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WT-Int. Crude - $24.90
WTIC Posted - $21.50
Natural Gas - $3.290

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY
March 21, 2002
Vol. 53 No. 277
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Becky Knipe

WEDNESDAY ACCIDENT — Snyder police, firefighters and paramedics responded to this two-vehicle accident at 12:20 p.m. Wednesday at the Highway 180 overpass at U.S. 84. Melvin Rankin, 84, of Sweetwater and his wife Pinty, 76, were transported by ambulance to Cogdell Hospital's emergency room. Jason Brown, 22, of 2203 43rd Street was taken to the hospital by private vehicle. Brown was driving a 1991 Toyota pickup and the Rankins were in a 2000 Chevrolet Cavalier. (SDN Staff Photo)

Hermleigh races contested...

City gains late council hopeful

Just before filing deadline Wednesday, a contested race developed for a seat on the Snyder city council.

Western Texas College instructor Stephanie Ducheneaux filed for the District 2 seat on Snyder's governing body, challenging incumbent David Harrell.

Stephanie Ducheneaux

City officials today contacted the secretary of state's office to determine if Ducheneaux is eligible to run because her husband, Toby Ducheneaux, is a Snyder fireman.

A reply was received shortly before noon today indicating there is no reason she can't be a candidate.

Ducheneaux said her holding the elected position would not be a conflict of interest.

"It is my understanding that, if elected, I could take no action on issues pertaining directly to the fire department," she said. "But Snyder has many other issues that need to be addressed.

"I have always felt that I am the type of person that can listen to people and make good, solid decisions and I think I could make a difference in Snyder."

The couple moved to Snyder from Canyon five years ago.

Other incumbents seeking re-election on the city council are Vernest Tippens and James Ashley. Ron Shaw has filed for the seat held by councilman I.E. Martin who is not seeking another term.

The only other contested races that developed are on the Hermleigh school board.

Joe Roemisch filed Wednesday, joining Wesley Shankles and Burton Sandefur in seeking an unexpired term on the board.

Roemisch is president of Production Pump Systems Inc.

Four candidates are vying for two full terms on the board. Roy Gill and Tony Molina filed Monday to join incumbents Tony Lambaren and Larry West.

Incumbents Sid Wall, Fran Farmer and Lance Autry have filed for re-election at Ira.

Glenn Clarady and Mark McCormick, also incumbents, are asking for another term on the Snyder school board.

Doug Neff is a candidate for the post currently held by Janet Stribling. Stribling, the Democratic nominee for county judge, is not seeking re-election.

Incumbents Drew Bullard and Jackie Greene are seeking six-year terms on the WTC board.

PTK slates induction

The Psi Zeta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa will host a formal induction ceremony for new members at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Fine Arts Theatre at Western Texas College.

Following the induction ceremony, a reception will be held for inductees and guests in the foyer of the Fine Arts Theatre.

Phi Theta Kappa is the International Honor Society of the two-year college. The society's hallmarks are scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship.

An invitation for membership in PTK is extended to students each semester who have accumulated 12 or more college-level credit hours, who are working toward an associates degree, and who have a grade point average of 3.2 or higher.

Car bomb explodes outside U.S. embassy

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A car bomb exploded outside the U.S. Embassy in Lima, killing at least nine people and injuring dozens in an audacious late night attack just three days before President Bush visits the Andean capital. U.S. officials said today that Shining Path rebels were suspected.

Bush planned to go ahead with his visit to Lima, saying today he would not be dissuaded by "two-bit terrorists." Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo was cutting short a visit to a U.N. summit in Mexico to rush home after the blast.

The Wednesday night explosion left the upscale street outside the embassy strewn with rubble, shattered glass and the bodies of the dead — including at least two police officers and an 18-year-old man wearing roller skates. No Americans were among the at least nine people confirmed dead.

There was no claim of responsibility. But some U.S. officials pointed to Shining Path, a rebel movement that killed thousands of people in a campaign of bombings, assassinations and massacres in the 1980s and 1990s. Many Peruvians feared the bombing meant a resurgence of violence by Shining Path, which was largely crushed by the late 1990s.

Bush said he would still go to Lima, where he is scheduled to arrive Saturday for a meeting with Toledo and leaders from Colombia, Bolivia and Ecuador.

"I'm sure the president there did everything he can to make Lima safe for our trip," Bush said in the Oval Office. "You know, two-bit terrorists aren't going to prevent me from doing what we need to do, and that is to promote our friendship in the hemisphere."

"We might have an idea" who set off the bomb, Bush said. "They've been around before." Bush did not identify the suspected group — but he nodded when a reporter asked if Shining Path was on the upsurge.

Bush spoke before heading to Monterrey, Mexico, where he will attend a U.N. conference before he begins his first Latin American visit since becoming president. Toledo decided to leave the Monterrey conference on today to return home a day early.

Sneak preview set for movie filmed in town

A special sneak preview and premier of *Grand Champion* for the cast and crew is slated for 6 p.m. April 7 at the Paramount Theatre on Congress Ave. in Austin.

A limited number of tickets will be sold for the event. To order tickets call 512-469-SHOW. Proceeds will benefit the Children's Museum of Austin.

A sneak preview will be held in Snyder at a later date, with proceeds to benefit the Boys and Girls Club and Gateway Family Services.

A release date for the movie, written and directed Snyder High School graduate and former resident Barry Tubb, has not yet been set.

Grand Champion was filmed in and around Snyder last summer. Celebrities like Julia Roberts and Bruce Willis had cameo roles. Roberts' niece, Emma, was one of the stars.

Garden club meet here Friday, Saturday

Snyder Garden Club and Colorado City Garden Club will host the District VIII Garden Clubs spring meeting highlighted by a Dutch treat pre-convention dinner at 6:30 Friday evening at the Martha Ann Woman's Club.

Registration is 4-5 p.m. Friday at the woman's club and visitation, games and shopping will precede the dinner.

Approximately 80 members are expected to attend the "Diamond Jubilee Garden Party".

Chairman is Sandra Browning and Patsy Huckabee is co-chairman.

Saturday the group will convene at the Scurry County Museum on the campus of Western Texas College for registration and coffee, hosted by the Colorado City club. During this time, an executive board meeting will be held in the museum office.

At 9:30 in the museum display area, the general meeting will start.

Mayor Francene Noah will welcome garden club members to the city and LaVerne Hood will welcome members to the district meeting, while JoAnn Denson of the Stamford Garden Club will give the response.

During the general assembly led by Loyce Rogers, district director from Stamford, new officers will be elected for 2003-2005.

Presentation of awards will be by Elaine Bryant of Abilene prior to the luncheon highlighted with a program by Sue Travis of Snyder.

Increased usage noted...

Hospital board gives approval to reports

By Wade Warren
SDN Managing Editor

Cogdell Memorial Hospital board of managers made quick work of its agenda this morning, approving, with scant discussion, the new human resources plan and the annual performance improvement report.

Jo Beth Hardegree, head of both departments, presented the reports.

Financial officer Joe Wright gave the financial report that indicated usage of the hospital continues to increase.

Wright said the average daily census for February was 27, up from 21 a year ago.

The number of visits to the emergency room last month was 663, as compared to 584 in 2001.

Home health care visits increased dramatically over 2001, as there were 1,471 in February, as compared to 353 last year.

Cash receipts were up from $1,335,159 last year to $1,499,020 last month.

Hospital CEO George Parsley noted that the rain this week had slowed outside work on the emergency room renovation, but work is progressing as planned.

"The underground plumbing and electrical work should be completed soon, and the slab should then be poured," Parsley said.

The hospital administrator also said the application seeking funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the 24-bed assisted living project has been completed and the renovation of the day surgery area is almost complete, added Parsley.

"The punch list is being finished this week and the area should be useable next week," said Parsley.

Parsley also said he had met with Tom Kennedy, hospital administrator from Sweetwater, and Ella Ray Helms, Fisher County Hospital administrator, about a joint effort in recruitment of physicians.

"Kennedy was not really that interested," said Parsley. "But there is some interest on the part of Helms."

Board president Nan Swanson presided and members present were E.D. Walton, Terry Williams, Bill Voss and Carl Williams. Dink Foree was absent.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "The good thing about living in a small town is when you don't know what you're doing, someone else does."

After bypass surgery, one of our coffee drinking regulars is slowly getting back on his feet. We want him back around the table for two reasons — we like his lively quips and miss his frequent trips to the cash register.

Tom Machen has visited Harold Denson frequently. While still in the hospital, Tom reported that Harold was not the model patient.

Harold was wanting a little sympathy from the nurses, but they wouldn't budge.

"Can I have a drink of water?" he asked. The nurse promptly said "No."

"Can I have a cigar?" The nurse was even more negative. "I won't light it, I promise." The nurse just glared.

"Well, then can I have a Snicker bar?"

He was told he must be reasonable. The best thing he needed was exercise and then rest. "We've got to get you well," the nurse explained.

"I'm trying to," declared Harold, "but your answers just make me sick."

All the pundits are telling us over-the-hill types that it is important to look on the bright side — to find a silver lining in each cloud.

Somebody passed along some advantages, or perks, of being a senior citizen.

—Kidnappers are not very interested in you.

—No one expects you to run into a burning building.

—People call at 9 p.m. and ask, "Did I wake you?"

—There is nothing left to learn the hard way.

—Things you buy now won't wear out.

—You eat dinner shortly after 4 p.m.

—You have a party and the neighbors don't even realize it.

—You no longer think of the speed limit as a challenge.

—You quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into the room.

—You sing along with the elevator music.

—Your eyes won't get much worse.

—Your investment in health insurance is finally paying off.

—Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.

ASK US

Q—I have been asked to buy space on a calendar supporting SHS athletics. Will the athletic programs get any of the money?

A—At the present time, the district does not have an agreement with any calendar company.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Wednesday, 60 degrees; low, 35; 7 a.m. Thursday, 40; .05 of an inch precipitation; total for 2002, 2.77 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, cloudy, breezy, NE winds 15-25 mph then 10-15 mph., low in the lower 30s. Friday, partly cloudy, cooler; highs upper 50s; S winds 5-15 mph.

Chris Ward
Breezy

Sunset:
6:56 p.m.
Sunrise:
6:45 a.m.
Of 79 days in 2002, the sun has shone 75 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

One face for the world, another at home makes for misery.

—Amy Vanderbilt

MAR 21 2002

Hotel discrimination deal may end early, Justice says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the Justice Department's civil rights division has offered to consider recommending an end to an anti-discrimination settlement with the Adam's Mark hotel chain nearly two years early if he is impressed by year's end with the company's behavior.

Assistant U.S. Attorney General Ralph Boyd made the unusual offer after a meeting with hotel representatives who were seeking immediate changes to the agreement. The chain's owners, HBE Corp. of St. Louis, agreed to the settlement in 2000 to settle charges that its hotels treated black guests differently.

A Justice Department spokeswoman, Barbara Comstock, said late Wednesday that Boyd made no promises to the hotel's representatives other than to consider the matter at the end of the year.

"What he said was, at the end of the year, he would look at the matter again and look at the facts, look at the law ... and make a decision," Comstock said. "He did not say what his decision will be. They were arguing for modifying the consent decree or terminating it. He turned them down."

Comstock also noted that any modifications to the agreement, set to expire in November 2004, must be approved by a U.S. judge.

Under terms of the settlement, the Adam's Mark agreed to revise its policies and seek minority customers. The company also agreed to hire an outside firm to monitor any discrimination.

When the settlement was announced in March 2000, the Adam's Mark issued a statement saying that while "the company has never done anything wrong, we apologize for any actions that may have made any of our guests feel uncomfortable or unwelcome."

Five black vacationers sued the hotel chain, saying the Adam's Mark in Daytona Beach, Fla., singled them out as security risks during the 1999 Black College Reunion and made them — but not white guests — wear orange wristbands to get into the hotel.

Black reunion guests also allegedly were charged more than other special-event guests and had to pay cash in full to reserve rooms. The Justice Department filed a separate lawsuit, saying there was a pattern of discrimination at the hotel chain.

The Washington Post, which first reported Boyd's offer in today's editions, said that Fred S. Kummer Jr., the president of HBE Corp., contributed along with his family and employees $15,700 to Ashcroft's 1994 and 2000 U.S. Senate campaigns before he became attorney general.

The newspaper also said that Ashcroft, when he was Missouri's governor, appointed Kummer to the University of Missouri Board of Curators, and that Kummer attended Ashcroft's daughter's wedding.

KIWANIS BREAKFAST — Snyder Kiwanis Club recently held its annual pancake breakfast at West Elementary. Manning the grill are, front to back, Darren Jackson and Darryl Calley. (Contributed Photo)

events

LOTTO TEXAS™

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Lotto Texas numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery:

5-12-28-32-47-48

Estimated Lotto Texas jackpot: $9 million

No winner.

Pick 3

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

0-9-3

(zero-nine-three)

Mexico's water debt costly to 'Valley'

MCALLEN (AP) — Mexico's mounting water debt to the United States is costing the Rio Grande Valley more than $350 million a year, Gov. Rick Perry says.

A new four-page report on Mexico's noncompliance with the 1944 U.S.-Mexico water treaty was sent this week by the governor's office to U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, just as President Bush prepared to travel south of the border for meetings with Vicente Fox.

Perry told hundreds of Rio Grande Valley farmers Wednesday at a Weslaco water rally by the Texans for Treaty Compliance that "diplomacy will be over" if a meeting scheduled Friday between Bush and the Mexican president does not produce a deal to protect Texas farmers' livelihood.

The report also contends that Mexico has released only half of the 600,000 acre-feet of water it promised under a minute order signed in March 2001 by Bush and Fox.

"Because very serious financial losses affect Texas' farmers, I urge that immediate action be taken to enforce the treaty on Texas' behalf," Perry stated in a cover letter to Powell.

The economic analysis on Valley losses was provided by Dr. John Robinson, agricultural economist with Texas A&M University in Weslaco.

"One acre-foot of water is worth approximately $652 in gross regional profit. That includes profit, wages, interest earned and rent," Robinson told The Monitor (McAllen) in today's editions. "Therefore, a debt of almost 1.5 million acre-feet of water since 1992 equals approximately $1 billion in lost business activity."

He said the average regional loss in business activity from 1998 to 2001 was almost $368 million per year. The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission said that the average annual irrigation use in the Valley has been reduced by 563,826 acre-feet since 1992.

"Mexico's consistent failure to include treaty compliance in their water management planning and reservoir system management, has caused the current deficit," the report states.

It claims Mexico operates a dozen reservoirs on Rio Grande tributaries, with all trapping water regulated by treaty for sharing with the United States.

"Since 1992, Mexico has kept all water that fell above the Luis Leon Dam on the Rio Conchos, accumulating 5 million acre-feet of excess water through October 1999. This is three times the amount of Mexico's debt," the document states.

Perry said he plans to meet Bush in El Paso today to ask him to urge immediate treaty compliance. From El Paso, Bush is scheduled to fly to Monterrey, Mexico, for the U.N. International Conference on Financing for Development.

In a meeting with Fox on Friday, Bush is expected to discuss water allocation along the Rio Grande.

Mexican officials have said they can't send the water they owe the United States because the drought is also hurting its farmers.

Early test for Alzheimer's may be possible some day

WASHINGTON (AP) — Measuring the levels of a plaque-forming protein in the blood may identify Alzheimer's disease changes in the brain before other symptoms appear, according to researchers who tested the technique on mice.

Experiments at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis found that injecting an antibody into mice caused a sudden flood in the blood stream of amyloid-beta, a protein that forms neuron-destroying plaques in the brain.

Now a new study, using mice, shows that the level of amyloid-beta in the blood after the antibody injection is an indication of the amount of plaques forming in the brain, said David M. Holtzman, a Washington University neurologist and Alzheimer's disease researcher. He is a co-author of the study appearing Friday in the journal Science.

"We show in this study that the amount of amyloid-beta that comes out of the brain and into the blood stream is a very good reflection in these animals of how much is deposited in these plaques," said Holtzman.

He emphasized that although the technique works in a strain of mice that develop Alzheimer's, it is still not known if the test would work in humans. Because the disease progresses so slowly, Holtzman said it would take at least five years of studies before the test could be proven in human patients.

Holtzman said the study is a part of a major effort by Alzheimer's disease researchers to find a way to identify people who will develop the disease before they have obvious symptoms.

Right now, Alzheimer's can only be definitely proven at autopsy, although some clinical tests can diagnose the disease to a high degree of accuracy after profound symptoms have appeared.

"One of the hottest thing now (among researchers) is to figure out a diagnostic tool for Alzheimer's," said Holtzman.

Date Book

Thursday, March 21, 2002

Today is the 80th day of 2002, and the 2nd day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1963, President John F. Kennedy ordered the closing of the federal prison of Alcatraz, located in San Francisco Bay.

On this day in 1965, a group of 3000 demonstrators — led by Martin Luther King Jr. — began their march from Selma, Ala. to Montgomery, Ala.

On this day in 1980, The famous episode of "Dallas" aired where J.R. (played by Larry Hagman) was shot.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750), composer; Timothy Dalton (1944 -), actor, is 58; Gary Oldman (1958 -), actor, is 44; Matthew Broderick (1962 -), actor, is 40; Rosie O'Donnell (1962 -), talk show host/actress, is 40.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1964, the UCLA men's basketball team completed a perfect 30-0 season by winning the NCAA Tournament. In the final, they defeated Duke 98-83.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "It's easy to play any musical instrument: all you have to do is touch the right key at the right time and the instrument will play itself." —Johann Sebastian Bach

TODAY'S MOON: First quarter (March 21)

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Birthday Bash CASH!

If You Were Born February 18, 1913 You Are A Winner.

Must Claim Prize By Friday, March 22, 2002 by 5:00 p.m. in person at Snyder Daily News.

All You Have To Do Is Come To The Snyder Daily News And Claim Your Birthday Bash Cash.

Proper Identification Needed

Today's Birthday Bash Cash $180

Bash Cash value increases $10 when there is no winner.

Thursday Birthday Bash Cash Numbers

0 2 – 1 8 – 1 3
Month Day Year

Deadline 5 p.m. Friday, March 22, 2002

New Birthday Bash Cash Numbers In The Weekend Edition Of The Snyder Daily News

HOW TO PLAY:
-You win if BASH CASH numbers match your birthday in sequence.
-Each BASH CASH starts with $50.
-BASH CASH increases $10 each time there is no winner.
-NEW BASH CASH numbers will be published Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday Editions of The Snyder Daily News.

ELIGIBILITY:
-Resident of Scurry County
-Must be at least 16 year old.
-Employees of the Snyder Daily News , their spouses and children are not eligible.

TO CLAIM BIRTHDAY BASH CASH
-Prize must be claimed in person by deadline.
-In case of multi-winners prize will be divided equally.
- Prize is claimed at Snyder Daily News, 3600 College Ave.
-Must provide proof of birthday and legal residence.
-Proof: driver's license, voter registration card, birth certificate, phone book, utility bill or other documentation.

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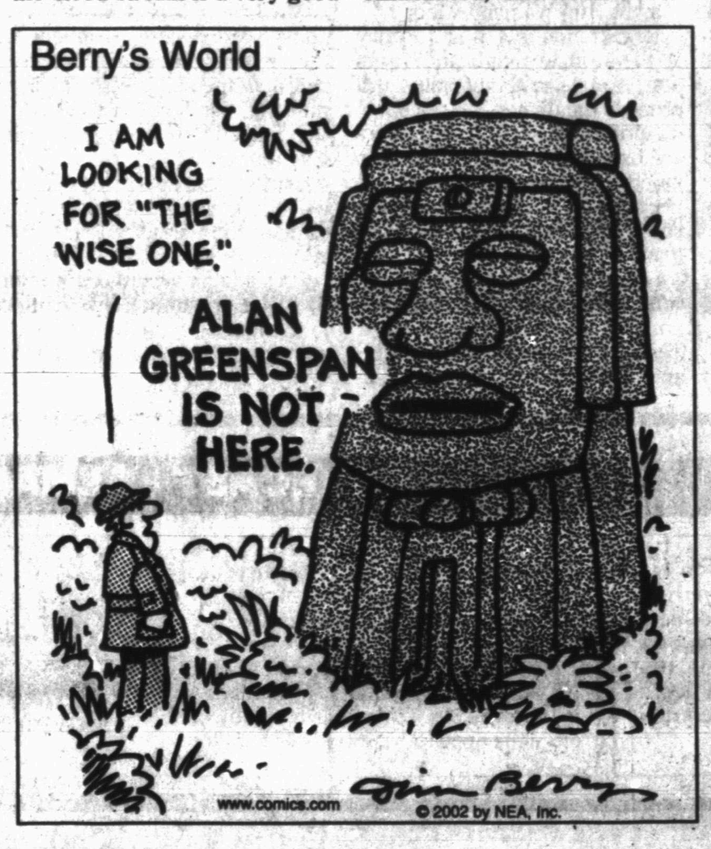
Berry's World



LIONS HELPS WTC BASEBALL, SOFTBALL — Snyder Lions Club donated $1,000 to the baseball-softball program at Western Texas College. From left are Dennis Noblett, development officer at WTC; Tom White, director of Texas Lions Camp; Dr. Gregg Williams, WTC president; David Holt, Lions president; Mac McCown, treasurer; Olin Bunch, member; Bob Moore, vice president; Max von Roeder, tail twister; and Jerry Dunn, director. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Hidden food allergies may make you fat

Your intolerance to certain foods may be keeping you from losing weight. This is the message in Your Hidden Food Allergies Are Making You Fat (Prima Publishing, $15) by Rudy Rivera, M.D., and Roger D. Deutsch.

Even such wholesome foods as fruits, fish and wheat can be triggers that cause the body to change its metabolic processes. Not only can this cause the body to resist weight loss, but it may also lead to medical conditions ranging from migraines to arthritis and fatigue.

The book also details some interesting scientific studies. In one, women who addressed their food intolerances were able to not only lose weight, but also lost fat from their thighs-something they had previously been unable to do.

People can determine their food intolerances with the help of a simple blood test called the ALCAT Test. In a recent clinical study conducted by medical experts, 98 percent of the subjects following the ALCAT plan lost weight or improved their body composition.

The book is available in bookstores, or by calling 800-881-2685. It can also be ordered online at www.alcat.com. The studies and other useful information are on the Web site.

Notre Dame's restrooms are best

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Notre Dame, long famous for its mighty football teams, can take pride in another group of shining stars.

Its restrooms.

A Web site has recognized the public restrooms in the Main Building at the University of Notre Dame as the best in the United States.

"When I go to the john here now, I feel positively ennobled," said Michael O. Garvey, a Notre Dame spokesman.

"I'm told, although I haven't been in there, that the women's restrooms are very nice, too," he added Wednesday.

Notre Dame won the distinction after nearly a year of online voting at www.thebestofusa.com.

Voters were enthralled by the restrooms' Victorian charm, including tile floors imported from England, faucets with chrome and brass accents, and solid oak doors on the stalls.

The restrooms are cleaned three times a day, leading one voter to boast that the floors were "clean enough to eat off."

Births

Brian Fowler and Missy Blauvelt of Snyder announce the birth of their son, Braydon Layne Fowler, at 3:03 p.m. on March 20 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Braydon weighed six pounds, nine ounces.

Paternal grandparents are Ronny and Mary Fowler of Abilene, formerly of Snyder. Maternal grandparents are Dee and Judy Gann of Snyder.

BABY SHOWER HELD — David Lee Dean Lopez, born Jan. 16, was honoree at a shower recently held in the Towle Park Barn. His parents are David and Rachel Lopez of Snyder and he has one brother, Jonathon. From left on the front row are his maternal grandmother, Paula Rodriquez; his mother, Rachel Lopez, holding David Lee; his paternal grandmother, Delfina Lopez. On the back row are his aunts and hostesses, Belia Lujan, Irma Guerrero, Grace Valadez, Julie Rodriquez, Irene Salinas, Lisa Arellano and Maria Guzman. (Contributed Photo)

Some ground covers are more drought tolerant

By JANE BERGER

Grass: you can weave it, eat it, smoke it — or mow it, mow it, mow it, mow it ...

The courageous take the plunge and throw out the mowers, the grub poisons, the thatch removers and soil aerators in favor of fabulous ground covers that are far more friendly to the environment. Many are drought-tolerant and can take considerable foot traffic, while others offer ornamental features that certainly outstrip the ordinary lawn.

David MacKenzie, author of "Perennial Ground Covers" (Timber Press, $49.95 hardcover) is also the owner of Hortech, Inc., a wholesale grower of ground covers, ferns, vines, and ornamental grasses in Spring Lake, Mich.

One of his favorite ground covers is barren strawberry (Waldsteinia ternata), a low, tufted, slow-spreading plant that is attractive all year round. "It's an exceptional ground cover," said MacKenzie. "It gets completely filled in like carpet, it's evergreen, which is really important as far as keeping weeds out...and it grows in sun or shade."

Added benefits are vibrant yellow flowers in spring and a purplish bronze color in fall. Moreover, bambi doesn't like it. Waldsteinia is hardy to zone 4 and also does well in areas with hot summers.

Another plant that MacKenzie favors is a drought-tolerant evergreen stonecrop (Sedum middendorfianum var. diffusum). Hortech is growing some 250,000 of these plants for a 10-acre rooftop garden at the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Mich. In spring, the plant is blanketed with lemon-yellow flowers, and in fall its seed capsules turn a bronzy russet color. The stonecrop's usual deep green foliage takes on deep purple hues in autumn, and it can be grown as far north as zone 3 in either full sun or light shade.

Gardeners who favor more traditional ground covers might want to consider some of the lesser-known spurges that are more attractive than the Japanese spurge (Pachysandra terminalis) found in any garden center. Pachysandra Green Sheen has a smaller, very shiny dark green leaf and, according to MacKenzie, "you would swear the plant's been lacquered. Even on overcast days in a dark area, it somehow still reflects light."

Two other exceptional, underused spurges are Pachysandra Kingwood and the native American Allegheny pachysandra (P. procumbens). Kingwood has a soft, lacy, delicate appearance while the Allegheny spurge has light green leaves that take on a mottled appearance in fall with bronze and sometimes silvery tones.

MacKenzie's first choice for a lawn alternative, however, is creeping lilyturf (Liriope spicata). "It's like grass in its appearance in many respects," he said. "It tolerates a lot of foot traffic, and the potential for using it as a substitute for regular lawn is tremendous."

Creeping lilyturf is drought-tolerant, hardy to zone 4, with narrow, 8- to 12-inch tall leaves, and it spreads by underground rhizomes. It only needs mowing once a year, in spring, with the mower set at its highest setting, and it can easily be contained with a 4-inch edging. There's also a variegated form called Silver Dragon, with white and green striped leaves, and two miniature lilyturfs, only about 3 inches tall, will be available within the next few years.

Tom Mannion, a landscape designer in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, also likes to use lilyturf, but he favors the clumping form that does not spread, Liriope muscari. He said it contrasts well with lawns, "making beautiful transitions from sun to heavy shade." Liriope muscari is hardy to zone 6 (maybe to zone 5 if protected), and bears either bluish-purple or white spiky flowers in late summer.

Mannion's typical landscapes feature huge sweeps of ornamental grasses and perennials. He especially likes some of the shorter grasses like quaking grass (Briza media), mosquito or blue grama grass (Bouteloua gracilis), and prairie dropseed (Sporobolus heterolepis). "The reason I like the idea of them," he said, "is because I want to be able to do fairly generous sweeps, kind of like little mini-savannas of grass, out of which I could also grow something a little bit taller, but flowering."

To give variety to his grass carpets, Mannion often uses garlic, chives, poppies, or blue-eyed grass (Sisyrinchium angustifolium), a 2-foot tall semi-evergreen perennial that blooms in spring, with clusters of charming, small purple flowers.

Quaking grass (zones 4-8) forms diminutive clumps about 12 to 18 inches high with unusual, dainty flowers in summer that are often used in dried flower arrangements. Mosquito grass (zones 3-10) grows only 8 to 16 inches high, and it has striking, spiky flower heads suspended at right angles to the flower stems. Prairie dropseed (zones 4-8) is notable for its very fine texture.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 03-21-02
♠ J 2
♥ 7 3
♦ J 8 5
♣ A 10 8 7 4 2

West
♠ Q 10 8 6 3
♥ Q 8 5
♦ K 7 4
♣ 5 3

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

South
♠ K 7 5
♥ A K J
♦ A Q 10 9
♣ Q J 9

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♠ 6

The history of bridge was in the future

The history of bridge is clouded in mystery. A version of the game began in the late 19th century, and in London at that time it was de rigueur to have a bridge room available at dinner parties. A columnist mentioned this, adding that the fad would last about a year — another of the world's great predictions!

Auction bridge started in 1903 or 1904 — authorities are still in disagreement. Contract bridge was codified in 1925 and ruled the roost by 1929. More on that tomorrow.

Look at the North-South hands in today's diagram, taken from Milton C. Work's "Auction Bridge Complete" (John C. Winston Co., 1926). Against your three-no-trump contract, West leads the spade six: two, ace, five. Back comes the spade nine. What now?

You have five top tricks: one spade, two hearts, one diamond and one club. The other four will come from clubs, but if that finesse loses, maybe the defenders will cash too many spade tricks. So, hold up the spade king until the third round, then take the club finesse, and everything is soda and shamrocks.

Did you notice, though, that East could have made life very difficult by inserting the spade nine at trick one? Here, you have to duck, but that would be silly if West started with ace-queen-fifth of spades and the club king. However, you can avoid that by correctly playing dummy's spade jack at trick one.

Interestingly, neither of these points was mentioned by Work. He commented: "There is no play at the Bridge table that the Declarer is called upon to make more frequently, and consequently perfect familiarity with every phase of the hold-up is essential."

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Community Calendar

THURSDAY

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

Snyder Chapter 450 Order of the Eastern Star; Masonic Hall, 1912 35th Street; 7:30 p.m.

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

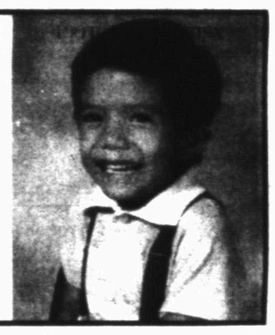
SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

Happy "18th" Birthday Scrap
From All Of Your Family



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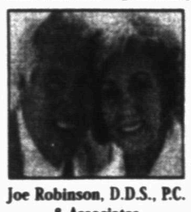

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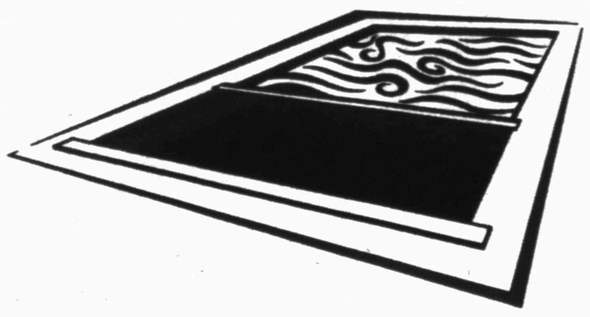

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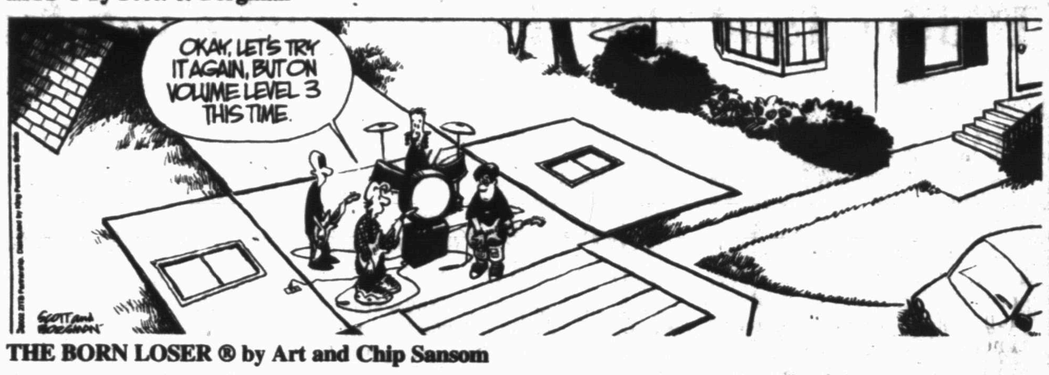
MAR 21 2002

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



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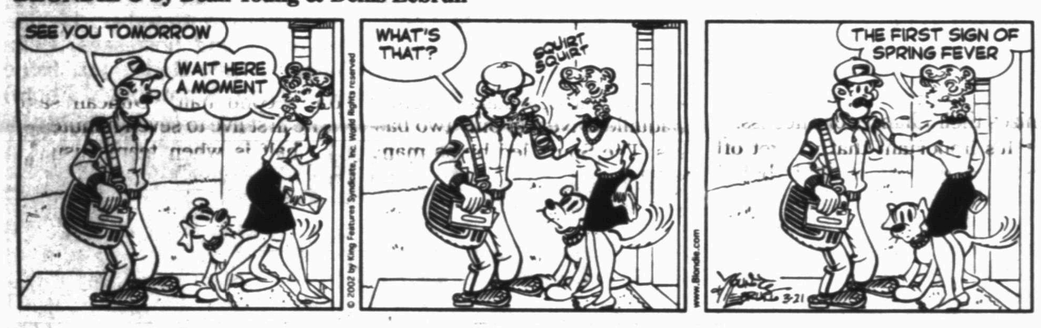

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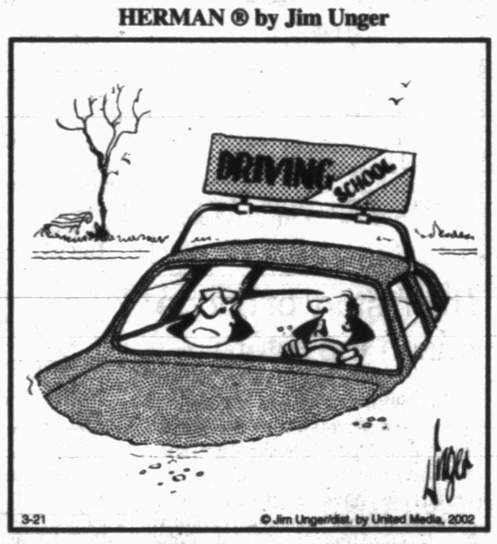

"Shall I back up?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Chasm
6 Underneath
11 Dunne, of films
12 Writer Ingalls Wilder
13 Large estates
15 Evil spells
16 Tearjerker
18 Bounce
19 Just a taste
21 Terhune collie
22 Figurine material
23 Wife, in Berlin
25 Abyss
28 In the lead
30 Tentacle
31 Milne marsupial
32 By means of
33 Popeye's Olive —
35 Passport requirement
37 Stomach muscles
38 Ponder
40 Fiery gemstone
41 Large green parrot
42 19th letter
43 Tony-winner Hagen
46 Jarred
48 Hunting hawk
50 Wedded secretly
54 Vintage tune
55 Marshy hollow
56 Bunches
57 Writer Dillard

DOWN

1 Goal
2 Bikini half
3 Longing
4 Tender veggie (2 wds.)
5 Arid
6 Get fuzzy
7 Corn serving
8 Sumptuous
9 Hydrox rival
10 Stinging insect
14 Part of SASE
15 Fragrant wood
17 Non-intersecting
19 Bwana, in India
20 Brainstorms
22 Coffee, in slang
24 Ballpark official
25 Braces
26 Tiny amounts
27 Wrench or screwdriver
29 Funny DeLuise
34 Sgt. Preston's beat
36 Square dance
39 Behind schedule
43 Sci-fi craft
44 Bath powder
45 Actor Alan
46 DiMaggio and Frazier
47 Movie lioness
49 England's FBI
51 Kitchen item
52 Yale grad
53 Singer Kiki

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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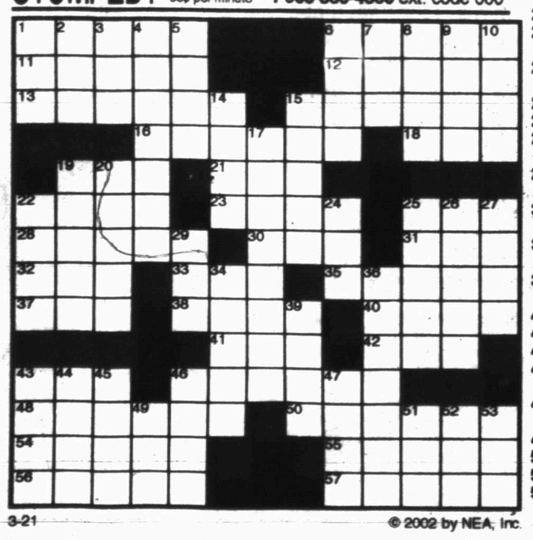

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS ONE, MR. WILSON."

SPORTS

Father's illness affects OU coach

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Overcome by his father's sudden illness, Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson wept as he reflected on how his experiences shaped him.

John W. "Ned" Sampson underwent emergency surgery at a San Jose hospital late Tuesday when blood collected on his brain, according to Oklahoma team physician Brock Schnebel.

The next morning, his son met the media as the second-seeded Sooners (29-4) prepared to play No. 3 seed Arizona (24-9) in the NCAA West regional semifinals Thursday night.

"My father, growing up, was a high school basketball coach," Sampson said before breaking down in tears.

"I'm sorry," he said, covering his eyes with his hand.

Several moments passed before he continued.

"Your experiences shape who you are. He's a worker. He was tough. The adversity that you were raised in shapes you as you get older," he said, his eyes red with tears. "I've always appreciated that."

Schnebel said he noticed that 72-year-old Ned Sampson was walking strangely at the Sooners' practice Tuesday at San Jose City College.

"He's a tough guy like his son," Schnebel said. "He said it was nothing, but I said I thought we should probably get it taken care of."

The surgery to drain blood from his brain took about an hour, Schnebel said.

The elder Sampson, who suffered a stroke 20 years ago, was speaking but not yet walking, and a full recovery was expected, Schnebel said.

The physician added that Ned Sampson could be out of the hospital by Saturday, when the winner of Oklahoma's game faces the winner of tonight's other semifinal between eighth-seeded UCLA (21-11) and No. 12 Missouri (23-11).

Against Lute Olson's quick Wildcats, Oklahoma will rely on the physical play that has taken the Sooners this far.

"We're stubborn about certain things, your effort level, how hard you play, how hard you compete — those things are nonnegotiable," Sampson said. "I can live with you not being the most talented kid in the gym, but I can't live with you not being the hardest worker."

The Sooners, with early round wins over Illinois-Chicago and Xavier, are paced by guard Hollis Price, Oklahoma's top scorer with an average of 16.5 points. Olson praised Price as one of the most underrated players in the country.

Oklahoma is focused on high-profile Arizona forward Luke Walton, the son of former NBA great Bill Walton.

"He's very talented," Oklahoma guard Ebi Ere said. "You've got to shadow the ball so he doesn't make some of the passes that he normally makes. Offensively, I'm going to have to go after him."

Sports Whirl

By SDN Sports Editor Eric Drennan

One of our own is leaving.

Western Texas College golf pro Wade Hatter, a 1988 Snyder High School graduate, has accepted a job as apprentice pro at Odessa Country Club. Hatter's resignation from WTC is effective April 1.

"This is a great chance that I couldn't pass up," said Hatter. "My family is excited about the opportunity. We've enjoyed everything about Snyder, and now we're looking forward to Odessa."

Odessa Country Club recently purchased Mission Dorado Country Club and now has two courses. The original OCC layout is known as The Old Course, with the Mission layout call The Links Course.

Wade Hatter

Hatter will work under pro Joey Allen at The Links Course.

Snyder track fans making the jaunt to the San Angelo Relays this weekend should note that the venue has changed.

Due to ongoing construction at San Angelo Stadium, most of the meet has been moved to the ASU Multi-Sports Complex. The ASU track also hosts the 4A regional meet every year.

All throwing and long events will still be contested at San Angelo Stadium, with everything else at the college stadium.

The meet gets underway at 2:30 p.m. Friday with running preliminaries and selected field events. Action continues at 9 a.m. Saturday.

The chase for the NCAA men's basketball championship is down to 16 teams, with four more hopefuls getting eliminated tonight.

Four teams from the Big 12 Conference (Texas, Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma) survived the first cuts. So did a pair of relative unknowns in the likes of Southern Illinois and Kent State, which raises the question, "What the heck are a Saluki and a Golden Flash, or even a Jayhawk for that matter?"

Well, the guessing can come to a rest. Here are the definitive answers, according to each university.

—Southern Illinois Salukis: In the early 1800s, a drought in the northern half of Illinois caused the fields to dry up. But in the southern half, rains fell and the crops were good.

The south provided corn and wheat for people from all around, similar to Egypt of old (as in Biblical times). To this day, native Illinoisans refer to the southern half of the state as Egypt.

And in ancient Egypt, Salukis were considered the finest animals a family could possess. Known for their speed and hunting skills, Salukis are the oldest pure-breed dogs in the world with records dating back to 3600 BC.

—Kent State Golden Flashes: Teams originally played as the Silver Foxes, a name given to them by the school's president who owned a silver fox farm east of campus. But when that president was dismissed, a hunt for a new nickname was on.

That same year, the basketball uniforms were orange and purple when they were sent to a local laundry, but were gold and blue-black when they were picked up. Everybody liked the new colors, and the team quickly became known as the Golden Flashes. The moniker has stuck ever since.

—Kansas Jayhawks: This fictitious bird was dreamed up in 1849 by a group of pioneers crossing what is today Nebraska who called themselves "The Jayhawkers of '49." The word is a combination of two birds, the hawk and the blue jay.

The word was initially associated with robbing, looting and general lawlessness until the Civil War. In 1861, Dr. Charles R. Jennison was commissioned as colonel and he called his calvary regiment the "Independent Mounted Kansas Jayhawkers."

During the war, the word became associated with the spirit of comradeship and the courageous fighting qualities necessary to keep Kansas a free state. Five years later, the school adopted the mythical bird as its mascot.

Sports Briefs

Girls basketball camp scheduled

The Snyder Tiger girls basketball camp is set for May 28-31 at the SHS gym. The camp is for incoming third through ninth graders, and cost is $60, which includes a camp T-shirt.

Registration forms are available at the elementary and junior high schools, or can be picked up at the SHS girls basketball office. Players can pre-register through May 15.

Jordan returns to action

DENVER (AP) — Michael Jordan returned to action against Denver, with Washington activating him from the injured list earlier than expected.

Jordan was originally expected to miss a month after having surgery on his right knee Feb. 27. He was the fifth player off the Wizards bench, marking the first time since April 5, 1986 he played but was not in the starting lineup.

He finished 2-for-9 for seven points with two assists, two steals and a rebound in 16 minutes.

NFL wants flexible schedule

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The NFL remains confident it can build more flexibility into its TV schedule despite opposition from CBS and Fox to moving any of their late-season Sunday games to Monday night on ABC.

Also left hanging as the meetings ended was the question of playing outdoor Super Bowls in northern cities, specifically in New York and Washington. It was clear at these meetings that there isn't enough support for those games right now.

Ballesteros criticizes Garcia

MADEIRA, Portugal (AP) — Seve Ballesteros criticized protege Sergio Garcia, saying he asked for appearance money to play in next month's Seve Trophy.

Ballesteros, preparing to begin play Thursday in the Madeira Island Open, said Garcia had declined to play on the European team, which

WTC rodeo teams start new semester at Odessa

Western Texas College kicks open the chute on its spring rodeo schedule tonight when the Odessa College Collegiate Rodeo gets underway at 7:30 at the Ector County Coliseum Annex.

The Lady Westerners enter the new semester with the regional lead, while the men have a little ground to make up. Coach Greg Rhodes has been pleased with his teams' performances to this point and expects more great things to come.

"I'd take these men's and women's teams every year if I could," said Rhodes. "The way they go about their business optimizes their chance for success.

"It's important that we get off to a good start tonight, but it won't be the end of the world if we don't. These competitors know what has to get done, and they're going to work to accomplish it."

The Odessa rodeo continues Friday and Saturday.

NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament

All Times EST

EAST REGIONAL
Semifinals
At Syracuse, N.Y.
Friday, March 22
Southern Illinois (28-7) vs. Connecticut (26-6), 7:38 p.m.
Maryland (28-4) vs. Kentucky (22-9), 25 minutes following previous game
Championship
Sunday, March 24
Semifinal winners, 2:30 or 7 p.m.

SOUTH REGIONAL
Semifinals
At Lexington, Ky.
Thursday, March 21
Duke (31-3) vs. Indiana (22-11), 7:38 p.m.
Kent State (29-5) vs. Pittsburgh (29-5), 30 minutes following previous game
Championship
Saturday, March 23
Semifinal winners, 4:30 or 9 p.m.

MIDWEST REGIONAL
Semifinals
At Madison, Wis.
Friday, March 22
Oregon (25-8) vs. Texas (22-11), 7:55 p.m.
Kansas (31-3) vs. Illinois (26-8), 25 minutes following previous game
Championship
Sunday, March 24
Semifinal winners, 2:30 or 7 p.m.

WEST REGIONAL
Semifinals
At San Jose, Calif.
Thursday, March 21
Oklahoma (29-4) vs. Arizona (24-9), 7:55 p.m.
UCLA (21-11) vs. Missouri (23-11), 30 minutes following previous game
Championship
Saturday, March 23
Semifinal winners, 4:30 or 9 p.m.

THE FINAL FOUR
At Atlanta
National Semifinals
Saturday, March 30
East champion vs. Midwest champion
South champion vs. West champion
National Championship
Monday, April 1
Semifinal winners

National Basketball Association

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	43	25	.632	—
Boston	39	29	.574	4
Orlando	37	30	.552	5½
Philadelphia	35	32	.522	7½
Washington	32	36	.471	11
Miami	31	35	.470	11
New York	26	40	.394	16

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	39	27	.591	—
Milwaukee	36	30	.545	3
Charlotte	34	33	.507	5½
Indiana	34	33	.507	5½
Toronto	30	38	.441	10
Atlanta	26	40	.394	13
Cleveland	25	43	.368	15
Chicago	17	51	.250	23

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	47	20	.701	—
San Antonio	46	21	.687	1
Minnesota	41	26	.612	6
Utah	36	31	.537	11
Houston	25	42	.373	22
Denver	19	46	.292	27
Memphis	17	50	.254	30

Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	48	18	.727	—
L.A. Lakers	47	20	.701	1½
Portland	41	26	.612	7½
Seattle	38	30	.559	11
L.A. Clippers	35	33	.515	14
Phoenix	30	37	.448	18½
Golden State	17	49	.258	31

Wednesday's Games
Boston 96, Cleveland 70
Charlotte 94, Indiana 88
Miami 82, Philadelphia 77
New Jersey 97, Portland 82
San Antonio 108, L.A. Lakers 90
Washington 107, Denver 75

Thursday's Games
New York at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Memphis, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Washington at Utah, 9 p.m.
Detroit at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Denver at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's Games
Indiana at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Houston at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Detroit at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

ZTV
will telecast
Girls' District Softball
Thursday
9:00 p.m.
Cox Cable
Channel 2

SHS baseball, softball games resume today

Finally, there is joy in Mudville.

After two days of postponements because of muddy playing conditions, the Snyder Tigers and Lady Tigers resume District 4-4A competition today.

The Lady Tigers host Plainview at 4:30 at Cates Field, while the Tigers take on Big Spring at 5 o'clock at Moffett Field.

Both Snyder squads are tied for the league lead in their respective standings, and both teams must turn around and play again on Friday.

"We know we have to play on back-to-back days, but right now we're not thinking about that," said Lady Tiger coach Shelly Hayes. "We're staying focused on today's game."

Tiger skipper Roland Herrera said his team is taking a similar approach.

"Nobody likes to play on consecutive days during district, but that's the way it goes sometimes," Herrera said. "We can't get caught up thinking about how we'll play against Frenship, because we have to stay focused on Big Spring. We'll worry about tomorrow when the time comes."

The Lady Tigers play host to Estacado at 6 p.m. Friday, while the Tigers visit Frenship at 4:30.

Spurs roll over Lakers

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Undefeated in March, the San Antonio Spurs were out to prove they are more than a team with a 10-game winning streak.

In dismantling the Los Angeles Lakers 108-90 Wednesday night, San Antonio not only won its 10th straight game, it ended a string of six straight losses to the two-time defending world champions.

"This was good, we hadn't beaten them in a while," San Antonio's David Robinson said. "When you get on a little streak like we've been when you're playing good basketball, this is one of the games you feel like you have to come and get. For us, it's a good win."

This win was sparked by a defense that held Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal to only two baskets. The Spurs led by as many as 34 points against the team that swept them in last year's Western Conference finals.

"I'd venture to say that this one won't matter much come April," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "But I bet the Spurs feel better about themselves playing us."

San Antonio was led by Tim Duncan with 25 points. Malik Rose added 19.

"This was great for us," Duncan said. "Especially with the roll were on, this really caps it off. We played as well as we have for the entire streak."

O'Neal traced Wednesday's loss back to a night earlier, when Los Angeles was routed by the Mavericks in Dallas, 114-98.

"Last night, we got beat straight-out and tonight we came out flat," he said. "They hit some shots early that put us back on our heels."

A 22-point lead at the half didn't tempt San Antonio to throttle back and possibly let the Lakers back into the game.

"We came out real focused in the second half," Duncan said. "The first five to seven minutes of the half is when teams usually make their run."

Kobe Bryant led the Lakers with 20 points, while O'Neal was held to 17. Brian Shaw scored a season-high 16 and Stanislav Medvedenko had 11. Bryant was shadowed by Spurs defensive specialist Bruce Bowen.

Snyder Bowling Leagues

Men's Commercial League

Team	W	L
The Shack	111.5	58.5
Blue Sunoco	107.5	62.5
Patterson Drilling	94.5	75.5
Anadarko	89	81
Snyder Brick	86.5	83.5
Rogers Backhoe	83	87
NAPA Auto	80.5	89.5
Snyder Iron	79	91
Timely Finance	79	91
YZ Systems	77	93
Cutting Edge	75	95
WTP Energy	57.5	112.5

High series: Rick Mammolite, scratch, 549; Jeff Kellner, handicap, 685.

High game: James Northcutt, scratch, 218; William Johnson, handicap, 241.

Jack N Jill League

Team	W	L
Stone Welding	29	11
Snyder Iron	28	12
Collision Specialists	27	13
Leatherwood's	26	14
Bluebonnet Farms	22	18
Timely Finance	20	20
Countryplace	19	21
Goobers	17	23
BCEC	14	26
Renegades	13	27
Team 10	12.5	27.5
YZ Systems	12.5	27.5

High series: Scratch: Kevin Jones, 553; Tracey Smith, 480. Handicap: Roger Pavlik, 629, Amy Free, 619.

High game: Scratch: Roger Pavlik, 209; Tracey Smith, 177. Handicap: Roger Pavlik, 241, Amy Free, 235.

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BP pill better at preventing strokes

ATLANTA (AP) — A large head-to-head comparison of two widely used blood pressure pills found one dramatically superior in preventing strokes and diabetes, even though they are equal at reducing hypertension.

The winner was Merck's Cozaar, which was pitted against the older and widely used beta blocker drug known generically as atenolol. The study was paid for by Merck.

Typically, doctors are satisfied simply to get patients' high blood pressure down and feel it does not matter much which kind of drug accomplishes the goal. Researchers say the new study is the first to show that how blood pressure is lowered can be important, too.

The study found that patients on Cozaar were 25 percent less likely to suffer strokes and 25 percent less likely to develop diabetes. However, the two drugs lowered patients' blood pressure virtually identically.

Dr. Bjorn Dahlof of Goteburg University in Sweden presented the results to extended applause and whistles in a packed hall Wednesday at the annual meeting in Atlanta of the American College of Cardiology. The study will also be published in this week's issue of the British journal Lancet.

"We have known for many years that it matters to lower blood pressure," Dahlof said. "We now know that it matters how we lower blood pressure."

The study involved 9,193 men and women with hypertension in Scandinavia and the United States. All had signs of thickening of the heart's main pumping chamber, an ominous sign of blood pressure damage.

Dahlof said that in the United States, about 3.9 million people have these conditions. Putting all of them on Cozaar instead of atenolol would prevent an additional 66,000 strokes and 54,000 new cases of diabetes annually.

Atenolol — or Tenormin — is one of many beta blockers that are widely prescribed after heart attacks. Dahlof said heart attack victims who also have high blood pressure should probably take both medicines.

"This combination of reducing diabetes and preventing stroke is a particularly important finding at a time when we see diabetes on the rise," said Dr. Sidney Smith, research director of the Dallas-based American Heart Association.

Cozaar was the first of a newer class of blood pressure medicines known as angiotensin II antagonists.

Smith noted that the ACE inhibitors, another class of hypertension medicine, have also been shown to help prevent diabetes, though not in a head-to-head comparison with a beta blocker.

During almost five years of follow-up, there were 232 strokes among patients on Cozaar, compared with 309 in those taking atenolol. In addition, 241 of the Cozaar patients developed diabetes, as did 319 on atenolol.

Cozaar appeared to be especially effective in those who already had diabetes. Their risk was of dying from cardiovascular disease was 37 percent lower than the atenolol patients'.

The drug "has properties that go beyond blood pressure lowering," Dahlof said, although just what these are is not entirely known.

Dahlof estimated that one-third of the additional benefit comes from Cozaar's better reduction of heart wall thickening, while another third might be due to lowering of uric acid.

Interviews with more foreigners sought by Justice

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Attorney General John Ashcroft said anti-terrorism investigators will seek voluntary interviews with about 3,000 more foreign visitors in the United States.

The announcement Wednesday generated the same allegations of ethnic profiling that arose after an initial group was targeted last year.

Ashcroft insisted that 90 percent of those questioned have cooperated with authorities, whose sensitivity "fostered new trust" with Arab and Muslim communities. He said an initial round of interviews had produced promising leads.

James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute, challenged that assertion.

"Law enforcement officials and local community leaders alike have made it clear to us that the first round of interviews produced no useful information," he said. "At the same time those interviews created deep strains between law enforcement and recent immigrants who are Arab and-or Muslim."

Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., said, "The suggestion that Arab and Muslim Americans appreciate begin singled out and interrogated is a prime example of the Attorney General's wartime propaganda machine in full swing."

Conyers, the senior Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, represents a Detroit district with many constituents who were interviewed.

Ashcroft, in a news conference at the U.S. attorney's office, said more than 2,200 interviews were conducted in the first round from nearly 5,000 names retrieved from government databases.

Most of the remainder were found to have left the country or could not be located. The investigators' best efforts to find them "could not overcome the serious flaws that exist in our ability to locate visitors to our country," Ashcroft said, adding he is looking for dramatic improvement in the immigration system.

Interviews with the next group would be completed in 60 days, he said. "These will be men who come from a variety of settings and whose passports reflect a variety of settings where there have been strong al-Qaida presences," Ashcroft said.

The completed interviews enabled anti-terrorism task forces to develop new sources of information, and a number of the foreign nationals agreed to continue talking to investigators, Ashcroft said.

He released a report that provided sketchy details of leads gleaned from the interviews. It said investigators learned the name and address of a person connected to the Sept. 11 hijackers; spoke with someone who recalled seeing one of the hijackers; and learned of individuals who had taken flight training in Florida, as had some of the attackers.

Senate hearing targets tax shelters

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration is proposing a more robust campaign against tax shelters created by corporations and wealthy people to evade billions of dollars in taxes.

"The complexity of our tax code has created opportunities for abuse," Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said in a statement Wednesday. "These proposals will help us find and stop unscrupulous promoters who are marketing questionable transactions to taxpayers."

The proposals by the Treasury Department, some of which must be approved by Congress, were released ahead of a Senate Finance Committee hearing today on tax shelters. The committee also is investigating whether Enron Corp. escaped taxes by creating more than 800 offshore affiliates.

Some tax shelters are legal. The government loses an estimated $10 billion a year, and probably more, to complex, questionable tax avoidance schemes aggressively marketed by accounting and law firms to companies and wealthy people.

Actions the Treasury Department plans to take on its own include strengthening requirements that the transactions be disclosed to the Internal Revenue Service and extending the rules beyond corporations to include partnerships, trusts and high-income individuals.

The package would simplify rules on which transactions must be disclosed, impose stiffer civil penalties for failure to do so and no longer permit marketers of shelters to evade the rules by calling themselves "advisers" rather than "promoters" of such schemes.

In addition, taxpayers no longer could cite favorable legal opinions obtained from their lawyers to avoid penalties if a transaction is deemed by the IRS to be improper.

The administration wants Congress to make a dozen changes in the law to include imposing tougher penalties for failure to disclose investor lists, curbing the use of foreign tax credits and limiting ways of structuring income to avoid taxation.

Mark Weinberger, assistant Treasury secretary for tax policy, said the goal is for fuller disclosure of shelter transactions to more easily determine their legality as well as to discover identities of marketers and investors.

"Simply put, if a taxpayer is comfortable entering into a transaction, a promoter is comfortable selling it, and an adviser is comfortable blessing it, they all should be comfortable disclosing it to the IRS," Weinberger said.

A recent IRS program to forgive some penalties for taxpayers who disclose a transaction and identify all the promoters has obtained 150 disclosures since it began in December.

The IRS and Treasury Department also are working to shut down shelters through notices that taxpayers claiming their benefits will be challenged.

Some members of Congress advocate a more comprehensive solution, including establishment of a legal threshold to prohibit deals with no "economic substance" other than to avoid taxes. Others say that simply would create new loopholes.

To eliminate the root of the tax shelter problem, O'Neill said the administration would push to simplify tax laws to leave fewer loopholes. Similar efforts in the past have gone nowhere, mainly because any proposed change triggers protests from companies and individuals who stand to lose a tax break.

"In an ideal world, we would throw away the current code and start from scratch," O'Neill said. "Until that day, we will take steps such as this proposal to do away with transactions that abuse the intent of the code."

Former governor, Senator H. Talmadge dies at age 88

ATLANTA (AP) — Herman Talmadge, the former governor and U.S. senator who directed Georgia's most potent political machine for more than 30 years and served on the Senate Watergate committee, died today. He was 88.

Talmadge, who started his career as a staunch segregationist but later reached out to black voters, died at his home in Hampton, according to Haisten Funeral Home in McDonough.

He had undergone open heart surgery in 1997 to replace a defective heart valve, and in 1996, doctors removed a cancerous tumor from his throat.

Talmadge, a Democrat, served six years as governor, first elected in 1948, and 24 years in the Senate starting in 1957.

In that time, he skillfully rode the tide of Southern racial politics, evolving from segregationist to a powerful committee chairman who championed economic development in appealing to black and white voters.

When he won the Senate race in 1956, he became part of the Southern coalition that for a time obstructed civil rights legislation.

As the Supreme Court's integration ruling took effect, Talmadge withdrew his opposition. He said he had always believed only that the races would both benefit from segregation. When Leroy Johnson in 1962 became the first black elected to the Legislature since Reconstruction, Talmadge invited him to breakfast at his mansion. Still, he voted against the 1964 civil rights and the 1965 voting rights bills.

In 1973, with the Watergate scandal consuming Washington, Talmadge severed on a Senate investigative committee and was responsible for one of the most memorable moments in the hearings that helped lead to President Nixon's resignation in 1974.

He was quizzing White House aide John Ehrlichman about the break-in at the office of Vietnam War critic Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. Talmadge asked Ehrlichman if he remembered studying the ancient legal principle that "no matter how humble a man's cottage is, that even the King of England cannot enter without his consent."

"I am afraid that has been considerably eroded over the years, has it not?" Ehrlichman replied. Said Talmadge: "Down in my country we still think it is a pretty legitimate principle of law."

Talmadge's political career began and ended with landmarks.

In 1946-47, it was the "three governors" dispute, in which Talmadge seized the governor's office for two months. In 1980, after he was denounced by the Senate for financial irregularities and admitted to an alcohol problem, he was unseated by the first Republican to win a Georgia Senate race since Reconstruction.

The three governors dispute began with the death of Talmadge's father, Eugene, in December 1946, when he was governor-elect.

The Talmadge machine maintained that the Legislature, which it dominated, should pick the new governor from among the candidates who had lost in November. Conveniently, one of them was the younger Talmadge, who had received some write-in votes.

Herman Talmadge won the legislative vote but was kept from the governor's office by outgoing Gov. Ellis Arnall, who contended Lt. Gov.-elect M.E. Thompson was his rightful successor. When Arnall departed for the night, Talmadge's supporters took over the office at the Capitol as well as the governor's mansion, and Arnall found his way blocked by state troopers the next day.

The state Supreme Court eventually ruled in favor of Thompson, but Talmadge beat him in a special election in 1948 and won a four-year term in 1950.

Talmadge was less successful when he battled the Senate Ethics Committee in 1979 over his use of campaign money and Senate expense money.

His ex-wife Betty told the panel he kept large amounts of money in the pocket of an overcoat in a closet. The senator said the money was from supporters who knew he would spend it on personal expenses, but Talmadge ultimately was denounced by Senate members for mishandling his financial affairs.

Talmadge narrowly lost reelection in 1980 to Republican Mack Mattingly.

In his memoirs, published in 1987, Talmadge wrote, "In retrospect, I wish that I'd burned that damn overcoat."

Lower court is asked to review suit against CNN

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A lower court has been directed by an appeals court to reconsider its dismissal of a defamation suit filed against CNN by a source for a report alleging the U.S. military used nerve gas on Vietnam-era defectors.

The 1998 report, which was later retracted, said the military used sarin gas on a Laotian village in 1970 as part of a secret mission — Operation Tailwind — to kill American defectors.

Military experts disputed the report, and it became a major embarrassment for CNN and its corporate partner, Time magazine, which had published a corresponding story based on the investigation.

CNN said Robert Van Buskirk was the "primary source" for the story, and gave inconsistent statements during interviews and took medication for a nervous disorder.

In his suit, Van Buskirk maintained he was defamed, among other reasons, because CNN failed to say the medication wasn't mind-altering and that he had stopped taking it 10 years before the broadcasts.

"It would appear that CNN, in its zeal to shift all blame for its own failure to adequately investigate the Tailwind story, sought to portray Van Buskirk as unreliable by any means available," the federal appeals court said in its ruling Wednesday.

"They made him the scapegoat for its broadcast," said Van Buskirk's attorney, Elihu H. Berman. "Some of the arguments have been turned aside by the appellate court, but nevertheless he has the green light to go back to court for defamation."

Through a spokeswoman, CNN declined to comment.

Ask Hollywood by Holly Wood

What happened to 'Life'?

Q: Can you tell me what happened to the TV show "That's Life"? — **L.W., via e-mail**

A: All good things must come to an end — even "Life." But perhaps not yet. The show hasn't been on the air for a few weeks, and CBS isn't sure if it's going to return. For now, it appears to be on life support. (Yes, I know that was lame.)

Q: Are Rosemary Clooney and George Clooney related? — **S., via e-mail**

A: Yes. Rosemary Clooney is George's aunt.

Q: I have been looking for the movie "His Bodyguard," with no luck. I believe Mitzi Kapture is the female lead. Can you tell me if it is available on VHS? — **F.D., Chico, Calif.**

A: You can get that film on VHS at Amazon.com (http://www.amazon.com) for $7.99, and I've seen several copies on eBay (http://www.ebay.com) for between $5 and $9.99.

Q: There was a character actor named Hardie Albright, and he made movies in the early 1930s. Albright hailed from my hometown of Charleroi, Pa. Can you name some of his movies? When did he die? - **R.S., Charleroi, Pa.**

A: Albright died in 1975, and some of his films were "Angel on My Shoulder," "White Heat," "The Pride of the Yankees" and "The Scarlet Letter."

Q: Please help me locate two made-for-TV movies. I have written to the networks and have gotten no response. The movies are "A Holiday Affair" (1996) and "A Holiday to Remember" (1996). Would you please give me the addresses for the studios for these films, so I may write to them and ask if they would be kind enough to allow me to purchase copies of these movies? — **D.F., Hermitage, Pa.**

A: Gosh, you're so polite. How could I refuse a request like that?

Studios don't generally sell videos directly, so I'll tell you where you can buy them. "A Holiday Affair" is available at Amazon.com (http://www.amazon.com) for $14.89, and you can get "A Holiday to Remember" at MustBuyTV.com (http://www.mustbuytv.com) for $19.95. I'm sure the studios won't mind one bit if you buy their films.

Q: Pierce Brosnan and Doris Roberts of "Remington Steele" are both very active in movies and television, but what has become of Stephanie Zimbalist, who costarred? — **J.L., Waterloo, Iowa**

A: Zimbalist has been busy making movies that haven't gotten a lot of press, including "Malpractice," "Borderline Normal" and "Bread and Roses." She has also guest-starred on "Touched by an Angel," "Nash Bridges," "V.I.P.," "Family Law" and "Diagnosis Murder."

Q: Is there a list of TV sitcoms that do not have that canned laughter that is so distracting? We know when to laugh! "Cheers" and "MASH" never needed it. — **D.S., Mountain Home. Ark.**

A: Apparently, TV directors don't trust people to understand this Earth thing called humor. Printing a list of sitcoms with canned laughter wouldn't be helpful, because they come and go so quickly, but you can learn to make use of Mr. Mute.

TRIVIA: George Clooney tried out for the Cincinnati Reds before becoming an actor.

(Send your questions to Ask Holly Wood, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016, or write to HollyWood85@hotmail.com. Because of the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.)

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Markets

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	High	Low	Last	
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Albertsons	32.31	32.00	32.26	—.07
Alltel	54.70	54.15	54.17	—.01
AmEl Pw	46.05	45.20	45.90	+ .60
AndarkPtr	58.14	57.50	57.62	—.44
ATMOS Egy	24.12	23.79	24.12	+ .45
Aviall	8.62	8.36	8.54	—.14
BP PLC	52.56	52.21	52.42	—.06
BakerHughes	39.48	38.45	39.15	+ .40
Bank of Amer	68.07	67.40	67.45	—.39
BellSouth	38.15	37.80	37.87	—.03
vjBeth Steel	.40	.39	.40	
BurlNoSFe	31.00	30.25	30.50	—.35
Caterpillar	57.85	57.03	57.08	—.95
ChevronTex	90.85	89.68	90.30	+ .50
Citigroup	49.60	48.31	49.21	—.04
CocaCola	50.15	49.87	50.01	+ .60
ColgatePal	57.07	56.60	56.90	+ .09
ComclMetals	39.74	39.60	39.62	—.03
CooperIn	41.60	41.35	41.57	+ .11
DaimlrChry	47.15	46.08	46.22	—.09
DeltaAirl	32.88	32.41	32.64	
Dillards Inc	24.85	24.51	24.51	—.22
DowChem	33.92	33.16	33.19	—.51
DuPont	48.81	48.13	48.18	—.75
EastmanChem	48.74	48.20	48.46	
EstKodak	31.88	31.70	31.86	—.04
EDS Corp	63.85	62.74	63.50	+ .24
Entergy	42.37	41.62	42.26	+ .67
ExxonMobil s	43.69	43.42	43.54	+ .01
FstBksAm	40.20	40.00	40.00	—.40
FootLocker	16.90	16.70	16.71	—.19
GenDynam	94.20	93.00	93.80	—.20
GenElec	38.60	37.18	37.49	—1.31
GenMills	48.03	46.60	48.00	+ .77
GenMotors	60.80	60.01	60.06	—.27
GaPacific	29.63	29.23	29.23	—.47
Goodrich	31.07	30.66	30.66	—.39
Goodyear	25.21	24.50	24.51	—.89
GtAtlPac	27.70	27.30	27.70	+ .33
Halliburtn	16.65	16.32	16.46	—.21
Hanson ADS	37.70	37.45	37.57	—.95
HarteHanks	30.70	30.09	30.35	—.15
HomeDepot	49.64	48.52	48.56	—1.08
HoneywellIntl	39.40	38.75	39.07	—.28
IBM	105.85	104.86	105.64	+ .14
IntlPaper	44.50	43.15	43.20	—1.15
JohnsonJn s	64.60	64.11	64.23	—.26
vjK mart	1.78	1.67	1.74	+ .06
KinderMorg	48.95	48.10	48.15	—.73
Kroger Co	22.50	22.37	22.38	—.07
LockheedM	58.30	57.41	57.55	—.49
Lowes Cos s	45.25	44.42	44.81	—.08
Lubys	6.84	6.70	6.80	+ .09
LucentTech	4.74	4.52	4.65	+ .15
MarathonOil	28.99	28.73	28.86	—.14
MayDeptStr	37.00	36.68	36.76	—.33
Medtronic	45.41	45.00	45.18	—.02
Motorola	13.55	13.00	13.50	+ .28
NCR Corp	44.60	44.20	44.52	—.05
Navistar	43.65	43.31	43.50	—.01
PNM Rescs	29.09	28.71	29.06	+ .24
Penney JC	22.21	21.60	21.72	—.52
PepBoys	17.25	16.55	17.05	+ .65
PepsiCo	50.59	50.15	50.42	—.13
Pharmacia	44.79	44.20	44.55	+ .04
PhelpDodge	42.06	41.45	41.50	—.82
PhilipPet	63.01	62.55	62.61	—.39
PilgrmPrd B	13.75	13.67	13.75	+ .02
Praxair	60.12	58.58	58.58	—1.57
ProctGamb	89.65	89.20	89.55	—.05
RadioShack	29.85	29.13	29.31	—.32
ReliantEngy	25.58	25.03	25.40	+ .10
RoyalDut	54.52	54.02	54.02	—.65
SBC Comm	39.15	38.81	38.93	—.09
SaraLee	20.95	20.62	20.91	+ .06
Scripps EW	81.60	80.93	81.29	+ .34
SearsRoeb	52.05	51.55	51.80	+ .10
SherwinW	29.50	28.55	28.58	—.77
SouthernCo s	26.60	26.16	26.54	+ .25
SwstAirl	18.97	18.64	18.94	+ .55
SprintFON	15.80	15.26	15.68	+ .19
SprintPCS	10.83	10.50	10.60	+ .19
Sunoco Inc	41.26	40.55	41.05	+ .05
TXU Corp	54.10	53.13	53.89	+ .68
TempleInland	58.95	57.80	57.80	—1.22
TexInd	44.85	43.05	43.05	—.70
TexasInst	34.20	33.50	34.02	+ .52
Textron	50.95	49.87	49.91	—.78
TriconGlbR	59.41	58.50	58.77	—.20
TrinityInds	23.97	23.67	23.77	—.13
TylerTech	5.10	5.05	5.05	
UnionPacif	61.60	61.00	61.16	—.19
USSteel	17.06	16.80	16.91	—.08
UnitedTech	73.10	72.23	72.23	—.99
Unocal	38.86	38.35	38.61	—.24
VerizonComm	48.09	47.70	47.71	—.40
WalMart	63.19	62.65	62.75	—.43
WellsFargo	49.50	49.06	49.24	—.29
WstnGasRs	36.87	36.52	36.63	—.24
WinnDixie	16.22	15.95	16.08	+ .24
Xerox Cp	10.70	10.52	10.61	—.13

MAR 21 2002

Wisconsin couple charged after girl killed by six dogs

MAUSTON, Wis. (AP) — On Valentine's Day, 10-year-old Alicia Lyňn Clark was at a friend's house doing one of her favorite things: playing with the family's dogs.

Hours later, she was mortally wounded, the victim of a vicious mauling by six Rottweilers that had answered her affection with violence.

The dogs' owners, who were not home during the attack, have been charged in the case, which echoes a dog mauling in San Francisco last year that left a woman dead. The owners in that case are on trial for charges ranging from murder to keeping a mischevious dog.

According to authorities, Alicia was pulled from a living room couch, dragged from room to room and bitten to death — despite her 11-year-old friend's attempts to kick and pull the animals away.

After about 15 minutes, Alicia lay on the dining room floor as her friend sat by her, keeping the dogs away, while waiting for her mother, Shanna McCracken, and McCracken's boyfriend, Wayne Hardy, to get home, a criminal complaint said.

Hardy, 24, and McCracken, 32, were charged with being parties to several crimes: homicide resulting from a vicious animal, reckless endangerment and child neglect.

Hardy and McCracken pleaded innocent to the misdemeanor counts of child neglect, but did not enter pleas to the felony charges. They were released on $10,000 bonds. Both declined comment on the case as they left the courthouse Wednesday.

District Attorney Dennis Schuh said the homicide count was chosen, rather than a stiffer charge, because it best fit the evidence. The charge carries a maximum 15-year sentence.

Authorities cited witnesses who said Hardy and McCracken told them the dogs were very aggressive. A health specialist who visited the home after the attack told police the furniture had been chewed and there were piles of dog feces throughout the home.

"I know I shouldn't have had all those dogs there. ... I know it was wrong to do. She was just a little girl," Hardy told police the day of the attack, according to the criminal complaint.

The dogs had also nipped at both girls in the past and killed a cat two months before the attack, McCracken's daughter told police. The dogs were euthanized after the mauling.

Hardy's lawyer, Daniel Berkos, filed a motion to dismiss the charges against his client.

"What we're maintaining is that there was no knowledge on anybody's part that these dogs were vicious," Berkos said. "I don't think that nipping at somebody in a playful manner or as a puppy would constitute knowledge that a dog is capable of something like this."

Alicia, described by residents as a sweet, bashful and athletic fourth-grader, was looking forward to her first cheerleading meet and a father-daughter bowling outing with her Girl Scout troop.

Her friend told police Alicia was petting one of four 6-month-old puppies in the home when one of the two adult dogs apparently got jealous and started attacking.

When the animals were removed from the home they were coated in blood, according to the vet who examined them.

McCracken faces up to 38 years in prison if convicted of all charges. Hardy faces up to 72 years in prison because he has prior felony convictions for burglary and being a felon in possession of a firearm. Both face up to a $70,000 fine.

Andersen, employees fighting back

CHICAGO (AP) — Largely silent until now about their firm's travails, employees of Arthur Andersen LLP are fighting back in an attempt to save the company from collapse — and their jobs.

Protest rallies scheduled today for Washington and Philadelphia, coupled with a grass-roots lobbying campaign and full-page newspaper ads, show a feistier public attitude as Andersen fights the criminal indictment that could put the 89-year-old accounting company out of business.

Andersen's lawyers pleaded innocent Wednesday to an obstruction of justice charge and called the first indictment to arise out of the Enron Corp. collapse "senseless."

"We would not put our clients at risk with something like that," Gene Frauenheim, managing partner of the beleaguered auditing firm's Houston office, said after the company's court appearance Wednesday.

Employees wearing "I am Andersen" T-shirts and carrying "Save Andersen" placards ringed the Houston courthouse Wednesday where Andersen pleaded innocent.

"We wanted people to know there are faces that go with Arthur Andersen," said David Howard, an Andersen employee for 28 years, at the Houston rally.

Executives have urged employees to express their anger about the indictment to their congressmen and the Justice Department.

The company also took out full-page advertisements in leading newspapers, headlined "Why we're fighting back." They called the government's action "a tragically wrong indictment of our whole firm" and "a political broadside rather than a focus on the facts."

Andersen officials insist the employees' efforts are not so much directed from above as tapping into frustrations shared throughout the firm, whose name has crumbled almost overnight as a result of its role as auditor for bankrupt Enron Corp.

"This is less the firm's strategy than a grass-roots expression of innocent people's feelings about being unfairly tarred by the actions of a few," said spokesman Patrick Dorton.

Accounting industry experts voiced doubts about whether the campaign can work, particularly with the exodus of blue-chip clients growing daily. BB&T Corp., one of the nation's largest consumer banks, defected today, a day after Houston energy company Dynegy Corp. did so. Both replaced Andersen with PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Edward Ketz, associate professor of accounting at Pennsylvania State University, called it "a last desperate effort in the P.R. game" to get Congress to step in and keep Andersen from going out of business.

"I think the story of Enron has resonated basically to the bone for so many Americans that they want justice done," Ketz said. "Rightly or wrongly they are looking at Andersen in part for that justice because Andersen obviously had an audit failure here in approving things that shouldn't have been done."

Katherine Dorn, a campus recruiter who works at Andersen's Chicago headquarters, said she was stunned by the speed of Andersen's unraveling and concerned about possible layoffs.

"There is a general feeling of shock and disbelief among so many of the employees who had nothing to do directly with the Enron audit or destruction of documents," said Dorn, 24, who has joined in the petition-signing and letter-writing campaign.

Marianne Blackstock, an Andersen employee in Houston for the last 6 1/2 years, also was fearful for her job.

"It's an uncertain time," she said.

Prosecutors say mob boss is fit for his trial

NEW YORK (AP) — The prison surveillance video, silent and murky, shows the purportedly demented don holding court with his son and two other visitors.

During an animated chat, he rises from his chair and paces. He gestures with his hands, puts on sunglasses and combs his hair without obvious strain.

Prosecutors say the three-minute scene captured last year at a Texas prison helps prove that Vincent "The Chin" Gigante is a picture of physical and mental health — and not, as his lawyers have insisted, insane.

The video as well as audiotapes of prison telephone calls were filed in federal court Wednesday to support the government's position that Gigante, 74, is fit to stand trial on new charges that he ran the powerful Genovese crime family from behind bars.

U.S. District Judge Leo Glasser was not expected to make an immediate ruling.

Gigante's attorney, Gary Greenwald, insisted his client suffers from heart disease, dementia and schizophrenia. He labeled prosecutors' conclusions meaningless and premature given that Gigante has yet to be examined by a psychiatrist.

"The government is making a big deal that he can speak to his friends and family," Greenwald said. "That's not inconsistent with a person with a mental disease. ... It doesn't make him less sick."

While on the street, Gigante was dubbed "The Oddfather" for his habit of wandering Manhattan's Greenwich Village in a bathrobe and mumbling to himself. But authorities have long alleged it was an act designed to dodge prosecution — one that worked for decades.

A judge finally ruled in 1997 that Gigante was feigning mental illness and ordered him to stand trial on racketeering and murder conspiracy charges. Gigante — who sat in a wheelchair and stared into space throughout the trial — was convicted and sentenced to 12 years in prison.

A new indictment unsealed in January alleged Gigante used his crime family to infiltrate the International Longshoreman's Association, allowing it to run extortion rackets. Gigante's son, 45-year-old Andrew Gigante, allegedly relayed orders from his father to subordinates.

Glasser entered an innocent plea for Gigante last month after the defendant claimed he could not comprehend the charges.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, March 22, 2002

Working on endeavors brick by brick could offer some rather fortunate developments for you in the year ahead. Shortcuts or risk-taking should be avoided, no matter what the circumstances.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — If you're seeking an agreement on something very important to you, don't rely on verbal commitments — get all terms in writing. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that'll govern you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — This is one of those days when who you know might mean little. Rely solely on what you know to get you where you want to go.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Alliances formed for business purposes may not be reliable as time goes on. Be more selective than usual, so that you won't be held accountable for mistakes made by a partner.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Rather than show compassion, friends will be turned off if they think that you're weak. They only thing they'll respect is a large dose of self-reliance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Check out anybody who is introduced to you before getting involved, even if the person is a friend of a friend. There are many false colors being flown.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Don't match your language to that which is being lashed out over a domestic dispute. Overkill will only make matters worse, not better.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Unfortunately, you might use your great powers of observation to focus on the faults of others rather than on their good points, as you usually do. Get back in character.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — If a casual friend approaches you with a money-making proposal, you'd better do a bit of homework on it first. This person may not be all that they appear to be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Your directives will be reproached if you present them in a dictatorial manner. Associates will emulate your behavior, so you had better set a good example.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Attempting to take on things that you do not fully understand could lead to chaos. Take the necessary time to first read instructions, and then follow them to the letter.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Hopes built upon unrealistic premises or on circumstances that are not in accord with your highest ideals will lead to a path of quicksand and be dashed before your very eyes.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — It's always to your benefit to learn from past mistakes, but it is even more critical that you do not repeat an unproductive pattern. The complications could be sobering.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Creative recyclers discover new uses for old pantyhose

DEAR ABBY: It looks like the laugh is on me. Months ago, while reading your column in the morning paper, my husband and I had quite a laugh about the 90-year-old woman who recycled everything and found an unusual use for the "panty" part of control-top pantyhose. She said she used them "to keep her 90-year-old breasts under control." (She'd cut off the legs, cut out the crotch and wear the remainder like a strapless bra.)

A couple of weeks after that letter appeared, I broke a rib in a horseback riding accident. Aside from the pain and shortness of breath involved, I couldn't wear a bra without great discomfort. I tried every bra on the market to no avail. Being well-endowed, going braless was out of the question. I may not be 90, but I'm no teen-ager.

Thanks to that letter, I was able to return to work without embarrassment and in relative comfort while mending. I salute that woman and you, Abby, for letting the world know. You provided a workable, economical answer for both men and women in similar situations. Broken ribs, breast surgeries, you name it. When you need light support without binding, THIS WORKS. — **GRATEFUL AND NO LONGER LAUGHING IN OREGON**

DEAR GRATEFUL: Thanks for the testimonial. Recycled pantyhose can be a godsend in more than one kind of "medical emergency." Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Not everyone will have a use for this, but it is a solution for the person with a mastectomy who wears a breast enhancer in the bra.

The breast form is slick, and it can be very embarrassing if the bra is a little loose and the form slides out and drops to the floor. This happened to me twice.

I took a clean knee-high nylon, slipped it over the form, and folded the top across to make a little more filler for the bra. After that, I had no more worries. It was the perfect solution for me. — **ANOTHER RECYCLER, SUGAR CREEK, MO.**

DEAR RECYCLER: Bless you for sharing your solution, and bless the inventor of nylons and pantyhose. Something tells me there may be a run on both.

**

DEAR ABBY: While we're on the subject of pantyhose, here's my experience:

I was driving down the highway in the 1950s with my fiancee by my side, when she decided to look into my glove box. Much to her surprise, she found several nylon hose of various shades.

I assured her that, since I was a painter, I carried them with me to use as paint strainers. I would cut off a section and tie a knot at one end.

After 60 years in the painting business, I still carry hose in the glove box of my truck. You never know when they'll come in handy. — **CLEAN-CUT PAINTER IN SHERIDAN, WYO.**

DEAR CLEAN-CUT PAINTER: That's for sure! I've been known to carry an extra pair of "sheers" in my purse in case I snag the ones I'm wearing, which never fails to happen when I'm determined to look my best.

**

DEAR ABBY: Last fall my doctor prescribed a splint for my wrist; however, it had Velcro fasteners that caught on the sleeves of my fleece jackets.

I cut off one leg of some old pantyhose, cut a hole for fingers and a thumb, and pulled it up over the splint. Presto! No more problems. — **IMOGENE KANE, AVA, MO.**

DEAR IMOGENE: Very clever. I've also known doctors to prescribe a sock or the leg of hose be used over a cast or splint to protect it from becoming soiled.

**

Pauline Phillips and her daughter, Jeanne Phillips, share the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**

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

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The

Rain

Stops In Texas

A Woman's Struggle
From Oppression To Freedom
By Ellie Kamran Belfiglio

Ellie Kamran Belfiglio, a former professor - an immigrant, a recent American citizen, a poet, an author, a mother, a wife, a designer and couturiere - is the survivor of many political and economic hardships. She has a M.A. in Persian literature from the University of Tehran. The Rain Stops In Texas is the story of her life, escape from Iran, and revolution. The theme of her book - Texas as a safe haven for political refugees from oppressive foreign regimes has not been sufficiently explored by another author. The experiences of migrants are exemplified by Ellie's family. In this book she demonstrates how the revolution adversely affected her personal life and the lives of millions of other people.

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Compaq investors approve merger

HOUSTON (AP) — A company founded in a California garage and a rival that started as a sketch on a restaurant placemat are a step closer to forming a massive new computer company.

Shareholders of Compaq Computer Corp. overwhelmingly approved Hewlett-Packard Co.'s $20 billion acquisition of their company on Wednesday.

The vote, in which 90 percent of Compaq shareholders backed the merger, came a day after HP claimed victory in one of the most contentious shareholder elections in history. The final results from HP's shareholder vote could take weeks because it is so close.

The Compaq meeting received a ho-hum reception in comparison to the HP meeting on Tuesday in which investors began lining up before dawn to get seats. About 200 Compaq shareholders failed to fill a Houston hotel ballroom during their meeting.

Most of the Compaq shareholder questions during the 45-minute meeting centered on the deal's effect on Houston.

"Initially I didn't like it," said stakeholder John Cummins, a retiree from nearby Spring. "But at this stage of the game I'm going along with Compaq."

Compaq chief executive Michael Capellas, in line to be No. 2 at the new HP, explained how the combined company would fill in market gaps for both companies, playing off Compaq's strengths in portable products and supercomputers and HP's profitable printers and business servers.

The new HP will have a presence in 103 countries and most every major U.S. corporation.

"There are very few companies that have the reach of this new company," Capellas said. "It is extraordinary."

About 15,000 of the combined companies' worldwide work force of 155,000 are expected to be laid off in the wake of the deal, including some losses at the Houston headquarters. Officials declined to comment on how many of the 10,000-plus workers in Compaq's hometown will be affected.

"There will be no question HP-Compaq will have a very large presence here," Capellas said. "There will be a number of product lines that will be headquartered in Houston."

Compaq was founded in 1982 by three executives who left Texas Instruments. They sketched their first product — a portable PC that could run the same software as IBM's new PC — on a paper placemat in a Houston eatery before presenting it to venture capitalists.

Military tribunals like courts-martial

WASHINGTON (AP) — The military tribunals set up for terror cases will offer defendants many of the same rights as regular trials, a U.S. official says — a move apparently designed to answer critics who complained the courts would be stacked against defendants.

Defendants will be presumed innocent and may be represented by lawyers. On the other hand, defendants will have limited right of appeal and standards for evidence will be looser.

"The world now will begin to see what we meant by a fair system that will enable us to bring people to justice (and) at the same time protect (our) citizenry," President Bush said Wednesday.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld was to announce details today about how the tribunals would operate. A government official described the rules Wednesday on condition of anonymity.

Rumsfeld has said the panels, ordered by Bush in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, would be used in rare cases, if at all, and only if the suspects' home countries do not take over prosecution.

"The tribunals are just an option for us, and we'll be using the tribunals if, in the course of bringing somebody to justice, it would jeopardize or compromise national security interests," Bush told reporters during a visit to a Virginia elementary school.

The Pentagon has spent four months drafting the rules.

No defendants have been chosen for tribunal justice so far, Bush said.

In many respects, the panels would resemble criminal trials in civilian court and the parallel military system of courts-martial.

The defendants, generally suspected members of the al-Qaida terror network, would have rights to lawyers and to see the evidence against them. Military lawyers would be provided free, and defendants could hire outside civilian counsel if they chose. Defendants would be presumed innocent.

The panels would include three to seven officers, as do many courts-martial.

Proceedings would be largely open to reporters, although without television cameras. If prosecutors wanted to present classified material, the courtroom would be closed.

There are also key differences from other American judicial exercises.

Prosecutors could use evidence that has "probative value to a reasonable person," which is a looser standard than required by either civilian courts or military courts-martial. That gives prosecutors a freer hand in introducing evidence.

Hearsay evidence would be allowed, as would documents or materials without the neat chain of custody required by traditional courts.

"That is a very subjective standard" that could mean evidence allowed at one tribunal would be barred from another, said Frank Spinner, a civilian lawyer who specializes in representing military defendants before courts-martial.

To keep tribunal cases out of federal courts, defendants will have a very limited right of appeal to a special, three-member review panel. One member would be a military judge, and other members could be outside lawyers or experts deputized by the president.

The administration hopes the inclusion of outsiders will help quell criticism that the panels would be rubber stamps for any tribunal decision. The president would have the final say on what happened to a convict.

The defendant could appeal neither to a lower federal court nor directly to the Supreme Court.

That structure is unfair, said Timothy Edgar, an American Civil Liberties Union senior lawyer.

"If, in fact, they will allow no appeal to a civilian body independent of the executive branch — putting the lives of defendants solely in the hands of the president — then they will not respect basic American, and international, ideals of fairness and justice," Edgar said.

Conviction of any crime would require a two-thirds majority, unlike most civilian trials' required unanimity. Punishment short of death also would be determined by a two-thirds vote, but a death sentence would require a unanimous vote of a seven-member panel.

It was unclear whether the rules might be adjusted once Congress and other outsiders have reviewed them. Members of Congress were being briefed Wednesday.

"Under ordinary circumstances, we need to have as many protections as we could possibly have," said Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., an Armed Services Committee member. But the war against terror makes some secrecy essential, he said.

Michigan Rep. John Conyers, the House Judiciary Committee's senior Democrat, on Wednesday introduced a bill to limit the use of tribunals and to ensure decent confinement, fair trials and rights of appeal for the detainees.

Alleged prostitution businesses closed

NEW YORK (AP) — Two call-girl businesses, allegedly run by a man who testified in rapper Sean "P. Diddy" Combs' gun and bribery trial, have been shut down and 13 people arrested on prostitution and money laundering charges.

The escort services operated in New York City, on Long Island and in Westchester County, grossing more than $2 million a year, Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said Wednesday.

Morgenthau said the services were run by Anthony J. Nastasi, 49, a prosecution witness at Combs' trial.

The suspects were arrested Tuesday and charged variously with money laundering, promoting prostitution and prostitution.

The escort services advertised on two Internet sites and in the Village Voice, New York magazine and other publications, Morgenthau said. He said they charged $450 to $650, depending on services requested.

Morgenthau said receipts were deposited in accounts controlled by Nastasi, who then wrote checks on those accounts. Checks were made payable to old-time TV and movie characters — Joe Mannix, Barnaby Jones, Charlie Chan — and processed through a check-cashing store, Morgenthau said.

Bush's plan would promote marriage

WASHINGTON (AP) — Looking for a new opportunity to promote marriage, the Bush administration is considering a program that would channel money through the child support collection program into experimental marriage and fatherhood programs.

The plan would not need approval from Congress, which already has been asked by President Bush to devote hundreds of millions of dollars to promoting marriage in the welfare program.

The proposed child support program would involve a maximum of about $22 million in federal and state money for about 15 communities, according to two draft documents that describe the plan.

Community coalitions would develop "a saturation approach" including programs at the community, state and regional levels, focused on people with lower incomes, according to the draft plan.

Activities would include educating young people about the benefits of marriage, providing skill building to promote healthy marriages, and creating media campaigns to "rebuild cultural norms" relating to marriage, family formation and fatherhood and the benefits of delaying childbearing until marriage.

Advocates for the poor charge that the plan could siphon off money needed to administer child support programs, is inconsistent with the goals of the child support program and is an effort by the administration to bypass Congress.

Encouraging two-parent families is a "laudable goal," said Vicki Turetsky, a child support expert at the Center for Law and Social Policy. "But that's not the goal of the child support program."

As conceived, participating states would be given special permission by the government to spend money through their child support programs for these experiments. The federal government would match those dollars as they normally match child support spending for administrative expenses.

The proposal is still in draft form and must be approved by officials at the Department of Health and Human Services and the White House, cautioned Wade Horn, who heads the HHS Administration for Children and Families, which would run the program.

Horn, a longtime advocate for marriage and fatherhood programs, noted that promoting marriage and discouraging out-of-wedlock childbearing were overt goals of the 1996 welfare law. And he said HHS has long had the power to approve demonstration programs like this one.

"This is not an attempt to circumvent any kind of debate about anything," he said. "The debate about whether government should be involved with this issue at all was resolved five years ago when Congress passed a (welfare) law and a Democratic president signed it."

While the welfare law gave states power to spend their money to promote marriage, few have done so. That's partly because of questions about whether the government should be so involved in people's personal lives and partly because there is little evidence about what might work.

The Bush administration is pushing the issue on a variety of fronts, including asking Congress to devote up to $300 million in federal and state money to pro-marriage experiments when it renews the welfare law this year.

The draft proposal is considerably more modest. It would allow select states to put up one-third of the money for these marriage initiatives through their child support administrative spending accounts. The federal government would pay the remaining 66 percent, the same match rate it uses for the child support program.

Critics fear that facing tight budgets, states may wind up siphoning money they would have spent on child support for this.

"The primary focus should be getting those kids the support they need, not some half-baked experiment that no one knows whether it will help poor kids or not," said Laurie Rubiner of the National Partnership for Women and Families.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Hypoglycemia is real

DEAR DR. GOTT: You have occasionally referred to hypoglycemia as a "designer disease," a condition that may not be real but is popular. I take exception to this characterization. You have only to lose consciousness from a drop in blood sugar to be convinced. I suffered excessive sweating, weakness, fast pulse, low blood pressure and fainting until my physician completely controlled the affliction by dietary modification. Hypoglycemia is a serious problem for many individuals and should not be trivialized or rejected out of hand.

DEAR READER: I have never implied that hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) isn't real; it certainly is for some individuals. Nonetheless it is far less common than once believed. In the past, it was used as a catch-all diagnosis for many patients with episodic fatigue, weakness and lightheadedness. In fact, it used to be a "designer diagnosis" that was often applied indiscriminately to women who probably had other disorders, such as panic attacks, chronic anxiety and chronic fatigue syndrome.

The diagnosis is easy to establish. In the presence of symptoms, a blood sugar level of 45 milligrams per deciliter (or lower) readily confirms the presence of significant hypoglycemia. Many patients who think they have hypoglycemia actually have blood sugars exceeding 50 mg, indicating that they don't, in fact, suffer from hypoglycemia at all.

In patients meeting the 45 mg criterion I mentioned, further testing is always mandatory. For example, pancreatic tumors can disrupt normal sugar metabolism, significantly lowering the blood sugar to cause the symptoms you mention — and, in severe cases, seizures and coma.

Of course, not all hypoglycemic patients have such a serious cause for their sugar problem; rather, if no pancreatic abnormality or other cause is discovered, they are usually diagnosed with "reactive" hypoglycemia. This means that their blood sugars fall precipitously for unknown reasons soon after they consume high-carbohydrate meals. Such people usually benefit from eating smaller, more frequent meals, as well as low-carbohydrate diets and high-protein (or fruit) snacks. Such patients should avoid sugar, sweets and alcohol.

Hypoglycemia is real and treatable, but the diagnosis should be made only after definitive testing.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Please discuss urticaria.

DEAR READER: Urticaria simply means "hives," the itchy, irregular, patchy rash that ordinarily denotes an allergic reaction. Hives can appear and disappear quickly, without warning. They are due to the release of histamine into the skin.

Urticaria can be caused by reaction to foods, cosmetics, pollen, animal dander, drugs — in fact, any substance that can provoke an allergic reaction can cause hives. Stress and anxiety also may lead to hives, as can certain diseases, such as lupus lymphedema.

Acute treatment of the rash includes cold compresses and antihistamines, such as Benadryl, Claritin, Zyrtec, Allegra or Chlortrimeton; cortisone may be needed in severe cases that don't respond to these medications.

If possible, the cause of the hives should be determined so it can be avoided in the future.

In general, urticaria is a harmless annoyance that lasts for only a few hours. However, it may indicate the presence of a severe, developing allergy that must not be ignored. For example, in people taking medicine, the appearance of hives is a warning that, unless the drug is stopped, more serious, life-threatening allergic reactions could follow.

The initial diagnosis and treatment of urticaria can be addressed by a family physician; patients with severe or recurring hives should be referred to an allergist.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

One-legged Texas man to be executed

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A one-legged condemned killer, whose health blocked him from being fitted with the artificial limb he wanted, is headed to the Texas death chamber tonight for a fatal robbery and shooting almost 17 years ago.

Rodolfo Hernandez, 52, who lost his leg last year to complications from diabetes, would be provided crutches or a wheelchair to travel the last 50 feet from a holding cell to the chamber, Texas prison officials said.

"I am still hoping and praying for my leg or something to walk with to help me get to that gurney if they do execute me," Hernandez said Wednesday from death row. "It's all in God's hands."

Hernandez, of San Antonio, was condemned for robbing and shooting five undocumented Mexican immigrants in March 1985 in a remote area of Comal County, just north of San Antonio. One of the five, 20-year-old Victor Cervan, of San Luis Potosi, Mexico, died.

Hernandez' left leg was amputated four inches below the knee in July as a result of diabetes complications. He said prison officials balked at fitting him with an artificial limb because they didn't want to spend the money on a condemned man.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice officials said they have a program in place for inmates to get prostheses and that a donor even had offered to provide one.

Ira trustees approve school calendar

Ira ISD trustees Wednesday approved a school calendar for next year and accepted the resignations of two teachers.

Supt. Jim Rumage said the board approved a school calendar for the 2002-2003 school year, but will have to get a waiver from the state because of the early date of its first day of school.

"The calendar accepted by the board has school starting on Thursday, Aug. 15," he said. "The law says Monday, Aug. 19 should be the earliest first day, but we hope to get a waiver from the state to start a few days earlier."

Rumage said the trustees accepted the resignations of reading teacher Cynthia Shoults.

Shoults, who is retiring this year, also is coordinator of the district's gifted and talented program.

Also resigning is math teacher Theresa Daniel, who plans to teach at Waco High School, according to Rumage.

The trustees also renewed all contracts recommended by principal Mike Duke and approved new textbooks for science classes.

No action was taken on an agenda item to name David Brown assistant superintendent.

Rumage said a public meeting on the district's technology program is scheduled for 7 p.m. April 8 and a decision on Brown will made after that.

A plan to lower on-the-job injuries also was approved.

Suspicious driver reported around Central, Stanfield

• ***Suspicious subject***

Officers were notified of a person driving around Central and Stanfield Elementary schools and acting suspiciously. Responding officers found the vehicle gone on their arrival and police are continuing to try and locate the subject.

• ***Disturbances***

Officers were called to the Kingswood Apartments at 7:43 a.m. Tuesday as a person was creating a disturbance. A criminal trespass warning was issued.

A criminal trespass warning also was issued at 9:13 p.m. as a person was ordered to stay away from a residence in the 2900 block of Avenue F.

• ***Stolen equipment***

Z.W. Davis reported that he had some farm equipment stolen from a location south of the Helms Addition on Brick Plant Road. Deputies filed a report.

• ***Fight***

Officers responded to a report of juveniles fighting in the alley near 26th St. and Avenue K. Four juveniles were taken into custody and escorted to the police station. They were later released to their parents and juvenile probation officers contacted.

• ***Arrests***

DPS troopers arrested a 34-year-old female at 9:56 p.m. for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

A 58-year-old male was arrested at 10:37 p.m. for public intoxication.

At 1:45 this morning, officers arrested a 30-yer-old male for public intoxication.

Obituaries

Joe Villa

1981-2002

Jose Villa Sr. of Snyder died Monday, March 18, in Hermann Hospital in Houston.

Rosary for Mr. Villa, 20, is set for 7 this evening at Wright Colonial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service is set for 2 p.m. Friday in Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church with Fr. Leo Moras officiating. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Joe Villa

Born Nov. 24, 1981 in Snyder, he was a 2000 graduate of Snyder High School and had worked for B&F Well Servicing before becoming ill.

He married Krista Villarreal on Aug. 27, 2001 in Lorenzo.

Survivors include his wife, Krista Villa of Abernathy; a son, Jose Luis Villa Jr. of Abernathy; a stepson, Aaron Rodriguez of Abernathy; his mother and stepfather, Rosa and Carlos Martinez Jr. of Snyder; his father, Vicente Villa Jr. of Snyder; a sister, Margarita Villa of Snyder; his in-laws, Luis and Janetta Villarreal of Abernathy, a brother-in-law, Jesse Hernandez of Snyder; an ex sister-in-law, Lisa Villa; five brothers and three sisters-in-law, Pedro and Anna Villa, Otaviano and Amanda Villa, Marcus and Isbell Villa, Juan Carlos and Steven Martinez, all of Snyder.

Lema Hatfield

1906-2002

Lema G. Hatfield, longtime Snyder business owner, died Wednesday, March 20, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Funeral service for Mrs. Hatfield, 96, is set for 10 a.m. Saturday in the Faith Baptist Church with the Rev. Larry White, pastor, officiating.

Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

Born Feb. 6, 1906 in Madison County, she married L.H. Hatfield in May, 1924. He died in 1978. She also was preceded in death by a daughter, Doris Montag; and a son, the Rev. Buck Hatfield.

Mrs. Hatfield owned and operated The Sweet Shop from 1954 until her retirement in 1995. She was a charter member of the Faith Baptist Church.

Survivors include two sons, Jerry Hatfield of Snyder and Bruce Hatfield of Big Spring; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. Friday at Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

Henry Demery

1946-2002

NATCHITOCHES, La. — Henry Dean Demery, twin brother of Gloria Dean Dunkins of Snyder, died Tuesday, March 19, in St. Francis Cabrini Hospital in Alexandria, La.

Funeral service for Mr. Demery, 55, is set for 1 p.m. Saturday in the Winnfield Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. James A. Graham, pastor of the Emmanuel Chapel United Methodist Church, officiating. Burial will follow in the Grand Ecore Cemetery.

Mr. Demery was a mental health and substance abuse counselor with the state of Louisiana.

Survivors include his mother, Martel Demery of Natchitoches; another sister, Margie Demery of Natchitoches; three brothers, Milbert Demery, Julius Demery, both of Natchitoches, and Albert Demery of Dallas.

He was preceded in death by his father and a brother.

Aby Rosson

1915-2002

LEVELLAND — Aby Rosson, 86, of Levelland died Friday, March 15.

Funeral service was held Monday at Park Drive Baptist Church. The Rev. Gil Ramirez officiated. Burial was in Morton Memorial Cemetery under the direction of George C. Price Funeral Directors of Levelland.

Born July 15, 1915 in Erath County, she married H.H. Rosson on Jan. 8, 1938 in Seminole. Mr. Rosson lived in Snyder in the 1930s.

Before moving to Levelland in 1979, Mrs. Rosson had lived in the Bledsoe and Famuliner communities. She was a homemaker and taught Sunday school at Park Drive Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, H.H. Rosson of Levelland; three daughters, Murlene Godfrey of Pecos, Nelda Bilbrey of Morton and Kate Oliver of Levelland; a brother, C.K. Stegall Jr. of Azle; seven grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. Snyder relatives include cousins R.J. Rosson and Allie Beth Beauchamp; a sister-in-law, Mrs. Harry Clarkson; and a nephew, Kelly Clarkson.

Carl Eckert

1955-2002

BIG SPRING – Carl Elmer Eckert, a former Scurry County resident, died Tuesday, March 19.

Funeral service for Mr. Eckert, 46, is set for 10 a.m. Friday in the Nalley-Pickel & Welch Chapel with the Rev. David Harp officiating. Graveside service will follow at 3 p.m. in the Miles Cemetery.

Born Sept. 15, 1955 in Snyder, he was a graduate of Thorndale High School and worked for Johnson Brothers Industrial Equipment. He moved to Big Spring in 1974 and farmed in Fluvanna and in Howard County. He was a Lutheran.

Survivors include his mother, Dorothy Eckert of Big Spring; three brothers, Chester, Steve and Fred Eckert, all of Big Spring; and a sister, Dornell King, also of Big Spring.

June Deen

1905-2002

MIDLAND – June Rosson Deen, a former resident of Snyder, died Tuesday, March 19, at her home in Midland.

Funeral service for Mrs. Deen, 96, is set for 2 p.m. Friday in the Lawn Baptist Church with the Rev. G.A. Magee officiating. Burial will follow in the McBee Cemetery with arrangements under the direction of Fry-Bartlett Funeral Home.

Born June 2, 1905 in Lawn, she married Walter Edward Rosson in 1922 in Content. He died in 1957. She married Andrew Deen in 1978 in Odessa and he died in 1990.

Mrs. Deen owned and operated June's Beauty Shop in Lawn for 19 years and had lived in Abilene, Sweetwater and Snyder before moving to Midland in 1992. She was a member of the Order of Eastern Star and the Bellview Baptist Church.

Survivors include a son, Charles Rosson of Longview; a daughter, Juanelle Pursley of Midland; a stepdaughter, Jo Nell Helms of Breckenridge; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and several great-great-grandchildren.

Tony Fay

1922-2002

Tony Fay, a resident of Snyder Oaks Care Center, died Monday, March 18.

Graveside service for Mr. Fay, 80, was held at 10 a.m. today in Hillside Memorial Gardens with Walter McCall, chaplain of Odyssey Health Care in Big Spring, officiating.

Born Jan. 16, 1922, Mr. Fay had been a resident of Big Spring before moving to Snyder about a month ago.

Arrangements were under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Prom help

Parents and junior students are encouraged to help with decorating the Scurry County Coliseum this week in preparation for Saturday's prom. Work is from 5-9 nightly.

Community Services Fair

Scurry Community Services will host a Community Services Fair from 4-6 p.m. today at 2800 2nd Street. Participating programs include early child intervention, family planning, Gateway Family Services, Noah's Attic, protective and regulatory services, health unit, mental health center, Snyder Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse, fire department, department of human resource, W.I.C., WTC, Food Cupboard, Chips Program, Head Start, Early Head Start, Snyder Child Day Care. Call 573-7403 for more information.

Beginning clogging lessons

Sign up now for beginning clogging lessons to be held at 8 this evening at the coliseum annex. Call Shirley Miller at 573-0807 for more information.

GED pre-registration and test dates

Mandatory pre-registration for the GED math testing begins at 9 a.m. Friday in the GED testing center, Building 7B, on the WTC campus.

Library book sale

Scurry County Library will continue its book sale Friday and Saturday. Friday hours are from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., and Saturday the library will be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Senior center banquet

The 23rd annual Scurry County Senior Center volunteer recognition banquet will be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday at the Senior Center.

Video to air

A video filmed by Tommy Williams of You Star Video will air Friday night on *America's Funniest Videos*, which begins at 7 on ABC, Cox Cable channels 8 and 12. The video was shot during the Miller Ranch's 100th Centennial Anniversary and shows a man being thrown over the fence during the rodeo.

Relay for Life fundraiser

There will be a fundraiser for Relay for Life from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday at Higginbotham-Bartlett. Donations will be taken for hot dogs, Cokes and a bake sale.

Boy Scout car wash

Boy Scouts Troop No. 2 will hold a car wash beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday at Wal-Mart. Donations will be accepted.

PTK induction

Western Texas College's Phi Theta Kappa chapter will formally induct new members at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Fine Arts Theatre. A reception will follow in the foyer.

Noah's Ark Church

The church will have Tony Bethel of Cathedral of Praise Church in Abilene at its 6:30 p.m. Sunday service. The church is located at 119 36th St.

Healing and communion service

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. Sunday at 1411 25th St. with Marvin and Joan Applin. Call 573-1517 or 281-358-9389 for additional information.

Enchilada dinner

The third annual Knights of Columbus enchilada dinner is Sunday at West Elementary. Serving will be from noon until 5 p.m. Adult plates are $5 and child's plates are $3. Meal includes tea and dessert.

Technology Association booster club

The Technology Association booster club will meet at 6 p.m. Monday in the SHS shop classroom. Final plans for the upcoming garage sale and the banquet will be made.

Choir booster Club

The SHS Choir Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the choir room to plan the choir banquet set for April 29.

Snyder Lions Club

Snyder Lions Club will meet at noon Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church as part of Holy Week Services.

Gateway Family Services

Gateway Family Services has a parenting discussion group from 10:30–11:30 a.m. every Tuesday, focusing on parenting issues and special challenges.

DCOS will meet this afternoon

The Development Corporation of Snyder board of directors will review expenditures on the Williamson building when it meets today at 4 p.m.

The building is undergoing repairs so it can be leased to a retail business.

The board will also review the monthly financial statements, and hear a report from John DeLille, executive director.

The meeting will be held in the DCOS boardroom at the American State Bank building.

BCD elect new officers Wednesday

Scurry County Board of Development Wednesday elected new officers, welcomed a new member and bid farewell to departing president David Koonce.

Koonce stepped down as president and concluded a six-year term.

Board member Tony Scott thanked Koonce for his service to the community and said he was "a valuable asset to the board."

Ray Myers, a plant operator with Torch Energy, took Koonce's place on the board.

Jerry Martin was elected to replace Koonce as board president.

Don West will serve as vice president and Bill Dryden will continue his role as treasurer.

In other business, the board voted to sponsor the Big Country RC&D for $25 this year.

Minutes from a previous meeting and current financial statements were approved and the lunch bill was paid.