INSIDE

Texas lottery results 2
Sports 5
Classified ads . . . . . 6 & 7
Midday stocks 7
What's Up 10

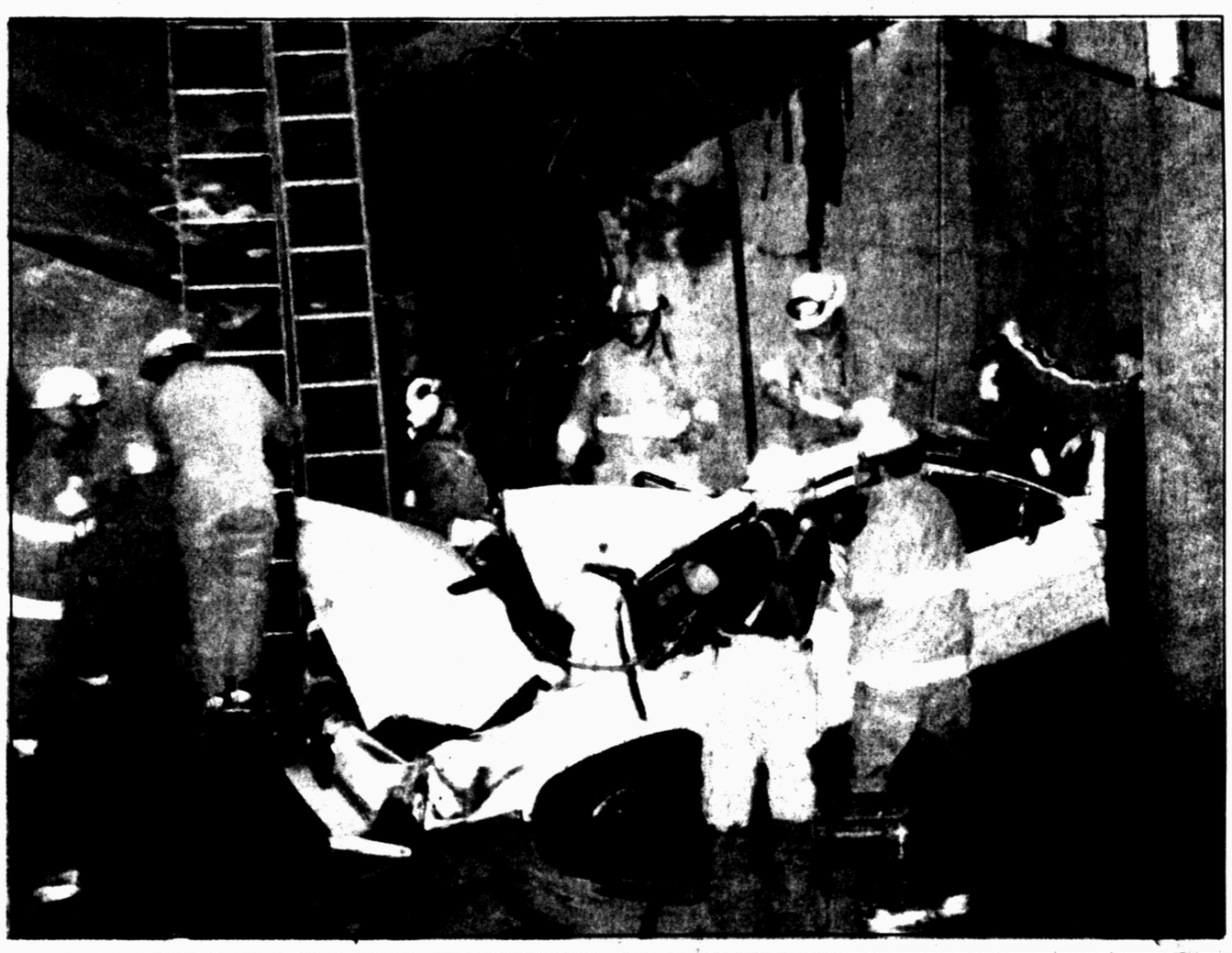
WT-Int. Crude - $28.83
WTIC Posted - $26.00
Natural Gas - $5.142

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY

Feb. 26, 2001
Vol. 52 No. 257
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Terry D. Williams







GRINDING CRASH – A 69-year-old Austin man was critically injured in a one-vehicle accident about 7 this morning, about two miles north of Snyder on U.S. Highway 84. March Willard was southbound in a late-model four-door Cadillac when he veered off the right of the roadway, overcorrected and then hit the guardrails on the left side of the road. The vehicle became airborne and crashed into the bottom of the creek bed. Snyder firemen and EMS used the Jaws of Life to remove Willard from the wreckage. An AeroCare helicopter landed at the site to transport the victim to Lubbock's Covenant Medical Center, causing traffic to be stopped about 20 minutes coming into Snyder. Willard was the sole occupant. DPS trooper Bill Blackley investigated. (SDN Photos by Wade Warren)

At 7 tonight...

WTC trustees, staff to meet for budget work

Trustees, administrators and staff of Western Texas College convene this evening for the second of two scheduled budget planning sessions, with the focus to be on specific figures.

"This will be more in-depth and more specific. We will be putting numbers on the ideas that came out of the January board planning session," Dr. Harry Krenek, WTC president, said.

Trustees will be presented projected revenue and proposed expenditures as well as possible options for balancing the budget, Dr. Krenek added.

Among the items to be addressed are analysis of revenue projects and expenditures, personnel, new programs and campus repairs and renovations.

Included among the proposed expenditures will be a priority ranking from the staff of what items need to be addressed first.

The planning session will follow an agenda that includes two items of business and one matter of personnel.

An executive session to discuss two matters of personnel will follow the planning session.

The board also will consider the employment of Tonya Canada as computer science instructor.

In a routine annual item, 64 contracts for professional personnel are on the agenda for renewal.

"We do this every year. Everyone is on the list except for two people that we employed in January. We have to go through the evaluation process with them and will submit their renewals at a later date," Dr. Krenek said.

The Snyder Junior Golf Association will approach trustees with a proposal to pay for the cost of constructing a practice green on the college golf course.

Items for the board's information and discussion include:

—Information from the Faculty Association and Classified Clerical Committee concerning the faculty salary scale.

—Information concerning annual wellness program with Covenant Health Services for all employees and trustees.

—Information on affirmative action workshop for trustees scheduled March 19.

—Information on WTC's participation with other communities that have received training grants.

—Update from Jeanine Wilburn, early childhood education instructor, regarding proposed child-care center.



HONOR STUDENT - Callie Banes was one of 36 WTC students inducted into PTK Sunday.

Brownwood hit hard by storms

BROWNWOOD (AP) — A Brownwood man died in weekend storms that brought high winds, rain and power outages to the region.

Bruce Amonett was in his mobile home on Saturday morning when what authorities described as a downburst of wind slammed into the residence.

Amonett's home at Deer Run Acres was picked up and overturned by the high winds along Brown County Road 135.

The 72-year-old former Brownwood Fire Department captain was seriously injured in the impact. Fire Department officials said Amonett was taken to Brownwood Regional Medical Center where he later died.

Hospital officials did not release the nature of his injuries. But authorities said he was not a tornado victim.

"The damage pattern was consistent with what you see with a down burst," James Cook, area emergency management coordinator, said. "The damage would have been more extensive with a tornado."

The downburst, an extremely concentrated burst of winds, bore almost straight down from a severe thunderstorm.

"We got there before Medevac arrived and were very cautious about trying to get the man out, because the axles of the home were in the air. This was a worry for us, because we didn't want it to cave in on the man anymore than it had," said Sandy Preas, a member of FIRST Responder.

"The trailer was completely demolished. We were on-scene for almost two hours, while a wrecker turned the house back over and we searched," she said.

The downburst was part of a storm pattern that blew through Brown County Saturday, smashing windows and store signs throughout Brownwood.

Several downed power lines and a fallen tree were reported throughout Saturday. As the thunderstorms moved into North Texas, they left behind a trail of electrical fires, downed power lines, road closures, blown-off roofs and power outages.

Locally, wind gusts up to 40 miles per hour blew down some cable TV lines, and played havoc with marker barrels in road construction areas. No other damage was reported to police dispatchers.

WTC honors group conducts ceremony

Thirty-six Western Texas College students were inducted into the Psi Zeta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Sunday afternoon. Phi Theta Kappa is the International Honor Society of the two-year college. Membership in PTK is extended to students each semester who have accumulated 12 or more semester hours, who are working toward an associate degree, and who have a grade point average of 3.2 or higher. Inductees include Lynda Allen, Duane Allred, Amber Atkinson, Callie Bane, Charlotte Barrett, Felsha Biggers, Cheyenne Courtney, Laura Davis, Matt Defer, Anna-Marie Emmons, Debra Foster, Jennifer Freeland and Jamee Goolsby.

Also inducted were Brad Grimmett, Chrisine Guelker, Bill Guynes, Amy Hall, Romelia Hernandez, Michael Lao, Joyce May, Christopher Metsgar, Koichiro Okabe, Suzanne Pollard, Crystal Purser, Jennifer Reed and Vicky Rowland.

Others include Amber Schwertner, Julie Sentell, Angela Stowe, Kamie Stubblefield, KayLee Stubblefield, Jamie Taylor, Trevor Thompson, Jeremy White, Paul Wilson and Toby Zalman.

Chamber plans 'fun night'

The Snyder Chamber of Commerce will hold a "fun night" Tuesday at Scurry County Coliseum.

The event will get underway at 6:30 p.m. in Room A. Hot dogs, chili, beans, cobbler and ice cream will be served to chamber membeers.

Games will be played, including bingo and dominoes.

Those planning to attend should call the chamber office at 573-3558.

Man is no-show at his trial today

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Robby Lee Salazar for failure to appear in 132nd District Court this morning to stand trial for possession of marijuana.

Salazar, 18, of 306 32nd Street was suppose to appear in the district courtroom at 8:30 a.m., but failed to so, District Attorney Dana Cooley said.

"He jumped bond. We have a warrant that has already been issued for his arrest, and the sheriff's office is already looking for him. I have alerted other counties that I know he visits, and I will present an indictment to the next grand jury for failure to appear."

The trial has been recessed until Tuesday.

Salazar is charged with the possession of less than five pounds but more than four ounces of marijuana Sept. 17.

ASK US

Q—Is it legal to let a washing machine drain on the ground and not into the sewer system within the city limits of Snyder?

A—No. The city's ordinances state all waste water must go into the sewer system.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 62 degrees; low, 39; high Sunday, 67; low, 40; 7 a.m. Monday, 47; .06 of an inch precipitation; total for 2001, 2.34 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, cloudy, fog after midnight, 40% rain chance, low 50-55, SE wind 10-20 mph. Tuesday, cloudy, scattered showers, high 60-65.



Shelby Garza
Rain

Sunset:
6:41 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:13 a.m.
Of 56 days in 2001, the sun has shone 49 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

You can never be better than your own self-esteem; that is, how you feel about yourself in relation to others, based on your sense of self-acceptance.

—Robert Anthony

FEB 26 2001

Summer could see power problems spread

LOS ANGELES (AP) — As Californians brace for a summer of anticipated power shortages and the possibility of rolling blackouts, experts are warning their neighbors in states across the West to be ready for the possibility of having to share the pain.

Natural gas supplies are tight, reservoirs are low and a heat wave could drive up demand for electricity.

"It could get bad all over the West this summer," said Craig Pirrong, a finance professor who specializes in energy markets at Washington University in St. Louis. "The likelihood of outages is still greatest in California, because that's where the major deficiency of generating facilities are.

"But things over the entire West could be dicey this summer."

California has been coping with short power supplies for weeks and twice endured short periods of targeted or rolling blackouts in January.

The power alerts were lifted last week, thanks to the availability of more imported electricity and the return to service of power plants that had been down for repairs.

But energy experts predict the state will run short again, particularly when air conditioners crank up in the hottest months.

All the Western states share a power transmission grid, but the area most likely to face problems similar to California's is the Northwest.

Washington, Oregon, Idaho and western Montana depend heavily on hydroelectric power, an energy source facing a double challenge this year.

The Bonneville Power Authority has been forced to draw down its reservoirs to spin generators in recent months under a federal order requiring energy suppliers to sell to California. The order has been lifted, but reservoir levels are perilously low.

That wouldn't be such a concern in a year of normal rain and snowfall, but the snowpack in the Cascade Range this year is only 60 percent of normal. Less runoff means less water refilling reservoirs to power turbines.

"We are looking at having a hard time of meeting our own requirements this summer," said Ed Mosey, spokesman for the Bonneville Power Administration, which supplies roughly half the power for utilities in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and western Montana.

Normally, the agency helps out California during the summer, Mosey said. This year, he said, "Hopefully, we will be avoiding blackouts here, but we won't have any power to spare."

And because the other states in the West are linked through their common power grid, there is the potential that problems also could affect Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Arizona.

If California's situation is severe enough, it could suck electricity from the rest of the grid and set up a ripple effect in other states' utility systems.

"It's a scary thought, but the electricity is tied together like a bunch of high-tension rubber bands," said Kellan Fluckiger, chief operating officer for California's Independent System Operator, which manages 75 percent of the state's transmission system. "If you fool with the tension in one place, it fools with the tension on the other end."

"A limited blackout could become fairly widespread," said Dick Watson, director of the power division of the Northwest Power Planning Council, a policy advisory board.

California's peak demand for power is expected to exceed supplies from May through September, according to the Independent System Operator. The projected deficit will range from 3,030 megawatts in May to as high as 6,815 megawatts in June. It takes about 1,000 megawatts to power 1 million homes.

California officials are taking steps to avoid widespread problems this summer.

Gov. Gray Davis said Friday he has agreed on a tentative plan with Southern California Edison to buy the cash-strapped utility's power lines for an estimated $2.7 billion.

Legislators have been working on bills intended to result in more power plants in the state, and fears that natural gas supplies in Northern California would be depleted by the end of February eased when more suppliers agreed to deliver gas to Pacific Gas and Electric Co.

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events

RESULTS

Lotto Texas

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

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 9-15-17-39-43-50

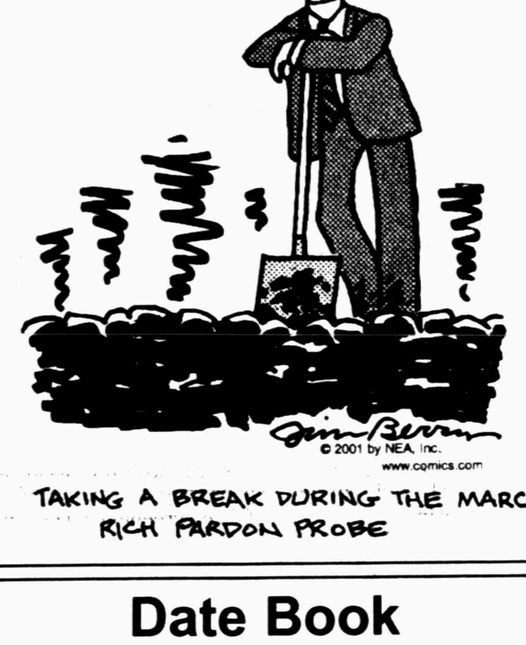
Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $45 million.

Pick 3

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

3-3-3

Berry's World



TAKING A BREAK DURING THE MARC RICH PARDON PROBE

Date Book

Monday, Feb. 26, 2001

Today is the 57th day of 2001 and the 68th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte escaped from the island of Elba.

On this day in 1952, Winston Churchill, the prime minister of the U.K., announced that his country had created an atomic bomb.

On this day in 1987, compact discs of the music of the Beatles went on sale for the first time.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Christopher Marlowe (1564-1593), writer; Victor Hugo (1802-1885), writer; Honore Daumier (1808-1879), artist; Buffalo Bill Cody (1846-1917), Western scout-hunter; Grover Cleveland Alexander (1887-1950), baseball great; Tex Avery (1908-1980), animator; Jackie Gleason (1916-1987), comedian; Tony Randall (1920-), actor, is 81; Fats Domino (1928-), musician, is 73; Johnny Cash (1932-), singer-songwriter, is 69.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1918, the grandstand of the Hong Kong Jockey Club collapsed and burned, killing 604 racing fans. It was the worst disaster in sports history.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "There is one thing stronger than all the armies in the world, and that is an idea whose time has come." — Victor Hugo

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Feb. 23) and first quarter (March 2).

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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
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LD 4.2L V6 Manual
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Monday, February 26th
and Tuesday, February 27th
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• Used Office Equipment • Cleaning Supplies
• Plastic Trash Can Liners • Office Furniture
• Swimming Pool Chemicals
• Used Forklift • Used Utility Trailer

Local/News

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SHIP, Mich. (AP)
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Dear A

By Abigail Va

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DEAR KAREN
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Mother still grapples with daughter's death

MOUNT MORRIS TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — For Kayla Rolland's mother, every day is an emotional struggle as she grapples with the loss of her 6-year-old daughter, shot to death by a first-grade classmate nearly a year ago.

"Kayla's constantly in my thoughts, in my prayers. She keeps urging me to go on and not sit there and curl up in a corner," Veronica McQueen said.

On Feb. 29, 2000, Kayla was in class at Buell Elementary School when she was shot once in the chest with a .32-caliber semiautomatic pistol. Police said a 6-year-old boy pulled the trigger, using a gun he found in a shoe box inside the "flophouse" where he had been living.

When the call from school officials came, McQueen thought her daughter had broken a leg. After the news finally sank in, McQueen took a leave of absence from her job to concentrate on her daughter, 12, and son, 10.

"There's still so much pain, so much hurt. My children talk about her all the time," McQueen said. "I don't think it's ever going to get easier."

On Saturday, about 100 friends and family, many wearing pink ribbons, gathered at a memorial service for Kayla.

Her death has highlighted the poverty faced by many in this working class community of 25,000. It has also fueled debate over new gun legislation, set to take effect in July, which would make it easier to carry a concealed weapon.

Michigan is the first state in more than four years to liberalize its concealed weapons law, but more than a dozen states have similar laws.

Proponents of the legislation argue that stricter laws would not have prevented Kayla's death, nor tragedies like the massacre at Colorado's Columbine High School in which 13 people died.

"The gun laws had nothing do with Columbine, with Buell. ... The shooters in both instances broke numerous gun laws," said Ross Dykman, spokeswoman for the Michigan Coalition for Responsible Gun Owners.

McQueen is not swayed by such arguments. Last May, she joined the Million Mom March in Washington, D.C., where she spoke of the need for gun-safety devices and gun control.

"It surprises me and it doesn't that you can have an incident that touched the hearts of so many people and then have elected representatives who hide behind the skirts of a bunch of special interest people," says prosecutor Arthur Busch, who is lobbying to have the proposed law put to a referendum before it is adopted.

For many, it has been hard to erase the memory of Kayla's shooting.

"I don't think it's the type of thing you move on from," said Ira Rutherford, who retired as school superintendent in June. "I think you learn to live with the pain but I don't think you ever move beyond what happened."

More than half of the families in Buell's school district live in poverty, according to federal estimates. Many are also dealing with the presence of drugs and guns.

Tamarla Owens, whose son was accused of shooting Kayla, was evicted from her home for nonpayment of rent just before the shooting.

Her two boys, now 7 and 9, went to live with her brother. The boys' father, in jail on unrelated charges, said people at the house traded crack for guns.

"I accept responsibility for leaving them there. Basically, the thought that went through my mind (was), 'It's my brother, I know he'll take care of them," Owens said.

Three men were convicted after the shooting. Two, including the boy's uncle, pleaded guilty to federal weapons charges. The third, Jamelle James, pleaded no contest to involuntary manslaughter and was sentenced to two- to 15 years in prison for leaving the pistol in the shoe box.

Owens' son, too young to be charged, now lives as an only child in a foster home.

"We get him all the therapy he needs to help him through this," Owens said. "Maybe when he's older he may realize what really happened."

Busch said he believes the boy still doesn't grasp the gravity of Kayla's death.

"To him it was like a TV show, you know, like a cartoon. He was a little guy with no front teeth, big eyes and a big smile," said Busch. "It's still not over yet."

On the Net:
National Rifle Association: http://www.nra.org
National Organization for Victim Assistance: http://www.try-nova.org

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Woman's crippling pain ends after years of misdiagnosis

DEAR ABBY: I am writing this in hope that other women won't have to experience the years of pain that I did.

As a teen-ager, I began to experience disabling pain when I had my period. It got worse in my 20s. Although I didn't realize it then, I was suffering from endometriosis, and eventually the pain affected my life on a daily basis.

I lost a lot to this disease. I was in graduate school, but couldn't keep up because the pain caused me to miss class, and in the end, I had to drop out. I was fired from a job for taking too many sick days. I lost the love of my life because he couldn't handle my constant pain and the resulting depression, nor the effect on our sex life. For years I couldn't even plan social events, because I never knew when the pain would get too bad. Endometriosis took away my choices.

I consulted doctors and tried many different treatments. Many of the doctors trivialized my symptoms. While there is no cure yet for endometriosis, I have finally been successfully treated, and I'm no longer living with pain.

I now lead the life I always wanted. I'm successful in my job and enjoy my friends and family. I hope any girls or women who read this and identify with my experience will seek help. Their pain is not normal, and they do not have to live with it. — **KAREN IN VIRGINIA**

DEAR KAREN: I'm glad you wrote. I have known several women who suffered debilitating pain with their menstrual cycles — and I'm pleased to reinforce the message that it's NOT "part of being a woman."

Endometriosis is a serious disease that affects more than 5.5 million girls and women in the United States and Canada, yet many are unaware that they have it.

My experts tell me the most common symptom of endometriosis is pelvic pain that may have a monthly pattern and may interfere with the ability to perform daily activities. Other common symptoms are: fatigue or exhaustion; pain during or after sex; lower backache during menstruation; painful bowel movements, diarrhea or other stomach upset during menstruation; stomach bloating and swelling; and heavy or irregular periods.

If women experience symptoms such as the ones I have described, they should seek help. Pain is NOT normal. It is your body's way of telling you that something is wrong.

One of the most distressing things about endometriosis is that it often takes women years to get an accurate diagnosis. Studies show it can take more than 4 1/2 years for girls and women with endometriosis to report their symptoms to a doctor!

The Endometriosis Association has been helping women and girls for more than 20 years. Because March is Endometriosis Awareness Month, the association is sponsoring a nationwide program of free screenings. Their new self-test, which uses five "yes" or "no" questions, can be found on the Internet at www.killercramps.org.

Volunteer doctors are also offering free endometriosis screenings. To locate a physician in your area, call 1-800-992-3636.

**

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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More than 50 arrested in Mardi Gras events

AUSTIN (AP) — Some participants in weekend Mardi Gras festivities threw beer bottles and punches and smashed windows, injuring about 30 people. More than 50 people were arrested.

Six people were treated at hospitals Saturday and early Sunday, including an Austin police officer.

Austin police arrested 35 early Sunday and another 21 early Saturday on charges ranging from indecent exposure to public intoxication.

Police used tear gas and shot rubber pellets to disperse the crowd of partygoers Sunday morning, estimated at about 100,000 people.

"There were people in the crowd going to dumpsters in alleys and pulling bottles out and throwing them at police," witness Halley Cornell told the Austin American-Statesman. "Then police started storming toward them and spraying pepper spray. It was a stampede situation."

In Seattle, about 200 police in riot gear used pepper spray, rubber bullets and concussion bombs to break up Mardi Gras festivities early Sunday. Police said several people in a crowd of about 2,000 threw bottles, rocks and firecrackers at officers soon after bars closed at about 1:30 a.m.

Seven people were arrested on charges ranging from assault to property damage. One person was stabbed, a police officer suffered a broken arm and a woman was hit by a car.

Seattle police said they would continue to prepare for large crowds and drunkeness as Mardi Gras events continued through Tuesday.

Original entries sought for spring poems publication

The Mesquite Country Writers Guild requests original poems for the spring issue of "Bards of a Feather." The theme is open and the limit is 20 lines. The deadline is Thursday.

Submissions should be mailed to Mesquite Country Writers Guild, 9221 S. Hwy. 208, Hermleigh, 79526 or e-mailed to dade@bigcountry.net.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



	North	02-26-01
	♠ 3	
	♥ A 6 4 3 2	
	♦ K 5 4	
	♣ K J 10 7	
West		**East**
♠ 8 5 4		♠ 6 2
♥ 10 5		♥ K Q J 9 8 7
♦ Q 10 9		♦ A J 6
♣ 8 6 5 3 2		♣ A 4
	South	
	♠ A K Q J 10 9 7	
	♥ —	
	♦ 8 7 3 2	
	♣ Q 9	

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: East

South	West	North	East
			1 ♥
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ 10

Monday, Feb. 26, 2001

Open the door without a key

By Phillip Alder

John Keats, in a letter to his sister, Fanny, on August 28, 1819, wrote, "Give me books, fruit, French wine and fine weather and a little music out of doors, played by someone I do not know. I admire lolling on a lawn by a water-lilied pond to eat white currants and see goldfish: and go to the fair in the evening if I'm good. There is not hope for that — one is sure to get into some mess before evening."

It can be similar in bridge. During the morning you draw trumps. In the afternoon, you establish winners. Yet if you get into some mess, you won't have an entry left to gain access to those new tricks. In the evening, you won't go to the fair.

Well, would you get to ride the Ferris wheel after this deal? Against four spades, West leads the heart 10. What is your plan?

South won trick one with dummy's heart ace, pitching a diamond from hand. He drew trumps, then led the club queen. However, when West played the two, his lowest to show an odd number of cards in the suit, East ducked. After winning the next club, East exited with a high heart. Forced to attack diamonds, declarer had to lose three tricks there: one down.

This deal is unusual. Although declarer is void in hearts, one of his possible dummy entries is the heart ace. South should ruff at trick one, pull trumps, and play on clubs. When in with the club ace, East may cash the diamond ace, but his next red-suit lead is won in the dummy, which gives declarer access to those two club winners. He rides to one over, not one under.

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St. Elizabeth Fish Fry
Friday, March 2
5:30 - 8:00 pm
St. Elizabeth Parish Center
30th at Ave. A, Snyder, TX.
$6 per person
Children 6-12 $4
Meal Tickets Sold At The Door
Proceeds go to SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Sponsored by Men's & Women's Association

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Sun.: 11:30 am - 10 pm
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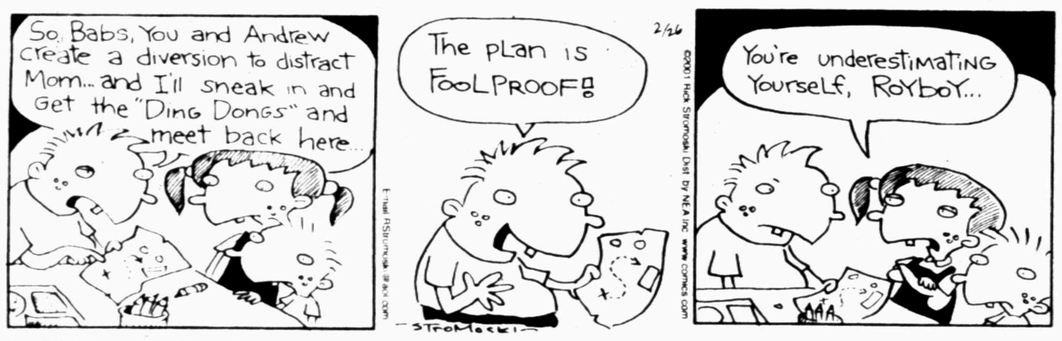
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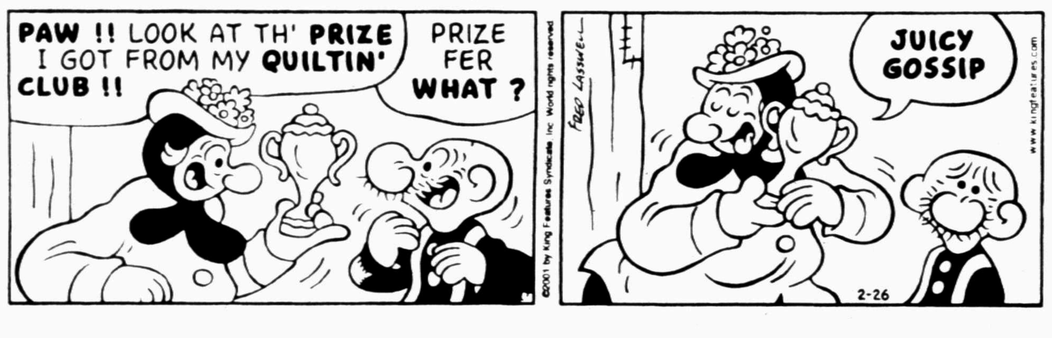
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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Fertilized ovum
7 "Christina's World" painter
12 Likenesses
13 — Madre
14 Stationery supplies
15 Narrow streets
16 "Japan" finish
17 Wire measure
18 Sharp turn
21 Follow, as a consequence
23 Hawaiian instrument
26 Author Wiesel
28 Rams' mates
29 Write
30 Egyptian female singer
31 Did some tailoring
33 Bedtime song
36 Taboo item
37 "Verb" end
38 Low playing-card
40 Active one
41 Southeast Asian holiday
42 Relating to ebb and flow
44 Singing sound
45 Ask for payment from
46 Dress border
48 Like dull work
51 Lamented
55 Elicits
56 Arctic inhabitant
57 Swedes' neighbors
58 Obeyed

DOWN

1 Type of code
2 Ms. Sumac
3 Hiatus
4 S-shaped molding
5 Concise
6 Ancient Jewish ascetic
7 Most cunning
8 Holler
9 "... — I saw Elba"
10 Attempt
11 Possesses
13 Johnson or Adams
18 Fanatic
19 Mistreat
20 Vodka and lime juice cocktail
22 Moved to the music
23 Tear out
24 Sharper
25 Agnes Moorehead role
27 Slippery fish
32 Terminate
34 Harmonizes
35 Comes with
39 Hebrew God
43 Rent
45 Gaming cubes
47 DJ's device
48 Four-poster, e.g.
49 Harem room
50 Race
52 Pot cover
53 Uncle
54 Pt. of the mil.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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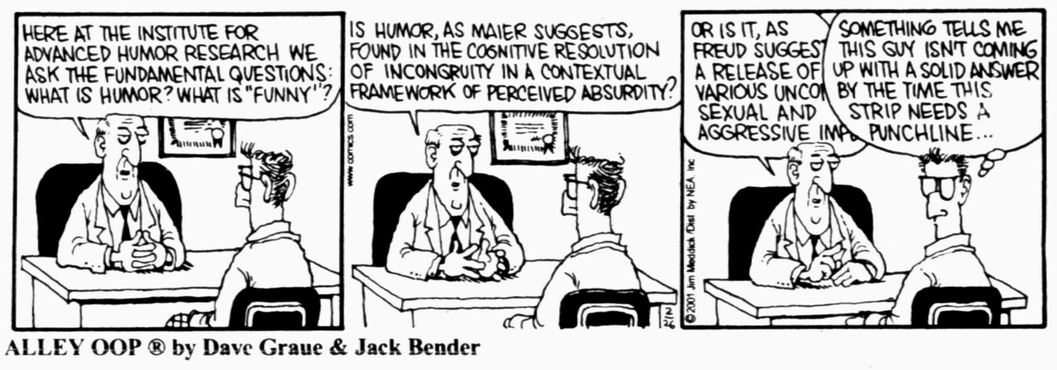
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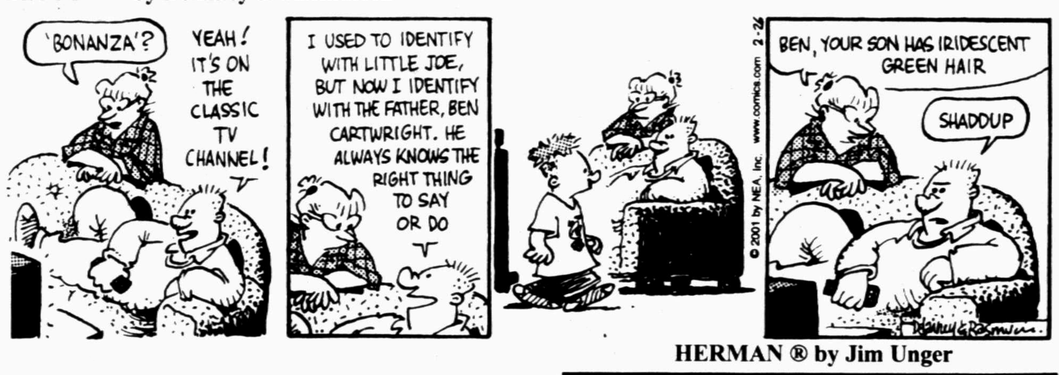
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"Have you dyed your hair, Margaret?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



Snyder Daily News

Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"BOY! IT'S A GOOD THING I CAME OVER. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE SOME CHEERIN' UP."

SPORTS

Tigers fight wind for links crown

MIDLAND — The Snyder Tigers had been in contention to win golf tournaments before. The difference at the Tall City Invitational was that the Tigers sealed the deal.

Despite the gusty wind conditions, Snyder turned in another solid round Saturday to win the Tall City Invitational by 20 strokes over fellow district competitor Andrews.

The Tigers, who held a 12-shot advantage after Friday's play, carded the low round of the day again on Saturday with a 339. Snyder finished with a tourney total of 313-339—652. Andrews was second with a 326-346—672, followed by El Paso Cathedral at 325-356—681.

"I'm extremely proud of all of our guys. All five of them were mentally ready to play," said Snyder coach Matt Glenn. "We had a team meeting, and decided it's about time we won one of these things. And then they went out and did it."

The Tigers were paced both days by the play of Levi Mandrell. The senior fired rounds of 73 and 81 to capture top-medalist honors, a full seven shots ahead of his closest competitor.

Brady Reed posted an 81-84—165, while Zach Starnes tallied an 85-82—167. Landon Day turned in an 80-92—172, and Clinton Calmes finished with a 79-96—175.

Snyder will be in competition again Friday and Saturday at the Andrews Invitational.

"The Andrews tournament is a big one for us," Glenn stated. "We beat Andrews and Frenship at our tournament and again this weekend. If we can do it one more time, it will really help our mindset when district starts."

SHS boys win season's first meet

WOLFFORTH — It has been nine months since the Snyder Tigers surprised everyone with their success on the track. In their first meet of the new season, the Tigers picked up right where they left off.

Snyder performed equally well in both the running and field events Saturday to edge Lubbock Estacado for the boys' title at Frenship High School's ABC Relays.

The Tigers held off the Matadors by one point, 136-135, while the Lady Tigers finished 12th in the girls' division with six points.

Snyder seniors Mark Medley and Jared Thornhill, who competed at last year's state meet, continued their success on Saturday.

Medley won the shot put and discus events, while Thornhill grabbed second place in the pole vault, behind defending state champion Sage Thames of Frenship.

The Tigers also secured runner-up finishes in the high jump, from Wade Pinson, and in the triple jump, from Corey Clay. Clay and Pinson were third and fourth in the long jump.

Pinson boosted the Tigers' cause even more on the track. The junior won the 110-meter hurdles by almost a full second, and was second in the 300-meter hurdles.

Matthew Grimmett showed his speed by winning the 200, and finishing third in the 100.

In the girls' competition, Abilene Wylie won the meet with 132 points, followed by Levelland.

The Lady Tigers garnered six points thanks to Loryn Brown who soared 31 feet, 11 inches to notch third place in the triple jump.

Both Snyder squads will be in competition again Saturday at Abilene Wylie's Bulldog Relays.

BOYS

Team standings: 1. Snyder 136; 2. Lubbock Estacado 135; 3. Wylie 108 1/2; 4. Frenship 61; 5. El Paso High 44; 6. Levelland 42; 7. Lamesa 40; 8. Plainview 27; 9. Andrews 11 1/2; 10. Sweetwater 6

100: 1. Lampert, Wylie, 10.81; 2. Powell, Estacado, 11.15; **3. Grimmett, Snyder, 11.25**; 4. Boldon, Estacado, 11.46; 5. Carr, Estacado, 11.68; **6. James, Snyder, 11.73**

200: 1. Grimmett, Snyder, 23.18; 2. Sambrano, Lamesa, 23.46; 3. Moore, Estacado, 23.99

400: 1. Scott, Estacado, 52.41; 2. Lopez, El Paso High, 53.59; 3. Trotty, Estacado, 53.81; **4. Arizmendi, Snyder, 54.31**

800: 1. Cooper, Estacado, 2:06.93; 2. O'Connell, Wylie, 2:07.72; 3. Hernandez, Plainview, 2:10.34

1,600: 1. Gonzales, El Paso High, 5:04.36; 2. Hawkins, Frenship, 5:06.44; 3. O'Connell, Wylie, 5:09.52; 4. Sumpter, Lamesa, 5:09.56; 5. Chavez, Estacado, 5:10.20; **6. Kerry, Snyder, 5:11.33**

3,200: 1. O'Connell, Wylie, 10:35.57; 2. Hawkins, Frenship, 10:39.58; 3. Gonzalez, El Paso High, 10:46.71

110 hurdles: 1. Pinson, Snyder, 14.74; 2. Howard, Estacado, 15.56; 3. Smith, Estacado, 15.64; 4. McGee, Lamesa, 15.72; 5. Snell, Estacado, 15.94; **6. Guynes, Snyder, 16.94**

300 hurdles: 1. Smith, Estacado, 42.76; **2. Pinson, Snyder, 43.05**; 3. Howard, Estacado, 43.08; 4. Santos, Wylie, 43.85; 5. Snell, Estacado, 46.95; **6. Guynes, Snyder, 47.72**

400 relay: 1. Estacado 43.71; **2. Snyder 44.5**; 3. Wylie 45.90

1,600 relay: 1. Estacado 3:34.24; 2. Wylie 3:40.33; **3. Snyder 3:44.06**

High jump: 1. Graves, Levelland, 6-0; **2. Pinson, Snyder, 6-0**; 3. Tezeno, Levelland, 6-0

Pole vault: 1. Thames, Frenship, 16-0; **2. Thornhill, Snyder, 15-6**; 3. Brown, Lamesa, 12-6

Long jump: 1. Lampert, Wylie, 21-3; 2. Tezeno, Levelland, 20-9 1/4; **3. Clay, Snyder, 20-8 1/2; 4. Pinson, Snyder, 19-8 3/4**

Triple jump: 1. Johnson, Levelland, 42-6 1/2; **2. Clay, Snyder, 41-9**; 3. Lampert, Wylie, 41-7

Shot put: 1. Medley, Snyder, 55-9 1/2; 2. Unger, Wylie, 52-1 1/4; 3. Davidson, Frenship, 52-0

Discus: 1. Medley, Snyder, 151-3; 2. White, Andrews, 147-9; 3. Unger, Wylie, 140-7

3,200 relay: 1. El Paso High 8:47.52; 2. Frenship 8:58.88; **3. Snyder 9:00.43**

GIRLS

Team standings — 1. Wylie 132; 2. Levelland 113; 3. Big Spring 106; 4. Lubbock Estacado 103; 5. Frenship 47; 6. Plainview 37; 7. Lamesa 26; 8. San Angelo Lake View 22; 9. Lubbock Cooper 20; 10. El Paso High 18; 11. Andrews 17; 12. Snyder 6

Armstrong duo tops field at SCC's Groundhog Open

Ernie and David Armstrong took advantage of calmer wind conditions Sunday to hold off all competitors at Snyder Country Club's Groundhog Open.

The Armstrong duo posted a two-day total of 130 to win the Championship Flight by four strokes over Larry Anderson and Tommy Lay. Billy Brock and Ray Hill were third.

Kelly Ragland and Dave Sebo teamed up to win the President's Flight with a 136, while the tandem of Eric Springer-Brett Larkin took top honors in the First Flight with a 146.

In the Second Flight, Cory and Macky Mandrell carded a 150 to grab the top spot. Kenny Miller and Buddy Powell posted a 156 to win the Third Flight.

GROUNDHOG OPEN
at Snyder Country Club

Championship Flight: 1. Ernie Armstrong-David Armstrong, 130; 2. Larry Anderson-Tommy Lay, 134; 3. Billy Brock-Ray Hill, 135.

President's Flight: 1. Kelly Ragland-Dave Sebo, 136; 2. Ricky Beard-Jeral Beard, 143; 3. John Lacik-Rick Billngsley, 144.

First Flight: 1. Eric Springer-Brett Larkin, 146; 2. Glen Patterson-Roe Patterson, 147; 3. Wes Key-John Green, 147.

Second Flight: 1. Cory Mandrell-Macky Mandrell, 150; 2. Les Rinehart-Jacob Smith, 151; 3. Bob Hart-Max Hildebrand, 155.

Third Flight: 1. Kenny Miller-Buddy Powell, 156; 2. Richard Schulze-Robbin Schulze, 159; 3. Don Sealy-Reece Grimmett, 164.

Boys' High School Basketball Playoffs

CLASS 5A
Region I

Area
Odessa High 77, EP Franklin 74 (3 OT)
EP Eastwood 64, San Angelo Central 48
Cedar Hill 47, Flower Mound Marcus 33
The Colony 56, Hurst L.D. Bell 46
EP Montwood 57, Lubbock Coronado 50
EP Andress 66, Midland Lee 61
Duncanville 55, Carrolton Creekview 40
Coppell 55, South Grand Prairie 52

Regional Quarterfinals
Odessa High (22-7) vs. EP Eastwood (29-3), 7 p.m. Tuesday, Midland
Cedar Hill (32-2) vs. The Colony (28-1), 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Fort Worth
EP Montwood (26-7) vs. EP Andress (21-13), 7 p.m. Tuesday, El Paso
Duncanville (27-6) vs. Coppell (23-9), 6 p.m. Tuesday, Fort Worth

CLASS 4A
Region I

Area
Lubbock Estacado 56, EP Parkland 49
Hereford 75, Fabens 60
North Crowley 82, Justin Northwest 56
Southlake Carroll 82, Cleburne 60
Canyon Randall 60, San Elizario 50
Canyon 58, EP Ysleta 51
FW Dunbar 84, WF Rider 54
FW Southwest 97, Burkburnett 78

Regional Quarterfinals
Lubbock Estacado (26-10) vs. Hereford (29-4), 7 p.m. Tuesday, Hutcherson Center, Plainview
North Crowley (29-4) vs. Southlake Carroll (26-6), 8 p.m. Tuesday, Arlington Martin HS
Canyon Randall (31-1) vs. Canyon (20-11), 7 p.m. Tuesday, Amarillo Tascosa HS
FW Dunbar (30-3) vs. FW Southwest (22-11), 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Fort Worth

CLASS 3A
Region I

Area
Crane 48, Lubbock Cooper 45
Dimmitt 50, Lamesa 43
Hillsboro 77, Ballinger 66
Graham 68, Springtown 59
Seminole 67, Shallowater 50
Denver City 60, Perryton 53
Glen Rose 65, Decatur 62
Sweetwater 78, Kennedale 73 (OT)

Regional Quarterfinals
Crane (17-11) vs. Dimmitt (23-7)
Hillsboro (21-6) vs. Graham (28-2)
Seminole (29-4) vs. Denver City (23-10)
Glen Rose (26-6) vs. Sweetwater (19-12)

CLASS 2A
Region I

Area
Reagan County 57, Idalou 52
Plains 56, Wall 49
Olney 60, Lockney 47
West Texas 70, Hamlin 64
Colorado City 64, Sonora 54
Stanton 46, Ozona 39
Holliday 51, Abernathy 43
Hale Center 61, Haskell 40

Regional Quarterfinals
Reagan County (22-9) vs. Plains (24-8)
Olney (22-4) vs. West Texas (26-4)
Colorado City (26-4) vs. Stanton (13-6)
Holliday (19-11) vs. Hale Center (26-7)

CLASS A-DIVISION I
Region I Sectional Finals
Stratford 82, Roscoe 46
Lorenzo 90, Bronte 67

Semi-State Semifinals
Stratford (17-4) vs. Lorenzo (28-4)

Region II Sectional Finals
Brock 56, Paducah 50
Frost 49, Era 46

Semi-State Semifinals
Brock (32-2) vs. Frost (25-6)

CLASS A-DIVISION II
Region I Sectional Finals
New Home 65, Happy 49
Nazareth 66, Jayton 56

Semi-State Semifinals
New Home (28-4) vs. Nazareth (23-9)

Region II Sectional Finals
Westbrook 74, D'Hanis 61
Utopia 80, Blackwell 47

Semi-State Semifinals
Westbrook (24-3) vs. Utopia (17-9)

At Best of the West Baseball Classic...

Snyder splits final two games

SAN ANGELO — Snyder baseball coach Roland Herrera would have liked to notch two victories on Saturday. But more than anything, the skipper wanted to see improvement from his team, and that's what he got.

Snyder run-ruled El Paso Coronado, 10-0, before falling to Canyon Randall, 5-3, to close out the Best of the West Classic on Saturday.

The Tigers, which fell to San Angelo Central in the opening round, carry a 1-2 mark into today's rematch with Central at Moffett Field. Action gets underway at 5 o'clock.

"I was hoping that our kids would step up after Thursday's loss and play better on Saturday, and that's exactly what they did," said Herrera. "Randall has almost everybody back from last year's team that made it to the regional finals. We played well against them and that shows some promise. Now we need to keep improving even more, each time we play."

The Tigers made short work of El Paso Coronado thanks in part to junior Jase Olvera's work on the mound. Olvera, who spent the last two seasons at Ira High School, threw four hitless innings to take care of the Thunderbirds.

"He wasn't overpowering, but he had great location with his pitches," Herrera stated. "He made Coronado hit ground balls, and that's what we want. We don't want our pitchers to have to worry about striking everybody out. We want them to make the other team hit the ball on the ground, and then we want to play good defense behind them. That's what we did against Coronado."

The Tigers will be looking for redemption today against the Bobcats. Central won Thursday's meeting by a 2-0 tally.

Junior Tito Alaniz worked all seven innings in the first matchup. It's the left hander's turn in the rotation again today, but Herrera said he isn't sure who he'll send to the hill.

"We may throw a few different guys today," the Snyder coach said. "It doesn't have anything to do with how Tito played against them on Thursday. We have another tournament coming up this weekend in Seguin, and we want to get some other guys some work before we go."

SHS netters face stiff competition

ODESSA — Snyder tennis coach Brad Wikse wants his players toughened up by the time district rolls around. The competition at the Odessa Invitational was perfect for the job.

Snyder finished seventh over the weekend at the Odessa tournament, despite competing in a field that consisted of only one other Class 4A team.

Midland High won the event, followed by Odessa Permian.

The stiff competition is just what Wikse wanted, and his players will see more of it at this weekend's New Braunfels Open.

"It doesn't do you any good to play against lower-caliber players," said Wikse. "Playing against the best only makes you better. We know we're going to take it on the chin sometimes, but it make us better in the long run."

Snyder was led by the boys' doubles duo of Ryan Gibson and Allen Smith. The two seniors teamed up to take second place, falling to the top seeded Valdez-Webb tandem from Midland High in the finals.

Gibson and Smith won their first three matches in straight sets, before falling Valdez and Webb, 7-6, 1-6, 6-7.

Snyder's other boys' doubles team of Charlie Gorman and Alex Best posted a 1-3 mark.

Adam Rodgers also went 1-3 in boys' singles, while Horacio DePaz was 0-4.

On the girls' side, Sara Cantu and Kara Brumley captured their first-round match and went on to finish eighth, while Jackie Beccue and Kristin Casas came in 15th.

Patricia Vargas won two and dropped two in her four girls' singles matches, and Andra Dunham went 1-3.

National Basketball Association

All Times EST
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	42	15	.737	—
Miami	33	23	.589	8½
New York	32	23	.582	9
Orlando	28	26	.519	12½
Boston	24	32	.429	17½
New Jersey	20	38	.345	22½
Washington	13	44	.228	29

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	34	20	.630	—
Charlotte	30	26	.536	5
Toronto	29	27	.518	6
Indiana	25	28	.472	8½
Cleveland	22	32	.407	12
Detroit	21	35	.375	14
Atlanta	18	38	.321	17
Chicago	9	45	.167	25

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	37	17	.685	—
San Antonio	37	18	.673	½
Dallas	34	22	.607	4
Minnesota	33	24	.579	5½
Houston	30	26	.536	8
Denver	29	28	.509	9½
Vancouver	18	39	.316	20½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	38	18	.679	—
L.A. Lakers	37	18	.673	½
Sacramento	36	18	.667	1
Phoenix	34	21	.618	3½
Seattle	29	27	.518	9
L.A. Clippers	20	38	.345	19
Golden State	15	41	.268	23

Saturday's Games
Toronto 106, Washington 99
Miami 75, New Jersey 70
Charlotte 86, Philadelphia 85
Chicago 90, Vancouver 75
San Antonio 107, Dallas 104
Denver 85, Atlanta 82
L.A. Clippers 123, Portland 120, 2OT

Sunday's Games
New York 88, Sacramento 86
Phoenix 90, Utah 80
Indiana 110, Minnesota 100
L.A. Lakers 106, Orlando 100
Milwaukee 122, Golden State 95
Cleveland 101, Detroit 94
New Jersey 101, Washington 91

Monday's Games
Seattle at Boston, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Portland at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Golden State at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Utah, 9 p.m.
Orlando at Denver, 9 p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Cleveland at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Washington at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle at New York, 8 p.m.
Portland at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Dallas at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.

JV golfers finish strong at tourney

SWEETWATER — Snyder JV used another solid round Saturday to grab fourth place at the Sweetwater Classic girls' golf tournament, finishing higher than any JV squad in the field.

The Lady Tigers were fifth after Friday's opening round, then carded a 443 on Saturday to move up one slot in the standings.

Hailey Putnam fired a 96 in the final round to finish with a tourney total of 195. Paige Smith came in with a 99-98—197. Catherine Whitworth posted a 109-111—220, and Cami Trout tallied a 128-138—266.

Girls' Basketball Playoffs

REGION I FINALS

Class 5A
Mansfield 62, DeSoto 49
Class 4A
Plainview 56, Canyon 53
Class 3A
Abilene Wylie 53, Shallowater 47
Class 2A
Wall 56, Hale Center 49
Class A-Division I
Windthorst 66, Sudan 44
Class A-Division II
Nazareth 93, Brookesmith 45

STATE SEMIFINALS
at Frank Erwin Center, Austin

Class 5A, Friday
Sugar Land Dulles (34-2) vs. Mansfield (34-1), 3 p.m.
Spring Westfield (32-1) vs. Buda Hays (29-7), 7 p.m.
Class 4A, Thursday
Plainview (34-1) vs. Corpus Christi Calallen (26-7), 7 p.m.
Dallas Lincoln (28-5) vs. Brenham (29-4), 8:30 p.m.
Class 3A, Thursday
Abilene Wylie (31-2) vs. Sour Lake Hardin Jefferson (27-9), 2 p.m.
Winnsboro (35-4) vs. Llano (30-5), 3:30 p.m.
Class 2A, Friday
Boyd (32-1) vs. Somerville (27-7), 9:30 a.m.
Wall (32-3) vs. Nacogdoches Central Heights (32-4), 11 a.m.
Class A, Thursday
Nazareth (31-4) vs. Saltillo (33-2), 8:30 a.m.
Kennard (34-2) vs. Windthorst (30-1), 10 a.m.

XFL Glance

All Times EST
EAST CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	PF	PA
Orlando	4	0	1.000	107	61
Birmingham	2	2	.500	59	67
NY/NJ	1	3	.250	37	56
Chicago	0	4	.000	64	99

WEST CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	PF	PA
Las Vegas	3	1	.750	69	24
Los Angeles	2	2	.500	76	74
Memphis	2	2	.500	49	70
San Francisco	2	2	.500	51	61

Saturday's Games
Orlando 30, Birmingham 6
NY/NJ 13, Chicago 0

Sunday's Games
Las Vegas 16, San Francisco 9
Memphis 18, Los Angeles 12

Saturday, March 3
Birmingham at San Francisco, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at NY/NJ, 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 4
Las Vegas at Chicago, 4 p.m.
Orlando at Memphis, 7 p.m.

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Legal Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF SCURRY §

To those indebted to, or holding claims against the Estate of ROY H. SALLEE, deceased, Probate Case Number 5,661:

The undersigned, having been duly appointed Independent Executrix of the Estate of ROY H. SALLEE, deceased, late of Scurry County, Texas, by RICKY FRITZ, Judge of the County Court of said County, on the 22nd day of February, 2001, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said Estate to come forward and make settlement, and those having claims against said Estate to present them to NATALIE SALLEE, 3413 44th Street, Snyder, Texas 79549, within the time prescribed by law.

EXECUTED this 22nd day of February, 2001.

(s) NATALIE SALLEE
Independent Executrix
of the Estate of
ROY H. SALLEE,
deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF SCURRY §

To those indebted to, or holding claims against the estate of ELLEN LOUISE POSTON, deceased, Probate Case Number 5,660:

The undersigned, having been duly appointed Independent Executor of the estate of Ellen Louise Poston, deceased, late of Scurry County, Texas, by RICKY FRITZ, Judge of the County Court of said county, on the 22nd day of February, 2001, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said estate to come forward and make settlement, and those having claims against said estate to present them to Ronald Carroll Chandler, 684 Eve's Spring Drive, Canyon Lake, TX 78133, within the time prescribed by law.

Executed this 22nd day of February, 2001.

(s) RONALD CARROLL CHANDLER
Independent Executor
of the estate of
Ellen Louise Poston,
deceased

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Lawmakers to focus on rural Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — For a long time, folks in the raw, real, uncitified parts of Texas just wanted to be left alone.

They had little use for polished politicians in their pink granite hallways whose regulations always seemed more like unwanted burdens, whose funding programs seemed like charity.

But while lawmakers were doling out funds for inner-city health care and tax breaks for high-tech companies, more than 3 million farmers, ranchers and other rural Texans were finding it harder to survive on their own.

"While we were doing our job leaving these people alone, we dad-gum near killed them," said Rep. David Swinford, a Republican from the Panhandle town of Dumas, 40 miles north of Amarillo. "While we've been sitting out in the rural communities talking about those poor folks in the inner city, we found out that we had higher unemployment, we had higher poverty levels, we had less jobs, we had less health care, we had less communication equipment, our highways were worse."

In 1997, Texas' per capita income in non-metropolitan areas was $17,972 compared with $24,776 in metropolitan areas. The unprecedented prosperity of the 1990s left rural Texas in the dust, with 42 western Texas counties experiencing a decline in real total income. The leading export of the declining population continues to be its children.

The untended pot of rural Texas is boiling over and lawmakers say they no longer can ignore the crises facing almost every facet of life in the state's 196 non-metropolitan counties.

Led by House Speaker Pete Laney, a Democrat from agriculture-reliant Hale Center, lawmakers hunkered down after the last session and conceived a plan for a state Office of Rural Community Affairs, which would help local governments and their leaders take advantage of technology, ignite economic development, secure quality health care and fix roads.

Sure, it's more bureaucracy, more suits behind desks. But this time, rural folks don't seem to mind the interference.

"We need some attention," said Elliott Hayes, a struggling Plainview farmer. "There's no question they focus more on the metropolitan areas, but that's where the votes are."

It's also more expensive and inefficient to serve smaller populations than larger ones.

The bill to establish the office will be announced this week by its author, Rep. Warren Chism, a Republican from Pampa, about 50 miles northeast of Amarillo.

"It hopefully could be a communication tool of some sort," said Ronnie Hopper, president of Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. in Lubbock. "There's so many agencies in government that sometimes can be accused of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing. This could be a place that would help coordinate some of the directions Austin would see our area go."

Rep. Judy Hawley, chairwoman of the House Rural Caucus, said the office would provide local leaders the assistance in grant-writing and marketing their communities that cities can afford to pay private firms to do. Rural communities have always relied on volunteers.

"But we're killing those volunteers," said Hawley, a Democrat from Portland, just north of Corpus Christi. "They can't become experts in everything."

The state office would assist local governments, serving as their go-between with state agencies and offering resources, research and advice for growing new industries such as tourism and recreation. The office would be funded by $85 million in federal grants from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs currently used for rural programs. The Center for Rural Health Initiatives and its funding probably would be rolled into the new office.

Another key piece of legislation spells out the first statewide policy for agriculture, Texas' second-largest industry.

Swinford's bill lists 16 factors — such as water, transportation, money and property rights — that must be considered in any proposal affecting agriculture.

"If you open the law books of the state of Texas, you don't find anywhere in there the defined relationship between the state of Texas and agriculture," Swinford said. "If it's that important, we ought to have a relationship of some sort written down."

Seven Missourians die in Texas crash

TRENTON, Mo. (AP) — Two close knit farm communities were mourning the deaths of seven Missourians in a weekend traffic accident in Texas.

The victims, retirees from north-central Missouri's Grundy County, died late Saturday afternoon when their van was hit by a tanker truck on an isolated rural road near Harlingen, Texas, just a few miles north of the Mexican border. Authorities say the van ran a stop sign.

The crash impact knocked the van into a light pole and the vehicle burst into flames. The fire then spread to a grassy field.

"Everybody's been to church," said Lyndall Slonecker, the next door neighbor of the van's driver Marvin Simpson, 73, and his wife Loree, of Trenton, who were killed in the crash. "The whole town's in prayer. It's just devastating because it's going to effect so many people in the community."

Slonecker said she went to high school with Loree Simpson, 80, and that this was the second marriage for both Loree and Marvin Simpson.

"They were having a great time together," Slonecker said. "You could just tell by their actions. They did a lot of things together. They were always on the go. Always busy. They entertained a lot and had a lot of company."

Also among the four couples in the van were the parents of Grundy County Sheriff Greg Coon, Roy Coon, 74, and his wife, Marylin, 69, from Spickard. They both died.

The sheriff's department first heard of their deaths Saturday night, and on Sunday received offers from several deputies in northwest Missouri to help handle law enforcement duties.

Dean Peyton, 73, and his wife Norma, 73; and C. J. Bunnell Jr., 74, all of Trenton, also were killed.

Bunnell's wife, Marian, 72, was in stable condition Monday at Valley Baptist Hospital in Harlingen. Several of the Bunnells' children had flown down to Texas to be with their mother.

Harlingen resident Arturo Garcia, the 38-year-old driver of the tractor-trailer, was treated for minor injuries and released Saturday.

The four couples, who went to Texas every winter, had been staying at an RV park in Weslaco. South Texas was a popular destination for Grundy County retirees, with about 100 vacationeers routinely attending an annual Grundy County picnic. Many of the couples' friends already were in Texas at the time of the accident.

Bob Greiner said he had vacationed with the four couples for about a decade until five or six years ago, and he often played cards with them.

Greiner learned of their deaths Sunday morning when a relative of one of the victims called. He said the pastor at the First Christian Church in Trenton, where the Peytons and Brunnells worshipped, began the service talking about the accident.

"It was all a shock," Greiner said. "I had known them for years."

Don Peyton, Dean's identical twin, said the doctor who delivered them told their parents Dean probably wouldn't make it because he weighed just two pounds at birth. He said that as boys, like many twins they enjoyed switching places and playing pranks on teachers and classmates.

The brothers served together in the South Pacific in World War II, working side-by-side to build roads and other infrastructure. They returned to Grundy County after the war, Don running a drive-in restaurant and Dean a roofing company.

"We were pretty close," Don said. "We have always done everything basically together, and being raised in the Depression era, times were tough and you had a close bond."

Before retiring, Marvin Simpson was a banker in Spickard, and Greiner said he knew everyone in town.

"I don't know anyone that didn't like him," Greiner said.

Friends in Missouri said the four couples often traveled to southern Texas.

"They all went there every winter," Slonecker said. "They had trailers. Most of them went down right after Christmas and stayed until about the first of April."

Funeral arrangements were pending. Families of the victims were told the bodies wouldn't be released until autopsies were conducted. They expected to learn more information from Texas officials Tuesday morning.

Mexico's Zapatistas roll on toward capital

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AP) — Zapatista rebel commanders boarded a bus and embarked on the second day of a trip to Mexico City with a heavy police guard and a death threat against their leader, Subcomandante Marcos.

Federal police cleared the way on the ground and hovered in helicopters overhead as the bus left the rebels' home state of Chiapas on the Panamerican highway and entered Oaxaca state, where authorities said a man has threatened to kill Marcos. He traveled with 23 Zapatista commanders.

Marcos delivered a brief speech on Indian rights in the small Oaxaca city of Juchitan on Sunday evening without incident. "We receive them with honor," Mayor Leopoldo Degibes said as he welcomed the rebels in Spanish and the language of the Zapotec Indians living in Juchitan.

Scores of enthusiastic Indians poured out of their communities to cheer the passing caravan as Marcos — wearing his trademark ski mask — waved from behind a bus window. The caravan is expected to pass through 12 states on the way to Mexico City, where the rebels will lobby for the passage of an Indian rights bill in Congress.

The bill is one of three conditions the rebels, who led a brief uprising in 1994 in the name of Indian rights, say must be met before they will renew long-stalled peace talks with the government.

President Vicente Fox, whose election last year ended seven decades of rule by the Institutional Revolutionary Party, submitted the bill to Congress shortly after taking office in December.

He has also closed some military bases in Chiapas — the Zapatistas want them all closed — and has released some rebels from prison. The government released 20 Zapatistas on Sunday, leaving more than two dozen behind bars.

State police in Oaxaca, where the rebels planned to stay overnight, said a man in the village of La Paz had sent a telegram threatening Marcos to the office of the Roman Catholic Bishop in San Cristobal. Authorities were investigating and had made no arrests, the government news agency Notimex reported Sunday.

There were 600 federal police officers on hand as Marcos left San Cristobal, in Chiapas, on Sunday morning, and Mexico's Interior Ministry said it assigned 3,500 federal police officers to the route. It said as many as 300 foreign observers and 200 Mexican and foreign journalists were traveling along the caravan's route.

The rebels left their stronghold of La Realidad on Saturday and planned to arrive in Mexico City on March 11.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Miracles vary in definition

DEAR DR. GOTT: Please comment on miracles. This concept seems to have attracted a large audience of believers.

DEAR READER: The longer I practice medicine, the more I become convinced that a physician's primary role is to relieve suffering and pain. Period. This role does not, in my opinion, include prolonging inevitable death. In most instances, my orientation involves diagnosing and treating illness. But what happens when all methods of cure have been exhausted and the patient is nearing the end?

At this point, I believe that it is my duty to allay the fear of death. This obligation means assisting the terminal patient to cope with the reality of his or her own mortality, thereby allowing a reconciliation of defeat. Such a role requires delicate skills; by and large, I am successful with it. However, sometimes it backfires.

I had known Joan, as a friend and patient, for more then 20 years. During the past few months, she had been under the care of an oncologist because of colon cancer that had spread throughout her pelvis, despite surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy.

One Sunday, when the oncologist was off duty, I was called to Joan's house; she was in pain and needed assistance. A brief examination confirmed my worst suspicions; her lower bowel was entirely replaced by rock-hard tumor. Here was a lovely, creative, 55-year-old grandmother who had incurable cancer that showed no signs of abating or shrinking with aggressive therapy.

"What has your doctor told you?" I asked.

"He said that the cancer is treatable," she replied. "Although it spread to my liver, the chemotherapy cured it. My liver is OK."

"That's good," I answered, "However, it looks as though your lower bowel is now involved, and I'm concerned about your discomfort. Do you want pain medication?"

"No," she said, "I'm waiting for a miracle."

"A miracle?"

"Yes, a miracle. The doctor assured me that more chemotherapy will cure me. I want a miracle. I'm going to beat this thing."

"Well," I said, "Miracles come in different forms. Perhaps your miracle will not be a cure."

She was immediately on guard. "What do you mean?"

"Sometimes, in cases such as yours, " I continued, "The miracle is the act of acceptance. I think that if you're going to experience a miracle, it may be the serenity that comes from acknowledging the seriousness of your problem, the peace that comes when you know that everything possible has been done, and the acceptance of what is to come."

"No," she blurted, " I'm waiting for a real miracle."

We talked further, and she was relieved to learn that she was in no immediate danger. I promised to report to her oncologist the following day. And I did.

Two weeks later, I called Joan to see how she was doing. Her manner was frosty.

"You did something terrible to me," she accused, angrily.

"What?" I was shocked.

"You took away my hope. You said that my cancer had spread, but my oncologist told me it had responded very well to therapy and was no worse then it had been a month ago. You destroyed my hope, but I'm going to get my miracle anyway. I'm scheduled for more chemotherapy."

As I hung up the telephone, I felt an irreconcilable sadness. I had apparently failed my patient at the very moment she most needed me. And yet, in recalling our conversation, I knew I'd said what needed to be said. But I regretted not having stated it in terms she could have accepted more readily. I believe now — as I believed then — that at the appropriate time, the acceptance of death is associated with a tranquility that transcends hopelessness. My unsuccessful attempts at addressing her illness were misperceived by Joan as taking away her hope, which was far from my intention.

Joan underwent her additional chemotherapy. It made her even sicker. She had intractable pain, fear, nausea and depression. She died 10 weeks after I saw her.

I marveled at her courage. I hope that she was able, at the end, to resolve the issue of miracles which, like beauty, are more often in the eye of the beholder.

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp s		32.56	32.26	32.50 + .80
AOL TimeWm		44.50	43.42	43.86 + .56
AT&T Corp		21.45	20.95	21.16 + .21
Albertsons		28.73	28.21	28.59 + .12
Alltel		54.25	53.51	54.17 + .41
AmEl Pw		48.10	47.20	47.87 + .67
AndarkPtr		63.98	62.45	63.74 + .94
ATMOS Egy		23.60	23.00	23.59 + .64
Aviall		7.36	7.20	7.35 + .09
BP Amoco		49.38	48.90	49.32 + .47
BakerHughes		39.15	37.80	39.10 + .22
Bank of Amer		50.00	48.00	48.34— .80
BellSouth		42.28	41.82	42.00
Beth Steel		2.29	2.20	2.24 + .14
BurlNoSFe		30.50	30.19	30.41 + .39
Caterpillar		41.24	40.56	41.19 + 1.10
Chevron		84.35	83.64	83.64— .82
Citigroup s		49.50	48.22	48.55 + .35
CocaCola		52.45	51.45	52.11 + .11
ColgatePal		58.10	57.35	57.85— .55
ComclMetals		25.20	25.20	25.20 + .05
CooperIn		44.29	43.15	44.24 + .71
DaimlrChry		47.53	47.09	47.50—1.30
DallSemicn		33.90	31.45	31.54—2.15
DeltaAirl		42.49	42.07	42.30 + .45
Dillards Inc		18.06	17.70	18.06 + .35
DowChem s		30.56	29.93	30.36 + .91
DuPont		42.99	42.27	42.86 + .83
EastmanChem		50.42	49.40	50.25 + 1.25
EstKodak		44.85	44.33	44.59 + .16
EDS Corp		63.72	62.25	62.35 + .65
Entergy		39.25	38.68	38.88 + .27
ExxonMobil		83.38	82.65	83.22— .28
FstBksAm		22.50	22.50	22.50
Flowers		17.39	17.24	17.28— .08
GenDynam		70.00	69.21	69.97 + .60
GenlElec s		47.00	46.20	46.42 + .24
GenMills		44.20	43.30	43.90 + .43
GenMotors		53.40	52.94	53.08 + .07
GaPacGP		29.17	28.75	29.00 + .38
GlobalMar		28.85	27.60	28.46 + .28
Goodrich		41.30	41.00	41.05 + .18
Goodyear s		25.10	24.66	25.05 + .65
GtAtlPac		10.32	10.20	10.30 + .01
Halliburtn		40.65	39.20	40.46 + .91
Hanson ADS		32.40	32.05	32.10 + .05
HarteHanks		23.09	22.96	22.96— .12
HomeDepot		42.50	41.00	41.80 + 1.79
Honeywelllntl		47.50	47.03	47.25 + .25
IBM		105.80	101.83	102.01—1.99
IntlPaper		36.59	36.08	36.40 + .57
JohnsonJn		95.70	94.30	95.50 + .01
K mart		9.24	9.00	9.02— .17
Kroger Co		24.39	24.13	24.28 + .28
Litton		79.06	78.80	79.00 + .21
LockheedM		37.40	36.60	37.40 + .45
Lowes Cos		57.60	56.70	57.52 + 2.94
Lubys		7.18	6.88	7.00 + .06
LucentTech		12.79	12.40	12.56 + .16
MayDeptStr		38.50	37.55	37.92 + 1.12
Medtronic		50.10	48.91	49.97 + 1.02
Motorola s		16.58	15.76	15.87— .38
NCR Corp		47.85	47.15	47.43 + 1.08
Navistar		24.74	24.08	24.73 + .54
Penney JC		14.60	14.04	14.49 + .59
PepBoys		5.75	5.37	5.63 + .03
PepsiCo		46.39	45.54	46.11— .27
Pharmacia		49.40	48.60	49.03— .02
PhelpDodge		45.22	44.94	45.00 + .75
PhilipPet		55.40	54.98	55.20 + .16
PilgrmPrd B		10.35	10.25	10.26— .09
Polaroid		5.45	5.25	5.25— .05
Praxair		43.25	42.44	43.20 + .95
ProctGamb		72.26	70.39	70.62—4.41
PubS NwMx		25.53	24.45	25.43 + .53
RadioShack		40.98	39.05	39.06— .52
ReliantEngy		42.25	40.75	41.88 + .59
RoyalDut		59.30	58.89	59.01 + .34
SBC Comm		50.25	49.40	49.52— .20
SaraLee		22.12	21.85	21.89— .12
Scripps EW		61.80	61.10	61.80 + .33
SearsRoeb		40.20	39.09	39.87 + .78
SherwinW		24.95	24.21	24.79 + .63
SouthernCo		30.63	30.17	30.52 + .35
SwstAirl s		19.72	19.16	19.53 + .43
SprintFON		23.05	22.70	22.82 + .08
SprintPCS		25.50	24.80	25.01 + .56
Sunoco Inc		34.90	33.97	34.71 + .73
TXU Corp		42.00	41.03	41.80 + .69
TempleInland		47.22	46.70	47.12 + .91
Texaco		63.14	62.30	62.30— .75
TexInd		29.15	28.00	29.09 + 1.02
TexasInst s		30.70	29.00	29.50— .65
Textron		52.10	51.70	51.79— .10
TriconGlbR		37.31	36.78	37.25 + .38
TrinityInds		22.96	21.60	22.30 + .60
TritonEngy		24.43	24.00	24.11— .13
TylerTech		1.45	1.30	1.30— .15
USX-Marathn		28.08	27.78	28.01 + .16
USX-USS		15.00	14.50	15.00 + .64
UnionPacif		54.95	54.31	54.84 + .50
UnitedTech		77.34	76.30	77.16— .09
Unocal		36.18	35.77	36.12 + .32
Venator Grp		11.45	11.10	11.29 + .29
VerizonComm		50.10	48.88	49.62 + .50
WalMart		51.37	50.65	50.94 + .66
WellsFargo		48.85	47.78	47.91— .56
WstnGasRs		26.10	25.76	26.10 + .51
WinnDixie		25.86	25.31	25.73 + .41
Xerox Cp		6.30	6.15	6.17 + .01

FEB 26 2001

Studies ease concerns about taking aspirin

CHICAGO (AP) — Heart attack victims can safely take aspirin with a blood pressure-lowering drug to aid their recovery, but combining the treatments is only slightly more effective than using just one, Yale University researchers report.

The findings may ease concerns that combining aspirin with ACE inhibitors could be ill-advised for some patients with heart trouble. Previous studies have suggested that the combination could result in kidney impairment or impair the effectiveness of ACE inhibitors.

"We could find no evidence of an adverse interaction," Dr. Harlan M. Krumholz and colleagues, the new study's authors, said in Monday's Archives of Internal Medicine.

A related Krumholz study published in the same journal suggests that aspirin can safely be used to lower mortality in heart failure patients.

Both studies involved patients aged 65 and older.

Aspirin, which improves blood flow through the arteries by making it less sticky and less likely to clot, often is recommended to help prevent and treat heart problems. But its use has been questioned in patients with heart failure who do not have clot-related coronary artery disease.

ACE inhibitors, which lower blood pressure and help the heart pump more efficiently, often are recommended for such patients, said Dr. David A. Meyerson, a cardiologist at Johns Hopkins University and spokesman for the American Heart Association.

Some doctors may be reluctant to prescribe aspirin for heart failure patients without clot-related disease partly due to concerns that it might hamper the effectiveness of ACE inhibitors, Meyerson said.

The second study, involving 1,100 Medicare heart-failure patients hospitalized in Connecticut, reported an overall 29 percent lower mortality risk one year later for those who were prescribed aspirin at hospital discharge. Some patients also took ACE inhibitors but the interaction of the two medications was not the focus of the study.

While it's unclear how aspirin improved survival chances in the heart failure patients, the results "suggest that one of our simplest medications continues to be one of the most valuable," Meyerson said. "The survival benefits appear significant."

Meyerson said the AHA will evaluate whether to add aspirin to treatment guidelines for older heart failure patients without clot-related cardiovascular disease.

Its existing guidelines for heart attack patients recommend combining aspirin and ACE inhibitors.

Pit stop for shuttle Columbia scheduled

HOUSTON (AP) — The shuttle Columbia is scheduled to make a Texas pit stop en route to Florida from California atop a modified Boeing 747 if weather conditions are favorable, the space agency says.

The shuttle is expected to land at Ellington Field in Houston as early as this afternoon.

Poor weather over Southern California and the southwest United has scrubbed NASA's plans to return the shuttle through Texas en route to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Rain and clouds on Sunday kept the shuttle at Boeing Co. facilities in Palmdale, Calif.

But space agency officials said Sunday they were hopeful that lingering showers would let up in time for a morning liftoff.

The first shuttle orbiter to be launched, Columbia has conducted 26 spaceflights since 1981. But the spacecraft was sent to Boeing facilities after its most recent mission in July 1999.

At Boeing, the shuttle underwent an inspection and refits which included equipment upgrades. The spacecraft is tentatively set to return to service later this year.

Another shuttle, Atlantis, landed last week at Edwards Air Force Base in the Mojave Desert. It is also expected later to make the cross-country trek to Florida.

The crew of Atlantis completed a 13-day mission to the international space station, Alpha, where the crew delivered and installed Destiny, a $1.4 billion laboratory considered to be the most sophisticated research module ever to fly in space.

Atlantis' Feb. 20 landing at Edwards AFB was chosen as a backup because of bad weather over Cape Canaveral, Fla. It was the 47th landing at Edwards, which served as the main landing site until the early 1990s.

The last shuttle landing at Edwards was in October and the one before that occurred in 1996.

The shuttle Atlantis was expected to make its return trip to Florida sometime this week.

It costs nearly $1 million for the shuttle's required ferrying back to Florida.

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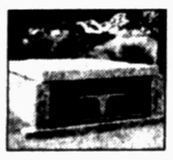
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No more flat tires, even in the most hazardous operating environments. Tom Machen, owner of Tom's Marine Sales and Service, located at 315 Coliseum Drive, now offers flatproofing. Your pneumatic tires will roll right over spikes, scrap metal, nails, rocks...you name it. You could even shoot them with an elephant gun and they would keep right on rolling.

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Put an end to expensive tire-related costs, premature tire failure and downtime - see Tom Machen at Tom Marine, 315 Coliseum Drive or give him a call at 573-6562 and let him flatproof your tires.

Texas

SPRING (AP) — based bank is tak hours where no co dared go.

Woodforest Nati keeping two of i open 24 hours a days a week, prov same services of daytime-only c Both are inside stores that also around the clock.

The never-close Linda Boykin, a H rity guard who wra hour shifts at 6 a. her banking on th from work.

"I used to keep home," Boykin sa better to have it in

Woodforest is trend of more bank its outermost limit offered extended a hours in branches stores and other since 1971, said J chief executive of cross, Ga.-based Banking Technolo helps banks op branches.

"Very few are op

Astro-g

By Bernice Be

Tuesday, Feb.

You should be al what you want in th but not instantaneo and time are requ things to ripen if yo harvest.

PISCES (Feb. 2 Your sincere concer one of your greate today, how you condu serve to show others care about their affa you to them.

Trying to patch romance? The Matchmaker can understand what t the relationship $2.75 to Matchma newspaper, P.O. Murray Hill Statio NY 10156.

ARIES (March Reason always pre When it comes to affairs or comme today, you must initi practical, logical fash

TAURUS (April timing is an issue for charge of the even yourself. Others wit involved may not sense of urgency a you do.

GEMINI (May 2 might be wiser tod reactive than asse developments that solicitation might en ter than those that y

CANCER (June Stick to socializing associates with who fortable. Chances ar be as relaxed today know only slightly.

LEO (July 23- tenacity and persist thing can be overc off on the wrong fo tive matter, keep fig eventually come out

VIRGO (Aug. 23 lize your abilities to hend the whole pi just a few brush str you widen your p canvas will come ali

LIBRA (Sept. 2 deal you're chaffin have is on the table an indifferent air. A be negotiated when too eager.

SCORPIO (Oct There's nothing wr second fiddle today which your mate i leading role. Har only by sounding h

SAGITTARIUS 21) Even if it takes cipline, do your w today by watching clear of foods, swee know are high in c

CAPRICORN 19) Associate wit workers who thi upbeat terms. You influence today to force your positive

AQUARIUS (Ja Only if you comple today will you hav Finalizing that whi will give you grat feeling of self-wort

Copyright 20 Enterpr

Texas bank sites have 24-hour service

SPRING (AP) — A Houston-based bank is taking bankers' hours where no competitor has dared go.

Woodforest National Bank is keeping two of its branches open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, providing all the same services offered at its daytime-only counterparts. Both are inside Wal-Mart stores that also stay open around the clock.

The never-closed banks suit Linda Boykin, a Houston security guard who wraps up her 12-hour shifts at 6 a.m. She does her banking on the way home from work.

"I used to keep my money at home," Boykin said. "But it's better to have it in a bank."

Woodforest is taking the trend of more banking hours to its outermost limit. Banks have offered extended and weekend hours in branches in grocery stores and other retail outlets since 1971, said John Garnett, chief executive officer of Norcross, Ga.-based International Banking Technologies, which helps banks open in-store branches.

"Very few are open 24 hours a day, but none do that seven days a week," Garnett said. "What Woodforest is doing is very unique and will pay off in many, many new customers."

Olivia Solis, spokeswoman for the Texas Bankers Association, said many banks offer round-the-clock service by phone, at ATMs and over the Internet. But none have branch managers and tellers on duty overnight, she said.

Woodforest CEO Robert Marling said executives decided to try an around-the-clock branch to see if it was profitable by serving shift workers or others who find it difficult to do banking even with extended and weekend hours.

The first branch, in the northern Houston suburb of Spring, changed its hours in October 1999. Since then, 20 percent of the average 175 new accounts recorded each month have been opened between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. That convinced executives to open a second all-night branch last month, and a third is scheduled to open in another suburb in March.

"We open new accounts, give change to business customers at 5 a.m., and let them know we're there and that they are important to us," Marling said.

The all-night branches do much of the system's balancing and bookkeeping to free up daytime staff for other tasks. Overnight workers also are answering the bulk of e-mail questions from customers.

"You can call me at 2 a.m. to look at your bank statement," said Miguel Lopez, night manager at the Spring branch. "You may be half asleep, but I'm not."

Woodforest officials say they've also considered the possibility that all-night banks might catch the eye of all-night bank robbers.

Marling said the branches are prominently placed across from cashiers inside the Wal-Marts, near store employees and security guards. Those branches also keep less cash on hand than others.

"With the levels of cash we're keeping and the positioning of the stores, customers are pretty well-protected," Marling said.

Superfund request surprises Central Texas residents

SAN MARCOS (AP) — State regulators are preparing to add a site polluted by a gasoline additive along the San Marcos River to their Superfund registry of Texas' most environmentally contaminated areas in a move that has surprised government officials and environmentalists.

Cleanup of pollution caused by the additive MTBE and a solvent, if approved by the state's Natural Resource Conservation Commission, would be the first Central Texas effort to get federal Superfund help since the program began in 1980.

Investigators for TNRCC were scheduled to outline what they know about the plume of groundwater contamination east of the Interstate 35-Texas 123 intersection during a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the San Marcos Public Library.

"The public meeting is an attempt to obtain some information about the site, maybe things the public will know and will share," the TNRCC's Dick Lewis told the San Marcos Daily Record.

Groundwater tests of Willow Springs Creek, one of the San Marcos River's chief tributaries east of Interstate 35, have since the 1980s found detectable levels of MTBE and a dry-cleaning solvent. But city officials who occasionally test the river for contaminants such as fecal coliform, said they were unaware of contamination near the river. Environmentalists were also caught off guard.

"This was a big shock to us," Dianne Wassenich, San Marcos River Foundation president, told the Austin American-Statesman. "We knew nothing about this, and it's a shame, because if we had, it might have been easier to trace the contamination."

She said researcher for the foundation and Southwest Texas State University also perform tests along the river, but no one had identified the contamination by chemicals perchloroethylene and methyl tertiary butyl ether before.

Restaurant atop damaged high-rise to move

FORT WORTH (AP) — It's moving day for a penthouse restaurant forced to vacate a tornado-ravaged downtown high-rise.

A state district judge ordered operators of the Reata restaurant to vacate the Bank One tower by 8 a.m. Monday, paving the way for the building's sale to a group that plans to demolish the skyscraper this summer.

Owners of the restaurant, who have fought in court to retain their location on the building's 35th floor, ended their last day of operation atop the tower with a champagne toast, singing cowboys and confetti cannons on Sunday night.

"We're coming back, and we're coming back in a big way," Reata co-owner Mike Evans told employees.

As the Brent Van Sickle band played "Happy Trails to Fort Worth," dozens of partygoers crowded near the bar and applauded.

"This is not the end," said Evans. "We see this as a new beginning."

The busiest day in the Reata's history on Sunday followed the restaurant's loss Friday of the six-month-long court battle to keep its doors open. Owners vowed to re-open at another location.

More than 1,000 diners were served between 11 a.m. and 11 p.m., compared with about 700 on an average Sunday.

"We're exhausted," general manager Tod Lewis said on Sunday.

Reata owners had spent about $1 million on repairs to get back into the building six weeks after the deadly series of twisters swept through Fort Worth and the mid-cities March 28. But Loutex Fort Worth, the building's owners, decided in late July to stop temporary repairs to the building after reaching an $80 million insurance settlement.

The building was put up for sale and the restaurant's attorneys sued Loutex, contending that the owners violated the Reata's lease. The state judge on Friday ordered the building to be vacated to allow sale to Fine Line Diversified Realty, a group headed by Fort Worth financier Ed Bass.

The Bass group, according to last week's court testimony, plan to buy the tower and its adjacent garage and office annex for $3.8 million and demolish it by June 1.

"It's been tough," Lewis said Sunday. "When you make it through a tornado, you think the worst is behind you."

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2001

You should be able to achieve what you want in the year ahead, but not instantaneously. Patience and time are required to allow things to ripen if you want a good harvest.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Your sincere concern for others is one of your greatest assets, and today, how you conduct yourself will serve to show others how much you care about their affairs and endear you to them.

Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Reason always precedes success. When it comes to your financial affairs or commercial interests today, you must initiate matters in a practical, logical fashion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) If timing is an issue for you today, take charge of the events or matters yourself. Others with whom you're involved may not have the same sense of urgency about things as you do.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) It might be wiser today to be more reactive than assertive, because developments that pop up without solicitation might end up being better than those that you stir up.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Stick to socializing with friends or associates with whom you feel comfortable. Chances are that you won't be as relaxed today with people you know only slightly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) With tenacity and persistence, most anything can be overcome. If you get off on the wrong foot in a competitive matter, keep fighting and you'll eventually come out the winner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Utilize your abilities today to comprehend the whole picture instead of just a few brush strokes at a time. If you widen your perspective, the canvas will come alive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) If a deal you're chaffing at the bit to have is on the table today, maintain an indifferent air. A better deal can be negotiated when you don't look too eager.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) There's nothing wrong with playing second fiddle today in a situation in which your mate is opting for the leading role. Harmony is gained only by sounding harmonic notes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Even if it takes a lot of self-discipline, do your waistline a favor today by watching your intake. Stay clear of foods, sweets or drinks you know are high in calories.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Associate with friends or coworkers who think and feel in upbeat terms. You may need their influence today to help you reinforce your positive outlook.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Only if you complete what you start today will you have peace of mind. Finalizing that which you intended will give you gratification and the feeling of self-worth you need.

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'Raymond' wins three 'TV' awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Everybody Loves Raymond" came out on top at the TV Guide Awards, winning three honors, while the popular drama series "The West Wing" picked up two.

In balloting by more than a million TV Guide readers, "Everybody Loves Raymond" was voted favorite comedy series, and its star Ray Romano was picked as favorite comedic actor. Doris Roberts, also of the show, was voted best supporting actress in a comedy series.

"The West Wing" won for best drama series, while star Martin Sheen won for best dramatic actor.

"C.S.I.," a drama about forensic investigators, won for best new series.

Debra Messing, star of "Will and Grace," took home the award for best comedic actress and Amy Brenneman from "Judging Amy" won for best dramatic actress.

CBS' Craig Kilborn hosted Saturday's event, which included musical performances by Rod Stewart and Vonda Shepard.

It was not clear how many ballots were received, but there were more than 30 million votes cast for the 21 categories, said Janice Kaplan, executive producer of TV Guide Television.

The awards show, taped Saturday at the Shrine Auditorium, is scheduled to air March 7 on Fox.

Oil Patch News

Scurry County

R K Petroleum Corp. will drill the No. 2 Davidson, a 5,100-foot wildcat located 14 miles east of Snyder. Location is in Section 74, Block 2, H&TC survey.

Borden County

Sharp Image Energy Inc. will drill the No. 1-69 South Lake Thomas, a 7,500-foot wildcat located four miles north of Vincent. Drill site is in Section 69, Block 20, H&TC survey.

Howard County

Devo SFS Operating Inc. will drill the No. 6 Powell Ranch, an 8,300-foot wildcat located five miles south of Coahoma. Location is in Section 26, Block 31, T1S, T&P survey.

Devon SFS Operating will drill the No. 4-14 Powell Ranch, an 8,300-foot wildcat located three miles south of Coahoma. Location is in Section 14, Block 31, T1S, T&P survey.

Devon SFS will drill the No. 7-1 Barber, an 8,300-foot wildcat located two miles south of Coahoma. Drill site is in Section 1, Block 31, T1S, T&P survey.

Garza County

Kerry Petroleum Co. Inc. will drill the No. 19-B Connell in the Rocker A field, five miles southeast of Post. Planned depth is 5,500 feet, and location is in Section 12, Block 5, GH&H survey.

Kerry Petroleum will drill the No. 15 Connell in the Rocker A field, six miles southeast of Post. Planned for a depth of 5,500 feet, location is in Section 9, Block 5, GH&H survey.

Kerry Petroleum will drill the No. 16 Connell in the Rocker A field, six miles southeast of Post. Also set for a depth of 5,500 feet, drill site is in Section 9, Block 5, GH&H survey.

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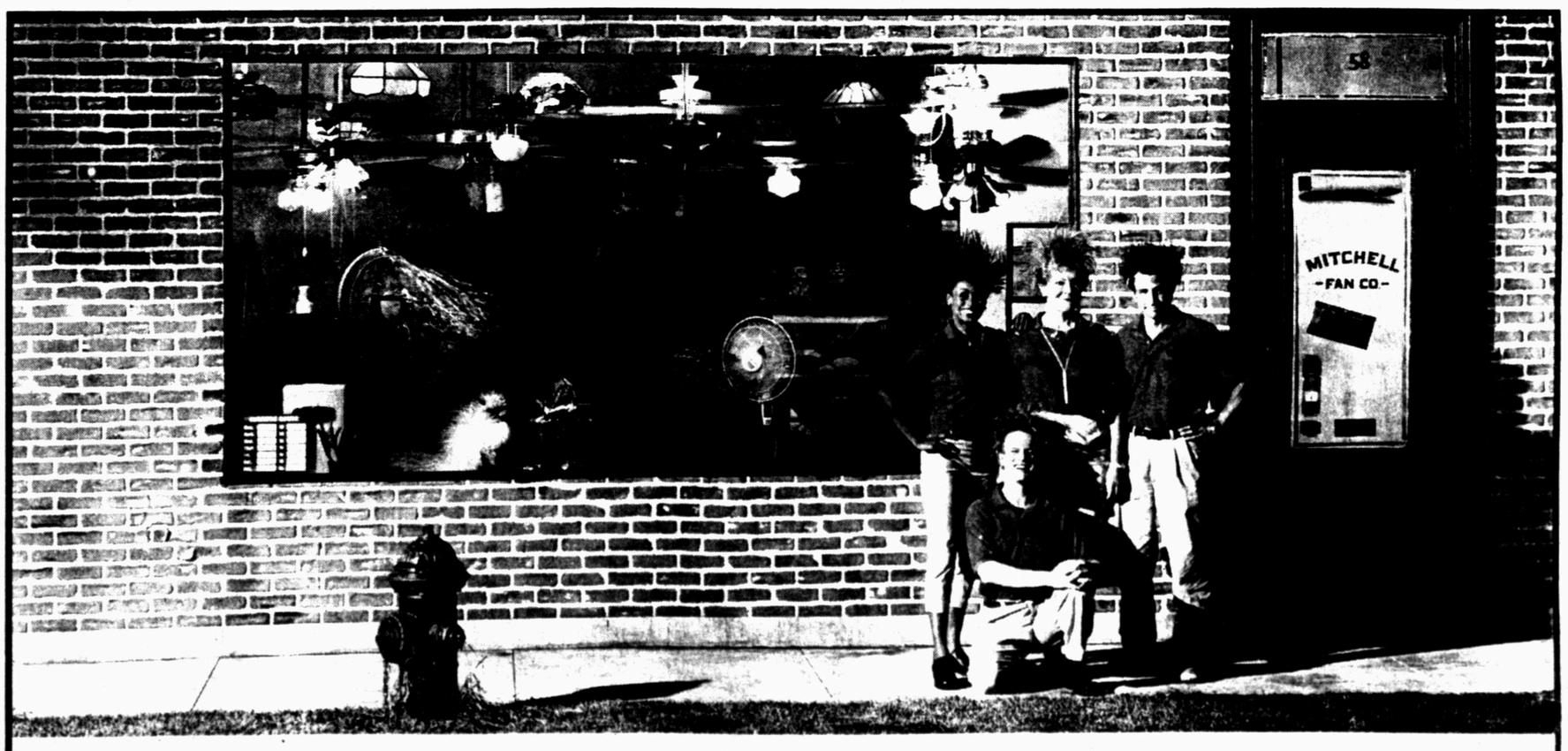


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FEB 26 2001

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

At least 5 dead in Mississippi tornado

PONTOTOC, Miss. (AP) — Trees snapped like matchsticks and those left standing were littered with clothes, furniture and insulation from hundreds of homes damaged by a tornado that left at least five people dead in Mississippi.

The severe weather struck in the northern part of the state late Saturday but the full extent of damage was not known until daylight Sunday. In Pontotoc County, a twister cut a 23-mile path, the National Weather Service said.

"My cousins were in a house that got blown away," Bobbye Roye said from a hospital phone in Tupelo, Miss. "They blew across a holler and landed on the side of another hill. They were all dead."

Two more fatalities were reported in Arkansas and Kansas.

The violent weather was part of a vast storm system that swept across the eastern half of the nation and dumped more than 20 inches of snow on northern Minnesota. Blowing snow closed highways in South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa, and heavy rain caused flooding in Missouri and Kansas. Three deaths were blamed on the snowstorm and one man was killed early Saturday when the storm system lashed northwest Texas with high wind.

Hospitals in Mississippi and Tennessee treated at least 48 people.

Authorities and emergency crews worked until dark Sunday, clearing a twisted mass of toppled trees and power lines near downtown Pontotoc, some 150 miles northeast of Jackson.

"We have got to stop soon before somebody gets hurt," said Police Chief Larry Poole. "There are power lines everywhere."

In Arkansas, a 2-year-old boy died Sunday of injuries suffered when a twister destroyed the family's home Saturday. His parents and a brother also were injured, authorities said. A Kansas man died in a flooded creek.

Mississippi Gov. Ronnie Musgrove left a national governors' conference in Washington on Sunday to see the damage. He declared parts of the county a disaster area and called for federal assistance.

"It's a tough time for families who have lost loved ones and have had property and homes destroyed," Musgrove said.

On the colder side of the storm, South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa authorities closed miles of interstate highways due to blizzard conditions created by heavy snow and 30-mph winds.

Minnesota's highway department closed all state highways in seven southwestern counties because snowplows couldn't keep up with the drifting snow.

Governors applaud emphasis on education, more flexibility

WASHINGTON (AP) — When President Bush proclaimed education the cornerstone of his agenda, governors applauded loudly at the start of their formal White House dinner.

And they praised the announcement by a Cabinet member earlier that Medicaid rules put in place in the last hours of the Clinton administration have been delayed for further review.

As long as the governors stayed on topics like education and giving states more flexibility to deal with federal programs, many in town for the National Governors Association's winter meeting seemed to be in accord Sunday.

"President Bush has brought the lessons we learned as governors to Washington," said Tommy Thompson, the former Wisconsin governor and now health and human services secretary. "We recognize that our partnership with you is absolutely fundamental."

Thompson announced a 60-day delay in the new Medicaid regulations to gather more input. A provision would have granted new rights to patients in health maintenance organizations, but state officials complained it would impose new costs and drive HMOs from their programs.

Another regulation, aimed at improving the health insurance program for children in low-income families, would be reviewed to ensure that states could easily build on each other's experiments.

Bush mentioned only one issue — education — on his policy agenda during the black-tie dinner Sunday night.

"I will make the case that we need to spend more money, but we need to spend it wisely." he said. "I will make the case that we need accountability. I know what governors can do; governors are on the leading edge of reform."

If education accountability is the unifying issue for governors, tax cuts are the most divisive. The partisan disagreements on that issue, which bubbled just beneath the surface during their meeting, mirror the kind of debate in Congress.

The governors were holding a working session with Bush today.

Bush placed the emphasis Sunday night on cooperation with old friends and colleagues from his days as governor of Texas.

Saw reported stolen from lumber company

• Theft

Officers were called to Snyder Lumber at 8:56 a.m. Saturday in reference to a saw being stolen from the shop area of the 2109 25th Street business.

• Dog bites

Two men, ages 36 and 38, were bitten Saturday by a stray dog in the 600 block of 19th Street. Two offense reports were filed and the canine was taken to the animal shelter for observation.

• Arrests

A 46-year-old woman was taken into custody at 8:56 p.m. Saturday in the 3800 block of Austin for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

A Department of Public Safety trooper took two subjects into custody at 1 a.m. Sunday, five miles south of Snyder on Round Top Road. A 23-year-old man was arrested for misdemeanor DWI, and a 20-year-old man was arrested on outstanding Texarkana DPS warrants for expired motor vehicle inspection, displaying a suspended driver's license and failure to appear.

At 3:11 a.m. Sunday, a trooper arrested a 20-year-old man in the 100 block of 33rd Street for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

Public intoxication landed a 41-year-old man in jail at 12:26 a.m. today. Officers picked him up in the 200 block of 37th Street following a report of a man lying in the roadway across from Faith Baptist Church.

• Accidents

At 5:12 p.m. Friday, a two-vehicle mishap occurred in the 400 block of College. Involved were a 1992 Chevrolet pickup driven by Alvin Floyd Dodson, 41, of 5233 Meador Road and a 1996 Mitsubishi driven by Alejo Suarez Jr., 23, of 2401 Avenue N.

Officers filed an accident report at 10:15 p.m. Friday in the 3600 block of College. Involved in the mishap were a 1995 Dodge pickup driven by Manual Flores, 23, of 317 35th Street and a 1987 Ford pickup driven by Victor Allen Isham, 18, of 4400 Avenue U, #1A13.

An accident occurred in the 3000 block of Avenue E at 11:51 a.m. Sunday involving a 1987 Pontiac Sunbird and a 1999 Pontiac Grand Prix. Rosalia Floyd, 85, of 1911 Martha Ann Blvd. #108 was driving the Sunbird, and Anastacia Nicole Murray, 19, of 101 Ash was driving the Grand Prix.

Two people were transported to Cogdell Memorial Hospital following a mishap at 3:18 p.m. Sunday in the 1500 block of 37th Street. Adelpha Sauceda, 37, of Hermleigh and her two-month-old daughter, Claudia, were transported by Snyder EMS. They were both treated and released.

Sauceda was driving a 1992 Geo Prism. Also involved in the accident was a 1982 Buick Regal driven by Adrian Perez, 16, of 1909 Scott.

Obituaries

Jim Vaughn

1955-2001

Jim Bob Vaughn, a national skeet shooting champion, died Saturday, Feb. 24, in University Medical Center in Lubbock after a brief illness.

Funeral service for Mr. Vaughn, 45, is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. Dr. Rex Reynolds, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Hermleigh, will officiate. Burial will follow in the Hermleigh Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 this evening at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born April 27, 1955 in Lubbock, Mr. Vaughn was a resident of Lubbock and worked as a maintenance supervisor at the prison in Post.

Survivors include his parents, James and Arnita Vaughn of Snyder; a sister, Janice Cook of Idalou; and two brothers and their spouses, Jay and Jackie Vaughn and Jerry and Vickie Vaughn, all of Mesa, Ariz.; and eight nieces and nephews.

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L.H. Sims

1923-2001

SEMINOLE – L.H. Sims, a native of Scurry County, died Friday, Feb. 23.

Funeral service for Mr. Sims, 77, is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in the First Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Gayle Perkins officiating. Burial will follow in the Gaines County Cemetery South under the direction of Boyer Funeral Home.

Born Oct. 31, 1923 in Ira, he married Ruby Lee McCullough on June 3, 1950 in Seminole. She died in 1980.

A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, Mr. Sims was a former resident of Snyder and worked as an auto parts store manager in Seminole. A resident of Andrews at the time of his death, Mr. Sims was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, American Legion and Senior Citizens Center.

Survivors include a son, David Sims of Andrews; a daughter, Nancy Vogt of Andrews; a brother, J.P. Sims of Friona; a sister, Rosa Ray Welch of Seminole; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Julia Wolf

1910-2001

AUSTIN – Julia R. Wolf, a former resident of Snyder, died Saturday, Feb. 24.

Funeral service for Mrs. Wolf, 90, is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks Funeral Home. Interment will follow in the Forest Oaks Memorial Park.

Mrs. Wolf was a longtime resident of Snyder. She cared for children for 25 years at Colonial Hill Baptist Church and the First United Methodist Church in Dripping Springs for nine years.

Survivors include her husband of 71 years, Richard O. Wolf of Dripping Springs; two sons and daughters-in-law, Gilbert and Sharon Wolf of Dripping Springs and Richard and Sherri Wolf of Mission Viejo, Calif.; a daughter and son-in-law, Wanda and Charles Gerland of Garfield; five grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the Austin Hospice.

Grace Latimer

1904-2001

RICHARDSON — Grace Marie Latimer, mother of Gail Latimer of Snyder, died Saturday, Feb. 24, at a Richardson nursing facility.

Graveside service for Mrs. Latimer, 96, is set for 11 a.m. Thursday in Shannon Rose Hill Memorial Park. Her nephew, the Rev. Gene Tyson, will officiate.

Born on March 14, 1904 in Chanute, Kan., she married John Latimer of Fort Worth in June of 1923. He died in August, 1986.

She was also preceded in death by a son, Royce R. Latimer last August; four sisters and two brothers.

Other survivors include a granddaughter; two step grandsons; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Feb. 23-Iva Franks, Maria Juarez, Harold Kelley, Howell Scott, Victor Amezquita, Della Clark of Sweetwater, Lou Everett, Douglas Sawyer, Blaine Waddell of San Antonio; Feb. 24-George Parks Jr., Mary Wampler, Barbara King, Martinez girl, Joshua Sergant.

DISMISSALS: Feb. 23- Victor Amezquita, Bobby Bradford of Coahoma, Daisy Browne, Lindsey Jackson, Alfred Vernon, Joe League, Jerry Mullis, Inez Rinehart of Hermleigh and Trinidad Scott; Feb. 24-Howell Scott, Angela Velasquez and daughter, Della Clark, Barbara King, Martinez girl, Charles Thomas and Blaine Waddell.

CENSUS: 45 (Med./Surg.-20, Long-term Care-23, OB-1 and Nursery-1)

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

MAWC game day

Martha Ann Woman's Club game day begins at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday. Reservations are needed by 5 p.m. today by calling 573-3427.

Cub Scout Pack 61

Cub Scout Pack 61 will have a troop meeting at 7 tonight at West Elementary.

Bible study tapes

Bible study videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "What God Would Tell a King," followed by "The Truth Shall Make You Free."

Historical commission meeting

The Scurry County Historical Commission will meet at noon Tuesday at The Shack. The group will make plans for the Texas Independence Day observance March 4 at the Scurry County Museum.

C.H.I.P signup

Parents of children without health insurance are encouraged to investigate the Children's Health Insurance Program between the hours of 3 and 7 p.m. Tuesday at the community room at Texas Savings Bank.

Class of 1951 reunion planning

The SHS class of 1951 will hold a planning session at 4 p.m. Tuesday. For location and more information call Patsy Sitton, 573-4359, Islasu Minor, 573-8412, or Anne von Roeder, 573-7485.

Dee Wilson reception

Gateway Family Services board of directors invites the public to a reception honoring executive director Dee Wilson from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday at Martha Ann Woman's Club. Wilson is moving to Abilene to become the executive director of Noah Project Inc.

Hospice dinner

Community Care Hospice staff and volunteers invite all caregivers to a dinner in their honor at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Garden Room of First Baptist Church. Call 573-0212 or 573-4296 to RSVP.

Genealogical society

The Scurry County Genealogical Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Scurry County Library. Dave Hanes will give a program on the history of the Cherokee Indians. Everyone is invited.

Alzheimer support group

The Alzheimer family support group meets at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays each month at Snyder Oaks Care Center.

West family reading night

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

FBC worship service

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

St. Elizabeth fish fry

St. Elizabeth fish fry will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday in the parish center, 30th and Ave. A. Tickets are $6 with children ages 6-12 eating for $4. Tickets sold at the door. Proceeds go to the scholarship fund.

Kiwanis pancake day

The annual Kiwanis pancake feast will be from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday at the West Elementary cafeteria. Cost is $4 per person. Children under six can eat free if accompanied by their parents. All-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage and bacon will be served. Proceeds go to local children's projects and there will be a drawing for a color TV.

Community-Wide Reading Program

Snyder ISD will sponsor its monthly Community-Wide Reading Program at the Pizza Inn on Saturday at 10 a.m. Call Mary Ann Juarez at 574-6012 for more information.

Museum exhibit

The courthouse exhibit will open Sunday at the Scurry County Museum.

Senior parents meeting

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

Shattered Dreams 2000 tapes

Videotapes of Shattered Dreams 2000 are available by calling Lori or Penny at Snyder EMS at 573-1912. Proceeds will go to scholarships for students who participated in the program last April.

Spare change roundup

The American Heart Association is sponsoring a Spare Change Roundup during February, National Heart Month. Deposit coins in collection canisters located around Snyder, or call 573-2913 for locations.

Income tax help

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

1961 SHS class reunion

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

1986 class reunion

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