorothy Mott, 88, was set for 2 p.m. Saturday in the Colonial Hill Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, the Mott family welcomes contributions to the Snyder Community Music Scholarship Fund to assist in the musical education of Snyder's youth. The fund will be administered by Colonial Hill Baptist Church under the direction of Triesta Lilly, Lynn Baldwin and Kathy Mott Kaun. Contributions may be made payable to Snyder Community Music Scholarship Fund.

Development set for corner lot

Plans are underway to develop the corner lot at 30th Street and College Avenue for at least two retail establishments.

Susan Spires sold the lot to Royal Seal Investments of Flower Mound, who in turn sold one parcel to Southern Developments of Mississippi, Inc.

It is expected one building to be constructed will house a video rental store, while the other is expected to house an auto parts store.

The lot contains a total of 19,200 square feet, with 128 feet of frontage on College Avenue.

Juvenile is sent to youth facility

• ***Problems with juvenile***

An officer was called to the MHMR office at 4:28 p.m. Friday in reference to problems a worker was having with a patient. A juvenile was taken into custody and later transferred to the Garza County youth facility. An offense report for Class A assault was filed.

• ***Criminal mischief***

Leroy Tavarez notified officers at 11:10 p.m. Friday of criminal mischief done to his vehicle. An offense report for Class B criminal mischief was filed.

• ***Arrests***

A Department of Public Safety trooper took a 20-year-old man into custody at 4:04 p.m. Friday for driving while license suspended.

A 48-year-old man was booked into Scurry County Jail at 5:43 p.m. Friday on a misdemeanor warrant for assault causing bodily injury.

A misdemeanor warrant for criminal trespass of a habitation landed a 21-year-old man in jail at 8:25 p.m. Friday.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Car show, cruise

Snyder Wheels Car Show and Cruise will be held until 5 p.m. Saturday at the Scurry County Coliseum followed by the cruise starting at 6 p.m. down College Ave. and around the Sonic Drive In.

Museum exhibit

The courthouse exhibit will open 1-3 p.m. Sunday at the Scurry County Museum on the WTC campus.

Fluvanna First Baptist special

Jodie Boudreaux Wilson of Lamesa will perform at 10:30 a.m. Sunday at the First Baptist Church in Fluvanna. Cecil Foster, pastor, invites the public to attend.

Grand jury to meet

Approximately 21 cases will be presented to the Scurry County grand jury beginning at 8:30 a.m. Monday.

West book fair

West Elementary's book fair will be held Monday-Thursday in Room 8. Times include 8-10 a.m. and 2:30-4 p.m. It will also be open during Thursday's Family Reading Night, from 6-7:30 p.m.

Northeast reading nights

Family Reading Nights at Northeast Elementary will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Pizza and soft drinks will be served. Child care will be available.

Senior parents meeting

Parents of SHS seniors will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Monday in the student center. Plans will be finalized for the remaining senior activities, including the steak supper, all night graduation party and other events. For more information, call 573-7133.

Bible study tapes

Bible study videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "The Incarnation of Jesus," followed by "Judged by Our Lord."

FBC worship service

The First Baptist Church worship service airs at 3 p.m. each Thursday on TV Channel 2.

West family reading night

West Elementary holds its family reading night from 6-7:30 p.m. every Thursday. New sessions have been added. Childcare and refreshments are provided.

County, Gospel music night

Country and Gospel music night is scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday, March 10, at the Senior Citizens Center. For information, call 573-3996.

Retired teachers meeting

Scurry County Retired Teachers Association will meet at noon on Monday, March 12 at The Shack. Dorothy Rosson will give a book review for the program.

Income tax help

An IRS-approved program for elderly and low-income persons of any age is held from 9 a.m. until noon and from 1-3 p.m. every Wednesday at the Snyder Senior Citizens Center.

1961 SHS class reunion

The class of 1961 is seeking current e-mail and mailing addresses of class members for a summer reunion. To submit information call Ginny Sims Griffith, 573-0212, or e-mail griffdg@bigcountry.net, or Gilbert Merritt, 573-1921, or e-mail gmerritt@snydertex.com.

1986 class reunion

The SHS class of 1986 is seeking current addresses of class members for a reunion set for July 6-7. To submit names and addresses or for more information call Mike McWilliams, 573-6543 or Xalyn Harris Palacios, 574-3343 or 573-2148.

SHS '91 class reunion

The SHS class of 1991 reunion is set for July 20-21. Addresses are being sought for classmates. Send information to Robbie Braziel at 2303 Ave. H, or 573-6632, or Melissa Jones at 1045 CR 132 or call 574-8005.

Adult basic education classes

Adult basic education classes at WTC are 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 these classes. Call 573-8511, ext. 322.

WTC swimming pool opens

The WTC swimming pool is now open for public use. Lap swimming: M-F 6:30-8 a.m., and 12-1 p.m. Open swimming: M-TH 7-9 p.m. Cost is $2 per person or $50 for a semester pass. The pool is also available for parties on Fridays and Saturdays. For more information, contact Lisa Christensen at 573-8511, ext. 290.

Glory Room open

The Glory Room, a Christian library located at Trinity United Methodist Church, is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Everyone is asked to return materials so that others may check them out. If other hours are needed, contact the church at 573-3988.

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients is available every day free of charge to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland. For more information, call Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993 or Blakely Fargason at 574-8041. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

Discovery School registration

Registration for summer Discovery School at First United Methodist Church is underway. The session is for June and July. Registration will continue until classes are filled. Summer hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for children ages six weeks through five years. For more information, call 573-4770.

MAR 03 2001

CG suspends search for missing mariners

HONOLULU (AP) — The U.S. Coast Guard has suspended its search for nine victims lost at sea last month after their Japanese fishing vessel was rammed and sunk by a surfacing Navy submarine.

The four students, two teachers and three crewmen of the Ehime Maru have been missing since Feb. 9 and presumed dead. Coast Guard Lt. Christina De Leon said Friday night that no ships would be sent out to continue searching for them, pending further developments.

The Japanese trawler sank minutes after it was hit by the USS Greeneville during a rapid-ascent drill nine miles off Honolulu. Twenty-six people from the training boat were rescued.

Underwater probes found the vessel Feb. 16 on the ocean floor in 2,000 feet of water. The Coast Guard said the search for the missing covered more than 38,541 square miles, an area larger than the size of Indiana.

Earlier Friday, The National Transportation Safety Board, which is investigating the accident, released information showing the surface and subsurface movements of the two vessels.

The submerged Greeneville raced past the slow-moving Ehime Maru before a fateful course reversal that ended in their deadly collision, according to the information.

It was the first disclosure of the submarine's movements in the critical 10 minutes leading up to the collision.

The Navy is scheduled to open hearings into the accident Monday at Pearl Harbor, focusing on the actions of the Greeneville's officers.

Navy lawyers on Friday were reviewing a request from attorneys for submarine Cmdr. Scott Waddle seeking "testimonial immunity" for Waddle during the hearings.

Testimonial immunity would prevent military lawyers from prosecuting Waddle based upon anything he says during the investigative hearing, according to military legal expert Eugene Fidell, president of the National Institute of Military Justice in Washington, D.C. However, Waddle still could face prosecution based upon the testimony of others.

Lawyers for Adm. Thomas Fargo, who convened the hearings, were reviewing the request. Waddle's attorneys did not return messages from The Associated Press.

The Navy had no comment on the information released by the NTSB, said Jon Yoshishige, a spokesman for the Pacific Fleet. He said the Navy is cooperating fully with the NTSB's investigation.

The information released by the NTSB is based on a preliminary tape provided by the Navy of the Greeneville's sonar and navigation data.

It showed the 190-foot fisheries training vessel was traveling in a south-southeast direction at 11 knots, nearly parallel to the southbound course of the submerged 360-foot Greeneville.

The much-faster submarine passed the Ehime Maru, but reversed course to the north to prepare for an emergency surfacing drill. The drill was a demonstration for 16 civilian guests aboard, the Navy said.

When the vessels were about two miles apart, the Greeneville made a series of zigzag turns, continuing in a north-northwest direction before ascending to an initial periscope depth five minutes before the impact.

After 11/2 minutes at periscope depth, the Greeneville descended, going the same direction as the Ehime Maru. It reached 405 feet in two minutes and turned northward.

The Greeneville then shot to the surface in 50 seconds, coming up under the Ehime Maru, the NTSB data show. The submarine ripped the bottom out of the Ehime Maru.

Navy submarines have been involved in at least five other collisions with surface vessels since 1992, according to Navy data. Two involved the USS La Jolla, a nuclear attack submarine in the same Pacific Fleet squadron as the Greeneville.

Vietnam vet and family are reunited

SEATAC, Wash. (AP) — Carey Bateman reluctantly left the woman he loved, their son and unborn daughter 30 years ago when his tour of duty in Vietnam ended.

The war veteran's decades-long search to find Tay Nguyen, and their two children ended Friday in an emotional reunion at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

"I just can't describe it," said Bateman, who flew from his home in Hillsborough, N.C., to meet his long-lost family "It's just too much."

Bateman and Tay Nguyen shared a long embrace. Then he hugged Hoang Nguyen, the 31-year-old son he last saw as an 18-month-old toddler, and Yen Nguyen, the 30-year-old daughter he'd never seen.

Though Bateman eventually married someone else and had two other children, he never forgot his family from Vietnam.

Bateman, 53, met Tay Nguyen, 50, in 1967 while serving as a soldier in the Vietnam War. He was 19 and she was 17.

"We fell in love and had two kids," Bateman said.

Bateman kept extending his tour of duty to stay in Vietnam with Tay and even re-enlisted after being sent back to the United States. By 1971 he was sent home for good.

Bateman said he tried to find out what happened to Tay Nguyen and their two children and even wanted to have them sent to America but "you were fighting two governments at that time."

Meanwhile, Vietnamese life wasn't easy for the Nguyens. Being half American made the children frequent targets of persecution.

The Amerasian Homecoming Act of 1987 paved the way for them to come to America. The family has been living outside Seattle, in Everett, for 10 years.

"I've been searching for him for 10 years," Hoang Nguyen said.

The Nguyens and Bateman both tried finding each other, but they encountered setbacks. Bateman went to Vietnam to find them in 1994, not knowing they were already in America, and was told by people there they might be dead.

In 1999, he saw a newspaper article about a Vietnamese woman who had been Tay Nguyen's best friend. Linda Barron and Tay Nguyen were roommates in Vietnam, but were separated when Barron married an American soldier and left with him in 1970.

Bateman and Barron got together last May, and by February, Bateman and the Nguyens had each other's addresses.

"What was ironic about it was they found me about two days before I found them," Bateman said. "We were both closing in on each other."

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Jun...

(Editor's No... the sixth in a s... an overview ... Education pr... der ISD. The f... the high sc... while this one ... junior high.)

High school ... cation student... their first "sho... Snyder Junior ... under the direc... Bill Bell and Ra... classes are now...

Bill Bell an... Brad is maki...

Profiles in Education

by Shirley A. Gorman

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Junior high has active technology ed program

(Editor's Note: This article, the sixth in a series, wraps up an overview of Technology Education programs at Snyder ISD. The first five profiled the high school program while this one focuses on the junior high.)

High school technology education students often receive their first "shop" experiences at Snyder Junior High School, under the director of instructors Bill Bell and Ralph Ramon. Shop classes are now called Technology Education, but at one time they were classified first as industrial arts and later as industrial technology.

While both teachers have taught the beginning as well as the advanced courses, Ramon presently teaches the beginners and Bell works with the advanced classes. Both also have coaching duties, as well.

Boys are mainly interested in the tech ed classes, but a few girls do register each semester. The instructors said girls tend to be perfectionists, pay more attention to detail and take longer to build something. Ramon added, "Boys are in a hurry to finish one project so they can start another one."

Bell added that boys like to "cut stuff up."

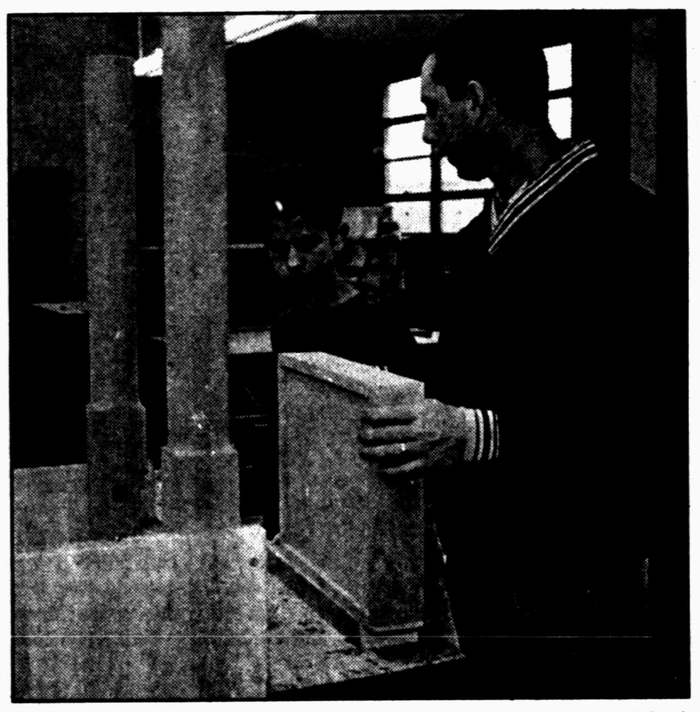
If girls are hesitant about taking the class, Ramon reassures them that in spite of whatever "shop horror stories" they may have heard, he won't let them get hurt using the machines.

The junior high program is divided into four semester-long classes: introductory technology education, construction and manufacturing, advanced woods and advanced metals. The first two classes are pre-requisites for the advanced courses.

Ramon teaches introductory classes during the fall and spring semesters and Bell teaches the other classes.

The introductory course begins with the basics — measuring and drafting. That surprises the students, Bell said, because they want to "start cutting wood on the first day of class." Before they can do that, though, they spend several weeks learning the correct way to measure and how to cut wood according to a blueprint or construction plan. This gives students a better perspective, Bell said, and they also get to use their math skills.

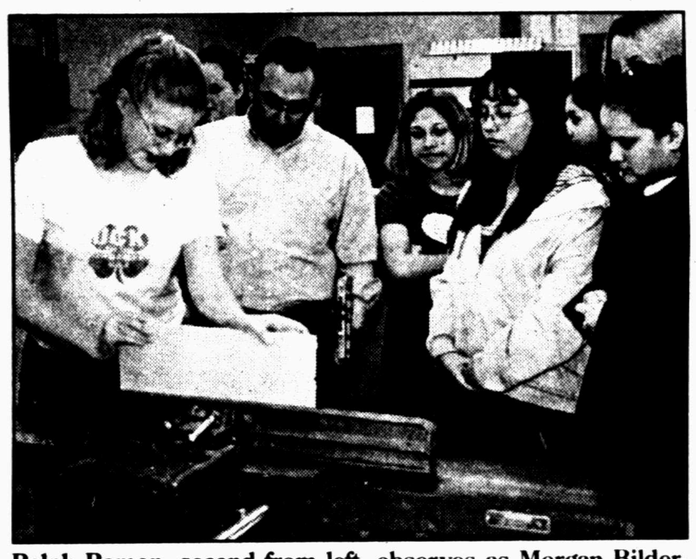
Ramon's first year students learn to draw various shapes including three-dimensional, orthographic and isometric. He said students think three-dimensional drawings "are neat."



Bill Bell and Brad Richardson discuss the butcher block Brad is making.

Along with the U.S. scale, Ramon teaches the metric system, which the rest of the world uses. He noted that many students like the metric system better, but he emphasizes that they must learn how to read the U.S. scale if they want to get a job in this country.

Machines come next. Both instructors emphasize the importance of working safely with all of the machines in the shop. First, the instructors go over each part of a machine and demonstrate how to safely operate it. The next day, Ramon's students are tested on each machine. They must identify all of the parts, know how to set it up and how to operate each one.



Ralph Ramon, second from left, observes as Morgan Bilderback demonstrates how to work the jointer. Other students watching are Crystal Bernal, Nita Swan and Valerie Lopez.

He follows the same procedure for the cordless and portable drills as well.

Bell works one-on-one with each student as they operate each machine. With students' capabilities ranging from gifted to resource, he said safety is a top priority. "It has become second nature for me to look when I hear a machine come on. I stress to students that a machine can't tell the difference between a piece of wood or a finger. We have been pretty lucky so far."

Once Ramon's students have absorbed the basics, the class collectively begins to build a simple shelf, which allows them to use all of the 15 machines in the shop.

If students are hesitant about cutting a piece of wood, he said he will make the actual cut for them; but they have to set the machine and stand beside him while he does it.

Ramon said students usually complete their shelves in two weeks. If there is enough time, they can make something else, if he approves the project. The shelves are often given to parents as Christmas gifts.

Bell's students also begin a construction project at the same time. In addition to the blueprint, they follow a "plan of procedure" which tells them, step by step, how to build whatever their project is.

Bell considers the plans of procedure very useful because with "20 kids in a class, I can only spend so much time with each student during the 45-minute class periods."

He noted that it is also important for students to think and begin to solve problems on their own. Bell said the plans help keep them thinking about the next thing they have to do.

The introductory course also includes a section on rockets. Students build small ones from scratch and launch them. When Bell taught the beginners, he said he sometimes substituted building CO_2 cars in place of the rockets.

In construction manufacturing, the second course, Bell reviews basic drafting and machine safety before introducing the students to a "higher and more complicated level of draw-

See Junior High, Page 4B

'Tis Easy Bein' Green!

Sure and remember to send St. Patrick's Day cards.
St. Patrick's Day is Saturday, March 17.

Hallmark

St Patrick's Day

Paper Goods & Gifts

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The Pleasure's Mine

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• Layaways Virginia Bloom, Owner

Hallmark

MAR 03 2001

Byrd, Smith pledge vows in Las Vegas

Shanna Lynette Byrd and Shawn Eric Smith were married on Feb. 16, in the Little White Chapel in Las Vegas, Nev., with the Rev. Ron Porras officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Dale and Elaine Byrd of Snyder. The bridegroom is the son of Jan and Glynn Strom of San Angelo and Gene Smith of Mertzon.

The bride is a 2000 master of education graduate of Wayland Baptist University, a 1993 Cum Laude graduate of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and a 1989 graduate of Snyder High School. She is employed by Region XV Education Service Center.

The bridegroom is a 1997 graduate of Angelo State University and a 1989 graduate of Central High School. He is employed by Trans Texas Southwest Credit Union.

The couple reside in San Angelo.

Mr. and Mrs. Shawn Eric Smith
(Contributed Photo)

Three workers fired

ZIONSVILLE, Ind. (AP) — Three bank employees have been fired after staging a fake robbery as a prank on a co-worker.

An employee of a KeyBank branch was returning to work Wednesday morning when he noticed that the lights were off. He also saw the legs of a co-worker sticking out from behind a desk. He then left the bank and called police.

"As soon as we pulled up, one of the employees admitted it was a hoax played by several of the banks employees on a manager," Zionsville police Sgt. Doug Gauthier said.

KeyBank spokesman Ken Baierl said Thursday the three employees had violated the bank's professional conduct policy and had been fired.

Bridal Registry

KRISTY BOLLINGER AND BRIAN MILLER
JENNY HUNTER AND DALVIN HAMPTON
MAUNA FLORA AND DELL BLACKWELL
KASSIE DRAIN AND SAMMY MECHE
MICHELLE LEWALLEN AND STEVE WISEMAN
STEPHANIE WHITTENBURG AND DONNY SMITH
LATRISHA LEE AND CARL SPAIN
SARAH LILLY AND CHRIS POST
KALLI PIERCE BABB AND JAKE BABB
TIFFANY GREENE AND ARRON EPPS
MELISSA HICKS AND BRODIE HARRIS

Infant Registry

Wedding Invitations
•Tuxedo Rentals
Phone In Orders Welcome
Free Delivery To Bridal Shower

Classic Interior
2520 Ave. R East Side of Square 573-1701
Open Mon.-Fri. 9:30-5:30, Sat. 10:00-4:00

SC Library News & Views

By Janie Romine, librarian

March is the fund-raiser month for the Scurry County Library.

Did you know that citizens or businesses in Scurry County pay for many of the magazines at the library?

This next week those businesses or individuals that have donated for specific magazine subscriptions in the past will be receiving letters to see if they wish to continue the donations. Since some of our benefactors have moved away from the area, the Scurry County Library is seeking new contributors this year.

We are requesting sponsors for McCall's, Ladies Home Journal, and Reader's Digest. These are magazines that are read extensively that we do not wish to lose from our subscription list.

If you notice that the library does not have a particular magazine that you feel our citizens would enjoy, consider becoming one of our library supporters and contributing the subscription price to the library. If you wish, your name will be placed on the magazine cover as the individual or business who donated the subscription. Remember, all gifts are tax deductible.

Have you cleaned out closets or bedrooms, and do you have extra books that you no longer need or want? Donate them to the library for our annual spring book sale. Our book sale will be March 21-24 and is our only fundraiser of the year. We use the funds from the book sale to finance the summer reading program for the youth, and to support our fax machine and computer copying capabilities.

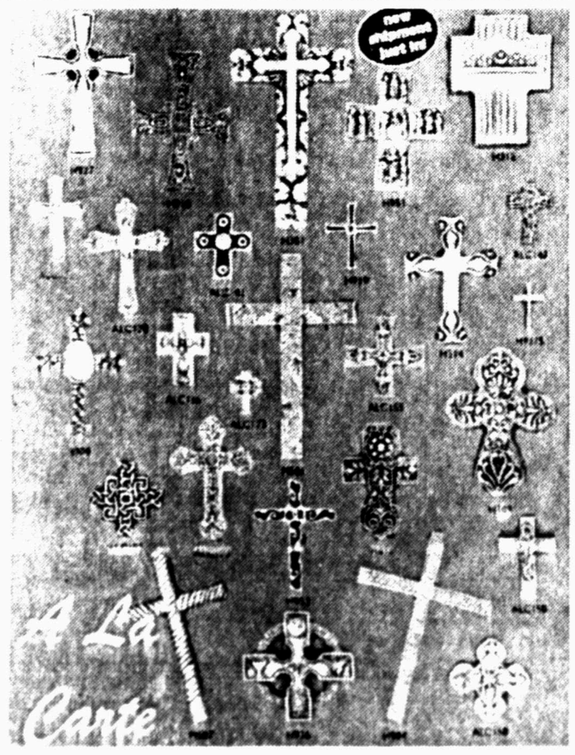
The summer reading program is very important to our schools, because it encourages reading so students do not lose skills they learned throughout the school year. Help our library so that we can continue this vital program.

If you haven't been to the library lately, come by and see our new books and acquaint yourself with our online databases. If you want to be on the magazine contributor list, speak to one of the library staff and we will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to working with you in March in order to make our library an even better place!

Cooking hints

For lighter, moister texture in high altitude cooking, add potato flakes instead of the extra flour called for in recipes for cakes and other baked goods.



McWilliams Pharmacy
3706 College Avenue 573-7582

Amanda Powell, Davis marry

Amanda Lea Powell became the bride of Michael Paul Davis at 7 p.m., Sept. 9 in the garden area of Jack Greene's country home.

Dr. Rex Reynolds, pastor of the Hermleigh First Baptist Church, officiated the double-ring ceremony.

The bride's parents are William and Laura Powell of Snyder and the groom's parents are Mike Davis of Snyder and Carla Campbell of Snyder.

Vows were pledged in a church decorated with lavender and baby blue candles and matching flowers.

The couple's mothers lit the candles. "Silhouette," by Kenny G., was played as the bride and her attendants strolled down the aisle to the altar. Following the couple's vows "I'll Be Your Everything," by Keith Urban, was played. "I Cross My Heart," by George Straight, was played while the unity candle was being lit.

Her father gave the bride in marriage as she wore a flowing crepe A-line gown with a bodice detailed in metallic nylon lace. She wore ivory shoes matching the ivory gown. The bride wore baby's breath in her hair and carried a bouquet of white, lavender and baby blue flowers.

In keeping with tradition, the bride carried her grandmother's handkerchief; something blue was her garter; something borrowed were pearl earrings; and something new was her wedding gown.

Maid of honor was Andrea Powell, twin sister of the bride. Bridesmaid was Deanne Salberg of Eddie, Tex., sister-in-law of the bride. They wore lavender floor-length, sleeveless dresses with empire waists. Bridesmaids were Marti Holguin, sister of the bride; Falon Sisneros, cousin of the bride from Midland. They wore baby blue, floor-length sleeveless dresses with an empire waist. Attendants carried bouquets with baby blue and lavender flowers.

Flower girls were Rylan Sanchez, niece of the bride, and Mattie Curry. Dakota Carroll, nephew of the bride, was ring bearer.

Gabriel Hernandez of Plano was best man. Groomsmen were Randy Solberg, brother of the groom from Eddie; William Powell, father of the bride; Mike Davis, father of the groom.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Paul Davis
(Conributed Photo)

The groom wore black Wranglers, black boots, white shirt, black tie and black sports coat. Bestman and groomsmen wore black Wranglers, black boots, white shirts and black ties.

Leslie Sisneros, aunt of the bride from Midland, registered guests.

A reception followed the ceremony where a three-layered wedding cake was served. The cake was decorated with baby blue, lavender and white flowers and a miniature blue water fountain.

The couple reside in Snyder where the bride is employed with Snyder Community Services and the groom is employed with Y-Z Systems. The bride is a 1999 graduate of Snyder High School. The groom, a 1997 graduate of SHS is also a graduate of Texas State Technical College in 1999.

School Menus

Snyder

All meals are served with choice of milk.

CLASSROOM BREAKFAST MENU

Monday
Cereal
Graham Crackers
Juice

Tuesday
Teddy Grahams
Juice

Wednesday
Grilled Cheese Sandwich
Juice

Thursday
Cinnamon Roll
Juice

Friday
Breakfast on a Stick
Juice

OTHER SCHOOLS BREAKFAST

Monday
Pigs in a Blanket w/Syrup
Assorted Dry Cereal
Toast w/Jelly
Juice

Tuesday
Cinnamon Rolls or
Assorted Dry Cereal
Toast w/Jelly
Juice

Wednesday
Hot Breakfast Pocket or
Assorted Dry Cereal
Toast w/Jelly
Juice

Thursday
Scrambled Eggs & Bacon or
Assorted Dry Cereal
Toast w/Jelly

Friday
Oatmeal w/Peaches or
Assorted Dry Cereal
Toast w/Jelly
Juice

LUNCH

Monday
Hamburger on a Bun or
Crunchy Corn Dog
French Fries
Lettuce, Tomato & Pickle
Chilled Peach Cup

Tuesday
Stuffed Baked Potato w/Chili
Grilled Ham & Cheese
Frito Corn Chips
Tomato & Cucumber Salad
Fresh Apple Wedges

Thursday
Beef Enchiladas
Chicken Quesadillas
Pinto Beans
Tossed Salad
Chips-n-Salsa

Friday
Fish Wedge w/Tarter Sauce
Beef Nacho Grande
Mixed Vegetables
Macaroni-n-Cheese
Strawberries-n-Bananas

Ira

All meals are served with choice of milk

BREAKFAST

Monday
Cereal
Toast
Juice

Tuesday
Breakfast Burritos
Juice

Wednesday
Breakfast Pizza
Juice

Thursday
Pancakes
Sausage
Juice

Friday
Biscuits & Gravy
Peaches

LUNCH

Monday
Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce
Corn
Vegetable Salad
Garlic Bread
Cake

Tuesday
Chicken Ala King
Carrots
Crackers
Cookies
Pears

Wednesday
Hamburgers
French Fries
Peach Cobbler

Thursday
Hot Dogs
Tater Tots
Ranch Style Beans
Brownies

Friday
Sandwiches
Chips
Oranges

Hermleigh

Monday

Breakfast
Juice
Glazed donuts
Milk

Lunch
Barbecue pork rib pattie
Potato salad
Pickle spears
Hot rolls
Peanut butter bars
Milk

Tuesday

Breakfast
Fruit
Kolaches
Milk

Lunch
Chili beans
Glazed carrots
Cornbread
Chilled peaches
Milk

Wednesday

Breakfast
Juice
Dry cereal
Toast
Milk

Lunch
Oven fried chicken
Mashed potatoes
Shredded lettuce
Hot rolls
Pink applesauce
Milk

Thursday

Breakfast
Fruit
Cheese toast
Milk

Lunch
Sloppy Joes
Potato wedges
Relish cup
Fudge brownies
Milk

Friday
School Holiday

KLASSY KIDS
GRAND OPENING TODAY!!
574-Kids 1806 26th Street
Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Did you take Fen-Phen?
If you took any of the combination of diet drugs known as Fen-Phen you should know that it may not be too late to opt-out of the nationwide class action case and pursue a lawsuit against the drug companies individually.
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3333 One Houston Center Houston, Texas 77010
1 (800) 883-9858 or (713) 654-4040
Mr. Willis is likely to associate with other Attorneys in the handling of these cases.

Ask Anne & Nan

By Anne B. Adams and Nancy Nash-Cummings

Clean grimy lampshades

DEAR ANNE AND NAN: Please tell me how to clean lampshades — in particular, old cardboard shades with a mock-linen covering. They have top and bottom ruffles made of stiff material. The dirt is an accumulation of grime from sitting out in the open for many years. These lamps have great sentimental value. — **PAT MILLS, Muskogee, Okla.**

DEAR PAT: Paper lampshades can be tricky to clean, but a thorough dusting is a good place to start. Use the upholstery brush or dust brush from your vacuum cleaner. From now on, do this every week. Be sure to vacuum the inside and the outside of the shade. The next step is to get a dry sponge. Nan's sister introduced her to these, and they work well on lampshades. Look in the notions department or in a hardware store to find these wonders. Lightly brush — don't rub — the sponge over the shade's surface. Chuck the sponge when it blackens and becomes saturated with dirt.

DEAR ANNE AND NAN: I'm looking for a place to purchase large-sized flour sacks (over 30 inches by 30 inches) for making dishtowels. I would be purchasing in lots of 50 or more and would like the price to be about $1 each. In stores, they run about $1.75, which is too costly to make a profit and sell the embroidered towels at a reasonable price. — **LAURELE SANDER, Sturtevant, Wis.**

DEAR LAURELE: We could find only flour-sack towels, not plain flour sacks. The best price we could find is for one dozen towels, 34 inches by 17 inches, for $13.95. These are available from Gohn Bros. at P.O. Box 1110, Middlebury, IN 46540; (800) 595-0031.

DEAR ANNE AND NAN: Where can I get directions on how to make a quilt out of neckties? — ETHEL ANN MILBY, Cordova, Md.

DEAR ETHEL: There's a book called "Daddy's Ties" by Shirley Botsford (Chilton Book Co., 1994). It's filled with ideas for making all sorts of things out of ties, including quilts. It's available from Clotide, a store in Stevens Point, Wis., for $13.60 plus $4.95 for shipping and handling. To order, call (800) 772-2891.

STUMPED: CLEANING CAT URINE OUT OF LEATHER FURNITURE — Sylvie Rudolf of Cornish, N.H., has cat urine stains in her leather sofa. We have called every resource we know and still have no ideas for homemade solutions for getting rid of the stain and odor from kitty's indiscretions.

Any ideas, dear readers?

Write to "Ask Anne & Nan" at P.O. Box 240, Hartland, VT 05048. Our new book, "Clean It, Fix It, Find It," is ready. The price is $14.95 plus $4 shipping and handling. Add $1 shipping and handling for each additional book ordered. Mail your order to Enfield Distribution, P.O. Box 699, Enfield, NH 03748. Or call toll-free (888) 216-7611.

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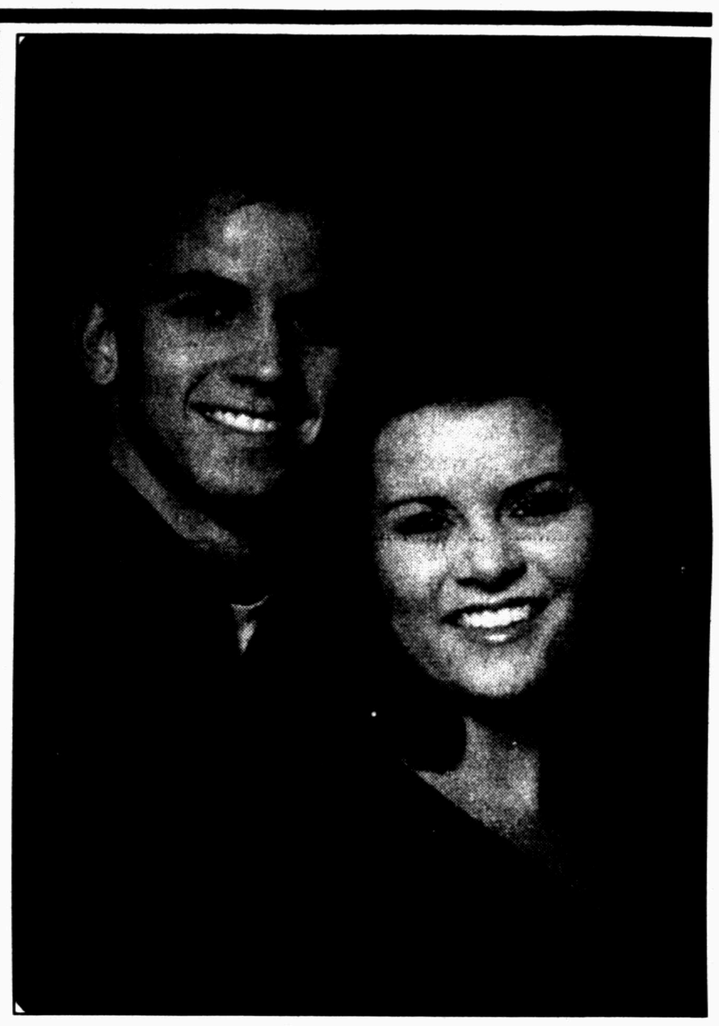

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED — LaQuita Blevins of Granbury and Robert Blevins of Canyon announce the engagement of their daughter, Alisha R'Shea, to Jeremy David Bowden, son of Terry and Paula Bowden of Snyder. The couple plans to be married on March 23 in the First Baptist Church in Snyder. (Contributed Photo)

District VIII to have its spring meet

The spring convention of District VIII of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. will convene in Del Rio on March 9-10.

Host clubs will be Cactus Thorn Garden Club and Mignonette Garden Club of Del Rio.

The theme for the convention will be "Our Western Heritage."

All activities are slated at La Quinta Inn, 2005 Avenue F, Highway 90 West. The pre-convention starts on Friday, March 9, with registration from 4 to 5 p.m. A Dutch treat dinner is at 6 p.m. with entertainment to follow.

On Saturday morning, registration and hospitality will be from 8 to 9:30 a.m. The executive committee meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m., followed by the general assembly and business session at 9:30 a.m.

A luncheon will be at noon, then a featured speaker will highlight the event.

Convention chairman is June Kohlman of Del Rio. Serving as co-chairman and registration coordinator is Louene Milam of Del Rio.

LaVerne Hood, district director of Snyder, will preside over the business sessions.

Delegates attending represent garden clubs from Abilene, Ballinger, Big Lake, Breckenridge, Coleman, Colorado City, Cross Plains, Del Rio, Haskell, Iraan, Merkel, Ozona, Rankin, San Angelo, Snyder and Stamford.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

♠ 7 6
♥ J 10 5
♦ 9 2
♣ A K 7 6 4 3

West
♠ F Q 10 9
♥ 7 2
♦ K 6 4 3
♣ J 9 2

East
♠ J 8 5 4 3 2
♥ 3
♦ 7 5
♣ Q 10 8 5

South
♠ A
♥ A K Q 9 8 6 4
♦ A Q J 10 8
♣ —

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
7 ♥!	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠ K

Crazy bidding can be fun

Many years ago, my partner opened two diamonds, announcing a weak two-bid in either major. I had a mountainous hand, but a void in hearts. Expecting that to be his suit, I settled for two hearts. (I should have responded two no-trump, asking for definition, and rebid three no-trump if he had hearts, because I rated to collect nine tricks all on my own.) However, when partner rebid two spades, I leapt majestically to five no-trump, asking him to bid seven with two of the top three spade honors. This he did, and we scored plus 2210. So, we were going to play in either two hearts or seven spades, depending on the major he held!

Today's deal is similar. South should open two clubs (or two hearts, if still using strong two-bids). Yet — pessimism personified — he was afraid that the nonvulnerable opponents might bounce the bidding in spades, making it hard to show his hand. However, when North made a single raise, South recovered with perhaps a unique effort in the annals of the game.

South saw that the diamond finesse could wait. First, he worked to establish dummy's club suit.

After winning with the spade ace, declarer led the heart six to dummy's 10, cashed the ace-king of clubs (discarding diamonds from hand), and ruffed a club with the heart eight. When both opponents followed suit, declarer overtook his heart nine with dummy's jack, ruffed another club with the heart queen, and returned to dummy by leading his carefully kept heart four to the five. Then South discarded his remaining diamond losers on the six and seven of clubs.

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Bridge Scores

Monte West directed games at the Snyder Country Club.

Friday, Feb. 23

A group

1. Dot Casey, Margaret Birdwell.
2. Nina Nesbit, Nona Morrison.
3. Ann Davis, Monte West.
4. Barbara Yorgesen, Dora Blakey.

B group

1. Nina Nesbit, Nona Morrison.
2. Dorothy Rosson, Tizzy Hall.
3. Peggy Hardin, Pat Floyd.

Sunday, Feb. 25

Swiss Teams

1. Margaret Birdwell, Jane Hinton, Nona Morrison, Barbara Yorgesen.
2. Louise Thompson, Frances Stevenson, Margaret Presswood, Peggy Hardin.

Community Calendar

MONDAY

Rock and Roll Quilting Club; Hermleigh Community Center; everyone is invited for free quilting lessons, and special projects are to help someone in need; call 863-2426 for more information; 8 a.m. to noon.

Al-Anon Brown Bag Open Meeting, Snyder Park Club in Winston Park; noon.

Weight Watchers meeting; Trinity United Methodist Church; for more information call Nathalie at 573-1868 during the evening; weigh-in is at 5 p.m.

Scurry County Museum's hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Manic Depression (Bipolar) support group; Family Life Community Church, 904 26th Street; 7 p.m.

Scurry County AA; closed meeting; Park Club; for more information, call 573-9458, 8 p.m.

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Snyder Garden Club; Martha Ann Woman's Club; 11 a.m.

Scurry County Chapter of American Heart Association; The Shack; noon.

Overeaters Anonymous, Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for more information call 574-1254, 573-8322 or 573-3733; 6:30 p.m.

Snyder Fire Dept. Auxiliary; Central Fire Station; 7 p.m.

ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 7 p.m.

AA Beginner's Meeting-Open; Snyder Park Club, 1212 37th Street; 7 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-4048; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for more information call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; 8 p.m.

TOPS TX56 (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5 to 6 p.m.; 2501 35th. For more information call Phillis Leatherwood at 573-6105.

WEDNESDAY

Storytime at the Scurry County Library for 4- and 5-year-olds; 10 a.m.

Spiritual Solutions for Living Problems Book Study; Snyder Park Club; 6 p.m.

Just For Today NA, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-8018; 8p.m.

THURSDAY

Snyder Palette Club; airport terminal bldg. On W. 37th Street; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

LLL Club; fellowship hall of First Baptist Church; 9:30 a.m.Al-Anon brown bag; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-2101 or 573-0695; noon to 1 p.m.

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

Rock and Roll Quilting Club evening meeting; Hermleigh Community Center; for more information call 863-2426; 6:30 p.m.

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

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

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information call 573-4048; 8 p.m.

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; for information call 573-8626; 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-9458; 8 p.m.

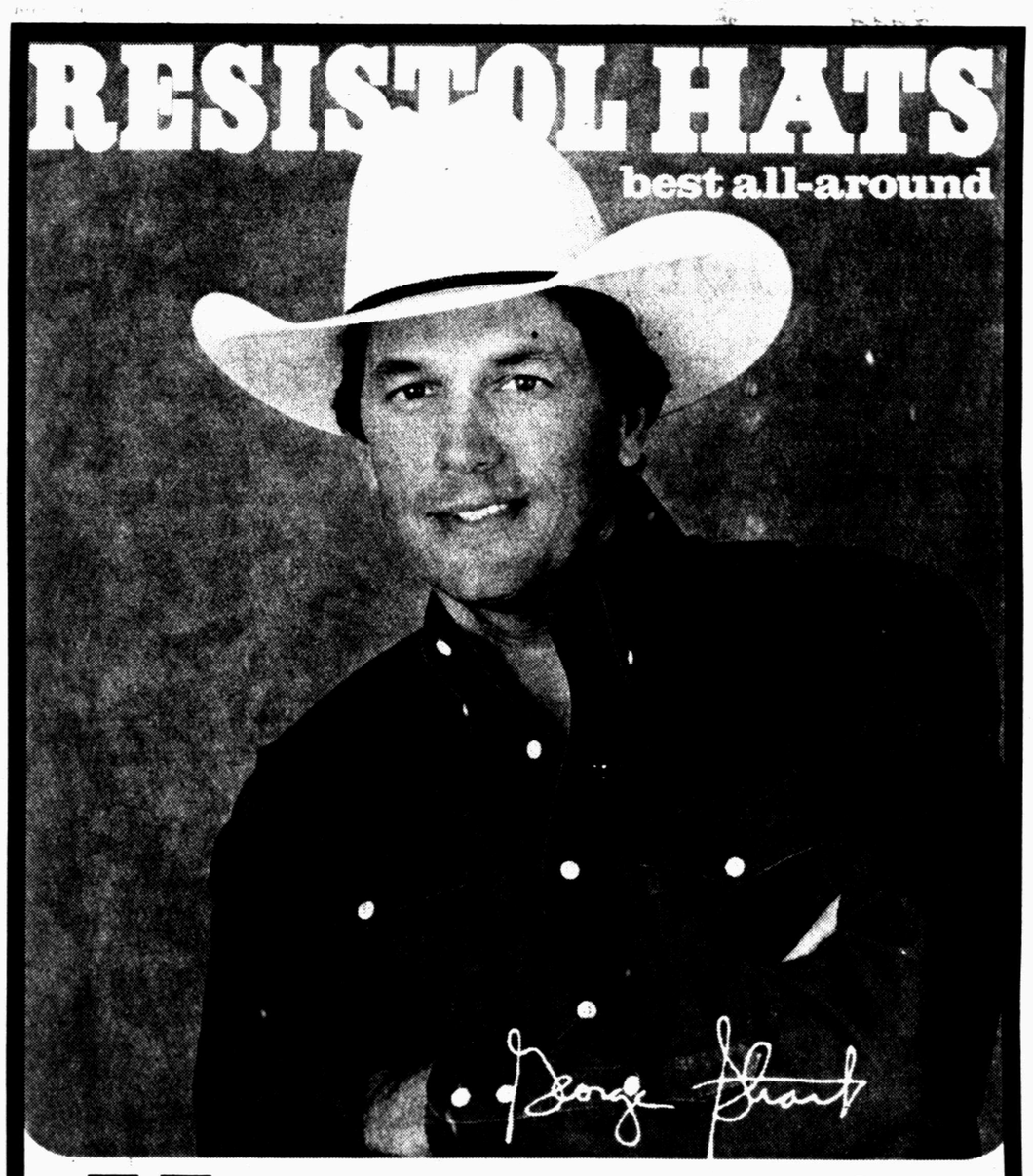
Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Defensive Driving Course; Texas Savings Bank; no reservations necessary, cost $30, for more information call 573-2850; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.Just For Today NA open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

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



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Mauna Flora & Dell Blackwell
Amy Rains & Tommy Morris
Tiffany Jones & Joshua Rodgers
Michelle Lewallen & Steve Wiseman
Cody & Toni Rankin
Audra Oliver & Justin Herrington
Alison Rios & John Rios
Lori Tate & Larry Comunale
Melissa Hicks & Brodie Harris

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MARCH 03 2001

Junior high has active program

Danny Ortegon is working on his rocket as Valerie Lopez, Ralph Ramon and Nita Awan look on.

Continued From Page 1B

ing and the basics of architecture." They also study the different types of roofs. Bell said Snyder Lumber Company usually donates enough wood so that each student can make a doghouse. They follow the same procedure as if making a house such as framing the walls and putting shingles on the roof etc.

The construction and manufacturing class also gets to build bridges, something they really enjoy, Bell said. After studying the types of tensions that a bridge is subjected to, students get to design one on paper and then construct it of balsa wood. Two or three students will work together, and when all of the bridges are finished, each is tested to see how much weight they can bear.

Students like the competition, Bell said.

In advanced woods, Bell again emphasizes the safe operation of all machines before students get to choose a project they want to build. Students can make what they want to as long as they will be able to finish it by the end of the semester.

"Their level of participation determines their grade," Bell said.

Before students can enroll in the advanced metals class, they have to complete the introductory technology and construction and manufacturing courses.

They learn to weld and to use a cutting torch. Even though there are no large machines to work with, Bell stresses eye and hand safety because hot metals are also dangerous.

Students learn how to work with sheet metal and they get to do foundry work. The basics are covered in about 12 weeks, and then students get to choose a project, which has to be completed by the end of the year.

When ready to make something, students will follow plans of procedures.

About 10-12 technology students enter their projects each year in the spring contest to be held the last weekend in May in Waco. Categories include problem solving and bridge building.

Two years ago, Bell said students won a problem-solving event and went on to compete in national competition in Pittsburgh. One of the projects to be entered this year includes the portable popcorn/vending cart that the eighth grade advanced woods students made.

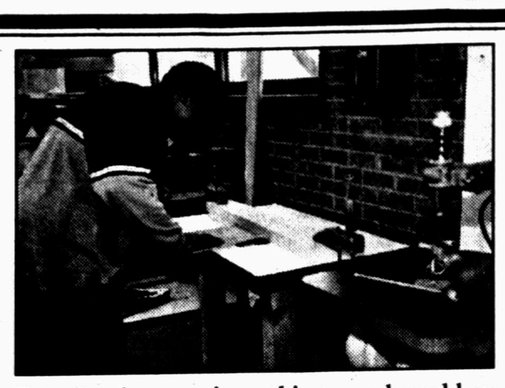
Bell's homeroom students are in charge of keeping it stocked and selling the products. Besides popcorn, they also sell paper and pencils. Bell said the entrepreneurial experience is good for them.

Bell noted that Dixie Haggard, director of special programs, secured grant monies for the cart.

Bell credited several people with building a successful technology education program in the district including Terry Huestis, Ed Raborn, Stewart Long and Frank Miller. He noted that Raborn and Miller were also instrumental in getting the state contest started.

Bell noted that current junior high principal Kellye Starnes is very supportive of the junior high's program.

Walter Ezell is using the jointer to joint the edge of a board.



Eric Guadarrama is working on a bread box on the router table.

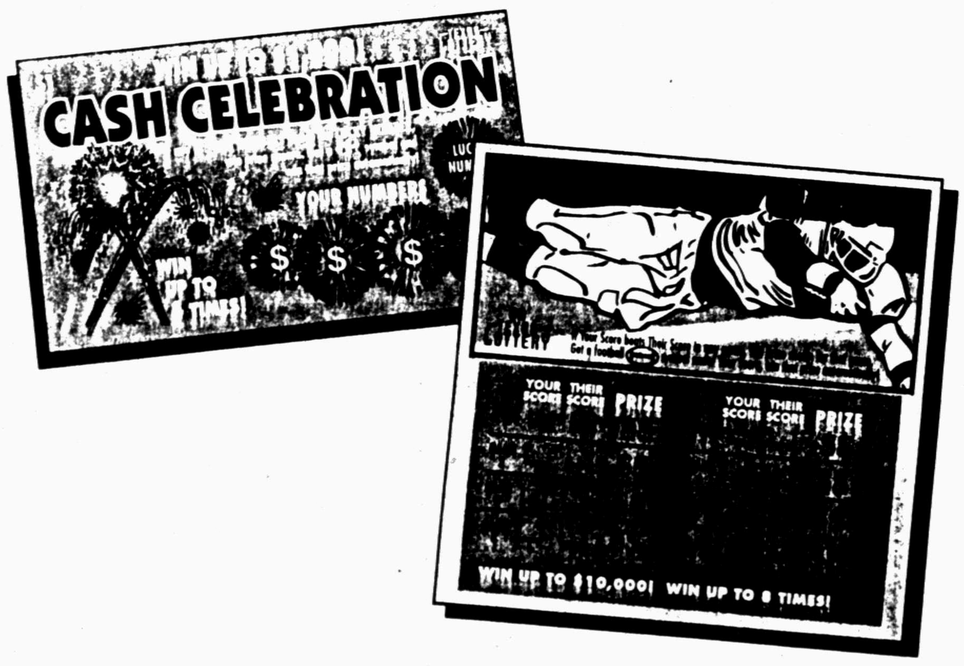
Bill Bell shows Tyler Thompson how to use the cutting torch.

Crystal Bernal uses the table saw to cut a piece of wood while Valerie Lopez, Katherine Johnson, Ralph Ramon and Krisa Murphrey look on.

Logan West, left, and Brad Richardson are standing behind the portable popcorn / vending cart which eighth graders made.

END OF GAME NOTICE

The fun is almost over for Cash Celebration and Gridiron Cash.



On April 2nd, 2001, two Texas Lottery instant games will close – *Cash Celebration* (#164) and *Gridiron Cash* (#115.) You have until September 29th, 2001, to redeem any winning tickets for this game. You can win up to $1,000 playing *Cash Celebration* and up to $10,000 playing *Gridiron Cash*. You can claim prizes of up to $599 at any Texas Lottery retailer. Prizes of $600 or more are redeemable at one of the 22 Texas Lottery claim centers or by mail. Questions? Call the Texas Lottery Customer Service Line at 1-800-37-LOTTO (1-800-375-6886).

SCRATCH OFFS – TEXAS LOTTERY –

More prizes.
More winners.
More fun!

NOTICE: A Scratch Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. For current information on prizes remaining in a Scratch Off game, call 1-800-37-LOTTO. Overall odds of winning any prize in Cash Celebration are 1 in 4.42 including break-even prizes. Overall odds of winning any prize in Gridiron Cash are 1 in 5.03 including break-even prizes. Must be 18 years or older to purchase a ticket. © 2001 Texas Lottery.

Debate on bankruptcy changes moves to Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House has quickly approved legislation making it tougher for people to use bankruptcy to erase credit-card and other debts. The Senate is the next stop on the bill's journey back to the White House.

Vetoed late last year by then-President Clinton, bankruptcy overhaul was the first major bill to come to a vote in the new Congress. The House voted 306-108 for it Thursday, with majority of Republicans solidly in support and Democrats split.

An expectation that President Bush will sign the measure has increased momentum for passage of the most sweeping changes to bankruptcy laws in 20 years. It raced through the House drafting process despite new government data that show personal bankruptcies have declined in recent years.

The legislation's progress has been only slightly slower in the Senate, where the two parties have a 50-50 split, and Democrats recently blocked a GOP effort to rush it through. The Senate Judiciary Committee voted Wednesday, 10-8, to approve a parallel bill and send it to the full Senate, which may vote next week.

"It's good to see the House act so quickly on this unfinished business from last year," said Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, an author of the legislation. He said the bill "closes the loopholes exploited by big spenders who walk away from debts they could otherwise repay."

But Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., a leading opponent of the measure, signaled a possible filibuster by saying, "I'm not going to give up my opportunity to talk about how harsh this legislation is."

Last spring, the Senate version of the bill contained a provision, pushed by liberal Democrat Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, to raise the $5.15 hourly minimum wage to $6.15 over three years.

Now, to help speed the process, Republican and Democratic leaders in the Senate are working on an agreement to put a minimum wage increase to a separate vote.

In House debate Thursday, some Democratic opponents criticized the chamber's priorities, saying campaign finance reform, prescription drug coverage for seniors or minimum wage increases should be more pressing.

The legislation has been pushed by the banking and retail credit industries, with donations to federal candidates and the political parties from finance and credit card companies totaling $9.2 million during the 2000 election cycle. Consumer groups, unions and groups representing women and children oppose the measure.

MBNA Corp., one of the world's largest credit card companies, gave $237,675 to President Bush's campaign, making it his largest individual contributor, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan research group that studies campaign finance.

"The House gave the extremely profitable credit card industry a strong victory today," said Ed Mierzwinski, consumer program director for Public Interest Research Group.

The bill was passed overwhelmingly last year, then was vetoed in December by Clinton, who contended it would hurt ordinary people and working families who fall on hard times.

Supporters of the legislation say it is needed to stem a tide of bankruptcy filings and abuse.

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Public Record

Marriage License

Isidoro Silva and Margaret Lopez, both of Snyder.

Johnny Alaniz and Kymberly Michelle-Lee Nelson, both of Snyder.

Donny Neal Franks and Teresa Jane Paysinger, both of Snyder.

Clifton Gerald Hodges Jr. and Consuelo Salinas, both of Snyder.

Filed in District Court

Providian National Bank vs. JoAnn Burney, suit on sworn account.

Johnnie White vs. Eott Energy Pipeline Limited Partnership, suit for damages.

Scurry County vs. Ronal Gladson, et al, delinquent tax suit.

Action in District Court

In the marriage of Margarito Fuentes and Fernando Fuentes, divorce granted.

In the marriage of Ester Pena and Jose Cruz Pena, divorce granted.

In the marriage of Angelica Maria Rodriguez and Christopher Louis Rodriguez, divorce granted.

Deed Records

Horace Lee Proctor and Robert W. Proctor to Eddie D. and Rhonda L. Essery, Lot 7 in Block 2 of the Kittrell Heights Addition No. 2.

Robert W. Talley, Ronald Talley and Marsha Thauwald to Windred S. and Billye Talley, 42.5 acres out of the south 85 acres of the southeast one-quarter of Section 71, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Windred S. and Billye Talley to Robert W. Talley, 42.5 acres out of the south 85 acres of the southeast one-quarter of Section 71, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Billy and Patricia Carole Haynes to Joe Richard and Vanessa Gae Taylor, 2.0 acres in Sections 56 and 59, both in Block 3, H&TC survey.

Bankers Trust of California to Joe and Virginia Lara, Lot 3 in Block 21 of the Adams Addition.

Luna Maude Bruton, independent executrix of the estate of Ollie A. Bruton, to Luna Maude Bruton, Lot 13 in Block 8 of the Highlands Addition.

Nell Walker, independent executrix of the estate of Horace B. Walker, to Nell Walker, the east one-half of Section 443, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Natalie Sallee, independent executrix of the estate of Roy H. Sallee, to Natalie Sallee, Lot 7 in Block 2 of the Park Place Addition.

Mary Sue Spires to Royal Seal Investments, tract one being the west 55 feet of the east 75 feet of Lot 2 in Block 7 of the Blankenship Addition; tract two being 1.02831-acres, being a portion of Lots 1 and 2 in Block 20 of the Original Town of Snyder.

Beulah Faye Mullins to Albert DeLoera, tract one being the east 57 feet of the north 130 feet of Lot 1 in Block 48 of the Original Town of Snyder; tract two being the west 93 feet of the north 130 feet of Lot 1 in Block 48 of the Original Town of Snyder.

Annie Ruth Palmer Hernandez to Leonard Hernandez, an undivided one-half interest in Lots 7 and 8 and the north 20 feet of Lot 9, all in Block 48 of the Wilmeth Addition.

Kyle Lee Cox to Richard Dupree, a 70x159-foot tract out of the northeast one-quarter of Section 182, Block 3, H&GN survey.

William J. and Martha E. Schiebel to Kyle Lee and Toni Jo Cox, the south 70 feet of Lot 2 in Block 1 of the A.D. Dodson Addition.

Vergie Martin to John Robert and Candace Linette Graham, 13.158 acres in the northeast one-quarter of the southwest one-quarter of Section250, Block 97, H&TC survey.

W. Travis and Gwendolyn Cox to W. Travis Cox Jr. and Belinda Cox, 1.0 acre out of the southeast corner of the southeast one-quarter of Section 133, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Loyd Rhea Scrivner and Isabel Mae Scrivner to James Loyd Scrivner, the west one-half of the southeast one-quarter of Section 547, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Royal Seal Investments Inc. to Southern Developments of Mississippi Inc., an 0.441-acre tract being a portion of Lots 1 and 2 in Block 20 of the Original Town of Snyder.

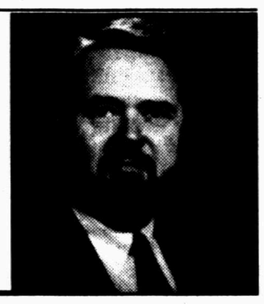
Harley and Judy Bynum to Anthony Scott and Michelle Rae Mabry, Lot 16 in Block 11 of the Park Place Addition.

Lana Bruns Loper to Blanche E. Lane, Lots 5 and 6 in Block 11 of the Bootheland Addition.

C.M. and Debra Cooper to Johnny Realsola, Lots 15 and 16 in Block 17 of the Andress Heights Addition.

Minding Your Own Business

By Don Taylor



Whose money is it? A taxing discussion (First of two parts)

We are dedicated to the preservation and strengthening of small business and our tax policy is designed to destroy small business. — Peter Drucker

Taxation in America may be described as a process of plucking feathers from a parrot with the desired result being to get the maximum amount of feathers with the minimum amount of squawking. Our Congress is adept at the plucking. We parrots (taxpayers) are so used to the plucking that most of us don't even squawk.

Recently, we've had a lot of media coverage of the highly partisan debate over tax cuts. I have been interested to observe the level of ignorance shown by many Americans during these discussions. From the man-on-the-street to high-ranking officials, ignorance of the taxing process abounds.

I am a great believer in education. So the rest of this column will be devoted to sharing facts that will raise the level of awareness for anyone who chooses to read on and learn a little more about taxation with representation.

I should point out that I write not as a Democrat or a Republican, but a taxpayer who has taken the time to research some facts. Let's begin with some basic definitions.

* **Taxes:** Money paid to the government by individuals and organizations having income or property or engaging in profit generating activities.

* **Budget deficit:** The condition arising from the government spending more than the amount of taxes it collects.

* **Budget surplus:** The condition arising from more taxes being collected than are spent.

* **Revenue:** The subtly inoffensive name given to taxes collected by the government. (See the difference in this headline: "Feds announce revenues increase by $60 billion" versus "Feds announce taxes collected increase by $60 billion." Or, "Internal Revenue Service" versus "Internal Tax Collection Service.")

Tax Facts

* **The feathers belong to the parrot.** In the American system we taxpayers earn income. We agree to provide a portion of our income to the government in exchange for services ranging from welfare to national defense.

In the event we send in more than was actually needed, it's still our money. Yet some members of congress are claiming the excess as "their" revenue to spend. Let me give a business analogy here. Assume you go to your local hardware store and ask for a widget. The clerk helps you find it, but there is no price tag on it. He says he thinks it's about $10. You give him a $10 bill. When he looks up the price it's only $7. Who gets the change? Does the clerk get to keep the whole $10 bill? I don't think so. It's your money.

* **Tax cuts increase revenues.** Tax cuts were defined by some wise person as the portion of the tax that each member of congress wants as his or her cut. In reality, a tax cut is nothing more than a reduction in the tax rate percentage. The actual amount of taxes collected will not decrease.

Interestingly, history teaches us that when federal tax rates are lowered, revenue actually increases. It happened when John F. Kennedy (Democrat) cut rates in the 60's and when Ronald Reagan (Republican) cut rates in the 80's.

Why does this opposite effect occur? It's about incentives. When smaller amounts of your earnings are taken as taxes, both business owners and workers have greater motivation to earn more, and worry less about tax shelters and deductions. The result: a growing economy.

Next week we'll discuss the effect of high tax rates and prove that there's something even better than a tax cut. Don't miss "Whose money is it..." part two.

Don Taylor is the co-author of Up Against the Wal-Marts. You may write to him in care of Minding Your Own Business, PO Box 67, Amarillo, TX 79105.

Cardiac arrest on rise in young adults

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The death rate from cardiac arrest rose surprisingly among young American adults in the 1990s, climbing 10 percent in men and 32 percent in women, federal officials say.

Cardiac arrest is still rare under age 35, accounting for just 1 percent of all deaths from this cause. But experts say the newly recognized increase is troubling and almost certainly represents a real trend and not a statistical blip.

Researchers believe a major reason for the increase is the epidemic of obesity, along with increased smoking and drug abuse, particularly cocaine, which can be a powerful trigger of cardiac arrest.

Doctors from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conducted the first-ever survey of cardiac arrest in people ages 15 to 34. They released the figures Thursday in San Antonio at an epidemiology conference of the American Heart Association.

Across the United States, the number of fatal cardiac arrests in this age group rose from 2,710 in 1989 to 3,000 in 1996. In all, 23,320 young adults died, almost three-quarters of them men.

"It's a very scary finding, and it deserves a lot of attention," said Dr. Murray Mittleman of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. "If it is a behavioral factor, such as smoking or illicit drug use, that will be very important to tease out."

Dr. George Mensah, chief of the CDC's cardiovascular division, said that doctors have traditionally considered cardiac arrest to be exclusively a problem of older people.

"We need to increase awareness," he said. "Dying suddenly is not just an old folks' problem. It can happen to young people, too. Three thousand deaths are not trivial. These are people who should not die suddenly."

Mensah said researchers were especially disturbed by gender and racial disparities. During the eight years, the death rate from cardiac arrest increased three times faster in women than in men.

It went up 19 percent in blacks and 14 percent in whites. The study did not break down the increase in other racial and ethnic groups.

In 1996, the last year of the survey, the death rate for men ranged from two per 100,000 for those in their late teens to 11 per 100,000 for those in their early 30s. In women, this ranged from one to 4 per 100,000 for the two age groups.

Cardiac arrest occurs when the heart suddenly quits pumping in an organized way, stopping blood circulation. Unless victims are quickly revived by defibrillators, they soon die or suffer irreversible brain damage.

Although the specific triggers in the young are unclear, doctors know that in older people, cardiac arrest often results from the same disease process that makes the arteries clog up.

"Sudden cardiac death is a tragedy in anyone, and it is a particular tragedy in a young person," said Dr. Rose Marie Robertson of Vanderbilt University, president of the heart association. "Clearly we don't understand all the underlying reasons for this increase. It clearly has happened at a time when we've seen an increase in cardiac risk factors."

According to federal figures, 17 percent of U.S. high school students say they smoke cigarettes regularly, compared with 12 percent a decade ago.

Twelve percent of people in their 20s are now considered obese, compared with 7 percent 10 years ago. Among people in their 30s, obesity has risen from 11 percent to 19 percent.

Too much weight causes an array of ill effects that might increase the risk of cardiac arrest, including higher cholesterol levels, high blood pressure and diabetes.

On the Net:
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: http://www.cdc.gov

Companion rescues victim of avalanche

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — A skier who was swept 2,000 feet down a mountainside and buried by an avalanche didn't have to wait long to be rescued.

Within a few minutes, Stephan Drake used a locator beacon to home in on his buried friend, Adam Roy. Drake, 24, saw a glove sticking out of the snow and dug Roy free.

"I just fought like hell to get my hands up," said Roy, 23, of Grand Junction, Colo. "There was nothing else in my body that was moving, it was like cement."

Roy was skiing down Hogsback Ridge near Eaglecrest Ski Area when the snow broke loose and carried him about 2,000 feet down the mountain. At first, the skilled skier was able to keep his skis atop the snow, but the momentum overwhelmed him.

"It's a long ways from where he got caught up to where he ended up," said Rick Kaufman, operations manager at the ski area.

Roy, who had undergone avalanche survival training, used his one free arm to clear an airway to the surface of the snow. He then placed a hand where searchers could see it.

"If I hadn't had any of that training I probably would have been dead," Roy said.

Rescue workers with search dogs rushed to the scene by helicopter, but Roy had already been freed from the mountain of snow. He suffered only a bruise caused by the pressure of the snow on his foot.

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Letters to the editor

Parole law changes

Dear Editor:

I am writing in again to talk about the latest parole law being passed.

One of the most recent laws passed was to start letting more sex offenders out on parole. What is up with that?

I figured they would start letting out non-violent, first-time offenders first since they are not a threat to society. The reason they gave for letting more sex offenders go on parole was so they could monitor their behavior better.

I think it would be easier to monitor them by leaving them in here instead of letting them out so they can go commit another gruesome crime.

Think about your wife and kids. I also want to say something about them wanting to build more prisons. They don't need to build any more prisons. Texas can't even run the ones that they have.

I am an inmate at the Formby Unit in Plainview, and they are short-handed all of the time. It is like this at all of the units. This is the second largest prison system in the United States and they can't pay their guards enough money to stay and work.

If they would start paroling more non-violent offenders like me, maybe they would have more money to spend on the schools and to help the mentally ill and other things like that.

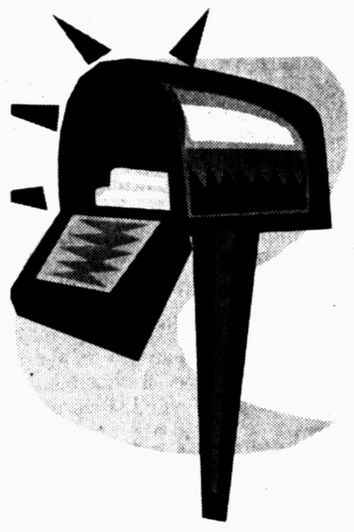
Anyway, I am a non-violent, first-time offender that has not been in any trouble since I have been incarcerated and they gave me a two-year set-off.

All I did was take less than two hundred dollars and enter an abandoned house without permission, and they want me to do three to four years in here for that, but they are going to let sex offenders out early.

What kind of justice system is this?"

Well, this is all I have to say about these issues. Thank you for your time and I would like to hear other readers' comments on this subject. Thank you for your time and patience.

Sincerely,
Jason Loper #885365
Formby Unit
970 County Road AA
Plainview, TX 79072



Letter Policy

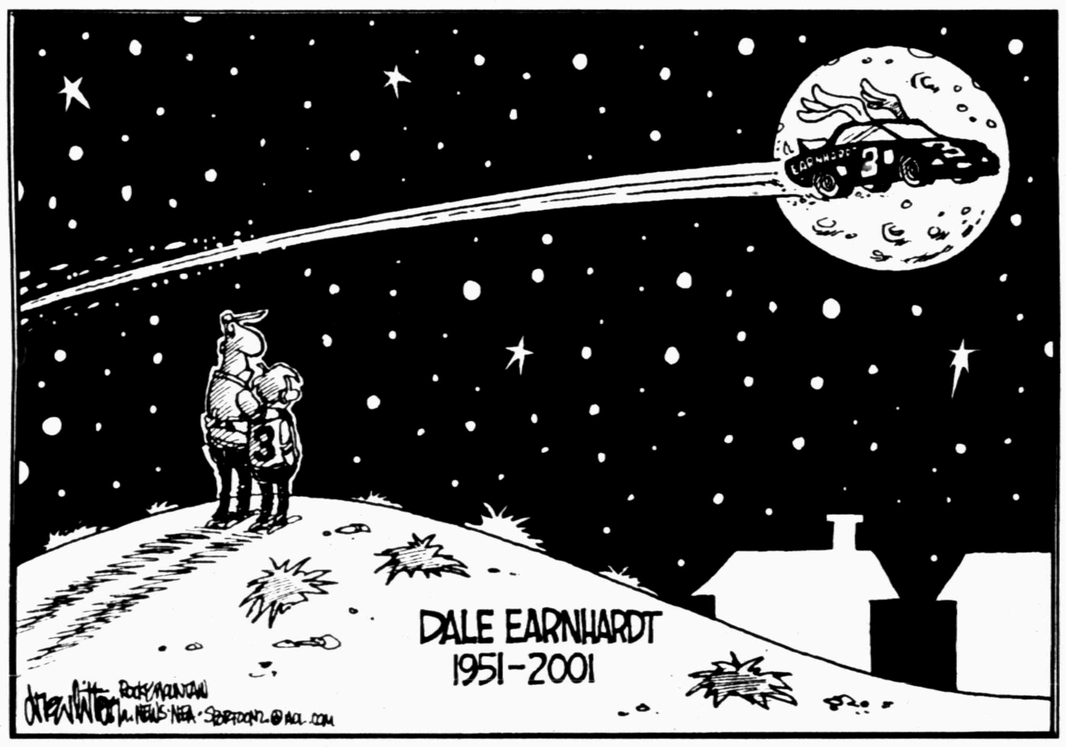
Letters to the editor must be signed and must give the address of the writer. Letters should be of reasonable length.

The newspaper reserves the right to refuse letters if they contain libelous material or information deemed in poor taste.

Following a long-standing policy and practice, Snyder Daily News does not publish letters pertaining to a candidate or issue once an election has been called.

Opinions in favor or in opposition to an issue or candidate may be published in paid political advertisements.

Letters to be published in the weekend edition must be submitted no later than noon Thursday.



North of Forty — By Red Green

Fitness and diet instead of diet and fitness

There's a lot of interest these days in diet and fitness. If you're carrying a few extra pounds and are out of shape, you are risking serious health problems, and you don't look like any of the people in magazines.

The experts tell you to lose weight and then get in shape, but I think they've got it all wrong. You're going to spend a fortune on a diet plan to drop a hundred pounds or so, and then you're going to have to go out and spend another bundle to get yourself an exercise machine of some kind.

I say, do it the other way around: When you're 100 pounds overweight, you are an exercise machine. Every time you get up off the couch, that's a power lift. Every time you wave to the neighbors with that big flabby arm, you're working your biceps, triceps and pectorals. Going up a flight of stairs is the equivalent of dead-lifting 1,200 pounds. If you've had those pants more than three years, doing up the belt will exercise every major muscle group.

So if you're a fat guy, use that fat as your home gym. Then, when you lose the weight, you'll have a muscular body underneath waiting to be exposed. If you go the other way, you could lose all the flab and disappear completely.

DON'T LOOK AT ME

I was watching a nature show on television last week and was amazed that with most animals, the male is far more ornate than the female. He'll have the bright colors and the long antlers and the pompous "any-girls-on-the-beach?" walk.

That's because the male is trying to attract the attention of the female. They spread their plumage and strut their stuff and bang their heads together so that the women will stop building the nest and look over at them. And they do it their whole lives.

I was trying to figure out why this behavior was so different from my own approach to life and decided that it's because animals don't get married. Over time, marriage has a way of diminishing that desire to be the center of her universe. I consider myself a normal male, but the last thing I want to do is attract my wife's attention. I keep pretty quiet around the house and spend a lot of time in the garage. I'd make a lousy peacock. But then, very few peacocks live past 50.

SPEAK NO EVIL

We all go to parties where we don't know everybody who's there. The normal thing to do is work the room — making casual conversation with people you've never met. But you can't just talk about anything. Here are a few subjects you should never bring up at a party:

— Intestinal disorders
— Natural fur
— Personal records in food and alcohol consumption
— Gas mileage
— Accidents involving pets
— The faults of the host
— How much money everybody has
— Al Gore

MY EXCLUSIVE OPINION

About 50 times a day, my local radio station says "And now, here's your exclusive local weather forecast." How can that be? What's exclusive about it? Even people who aren't listening are having the same day. And all of the other radio and television stations are predicting the same weather. So I don't get the "exclusive" reference at all. Unless maybe they think an "exclusive" guess that turns out to be horribly inaccurate is somehow easier to accept.

Quote of the Day: "Even smart men are capable of doing very stupid things. Ask any wife." — **Red Green**

Red Green is the star of "The Red Green Show," a television series seen in the U.S. on PBS and in Canada on the CBC Network, and the author of "The Red Green Book" and "Red Green Talks Cars: A Love Story."

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U.S. Senator
PHIL GRAMM
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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Austin American-Statesman

Juries and death penalty

As thorough as criminal justice can be, there is as yet no sure-fire guarantee against faulty memories, lousy or indifferent lawyering, mistaken identity or malicious prosecution.

Until there is, questions about the fairness of the Texas justice system — especially when it comes to the death penalty — will continue to dog the state.

Texas juries are notoriously tough when it comes to sentencing. So tough that Texas executes more prisoners than any other state. Executions have become so commonplace in Texas they draw little notice except from a handful of opponents who protest either here or in Huntsville on execution days.

Texas has become known for its assembly-line style of killing prisoners, but the trouble is, assembly lines can break down. Assembly lines can malfunction. When this one does, it commits the irretrievable act of taking an innocent life.

DNA testing may offer some insurance against wrongful conviction, but as lawyers defending O.J. Simpson proved, even that kind of scientific evidence can be cast in doubt.

As it is now, chances of being handed the death penalty are largely dependent on geography. In Harris County, for example, commit a capital crime and your chances of being sentenced to death are extremely high. They are also high in Bexar County, but much less than in Harris, about two hours away on I-10. Travis County, by contrast, has imposed the death penalty only four times between 1995 and 2000. The Harris County count was 70 in that same five-year period. In Bexar County, the number of death sentences imposed was 25.

Those numbers suggest a kind of macabre lottery. For the death penalty to be fully effective, it has to be applied equally, not randomly. Wealth, or lack of it, also shapes the odds a defendant has of receiving the death penalty. So does ethnicity and race.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Don't extend sales tax holiday

When retailers reduce the cost of an item, they call it a sale.

That price reduction benefits the stores because it helps move merchandise; it helps consumers because they are able to purchase goods at lower costs; and presumably it benefits the economy because it helps keep money in circulation. Two years ago, state legislators passed a measure that did all the above.

The "sales tax holiday" was designed specifically to aid families with school-age children by suspending the sales tax on certain items bought during a three-day period just before the start of the school year.

State Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander liked the idea so much that she wants to expand the holiday to five days.

Many key legislators have rightly turned a cold shoulder to that suggestion.

The state lost $37 million in revenue last year because of the sales tax holiday. By extending the tax-free buying period to five days, Texas would lose an additional $6 million in 2001 and perhaps as much as $20 million in each of the next two years, based on Rylander's projections.

Pressing state needs — ranging from inadequate Medicaid money to underpaid prison guards and public school teachers — coupled with a slowing in economic growth make this a bad time to be considering a cut in sales tax revenues.

San Angelo Standard-Times

Rural affairs office

Rural Texas communities should find it easier to get help from the state government if a proposal to create a new Office of Rural and Community Affairs is OK'd by the Legislature.

State Rep. Bob Turner, D-Voss, is one of the champions of the agency, which would act as a sort of clearinghouse and coordinating office for rural communities and their leaders. He calls it "the finest single thing we've done for rural Texas" during his 11 years in the House.

A major piece of the proposal is to move the Center for Rural Health Initiatives into the office. That would make the important work of that agency more readily available to towns that have difficulty attracting health professionals.

Community Development Block Grants, now administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, also would come under the new agency's purview. It makes available some $80 million a year in CDBG funds for economic development.

Rural Texas political clout has diminished greatly over the past few decades, and that trend will continue. Anything the Legislature can do to ensure that rural communities needs aren't forgotten will be welcome.

Odessa American

What to do with genome map

The release earlier this month of the completed genome sequence of the human body is unquestionably a landmark in the history of science, and it casts an interesting light on the sociology of science in the year 2001.

The bad news and the good news is that however important this scientific feat turns out to be, it will be quite a few years before the implications have a concrete impact on our lives.

The time lag, however, may give us a needed period to sort out the ethical conundrums the new knowledge raises. The human genome is the sequence of chemical "letters" at least 3 billion that make up DNA, the cornerstone of life. Government scientists began talking about mapping the sequences in the late 1980s and in 1990 laid out a 15-year plan to map the entire human genome.

One of the scientists involved in the original project, Dr. Craig Venter, was dissatisfied with the pace and approach and formed Celera Genomics, a private company. Since then the government and private projects, despite occasional denials, have competed to complete the sequencing with the result that it has been completed faster than anyone had expected.

Now both projects have finished the sequencing, and both agree there are around 30,000 human genes, fewer than many scientists had expected. In addition, Celera has announced that it has finished sequencing the genetic code of the mouse, which could be useful in medical research since mice and rats are already used for scientific studies.

That doesn't mean common diseases will be solved soon. Only a few diseases, such as Huntingtons chorea, are caused by a single gene mutation. Alzheimers, heart disease and cancer are likely to be caused by a multitude of genes and are powerfully affected by environmental factors.

Just to complicate matters further, Venter says that genome research has revealed that one gene can direct the synthesis of many proteins. So much more research will be needed to figure out just how proteins are made and how they interact with genetic mutations.

Senior Center Menu

Monday

Chicken pot pie, Harvard beets, tossed salad, chocolate chip cookie

Tuesday

Braised ham, golden carrots, potatoes au gratin, sliced pineapple w/cheese, chocolate pudding

Wednesday

Chicken spoonbread w/giblet gravy, sweet potatoes, herbed green beans, cucumber onion salad, pecan pie

Thursday

Boneless BBQ rib, blackeye peas, boiled okra, carrot raisin salad, tropical apples

Friday

Fried fish, tomatoes w/croutons, baked beans, tossed salad, chocolate cake w/white frosting

Senior Center News

Newcomers are always welcome at the Senior Center and all seniors are encouraged to participate in any of the activities.

Many seniors volunteer in the community. New retirees or new residents are invited to visit the center at 2603 Ave. M.

The center offers new activities, morning transportation and congregate and home-delivered meals at noon Monday-Friday. Call 573-4035 for more information.

A "55 Alive" driving course has been scheduled for April 16-17 from 12:30-4:30 p.m. Call the center to pre-register.

Seniors interested in computer classes at Western Texas College may get a schedule at the center. The following classes will be offered during the next six months: P.C. 101, jazz it up, working with windows, surfing the Web, familytree.com and going digital.

The first scheduled class begins March 19 and pre-registration is required. Phone the WTC Continuing Education Department at 573-8511, ext. 390, for more information. Cost per course is $15 for senior citizens.

Monday

Bridge play begins at 9:30 a.m. Party bridge is played and all seniors are welcome. Seniors interested in the domino tournament must register before 9:30 a.m. Matches consist of the best two out of three games. The first match will be played by 9:30 a.m. and thereafter the matches will be scheduled at the convenience of the teams. The swimnastics class is scheduled from 10-11 a.m. in the WTC physical education building. The low impact exercise class begins at 11 a.m. daily at the center.

Tuesday

Eighty-eight play begins at 10 a.m. The Volunteer Country Western Band will entertain at 11 a.m. in the dining room. The Golden K Kiwanis will meet at noon.

Wednesday

Bernhard Bartels, volunteer, will be available from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1-3 p.m. to assist low-income individuals with filing income tax forms. The Kitchen Band will entertain at Snyder Healthcare from 10-11 a.m. Line dancers practice at 1 p.m. and cloggers at 2 p.m.

Thursday

The Sunshine Choir will entertain at Snyder Healthcare from 10-11 a.m. Swimnastics at WTC is from 1-2 p.m. The center will open at 6 p.m. for game night. Seniors may play eighty-eight, bridge, dominoes and pool.

Friday

The blood pressure clinic and bridge tournament begin at 9:30 a.m. Seniors may play eighty-eight at 10 a.m. and the sing-a-long begins at 11:30 a.m.

Saturday

The community sing begins at 6 p.m. in the center. The activity is organized by volunteers and has been well attended.

Drawing to target lottery ticket litter

BOSTON (AP) — Lottery players dream about how their lives would change if they won the big jackpot. But for the owners of stores littered with discarded losing tickets, the lottery can be a nightmare.

Massachusetts state Treasurer Shannon O'Brien hopes to clean up those stores with a new drawing for people stuck with non-winning tickets.

The "Clean Fun Sweepstakes" unveiled Thursday will give people who turn in $10 worth of losing tickets to a lottery vendor or by mail a chance to win up to $100,000 in "second chance" drawings.

The anti-litter campaign opens the door for nonplayers, who could collect discarded tickets from bushes and sidewalks.

"It gives you another chance to get your money back from the state," said Al Rackard, 50, a Boston postal worker.

The game will be offered in a 10-week pilot program beginning the week of March 12.

Many lottery players welcome the new drawing, but others doubt it will be worth the effort of collecting and returning losing tickets.

"There's not enough winning money now," said Charles Bookman as he scratched a "$4,000,000 Spectacular" ticket. "What are we going to get when we're sending in duds?"

Hanna Paper Recycling Inc. plans to pay the state $50.78 per ton to recycle the losing tickets, turning them into pulp used in the manufacture of paper towels, cereal boxes and other paper products.

In his store in Boston, Carlo Volker shot a glance at the tickets littering the floor and counters and said the "Clean Fun Sweepstakes" sounded like a great idea to him. Then he thought of the $20,000 his small store does in lottery business every day and grimaced.

"If I took all the used cards back, in a week this store would fill up," he said.

Date Books

Saturday, March 3, 2001

Today is the 62nd day of 2001 and the 73rd day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1842, Gov. John Davis of Massachusetts approved legislation prohibiting children under 12 years old from working more than 10 hours a day.

On this day in 1919, international airmail service between Canada and the United States began. Mail was delivered by air between Seattle, Wash., and Victoria, Canada.

On this day in 1984, Peter Ueberroth became the commissioner of baseball. He was named to the post by the 26 owners of major-league baseball teams.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: George M. Pullman (1831-1897), manufacturer; Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922), inventor; Matthew B. Ridgway (1895-1993), U.S. Army general; Jean Harlow (1911-1937), actress; Julius Boros (1920-1994), golfer; Herschel Walker (1962-), football player, is 39; Jackie Joyner-Kersee (1962-), athlete, is 39.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1875, the first game of hockey was played at the Victoria Skating Rink in Montreal, Canada.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "If you train hard, you'll not only be hard, you'll be hard to beat." — Herschel Walker

TODAY'S MOON: Day after first quarter (March 2).

Sunday, March 4, 2001

Today is the 63rd day of 2001 and the 74th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1829, in the first outdoor inauguration, Andrew Jackson was sworn in as president on the East Front of the Capitol.

On this day in 1877, Emile Berliner invented the microphone.

On this day in 1925, Congress authorized the restoration of the USS Constitution. "Old Ironsides," as the ship is called, was constructed during the years 1794-1797.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741), composer; Casimir Pulaski (1747-1779), American Revolutionary hero; Knute Rockne (1888-1931), football coach; Charles H. Goren (1901-1991), bridge expert; Miriam Makeba (1932-), singer, is 69; Jane Goodall (1934-), ethologist, is 67; Kevin Johnson (1966-), basketball player, is 35; Evan Dando (1967-), musician, is 34.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1970, Jacksonville defeated Miami 101-97 in college basketball.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Win or lose, do it fairly." — Knute Rockne

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (March 2) and full moon (March 9).

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In the early morning hours of April 15, 1912, the Titanic, a luxury liner on its maiden voyage, sank in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland less than three hours after striking an iceberg. Some 1,500 of the more than 2,200 people aboard died in the disaster.

Scurry County Service Men & Women

(Editor's Note: Citizens are invited to write their servicemen and servicewomen stationed stateside and overseas. Anyone having additions, changes or corrections to the list should submit them in writing to the Snyder Daily News, P.O. Box 949, Snyder, TX, 79550, or bring them by the office at 3600 College Ave. Sorry, no addresses will be accepted over the telephone.

Sgt. Joe Bilano Jr. USMC
Marine Security Guard Detachment
American Embassy Mexico City
P.O. Box 3087
Laredo, Tx. 78044-3087

Marisa Barrera Clement
CMR 477 Box 688
APO AE 09165

Mineman First Class (SW) Delton C. "Cole" Drum II
Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Eleven
2214 W. Old Tom Rd.
Goose Creek SC 29445-8608

Sgt. Cory M. Fisher
1983 Oakwell Farm Parkway #807
San Antonio, Tx. 78218

Maj. Amadeo B. Garza
Hidelburg A.F. Base
Florida

Scott & Amy Graham
29 Ridgecrest Dr.
Hope Mills, NC 28348

Japan
AO3 Gulseth, Sharon
VS-21 AO SHOP
FPO AP 96601-6500

Recruit Hardin, Wil C.
PLT 1131, DCO, 1st RTBN, MCRD
40002 Midway Ave. Unit 5
San Diego, CA 92140-5525

SR Justin C. Herrington
456-39-8525
First Division
USS Dubque LPD-8
FPO AP 96663-1711

Sgt. Michael R. Hill
ALPHA Co. 10th Signal BT.
10640 South Riva Ridge Loop
Ft. Drum, NY 13602

LCPL Jones, N.J. (Nicky)
CSC/Maintenance Platoon
Box 33038
MCB Kaneohe, HI 96863

Quintin and Christina Kasparek
15540 East Center Ave.
Apartment #E-103
Aurora, Co. 80017

Sgt. Michael D. Long
C-Trp ¼ Cav.
CMR 464 Bx. 306
APO AE 09226

Pvt. Louis Mann
2nd Platoon
B Company 832nd ODBN
Redstone Arsenal, Alabama 35897

William Jared McMillan
PSC Box 4612
DAFB, TX 79607-3046

Chase Minter
4300 Horizon North Parkway
Apartment #1626
Dallas, TX 75287

SrA Edwin Neeley
PSC 103 Box 4882
APO AE 09603

Melchor Para
2/1 Weapons CO. 81 PLT
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055

Lt. Col. Greg Pavlik
15015 Preston Court Drive
San Antonio, TX 78247

Ssgt Brad Pilgrim & Dawn Pilgrim
4615 A
Redwood St. SW
McChord AFB,WA 98439

Ssgt Mark S. & Ssgt. Stacy J. Pilgrim
67th Fighter Squadron
PSC 80 Box 15172
APO, AP
96367

Pvt. Poland, Kenneth W.
Marine Corps Detachment
EEIC Class BEOP15
1273 Iowa Ave.
Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.65473

Cpl. Freddie & Christy Rocha
6675-B Larkspur Ct.
29 Palms, Calif. 92278

Sgt. Jason Sealy
P.O. Box 71402
Ft. Bragg, N.C. 28307

Johnathan A. (Adams) Scott
5509 B Langley Way
Bolling AFB DC 20336

L.CPL Thompson Jacob L.
HMLA 167 Mag 26
2nd MAW PSC Box 21014
Jacksonville, N.C. 28545-014

SSgt. W.S. Warren
3009 Barberry Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Col. Joe Dan Wilson
CMR 460
Box 121
APOAE 09703

EM3 Wittie, Shawn D.
4100 L Declaration Drive
Grafton, VA 23692

Sgt. Daniel A. Wells
ACO 602D ASB
Unit #15725
APO AP 96257

MAR 03 2001

"Don't squat with your spurs on."

Eugene Shipp worked maintenance for an electric coop for twenty-eight years. During an ice storm in '78, he worked thirty-eight hours straight, fixing downed lines and restoring power. He retired two years ago to spend more time on his ranch, working his own hours. He uses coop power; he knows he can count on it.

Eugene belongs to a Smart Choice cooperative. What's "Smart Choice?" We're a coalition of West Texas coops committed to making the right decision on electric deregulation.

The goal of deregulation is to bring the benefits of retail competition to the power industry. But so far, in states such as California and Pennsylvania, reality has fallen short of the promise, often bringing higher rates and even outages. The Legislature gives coops the opportunity to decide whether they will opt in or out of deregulation. We intend to take advantage of that to be sure deregulation is right for our owner-members.

Texas electric cooperatives have been providing power to Texans since 1937. As coops, we are non-profit and member-owned. Watch for other articles to learn more about us and how we're responding to the challenge and opportunity of electric deregulation.

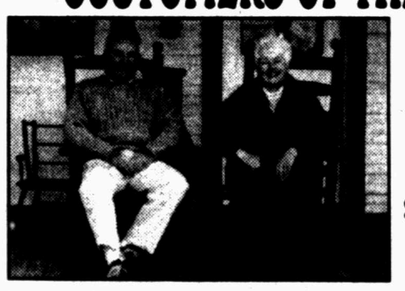
the smart choice.

Your Smart Choice Electric Cooperatives.

Big Country Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Coleman County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Comanche Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Concho Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Swisher Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.smartchoicecoops.com

CUSTOMERS OF THE WEEK...



Nancy & Jim Mason
Santa Rosa, California

"We have been coming to West Texas each January for the past eight years to hunt quail. For the last three years we have stayed at the Wagon Wheel Ranch and eaten frequently at the Rusty Spur Cafe. The country charm of the restaurant, the friendly staff, the great down home food, and now the music of Tommy Allsup and Cindy Nix provide a dining experience to match the satisfaction achieved at the very best places anywhere!

Wagon Wheel Ranch
Rusty Spur Cafe

CR 2128
Just Off Polar Road
573-2348,
573-5277 FAX
Snyder, Texas

Is your tax preparer as sophisticated as your tax situation?
We have the experienced tax professionals you need for your complex return.
Call 1-800-HRBLOCK or visit hrblock.com.

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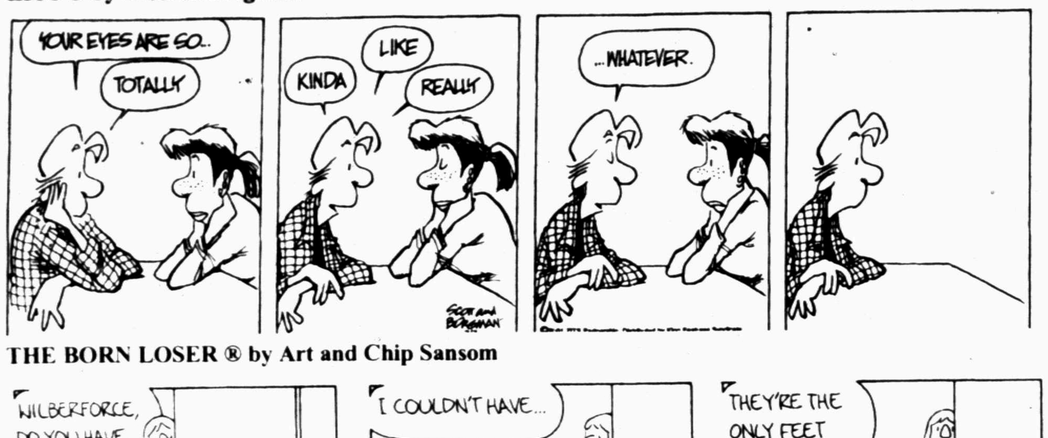
2512 Ave. R
573-9002

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman

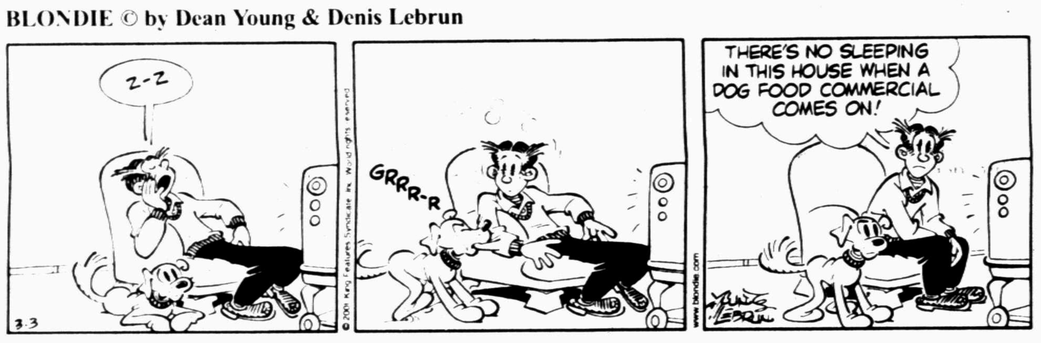


THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

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 Cuts into cubes
6 Coral formation
10 Style of type
12 Prison hotshot
14 Woman's undergarment
15 Carter's successor
16 Fast plane (abbr.)
17 Baseball stat.
19 Head (Fr.)
20 James Levine, e.g.
23 Agreed (with)
26 "Eureka!"
27 Ooh and —
30 Tropical lizard
32 Show plainly
34 Bonding stuff
35 Deep-sea explorers
36 SFO abbr.
37 Singing sound
39 Jottings
40 More frail
42 Singer McEntire
45 Containing nitrogen
46 Ms. Sumac
49 Port
51 Capital of Poland
54 Indian and Arctic
55 For each person
56 Despise
57 Like some seals

DOWN

1 Uses a shovel
2 "How sweet — —"
3 Shopping wagon
4 Old age
5 Part of RSVP
6 "Norma —"
7 Muse of poetry
8 Rim
9 Deed
11 Wax
12 Wriggled in pain
13 Compass pt.
18 Youth org.
20 Butcher's product
21 Congenitally joined
22 Small narrow valley
23 Iwo —
24 Franken-stein's gofer
25 Actor Raymond —
27 Work without — — (risk)
28 Land measure
29 Dame Myra —
31 Unpaid debts
33 Actor Novello
38 Axlike tool
40 Moroccan seaport
41 Hawkeye State
42 Greek letter
43 "To — His Own" (1946 film)
44 La — tar pits
46 River in Belgium
47 Chemical in self-defense sprays
48 Taken aback
50 Dollar bill
52 Mimic
53 Narrow inlet

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Z	S	A	Z	S	A			W	Y	A	T	T
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D	U	R	E	S	S		T	O	P	P	L	E
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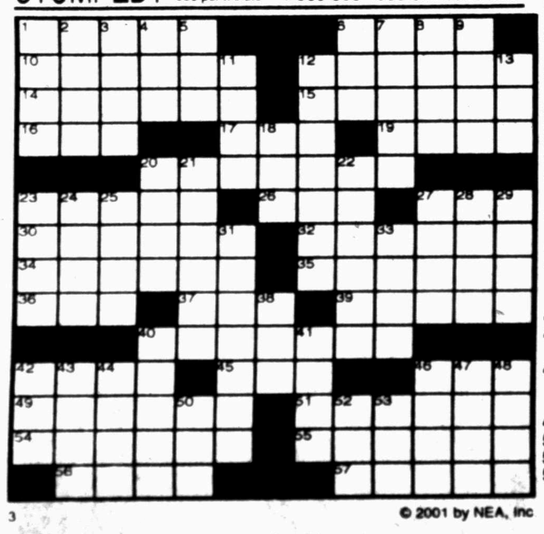
STUMPED? Call for Answers • Touch-tone or Rotary Phones 95c per minute • 1-900-860-4500 ext. code 000



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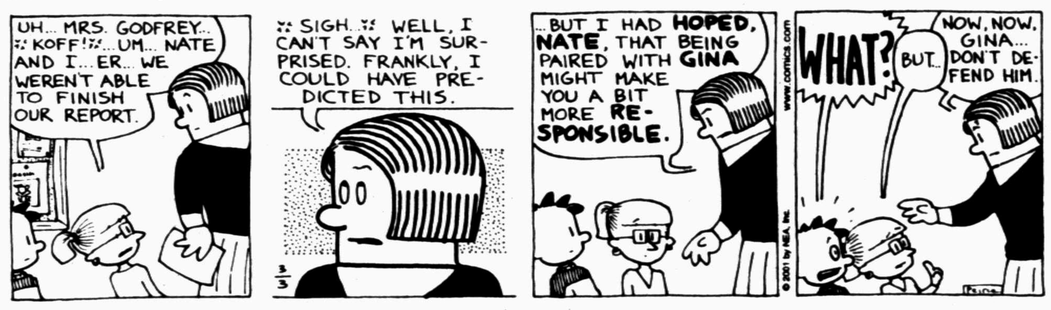
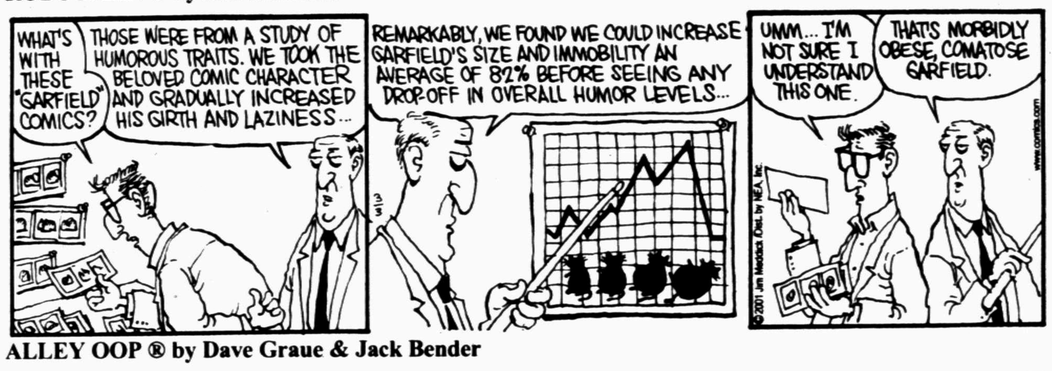
FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves

ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson

BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

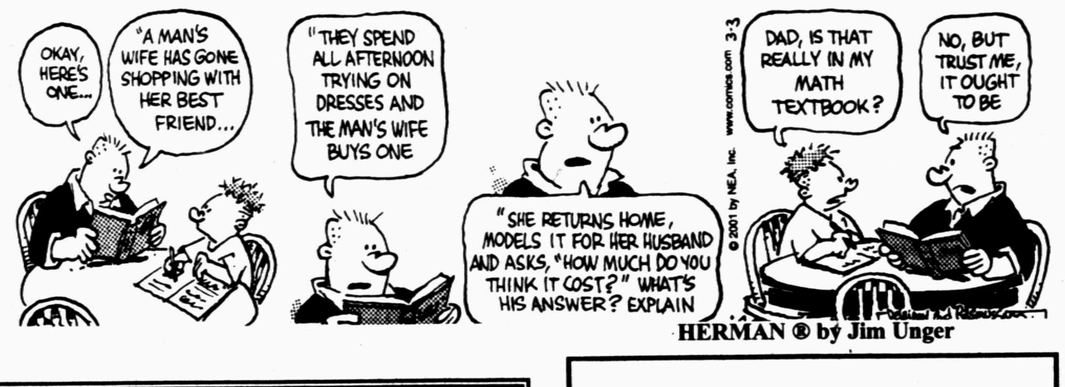


ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"HI, MIZ McDONALD. I'M LEARNING JOEY HOW TO WORK YOUR 'LECTRIC CAN OPENER."

"We've been after that one for 15 years."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

State

Woman st

DEAR ABBY: I
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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Woman struggles with news that friend may be suicidal

DEAR ABBY: I recently discovered that a mentally disabled woman who attends our church has become suicidal. She's a warm, friendly, bright individual whose company I thoroughly enjoyed. I have even been a visitor in her home.

The realization that she has considered taking her own life has me so upset that I find myself wanting to avoid her. This doesn't make me feel very good about myself, because she has few friends and waits for my greeting each Sunday. My sensitivity is defeating my good intentions of trying to welcome her in a spirit of love and acceptance.

How do I keep from being just another Judas to complicate her already difficult life? I believe in the power of love to heal, but have I overestimated my own spiritual strength to deal with this? I feel trapped by my own good intentions.

How do I handle this? Please help me. **— WELL-MEANING CHURCHGOER, DENVER**

DEAR WELL-MEANING: Why are you running away? Unless the woman confided her suicidal thoughts to you, it may not be true. Even if it is true, her depression is not contagious. There is no reason to stop being friendly with her at church. It may be one of the few positive things she has going in her life.

"Healing her" is not your responsibility. While I, too, believe in the power of love to create positive change, your love cannot possibly cure her chronic depression. Medical intervention is required for that.

The most supportive thing you can do for that dear woman would be to greet her lovingly when you see her, tell your clergyperson what you have discovered, and see to it that she seeks medical and psychological attention if she is, indeed, suicidal.

**

DEAR ABBY: I read with interest the letter about which hand you should hold your knife and fork in. In Europe, people eat with the knife in their right hand and the fork in their left. It reminded me of a good story about this:

During World War II, an American pilot was shot down over France. He landed in his parachute, and the French underground found him and tried to sneak him across the border to safety. During the journey, they stopped to eat in a cafe. He cut up his food with his knife and then picked up the fork in his right hand to eat. This identified him as an American. He was captured by the Germans and spent the rest of the war in a prison camp. **— DONALD D. GROSS, MSG. (RET.), U.S. ARMY**

DEAR DONALD: He should have heeded the old saying, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do," and learned more about the customs of the country he was trying to escape.

**

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law passed away unexpectedly. My husband, who is the executor, has her cremated remains in our home. It was agreed that when all of the children and their spouses were ready, her ashes would be dispersed with all of the family present.

Now one of the sisters wants to open the container that holds the ashes and scoop some out to be put in trinket boxes for the other sisters. I feel this is very disrespectful, and that the container should be opened only once — when everyone is present — and only when it's time to disperse all of the ashes. What do you think? **— APPALLED DAUGHTER-IN-LAW**

DEAR APPALLED: I see nothing disrespectful about saving a few of your mother-in-law's ashes, if any of her surviving "children" think it will be comforting. Please try not to be judgmental. There are no hard-and-fast rules when it comes to grieving, and if having the ashes will ease your sister-in-law's grief, I see no harm in it.

**

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

DEAR ABBY: I am engaged to a wonderful man who lives in a neighboring state, roughly six hours away. We see each other by taking turns driving on the weekends. One weekend he drives here, another I drive there. He has a steady job with a generous salary and a son he would be unable to move because the mother has custody and won't permit it. I have two children, 11 and 3, and want to relocate to his area.

My problem is my 11-year-old son, who insists he wants to live with me but doesn't want to move away. He has never visited the area, but is convinced he will hate it. His father is no help and tells our son he will never get to see his friends or family. I don't feel comfortable letting my son stay here with his father because of his past drug and alcohol abuse, and because he works 14-hour night shifts and lives in a one-bedroom apartment. I don't think he can give our son the time or upbringing he needs.

My son has a great relationship with my fiance, but doesn't want to move to his area. I have insisted my son go and at least give it a chance. This is tearing me apart.

Is it wrong or selfish of me to insist my son go with me when he has expressed that he doesn't want to relocate? **— STUCK IN NEWARK, N.J.**

DEAR STUCK: Not at all, considering the alternative of leaving him where you presently live, in the care of a single parent who is absent 14 hours at a crack.

While your son's fears about leaving the familiar and moving to another state are understandable, you cannot allow your child to make this decision for you. Your ex-husband is unable to provide for the boy, and there really is no other choice for him.

Tell your son that you insist he go with you and at least give his new surroundings a chance. Give him your assurance he will see his friends and family, and that he can call and correspond by e-mail. Arrange for his friends to visit in his new home occasionally. And hope that his father will also come to see his son.

If, after one year, yo r son still "hates" it, promise to discuss what his other options might be.

P.S. If the boy appears to have trouble adjusting, get him counseling immediately.

**

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I just returned from a two-day visit at the home of our son and daughter-in-law. They have two guest rooms. Ours is a loving marriage and we like to sleep in the same bed. The room with the double bed was given to our daughter-in-law's widowed mother. We were put in the guest room with two single beds.

No explanation was given as to why we were assigned the room with the two single beds. We felt it was a deliberate choice made by our daughter-in-law, and it hurt us deeply. It made us feel unwelcome in their home.

We would still like to visit them, but are tempted to stay in a hotel next time. Have you any suggestions as to how this should be handled in the future? **— COZY COUPLE IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR COZY: I don't think your son and daughter-in-law meant any offense. But don't take this lying down. The next time you plan to visit your son and daughter-in-law, request the double bed. If it is already spoken for, arrange to stay at a hotel where you'll be comfortable.

**

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Farmers flock to tobacco buyout

LANHAM, Md. (AP) — Maryland's program to snuff out tobacco farming has received an overwhelming response from southern Maryland growers, far more than state planners expected.

Almost half of the 961 farmers eligible for the buyout program had signed contracts as of Thursday. Under the program, the state will pay them not to grow tobacco for the next 10 years.

The initial success of the buyout, funded largely by Maryland's share of the national tobacco settlement, all but guarantees the end of a crop that has sustained southern Maryland agriculture for more than 300 years.

"This has been much more successful than anybody anticipated," said Christine Bergmark, agricultural development director for the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland, which is handling the buyout program.

Farmers had until Feb. 22 to request applications. As of Thursday, 452 farmers, who sold 4.49 million pounds of tobacco last year, had signed up for the program. Maryland produced 7.94 million pounds of tobacco last year.

The number of farmers agreeing to the buyout is also likely to increase in the next several weeks. About 72 percent of eligible farmers, representing 6.75 million pounds of tobacco sales, requested an application before last month's deadline.

The state had expected only 30 percent of Maryland's tobacco farmers to sign up in the first year of the program when it was approved last year.

Under the program, eligible farmers will be paid $1 per pound each year for the next decade, based on their average crop size between 1996 and 1998. Farmers have to agree to stop growing tobacco, one of the most lucrative crops in southern Maryland.

Maryland is using 5 percent of its tobacco money for the buyout, the only state to use tobacco funds for such a program, state officials say.

Port Republic farmer Earl Hance said he thought most farmers would choose not to sign up this year to see if the state funding would materialize.

Farmers paid not to irrigate

ATLANTA (AP) — Some farmers in Georgia will make money this summer by not irrigating their crops.

The state approved millions of dollars Thursday to pay farmers near the Flint River basin not to irrigate, because an expected drought will diminish the water supply. The basin stretches across Southwest Georgia and includes Albany.

The Flint River Drought Protection Act, passed last year by the state's general assembly, authorized the irrigation plan during severe drought years.

On The Net:

Maryland Agriculture Department:
http://www.mda.state.md.us/

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Sunday, March 4, 2001

That added ingredient that you'll need to help you fulfill a secret desire or ambition in the year ahead will be in full evidence in your affairs. It's called positive thinking.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Look to friends today to take a sincere interest in your personal affairs, be they commercial, family or social. They'll be on your side, giving you the support you need. Pisces, treat yourself to a birthday gift.

Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Stable conditions should exist today concerning anything that concerns your domestic affairs. However, should either you or your mate resurrect an old problem, sparks could fly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Try to complete those assignments that require heavy brainwork early in the day before you peter out. It's not that you're not up to them; it's just that your resources are limited today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Stick to shopping for household items or essential commodities. Your sense of value might not be as sharp in other areas as they are domestically.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You actually might just get a day today where you'll be free to do what you want to do without too much outside interference. Make a list of what's important to you personally.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Provided you're permitted to do things at your own time and pace, you'll be quite efficient. Your proficiency may lessen, however, if you have others constantly peering over your shoulder.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) It may become clear to you today that something about which you've been anxious may not be nearly as dire as you had imagined. In fact, there are lots of reasons to be hopeful.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) The timing is right today to make another attempt at an endeavor that has thus far proven unsuccessful. You'll make it this time around.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You're an excellent person to give advice today to those who seek your counsel. Don't be hesitant and hold back on what you think is right for them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Because you'll be especially adroit today at knowing how to use resources at your disposal, problematical endeavors in which you get involved will work out satisfactory.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) That old saying that two heads are better than one will hold true in your case today. A partnership arrangement will enhance your chances for success substantially.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) If you keep your objectives uppermost in your mind at all times today, the goals you set for yourself will be achievable. Let your mind wander off your tasks and it'll be another story.

Monday, March 5, 2001

A heavier than usual social calendar involving both your family and friends will be in the offing in the year ahead. It'll give you great feelings of security and connections with the world.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Don't push for finalization today on a matter that affects both you and your family. If it isn't happening on its own, chances are the situation needs a bit more time to be worked out. Major changes are ahead for Pisces in the coming year. **Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.**

ARIES (March 21-April 19) What makes you such a faultfinder today is your negative attitude. If you want to find something wrong with every little thing, you're going to have an unhappy day.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) If you try to get too cute today when dealing with others, you could sour some good relationships. Treat others as fairly as you would like to be treated.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Should you find yourself stuck square in the middle of a delicate situation from which you can't gracefully walk away, be prepared to defend your positions as diplomatically as you can.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) It behooves you to be very selective today regarding those with whom you involve yourself commercially or financially. You could be held accountable for their mistakes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Situations could be rather tricky today in both your social and business involvements. If you're smart, you won't take anything for granted and get caught off guard.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Clever talk, public relations or brochuremanship won't cut the mustard today. Only being sincere and straightforward will win you the accolades you may be looking for.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Treat everyone as a friend today, whether he or she is an associate, co-worker or stranger. Tactfulness and consideration will gain you the respect and/**or assistance you're looking for.**

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) When engaged in a social situation that includes money, everyone involved could be protecting his or her personal turf. Move extra cautiously today so that you don't get caught holding the tab.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Don't expect self-serving individuals to make reasonable concessions or compromises, so should you get involved with any, disengage yourself as quickly as possible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Expect to go it alone today if there is something important you want accomplished, because one who had promised to help could bail out on you. It's just one of those days.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Even if asked, don't offer any advice today, especially financial. Although your intentions may be good, what you have to say may not be. Plead ignorance.

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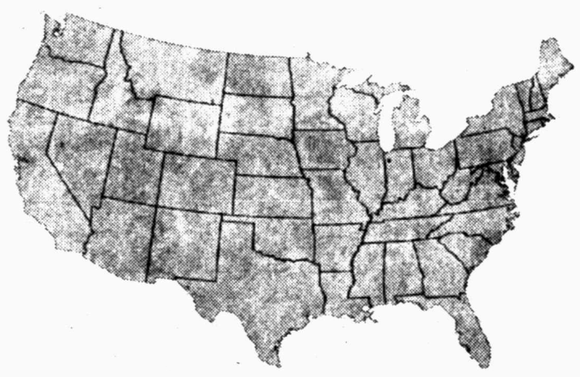

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MAR 03 2001

Jackson touts church-based programs on empowerment

FORT WORTH (AP) — Despite economic prosperity, financial woes continue plaguing minorities across the country, including Texas — where no blacks own a downtown building in most major cities, the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. says.

Jackson spoke Thursday at the midwinter board session of the National Baptist Convention of America, a black religious organization with about four million members.

"We now face economic apartheid," he told the crowd of nearly 900 in downtown Fort Worth. "We must teach people to have financial empowerment ... because those left behind need a rope."

Jackson said he developed a church-based financial literacy program to fulfill a vision by his mentor, slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., who hoped to see equal opportunity through shared economic security.

Churches that join the "One Thousand Churches Connected" program for a $1,000 membership fee receive tools to teach members how to get out of debt, own a home and save for retirement.

Jackson said churches historically have led the way in bringing about social change, including ending slavery and segregation and winning minorities the right to vote.

Many pastors attending the conference said they planned to join the program run by Jackson's organization, the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition.

"We are called to minister to the totality of man, and economic issues definitely affect their lives," said the Rev. Delvin Atchison, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Crockett.

Jackson also criticized President Bush's initiative to open up government funding for faith-based social service programs.

The president's plan would let religious groups compete more easily with secular ones for government grants, something they can do only on a limited basis now.

"Once he (Bush) puts his federal grant in your church, he comes back three months later ... looking for your books," Jackson said. "Behind federal money comes federal monitoring."

Under Bush's plan, the religious organizations accepting federal money would still have to meet federal anti-discrimination policies, meaning they could not require participants to attend religious activities and could not turn away people of other faiths.

Some pastors attending the conference said they did not want federal money given to programs run by groups with beliefs they oppose.

"Even if they're getting people off drugs with their ministry, unless they preach the deity, I can't support it," Atchison said.

Jackson also criticized Bush's $1.96 trillion budget proposal, which features a $1.6 trillion, 10-year tax cut, $2 trillion in debt reduction and a limit on overall spending increases to slightly above the inflation rate.

Jackson said too much money would be cut from public transportation, health care and education. He said tax cuts would favor the wealthiest Americans.

"So you've got a surplus in your budget, more than you can spend," he said. "Would Jesus give extra money to the rich young ruler or to the needy?"

The appearance in Fort Worth was Jackson's only one scheduled in Texas.

Jackson, 59, came to prominence shortly after King's 1968 assassination. Three years later, he founded Operation PUSH, an organization dedicated to the economic empowerment of the black community.

Jackson also heads up the National Rainbow Coalition in Chicago, which he started in 1986.

Jackson quickly returned to public life in January after acknowledging an extramarital affair in which he fathered a now 20-month-old daughter. Since then, he has repeatedly reassured supporters that he will carry on his civil rights work as the head of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition.

On the Net:
Rainbow/PUSH Coalition:
http://www.rainbowpush.org

Author J. K. Rowling received title of OBE from Prince Charles

LONDON (AP) — Harry Potter creator J.K. Rowling received the title Officer of the Order of the British Empire, or OBE, Friday from Prince Charles — himself a fan of the schoolboy wizard.

The prince asked whether the movie version of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," currently being filmed in Britain, would live up to the book.

"He said he can't wait, and he wanted to know whether it was true to how I saw the story in my mind," Rowling said after the investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace. "I said that it was.

"It's always very difficult for TV and film adaptations to live up to a book," said the 35-year-old Rowling, who received her award for services to children's literature.

"But I had a lot of input in this one and although it can never be 100 percent, I think it's going to be great."

Rowling's four Harry Potter books, recounting the adventures of Harry and his friends at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, have sold more than 30 million copies around the world.

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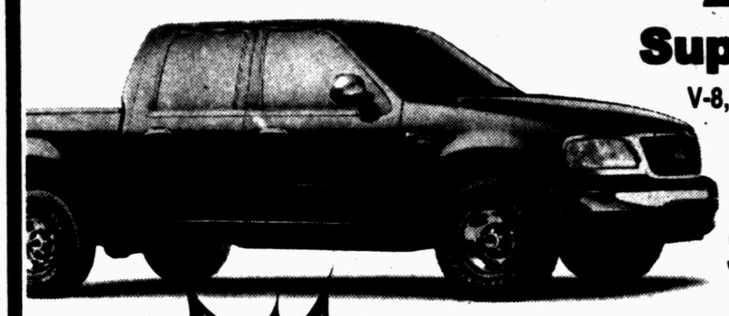

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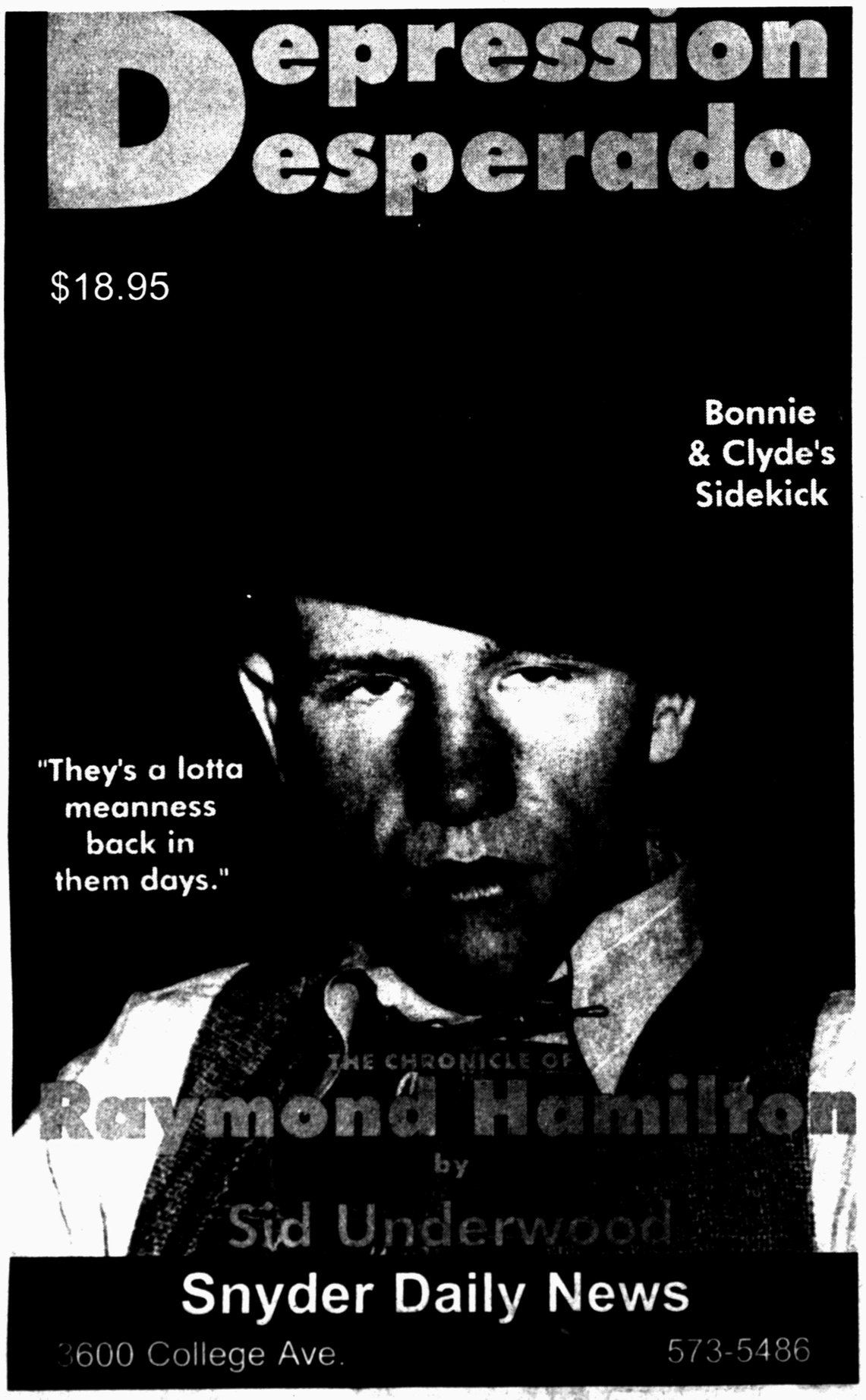

"They's a lotta meanness back in them days."

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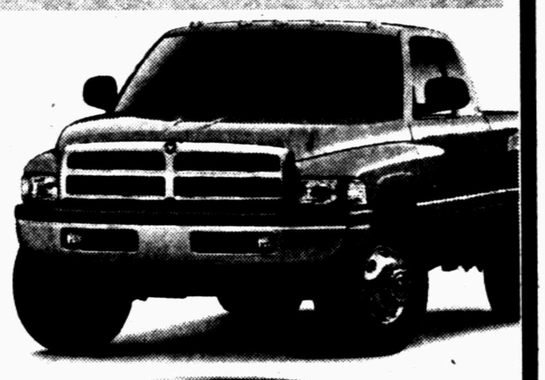

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