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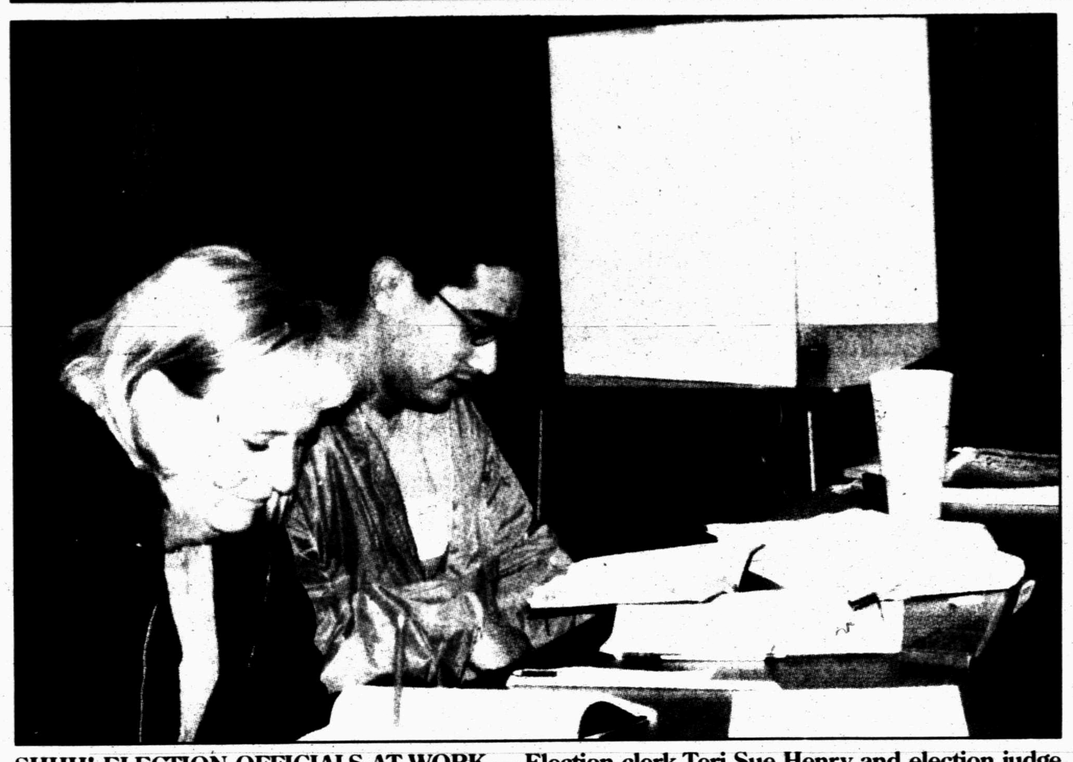
WT-Int. Crude - $37.84
WTIC Posted - $34.50
Natural Gas - $5.90

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

TUESDAY

April 13, 2004
Vol. 55 No. 299
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Jake Harvey



SHHH! ELECTION OFFICIALS AT WORK — Election clerk Teri Sue Henry and election judge Steven D. Pena are ready for any voters for today's GOP runoff election for railroad commissioner. Only seven voters had cast ballots in the first three hours, but polls are open until 7 p.m. on the third floor of the courthouse. (SDN Staff Photo by Jeff West)

Perry calls special session

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry today called a long-anticipated special legislative session on school finance, ordering lawmakers to return to work April 20.

"Since the implementation of the Robin Hood school finance scheme, the brightest minds in Texas have pondered a permanent solution," Perry said. "The time for pondering is over; the time for action is now."

Lawmakers have been working since last spring to reach a consensus on how to overhaul the so-called Robin Hood system of public school finance, which redistributes property tax revenue from wealthy districts to poor districts.

Perry has said any replacement plan should eliminate Robin Hood, lower property taxes, maintain funding equity to schools and foster a healthy job climate that doesn't discourage businesses from relocating to the state.

Last week, Perry proposed a plan that would lower property taxes for homeowners and businesses while getting additional revenue by taxing cigarettes, video lottery gambling and adult entertainment events, among other sources.

Part of the plan, a "constitutionally linked" property tax that would separate residential from commercial property tax rates, has been unpopular among lawmakers and business leaders. Under the plan, homeowners would be taxed by school districts, while businesses would be taxed by the state.

Some parts of Perry's proposal would require a constitutional amendment. That means surviving a popular vote in November and two-thirds approval in both legislative chambers — a daunting hurdle in the current partisan atmosphere.

Perry reiterated today his assertion that his plan would cut school property taxes by $6 billion and pump $2.5 billion into public schools.

He said he would be open to other plans that emerge during the 30-day special session. He stressed that he does not want any kind of tax bill that would harm the state's business climate or slow job creation.

"I can't promise our work will be done in one session, or two, or three. But I can promise this, we won't fail simply because we refuse to try," Perry said.

Snyder band in UIL contest on Thursday

Snyder High School band students are preparing for Thursday's UIL concert and sight-reading contest at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview.

SHS, directed by Donnie Reston, will be the first 3A school to compete. The band will perform at 9:30 a.m. and sight-reading will follow at 10.

Contest selections are *The Mad Major March* by Alford, edited by Fennell; *Encanto* by Robert W. Smith and *Nemu-Susato* by Jan Van der Roost.

Judges for the performing contest are Rocky Harris, Bruce Kenner and Fred Pankratz. Sight-reading judges are Anthony Gibson, Cody Myers and Jim Rhodes.

There is no admission charge and the public is invited.

Firefighters battle noon fire Monday

Seventeen firefighters showed up to battle a fire in a mobile home during the noon hour Monday.

The fire department received the call of smoke coming from a structure at 2105 Gilmore at 12:18 p.m. Firefighters found a fire in the kitchen and heavy smoke throughout the home.

The house belongs to Wayne Highfield who had recently purchased it, according to Snyder Fire Marshal Cy Posey. No one was living in it at the time of the fire, but family had started moving personal effects in, Posey said.

Posey said it was probably an electrical problem that started the blaze but the investigation continues and the cause is listed as undetermined at this time.

"The fire happened at lunchtime and a lot of our volunteers probably missed lunch to help put out the fire, and we appreciate every one of them," Posey added.

LUNCHTIME FIRE — Firefighters Dale Cooper and Jason Gruben get a fan ready to ventilate a home at 2105 Gilmore, while Donnie Loveall and Darrell Reston (from left) prepare to go into the house. (SDN Staff Photo by Jeff West)

No action taken...

WTC trustees hear tax freeze presentation

By Wade Warren
SDN Managing Editor

Following a presentation by Toni Shields of the Scurry County Appraisal District, Western Texas College trustees took no action on setting a tax cap for citizens 65 years or over, or disabled.

"The estimated loss to WTC if the tax ceiling is adopted is impossible to predict," emphasized Shields.

She did have a handout prepared for the board that made several assumptions concerning tax rates and residential values.

The handout reflected a tax loss to the college over the next 20 years of $63,638 by estimating values increased 1.5 percent per year and the tax rate set at 30 cents per $100 valuation.

Annually, the estimated loss ranged from $2,920 the first year the freeze was in effect to $3,817 in the 20th year of the freeze.

Presently, the college tax roll has 1,346 taxpayers over 65 and 106 who are disabled.

Patricia Claxton, director of fiscal services, said if the college adopted the freeze the effect on taxpayers would be minimal.

"The effect would be negligible since our tax rate is 24 cents per $100 valuation," said Claxton. The college's maximum tax rate is 35 cents per $100 valuation.

It also was noted by the board that the tax freeze by public schools has more effect on taxpayers since most districts, including the Snyder Independent School District, have a maximum tax rate of $1.50 per $100 valuation.

"This would shift the burden to younger taxpayers," said trustee Drew Bullard. "But at our maximum rate, it's not big numbers."

Bullard also noted there is a mechanism in place for citizens to call an election on the freeze by circulating petitions to obtain just over 500 signatures in favor of having a vote on the proposal.

In a marked contrast from the city council meeting this month that also had the tax freeze on the agenda, there were no citizens present for the presentation. The city meeting room was at its capacity with interested citizens.

In action items Monday night, trustees approved the formal contract of Jason McAden to coach the startup volleyball program at an annual salary of $29,714, and accepted the resignations of science professor Joe Carter and assistant professor of criminal justice Eric Coleman.

Carter will continue to teach part-time, while Coleman will teach at Hardin Simmons University.

In one other personnel matter, Dr. Greg Williams, president, said Billy Hefflinger had been named the school's baseball coach. He had been serving as the interim coach since the beginning of the year. Hefflinger's salary is $30,000 plus room and board annually. Hefflinger lives in the WTC dorm.

The board also added admissions personnel to the list of degree requirements for classified clerical personnel. The office had been left off an earlier approved list.

Trustees also heard a report from Dr. Williams and athletic director David Hanes on the planned golf program scheduled to start this fall.

"We are looking to bring programs on board that are cost effective, and at this time, golf would not be," said Hanes.

Hanes said the proposed program would be on the club level and of 11 community colleges in the region, only one other had indicated that they would participate at that level.

"Things are happening on the national level that will aid us in the future with a golf program," said Hanes.

Hanes said they were tabling setting up the golf program "not for lack of effort, but lack of competition."

Dr. Williams did note that the volleyball, cheerleading and cross country programs are on track for the fall semester.

Trustees also heard reports on recruiting, Phi Theta Kappa awards, student government, the UIL one-act play festivals and the Sammy Baugh celebration.

Mike Thornton reported on revenue and expenses for the celebration.

"There are some things still trickling in but as it stood at 5 to 5 today, revenues are at $34,900 and expenses at $19,639.07," said Thornton.

Dr. Williams lauded the efforts of the college staff in the celebration and added that no college money was used.

Also approved were the monthly financial reports.

President Lee Presswood presided and members present were Bullard, Carolyn Barbee, Eddie Peterson, Jackie Greene and Scott Richburg. Dr. Jay Kidd was absent.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Not only can you not take it with you, the IRS won't let you keep it while you're here."

April 15 is just two days away, so folks who haven't started yet to dig for receipts and other records may actually be running out of time.

Although the Infernal Revenue Service has promised to be more customer-friendly, we still are among the many who are befuddled by the maze of instructions and regulations.

We think the folks who write the instructions for filling out tax forms must be first cousins to the guys who write computer instructions.

The thing we understand most are deductions, but the tax accountants always say the same thing: "No way!"

Leona Helmsley's former housekeeper once quoted her wealthy boss concerning taxes. "We don't pay taxes. Only the little people pay taxes."

Guess we might as well join the association of small folks.

But it's not just the rich who try to find the creative loophole. Some call it a national past-time.

A professor has collected all sorts of unique deductions. Here's a few:

—A sales clerk claimed $250 to have all his trousers shortened to avoid static electricity from carpets in his workplace.

—A car repairman tried to claim watchdog expenses for a pet miniature poodle he kept at his shop.

—A police officer claimed costs for a guard dog so his uniform would not be stolen from the clothes line.

—A supermarket bagger claimed more than $5,000 for job-related self-education.

—An employee claimed the cost of hair dye because the boss liked her better as a blonde.

—A guy built a swimming pool and claimed it as a medical deduction since his doctor said he needed more exercise to avoid a heart attack.

—One woman wanted to depreciate her pit bull as a security device.

—One fellow claimed one and a half dependents. One for his wife and half for an unborn child.

—Another person tried to treat a lake-front home with a few orange trees as an agriculture enterprise.

—One man listed his dog and mother-in-law as a dependent, but got mixed up on social security numbers for 'em.

—One set of grandparents thought that paying for their grandkids' college tuition should qualify as a charitable deduction.

And one important thing to remember when dealing with the Infernal Revenue Service, they have the most lawyers and the most money.

You may recall that Ms. Helmsley, the New York real estate magnate, spent 18 months in prison for tax evasion where she met some little people there for the same reason.

APR 13 2004

ASK US

Q—How many players on WTC's softball and baseball teams are from Texas?

A—Of the 58 on both rosters, 51 are from Texas.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

David McIntosh...

...has lived in Snyder since December of 1956. David has a son, Robert Boyd of Snyder; two daughters, Julia Hardin of Washington D.C., and Sandra Lewis of Dimmitt. David is retired, having served 25 years, 11 months in the Army, Air Force and National Guard. He likes to fish and play dominoes.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Keep trying to win; keep playing the game; but keep room in your heart for a song.

—Grantland Rice

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Antique Tractor Club

The Scurry County Antique Tractor and Equipment Club will meet at 7 this evening at Jack's Roadboring on the Colorado City Highway. Anyone interested is invited.

4-H horse club

The Scurry County 4-H horse club will meet at 7 tonight in the East Elementary cafeteria.

Stanfield Parent Council;

Stanfield Parent Council will meet at 7 tonight in the conference room.

Free income tax help

There is free help with income taxes every Wednesday from 9 a.m. until noon and 1-3 p.m. at the senior center at 2603 Ave. M.

WTC GED testing dates

Western Texas College has scheduled GED testing dates, the next set for Friday and registration is from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Thursday. The remaining date is April 30. To take the test or for more information contact Betty Thompson at 573-2310 or Emily Hataway 573-8511, ext. 297 or 574-2112. It is recommended that candidates receive some preparation before attempting the test.

What's up guidelines

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

Public has shifted focus to terrorism, war

WASHINGTON (AP) — The American public has shifted its attention toward problems like terrorism and war since last summer when more people said the nation's top problems were economic, an Associated Press poll found.

When asked in an open-ended question last July to name the most important problems facing the United States, 9 percent mentioned war. That number almost doubled to 17 percent in an AP-Ipsos Public Affairs poll taken early this month. The number of people who named terrorism has grown from 14 percent in July to 21 percent now.

The poll offers a glimpse of the nation's leading concerns as the presidential campaign intensifies between President Bush, who generally has posted stronger poll numbers on national security, and Democrat John Kerry, seen as stronger by the public on economic issues.

Last July, U.S. troops had recently completed their initial conquest of Iraq's armed forces and were at work rebuilding the nation. In recent weeks, U.S. troops have been under increased attacks by insurgents, both from the Sunni and Shiite populations in Iraq.

U.S. troops have killed about 700 insurgents across Iraq since the beginning of the month. About 70 coalition troops — almost all Americans — have died in clashes during that time.

In the new AP-Ipsos poll, pocketbook issues such as the economy and jobs were named by 37 percent, down from 47 percent last July. A smaller percentage of people specifically ranked "the economy" as the top problem than in July, with the number dropping steeply from 31 percent last July to 18 percent now.

For Jean Hart, a 52-year-old telecommunications worker from Albany, N.Y., her views on the top problems facing the country have shifted sharply from last fall when she was laid off, left without health care. Now, she's working again, but she pays more than $1,000 a month for her health care. Yet she ranks the war in Iraq as her top concern.

"Definitely the war," she said. "I don't know whether we're getting the full story of why we got in there. It's almost like started by the father (of President Bush.)"

She said the war struck close to home when one of her co-workers learned recently that fighting in Iraq had claimed his son, the father of three small children.

Health care has dropped slightly as one of the top concerns. Nineteen percent ranked it as a top problem in January, but the number has since slipped to 14 percent, about where it was last summer.

About one in 20 people mentioned the "energy crisis," particularly gasoline prices. Last summer, neither energy nor gas prices were on people's minds at all as a top problem. One in 10 mentioned the energy crisis as one of the nation's top problems, triple the number who said that last summer.

The biggest change in the AP-Ipsos poll's quarterly survey of the nation's top problems was the increased concern about the war. Ten percent in the poll specifically mentioned the "war in Iraq" — compared with 2 percent who specifically named the war in Iraq as the top problem last summer.

Noreen Hunt, a contracts manager in San Diego, said war in Iraq was the top problem because "it's killing people."

"It's becoming more of a problem, because it's not getting resolved," she said. "It looks like Vietnam all over again."

Among those who said war was the top problem, two in 10 said the country is headed down the wrong track. Half that many of them said the country is headed in the right direction.

Kelley Holcomb, a 47-year-old federal government worker from Atlanta, said he feels the war in Iraq may be a difficult fight right now, but he thought the Iraq efforts will help achieve peace in the long run.

"If we can have an opening for freedom in that part of the world," he said, "people will see it working and it will be good for the entire region."

The AP-Ipsos poll of 1,001 adults was taken April 5-7 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

World Almanac

Tuesday, April 13, 2004

Today is the 104th day of 2004 and the 25th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1941, the Soviet Union and Japan signed a nonaggression pact.

In 1964, Sidney Poitier became the first African-American to win an Oscar for Best Actor.

In 1970, an accident crippled Apollo 13 on its way to the moon.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), U.S. president; Samuel Beckett (1906-1989), playwright; Eudora Welty (1909-2001), writer; Howard Keel (1919-), actor/singer, is 85; Gary Kasparov (1963-), chess player, is 41.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1997, golfer Tiger Woods, in his first major, won the Masters by a record 12 strokes.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The moment a person forms a theory, his imagination sees in every object only the traits that favor that theory." — Thomas Jefferson

TODAY'S FACT: The first federal income tax rate was 1 percent on net personal incomes above $3,000, with a 6 percent surtax on incomes over $500,000.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 87.97 — Number of days it takes for the planet Mercury to orbit the sun.

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (April 11) and new moon (April 19)

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Commissioners to amend rules for Texas Two Step

AUSTIN — Today, the three members of the Texas Lottery Commission voted to give the executive director flexibility to change the drawing schedule and draw days of the Texas Lottery® *Texas Two Step*® game, without first undergoing a rule change. The amendment requires the executive director to provide advance notice to the public prior to changing the drawing schedule.

"We have been monitoring the progress of our *Texas Two Step* on-line game since the lottery joined *Mega Millions* in December," said Reagan E. Greer. "We've seen the game undergo a decline in sales due in large part because it competes with a multi-million dollar jackpot game on the same nights. I believe today's action by the commissioners allows the executive director to pursue the best business practice for the Texas Lottery and ensures continued success for the *Texas Two Step* game.

"Based on this action, I'm announcing a change in the draw days. Effective Saturday, June 26, the new draw days for the *Two Step* game will be Mondays and Thursdays," Greer added.

The purpose of the amendment is to change the draw days more quickly than the commission could if an amendment to the rule for such change were required. Essentially this amendment gives the executive director the discretion to effect a change in the draw days for *Texas Two Step* sooner than if a rule change had to occur prior to changing the draw days.

"In an effort to inform our players about the change in the drawing schedule, we'll be updating our outdoor billboards with the new draw days, as well as our official Web site. Retailers will receive messages through their lottery terminals about the change," Greer said.

The last drawing for *Texas Two Step* under its current schedule is June 25. The first Monday night drawing for the jackpot game will be June 28 and the first Thursday night drawing will occur on July 1. The new Monday and Thursday night lineups for Texas Lottery drawings will then feature *Texas Two Step*, *Cash Five*™ and *Pick 3*™.

"Nothing else about the game will change," Greer explained. "Players will still choose four numbers from a field of 35 and a Bonus Ball number from a second field of 35. The cost is still one dollar to play, and the multi-draw feature remains the same."

Tuesday's *Texas Two Step* jackpot is worth $725,000. The *Mega Millions*™ jackpot is worth an estimated $10 million.

For more information about the Texas Lottery, visit the official Texas Lottery Commission Web site at http://www.txlottery.org

Hours after wife spoke with soldier, he was killed in Iraq

HOUSTON (AP) — Hours before he was killed in combat, Army Spc. Adolfo Cesar Carballo called his wife on her cell phone and told her not to worry. He was eating dinner after having just returned from a mission.

The next time Beatriz Carballo heard news from Iraq, her husband was dead — a victim of shrapnel when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his Humvee south of Baghdad.

The 20-year-old soldier was the 14th person from the Houston area killed while serving in Iraq and was among at least seven military personnel with Texas ties who died in fierce combat last week.

Carballo, like some of the dead, was stationed at Fort Hood. He was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

Two other soldiers were injured in the attack that killed Carballo on Saturday night.

"He was counting down the days to come back home," Beatriz Carballo, 18, told the Houston Chronicle.

"He was worried because he didn't want to be alone or die young. He said he just wanted to live life. That's what hurts the most. I couldn't be there or do anything about it."

Woodville relatives of Wesley Charles Fortenberry from Troy, an Apache helicopter crewman based at Fort Hood, died Sunday with another AH-64 crewman when insurgents west of Baghdad shot down their aircraft as they protected a fuel convoy headed toward the violence-racked city of Fallujah.

Fortenberry, a 191/2-year Army veteran, would have turned 39 on Thursday.

Beatriz Carballo said her husband had been in Iraq about three weeks when he was killed. He had enlisted in June 2002, barely one month after he graduated from John H. Reagan High School.

The soldier had been a member of a crack ROTC drill team at the school, his wife said. She said he liked the military but hoped to finish his hitch and become a Houston police officer.

"I talk to Jesus Christ and beg him that his dying wasn't in vain," Cesar Carballo, Carballo's father, said. "I know he's in heaven. I know I'll be there one day to meet him."

The soldier's father added he wants U.S. troops to leave Iraq.

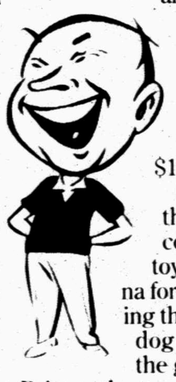
"It's like Vietnam," he said. "We just went for nothing. We're never going to win."

Carballo's family will make funeral arrangements in a few days after his son's body is shipped home, his father said.

Today's chuckle

J.R. is nation's top drug-sniffing dog

MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa (AP) — J.R. is the nation's top dog in sniffing out drugs.



The Marshalltown police dog and his handler, Officer Melinda Ruopp, won the 2004 U.S. Police Canine Association national championships in Bay St. Louis, Miss.

J.R. earned a perfect score for his vehicle search, and a near-perfect for his building search. The performances made him the overall champion in narcotics detection.

"That dog is extremely reliable," police Sgt. Brian Batterson said.

J.R. has sniffed out drugs around Marshalltown for more than five years and has cracked some big cases. One time, a canine team searched a wooded area for two hours without finding anything. Then J.R. started digging and found five garbage bags full of marijuana estimated to be worth more than $100,000.

Ruopp said she trained the dog to detect narcotics by leaving a dog toy in a sack with marijuana for a few days and then hiding the toy for J.R. to find. The dog eventually associated the game with the scent, not the toy, and then learned the scent for other drugs, such as methamphetamine and cocaine.

Pirated 'Passion' videos sold in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Street peddlers who traditionally hawk palm-thatch holy crosses, incense and ceramic religious statuettes outside churches during Holy Week had a new item that was outselling all others this year: pirated videos of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ."

Thousands of Venezuelans were picking up cheap copies of the controversial film, which depicts the last 12 hours of the life of Jesus Christ.

"The sale of the movie has given me more profits than the sale of candles, statues and icons," said Alejandro, who gave his first name. "The majority of my customers are young people, kids that were never before interested in a movie about the Bible."

Gibson's film is drawing crowds to theaters in this mostly Roman Catholic country.

Posters outside entrances to churches invite parishioners to view the movie.

The film is meant "to create an environment of reflection and maturation of faith," said the Rev. Luis Avendano.

events

LOTTO TEXAS™ TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Monday's Lottery Numbers Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 5-15-25-26-33.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Matching four of five: 142. Prize: $453.

Matching three of five: 4,761. Prize: $10.

Matching two of five: 44,750. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Pick 3
(Day) 9-3-3
(Night) 2-6-0

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to use for republication all news dispatches in this newspaper and also local news published for republication of special dispatches.

TxAggie Muster
Wednesday, April 21
6:00 p.m.
Anyone Interested in Attending Call
Mark or Amy Hargrove
573-4793 or 573-8975
RSVP by Friday, April 16

TEXAS CAFE
"Down-Home Cooking for Down-Home Folks"
EVERYDAY...
Chicken Fried Steak—Baked Potato, Fries or Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable of the Day and Texas Toast $5.95
DAILY SPECIALS
Drive Thru Available
Call -In Orders and Smokers Welcome
OPEN:
Monday 6 am - 2 pm
Tuesday - Friday 6 am - 2 pm; 4 pm-8 pm
Saturday 7 am - 11 am
Closed Sunday
1510 College Ave. 574-2001

In recognition of April's
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH
Gateway Family Services, Inc.
is sponsoring an **ESSAY CONTEST** open to all High School Juniors & Seniors.
Three **$100 SCHOLARSHIPS** will be awarded to the winning three essays:
one to WTC, one to TSTC and one to the college of their choice.
Each student entering the contest is only eligible to win one scholarship.
Call **GATEWAY FAMILY SERVICES** at **325-573-4351** for details and an entry form.
Entry deadline for contest is 5 pm, April 23rd

Are you **PAID** what you're **REALLY WORTH**??
TIRED of trading time for money, stuck in the **RAT RACE** making someone else rich?? **FEELING INSECURE** about your **FUTURE**??
Or just plain **SICK & TIRED** of being **SICK & TIRED**??
This is Your Chance to take Ownership of Your Future with...
...a Billion $$$ Company that MIT says owns the rights to One of the Top Ten emerging Technologies that will ***CHANGE THE WORLD!!!***
...in the next **MULTI-TRILLION $$$** Marketplace!!!
from Denver, Colorado!
JOBY WEEKS
Tuesday, April 13 7:00 - 8:30
West Tx. Taekwondo Academy
2500 Ave. R Associates - $3.00/person
$5.00/couple Guests FREE!
Bring in ad for Drawing

80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED — Bud England was honored Saturday at a dinner with his family at The Shack. The picture at left a family member tagged "Old and Feeble," the center picture, "Barely Hanging On," and the picture at right "Doing Good For an Old Man." These statements made by England for many years were matched to the more youthful England by his wife, Imo D. (Contributed Photos)

SGC MEETS — Residents of Golden Terrace Apartments shared lunch with Snyder Garden Club members Thursday in the community room and a program was presented by Sandra Browning, SGC president. She gave pointers on how to care for plants that do well in West Texas. Browning, pictured left with centerpieces she made, also brought plants to share with residents. In the top photo, SGC members BeBe Boren and Pamela Maresch presented plants won as door prizes to Charlene Starnes, (seated right), and her daughter, Debbie Sullenger of Midland, seated left, as residents look on. SGC will begin judging in the northwest part of Snyder to honor Yard of the Month to (1.) large yard; (2.) small yard; and (3.) most improved business. Signs will be placed in the winners yards the first week of May. (Staff Photos by Jo Ann Nunley)

Bud England celebrated 80th birthday

Bud England celebrated his 80th birthday early with his wife, Imo D., and many family members at a dinner Saturday at The Shack, followed by cake and punch at 1905 Round Rock. He was born on April 14, 1924 in Alma, Ark.

Attending the event were their children Linda and Joe Heflin of Crosbyton; Glenna Kay and Keith Crews of The Woodlands; Karol Ruth Dent of Breckenridge; and Rudy and De'Anne England of Seabrook. Also in attendance were their grandchildren Viki And Derek Tackett of Round Rock, Travis and Krysten Bruns of Houston and Emily Crews of The Woodlands, Jason Dent of Killeen, Trevor and Michelle Dent of Amarillo, Shannon and Stephen King of San Angelo, Aaron England and fiancée, Krystal Kirby, of Webster.

Also celebrating Bud's birthday were great-grandchildren Tyler, Austin and Stephanie Tackett, Desiree Dent, Darrien, Patrick and Ethan Dent, Kale and Addisen King.

Unable to attend were grandchildren Ronna Overman, Kyle England, Brady Dent and son Connor. Also a son-in-law, L.T. Dent was unable to attend.

Also attending were Earline Witcher, Leroy, Lois and Mark and Kelly Perkins, all of Abilene; Joye and Bobby Bynum and daughter Debbie Boles, all of Trent; and Vernon Young of Snyder.

Glenna Crews was born on her dad's 25th birthday. Other family members recognized for April birthdays included Tyler, 3, born on April 1; and Addisen, 1, born on April 11.

Community Calendar

TUESDAY

Weight Watchers meeting; Colonial Hill Baptist Church; for more information call Kathy at 573-1289 during the evening; weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m.

ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 7 p.m.

Beginners' AA open meeting; Snyder Park Club, 1212 37th Street; 573-8268, 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

Canyon Gun Club; 1910 25th St.; 7:30 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for more information call 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

TOPS TX56 (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Trinity United Methodist Church. For more information call Phillis Leatherwood at 573-6105.

WEDNESDAY

Altrurian Daughters Study Club; meet at 11:30 at MAWC for tour of U.C.O. Spinning Plant; hostesses, Janelle Hammack, Beth Teal and Georgene Galloway.

NA Just For Today, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-1438; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Cogdell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary; board room; 10 a.m.

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 St.; 7:30 p.m.

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

AA Big Book Study; closed meeting; contact numbers are 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 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.

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

NA-Just For Today; Park Club; for information call 573-6179; 6-7 p.m.

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

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

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-1141; 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.

NA-Just For Today; Park Club; for information call 573-6179; 6-7 p.m.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 04-13-04
♠ A J 7 5 4
♥ K Q 2
♦ 8 5 2
♣ 5 4

West
♠ Q 9 8 6
♥ 6 3
♦ A 3
♣ J 10 8 6 2

East
♠ K 10 3
♥ 8 5 4
♦ K 9 7 6 4
♣ K 9

South
♠ 2
♥ A J 10 9 7
♦ Q J 10
♣ A Q 7 3

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♦ A

How many cards do you promise?

Historian Christopher Lasch wrote, "Knowledge is what we get when an observer, preferably a scientifically trained observer, provides us with a copy of reality that we can all recognize."

Obviously, I hope all of my readers can understand these columns. This week, we are looking at giving preference: Opener bids two suits, and responder conveys which one he prefers.

You open one heart, partner responds one spade, and you rebid two clubs. How many hearts and how many points will partner have if he rebids either two hearts or three hearts?

You (South) reach four hearts. West leads the diamond ace. When he receives an enthusiastic nine from partner, West continues with his second diamond. East wins with the king and gives West a diamond ruff at trick three. Then, West exits with a trump. How would you continue?

Following a one-over-one response, if responder gives preference to two hearts, he promises only two hearts. With a minimum 6-9 points and three-card heart support, responder would have raised immediately to two hearts, not bid one spade. However, responder jumps to three hearts, he guarantees three hearts and 10-12 support points (the values to invite game).

In four hearts, you need the last 10 tricks. So, the club finesse must work, and you must ruff your two low clubs on the board. Win West's trump exit in hand, play a spade to dummy's ace, finesse the club queen, and cash the club ace. Then you have a high-trump crossruff.

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Best Sellers

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. "Glorious Appearing" by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins (Tyndale)
2. "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown (Doubleday)
3. "The Five People You Meet in Heaven" by Mitch Albom (Hyperion)
4. "Can You Keep a Secret?" by Sophie Kinsella (Dial)
5. "Angels & Demons" by Dan Brown (Pocket Star)
6. "The Last Juror" by John Grisham (Doubleday)
7. "3rd Degree" by James Patterson and Andrew Gross (Little, Brown)
8. "The Princes of Ireland" by Edward Rutherfurd (Doubleday)
9. "The Birth of Venus" by Sarah Dunant (Random House)
10. "Guardian of the Horizon" by Elizabeth Peters (Morrow)

NONFICTION/GENERAL

1. "Against All Enemies" by Richard A. Clarke (Free Press)
2. "The South Beach Diet" by Arthur Agatston (Rodale Press)
3. "The Purpose-Driven Life" by Rick Warren (Zondervan)
4. "Trump: How to Get Rich" by Donald J. Trump with Meredith McIver (Random House)
5. "Ten Minutes from Normal" by Karen Hughes (Viking)
6. "The Sexy Years: Discover the Hormone Connection" by Suzanne Somers (Crown)
7. "The Proper Care & Feeding of Husbands" by Laura Schlessinger (HarperCollins)

St. Elizabeth Sausage Festival
ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT
Sausage Dinner Complete With All The Trimmings
•Game Booths
•Raffles • Country Store
Sunday, April 18
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
St. Elizabeth Parish Center
30th at Ave. A, Snyder, Texas
Meal Tickets Sold At Door
$7.00 Adults
$4.00 Children 12 & Under
$7.00 All Take Outs
Sausage Sold By The Pound

Krispy Kreme Donuts
sponsored by
Ira Senior Class
April 17 - 8 am - 11 am
Wal-Mart or
Ira Church of God
$6 per dozen

New Infant Lines Are In!
Everything for Baby & Nursery
Western
Baseball
Farm Yard
Chenille
Toille Prints
in pink & green
"Best Selection In The Area"
Wedding Registry...
Cassie Callaway & Dale Cooper
Jessica (Bradshaw) Arnold & Colt Arnold
Jennifer Rosa & Bryan Billings
Trish Porter & Trey Shirley
Susan Bigham & William Taylor
Tara Price & Cody Nowlain
Laura Hamby & Bobby Griffith
Infant Registry...
Shelley & Cody Shields
Amy & Jeff James
CeCe & Johnny Pena
Special Occasions
507 Coliseum Drive 574-2004 Monday-Friday 10-5

ANTIQUES
The WR Whistle Stop
1803 25th Street - On The Square
NEW TO THE STORE...
•Paula Deen Cookbooks have finally arrived
New Designs of Trail & Painted Ponies
•New Designs of Cow Parade
•Hummingbird Feeders
•Texas Rattle Snake Hunting by Cliff Etheredge, local author, is here
•Tommy Williams' Concrete Benches, Birdbaths, State of Texas Stepping Stones, all reasonablly priced
•Jan Celoria has a unique collection of Charm Dishes made by Anchor Hocking. First introduced from 1950-1954 in the color Azurite.
COME CHECKOUT SNYDER'S LARGEST GIFT STORE
Hours are 10:00 to 5:30 Monday thru Saturday

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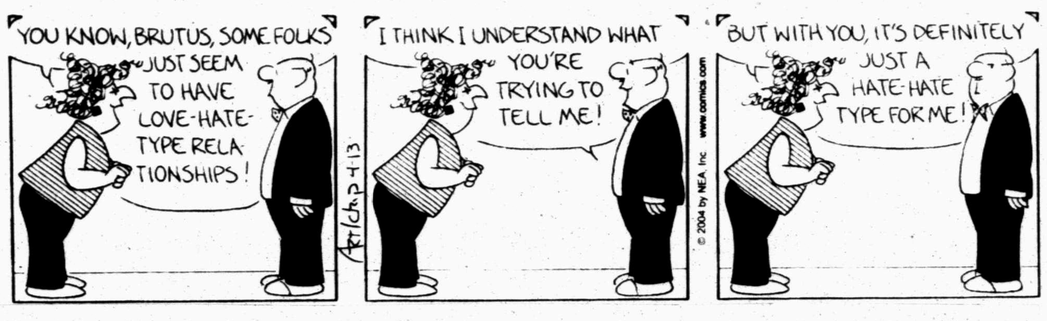
• Storage Units for Dorms
• Book Bags
• CD Holders
• Book Ends
and much more
Classic Interiors
2520 Ave R 573-1701
Open Mon. - Fri., 10:00-5:00, Sat. 10:00 - 2:00

Pizza Inn EVENTS
TUESDAY NIGHT 5:30-8:30 p.m.
SENIOR BUFFET SPECIAL
$4.49 with coffee or tea
WEDNESDAY NIGHT 5:30-8:30 p.m.
KIDS 99¢ BUFFET
13 Years & Under with Adult Buffet at Reg. Price
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY NIGHT BUFFETS 5:30-9:00 p.m.
Featuring Our New White Sauce Pizzas & Pepperoni Wraps
We Accept Local Competitors Coupons And We Will Meet Or Beat Any Other Special
Fresh Dough • Great Pizza • Locally Owned
573-3542 • 3907 College Ave.

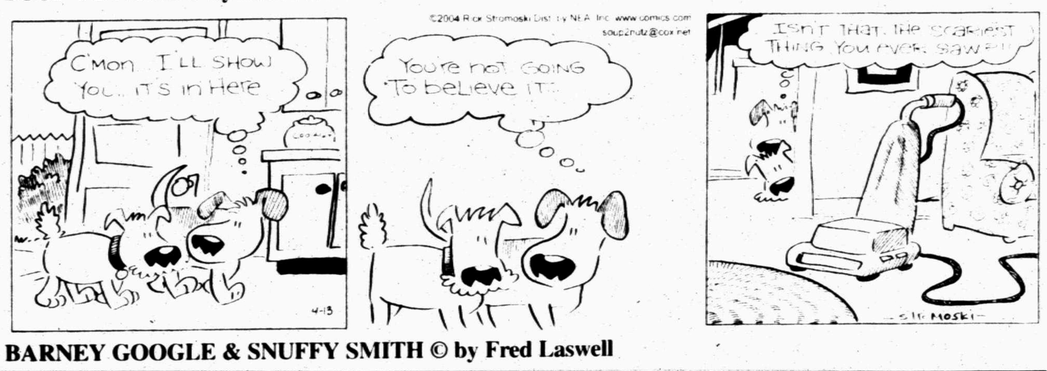
APR 13 2004

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman

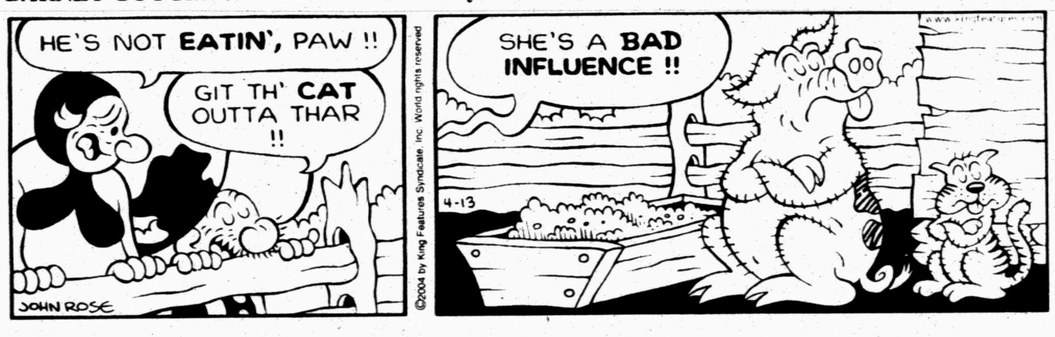
THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



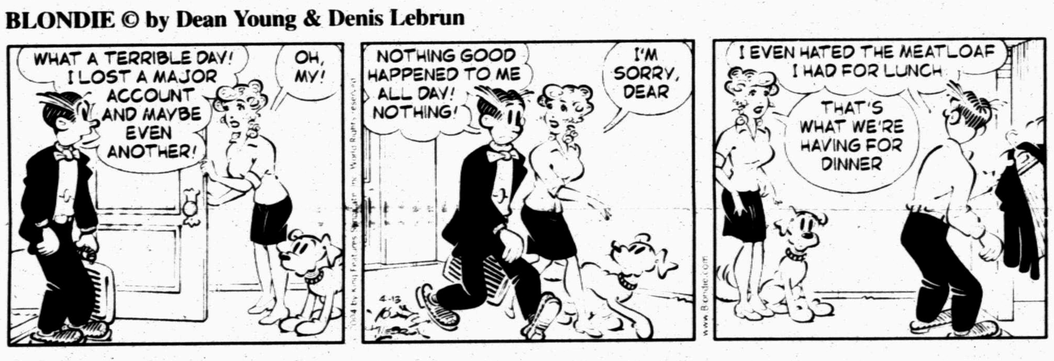
SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun

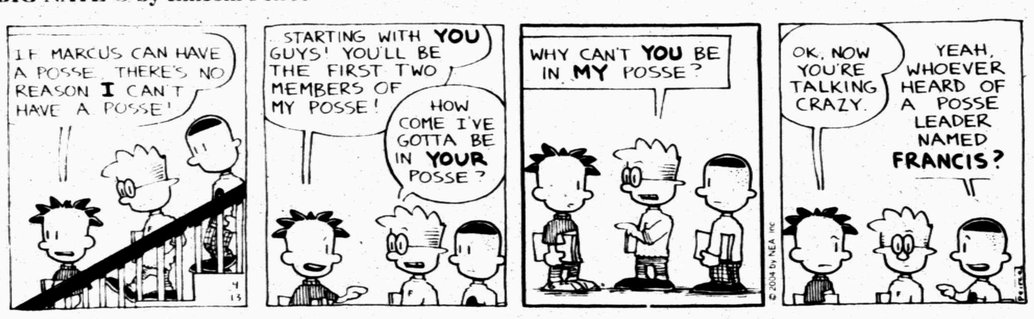


THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves

ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson

BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



MONTY ® by Jim Meddick

ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

"Your brother-in-law is marooned on a desert island."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"GRANDPA SAYS THAT WHEN HE WAS A KID, ICE CREAM ONLY CAME IN THREE FLAVORS."

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Pit stop item
4 Tepid
8 Vat
11 Internet addr.
12 Arthur — of tennis
13 Beehive state
15 Grassy field
16 Big cat
17 Border
18 Used a beeper
20 Cloudy-looking
21 Plea at sea
23 Cookbook measure
24 West Coast sch.
27 Uproars
29 Fussy dresser
32 Place
33 Rinse off
34 Here, in Paris
35 No, to a laird
36 Turn white
37 Droop-nosed fliers
38 Fine, to a pilot (hyph.)
39 Den
40 Rider's command
41 Overactor
42 Cooked — — turn
44 Vine product
47 Parachute fabric
51 Coup d'—
52 Tasteless
55 Prospector's find
56 Large purse
57 Tad
58 Arab robe
59 Sports org.
60 Kind of roast
61 Wyo. hrs.

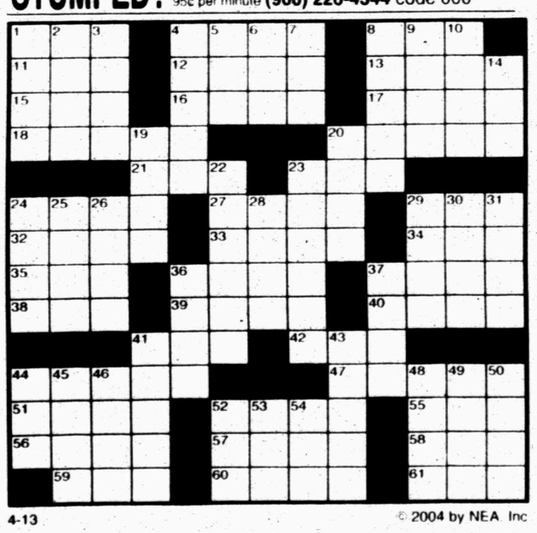
DOWN

1 Swallow hard
2 Territory
3 Foundry refuse
4 Emerson's middle name
5 So far — — know
6 Frat letter
7 Chess pieces
8 Spring bulb
9 Elec. or water
10 River edge
14 Psst!
19 Genesis hunter
20 Ponder
22 Low bow
23 Hidden
24 Forearm bone
25 Ta-ta in Turin
26 Onion kin
28 Surrealist painter
29 Try for trout
30 Prefix for pod
31 Leaning Tower site
36 Organize
37 Move to and fro
41 Inn
43 Saloon sign (2 wds.)
44 Faced
45 English school
46 Wooden strip
48 Crumbly soil
49 Poet's eyes
50 Organized
52 Evergreen
53 Pollster — Harris
54 Cash dispenser

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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



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SPORTS

Mike Martin selected to coach Texas All-Stars

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

Snyder girls athletic director and head basketball coach Mike Martin will be announced Wednesday as the coach of the Texas squad for the Texas-Oklahoma High School Girls All-Star game scheduled for July 24.

A selection committee picked Martin, who led the Lady Tigers to a 28-3 record and an area championship this year.

The success of the Lady Tigers and Martin's past record were factors in the decision.

He will be assisted on the bench by Lubbock Monterey head coach Jill Rankin-Schneider and girls basketball pioneer Harley Redding.

"They were searching for someone who had a good season and record in the past," Martin said. "They were looking for someone in this area. Had we had an average season, I may not have been selected. The team put me in a position to get this honor."

Martin, who reached 600 lifetime wins this season, coached at Lakeview, Higgins, Dumas, Farwell, Sudan and Amarillo High before taking the Snyder post in 2001.

He led Sudan to a 63-game winning streak and back-to-back Class 1A state girls' championships in 1994 and 1995. His

Martin with Sirena Medrano

1994-95 team finished 39-0.

Martin was named Texas Sports Writers Association coach of the year in 1994 and 1995 and served on the board of directors of the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches.

The Texas-Oklahoma All-Star game was started in 1970 by Charles Heatly, and ran from that year until 1981.

The game had been on hiatus from 1981 until it was revived in 2002.

Texas Girls Coaches Association executive director Sam Tipton said the game was revitalized thanks in large part to Karen Knight, wife of Texas Tech basketball coach Bob Knight, who was a coach in Oklahoma.

"We decided if we were going to do it, do it first class," Tipton said. "As a result, we wanted the best girls and coaches from each state, and Mike Martin fits that mold — there's no better girls basketball coach in the state than Mike Martin. He's in a class with just a few."

Tipton, who preceded Martin as the Snyder girls basketball coach, said he is elated by the selection of Martin both professionally and personally.

"I'm thrilled because not only is Mike a tremendous coach, he's one of my best friends," Tipton said.

Rosters for the teams will be announced at the press conference at United Spirit Arena in Lubbock at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Three girls from West Texas are on the roster, which includes players from all classifications. They are Darchelle Griffin from Class 2A Seagraves, Sarah Benham from Class 3A Muleshoe and Katy Pounds from 2A state champion Shallowater.

"It's an honor anytime you are selected to coach an all-star game, especially this one," Martin said.

District 3-3A Track & Field Meet
April 14th and April 17th, 2004
Event Schedule

Field Events

Wednesday, April 14th

10:00 a.m.	Varsity Boys Discus	JV Boys Long Jump
	Varsity Girls Shot	Varsity Girls Triple Jump
	Varsity Boys High Jump	JV & Varsity Boys Pole Vault
11:00 a.m.	JV Girls Discus	Varsity Boys Long Jump
	JV Boys Shot Put	JV Girls Triple Jump
	JV Boys High Jump	JV & Varsity Girls Pole Vault

Running Prelims

Wednesday, April 14th

1:00 p.m.	3200 Meter Run	JV Girls (*Final Event*)
1:15 p.m.	3200 Meter Run	Varsity Girls (*Final Event*)
1:30 p.m.	3200 Meter Run	JV Boys (*Final Event*)
1:45 p.m.	3200 Meter Run	Varsity Boys (*Final Event*)

Rolling Schedule

2:00 p.m.	100 Meter Low Hurdles	JV Girls then Varsity Girls
	110 Meter High Hurdles	JV Boys then Varsity Boys
	100 Meter Dash	JV Girls then Varsity Girls
	100 Meter Dash	JV Boys then Varsity Boys
	400 Meter Dash	JV Girls then Varsity Girls
	400 Meter Dash	JV Boys then Varsity Boys
	300 Meter Low Hurdles	JV Girls then Varsity Girls
	300 Meter Int. Hurdles	JV Boys then Varsity Boys
	200 Meter Dash	JV Girls then Varsity Girls
	200 Meter Dash	JV Boys then Varsity Boys

WTC swept at Midland

Western Texas College will have to enter the conference tournament the hard way.

Needing to win five of their last six games to get an automatic berth in the WJCAC playoffs, the Westerners were swept aside by Midland College Monday, getting outscored 21-1 in the two run-rule shortened games.

Josh Heiney was credited with the only RBI on the day, drawing a bases-loaded walk to score Derek David in the first inning of a 13-1, five-inning loss in the first game.

Tyler Trout was tagged for the loss in the opener, allowing five runs on six hits and four walks in three innings.

Garrett Graham was shelled in one inning of work, giving up six hits and eight runs — six unearned — in the fourth.

Midland beat the Westerners, 8-0, in a seven-inning run-rule game.

WTC (12-34, 6-22) managed just six hits in the nightcap.

Troy Krugar was charged with the loss, giving up three runs on three hits and a pair of free passes in three innings.

The Westerns close out the regular season with a four-game series this weekend, beginning with a doubleheader at noon on Friday at the WTC Complex.

JV Tigers pound Mustangs, 16-6

The Snyder junior varsity baseball team topped Sweetwater, 16-6, Tuesday.

Chris Smith pitched the full seven innings for the win.

"The team, overall, swung the bats well, and we had some timely hitting with runners in scoring position," coach Brock Rumfield said.

The team will have a rematch with Sweetwater Saturday when it hosts a noon doubleheader in Snyder.

WTC men win Borger rodeo

Texas College men's team won the Frank Phillips rodeo over the weekend, but did not earn enough points to climb out of fourth place in the region.

"The men need to keep plugging away and make up some ground," coach Greg Rhodes said. "We've got some individuals sitting good in region."

Tate Stratton fourth-place ride in the short round to give him second in the average for the rodeo, while Clay Bunney finished fourth in the average after a sixth-place ride in the championship round.

The women's team tightened its grip on second place with a second-place showing at Borger.

Sabrina Lay won both the short go and the average in barrel racing to maintain her lead in the Southwest Region, while Jamee Roach won the final go in breakaway roping with a time of 2.7 seconds, giving her second in average for the rodeo.

"Both teams looked good," Rhodes said. "The women got a little distance and have a good chance of taking second in the region. We just have to finish out the schedule the way we performed in this rodeo."

The men's team trails West Texas A&M, Tarleton State and Texas Tech in the standings, while the women trail TSU.

The teams have two rodeos left on the schedule, beginning Thursday with a trip to Big Spring for the Howard College Rodeo.

WTC will close out the rodeo schedule with a trip to Stephenville April 22-24 for the TSU Rodeo.

Patrick Cumbie fires no-hitter

Howard Payne senior and 1997 Snyder graduate Patrick Cumbie threw the second no-hitter in school history last Thursday, topping Concordia, 1-0.

Cumbie, brother of Texas Tech quarterback Sonny Cumbie, walked four and struck out three in the nine-inning tilt. He lettered in baseball at Snyder, receiving all-district selection his sophomore and junior seasons.

Patrick is the son Bobby and Gwen Cumbie of Snyder.

Major League Baseball

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Florida	5	1	.833	—
New York	4	3	.571	1½
Atlanta	3	4	.429	2½
Montreal	2	4	.333	3
Philadelphia	1	6	.143	4½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	5	2	.714	—
Houston	4	3	.571	1
Pittsburgh	4	3	.571	1
Milwaukee	4	4	.500	1½
St. Louis	4	4	.500	1½
Chicago	3	4	.429	2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	4	2	.667	—
San Francisco	4	3	.571	½
San Diego	3	3	.500	1
Colorado	3	4	.429	1½
Arizona	2	5	.286	2½

Monday's Games

Cincinnati 4, Philadelphia 1
N.Y. Mets 10, Atlanta 6
Pittsburgh 13, Chicago Cubs 2
Colorado 7, Arizona 4
San Francisco 7, Milwaukee 5
Houston 10, St. Louis 5

Today's Games

Florida (Penny 0-1) vs. Montreal (Vargas 1-0) at San Juan, 6:05 p.m.
Houston (Clemens 1-0) at St. Louis (Suppan 0-1), 7:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Capuano 1-0) at San Francisco (Hermanson 0-0), 8:05 p.m.
Los Angeles (Weaver 0-0) at San Diego (Eaton 0-0), 9:05 p.m.

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	4	3	.571	—
Tampa Bay	4	3	.571	—
New York	4	4	.500	½
Baltimore	3	4	.429	1
Toronto	1	5	.167	2½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	5	1	.833	—
Kansas City	4	2	.667	1
Chicago	3	3	.500	2
Minnesota	3	4	.429	2½
Cleveland	3	5	.375	3

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	4	2	.667	—
Anaheim	4	3	.571	½
Texas	4	3	.571	½
Seattle	1	5	.167	3

Monday's Games

Cleveland 6, Minnesota 3
Texas 7, Anaheim 6

Tuesday's Games

Kansas City (May 0-1) at Chicago White Sox (Loaiza 1-0), 1:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Ainsworth 0-1) at Boston (Lowe 1-0), 6:05 p.m.
Toronto (Hentgen 0-1) at Detroit (Bonderman 1-0), 6:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Abbott 0-1) at N.Y. Yankees (K.Brown 2-0), 6:05 p.m.
Oakland (Zito 0-1) at Texas (Callaway 0-0), 7:05 p.m.
Seattle (Pineiro 0-1) at Anaheim (Escobar 0-0), 9:05 p.m.

Area Sports Calendar

TODAY

Baseball: SHS varsity at Lamesa, 4:30 p.m.
Golf: SHS boys at Denver City, district final round
Softball: SHS varsity at Merkel, 5 p.m.
SHS JV at Merkel, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Golf: SHS girls at Seminole, district final round
Track: District meet, Snyder

THURSDAY

Baseball: WTC at Lubbock Christian, 1 p.m.
Rodeo: WTC at Howard College Rodeo

FRIDAY

Baseball: SHS varsity at Denver City, 7 p.m.
WTC vs. Midland JC, DH, noon
Softball: SHS varsity vs. Denver City, 5 p.m.
SHS JV vs. Denver City, 7 p.m.
Rodeo: WTC at Howard College Rodeo

SATURDAY

Softball: WTC vs. Clarenson, DH, 2 p.m.
Baseball: WTC vs. Midland JC, DH, noon
SHS JV vs. Sweetwater, DH, noon
Track: District meet, Snyder
Rodeo: WTC at Howard College Rodeo

Sports Briefs

Late sign-ups, tryouts for Babe Ruth

Late sign-ups and tryouts for Babe Ruth baseball (13-15 years) will be held at 6 p.m. today at Lewis Field. Contact Dewayne Murdock at 573-2207 or Ray Conner at 573-1366 for more information.

Friday swingers

The SCGA will host a couples play day at 5:30 p.m. each Friday. Format is handicap scramble, and the cost is $10. Call the pro shop at 573-7101 for more information.

Gateway Golf Classic

The third annual Gateway Golf Classic will be held Saturday at Sammy Baugh Golf Course at WTC. Format is four-person scramble, and cost is $240 per team. Shotgun starts are set for 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. All proceeds benefit Gateway Family Services. Call 573-4351 for more information.

Baseball Buddies make-up

Due to cold weather, the final Baseball Buddies session was postponed last Saturday and will be held from 11 a.m. until noon Saturday.

Bonds ties Mays on HR list

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Barry Bonds hit his 660th home run to tie his godfather Willie Mays for third on baseball's career list.

EVERY TUESDAY
5:00 p.m. until Closing
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SONIC America's Drive-In
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Great Food at A Great Price
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only $15 (tax included)
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KATZ CLUB
1607 25th Street
OPENING THURSDAY, APRIL 15th
5:00 pm
Beat the Tax Day Blues
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Trial to begin in alleged border baby-selling ring

LAREDO (AP) — The first case against a woman accused of smuggling pregnant women over the Mexican border in an alleged border baby-selling ring was set to begin with jury selection today.

Maria Dolores Bondoc, 54, has been indicted on three state counts of sale and purchase of a child, two counts of unlawful transport and three counts of giving pregnant women a dangerous drug to induce labor.

There will be separate trials for each of at least three alleged victims.

Assistant District Attorney Roberto Balli said Monday that jury selection could conclude by this morning and the trial could begin this afternoon.

He said prosecutors were working with eight women who felt they had fallen prey to an advertisement in "Fama," a tabloid popular among Mexican and Central American teens.

The ad showed a despondent woman and proclaimed in Spanish, "Are you pregnant?" and "Give the opportunity to loving parents who want to adopt!" It promised medical assistance and housing and gave a toll-free telephone number that connected to Bondoc's branch of the AAA-Alamo adoption agency.

The San Antonio-based agency has several offices around the state.

The agency has not been charged with any part in the alleged scheme, but Balli said the investigation is ongoing.

About a month before Bondoc's Sept. 17, 2002, arrest, several women called the Mexican consulate for help from the hospital, where they had just given birth.

Daniel Hernandez Josef, the Mexican counsul in Laredo, said that they found something that seemed irregular and pointed it out to authorities.

"It's not only that you advertise in a type of magazine that reaches a certain profile of teenager — uninformed with very little schooling, it's that you place an ad that caters to their sense of despair. ... They have options in Mexico, including adoption."

Several of the women told investigators they were brought across the Rio Grande on inner tubes, one at eight months pregnant, and kept secretly in residences until their babies were due.

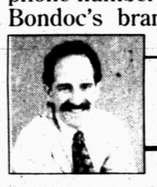
Balli says some of the women were given misoprostol, a controlled substance, to bring labor sooner.

Five homes allegedly controlled by Bondoc were raided on Sept. 17, 2002, including the homes of her two daughters. Federal agents found two illegal immigrants in Bondoc's home and one illegal immigrant in the home of her daughter, 34-year-old Alda Mae Nishiyama.

Defense attorney David Almaraz said Monday he had just learned of the prosecution's decision to try the cases one at a time and was baffled by the decision.

He said he intended to question the women about their intentions in crossing the border. Many Mexican women cross the border illegally to give birth, so that their children will be eligible for U.S. services.

"No baby was smuggled, no baby was sold. This is an adoption case plain and simple, whether or not the woman comes across and at the last moment and changes her mind." he said. "Where was the crime? Where was the benefit to anyone? I do plan to bring up the fact that these women had the baby free of charge and now have U.S.-born children and can ask now for special allowances."



On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

What (and what not) to eat before donating blood

DEAR DR. BLONZ: Please give me some information about nutrition before and after donating blood. I just moved and there is a branch of the Red Cross nearby. I have always been curious about giving blood and am thinking of starting there, but wanted to know if there is anything special I should be doing to make things go easier. **— C.D., Oakland, Calif.**

DEAR C.D.: First, I want to express my encouragement as you begin this generous activity. I consider donating blood to be public participation of the highest order. It is a way that you can literally give of yourself in a way that has the power to save lives. You can do it many times over the course of a year, and the process only takes about an hour and doesn't cost a penny, but provides a priceless gift. Anyone who is able should make the effort to donate blood whenever they can.

Basic eligibility requirements are that donors have to be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in generally good health. You can find more specific information online at www.givelife.org, or by visiting your local blood bank.

As for your question, the loss of a small amount of whole blood does not have a significant effect on the human body. There is a reserve of blood cells, and they get pulled into action when needed; red blood cells have a relatively short lifespan, so the body is constantly making new ones to replace the old. Get a good night's sleep and have a good meal prior to donating, avoiding overly fatty foods as they can interfere with tests that need to be performed on the blood. Have water or a similar beverage before and after your donation to help your body maintain blood volume. Snack on raisins or another iron-rich food to help the body make new blood cells. Other than that, just go for it; I donate whenever I can, and there is nothing like it to make you feel good about yourself.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I am confused. During the past year you have strongly advised against the consumption of any partially hydrogenated oils because of the trans fatty acids that result. You persuaded me, and so now I look at all nutrition labels for this harmful process of hydrogenation and do not buy if it is present.

However, the source of my confusion is a margarine made with partially hydrogenated oil that proudly proclaims that it contains zero grams of trans fatty acids per serving. I checked with the company and they faltered in their explanation. What is going on here? **— J.T., San Diego, Calif.**

DEAR J.T.: I am thrilled that the topic of trans fatty acids is on people's minds, and thus less likely to be on their plates! It has taken awhile. I first mentioned the topic in October 1990, in a column titled "Spreading the word on hydrogenated fats: Shortening and margarine headed for a meltdown." Who would have guessed that it would take so long for people to catch on?

The issue here is that partial hydrogenation is the process by which trans fats can be formed, but not all partially hydrogenated fats are trans fats. It is a controlled process, and manufacturers determine what kind of fat to make. Trans fats are not present in the vegetable oil base product, and they are not present in a fully hydrogenated (saturated) fat, either. Where a manufacturer stops in the partial-hydrogenation process determines how many of the trans fats get formed.

The food industry is rapidly reformulating their products so that they will not have much to say when the labels list trans fats per serving. The current law states that if you have less than 0.5 grams of trans fats per serving, you can claim that your product is trans-fat free. Such must be the case with your margarine. Another food that is trans-fat free is blended peanut butter. Small amounts of partially hydrogenated fat are used to keep the oil from separating, but when a number of brands were analyzed recently by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), there were nondetectable levels of trans fats per serving. Good to know, and even more reason why these labels are long overdue.

CLARIFICATION: In a recent column, I provided a toll-free hotline for poisoning emergencies (800-222-1222). The number was correct, and while it is promoted by the nonprofit Council on Family Health, the organization that actually provides this lifesaving public service is the American Association of Poison Control Centers (www.aapcc.org).

Send questions to: "On Nutrition," Ed Blonz, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. For e-mail, address inquiries to: ed@blonz.com. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Ed Blonz, Ph.D., is a nutrition scientist and the author of "Power Nutrition" (Signet, 1998) and the "Your Personal Nutritionist" book series (Signet, 1996).

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Sodi to appear in ads

HERSHEY, Pa. (AP) — Latin singing star Thalia Sodi will appear in a Spanish-language print and television advertising campaign for Hershey Foods Corp.

The nation's largest candy maker also plans to introduce a line of chocolate products featuring her name and designed to "appeal to Hispanic tastes."

Those candies will feature Hershey brands with "chili"-based flavors and "dulce de leche" fillings, among other flavor variations, the company said in its announcement Monday.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	13.18	12.71	12.71	— 19
AT&T Corp	19.15	18.90	19.05	— 05
Albertsons	22.49	22.16	22.28	— 21
Alltel	50.40	50.02	50.16	+ 14
AmEl Pw	31.24	30.29	30.64	— 64
AndarkPtr	54.48	53.84	54.37	+ 38
ATMOS Egy	25.48	25.08	25.12	— 35
Aviall	15.97	15.75	15.76	— 09
BP PLC	54.09	53.90	53.95	+ 15
BakerHughes	36.99	36.34	36.69	— 11
Bank of Amer	81.99	81.21	81.60	— 37
BellSouth	26.95	26.70	26.90	+ 20
BurlNoSFe	32.30	32.00	32.11	+ 13
Caterpillar	84.15	82.92	82.99	— 76
CenterPoint	11.32	10.96	10.99	— 28
ChevronTex	92.10	91.50	92.08	+ 61
Citigroup	52.11	51.55	51.72	— 34
CocaCola	50.99	50.79	50.87	+ 02
ColgatePal	54.27	53.92	54.10	+ 12
CmclMetals	31.88	30.68	30.81	— 94
ConocoPhill	73.07	72.28	72.40	+ 04
Cooper Inds	58.45	57.85	58.01	— 23
DaimlrChry	40.80	40.50	40.74	— 64
DeltaAirLines	8.00	7.80	7.81	— 08
Dillards Inc	17.65	17.26	17.43	— 08
DowChem	41.72	41.03	41.06	— 34
DuPont	44.38	43.83	43.96	— 10
EastmanChem	43.85	43.27	43.34	— 19
EstKodak	25.44	25.16	25.20	— 24
EDS Corp	20.49	20.07	20.22	+ 12
Entergy	56.96	55.43	56.17	— 81
ExxonMobil	43.44	43.20	43.25	+ 14
FootLocker	27.59	26.20	26.94	+ 1.57
GenDynam	93.88	93.52	93.60	+ 17
GenElec	31.74	31.26	31.30	— 32
GenMills	46.51	46.12	46.23	— 03
GenMotors	47.18	46.07	46.54	— 23
GaPacific	35.13	34.16	35.11	+ 68
Goodrich	29.43	29.00	29.41	+ 41
Goodyear	9.29	9.00	9.00	— 04
GtAtlPac	8.20	7.85	7.98	— 14
Halliburtn	30.63	30.10	30.19	— 31
Hanson PLC	39.75	39.64	39.72	+ 07
HarteHanks	23.75	23.26	23.33	— 27
HomeDepot	36.52	36.00	36.12	— 34
HoneywellIntl	35.20	34.95	35.01	
IBM	94.04	92.99	93.06	— 68
IntlPaper	42.55	42.20	42.26	— 12
JohnsonJn	52.10	51.50	51.67	+ 47
KinderMorg	62.87	62.19	62.19	— 56
Kroger Co	17.30	17.20	17.25	— 03
LockheedM	47.42	47.03	47.20	+ 29
Lowes Cos	54.28	53.05	53.23	— 58
Lubys	5.95	5.69	5.73	— 04
LucentTech	4.44	4.34	4.35	— 06
MarathonOil	34.50	34.03	34.22	+ 17
MayDeptStr	34.35	33.59	34.16	+ 08
Medtronic	49.67	49.40	49.59	+ 06
Motorola	18.06	17.75	17.85	— 15
NCR Corp	47.24	46.70	46.81	+ 07
Navistar	49.25	48.28	48.32	— 82
PNM Rescs	29.97	29.05	29.30	— 40
Penney JC	35.09	34.60	34.92	+ 09
PepBoys	27.75	26.54	26.72	— 48
PepsiCo	55.20	54.80	55.04	+ 03
PhelpDodge	78.50	76.41	76.65	— 1.93
PilgrimsPride	22.00	21.75	21.97	+ 14
Praxair s	38.59	38.23	38.24	— 30
ProctGamb	107.39	106.90	106.90	— 22
RadioShack	31.60	31.09	31.31	— 04
RoyalDut	49.03	48.81	48.86	— 21
SBC Comm	24.71	24.51	24.55	+ 08
SaraLee	22.09	21.98	22.03	— 04
Scripps EW	104.40	103.86	103.99	+ 19
SearsRoeb	43.73	42.23	42.59	+ 09
SherwinW	38.90	37.75	37.94	+ 48
SouthernCo	29.40	28.89	29.04	— 36
SwstAirl	15.10	15.01	15.06	+ 03
SprintFON	19.62	19.43	19.45	+ 03
SprintPCS	9.83	9.70	9.73	— 02
Sunoco Inc	64.89	63.79	64.44	+ 1.16
TXU Corp	28.24	27.54	27.63	— 63
TempleInland	64.10	63.11	63.18	— 24
TexInd	38.40	38.12	38.12	— 22
TexasInst	29.50	29.09	29.23	— 24
Textron	53.81	53.34	53.45	+ 02
TimeWarner	17.36	17.00	17.06	— 31
TrinityInds	27.70	27.58	27.63	+ 09
TylerTech	9.64	9.48	9.54	— 10
UnionPacf	57.50	56.91	57.02	— 04
USSteel	39.70	38.71	38.74	— 95
UnitedTech	89.72	88.82	88.90	— 29
Unocal	37.84	37.52	37.78	+ 18
VerizonComm	37.94	37.30	37.44	— 13
WalMart	57.60	56.69	57.08	— 26
WellsFargo	56.91	56.38	56.47	— 56
WstnGasRs	52.17	51.51	51.69	— 22
WinnDixie	8.05	7.73	7.79	— 26
Xerox Cp	14.89	14.64	14.65	— 20
YumBrands	39.45	38.81	38.84	— 28

APR 13 2004

Congressional, RR Commission races in runoff

AUSTIN (AP) — Big-spending Republican candidates for Congress and the Texas Railroad Commission are dominating the spotlight in today's primary runoff election.

But voter turnout statewide may be light, as it has been in past primary runoffs, and likely will be affected by local races.

"Just as we saw in the primary, voter turnout is likely to be driven by many of these local level, highly contested elections," said Jennifer Waisath, spokeswoman for Texas Secretary of State Geoff Connor.

The Secretary of State's Office would not give an estimate of how many Texans are expected to vote in today's runoff.

In Harris County, the state's largest, 3,428 Republicans and 1,696 Democrats cast ballots in person during early voting for the runoff. That compares with 17,150 Republicans and 18,232 Democrats voting early before the March 9 primary, county officials said.

In the county as a whole, less than 2 percent of registered voters were expected to cast ballots in the election, said David Beirne, spokesman for Harris County Clerk Beverly Kaufman. There was only one local Democratic runoff race, for constable.

But in Congressional District 10 — where a heated Republican primary is being decided — the early voting turnout has been comparable to that seen before the March 9 primary, he said.

Five GOP congressional primaries will be decided today. The race for District 10, stretching from Houston to Austin, has become one of the most expensive U.S. House races this year with nearly $5 million spent.

The winner — either mortgage banker Ben Streusand or attorney Michael McCaul — will take office in January. No Democrats entered the race.

In the highest-level statewide runoff, Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Victor Carrillo has spent heavily in his attempt to defeat challenger Robert Butler, a retired state employee. The winner faces Democrat Bob Scarborough in November.

Carrillo, named to the commission last year by Republican Gov. Rick Perry, has spent $1.2 million, compared with about $5,800 by Butler, according to campaign finance reports. Carrillo almost won the primary outright. He got 49.6 percent of the vote in the four-person race, just short of the 50 percent needed to win the nomination without a runoff.

Republican congressional runoff races are being held between state Rep. Arlene Wohlgemuth and former school board member Dot Snyder in District 17 in the Waco area; Louie Gohmert and John Graves in District 1 in East Texas; Alexander Hamilton and Michael Thamm in District 15, running from Central Texas to the U.S.-Mexico border; and Francisco "Quico" Canseco and James "Jim" F. Hopson in District 28, spanning from San Antonio to Laredo.

All those GOP winners will next face a Democrat.

In legislative races, two Democrats face threats from within their own party. Rep. Roberto Gutierrez faces Veronica Gonzales in McAllen; Rep. Gabi Canales faces Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles in Alice. The winners will meet Republicans in November.

Voters who participated in the Democratic or Republican primaries can vote in the runoff in their respective party primaries. Registered voters who did not cast a ballot in the March primary may vote in either runoff today.

Doctors try to unlock mysteries of autism

WASHINGTON (AP) — Only Michael Berman's small thumbs move inside the giant MRI machine, pushing buttons in a video game-like test as the scanner measures how the youngster's brain processes light and motion.

At 6, he's one of the youngest children to undergo such advanced scanning as part of a new effort to discover what goes wrong inside brains affected by autism.

It's work that might lead to much earlier diagnosis of the mysterious neurological disorder. It usually goes undetected until age 3 or later, when much of the damage to the developing brain is thought already to have been done.

"The feeling is if you intervene early, it'll be more effective," explains Dr. Thomas Zeffiro of Georgetown University Medical Center, who is researching technology that he hopes will go a step further and one day scan preschoolers' or even infants' brains.

"It's very controversial if there is a critical period" for thwarting autism, he cautions. "If there is, there could be a dramatic change in the way we approach kids with developmental disorders."

Autism is a complex brain disorder, most common in boys, best known for interfering with a child's ability to communicate and interact with others. Symptoms range from the mild, like Michael, to so severe that children can't speak and appear profoundly retarded.

No one knows the cause and there is no cure, although intense behavioral training can improve some patients' symptoms significantly.

As part of the new research, scientists at Georgetown and Children's National Medical Center are matching youngsters' behavior and cognitive skills with advanced imaging, called functional MRI, that tracks changes in blood flow to show how their brains fire when they do tasks.

Most previous studies have focused on autism's hallmark emotional and communication problems. Lead researcher Dr. William Gaillard of Children's National says these children's brains are being scanned to track the disorder's myriad other symptoms: sensory problems, motor control, problems with planning and reasoning.

So far, only "high-functioning" autism patients can undergo such detailed testing because of the cooperation required. Michael, for instance, has Asperger syndrome — excellent language skills and the ability to read at 2, but he has social-interaction and other problems.

The scientists are attempting to perform functional MRI on children younger than ever before, to the delight of Michael, who intently quizzes them on the different sounds the noisy scanner makes as it focuses on different brain regions.

"Ooh, that one sounds kind of like an electric saw," Michael says. "Do this other one, it's the fastest, right?"

After just a day's testing, "he knows all the pulse-sequence names," marvels Zeffiro.

The taxpayer-funded MRI work is part of a bigger collaboration:

—Scientists at Baltimore's Kennedy Krieger Institute are hunting ways to detect autism as early as age 6 months through behavioral clues, such as how babies look at their parents' faces and follow their gaze, how they manipulate toys, how they respond to language.

—Other Kennedy Krieger scientists are studying animals to see if autism is related to abnormal levels of the brain chemical serotonin, found in some patients.

—And Zeffiro is comparing the MRI images to easier-to-use technology that beams harmless infrared light through fiber-optic cables strapped on the head. Financed by an autism family group, the Nancy Lurie Marks Foundation, the idea holds out hope that "optical tomography" could provide a way to examine the brains of autistic toddlers or older but nonverbal patients who don't qualify for MRI.

It's all part of an increased national focus on autism spurred by families angered that the disorder has long been sparsely funded despite studies suggesting a 10-fold rise in cases in a decade. Most of the rise is thought to be better diagnosis, but autism's cause is unknown.

As a result, the National Institutes of Health last year began a five-year, $65 million project, designating eight centers around the country to focus on cutting-edge autism research.

"We're trying to sift through what is the first sign of autism and how does it unfold," explains Dr. Rebecca Landa, who heads the NIH-designated Kennedy Krieger autism center and its Children's-Georgetown collaboration.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Waitress who is harassed can use this tip to stop it

DEAR ABBY: I am writing regarding the letter from "Grossed Out in Florida," the 18-year-old waitress who is subject to lewd remarks and repeatedly asked out by much older men at her workplace. Please urge her to inform her supervisors that she's being sexually harassed, because her employer has a responsibility to stop the harassment. If possible, she should put her concerns in writing and keep a copy of the letter. If management refuses to address her concerns, she should contact an attorney or legal organization for more information about her rights.

Young women and girls in the hospitality industries are often targets of sexual harassment that is believed to be "just part of the job." These situations may escalate into stalking and other forms of violence. Being "friendly," "polite," and telling a harasser that he reminds you of "someone very special" — even if it is her grandfather — is NOT a way to stop sexual harassment in the workplace.

Please encourage your readers to identify sexual harassment and to understand that they have legal rights. Equal Rights Advocates (ERA) provides free legal advice and information about gender discrimination concerns in employment and education, including sexual harassment, pregnancy discrimination, family medical leave, pay equity and retaliation for complaining about these issues. ERA's Legal Advice and Counseling Hotline can be reached at (800) 839-4372. — **IRMA D. HERRERA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SAN FRANCISCO**

DEAR IRMA: Thank you for sharing this important resource. I predict your hotline will be inundated. And I apologize for making light of the problem. Sexual harassment isn't a laughing matter, especially to the target. Readers, ERA also has a Web site: www.equalrights.org. **Read on:**

DEAR ABBY: "Grossed Out in Florida" asked where older men "get the idea" they can date much younger women. For the answer to that question one need only look at the nearest movie theater marquee:

Harrison Ford (61) with Michelle Pfeiffer (45), Kristin Scott Thomas (43) or Anne Heche (34) — a 16- to 27-year age gap.

Michael Douglas (59) with Famke Janssen (38), Frances McDormand (46) or Gwyneth Paltrow (31) — a 13- to 28-year age gap.

Steve Martin (58) with Bonnie Hunt (39), Jean Smart (44) or Helena Bonham Carter (37) — a 14- to 21-year age gap.

All of these relationships are presented as perfectly normal. Also, consider the fuss that was made about Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton in "Something's Gotta Give." How NICE it was to see contemporaries as a love interest! In reality, Diane is nine years younger than Jack. It's no wonder these men think that young girls will be interested because, hey, if it can happen in the movies, it can happen in real life, right? — **REALITY CHECKER, GURNEE, ILL.**

DEAR REALITY CHECKER: Not only can it happen in real life — it has: Humphrey Bogart married Lauren Bacall, Michael Douglas married Catherine Zeta-Jones, Warren Beatty married Annette Bening, Kevin Costner just married Christine Baumgartner, Harrison Ford is dating Calista Flockhart. And the reverse can be true: Let's not forget Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher!

**

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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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Losing consciousnesss after eating

DEAR DR. GOTT: My husband is 70 and has a problem that has our doctor baffled. Sometimes my husband loses consciousness after eating. His face becomes flushed, he perspires heavily, his nose and throat tighten up, his blood pressure drops for about 20 minutes, and sometimes a red streak appears on his arm.

One time when the paramedics were called they found a rapid and irregular heartbeat.

The reaction doesn't appear to be related to an allergy, so what is causing the reaction?

DEAR READER: Your husband's problem is truly a medical challenge.

The first thing I'd want to check is his heart. In rare instances, patients with heart disorders will suddenly develop abnormal heartbeats after eating. The reason for this is not known, but may be related to a full stomach, gastric emptying, or the fact that the act of digestion draws blood to the stomach and intestine — away from the heart. In any case, when the pulse rate goes awry, fainting and low blood pressure can result. Consequently, I urge your husband to have a Holter monitor (or a related test called an event monitor) to measure and record his heart rate, literally from second to second.

If, during one of his attacks, the monitor shows a normal pulse, you will have to turn toward a possible allergy. An allergic reaction releases histamine in the body, which may lead to all the symptoms you describe.

I suggest that the second step should be an allergist, who will obtain a battery of blood tests to identify the offending edible. Then your husband can either avoid the food or be desensitized to it. For instance, the syndrome affecting your spouse is similar to the one caused by monosodium glutamate (MSG), a food additive and flavor-enhancer. MSG is often added to processed foods and is a staple in Asian cuisine. Unfortunately, many people are highly allergic to it and can have very unpleasant reactions if they inadvertently consume it.

Because your husband's reaction is potentially life-threatening, I urge you to begin the heart testing without delay and then progress in an appropriate direction as the testing is completed.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am searching for a home remedy for the brown age spots on my face and hands.

DEAR READER: Good luck. If you discover a remedy, let me know. But, to my knowledge, there is no effective cure for this age-related, sunshine-induced reminder that we are truly aging and obeyed our mothers years ago when they said, "It's a beautiful sunny day. Go outside and play."

If readers would like to contact Dr. Gott, they may write him through your newspaper or send their mail directly to Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th fl., New York, NY 10016.

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Ephedra ban takes effect nationwide

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Barbara J. Michal's son died in 1997, one of dozens of people whose deaths are linked to the once-popular diet drug ephedra.

So she praised a federal judge's decision Monday to allow a nationwide ban on dietary supplements containing ephedra to take effect. The ruling turned aside a plea from two manufacturers.

"It's got to stop," said Michal, of Riverside, Calif. "This is not about public health and science. It's about politics and money."

U.S. District Judge Joel Pisano refused to grant a temporary restraining order that would have prevented the Food and Drug Administration from banning the products.

Ephedra, once hugely popular for weight loss and bodybuilding, has been linked to 155 deaths, including that of Baltimore Orioles pitcher Steve Bechler a year ago.

After years of fighting manufacturers over the risks, the FDA announced in December that it was banning the sale of the amphetamine-like herb — the first such ban of a dietary supplement.

"These products pose unacceptable health risks, and any consumers who are still using them should stop immediately," Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson said.

NVE Pharmaceuticals of Newton, manufacturer of the diet supplement Stacker 2, had hoped to head off the ban, arguing its product is safe if used as directed. It was joined by a second company, the National Institute for Clinical Weight Loss, manufacturer of a product called Thermalean.

The judge said the manufacturers did not meet several legal requirements, including proving that they are likely to win the case and that they would suffer irreparable harm if the ban took effect.

Pisano's ruling means the ban will be in effect at least until NVE's lawsuit can be heard. No trial date has been set.

The ban does not affect decongestants and other medicines containing ephedrine, a synthetic version of ephedra. Drugs containing ephedrine and a chemical cousin called pseudoephedrine are regulated and approved by the FDA and are safe, said agency spokesman Lawrence Bachorik.

Ephedra sales already had plummeted because of publicity about the risks, especially after Bechler's death a year ago. Three states — New York, Illinois and California — prohibited the stimulant on their own.

"Ephedra has killed more than 100 individuals and injured thousands of others," said Bruce Silverglade, legal director of the Washington-based Center for Science in the Public Interest. "The only problem is, it took the FDA almost 10 years to ban the substance."

REACH FOR THE STARS — Two Central classes recently presented *Reach For The Stars*. Sheila Sorrells is the music teacher. Kathay Spoor's students (top photo) are front row from left, Vivi Facundo, Nikki Hicks, Christian Perez, Aubrie Norwood, Chrystle Simmons; middle row, Aaron Tate, Daphney Torres, Sallie Dill, Briana Medrano, Alexis Bernal, Jessica Goodger and Katlin Hestand; back row, Manuel Medrano, Fabian Gutierrez, Patrick Luera, Connor Tollison, Adam Cabrera, Michael Grebba, Blaine Proctor, Ramiro Medrano and Nathan Burney. Edilyn Smith's students (bottom photo) are back row from left Jaysen Butler, Julian Sanchez, Matthew Guzman, Jonathon Torres, Abraham Gonzales, Tanner Cooley and Kelly Jones; middle row, T.'shara Young, Alexzandra Luevano, Hayley Taylor, Ashten Wilkinson, Valerie Rodriguez, Rachel Turner, Mekayla Duzan and Avery Wirsching; front row, Tito Rodriguez, Martin Torres, Chevy Wagner, Gavian Hernandez. (Staff Photos by Shirley A. Gorman)

Fresno slayings trial set

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — A judge ruled Monday that there is enough evidence to try a man accused of killing nine of his children, although defense lawyers suggested the suspect's oldest daughter shot her siblings before killing herself and leaving the bodies in a bloody pile.

Marcus Wesson, 57, has pleaded innocent to charges he murdered his 25-year-old daughter and eight of his other children ranging in age from 1 to 17. Wesson also faces charges of sexual abuse.

Police allege he committed the slayings himself. But during Monday's hearing, Ralph Torres, a lawyer for Wesson, asked a Fresno homicide detective about the "suicide pact" police have alleged Wesson had with his children. As part of the alleged plan, the children would kill each other — oldest to youngest — should authorities ever try to break apart the family.

Police have said Wesson engaged in a lifestyle of incest and polygamy, fathering children with his daughters and nieces.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Wednesday, April 14, 2004

Far more harmonious conditions will prevail in the year ahead than negative ones. Several influences that had proven disruptive to you will be completely eliminated, making room for good things to triumph.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Most of the time it is first necessary to prime the pump in order to generate a flow, and today may be one of those days. If you expect to receive anything, you must first be a giver.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Decisions you reach today will have far-reaching effects on your personal affairs. Fortunately, you are in a cycle where you will most likely make all the right moves.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Although you may not have as much control over important matters today as you would like to in your career, those who will be in charge will be acting in ways that will serve your best interests.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Even if associates should be a shade faster thinking on their feet today than you, you are likely to be the one who will recognize the value of their ideas and be far quicker at acting on them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Unlike others who have a tendency to choke, challenging situations will tend to awaken your ingenuity today. Competition serves to strengthen your resolve rather than weaken it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — There is nothing wrong with attempting endeavors on your own today, but they're apt to be only marginally successful for you. It'll be with partnership arrangements where you're likely to soar.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Overall conditions look rather promising for you today, and even if negative events should occur, they'll do little to disrupt these harmonious influences. Make the most of the good times.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Of course be sensible about the way you handle your affairs today, but don't play things so close to the vest that it causes you to be fearful about taking chances. A calculated risk could pay off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — There should be a considerable amount of material opportunities hovering about you today, and you can do much with little, but don't forget about enlarging a situation that's already underway.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Be positive and hopeful regarding the outcome of events today that would have a favorable effect on your social affairs. You are luckier than usual, and things should turn out quite well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Several good things could come your way today that may be denied others under similar circumstances. Thank your lucky stars and be sure to display the proper gratitude.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Do not be indifferent to the many good things that come your way today because they could affect your self-interests in ways that would bolster your ego. To succeed you must first try.

Aries, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph year ahead predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

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Company in Austin will build wireless hot spots at McDonald's

DALLAS (AP) — McDonald's Corp. has chosen Austin-based Wayport Inc. to provide wireless Internet service in dining rooms and drive-through windows at several thousand of its U.S. restaurants.

Wayport officials called it the biggest single deal yet to create wireless Internet "hot spots," and said the companies would announce the transaction today morning.

They said the familiar golden arches will offer a reliable place for road-weary workers to download e-mail or surf the Internet.

McDonald's has been testing Wi-Fi — a high-speed Internet connection that many computers can share within a confined space — at about 300 restaurants in the San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago and New York areas for the past nine months using Wayport, Toshiba and Cometa Networks Inc.

A McDonald's spokeswoman, Lisa Howard, said the company hopes to outfit 6,000 restaurants — nearly half its U.S. locations — by year end.

"For the mobile worker, it's a great offering that differentiates McDonald's from the rest," Howard said.

McDonald's will charge $2.95 for two hours of connectivity and may continue some of its pilot promotions, such as free connections for buying an "extra value meal."

By offering Wi-Fi, the fast-food giant is following the lead of Starbucks, which offers wireless connectivity in many of its coffee shops. Some analysts see Starbucks as a more natural fit for Wi-Fi.

"A more obvious market is the high-end business traveler who is a captive audience at an airport or at a hotel at night," said Roberta C. Wiggins, an analyst with research firm Yankee Group. "McDonald's isn't like Starbucks, where you can stop for half an hour and cruise the Internet."

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Dale Huff, Minister

Following Christ as we follow Scripture

Following Christ is the Christian life. Jesus told his disciples in Luke 9:23, "If anyone who would come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me." What does that mean? When we see Jesus as he approaches the cross, we can understand what Jesus is talking about. Three times Jesus prays the same thing in the garden of Gethsemane. Matthew 26: 36-46 records these prayers. In this prayer Jesus prays earnestly that if it is possible that the cup in front of him might be taken away. In the setting it is clear that he is talking about the ordeal of the cross. But after making his request, Jesus adds, "Yet not as I will, but as you will." After he prays the same thing three times, he gets up and goes out to meet Judas and those with him.

Jesus knows that the cross is the will of His Father. How does he know? Jesus' words to Peter in Matthew 26:52-54 make it clear. Jesus tells Peter that if he wanted to He could call on His Father to send thousands of angels to rescue Him. Jesus knew His Father would do it. But if he did that, Jesus tells Peter, then the Scriptures would not be fulfilled that said it must happen this way. Jesus went to the cross, not because He wanted to, but because it was the will of his Father. He knew it was the will of the Father because of what Scriptures said.

What does it mean to take up our cross and follow Jesus daily? Jesus shows us what it means. It means that each day we seek to carry out the will of our Heavenly Father by doing what the Word of God tells us to do. Forgiving those who wrong us, loving our enemies and praying for them and loving our neighbor as we love ourselves is not always what we want to do. Often it is the very thing we do not want to do. Taking up our cross daily means yielding to the will of God found in Scripture rather than doing what we want to do. God will help us, if we will yield ourselves to His will.

Dale Huff

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APR 13 2004

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Bush to address Iraq, terrorism tonight

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush will use the first 12 minutes of his prime-time news conference to reassure the nation about rising casualties and instability in Iraq.

"A lot has been happening in Iraq," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said today in previewing what the president will say before taking questions at the 12th news conference of his presidency. "The president wants to give the American people an update on Iraq and talk about the way forward."

This is the third time Bush has used television prime time to hold a news conference. It is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

"The president believes this is a good time to provide the American people with an update," McClellan said, adding that he expects the president also will address the recent violence in Iraq. "This is an opportunity when we can reach many Americans."

White House communications director Dan Bartlett said Monday that the president also is prepared to address questions about a memo, titled "Bin Laden Determined To Strike in U.S.," that he received on Aug. 6, 2001, as part of the President's Daily Brief.

McClellan said the White House was considering letting the CIA analyst who wrote the Aug. 6 memo meet with the commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks.

Both Iraq and the administration's response to the pre-Sept. 11 memo that warned of threats from al-Qaida are crucial to Bush's re-election strategy, which promotes the president's record on national security.

With the Sept. 11 commission hearings and the recent battles in Iraq being broadcast into American homes, this is a good time for Bush to defend his policies, said Stephen Hess, a political analyst at the liberal-leaning Brookings Institution.

"This is an administration that gets in trouble because it doesn't speak up in a timely way and defend itself," Hess said. The news conference is "really quite necessary," he said.

U.S. troops deploy outside of Najaf

NAJAF, Iraq (AP) — A 2,500-strong U.S. force, backed by tanks and artillery, pushed to the outskirts of the Shiite holy city of Najaf today for a showdown with a radical cleric who said he was prepared to die in his battle against the U.S.-led occupation.

An American helicopter went down near Fallujah, and an insurgent said he hit it with a rocket-propelled grenade. There were no reported injuries to the crew, although a team securing the site later suffered unspecified casualties, a Marine commander said.

At least 78 U.S. troops were killed and 561 were wounded in Iraq in the first 12 days of April, said Lt. Gen. Richard Cody, the deputy chief of staff for operations at the Pentagon.

April is becoming the deadliest month since the Iraq war began in March 2003. Since then, at least 674 U.S. troops have died, according to the Pentagon.

Gen. John Abizaid, the top commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, said Monday he has asked Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld to adjust the U.S. troop rotation into and out of Iraq this spring so that U.S. commanders can have the use of perhaps 10,000 more soldiers than they otherwise would have.

On the way to Najaf, the U.S. force's 80-vehicle convoy was ambushed Monday night by gunmen firing small arms and setting of roadside bombs north of the city. One soldier was killed and an American civilian contractor was wounded, officers in the convoy said.

The top U.S. commander in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, said their mission was to "capture or kill" radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

In an interview today with Al Manar, the Hezbollah television station in Lebanon, al-Sadr said he was not in direct negotiations with U.S. forces, and that he continued to demand the Americans withdraw from Najaf.

"I am only afraid of God," he said. "I am ready to sacrifice myself for the Iraqi people."

Units set up a cordon on approaches to the city, barring his al-Mahdi Army militiamen from leaving.

Iraqi leaders launched hurried negotiations aimed at averting a U.S. assault on the city, site of the holiest Shiite site, the Imam Ali Shrine.

The sons of Iraq's three grand ayatollahs met al-Sadr Monday night in his Najaf office and assured him of their opposition to any U.S. strike.

"They agreed not to allow any hostile act against Sayyed Moqtada al-Sadr and the city of Najaf," said a person at the meeting, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The delegation also was reportedly trying to work out a compromise to prevent a U.S. attack.

The grand ayatollahs have long kept the young, fiercely anti-American al-Sadr at arm's length.

Commission report: Ashcroft rejected FBI request for funds

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI failed miserably over several years to reorganize and respond to a steadily growing threat of terrorism, and Attorney General John Ashcroft rejected an agency appeal for more funding on the day before al-Qaida struck, the commission investigating the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks said today.

"On Sept. 11, the FBI was limited in several areas," the commission said in a staff report. It cited "limited intelligence collection and strategic analysis capabilities, a limited capacity to share information both internally and externally, insufficient training, an overly complex legal regime and inadequate resources."

The commission released its unflinchingly critical report — which chairman Thomas Kean described as an "indictment' — at the outset of two days of hearings from several current and former officials at the Justice Department and FBI.

Former FBI Director Louis J. Freeh, the first to take the witness chair, politely and firmly took issue with the findings.

"We had a very effective program with respect to counterterrorism prior to Sept. 11 given the resources that we had," he said, noting that the report found that inadequate resources and legal restrictions were key ingredients in the agency's failings. That seemed a reference to Congress, which approves funding, and former Attorney General Janet Reno, who issued guidelines meant to strengthen American civil liberties protections by keeping the fruits of intelligence separate from criminal prosecution.

Reno was quoted in the report as saying that while the FBI never seemed to have sufficient resources, "Director Freeh seemed unwilling to shift resources to terrorism from other areas such as violent crime." Freeh said he shifted resources to meet specific emergency needs, but congressional limits prevented permanent shifts.

Reno was scheduled to testify later today.

On Sept. 11, 2001, the commission staff said, "about 1,300 agents, or 6 percent of the FBI's total personnel, worked on counterterrorism."

Cofer Black, the former head of CIA counterterrorism center, former acting FBI Director Thomas Pickard and Ashcroft also were on the witness list for the day.

The report said the FBI had an information system that was outdated before it was installed, further hampering efforts to battle terrorism. The report also cited legal impediments underscored by the guidelines Reno issued.

Freeh said they were "completely appropriate with respect to counter-intelligence cases." But counterterrorism cases are different because of the need to "use intelligence to prevent acts from taking place," he said.

Creation of a new Investigative Services Division in 1999 was a failure, the commission said, adding that 66 percent of the FBI's analysts were "not qualified to perform analytical duties."

A new counterterrorism strategy a year later again fell woefully short, and a review in 2001 showed that "almost every FBI field office's counterterrorism program was assessed to be operating at far below 'maximum capacity.'"

"The FBI's counterterrorism strategy was not a focus of the Justice Department in 2001," the first year of the Bush administration, it said.

One arrest for DWI Monday

• ***Arrests***

A 51-year-old male was arrested at 3:55 p.m. Monday on North Ennis Creek Road on charges of misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

• ***Criminal Mischief***

Police took a report of eggs being thrown at a vehicle on CR 466 at 7:34 a.m. Monday.

• ***Theft***

Speakers and an amplifier were reported stolen in the 1100 block of 14th Street at 12:12 p.m. Monday.

A go-cart that had been stolen from Wal-Mart was recovered by police at 10:58 a.m. Monday. A report had been phoned in that juveniles had been riding the cart in the area.

A pack of cigarettes and some pliers were reported stolen from a vehicle at 3:30 p.m. Monday in the 2100 block of 42nd Street.

At 4:09 p.m. Monday, 75 CDs and their case were reported stolen from a vehicle in the 2100 block of 42nd Street.

• ***Loose goats***

Police rounded up several billy goats in the vicinity of Ave. E and 16th Street after a report about the animals was called in at 1:03 a.m. today.

Obituaries

John Derryberry

1932-2004

John Paul "Pod" Derryberry of Snyder died Sunday, April 11, in Snyder.

Graveside service for Mr. Derryberry, 71, is set for 10 a.m. Thursday in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born May 9, 1932 in Loraine, Mr. Derryberry was a retired cowboy, bull rider, rodeo clown, and had worked on ranches throughout West Texas. He was an Army veteran and had served in Korea. Mr. Derryberry had lived in Snyder the past three years, moving from Lubbock where he had lived 15 years. He was a member of the Church of Christ.

His wife, Foy Bilbrey Derryberry, died in 2000.

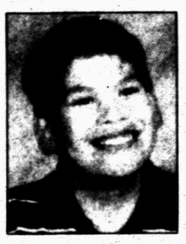
Survivors include two brothers, Larry Don Derryberry and wife, Sherry, of Snyder and Sonny Derryberry of Edgemont, S.D.; four sisters, Bobbie Ray Moore of Midland, Louise Brimmer of Highmore, S.D., Paulette McCollum of California, and Sandra Kimsey of Texarkana, Ark.; and several nieces and nephews.

Roberto Lopez

1991-2004

Roberto R. Lopez, a sixth grader at West Elementary, died at 4:38 a.m. today in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

Rosary for Roberto, 12, is set for 7 p.m. today in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel.



Roberto Lopez

Funeral service is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church with U.S. Army Chaplain Capt. Leo Mora, a family friend, officiating. Assisting will be the Rev. Roy Badillas of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church and the Rev. Rudy Casta, pastor of St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Lamesa. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Born July 8, 1991 in San Angelo with congenital heart disease, he had undergone successful surgery on Dec. 21, 1995 at Children's Medical Center in Dallas. Roberto had an avid interest in computers, video games and movies.

Survivors include his father and mother, Jose L. and Maria Lopez of Snyder; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Maritza and Ubaldo Juarez of Snyder and Ginelda Lopez of Snyder; a brother, Jose Lopez Jr. of Snyder; paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Humberto Candilario of San Angelo; two nieces, Andrea and Adriana Juarez of Snyder and Leo Mora, a brother in faith.

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Wed 4/14	Thu 4/15	Fri 4/16
78/49	**82/55**	**83/58**
Mainly sunny. High 78F. Winds SSW at 15 to 25 mph.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 50s.
Sunrise 7:15 AM, Sunset 8:13 PM	Sunrise 7:14 AM, Sunset 8:14 PM	Sunrise 7:12 AM, Sunset 8:15 PM

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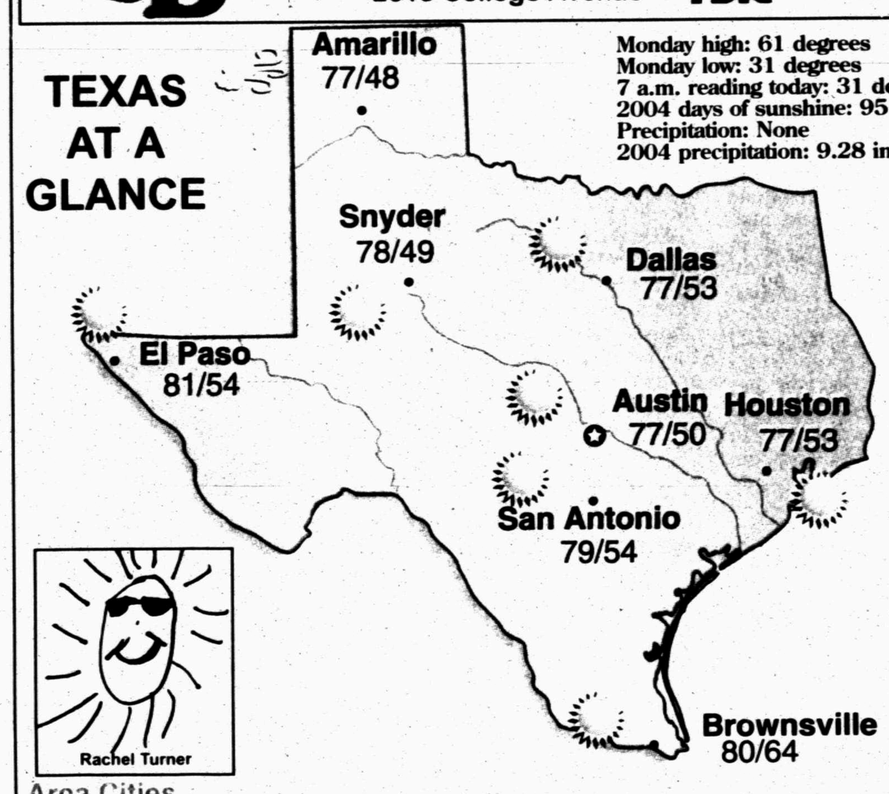
TEXAS AT A GLANCE

Monday high: 61 degrees
Monday low: 31 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 31 degrees
2004 days of sunshine: 95 of 103
Precipitation: None
2004 precipitation: 9.28 inches



Rachel Turner

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	78	51	sunny	El Paso	81	54	sunny	Midland	79	49	windy
Amarillo	77	48	windy	Fort Stockton	80	49	sunny	Raymondville	82	61	sunny
Austin	77	50	sunny	Gainesville	75	50	sunny	Rosenberg	77	52	sunny
Beaumont	73	51	sunny	Greenville	75	50	sunny	San Antonio	79	54	sunny
Brownsville	80	64	sunny	Houston	77	53	sunny	San Marcos	78	50	sunny
Brownwood	81	50	sunny	Kingsville	81	60	sunny	Sulphur Springs	75	48	sunny
Corpus Christi	78	61	sunny	Livingston	77	47	sunny	Sweetwater	79	50	sunny
Corsicana	77	51	sunny	Longview	74	47	sunny	Tyler	76	49	sunny
Dallas	77	53	sunny	Lubbock	78	49	windy	Weatherford	77	50	sunny
Del Rio	79	55	mst sunny	Lufkin	77	48	sunny	Wichita Falls	76	50	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	58	41	mst sunny	Houston	77	53	sunny	Phoenix	91	61	sunny
Boston	61	47	rain	Los Angeles	68	54	pt sunny	San Francisco	59	49	pt sunny
Chicago	59	41	sunny	Miami	73	57	pt sunny	Seattle	56	44	rain
Dallas	77	53	sunny	Minneapolis	70	52	mst sunny	St. Louis	67	44	sunny
Denver	70	44	pt sunny	New York	60	48	in	Washington, DC	64	45	rain

Moon Phases

Last	New	First	Full
Apr 12	Apr 19	Apr 27	May 4

UV Index

Wed 4/14	Thu 4/15	Fri 4/16
High	High	High

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

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