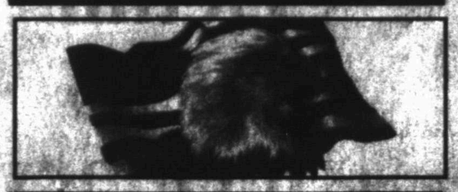
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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
April 7, 2003
Vol. 54 No. 292
12 Pages 50¢

Home of Mike Thornton

Wind farm to be constructed in county

By Brian Brisendine
SDN Staff Writer

Scurry County commissioners' court this morning heard from representatives of Cielo Windpower about the company's plans to construct in the county a wind farm consisting of 80 turbines.

Dave Groberg, a Cielo engineer, said Scurry County is a good location for the project. "It gets windy here and that's the first thing we look for. Scurry County has many good mesas where we would like to place turbines."

Scurry County also has other qualities the company seeks, including lack of congestion and room on existing power lines for the electricity to be generated.

Each turbine reaches a height of up to 250 feet and has the capability of producing up to a megawatt of power per hour.

An eight-mile-per-hour wind will activate the turbines, which will turn in winds up to 55 mph.

Groberg said the turbines have an average life of 20-25 years, but would be replaced with more technologically advanced equipment at that time, or possibly before.

"As soon as it becomes more economically feasible to replace the towers than to continue operating them, we will do just that."

Cielo is constructing a similar wind farm in northeast Borden County and Groberg said doubling the size and expanding into Scurry County will benefit everyone.

"This will add a sizeable asset to the county's tax base and adding on at this stage will lower our company's economy-of-scale in construction.

Local contractors and up to 200 laborers will be utilized as much as possible for the construction phase, which the company hopes could be complete by the end of this year.

Groberg also said at least 10 and as many as 15 fulltime employees will be maintained after construction with salaries ranging from $30,000 to $40,000 per year.

Cielo will seek tax abatement from the county, but Groberg said the company will pay all school taxes, as it is in Borden County where a 10-year 100 percent abatement was granted.

County Judge Rod Waller said the issue would be placed on upcoming court agendas and also advised that County Attorney Mike Hartman would work with Cielo representatives to form an agreement.

In other business, the court approved a resolution authorizing a National Airspace Data Interchange Network at Winston Field.

The system will put local weather conditions into a national database. The $8,000 system will cost the county only $1,000 after a like contribution from Patterson-UTI Energy and grants from the Department of Transportation.

The court approved an amendment to the contract for collection of delinquent taxes.

The amendment will raise attorney fees for collection from 15 to 20 percent. The additional cost will be born by delinquent taxpayers, not the county.

The court granted permission for the Boy Scouts to hold a fishing tournament in Towle Park May 9-10. Also okayed was overnight camping on those days.

County Librarian Janie Romine presented the annual library report as it was forwarded to the state. Romine said volunteer hours at the library decreased in 2002 from previous years.

The court also approved proclamations declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Awareness Month.

Seven line-item transfers were approved, as were three budget amendments, including one for $18,450 to complete the county's obligations to Schrickell, Rollins and Associates, the firm responsible for the master plan for park improvements.

Bills were paid and minutes were approved.

Waller presided and all members of the court were present, to include Ralph Trevey, Jerry House, Howard Limmer and Chloanne Lindsey.

City-county pact will be discussed at meeting of city council tonight

Councilman Terry Martin will brief the remainder of the council on proposed changes to the city-county interlocal agreement during this evening's city council meeting.

Martin is chairman of the city's intergovernmental contract committee.

The document outlines shared services between the two entities such as fire protection, road paving and law enforcement dispatching.

The council also will hear an update on estimated costs for the clean-up of the Colortyme and Merle Norman buildings that were destroyed by fire last month.

Tom Mann, economic development director for the West Central Texas Council of Governments, will give a presentation on Homeland Security, and Fire Chief Perry Westmoreland will present a proposal for a mutual aid agreement with the county and other entities.

The council also will act on canceling the May election since the mayor and two at-large council candidates do not have opponents.

The resolution for the replat of the Royal Cedars Addition will be considered for its final reading, and the council will hear the quarterly investment report.

Reappointments to the city zoning board of adjustments, zoning commission and the builder's board of appeal will be considered, as will bids for a pickup, asphalt, aggregate, water meters and chemicals for the water treatment plant.

The board also will hold an executive session to continue the yearly evaluation of city manager John Gayle.

The meeting gets underway at 6:30.

House committee passes budget bill

AUSTIN (AP) — A lean $58.6 billion state budget bill that includes cuts from education to health care was passed early today by the House Appropriations Committee.

The 19-2 vote sent the two-year spending plan to the full House, which is expected to begin the long debate on the 2004-05 budget next week.

House budget writers had been constrained by $9.9 billion shortfall and promises of no new taxes from the state's new Republican leadership, meaning deep cuts were contemplated across state government.

The $58.6 billion in state money appropriated in the bill is 3.4 percent less than the $62 billion in state money spent in the current budget.

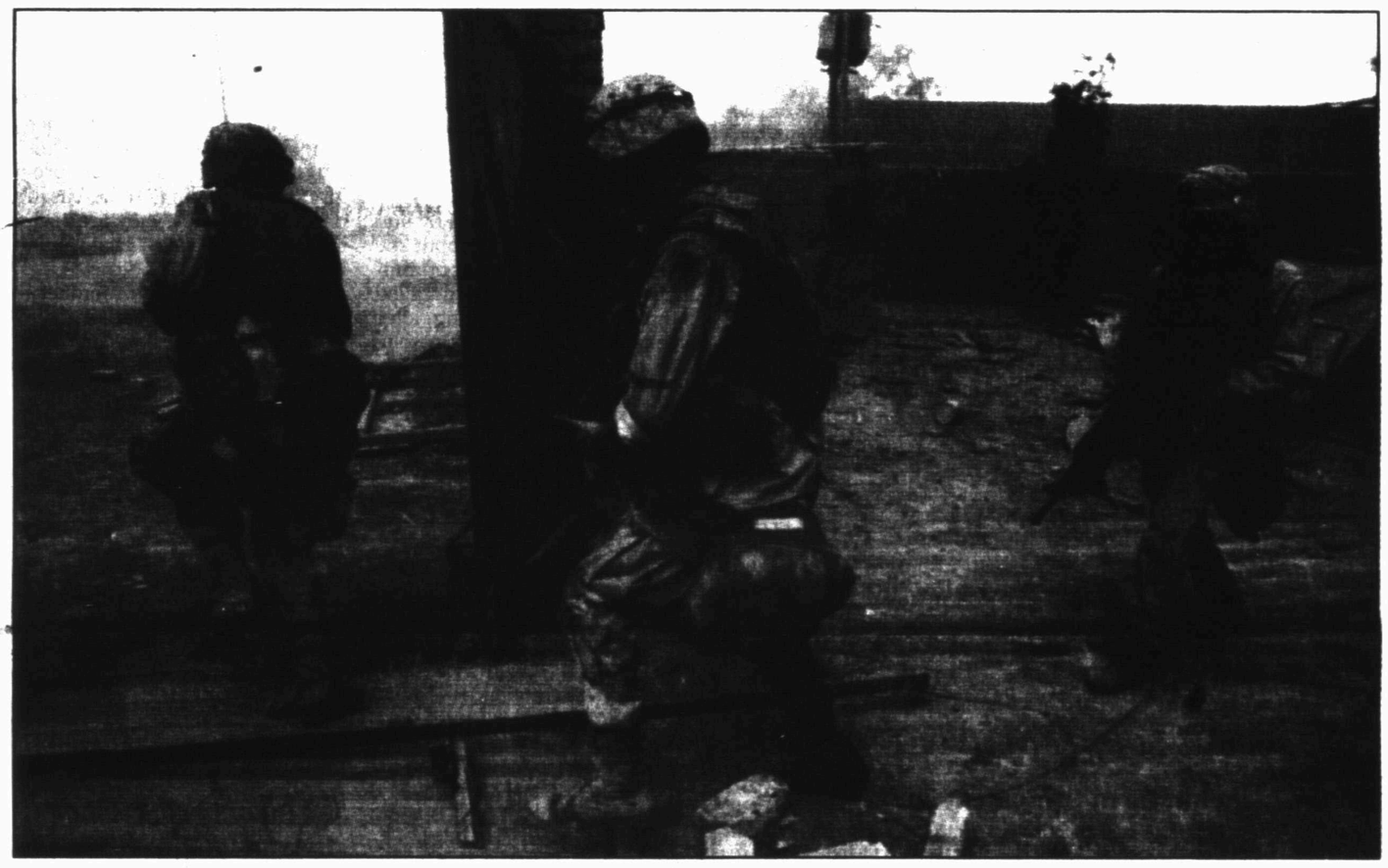
When federal and other funds are added, the 2004-05 budget recommendation totals $117.7 billion, just about even with how the current all-funds spending plan will total when the fiscal year ends Aug. 31.

The new budget, if it passes the House and Senate and is signed by Gov. Rick Perry, will take effect Sept. 1.

Most of the funds — $48.8 billion, or 41.5 percent — were allocated to public schools, colleges and universities.

But there still was slashing to education, including textbook purchases, the Texas Grant scholarship program and cuts to retired and active teachers' health insurance.

In the $40.9 billion health and human services area, 56,000 frail and elderly Texans will lose home-care services, 17,000 low-income pregnant women will lose Medicaid and programs such as the Children's Health Insurance Program were scaled back.



TAKING POSITION — U.S. Marines of the 3rd battalion, 4th regiment, take position while securing a key bridge leading into Baghdad on the outskirts of the Iraqi capital today. Four or five Marines were killed today when their Amtrack troop transporter was hit by an artillery shell at a bridge over a canal on the outskirts of the Iraqi capital. (AP Photo)

U.S. troops enter Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — U.S. forces in tanks and armored vehicles stormed into the center of Baghdad today, seizing one of Saddam Hussein's palaces in a bold daylight raid aimed at demonstrating the Americans can come and go as they please.

Iraqi snipers fired on U.S. soldiers from rooms in the state-owned Al-Rashid Hotel while the platoon conducted a patrol in a neighborhood near the palace, soldiers said. U.S. tanks returned fire with their main guns and .50-caliber machine guns.

More than 70 tanks and 60 Bradley fighting vehicles took part in the lightning thrust by the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, with tank-killing A-10 Warthog planes and pilotless drones providing air cover against mostly disorganized resistance.

At the city's southern edge, Marines and Army troops faced bloody fighting.

Two Marines were killed and two wounded when their armored troop carrier was hit by an artillery shell at a bridge spanning a canal. The Marines advanced into the capital by foot after the Iraqis blew apart the bridge.

A group of U.S. armored personnel carriers in southern Baghdad was hit by rockets, according to field reports. Six American soldiers were reported missing and a large number were wounded.

In the heart of Baghdad, American soldiers who reached the gold-and-blue-domed New Presidential Palace used the toilets, rifled through documents in the bombed-out compound, and helped themselves to ashtrays, pillows, gold-painted Arab glassware and other souvenirs. The Americans also blew up a statue of Saddam on horseback in the center of the city.

"I do believe this city is freakin' ours," boasted Capt. Chris Carter of Watkinsville Ga.

U.S. troops set up a prisoner of war collection point in the palace compound. As Iraqis were captured in street fighting outside, they were brought to the palace for processing before being sent behind U.S. lines. At one point, a group of nine Iraqis surrendered after hearing on loudspeakers that if they did so they would live.

There was no estimate of Iraqi casualties from the raid, but 10 miles outside the capital, about 100 Iraqi soldiers were reported killed at the Baghdad airport in seven hours of fighting that ended early today. On Sunday, a giant C-130 transport landed at the airport in the first known arrival of a U.S. plane since the airfield fell into U.S. hands last week.

During their armored thrust into the city, allied forces also came near the Al-Rashid Hotel and very close to the Information Ministry, said Lt. Mark Kitchens at U.S. Central Command in Doha, Qatar.

The Al-Rashid was used by foreign reporters during the 1991 Gulf War. At that time, the U.S. government alleged that the building housed a military communications center. This time, many foreign journalists are staying at the Palestine Hotel.

During a dust-blown news conference on the roof of the Palestine Hotel, Iraqi Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf said the American invaders had tried to penetrate the city but were slaughtered. He declared: "Be assured Baghdad is safe, secure and great."

"There is no presence of the American columns in the city of Baghdad, none at all," he said.

Key developments in the war in Iraq

- Coming in on the western side of the Tigris, which divides the city, the U.S. troops met only moderate resistance. Iraqi troops fled along its banks and some jumped in the water. An ammunition depot was on fire.
- Four or five Marines were killed when their vehicle was struck by an artillery shell at a canal near the southern outskirts of Baghdad. The 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines eventually crossed the bridge on foot into Baghdad.
- British military officials said Ali Hassan al-Majid, dubbed "Chemical Ali" by opponents of the Iraqi regime for ordering a poison gas attack that killed thousands of Kurds, was killed by a weekend airstrike on his house in Basra.
- U.S. troops searched a presidential palace in Baghdad, marveling at its imitation French Baroque furniture, swimming pools and fountains.
- According to U.S military field reports, a group of armored personnel carriers in southern Baghdad was hit by rockets. Six U.S. soldiers are missing and others are wounded.

ASK US

Q—How long has the 101st Airborne Division been part of the Army?
A—Since 1942.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Alan Celoria...

... is the assistant pastor in charge of music at the First Baptist Church. He lives on a ranch near Hermleigh. He and his wife, Jan, have five grown children and one grandchild. They have lived in Scurry County almost a year. Alan likes to hunt, fish and golf and Jan likes collecting antiques.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Any fool can criticize, condemn and complain, and most fools do.
—Dale Carnegie

APR 07 2003

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Book fair

Northeast Elementary is hosting a book fair daily through Wednesday. Hours today and Tuesday are 8 a.m.–5 p.m., and Wednesday, 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the school.

Hermleigh Cemetery Association

The Hermleigh Cemetery Association will meet at 6:30 p.m. today in the Hermleigh Community Center.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "I Choose Death," followed by "The Resurrection."

VFW auxiliary meeting

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

SISD volunteer banquet

SISD's 8th annual Volunteer Banquet is set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Snyder Country Club. The theme will be patriotic.

Mexican salad supper

Hermleigh's Relay for Life team will sponsor a Mexican salad supper starting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the high school. Cost is $5 for adults and $3 for children under 10. Take-outs are available. Chances also will be sold for two chairs and a table donated by Brice and Joyce Fugua. All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.

Mission Fair

Mitchell-Scurry Baptist Association will hold its third annual Mission Fair from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the Family Life Center at First Baptist Church in Snyder. There will be more than 20 booths of food and activities for all ages.

FFA booster club

Snyder High School's FFA Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the ag building. Officers are to meet at 6:30 p.m.

Lenten worship services

The First Presbyterian Church will hold Lenten worship services at 6 p.m. Wednesday. Anyone wishing to observe Lent is welcome to attend.

Bake sale

Snyder Healthcare Center Family Council will have a bake sale starting at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday in the back hallway. Enter on the south side.

Free income tax help

Free income tax help is available for persons earning low to moderate incomes. There is no age restriction. Assistance is available from 9 a.m.-noon, and 1-3 p.m. Wednesday at the Senior Center, 2603 Ave. M.

Antique tractor, farm equipment club

Antique tractor and farm equipment club will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday at Jack's Road Boring on the Colorado City Hwy. Everyone is invited. For more information, call Bobby Grice at 573-3081.

FBC services televised

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

FBC support groups

Support groups dealing with divorce, death, cancer or caring for elderly parents meet at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the First Baptist Church educational building. A special group for students facing these problems is held at the same time.

Easter egg hunt

Knights of Columbus Council #8875 will host its fourth annual Easter Egg hunt at 1 p.m. Saturday at Towle Park for children 12 years and under.

Country and gospel music

There will be country and gospel music played at the Senior Center beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday.

New support group

Gateway Family Services will begin a new support group session next Monday. The group will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday to focus on the educational needs of adult victims of family violence and sexual assault. Help in the area of literacy, GED progress and computer skills will be offered in both group and individual settings. Children's support group will meet at the same time and childcare will be available. Call 573-1822 for more information.

Retired teachers meeting

The Scurry County Retired Teachers Association will meet at noon next Monday at The Shack. State president Tom Pritchard will speak on the current Texas legislature.

High school orientation

Parents of 8th grade students are urged to attend a meeting at 7 p.m. next Monday in the junior high auditorium. Debbie Phillips, high school counselor, will provide information concerning high school registration, course selection and requirements for the diploma programs. 8th grade students also are invited to attend.

Lions Club meeting change

The Snyder Lions Club will attend Holy Week Services on Tuesday, April 15, in place of its regular meeting. Holy Week Services are at noon April 14-18 at First Presbyterian Church except for Friday when a 7 a.m. breakfast will be served at First United Methodist Church.

AARP recognition coffee

A come-and-go AARP recognition coffee will begin at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 16, at the Senior Center.

Avenue D Baptist revival

Avenue D Baptist Church will hold a revival April 20-25. Wes Massey will the evangelist and the music evangelist is Don Thornton. Sunday services include Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. During the week, there will be a covered dish luncheon and noon services, and services at 7 p.m.



SEE HOW THEY GROW — Stanfield Elementary students checking how the tulips they planted are growing are from left, Colter Smith, first grader; Madison Lewis, kindergarten; and Ramiro Medrano, Deseray Rivers, Georgette Gunderson, Vanessa Ornelas, Kiersten Price and D.J. Morin, all second graders. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Virginia Tech reverses decision and restores affirmative action

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — Virginia Tech reinstated its affirmative action policy Sunday, despite assertions from the attorney general's office that some of its diversity programs are unconstitutional.

The school's Board of Visitors voted 8-5 to rescind a March 10 ban on preferences for racial minorities and other underrepresented groups in hiring, admissions and scholarships.

The vote came after a four-hour meeting punctuated by outbursts from a crowd of about 250 people, most supporters of affirmative action. The board called Sunday's special meeting after weeks of protest over its resolution in closed session to dismantle affirmative action.

"We love diversity as much as you do," Vice Rector William Latham said to a chorus of hissing from the crowd. "But we have to do it within the framework of the law, and you only have to do it politically."

The board also created a committee on Sunday to review Tech's diversity programs and make sure they don't violate the Constitution.

Attorney General Jerry Kilgore will continue examining diversity policies at Tech and other schools, spokesman Tim Murtaugh said. "If they have programs that continue to be based on race, then yes, they are" acting illegally, he said. "That would be unfortunate."

Several board members lamented that their earlier decision came too quickly, and that they should have waited for guidance from the U.S. Supreme Court to rule on affirmative action policies at the University of Michigan.

Others said they changed their mind after realizing there were other interpretations of federal law that may allow the school to continue its diversity policies.

"We may have been naive," said board member Ben Davenport Jr., who voted in favor of rescinding the ban. "In our previous discussion, we didn't talk about the Supreme Court case."

The university had reviewed its diversity program at the request of Attorney General Jerry Kilgore, who warned Virginia schools that race-conscious policies violate federal law.

Gov. Mark Warner said he was pleased the board would further study "ways to strike a reasonable balance in promoting diversity in University programs."

Virginia Tech has struggled to bring black students to its Blacksburg campus after enrolling the first black student in 1953.

The student body is still only 6 percent black, while blacks make up about 20 percent of Virginia's population.



Victim has no memory of attack

NEW YORK (AP) — The woman who gained anonymous fame 14 years ago as the Central Park jogger says she remembers nothing of the night she was raped and nearly beaten to death.

"I have no memory of the horror of that night, of the violence of the beating, of the feeling of helplessness, of powerlessness," Trisha Meili told NBC's Katie Couric in her first television interview.

"So I don't have these flashbacks, or I don't see faces, or I'm not always looking over my shoulder," she said.

Meili, 42, spoke to Couric for a program titled "Katie Couric Exclusive: The Central Park Jogger," which aired Sunday night.

The interview launched a promotional campaign for her memoir, "I am the Central Park Jogger: A Story of Hope and Possibility."

Meili is reportedly confused over the most recent developments in the case, which began with her 1989 assault and rape in Central Park.

Five teenagers were convicted for the assault and served prison sentences ranging from 6 years and 8 months to 13 years.

Their convictions were thrown out in December after Matias Reyes, 31, an imprisoned murderer claimed that he alone had attacked the jogger. A DNA test confirmed that he was involved.

"If he is telling the truth, it's a horrible thing if innocent people are sent to prison — and it only adds to the tragedy of that evening," Meili said.

Meili also said she has "come to terms" with not knowing exactly what happened to her the night she was brutally beaten.

Meili, a petite woman with short blond hair, has a small scar on the left side of her face from the attack. She said she has a scar on her scalp from ear to ear, and she let Couric feel an indentation on the top of her head.

In the memoir, Meili recounts her story, from the night she was attacked to her recovery. She still carries several handicaps as a result of the assault, including brain injuries and problems with balance.

"At some moments, she is somewhat halting in her speech, but for the most part she seemed flawless and in miraculous good shape," Couric said.

events

LOTTO TEXAS™

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RESULTS

Saturday's Lottery Numbers
Lotto Texas

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

Winning numbers drawn: 9-23-37-41-49-52.

Estimated jackpot: $13 million.

Number matching six of six: none.

Matching five of six: 56. Prize: $2,587.

Matching four of six: 3,150. Prize: $114.

Matching three of six: 62,825. Prize: $5.

Next Lotto Texas game: Wednesday night.

Estimated jackpot: $16 million.

Pick 3
(Day) 8-4-0
(Night) 3-3-7
Cash Five
3-13-17-18-34

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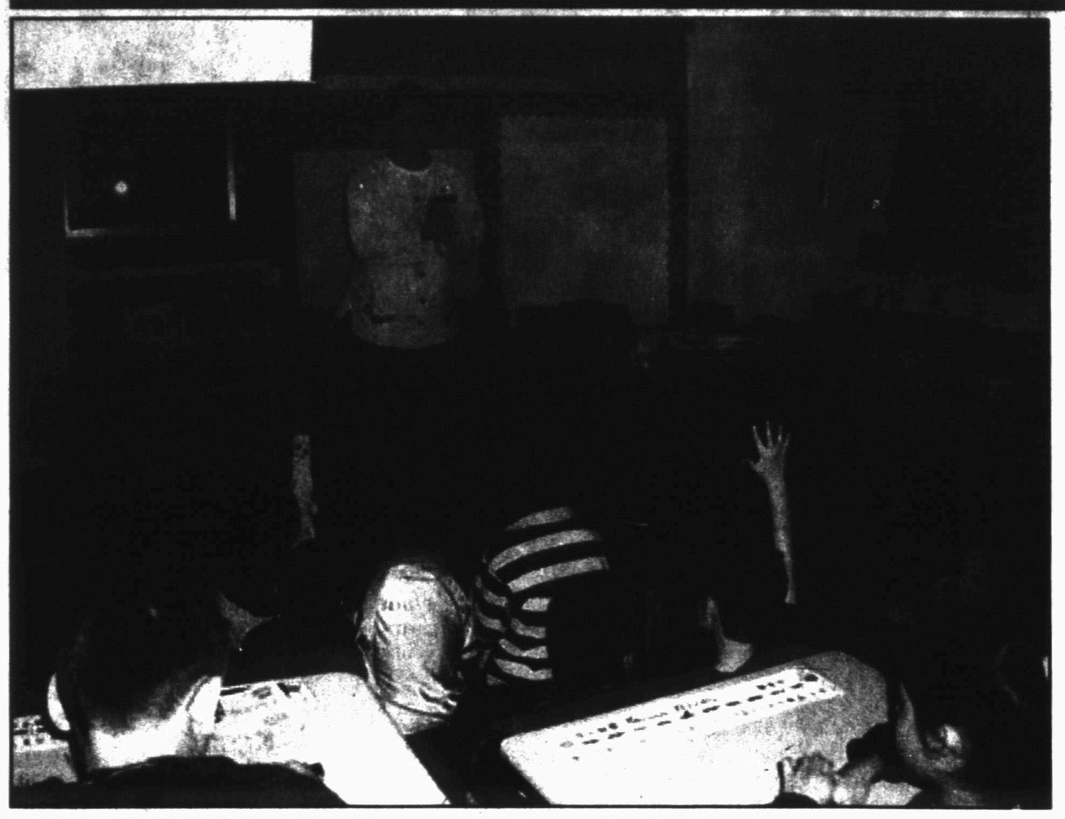


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SPECIAL PROGRAM — Chris Bane, a school nurse for Snyder schools, recently presented a program about germs to Central Elementary kindergarten students in Liffin Molter's and Debra Alexander's classes. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Man accused in triple slaying in 1981 set for trial in Laredo

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The murder trial of one of four brothers accused in a 1981 triple slaying at a Laredo bar is expected to begin today in state district court in Laredo.

The lawyers involved say trying a 22-year-old case will be tricky.

Jeanie's Bar, where six armed men burst in and shot three others dead, was demolished years ago. Three of those accused in the killing have not been seen in 20 years. And much of the evidence is proving hard to find.

"I have cases from a year ago that are hard to prove, much less one from 22 years ago," said Webb County prosecutor Andy Ramos, who was in the third grade when the crime occurred.

"Things have been in archives for 21 years. I had a hell of a time finding a police report, and I'm having a hard time finding the autopsy reports," he told the San Antonio Express-News.

Rene DeLeon was arrested a year ago in San Antonio, where he apparently had been living under an assumed name since he and his brothers posted bond and vanished two decades ago.

DeLeon denies shooting anyone, according to his lawyer, Jack Pytel, who said the state will have difficulty proving otherwise.

"The bar is no longer there, most if not all of the witnesses are deceased, and I think medical testimony is going to be tough. I really don't know of anyone who can shed light on what happened," Pytel said.

"I think the evidence will show at most that my client was present, but he contends he was unarmed and did not do any shooting," he said.

Authorities maintain that the four DeLeon brothers, along with two others, settled a drug dispute by killing Daniel Sifuentes and brothers Olvido Ortiz and Ramiro Ortiz of Laredo.

According to police, Sifuentes, who was from Robstown, was owed money by Pedro Martinez of Laredo for drugs, and had come to town to collect.

"When Sifuentes got here, he called two of his friends, the Ortiz brothers, to be there with him," said O.J. Hale, longtime chief investigator for the district attorney's office, who worked the shooting.

Martinez met the three at Jeanie's Bar and was given an ultimatum to produce the money, Hale said.

Police say that he came back with five heavily armed men, including the four DeLeon brothers Ramiro, Eduardo, Erasmo and Rene.

Initially, police had little to go on, but ultimately Martinez was identified as a suspect.

Martinez agreed to cooperate and was given protection, but he tired of that and moved to Dallas. His battered body soon turned up in the Trinity River, although authorities in Laredo didn't find out for almost a year.

Today's chuckle

Homeless man told he owes $6M in taxes

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — A homeless man billed for $6 million in taxes by the Internal Revenue Service has been notified it was a mistake.

John Ramer, known as the "six million dollar man" by his buddies at the Union Gospel Mission in Salem, was told Friday that his $5,981,104.02 tax bill was an error and he owed nothing.



The IRS refused to comment on the case, but an agency spokeswoman previously confirmed that they were looking into Ramer's complaints.

Ramer, 30, said the agency's Taxpayer Advocate Service traced the source of the mistake to an employer's computer glitch in 1994.

The problem started with some malfunctioning magnetic tape. Instead of reporting earnings of $35 to the IRS for a few hours work at a bowling alley, the mistake ballooned Ramer's pay to more than $2 million. Penalties and interest boosted the tax amount into the $6 million range.

"It was just the luck of the draw that it happened to me," Ramer said.

His former boss said he didn't remember Ramer's brief stint behind the snack counter, but he did recall there were some problems with the company's W-2 forms about 10 years ago.

Despite wide publicity about the case, Ramer says his financial situation has not improved. He said a television reporter bought him lunch, and someone gave him a T-shirt that says, "I'm not really a bum, but I play one on TV."

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Screening day examines how alcohol affects health

DEAR ABBY: I applaud your recent columns on alcohol abuse. But how much do your readers really know about alcohol and health? The importance of becoming educated about alcohol cannot be emphasized enough. On April 10, National Alcohol Screening Day, Americans can learn about alcohol and their health, and assess if they're engaging in risky drinking practices.

The Screening Day message puts it simply: "Alcohol and your health: Where do you draw the line?" Each of us needs to know just where that line is. Alcohol misuse comes with a devastatingly high cost. The annual dollar amount is estimated to be $185 billion in the United States. The emotional cost to individuals and their families is immeasurable.

Our studies show that nearly one-third of adults engage in risky drinking patterns. Our 2001 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse found that 13.4 million Americans — 5.9 percent of the population — meet the diagnostic criteria for alcohol dependence or abuse. Ninety-one percent of these people do not realize they have a problem.

For these reasons, I hope your readers will attend local alcohol education and screening programs in their own communities on April 10. On that day, health programs and agencies, colleges and universities, senior centers and community organizations nationwide will offer education and screening programs for Americans of all ages. They will have the opportunity to find out more about alcohol and their health and to complete a brief, anonymous, alcohol screening questionnaire to assess if they are risky drinkers.

Please encourage your readers to learn more about National Alcohol Screening Day, Abby. By sharing this information with them, you are making an important contribution to our commitment to promote safe and healthy lives for all. — **TOMMY G. THOMPSON, SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

DEAR SECRETARY THOMPSON: Because people occasionally overindulge in drinking does not automatically mean they are alcoholics. However, it is to everyone's advantage to know the difference and to recognize the warning signs. This is certainly a subject worth educating oneself about. To learn more about National Alcohol Screening Day, call toll-free (800) 763-1200 or visit www.nationalalcoholscreeningday.org.

**

DEAR ABBY: I operate a home day care for preschool children, and almost every day I'm faced with the same question: When parents arrive to pick up their children and the kids begin misbehaving, who is responsible for correcting them — their parents or me?

Two youngsters in particular turn into little monsters the minute their mothers arrive. These women have never once disciplined them in my presence. Should I give the offending children a "time-out" the next day? I need your advice because I don't want to overstep my bounds. — **CHILD-CARE PRO IN NEW JERSEY**

DEAR CHILD-CARE PRO: Some parents let their children get away with murder. However, you are within your rights to let the children know what behavior will not be tolerated on your premises. Were I in your shoes and the youngsters began acting up while their parents said nothing, I would speak up. Waiting until the next day is too late.

**

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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Yahoo retools search engine in hopes of becoming the best

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Yahoo! Inc. is rolling out a souped-up search engine today in a bid to supplant its business partner, Google, as the most popular place to find things on the Internet.

With the revisions, Yahoo believes its search engine will provide more useful information than Google's and be simpler to use. The rebuilt version will combine Google's index with Yahoo's customized services spanning sports, driving directions and weather reports.

"We think this is going to change the game a bit," said Jeff Weiner, Yahoo's senior vice president of search and marketplace. "This is the first of many steps toward reinforcing our leadership in the marketplace."

Google declined to comment on Yahoo's new search engine.

Battle lines clearly are being drawn between the companies, said Danny Sullivan, editor of the industry newsletter Search Engine Watch.

"They are going to be duking it out," Sullivan predicted. "Clearly, Yahoo would like to keep more people from going over to Google to search and maybe even bring back some of the people that have previously left."

Toppling Google won't be easy. In just five years, Google has become synonymous with online searching.

Yahoo played a vital role in Google's rise. After encouraging Google to create its search engine, Yahoo raised the start-up's profile nearly three years ago by licensing Google's software to run the searches on its popular online portal.

Tributes planned for woman soldier killed in combat in Iraq

PHOENIX (AP) — Plans are in the works to honor an Army private at the nation's capital as the first known American Indian woman in the U.S. military to have been killed in combat.

Pfc. Lori Piestewa is to be featured in an exhibit set to open May 24 at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, located at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C., and later at Memorial Day ceremonies there.

Piestewa was a member of the Hopi Tribe and lived near the Navajo Reservation community of Tuba City in northern Arizona. She was among eight members of the Fort Bliss, Texas-based 507th Maintenance Company ambushed in Iraq whose status was changed Friday from missing in action to killed.

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APR 07 2003

SPORTS

Kansas, Syracuse a study in contrasts

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Kansas Jayhawks feature plenty of senior leadership and four starters who were in the Final Four last season. They're a very good man-to-man defensive team and have the country's best transition game on offense.

The Syracuse Orangemen start two freshmen and two sophomores, and they use a stifling 2-3 zone defense while running the offense through a versatile rookie who has spun, shot and slam-dunked his way to stardom.

Kansas and Syracuse will be together on the Superdome court on the final night of the college basketball season, but they are very different teams.

About the only thing similar are the men running the show.

Kansas' Roy Williams and Syracuse's Jim Boeheim are among the top five active coaches by winning percentage, but neither has won it all. Williams is in his fourth Final Four, Boeheim is in his third.

This won't be a traditional matchup, either. Kansas (30-7) runs a three-guard offense and Syracuse (29-5) stays in the zone.

So, a closer look is needed to determine who will be the national champion on Monday night.

Frontcourts

Two of the best forwards in the country will be on opposite sides but won't be covering each other.

Kansas senior Nick Collison averages 18.5 points and 9.7 rebounds and runs the floor very well. He will have to be a force inside against the zone so the perimeter opens for the 3-point shooters. Jeff Graves is the size for the Jayhawks at 6-foot-9 and 275 pounds. Like Collison, he picked up his rebounding during the tournament run, a key to getting the running game in gear.

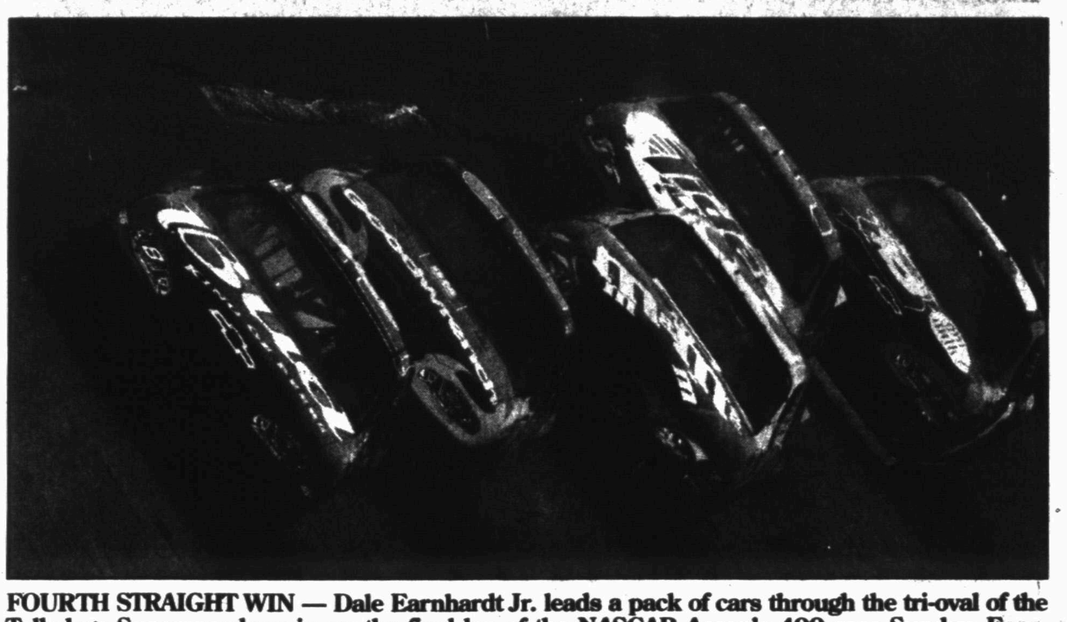
Syracuse freshman Carmelo Anthony averages 22.3 points, 10.0 rebounds and about five "Wows" a game. His teammates have no problem with his star stature. He has taken 596 shots this season and no one else has taken more than 360. His inside game relies on power from his 6-8, 220-pound frame, and he is shooting 33 percent from 3-point range.

In the semifinal, Texas had everybody but Bevo cover him for a while, and usually there was help for the man with the assignment. Keith Langford, who gives away four inches, will probably start on Anthony, but again, expect almost everybody to try to contain him and make him pass the ball.

Backcourt

Kirk Hinrich is Kansas' other senior star, and he is also the top 3-point shooter on the team. He shoots 42 percent from beyond the arc and his 86 3s are just seven fewer than the rest of the team combined. He has to make some from the outside to allow Collison and Graves to work inside. Langford, Hinrich and Aaron Miles are all good ballhandlers and passers. That's usually what worries a zone coach because the more the ball moves, the more a team is likely to get an open shot.

Gerry McNamara is in Anthony's class — as far as being a freshman. He's also starting to close the gap as far as recognition goes. He has an almost 2-1 assist-to-turnover ratio, and he shoots 35 percent from 3-point range and 91 percent from the free-throw line. He'll have to contend with Miles, a dogged defender who likes to go for the steal.



FOURTH STRAIGHT WIN — Dale Earnhardt Jr. leads a pack of cars through the tri-oval of the Talladega Superspeedway in on the final lap of the NASCAR Aaron's 499 race Sunday. Earnhardt won his fourth consecutive race at the superspeedway. Following Earnhardt are, from left, Kevin Harvick, Elliott Sadler, Ricky Craven and Terry Labonte. (AP Photo)

WTC sweeps Saturday DH

Western Texas College got two solid pitching performances Saturday to sweep a doubleheader against Howard College.

Jed Anderson hung tough in stopping the Hawks, 10-6, in the opener, and Shawn Lively got the win in the nightcap, 16-8.

"It was a good day for us. We had a lot of fun," said head coach James King. "Hopefully, the guys learned that when they execute they can beat anybody."

King said the team hit the ball extremely well in the sweep, and did the little things to help secure its 11th victory of the season, and the third and fourth wins in conference.

"We did well with bunts and the hit and run," he said. "As long as we execute and get pitching and defense, we'll be all right."

The Westerners are not out of the conference tournament mix, despite their record.

Although they sit in last place in the Southwest conference's south division, WTC can still make the tournament April 25-27, if they can win a one-game play-in over New Mexico Military Institute, which is also in last in the north division of the conference.

At Talladega...

Controversial pass gives Earnhardt Jr. fourth win

TALLADEGA, Ala. (AP) — The record book will only show that Dale Earnhardt Jr. won four straight races at Talladega Superspeedway. Some of his rivals wonder if the feat deserves an asterisk.

Earnhardt used a controversial pass to take the lead in the Aaron's 499 on Sunday, driving below the yellow line at Talladega with four laps to go as his Chevrolet went ahead of Matt Kenseth.

NASCAR didn't penalize him — as it has done with several other drivers since implementing the rule in July 2001 — and Earnhardt went on to his record fourth consecutive win at Talladega.

"He was clearly below the yellow line," said Jimmie Johnson, who was behind Earnhardt and Kenseth. "Anybody else who dances down there gets in trouble. From my vantage point, I didn't think it was a legal pass."

With a huge grin on his face and still wearing his beer-soaked firesuit, Earnhardt dismissed any suggestion of preferential treatment while savoring his latest taming of Talladega.

"This is definitely the sweetest, regardless of the controversy of going below the line or whatever," he said.

There's no doubt Earnhardt had to work for this win, his first of the year and eighth of his career.

Crew members overslept after forgetting to reset their clocks. His engine had to be replaced before the start of the race, forcing him to go to the rear of the 43-car field at the start.

And he had to avoid the 27-car accident three laps into the race, driving through the infield to miss it while collecting slight damage to his Chevrolet.

But all that was forgotten across the garage as drivers and crew chiefs wondered why Earnhardt Jr. was not penalized for driving below the line. Crossing onto the apron to improve track position is strictly prohibited at Talladega and Daytona, and the sanctioning body warned all drivers before the race it would be watching closely for such moves.

NASCAR even enforced it on Sunday, penalizing Steve Park, Earnhardt's teammate, for crossing the line to make a pass earlier in the race.

So when Earnhardt did it, the cars running behind him all waited to see the black-flag. When it never came, runner-up Kevin Harvick's team had radioed NASCAR and demanded a review of the call.

NASCAR watched the tape and spokesman Jim Hunter said officials stood by the call.

"There is not a shadow of a doubt he was below the yellow line," Hunter said. "However, in our judgment, he had already improved his position and was past (Kenseth) when he went down there."

Park shelled in Rangers' loss

ARLINGTON (AP) — Edgar Martinez had a rough day while playing a big part in Seattle's win.

Martinez hit a two-out solo homer in the first that put the Mariners ahead for good Sunday in their 11-2 win at Texas. He later was hit by a pitch and scored, then left the game after he strained his left hamstring while beating out an infield hit.

Martinez will be out three-to-five days with what the team called a mild strain. He will miss Seattle's home opener Tuesday against Anaheim.

"It puts a damper on this day, as much as he means to this team," said first-year Mariners manager Bob Melvin, who has won three of four since an 0-2 start.

After Martinez homered, Dan Wilson hit an RBI single in the second on the first pitch he saw this season as the Mariners jumped on Chan Ho Park early.

Seattle led 4-0 when Park (0-2) was pulled after Ichiro Suzuki's leadoff single in the fourth. The Mariners scored in each of the first three innings.

Park has pitched just 5 2-3 innings in his two starts, allowing 10 runs and 11 hits. The right-hander was 9-8 in an injury-plagued 2002 season, his first after signing a $65 million, five-year deal with Texas.

Sports Briefs

Griffey Jr. hurt again

CINCINNATI (AP) — Ken Griffey Jr. will be out for at least six weeks to recover from a dislocated right shoulder.

Griffey landed hard on the shoulder while diving for a fly ball during a 9-7 loss to the Chicago Cubs on Saturday, the third consecutive season that he has suffered a major injury in March or April.

Dr. Timothy Kremchek, the Reds' team doctor, popped the shoulder back into place at the ballpark on Saturday. X-rays and other tests found no fractures or major injury to the rotator cuff.

Men's Golf Association

The Scurry County Golf Association will begin its weekly Tuesday scramble at 5:30 p.m. The Men's Golf Association will also begin its weekly event Thursday. Call Rick at the Scurry County golf course pro shop to enter or for more information.

Girls softball signup

Snyder Girls Softball Association signups will take place Thursday and Friday at Texas Savings Bank. Times are 5:30 to 8 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Ages four and up are eligible but players must have turned four by Jan. 1. Cost is $30, or $25 for an additional child. Participants should bring birth certificate, social security card and a parent or guardian.

Teenage baseball signups

Signup for Babe Ruth League for 13-15-year-olds will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Snyder Boys and Girls Club.

Baseball buddies

The SHS baseball team will host "Baseball Buddies" from 11 a.m. until noon Saturday. The skills session are free.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
x-New Jersey	48	29	.623	—
x-Philadelphia	45	31	.592	2½
Boston	41	36	.532	7
Orlando	39	38	.506	9
Washington	35	41	.461	12½
New York	34	43	.442	14
Miami	23	55	.295	25½
Central Division				
x-Detroit	47	29	.618	—
x-Indiana	46	31	.597	1½
x-New Orleans	42	35	.545	5½
Milwaukee	38	40	.487	10
Atlanta	31	45	.408	16
Chicago	27	50	.351	20½
Toronto	24	52	.316	23
Cleveland	15	61	.197	32
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
x-Dallas	57	19	.750	—
x-San Antonio	57	20	.740	½
x-Minnesota	48	30	.615	10
Utah	45	32	.584	12½
Houston	40	37	.519	17½
Memphis	26	51	.338	31½
Denver	17	60	.221	40½
Pacific Division				
y-Sacramento	56	22	.718	—
x-Portland	47	29	.618	8
x-L.A. Lakers	46	31	.597	9½
Phoenix	40	36	.526	15
Seattle	38	38	.500	17
Golden State	37	40	.481	18½
L.A. Clippers	24	52	.316	31

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Sunday's Games

Washington 99, Boston 98, OT
New Jersey 96, Toronto 87
Sacramento 97, Philadelphia 81
Indiana 90, Miami 69
San Antonio 89, Detroit 83
Golden State 106, Denver 99
Houston 114, Orlando 93
Seattle 82, Utah 80
Minnesota 97, Portland 78
L.A. Lakers 115, Phoenix 113, OT

Monday's Games

No games scheduled

Tuesday's Games

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

Major League Baseball

National League All Times EDT	W	L	Pct	GB
East Division				
Montreal	4	2	.667	—
New York	3	3	.500	1
Philadelphia	3	3	.500	1
Atlanta	2	4	.333	2
Florida	2	4	.333	2
Central Division				
Pittsburgh	5	1	.833	—
Houston	4	1	.800	½
St. Louis	3	2	.600	1½
Chicago	3	3	.500	2
Cincinnati	2	4	.333	3
Milwaukee	0	6	.000	5
West Division				
San Francisco	6	0	1.000	—
Colorado	4	2	.667	2
Los Angeles	3	4	.429	3½
San Diego	3	4	.429	3½
Arizona	1	5	.167	5

Sunday's Games

Atlanta 13, Florida 4
Montreal 8, N.Y. Mets 5
Cincinnati 5, Chicago Cubs 4
Pittsburgh 2, Philadelphia 0
San Francisco 5, Milwaukee 0
Houston at St. Louis, ppd
Colorado 8, Arizona 3
Los Angeles 4, San Diego 3, 13 innings

Monday's Games

Florida (Pavano 0-1) at Atlanta (Ortiz 0-1), 1:05 p.m.
Montreal (Day 1-0) at Chicago Cubs (Clement 0-1), 2:20 p.m.
San Diego (Ol.Perez 0-1) at San Francisco (Schmidt 1-0), 4:05 p.m.
Arizona (Dessens 0-1) at Los Angeles (K.Brown 1-0), 4:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Rusch 0-1) at Pittsburgh (Wells 0-0), 6:05 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

N.Y. Mets at Florida, 7:05 p.m.
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7:05 p.m.
Cincinnati at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
St. Louis at Colorado, 9:05 p.m.
Arizona at Los Angeles, 10:10 p.m.
San Diego at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.

American League All Times EDT	W	L	Pct	GB
East Division				
New York	5	1	.833	—
Boston	5	2	.714	½
Toronto	3	3	.500	2
Baltimore	2	4	.333	3
Tampa Bay	2	5	.286	3½
Central Division				
Kansas City	5	0	1.000	—
Chicago	3	3	.500	2½
Minnesota	3	3	.500	2½
Cleveland	2	3	.400	3
Detroit	0	6	.000	5½
West Division				
Oakland	5	1	.833	—
Seattle	3	3	.500	2
Anaheim	2	4	.333	3
Texas	2	4	.333	3

Sunday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 10, Tampa Bay 5
Boston 12, Baltimore 2
Toronto 8, Minnesota 1
Cleveland at Kansas City, ppd., rain
Chicago White Sox 10, Detroit 2
Seattle 11, Texas 2
Oakland 7, Anaheim 6

Monday's Games

Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees, ppd., weather
Chicago White Sox at Cleveland, ppd., weather

Tuesday's Games

Chicago White Sox at Cleveland, 3:05 p.m.
Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees, 4:05 p.m.
Anaheim at Seattle, 5:05 p.m.
Boston at Toronto, 7:05 p.m.
Kansas City at Detroit, 7:05 p.m.
Baltimore at Tampa Bay, 7:15 p.m.
Oakland at Texas, 8:05 p.m.

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April 12, 2003

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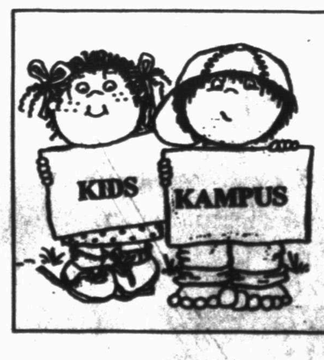
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SPORTS

WTC drops Saturday doubleheader to HC

Western Texas College finished up its season series with Howard College Saturday, dropping both games by scores of 5-2 and 9-2.

Lady Hawk pitcher Jennifer Reed allowed just five hits and one earned run in the opener.

"(Reed) has beaten Midland twice," said Duster head coach Rodney McNeill. He said he felt Howard would be formidable when the regional tourney rolls around May 1.

"It wouldn't surprise me to see Howard beat Midland," he said.

Center fielder Candace Dupree drove in the first run for WTC on a single in the second frame, plating Crystal Martinez, who reached on an error.

Leading 3-1, Howard added two runs in the top of the seventh to seal the win.

Amber House was tagged with the loss.

In the second tilt, WTC evened the score at 2-2 in the third on a two-run single by Crystal Martinez, before Howard added three runs in the top of the fourth to make 5-2.

The Lady Dusters kept it close, starter Brandy Jordan retired the next six Lady Hawks.

But Howard iced in the final frame, scoring four times to finish off the Dusters.

Despite losing the final two games of a four-game set with Howard College, the Lady Dusters' magic number to qualify for the regional tournament dropped to six games over the weekend.

WTC (29-17, 13-11) sits in third place with eight games to go and a six-game lead over El Paso Community College (7-13).

The team will next host El Paso Friday and Saturday in a four-game set.

Area Sports Calendar

TODAY

Baseball: Snyder JV at Lamesa, 4 p.m.
Track: Snyder varsity and JV at Lamesa, district meet.

TUESDAY

Baseball: Snyder at Lamesa, 5 p.m.
Ira vs. Roby, 5 p.m.
Softball: Snyder vs. Merkel, 5 p.m.
Golf: Snyder girls at Denver City, final district round.

WEDNESDAY

Golf: Snyder boys at Lamesa, final district round.
Tennis: Snyder at district tourney, Midland.

THURSDAY

Track: Snyder varsity and JV at Lamesa, district meet.
Tennis: Snyder at district tourney, Midland.

UConn burns Texas down the stretch

ATLANTA (AP) — With her offense down the stretch and her defense on the final play, Diana Taurasi put Connecticut back in the women's national championship game.

Taurasi, bothered by a sore ankle and back, still managed to score 26 points and keep the Huskies on course for their third title in four years with a 71-69 victory over Texas on Sunday night.

UConn (36-1) will meet Tennessee in the championship game, the third time the teams have met for the title. Earlier, the Lady Vols beat Duke 66-56 in the other semifinal to advance to Tuesday night's final.

The seemingly inevitable meeting didn't come easily.

The Huskies closed the game with an 11-3 run to dispatch the Longhorns (29-6), who were in the Final Four for the first time since 1987.

Taurasi's 3-pointer from well behind the arc gave the Huskies the lead for good, 67-66, with 2:07 remaining.

Appropriately, Taurasi made the key defensive play, too, knocking the ball away from Alisha Sare as the Texas player attempted to go up for a jumper just before the buzzer.

Taurasi grabbed the loose ball and held up her right index finger as the horn sounded. Yes, the Huskies still have a chance to finish No. 1.

"There's just something about this team," Taurasi said. "We just don't want to go home, and we showed it again today."

Taurasi, who had not practiced since the regional final in an attempt to heal, appeared a bit tentative and pulled off few of the flashy moves that made her the best player in the country.

But she came through when her team needed her most.

With Texas leading 66-60, Taurasi zipped a great no-look pass from outside the arc to Willnett Crockett standing alone under the basket, sparking the game-ending run.

On UConn's next possession, Taurasi worked into the lane, made the shot and drew a foul, leading to a three-point play that drew the Huskies closer.

Finally, she put them ahead to stay with the long 3-pointer.

"She was out of it for a while," coach Geno Auriemma said. "It was so physical out there. I say it over and over again. We have Dee (Taurasi) and they don't. That's probably the biggest reason we won."

The Longhorns went nearly three minutes without scoring, finally breaking the drought on Jamie Carey's 3-pointer with 28 seconds left. That was the last basket of the game.

Crockett gave Texas a chance by missing two free throws with 8.2 seconds left, but Taurasi made sure the Longhorns didn't get a chance to tie or win it.

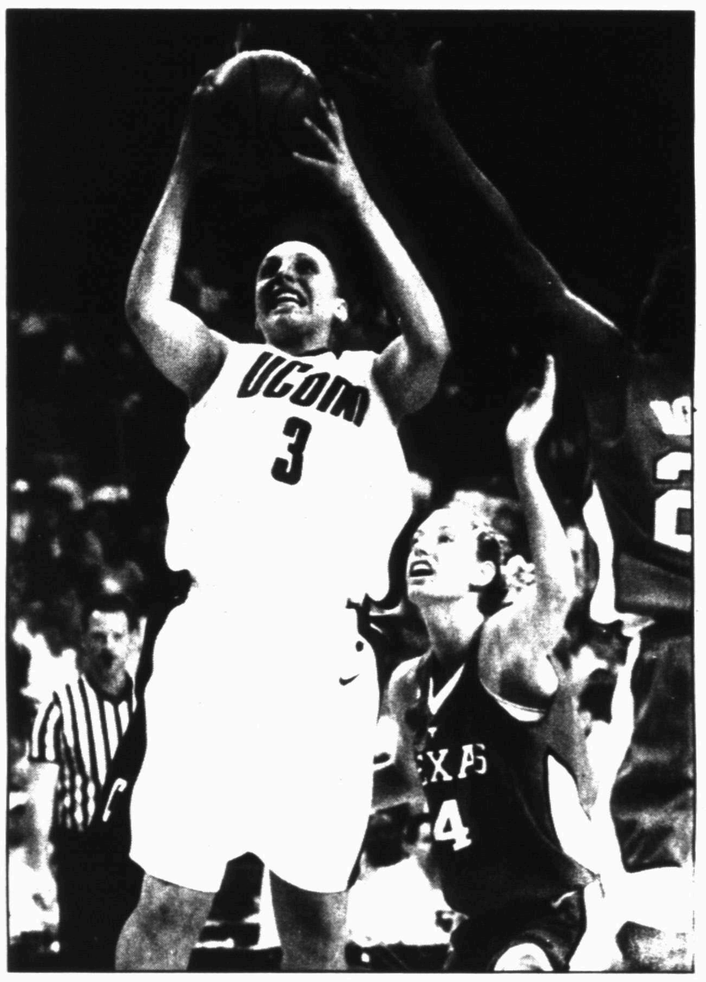
The little-used Sare raced downcourt and tried to get off a shot. As the 5-foot-8 senior began to go up at the 3-point line, the 6-foot Taurasi got a hand on the ball and knocked it away.

"I was worried about just what happened," Texas coach Jody Conradt said. "Taurasi made plays. You know when you're playing against a great team and a great player like Diana, you leave yourself open."

UConn beat the Lady Vols 63-62 in overtime during the regular season. The Huskies hold a 10-6 lead in the series, which includes two victories in the title game.

Last year, UConn romped to a 79-56 victory over Tennessee in the semifinals, then finished off a perfect 39-0 season by beating Oklahoma in the title game.

Taurasi was the only holdover starter from that team; the other four went in the first six picks of the WNBA draft. But Auriemma brought in a talented group of freshmen and teamed them with the player of the year for another



NO DEFENSE — Connecticut guard Diana Taurasi (3) puts up a shot as she is defended by Texas' Stephanie Thiel (14) and Nina Norman (22) in the first half of their semifinal game in Atlanta. (AP Photo)

Jr. High District Track Meet Results

Jr. High district track meet
Snyder, TX
April 4, 2003

Team Standings

7th boys
1. Seminole 201; 2. Lamesa 144; **3. Snyder 103**; 4. Sweetwater 83; 5. Denver City 38; 6. Merkel 37.
8th boys
1. Lamesa 165; 2. Sweetwater 114; 3. Merkel 99.5; **4. Seminole 89**; 5. Denver City 80; **6. Snyder 59.5**.
7th girls
1. Lamesa 146.5; 2. Sweetwater 131; 3. Seminole 124; 4. Denver City 117; 5. Merkel 41; **6. Snyder 39.5**.
8th girls
1. Lamesa 131; 2. Seminole 128.5l; 3. Denver City 112; **4. Snyder 99**; 5. Merkel 95.5; 6. Sweetwater 33.

Individual Standings

7th boys
Long Jump
1. Corbin McDaniel, Seminole, 16-9.25; 2. Fabion Pinon, Seminole, 15-7.75; **3. Ryan Claxton, Snyder, 15-6.5**; 4. Eugenio Macharigui, Seminole, 15-3; 5. Samuel Banuelos, Lamesa, 14-11.5; 6. Ismael Rameriz, Lamesa, 14-1.75.
Shot Put
1. Adrian Larrea, Denver City, 35-1; 2. Brad Moriah, Seminole, 32-9; 3. Auston Davis, Sweetwater, 32-8.5; 4. Mac McDaniel, Seminole, 32-6.5; **5. D'Andrew, Snyder, 32-2**; 6. Jaime Herrera, Lamesa, 31-10.5.
Discus
1. Mac McDaniel, Seminole, 103; 2. Auston Davis, Sweetwater, 94-1; 3. Chris Cortez, Lamesa, 89-9; 4. Devon Napper, Lamesa, 87; 5. Chris Rameriz, Sweetwater, 82-8.
Triple Jump
1. Will Clay, Snyder, 30-11.5; 2. Jeremy Alvidrez, Seminole, 30-10.5; 3. Fabion Pinon, Seminole, 30-8.5; **4. Ryan Claxton, Snyder, 29-9.5**; 5. Eugenio Macharigui, Seminole, 29-6.5.
High Jump
1. Corbin McDaniel, Seminole, 4-8; 2. (tie) J.T. Sentall, Lamesa, 4-6; E.J. Boalts, Merkel, 4-6.
Pole Vault
1. (tie) Dustin Murdock, Snyder, 7-6; Dustrin White, Lamesa, 7-6; 3. Chisum Cope, Merkel, 7-0.
2,400M run
1. Fabion Pinon, Seminole, 9:06.74; 2. Andrew Espino, Seminole, 9:15.73; 3. Martin Montanez, Denver City, 9:21.06; 4. Michael Ethridge, Sweetwater, 9:21.68; 5. Ernesto Mendoza, Seminole, 9:29.62.
4x100M relay
1. Lamesa, 52.38; **2. Snyder, 53.20**; 3. Sweetwater, 54.10; 4. Seminole, 55.31; 5. Denver City, 56.17; 6. Merkel 1:00.33.
800M run
1. T.J. Sentell, Lamesa, 2:27.85; 2. Daniel Lopez, Seminole, 2:31.25; 3. Trey Barrera, Lamesa, 2:31.48; **4. Lance Day, Snyder, 2:32.79**; 5. Colin Phillips, Seminole, 2:35.16.
110M hurdles
1. Cody Kizzar, Lamesa, 18.88; **2. Joseph Hefner, Snyder, 19.01**; 3. Tucker Woody, Lamesa, 20.44; 4. Ricardo Guzman, Sweetwater, 21.40; 5. Eddie Grand, Merkel, 21.74; **6. Allen Jones, Snyder, 22.33.**
100M dash
1. Corbin McDaniel, Seminole, 12.76; 2. Ismael Rameriz, Lamesa, 13.32; 3. E. J. Boalts, Merkel, 13.45; 4. Ivan Rodriguez, Denver City, 13.5; 5. Jeremy Alvidrez, Seminole, 13.52.
4x200M relay
1. Snyder, 1:54.10; 2. Sweetwater, 1:54.21; 3. Seminole, 1:54.83; 4. Lamesa, 1:56.70; 5. Denver City, 1:57.74; 6. Merkel, 2:03.74.
400M dash
1. Eugenio Macharigui, Seminole, 1:01.67; 2. J.T. Sentell, Lamesa, 1:02.59; 3. E.J. Boalts, Merkel, 1:04.71; 4. Matthew Conde, Lamesa, 1:08.32; **5. Tyler McCormack, Snyder, 1:09.16.**
300M low hurdles
1. Joseph Hefner, Snyder, 51.57; 2. Cody Kizzar, Lamesa, 53.14; 3. Ricardo Guzman, Sweetwater, 53.24; 4. Kyle Olsen, Merkel, 53.59; 5. Fabion Pinon, Seminole, 54.43.
200M dash
1. Corbin McDaniel, Seminole, 27.10; 2. Kendrick Conde, Lamesa, 28.05; **3. Will Clay, Snyder, 28.61**; 4. Jeremy Alvidrez, Seminole, 29.83; 5. Carlos Villegas, Seminole, 30.03.
1,600M run
1. Fabion Pinon, Seminole, 5:45.42; 2. Michael Ethridge, Sweetwater, 5:49.81; 3. Andrew Espino, Seminole, 5:54.09; 4. Shawn Vega, Seminole, 5:56.29; **5. Lance Day, Snyder, 5:59.02.**
4x400M relay
1. Seminole, 4:20.66; 2. Sweetwater, 4:22.27; 3. Lamesa, 4:31.83; 4. Denver City, 4:32.80; **5. Snyder, 4:48.42**; 6. Merkel, 5:08.34.

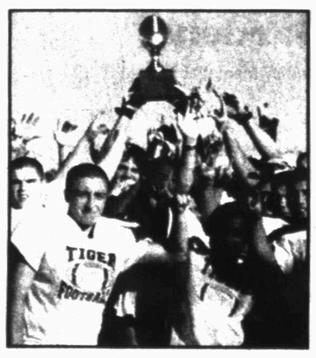
8th boys
Long Jump
1. Marcus Stanton, Lamesa, 18-2.5; 2. Tyson Lippe, Merkel, 17-11; 3. Montana Dunlop, Lamesa, 17-4.5; **4. Brandon Morris, Snyder, 16-4.5**; 5. Joseph Banyard, Sweetwater, 16-3; **6. Ricky Sanchez, Snyder, 16-1.**
Shot Put
1. David Browne, Seminole, 47-7; 2. Jordan Chapman, Lamesa, 46-7; 3. Loren Rees, Sweetwater, 41-3; 4. Chris Poe, Denver City, 40-3.5; 5. James Beckwith, Sweetwater, 40.
Discus
1. David Browne, Seminole, 122; 2. James Beckwith, Sweetwater, 113-9; 3. Brandon King, Denver City, 112-2.; 4. Todd Warren, Seminole, 109-1; 5. Alec Rameriz, Lamesa, 107-5.
Triple Jump
1. Tyson Lippe, Merkel, 37; 2. Fernando Trevino, Lamesa, 34-4; 3. Eric Boyd, Seminole, 33-4.5; 4. (tie)Stephen Spruill, Seminole, 32-10.5; **Terrance Wells, Snyder, 32-10.5**; **6. Cody Reid, Snyder, 31-7.5.**
High Jump
1. Fernando Trevino, Lamesa, 5-6; 2. (tie) Montana Dunlop, Lamesa, 5-4; Eric Boyd, Seminole, 5-4; 4. (tie) Aaron Flores, Merkel, 5-0; **Ryan Mitchell, Snyder, 5-0**; Drew Middleton, Denver City, 5-0.
Pole Vault
1. Jay Guerra, Lamesa, 9-0; 2. Isaac Guzman, Lamesa, 8-0.
2,400M run
1. Hector Cadena, Denver City, 8:48.89; 2. Justin Rodriguez, Sweetwater, 8:56.74; 3. Juan Pineda, Denver City, 9:00.13; 4. Salome Menchaca, Seminole, 9:32.80; 5. Adam Renteria, Lamesa, 9:41.43.
4x100M relay
1. Sweetwater, 46.91; 2. Merkel, 47.50; 3. Seminole, 48.82; 4. Lamesa, 50.91; **5. Snyder, 52.32**; 6. Denver City, 55.
800M run
1. Aaron Whitmire, Merkel, 2:20.39; 2. Bryant Butchee, Lamesa, 2:21.49; 3. Michael Adams, Sweetwater, 2:24.07; **4. Joey Hernandez, Snyder, 2:30.90**; 5. Jeremy Noriega, Lamesa, 2:32.18; **6. Cody Reid, Snyder, 2:33.75.**
100M dash
1. Marcus Stanton, Lamesa, 11.88; 2. Heath Kubbcek, Seminole, 11.94; 3. Marvin Green, Sweetwater, 12.27; 4. Shamar Williams, Sweetwater, 12.85; 5. Aaron Whitmore, Merkel, 12.87.
110M hurdles
1. Ryan Mitchell, Snyder, 18.5; 2. Stephen Spruill, Seminole, 18.7; **3. Ramsey Herrera, Snyder, 18.95**; 4. Jacob Plew, Denver City, 19.86; 5. Keith Davis, Denver City, 20.
4x200M relay
1. Merkel, 1:40.39; 2. Sweetwater, 1:40.45; 3. Lamesa, 1:42.40; 4. Seminole, 1:44.62; 5. Denver City, 1:45.20; **6. Snyder, 1:52,23.**
300M hurdles
1. Ryan Mitchell, Snyder, 47.57; 2. Ramsey Herrera, Snyder, 49.39; 3. James Cavazos, Lamesa, 49.60; 4. Isaac Guzman, Lamesa, 50.05; 5. Nathan Hodge, Merkel, 52.22.
1,600M run
1. Hector Cadena, Denver City, 5:34; 2. Juan Pineda, Denver City, 5:34.35; 3. Justin Rodriguez, Sweetwater, 5:44.74; 4. Juan Rivera, Lamesa, 5:53.76; 5. Salome Menchaca, Seminole, 5:54; **6. Michael Martinez, Snyder, 6:01.90.**
200M dash
1. Chris Rodriguez, Denver City, 24.89; 2. Marvin Green, Sweetwater, 25.35; 3. Montana Dunlop, Lamesa, 25.65; 4. Skylar Jordan, Merkel, 26.05; 5. Shamar Williams, Sweetwater, 26.70.
4x400M relay
1. Sweetwater, 3:48.10; 2. Merkel, 3:48.59; 3. Lamesa, 4:03.59; 4. Denver City, 4:08.08; 5. Seminole, 4:09.44; **6. Snyder, 4:24.93.**

7th girls
Long Jump
1. Jamaica Smith, Sweetwater, 13-8.75; 2. Mallory Milligan, Denver City, 13-1; 3. Crystal Palafox, Sweetwater, 12-11.75; 4. Laura Carrasco, Seminole, 12-10.5; 5. Chelsi Thomas, Lamesa, 12-8.5.
Shot Put
1. Sasha Phillips, Lamesa, 25-8; 2. Paty Torres, Lamesa, 24-7; 3. Whitney Tippler, Merkel, 24-4.5; 4. Courtney Layton, Seminole, 24-0; **5. (tie) Angela Almanza, Snyder, 23-9.5**; Lindsey Archer, Lamesa, 23-9.5.
Discus
1. Paty Torres, Lamesa, 70-5; 2. Yadira Sanchez, Denver City, 69-1; 3. Faith Smallridge, Merkel, 68-5; 4. Whitney Tippler, Merkel, 67-2; 5. Cayla Naper, Lamesa, 65-0.
Triple Jump
1. Katie Morris, Seminole, 28-5.25; 2. Kasey Dickerson, Merkel, 26-11; 3. Chelsi Thomas, Lamesa, 26-10.25; 4. (tie) Cassidy Peek, Sweetwater, 26-7.5; Laura Carrasco, Seminole, 26-7.5.
High Jump
1. Katie Morris, Seminole, 4-4; 2. (tie) Paty Torres, Lamesa, 4-2; Mallory Milligan, Denver City, 4-2; Robin Seal, Lamesa, 4-2; Melody Wright, Seminole, 4-2.
4x100M relay
1. Denver City, 56.27; 2. Sweetwater, 56.67; 3. Seminole, 58.08; **4. Snyder, 59.45**; 5. Merkel, 59.46; 6. Lamesa, 1:02.51.
2,400M run
1. Nellie Morales, Lamesa, 9:43.4; 2. Kim Molina, Lamesa, 10:16.54; 3. Cassandra Hernandez, Lamesa, 10:19.57; 4. Janie Nevarez, Denver City, 10:40.88; 5. Nikki Knelsen, Seminole, 11:10.22.
100m low hurdles
1. Katie Morris, Seminole, 18.03; 2. Shoni Fuqua, Denver City, 19.41; 3. Ashley Trevino, Lamesa, 19.46; **4. Audrey Jones, Snyder, 19.49**; 5. Chelsi Thomas, Lamesa, 20.22.
100M dash
1. Cassidy Peek, Sweetwater, 13.98; **2. Devin Davidson, Snyder, 14.6; 3. Vanessa Pena, Snyder, 14.68**; 4. Meagan Hays, Merkel, 14.81; 5. Lauren Williams, Sweetwater, 14.85.
4x200M relay
1. Denver City, 2:02; 2. Sweetwater, 2:03.67; 3. Lamesa, 2:06.15; 4. Seminole, 2:07.62; **5.Snyder, 2:08.24.**
300M hurdles
1. Ashley Trevino, Lamesa, 56.99; 2. Shoni Fuqua, Denver City, 58.55; 3. Leigh Ann Sims, Sweetwater, 58.92; 4. Melody Wright, Seminole, 59.42; **5. Alex Urias, Snyder, 59.86.**
1,600M run
1. Nellie Morales, Lamesa, 6:13.02; 2. Janie Nevarez, Denver City, 6:36.02; 3. Kim Molina, Lamesa, 6:37.12; 4. Loraine DeLaRosa, Seminole, 6:47.87; **5. Virginia Rivera, Snyder, 6:54.51.**
200M dash
1. Jamaica Smith, Sweetwater, 28.48; 2. Reagan Jackson, Seminole, 30.75; 3. Katie Edwards, Sweetwater, 31.35; 4. Kelsye Adams, Sweetwater, 31.35; **5. Vanessa Pena, Snyder, 31.55.**
4x400M relay
1. Denver City, 4:41.9; 2. Sweetwater, 4:45.19; 3. Seminole, 4:50.29; 4. Lamesa, 4:57; 5. Merkel, 5:00; **6. Snyder, 5:04.47.**

8th girls
Long Jump
1. Morgan Browning, Seminole, 14-4.75; 2. Lauren Stevens, Merkel, 14-0.75; 3. Jaytaun Hawkins, Lamesa, 13-11; 4. Malissa Green, Denver City, 13-7.25; 5. Kaylyn Hix, Denver City, 13-6.75.
Shot Put
1. Audra Edwards, Lamesa, 27-7; **2. Kaitlyn Greenlee, Snyder, 26-9**; 3. Alli Borrego, Lamesa, 26-2.5; 4. Beonca Collina, Lamesa, 26-0; 5. Chelsea Fallin, Merkel, 24-6.
Discus
1. Jezabel Escontrias, Denver City, 82-1.5; 2. Heather Brooks, Merkel, 76-8.5; 3. Katelyn Rich, Seminole, 74-4; **4. Kaitlyn Greenlee, Snyder, 69-3.5**; 5. Katie Volcko, Merkel, 68-1.
4x100M relay
1. Lamesa, 54.87; 2. Merkel, 55.44; 3. Seminole, 55.70; 4. Denver City, 55.91; **5. Snyder, 56.32.**
4x200M relay
1. Snyder, 1:58.19; 2. Denver City, 1:58.21; 3. Merkel, 2:00.23; 4. Seminole, 2:01.21; 5. Sweetwater, 2:05.28.
100M low hurdles
1. Terann Ragland, Snyder, 17.01; 2. Morgan Browning, Seminole, 17.26; 3. Skye Torres, Lamesa, 17.7; **4. Jordan Stansell, Snyder, 17.81**; 5. Katy Pierce, Lamesa, 18.02.
100M dash
1. Lacree Tippens, Snyder, 13.74; 2. Tiffany Williams Seminole, 13.85; 3. Jaytaun Hawkins, Lamesa, 13.92; 4. Kaylyn Hix, Denver City, 14.23; **5. Krista Dorsett, Snyder, 14.40.**
300M low hurdles
1. Malissa Green, Denver City, 52.12; **2. Jordan Stansell, Snyder, 52.59**; 3. Tiffany Williams, Seminole, 54.08; 4. Skye Torres, Lamesa, 54.18; **5. Terann Ragland, Snyder, 55.01.**
400M dash
1. Candace Chandler, Snyder, 1:05.66; 2. Amy Terry, Seminole, 1:07.07; 3. Kathy Patterson, Merkel, 1:07.40; **4. Sarah Covington, Snyder, 1:10.88**; 5. Jessi Herring, Seminole, 1:12.43.
2,400M run
1. Daniela Portillo, Denver City, 10:14.55; 2. Barbra Moreno, Denver City, 10:42.26; 3. Amanda Reyna, Lamesa, 10:53.69; 4. Amanda Sooter, Seminole, 11:13; 5. Kim Lopez, Lamesa, 11:27.78.
800M run
1. Carolina Diaz, Seminole, 2:34.53; 2. Samantha Johnson, Sweetwater, 2:44.18; 3. Haley Shugart, Merkel, 2:47.676; 4. Chasity Garza, Lamesa, 2:58; 5. Rosa Flores, Merkel, 2:58.57.
200M dash
1. Lauren Stevens, Merkel, 29.17; 2. Jaytaun Hawkins, Lamesa, 29.46; 3. Madison Loffler Seminole, 29.92; 4. Randi Warren, Denver City, 30.09; 5. Jessi Herring, Seminole, 30.25.
4x400M relay
1. Denver City, 4:35.14; 2. Merkel, 4:37.69; 3. **Snyder, 4:37.88**; 4. Seminole, 4:40.53; 5. Sweetwater, 4:43.78.
1,600M run
1. Carolina Diaz, Seminole, 6:02.35; 2. Daniela Portillo, Denver City, 6:17.83; 3. Amanda Reyna, Lamesa, 6:35.02; 4. Jenna Beatley, Denver City, 6:40.31; 5. Charlotte Potter, Merkel, 6:43.08.

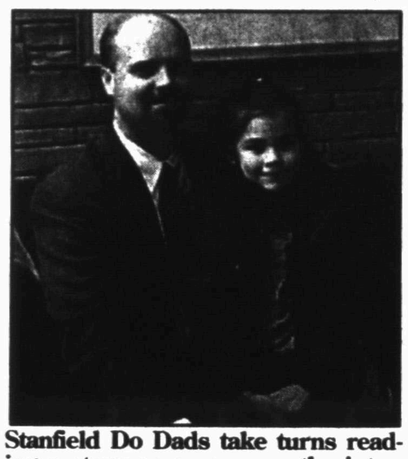

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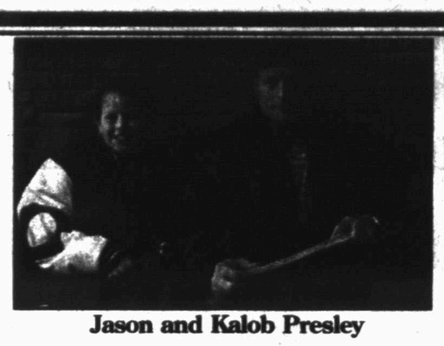
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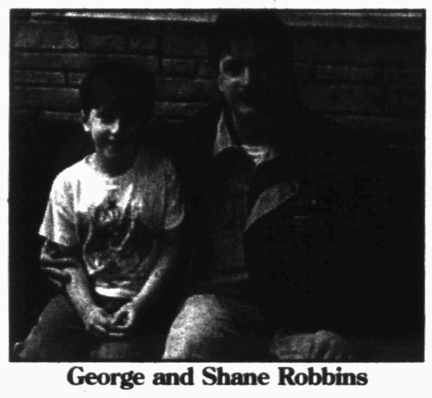
Stanfield Do Dads



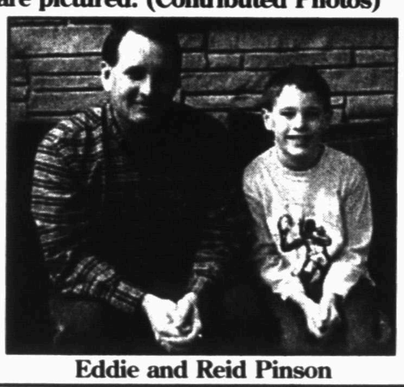
Stanfield Do Dads take turns reading a story or poem over the intercom on Monday morning. Ben Smith and his daughter, Hannah, are pictured. (Contributed Photos)



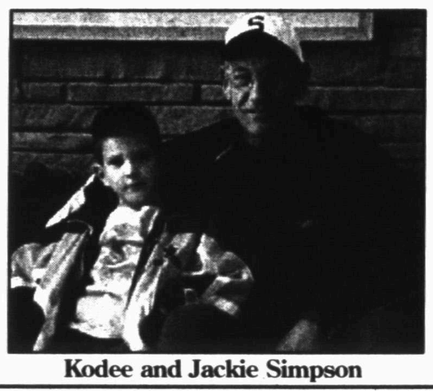
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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

There's a good chance you will find yourself assuming leadership roles in the coming year both where your social interests are concerned and in your commercial involvements. You could score on all fronts.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You have what it takes to accumulate funds today, but instead of looking for a big kill, take all the little gains that come your way. They'll have a way of adding up to one large sum.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Being a strong, independent thinker can serve you well today, so when left to your own devices, don't be afraid to make decisions when the big boss isn't around. You'll do a good job.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — The devil will be in the details today, so when making any important financial transactions, don't affix your signature to any document before reading it through carefully and thoroughly.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — It isn't likely that what you tell to someone today will stay with that person, so unless you don't mind your affairs being broadcast to everyone within earshot, better stay mum.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Important objectives can be achieved today if you're willing to make your moves one step at a time. You won't botch things up if you are thoughtful and watch your footing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Trade on your experiences today, and you won't make any mistakes you might have made in the past. If you don't, history will repeat itself —possibly with greater verve.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — What will give you a competitive edge over your competition both commercially and careerwise today will be your clever reasoning powers. They'll be both sharp and accurate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Stand back a few paces today if you have to deal with a complicated issue. Distance improves your vision and gives you a clearer perspective to deal with the situation better.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — This is one of those days where all of your efforts will be noticed and rewarded, so strive to be as productive as possible. Even your small victories will be acknowledged.

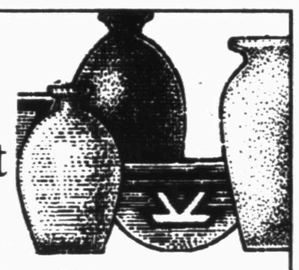
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — If you want to be a hit socially today, put people at ease by getting them to talk about their favorite subject — themselves. The more you encourage them to do so, the better they'll like you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — You're apt to get a lot more accomplished than usual today, not because you'll necessarily work harder, but because you'll be smarter about how you go about performing your tasks.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — The race isn't apt to go to the swift today, but to the smart. If you get involved in anything competitive, use your brains. Let the other guy attempt to use his or her brawn.

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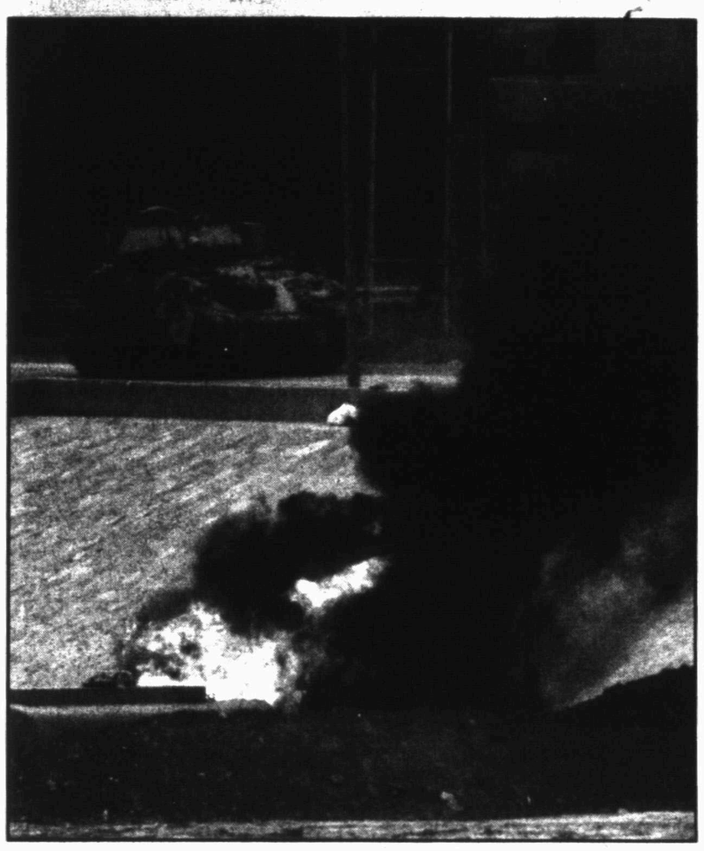
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AMERICA AT WAR



ROLLING ON — U.S. tanks pass by the banks of the Tigris River as they roll into Baghdad, outside Saddam Hussein's presidential palace today. Coalition soldiers took over key buildings as gunfire and explosions thundered in many parts of the battered Iraqi capital. (AP Photo)



FALLEN COMRADE — U.S. Marines of the 3rd battalion, 4th regiment, evacuate a dead comrade during fighting with Iraqi gunmen as they tried to secure a key bridge leading into Baghdad on the outskirts of the Iraqi capital today. (AP Photo)

Civilians caught in crossfire in Baghdad

BAGHDAD OUTSKIRTS, Iraq (AP) — Gunfire erupts from a side street on the outskirts of Baghdad, sending Marines diving for cover. They crawl behind store fronts, scanning the area for their attackers.

Suddenly, a shout comes from a Marine armored vehicle, a loud and desperate American voice.

"It's a woman! Don't shoot!" the Marine rifleman screams in a shrill voice not far from a bridge near Baghdad. Out of view, the woman runs for cover. The Marine keeps shouting until she makes it as one of his comrades on the ground assures him: "We dig, we dig."

The scene, which played out Sunday as Marines came under fire from rocket-propelled grenades and AK-47s, highlights a growing question for military commanders and the troops themselves as they move into Baghdad: How do you battle the enemy without harming civilians?

The International Committee of the Red Cross said its workers in Baghdad reported several hundred wounded Iraqis and dozens of dead had been brought to four main city hospitals on Friday and on Saturday morning. Such Red Cross estimates don't break down civilian versus military casualties.

Any fight for the Iraqi capital will put even more civilians in danger.

The streets of Baghdad have been filled with armed militiamen, and members of the Republican Guard have dug in. Some of the Iraqi forces are also believed to have melted into the population of 5 million, making it difficult for coalition troops to sort out normal civilians from "human shields" or guerrilla fighters.

"It comes down to discipline. Our Marines are being highly disciplined in terms of fire," said Lt. Col. B.P. McCoy, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines. His unit was in front Sunday as the Marines pushed toward Baghdad.

"We've been successful at it so far. But the tougher the fighting is, the less restrained we'll be," McCoy said.

Marines say the rules of engagement, which spell out when U.S. troops can open fire, have been loosened because of surprise attacks by Iraqis. U.S. commanders say Iraqis have attacked after playing dead, pretending to surrender or feigning welcome for coalition forces.

McCoy's battalion has been one of the most aggressive units in the war and it has been involved in civilian casualties. They include a young woman killed Saturday and a little boy who had most of his face blown off in mortar and artillery accidents, the Marines said.

As the battalion approached Baghdad, they met sporadic guerrilla resistance, much of it from Sudanese, Egyptians, Jordanians and others who have signed up for the fight. On Sunday, the attacks were coming from unseen gunmen in clusters of buildings or groves of palm trees.

In some cases, the Marines said, the shots were coming from men in civilian clothing.

"Anyone mind telling me where these little guys are," one frustrated Marine cried, unable to spot the attacker behind one burst of automatic weapons fire.

"Civilians to the northwest!" a Marine in one of the armored vehicles yelled, as Iraqi men in dark robes scrambled across a faraway lot. "Watch the kid!"

"Talk to me, what do you see?" a sergeant yelled when one young Marine squeezed off several rounds of fire, covering a group of Marines dashing across one sniper alley.

Bush, Blair to meet in Belfast, Ireland

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair are grappling with three of the world's toughest conflicts in Bush's 25-hour visit to Belfast, discussing war and rebuilding in Iraq while trying to revive peace efforts in Northern Ireland and the Middle East.

Bush departed Washington early today en route to Belfast for a summit meant primarily to review war progress and to iron out differences about how Iraq will be rebuilt and governed when hostilities end.

The reconstruction question has divided the president's advisers and the United States and Britain. Blair wants deeper U.N. involvement in postwar Iraq than Bush, who seeks a transitional governing authority consisting of Iraqi exiles and people living in the country now.

A U.S.-led coalition will likely run the country for more than six months until a new Iraqi government is in place, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said Sunday.

An interim government administered by the United Nations is "not a model we want to follow, of a sort of permanent international administration," he said.

The Bush-Blair meeting is the leaders' third face-to-face session in just over three weeks. They met in the Azores on March 16, along with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar. Bush and Blair held private talks at the Camp David, Md., presidential retreat March 27.

By agreeing to meet Blair in Belfast, Bush is taking the boldest step of his presidency into the decades-old conflict in Northern Ireland, and adding a set of issues that complicates his trip.

Former President Clinton made three trips to Northern Ireland, the most of any U.S. president. Clinton's envoy, former Sen. George Mitchell, led the Belfast negotiations that produced the British province's Good Friday peace accord of 1998. That pact sought to end three decades of sectarian conflict in the British territory that saw more than 3,600 killings.

Bush has shown less interest, delegating the business of following Belfast developments to a senior State Department official, Richard Haass.

Blair, a stalwart ally of Bush in the Iraq war, hopes presidential backing will strengthen his hand when he publishes his government's new Northern Ireland plans by Thursday, the fifth anniversary of the Good Friday pact.

Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Kinder Morgan has completed the No. 7413 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, four miles northwest of Snyder. The venture was completed to produce 23 barrels of oil and 3,408 barrels of water. Location is in Section 19, Block 1, J.P. Smith survey.

Kinder Morgan has completed the No. 5709 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, four miles northwest of Snyder. The well was finaled to produce 33 barrels of oil and 838 barrels of water. Location is in Section 19, Block 1, J.P. Smith survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 75-17 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, four miles northwest of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 7,200 feet, drill site is in Section 18, Block 1, J.P. Smith survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 75-18 SACROC unit in the same field, four miles northwest of Snyder. Also planned for a depth of 7,200 feet, location is in Section 18, Block 1, J.P. Smith survey.

Sharp Image Energy Inc. will drill the No. 4-C Kelly-Snyder, a 7,100-foot wildcat located three miles southwest of Snyder. Drill site is in Section 207, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Borden County

Manzano Oil Corp. will drill the No. 4-21G Scott, a 7,500-foot wildcat located 10 miles northwest of Gail. Location is in Section 21, Block 31, T6N, T&P survey.

Howard County

Trilogy Operating Inc. will drill the No. 1 Koger in the Signal Peak field, five miles northeast of Big Spring. Planned for a depth of 8,900 feet, location is in Section 25, Block 32, T&P survey.

Nolan County

Clear Fork Inc. will drill the No. 6057 C.E. Boyd in the EVB field, three miles northwest of Nolan. Planned for a depth of 6,900 feet, drill site is in Section 57, Block X, T&P survey.

Clear Fork Inc. will drill the No. 2057-B C.E. Boyd in the EVB field, three miles northwest of Nolan. Location is in Section 57, Block X, T&P survey.

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U.S. prisons, jails hold 2 million inmates

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the federal government leading the way, the number of inmates in American prisons topped 2 million for the first time, the Justice Department reports.

California, Texas, Florida and New York were the four biggest state prison systems, mirroring their status as the most populous states. However nine states — including Texas, California, New York and Illinois — saw their inmate populations drop compared with the year before as prison releases outpaced admissions.

The federal government accounted for more inmates than any state, with nearly 162,000, according to a report Sunday by the department's Bureau of Justice Statistics. That number includes the transfer of about 8,900 District of Columbia prisoners to the federal system.

The record prison population figures were driven by get-tough policies that mandate long terms for drug offenders and other criminals.

Some states modified parole rules to deal with steep budget shortfalls, leading to an overall growth rate in state prison populations of just under 1 percent from June 2001 to June 2002. The federal prison population grew by 5.7 percent.

The total inmate population on June 30, 2002, was 2.1 million, an increase of 2.8 percent from the year before. Two-thirds were in federal or state prisons, with the other third held in jails, the report said.

The report did not count all juvenile offenders, which if included in the past would have driven the nation's inmate population over the 2 million mark years ago. But the report did note that there were more than 10,000 inmates under age 18 held in adult prisons and jails last year.

Malcolm Young, executive director of The Sentencing Project, said the increase continues a prison growth trend stemming from tough penalties meted out to drug abusers and traffickers as well as "three strikes" laws that can mandate life sentences for repeat offenders.

"It's part of the get-tough scheme. It's been going on for 30 years," said Young, whose organization advocates alternatives to incarceration, such as special drug courts and treatment programs.

This is especially true at the federal level, where efforts to reduce sentences for such crimes as crack cocaine trafficking — far higher than sentences for dealing in powder cocaine — have failed in Congress.

The Supreme Court this month upheld California's "three strikes" law even though the defendant's final crime involved theft of golf clubs. Attorney General John Ashcroft has pushed for tougher prison sentences, including a recent directive barring many people convicted of white-collar and nonviolent crimes from doing their time in halfway houses.

The report's other findings:

—The incarceration rate, counting state and federal prisoners sentenced to more than one year, was 474 for every 100,000 U.S. residents, compared with 472 the year before. That means 1 in every 142 U.S. residents was in prison or jail in mid-2002.

—Jails supervised about 738,000 people in June 2002, compared with about 702,000 a year earlier. Many people in jails are awaiting trials or transfer to other facilities, while some serve short sentences there or are housed there because of state prison overcrowding.

—More than 72,400 jail inmates were supervised under programs such as drug treatment, electronic monitoring, community service or home detention.

—About 12 percent of all black men in the United States aged 20 to 39 were in prison or jail, by far the highest single group. In contrast, 4 percent of Hispanic males and 1.6 percent of white males in that age group were incarcerated.

—The number of women in federal and state prisons topped 96,000, an increase of 1.9 percent from 2001. Men in these prisons totaled 1.3 million, up about 1.4 percent, and men also total about 88 percent of jail populations on a given day.

College race case could affect elementary through high school

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court's upcoming ruling on affirmative action in college admissions has the potential to subtly or significantly affect the nation's 15,000 school districts, many of which have long considered race in shaping student enrollment plans.

Already, lower court rulings in recent years have directed some districts — and led many others — to abandon race-based plans. The Supreme Court's higher education ruling could invite schools to revisit that use of race or to eliminate it as a factor.

"Everybody sees the handwriting on the wall," said Michael Simpson, assistant general counsel for the National Education Association. "If the court says diversity is not a sufficiently compelling state interest to justify race-based admissions, there is every reason to expect that principle would apply to student assignment at the K-12 level."

The Supreme Court heard arguments last week on two University of Michigan cases that challenge whether admissions policies favoring minorities are constitutional. Dozens of K-12 groups expressed their opinions in court papers, from teacher unions and black educators to school principals and state education boards.

Most took the university's side, arguing that diversity provides essential benefits and that schools should have authority to ensure it exists in the classroom. For elementary and secondary schools, the implications of the court decision, expected by July, will depend not just on its substance but also on how broadly is it worded.

"The worst-case scenario would be a sweeping opinion that would resegregate higher education," said Julie Underwood, general counsel for the National School Boards Association. "The worse worst-case scenario would not allow any kind of race consideration in K-12. We would see a resegregated society very quickly."

An increasing number of federal courts has lifted mandatory school desegregation plans and ruled in favor of those who believe K-12 race preferences are wrong.

In Maryland's Montgomery County, just outside Washington, a court struck down a diversity policy that kept a white student from transferring from his minority-dominated school to a largely white school. Allowing him to transfer, school officials contended, would only fuel the increasing "racial isolation" of a school that had mostly black and Hispanic students.

In San Francisco, school officials changed course to settle a lawsuit by Chinese-American students who were not admitted to their preferred schools. The district repealed 45 percent caps for racial or ethnic groups at each school and 40 percent caps at magnet schools.

In a Boston case, a court threw out a policy that weighed race in determining half the students admitted to a prestigious public school for grades seven to 12.

'Phone Booth' debuts as #1 movie, but box-office slumps

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Phone Booth," starring Colin Farrell as a man trapped on a public telephone by a sniper, dialed in as the weekend's No. 1 movie with a $15 million debut.

The teen flick "What a Girl Wants," with Amanda Bynes as an outgoing American reunited with her stuffy British dad, opened in second place with $12.1 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Vin Diesel's action tale "A Man Apart," about a rogue federal agent battling a Mexican drug cartel, premiered at No. 3 with $11.2 million.

Last weekend's top movie, "Head of State," fell to fourth place with $8.8 million.

Hollywood remained in a box-office slump, with the top 12 movies grossing $84 million, down 10 percent from the same weekend a year ago. It was the fourth straight weekend that revenues declined, and the box office is down about 7 percent compared to last year's.

Studio executives say the war in Iraq might be dampening the moviegoing mood somewhat. But analysts said movie choices so far this year generally have been weaker than the first part of 2002, when such hits as "Ice Age," "Blade II," "John Q" and "Panic Room" opened to big audiences.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures will be released today.

1. "Phone Booth," $15 million.
2. "What a Girl Wants," $12.1 million.
3. "A Man Apart," $11.2 million.
4. "Head of State," $8.8 million.
5. "Bringing Down the House," $8.5 million.
6. "The Core," $6.3 million.
7. "Basic," $5.4 million.
8. "Chicago," $5.3 million.
9. "Agent Cody Banks," $3.7 million.
10. "Piglet's Big Movie," $3 million.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



	North 04-07-03	
	♠ A K 10 8 5	
	♥ K Q	
	♦ J 7 4	
	♣ J 8 7	
West		**East**
♠ 9 3		♠ J 7 4 2
♥ 8 6 4		♥ 10 9 7 5
♦ 8 6 3 2		♦ K Q 10
♣ K 9 6 2		♣ A Q
	South	
	♠ Q 6	
	♥ A J 3 2	
	♦ A 9 5	
	♣ 10 5 4 3	

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ 6

Monday, April 7, 2003

Bridge helps one to stay young

By Phillip Alder

Last October, the London Times ran a series "on the subject of age." Here is what one card-player had to say: "You can play bridge at any age, but it takes a long time to play well. Don't stop. I can't think of any top-class player who has Alzheimer's. Well, I haven't gone gaga yet. I haven't been well for two or three years, but my brain has been unaffected. I am lucky. Old? I am only 92."

Last year, Tony Priday, now 80, represented England in two international matches.

This deal occurred against the Republic of Ireland (Eire). At the other table, West led a club to East's ace. The English declarer, Robert Sheehan, ducked the diamond-king return, won the heart switch in the dummy, and called for a low club to bring down the queen. A moment later, he had nine tricks via three spades, four hearts, one diamond and one club.

Priday (East) and his partner, Nick Sandqvist, took advantage of declarer's slight misstep. After winning trick one with dummy's heart queen, South immediately played three rounds of spades, discarding a club from hand. Declarer unblocked dummy's heart king, then called for a low club. Priday won with his ace and shifted to the diamond king. South won with his ace (ducking doesn't help; East cashes the spade jack and club queen before exiting with a heart), cashed his two heart winners, and led a club. If West ducks, East is endplayed to give a trick to dummy's diamond jack. But Sandqvist rose with the club king to swallow East's queen — a crocodile coup — and led a diamond. Thus the defenders collected one spade, two diamonds and two clubs.

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On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

Hard water is a minor source of calcium

DEAR DR. BLONZ: The tap water in my area (northern Indiana) contains a lot of calcium, as the limestone stains in my cooking pots can attest when I forget to run the water through the filter pitcher. My friends and I have been wondering if this form of calcium is making any similar deposits on our bones — can hard water help prevent osteoporosis? **— C.Y., no city given, Ind.**

DEAR C.Y.: The short answer is yes, the calcium in hard water is usually the same calcium compound (calcium carbonate) that is found in many dietary supplements. How much it helps in the battle against osteoporosis depends on the water in your area and the amount you drink.

The mineral content of water varies according to where it comes from and how it is processed before consumption. Water that has higher concentrations of calcium, magnesium and other minerals is said to be "hard." The downside of hard water is that it can affect plumbing fixtures, the life span of water heaters and the effectiveness of detergents. On the positive side, there has been an inverse correlation between the degree of water hardness and the risk of heart disease.

Calcium and magnesium are the common minerals that make water hard, and the measures of a particular water's "hardness" tends to follow the concentration of calcium carbonate. This is the same calcium compound found in antacids and calcium supplements. Water analysis reports can use different units to express hardness, but the most common is milligrams per liter (mg/L), which is the same as parts per million (ppm). Some reports indicate grains of hardness per U.S. gallon; one grain per gallon is the equivalent of 17.1 mg/L.

Calcium carbonate is approximately 40 percent calcium by weight. Dietary supplements tell you the actual amount of calcium present, whereas a water report deals with amounts of calcium carbonate, so you will need to calculate 40 percent of this figure to determine the actual amount of calcium in your water.

There are different definitions for hardness and softness, but on average, a soft water contains up to 6 milligrams of calcium per cup; medium-hard water contains 6 to 11 milligrams of calcium per cup. Hard water contains 11 to 17 milligrams of calcium per cup, and very hard water contains over 17 milligrams of calcium per cup. (The FDA daily value is 1,000 milligrams.) Using about 8 cups of water a day for drinking and cooking can be beneficial, but as you can see, it's not a significant source of calcium.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: How do you identify the source of trans fats? Package ingredients do not indicate if trans fats are present or not. **— M.S., San Diego, Calif.**

DEAR M.S.: I wrote my first negative column on trans fatty acids (TFAs) 13 years ago, and have tried to spread the word on what I consider to be the worst consumable fat there is ever since.

The only way to identify the presence of this component is by reading the ingredient statement on the food package and looking for the term "partially hydrogenated," as these are the types of fats that contain TFAs. The higher up you find this term on the list of ingredients, the greater the amount of TFAs present. Partially hydrogenated fats are also used in frying operations, which makes fast foods like fries and donuts especially harmful. The federal government has finally realized that TFA content needs to be listed on labels, and new labeling laws are in the works, but the food industry continues to drag its feet. In the meantime, here is a list of common foods and an estimate of the TFAs they contain:

1 tablespoon butter — 0.5 grams
1 tablespoon vegetable shortening — 2.7 grams
1 tablespoon stick margarine — 3.5 grams
12 soda crackers (see note) — 5.2 grams
1 plain donut (see note) — 5.5 grams
1 serving fried fish (see note) — 5.7 grams
3-1/2 ounces tortilla chips (see note) — 7.7 grams
1 serving fried chicken (see note) — 7.8 grams
4-ounce gourmet muffin (see note) — 8.2 grams
1 large order french fries (see note) — 9.2 grams
3-1/2 ounce serving potato chips (see note) — 10.4 grams
12 Oreo-type cookies — 16.9 grams

Note: When made with hydrogenated vegetable shortening

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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Markets

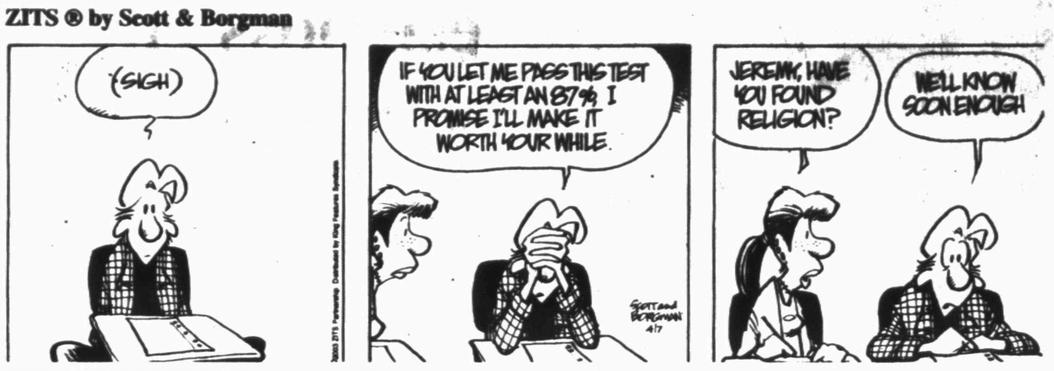
Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -Morning stocks:

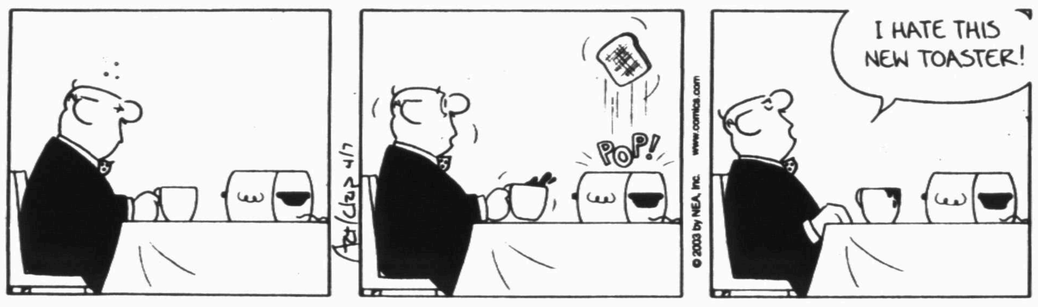
	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	4.95	4.32	4.41	+ .46
AOL TimeWm	12.47	11.25	12.38	+ .83
AT&T Corp rs	15.59	15.08	15.08	— .07
Albertsons	19.77	19.45	19.48	+ .08
Alltel	47.69	46.87	46.88	+ .83
AmEl Pw	24.09	23.71	23.78	+ .40
AndarkPtr	45.38	45.06	45.08	— .32
ATMOS Egy	22.10	21.60	21.87	+ .27
Aviall	8.13	7.47	7.90	+ .30
BP PLC	40.10	39.60	39.66	+ .51
BakerHughes	30.19	29.85	30.03	— .05
Bank of Amer	71.50	70.39	70.96	+ .96
BellSouth	24.14	23.41	23.66	+ .82
BurlNoSFe	26.30	25.87	25.93	+ .72
Caterpillar	53.51	52.40	53.01	+ 1.54
CenterPoint	7.70	7.55	7.55	+ .01
ChevronTex	65.81	65.08	65.12	+ .18
Citigroup	38.86	38.15	38.36	+ 1.13
CocaCola	42.65	42.30	42.35	+ .45
ColgatePal	55.95	55.41	55.45	+ .93
CmclMetals s	14.72	14.57	14.57	+ .07
ConocoPhill	53.25	52.68	52.71	+ .11
Cooper Inds	37.88	37.30	37.33	+ .45
DaimlrChry	32.99	32.49	32.59	+ 1.64
DeltaAirl	11.40	10.76	10.77	+ .75
Dillards Inc	13.31	12.97	13.01	+ .07
DowChem	30.15	29.67	29.72	+ .88
DuPont	41.53	40.98	41.14	+ .66
EastmanChem	30.50	29.90	29.95	+ .05
EstKodak	32.38	31.80	31.82	+ .62
EDS Corp	17.95	17.76	17.80	+ .54
Entergy	49.56	48.67	48.67	— .06
ExxonMobil	36.00	35.75	35.77	+ .25
FootLocker	11.40	11.15	11.28	+ .27
GenDynam	56.12	54.37	55.35	+ .86
GenElec	28.69	28.18	28.19	+ .56
GenMills	46.50	46.20	46.20	+ .35
GenMotors	36.20	35.62	35.92	+ 1.02
GaPacific	14.97	14.47	14.89	+ 1.08
Goodrich	14.78	14.55	14.57	+ .27
Goodyear	6.05	5.81	5.81	+ .02
GtAtlPac	4.68	4.43	4.51	+ .13
Halliburtn	21.00	20.53	20.66	+ .13
Hanson ADS	26.45	26.30	26.36	+ .88
HarteHanks s	19.63	19.30	19.45	— .13
HomeDepot	27.70	26.75	26.75	+ .32
HoneywellIntl	23.43	22.90	22.94	+ .54
IBM	83.20	81.60	81.65	+ .86
IntlPaper	35.94	35.50	35.71	+ .99
JohnsonJn	59.08	57.74	58.54	+ .70
KinderMorg	45.68	45.40	45.40	+ .40
Kroger Co	14.08	13.81	13.82	+ .17
LockheedM	47.11	45.31	45.88	— .72
Lowes Cos	44.30	43.75	43.76	+ .61
Lubys	1.41	1.30	1.31	+ .08
LucentTech	1.61	1.55	1.55	+ .04
MarathonOil	24.22	23.95	23.96	— .03
MayDeptStr	21.20	20.95	20.96	+ .25
Medtronic	48.00	46.89	46.89	+ .59
Motorola	8.88	8.57	8.61	+ .11
NCR Corp	19.62	19.18	19.18	+ .11
Navistar	27.89	27.00	27.54	+ 1.31
PNM Rescs	23.18	22.63	22.78	+ .40
Penney JC	20.95	20.30	20.33	+ .04
PepBoys	8.19	8.04	8.05	+ .06
PepsiCo	39.58	39.00	39.00	+ .36
Pharmacia	47.00	46.29	46.30	+ .50
PhelpDodge	33.88	33.06	33.40	+ 1.07
PilgrmPrd B	8.98	8.65	8.65	+ .01
Praxair	60.13	59.50	59.66	+ 1.15
ProctGamb	91.10	90.39	90.54	+ .39
RadioShack	23.90	23.14	23.14	+ .15
RoyalDut	42.93	42.51	42.60	+ .48
SBC Comm	22.80	22.47	22.49	+ .59
SaraLee	20.00	19.40	19.74	+ .42
Scripps EW	81.65	80.90	81.15	+ 1.05
SearsRoeb	26.90	25.70	25.75	+ .32
SherwinW	28.55	27.95	28.29	+ .70
SouthernCo	28.79	28.38	28.38	— .04
SwstAirl	15.53	15.21	15.45	+ .52
SprintFON	12.09	11.82	11.83	+ .23
SprintPCS	4.35	4.08	4.12	+ .04
Sunoco Inc	38.15	37.24	37.25	— .32
TXU Corp	18.58	18.13	18.41	+ .28
TempleInland	41.20	40.61	40.86	+ 1.24
TexInd	19.73	19.27	19.52	+ .50
TexasInst	17.80	17.52	17.55	+ .65
Textron	30.85	30.10	30.25	+ .52
TrinityInds	16.51	16.05	16.18	+ .21
TylerTech	3.68	3.60	3.61	
UnionPacif	59.42	58.40	58.87	+ 1.99
USSteel	10.91	10.56	10.56	+ .21
UnitedTech	62.64	61.75	62.13	+ 2.07
Unocal	27.08	26.84	26.87	+ .07
VerizonComm	36.55	36.08	36.11	+ .23
WalMart	56.40	55.22	55.37	+ .77
WellsFargo	48.11	47.44	47.84	+ .76
WstnGasRs	33.00	32.75	32.81	— .02
WinnDixie	14.60	14.40	14.54	+ .22
Xerox Cp	9.08	8.98	9.02	+ .11
YumBrands s	24.76	24.30	24.33	+ .20

APR 07 2003

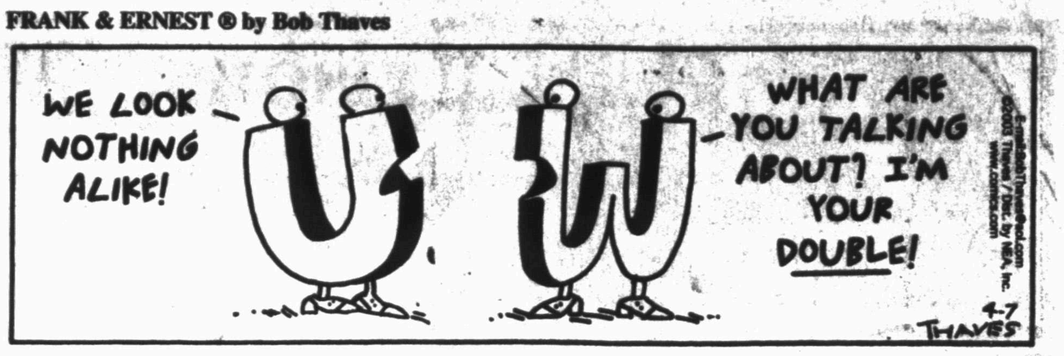
ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



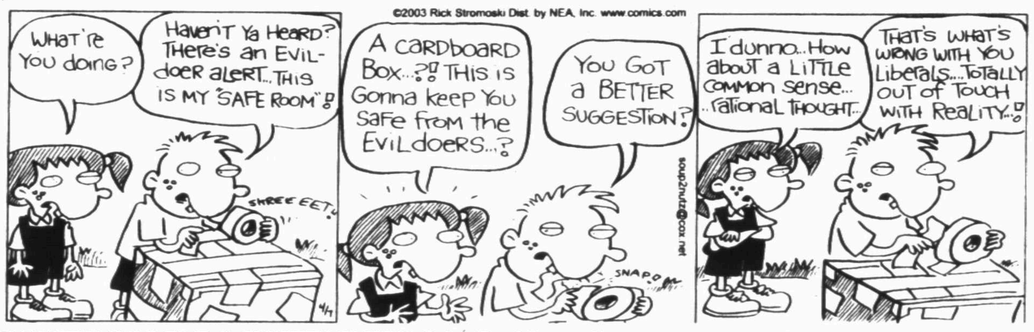
ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



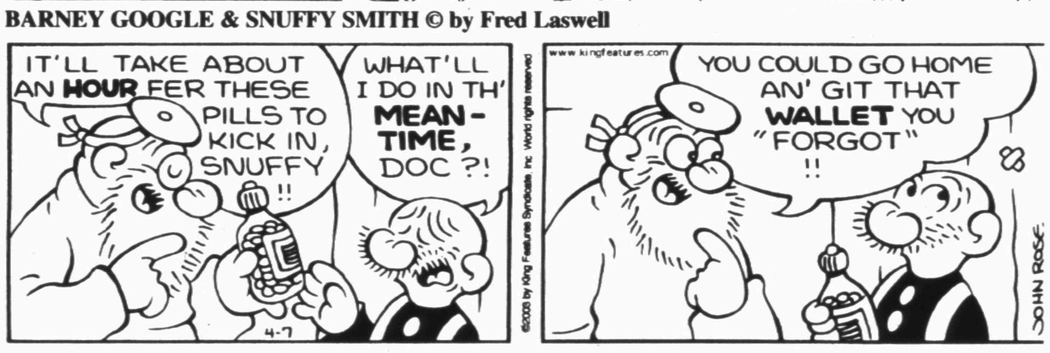
BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



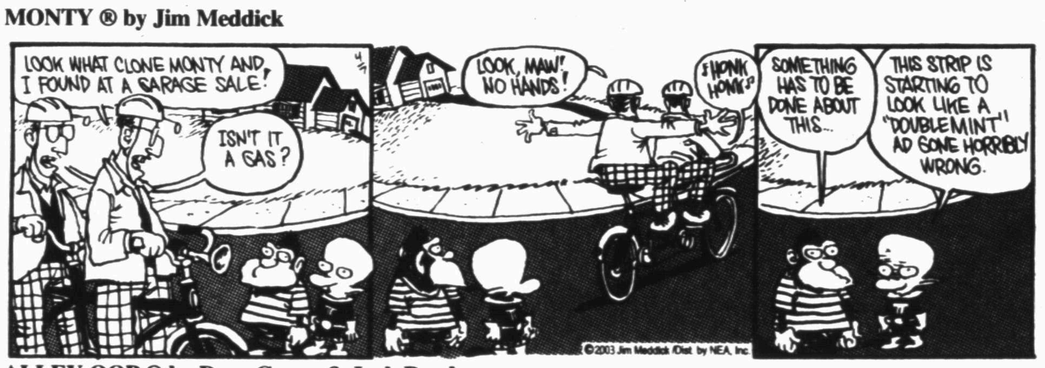
SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"All I can say is, I'm glad I didn't eat any of it!"

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Fish bait
5 New Year mo.
8 Dog breeder's org.
11 Not home
12 Mixed bag
14 Doctor's payment
15 Ruby and garnet
16 Truck fronts
17 Strong soap
18 Talk
20 Frenzies
22 DJ's albums
23 Highway
24 Speedy
27 Regard as
29 Tentacle
30 Plump (hyph.)
34 Powerful storms
37 "Norma —"
38 Meat-grading grp.
39 Piers
41 Sediment
43 Bear —
44 Dried fruit
46 Crave
49 Finale
50 Gaia
52 Caroler's tune
54 Banjo cousin
55 Adventure tale
56 Rundown dwelling
57 Average
58 Pedro's aunt
59 Solar disk

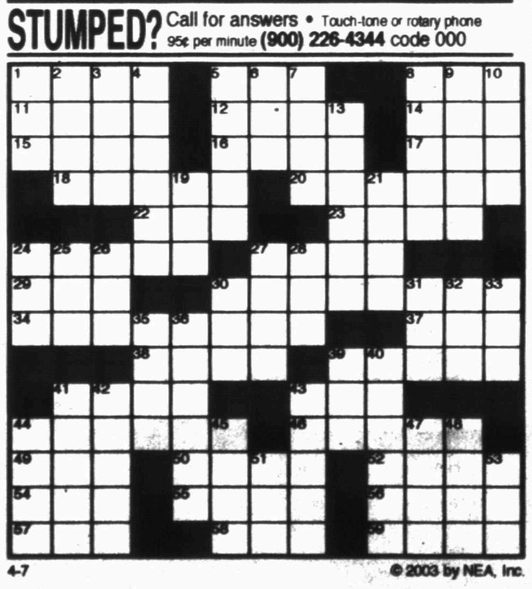
DOWN

1 Tongues sometimes do it
2 Gets in debt
3 Freeway access
4 Yours truly
5 Athletes
6 Huntsville loc.
7 Robins' beaks
8 Wouldn't hurt — —
9 Entered data
10 High notes
13 Fish hawk
19 Well-put
21 Frisk about
24 Rested
25 Like some humor
26 Holy terror
27 Lisbon lady
28 Overhead railways
30 Pole
31 Mouths, in biology
32 Set
33 Affirmative
35 Shades
36 Turn into bone
39 "— Sera, Sera"
40 Kampala's nation
41 Sri —
42 Quilt stuffer
43 Veldt scavenger
44 Stay in the army (hyph.)
45 Tidy
47 Force to flee
48 Fictional captain
51 Bi- plus one
53 RN assistant

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

High court upholds ban on cross burning

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court upheld a state ban on cross burning, ruling today the history of racial intimidation attached to it outweighs the free speech protection of Ku Klux Klansmen or others who might use it.

A burning cross is a particularly powerful instrument of terror, and government should have the power to stamp out or punish its use as a weapon of intimidation, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote.

The protections afforded by the First Amendment "are not absolute," she wrote.

The court split 5-4 to rule that the ban does not violate the constitutional guarantee of free speech, but the vote was 6-3 to uphold the ban overall.

Justice Clarence Thomas, the court's only black member, agreed that cross burning is abhorrent but said the court didn't even have to consider the First Amendment implications because the state had a right to bar conduct it considered "particularly vicious."

"Just as one cannot burn down someone's house to make a political point and then seek refuge in the First Amendment, those who hate cannot terrorize and intimidate to make their point," he wrote.

At issue was a 50-year-old Virginia law that makes it a crime to burn a cross as an act of intimidation. A lower court ruled the law muzzled free speech.

"While a burning cross does not inevitably convey a message of intimidation, often the cross burning intends that the recipients of the message fear for their lives," O'Connor wrote. "And when a cross burning is used to intimidate, few if any messages are more powerful."

O'Connor was joined by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices John Paul Stevens, Antonin Scalia and Stephen Breyer.

Justices Anthony M. Kennedy, David Souter and Ruth Bader Ginsburg dissented on free-speech grounds.

"The symbolic act of burning a cross, without more, is consistent with both intent to intimidate and intent to make an ideological statement free of any aim to threaten," Souter noted.

Genovese boss ends insanity ruse, pleads guilty to obstruction

NEW YORK (AP) — Vincent "The Chin" Gigante, the powerful mafia boss who authorities said feigned insanity for decades in an attempt to avoid prosecution, ended the ruse today by admitting he misled doctors evaluating him.

Gigante, 75, pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn.

Between May 1990 and December 1997, Gigante, former boss of New York's Genovese crime family, "knowingly, intentionally misled doctors" evaluating his mental competency to face trial, Judge I. Leo Glasser said.

"Is that true?" Glasser asked Gigante.

"Yes, your honor," he replied, nodding his head slowly.

Under the plea bargain, he received three years in jail and three years' supervised probation.

Gigante — known as "the Oddfather" for his insanity ruse — could have faced up to 20 years in prison — a virtual life sentence. He's already serving a 12-year stretch for his 1997 conviction on racketeering and murder conspiracy.

The plea settles an indictment that charged Gigante with running the Genovese family from behind bars in Texas, using his 45-year-old son, Andrew, to ferry orders. The younger Gigante took a plea as well, and will be sentenced to two years, prosecutors said.

Before leaving the courtroom, the elder Gigante waved broadly at Glasser and exited through a side door.

"Thank you," he told Glasser.

Prosecutors claimed that audio tapes of Gigante, made as he entertained visitors in prison, demonstrated that he directed Genovese business in "a coherent, careful and intelligent" manner.

Since the 1970s, Gigante had turned dementia into a full-time job, avoiding incessant law enforcement efforts to jail him. The Genovese family chieftain was reputedly the nation's No. 1 Mafioso, even as he shuffled through Greenwich Village in pajamas and a bathrobe.

He rarely strayed from the neighborhood, yet authorities said he controlled the New Jersey waterfront and ordered murders to settle a Philadelphia mob war.

Relatives and hired doctors insisted Gigante suffered from paranoid schizophrenia, dementia and Alzheimer's disease. At the 1997 trial, Gigante sat in a wheelchair, mumbling silently, seemingly oblivious to the proceedings. His lawyers claimed they could not communicate in any "meaningful way" with a client who didn't know where he was.

China raises SARS death toll as WHO experts eye possible link

GUANGZHOU, China (AP) — China reported another death from severe acute respiratory syndrome and revealed today that fatalities in recent weeks have been more widespread than previously reported.

In the country's south, international experts were researching whether the mystery disease might have come from animals on farms or in the wild.

The country's death toll was 53, state television reported, citing the Health Ministry. That included 43 deaths in the southern province of Guangdong, where experts suspect severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, originated, it said. More than 2,300 people have been sickened worldwide.

State television reported one SARS death each in the provinces of Shanxi in the north, Sichuan in the west and Hunan in central China — the first reported fatalities in those areas and an indication the disease was more widespread than previously acknowledged.

China previously reported fatalities in Guangdong, Beijing and the Guangxi region to Guangdong's west.

China's government has faced mounting criticism at home and abroad that it has released information about SARS too slowly.

"It would have been much better if the Chinese government had been more open in the early stages," World Health Organization director-general Gro Harlem Brundt said Sunday in New Delhi, India.

WHO experts searching Guangdong for clues to how SARS spreads and why it kills were studying whether it might have come from animals.

The team has not yet found clear evidence supporting the theory, but its members met with animal-health officials and discussed both farm animals and wildlife, including pigs, ducks, bats, rodents, chickens and other birds, said team leader Dr. Robert Breiman.

Experts have linked SARS to a new form of coronavirus, other forms of which usually are found in animals. Coronavirus is the virus family that causes the common cold.

That link "may suggest that it originates from animals," Breiman said. He said, "the discussions today were inconclusive, so we really don't have clues."

The team, in Guangdong since Thursday, is meeting with doctors and scientists, visiting hospitals and reviewing medical records.

"Atypical pneumonia is a disaster. There is no precedent for something like this," said Huang Huahua, the governor of Guangdong, who met today afternoon with the WHO experts.

On Sunday, China's Health Ministry reported six SARS deaths. That included Pekka Aro, an International Labor Organization official who died Sunday in a Beijing hospital.

The Beijing office of the Geneva-based ILO was sealed today, and an employee said the building was disinfected after Aro fell ill. On today, the ILO office staff was quarantined, said Tom Netter, an agency spokesman in Geneva.

The visa office of the New Zealand Embassy, located in the same building, was closed today as a precaution, said New Zealand diplomat Moana George.

In Hong Kong, officials were worried the health system could be overwhelmed. Dr. Lo Wing-lok, an infectious disease expert who also is a lawmaker, said Sunday that Hong Kong's hospitals can only handle about 1,500 SARS patients.

Births

Scott and Dee Maxwell of Snyder announce the birth of their son, Nathaniel Scott Maxwell, at 4:16 p.m. on April 6 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Nathaniel weighed eight pounds, eight ounces.

Paternal grandparents are Sandy and Gloria Maxwell of Edna and maternal grandparents are B.R. and Esther Pabst of Thomaston.

Obituaries

Patsy Stewart

1940-2003

Patsy Lee Stewart, a former resident of Snyder, died Saturday, April 5, in a Graham care center.

A funeral service for Mrs. Stewart, 62, was set for 2 p.m. today in the Morrison Funeral Home Chapel with Edgar Jones of Graham officiating.

A graveside service is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Hermleigh Cemetery. Dale Huff, minister of the 37th Street Church of Christ, will officiate.

Born Dec. 4, 1940 in Graham, she married Roy Carl Stewart on March 31, 1978 in Snyder. A homemaker, Mrs. Stewart was a member of the 37th Street Church of Christ.

Her father, Sovola Eccless Herndon; and a sister, Barbara Kaye Herndon, preceded her in death.

Survivors include her husband, Roy Carl Stewart of Snyder; her mother, Dora Pauline Herndon of Graham; two sisters, Margie Dean Mahany of Graham and Mary Joe McGeehee of Stonewall, Okla.; three brothers, Bobby Herndon, Clifford Herndon and Curtis Herndon, all of Graham, a sister-in-law, Ida Sue Phipps of Snyder; 10 nieces and nephews; and nine great-nieces and great-nephews.

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME
3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Man arrested for PI, assault

Arrests

A woman requested an officer at a residence on 24th Street at 12:10 a.m. Sunday and reported that she had been assaulted by a male subject. Officers arrested the 40-year-old man for public intoxication and Class A assault, family violence.

Officers arrested a 58-year-old man in the 1700 block of Ave. K at 11:40 a.m. Saturday for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

A 30-year-old man was taken into custody in the 3700 block of Highland at 9 p.m. Sunday for public intoxication and disorderly conduct. He was booked into jail then transported to Cogdell Hospital for a knife cut to his side.

A woman reported a reckless driver at 9:40 p.m. Sunday on Coliseum Dr. Officers arrested a 45-year-old man for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

DPS troopers arrested a 49-year-old woman on U.S. 180 at 11:10 p.m. Sunday on warrants for theft by check.

Accident

An employee at Cogdell Hospital reported at 1:30 p.m. Saturday that a woman was at the hospital who had been hit by a car earlier in the day.

Janie Hembree, 19, of 1112 FM 1609 was struck by a vehicle around 11 a.m. Saturday near Snyder High School. Minor injuries, including bruises and swelling, were sustained. A report was submitted for a vehicle/pedestrian accident.

The driver of the vehicle remains unknown, but Snyder officer Lee Ortiz said the case is now closed.

Theft

Teresa Yruegas reported her cellular phone stolen Saturday. Officers filed an offense report for Class B theft.

Fight

Dispatchers received several calls at 8:40 p.m. Sunday reporting subjects fighting with knives in the 3700 block of Highland. Three officers responded to the scene and one subject was arrested.

Disturbances

A woman reported problems with her boyfriend at 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Officers advised an offense report for Class C assault would be submitted.

At 2:20 p.m. Sunday, officers filed a report for Class C assault, family violence after a woman complained that her husband assaulted her.

Criminal mischief

A woman in the 2200 block of 43rd Street reported several tires were slashed. Officers filed a Class B criminal mischief report.

Criminal trespass

Officers served a man with a criminal trespass warning to stay away from a residence on Harlan Street in Hermleigh.

At 10 p.m. Saturday, a woman on 20th Street reported someone trying to break into her home. Officers contacted a man and woman who had been drinking and advised them to stay away from the residence.

Juveniles

An employee at Snyder One Stop reported three juveniles trying to steal candy Saturday morning. Officers contacted the juveniles and their parents and advised them to stay away from the store.

Gas drive off

A clerk at Town and Country East reported a gas drive off worth $10 at 11:15 p.m. Saturday.

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200 East 37th Street
Snyder, Texas
915-573-6200

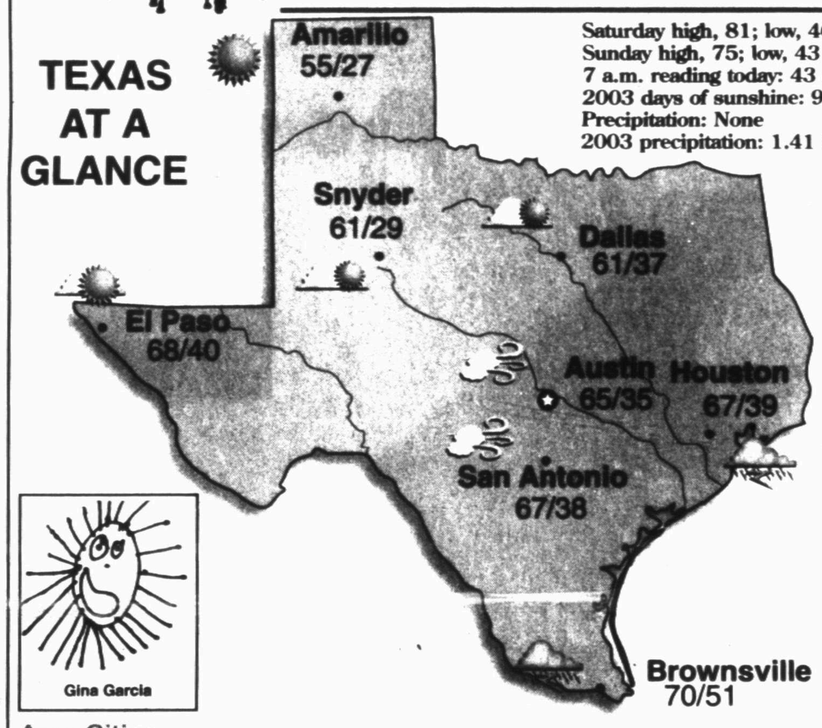
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Tue 4/8	Wed 4/9	Thu 4/10
61/29	68/35	76/42
Sunshine along with some cloudy intervals. High 61F.	Sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 40s.
Sunrise 7:23 AM, Sunset 8:08 PM	Sunrise 7:22 AM, Sunset 8:09 PM	Sunrise 7:21 AM, Sunset 8:10 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Saturday high, 81; low, 46
Sunday high, 75; low, 43
7 a.m. reading today: 43 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 93 of 96
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: 1.41 inches

Gina Garcia

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	61	33	windy	El Paso	68	40	mst sunny	Midland	65	33	mst sunny
Amarillo	55	27	sunny	Fort Stockton	65	37	mst sunny	Raymondville	67	47	t-storm
Austin	65	35	windy	Gainesville	56	31	pt sunny	Rosenberg	67	39	t-storm
Beaumont	67	39	t-storm	Greenville	59	32	pt sunny	San Antonio	67	38	windy
Brownsville	70	51	t-storm	Houston	67	39	t-storm	San Marcos	66	35	windy
Brownwood	65	33	pt sunny	Kingsville	69	45	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	60	31	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	66	46	t-storm	Livingston	65	34	t-storm	Sweetwater	63	31	pt sunny
Corsicana	61	34	pt sunny	Longview	62	33	pt sunny	Tyler	62	34	pt sunny
Dallas	61	37	pt sunny	Lubbock	61	29	pt sunny	Weatherford	59	31	pt sunny
Del Rio	70	44	pt sunny	Lufkin	64	34	rain	Wichita Falls	57	28	windy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	61	47	t-storm	Houston	67	39	t-storm	Phoenix	87	58	mst sunny
Boston	34	30	sn shower	Los Angeles	77	55	sunny	San Francisco	66	51	pt sunny
Chicago	38	27	cloudy	Miami	85	73	cloudy	Seattle	60	43	cloudy
Dallas	61	37	pt sunny	Minneapolis	48	30	mst sunny	St. Louis	45	33	cloudy
Denver	57	34	mst sunny	New York	40	34	cloudy	Washington, DC	49	40	cloudy

Moon Phases

New	First	Full	Last
Apr 1	Apr 9	Apr 16	Apr 23

UV Index

Tue 4/8	Wed 4/9	Thu 4/10
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 07 2003

Karen Hughes, former White House staffer, returns to Texas

HOUSTON (AP) — Karen Hughes, who left the White House to tend to affairs within her own house, is readjusting to life back in Texas.

Hughes got her start as a television reporter in Texas and later joined forces with George W. Bush, whom she followed to the governor's mansion and later to Washington, D.C.

"In Texas, a terror alert means I'm about to take my 15-year-old out to practice driving," said Hughes, who left behind her job as the White House's communications director to spend more time with her son and husband. "It's really been a lot of fun."

However, despite her efforts to slow down and spend more time taking her son to baseball games, becoming more involved in church activities and relaxing with friends, Hughes remains tapped into Washington from her Austin home.

Since returning to Texas, she has been asked to help Bush seek re-election next year and campaigned in November for Republican candidates, such as U.S. Sen. John Cornyn and Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

As part of a contract with the Republican National Committee that pays $15,000 a month, Hughes continues to advise the president. She said she talks with Bush "several times a week." She also maintains close contact with Dan Bartlett, her successor at the White House, as well as national security adviser Condoleezza Rice and chief of staff Andrew Card.

"People ask me all the time, 'How's retirement?'" she told the Houston Chronicle. "I never said anything about retiring. I couldn't afford to retire."

Since moving back to Austin in July, Hughes has spent about 60 days away from home. She returned to Washington to consult Bush on his State of the Union address and another time to help develop a communications strategy for the war. She also spent two days in Afghanistan as part of a State Department delegation.

Some Democrats and watchdog groups have criticized Hughes' role since moving back to Texas as a questionable combination of politics and government work.

Meanwhile, she continues work on a book and delivers a handful of paid speeches each month, discussing national policy, her role in the White House and why she decided to leave.

"I seem to have become something of a symbol for the struggle that so many parents go through in balancing career and family," she said. "That's what a lot of people ask me about."

Hughes said since returning to Texas her husband has abandoned his job as a lawyer and is working as a paid assistant director of adult Sunday School at the family's church. Her son, meanwhile, is enjoying being back near his friends.

"All the way around, everybody in the Hughes family is very happy to be back home," she said.

Political consultant Ray Sullivan, who has known Hughes for years, said his former co-worker seems as "happy and relaxed and conversational as I've seen her in perhaps four years."

But there are things Hughes misses. She first began working with Bush in 1994 after meeting him four years earlier.

"I miss seeing the president every day," she said. "I mean, I've worked with him for a long time. He's fun. He's a lot of fun to work with. He's got an infectious spirit. He's a great challenge."

Austin political consultant Bill Miller said the president and Hughes have bonded "and that bonding is forever."

"The person closest to Bush has always been Karen," he said. "And you never know how often the president calls her because she never says, and you can't get it out of her by torture."

Hughes downplays her own possible political aspirations, which she said the president has told her never to rule out.

"It probably sounds silly to say, 'I'm a little more private than that,' because I'm not very private," she told the newspaper. "But right now, certainly with my son at home. I just don't see that."

Miller, however, doesn't think the possibility of a political bid by Hughes has been squelched.

"I think everything changes when her son leaves home for college," he said.

Date Book

Monday, April 7, 2003

Today is the 97th day of 2003 and the 19th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1712, a slave revolt took place in New York City. Nine whites were killed in the revolt; 21 blacks were executed in response.

On this day in 1795, France adopted the metric system.

On this day in 1948, the World Health Organization was founded as an agency of the United Nations.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: William Wordsworth (1770-1850), poet; William Ellery Channing (1780-1842), abolitionist; Billie Holiday (1915-1959), jazz singer; Gerhard Schroeder (1944-), German chancellor, is 59; Jackie Chan (1954-), actor, is 49.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1963, 23-year-old Jack Nicklaus won his first of six Masters titles.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Come forth into the light of things / Let Nature be your teacher." — William Wordsworth, "The Tables Turned"

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (April 1) and first quarter (April 9).

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Stop smoking regardless of symptoms from abstinence

DEAR DR. GOTT: My friend has been a heavy smoker for over 30 years. She has attempted to quit smoking but develops asthma each time. Her doctor cannot explain this phenomenon. Can you?

DEAR READER: I've been told by ex-smokers that they felt worse, coughed more and viewed life with less optimism when they gave up cigarettes. Other former smokers experience increased appetite, constipation, insomnia, nervousness and a host of other complaints that — fortunately — tend to disappear as the period of tobacco abstinence continues. I have never heard of asthma worsening in a new nonsmoker.

I've read that some asthmatics wheeze under stress; their breathing is worsened by anxiety and emotional pressure. Perhaps this is why your friend complains of asthma in the absence of tobacco smoke; the stress that was once relieved by nicotine now has "nowhere to go."

Regardless of the cause of this unusual reaction, your friend made an appropriate choice to stop smoking. Her doctor should be able to get the asthma under control with minimal effort, using sprays, pills or special nebulizer breathing treatments. In this case, the physician needn't explain the no smoking/asthma idiosyncrasy; all he must do is treat the asthma so that your friend won't have an excuse to return to cigarettes.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Living with Chronic Lung Disease." 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 40092. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Please explain essential tremor and outline what can either cure it or give relief. So far, my mother's doctor is puzzled and has only recommended sleeping pills to let her get some needed rest. I think she needs more.

DEAR READER: I think she needs less.

Benign essential tremor is a fine-to-coarse slow tremor that affects the hands, head and voice. The cause is unknown, but the tremor is ordinarily worsened by stress, anxiety and the performance of skilled acts. It may be virtually absent at rest. Therefore, I'm confused about why your mother has difficulty sleeping.

I wonder if, in fact, she may have Parkinson's disease, which causes a similar tremor that is WORSE at rest and disappears during purposeful movements. I suggest that you take your mother to a neurologist for a diagnosis.

Essential tremor is incurable and common. It is usually treated with beta-blockers or mild anti-anxiety drugs, such as Xanax, whereas Parkinson's disease requires different, stronger medicine, such as Sinemet. Sleeping pills are, in my opinion, inappropriate therapy for benign essential tremor.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Why is it that doctors go to the bother of having well-appointed waiting rooms, only to make their patients sit half-dressed on a cold table in a cramped examining room?

DEAR READER: Although I don't engage in this habit, I believe that it has become popular in order to save (the doctor's) time. After undressing in the examining room, the patient has vital signs (weight, blood pressure and pulse, usually) recorded by a nurse, in preparation for the main event: the Doctor's Appearance. Using this technique, as well as multiple examination rooms, practitioners can successfully avoid trivial duties and unnecessary delays (while patients disrobe). While this practice may be uncomfortable and irritating to patients, I'm afraid that it is becoming customary.

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Afghan security forces hunting Taliban fighters in northwest

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Security forces swept through remote hills in northwestern Afghanistan on today in search of several hundred suspected Taliban fighters blamed for launching a recent wave of attacks.

The fighters' names and native villages were discovered on lists found in the pockets of five senior Taliban commanders captured during fighting in Badghis province last week, said Abdul Wahed Tawaqli, spokesman for the governor of neighboring Herat province.

Those captured included Mullah Badar, a former governor of Badghis under the Taliban, whose government was ousted by U.S. forces and Afghan opposition groups in 2001.

The latest troubles in Badghis began April 1 when up to 500 suspected Taliban fighters launched attacks on Akazia and Sipia villages, about 50 miles east of the provincial capital, Qalai-e-Naw.

Tawaqli said 150 Taliban were killed in a day of battles, 50 were captured and 300 others fled into the mountains.

Eleven soldiers loyal to the province's governor were killed and seven were wounded in the fighting with rocket launchers, grenades and automatic weapons, he said.

Tawaqli said authorities had intelligence the attacks were coming, and Herat Gov. Ismail Khan sent 300 troops to Badghis to help security forces fend off the assaults and hunt down the culprits.

The 50 alleged Taliban captured during the fighting were transferred to Herat, Tawaqli said.

"In the pockets of these senior commanders, we found lists detailing the names and native villages of those who've been attacking us," Tawaqli said.

Prices Effective Tuesday, April 8th & Wednesday, April 9th

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