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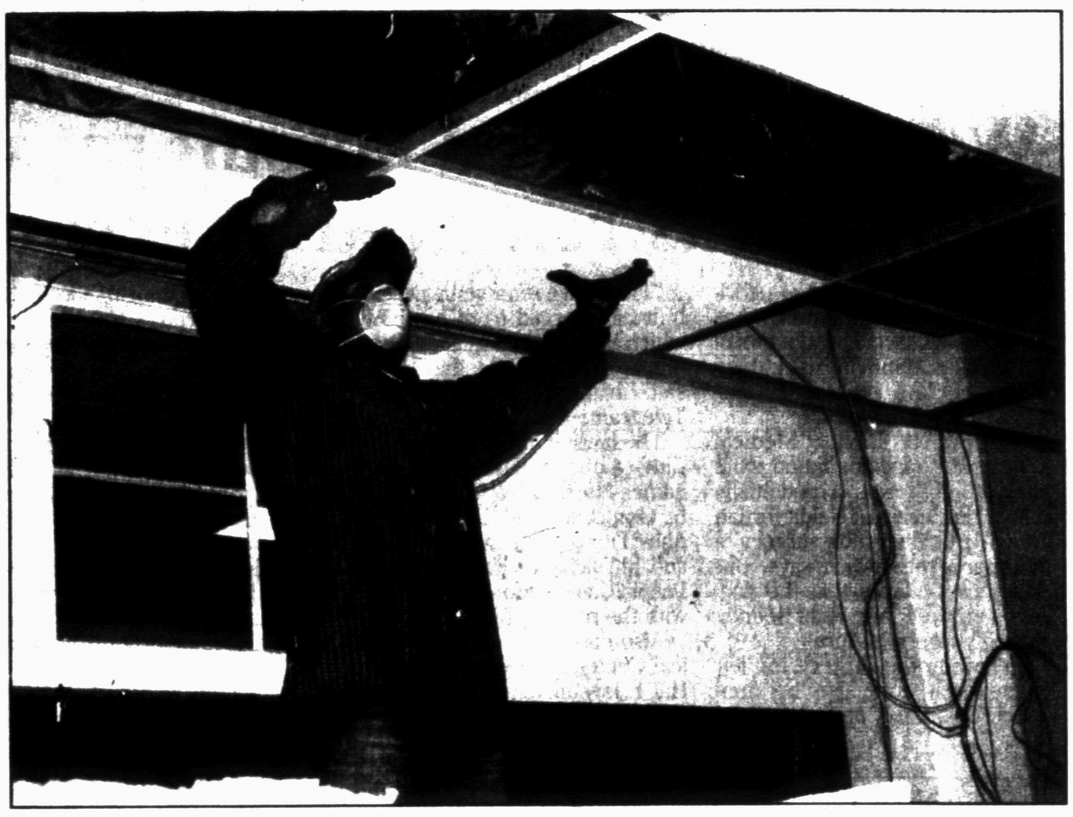
WT-Int. Crude - $31.96
WTIC Posted - $28.75
Natural Gas - $5.06

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY

July 21, 2003
Vol. 55 No. 70
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Mary Williams





CEILING WORK — Work continues at West Elementary on air conditioning and the ceiling. Daniel Gutierrez, above, and Edrick Olvera were busy this morning replacing ceiling tiles in one of the classrooms after the air conditioning work was complete. (SDN Staff Photo)

Budget work in afternoon...

County makes quick work of morning agenda

By Brian Brisendine
SDN Staff Writer

Scurry County commissioners' court made quick work of the majority of its agenda this morning, but will reconvene at 2 today to begin budget work.

The court approved expenditure of up to $3,970 for work at Winston Field.

Lubbock engineering firm Parkhill Smith and Cooper will perform the work at a cost of $39,700, but the FAA will cover 90 percent of that expense.

The firm will perform aerial photography in order to update the existing charts to include recently acquired land additions.

A public hearing this morning concerning a drought contingency plan for the Hermleigh Water Works drew no audience and the plan was adopted with little discussion.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Chloanne Lindsey said the plan is required by the state, even though the community depends on wells for its water.

In other business, presiding and alternate judges were approved for each election precinct to serve one-year terms. The list of judges did not change from last year.

The resignations of Bob Barbee and Jo Ann Crill from the Child Welfare Board were accepted, but no replacements were named.

County Judge Rod Waller said the item would remain on the agenda for future meetings until nominations are brought.

Permission also was granted by the court for Waller to sign a contract with MHMR for office space at the Diamond M building.

Janie Romine presented the quarterly report from the County Library.

Romine said circulation has increased this year compared to last and also that almost 2,000 new titles have been added and 388 new library cards issued.

Six line-item transfers were approved and five budget amendments.

The budget amendments included $7,111 in insurance funds received for a wrecked pickup in the parks department and $18,000 for road materials in Precinct 2.

Waller presided and all commissioners were present to include Lindsey, Ralph Trevey, Howard Limmer and Jerry House.

State senators ready to work on new map

AUSTIN (AP) — After several tough days last week, state senators returned to the Capitol today to try to figure out how to redraw congressional districts in a way that satisfies most of the chamber.

The Senate Jurisprudence Committee has been presented proposed maps by Sen. Todd Staples, chairman of the Senate Republican Caucus, and Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio. Today, Staples presented yet another map, replacing the proposal he laid out last week.

Republicans seek to give the Texas GOP as many as 22 seats in Congress, compared to 10 for the Democrats. Wentworth says his plan could give Texas Republicans a 19-13 majority in Congress.

The new map keeps Webb County in one district, but divides Hidalgo County into three districts, a move some South Texas lawmakers have adamantly opposed. A district that runs along northern Travis County now extends northwest to Lampasas County and northeast to Robertson County, but does not stretch into Harris County as it previously had. Staples' first map split Webb County into two districts and Hidalgo County was divided into two districts.

Committee chairman Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, set Wednesday as the target date for the committee to vote on a plan.

Republicans are leading the charge to redraw the congressional boundaries during the special session that ends July 29.

Lawmakers failed to draw the districts during the 2001 legislative session, leaving federal judges to create the current plan. Democrats hold a 17-15 margin in the delegation. The GOP says that voting trends show that Republicans should have more representation in the Texas congressional delegation.

Democrats in the Senate are nearly united in their opposition to the plan. All but one of the 12 Democrats in the chamber have signed a letter saying they are opposed to passing a redistricting bill.

Sen. Bill Ratliff of Mount Pleasant is the only Republican who has signed the letter but he and the 11 Democrats are enough to block a bill from getting out of the Senate if a rule requiring support from two-thirds of the chamber's 31 members before a bill can be debated stays in place.

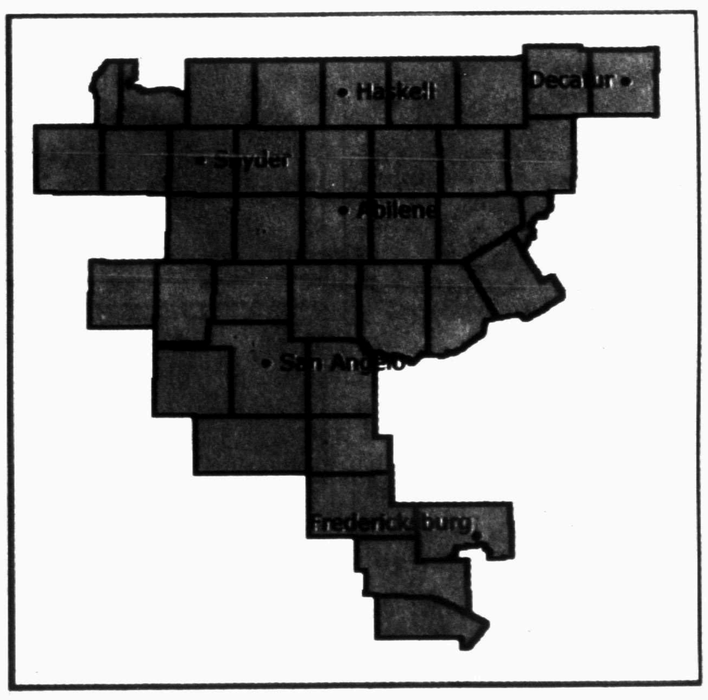
That may not be enough to stop the bill from passing though.

If lawmakers fail to pass a redistricting bill this session and Gov. Rick Perry calls lawmakers back again, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who presides over the Senate, said he would do away with the rule so that only a majority of senators would be needed to vote to let a redistricting bill be debated on the floor.

Democrats are weighing their options.

"Our options are showing up and getting rolled over or having to leave," said Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, meaning the senators could boycott the Senate. "All options are realistic at this point."

Van de Putte is chairwoman of the Senate Democratic Caucus.



Proposed 17th District

Families flee wildfires

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. (AP) — A wildfire destroyed a house and four outbuildings and forced about 250 people to flee as it roared across rolling, oak-studded hills.

The blaze was 30 percent contained early today after charring 1,500 acres near the community of Santa Margarita, said California Department of Forestry dispatcher Corrin Clark.

About 200 other homes and 50 outbuildings were threatened as high temperatures and wind help spot fires erupt, she said. The blaze was located in brushy cattle country about 200 miles north of Los Angeles.

The fire, reported Sunday afternoon, was caused by a spark from an off-road vehicle, and the driver was cited for having a modified exhaust system, said Nena Portillo of the California Department of Forestry.

Farther south, a fire that charred nearly 18,000 acres of brush in eastern San Diego County was 49 percent contained Sunday, fire officials said. The fire was started by lightning on July 16. Full containment is expected Wednesday.

Elsewhere, a new wildfire raged Sunday through about 1,300 acres of timber and grasslands in eastern Washington state, burning 14 vehicles and some outbuildings. Residents of 15 to 20 homes were evacuated, said Brett Walker of the state Department of Natural Resources.

The fire was burning about five miles southwest of Cheney, Wash. Walker said the fire was 80 percent contained Sunday night. Some of the evacuees had been allowed to return home, Josie Willims of the Washington Incident Management Team said today.

The cause of the blaze, which began Sunday afternoon, was not known.

It was one of several wildfires in central and eastern Washington. Temperatures were expected to reach as high as 103 degrees in the eastern part of the state on today. No injuries were reported at any of the fires.

Meanwhile, in Colorado, park officials reopened Mesa Verde National Park today for the first time in six days.

Jury selection underway in possession trial

Jury selection was underway this morning in 132nd District Court for the trial of Maretta Lorene Erwin, 34, of 9563 FM1609.

Erwin is accused of possessing chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine and she was arrested in January.

Assistant District Attorney Ben Smith is prosecuting the case, and Erwin's attorney is Ben Clayton of Ballinger.

District Judge Ernie Armstrong is presiding.

Blood drive begins Tuesday

The community-wide blood drive will be from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Tuesday in the First Baptist Church Family Life Center located at 1618 26th St.

Blood donations also can be made Wednesday at Cogdell Memorial Hospital from 10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., and on Saturday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the donor van at Wal-Mart.

"People are much busier now than they are other times of the year," said Rhonda Teal, United Blood Services representative. "We are having special activities for this drive including a pint of Blue Bell ice cream for every pint of blood donated."

Eligible blood donors are urged to give blood at least three times per year and a mini-physical is given to all donors.

Cogdell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and the blood service sponsor the drive.

ASK US

Q—How does this year's rainfall total compare to the same time last year?

A—Last year at this time, 13.71 inches had been recorded at the city water plant, compared to 9.26 inches to date.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Katrina Reynolds...

...is an LVN and works at Cogdell Memorial Hospital in OB and is a paramedic for EMS. She has a son, Brady Ledbetter, 7, who attends school at Ira. She is a Hermleigh native and has lived in Snyder 17 years. She loves to read, participate in outdoor activities and spend lots of time with Brady.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Every great business is built on friendship.
—J. C. Penney

JULY 21 2003

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

VFW Auxiliary

The VFW Auxiliary will meet at 7 p.m. today at the post home. All members are urged to attend.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "When Traditions Become Sinful," followed by "Called to a Holy Calling."

Financial workshop

Snyder Oaks Care Center will sponsor a workshop on preparing financially for nursing home placement to protect assets and qualify for assistance. It will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday. For more information call Ray or Joni at 573-9377.

MAWC's game day and luncheon

Martha Ann Woman's Club's game day and luncheon will be held Wednesday. Serving begins at 11:30 a.m. and games of choice will be played throughout the afternoon. The cost is $8.50 and reservations must be in by 5 p.m. Tuesday afternoon. Those who can only attend the luncheon are welcomed also.

FBC services televised

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

Parking lot dance

SHS freshman cheerleaders will host a community dance from 9 p.m. until midnight across from the Sonic Drive-In. Admission is $3 and with admission bracelet, Sonic drinks will be half price. Cheerleaders will carhop from 7 to 10 p.m. to help raise funds for uniforms.

First Methodist VBS

First United Methodist Church will hold Vacation Bible School from 6 to 8 p.m. July 28-Aug. 1. For ages kindergarten through 5th grade, theme is "God People Celebrate." Register at 2700 College Ave. or call 574-1547.

Star Boot Camp

Star Boot Camp junior military academy will be held from 8 to 11 a.m. July 28 through Aug. 1. The camp is for ages 6 to 11. To register call 574-6090 or 573-3703.

GED registration, test dates

Mandatory pre-registration for GED test will be held from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, at the GED testing center, Building 7B, at WTC. The math segment of the test will begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, July 31. For more information call Molly Kattes at 573-2919 or Emily Hataway at 573-8511, ext. 297 or 574-2112. It is recommended that candidates receive some preparation before attempting the test.

Class of '83 reunion dance

The class of '83 reunion dance will be held from 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, to 1 a.m. at the Snyder Country Club. Music will be by Cross Mojo Nation. Cost is $10 per person. Classmates, friends, teachers and public are invited.

'59 HHS class reunion

The Hermleigh High School class of 1959 reunion will begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, with a brunch at Martha Ann Woman's Club. Meet at MAWC for class picture at 5 p.m. and the evening meal will follow at 6 p.m. RSVP by July 28 to Carllee Burleson at 573-0921, or Harold Robbins at 573-8083.

First Christian Bible Camp

First Christian Church, 37th and Austin, has set its Morning Bible Camp from 9-11:30 a.m. beginning Monday, Aug. 4, through Thursday. Children from kindergarten through sixth grade are eligible. Call 573-6877 to register.

Senior swimnastics

Swimnastics for senior citizens is held from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the WTC pool.

SHS football program ads

Advertisements are now being sold for the 2003 football program. Anyone interested in purchasing an ad can call Christy Smith at 573-6301.

Sonshine registration

Sonshine School at 37th St. Church of Christ is currently registering students for the fall semester. For more information, call director Wendy Barnett at 574-1960.

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland is available free of charge. Call Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993 or Blakey Fargason at 574-8041. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

More Central Texas reservists to return

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Central Texas reservists are back among relatives and friends after a weekend reunion, with two more groups planning to return from Iraq this week.

The 14 members of the 433rd Airlift Wing who arrived Sunday at the San Antonio International Airport were among the last of about 180 members of the group known as the "Alamo Wing," based at Lackland Air Force Base, who returned from deployment in the war effort in early March, although not all served in Iraq.

Mary Fisher of Corpus Christi watched an escalator, waiting for her husband, Maj. John Fisher, the unit's medical service officer, to appear. She said she had been up until 2 a.m. Sunday in anticipation.

"It's just the happiest day in my life to have him home safely," she said, fighting back tears and firmly gripping her husband's left hand.

Two more groups of roughly 60 Air Force reservists will arrive home this week. Some of the earlier returnees already have been sent back overseas, said Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Christa. He said some of those arriving Sunday could have come home earlier.

The reaction by Charlotte Pitts of San Antonio was similar for her husband of 15 years, Master Sgt. Norman Pitts, a member of the 433rd.

"I'm just so happy to have him back. I'm so nervous. My insides are rumbling. I haven't seen him in four months," she told the San Antonio Express-News.

The unit is composed of nurses, medical corps, medical technicians, radio operators and other specialists.

"This group was in northern Iraq as a Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facility," Christa said. "They would receive wounded from an Army forward surgical team, and then fly the wounded to a safe zone or a fixed hospital."

A 10-year-old girl, who had baked her mother a pizza-sized chocolate chip cake, sat eagerly with her father and older brother.

"She's finally coming home from Iraq. That's mostly what I'm thinking now," Becca Cheek said of her mother, Maj. Sheryl Cheek of Hot Springs, Ark.

Some of those arriving Sunday could have come home earlier, but Christa said the group chose to remain together.

Lt. Col. Jodie Matejcek, the unit's ranking officer and a nurse from El Paso, described the operation on an old military base in Kirkuk, 175 miles north of Baghdad, as austere and dangerous.

"We stayed inside the wire most of the time," he said, referring to their temporary quarters. "When we sent people out, it was in an armed convoy."

Woman who filed lawsuit says kidney was removed in error

FORT WORTH (AP) — A 74-year-old Grapevine woman has filed a lawsuit accusing doctors of needlessly removing a kidney during her knee replacement surgery this spring.

Doctors at Baylor Medical Center at Grapevine found what they thought was a potentially cancerous lesion of Nelda Jordan Miles' left kidney after surgery in February, the lawsuit says. But Miles' suit alleges that the doctors removed her right kidney during surgery in April.

Following the surgery, the left kidney was found to be noncancerous, Miles' attorney said.

"They have removed a perfectly healthy organ from her body, which is tragic by anybody's definition," attorney Randal Mathis said in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

The lawsuit, filed May 6 in Tarrant County District Court, names North DFW Urology LLP of Grapevine and Dr. Steven P. Ash, Dr. Scott David Davidson and physicians assistant Francis Pospisil, all of whom are affiliated with the partnership.

Also named were Baylor Medical Center in Grapevine and Dr. Hal T. Jayson, a radiologist at the center.

Davidson's attorney said his client removed the kidney — as the consent form stated — and has done nothing wrong.

"He did exactly what an assistant of surgery was supposed to do," attorney John McChristian said.

The lawsuit, however, says that doctors and records were inconsistent about which kidney needed to be removed and that a family member's request for more tests was ignored.

Ash, who is affiliated with but not employed by Baylor Medical Center, was temporarily suspended from the medical staff during the review and investigation, according to a written statement from the president of the hospital, Laura Lycan.

"The error occurred because the surgeon ordered the wrong procedure," Lycan's statement says.

Lycan said all hospital procedures were followed and the patient underwent surgery ordered by the surgeon.

"Information about the error was fully disclosed to the patient by the hospital and the surgeon," the statement says. "The surgeon accepted full responsibility for ordering the procedure."

But Mathis said doctors didn't tell Miles the wrong kidney had been removed until weeks later.

Ash explained the absence of a cancerous lesion on postsurgery tests as a "miracle" through "divine intervention" and said that it had "spontaneously resolved," the lawsuit says.

Miles was expected to make a full recovery by May 1, when she was discharged from the hospital, according to the hospital. But her remaining kidney has been functioning at 30 percent of capacity since the April surgery, Mathis said.

Miles, who gets around in a wheelchair, has had heart problems and a staph infection as a result of the surgery, Mathis said.



Spanish Inn
2212 College Ave.
Re-Opening
Tuesday - July 22nd - 11a.m.



Happy 2nd Anniversary
Toby & Haley
from: The Family



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Common Brumuda
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We also offer weed control
• kill winter weeds
• prevent summer weeds (Dandelions, Grassburs)
• fertilization
• ground sterilization and year around maintenance
• offer 4-step lawn care system
Tx Commercial Lic. # 284642
Floral Certificate # 288929
Tx Irrigation Lic. # 6312
Wheat Hay & Bermuda Grass Hay
• Square or Round Bales
• Fertilized

Date Book

Monday, July 21, 2003

Today is the 202nd day of 2003 and the 31st day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1873, Jesse James and his band of outlaws held up the Rock Island Railroad near Adair, Iowa. It was James' first train robbery.

On this day in 1959, the first nuclear-powered merchant vessel, the Savannah, was christened by First Lady Mamie Eisenhower.

On this day in 1984, the first documented robot-related fatality, as defined by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, took place in Jackson, Mich.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961), writer; Don Knotts (1924-), actor, is 79; Norman Jewison (1926-), producer and director, is 77; Paul Wellstone (1944-2002), politician; Robin Williams (1952-), comedian and actor, is 51.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1973, Hank Aaron became the second major leaguer to hit 700 homeruns.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "All things truly wicked start from innocence." — Ernest Hemingway

TODAY'S MOON: Last quarter (July 21).

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events Lotto TEXAS™ TEXAS LOTTERY RESULTS

Saturday's Lottery Numbers
Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

3-9-12-22-44
Bonus Ball: 28
Estimated jackpot: $32 million
Next Lotto Texas game: Wednesday night.
Cash Five
4-6-14-17-35
Pick 3
(Day) 3-8-7
(Night) 6-1-6

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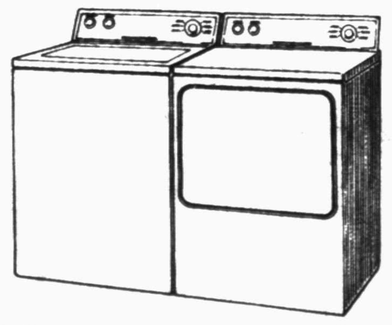
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$50 A Month
60 Day Warranty
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Democrat ads accuse Bush of misleading Americans on Iraq

CRAWFORD (AP) — Democrats are launching a television ad that accuses President Bush of misleading Americans on the nuclear threat from Iraq.

Republicans urged broadcasters not to carry the ad, set to be aired initially Monday in Madison, Wis., then elsewhere; they called it "deliberately false and misleading."

The Democratic National Committee has been raising money through an e-mail campaign that began July 10 to help finance the ad, which sharply questions Bush's veracity on Iraq's weapons.

The ad says: "In his State of the Union address, George W. Bush told us of an imminent threat. ... America took him at his word."

The video shows Bush saying, "Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa."

The ad continues: "But now we find out it wasn't true.

"A year earlier, that claim was proven false. The CIA knew it. The State Department knew it. The White House knew it.

"But he told us anyway."

Republicans claim the ad improperly quotes Bush because his entire statement was: "The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa."

DNC spokesman Tony Welch said: "With the British in there, the president's information is still false and misleading. It is exactly what the president said."

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www.curvesintern

Legislation pending in U.S. Congress...

Medicare would pay for adult day care

WASHINGTON (AP) — Patricia Smith of Louisville, Ky., has relied on Medicare to pay for home nursing care in the past, but she now gets additional attention at an adult day-care center — an option that soon might be more widely available to older Americans.

State Medicaid programs pick up the day-care tab for low-income people such as Smith in some parts of the country, while others generally pay for the service themselves.

But legislation pending in Congress would add Medicare to the mix, allowing beneficiaries eligible for the program's homebound coverage to use that benefit instead for day care.

Smith, 69, who has suffered from a stroke and breast cancer in recent years, said she prefers day care over in-home assistance because of the social benefits.

"You intermingle with people. You're not by yourself," said Smith, who added that she became depressed while stuck at home after her stroke.

Those eligible for Medicare's in-home benefit would qualify for day-care coverage under a pilot program included in legislation recently passed by Congress.

"It gives seniors another choice," said Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., a lead supporter of the change.

A recent study funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found about 2,100 adult day-care centers nationwide that provided elderly and disabled people with medical assistance.

About 80 percent of centers that participated in the survey reported being licensed or certified by states. More than 70 percent are run by nonprofits, and the average age of users is 72. Meals are usually provided, and activities range from art classes to field trips and even wheelchair exercises.

The day-care component of the Medicare legislation has no known opposition and even the support of an industry group representing in-home nurses.

The legislation could ease problems associated with a nursing shortage and doesn't threaten the in-home nursing industry, said William Dombi, a lobbyist for the National Association for Home Care and Hospice.

"I don't think everybody that is a Medicare homebound patient is a candidate for adult day services," he said, noting that some patients can't leave their beds and others prefer to stay home.

The legislation's main supporters say their proposal will save Medicare money because group care is more economical than in-home services.

It generally costs about $90 for a nurse to visit a patient at home, compared with about $60 per day to treat, entertain and feed the person in day care, said Bill Yarmuth, chief executive of Almost Family, a Louisville-based company that runs both an in-home nursing business and adult day-care centers.

Yarmuth said day-care facilities may see costs rise when they start routinely caring for patients so sick they're eligible for Medicare's homebound benefit. But he said day care will still be cheaper than home care because nurses can see more people in a day if they don't have to travel.

Among the biggest supporters of the proposed benefit are relatives of those who benefit.

"We've had great experiences with home health, but they were in and out," said Julie Smith, Patricia's daughter. "Leaving her alone was the scary part."

The House and Senate bills are slightly different. The House version, sponsored by Rep. Ron Lewis, R-Ky., would establish the pilot program in five states. The Senate measure, offered by Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., would allow the demonstration to take place at three centers. A joint committee will meet to settle the differences.

Both bills call on federal officials to analyze the pilot projects and determine if the benefit should be made nationwide.

Patricia Smith said she enjoys day care so much she can't believe her daughter initially had to push her to try it.

"I told her, 'No. I will just stay here and sleep and watch soap operas,'" Smith recalled. "Now, I wouldn't do that for nothing in the whole world."

Lightning kills parents, injures three children

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Richard and Lisa Goff and their three children were under a tree taking shelter from a storm when lightning struck, killing the couple instantly — right before the youngsters' eyes.

The children, aged 18 months to 9, suffered injuries that can be expected to heal faster than the emotional trauma.

"The kids were basically incoherent" when rescuers arrived, said Summit County Sheriff Dave Edmunds said. "They had just seen their parents killed. They were in shock."

The family took cover when a thunderstorm hit near the shore of Crystal Lake, about 60 miles east of Salt Lake City in the Uinta mountain range.

The parents, both 34, were sitting on metal chairs when the bolt came down, the woman's sister, Lori Ostler, told KUTV-TV of Salt Lake City.

For 9-year-old Dakota Goff and his sisters Makenzie, 5, and Megan, 18 months, the loss started to sink in Sunday.

"The little girl said several times that she wished her mother was there, but knew she couldn't be," said the family's clerical leader, Bishop Walter Ewell of the Westbrook First Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It wasn't clear which girl he was referring to.

"When her grandmother came she cried and said she knew her mother would never be with her again."

Friends said Megan would cling to her mother and rarely went to anyone else. "It is going to be tough for them," Ewell said.

The children were airlifted to Salt Lake City hospitals, where they were in good condition and nearing recovery from their injuries. They were expected to be released to their grandparents by today.

"I can deal with one, either of them. I can deal with that. But when both are taken, it's incredible," Ostler told KUTV. "How do you begin to keep this family intact? You tell the little boy who saw his parents get killed that they won't be back, they're gone."

Rick Goff worked in an auto body shop and his wife was a homemaker. Friends said the family loved boating, fishing, camping, hiking and water skiing.

"If it was an outdoorsy thing, they did it. They loved riding four-wheelers, snowmobiling, just essentially all the outdoor sports," Hansen said.

With their deaths, 66 people have died in Utah from lightning in the past 52 years, and 130 have been injured. More than half of incidents have occurred in July and August.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 07-21-03
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West
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♦ 7 4
♣ 10 8 5

East
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♥ 8 7 3 2
♦ 10 6
♣ K J 9

South
♠ K 10
♥ A K 6
♦ A Q 9 8 3
♣ 7 6 2

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ Q

Monday, July 21, 2003

Although equal, one is better

By Phillip Alder

You are playing roulette in a casino and planning to place your chip on either red or black. Which would you pick?

It is, of course, exactly a 50-50 proposition. There are 18 black numbers on the wheel and 18 red. Good luck!

Sometimes a 50-50 guess arises at the bridge table, but usually there is another consideration that makes one of the options better than the other. In this deal, you are South, the declarer in three no-trump. West leads the heart queen. How would you plan the play?

North used Stayman to try to uncover a 4-4 spade fit, then hoped that the heart suit would not prove to be a fatal weakness in three no-trump. Note that five diamonds shouldn't make.

In three no-trump, you have eight top tricks: two hearts, five diamonds and one club. For the ninth, which 50-50 proposition do you try: the club finesse or a spade toward your king?

They appear to be equal, but there are two good reasons why you should start with a spade to the king. Suppose that West has the ace and the worst happens: The defenders take four spade tricks before playing another heart. Now you can fall back on the club finesse. You get to try both finesses. But here, if you start with a losing club finesse, you will fail. East will return a heart, then he will rush in with the spade ace and play another heart.

What is the second good reason for playing a spade first? An expert West, looking at ace-third of spades, might well duck, thinking that you have K-Q-10 and wanting to give you a second-round guess in the suit.

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

In the year ahead, you'll be exposed to far more people than usual. A few could turn out to be quality friends who will have a strong influence on you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Just because robbing Peter to pay Paul worked out previously for you does not mean you can handle all your financial affairs in the same manner. Today will show you why.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Let your deeds speak for themselves. Don't boast about things you have yet to accomplish, or the skeptics will surely expose you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Someone who knew you way back when could be among your listeners today, so be careful how you represent yourself. Pretenses will damage your image.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — You can be the perfect teammate if you are willing to adjust your thinking to the will of the majority, but don't carry this too far. The wrong crowd could lead you astray.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — It will be those silly trivial infractions — not the big issues that others find fault with — that stick a thorn in your side. Be careful not to be thoughtless of others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — If you can't say something complimentary about another, say nothing at all. Criticism will sink like a lead balloon and take you down with it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Don't give advice on ways to make money today. The tips won't live up to their expectations and the losers will blame you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — You'll make a promise that seems like an easy one, but it will turn out to be difficult to keep. Steer clear of serious commitments.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Call before dropping in on someone. Those you're visiting will be engaged in something private that is not meant to be shared with others.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You'll be able to solve everybody's problems but your own. This is because you can't spend aimlessly without going into debt.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You'll be able to handle big problems with relative ease, but a minor infraction could put you in a tizzy. You may have to remember to keep everything in perspective.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Intuition can play an important role, but you must never make it more important than logic. Deal with the facts at hand first today.

Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker wheel instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167.

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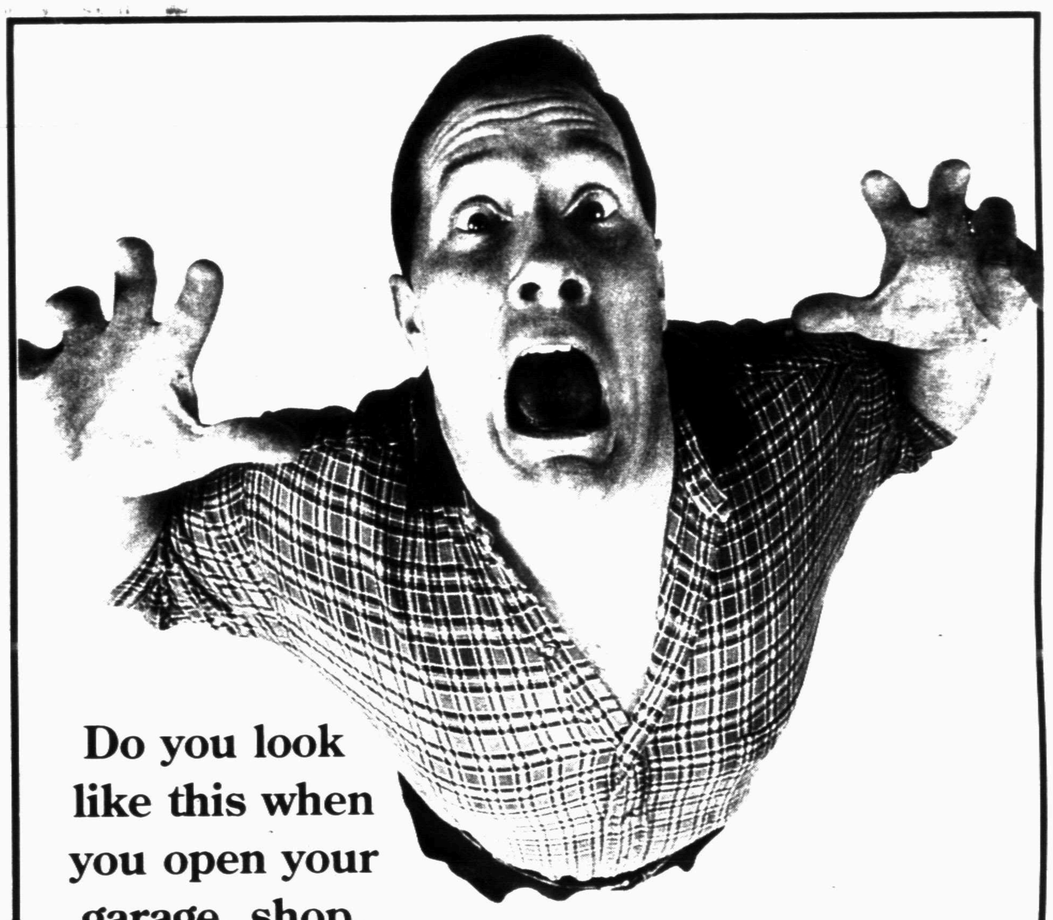


Happy 1st Birthday

Teafale

From: Mom, Dad, Nanny, and Family

ONE WEEK ONLY
MONDAY, JULY 21 - SATURDAY, JULY 26
Latria's
213 Oak • Sweetwater
The Cat's Meow
215 Oak • Sweetwater
1¢ Sale
Buy 1 sale item for regular price and get next item of equal or lesser value for 1¢
Other Special Sales


Do you look like this when you open your garage, shop, or closets?
WELL, CLEAN THEM OUT & TURN THOSE UNUSED ITEMS INTO $$
SDN Classified
GARAGE SALE ADS
573-5486

Introducing a place where your dreams are our goals.

Now there's a place in your neighborhood called Curves. Curves is thirty-minute fitness, commonsense weight loss and the support you need to do both. Call us today and discover what over one million women already know: that at Curves, your dreams are our goals.
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*Offer based on first visit enrollment, minimum 12 mo. c. d. program.

JUL 21 2003

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



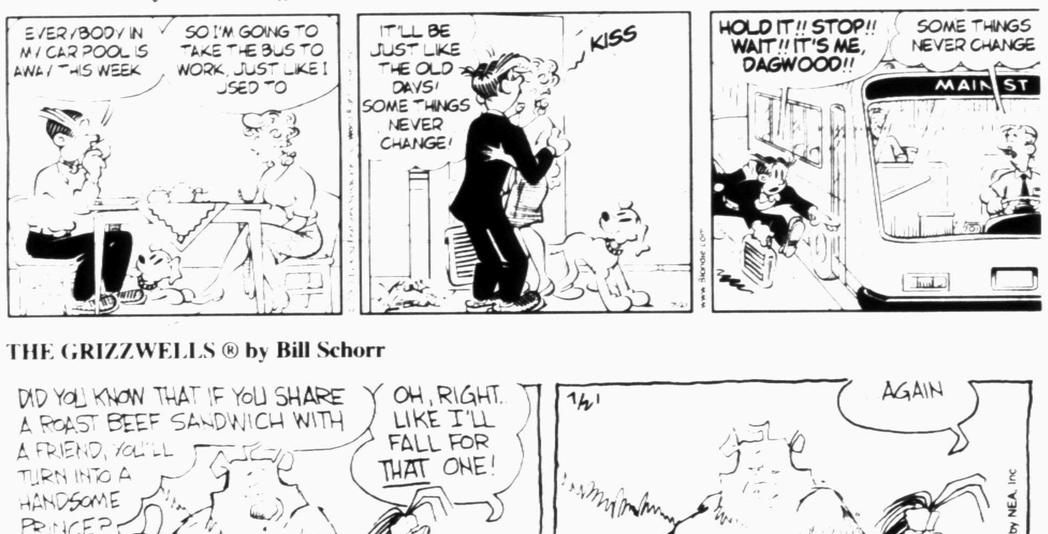
SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Salary limits
5 Dog days mo.
8 Hog sound
12 Type of muffin
13 Boxer's stat
14 Grove unit
15 Farm structure
16 Stage scenery
17 Pulled apart
18 Nulls
20 Hourglass contents
21 Rollover subj.
22 Kitty's comment
23 Pat Sajak's co-host
26 Place
29 Sleep like — —
30 Trumpeter Al —
31 — — whim
33 Attach
34 Ms. Russo in "Tin Cup"
35 Wynonna or Naomi
36 Casual wear (hyph.)
38 Rodeo prop
39 GI support grp.
40 Atlas abbr.
41 Lily-white
43 Stuck
46 Fish organ
47 River bottom
48 False witness
50 Murray or Rice
51 Hail, to Caesar
52 Whodunit name
53 Tiny sphere
54 $1,000,000, slangily
55 Burpee buy

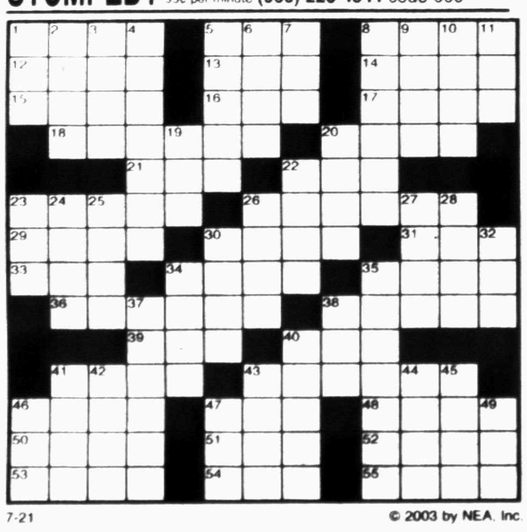
DOWN

1 Dan Rather's network
2 Phoenix's st.
3 Without a tan
4 "Sawing wood"
5 Taking a cruise (2 wds.)
6 Guitar cousins
7 Obtained
8 Canada's capital
9 Vitamin supplement
10 Teen outcast
11 Author — Follett
19 Mouths, in biology
20 Cult
22 Hoarder's cry
23 Large tub
24 Quit flying
25 Some votes
26 Fluff
27 Costello and Gossett
28 Purposes
30 Villain's foe
32 Hubbub
34 Mount
35 Clangs
37 Pitched
38 British inc.
40 Shape clay
41 Cone bearer
42 Arm bone
43 Strauss of denim fame
44 Gael republic
45 Wide valley
46 Chatter
47 "Pow!"
49 Lipstick color

Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	E	E	D		C	E	L	T		A	S	P
U	L	N	A		O	V	E	R		C	H	I
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R	A	T		A	B	E	T		E	D	E	N
E	D	O		N	A	G	S		S	E	E	K

STUMPED? Call for answers • Touch-tone or rotary phone 95c per minute (900) 226-4344 code 000

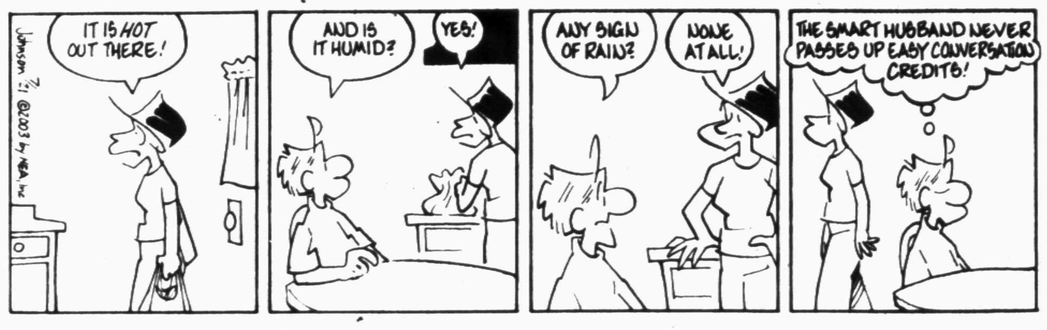


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FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



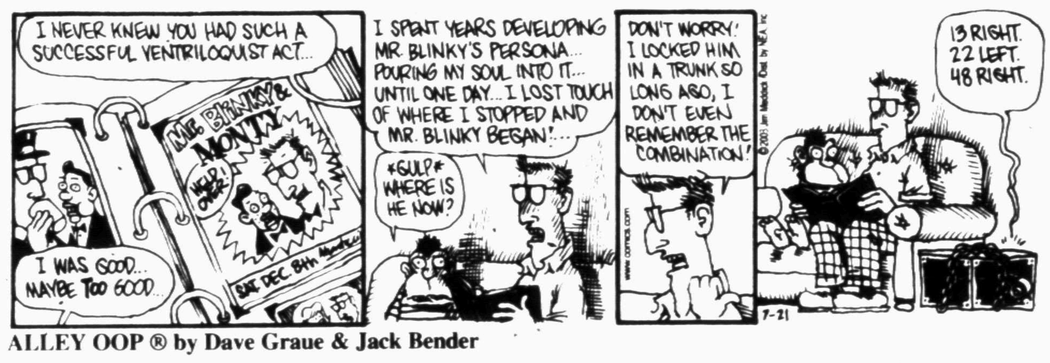
ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"Are these green ones emeralds?"

Snyder Daily News
Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"WHILE MY MOM SHAPES UP, I HAVE TO SHIP OUT!"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright





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SANDWICH... The kid never... Ben Curtis g... course his gra... his father took... didn't explain... around Mill C... Ostrander, Oh... the place.

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Volleyball ...

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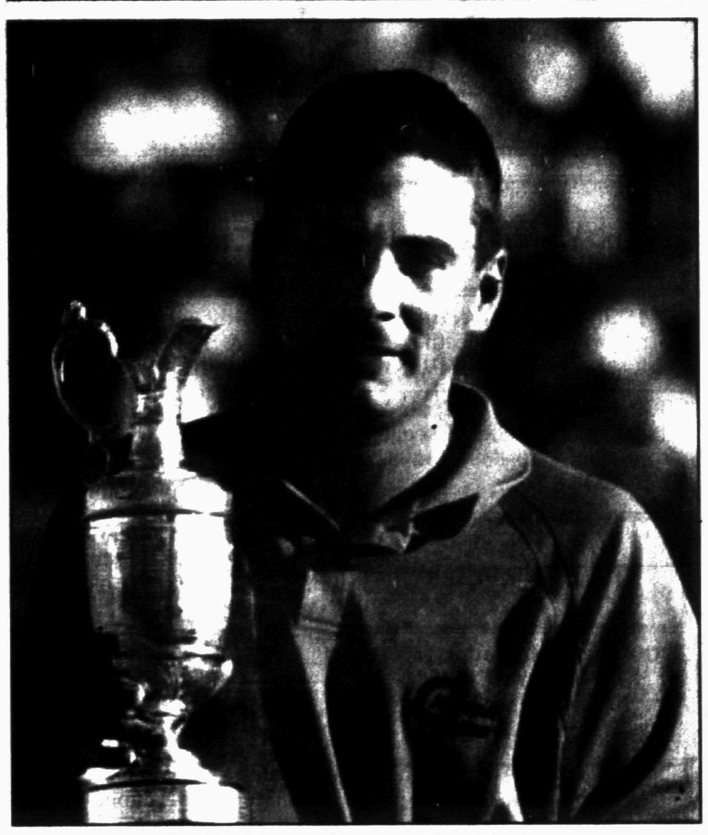
WGA play...

The Women'... at 9 a.m. each...

Men's soft...

A men's softb... will be held A... Luis at 573-73...

SPORTS



British Open Champ Ben Curtis
...$1.1 million purse

Rookie surprises British Open

SANDWICH, England (AP) — Ben Curtis was hitting a wedge on the practice range at Royal St. George's when the caddie he had known all of a week delivered the news.

"Ben, you're the Open champion."

How appropriate.

The most unpredictable links in golf. A wacky week at the game's oldest championship. And, finally, the unlikeliest of major winners: a PGA Tour rookie ranked No. 396 in the world.

Even Andrew Sutton, the looper hired last Sunday to provide some local knowledge, had never heard of his new boss.

Told Ben Curtis was looking for a caddie, Sutton asked, "Ben who?"

With the claret judge sitting at his fingertips, golf's newest major champion acknowledged the obvious.

"I'm in great company," Curtis said. "Right now, many people are probably saying, 'Well, he really doesn't belong there.' But I know I do."

Not even Tiger Woods and an All-Star cast of challengers could sort out the humps and hollows along Sandwich Bay any better.

Curtis earned his spot in golfing lore by closing with a 2-under 69, leaving him the only player to break par at 1-under 283.

He got plenty of help from Thomas Bjorn, who took three shots to escape a pot bunker, dropped four shots on the final four holes and finished as the hard-luck runner-up with Vijay Singh.

"It is going to be a tough few days," Bjorn said. "But it's only a game."

A crazy game at that.

The Open took a zany turn right from the start when Woods, the world's most watched player, lost his opening tee shot in the rough.

It ended with a player hardly anyone knew holding the prize, his name engraved alongside the likes of Nicklaus, Palmer and Hogan.

"Obviously, Ben is a fantastic golfer," said Sutton, his caddie for the week. "But what impressed me the most is how laid-back he is.

Curtis, who spent the last two years on the Hooters Tour and qualified for the British with a 13th-place finish in the Western Open, was just two strokes behind coming into the final round, but hardly anyone gave him a chance to win. Not against a lineup like this: Woods, Bjorn, Davis Love III, Vijay Singh, Sergio Garcia and Kenny Perry.

But hardly anything went according to plan at this tournament:

— Woods opened with a triple bogey when two dozen marshals and 2,000 fans couldn't figure out where his ball was hiding.

— Bjorn was penalized two strokes Thursday for slamming his club into a bunker after failing to get out — a no-no when the ball is still in the sand.

— Love hit a tee shot that was going out of bounds Friday until it ricocheted off a white boundary stake only 3 inches wide.

— Local hero Mark Roe, who would have been paired with Woods in the final round two shots behind, was disqualified Saturday for putting his score on Jesper Parnevik's card.

"When I went to bed last night, I really thought I was going to win this thing," Curtis said. "You've got to have that feeling."

He's believed to be the first player since Francis Ouimet at the 1913 U.S. Open to win a major championship in his first try.

"To be honest, I would have been happy to make it to the weekend," the 26-year-old Ohio native said.

British Open champ grew up with golf

SANDWICH, England (AP) — The kid never lacked for nerve.

Ben Curtis grew up on a golf course his grandfather built and his father took care of, but that didn't explain why he walked around Mill Creek back in tiny Ostrander, Ohio, like he owned the place.

Curtis did that because there were few things he believed he couldn't do with a golf club — and that's when he wasn't much taller than a 2-iron.

"Ben never scared easily," Bob Curtis recalled over the telephone Sunday. "When he was a kid, he'd bet the grown-ups on the course $5 he could get the ball on the green, even though he didn't have a buck in his pocket."

Now, he has $1.1 million in the bank and the claret jug that goes to the British Open champion.

Now the rest of the world knows how a rookie ranked No. 396 in the world held off major championship winners Tiger Woods, Vijay Singh, Davis Love III and European tour star Thomas Bjorn down the stretch at treacherous Royal St. George's.

"I was shaking in my boots, obviously," Curtis said. "But I was just out there very focused on what I had to do, and then let my work speak for itself. If it was good enough, fine. If not, I can live with it."

Given his pedigree, maybe no one should have been surprised that Curtis loved golf.

Except that even parents Bob and Janice Curtis had no idea how much that was until that frantic night when they went to look in on their 5-year-old son at 11 o'clock and saw an empty bed.

"It's dark out and we're running around the house pulling our hair out," Bob said. "And then I looked out the window and there's Ben on the putting green in his pajamas with the footies, putting away.

"He'd crawled out of his bed, gone over to the course and turned on the lights in my office so he could keep practicing. I guess," his father added above the growing background din.

Tampa Bay blowout of Texas Rangers is rare

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Wins are tough enough for Tampa Bay. Blowout victories are even rarer.

On Sunday, the Devil Rays accomplished both in a 15-4 rout of the Texas Rangers.

Tampa Bay turned the tables on Rangers, who have 140 homers this season. The Devil Rays outhomered Texas 4-1, including three-run shots by Aubrey Huff, Al Martin and Travis Lee.

The Devil Rays have gone deep 72 times. At home, they have been outhomered 67-33

The 15 runs equaled a team record and was the most ever at home for Tampa Bay, 8-8 in July after going a franchise-worst 5-21 in June.

Tampa Bay (34-62) has played 56 games decided by two runs or fewer.

Julio Lugo had four hits, and Jorge Sosa (3-7) allowed two runs and four hits over seven innings.

The victory moved Piniella past Chuck Tanner into 24th place on the career list with 1,353 wins.

Huff, Rocco Baldelli and Martin homered during the Devil Rays' seven-run fourth that made it 10-1.

Huff hit a three-run shot off starter Tony Mounce (1-4). Ryan Drese replaced Mounce and allowed a solo homer to Baldelli. Martin ended Tampa Bay's highest-scoring inning of the season with his three-run, pinch-hit homer against Drese

Mounce allowed six runs and seven hits in 3 1-3 innings. He has given up 20 runs in 15 2-3 innings over his past four starts.

Lee made it 13-1 in the fifth with his three-run drive off Drese, who gave up seven runs and nine hits in 2 2-3 innings.

Toby Hall put the Devil Rays ahead 1-0 with an RBI single in the second.

Todd Greene tied it on a third-inning homer, the Rangers' first homer in 21 innings.

Han earns first LPGA title

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. (AP) — Hee-Won Han got her first LPGA Tour victory in the tournament that dealt her such a tough loss a year ago.

Han matched par in a final-round 71 Sunday that gave her a two-shot victory over Meg Mallon in the LPGA Big Apple Classic, making her the tour's third first-time winner in the last four weeks.

Last year, Han missed a 6-foot birdie putt on the final hole of regulation that would have given her her first win, then she lost to Gloria Park on the first playoff hole at Wykagyl Country Club.

This year there was nothing but smiles for the 2001 LPGA Tour rookie of the year as she made a 4-foot birdie putt on the closing par-5 to finish at 11-under 273.

Mallon, who has 14 career victories, started the final round tied for the lead with Han. Mallon couldn't match the way she closed her round Saturday when she birdied the last four holes, although she came close.

She almost made a 60-foot eagle putt on 18, but the tap-in birdie gave her a 2-over 73 and took any pressure off Han as she faced her final putt.

When it dropped, Han turned to the crowd with her fist held high and a huge smile on her face.

Cindy Figg-Currier, who started the day in third, five strokes behind the leaders, had a 72 and finished tied for third.

Bagwell gets 400th HR in 6-3 win over Reds

CINCINNATI (AP) — Jeff Bagwell downplayed his 400th career homer, crediting longevity instead of his powerful swing.

Teammate Craig Biggio wouldn't hear of it.

"(Bagwell's) been a great hitter for us," Biggio said. "If he hadn't played in the Astrodome ... he might have 480 or 490."

Bagwell hit two home runs Sunday to become the 35th member of the 400-homer club, leading the Houston Astros to a 6-3 victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

He drove in Houston's first four runs as the NL Central-leading Astros beat Cincinnati for the 10th straight time. The Astros completed their eighth series sweep of the season and have won 10 of their last 11 games.

Bagwell connected off Danny Graves (4-10) in the fourth and sixth innings to reach 400 homers, passing Dale Murphy and Al Kaline on the career list. Hall-of-Famer Duke Snider is next up with 407.

"I'm just glad that I've gotten the opportunity to play," Bagwell said. "I was a Punch-and-Judy hitter when I first came up. I hit 15 that year, and that was a lot for me.

"I'm just glad I got it over with. More important, I'm glad we won. It just means that I've played a long time."

The Reds have lost seven in a row at home, matching their longest skid since dropping nine straight in Cincinnati in 2001. They dropped into fifth place in the NL Central when Pittsburgh beat Milwaukee.

Wade Miller (7-9) allowed three runs — two earned — and three hits in 5 1-3 innings to improve to 5-0 in 10 career appearances against the Reds. Miller struck out nine.

Jeff Kent added a solo homer in the ninth for Houston, his 12th of the season. It was also his first since June 18 — he was sidelined the next day with tendinitis in his left wrist and activated after the All-Star game.

Local Sports Briefs

Volleyball camp

SHS volleyball coach Laura Moses is hosting a volleyball camp today and Tuesday for incoming 4th-6th-graders at the high school gym.

A 4-on-4 coed tournament is slated Saturday. Entry is $20.

A camp for 7th-12-graders is set July 28-30. Contact coach Moses at 436-9067 for more details.

Partnership golf tournament

The Snyder partnership golf tournament will be held at Scurry County golf course Saturday and Sunday. Format is scramble-low ball. Call the pro shop at 573-7101 for more information.

Kiwanis Club golf tournament

The Snyder Kiwanis Club will sponsor a four-person scramble Aug. 9 at WTC to benefit the Cargile Scholarship Foundation. The tournament begins at 8:30 a.m. Cost is $30 per person, and cash prizes will be awarded.

The tournament includes a long drive and putting contests, closest to the hole par three and $100,000 shoot-out. Call the WTC pro shop at 573-9291 or Russell Fisk at 573-3438 to sign-up or to reserve a cart.

Hermleigh athletic physiçals

All incoming sixth, ninth and 11th grade Hermleigh athletes are reminded to get a physical. Forms can be picked up at the high school and all paperwork must be completed prior to the physical.

Snyder athletic physicals

Physicals are required for students wishing to participate in SISD athletics. Those needing physicals include all incoming seventh, ninth and third-year high school students; all new students to SISD who plan to participate in athletics; any student who answered yes to questions 1, 4, 5, 6, or 7 on their medical history form; and any student who has not participates in athletics in the past.

The district will pay for physicals up until Aug. 1. With the following doctors: Rakov, Burleson, Cooper, Thompson and Wolboldt. Incoming seventh and ninth graders pick up physical forms at the doctor's office.

WGA playday

The Women's Golf Association at Scurry County golf course is held at 9 a.m. each Tuesday. Format this week is Nassau Tournament.

Men's softball tourney

A men's softball tournament to benefit Baile Folkloric De Guadalupe will be held Aug. 2-3 at Winston Field. For more information call Cal Luis at 573-7321.

Major League Baseball

American League
At A Glance
All Times EDT

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	61	36	.629	—
Boston	57	40	.588	4
Toronto	51	48	.515	11
Baltimore	45	50	.474	15
Tampa Bay	34	62	.354	26½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	54	42	.563	—
Minnesota	48	49	.495	6½
Chicago	48	50	.490	7
Cleveland	41	57	.418	14
Detroit	26	70	.271	28

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	59	38	.608	—
Oakland	54	43	.557	5
Anaheim	49	47	.510	9½
Texas	40	57	.412	19

Saturday's Games
Minnesota 9, Oakland 4
N.Y. Yankees 7, Cleveland 4
Texas 7, Tampa Bay 3
Boston 5, Toronto 4, 10 innings
Baltimore 8, Anaheim 4
Kansas City 5, Seattle 1
Chicago White Sox 6, Detroit 2

Sunday's Games
N.Y. Yankees 7, Cleveland 4
Tampa Bay 15, Texas 4
Baltimore 7, Anaheim 6
Boston 9, Toronto 4
Minnesota 6, Oakland 4
Kansas City 7, Seattle 5, 10 innings
Chicago White Sox 10, Detroit 1

Monday's Games
Texas (Dickey 4-4) at Baltimore (Hentgen 1-5), 7:05 p.m.
Detroit (Bonderman 3-13) at Boston (Burkett 7-4), 7:05 p.m.
Toronto (Hendrickson 5-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Weaver 5-7), 7:05 p.m.
Anaheim (Sele 6-6) at Tampa Bay (Bell 1-2), 7:15 p.m.
Seattle (Pineiro 11-5) at Minnesota (Lohse 6-8), 8:05 p.m.
Oakland (Harden 0-0) at Kansas City (Snyder 1-4), 8:05 p.m.
Cleveland (Tallet 0-1) at Chicago White Sox (Pbrzio 0-1), 8:05 p.m.

National League
All Times EDT

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	65	32	.670	—
Philadelphia	55	41	.573	9½
Florida	50	48	.510	15½
Montreal	50	48	.510	15½
New York	40	57	.412	25

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	54	44	.551	—
St. Louis	51	47	.520	3
Chicago	49	48	.505	4½
Pittsburgh	43	52	.453	9½
Cincinnati	43	54	.443	10½
Milwaukee	39	58	.402	14½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	61	37	.622	—
Arizona	54	44	.551	7
Los Angeles	51	46	.526	9½
Colorado	50	51	.495	12½
San Diego	37	63	.370	25

Saturday's Games
Atlanta 7, N.Y. Mets 4
Houston 9, Cincinnati 8
San Francisco 5, Colorado 3
St. Louis 3, Los Angeles 1
Chicago Cubs 1, Florida 0
Milwaukee 1, Pittsburgh 0
Philadelphia 4, Montreal 3, 11 innings
San Diego 2, Arizona 0

Sunday's Games
Atlanta 11, N.Y. Mets 8
Houston 6, Cincinnati 3
Chicago Cubs 16, Florida 2
Pittsburgh 6, Milwaukee 3
Philadelphia 3, Montreal 2
San Francisco 8, Colorado 4
San Diego 3, Arizona 2
St. Louis 10, Los Angeles 7

Monday's Games
Montreal (Knott 0-0) at Florida (Beckett 3-4), 7:05 p.m.
Houston (Redding 6-8) at Pittsburgh (Fogg 5-4), 7:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Heilman 0-2) at Philadelphia (Duckworth 3-3), 7:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Kinney 6-7) at Cincinnati (Acevedo 0-0), 7:10 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Estes 6-8) at Atlanta (Reynolds 7-4), 7:35 p.m.
St. Louis (Morris 8-6) at San Diego (Peavy 8-7), 10:05 p.m.
Colorado (Stark 0-0) at Los Angeles (Ashby 2-6), 10:10 p.m.
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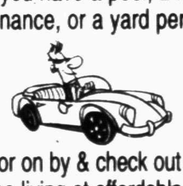
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Electronic stability control little used in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — A vehicle control system that has been proven in Germany to cut down dramatically on accidents is available on just 6 percent of vehicles in the United States.

Electronic stability control, a feature on one of every three vehicles in Europe, has yet to catch on among American drivers. Many have never heard of it, and that has prompted suppliers to kick off an eight-city tour Wednesday in Washington.

Suppliers of stability control systems say they hope consumer demand, not government mandates, will persuade automakers to overcome their well-known aversion to added costs and offer the system on more vehicles.

Electronic stability control, which has different trade names, is a system that applies brakes to specific tires and decelerates if it senses a driver is veering off course.

If a driver swerves to the left to avoid an animal in the road, for example, a vehicle with stability control will apply brakes to the outside front tire to prevent the vehicle from fishtailing.

Stability control is different from traction control, which keeps wheels from spinning when the driver accelerates. It's also different from all-wheel drive, which distributes energy to all four tires to increase traction.

Stability control was developed in Germany by Bosch Corp. and Mercedes-Benz and started appearing on luxury vehicles in the mid-1990s. In 1999, Mercedes was the first to make it standard in all its vehicles.

According to a study of German government data released last year by DaimlerChrysler AG, accident rates for Mercedes vehicles in Germany fell by 29 percent between 1999 and 2000 after stability control became standard.

In 1999, Mercedes vehicles were in 15,000 crashes, while in 2000 they were in 10,600 crashes. In 2001, Mercedes vehicles were in 10,700 crashes, the study said. Crash rates for all other vehicles remained steady during that time, the study said.

Spurred by such data, Europe has adopted stability control much faster than the United States.

"In Europe, you have a much more sophisticated consumer that's much more in tune with safety technology, so they are driving it from a consumer demand standpoint," said Bill Kozyra, president of U.S. operations for Continental Teves Inc., which markets electronic stability control.

Some U.S. automakers have quietly responded to European demand. In Germany, stability control is standard on a three-door Ford Focus. In England, stability control is a $1,220 option on the same vehicle. In the U.S., it's a $1,625 option.

Todd Brown, manager of North American brake control products at Ford, said Ford is simply responding to market demands. But he acknowledged automakers could do a better job of marketing the technology to U.S. buyers.

The federal government could step in and require it, but that's not likely. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration spokesman Tim Hurd said there is too little U.S. data to determine its effectiveness.

NHTSA chief Dr. Jeffrey Runge will attend Wednesday's event, but he won't be speaking or officially endorsing the product, his office said. He told a Senate committee this year that he believes automakers will voluntarily add stability control once NHTSA begins a new kind of crash test that will measure vehicle performance in sharp turns. Those tests are expected to begin next year.

For now, the price of stability control varies widely, and it's often included only in luxury packages.

R. David Pittle, senior vice president for technical policy at Consumers Union, which publishes Consumer Reports, said consumer demand could spike when NHTSA starts publishing results of new crash tests. In the meantime, he is frustrated.

"Safety is not a luxury. Safety is an essential element of the car," Pittle said.

General Motors Corp. spokesman Jim Schell understands that complaint but says automakers will have to spend years figuring out how to integrate stability control in its vehicles.

"It's not something you can just attach onto a vehicle and hope it works," Schell said.

Top officials in Boston church scandal will not face charges

BOSTON (AP) — Top officials in Boston's Roman Catholic Archdiocese will not face criminal charges for keeping abusive priests in church parishes, a spokesman for the attorney general said — a major blow for alleged victims who hoped church leaders would be held accountable.

Mitchell Garabedian, an attorney for more than 100 alleged abuse victims, expressed disappointment upon hearing word that a state attorney general's report to be released this week would rule out charges.

"Given the number of tragedies that have occurred by these sexual molestations and the allowance of these sexual molestations, many of my clients were hoping that there would be indictments so church leaders and individuals would be held responsible," he said.

Attorney General Thomas F. Reilly's report, based in part on ~~an investigation by the~~ state grand jury he convened, suggests changes to prevent future abuse but stopped short of charges, according to WBZ-TV of Boston, which cited an unidentified source who has reviewed the document.

Reilly spokesman Corey Welford told The Associated Press on Sunday that the attorney general would not immediately release the document, but confirmed that the television report was accurate.

Archdiocese spokesman the Rev. Christopher J. Coyne said he could not comment until the report was made public.

Gary Bergeron, 41, one of 54 men who say they were abused by the late Rev. Joseph E. Birmingham, said he never expected top church officials to be charged.

"I am not surprised there are no indictments because of the way the laws were written," Bergeron said. "But it's unfortunate that, for all intents and purposes, men who agreed to sanction the abuse of children throughout the years cannot be indicted."

The grand jury investigated whether the former Boston archbishop, Cardinal Bernard F. Law, and many of his top aides, some of whom are now bishops in other dioceses, could be held criminally responsible for moving priests from parish to parish even when they knew of abuse allegations.

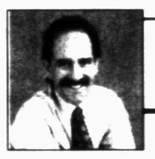
Reilly said in April that it would be difficult to indict church supervisors for allowing abusive priests to remain in parish work because of weak child protection laws in Massachusetts when the abuse took place. Reilly came to the same conclusion after the grand jury investigation, according to the report.

Law resigned as archbishop in December, after nearly a year of criticism over his role in allowing abusive priests to remain in parish work. Bishop Sean Patrick O'Malley was named July 1 as his successor, and will be installed as archbishop at the end of the month. Bishop Richard Lennon has served as interim head of the archdiocese since Law's resignation.

In addition to Law, at least eight other top officials in the Boston Archdiocese were subpoenaed to answer questions about their handling of complaints against priests, including the Rev. Thomas V. Daily, now bishop in Brooklyn, N.Y.; the Rev. Robert J. Banks, now bishop in Green Bay, Wis.; and the Rev. John B. McCormack, now bishop in Manchester, N.H.

The attorney general's report suggested ways to prevent future abuse, including increasing penalties for failing to report suspected abuse and getting the church and laity to work more closely together to prevent abuse.

The archdiocese has instituted its own abuse policies, which Reilly has criticized as not tough enough.



On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

It pays to be skeptical

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I am considering a food supplement from a company that is headed by a doctor from a university I had not heard of, but I checked and found out that it does exist. There are many testimonials from people who have used this line of products, and many seem to have gone through the exact same problems that I have. I admit that there are many red flags, but the food supplement seems to be just what I have been looking for in that it focuses on problems that I have. I read your column, and I need some help in deciding. Also, because my partner is pushing me in this direction, I am having difficulty in resisting the temptation to try. I have included the product literature for your review. Without revealing any names, could you give me some guidance? — **G.B., Arlington Heights, Ill.**

DEAR G.B.: I congratulate you on your skepticism. This type of pitch goes on all the time, so it deserves some attention. First, let's discuss the credentials. This morning I received a bit of unsolicited e-mail, affectionately referred to as spam, that went as follows: "Obtain the diploma you deserve based on your present knowledge and life experience. A prosperous future, money-earning power and the admiration of all. Diplomas from established non-accredited schools. Shows like any academic degree exactly what you really can do without required tests, classes or interviews. Bachelors, Masters, MBAs and PhDs in your field. Discreetly and affordably. Your accomplishments are recognized. CALL NOW — your Diploma awaits you!"

Hard to believe that this ad was so bold as to tout the fact that the "schools" they use are not accredited. It is all a part of the "Who do you trust?" game we are all now forced to play. And with organizations selling advanced college degrees to anyone with a bank account, more and more people are calling themselves "doctor" without the necessary training to know what they are talking about. This is deadly serious when it involves issues related to health.

There are plenty of promises in the literature you sent, but little evidence to back up the claims. For starters, there's also no information about the product's ingredients. The individual in charge goes by "Dr.," but it never reveals what type of doctor he is. All it says is that he is an internationally known leading nutrition authority. A question that comes to mind is, "Known by whom?" It reads like a scam. Based on what you sent me, this product is not something I would buy or recommend.

To avoid being taken for a ride, it's important to be alert to the different ways that questionable products can be foisted on the public. This particular product uses a common strategy: a collection of convincing true-life testimonials. The pitch is "it worked for them, so why not for you?" Factor in the support of someone with dubious credentials and you end up with an impressive marketing strategy.

Here are a few basic guidelines to protect yourself from this type of fraud:

1. Make sure that the people giving you advice are the real deal. If they're passing themselves off as experts, find out if this is the case by checking for their accomplishments outside of the particular organization selling the products.

2. Put up those antennas. Ask questions if your instinct tells you that something is not quite right, or you want more background on the product, the scientific personalities or the evidence being proffered.

3. If a particular scientific concept is the basis of the product, check to see if this concept is shared by experts not associated with the product or company.

4. Always keep your physician up-to-date on what you are taking. There can be side effects or interactions with medications that need to be considered.

If you ever uncover health fraud, report it immediately. In the white pages of most phonebooks, under Consumer Complaint and Protection Coordinators, is a list of numbers you can use to contact the oversight agencies for most of the professions.

Finally, it is vital to always be cognizant of the fact that this is a "buyer beware" market. If you fall victim to an economic fraud, you've lost your money. But if your health is involved, the risks and potential losses can have life-altering implications.

Send questions to: "On Nutrition," Ed Blonz, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. For e-mail, address inquiries to: ed@blonz.com. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Ed Blonz, Ph.D., is a nutrition scientist and the author of "Power Nutrition" (Signet, 1998) and the "Your Personal Nutritionist" book series (Signet, 1996).

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AT&T Corp rs	19.69	19.27	19.38	+ .13
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Alltel	47.00	46.04	46.34	— .60
AmEl Pw	27.29	26.93	27.08	— .22
AndarkPtr	44.48	44.09	44.20	— .22
ATMOS Egy	24.59	24.18	24.18	— .33
Aviall	11.77	11.51	11.57	— .23
BP PLC	40.61	40.32	40.36	— .14
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Bank of Amer	83.15	82.41	82.42	— .73
BellSouth	25.95	25.12	25.17	— .54
BurlNoSFe	28.67	28.37	28.42	— .30
Caterpillar	65.61	64.75	65.38	— .23
CenterPoint	9.12	7.90	7.93	— .19
ChevronTex	72.80	71.80	71.97	— .77
Citigroup	45.77	45.10	45.11	— .63
CocaCola	45.14	44.64	45.00	+ .10
ColgatePal	56.70	56.30	56.53	+ .23
CmclMetals	17.84	17.50	17.50	— .37
ConocoPhill	53.99	53.32	53.51	— .19
Cooper Inds	41.78	41.50	41.65	— .18
DaimlrChry	34.05	33.67	33.91	—1.19
DeltaAirl	12.82	12.39	12.49	— .05
Dillards Inc	13.89	13.59	13.66	— .23
DowChem	31.25	31.00	31.12	— .13
DuPont	42.38	42.04	42.20	— .37
EastmanChem	33.60	32.95	33.43	+ .08
EstKodak	26.30	25.87	25.93	— .37
EDS Corp	22.50	22.36	22.47	+ .01
Entergy	49.85	49.41	49.62	+ .07
ExxonMobil	35.84	35.45	35.51	— .37
FootLocker	13.75	13.50	13.70	+ .08
GenDynam	79.70	78.93	79.02	— .42
GenElec	27.85	27.33	27.38	— .40
GenMills	47.46	46.95	47.12	— .34
GenMotors	36.02	35.51	35.67	— .20
GaPacific	19.59	19.38	19.58	+ .06
Goodrich	22.34	22.00	22.24	— .08
Goodyear	5.18	5.01	5.06	— .12
GtAtlPac	10.33	10.06	10.20	— .04
Halliburtn	22.64	21.56	21.89	— .41
Hanson ADS	27.10	26.80	26.92	— .40
HarteHanks	19.98	19.15	19.22	+ .10
HomeDepot	33.25	32.68	32.80	— .28
Honeywellintl	28.20	27.73	28.18	+ .48
IBM	83.67	82.51	82.71	—1.01
IntlPaper	37.78	37.27	37.28	— .50
JohnsonJn	52.74	51.64	51.77	— .97
KinderMorg	53.40	53.15	53.28	— .13
Kroger Co	16.58	16.35	16.46	— .14
LockheedM	52.79	51.46	51.82	— .23
Lowes Cos	47.24	46.61	47.16	+ .13
Lubys	2.62	2.60	2.60	
LucentTech	1.72	1.68	1.69	
MarathonOil	26.70	26.27	26.29	— .26
MayDeptStr	22.61	22.41	22.54	— .05
Medtronic	49.18	48.50	48.99	— .40
Motorola	8.92	8.68	8.75	— .30
NCR Corp	30.00	29.51	29.65	— .30
Navistar	36.38	35.71	36.12	— .25
PNM Rescs	25.87	25.48	25.53	— .41
Penney JC	17.05	16.81	16.93	— .05
PepBoys	14.07	13.85	14.00	— .07
PepsiCo	47.35	46.90	47.25	— .07
PhelpDodge	38.86	38.50	38.86	— .04
PilgrmPrd B	12.10	11.69	11.72	— .27
Praxair	63.97	62.86	63.97	+ 1.00
ProctGamb	89.87	89.31	89.82	+ .02
RadioShack	26.65	26.33	26.55	— .10
RoyalDut	45.67	45.24	45.32	— .51
SBC Comm	24.24	23.16	23.16	—1.02
SaraLee	19.34	19.00	19.00	— .34
Scripps EW	82.44	81.69	81.70	— .58
SearsRoeb	38.63	38.20	38.47	— .13
SherwinW	27.41	27.13	27.21	— .28
SouthernCo	29.15	28.69	28.85	— .22
SwstAirl	18.20	16.70	16.88	— .11
SprintFON	14.71	14.41	14.68	+ .04
SprintPCS	5.81	5.70	5.73	+ .03
Sunoco Inc	38.60	38.01	38.12	— .08
TXU Corp	20.35	20.00	20.15	— .03
TempleInland	44.60	44.20	44.33	— .17
TexInd	23.15	22.95	23.00	— .17
TexasInst	18.71	18.15	18.18	— .51
Textron	42.31	41.80	41.94	+ .39
TrinityInds	21.93	21.26	21.30	— .64
TylerTech	5.24	5.06	5.11	— .05
UnionPacif	58.98	58.62	58.75	— .29
USSteel	16.75	16.42	16.43	— .14
UnitedTech	74.67	74.10	74.27	— .22
Unocal	28.80	28.40	28.51	— .15
VerizonComm	36.13	34.82	34.93	—1.07
WalMart	57.00	56.50	56.60	— .40
WellsFargo	51.33	50.71	50.76	— .62
WstnGasRs	39.10	38.70	38.86	+ 1.11
WinnDixie	11.90	11.79	11.82	— .08
Xerox Cp	10.67	10.50	10.52	— .25
YumBrands	29.45	28.93	28.96	— .29

JULY 21 2003

Hundreds wait for Lynch to return home

ELIZABETH, W.Va. (AP) — Foodland can't keep its $5 Jessica Lynch T-shirts in stock. Subway is adding an extra sandwich maker for the week. And lines are already forming at Exxon, this town's only gas station.

Tuesday's homecoming of the former POW is providing a brief economic boom for Wirt County, which has the dubious distinction of having West Virginia's highest unemployment rate — 15.1 percent.

Hundreds of out-of-towners, many of them journalists, have brought cash, along with unprecedented traffic, to this county seat of about 1,000 for Lynch's first public comments since her wounding, capture and rescue.

Much of the benefit has washed over to neighboring Wood County, which has the hotels closest to the Lynch celebration. Rooms in Parkersburg, about 20 miles away, are booked solid Monday night.

Lynch, still recuperating from multiple broken bones and other injuries, and family members will be flown to Elizabeth by helicopter from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

She's scheduled to make a brief statement before traveling in a military motorcade to her home in Palestine, a town of about 300 residents some five miles away.

Both counties have seen modest economic gains since March 23, when the tale of Lynch's capture during an ambush of her Fort Bliss, Texas-based 507th Maintenance Company convoy caught the nation's attention.

"Hotels, gas stations and markets were packed during the first onslaught (last spring), and since this is a more joyous celebration we hope a lot more people visit," said Rick Modesitt, president of the Wood County Commission.

Wood County picked up "a few thousand" dollars in the county's hotel tax during March and April from the extra room bookings, with higher totals expected this month, Modesitt said.

"We're a lot busier than last summer — maybe busier than we've been since the Wal-Mart opened in Pettyville a few years back," said Foodland cashier Judy Edwards, referring to the competition 15 miles away.

In the past couple of weeks, for example, the grocery has sold about 150 T-shirts with a photo of Lynch in her Army fatigues. Another shipment of 50 is on its way, Edwards said.

Several of Elizabeth's retailers, like the Subway sandwich shop, are hiring extra workers to handle the crush. Some residents are planning to rent out parking spaces, and hot dog and drink vendors are expected to spring up.

Most residents, though, don't expect the spending surge to have a lasting impact.

Ex-Bryan priest charged with theft

BRYAN (AP) — Days after a former Bryan priest was charged with theft for skimming money from the church coffers, the Austin Diocese said it would require regular financial audits of its churches.

Diocese spokeswoman Helen Osman told The Bryan-College Station Eagle that the accusations against former Santa Teresa Catholic church priest Victor Robles have prompted tougher auditing requirements.

"It's very unfortunate," she said. "The people at Santa Teresa are hardworking folks who just have a great deal of love for their parish. For this to have happened, it's just a tragedy."

Robles was arrested and released on $40,000 bond from the Brazos County jail Friday.

"It will be good to be able to get some answers to some questions," Osman said of Robles' arrest.

Robles is charged with taking more than $160,000 in contributions made to the church during weddings, funerals and baptisms, the newspaper reported. If convicted of the theft charge, Robles could face up to 20 years in prison.

"It's hard to still have faith," said Eddie Rodriguez, a church member since 1961. "He was a priest, and you think he's doing a good job for the community and our kids."

Robles worked at the parish from 1988 until last year. Police say he skimmed money during the last four years he worked at the church and used it to pay off personal debts.

Robles' attorney, Kyle Davis, could not be reached for comment by The Associated Press Sunday.

The priest resigned last year after church members alleged ethical violations. Osman said Robles was removed from the priesthood on Oct. 11.

Today's chuckle

Officer's bark prompts suspect to give up

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) — Henry Ritter had no plans of biting a suspect he was chasing, but he saw nothing wrong with barking.



Ritter and Richard Gough, both deputies with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department, stopped a car July 12 because of a broken taillight. The driver, 21-year-old John Nicholas Hood, jumped from the car and ran into the woods, according to the arrest report.

The officers' calls to Hood went unanswered so Gough said they were sending a dog after him. Ritter started barking.

"He stood up and said, 'I'm here. Call off the dog,'" Ritter said.

Hood, of Decatur, appeared in court this week and was charged with driving under the influence, driving on a revoked license, evading arrest and a taillight violation. Judge Bob Moon bound his case over to the grand jury.

"I suppose as long as the officers have had their shots and don't bite, I'll allow them to continue that technique," Moon said.

Ritter said it wasn't the first time he and Gough have barked at a suspect.

"We've played that card, and it's worked," he said.

Brolin cast as Ronald Reagan in mini-series

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Democratic Party stalwart Barbara Streisand will be welcoming a Republican president home.

Her husband, actor James Brolin, has been cast as Ronald Reagan in a four-hour CBS miniseries titled "The Reagans," set to air during the November sweeps period.

The network hasn't asked Streisand her opinion of the casting, "but we'll have to live with that," CBS Chairman Leslie Moonves joked Sunday in remarks to the Television Critics Association.

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Spotlight



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Granite and bronze memorials are available at Hillside Monument Works and Greg Graves goes to great lengths to see that the finished product is one that reflects the individualism of the loved one for whom it is created.

W.C. and Greg Graves realize they provide an important service to the community and work hard to maintain the trust and confidence of the people. Give them a call at 573-5251 and they will be happy to counsel with you concerning your present or future needs.

Elderly driver says he's heart broken

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The elderly driver whose car plowed through a Santa Monica outdoor market, killing 10 people, has ended his silence, describing himself as "so very distraught" and heartbroken.

The statement by 86-year-old Russell Weller was read aloud Sunday by the Rev. Stephen C. Lien at Brentwood Presbyterian Church, where Weller and his wife have worshipped for more than 30 years.

"There are no words to express the feelings my family, and I have for those who suffered loss and pain as a result of Wednesday's devastating accident," Weller said in the statement. "I am so very distraught, and my heart is broken over the extent of the tragedy."

Two of the victims, Molok Ghoulian Nabatian, 63, and her 7-month-old grandson, were remembered Sunday at a service attended by hundreds of mourners.

Brendon Davidi Esfahani was the first child of Nabatian's daughter, Janet Davidi Esfahani, who was at the farmer's market when the crash occurred.

"To lose your mom and to lose your child at the same time is just unbelievable," said Alaleh Kamran, a close friend of the family.

Nabatian, an immigrant from Iran, was remembered as a woman who loved life, always brought happiness to others and cared deeply about her family and friends. They said she loved to spend time with Brendon, who they described as a beautiful and happy baby.

Police are investigating whether Weller may have first hit a Mercedes, then sped toward the market while leaving the scene of that collision.

Police also said they found evidence that Weller hit his garage with his car at least twice. Weller's attorney, Jim Bianco, has released a statement saying the tragedy was an accident. Weller mowed down more than 50 pedestrians.

"He should have stopped when he knew he was not supposed to drive. If anything happens to him, it doesn't matter to us anyway," said Nazi Noor, Brendon's great aunt.

Police have said Weller told them he didn't realize until too late that Arizona Avenue, the street where the farmers market was held, was closed to traffic. They also said Weller believes he might have hit the gas instead of the brake as he tried to stop.

In his statement, Weller said he called his pastor after the accident, asking for prayers for the victims and their families and "I continue my own prayers for all those who are suffering and grieving during this very difficult time."

Police release identities of four found dead in suburban home

HOUSTON (AP) — Police on Sunday identified four young people found shot to death in a suburban Houston home, but said they had no suspects or motive.

The victims were found shot multiple times Friday in a home on a tree-lined street in a south Houston suburb. Houston homicide detectives said two of the four also had been struck in the head with something.

Autopsy results had not been released Sunday.

Meanwhile, Houston police continued to search for clues in the deaths of Tiffany Nichole Rowell, 18; Marcus Ray Precella, 19; Rachel Ann Koloroutis, 18, and Adelbert Nicholas Sanchez, 21. Neighbors discovered the bodies after some of the victims' friends ran from the home screaming that those inside had been shot.

A friend of Rowell's, Kyle Clement, called her a sweet girl who "always had a smile for everybody."

Precella's aunt, Yolanda Romero, said her nephew was a good person who struggled to graduate from an alternative school but ultimately did in 2000.

Probated sex offender charged with killing girl to keep her silent

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A registered sex offender released on probation after a child rape case last year was charged with murdering a girl to silence her screams in the theater where he worked.

Dominic Akers, 22, was arrested Saturday after police found the victim in a storage area where Akers said he had hidden her body, according to an affidavit filed with the arrest warrant.

Akers told police he strangled the girl Wednesday after she broke away from what the 380-pound custodian believed would be a sexual encounter in a third-floor projection area of the Sunshine Theatre, the affidavit says.

He said he choked her until she lost consciousness and, when she recovered and began screaming, choked her to death, believing "he had to kill her because he did not want to go back to jail," the document says.

A day later, it says, "he dragged her body into a storage room that no one uses and covered the entrance with a Coke-candy machine."

A 16-year-old Santa Fe girl, Marissa Mathy-Zvaifler, had been reported missing after attending a hip-hop concert Wednesday at the Sunshine Theatre. Her family was notified of the discovery, Lt. Bob Huntsman said Sunday, but the body was not formally identified as hers.

"She was the most beautiful, wonderful girl — she was the light of my life," said her father, Tony Mathy, reached by phone Sunday.

Around 10 a.m. Saturday, Frank Akers, the defendant's father, flagged down a passing police officer, saying the family of the missing girl needed to know her body was still at the theater, according to the affidavit. During the subsequent ride to police headquarters, Akers' son told officers about her death, it says.

The girl had wanted to meet the band backstage, Akers told officers. He said he "flipped out" when she pulled away from him, and he began choking her, the affidavit says.

She had arrived at the Sunshine in a limousine with friends for a hip-hop concert featuring Atmosphere, a Minnesota group.

A Sunshine employee referred calls seeking comment to the theater's attorney.

The warrant charging Akers with murder was signed by state District Judge James Blackmer on Saturday. He was also charged with kidnapping, tampering with evidence and aggravated battery. He remains in custody in lieu of $1 million bail.

Akers, who was required to register as a sex offender, lived in a downtown halfway house called Second Chance with 16 other registered sex offenders, Sheriff Darren White said.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Is this a case of over treatment?

DEAR DR. GOTT: When my 60-year-old wife was found to have a serum cholesterol of 146 milligrams, her doctor prescribed Pravachol 20 milligrams daily. Is this necessary?

DEAR READER: In my opinion, no — unless your wife has some health condition, such as advanced coronary artery disease. Authorities recommend a cholesterol level below 200 milligrams for most adults. Your wife's 146 is very low for a 60-year-old and, I think the expense and risks of drug therapy are not exceeded by the benefits.

I urge your wife to discuss the situation with her doctor — or, if necessary, obtain a second opinion from another physician. Pravachol and other "statin" drugs can occasionally cause liver disease or muscle damage. Therefore, they should not be prescribed except in specific instances, such as an obvious elevation of the blood cholesterol or when a very low level is mandatory because of underlying heart disease.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: My local pharmacy is owned by a department store chain, so it's no surprise that most of the shelves are taken up with greeting cards, perfumes, soft drinks, toys and so forth. I'm not as much bothered by this as I am by the fact that, at the back of the store, the pharmacists are shielded from the customer's view by one-way glass. To me, this is spying.

DEAR READER: Retail chains have certainly modified the look (and stock) of pharmacies. I suppose these changes stem from business decisions, and are inevitable. I don't understand why the pharmacists are shielded by one-way glass. Why not ask the store manager about this?

DEAR DR. GOTT: My wife claims that her allergies act up from the moment our cat enters the room. The poor cat used to sit in her lap but now settles for mine at the opposite side of the room. I told my wife that her reaction is all in her mind, that it isn't possible to be affected unless fur is flying. Now the cat and I are in the doghouse. Who's right, please?

DEAR READER: I'm afraid that you and the cat will have to remain in the doghouse.

Animals constantly shed flakes of dead skin (dander) — as do we — to which some people are highly allergic. Your wife's reaction is telling you that the cat may be the cause of her allergic reaction, even though you cannot see the dander shed by the cat when it enters the room and plops on your wife's lap.

An allergist would be able to resolve this issue, using blood tests and other techniques, as well as to help her with the problem, using antihistamines or desensitization injections.

In the meantime, if you keep telling your wife that it's all in her head, you'll really get her dander up and see the fur fly.

y write him through your newspaper or send their mail directly to Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th fl., New York, NY 10016.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Checklist for checkups will help readers stay healthy

DEAR ABBY: People want to stay healthy at any age. In order to accomplish that, they need the most current information on how to prevent disease. They also need a practical tool to help them when they talk to their doctors.

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), part of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), has developed screening test checklists for women and men, which include the most recent recommendations from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. They describe which tests you need, when and why.

"Women: Stay Healthy at Any Age, A Checklist for Your Next Checkup" lists screening tests such as mammograms, Pap smears, colorectal cancer and depression, and pointers on eating a healthy diet and quitting smoking.

"Men: Stay Healthy at Any Age, A Checklist for Your Next Checkup" contains a similar checklist, including prostate cancer screening, STDs, cholesterol checks, blood pressure and an immunization schedule.

I hope you will pass the word along to your readers, Abby. — **TOMMY G. THOMPSON, SECRETARY, HHS**

DEAR SECRETARY THOMPSON: Thank you for a helpful letter. Effective medical care consists not only of curing illness, but also in giving people the necessary tools to prevent disease.

Dear Abby readers can request these free, pocket-size booklets in English or Spanish by calling the AHRQ publications clearinghouse toll-free: (800) 358-9295, or sending an e-mail: ahrqpubs@ahrq.gov. To download these prevention and wellness booklets — and many others — visit the Web site: www.ahrq.gov/consumer.

**

DEAR ABBY: I am home for the summer after my freshman year at college and need some advice about my mother's behavior.

Before I left, I thought Mom and I had a normal mother/daughter relationship. However, the whole time I was away at school, not once did she ever call, write or e-mail me. (My father did stay in close contact.)

Now that I'm home, Mother gets annoyed by everything I do and say. Five days ago, I became so stressed about my summer job and things going on in my personal life that I started to cry. Mom marched into my room and screamed at me to "stop bawling!"

I screamed back, telling her to leave me alone. She continued to yell at me, saying I don't appreciate all she's done for me. Nothing could be further from the truth! I have always been grateful to both of my parents and have worked hard to make them proud of me.

Then Mom floored me by saying she "didn't need me around" and "didn't want me anymore." I ran out of my room sobbing and we haven't spoken since. She occupies herself with her girlfriends and her women's club.

Abby, my poor father feels caught in the middle. Can you please help me sort out what to do? — **SAD AND DESPERATE IN VERMONT**

DEAR SAD AND DESPERATE: Have a frank talk with your father about your mother and find out what has caused her change of behavior. You are an adult, and you have the right to know. It appears that she is overwhelmed, stressed and angry about something — and it may have nothing to do with you. Since there appears to be a major communication problem right now, ask your father to schedule some appointments so the three of you can talk this out in family counseling. If your mother refuses to go, you and your father should go without her.

**

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

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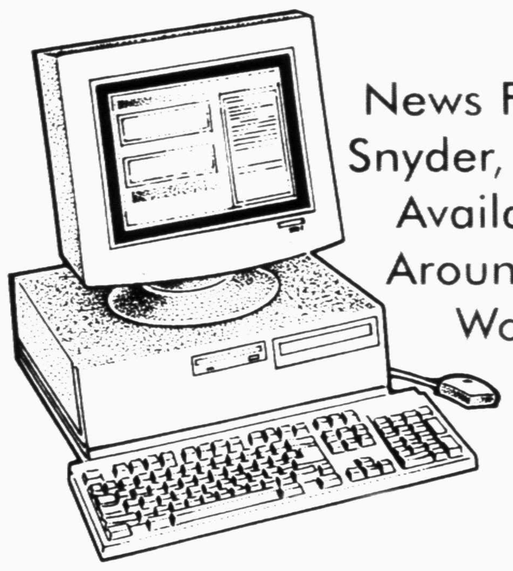
Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

(Editors: For editorial questions, please contact Alan McDermott, amcdermott@amuniversal.com)

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Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Myco Industries Inc. will drill the No. 1 Frances, an 8,500-foot wildcat located 13 miles northwest of Snyder. Location is in Section 329, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Borden County

Chevron USA will drill the No. 35-36 Jo-Mill field unit, 15 miles southwest of Gail. Planned for a depth of 7,500 feet, drill site is in Section 13, Block 33, T4N, T&P survey.

Chevron will drill the No. 3528 Jo-Mill field unit, 15 miles southwest of Gail. Contracted for a depth of 7,500 feet, location is in Section 13, Block 33, T3N, T&P survey.

Chevron will drill the No. 5520 Jo-Mill field unit, 15 miles southwest of Gail. Planned depth is 7,500 feet, and location is in Section 25, Block 33, T4N, T&P survey.

Chevron will drill the No. 5514 Jo-Mill field unit, 15 miles southwest of Gail. Planned for a depth of 7,500 feet, drill site is n Section 25, Block 33, T4N, T&P survey.

Howard County

Partee Drilling Inc. will drill the No. 2 Chapman, an 6,000-foot wildcat located two miles northwest of Big Spring. Location is in Section 17, Block 33, T1N, T&P survey.

Partee Drilling will drill the No. 1 Chapman, a 6,000-foot wildcat located two miles northwest of Big Spring. Location is in Section 17, Block 33, T1N, T&P survey.

L.C.S. Production Co. will drill the No. 514 Guitar in the Would Have field, six miles northwest of Big Spring. Planned for a depth of 5,999 feet, location is in Section 14, Block A, Bauer & Cockrell survey.

L.C.S. Production will drill the No. 110 Guitar in the Would Have field, six miles northwest of Big Spring. Planned depth is 5,999 feet, and drill site is in Section 10, Block A, Bauer and Cockrell survey.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Bad weather delays recovery of victims

MOUNT KENYA, Kenya (AP) — Bad weather prevented helicopters today from reaching a Mount Kenya plane crash scene to recover the remains of the 14 victims, including three generations of one American family.

Rangers and other rescue workers have hiked to the site at 16,000 feet on the side of Point Lenana, the third-highest peak of Africa's second-highest mountain.

The twin-engine Fairchild turboprop crashed there as clouds were clearing just before sunset Saturday, killing the two South African pilots and all passengers. On board was a retired Emory University medical school professor; his wife; three of their children and their spouses; and four grandchildren.

A 21-man team of Kenyan police investigators and Kenya Wildlife Service recovery workers at the scene early today began sifting through crash debris scattered over a large area, said Kubai Severino, a police official.

Rangers recovered eight U.S. passports when they visited the scene late Saturday but reportedly found no survivors. Efforts to recover the remains were suspended early today because deteriorating weather on the mountain kept helicopters from landing, Severino said.

Authorities expected the skies to clear later in the day and the recovery effort to resume, he said.

In the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, Josiah Achoki, the wildlife service assistant director for security, speculated that cloudy weather likely caused the crash. "For a couple of days now, the weather up on Mount Kenya has been very bad," Achoki told reporters.

In Atlanta, the Rev. P.C. Enniss Jr. at Trinity Presbyterian Church said he had spent much of Sunday with the victims' relatives. "They were just loved by every member of the congregation, and they were just like family," he said.

Enniss gave the names of the dead as: Dr. George Brumley, 68; his wife, Jean, 67; three of their children, George III, daughters Lois and Beth; George's wife Julia and two children, George IV and Jordan; Lois' husband Richard Morrell and their son, Alex, 11, and Beth's husband William Love and their daughter, Sarah, 12.

Heavy fighting in Monrovia kills at least 60; embassy hit by shell

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Heavy fighting engulfed the Liberian capital today, killing at least 60 people as mortars barraged the city in an all-out battle between rebels and forces of President Charles Taylor.

Enraged Liberians lined up at least 18 bloodied, mangled bodies in the street outside the U.S. Embassy compound, after a shell hit an American diplomatic compound across the street, where at least 10,000 refugees have taken refuge.

The mortar barrage came as helicopters swooped in today bringing U.S. Marines to secure the American Embassy. The aircraft dropped off Marines wearing green camouflage, body armor and helmets and took off carrying between 25 and 30 foreign aid workers and some foreign journalists.

In another neighborhood, a shell hit a house in one neighborhood, killing 18 people inside, emergency workers at the scene said. Another 27 Liberians were killed in other attacks today, hospital officials said.

One shell hit the commissary building inside the main U.S. Embassy compound, but no one was injured. An American journalist was wounded in Monrovia's port area, the scene of fierce fighting for several days.

Two Liberian guards working for the American embassy were wounded when the shell hit the residence complex across the street. The complexes last here hit on June 12, during the rebels' last push to take the capital and oust Taylor.

Several arrests reported over weekend

Arrests

Snyder officers arrested a 31-year-old woman in the 3900 block of Eastridge at 1:50 p.m. Saturday on warrants for theft by check.

A 19-year-old man was taken into custody at 8:20 p.m. Saturday on warrants for driving without a license, speeding and failure to appear before a judge.

DPS troopers arrested a 55-year-old man on U.S. 84 at 9:10 p.m. Saturday for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

A 39-year-old man was arrested in the 400 block of 32nd Street at 10:04 p.m. Saturday for Class C assault, family violence.

Officers took a 61-year-old man into custody at the Towle Park pavilion at 11:56 p.m. Saturday for public intoxication.

At 1:24 a.m. Sunday, a 33-year-old man was arrested in the 2500 block of Ave. X for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated, his second offense.

Two women were arrested after a complaint was received early Sunday that they ran another vehicle off the road. Taken into custody was a 37-year-old woman for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated and a 30-year-old woman on several outstanding warrants.

Thefts

Michelle Rivera reported the theft of a bicycle at 4608 Ave. R Saturday afternoon and a Class B report was submitted.

Carcie Posey reported the theft of a stereo from her car while it was parked at Wal-Mart Saturday night. A burglary of a motor vehicle report was submitted.

At 9:50 p.m. Saturday, Dee Hazelwood reported the theft of a stereo from his residence and officers submitted a report for burglary of a residence.

Tabitha Martinez at 3:14 a.m. Sunday said her cellular phone had been stolen. Officers advised an offense report for Class B theft would be submitted.

Billy Newton at 2:25 p.m. Sunday reported the burglary of his residence at 3733 Rose Circle.

Nora Hernandez Sunday night reported a burglary at her residence at 2233 Sunset Sunday night.

Accident

Snyder officers responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 3200 block of Ave. A at 5:30 p.m. Sunday.

A 1988 Dodge Ram driven by Dick Fowler, 85, of 3209 Ave. struck a utility pole. No one was injured.

Assault

A woman called 9-1-1 to report another female subject creating a disturbance at her residence. The dispatcher could hear an altercation and officers responded.

Two offense reports for Class A assault were filed.

Disturbances

A woman reported at 9:40 p.m. Saturday that her father was threatening to assault her mother. Officers advised a Class C report for assault, family violence would be submitted and the man was taken into custody.

Overdose

A man requested an ambulance on 20th Place at 5:10 p.m. Sunday and reported a male subject taking 24 pills. Snyder EMS was dispatched and transported the subject to Cogdell Memorial Hospital. An offense report for overdose was filed.

Harassment

A clerk at Town and Country North Saturday night reported that she was receiving obscene phone calls. An officer advised that a close patrol would be maintained.

Gas drive off

A clerk at Rip Griffin's Truck Stop reported a gas drive off worth $20.34 at 11 a.m. Sunday.

A clerk at Wes-T-Go reported an $8 drive off at 10:16 p.m. Sunday.

At 2 a.m. today, a $20 drive off was reported from the Allsup's in Hermleigh.

Obituaries

Adon DeLoera

1970-2003

COLORADO CITY — Rosary for Adon DeLoera, 32, is set for 7 this evening in the Kiker-Seale Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral Mass is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday in St. Ann's Catholic Church with burial to follow in the Mitchell County Cemetery.

Mr. DeLoera died Friday, July 18, in Mitchell County Hospital.

Born Oct. 11, 1970 in Colorado City, Mr. DeLoera was a U.S. Army veteran. He worked in road construction and was a member of St. Ann's Catholic Church.

Survivors include his wife, Christina Mendoza of Wylie; a daughter, Deserae DeLoera of Wylie; a son, Damian Adon DeLoera of Wylie; his parents, Thomas and Virginia DeLoera of Colorado City; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Tommy and Liz DeLoera of Snyder, Rey and Linda DeLoera of Boerne and Manuel and Alice DeLoera of Loraine; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Lisa and Craig Randolph of Snyder, Janie and Steve Kiser of Nevada, Texas and Mary Anne and Marty Davila of Colorado City; and several nieces and nephews.

Bessie Hodnett

1922-2003

Bessie Sorrells Hodnett of Big Spring died Sunday, July 20, in Snyder Oaks Care Center.

Graveside service for Mrs. Hodnett, 81, is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in Mt. Olive Memorial Park in Big Spring with the Rev. Walter McCall, Odyssey Hospice chaplain, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Born Jan. 11, 1922 in Somerset, Ky. she married Haril James Hodnett on Feb. 22, 1946 in Big Spring. He died Sept. 20, 1973.

Mrs. Hodnett, a Baptist, was also preceded in death by three husbands, two sisters and two brothers.

Survivors include three sons, Lynn Sorrells of Killeen, Clifford Fountain of Sachse, Texas and Jody Hodnett of Big Spring; a daughter, Linda Tibbetts of Big Spring; a sister, Polly Little of Alabama; four brothers, Jimmy Thomas of Oklahoma City, David Thomas of Big Spring and Mike Thomas and Don Thomas, both of Sweetwater; 16 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

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Bronze Star recipient dies in Iraq ambush

HOUSTON (AP) — A Texas soldier who earned a Bronze Star for bravery died over the weekend in an ambush while on patrol in Iraq, military officials say.

U.S. Army Lt. Jonathan D. Rozier of Katy was killed Saturday when his unit was attacked by rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire in Baghdad, just outside a municipal building, according to the Defense Department.

Rozier died just three days after his 25th birthday, becoming the fifth Houston-area soldier to have died serving in Iraq.

"There were no limits to his aspirations," said his father, David Rozier of Katy. "He wanted to have a career in the military, clear through to retirement."

The younger Rozier, assigned to B Company, 2-70th Armor Battalion, 1st Armored Division out of Fort Riley, Kan., had won the Bronze Star for valor during the battle of Al Hillah. Just 15 of the 4,000 Bronze Stars awarded during Operation Iraqi Freedom were given for valor.

Rozier, a Dallas native, moved to Katy with his family in 1991. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in economics and also married that year. He and his wife, Jessica, have a 9-month-old baby, Justin.

"We certainly knew he would be in danger," said Rozier's father.

The last time the soldier had spoken with his wife was the day before he was killed.

"We thank God that she had the opportunity to talk with him and that they had the opportunity to talk about the future," said his father. "That was a real blessing."

The Defense Department said in a prepared statement Sunday that the lieutenant's unit was providing security at the municipal building when the attack occurred.

"He loved the Army, he loved everything about it - he knew it was a cause worth fighting and dying for," Jimmy Parker, a family friend, said Sunday.

Births

Danny and Ashlee Elder of Snyder announce the birth of a son, Korbin Bay Elder, at 3:10 p.m. on July 19 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Korbin weighed seven pounds, two ounces.

Paternal grandparents are Kathy and Dean Eaton of Hermleigh and maternal grandparents are Vanessa Palmer and Wesley McGinty, both of Snyder.

Marilla Flores and Blaz Suarez of Snyder are parents of a daughter, Raelynn Renee Suarez. Raelynn was born at 11:17 p.m. on July 19 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. She weighed six pounds, one ounce.

Paternal grandmother is Luisa Osorio of Snyder. Maternal grandparents are Ray and Patsy Flores of Snyder.

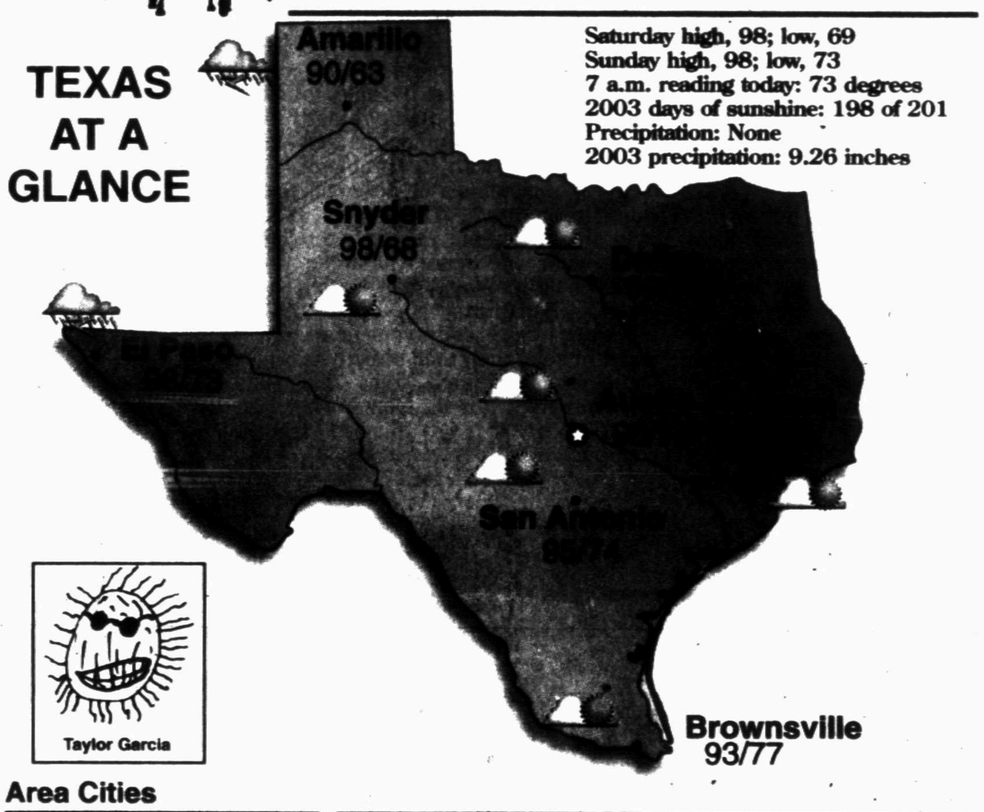
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Tue 7/22	Wed 7/23	Thu 7/24
98/68	**96/70**	**94/69**
Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 98F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the upper 60s.
Sunrise 6:51 AM / Sunset 8:49 PM	Sunrise 6:51 AM / Sunset 8:48 PM	Sunrise 6:52 AM / Sunset 8:48 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Saturday high, 98; low, 69
Sunday high, 98; low, 73
7 a.m. reading today: 73 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 198 of 201
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: 9.26 inches

Taylor Garcia

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	98	72	mst sunny	El Paso	98	73	t-storm	Midland	100	71	mst sunny
Amarillo	90	63	t-storm	Fort Stockton	98	71	pt sunny	Raymondville	95	75	pt sunny
Austin	95	72	pt sunny	Gainesville	97	71	t-storm	Rosenberg	93	74	pt sunny
Beaumont	94	74	t-storm	Greenville	96	71	t-storm	San Antonio	95	74	pt sunny
Brownsville	93	77	pt sunny	Houston	92	74	pt sunny	San Marcos	96	73	mst sunny
Brownwood	101	71	mst sunny	Kingsville	94	74	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	96	71	t-storm
Corpus Christi	92	77	pt sunny	Livingston	94	72	pt sunny	Sweetwater	99	70	mst sunny
Corsicana	97	73	mst sunny	Longview	93	71	t-storm	Tyler	96	74	pt sunny
Dallas	99	76	pt sunny	Lubbock	96	67	mst sunny	Weatherford	99	71	pt sunny
Del Rio	99	76	mst sunny	Lufkin	97	73	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	97	71	t-storm

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	84	66	t-storm	Houston	92	74	pt sunny	Phoenix	107	85	t-storm
Boston	81	70	t-storm	Los Angeles	80	66	pt sunny	San Francisco	73	57	windy
Chicago	73	58	pt sunny	Miami	90	78	t-storm	Seattle	84	57	sunny
Dallas	99	76	pt sunny	Minneapolis	76	59	pt sunny	St. Louis	78	65	rain
Denver	87	61	mst sunny	New York	84	71	t-storm	Washington, DC	86	73	t-storm

Moon Phases

Last	New	First	Full
Jul 21	Jul 29	Aug 5	Aug 12

UV Index

Tue 7/22	Wed 7/23	Thu 7/24
Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

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

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