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WT-Int. Crude - $16.43
WTIC Posted - $13.75

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

TUESDAY

March 30, 1999
Vol. 50 No. 282
10 Pages 50¢

Home Of Sam Bedell

IN THE HOLE — City of Snyder workers Wayne Kimery, Ron Wilson and David Martinez (counterclockwise from front left) were called to the 3500 block of College shortly before 5 o'clock Monday afternoon where a trencher apparently dug too deep and hit a water line. (SDN Staff Photo)

Donors may win color TV...

Blood drive continues here through Thursday

Snyder citizens have through Thursday to donate blood in drives dedicated to long-time resident Myrtle G. Sullenger.

Mrs. Sullenger, the wife of James (Huck) Sullenger and the former office nurse for Dr. Wilton Jones, has recently received over 30 blood transfusions and is currently a patient at Covenant Hospital in Lubbock.

The community-wide blood drive will continue until 7 p.m. today at the Family Life Center of First Baptist Church.

Snyder High School will be the site of Wednesday's blood drive as donors may donate blood at the gym between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

On Thursday, Price Daniel Unit employees will donate blood from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., while United Blood Service personnel will be on the Western Texas College campus from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The blood drive on the WTC campus will be held at the student center.

All volunteer blood donors will receive a complimentary T-shirt as a thank you gift from UBS, and will have the opportunity to win a 13" color TV from the blood service, as well.

There will be numerous other random raffle drawings of items donated by local merchants.

As another added bonus, all volunteer donors receive a free mini-physical, including checks of blood pressure, temperature, pulse rate and iron level.

United Blood Services provides blood components to 21 hospital, in 18 area counties and the average daily need is approximately 150 units of blood.

Blood donors are volunteers who give of themselves to help others live.

They are unknown heroes to the families who are blessed with their blood donation.

"We need many more heroes to help our neighbors such as Mrs. Sullenger," added Harris.

The process takes about 30 minutes, added Harris.

To sign-up for the community blood drives, call Bill or Martha Schiebel at 573-8626, or for additional information call UBS at 1-800-333-6920, ext. 3109.

"We are most appreciative of the volunteers and the participating local merchants, and the members of the Cogdell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary for their generous support," said Harris.

In the local drives this week, Mrs. Sullenger will receive a 4/1 credit from UBS.

"This means that for every four pints donated, she will receive a valuable credit from UBS for processing fees for one unit of blood," emphasized Harris.

In addition to free T-Shirts and a chance to win the television, each participant will be eligible to receive coupons from Dairy Queen, Whataburger, Taco John's, Wal-Mart, Long John Silver's, Golden Corral, Gill's Fried Chicken, Grandy's and Burger King.

Others donating food coupons include Ken's Chicken, McDonald's, The Shack, Jaramillo's, Spanish Inn, Pizza Hut, Rudy's, Subway and Rusty Spur Cafe.

Tiger Health and Fitness Center is donating a $25 gift certificate.

In addition, Bar-H-Bar, Ben Wilson Supply, McWilliams Pharmacy, Scurry County Coliseum, The Shack, Pizza Hut and Golden Corral are promoting the drive by use of their marquee signs.

In federal court...

Hearing set Wednesday for former SNB employee

Scott Gassiot, indicted last week for embezzeling more than $400,000 from Snyder National Bank, is scheduled to appear before a federal magistrate judge in Lubbock at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday.

It will be Gassiot's first appearance before federal authoriities after a federal grand jury indicted the 38-year-old Colorado City resident last Tuesday for stealing $427,689.50 from the bank over a five-year period, from Jan. 1, 1994 through March 8, 1999.

U.S. Attorney Steve Sucsy said it also possible that Gassiot's trial date could be set on Wednesday.

The indictment against the former vice-president and cashier of the bank also carries a criminal forfeiture clause that calls for Gassiot to surrender all real property or other items obtained with the money he is accused of stealing.

Two pieces of real estate were listed in the indictment — both located in Colorado City.

Rental property at 737 Hickory and 2151 Locust were listed as belonging to Gassiot and obtained from stolen bank funds.

His home at 743 Hickory was not listed in the indictment.

Embezzlement by a bank official carries a maximum prison sentence of 30 years and a fine up to $1 million. Probation is not possible in the case since it is a Class B felony under federal guidelines.

Law enforcement personnel have also investigated another case of theft at the bank.

This case could be referred to the next session of the Scurry County grand jury which meets Monday.

This case involves a female bank teller, who has not been charged.

Wirsching wins Final Four money

Of the nine possible winners in the annual Final Four contest sponsored by the Snyder Daily News, only three picked Connecticut to upset Duke for the championship.

Joe Wirsching of 366 CR 146, Felix Martinez of 100 37th St., and Robert Sauceda of 413 36th St., all picked the Huskies to win.

Wirshching is the winner of the $50 top prize as he compiled 86 points out of a possible 100. Martinez and Sauceda each had 83 points, but Martinez' tie-breaker score earned him the $25 second prize.

Sauceda won $15 for finishing third.

Winners will be mailed their checks.

Holy Week
Worship Schedule

Monday - Thursday
First Presbyterian Church
Service & Meal
12 noon - 1:00 p.m.

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Daily Speakers
Wednesday - Thomas Minton
Thursday - Gerald Leatham

Friday - 7:00 a.m. Breakfast
First United Methodist Church
Lloyd Stice

Public is invited to burger cookout

Up to 1,000 hamburgers are expected to be served Thursday afternoon as county officials will host an "Economy Awareness Rally" on the courthouse lawn.

Free hamburgers and iced-tea will be served beginning at 5 p.m.

"We encourage everyone to come out and eat a hamburger with us," said County Judge Ricky Fritz. "We especially invite the people who have had to take pay cuts due to the downturn in the economy."

Fritz said the rally would be over in time for citizens to attend the Town Hall meeting at City Hall at 6:30 p.m.

"We're just trying to build momentum for everyone to go to City Hall for the meeting," said Fritz.

Fritz said State Rep. David Counts and James Beaucham of U.S. Rep. Charlie Stenholm's office will be among those in attendance.

Funds for the hamburger supper are being donated by county officials and local merchants, said Fritz.

City to hold special 'Town Hall' meeting

Snyder's city council will hold a special meeting Thursday at 6:30 p.m. as Rep. David Counts will conduct a town hall meeting to discuss local and state issues.

The meeting will conclude a busy day for Counts as he has also arranged the visits of Railroad Commissioner Chairman Tony Garza and Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission Chairman Robert Huston to Snyder.

Rep. Counts will lead the two state officials on a tour of Torch Energy, SACROC and Sharon Ridge fields, the City of Snyder's water treatment and waste-water plants, plus the Western Texas College Workforce Education Center which houses distance learning facilities.

Chairman Garza will tour the oil-related sites, while Chairman Huston will tour the sites the TNRCC oversees — the city's water treatment plant and its waste-water facility.

Both officials will tour the WTC Workforce Education Center around 4 p.m. and then attend a public reception at 4:30 p.m. at the Scurry County Museum on the WTC campus.

In January, Rep. Counts and Snyder Mayor David Holt arranged the visit to Snyder by Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs and other state officials.

In addition to Garza and Huston, others expected from Austin Thursday include Gene Acuna, director of public relations for the railroad commission and Duncan Norton, TNRC general counsel.

Torch Energy plant manager Mike Post will host the group's tour at the Torch plant, while PennzEnergy production superintendent Pete Hagist, systems analyst Don Orsburn and Patterson Energy's chairman Cloyce Talbott will conduct the tour for Garza at SACROC.

Joining Garza in the tour of the Sharon Ridge Field will be Leamon Hood and Marty Toombs of Altura Energy, Roger Lollar of Anadarko, while Exxon will be represented by Ross Cornett and Roy Baze.

City Manager John Gayle will lead the tour of the city's facilities while Mike Thornton and John Gibson will direct the tour of the WTC educational center. Thornton is dean of continuing education while Gibson is the director of workforce education.

The public reception at the museum will be hosted by WTC President Dr. Harry Krenek.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Nothing is impossible for the guy who doesn't have to do it himself."

Only in America...

You can lie under oath, but it's against the law to own a gun if you happen to be going through a divorce.

To combat domestic violence, Congress in 1994 outlawed ownership of a gun by persons involved in a marital dissolution suit.

After a guy was charged under the little-known statute, a Lubbock judge has since ruled it unconstitutional.

But there have been a lot of strange laws written over the years. For example:

--In Halethorpe, Md., it is illegal to kiss for more than one second.

--In Truro, Miss., a would-be groom must prove himself manly prior to marriage by hunting and killing either six blackbirds or three crows.

--In Vermont, a woman must obtain written permission from her husband to wear false teeth.

--Boxes of candy given as romatic gifts must weigh no more than five pounds in Idaho.

--In St. Louis, it is illegal for an on-duty firefighter to rescue a woman wearing a nightgown. In order to be rescued, the woman must be fully dressed.

--In Ottumwa, Iowa, it is unlawful for any male, within the corporate city limits, to wink at any female with whom he is unacquainted.

--In Durango, Colo, it is unlawful to go out in public dressed in clothing 'unbecoming to one's sex."

In Miami, it is illegal for a man to wear any kind of strapless gown.

--In Quitman, Ga., it is illegal for a chicken to cross the road.

--In California, it is illegal to set a mousetrap without a hunting license.

Texas has had some strange ordinances:

--The entire Encyclopedia Britannica was banned because it contained a formula for making home brew.

--An anti-crime law requires criminals to give their victims 24 hours notice, either orally or in writing, and to explain the nature of the crime to be committed.

--In Mesquite, it is illegal for children to have unusual haircuts.

And some laws that affect the clergy:

--In Marion, Ore, ministers are forbidden from eating garlic or onions before delivering a sermon.

In Nicholas County, W.Va., no clergy may tell jokes or humorous stories from the pulpit.

--In South Carolina, every citizen is obliged to carry his gun to church.

If he goes overtime, we have to wonder if it's against the law to shoot the messenger?

ASK US

Q—How many dollars in food stamp money was issued to Scurry County residents last year?

A—For the last fiscal year, $1,119,315.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Monday, 56 degrees; low, 50; 7 a.m. Tuesday, 51; .02 of an inch precipitation; total for 1999, 2.69 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, cloudy. Low, lower 50s. S wind 10-15 mph. Wednesday, morning clouds, then becoming mostly sunny. Breezy, much warmer; high near 80. S wind increasing to 15-25 mph, gusty.

Paul Garcia
Warmer

Sunset: 7:02 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:34 a.m.
Of 88 days in 1999, the sun has shone 82 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

"Tomorrow is now."

Eleanor Roosevelt

MAR 30 1999
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Yugoslav defense officials met with Iraqis

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. intelligence tracked senior Yugoslav defense officials to Baghdad last month for a meeting that Pentagon officials suspect involved the Iraqis providing the Yugoslavs with detailed information on the air combat tactics of their common enemy, the United States.

Pentagon officials said intelligence collectors were unable to obtain a detailed account of the two-day visit to Baghdad of a four-member Yugoslav air defense team. But they said the timing of the meeting, the attendees, a similarity in Iraqi and Yugoslav air defense tactics and separate intelligence about possible arms deals between the two countries all point to Yugoslavia seeking information on U.S. fighter jets and combat tactics.

President Clinton and key congressional leaders were quickly notified of the contact, the officials said.

Despite Iraq's lack of success against U.S. and allied warplanes, U.S. defense and intelligence officials are concerned that Yugoslavia may be able to apply lessons learned by Iraq to its own more formidable air defense network. The meeting came at a time when Belgrade was resisting a diplomatic solution to the Kosovo crisis and bracing for threatened NATO airstrikes while Baghdad was challenging U.S. planes conducting deny-flight missions to protect minority populations in northern and southern Iraq.

Both Yugoslavia and Iraq are under international arms embargoes. U.S. officials said they have intelligence indicating Yugoslavia was offering to trade military spare parts in exchange for Iraqi intelligence on U.S. air operations. Yugoslavia may also be seeking parts from Iraq.

The Yugoslav-Iraqi meeting was described to The Associated Press by senior Clinton administration officials, Pentagon officials familiar with intelligence matters and congressional officials briefed on the matter. They spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Monday he could not comment on intelligence matters but said such contacts would not be surprising given that both countries face essentially the same enemy, both share Soviet-built air defense systems, and both are under international arms embargoes.

"I'm sure the Yugoslavs believe that the Iraqis have learned a thing or two over the last seven years in dealing with Western aircraft," Bacon said. "What they've learned is that they haven't been able to deal with them very successfully, and I hope that they imparted that information to the Yugoslavs."

Nevertheless, Yugoslavia's air defense capability is highly respected by Pentagon air commanders. Defense Secretary William Cohen on Monday approved the dispatch of five more EA-6B electronic countermeasure aircraft to the Balkan theater. The specific mission of the plane is to suppress enemy air defense radar systems.

Defense officials said Yugoslavia wants such details as:

—How high do U.S. warplanes fly during attack missions and what predictable patterns do they follow?

—How long does it take a U.S. fighter to react with a radar-seeking missile after an air defense battery directs its radar at the plane?

—How can military equipment be hidden from view?

—How can radar systems be tuned to detect, even fleetingly, an F-117 stealth fighter?

The crash of an F-117A stealth fighter Saturday in Yugoslavia has defense officials concerned that U.S. adversaries' knowledge of American air combat methods is improving, the officials said.

Bacon said he could not confirm indications from images of the wreckage, and anonymous statements by defense officials, that the stealth fighter was shot down. But he said the Pentagon was examining the incident intensively, seeking to learn whether the Air Force needs to change its operational tactics with the F-117.

Defense officials say a similarity in the air tactics seen from Yugoslavia and Iraq indicates the two nations are comparing notes on combating U.S. air power.

Study reveals coal fires are poisoning millions in China

WASHINGTON (AP) — Raw coal laced with arsenic, fluorine, lead and mercury is threatening the health of millions of Chinese who use it as fuel for heating and cooking, a new study shows.

The study, published today in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, found that the poison contaminants become part of the smoke from burning the raw coal and are then breathed into lungs and baked into foods, said Harvey E. Belkin, co-author of the study.

For example, peppers dried over coal fires can have up to 500 parts per million of arsenic, a potentially dangerous level, said Belkin.

An estimated 800 million of China's 1.2 billion people use coal in their homes, said Belkin, and much of the fuel contains dangerous contaminants.

In one Chinese province, experts have identified thousands of cases of arsenic poisoning, with symptoms including skin cancer and open sores.

In another area, at least 10 million people have fluorine poisoning with many suffering from soft and misshapen bones, said study co-author Robert B. Finkelman.

Diseases and disorders caused by burning of dirty coal are "an enormous problem," said Finkelman.

Such dirty coal would have to be cleaned before it could be burned in the United States, said Belkin. And coal in any form is seldom used in the U.S. for cooking.

In China, he said, about 22 percent of rural homes depend on coal for domestic fuel.

"If they want to cook or heat, they have to use coal," he said. China has very little oil, gas or wood that can be used for fuel. But China has the world's largest known reserves of coal. For many peasants, the coal is dug out of hillsides, free for the taking.

Many poor Chinese burn the coal in unvented stoves, filling their homes with fumes. Belkin said early mornings in rural villages find most homes wreathed with the bluish haze of coal smoke.

In southwest China's Guizhou province, which has beds of arsenic-rich coal, farmers routinely dry peppers over coal-fired stoves. The produce absorbs the smoke and fumes, and then are added to virtually every food prepared, Belkin said.

It is unknown whether the arsenic poisoning has caused any deaths, he said, because death certificates and autopsies are rare in rural China, but at least 3,000 confirmed cases of chronic arsenic poisoning have been confirmed.

In another area, farmers use coal with a high fluorine content to dry corn, Belkin said. The grain selectively absorbs high levels of the poison mineral, he said, and as a result fluorosis, or fluorine poisoning, is very common. The effects can range from discolored teeth to softened, twisted and crippled bones.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Wednesday, March 31, 1999

The year ahead might offer you more opportunities to advance yourself than you've had for quite some time. Don't be complacent of taking advantage of each and every one.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) People you know from personal experience who are difficult to please will be even more so today. Steer clear of them as much as possible. Aries, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send the required refund form and for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and self-addressed stamped envelope to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Watch out for Trojans bearing gifts today, because what might initially appear to be a wonderful opportunity could in reality be a ruse.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) No matter how much you may like to, it could be a mistake to attempt to upstage an opponent today. You're the one who could come off as showboating.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Don't let early opportunities go by the boards today. Favorable developments could deteriorate right before your eyes if you don't capitalize on them immediately.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Rationalizing situations only impairs one's vision, so even though it might be painful to own up to mistakes today, it could be the course that offers you the least trouble later on.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) It's best not to borrow anything of value from anybody today. Should the item be damaged or stop working, you'll be held accountable even if it wasn't your fault.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Indecisiveness may be part of your natural persona to be discerning and fair, but conditions might turn out harmful if contemplation is opted over action today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Impatience or impulsiveness could cause you to do something rash that might be harmful to another today. Not only will it put that person in a funk, but you'll be affected as well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Unfortunately, it might be all too easy for some "sharpie" to sell you the Brooklyn Bridge today. Remember, there is a huge gap between being trusting and being gullible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Depending too heavily on chance or luck to carry you through important issues today could be a grievous error on your part. Others might have their own self-serving agenda.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Although others might be able to get away with beating on their own chest and telling tall-tales, any gross exaggerations on your part will quickly be unveiled.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Miscalculations or carelessness in managing your commercial affairs could end up costing more out-of-pocket than you can afford today. Move cautiously in these realms.

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Bad Things Happen To Good People

At Timely...We Understand

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Polynesian Garden
will be closed
Tuesday, March 30 thru
Sunday, April 4

Open At New Location
3415 Snyder Shopping Center
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Monday, April 5

The First Baptist Church of Snyder
invites you and your family
to join us for a special time of
Praise and Worship
10:00 a.m. Easter Morning
in the Snyder High School
Worsham Auditorium
3801 Austin Ave.

A nursery will be provided for children birth - 3 years of age in the Nursery Suite of the First Baptist Church.

Dr. Marty Akins, Pastor
First Baptist Church
1701 27th Street
Snyder, Texas
573-2631

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Researchers define Alzheimers syndrome

CHICAGO (AP) — Researchers have found a way to identify some people at high risk of developing Alzheimer's disease, a discovery that takes on added significance as scientists attempt to find a way to delay the onset of the devastating disease.

A study published in the March issue of the Archives of Neurology defined ways to diagnose people with mild Alzheimer's and mild cognitive impairment, a condition that often precedes Alzheimer's.

Researchers led by Ronald C. Petersen at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., gave participants a battery of neuropsychological tests, then assessed the results of each one and diagnosed the patients as being healthy, having mild cognitive impairment or suffering from mild Alzheimer's.

They then followed the progress of the subjects — 76 with mild cognitive impairment, 106 with mild Alzheimer's and 234 healthy control subjects — over seven years.

Petersen said mild cognitive impairment was already a recognized syndrome, but the researchers developed more rigorous guidelines for diagnosing it, based on a battery of neuropsychological tests.

In a telephone interview from Washington, where he announced both the results of the study and the start of a new one, Petersen said mild cognitive impairment is the diagnosis when memory problems are severe enough to interfere with the lives of people who otherwise are functioning normally.

People with this impairment, researchers found, develop Alzheimer's at a rate of about 12 percent a year, meaning nearly 50 percent of a group diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment will develop Alzheimer's within four years, he said.

The researchers said the normal population develops Alzheimer's at a rate of about 1 percent a year.

There is no cure for Alzheimer's, but scientists are studying whether certain treatments, if used early enough in the progression of the disease, can delay its onset significantly.

"This is the first step in backing up the chain of pathological events that leads to Alzheimer's disease," said Bill Thiese, vice president for medical and scientific affairs of the Alzheimer's Association, which is based in Chicago.

The study being launched will seek to determine whether vitamin E or the drug donepizil, both of which are used in Alzheimer's treatment, will delay the onset of Alzheimer's in people with mild cognitive impairment. Petersen said results will not be available before 2003.

Alzheimer's is an incurable brain disorder afflicting an estimated 4 million Americans. Thiese said costs associated with treating Alzheimer's are currently about $100 billion a year and could rise to as much as $400 billion by 2050.

"It has the potential to overwhelm both our societal and personal resources," said Thiese, who was not involved in the research.

"It's important to recognize that this takes a terrific toll on the people who suffer from it and their families," he said.

Every year Americans consume enough peanut butter to cover the entire floor of the Grand Canyon.

MAWC plans fashion show

A "Spring Profile" style show and luncheon is being planned by the Martha Ann Woman's Club board members to be held Saturday, April 17, at 11:30.

Spring fashions and accessories will be shown from Hackfeld's Bar-H-Bar, and two Lubbock stores, Harold's and Talbots. Tickets are $10 and may be purchased from board members or by calling Jan Harrell at 573-6443, Francene Noah at 573-6717 or leave a message at the MAWC, 573-3427.

The luncheon will be catered by Shirley McMullan.

Martha Ann Woman's Club Cookbooks, with 965 recipes, are now being sold and will be available at the style show and luncheon. The cookbooks are $15 and may be purchased by calling the woman's club or numbers previously mentioned.

LIONS SUPPORTS YOUTH — Snyder Lions Club donated $300 to the Boys and Girls Club at its meeting Tuesday at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. Lion president Ricky Fritz, right, made the presentation to Jack McGlaun, executive director of the boys and girls club. The Lions Club will host other District 2T-2 clubs on April 29-30 and May 1. During one of the events, a district queen will be named. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 03-30-99
♠ K J 4
♥ A Q 3
♦ K 5 3
♣ Q 10 5 2

West
♠ 7
♥ K 9 5 2
♦ Q J 10 4
♣ J 8 6 4

East
♠ 10 9 8 5
♥ J
♦ 9 8 7 6 2
♣ K 7 3

South
♠ A Q 6 3 2
♥ 10 8 7 6 4
♦ A
♣ A 9

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: South

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

Opening lead: ♦ Q

It is interesting — for me, at least — to read old bridge books and magazines. I found this deal in the August 1962 issue of *Bridge Magazine*.

It occurred during the final of the English Women's Individual, which was won for the fourth time by Rixi Markus. (As the unnamed reporter wrote, "It is practically impossible ... to win an individual contest, even once! To do so four times is little short of a miracle."

Well, Rixi was a miraculous player, always seeming to know what her opponents were about to do.) One anonymous pair reached the ambitious six spades. The diamond-queen lead goes to her ace; how should South continue?

In my Americanized auction, four clubs is a cue-bid, showing slam interest with the club ace.

If declarer draws trumps, she will fail. After a finesse of the heart queen, declarer is inconveniently stranded in the dummy. If you work it out, there is no way to get home.

The right line is to finesse the heart queen immediately. When the jack drops, declarer pulls trumps, then advances the heart six. If West plays low, the six wins. South leads a heart to dummy's ace, cashes the diamond king (for a club discard), crosses to the club ace, and concedes a heart. Instead, if West covers the heart six with the nine, declarer wins with dummy's ace, takes the club discard, and continues with the heart three. In both cases, declarer loses only one heart trick to West.

This is the principle: When you have a two-suited hand and must establish the second suit, start it immediately.

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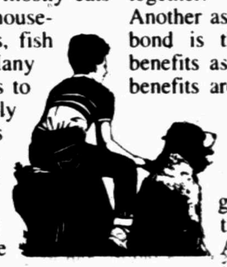
Around The HOUSE™

By Elizabeth Lane

Human/Animal Bond

A recent study conducted by the American Veterinary Medical Association showed that more than half the households in the United States are home to one or more companion animals. Although these are mostly cats and dogs, the number of households with rabbits, ferrets, fish and birds are growing. Many owners consider their pets to be members of the family and display photographs of their pets in their offices and on their walls at home.



According to Dr. John Freeman, the immediate past president of the American Veterinary Medical Association, "Animals are becoming increasingly important within the family structure. Twenty years ago it was almost unheard of for people to treat pets like one of their children."

What has happened in the last 20-years is that more and more people are beginning to recognize the positive impact pets can have on the quality of their lives. This can be especially important in a society where the pace of life becomes faster every day.

"You can see evidence of this changing attitude toward pets in the advertising world," said Dr. Freeman. "Just look at all the advertisements that have animals in them. Advertisers recognize that animals strike an emotional chord in people. It's a rewarding experience to bond with animals."

When asked to talk about their relationships with their pets, many owners talk about the unconditional love their pets provide. This unconditional love is one of the primary reasons that people take on the responsibility of caring for a pet. It is also the mortar that holds the human-animal bond together.

Another aspect of the human-animal bond is the important therapeutic benefits associated with pets. These benefits are becoming more evident with many groups, including the elderly, juveniles who are at risk of becoming involved with drugs, gangs, and antisocial activities, prisoners, people with AIDS, and others who are just looking for ways to manage the ever increasing amount of stress in their lives.

Dr. Freeman went on to say, "The growing interest in the therapeutic benefits of pets is a whole new frontier which has tremendous potential. Our changing lifestyles have placed pets in the spotlight. It used to be that people raised their children and stayed close to home. This is no longer the case.

"Families are separating and moving to all parts of the country leaving a void within the family structure. To fill this void, people are turning to companion animals because of a very human trait — people need to feel useful and wanted. And what better way to fill this need that bonding with a companion animal?"

For more information on animals and animal care, visit the American Veterinary Medical Association's home page on the internet at: www.avma. org.

Happy 5th Birthday Ashley
Love,
Mom, Dad & Josh,
Grandpa & Grandma

HOW?

To: Live a healthier life in your own home without exercise.

Mold, mildew, fungus, bacteria, dust mites, dead skin cells, airborne pathogens, pet dandruff, tracked in soils and pesticides are all trapped in your carpet.

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Comic Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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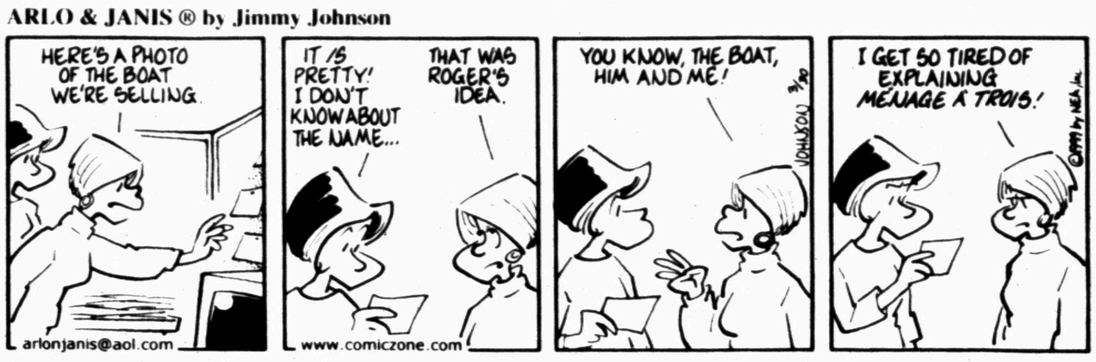
THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



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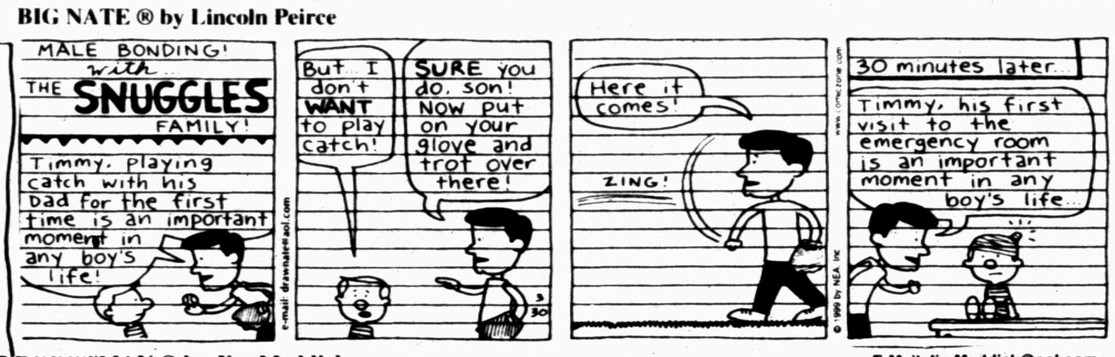

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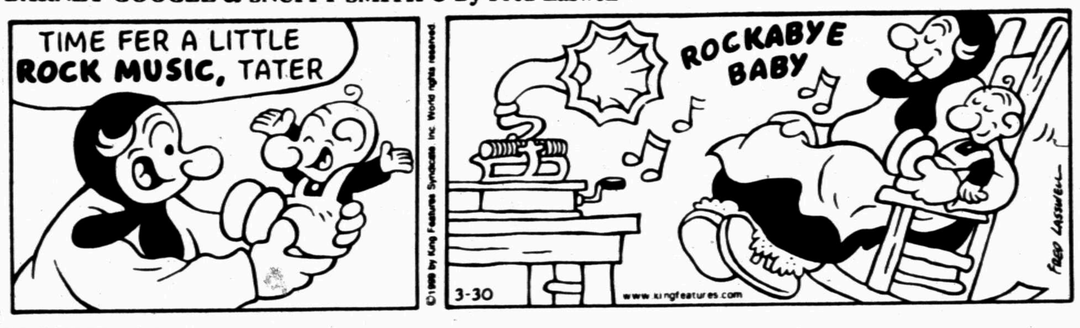

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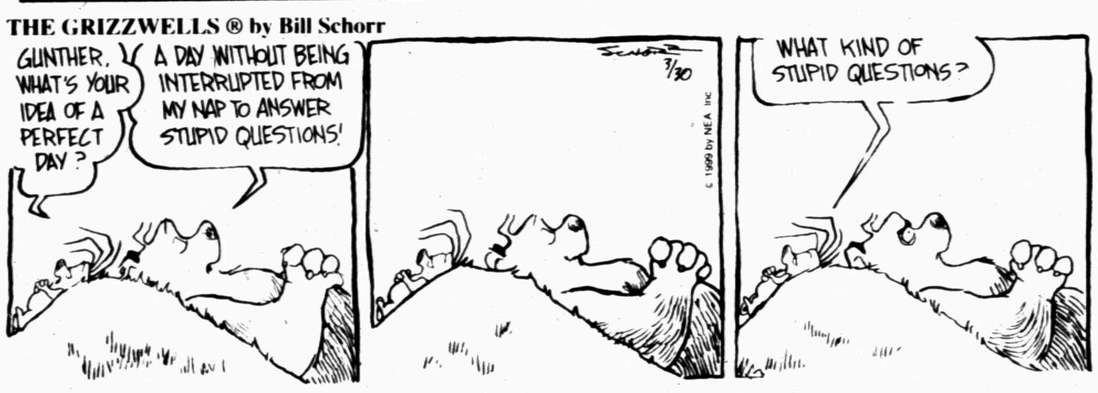

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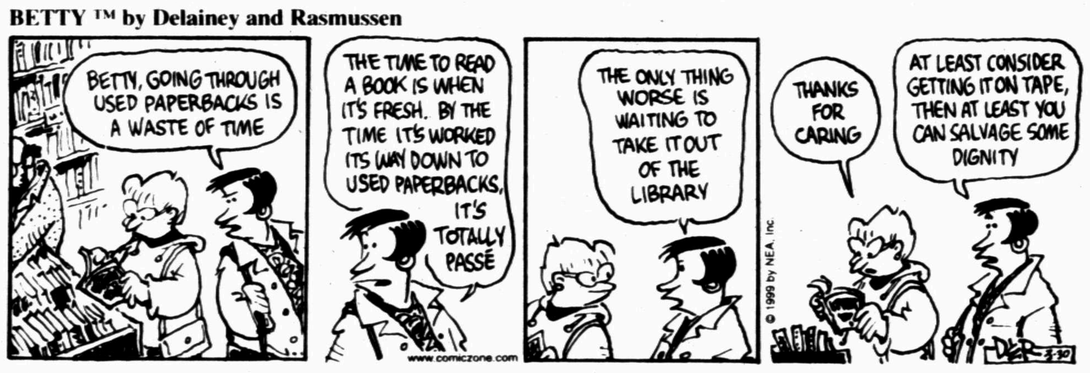

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Lemon or lime
7 Small, clotheswise
13 Belong
14 Accustoms
15 Advocated
16 Writing master
17 Gaelic
18 Republican party, familiarly
20 Facility
21 Toon sea serpent
23 Spring month
27 Scoffed
32 "The — Mutiny"
33 Armadillo
34 Nine-headed monster of myth
35 Sentimental person
36 Prime character
39 — Park, Colorado
40 Surfeited
42 Discover
46 Caviar
47 Rome's Villa d'—
51 Narrate
53 Juicer
55 Likenesses
56 Hospital doctor
57 Municipalities
58 Dead Sea Scroll writer

DOWN

1 Quote a source
2 "Are you — — out?"
3 So
4 Nerve network
5 Actress Mary —
6 Swamp plant
7 Apple variety
8 Chemical suffix
9 Adjust, as a motor
10 "— La Douce"
11 Oolong and souchong
12 Medieval servant
19 Mil. training program
21 Gets ready for company, perhaps
22 Rented
23 Longing
24 Compensates
25 Clears (of)
26 Regarding
28 Long heroic poem
29 Huck Finn's conveyance
30 Art deco illustrator
31 Week divisions
37 Sign of affection
38 World War II area: abbr.
41 Uncanny
42 Newsman Sevareid
43 Half: prefix
44 Real estate map
45 TV antenna type
47 Ingests
48 Pintail duck
49 Seabird
50 Another sea bird
52 Type of shirt
54 Printer's measures

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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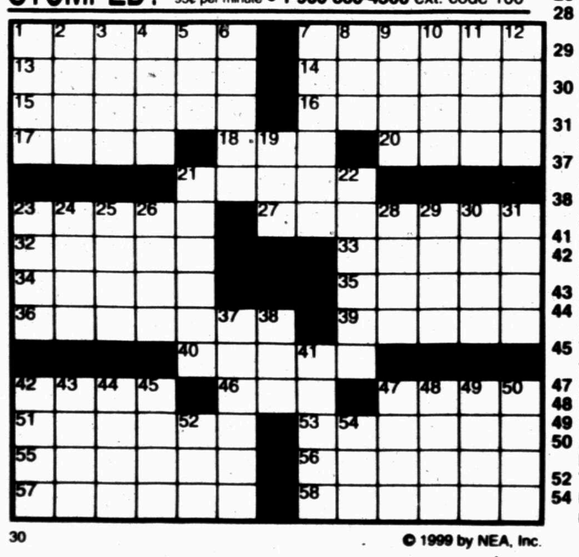

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A Little Bit Of Humor

Mike: Why do giraffes have long necks?
Allen: Because they have smelly feet.

Derek: What did the absent-minded skunk say when the wind changed?
Caitlyn: It's all coming back to me now.

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Animal Squares

Fill in the boxes beneath each letter to create seven 4-letter words. Plurals do not count, and a word cannot be used more than once.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	N	I	M	A	L	S

Possible answers: able, nose, rich, mold, omen, love, size

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SPORTS

Tigers ready to host 5-4A opener tonight

Even though the Snyder High School baseball team has 14 wins under its belt, the Tigers will be looking for their most important victory thus far when they take to the field tonight.

Snyder begins its hunt for another postseason berth this evening with the District 5-4A opener against Ft. Stockton at 7:30 at Moffett Field.

Tonight's contest, originally slated for Panther Field, was moved to Snyder due to recent heavy rains in the Ft. Stockton area.

The Tigers enter the league opener as winners of seven of their last nine games.

Snyder has found success this season through a combination of strong pitching, solid infield defense and clutch hitting.

Clint Hook, Wes Wilson and Johnny Pena, who comprise the Tigers' three-man rotation, all have ERAs under 3.00.

Senior Matt Rodgers anchors the infield from his short stop position, with a platoon of players around him.

The power in Snyder's batting order has been delivered by Pena in the lead-off spot. Pena leads the squad with four home runs.

Designated hitter James Shields, along with outfielders Banks Alexander and Sam Bedell, has come through with clutch hits deep in the Tiger order.

Following tonight's action against the Panthers, Snyder continues district play Thursday when it hosts Sweetwater at 7:30.

In other local action on the diamond, the Lady Tiger softball squad will wrap up the first half of the 5-4A schedule today with a visit to Sweetwater at 5:30. The Lady Tigers are currently in a four-way tie for second place with a league mark of 2-2.

SHS boys finish first round in seventh place

BIG SPRING — The young Snyder Tiger golf squad found out what it's like to compete with some of the best teams in the region.

It's tough.

With three sophomores and two freshmen teeing it up, Snyder carded a 348 on Monday at Big Spring Country Club. The Tigers' showing has them in seventh place after the first of three rounds in District 5-4A competition.

Andrews, which advanced to the state tournament a year ago, paced the field with a team total of 302 to lead the standings by 15 strokes over Lake View and Andrews' second squad.

Sophomore Landon Day turned in the best round for Snyder, firing an 81. Patrick McKamie came in at 84, while freshman Clinton Calmes posted a 91. Levi Mandrell finished with a 92 and Cody Peevy shot a 94.

Snyder's second squad, led by a round of 90 from Andrew Vinson, finished the day in 11th place with a 374.

Joining Vinson on Snyder II was John Rasmus (92), John Logan (94), Jason Williams (98) and Jon Medrano (103).

The Tigers have the weekend off, before returning to district play April 10 at Ft. Stockton.

District 5-4A Golf

Team totals: 1. Andrews 302; 2.(tie) Lake View and Andrews II 317; 4. Ft. Stockton 319; 5. Big Spring 327; 6. Sweetwater 338; 7.(tie) Snyder and Ft. Stockton II 348; 9. Big Spring II 349; 10. Lake View II 354; 11. Snyder II 374; 12. Sweetwater II 377.

Gainer paces 'Dogs with first-place jump

ACKERLY — Jenson Gainer, who is usually crouched behind home plate as Ira's catcher, sailed over the high jump bar to capture first place at the Sands track meet.

Jenson's winning effort paced the Ira squads, which posted a total of nine top-three finishes.

Competing with Gainer in the varsity boys division, Jerek Brown grabbed the runner-up spot in the high jump and shot put, while Jose Juarez did the same in the 1,600-meter run.

For the varsity Lady Bulldogs, the 800-meter relay team of Tara Allen, Kristen Harless, Morgan Clements and Brook Wilkes took second place. Wilkes also had a third-place showing in the long jump to go along with fifth-place finishes in the 100 and the triple jump.

Ira's junior high girls raced to third place in the mile relay. Running for the Lady Bulldogs were April Lollar, Kali Clements, Lindsey Wilson and Michelle Nettles.

For the IJHS boys, Jess Wall was third in the 400, and Tyler Frey was third in the 300 hurdles.

Mustang Relays at Sands

Varsity Girls

Long jump: 3. Brook Wilkes; 4. Tara Allen. **Triple jump:** 5. Brook Wilkes. **High jump:** 4. Morgan Clements. **200:** 4. Tara Allen. **100:** 5. Brook Wilkes. **800 relay:** 2. Tara Allen, Kristen Harless, Morgan Clements and Brook Wilkes. **1,600 relay:** 6. Morgan Clements, Brook Wilkes, Kristen Harless and Tara Allen.

Jr. High Girls

Long jump: 5. Michelle Nettles. **400:** 4. Lindsey Wilson. **400 relay:** 5. April Lollar, Kali Clements, Lindsey Wilson and Michelle Nettles. **1,600 relay:** 3. April Lollar, Kali Clements, Lindsey Wilson and Michelle Nettles.

Varsity Boys

Shot put: 2. Jerek Brown. **High jump:** 1. Jenson Gainer; 2. Jerek Brown. **3,200:** 5. Justin Green. **800:** 5. Justin Green; 6. Jase Olvera. **1,600:** 2. Jose Juarez. **110 hurdles:** 6. Drew Wall.

Jr. High Boys

2,400: 5. Eric Dickerhoff. **400:** 3. Jess Wall. **1,600:** 6. Eric Dickerhoff. **110 hurdles:** 4. Nathan Wilkins. **300 hurdles:** 3. Tyler Frey.

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UConn shocks Blue Devils

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Now everyone knows what Jim Calhoun knew all along. Connecticut had nothing to fear.

It was apparent in the UConn coach's eyes as he walked on the court for his first national championship game. It was proved beyond all doubt when Ricky Moore did what most great players need the ball to do.

"I wanted to shock the world," said Moore, whose defensive stop on Trajan Langdon in the final seconds gave Calhoun and the Huskies the national title with a stunning 77-74 victory over Duke.

It was the moment Calhoun and his former and current players have been thirsting for all these years. It was the upset that almost no one believed could happen.

Everyone except Calhoun and his supremely confident players seemed to believe the game was a mere prelude to the Blue Devils' coronation as one of the best college teams ever. Instead, it was UConn (34-2), a team touched by tragedy and chased by memories of shots and games that went against them too many times late in March.

No more.

"The kids knew better," said Calhoun, who finally got the prize he's chased for 27 years. "They knew they were going to win. They were going to beat the best, and they did beat the best. As of this moment, we're the best team in the country."

Calhoun can finally say that because he had a pudgy little point guard with no shame in his game, the most tenacious defender in America and the perfect game plan to beat the team everyone thought was invincible.

"I'm no better a coach than I was three weeks ago, and no worse," Calhoun said. "Everybody thought I had to do something. I didn't have to do anything. All I had to do was be true to my kids and coach the best I could and that's what I've done."

UConn could finally celebrate when Khalid El-Amin dribbled past Elton Brand for a daring jump shot in the final minute, and Moore forced Langdon to travel with 5.4 seconds left.

Richard Hamilton, the most outstanding player of the Final Four, capped a tremendous tournament with 27 points, and Moore added 13 points. UConn's tireless defense double-teamed Brand, the player of the year, every time he touched the ball. Brand had 15 points and 13 rebounds, but never got a chance to take over the game.

"They were just fighting every possession every time I touched it," Brand said.

For Duke and coach Mike Krzyzewski, all the talk about their place in history — on Tobacco Road and across the land — must be put on hold. The Blue Devils (37-2) saw their 32-game winning streak stopped, their dominance shaken, their chance for a third national championship this decade crushed.

Langdon, who had 25 points, got the ball after El-Amin missed a turnaround jumper with less than a minute left and Connecticut leading 75-74. Duke didn't call a timeout.

Dribbling between his legs before spinning and driving on Moore, Langdon got his feet tangled and traveled. It was the ultimate showdown to culminate a great decade of basketball for two of the country's top programs.

El-Amin was fouled and hit two free throws, and UConn did what few thought was possible.

"I heard Coach K tell Trajan to go get the ball," said Moore, who won the championship duel with his boyhood friend from Augusta, Ga., Duke point guard William Avery. "I felt if he got it, he wasn't going to do anything with it. It was crunch time. It was me against him. They tried to clear it out, but I stayed solid, I stayed down. I didn't go for any pump-fakes.

"Fortunately, he traveled."

Krzyzewski said he wouldn't want the game to end with the ball in anyone else's hands. The only regret was, unlike Laettner, Langdon never got to take the game-winning shot.

"Absolutely, I want Trajan Langdon to take that shot, win or lose with Trajan Langdon," Krzyzewski said. "I will walk down any road with Trajan Langdon."

SJHS girls nab fifth spot

BIG SPRING — Both Snyder Junior High girls track teams sprinted to fifth-place finishes recently at the Big Spring track meet.

In eighth grade competition, Snyder's top results came from Ashlee Grantham and Aaryn Stewart. Grantham took third in the shot put, while Stewart raced to third place in the 400-meter dash.

The seventh grade Lady Tigers were led by the performance of their sprint relay team which captured third place. Handling the baton for Snyder were Dominique Braziel, Desiree Braziel, Whitney Criswell and Gretchen Hollis.

Dominique Braziel also notched fourth-place finishes in the 400 and as a member of the 1,600-meter relay team. Joining Braziel in the mile relay were Kelby Drum, Elizabeth Campbell and Sharday McKinney.

Seventh grade girls

Triple jump: 5. Desire Braziel, 27-7½. **100 hurdles:** 5. Sharday McKinney, 19.96. **400:** 4. Dominique Braziel, 71.27; 6. Sharday McKinney, 72.16. **1,600:** 6. Missy Vasquez, 7:12.61. **400 relay:** 3. Dominique Braziel, Desiree Braziel, Whitney Criswell and Gretchen Hollis, 58.57. **1,600 relay:** 4. Kelby Drum, Elizabeth Campbell, Sharday McKinney and Dominique Braziel, 5:14.53.

Eighth grade girls

Triple jump: 4. Jacque Alvarez, 30-½. **Discus:** 6. Francis Parrish, 70-0. **Shot put:** 3. Ashlee Grantham, 25-9½; 6. Francis Parrish, 24-4¼. **High jump:** 6. Zipporah Peoples, 4-4. **100:** 6. Chaelyn Robinson, 14.18. **100 hurdles:** 5. Chaelyn Robinson, 19.26. **400:** 3. Aaryn Stewart, 70.51; 5. Blanca Hernandez, 71.49. **800 relay:** 4. Jacque Alvarez, Romana Zamora, Aaryn Stewart and Blanca Hernandez, 2:03.63. **1,600 relay:** 4. Zipporah Peoples, Cindy Nachlinger, Zina Guidos and Blanca Hernandez, 5:16.23.

NBA GLANCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
Orlando	21	9	.700	-
Miami	19	9	.679	1
Philadelphia	15	13	.536	5
NewYork	16	14	.533	5
Washington	12	16	.429	8
Boston	9	18	.333	10½
NewJersey	5	23	.179	15
Central Division				
Indiana	20	9	.690	-
Atlanta	19	11	.633	1½
Detroit	17	12	.586	3
Milwaukee	16	12	.571	3½
Cleveland	14	13	.519	5
Toronto	14	14	.500	5½
Charlotte	12	15	.444	7
Chicago	8	21	.276	12
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
Utah	21	7	.750	-
Houston	21	9	.700	1
SanAntonio	19	10	.655	2½
Minnesota	16	13	.552	5½
Dallas	10	21	.323	12½
Denver	8	22	.267	14
Vancouver	5	24	.172	16½
Pacific Division				
Portland	23	5	.821	-
L.A.Lakers	21	11	.656	4
Seattle	15	13	.536	8
Phoenix	14	16	.467	10
Sacramento	13	17	.433	11
GoldenState	12	16	.429	11
L.A.Clippers	3	25	.107	20

Monday's Games

Atlanta 83, Indiana 82
Seattle 109, Dallas 101
Denver 100, L.A. Clippers 88
L.A. Lakers 116, Vancouver 98

Tuesday's Games

Boston at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at New York, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Seattle at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Washington at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Denver at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Utah at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.
Houston at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Portland at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Orlando at Washington, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Boston, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Sacramento at Portland, 10 p.m.

Snyder forms baseball league for older boys

Snyder Little League is forming a new division beginning this year to be comprised of players ages 17-18.

The Big League is open to any player, regardless of high school or college experience, who will not turn 19 before Aug. 1.

The Snyder squad will likely compete against Sweetwater, Colorado City and an eight-team league in the Abilene area.

Registration is taking place now through Thursday at Caprock Securities. Registration fee is $35.

Sports Week

TODAY

Baseball: Snyder Tigers host Ft. Stockton, district opener, 7:30.

Softball: Snyder Lady Tigers at Sweetwater, 5:30.

THURSDAY

Baseball: Snyder Tigers host Sweetwater, 7:30.

Softball: Snyder Lady Tigers at Lake View, 5 p.m.

Track: Snyder at Sandhill Relays, Monahans.

After two sparkling rounds...

McGrath leads medalists; Westerners sitting eighth

MIDLAND — Jason McGrath is doing his part to give the Western Texas golf a team some momentum heading into this weekend's conference tournament.

McGrath fired a blistering 5-under-par 139 over the first two rounds of the Omega Invitational on Monday to lead the medalist by two shots.

McGrath's effort anchored the Westerner squad which entered today's final round at Green Tree Country Club in eighth place.

WTC's Martin Gustafson fired rounds of 73 and 74, just eight strokes off McGrath's torrid pace.

Michael Hanson came in with a 74-76—150, while Brad Nutt carded a 81-76—157. Chad Sauntry posted an 81-77—158, with Cory Mahaney finishing at 81-78—159.

The host Midland Chaparrals led the tourney after the first two rounds, holding a nine-stroke advantage over Temple JC.

The two-day event is the final tune-up for the Westerners before beginning play Saturday in the WJCAC tournament in Ruidoso, N.M.

Sports Briefs

Lions Club golf tourney

The Snyder Lions Club golf tournament will be held April 24 at Western Texas College.

The format will be a four-man scramble, with each team having a minimum combined handicap of 50. All handicaps will be varified by April 17. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top five finshers, with $800 going to the winning team.

Registration fee is $50 per person and includes green fee, cart rental and a hamburger lunch. The field will be limited to 20 teams. Entry forms can be picked up at the WTC and Snyder Country Club pro shops.

SCC tourney dates

Upcoming tournaments at Snyder Country Club include a three-man scramble April 17 and a pro-am event April 19.

Scramble teams must have a minimum combined handicap of 30, with a maximum of 15 strokes difference between the first and third player.

For more information, contact the SCC pro shop at 573-7101.

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010 LEGAL NOTICES

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Dow closes above 10,000

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks were lower in early trading today, the morning after the payoff that the bulls on Wall Street had expected for weeks.

Climbing 184.54 points Monday, the Dow Jones industrial average settled at 10,006.78 — closing for the first time in its 103-year history above 10,000 and marking a milestone in a long rally fueled by a robust U.S. economy.

The Dow retreated in early trading today as concerns resurfaced about upcoming earnings reports, which had taken stocks down last week. The blue chips were off 91 points at the 9,915 level in morning trading.

On Monday, Wall Street had much to feel good about. As the trading day ended, New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani began flinging "Dow 10,000" embroidered baseball caps onto the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Jubilant market watchers around the country also paid tribute.

"It's a moment to uncork the champagne and celebrate what a truly phenomenal bull market this has been," said Hugh Johnson, a longtime market strategist at First Albany Corp. in Albany, N.Y.

The Dow's achievement was hardly just a one-day event. The years-long Wall Street rally has been helped by the nation's overall economic health, low interest rates and a growing fascination with high technology stocks.

On Monday, the good news for investors was that big corporate mergers may be in the works, including a possible deal between oil companies BP Amoco and Atlantic Richfield.

Extra incentive to buy came from the sense that Wall Street had seen the worst of warnings from companies that had been expected to report disappointing first-quarter profits.

NYSE chairman Richard Grasso gave credit for the milestone to investors who have poured money into stocks for the past decade.

"The stock exchange had nothing to do with Dow 10,000. It had to do with the huge number of participants in the marketplace," he said. "I want to send thank-yous to the 70 million Americans who participate directly in equities and another 130 million who participate indirectly."

The Dow measures the value of 30 of America's corporate icons, companies with a combined market value of more than $2.5 trillion, or about one-fifth of the approximately $12 trillion value of all U.S. stocks.

The Dow first crossed 10,000 on March 16 but was unable to close above that level amid profit-taking and worries about upcoming quarterly profit reports. The same thing happened two days later that week.

For a while Monday, it looked like that pattern would be repeated. The blue chips hit 10,000 several times, but kept being knocked back down by computer-guided trading programs that sell stocks when the market reaches a predetermined level.

The Dow's first close above 10,000 came just under a year after it closed above 9,000, on April 6, 1998.

At several points over the past year, a Dow 10,000 seemed like an impossibility — particularly on Aug. 31 of last year, when the blue chips plunged 512.61 to 7,539.07 amid concerns about struggling overseas economies and how they might hurt U.S. corporate profits.

Two arrested; theft, UUMV investigated

Local law enforcement personnel took two subjects into custody Monday and investigated a report of a theft and the unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Department of Public Safety troopers arrested a 20-year-old male at 1:02 p.m. on U.S. Hwy. 84 for Class B possession of marijuana.

A 17-year-old male was jailed on an outstanding warrant for harboring a runaway. He was arrested at 7:03 p.m. in the 3100 block of 40th Street.

At 12:12 p.m., Shirley Fritz requested an officer at Snyder Day Care in reference to someone stealing money from the facility and from Susanne Pollard. An offense report for Class B theft was filed for Snyder Day Care and an offense report for Class C theft was filed for Pollard.

Ann Overhulser requested to speak with an officer at 1:30 p.m. in reference to someone taking her 1993 Lincoln Towncar sometime late Saturday night or early Sunday morning and damaging it. An offense report for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was filed.

In addition, a hit and run accident report was filed in reference to the vehicle running into a 1977 Chevrolet Scottsdale pickup legally parked, unoccupied and owned by Rick Schwertner of 114 33rd Street.

A private property accident report was also filed Monday in reference to a two-vehicle mishap that occurred at 3:40 p.m. on the southwest parking lot of Snyder High School. Involved were a 1992 Chevrolet Lumina driven by Melissa Rea Hicks, 16, of 4500 Denison and a 1995 Eagle Summitt driven by Steven Burton, 17, of 2040 N. Hwy. 208.

Datebook

March 30, 1999

Today is the 89th day of 1999 and the 11th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1867, America purchased Alaska from the government of Russia for $7.2 million.

On this day in 1960, Congressman Tip O'Neill called for an investigation of payola in the radio industry.

On this day in 1981, Ronald Reagan and three others were wounded by a gunman outside the Washington Hilton.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Francisco Jose de Goya (1746-1828), artist; Paul Verlaine (1844-1896), poet; Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890), artist; Frankie Laine (1913-), singer, is 86; John Astin (1930-), actor-director, is 69; Warren Beatty (1938-), actor-director, is 61; Eric Clapton (1945-), musician, is 54.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1945, Oklahoma A&M defeated New York University 49-45 in the NCAA basketball finals.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Laws are like cobwebs, which may catch small flies, but let wasps and hornets break through." — Jonathan Swift

TODAY'S MOON: Day before full moon (March 31).

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Births

Russ and Kim Rankin of Snyder announce the birth of their daughter, Katelyn Renae Rankin. She was born at 2:22 p.m. on March 25 in Lubbock Covenant Hospital. Katelyn weighed eight pounds, 14 ounces.

Paternal grandparents are Ann Wells of Breckenridge and David Rankin of Tallahassee, Fla. Maternal grandparents are Bill Beheler of Waco and Shirley Galanti of Waco.

Jr. Trevino and Keri Hoyle of Snyder announce the birth of their seven-pound, 14-ounce son, Camryn Elijah Trevino, at 10:38 p.m. on March 25 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Paternal grandmother is Edelmira Reyes of Andrews and maternal grandparents are Ralph and Denise Hoyle of Snyder.

Eric and Melvonia McDorman of Snyder announce the birth of Axton Bryan McDorman who weighed seven pounds, eight ounces. He was born on March 25 in Lubbock Covenant Hospital.

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Markets

Midday Stocks

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High Low Last	
AMR Corp s	58¼ 57 1-16 58⅞+ 2¼
AT&T Corp	80 13-16 80¼ 80½—1 3-16
AirTouch	94 92¾ 93 11-16+1 11-16
Albertsons	54 1-16 5354 —13-16
AlldSignal	50¼ 50 1-16 50 1-16—11-16
Alltel	64 13-16 63 11-16 64½—15-16
AmOnline s	146¼ 129¾ 146⅛+ 13¾
AmStores	33 7-16 32½ 32 15-16— ½
Ameritech	59¼ 58 9-16 59 1-16—1 31-256
AndarkPtr s	39¾ 38¾ 38¾— 1
Armcolnc	4½ 4¼ 4¾
AtlRichfld	74 1-16 72¼ 74 1-16
ATMOS Egy	24 3-16 24 24 1-16+ 1-16
Aviall	15¾ 15¼ 15¼
BP Amoco	104 11-16 103 9-16 103⅝— 1¾
BakerHughes	25 3-16 24 7-16 24¾— 9-16
BankAmerica	71¼ 70¾ 70 11-16—11-16
BellAtl s	52¼ 51 11-16 52⅛+ ¼
BellSouth s	40 13-16 40 7-16 40⅞— ½
BethSteel	8¼ 8⅛ 8 5-16+ ¼
BurlNoSFe s	33½ 33 1-16 33 1-16— 7-16
CBS Corp	41 39¾ 40 15-16+ 9-16
Caterpillar	47 3-16 46 3-16 46⅝— ½
CenSoWst	24 3-16 23 15-16 23 15-16— 3-16
Chevron	89¾ 88 9-16 88 9-16—1 1-16
Citigroup	64¼ 63 9-16 64 7-16+ 5-16
Coastal s	35¾ 35¼ 35¼— 1
CocaCola	63¼ 61¾ 63⅛—1 11-16
ColgatePalm	94 5-16 92¼ 93⅜— ½
ComclMetals	20¼ 19 15-16 19 15-16— 3-16
CooperIn	43¼ 43 9-16 43 9-16— 7-16
CyprusAmax	12 5-16 12 1-16 12⅛— ⅛
DaimlrChry n	85 15-16 8585⅛— 1⅛
DallSemicn	38¼ 36¾ 38⅛+ 1½
DeltaAirl s	70 15-16 69¾ 70⅞+ 1⅛
Dillards Inc	25 15-16 25¼ 25¼+ 1-16
DowChem	94¾ 94 1-16 94 5-16— ¾
DuPont	57 9-16 56 11-16 57 9-16+ 5-16
EastmanChem	45 1-16 44 9-16 44⅛— ⅛
EstKodak	65 64½ 64 13-16—13-16
EDS Corp	49 13-16 49 3-16 49⅛— ½
Entergy	28¾ 28¾ 28 9-16— 7-16
Exxon	72¾ 71 13-16 71 15-16—1 1-16
Flowers	24¼ 24 9-16 24⅜— ⅛
FordMotor s	56 15-16 56½ 56⅝— ⅜
GTE Cp	60½ 59 5-16 60 + ¼
GenDynam	6462¼ 63 5-16—1 7-16
GenElec	112 5-16 110¾ 112 1-16+ 1-16
GenMills	76¾ 75 5-16 75 7-16— 1¼
GenMotors	87 86¾ 86¾— ⅛
GaPacGP	79 77¼ 77½—1 7-16
GlobalMar	12½ 11 15-16 12⅛— ⅜
Goodrich	34¼ 33¼ 34⅛+ 9-16
Goodyear s	50 49¾ 49¾— 7-16
GtAtlPac	29 11-16 29¾ 29 9-16— 3-16
Halliburtn	41 3-16 40¾ 40⅞— 7-16
Hanson ADS	43¼ 43⅛ 43⅛— ⅜
HarteHanks	27⅞ 27½ 27⅞+ ⅛
HomeDepot	64 3-16 6363¾— ⅜
IBM	181⅛ 176¼ 180 9-16+2 11-16
IntlPaper	44 43 1-16 43⅛—1 1-16
JohnsonJn	93¼ 92¼ 92 15-16— 1
K mart	17 16 11-16 16 15-16— 1-16
Kroger Co	61 11-16 60¾ 60 9-16—1 1-16
Litton	55¼ 55 3-16 55¼— 1¼
LockheedM s	37¾ 37¼ 37 9-16— 1
Lowes Cos s	64¾ 63¾ 64¼— 9-16
Lubys	16½ 16 1-16 16½+ 1-16
LucentTech	109¾ 106 1-16 108 —1 15-16
LucentTech wi	54 9-16 53¼ 54⅛—13-16
MayDeptStr s	38¼ 38 1-16 38 1-16— 7-16
MediaOne	65¼ 64 5-16 65⅛+ ¾
Medtronic	72¼ 71¼ 71⅞+ 9-16
Mobil	89¾ 88 15-16 89¼— 1
Monsanto	46¼ 4545⅛— 5-16
MorganJP	126 125¼ 125 7-16— ⅜
Motorola	76½ 75¼ 76 7-16+ 1¼
NCR Corp	49 5-16 48¾ 49⅛— ½
Navistar	40⅜ 39¾ 40⅜+ 1-16
Penney JC	41¼ 40½ 40 13-16— 9-16
PennzEnrgy s	11½ 11⅛ 11¼
PepBoys	16 1-16 15 13-16 15 15-16— ⅜
PepsiCo	40 39 9-16 39 13-16— ¼
PhelpDodge	51¾ 49 13-16 50⅛—1 3-16
PhilipPet	47½ 46 11-16 47 3-16— ⅛
PilgrmPrd B	16¼ 16 3-16 16¼
Polaroid	22 21 9-16 21¼— ¾
Praxair	36 5-16 35¼ 36⅛— 7-16
ProctGamb	101 1-16 99¾ 100⅞— ½
PubSNwMx	17 7-16 17 3-16 17⅛+ 1-16
ReliantEngy	27 26¼ 26¾— ⅜
RoyalDut	53¾ 52¼ 52 15-16—15-16
SBC Comm	47¾ 47 3-16 47 7-16— ⅜
SaraLee s	25¾ 25 5-16 25¼—13-16
Scripps EW	43¾ 42¼ 42⅞— 1-16
SearsRoeb	46 15-16 46 1-16 46 11-16— 1-16
SherwinW	27¾ 27¼ 27 9-16+ ⅜
SmithklBchm	71 13-16 70¾ 71 7-16+2 1-16
SouthernCo	23 15-16 23 9-16 23 11-16— ¼
SwstAirl s	31⅛ 30 3-16 31⅛+ 1⅛
SprintFON n	97½ 97¼ 97¼— ⅜
SprintPCS n	45¼ 44 1-16 45 1-16+ ⅜
Sunoco Inc	36¼ 36¼ 36½— ½
TNP Ent	28 11-16 28 7-16 28½— 3-16
Tandy	62¼ 61 7-16 61⅞— 5-16
TempleInland	65¼ 63 15-16 64¼—1 3-16
Tenneco	28 13-16 28¼ 28⅜— 7-16
Texaco	57 15-16 56 15-16 57⅞+ ¼
TexInd	25¼ 24¾ 24 15-16— ½
TexasInst	102½ 99 1-16 101⅜+13-16
TexUtil	43¾ 42 5-16 42 5-16— ⅞
Textron	79 77½ 77½— 1⅛
TriconGlbR	72⅛ 70 7-16 70⅞+ 1¼
TrinityInds	29¾ 29¼ 29¼—11-16
TritonEngy	8 1-16 7 13-16 7¼— 1-16
Tyler	5⅛ 4 15-16 4 15-16— ¼
US West Inc	55 15-16 55¼ 55¼— ⅜
USX-Marathn	28 11-16 27 11-16 27⅞— 7-16
USX-USS	23¾ 23¼ 23⅜+ 5-16
UnCarbde	46 9-16 45½ 46⅞+ ⅛
UnionPacif	54¾ 52 7-16 54 3-16+1 11-16
UnitedTech	134¾ 133⅜ 134⅛+ 1-16
Unocal	36 15-16 36 9-16 36¼
Venator Grp	7 5-16 6¼ 7 3-16+ ¼
WalMart	94¾ 93¾ 94 7-16— 9-16
WalMart wi	47 9-16 47¼ 47⅛— ⅛
WellsFargo	36¾ 36½ 36⅝—15-16
WstnGasRs	7 11-16 7⅜ 7¾— 7-16
WinnDixie	39 5-16 38 9-16 38 11-16—15-16
Xerox Cp s	52 15-16 51 13-16 51⅞— ⅜

Retirement plans benefit from economic prosperity

WASHINGTON (AP) — The strong economy is helping Social Security and Medicare, possibly even postponing the day when the two retirement-benefit programs will run short of cash.

In the latest indication of improvement, the programs' trustees were expected to predict in their annual reports a longer stretch of financial health than previously forecast. The reports were scheduled for release today.

Some experts speculate the good news will make lawmakers contemplating changes to Social Security and Medicare this year feel less pressure to rush into any dramatic changes.

"It might give some impetus to the concept of a slower transition," said public policy researcher Marilyn Moon, one of two private citizens on the board of trustees for the retirement programs.

Clinton administration officials, including Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, are among other trustees.

Last year, the trustees predicted that Social Security's trust fund would have enough cash to assure retiring baby boomers three extra years of full pension benefits, postponing a potential cash shortfall to 2032 from 2029.

They attributed that improvement almost entirely to the strength of the U.S. economy.

In addition last year, trustees postponed a similar day of financial reckoning for Medicare, the health insurance program for the elderly and disabled, to 2008 from the previously expected 2001.

Both the strong economy and cost-cutting agreed to by lawmakers in the 1997 balanced budget act contributed to Medicare's improvement, the trustees said.

Since those optimistic reports a year ago, economic growth has continued robust.

Unemployment and inflation have hovered near the lowest levels in decades. Because more Americans are working, taxes deducted from workers' paychecks to support Social Security and Medicare are up.

Low inflation also saves both programs money because yearly Social Security cost-of-living raises to retirees can be smaller, and health care costs remain lower.

Social Security is the largest federal benefit program, sending checks to 44 million Americans. In addition to payments to retirees, Social Security also makes payments to disabled people and to the survivors of workers who die young.

Because most members of the huge baby boom generation — people born from 1946 through 1964 — are still working, Social Security now collects more payroll taxes than are needed to pay benefits to today's retirees. The surpluses are invested in government bonds.

The program will not need to start cashing in those investments until 2013, trustees say. At that time, baby boomers will have begun retiring, and it's projected that the taxes paid by those left in the work force won't cover baby boomers' benefits.

Medicare, which provides health coverage for 39 million elderly and disabled Americans, already is spending money from a dwindling trust fund to pay benefits.

President Clinton and Republicans in Congress have pledged to try to make changes aimed at strengthening both programs this year.

So far, however, little agreement exists about how best to do that. Among the options: adding more money from government surpluses or from tax increases, trimming benefits, raising the retirement age or partially privatizing the programs.

Grand jury will investigate wreck

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (AP) — A grand jury will investigate whether George Jones should be charged in a wreck that left him critically injured.

Williamson County District Attorney Ronald Davis said Monday that "there are enough open questions in this case" that a grand jury should hear all the evidence.

The country singer lost control of his sport utility vehicle and crashed into a bridge on March 6. His family said he was talking to his stepdaughter on a cellular phone at the time.

Jones, 67, suffered a punctured lung and lacerated liver. He spent 13 days in the hospital and was discharged March 19.

A half-pint of vodka described as less than half-full was found under the passenger's seat of Jones' vehicle, the Tennessee Highway Patrol said.

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GOOD NEWS
By Wayne Horton

GRASP THE WORD - MEMORIZE
4 of 5

Jesus said, "If you abide in my Word, you are my disciples indeed." (John 8:31).

Hearing the Word, one Retains 15% of it's content; Reading the Word, 40%; Studying the Word, 70%. But, if she memorizes the Word, a person will retain 100%!

In a day when the whole country seems to have abandoned the principles of the Bible, God's people must be deeply concerned about knowing and living and teaching His Word to others - especially their own children.

The Psalmist affirmed, "Thy Word have I hidden in my heart that I might not sin against thee." (119:11). He knew that, in times of temptation, he wouldn't have his Bible handy so he prepared for the Devil's darts by memorizing God's precious Word.

I can hear someone right now saying, "I can't memorize. I'm too old ... etc. ... etc." Oh, yes you can memorize. If you are over 50, you can finish this sentence even though you haven't heard it in years. Try it. "Winston tastes good ..." You knew it, didn't you!? The reason is because you memorized it - without even trying. How about John 3:16? You CAN memorize.

A person may not want to memorize; he may be too lazy to memorize; he may not see the value in memorizing. But he CAN memorize.

Try one verse each week and see if you don't find some great value in it. And, yes, I'll send you free information on memorizing. Just call.

Good News is a Ministry of the Hermleigh Church of Christ

Religious Briefs

Holy Week Services

Holy Week services, sponsored by the Scurry County Ministerial Alliance, continue through Thursday at the First Presbyterian Church. Services are at noon with a community luncheon following each service. Good Friday service and breakfast will be at 7 a.m. Friday at First United Methodist Church.

Rotary

The Snyder Rotary Club will meet at noon Thursday at the First Presbyterian Church to participate in the Holy Week service.

FBC Easter musical

"At The Name of Jesus," a musical for Easter, will be presented by the First Baptist Church at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The public is invited.

Colonial Hill music ministry

The music ministry of Colonial Hill Baptist Church will present The Easter Story, "Celebrate Him" at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday. There is no admission charge.

Nazarene Easter service

The public is invited to the Easter Celebration at the First Church of the Nazarene at 10:45 a.m. Sunday. There will be an Easter egg hunt for the kids after the service.

Berry's World

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"So, Freddy, how's everything goin', since you became a personal fitness trainer?"

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Hard-Won Respect Now Exists Between Students and Principal

DEAR ABBY: I have been the principal of an elementary school for four years, and for the most part have been able to keep my cool except during those noisy lunch hours in the cafeteria.

Every January, our school takes part in a "Bound for Literacy" promotion to encourage reading. The promotion is usually capped off by (who else?) the principal kissing a pig, eating worms or some other bit of nonsense to honor the students attaining a reading goal. This year, my husband and daughter — a fifth-grader at the school — suggested a stunt to literally "tie in" with the promotion's name. I agreed to spend a lunch hour (two sessions) bound and gagged in a chair in the cafeteria if the student body read a total of 2,000 books. Of course, I knew they would reach that goal, so I had to gear myself for the noise I'd have to contend with on the appointed day. It would be a deafening racket.

Friday, Jan. 29, was the big day. Just before lunch, several PTA mothers armed with a bundle of jump ropes bound me securely, taped my mouth and hoisted me into a chair on a raised platform in the cafeteria. Then the children filed in. Of course, they giggled and waved — but to my astonishment, the kids in both sessions were so quiet you could hear a spoon drop. I was amazed! One of the older children later told me, "We didn't want to take advantage of you while you were all tied up."

The following Monday, the noise levels returned to normal in the cafeteria. I have no desire to spend lunch hours bound and gagged — but I have acquired a new tolerance for lunchtime noise, and I have definitely gained added respect for my pupils.

BOUND FOR LITERACY,
ABINGTON, PA.

DEAR "BOUND": After the "sacrifice" you made, I'm sure the respect is reciprocated. Not only are your students' strides toward literacy laudable, their exhibition of fair play is admirable. My congratulations to them.

***

DEAR ABBY: I have never written to you, but for a number of decades I have frequently read and enjoyed your column. I have even quoted you to patients occasionally. I am now a retired psychiatrist.

I am sufficiently appalled by your answer to "Devastated in New York" — the woman with the cheating fiance — to write to you. Heaven help her if she does "proceed with caution" as you advised. She is almost sure to become an abused wife, emotionally if no other way.

My answer would be much more along the lines of: "Trust? Are you serious? This man has lied to you not once but innumerable times over the last year and a half. (Since you say you 'recently discovered' his liaison, I assume he didn't come to you to present this as a problem.) People who habitually lie don't stop. Count yourself exceedingly lucky to have made this discovery now and not later. Any love you feel is left over from the romantic time during which you thought you had a relationship. You will get over it. He is a loser. Do not hesitate to lose him."

I hope you publish some "second thoughts" on your answer.

HERTA SILZER, M.D.,
BERKELEY, CALIF.

DEAR DR. SILZER: Not only have I had second thoughts about my answer, but I also realize it did not convey what the young woman needed to hear.

Your answer is better than mine, and I hope "Devastated in New York" sees it.

***

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Capitol Highlights

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

AUSTIN (AP) — A bill to toughen the penalty for promotion of child pornography has been approved by the Texas Senate.

"Currently under Texas law, possession and promotion are given the same level of punishment. Promotion of child pornography is certainly a more heinous crime," said Sen. Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, sponsor of the measure.

The bill was approved Monday by senators and goes to the House for consideration.

It would enhance the punishment for promotion of child pornography from a third-degree felony, which is punishable by two to 10 years in prison and-or a $10,000 fine, to a second-degree felony, punishable by two to 20 years in prison and the same fine.

The child pornography bill is SB33.

PICKUP SAFETY

AUSTIN (AP) — Children under 18 couldn't ride in pickup beds on public roads — with some exceptions, including one for families whose only vehicle is a truck — under a bill given initial approval Monday by the Texas Senate.

The measure would revamp current law, which makes it illegal for someone to operate an open-bed pickup or open flat-bed truck, or to tow an open flat-bed trailer, at a speed of more than 35 mph with a child younger than 12 in the bed.

A final Senate vote is required before the bill goes to the House for consideration.

"This bill just makes sense," said Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, sponsor of the measure, citing concerns about the lack of protection for youngsters in pickup beds.

According to figures from the Texas Department of Public Safety on traffic accidents involving people riding in the rear of trucks, six people who were at least 12 but under 18 were killed and 190 were injured in 1997.

Violating the ban on children in the beds of trucks means a ticket of $25 to $200, Duncan said.

"It's cheaper than a funeral," he said.

Those falling under one of the bill's exemptions could use that status as a defense, he added.

Besides providing an exception when a pickup is the only vehicle owned or operated in a household, the bill would allow exemptions for:

— Operating or towing the vehicle in a parade or emergency.

— Transporting farm workers from one field to another on a farm-to-market road, ranch road or county road outside city limits.

— Beaches.

Under current law, there is a defense only for those who are operating or towing vehicles in an emergency, according to DPS and Duncan's staff.

The pickup bed bill is SB411.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

AUSTIN (AP) — Victims of domestic violence would be allowed to file a written objection to mediation in family law cases under a bill approved by a House panel on Monday.

Most urban counties in Texas currently require mediation between parties in divorce and custody cases, according to Texas Council on Family Violence spokeswoman Bree Buchanan.

"Mediation can be especially harmful where couples are required to mediate where there is a history of family violence... because the aggressor could have an opportunity to continue the pattern of emotional abuse," bill sponsor Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin, told the Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee.

Under his bill, judges could bypass mediation in all Texas counties if there was credible evidence of domestic violence within two years of a suit.

The mediation bill is HB 819.

GUN LAWSUIT BILL

AUSTIN (AP) — The author of a bill to limit the ability of Texas cities to sue gun manufacturers predicted he can finally pass the measure, which twice has been brought up in the Senate only to be withdrawn in the face of questions and concerns.

"I've got all the votes I need," Sen. Jon Lindsay, R-Houston, said Monday.

His bill, which he said could come up again for Senate consideration on Tuesday, comes at a time when a number of U.S. cities have considered suing gun makers to recover the costs of gun-related violence.

The measure would prohibit Texas state agencies and governmental units — including cities and counties — from suing firearm or ammunition makers or sellers for damages related to lawful manufacture or sales to the public.

The prohibition would be lifted only if the Legislature approved such a lawsuit in advance.

Lawsuits by individuals wouldn't be affected by the bill, Lindsay said. It also wouldn't prevent breach of contract or warranty lawsuits by governmental bodies that buy firearms or ammunition.

The gun lawsuit bill is SB717.

COMPENSATION FOR INJURED POLICE OFFICERS

AUSTIN (AP) — Police officers injured in the line of duty would be covered by a crime victims' compensation program under a bill left pending by a House panel.

"When a policeman is shot in the line of duty, he or she would be better off dead than to survive it," Charley Wilkison, political director of the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas, said Monday.

He said that families of officers killed at work receive both state and federal compensation, while few if any Texas counties have a disability insurance plan for police officers who are seriously injured.

"What happens is, after they get out of the hospital, they go on worker's compensation, but get dropped after 12 months. Then they either go back to work or get fired," he said.

The bill, written by state Rep. Dale Tillery, D-Dallas, would withdraw money from the state Crime Victim's Compensation Fund for injured law enforcement officers.

Tillery's bill is HB 2298.

EMISSION BILLS

AUSTIN (AP) — The state's oldest industrial plants could voluntarily reduce air emissions under a plan being considered by a House panel and touted by Gov. George W. Bush.

The bill would encourage the plants, exempt from state environmental rules because they were built before 1971, to volunteer for compliance.

Environmental groups, however, complain that the plants, which emit more than 30 percent of all air pollution in Texas, should be forced into compliance or be shuttered.

Rep. Ray Allen, R-Grand Prarie, who is sponsoring the more lenient bill, says that would cost too many jobs.

The House Environmental Regulation Committee took testimony on the bill Monday and the Senate Natural Resources Committee was expected to consider similar legislation Tuesday.

Allen's air emissions bill is HB2504.

Maxey's bill is HB2390.

UT INVESTMENTS

AUSTIN (AP) — An agency that manages billions of dollars in public university money has decided to release more information about its investments.

The University of Texas Investment Management Co. will release the names of individual principals who manage the investments, UT Chancellor William Cunningham told the House Appropriations Committee Monday.

The announcement came after the Houston Chronicle reported that the nonprofit corporation had directed $252 million to private investment funds run by friends and associates of one of its top officials.

Although the investment decisions involve taxpayer money, they were made behind closed doors and the public cannot learn whether the investments are sound because of rulings by the state attorney general's office.

"UTIMCO and the UT System are committed to the highest standards of public accountability, as well as to the imperative that we achieve a high rate of return on the funds that we invest on behalf of the public," Cunningham said.

UTIMCO was created by state legislators in 1995 to manage public university money.

Since 1996, UTIMCO has handled more than $11 billion of University of Texas endowment money as well as the state's higher education trust, known as the Permanent University Fund.

The attorney general's office, citing the competitive marketplace exception of the Public Information Act, has ruled that UTIMCO does not have to disclose whether private investments make or lose money or the names of private fund managers and co-investors.

Cunningham said the "new policy requiring public disclosure of the names of individual principals will not result in a more limited array of private investment opportunities."

"If a private entity should decline to enter into an investment agreement with UTIMCO because of these disclosure requirements, UTIMCO will forego the investment opportunity in favor of the public interest for open disclosure," he said.

Study: Most poor Texans are working

AUSTIN (AP) — Most of Texas' poor families have one or more adults who work, and most get the majority of their income from work rather than welfare, according to a study on poverty released Monday.

Slightly more than half the working poor families with children are headed by a married couple and about 66 percent of all parents in working poor families have no health insurance, among the highest rates in the nation, according to the Working But Poor study by the nonprofit Center for Public Policy Priorities.

"The basic point is there are people out there doing everything they should. They're working, married, some have high school diplomas, but are still poor because they don't get paid enough," said CPPP senior fiscal analyst Dick Lavine.

"I think it's a surprise to a lot of people. There's a misperception about poverty that people are lazy or that they're a lot of single mothers," Lavine said.

According to the study based on census data from 1995-1997, 80 percent of poor families with children had one or more adults working at some point in the year. Of those, about 37 percent held full-time jobs, the study said.

Parents in working poor families with children averaged more than 10 months of work a year, the study said.

About 70 percent of working poor families get most of their income from work, not welfare, the study said. The same percentage of poor families with children who received welfare also had a parent who worked at least part of the year.

Ways to increase income for those families include raising the state minimum wage from $3.35 an hour to match the federal minimum wage of $5.15, Lavine said.

Texas workers not currently covered by the federal minimum wage include agricultural and domestic workers and waitresses, Lavine said.

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Dr. Gott by Peter Gott, M.D.

Side effects of Ativan

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Please tell me about Ativan. Does it cause side effects? Is it habit-forming?

DEAR READER: Ativan (lorazepam) is an anti-anxiety agent, a minor tranquilizer in the benzodiazepine family. It is recommended for the short-term treatment of anxiety disorders, including the anxiety associated with certain forms of depression. It can accentuate the effects of alcohol, barbiturates and other tranquilizers. There are many minor adverse reactions to the drug, including sedation, dizziness, weakness, unsteadiness, nausea, headache, agitation, skin rash and depression. Ativan is considered to be a safe medication when used under medical supervision and according to the manufacturer's directions. However, as with any similar drug, the possibility exists for habituation.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Consumer Tips on Medicine." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I love sushi. I've read that raw fish may contain tapeworm. What are the symptoms of tapeworm? I can't gain weight, my nose itches constantly, I feel weak, and I often experience choking spells.

DEAR READER: Raw fish can, indeed, be contaminated by tapeworm. Most people with tapeworm don't realize they have it, however, until they pass segments of the worm or have massive infestation that causes bowel problems, weakness, weight loss and anemia. I suspect that your symptoms result from another source. Nonetheless, a stool examination for tapeworm can easily and cheaply be performed by most hospital labs. Ask your doctor about this, but request a full examination first.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My mother died of colon cancer a few years ago. Following this, my older brother was diagnosed with colon polyps. Last month, my younger sister was found to have a "pre-malignant" polyp. At age 44, I suppose that I, too, should be examined, but, frankly, I'm not thrilled at the idea. I'm afraid to have a colonoscopy. Do I really need it?

DEAR READER: There is no question that you must overcome your fear and have the procedure. Your family has a genetic tendency to colon polyps, which are small growths in the lining of the large bowel. For reasons that are not completely understood, families with this inheritance tend to develop polyps that will turn cancerous unless they are removed. While I'm not suggesting that you also have such polyps, the risk is there. If you are free of polyps, lucky you. However, if you do have them, they should be eliminated. The best way to do that is by colonoscopy.

Actually, colonoscopy isn't such a big deal. After appropriate preparation, you will be given a sedative and the gastroenterologist will examine the lining of your whole colon, using a flexible fiber-optic tube. The procedure isn't comfortable but it takes only a couple of hours, following which you can return home. Don't procrastinate. Swallow your fear (along with the bowel-cleansing liquid) and have the colonoscopy. It could save your life.

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DR. GOTT

PETER GOTT, M.D.

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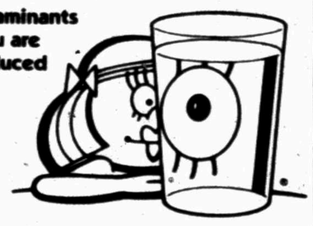

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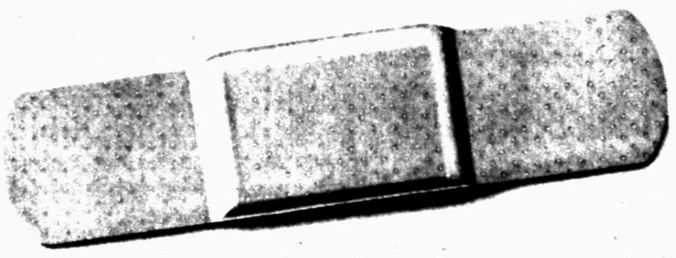

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2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Pentagon readies for intensified strikes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon is sending five B-1 bombers and additional air defense-jamming planes and refueling tankers to Europe for intensified NATO airstrikes on Serb troops that U.S. officials say are slaughtering ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

Each B-1 can carry 84 500-pound bombs and 30 cluster-style munitions that can take out armor and artillery, which are among new targets in the second phase of the week-old air campaign.

"We are beginning to turn to hitting staging areas" of Serb troops and military vehicles, Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Monday.

The Yugoslav military is widely dispersed in mountainous terrain, however, making for difficult targets, he cautioned. Rain and clouds also are hampering NATO attacks.

"There aren't huge concentrations of troops in the sense of massed armies that we encountered in, say, World War II in battles 50 or 60 years ago," Bacon said. "It's more like small groups trying to either destroy and pillage villages, on the one hand, or small groups going after concentrations of the Kosovar Liberation Army."

The Clinton administration and NATO have accused those groups of Army and security forces of renewing a year-old genocidal campaign against ethnic Albanians, who are fleeing the Serb province of Kosovo by the tens of thousands to bordering Macedonia and Albania, creating a humanitarian crisis.

"We're beginning to see evidence of potential genocide," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said today, adding that Serb forces do not appear to have carried out assaults on their own. "I have no reason to believe that there's anybody who's not acting on orders."

Lockhart said Clinton is "clearly very disturbed" by the reports of atrocities "and the hardship these people are facing. It's redoubled his resolve to continue pursuing the air campaign."

Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering today rejected a suggestion that the bombing will not succeed and that it will take NATO ground troops to force Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to sign a peace agreement.

"It is true that airstrikes cannot stop an individual murder on the ground," Pickering said on NBC's "Today." "But we believe that continued and intensified military pressure on Milosevic can create such a range of damage that it will bring about the results that we hope to achieve."

Five Navy EA-6B aircraft were being deployed to help jam the target-seeking radar of the Serbs' robust anti-aircraft missile network. An F-117A stealth fighter crashed in Yugoslavia over the weekend, possibly due to hostile fire.

No results in talks between Russia's PM and Milosevic

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Talks between Russia's prime minister and Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic produced unspecified results today but there was no immediate breakthrough that might halt the round-the-clock NATO airstrikes on Serb forces.

NATO officials said today that the number of ethnic Albanians who have fled Kosovo in the last six days has grown to 118,000, and Pec, a city of 100,000 residents in western Kosovo, has been "almost totally destroyed."

The alliance said it had received reports that Yugoslav military forces had opened fire with tanks and artillery at refugees in the Pagarusa Valley, southwest of the provincial capital of Pristina, but had no confirmation.

Rebel sources said Serbs attacked the area, where at least 50,000 ethnic Albanians have been living since being chased from their homes last summer. Ramush Hajredinaj, a regional commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army, said the attack appeared intended to drive the civilians into Albania.

The talks between Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov and Milosevic, the most high-level mediation effort since the NATO airstrikes began seven days ago, lasted a few hours longer than expected, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

"The talks have brought results," it quoted Primakov as saying. He said he would give details later.

Primakov left the Yugoslav capital Belgrade for Bonn, Germany, to meet with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, the current president of the European Union.

Western officials had little hope that Primakov's visit would bring a breakthrough that could halt violence in Kosovo. The NATO bombing that began last week has so far failed to deter Milosevic's forces from carrying out what appeared to be a systematic offensive against Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority.

Reports of mass killings and forced removals, with entire villages being burned and cities cleared of ethnic Albanians, have increased since NATO forces began the bombing and missile campaign last Wednesday.

French Defense Minister Alain Richard said today that the airstrikes have diminished by more than half Yugoslavia's capacity to strike and defend itself by air.

"More than 50 percent of (Yugoslavia's) potential — both air defense and air combat — were knocked out by this morning," Richard told the French parliament's foreign affairs and defense commissions.

French Army Chief of Staff Jean-Pierre Kelche said there was "no longer any coordinated and sophisticated capacity of Serb air forces to oppose the Alliance air forces."

NATO has refused to give any precise military information about operations, the results of second phase attacks so far beyond saying they have been striking at ground forces in Kosovo.

"We will continue to conduct operations around the clock," NATO air commander David Wilby said at today's briefing in Brussels, Belgium.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said he spoke with President Clinton and with NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana and "we are absolutely at one on this: The answer to what is happening is to intensify the attacks."

"It is to get in and hit Milosevic and his murderous thugs very, very hard," Blair said.

Four dead, one injured in shooting

ABILENE (AP) — Four teenage girls are dead and a man remains hospitalized today following a shooting at a West Texas apartment.

Investigators are trying to determine whether the attack Monday evening is linked to a shooting Sunday in which another teenager was injured.

Authorities today were looking for a 19-year-old man and his 16-year-old brother, who have Tarrant County addresses, to ask them about the latest attack, according to Abilene television station KTXS.

Police responding to a call around 5 p.m. Monday found a wounded man in the driveway and the other victims — including one who might have been pregnant — inside one of the apartments, detective Jay Hatcher said.

Police had no motive and no suspects by late Monday for what Hatcher called Abilene's first quadruple homicide in recent memory. Repeated telephone calls from The Associated Press today to Abilene police weren't returned.

Residents of the northside Abilene neighborhood say violence is nothing new there.

Donna Rhone, who lives just a few houses away from the crime scene, told the Abilene Reporter-News the tiny group of duplex apartments has been a problem ever since she moved to the area 13 years ago.

"If they would knock down those apartments, it would be a better area," said Ms. Rhone. "My kids can't even play in their front yard because I'm afraid they'll get shot."

Hatcher described the scene as "very, very gruesome" and added that it appeared some of the women might have been trying to escape.

"It's a very, very sad fact to have happened to four people at such a young age," said Hatcher.

Police identified the victims as Sandy Witt, Naomi Martinez, Penny Estrada and Erica Arispe. The fifth victim, Larry Hammond, was in surgery for his wounds early today.

Ira advances to area 1-act

Ira's "Imaginary Invalid," a French comedy, continued its winning ways Monday as it advanced from district to area competition.

Cast members also won several awards including another best actor for Tye Shirley. Emily Hardy was again named to the All-Star cast and joining her is Shade Everton.

Ira players receiving honor mention All-Star cast recognition are Tosha Walker, Lindsy Josey and Terri Robinson.

While Hermleigh's "Amber Waves" did not advance, five cast members were recognized including Randi K. Herrington and Jared Higgins who were named to the All-Star cast and Caleb Callaway, Brandy Wood and Tiffanie Moore, who received honorable mention.

Mary Spieker, who directs Hermleigh's play, said, "I thought our kids gave their best performance ever. I am really pleased."

Sue Parham directs Ira's play.

Monday's district contest was held at Dawson School in Welch. Besides Ira, Grady's "Sister, Sister" also advanced.

The area contest will be held in Eden on Saturday, April 10.

Obituaries

Wayne McAnally

1947-1999

Mr. Wayne McAnally of Loraine, 51, of Loraine died Saturday in an Abilene hospital.

Service for Mr. McAnally is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Kiker-Seale-Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Roy Lee Epperson will officiate. Burial will follow in the Colorado City Cemetery.

Born June 10, 1947 in Odessa, he had been a resident of Mitchell County for the past 11 years. He married Recia Shults on April 9, 1971 in Odessa. Mr. McAnally was owner and operator of The Shumac Co. in Mitchell County where he grew hydroponic tomatoes. He was a member of the Northside Farmers Market Association in Abilene and was affectionaltely known as "The Tomato Man." He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and a Baptist.

Survivors include his wife, Recia McAnally of Loraine; and one sister, Julia McAnally of Sweetwater.

Janet Mitchell

1955-1999

JAL, N.M. — Janet Leigh Mitchell, the sister of Gloria Webster of Snyder, died Saturday, March 27, in Lubbock's University Medical Center.

Funeral service for Mrs. Mitchell, 43, was set for 3 p.m. today in the First Baptist Church. The Rev. Ted Short was to officiate and burial was to follow in the Jal Cemetery under the direction of Cooper Funeral Home in Kermit.

Born in Lamesa, she had lived in Lovington, N.M., for the past 20 years and was employed by the U.S. Postal Service.

Survivors include three sons, Gregory Mitchell of Odessa and Michael Mitchell and David Mitchell, both of Hobbs, N.M.; her mother, Joan Mitchell of Odessa; another sister, Stephanie Slate of Lexington, Okla.; and two grandchildren.

Gerald Hollis

1919-1999

CARLSBAD, N.M. — Service for Gerald Hollis, father of Linda Wright of Snyder, is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in the First Baptist Church in Carlsbad. West Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Hollis, 79, died Sunday, March 28, at his home in Carlsbad.

He was born on Oct. 16, 1919, and married Ruth Alene Moss on Jan. 4, 1941 in Sayre, Okla. She survives.

Other survivors include two sons, John Hollis of Albuquerque, N.M., and Frank Hollis of Anderson, Ark.; three other daughters, Patricia R. Hollis of Alexandria, Va., and Marsha West and Sherry Lynch, both of Carlsbad; 13 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Cancer Society meeting

The American Cancer Society will meet at 5 this evening in the board room at Cogdell Hospital. Plans will be made for Relay for Life.

Genealogy society

Geneology Society will meet at 7 tonight at the Scurry County Library. Everyone is invited to hear a program by Jo Thrower on "Things Pertaining to the Civil War."

East Elementary parent council

The East Elementary School parent council will meet at 7:30 tonight in the school library.

Free tax aid service

Free tax help is available each Wednesday at the Senior Center. Help is also available for shut-ins. Call 573-3822 or 573-4035.

Silent auction

Phi Theta Kappa, honorary society at WTC, will host a silent auction to raise funds to attend the international conference. Items are on sale and last day to bid is 10:45 a.m. Thursday when winner will be announced. For more information call Carolyn Osborn at 573-8511, ext. 313.

Public reception

A public reception in honor of Railroad Commission Chairman Tony Garza and Robert Huston, chairman of the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission, will be held fromn 4:30-5:30 p.m. Thursday in the Scurry County Museum on the WTC campus.

Hamburger cookout

Scurry County officials are hosting a county-wide hamburger cookout starting at 5 p.m. Thursday on the courthouse square to show support for the local economy. The cookout will conclude in time for the town-hall meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. at city hall.

Townhall meeting

State Rep. David Counts, along with Mayor David Holt, will conduct a townhall meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Snyder City Hall.

Snyder Healthcare bake sale

The family council of the Snyder Healthcare Center will have its annual bake sale on Friday from 9 a.m. until noon. It will be located in the southwest corner of the building located at 5311 Big Spring Highway. Entry may be through the back hallway door.

Hermleigh Cemetery Association

Hermleigh Cemetery Association will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the Hermleigh Community Center. For more information, call 863-2355 or 863-2338.

Public hearing for bomber training

The Air Force will hold a public hearing on the proposed Realistic Bomber Training Initative (RBTI) on Wednesday, April 7, from 5-9 p.m. at Snyder High School.

Golden K fish fry

Golden K Kiwanis Club fish fry will be held from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 11, at the Senior Citizens Center. Cost is $6 for adults and children under 6 can et free. Takeout plates will be available.

American Legion officers

The American Legion Layne Kite Post #181 will elect officers on April 12.

Softball tournament

A men's softball tournament to benefit Special Olympics is planned April 17-18 at Winston Park. It will be double elimination and cost is $100 per team. Entry fee is due by April 9 by contacting Coach Stewart or Daisy Braziel at 915-573-1114.

Class of '79 reunion

The SHS class of 1979 is planning a class reunion. Anyone wanting to help plan or work on the reunion is asked to contact Susan Blackard at 573-0989.

Windbreak trees available

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District has extra windbreak trees, both hardwood and evergreens, available.

Aggie scholarships

The Rolling Plains Texas A&M Mothers' Club will award two scholarships to a high school senior and a current A&M student. Students in Fisher, Mitchell, Nolan and Scurry counties are eligible. Applications are available at the high schools and postmark deadline for applications is Thursday.

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
9-7-6
(nine, seven, six)

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Monday by the Texas Lottery:
4-8-21-34-39
(four, eight, twenty-one, thirty-four, thirty-nine)