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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

TUESDAY
March 2, 2004
Vol. 55 No. 263
10 Pages 50¢
Home of David Hayes

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Beware of people falling at your feet, they could be reaching for the corner of the rug."

Today is Texas Independence Day, and thanks to Nancy Doyle, first grade teacher at Northeast Elementary, here's some facts about the Lone Star 'nation.'

—Beaumont to El Paso: 742 miles

—Beaumont to Chicago: 770 miles

—World's first rodeo was in Pecos, July 4, 1883.

—The Flagship Hotel in Galveston is the only hotel in North America built over water.

—The Heisman Trophy was named after John William Heisman who was the first full-time coach for Rice University.

—Brazoria County has more species of birds than any other area in North America. Aransas Wildlife Refuge is the winter home of North America's only remaining flock of whooping cranes.

—Jalapeno jelly originated in Lake Jackson in 1978.

—The worst natural disaster in U.S. history was in 1900 caused by a hurricane in which over 8000 lives were lost on Galveston Island.

—The first word spoken from the moon, July 20, 1969, was "Houston."

—El Paso is closer to California than to Dallas.

—Laredo is the world's largest inland port.

—Tyler Municipal Rose Garden is the world's largest rose garden with over 38,000 bushes with 500 varieties on 22 acres.

—The State shell is Lightning Whelk.

—King Ranch is larger than Rhode Island.

—Tropical Storm Claudette brought a U.S. rainfall record of 43 inches in 24 hours in and around Alvin in July 1979.

—Texas is the only state to enter the U.S. by treaty, instead of by annexation. (This allows the Texas flag to fly at the same height as the U.S. flag.)

—A Live Oak tree near Fulton is estimated to be 1,500 years old.

—Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in the state.

—Dr Pepper was invented in Waco in 1885. There is no period after Dr in Dr Pepper.

—Texas has had six capital cities - Washington-on-the-Brazos, Harrisburg, Galveston, Velasco, West Columbia, Austin.

—The Capitol Dome in Austin is the only dome in the U.S. which is taller (by seven feet) than the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

—The name Texas comes from the Hasini Indian word "tejas" meaning friends.

—Tejas is not Mexican for Texas.

—The State animal is the Armadillo. *

—The first domed stadium in the U.S. was the Astrodome in Houston.

*An interesting bit of trivia about the armadillo is they always have four babies. They have one egg which splits into four and they either have four males or four females. Well... we thought it was interesting Texas trivia.

Setback ordinance request tabled

By Wade Warren
SDN Managing Editor

Snyder city council Monday night tabled action on any changes to an ordinance related to the distance a permanent structure can be "set back" from a residence's back property line.

Jerry Webb, who lives in the 4500 block of Galveston Avenue, is planning an addition to his home but found that a city ordinance forbids an addition to a house being any closer than 20 feet from the back property line.

In a letter to City Manager John Gayle, Webb wrote that the city ordinance allows a set back of 10 feet for a storage building or garage, but 20 feet for a building attached to the house.

"I do not understand the reason for the different set-back rules and believe they somewhat conflict with each other," the former councilman wrote.

In addressing the council Monday night, Webb asked the council to change the ordinance's guidelines saying there are a number of instances around the community that the ordinance is not being followed, a point several councilmen agreed on.

Stephanie Ducheneaux made the motion to table the matter, stating there had not been a lot of time to study the proposal.

"This change could affect a lot of people," said Ducheneaux.

The motion also stated that the city's planning and zoning commission look at possible changes to the ordinance.

The council did approve the city's racial profiling report as required by the state.

Police Chief Steve Warren presented the brief report and it was approved with little comment from the council.

Warren did say that the percentage of arrests closely followed the ethic breakdown of the community.

(See chart)

In other action items, the council approved the low bid for a sanitation truck from Shamrock Chevrolet for $108,595, and the bid from Big Country Autoland for a half-ton extended cab pickup for $17,495, and for a three-quarter ton crew cab pickup from Wilson Motors.

The bids from Big Country and Wilson Motors were not the low bids, but did fall within the state-allowed three percent range of the lowest bid.

Also, the council approved a bid of $44,700 to paint the city's water tower on Midland Drive.

In one other item, the council heard a request from the Tri-County Children's Advocacy Center to proclaim April as Child Abuse Awareness Month.

Mayor Francene Noah said a proclamation would be issued to honor the request.

The council also began the yearly evaluation of they city manager, meeting in closed session for just less than an hour.

No action was taken following the closed meeting.

Mayor Noah presided and council members present were Ducheneaux, Terry Martin, Ron Shaw, Vernest Tippens and David Harrell.

Snyder Police Department Citations

The Snyder Police Department issued 1,794 traffic complaints for calendar year 2003. The following is a breakdown of those citiations:

1. Breakdown of citations by race or ethnicity: (1,794)

Caucasian	944 or 52.6%	African	89 or 5.0%
Hispanic	752 or 41.9%	Asian	0 or 0.0%
Am. Indian	5 or 0.3%	Unknown	4 or 0.2%

2. Number of citations that resulted in a search (137)

Caucasian	58 or 42.3%	African	10 or 7.3%
Hispanic	68 or 49.6%	Asian	0 or 0.0%
Am. Indian	1 or 0.7%	Unknown	0 or 0.0%

3. Number of searches that were consensual (61)

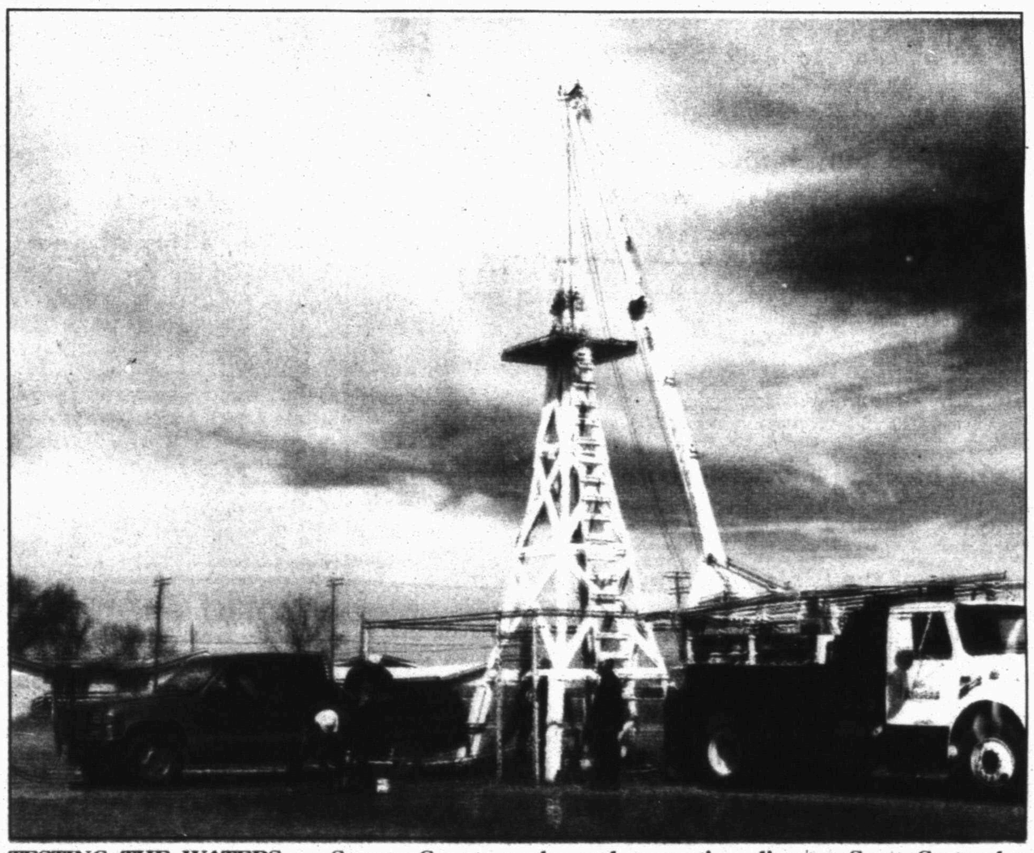
Caucasian	25 or 41.0%	African	6 or 9.8%
Hispanic	30 or 49.1%	Asian	0 or 0.0%
Am. Indian	0 or 0.0%	Unknown	0 or 0.0%

4. Number of citations that resulted in custodial arrest for this cited violation or any other violation. (101)

Caucasian	40 or 39.6%	African	5 or 5.0%
Hispanic	54 or 53.5%	Asian	0 or 0.0%
Am. Indian	1 or 1.0%	Unknown	1 or 1.0%

The following is a racial breakdown of the City of Snyder for the year 2000.

Caucasian	6,732 or 62.4%	African	500 or 4.6%
Hispanic	3,427 or 31.8%	Asian	27 or 0.3%
Am. Indian	31 or 0.3%	Unknown	66 or 0.6%



TESTING THE WATERS — Scurry County parks and recreation director Scott Crenwelge worked along side Tommy Marricle, Bennie Marricle and Frank Garcia testing the windmill in Towle Memorial Park as a future water source for the park. (SDN Staff Photo by Annie Rowe)

Grand jury indicts seven

Seven persons were indicted by the Scurry County grand jury Monday, including three for felony driving while intoxicated.

Clarence Conner III, 41, of 2601 N. Grand in Amarillo was indicted for a Feb. 7 DWI offense. Conner, who has DWI convictions in Nolan County in 1999 and 2003, remains in jail in lieu of a $5,000 bond.

Johnny Dale Gardner, 58, of 1908 Scott St. was indicted for a Feb. 9 DWI offense. Gardner was convicted of DWI in Mitchell County in 1991 and in Fisher County in 2001. His bond also is $5,000 and he currently is in jail.

Patricia Reyes Jalamos, 31, of 2702 N. First St. in San Angelo was indicted for driving while intoxicated on Feb. 1 and having a child younger than 15 years of age in the vehicle.

Jalamos has no previous DWI convictions and is out of jail on a $5,000 bond.

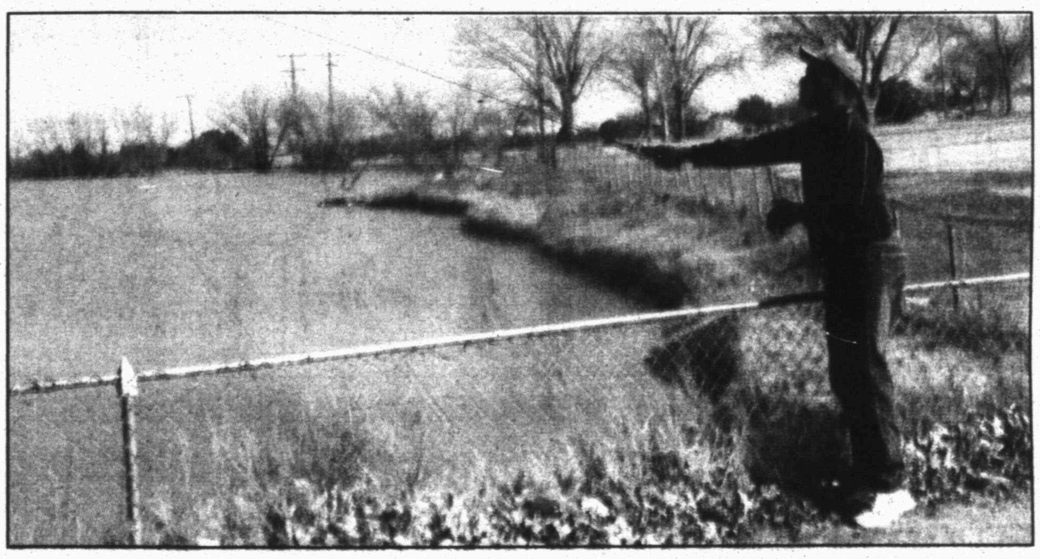
Omar Padilla, 19, of 1081 S. Briarwood Dr. in Lakewood, Colo. was indicted for the Jan. 18 offense of possession of marijuana. Charged with having more than five pounds of marijuana in his possession, Padilla is out of jail on a $5,000 bond.

Michael Eugene Lucas, 37, of 1312 Maple St. in Friona was indicted for the Sept. 24 offense of possession of methamphetamine in the amount of more than one gram.

In Oct. 1996, Lucas was convicted in Parmer County for burglary of a habitation. He is currently out of jail on a $10,000 bond.

Coral Lee Moulder, 28, of 1113 Cedar River Rd. in Montgomery was indicted for the Feb. 6 offense of burglary of a building. His bond was set at $5,000.

Indicted for the Feb. 8 offense of burglarizing Northeast Elementary was Rumaldo Martinez, 37, of 1407 Bristol Dr. in Killeen. He remains in jail with bond set at $5,000.



HOOK HUSTLER — Bobby Degrate took advantage of Monday's warmer temperatures for a little pond fishing at Towle Memorial Park. When asked if he was having any luck, Bobby replied, "Nope, just enjoying this beautiful day." (SDN Staff Photo by Annie Rowe)

Lawmaker seeks ban on mid-redistricting

WASHINGTON (AP) — A week away from Texas' first elections under redrawn congressional districts, a Houston Democrat has introduced a federal bill that would prohibit mid-decade redistricting.

Rep. Gene Green, a Houston Democrat, said today that mid-decade redistricting has "become a gross abuse of power in our current political climate."

He has introduced a bill that would limit redistricting, the redrawing of political voting boundaries to adjust for population shifts, to once a decade.

The bill was introduced late last week and all members of Texas Democratic congressional delegation are co-sponsoring the bill.

The Texas Legislature approved redrawn congressional districts in October after a bitter partisan battle that stretched over part of the regular session and three special sessions. Democrats staged two walkouts in attempt to prevent the legislation from passing.

The redrawn districts could provide the GOP with up to six more seats in Congress, giving Republicans dominance of the Texas delegation, now split 16-16 between the parties. Gaining the additional seats in Texas would hamper Democrats' efforts to resume the majority in the U.S. House. Democrats have appealed a federal court ruling upholding the redrawn districts to the Supreme Court. The appeal is pending.

Republicans also redrew some districts in Colorado last year, but a federal court ruled that that state's constitutions did not allow for mid-decade redistricting.

Green said the U.S. Constitution mandates that congressional districts be drawn every 10 years after the decennial census.

"This mid-decade redistricting is an unprecedented power-grab never imagined by our founding fathers," Green said.

ASK US

Q—What is Sen. Robert Duncan's Web site address?
A—www.senatorduncan.com

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Melissa Walls...

...is a student at Western Texas College majoring in English education. She is the granddaughter of Howard and Letta Thatcher of Avoca and she has one brother, Brandon Walls, 23. Her hobbies are basketball, track, music and movies.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

The way to succeed is to double your failure rate.
—Thomas J. Watson

MAR 02 2004

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

FFA booster club

The FFA booser club will meet at 7 this evening in the SHS ag building. Officers will meet at 6:30 p.m.

West science fair

The West Elementary 6th Grade Science Fair will be held today and Wednesday at the Towle Park Barn. The public is invited to view the exhibits today from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and on Wednesday from 8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. There is no admission charge.

FFA boosters to meet

Snyder FFA Booster Club will meet at 7 tonight at the high school ag building.

Stanfield muffins for mom

To celebrate public school week, Stanfield Elementary will host Muffins for Mom at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday.

West Elementary invites parents

As part of public school week, West Elementary will host Donuts for Dad on Wednesday from 7:45 to 8:20 a.m.

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.

SHS baseball booster meeting

The SHS baseball booster club will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the film room.

Plants of the Bible program

Maggie Ridgway, nationally-accredited master flower show judge from San Angelo, will present the program on flowers of the Bible at 2 p.m. Thursday at Scurry County Museum. The program is presented by the Snyder Garden Club. The program is free, but donations to the museum will be accepted.

Service addresses requested

Becky Johnson's keyboarding class at Snyder High School will practice letter writing techniques by writing area service men and women. If you have the current addresses of anyone serving in the armed forces, call her at 573-6967 and leave message, or call her at school at 574-6142.

Private Applicator Testing

Training and Testing for Applicator's License will be held next Tuesday. The training and testing will be held in Building 15A on the Western Texas College Campus, located next to the South Parking Lot. Training will begin at 9 a.m., followed by the test, which will be administered by a TDA representative. RSVP by Friday to the Scurry County Extension Office (325) 573-5423. For more information, contact Greg Gruben at the Scurry County Extension Office, 2605 Ave. M, Snyder, TX 79549. Phone (325) 573-5423.

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.

Newborn girl believed killed six years ago was really kidnapped

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — An infant believed to have died in a 1997 fire actually was kidnapped and raised by a woman who set the blaze to cover her path, authorities said. Now, the child's mother is eagerly awaiting a reunion.

Police issued an arrest warrant for Carolyn Correa, 41, of Willingboro, N.J., on charges of arson, kidnapping and conspiracy. She remained at large today, authorities said.

"This child, now 6 years old, who has been raised by Carolyn Correa as her own, is not her own," police Capt. John Darby said.

The biological mother, Luz Cuevas of Philadelphia, saw the girl at a birthday party in January and recognized her by a dimple on her face.

At the party, she told the girl she had gum in her hair and pulled out five strands for DNA testing, Cuevas told The Associated Press today. She said she folded them in a napkin and placed them in a plastic bag, which she locked in a safe at home, and contacted authorities.

"Because of TV, I knew they needed hair for the DNA (tests)," Cuevas said.

The girl, Delimar Vera, was placed in state custody in New Jersey. It was not clear when she would be reunited with her mother.

"When I see her, I saw that she was my daughter," Cuevas said. "I want to hug her. I want to run with her."

Delimar was thought to have perished in the Dec. 15, 1997, blaze in her family's home. A body was never found; authorities believed the infant had been consumed by the fast-moving fire.

State Rep. Angel Cruz, who helped the mother contact police after she spotted the little girl, credited "motherly instinct" for connecting mother and child.

Ever since the blaze, Cuevas held on to the belief that her child was somehow alive.

After recognizing the girl, "I said to my sister, 'Look, she's my daughter,'" Cuevas told WPHL-TV.

It was unclear what brought the child and her mother to the same party, but Correa apparently knew the family through the infant's father, Pedro Vera.

Vera told The Philadelphia Inquirer that Correa stopped in several times after the baby was born, saying she was pregnant. The visits waned after the fire.

Cruz said the girl would be reunited with her mother after authorities in New Jersey break the news to her about what happened.

"I mean, she's 6 years old," he told "Good Morning America." "It will be devastating to this child."

S. Texas is free from new bird flu cases

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — State livestock officials said Monday that no more cases of avian influenza have been detected within a 10-mile radius of a Gonzales County farm where the highly contagious disease was found last month.

Dr. Max Coats, deputy director of the Texas Animal Health Commission, said some 250 flocks were sampled in the search zone, and that all of the tests have come back negative.

Now, he said, the commission will extend its surveillance.

Bodies of missing family found

YAZOO CITY, Miss. (AP) — More than two weeks after a family of three vanished on Valentine's Day, authorities found their bodies in a wooded area and charged the father's cousin with capital murder.

Earnest Lee Hargon, a 43-year-old truck driver, was arrested on unrelated drug charges Friday, and authorities rushed to the search area in southern Mississippi on Monday morning.

Teams of law officers using portable lights searched through scattered rain and into the evening hours. What they found there ended an intense search that began Feb. 14 when Michael Hargon, 27, his 29-year-old wife Rebecca and their 4-year-old son, James Patrick, went missing.

District Attorney James Powell told The Associated Press late Monday that the bodies had been identified. An autopsy was scheduled for late Monday night or today.

"It's awful. You deal with bad stuff all the time but rarely where the whole family was killed," Powell said.

Bill Hirtz, Rebecca Hargon's father, said the discovery gave him a measure of solace. "At least I know where they were at," he said Monday night by telephone.

In a Yazoo County courthouse, while authorities were still searching for the bodies about 100 miles away, Earnest Lee Hargon — a cousin of Michael Hargon — heard the three capital murder charges read and was ordered held without bond. Friends and relatives of the family, many visibly shaken, attended the brief court appearance.

Blood and spent bullet casings were discovered at the family's home in Yazoo County after their disappearance. Investigators have not found a .22-caliber weapon that apparently was fired in the house.

Prosecutor James Powell said the slayings occurred during the kidnapping of one or more of Michael Hargon's family. He said Hargon had acted alone.

"We've been saying all along since we've anticipated filing these charges that our case is rock solid," said Warren Strain, spokesman for the Mississippi Highway Patrol.

Investigators have been checking a piece of land that Michael Hargon recently inherited from his uncle, Charles Hargon, to determine if it is linked to the disappearance, said Jennifer Hargon, Michael's sister.

Earnest Hargon, Charles Hargon's adopted son, was not included in the will, she said. Strain said the property is a consideration in the case, but not necessarily a motive.

"It could be a potential motive, but it's not the only one," Strain said.

Family members at the hearing declined to discuss the deaths. Louis Fischer, Michael Hargon's first cousin, screamed a profanity at Hargon after being turned away from the crowded courtroom.

"It's been a long, emotional 17 or 18 days and I let my emotions get the better of me," Fischer said later. "I promised my aunt (Michael Hargon's mother) that I wouldn't do that.'"

Injured soldier's claim raises some thorny legal questions

DALLAS (AP) — A West Texas Army reservist injured during the Iraq war has sued the state for denying his claim for a grant from a fund established to assist crime victims.

Staff Sgt. Ryan Kelly believed to be the nation's first soldier to apply for compensation under such a program, and is seeking $150,000 in damages in a lawsuit he filed last month.

Kelly, 23, of Abilene contends he was a terrorism victim on July 14, 2003, when a hidden roadside artillery shell detonated near Baghdad and blew off his right leg below the knee. His leg was later amputated.

He applied twice for money from the state's Crime Victims Compensation Fund, which is designed to pay uncovered medical expenses for victims of crime including those injured or killed in overseas terrorism. He was turned down each time.

In court papers, Assistant Attorney General Rita Baranowski, representing Texas' attorney general, said Kelly is a casualty of war, not a crime victim.

The lawsuit has raised some sticky legal issues concerning who is considered a terrorist and who is responsible for taking care of wounded soldiers. The issues have yet to be tested in court.

Kelly, a civilian paramedic and Mesquite Poteet High School graduate, plans to represent himself. If he wins, more injured soldiers could follow his lead, say victims rights advocates.

With more than 2,700 soldiers injured in Iraq, similar claims could wipe out funds intended for victims of rape, domestic violence and murder nationwide.

In his room at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Kelly trembled as he read a Jan. 9 letter written by Baranowski rejecting his application.

"It's hurtful that they'd say somehow somebody trying to kill a U.S. soldier is justified," Kelly told The Dallas Morning News.

The state's crime victims fund was established in 1979. The Legislature last modified it in 1997, when coverage of international acts of terrorism was added.

Sen. John Whitmire, who sponsored the 1997 amendment, said that the Legislature did not consider that U.S. soldiers might file claims. He said lawmakers might need to revisit the issue.

"It's something I don't think most of us who work with crime victims groups have considered," said Whitmire, D-Houston, an attorney and chairman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. "But certainly ... this young man deserves our time. We'll look at it, and there may be an opportunity there."

But Rep. Bob Hunter, R-Abilene, said the federal government should compensate injured military personnel — not the state of Texas.

States are relieved of responsibility for compensating U.S. citizens injured in international terrorism under the Patriot Act which gave law enforcement new surveillance powers after the Sept. 11 attacks. Texas, however, did not amend its law to exclude the benefit.

World Almanac

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Today is the 62nd day of 2004 and the 72nd day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1836, Texas declared its independence from Mexico.

In 1877, Rutherford B. Hayes was declared the winner of the previous year's presidential election even though Samuel J. Tilden had a majority of the popular votes.

In 1939, Eugenio Pacelli became Pope Pius XII.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Pope Pius XII (1876-1958); Dr. Seuss (Theodor Geisel) (1904-1991), author; Mikhail Gorbachev (1931-), former Soviet president, is 73; John Irving (1942-), author, is 62; Jon Bon Jovi (1962-), singer and songwriter, is 42; Tom Wolfe (1931-), author and journalist, is 73.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1962, Philadelphia Warriors center Wilt Chamberlain scored 100 points in a single game against the New York Knicks, an NBA record.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Sometimes ... when you stand face to face with someone, you cannot see his face." — Mikhail Gorbachev

TODAY'S FACT: Russia contains every type of climate except the distinctly tropical.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 260,000,000 — Box office receipts in U.S. dollars for the film "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," released in 2000.

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Feb. 27) and full moon (March 6)

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Today's chuckle

Housekeeper third in bedmaking contest

OGALLALA, Neb. (AP) — Well, Ida Doggett made her bed... and now she's $4,444 richer.



Doggett, head housekeeper at the Ogallala Super 8 motel, used her skills at making a bed quickly to take third place out of 28 contestants in the Super 8 Motels International Bedmaking Championships in Minneapolis on Jan. 31.

She changed the sheets and did the necessary tucking and folding in two minutes, five seconds.

"To me, it's just fun," Doggett said. "It's a part of my job that I like doing — making beds."

In the final round, misfortune struck when one of Doggett's pillows fell on the floor, resulting in a five-second penalty. She lost to the first-place winner by less than two seconds.

Doggett said she takes pride in making beds, whether in competition or her daily housekeeping work.

"We're in the bedmaking business. It's something that needs to be done right," she said.

Moderately Confused



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RAILHEAD TRADE DAYS

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, March 6
11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday, March 7
1st & Elm Street
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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: 1-4-12-20-22.

Number matching five of five: 1.

Prize per winner: $49,089.

Winning tickets sold in: Texarkana, Texas.

Matching four of five: 181. Prize: $122.

Matching three of five: 5,212. Prize: $10.

Matching two of five: 50,743. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Pick 3
(Day) 6-8-5
(Night) 6-0-1

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Lifestyles



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FIRST ALLOCATIONS — Representatives of the 10 agencies of the Scurry County United Way received their first allocations from finds received in the recent campaign. Checks were distributed by executive director Rana Anderson, right. On the front row, from left, are Kim Fritz, Snyder Child Daycare Center; chamber of commerce executive director Vicki Shroyer, American Red Cross; Lyndia Allen, Gateway Family Services; standing, Brenda Clem, UW recording secretary; fire marshall Cy Posey, Snyder Volunteer Fire Dept.; and Mark Whitmire, Scurry County Youth Outreach. Receiving funds but not pictured are Scurry County Boys and Girls Club; Scurry County Food Cupboard, Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse; Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Lo carb recipes for dieters

Low carb diets seem to be the in thing for eating habits for today's lifestyle. The following may be a diversion to the overused way of preparing meals.

OMELET WITH CHICKEN SAUSAGE & APPLES

2 links *al fresco* Sweet Apple Chicken Sausage — 4g carbs

½ of an apple, peeled and grated — 8g carbs

¼ cup shredded cheddar cheese (optional) — 0g carbs

4 eggs — 2g carbs

4 tbsp water — 0g carbs

2 tsp oil — 0g carbs

Salt and pepper to taste — 0g carbs

Sauté sliced sausage and shredded apple in 1 tsp oil for about 5 minutes over medium heat. Remove from pan. Beat eggs and water until blended. Heat 1 tsp oil in pan until hot. Pour in egg mixture. Mixture should set at edges. Tilts pan and move as necessary. Continue cooking until egg is set and will not flow. Fill omelet with sautéed sausage and apple. Add cheese if desired. Fold in half, invert on plate and serve.

Makes 2 omelets; 7 carbs per serving.

CHICKEN SAUSAGE CAESAR SALAD

2 links *al fresco* Roasted Garlic Chicken Sausage – 6g carbs

2 tsp olive or canola oil — 0g carbs

1 clove minced/chopped garlic — 1g carbs

2 cups romaine lettuce — 4g carbs

6 cherry tomatoes — 6g carbs

1 tbsp reduced fat Caesar salad dressing — 1g carbs

Slice *al fresco* Roasted Garlic Chicken Sausage into ½" slices and sauté in pan with oil and garlic for about 5 minutes. Toss the other ingredients and top with warm sausage.

Main dish serves 2: 9.25 carbs per serving.

ESCAROLE SOUP W/CHICKEN SAUSAGE

4 links of *al fresco* Garden Primavera Chicken Sausage — 8g carbs

3 quarts chicken broth — 12g carbs

2 tbsp olive oil — 0g carbs

2 cloves garlic; crushed — 2g carbs

2 celery stalks, cut in half — 2g carbs

2 carrots, cut in small pieces — 12 carbs

6 green scallions — 6g carbs salt and pepper to taster — 0g carbs

2 bunches of escarole (approx. 14 cups) — 22.4g carbs

1 cup cooked or canned soybeans — 17g carbs

In large saucepan, sauté garlic, celery, carrots and scallions for a 3-5 minutes in oil. Add chicken broth and washed escarole and bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 45 minutes. Add sliced sausage and soybeans and simmer for an additional 15 minutes.

Serves 8; 10.2 carbs per serving.

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.

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

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

THURSDAY

Snyder Garden Club; Scurry County Museum; "Plants of the Bible," by Maggie Ridgway of San Angelo; public is invited to attend; 2 p.m.

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

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

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.

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.

Western movie set is destroyed by fire

APACHE JUNCTION, Ariz. (AP) — Apacheland, a Western movie set and tourist attraction heavily damaged by fire last month, will not be rebuilt.

"There was not any insurance, plus we lost the income from all the (merchant) rentals," owner Sue Birmingham said Monday. The cause of the fire, which started on the second floor of a restaurant, hasn't been determined.

The set was built around 1960 and served as a backdrop for movies including "Charro!" starring Elvis Presley. The last major film, "Blind Justice," was shot there a decade ago.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 03-02-04
♠ K Q 5
♥ 10 5
♦ 8 6
♣ A K Q 10 9 8

West
♠ 7 2
♥ A K 8 7
♦ A Q J 9
♣ J 6 3

East
♠ 4
♥ Q 9 4 2
♦ 10 7 5 3 2
♣ 7 5 4

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

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
3 ♠	Dbl.	4 ♠	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ A

From discouragement to encouragement

By Phillip Alder

Although you might be suffering from a sense of deja vu, look at the West hand. Against four spades, you lead the heart ace. North tables his dummy. How would you plan the defense after partner plays the heart nine and declarer the three?

Robert Fitzgerald, a scholar and translator who died in 1985, said, "Is encouragement what the poet needs? Open question. Maybe he needs discouragement."

Bridge defenders supply both.

From the dummy, it should be obvious that your partnership needs to win four red-suit tricks: two hearts and two diamonds. But who has the diamond king? Yesterday, it was partner, so you took your two heart winners, then shifted to diamonds. Today, though, South has the diamond king. This makes the defense more challenging. However, partner's trick-one signal points you in the right direction.

East's heart nine is high, meaning that he is encouraging you to continue this suit. Here, he is showing the heart queen, the honor equivalent to the ones promised by your heart-ace opening lead. (It is sometimes possible that third hand is playing high-low with a doubleton in the hope of receiving a third-round ruff, but that cannot be the case here. South wouldn't open three spades with five hearts on the side.)

Now comes the hard part. You must continue with a low heart at trick two. Partner will win with his queen and shift to a diamond through declarer's king. This is the only way to defeat the contract after your normal opening lead.

Analyze partner's signals to place the key missing honors.

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Surfing streak lasts 28 years

BODEGA BAY, Calif. (AP) — Thanks to Leap Day, Dale Webster finally gets to kick up his feet.

Webster went surfing the last time Leap Day fell on a Sunday, and he pledged he would surf every day until the next Feb. 29 came around on a Sunday.

That was back in 1976, making last Sunday the first day in 28 years that the extra day fell on a Sunday.

Webster, 55, completed his 28-year surfing streak, undertaking 10,407 consecutive days of surfing.

Some 40 friends and writers and photographers from surfing publications surrounded him as he brought his bright red and white board to shore. A buddy, Rick Potter, poured champagne on Webster's head, then passed him the bottle.

"What were the odds of being able to do it all these days?" Webster asked. "I feel blessed. I have a wonderful family that understands me and lets me do this. It's so amazing it all worked out and my dreams came true."



"PLANTS OF THE BIBLE" PROGRAM — At 2 p.m. Thursday at the Scurry County Museum, Maggie Ridgway of San Angelo will present "Plants of the Bible." Sponsored by the Snyder Garden Club, there is no admission for the program and all interested persons are invited to attend. Ridgway is a nationally accredited master flower show judge and owner of Ridgway Florist & Greenhouses in San Angelo. (Contributed Photo)

Driving guidelines help ensure sharing road safely with trucks

As highways become more and more crowded, drivers should take extra precautions to share the roads safely, especially with commercial vehicles. It's a fact: driving on our nation's highways can be dangerous; however, many accidents can be avoided by following some simple guidelines.

For instance, if you are driving near a truck, how can you tell if the truck driver can see you? The answer is simple: if you can't see the truck driver's face in his side-view mirror, he can't see you. Although trucks, due to their large size, can be perceived to be the enemy on the roads, they are among the safest of drivers. Below are some tips to help you share the roads safely with trucks:

• Beware of blind spots — While there are small blind spots in the front and on the left side of trucks, the back and right side of trucks are the hardest areas for truck drivers to see you with their mirrors. To avoid these blind spots, pass trucks quickly and don't linger where truck drivers can't see you.

• Avoid tailgating — Truck drivers can't see your car behind them, and you can't see what's going on ahead of you. If the truck driver brakes suddenly, you have no place to go.

• Give trucks room — Because of the length and weight of trucks, they need more room to enter the highway, stop or change lanes. If a truck has its turn signal on, assist them by moving over or slowing down. In addition, if you need to get in front of a truck, do so when you can see both headlights in your rearview mirror, and then don't slow down. Trucks need nearly twice the time and room to stop as cars.

• Be cautious in construction zones — Slow down, increase your following distance and let other drivers merge when possible, not only for your safety, but also for the safety of other drivers and workers in construction zones.

New Spring and Easter Items Are Here!
New Lines — New Looks
Wedding Registry...
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Autumn Levens & John Ryan Rasmus
Infant Registry...
Shana & Jody Holt
Shelley & Cody Shields
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Dale Huff, Minister
37th Street Church of Christ
2500 37th Street
Snyder, Texas 79549

After the crucifixion...

The disciples huddled together. They did not look like a group that was going to turn the world upside down. Their leader, the one they had followed for the last several years, had been humiliated and crucified. Two of the men were on their way back home. Without being recognized by these men, the resurrected Jesus came up and joined them as they walked along. Jesus asked them what they were talking about. They came to a stop, their faces downcast. They began to explain to Jesus what had happened:

"Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"
"What things?" he asked.
"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel." Luke 24:18-21.

These disciples go on to tell Jesus that there were reports that this Jesus had been raised from the dead. It is clear, however, that they were reluctant to believe these reports.

As you read Matthew, Mark, and John as well you can see that the disciples were all reluctant to believe the reports of the resurrection. What convinced them? They saw Jesus raised from the dead. That changed everything. A short time later, the apostles would stand up in Jerusalem and preach a dangerous message with boldness and confidence. Peter told the crowd that the one they had crucified was really the Christ who came to save them. How did Peter know this? "God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are witnesses of the fact," Acts 2: 32.

The message of the cross is an amazing message. The Son of God suffered and died a cruel and painful death to bear the punishment for our sins and make salvation a possibility. How do I know this is true? The answer of Scripture is clear. We know this is true because God raised Him from the dead.

Dale Huff

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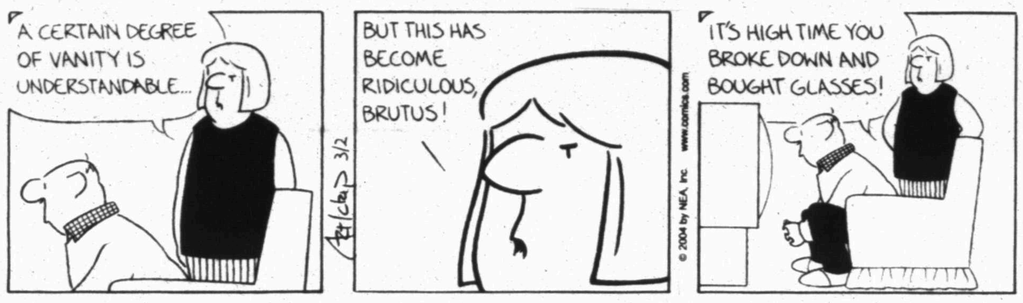
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ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



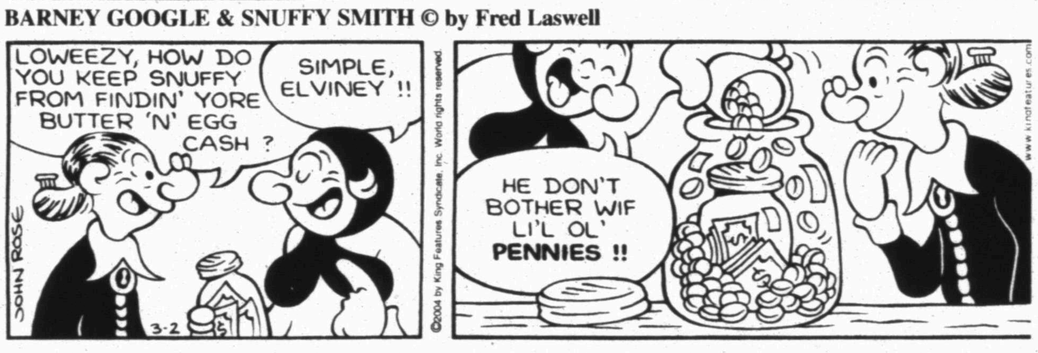
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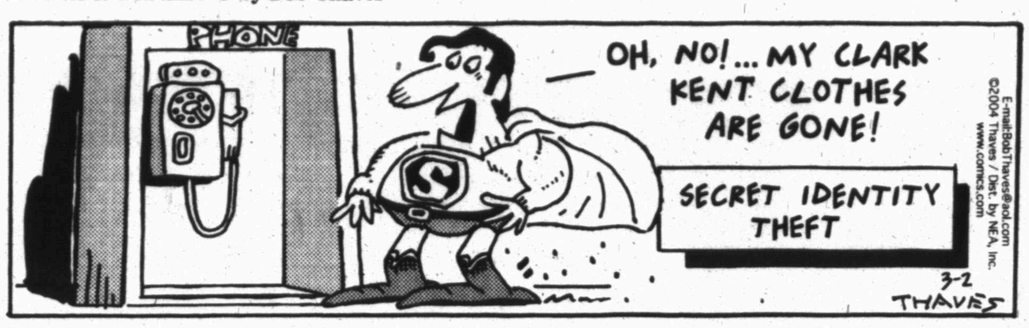
BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



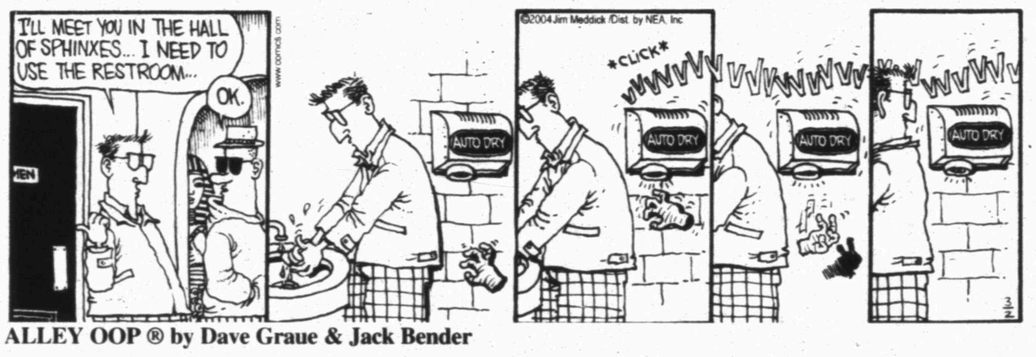
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ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Good disguise
4 Running mate
8 Suitcase
11 Back when
12 Like Sabin's vaccine
13 Consumes
14 Sunshine st.
15 Man-eating monster
16 Volcano output
17 Fine steel
19 Pat on
21 Nobel Prize city
22 Blocks, as a stream
25 Took it easy
29 To date
31 Primary color
34 Actor — Mineo
35 One-pot dinner
36 Kitten's play-thing
37 Draw a bead on
38 Chan rejoinder (2 wds.)
39 MIT grad
40 Big to-do
42 Unhearing
44 Rides a bench
47 Camp bed
49 Divide in half
51 Gave the pink slip
54 Inspected
56 "Pardonnez —!"
57 Madison's st.
58 Handed-down stories
59 Groaner, maybe
60 Be prone
61 Drags along
62 Paleozoic, e.g.

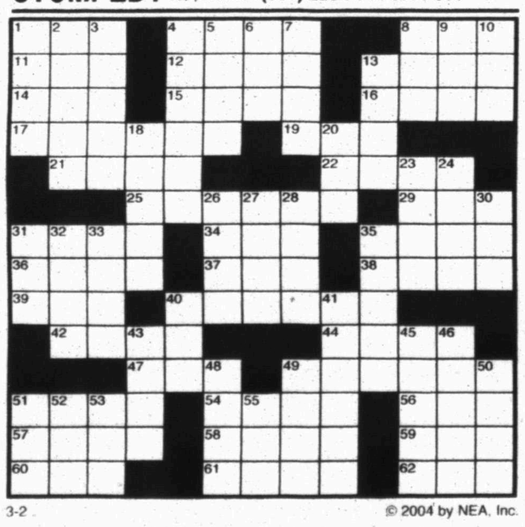
DOWN

1 Blow gently
2 Dome home
3 Objectives
4 Black magic
5 Proof word
6 Corn serving
7 Begged
8 Moo kin?
9 Off-road vehicle
10 Cookie-selling org.
13 Napoleon's island
18 Burstyn or Barkin
20 Total
23 Ancient story
24 Watches
26 Without delay
27 Carnival
28 Mariner's saint
30 Couple
31 Casual farewell
32 Dock
33 Whim
35 Hindu garments
40 E.T. craft
41 Stage whispers
43 Heavy metal band
45 City near Phoenix
46 Wash vigorously
48 Narrate
49 Broken-off glacier
50 Turner's ex
51 Leather punch
52 Noon, in ancient Rome
53 WNW opposite
55 "That means —!"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



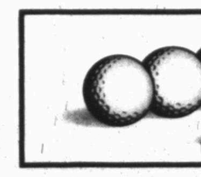


"I told you it was supposed to go around your neck."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



Best Availab



Porti

By The Assoc

Clinton Portis ment with the Wa skins, who later acquire the star from Denver for nerback Champ Ba

Carson Palmer job in Cincinnati, Stewart, Mo Lew Brown are out Smith is staying i Jerome Bettis wil Pittsburgh.

On a busy M NFL's free agency — it begins Wed Redskins did wha under owner D They agreed to a eight-year contrac the 2002 Offensive Year with Denver.

Once Bailey an agree on a deal, W trade him to Denve second-round draf tis.

Portis' contract richest ever for a includes $17 mil bonus money, acco Drew Rosenhaus. join quarterback who will be acqui with Jacksonville, offense in coach J season back in Wa

Henso workо

IRVING (AP) Cowboys got an look at Drew He private workout team headquarter

It showed ren by the team in H giving up baseba football.

His rights are Houston Texans, have a young q David Carr. The Henson in the si year hoping to tr did decide to play

Henson, who pl gan, is hoping trade to the team If no deal is done April 24, he could any team.

The Texans workout in Houst

Are

Baseball:	S
Softball:	S
Tennis:	S
Baseball:	W
Softball:	S
Baseball:	S
Baseball:	S
Softball:	S
Tennis:	S
Golf:	S
Baseball:	S
Softball:	S
Tennis:	S
Golf:	S
Track:	S

Nati

EASTERN C

Atlantic	W	L
Philadelphia	33	1
New Jersey	33	2
N.Y. Islanders	30	2
N.Y. Rangers	23	3
Pittsburgh	13	4

Northeas	W	L
Ottawa	35	1
Toronto	35	1
Boston	31	1
Montreal	34	2
Buffalo	28	3

Southeas	W	L
Tampa Bay	36	1
Florida	23	2
Atlanta	26	3
Carolina	20	2
Washington	20	3

WESTERN C

Central	W	L
Detroit	37	1
Nashville	32	2
St. Louis	29	3
Columbus	19	3
Chicago	18	1

Best Available Copy

SPORTS

Portis agrees to record deal

By The Associated Press

Clinton Portis has an agreement with the Washington Redskins, who later this week will acquire the star running back from Denver for Pro Bowl cornerback Champ Bailey.

Carson Palmer has a starting job in Cincinnati, while Kordell Stewart, Mo Lewis and Ruben Brown are out of jobs. Steve Smith is staying in Carolina and Jerome Bettis will remain with Pittsburgh.

On a busy Monday as the NFL's free agency period nears — it begins Wednesday — the Redskins did what they do best under owner Daniel Snyder. They agreed to a $50.5 million, eight-year contract with Portis, the 2002 Offensive Rookie of the Year with Denver.

Once Bailey and the Broncos agree on a deal, Washington will trade him to Denver, along with a second-round draft pick, for Portis.

Portis' contract, one of the richest ever for a running back, includes $17 million in tiered bonus money, according to agent Drew Rosenhaus. Portis is set to join quarterback Mark Brunell, who will be acquired in a trade with Jacksonville, in a revamped offense in coach Joe Gibbs' first season back in Washington.

Stewart ended a disappointing one-year run in Chicago when he was cut along with defensive end Phillip Daniels. The quarterback who lost his job to rookie Rex Grossman, signed a two-year, $5 million deal as a free agent nearly a year ago.

Linebacker Lewis, who started 200 games for the New York Jets in his 13 NFL seasons, was released to save some salary cap space. The Jets also released both starting safeties from last season, Sam Garnes and Tyrone Carter.

Buffalo cut eight-time Pro Bowl guard Brown, who was due a $1.8 million roster bonus. Brown was excused from playing in the Bills' season finale at New England and he claims it was for disciplinary reasons after a disagreement with the team's former coaching staff, led by Gregg Williams. The Bills haven't disclosed the reason.

Carolina re-signed wide receiver Steve Smith, who could have become a restricted free agent. Smith led the Panthers last season with 88 receptions for 1,110 yards, then had 19 catches for 424 yards and three touchdowns in the playoffs as Carolina made it to the Super Bowl. The Panthers also re-signed defensive lineman Al Wallace, a key reserve.

Bettis agreed to a pay cut from Pittsburgh. The 32-year-old running back, sixth on the NFL's career rushing list, will make $1 million, with $1 million in incentives. He was due $3.75 million, plus a $750,000 roster bonus.

"I still think I can get it done. I still think I can play this game," Bettis said.

Atlanta cornerback Ray Buchanan, an 11-year veteran dubbed "Big Play Ray," was released. Buchanan struggled the last two seasons with the Falcons, who also cut 10-year veteran linebacker Sam Rogers.

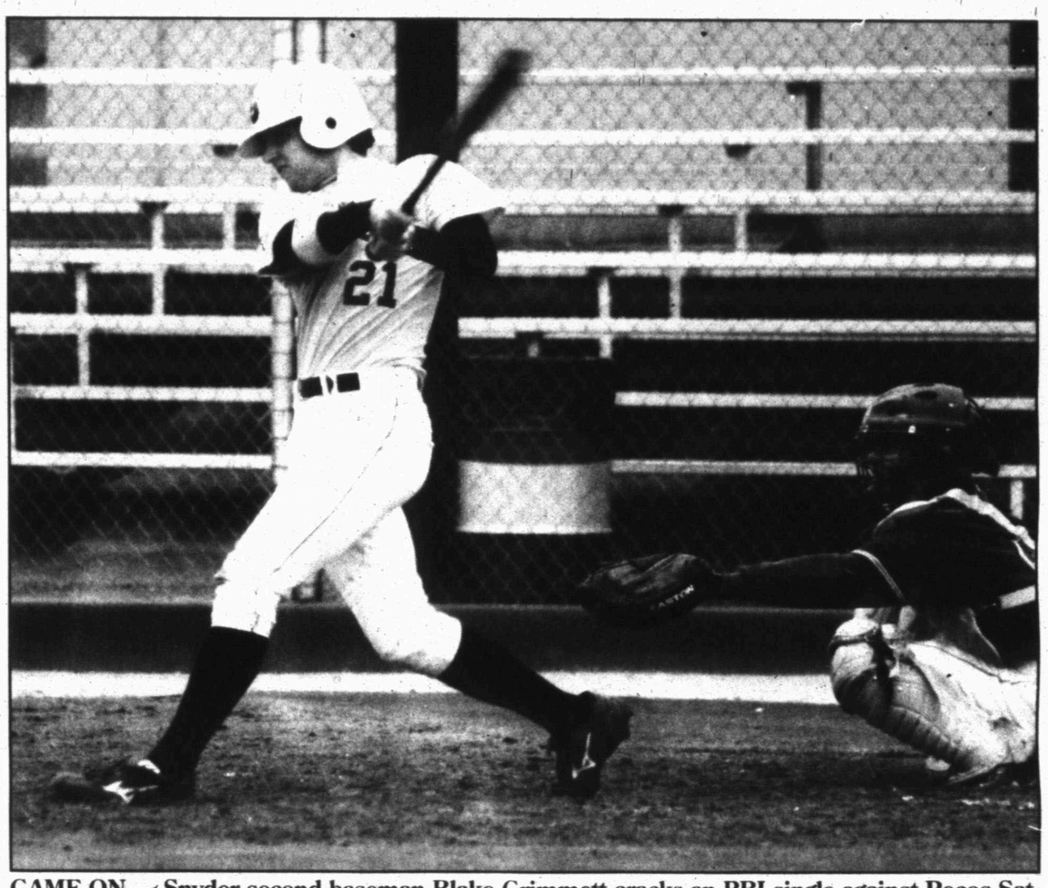
Dolphins DE Jason Taylor agreed to a six-year, $45 million contract that reduces the Dolphins' 2004 salary-cap figure by $4 million. He will now be under contract through 2009.

Tennessee reached agreement on a multiyear contract with receiver Drew Bennett, who could have become a restricted free agent. Another receiver in that category, Justin McCareins, received a tender offer that will require a first-round draft choice as compensation.

Palmer, who didn't take a snap as a rookie after being selected first overall in last April's draft, was promoted by Bengals coach Marvin Lewis. Jon Kitna was the incumbent and won the league's Comeback Player of the Year award, but Lewis believed now was the time to change.

"It puts the pressure on the rest of our football team," he said. "That's why right now is the time to do this. I want everybody to understand the responsibility that comes to them."

Kitna was the only quarterback to take every snap for his team last season.



GAME ON — Snyder second baseman Blake Grimmett cracks an RBI single against Pecos Saturday in the Tigers' season opener. The team is 2-0 and is scheduled to play Trinity Christian at 7 tonight at Moffett Field. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

Cubs' ace sits with sore tendon

By The Associated Press

Mark Prior would rather rest his foot now than risk a costly injury.

The Chicago Cubs don't want to take any chances with their young ace, either.

Prior will miss five to 10 days of spring training because of an inflamed right Achilles' tendon, soreness he first felt last September.

"When I started working out again in January on the mound, it started back up and I got here and it got inflamed," Prior said Monday in Mesa, Ariz. "They just want to get rid of it. They don't want me to change anything to favor it, so I'm going to take some time off."

An MRI showed no structural damage or tear. Both Prior and Cubs trainer Dave Groeschner said the 23-year-old right-hander will be ready for opening day.

But it could be nearly two weeks before he can pitch in a spring game. After he's cleared to throw again, Prior will have to build his arm strength back up. The Cubs begin exhibition play Thursday.

"It's early in the spring and we can nip this in the bud and make sure he's ready for the season," Groeschner said.

Prior is slated to be the No. 3 starter in Chicago's stellar rotation behind Kerry Wood and Greg Maddux, but is already considered the ace of the staff by some.

He went 18-6 with a 2.43 ERA and 245 strikeouts last year, his first full season in the majors. He made the NL All-Star team, finished third in voting for the CY Young Award and helped pitch the Cubs to the NL Central title by going 10-1 over the final two months of the season.

Prior is confident he can catch up quickly this spring, even if he doesn't get as much game work.

Henson holds private workout for Cowboys

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys got another up-close look at Drew Henson during a private workout Monday at team headquarters.

It showed renewed interest by the team in Henson, who is giving up baseball to return to football.

His rights are held by the Houston Texans, who already have a young quarterback in David Carr. The Texans drafted Henson in the sixth round last year hoping to trade him if he did decide to play football.

Henson, who played at Michigan, is hoping to arrange a trade to the team of his choice. If no deal is done by the draft on April 24, he could be selected by any team.

The Texans held an open workout in Houston on Feb. 12, and Dallas was among 20 teams that was represented.

Henson is expected to hold similar private sessions for more teams.

Buffalo Bills president Tom Donahoe said Monday he's suspended plans to invite Henson for a private workout, a sign the team is cooling on the quarterback.

"We still have interest in Drew Henson, but we still have not been shown a way to do a contract that would make us comfortable," Donahoe said. "And until we can be shown that, it really doesn't serve any purpose to bring him in (for a workout)."

The Texans are believed to be asking for an early round draft pick for Henson. Whoever trades for him also would have to sign him.

OSU wins share of Big 12 title

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — Joey Graham scored 20 points to help the eighth-ranked Cowboys claim a share of their first Big 12 title with a 76-67 victory over No. 10 Texas on Monday night.

The Cowboys (23-3, 13-2) earned the top seed in the conference tournament and their first league championship since the 1990-91 Big Eight title, coach Eddie Sutton's first season back at his alma mater.

Oklahoma State still must beat lowly Texas A&M, winless in 14 league games, to win its first outright title since 1965.

In other games involving ranked teams, it was: No. 7 Connecticut 89, Seton Hall 67 and N. Iowa 68, No. 15 S. Illinois 52.

The Longhorns (21-5, 12-3) dropped to second place in the Big 12, but are still assured of a first-round bye in the league tournament.

Jason Klotz led Texas with 19 points, and freshman P.J. Tucker added 14.

"We didn't get the Big 12 title ... hopefully (we'll) win all out and meet them in the championship game," Klotz said. "That's a long way, though. We still have Kansas State ahead of us."

Sutton passed Kansas' Phog Allen to move into ninth place on the all-time career coaching victories list with 747.

Even Sutton, notoriously nailed to his cushioned chair during most games, spent much of the night on his feet for this hotly contested showdown.

Hundreds of students camped outside of Gallagher-Iba Arena for two days, hoping to get a coveted seat for what amounted to the league's regular-season title game. It was also a rematch of the thriller Jan. 24, when the Cowboys ended Texas' 25-game home winning streak with a 72-67 victory.

Area Sports Calendar

TODAY

Baseball:	SHS varsity vs. Trinity Christian, 7 p.m.
Softball:	SHS JV vs. Kermit, 5 p.m.
Tennis:	SHS JV in Snyder Tournament

WEDNESDAY

Baseball:	WTC at ACU, 2:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Softball:	SHS varsity in Snyder Tournament
Baseball:	SHS varsity at Frenship Tournament

FRIDAY

Baseball:	SHS varsity at Frenship Tournament WTC at Odessa JC, DH, noon
Softball:	SHS varsity in Snyder Tournament
Tennis:	SHS varsity at Regional Team Tennis, Levelland
Golf:	SHS varsity boys at Andrews Tournament SHS varsity girls at Midland Tournament

SATURDAY

Baseball:	SHS varsity at Frenship Tournament WTC at Odessa JC, DH, noon SHS JV at Big Spring, DH, noon
Softball:	SHS varsity in Snyder Tournament WTC vs. El Paso CC, DH, 1 p.m.
Tennis:	SHS varsity at Regional Team Tennis, Levelland
Golf:	SHS varsity boys at Andrews Tournament SHS varsity girls at Midland Tournament
Track:	SHS varsity and JV at Snyder

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	33	16	12	6	84	190	154
New Jersey	33	20	11	1	78	158	131
N.Y. Islanders	30	23	9	3	72	183	164
N.Y. Rangers	23	30	7	5	58	169	191
Pittsburgh	13	43	5	4	35	134	250

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	35	16	9	5	84	216	140
Toronto	35	19	9	3	82	188	166
Boston	31	15	13	7	82	168	151
Montreal	34	25	6	2	76	168	151
Buffalo	28	30	6	1	63	166	178

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	36	17	7	5	84	191	148
Florida	23	26	14	3	63	146	167
Atlanta	26	32	6	2	60	178	204
Carolina	20	27	13	4	57	123	157
Washington	20	35	8	2	50	154	198

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	37	17	9	2	85	208	150
Nashville	32	23	8	2	74	167	168
St. Louis	29	25	8	2	68	146	161
Columbus	19	34	8	4	50	141	188
Chicago	18	33	9	5	50	150	192

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	33	16	11	5	82	188	150
Vancouver	35	19	7	4	81	187	150
Calgary	32	24	5	3	72	154	142
Edmonton	26	27	10	2	64	172	168
Minnesota	21	25	17	2	61	143	149

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	32	16	11	6	81	168	137
Dallas	32	22	11	0	75	147	142
Los Angeles	25	18	15	7	72	172	170
Anaheim	23	26	9	8	63	147	171
Phoenix	20	26	15	4	59	161	195

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

Monday's Games

Montreal 2, New Jersey 1
Tampa Bay 3, Colorado 0
Chicago 2, Nashville 2, tie

Today's Games

Florida at Washington, 6 p.m.
Columbus at Carolina, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at N.Y. Rangers, 6 p.m.
Boston at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Pittsburgh, 6:30 p.m.
Calgary at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Edmonton, 8 p.m.

Merkel, Denver City in quarterfinals

The two remaining 3-3A boys teams in the playoffs advanced Friday, with Denver City getting past Dimmitt and Merkel stopping Littlefield.

The Mustangs topped the Bobcats, 57-49, behind 21 points from post Ryan Ochesky and 20 from Kelsey Hinson.

The win sets up a regional quarterfinal showdown with second-ranked Midland Greenwood, which pummeled Lubbock Cooper, 75-50.

The teams will tip-off at 7:45 tonight at Odessa College.

The district champion and 10th-ranked Badgers took care of Littlefield, 48-39, with guard Riley Lambert hitting a game-high 23.

Merkel will play number eight Canyon at 7 tonight at Lubbock Cooper High School.

In the Region I girls finals, top-ranked Canyon hammered Muleshoe, 42-26, to advance to the state tournament. Winnsboro, Groesbeck and Liberty Hill also advanced to play at the Erwin Center on the University of Texas campus in Austin.

Winnsboro and Liberty Hall are slated to start at 2 p.m. Thursday, with Canyon and Groesbeck getting underway at 3:30.

The girls state championship game is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	36	22	.621	—
New York	26	35	.426	11½
Boston	26	36	.419	12
Miami	25	35	.417	12
Philadelphia	24	36	.400	13
Washington	19	39	.328	17
Orlando	17	45	.274	21

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	43	16	.729	—
Detroit	38	25	.603	7
Milwaukee	32	27	.542	11
New Orleans	32	28	.533	11½
Toronto	25	34	.424	18
Cleveland	24	36	.400	19½
Atlanta	19	40	.322	24
Chicago	18	42	.300	25½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	43	17	.717	—
Dallas	38	20	.655	4
San Antonio	39	21	.650	4
Memphis	36	24	.600	7
Houston	34	25	.576	8½
Denver	33	28	.541	10½
Utah	31	30	.508	12½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	43	15	.741	—
L.A. Lakers	38	20	.655	5
Portland	29	30	.492	14½
Seattle	27	32	.458	16½
Golden State	25	33	.431	18
L.A. Clippers	25	33	.431	18
Phoenix	20	41	.328	24½

Monday's Games

Boston 117, Orlando 96
Washington 111, New Orleans 106, OT
Chicago 92, Cleveland 81
Memphis 81, San Antonio 80
Utah 94, Detroit 86

Today's Games

Toronto at Miami, 6:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
Seattle at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Denver, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
Indiana at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.

Thornhill earns silver at Big 12 Championships



Thornhill

Texas Tech junior Jared Thornhill was the Big 12 conference runner-up in the pole vault with a jump of 17'-00" (5.18m) in the pole vault at the conference championships at the University of Nebraska.

As a team, the Texas Tech men finished in fifth.

Texas Tech will take some of its competitors to Ames, Iowa next weekend for the Iowa State Last Chance before the team competes at the NCAA Indoor Championships on March 12-13 in Fayetteville, Ark.





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Elections investigation defended

AUSTIN (AP) — Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle defended his work as the state's legal ethics watchdog Monday, while the chairwoman of the Republican Party of Texas called on the Legislature to strip funds and duties from the Democrat's office.

Several of the state's top Republicans have criticized Earle's investigation into spending for GOP candidates in the 2002 legislative elections, calling it a "witch hunt" and "fishing expedition."

"The law in Texas is that corporations and labor unions cannot make political contributions. If they do, it's a felony offense," Earle said. "My job is to prosecute felonies. I'm just doing my job."

Dozens of subpoenas have been issued in the grand jury investigation led by the Travis County Public Integrity Unit.

Last week, Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick was ordered to produce records relating to his run for speaker.

"During the time I've been district attorney, I have prosecuted roughly 15 elected officials — 11 have been Democrats and four have been Republicans. They all said, all of them said, it's political and it's partisan. It has never been and it never will be. They know better than that, but it's easier for them to say that."

The 2002 legislative races gave the GOP a majority in the Texas Legislature. Craddick's subsequent election to speaker by members of the House made him the first Republican speaker since Reconstruction.

Republicans used their power to leverage a congressional redistricting measure, which is expected to boost GOP numbers in Washington this fall.

Bristling over Earle's investigation, state party Chairwoman Tina Benkiser proposed a resolution for the party's executive committee to call for the Legislature to move funding and the authority of the Public Integrity Unit to the state attorney general.

"It makes absolutely no sense for a local district attorney to have such far-reaching authority, especially since it can clearly be abused for partisan purposes," Benkiser said.

"No other district attorney in the state is given such broad powers, and geography should not arbitrarily entitle one liberal prosecutor to a platform for launching vicious, partisan attacks," she said

Last week, Benkiser submitted a Freedom of Information request with Earle's office for correspondence between his office and the media.

Initially, the investigation focused on the Texas Association of Business' use of corporate money to buy ads during the 2002 election. TAB claimed publicly that it turned the election with corporate donations.

The investigation has since broadened, now probing $152,000 in checks from the political action committee Texans for a Republican Majority to candidates campaigning for seats in the House. The checks were distributed by Craddick while he was pursuing the speaker's seat. State law bans using economic benefit to influence the speaker's election. Craddick's office says there was no connection between the checks Craddick distributed and the race for speaker.

In another aspect of the investigation, Kevin Shuvalov, regional manager of the Republican National Committee, was subpoenaed to produce documents related to $190,000 in contributions the party made to seven candidates for seats in the Texas House on Oct. 4, 2002.

Texans for a Republican Majority donated the same amount of money from corporate donations to the Republican National Committee a short time before the party made the contributions to Texas House members.

Some open-government advocates say the committee may have been trying to evade campaign finance laws by laundering the money through the national committee.

Medical account is set up at WTSB

A medical donation account has been set up at West Texas State Bank to help with expenses of Mike Rodriguez who has cancer.

On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, PH.D.

'Incomplete' avocados are still healthful

DEAR DR. BLONZ: Many claim that the avocado is a complete food. Is this so? I also wanted to know if avocados are high in cholesterol or not, or if they have something like cholesterol. I look forward to learning more. — **J.S., London, England**

DEAR J.S.: A food cannot be considered "complete" unless it provides a balance of nutrients in amounts sufficient to maintain good health if it were the only food to be consumed. With the exception of mother's milk, there are very few individual foods that can be said to be complete. As good as they might taste, avocados are not on the list.

Unlike most other fruits, avocados tend to be high in fat, but their taste and texture, along with their nutritional assets, make avocados a welcome and healthful addition to the diet. One-eighth of a medium-size avocado (22 grams) contains 36 calories from three grams of fat, less than a gram of protein, and just under 2 grams of carbohydrate. The fat content accounts for 81 percent of the avocado's calories, and it has a fat profile similar to that of olive oil: most is monounsaturated, with a smaller amount of polyunsaturates and even less saturated fat. It contains a gram and a half of dietary fiber, along with several vitamins and minerals including folic acid, vitamins C, E and B-6, and potassium and magnesium.

There is no cholesterol in avocados, nor is there any in other fruit or vegetable foods. Cholesterol is synthesized by and for animal tissues. The cholesterol that's of animal origin is the same as the cholesterol in our blood. Dietary cholesterol gets a bad rap, but most of it in our bloodstream is manufactured by our own liver. When cholesterol is absorbed from the foods we eat, the liver is programmed to make less.

There's no question that we need to pay some attention to dietary cholesterol and the types of fats we eat relative to other nutrients. More significant than dietary cholesterol, however, is the overall balance and quality of our diet and the lifestyle choices we make. As a general rule, cutting dietary cholesterol as an end in itself has never been shown to be an effective method of staving off chronic disease.

Many plants make substances that are analogous to cholesterol, but they do not act the same way as our cholesterol. The plant versions are referred to as phytosterols ("phyto" for plant). The one in avocados and a number of other plants is called beta-sitosterol, and it is being investigated for a range of potential beneficial effects.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I just read your column in the Nashua (N.H.) Daily Telegraph and tried your calculator. The Body Mass Index (BMI) seems to be a pretty useless measure for bodybuilders. I am 5 foot 8, weigh 170 pounds and have six-pack abs when I flex. According to BMI, I am overweight. That is, obviously, ridiculous. I know that you point out that BMI is just an average, but the headline of the column is pretty misleading and you may want to emphasize the limitations of BMI. It sounds like there is an opportunity for a more sophisticated index. — **S.K., no city or state given**

DEAR S.K.: You are absolutely correct. The Body Mass Index is not the best way to evaluate athletes. It deals with the relationship between height and weight. This means that someone with a larger muscle mass and smaller percentage of body fat would have the same BMI as a similar-weight individual with the opposite characteristics. I included the comment that it works for the "average" individual to emphasize the distinction, but I think that this added explanation will help even more.

I received some queries about the origin of the BMI measure. It can be traced back to the French mathematician Adolphe Quetelet (1796-1874). In its original incarnation, it was called the Quetelet Index (QI) and was used by the French army in the days of Napoleon. In the late 1970s, it evolved into the BMI and gained popularity in the scientific community when it was found to represent a better approximation of the boundary between a healthful weight and obesity.

Regarding the headline of the column, I write the articles but have no hand in the titles. I apologize for any confusion.

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

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

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	16.40	15.35	15.55	—.23
AT&T Corp	20.49	20.27	20.39	+.02
Albertsons	25.09	24.46	24.69	—.41
Alltel	51.92	51.50	51.50	—.30
AmEl Pw	34.83	34.39	34.61	—.37
AndarkPtr	53.40	52.55	52.74	+.37
ATMOS Egy	26.74	26.59	26.69	+.01
Aviall	15.53	15.47	15.52	—.03
BP PLC	50.14	49.85	49.93	—.30
BakerHughes	38.77	38.33	38.33	—.09
Bank of Amer	82.56	82.05	82.45	+.32
BellSouth	27.76	27.45	27.59	—.09
BurlNoSFe	32.07	31.68	31.68	—.24
Caterpillar	77.83	76.12	77.19	+.35
CenterPoint	10.78	10.59	10.71	+.05
ChevronTex	89.99	89.76	89.91	—.36
Citigroup	50.57	50.10	50.19	—.27
CocaCola	49.71	49.39	49.43	—.19
ColgatePal	56.20	55.80	55.96	—.28
CmclMetals	31.48	31.23	31.28	+.20
ConocoPhill	70.80	69.93	69.95	—.65
Cooper Inds	54.69	53.53	54.33	+.52
DaimlrChrly	45.51	44.72	44.73	—.32
DeltaAirLines	9.25	9.01	9.10	—.12
Dillards Inc	18.88	18.30	18.44	—.11
DowChem	43.92	43.55	43.55	—.22
DuPont	45.49	45.20	45.29	—.34
EastmanChem	42.90	42.56	42.56	—.09
EstKodak	28.75	27.80	28.09	—.94
EDS Corp	19.23	18.55	18.84	—.16
Entergy	59.50	59.06	59.09	—.31
ExxonMobil	42.40	42.20	42.27	—.25
FootLocker	27.43	27.12	27.27	+.27
GenDynam	92.16	91.51	91.79	+.13
GenElec	33.05	32.78	32.82	+.03
GenMills	47.14	46.49	47.04	—.15
GenMotors	48.70	48.20	48.70	+.05
GaPacific	33.79	32.52	33.49	+.75
Goodrich	29.90	29.20	29.30	—.31
Goodyear	8.55	8.31	8.35	—.15
GtAtlPac	8.04	7.90	7.99	+.05
Halliburtn	32.70	32.25	32.31	—.07
Hanson PLC	41.25	41.02	41.05	—.95
HarteHanks	22.37	22.16	22.33	+.16
HomeDepot	37.31	36.77	37.07	+.23
HoneywellIntl	35.30	34.50	34.87	—.44
IBM	97.60	96.66	96.68	—.36
IntlPaper	44.87	44.35	44.35	—.15
JohnsonJn	53.70	53.25	53.25	—.51
KinderMorg	62.70	62.10	62.21	—.25
Kroger Co	19.49	19.30	19.32	—.11
LockheedM	46.70	46.20	46.20	—.03
Lowes Cos	56.56	55.84	55.87	—.88
Lubys	5.12	4.90	5.11	+.11
LucentTech	4.21	4.12	4.15	—.04
MarathonOil	36.08	35.54	35.55	—.51
MayDeptStr	36.31	35.64	35.70	—.61
Medtronic	47.55	47.27	47.33	+.08
Motorola	18.80	18.57	18.70	—.16
NCR Corp	46.00	45.40	45.82	+.08
Navistar	48.09	47.28	47.82	+.39
PNM Rescs	30.95	30.40	30.92	+.32
Penney JC	31.90	31.20	31.74	+.38
PepBoys	23.84	23.40	23.56	—.19
PepsiCo	52.23	51.85	52.14	—.02
PhelpDodge	90.52	88.10	89.52	—.29
PilgrimsPride	20.85	20.03	20.03	—.39
Praxair s	36.61	36.22	36.48	—.18
ProctGamb	103.86	102.69	102.76	—1.10
RadioShack	35.24	34.76	34.95	—.10
RoyalDut	50.23	49.79	49.79	—.82
SBC Comm	24.19	24.02	24.12	—.13
SaraLee	22.03	21.88	21.97	
Scripps EW	97.97	97.40	97.41	—.39
SearsRoeb	48.46	47.85	48.12	+.04
SherwinW	35.32	34.96	35.04	+.01
SouthernCo	30.48	30.26	30.41	—.01
SwstAirl	13.98	13.81	13.94	—.01
SprintFON	19.21	18.83	19.00	—.21
SprintPCS	9.56	9.37	9.44	—.07
Sunoco Inc	62.71	62.10	62.24	—.16
TXU Corp	28.24	28.08	28.20	—.09
TempleInland	66.09	65.72	65.94	—.01
TexInd	36.65	36.37	36.42	—.22
TexasInst	31.85	31.40	31.64	+.62
Textron	56.30	56.08	56.16	—.25
TimeWarner	17.34	17.16	17.17	—.06
TrinityInds	29.75	29.59	29.60	—.04
TylerTech	9.70	9.50	9.62	+.03
UnionPacif	62.79	62.42	62.53	+.02
USSteel	40.15	38.81	39.60	+.44
UnitedTech	91.55	90.80	91.04	—1.16
Unocal	39.40	38.85	39.12	+.20
VerizonComm	38.61	38.33	38.46	—.24
WalMart	60.85	59.84	59.90	—.55
WellsFargo	57.92	57.53	57.85	+.22
WstnGasRs	50.63	50.00	50.02	—.13
WinnDixie	6.24	6.09	6.10	—.11
Xerox Cp	14.44	14.25	14.25	—.03
YumBrands	37.62	37.25	37.50	+.25

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Soldiers take oath of citizenship

FORT SAM HOUSTON (AP) — On Wednesday, Army Pfc. Marlenny Fernandez will board a military transport plane to fly to Iraq. And when that day comes, she'll be an American.

Fernandez was one of 38 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who took the oath of allegiance Monday in San Antonio to become naturalized U.S. citizens.

The new citizens came from five continents, 21 countries in all, though nearly a third of them are originally from Mexico. More than a dozen of the group are Fort Hood-based soldiers who will ship out to Iraq early this month.

"I'm excited — now I'm a citizen," said Fernandez, 20, who was born in the Dominican Republic and moved to New York City seven years ago. "I've been wanting to do this for a while now."

She and the others solemnly raised their right hands as U.S. Magistrate John Primomo administered the citizenship oath in a ceremony at the Fort Sam Houston Officers Club. Afterward, each received a certificate attesting to their new status.

1st Lt. Bryan Cyr, who leads Fernandez's platoon in the 68th Chemical Company, watched the proceedings from the back of the room while dressed in desert camouflage.

He said she had been juggling her citizenship studies and her preparations to go to war for the past few months.

"I'm very proud of her. She's a good soldier," said Cyr, whose unit specializes in chemical decontamination duty. "She is going to be a good NCO when she's promoted."

Eduardo Aguirre, who heads the Citizenship and Immigration Services office within the Department of Homeland Security, praised the group for being American heroes even before they were officially Americans.

"Immigrants contribute to every facet of American society, especially the military," he said. "Words cannot capture our country's gratitude."

Army Sgt. Carlos Ledezma, who came north from El Salvador six years ago, said it was important to change his citizenship before leaving for Iraq.

"If something happens over there, I will be dying for my country," said Ledezma, 27, an artilleryman in the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood. As a new American, he said, "I just have more pride in myself. When I wear the uniform, it's with pride."

Different people had different reasons for going through the citizenship process.

Army Spc. Mario Gomez of Laredo, scheduled to deploy to Iraq next week, says it will be easier for him to further his education when he returns to the United States.

Marine Sgt. Robert Rodriguez, born in Mexico and raised in Uvalde, says he's fixing an oversight from years ago when his American father brought his young family to Texas.

For Air Force Airman 1st Class Ragy Elkidwany becoming a U.S. citizen will allow him to return to his native Egypt to see his parents without risk of mandatory conscription.

"They won't try to put me in the army if I am an American," said Elkidwany, a dental assistant at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

Army Spc. Jean St. Felix, who left Haiti for Miami five years ago, says he has some mixed feelings becoming an American while his former land struggles through a bloody civil uprising that has forced Haiti's president to flee.

Federal authorities pull inmates from Cameron Co. Jail

HARLINGEN (AP) — Federal authorities decided Monday to transfer inmates out of the Brownsville jail where three inmates escaped late Friday, a move expected to result in up to 42 job losses for jail guards.

It's the second time in two months that U.S marshals pulled inmates from a Cameron County jail. Officials did not immediately say where the inmates were transferred.

Meanwhile, opponents in the Cameron County sheriff's race Monday scoffed at Sheriff Conrado Cantu's notions that the latest jail break was an inside job aimed at making him look bad.

"He ought to be focusing on what's going on inside the jail instead of what's going on outside," said Abel Perez Jr., a constable who is one of Cantu's four challengers in the March 9 primary.

Cantu said the department was investigating all angles, including that three federal inmates had help making what would have been a noisy roof escape from a downtown Brownsville jail Friday evening.

"This is real suspicious," Cantu said Monday. "The guards are sitting there 15 feet from where the hole is and they couldn't hear them banging on the roof? ... Somebody had to plant this."

He said his department reconstructed the escape and that the noise could be heard even with a television turned up loudly.

Maximo Manuel Ravell, 39; Mario Alberto Hernandez Villarreal, 22; and Francisco Ramirez Guerrero, 21, were still missing Monday afternoon following their escape from the Ruben M. Torres Sr. Jail, a decades-old structure less than two miles from the Mexican border.

All are Mexican nationals. Ravell and Hernandez-Villarreal were serving time for illegal re-entry into the United States and Guerrero was jailed for possession of marijuana. None were considered violent, sheriff's Capt. Rumaldo Rodriguez said.

Study: Estrogen alone is risky too

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government is ending the last major study of estrogen, saying taking estrogen alone isn't as bad as taking it together with the hormone progestin, but it's still too risky for long-term use.

Women who took estrogen alone after menopause had a significantly increased risk of stroke, and possibly a higher risk of dementia too, the National Institutes of Health said.

Doctors long thought that using estrogen, alone or together with progestin, would keep women healthier after menopause, in such ways as reducing heart attacks and keeping the brain sharp.

Millions of women have quit using the estrogen-progestin combination since 2002, when federal scientists warned that those pills raised the risk of breast cancer, strokes and heart attacks.

Scientists weren't sure whether estrogen alone was as risky. Only women who have undergone a hysterectomy can even consider taking estrogen alone; in other women, progestin use with estrogen is crucial to protect against uterine cancer.

Now, the NIH is shutting down its study of estrogen-only use, too, telling the 11,000 women enrolled to quit their pills, essentially ending hope that estrogen alone would have some overarching usefulness that the hormone combination didn't.

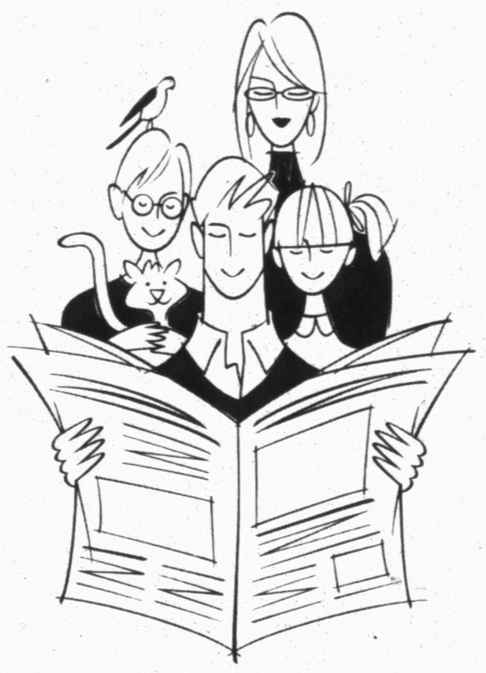
The women, who were healthy 50- to 79-year-olds, took either estrogen or a dummy pill for nearly seven years. Among the findings released today:

—Estrogen alone increased the risk of a stroke as much as estrogen-progestin does. For every 10,000 women, those taking hormones suffer eight more strokes per year than nonhormone users.

—Estrogen alone had no effect, good or bad, on heart disease. In contrast, the estrogen-progestin combination increases heart attack risk by 29 percent.

—Estrogen alone didn't increase the risk of breast cancer. Again in contrast, the estrogen-progestin combination had increased that risk, by 26 percent.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Mom has trouble letting go of son planning his wedding

DEAR ABBY: I am 22. My fiance, "David," is 23. We are both busy with our internships, working and finishing our degrees. David and his older brother still live at home, but now that we are planning a wedding and preparing our apartment, he sometimes spends the evening with me — having dinner, planning, doing homework, etc. Occasionally he stays over. This has caused his mother, "Vonda," to freak out.

Vonda says she's not used to him being away from home. (My apartment is only a mile away.) She makes a big fuss about him not eating dinner with them or not calling to let her know his plans. She constantly tries to make us feel guilty about not spending more time with them. But at 23, neither David nor I think her requests are appropriate.

Two days ago Vonda e-mailed my parents and accused them of allowing me to do whatever I want. It's ridiculous, because I have lived on my own for three years and my parents have no part in this. It's almost like she doesn't take us seriously and that's why we're being treated like children.

The next few months are supposed to be for us to plan our wedding. I don't want to have to deal with this. I don't even want to be in the presence of David's parents now because of their lack of respect and civility. Must I tolerate his mother's behavior? Am I compelled to spend time in his parents' house? — TURNED OFF IN TOLEDO

DEAR TURNED OFF: David's mother appears to be suffering from acute separation anxiety. Both of her adult sons still live under her roof and eat at her table. She looks at you — an independent woman — and sees a worldly rival "who's allowed to do whatever she wants," stealing her boy away.

David is long overdue for a serious talk with his parents. While, in a sense, he will always be "their little boy," he is a man now and will soon be striking out on his own. However, if he's not going to be home for dinner and plans to stay the night at your place, it would be considerate of him to let his parents know so they won't be concerned.

Must you tolerate Vonda's behavior? Yes, for the time being. Are you compelled to spend time with your future in-laws? You will if you're as smart as I think you are. There's much to be gained from strong family ties, if it's possible to maintain them. I have a hunch Vonda feels very isolated right now. A step in the right direction would be for you to ask her for some input on those wedding plans.

**

DEAR ABBY: When a person is asked what is wrong with him or her, are they obliged under the rules of good manners to give an unambiguous report of their illness, even if their malady is a result of AIDS, TB, VD, mental illness or any of the other diseases to which humankind is subjected?

My question stems from an intensive interrogation. Your response will be deeply appreciated. — WONDERING IN RANCHO CUCAMONGA

DEAR WONDERING: Although the "interrogation" may have been out of concern for you and well-intentioned, you were under no social obligation to give a specific reply. If it happens again, smile and say, "If that were any of your business, you'd already know the answer."

**

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Getting involved with an energetic partner in the year ahead will serve to bring out the best in you. Due to this person's influence, your talents and skills will be used more productively in your career, as well as in your social activities.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — It's time to disengage yourself from an unproductive venture instead of foolishly clinging to it. Let go without looking back. You won't regret unburdening yourself of a wasteful load.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Better conclusions can be drawn today through viewing matters solely on an intellectual level, leaving instinct or hunches totally out of the picture. Your feelings could throw you off base.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — An associate might try to get you to join a new group or organization today, but before you do, find out more about it to make sure its goals are what you really want to be associated with.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Patting yourself on the back before you have actually accomplished what you say you're going to do today could cause you embarrassment if things go awry. Wait until it is a fait accompli.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Plans that involve others, as well as you, can't be left up to chance today. Before you get entrenched, check to see that everyone else has the map and is heading in the same direction.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — It is always wise to avoid debit spending, but it's particularly wise at this time. Purchasing things and hoping you will have the funds to cover them later can cause major problems down the line.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Something you've been negotiating may look like it is close to an agreement today, but don't rush things. If all the terms haven't been verified, don't close the deal.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Be careful today that you don't try to cover up the fact that you haven't had time to take care of something for another when you really haven't. Better to 'fess up than to look deceptive.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — If you've been catering to your whims of overindulgence for some time, there's no better time than now to turn over a new leaf and put a stop to it — no matter how hard or difficult it is to do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Don't let your restlessness today cause you to make big changes merely for change's sake. It could result in a chain reaction that would filter down to many different levels and create havoc.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Instead of proceeding blindly in building your castle today, construct a blueprint. The more concise you can make it, the better your chances will be in its becoming a reality.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Beware of a tendency to count your chickens today before they are hatched. There is a strong chance that some of your eggs could get broken before they have a chance to develop.

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$250,000 is donated

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — A foundation created by Danish-born pianist-comedian Victor Borge has donated $250,000 to the construction of a Jewish Museum in Copenhagen, museum director Janne Laursen said Monday.

Scheduled to open June 8, the museum will tell the history of Danish Jews through books, manuscripts, religious and everyday objects.

The museum design was created by U.S. architect Daniel Libeskind, who designed the Jewish Museum in Berlin and the master plan for the memorial World Trade Center site in New York.

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Local/Nat

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The Waukesh

Best Available Copy

WTC hosts 12th annual art contest

SHS student wins Best of Show; area students attended workshops

Snyder High School student Joel Tarin claimed the Best of Show award at the 12th Annual West Texas High School Art Competition held Feb. 21 at Western Texas College.

His Bubble in a Tunnel was entered in Division 1, two dimension category.

Ninth and tenth grade winners in Division I, two-dimensional category are, first place, Jessi Gorman, Jim Ned High School, Balanced; second place, Matt Boxkemper, Jim Ned, The Look of Tomorrow: and third place, Haylee Allen, Jim Ned, Little Moments.

Merit awards were presented to Clint Conley, Tyler Walters and Emma Dyer, all Jim Ned; Elliott Holloway, Merkel, Stephanie Fenner, Hawley; Jared Ferguson and Mitch Bell, both Corrigan-Camden; and Brittney Farquhar, Colorado High Schol.

Division I ninth and tenth grade winners in the three-dimensional category are first place, Bradley Chance Bowlin, Ira High School, Coil Pot; second place, Tanya Jimenez, Hawley, Jug of Jute; and third place, Daniel Salazar, Colorado, Vase.

Kristin Akins of Hawley received a merit award.

Eleventh and twelfth grade winners in Division 2, two-dimensional category, are first-place tie, Dustin Darby, Jim Ned, Celebrity Mole, and Whitney Tittle, Merkel, Meet the Badgers; second place, John Starnes, Jim Ned, Cowboy Handy; and third place, Naomi Loredo, Merkel, Maria.

Merit awards were presented to Matt Blanton, Jordan Wright (2), Jessica Miller, Cody Thomas and John Starnes, all Jim Ned; Julia Sayre and Melissa Thorne, both Hawley; Daniel Baldwin, Shawna Hollabaugh and Kim Ely, all Cooper; and Jonathan Bednarz, Junction.

Others are Joel Contreras (2) and April Maxey, both of Corrigan-Camden; Martin Garcia, Post; Tamara Gore, Sudan; Whitney Tittle and Manuel Ortega, both Merkel; Mindy Gore (2), Sudan; Al Melendrez, Sweetwater; and for a video, Tamara Gore and Macie Lance, both Sudan.

Eleventh and twelfth grade Division 2 winners in the three-dimensional category include first place, Temeka Wells, Snyder, Clay Calamody; second place, Carlos Leanos, Colorado, Coil Vase; and Nicolette Traylor, Snyder, Coral of the Sea.

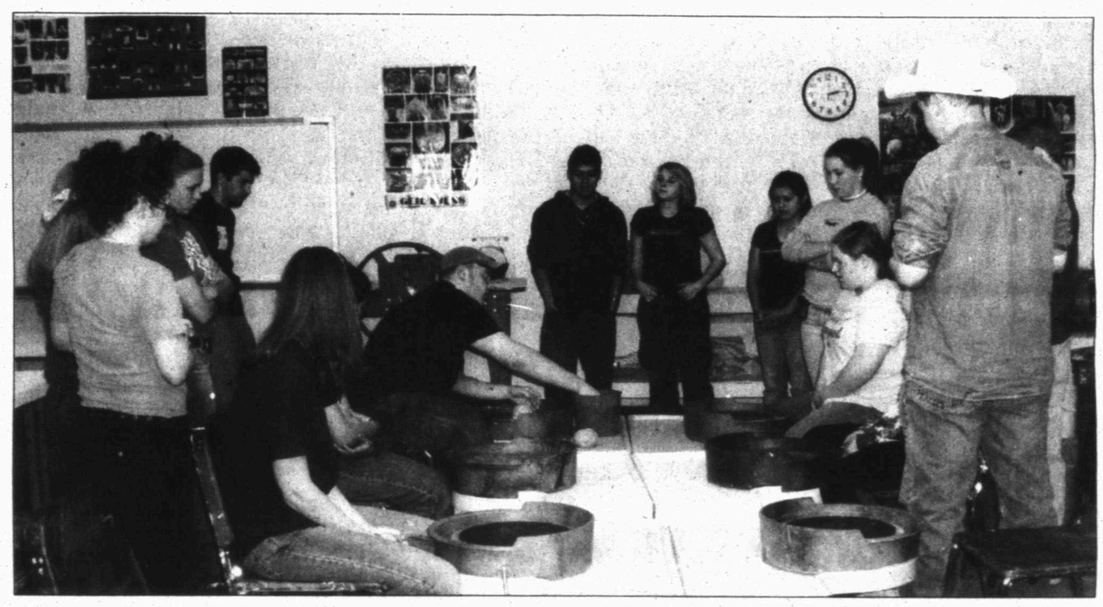
Merit award recipients are David Blake, Clyde; Kyle Murphy, Cooper; Janie Garcia, Snyder; and Katie Lujan, Junction.



ART SHOW JUDGE — Pam Price of Odessa, professor of art at the University of Texas at Permian Basin, was the judge. She is looking at 11th-12th grade entries in Division 2.



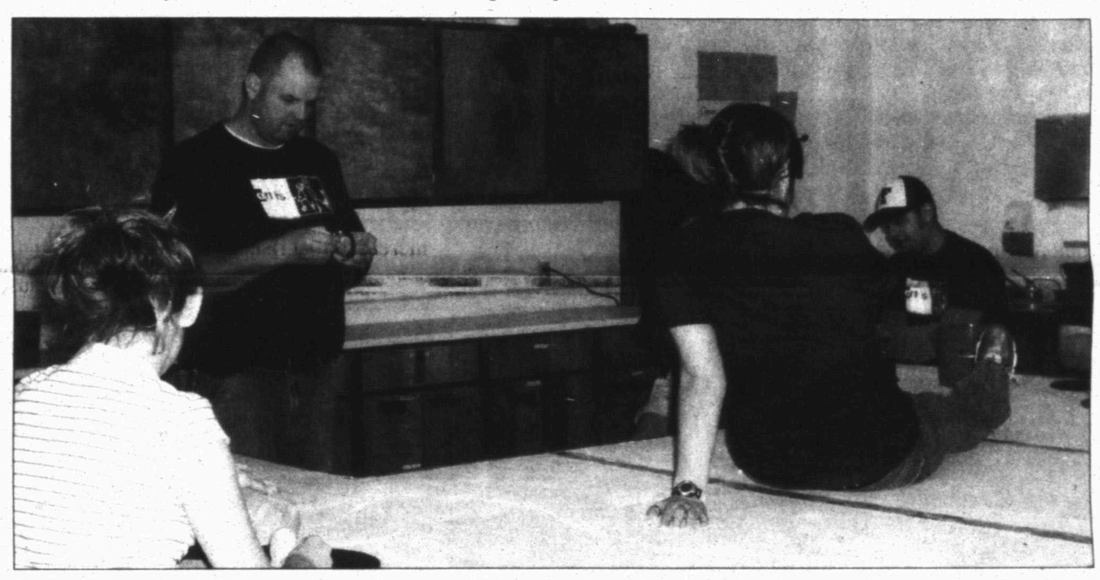
ART LESSONS — Whitney Tittle of Merkel, right, listens to Carol Bullard, SISD art teacher, before she begins drawing. Carcie Posey, SHS student, was the model.



POTTERY DEMONSTRATION — Ian Shelly, former WTC student who is now an art major at Texas Tech University, demonstrates how to make pottery.



MAKING PRINTS — Ben Sum, associate professor of art, introduces Cycris Ho, who taught students how to make prints. She is a former WTC student and is now majoring in art at Angelo State University.



FINGER SCULPTING — Shane Christensen, WTC art instructor, demonstrated finger sculpting. Stephanie Valadez of Snyder served as the model.

SDN Photos By Shirley A. Gorman

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



'I don't know' means I don't know

DEAR DR. GOTT: In a recent column, a reader asked: "I've worn hearing aids for years and attempt to remove the excess wax every month or so. Why do I find about three times as much wax in one ear as in the other?"

You responded: "I don't know. People tend to develop earwax accumulation selectively, in one ear or the other. You can obtain advice about cleaning from your family physician."

Perhaps the reader's letter was edited, but it appeared that his inquiry, which concerned differences in earwax accumulation, only required an explanation. Instead, you referred him back to his family physician, without answering his question.

DEAR READER: What is it about the phrase "I don't know" that confuses you? I made some comments about earwax, but I was honest in stating that I couldn't answer the reader's question. Would you prefer that I give him a long, confusing, drawn-out and complicated opinion?

My experience is that my readers expect me to be forthright and succinct. This is how I chose to answer a question to which I didn't have an answer.

"I don't know" is an answer.

Incidentally, I also stick to this pattern with the patients in my practice. If I don't know the answers, I'll admit that and refer such patients to specialists. For example, last week in the office, as an emergency, I saw a 55-year-old architect who had chest pain of two hours' duration, associated with some difficulty breathing, cough and weakness. He was otherwise healthy. His exam was normal. I said: "Ted, I don't know the cause of your symptoms, but I am very concerned," so I had his wife drive him to the hospital emergency room for appropriate testing. He was found to have pericarditis (an inflammation of the heart covering), was admitted to hospital, discharged three days later, and is now happily back to normal, playing squash.

Most good physicians I know are willing to say "I don't know" and ask for help in selective instances. I view this as a positive attribute.

Where was I? Oh, earwax. Did I get off the subject? Sorry.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What makes me take quick, involuntary gasps when I'm totally at ease? I'm 64 and healthy.

DEAR READER: Older people sometimes catch themselves taking short gasps. I do not know the reason for this, but it should not indicate or lead to any health consequences.

Readers who are concerned about lung disorders can send for a copy of my Health Report "Living with Chronic Lung Disease." You can do this by sending a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

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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Museum planned to honor Les Paul

WAUKESHA, Wis. (AP) — Backers of a planned museum exhibit honoring guitar innovator Les Paul say they aren't worried about a similar display stealing the show.

"The New Sound: Les Paul and the Electric Guitar" is scheduled to open Friday at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland.

Paul, a native of Waukesha, was inducted into the hall of fame in 1988. He's scheduled to perform during opening ceremonies for the exhibit.

The Waukesha County Historical Society & Museum has secured two cargo vans of his sheet music, photographs and other collectibles for an exhibit proposed for downtown Waukesha, but that exhibit isn't expected to open for two to three years.

Sue Baker, executive director of the historical society, said she isn't concerned.

The "New Sound" tribute highlights Paul's place in rock 'n' roll history, while the Waukesha exhibit will focus on his childhood and how he started tinkering with music and recording, Baker said Monday.

Dinero más rápido no sería posible.

Préstamo de reembolso anticipado.

Imaginate. Entras a hacer tus taxes y te vas con tu cheque por el prestamo de la cántidad de tu reembolso, menos los honorarios bancarios y de la preparación de taxes.

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MAR 02 2004

Best Available Copy

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Explosions rock Shiite shrines in 2 cities

KARBALA, Iraq (AP) — Simultaneous explosions ripped through crowds of worshippers today at Shiite Muslim shrines in Baghdad and Karbala, killing at least 143 people on the holiest day of the Shiite calendar, a U.S. general said. It was the bloodiest day since the end of major fighting.

A "prime suspect" in the attacks was al Qaida-linked Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt said. U.S. officials say al-Zarqawi was planning spectacular attacks on Shiites aimed at sparking a Sunni-Shiite civil war.

In Tehran, Interior Ministry spokesman Jahanbakhsh Khanjani estimated that as many as 50 Iranians were believed to be killed. He said information was incomplete and no official figures on confirmed Iranian deaths was available. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said the United States and its allies were "responsible for security" for the pilgrims.

The attacks, a combination of suicide bombings and planted explosives during the Shiite festival of Ashoura, coincided with a shooting attack on Shiite worshippers in Quetta, Pakistan, that killed at least 41 people and wounded more than 150.

Police in the southern city of Basra kept the wave of violence from being even bloodier, arresting four would-be suicide bombing suspects.

Monday night, a bomb was defused in the holiest Shiite city, Najaf, officials said.

Today was the climax of the 10-day Ashoura festival. It is the most important period in the Shiite calendar and draws hundreds of thousands of pilgrims in Iraq, Iran, Pakistan and other Shiite communities.

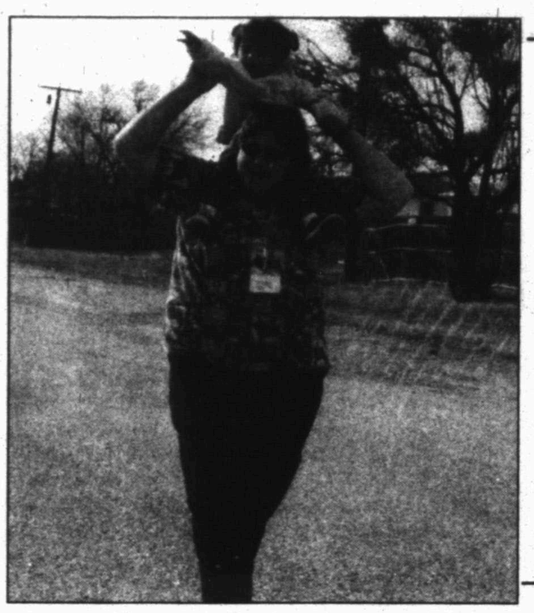
The devastation today included the work of three suicide bombers who set off explosives in and around Baghdad's Kazimiya shrine, killing 58 and wounding 200, Kimmitt told reporters. In Karbala, at least one suicide attacker blew himself up and pre-set explosives detonated, killing 85 and wounding more than 230, he said.

A fourth suicide bomber whose explosives did not detonate was captured at Kazimiya, and six people were arrested in connection with the attack in Karbala, Kimmitt told reporters in Baghdad.

Iraqi police also arrested four would-be suicide bombers in the southern Iraqi city of Basra today. Two men were arrested after a car bomb was found outside the Seyed Ali al-Musawi Mosque. Later in the day, police arrested two women who were wearing explosives-laden belts as they marched in a procession to mark Ashoura.

U.S. soldiers who arrived at Kazimiya were attacked by angry crowds throwing stones and garbage, injuring two Americans.

"This is the work of Jews and American occupation forces," blared a loudspeaker outside the Kazimiya shrine. Inside, cleric Hassan Toaima told an angry crowd, "We demand to know who did this so that we can avenge our martyrs."



HITCHING A RIDE — Dawn Fish gives a lift to participant Giselle Gutierrez Monday at Towle Park for the Walk for WIC sponsored by Outreach Health Services. (SDN Staff Photo)

Monday at Towle Park...

Walk for WIC kicks off Nat'l Nutrition Month

Parents and children gathered at Towle Memorial Park Monday for a walk around Towle pond to kick off the Walk for WIC, part of National Nutrition Month.

"We're walking a mile around the pond. We have kids and grownups and it's going to be a lot of fun," said walk organizer Mary Rodriguez.

Rodriguez, along with Dawn Fish, works in the Snyder office of Outreach Health Services WIC Program.

National Nutrition Month is a nutrition education and information campaign sponsored annually by the American Dietetic Association. The campaign is designed to focus attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits.

"We spend a lot of time with kids every day, but we have several special activities planned this month," said Rodriguez.

"We will also be at the health fair at Snyder Day Care to be held later this month," added Fish.

Participants in the Walk for WIC volunteered time to take part in the event as a portion of their nutritional classes at the WIC office.

Three subjects jailed Monday

• Arrests

Three subjects were jailed in Scurry County on Monday.

At 1:10 p.m. a 28-year-old man was arrested on U.S. 84 near the city limits on a Lubbock County warrant for contempt of child support order.

A 17-year-old male was placed under arrest at 4 p.m. at the Law Enforcement Center on a local warrant for public intoxication.

A report of a family disturbance at 5:56 p.m. led to the arrest of a 44-year-old man charged with Class C assault family violence.

• Family disturbance

A caller reported at 4:57 p.m. Monday that a brother and sister were fighting at a home on College Ave.

An anonymous caller reported at 12:42 a.m. today a man and woman fighting at a home on Elm St. Officers located the couple who said they had been in a verbal argument and no assault had taken place.

At 10:13 p.m. Monday a woman reported her husband was trying to force her from her home on Irving.

• Fight

A caller from Cogdell Hospital emergency room reported at 7:59 p.m. Monday a female student had been involved in a fight at the high school earlier in the day.

• Shots fired

At 9:04 a.m. Monday a caller reported hearing gunshots coming from the California Apartments on Ave. O. Officers maintained a close patrol in the area in reference to suspicious activity.

• Possible prowler

At 9:49 p.m. Monday a possible prowler was reported in the alley of the 3700 block of Avondale.

• Chemical odor

A caller reported smelling a strong chemical odor in the area of Ave. O and Andress Heights at 7:36 p.m. Monday.

• Injured dog

A caller reported at 12:32 p.m. Monday finding an injured dog behind the Oasis Car Wash on Coliseum Dr.

Obituaries

Murriel Maxine Jones Kelch

FORT WORTH — Murriel Maxine Jones Kelch passed away Sunday, Feb. 29, 2004.

Funeral service is set for 11 a.m. Thursday at Handley Baptist Church, 6801 Church St., Fort Worth. Burial will follow in Greenwood Memorial Park, Fort Worth. The family will receive friends 6-9 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.



Maxine Kelch

Murriel Maxine Jones Kelch was born in Fluvanna. She moved to Fort Worth in 1955 and belonged to Handley Baptist Church for more than 40 years. Maxine was a published poet and an accomplished artist.

She was preceded in death by her husband, David E. Kelch in 1985; her parents, Roy and Mabel Jones; sisters, Ann Cooper and Margaret Pagan; and a brother, R.W. Jones.

Maxine was beloved by all who knew her.

Survivors include a daughter, Mary Kelch Sobhani of Carrollton; a son, David Kelch and wife, Stephanie, of Mansfield; a granddaughter, Kristina Leila Sobhani of Carrollton; a grandson, Stephan Sobhani of Carrollton; a brother, Reuben Jones and wife, Jean, of Abilene; sisters, Nina Hunter of Snyder, Darlene Leach of Cleburne and Doris Gates and husband, Douglas, of Sweetwater; sisters-in-law, Theda Kelch of Dallas and Margaret Sanzone of Venice, Fla.; many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends; and her church family.

Paid Notice

Bill Farmer

1938-2004

MESA, Ariz. — Billy Don Farmer, a former Ira resident, died Wednesday, Feb. 25, at his home in Mesa.



Bill Farmer

Memorial service for Mr. Farmer, 65, is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in the First Methodist Church in Casper, Wyo. Burial will follow in the Highland Cemetery.

Born Dec. 11, 1938 in Scurry County, he married Sue Ann Mason on May 19, 1958.

A 1957 graduate of Ira High School, he moved to New Mexico where he started a 35-year career with Dowell. He spent most of his career in the Rocky Mountain area.

Mr. Farmer was a member of the Methodist Church, Masonic Lodge, Elks Lodge and the Paradise Valley Golf Club.

Survivors include his wife, Sue Farmer of Casper, Wyo.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Leslie and John Pfiefer of Casper and Shauna and Tim Ligget of Gilbert, Ariz.; a son and daughter-in-law, Jason and Carmon Farmer of Queen Creek, Ariz.; a sister and brother-in-law, Lena and Kelton Clark of Ira; six grandchildren; and four nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Whit and Mattie Farmer; and a brother J.H. (Moose) Farmer.

Memorials can be made in his name to Bustard's Funeral Home, 600 CY Avenue in Casper, 82601.

John Marricle

1915-2004

LUBBOCK — John Marricle, the brother of Tommy Marricle of Snyder, died Sunday, Feb. 29, at Heritage Oaks Nursing Center in Lubbock.

Funeral service for Mr. Marricle, 88, is set for 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in the Rix Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in the City of Lubbock Cemetery.

Born on Nov. 3, 1915 in Eddy, Texas, he was a truck driver and a veteran of the U.S. Army.

He was preceded in death by his parents, C.O. and Irma Marricle.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Joyce Marricle of Lubbock; three sons, Ronnie Marricle of Wolfforth, Jimmy Marricle of Abilene and Ed Marricle of Lubbock; a daughter, Amy Marricle of Lubbock; a sister, Melba Franklin of Oklahoma; 17 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

DeEtta Musgrove

1908-2004

SWEETWATER — DeEtta Musgrove, the mother of Jane Scott of Snyder, died Saturday, Feb. 28, in Lakeview Christian Home in Carlsbad, N.M.

Service for Mrs. Musgrove is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in the Sweetwater Cemetery.

Born on May 26, 1908, Mrs. Musgrove had lived in Sweetwater most of her life, and had worked in the welfare department for many years before moving to Carlsbad some five years ago.

Survivors include two sons, R.D. Samuels of Kansas City and Robert Musgrove of Minnesota; another daughter, Jean Evans of Carlsbad; 11 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

Visitation is set from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Personal, Professional Service

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

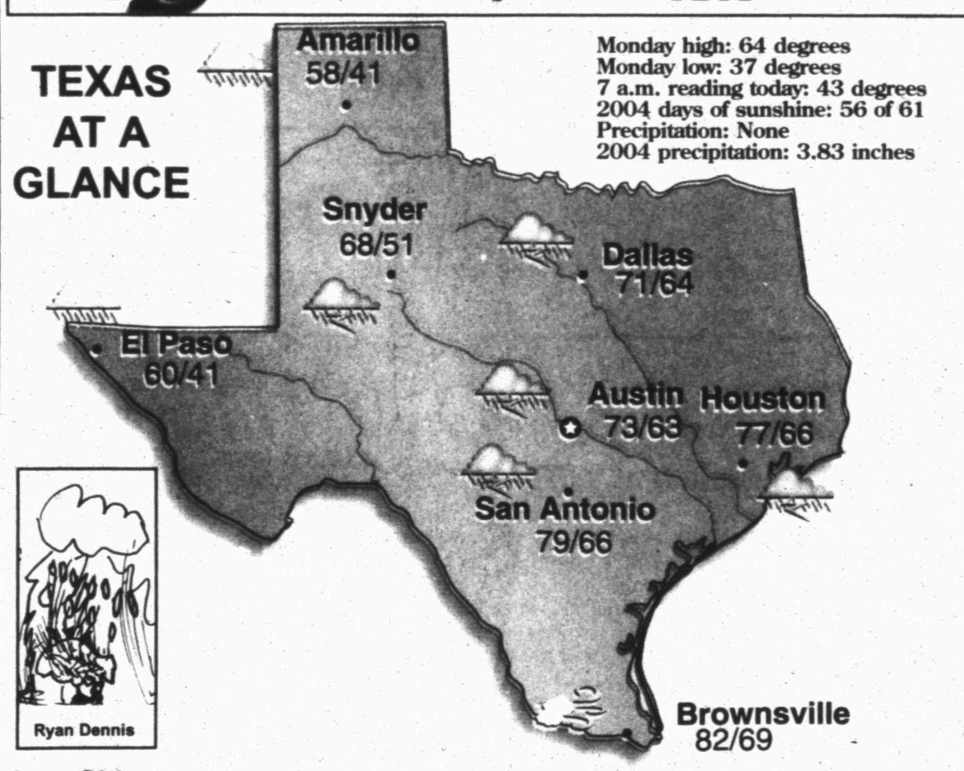
Wed 3/3	Thu 3/4	Fri 3/5
68/51	63/42	62/38
Scattered thunderstorms...possibly severe in the afternoon. High 68F.	Windy with scattered thunderstorms.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise 7:09 AM / Sunset 6:43 PM	Sunrise 7:07 AM / Sunset 6:44 PM	Sunrise 7:06 AM / Sunset 6:45 PM

Texas Savings Bank

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2619 College Avenue FDIC 573-9305

TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Monday high: 64 degrees
Monday low: 37 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 43 degrees
2004 days of sunshine: 56 of 61
Precipitation: None
2004 precipitation: 3.83 inches

Ryan Dennis

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	69	57	t-storm	El Paso	60	41	rain	Midland	72	50	t-storm
Amarillo	58	41	rain	Fort Stockton	76	50	pt sunny	Raymondville	83	68	windy
Austin	73	63	t-storm	Gainesville	66	60	t-storm	Rosenberg	77	65	t-storm
Beaumont	76	65	t-storm	Greenville	69	62	t-storm	San Antonio	79	66	t-storm
Brownsville	82	69	windy	Houston	77	66	t-storm	San Marcos	74	64	t-storm
Brownwood	73	61	t-storm	Kingsville	82	68	windy	Sulphur Springs	69	62	t-storm
Corpus Christi	78	68	windy	Livingston	76	62	t-storm	Sweetwater	69	54	t-storm
Corsicana	71	64	t-storm	Longview	73	63	t-storm	Tyler	70	63	t-storm
Dallas	71	64	t-storm	Lubbock	66	46	rain	Weatherford	68	60	t-storm
Del Rio	83	64	t-storm	Lufkin	77	64	t-storm	Wichita Falls	64	57	t-storm

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	75	56	cloudy	Houston	77	66	t-storm	Phoenix	60	46	rain
Boston	55	33	windy	Los Angeles	64	49	sunny	San Francisco	58	46	mst sunny
Chicago	47	41	cloudy	Miami	79	70	pt sunny	Seattle	45	41	rain
Dallas	71	64	t-storm	Minneapolis	38	25	mixed	St. Louis	51	48	rain
Denver	45	28	windy	New York	55	38	mst sunny	Washington, DC	64	45	pt sunny

Moon Phases

First	Full	Last	New
Feb 28	Mar 6	Mar 13	Mar 20

UV Index

Wed 3/3	Thu 3/4	Fri 3/5
4	6	7
Low	Moderate	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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