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WT-Int. Crude - $34.56
WTIC Posted - $31.25
Natural Gas - $5.60

# THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

**MONDAY**

Feb. 16, 2004
Vol. 55 No. 250
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Val Molina

FEB 16 2004

# Ohio gunman remains elusive, growing bolder

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Joe Joan heard the gunshot while driving his wife and three young children to a flea market. A man standing calmly on an overpass had struck a sport utility vehicle right behind their car.

After pulling over, Joan said he watched the gunman get in his car and slowly drive away. "He looked like he didn't care about anyone," Joan said Sunday. "He wasn't in a hurry. He didn't speed up or nothing. He just got in and took off real slow."

Ballistics testing confirmed the Saturday morning shooting was the 24th in a series in the Columbus area, investigators said Sunday. No one was injured in the most recent shooting, though one person has been killed since the attacks began in May.

Witnesses described the shooter as a clean-shaven white male in his 30s with dark hair, wearing a hat and sunglasses and driving a small black sedan. Experts said he is becoming bolder.

"He's sending a message to police: 'You're not as close as you think you are. I can shoot in broad daylight, and you still won't find me,'" said Jack Levin, a criminologist and director of the Brudnick Center on Violence at Northeastern University.

On Friday, Franklin County Chief Deputy Steve Martin said he felt confident in the investigation's progress. "We feel that we're getting closer all the time," Martin said. "We are doing exactly what we need to do."

Levin said his studies of criminals, including the recent Washington, D.C., sniper case, indicate reckless behavior can make serial shooters feel more powerful and important.

"It enhances the cat and mouse game he plays with law enforcement," Levin said. "Psychologically, he gains with these risks."

The serial shootings began in May, though most have occurred since mid-October.

**HOT NEWS — Snyder Fire Department responded to a report of smoke in the printing room of Snyder Daily News Saturday morning. Jay Callaway, Dale Cooper and Capt. Ronnie Clawson, from left, were among those responding to the smoke that was the result of a fan assembly in a central heating unit catching fire. The only damage was to the heating unit. (SDN Staff Photo by Annie Rowe)**

## Scout fishing tourney on county slate

Scurry County commissioners court will discuss a special day of fishing, along with a number of other items, when it meets at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

The court will consider a request from the Boy Scouts for the use of the Towle Park pond for a fishing tournament scheduled for April 17.

Additionally, the court will discuss the replacement of the roof coating on the large hanger at Scurry County airport and will hear a presentation from Guardian Security about their services.

In other business the court will open bids for road materials, hear the minutes of the Scurry County welfare board and the county extension agent report.

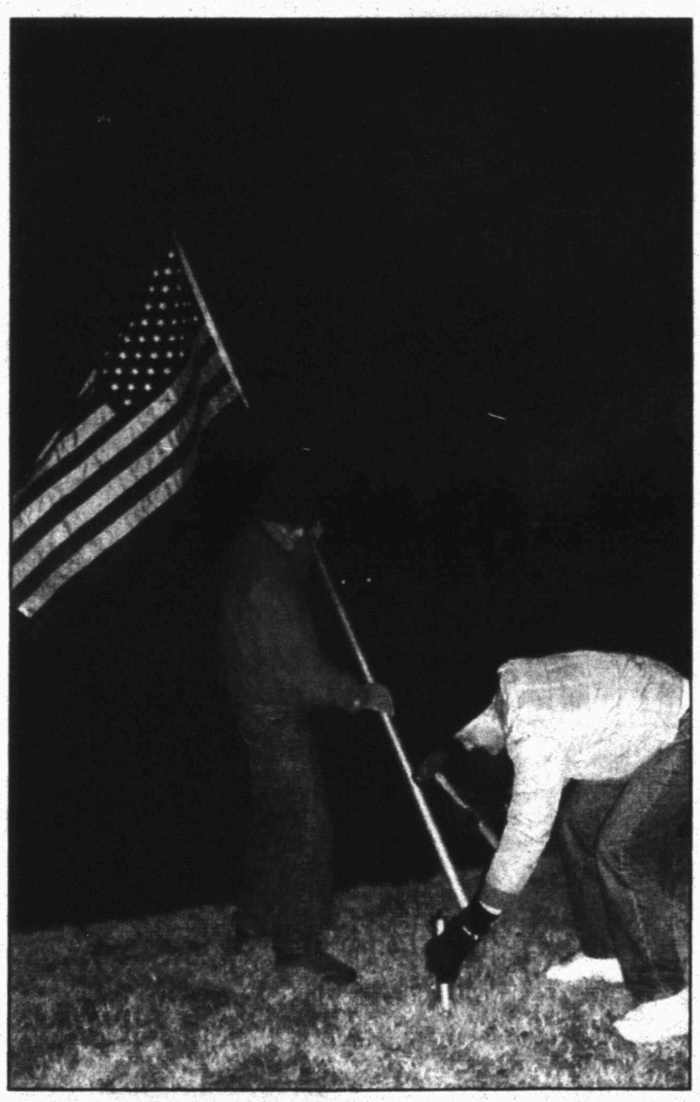
## Bush focuses on economy

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — President Bush courted voters today in the state that decided the 2000 election, arguing his tax cuts are helping the economy and suggesting Democrats would endanger America's fiscal health by raising taxes.

Spending the President's Day holiday in Florida, the second day of his 19th visit to the state as president, Bush said the country is recovering from its economic downturn. He blamed the recession, corporate scandals, and the 2001 terrorist attacks for the problem, but said his policies turned the economy around.

"Those were a lot of obstacles and hurdles for our nation to handle and yet our economy is strong. I will argue vociferously that one of the reasons it is strong is because the Congress wisely heeded my call and let people keep more of their own money," Bush told employees gathered in a warehouse of NuAir Manufacturing, a small but thriving window and door manufacturer.

"The tax relief plan you hear some people maligning around our country helped small business growth."



**PRESIDENT'S DAY — Snyder Rotary members and volunteers put out flags early this morning in honor of President's Day. At left, Kent Wright holds the flag while Jack Gorman Jr. hammers the mount into the ground. At top, Snyder football players Israel Torrez and D'Angelo Davis, right, raise the colors on Cedar Creek Dr. (SDN Staff Photos)**

## Rotary program is in 25th year

Snyder Rotary Club's program of putting out flags on holidays originated about 25 years ago.

The flags are 3x5 feet, mounted on a 10-foot pole.

Subscribers pay a $35 yearly fee in order to have the American Flag posted at their residence on seven national holidays. These days, weather permitting are Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, President's Day, Memorial Day and Flag Day.

Additional information is available by calling 573-6963.

The club is also responsible for the flags displayed around the courthouse and south, down College Avenue to the south edge of town in brackets secured to the street light poles.

Snyder business concerns finance this service.

# President's Day started by honoring Washington

Many Snyder and Scurry County citizens are getting the pleasure of a day away from work, courtesy of President's Day.

However, some people may not know the origin of the federal holiday.

Originally the holiday was established to honor one of America's first heroes, George Washington. The populous chose to honor him on his birthday, Feb. 22, in the last full year of his presidency, 1796.

By the early 19th century, Washington's birthday was extremely well established as a bonafide national celebration. Citizens would commemorate the holiday by celebrating in a number of ways, including receptions, speeches by prominent leaders and extravagant balls.

Then along came Abraham Lincoln, another revered commander-in-chief, born on Feb. 12, 1809.

The first formal observance of Lincoln's birthday took place in 1865, the year after his assassination, when both houses of Congress gathered for a memorial address. His birthday was not established as a federal holiday right away, but it did become a legal holiday in several states.

In 1968, legislation was enacted which effected a number of federal holidays. One of these was Washington's Birthday, the observation of which was shifted to the third Monday of each year, whether or not it fell on the 22nd.

The act, which took effect in 1971, was designed to simplify the yearly federal calendar of holidays and give employees standard three-day weekends in the process.

According to the Office of Personnel Management, the holiday in February is officially known as Washington's Birthday. However, it has become popularly known as "President's Day" to honor Washington and Lincoln as well as the others who have served as president.

## ASK US

**Q—What are the dates for the ranch rodeo scheduled at Scurry County Coliseum?**
**A—March 26-27.**

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

### Jane Wirshing...

...has been a resident of Snyder for six years, moving from Corpus Christi. She is the owner of City Barber Shop and she has two daughters; Avery, 8 and Allie, 2, and her brother is Joe Wirshing. Jane's favorite hobby is taking care of her two daughters.

## TODAY'S THOUGHT

**He climbs highest who helps another up.**
**—Zig Ziglar**

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events

# WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

### Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "The Blessing of Baptism," followed by "When Your Faith Fails."

### AA meeting

An AA meeting is held at noon every Tuesday at the Witherspoon house next door to the First Presbyterian Church. The meeting is non-smoking and closed. For more information, call 574-2656.

### Mesquite Country Emmaus

Mesquite Country Emmaus community meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Trinity Methodist Church at 5200 Trinity Blvd. Babe chicks meet at 6 p.m.

### AARP workshop

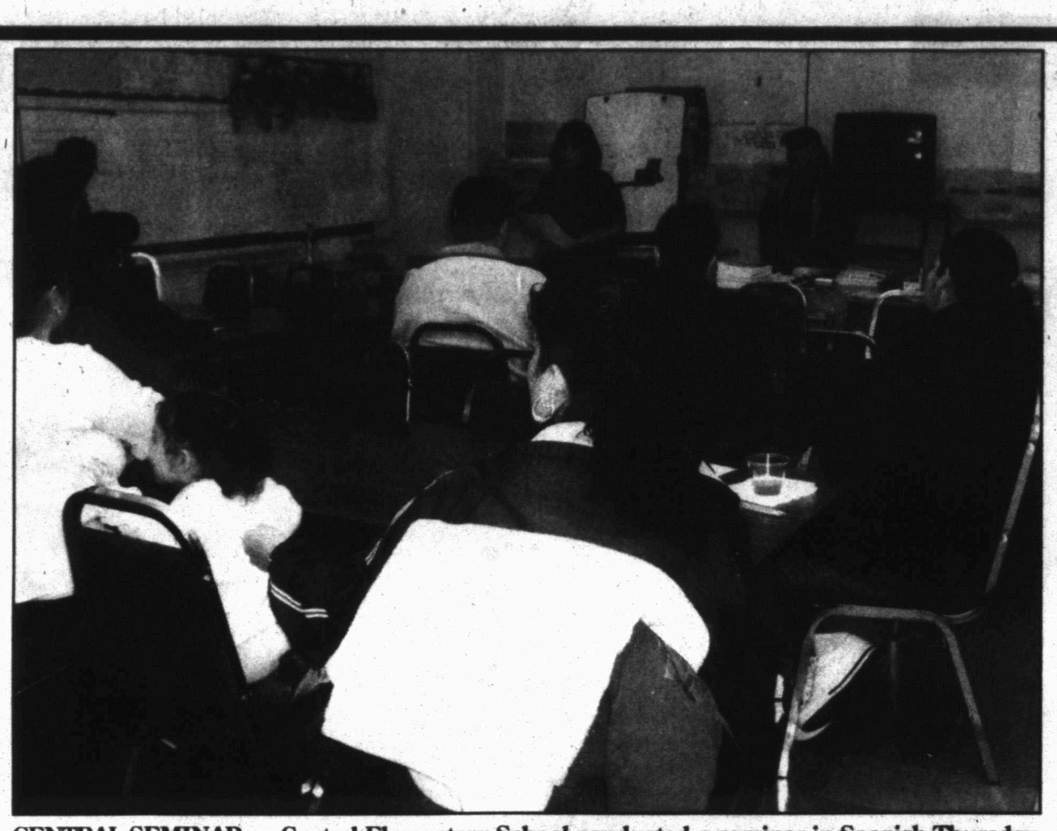
AARP will have a leadership workshop at 10 a.m. Wednesday at 3101 Denison.

### Seedlings for sale

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District has extra hardwood and evergreen seedlings for sale. The extra seedlings are Afghan pines, Austrian pines, Italian Stone pine, green ash, bur oak, shumard oak, Russian olive, Catalpa, Walnut, Osage Orange, Sand cherry, Sand plum, Mulberry and nanking cherry. They are also taking orders for the large container trees. Some of the larger trees that we can get are Afghan pines, crape myrtles, golden raintree, multi-trunk live oaks and bur oaks. To place orders come by the USDA/NRCS building at 5309 Big Spring Highway in Snyder.

### What's up guidelines

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



**CENTRAL SEMINAR — Central Elementary School conducted a seminar in Spanish Thursday, explaining how parents can help their students prepare for the TAKS tests. Presenters were Celia Barrera and Madgalena Jaimes, both bilingual and ESL teachers at the school. Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)**

# 'Queen of missions' to benefit from new preservation project

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A campaign to raise $15 million in three years for the city's four operating mission churches includes its oldest and most active.

Known as the "queen of the missions," Mission San JosDe y San Miguel de Aguayo has suffered along with the others from decades of inadequate care, leaving their stone structures in need of foundation work and repairs to carved-stone facades and other features.

"It was extensive as compared to the others, and then there's the beauty of it," said Father Balthasar Janacek, archdiocesan director of the Old San Antonio Missions. "Here you walk around and you see this remarkable combination of arches, towers and domes."

Architects at San JosDe are concerned about dampness seeping into the church's stone walls, which are intricately carved in rococo style.

"One of the biggest concerns is the ongoing stabilization of the carved facade and the Rose Window," said Carolyn Peterson, who studied the missions' condition for the architecture firm of Ford, Powell & Carson. "Equally, if not more important, there's a very serious site drainage problem."

Since its inception in 1720, the largest of the four 18th-century Franciscan missions strung out along the San Antonio River south of downtown has attracted generations of family members with its ongoing religious rites.

Rosie and Robert Anguiano were married at the church in 1960. Rosie Anguiano is in the seventh generation of her family.

# 'Rings' wins top film in England

LONDON (AP) — Fantasy epic "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" was named best film at the British Academy Film Awards on Sunday, while "Lost in Translation" co-stars Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson took the top acting honors.

"The Return of the King" was nominated for 12 awards, known as BAFTAs, and won five: best picture, cinematography, adapted screenplay and special effects, as well as film of the year as voted by the public.

In accepting the prize for best film, New Zealand-born director Peter Jackson honored the trilogy written by Briton J.R.R. Tolkien.

"We were a bunch of Kiwis and some Australians" who brought to the screen "one of Britain's most beloved books — a fantastic property," Jackson said.

The third installment in the film trilogy is nominated for 11 Academy Awards, which will be held Feb. 29. The British awards have become an important pre-Oscar stop since being moved to before the Academy Awards.

"The Return of the King" beat Anthony Minghella's Civil War saga "Cold Mountain," Sofia Coppola's quirky "Lost In Translation," Tim Burton's whimsical "Big Fish" and Peter Weir's seafaring saga "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World" to take the best-film prize from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.

Weir won best director, and his naval adventure won four awards in all.

Renee Zellweger was named best supporting actress for "Cold Mountain." The civil war drama led the nominations with 13, but won only two awards — Zellweger's and best music.

The best supporting actor went to Bill Nighy as amiably dissolute rock star Billy Mack in the British romantic comedy "Love, Actually."

"Lost In Translation," only its young director's second feature, won three BAFTAs.

In taking the best actress award, 19-year-old Johansson beat her own performance in "Girl With a Pearl Earring," as well as Uma Thurman for "Kill Bill," Naomi Watts for "21 Grams" and Anne Reid for "The Mother."

Johansson thanked the British Academy "for acknowledging ... a 19-year-old American actress" and then thanked her mother for "taking me to auditions and buying me hot dogs afterward."

Sean Penn also was nominated twice in the best-actor category — for "21 Grams" and "Mystic River" — but lost out to Murray's jet-lagged movie star adrift in Tokyo in the comedy of cultural dislocation.

"Girl With a Pearl Earring" was shut out the awards despite 10 nominations, as was Clint Eastwood's intense "Mystic River" — an early Oscar favorite — which had four nominations.

*In state of Texas...*

# Courts consider dozens of mental retardation claims

AUSTIN (AP) — In the year and a half since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled mentally retarded inmates cannot be executed, state and federal appeals courts have delayed or sent back to trial 41 Texas death row cases to decide whether the killer was mentally retarded, says a group that tracks the claims.

Critics of the Texas' capital punishment system say the numbers show death row has dozens of people who may be ineligible for execution. Death penalty supporters wonder if inmates are trying to delay justice by jamming the courts with new claims of mental retardation.

Both sides agree the Legislature should change state law to decide mental retardation earlier to reduce the burden on appeals courts.

When the Supreme Court ruled, it left it up to the states to determine mental retardation, and the Texas criminal justice system has been groping in the dark ever since.

"Texas has no system in place, and what you have is chaos," said Steve Hall, director of Stand-Down Texas, which opposes the death penalty.

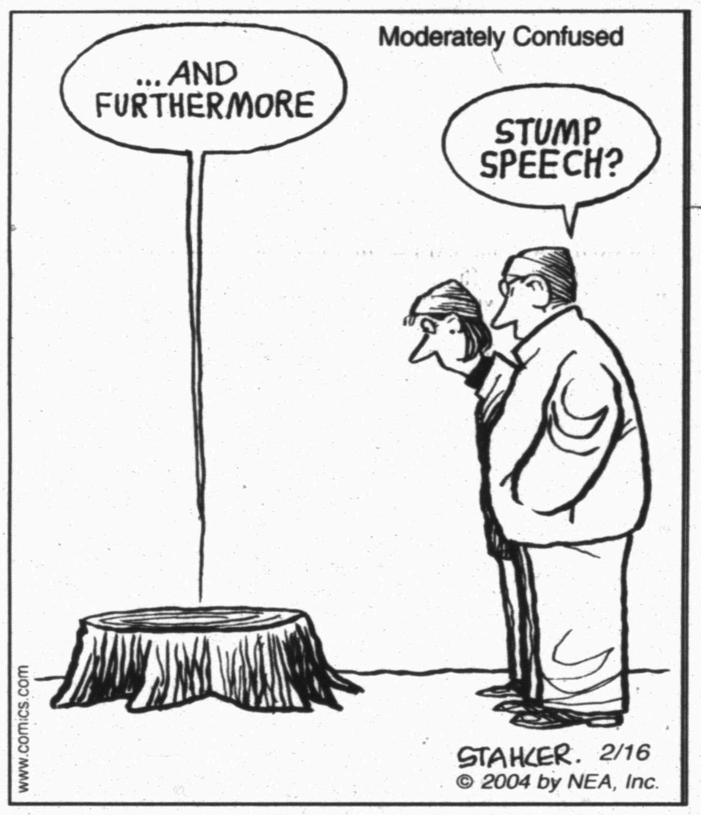
Dianne Clements, president of the victims rights group Justice For All, said it's difficult not having a clear state definition of mental retardation.

"These defendants are taking every opportunity they can to remove themselves from death row. If a defendant raises the claim, we provide them with super due process because of the law," Clements said.

Texas has about 450 prisoners on death row.

The Texas Defender Service, which represents capital murder defendants on appeal, has tracked the number of post-conviction mental retardation claims by death row inmates since the Supreme Court's 2002 ruling.

The state Court of Criminal Appeals has sent 37 cases back to trial courts for hearings. Four cases were remanded by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.




# Three cloned mules healthy and normal, researchers say

SEATTLE (AP) — Three young mules who are the first members of the horse family to be cloned are all healthy, normal and energetically enjoying life, say researchers who put them on display here Sunday.

Idaho Gem, born May 4, 2003, was the first successful cloning of an equine. He was followed by siblings Utah Pioneer on June 9 and Idaho Star on July 27. The clonings were a project of the Northwest Equine Reproduction Laboratory at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho.

All three were born to surrogate mares from embryos that were cloned using eggs from horses and cells taken from the 45-day-old fetus of a mule. The cloned mules are the true siblings of Taz, a famous racing mule. Researchers bred Taz's parents, a jack donkey and a horse mare, and allowed the resulting fetus to grow for 45 days. This provided the DNA needed for the clones.

Gordon Woods, director of the University of Idaho laboratory, said the animals undergo intensive medical tests every three months and all three appear to be normal and healthy.

"We have not seen anything out of the ordinary with these animals," Woods said at a presentation at the national meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Mules are the sterile offspring of mating between a horse and a donkey. Taz, which has won prizes in a western mule racing circuit, was born to a horse mother and fathered by a donkey. Woods said the owner of Taz paid the cost of cloning the three siblings, using a fetus produced by the racing mule's parents.

Woods said the scientific goal of the project was to test a theory that increasing the amount of calcium surrounding an equine embryo would cause cells to grow more rapidly and, thus, improve equine cloning.

Dirk Vanderwall, a veterinarian who is part of Woods' team, said that using the enhanced calcium levels, the team produced 21 pregnancies from 113 embryos. Only three pregnancies lasted longer than 60 days and those produced the three mule clones.

"The manipulation of calcium concentrations to achieve success in equine cloning may have implications for other assisted equine reproduction techniques," said Woods. "Increasing intracellular calcium in horses may increase their fertility in general."

# Oil Patch News

**Scurry County**

Parallel Petroleum will drill the No. 29 Jack in the Diamond M field, 10 miles southwest of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 3,700 feet, drill site is in Section 196, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Parallel Petroleum will drill the No. 39 Jack in the Diamond M field, 10 miles southwest of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 3,700 feet, location is in Section 196, Block 97, H&TC survey.

**Mitchell County**

Energen Resources will drill the No. 2080-W Westbrook southeast field unit, 13 miles southwest of Colorado City. Planned for a depth of 3,500 feet, drill site is in Section 41, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Energen Resources will drill the No. 1081-W Westbrook southeast field unit, 13 miles southwest of Colorado City. Also set for a depth of 3,500 feet, location is in Section 41, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Energen Resources will drill the No. 1069 Westbrook southeast field unit, 13 miles west of Colorado City. Planned depth is 3,500 feet, and location is in Section 41, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Energen Resources will drill the No. 1071 Westbrook southeast field unit, 13 miles southwest of Colorado City. Contracted for 3,500 feet, location is in Section 41, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Energen will drill the No. 1060 Westbrook southeast field unit, 13 miles southwest of Colorado City. Planned for a depth of 3,500 feet, drill site is in Section 41, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Energen will drill the No. 1072 Westbrook southeast field unit, 13 miles southwest of Colorado City. Also set for a depth of 3,500 feet, location is in Section 41, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Energen will drill the No. 1074 Westbrook southeast field unit, 13 miles southwest of Colorado City. Planned for a depth of 3,500 feet, drill site is in Section 41, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Energen will drill the No. 1075 Westbrook southeast field unit, 13 miles southwest of Colorado City. Also planned for 3,500 feet, location is in Section 41, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Energen will drill the No. 1076 Westbrook southeast field unit, 13 miles southwest of Colorado City. Planned for a depth of 3,500 feet, drill site is in Section 41, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Energen will drill the No. 1068 Westbrook southeast field unit, 13 miles west of Colorado City. Contracted for 3,500 feet, drill site is in Section 41, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

events

LOTTO TEXAS™ TEXAS LOTTERY RESULTS

**Saturday's Lottery Numbers**
**Lotto Texas**

**AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday (Wednesday, Saturday) night:**

**Winning numbers drawn: 02-04-05-33-40 (numerical order). Bonus Ball: 39.**

**Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.**

**Number matching five of five: 3. Prize: $9,206.**

**Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 8. Prize: $3,132.**

**Number matching four of five: 464. Prize: $116.**

**Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 425. Prize: $112.**

**Number matching three of five: 20,284. Prize: $5.**

**Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 5,454. Prize: $5.**

**Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 25,711. Prize: $5.**

**Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: $9,000,000.**

**Cash Five**

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

**Winning numbers drawn: 03-07-16-30-32.**

**Number matching five of five: 0.**

**Matching four of five: 112. Prize: $531.**

**Matching three of five: 3,964. Prize: $11.**

**Matching two of five: 42,140. Prize: $2.**

**Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.**

**Pick 3**
**(Day) 3-1-6**
**(Night) 0-4-5**

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# Dear Abby

**By Abigail Van Buren**

## *Woman looks for man her age who is ready to settle down*

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 23 and single. I am always hearing about women suffering from midlife crises, but have you ever heard of a mid-20s one? My single friends and I all seem to have the same problem. We are out of college and beyond our days of "flings." So why is it that while we are ready to settle down and meet someone, the men our age act like they are still in college? Is there anywhere I can meet someone mature AND my age? Should I go to church to find someone, like my mom says? Look to older men? Or am I doomed 'til I'm over 30? **— RORY IN CAMBRIDGE, MASS.**

**DEAR RORY:** In the 1950s, "success" for girls was defined as marrying early and having children. Since then, however, more women have jobs and careers, and it is not unusual for men and women to get graduate degrees before thinking about marriage. Couple that with the fact that an adolescent mentality seems to have stretched beyond the teens into the mid-to-late 20s, and it's not surprising that many young men do not feel ready to commit.

You may have to expand your horizons a bit in the age department if you want to settle down now. Consider someone in his late 20s. Then go where like-minded people gather: graduate school, special-interest clubs, volunteer organizations, square or line dancing, church or a political-action group.

Remember that it's important to take the time to really get to know someone before you give your heart — or anything else.

**

**DEAR ABBY:** This is an update on Project Lifesaver, a new nonprofit police organization that locates wandering victims of Alzheimer's disease and special-needs kids using electronic tracking. Your columns devoted to dementia prompted me to write, since our service allows seniors to remain at home longer and gives much-needed stress reduction to their caregivers.

To date, Project Lifesaver has located 878 people in an average rescue time of 19 to 20 minutes. There have been no deaths or injuries, and everyone reported missing has been located. According to the National Alzheimer's Association, an average of 32,000 people wander away from homes and nursing homes each year.

Those at risk of wandering wear a 1-ounce wrist transmitter that emits a radio tracking signal 24/7. When caregivers discover their loved one is missing, they call 911, and Project Lifesaver-trained police officers respond to locate the person quickly.

The system works day or night, inside or outside. The price for the service through the police department ranges from free to $35 per month, depending on financial need. Project Lifesaver is currently in about 200 police departments.

Caregivers interested in Project Lifesaver for their community should contact their local police or sheriff's department and ask them to contact me at the Chesapeake, Va., Sheriff's SAR Unit at (757) 546-5502. Thank you. **— CHIEF GENE SAUNDERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PROJECT LIFESAVER**

**DEAR CHIEF SAUNDERS:** Be careful what you wish for. Project Lifesaver sounds like a terrific public service to me. I'm pleased to make my readers aware of it. Get ready for the onslaught!

**

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

**

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

(EDITORS: For editorial questions, please contact Alan McDermott, amcdermott(at)amuniversal.com)

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# Rationing not needed for CRMWD cities

BIG SPRING — In a time when many Texas cities with more generous average rainfall are rationing water, the member cities of the Colorado River Municipal Water District are not in that category despite 11 years of severe drought.

At their meeting on Wednesday, CRMWD's Board of Directors heard engineering reports on the status of water supplies and thoroughly reviewed projected supplies under the worst possible conditions.

The Board's conclusions according to president Charles R. Perry, is that the district has adequate supplies past 2004 without rationing or other drastic measures.

"The Board has determined that supplies are adequate all the way into 2005," Perry said, pointing out that there has never been a zero runoff year in the 53-year history of CRMWD. "If rainfall continues, even at the current low rates, rationing just does not appear likely in the near future.

"What most people don't understand is that a one or two-year supply of water is the normal design criteria for reservoirs in areas such as Fort Worth. We must plan for more storage here because we are in a drought-prone area.

"At current usage levels, we would have more than a 15-year supply if all three of our reservoirs were full, which is unheard of in other regions of Texas, " said Perry, adding that the capacity is necessary here because of persistent droughts.

"To the uninformed, it sounds frightening to say our current supplies are 20% of our capacity, but that really is a significant amount of water – enough to supply the district's usage for 3 years. Our extremely large reservoirs allow us to be prepared to capture all we can when rains do fall."

That capacity is one reason CRMWD has adequate supplies today in spite of the fact that the current drought is certain to be the new drought of record for the region.

The district has recently increased its groundwater delivery capabilities and is pursuing options ranging from water acquisitions to demineralization of existing non-potable supplies to prepare for future needs. Preparedness is the reason the member cities do not need to ration water even though there has only been one year with above-average inflows since the drought officially began in January 1993.

"We are in a slightly better position than we were one year ago thanks to our well field expansion in Ward County and early summer rains during 2003," Perry said. Inflows over that two-week period produced more than 79,000 acre-feet and accounted for most of the one-year supply of surface water caught last year.

The district has a sophisticated computer model it uses to analyze supply and water delivery scenarios under several different conditions. It also takes into account the status of non-district reservoirs and well fields that are part of the sources of supply of CRMWD's larger customer cities to predict water demands.

Supplies and capacities are analyzed using historical inflows, usage, demand projections and evaporation or transportation loss data. With the model, district engineers can predict the future water supply status for 24 months or more under a variety of conditions from zero to 100% of average annual inflows. That model was the basis of the board's stance on water supplies.

"We are absolutely confident in this determination," Perry said, pointing out the worst-case episodes from the district's history.

The historical average total annual inflow for all district reservoirs is 222,151 acre-feet. During the first 10 years of the current drought, inflows averaged about 138,000 acre-feet per year.

Inflows for 2002 were the lowest since the drought began, producing only 67,363 acre-feet of water. The total for 2003 was 116,786 acre-feet. Supplies would begin to increase again if the district's reservoirs were to receive more than approximately 166,000 acre-feet in a year, or about 75% of the average.

For today, Perry says, the district's current supplies are adequate and rationing would only serve to limit the revenues of the district and its member and customer cities at a time when those funds are needed to insure future supplies.

"It would be great if CRMWD could save water in its lakes for next year, but we must use it or lose it," Perry said, pointing out that in West Texas, water saved through rationing would literally evaporate into thin air, along with the revenues it would otherwise have produced.

CRMWD loses more water to evaporation, saltcedar and releases for the Concho water snake than is sold each year and solutions to those problems are among the District's immediate top priority goals.

CRMWD is involved in efforts with state and federal agencies to find a solution to the saltcedar problem. Perry added that the district has worked for years to convince the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to de-list the snake and establish more sensible requirements for required releases of water from the Spence and Ivie Reservoirs.

Sensible is also the word Perry used to describe the actions all West Texans should take with regard to water use.

"We live in a semi-arid region and it is always smart to use this precious resource sensibly and practice water conservation," Perry said, pointing out that no matter how much water flows down the street from sprinkler systems, grass is unlikely and undesirable to grow on asphalt.

Some of the water conservation practices recommended by the district are:

- Minimize outdoor water use in summer when evaporation and water demands are high.
- Minimize outdoor use by landscaping with drought tolerant plants.
- Set sprinkler systems to maximize water effectiveness without over-watering or runoff.
- Set sprinklers to run at night or in early morning when evaporation will be minimal.
- Turn sprinkler systems off after rains or during high winds.
- Use hose shutoffs to minimize lost water when washing cars.
- Run dishwashers and clothes washers with full loads.
- Don't run water continuously while brushing teeth, washing dishes or other similar activities.

The district will continue to work toward the goals of limiting water losses to saltcedar and unnecessary releases and to encourage conservation.

Perry said these actions, not rationing, show the greatest potential for short-term solutions to the drought.

# Tiny galaxy, farthest known object from Earth, discovered

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — In a discovery that offers a rare glimpse back to when the universe was just 750 million years old, a team of astrophysicists said Sunday they have detected a tiny galaxy that is the farthest known object from Earth.

"We are confident it is the most distant known object," California Institute of Technology astronomer Richard Ellis said of the galaxy, which lies roughly 13 billion light-years from Earth.

The team uncovered the faint galaxy using two of the most powerful telescopes — one in space, the other in Hawaii — aided by the natural magnification provided by a massive cluster of galaxies. The gravitational tug of the cluster, called Abell 2218, deflects the light of the distant galaxy and magnifies it many times over.

The magnification process, first proposed by Albert Einstein and known as "gravitational lensing," produces double images of the galaxy.

"Without the magnification of 25 afforded by the foreground cluster, this early object could simply not have been identified or studied in any detail with presently available telescopes," said astronomer Jean-Paul Kneib, of Caltech and the Observatoire Midi-Pyrenees in France.

The discovery gives a rare glimpse of the time when the first stars and galaxies began to blink on, ending a period that cosmologists call the Dark Ages, said Robert Kirshner, an astronomer with the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass.

"The possibility is here we really are beginning to peek into that time," said Kirshner, who was not connected with the discovery. "People have gone there in their imagination — they've thought about it. Now we are getting the facts."

The Hubble Space Telescope revealed the first glimpse of the galaxy, backed up by observations made with the Keck Observatory's 10-meter telescopes atop Mauna Kea.

The galaxy is just 2,000 light-years across. That's far smaller than the Milky Way, which is roughly 100,000 light-years in diameter.

Cosmologists have predicted that early galaxies contained stars that were different from the ones that came into being much later in the history of the universe.

# Bridge

**By Phillip Alder**

North 02-16-04
♠ J 6 4 2
♥ 6
♦ A K 9 4
♣ K 9 8 3

West
♠ K 7 3
♥ 9 7 5 4
♦ 7 2
♣ 10 6 5 2

East
♠ A Q 10 9 8
♥ 8 3 2
♦ 6 5
♣ A Q J

South
♠ 5
♥ A K Q J 10
♦ Q J 10 8 3
♣ 7 4

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: North-South

| South | West | North | East |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 ♠ |
| 2 ♠ | Pass | 2 NT | Pass |
| 3 ♦ | Pass | 5 ♦ | All pass |

Opening lead: ??

When North jumped to game, he knew the contract might not make. But it pays to be aggressive in getting to game, especially when you are vulnerable.

Against most players, five diamonds would make. The "normal" lead is the spade three. East wins with the ace and must cash the club ace to prevent the overtrick. (If East does something else, declarer draws trumps and discards all of dummy's clubs on his solid hearts.)

But West, because he is probably on lead for the last time, should start with the spade king. Then, when he sees the dummy, it will be easy to find the club shift that defeats the contract — and will leave North-South wondering how to reach the laydown four hearts.

Well-done if you found that lead.

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**Monday, Feb. 16, 2004**

## Try to do it in one bid

**By Phillip Alder**

Look only at the West hand. Your partner opens one spade, South conventionally shows at least 5-5 in the red suits, and North puts his partner into five diamonds. What would you lead?

When one has a decent two-suited hand, there is a natural tendency to bid a lot, hoping partner has a fit. However, the quicker one can show both suits, the better. Then, one can leave future moves to partner.

The Michaels Cue-Bid is a useful two-suited action. If your opponent opens one of a minor and you overcall two of that minor, you promise at least 5-5 in the majors. If your opponent opens one of a major and you overcall two of that major, you show 5-5 or longer in the unbid major and either minor. Partner, if uninterested in your major, bids two no-trump to ask for your minor — as in this deal.

## Ben Affleck attends race

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Actor Ben Affleck got the loudest ovation among the celebrities who attended the Daytona 500, but he also got some bad news.

"They told me I was going to be bumped, and I was like 'bumped? What are you talking about bumped? Who's bumping me?'" said Affleck, who drove the pace car. "'The President of the United States.' OK, terrific. Guess I'm bumped then.'"

Affleck served as the grand marshal — even though some of his duties were given to President Bush. Whoopi Goldberg was an honorary starter, and LeAnn Rimes sang the national anthem and was the featured performer in the pre-race "Tribute to America" show.

Lee Greenwood and the reigning Miss America, Ericka Dunlap, also sang.

# Today's chuckle

## Crooner in gorilla suit serenades 3 women

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) — Does "You Are So Beautiful" mean more when sung on bended knee by a gorilla?

It did to three employees at Zwink State Farm Agency in Grand Island, who were recently serenaded by a crooner in a gorilla suit.

Holly Fitch, who works at the agency, conspired with her co-workers' loved ones to arrange for the musical missives as a special Valentine's Day treat.

"It was awesome. It turned out great," Fitch said.

The three lucky ladies were Darlene Zwink, Judy Price and Amye Lilienthal.

The secret serenader inside the suit was Celeste Haveln, an employee at a flower shop owned by Fitch's mother and brother.

"It was very interesting," said Zwink. "It was a surprise."

Price said the unique Valentine delivered Thursday on behalf of her fiance brought her little closer to the wild kingdom than she's used to.

"I have never been hugged by a gorilla before," Price said. "That was a first."

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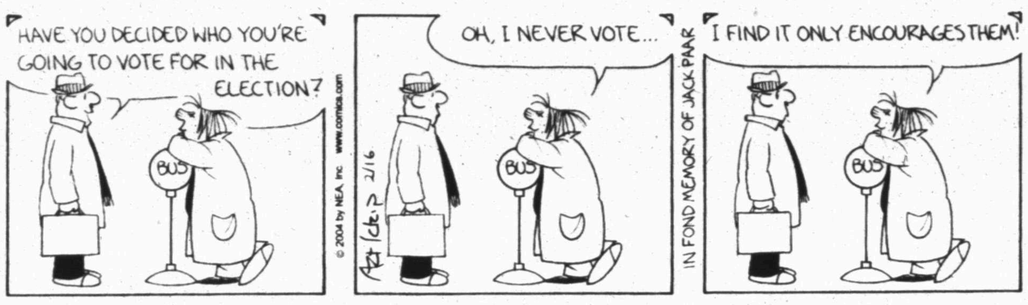
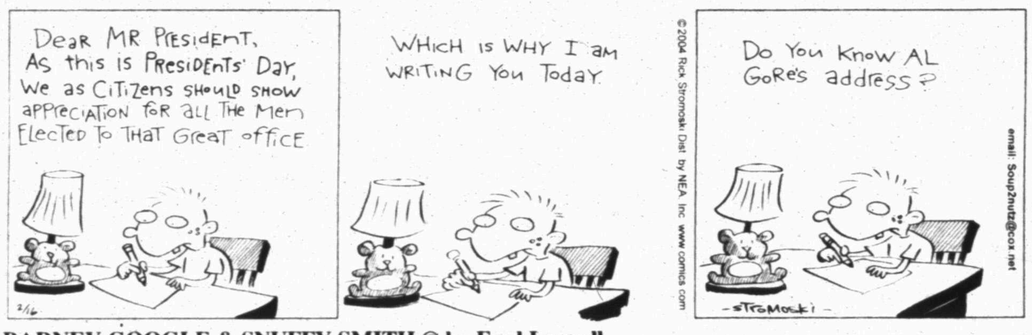
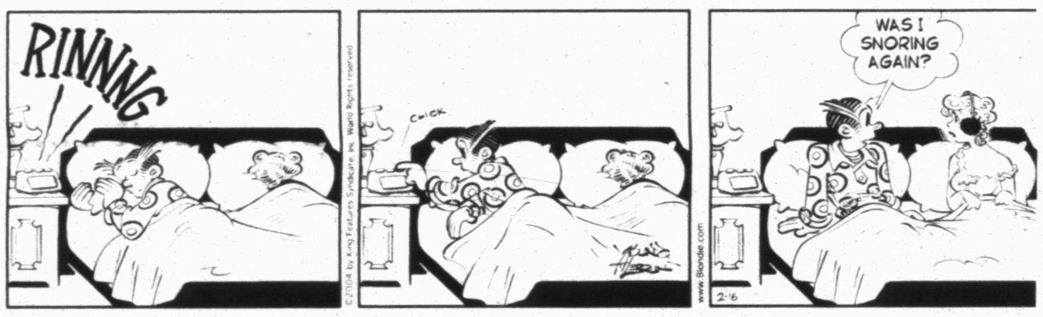



**SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski**




**BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell**

**BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun**




**THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr**

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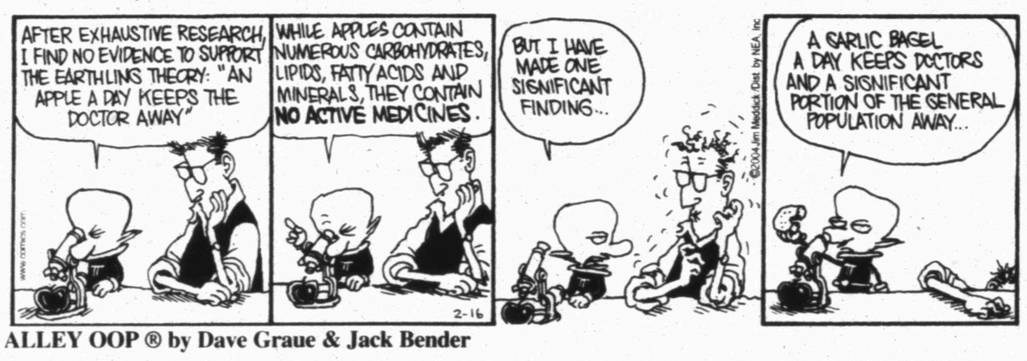


**ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender**

**BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen**

**HERMAN ® by Jim Unger**

"You wanna have good eyesight if you go abroad, don't you?"

**KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright**

## NEA Crossword Puzzle

**ACROSS**

1 Plunging neckline
4 Awful
7 Elec. measure
10 Nabokov novel
11 Marketplace
13 Grazing area
14 Reno's st.
15 Farewell
16 Consume
17 Got closer
19 Mild onions
21 Guided
22 Like winter roads
23 Guided a raft
26 Stuck to
30 Musical work
31 Rural addr.
32 "That means —!"
33 Operate
34 Sisterof Helios
35 Cape Town currency
36 Toddler's spot
39 Compacted
40 Electric swimmer
41 Shock
42 Freeway ramps
45 Miniature tree
48 Receive
49 "The — Mutiny"
51 Huntsville's loc.
53 Single
54 Runs in neutral
55 Skirt bottom
56 — I Am
57 Authorizes
58 Sonic boom maker

**DOWN**

1 Boxy vehicle
2 TV genie portrayer
3 Roof feature
4 Was an omen of
5 Dry
6 Proper
7 Swiss artist
8 Diluted
9 Head covers
11 Got along
12 Weed preventer
18 Pub drinks
20 Hurricane center
22 — of March
23 Grandeur
24 Outback mineral
25 Centurion's moon
26 Solar disk
27 Pitcher Nolan —
28 Ages upon ages
29 Tenderfoot
31 Folk dance
35 Salespeople
37 To date
38 "Home Alone" star
39 Copenhagen natives
41 Districts
42 They're easily bruised
43 Lucy Lawless role
44 Account entry
45 Cheat
46 Contented sighs
47 Monsieur's islands
50 Excitement
52 Oz. or lb.

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

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

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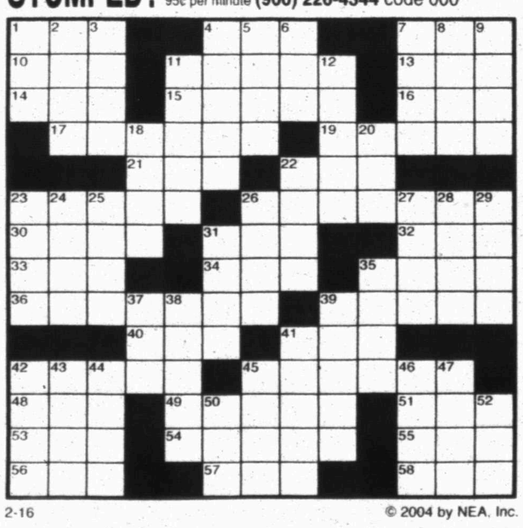

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# Snyder Daily News Comics

**DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham**

"I DON'T MIND MARGARET KNOWING IT ALL, AS LONG AS SHE DOESN'T **TELL IT ALL.**"

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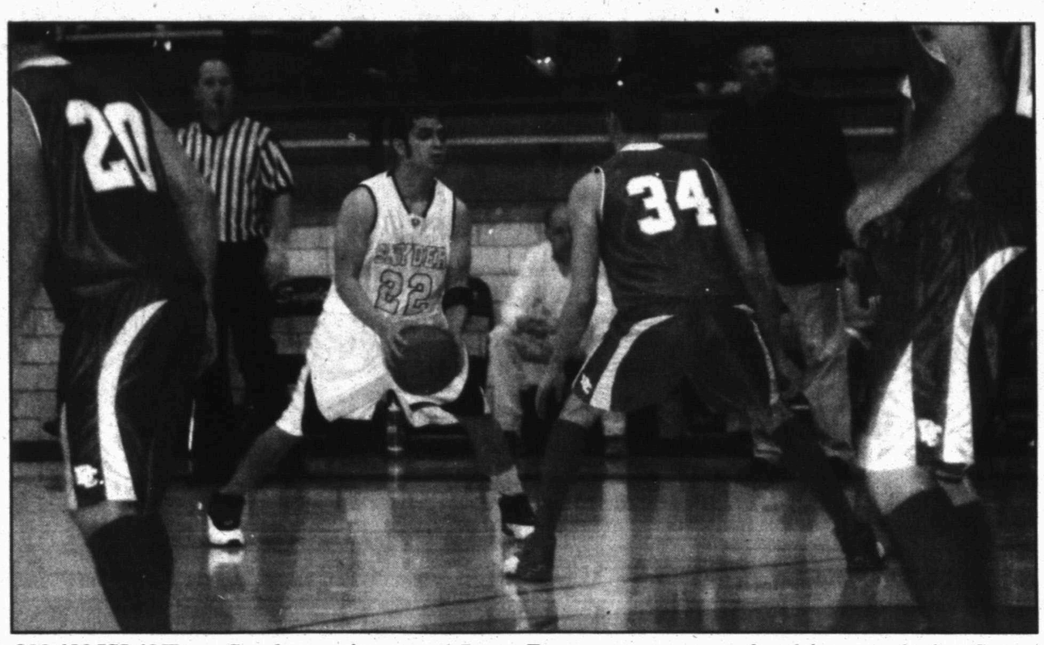
# SPORTS



ON AN ISLAND — Snyder senior guard Isaac Ramon sees a sea of red jerseys during Saturday's make-up game with Denver City. The Mustangs secured the second seed in district with a 56-44 win. (SDN Staff Photo)

## Tigers battle hard with playoff-bound Mustangs

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

The Tigers aren't going down without a fight.

Snyder gave District 3-3A runner-up Denver City all it could handle Saturday, fighting back from a big deficit in a 56-44 loss to the Mustangs, in a weather-delayed game from Friday.

"I thought we battled," head coach Bud Birks said. "(The Mustangs) are a big, athletic team and they can shoot. We just made too many mistakes against the press."

Trailing by as many as 19, the Tigers went on an 8-0 run towards the end of the third quarter to pull within 12. Denver City pushed the lead back to 15, before Lee Scott was fouled on a three-pointer and converted the four-point play.

Scott had a game-high 22 points, including 15 from behind the arc, while Denver City's massive Ryan Ochesky banked in 18.

Because of the weather delay, the teams played just the varsity tilt, allowing Birks to insert some junior varsity players into the mix.

"I thought there was some promise. They needed to see that it's a step up — the players are bigger and faster and you have to play a lot tougher. We had some of them really compete," he said.

Barrett Bowlin and Chris Smith both got their first varsity points in the game, while sophomore Lico Castillo drained 10.

Isaac Ramon and Garret Pinson each added four for the Tigers, who shot 55 percent from the foul line.

Denver City (23-8, 7-2) was 14 of 20 from the line in a game that saw a lot of contact in the paint.

"Whenever you play them, you have to be physical and get after it," Birks said.

The Tigers (8-22, 0-9) close out the season at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday against Seminole at Tiger Gym.

Seminole (12-15, 3-6) remains mathematically alive in the race for the final district playoff slot, despite falling to Sweetwater Saturday, 49-48.

Sweetwater (14-11, 4-5) will travel to Merkel (26-4, 9-0) to take on the district champion Badgers, while Lamesa (12-17, 4-5) can clinch a playoff spot with a win at Denver City.

Should Seminole beat Snyder and Merkel and Denver City win their games, there will be a three-way tie for third place in the district between Seminole, Sweetwater and Lamesa.

No tiebreakers are evident, as Lamesa was swept by Seminole but beat Sweetwater both times this year, meaning some type of playoff for the final spot will be necessary.

## Yankees' trade for Rodriguez awaits approval from MLB

NEW YORK (AP) — Alex Rodriguez was getting ready to head to New York, and the Yankees were planning to greet him with a news conference.

The Yankees and Texas Rangers finalized the terms of their shocking trade Sunday, and the players' association approved the deal for the American League MVP.

All that remained was for baseball commissioner Bud Selig to give his OK, which the teams expected today.

Texas will pay $67 million of the $179 million left on Rodriguez's record $252 million, 10-year contract, the biggest transfer in a baseball deal, and will get All-Star second baseman Alfonso Soriano and a player to be named.

Rodriguez will move from shortstop, a position at which he's been a seven-time All-Star, to third base, where he will replace injured Aaron Boone. The Yankees will keep their captain, Derek Jeter, at shortstop.

"I don't think he ever thought about playing another position until the concept came up," said Rodriguez's agent, Scott Boras. "He decided it didn't make a difference — shortstop, third base, center field. He wanted the opportunity to play on a competitive team."

The Rangers will wind up paying $140 million for three seasons with Rodriguez, an average of $46.7 million annually for three last-place finishes in the AL West. The Yankees will owe him $112 million over seven years.

Baseball's biggest spenders will raise their payroll to about $190 million.

"The disparity is not healthy for the sport," Arizona Diamondbacks owner Jerry Colangelo said. "But everyone runs their team the way they see fit, and they did it by the rules."

Boras said the possibility of a trade first came up last Monday while he was talking to the Yankees about another player. Boras then called Rodriguez.

"I said, 'There may be an opportunity. We have to talk about your goals, about winning,'" Boras recalled telling his client.

"He called me back Tuesday and discussed it further and said, 'Why don't you call (Texas owner) Tom Hicks and let him know we're ready to do that,'" Boras said.

Trade talks began the following day, and the sides reached the agreement Sunday.

Under the deal, the Yankees will pay Rodriguez $15 million in each of the next three seasons, $16 million each in 2007 and 2008, $17 million in 2009 and $18 million in 2010, according to contract information obtained by the AP from player and management sources.

In each of the first four years, $1 million would be deferred without interest, to be paid in 2011.

The trade calls for Texas to pay $43 million of Rodriguez's salary over the remaining seven years: $3 million in 2004, $6 million each in 2005, 2006 and 2010, $7 million apiece in 2007 and 2009 and $8 million in 2008. In addition, the Rangers will pay the $24 million remaining in deferred money from the original contract, with the interest rate lowered from 3 percent to 1.75 percent.

## Earnhardt Jr. rules Daytona

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Dale Earnhardt Jr. was reminiscing about his father when someone brought over a cell phone.

Hold on, guys. Junior needs to take this call.

It's the president.

Even George Bush couldn't resist the urge to congratulate Earnhardt after his emotional victory in Sunday's Daytona 500 — six years to the day that his late father won NASCAR's premier race for the first — and only — time.

This one was straight from a storybook. The son of the seven-time series champion takes the checkered flag in the race that consumed his father — and eventually took his life.

Not far from the spot where the Intimidator died in a last-lap crash during the 2001 race, his son was carried on the shoulders of his crew, feted by an adoring crowd and even praised by the guys who tried to beat him.

"Considering what this kid went through, losing his father here at the Daytona 500 ... it's nice to see him get his victory here, too," said Tony Stewart, the victim of a daring pass by Earnhardt with 20 laps to go. "I think his father's really proud."

Bush was on hand to start the race, but left at about the midway point. Shortly after Earnhardt's emotional win, the president put in a call.

## Thornhill wins pole vault gold

Texas Tech junior and Snyder graduate Jared Thornhill captured a first-place finish and a provisional qualifying mark with a vault of 17-5 (5.31m), a career-high, at the Razorback-Tyson Invitational at the Randal Tyson Track Center in Fayetteville, Ark., Saturday.

Thornhill

Eighteen teams — nine men and nine women — ranked in the top 25 competed in the meet. Tech claimed six top-five marks with three provisional qualifying marks on the day.

## Shaq leads West to victory

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Shaq got the MVP award, and Kobe played the most minutes. Lakers fans couldn't have asked for more.

In addition, the first All-Star game in the Los Angeles area since 1983 was competitive from start to finish and wasn't decided until the final minute.

Shaquille O'Neal made nine dunks in a 24-point, 11-rebound performance that helped the Western Conference beat the East 136-132 on Sunday night to become the 12th player from the host city to earn All-Star MVP honors.

Kobe Bryant scored 20 points in 36 minutes after arriving late and missing the team picture.

"LA traffic," he explained.

The Lakers no doubt hope the performance of their stars is a sign of what's to come after the All-Star break, since they've struggled with injuries and other problems following an 18-3 start.

"Both of them are about winning," said Minnesota's Kevin Garnett of O'Neal and Bryant — his teammates in this game. "Whenever they step on the court, it's all business, and you have to anticipate that every time you play the Lakers."

O'Neal shot 12-of-19 while playing 24 minutes in relief of Houston's Yao Ming, who was pretty good himself with 16 points in 19 minutes.

Yao started at center for the West after edging O'Neal in fan balloting.

"I'm not really one known to be taking over All-Star games," O'Neal said. "This is a couple days you spend with the best players in the league, so I just wanted to come out and have a good time.

"I said to myself, 'If it's going good, nobody is really shining, I'm going to go ahead and go for it.' Third and fourth quarter, got a few dunks, scored a few buckets."

O'Neal also thrilled the fans at Staples Center by making like a point guard on a couple occasions.

## Daly shocks field at Buick

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Despite closing with a 75, the highest final round by a winner in 13 years, John Daly hit a 100-foot bunker shot that trickled 4 inches from the cup for a tap-in birdie to prevail in a three-man playoff to win the Buick Invitational.

It wasn't over until Luke Donald missed a 6-foot birdie putt, and Chris Riley's 5-foot birdie putt made a horseshoe around the cup and popped out.

Daly covered his face with his hands and cried.

"It's the greatest," he said. "I've had a lot of ups and downs. Geez, this is sweet."

Daly had a lot of up-and-downs throughout the final round. As in life, he managed to survive. He saved par out of the bunker on No. 12 and No. 16, clinging to a one-shot lead.

Riley, who grew up in San Diego and ranks this tournament up with the Masters, holed a clutch birdie putt from 15 feet on the fringe to finish with a 69 at 10-under 278, eliminating Phil Mickelson and five others at 9 under.

Moments later, Donald made a birdie putt from almost the same spot to join Riley at 10 under.

## Area Sports Calendar

| | |
|---|---|
| **TODAY** | |
| Basketball: | SJHS boys vs. Denver City, 5 p.m. |
| **TUESDAY** | |
| Basketball: | Snyder varsity vs. Seminole, 7:30 p.m. |
| | Snyder JV vs. Seminole, 6 p.m. |
| | Borden County vs. Rule, Scurry County Coliseum, 7 p.m. |
| Softball: | Snyder JV girls at Kermit, 5 p.m. |
| Baseball: | Snyder varsity at Lubbock High, scrimmage, 4 p.m. |
| **WEDNESDAY** | |
| Baseball: | WTC at Abilene Christian, 2 p.m. |
| Softball: | WTC at Odessa College, DH, 1:30 p.m. |
| **THURSDAY** | |
| Softball: | Snyder varsity at Copperas Cove Tournament |
| **FRIDAY** | |
| Baseball: | WTC at EPCC, DH, noon. |
| Softball: | Snyder varsity at Copperas Cove Tournament |
| | WTC at Cowtown Classic, Ft. Worth |
| Golf: | SHS varsity and JV girls in Snyder Tournament |
| | SHS varsity boys at Burleson |
| | SHS JV boys at Abilene |
| Tennis: | Snyder varsity at Sweetwater Tournament |
| **SATURDAY** | |
| Baseball: | WTC at EPCC, DH, noon. |
| | Snyder varsity vs. Midland Lee,scrimmage, 1 p.m. |
| Softball: | Snyder varsity at Copperas Cove Tournament |
| | WTC at Cowtown Classic, Ft. Worth |
| Golf: | SHS varsity and JV girls in Snyder Tournament |
| | SHS varsity boys at Burleson |
| | SHS JV boys at Abilene |
| Tennis: | Snyder varsity at Sweetwater Tournament |
| Powerlifting: | SHS at Snyder meet, Scurry County Coliseum |

## National Hockey League

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | T | OL | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Philadelphia | 31 | 12 | 11 | 5 | 78 | 170 | 127 |
| New Jersey | 30 | 16 | 10 | 1 | 71 | 132 | 110 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 27 | 21 | 7 | 2 | 63 | 163 | 142 |
| N.Y. Rangers | 21 | 26 | 7 | 4 | 53 | 149 | 166 |
| Pittsburgh | 11 | 38 | 5 | 4 | 31 | 115 | 221 |

**Northeast Division**

| | W | L | T | OL | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Toronto | 31 | 15 | 9 | 3 | 74 | 164 | 142 |
| Ottawa | 31 | 15 | 7 | 4 | 73 | 191 | 125 |
| Boston | 28 | 14 | 11 | 6 | 73 | 151 | 136 |
| Montreal | 28 | 23 | 6 | 2 | 64 | 145 | 135 |
| Buffalo | 26 | 26 | 5 | 1 | 58 | 148 | 149 |

**Southeast Division**

| | W | L | T | OL | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tampa Bay | 30 | 17 | 7 | 3 | 70 | 159 | 128 |
| Florida | 20 | 24 | 11 | 3 | 54 | 131 | 155 |
| Atlanta | 22 | 29 | 6 | 2 | 52 | 157 | 181 |
| Carolina | 17 | 27 | 11 | 2 | 47 | 109 | 145 |
| Washington | 18 | 32 | 6 | 2 | 44 | 138 | 181 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Central Division**

| | W | L | T | OL | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Detroit | 32 | 16 | 8 | 2 | 74 | 187 | 138 |
| Nashville | 27 | 21 | 7 | 2 | 63 | 139 | 151 |
| St. Louis | 27 | 22 | 7 | 1 | 62 | 133 | 143 |
| Columbus | 16 | 29 | 8 | 4 | 44 | 117 | 161 |
| Chicago | 16 | 30 | 7 | 5 | 44 | 132 | 170 |

**Northwest Division**

| | W | L | T | OL | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colorado | 32 | 11 | 10 | 4 | 78 | 177 | 126 |
| Vancouver | 31 | 18 | 7 | 3 | 72 | 172 | 136 |
| Calgary | 30 | 20 | 5 | 3 | 68 | 144 | 129 |
| Minnesota | 20 | 22 | 15 | 2 | 57 | 128 | 130 |
| Edmonton | 23 | 25 | 9 | 1 | 56 | 148 | 150 |

**Pacific Division**

| | W | L | T | OL | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Jose | 27 | 15 | 11 | 5 | 70 | 143 | 118 |
| Dallas | 27 | 21 | 10 | 0 | 64 | 124 | 129 |
| Los Angeles | 22 | 16 | 13 | 7 | 64 | 155 | 154 |
| Phoenix | 19 | 21 | 14 | 3 | 55 | 144 | 160 |
| Anaheim | 19 | 24 | 8 | 7 | 53 | 127 | 154 |

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

**Sunday's Games**

Calgary 2, Minnesota 1
New Jersey 3, Los Angeles 2, OT
Washington 4, Chicago 0
Edmonton 2, Nashville 2, tie

**Monday's Games**

Los Angeles at N.Y. Islanders, 11 a.m.
Ottawa at N.Y. Rangers, noon
Atlanta at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Phoenix at St. Louis, 2 p.m.
Florida at Carolina, 6 p.m.
Nashville at Columbus, 6 p.m.
Edmonton at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Toronto at Pittsburgh, 6:30 p.m.
San Jose at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Anaheim, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Colorado, 8 p.m.

## National Basketball Association

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Jersey | 31 | 20 | .608 | — |
| New York | 25 | 29 | .463 | 7½ |
| Boston | 23 | 31 | .426 | 9½ |
| Philadelphia | 22 | 31 | .415 | 10 |
| Miami | 22 | 32 | .407 | 10½ |
| Washington | 16 | 34 | .320 | 14½ |
| Orlando | 13 | 41 | .241 | 19½ |

**Central Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indiana | 39 | 14 | .736 | — |
| Detroit | 33 | 21 | .611 | 6½ |
| New Orleans | 28 | 24 | .538 | 10½ |
| Milwaukee | 27 | 24 | .529 | 11 |
| Toronto | 25 | 26 | .490 | 13 |
| Cleveland | 20 | 33 | .377 | 19 |
| Atlanta | 18 | 35 | .340 | 21 |
| Chicago | 15 | 38 | .283 | 24 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Midwest Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minnesota | 37 | 15 | .712 | — |
| San Antonio | 35 | 18 | .660 | 2½ |
| Dallas | 33 | 19 | .635 | 4 |
| Houston | 30 | 22 | .577 | 7 |
| Memphis | 30 | 22 | .577 | 7 |
| Denver | 31 | 23 | .574 | 7 |
| Utah | 26 | 27 | .491 | 11½ |

**Pacific Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sacramento | 37 | 13 | .740 | — |
| L.A. Lakers | 31 | 19 | .620 | 6 |
| Seattle | 25 | 27 | .481 | 13 |
| Portland | 24 | 27 | .471 | 13½ |
| Golden State | 23 | 28 | .451 | 14½ |
| L.A. Clippers | 22 | 29 | .431 | 15½ |
| Phoenix | 18 | 37 | .327 | 21½ |

**Sunday's Game**

West All-Stars 136, East All-Stars 132

**Today's Games**

No games scheduled

**Tuesday's Games**

New Orleans at Indiana, 6 p.m.
Utah at Miami, 6:30 p.m.
Detroit at New York, 6:30 p.m.
Dallas at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Orlando at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Houston, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Denver, 8 p.m.
Boston at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
Portland at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

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# Debate strengthens Kerry's position

MILWAUKEE (AP) — John Kerry says he will "do the work" necessary to win Wisconsin's Democratic presidential primary Tuesday, even though he has a hefty lead in the polls and emerged largely unscathed from debate with rivals trying to make a likely last stand.

Howard Dean and John Edwards were given several chances to criticize Kerry during a 90-minute debate Sunday night, but Edwards seemed more inclined than Dean to take advantage. "Not so fast," he blurted out at one point when Kerry talked as if the race already had been decided and that it was time to focus on President Bush.

Dean in particular was uncharacteristically lenient on his leading rival. At one point, he rose to defend Kerry from Republican attacks that he is beholden to special interests, even though Dean himself has leveled similar charges.

"I think George Bush has some nerve attacking anybody about special interests," the former Vermont governor said.

Dean on today continued to aim his fire at Bush, not Kerry.

"The principal difference between myself and George Bush is I believe we cannot continue as a divided society," Dean told the Islamic Society of Milwaukee, criticizing the administration for what he called a too-harsh stance against Americans of Arab descent i n the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Dean has said he would make a stand in the Wisconsin primary but is trailing Kerry.

Some of his supporters are urging him to quit. The former Vermont governor insisted Sunday, "We are not bowing out."

Edwards also resisted suggestions that the contest is over.

"Not so fast, John Kerry," the North Carolina senator said after his Massachusetts colleague declared he would beat Bush. "We're going to have an election here in Wisconsin this Tuesday. And we've got a whole group of primaries coming up. And I, for one, intend to fight with everything I've got for every one of those votes."

Kerry, winner of 14 contests, said he's prepared for GOP attacks. "I am ready for what they throw at me," he said with all the confidence that he will win the nomination.

When he stopped by a nearby pub where supporters had just finished watching the debate, he warned that the contest is not yet over.

"I don't care what the polls say," Kerry said. "There's only one way to make certain of an outcome in an election. It's get your voters out there, turnout the vote and do the work."

Kerry's cordial treatment in the debate added to the image of the Democratic Party rallying behind him as the presumptive nominee. Dean's campaign chairman, Steve Grossman, said if Dean loses Tuesday, he would seek to marshal his political network on behalf of the party and Kerry.

"When Howard Dean says he's not going to quit, what he means is the battle to restore democracy and citizen participation is long-term and he's not going to quit on that battle," Grossman told The Associated Press.

During the debate, Edwards challenged Kerry's support of trade agreements that he said have cost jobs in Wisconsin. He also poked fun at Kerry's long-winded response to a question about whether he felt partly responsible for the cost and casualties of the Iraq war after voting for it.

"That's the longest answer I ever heard to a yes-or-no question," Edwards said.

Edwards largely focused on Bush. Edwards said the president's honesty was an issue, while Al Sharpton flatly called Bush a liar for the evidence he presented to justify the war.

"He had members of the administration say they knew where the weapons were," Sharpton said. "So we're not just talking about something passing here. We're talking about 500 lives. We're talking about billions of dollars."

Kerry avoided direct answers to questions about his shifting positions on trade, education and Bush's anti-terrorism legislation. He declined to debate the president's Vietnam-era tenure in the Air National Guard, but used the question to criticize Bush's handling of the Iraq war and refer to his own decorated service in Vietnam.

"I would say that this president regrettably has perhaps not learned some of the lessons of that period of time during which we had a very difficult war," Kerry said.

Edwards is in a slightly better position than Dean to survive a defeat Tuesday. While Dean is winless and losing credibility, Edwards won his native South Carolina and has impressed Democrats with a polished, upbeat style.

After vying in Wisconsin and its 72 delegates, the remaining candidates will focus on March 2 elections in California, New York, Ohio and seven other states. Edwards hopes Wisconsin voters will bounce Dean from the race, leaving him standing alone against Kerry as a serious contender.

The scenario presumes that Edwards would do well enough Tuesday to keep money flowing into his campaign, even as party donors and leaders rally behind Kerry. Edwards' backers say the odds are steep, and they won't rule out the possibility he'll be forced from the race this week.

Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich also participated in the 90-minute debate, held at Marquette University. It was sponsored by Journal Communications, WTMJ-TV and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

# Experts: Ocean studies will move off Earth

SEATTLE (AP) — The skills and technology used to explore the extreme depths of the Earth's oceans will soon find work in outer space. Scientists are making plans to probe the icy seas of Jupiter's moons and drop a lander to the bizarre gasoline-like lakes of Titan, a moon of Saturn.

"The possibilities of studying the extraterrestrial oceans in the solar system is now real," said Torrence Johnson, a scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Johnson, speaking Saturday at the national meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, said researchers are drawing up plans to send orbiters to Ganymede and Europa. The two Jupiter moons may be covered with oceans under miles-thick layers of ice.

Oceanography, said Johnson, is no longer just an Earth science.

"The universe is awash with water," he said. "Europa probably contains twice as much water as all of the oceans of Earth."

Early plans call for orbiting the Jovian moons with craft that can measure tides and penetrate ice with special radar. These are techniques that oceanographers have used to probe the Earth's waters.

Later plans would mean landing packages on the icy surfaces and perhaps drilling down, searching for liquid water, the most likely domain of life, Johnson said.

Some researchers believe radioactive and tidal heating may form deep reservoirs of liquid water beneath the ice and that life forms may exist there, enduring the extreme pressures and darkness. Oceanographers have found some bacteria living in such conditions in the Earth's black depths.

Johnson said planetary scientists are leaning on long-tested techniques that oceanographers have used.

"We are turning to our oceanographic colleagues who make things work at the unbelievable pressures," said Johnson.

Studies for the exploration of the oceans of Jupiter's moons will be completed next year. Johnson said the National Aeronautics and Space Administration will draw up plan for the projects.

Exploration of the surface of Titan, a moon of Saturn, will start even sooner. The Cassini spacecraft, launched seven years ago, will reach Saturn in July and drop a probe to the moon's surface in January.

Titan, a frigid world about half the Earth's size, is the only moon in the solar system with a thick atmosphere. Smog generated by a thick nitrogen atmosphere four times denser than the Earth's obscures Titan's surface.

"Titan is the largest piece of unexplored real estate in the solar system, said Ralph Lorenz, a University of Arizona planetary scientist and a leader of the Cassini project.

Radar images from Earth telescopes and infrared photos from the Hubble Space Telescope have penetrated Titan's smog and detected bright and dark regions.

An analysis of the infrared data suggests the dark regions are seas of methane and ethane, hydrocarbons that could form compounds similar to gasoline.

"The simplest explanation may be that these smooth areas are lakes or seas," Lorenz said.

Deep below the surface of Titan, through miles of ice, scientists believe there may be oceans of liquid water, perhaps saturated with organic compounds that could support life.

"If you introduce microbes into that then they may survive," Lorenz said.

He said if internal heat from Titan caused water to geyser up into the atmosphere, the resulting chemistry would produce many organic molecules, perhaps forming amino acids necessary for life.

# Kuwaiti parliament approves profiteering on fuel inquiry

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Kuwaiti lawmakers voted unanimously today to hold a parliamentary investigation into charges that a Kuwaiti supplier to a subsidiary of Houston-based Halliburton overcharged for fuel deliveries to Iraq after the U.S.-led war toppled Saddam Hussein.

The vote, passing without dissent in the 50-member parliament, came shortly after Kuwait's energy minister, Sheik Ahmed Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah, told parliament he would support such a probe.

"I approve of the investigative panel if it will be a means to uncover the truth for the Kuwaiti people and the Kuwaiti parliament," Sheik Ahmed told parliament. He earlier also had ordered the nation's top prosecutor to investigate the matter.

However, Sheik Ahmed added that contracts involving state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corp. and the Kuwaiti supplier, Altanmia Marketing Co., were proper. The U.S. Army had asked for Altanmia specifically, he said.

If the parliamentary panel or the prosecutor find any wrongdoing, Sheik Ahmed said the law will be applied "even to me." As energy minister, Sheik Ahmed has ultimate responsibility for state-owned KPG. He has not, however, been implicated in any way with the profiteering allegations.

Legislators chose five members for the investigative panel, which will meeting Wednesday.

Auditors of the U.S. Department of Defense have found that Kellogg Brown & Root, a subsidiary of Halliburton, may have overcharged $61 million for deliveries of gasoline from Kuwait to Iraq from May through September. Their investigation is in progress.

Altanmia was found by the auditors to have charged more than twice what suppliers in Turkey did.

Altanmia has not commented on the accusation. But Halliburton — Vice President Dick Cheney's former company — and the Army Corp of Engineers, which oversaw the fuel contract, both said the higher price was justified by dangers faced by fuel convoys and the need to head off Iraqi anger over gasoline shortages. Cheney was Halliburton's chairman from 1995-2000.

In their request for a probe, the legislators said Altanmia made $759,567 a day in profits from providing Kellogg Brown & Root with 1,500 tons of fuel a day. Kuwait Petroleum Corp., the seller, made $386,910 a day from the contract, the legislators claimed.

The lawmakers described the figures as "scary, if true," and said they worked them out from reports published in the United States.

Kuwait, a major U.S. ally in the Gulf, was the main staging ground for the war that ousted Saddam.

# North Texas graves could be those of early black settlers

McKINNEY (AP) — State historians want concrete evidence of a North Texas cemetery's history before they will designate a sign that says that blacks could be buried there.

But some local preservationists want the unmarked cemetery in the 155-year-old town to be designated as a black burial ground. They cite oral histories passed down through generations as the proof the area was a cemetery for black pioneers starting in the 1850s.

Historian Helen Hall recalls hearing stories from Jess Haley, a black worker who worked on the land.

"I heard him talk about that cemetery and he said, 'Oh yes, that's where all our folks are.' But that's the problem. So many of those who knew are dead now," she told The Dallas Morning News.

The Texas Historical Commission last year designated the site as a historic cemetery and agreed to provide a marker reading "Old Settlers Cemetery at Wilson Creek." There was nothing on the marker about who the settlers were.

"They don't have oral history. They have folklore," said Dan Utley, a historian with the state commission in charge of historical markers. "To me, oral history is someone with a first-person account of something,"

A survey funded by the city of McKinney in 2000 of Wilson Creek Parkway confirmed the burials and the boundaries of the site, but relied on oral histories for the underlying narrative, said Melissa Green, principal investigator for the study.

"It was determined they have bodies there, but they don't know who they are or any cultural heritage," Utley added.

Edward Wright, who is working to get a supplemental marker for the site, said all he wants is a plaque that says blacks could be buried at the site.

"We don't want it to say 'Slave Cemetery,'" he said. "We don't even need it to say 'Black Cemetery.'"

Karen Riles of the Austin History Center, said it would be hard to find documentation on 19th century black America.

"Knowing that these were places you didn't want people to know about and didn't write down information about, you have to take oral tradition coupled with looking at the site physically," she said.

Riles, also a former historian for the state commission, encountered a similar situation while trying to document the underground railroad.

Jay Crum's family owned the land where the cemetery lies for almost 150 years. He grew up hearing the stories of the graves.

"They were just black pioneers," said Crum, 69. "Some of them are right under that parkway. Not many, but a few."

# Two arrests were made over weekend

***Arrests***

Two arrests were made in Scurry County over the weekend.

A 25-year-old man was taken into custody at 11:40 a.m. Saturday in the 1400 block of 30th charged with driving while license suspended.

At 9:17 a.m. Sunday, DPS troopers arrested Joel Dodson, 42, of Tahoka, on U.S. 84 near the city limits on a Lubbock County warrant for forgery with a financial instrument, and a Deaf Smith County warrant for possession of a controlled substance.

***Accidents***

A one-vehicle, non-injury accident was reported at 8:59 a.m. Saturday on U.S. 84 near the Garza County line. The accident involved a 1999 Jeep Cherokee driven by Larry Rodgers of Lubbock.

At 9:27 a.m. Saturday, an one-vehicle mishap was reported on U.S. 84 near Ezell-Key. A 1993 Chevrolet van driven by Maria Gonzales of 805 25th St. had veered off the roadway and struck a fence. She was transported to Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

***Theft***

At 1:40 p.m. Saturday, a caller reported the theft of a 1970 Sears boat from 4206 Lubbock.

***Deputy requested***

At 8:44 a.m. Saturday a caller requested a deputy to 881 Harlan St. in Hermleigh reporting that someone had driven through his yard the previous night, resulting in damage to some rose bushes.

***Disturbance***

A caller reported a disturbance in the 1900 block of Ave. O at 1:27 p.m. Saturday.

At 3:57 p.m. Saturday, a caller reported from the 2200 block of Ave. I a subject who was refusing to leave his residence. The subject left the residence prior to officer's arrival.

A caller reported several people who appeared to be involved in a fight in the 2800 block of Ave. X at 11:48 a.m. Sunday. Officers made contact with two subjects involved in a money dispute.

***Harassment***

At 6:30 p.m. Sunday a caller reported having several harassing messages left on her telephone answering machine by her ex-husband.

A caller reported at 7:18 p.m. Sunday being followed by another subject through town to the Law Enforcement Center. Officers located the subject and he was issued a warning for criminal trespass.

***Prowler***

At 5 a.m. Sunday, a resident reported hearing someone knocking on a bedroom window in the 1000 block of Ave. R.

At 1:58 a.m. this morning, a resident spotted two subjects near his vehicles in the 1900 block of Ave. O. The two reportedly ran away.

***Criminal mischief***

At 10:38 p.m. Sunday, a caller reported a pickup at Snyder High School with several subjects in the back shooting a BB gun.

At 10:48 p.m. Saturday, a caller reported his home in the 3600 block of Houston being shot at with paintballs.

***Gas drive off***

A clerk at Town and Country east reported the theft of $30 worth of gas at 7:40 a.m. Sunday.

Happy Birthday
Gary Greenlee

FEB 16 2004

Best Available Copy



# In microbial world, bacteria everywhere

SEATTLE (AP) — That soap scum that forms on the shower curtain? It's really a biofilm loaded with more than a billion bacteria per cubic inch.

The moving belt on an escalator? When you put your hand there, you're dipping into a puddle of bacteria left by all those who went before.

How about the potting soil for your petunias? It's the happy home of a pathogen called Microbial Avian Complex, a potentially troublesome bug.

Then there's the sponge you use to rinse dishes at the sink. Yep, loaded with thriving bacteria.

If this makes you want to go relax in a hot tub, think again. The air wafting from the hot water is probably loaded with microbes, some of them able to give you a hacking cough.

It's a microbial world, says Norman P. Pace, a researcher at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Virtually everything you touch is coated with the little critters. You couldn't escape them if you wanted to because your skin is covered with about 100 million bacteria, says Pace.

Yet, science knows very little about environmental microbes, how they live, reproduce and thrive in the natural world. Most of what is known comes from germs cultured and studied in the lab.

"We live in a microbial world and I find it appalling that this is ignored by science," Pace said Saturday at the national meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He discovered the colonies of soap scum bacteria when, out of curiosity, he took a sample from his own shower curtain and examined it under a microscope.

"I was amazed," he said. Later studies of shower curtains from other homes found the same thing.

"When you step into a shower, you are enmeshed in a bio-aerosol," he said.

Most of the soap scum bacteria is harmless to the healthy. But for people with compromised immune systems, such as patients with AIDS or on chemotherapy or with open wounds, some of the germs can be deadly.

Pace recommends that shower curtains be cleaned weekly.

When he rides an escalator, Pace said he puts down only his knuckles because of the potential broth of bacteria that may be present.

The kitchen sink sponge, he said, "is a spectacular source of bacteria."

In his own home, he regularly wrings out the sponge and lets it dry, breaking up the wet, warm bacteria paradise.

Pace explored the microbial world of hot tubs after he was asked to investigate why some on the staff at a therapeutic swimming pool were developing "lifeguard lung," a nagging cough that plagues pool workers.

He found that the air above a heated, indoor pool or above a hot tub is enriched with microbe by about 60 percent. Persistent exposure to the air caused the "lifeguard lung" in sensitive people. The same thing can happen around a hot tub.

"These findings are a bit scary. The bottom line is people should be aware of the risk of swimming in indoor pools or sitting in indoor hot tubs," Pace said.

One hot tub and pool solution, he said, is to increase ventilation so the cloud of microbes is swept away. "Lifeguard lung" generally clears when the exposure is stopped.

# Little change nationally after nightclub fire

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — When a rock band's pyrotechnics set a Rhode Island nightclub ablaze, killing 100 people and injuring scores of others, fire marshals across the nation scurried to review their safety inspections.

At least 15 states debated tougher laws, mostly dealing with pyrotechnics, and a national fire safety association approved more stringent safety recommendations.

But one year after the tragedy at The Station nightclub in West Warwick, only Rhode Island has enacted sweeping new fire safety measures dealing with everything from fire sprinklers to upgrading older buildings.

National fire safety experts say it could take years for many other states to follow suit.

"It's not my sense that (the Rhode Island) fire is poised to make profound change," said David Lucht, director of the Center for Firesafety Studies at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts. "We don't as a society take fire safety that seriously."

Since the nation's fourth-deadliest nightclub fire, eight other states — Alabama, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, New York and North Carolina — approved tighter rules for indoor fireworks. Cities also debated changes, with Boston banning indoor pyrotechnics.

"The fire absolutely put the issue on the radar screen," said Julie Heckman, executive director of the Maryland-based American Pyrotechnics Association. "What we saw in Rhode Island was the blatant misuse of indoor pyrotechnics."

The association, which includes 260 companies, wants all states to adopt uniform standards and licensing requirements for fireworks use.

The Rhode Island blaze — sparked by a pyrotechnic show by the band Great White — was the impetus for standards approved last summer by the Quincy, Mass.-based National Fire Protection Association. The group now recommends requiring sprinklers in every new club serving at least 50 patrons, and in every existing club serving at least 100.

Thirty-four states, including Rhode Island, voluntarily adopted the group's previous recommendations. It could be another decade before the association knows how broadly its new standards will be adopted, said NFPA assistant Vice President Robert Solomon.

"It will be a more drawn-out process," he said. "We've seen good things come from these types of tragedies."

State Rep. Peter Ginaitt, a Warwick firefighter who was among the first responders to the nightclub fire, said Rhode Island won't consider the new NFPA standards until the state evaluates the effect of its own new regulations.

The state's new code prohibits pyrotechnics in all but its largest public venues, and most nightclubs must have sprinklers by July 2005. The code also gets rid of the "grandfathering" statutes that allowed older buildings to ignore new safety standards.

Many of the changes go into effect on Feb. 20, the first anniversary of the fire.

Rhode Island Gov. Don Carcieri said he hoped the new regulations "would set the stage for what happens nationwide, to make sure this never happens again."

But even in Rhode Island, lawmakers faced resistance from businesses concerned about the cost of sprinklers. Some officials also doubted the state's ability to enforce the phased-in requirements.

"It hurt to make those changes because we knew we were hurting the people who would ultimately pay" for sprinklers and other improvements, said Ginaitt, who was co-chairman of a state commission that recommended many of the new safety regulations.

While the legacy of The Station fire outside Rhode Island may be uncertain, it's clearly changed attitudes in the nation's smallest state.

"There's a greater awareness, not only on the part of owners but their patrons," said Bill Howe, chief of inspections for the state fire marshal. "We get more complaints ... people who might have accepted things in the past no longer do."

Some businesses, such as West Warwick's Cowesett Inn, have taken their own safety measures.

# Gibson defends controversial movie in interview on ABC

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mel Gibson said the graphic depiction of Christ's crucifixion in his upcoming film "The Passion of the Christ" was meant to make viewers realize the extent of Christ's sacrifice.

"I think it pushes one over the edge so that they see the enormity, the enormity of that sacrifice," he said during an interview with Diane Sawyer for ABC's "Primetime" that airs today.

Gibson, who funded, directed and co-wrote the upcoming movie, said he wanted the movie to be shocking and extreme.

"It's very violent and if you don't like it, don't go, you know?" Gibson said in excerpts of the interview provided by ABC. "If you want to leave halfway through, go ahead."

The R-rated movie, set for release Feb. 25, details the last 12 hours in the life of Jesus. Gibson maintains it's a faithful biblical narrative, but some worry that its depiction of the role of some Jews in the death of Christ may lead to an increase in anti-Semitism.

Among them is Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, who has seen the film twice.

Gibson told Sawyer the film was not anti-Semitic and was instead about "faith, hope, love and forgiveness."

"To be anti-Semitic is a sin," the actor-director said. "It's been condemned by one Papal Council after another. To be anti-Semitic is to be un-Christian, and I'm not."

The "Primetime" program also includes an interview of Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League. Foxman told Sawyer he does not believe Gibson or the film are anti-Semitic but added that the movie "has the potential to fuel anti-Semitism, to reinforce it."

On the Net:
The Passion of the Christ: http://www.thepassionofthechrist.com

## World Almanac

**Monday, Feb. 16, 2004**

Today is the 47th day of 2004 and the 57th day of winter.

**TODAY'S HISTORY:** In 1862, troops under Ulysses S. Grant captured Fort Donelson in Tennessee.

In 1937, the Dupont Co. patented a new material called nylon.

In 1959, Fidel Castro was sworn in as the prime minister of Cuba.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:** Edgar Bergen (1903-1978), ventriloquist; Sonny Bono (1935-1998), singer, politician; LeVar Burton (1957-), actor, is 47; Ice-T (1958-), actor, rapper, is 46; John McEnroe (1959-), tennis player, is 45.

**TODAY'S SPORTS:** In 1972, Wilt Chamberlain became the first player in NBA history to score a lifetime total of 30,000 points.

**TODAY'S QUOTE:** "Everybody loves success, but they hate successful people." — **John McEnroe**

**TODAY'S FACT:** The real name of rapper Ice-T is Tracy Marrow.

**TODAY'S NUMBER:** 30 — Number of radio stations in the United States in 1922.

**TODAY'S MOON:** Between last quarter (Feb. 13) and new moon (Feb. 20)

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*Your Complete Area*

# Business Directory

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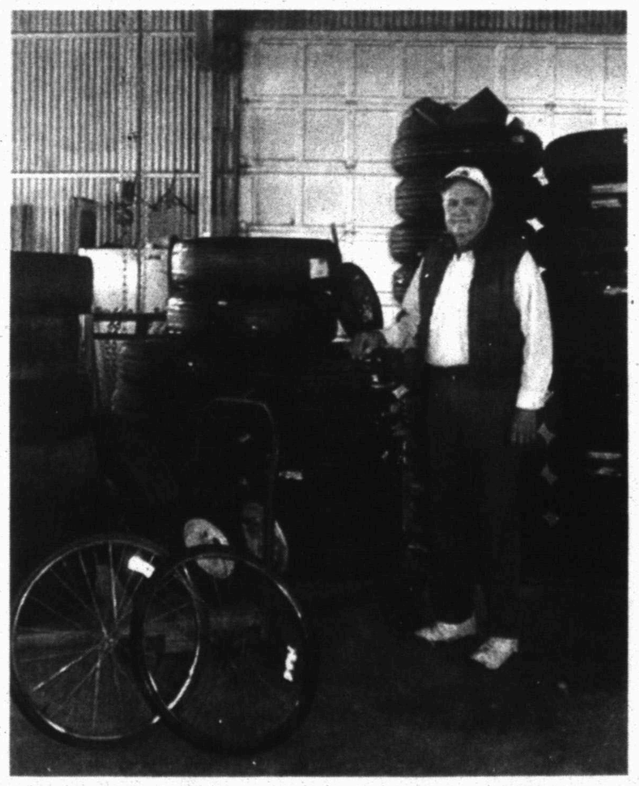
## BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

*Spotlight*



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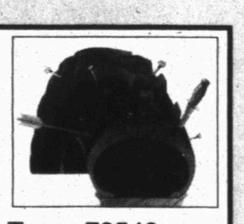
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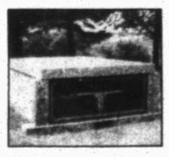
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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

# Roadside bombs kill two soldiers in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Roadside bombs killed two U.S. soldiers in separate attacks today in Baghdad and a city to the northeast, the U.S. military said, and an American civilian was shot and killed in a weekend ambush.

A grenade exploded in an elementary school playground in a Shiite Muslim neighborhood of Baghdad on today, killing one child and wounding four others. The children apparently triggered the explosive, hidden in some garbage, while they were playing, Iraqi police said.

In the ambush Saturday, gunmen in a white sedan opened fire on a taxi carrying Americans from a religious group from the site of the ancient city of Babylon to Baghdad, the U.S. Command said in a statement. It did not identify the group, but a number of Christian humanitarian organizations are working in Iraq.

In one of today's roadside bombings an American soldier from Task Force Iron Horse was killed in the center of Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, the 4th Infantry Division said.

Two Iraqis were arrested, one with a cell phone that may have been used to detonate the bomb, said Master Sgt. Robert Cargie, a division spokesman in Tikrit.

The other fatal bombing occurred in the center of Baghdad about 9:20 a.m., killing one soldier from the 1st Armored Division and wounding another. The 1st Armored is due to leave Iraq in the coming weeks and be replaced by the 1st Cavalry Division.

The latest deaths bring to 540 the number of U.S. service members who have died since the United States launched the Iraq war in March. Most have died since President Bush declared an end to active combat May 1.

Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, deputy chief of operations, reported an average of 17 engagements a day between U.S. soldiers and insurgents during the past week, down from about 22-24 the previous week.

In the northern oil center of Kirkuk, gunmen in a car opened fire at passers-by in a mainly Kurdish neighborhood Sunday night, killing one Kurdish man and wounding two other people, police said. The attackers escaped.

U.S. officials are divided about whether Iraqis or foreign fighters are responsible for recent attacks, including last weekend's bold daylight assault against police and civil defense compounds in Fallujah in which at least 25 people were killed.

Today, Kimmett said it appeared all the attackers wounded or killed in Fallujah were Iraqis, despite initial reports that foreigners including Lebanese and Iranians were involved.

He said a number of Iraqis were being questioned in connection with the attack, including the mayor of Fallujah who had submitted his resignation a few days before the Saturday assault.

On Sunday, a special Iraqi police unit arrested a senior Baath Party leader on the U.S. military's most-wanted list during a raid on his home in a Baghdad suburb. The capture of Mohammed Zimam Abdul Razaq leaves only 10 top figures still at large from the list of 55 issued after Saddam's regime collapsed.

*In Haiti...*

# Paramilitary troops expand rebel forces

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A rebel force trying to oust President Jean-Bertrand Aristide grew in size as former exiled paramilitary troops joined the insurrection and aid workers hurried to get doctors and supplies to the cut-off north.

A humanitarian convoy left from Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, for St. Marc, a northern port city where rebels burned the police station and torched a clinic. The Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross would lead the convoy, officials said.

Rebel roadblocks have halted most food and fuel shipments since the unrest began. Emergency supplies of flour, cooking oil and other basics are projected to run out in days in northern areas, where roadblocks are guarded by rebels.

The rebels launched a rebellion on Feb. 5 from Gonaives, 70 miles northwest of Port-au-Prince. Although the rebels are thought to number less than Haiti's 5,000-member police force, exiled paramilitary leaders and police have reportedly joined them.

One of those reportedly is Louis-Jodel Chamblain, a former Haitian soldier who headed army death squads in 1987 and a militia known as the Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti, or FRAPH.

Several people in Gonaives said they saw Chamblain, who fled to the Dominican Republic in the mid-'90s.

Also spotted was Guy Philippe, a former police chief who fled to the Dominican Republic after being accused by the Haitian government of fomenting a coup in 2002.

In the video obtained by Associated Press Television News, Philippe appears to be laughing while surrounded by a handful of rebels Saturday in Gonaives.

Philippe, 35, said he has been in the Dominican Republic and Ecuador since fleeing Haiti in 2000.

"We don't have any platform," he said. "Our fight is for a better country ... We are fighting for the presidency, we're fighting for the people, for our convictions."

Philippe said the rebels have an arsenal of weapons and he doesn't think it's in U.S. interests to pursue another intervention.

"We don't want to fight with them," he said. "We are fighting for our own cause."

Two Dominican soldiers were killed on the Dominican border at Dajabon on Saturday and their weapons were taken from them. It was unclear who was responsible for the killings but Chamblain reportedly led a commando of 20 men across the border.

Dominican President Hipolito Mejia said Sunday that authorities would arrest any Haitian trying to enter the Dominican Republic suspected of taking part in the uprising.

# Obituaries

## Vergie Martin

**1921-2004**

COLORADO CITY — Vergie Martin, a former Snyder resident, died Friday, Feb. 13, in a San Angelo hospital.

A memorial service for Mrs. Martin, 82, was set for 2 p.m. today in the Kiker-Seale Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Kay Reed officiating.

Virgie Martin

Born Oct. 19, 1921 in Clarksville, she married Bill Martin on Oct. 7, 1937 in Dunn. He died Sept. 26, 2000.

Mrs. Martin moved from Snyder to Colorado City in 1990 and was a former custodial technician for Birdwell Oil Co. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Martin also was preceded in death by her parents, Milt and Vida Shoffner; a daughter, Patsy Geiger; a brother, Milton Shoffner; and two sisters, Loie Standefer and Irene Martin.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Buck and Nancy Martin of Somerville, Ala.; a son-in-law and his wife, Dale and Leslie Geiger of Colorado City; a brother and sister-in-law, Odis and Paulyne Shoffner of Amarillo; a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, I.E. and Rozell Martin of Snyder; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

## Opal Eades

**1910-2004**

Opal Juanita Eades, longtime Snyder resident, died Saturday, Feb. 14, in Trinity Haven Nursing Center in Midland.

Graveside service for Mrs. Eades, 93, was held at 4 p.m. Sunday in the Snyder Cemetery with the Rev. Charles Day, pastor of Ave. D Baptist Church, officiating. Arrangements were under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Feb. 19, 1910 in Cook County, she married John Eades on Feb. 14, 1937 in Abilene. He died in 1963.

A homemaker, Mrs. Eades moved from McCamey to Snyder in 1963 and was a member of the Ave. D Baptist Church.

Survivors include five daughters, Sheila Vineyard of Midland, Lela Warren of Indonesia, Cleo Keller of Snyder, Emogene Gotcher of Sweetwater and Juanita Richardson of San Angelo; three sons, Arnold Eades of Auburn, Ala., Calvin Eades of Houston and James Eades of San Angelo; a daughter-in-law, Glenda Meredith of Fort Worth; 23 grandchildren; and several great and great-great-grandchildren.

Personal, Professional Service

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME

3101 College Ave. 573-5454

## Lanny Buchwald

**1946-2004**

Lanny Brent Buchwald of Snyder died Saturday, Feb. 14, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Funeral service for Mr. Buchwald, 57, was set for 9 a.m. today in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Indiahoma, Okla.

Born Nov. 13, 1946 in Oklahoma City, Mr. Buchwald was self employed.

Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Bryan and Maurissa Buchwald of Okarche, Okla.; and special friends, Judy James, Sam and Kim Walker, Nikki James, Randy and Christy James, all of Snyder, Eddie and Penny Wheeler of Colorado City and Jeffrey and Amy James of Wolfforth.

## Luther Harmes

**1933-2004**

CROSS PLAINS — Luther Glen Harmes, the father of Toni Shields of Snyder, died Friday, Feb. 13, in a Cross Plains hospital.

Funeral service for Mr. Harmes, 70, was set for 10:30 a.m. today in the Higginbotham Funeral Home Chapel. Ronnie White, assisted by Rex Boggs, was to officiate. Burial was to follow in the Cross Plains Cemetery.

Born Sept. 27, 1933 in Coleman, he was a graduate of Coleman High School and married Mardell Richards on Jan. 17, 1975 in Gatesville.

Mr. Harmes was a self-employed equipment dealer and drilling contractor and was a member of Central Baptist Church in Coleman.

Survivors include his wife, Mardell Harmes of Cross Plains; another daughter, Connie Boggs of Eastland; three sons, Monty Richards of Cross Plains, Steve Richards of Winnemucca, Nev., and Gary Richards of Beeville; 13 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

## Gene Hays

**1924-2004**

POST — Gene Hays, a former resident of Snyder, died Friday, Feb. 13, in Golden Plains Care Center.

Funeral service for Mr. Hays, 80, is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Calvary Baptist Church in Post with the Rev. Les Atkins, pastor, officiating. Military graveside rites will follow in the Terrace Cemetery under the direction of Justice-Mason Funeral Home.

Gene Hays

Born Jan. 13, 1924, he attended Post schools and was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He married Deloris LaVerne Capps on March 17, 1956 in Carlsbad, N.M. She died March 6, 1993.

He also was preceded in death by his parents, James and Mattie Hays; and two sons, Marc and Rodney Hays.

Mr. Hays worked for his dad at the Corner Grocery, owned and operated the Long Branch, Genez Steak House and later worked for RJD Management. He then worked for Redman Redi-Mix for several years.

A longtime member of Calvary Baptist Church, he was a member of the VFW in Lubbock.

Survivors include four sons, Randell, Steve and Jim Hays, all of Lubbock, and Stephen Hays of Brownwood; two daughters, Joni Hays of Tahoka and Anita Nett of Berthold, N.D.; six brothers, Bill and Jackie Hays of Lubbock, Jerry and Pete Hays of Post and Herbie and Donnie Hays of Austin; three sisters, Liberty Anthony, Sis Gilmore and Reba Propst, all of Post; 19 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

## Doris Sellars

**1925-2004**

Graveside service for Doris Marie Sellars was set for 3 p.m. today in the Snyder Cemetery. Arrangements were under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.

Mrs. Sellars, 78, died Friday, Feb. 13, in Midland.

Born Sept. 10, 1925 in Haskell, she was reared in Haskell and moved to Midland in 1956.

She married R.D. Sellars in 1959 and he died in 1983.

Mrs. Sellars worked at the Scharbauer Hotel as a beautician and then owned and operated Modern Food Store before working for the Midland Independent School District. She was a member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary and the Moose Lodge.

She also was preceded in death by her parents, Oscar and Eunice Miller; and a brother, John Miller.

Survivors include a daughter, Cynthia Hammond of Midland; four sons, Randy Sellars of Round Rock, Jerry Hunt, Bobby Hunt and Phillip Hunt, all of Midland; 13 grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

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## Today's Weather

### Local 3-Day Forecast

| Tue 2/17 | Wed 2/18 | Thu 2/19 |
|---|---|---|
| **63/36** | **74/42** | **72/44** |
| Mainly sunny. High 63F. Winds WNW at 5 to 10 mph. | Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 40s. | Partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 40s. |
| Sunrise 7:25 AM, Sunset 6:31 PM | Sunrise 7:24 AM, Sunset 6:31 PM | Sunrise 7:23 AM, Sunset 6:32 PM |

–Come Rain or Shine–
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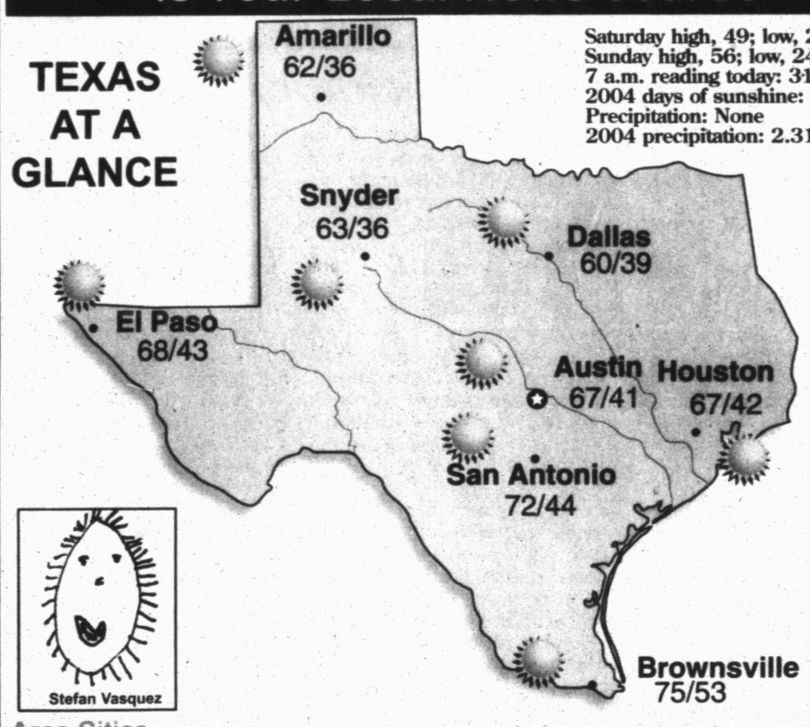
### TEXAS AT A GLANCE

Saturday high, 49; low, 21
Sunday high, 56; low, 24
7 a.m. reading today: 31 degrees
2004 days of sunshine: 43 of 46
Precipitation: None
2004 precipitation: 2.31 inches




Stefan Vasquez

### Area Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abilene | 63 | 39 | sunny | El Paso | 68 | 43 | sunny | Midland | 66 | 37 | sunny |
| Amarillo | 62 | 36 | sunny | Fort Stockton | 69 | 42 | sunny | Raymondville | 75 | 49 | sunny |
| Austin | 67 | 41 | sunny | Gainesville | 57 | 35 | sunny | Rosenberg | 68 | 42 | sunny |
| Beaumont | 66 | 41 | mst sunny | Greenville | 58 | 35 | sunny | San Antonio | 72 | 44 | sunny |
| Brownsville | 75 | 53 | sunny | Houston | 67 | 42 | sunny | San Marcos | 68 | 41 | sunny |
| Brownwood | 65 | 39 | sunny | Kingsville | 74 | 49 | sunny | Sulphur Springs | 58 | 34 | sunny |
| Corpus Christi | 71 | 49 | sunny | Livingston | 66 | 36 | mst sunny | Sweetwater | 65 | 39 | sunny |
| Corsicana | 61 | 37 | sunny | Longview | 61 | 34 | mst sunny | Tyler | 60 | 34 | mst sunny |
| Dallas | 60 | 39 | sunny | Lubbock | 64 | 35 | sunny | Weatherford | 59 | 36 | sunny |
| Del Rio | 74 | 46 | sunny | Lufkin | 64 | 37 | mst sunny | Wichita Falls | 58 | 37 | sunny |

### National Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Atlanta | 44 | 29 | cloudy | Houston | 67 | 42 | sunny | Phoenix | 81 | 57 | mst sunny |
| Boston | 31 | 24 | pt sunny | Los Angeles | 74 | 55 | cloudy | San Francisco | 60 | 54 | rain |
| Chicago | 35 | 22 | pt sunny | Miami | 71 | 56 | rain | Seattle | 51 | 37 | rain |
| Dallas | 60 | 39 | sunny | Minneapolis | 30 | 22 | mst sunny | St. Louis | 45 | 30 | pt sunny |
| Denver | 55 | 36 | pt sunny | New York | 35 | 28 | pt sunny | Washington, DC | 36 | 25 | sn shower |

### Moon Phases

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

### UV Index

| Tue 2/17 | Wed 2/18 | Thu 2/19 |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |

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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FEB 16 2004

Best Available Copy



# Astro-graph

**By Bernice Bede Osol**

**Your Birthday**

**Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2004**

In the year ahead, some powerful new ambitions could be aroused in you. As a result, you'll be clever enough to figure out how to acquire that which you want for yourself and all those who are important to you.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** — If you think your moves through carefully and thoroughly, all should go rather smoothly for you. However, if you are complacent, you could put yourself in a box and nail down the lid.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** — Something for which you've been hoping that appeared to be unattainable can make an abrupt change today if you simply go after what you desire. Unless you strive for it, you can't get it.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** — Determination is always the key to success, but today having tenacity will be even more important. Treat all serious situations with resolve and, when you enter the fray, play to win.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** — You are endowed with a great supply of common sense, but it must be utilized productively instead of stubbornly. Move forward on all situations today with practical application.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** — When it comes to business situations, don't hesitate to speak up for what you are due. However, take care not to become hostile about it. Have proof and be firm regarding your demands.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** — Keep in mind that should you encounter opposition from associates, these incidents will not be insurmountable. If you handle things in a diplomatic fashion, you'll encourage support.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — Hard work and excellent service can accomplish today what your checkbook can't. Be willing to be of aid to others through the sweat of your brow rather than through your wallet.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — Things are not apt to work out too well for you today if you try to use social contacts in order to further your personal ambitions. Showing what you have to offer will get you a lot further.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** — Regardless of what your personal involvements entail today, it's best to give family matters top priority when a member of the clan calls for help. Serve them first and your other interests later.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** — A somber outlook will have a negative effect on all you encounter today. Lighten up and try not to take yourself or life too seriously. Smile, and the world smiles with you.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** — Devote your time and energy today to areas which could spell personal gain, because you should be rather fortunate at this time in dealings where there is something of value at stake.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — Your independence is apt to be of great significance to you today, and this may be understandable. However, try not to snap at those who need to make demands upon your time.

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# Health funds run out for poor in 2 counties

HOUSTON (AP) — Facing a wave of indigent health care cuts from Texas government officials, 165 counties have passed resolutions protesting unfunded state mandates and seeking a constitutional amendment barring them.

Resolutions backed by unionized state employees to rein in an overhaul of 12 social service agencies, put the brakes on privatization, study negative local economic impacts and restore state health care cuts have passed in at least 10 other counties.

Indigent health care cuts total more than $33 million a year for Harris County alone.

County officials argue that state lawmakers who boasted about erasing a $10 billion budget shortfall without raising taxes last year simply passed the health care buck to local property owners.

"Basically, it's a tax, a tax increase to the counties, the property owners," said Dale Wortham, a Harris County Hospital District board member who hopes to persuade county commissioners to pass a resolution seeking to slow the social services overhaul. "There's a big deficit, and somebody's got to pay it. Whether that check comes from the counties or the state, it's still got to be paid."

Harris County Commissioners Court unanimously passed the unfunded mandates resolution last December. In Travis and Bexar counties, the resolution calling for a slowdown of the state's unprecedented changes for social services was adopted.

"It's an indication that people are starting to figure out what's going on and understanding the importance of what was passed," Anne Dunkelberg, health policy analyst at the Center for Public Policy Priorities, a think tank that studies issues affecting low-income Texans, told the Houston Chronicle.

In Callahan and Eastland counties, officials said they do not receive enough money from the state each year to meet the increasing demand for indigent health care, and their tax revenues are too small to make up the difference.

The two West Texas counties have sent letters to local physicians informing them that more funds won't be available for eight months.

"The truth is that we don't have a bottomless pit that we can reach into and pull out more money," Callahan County Judge Roger Corn told the Abilene Reporter-News. "We budget what the state tells us to, but it seems that there is just never enough money to do what we need to do."

Eastland County Judge Brad Stephenson said he sent a letter explaining the county's financial problems to the health care providers Jan. 30. Corn sent a letter last week to physicians. The counties will not be able to replenish their budgets until the new fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

The grassroots unfunded mandates initiative, pushed by the Texas Association of Counties, is designed to counteract shifting tax burdens to counties to provide attorneys for poor defendants and the extra sticker shock of deep health care cuts from the past session, said the county association's spokeswoman, Elna Christopher.

"Health care cuts with the Children's Health Insurance Program and Medicaid were a big chunk of unfunded mandates this past session in that those hospitals cannot turn away sick folks," Christopher said, referring to federal law prohibiting turning away indigents at public or private hospital emergency rooms.

Gloria Roemer, communications director for County Judge Robert Eckels and a member of the Harris County Hospital District board of managers, said county officials plan to launch a sliding scale payment schedule on March 1 for indigents receiving primary care through the county's Gold Card program for the poor.

Counties, to receive a reimbursement from the Texas Department of Health's Indigent Health Care Division, must spend 8 percent of their general tax levy on indigent health care.

## Anti-tobbaco groups against Schwarzenegger

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Anti-tobacco groups on Saturday protested Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's efforts to return the smoke-filled room to California's political lexicon.

To comply with the state's strict smoking laws, the cigar-loving Schwarzenegger is converting the Capitol's interior courtyard into an all-weather "smoking plaza" where he can entertain lawmakers and other power brokers.

"It's a more positive environment where they can all be on an equal footing, as opposed to everyone going into the governor's office where he's behind his desk," Schwarzenegger spokeswoman Terri Carbaugh said.

But some protesters said Schwarzenegger is undermining California's precedent-setting efforts to cut tobacco use and its staggering health and financial costs.

The Republican governor makes no secret of his appreciation of an expensive stogie. Schwarzenegger, who took office in November, has twice appeared on the cover of Cigar Aficionado magazine.

That sends the wrong signal, particularly to young fans of the screen star-turned-politician, said Laurie Comstock, founder of Tobacco Survivors United.

## Meg Ryan likes to do variety of movies

BOSTON (AP) — Although Meg Ryan's last movie didn't do so well at the box office, she didn't get involved in it simply for the cash.

While doing publicity for the boxing movie "Against the Ropes," Ryan talked about her role in Jane Campion's controversial thriller "In the Cut," which generated lots of publicity for her in-the-buff love-making scenes.

"I learned on the last movie out that there's a very particular idea of me that people don't want to give up. And you know what? That's fine, I'm happy to do comedies as well," Ryan told the Boston Herald .

"I mean, I'm an actor, and I want to do all kinds of different things. But that was never a movie for everyone. That was always a movie that has a great director telling a very, very personal story. It's great to serve that kind of vision as well as a more commercial vision. They're just two entirely different things."

# Dr. Gott

**By Peter Gott, M.D.**

## *Are there times when suicide is appropriate?*

**DEAR DR. GOTT:** You certainly opened Pandora's box with your columns about end-of-life issues. I agree with you 100 percent. Let me tell you of my personal experience.

My husband and I had an agreement that if either of us were diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or an incurable, progressive medical condition, we would each take care of ourselves by driving to a large parking lot somewhere and shooting ourselves, leaving a written statement about the reason for the action.

Several years later, my husband was diagnosed with advanced, untreatable, terminal cancer. After a few weeks of useless radiation to control his pain, and then spending most of his days asleep from the narcotic medication, he decided he had had enough. While we were (I thought) obtaining fast food in a restaurant, he excused himself from the table, went to the parking lot and shot himself. This was a most courageous act as far as I am concerned, and satisfied him, I am certain. I plan to do the same sometime in the future as my quality of life and comfort deteriorate.

Last week, I was also diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Please do everything in your power to allow people to end their lives peacefully, with respect and when they know it is time — without allowing some other entity, bureaucrat, doctor, overzealous do-gooder or insensitive relative to interfere with what is and must remain a very personal decision.

**DEAR READER:** I am publishing an edited form of your letter because I am struck by your courage and willingness to share painful and personal information. I admire you, and pray that your cancer be treated and that you won't have to look to "parking-lot therapy" — for a while.

I am not going to comment on your and your husband's covenant, because it's not my job — in a public arena — to address the subject of suicide, which generates intense feelings and commitment both pro and con. And, I believe, it is the most deeply personal decision that any of us could ever make.

Nonetheless, I hope that your letter will "touch a nerve" and encourage readers to respond to this extremely sensitive issue. I welcome letters that endorse or oppose disease-related suicide — or letters that simply allow readers to blow off a little steam.

Associated topics include physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia, which have received a lot of media attention. But I am more interested in my readers' take on the subjects. Because you folks, my literary backbone, have probably not been polled or heard from before, this is your opportunity.

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

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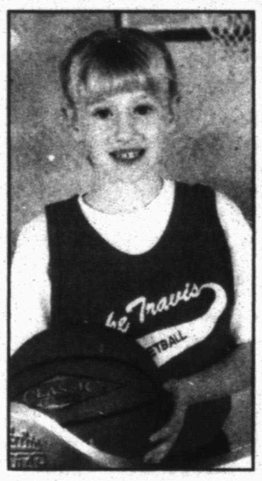
**Kaitlyn Hargrove**

8 year old daughter of Leslie and Rafe Hargrove of Austin and granddaughter of Carolyn & Wade Warren of Snyder and Lana & Raford Hargrove of Rotan.



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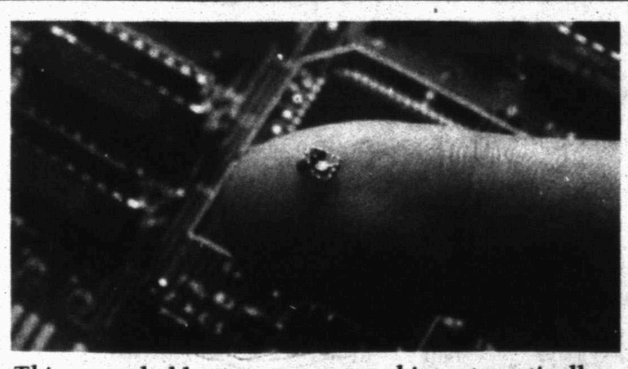

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