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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY
July 18, 2002
Vol. 54 No. 67
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Hilda Molina

Effective Friday...

SISD superintendent unexpectedly resigns

By Wade Warren
SDN Managing Editor

Snyder ISD superintendent Gayle Lomax's last day as head of the local school district is Friday.



Gayle Lomax

In a surprise move, Lomax handed his resignation to individual board members Tuesday, and announced his intentions to retire to his staff Wednesday afternoon.

"I told my board in December that I would probably serve one more year, but I have decided to pursue other interests at this time.

"I presented my board a balanced budget for the coming year and I feel very good about the way I am leaving the district."

Lomax, Snyder school chief since 1994, said serving as an interim superintendent at school districts that have vacancies might be a future possibility.

Lomax's wife, Virginia, teaches 11th grade English at Snyder High School and she has plans to continue to teach at SHS.

Two bond issues to upgrade aging school facilities proposed by Lomax and the board were rejected by district voters in 1998 and 1999, but facilities improvements were made using maintenance tax notes.

"If I have a regret about my tenure here," said Lomax. "It is the failure of the bond issues to pass."

Board president Mark McCormick said he hated to lose Lomax's leadership in the district.

"I appreciate Mr. Lomax's dedicated leadership in public education and service to the children of this community for the past eight years," said McCormick.

"He leaves behind a strong leadership team at the campus level and the central office to help us through this transition period. The board of trustees will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday to accept his resignation and discuss the process in seeking his replacement.

"I wish him the best in his retirement and future endeavors," added the board president.

McCormick said the board could discuss the possibility of hiring an interim superintendent in next week's meeting.

"What route we take will depend on the board's wishes," said McCormick. "We will discuss in closed session the route we will take in naming a new superintendent."

"We have people in place, Dr. Missy Jones and Karen Waller, to handle the day-to-day decisions until the board decides what route to take."

He had been serving as the assistant superintendent of schools for personnel with the Abilene Independent School District — a position he had held since 1985.

Lomax had also served as principal at Abilene High School for seven years, and as vice principal at the school for three years. He was also a guidance counselor at Abilene Cooper for five years.

A 1961 graduate of Amarillo High School, he received his bachelor's degree from Abilene Christian College in 1965, and his master's degree in education from ACC in 1966.

Locally, he served as the Scurry County United Way chairman in 1995, and has been a member of the Snyder Rotary Club since 1994. He has spearheaded the Rotary Club's annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the needy since its inception in Snyder.

He served as president of the civic club from 1997-98, and was the president of the Big Country School Administrator's Association in 1998-99.

Patterson-UTI has loss, optimistic about drilling turnaround

Patterson-UTI Energy, headquartered in Snyder, today announced a net loss for the second quarter of 2002, but company officials remain optimistic about increased demand for drilling rigs.

Patterson-UTI, the second-largest operator of land-based oil and natural gas drilling rigs in North America, reported a net loss for the quarter of $1 million, or $0.01 per share, versus net income of $56.6 million, or $0.71 per share for the same three months last year.

Revenue for the quarter was $125.4 million, compared to $287.6 million for the comparable three-month period in 2001.

Excluding certain charges, net income for the six-month period was $2.9 million, or $0.04 per share, versus net income of $93.2 million, or $1.18 per share for the six months ended June 30, 2001. Revenue for the six months was $253.6 million, compared to $526.2 million for the comparable six-month period in 2001.

Patterson-UTI said that it is taking a pre-tax charge of $4.7 million ($2.8 million after tax) in the second quarter of 2002 due to the recent financial failure of a workers' compensation insurance carrier that had provided coverage for the company between 1992 and March of 2001. As a result of the financial failure of the insurance carrier, the firm expects to incur additional costs related to workers' compensation claims involving incidents that occurred during the coverage period.

The company said that its net loss for the quarter, including the insurance charge, was $3.8 million, or $0.05 per share, and its net income for the six-month period, including the charge, was $90,000 or $0.00 per share. During the second quarter of 2001, the Patterson-UTI incurred $13.1 million of pretax charges ($8.1 million after tax) in connection with the UTI Energy Corp. merger.

Cloyce Talbott, chief executive officer, said, "The decline in drilling activity that began in August 2001 continued into the first quarter of this year until early March when our U.S. working rig count bottomed at 90 rigs. Our activity level then increased and in the second quarter we averaged 115 rigs working in the U.S. and four in Canada. For the week ended July 12, we averaged 123 rigs working, including 116 rigs in the U.S. and seven rigs in Canada.

"As we have previously stated, we are continuing to retain our most experienced field personnel and improve our equipment in anticipation of further increases in demand for drilling services. Although this continues to have the effect of increasing our costs and reducing our margins, we are confident that our operations will benefit as the industry improves."

Mark S. Siegel, chairman of Patterson-UTI, noted, "From mid-May through June, the second quarter in the contract drilling industry was marked by relative stability in activity levels and pricing.

"Although supply decreases have been noted by many industry observers, above-average natural gas storage levels raise concerns about the direction of natural gas prices, and the concerns are heightened by the changes in the reporting of such storage levels. We expect the current activity level to continue throughout the summer, until the effect of declining supply becomes ever more apparent as we approach the winter months.

We believe that significantly increased drilling will ultimately be necessary to offset the decreasing supply of natural gas."



SUMMER FUN — Malcolm Wells, 14 prepares to jump his bike at Stanfield Elementary Wednesday evening. Many local kids use the ramps as launching pads for bikes, skateboards, scooters and skates. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

In Rio Grande Valley...

Few attend Combs' talk

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — An appearance by State Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs drew a thin crowd.

A couple of economic-development officials and three reporters were the only people who showed up for Combs' visit Wednesday morning to discuss rural development issues in the Rio Grande Valley.

Farmers, ranchers and business leaders in the area apparently never got the word that Combs would be visiting.

The Texas Department of Agriculture used the Internet to promote Combs' visit to the Brownsville Public Library.

Her appearance also conflicted with a meeting in Weslaco concerning the United States' water treaty with Mexico.

Nevertheless, Combs stuck to the script as she had done at 31 previous stops, including one in Snyder on Tuesday that drew about two dozen people, the Brownsville Herald reported in today's editions.

"It is clear that we need to think strategically if we're going to create new opportunities and boost the business environment in Brownsville and in all rural Texas," Combs said.

"Working together, we can come up with new ways to build a stronger economy and create new jobs," she added.

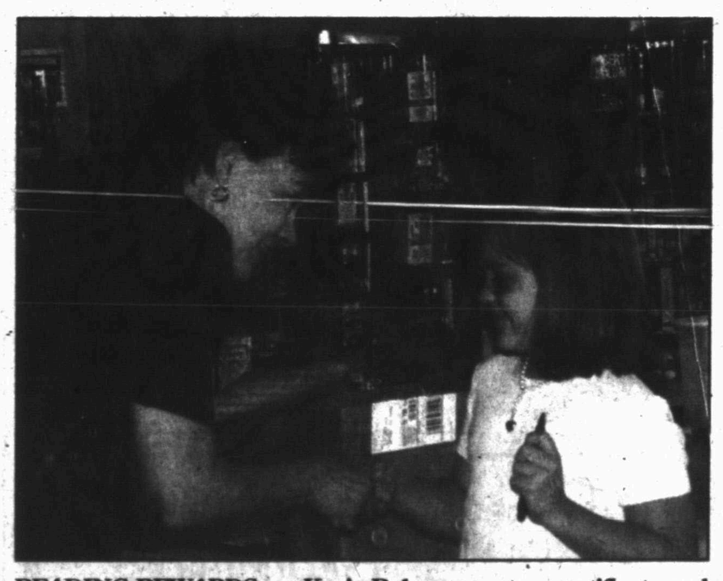
Combs did not repeat a portion of her press release that read, "This meeting is an example of great partnerships at work for rural Texas."

Combs said the Texas Capital Fund is available under the federal community Development Block Grant program to help towns under 50,000 population.

"The fund is part of the federal community Development Block Grant program and provides, through a competitive grant process, about $12.5 million each year to Texas cities and counties," she said.

Combs, who was accompanied by several TDA staffers, continued, "We've just come from Kingsville where $750,000 has been awarded to bring in a Lowe's building center. "Last week, we were in Booker in far North Texas, where a cow-packing facility is being built," she added.

"Working with the smaller cities is something I believe in strongly."



READING REWARDS — Kacie Baker accepts a certificate and a handshake from WTC vice president Betüe McQueen during the awards ceremony for the reading program at the Scurry County Library. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "For information on how to run a big business, ask a chap who doesn't have any."

If a new, updated bathroom is on top of your wish list — there's an opportunity waiting.

A bathroom fixture company, American Standard, this month has kicked off America's Ugliest Bathroom contest, and the winner will be outfitted with all the modern conveniences and looks.

Entries of ugly bathrooms are expected to include floor-to-ceiling harvest gold ceramic tile, foam padded toilet seats and that popular peach and teal wallpaper from the '80s.

The company calls those just some of the fashion don'ts still masquerading as bathroom decor.

But the contest, the company believes, is part of a 12-step program to deal with the shame of heinous indoor facilities.

Purpose of the contest is to prove that even an ugly potty room can be transformed into a comfortable and stylish reading room or family retreat.

To enter the contest, homeowners must send a 100-word essay describing why they deserve a bathroom makeover along with photos of the current facility. Finalists will be announced next month, so hurry.

It's too bad that our granddad's two-holer isn't still around. It would have been a sure contest winner.

A visit to his place was always an adventure. The bathroom was climate controlled. If it was hot, it was hot, and if it was cold, then you hurried.

The décor was typical for the time. Each was equipped with ample reading material – usually a Sears Roebuck catalogue with several pages missing.

You were rarely alone. For some reason, wasps' and hornets' nests were attracted to the outdoor john — and those were some of the less troublesome varmints.

If you really wanted to dress up the outdoor facility, you could line the walkway with rocks. However, that was dangerous as you might stumble over 'em if you were hurrying in the dark.

And if he had won the contest, he probably wouldn't have been impressed. Late in life, he finally got in-door plumbing, but it took several months before he trusted those modern contraptions.

ASK US

Q—I did not see the CRMWD weekly reports in Wednesday's paper like I usually do. How come?

A—The report came in too late for yesterday's edition. You can find it on Page 8 today.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Wednesday, 90 degrees; low, 70; 7 a.m. Thursday, 71; no precipitation; total for 2002, 13.71 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy; 20% rain chance; low near 70; SE winds 5-15 mph. Friday, partly cloudy; 30% rain chance; high lower 90s; SE winds 10-20 mph. Friday night, lows near 70.



Alexis Morgan
Rain Chance

Sunset:
8:48 p.m.
Sunrise:
6:52 a.m.
Of 198 days in 2002, the sun has shone 191 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Take time to deliberate; but when the time for action arrives, stop thinking and go on.

—Andrew Jackson

JUL 18 2002

Manhunt underway for five-year-old's killer

STANTON, Calif. (AP) — As authorities searched for the man who snatched and murdered 5-year-old Samantha Runnion, the sheriff issued a warning to the suspect: "Don't sleep, don't eat, because we're coming after you."

Orange County Sheriff Mike Carona said Wednesday that Samantha, whose body had been dumped in a ravine 50 miles from her home, was likely the victim of a serial rapist and serial killer.

Officials said there was no prime suspect and warned parents in the area to tell their children to stay away from strangers. The killer intends to strike again, authorities said.

"The way the body was found, the fact it was not buried, not hidden and such, and how it was left is almost like a calling card, like a challenge: 'I'm here and I'm coming back again,'" Carona said.

An autopsy confirmed that Samantha was sexually assaulted and died of asphyxiation, Carona said. She had been alive for several hours after being abducted Monday evening, he said.

Samantha's body was discovered Tuesday afternoon, less than 24 hours after she was abducted outside her apartment building while playing a board game with a friend. She was nabbed by a man who pulled up in a light green Honda or Acura and asked for help finding his puppy.

The Sheriff's Department released a sketch and description of the kidnapper based on the account of a 5-year-old playmate who was with Samantha when she was kidnapped.

FBI agent Richard Garcia said the girl was able to identify speech patterns, and as a result, investigators believe the man is a Hispanic American. He was described as having slicked-back black hair and a thin black mustache. He wore a powder blue button-down shirt.

The sheriff said the killer may bear physical signs of a struggle. "He will probably have unexplained injuries to his hands, arms and possibly face," said Carona.

Garcia and Carona each addressed the unknown killer directly during a televised news conference.

"We will find you and we will bring you to justice," Garcia said.

"Don't sleep, don't eat, because we're coming after you," Carona said.

Samantha's grandmother identified the girl's remains through photos from the site where the body was found. The girl's mother remained in seclusion after the body's identification.

"Because the body was found very quickly, we have a high expectation that there will be significant forensic evidence found at the scene and significant forensic evidence found on the body of Samantha Runnion," the sheriff said.

The White House called to offer any FBI assistance in finding the killer.

The abduction and killing follows the high-profile cases of 14-year-old Elizabeth Smart in Salt Lake City and 7-year-old Danielle van Dam and 2-year-old Jahi Turner in San Diego. Danielle's body was found and a neighbor is on trial. Elizabeth and Jahi remain missing.

Brenda van Dam, Danielle's mother, said she spoke with Samantha's mother to offer consolation. "They were both sweet, wonderful girls who loved life and their family," van Dam said in a statement.

The news of the abduction and murder spread fear in Stanton, a city of 38,000 southeast of Los Angeles.

Melissa Apodaca, 30, of Anaheim, brought her three children to Stanton on Wednesday to view a memorial for Samantha. She said she had made them watch newscasts about the abduction.

"They need to know this," she said.

Samantha's mother, Erin Runnion, and stepfather, Ken Donnelly, were at work and her grandmother, Virginia Runnion, was at home at the time of the kidnapping.

Police seek bomb victim's half-brother

DALLAS (AP) — Without calling him a suspect, federal agents searched the Maryland residence of the missing half-brother of a 21-year-old Dallas man who was critically injured by a pipe bomb that exploded as he started his father's sport utility vehicle.

Wednesday's search of the suburban Washington residence of Prescott W. "Scott" Sigmund, 34, came two days after his wife reported him missing, police spokeswoman Joyce Utter told The Dallas Morning News today.

Wright Sigmund, 21, suffered third-degree burns over his entire right leg and other portions of his lower body on Friday when he turned the key in his father's white Chevy Blazer, which was parked in an underground garage in the northwest Washington office building where his father's company is located.

The elder Sigmund, who investigators said they believe was the target of the bomb, had asked his son to take a new icemaker from the office building to a home he recently bought in Georgetown, police said.

Scott Sigmund is the son of Donald Sigmund, a prominent Washington insurance broker, and his first wife, Gwendolyn Sigmund. Wright Sigmund, 21, is Sigmund's son by the second of his four wives, Claire Phillips of Dallas.

Scott Sigmund's wife said he left their residence in Potomac, Md., at 8:30 a.m. Monday to attend a seminar in nearby Rockville, Md., Utter said.

"He was supposed to meet his father to visit his brother in the hospital about 4 p.m., and he did not show," Utter said. "He didn't show for dinner at six that evening. Family members reported him missing that evening."

Police said there is no evidence to suggest the disappearance of Scott Sigmund resulted from foul play or from any physical problems.

According to media reports in Washington, investigators interviewed Scott Sigmund after the bombing Friday and wanted to speak to him again.

Harold Scott Jr., a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, said he was unable to confirm that but added:

"We interviewed everyone that we thought may have been a witness in this case. We're concerned for his well-being since no one's heard from him in two days. He's not a suspect at this time."

Local television in the Washington area showed ATF agents removing a computer and boxes of documents from the home.

Wright Sigmund is a 1999 graduate of St. Mark's School of Texas, a Dallas prep school. He was a wrestling standout and honor student. He has completed his junior year at Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Va.

He came to Washington for the summer to work at his father's insurance brokerage, Wolf & Cohen Financial Services. He was living with friends in a rented townhouse in the Washington neighborhood of Georgetown for the summer.

District of Columbia Police Chief Charles Ramsey told a TV station earlier Wednesday that the pipe bomb that injured Wright Sigmund "wasn't all that sophisticated" and could have been homemade using instructions off the Internet.

Flooding will displace some residents

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — The rains are finally subsiding in the Corpus Christi area, but authorities say flooding in the Calallen and Blunzter areas will leave residents and roads cut off for weeks as water from the Nueces River makes its way into the bay.

Authorities said more water will be added from the Nueces River to already flooded areas in the Coastal Bend, causing even more problems from waterlogged residents along the river.

Dozens of people had to be rescued in Nueces, Live Oak, San Patricio and other counties late Tuesday and Wednesday, according to today's editions of the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

Genia Rodriguez was among those evacuated from their homes in Nueces County. Although her 10-foot-elevated house is dry, water was only two feet from flooding the home.

She spent her first day in the Red Cross shelter at the Annaville Baptist Church, watching her children play tether-ball in the shelter's gym.

"They've been very helpful, with fresh water and providing meals and allowing the kids to burn off energy," Rodriguez said.

Officials said the South Texas town of Tilden could be under more than 16 feet of water as both the Nueces and Frio Rivers hit their peak on Friday.

Meanwhile, the Edwards Aquifer on Wednesday stood at 689.2 feet above sea level — a rise of more than 39 feet in less than a month. The aquifer is expected to keep rising for the next several weeks.

Experts from the Edwards Aquifer Authority estimate an average of a foot of rain fell in 17 counties over seven days, beginning June 30. To quantify how much rain that is, the water could fill the Alamodome in San Antonio — 4,000 times.

"It's a phenomenal amount of rain," said Geary Schindel, chief technical officer for the Edwards Aquifer Authority. "A lot of that ran off and some of that went into the aquifer."

The rains have provided a much-needed fill-up, but water restrictions in San Antonio remain in effect until July 27, the San Antonio Express-News reported in its today editions.

Under Stage I rules, San Antonio residents are limited to using irrigation or sprinkler systems once a week, from midnight to 10 a.m. and from 8 p.m. to midnight, depending on each residence's designated weekday. No sprinkling is permitted on the weekends.

Also, the South Texas counties of Callahan, Live Oak, San Patricio and Zavala were declared a major disaster by President Bush on Wednesday, making residents eligible for low-interest loans.

Damage has been estimated at $1 million in Goliad County.

In Atascosa County, officials pegged damage from flooding at almost $2 million.

Date Book

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Today is the 199th day of 2002 and the 28th day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1940, at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was nominated for a third term.

On this day in 1966, Gemini 10, piloted by Lt. Cmdr. John Young, was launched into orbit.

On this day in 1980, the Rev. Marjorie Swank Matthews became the first woman to be consecrated a Methodist bishop.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: William Makepeace Thackeray (1811-1863), writer; Clifford Odets (1906-1963), dramatist; Hume Cronyn (1911-), actor, is 91; Red Skelton (1913-1997), comedian; Nelson Mandela (1918-), South African leader, is 84; John Glenn Jr. (1921-), astronaut and politician, is 81; Hunter S. Thompson (1939-), journalist, is 63.

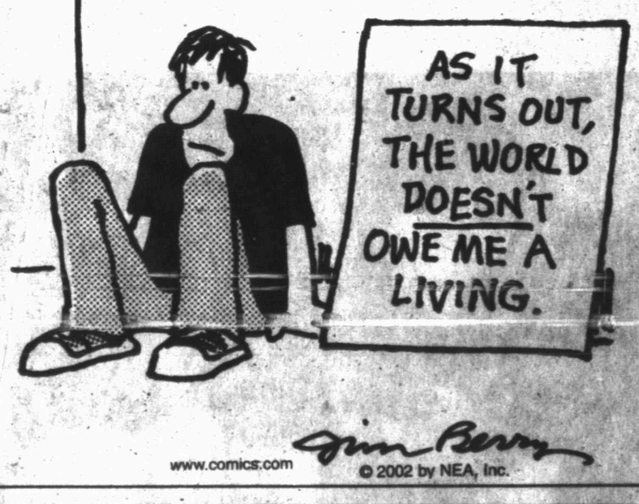
TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1970, Willie Mays of the San Francisco Giants hit his 3,000th major-league base hit.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "I never know whether to pity or congratulate a man on coming to his senses." — William Makepeace Thackeray

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (July 17) and full moon (July 24).

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Berry's World



Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — One ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket was worth an estimated $4 million.

The ticket was sold in Houston.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 11-21-26-32-40-46.

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $4 million.

Pick 3

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

5-2-1

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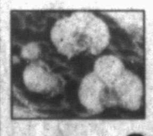
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COX Digital Cable.

*Offer expires 7/31/02 and is limited to new customers is Cox serviceable areas. Limited and Expanded Basic rates still apply. Free standard service on additional TVs requires paid subscription to Cox Limited or Expanded Basic service. Equipment cost will apply for additional digital outlets. Programming subject to change and all programming services may not be available in all areas. Franchise fees and applicable taxes still apply. Equipment rental is necessary to receive premium and digital channels. Beginning 1/1/03 regular rates for Digital Service, HBO and Cinemax will apply. names of featured programmers are the property of their respective owners. ©2002 Cox Communications, Inc. All rights reserved.

It's A Great Day For New Beginnings!

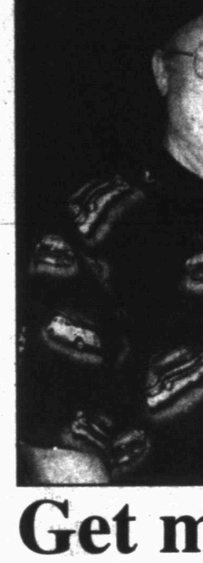
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Lifestyles





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CLASS OF 63-64 — Hermleigh High School class of 1963-64 members attending the reunion in Sweetwater July 28-29 were, standing, Linda Vest Hughes, Sonny Darden, Tom Winter, Diane Holdridge Robbins; seated, Linda Kight May, Virginia Hanson Darden, Jewel Richter Winter and Alma Collier Kitchens. In the picture below are Fred Collier and Kathy Odstrcil Gannaway.

Get motivated to exercise more

WASHINGTON (AP) — Getting Americans who are middle-aged and older to use their bodies more requires advocates of physical activity to understand their minds better.

A new survey indicates many people like the idea of exercise, but only in principle.

The RoperASW survey for AARP said 63 percent of Americans ages 50-79 consider exercise the best thing they could do for their health. Eighty-nine percent believed people their age should exercise at least three times a week for 20-30 minutes each time, and 71 percent thought moderate activity is very important.

Other CDC data shows that 65 percent of people ages 45 to 64 are somewhat active but do too little to meet the Surgeon General's recommendations.

Encouraging these people to be more active is a challenge for people who run exercise programs. The experts are responding with new attempts to understand older peoples' minds. The Roper study, done for AARP, is one example.

"One of the things we have been doing is to find out what it is about exercise that really stands in the way," said Teresa Keenan, project manager for research in the advocacy group for Americans ages 50 and older.

The survey AARP commissioned found older people could be divided into six groups based on their attitudes toward exercise. Three of the groups normally exercise. But the rest don't exercise, feeling they are too busy, are not up to the challenge, or just don't care. The survey had two samples of 1,000 respondents each, and each sample had a margin of error of three percent.

Those in the busy group, labeled the "hectics," were 12 percent of the total. Hectics know they should exercise, but say they can't find the time. "The trick is to integrate physical activity into their time," Keenan said.

CDC researchers and other experts have looked into this. They suggest people at least make minor changes in their living habits, such as taking the stairs instead of riding the elevator, or parking at the edge of the shopping mall lot and walking to the stores, instead of parking in the closest space.

Those who the Roper researchers termed "unmotivated" were 12 percent of the total. Unmotivateds have various excuses, including the cost of gym membership or the lack of people with whom to work out.

Federal agencies and other organizations are looking at expanding community activities such as group walks. One of the goals is to find ways to make exercise more fun.

"Making fitness fun is the key to success for everyone in our business," said Sandy Coffman, who has a health club consultancy, Programming for Profit, in Bradenton, Fla.

Fun for participants requires work from activity organizers, Coffman wrote in The Journal on Active Aging, a professional publication for seniors exercise programs. Staff members must be outgoing people who look like they enjoy their jobs, she said. And programs must have play and variety — "a pool class could hold a parade in the water."

Some people simply may think they are incapable of exercise. The survey termed this 13 percent "the infirm." However, although some were ill, others simply felt they were too out of shape to even start an exercise program.

Other researchers say people can test themselves to see what shape they are in. The separate article in the journal on aging listed ways in which people can do it.

The standards used in the assessment, developed by researchers at California State University, Fullerton, were based on health data from more than 7,000 people in 21 states.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; horseshoe courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762.

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; at the coliseum annex; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information call 573-8268, 573-4048 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

Free blood pressure clinics; Senior Citizens Center; 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Blood pressures will be taken at Cogdell Hospital Home Health Services, 1800 Cogdell Blvd., Suite B; 1-2 p.m.

ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 1:30 p.m.

Hermleigh Community Center Family Night; 6:30 p.m.

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment, call 573-0538 or 573-0770.

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club at Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 573-3733, 573-2101 or 5731141; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

NA-Just For Today open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-1438; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 10 a.m.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 07-18-02
♠ A K 5
♥ 4 3
♦ K Q J 9
♣ K Q 6 3

West
♠ 10 9 8 4
♥ 6 2
♦ A 4 2
♣ J 10 9 7

East
♠ J 7
♥ K J 10 9 7 5
♦ 8 7 3
♣ A 8

South
♠ Q 6 3 2
♥ A Q 8
♦ 10 6 5
♣ 5 4 2

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
		1 ♦	2 ♥
Dbl.	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ 8

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Getting into no-trump — if possible

By Phillip Alder

Look only at the North hand in the diagram. You open one diamond. East makes a two-heart weak jump overcall. South produces a negative double, promising four spades and at least eight points. After West passes, what would you do?

North wants to get to game, but which one? South might have five spades, if holding fewer than the 10 high-card points needed to respond two spades. However, if South has only four spades, maybe he has something good in hearts and three no-trump will be playable. North's three-heart cue-bid carries this message: game values, fewer than four spades, and probably no heart stopper. (With a stopper, North could bid no-trump himself.) Holding two heart stoppers, South is happy to contract for three no-trump.

West leads the heart six. What next?

South has five top tricks: three spades and two hearts. If the spades are breaking 3-3, three diamond tricks will be sufficient. But if the spades are 4-2 or worse, declarer will have to attack both minors. East cannot have the two missing aces, because then he would have overcalled one heart, not two. But if West has one of the aces and only two hearts — as the bidding suggests — the contract is makable as long as declarer ducks the first trick. South wins the second heart trick and plays a diamond. Here, after West wins with his ace, he doesn't have another heart to lead.

When you are in no-trump, with two stoppers in the suit led but two cards to drive out, it is usually right to duck trick one.

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Domestic cats can purr while they're inhaling and exhaling. Wildcats only purr while exhaling.



SNYDER SCHOOLS PROGRAM — Gayle Lomax, superintendent of Snyder schools, presented a program for AARP members at a potluck supper held Monday at the Senior Citizens Center. He is pictured with AARP president Elsie Anderson and program chairman Velma Lunsford. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Miller descendants gather for reunion at Lake Worth

The annual Philip and Alice Virginia Angel Miller family reunion was held June 29-30 at Elliott Trotter's Lake Worth cabin with 58 attending.

Attending from Snyder were Wilson and Joy Howell and Mac and Mary Alice Price McCown.

Others present were Don and Donna Nall Moore and David, Laura, Hunter and Burke Moore of Amarillo; Tom, Dana and Cara Chiodo, Dr. Harold and Deanne Miller and Kirsten Miller Brady all of Austin; Tim and Monique Miller and Philip and Cosette Snyder of Mountain Home; Joe and Ashley Miller Caldwell of Locust Grove, Okla., and Rickey and Kathy Atkinson and Kailey Howell of Bronte.

Others were Wesley Howell of College Station, Dan and Ginger Howell Rose of Grapevine; Michelle Rose of Irving; Brent and Heather Rose Sharp of Houston; Terry and Debbie Price Wood Wooten of Midland; Shawn and Shannon Wood Presley of Bedford; Lindsey Wood of Denton; Randy, Leeann, Austin and Nathan McCown of McKinney; Bill and Ann Falls Trotter and Elliott, Vicky, Britton and Macy Trotter and Eric, Amy, Page and Lauren Trotter all of Fort Worth; and Eunice Miller, the last surviving aunt of Kerrville.

Guests included Britney McCutchen of Bronte, John Daniels of Irving; Mac Daniels of Georgetown, S.C.; Terry Lindsay, Chase and Chandler of Greenville.

Family members enjoyed pool, air hockey, foosball and Rummikub. Outdoor activities were water skiing, boating, sand volleyball and swimming.

Next year the reunion will be held at the same location the last weekend in June.

Russo recommends drought-resistant plants

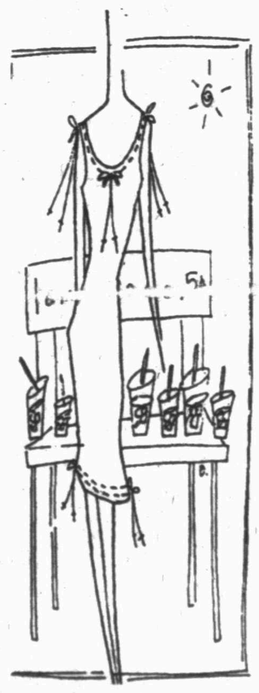
CLAREMONT, Calif. (AP) — Rene Russo asked Southern California homeowners and landscapers to save water by using drought-resistant plants native to the West.

The use of thirsty, nonnative plants, shrubs and trees has "hurt our pocketbooks, our water supply and our sense of place," Russo, a plant lover, said Tuesday at a news conference to promote a water conservation campaign.

People should look to native plants as a practical and attractive alternative, said the actress.

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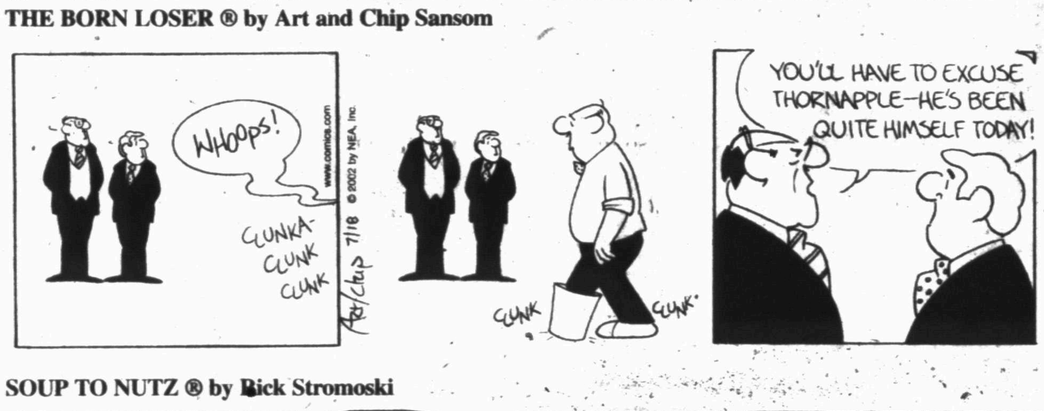
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• Exclusive Soak and Scour Option
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• Internal Water Filter with Chilled Water Dispenser
• Adjustable SpillGuard Glass Shelves
• Two EZ-Use Crispers
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• Contoured Door Design
• Internal Chilled Water Dispenser
• Slide-Out Adjustable SpillGuard Glass Shelves
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JUL 18 2002

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



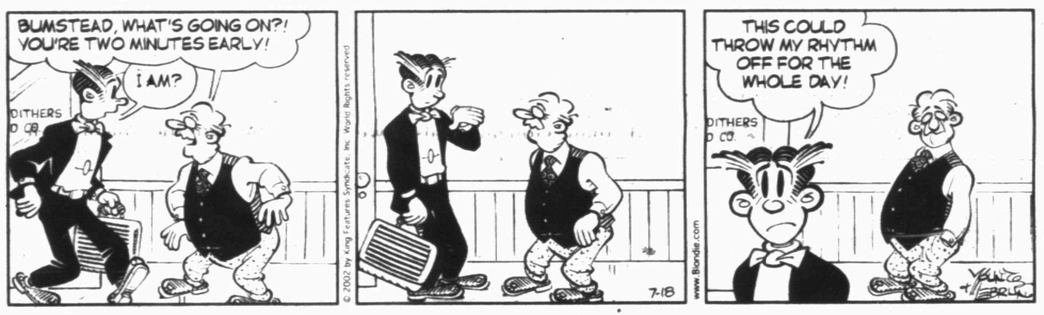
SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



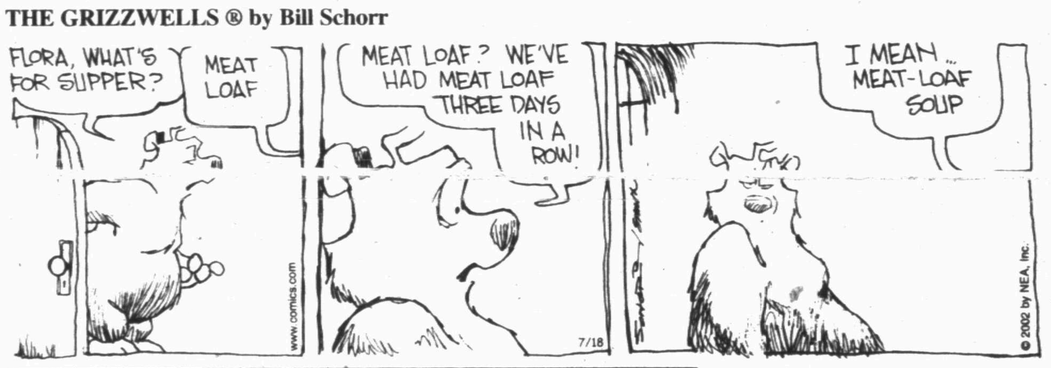
BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



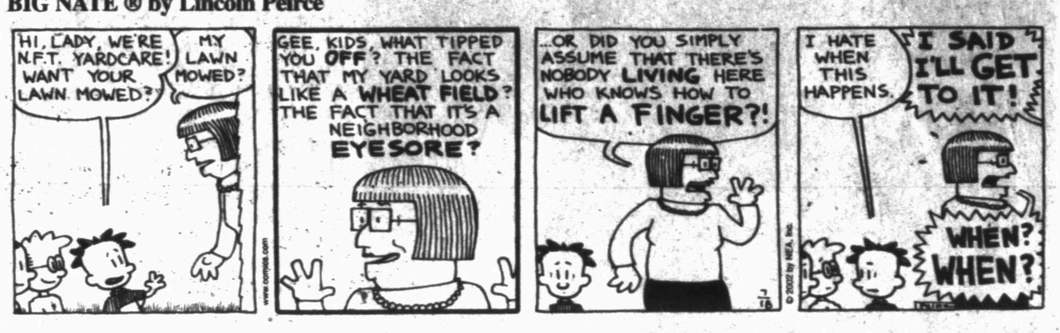
FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



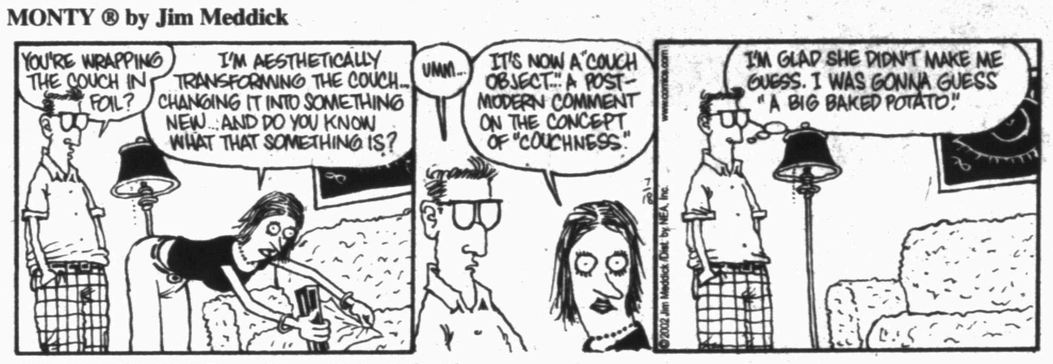
ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



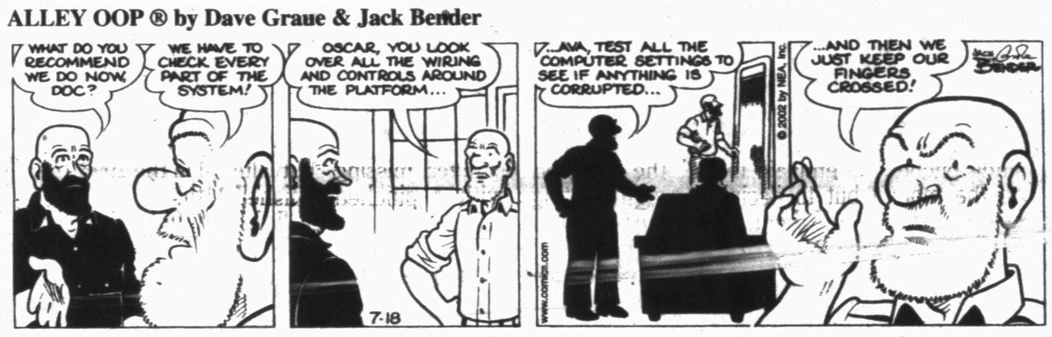
BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



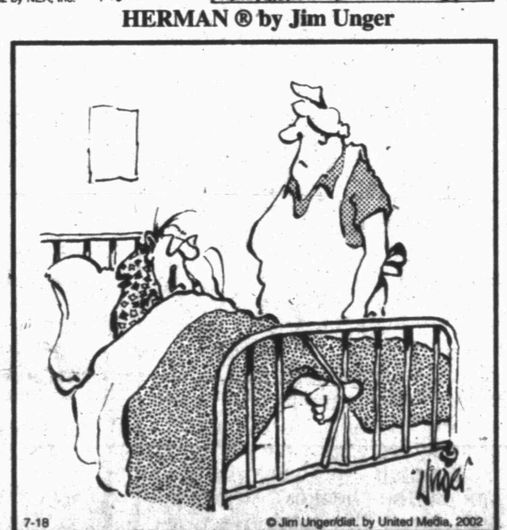
ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"I dreamt I was driving down a mountain road and the brakes failed."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Dancer — Castle
6 Lab weight
10 Solitary ones
12 Skyrocketed
14 Also-rans
15 Blackout
16 Going out with
18 "2001" computer
19 Multitude
21 Bottomless
23 Pro vote
24 Cobbler's tool
26 Splinter group
29 Class
30 Up till now
32 Magician's word
34 Appeal
36 Lennon's wife
37 Foot digit
38 Single time
40 Dawn goddess
42 Riviera summer
43 Spasms
45 Birthday-cake must
47 Computer language
50 Tidied up
52 Money manager
54 UFO crew
58 Purplish flowers
59 Singer — Estefan
60 Many layers
61 Odor

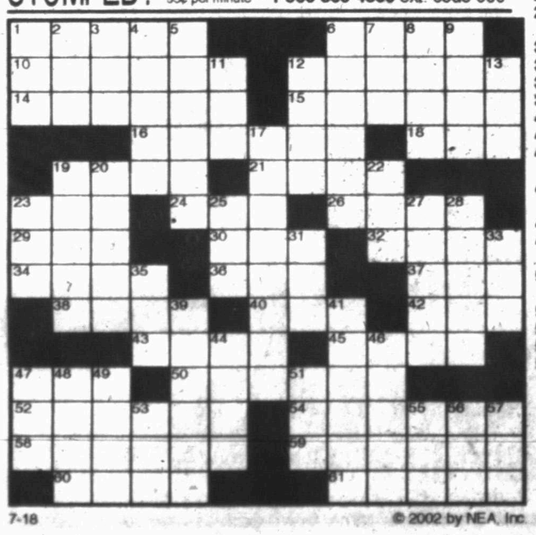
DOWN

1 — at ease
2 Aussie jumper
3 Naval off.
4 More than wants
5 Printing goofs
6 Overcharges
7 Go bad
8 Bombay nanny
9 Part of MHz
11 JFK arrival
12 District
13 Shannon of old rock
17 Laziness
19 Common greeting
20 Bucket of song
22 Vitality
23 Sharp bark
25 Mont. neighbor
27 Dove shelters
28 Molar or incisor
31 Excessive
33 Coat
35 Perform
39 Sea ducks
41 Puffs up
44 Stray dogs
46 Common phrase
47 Middle Eastern garb
48 100-meter —
49 Gambling stake
51 "You're it!" game
53 Russell or Olin
55 Before
56 Zip
57 Pitcher — Maglie

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"I'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA! HOW ABOUT YOU TAKIN' ME TO THE MOVIES?"

SPORTS

Woods chases third leg of grand slam

GULLANE, Scotland (AP) — Tiger Woods began the day by hitting an iron deep into the knee-high rough of the Muirfield links. He ended it knowing he would have to putt better to have a chance at golf's Grand Slam.

Battling a balky putter and problems figuring out the speed of the greens, Woods managed an opening 1-under 70 Thursday on a day that was ripe for scoring in the opening round of the British Open.

The game's greatest player uncharacteristically left several putts short of the hole and lipped out three others. Clearly unhappy with his missed chances, Woods needed 33 putts for the round.

"It is frustrating, yes, but it's OK," Woods said. "Sometimes they just don't go in. But if you keep hitting good putts like I did today, they'll eventually start going in."

Woods not only was three shots off the pace of early leader Thomas Bjorn of Denmark, who was still on the course, but also lost to both his playing partners. England's Justin Rose and Shigeki Maruyama of Japan both shot 68s.

Also in with 68 were veterans Des Smyth of Ireland and 1985 Open champion Sandy Lyle of Scotland. Lyle birdied his last three holes.

Woods found himself in trouble even before the huge crowd had a chance to cheer him on, hitting his first shot some 20 yards right of the fairway into the heather next to the media tent.

He backed off the tee shot a moment earlier, after a photographer clicked his camera early. Irritated with the distraction, Woods failed to compose himself and launched the 2-iron way off to the right.

"I wasn't as focused on my target as I should have been," Woods said. "It was a terrible shot."

Woods first managed to find the ball, then somehow slashed it onto the fairway some 100 yards from the green. From there, he hit a wedge to 10 feet and made the putt for par.

It would be one of the few bright moments for Woods on the greens, where he missed a number of makeable birdie putts within 15 feet and 3-putted for bogey on the fifth hole.

Despite hitting three tee shots into the heather, Woods reached 14 greens in regulation, but could not take advantage of his birdie opportunities.

"We're not used to playing greens this slow," he said.

On a calm day where the sun occasionally peeked out and scoring conditions were ideal, Muirfield showed it would not be too easy. Players battled their way out of the rough and bunkers, with Sergio Garcia needing two shots to get out of one pot bunker.

It was clear early that this Open would be far different from the U.S. Open that Woods won last month to take his second major of the year.

Instead of the boisterous crowds yelling comments at players, the fans at Muirfield offered only polite applause. When Woods hit his shot out of the heather on the first hole, one fan murmurred, "Lovely shot."

One of Woods' main challengers, Phil Mickelson, had an afternoon tee time and was forced to wait while Woods made his way around the course.

If not for Woods, Mickelson's golf game wouldn't be nearly as good or his private jet nearly as big. If not for Woods, he might also have already filled some glaring holes in his trophy case.

Mickelson believes that trophy case will soon be getting more crowded, perhaps with a claret jug this week.

But, as the British Open began with Mickelson still chasing his first major championship, he prefers to look at the bright side of competing in the same era with a player who might become the greatest ever.

"It's a great opportunity and great challenge to play arguably against the best player of all time," Mickelson said. "What a great way for me to try to compete, try to get better and bring out my best golf."

Mickelson could hardly wait for his crack at Muirfield.

"I'm more prepared than I have ever been for this event," Mickelson said.

Mickelson has more experience than most in chasing Woods, finishing second in the U.S. Open and third in the Masters earlier this year.

With a course he likes and a game that has gotten better, Mickelson's 41st major might be the one where he finally breaks through.

"I certainly feel that this is by far my best chance and it is by far the best golf course for my game as well," he said Wednesday.

The 32-year-old Mickelson has said similar things before other majors, though. And there is no history of him doing well in Britain, where he has missed the cut in five of the 12 Opens he played and finished in the top 10 only once.

Mickelson might have more confidence than most in challenging Woods, who is going for the third leg of the Grand Slam after winning the Masters and U.S. Open earlier this year.

But, while Mickelson is 0-for-40 in his career in major championships, Woods has won seven of the last 11.

That will make winning at Muirfield even tougher for Mickelson. If he does, though, it will be even sweeter.

"I don't lie in bed dreaming about it, but I do use it as a motivating factor for me to try to get better so I can make that a reality," Mickelson said.

Mickelson has finished 2-3-2 in the last three majors, but the glaring omission on his resume is still a major championship win.

Houston ousts Milwaukee, 7-3

MILWAUKEE (AP) — By the time Wade Miller was done, he had outhit the Milwaukee Brewers by himself.

Miller pitched seven innings of one-hit ball and ignited two rallies with leadoff singles in the Houston Astros' 7-3 victory over the Brewers Wednesday night.

"He's our table-setter," Craig Biggio joked. "He helped himself out on both sides of the coin."

Miller's leadoff singles sparked a four-run third inning and a three-run seventh.

"I know his priority is to pitch. He knows that. But he takes a lot of pride in his ability in the batter's box," Astros manager Jimy Williams said. "He practices properly, so tonight it helped him and it helped us win the game."

Miller said he doesn't just study pitchers to emulate them on the mound but [illegible] to get a hit off them. He's hitting a respectable .250 this season.

"I work on it a lot," he said. "It definitely helps the team if you can put the ball into play and hit some holes here and there."

The only hit Miller allowed was Matt Stairs' one-hop double to the wall in left center in the fifth.

"My sinker was working well, that's the big thing," he said.

And his mastery at Miller Park continued. In five career games in Milwaukee's 2-year-old stadium, the Astros' right-hander is 5-0 with a 0.97 ERA.

"That's not bad, I guess. I wish I had it against every team, especially the Cardinals," said Miller, who has allowed six runs in 11 innings in two no-decisions against St. Louis this season.

Miller (6-3) improved to 9-1 with a 2.76 ERA in his career against the Brewers and is 7-1 in 10 starts since returning from the disabled list after missing eight outings with a pinched nerve in his neck.

"I guess I'm starting to come around," Miller said in his understated way. "I'm almost 100 percent. I'm not quite there yet."

Armstrong aims for fourth Tour victory

PAU, France (AP) — When the time comes, Lance Armstrong wants to quit cycling in style.

"Going out on top, that's the ultimate," the Texan said before today's opening mountain stage in this year's Tour de France.

Armstrong is aiming for his fourth straight title in cycling's biggest event. That would put him one short of the Tour record.

Only Spain's Miguel Indurain has won five titles in a row. He tried for an unprecedented sixth, but faltered in the 1996 Tour and finished 11th.

"I hoped Indurain would do another year in 1997," Armstrong said. "But the athlete always thinks: 'I got knocked off my potential number six,' so you just limit your losses and say: 'I'm out of here.'"

Armstrong was unsure what he would do if, like Indurain, he had the chance to win a record-breaking sixth Tour title, but felt weaker than before.

"I hope to not ever be in that position," Armstrong said. "That would be a hard decision. I pre[illegible] easy decisions.

For now, he has yet to prove he can take the Tour a fourth time.

Armstrong was expected to give the first true demonstration of his strength in this year's event today, in the 11th stage between Pau and La Mongie, a ski station.

The previous 10 stages of the three-week Tour have been mostly flat, and the 97.96-mile leg through the Pyrenees should be the first to test riders fully.

After half the Tour, Armstrong trails Spain's Igor Gonzalez Galdeano by 26 seconds in the overall standings. But he could easily make up that time in the mountains, if his form is as good as the last three years.

Wednesday's stage from Bazas to Pau at the foot of the Pyrenees was to have been a leisurely, flat ride. But it turned to tragedy when a car from the Tour convoy hit and killed a 7-year-old boy who was lining the stage route.

The child was one of thousands of fans who gather to watch riders from the roadside every day of the Tour. Many receive small gifts tossed from sponsor vehicles, such as the one that killed Melvin Pompele. It [illegible] bo.

Ranger homers can't save wins

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The Texas Rangers keep hitting home runs. They also keep losing.

Ivan Rodriguez homered twice and Juan Gonzalez also went deep, extending the Rangers' club-record streak to 20 straight games with a homer, but they lost 6-3 Wednesday night to the Seattle Mariners.

Texas is 1-7 since the All-Star break, and has matched a season high with five straight losses.

"It's frustrating to keep losing and losing," Rangers starter Ismael Valdes said. "We have to figure out how to win one game."

The home runs and another hard-luck effort by Valdes (5-7) weren't enough. The Rangers have scored just nine runs in Valdes' losses.

Bret Boone and Mike Cameron homered for the AL West-leading Mariners, who have won eight straight games in Texas, including all five this year.

The Mariners, who lost their two games in Baltimore this week, are a season-high 181/2 games ahead of the last-place Rangers. They remain in Texas on Thursday before going to Anaheim to play in their fourth different city in six days.

"It's a different type of week," Cameron said.

But the same result in Texas, where the Mariners are 11-3 the last two seasons.

The Mariners lead the majors with 32 road wins, including a four-game series sweep at Texas in April as they began the season 10-0 away from Safeco Field. Seattle led the majors with 59 road wins last year while matching a major league record with 116 wins.

Boone hit a solo homer in the second, a 406-foot blast to right-center field that gave the Mariners a 1-0 lead. After Boone drew a leadoff walk in the fourth, Cameron hit his 17th homer.

Jamie Moyer (10-4) allowed two runs and four hits over 5 2-3 innings. He struck out four and had his first walk in four starts.

"It was a so-so performance," Moyer said. "I kept them off balance early."

Valdes, rumored to be on the trading block, allowed three runs on six hits over eight innings.

Gonzalez and Rodriguez hit full-count pitches off Moyer in the fourth to pull Texas within 3-2. Rodriguez also homered in the ninth off Kazuhiro Sasaki.

In their 20-game homer streak, five short of the major league record, the Rangers have 41 homers by 10 different players. Of those homers, 27 have been solo shots.

With two outs in the sixth, Moyer walked Gonzalez on a full-count pitch, his first walk since Oakland's Terrance Long in the seventh inning on June 26.

Sports Briefs

Booster club meeting

Snyder Tiger Booster Club meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the athletic film room. Parents of all SHS football players are urged to attend.

Cargile golf tournament

The Kiwanis Cargile Scholarship Foundation benefit Golf Tournament is set for Aug. 10 at Western Texas College. Format is four-person scramble and cost is $30 per player.

Cash prizes will go to the top four teams. Contests for closest-to-the-hole, longest drive and hole-in-one will be held. To register, call the pro shop at 573-9291.

SISD athletic physicals

Physicals are required for students wishing to participate in SISD athletics. Those needing physicals are all incoming seventh and ninth grade athletes, students new to SISD athletics, athletes in their third year of high school, and all students who answered "yes" to questions 1, 4, 5, 6 or 7 on their medical history form.

The school district pays for physicals through Aug. 2 with the following doctors: Raykov, Burleson, Cooper, Thompson, Wolboldt and NP Beth Ashley. Incoming seventh and ninth graders can pick up physical forms in the doctors' offices.

Tennis events

The four-day Snyder Tennis Camp, hosted by SHS coach Ted Phillips, begins Monday. Incoming fourth through seventh graders are eligible and cost is $30. Registration forms can be picked up at the SHS principal's office.

Snyder Tennis Booster Club is hosting a three-day tournament starting Friday. There will be singles and doubles competition in five age divisions, 12-under, 14-under, 16-under, 18-under and open. There will also be mixed doubles in the open division.

For more information on either event, contact Ted Phillips at 573-2525.

Friday swingers

The SCGA Women's Golf Association holds a weekly swingers event at 5:30 each Friday. It is open to all members and prospective members. Cost is $10 per couple and the format is scramble.

Cash prizes go to the top three finishers as well as closest to the hole. For more information, call Barbara Leatherwood at 725-7875.

WGA weekly play day

The SCGA Women's Golf Association holds a weekly play day each Tuesday at 9 a.m. Format is queen of the hill.

WTC Men's Golf Association

The Men's Golf Association of Western Texas College holds a weekly event Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

SCGA weekly events

The Scurry County Golf Association holds a weekly scramble Tuesdays at 5:30. The Men's Golf Association holds an all-day MGA event each Thursday.

Major League Baseball

American League
By The Associated Press
All Times EDT

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	59	35	.628	—
Boston	55	37	.598	3
Baltimore	45	47	.489	13
Toronto	39	54	.419	19½
Tampa Bay	29	63	.315	29

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	55	41	.573	—
Chicago	45	51	.469	10
Cleveland	42	51	.452	11½
Kansas City	39	54	.419	14½
Detroit	35	58	.376	18½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	59	36	.621	—
Anaheim	55	38	.591	3
Oakland	55	40	.579	4
Texas	40	54	.426	18½

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

Thursday's Games
Boston (F.Castillo 5-10) at Tampa Bay (Sturtze 1-9), 12:15 p.m.
Detroit (Maroth 2-3) at N.Y. Yankees (D.Wells 10-5), 1:05 p.m.
Minnesota (J.Lincon 0-1) at Cleveland (Drese 8-7), 1:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 12-7) at Kansas City (Byrd 12-6), 2:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Driskill 6-2) at Toronto (Carpenter 2-1), 7:05 p.m.
Seattle (Baldwin 6-6) at Texas (Rogers 10-5), 8:05 p.m.
Anaheim (Sele 7-6) at Oakland (Zito 12-3), 10:05 p.m.

Friday's Games
Tampa Bay (Kennedy 5-8) at Toronto (Loaiza 3-5), 7:05 p.m.
Minnesota (Lohse 8-5) at Detroit (Moehler 1-0), 7:05 p.m.
Boston (P.Martinez 11-2) at N.Y. Yankees (Mussina 12-3), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Garland 8-6) at Baltimore (Lopez 9-3), 7:05 p.m.
Cleveland (Finley 4-11) at Kansas City (Asencio 2-2), 8:05 p.m.
Seattle (Garcia 11-5) at Anaheim (Ortiz 8-7), 10:05 p.m.
Texas (Myette 0-0) at Oakland (Lidle 2-8), 10:05 p.m.

National League
By The Associated Press
All Times EDT

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	60	35	.632	—
Montreal	48	46	.511	11½
New York	48	46	.511	11½
Florida	45	49	.479	14½
Philadelphia	44	49	.473	15

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	51	40	.560	—
Cincinnati	49	45	.521	3½
Houston	45	48	.484	7
Pittsburgh	44	50	.468	8½
Chicago	39	53	.424	12½
Milwaukee	34	61	.358	19

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	56	38	.596	—
Los Angeles	55	40	.579	1½
San Francisco	54	40	.574	2
Colorado	44	51	.463	12½
San Diego	38	56	.404	18

Wednesday's Games
Atlanta 10, Florida 0
N.Y. Mets 9, Montreal 6
Pittsburgh 6, Cincinnati 3
Philadelphia 4, Chicago Cubs 3, 10 innings
Houston 7, Milwaukee 3
San Francisco 5, St. Louis 4
Arizona 12, Colorado 3
San Diego 7, Los Angeles 0

Thursday's Games
Florida (Tavarez 7-5) at Atlanta (Glavine 11-5), 1:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Clement 7-6) at Philadelphia (Padilla 10-5), 1:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Estes 3-7) at Montreal (Colon 2-0), 1:35 p.m.
San Francisco (Schmidt 5-3) at St. Louis (Morris 10-6), 1:40 p.m.
Houston (Munro 1-0) at Milwaukee (J.Wright 2-8), 2:05 p.m.
Arizona (B.Anderson 5-7) at Colorado (Thomson 7-8), 3:05 p.m.
Cincinnati (Haynes 10-6) at Pittsburgh (K.Wells 10-6), 7:05 p.m.
San Diego (Tomko 4-6) at Los Angeles (Ashby 7-7), 10:10 p.m.

Friday's Games
Houston (Cruz 1-4) at Chicago Cubs (Prior 3-2), 3:20 p.m.
Montreal (Vazquez 7-5) at Florida (Tejera 5-2), 7:05 p.m.
Atlanta (Moss 4-4) at Philadelphia (Duckworth 5-7), 7:05 p.m.
St. Louis (B.Smith 1-5) at Pittsburgh (Beimel 1-4), 7:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Astacio 9-3) at Cincinnati (Fernandez 1-0), 7:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Quevedo 5-6) at Colorado (Chacon 4-6), 9:05 p.m.
Arizona (Batista 4-6) at San Diego (B.Jones 5-5), 10:05 p.m.
San Francisco (Rueter 7-6) at Los Angeles (Ishii 12-5), 10:10 p.m.

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Employment

Challenging positions are available for highly motivated, energetic RN's and LVN's. Position includes quality assurance, responsibilities and patient care. If you're interested in working for an agency that provides quality, compassionate care contact:
Covenant Home Health Care - Post
(806) 495-3533
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Wait-staff needed at Rudy's, 4604 College. No phone calls!

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Call or come by
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573-0109/573-0069 after 5p.m.

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Maintenance worker needed. Apply in person at Willow Park Inn, 1137 E. Hwy. 180.

Need someone to install windows & do carpenter work in my home. 573-6994 after 1p.m.

!! NEW HIGHER WAGES !!
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Now accepting applications for a full-time cook & wait-staff. Apply in person at The Shack, 1005 25th.

Now hiring at Plaza Restaurant, [illegible] cooks. Pick up applications at restaurant.

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NURSERY COORDINATOR for First Baptist Church. Part-time position. Must be able to organize, staff and maintain an efficient, caring nursery ministry. Pick up application at 1701 27th and return by July 19th.

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Police officer who punched teen indicted by grand jury

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A white police officer caught on videotape pummeling a handcuffed black teenager has been indicted on assault charges, less than two weeks after a beating that has drawn comparisons to the Rodney King case.

Inglewood Officer Jeremy Morse, 24, was expected to surrender today, said his attorney, John D. Barnett. Morse will plead innocent, he said.

"My client believes that an impartial jury will find that the use of force was necessary and he will be acquitted," Barnett said.

A grand jury also returned an indictment Wednesday afternoon against Morse's partner, Officer Bijan Darvish. He will face a charge of filing a false police report, Barnett said, and was also expected to surrender today.

A bystander taped Morse on July 6 slamming 16-year-old Donovan Jackson onto the trunk of a squad car and then punching him in the face.

The encounter has been compared to the 1992 beating of King by four white Los Angeles police officers and has sparked numerous civil rights protests and calls for police reform.

The felony charge Morse faces applies to any person in law enforcement who is accused of using his or her position to unlawfully assault or beat a person.

Morse has been placed on paid leave pending the outcome of federal, state and local investigations.

"Jeremy is not the racist here," Morse's stepfather, Roger Pettit, told KCOP-TV on Wednesday. "The racism is coming from officials from the city of Inglewood."

A watch commander for the Inglewood Police Department declined to comment Wednesday night on the indictment. A spokesman said the district attorney's office would not comment until the indictment was unsealed in court, but Barnett said Morse was in fact indicted.

The bystander, Mitchell Crooks, 27, was staying in a motel across the street from a gas station where Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies had stopped Jackson and his father, Coby Chavis, because their car had expired vehicle tags.

Inglewood officers had arrived to aid the deputies as Chavis was being questioned in the city, located next to Los Angeles.

Morse, a three-year veteran of the police department, said in a police report that Jackson was arrested after he struggled with officers, scratched Morse above his ear and grabbed the officer's crotch after being handcuffed. Morse was in "extreme pain" and punched Jackson to make him let go, according to the report.

The teen's relatives have said he is developmentally disabled and does not quickly process commands.

Darvish, who wrote the police report, said he punched Jackson twice in the face before the teen was handcuffed because he believed the boy would hit him. He did not describe how Jackson was placed on the trunk of the car, saying only that officers "assisted Jackson to his feet and had him stand facing the police vehicle."

Crooks was arrested last week on an unrelated warrant after prosecutors sought his testimony before a grand jury investigating the Inglewood arrest.

Owner of jewelry store posts bail

HOUSTON (AP) — A jewelry store owner has been indicted on federal charges of conspiracy and knowingly purchasing stolen jewels taken from mostly elderly women during a spate of robberies from 1992 to 1998.

Kenneth Roberts, who owns River Oaks Jewelry in Houston, was arrested Wednesday and later posted $50,000 bail.

Roberts will be tried with Henry Washington, who was already in custody. Washington was indicted in June of last year, and Tuesday's indictment adds a charge of conspiracy, prosecutor John R. Lewis said.

Prosecutors allege Washington introduced Roberts to a couple of now-convicted felons who targeted female victims, ages 61 to 88, and robbed them of their jewelry. Most of the women were residents of upscale Houston areas such as River Oaks, Tanglewood and Memorial.

The felons then allegedly delivered the jewelry to Roberts at his store for what was usually a cash payment.

Roberts and Washington face 20 years in prison on each count and a fine up to $500,000 — twice the value of the stolen property.



On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

For six-pack, stick to crunches

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I have a question about the new electronic ab exercisers that are all over the market. I want to know how they work, if they do. They claim to be able to give you massive six-pack abs with no calorie restrictions and no other exercise. My friends say it is a bunch of hokum, but I want to know for sure. — **M.Q., San Francisco, Calif.**

Dear M.Q.: I recall seeing similar advertisements for these types of products two years ago during a trip to Europe. They hadn't yet crossed the Atlantic to any significant degree, but during the past year, anyone who has caught an infomercial or opened up a magazine has witnessed the subsequent invasion. Is there any science here?

It turns out that there are medical devices designed to deliver electrical stimulation through the skin to make muscles contract. Similar devices are used to stimulate nerves. These devices can be used to help prevent muscle wasting after surgery or during periods of extreme inactivity. In the words of the Federal Trade Commission, however, it is pure "pump fiction" to think that those electronic muscle-stimulators being sold to the public can deliver "rock-hard" or "six-pack" abs. There is no evidence that they can build up new muscle. Another key fact is that is it illegal to sell these devices without FDA approval, which most of them don't have. I encourage you to read the article published by the Federal Trade Commission, located online at www.ftc.gov/opa/2002/05/projectabsurd.htm, and save your money.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I was wondering about the effect of diet on osteoporosis. In particular, I have read that ingesting too much protein is harmful and that it can affect the amount of calcium we absorb. Can you explain whether this is true, and, if so, why? — **S.B., No City or State**

Dear S.B.: High-protein diets can affect the amount of calcium in the body, but not calcium absorption to any appreciable degree. High-protein diets can cause the body to lose protein it has already absorbed.

Here's how it can happen: The body isn't set up to store extra protein, but the excess doesn't get eliminated. The body's first step is to change it into fuel. Proteins are made up of different amino acids, and some of them are modified into glucose. If the body has enough glucose, the glucose from the excess amino acids gets changed into fat for storage. When you change an amino acid into glucose, you have to take off the "amino" part, which is eliminated from the body through the kidneys. Minerals in the blood stream, including calcium, potassium and sodium, escort the amino group out of the body.

The bottom line is that, long-term, a high-protein diet can drain some of the body's calcium. The high-protein American diet likely contributes to the high incidence of osteoporosis in our society. It's worth noting that calcium requirements are lower in parts of the world where protein intake tends to be lower.

A convenient way to estimate your daily protein requirement is to count 11 grams of protein for every 30 pounds of body weight. Using this method, a 150-pound adult needs about 55 grams of protein per day. (Note: If you're overweight, use the ideal body weight for someone of your height.)

People over 60 years of age should count about 15 grams of protein per 30 pounds of body weight. Pregnant women should add an extra 10 grams of protein per day, and nursing mothers an extra 12 to 15 grams during the first six months. Growing children require more protein in relation to their body weight: about 1/2 gram of dietary protein per pound from age 1 to age 14.

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) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	13.07	12.25	12.57	—.30
AOL TimeWrn	12.49	11.75	12.31	—.80
AT&T Corp	10.46	10.24	10.35	—.10
Albertsons	28.40	27.95	28.02	+ .07
Alltel	45.00	44.28	44.68	+ .66
AmEl Pw	33.01	31.60	31.81	—2.64
AndarkPtr	44.66	43.84	44.25	+ .06
ATMOS Egy	20.93	20.81	20.86	—.04
Aviall	13.50	12.86	13.49	+ .53
BP PLC	46.17	45.30	45.59	—.09
BakerHughes	29.85	29.31	29.74	+ .60
Bank of Amer	65.40	64.44	64.48	—.52
BellSouth	30.75	29.65	30.20	+ .39
BurlNoSFe	28.20	27.60	28.15	+ .05
Caterpillar	43.20	42.16	42.51	—.39
ChevronTex	80.90	79.70	80.24	—.06
Citigroup	37.75	37.10	37.31	+ .38
CocaCola	50.36	48.69	48.70	—1.30
ColgatePal	48.05	47.20	47.68	+ .53
CmclMetals s	20.65	20.48	20.55	—.09
Cooper Inds	35.95	35.20	35.49	+ .58
DaimlrChry	46.65	46.03	46.43	—.27
DeltaAirl	16.66	15.75	16.13	—.32
Dillards Inc	24.19	23.63	23.71	+ .08
DowChem	30.70	30.15	30.35	—.08
DuPont	41.59	40.93	41.19	+ .19
EastmanChem	42.93	41.90	42.60	+ .90
EstKodak	28.67	28.27	28.48	+ .24
EDS Corp	33.10	32.20	32.76	—1.19
Entergy	38.50	37.81	37.82	—.66
ExxonMobil	36.14	35.43	36.05	+ .44
FstBksAm	40.00	39.75	39.85	—.24
FootLocker	12.44	12.00	12.00	—.12
GenDynam	90.10	85.50	88.28	—1.88
GenElec	28.54	27.97	28.10	—.05
GenMills	42.72	42.07	42.10	—.70
GenMotors	46.04	45.16	45.75	+ .65
GaPacific	24.20	23.25	24.05	+ .80
Goodrich	22.39	21.94	22.38	+ .35
Goodyear	16.50	16.10	16.14	—.16
GtAtlPac	17.75	17.54	17.74	+ .13
Halliburtn	13.19	12.84	13.11	+ .26
Hanson ADS	33.50	33.00	33.46	+ 1.56
HarteHanks s	18.48	17.89	17.89	—.57
HomeDepot	31.25	30.15	30.68	—.20
Honeywellntl	32.09	31.42	32.00	+ .90
IBM	72.45	70.09	71.25	+ .56
IntlPaper	40.90	40.10	40.56	+ .36
JohnsonJn	51.35	49.80	50.42	—.82
vjK mart	.75	.70	.74	+ .03
KinderMorg	40.60	40.09	40.20	+ 1.08
Kroger Co	19.45	19.10	19.22	—.18
LockheedM	61.45	59.30	60.55	+ .55
Lowes Cos	39.31	38.00	38.52	+ .33
Lubys	5.71	5.65	5.71	—.01
LucentTech	2.63	2.27	2.35	—.27
MarathonOil	24.45	24.04	24.31	+ .23
MayDeptStr	29.12	28.50	28.65	+ .05
Medtronic	39.38	38.46	38.79	—.59
Motorola	15.10	14.75	14.94	—.21
NCR Corp	32.66	32.08	32.21	—.29
Navistar	27.90	27.10	27.29	—.24
PNM Rescs	19.66	19.40	19.59	+ .27
Penney JC	17.25	16.84	16.90	
PepBoys	12.58	12.32	12.45	+ .13
PepsiCo	42.70	41.30	41.71	—.67
Pharmacia	40.25	39.70	39.85	—.63
PhelpDodge	38.48	37.90	38.05	—.25
PhilipPet	52.29	51.46	51.69	—.16
PilgrmPrd B	11.66	11.39	11.58	—.22
Praxair	51.25	50.45	50.84	+ .14
ProctGamb	81.85	80.11	81.35	+ 1.28
RadioShack	26.31	26.00	26.09	+ .03
ReliantEngy	14.71	14.40	14.49	—.22
RoyalDut	46.54	45.85	46.30	+ .79
SBC Comm	29.32	28.70	28.74	—.15
SaraLee	18.48	18.12	18.23	+ .05
Scripps EW	75.50	74.38	74.84	+ .56
SearsRoeb	45.97	43.64	44.16	—.17
SherwinW	27.60	26.85	27.42	+ .42
SouthernCo	25.42	25.01	25.02	—.42
SwstAirl	13.90	13.28	13.40	—.53
SprintFON	12.75	12.28	12.70	+ 1.00
SprintPCS	5.95	5.05	5.75	+ .75
Sunoco Inc	36.00	35.40	35.88	+ .25
TXU Corp	42.06	40.72	41.12	—.93
TempleInland	53.30	52.35	53.10	+ 1.10
TexInd	27.43	27.20	27.25	—.01
TexasInst	27.80	25.36	25.98	+ .20
Textron	40.28	39.23	40.00	+ 1.32
TrinityInds	19.27	18.92	19.27	+ .13
TylerTech	5.20	5.10	5.16	—.06
UnionPacif	59.80	58.79	59.65	+ .33
USSteel	17.78	17.53	17.60	—.18
UnitedTech	65.60	64.50	65.11	+ .16
Unocal	33.75	32.96	33.55	+ .35
VerizonComm	35.95	35.03	35.49	+ .13
WalMart	48.95	48.20	48.35	+ .10
WellsFargo	47.81	47.16	47.16	—.61
WstnGasRs	32.40	31.90	32.23	+ .24
WinnDixie	15.50	15.15	15.36	+ .13
Xerox Cp	6.54	6.26	6.47	+ .17
YumBrands s	26.75	26.25	26.47	+ .08

JUL 18 2002

Fossil of unknown flying reptile discovered

WASHINGTON (AP) — A previously unknown flying reptile that lived in the age of dinosaurs sported a bony crest more than two feet high and may have fed by skimming the surface of a lagoon to snatch fish in its long, sharp beak.

Researchers unearthed a nearly intact fossil skull of the animal near the town of Santan do Cariri in northeastern Brazil. The scientists said the animal lived about 110 million years ago, spending its life soaring on 15-foot wings over a land dominated by lumbering dinosaurs.

In a study appearing Friday in the journal Science, researchers Alexander W.A. Kellner and Diogenes de Almeida Campos say the animal is a new kind of pterosaur, a type of reptile that flew on large wings of furry skin, dipping and diving at speeds of up 25 mph to catch fish on the fly. Pterosaurs are the largest flying animals known.

The researchers named the new pterosaur Thalassodromeus sethi. The first word is Greek for "sea runner" and the second honors the ancient Egyptian god Seth.

The animal is thought to have lived on the shores of an ancient lagoon, called the Araripe, not far from the ocean.

Kellner and de Almeida Campos said in Science that the pterosaur's four-foot-long skull was topped with a hollow bony crest that rose 31 inches from the top of its head and may have acted like a rudder as the large animal flew.

The crest fossil is marked with grooves from blood vessels, suggesting that the top knot also helped keep the animal cool, the researchers say. The blood vessels would have been near the skin's surface, allowing body heat to escape easily into the atmosphere.

The sea runner's jaw structure resembles a modern bird, called a skimmer, that captures its prey by gliding across the surface of a pool and dipping its beak.

To feed, the authors suggest that Thalassodromeus dropped toward the water in a long swooping glide and then dipped its head and closed its toothed beak around an unwary fish swimming near the surface.

"The scissors-like bill of Thalassodromeus almost precludes any other method of capturing prey," the authors wrote.

Marks in the fossilized skull suggest the sea runner had powerful neck muscles, giving it the strength needed to capture a fish on the fly.

Kellner is with the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro. De Almeida Campos is with the Museum of Earth Sciences, also in Rio. Both are associate researchers at the American Museum of Natural History.

Alan Feduccia, a dinosaur expert at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, said the authors "have done a splendid job of bringing this large and remarkable ... pterosaur back to life."

He agrees that the animal probably was a skimmer, but questions the authors' interpretation that Thalassodromeus' large crest was for body cooling. Feduccia said there are modern birds, such as the hornbill, with large bony crowns that contain blood vessels used to nourish the head and not for cooling.

But despite the disagreement, Feduccia marvels: "One can only imagine the incredible sight of these flying reptiles skimming the Araripe lagoon some 110 million years ago."

Fossils of pterosaurs are more uncommon than the remains of many other animals from the age of dinosaurs. As with modern flying birds, the bones of pterosaurs were thin and usually didn't survive as fossils. The Araripe Basin, where Thalassodromeus was found, contains one of the largest deposits in the world of pterosaur fossils.

Pterosaurs ranged in size from sparrow-sized creatures up to massive fliers like Thalassodromeus. Unlike birds, the wings of pterosaurs had no feathers. Instead, there was a single long finger-like bone extending from a wrist that stretched a thin membrane that provided the aerodynamic lift to give the animal flight.

The fossils of another large pterosaur, called Pteranodon, has been found in Texas and Kansas. That animal is thought to have had a wing span of 23 feet and it, too, had a bony head crest, although smaller than that of Thalassodromeus.

Police arrested Miss Teen Texas on charge of public intoxication

ARLINGTON (AP) — Police on Saturday arrested Miss Teen Texas on suspicion of public intoxication after a 911 caller said she appeared to be about to drive away from a gathering while intoxicated, a police spokeswoman said.

Julia Anderson, 17, of Fort Worth was leaving a party at an Arlington apartment complex late Saturday night, police spokeswoman Christy Gilfour said. Three officers responding to the 911 call found Anderson with an 18-year-old man in the apartment parking lot, Gilfour said.

Both were arrested and charged with public intoxication.

Anderson, who was crowned Miss Teen Texas on July 2 in Fort Worth, could not be reached to comment Wednesday. Fort Worth-Dallas television station KXAS-TV reported that she told a pageant official she is innocent of the charges.

"No action will be taken by the executive board of directors of the Miss Teen Texas Pageant until we have had ample time to investigate all of the facts," said Kenneth Prachar, the pageant's executive director.

An officer reported that Anderson smelled of alcohol, Gilfour said. When she was asked if she had been drinking, she said yes, Gilfour said.

Officers said they were unable to locate family members who could pick up either of the pair. For safety reasons, the two were held for a few hours until they were sober, Gilfour said.

The Class C misdemeanor is punishable by a fine of up to $500.

Schwarz will be retried in police torture incident

NEW YORK (AP) — The Abner Louima torture trial saga isn't over yet.

The government plans to put a former patrolman on trial a fourth time in the wake of a mixed verdict earlier this week, a federal prosecutor said Wednesday.

"We intend to retry the case," U.S. Attorney Alan Vinegrad said a day after a jury convicted Charles Schwarz of perjury but deadlocked on more serious civil rights charges. Convictions of Schwarz at two previous trials were thrown out by an appeals court earlier this year.

Federal prosecutors alleged Schwarz restrained the handcuffed Haitian immigrant while another former officer, Justin Volpe, sodomized him with a broken broomstick. Schwarz denies ever being in the bathroom during the 1997 attack — the basis for the perjury charges.

Schwarz's attorney, Ronald Fischetti, said Wednesday that another trial "would not serve the public interest" and accused prosecutors of bending to the wishes of civil rights activists and of having a vendetta against his client. But Fischetti conceded he had no legal grounds for opposing a new trial.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Pantyhose find new life in chair repair and more

DEAR READERS: Letters are still coming in with suggestions for offbeat uses for pantyhose. Some of you deserve a medal for innovation. **Read on:**

DEAR ABBY: When the upholstered backrest of my favorite chair separated from the back panel, I tried to put the parts back together with glue, Velcro, earthquake wax (used by museums to secure priceless art objects), etc. Nothing worked.

Control-top pantyhose to the rescue! I tugged the elastic waist around the two broken pieces and lowered the pantyhose over the top of the chair to make the front and back one section again. I wrapped the legs around the whole chair twice and tied the ends in back with a firm knot. Now the chair can't fall apart. Sign me ... **DID IT WITHOUT DUCT TAPE, CLAREMONT, CALIF.**

**

DEAR ABBY: For more than 30 years, I flagged races for the American Motorcycle Association. Believe it or not, racers use pantyhose to protect themselves when they take a spill.

Because of the heat generated by intense friction, the leather pants racers wear can stick to their skin when they slide. Pantyhose allow the body to move under the leather without sticking. I learned this trick in the '60s when I saw a rider donning a pair. — **RUSS, RETIRED STARTER, HAMPTON, GA.**

**

DEAR ABBY: This predates pantyhose a bit: Forty-four years ago, I joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and was required to spit-shine two pairs of brown riding boots, two pairs of black ankle boots and one pair of Wellingtons.

Each evening, after all the spit-shines were complete, a ball of nylon stockings a bit larger than a baseball was used to "fine-tune" the job.

To this day, I still have that nylon ball — but I'll never reveal where it came from! — **R.B. IN OTTAWA**

**

DEAR ABBY: When I worked for construction companies during the cold winter months, I found a way to keep twice as warm as the rest of the crew, who were always bundled up like Eskimos.

Having noticed women running about in cold weather with only nylon pantyhose covering their legs, I tried a pair under my work pants. Lo and behold! I was warm as toast!

After I was persistently questioned by the guys about why I wore less clothing but always seemed warmer than they were, I told them my secret, and they had a good laugh.

One by one, the rest of the crew took up the practice — and guess who had the last laugh. — **RETIRED IN TEXAS**

**

DEAR ABBY: People who show horses braid the legs of cut-off pantyhose into their horses' newly washed tails. Then they tie the toe ends together so the tail is looped well off the ground. This prevents the horse from stepping on its tail and prevents it from being soiled.

One of my neighbors slipped your last column about pantyhose under my door with a note: "We can top this!" I live in a large retirement community, and more than 50 lovely ladies here donate their used pantyhose for my daughter's horse. — **RUTH MARSON, POMONA, CALIF.**

DEAR RUTH: I hope that wasn't a tall tail.

**

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

**

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

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, July 19, 2002

The year head, unlike many in the past, will be a time to expand upon arrangements, ventures or operations that already have a sound base. Big things can be in the offing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You will be the most fortunate today in arrangements where you can take charge. Pull the strings yourself, but do so without being abrasive or dictatorial. You won't need to be either. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that'll govern you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Both today and tomorrow your hunches and perceptions will be right on target. This will be especially true in matters that pertain to your career or material security.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Lady Luck is in your corner today, so be optimistic regarding your involvements and relationships. Chances are, you may feel in your bones that you're luckier than usual now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Don't focus on inconsequential objectives today, because your possibilities for achieving big things are better than usual. Fire your best shots on things that are important to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Bank on the knowledge you've acquired over the years. It will be what you know today that will bring you the most advantages and benefits. Let your expertise shine.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Without even having to ask, others may be granting you more favors today than you will know what to do with. Their generosity will be in response to what you've done for them in the past.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Get together today with a close friend or with someone whom you've always lucked out doing things with. It may be another one of those days to team up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Your earning potential is much better today than usual, so try to make the most of anything that can bring you bonus, rewards, profit and the like. What you acquire won't be a fluke.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Something that has been causing you problems lately can today be turned around to produce benefits instead of headaches. You'll recognize the opportunities as they occur and be able to utilize them.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — If you find yourself a few paces behind when the finish line comes into sight, don't despair. Just when you need her the most today, Lady Luck will come charging over the horizon.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Someone might come through for you today in ways that could usher in a whole new trend for you. It will affect conditions in many regions that'll prove benefic.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Take stock of your financial position today, because it is a good day for putting things in order, for devising more productive ways of using your funds and even for accumulating a little surplus.

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North Texas temps mild so far

DALLAS (AP) — There's a chance — not a huge one, but a chance — that for the first time in almost 30 years, North Texans could get through the summer without a single 100-degree day.

That's only happened twice since weather record-keeping began in Texas in 1898 — in 1906 and again in 1973.

"We've been talking about that, and there is some chance it could happen this year," said meteorologist Al Moller of the National Weather Service offices in Fort Worth. "I wouldn't bet on it. But there's certainly a higher percentage chance it would happen this year than during the past few years."

June 30 is the historical average start of 100-degree weather, and triple digits remain a possibility well into autumn. The area averages 15 per year

In 1980, the first 100-degree day of the summer didn't arrive until Aug. 23, when things should be cooling down. And three times — in 1938, 1951 and 1979 — the mercury topped 100 in early October, the latest on record.

The biggest reason for optimism this year is the upper-level ridge of high pressure that usually centers over the southern Rockies and extends into northern Texas. It is farther north and west than usual, Moller said.

That's meant high temperatures in places such as Arizona and New Mexico, which expect them in summer, and in Idaho and Montana, which don't.

Another ridge hangs over the Southeast, warming folks there.

The Dallas area sits between the two.

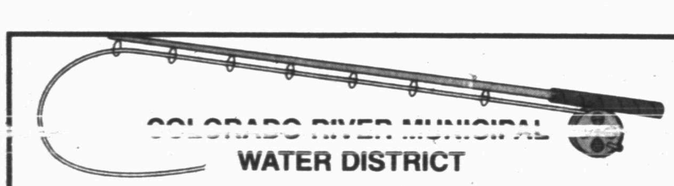
"Being between them, we have sustained a deep southerly flow bringing moisture up," Moller said. "Normally our flow is more from the southwest and drier. But with the southerly flow, we stay partly cloudy to mostly cloudy."

It is wetter than usual, too. More than 2 inches of rain fell at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport through the first 16 of July — about the same amount that falls the entire month in a more typical July.

Wet ground warms up more slowly, Moller said, which also limits maximum temperatures.

And without the high pressure ridge, which usually lingers into early fall and stubbornly blocks cool fronts that might bring rain, North Texas has enjoyed a surprisingly cool first month of summer.

The average high temperature through July 16 was just over 90, five degrees below normal.



COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

WEEKLY LAKE AND WATER DELIVERY REPORT

LAKE J. B. THOMAS (200,604 ACRE FEET AT ELEVATION 2258.00 FT.)



	ONE YEAR AGO 7/15/01	LAST WEEK 7/8/02	THIS WEEK 7/15/02
ELEVATION (FEET)	14.90	17.83	18.40
CONTENTS (ACRE-FEET)	14,121	19,367	20,552
PERCENT FULL	7.04	9.65	10.25
RAINFALL (INCHES) *		1.50	.30
IVIE TO LAKE THOMAS (Gal.)		0	0
SPENCE TO THOMAS (Gal.)		0	0

*RAINFALL MEASUREMENT AT BIG SPRING/ODESSA INTAKE.

E.V. SPENCE RESERVOIR (517,262 ACRE-FEET AT ELEVATION 1898.00 FT.)



	ONE YEAR AGO 7/15/01	LAST WEEK 7/8/02	THIS WEEK 7/15/02
ELEVATION (FEET)	46.52	42.36	42.36
CONTENTS (ACRE-FEET)	64.115	49,053	49,053
PERCENT FULL	12.39	9.48	9.48
RAINFALL (INCHES) *		6.50	.20

*RAINFALL MEASUREMENT AT SPENCE PUMP STATION.

O.H. IVIE RESERVOIR (554,340 ACRE-FEET AT ELEVATION 1551.50 FT.)



	ONE YEAR AGO 7/15/01	LAST WEEK 7/8/02	THIS WEEK 7/15/02
ELEVATION (FEET)	34.61	30.40	30.43
CONTENTS (ACRE-FEET)	289,734	241,101	241,426
PERCENT FULL	52.27	43.48	43.53
RAINFALL (INCHES) *		4.73	.09

* RAINFALL MEASUREMENT AT DAM.

2002 INFORMATION BASED ON NEW AREA CAPACITY CURVE DATA

MUNICIPAL WATER DELIVERIES IN GALLONS



	LAST WEEKS DAILY AVERAGE 7/8/02 7/2/02	THIS WEEKS DAILY AVERAGE 7/15/02 7/9/02	THIS WEEKS PEAK DAY 7/15/02 7/9/02
BIG SPRING	5,897,143	5,390,000	7,030,000
ODESSA	26,405,571	22,506,143	26,360,000
SNYDER	2,557,143	2,268,286	2,688,000
MIDLAND	27,354,143	27,086,429	30,384,000
SAN ANGELO	13,807,714	13,312,143	20,560,000
STANTON	167,857	156,857	204,000

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Cheney, Halliburton investigation continues

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Dick Cheney has not publicly discussed his actions as chairman and CEO of Halliburton Co. since it came under investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission and became the target of multiple lawsuits for its accounting practices.

The latest suit against Halliburton was announced Wednesday by a participant in the company's retirement plan. Cheney is a defendant in a lawsuit filed by Judicial Watch, a conservative watchdog group, over Halliburton's accounting practices.

President Bush said Wednesday he believed Cheney would be exonerated of any wrongdoing. "When I picked him, I knew he was a fine business leader and a fine, experienced man, and he's doing a great job," the president said.

Cheney himself has neither been contacted by the SEC since it opened the probe, nor spoken to journalists about it.

Here, in question and answer form, is a look at the Halliburton situation:

Q: What is Halliburton?

A: The company provides products and services to the petroleum industry worldwide, selling the hardware for exploring and drilling on land and under sea and its engineering know-how for building refining and processing plants and pipeline.

Q: What was Cheney's role at Halliburton?

A: Cheney was chairman and chief executive of the company from 1995 to 2000. A former secretary of defense with experience in Congress and at the White House, Cheney helped open doors for Halliburton as it sought government business and contracts overseas, particularly in the Middle East.

Q: What is the SEC investigating?

A: The commission informed Halliburton on May 28 that it was looking into the company's accounting practices, starting in 1998 on projects where there were cost overruns. Halliburton began counting revenue on the assumption that its customers would pay at least part of the cost overruns, although they remained in dispute and customers sometimes didn't pay on time. The SEC also is investigating whether the company adequately disclosed the practice to investors. Halliburton says it adopted the accounting change because of a transition in the types of contracting it was doing, and says the move was disclosed in footnotes in financial statements.

Q: What's wrong with this accounting change?

A: Judicial Watch alleges in its lawsuit that the changes resulted in overvaluation of Halliburton's stock, deceiving investors. It says the company overstated revenues by $445 million from 1999 through the end of 2001 through what it termed "fraudulent security practices." Halliburton says most publicly traded companies in its industry were using the same accounting practice it switched to, and insists it has always followed "generally accepted accounting principles."

Q. How will investigators determine whether Halliburton's actions were proper?

A. "For any company you have to take into account what its experience has been with respect to collecting past cost overruns," said Alan Bromberg, distinguished professor of corporate law and securities at Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University. "If the past experience has been good, that tells you that the probability of collection is very high and it's reasonable to treat that as revenue."

Q. If what Halliburton did is common practice in the industry, does that make it proper?

A. "I think it's a limited defense," Bromberg said.

Q: What did Cheney know?

A: He did not approve the accounting change, the company said, although he helped collect revenue from cost-overrun projects. Top company officials said Cheney knew Halliburton was counting cost-overrun payments as revenue. As CEO, Cheney signed Halliburton's financial statements in 1998 and 1999.

Q: Will the government defend Cheney if he needs a lawyer in the SEC probe or the lawsuits?

A: No. Cheney was not a government employee during the period under scrutiny. Terry O'Donnell, Cheney's personal lawyer, would represent the vice president. Cheney has not put O'Donnell on notice, a spokeswoman says, and neither the SEC nor Judicial Watch has contacted Cheney.

Q: How much was Cheney paid to head Halliburton?

A: Cheney retired from Halliburton in August 2000. For the nearly eight months he served that year, he received $4.3 million in deferred compensation and bonuses, and $806,332 in salary. The summer when he began his campaign with Bush for the White House, Cheney sold stock options worth just over $40 million.

It was fortuitous timing. When Cheney retired from Halliburton on Aug. 16, 2000, the company's stock sold for $54.02 a share. Battered in recent months by asbestos liabilities, falling profits in its energy units and the SEC probe, Halliburton closed Wednesday at $12.85.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Hyperventilation syndrome is easy to treat

DEAR DR. GOTT: When an elderly friend of mine is stressed and experiences a rapid, irregular pulse rate, she inhales and exhales into a brown paper bag. How can inhaling carbon dioxide be therapeutic?

DEAR READER: I believe your friend has confused two common medical conditions: palpitations and hyperventilation syndrome.

In the first instance, healthy people — as well as those with heart ailments — may experience episodes of rapid, irregular pulse. Such a "maverick" rhythm can often be arrested by stimulating the vagus nerves to slow the heartbeat. This can be accomplished by gentle pressure on the carotid artery (in the neck, just below the angle of the jaw) or, more easily, by performing the Valsalva maneuver, during which the patient briefly but vigorously strains (as though lifting a heavy object). This increases pressure in the chest, which in turn stimulates the vagus nerves to slow the pulse. Self-induced gagging is equally effective but is more unpleasant. The Valsalva maneuver is not related to re-breathing carbon dioxide; rather, its effects are purely the result of increasing thoracic pressure.

Hyperventilation, on the other hand, is a frequent consequence of nervousness and anxiety. It is marked by rapid breathing that causes excess loss of carbon dioxide from the blood, leading to [illegible] and lips, lightheadedness and fainting. Because carbon dioxide, once exhaled, is normally lost in the air, practitioners traditionally treat hyperventilation syndrome by having patients breathe into a paper bag. This re-circulates exhaled carbon dioxide into the lungs, re-establishes the normal acidity of the blood and prevents symptoms. It is a harmless practice. Thus, paper-bag breathing is appropriate therapy for hyperventilation, but not necessarily for rapid pulse — unless the increased heart rate is a direct result of the hyperventilation.

I encourage your friend to clarify this issue with her doctor.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My doctor has prescribed Mevacor for my high cholesterol levels. What are the side effects? Can it affect the eyes?

DEAR READER: Mevacor (lovastatin) is a cholesterol-lowering drug that acts by interfering with the liver's production of low-density lipoprotein, the bad cholesterol.

Although most patients tolerate the medicine without difficulty, Mevacor causes some side effects in a small percentage of patients: constipation, gas, headache and rash.

The major complications of Mevacor (and other "statin" drugs) are liver inflammation (rare) and rhabdomyolysis, breakdown of muscle tissue (rarer still).

In the first instance, the complication can be monitored by blood tests every four to six weeks of initial therapy, followed by repeat analyses every four to six months thereafter. If the testing shows persisting or worsening abnormalities, the medicine should be immediately discontinued.

In the second instance, the muscle breakdown causes pain, tenderness and weakness. This can be serious because it can lead to kidney damage. If you were to experience unexpected and unexplained muscle symptoms, you should stop the Mevacor and check with your physician, who may order a confirmatory blood test.

Such testing may not be necessary, I am told, because most patients will automatically discontinue the medication anyway. The issue becomes academic.

To my knowledge, Mevacor is not associated with serious eye problems, although the drug can occasionally cause blurred vision. You should ask your doctor about this. Anybody taking a prescription drug, such as Mevacor, is entitled to complete information about its benefits and risks.

A NOTICE TO READERS: For an updated and revised Health Report on "Diabetes Mellitus," send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to mention the title. Also, be on the lookout for more updated Health Reports.

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Former star athlete sentenced to death

CONROE (AP) — A former high school star running back has been sentenced to death row for abducting a 12-year-old girl two years ago, raping her and then killing her.

An all-white jury decided on death for Jonathan Marcus Green after 3½ hours of deliberations Wednesday.

The panel of eight men and four women had convicted Green on capital murder charges Monday in the death of Christina LeAnn Neal, who disappered June 21, 2000, as she was returning home from a friend's house in Dobbin, 15 miles west of Conroe in west Montgomery County.

In the 1980s, Green was a star high school athlete at Montgomery, a few miles north of Dobbin.

Green, who is black, remained impassive as the verdict was read. He sat down for a moment after he understood he had been sentenced to die, but rose again when it became clear that state District Judge Suzanne Stovall wanted him to remain standing. An appeal is automatic.

In contrast to the silent Green, the parents of Christina LeAnn Neal vented their anger when given the opportunity to address their daughter's killer.

"Every day for our family is like a nightmare because of what you've done," said Christina's father, Victor Neal. "There will be a place in hell for you for what you've done."

The girl's mother, Laura Neal, looked at Green and said, "I hope you will never forget the smell of Christina's decomposing body."

Christina's body was found in Green's house 30 days after she disappeared. Her body was wrapped in a gray blanket and stuffed into a blue laundry bag behind a sofa.

"I hope you remember when you go to sleep at night and I hope you have nightmares like us. I hope every day of your life is a living hell and that you suffer like Christina had to," the victim's mother said.

Defense attorney Jerald Crow of Conroe downplayed the racial makeup of the jury, saying the state had a "very good case."

The defense and the prosecution said Green was judged by an all-white jury because there were so few blacks in the jury pool.

Mike Griffin, assistant district attorney, said there were only about 10 blacks in the jury pool and half of them no longer lived in Montgomery County. The rest were disqualified for other reasons, he said.

Griffin and another assistant district attorney, Patty Maginnis, argued during the penalty phase that Green had a history of violence that would make him a continuing threat to society if he is permitted to live.

Maginnis described to jurors Green's alleged treatment of one of two women he is accused of raping before killing Christina. The prosecutor said that in order to stifle the screams of a woman he was sodomizing, Green stuck his fingers down the woman's throat, then continued to rape her after she vomited.

She also recounted assaults on jailers and inmates during his two years awaiting trial in the Montgomery County Jail and his use of a pair of pruning shears to stab to death a pony he had allegedly stolen from a petting zoo.

Steel honored by French government

PARIS (AP) — Danielle Steel, the prolific romance novelist, has been honored by the French government for her contribution to the arts.

Steel, author of "Sunset in St. Tropez" and numerous other novels, was awarded the Order of Arts and Letters in a July 10 ceremony in Paris, her publicist said this week.

She spent most of her childhood in France, and French was her first language.

"I don't write like Shakespeare, but I think there is a certain amount of merit to what I do," the 54-year-old author said when asked about her reputation as a "commercial writer" in a recent interview.

—

Roman Julius Caesar was born in 100 B.C.

Gov. Bush's daughter jailed for violating treatment plan

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A judge sentenced Noelle Bush, the daughter of Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, to three days behind bars for violating a court-ordered drug treatment plan by having prescription pills in a treatment center.

Noelle Bush, 24, was sentenced Wednesday for contempt of court and taken to a jail in Orlando.

Her lawyer, Pete Antonacci, said he didn't know what kind of pills had been in his client's possession. He said she had the pills for about a half-hour but tested negative for having taken them.

A letter from the treatment center to Judge Reginald Whitehead said Bush was questioned by a staffer who noticed her carrying pills. Bush said she had found the pills, while a nurse said they were taken from a cabinet in her office, the letter said.

"There is a concern about her lack of honesty, and how it relates to her (recovery)," the letter said.

Bush was arrested in January at a pharmacy drive-through window for allegedly trying to buy the anti-anxiety drug Xanax with a fraudulent prescription. She was admitted to a drug treatment center in February, with the possibility that charges would be dropped if she completed the program.

Bush was being held in protective custody, as is common with high-profile inmates, authorities said. A hearing on her case was set for Friday, the day of her release.

In an e-mail to reporters, the governor said Wednesday: "We love Noelle, but she is an adult, and I respect the role of the courts in carrying out our state's drug treatment policies."

The jail normally doesn't allow weekday visitors, but the governor was allowed to visit his daughter Wednesday night after speaking in Orlando.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Powell meets with Arab ministers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Egypt offered today to train Palestinian police as Israel withdrew its forces from the West Bank.

Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher said the offer to improve security was conditioned on Israel pulling out.

"It is impossible to do this under occupation," Maher said.

The training would be done city-by-city, as Israeli troops departed, he told reporters before meetings with President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Otherwise, Maher said at a news conference, Israel would continue to disarm and arrest Palestinian police.

Israel has seized control of all Palestinian towns except Jericho to try to halt terror attacks. Maher said the recurrence of attacks this week on the West Bank and in Tel Aviv showed "violence will not control violence."

Maher said the attacks stemmed from Palestinian despair over Israel's occupation.

Bush and Powell also were meeting with Foreign Ministers Marwan Muasher of Jordan and Saud al-Faisal of Saudi Arabia.

"The president sees avenues for progress," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

"Despite terrorist acts, the president is determined to continue the political process so prospects for peace can be enhanced," he said.

House drafts Homeland Security bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite resistance from key lawmakers, President Bush would win approval of several major pieces of his proposed Homeland Security Department under legislation unveiled today in the House.

There also would be some significant changes in the president's plan for the new 170,000-employee Cabinet agency, according to details of the measure released by House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas.

The legislation, which the House Select Committee on Homeland Security chaired by Armey plans to consider Friday, would place the Coast Guard, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Secret Service in the new department.

Each of these agencies had been left out of the plan by one or more House committees in recommendations made last week. Opposition to moving FEMA also arose Wednesday in the Senate, where Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman James Jeffords said the change would threaten the agency's ability to respond to natural disasters.

"We must preserve FEMA's mission, and the resources and support necessary to carry it out, in any federal government reorganization," Jeffords, I-Vt., said in a letter to drafters of the Senate measure.

But the House select panel's draft bill reflects Bush's view that FEMA, the Coast Guard and Secret Service are "too important to be left out" of an agency dedicated to safeguarding Americans from terrorism, congressional aides said.

Earlier in the day, House Government Reform Committee Chairman Dan Burton, R-Ind., said Bush's new department should get each of these pieces.

Congress mulls bill on anti-terrorism

WASHINGTON (AP) — House and Senate negotiators met today to put the finishing touches to a $28.9 billion package for beefing up anti-terrorism programs that has been a source of contention between President Bush and Congress for some four months.

"It's not a perfect package, but sooner or later you have to move on and now is one of those times," said Rep. Dave Obey, D-Wis., top Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee.

The plan would rush money to the Pentagon, the FBI and other domestic security agencies, and to New York to help it heal from the Sept. 11 attacks. The funds are for the rest of the federal fiscal year that runs through Sept. 30.

"We want to get it passed before we leave here," said House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., referring to the House's planned July 26 departure for its summer recess. The Senate will work one week longer.

In March, Bush asked Congress for $27.1 billion. The House and Senate approved larger measures, the Senate's topping out at $31.5 billion.

House-Senate bargainers thought they had a tentative $30.4 billion package last week. But White House budget chief Mitchell Daniels threatened a Bush veto of anything exceeding $28.8 billion, a demand that subjected him to unusually harsh bipartisan attacks by lawmakers.

Eventually, that figure became the focus of renewed talks. With just 10 weeks left in the fiscal year, pressure built on legislators to move toward the lower number. The apparent final figure of $28.9 billion included $100 million added to deal with wildfire and floods.

In a win for conservatives, language was retained that would let Bush withhold $34 million approved last year in aid for United Nations family planning programs overseas, according to aides from both parties speaking on condition of anonymity.

To balance that, a provision was watered down that would have barred U.S. cooperation with the new International Criminal Court, which tries war crimes cases.

Aides said the emerging bill was to include about $15 billion for defense and intelligence programs and about $7 billion for aviation security, border patrols and other domestic safety programs, nearly $2 billion more than Bush wanted.

It would also have $5.5 billion to help New York recover from the Sept. 11 attacks, $2.1 billion for foreign aid and embassy security, $205 million for Amtrak, $1 billion for shortfalls in higher education grants, $417 million for veterans health care and $400 million to help states revamp their voting systems. Some $3 billion in reductions in other programs were found to bring the final figure down to the White House request.

The House is scheduled to take up two more spending bills on today. One covers the operations of Congress and other legislative offices, while the other is an $18.5 billion bill for the Treasury Department that boosts anti-terrorism and drug-fighting efforts in the Customs Service.

Car dealers support Sanchez

DALLAS (AP) — Texas car dealers — a mostly Republican group that has not supported a statewide Democratic candidate in more than a decade — are shifting their support from Gov. Rick Perry to Democratic challenger Tony Sanchez.

Interviews and campaign finance records suggest a shift among the state's 1,300 car dealers, The Dallas Morning News reported.

"The dealer support for Sanchez is going to surprise a lot of people," said Sam Pack, the owner of three Dallas-area Ford dealerships and a Republican serving as a co-chairman of the Sanchez campaign. "And I think the number of people crossing party lines will surprise a lot of people."

During last year's legislative session, auto dealers saw both of their high-priority bills, measures lobbied to approval, killed without warning by Perry.

Perry's spokesman said he stands by his actions, as he does his 82 vetoes in 2001.

One of the bills would have raised the documentary fee dealers can charge on new car sales from $50 to $75, raising an estimated $62.5 million for dealers annually. The other would have allowed them to sell "gap insurance," unregulated policies to cover the shortfall when an outstanding loan exceeds the value of a new car that is totaled.

Perry spokesman Ray Sullivan said, "This was a clear case where Governor Perry sided with Texas families and consumers over a handful of political constituents. The governor did what he believed was right."

Sanchez's spokesman said the Laredo businessman has not taken a position on car dealers' pet bills, but when he does, they'll know about it.

"We're proud to have the support of a number of dealers, and all the people who were wronged by Rick Perry in his midnight vetoes," said the press aide, Mark Sanders.

The Texas Automobile Dealers Association, one of the strongest lobby groups in the state, generally supports candidates through its political action committee

Obituaries

Bunny Little

1915-2002

BIG SPRING — Bernice Irene "Bunny" Little, the aunt of Duchess Klein of Snyder, died Monday, July 15, at her home in Midland.

Funeral service for Mrs. Little, 86, is set for 2 p.m. Friday in the Nalley-Pickel & Welch Chapel and interment will follow in Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Born Nov. 7, 1915 in Taylor County, the family moved to Glasscock County in 1929 and she was a 1934 graduate of Forsan High School. She married Marion Vernon Little on Dec. 24, 1938. He died in 1967.

Mrs. Little lived on the family farm in Glasscock County until 1988 when she moved to Midland where she was a member of the Fannin Terrace Baptist Church.

Survivors also include a daughter, Doylene Raney of Midland; four sisters-in-law; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; another niece; and two nephews.

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Woman arrested at driver's license office

Arrest

Police arrested a 24-year-old woman at the driver's license office at 2:40 p.m. Wednesday on Mineral Wells warrants for speeding, no liability insurance and failure to appear. She was released after paying her fines.

Thefts

At 10 o'clock Wednesday morning, Antonio Torres reported the theft of his Weedeater from the 1400 block of 23rd Street.

Johnny Holey reported the theft of an air compressor from the 2500 block of Avenue H at 1:50 Wednesday afternoon.

Ronnie Wooldridge requested officers at 10:14 p.m. Wednesday in reference to an undisclosed amount of cash being stolen from the 2400 block of Avenue L.

Criminal mischief

Richard Hester reported vandalism to Travis gym and an offense report for criminal mischief was filed.

At 11:30 Wednesday night, Jay Cromeens reported his mailbox being smashed in the 2700 block of 32nd Street.

A broken window was reported in the 3700 block of Austin at 6 o'clock this morning and an offense report for criminal mischief was submitted.

Close patrols

Alfonso DeLuna reported a dog chasing his children in the 3600 block of Hill Avenue.

Animal locked in vehicle

An unknown caller reported a dog locked in a pickup at Polynesian Gardens just after 1 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, and the animal control officer contacted the owner of the vehicle.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Museum exhibit

A special exhibit of Harley-Davidson, Indian motorcycles and Cushman motor scooters continues through Aug. 22 at the Scurry County Museum on the Western Texas College campus. The free exhibit is entitled Ready To Roll and all bikes are owned by residents of Scurry County.

Medical fund

A medical fund has been established for James Weldon Buchanan at American State Bank to help with cancer treatment expenses. The account name is James Weldon Buchanan Medical Fund, #4802659.

Cheerleader mini camp

Registration for the SHS cheerleader mini camp will be from 5-7 p.m. today at the Humble Smith office. The camp will be July 29-Aug. 1. Cost is $40 per camper and they will perform at the Aug. 30 football game.

Open house

Snyder Healthcare Center will host an open house from 2 to 6:15 p.m. Friday. Staff will provide tours of renovated facilities. There will be door prizes, entertainment and refreshments. For more information call 573-6332.

Nazarene garage sale

First Church of the Nazarene, located on Hwy 208, will conduct a garage sale from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday as a church fundraiser.

Burrito, garage sale

First Assembly of God, 1809 College, will have a burritio sale from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday. Home delivery on orders of five or more will be made between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. There also will be a garage sale from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Girl Scout swim party

A Girl Scout swim party will be 5-7 p.m. Saturday at Towle Park pool, followed by a hot dog supper in the park. Girl Scout membership card is required for admittance. There will be a leader meeting during the party. Contact your leader or call 573-3926 for more information.

Adventures with Paul VBS

Adventures with Paul Vacation Bible School will be from 9 a.m. until noon Monday through Wednesday at 37th St. Church of Christ. It is for ages two years through the sixth grade. For more information, call 573-0154.

Gateway Family Services

Gateway Family Services has a parenting discussion group from 10:30-11:30 a.m. every Tuesday, focusing on parenting issues and special challenges. The family violence support group also meets from 6:30-7:30 p.m. every Tuesday.

GED testing

Mandatory pre-registration for the GED tests is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. next Thursday on the WTC campus. Testing begins at 8 a.m. next Friday. Call 573-2919, or 573-8511, ext. 297, or 574-2112.

Discovery School garage sale

Discovery School will have a garage sale Friday, July 26, from 9 a.m. until noon, and 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the youth center (old Lone Star Gas building) at 27th St. and Ave. R. If you have anything you would like to donate, bring it by the Discovery School office or call 573-4770.

Cheerleader fundraiser

SHS freshmen cheerlers will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts from 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, at Wal-Mart.

Head Start registration

Head Start registration will be held Aug. 5-9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children must be at least three years old and family must meet income guidelines or child must have a diagnosed disability. Birth certificate, current immunization records, Social Security Card and proof of family income are required.

Fall poetry contest

Mesquite Country Writers Guild is accepting entries for its fall poetry contest. Theme is open and there is a 20-line limit. Deadline is Aug. 15 and entry fee is $2. First prize is $50, second is $30 and third is $20. Mail entries to Yvonne Nunn, 9221 S. State Hwy 208 in Hermleigh, 79526.

Sonshine School registration

Sonshine School for ages two through five, is underway and informational packets are available at 37th Street Church of Christ office weekdays from 8:30 a.m. until noon, and from 1-4:30 p.m. Registration fee is $30 and monthly tuition is $45. Open house and registration is 9 a.m. Aug. 15. Call 574-1960 for more information.

Cancer treatment transportation

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

Calling all poets

The Mesquite Country Writers Guild is inviting poets to send an original poem to be published in the fall newsletter, "Bards of a Feather." Theme is open with a 20-line limit. Mail entries to Yvonne Nunn, 9221 S. Hwy 208 in Hermleigh, 79526.

Past water claims mean no insurance for some houses

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas' second-largest homeowners' insurer — Farmers Insurance Co. — no longer writes new policies for homes that have had a water-damage claim in the past three years.

The company also no longer insures houses older than 30 years unless they have had their plumbing systems renovated in the past 10 years.

The move by Farmers, which took effect Monday, follows a similar but less restrictive decision last month by Allstate Insurance Co.

Allstate no longer issues new policies for houses or individuals with water claims in the past three years.

Some agents for Farmers said the company wants to pare back its business in Texas, where it says it's suffered mounting financial losses from water and mold claims.

"We're trying to hang in there as best we can" and keep writing policies, Farmers spokesman Mark Toohey said.