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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

TUESDAY

Home of Ray & Jenny Peveler

Looking good...

VISITING FROM BELGIUM — UCO Textile CEO Alain Vermeersch, Chairman Phillipe Vlerick, local plant manager Jack Whitworth, and Chief Operating Officer Vart Van de Woestyne, from left, tour the UCO plant in the industrial park. (SDN Staff Photo)

UCO officials pleased with plant operations

Top management of UCO Textiles of Belgium were in Snyder Sunday and Monday and said startup of the spinning mill in Snyder is going well.

All agreed that operation of the former Lorber facility located in the industrial park is on track as planned

Phillipe Vlerick, chairman of the board; Alain Vermeersch, chief executive officer; and Bart Van de Woestyne, chief operating officer, arrived in Snyder Sunday.

"Everything is going as planned," said Van de Woestyne. "It is just as we hoped things would be three months ago."

Van de Woestyne said progress on producing a slub yarn for a specialty denim product was delayed somewhat because of the late delivery of the equipment.

"Since we received the equipment, we are running about 80 percent of capacity," said Van de Woestyne.

Chairman Vlerick said the company is very pleased with the management of Jack Whitworth and the work of the employees.

"We have excellent employees and we are proud of them," said Vlerick.

"We have had no setbacks," added Vermeersch.

The UCO plant today has 30 employees, but more will be added as production increases.

Grand Jury indicts 15

The Scurry County grand jury returned 15 indictments Monday, including three against one person and two against two individuals.

Larry Dan Beard, 47, of Tulare County, Calif. and formerly of Snyder, was indicted on three counts of forgery. He is in jail in lieu of bonds totaling $15,000.

He is charged with forging three checks totaling $495 on the accounts of his parents, Jeral and Doris Beard, in July 2002.

Beard has prior convictions in Scurry County for burglary and kidnapping.

He was convicted in 1974 and 1979 for burglary, and in 1989 for kidnapping.

Joshua Dillard, 38, who is incarcerated in the Price Daniel Unit, was charged with two counts of assault on correctional officers at the unit in December 2002. Dillard's bond was set at $5,000.

Dillard has prior felony convictions in Travis County for theft, possession of cocaine with the intent to deliver and kidnapping.

Tommy Ray Hull Jr., 29, of 1801 Ave. I was indicted on two counts of burglary of a building. Hull's bond was set at $5,000 each for breaking into Snyder Junior High on Jan. 28, and into Northeast Elementary on Feb. 2.

Other indictments include Sid Erick Rodriguez, 21, of 3118 Ave. T for aggravated sexual assault.

Rodriguez is charged with sexually assaulting a female under the age of 14 on Dec. 2, 2002 and is in jail in lieu of a $20,000 bond.

Salvador Silva Jr., 27, of 2100 W. Monroe St. in Lovington, N.M. was indicted for the March 30 assault on Snyder police officer Mike Ward. Silva is out of jail on a $5,000 bond.

Justin Ray Hester, 30, of 2201 O'Neil was indicted for the March 23 offense of felony driving while intoxicated. He is out of jail on a $5,000 bond.

Hester has prior convictions for DWI in Scurry County in 1994 and 1995.

Abel Campos, 32, of 3801 Muriel was indicted for the March 14 offense of driving while intoxicated. He is in jail in lieu of a $5,000 bond.

Campos has prior convictions in Scurry County in 1992 and 1995 for DWI, and in 1989 for felony criminal mischief and in 1989 for burglary of a habitation, also in Scurry County.

Daniel Zane Gambol, 32, of 241 N. Hwy. 84, Lot 435, was indicted for unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon before the fifth anniversary of the defendant's release from community supervision. Gambol currently is in jail in Burnet County. Bond is set at $5,000.

Also indicted was Charles Sylvester Thompson. 31, of 509 32nd St. He is charged with the March 7 offense of evading arrest. Thompson is out of jail on a $5,000 bond.

Two individuals indicted Monday have not been arrested.

Sealy claims first prize in SDN contest

Bernardine Sealy, 3101 Ave. V, was the only contestant in the Snyder Daily News NCAA basketball contest to choose Syracuse as the national champion.

Sealy garnered 61 points to outpace the competition and claim first place and the $50 prize.

Coming in second and taking home $25 was Ralph Lewis, 1912 29th Street, with 46 points. Lewis predicted Texas would take the crown over Kansas in the championship game.

Third place honors and a $15 prize go to Joe Wirsching, 366 CR 146, with 42 points. Wirsching picked Kansas as champion over Texas in the final round.

Honorable mention goes to Jo Alyce McMullan, 2804 35th Street, and R.B. von Roeder, 2207 45th Street, who both garnered 35 points.

Winners will be mailed their checks.

Interlocal agreement...

Fire suppression needs to be left out of pact, says council committee

By Wade Warren
SDN Managing Editor

No action was taken by the city council last night on proposed changes to the agreement of shared services between the city and Scurry County.

However, Terry Martin, chairman of the city's committee charged with making recommended changes, said his committee will propose that fire suppression costs be removed from the mathematical equation.

"The cost of fire suppression yearly is not a set amount," said Martin. "It will vary from year-to-year.

"It's hard to trade a given for an unknown," he added.

Last year, the fire department made 156 runs into the county and based on the department's budget this year, it cost the city $305,721.09.

The department made 174 runs within the city limits at a cost of $341,033.91.

Under a proposed formula based on the number of county taxpayers outside the city limits and the number of county taxpayers inside the city limits, those numbers would change.

The new formula would have the city paying $258,874.89 of the total budget of $646,755, with the county paying $417,880.11.

Fire Chief Perry Westmoreland said that he felt county-owned equipment used by the fire department should be figured into the equation. "The equipment from the county is valuable," the chief added.

A meeting has been tentatively set for 6 p.m. Monday to continue the discussion on the long-expired agreement.

"We have to hammer out what our desires are and then have a final draft to present to the county," said Martin.

Representatives of the city and county have both said they wanted an agreement that is equitable to both entities.

Council members also learned last night that the city's expense in cleaning up the remnants of the fire that destroyed the Colortyme building and the former Merle Norman building could run as high as $41,000 — depending on what kind of hazardous materials, if any, are found at the site.

Vick Chambers of the city's planning and zoning department said neither building was insured and that the cleanup costs are the responsibility of the owners, and if they cannot afford it, fall back on the city.

"Basically, we'll clean the sites up, send a bill to the owners and if they don't pay, we can place a lien on the property," he said.

Chambers said if no hazardous material is found, the cost of the cleanup would be just over $16,000.

Martin said he would like to see other taxing entities that had received tax money in the past share in the cost of the cleanup.

"The school and the county both have received tax money over the years from the businesses that have been in the two buildings," said Martin.

The council authorized the city to begin cleaning up the site as soon as the hazardous material report is received.

In other action, the final re-plat of the Royal Cedars Addition was approved, paving the way for the construction of single-family garden homes in the addition adjacent to Cedar Creek. The replat adds three lots to the project.

An executive session to continue the evaluation of City Manager John Gayle was tabled due to Mayor Francene Noah and council member James Ashley being absent.

The council did cancel the May 3 election and named Noah, Martin and David Harrell as duly elected. Noah will continue as mayor and Martin and Harrell will serve as at-large council members. None had drawn opponents for the May election.

Trustees also approved the low bid for a pickup for the meter department, chemicals for the water treatment plant, and aggregate and asphalt for the street department.

The council also gave Westmoreland and Police Chief Steve Warren authority to sign a mutual-aid agreement with other entities, including neighboring communities.

Authority was also given to Chambers to fill vacancies and reappointments to the zoning board of adjustment, zoning commission and the builders board of appeal.

Tom Mann, economic development director for the West Central Council of governments, reported on what the city needs to do to obtain grants for Homeland Security in case of a natural disaster or terrorist attack.

Mayor pro-tem Vernest Tippens presided in the absence of Noah and members present were Martin, Ron Shaw, Stephanie Ducheneaux and John Reed. Ashley was present at the beginning of the meeting but left.

Snyder schools will recognize volunteers with annual banquet

Snyder Independent School District will hold its 8th annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet at 6:30 this evening at Snyder Country Club.

Various volunteer groups will be recognized, and the entertainment will be by Max von Roeder.

Mary Ann Juarez, SISD community liaison, will welcome guests, and Assistant Supt. Melissa Jones will make introductions.

SHS principal Larry Scott will give the invocation, while Kiki Wofford, SHS student, will sing the National Anthem.

Special greetings will be offered by Dr. Ronny Collins, superintendent.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Tolerance is the ability to smile when somebody else's kid acts as bad as your own."

Snyder's Mike Post tells us this is a true story — one concerning his father-in-law, Jack Denman.

Jack is one of the original thrifties. Just after Christmas, he went shopping for a sport coat.

The clerk first showed Jack a nifty sports jacket priced at $499.95. It was, of course, more than he had expected or wanted to pay. Jack asked to be shown something more economical.

The next sports coat carried a price tag — on sale — of $479.95.

When Jack inquired if the store had something even less expensive, the patient clerk brought out a similar jacket marked down to $449.95.

In desperation Jack asked, "Can you show me something really cheap?"

The clerk led Jack past the dressing room and parked him in front of a full-length mirror.

But that's not as bad as the retired couple we heard about.

In order to hold down expenses, they shared dental floss.

The good news is, however, is they still had something to floss.

We got a kick out of the following story — probably embellished a little if there is any truth to it at all.

A guy went to the big city the other day and when he came out of the store after about five minutes, there was a policeman writing a parking ticket.

The guy went up the officer and said, "Come on buddy, how about giving a guy a break?"

The officer ignored the request and continued writing.

So the man called the officer a pencil-necked Nazi. The officer glared and started writing another ticket since the car had bald tires and an expired inspection sticker.

The man then called the officer a horse's rear. The officer finished writing the second citation, put it under the windshield wiper with the first and then started writing a third ticket.

This went on for several minutes. The more the man verbally abused the officer, the more tickets he wrote.

The man finally explained...

"I didn't give a rip. My car was parked around the corner.

ASK US

Q—What is the web address of Howard Garrett, the organic garden columnist and author?

A—His internet address is howard@dirtdoctor.com.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Mercedes Vargas...

...custodian for Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home, has lived in Snyder since 1960 and has reared seven children. They are Odilia Suarez of Kermit, Olga Rios and Omar Vargas, both of San Antonio, Orlando Vargas of Sweetwater, and Oscar Vargas, Omega Vargas and Osberto Vargas, all of Snyder. She enjoys working in the yard, sewing and cooking.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Never make fun of religion, politics, race or mothers.

—Mack Sennett

APR 08 2003

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Book fair

Northeast Elementary is hosting a book fair daily through Wednesday. Hours today are 8 a.m.–5 p.m., and Wednesday, 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the school.

SISD volunteer banquet

SISD's 8th annual Volunteer Banquet is set for 6:30 this evening at Snyder Country Club. The theme will be patriotic.

Mexican salad supper

Hermleigh's Relay for Life team will sponsor a Mexican salad supper starting at 6:30 p.m. today at the high school. Cost is $5 for adults and $3 for children under 10. Take-outs are available. Chances also will be sold for two chairs and a table donated by Brice and Joyce Fugua. All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.

Mission Fair

Mitchell-Scurry Baptist Association will hold its third annual Mission Fair from 6-8 p.m. today at the Family Life Center at First Baptist Church in Snyder. There will be more than 20 booths of food and activities for all ages.

FFA booster club

Snyder High School's FFA Booster Club will meet at 7 tonight in the ag building. Officers are to meet at 6:30 p.m.

Lenten worship services

The First Presbyterian Church will hold Lenten worship services at 6 p.m. Wednesday. Anyone wishing to observe Lent is welcome to attend.

Bake sale

Snyder Healthcare Center Family Council will have a bake sale starting at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday in the back hallway. Enter on the south side.

Free income tax help

Free income tax help is available for persons earning low to moderate incomes. There is no age restriction. Assistance is available from 9 a.m.-noon, and 1-3 p.m. Wednesday at the Senior Center, 2603 Ave. M.

Antique tractor, farm equipment club

Antique tractor and farm equipment club will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday at Jack's Road Boring on the Colorado City Hwy. Everyone is invited. For more information, call Bobby Grice at 573-3081.

American Evening set at library

U.S. veterans will speak about their experiences while serving America at 7 p.m. next Tuesday at the Scurry County Library Reading Room.

FBC support groups

Support groups dealing with divorce, death, cancer or caring for elderly parents meet at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the First Baptist Church educational building. A special group for students facing these problems is held at the same time.

Car wash

First Assembly of God youth will hold a car wash starting at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the United parking lot. Cost is $5 or by donation with all proceeds going toward youth camp.

Easter egg hunt

Knights of Columbus Council #8875 will host its fourth annual Easter Egg hunt at 1 p.m. Saturday at Towle Park for children 12 years and under.

Country and gospel music

There will be country and gospel music played at the Senior Center beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday.

New support group

Gateway Family Services will begin a new support group session Monday. The group will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday to focus on the educational needs of adult victims of family violence and sexual assault. Help in the area of literacy, GED progress and computer skills will be offered in both group and individual settings. Children's support group will meet at the same time and childcare will be available. Call 573-1822 for more information.

Retired teachers meeting

The Scurry County Retired Teachers Association will meet at noon Monday at The Shack. State president Tom Pritchard will speak on the current Texas legislature.

High school orientation

Parents of 8th grade students are urged to attend a meeting at 7 p.m. Monday in the junior high auditorium. Debbie Phillips, high school counselor, will provide information concerning high school registration, course selection and requirements for the diploma programs. 8th grade students also are invited to attend.

Lions Club meeting change

The Snyder Lions Club will attend Holy Week Services on next Tuesday in place of its regular meeting. Holy Week Services are at noon April 14-18 at First Presbyterian Church except for Friday when a 7 a.m. breakfast will be served at First United Methodist Church.

AARP recognition coffee

A come-and-go AARP recognition coffee will begin at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 16, at the Senior Center.

Avenue D Baptist revival

Avenue D Baptist Church will hold a revival April 20-25. Wes Massey will the evangelist and the music evangelist is Don Thornton. Sunday services include Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. During the week, there will be a covered dish luncheon and noon services, and services at 7 p.m.

Citizenship seminar

Texas Farm Bureau will sponsor a citizenship seminar June 2-6 at Angelo State University. Applications are being accepted by calling the Scurry County Farm Bureau at 573-9963. Deadline for applications is April 30. Any high school student entering the 11th or 12th grade in August is eligible. Registration and transportation fees provided by the local Farm Bureau.

ON TO REGIONAL — Snyder High School drama department's *The Tempest* advanced to regional from the area one act play contest held Saturday at Midland College. SHS next competes Friday at Odessa College. Bottom row from left, Tanner Beard, Nicole Sloboda, Sara Cantu, Lacee Kincaid and director Brad Vincent; second row, Jeff Stanfield, Malorye Miller, Justin Cox, Bobby Sands; third row, Jason Hook, Caleb Durham, Cole Welch; fourth row, Jerry Ashley, Rachel Cave, Marissa Chaidez; fifth row, Clark Reed, Erin Cooley and Blake Robertson; and top row Bret McClendon, Josh Knox, Paul Jackson and Jeff Scott. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Study reveals obese children rank their quality of life low

CHICAGO (AP) — Obese children rate their quality of life with scores as low as those of young cancer patients on chemotherapy, a study found, highlighting the physical and emotional toll of being too fat.

Teasing at school, difficulties playing sports, fatigue, sleep apnea and other obesity-linked problems all severely affect obese youngsters' well-being, the study found.

While the researchers didn't expect to find youngsters mirroring the cliche of the fat, happy child, the dismal scores were far lower than anticipated, said lead author Dr. Jeffrey Schwimmer, a pediatric gastroenterologist at the University of California in San Diego.

"The magnitude... is striking," Schwimmer said. "The likelihood of significant quality-of-life impairment was profound for obese children."

The study appears in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association, an edition devoted to obesity studies.

It comes amid doctors' growing concern about the nation's obesity epidemic and recent data suggesting 15 percent of U.S. youngsters are severely overweight or obese.

A JAMA editorial notes that Schwimmer's study found that severely obese youngsters and adolescents seeking obesity treatment have more than a fivefold increased risk of reporting low quality of life than healthy youngsters.

"It seems clear that one of the most compelling medical challenges of the 21st century is to develop effective strategies to prevent and treat pediatric obesity," Drs. Jack and Susan Yanovski of the National Institutes of Health said in the editorial.

Schwimmer's study involved 106 children aged 5 to 18 who filled out a questionnaire last year used by pediatricians to evaluate quality of life issues. Parents answered the same questionnaires, and their ratings of their children's well-being were even lower than the youngsters' self-ratings.

On the 100-point questionnaire, obese youngsters scored an average of 67 points — 16 points lower than in a group of 400 mostly normal weight healthy youngsters. The obese children's scores were similar to quality of life self-ratings from a previously published study of about 100 pediatric cancer patients.

Youngsters were asked to rate things like their ability to walk more than one block, play sports, sleep well, get along with others and keep up in school.

Girls and boys appeared to be equally adversely affected by obesity.

Youngsters were aged 12 on average, with an average height of 5 feet 1 inch and average weight of 174 pounds. All had a body-mass index that would be considered obese.

Obesity-related ailments were common and included fatty liver disease, obstructive sleep apnea, diabetes and orthopedic problems caused by excess weight.

Sketch focus of debate

DETROIT (AP) — Prosecutors in the trial of an alleged four-man terrorist cell pointed to a drawing found in the group's home that purports to show details about a U.S. military base in Turkey, but defense attorneys said it was simply an innocent map.

The sketch from a day planner included flight sequences for missions from Incirlik, kinds of aircraft at the base and possible lines of fire for shoulder-mounted missiles, Lt. Col. Mary E. Peterson testified Monday.

Prosecutors contend the base at Incirlik was a terrorist target. Under cross-examination, a defense lawyer suggested that the sketch, in part, was nothing more than a map of the Middle East.

Abdel-Ilah Elmardoudi, 37, the alleged ring leader of the group, was arrested in November, while co-defendants Karim Koubriti, 24, Ahmed Hannan, 34, and Farouk Ali-Haimoud, 22, were arrested during the raid on the Detroit apartment six days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Date Book

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Today is the 98th day of 2003 and the 20th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1913, the 17th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, leading to direct popular elections for senate seats.

On this day in 1952, President Harry Truman attempted to halt steel workers from striking by announcing he was seizing control of the nation's steel mills. His attempt failed and the strikers walked out.

On this day in 1990, Ryan White died from the effects of AIDS. When his illness was first revealed, White was banned from attending his public school. He soon became a leading figure in promoting a better understanding of the deadly disease.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Seymour Hersh (1937-), journalist, is 66; Kofi Annan (1938-), U.N. Secretary General, is 65; Robin Wright Penn (1966-), actress, is 37; Patricia Arquette (1968-), actress, is 35.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1974, Hank Aaron broke Babe Ruth's home-run record.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "We have to choose between a global market driven only by calculations of short-term profit, and one which has a human face." — Kofi Annan

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (April 1) and first quarter (April 9).

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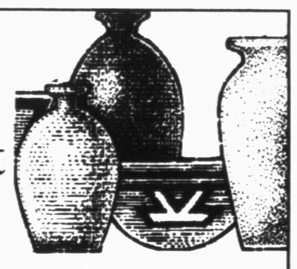
events

LOTTO TEXAS™ TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Monday's Lottery Numbers
Pick 3
(Day) 2-4-8
(Night) 2-8-3
Cash Five
12-14-20-31-35

Clay Pots
Patio Furniture
Metal Garden Art
Gazebos



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DAR CITIZENSHIP AWARD — Jacinda Judah, Snyder High School senior, received the Daughters of the American Revolution, Martin Preuitt Chapter citizenship award at a brunch Saturday at Snyder Country Club. She also received a $100 scholarship. From left are Amy Hargrove and Betty Richardson, hostesses; Jacinda's mother, Deborah Judah; Jacinda; and DAR regent Virginia Clark. (Contributed Photo)

Gift plants may bear enemies

By JANE BERGER
For AP Special Edition

Beware plant geeks bearing gifts. They may be bearing enemies instead of friends.

I learned my lesson the hard way, from a true plant geek who lived next door. Hubert's garden was filled with varieties he came to know in his native Britain, hunted down from obscure sources all over the United States, and then ordered by mail. He also loved to propagate plants and share them with friends and neighbors.

I had no problem with the espaliered fig tree and the towering pink crape myrtle he gave me, but I rue the day he came trotting over with a little piece of "extra" spurge that he was certain I would love to have in my garden.

I was not familiar with this particular euphorbia, but then, Hubert had hundreds of plants in his garden that even avid American gardeners would never know.

I planted it in the herb garden, hoping it would help fill in some of the empty space between the sage and the chervil. And did it ever! Within a few years, it had carpeted the herb garden, jumped across the path to a perennial bed, and popped up several yards away under the dwarf nectarine tree. Even after the garden was completely renovated, the spurge sporadically appeared in the middle of the new lawn.

Hubert wasn't sure of the botanical name of this euphorbia, but it turned out to be Cypress spurge (euphorbia cyparissias) a European immigrant which is now considered invasive in many states. It's a beautiful plant, with soft green needle-like foliage — you'd almost think it was some kind of a dwarf evergreen — and in summer it has small yellowish-green bracts that later on turn to a reddish hue. I hate to say it, but I actually would plant this euphorbia again, but only in an area between two slabs of concrete or in a container.

Another well-intentioned friend gave me the rapacious lemon balm (melissa officinalis) and the tenacious tansy (tanacetum vulgare), which she insisted that I try because of its quaint old reputation as the "strewing herb" — strewn about the ground in olden times to disguise repulsive odors. I think it's known as the "strewing herb" because it strews its seeds all over the yard.

The lemon balm has a pleasant, lemony smell, but it's a lemon of a plant. It, too, is coming up all over my yard, and although its leaves can be used for a delightful tea, I've got so much of it I could almost go into the herbal tea business.

Plant catalogs and nurseries almost never warn you that a plant might be problematical. One prominent mail-order house notes that tansy leaves can be used as an insect repellent, and another observes that the obedient plant (physostegia virginiana) gets its name from the ability of the blooms to stay put if you push them around the stem. It won't stay put in the garden, however, unless you buy the cultivar Miss Manners, which is far better behaved than its aggressive cousins.

Most nurseries and growers are in the business of selling plants, and they tend to emphasize desirable, rather than undesirable plant traits. Before you plant anything, you should obtain a copy of the "invasives" list that is kept by your local county extension agent, or check out individual plants in reference books or on the Internet.

Not all aggressive plants are necessarily problematical. Part of it depends on the kind of look you want your garden to have.

Philip McClain, a landscape designer in Washington, D.C., welcomes a number of plants that seed themselves around his expansive yard. "How do you tie your garden together," he said, "unless you do it with plants like forget-me-not, creeping phlox or even Siberian bugloss." McClain uses these spring spreaders as a carpet under many different kinds of spring-flowering bulbs.

McClain even uses the despised goldmoss stonecrop (sedum acre), which he notes that many gardeners would prefer to pull and then burn to a crisp.

Someone gave him a handful of it several years ago, and he loves its effects in the garden. "It's great creeping in among the stones," he said, "and besides giving you mustard yellow flowers in spring, it's got a tight evergreen presence in winter." After it blooms, McClain "pulls it up by the handfuls" and throws it away — and that keeps it well under control in his one-third-acre urban garden.

In early spring, McClain favors nodding star-of-Bethehem (ornithogalum nutans), which colonizes readily and becomes more prolific every year. McClain likes it because of its fragrance, its use as a cut flower, and because "the first big blast of heat every year knocks it out." He overplants it with perennials and uses it under deciduous flowering shrubs like viburnums and azaleas.

In late summer, McClain loves the look of cardinal flower (lobelia cardinalis), which blooms after many other flowers have faded. He lets it grow up in between the stones on his patio where he can appreciate its spiky look from inside the house "when the mosquitos have the rule of the garden." He lets the seed heads dry on the plant, then shakes them around other parts of the garden where he'd like to have them the following year.

McClain believes that a lot of plant lovers simply fail to appreciate a plant's particular attributes, even if it is extremely vigorous. "I'd like to educate the public," he said, "to relax and focus on the next crop of beauty. Sedum can be an aggressor, bar none, but if you have a lot of other things going on, it's not a problem."

McClain said he does confine some plants like euphorbia and plumbago to containers, but he said "there are very few plants that I don't like." If you should acquire an unruly plant from a friend, he recommends that you just "plant another aggressor next to it and let them duke it out."

'Stellar Blue' ketchup makes its debut

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Blue cheese, blueberries and chicken cordon bleu, but blue ketchup?

The H.J. Heinz Co., which has sold the condiment in red, green, purple, pink, orange and teal, is adding blue to its palette of crazy-colored ketchup. The Pittsburgh company unveiled Heinz EZ Squirt "Stellar Blue" on Monday, just in time for spring and summer.

The food giant expects the new color to provide a boost to all ketchup sales, not just the oddly tinted ones, said Heinz spokesman Robin Teets.

Since Heinz introduced its first shade, "Blastin' Green," in October 2000, the company sold more than 25 million bottles of colored ketchup. Last year, Heinz controlled 60 percent of the American ketchup market, an all-time high for the company, Teets said.

Every time the company introduces a color, its share of the market bumps up a bit, Teets said.

"It's the time of year when overall sales goes up. There's a nice bump in volume from EZ Squirt products, but we tend to have a halo over ketchup, overall," Teets said.

Christine McCracken, an analyst with Midwest Research, said she is not surprised Heinz would introduce a new color, based on the other colors' incremental success.

"There's probably some cannibalization of existing products. If you're going to buy blue ketchup, you might not buy traditional ketchup," McCracken said.

Community Calendar

TUESDAY

Gateway Family Services parenting discussion group, focuses on a variety of parenting issues and special challenges; no charge; call 573-1822 for more information; 10:30 a.m.

Atheneum Study Club; MAWC; 4:15 p.m.

Snyder Shrine Club; call 863-2702 for meeting place; 6 p.m.

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

Altrurian Daughters Club; 11:30 a.m.

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

THURSDAY

Snyder Palette Club; airport terminal building on west 37th St.; Lila Guinn, program; Rachel Martin, hostess; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Snyder Garden Club; at Golden Terrace Apartments, Sandra Browning will lead in making garden ornaments, plant markers, wind chimes, etc., and plant exchange; 11:30 a.m.

LLL Club; fellowship hall of First Baptist Church; 9:30 a.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.

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

Defensive Driving Course; Texas Savings & Loan community room, 27th & College Ave.; no reservations necessary, for more information call 573-2850.

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.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

	North 04-08-03 ♠ J 10 6 5 ♥ Q 7 ♦ 9 8 3 ♣ 9 8 6 2	
West ♠ A 4 ♥ 9 3 ♦ 10 6 5 2 ♣ K 10 5 4 3		East ♠ 8 3 ♥ A 10 5 4 ♦ Q J 7 4 ♣ A Q J
	South ♠ K Q 9 7 2 ♥ K J 8 6 2 ♦ A K ♣ 7	

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl.
2 ♥	3 ♣	??	

Opening lead: ♣ 4

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

The student learns useful lessons

By Phillip Alder

There were some new books that arrived too late for my pre-Christmas review columns. One of the best was "Private Sessions — A Bridge Education" by August W. Boehm (Magnus Books, 2002). After an introduction that includes some useful material, the eight sections, each of which ends with a quiz, contain a conversation between the Professor — Boehm — and a student who is trying to become a top player at his local club. The advice is practical, not about exotic squeezes or complex end-positions.

I particularly liked the discussion of how a hand's strength should be reevaluated as an auction progresses. Look only at the North hand in the diagram. With both sides vulnerable, your partner deals and opens one spade. After your right-hand opponent (RHO) passes, suppose you pass. Your LHO makes a takeout double, partner rebids two hearts, and RHO competes with three clubs. What would you do now?

At first glance, your initial pass with three points looks normal. However, with four-card support for the boss suit, it is tactically bad. You should have raised to two spades, with your fingers and toes crossed!

On the second round, though, your action should be clear-cut. South, both vulnerable and opposite a passed partner (you), has bid a second suit, one in which his RHO will often hold four cards. He must have a good hand. You have four spades and an invaluable heart queen. Jump to four spades.

South has no trouble holding his losers to one spade, one heart and one club.

The book is $19.95 postpaid from the author (autographed on request). Send a check to 330 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10021.

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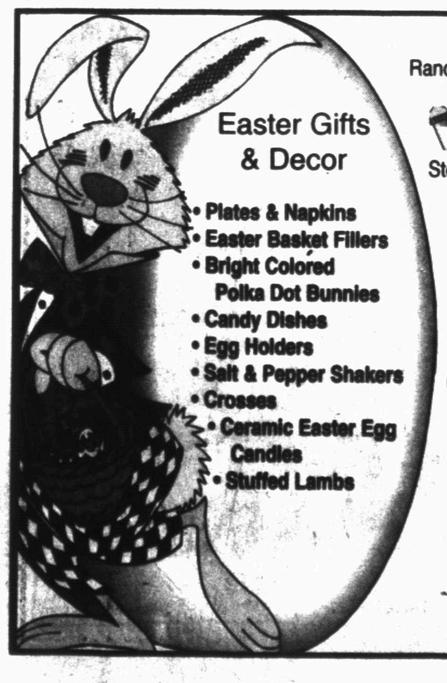


Easter Gifts & Decor

- Plates & Napkins
- Easter Basket Fillers
- Bright Colored Polka Dot Bunnies
- Candy Dishes
- Egg Holders
- Salt & Pepper Shakers
- Crosses
- Ceramic Easter Egg Candles
- Stuffed Lambs

Infant Registry
Randi Redwine & Jake Alexander
Tabitha & Jason Stone
Kelly & Valerio Torres
April & Josh Levens
Jessica Bradshaw
Stephanie & Marcus Parham

Wedding Registry
Lora Sweetman & Ben Poe

Special Occasions

Monday-Friday 10-5
Call if you can't make it before 5:00 - We'll wait

507 Coliseum Drive
Across from old Minute Market

Office
574-2004

Dale Huff, Minister

37th Street Church of Christ
2500 37th Street
Snyder, Texas 79549

The battle isn't over...

Reports from leaders in the government and the military often remind us that the battle is not over yet. Pockets of resistance remain and the military needs to maintain its alertness and readiness for combat. When victory seems certain and we possess a far superior force, it is easy to become complacent and surprised when a battle comes. The same thing can be said to every Christian.

The gospels record the ministry of Jesus and tell us of significant events that occurred during those brief years. Jesus went about teaching the word of God, healing the sick, raising the dead and doing good. He also engaged in real battle against the forces of evil. At his birth, Satan put it into the heart of Herod to try to kill Jesus. Matthew 3: 16 tells of the historical event when Herod killed all the baby boys in the vicinity of Bethlehem who were under two years of age. Revelation 12: 4 pictures Satan as ready to devour the child as soon as He was born, but the child was delivered. When Jesus began his ministry, Matthew 4 and Luke 4 tell us that Satan came at that point and sought to turn Jesus away from the path of God. Tempting Jesus at his most vulnerable points, Satan tempted Jesus to use his power for his own needs, to present himself to Israel floating on the wings of angels and to rule over all the world in a political, world-wide kingdom. Jesus said, "No, it is written..."

The battle continued throughout Jesus' ministry, though Satan would leave Jesus for periods of time. Jesus heard the voice of Satan speaking through Peter when Peter tried to convince Jesus not to die on the cross, Matthew 16: 22, 23. Jesus resisted and overcame Satan. We can too! The weapons we use are the same ones Jesus used. We will look at those next week.

Dale Huff

'MAKE SNYDER BRIGHTER'
NO CHARGE

We would like to encourage everyone to utilize the City wide 'Clean-up Campaign' being conducted April 21st through April 24th. This campaign will be co-sponsored by the City of Snyder, the Chamber of Commerce and the Snyder Beautification Committee.

IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, PLEASE CALL IN AND SCHEDULE YOUR PICK-UPS BEFORE THE WEEK OF THE CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN.
CALL 573-4960 OR 573-4969

April 21st thru April 24th

Utilize dump truck service provided by cleaning up over the prior weekends. A dump truck and driver will be provided During those four days **inside** the city Limits only.

Watch for additional information.

Continuous Service:
The City provides a dump truck to individual customers; the customer must come in and schedule the truck; sign necessary forms; truck is parked around 4:00 p.m. and picked up around 8:00 a.m. the following morning. This is a continuous service and there is a $35.00 charge. This service is not available to persons that perform demolition or clean-up as a business and it is provided inside the city limits only.

THESE SERVICES ARE FOR INDIVIDUALS, NOT TO BE USED BY PERSONS IN THE BUSINESS OF DEMOLITION OR CLEAN-UP AND WILL BE LIMITED TO 1 (ONE) LOAD PER RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS.

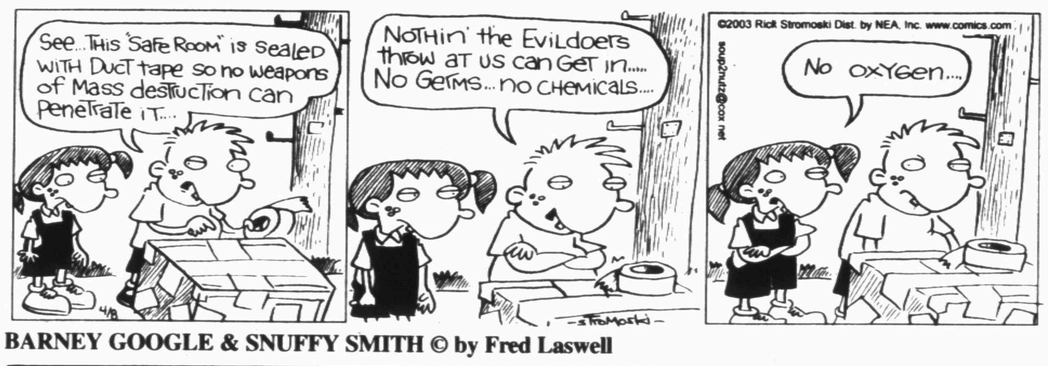
Sponsored by:
City of Snyder
Snyder Chamber of Commerce
Snyder Beautification Committee

APR 08 2003

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman

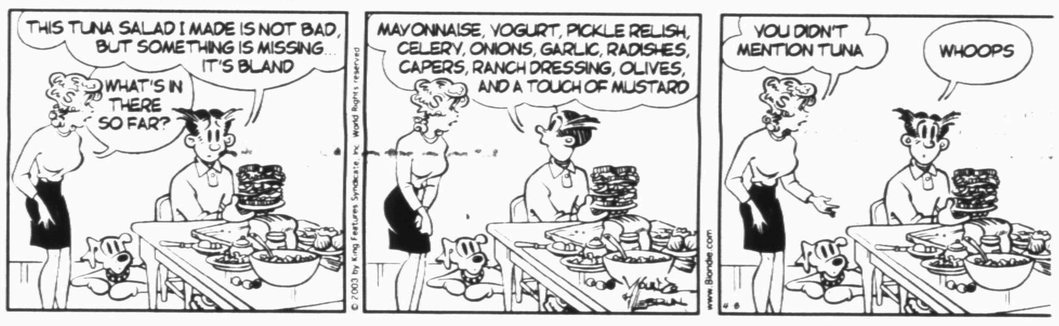
THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski

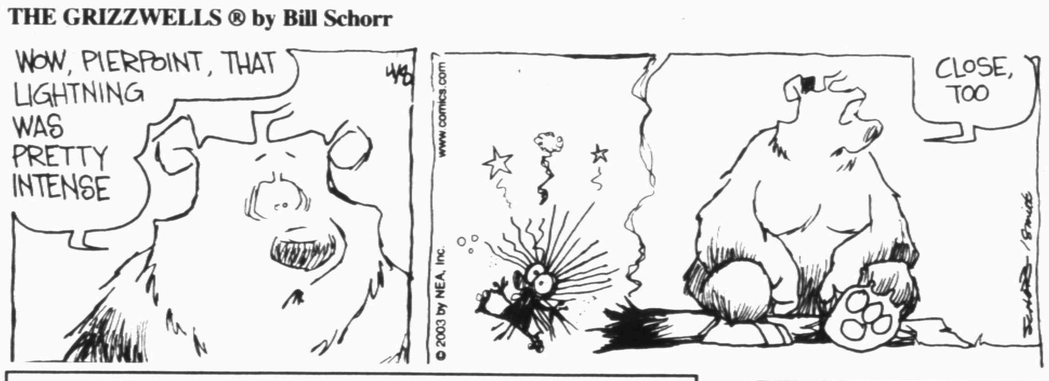


BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell

BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



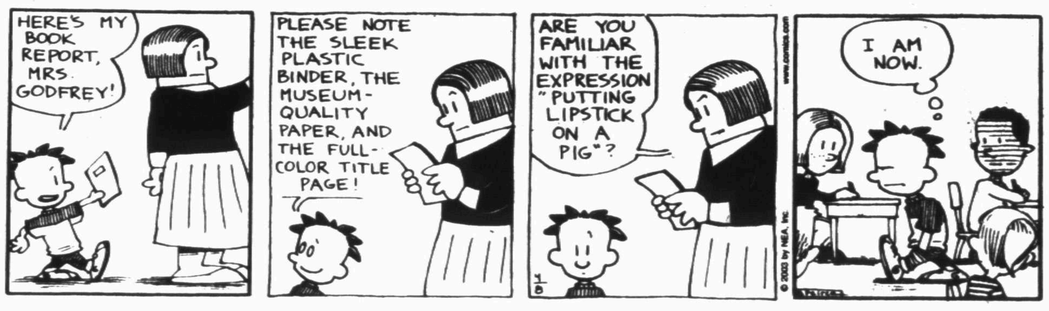
THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves

ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson

BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



MONTY ® by Jim Meddick

ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Cavern effect
5 Not on
8 Society girl
11 Lament
12 Kubrick's computer
13 Part of OSU
15 Stately trees
16 Lupino of films
17 "Diana" singer
18 Ancient Tokyo
20 Treasures
22 Landscape
25 State VIP
26 Ill temper
27 Rascal
28 Nurtured
31 Moffo of opera
33 Part of TGIF
34 Tabloid topics
38 Salty drop
39 Blower
40 Heavy sticks
41 Hoarse
44 Gomez's hairy cousin
45 Marvy
48 Exist
49 Frizzy hairdos
51 Dismount
53 Kind of jump
54 Cloak
55 "Shame!"
57 Company emblem
61 Feds (hyph.)
62 Coffee maker
63 Shore catch
64 Lyric poem
65 Aberdeen boy
66 Noted potters

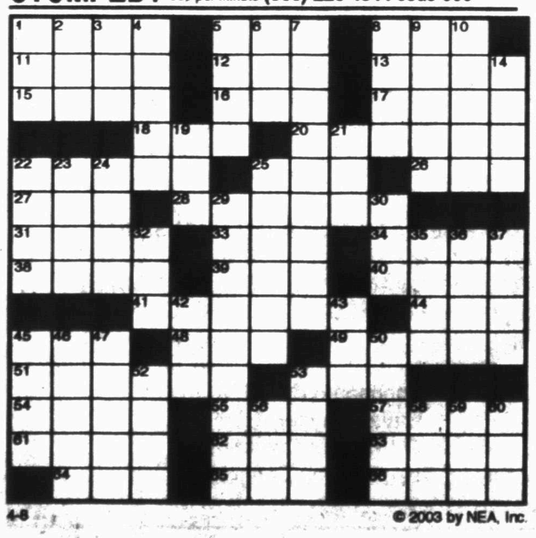
DOWN

1 Meadow browser
2 — Tech
3 That boy
4 Comedian Ole —
5 Buckeye State
6 Craze
7 Vanilla extract
8 Two-way
9 Boredom
10 Sturgis visitor
14 Florist's item
19 "The," to Wolfgang
21 Broad st.
22 Word to a feline
23 Rum source
24 Ms. Ferber
25 Home annex
29 Hard
30 Do film editing
32 Rover's greeting
35 Blonde
36 Actor — Kruger
37 Concorde fleet
42 Team cheer
43 Gab
45 Certainty
46 1836 battle site
47 Bird or person
50 Snitch
52 Kind of therapy
53 Dispatch
56 Rollover subj.
58 Gold, in Madrid
59 Generation —
60 Osaka sash

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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



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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"I'D SAY YOUR CLOTHES NEED A GOOD BATH AS MUCH AS YOU DO!"

4-8 © LaughingStock International, Inc./dist. by United Media, 2003

"This is called 'Reclining Nude.' I don't think the children should be looking at it."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

© 2003 by NEA, Inc.

SPORTS

Syracuse 81, Kansas 78...

Boeheim captures first national title

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Jim Boeheim insisted his long-awaited national title didn't make him a better coach.

Wearier? Maybe so.

In a riveting game that would make any coach go gray, the Syracuse Orangemen finally delivered the championship Boeheim has sought during his 27 seasons at the school.

They defeated Kansas 81-78 in the NCAA final Monday night behind big games from freshmen Carmelo Anthony and Gerry McNamara and a late clutch block by a forward nicknamed "The Helicopter."

"I might be getting old or something," the 58-year-old Boeheim said. "I didn't used to get this tired."

Shaking and baking with an in-your-face offense straight from the playground, the Orangemen (30-5) took an early 18-point lead.

They led 53-42 at halftime — setting a record for first-half points in the final.

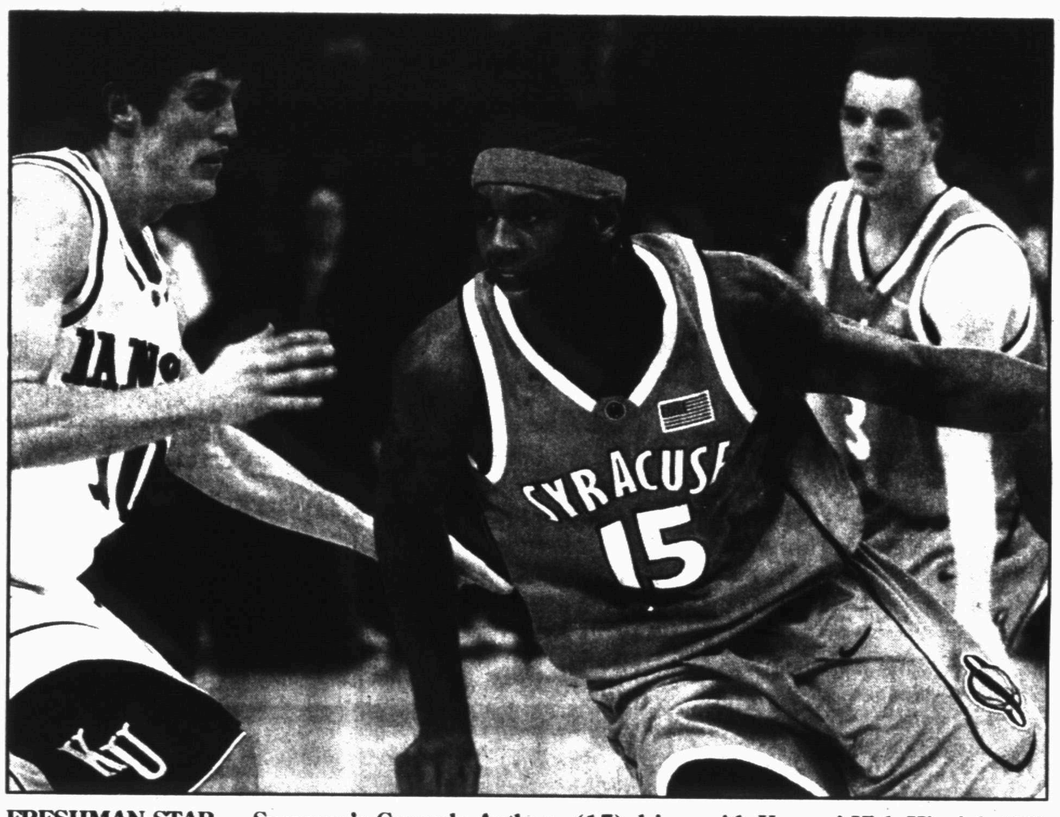
But the determined Jayhawks (30-8) rallied, and the outcome was in doubt until the buzzer sounded.

"We played the best first half we could play, and then we just hung on," Boeheim said.

Trailing 81-78 in the final minute, the Jayhawks had three chances to tie. With 18 seconds left, Kirk Hinrich missed a 3-pointer that went halfway down the basket before rattling out.

The Jayhawks fouled Hakim Warrick, who missed both free throws with 13.5 seconds left. Kansas got the ball to a wide-open Michael Lee in the corner, but from nowhere, Warrick appeared and swatted the ball out of bounds.

With 1.5 seconds left, Hinrich put up a desperation heave that found nothing but air. At the buzzer, the Orangemen mobbed the court to celebrate the program's first title.



FRESHMAN STAR — Syracuse's Carmelo Anthony (15) drives with Kansas' Kirk Hinrich (10) defending him in the first half of the championship game in New Orleans. Syracuse won the national title, 81-78. (AP Photo)

SHS district leaders take diamond today

The district leading Tigers and Lady Tigers will look to build upon their first-half success in 3-3A, as both teams kick off the second half of the season.

The Tigers will travel to Lamesa for a 5 p.m. tilt today. Snyder (12-9, 4-1) will look to bounce back from a 7-4 loss to Sweetwater Friday night.

Chance Greenwood (4-1) gets the call for Snyder today. Greenwood pitched a complete-game, three-hit shutout last Tuesday, downing Seminole, 1-0.

Greenwood struck out 11 Indians in that contest.

Today's game was originally scheduled to be played at Moffett, but lightning and rain postponed the district opener, which was played at Moffett March 24. The Tigers easily handled the Golden Tors (5-16, 1-4), 8-1.

The Lady Tigers tackle Merkel today at 5 at Cates Field.

The Lady Tigers (30-3, 6-0), who have run roughshod over the rest of district, got their closest call to date against Merkel March 25, with Ashley Martinez (9-1) working around eight Snyder errors to get the 5-4 victory.

Martinez will throw against Merkel again today.

Parish, Worthy lead Hall inductees

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Robert Parish and James Worthy led a group of seven players, coaches and broadcasters elected Monday to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Joining Parish and Worthy, both chosen among the top 50 players in NBA history, are Italian star Dino Meneghin, longtime Louisiana Tech women's coach Leon Barmore, black pioneer Earl Lloyd, Meadowlark Lemon of the Harlem Globetrotters and Chick Hearn, the Los Angeles Lakers' late broadcaster.

"I'm still floating, trying to grasp the impact," Parish said. "When I'm inducted I'll think of all my teammates."

The class of 2003 was selected from a record group of 30 finalists, with Parish and Barmore earning election in the first year of eligibility.

The 49-year-old Parish holds the NBA record for most seasons and games played with 21 years and 1,611 games. He came to the Golden State Warriors in 1976, played four years there and then 14 with the Boston Celtics, where he won NBA championships in 1981, 1984 and 1986.

Worthy, 42, spent his entire 12-year NBA career with the Lakers, winning titles in 1985, 1987 and 1988. He was voted the outstanding player in the 1982 Final Four as a member of the North Carolina team that won the NCAA title in New Orleans.

"It's meaningful to be back here with these wonderful guys," Worthy said.

Area Sports Calendar

TODAY

Baseball: Snyder at Lamesa, 5 p.m.
Ira vs. Roby, 5 p.m.
Softball: Snyder vs. Merkel, 5 p.m.
Golf: Snyder girls at Denver City, final district round.

WEDNESDAY

Golf: Snyder boys at Lamesa, final district round.
Tennis: Snyder at district tourney, Midland.

THURSDAY

Track: Snyder varsity and JV at Lamesa, district meet.
Tennis: Snyder at district tourney, Midland.

FRIDAY

Baseball: Snyder vs. Denver City, 7 p.m.
WTC vs. Odessa JC, DH, noon.
Softball: Snyder vs. Lamesa, 5 p.m.
WTC vs. El Paso CC, DH, 4 p.m.
Snyder JV vs. Lamesa, 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Baseball: Ira at Aspermont, 2 p.m.
WTC vs. Odessa JC, DH, noon.
Snyder JV at Wylie, DH, 1 p.m.
Softball: WTC vs. El Paso CC, DH, 11 a.m.

Tracksters gear up for district finals Thursday

LAMESA — After running preliminaries and the finals in a few field events Monday, the Snyder Tiger track squad is poised to finish things out on a high note when the meet resumes Thursday in Lamesa.

"We're sitting at 41 points, which is about 15 points less than where I wanted us to be," head track coach Roger White said. "But the kids are performing well. We had some disappointments, but also we had some surprises. We'll need to step it up Thursday if we want to win district."

Sophomore Ricky McNatt claimed first place in the discus, and Clay Williams and Zach Cain finished in third and fourth, respectively, in the pole vault.

Snyder placed two in the high jump, with Justin Boyd garnering third place and D'Angelo Davis capturing sixth.

Kendall Tidwell and Steven Martinez claimed third and fourth in the 3,200M run, and Malcolm Wells was third in the long jump.

Thursday's meet will begin at 3 p.m., with the varsity boys shot put. The varsity girls discus and long jump will follow.

At 4, the varsity girls high jump and the varsity boys triple jump will come after three JV events.

The running events will conclude the meet, with the girls 400M relay getting underway at 6.

The boys 1,600M relay will close out the district meet at 9:30 p.m.

Sports Briefs

Bulls' GM Krause resigns

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago Bulls general manager Jerry Krause resigned, citing health problems, after a tenure that included six NBA championships in the 1990s with Michael Jordan.

At 27-50, the Bulls will finish with a losing record for the fifth straight season and miss the playoffs again.

Weather postpones practice rounds at Augusta

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Thousands of fans were turned away from the gates of Augusta National Golf Club when heavy thunderstorms forced officials to postpone practice rounds.

It was the first time in 20 years that the gates were not opened on a scheduled practice or play day. The last time was April 8, 1983.

Girls softball signup

Snyder Girls Softball Association signups will take place Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Texas Savings Bank. Times are 5:30 to 8 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Ages four and up are eligible but players must have turned four by Jan. 1. Cost is $30 or $25 for an additional child. Participants should bring birth certificate, social security card and a parent or guardian.

Teenage baseball signups

Signup for Babe Ruth League for 13-15-year-olds will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Snyder Boys and Girls Club.

Baseball buddies

The SHS baseball team will host "Baseball Buddies" from 11 a.m. until noon Saturday. The skills sessions are free to youngsters aged 7-14.

Little Dribblers

Majors

Sonics 31, Shock 25

Sonics: Avery Ware 14, Lolita Ramos 8, Kylie Moreland 4, Bailey Richardson 3, Evian Olvera 2. **Shock:** Monica Clanton 13, Larissa Arellano 6, Megan Villegas 3, Roxann Renteria 2, Jackie DeLeon 1.

Liberty 35, Lady Raiders 18

Liberty: Brittney Webb 12, Alexis Castillo 11, Jordan Wright 10, Gabriella Arrendando 2. **Lady Raiders:** Alex Koonce 10, Ashley Swigert 4, Alison Swigert 2, Kali Brewster 2.

Juniors

Magic 30, Red Hots 29

Magic: Madison Guzman 15, Savannah Valdez 11, Amanda Villa 4. **Red Hots:** Baily Nickerson 15, Ryanna Martinez 12, Alex Hook 2.

Sharpshooters 51, Mercury 34

Sharpshooters: Ashton Burton 31, Blaire Toombs 18, Kaitlin Stewart 2. **Mercury:** Lucero Espinoza 20, Elsa Gallegos 10, Lateisha Richardson 4.

Swoopeters 31, Wildcats 10

Swoopsters: Karissa Medina 19, Bridget Davis 10, Baylee Lewis 2. **Wildcats:** Margaret Benitez 6, Megan Robbins 4.

Fever 24, Comets 20

Fever: Sadee Bernal 8, Taylor Garcia 8, Tai Dean 6, Skye Moffett 2. **Comets:** Kailey Glenn 14, Taylor Autry 2, Carrie Harlan 2, Kassidy Henderson 2.

Rockets 21, Starzz 7

Rockets: Rebecca Jones 10, Jentri Driggers 9, Vanessa Martinez 2. **Starzz:** Sarah Parmer 4, Sydney Glass 2, Samantha Mitchell 1.

Eight-year-old

Hornets 7, Swifts 6

Hornets: Amanda Luecke 2, Vanessa Ornales 2, Justice Terrazas 2, Courtney Pollard 1. **Swifts:** Sarah Kellner 3, Tanya Elam 2, Loran Perry 1.

Swifts 17, Hornets 9

Swifts: Sarah Kellner 7, Kellie Sanders 4, Loran Perry 3, Cailey Young 2, Tanya Elam 1. **Hornets:** Amanda Luecke 5, Vanessa Ornales 2, Courtney Pollard 2.

NHL Playoffs

All Times EDT
FIRST ROUND
(Best-of-7)

Wednesday, April 9
N.Y. Islanders at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Boston at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Philadelphia 7 p.m.
Edmonton at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 10
Washington at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 9 p.m.
St. Louis at Vancouver, 10:30 p.m.

Friday, April 11
Boston at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at Dallas, 9 p.m.

Saturday, April 12
Washington at Tampa Bay, 3 p.m.
Anaheim at Detroit, 3 p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 3 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Sunday, April 13
New Jersey at Boston, 3 p.m.
Dallas at Edmonton, 8 p.m.

Monday, April 14
Ottawa at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Colorado at Minnesota, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at St. Louis, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at Anaheim, 10:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15
New Jersey at Boston, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Washington, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Edmonton, 9 p.m.

Wednesday, April 16
Ottawa at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Washington, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Colorado at Minnesota, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at St. Louis, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at Anaheim, 10:30 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY
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National Car Care Month
April is National Care Care Month, when we urge you to pay special attention to the maintenance and repair of your car. Be it April or any other month, Nix's Auto & Tire Service is available to answer car care questions and help assess your car's needs.
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BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

Auto Service

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Homes, schools, child care centers near nuclear power plants...

Pediatric group recommends potassium iodide stockpiles

CHICAGO (AP) — The American Academy of Pediatrics recommended that homes, schools and child-care centers near nuclear power plants keep pills on hand that would prevent thyroid cancer in the event of radiation release.

Bioterrorism concerns and the war in Iraq helped prompt the new policy of recommending the potassium iodide pills, Dr. Sophie Balk, a New York pediatrician who heads the academy committee that wrote the policy, said Monday.

The academy posted the policy late last week on its Web site and plans to publish it in the June edition of its medical journal, Pediatrics.

The policy is aimed at those within 10 miles of nuclear plants. Schools and child-care facilities within that distance should stockpile the pills and develop plans for how to distribute them in the event of a disaster, the academy said.

"It may be prudent to consider stockpiling potassium iodide within a larger radius because of more distant wind-borne fallout, as occurred after Chernobyl," the 1986 Ukrainian nuclear plant catastrophe, the academy said.

The pills don't have any significant side effects and a top federal official said he supports the recommendation.

"It's better to have them in people's homes, have them available," than to try to distribute them in the middle of a disaster, said Jerry Hauer, assistant secretary for public health preparedness at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, federal nuclear regulators have made potassium iodide available to states with nuclear plants.

Potassium iodide can block the body's absorption of harmful radiation and help prevent thyroid cancer, which can result from excessive radiation. The nonprescription pills are available at some pharmacies, over the Internet and by phone from some distributors.

Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of radiation, in part because they're closer to the ground, where fallout settles, and because their bodies absorb and metabolize substances differently, the policy said.

There are different forms of radiation that pose various health dangers, including increasing the risk of several types of cancer. Potassium iodide protects against one type of radiation — radioactive iodine — and one type of cancer — thyroid.

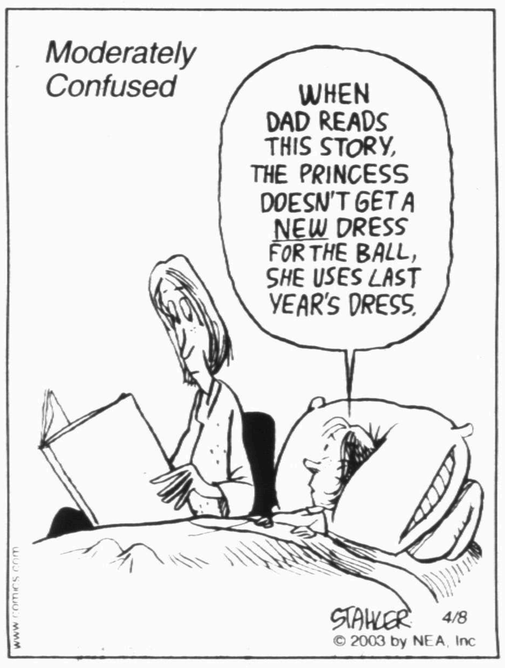
When ingested, the pills flood the thyroid and block inhaled radioiodines from being absorbed by the gland, located at the base of the neck. The thyroid gland produces hormones that help regulate body metabolism and which are essential for normal growth in children.

"It works best if given immediately before or immediately after a radio-iodine exposure," said Dr. Michael Shannon, a pediatrician and toxicologist at Children's Hospital in Boston and Harvard Medical School. He helped write the new policy.

One pill should protect a child for 24 hours, enough time for them to be evacuated from a disaster area or for the radioactive fallout to dissipate, Shannon said.

The pills are not effective against the type of radiation that most likely would be used in so-called dirty bombs, he said.

On the Net:
Academy information radiation: http://www.aap.org/policy/radiation.htm



Dr. Gott By Peter Gott, M.D.

Try the 'no sugar, no flour' diet

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm one of the millions who has tried almost every diet to lose weight. So far, no good. A friend has just paid $50 to have a staple placed in her ear, thinking it will accomplish the impossible: weight loss. Is this fallacy, or is there medical logic to this technique?

DEAR READER: Pure fallacy. The external ear has nothing whatsoever to do with a weight problem. Not so with staples themselves, however, which are being used as part of an operation to reduce the size of the stomach. I'd avoid the stomach-stapling procedure if I were you. It is used primarily for morbidly obese people who have developed serious health complications, such as heart disease, from being massively overweight. The operation can also be considered for those individuals who have failed to shed unwanted pounds despite following weight-reduction diets.

Although you say you've tried "almost every diet," you could well achieve success with my simple and inexpensive "no sugar, no flour" program. Using this diet, with its minimal restrictions, should enable you to lose a pound or more a week without having to resort to expensive pills, weight-reduction programs or dietary supplements.

To help you in your quest for good health, I am sending you a free copy of my Health Report "Losing Weight," which includes my "no flour, no sugar" diet. Other readers who would like a copy should send a large, self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm 51 and healthy but have a problem with my hands falling asleep at night. Clenching and unclenching my fists usually will return my hands to normal, but I've also noticed residual pain in my finger joints after this flexion exercise. My doctor seems unconcerned, but I am afraid I may have a serious problem.

DEAR READER. There are several possible explanations for your symptom; three causes spring to mind.

First, you may be sleeping in a position that temporarily interrupts blood circulation to your hands, leading to paresthesias, the typical falling-asleep sensation.

Second, you could have a pinched nerve in your neck. If, for example, there's a herniated disc in your cervical spine, this structure could be putting pressure on the nerves to your hands, causing pain.

Third, you might have carpal tunnel syndrome, compression of the nerves to your hands caused by constricting bands of tissue at the wrists, often associated with the performance of repetitive activities.

There are, of course, other possibilities. So, in my opinion, you should see a neurologist to initiate the required testing that will include checking your circulation and nerve function. Although some causes of hand paresthesias, such as carpal tunnel, are best treated with surgery, many nerve and circulatory disturbances respond to physical therapy and special exercises.

The residual discomfort in your finger joints could represent arthritis, but is more likely due to the clenching activity that you engage in during the night.

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	4.30	3.50	3.82	—.46
AOL TimeWrn	12.45	12.17	12.44	+.28
AT&T Corp rs	15.18	14.86	15.17	+.31
Albertsons	19.30	19.08	19.29	+.15
Alltel	46.67	46.00	46.56	+.04
AmEl Pw	23.91	23.62	23.83	+.12
AndarkPtr	44.36	43.84	43.98	—.35
ATMOS Egy	21.74	21.50	21.74	+.14
Aviall	7.65	7.58	7.60	—.08
BP PLC	38.55	38.27	38.54	—.11
BakerHughes	30.00	29.65	29.87	
Bank of Amer	70.22	69.25	70.20	+.76
BellSouth	23.10	22.65	23.05	+.21
BurlNoSFe	25.90	25.48	25.76	+.02
Caterpillar	52.02	51.12	51.40	—.30
CenterPoint	7.60	7.50	7.59	+.08
ChevronTex	64.40	63.95	64.37	—.03
Citigroup	37.69	37.00	37.59	+.37
CocaCola	42.06	41.81	41.99	+.29
ColgatePal	55.30	54.75	55.15	+.25
CmclMetals s	14.79	14.50	14.64	—.20
ConocoPhill	51.40	50.93	51.29	—.44
Cooper Inds	37.24	36.73	37.01	—.07
DaimlrChry	32.74	32.35	32.67	+.37
DeltaAirl	11.25	9.61	10.24	—.36
Dillards Inc	13.10	12.90	13.09	+.16
DowChem	29.05	28.43	28.80	—.15
DuPont	40.42	39.76	40.15	—.36
EastmanChem	29.75	29.34	29.62	—.18
EstKodak	31.75	31.10	31.75	+.11
EDS Corp	17.85	17.43	17.79	—.01
Entergy	48.44	47.37	47.54	—.89
ExxonMobil	35.15	34.66	34.90	—.15
FootLocker	11.08	10.90	10.96	—.13
GenDynam	55.62	54.51	55.46	+.34
GenElec	28.10	27.80	28.08	+.32
GenMills	46.00	45.28	45.92	+.52
GenMotors	35.47	34.70	34.99	—.41
GaPacific	14.74	14.30	14.59	—.22
Goodrich	14.38	14.23	14.31	—.06
Goodyear	5.58	5.17	5.24	—.32
GtAtlPac	4.90	4.65	4.82	+.18
Halliburtn	21.02	20.67	20.98	+.17
Hanson ADS	26.48	26.01	26.01	—.25
HarteHanks s	18.67	18.16	18.36	—.33
HomeDepot	26.75	25.98	26.40	+.07
Honeywellintl	22.64	22.12	22.64	+.15
IBM	80.75	78.47	80.37	—.10
IntlPaper	34.96	34.30	34.86	—.10
JohnsonJn	57.99	57.20	57.97	+.64
KinderMorg	45.18	44.78	44.97	+.02
Kroger Co	13.90	13.66	13.79	+.07
LockheedM	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	—.35
Lowes Cos	43.48	42.84	43.13	—.27
Lubys	1.33	1.29	1.30	—.04
LucentTech	1.59	1.50	1.52	—.02
MarathonOil	23.61	23.40	23.59	—.11
MayDeptStr	20.62	20.32	20.53	—.08
Medtronic	46.79	46.22	46.78	+.49
Motorola	8.53	8.21	8.29	—.24
NCR Corp	19.00	18.53	18.86	—.15
Navistar	26.70	26.13	26.70	+.09
PNM Rescs	22.50	22.40	22.49	—.01
Penney JC	20.04	19.56	20.00	+.28
PepBoys	8.04	7.71	7.91	—.19
PepsiCo	39.38	38.95	39.38	+.46
Pharmacia	45.49	44.73	45.21	+.03
PhelpDodge	32.97	32.53	32.97	—.08
PilgrmPrd B	9.03	8.75	8.75	—.09
Praxair	58.19	57.38	57.81	—.91
ProctGamb	89.82	89.01	89.79	+.38
RadioShack	23.05	22.64	23.05	+.13
RoyalDut	42.55	42.11	42.55	+.23
SBC Comm	21.95	21.40	21.91	+.29
SaraLee	19.92	19.50	19.71	—.03
Scripps EW	80.87	80.04	80.53	—.14
SearsRoeb	25.50	24.94	25.20	—.27
SherwinW	27.60	26.11	27.28	—.32
SouthernCo	28.42	28.20	28.36	+.11
SwstAirl	15.19	14.91	15.08	—.07
SprintFON	11.85	11.67	11.82	+.15
SprintPCS	4.17	4.05	4.16	+.08
Sunoco Inc	36.90	36.07	36.16	—.83
TXU Corp	18.15	17.75	17.85	—.28
TempleInland	40.20	39.48	40.17	+.19
TexInd	19.78	19.50	19.51	—.07
TexasInst	17.20	16.02	16.35	—.85
Textron	29.95	29.58	29.90	+.10
TrinityInds	16.00	15.76	15.88	—.05
TylerTech	3.60	3.55	3.60	—.04
UnionPacif	58.26	57.52	58.13	+.21
USSteel	11.26	10.75	11.26	+.53
UnitedTech	61.59	60.63	61.50	+.40
Unocal	26.55	26.35	26.50	—.10
VerizonComm	34.99	34.25	34.49	—.50
WalMart	54.84	54.19	54.84	+.52
WellsFargo	47.49	46.61	47.48	+.65
WstnGasRs	32.51	31.89	31.98	—.57
WinnDixie	14.09	13.86	13.87	—.05
Xerox Cp	9.08	8.90	9.02	—.02
YumBrands s	24.49	24.10	24.49	+.17

APR 08 2003

Comptroller eyes free two-year school for grads

NEXT STEP

Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn got the opportunity Monday to sell her "Texas Next Step" idea to the House Higher Education Committee.

The proposal would allow all Texas high school graduates to attend a public community college, technical school or other two-year institution for free, beginning in 2006.

The committee's chairwoman, Rep. Geanie Morrison, R-Victoria, filed a bill that would create Stayhorn's program. The comptroller proposes that the $150 million idea be funded partially with proceeds from another one of her ideas — video lottery gambling.

Strayhorn said the federal government has predicted Texas would be at risk of losing new business because its growing population would not be adequately educated.

"Our Texas Next Step program will prove them wrong," she said.

"The key to Texas' economic future is a better educated work force," Morrison said, adding that the program would be "a step up for those who chose to advance their education."

Officials from community colleges across the state testified in support.

The committee left House Bill 1889 as pending business.

LIMITING LAWSUITS

The Senate State Affairs Committee began hearing testimony Monday on House Bill 4, sweeping legislation that would place limits on civil lawsuits.

The bill contains "meaningful reforms that are long overdue and desperately needed," said Richard Trabulsi Jr., president of Texans for Lawsuit Reform. He urged senators to maintain the major provisions of the bill, which was passed in the House last month after rancorous debate.

But one member of the Senate committee, Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, said he doubts the bill that emerges from the Senate will remain in its current form.

"I'm concerned that the bill may simply go too far and have a debilitating effect on people who have been injured in some way," Ellis said. "There ought to be more balance."

He said some other senators have similar concerns.

Committee chairman, Sen. Bill Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant, has said he will take his time hearing testimony from all sides.

DROPOUT BILLS

The Senate approved legislation Monday that would set up a pilot program for high school students at risk of dropping out of school.

A bill by Sen. Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, would establish a Middle College Education Pilot Program, which would combine high school course work with college-level work and allow students to receive a high school diploma and associate degree upon completion of the program.

The bill also allows the education commissioner to impose sanctions on school districts that have been rated as academically unacceptable because of high dropout rates.

The Senate approved another dropout-related bill by Shapiro that would require personal graduation plans for students at risk of not receiving a diploma.

"Some students quit after failing only one or two courses in the ninth grade," Shapiro said. "We must have initiatives to keep young people interested and incentives to keep them in school, even at a slower pace, if necessary."

Gov. Rick Perry applauded the bills.

"Middle Colleges will help many more of our students achieve their potential and secure their futures," Perry said. "Providing online diagnostics and individualized graduation plans will further ensure our students' success."

BREATHE EASY

A bill that would levy a tax of 3 cents a gallon on diesel fuel and could help bring Texas into federal clean-air compliance was preliminarily approved Monday by lawmakers hoping to avoid losing hundreds of millions of dollars in federal highway funding.

The anticipated $150 million in revenue would go toward state clean-air programs that target diesel emissions and funds research in new technology to reduce air pollution. The majority would help replace old diesel engines or add smog equipment to them.

The bill also would increase the tax on the sale, rental or lease of diesel equipment to 2 percent. Both taxes would expire in 2008.

The bill has been criticized for ending the Texas Low Emissions Diesel fuel standard, an energy efficiency initiative and a grant program designed to help drivers buy low-emissions cars.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"All I can say is you are smoother than a gravy sandwich." — Rep. Fred Brown, R-Houston, to Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn who was trying to sell her free tuition program to lawmakers.

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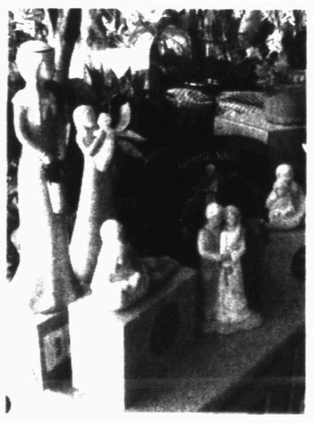

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Couple should stand firm against in-laws' ultimatum

DEAR ABBY: I just finished the letter from "Marriage Bound and in a Bind," the young Catholic woman who is engaged to Harvey, the Jewish gentleman whose parents refuse to attend their wedding if a priest is present.

Abby, this is not a problem that requires counseling as you advised. The issue here is whether this young woman is marrying the right man — a man who will stand with her against opposition from the outside. There doesn't need to be any "meeting of the minds" with regard to the parents and the couple. The engaged couple should make their own decisions jointly and stand united against any opposition from either set of parents.

If Harvey and his bride have decided to marry with a priest and a rabbi in attendance, that is their decision. Were we faced with the same quandary, my husband's and my response to anyone who tried to blackmail us with, "We won't come if ..." would be, "Then we will miss you on our special day."

Harvey's parents have put him into the position of having to choose. My guess is that it is not the first time it has happened, nor will it be the last. Mama and Papa want Harvey to marry a nice Jewish girl, and no amount of compromise on "In a Bind's" part will make them happy, because she's the "wrong" religion.

Take my word for it, if these two back down now, his parents will run their life. They'll tell them where to live, where to work, how to raise their children ... the list goes on and on. Now is the time for "In a Bind" to discover if she's engaged to the right man. Somehow, I doubt she is. **— WON'T DO IT AGAIN IN BRIDGEPORT, CONN.**

DEAR WON'T DO IT AGAIN: I was hoping the young couple could make his parents see reason by being conciliatory. However, a slew of readers agreed with you. **Read on:**

DEAR ABBY: You advised "In a Bind" to get both sets of parents together socially, and that she and her fiance seek premarital counseling — preferably from a nondenominational counselor. I disagree!

If that young man can't stand up to his parents for one day — his own wedding day — how will he handle their demands over the next few decades? Will there be a battle every December — blue lights on a Christmas tree and red and green candles on the menorah? How about a Passover bunny? And bedtime prayers? The possible conflicts are endless. **— OLDER AND WISER IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR OLDER AND WISER: I see what you mean. Of course, that wouldn't happen if she converted — which is what his parents may be angling for.

DEAR ABBY: Regarding the young Catholic woman marrying the Jewish man, please suggest that she obtain three copies of Cokie and Steve Roberts' book, "From This Day Forward," one for each set of parents and one for the couple. The book includes a lovely and compelling description of their Jewish-Catholic marriage (with kids). **— TRYING TO HELP IN RENO**

DEAR TRYING TO HELP: I have heard the book is wonderful, but one copy for "In a Bind" would be enough. Her parents seem to be accepting of the union. And his parents do not appear to be open to any opinion other than their own. They have my sympathy, by the way, because many Jewish people feel the greatest threat to Judaism in the United States is assimilation.

**

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

A few more ambitious undertakings than usual might nag at you in the year ahead. You will have what it takes to make each one work, so long as you stay in your area of expertise and take on one at time.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — There's a chance you could feel unappreciated by family members or relatives today, but don't display your disappointment with a temper. Subdue your ire and keep on smiling.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Be extra careful you don't unintentionally or deliberately pass on gossip about a mutual friend. Your remarks could get carried far and wide and get back to the offended party.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Take care not to be wishy-washy today in the management of your resources. If you carry things to extremes, the pendulum could swing from stinginess to extravagance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — If there is something you'd really like to accomplish today, try to do it in an environment free from outside influences. Associates or companions could be a big hindrance for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Doing something for another today merely because you hope to receive more back in return could boomerang on you. Be helpful out of the goodness of your heart.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Chances are you're in for a fun evening tonight, but you will have to take care not to overindulge or stay out too late. A night out on the town should provide pleasure, not a hangover.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Watch how you go about gratifying your ambitious aims today or you might unknowingly tread on a few toes. Your actions won't win you any popularity contests or enhance your image.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — It's always wise to listen carefully to all points of views and consider how they fit into your plans, but today you could be unduly influenced by some unsound suggestions. Be careful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Be cautious today about any investment proposals where you are being pressured into putting up funds immediately. The smartest thing you could do is investigate, then sleep on it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — When dealing with close friends today, should someone get carried away and start provoking bad behavior, remain both diplomatic and polite, even if it's frustrating. This, too, will pass.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — You will be asking for trouble if you single-handedly attempt an arduous task that requires several competent helpers. Be patient and wait until the proper aid you need arrives.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — All forms of risky enterprises or gambles should be given a wide berth today. Play everything close to the vest and don't look for, or expect, something for nothing.

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

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Judge asked to lower Philip Morris bond

CHICAGO (AP) — Cigarette-maker Philip Morris USA has gotten some unusual support in court: Lawyers for 37 states and U.S. territories want to reduce the firm's latest $12 billion bond to protect money the company is paying to states.

The friend-of-the-court brief filed Monday is intended to ensure that the 1998 national tobacco settlement money continues to flow to state budgets, funds that could be jeopardized if the bond is paid.

The world's biggest cigarette maker lost an Illinois class-action lawsuit last month in which the judge ordered the company to pay $10.1 billion for tricking smokers into believing light cigarettes are less harmful than regular brands.

Philip Morris has said it will appeal, but first state law requires that it put up a bond. The judge gave the company until April 21 to post $12 billion to cover the verdict and court costs.

Philip Morris has said the bond would drive it to bankruptcy, and certainly does not leave room to pay 46 states its share of the $206 billion national settlement. Philip Morris owes a $2.6 billion payment by April 15.

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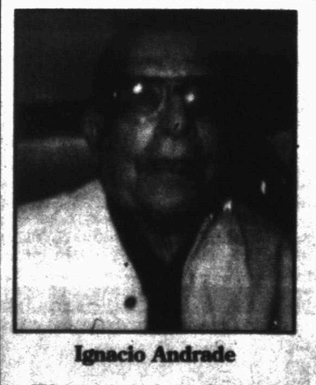

Ignacio Andrade

The resident of the week is Ignacio Andrade. He is 86 years old and has been a resident at Snyder Oaks Care Center for almost 2 years. He has lived most of his life in Big Spring and Snyder. He used to work as a farm hand and at W.T.C. for 10 years. He has never been married. He says he has his hands full with his nieces.

We are glad to have Mr. Andrade as part of the Snyder Oaks Community.

Snyder Oaks Care Center

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AMERICA AT WAR

President Bush says Saddam could be dead

By The Associated Press

With U.S. forces in central Baghdad and coalition confidence growing, President Bush said today it was possible that bunker-busting bombs aimed at Saddam Hussein and his two sons could have killed the Iraqi president. Marines moved into a key military airfield in the capital city's southeast corner.

Bush, at a joint news conference with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, said "I don't know" whether Saddam survived an attack on a building in Baghdad. "The only thing I know," Bush continued, "is that he's losing power."

Iraqi forces staged a counterattack in the capital shortly after dawn today, sending buses and trucks filled with fighters across the Tigris River to take on U.S. troops guarding a key intersection. U.S. troops strafed the Iraqis from planes overhead and with mortar and artillery fire. At least 50 Iraqi fighters were killed and two U.S. soldiers were wounded, one seriously, by rooftop snipers.

The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force moved to capture Rasheed Airport in the southeast corner of Baghdad, said Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks of U.S. Central Command. On the way, the Marines fought and defeated heavily armed Iraqi forces in tanks and armored personnel carriers, before moving on to the military airfield.

Taking the airport would help secure the Iraqi capital, and prevent the escape of high-ranking Iraqi officials, Brooks said.

In the midst of Monday's assault on Baghdad, a lone B-1B bomber carried out a massive strike on what the coalition described as a "leadership target" in the upscale al-Mansour neighborhood where senior Iraqi officials, possibly including Saddam and his two sons, were believed to be meeting. U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said American intelligence learned of the high-level meeting Monday morning.

It was not clear who was killed; the strike left a smoking crater of dirt and concrete 60 feet deep and destroyed three nearby houses. Iraqi rescue workers pulled three bodies from the rubble but said the toll could be as high as 14. There were no unusual security measures; a reporter was able to examine the site, talk with neighbors and watch the search without interference.

Mohammed Al-Douri, Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, said today the Iraqi government was still in control of the country. He also said that he believes Saddam Hussein is alive.

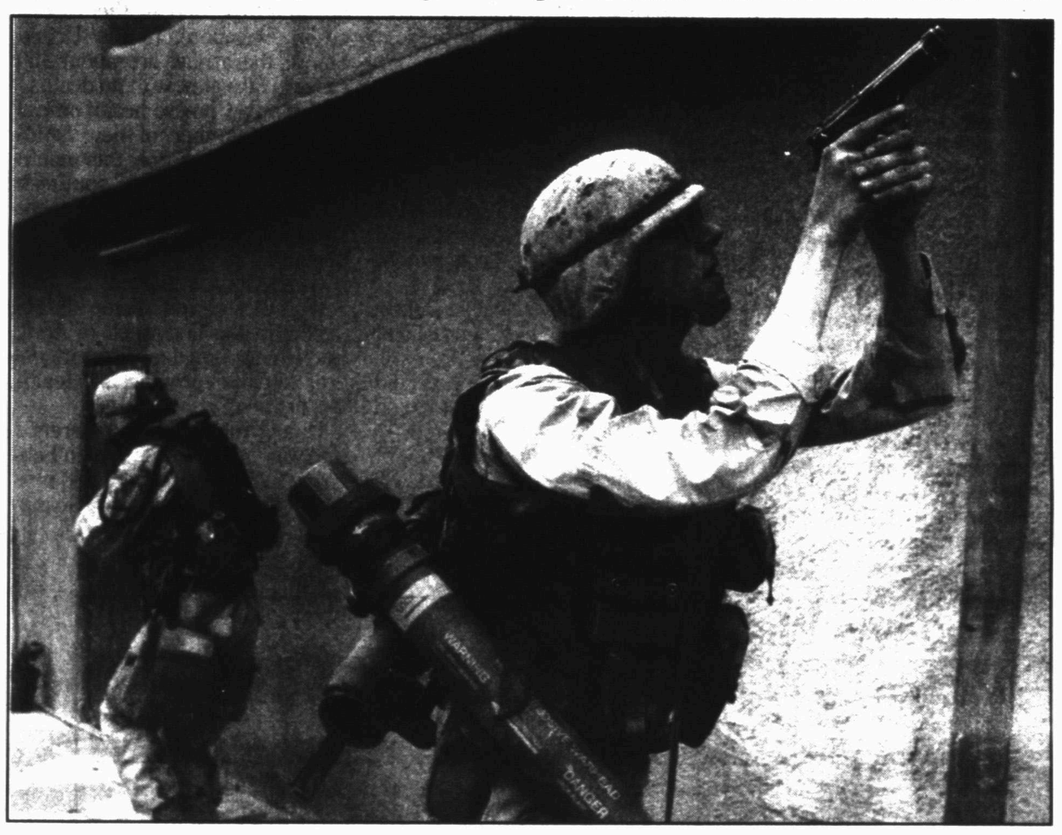
Brooks said that although the site is still in Iraqi hands, coalition forces would likely visit it soon. He added that it would take some time and perhaps detailed forensic work to establish who was killed.

U.S. troops in Baghdad have no plans to pull back, Army Col. David Perkins said today. They now control most of the west bank of the Tigris, which divides the city, and they plan to join up with U.S. forces at the international airport, farther west. The Marines are advancing from the east.

"We survived the first night, and that's usually the most difficult one," said Perkins, commander of the 3rd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade.

The soldiers hunkered down in the sprawling, blue-and-gold-domed New Presidential Palace, where Saddam once slept, and patrolled neighborhoods in the city's center. At least a dozen Iraqis were held in a hastily erected holding pen on the grounds.

As American and British forces advanced, their political leaders met in Belfast, Northern Ireland. It was the third summit for Bush and Blair in three weeks.



EXTREME CAUTION — Lcpl Thomas J. York, right, of the 3rd batallion, 4th Marines regiment, searches a house while securing the main road leading into Baghdad on the south-east outskirts of the Iraqi capital today. (AP Photo)

Lynch visited by family

LANDSTUHL, Germany (AP) — Rescued U.S. POW Jessica Lynch is cheerful, strong-willed and thinking about home, family members reported today, expressing relief at the pace of her recovery from wounds suffered in Iraq.

Lynch's father, who arrived Sunday from West Virginia along with her mother, two siblings and a cousin, said the family was happy to discover that her condition was not as bad as they had feared.

"It really felt good once we'd seen her and seen the spirits she's been in," Gregory Lynch told reporters during the family's first news conference at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. "We knew she was going to be all right."

Deadra Lynch said her daughter was "real cheerful," emphasizing that the family was not pushing her to discuss her harrowing experience in Iraq.

Lynch, a 19-year-old Army supply clerk from Palestine, West Virginia, was captured March 23 after her 507th Maintenance Company convoy was ambushed in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah. She was rescued April 1 from a hospital in the city by U.S. commandos and airlifted to Germany.

Lynch was aware that members of her unit were killed, family said, though it was unclear whether she had asked about their fate after being rescued or already knew about it.

Her family learned that eight members of her unit had been killed only from a reporter's question at a news conference.

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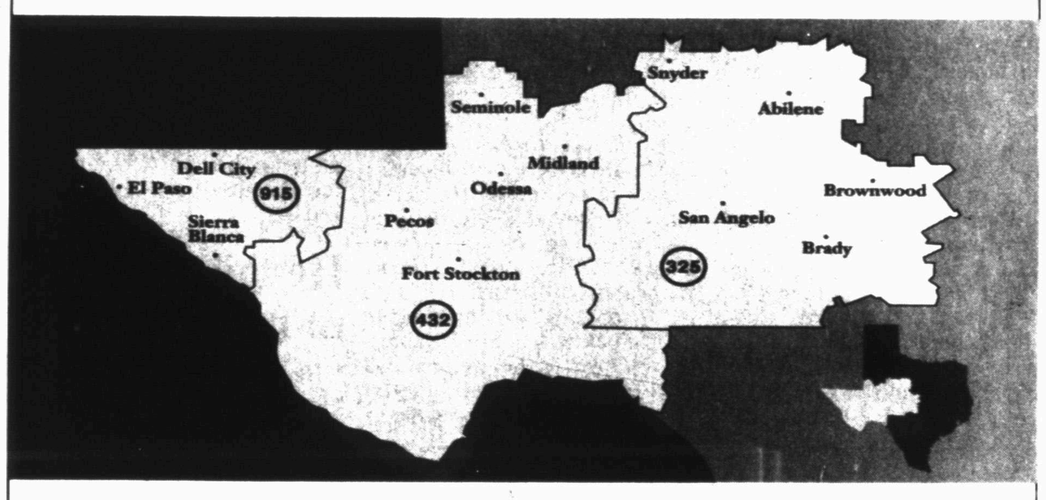

In order to accommodate the growing need for new phone, fax and wireless numbers in western Texas, the current 915 area code is being divided into three, with two new area codes being added: 325 and 432. Residential, business and wireless telephone numbers in the eastern and central regions will receive new area codes. Numbers in the eastern region will receive a new 325 area code. Numbers in the central region will receive a new 432 area code. Those in the western region will retain the 915 area code.

Beginning April 5, local calls made from one area code to a different area code should be dialed using the appropriate area code and the seven-digit phone number. Local calls made within one area code may still be dialed using seven digits. Calls made to another area code outside of your local calling area will continue to require 1+ for toll or 0+ for operator-assisted dialing. If you forget to include the area code when dialing between codes, your calls will still get through until October 4, 2003. After that date, your calls from one area code to another will no longer be completed without dialing the area code. If you have Extended Area Calling Service (EACS) or Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS), all these calls remain local and the rate does not change. You may have to dial ten digits to complete a call if your extended local service crosses a new area code boundary.

Now's the best time to get ready.
It's a good idea to start reprogramming to include the area code and telephone number on any automatic dialing equipment you may have, such as fax machines, modems and speed dialers.
You should also check with family, friends and business contacts to see if their area codes are changing and update your personal phone book with the appropriate area code where needed.
For a complete list of exchanges impacted by this area code change and for more information, visit our Web site: www.texas-code.com.

To dial local calls from the new 325 area code to this area code:	
325	dial XXX-XXXX
432	dial 432 XXX-XXXX
915	dial 915 XXX-XXXX
To dial local calls from the new 432 area code to this area code:	
432	dial XXX-XXXX
325	dial 325 XXX-XXXX
915	dial 915 XXX-XXXX
To dial local calls from the 915 area code to this area code:	
915	dial XXX-XXXX
325	dial 325 XXX-XXXX
432	dial 432 XXX-XXXX

Calls outside your local calling area will still require 1+ or 0+ dialing.

Using the new area code is easy.

The X's represent the numbers you are dialing.

KNOW the Code

APR 08 2003

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

House eyes emergency appropriations bill

AUSTIN (AP) — House budget writers aren't resting.

Today, one day after the Appropriations Committee approved the $117. 7 billion 2004-05 budget bill, it turned its attention to a $1.8 billion hole in the current budget.

The 2002-03 spending plan runs through Aug. 31.

Because Texas' constitution requires a balanced budget, lawmakers must pass an emergency appropriations bill to close the gap. That bill was being discussed by the committee, where Chairman Talmadge Heflin left it as pending business so members can study it.

It includes about $1 billion in savings from state agencies that were asked earlier this year by Gov. Rick Perry and other GOP leaders to cut their spending by 7 percent or more to help cover the shortfall.

That process meant layoffs, putting vehicle and other purchases on hold, slashing administrative costs and other cuts.

The emergency budget bill also proposes using about half, or $500 million, of the state's savings account known as the "Rainy Day Fund" to cover the higher-than-expected costs for the Children's Health Insurance Program, Medicaid and other programs.

Dipping into the fund had been vigorously opposed by Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn, but her office has backed off criticism because fellow Republicans House Speaker Tom Craddick and Heflin of Houston have promised the one-time loan will be repaid.

"It's hard to say anything bad about people with such good intentions," Deputy Comptroller Billy Hamilton told the Austin-American Statesman.

The next budget, which will begin Sept. 1., contains deep cuts across state government to fill another $8.1 billion shortfall without new taxes.

Classroom gunman kills one

NATCHITOCHES, La. (AP) — A man accused of killing one student and wounding another at a Louisiana trade school had registered at the school but not attended classes for weeks, police said.

Calvin Joseph Coleman, 22, was arrested about an hour after the classroom shootings Monday, said Assistant Police Chief Chris Stanfield.

Investigators said they believe the victim, 32-year-old Terome Silvie, was the intended target and the wounded man was a bystander. Silvie, who knew Coleman, was shot four times, while the other man was hit by a bullet fragment, police said.

"He came into the classroom and fired four or five times," Stanfield said.

Coleman was charged with first-degree murder, attempted second-degree murder, carrying a firearm in a school zone and discharging a firearm in the city limits. He was held without bond.

According to the state corrections department, Silvie was paroled in March 2002 after serving just under seven years of a 20-year prison sentence for attempted manslaughter. That charge stemmed from a 1995 robbery in which two men were wounded.

The shootings happened about 11:30 a.m. in an electronics class at the vocational-technical school's Natchitoches campus, Stanfield said. At the time, three students and an instructor were in the room, police said.

Space station crew members making repairs in final walk

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The astronauts aboard the international space station set out on their second and final space walk today as NASA took advantage of having a three-member crew on hand to perform repairs.

Commander Ken Bowersox and science officer Don Pettit began the 6½-hour mission at 8:40 a.m. EDT today. Russian flight engineer Nikolai Budarin was to assist from inside the station, orbiting 240 miles above Earth.

"The hatch is open," Bowersox told Mission Control when the mission started.

The three men are supposed to return home in early May after they are replaced by astronaut Ed Lu and Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko.

Space station program manager Bill Gerstenmaier said the space agency considered doing the repairs with just two people, but that was "not as desirable."

"We looked at tasks that we thought we could go ahead and do now while we had three crew on board," he said. "We determined exactly which tasks would give us the most benefit for the station for long-term."

The current crew has been on the station since late November. They had been scheduled to return to Earth in March, but their stay was extended after space shuttle Columbia's accident Feb. 1 grounded the shuttle fleet indefinitely.

The space station's next crew must be smaller because they must travel to the space station aboard the more compact Russian Soyuz, which can't carry the people and equipment a shuttle can.

The Soyuz is tentatively scheduled to launch later this month from Kazakhstan.

The astronauts were almost an hour ahead of schedule during the first part of the space walk.

Several accidents investigated

•Accidents

City police officers responded to several accidents around town Monday.

The first occurred at 37th Street and Brick Plant Rd. at 12:25 p.m. Involved were a 1987 Buick LeSabre driven by Barbara Emerson, 34, of Colorado City and a 1995 Chevrolet Suburban driven by Ronald Howell, 55, of Lubbock.

Emerson was cited for driving without a license, failure to yield the right-of-way and failure to maintain liability insurance.

A seven-month-old boy, Jacoby Emerson, was transported by Snyder EMS to Cogdell Hospital where he was treated and released.

At 2:40 p.m. Monday, a minor accident was reported at Humble Smith School. Involved were a 2001 Ford pickup driven by Toni Cox, 30, of 3011 Ave. T and a 1999 Chevrolet Suburban driven by Stephanie Ruiz, 26, of 3006 40th Street.

At 3 p.m., officers responded an accident in front of Cogdell Home Healthcare. Involved were a 2002 Honda Civic driven by Veronica Gonzales, 18, of 210 24th Street and a 1998 GMC pickup driven by Sharyl McMurtry, 20, of 2508 28th Street.

No injuries were reported in the minor accidents.

•Arrests

Officers responded to a residence on 41st Street after receiving a 9-1-1 hang-up call. A family disturbance was located at the home and a 23-year-old man was arrested for Class A assault, family violence.

•Criminal mischief

A man in the 2300 block of 42nd Street reported at 11:30 a.m. Monday that the tires on his work vehicle had been slashed. Officers filed a report for criminal mischief.

At 4:45 p.m., a woman in the 2200 block of 41st Street reported the tires on her vehicle had been slashed. An offense report for criminal mischief was filed.

Obituaries

Bob Hammack

1925-2003

Bob Hammack, retired Chevron employee, died Monday, April 7, in Covenant Lakeside Hospital in Lubbock after a lengthy illness.

Bob Hammack

Funeral service for Mr. Hammack, 78, is set for 3 p.m. Wednesday in the First Baptist Church. The Revs. Miller Robinson and Ferris Akins will officiate. Interment will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born March 22, 1925 in Hamilton County, and was reared in Comanche.

Mr. Hammack moved to Scurry County in 1945 with Pasotex Pipeline which later became Chevron Pipeline. When he retired after 43 years of service, he was area supervisor.

He married Jeanelle Tierce on June 24, 1961 in Winters.

Mr. Hammack was a member of the First Baptist Church, served as a deacon and was a member of the Renegade Sunday School Class and he was a member of Gideons International.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Hammack; his in-laws, the Rev. and Mrs. J.S. Tierce; and a brother.

Survivors include his wife, Jeanelle Hammack of Snyder; a daughter and son-in-law, Kay and Shane Miller of Midland; a son and daughter-in-law, Mike and Marsha Hammack of Katy; four grandchildren, Myles and McKenna Hammack and Dalton and Mattie Miller; two brothers; and a sister.

Family visitation will be from 7-8 tonight at the funeral home.

Professional Service

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME

3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Hermleigh ISD to meet tonight

Hermleigh ISD's school board will meet at 7 this evening in the high school building.

Interim Supt. James Bible will lead a discussion on housing for new superintendent Marvin Beatty, and give an update on the cafeteria's walk-in freezer that has required a number of repairs.

Trustees also will hear an enrollment report, plus a textbook report.

An executive session is planned to discuss personnel relating to the district's ag program, Bible said.

Two at Hermleigh get acting awards

Hermleigh High School's one-act play, *The Diviners*, did not advance from the area contest held Saturday in Jayton, but two students received individual recognition.

Terrel Culp was named to the all-star cast and Justin Williamson received honorable mention.

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WRIGHT COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME

200 East 37th Street

Snyder, Texas

915-573-6200

Cases of SARS may be slowing down in Guangdong, but no letup in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — The spread of a mysterious flu-like illness may be slowing in China's hard-hit Guangdong province, where experts believe it originated, but dozens of new cases were reported in Hong Kong today and two more people died.

Hong Kong has been reporting daily double-digit increases in new cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, including 45 on today, when the territory's total reached 928. Twenty-five have now died in the territory, and hospitals braced for a worst-case scenario of 3,000 patients by the end of the month.

"It's looking like it's going to be a long, long, drawn-out battle," said Dr. Gavin Joynt, director of the intensive care unit at the Prince of Wales Hospital. "We don't know where the end is going to be. One of the major stresses that we are dealing with is not knowing where this is going to go."

The two latest fatalities in Hong Kong were both men, ages 81 and 74, who had histories of chronic illnesses before they were infected with SARS, officials said. Both died Monday night.

Health officials said today night they are watching a housing development where 30 people fell ill with a flu-like illness — just across the road from a complex that suffered a severe outbreak.

Thailand's prime minister warned today that SARS is hampering Asia's economic recovery by choking off regional tourism. Thailand, with 11 suspected cases of SARS and two deaths, has imposed strict containment measures, including a 14-day stay-at-home quarantine for Thais returning from affected areas.

More than 2,600 people have been sickened, and the death toll hit 104 today with the two deaths in Hong Kong and another reported in Singapore. In the United States, there now are about 150 cases in 30 states, with no deaths.

Today, a Chinese health official said the number of new SARS cases dropped sharply this month in Guangdong, the southern province near Hong Kong where some experts believe the outbreak began.

Guangdong reported 21 new SARS cases and three SARS deaths in the first week of April, said Huang Qingdao, director-general of the province's Health Department.

Huang told a news conference that was "much lower than in February," when there were 688 new cases and 28 deaths in Guangdong.

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Wed 4/9	Thu 4/10	Fri 4/11
68/35	74/41	80/46
A mainly sunny sky. High 68F. Winds NNW at 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 40s.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 40s.
Sunrise 7:22 AM, Sunset 8:09 PM	Sunrise 7:21 AM, Sunset 8:10 PM	Sunrise 7:19 AM, Sunset 8:11 PM

WEST TEXAS STATE BANK

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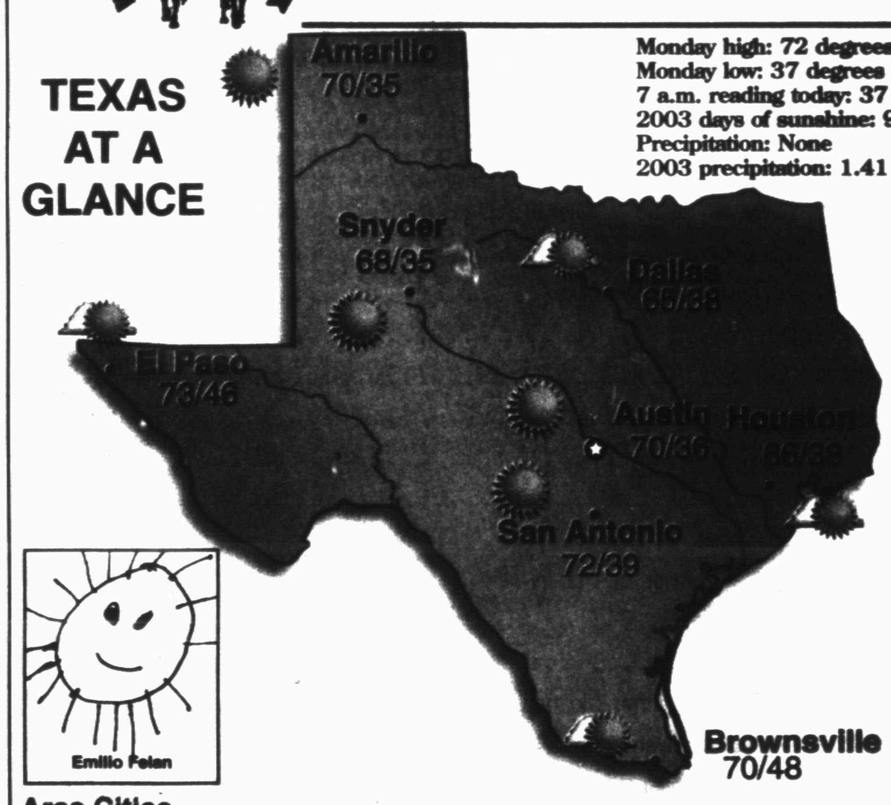
FDIC

TEXAS AT A GLANCE

Monday high: 72 degrees
Monday low: 37 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 37 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 94 of 97
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: 1.41 inches



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Abilene	67	38	sunny	El Paso	73	46	mst sunny	Midland	72	38	sunny
Amarillo	70	35	sunny	Fort Stockton	74	41	sunny	Raymondville	73	43	mst sunny
Austin	70	36	sunny	Gainesville	64	32	sunny	Rosenberg	67	37	mst sunny
Beaumont	62	37	mst sunny	Greenville	62	33	sunny	San Antonio	72	39	sunny
Brownsville	70	48	mst sunny	Houston	66	38	mst sunny	San Marcos	71	37	sunny
Brownwood	72	37	sunny	Kingsville	73	43	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	62	32	sunny
Corpus Christi	70	45	mst sunny	Livingston	65	32	sunny	Sweetwater	69	37	sunny
Corsicana	65	35	sunny	Longview	60	32	sunny	Tyler	62	34	sunny
Dallas	65	38	mst sunny	Lubbock	72	36	mst sunny	Weatherford	65	33	sunny
Del Rio	76	46	sunny	Lufkin	62	33	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	65	31	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Atlanta	56	39	rain	Houston	66	38	mst sunny	Phoenix	89	60	mst sunny
Boston	36	34	mixed	Los Angeles	80	54	mst sunny	San Francisco	65	51	pt sunny
Chicago	44	30	pt sunny	Miami	84	67	cloudy	Seattle	56	42	rain
Dallas	65	38	mst sunny	Minneapolis	55	34	sunny	St. Louis	49	33	pt sunny
Denver	70	37	sunny	New York	39	34	rain	Washington, DC	47	39	rain

Moon Phases

New	First	Full	Last
Apr 1	Apr 9	Apr 16	Apr 23

UV Index

Wed 4/9	Thu 4/10	Fri 4/11
High	High	High

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

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