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WTIC Posted - $17.00
Natural Gas - $2.180

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
Feb. 4, 2002
Vol. 53 No. 238
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Bitty and Albert Rodriguez

Snyder High School moves to Class 3A

By Eric Drennan
SDN Sports Editor

Go west young man — for the most part.

Snyder High School's move into Class 3A ranks became official this morning with the release of the University Interscholastic League realignment.

Snyder's change in classification was a forgone conclusion after the school turned in an enrollment of 782. The only question was whether the Tigers would go east or west for district play.

The answer is a little bit of both.



HIGH KICK — Aaron Schultze of Killeen (left) and Jeremy Smith of Midland sparred in the TaeKwonDo tournament Saturday afternoon at the Scurry County Coliseum. Some 350 competitors entered and more than 2,000 spectators watched the action. (SDN Staff Photo)

Denver City, Lamesa and Seminole from the west, combined with Merkel and Sweetwater from the east join Snyder in the newly-formed District 3-3A.

"I'm not too surprised at how it came out. I'm just glad the whole thing is done," said SHS football coach and athletic director Chad Rogers. "It's going to be a solid district all the way around."

The fiercest competition will be in boys basketball as the Tigers face the top two teams from each direction.

"It's going to be tough," Tiger hoops coach Bud Birks said. "Seminole and Denver City are the best from their district, and Merkel and Sweetwater are the best from the other one.

"It's better than having to compete every night against the likes of Estacado and Plainview, but it's still going to be a dogfight."

The district alignments released this morning are for football and basketball only. The remaining sports discover their fates following the Feb. 20 deadline for appeals.

"It surprised me a little bit that they combined the two districts, but I think we fared well as far as travel goes," said Snyder girls basketball coach and athletic coordinator Mike Martin. "It's going to be pretty competitive.

"Lamesa is winning their district, and Merkel and Sweetwater are also good. But at least it's not Plainview and Levelland."

Basketball schedules will be set at a later date, but Snyder's football slate was filled this morning.

The Tigers face Frenship, Abilene Wylie, Midland Greenwood, Fort Stockton and Levelland in non-district action.

Snyder kicks off District 3-3A play Oct. 11 at home against Sweetwater. The Tigers then travel to Merkel before hosting Seminole and Lamesa. SHS wraps up the regular season at Denver City.

As for other local schools, Ira and Hermleigh saw minor changes in their six-man football alignment.

The Bulldogs and Cardinals retained Loraine, Highland and Westbrook from their old district, but lost Borden County. Trent replaces the Coyotes in District 8.

Borden County joins District 5 along with Sands, Klondike, Grady, Loop and Dawson.

The Class A Division II basketball districts took on a new look, with six teams now in each league instead of five.

Ira and Borden County will face Sands, Klondike, Grady and Dawson in district hoops action. Hermleigh competes with Blackwell, Loraine, Highland, Trent and Westbrook.

The new alignments take effect next school year and run through the spring of 2004.



ON THE MOVE — Josh Patton, left, of Levelland and C.C. Vernon of Lubbock kick up the dust in an effort to team rope a calf Saturday night at the Scurry County Coliseum Annex. More than 250 teams entered the competition and two more team ropings are scheduled at the coliseum annex in February. (SDN Staff Photo)

County takes care of short agenda today

The Scurry County commissioners' court took less than half an hour to complete its agenda this morning.

The court approved a line-item transfer of $19,393 at the Scurry County Coliseum to purchase three used vehicles for parks department employees.

To be purchased are three pickups — two Fords and one Chevrolet. The court also approved a $300 petty cash fund for the coliseum.

Parks Department head Scott Crenwelge told the court that concessions at the coliseum would from now on be handled in-house, prompting the need for cash on hand to make change.

County extension agent Beth Dannheim presented the court an activity report for the month of January.

Dannheim reported she conducted a series of health and nutrition seminars for Head Start. A display of pictures from the series was on hand in the courtroom.

The court also approved minutes from two previous meetings and paid bills.

Earthquake hits Turkey

CAY, Turkey (AP) — Officials called off the search for survivors today as soldiers and aid workers raced to provide shelter and food for Turks left homeless by a quake that killed at least 43 people and damaged more than 600 buildings.

A military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they believed there were no more survivors or bodies left in the rubble of collapsed buildings in the central province of Afyon, where hundreds of people spent the night in tents or vehicles despite freezing temperatures.

The government's crisis center put the death toll from Sunday's magnitude-6 earthquake in a poppy-growing region in central Turkey at 43, and said earlier reports that 45 people had died were based on inaccurate counting.

Municipal vehicles with loudspeakers drove through the small town of Cay announcing the names of the dead, and the time and place of their funerals.

At a funeral in the nearby town of Sultandag, local men formed two long lines and passed six coffins down a human corridor, before gently placing them in a hearse.

Most of the buildings toppled by the temblor were old brick and mud houses, shoddily built shops or state-owned buildings. Health officials said more than 300 people were injured. Four mosques also collapsed, private television NTV reported.

The quake, felt in cities up to 200 miles north and west of the epicenter, shook a nation where memories of people trapped in homes are still vivid after two massive quakes killed 18,000 people in the northwest in 1999. Badly constructed buildings were blamed for the large number of deaths in those quakes and some constructors have since been put on trial.

The government, accused in the past of reacting too slowly to natural disasters, was sending over 20,000 blankets, 7,000 tents and more than 3,000 gas heaters to the region where Sunday's quake struck, Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit said.

"The state is rushing to the aid of citizens who are suffering," Ecevit said today after a Cabinet meeting to discuss the quake.

In tonight's meeting...

City to start process for spring election

Among the agenda items for this evening's city council meeting is an order setting the municipal election for May 4.

All single-member council seats will be on the ballot.

Council members whose terms will expire are Vernest Tippens, district 1; David Harrell, district 2; James Ashley, district 3; and I.E. Martin, district 4.

Feb. 18 is the first date to file for the council election and early voting will run April 17-30.

In a related matter, the council is expected to appoint Bonnie Fry as election judge and Marsha Lovelady as alternate judge for the election.

City finance director Jeanne Johnson will present the annual comprehensive financial report, and the council will review the management letter by the city's auditors, Davis, Kinard & Co.

Representatives from Cox Communications will discuss the updating of the cable system, while the budget calendar for 2002-2003 will be outlined.

In items of old business, the council will consider the second reading of ordinances concerning natural gas distribution rates, registration of electrical providers and water conservation.

The meeting starts at 6:30 in city council chambers at city hall.

President introduces $2.13 trillion budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush sent Congress a $2.13 trillion budget today that would provide billions of dollars in new spending for the war on terrorism and homeland security while squeezing money from scores of other programs such as highway and environmental projects.

After four years of surpluses, Bush's budget projects the government will go in the red through 2004, including a $106 billion deficit this year.

The $2.13 trillion spending proposal for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 reflects a 3.7 percent increase from this year.

That overall increase masks wide differences, with favored programs slated to receive huge increases while scores of agencies would be subjected to big cuts.

The spending blueprint is the opening act in what will be months of wrangling in Congress. The massive five-inch high stack of budget books had barely reached congressional desks before Democrats started complaining.

Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D., likened the administration's budget accounting to tactics employed by the bankrupt Enron Corp.

"Enron got into trouble because they didn't fully disclose debt they have and that is precisely what the federal government is doing," Conrad said. He contended the administration would raid Social Security and Medicare surpluses to cover shortfalls in the rest of government.

"The president funds large new tax cuts by tapping Social Security," said Thomas Kahn, Democratic staff director for the GOP-led House Budget Committee. "Over 10 years, we are depleting $1.5 trillion of the Social Security trust fund."

In the most dramatic indication of how much the budget landscape has been altered in a year's time, Bush projects that surpluses over the next 10 years will total just $1 trillion — down from the $5.6 trillion that he estimated just a year ago.

While Bush blamed much of the erosion on the country's first recession in a decade and the costs of waging a war against terrorism, Democrats pointed to Bush's 10-year, $1.35 trillion tax cut. They said the administration, to protect those tax cuts, was seeking unnecessarily severe budget cuts across a wide swath of government programs.

ASK US

Q—Who is paying for the repairs of the vandalism at the Girl Scout Hut?

A—According to Jo Ann Cearley with the Girl Scouts, the juveniles responsible are to go to court this week, but so far no restitution has been paid.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 46 degrees; low, 28; high Sunday, 49; low, 34; 7 a.m. Monday, 37; .02 of an inch precipitation; total for 2002, .41.

Area Forecast: Tonight, 70% rain chance, mixed with snow after midnight, low around 35. Tuesday, 60% rain chance, possibly mixed with snow in a.m., high 45.



Taylar Presley
Chance of Snow

Sunset:
6:21 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:34 a.m.
Of 34 days in 2001, the sun shone 38 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

The reward of a thing well done is to have done it.
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Winners named in trivia contest

The three lucky winners in the SDN Super Bowl Trivia Contest are: $50 winner - Gene Bowlin of 1202 CR 241; $25 winner – Bob D. Sealy of 3101 Ave V.; and $10 winner – Caroline Rodriguez of 984 James St. in Hermleigh.

Winners will be mailed their checks.

New England won Sunday's Super Bowl over the St. Louis Rams, 20-17.

FEB 04 2002

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Volcker to head reform board for Andersen

NEW YORK (AP) — Hoping to stanch a wave of public criticism for its handling of Enron Corp.'s financial books, Athur Andersen LLP has brought in former Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker to lead an effort to revamp the accounting firm's business practices.

As a first step, Andersen said it would no longer provide certain kinds of consulting services to the companies whose books they audit, joining other accounting firms in an effort to restore confidence in their profession following the Enron debacle.

"My firm has been under a lot of scrutiny," Joseph F. Berardino, chief executive of Andersen Worldwide SC, said in a briefing with reporters. "We want to improve our standing in the public's mind. We're very pleased that Mr. Volcker has come forward at this time of crisis for our firm."

It remains far from certain, however, that Andersen's efforts at damage control will be successful. The firm's announcements on Sunday came one day after an internal probe into Enron's financial practices made harsh criticisms of the way Andersen conducted itself in the Enron debacle, which led to the largest bankruptcy in U.S. history.

"The evidence available to us suggests that Andersen did not fulfill its professional responsibilities in connection with its audits of Enron's financial statements, or its obligation to bring to the attention of Enron's board .... concerns about Enron's internal controls," according to the probe, which was done by a special committee of Enron's board.

Andersen has already fired David Duncan, a partner who allegedly had a hand in shredding documents related to Enron's financial collapse, and asked former U.S. Sen. John Danforth, to conduct a review of the company's records management policy and recommend improvements.

Berardino declined to address the specific charges against Andersen in the internal Enron probe, saying he wanted to focus on restoring public faith in his firm and to institute "fundamental" changes in the way Andersen does business.

However, another Andersen executive, global managing partner C. E. Andrews, issued a statement Saturday saying that Enron's internal probe "fits Enron's established pattern of the last several months of attempting to shift blame to others."

Berardino acknowledged that the hiring of Volcker and the limits on the consulting services were a "first step" in the process that Andersen must now undertake to restructure itself and restore public confidence.

"Real people got hurt" in the Enron debacle, Berardino said. "We understand that. The question is what can we do better. ... I think you're going to see a fundamental restructuring of the accounting industry in the United States."

In addition to Andersen, three of the other five major accounting firms have already endorsed limits on the scope of services that they may offer their audit clients, leaving Deloitte & Touche as the only large firm as the only firm yet to take a position on the issue.

Many questions remain unanswered about the oversight board that Volcker is chairing, including who else will be on it, what sorts of changes will be called for, and the timetable for implementing those changes. But Berardino said the board would have wide authority to mandate changes within Andersen.

Volcker, who is not being paid for his services, told reporters he was satisfied that his commission would have enough authority to get Andersen to adopt whatever reforms his panel decides upon. He said he hoped the work would be complete within 18 months.

"There's no chance I would be here unless I thought we'd have unprecedented authority" in making changes, Volcker said. "Accounting and auditing in this country is in a state of crisis. It's important that this be cleaned up and changed."

Rep. Jim Greenwood, chairman of the House oversight and investigations subcommittee, reacted skeptically to the hiring of Volcker.

"They need to come forward and say 'we blew it' and that "we're now going to change from within," Greenwood, R-Pa., said on CNN's "Late Edition." He said that instead, Andersen had placed the blame on Duncan, the Houston auditor in charge of the Enron account.

Andersen's troubles have prompted other major accounting firms to also take steps to restore public confidence in their profession.

Date Book

Monday, Feb. 4, 2002

Today is the 35th day of 2002 and the 46th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1789, George Washington, the commander of the Continental Army, was unanimously elected the first president of the United States.

On this day in 1974, Patty Hearst, the 19-year-old daughter of newspaper publisher Randolph Hearst, was kidnapped in Berkeley, Calif.

On this day in 1861, delegates from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina met to establish the Confederate States of America.

On this day in 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at a wartime conference at Yalta.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Mark Hopkins, (1802-1887), educator; Charles Lindbergh (1902-1974), aviator; Erich Leinsdorf (1912-1993), conductor; Rosa Parks (1913-), civil rights activist, is 89; Dan Quayle (1947), former U.S. vice president, is 55; Alice Cooper (1948-), musician, is 54; Lawrence Taylor (1959-), football linebacker, is 43; Clint Black (1962-), singer, is 40; Natalie Imbruglia (1975-), is 27.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1951, Sugar Ray Robinson won the World Middleweight Boxing Title by defeating Jake LaMotta.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "All that is needed for a superior education is Mark Hopkins on one end of a log and a student on the other." — U.S. President James Garfield

TODAY'S MOON: Last quarter.

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Tax Facts

Taxas: Education

By CURT ANDERSON
AP Tax Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A host of tax law changes makes it smart money to take advantage of new opportunities to save for education.

One of the biggest changes involves state-sponsored plans often referred to by Section 529 of the tax code. Effective in 2002, money withdrawn from these 529 plans will be tax-free if it is used for qualified higher education expenses, including tuition and room and board.

In the past, these distributions were taxable. There's one caveat: distributions not used for higher education are subject to a 10 percent excise tax.

Other changes for 529 plans include a chance each year to roll benefits from one plan to another for the same beneficiary; the ability for students to also claim an education tax credit or tax-free distribution from an education savings account; and an increase in the room and board dollar limits to reflect a college's published "cost of attendance" amounts.

There's more. Education IRAs — renamed Coverdell Education Savings Accounts for late Georgia Sen. Paul Coverdell — have several new benefits.

The annual tax-deferred contribution limits to these accounts rises from $500 to $2,000 per beneficiary. The income eligibility ceiling for a married couple to contribute to an account is now $190,000. Above that level, the contribution limits begin to phase out until they end completely at $220,000.

In addition, corporations can now contribute and distributions from the accounts can be tax-free for some elementary and secondary school costs.

Other important tax-related education issues for 2002:

- Taxpayers with incomes up to $65,000 for an individual and $130,000 for a married couple filing jointly may deduct up to $3,000 in higher education expenses. Taxpayers do not have to itemize to claim this deduction.

- Taxpayers cannot claim both an education tax credit and the higher education tax deduction for the same student in the same year. In addition, a taxpayer cannot claim the deduction for the same expenses covered by a Coverdell account, a 529 plan or an education savings bond.

- Employers can provide workers up to $5,250 each year in tax-free education benefits. This benefit, now made permanent, also was expanded to apply to graduate studies beginning in 2002.

- Interest on a student loan can be deducted regardless of when it was paid or how old the loan is. Previously, only payments made within the first 60 months of the due date were counted. The deduction is available to individual taxpayers with incomes up to $65,000 and $130,000 for married couples — but it begins phasing out as income rises above $50,000 for indiviudals and $100,000 for joint returns.

Berrys' World



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Wade Warren, Managing Editor

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Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Lotto Texas numbers drawn Saturday by the Texas Lottery:

2-10-18-21-29-30

(two, ten, eighteen, twenty-one, twenty-nine, thirty)

Estimated Lotto Texas jackpot: $10 million.

Pick 3

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

9-2-8

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Columbine student's parents seek answers

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — Three bullets cut Daniel Rohrbough's life short during the Columbine High School massacre. One hit his leg, another his stomach and the third pierced his chest.

Yet almost three years after the April 1999 assault, the Rohrbough family still isn't sure who fired that third and fatal bullet — the teen-age gunmen or a police officer.

"You don't have closure. You'll always have this hole in your heart, you'll always have the loneliness and longing," said Sue Petrone, Daniel Rohrbough's mother. "But it's important to have the truth. Dan's worth having the truth."

An independent sheriff's investigation is under way and lawmakers may create a legislative commission to determine who killed Rohrbough. It is one of several unanswered questions from the massacre.

Rohrbough's parents believe their 15-year-old son was killed by a police officer who fired toward the school.

They point to shell casings found near Rohrbough's body that do not match bullets used by either gunman. They note the bullet that killed Rohrbough entered from the front, as if he may have been running toward police and away from gunmen Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris.

Brian Rohrbough, the victim's father, also says a Colorado Bureau of Investigation analysis did not reveal gunpowder burns on his son's clothing although investigators told him Klebold fired two shots at close range.

In addition, they have a statement from Jefferson County school administrator Celine Marquez, who said Denver Police Sgt. Daniel O'Shea told her two days after the attack that he feared he may have shot an innocent student. O'Shea has denied the accusation.

Jefferson County officials stand by their May 2000 report, which concludes that Daniel Rohrbough was shot three times and Klebold fired the bullet that killed him.

"We have 25 eyewitness statements that say it was Harris and Klebold that shot Danny Rohrbough," county spokeswoman Jennifer Watson said. She declined additional comment.

Other Columbine family members also want questions answered.

Patricia DePooter, whose son Corey was killed, said she wants to know how a bullet ended up in her son's backpack after officials acknowledged it hadn't been matched to a specific weapon.

Last week, sheriff's officials said they would test the bullet. Ballistics tests did determine that two slugs lodged in DePooter's chest came from Harris' gun.

Al Velasquez, whose son Kyle was killed, said he was told his son was shot in the library and his body was found at a computer. Velasquez said he learned later that his son's body was under a desk.

The family of teacher Dave Sanders has alleged SWAT teams let him bleed to death even though they knew he was critically wounded.

U.S. District Court Judge Lewis Babcock has dismissed all Columbine lawsuits except for the Sanders case. He ruled that school officials responded reasonably to a chaotic situation.

He declined to reopen the lawsuit filed by Rohrbough and four other families based on the O'Shea allegations. He ruled that even if the officer accidentally killed Rohrbough, he would be protected by governmental immunity laws.

Attorney Barry Arrington said he plans to file appeals of Babcock's decision on behalf of the Rohrboughs and several other families.

Daniel Rohrbough was one of three students leaving Columbine on April 20, 1999, when Harris and Klebold opened fire.

'Teach-ins' are proposed by Lynne Cheney

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — Younger Americans don't know enough about the nation's history to appreciate fully the freedoms its military is defending in the war against terrorism, Lynne Cheney said Saturday.

Using a historical example more than 200 years old, she said George Washington's surprise Christmas Day attack on Hessian forces manning the British fort in Trenton, N.J., shows that freedom "is not our inevitable heritage."

"The founders had the odds stacked very much against them," the wife of Vice President Dick Cheney told a gathering of conservative activists.

"No one had ever thrown off a colonial power before. No one had ever established representative government across a vast expanse of land. The Americans were going up against the mightiest military force in the world."

The realization that freedom wasn't inevitable should make it "all the more precious to us. Were we to lose it, liberty might not come our way again," she said in a 20-minute speech closing out the Conservative Political Action Conference.

Mrs. Cheney, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank, has long been outspoken about the lack of historical knowledge.

She said more than half of college seniors surveyed in 1989 did not understand the purpose of the Federalist Papers.

In a 1999 survey of seniors from elite colleges such as Princeton, Yale and Stanford, only one-fifth knew that the words, "government of the people, by the people, for the people," came from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, Mrs. Cheney said.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2002

If you handle yourself properly in the year ahead, this could turn out to be an interesting period for you where your earnings are concerned. You can add considerably to your holdings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Although you're entering a cycle today where your hopes and expectations could become realities, don't leave everything up to Lady Luck. Play the role that's expected of you. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — A dependable friend will offer to help you further your interests today. Don't be too shy or proud to accept the support, once you learn of it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Your mental processes are always sharp, but today they will be able to absorb knowledge like a sponge, enabling you to grasp some in-depth insights that will prove very helpful to you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — If you find a way to fit yourself into something good others have going for them, it will be a major asset for you today. More importantly, your presence and input will be good for all.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Whether you've realized it or not, you have been honing your skills over time as a negotiator. It will become quite evident to you today when you go to hammer out an agreement.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Those you've recently helped are eager to find a way to reciprocate, and, in appreciation one or more may actually do more for you than you did for them today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Something that develops for you today that is both pleasant and a bit extraordinary could have far reaching effects. This might come about through a social contact.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — It might take a little imagination and a bit of cooperation from persons with whom you're involved, but the life span of something that has been rewarding can be expanded today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — You may find it to your advantage to discuss something important with another in a social setting toward evening. The subject may automatically come up without prodding.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — It may come as a surprise, but a beneficial occurrence today could end up enhancing your material security by adding to your holdings. Make the most of it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — That good news you've been hoping to receive which hasn't arrived as yet may come about today. However, it may not happen until later in the day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You could come out better today in things or situations you don't control or haven't designed. Instead of trying to make things happen, let events take their own courses.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Daughter branded as immoral all because of small tattoo

DEAR ABBY: When I was 20 and still living at home, I got a tattoo I never told my parents about. I am now 25, married, and have never regretted it.

When Mom was visiting recently, she saw my tattoo. What followed was an eight-hour attack on my "bad morals, low self-esteem and corrupt character."

I never knew a small picture of a butterfly could cause so much trouble. The scene with Mom got so bad that my husband and I finally decided we'd had enough. We packed her suitcase, took her to the airport, and happily paid to get her on the next flight home.

Now most of my family is involved in the fight and everyone is taking sides. It seems there's no end to this. Did my husband and I make the wrong call by sending her home? — **POOR LITTLE BUTTERFLY IN OKLAHOMA**

DEAR POOR LITTLE BUTTERFLY: In your mother's day, tattoos were not accepted as they are today. She overreacted to your tattoo. Now take the high road: Apologize for sending her away and head off World War III.

**

DEAR ABBY: Last year our 18-year-old son, "Tommy," started dating a young lady from his community college. I'll call her June.

From the start, my husband and I liked June. On occasion we would take her and our son out for dinner or to a family function. June and I shared many interests and became good friends.

Six months later, Tommy announced that he was breaking up with her because their relationship was going nowhere. I was disappointed but accepted his decision.

Now Tommy doesn't want me to be friendly with June. He won't speak to her and will not allow me to mention her name in his presence.

What should I do? June seems to enjoy our mother/daughter relationship, and so do I. — **TORN-UP MOM IN MILFORD, OHIO**

P.S. Tommy has not yet moved on to another girl.

DEAR TORN-UP MOM: From the way your son is behaving, there's more to the story of the breakup than he has revealed to you. Although you may yearn for a daughter, June isn't going to be her.

Allow your relationship with June to cool a little. If you don't, your relationship with your son will suffer. His feelings should take priority.

**

DEAR ABBY: Eighteen months ago, I discovered that "Steven," my husband of 27 years, had been secretly visiting "Blanca," the girl he wanted to marry 30 years ago. Since then, I have been talking to Blanca's husband, "Eric," and have fallen in love with him.

The affair has ended for Steven and Blanca, but Eric and I still talk several times a week.

Abby, should I stay with Steven? I'm tempted to leave him after what he has done. — **GETTING EVEN WITH STEVEN**

DEAR GETTING EVEN: I don't blame you for wanting to get even, but if you're asking my permission, the answer is no. The fact is, neither you nor Eric is really available.

Before making any final decisions, try marriage counseling to see if you can rebuild a loving, trusting relationship with your spouse. That way, fewer people will be hurt.

**

Pauline Phillips and her daughter Jeanne Phillips share the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447.

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FEB 04 2002

SPORTS

Lady Tigers hold off Andrews for crown

SAN ANGELO — On the same course it will play at the regional tournament, Snyder not only held on to its lead, it widened the gap on the defending state runner-up.

The Lady Tigers fired a 317 Saturday at Riverside GC to win the San Angelo Girls Golf Classic by six strokes over Andrews.

Andrews, which placed second at state last year, was within three shots heading into the final round, but couldn't catch the Lady Tigers who got sub-80 rounds from Andra Lancaster and Lauren Day.

Lancaster carded a 76 Saturday to finish third in the medalist race. Day tallied a 79 and Kellie Dodson posted an 80. Paige Smith turned in an 82 and Catherine Whitworth finished with an 84.

The Lady Tigers are in tournament competition again Feb. 15-16 when they host the Snyder Girls Invitational.

San Angelo Girls Golf Classic
Orange Division

Team standings: 1. Snyder 343-317—660, 2. Andrews 346-320—666, 3. Southlake Carroll 364-331—695, 4. Pecos 365-333—698, 5. Granbury 375-344—719, 6. Monahans 399-350—749, 7. Fort Stockton 398-354—752, 8. Hereford 402-364—756, 9. North Crowley 412-386—798, 10. Plainview 419-399—818, 11. Canyon 444-409—853, 12. Sweetwater 484-443—927, 13. Lake View 471-433—904, 14. Frenship 520-459—979.

Individual standings: 1. Ashley Robb, Andrews, 81-74—155; 2. Christa Spedding, Granbury, 76-79—155; 3. Andra Lancaster, Snyder, 81-76—157.

Other Snyder: Lauren Day 87-79—166, Paige Smith 87-82—169, Kellie Dodson 88-80—168, Catherine Whitworth 96-84—180.

Scurry County
Girls Little Dribbler Basketball
Sign-Ups
Thursday - Saturday
February 7-9
First Baptist Family Life Center

Thursday, Feb. 7	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 8	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 9	9:00 a.m. - Noon

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573-1408 or 573-4469
8-12 Year Old Girls as of August 1, 2002
Child must be accompanied by parent and must bring birth certificate.
$30 for one girl, $15 for each additional girl in same family.

Tigers secure tournament title

In Friday's opening round, the Snyder Tigers used their talents to card a 293. On Saturday, the Tigers used their grit to grind out a 313.

When all was said and done, the combination of skill and character earned Snyder a title.

The Tigers posted a two-day total of 606 to win the Snyder Boys Invitational by 11 strokes over Frenship.

Snyder followed Friday's 293 at Snyder Country Club with a 313 in cold, blustery conditions Saturday at Western Texas College.

"It was tough out there today," said Snyder coach Matt Glenn. "There weren't a whole lot of low scores posted. But our guys hung in there, and got the best they could out of their round. Some days it's an easy game, and some days you have to work for it. Our kids worked for it today."

Zach Starnes anchored the Tigers' final round with a 74. Britt Sharrock carded a 77 and Matt McCormick tallied an 80. Clinton Calmes turned in an 82, and Stafford Gray finished with an 83.

Trey Todd of Abilene Wylie was top medalist with rounds of 73 and 71.

In Division II competition, Snyder II shot a 337 Saturday to finish fourth behind Midland Lee, Levelland and Midland Greenwood.

Vaughn Wiggins came in with a final-round 81. Alan Gray registered an 83, and Jason Williams turned in an 85. Nathan Hines finished with an 88, and Taylor Cotton posted a 101.

Competing as medalists, Brady Reed fired a 77. Wyl Wiggins shot a 100 and Cole Robertson had a 110.

Snyder I is in competition again this weekend at the Horseshoe Bay Invitational.

SNYDER BOYS INVITATIONAL
Division I

Team standings: 1. Snyder I 293-313—606, 2. Frenship 306-311—617, 3. Colleyville Heritage 311-311—622, 4. (tie) Lubbock Monterey 313-314—627 and Plainview 300-327—627, 6. Abilene Wylie 321-317—638, 7. Odessa Permian 314-329—643, 8. Andrews 328-325—653, 9. Big Spring 333-334—667, 10. San Antonio Health Careers 336-340—676, 11. Monahans 334-347—681, 12. San Angelo Lake View 341-372—713, 13. Sweetwater 411-425—836.

Individual standings: 1. Trey Todd, Abilene Wylie, 73-71—144; 2. Tim Martin, Frenship, 73-74—147; 3. Adam Quinn, Colleyville Heritage, 74-74—148; 4. (tie) Scott Jannarone, Colleyville Heritage, 71-77—148 and Brandon Melville, Frenship, 69-79—148.

Snyder: Stafford Gray 74-83—157, Clinton Calmes, 72-82—154, Zach Starnes 75-74—149, Brad Sharrock 72-77—149, Matt McCormick 83-80—163.

Other Frenship: Josh Keeton 80-76—156, Nathan Robbins 85-82—167, Stacey Jones 84-89—173.

Other Colleyville Heritage: Brad Jewell 82-80—162, Robert Washington 91-86—177, James Adams 84-80—164.

Lubbock Monterey: Ronnie Evans 79-78—157, Paul Schaub 80-92—172, John Cardinal 77-75—152, Tyler Darden 82-80—162, Tyler Dehay 77-81—158.

Plainview: Travis Street 79-90—169, Joel Taylor 71-80—151, JJ Brumley 75-80—155, Joey Barker 75-79—154, Patrick King 83-88—171.

Other Abilene Wylie: Wes Wilson 84-83—167, Connor Cariker 82-77—159, Chad Carroll 82-86—168, Bobby Owen 87-89—176.

Odessa Permian: Matt Loyd 70-88—158, Tyler Barcena 85-81—166, Johnny Kidd 74-76—150, Zack Burnett 86-86—172, Ryan Barcena 85-86—171.

Andrews: Paul Slaughter 80-83—163, Spud Dillingham 73-78—151, Dylan Brame 89-85—174, Logan Yeats 87-90—177, Chris Davis 88-79—166.

Big Spring: Jerrod Simmons 78-82—160, Nick Reed 84-78—162, Ryan Rodriguez 85-87—172, Mario Rodriguez 86-87—173, John Marino 98-108—206.

San Antonio Health Careers: Brett Cortese 78-76—154, Chris Belz 76-79—155, Sean Piper 91-108—199, Ryan Sauer 91-87—178, Windsen Paw 100-98—198.

Monahans: Derek Jordan 78-83—161, Braxton Brine 82-90—172, Isaac Nabarrette 90-90—180, Bobby Burkhalter 84-92—176, JW Burnett 90-84—174.

San Angelo Lake View: Jason Arnold 74-80—154, Chris Nelms 86-95—181, Jimmy Morrison 89-97—186, Chris Smith 92-100—192, Scott Wilson 103-105—208.

Sweetwater: Aaron Snyder 102-99—201, Sean Jacques 93-98—191, Heath Spencer 107-109—216, Rex Hendrick 114-119—233, Cole Hazard 109-120—229.

Division II

Team standings: 1. Midland Lee 324-316—640, 2. Levelland 330-337—667, 3. Midland Greenwood 324-351—675, 4. Snyder II 345-337—682, 5. Midland High 344-339—683, 6. Lamesa 335-351—686, 7. Seminole 351-355—706, 8. Odessa High 351-356—707, 9. Lubbock High 375-362—737, 10. Abilene Cooper 416-395—811, 11. Brownfield 435-409—844.

Individual standings: 1. Josh Alvarado, Midland Lee, 78-73—151; 2. Kurt Taylor, Lamesa, 76-77—153; 3. Josh Tabor, Levelland, 81-77—158; 4. Evan Dunkerson, Midland Greenwood, 77-84—161; 5. (tie) Vaughn Wiggins, Snyder, 83-81—164 and Thomas Webb, Midland Lee, 82-82—164.

Other Midland Lee: Bobby Whiteside 79-86—165, Aaron Marshall 85-83—168, Steven Logan 90-78—168.

Other Levelland: James Capps 84-89—173, Cody Eddins 87-82—169, Zach McCutchin 88-90—178, Dillon Webb 78-89—167.

Other Midland Greenwood: Dustin Rinard 82-93—175, Casey Littlefield 90-94—184, Spencer Cox 80-87—167, Jeff Riley 85-87—172.

Other Snyder II: Jason Williams 86-85—171, Nathan Hines 91-88—179, Alan Gray 85-83—168, Taylor Cotton 98-101—199.

Midland High: Josh Pasco 86-82—168, Jake Davis 84-84—168, Scott Nelson 88-88—176, Ryan Higuera 86-89—175, Jay Solansky 91-85—176.

Other Lamesa: Bradley Gore 100-95—195, Aaron Crossland 86-90—176, Cam Gregory 87-89—176, Ty Stewart 86-95—181.

Seminole: Jonathan Williams 84-91—175, Ty Caffey 94-83—177, Brady Shivers 80-90—170, Drew Pullam 93-91—184, Alex Huggins 97-NC—NS.

Odessa High: Aaron Wood 83-89—172, Eli Kidd 86-84—170, Josh Barnes 91-93—184, Brian Loe 91-90—181, Jared Anderson 102-98—200.

Lubbock High: Brandon Seirer 102-101—203, Jate Gillen 86-89—175, Tobin Davis 88-90—178, Aaron Mata 99-83—182, Andrews Kerr NC-100—NS.

Abilene Cooper: Dax Pueschel 114-103—217, Bryan Allen 92-98—190, Luke Roberson 102-105—207, Matt Williams 108-97—205, Ray Loza 128-97—225.

Brownfield: Johnny Lucio 104-98—202, Tony Roe 108-92—200, Noe Saenz 115-110—225, Derek Billingsley 109-127—236, Matt McClure 114-109—223.

Also: Brady Reed, Snyder, NC-77—NS; Wyl Wiggins, Snyder, 97-100—197; Cole Robertson, Snyder, 111-110—221.

Local competitors earn top spots in TaeKwonDo

Snyder's West Texas TaeKwonDo Academy captured runner-up honors at the West Texas TaeKwonDo Championships Saturday at Scurry County Coliseum.

The local school finished behind Southwest Academy and ahead of Won Park Academy, both of Fort Worth.

Among the local competitors faring well was Snyder's only black belt Ronnie Martinez. Martinez knocked off the defending U.S. Open champion in the first round of sparring, and went on to claim third place.

Freddie Lopez and Xavier Jaramillo both claimed first-place finishes in the forms and sparring competitions. Cheyenne Alvarez and Angela Almanza were tops in sparring, and Brock Bethel and Adrian Paydron won their divisions in forms.

Approximately 350 competitors were on hand for the one-day event hosted by Greg Gafford and West Texas Taekwondo Academy.

Black belt: Ronnie Martinez, sparring, third.

Red belt: Alex Jaramillo, sparring, second; Jordan Gafford, sparring, third; Derek Murphy, forms, third; Adrian Paydron, forms, first, sparring, third.

Blue belt: Cheyenne Alvarez, sparring, first; Lesa Jones, sparring, third.

Green belt: Joseph Benz, forms, third, sparring, second; Freddie Lopez, forms, first, sparring, first; Angela Almanza, forms, second, sparring, first.

Yellow belt: Nelson Sears, sparring, second; Xavier Jaramillo, forms, first, sparring, first; Skylar Wilson, forms, second; Beth Wilson, forms, second.

Orange belt: Koe Alvarez, forms, second, sparring, second; Sean McClure, forms, second, sparring, third; Hunter Hall, sparring, third; Seth Jaramillo, forms, third, sparring, third; Brock Bethel, forms, first, sparring, second; Dalton Toland, sparring, third; Karsten Morrell, forms, second, sparring, second.

Sports Briefs

Gogel wins at Pebble Beach

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Redemption for Matt Gogel came in the right place at Pebble Beach, and it was just as stunning as his setback.

Two years after he was victimized by Tiger Woods' incredible comeback, Gogel holed a 25-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole and won the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am when Pat Perez took a triple bogey on the final hole.

Gogel, who closed with a 3-under 69 for his first PGA Tour victory, became the third straight player to come from at least four shots back on the final day to win at Pebble Beach, and he picked up $720,000 for the victory.

North America falls in NHL All-Star Game

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nikolai Khabibulin saved all 20 shots he faced in the third period of the All-Star Game, as the World All-Stars defeated North America 8-5.

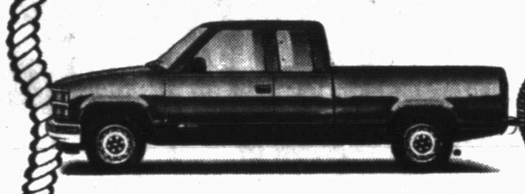
He joined Patrick Roy, Martin Brodeur and Olaf Kolzig as the only goalies to play a scoreless period in the last 14 All-Star games.

Georgia Tech embarrassed by coaches

ATLANTA (AP) — Less than two months after George O'Leary's deception, Georgia Tech is embarrassed again by a misleading biography.

The man who replaced O'Leary as football coach hired two assistants with erroneous information in their backgrounds and one was forced to resign after it was concluded he misrepresented himself.

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GAME-WINNE
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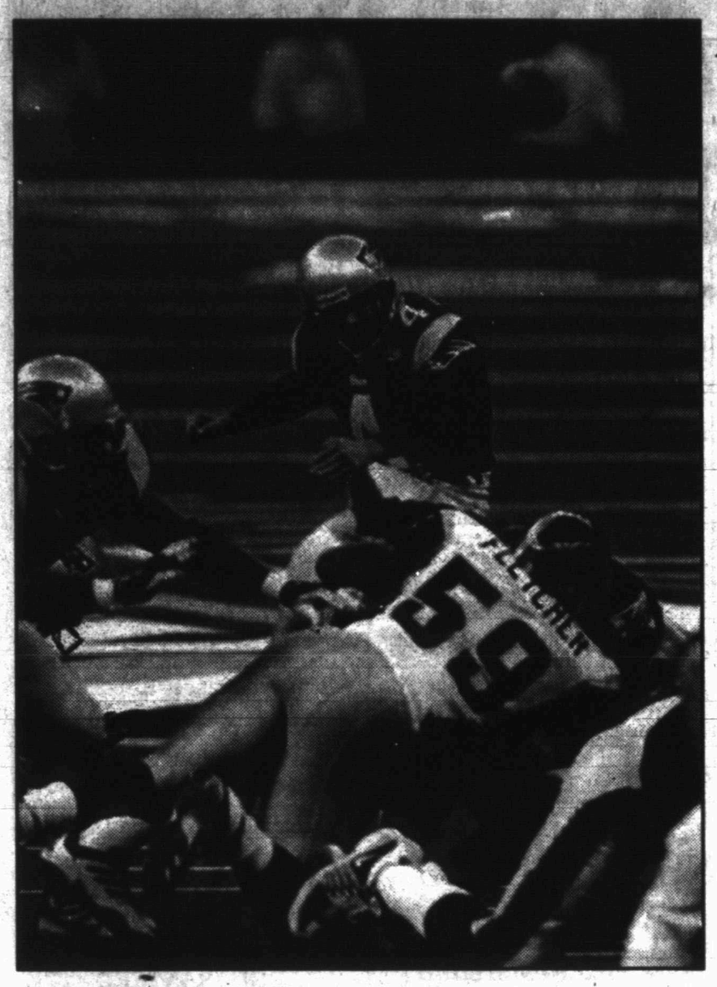
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SPORTS



GAME-WINNER — New England Patriots kicker Adam Vinatieri boots the game-winning, 48-yard field goal in the final seconds Sunday to beat the St. Louis Rams, 20-17, in Super Bowl XXXVI. (AP Photo)

A Super Bowl shocker...

Patriots upset favored Rams

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The New England Patriots made this a Super Bowl to remember — for all the right reasons.

Adam Vinatieri kicked a 48-yard field goal as time expired, capping a thrilling final two minutes and giving the Patriots a 20-17 upset over the St. Louis Rams on a red, white and blue Sunday.

"We shocked the world," New England safety Lawyer Milloy said.

The Patriots won on a day filled with patriotic themes inside the Superdome and high security outside. Fans were urged to show up five hours before kickoff to get through a perimeter that looked more like a military compound than a football stadium, with soldiers on the ground and sharpshooters on the roof.

The winning kick came after the Patriots had lost a 17-3 lead in the final 10 minutes. The game appeared headed for the first Super Bowl overtime after St. Louis tied it on a 26-yard pass from Kurt Warner to Ricky Proehl with 1:30 left.

But MVP Tom Brady, whose status as the starter was in doubt until midweek, drove the Patriots 53 yards with no timeouts to set up the deciding kick.

"No one gave us a chance to win this game," said running back Antowain Smith, who gained 92 yards in 18 carries.

After bypassing individual pregame introductions in favor of running on to the field as a team, the Patriots — wearing uniforms splashed with red, white and blue — went out and won with contributions from up and down their unsung roster.

They did it with Vinatieri's calm-as-can-be kicking, Brady's late leadership and a defense that scored one touchdown, set up two other scores and shut down the most high-powered offense in the NFL.



Brady was just 16-for-27 for 145 yards, compared to 28-of-46 for Warner.

But Brady, a fourth-string rookie last year, was mistake-proof while Warner, a two-time league MVP, threw two interceptions and the Rams also lost a fumble that set up a score.

The key play in the final drive was a 23-yard pass from Brady to Troy Brown to the St. Louis 36.

Three plays later came the kick by Vinatieri, who had made two field goals in the snow to give New England a playoff win over Oakland. But the game was won by the defense, which held the NFL's best offense without a touchdown until less than 10 minutes was left in the game.

"They say it's the best track team in the National Football League, but I never saw anybody win a 100-yard dash with someone standing in front of them," said New England cornerback Ty Law, whose 47-yard interception return gave New England its first touchdown.

Defense was the answer all year for the Patriots, who were 5-11 last year, started 0-2 and lost quarterback Drew Bledsoe to a chest injury.

Brady took over and led them to the AFC East title with an 11-5 record. But few expected them to beat the Rams, who at 14-2 had the league's best record and best offense and were trying to win their second Super Bowl in two years.

The Patriots had twice lost in the Super Bowl, both times in New Orleans. And it was the first championship as a head coach for Bill Belichick, who as defensive coordinator of the New York Giants, 11 years ago won a ring when Buffalo's Scott Norwood missed a 47-yard attempt in the final seconds.

There was plenty of drama, too, especially at the end.

Warner's 2-yard sneak with 9:31 left — his first rushing TD this season — pulled St. Louis within 17-10. After holding the Patriots, the Rams got the ball back at their own 45 and needed only 21 seconds to tie it.

Favored by 14 points, the Rams were billed as the "Greatest Show on Turf." But if they expected to breeze, they discovered early that the Patriots wouldn't let them. Warner was sacked only three times but pounded on almost every play even as New England used five, six or even seven defensive backs to shut down the St. Louis offense.

The Patriots showed their tenacity early, giving up yards grudgingly and moving from their own 3 to near midfield after being pinned deep on their first possession.

New England stiffened on St. Louis' second possession, limiting the Rams to Jeff Wilkins' 50-yard field goal after they had moved from their own 20.

The Patriots let the Rams reach their 34 early in the second quarter, but this time Wilkins' 52-yard attempt was short.

New England had trouble moving, but it was still the Patriots' pace at this stage of the game.

Everything was slow as the Patriots' varying defenses — as many as seven defensive backs on some plays — made Warner and the Rams work for each yard.

New England continued to stalemate the Rams through the third quarter — Richard Seymour's sack of Warner ended a drive that reached the Patriots' 41 on the first drive.

St. Louis	3	0	0	14—17
New England	0	14	3	3—20

First Quarter

StL—FG Wilkins 50, 3:10.

Second Quarter

NE—Law 47 interception return (Vinatieri kick), 8:49.

NE—Patten 8 pass from Brady (Vinatieri kick), :31.

Third Quarter

NE—FG Vinatieri 37, 1:18.

Fourth Quarter

StL—Warner 2 run (Wilkins kick), 9:31.

StL—Proehl 26 pass from Warner (Wilkins kick), 1:30.

StL—FG Vinatieri 48, 0:00.

A—72,922.

	StL	NE
First downs	26	15
Rushes-yards	22-90	25-133
Passing	337	134
Punt Returns	3-6	1-4
Kickoff Returns	4-82	4-100
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	2-77
Comp-Att-Int	28-44-2	16-27-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-28	2-11
Punts	4-39.8	8-43.1
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-39	5-31
Time of Possession	33:30	26:30

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—St. Louis, M.Faulk 17-76, Warner 3-6, Hakim 1-5, Hodgins 1-3. New England, A.Smith 18-92, Patten 1-22, K.Faulk 2-15, Edwards 2-5, Brady 1-3, Redmond 1-(minus 4).

PASSING—St. Louis, Warner 28-44-2-365. New England, Brady 16-27-0-145.

RECEIVING—St. Louis, Hakim 5-90, Bruce 5-56, Holt 5-49, M.Faulk 4-54, Proehl 3-71, Robinson 2-18, Conwell 2-8, Murphy 1-11, Hodgins 1-8. New England, Brown 6-89, Redmond 3-24, Wiggins 2-14, Edwards 2-7, Patten 1-8, A.Smith 1-4, K.Faulk 1-(minus 1).

Mavs can't handle Lakers

DALLAS (AP) — The up-and-coming Dallas Mavericks don't seem ready to take the next step.

They still can't beat Shaquille O'Neal and the Los Angeles Lakers.

O'Neal scored 31 points, ending two Dallas rallies with emphatic dunks, and had 13 rebounds as Los Angeles won 101-94 Sunday. It was the sixth straight win in the series by the Lakers, who have taken 40 of the last 43 meetings since 1991.

"Maybe we're just not ready for prime time yet," said coach Don Nelson, whose Mavs lead the Midwest Division and are on a better pace than last year's 53-win season. "Maybe we're not ready to beat the Lakers. I think that time will come."

The Mavericks had second-half runs of 10-0 and 11-0, but shot a season-low 37.6 percent (32-of-85), with All-Stars Dirk Nowitzki and Steve Nash going a combined 11-of-33.

If this was a benchmark game for the Mavericks, they came up short again. They also lost 98-94 at Los Angeles on Dec. 5, when O'Neal scored a season-high 46 points.

"This game is something we can build off of, but we know if we want to win a championship or advance to the finals, we have to go through the Lakers first," Mavericks forward Juwan Howard said. "We have them two more times. It's not over."

Those next two games in the series are March 17 in Los Angeles, then two days later in Dallas.

The Lakers closed a five-game road trip with their fourth straight victory. The winning streak follows a 2-4 stretch by the two-time defending NBA champions.

Big 12 Basketball

MEN

	Conference W	L	Pct.	All Games W	L	Pct.
Kansas	8	0	1.000	19	2	.905
Oklahoma	6	2	.750	17	3	.850
Texas Tech	5	3	.625	16	4	.800
Missouri	5	3	.625	16	6	.727
Texas	5	3	.625	14	7	.667
Oklahoma St.	4	5	.444	17	5	.773
Colorado	3	5	.375	12	7	.632
Nebraska	3	5	.375	10	9	.526
Baylor	3	5	.375	13	8	.619
Kansas St.	3	5	.375	9	10	.474
Texas A&M	3	5	.375	9	13	.409
Iowa St.	1	8	.111	9	14	.391

Saturday's results

Texas Tech 69, Iowa State 43
Oklahoma 85, Texas 84 (OT)
Kansas 100, Colorado 73
Kansas State 70, Oklahoma State 61

Sunday's results

Missouri 81, Virginia 77
Baylor 97, Texas A&M 45

Monday's game

Kansas at Kansas State

Tuesday's game

Nebraska at Colorado

Wednesday's games

Texas Tech at Oklahoma State
Baylor at Oklahoma
Texas at Texas A&M
Iowa State at Missouri

WOMEN

	Conference W	L	Pct.	All Games W	L	Pct.
Oklahoma	8	1	.889	18	2	.900
Kansas St.	8	2	.800	20	3	.870
Colorado	7	3	.700	17	6	.739
Texas	6	3	.667	14	5	.737
Baylor	6	3	.667	18	3	.857
Texas Tech	5	5	.500	13	7	.650
Iowa St.	5	5	.500	17	5	.773
Missouri	4	4	.500	13	6	.684
Texas A&M	3	5	.375	11	9	.550
Oklahoma St.	3	6	.333	11	11	.500
Nebraska	2	6	.250	12	9	.571
Kansas	0	9	.000	5	17	.227

Saturday's games

Texas A&M 70, Texas 65
Oklahoma 79, Kansas 57
Iowa State 86, Kansas State 72
Missouri 69, Nebraska 54
Baylor 80, Oklahoma State 62

Sunday's game

Colorado 74, Texas Tech 69 (OT)

Tuesday's games

Kansas State at Missouri
Baylor at Oklahoma
Texas A&M at Oklahoma State

Wednesday's games

Texas at Texas Tech
Iowa State at Kansas
Nebraska at Colorado

National Basketball Association

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	31	14	.689	—
Boston	27	20	.575	5
Washington	24	21	.533	7
Philadelphia	24	22	.522	7½
Orlando	24	24	.500	8½
New York	18	27	.400	13
Miami	18	28	.391	13½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	27	18	.600	—
Toronto	27	20	.575	1
Detroit	24	21	.533	3
Indiana	25	24	.510	4
Charlotte	23	23	.500	4½
Atlanta	15	32	.319	13
Cleveland	14	32	.304	13½
Chicago	10	36	.217	17½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	33	14	.702	—
Minnesota	32	15	.681	1
San Antonio	30	16	.652	2½
Utah	25	22	.532	8
Houston	15	32	.319	18
Denver	13	31	.296	18½
Memphis	13	34	.277	20

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	36	10	.783	—
L.A. Lakers	33	12	.733	2½
Portland	25	21	.544	11
Phoenix	24	23	.511	12½
Seattle	23	23	.500	13
L.A. Clippers	24	25	.490	13½
Golden State	14	31	.311	21½

Saturday's Games

New Jersey 98, Toronto 91
Utah 97, Portland 96
Philadelphia 86, Milwaukee 81
Atlanta 101, L.A. Clippers 94
Chicago 97, Seattle 91
Detroit 115, Cleveland 107

Sunday's Games

Washington 109, Indiana 89
Miami 94, New York 83
San Antonio 105, Orlando 98, OT
Sacramento 112, Minnesota 107
L.A. Lakers 101, Dallas 94
Charlotte 97, Memphis 79
Boston 104, L.A. Clippers 91
Portland 101, Chicago 96
Phoenix 98, Golden State 97

Monday's Games

Toronto at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Boston at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Washington, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Indiana, 8 p.m.
Portland at Denver, 9 p.m.
Seattle at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

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Fledgling water firm helped sink Enron

HOUSTON (AP) — Enron's crash now is being tracked back to deceptive accounting and unbridled deal-making that were part of the company's culture for years. Had anyone paid more attention, they could have seen it foreshadowed in the demise of a lesser-known corner of its business, a water unit called Azurix.

While federal investigators, bankruptcy lawyers and the public gape at years of stashed losses and the last-minute dash to shred documents, former Azurix executives call the tale of their company 'Act I' in the wreckage of Enron.

According to these executives, the venture failed because of unrealistic expectations, hubris and deal-making that ran amok — characteristics they contend mirrored the way Enron was run in general. Analysts said they grew wary of Enron's finances after what they saw at Azurix.

Enron started to publicly unravel in October, when Moody's Investors Service warned it might downgrade the company's debt rating after Enron announced its assets had declined in value by $1 billion. Of that, Azurix was devalued more than any other entity.

Coupled with disclosures about a decline in shareholder equity, hidden debt and unreported losses, Enron's credit rating plunged in late November. That triggered billions of dollars in debt payments the company could not afford — including more than $900 million connected to Azurix — as its stock price plummeted and longtime business partners closed their doors to Enron. Within days, Enron filed for bankruptcy.

Enron had a lofty goal when it launched Azurix in 1998: to take on the world's biggest water companies, French giants Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux SA and Vivendi SA's Generale des Eaux. The intent was to transform the $300 billion global water industry in roughly the same way it revolutionized natural gas markets, by riding a wave of deregulation that would allow the company to squeeze inefficiencies out of utilities formerly managed by governments.

But things didn't work out as planned. Water industry deregulation moved at a crawl. Efforts to commoditize water failed. And profits did not grow at Enron-like speed.

Former Azurix executives say there was a cockiness to the venture that brought it down, and that the same problems ultimately did in other Enron subsidiaries, most notably the high-speed Internet and energy services units.

"The incentive was to make deals happen, not make deals work," J. Paul Oxer, a former vice president of international development at Azurix, said in an interview. "We kept flitting from thing to thing to find the next big deal, instead of focusing on operating the company."

Former Azurix executives said what compounded the problem were grandiose profit predictions from the company's chief executive, Rebecca Mark-Jusbasche, who said Azurix had the potential to double the industry's average of a 10 percent return on capital. Such bold statements may have convinced Enron executives to back large capital investments, but Azurix insiders said these projections were nearly impossible to live up to and led to disappointment on Wall Street.

"Fundamentally, these businesses didn't have the capacity to earn these stellar returns," said Chris Wasden, a former managing director at Azurix.

Enron wasn't generally interested in deals that earned less than 15 percent on its investment and Mark-Jusbasche pushed her employees to come up with ways to meet these targets.

"She was consumed with competing with (Jeffrey) Skillling," said Debra Coy, a water analyst at Charles Schwab & Co., referring to Mark-Jusbasche's biggest rival inside Enron. Skilling, who is credited with creating Enron's once-prized energy trading operation, was chief operating officer at the time.

Mark-Jusbache, a leader within Enron's international operations before taking the helm at Azurix, lost out to Skilling in a battle to succeed Kenneth Lay as Enron's top executive.

Coy believes the simmering bitterness between the two Harvard Business School graduates may have manifested itself in Mark-Jusbasche's overly ambitious outlook on Azurix and Skilling's willingness to allow this unproven company to go public and partly distance itself from Enron.

Mark-Jusbasche did not return phone calls seeking comment, a lawyer for Skilling said he would not comment and the current chief financial officer at Azurix declined to discuss decisions made by previous senior managers.

Perhaps the single greatest blunder by Azurix, according to interviews with a half-dozen former executives there, was the $439 million purchase of a 30-year contract to run the water and wastewater systems in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Aside from Enron's $2.2 billion purchase of Britain's Wessex Water PLC — which was the cornerstone of Azurix — the Buenos Aires deal was by far the water company's biggest. This major acquisition, roughly one month before the initial public offering of Azurix in June 1999, helped the nascent company portray itself as a deal-maker on the rise.

But several former Azurix executives, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the company overpaid. It bid at least $120 million more than Azurix's own analysts said the concession was worth just so the company could point to a recent success ahead of the IPO, people familiar with the process said. The shares debuted at $19, but roughly one year later they were trading below $4.

Another misstep at Azurix was the attempt to create an online marketplace to trade water. The complexity of laws surrounding the transport of water and the lack of infrastructure to move this heavy liquid from one region to another made the venture, called Water2Water.com, untenable.

Azurix rapidly burned through the $654 million raised during its IPO and had to raise an additional $600 million from Wall Street in February 2000 by selling junk bonds.

With Enron's top brass frustrated by the lackluster performance at Azurix, Mark-Jusbasche resigned in August (one year before Skilling resigned as Enron's CEO). In December, Enron bought back the one-third of Azurix shares that were publicly held, thereby taking the company private for about $330 million.

Former Azurix executives said its downfall was not unlike the failure of Enron's energy services and high-speed Internet units, which also proved to be victims of their own hype.

One key difference with Azurix was that, as a separate publicly-traded company, its problems couldn't be hidden within Enron's byzantine accounting.

Houston drivers will have to slow down to 55 mph

HOUSTON (AP) — Beginning this week, motorists with a lead foot in the nation's fourth-largest city are being told to put on the brakes instead.

Texas Department of Transportation workers today were scheduled to erect the first 55-mph speed limit sign under the state's new air pollution plan.

The slower speed limits target the Houston area's smog problem, one of the nation's most severe.

Officials said that Houston has been the smoggiest U.S. city in 1999 and 2000 for the past two years, surpassing Los Angeles, based on the number of days in violation of federal air quality standards. The dubious honor became campaign fodder against then-Gov. George W. Bush in his presidential bid.

Currently, cars and trucks routinely travel at 70 mph or higher over much of the Houston freeway system when traffic conditions aren't gridlocked.

The Texas Transportation Commission approved the 55-mph speed limit Dec. 13 as part of a plan developed by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission to bring the eight-county region into compliance with federal ozone standards by 2007.

Challenges are facing the plan, including some from environmentalists who claim it won't achieve that goal.

The TNRCC was sued in January 2001 by officials of Fort Bend, Brazoria and Montgomery counties, all with fast-growing suburbs and residents who commute to jobs in Houston. They contend their counties are unfairly blamed for the area's pollution problems.

Later, Montgomery County dropped out of the case and the transportation department was added as a defendant.

Installation of the lowered speed limit signs had been postponed from Friday after TxDOT staffers asked for final clearance from attorneys and managers.

The first signs were set to be installed by a highway crew along Farm-to-Market Road 529 in west Harris County.

The changeover moves from FM roads, state highways and spurs to area freeways on March 4-8.

Residents say that will be a big change from posted speeds of as much as 70s mph that had been in place since President Clinton lifted the 55-mph nationwide speed limit in 1995.

"We're just trying to work for a better solution to the problem," Houston environmental attorney Robert Morse told the Houston Chronicle in today's editions. "We don't think (the 55-mph limit) is based on good science."

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



New therapy for leg ulcers

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have ulcers on my legs. These have been impossible to heal with traditional therapies, including surgical attention, special dressings, antibiotics, leg elevation and soaks. Is there any other treatment that could help?

DEAR READER: Yes, there is, and it shows great promise. Actually, the new therapy includes two novel approaches: recombinant growth factors and skin substitutes.

Growth factors were discovered in the 1970s. These substances encourage healing (thanks to DNA technology) and have recently become widely available. To date, only one growth factor has received Food and Drug Administration approval for leg ulcers. Called Becaplermin, the product is available as a cream. An average leg ulcer would require a 15-gram tube (cost: $350 to $400) for healing.

Skin substitute therapy is intriguing. Called Graftskin (Apligraf), the substance is produced from bovine collagen and cells derived from human infant foreskins. It has been approved by the FDA and is supposed to heal leg ulcers far more quickly than does customary care. Graftskin is supplied as a circular disk, which is placed on the ulcer. Although the cost (over $1200) seems high, this is certainly cheaper than amputation or other chronic therapy.

Ask your doctor about these two options. My experience with Graftskin is limited, but I have had great success with Becaplermin. Perhaps one of these new choices, in conjunction with customary therapy, might be right for you.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm 87 and have a dropped bladder. My doctor has recommended a hysterectomy but I am more interested in other options. I value your opinion.

DEAR READER: A dropped bladder (cystocele) can lead to urinary difficulties, such as incontinence and repeated bladder infections. In younger women with this problem, surgery to remove the uterus and reposition the bladder is the standard method of treatment.

Obviously, major surgery in an 87-year-old woman should be avoided if possible because operative complications and unsatisfactory results are, unfortunately, more common in the elderly. While I won't presume to outguess your doctor, I share your concerns. Therefore, I advise you to see a gynecologist to obtain a pessary.

These devices, in one form or another, have been used for centuries to assist women with cystoceles. Modern pessaries are plastic rings that are inserted into the vagina to support the bladder and relieve symptoms. Pessaries are fitted to a specific woman's anatomy and must be removed and cleaned periodically. Despite this nuisance, however, they are well tolerated by their users and — most important — no surgery is required.

Ask your doctor for a referral. If you are already under the care of a gynecologist, inquire about a pessary.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Bladder and Urinary Tract Infections." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Does cod liver oil taken with orange juice relieve the pain of arthritis? There seem to be varying opinions about its effectiveness.

DEAR READER: It doesn't work. Don't use it unless your doctor advises this therapy for severe and chronic constipation. Cod liver oil is a splendid laxative. There are other, gentler, more effective treatments for arthritis. Some of the most popular are Advil, Nuprin, Aleve and the prescription drug Arthrotec. (Authorities have yet to confirm that Celebrex and Vioxx may be linked to heart problems.)

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder



	North 02-04-02	
	♠ 10 5 4 ♥ Q 8 6 3 ♦ A J 7 ♣ A K 9	
West		East
♠ A K Q J 9 8 2 ♥ 7 5 2 ♦ 8 6 4 ♣ —		♠ 7 3 ♥ 9 ♦ K 10 5 2 ♣ 10 8 7 6 5 2
	South ♠ 6 ♥ A K J 10 4 ♦ Q 9 3 ♣ Q J 4 3	

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	4 ♠	5 ♥	All pass

Opening lead: ??

Monday, Feb. 4, 2002

Trials and tribulations of partners

By Phillip Alder

In an ideal world, when partner makes an expensive error, we would just smile, say that he is trying his best, and get on with the next deal. But even for the most imperturbable of people there are deals after which it is hard — impossible? — to keep quiet.

First, though, look only at the West hand. What would you lead against five hearts?

To overcall one heart with four spades is automatic. You might miss a slam, but that is unlikely after an opponent has opened. And to bid only one spade makes life so much easier for the responder. North, with all his values outside spades, was probably nervous about missing a slam.

Sitting West was John Sarjeant, who was a top player in England for several decades, and was even my suffering nonplaying captain during a junior international event in 1972. However, for a few years, he and his wife Valerie have been living in New Plymouth, on the southwest coast of the North Island of New Zealand. This deal occurred in the local club. Permit me to let Sarjeant tell the story.

"I achieved a life's ambition by leading the spade two. Partner won the trick with the seven, but saw nothing remarkable in this and returned ... a spade!"

Declarer now made his contract, losing only one spade and one diamond. Obviously, East should have shifted to a club, which defeats the contract. Then North would have asked his partner why he hadn't put up dummy's spade 10 at trick one, landing an overtrick in the process.

Sarjeant ended his e-mail with, "You can't win them all, but do we have to lose so many?"

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	24.22	23.50	23.61	—.51
AOL TimeWrn	25.89	25.05	25.13	—.86
AT&T Corp s	17.16	16.40	16.47	—.86
Albertsons	28.48	28.10	28.42	+ .11
Alltel	55.86	55.22	55.67	—.01
AmEl Pw	42.00	41.70	41.87	+ .06
AndarkPtr	48.60	47.50	47.98	—.78
ATMOS Egy	20.95	20.85	20.88	+ .08
Aviall	7.46	7.26	7.26	—.04
BP PLC	47.05	46.80	46.87	—.13
BakerHughes	35.04	34.55	34.80	—.17
Bank of Amer	61.05	59.78	60.04	—1.32
BellSouth	39.85	39.30	39.78	+ .58
vjBeth Steel	.49	.45	.48	+ .02
BurlNoSFe	28.90	28.40	28.75	+ .30
Caterpillar	51.13	50.07	50.65	+ .13
ChevronTex	85.24	84.09	84.23	—1.14
Citigroup	46.01	45.20	45.23	—1.26
CocaCola	44.99	44.60	44.73	+ .05
ColgatePal	57.25	56.75	57.23	+ .08
ComclMetals	34.71	34.30	34.35	—.32
CooperInd	36.10	35.75	35.75	—.30
DaimlrChry	39.92	39.52	39.66	—.34
DeltaAirl	31.60	30.68	30.75	—.53
Dillards Inc	14.46	14.01	14.18	—.12
DowChem	29.81	29.44	29.55	—.01
DuPont	43.90	43.52	43.90	+ .32
EastmanChem	39.55	39.25	39.45	—.03
EstKodak	28.40	27.75	27.90	—.35
EDS Corp	61.60	60.40	60.99	—1.50
Entergy	41.40	41.05	41.20	—.06
ExxonMobil s	39.20	38.79	39.02	+ .02
FstBksAm	31.80	31.80	31.80	—.20
FootLocker	15.18	15.00	15.00	—.17
GenDynam	89.64	88.26	88.54	—.91
GenElec	35.90	35.08	35.20	—1.65
GenMills	49.34	48.90	49.15	+ .32
GenMotors	51.37	50.83	50.83	—.28
GaPacific	24.90	24.00	24.80	+ .19
Goodrich	27.75	26.90	26.99	—.79
Goodyear s	23.69	22.99	23.21	—.48
GtAtlPac	24.85	24.50	24.81	—.25
Halliburtn	14.30	13.53	13.93	+ .03
Hanson ADS	32.47	32.05	32.30	—.25
HarteHanks	28.35	27.79	27.79	—.60
HomeDepot	50.14	49.50	49.90	+ .50
HoneywellIntl	34.00	32.56	32.70	—.98
IBM	108.00	106.90	107.07	—.93
IntlPaper	41.84	41.26	41.84	+ .07
JohnsonJn s	57.71	57.26	57.51	—.09
vjK mart	1.60	1.15	1.31	—.24
KinderMorg	52.00	50.34	50.35	—1.82
Kroger Co	20.55	20.25	20.54	+ .21
LockheedM	53.49	52.50	53.31	+ .88
Lowes Cos s	47.00	46.24	46.88	+ 1.18
Lubys	6.59	6.25	6.59	+ .42
LucentTech	6.32	6.14	6.17	—.16
MarathonOil	28.39	27.77	27.84	—.53
MayDeptStr	36.35	35.80	35.93	—.14
Medtronic	49.29	48.85	49.11	—.35
Motorola	13.25	12.90	12.97	—.21
NCR Corp	42.55	42.15	42.20	—.27
Navistar	38.19	37.57	38.10	+ .36
PNM Rescs	26.85	26.22	26.36	—.34
Penney JC	24.50	23.30	24.15	+ .55
PepBoys	15.99	15.65	15.87	—.17
PepsiCo	50.19	49.61	49.94	—.18
Pharmácia	40.50	40.00	40.09	—.21
PhelpDodge	35.14	34.30	34.40	—.99
PhilipPet	59.03	58.30	58.59	—.44
PilgrmPrd B	13.00	12.85	12.90	—.05
Praxair	57.00	56.55	57.00	—.25
ProctGamb	83.95	82.43	83.95	+ 1.38
RadioShack	30.36	29.28	29.43	—.93
ReliantEngy	25.25	24.82	25.22	+ .08
RoyalDut	50.52	50.17	50.37	—.07
SBC Comm	37.21	36.61	36.72	—.24
SaraLee	21.40	21.24	21.38	+ .05
Scripps EW	71.36	70.09	70.18	—.93
SearsRoeb	52.84	52.15	52.42	+ .02
SherwinW	26.75	26.36	26.55	—.10
SouthernCo s	24.80	24.57	24.76	+ .11
SwstAirl	18.71	18.46	18.57	—.20
SprintFON	17.44	16.19	16.40	—.82
SprintPCS	15.40	14.40	14.48	—1.11
Sunoco Inc	38.55	37.88	38.01	—.54
TXU Corp	49.35	48.95	49.31	+ .13
TempleInland	55.10	54.60	55.03	+ .13
TexInd	36.90	36.50	36.56	+ .02
TexasInst	30.71	29.78	29.81	—.69
Textron	44.46	43.59	43.71	—.80
TriconGlbR	55.25	55.10	55.21	+ .02
TrinityInds	23.54	23.17	23.46	—.08
TylerTech	4.43	4.35	4.35	—.05
UnionPacif	61.85	61.35	61.79	+ .09
USSteel	18.99	18.72	18.84	—.71
UnitedTech	69.12	68.19	68.23	—1.82
Unocal	35.15	34.65	34.75	—.35
VerizonComm	46.95	45.76	45.99	—.61
WalMart	59.90	59.24	59.43	+ .17
WellsFargo	46.46	46.07	46.12	—.58
WstnGasRs	30.77	29.89	29.98	—.78
WinnDixie	13.39	12.95	13.38	+ .41
Xerox Cp	10.95	10.75	10.95	—.13

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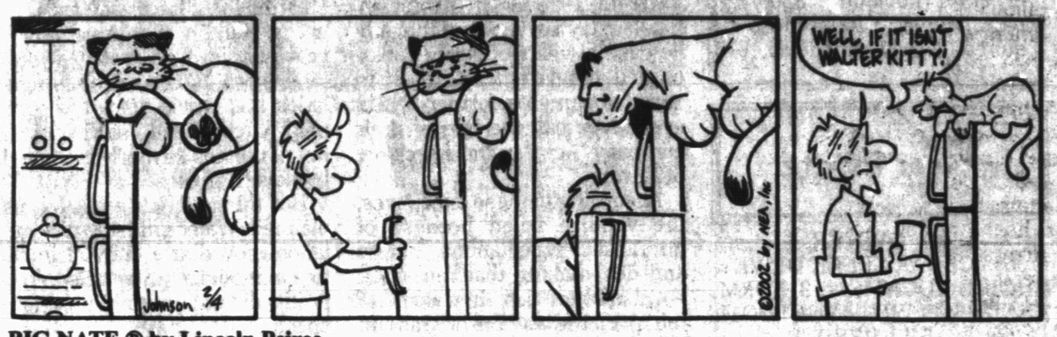
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BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"He's chewed through the TV cord again."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 West Coast sch.
5 Apply makeup
8 Short-lived fashions
12 Import car
13 Flight board info.
14 Stead
15 Centrally located
16 Mae West wear
17 Wax-coated cheese
18 Brace (2 wds.)
20 Snorkel site
21 Eldest March girl
22 Ad — committee
23 Cheapskate
26 Deluxe
29 Comedian Laurel
30 Rapier
31 Grease
33 Wallet filler
34 Brings action
35 Augur
36 Wanted-poster word
38 Couldn't stand
39 Back when
40 — Perce tribe
41 Salad veggie
43 Tribute
46 Zinfandel, e.g.
47 Chat
48 Singer Williams
50 Pack — — (quit)
51 Sunshine st.
52 Rajah's spouse
53 Acquires
54 Enter data
55 Long-necked bird

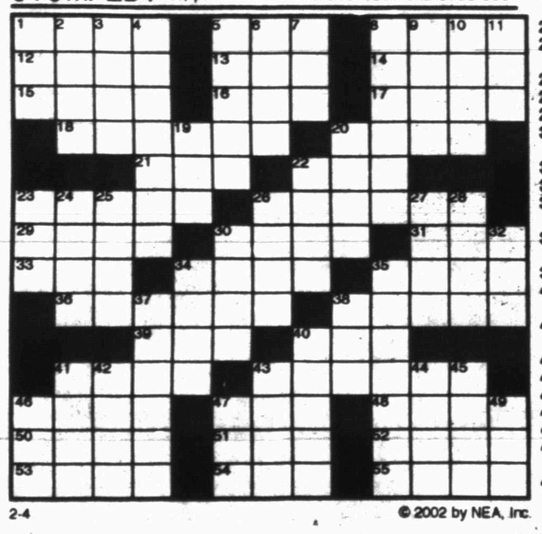
DOWN

1 Olympics chant
2 Pitch a tent
3 Bear's pad
4 Tummy
5 Fix software
6 Upon
7 Ewe's plaint
8 Bilk
9 Staff member
10 Unhearing
11 Total
19 Pricing word
20 Ring boundary
22 Tints
23 Calif. hours
24 Livy's road
25 Welles' Citizen
26 Went fast
27 Cheer on
28 — one's time
30 EEC currency
32 Conducted
34 Wise one
35 Rummage sales
37 Hears the alarm
38 Border
40 "Dream on!" (2 wds.)
41 Summon to court
42 Squadron
43 Robust
44 Chew
45 Author Ferber
46 Clown's need
47 Oliver Stone film
49 — and yang

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Snyder Daily News
Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



States' road aid funds used for pet projects

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the first time, members of Congress have dipped directly into a pot of highway money destined for the states to help pay for local projects dear to lawmakers.

In doing so, an Associated Press computer analysis found, Congress steered a large amount of the redirected money toward pet projects in the home states of lawmakers who crafted the final spending plan.

Among the winners:

—$3 million for Seattle's Odyssey Maritime museum, championed by Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., co-chairman of the panel that wrote the final plan.

—$2 million for downtown revitalization in Somerset, Ky., the hometown of the other co-chairman, Republican Rep. Hal Rogers.

—$2.9 million for airport construction in Sugar Land, Texas, hometown of House Majority Whip Tom DeLay. He was on the joint panel of House members and senators who wrote the final spending blueprint.

The shift toward more pet projects cost state and local governments about 11 percent of the money they originally were to get from Washington to spend on transportation as they saw fit.

In Ohio, that means fewer roads with crumbling 1960s era pavement will be repaved, officials said.

California, the most populous state but without representation on the panel that approved the plan, lost the most money in general highway aid and ranged near the bottom in project dollars when measured as a percentage of population.

In contrast, Alabama, with three lawmakers on the panel, finished near the top in project money.

"It's the classic definition of pork," said Rep. Tom Petri, R-Wis., a member of House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee who voted against the bill.

But it comes with a new twist.

While Congress regularly finances pet projects of lawmakers who have clout in spending decisions, this is the first time it has done so by taking away money from the general highway formula money going to the states with no strings attached, according to the House committee.

As it wound its way through Congress, the $59.6 billion transportation bill already had set aside money for special projects, known as earmarks — between $3 billion and $4 billion in all.

But with money hard to find in a budget pinched by tax cuts and the costs of war and recession, that total was judged insufficient to do everything lawmakers wanted for their voters — like a $500,000 roadside animal detection experiment in Montana.

So lawmakers lowered the amount of discretionary highway money planned for the states, and freed hundreds of millions of more dollars for their projects.

The AP's review found several states whose lawmakers helped shape the final legislation made out far better than larger, more populous states.

For instance, Alabama ended up with at least $157 million in earmarks, while Ohio, with three times the population and nearly double the annual vehicle miles traveled, got roughly $66 million.

That amounts to about $35 per resident in pet projects for Alabama, but only about $6 per person for Ohio, which had no one on the conference committee.

The budget tinkering means vast stretches of Ohio's interstates that have crumbling pavement from the 1960s will not be resurfaced, State Transportation Director Gordon Proctor said.

Proctor said his department urges its representatives to push for transportation money distributed by formulas that treat all the states equitably rather than earmarked projects.

"When the funds go into earmarks, they're coming away from the basic categories that maintain the very infrastructure," he said.

The budget tinkering, however, does not surprise veterans such as Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. At each stop of the budgeting process in Congress, lawmakers with clout add projects.

"They are emasculating the entire process by going into a back room and dividing up the pork," McCain said. "That is a misuse of power."

Andrea Andrews, spokeswoman for Republican Sen. Richard Shelby, a conference committee member, said having three Alabama lawmakers on the panel helped the state.

"Senator Shelby and the entire Alabama delegation have been very aggressive in securing funding for projects important to the state," she said. She added, "They've been successful."

Among the Alabama earmarks: $20 million for a transportation center at Auburn University, $1.5 million for a trail connecting the USS Alabama to the Weeks Bay National Reserve, and $2.5 million for the University of Alabama to develop an automated crash notification system.

California, which by far has the most people and miles of travel, lost the most in general highway aid — about $41.5 million, according to the Federal Highway Administration.

Despite having no representation on the committee, California got the most total dollars for pet highway, bridge, ferry, train, airport and other projects — at least $341 million, the AP analysis found.

But when measured by California's population, it averaged near the bottom at about $10 in projects per resident.

In contrast, Alaska got about $178 per person in projects, the most of any state, followed by West Virginia with roughly $82 per person. Both had senators on the conference committee.

Ten of the other 15 states receiving the biggest share of pet projects also had lawmakers on the panel. They include Texas, Washington, Illinois, Alabama, Minnesota, Kentucky, New York, Maryland, Missouri and Florida.

Several of those states also had the most projects added in the conference committee: roughly $96 million for Kentucky, $75 million for Alabama, $42 million for West Virginia and $37 million for Illinois, the AP review found.

Kentucky ended up with an average of nearly $36 in projects per resident.

"There's no doubt being in the position I'm in helps me to bring to the attention of the Congress the particular needs I'm most familiar with," said Kentucky's Rogers, the committee co-chairman. "I'd like to say it's talent, but I can't."

Rogers dismissed criticism of the funding shift as "petty, intra-Congress jealousy." He and three colleagues recently sent a letter to lawmakers insisting the states fared better in this year's transportation bill than in the past.

Some Americans far removed from the back-room dealing think transportation money — much of which comes from federal gas taxes — ought to be distributed another way.

"The money should go where the fuel's bought, plain and simple," said Christopher Miller, who drives a refrigerated truck for a Pennsylvania company.

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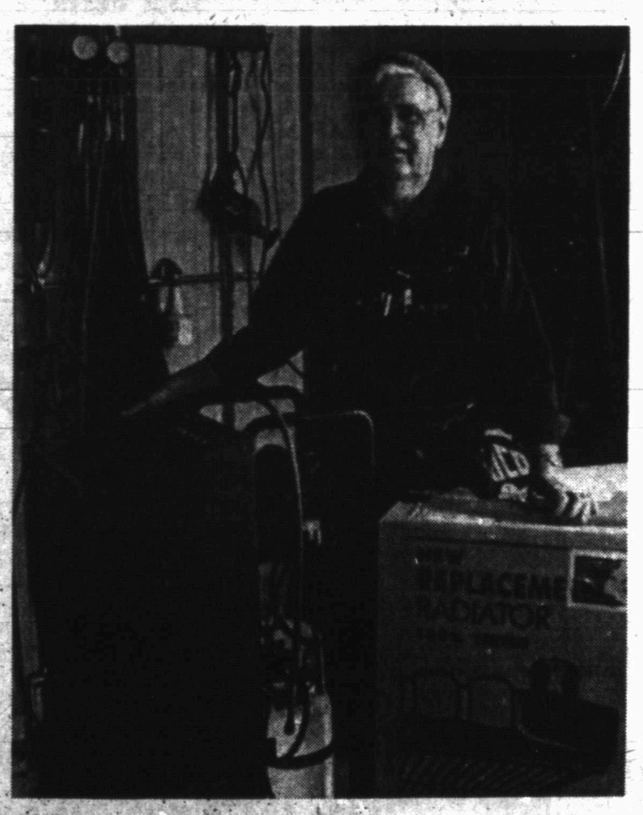
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Spotlight



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Martin's Quick Service is also your authorized dealer for automotive air compressors. "We have the lowest prices on compressors anywhere," Martin said. In stock are compressors that fit most American made cars and trucks. Compressors for imports are also available at Martin's Quick Service, located at 1701 College Avenue, or you can give him a call at 573-4325.

FEB 04 2002

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Eight injured in USS carrier accident

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — Eight crew members aboard the carrier USS John F. Kennedy were injured after a helmsman on the bridge lost steering control during a refueling exercise off the Florida coast, the Navy said today.

All of the injuries were believed to be minor, and damage to the JFK and to the ship providing the fuel was reported to be light, Cmdr. John Kirby, spokesman for the U.S. Second Fleet in Norfolk. One sailor was being evaluated for a possible back injury.

The accident happened between 10:30 and 11 p.m. Sunday, about 100 miles northeast of Jacksonville, Fla.

The injured crew members were believed to be line handlers who were holding onto lines rigged between the Mayport, Fla.-based carrier and the oiler USNS Leroy Grumman.

The two ships were side-by-side and had been refueling for about an hour when the helmsman lost steering control and the Kennedy abruptly veered to the left, away from the oiler, Kirby said.

The Kennedy initiated an emergency breakaway, rapidly disconnecting all hoses and lines. It was unclear whether the sailors were injured when the ship veered or during the breakaway.

Subsequent checks revealed no problems with the steering gear, Kirby said.

"They're looking into how he lost steering control," he said. "We don't know whether it was equipment malfunction or human error."

Both ships remained at sea after the accident, and the Kennedy was expected to finish the sea trials today afternoon, Kirby said.

The Kennedy went to sea Sunday morning for two days of sea trials following repairs it needed after it did poorly on an inspection in December and Capt.

Kenneth Lay, former Enron chief, backs out of hearings

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid evidence of possible illegal activity at Enron, former chairman Kenneth Lay joined a growing list of executives who are backing away from testifying to Congress about the energy company's complicated financial deals and spectacular collapse.

Lay canceled his planned appearance today on Capitol Hill after several senators and House members suggested on Sunday news shows that he and other company executives engaged in criminal acts.

Lay "cannot be expected to participate in a proceeding in which conclusions have been reached before Mr. Lay has been given an opportunity to be heard," his attorney, Earl Silbert, said in letters to the Senate and House panels that were to hear from him.

"These inflammatory statements show that ... the tenor of the hearing will be prosecutorial," Silbert said.

Enron's former chief financial officer, Andrew Fastow, and ex-Enron executive Michael Kopper have indicated they will refuse to answer questions from Congress. Arthur Andersen auditor David Duncan, fired for his role in document shredding, invoked his Fifth Amendment right not to testify Jan. 24.

The Senate Commerce Committee canceled today's hearing, while the House Financial Services Committee said it would proceed, minus the former Enron chairman.

"I don't think he would have expected an appearance before Congress would be a walk in the park," Sen. Byron Dorgan, who would have presided over the canceled hearing, said today on network morning shows.

Fight at Koko Club results in one arrest

Fight

Snyder officers responded to a melee at the Koko Club just before 2 a.m. Sunday. A patrol officer requested backup units at the club after hearing gun shots and loud noises coming from inside.

All officers were dispatched and advised about 30 people were involved in a fight. An ambulance also was dispatched, but no one was transported.

Officers arrested a 29-year-old man at the club for public intoxication and resisting arrest.

The area was secure upon the officers' departure, but a close patrol was maintained through the night.

Arrests

A 19-year-old man was taken into custody Saturday night for consuming alcohol as a minor.

DPS troopers arrested a 46-year-old man just after midnight Sunday on an outstanding warrant from Randall County for passing a check with insufficient funds.

Officers arrested a 39-year-old woman Sunday on outstanding local warrants. She was released after paying her fines.

A 29-year-old man was taken into custody on U.S. 84 Sunday evening for outstanding warrants from Taylor County.

Troopers arrested a 38-year-old man on Texas Hwy. 350 early this morning for driving while intoxicated.

A 39-year-old man was arrested early today on U.S. 84 for driving while intoxicated. He was transported to jail and his vehicle was towed.

Disturbances

Officers responded to two disturbances Saturday afternoon involving family members. Reports were filed in both instances for family violence.

Manhunt continues for Texas escapees

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Four fugitives from a Texas jail — including two serving time for the death of an Oklahoma cheerleader — remained on the run today, a week after they overpowered a guard to escape.

Evidence found at a house in Terral used by the fugitives indicate the only woman in the group has changed her appearance by cutting her hair, authorities said Sunday.

Authorities said Chrystal Soto, 22, apparently cut her hair, leaving black locks at the home.

"She has cut it short enough that she might be trying to pass as a male," said Kym Koch, spokeswoman for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation.

Fingerprints found in the house were matched to fugitive Joshua Bagwell, 23, authorities said. Investigators also found cigarette butts and jail-issued shoes and a jumpsuit.

The jumpsuit came from the jail in Montague County, Texas, and the shoes bore Soto's name, said Jefferson County Undersheriff Martin Matney. The discarded clothing was stuffed in plastic bags and left in a closet, Matney said.

The four fugitives overpowered a jail guard Jan. 28 and took her sport utility vehicle.

The discovery led investigators to believe the four fugitives traveled into Oklahoma together after their escape.

Matney said he believes Curtis Gambill, 24, and Bagwell, 23, are still in southern Oklahoma because they know the area and have relatives there.

Gambill broke into the same house when he was 10 and knew that the owner of the house only used it on weekends, Matney said.

Soto and Charles Jordan, 30, — both of Bowie — might have split from the other two in a flatbed truck taken Friday from a house in the nearby town of Ryan, Matney said.

The truck was found about 40 miles north Saturday in Lake Murray State Park, but a .22-caliber rifle also taken from the house had not been recovered by Sunday.

Authorities said they believe the fugitives are armed.

Bagwell and Gambill were convicted for the 1996 killing of Waurika cheerleader Heather Rich. Soto and Jordan were awaiting trial on murder charges.

Obituaries

Naoma Martin

1912-2002

Naoma Ruth Martin, a native of Snyder, died Sunday, Feb. 3, in Yoakum County Hospital in Denver City.

Funeral service for Mrs. Martin, 90, is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in the First Assembly of God Church in Snyder. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born on Jan. 5, 1912 in Snyder, she married Joseph Archie Martin on Feb. 5, 1927 in Scurry County. He died April 29, 1984.

Mrs. Martin worked at Joe Graham Cleaners for 23 years. A homemaker, she was a charter member of the First Assembly of God Church and taught Sunday school for many years.

Survivors include three sons, Harold H. Martin and Dickie Martin, both of Snyder, and Jay Martin of Seguin; a daughter, Mary Gibson of Denver City; 18 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Personal, Professional Service

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Jerry Brinson

1913-2002

ANDREWS — Jerry Brinson, the mother of Wanda Short of Snyder, died Saturday, Feb.2, in Manor Park in Midland after a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Brinson, 88, was set for 10 a.m. today in the First Baptist church with the Rev. Doug Kello officiating. Burial was to follow in the Andrews West Cemetery under the direction of McNett Funeral Home.

Born June 25, 1913 in Cross Plains, she married J.R. Brinson on Oct. 14, 1935 in Cross Plains. He preceded her in death.

A resident of Andrews since 1945, Mrs. Brinson was a member of the First Baptist Church, Victory Singers of First Baptist Church, Permian General Hospital Auxiliary and a past board member of the Circle 6 Baptist Ranch.

Survivors include another daughter, Vondel Brinson of Andrews; a sister, Bonnie Dorsey of Brownwood; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Glenn Hennington

1917-2002

LUBBOCK – W. Glenn Hennington, the brother of Leona Brackeen of Hermleigh, died Thursday, Jan. 31.

Funeral service for Mr. Hennington, 84, was set for 10 a.m. today in the Shallowater Church of Christ with Skip Rodgers and Don Woods officiating. Burial was to follow in the Lubbock Cemetery.

Born March 21, 1917 in Lovington, N.M., he was a U.S. Air Force Veteran of World War II. He married Violet Franklin on May 31, 1941 in Ralls.

Mr. Hennington farmed in Denver City for 10 years and then worked for the Lubbock Bowling Club for 13 years and for the Denver City schools as maintenance foreman for 15 years before retiring in 1982. He was a member of the Shallowater Church of Christ.

Survivors include his wife, Violet Hennington of Lubbock; a son, Johnny Hennington of Abilene; a daughter, Glenda Ward of Shallowater; two brothers, Floyd Hennington of Hobbs, N.M., and Earl Hennington of Cisco; four other sisters, Juanita Frith of Waco, Doris Parum of Hobbs, Lorene Blanton of Rockport and Patsy Carwile of Robert Lee; and four grandchildren.

Births

Chris Reeves and Shanna Fisk announce the birth of their son, Austin Randal Reeves, at 4:04 a.m. on Feb. 2 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Austin weighed seven pounds, nine ounces.

Paternal grandparents are David and Donna Bell and Russell and Laura Fisk, all of Snyder.

Roe and Tonya Patterson announce the birth of their daughter, Anna Grace Patterson, at 10:43 a.m. on Jan. 17 weighing five pounds, 14 ounces and 19½ inches long. She was born in Midland and was welcomed home by a brother, Nathan Patterson.

Grandparents are Glenn and Janeen Patterson and Steve and Tachi Warren, all of Snyder.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

SHS baseball booster club

The baseball booster club will meet at 7 tonight in the athletic film room.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "Overcoming Hardship" followed by "Holy and Reverend is His Name."

VFW auxiliary meeting

The VFW Auxiliary Post 8231 will meet at 7 tonight at the post home. All members are urged to attend.

Snyder bass club

The Snyder bass club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Kinder Morgan offices on the Lamesa Highway. Anyone interested in joining the club is invited. Membership is $15 per year for individuals and $20 for families.

Eating well for less program

A new series, "Eating Well for Less" will be held from 2-3 p.m. each Tuesday at the Texas Department of Human Services. The series will be taught by Beth Dannheim, Scurry County extension agent. Topics will feature getting the most for your grocery dollar, meal planning and low-cost meals and is designed for food stamp recipients. For information, 573-5423.

Tennis booster club

The SHS tennis booster club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Texas Savings Bank to discuss dressing rooms.

Free income tax help

Free income tax aid for low to middle income citizens of any age is available each Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon, and 1-3 p.m. at the senior center located, 2603 Ave. M.

Video on channel 2

"America: Let the Righteous Arise!" will be shown on Channel 2 at 10 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday. For information, call Trinity United Methodist Church, 573-3988.

FBC services televised

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

WTC pool hours:

Lap swim: M-F, 6:30-8 a.m. and noon to 1 p.m.; open swim, M-TH 7-9 p.m. Memberships for the semester: $50. The swimming pool is also available for rental, contact Lisa Christensen, ext. 290.

Clogging lessons

Clogging lessons will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday in the coliseum annex. Call 573-0807 or 573-3315 after 5 p.m.

SHS class of 1977 reunion

The class of 1977 will have an organizational meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the home of Janie McCormick for its 25th anniversary. Call Sheila Collier at 573-0882 or Janie McCormick at 573-1637.

Soil Conservation Service trees

Hardwood and evergreen trees will be available to purchase at the Soil Conservation Service starting Friday.

Sound of Music

SHS Fine Arts Division will present *The Sound of Music* at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday in Worsham Auditorium. Tickets are $6 for adults, $5 for students and $8 reserved. To reserve tickets, call the high school at 573-6301.

Snyder Oaks fundraiser

Snyder Oaks Care Center will have a fundraiser Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hamburger plates are $5 and there will be crafts for sale.

Country and gospel music

There will be country and gospel music played beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Snyder Senior Center. Call 573-3996 for more information.

8th grade parents meeting

There will be a meeting at 3 p.m. Sunday to plan the 8th grade end-of-school party. The meeting will be at Terri Sue Brock's home, 4209 Lubbock Ave.

Video school

The Center for Biblical Counseling video school, sponsored by His Joy Ministries, begins Tuesday, Feb. 12. Supplies must be ordered now. Call 573-9799 for more information.

Alzheimer information

To learn more about Alzheimer's disease, attend a meeting from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, in the old fellowship hall at Colonial Hill Baptist Church.

Last call for Ira annuals

For the last time this year, the Ira Bulldog annuals are on sale from now until Wednesday, Feb. 13. Cost is $26 with your name on cover or $22 without.

Adult basic education classes

Adult basic education classes at WTC have resumed. The classes are held from 8 a.m. until noon and from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Classes include E.S.L., GED and refresher courses. Certified teachers and Spanish-speaking aides teach these classes. Call 573-8511, ext. 322.

Seniors swimnastics

Swimnastics for senior citizens on Tuesday and Thursdays is held from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Western Texas College pool.

ESL, GED classes

Classes for E.S.L., GED and computers are held at 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Region 14 classroom at 4200 College Ave. For more information, call 574-6012.