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INSIDE

What's up 2
Dear Abby 3
Sports 5
Astro-Graph 8
Dr. Gott 10

WT-Int. Crude - $34.39
WTIC Posted - $31.00
Natural Gas - $5.76

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
April 5, 2004
Vol. 55 No. 292
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Howard & Carolyn Harrington

Facing lengthy agenda...

City council to discuss property tax limits

The Snyder City Council faces a lengthy agenda when it meets at 6:30 this evening at city hall.

The council will discuss limiting property taxes for those over 65 or disabled, allowing dump trucks to be placed for trash removal at no charge — which would be a reversal of earlier council action, and possibly changing the size of back yard requirements in new developments.

The city has been asked to consider limiting increases to property taxes for those 65 and over, and those declared disabled based on a law passed by the state legislature and approved by voters in a constitutional amendment last November.

Scurry County Commissioners' Court recently adopted the tax freeze and rough estimates predict the city could lose about $1,000 annually in future taxes, although exact figures are not available.

Currently the city charges $35 to place a truck or trailer for residents to use overnight for clean up, but will consider allowing residents to reserve a truck be parked overnight in a neighborhood at no cost. The effort is part of the Clean Up Snyder campaign, according to City Manager John Gayle.

The Snyder Planning and Zoning Commission recently passed a resolution calling for a reduction in the size of back yards in new houses, but Vick Chambers of the city staff sent the council a letter asking that the proposal be amended to reflect the size of the total amount of a lot that can be used for construction. The council will consider the proposal and the recommended changes.

Since there are no contested races for May 15 election, the council will consider and act on a proposal canceling the election.

New ordinances replacing some existing plumbing and electrical inspection ordinances will be discussed and possibly acted on as well.

The council will hear reports on the annual financial report, quarterly investment report and the water distribution main improvement and discuss the 2004-2005 budget.

Dawson Geophysical Company is scheduled to make a request to use city right of ways to make a geophysical survey and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad will talk to the council about crossing surface improvements.

Appointing members to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, Planning and Zoning Commission and the Builders Board of Appeal and possible appointments to other boards will be considered and voted on.

The council is scheduled to present a plaque to former councilman James Ashley who has moved from the community, and consider passing a resolution opposing school finance or tax system reforms that might negatively affect city revenue and economic development efforts.

The council will also have an executive session to discuss the performance of the city manager. An executive session on the evaluation also was held Friday for over five hours.

GARNER AWARDS — Snyder High School drama students garnered acting awards Saturday at the district 3-3A one-act play contest in Sweetwater. Coleman Welch (top picture) and Tyler Price (left picture) were named to the all star cast and Stephanie Parmer (also in top picture) received honorable mention. Logan Martin was also named to the all-star cast. (Staff Photos by Shirley A. Gorman)

One-act play advances

And the winner is.....

Snyder High School has again won the District 3-3A UIL Literary Meet. SHS had already earned 242 points in the March 27 district contest. When *A Midsummer Night's Dream* won the one-act competition Saturday at Sweetwater High School, that put SHS over the top for the sweepstakes award with 476 points to Seminole High School's 468.

SHS drama students also won several awards. Tyler Price, Logan Martin and Coleman Welch were named to the all-star cast.

Stephanie Parmer received honorable mention all-star cast.

Snyder won four of five technical awards including Justin Cox, stage manager and lighting; best crew, and best over-all technical award.

Denver City won best sound.

Director Michael McQuerry praised his students this morning. "I am very proud of their performance and of the commitment the kids made to the play and each other. I felt they were rewarded for that."

The drama department is now preparing for the Area II contest set Friday at Allison Fine Arts Building, Wagner and Brown Auditorium at Midland College.

Eckerds sold to CVS

DALLAS (AP) — J.C. Penney Co. said today it has sold its financially troubled Eckerd chain of 2,800 drugstores to CVS Corp. and Canada's Jean Coutu Group Inc. for $4.525 billion.

CVS agreed to buy about 1,260 Eckerd stores, mostly in Texas and Florida, and Eckerd's mail-order business for about $2.15 billion.

CVS, based in Woonsocket, R.I., said the deal would make it the largest drugstore chain, with more than 5,000 locations in 36 states, $33 billion in annual revenue, and the filler of about 13 percent of the nation's retail prescriptions.

The Jean Coutu Group, based in Montreal, will get 1,539 Eckerd stores in 13 Northeast and mid-Atlantic states and the chain's Florida headquarters for $2.375 billion in cash. It said the stores would keep the Eckerd name.

Penney expects to earn $3.5 billion in cash after taxes and expenses, and said it could use the money to pay down debt or buy back shares of its stock.

The deal is subject to regulatory approval, but Penney expects it to close in the second the April-to-June period.

In trading this morning, shares of CVS jumped $2.60, or 7.5 percent, to $37.38, and Penney shares rose 7 cents to $34.90 on the New York Stock Exchange — near 52-week highs for both. Coutu shares lost 15 cents, to 17.95 Canadian dollars, on the Toronto exchange.

Penney, based in Plano, Texas, operates 1,020 department stores and has been trying to sell the Eckerd division for several months. Penney had hoped to sell Eckerd for at least $6 billion, but in February it took a $450 million charge to reflect the chain's lower value.

Court to assist with water grants

The Scurry County Commissioners' Court this morning voted to help the Ira Water District apply for grant money and to hire a law firm to help local courts recover fine money owed.

The court heard from officials from the Ira and Dunn water supply asking the county to sponsor applications for two grants to build new water lines in their areas.

One of the grants is a Texas Community CD Grant, which will be filed in the fall but the other, a step grant, can be applied for as soon as paperwork is completed. The reason the county is being asked to help is because in each case, an incorporated county or municipality is required to ask for the state funds, and Ira is not incorporated.

The work would be primarily in the Round Top area. It is estimated that the new lines would add approximately 14 new customers and would also improve water pressure for existing customers, according to officials.

The plan is to eventually take Round Top off of the current line it is on and put it on a new line that in some places would run parallel to the existing line.

The county's sponsoring of the grant applications will not cost the county any money but water officials said that some in-kind labor, such as filling in ditches after the water pipes are laid, would be needed to meet matching fund requirements of the grant.

County Judge Rod Waller noted that the new lines would also help fire-fighting efforts in the area by increasing water pressure.

The county helped with a similar CD grant to build a water tower in Hermleigh recently.

Tony Ellison of the law firm of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, which represents the county in some tax areas, told about a new state law that allows counties and other taxing entities to hire outside firms to collect delinquent fines and fees for the JP, county and district courts. The firm said it has set up a division that is having some success getting money from people who are 60 days or more overdue.

"We have been successful collecting overdue taxes for some 35 years and have developed some specialized software to help find people," Ellison said.

"It may not seem like a lot of money but 80 percent of something is better than 100 percent of nothing," Ellison said.

Justice of the Peace Deborah Boyd was at the meeting, and said she and Ellison had not had a chance to visit. She said she was not sure if it would help her or not, but that she could see a possibility it could help, especially with out-of-state cases which are almost impossible to collect. Ellison said in other counties the firm has collected from as far away as Europe, usually from families of students who got tickets here but list their parent's as their home address.

The court also passed a resolution opposing Governor Rick Perry's three-percent tax initiative and decided to indefinitely table any new changes to security systems at county buildings.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, the court convened at 37th Street and Ave. L – the site of a proposed new DPS building.

Judge Waller presided and all members of the court were present.

Holy Week services continue

Holy Week services continue this week in Snyder with noon services through Thursday at First Presbyterian Church, and a Friday morning breakfast at First Methodist Church.

The Ministerial Alliance of Scurry County is sponsoring the services and invites everyone to attend.

Noon worship services will be followed by a meal during the week at 12:30.

On Tuesday, Dr. Tommy Culwell of the Colonial Hill Baptist Church will speak and the lunch will be provided by members of his church.

Wednesday's message will be brought by Tony Wofford of Word is Life Deliverance Church and the meal provided by his congregation and St. Elizabeth Catholic Church.

On Thursday, Jim Hill of First Christian Church will preach and the meal provided by members of his congregation and Faith in Action Church.

Friday's meeting will change to early morning with Buddy Payne of First United Methodist Church preaching and the 7 a.m. breakfast provided by members of his church.

Rainfall Reports

Snyder	.18
East of city	.10
West of city	.10
Lake Thomas	.20
Fluvanna	.30
Polar	.20
Loyd Mountain	.40
Camp Springs	.10
Dermott	1.2
Union	.20
Gail	.50

Totals as reported by area residents for weekend and early today.

ASK US

Q—When does Texas Legacies begin at Palo Duro Canyon State Park?

A—June 3rd.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Jennifer Rogers

...has been a resident of Snyder for 13 years. She has three daughters - Briana, 13; Anna, 3; and Hanna, 2. Jennifer is the owner of Rogers Safety Associates and when asked about hobbies replied, "Who has time for hobbies?"

TODAY'S THOUGHT

The greatest asset of a man, a business, or a nation is faith.
—Thomas J. Watson

APR 05 2004

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Crusade with Clark Bosher

Calvary Baptist Church will host a crusade with Clark Bosher, motivational speaker and evangelist, through Wednesday. Weekday service times are 7 p.m. Today is a youth emphasis service and a free "Pizza Blast" will follow. The church is located at 2405 35th St.

Noah's Ark

Noah's Ark, 18th and Ave. R, will have Holy Week services 7 p.m. today through Saturday. An Easter Sunrise service will be held at 6 a.m. Sunday.

Football booster club

The Snyder Tiger football booster club will meet at 6:30 p.m. today at the China Dragon.

VFW auxiliary to meet

The VFW Auxiliary Post 8231 will meet at 7 tonight in the post home. Nominations for officers will be made.

Hermleigh Masonic Lodge

The Hermleigh Masonic Lodge will meet at 7:30 this evening with a meal to follow. All Master Masons are invited.

Hermleigh Cemetery Association

The Hermleigh Cemetery Association will meet at 6 p.m. today in the Hermleigh Community Center. Everyone is invited.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "the New Heaven and Earth," followed by "the Mission of the Church."

Snyder Lions Club meetings

Due to Holy Week services, the Snyder Lions Club will not meet at Martha Ann Woman's Club Tuesday, but at the First Presbyterian Church for services. On April 13, the club will meet at the regular time and place.

Scurry Masonic Lodge #706

The Scurry Masonic Lodge #706 will have a stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. All Master Masons are invited.

Doodlebug Writers

The Doodlebug Writers Fellowship will meet from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Tuesday in the Golden Terrace community room. Visitors are welcome.

AA meeting

An AA meeting is held at noon every Tuesday and Friday at the Witherspoon house next door to the First Presbyterian Church. The meeting is non-smoking and closed. For more information, call 574-2656, or 207-1325.

Free income tax help

There is free help with income taxes every Wednesday from 9 a.m. until noon and 1-3 p.m. at the senior center at 2603 Ave. M.

What's up guidelines

Items for What's Up will be published twice at no charge, the day before and the day of the event. Events or activities requiring additional publicity will be referred to the advertising department where a special non-profit rate is available.

4 alleged victims settle with church

BOSTON (AP) — The lawyer representing four alleged sexual abuse victims of former priest Paul R. Shanley said a settlement has been reached over a civil suit with the Archdiocese of Boston, but vowed the criminal case against the one-time street priest would continue.

"It's not over until Paul Shanley is in jail," attorney Roderick MacLeish Jr. said early Monday morning. He said the settlement was reached about 11 p.m. Sunday.

MacLeish, who declined to reveal the size of the settlement at the request of his clients, said a joint statement by his office and church leaders was to be released today.

A call to archdiocesan headquarters was not immediately returned.

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5 — Give yourself what you **DESERVE** and what you **NEED!**
4 — **BE SUCCESSFUL** - This high tech society calls for massage to counteract the stresses of your demanding modern day life, that keep **YOU** feeling run down.
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U.S. military operations move away from strong-arm tactics

MUQDADIYAH, Iraq (AP) — Deep in the Iraqi countryside, a small patrol rolls into a poor village of mostly illiterate farmers.

U.S. soldiers emerge from two armored vehicles and a crowd gathers. The older men reel off a litany of woes and Laith Hamid, son of the village chief, tells an officer: "The American unit before you was not good to Arabs. In this rural society, it is an insult to search our homes. If you deal with us with force, it will be to nobody's benefit."

The patrol leader, Capt. Sean Sims, happens to agree.

"The last unit was detaining a lot of people," he said prior to the patrol's stop in Aetha, a village near the town of Mugdadiyah, 70 miles northeast of Baghdad.

Instead of winning people over, the U.S. forces were angering them by "busting up houses and detaining adults in front of kids."

U.S. forces conduct some 1,400 patrols and raids across Iraq every day. Whereas in the past missions like Sims' favored strong-arm tactics, these days the emphasis is on what is being called "the relationship phase" with Iraqi civilians.

The thinking goes like this: By expanding its contact with Iraqis, the military can crack the invariable wall of silence and cure the Americans' Achilles heel — lack of solid intelligence about insurgents.

Small units are key players in the new approach, commanding officers say. It's their patrols and raids, rather than big sweeps and offensives, that are the staple of the military effort in Iraq.

"It's much easier to kick down doors and arrest people, but you pay a price. What we're doing is infinitely more complicated than combat operations. Soldiers have to exercise far greater judgment and they assume risks," says Sims' battalion commander, Lt. Col. Peter A. Newell.

Not all like it. Angry at the recent killings and mutilations of four American civilian contractors in the town of Fallujah, some soldiers outside Newell's command grumbled about being straightjacketed into "a class-act army" rather than fighting as a tough, hard-charging force.

And commanders differ as to the emphasis they place on the velvet glove.

Newell says his battalion, from the 2nd Infantry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division, came prepared for the softer touch, with nine months of peacekeeping experience in Kosovo. They arrived in Iraq less than a month ago, charged with stabilizing the largely rural area of 260,000 people around Muqdadiyah.

"Initially we come into town and everyone says, 'We have no problems. The bad guys come from over there.' They just don't open up. It may be from feelings toward us but a lot of people are just very scared," said Sims, of El Paso, Texas, who commands the battalion's Alpha Company.

As the unit settles into the area for a year's stay, orders are to mingle with locals who might come into contact with insurgents planning attacks, such as village leaders, market vendors, and shop owners. The hope is that eventually, as trust builds, more people will begin to point fingers.

"It's all based on human relations. We'll live and die by it," Newell, of St. Johnsbury, Vt., said. "We want the population to cast the insurgents out."

Battalion officers say the emphasis is on nailing down multiple sources before launching a raid, rather than relying on a single informant as was often the case in the past.

"We are in a race against the guys who are spreading hatred, violence and anti-coalition material and they speak the people's language and have the social links. We don't," Newell says. "Whose message gets out farther faster?"

To win the race with such a handicap, the battalion mounts daily, around-the-clock patrols.

Pastor preaches of healing

TYLER (AP) — At the church where Deanna Laney once ministered to youth, sang in the choir and spoke in tongues while filled with the Holy Spirit, worshippers are praying for her and family members after she was acquitted by reason of insanity of bludgeoning her sons to death.

Members of the Pentecostal First Assembly of God church on Sunday turned to their faith to cope with the killings, which Laney said God told her to commit.

"We'll probably never know really why it happened," said Joe Jackson, 69, a former deacon of the church and friend of the Laney family. "I know she's got some time to serve though to pay for the things that she's done, but I think the Lord will be with her and carry her through this."

Pastor Gary Bell, who is also Laney's brother-in-law, preached about hope amid despair to his congregation of more than 100 people, and said he will continue to stand by Laney and her husband, Keith.

"You're going to make it. I said you're going to make it. By the grace of God, we're going to make it," he preached in a voice that rang outside the brick church.

Some of Laney's relatives attended Sunday's service and were consoled afterward by church members. They have declined to give interviews.

Later, speaking to reporters, Bell said he believed the jury did the right thing by acquitting Laney of capital murder and serious injury to a child in the deaths of 8-year-old Joshua, 6-year-old Luke and the beating of Aaron, now 2.

"Everyone in this situation is a victim, everyone," he said.

Faith in God is helping a "weary and traumatized" family cope, he said.

"Our faith is unshaken by this. In fact, if anything, our faith has been fortified," Bell said. "I don't know how people make it through crises like this without their faith."

A jury of eight men and four women deliberated for about seven hours Saturday before determining that Laney must have suffered from a severe mental illness that made her incapable of knowing right from wrong during the attacks — the standard for insanity in Texas.

Laney called 911 Mother's Day weekend and calmly told a dispatcher, "I just killed my boys." The older boys were found in the front yard with their skulls smashed while the youngest was bleeding in his crib. Aaron suffered severe brain injury that has left him visually impaired. Doctors don't expect him ever to live independently.

Today's chuckle

Mom pays surprise visit to son in Iraq

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A 26-year-old Army Ranger never expected an ambush quite like this one while stationed in Iraq — and the only warning he got was when fellow soldiers paged him over the 2-way radio.

"Hey, Nick. Your mom's here," they said.

Susan Galleymore, 48, of Alameda, went against the warnings of military officials and showed up for the surprise visit Feb. 1, seven days after leaving with a group from the Bay Area.

Galleymore was reunited with her son for 90 minutes. He gave her a tour of the base and accompanied her to see the view from a guard tower.

Galleymore chose not to reveal Nick's last name to protect him from potential harassment from colleagues for her anti-war views.

Galleymore was also using the trip to gather information for a book she plans to write on the views of some Iraqi and U.S. parents on the war. She said she simply wanted to see for herself how her son was doing since he was sent over in December.

Galleymore's 10-day trip, which was also spent visiting hospitals, orphanages and politicians, was arranged by the peace activist group Code Pink, which has led about a dozen parents to Iraq over the past few months.

U.S. military officials have strongly discouraged parents from visiting soldiers in Iraq because of the dangers involved.

"I'm a mother, too, so I know how she feels," said Sgt. Pam Smith, an 82nd Airborne spokeswoman. "But it is extremely dangerous over there."

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events

LOTTO TEXAS
TEXAS LOTTERY
RESULTS

Saturday's Lottery Numbers
Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 11-17-19-21-42. Bonus Ball: 27.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Number matching five of five: 4. Prize: $7,733

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 18. Prize: $1,559

Number matching four of five: 624. Prize: $97.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 666. Prize: $80.

Number matching three of five: 24,295. Prize: $5.

Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 7,317. Prize: $5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 31,369. Prize: $3.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: $21 million.

Cash Five

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

1-6-11-15-35

Match 5 numbers: 1; Prize: $41,576

Match 4 numbers: 134; Prize: $140

Match 3 numbers: 4,472; Prize: $10

Match 2 numbers: 44,760; Prize: $2.

Pick 3
(Day) 4-8-3
(Night) 0-0-0

World Almanac

Monday, April 5, 2004

Today is the 96th day of 2004 and the 17th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1614, Pocahontas married John Rolfe.

In 1951, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were sentenced to death for espionage.

In 1955, Winston Churchill resigned as prime minister of Great Britain.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), philosopher; Booker T. Washington (1856-1915), writer/educator; Spencer Tracy (1900-1967), actor; Gregory Peck (1916-2003), actor; Colin Powell (1937-), secretary of state/retired general, is 67.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1993, North Carolina won the men's NCAA basketball title after Michigan's Chris Webber called for a timeout his team didn't have.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "You can't hold a man down without staying down with him." — Booker T. Washington

TODAY'S FACT: In 2002, there were 4,432 elected officials of Hispanic origin in the United States, an increase of more than 40 percent since 1985.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 42 — Number of gallons in a barrel of oil.

TODAY'S MOON: Full moon (April 5)

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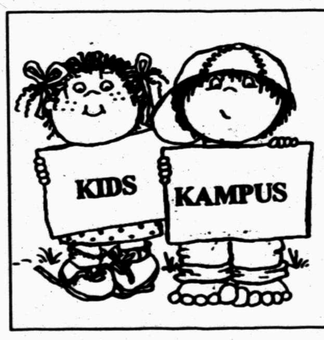

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TICKETS AVAILABLE IN SNYDER
Snyder Chamber
United Supermarkets
Texas Finance

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TWO BIG SHOWS! 4:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

THE CARSON & BARNES 5 RING CIRCUS
Under the Biggest Big Top on Earth!
Come Early & Watch the Elephants Raise the Big Top between 8-10a.m.

Friday, April 9

TICKETS IN AREA
Area Chambers - Big Spring, Colorado City, Post, Sweetwater, Lamesa
United Supermarkets - Post, Lamesa
Texas Finance - Big Spring, Lamesa, Sweetwater
HEB-Big Spring
Brookshire-Sweetwater

OCEAN STUDIES — Hermleigh fourth grade science students recently studied various part of the ocean. (Delinda Dacus (at left) is pictured with her submarine. Other students holding their projects are from left Aaron Jernigan, Garrett Gray, Santos Reynosa, Delinda Dacus, Catie Anderson, Carly Gill, Susan Lee, Gavin Gray and Fabian Fuentes. Joyce Lionberger is their science teacher. (Staffs Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Tax preparers have to contend with dividend tax cut this spring

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bill Lazor thought he had a jump on the busy tax filing season when he prepared a tax return in January for a client who had received dividends on stock held in a brokerage account.

Lazor, an accountant at Kronick Kalada Berdy & Co. in Kingston, Pa., said the client's tax statement showed the dividends did not qualify for the new 15 percent tax rate enacted last year.

Then the client returned in February with a corrected tax statement that reclassified the dividends. They now qualified for the lower rate.

Lazor dutifully prepared an amended tax return and sent it to the Internal Revenue Service.

But his client returned in March with a second corrected tax statement that showed the dividends were not dividends at all. The money counted as interest and did not qualify for the special dividend tax rate.

"At that point I just threw my hands up," Lazor said. "It just gets to be ridiculous."

The new system for taxing dividends has caused serious disruptions for investors and accountants trying to figure out which dividends qualify for lower tax rates. The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants says it is the biggest headache facing their members this year.

"There's a lot of people tearing their hair out," said Tom Ochsenschlager, the organization's vice president of taxation.

Congress last year cut taxes on some dividends paid by stocks and mutual funds. The change applied to dividends paid since January 2003. Taxes on certain dividends were lowered to no more than 15 percent.

Dividends that do not qualify for the lower rates can be taxed at regular income tax rates as high as 35 percent. Dividends still taxed at the higher rate include money distributed by preferred stocks, real estate investment trusts and some foreign companies.

Brokers scrambled to reprogram their computers to reflect the new law.

The Securities Industry Association asked the IRS to extend the deadline for mailing tax statements to investors to give companies more time to refine their dividend reporting calculations. The IRS denied the request, arguing that taxpayers expecting a refund would have to wait longer to claim their money.

Some securities and brokers have had to send corrected tax statements after finding errors in their original calculations. Mutual funds, which report multiple kinds of dividends, faced the most complicated calculations.

Rick Hollingsworth, manager of tax information returns at H&R Block Financial Advisors, said 25,000 securities faced complicated dividend calculations. The securities industry expects to send three times to five times more corrected forms than usual, he said.

Taxpayers who already filed a return, only to find a corrected tax statement in the mailbox later, may wonder whether they have to file an amended return using the new information.

The answer is probably yes, said IRS spokesman Don Roberts.

When a correction means that a taxpayer owes more money to the government, the taxpayer must file an amended return using Form 1040X. The amended return must be sent by April 15 for the taxpayer to avoid paying interest on the extra taxes owed.

When a correction means that a taxpayer overpaid and deserves a refund, it is up to the taxpayer to decide what to do.

"In either case, they should file an amended return — in one case because it's extra money in their pocket, in the other case because they owe the tax," Roberts said.

Tax professionals can prepare amended returns or individuals can use the information from their original return to prepare the amended return themselves. Most home software packages allow taxpayers to prepare amended returns, but the new return must be printed out and mailed to the IRS. The tax agency cannot accept amended returns filed electronically.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Man who had colostomy is desperate for support

DEAR ABBY: I am a 54-year-old married man with two wonderful children. Two months ago, I was diagnosed with colon cancer. That was the first shock. Then I learned that I would need to have part of my colon removed and would have a permanent colostomy. I was devastated.

I had the surgery and am healing, but I don't know how to get on with my life. I need more help with self-care than my doctor can give me. I also have questions about intimacy, returning to my career and participating in activities with my family.

Is there any place I can find support from other people who have had this kind of surgery? I feel so alone. **— B.J. IN GEORGIA**

DEAR B.J.: You are not alone. There are an estimated 750,000 people with ostomies in the United States, and I am told that number increases by about 65,000 each year. One of them is a woman who works out with me at my gym — and believe me, she lives a very full life and misses out on nothing in her business or personal life.

You should contact the United Ostomy Association Inc. It's a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide education, information and support for people who have had ostomy or related surgeries. There are many resources available for you. Call the toll-free number, (800) 826-0826, between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. PST. An individual will answer your call and provide ostomy information and referrals to local support chapters and special-interest networks. The UOA Web site is www.uoa.org. It contains information about different types of surgeries, ostomy management tips, patient discussion boards, organizational activities, and links to sources for ostomy products.

Please don't procrastinate about contacting them. It will make a positive difference in your rehabilitation and help you to return more quickly to a full, productive life.

**

DEAR ABBY: I am 12 years old, and I am the only male I know who reads your column. There is no reason for us guys not to, because you give unconditional advice. You help us see different views from our own, just like you do with females. So don't be afraid, guys — read it! **— READS EVERYTHING**

DEAR READS: Bless you for the endorsement, but I have a flash for you — males of every age read my column. (They just don't always tell each other about it.)

I'm pleased you are an enthusiastic reader. If I could give younger people one piece of advice, it would be: Read, read, read! In reading, you will open up new worlds, real and imagined. Read for information; read for pleasure. Our libraries are filled with knowledge and joy, and it's all there — free for the taking. A person who does not read is no better off than the person who CANNOT read.

**

DEAR ABBY: The advice you gave "Afraid for the Children" concerning the two 5-year-old girls walking home alone was correct.

I should know. I am a police officer. Those two little girls are definitely in danger walking home alone. Five-year-olds are extremely vulnerable to predators and traffic violators. It is important for concerned adults to safeguard children. Calling the police for assistance is vital, as an investigation is necessary to see why those children have been put in such a dangerous situation.

Don't wait until it's too late and children are abducted or hit by a speeding car. When it comes to children, it is always better to be safe than sorry. **— BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY**

DEAR BETTER: Amen!

**

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY JEWISH READERS: Happy Passover!

**

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

**

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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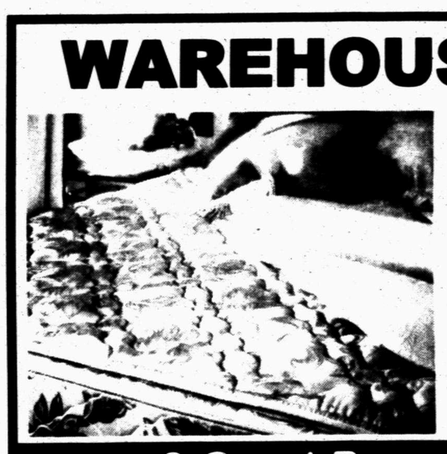

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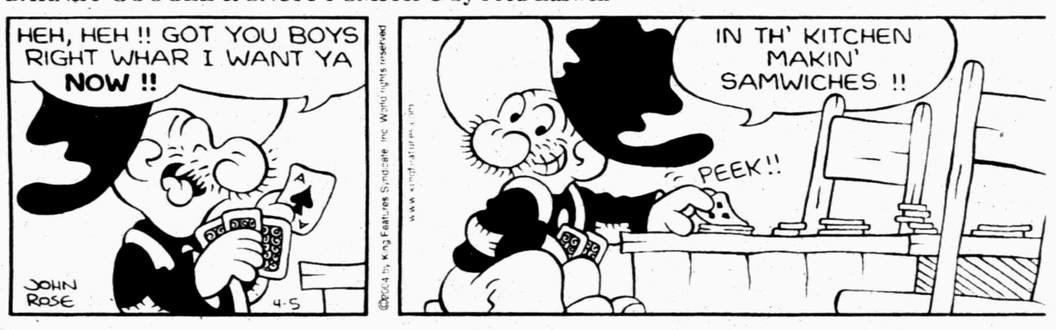

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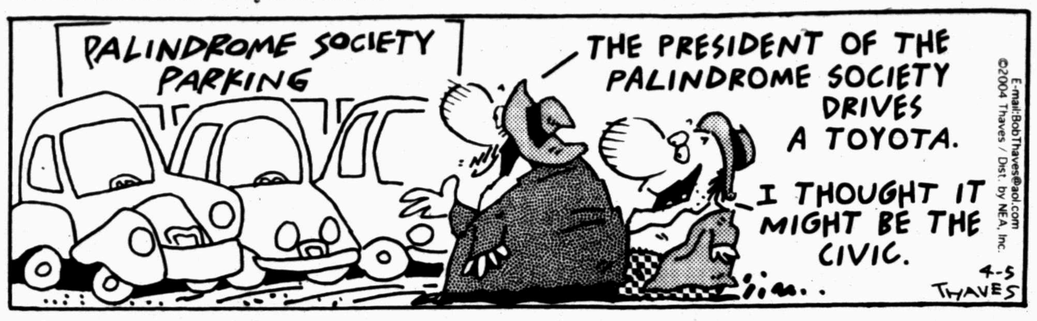

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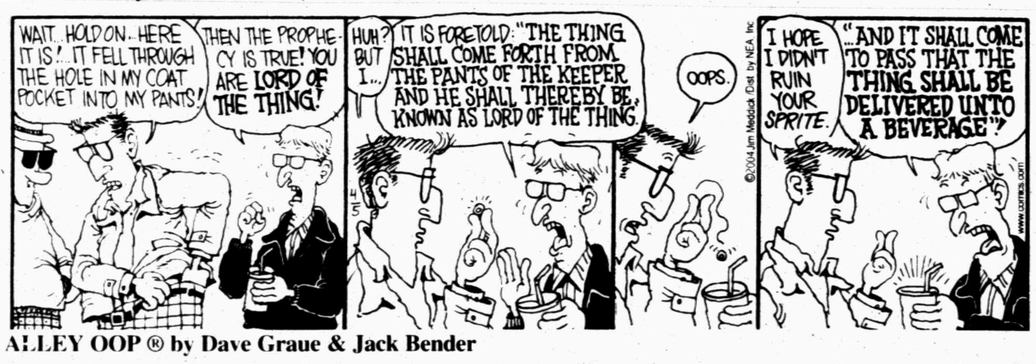

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BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Balloon sound
4 Tumble about
8 Privileged person
11 Self-images
13 Melville sea captain
14 Filmdom's — Gardner
15 Slow run
16 Doctrines
17 Alcott girl
18 Pick out
20 Basilica part
21 Large tank
22 Go on stage
24 Solitary type
27 Scents
30 — — the ground floor
31 Treated a sprain
32 Refrain syllables
34 Pasture
35 Job-safety org.
36 Big blow
37 Threadbare
39 Stitch loosely
40 Wine in France
41 Tease
42 Stare
45 Critical
49 Sunbeam
50 Team stats
53 Essay byline
54 Hosp. staffer
55 Out of the wind
56 Cold and wet
57 Hankering
58 Soldiers in gray
59 Scot's no

DOWN

1 Favorites
2 Jack's giant
3 Beach alternative
4 Singer Bonnie —
5 Mild interjections
6 Hasty escape
7 FedEx units
8 Boot upper
9 Noted lithographer
10 Book part
12 Even- —
19 Commuter vehicle
20 Cash giver
22 Part of WATS
23 New England cape
24 Mae West role
25 Change for a five
26 Ark builder
27 "— -Breaky Heart"
28 Melodramatic cry
29 Wit
31 Paperback ID
33 Get a load of
35 Kyoto sash
36 Silenced
38 Wide st.
39 Saloon
41 Clever ploys
42 Paris airport
43 Wide yawn
44 Gayle's sis
46 Dash
47 Caravel of 1492
48 Grab
50 1914 headline
51 Seine site
52 Kan. neighbor

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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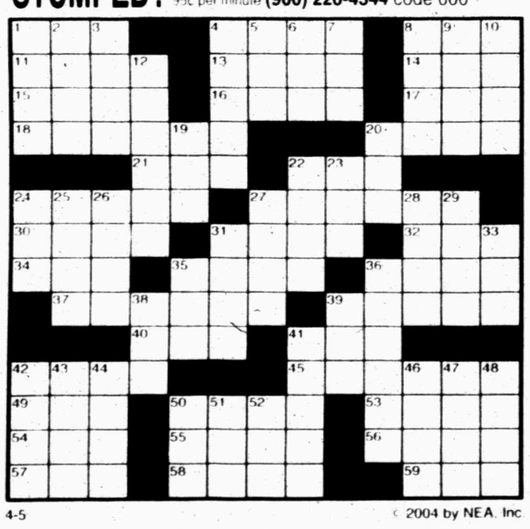

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Snyder Daily News Comics

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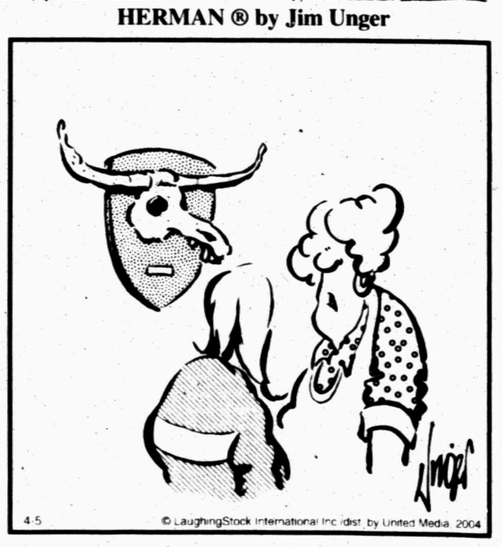
HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"He shot it in the desert."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

SPORTS

Thinclads earn six gold medals at Brownwood

BROWNWOOD — The Snyder boys took third place at the Blubonnet Relays Saturday, with four individuals and two relay teams taking home gold medals.

The girls team took fifth with 56 points, while the boys collected 115 to finish behind Everman and meet winner Wylie.

Justin Boyd, Josh Muniz, Ricky McNatt and October Wells earned gold medals, and the boys 400m and 800m relay teams topped the field.

"I'm tickled with all the kids' performances," head track coach Roger White said. "Several stepped up and set new personal records. I'm really pleased.

The boys 4x200m relay team of Boyd, Jeff Bruton, Zach Cain and Malcome Wells edged Sweetwater by .01 seconds, claiming the gold with a time of 1:29.25 — one of the five best times in the state this year.

The 4x100m relay squad of Wells, Boyd, Cain and Jesus Juarez edged Everman to claim the gold with a time of 43.18.

Boyd had the best leap of the meet in the high jump, earning first place with a jump of 6-0, while McNatt bested the competition by 12 feet in the discus with a throw of 144-09.

Muniz won the mile (4:47.59) and smoked the field in the two-mile, finishing in 10:30.47, a full 41 seconds before the second-place runner from Abilene Cooper.

October Wells won the 100m and 200m races, coming at 12.10 in the 100 and 25.25 in the 200.

Demetrius Brandon took home the silver in the shot put with a distance of 46-07.75, while Juarez was sixth in the long jump (19-0) and the 100 dash (11.53).

Garret Pinson was third in the 300 hurdles with a time of 41.79, while Cain earned fifth in the event (43.50). Pinson also was fourth in the 110m hurdles.

D'Angelo Davis was fifth in the triple jump (38-06) and Jeremy Torrez was sixth in the two-mile with a time of 11:34.04.

The girls team garnered three bronze-medal performances.

Anna Henson finished third in the shot put with a heave of 30-08 feet, just three inches from the top throw.

Erin Burleson had a third-place performance in the 300 hurdles, crossing the line in 49.69 — .40 seconds off the lead.

The 400 relay team of Wells, Dominique Braziel, Nicki Traylor and Sequoya Powell won the bronze with a 51.07.

Burleson turned in a fourth-place finish in the high jump (4-6) and Jordan Stansell was fifth in the 100 hurdles (17.60).

Candace Chandler was sixth in both the 400 sprint (1:05.97) and the 800 run (2:39.84).

Chandler, Burleson, Stansell and Dalesa Traylor helped the 4x400m relay team take sixth (4:30.44).

The Snyder track teams will compete in the Colorado City meet Friday, the last competition before the district meet begins April 15 in Snyder.

Bluebonnet Relays
Brownwood
April 3, 2004

Boys
Division III

1. Wylie, 137; 2. Everman, 126; **3. Snyder, 115**; 4. Sweetwater, 77; 5. Brady, 53. Other teams: Merkel, 41; Breckenridge, 40; Odessa Permian JV, 20; Abilene Cooper JV, 8.

Girls
Division III

1. Abilene Wylie 156; 2. Everman 121; 3. Brady 90; 4. Burnet 76; **5. Snyder 56.** Other teams: Ballinger 54; Merkel 26; Lubbock Coronado JV 15; Abilene Cooper JV 8.

DEAD HEAT — Snyder hurdler Garrett Pinson, far right, keeps pace with the field in the 110m hurdles at the Bluebonnet Classic in Brownwood Saturday. The boys were third in the meet, while the girls placed fifth. (Contributed Photo by Ronny Collins)

WTC drops three against Howard

The Westerners dropped three of four to Howard College over the weekend, preventing the sweep with a 10-8 victory in Saturday's opener.

After being shut out 10-0 in the opener, WTC (10-30, 4-18) dropped the second contest, 5-2.

Shay Franks pitched 2 1/3 innings to earn the win in the third game of the series, a 10-8 slugfest.

Landon Thompson was 2-for-3 with a solo home run and a double, and Eric Brown jacked a two-run blast while going 2-for-3 with three RBI and two steals.

Josh Heiney also collected two RBIs on two base hits.

WTC (10-30, 4-18) led, 4-3, going into the final inning of the series finale but lost, 9-5.

Thompson had a single, double and triple in the finale.

"We played well all weekend, but we have to get some consistency at the plate. We go through spurts where we score a lot and spurts where we don't score at all," head coach Billy Hefflinger said. "We're playing great defense, and our ERA is dropping — we just need to get the bats going. We have to score runs at Odessa."

WTC is slated to host Wayland Baptist at 2 p.m. Tuesday, before making its final road trip of the season this weekend, with a four-game set with Odessa College beginning aith a double-header at noon Friday.

WTC concludes rodeo for enthusitastic crowds

Western Texas College concluded the WTC rodeo Saturday night, getting a pair of first-place rides in the short round in front of a spirited crowd at Scurry County Coliseum.

"It was a great rodeo. I really appreciate the support from everyone," head coach Greg Rhodes said.

The rodeo drew a large turnout both Friday and Saturday, and Rhodes said the audience was especially enthusiastic.

"It was a very energized rodeo," he said. "The crowd really got into it. We capped it off with some great bull rides to end on a high note. It was a pretty good show."

The men took fourth, with conference leader West Texas A&M winning the rodeo. Tarleton State University was second.

Clay Bunney won the short round in the bareback riding event, earning a score of 78 to push him into second for average in the rodeo.

Jake Marshall earned third in the average in bareback after a 74 in the short round.

Cody Horwedel had a fourth-place ride in the short round in saddle bronc with a 72. Hadley Hunting was third in the average in that event.

Bull rider Trent Cormier also claimed the top spot in the championship go, scoring an 86 to also vault him to the runner-up spot in the average in his competition.

While they did not place, Rhodes singled out bull riders Jared Farley (77) and Lane Nixon (72), each of whom had a solid ride.

Horwedel and Reg Cully paired up for second in team roping in the final round with a 10.3. They also were second in the average.

"I'm really proud of our men's team," Rhodes said. "We've got quite a few men good enough to be on the team, it's just a matter of being able to pick the ones that will do good that week. I've got to figure that out, and once I do, we'll be in good shape. We've got some good cowboys."

The women's team finished fifth. TSU won the women's division and South Plains College was second.

Sabrina Lay had the lone short-round ride, completing the barrel circuit in 13.82 for second in the short go. She was fourth in the average.

WTC gets back in the saddle Thursday at the Frank Phillips Rodeo in Borger.

Lady Tigers edge Cooper

The Snyder Lady Tigers continued their march through District 3-3A unscathed Saturday, getting a complete game shutout from Ashley Martinez to top Lubbock Cooper, 2-0.

Martinez allowed five hits while striking out five.

Neither team scored until Erin Hackfeld drove in Amber Luecke with an RBI single in the fifth.

Luecke was 1-for-2, and Laura Clanton laced two doubles in the win.

The Lady Tigers (15-8, 7-0) host Sweetwater at 5 p.m. Tuesday.

The junior varsity team topped Cooper, 10-9, in five innings.

Tana Sullenger got the win, and Sarah Covington was credited with the save.

Destinee Proctor, Tara Robertson and Jessica Calvert each drove in two runs, while Robertson, Covington, Calvert and Joshlyn Tovar collected two hits apiece.

The JV hosts Sweetwater at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Baseball opens amid steroid scandal; Bush to throw out first pitch in STL

By The Associated Press

Starting the season in Tokyo never felt right.

Kerry Wood and the Cubs in Cincinnati — now that's opening day!

Outdoor baseball.

In the cold.

With one hot topic still on everybody's mind: steroids.

"What we need, in my opinion, is random testing year-round," commissioner Bud Selig said in an interview broadcast Sunday on ABC's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos."

"We also need stiffer penalties. We need a program, as I said earlier, like the one that's in the minor leagues, because that will forever remove the cloud," Selig said.

That could mean a lot to big sluggers such as Barry Bonds, constantly being asked whether steroids helped him hit all those home runs.

The San Francisco star enters the season with 658 homers, two shy of tying his godfather — Willie Mays — for third on the career list.

Bonds and the Giants open Monday in Houston, highlighting nine games around the majors. Right-hander Roy Oswalt will pitch for the Astros — ahead of Andy Pettitte and Roger Clemens.

President Bush plans to be in St. Louis, where Albert Pujols and the Cardinals play the Brewers. It will be the first time in three years Bush throws out a ceremonial first pitch on opening day — he did it when Miller Park opened in Milwaukee.

"It just shows what an occasion it is in St. Louis," Cardinals third baseman Scott Rolen said. "To have him here, it's going to be like a holiday."

Vice President Dick Cheney will throw out the first pitch in Cincinnati, where the Cubs and Reds worked out Sunday in wintry conditions at Great American Ball Park.

Ken Griffey Jr. is expected to play for Cincinnati despite straining his right calf last Monday.

After coming within five outs of their first World Series since 1945 last year, Wood and the Cubs begin this season in the unfamiliar role of National League favorites. But Chicago hasn't even had consecutive winning seasons since 1971-72.

Tech, UConn in rematch of preseason NIT semis

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Georgia Tech and Connecticut can hardly recall their first meeting of the season.

The Yellow Jackets beat the then-No. 1 Huskies 77-61 in the Preseason NIT semifinals back in November.

"That game was so long ago," Georgia Tech coach Paul Hewitt said. "It really felt like two seasons ago."

Both teams were missing players who could take center stage in Monday night's title game.

The Huskies were without 6-foot-11 freshman Charlie Villanueva, who missed UConn's first six games while the university and the NCAA determined his eligibility.

Georgia Tech was without guard Will Bynum, who missed the Yellow Jackets' first seven games after transferring from Arizona.

"Both teams have changed dramatically, I think, in a lot of ways," Huskies coach Jim Calhoun said. "I don't know if the November matchup was indicative. I hope it wasn't."

Sports Briefs

Ladies play day

The WGA will host a ladies play each Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the Scurry County golf course. Format is most one putts front nine.

A luncheon will be held at noon Tuesday at Snyder Country Club. All area women golfers are encouraged to attend.

MGA to begin play

The WTC Men's Golf Association will begin play at 6 p.m. Tuesday. The first monthly tournament is scheduled for Saturday at the WTC golf course.

Baseball Buddies

The SHS baseball program will conclude the second annual Baseball Buddies program Saturday.

High school players will provide instruction for kids between 11 a.m. and noon free of charge at Lewis Field.

Late spring training trades

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Los Angeles Dodgers acquired troubled outfielder Milton Bradley from the Cleveland Indians in a trade Sunday for a minor leaguer and a player to be named.

The deal capped a tumultuous week for the Indians' cleanup hitter.

He was pulled from an exhibition game Wednesday by manager Eric Wedge for failing to run out a pop fly that dropped, barred from training camp the next day and later sent to the minors.

JUPITER, Fla. (AP) — The New York Mets traded outfielder Roger Cedeno to the St. Louis Cardinals on Saturday for backup catcher Chris Widger and infielder Wilson Delgado.

The speedy Cedeno was a huge disappointment after signing an $18 million, four-year contract with the Mets before the 2002 season. The Cardinals also get cash considerations in the deal.

Area Sports Calendar

TODAY	
Golf:	Boys district tourney, round 2, Snyder
Baseball:	SHS JV vs. Seminole, 5:30 p.m.
Track:	SJHS at Lamesa, district meet
TUESDAY	
Baseball:	SHS varsity at Seminole, 7 p.m.
	WTC at Wayland Baptist, 2 p.m.
Tennis:	District varsity tournament, Snyder
Softball:	SHS varsity vs. Sweetwater, 5 p.m.
	SHS JV vs. Sweetwater, 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	
Golf:	Girls district tourney, Merkel
Tennis:	District varsity and JV tournament, Snyder
THURSDAY	
Softball:	SHS varsity vs. Seminole, 5 p.m.
	SHS JV vs. Seminole, 7 p.m.
Baseball:	SHS Jv at Lamesa, 4:30 p.m.
Rodeo:	WTC at Frank Phillips, Borger
FRIDAY	
Baseball:	SHS varsity vs. Sweetwater, 7 p.m.
	WTC at Odessa, DH, noon
Softball:	WTC at El Paso CC, DH, 1 p.m.
Track:	SHS varsity and JV at Colorado City meet
Rodeo:	WTC at Frank Phillips, Borger
SATURDAY	
Baseball:	WTC at Odessa, DH, noon
Softball:	WTC at El Paso CC, DH, noon
Track:	SHS varsity and JV at Colorado City meet
Rodeo:	WTC at Frank Phillips, Borger

Girls Little Dribblers

Majors
Storm 21, Sting 13
Storm: A. Ware 16; E. Gallegos 2; A. Gutierrez 3. **Sting:** M. Thompson 11; A. Baker 2.

Sparks 25, Fastbreak 19
Sparks: C. Williamson 14; L. Urias 7; T. Gordon 2; C. Cochran 2. **Fastbreak:** A. Burton 9; M. Gutierrez 8; A. Castillo 2.

Liberty 37, Shock 18
Liberty: H. Newton 26; S. Valdez 6; G. Arredondo 4; F. Chaidez 1. **Shock:** K. Brewster 10; K. Anderson 6; B. Toombs 2.

Juniors
Swoopsters 2', Rockets 10
Swoopsters: B. Martinez 12; J. Moore 4; M. Carl y 3; A. Luecke 2. **Rockets:** V. Martinez 6; S. Kellner 4.

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Powell to urge Haitian leaders not to give jobs to criminals

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Colin Powell plans to urge Haiti's new leaders to make sure government posts are not given to leaders of the February insurrection who are criminals or human rights violators.

Powell was expected to relay that message to Prime Minister Gerard LaTortue and others during a visit of several hours to Haiti on today, said a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Powell also planned to meet with commanders of the U.S.-led multinational force in Haiti, sent to restore stability after President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was forced from power on Feb. 29.

The United States has nearly 2,000 troops in Haiti. Additional forces are being supplied by France, Canada and Chile, for a combined total of about 3,600. All are expected to be replaced by international peacekeepers in early June.

State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said Friday that Powell would discuss U.S. and international efforts to bring stability to the country and to provide humanitarian relief.

Looting and instability have not ceased despite the efforts of peacekeepers as well as police who have returned to their post.

Just hours before Powell's arrival, two employees of a frozen food company were shot to death in Petionville, a suburb of Port-au-Prince, the capital, after being robbed. It took police more than two hours to respond.

Aristide initially took up residence in the Central African Republic. He went to Jamaica about three weeks ago for family reasons, the Jamaican government said. Little has been heard from Aristide since his arrival.

The Bush administration insists that Aristide left Haiti voluntarily. Aristide and Haiti's Caribbean neighbors contend that Washington pushed him out.

Caribbean countries have declined to recognize the interim government, arguing that Aristide is Haiti's legitimate leader based on elections held in 2000. Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., says Aristide was the victim of a U.S.-sponsored coup d'etat

U.S. officials have pressed LaTortue in recent days not to give government positions to leaders of armed rebel groups who have criminal backgrounds.

About 10 days after his appointment as prime minister, LaTortue appeared publicly with some insurgent leaders and hailed them as "freedom fighters."

The United States is in a delicate position in the post-Aristide era. The former president's supporters hold the United States responsible for the change in government. The insurgency does not consider the United States a friend because Washington is demanding that the rebels disarm.

The State Department set forth that demand almost immediately after Aristide left. Relatively few weapons have been surrendered so far to the international force in Haiti.

Beyond that, the United States has no intention of offering large scale nation-building assistance to Haiti as it is doing at huge cost in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Powell has said the administration does not plan to seek a supplemental appropriation for Haiti. Instead, it will try to transfer money to Haiti from other foreign aid programs.

U.S. officials expect that an international donors conference for Haiti will be held in June.

On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

Fueling and effective workout

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I have finally started working out again at my local gym, and I went to a vitamin store for supplement advice. They put me on a whey protein, a daily multivitamin and a post-workout vitamin powder. I am assuming the protein is helpful for muscle growth. I just wanted to make sure that the vitamins aren't overkill or harmful in any way, and determine whether they are necessary for muscle growth. What is best to drink during my workout? I am 28 years old, in good health, and want to know if there are any other factors I need to consider before I embark on my plan. — **H.B., Berkeley, Calif.**

DEAR H.B.: As a general rule, it pays to be wary about taking supplement advice from individuals who have limited training, or those unfamiliar with your health history. Vitamin-store clerks may have the appropriate knowledge and perspective and ask all the right questions, or they may simply echo what manufacturers' representatives have told them about particular products. There's no real way of knowing which is which, unless you have had multiple dealings with an establishment and have developed confidence in their approach. I am aware of cases in which a well-meaning clerk recommended a product that would have interfered with a medication an individual was taking. It's tough to blame the clerk for not knowing, but it would be great if the system had a few safeguards built in. The bottom line is that responsibility always comes back to us, the consumer.

As I hasten to jump off my soapbox, I want to point out that what you were told might be somewhat excessive for your particular case, although it does not appear to be dangerous or harmful. Regarding protein, if you are like most people you are already eating more than your body requires, which is sufficient to fuel any workout routine. Whey, an easily digested protein found in milk, is not harmful, but it is questionable whether it can build muscles at a more rapid rate in the average individual.

Good food selection and, if you prefer, an all-purpose multivitamin/multi-mineral supplement, should be all you need. Be sure to take it easy in your workout at first. Consult with a certified trainer; there may be one available at the gym. Fluid consumption can be of great assistance, as your body depends on water to transport fuel and nutrients, eliminate metabolic waste and maintain its operating temperature — all tasks that are relied upon during the workout and recovery period that follows.

Plain water works for the average workout for up to an hour, but you can add some electrolytes (sodium and potassium) or a small amount of fuel in the form of an easily digested carbohydrate, such as sugar, if you desire. I make my own drink, using a pinch of salt (sodium), a small amount of fresh fruit juice (potassium and flavor) and a little sugar (for taste and energy replenishment). A typical drink might include a quarter-cup of fresh orange juice, the juice from two lemons or a third of a cup of Concord grape juice; all are designed to provide about 100 milligrams of potassium. (Read the Nutrition Facts panel on any juice you use to calculate what you need.) I add a quarter-teaspoon of salt and water up to a final volume of four cups. Finally, I add some sugar — no more than a quarter-cup — which provides about 20 calories from 5 grams of carbohydrate. I like the idea of making my own sports drink, as it puts me in charge of the fresh flavor and level of sweetness. Have a good drink of water before you start, then use the sport drink throughout your workout. This can assist in avoiding exhaustion and the exercise hangover that plagues many individuals who tend to overdo it. It is especially hard on those who miss workouts and try to do it all in a single weekly session.

A couple of good guidebooks for working out are "Eating for Endurance" by Ellen Coleman (Bull Publishing, 2003) and Nancy Clark's "Sports Nutrition Guidebook, Third Edition" (Human Kinetics, 2003).

I have come to look forward to the buzz I feel after a workout. It provides a sense of accomplishment and opens the door for a greater enjoyment of food. Good luck with your routine.

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

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

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Bush defends record on war and economy

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — President Bush today defended his record on the economy and the war in Iraq, appearing at a North Carolina college where he praised a partnership between local business leaders and the academic community.

"Terrorists can't stand freedom," said Bush, declaring that he will "stay the course" and bring democracy to Iraq. "We're still being challenged in Iraq and the reason why is a free Iraq will be a major defeat in the cause of freedom."

The president said that in the run-up to the invasion of Iraq, "I had a choice to make after Saddam Hussein once again refused to disarm," adding that "I will defend America every time."

The president made no mention of the radical Shiite cleric whose supporters rioted in Iraq over the weekend. Aboard Air Force One, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said the cleric, Muqtada al-Sadr, has "pledged solidarity with terrorist organizations Hamas and Hezbollah." The cleric is an "individual who is seeking to derail democracy and freedom for the Iraqi people," McClellan said.

Appearing at Central Piedmont Community College, Bush said the economy is getting stronger and that he is optimistic about the future. He cited March unemployment figures showing the best job growth in four years.

Bush said Central Piedmont is incorporating the suggestions of local business leaders into the curriculum so that the jobs students study for and seek actually exist.

Bush is using North Carolina, a state where a new economy is replacing the old, to propose doubling the number of Americans who receive job-training help from the federal government but without additional funding.

"I fully understand that there are people who hurt here," the president said. "Industries like the textiles, and furniture manufacturers are struggling ... that is an issue we've got to deal with."

The visit by Bush to Charlotte to announce the initiative, part of a wider election-year bid to help workers adapt to the changing economy, also marks his last planned personal appearance in the record-shattering fund-raising drive that brought in more than $182.7 million in 11 months.

On Tuesday, Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry was to travel to the electoral battleground state of Ohio to promote a plan he says would create 10 million new jobs.

The initiative Bush announced contains no new federal spending with a budget deficit expected to approach $500 billion this year. Instead, it relies on $250 million Bush proposed spending earlier this year and forcing state and local governments to spend less on "administrative expenses."

Washington now provides state and local governments more than $4 billion through the Workforce Investment Act, and 16 million people receive various services through it. But only 206,000 people completed formal training through the act's programs last year, according to the White House.

Bush seeks to double that figure to 412,000 in one year.

The White House says Bush's Jobs for the 21st Century Initiative, announced in his State of the Union address, would move 100,000 more people into job training.

The $250 million proposal is already part of Bush's budget proposal for next fiscal year's budget, which Congress is considering.

APR 05 2004

Young children who watch TV may face risk of attention problems, researchers say

CHICAGO (AP) — Researchers have found that every hour preschoolers watch television each day boosts their chances — by about 10 percent — of developing attention deficit problems later in life.

The findings back up previous research showing that television can shorten attention spans and support American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations that youngsters under age 2 not watch television.

"The truth is there are lots of reasons for children not to watch television. Other studies have shown it to be associated with obesity and aggressiveness" too, said lead author Dr. Dimitri Christakis, a researcher at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle.

The study, appearing in the April issue of Pediatrics, focused on two groups of children — aged 1 and 3 — and suggested that TV might overstimulate and permanently "rewire" the developing brain.

The study involved 1,345 children who participated in government-sponsored national health surveys. Their parents were questioned about the children's TV viewing habits and rated their behavior at age 7 on a scale similar to measures used in diagnosing attention deficit disorders.

The researchers lacked data on whether the youngsters were diagnosed with attention deficit disorders but the number of children whose parents rated them as having attention problems — 10 percent — is similar to the prevalence in the general population, Christakis said. Problems included difficulty concentrating, acting restless and impulsive, and being easily confused.

About 36 percent of the 1-year-olds watched no TV, while 37 percent watched one to two hours daily and had a 10 percent to 20 percent increased risk of attention problems. Fourteen percent watched three to four hours daily and had a 30 percent to 40 percent increased risk compared with children who watched no TV. The remainder watched at least five hours daily.

Among 3-year-olds, only 7 percent watched no TV, 44 percent watched one to two hours daily, 27 percent watched three to four hours daily, almost 11 percent watched five to six hours daily, and about 10 percent watched seven or more hours daily.

In a Pediatrics editorial, educational psychologist Jane Healy said the study "is important and long overdue" but needs to be followed up to confirm and better explain the mechanisms that may be involved.

The researchers didn't know what shows the children watched, but Christakis said content likely isn't the culprit. Instead, he said, unrealistically fast-paced visual images typical of most TV programming may alter normal brain development.

"The newborn brain develops very rapidly during the first two to three years of life. It's really being wired" during that time, Christakis said.

"We know from studies of newborn rats that if you expose them to different levels of visual stimuli ... the architecture of the brain looks very different" depending on the amount of stimulation, he said.

Overstimulation during this critical period "can create habits of the mind that are ultimately deleterious," Christakis said. If this theory holds true, the brain changes likely are permanent, but children with attention problems can be taught to compensate, he said.

The researchers considered factors other than TV that might have made some children prone to attention problems, including their home environment and mothers' mental states.

The American Academy of Pediatrics said in 1999 that children under the age of 2 should not watch television because of concerns it affects early brain growth and the development of social, emotional and cognitive skills.

New light-scanner may detect dirty hands

WASHINGTON (AP) — With just a flicker of blue light, little Johnny's mother one day may know for sure whether her son washed his hands before dinner.

New light-scanning technology borrowed from the slaughterhouse promises to help hospital workers, restaurant employees — one day, even kids — make sure that hand washing zaps some germs that can carry deadly illnesses.

A device the size of an electric hand dryer detects fecal contamination and pinpoints on a digital display where on a person's hands more scrubbing is needed.

eMerge Interactive Inc., a struggling technology company in Sebastian, Fla., is hoping to tweak light scanners it already sells to beef plants to detect the same kinds of nasty germs on humans.

The blue-light scanners could dramatically improve hygiene among employees who forget to wash their hands after bathroom breaks. This practice is a leading cause of food poisoning that afflicts tens of millions of Americans every year.

Studies show people typically fail to scrub around fingernails and between fingers adequately. The government recommends people wash their hands for at least 20 seconds; researchers find many people do not even use soap.

"People are not good at handwashing," said Janet Anderson, a nutritionist at Utah State University. "We find that unless sinks are very close to where people are handling food, they don't wash their hands well."

eMerge, which demonstrated an early prototype for The Associated Press, said its first clean-hand scanners could go on sale as early as year's end to restaurants, nursing homes, hospitals and day-care centers. Using identification cards, the devices can even record which employees scrubbed acceptably and which ones still have dirty hands.

"Being able to tell whether there's fecal matter is a major improvement," said Jim Mann, executive director of The Handwashing Leadership Forum, a group in Illinois that studies foodborne outbreaks.

Mann called the scanning technology promising but "not a silver bullet" because it cannot detect pathogens such as salmonella or viruses that do not always spread initially in fecal contamination. Salmonella can be present in raw eggs, for example.

Using a specific light wavelength, the scanners cause a fluorescence in even minuscule amounts of fecal contamination that could carry dangerous bacteria like E. coli; it shows up on a built-in display as a bright red spot on a person's dirty hand.

Experts say the high-speed beef scanners work faster — examining 500 beef carcasses every hour — and more accurately than government inspectors visually looking for contamination on meat in packing plants. Excel Corp., a leading processor, is installing the scanners in all its plants across North America.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, April 6, 2004

Do not be hesitant to take on an additional heavy responsibility in the year ahead where your work or career is concerned. Big opportunities are in the offing if you're not afraid to work hard and go after them.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Even if all early indicators signal that you seem to be luckier for others today than you are for yourself, when all is said and done, you're the one who'll come out the best in the end.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Under your skillful management today, a joint venture in which you're involved that has thus far proven unfruitful could now turn around into a prolific undertaking. Maintain control.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Use your smarts as well as any little bit of opening you spot when it comes to your financial affairs today. You could be the luckiest with things that appear to be quite difficult for others.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Once you set your mind to something today, you'll be capable of achieving outstanding accomplishments. The secret to success for you is to first truly believe in yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Hold positive thoughts today and don't give up on anything that is important to you. A matter over which you may have been quite fearful will turn out to be nothing but a paper dragon.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — The formula that is required for success today must be comprised of an equal amount of elbow grease and imagination. Devise a plan in your head and let your muscles do the rest.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Something in which you're presently involved may appear at first glance to offer only sparse returns. However, once you get your teeth into it, you'll find it is bigger than you think.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — You will have two extremely powerful forces working for you today. One will be celestial Lady Luck, but the other will be your earthy practicality. They'll collectively spell success.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — A matter which was previously wrestled from your grip can be reclaimed today through diligent effort on your part. You'll now find ways to turn a negative situation into a positive one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Associates who have clout will tend to be supportive today of causes or projects in which you're interested if you first lead the way. The biggest push could come for an old, trusted ally.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — **That old adage "The** harder you work, the luckier you get" will hold true for you today. Doors of opportunity will swing wide open for you to drive through if you put your shoulder to the wheel.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — You can double your effectiveness today if you're willing to work in tandem with another whose aims and interests parallel yours. Each will inspire and pull the other forward.

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

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Arrest warrant issued for radical Shiite

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — An Iraqi judge has issued a murder arrest warrant for a radical Shiite Muslim cleric, Muqtada al-Sadr, for the slaying of another Shiite leader shortly after the U.S.-led invasion of the country, coalition officials said today.

Meanwhile, U.S. troops today sealed off the city of Fallujah west of Baghdad, where some 1,200 Marines and two battalions of Iraqi security forces were poised to launch an operation aimed at pacifying the city, one of the most violent places in the Sunni Triangle.

Explosions and gunfire could be heard coming from the center of the city. Streets on the outskirts were largely deserted.

The announcement of the warrant came a day after violent clashes between militiamen loyal to al-Sadr that killed 52 Iraqis, eight U.S. soldiers and a Salvadoran soldier — some of the worst gunbattles since the ouster of Saddam Hussein.

President Bush said he was committed to the June 30 deadline for transferring power in Iraq and won't be deterred by violence and an armed Shiite revolt against the U.S.-led occupation. "The deadline remains firm," Bush said.

Bush also criticized al-Sadr as "one person that is deciding that rather than allowing democracy to flourish, he's going to exercise force. We just can't let it stand."

Coalition spokesman Dan Senor, who announced the warrant, would not say when al-Sadr would be detained. "There'll be no advance warning," he said.

Since the violence, al-Sadr has been holed up in a mosque in the city of Kufa, south of Baghdad, surrounded by armed supporters.

The arrest warrant had been issued several months ago, Senor said, refusing to say why al-Sadr had not been arrested earlier or why its existence was only announced today, one day after the al-Sadr-inspired violence.

Al-Sadr is accused in the slaying of Abdel-Majid al-Khoei, a rival Shiite cleric who was stabbed to death by a mob at a Shiite shrine in the city of Najaf in April 2003.

A total of 25 arrest warrants have been issued in the case, and 13 suspects have been taken into custody. Sunday's violence in Baghdad and other cities was sparked by the arrest last week of Mustafa al-Yacoubi, a senior aide to al-Sadr, on one of the warrants.

L. Paul Bremer, the top U.S. administrator in Iraq, declared al-Sadr an "outlaw" who threatens Iraq's security.

The fiercest battle took place Sunday in Sadr City, Baghdad's largest Shiite neighborhood, where black-garbed Shiite militiamen loyal to cleric Muqtada al-Sadr fired from rooftops and behind buildings at U.S. troops, killing the eight Americans. At least 30 Iraqis were killed and more than 110 wounded, doctors said.

Violence broke out today in another Shiite neighborhood of the capital, al-Shoala, where members of al-Sadr's "Al-Mahdi Army" militia clashed with a U.S. patrol. An American armored vehicle was seen burning and a U.S. helicopter hovered overhead.

Flood warnings issued for parts of Texas today

By The Associated Press

Flood warnings were issued for parts of Texas today as a sprawling storm system lumbering across northern Mexico spawned flash floods, hail and strong winds.

Rain was suspected in the collapse of an Interstate 20 bridge near Pecos. No injuries were reported.

Traffic along the West Texas bridge was being rerouted to Interstate 10 at Fort Stockton via U.S. 285. Five people were killed and one was critically injured after three tractor-trailer rigs collided on U.S. 285, a two-lane highway. It was not immediately clear if weather was a factor.

Authorities said they had advance warning that the eastbound I-20 bridge was about to crumble into Salt Draw and were able to close off the road to traffic.

Mike Cox, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Transportation in Austin, said rain appears the likely suspect in the collapse.

He said the department's maintenance staff believes the westbound bridge is unstable because of the large volume of water in the draw. Engineers were expected to examine the bridge today.

Authorities also shut down a nearby Union Pacific Railroad bridge over the Salt Draw. Spokesman Mark Davis said the line was expected to be reopened about noon today. During the shutdown, El Paso-to-Fort Worth rail traffic was rerouted through San Antonio.

In Piedras Negras, Mexico, just across the border from Eagle Pass, a flash flood forced a river over its banks and washed away houses and cars early today. At least 15 were reported dead and another 60 were missing, a Red Cross official said.

On Sunday, heavy rain turned dry West Texas arroyos into churning rivers, puncturing an earthen dam and sending dozens of people fleeing from flood waters in the small town of Toyah.

Mayor Pro Tem Diana Tollett found herself stranded with about 20 residents who wouldn't leave when a wall of water 3 feet high rushed through the town of 100 in Reeves County early Sunday.

"We had like eight inches of rain fall all at once," she said Sunday night. The arroyos and ravines that carve up the land filled all at once and came together to break the dam. Water a foot-and-a-half deep ran through the town's streets late Sunday.

See page 1 for local rainfall

Fallout from Tyco trial may affect media access to courts

NEW YORK (AP) — With six months of work undone by a mistrial, state Supreme Court Justice Michael Obus considered the future of the legal system.

He had watched, unable to do anything, as two newspapers published the identity of a juror in the Tyco corporate corruption trial, and as the juror was trashed in one newspaper story as a "batty blueblood" and was denigrated in Internet chat rooms.

"I'm concerned about what effect this may have on jury selection in the future, and jury service in the future," the judge said in court Friday just before he declared the mistrial.

Legal experts suggested there could be one quick effect: less media access to panelists.

"In the future, the judges might be more careful about revealing the identity of jurors," attorney Ed Hayes, a Court TV analyst, said in an interview. "It sure was an unfortunate incident, and the name should not have been printed."

First Amendment attorney Floyd Abrams agreed that the factors that led to the downfall of the Tyco trial could alter the way some judges do business.

"It's possible that some judges might seek to impose greater limitations on public access to information about jurors," Abrams said. "But it would be a grave mistake to limit information because a single trial went off the tracks."

"I hope it is understood and remembered that this was a one-of-a-kind case," Abrams said. "Law shouldn't be based on idiosyncratic and possibly never-to-be-repeated situations."

Protecting jurors from the spotlight often is a concern of judges, particularly in cases where there's heavy media interest.

At this year's Martha Stewart trial, U.S. District Judge Miriam Cedarbaum banned reporters from sitting in on jury selection. Instead, a transcript of the Q&A — with the jurors' names deleted — was issued the next day.

A federal appeals court later ruled that the news media should have been given access to the Stewart jury selection, saying that such openness helps guarantee a fair trial. Seventeen media organizations, including The Associated Press, had argued that high public interest should not close the process.

During the O.J. Simpson trial in California, Judge Lance Ito was infuriated when a picture of an alternate juror's face was broadcast. He angrily threatened to pull all cameras out of the courtroom but later relented.

"Access might become more restrictive, at least in a high-profile case," said trial attorney Timothy Donohue, who followed the Tyco case closely. "In a long case, judges are not going to want anything that could prevent the jury from reaching a verdict."

Although there is no law banning the media from identifying jurors, it's long been accepted that their names are kept out of the public eye until the trial ends.

"You see now what happens when those conventional rules fall apart," said David Bookstaver, spokesman for the state Office of Court Administration.

The New York Post and The Wall Street Journal identified Tyco trial juror No. 4, Ruth Jordan, after a series of notes from the jury indicated the panel was on the verge of implosion over a conflict with one of its members.

While many blamed the media for the mistrial, a Journal spokeswoman dismissed the charge.

"We have no idea what the impact of the publication of her name had on jury deliberations," said Brigitte Trafford, vice president of corporate communications for Dow Jones & Co., which publishes the Journal.

Six arrested over weekend

• Arrests

Officers arrested a 29-year-old male at 2:30 p.m. Saturday in the 3400 block of Avenue T on outstanding city warrants.

At 1 a.m. Saturday, officers arrested a 26-year-old female in the 1800 block of Avenue R for public intoxication.

A short time later, DPS troopers arrested a 49-year-old male on Hwy. 84 for driving while intoxicated.

At 1 p.m. Sunday, officers arrested a 17-year-old male in the 2200 block of Avenue R on outstanding warrants for minor in possession and fighting.

A 30-year-old male was arrested at 1:55 p.m. in the 2800 block of Avenue Q on an outstanding warrant for Class C assault.

A 22-year-old male was arrested at 10:24 p.m. Sunday in the 3900 block of College Avenue on outstanding warrants for failure to appear and bail jumping.

• Attempted suicide

A man called officers at 10:30 Saturday and reported his girl friend possibly overdosing. An offense report for attempted suicide was filed.

• Criminal mischief

Officers were called to the 1300 block of 24th Street at 10:30 a.m. Sunday in reference to juveniles damaging windows of a residence with BB guns. Arrangements were made to pay for the damage.

• Theft

David Yanez reported the theft of a lawn mower Saturday from the 500 block of 32nd Street. An offense report for Class B theft was filed.

At 8:42 p.m. Sunday, officers were called to the 4400 block of Avenue U in reference to someone taking a DVD player with rented movies in it.

• Gun shots

Officers responded to the 2600 block of Avenue G at 12:28 this morning as a person reported hearing three gun shots. No one was found with a weapon in that vicinity.

• Family violence

Officers were called to the 3500 block of College Avenue at 6:30 Sunday in reference to a female assaulting a male. A report for family violence was filed.

• MHMR patient

Law enforcement personnel were dispatched to Hwy. 180 at 6:30 p.m. Sunday in reference to a patient being transported running away. The patient was in custody a short time later.

Obituaries

C.J. Ford

1920-2004

Carroll J. Ford of Snyder died Sunday, April 4, at his home.

Graveside service for Mr. Ford, 83, is set for 4 p.m. Wednesday in the Wilson Valley Cemetery in Little River. The Rev. Blake Kimbrough, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Flat, Tex., will officiate. Arrangements are under the direction of Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

Born Dec. 15, 1920 in Heidenheimer, Tex. , he married Juanita Buffington on May 3, 1950 in El Paso. Mr. Ford was a retired truck driver for Yellow Freight Company and a U.S. Army veteran.

Survivors include his wife, Juanita Ford of Gatesville; two daughters and a son-in-law, Mary and Wade Watts of Gatesville and Theresa Kildow of Snyder; two grandsons, Johnathan Watts of Gatesville and Jeremy Kildow of Coleman; and a granddaughter, Crystal Watts of Gatesville.

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Tue 4/6	Wed 4/7	Thu 4/8
68/49	72/47	65/49
Partly to mostly cloudy skies with scattered thunderstorms mainly in the mo.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 40s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the upper 40s.
Sunrise 7:25 AM Sunset 8:08 PM	Sunrise 7:23 AM Sunset 8:08 PM	Sunrise 7:22 AM Sunset 8:09 PM

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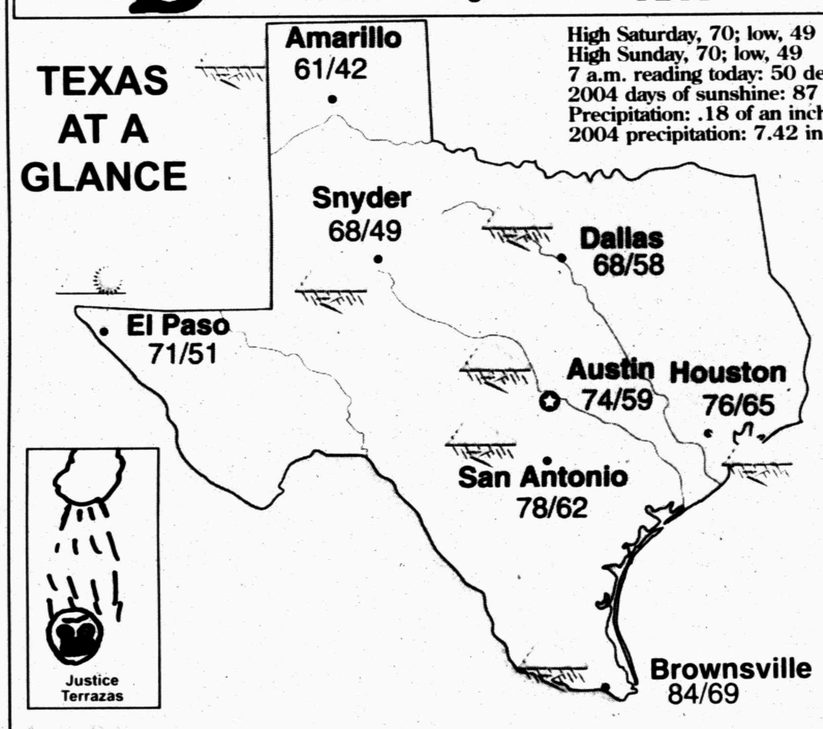
TEXAS AT A GLANCE



High Saturday, 70; low, 49
High Sunday, 70; low, 49
7 a.m. reading today: 50 degrees
2004 days of sunshine: 87 of 95
Precipitation: .18 of an inch
2004 precipitation: 7.42 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	68	53	t-storm	El Paso	71	51	pt sunny	Midland	70	50	pt sunny
Amarillo	61	42	t-storm	Fort Stockton	74	52	pt sunny	Raymondville	86	66	t-storm
Austin	74	59	t-storm	Gainesville	65	52	t-storm	Rosenberg	76	64	t-storm
Beaumont	74	64	t-storm	Greenville	67	55	t-storm	San Antonio	78	62	t-storm
Brownsville	84	69	t-storm	Houston	76	65	t-storm	San Marcos	75	60	t-storm
Brownwood	73	55	t-storm	Kingsville	84	67	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	66	56	t-storm
Corpus Christi	80	68	t-storm	Livingston	74	60	t-storm	Sweetwater	69	51	t-storm
Corsicana	67	57	t-storm	Longview	69	57	t-storm	Tyler	69	57	t-storm
Dallas	68	58	t-storm	Lubbock	64	47	t-storm	Weatherford	67	52	t-storm
Del Rio	81	61	t-storm	Lufkin	74	61	t-storm	Wichita Falls	67	52	t-storm

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	70	47	mst sunny	Houston	76	65	t-storm	Phoenix	81	61	pt sunny
Boston	47	36	windy	Los Angeles	67	54	pt sunny	San Francisco	62	50	windy
Chicago	67	39	rain	Miami	77	68	pt sunny	Seattle	61	46	pt sunny
Dallas	68	58	t-storm	Minneapolis	62	34	sunny	St. Louis	71	51	pt sunny
Denver	65	43	rain	New York	53	42	sunny	Washington, DC	61	47	mst sunny

Moon Phases

Full	Last	New	First
Apr 5	Apr 12	Apr 19	Apr 27

UV Index

Tue 4/6	Wed 4/7	Thu 4/8
High	High	High

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

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APR 05 2004

No signs of quick decision by Kerry on VP

By The Associated Press

John Edwards offers boyish good looks and a trial lawyer's verbal skills. Kathleen Sebelius is a heartland governor whose gender is another factor. And William Cohen provides political balance: He's a Republican.

They're part of a talented field talked up as entries in the John Kerry running-mate sweepstakes, each with something to bring to the Democratic presidential ticket. Although many Democrats want Kerry to name a running mate soon, their presumptive nominee doesn't appear to be in any hurry.

Kerry's selection process is unlikely to yield a decision for weeks. There are no firm assurances he will announce his selection before the nominating convention in late July, even though that's the goal.

Once Kerry settles on a short list of candidates, each will undergo intense scrutiny to try to prevent any surprises. The campaign has yet to determine what needs should be addressed in the selection, delaying the process even more.

"I don't think they've clearly made up their minds about which direction to go," said veteran consultant Steve Jarding.

Some of the caution stems from the fact that the decision is Kerry's biggest since locking up the nomination.

Congressional and other Democrats have urged Kerry to move quickly. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., told reporters Friday that he should pick a vice presidential candidate by May 1.

But those most familiar with the campaign's thinking see mid-May as the earliest potential date for an announcement, and few would be surprised if the decision doesn't come until June.

"There's pressure to do it early, but there's pressure to do it right," said Jarding.

Heading Kerry's selection process is Jim Johnson, a former chief executive officer for the mortgage lender Fannie Mae and a Democratic operative since he was a top aide to Vice President Walter Mondale. The selection process is kept within a tight circle.

"It's not something we have to think about," said senior adviser Michael Meehan, who said most campaign staffers are focusing on the rapidly growing Kerry campaign.

Decisions on a running mate are made after careful political calculation. Al Gore, for instance, sought to distance himself from President Clinton's sex scandal by picking Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman, a vociferous critic of Clinton's behavior.

George W. Bush, facing nagging doubts about his national and international experience, chose Dick Cheney, a veteran Washington insider. Cheney, a former congressman, was defense secretary under Bush's father.

Potential running mates most often mentioned by Democrats interviewed by The Associated Press are:

—North Carolina Sen. John Edwards. Kerry's final major rival in the primary race is mentioned by virtually all after a relentlessly upbeat campaign that impressed many. Working against him is the difficulty of making an argument for change with two senators on the ticket. Edwards told reporters last week, "I don't think we ought to prejudge" a decision by Kerry.

—Bob Kerrey. The former Nebraska governor and senator is, like Kerry, a decorated Vietnam War veteran. Though he has impressed many with his work on the independent commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks, Kerrey has said he's not interested in joining the ticket. Retired Gen. Wesley Clark would also burnish the ticket's military credentials.

—Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. Adding gender balance to the list, she also is a moderate elected in a Republican state and could offer Kerry a bridge to groups like the Democratic Leadership Council.

—William Cohen. The Maine Republican served in the Senate, then as defense secretary under Clinton. His selection could be seen as a bold stroke and a nod toward bipartisanship.

—Virginia Gov. Mark Warner. A fresh face after winning election in 2002, Warner could help in important Southern states. Like all governors, he has struggled with budget problems, and his plan to close the deficit relies partially on tax increases.

—New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson. He would bring a Hispanic flavor and a nod to the nation's largest and fastest-growing minority. A former U.N. ambassador, Richardson also would provide foreign policy experience.

—Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack. He is in the middle of his second term in a state that narrowly went Democratic in 2000. He has pledged not to seek a third term and has left little doubt about his interest in higher office.

Interstate bridge collapses

PECOS (AP) — A bridge on Interstate 20 in West Texas collapsed Sunday night, sending eastbound lanes of the road into the churning waters of Salt Draw. No one was injured in the collapse, the Department of Public Safety said.

Mike Cox, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Transportation in Austin, said rain appears the likely suspect in the collapse over the Salt Draw.

"Ninety percent of the time it is dry as salt, but apparently not today," Cox said.

Cox said the department's maintenance staff believes the westbound bridge is unstable because of the large volume of water in the draw.

The bridge collapse began occurred shortly before 7 p.m.

The bridge passes over an area just south of where Salt Draw and San Martine Draw, both normally dry, meet, the Pecos Enterprise reported. But the draw was swollen with floodwaters from two days of heavy rain. The draw is five miles east of Toyah, where an earthen dam broke overnight and spilled a 3-foot high wall of water into the town, said Mayor Pro-Tem Diana Tollett.

Eastbound traffic was diverted to Interstate 10 in western Reeves County.

JetBlue ranked No.1 airline, report says

WASHINGTON (AP) — JetBlue was No. 1 in quality among U.S. airlines in 2003, the first year that it carried enough passengers to be ranked, according to an annual study released today.

The budget carrier had the second-best on-time performance, arriving punctually 86 percent of the time. So few JetBlue passengers were bumped that they did not register in the statistics used by researchers. Also, JetBlue customers also filed fewer complaints — 0.31 per 100,000 — to the Transportation Department than all other airlines but Southwest.

Southwest, with 0.14 complaints per 100,000 customers, consistently generates the lowest complaint rate in the industry, was rated as the No. 3 carrier in the report.

Alaska Airlines came in second, America West fourth and US Airways, ranked No. 1 last year when it was still in bankruptcy, was fifth.

Northwest Airlines, which came in sixth, was the most improved airline in 2003. It ranked ninth in 2002.

The study's authors said the ratings showed that low-cost airlines are gaining market share because they perform well in ways that are important to their passengers.

It "adds further evidence to the emerging performance gap between the legacy carriers and the no-frills network carriers," said Brent Bowen, director of the University of Nebraska's aviation institute and a co-author of the study.

Dean Headley, the other co-author and an associate professor of marketing at Wichita State University, said most of the low-cost carriers were above the industry average on four performance indicators last year. Most of the traditional airlines were below the industry average, he said.

"The low-fare carriers are definitely solid in their ability to attract passengers, and it shows in the market share gains that they're making," Headley said.

He said low-cost airlines comprised 4 percent of the market when he began the study in 1991. Now they carry one-quarter of all passengers; Headley expects them to transport four in 10 by 2006.

The report rated the 14 U.S. airlines that carried at least 1 percent of the 587 million passengers who flew last year.

Four low-cost carriers — AirTran, ATA, Atlantic Southeast and JetBlue — met that threshold for the first time in 2003.

Alan Bender, an aviation professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla., said the traditional airlines will still offer something that the low-cost carriers often do not: connecting flights to any commercial airport, first-class service and frequent flier miles.

"This doesn't mean the high-cost carriers are down and out," Bender said. "The survey seems to count out the fact that a large percentage of business people need ubiquitous service at any time of day."

He also said American travelers are addicted to frequent flier miles. "Business travelers will avoid low-cost carriers because they're not going to get miles that will take them to Hawaii," he said.

The report was based on Transportation Department statistics.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 04-05-04
♠ Q J 10 7
♥ K J 6 2
♦ 8 4
♣ K 5 3

West
♠ 5 4
♥ Q 8 5 3
♦ Q 9 7 2
♣ Q J 10

East
♠ A
♥ 10 9 4
♦ K 10 6 5 3
♣ A 7 6 2

South
♠ K 9 8 6 3 2
♥ A 7
♦ A J
♣ 9 8 4

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	All pass

Opening lead: ♣ Q

Monday, April 5, 2004

The ways to use your trumps

By Phillip Alder

A common question from a beginner is: "How quickly should I draw trumps?"

In England, there is a saying that there are many homeless people living on the north bank of the River Thames because they didn't draw trumps soon enough. However, there are an equally large number on the south bank because they drew trumps too soon.

Ask yourself, "What will my trumps be used for?"

If only to draw the opposing trumps, then often you instantly get on with that job. But sometimes even that must be delayed because there is a more pressing problem, as on this deal.

You (South) reach three spades. West leads the club queen. This marks East with the club ace, so you duck in the dummy. When West continues the suit at trick two, you play low from the dummy again. It is all to no avail, though, because the defenders take the first three tricks in the suit. When East shifts to a diamond, you win with your ace. How would you continue?

After North makes a limit raise, South was tempted to go for the vulnerable game, knowing that a 10-card fit is often worth an extra trick in the play. But he wisely passed.

Your trumps will be used to remove the three held by the opponents, but if you play a spade immediately, you will go down because East will win and cash the diamond king. You must get rid of that diamond loser before touching trumps. The only parking place is on the king of hearts. Cash the heart ace, then play a heart to dummy's jack, keeping your fingers and toes crossed. When the finesse wins, discard a diamond on the heart king. Finally, it is time to lead a trump.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

The cause of a perforated eardrum

DEAR DR. GOTT: Please explain the term "perforated eardrum." Can the word "perforated" refer to any other part of the hearing mechanism?

DEAR READER: The eardrum is a tough but thin membrane that separates the middle ear chamber (containing the tiny bones that help us to hear) from the outer ear (the external ear canal).

The eardrum may rupture from an injury (such as pushing a cotton swab too deeply into the ear) or from a middle ear infection that increases the pressure in the ear and causes the drum to burst.

In either event, a perforation (hole) is formed. Ordinarily, the perforation itself causes no symptoms and will heal, over time, without therapy. However, if the perforation is large — or if the trauma or infection is recurrent — the drum may not mend.

Such a chronic perforation is often associated with persisting inflammation of the middle ear, leading to a watery drainage, tinnitus (ringing in the ear) and loss of hearing. In these instances, antibiotic therapy is recommended, and otolaryngologists must operate to place a patch over the hole or otherwise repair the drum.

The word "perforation" is not customarily used to describe any other component of the hearing mechanism, although the word is a perfectly valid expression that describes a hole or defect in any organ, structure or tissue.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: My daughter has developed Bell's palsy for the second time. Should she be taking medicine to prevent further damage?

DEAR READER: Although the cause of Bell's palsy (paralyzed muscles on one side of the face) can be obscure, and may be untreatable, in some cases the disorder is caused by a viral infection, a tumor or Lyme disease (a type of bacterial infection).

In my opinion, your daughter needs testing, such as a CT scan and appropriate blood studies, to identify a treatable cause for the recurring palsy. I suggest that your family physician refer her to a neurologist for the necessary examinations.

It is important for your daughter to get to the bottom of this issue before permanent paralysis ensues. For example, cortisone may remedy a viral infection, surgery may be necessary for a tumor, and antibiotics should cure Lyme disease.

DEAR DR. GOTT: In a recent column, you discussed nasal allergies, and recommended that the reader use Flomax. This would have been suitable therapy if he had bladder spasm but, as far as I know, the nose and the bladder are not related.

DEAR READER: William Safire, a columnist for The New York Times, has what he calls the "Gotcha Gang," alert and intelligent readers who are only too willing to point out his mistakes — and do so on a regular basis.

You got me.

I wrote Flomax, when I meant to say Flonase. Substitutes include Nasonex, Beconase and others.

Thank you for writing. I apologize to my readers for the glitch.

If readers would like to contact Dr. Gott, they may write him through your newspaper or send their mail directly to Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th fl., New York, NY 10016.

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Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Permian Resources Inc. will drill the No. 1 H.H. Eiland, a 3,500-foot re-entry in the Diamond M field, nine miles west of Snyder. Location is in Section 202, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 227-5 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, six miles northwest of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 7,200 feet, drill site is in Section 247, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 228-5 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, six miles northwest of Snyder. Also planned for a depth of 7,200 feet, location is in Section247, Block 97, H&TC survey.

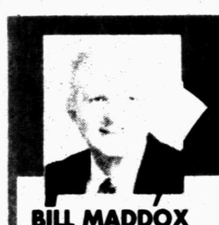
Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 238-09 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, three miles northwest of Snyder. Planned depth is 7,200 feet, and location is in Section 17, Block 1, J.P. Smith survey.

Kent County

Chisholm Operating Inc. will drill the No. 1 Alderman, a 5,999-foot wildcat located nine miles west of Girard. Location is in Section 60, Block 1, H&GN survey.

SNYDER'S DIGITAL HEARING AID HEADQUARTERS

HEAR HERE

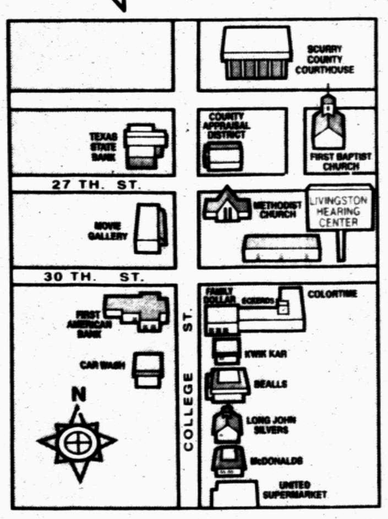


BILL MADDOX
"I want you to hear what you are missing. Call today!"

Open House 1 Day Only – Wednesday, April 7th!
Call today for a no-obligation hearing check up.

"Bring in the talk-- screen down the noise"

Imagine a fully digital hearing aid that automatically adapts to your surroundings and reflects your specific lifestyle. It's available now from Starkey, the world's largest manufacturer of custom hearing products! Prices starting as low as $695 with discount. Call for a free demonstration of this remarkable technology.



Factory-trained Specialist in Snyder
One Day Only–Wed., April 7th

Pamela Smith, *Licensed by the Texas Department of Health*

Pamela specializes in helping people with nerve type hearing loss. She will be demonstrating the newest in hearing aid technology THIS WEDNESDAY.

Low Price Guarantee

If you find a lower advertised price on an identical hearing aid at any local retail competitor, we will beat their price by 10% when you buy from us. Just bring us the competitor's current ad, or we'll call to verify the item's price that you have found. Competitor's remanufactured, discontinued, and used hearing aids are excluded from this offer.

UNBEATABLE LOW PRICE GUARANTEE

OPEN HOUSE FREE OFFERS

FREE diagnostic audiological evaluation during Open House. *A $75 value.*

FREE hearing aid repairs during Open House. *An $89 value.*

FREE video inspection of the ear canal and eardrum during Open House. *A $45 value.*

Appointments are limited! To avoid waiting, call today!

Call for an appointment:
325-574-1040
Toll free 1-800-828-0722
1707 30th Street in Snyder
(next to the State Farm office of Joe LaRoux)

LIVINGSTON Audiology and Hearing Aid Centers