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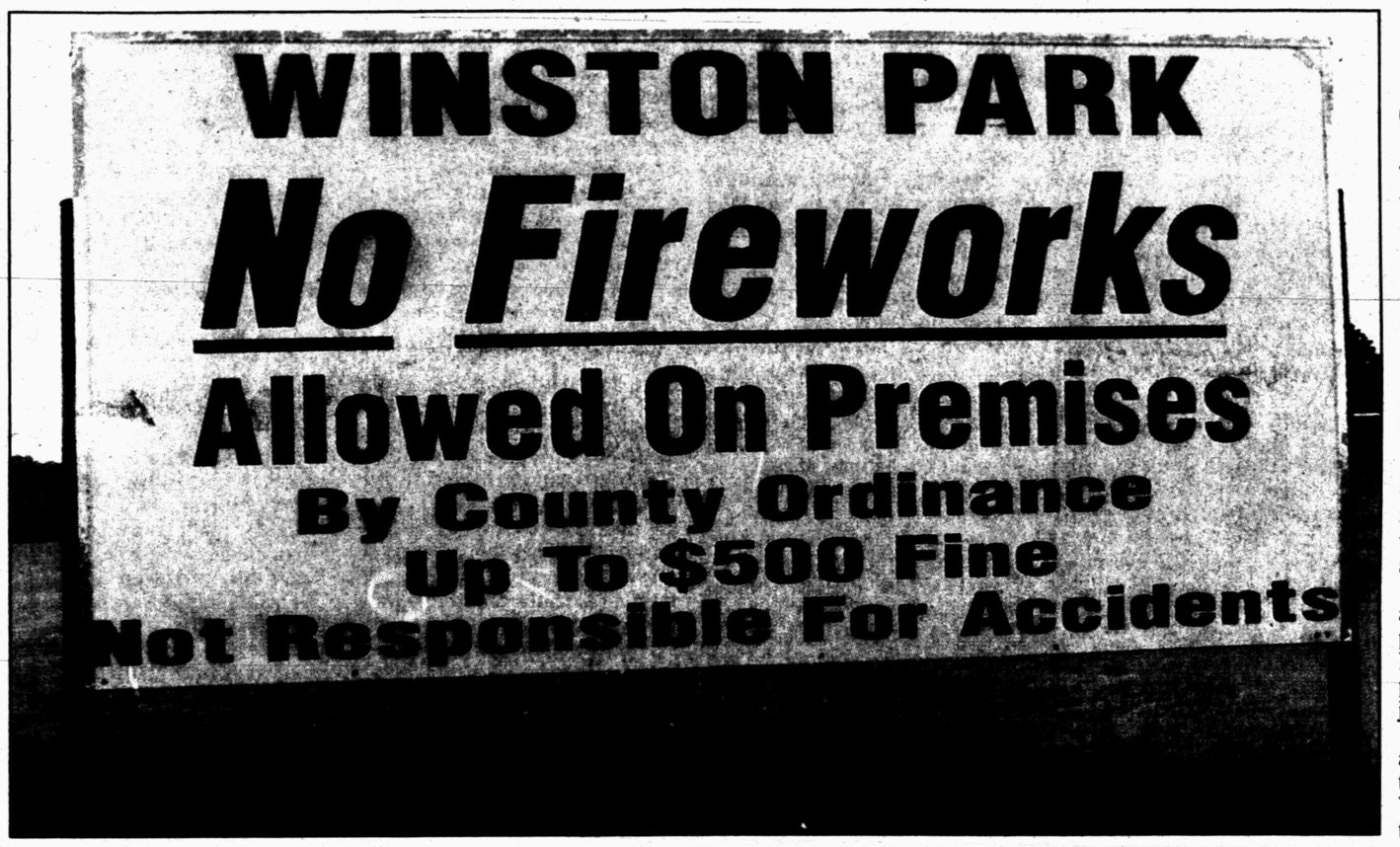
WT-Int. Crude - $38.11
WTIC Posted - $34.75
Natural Gas - $6.41s

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY

June 23, 2004
Vol. 56 No. 46
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Dee & Giles Kemp



SIGN OF THE TIMES — Scurry County officials put up signs this week to remind residents that shooting fireworks in the park is illegal. The decision to ban fireworks on county property was made after Winston Park was left littered last July 4th. (SDN Staff Photo by Jeff West)

County to enforce no fireworks at parks

Some have been surprised by signs put up at Winston Park this week, a reminder that fireworks aren't allowed, although the law has been on the books since last year.

Parks supervisor Scott Crenwelge said he went to the Scurry County commissioners court last September requesting that fireworks be banned at the park, and all other county-owned facilities.

"We asked for this ordinance after last July 4th," he said. "The people who shot off the fireworks last year littered over the whole park. It took us a couple of days just to clean up after them."

County Judge Rod Waller agreed, "There was paper and trash and everything out there. We decided it was better to ban the fireworks than to spend several days cleaning up."

Picking up the trash was not the only problem at the park last year, Crenwelge said. He said law enforcement also wanted the ban.

"There were also safety concerns. The sheriff's department was called out a number of times with people shooting fireworks at each other. I even heard that people shot fireworks at one of the deputies that came to investigate a complaint," Crenwelge said.

The two signs that are up now at Winston Park are designed to be permanent and will probably be left up, according to Crenwelge. As soon as the budget allows, similar signs will go up at the coliseum and other county facilities.

For employees...

Insurance tops hospital agenda

Selecting the hospital's third-party administrator for its self-funded insurance plan is one of the main topics of Thursday morning's Cogdell Memorial Hospital board of managers meeting.

Currently, the hospital uses C. L. Frates as the third party administrator.

The hospital administration also has sought bids from the Texas Association of Counties for a fully-insured plan, but it is not known if those figures will be available in time for tomorrow's board meeting.

CEO Carol Hanes will present information on a possible contract for physician recruitment, and also discuss the hospital's present policy on tuition reimbursement.

Hanes and radiology department head Tracy Moore will present information on a CT Scanner for possible purchase, and several reports will be given.

Reports include the monthly medical staff report from Dr. Bid Cooper, the first quarter quality improvement report, the year-end safety report and the annual report from the auxiliary.

The monthly financial reports will be presented by interim CFO Richard Murphy, and Cheryl Chance, director of nurses, will present the nursing report.

Al-Zarqawi vowing to assassinate Iraqi leader

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A recording purportedly made by the mastermind of bombings and beheadings in Iraq threatened to assassinate Iraq's interim prime minister and fight the Americans "until Islamic rule is back on Earth."

The audio, found today on an Islamic Web site, is supposedly from Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian-born terrorist whose group claimed responsibility for the beheading of American hostage Nicholas Berg and Kim Sun-il, a South Korean whose decapitated body was found Tuesday between Baghdad and Fallujah.

South Koreans reacted with sorrow and anger to Kim's beheading today, with President Roh Moo-hyun calling it a "crime against humanity."

After the slaying, U.S. forces launched an airstrike on what the Americans said was an al-Zarqawi hideout in Fallujah. Three people were killed and nine wounded, said Dr. Loai Ali Zeidan at Fallujah Hospital. It was the second U.S. airstrike on Fallujah since Saturday.

"In both cases, we believe we hit significant numbers of al-Zarqawi lieutenants and al-Zarqawi fighters," said Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, the coalition's deputy operations chief. The airstrikes also destroyed large ammunition stores, Kimmitt said today.

Kim's body was found two days after he appeared on a videotape broadcast by Al-Jazeera television, pleading "I don't want to die," and begging his government to pull its soldiers out of Iraq.

South Korea refused and said it would go ahead with plans to send another 3,000 forces here by August, which will make it the third-largest troop contributor after the United States and Britain.

"When we think of his desperate appeals for life, our hearts are wrenched with grief," Roh said tdoay in a national television address.

In the audiotape, the speaker thought to be al-Zarqawi told Iraq interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi that "we will continue the game with you until the end." The speaker said "we will not get bored" until "we make you drink from the same glass" as Izzadine Saleem, the Iraqi Governing Council president killed last month in a car-bombing claimed by al-Zarqawi's group.

"We will carry on our jihad against the Western infidel and the Arab apostate until Islamic rule is back on Earth," the voice said.

An official with Allawi's office dismissed the threat, saying it would not derail the transfer of sovereignty next week.

President Bush called Allawi to "reiterate his commitment to the Iraqi people," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan.

Three inmates escape from Liberty County jail facility

LIBERTY (AP) — Three Liberty County inmates who escaped by overpowering and then locking a guard in a cell remained on the loose today, authorities said.

The U.S. Marshals and Texas Rangers were helping Liberty County officials search for Daniel Jo Redden, Jasper Skye Rivera and Lloyd Forest Lowe, who escaped about 1 a.m. this morning.

It was unclear if the trio secured a vehicle or were on foot, a Liberty County Sheriff's office spokeswoman said. All three are considered dangerous, but it wasn't immediately clear what they were jailed for, she said. Rain prevented search dogs from picking up a scent, she added.



OUT WITH THE OLD — Jackie Blacklock of Row Wall Electric helps clean out parts from the air conditioning system at Snyder High School. Work to get the old system out and new air ducts in on the first floor are being completed this summer. (SDN Staff Photo by Jeff West)

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN

by Jo Ann Nunley



I've previously written about how the other half's idiosyncrasies are earning me "stars in my crown," but I feel I must be fair and balanced.

The following quips relate a man's interpretation about what a woman means when she says something.

*You want = You want.
*We need = I want.
* It's your decision = The correct decision should be obvious by now.
*Do what you want = you'll pay for this later.
*We need to talk = I need to complain.
*Sure...go ahead = I don't want you to.
*I'm not upset = Of course I'm upset, you moron!
*You're...so manly = You need a shave and you sweat a lot.
*You're certainly attentive tonight = is sex all you ever think about?
*Be romantic, turn out the lights = I did something today you're really not going to like.
* I'll be ready in a minute. = Kick off your shoes and find a good game on TV.
*Do you think I'm fat? = Tell me I'm beautiful.
* You have to learn to communicate = Just agree with me.
*Are you listening to me!? = (Too late, you're dead.)
*Yes = No.
*Maybe = No.
*I'm sorry = You'll be sorry.
*Do you like this recipe? = It's easy to fix, so you'd better get used to it.
*Was that the baby? = Why don't you get out of bed and walk him until he goes to sleep.
*I'm not yelling! = Yes I am yelling because I think this is important.
*I want new curtains = and carpeting, and furniture, and wallpaper....
*I need a pair of new shoes = the other 40 pairs are the wrong shade for my new dress.
*Hang the picture there = NO, I mean hang it there!
*Do you love me? = I'm going to ask for something expensive.

Without the ability to read and read well, a student's trip through school will be a difficult journey, at best.

Parents and grandparents have an extremely important role in getting their children and grandchildren not only read words in a book, but to understand what those words mean.

Another help for children is using lots of language in conversation and listening and responding to stories that are read aloud. Talking with children at meal times can work wonders in helping develop reading skills.

Reading often helps the child more easily identify words and how they're pronounced. Since we've always heard "idleness is the devil's workshop," summertime is no time to be bored.

Janie Romine and her staff at the Scurry County Library offers a good program on Mondays for preschoolers and on Wednesdays for elementary school age children. Linda Jones has an excellent children's library section.

On June 30 at 10 a.m., they will have a mobile dairy classroom, a division of the Southwest Dairy Museum Inc., here to present an oral presentation and milking demonstration with a live cow.

Turn off the television and read or play with a child.

ASK US

Q—Is the Pride of Texas Show returning to the Fourth of July celebration this year?

A—Yes, sponsored by the Snyder Noon Lions Club, the carnival will be in town June 30-July 4.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Casey Kellner...

...has lived in Snyder all her life and presently is a correctional officer at the Price Daniel Unit and delivers pizza on a part-time basis. She enjoys reading, writing and listening to music. Her parents, Doyle and Cindy Kellner, also live in Snyder, as does her brother, Cody, who is 21.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

The lesson that most of us on this voyage never learn, but can never quite forget, is that to win is sometimes to lose.

—John Wooden

JUN 23 2004

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Head Start registration

Scurry County Head Start registration will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today through Thursday. Call 573-7403 or go by the school at 2800 2nd Street. Children must be three years old and meet family income guidelines or have a diagnosed disability or development delay. Needed for registration is birth certificate, immunization record, Social Security card and proof of family income.

East Side VBS

East Side Church of Christ will have Vacation Bible School from 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday nights through July 7. Call 573-3583 for more information.

Love and Logic classes

East Side Church of Christ will offer Love and Logic classes from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesdays through July 7. Pam Hart is the instructor. The classes are geared toward parents and grandparents. A meal will be served at 5:15 p.m. in the multi-purpose building Wednesday at the Family Life Building.

Business after hours

Snyder chamber of commerce will host its monthly business-after-hours session at Lake Allan Henry. Meet at the chamber at 6 p.m. to caravan to the lake.

SISD computer, ESL classes

SISD is offering free classes in basic computer skills and beginning ESL from 8 a.m. to noon in the Region XIV Service Center every Friday in June. Call 574-6012 for more information.

SHS cheerleader car wash

Advance tickets for the SHS cheerleader car wash are on sale now. To purchase tickets, call 573-3475. The car wash is Saturday at Wal-Mart.

GED, ESL classes

GED and ESL classes at Western Texas College are held from 8 a.m. until noon every Tuesday through Thursday and from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays through June 30. Classes will then resume in August. For more information call 573-8511, ext. 322.

What's up guidelines

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

Mandatory prison time assailed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Many get-tough approaches to crime don't work and some, such as mandatory minimum sentences for small-time drug offenders, are unfair and should be abolished, a report from the American Bar Association said today.

State and federal laws requiring mandatory minimum prison terms leave little room to consider differences among crimes and criminals, a commission studying problems in the criminal justice system found.

More people are behind bars for longer terms, but it is unclear whether the country is safer as a result, the ABA said.

Long prison terms should be reserved for criminals who pose the greatest danger to society and who commit the most serious crimes, the report said. States and the federal government should find alternatives to prison terms such as drug treatment for many less serious crimes.

"The costs of the American experiment in mass incarceration have been high," the report said.

It said states and the federal government spent $9 billion on jails and prisons in 1982 and $49 billion in 1999, an increase of more than 400 percent.

The likelihood that someone living in the United States will go to prison during his or her lifetime more than tripled to 6.6 percent between 1974 and 2001, the report added.

The report, nearly a year in the making, follows up on blunt criticism of the criminal justice system that came from an unlikely quarter last year. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, a moderate conservative placed on the court by President Reagan, asked the nation's largest lawyers' group to look at what he called unfair and even immoral practices throughout the criminal justice system.

The ABA responded with a lengthy study and recommendations for changes in sentencing laws and in other areas. In the case of mandatory minimum sentencing laws, state legislatures and Congress would have to pass new legislation to repeal the existing laws.

The ABA, the nation's largest lawyers' group with more than 400,000 members, will vote in August on whether to adopt the recommendations as official positions of the organization. The ABA's policies are not law, but are influential.

"For more than 20 years, we have gotten tougher on crime," said ABA President Dennis Archer. "Now we need to get smarter."

The ABA report also urged governors and the president to pardon more deserving prisoners, and recommended stronger efforts to reduce racial disparities in sentencing and in the prison population.

Based on current trends, a black male born in 2001 has a one in three chance of being imprisoned during his lifetime, compared with a one in six chance for a Latino male and one in 17 for a white male, the report noted.

An end to mandatory minimum prison terms is among the report's most specific recommendations, and probably one of the hardest to achieve.

Mandatory minimum sentences have proliferated over the past two decades, and are often politically popular. They often respond to a specific new threat or phenomenon, such as the spread of crack cocaine in the 1980s.

In 1986, Congress required certain long federal prison terms for possession of crack that were longer than sentences for the powder form of the drug. For example, possession of just five grams of crack yields a mandatory prison term of at least five years.

Eight hospitals target of class action suit

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Eight more hospitals and health care systems in five states have been named in federal class-action lawsuits alleging the hospitals distorted the extent of their charity care while using punishing tactics to obtain payments from uninsured patients.

Last week, Richard Scruggs, a Mississippi attorney who earned millions of dollars and a national reputation with his legal pursuits of the tobacco and asbestos industries, announced the lawsuits against 13 hospitals.

On Tuesday, Scruggs said eight more hospitals and health care systems in Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Missouri and Texas have been targeted.

Scruggs represents plaintiffs in several of the cases and is seeking monetary damages for the hospitals' alleged failure to comply with agreements between the medical facilities and the federal, state and county governments.

Spokeswoman Phyllis Pavese said Chicago-based Resurrection would vigorously defend itself against the lawsuit.

"Resurrection Health Care believes these charges reflect fundamental misconceptions" about the nature of nonprofit health care and its practices, she said.

Primarily, the suits claim the hospitals failed to provide charitable medical care to poor patients in exchange for enjoying tax exemptions.

"Accordingly, suits by uninsured patients, who have been victimized by the failure of nonprofit hospitals to fulfill their obligations to provide government-required charity care, is growing rapidly and is proceeding in almost all the major geographic regions of the country," Scruggs said in a statement Tuesday.

The American Hospital Association is named as a conspirator in all of the cases.

The suits, which represent only one side of a legal argument, claim the AHA, the industry's trade association, provides substantial advice to the nonprofit hospitals on billing and collection practices and other aspects of hospital operations.

AHA spokeswoman Alicia Mitchell has called the lawsuits "baseless and misdirected."

The lawsuits claim the hospitals used "creative" accounting practices to "grossly distort the small amount of charity care they provide to uninsured patients."

Scruggs said the complaint has been brought by a group of lawyers from law firms across the country, many of whom have worked together in the tobacco litigation cases.

He said the hospitals are "hoarding billions of dollars while dispensing relative pennies in health care."

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Two brides at reception will be one too many

DEAR ABBY: I'm being married in three months, and through pure coincidence it turns out tha one of my cousins is being married the same day. We're not close, as she was very competitive with me while we were growing up.

Her wedding will take place in the morning. I'm having an afternoon wedding with an evening reception. I assumed she wouldn't be able to make it to my reception because she'd be exhausted and want to spend time with her new husband.

Well, I just received an e-mail from her saying she wants to attend. Ordinarily, that would thrill me. However, the catch is, she says there won't be enough time to change, so she wants to wear her bridal gown to my reception.

I think this is terribly rude. I mean, how long does it take to change? Am I being petty, and if not, what can I say to her? — **FRUSTRATED BRIDE IN TEXAS**

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Although the rules regarding proper attire for wedding guests have become more flexible in recent years, it is still unacceptable for a guest to wear a bridal gown to someone else's reception. Tell your cousin that you will "understand" if she's a few minutes late to your reception, so she can change, and that she and her new husband should quietly seat themselves when they arrive.

**

DEAR ABBY: I'm 31, divorced and female. My marriage ended four years ago. I haven't dated much since.

When I least expected it, a wonderful man I'll call Tony walked into my life. He was everything I wanted and more. He treated me the way I deserved to be treated and seemed to like me a lot. I fell for him hard.

A short time later, he told me he didn't want a serious relationship. I was crushed but continued to see him. We dated for about two years and there were still no serious feelings on his part. Then, all of a sudden, he hit me with the news that he had fallen in love with someone else. I was floored! He had said he didn't want a serious relationship.

I can't seem to get over him. Every time I try, Tony calls me and wants to hook up. His new girlfriend will be moving here soon from another state, yet he still calls and wants to hook up with me. How can I let go and move on? I still love him. — **CAN'T LET GO**

DEAR CAN'T: Let me explain something. When Tony said he didn't want a serious relationship, he meant with YOU. Wake up and smell the coffee. You are being used. The sooner you can recognize that fact, the sooner you'll be able to let go and say no.

**

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been having some problems. He has this female friend who wants him to date her. I told her no, it isn't going to happen, but she won't leave him alone. We're trying to plan our wedding, but she keeps getting in our way. What should I do? — **SPITTING NAILS IN WHITEVILLE, N.C.**

DEAR SPITTING NAILS: Nothing. The female friend isn't getting the message because the wrong person is doing the talking. If your boyfriend is serious about marrying you, HE should be the one to inform her that his feelings for her are strictly platonic. Please suggest it.

**

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.

**

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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events

LOTTO TEXAS LOTTERY RESULTS

Mega Millions

ATLANTA (AP) — The jackpot in the multi-state Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to $177 million Wednesday.

None of the tickets sold for Tuesday's $150 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega Ball. The next drawing will be Friday.

There were 14 second-prize winners from Tuesday night's drawing. Those tickets are each worth $175,000. Ninety-one players matched four of the five lotto numbers, plus the Mega Ball number. Those tickets are each worth $5,000.

The winning numbers from Tuesday's drawing were: 9, 10, 17, 41, and 52. The Mega Ball number was 19.

Texas Two Step

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Two Step numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery:

14-18-21-22. Bonus ball 19.

Estimated jackpot: $200,000

Cash Five

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

2-18-19-27-33

Pick 3 Day

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

2-6-2

Pick 3 Night

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

3-1-4

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Today's chuckle

Florida comes in sixth in sunshine

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — License plates proclaim Florida the Sunshine State, but the National Weather Service says when it comes to catching rays, it comes in a distant sixth.



Arizona ranks at the top, followed by California, Nevada, New Mexico and Texas, according to the weather service.

Florida has more days where 20 to 70 percent of the sun is blocked by clouds than anywhere else in the continental United States, weather officials said. Weather experts said warm water surrounding the state, high humidity and a long rainy season make for cloudy skies.

"We ought to call ourselves the Partly Cloudy State instead of the Sunshine State," said Miami-based meteorologist Jim Lushine. "But it probably wouldn't get the Chamber of Commerce's vote."

No need for statewide glumness, though — southern Florida is consistently warmer than anywhere else in the continental United States, weather officials said. Over the course of a year, Key West has a mean temperature of 78.1 degrees.

Outside of Florida, the only place that comes close is Yuma, with 75.3 degrees. Most of the nation hovers between the 50s and 60s.

Terror acts reach 21-year high

WASHINGTON (AP) — Significant acts of terror worldwide reached a 21-year high in 2003, the State Department announced Tuesday as it corrected a mistaken report that had been cited to boost President Bush's war on terror.

Incidents of terrorism increased slightly during the year, and the number of people wounded rose dramatically, the department said.

J. Cofer Black, who heads the department's counterterrorism office, said the report, even as revised, showed "we have made significant progress" in the campaign against international terror.

The corrected report shows that the Bush administration is "playing fast and loose with the truth when it comes to the war on terror," said Phil Singer, spokesman for Sen. John Kerry's presidential campaign. The administration "has now been caught trying to inflate its success on terrorism," he said.

In all, the department recorded 208 incidents of terror last year, compared with 205 in 2002.

There were 175 "significant events" in 2003, which Black said was the highest number since 1982.

Americans were victims in 1 percent to 1.5 percent of all the attacks, and Muslim militants were responsible for most of them, he said.

About half the casualties resulted from 11 incidents in seven countries, and all were the result of Islamic terrorists, Black said.

The department also reported a decline in the number of people killed, to 625 last year from 725 during 2002. The department reported in its April report that 307 people had been killed last year.

"The numbers were off," Secretary of State Colin Powell said, and "we have identified how we have to do this in the future." He also said the initial report was not designed "to make our efforts look better or worse."

The findings had been used by senior administration officials to bolster Bush's claim of success in countering terror.

Deputy Secretary of State Richard L. Armitage, for instance, declared in April the report provided "clear evidence that we are prevailing in this fight."

On Tuesday, Powell said Armitage did not have correct information and also had not claimed that the war on terror was won. "It is not won," Powell said. "It continues."

"We should have caught errors in the draft," Black said at a news conference. "It was an honest mistake, not a deliberate deception."

Thirty-five U.S. citizens died in international terror attacks last year. The deadliest was a suicide bombing in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in May that counted nine Americans among the 26 victims.

Food stamp program aims to boost image

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Agriculture Department, hoping to modernize the staid image of food stamps, is taking the program for the needy fully electronic and looking for a snazzier name.

The paper stamps issued under the government's Food Stamp Program will be phased out this month in favor of a plastic card much like a bank debit card, the department said Tuesday.

In the electronic age, the term "food stamps" no longer has the right ring, said Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman. She said her department will ask for suggestions for a new name "to better reflect the mission of this vital program" that subsidizes food purchases for 23 million low-income Americans every month.

Food stamps are the cornerstone of the federal government's food assistance programs, but the use of coupons has been shrinking dramatically in recent years as most states shifted to the electronic system.

Four more states joined the electronic age last year, leaving only six counties in central California and the U.S. territory of Guam holding out. But they too will shift to the electronic system this month, marking the systemwide phase-out of use of the food stamp coupons, according to the department.

Paper coupons will be replaced by something called Electronic Benefits Transfer, or EBT for short.

Congress will have to pass a law for a name change. The original program which actually used color-coded stamps began in 1939 and ended in 1943. The modern era of the Food Stamp Program began in 1961 as a pilot operation and in full scale in 1964.

According to the Agriculture Department, the average household income of a food stamp recipients was $624 a month in 2001, the latest figures available. About a third of the families have incomes at 50 percent or less of what is considered poverty.

Congress in 1996 mandated the phasing in of the electronic system in an attempt to improve accountability, limit fraud, and reduce the likelihood of coupons being stolen.

Veneman said the phase-in of the electronic system has reduced the number of erroneous food stamp payments.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 06-23-04
♠ 8
♥ 7 5 4 2
♦ A K 10 7 2
♣ K 10 6

West
♠ Q 9 5 4
♥ A K Q 10 9 3
♦ 8
♣ 5 3

East
♠ K J 10 3
♥ 8 6
♦ J 6 4 3
♣ 9 8 2

South
♠ A 7 6 2
♥ J
♦ Q 9 5
♣ A Q J 7 4

Dealer: West
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♣	3 ♠	Dbl.	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠	Dbl.
Redbl.	5 ♥	6 ♣	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ A

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mature bidding and card reading

By Phillip Alder

Have a look at today's full deal. Then answer two questions: How did the play proceed in six clubs after West started with two top hearts? How old is South?

North's double of three spades was for takeout, indicating diamond length and club support. South, knowing that his partner was very short in spades, control-bid (cue-bid) four hearts to show a first- or second-round control in the suit and slam interest. North returned the compliment with four spades. Then, when East doubled, South's redouble promised a first-round spade control.

The deal occurred during the final of this year's Danish Team Championship. The spectators thought the declarer would fail. However, South knew a lot about the distribution. West's three-spade raise made it certain that the spades were 4-4. East was known to have a weak hand, and if he had started with four spades and three hearts, he would have raised to two hearts. So, West had six hearts. (Also, East signaled a doubleton at the first two tricks.) If diamonds were 5-0, the contract was hopeless. But was West 4-6-1-2 or 4-6-2-1?

After ruffing at trick two, South cashed the club jack, then played a club to dummy's 10. When West followed, 4-6-1-2 was apparent. So, declarer immediately played a diamond to his nine! Next, he cashed the spade ace, ruffed a spade in the dummy, played a diamond to his queen, drew the missing trump, and ran the diamonds for plus 1,370.

The declarer was Martin Schaltz, a veteran 17-year-old!

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The basic monetary unit of Nepal is the Nepalese rupee.

Influx of caterpillars invade Massachusetts

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — Some are tiny, dark and hairy. Others are tiny, green and white. All are voracious. And they've been chomping away by the millions from Cape Cod to the Berkshires.

Entomologists say this spring has brought a population explosion of caterpillars in Massachusetts.

Some, like the tent caterpillar and gypsy moth caterpillar, have been dining on Massachusetts greenery for decades in cyclical outbreaks. But the winter moth caterpillar from Europe, which has been munching on coastal Massachusetts, is a new menace to the state's maples, apples and blueberries.

"It's a scientific puzzle," said Bob Childs, director of the Urban Forestry Diagnostic Laboratory at the University of Massachusetts' Amherst campus, where entomologists are trying to figure out what may have led to a boom this spring in both native and introduced species.

"There has to have been something missing from nature's system of checks and balances that has allowed them to be so successful," Childs said. "We've never seen numbers of the native species like this."

"We thought last year was bad, but this year is really the year of the caterpillar," said Deborah Swanson, a horticulturist for the university extension in Plymouth County, which has been hard hit by the infestations.

"We have forest tent caterpillars, eastern tent caterpillars, canker-worms, loopers, gypsy moths, and, of course, the winter moth," she said. "We've had hundreds of calls from people wondering what happened to their trees."

Some stands of oaks in Freetown, defoliated in early spring by the winter moth caterpillar, have started to send out new leaves just in time to face a second defoliation by gypsy moth caterpillars, said Childs.

"It's awful," said Freetown Tree Warden Gary Lorànger. "It looks like winter when you drive through town."

Healthy trees can withstand occasional defoliation, but Swanson said worried homeowners should ensure that their favorite shade trees get adequate water in the hot summer months.

No one knows how the winter moth, named for its strange early winter mating ritual, got to coastal Massachusetts. The only other areas in the United States where outbreaks have been reported are Washington and Oregon.

Wal-Mart suit is class action

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A sex-discrimination lawsuit against Wal-Mart Stores Inc. won class-action status Tuesday, allowing it to include up to 1.6 million current and former female employees in the largest private civil rights case in U.S. history.

The suit alleges that the retail giant set up a system that frequently pays its female workers less than their male counterparts for comparable jobs and bypasses them for key promotions.

U.S. District Judge Martin Jenkins decided to expand the lawsuit to include virtually all women who work or have worked at Wal-Mart's 3,500 stores nationwide since December 1998.

Wal-Mart, based in Bentonville, Ark., and the nation's largest private employer, had sought to limit the scope of the lawsuit and said it would appeal the ruling.

No trial date has been set in the lawsuit, which initially covered six women.

The decision that the case merits class action status was pivotal because it gives lawyers for the women tremendous leverage as they pursue punitive damages, as well as back pay and other compensation.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Plastic containers are safe

DEAR DR. GOTT: Is it possible that plastic food-storage containers are the cause of the increase in cancer cases that we hear so much about?

DEAR READER: I am not aware of any sound medical studies linking cancer to the use of plastic containers. I suspect that certain forms of cancer are on the rise because of complicated issues, primarily the fact that we are living longer and are, therefore, increasingly at risk of developing malignancies. Also, genetic factors, smoking and environmental pollution play an important role.

If you are concerned about plastic containers, despite my reassurances, switch to glass.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: My fingers, when exposed to cold, become numb, turn white and then a fiery red. What is going on here?

DEAR READER: You appear to be experiencing Raynaud's phenomenon, a vascular abnormality marked by periodic, cold-induced, arterial spasm in the fingers. You should have some testing performed, including a thorough exam and, possibly, a circulation survey.

Although your condition is not life threatening, it is certainly uncomfortable. I know because I, too, have it.

Raynaud's phenomenon is worsened by smoking, so if you're a cigarette consumer, quit. Also, because the arterial spasm is a paramount feature, you will need to keep your fingers warm in winter and in cold environments.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am 60 and have hypertension, arthritis, glaucoma and high blood fats, all of which are under treatment by my very competent doctor.

Because my triglycerides are 210 and should be less than 150, my physician recommends that I double my Lipitor from 20 milligrams to 40 milligrams a day.

However, I am aware of dose-related liver and muscle damage from the drug — especially as the levels increase. When I raised this issue with him, he said, "You are the patient. I am the doctor. Stop worrying." I don't feel comfortable with this advice.

DEAR READER: Nor do I. Your doctor needs a lesson in humility. No physician worth his salt is going to take this unrealistic view, because no professional can predict the potential negative consequences of drug therapy or the problems stemming from any drug.

In my view, your physician should have taken a few minutes to discuss with you his rationale for doubling the dosage of Lipitor. Then, armed with this information, you would be in a much sounder position, either to accept his recommendation or to have him modify them. "Trust me, I'm a doctor" is no longer a reasonable excuse for doing anything.

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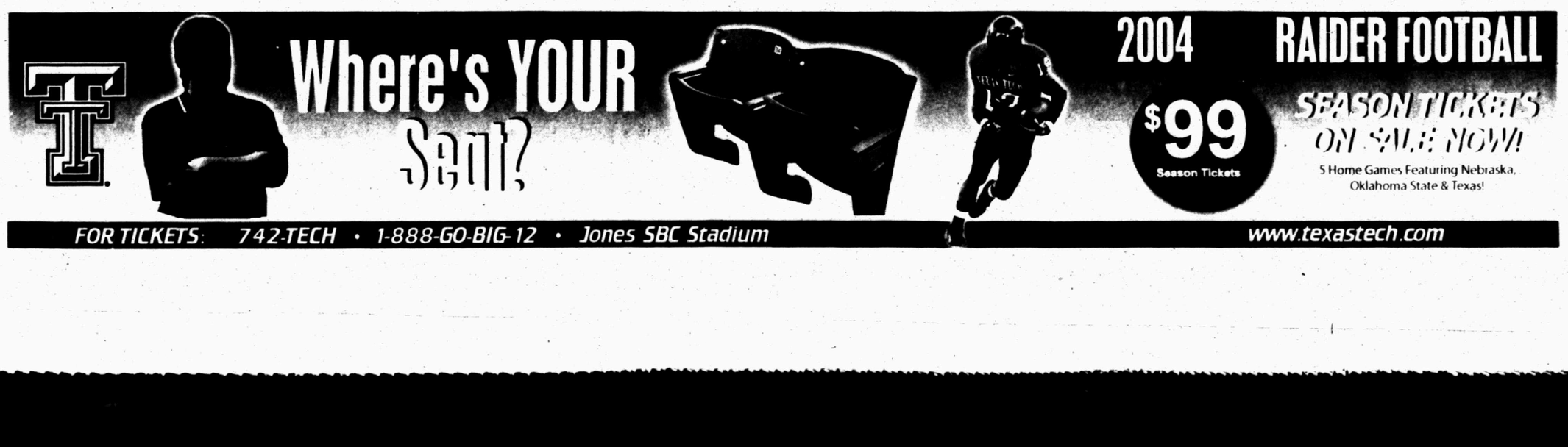
STARTING from PYRON

By Jane Gilmore Rushing
Photos by Billie Roche Barnard
Introduction by A.C. Greene
Cost: $25.00



Snyder Daily News
3600 College Ave.
573-5486

JUN 23 2004



ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



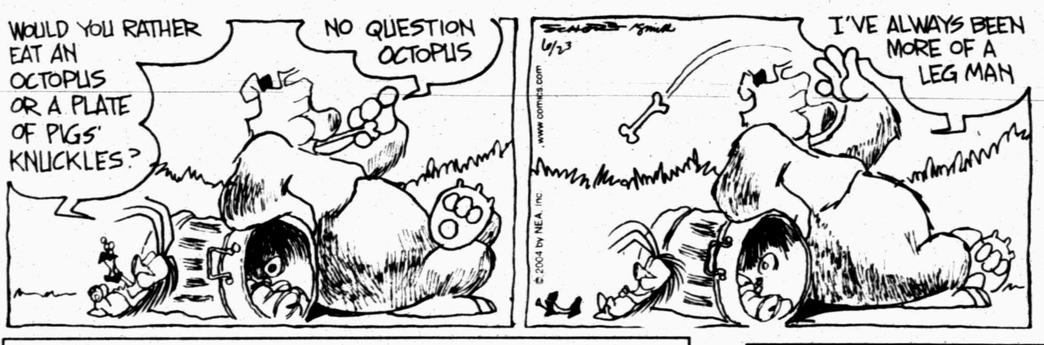
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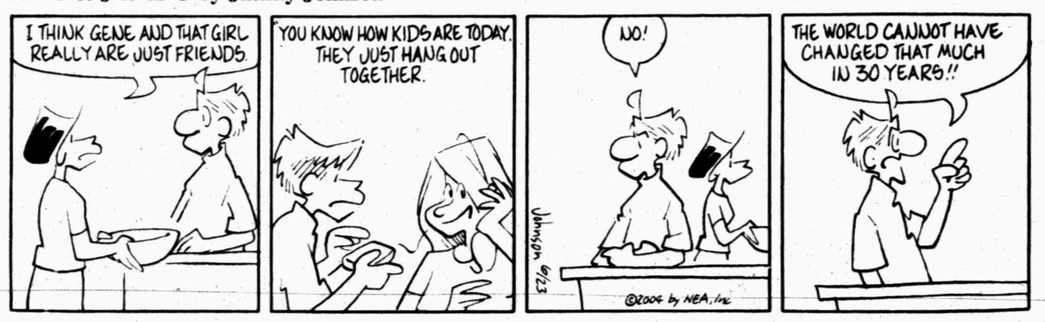
THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



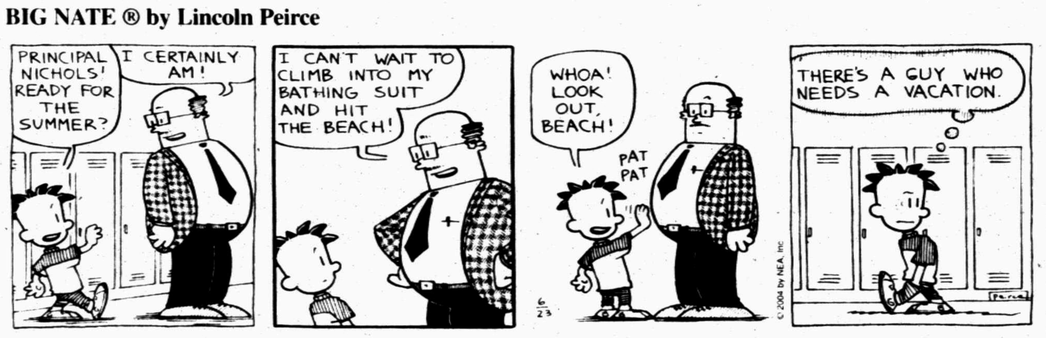
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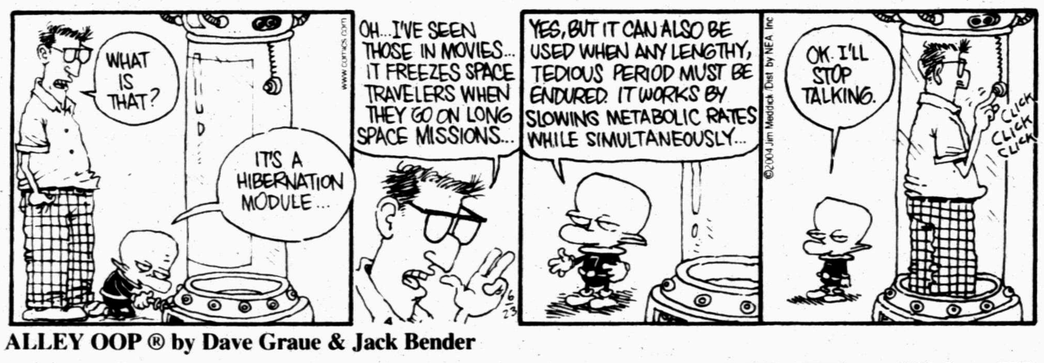
ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



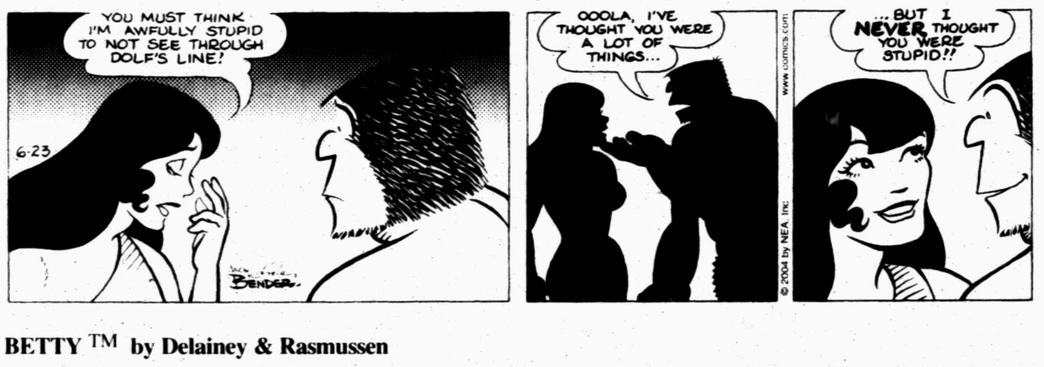
BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



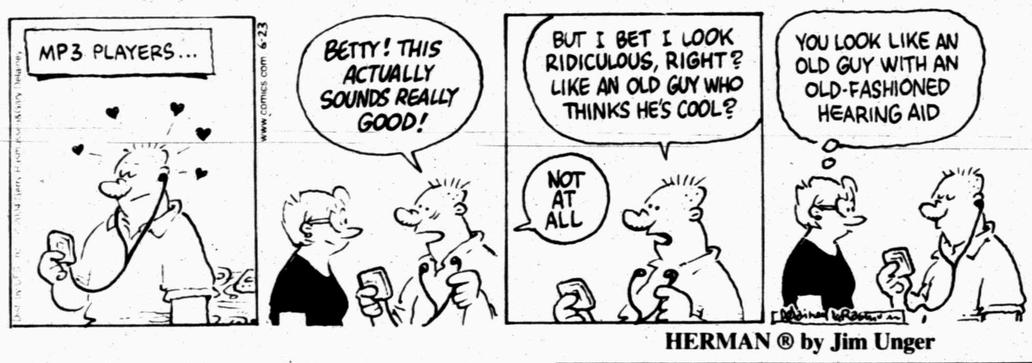
MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



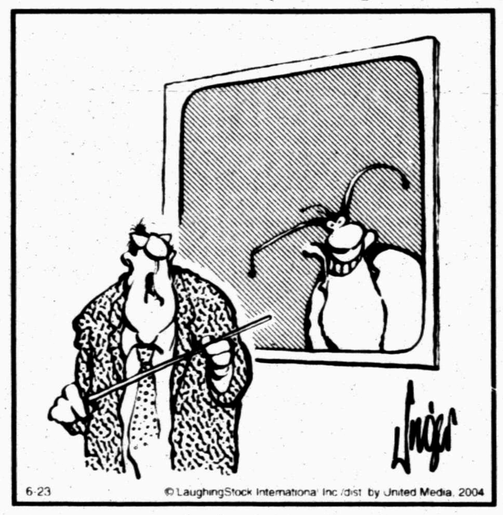
ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

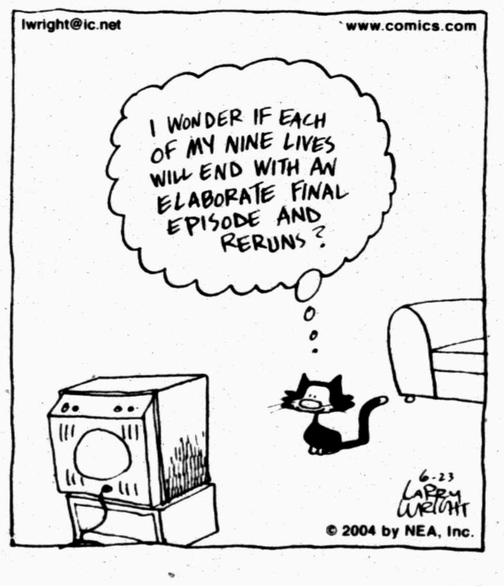


HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



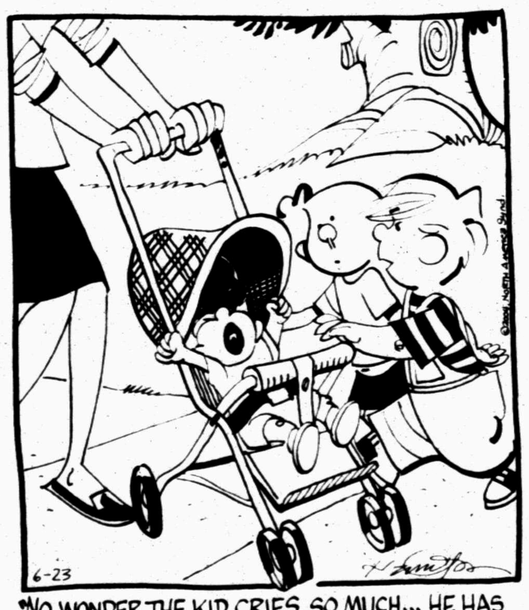
"And now for a look at the latest picture from our weather satellite."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Make eyes at
6 Faucet
12 Crowbars
14 Tends to the lawn
15 Atmosphere part
16 Open, as champagne
17 Wanted-poster abbr.
18 Last degree
19 Mr. Brynner
21 Barrel
23 Atomic particle
26 Corn on the —
27 Lair
28 Cliffside nest
30 Uproar
31 Tooth fixer's org.
32 Inched along
33 Get through to
35 Stratum
37 Hosp. staffer
38 Choir members
39 Natural resin
40 Whale habitat
41 Job application info
42 Recognize
43 Williams or Koppel
44 "— Vadis?"
46 Near the ground
48 Disproves
51 Play wrap-up
55 Thinks the same
56 Confident gait
57 Throaty
58 Microscope need

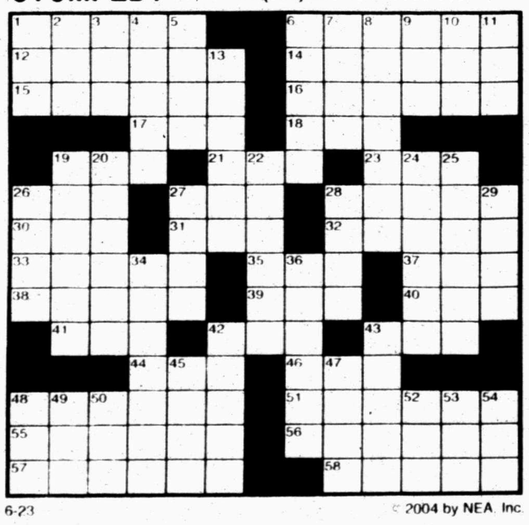
DOWN

1 Andy Capp's wife
2 Law, to Caesar
3 Common vine
4 Majestic
5 Expedition
6 Wielded a bat
7 Yearn (for)
8 More restless
9 Prizm maker
10 Bruin ice great
11 Disapproving cluck
13 Twisted and turned
19 Alpine refrains
20 Subs (hyph.)
22 Permit
24 Threat ender (2 wds.)
25 Pinched off
26 Dear, in Italy
27 Telegraph syllables
28 Heavy metal band
29 Still-active volcano
34 Overcome
36 Philly team
42 Marshal's band
43 Wield a baton
45 Colorado Indians
47 Makes a decision
48 Fan shout
49 Psyche component
50 Car grill cover
52 52, to Livy
53 Peculiar
54 Whiz leader

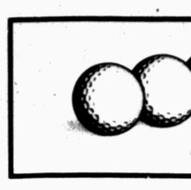
Answer to Previous Puzzle

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I	D	E	S		M	A	U	L		N	E	E
T	E	E			S	E	E	S		Y	R	S

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



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SPORTS



First, second and third-place teams in Championship Flight. Flight winners Penny Perry, Marian Barker, Keisha Dugan and Teri Dukes are seated.



First, second and third-place teams in First Flight. Flight winners Vera Ramirez, Carrie Howell, Jennifer Green and Alice Grigas are seated.



First, second and third-place teams in Second Flight. Flight winners Katrina Cumbest, Margie Drummond, Debbie Neufeld and Joan Hood are seated.

Scorecards decide flights at scramble

A scorecard playoff was needed to determine the winners of both the championship and second flights at the Women's Golf Association Ladies Scramble Tournament Tuesday at Scurry County golf course.

The group of Penny Perry, Marian Barker, Teri Dukes and Keisha Dugan won the championship flight after shooting a 31-30 61.

The first flight was taken by the team of Vera Ramirez, Carrie Howell, Jennifer Green and Alice Grigas, which fired a 34-33 67.

The second flight was won by Katrina Cumbest, Margie Drummond, Debbie Neufeld and Joan Hood with a 35-35 70.

First place teams in each flight were awarded $360.

Second prize was $280 and third prize was $200.

In special competitions, Laura Woodall was closest to the pin and Margie Drummond had the most accurate drive.

WGA Ladies Scramble
Scurry County
Golf Course
June 22, 2004

Championship Flight

1. Perry-Barker-Dukes-Dugan 31-30 61; 2. Barbara Moffett-Judy Casey-Eidie Bledsoe-Jeana Menke 31-30 61; 3. Linda Renfro-Margaret Adams-Mary O'Neil-Molly Melton 32-30 62; 4. Barbara Hardin-Kris Etheridge-Lucy Locke-Kasey Hardin 32-30 62; 5. Pat Bradley-Susan Bishop-Geri Hackler-Gladys Pawelek 33-31 64; 6. Tommie Heller-Donnice Whitehead-Virginia English-Janie Baccus 33-33 66.

First Flight

1. Rameriz-Howell-Green-Grigas 34-33 67; 2. Esther Guelker-Doris Downing-Pam Alvarez-Norma Thompson 33-35 68; 3. Peggy Hardin-Vivian Norwood-Juanita Hester-Susie Miller 33-35 68; 4. Margo Lauderdale-Jan Woolsy-Rosemary Hernandez-Lara Woodlock 34-34 68; 5. Connie Edwards-Karen Terry-Kathy Bloom-Barbara Leatherwood 35-35 70; 6. Jo Sterling-Becky Knipe-Terni Matthies-Kaye Cypert 35-35 70.

Second Flight

1. Cumbest-Drummond-Neufeld-Hood 35-35 70; 2. Xalyn Palacios-Xan Harris-Judy Moss-Ninette Arena 36-34 70; 3. Suzy Reed-Dorothy Schuch-Ginalu Hamilton-Pat Lewis 36-36 71; 4. Arretto Sides-Dolores Carpenter-Pat Bilbo-Debbie Palmer 36-36 72; 5. Gloria Robertson-Betty Hecter-Carol Eaker-Sondra Davis 39-40 79.

Sports Briefs

Fun League needs pants, equipment

The Snyder Summer Fun League is looking for used baseball pants of all sizes and other baseball equipment. Contact Fred Rameriz at 575-3733 or 573-7034.

Volleyball camp

Snyder head coach Laura Moses will host a volleyball camp July 12-14 at the high school gym for incoming fourth through ninth graders. All participants should bring knee pads and a water bottle.

Fourth through sixth grade spikers will go from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. and cost for that group is $20 and includes a T-shirt.

Seventh and eighth graders are slated for 2:30 p.m. until 4 p.m., while freshmen will begin at 3:30 p.m. and finish at 5 p.m. Cost is $25 and also includes a shirt.

Deadline to register is July 2. Contact coach Moses at 573-8531 or 436-9067 for more information.

Rangers take over 1st place after drubbing Seattle, 10-2

ARLINGTON (AP) — Rod Barajas has suddenly become a power hitter. Ryan Drese is keeping opposing hitters off balance with his sinker.

And the Texas Rangers are back in first place in the AL West.

Drese (4-4), who wasn't even on the major league roster to start the season, allowed four hits over eight innings to match the longest outing in 51 career starts, and Texas beat the Seattle Mariners 10-2 Tuesday night.

"He's been pretty good, that goes without saying," manager Buck Showalter said. "He kept pounding the strike zone. He's giving himself a chance to be effective ... pretty impressive."

The Rangers won their fourth straight and are first in the AL West at the latest point in a season since 1999 — when they won their last division title. Seattle had won four straight and 10 of 14, but is 9½ games back in last place.

"We all realize it," Drese said. "We understand that we're on a roll and we want to keep it going."

Barajas homered for the third straight game, an unexpected offensive surge for the catcher who only became the starter after rookie catcher Gerald Laird tore a ligament in his left thumb last month.

It was the 10th homer in 34 games for Barajas, who has started 19 of 27 games since Laird's injury. Barajas had just 11 homers in 211 games over the past five seasons with Arizona.

"Having the opportunity to perform every single day is something I've always wished and hoped I would get," Barajas said. "It helps when you're able to see regular pitching day-in and day-out."

David Dellucci snapped a 1-for-35 slump with two hits, including an RBI double that started the scoring in the Rangers' six-run sixth.

Texas, which swept Seattle in a three-game home series in April, went ahead to stay on Mark Teixeira's two-run single in the first off Clint Nageotte (1-3).

Barajas homered in the second for a 3-0 lead, and also had a sacrifice fly in the sixth. Not only is he getting consistent at-bats, he's gotten power by using the lower half of his body.

"I've never used that before. I've always used an upper-body swing to hit the ball," said Barajas, who has a six-game hitting streak. "Now I'm able to use both together and be more consistent hitting the ball. It's working in motion together and things are going pretty well."

Nageotte had allowed just two earned runs over 11 innings in his first two major league starts. But he had already given up Dellucci's double when he left with no outs and the bases loaded in the fifth.

"I put myself in a little bit of trouble, and you can't do that here," Nageotte said. "They're in first place, and there's a reason they're in first place."

Barajas' sacrifice fly greeted reliever J.J. Putz. Jason Conti then singled to reload the bases before Michael Young tripled into the right-field corner. Hank Blalock singled Young home.

Nageotte allowed seven runs on eight hits. The 23-year-old right-hander struck out five and walked four.

Drese faced the minimum number of hitters until Ichiro Suzuki's two-out single in the fourth. After Randy Winn led off the game with a walk, he was erased by a double play when Teixeira snagged Scott Spiezio's liner and stepped back on first base.

Since being recalled the second week of the season, Drese has a 3.63 ERA in 14 appearances. He has a 2.18 ERA at home, allowing just 11 earned runs over 45 1-3 innings.

"He used all of his pitches well. He gave me some pitches to hit and I missed them," Spiezio said. "He had a sink on the ball ... and had a little cutter he used effectively."

Pat Borders led off Seattle's sixth with a double and scored on Spiezio's groundout.

Westerners sign power pitcher

Western Texas College head baseball coach Billy Hefflinger is getting close to filling out his roster for the spring, signing seven more players and an athletic trainer, and getting a verbal commitment from another.

"Right now, I feel really comfortable about the guys we're bringing in," he said. "This is my first recruiting class, and I'm excited."

One of the reasons for Hefflinger's excitement was the signing of pitcher Adam Greer. A 6-6 right hander hailing from Hobbs, Greer throws in the low 90s.

"We got a kid who can come in and be a difference-maker for us," Heffliger said of Greer. "This was a huge signing for us."

In addition to Greer, the Westerners signed right-handed pitcher Brian Hill from Midland Greenwood; lefty Kyle Gibbs of Richmond, who also plays first base; outfielders Bradnon Pieprzyk and Sean Strachan, both of Portland, Ore.; infielder Josh Blair of Spokane, Wash., and right-handed hurler Tim Kelleher of Chicago.

Hefflinger also has received a commitment from Post's Cody Fox.

Hefflinger also signed an athletic trainer — Jason Bragg out of Midland High School — a position of need for the team last season.

"It's really going to help having a kid at practice everyday, taping ankles and getting ice. It's stuff I won't have to worry about."

Former Westerner Chase Gilbert is moving on, getting a scholarship to play baseball at Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia.

WTC opens the 2005 schedule Feb. 4 at Vernon. The team's first home game will be Feb. 19 against Western Oklahoma.

Arizona, Miami eliminated

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Michael Hyle pitched six shutout innings, and Marshall Szabo had three hits — including a triple and double — as Georgia eliminated Arizona from the College World Series with a 3-1 victory Tuesday.

With the win, the Bulldogs (45-22) advanced to the Bracket One final against Texas. Georgia must beat the Longhorns today and Thursday to reach the best-of-three championship series this weekend.

Arizona (36-27-1) went 1-2 in its first CWS appearance since 1986, losing twice to Georgia.

South Carolina 15, Miami 11

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Bryan Triplett had four hits, and Nick Gardiner and Brendan Winn drove in three runs each as South Carolina eliminated Miami from the College World Series.

Winn, Steven Tolleson and Steve Pearce each homered and the Gamecocks scored the most runs against Miami since Florida got 15 in last year's NCAA regionals. Winn scored five times to tie a CWS record.

The Gamecocks, who defeated LSU 15-4 on Monday, became the first team since LSU in 1991 to score 15 or more runs in consecutive Series games.

The Gamecocks (51-16) play Wednesday against Cal State Fullerton. They will have to beat the Titans twice to reach the best-of-three championship round.

Astros keep pace in Central with come-from-behind win

HOUSTON (AP) — After getting himself out most of the night, Morgan Ensberg was frustrated.

But when it counted most in the seventh inning Tuesday, Ensberg came through with a two-run triple that sent the Houston Astros to a 5-4 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Ensberg batted twice before the seventh with runners in scoring position. He came up with the bases loaded in the first and grounded into an inning-ending double play, then grounded out in the fifth with a runner on third.

"I was swinging at a two-seam fastball almost in the dirt the first two times," Ensberg said. "I was being impatient and too aggressive then. I had two opportunities to help the team and failed at both."

Roy Oswalt (5-6) allowed three runs, nine hits and did not walk a batter in eight innings, sending Pittsburgh to its 10th straight road loss and fifth in a row overall.

The right-hander, who lost three of his previous four starts and five of seven, struck out five.

The Pirates dropped to 1-15 in their last 16 games in Houston.

Astros manager Jimy Williams almost took Oswalt out after the seventh.

"I told him I felt fine," Oswalt said with a big smile. "I had less than 100 pitches and I mentioned that he let Wade (Miller) go 120 the other night. I kind of used that against him."

Brad Lidge gave up a leadoff homer in the ninth to Jason Bay, his seventh of the year, then finished for his second save. Lidge had not allowed a run in 14 1-3 innings, spanning 12 appearances.

Major League Baseball

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Florida	38	32	.543	—
Philadelphia	36	32	.529	1
New York	35	34	.507	2½
Atlanta	32	37	.464	5½
Montreal	23	45	.338	14

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	41	29	.586	—
Chicago	40	30	.571	1
Cincinnati	38	32	.543	3
Milwaukee	36	31	.537	3½
Houston	37	33	.529	4
Pittsburgh	26	41	.388	13½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	39	32	.549	—
Los Angeles	37	31	.544	½
San Diego	36	34	.514	2½
Arizona	27	44	.380	12
Colorado	25	44	.362	13

Tuesday's Games

Florida 4, Atlanta 3
Montreal 5, Philadelphia 2
N.Y. Mets 7, Cincinnati 4
Milwaukee 6, Colorado 2
Houston 5, Pittsburgh 4
Chicago Cubs 5, St. Louis 4
San Diego 2, Arizona 1, 10 innings
San Francisco 11, Los Angeles 5

Today's Games

Atlanta (Thomson 5-5) at Florida (Penny 6-5), 6:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (Millwood 4-5) at Montreal (Kim 3-2), 6:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Rusch 4-1) at St. Louis (Suppan 6-5), 6:05 p.m.
Cincinnati (Van Poppel 3-2) at N.Y. Mets (Seo 3-5), 6:10 p.m.
Colorado (Estes 7-3) at Milwaukee (Capuano 2-2), 7:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Vogelsong 1-7) at Houston (Munro 1-0), 7:05 p.m.
Arizona (Johnson 9-5) at San Diego (D.Wells 2-5), 9:05 p.m.
Los Angeles (Weaver 5-7) at San Francisco (J.Williams 6-5), 9:15 p.m.

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	44	24	.647	—
Boston	40	29	.580	4½
Tampa Bay	33	34	.493	10½
Toronto	30	40	.429	15
Baltimore	28	38	.424	15

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	38	31	.551	—
Chicago	36	31	.537	1
Cleveland	34	35	.493	4
Detroit	31	38	.449	7
Kansas City	27	40	.403	10

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	38	29	.567	—
Anaheim	39	31	.557	½
Oakland	38	31	.551	1
Seattle	29	39	.426	9½

Tuesday's Games

Boston 9, Minnesota 2
Tampa Bay 5, Toronto 1
N.Y. Yankees 10, Baltimore 4
Texas 10, Seattle 2
Chicago White Sox 11, Cleveland 9, 10 innings
Kansas City 8, Detroit 1
Anaheim 6, Oakland 1

Wednesday's Games

Minnesota (Silva 7-4) at Boston (Lowe 6-5), 6:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Lieber 5-4) at Baltimore (Bedard 1-2), 6:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (V.Zambrano 7-4) at Toronto (Halladay 6-4), 6:05 p.m.
Seattle (R.Franklin 3-4) at Texas (Bierbrodt 0-0), 7:05 p.m.
Cleveland (C.Lee 6-1) at Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 7-1), 7:05 p.m.
Detroit (Knotts 4-1) at Kansas City (May 4-8), 7:10 p.m.
Oakland (Redman 5-3) at Anaheim (Escobar 4-3), 9:05 p.m.

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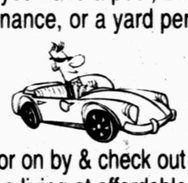
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Kerry meets with VP prospect

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. John Kerry held a brief, secretive meeting with potential running mate John Edwards on Tuesday, a spur-of-the-moment session in the Capitol that capped an unusual day of hurry-up-and-wait in the heavily scripted life of the Democratic presidential candidate.

The two men met in the President's Room, whether they knew the name or not, an ornate sitting room just off the Senate chamber, and they declined to speak with reporters afterward. While the brevity of the session indicated it was less than a full-fledged vice presidential interview, it came roughly a month before the opening of the Democratic National Convention, and at a time when Edwards is frequently mentioned as a potential running mate.

"Senator Kerry has made clear that he wants that whole process to be quiet and confidential, which I think is the correct way to do it," Edwards told reporters earlier in the day. "Because of that I'm silent."

The meeting came on an unusual day for Kerry, who spent it not campaigning for votes in New Mexico, as originally scheduled, but in the Capitol. He had come, he said, to cast a vote to increase funding for veterans' health care. Republicans, eager to deny Kerry the moment he sought, maneuvered to prevent a roll call.

By evening, he bemoaned the delay in remarks on the Senate floor. "We have an opportunity to make a choice today. If we don't, then we'll continue to talk about this issue over the next months," the Democratic presidential candidate said. "And the American people will make a choice in November."

The proposal was advanced by Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle, who said it was designed to make sure enough money was available each year to cover the prescription drug and health care costs of all veterans eligible for benefits. Aides put its cost at $300 billion over the next decade.

Kerry has been in the Capitol infrequently this year as he pursues the presidency. But on this day, the man whose days are normally a frenzy of campaign activity spent hours chatting amiably with colleagues on the Senate floor, giving fellow Democrats an overview of his campaign at a closed-door lunch and posing with 99 other senators for the formal portrait of the 108th Congress.

He got a high-five greeting from Sen. Barbara Boxer of California; a kiss from Sen. Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas, and a thumbs-up from Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa. "Our next president is in there. He was fantastic," Boxer said after attending the lunch.

Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona, who rejected overtures that he join Kerry on a ticket that crossed party lines, walked by him on the Senate floor at one point and leaned over to greet his fellow Vietnam War veteran. Kerry remained seated, the two men grasped hands and chatted briefly.

"Senator Kerry ought to have an opportunity to vote" on veterans, Daschle, of South Dakota, said at mid-afternoon, at a time when the presidential candidate still nursed hopes — later abandoned — of being able to do so in time to fly to New Mexico for an evening fund-raiser.

Edwards, a first-term North Carolina senator, was present on the Senate floor for nearly the entire time in the morning that Kerry mingled, but the two men stayed in separate orbits.

They met a few hours later, when they repaired to a small room and closed the doors for a private word. The session did not appear on either man's schedule and lasted only a few minutes. Aides to Kerry sought to minimize the political significance of the meeting.

Air Force tests robots for security defense

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla., (AP) — The Air Force wants to take away Staff Sgt. Miguel Jimenez's job, and that's just fine by him.

The Miami airman was plucked from his normal security duties at nearby Tyndall Air Force Base to help test whether a robotic vehicle can take the place of humans in guarding air bases and troops.

"If somebody wants to spend the money and send something like that out there instead of my life, I'm all about that," Jimenez said Tuesday of the robots that cost from $200,000 to $500,000.

One robot being tested is a Jeep-size, four-wheeled vehicle that has been equipped with radar, television cameras and an infrared scan to detect people, vehicles and other objects. It carries a breadbox-sized mini-robot that can be launched to search under vehicles, inside buildings and other small places.

Another robot is fashioned from an off-the-shelf, four-wheeled all-terrain vehicle, giving it added versatility because a human also can ride it like a normal ATV. Both vehicles can be remotely operated from laptop computers and can be equipped with remotely fired weapons, like an M-16 rifle or pepper spray.

"What we are hoping is the robots will actually detect the enemy first," said Capt. Adolfo Meana Jr., chief of the concepts division for the Force Protection Battlelab at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

"If you shoot the robot we don't care. We know you're there, you're hostile, and we can keep our forces in reserve to move tactically against the enemy. The robots will save our troops' lives," he said.

The vehicles can be programmed to patrol specific areas and then alert an operator by radio if they find something suspicious. They have loudspeakers and microphones for questioning intruders and the operator can pick from a variety of languages.

A human always is in the loop because the military doesn't want to give machines complete discretion, said Walter Waltz, chief of robotic research for the Air Force Research Laboratory at Tyndall.

Scott Peterson offers own version of night that wife, Laci, vanished

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. (AP) — The first detective at the home of Laci Peterson the night she vanished told prosecutors that her husband's behavior made it difficult to eliminate him as a suspect.

In court Tuesday, Detective Allen Brocchini testified he was summoned after several officers who had spoken briefly with Peterson deemed his story "suspicious."

Brocchini described Peterson that day, Christmas Eve 2002, as "calm, cool, relaxed" despite that his pregnant wife was nowhere to be found. He was set to be cross-examined today.

Also Tuesday, jurors heard a videotaped police interview of Scott Peterson that had been made Christmas Day. The interview had the tone of an interrogation, and climaxed with police testing his hands for gun powder residue.

Peterson, 31, is accused of murdering Laci in their Modesto home on or around Dec. 24, then dumping her body into San Francisco Bay. He says he went alone to the bay to fish; the government claims the fishing story is a cover-up.

Defense lawyers assert Laci was abducted and her captor framed Peterson after hearing his widely publicized alibi. They also say police focused too soon on Peterson, which caused them to miss other leads.

Laci Peterson's fetus, a boy the couple planned to name Conner, washed ashore April 13. Laci's body washed up from the bay a day later.

Brocchini said it was his job to rule out Peterson as a suspect — but testified that it wasn't easy.

At about 6:30 p.m. the day after his wife vanished, Peterson called Brocchini to check on the search.

"He wanted to know if we were using cadaver dogs. I told him we hadn't even considered Laci dead yet," Brocchini said.

On the video, Peterson gave often-muffled responses to Brocchini. The fertilizer salesman told the investigator that he fetched the boat from his warehouse in Modesto where he also e-mailed his boss, then drove to the bay.

After launching from a marina in Berkeley, he trolled around near an island about a mile from the dock and gave up after about 90 minutes without a catch. He then drove back, stopping for gas and dropping off the boat before returning to an empty home, he said.

Once back, according to the taped interview, he threw the jeans and T-shirt he was wearing into the washing machine, ate some pizza and jumped in the shower.

The fact that Peterson showered so soon after coming home "concerns me the most," Brocchini told Peterson. "That bothers me."

"What concerns me most is doing anything I can," Peterson replied, in an apparent reference to locating his wife.

After showering, Peterson called Laci's parents, who said they hadn't heard from her. A frantic search ensued.

Brocchini questioned Peterson about a pistol found in the glove compartment of his pickup truck and asked if he would submit to a "gunshot residue" test of his hands. Peterson complied.

Orchid smuggler pleads guilty

MIAMI (AP) — A Texas man has pleaded guilty to conspiring to smuggle prized tropical lady slipper orchids into the United States.

George W. Norris of Spring also pleaded guilty Friday to six other charges relating to smuggling orchids into the United States, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

He faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison for each of the seven counts. For each count, he could also be fined twice the amount he gained from his conduct, twice the amount he caused others to lose, or $250,000 — whichever is greater.

No attorney information was immediately available for Norris.

His co-defendant, Manuel Arias Silva, a prominent Peruvian orchid grower, previously pleaded guilty to two counts and is waiting to be sentenced.

According to the indictment, Silva sold several shipments of protected orchids to Norris between January 1999 and October 2003. The orchids were pulled from the wild and shipped alongside more common, nursery-raised flowers legally imported.

The lady slipper is one of the Phragmipedium species of orchids. Several "phrags," as they are known in collecting circles, are considered seriously endangered in the wild and are protected under international treaties. Nursery-raised varieties can be exported with government permits.

Arias shipped endangered orchids through Miami to suburban Houston, where Norris resold them to high-end hobbyists at black-market prices.

World Almanac

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Today is the 175th day of 2004 and the fourth day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1894, the International Olympic Committee was founded in Paris.

In 1947, Congress overrode President Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Act, which restricted labor union power.

In 1993, Andrew Wiles, a Princeton professor, declared that he had proven Pierre de Fermat's "Last Theorem," which had gone unsolved for 350 years.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Alan Turing (1912-1954), mathematician; Bob Fosse (1927-1987), choreographer/director; June Carter Cash (1929-2003), singer; Wilma Rudolph (1940-1994), Olympic sprinter; Clarence Thomas (1948-), U.S. Supreme Court justice, is 56; Selma Blair (1972-), actress, is 32.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1963, Jimmy Piersall of the New York Mets celebrated his 100th home run by running the bases backward.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "When you get to be president, there are all those things, the honors, the 21 gun salutes, all those things. You have to remember it isn't for you. It's for the presidency." — Harry S. Truman

TODAY'S FACT: When the metric system was first conceived, the meter was intended to be one-ten-millionth of the distance from the North Pole to the Equator.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 28 — number of sports represented in this summer's Olympic Games in Athens.

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (June 17) and first quarter (June 25)

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	11.41	11.26	11.38	+ .10
AT&T Corp	16.42	16.26	16.35	+ .01
Albertsons	26.33	26.05	26.20	—.13
Alltel	49.65	49.45	49.51	—.19
AmEl Pw	31.78	31.65	31.78	+ .03
AndarkPtr	58.58	57.88	58.22	+ .16
ATMOS Egy	24.75	24.60	24.68	—.07
Aviall	17.72	17.55	17.56	—.09
BP PLC	53.86	53.63	53.82	+ .18
BakerHughes	37.19	36.38	36.42	—.26
Bank of Amer	84.50	83.91	84.06	—.46
BellSouth	25.43	25.30	25.40	+ .26
BurlNoSFe	34.77	34.35	34.71	+ .52
Caterpillar	76.87	76.35	76.87	+ .22
CenterPoint	11.29	11.19	11.23	—.02
ChevronTex	94.30	93.86	93.97	+ .14
Citigroup	46.98	46.66	46.81	—.18
CocaCola	51.09	50.74	50.84	—.18
ColgatePal	58.73	58.38	58.41	—.27
CmclMetals	33.20	32.35	32.88	+ .38
ConocoPhill	77.85	77.14	77.52	+ .34
Cooper Inds	57.18	56.75	57.09	+ .37
DaimlrChry	46.24	45.87	45.90	—.36
DeltaAirLines	6.37	6.31	6.36	—.02
Dillards Inc	22.25	22.05	22.05	—.19
DowChem	39.95	39.45	39.89	+ .22
DuPont	44.25	43.87	44.14	+ .14
EastmanChem	43.94	43.40	43.54	+ .04
EstKodak	25.81	25.45	25.68	+ .14
EDS Corp	18.37	18.18	18.32	+ .05
Entergy	55.67	55.10	55.65	+ .57
ExxonMobil	44.99	44.83	44.93	+ .03
FootLocker	23.35	22.71	23.14	+ .14
GenDynam	99.24	98.50	98.94	—.24
GenIElec	32.92	32.73	32.88	+ .03
GenMills	45.92	45.70	45.74	—.12
GenMotors	47.72	47.38	47.42	—.20
GaPacific	35.50	34.85	34.91	—.26
Goodrich	31.43	31.26	31.37	—.01
Goodyear	9.95	9.65	9.78	+ .08
GtAtlPac	7.40	7.30	7.31	—.08
Halliburtn	30.39	30.03	30.06	+ .01
Hanson PLC	36.40	36.25	36.25	—.95
HarteHanks	23.37	23.06	23.11	—.07
HomeDepot	35.07	34.75	34.76	—.28
HoneywellIntl	36.94	36.52	36.64	—.12
IBM	90.24	89.84	89.97	—.05
IntlPaper	44.09	43.76	43.86	—.12
JohnsonJn	55.80	55.45	55.50	+ .13
KinderMorg	59.67	59.37	59.51	+ .11
Kroger Co	17.90	17.68	17.72	—.12
LockheedM	51.13	50.76	50.95	+ .01
Lowes Cos	53.54	53.15	53.32	+ .02
Lubys	6.88	6.55	6.75	+ .20
LucentTech	3.81	3.69	3.80	+ .09
MarathonOil	37.26	36.54	36.60	+ .07
MayDeptStr	28.90	28.58	28.70	+ .18
Medtronic	48.87	48.56	48.78	+ .03
Motorola	18.25	17.85	18.18	+ .28
NCR Corp	48.95	48.60	48.80	+ .14
Navistar	39.38	39.07	39.10	—.16
PNM Rescs s	20.40	20.17	20.19	—.08
Penney JC	38.78	38.32	38.53	+ .15
PepBoys	24.61	24.37	24.48	—.02
PepsiCo	55.50	55.06	55.22	—.33
PhelpDodge	75.20	74.55	74.98	+ .66
PilgrimsPride	28.08	27.44	28.03	+ .61
Praxair s	38.25	37.72	37.85	—.05
ProctGamb s	56.06	55.65	55.74	—.14
RadioShack	29.00	28.77	28.84	—.05
RoyalDut	52.03	51.69	51.76	—.25
SBC Comm	24.21	24.08	24.11	+ .04
SaraLee	23.22	22.90	22.94	—.30
Scripps EW	106.30	105.40	105.40	—.90
SearsRoeb	38.96	38.58	38.73	+ .15
SherwinW	40.79	40.23	40.33	—.14
SouthernCo	29.21	29.03	29.13	+ .01
SwstAirl	15.75	15.50	15.70	+ .02
SprintFON	17.25	16.98	17.11	+ .09
Sunoco Inc	63.38	62.60	62.65	—.25
TXU Corp	39.47	39.21	39.47	
TempleInland	66.60	66.00	66.16	—.26
TexInd	39.46	39.20	39.35	+ .04
TexasInst.	24.13	23.74	23.91	+ .06
Textron	59.30	58.80	58.87	—.56
TimeWarner	17.33	17.20	17.23	—.11
TrinityInds	31.72	31.40	31.46	—.03
TylerTech	8.92	8.71	8.76	—.09
UnionPacif	57.09	56.80	57.03	—.02
USSteel	33.81	33.13	33.61	+ .42
UnitedTech	88.22	87.06	88.01	+ .18
Unocal	37.88	37.56	37.72	+ .08
VerizonComm	35.60	35.33	35.51	+ .14
WalMart	54.07	52.91	52.93	—1.13
WellsFargo	58.81	58.55	58.59	—.17
WstnGasRs s	31.75	31.35	31.38	—.12
WinnDixie	6.82	6.65	6.80	+ .16
Xerox Cp	14.75	14.57	14.74	+ .06
YumBrands	37.45	37.10	37.14	—.31

Happy Birthday Kristen

JUN 23 2004

Scurry County Country

Diversified

By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

Powdery Mildew on Landscape Ornamental Plants

Most of us have seen the symptoms. many know what disease it is or have heard of it, several of us know how to control it, but few know that "powdery mildew" is a generic term used to characterize diseases with similar symptoms but that can be caused by several different fungal species.

Most of the powdery mildews are host specific, indicating that some type of fungi infects one species of plant hosts (hydrangea powdery mildew will not infect begonias for example).

However some powdery mildew causing-fungi having several or a wide number of hosts, for example Erysiphe cichoracearum will infect begonias,

campanula and dahlia hybrids.

Powdery mildew is a common disease of numerous ornamental perennial plants including azaleas, cherry, flowering crabapples, dogwood, English oaks,

euonymus, honeysuckle, horse chestnut, lilac, privet, roses, serviceberry, silver maple, sycamore, tulip tree, viburnum, walnut, willow.

Powdery mildews are also common on many herbaceous plants, such as chrysanthemums, dahlias, delphiniums, phlox, begonias, snapdragons and zinnias to name a few.

The symptoms: Powdery mildew symptoms are usually the same or extremely similar regardless of the plant hosts. The disease is usually easy to identify due to a conspicuous fungal growth on the plant surface. Symptoms are often seen as superficial white to light-gray colored powdery spots of the fungus over the surface of leaves, stems, buds or flowers of affected plants.

Eventually these areas may enlarge until they cover the entire leaf, branch or stem. In many cases the fungus causes chlorosis or necrosis of infected tissues. Young foliage and shoots are especially susceptible to infection of powdery mildew.

Other symptoms may include dwarfing, leaf curling, twisting and premature senescence. Severe powdery mildew infection will result in dried and brown leaves as well as disfigured shoots and flowers.

Although it usually is not a fatal disease, powdery mildew may hasten plant defoliation and fall dormancy, and the infected plant may become extremely unsightly.

The organisms: Powdery mildew fungi belong to the Family Erisiphaceae and there are several genera considered powdery mildews including Erishiphe, Microsphaera, Phyllactinia, Podosphaera, Sphaerotheca, Oidium and Uncinula.

Powdery mildews are obligate parasites and thus require a living plant host to complete their life cycle (and they can not be cultured in artificial nutrient media in the laboratory).

The white mycelium (the thread-like structure which gives the particular symptoms) seen on the leaf surface, produces a specialized structure named haustoria (an anchor and feeding structure) which is used to absorb water and nutrients from the plant cells. The mycelium also produces short upright structures termed conidiaphores which produce chains of rectangular, ovoid, or round spores (conidia) that can be carried to other plants by air currents. When environmental conditions or nutrition become unfavorable or scarce, the fungi may produce one or a few sacs named asci inside of a black hard structure called a cleistothecium (which can usually seen as black pimples present on infected tissues), these structures are the over wintering and resting stages and they are very resistant to desiccation and harsh environments.

Environmental conditions favoring the disease: Most powdery mildew fungi produce airborne spores and infect plants under warm days and cool nights (typically 80ºF daytime temperatures with 40-70% relative humidity and night temperature of 60ºF with 95-99% relative humidity).

Unlike most fungi that infect plants, powdery mildew fungi do not require free water on the plant surface in order to germinate and infect. In fact, for powdery mildews these two processes are favored by dry conditions on the leaf surface. The powdery mildew fungi, although they are common in cool or warm weather, are even more common and serious in warm and dry climates.

This happens because their spores can be released, germinate and cause infection when the relative humidity in the air is fairly high but there is no film of water on the surface of the plant surface. Once the infection has begun the mycelium continues to spread on the plant surface regardless of moisture condition.

Control measures: There are several integrated management strategies that contribute to the control of Powdery mildews successfully.

Scouting: One of the most important steps to control powdery mildews (or any disease for that matter) is to detect and identify the problem before it can cause serious injury and losses.

Inspect thoroughly and regularly. Identify possible problematic areas such as shady and overcrowded spaces. Note weather patterns and evaluate if environmental conditions are conducive for disease development (humid, warm days and cool nights). Take notes on problematic sites or areas within a site or problematic plant species for future reference.

Sanitation: Pruning or removing infected leaves or stems can help to reduce the amount of the fungus present on the plants that can potentially spread the disease. Sanitation will also help to reduce the over wintering or survival structures of the fungus. Rake and remove infected litter from underneath of the plants.

Cultural Practices and Environmental Modification: Since Powdery mildews are favored by high humidity in the environment and poor air circulation, increasing plant spacing and selectively pruning surrounding vegetation or dense canopies allows air flow and increases light penetration.

Host Resistance: There are specific ornamental plants that have resistance to powdery mildews. Some examples are the powdery mildew-resistant crape myrtles (Acoma, Tuskegee, Zuma, Apalache etc). Check labels or obtain information for

particular disease resistant plants.

Biological Control: The use of natural competitors or inhibitors of powdery mildews have been largely overlooked and research in this area is still in its infancy. However recent research seems to indicate that some leaf surface dwelling organisms may be effective against powdery mildews.

Chemical Control: Chemical control has played a mayor role in reducing powdery mildew infections and disease spread. Systemic fungicides including fenarymol (Rubigan), myclobutanil (Sisthane), propiconazole (Banner), thiophanatmethyl

(Cleary 3336, Domain), triadimefon (Bayleton, Strike) and triforine (Triforine, Funginex) provide good control. Additionally, protectant fungicides such as chlorothalonil (Daconil), piperali (Pipron), trinumizole (Terragard) or wettable sulfur provide good powdery mildew control.

Fungicide Resistance to some of these products (systemics) have been identified. Be aware that if there is no improvement in disease control this may be due to resistance to the fungicide, consider the use of a different product.

Scurrying Around Snyder

Beth Dannheim, CEA- Family and Consumer Science; 2605 Avenue M, Snyder, Texas 79549

Wraps: Quick, Tasty & Good-For-You

What could be more easy-to-make, and still special, than a sandwich wrap. Here are some tips from the When Foods Council for creating a healthful wrap.

1. Begin with a sturdy wrap. Thin and pliable wheat tortillas are the easiest to use because they can be rolled and shaped.

2. For healthful fillings, start with a layer of well-dried lettuce, spinach, or other leafy base to keep the tortilla from becoming soggy after it's rolled.

3. Next, add a grain food such as rice, bulgar or rice noodles.

4. Top the grain with a dollop of low-fat salad dressing or salsa. You have to be sure what you use on the top and bottom is not too moist or the shell will tear when it's rolled.

5. Add crunchy ingredients such as bean sprouts or diced red peppers.

6. To shape the wrap, place the filling so there's a 1-inch margin around the edge of the tortilla. Then fold in one or both ends and roll from edge of the tortilla. This method gives you a burrito-style wrap.

Here's One To Try:

1 whole wheat tortilla

Cucumber Salad Dressing (choose one that is thick and creamy)

Sliced Tomatoes

Cucumbers (peeled), sliced

Olives

Grated Cheese

Layer ingredients in the order given on the whole wheat tortilla, & roll.

NOTE: Since this wrap isn't "lined" with some type of leafy base to keep the tortilla from becoming soggy, it tastes best eaten right away.

?Weather Whys?

Topic: Thermometers

Q: Who invented the first thermometer?

A: "Several people played a role in the development of the thermometer," says Michael Hammer of Texas A&M University. One of the first was the noted astronomer Galileo.

"The first thermometers was called thermoscopes and the birthplace of them was Italy," Hammer explains. "In other parts of Europe, inventors Cornelis Drebbel and Robert Fludd were working on similar instruments. But the problem was that each inventor had his own scale based on different reference points, so there was still not a standard unit to measure temperature. Galileo's, for instance, used water to measure temperature."

Q: What happened then?

A: "In the early 18th century, thermometers were made using various liquids for temperature readings, and alcohol thermometers were introduced in 1709 by German physicist Daniel Fahrenheit.

"In 1714, he introduced the mercury thermometer and devised a temperature scale that bears his name, and today's modern thermometers are much like the early ones Fahrenheit constructed," Hammer adds.

"Today, the outside temperature is always taken in the shade in a contained area away from concrete about four feet off the ground. Temperatures taken directly in sunshine will not give an accurate reading because mercury tends to expand greatly because of solar energy and gives a reading far higher than the actual temperature. So it's a worldwide standard that temperatures are always taken in the shade."

ABOUT WEATHER WHYS.

"Weather Whys" is a service of Texas A&M University's Department of Atmospheric Sciences. Past and current topics can be viewed via the web at http://rev.tamu.edu/weather-whys/.

For more information, please contact Keith Randall at (979) 845-4644 or kr@univrel.tamu.edu. Suggestions for future topics may be directed to news@univrel.tamu.edu.

Markets

Colorado City

The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 651 head of cattle for the Wednesday, June 16, sale. Feeder and stocker steers and heifers were steady to $1 higher. Bred cows and pairs were $20 to $40 higher. Packer cows and bulls were steady. Trade was active and demand good.

Feeder steers:
300-400: 118-137
400-500: 116-132
500-600: 100-117
600-700: 92-113
Feeder heifers:
300-400: 106-126
400-500: 112-121
599-600: 100-118
600-700: 92-112
700-925: 87.50-101
Bred cows: 600-870
Pairs: 800-1250
Packer cows: 48-56.50
Old and Shelly: 40-45
Packer bulls: 62-73.25

Lubbock

The Lubbock Stockyards, Inc. had a run of 720 head of cattle for the Thursday, June 17, sale. Cows were steady. Calves and yearlings were steady. Trading and demand were good.

Slaughter cows
(High dressing — cutters — utilities: 54-62
Canner and low cutters: 42-55
Slaughter bulls: 62-72
Feeder steers — choice:
300-400: 120-143
400-500: 110-130
500-600: 101-122
600-700: 95-108
700-800: 90-108
Feeder heifers:
300-400: 110-130
400-500: 105-122
500-600: 100-110
600-700: 95-105
700-800: 85-105
Feeder Bulls — good and choice:
500-600: 90-110
700-800: 87-95
Cow and calf pairs:
Good: 800-1140
Grade: 650-800
Springers: 450-850
Baby calves: 150-250
Doodlers: 175-275

Combs urges Mexico to delay order to move inspecition sites

By BETSY BLANEY
Associated Press Writer

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs urged Mexican officials Tuesday to delay an order requiring all livestock entering Mexico to be inspected after crossing the border from the United States. The inspections previously were done on the U.S. side.

The order went into effect without warning last Thursday. Texas agriculture officials knew about the legislation that called for the change but were expecting 60 days notice.

Combs said she is hopeful U.S. and Mexican officials can work out a delay in the order.

"I am optimistic that that will be worked out in a couple of days," she said. "The ramifications of this aren't known yet because it's kind of hot off the presses."

Miguel Monterrubio, a spokesman at the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C., declined to comment Tuesday.

Combs and some in the livestock trade industry said Mexico does not have adequate numbers of livestock holding pens and what they do have is not designed for all livestock. Mexico is within its rights to do the inspections there and longterm could have adequate facilities, Combs said.

According to numbers from the U.S. Census Bureau's foreign trade division, Texas leads the nation in exporting live animals to Mexico, exporting $41.7 million in livestock in 2003. The United States' total last year was $69.8 million.

The order, which applies to animals including hogs, lamb, sheep, horses, goats and exotics such as kangaroos, also affects Arizona, California and New Mexico. Live cattle from the U.S. are still banned from Mexico following the discovery in December of mad cow disease in a Holstein in Washington state.

Gov. Rick Perry will raise the inspection issue when he meets Wednesday with Mexican President Vincente Fox, Perry spokesman Robert Black said Tuesday.

"The governor intends the livestock dispute to be one of the first issues discussed," said Black, adding that Perry believes it violates the spirit of free trade. "He doesn't see the need for this restriction or how it would benefit the people of Mexico, and it does no good for the livestock industry in Texas."

Late Tuesday, discussions were continuing between Mexican and U.S. officials to try to establish guidelines to bring animals into Mexico, said Beverly Boyd, a state agriculture department spokeswoman. The key question, she said, is what to do with animals that are rejected after being inspected.

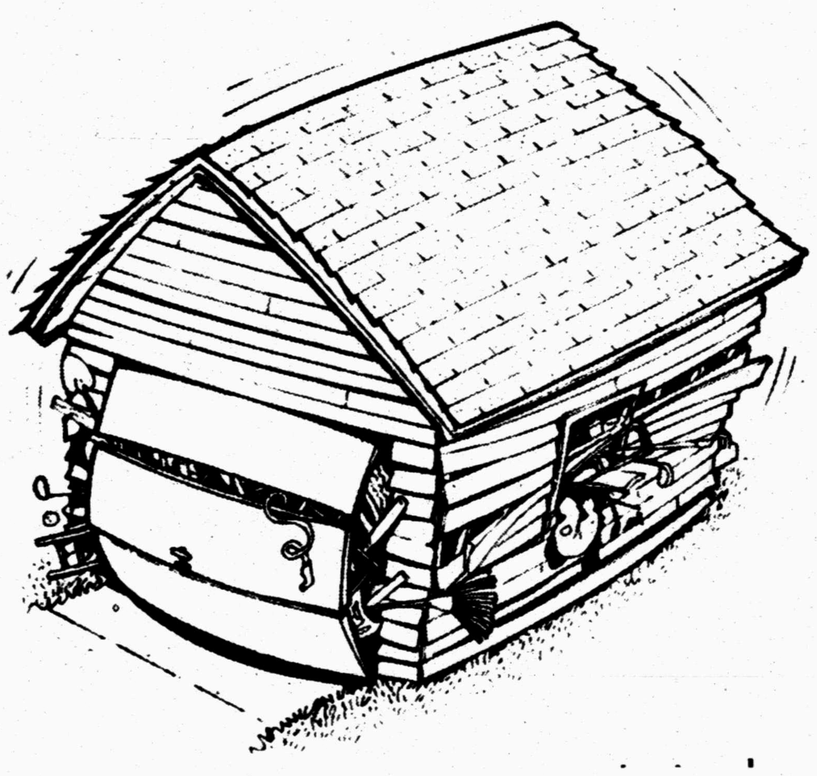
National Pork Producers Council trade representative Nick Giordano said producers are focused "in a big way" on Mexico.

"We're already feeling financial pain," he said. Mexico "can pass the law but it seems to me they need to be able to implement the law."

The 60-day notice could have allowed U.S. and Mexican officials to address major problems, Combs said. For example, sheep and pigs can't be penned in enclosures made for cattle and horses, she said.

Since the early 1970s, the Texas Department of Agriculture has operated five export pens — in Brownsville, Del Rio, Eagle Pass, El Paso and Laredo — along the Mexican border to ease livestock's movement into that country. There is also one at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston.

got clutter?



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By Bernice

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Congress approves $25 billion for Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House approved a $417 billion defense spending bill Tuesday that includes an initial $25 billion for U.S. operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, plus billions for major weapons systems.

The 403-17 vote underscored an election-year bipartisan consensus behind military spending that wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have accentuated.

If anything, Democrats think President Bush has requested too little for operations in the two countries in the year starting Oct. 1 and predict the $25 billion he requested for the latter months of this year will prove at least $50 billion too low.

"No doubt, after the election the public will be told what the facts are on the installment plan" about Iraq spending, said Rep. David Obey, D-Wis. Obey voted for the bill.

In the Senate, a proposal was rejected that would have taken money from Bush's proposed missile defense budget for use on such tasks as securing "loose nukes" — bomb material around the world that could fall into the hands of terrorists — and policing America's ports and borders. The 56-44 vote defeated an amendment to the Senate's defense authorization bill that would have shifted $515 million from the $10.2 billion missile defense budget.

While Bush wanted to decide exactly how his requested $25 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan would be spent, the House limited his unfettered control to $1 billion. The rest was assigned to 22 specific accounts, such as $674 million earmarked to provide armor for Humvee vehicles.

Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-Calif., who chairs the House Appropriations subcommittee that oversees the Pentagon, said the bill is "designed to meet the country's needs in an ever-shrinking and ever-complex world."

The bill has $1.6 billion for one more Virginia-class submarine, the Navy's most advanced attack submarine, and $4.4 billion to continue developing the joint strike fighter, a next-generation aircraft being developed for the Navy, Air Force, Marines and U.S. allies.

The national missile defense program would get $9.7 billion, $458 million less than President Bush wanted.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Although you might experience some higher than usual expenditures in the year ahead, your earnings and income will also be scaled upward, which should compensate for any of these unwanted changes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Unfortunately, you could make things harder on yourself today than they need to be by refusing to do things differently. Once you begin to roll with the punches, all will go smoothly again.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Maintaining a good attitude will be your ally today when dealing with people who are a bit out of sorts. If you can keep your head when others are blaming you, you'll be justly rewarded.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Although you are exceptionally competent and capable of managing complicated situations that involve others today, emotions could hinder your displaying the same ability in your personal affairs.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Associates might see opportunities today where you only see limited possibilities. But if you're smart, you'll allow yourself to benefit from their positive attitudes and actions. Be flexible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — If all you do today is put stock in situations that produce worldly returns, you won't feel satisfied with your efforts. Instead, work on building a bank account of love and friendship.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Unless you make adjustments in situations today where you see you're coming out better than those who are helping you get what you want, you're going to end up having a hollow victory.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — When gratifying your ambitions today, be careful not to do things to make yourself look good at the expense of others. Adjust your ways so that no innocent person bears the costs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Don't be too hasty to throw in the towel today just when you think everything is going wrong. Chances are all that is needed is a different game plan and you'll be back on track.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — There's a good chance you could find yourself at odds today with a close friend whose interests conflict with yours. Be the first to compromise and make adjustments to avoid complications.

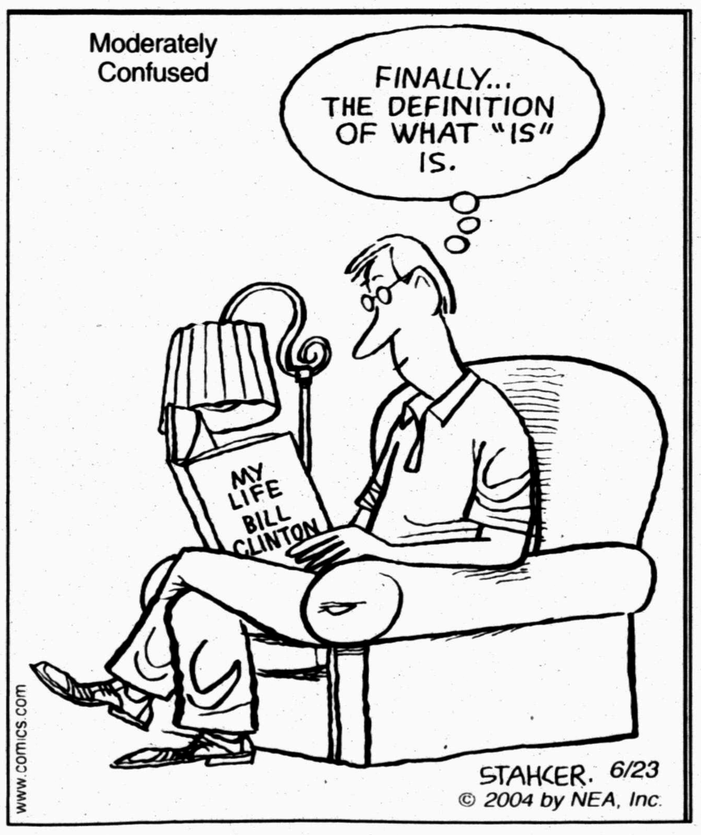
ARIES (March 21-April 19) — In order to accomplish an important objective you'd like to meet today, an alternative plan may be required. Be prepared to make changes as they are needed instead of fighting a losing battle.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Should you be confronted by problems today, stand back a bit in order to broaden your perspective of the situation. A wider view will clearly enable you to see what needs to be done.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — When the situation calls for negotiations or bargaining today, you'll have to be prepared to be a sharp thinker and on your toes in order to recognize all the advantages you have at your disposal.

Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker wheel can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167.

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GM Owner Loyalty Rebates

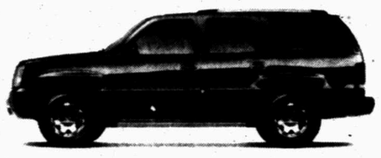
BILL WILSON'S Big Country AUTOLAND

BUICK



$5,000 Rebate
on 2004 Park Avenue/Ultra, LeSabre, Rainier, Rendezvous

CADILLAC



$5,000 Rebate
on 2004 Escalade EXT, Escalade SUV, Escalade ESV

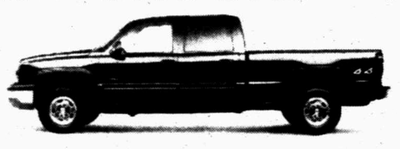
PONTIAC



$4,000 Rebate
on 2004 Grand Prix, Grand Am, Sunfire - 1SV

TRUCKS - TRUCKS - TRUCKS

$3,000 Rebate
on 2004 Chevy Colorado Reg & Ext. Cab and 2004 GMC Canyon Reg. or Ext. Cab



$3,000 Rebate
on 2004 Chevy Silverado 1500 Crew Cab and 2004 GMC Sierra 1500 Crew Cab

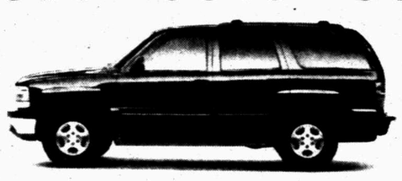


$4,000 Rebate
on 2004 GMC Sierra (all other models) and 2004 Chevy Silverado (all other models)

SUVs - SUVs - SUVs



$5,000 Rebate
on 2004 Chevy Trailblazer, Trailblazer EXT, and 2004 GMC Envoy, Envoy XL, Envoy XUV



$5,000 Rebate
on 2004 Chevy Tahoe and GMC Yukon



$5,000 Rebate
on 2004 GMC YukonXL and 2004 Chevy Suburban

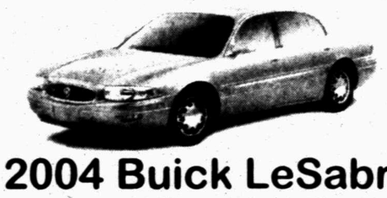
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GM Certified USED VEHICLES

PROGRAM CARS
100 pt. GM Inspected



2004 Buick Park Ave.
$24,500
White, Grey Leather, Loaded



2004 Buick LeSabre
$18,500
White, Custom Cloth, 17K miles, Power windows/locks

2.9%
Available on Pontiac Grand Am GM Certified*
*WAC must qualify for program



2004 Pontiac Grand Am SE
$12,750
V-6, Spoiler, Power windows/Locks

Trucks...

1997 Chevy 1500 ExCab Sportside 1273576, V-8, Silverado, Must See $7,595
2000 Chevy S10 ExCab LS 8171288, Auto, A/C, New Tires $8,995
1996 GM 1500 SLE ExCab 503906, 86K miles, Great 1st Truck $8,995
1997 Ford SuperCab Flareside Custom VKC41549 Red, over Silver Paint $9,995
1999 Chevy Suburban LS 151212, White, Dual A/C $10,995
2001 Chevy 1500 ExCab LS 1206357, V-8, Base NADA Loan Priced $12,775
2002 Chevy 1500 SWB 300822, Red, V-6, Auto New Tires $12,995
2002 Ford F150 Supercab XLT COL484, V-8 ..... $13,595
2002 Ford F150 SuperCab Flareside A46469, Silver Bucket Seat $18,995
2000 Chevy 1500 Z71 ExCab LS Pkg. 408017, Tow pkg., Great Shape $18,995
2001 Ford Super Crew Lariat Black, Loaded Like New $19,995
2003 Chevy 1500 ExCab 146022, Maroon Over Pewter 2 Tone, Like New $19,995
2003 Chevy 1500 LS ExCab 347766, Brilliant Blue, Custom Camper Shell, 1 Owner $21,995
2003 Chevy 1500 H.D. Crew Cab LS 127963, 25K Miles Like New $23,995
2004 Chevy Avalanche Z71 LT 78726, Tow Pkg., 7000 Miles $30,995
2001 Chevy Suburban LT 229982, Slight Hail Damage ..... NADA LOAN
2000 Chevy 1500 ExCab 262890, Red, Silverado, Bedliner, Chrome Rails ..... MUST SEE

SUVs...

2002 Chevy Blazer LS 170880, V-6, Bucket Seats $9,995
2000 Chevy Tahoe LT 190035, 4x4, Pewter, Michelin Tires $16,995
2000 Chevy Suburban LT 203221, Tan, Leather Dual A/C $18,995

Cars...

1999 Buick LeSabre Custom V-6, Power Windows, Power Locks $5,995
2002 Chevy Cavalier Blue, Sunroof, Auto $7,995
2000 Buick Century Custom V-6, Great Gas Mileage $8,795
2002 Chevy Cavalier 2 Door, Black 10K Miles $8,995
2003 Pontiac Grand Am Maroon, V-6, Power Windows, Power Locks $10,995
2003 Nissan Altima Black, Grey Leather, 1 Owner $14,995

Bargain Bin...

1976 Olds 88 1 Owner, Orginal Miles $1,595
1989 Chevy ½ Ton Great First Truck $1,795
1991 Olds Silouhette Van 16561, V-6, "Vantastic" $2,695
1996 Chevy Cavalier 70447, 2 Door, Auto A/C $2,795
1995 Ford T-Bird White, V-8, Must Move Out $2,995
1992 Mercury Grand Marquis LS $3,995
1999 Buick LeSabre Custom 1 Owner, "Salesman" $3,995
2000 Hyundai Sonata 288286, Leather, Power Windows, Power Locks, GLS V-6 ..... $4,995
2001 Chevy S10 Pickup 5 Speed, LS, Great Gas Mileage $6,995

East Traffic Circle Snyder, Texas (325)573-5486 or 1-800-573-5459

JUN 23 2004

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Attacks in Russia kill 92 people

VLADIKAVKAZ, Russia (AP) — A nighttime attack this week in the Russian republic of Ingushetia by militants near the border of war-ravaged Chechnya killed 92 people and wounded 125, a regional government official said today.

Among the dead were 67 members of law enforcement agencies, said the official, Magomed Ziyaudinnov.

About 1,000 militants had taken part in the attacks late Monday night, Ziyaudinnov said, quoting the Ingush Interior Ministry. Ingush officials had previously said about 200 fighters had participated.

The regional branch of Russia's Federal Security Service received information about the movements of an armed group about 30 minutes before the start of the attacks, the ITAR-Tass news agency quoted the deputy of the regional branch, Andrei Konin, as saying.

"But we did not expect such breadth — simultaneous attacks on 15 sites," Konin told ITAR-Tass.

An Ingush policeman who identified himself only by his first name, Musa, said the attacks appeared to be timed around the changing of the guard at the Kavkaz checkpoint shortly before midnight Monday.

Many soldiers were killed in ambushes, while police and other law enforcement officials were shot and killed after being called to work after an alert was issued, Musa said. The officials were stopped and asked for identification papers at checkpoints set up by the gunmen, who were dressed in black balaclava masks and camouflage uniforms or black leather jackets similar to those worn by police. He said the gunmen disarmed and tied up some traffic policemen but spared their lives.

Flags flew at half-staff and all entertainment television programs in Ingushetia were canceled, as a three-day mourning period began this morning.

On Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin visited Ingushetia and said a regiment of Interior Ministry forces would be stationed there permanently, raising the Kremlin's troop commitment to the troubled Caucasus region.

The coordinated assaults by heavily armed fighters on police and border guards facilities in the main Ingush city of Nazran and several smaller settlements were a graphic demonstration of Russian forces' vulnerability to guerrillas.

For the approximately four hours that the fighting raged, the militants controlled police checkpoints along much of the 35-mile Ingush stretch of the Federal Caucasus highway.

Thousands of Russian troops streamed into Ingushetia Tuesday to search for the attackers, who were believed to have escaped into the forests along the Chechen border, over the mountains into Georgia, or back to their hometowns in Ingushetia itself. Musa, the Ingush policemen, said that most of the attackers were believed to be Ingush, not Chechen.

Putin, meeting with Ingush President Murat Zyazikov, said the search for the attackers must go on "as long as necessary."

"It's a new attempt, not the first one, to intimidate the Ingush, intimidate ... leadership of the republic, and destabilize the situation in the south of Russia," Putin was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

Five alleged attackers were detained, Ingush Interior Ministry spokesman Yakhya Khadziyev said. Two of the suspects were wounded.

Chechen Interior Minister Alu Alkhanov, the Kremlin's candidate to replace slain Chechen President Akhmad Kadyrov, said the attacks had been led by an Ingushetia-based rebel leader, Magomed Yevloyev, Interfax said. His deputy, Ruslan Alkhanov, told Interfax that Yevloyev was a leader of the extremist Wahhabi Islamic group.

Kadyrov was assassinated in May, and Aslan Maskhadov, Chechnya's former separatist president, said last week that the rebels were preparing new offensives.

Per-public spending in Texas below par

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas' per-pupil spending on public education is not keeping pace with the rest of the nation, according to a new report.

While the state faces litigation and lawmakers continue to struggle with how public schools are funded, the study found that growth in per-pupil spending on public school operations in Texas between 1997 and 2002 was slower than the national average. The growth was slower than the rate in 30 other states.

Per-pupil spending, adjusted for inflation, increased by 14.3 percent during the five-year period, according to the report by the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, a public policy research arm of the State University of New York.

The national average for per-pupil spending increased at an average of 16.8 percent during that time.

The study, released today, compared state, federal and local spending on instruction and other educational operations. It didn't include money spent on debt service and construction costs.

Robert Black, a spokesman for Gov. Rick Perry, said the state's record on education spending was better than the new report indicated and is even higher if construction-related costs are included.

"Governor Perry has shown a tremendous commitment, both as lieutenant governor and governor, to education in this state," Black said. "He believes the Legislature has shown a tremendous commitment to education."

Eva de Luna, a budget analyst for the Austin-based Center for Public Policy Priorities, an advocacy group for low- and middle-income Texans, said her own calculations support the findings.

She predicted Texas may slip even more after last year's state budgetary cuts, which weren't included in the national study.

A recent special session to overhaul the way Texas pays for public education failed after Perry and legislative leaders couldn't agree on a new plan. Perry has indicated he may call another special session later this summer.

"Providing a good education is not just about who is spending the most money," Black said. "The governor is confident that Texas is providing a very good education, and the test scores prove that out."

Births

Ashton Glenn Massingill, son of Travis and Rachel Massingill of Snyder, was born at 2:38 a.m. Tuesday, June 22, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. He weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces.

Paternal grandparents are Linda Wright of Snyder and Glenn Massingill of Baton Rouge, La. Maternal grandparents are Paul and Judy Haines of Claremore, Okla.

TXU chief earns $40 million in 4 months

FORT WORTH (AP) — The new chief executive of TXU Corp. has received compensation worth about $40 million since taking charge of the utility in February.

The payment to John Wilder, most of it in stock, was a reward for lifting the price of TXU's battered shares by nearly 60 percent.

Wilder, a former Entergy Corp. chief financial officer, was hired for a $1.25 million salary and a $1 million signing bonus. He also received 1 million shares after the stock rose above $33 per share for 30 days, which it achieved by late May, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported today.

At TXU's closing price Tuesday of $39.47 per share, Wilder's package already topped $40 million. He could receive another $30 million by 2007 if the stock price remains relatively high.

Wilder declined to comment, but the chairman of the TXU board's compensation committee defended the pay package.

"Ask people how they feel about the $4 billion increase in market cap," James Oesterreicher, former CEO at J.C. Penney Co., told the Star-Telegram.

TXU's market capitalization, the value of outstanding shares, has risen from about $8.1 billion to $12.8 billion since Wilder was hired on Feb. 23 to replace Erle Nye, who remained chairman.

The shares had risen 11 cents, to $39.58, in midday trading today on the New York Stock Exchange.

Man runs car over traffic cones, charged with felony

• ***Arrests***

Police responded to a report at 12:16 a.m. today of a vehicle running over traffic cones on 37th Street near West Elementary. Officers arrested Travis Daniel Wells for driving while intoxicated, first offense, and for criminal mischief, a state jail felony. Also apprehended was a 27-year-old male for public intoxication.

The sheriff's department arrested a 35-year-old male on a county warrant for failure to appear.

• ***Shoplifting***

Police responded to United Supermarket to a report of a shoplifter at 10:34 a.m. Tuesday. A criminal trespass warning was issued.

• ***Harassment***

Phone harassment was reported at 8:01 p.m. Tuesday to dispatchers. Phone harassment also was reported at 8:20 p.m. Tuesday at Burger King.

• ***Criminal mischief***

Juveniles were reported throwing firecrackers at a vehicle and a yard in the 2600 block of 36th Street at 8:58 p.m. Tuesday.

A report of fireworks being thrown out of a pickup was received from the 2800 block of 42nd Street at 2:10 a.m. today.

• ***Loose livestock***

A brown cow was reported loose at the traffic circle at 6:40 a.m. and again at 8:01 a.m. Tuesday.

A bull was loose on CR 137 at 3:12 p.m. Tuesday. Deputies and the owner rounded up the animal.

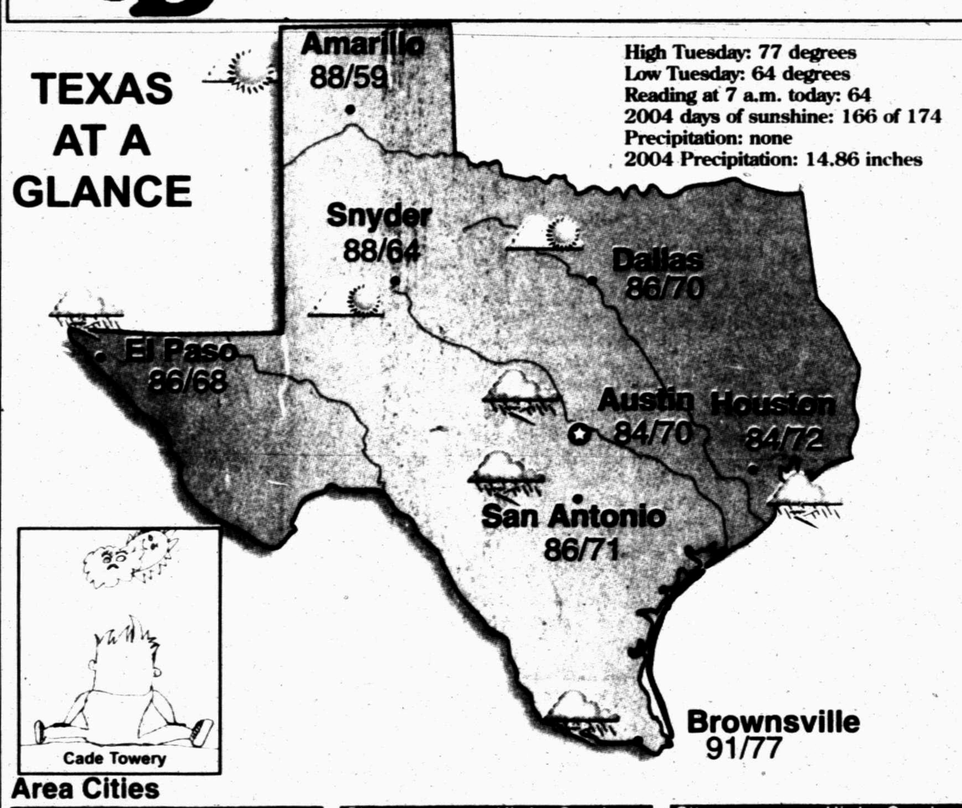
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Thu 6/24	Fri 6/25	Sat 6/26
88/64	90/63	88/65
Sunshine along with some passing clouds. High 88F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.	Plenty of sun. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 60s.	A few thunderstorms possible.
Sunrise 6:37 AM, Sunset 8:55 PM	Sunrise 6:38 AM, Sunset 8:55 PM	Sunrise 6:38 AM, Sunset 8:55 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



High Tuesday: 77 degrees
Low Tuesday: 64 degrees
Reading at 7 a.m. today: 64
2004 days of sunshine: 166 of 174
Precipitation: none
2004 Precipitation: 14.86 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	87	66	mst sunny	El Paso	86	68	t-storm	Midland	91	66	mst sunny
Amarillo	88	59	mst sunny	Fort Stockton	89	67	sunny	Raymondville	92	75	t-storm
Austin	84	70	t-storm	Gainesville	84	66	pt sunny	Rosenberg	84	72	t-storm
Beaumont	82	72	t-storm	Greenville	84	67	pt sunny	San Antonio	86	71	t-storm
Brownsville	91	77	t-storm	Houston	84	72	t-storm	San Marcos	85	70	t-storm
Brownwood	87	66	pt sunny	Kingsville	89	74	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	84	67	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	87	76	t-storm	Livingston	83	68	t-storm	Sweetwater	88	65	pt sunny
Corsicana	84	69	pt sunny	Longview	84	68	t-storm	Tyler	84	68	pt sunny
Dallas	86	70	pt sunny	Lubbock	89	63	pt sunny	Weatherford	85	66	pt sunny
Del Rio	89	72	pt sunny	Lufkin	83	68	t-storm	Wichita Falls	89	63	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Atlanta	85	68	t-storm	Houston	84	72	t-storm	Phoenix	104	80	mst sunny
Boston	76	60	mst sunny	Los Angeles	77	63	pt sunny	San Francisco	67	54	windy
Chicago	71	53	t-storm	Miami	91	80	t-storm	Seattle	75	57	cloudy
Dallas	86	70	pt sunny	Minneapolis	63	47	pt sunny	St. Louis	88	64	t-storm
Denver	78	53	t-storm	New York	81	66	mst sunny	Washington, DC	86	68	rain

Moon Phases

New	First	Full	Last
Jun 17	Jun 25	Jul 2	Jul 9

UV Index

Thu 6/24	Fri 6/25	Sat 6/26
Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

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

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Obituaries

Kenneth Goodlett

1954-2004

Kenneth Eunice Goodlett, a former resident of Snyder, died Monday, June 21, at his home in Lubbock.

Funeral service for Mr. Goodlett, 49, is set for 10 a.m. Thursday in the Faith Baptist Church with the Rev. Larry White, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow in the Dunn Cemetery under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Dec. 3, 1954 in Colorado City, Mr. Goodlett had worked for 13 years in the Snyder post office and moved to Lubbock in 1990 where he was a mail carrier and a member of Trinity Church in Lubbock.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Elizabeth Goodlett, on March 10, 1973.

Survivors include two sons, Todd Goodlett of Los Angeles and Jeremy Goodlett and wife, Katrina, of Lubbock; a stepdaughter, Lindsay Kendrick of Lubbock; his parents, E.J. and Wanda Goodlett of Dunn; three sisters, Carolyn Lara of San Angelo, Ruth Barrow of San Antonio and Margaret Wilson of Houston.

Visitation will be held from 6 to 7 this evening at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Nick Gutierrez

1985-2004

Nicholas "Nick" Gutierrez, a 2003 graduate of Snyder High School, died Monday, June 21, in University Medical Center in Lubbock after a lengthy illness.

Rosary for Mr. Gutierrez, 19, is set for 7 this evening in the Wright Colonial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in the St. Elizabeth Catholic Church with the Rev. Roy Badilles officiating. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Born Jan. 2, 1985 in Big Spring, he was active in the Future Farmers of America in high school and was a member of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church.

Survivors include his parents, Juan and Mae Gutierrez of Snyder; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Naomi and Chris Barrera, Amanda and John Baez and Norma Gutierrez, all of Snyder; a brother, John Gutierrez of Snyder; three nephews, Christopher Barrera, Jacob Barrera and Ben Baez, all of Snyder; and two nieces, Kelsi Baez and Jenny Barrera, both of Snyder.

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