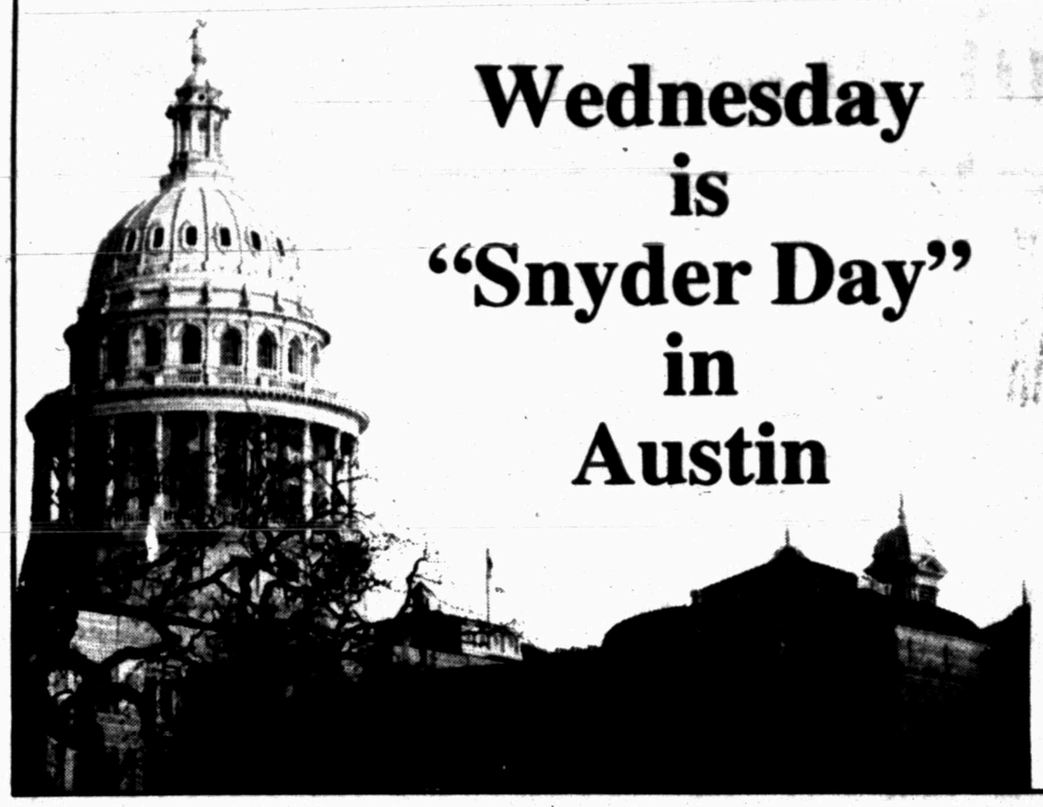
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Wednesday is "Snyder Day" in Austin

There may almost be as many Tigers in Austin as Longhorns come Wednesday as the Texas House of Representatives will officially proclaim the day as "Snyder Day" in the capital city.

A cross-section of Snyder citizens will attend the event which includes photo sessions with Gov. George Bush and Speaker of the House Pete Laney.

The Snyder representatives will host a luncheon on Wednesday in the Agricultural Museum in the capitol building to honor all state legislatures and state officials.

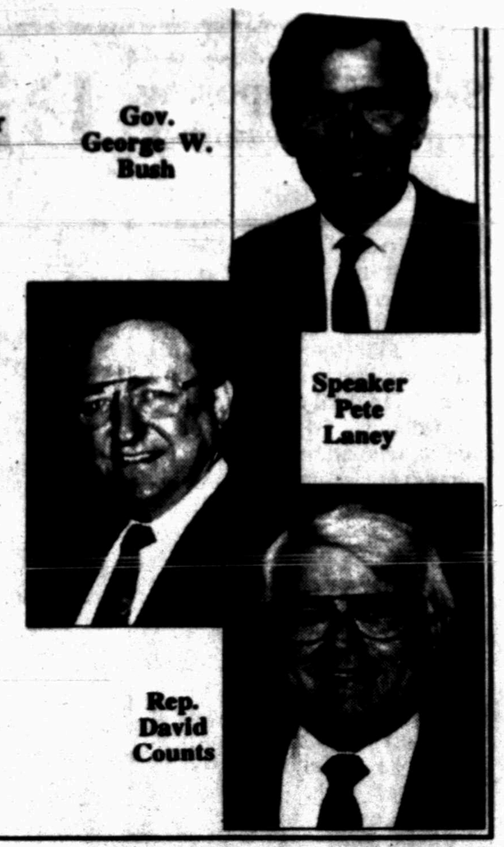
During this event, State Representatives, including Rep. David Counts, will proclaim Feb. 24 as "Snyder Day".

"This will be a great time for everyone here in Snyder to personally thank our own representative, plus everyone else in the capitol for what they have done for us in the past and for future help in the way of grants, etc.," said Donna Fowler, executive director of the Snyder Chamber of Commerce.

On Thursday morning, Rep. Counts will host a "State Day of Prayer" breakfast.

Over 500 people, including legislators and other state officials, will attend the breakfast, as will the Snyder delegation.

Snyder's host functions in Austin are sponsored by the Snyder Chamber of Commerce and Lorber Industries of Texas, plus other local donors.



Gov. George W. Bush

Speaker Pete Laney

Rep. David Counts

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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND

Feb. 20-21, 1999
Vol. 50 No. 250
40 Pages 75¢

Home Of Amanda Luera

Snyder City Council...

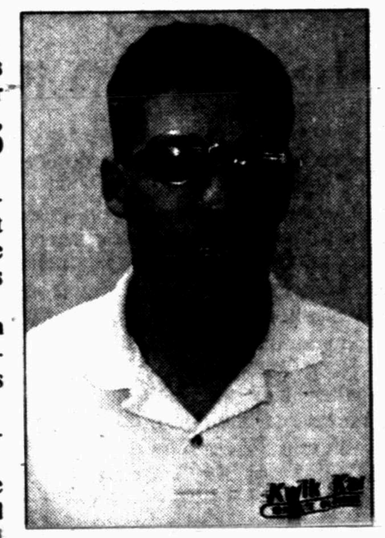
At-large position draws third candidate

Snyder's city council now has a contested race for its two at-large positions this spring as a local business owner filed Friday afternoon.

There are now three candidates for two at-large seats on the council.

Kirk Taylor, 32, owner and manager of the Quick Car Lube and Tune on College Ave., joins Terry Martin and Ron Shaw as candidates.

A native of Kermit and a graduate of Kermit High School, Taylor has lived in Snyder for nine years.



Kirk Taylor

He and his wife, Jodie, have three children, ages six, four and 23 months.

A political newcomer, Taylor said he decided to run because he is concerned about the citizens in the community.

"I like to help people. I feel like being on the city council will be my way to help the most people in town," Taylor said.

Taylor joins an incumbent councilman and a former councilman on the ballot.

Martin, who presently serves an at-large position, will be on the ballot as will Shaw.

Martin is completing his first term, while Shaw will be seeking to return to city hall.

Shaw had served two terms before being defeated in 1997.

Present at-large councilman Dayton Robertson is running for mayor. Robertson filed last week for the position currently held by David Holt. Mayor Holt said he would not be a candidate for the office.

One person has filed for the Snyder Independent School District board of trustees.

Janet Stribling is seeking her third term in Place 5.

The terms of Place 1 trustee Glenn Clarady and Place 4 trustee Mark McCormick are also up for election this spring. Neither of the two has filed for another term.

Incumbent board member Sid Wall filed for one of three spots on the Ira ISD board.

The terms of Kirby Sterling and Lance Autry are also up this spring, but neither had filed as of Friday afternoon.

Both incumbents on the Hermleigh ISD board of trustees will seek re-election.

Burton Sandefur will be asking for a second term on the Hermleigh board, while Tony Lambaren is seeking his fourth term.

There are no board positions up for re-election at Western Texas College.

Early voting for the May 1 election begins April 14 and continues through April 27.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McCutcheon

The feller on Deep Creek says, "A wise person is interested in the future, 'cause that's where he'll spend the rest of his life."

Doctors, too, are human. That's the evidence from the newsletter published by Frontier Healthcare, a firm that insures about 12,000 physicians.

An article, "Details in Professional Liability," suggested that doctors may want to try a little harder to dot their i's and cross their t's.

The following are notes on patients' charts, written by healthcare providers at various hospitals around the country:

--The lab test indicated abnormal lover function.

--The baby was delivered, the cord clamped and cut, and handed to the pediatrician, who breathed and cried immediately.

--Exam of genitalia reveals that he is circus sized.

--The skin was moist and dry.

--The patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.

--She stated that she had been constipated for most of her life until 1989 when she got a divorce.

--The patient was in his usual state of good health until his airplane ran out of gas and crashed.

--I saw your patient today, who is still under our car for physical therapy.

--The patient lives at home with his mother, father and pet turtle, who is presently enrolled in day care three times a week.

--Bleeding started in the rectal area and continued all the way to Los Angeles.

--Both breasts are equal and reactive to light and accommodation.

--She is numb from her toes down.

--Exam of genitalia was completely negative except for the right foot.

--While in the emergency room, she was examined, X-rated and sent home.

--The patient was to have a bowel resection. However, he took a job as a stockbroker instead.

--Coming from Detroit, the man has no children.

--When she fainted, her eyes rolled around the room.

--Examination reveals a well-developed male lying in bed with his family in no distress.

Have a good weekend — and stay healthy.

Auditions set Monday, Tuesday for Ritz Theatre

Monday and Tuesday are audition dates for an upcoming Ritz Theatre production.

Auditions will be held at the theatre for "Smoke on the Mountain." The production is billed as a gospel comedy and requires a seven-member cast.

Included in the cast is the Rev. Mervin Oglethorpe, the new, young and enthusiastic pastor of a small Baptist church in Mt. Pleasant, N.C.

Remainder of the cast are all members of the Sanctified Sanders Singers, a gospel singing and playing family who travel in an ancient bus to Saturday night gospel singings.

The family includes Burl, the father; the mother, Vera; Uncle Stanley, Burl's brother; June, the eldest daughter; and the teen-age twins, Dennis and Denise.

The actors and actresses who play the Sanders family must be able to sing and play bluegrass gospel songs. Vera plays the piano and June plays hand-held percussion instruments and does sign language of a sort.

Two other members of the family need to play a guitar and a string bass. Other instruments such as banjo, fiddle, ukulele, harmonica, etc., might be used depending on the actors' or actresses' skills.

Those who audition should be prepared to play and sing a verse and chorus of "I'll Fly Away" or another familiar gospel song.

For additional information or to check out a script, call Ellie Dryden at 573-9739 or Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993.

Venus, Jupiter conjuction will happen again Tuesday

Stargazers are in store for something unique, according to Rollin Swanson, instructor and planetarium director at Western Texas College.

"We are about to get a special treat in the evening sky," Swanson said. "All month long, just after sunset, the brilliant planets Venus and Jupiter have been slowly drawing closer together in the west.

"Venus is the brighter of the two. And on Tuesday, these planets will be at their point of closest approach, seeming to almost touch. This is known as a conjunction."

Although the two planets do not actually touch, they will line up from their separate orbits and appear to touch when viewed from earth.

Swanson added that while the brightness and size of each appears to be nearly the same, Jupiter is really very large but far from earth while Venus is much smaller, but also much closer.

"All this conspires to make Jupiter appear about the same size and brightness as Venus," the professor added. "While not all that rare as such a close conjunction did occur nine years ago, the current display promises to be a showstopper and a treat for stargazers."

Commissioners looking at short agenda Monday

A short agenda faces Scurry County Commissioners Court when it meets at 10 a.m. Monday.

The court will have two items of business to consider including replacement of computer cables throughout the courthouse.

According to County Judge Ricky Fritz, the county's software representatives, The Software Group of Dallas, recommends the replacement, saying it is the next step in bringing the courthouse's system up to Y2K compliant.

Commissioners will also consider appointing a department head at the Scurry County Health Unit.

Fritz said it is currently unclear about who is responsible for hiring new employees at the unit.

"We need to hire a replacement for a clerk and there is some confusion about who will actually do the hiring since there is no department head. We will discuss that and figure out what we need to do," Fritz said.

Also on the agenda is approval of the minutes from the previous meeting and, if there are any, paying the bills, line item transfers and budget amendments.

Snyder Neighbors Sharing searching for workers, funds

Snyder Neighbors Sharing has set its annual workday for April 24, but it's not too early to offer some assistance.

"SNS is in need of funds and workers," said Thomas Fogleman, president of the organization's board of directors.

"We need both to ensure our annual workday is the success it has been in the past."

Fogleman said the organization has received donations from most of its regular donors, and has even picked up some new donors.

"Because of tough economic times in our community, some of the donations have been smaller than in the past. We need $8,000 to equal the donations that we have received in the past years," said Fogleman.

Fogleman said the organization is in the process of selecting projects for this year.

"We have to determine if we have sufficient funds to do all the work the houses are needing. Unless we receive additional funds, our budget will be very close and we will have to limit the number of projects that we do."

Donations can be mailed to Snyder Neighbors Sharing at Box 541, or taken by Sam Robertson Insurance or the West Elementary office.

"We need workers, too," said Fogleman. "Contact your church or civic group to help, or call me at 573-3538."

ASK US

Q—When does Daylight Savings Time begin?

A—April 4, which is also Easter Sunday.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Friday, 69 degrees; low, 34; 7 a.m. Saturday, 38; no precipitation; total for 1999, .95 of an inch.

Area Forecast: Saturday night, fair. Low near 30. NE wind 5-10 mph. Sunday, partly cloudy. High near 60. E-SE wind 5-15 mph.



Heather Garza
Partly Cloudy

Sunset: 6:35 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:20 a.m.
Of 50 days in 1999, the sun has shone 49 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

"The business of life is to go forward."

Samuel Johnson

Senator proposing renewing reserves

MIDLAND (AP) — The senior senator from Texas called Friday for Uncle Sam to replenish the strategic petroleum reserve.

"When oil is back at $18 a barrel, $11 (the current price) will look like an awfully good deal," Sen. Phil Gramm said.

Midland Mayor Bobby Burns, who attended the event, supported Gramm's proposals.

However, Burns did not predict a significant effect from the plan.

"I think Congress should prepare and refill the oil reserves, but it will have a minimal effect on the price of oil," he said.

Gramm, R-Texas, also said the first federal budget surplus in decades should be used to eliminate the so-called "marriage tax."

What Kind of Body Will We Have In The Resurrection
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TCA Cable TV - Channel #2
Mon., Feb. 22, 1999, 7:00 p.m.

Did Starr lie about grand jury leaks?

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Democratic lawmaker wants Attorney General Janet Reno to look into whether Independent Counsel Ken Starr lied under oath to the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment hearings last year.

In a letter to Reno, Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts criticized Starr's answer to a question from Frank about alleged grand jury leaks from Starr's office. The questioning occurred last Nov. 19 as the committee was considering impeaching President Clinton on the basis of Starr's report about his liaison with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

"Given the way Mr. Starr has treated people who have gotten in his way in this investigation ... if he were investigating himself in this matter he would have almost certainly charged himself with perjury," Frank said Friday. "I do not wish to follow Mr. Starr's example of using perjury as a political tool. But I do think ... his disregard of the truth in testifying under oath ... directly relevant to his fitness to continue as independent counsel."

On Friday, Frank released his Feb. 11 letter to Reno.

Meantime, Justice Department officials continued to weigh how to proceed with an investigation of Starr's Lewinsky probe. Justice officials wrote Starr recently stating their intention to launch such an inquiry but have held off beginning it pending resolution of issues raised by his response, officials have said.

Questioning whether the Justice Department should be investigating him, Starr has proposed that an outside counsel handle the inquiry rather than the department's internal watchdog agency, the Office of Professional Responsibility.

It was learned that the consideration of Starr's demand for an outside counsel is still in a preliminary stage in the department.

The Independent Counsel Act gives Reno authority to remove Starr for good cause and requires her to explain her reasons in writing to Congress. Some department officials have argued that implies that she has authority to investigate Starr.

On Thursday, Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder said, "We would leave all of our options open as to who might do such an investigation if one were to be done."

Reno herself has been out of the country all week on official trips to Mexico and South Africa and has not been able to meet with Starr to discuss the matter, as he requested, it was learned.

Last Friday, Holder met with Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, who backed Starr's bid for an outside investigator. Holder told Hatch the department was trying to reach an accommodation with Starr, according to people familiar with the closed-door meeting.

Starr has suggested former Carter administration Attorney General Griffin Bell as a possible candidate for the job, The New York Times reported Friday.

Publicly, no one in the department or Starr's office would address the sensitive issue.

Nor did Starr's office respond to a call seeking his comment on Frank's allegation.

In his letter to Reno, Frank noted that Starr claimed he was hampered in answering Frank's question about leaks because "I am operating under a sealed proceeding."

Frank then asked: "Sealed at your request, correct?"

"No, Mr. Frank," Starr replied. "It is sealed by the chief judge based upon her determination of ..." At that point, Frank interrupted with another question.

Frank noted that U.S. District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson had since unsealed court documents, filed before Starr's testimony, in which Starr's office wrote:

NBC's ratings up for 'ER' in George Clooney's exit

NEW YORK (AP) — Actor George Clooney's low-key exit from the ensemble crew of "ER" on Thursday drew an estimated 36 million viewers, or roughly 15 percent more than the normal audience for television's top-rated program.

Clooney's character, Doug Ross, resigned from the Chicago's Cook County General Hospital and said he was moving to the Pacific Northwest. In real life, Clooney's leaving the show to further his movie career but has promised to make occasional guest appearances on "ER."

"ER" had a 23.8 rating and 37 audience share, the biggest audience for an episode of any regular entertainment series this season. It was the highest-rated "ER" episode since the special live show in September 1997.

NBC's aggressive promotion department intentionally held down the pre-show hype for Thursday's episode to give viewers the message that the show will remain strong without Clooney.

As a result, "ER" didn't get the one-time ratings jump that ABC's "NYPD Blue" did in November when actor Jimmy Smits left. The Nov. 24 episode where Smits died saw a 34 percent ratings increase over a typical first-run "NYPD Blue."

Thursday's "ER" script even played down Clooney's departure, barely featuring him in the first half and instead focusing on the fast-moving action of an accident scene.

"Keeping it low key was better for the long-term viewers of the series," said Marc Berman, an analyst for the ad buying firm Seltel. "I think it was a good idea."

By contrast, Fox's much-advertised claim that a two-part episode of "The X-Files" this month would reveal many of the show's secrets may be damaging, he said.

State funds provide continued training for Cogdell Hospital

Over the next week staff members at Cogdell Memorial Hospital will have an opportunity to participate in an Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) course and Basic Electrocardiogram (EKG).

The Texas Workforce Commission's Skills Development Fund is providing training dollars for these classes as well as several other courses Cogdell has and will participate in through the end of March.

Thirteen Cogdell nurses and two local doctors will participate in the 2-day/16-hour ACLS course scheduled at the WTC Workforce Training Center this Saturday and Sunday.

The course is being provided through a cooperative effort of the Texas Tech University Health Science Center (TTUHSC), WTC and Cogdell.

Neil Coker, EMS director at the TTUHSC, will serve as instructor for the course. Coker is currently working with college officials in a collaborative agreement between TTUHSC and WTC that would provide an AAS degree in emergency medical services at Western Texas College.

WTC hopes to have the program in place by fall 1999. Another ACLS course is scheduled for March 27.

The Basic EKG course which provides 21.6 "type one" CE's for participants will take place at the Workforce Training Center from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday and Friday and Monday.

Michelle Gannon-Smith will serve as instructor for the course and is an approved provider through the Texas Nurses Association.

RNs and LVNs are required to participate in continuing education in order to maintain state licensure. Individuals wishing to participate in the course should contact the Continuing Education Division at 573-8511, ext. 390.

Two Snyder citizens elected to area board

Two Snyder citizens have been re-elected to the board of directors of Council Finance, Inc.

The purpose of Council Finance is to aid in economic development for a 19-county region served by the West Central Texas Council of Governments.

Snyder residents on the board are Rod Waller and Scott Bolton. Waller, a former mayor, is a member of the Colorado River Municipal Water District.

Bolton works at American State Bank

Officers were also elected and include Scott Harris of Citizens National Bank of Breckenridge, president; Lloyd Harris of Texas National Bank of Sweetwater, vice president; Abe Turner of First National Bank of Haskell, secretary; and Scott Lindley of First National Bank of Baird, Abilene, treasurer.

Other directors are Robert Donnell of the Breckenridge Chamber of Commerce; Bobby Lemons of The City National Bank, Colorado City and Dr. Tommy Russell of Winters.

Council Finance works closely with the U.S. Small Business Administration and local banks to lend money to small businesses in the following counties: Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Shackelford, Scurry, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor and Throckmorton.

Small business owners considering expanding or starting a new business may call Council Finance at (915) 672-8544 for more information.

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Published each Sunday morning and each evening, except Saturday, by Snyder Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 College Ave., Snyder, Texas 79549.

Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Snyder, Texas, Publication Number USPS611-520.

POSTMASTER send change of address to P.O. Box 949, Snyder, Texas, 79550.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier in Snyder, $9.00 per month.

By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $85.80 balance of Texas and out of state $113.85.

Roy McQueen, Publisher
Wade Warren, Managing Editor
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Workforce Education



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TASK FORCE MEETS — Some members of the Walk Across Texas Task Force met last week to plan the kickoff event in March. Seated, from left, Jim Clifton, Joyce Boyd, Terry Busby, Allen Hodges and Rhonda Ward; standing, Leslie Cooley, Gary Roberts, Kathryn Roberts, Nathan Zalman and Donny Brown. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

'Walk' task force meets

The "Walk Across Texas" Task Force met to review and set official guidelines to incorporate the fun/fitness exercise program.

The kickoff event will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 6. The official walk will be conducted from March 14-May 15. The eight-week program will spark some friendly competition. Teams of eight individuals will compete to see who can log the most miles walking, jogging or even biking. Biking teams will consist of four individuals.

To participate in Walk Across Texas, first get a team together. Choose a team captain and name your team. Fill out a registration form available at the Scurry County Extension Office, 2605 Avenue M.

Task force members and other volunteers are assisting with recruitment of teams and team members. Participating in Walk Across Texas is not only a great way to get involved in the community, it's a healthy habit.

Jim Clifton and Kathryn Roberts are co-chairing the project. Other members include Lee Burke, Leslie Cooley, Sy Tabor, Kent Wright, Nathan Zalman, Shawna Redwine, Dave Hanes, Donny Brown, Allen Hodges, Rhonda Ward, Terry Busby, Linda Key and Jaycie Wright.

For more information call Mrs. Roberts at the extension office at 573-5423 or contact Clifton at Western Texas College, 573-8511.

For Results Use Snyder Daily News Classified Ads 573-5486

Compaq says it never passed rival's secrets to Microsoft

WASHINGTON (AP) — The world's largest computer maker denies it passed secret information to Microsoft Corp. about an upstart rival, disputing a sensational charge raised in Microsoft's antitrust trial.

A lawyer for Houston-based Compaq Computer Corp. acknowledged that the company had apologized to Be Inc. of Menlo Park, Calif., for inadvertently disclosing to Microsoft that Compaq was talking with Be about its technology. But he said Compaq never passed details of that technology to Microsoft.

"It had nothing to do with the transmittal of proprietary information," Compaq attorney Tom Siekman said Friday, calling it an "inadvertent ... business mistake." distribute his company's software.

Be, founded in 1990, makes a niche computer operating system. Microsoft has invoked Be's product several times at trial — even showing slides to the judge — to argue that Microsoft is not a monopolist and faces competition even with its dominant Windows operating system.

Be's chief executive officer, Jean-Louis Gassee, said Friday he could not confirm or challenge Compaq's explanation. He said he was not told the nature of the disclosure, but was told it came in an e-mail exchange between Compaq and Microsoft officials.

"They had inadvertently broken our nondisclosure agreement," Gassee said. "I do not know exactly the extent of the inadvertent disclosure; as a result, it is hard for me to challenge statements from a Compaq attorney without independent access to the data. We have to take it on good faith."

Justice Department lawyer David Boies raised the charge in trying to discredit testimony by a senior Compaq executive, John T. Rose, who is appearing on behalf of Microsoft. Boies asked Rose whether he was aware that "Compaq took information supplied to it by Be ... and in violation of the nondisclosure agreement transmitted it to Microsoft."

Rose replied that he did not know anything about it.

The government alleges in its antitrust case that Microsoft illegally wields its influence to discourage companies that rely on Windows from dealing with its software rivals, such as Netscape Communications Corp.

But Rose testified Friday that Compaq was pressured against distributing Netscape's rival Internet software, not by Microsoft but by America Online Inc., which wanted Compaq to promote its online service.

Under a 1995 agreement, AOL was paying Compaq roughly $6.4 million a year to feature its software prominently on its Presario line of personal computers. Microsoft showed a June 1996 letter from an AOL executive who called it "frankly unacceptable" that Compaq also was distributing Netscape's browser as prominently as AOL's own software.

"To my knowledge, Microsoft never objected" to Compaq distributing software for both AOL and Netscape with its computers, Rose said.

Netscape's chief executive officer, James Barksdale, charged earlier that Microsoft intimidated Compaq into dropping plans to distribute — his company's software.

Two more out of intensive care

HOUSTON (AP) — Two more of the seven surviving Houston octuplets were upgraded to serious condition and moved out of neonatal intensive care Friday, leaving three of their siblings behind.

Ebuka Louis, the first-born of the octuplets, and Chima were moved to Texas Children's Hospital immediate-care nursery. The girls join brother Jioke and sister Echerem, who were upgraded and moved earlier.

Girls Chidi and Gorom and boy Ikem remained in critical condition and in intensive care.

Odera, the weakest of the eight babies born in December to Nkem Chukwu and Iyke Louis Udobi, died a week after birth.

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Eight pinned...

LVN program graduates 11

Graduation ceremonies for Western Texas College's Licensed Vocational Nursing program were held Thursday at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Eleven graduates of the program were honored and eight students were "pinned," indicating they have completed the first six months of the 12-month course.

Upon completion of these classes, graduates are eligible to take the state examination qualifying them as licensed vocational nurses.

Six of the graduates are from Snyder, Shannon Blair, Stacy Hinson, Melissa Horn, Jocelyn Pinkerton, Angela Rodriguez and Omega Vargas.

Other graduates included one from Hermleigh, Christie Lloyd; two from Ira, Laura Baze and Kyle Lomax; one from Roscoe, Kayla Allen; and one from Spur, Becky Fry.

Students pinned Thursday were Jody Benitez, Shirley Carthel, Becky Casas, Linda Compton and Valerie Drum, all of Snyder; Deon Duke of Rotan; Tessa Gardner of Aspermont; and Kendra Underwood of Colorado City.

The candidates for graduation and pinning were presented by their instructors Diane Beard, R.N. and Carol Watkins, R.N. Speaker for the event was Sherry Early, LVN. Donna Robinson offered the welcome.

Singer Cindy Nix provided musical entertainment and the invocation and benediction were given by Mike Thornton, dean of continuing education.



GRADUATES — Eleven graduated from Western Texas College's LVN program Thursday night. Front row, left to right, Laura Baze, Shannon Blair, Becky Fry, Jocelyn Pinkerton, Christie Lloyd; back row, Kayla Allen, Omega Vargas, Stacy Hinson, Kyle Lomax, Melissa Horn, Angela Rodriguez. (Contributed Photo)



PINNED — Eight students in Western Texas College's LVN class were "pinned" Thursday night. Front row, from left, Valerie Drum, Linda Compton, Jody Benitez, Shirley Carthel; back row, Becky Casas, Kendra Underwood, Deon Duke, Tessa Gardner. (Contributed Photo)

Second firefighter buried on Friday

FORT WORTH (AP) — Firehouse safety clowns joined Friday's funeral for one of three colleagues who perished this week while battling a church fire.

Brian Collins, 35, had started the clown troupe as a way to teach children about the hazards of fires.

About 3,000 firefighters personally aware of those hazards attended the service at Birchman Baptist Church.

Smugglers use teens as guides

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Children are being recruited by immigrant smugglers to guide groups of undocumented aliens crossing the border into Texas, Mexican officials say.

Officers with a Mexican police force patrolling the Rio Grande this week arrested four minors, ranging in ages from 14 to 16, while leading immigrants north.

"We believe this is a new trend to avoid long prison sentences that could break up the smuggling organizations," said Jose Garcia, legal counsel for the police force Grupo Beta.

The penalty for smuggling immigrants abroad ranges from six to 12 years in prison for adults.

But minors could spend only a few hours in jail before being sent to a juvenile detention center, from where they could be released in a few months, Garcia told the Brownsville Herald.

"This is a serious crime," Garcia said. "That's why we believe they use these children, who are lured by the possibility of making as much as $100 to $200 for each batch of immigrants."

Among those arrested was a 14-year-old boy who makes a living of crossing the river to clean windshields on cars along Boca Chica and International Boulevard, authorities said.

The boy told Mexican officials that a professional immigrant smuggler contacted him while they were both detained at the Immigration and Naturalization Service offices in Brownsville.

The next time the boy encountered authorities, he and two other teens were leading 11 Mexican nationals across the river into Brownsville, Garcia said.

"I met this guy who goes by the name of Memo and Chilango while we were being processed for deportation in Brownsville," the boy said in a statement to Mexican officials. "He told us he was from Houston and that he would give us $20 for every person we were able to cross."

Adult immigrant smugglers usually charge a lot more money to take people across the river, but they usually take them all the way to Houston, Garcia said.

"We can tell them apart from the immigrants because they usually carry cellular telephones and beepers," Garcia said.

Grupo Beta arraigned 59 smugglers in 1997 and 23 in 1998, Garcia said.

The four minors arrested this week for immigrant smuggling would be sent to the Tamaulipas state district attorneys office in Matamoros, from where they'll likely be sent to a juvenile detention facility, Garcia said.

Scary Spice has her baby first

LONDON (AP) — The Spice Girls are Spice Aunties now that Mel Brown is a mom.

Brown, better known as Scary Spice, beat her bandmate Posh Spice Victoria Adams to the maternity ward, giving birth Friday evening to a 5.5-pound daughter — three weeks early.

Both mother and daughter Phoenix Chi were fine, said Brown's husband, dancer Jimmy Gulzar.

Scary Spice Mel B was sitting up in bed sipping champagne, said her spokesman, Alan Edwards.

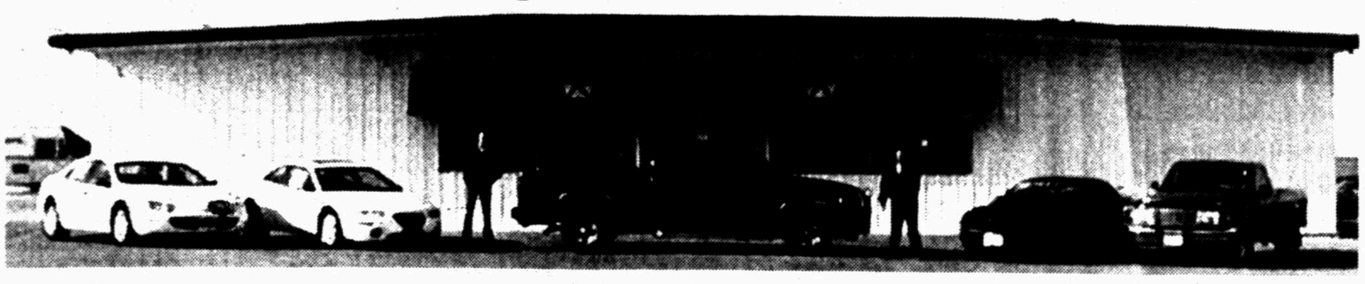
The other three Spices — Baby, Posh and Sporty — who were in the next room when Scary Spice was in labor, issued a statement saying they were proud of their 23-year-old bandmate.

"It was true Girl Power. We are all Spice Aunties now," the statement said.

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GARNER FOURTH PLACE — Snyder cheerleaders won fourth place at the American Spirit Championships last weekend in San Antonio. Front row, from left, Jaci Smith, Vanessa Freeman; second row, Lindsey Nicholson, Mary Hollis, Ashley Grimmett, Shannon Hall; back row, Starla Davis, K.K. McClain, Debbie Foster, Janette Allen, Lauren Hackfeld, Cary Brown. Tara Price is not pictured. (Contributed Photo)

State prison warden demoted over Mace canister incident

HOUSTON (AP) — Firing of a Mace canister into an unruly inmate's cell has resulted in demotion of the warden at Texas' highest security prison unit, according to state corrections officers.

Fred Figueroa, warden at the Estelle Unit outside Huntsville, was demoted earlier this week from senior warden to an assistant warden after he authorized guards to fire the canister from a 37 mm gun into a cell to quiet a disruptive prisoner who was complaining about his food, prison officials acknowledged Friday.

Figueroa will be transferred to another prison unit, Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Glen Castlebury told the Houston Chronicle. The warden was also placed on disciplinary probation for nine months.

Department reports show that the incident occurred Feb. 11 in the High Security Unit, the prison system's newest and most secure facility for the most disruptive prisoners.

Inmate Gregg Campos, a "confirmed Raza Unida" gang member, had torn a 17-pound metal door off the food tray slot on his cell door and was trying to break the windows in his cell when guards responded, according to the report obtained by the newspaper.

Castlebury said guards fired at least three bursts of pepper spray and two of Mace from hand-held canisters in a failed attempt to quiet the prisoner before Figueroa authorized using the muzzle blast of Mace.

Campos, who is serving a seven-year sentence for robbery, theft and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, was housed in isolation in a 6-by-9-foot cell, said Castlebury.

He said that using the muzzle blast — which propels a canister of gas — in a cell is a violation of TDCJ security procedures. The inmate was uninjured and declined a medical examination.

Castlebury said the muzzle blast is to be used only in areas where wide dispersal is needed, such as in recreation rooms. Such fire is to be directed at ceilings even in those cases.

Figueroa had been given verbal orders in December 1998 and again at a wardens' meeting Jan. 13 "not to use the 37 mm muzzle blast in a cell under any circumstance," according to a report.

It showed that TDCJ pumped 6½ ounces of pepper spray, one ounce of Mace from the hand-held canister and 49.2 grams of Mace from the muzzle blast into Campos' cell.

It was the second demotion of a senior warden in as many months. Warden Bruce Thaler was removed from the Estelle Unit in January after the escape of death row prisoner Martin Gurule.

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State's open government laws...

Pending bill would exempt city-owned electric utilities

AUSTIN (AP) — City-owned electric utilities would be exempt from the state's open government laws under pending legislation for deregulating the power industry.

If a bill filed by state Sen. David Sibley, R-Waco, is approved by the Legislature and signed by the governor, city-owned utilities would be allowed to keep secret everything from contracts for the wholesale purchase and sale of electricity to problems like power plant outages.

Austin Mayor Kirk Watson told the Austin American-Statesman that exemptions are necessary to protect municipal utilities if they must compete with investor-owned companies, which can keep business information confidential.

But consumer and open government advocates criticized the proposals, which they said would make it harder for the public to determine how well a taxpayer-owned agency is run.

Suzy Woodford, executive director of Common Cause of Texas, said current open government laws already allow municipal utilities to protect truly confidential information.

"They don't need more loopholes," she said.

A utility could keep information confidential if it was determined that disclosure "could give advantage to competitors," under Sibley's legislation.

The Senate has adopted rules that all bills must be flagged if they restrict public access to government information or the transaction of public business unless their lawmaker-authors certify they won't.

Sibley said Friday that he would add extra documentation as needed to his bill and added that he is "glad to work with open records advocates ... to strike a balance between the public's right to know and the utilities' need for confidentiality."

The bill would also leave to the "discretion" of either city councils or the council-appointed board governing the utility, the decision on whether releasing information would actually aid a competitor.

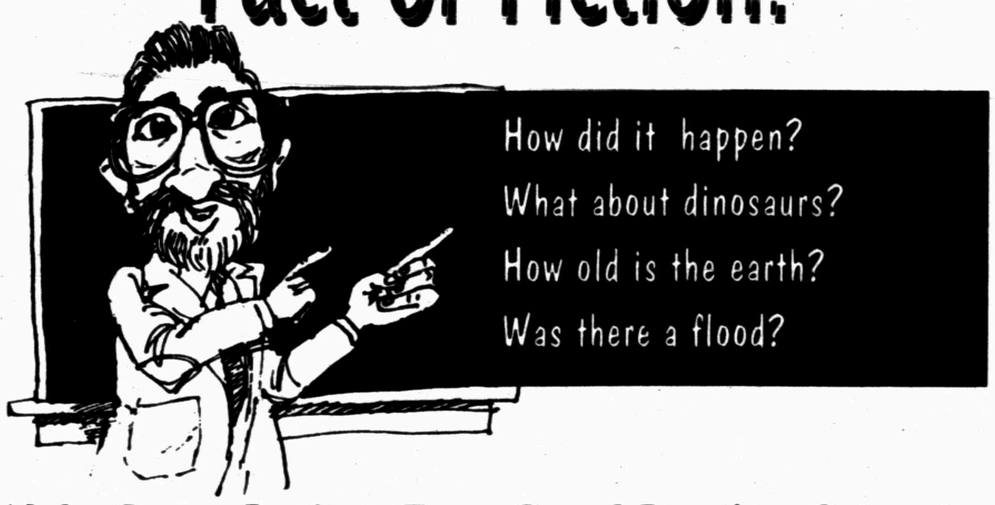
Exemptions from the open government laws would include Austin Energy, the Lower Colorado River Authority, and the City Public Service of San Antonio. Also covered would be municipal utilities in New Braunfels, Georgetown, San Marcos and Bastrop.

Municipal utilities serve 15 percent of the retail market — some 3 million Texans in all.

Sen. Sibley's bill is SB 7.

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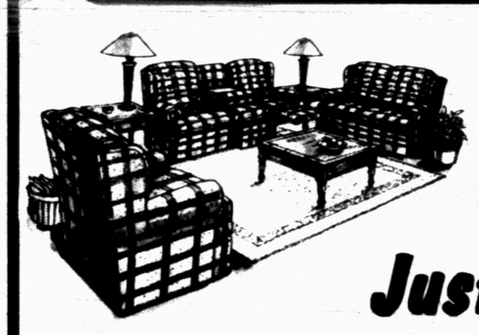
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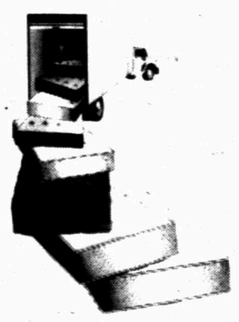


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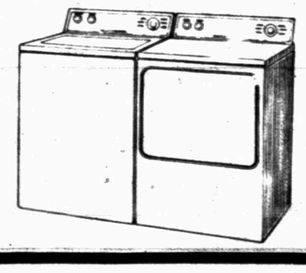


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SPORTS

Nothing fancy, Tigers just win

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

The majority of good basketball teams end up with a label which describes their personality and style of play.

In college hoops, there were Houston's great Phi Slamma Jamma teams and Michigan's Fab Five, while the NBA had its Bad Boys in Detroit and Showtime in Los Angeles.

Now Snyder also has a hardwood squad worthy of a nickname.

The only problem is that the Tigers are hard to define.

Hardworking, intelligent and under-sized all come to mind, but no definite answer as to what kind of team the Tigers really are.

But despite the lack of a label, Snyder won a share of the district title.

And the manner in which this team did it (whatever that may be), is what has made this season so enjoyable for head coach Bud Birks.

"To be realistic, when the season began we thought we could compete for a playoff spot," Birks said. "But no one picked us to finish first. This season has been so much fun because we've accomplished what nobody thought we could.

"We won a piece of the district title because these kids truly play as a team. I know that's an old coach's line, but it's true in this case. These kids are extremely coachable and are so team-oriented that they believe they can accomplish what they set out for. Now they've proved that they can."

The Tigers posted a 9-1 mark in league play, winning all five of its road games. But Snyder's success this season didn't come easy.

To their own admission, the Tigers play was inconsistent at best throughout their non-district schedule. Through it all though, this group of players found a way to learn something from each loss it suffered.

"I think the Frenship tournament was probably the lowest part of the season," senior guard Tyler Warren said. "We were embarrassed against Monterey. We all met and decided that we didn't want that to happen again."

Birks feels that the Tigers' success was a gradual procession as the squad's confidence grew with each victory.

"I don't know if I could pick one game as a turning point," Birks explains. "We started playing better at the Brownwood tournament, but then lost at home to San Angelo Central in a game we should have won.

"We beat Lamesa right before district started, then won three close games in a row to start district. Our confidence really grew when we beat Lake View. Since we beat them at their place, our kids feel like they can beat anybody."

The Tigers are proud of their district crown, but haven't taken the time to revel in its glory. With the playoffs beginning on Tuesday, this squad still has unfinished business.

"We've had some success this season," junior Sonny Cumbie stated. "But we can still do more. I think we can continue our success in the playoffs."

Success in the playoffs would be the first for Snyder since 1987, the last year the Tigers won a post-season game.

Their league crown is an even more remarkable feat, considering Snyder has not finished on top of the district standings since 1980-81.

So through a team effort, the Tigers have evolved over the season to reach a goal some thought was unreachable. But there's still the aspect of a nickname.

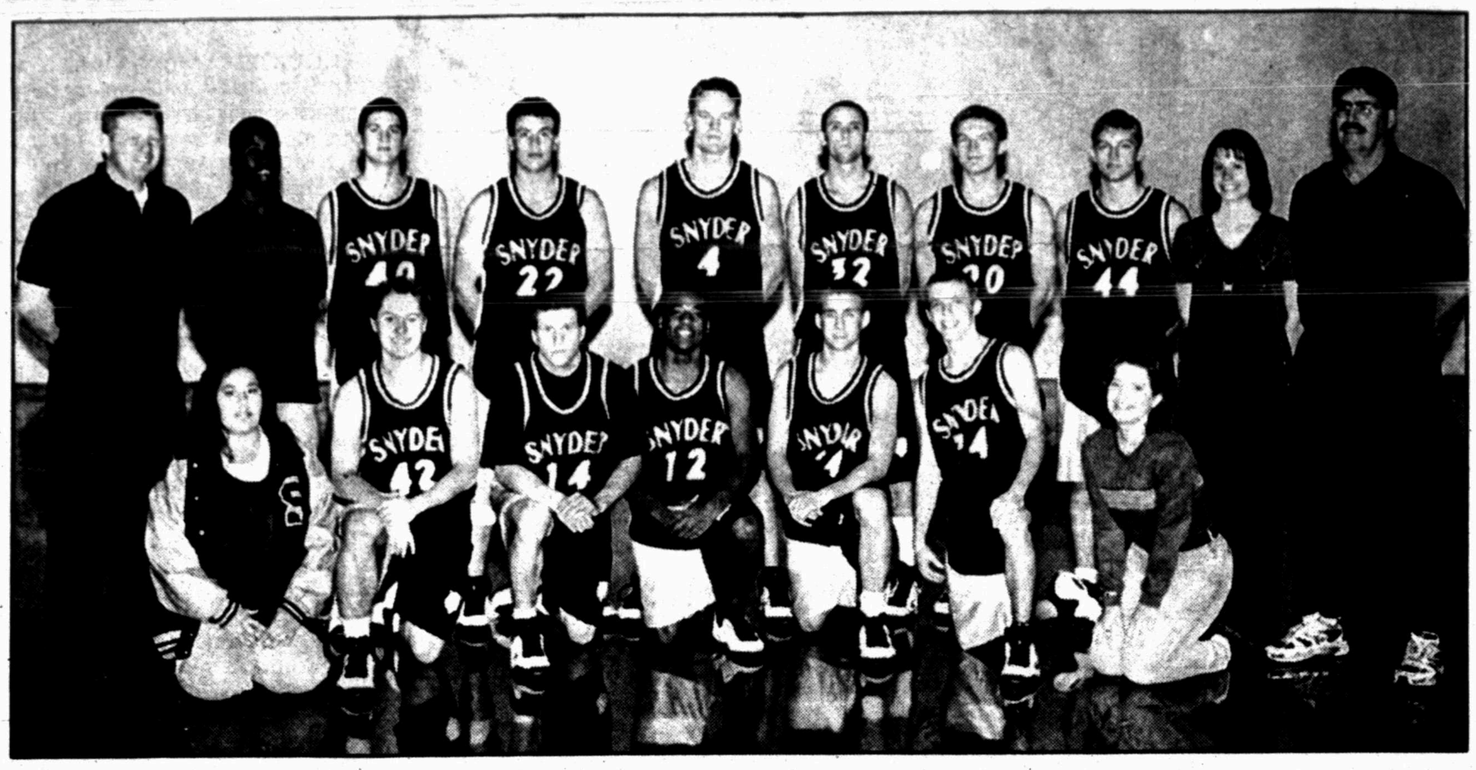
When asked to label themselves, neither Coach Birks nor any player could come up with an answer.

Maybe like the train engine in the famous children's book, Snyder is the little team that could.

But one thing is for sure, with or without a nickname, the Tigers have already climbed their biggest hill and are now chugging toward a new goal in the postseason.

Snyder squares off with North Crowley in its bi-district match-up at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Mabee Complex on the campus of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene.

The Tigers will be the visiting team. With a victory, Snyder would advance to face District 8 winner Justin Northwest in the area round.



DISTRICT 5-4A CO-CHAMPS — Members of the Snyder Tigers basketball team are, front row from left, Crystal Rascon, Josh Ward, Justin McNair, Brady Cobb, Tyler Warren, Greg McAnaw and Mandy Chambers. On the back row are asst. coach Ben Reed. James Wells, Trey Gorman, Cory Mandrell, Sonny Cumbie, Jared Hester, Brock Durham, Justin Rosson, Jodi Dennis and head coach Bud Birks. (SDN Staff Photo)

The last time the Tigers won a district championship

Only five of the current players had been born.
Ronald Reagan was beginning his first term as president.
Asst. Coach Ben Reed was a 9-year-old fourth grader.
Current SHS Principal Larry Scott was the Tigers' head coach.
The price of a stamp was soon to be raised to 18 cents.
Bill Clements was governor of Texas.
The UIL rule allowing two teams from each district to advance to the playoffs was still two years away.

Sports Briefs

SCC will host golf tourney

Snyder Country Club will host its annual Groundhog Day golf tournament next Saturday and Sunday.

The event is a two-man scramble, flighted by handicap.

To register contact the SCC pro shop at 573-7101.

Snyder to host playoff games

Scurry County Coliseum will play host to a pair of playoff basketball games.

In boys action, Lubbock Coronado and Abilene Cooper will battle Monday in a bi-district tilt at 7:30. Ticket prices are $4 for adults and $2 for students. Only District 3-5A and 4-5A passes will be accepted.

Pitching clinics scheduled

Weekly pitching clinics for girls' fast-pitch softball will begin Wednesday. Classes are limited. For more information, contact Herman Martinez at 573-0390.

Horseshoe pitchers wanted

Snyder Slingers Horseshoe Club will meet Monday at 7 p.m. at the chamber of commerce. Beginner or experienced pitchers are invited to attend.

For more information, contact Don Duncan at 573-9762.

Yanks, Dodgers pre-season favorites

By The Associated Press

With Roger Clemens set to arrive in New York Yankees camp today, Kevin Malone has already picked his World Series teams: the Yankees and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"They'll need Roger when they play us in the Fall Classic in October," the Dodgers' general manager said. "It'll be fun. It will be nice to see Kevin Brown and Roger Clemens matched up in October."

With much of baseball focusing on Brown and his record $105 million, seven-year contract, the pitcher worked out at spring training with the Dodgers for the first time.

"We haven't made a lot of friends and I don't think people are going to take it easy on us," Malone said. "We'll have to step it up a notch."

The Dodgers expect Brown's work ethic and World Series experience to help improve the mental toughness of the team's other pitchers.

"My role hasn't changed, it's to go out and do what I can on the field," he said. "As far as the clubhouse ... guys learn from each other. Everybody's got something to bring to the table."

Curt Schilling said Friday he wouldn't be surprised if he left Philadelphia this season for a top contender.

"I want to be here and contend on this club," the Phillies pitcher said. "If that's not going to happen in the immediate future and they move me to a club that is contending, then I would see if we can work something out."

Schilling, who last year became only the fifth pitcher with 300 strikeouts in consecutive seasons, said he doesn't expect to remain with the Phillies for the entire season and that he would consider waiving his no-trade clause.

"I understand a lot of the reasons why he would think the grass is greener someplace else," general manager Ed Wade said. "That said, our position is that he's here. I've told people we're not moving him. For the whole season? I can't answer that, but our desire is to build around him."

Schilling thinks the situation could change as the July 31 trade deadline approaches.

"If the right package of players came up, why wouldn't they move me?" he asked. "They're putting a team on the field now that is close to being set with a couple pieces missing. If they can fill those couple pieces by dealing me, then maybe they'll do it."

Elsewhere, Moises Alou injured a knee while working out in the Dominican Republic and will have an MRI performed in Houston on Monday.

"There doesn't appear to be any structural damage, which is good news, but we don't know the extent of it until he gets the tests," general manager Gerry Hunsicker said. "He can put weight on it, which is also a good sign."

In other news:

— Like a chief of state, Mark McGwire will have bodyguards this spring. A Jupiter, Fla., police officer will shadow the home run king each time he goes from the clubhouse to a practice field.

— A day after he was traded by the New York Yankees along with reliever Graeme Lloyd and infielder Homer Bush for Roger Clemens, David Wells headed to Miami for a golf weekend.

"I've never seen him so down ... beyond depressed," said Yankees pitcher David Cone, who spent about four hours with Wells on Thursday. "I've never seen anybody so stunned by a trade ... confused and stunned."

Clemens is due to report to the Yankees' camp in Tampa, Fla., today.

— Three-time All-Star Julio Franco, who last played in the major leagues two years ago, agreed to a minor league contract with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. If he makes the major league roster, Franco would get a $400,000 contract and the chance to earn $100,000 in performance bonuses.

NCAA Basketball Scores

EAST
Cornell 77, Brown 65
Dartmouth 64, Princeton 40
Fordham 73, Rhode Island 55
George Washington 66, Duquesne 52
Northeastern 80, Hartford 63
Old Dominion 72, American U. 70
Penn 84, Harvard 67
St. Joseph's 62, Dayton 53
Vermont 90, Boston U. 79, OT
Xavier 72, Temple 39
Yale 70, Columbia 42

SOUTH
Cincinnati 63, N.C. Charlotte 55
N.C.-Wilmington 64, Va. Commonwealth 57
Richmond 90, East Carolina 83
South Florida 56, Ala.-Birmingham 46
William & Mary 64, George Mason 50

MIDWEST
Iowa 78, Michigan 75
Louisville 79, Saint Louis 70
Northwestern 79, Indiana 68
Purdue 63, Minnesota 61
Wisconsin 82, Illinois 78, OT

SOUTHWEST
Memphis 94, Houston 69

FAR WEST
Arizona 66, Oregon St. 53
Long Beach St. 69, UC Irvine 57
New Mexico St. 68, Cal Poly-SLO 51
North Texas 56, Boise St. 50
Oregon 58, Arizona St. 53
Pacific 78, Cal St.-Fullerton 65
Santa Clara 67, San Diego 51
St. Mary's, Cal. 53, San Francisco 50
UC Santa Barbara 91, Nevada 50

EAST
Boston U. 68, Vermont 54
Columbia 56, Yale 53
Cornell 65, Brown 64
Hartford 62, Northeastern 60
Penn 81, Harvard 76
Princeton 65, Dartmouth 51
Siena 98, St. Peter's 87

SOUTH
No major team scores reported from the SOUTH.

MIDWEST
No major team scores reported from the MIDWEST.

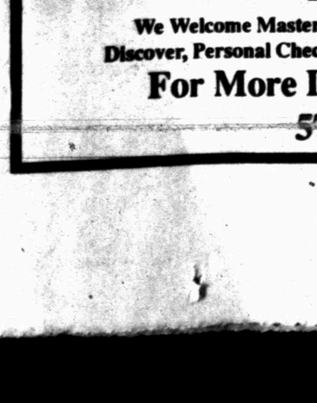
SOUTHWEST
No major team scores reported from the SOUTHWEST.

FAR WEST
Loyola Marymount 70, Portland 61
N. Arizona 67, E. Washington 65
Pepperdine 75, Gonzaga 70

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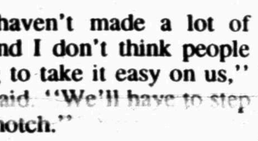
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SPORTS

Lady Tigers lead links tournament

When the Snyder Classic girls golf tournament was originally scheduled, the second-ranked Lady Tigers were expected to battle it out with top-ranked Highland Park.

As it turns out, the Snyder girls are in the lead, but their closest competitor is Class 5A Abilene High.

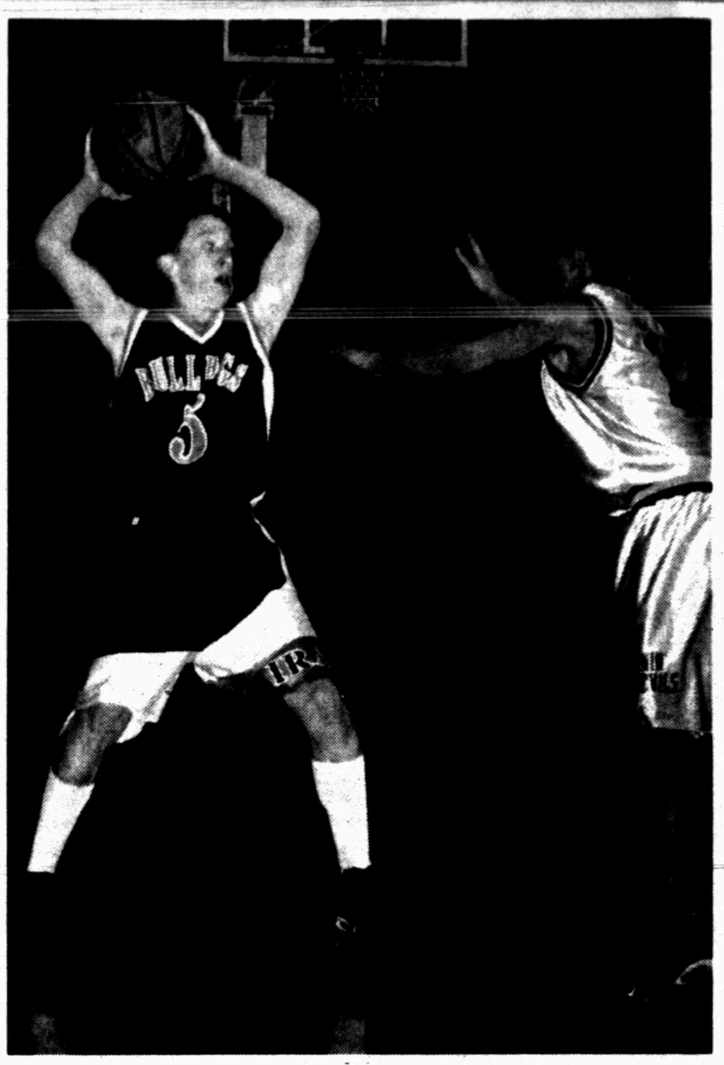
The Lady Tigers fired an opening-round 339 Friday to take a 10-stroke lead over the Lady Eagles.

Highland Park, the defending state champion, was back in the pack after having to compete without its top three players.

The Lady Scots top-three were suspended for one tourney for disciplinary reasons last week.

Snyder, which garnered three first-place votes in the preseason poll, has already won its first event of the spring. The Lady Tigers took the title of the San Angelo tournament two weeks ago and is looking to notch back-to-back victories on their home courses.

Snyder carded its opening-round 339 at Snyder Country Club and was to have competed in the final round at Western Texas College on Saturday.



LOOKING FOR SOME HELP — Ira freshman Nathan Smith (5) looks for an open teammate during the Bulldogs' win over Rankin. Ira squares off with Klondike in a bi-district tilt Tuesday. (Photo by Katie Howard)

Lakers overcome injuries to slide past San Antonio

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — David Robinson isn't so sure the Los Angeles Lakers need Dennis Rodman.

Robinson found himself in the midst of another Rodman circus Friday night when the San Antonio Spurs lost to the Lakers 106-94. Rodman was spotted in the Forum, but he wasn't talking about whether he'll sign with the Lakers.

"They're already a pretty good rebounding team because they've got pretty good size," said Robinson, who was around for Rodman's rocky stint in San Antonio. "You can't just hire mercenaries and expect to go win the championship. Most of the time, teams build themselves up and become great teams together."

The Lakers could have used some extra bodies to deal with Robinson and Tim Duncan since their top two power forwards, Robert Horry and Travis Knight, missed the game. But reserve Derek Harper sparked them in the third quarter, helping the Lakers win their third straight and their sixth consecutive over the Spurs.

The Spurs led by seven early in the third quarter before the Lakers reeled off 13 straight points to go ahead 58-52 — their first lead since midway through the second period. Robinson was on the bench with his fourth foul during the Lakers' spurt in which Shaquille O'Neal and Harper had four points each.

"I wanted to be aggressive, just go out and try to create some things," said Harper, who had a season-high 18 points. "I felt comfortable stepping up and taking some shots, but scoring 18 points isn't going to be my role most nights."

O'Neal handled Robinson in a matchup of two of the NBA's best centers. O'Neal had 28 points and 10 rebounds, while Robinson finished with 11 points on 3-for-7 shooting and five rebounds in 26 minutes.

"It's always something with us," Robinson said. "We're in all these games and we have a chance to win them, but we don't get the rebounds or loose balls. Something is keeping us down, so we just have to pay more attention to detail."

Tim Duncan led the Spurs with 26 points and 11 rebounds and Sean Elliott added 20 points.

Robinson started the fourth quarter with four fouls, while O'Neal sat for the first four minutes.

"I made two dumb fouls just by reaching, and that hurt us," Robinson said. "I can't sit out this game. That was bad."

The Spurs couldn't take advantage of O'Neal's absence. They trailed by four before O'Neal returned.

"I think that having David gone for that long of time was obviously something that you do not want to see," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "But they just really shot well. Kobe Bryant and Derek Fisher made some shots that were really tough."

Bryant, who had 21 points, put the Lakers ahead 98-88 with 3:02 remaining for the first double-digit lead of the game.

Los Angeles dominated the final two minutes, with O'Neal scoring over Duncan on a turnaround jumper and Fisher hitting his second shot of the game, a 3-pointer, for a 103-92 advantage.

Mavs stumble against Golden State, fall 84-79

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — With time running down, John Starks pulled up for a running jumper and saw it swish through the net. Then, he thumped his chest and stroked his hand triumphantly beneath his jersey logo.

"We're warriors, baby," Starks said after scoring 16 points, including the 8-foot runner with 10.8 seconds left, in Golden State's 84-79 win over the Dallas Mavericks on Friday night.

"Warriors hang in there, and that's what we've been doing. We are going out there and playing the way we are capable of playing, and when you are doing that, good things are going to happen."

Lately, that has been the case for the Warriors.

Since opening the season with five losses, Golden State has four straight wins, matching Miami and Cleveland for the longest winning streak in the NBA this season.

It's the Warriors' longest winning streak in more than three years. And it's the strongest sign yet the team is moving in the right direction after the previous four seasons of organizational chaos and defeat, typified by Latrell Sprewell's attack on coach P.J. Carlesimo last December.

"It can be tough, but if these guys put their minds to it, we can go more than four. We should just keep pushing hard as a team," said Chris Mills, who came from New York to Golden State with Starks and Terry Cummings in the Sprewell trade last month.

Michael Finley had 19 points to lead Dallas, but he went 0-for-9 from the field in the fourth quarter and finished just 4-of-19. Gary Trent added 18 points and Steve Nash had 14 for the Mavericks, who have lost seven straight since beating the Warriors in double overtime for their only win of the year.

"This is definitely the toughest loss of the year," Dallas center Shawn Bradley said. "It is for me — I can tell from Steve and Michael. I know the general feeling is pretty down because we played like we should've won."

Cedric Ceballos, who went 0-for-7 from the floor, said the Mavericks' problems stem from their lack of shooting accuracy.

"We had a chance, but we're still not making shots," Ceballos said. "We just have to keep fighting. We'll pull out of this somehow, some way."

Taking a 62-60 lead into the fourth quarter, Golden State stretched its lead to 75-65 when Tony Delk converted a three-point play with 6:37 remaining.

SHS on softball streak

ABILENE — After winning their season opener, the Lady Tigers continued their strong play Friday at the Softball Slugfest in Abilene.

Snyder was of only two squads to advance through Friday's practice games unscathed.

The Lady Tigers edged Stephenville, 5-3, in their first match-up, before blanking Ft. Worth Trinity, 14-0.

Sweetwater was the only other team to win back-to-back contests.

Snyder junior varsity split its ballgames on the event's first day. Snyder JV outlasted San Angelo Central, 17-13, before falling to Euless' varsity squad, 10-0.

The SHS varsity was to have opened bracket play Saturday morning against Hawley.

Bulldogs win practice game

Logan Daves scored 29 points Friday night against Rankin in a practice game as the Ira Bulldogs tuned up for the playoffs with a 71-58 win.

Jerek Brown added another 19 points while Richard Wilkins tossed in eight.

Rounding out the scoring for the Bulldogs were Drew Wall with six, Nathan Smith with five and Bryce Wilkins with four.

Thomas Castillo led the Red Devils with 17 points while Ruben De La Paz tossed in 15.

Ira will be in action Tuesday at Big Spring as they will play the Klondike Cougars in bi-district action.

Tip-off is at 7 p.m. at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

NBA GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	7	2	.778	-
NewYork	5	3	.625	1½
Miami	5	3	.625	1½
Philadelphia	4	4	.500	2½
Boston	3	4	.429	3
Washington	3	4	.429	3
NewJersey	2	5	.286	4
Central Division				
Milwaukee	5	2	.714	-
Atlanta	5	3	.625	½
Indiana	5	3	.625	½
Cleveland	4	3	.571	1
Detroit	4	5	.444	2
Toronto	2	5	.286	3
Charlotte	1	7	.125	4½
Chicago	1	7	.125	4½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	7	1	.875	-
Houston	6	2	.750	1
Minnesota	6	2	.750	1
SanAntonio	4	5	.444	3½
Vancouver	3	5	.375	4
Dallas	1	8	.111	6½
Denver	1	8	.111	6½
Pacific Division				
Seattle	6	1	.857	-
Portland	5	2	.714	1
L.A.Lakers	6	3	.667	1
Sacramento	5	3	.625	1½
Phoenix	5	4	.556	2
GoldenState	4	5	.444	3
L.A.Clippers	0	6	.000	5½

Friday's Games

New York 78, Philadelphia 67
Washington 93, Chicago 91
Toronto 90, Milwaukee 82
Orlando 99, Atlanta 94, OT
Minnesota 115, Vancouver 96
Detroit 101, Phoenix 93
Portland 106, Boston 86
Sacramento 106, Charlotte 95
Golden State 84, Dallas 79
L.A. Lakers 106, San Antonio 94

Saturday's Games

Houston at Miami, 3:30 p.m.
Seattle at Utah, 3:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Golden State at Portland, 10 p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Boston at Washington, 1 p.m.
Chicago at New York, 1 p.m.
Detroit at San Antonio, 1 p.m.
Vancouver at Toronto, 3 p.m.
Houston at Orlando, 3:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Minnesota, 3:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Indiana, 6 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Seattle, 6 p.m.

BOYS' LITTLE DRIBBLERS' RESULTS

MINOR LEAGUE

Knicks 42, Bulls 21

Knicks: Pedro Villa, 14; Brent Bollinger, 13; Stetson Kincheloe, Cord Welsh and Jesse Connor, 4; James Hernandez, 2; Josh Hall, 1. **Bulls:** Ryan Claxton, 8; Colton Brewster, 7; Matthew Schoolcraft, 6.

Hornets 33, Kings 29

Hornets: Jamie Arnold, 14; Matthew Garcia, 12; Ryan Gonzales, 4; William Brasher, 3. **Kings:** Roman Romero, 11; Joel Rocha and Mark Barnes, 7; Cody Burney, 4.

Pistons 29, Wolfpack 26

Pistons: Donald Jeffery, 19; Dustin Murdock, 9; Kyle Sanchez, 1. **Wolfpack:** Lance Day, 17; Jacob Scifres, 7; Sean Velasquez, 2.

Nuggets 28, Heat 23

Nuggets: Charone Hill and Brooks Gafford, 9; Kadrian Groage, 6; Brandon Jones, 4. **Heat:** Tyler Driggers, 10; Kelton Clayton, 5; Ryan Mitchell, 4; Joseph Epperson and Michael Martinez, 2.

Bulls 26, Lakers 11

Bulls: Ryan Claxton, 10; Colton Brewster, 9; Matthew Schoolcraft, 5; Stephen Alaniz, 2. **Lakers:** Chad Franks, 6; Bryce Westmoreland, 4; Clay Fritz, 1.

Knicks 44, Wolfpack 41

Knicks: Brent Bollinger, 34; Pedro Villa, 6; Stetson Kincheloe, 4. **Wolfpack:** Lance Day, 33; Travis Hatfield, 6; Jacob Scifres, 2.

Nuggets 26, Bulls 24

Nuggets: Brooks Gafford, 11; Brandon Jones, 8; Charone Hill, 4; Andy Garvin, 2; Kadrian Groage, 1. **Bulls:** Colton Brewster, 9; Ryan Claxton, 7; Matthew Schoolcraft, 6; R.J. Keener, 2.

Hornets 25, Heat 23

Hornets: Corbin Clements, 14; Jamie Arnold, 7; Ryan Gonzales and Matthew Garcia, 2. **Heat:** Kelton Calyton, 10; Ryan Mitchell, 6; Tyler Driggers, 4; Michael Martinez, 2; Allen Jones, 1.

Knicks 41, Pistons 18

Knicks: Brent Bollinger, 15; Pedro Villa, 14; Stetson Kincheloe, 10; Cord Welsh, 2. **Pistons:** Donald Jeffery, 10; Michael Mann, 4; Brandon Hagins and Brandon Robbins, 2.

Hornets 25, Bulls 22

Hornets: Jamie Arnold, 16; Corbin Clements, 5; Casey Arnold, 4. **Bulls:** Ryan Claxton, 19; Matthew Schoolcraft, 2; Colton Brewster, 1.

Wolfpack 23, Lakers 15

Wolfpack: Lance Day, 7; Travis Hatfield, 6; Jacob Scifres, 4; Tyler McCormick, 3; Brad Ashworth, 2; Josh Ornelas, 1. **Lakers:** Chad Franks, 9; Craig Robertson, 4; Bryce Westmoreland, 2.

Kings 33, Grizzlies 17

Kings: Joel Rocha, 24; Roman Romero, 9. **Grizzlies:** Kaden Billingsley, 9; Jacob McFatridge, 6; Blane Knipe, 2.

Pistons 39, Kings 23

Pistons: Donald Jeffery, 21; Dustin Murdock and Brandon Robbins, 8; Brandon Hagins, 2. **Kings:** Joel Rocha, 14; Roman Romero, 5; Cody Burney, 4.

Hornets 26, Grizzlies 2

Hornets: Corbin Clements, 9; Jamie Arnold, 7; Casey Arnold and Ryan Gonzales, 4; Matthew Garcia, 2. **Grizzlies:** Wes Richardson, 2.

Nuggets 39, Grizzlies 10

Nuggets: Brooks Gafford, 15; Charone Hill, 13; Brandon Jones, 8; Kadrian Groage, 3. **Grizzlies:** Chase Medina, 5; Jacob McFatridge, 3; Blane Knipe, 2.

MAJOR LEAGUE

Raptors 33, Warriors 26

Raptors: Brandon Bragg and Jason Ramos, 9; Isreal Ramos, 8; Bryan Clifton, 3; Chase Ashworth and Cale Lancaster, 2. **Warriors:** Jason Cave, 17; Dustyn Williams, 9.

Spurs 41, T-Wolves 40

Spurs: Garrett Pinson, 25; Jay Weaver, 12; Tyler Hogan and Robby Anderson, 2. **T-Wolves:** Eric Martinez, 22; Zach Garcia, 14; Jordan Lollar, 4.

Jazz 42, Celtics 35

Jazz: Lico Castillo, 20; Cade Simpson, 9; Austin Hatfield, 7; Cornelius Davis, 6. **Celtics:** Blake Scott, 14; Blake Seale, 11; Barrett Bowlin, 10.

Magic 53, Spurs 50

Magic: Wesley Kellner, 31; Justin Rios, 10; Cade Owens and Wyl Wiggins, 4; Martin Garcia and Syd Wiggins, 2. **Spurs:** Garrett Pinson, 23; Jay Weaver, 17; Tyler Hogan, 8; Robby Anderson, 2.

Celtics 36, Raptors 33

Celtics: Blake Scott, 18; Barrett Bowlin, Dustin Babcock and Blake Seale, 6. **Raptors:** Isreal Martinez, 14; Brandon Bragg, 6; Bryan Clifton, Cale Lancaster and Jason Ramos, 4; Steve Tippens, 1.

Mavericks 39, Warriors 38

Mavericks: Clint Blume, 23; James Nussey, 10; Conner Johnson, 4; Alan Gray, 2. **Warriors:** Dustyn Williams, 18; Jason Cave, 14; Jonathan McClure and Nathan Graves, 2.

Jazz 44, T-Wolves 39

Jazz: Lico Castillo, 17; Cade Simpson and Austin Hatfield, 13; Cornelius Davis, 1. **T-Wolves:** Eric Martinez, 17; Zach Garcia, 16; Jordan Lollar, Jonathan Hembree and Chris Lopez, 2.

Celtics 34, Warriors 28

Celtics: Blake Scott, 10; Dustin Babcock, 8; Barrett Bowlin and Jose Velasquez, 5; Blake Seale, 4; Austin Lyle, 2. **Warriors:** Dustyn Williams, 16; Jason Cave, 8; Chance Grantham and Jonathan McClure, 2.

Jazz 61, Magic 52

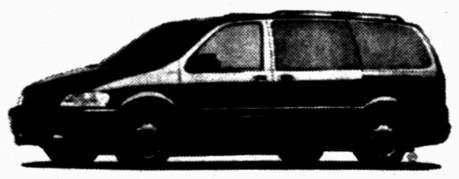
Jazz: Lico Castillo, 32; Cade Simpson, 16; Keenon Garcia, 7; Austin Hatfield, 4; Cornelius Davis, 2. **Magic:** Wesley Kellner, 32; Cade Owens, 8; Justin Rios, 6; Brad Richardson and Wyl Wiggins, 3.

Magic 39, Mavericks 37

Magic: Wesley Kellner, 24; Cade Owens, 6; Justin Rios, 4; Wyl Wiggins and Syd Wiggins, 2; Brad Richardson, 1. **Mavericks:** Clint Blume, 25; James Nussey, 6; Alan Gray, 4; Conner Johnson, 2.

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3 SHS speech students advance to state events

Three Snyder High School students will be attending speech events in March.

Nickolas Means has advanced to the TFA state competition set March 4-6 at Cypress Hill High School in Houston. To advance, Means earned 14 points in speech competitions. It takes eight points to qualify for state.

Lyndell Lee and Thomas Bishop will be attending Congress at the TFA's state meet.

At the Permian meet held last Friday and Saturday, Means placed second in U.S. extemporaneous and he advanced in impromptu. Bishop placed third in oratory and advanced in impromptu.

Suzanne Bogard advanced in humorous interpretation and prose. Vanessa Jones advanced in prose.

At Permian, SHS students competed against mainly 5A schools.

Several SHS students also advanced at the Tascosa High School Meet held Feb. 5-6. Bishop advanced in foreign extemporaneous, impromptu and oratory; Lisa Moore and Suzanne Bogard, duet acting; Bogard, impromptu; Brittney Canada, prose; Katy Cooper, impromptu, Josh Burney and Allison Bowden, duet acting, Burney, humorous interpretation.

In addition, Lee placed fifth in impromptu and Means was fourth in U.S. extemporaneous.

Audra Lilly also broke to the semi-finals in impromptu.

At Tascosa, SHS students competed against 40 4A schools.

On Jan. 29-30, Bogard advanced in prose at the Arlington meet. SHS students competed against 34 5A schools from the Dallas area.



SPEECH COMPETITORS — Snyder High School students who competed in recent speech events include from top, left to right, Keith Sharpe, Josh Burney, Nickolas Means, Lyndell Lee, Thomas Bishop, Melinda Langham, Suzanne Bogard, Vanessa Jones, Rachel Fritz, Katy Cooper, Lisa Moore, Brittney Canada, Lina Alvarez, Allison Bowden. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Doctors remove tumor

BALTIMORE (AP) — Doctors have removed an 80-pound tumor the size of a beach ball from a 17-year-old girl who went to the emergency room complaining of stomach pains.

Tests showed a large mass on her ovaries after Marie Bell of Baltimore went to Franklin Square Hospital Center on Sunday night. On Tuesday, doctors spent 4½ hours removing a benign ovarian growth.

Smaller government...

N.Y. governor seeks lower taxes

WASHINGTON (AP) — New York Gov. George Pataki urged Washington Saturday to follow the example of Republican-led states that successfully have slashed taxes, reduced government bureaucracy and returned more power to their citizens.

In the weekly GOP radio address, Pataki saluted the accomplishments of his fellow Republican governors, whose states now have more than two-thirds of the U.S. population.

From New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman — who cut income tax in her state by 30 percent — to Gov. Tommy Thompson's success in slashing welfare rolls in Wisconsin, Republican leaders have helped preserve the freedoms of the individual, he said.

"But freedom is never more than a generation away from extinction," Pataki added, and cautioned against the tendency of big-government Democrats to expand their reach.

"As Republicans, as Americans, we must challenge the mind set of an administration which says that a handful of bureaucrats in a faraway capital can manage our lives and manage our money better than we can manage them ourselves," Pataki said.

As one example, he said the federal government has taxed working families beyond their means to finance more programs and bigger bureaucracies.

"How can freedom endure in a land where government seizes 48 cents of every dollar earned?"

In his own state, Pataki said, he has worked to streamline bureaucracies by reducing the size of government by more than 20,000 positions and even eliminating the state's Energy Department. New York taxpayers have reaped the benefits with 36 tax cuts, said the governor, whose name has been floated as a potential presidential candidate in 2000.

Pataki said measures passed by congressional Republicans, such as welfare-overhaul legislation, have enabled state leaders to craft their own legislation and make dramatic improvements. In New York alone, he boasted of welfare rolls dropping by 640,000 people.

The governor called on Washington to continue passing power on to the states, by approving such measures as a Republican-favored "ed-flex" bill. The proposal would let states that receive federal education aid to excuse themselves from regulations they consider burdensome.

Half of income tax cut would go to the well-off

WASHINGTON (AP) — People with earnings above $100,000 a year would get over half the benefits of the Republican proposal to cut all income tax rates by 10 percent, according to a nonpartisan congressional analysis released Friday.

The Joint Committee on Taxation study was circulated by Democrats to buttress their claim that the proposal introduced by House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich, R-Ohio, is tilted too heavily toward the wealthy.

The analysis says that in 2001, the first full year the rate cut would be in effect, 52.5 percent of the dollars would go to taxpayers with incomes over $100,000. People making between $50,000 and $100,000 would get almost 31 percent of the tax cut.

At the same time, 48 million taxpayers — three-quarters of them earning less than $20,000 a year — would get no tax cut. However, most of these people now pay no federal income taxes.

Further, the 8 percent of taxpayers with incomes above $100,000 pay two-thirds of all income taxes, an average of $41,600 apiece.

Because of an anticipated budget surplus estimated at $2.6 trillion over the next decade, Republicans argue it is appropriate to return a portion of the money in tax cuts to the people who paid it. They contend Democrats are engaging in political class warfare to portray the cut as skewed to the rich.

Astro-graph



By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Sunday, Feb. 21, 1999

Although you might have to still circumvent some obstacles, you'll have many chances in the year ahead to improve your lifestyle. Your greatest successes could come from second efforts.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You have a fabulous fertile imagination that can serve you well, but be careful today when telling a story. Try not to embellish it to the point where you could trip over your own tongue. Pisces, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send the required refund form and for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and self-addressed stamped envelope to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) It's best to leave that extra cash you've been saving at home today when you go out on the town with pals. You're not likely to be too disciplined managing your money at this time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Don't rely too heavily today on a promise made to you at the spur-of-the-moment. The person may mean well, but when it comes down to delivering, she or he might not be able to follow through.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Look to immediately rectify a situation that's likely to pop up and affect you financially today. Adjustments can be made if you use your head instead of your emotions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Don't get drawn into a development where the odds are clearly stacked against you today. By taking a long shot, you could easily lose more than you bargained to gain.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Behavior that makes others look good may not be natural for you, and trying to imitate them could make you look phony, especially in matters that affect your reputation and status.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Although you're pretty handy at times, it may be wise today not to tackle a complicated do-it-yourself project. There's a strong chance that unforeseen entanglements could be involved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Not being able to discern between prudence and extravagance could be your nemesis today. For example, after preparing a sumptuous dinner, you could keep the leftover salad but throw away the caviar.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Try to keep your priorities in proper order today, because there's a strong indication you could place more emphasis on pleasurable pursuits than on your responsibilities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Individuals of your sign tend to take on so many issues simultaneously that your efforts can sometimes get scattered. This might be one of the days where you'll leave jobs half finished.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) It always good to be a positive person, but not to the point of distorting the facts. Today, you could have a tendency to see all financial risks as being rosy instead of taking a realistic perspective.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Today, you could be better at telling others what to do than doing anything yourself. First set the proper example before you start issuing orders.

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Your Birthday

Monday, Feb. 22, 1999

In the year ahead, there are a number of significant achievements in store for you if you keep your nose to the grindstone. Your more notable successes could be made in areas related to your career.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) As long as you don't get too self-serving about what you want to accomplish today, you should be reasonably lucky. This could be especially true where material resources are concerned. Major changes are ahead for Pisces in the coming year. Send the required refund form and for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 and self-addressed stamped envelope to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your judgment on benefits derived from an endeavor might be faulty today, for the value could be far greater than you realize. Take a second look.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Persistency is the key today to cutting an important deal you're anxious to set in motion. You could be especially effective if you go about it in a quiet manner.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Faith in yourself and your abilities can move a few mountains today. The greater optimism you express, the more infectious it will be to others.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) There's a very fine line between assertiveness and being pushy, so even if you have to fight for what you desire today, be careful of the manner you apply your aggression.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Fortunately for you, there will be some qualified bystanders ready to assist you today should you need help. Don't be too proud to ask for aid if the occasion arises.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Keep your hopes and expectations realistic today, and you won't be disappointed with achievements that would bring pride to others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Should you have to deal with something testy today, treat it philosophically. You'll be able to scale any mountain as if were a manageable molehill.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Time management could be the missing ingredient if you find that you're unable to be productive with profitable pursuits. Don't devote your efforts to insignificant endeavors.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Don't prematurely count on anything today as being in your possession until it is signed, sealed and delivered. Otherwise, something that was within your grasp could easily slip through your fingers.

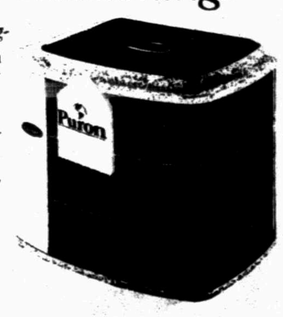
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Maximum time and attention must be given to anything you hope to accomplish today. If not, the only way you may be able to attain your goals will be to work through the coffee breaks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Having someone assist you in a job you're responsible for can for out fine today if you carefully monitor everything that person does on your behalf.

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Little Saigon shopkeeper: Family fought communists

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A shopkeeper whose display of Ho Chi Minh's photo and the Vietnamese flag sparked weeks of protests denied a connection to the Vietnamese government and said his family fought communism in his homeland.

"Every morning I would get up and hear bombs, like fireworks," Truong Van Tran said Friday. "But that was the past. You cannot live in the past."

Tran's video store has been closed since mid-January, when protests began. Many residents of the Little Saigon area are angry because he hung a portrait of the late communist leader and the flag in his front window last fall.

The shopkeeper heeded a judge's order to take down the display but she reversed her decision last week. Tran said he planned to reopen the store and rehang the items, but he would not say when.

He has been slapped or punched at least twice in confrontations with protesters and police this week refused to let him return to the store.

Tran also is fighting eviction by his landlord over proof of insurance.

Tran said he displayed the items to support his beliefs that Vietnam under communist rule is better than most Vietnamese-Americans believe and the community should be trying to foster better relations with it.

"This is my idea, I control my own ideas," Tran said in a news conference at the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California. "If we are all free to express ourselves, the community will be stronger."

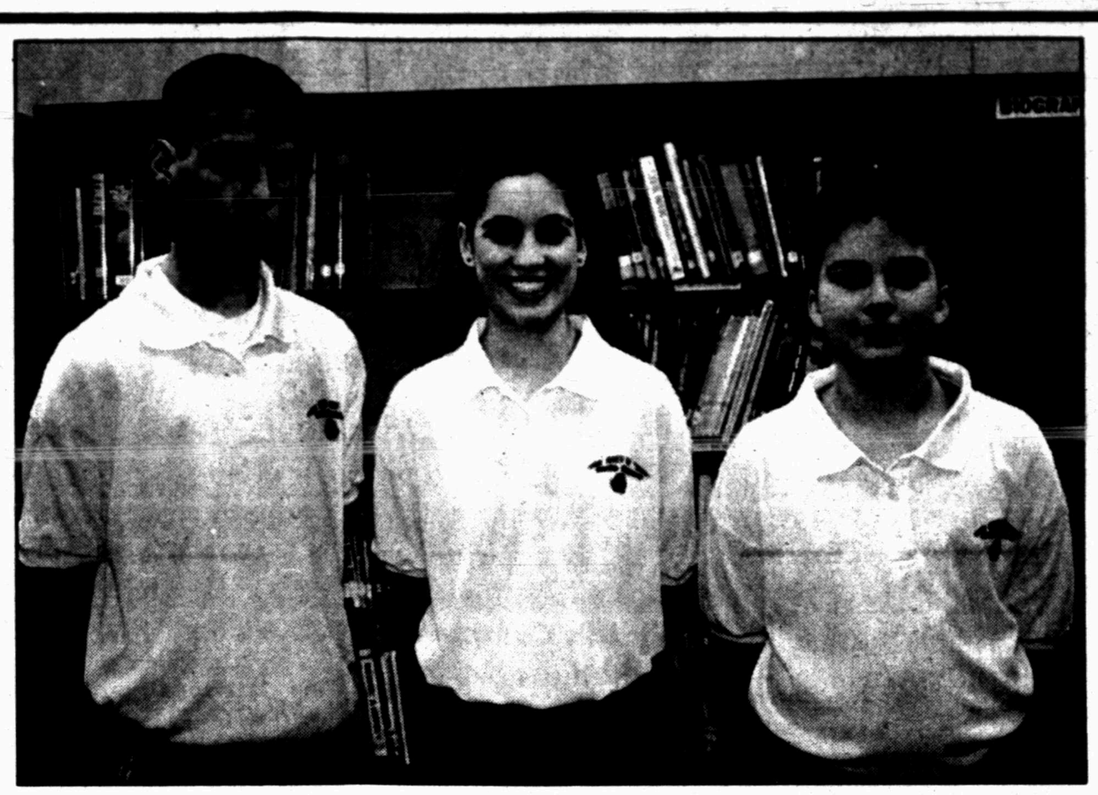
Tran's support of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a minority view in Little Saigon, a community of 200,000 dominated by anti-communist exiles.

Many lost relatives to communist soldiers and they despise Ho Chi Minh, comparing Tran's act to displaying a picture of Hitler in a Jewish neighborhood.

Tran, who grew up in South Vietnam and is now 37, said some of his relatives were killed or injured by communist soldiers in the 1970s.

Tran said he sent a taunting fax to anti-communist groups before the protests began because someone knocked down the Ho Chi Minh picture.

"Here, I dare all of you ... if you all think you are great, then go ahead, come over to clear me out," he said in the fax.



S.T.A.R. EVENT — Ira FHA students, Trey Shirley, Katie Howard and Colter Brown, from left to right, presented a S.T.A.R. Event program on organ donations in the U.S. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Ira FHA students prepare S.T.A.R. presentation

On Monday, Ira FHA students: Trey Shirley, sophomore; Katie Howard, junior; and Colter Brown, eighth grader, presented a program to the student body on organ donation.

They gave this program as a part of their S.T.A.R. Event presentation in applied technology. Their goal was to educate their school and community on the nation's need for registered organ donors and as a result of their presentation increased registered organ donors in their school.

Trey Shirley said, "Ten people die every day waiting on a transplant organ, with 60,000 currently on a waiting list in the U.S. today."

The students will be traveling to Abilene March 5 to compete in the applied technology division at the regional level.

Killer gets life term

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (AP) — A man has been sentenced to life in prison for beating an 81-year-old woman to death after she criticized his rap music.

Victor Brancaccio's lawyers had argued that he suffers from brain damage caused by a premature birth and a near-drowning as a toddler, and that the antidepressant Zoloft left him involuntarily intoxicated.

Brancaccio was 16 in 1993 when he crossed paths with Mollie Mae Frazier as she was out for a stroll. Brancaccio told police he was singing aloud to Dr. Dre's "Stranded on Death Row" when Mrs. Frazier scolded him for the profanity.

Lawmen, pilots, honored for fall flood rescue work.

CUERO (AP) — Two law officers and two helicopter pilots have been honored for rescuing an elderly South Texas couple and their dog during last year's flooding.

Winston Steen, 80, called the Gonzales County Sheriff's Department the night of Oct. 18 because water from the Guadalupe River had never before reached the house he'd lived in all his life.

Deputies cut off by flooded roads called for air support, provided by Petroleum Helicopters Incorporated of Galveston.

The next day, DeWitt County Sheriff Cliff Foulds and Department of Public Safety Sgt. Jeff Hudson leaped from a hovering helicopter into water so deep it had submerged a pickup in the couple's yard.

They half swam, half walked to the house, dodging floating furniture and refrigerators and finding the family's immersed hurricane fence and clothesline to get to the house.

Anthrax letters postmarked in Kentucky

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — At least 14 letters claiming to include anthrax and mailed to abortion and Planned Parenthood centers across the nation this week were postmarked in Lexington, a postal inspector said.

Initial tests show that the threats received Thursday and Friday were hoaxes, similar to the anthrax warnings sent to clinics in Louisville and other U.S. cities in October.

Doug Ostwalt, who heads the Louisville postal inspection office and is a member of a federal task force investigating the letters, said authorities believe all the threats are connected.

The Lexington-postmarked letters containing explicit threats were reported at abortion clinics or Planned Parenthood centers Thursday in Milwaukee; Cincinnati; Washington, D.C.; Manchester, N.H.; Rapid City, S.D.; Asheville, N.C.; Charleston, S.C.; and Sioux Falls, S.D., Ostwalt said.

Other letters was received Friday in Birmingham, Ala., Des Moines, Iowa; and several cities in Vermont, Ostwalt said in today's Lexington Herald-Leader.

Anthrax mostly affects farm animals, but its germs, when inhaled by humans, can cause flu-like symptoms and can lead to death if not treated early enough with antibiotics.

Phony anthrax threats have been very common in recent months, including the October incidents affecting abortion clinics in four states. It is a federal felony to send an anthrax threat, even if it is a hoax.

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno has created a national task force to prosecute and prevent threats against other abortion providers.

Dennis Franz' star dedicated

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sirens wailing, a dozen police motorcycles cleared the way for a limousine carrying TV cop Dennis Franz to the dedication of his star on the Walk of Fame.

Franz, who stars on ABC's "NYPD Blue," stepped out of the limo and was greeted by about 400 screaming fans. He shook hands and waved — and seemed taken aback by all the fuss Friday.

"This is kind of embarrassing," Franz said as he surveyed the crowd and spotted show producer Steven Bochco and longtime friend and fellow actor Joe Mantegna.

It may have been embarrassing, but it was a thrill nonetheless.

"This is a kick," said Franz. "When I came from Chicago to Hollywood I always wondered how the people who have these stars would have felt. And let me tell you, it feels great."

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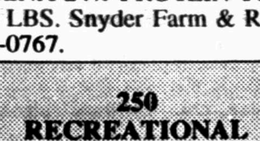
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FOR SALE: Mobile Home, 2502 26th. Owner Finance. 915-949-9138.

STOP RENTING!! For a small down payment or less, you can stop renting and own your home. For more information call Keith Berry @ 915-563-9000 today. 7206 W. Hwy. 80 Midland, TX 1-800-755-9133.

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For Results Use Snyder Daily News Classified Ads 573-5486

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COUNTRY HOME....1 mile North. 3bd-1bth-2cp. Small acreage. Good water. Lease, Sell or Owner Finance. 573-2251.

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Si Esta Cansado De Pagar Renta. Pero su credito esta mal, o no tiene credito venga a verime en A-1 Homes, 7206 W. Hwy. 80, Midland, 0 hableme al telefond 915-563-9000 o 1-800-755-9133 y pregunte por Cuco Arellano, para ayudarle en su nueva casa mobil.

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345 MOBILE HOME LOTS FOR SALE

MOBILE HOME LOT FOR SALE! 573-4974.

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FOR SALE: 3309 Irving Ave. NEW 3-2-2, Fireplace, CH/CA. Lots of Built-ins. Willing to accept trade-in. 574-1410 or 573-3639.

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Country Dream Home 4-1¼-2-20A's Metal Stg.+Several Out Bldg.
Immaculate! 3-2½-3-2cp Shop-Gameroom-Fpl. $115T
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New! 4-2-2 2700 47th $138.5T.
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Great Location 3-2-2 $84.5T.
3-1¼-1cp 3718 Sunset $55T.
Ex Nice 3-2-2 4106 Midland.
New Decor 3-2-2 3203 40th.
3-2-2 4113 Eastridge Fr.Pl.
4.45 A's 3-1¼ Barns/Arena.
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W. Hwy. 180 2.13 A's 3-2-cp.
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20 Acres 3-1-2 Cp. Sheds.
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Exclusive! 4-3-2 plus office 5400 Cedar Creek $117,500.
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New Homes! Ready For Occupancy!.....See Today!
2905 Denison, 3-2-2. Lg. family room-pool-lovely yard $130T.
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3404 43rd 3-2-2-fpl Red $65T.
NW 5 A's 4-2 Doublewide $50T.
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Ira 3-2-3cp 2 Acres ... $49.5T.
3103 Ave W 3-2-1 ..... $39.5T.
South Edge 4-2 on 4 A's $58.5T.
3610 40th 3-2-liv-den-Reduced!
Country 3-2-2 Sm.A.....$79.5.
4300 Ave U 3-2-den-fpl $58.5T.
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Santa Fe 4 or 5-3cp.....Nice!
3781 Avondale 3-1-1 CH/A.
2803 47th 3-2-Shop+Apt$80's.
3108 39th Brick-3-1-cp $31.5T.
2210 33rd 3-3-2-Lovely view!
2811 Ave. U 3-2-1 ..... $56.5T.
3005 Ave U 3-2-4cp Red. $65T.
3404 Jacksboro 3-2-2 ... $60T.
3719 Ave. U 4-2 CH/RA $35T.
3724 Ave U 3-1-1cp... $29.5T.
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Com. Bldg. W.25th/Lub. Hwy.
Acreage-14 to 650 acres avail.

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Temi Matthies, Owner Broker

2807 Ave. W 4-2½-2.
2491 Hwy. 84 Acreage-4-3.
3009 35th 3-2-2-Fireplace.
4111 Kerrville 3-3-2-Fpl.
CR 221 2-1-2cp .....$20's.
218 36th 3-2-1 .....$30's.
West of Ira Nice 3-2-2 W/2A's.
Owner Says Sell 2-2 Plus Den.
New On Mkt 3-2-2.....Call!
Lots of Extras 3-2-2.....Call!
Neat 3-1 W/Den.....$30's.
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Ira 3-2½-2cp+Lg. Shop $78T.
2607 Ave. U..... Under $15T.
Undergr. Home 2-2½-2 Lg.
Santa Fe 3-2½-2 2-Story $76T.
Parkview Area 4-2-2-Fpl.
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2211 33rd 3-3-2 w/View!
Spacious! 3-2-2 Colonial Hill.
Cozy! 2-1-2cp 3201 Ave. U.
Country! 1+A's w/3-2-2cp.
3403 Irving 4 bd-living/den!
3105 Hill 4-1-1cp Brick.
2501 33rd! Brick 3-2½-2-2.
Adorable! 3-1 $30's.
Behind JrHi 4-2-2 Newly built!
5-3½ LR/DR Comb+Den.
Exclusive-4104 Ave U $20's.
Brick 3-1¾-cp $50's.
S. Hwy 208 5A's 3-3½-pool.
Excl.-3-2-2 Edge/Town $55T.

New Home!! Dining, 2 LA's, See Thru Fpl, 3 bedrooms 2 bath, Utility room....$130's.
Near Completion!! 3 & 4 Bds.
Must See! 3-2½ + Acreage.
95 Acres S.E. in CRP!
3101 Ave. W 2-2 w/Apartment.
Exclusive-4 bedroom. Immaculate Condition..... $68T.
Exclusive-Must See This!!! 2-2-2 $50's.
Exclusive-Good Income Property 2110 40th.
Country! 4-2-w/game room.

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Senators raise money for re-election bids

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Rick Santorum could face a difficult re-election. The first-term Pennsylvania Republican, who won in 1994 with 49 percent support, now must withstand criticism of his vote to convict President Clinton in the impeachment trial.

But Santorum, like many of his colleagues also running in 2000, already has a cushion of cash to ease the way.

Democrats who hope the impeachment issue will make some GOP senators easy targets in the next election will find many incumbents well-financed to defend their seats.

The 19 Republican senators whose terms expire next year raised $6.5 million during the last half of 1998, giving them a strong head start over challengers, Federal Election Commission records show. Eleven Democratic senators up for re-election in 2000 raised $1.8 million.

"If you're raising money early, it puts you in a better position against any challenger," said Stuart Roy, a spokesman for the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

Just as important, Democratic consultant Peter Fenn said, a flush campaign account may scare off potential opponents.

"The hope for the Republicans is they can steamroll the Democrats in some of these big, expensive states," Fenn said. "Their hope is that they can discourage good candidates from running."

Santorum, one of the Republicans targeted as potentially vulnerable by Democrats, collected $617,761 in the last half of 1998. He started 1999 with $1.6 million in his campaign bank account.

"You've just got to be prepared," Santorum said. "I wasn't a Boy Scout, but I subscribe to their credo."

Santorum and other Republican senators who voted to convict Clinton, while polls indicated a majority of Americans wanted him acquitted, are preparing to face the issue in statewide campaigns.

"I'll obviously be judged on it," said Sen. Spencer Abraham of Michigan, who voted to convict on both counts of perjury and obstruction of justice. Abraham had $1.2 million in his campaign bank account as this year began.

Sen. Robert Torricelli of New Jersey, chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, said the party does not plan to make an issue of impeachment.

Snyder Daily News Classifieds
ALWAYS A WINNER

010 LEGAL NOTICES

ATTENTION: Jimmy R. Pate; I have surveyed the property located at 2605 Avenue U, (S/2 Lot 1, Block 18, Blankenship Addition to the City of Snyder). I declare this structure to be unsafe as defined in Ordinance 324 and intend to order the demolition of the structure on or about March 8, 1999.
(s) Tom Valentine
Building Inspection Department
City of Snyder
(915)573-4959

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF SCURRY §
To those indebted to, or holding claims against the Estate of ELLA MARIE MOFFETT, deceased, Probate Case Number 5,498.
The undersigned, having been duly appointed Independent Executor of the Estate of ELLA MARIE MOFFETT, deceased, late of Scurry County, Texas, by Ricky Fritz, Judge of the County Court of said county, on the 18th day of February, 1999, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said Estate to come forward and make settlement, and those having claims against said Estate to present them to BISHOP PIERCE MOFFETT, JR., 4513 El Paso, Snyder, Texas 79549 within the time prescribed by law.
Executed this 18th day of February, 1999.
(s)BISHOP PIERCE MOFFETT, JR.
Independent Executor
of the Estate of
ELLA MARIE MOFFETT, deceased

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
THE STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF SCURRY, KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:
Pursuant to the authority conferred upon me by that certain Deed of Trust executed by GORDON E. WITHERSPOON and wife, DONA JO WITHERSPOON of Scurry County, Texas, to DANNY PAYNE or HARRY HUTCHISON, TRUSTEE, dated MAY 5, 1983, for the benefit of the Beneficiary therein identified, duly recorded in Volume No. 238 and Page 183 of the Deed of Trust Records of Scurry County, Texas, securing the payment of that one certain promissory note in the original amount of $360,000.00, I will, as Substitute Trustee under said Deed of Trust, in order to satisfy the indebtedness secured thereby, default having been made in the payment thereof, sell on TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1999, (that being the first Tuesday of said month), at public auction to the highest bidder for cash in the area designated by the County Commissioners' Court at the hour of 2:00 P.M. or within two (2) hours thereafter of that day, the property described as follows:

A field note description of the survey of a 75.42 acre tract of land in the NW/4 of Section 15, Block 1, J.P. Smith Survey, Scurry County, Texas, and described by metes and bounds as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pipe set in the West line of county road, for the NE corner of this tract, from which the NE corner of the NW/4 of Section 15 bears S.89 degrees 56'57"E. 40.0 feet;

THENCE 5.0 degrees 01'12"E., with the West line of county road, for 1045.03 feet to a ½" iron rod set at the NE corner of that tract of land conveyed from Williams to Kimbler in Vol. 303, Page 452 of of the Deed Records, for a corner of this tract;

THENCE 5.89 degrees 59'34"W., with the North line of said Kimbler Tract, and at 409.69 feet pass a 1¼' iron pipe at the NW corner of said Kimbler Tract, continuing for a total distance of 609.69 feet to a ½" iron rod set for a corner of this tract;

THENCE South 219.97 feet to a ½" iron rod set for a corner of this tract;

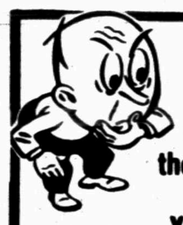
THENCE N.89 degrees 56'57"W., 2092.35 feet to a ½" iron rod set in the West line of the NW/4 of section 15, for the SW corner of this tract;

THENCE North, with the West line of the NW/4 of Section 15, for 1265.61 feet to a ½" iron rod set at the NW corner of Section 15, for the NW corner of this tract;

THENCE S.89 degrees 56'57"E., with the North line of Section 15, for 2701.57 feet to the PLACE OF BEGINNING.

Executed this 3rd Day of February, 1999. Ron Hanway, Substitute Trustee, 6923 E. Hwy 80, Odessa, Texas, 915-366-0018.

BID NOTICE
Western Texas College will be accepting bids on Computers, Monitors and Keyboards until 3:30 p.m., March 8, 1999. Futher information concerning the bid may be obtained by contacting the Business Office at Western Texas College, telephone 915-573-8511, EXT. 203. The Board of Trustees of Western Texas College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive any formality in connection therewith.


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In fact, you're reading them right now!

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Farm Service Agency
Farm Property for Auction

244.784 ac. - E. side of Hwy. 84-5 mi. S. of Hermleigh, TX

Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash on Tuesday, March 2, 1999 at North Steps-Scurry Co. Court House, Snyder TX 10:00 a.m.

For further info call:
(915)236-6337 or come by:
103 W. Florida, Sweetwater

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School Menus

Snyder

All meals are served with choice of milk; there is a choice on the breafast menu to include assorted dry cereal and juice.

BREAKFAST
MONDAY
Breakfast Pizza
TUESDAY
Cinnamon Rolls
WEDNESDAY
Breakfast Burrito w/Salsa
THURSDAY
Biscuits
Cream Gravy
FRIDAY
Donut

LUNCH
MONDAY
Hamburger on a Bun
Chalupas
Lettuce & Tomato
Spanish Rice
Fruit Cocktail
TUESDAY
Hot Dog on a Bun
Chicken, Oven Fried
Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy
Carrots
Fruit Cocktail
Rolls
WEDNESDAY
Pizza
Barbecued Beef on a Bun
Potato Salad
Baked Beans
Apple Crisp
THURSDAY
Burrito
Lasagna
Green Beans
Salad
Fruit Cocktail
FRIDAY
Corn Dog
Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwich
Vegetable Soup
Potato Puffs
Corn
Brownies

Ira

All meals are served with milk.

LUNCH
Chicken Chunks
Parsley Potatoes
Green Beans
Rolls
Peaches
TUESDAY
Spaghetti & Meat Sauce
Peas & Carrots
Relish Cup
Italian Bread
Brownies
WEDNESDAY
Barbecue Wieners
Creamed Potatoes
Fried Okra
Biscuits
Plain Cookies
THURSDAY
Taco Salad
Pears
FRIDAY
School Holiday

Hermleigh

All meals are served with milk.

BREAKFAST
MONDAY
Juice
French Toast Sticks
TUESDAY
Fruit
Buttered Oatmeal
Toast
WEDNESDAY
Juice
Pancake Pups/Syrup
THURSDAY
Fruit
Cinnamon Toast
FRIDAY
Student Holiday

LUNCH
MONDAY
Barbecued Pork Rib Patties
Potato Salad
Tomato Wedges
Hot Rolls
Pineapple Pudding
TUESDAY
Sliced Turkey/Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Black-eyed Peas
Hot Rolls
Fruit Cup/Whipped Topping
WEDNESDAY
Chopped Barbecue on a Bun
Relish Cup
Potato Chips
Peanut Butter Bars
THURSDAY
Burritos/Chili/Cheese
Tater Tots
Shredded Lettuce
Sopapillas

Cards Of Thanks

Thank You

Words can't express how much we appreciate all that everyone has done for us after the loss of our precious "Papa" John Loyola. Your calls, visits, food and especially your many prayers have been a great blessing to us. May the Lord bless each of you is our prayer.

Jean Loyola
Debbie David & family
Joe & Linda Key & family
Tracy Loyola & family
David & Lisa Tate & family

The family of Barbara Scrivner

Wishes to thank the host of friends who came to us with love and sympathy. To those who could not come but sent flowers or messages of condolences, we want to express our deepest appreciation. We are indeed grateful for those beautiful flowers and for the food that was served. Special thanks to Rev. Miller Robinson for the beautiful service and Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home for all they did to help us in our time of sorrow. May God's blessings be upon you is our prayer.

Gwen & Tyler Thompson
Lowell & Helen Thornburg
Eddie Thornburg & family
Gayle Carter & family

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Readers Think Children Should Be Seen and Heard at Wedding

by Abigail Van Buren

© 1999 Universal Press Syndicate

DEAR ABBY: You were off the mark in your response to "Mom in Connecticut." Even if she and her husband are paying for the wedding, it isn't their wedding. A bride and groom should be able to invite the people they love to enjoy this moment in their lives. For Mom to control the guest list so that "her" event won't be ruined is completely selfish. Mom appears to want to put on a perfect social event, while the groom wants to share one of the most important events in his life with his family. I shudder to think what else Mom may try to control in the young couple's future simply for the sake of appearances.

ANOTHER MOTHER,
SAYRE, OKLA.

DEAR MOTHER: Many readers sided with the groom, saying a wedding is a family affair, not an "adults only" event. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I disagree with "Mom in Connecticut" that children should not be at her daughter's wedding. If my sister hadn't allowed children at her wedding, I couldn't have attended because I had no one to care for my 5-year-old daughter.

The children were nieces and nephews of the groom. If it's important to him that his family attend the wedding — kids and all — then the bride's family should understand. It's his wedding, too.

A wedding should be a good time with your family around you, with the two families getting acquainted to make one big, happy family.

LISA FELIX, TUCSON, ARIZ.

DEAR LISA: Read on to see how another family who faced the problem resolved it:

DEAR ABBY: My advice to the mom who is hosting a wedding at which she didn't want children is to arrange for a baby sitter at the reception to keep an eye on the little ones. The children could attend the early part of the reception, and then at an agreed-upon time, the sitter could take the children to another room or location and entertain them.

Abby, I have very fond childhood memories of my cousin's country club wedding reception. I was allowed to dress up and attend the big event for a little while. Of course, I got sleepy before the evening was over, but the children's party had a place for us wee ones to fall asleep while the adults partied on.

This approach would avoid bad feelings just as the marriage is beginning.

FAITHFUL FAN IN TAMPA, FLA.

DEAR FAITHFUL FAN: A sitter and a separate children's party is an excellent idea. However, some parents think their little darlings belong with the adults for the entire evening, regardless of how fussy or rambunctious they may become, and other parents are unwilling to allow their children to be cared for by a stranger.

***

NOT CONFIDENTIAL TO MY READERS: You've heard this before, but it bears repeating:

"I expect to pass through life but once. If, therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again." (William Penn)

***

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

DEAR ABBY: When I read the letter about the importance of keeping one's medical information readily available in case of an emergency, I was reminded of an incident that happened to me.

My name is Maxine, and one of my dogs is named Maxwell. We both answer to the name of "Max."

I am a diabetic and have had several kidney stones removed. One night I awoke in terrible pain but was unable to get up and call someone. Both of my dogs knew something was wrong. My collie went to the front window and barked incessantly, until the neighbor across the street woke up and realized something was wrong because I never let the dogs bark without getting up to see what they are barking at. My little dog, "Max," climbed up on the bed and licked the cold sweat off my arms.

My neighbor called my daughter and told her something must be wrong because my dog was barking for so long. My daughter arrived within 15 minutes. She found me unconscious and called an ambulance. The technician asked her if I was taking any medication and she said yes — that it was on the kitchen counter. He rushed to the kitchen, grabbed the small bottles, put them in a plastic bag, and away we raced to the hospital.

About a half-hour later, the technician came out with a big grin on his face and told her he didn't think it was her mother's medicine. The label read: "For Max, for scratching his back and biting his tail."

We have laughed about it ever since, but I now wear a diabetic bracelet with all the information on it. My doctor told me later I was lucky because the dogs probably saved my life. If I hadn't had immediate attention, I could have died of uremic poisoning. I learned the hard way to have everything written down, to carry the information in my wallet, and also to post it on the refrigerator.

MAXINE L. VAN TORNHOUT,
ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

DEAR "MAX" and "MAX" (I'm all maxed out here): I'm pleased your story had a happy ending, and that you're still around to pamper and praise your canine heroes. As amusing as the story is, it's a graphic reminder that medical information should be kept readily available, because the need for it can strike with little or no warning.

***

DEAR ABBY: I'm confused about the answers to the following questions, and hope you'll supply me with the correct answers.

When a man and woman have become divorced:

1. Are his and her brothers and sisters still his and her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law?
2. Are his and her parents still his and her mother-in-law and father-in-law?
3. Are his and her parents still their children's grandparents?
4. Are his siblings' children still her nieces and nephews?
5. Are his or her siblings' children still cousins to his or her children?
6. Are his and her brothers and sisters still the divorced man's and woman's children's aunts and uncles?

FRANCES B., RICHMOND, VA.

DEAR FRANCES B.: After divorce, the "in-laws" become "ex" in-laws, but the blood relationships remain. Therefore, the grandparents are still grandparents, the aunts and uncles are still aunts and uncles, and the children are still cousins.

***

Everybody has a problem. What's yours? Get it off your chest by writing to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069. For a personal reply, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Questions raised about investigation

CHICAGO (AP) — A private investigator praised for his role in freeing a death-row inmate insisted that the end justified his means — including using a phony eyewitness account to elicit a confession from another man.

The disclosure that Paul Ciolino staged the statement prompted prosecutors to ask for more time to examine the case.

"This new piece of information demands some investigation," prosecutor Thomas Gainer said Friday following a hearing on erasing the 1982 murder conviction of Anthony Porter. No decision was made at the hearing.

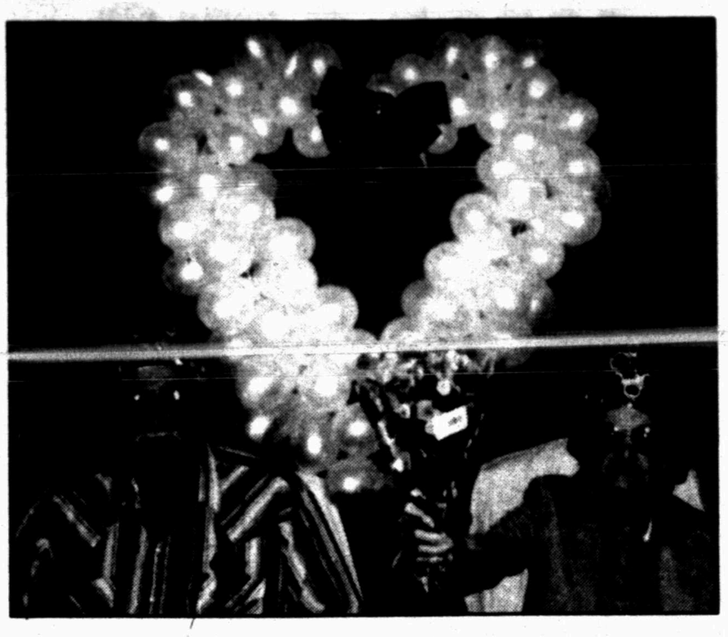
Porter, 43, was released on bail two weeks ago after Milwaukee laborer Alstory Simon made a videotape in which he said he killed two people in self defense in a dispute over drug money.

Porter had been on death row 17 years for the killings.

Simon, 48, made the tape at the urging of Ciolino, the private investigator who was working for Northwestern University journalism professor David Protess and his investigative reporting class.

The journalism students have been widely applauded for tracking down Simon and gathering preliminary information that led to his admission.

But Ciolino went by himself to the interview at which Simon admitted to the shootings.



ROYAL COUPLE — Billy Green and Iris Powledge were recently voted Valentine king and queen by the staff and residents at Snyder Healthcare. (Contributed Photo)

Bush to attend Washington meeting

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's the hottest question in political circles: Will Texas Gov. George W. Bush carry his banner of "compassionate conservatism" into the 2000 presidential race?

But don't look for the GOP's man of the hour to use his visit to the nation's capital to reveal his plans.

Bush, who comes to town Saturday for the winter meeting of the nation's governors, promises to tell Texans first. And, true to the form he's kept at previous gatherings of the National Governors Association, he'll be doing his best to fly below the national media's radar screen.

An unquestioned star among the parade of governors flocking to town to compare notes and meet with President Clinton, Bush won't be bantering about politics on the air with Cokie Roberts or Tim Russert. No soul-baring interviews are planned with Barbara Walters or Katie Couric, either.

"We are not going to do any national media," said Bush spokeswoman Karen Hughes. "We had so many requests, we thought we could not honor them all."

Bush, who allowed this week that he is "warming to the task" of running for president, "has nothing new to tell," Ms. Hughes said. A decision is expected in March, she said.

"As he has said, he is in the process of making a decision whether he will or will not seek the presidency," she added. "And he intends to tell the Texas press first when he makes that decision."

The only question on the Bush camp's mind, to hear Ms. Hughes tell it, is whether the governor will be seated at the NGA meetings next to the nation's most colorful chief executive: former wrestler and new Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Under the NGA's longstanding seating plan, Texas and Minnesota governors sit side-by-side.

Bush is "hoping the seating arrangement remains the same," Ms. Hughes said. "He would be able to sit in arm-wrestling distance of Gov. Ventura."

Most of Bush's schedule for his Washington trip, which wraps up Tuesday, will take place behind closed doors. In addition to his NGA sessions, Bush plans on closeting himself with governors and members of Congress whom he wants to sound out about a presidential run. He'll also meet with the Texas congressional delegation before returning to Austin.

So far, delegations of elected officials from Iowa, New Jersey and South Carolina have trekked to Austin to urge him to run. Others, including an array of former ambassadors, have made their pitch via letter.

"We're trying to influence him to make his decision," said Thomas Melady, a former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican.

Cornyn says...

AG's office will sue agencies who ignore open records laws

AUSTIN (AP) — Attorney General John Cornyn, pledging to be the "chief legal advocate" for open government in Texas, Friday said his office will sue government agencies that ignore open records rulings.

The attorney general's office has not sued a government entity that ignored an open records ruling since January 1995, Cornyn told the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas.

"Public officials who defied rulings must have come to regard this agency as a paper tiger. Law that goes unenforced is worse than no law at all," said Cornyn, a Republican who took office last month.

"We will sue governmental entities that refuse to release documents after we have ruled those documents to public information," he said.

The attorney general's office is often asked to render a legal opinion as to whether certain government records should be available to the public under state open records laws. An attorney general's opinion carries the weight of law unless overturned by the Legislature or the courts.

Cornyn said his office will stop a practice known as "reconsideration" — when agencies delay releasing records by asking the attorney general to reconsider the opinion ordering them released.

Cornyn said his office received about 200 such requests in the last two years.

"Using reconsideration as a delaying tactic has come to an end. This agency does not need to be in the business of reconsidering its own rulings. It needs to be in the business of enforcing them," Cornyn said.

"Once we issue a ruling, unless critical information has come to light, the only appropriate forum to challenge our ruling is a courtroom."

Texas law provides for possible criminal penalties and removing officials from office for open records violations, Cornyn said.

But Cornyn said his office should strive to not just prosecute, but also prevent open government violations.

Cornyn said his office gets about 300 calls a month from government officials seeking open government rulings.

Many officials outside Austin, particularly in small cities that don't have legal counsel to explain open records laws, are unaware of the legal requirements, he said.

The attorney general's office plans to meet with officials around Texas to help explain the law to them, Cornyn said.

His office also has an open government hotline that officials can call to ask questions, and it is creating a document to help answer the most commonly asked questions, Cornyn said.

Company to begin operating six nursing homes in state

AUSTIN (AP) — Commissioner of Human Services Eric Bost on Friday announced a Tyler-based company might assume operation of six nursing homes previously run by Sensitive Care, Inc. and taken over by the state.

Talks are underway for licenses to be granted to BMW Healthcare Inc. for the operation of four nursing homes in Houston — Windsor Place, Golden Age Manor, Briarwood Manor and Lexington Place — plus the HEB Nursing Center in Bedford and Boulevard Manor Care Center in Fort Worth.

BMW Healthcare Inc. could take over the nursing homes as early as next week, said Department of Human Services spokesman Mike Jones.

State-appointed trustees would remain in place to ensure that the BMW Healthcare Inc. transition is smooth, he added.

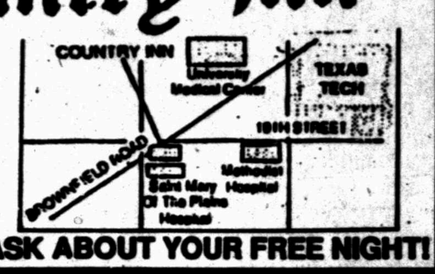
Decisions have not been finalized about the remaining nursing homes previously under Fort Worth-based Sensitive Care, Inc. DHS also announced it will continue with the closure of Colonial Manor of Fort Worth.

The state took over daily operations of Sensitive Care last month after the federal government cut off Medicare funding — about a third of the homes' revenue — because of questions about the company's billing practices.

The federal Health Care Finance Administration accused the company of fraud.

Mary Jo Pleva, director of Sensitive Care's corporate affairs, said company officials have been advised not to comment because of pending litigation. "There is another side to this story and someday it will come out," she said.

The takeover was the largest in Texas history. Sensitive Care ran facilities in Temple, Lancaster, Garland, Gilmer, Mansfield, Bedford, Fort Worth, Richland Hills, and Houston. The largest is the 186-patient Sensitive Care-Lexington Place Health Care Center in Houston.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Five killed in chemical facility explosion

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Rescue workers searching through tons of rubble and twisted steel Saturday discovered the bodies of five people killed in an explosion that leveled a chemical processing plant.

The Friday night blast at the Concept Sciences Inc. facility at the Lehigh Valley Industrial Park — about three miles southwest of Allentown and 50 miles north of Philadelphia — could be felt miles away and left at least 13 others injured.

Lehigh County Coroner Scott Grimm said the dead were among seven people in the building at the time of the explosion. Two others were pulled from the debris, including one who was in critical condition. The condition of the other was not known.

Authorities believed the explosion was triggered during the distillation of the volatile chemical hydroxylamine, a substance used by the company for processing salt in water heaters, said John Conklin, director of the Lehigh County Emergency Management Office. They also believed another chemical — potassium hydroxide — was involved in the explosion.

The explosion created a 4-foot crater in the building and blew out 25-foot high concrete walls and caused two stories of concrete ceiling to collapse.

The morning light showed just how devastating the explosion was: Twisted steel and chunks of concrete littered the area for at least 100 yards in each direction and only parts of the steel framework stood; three other adjacent buildings were damage, with windows blown out and siding torn from the structures. Cars in an adjacent parking lot were covered in rubble.

Rescue crews in protective air masks and clothing searched all night for the missing people, but they were hampered by the unstable remains of the structure, as well as fatigue and temperatures in the 20s.

Infrared equipment was used by search and rescue specialists from the Philadelphia and Harrisburg fire departments to pinpoint where they believed the victims were, while crews used small hand tools to dig through the rubble.

Janice Nisbet, spokeswoman for the Lehigh County Emergency Management Office, had said that workers had gone "through every air pocket" looking for any survivors.

Thirteen unidentified people, including five rescue workers, were taken to area hospitals. Conklin said most were treated and released.

David Lesak, chief of the Lehigh County hazardous materials team, said most of the injuries "were blast related as opposed to chemical related."

By daybreak, Lesak's crew had decontaminated about 80 workers with a water and soap solution.

There were reports of a chemical cloud that drifted toward Allentown, and people within a one-mile radius were asked by police going door-to-door to stay indoors for about two hours Friday night. Conklin said the blast released a mixture of the chemicals into the air, but no one was ever in any danger.

Eight arrests are made Friday, early Saturday

Eight arrests were made Friday and early Saturday, two of which were felonies.

Deputies arrested 37-year-old Darryl Lavance Toombs of 808 31st Street at 11:43 a.m. Friday in the 1600 block of Scott Street for felony parole violation.

At 12:01 p.m. Friday, deputies took 30-year-old Ruben Roy Silva of 506 29th Street into custody at his residence for felony parole violation.

A 26-year-old female was taken into custody at 11:18 a.m. Friday at the adult probation office on municipal court capias pro fines on two counts of no liability insurance and two counts of failure to appear.

Misdemeanor driving while intoxicated sent a 53-year-old male to jail at 9:05 p.m. Friday. Department of Public Safety troopers arrested him in the 400 block of Coliseum Drive.

DPS troopers took an 18-year-old male into custody at 1:02 a.m. Saturday on Hwy. 350 for violating essential need drivers license.

Officers arrested a 33-year-old male at 12:52 a.m. Saturday in the 3000 block of College for misdeameanor driving while intoxicated.

At 3:41 a.m. Saturday, officers arrested a 17-year-old male in the 3200 block of Avenue G for minor in possession of alcohol and minor in possession of tobacco.

A 17-year-old male was taken into custody by officers at 3:41 a.m. Saturday in the 3200 block of Avenue G for Class B possession of marijuana.

In other activity, Pamela Guerrero requested an officer at 9:40 a.m. Friday in the 4400 block of Avenue U in reference to the burglary of her vehicle. An offense report was filed.

Offense reports for found property were filed at 12:04 and 1:44 p.m. Friday in reference to two bicycles being found in the 1400 block of Avenue K and one being found in the 2900 block of Avenue B.

Woman's report denied

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton's lawyer says allegations that the president sexually assaulted an Arkansas woman more than 20 years ago are "absolutely false."

In her first published accounts, Juanita Broaddrick said "I was sexually assaulted by Bill Clinton" at a Little Rock, Ark., hotel in 1978 when he was state attorney general.

The story of the alleged attack on Mrs. Broaddrick has been circulating for years. She has refused to comment until now.

According to Mrs. Broaddrick, she first met Clinton when he visited the nursing home she operated in 1978. He was running for governor at the time and she was a campaign worker. Clinton invited her to visit him sometime at campaign headquarters, she said.

Mrs. Broaddrick said she was in Little Rock for a nursing home seminar and called the headquarters and arranged to meet Clinton for coffee at her hotel. He suggested they have coffee in her room, she said.

In the hotel room, Clinton forced her to have sex, Mrs. Broaddrick said.

Clinton lawyer David Kendall issued a denial as The Associated Press and Saturday's Washington Post and New York Post ran stories based on interviews with Mrs. Broaddrick.

"Any allegation that the president assaulted Mrs. Broaddrick more than 20 years ago is absolutely false," Kendall said. "Beyond that, we're not going to comment."

White House spokesman Joe Lockhart was dismissive of the first published account of Mrs. Broaddrick's story, which appeared in Friday's Wall Street Journal.

Personal, Professional Service

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Obituaries

Maxine Courtney

1936-1999

Maxine Ione Courtney, longtime Snyder resident, died Friday, Feb. 19, at her home.

Funeral service for Mrs. Courtney, 62, is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Wright Colonial Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Charles Day, minister of Ave. D Baptist Church, will officiate.

Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Born May 10, 1936 in Brownfield, she married James Courtney Sr. on March 15, 1956 in San Antonio.

Mrs. Courtney had been a beautician for more than 30 years and worked for Nancy's Art Style in Snyder Shopping Center.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Sarah and Charles Marchbanks; a daughter, Sandra Courtney; and a sister, June Solsona.

Survivors include her husband, James Courtney of Snyder; four sons and three daughters-in-law, Kevin Courtney, Danny and Teresa Courtney, Tim and Kelly Courtney and James and Mary Courtney, all of Snyder; two daughters and sons-in-law, Kim and Tony Lapape of Washington and Theresa and Bryant Mitchell of Snyder; two sisters, Sarah Lopez and Jessie Simmons, both of Sandia Park, N.M., four brothers, H.D. Marchbanks of Edgewood, N.M., Charles Marchbanks of Mountain Air, N.M., Al Marchbanks of Panama City, Fla. and Bobby Marchbanks of Seattle, Wash.; 18 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Mrs. Rainwater

1914-1999

Bessie Rainwater, 84, died Friday, Feb. 19, at her residence, Myrtlewood Estates in San Angelo.

Service is set for 2 p.m. Sunday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Dale Patterson, minister of the Pecan Baptist Church in Robert Lee, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

A former Snyder resident, Mrs. Rainwater was born Sept. 18, 1914 in Mansfield, Ark. She had also lived in Robert Lee where she was a member of the Robert Lee Pecan Baptist Church.

She married R.C. Rainwater on Dec. 13, 1947 in Carlsbad, N.M.

Mrs. Rainwater, a homemaker, was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; four brothers; three sisters; and a grandson, Royce Wade.

Survivors include a son, Kenneth Wade of Ruidoso, N.M.; two daughters, Jean Hamilton and Patsy Maddux and her husband, Ron, all of San Angelo; a sister, Mildred Raye of San Angelo; six grandchildren, Johnny Wade and his wife Tracy of Ruidoso, Craig Wade of Abilene, Deanne Hamilton of Odessa, Joie Hamilton of Houston, Robin Wade of Corpus Christi, Chelsea Maddux of San Angelo, Lori Sofinowski of Austin and Trey Upton of Lewisville; two great-grandchildren, Eric Wade of Carlsbad, N.M., and Ryan Wade of Minot, N.D.; several nieces and nephews; and special friends, Delton Shirley of Odessa, Sheila Butler of Weatherford, Bob Thayer of Houston and Myra Wade of Austin.

The family will be receiving friends at Willow Park Inn in Snyder preceding the service. Memorials may be made to Meals for the Elderly or a favorite charity.

Troy Crowder

1914-1999

Troy Crowder, 84, of Snyder died Saturday, Feb. 20, at Warm Springs, near Gonzales, Tex., while visiting a granddaughter.

Services for Mr. Crowder are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Callie Reed

1922-1999

SWEETWATER — Callie Elizabeth Reed, the sister of Arinita Vaughn of Hermleigh, died Thursday, Feb. 18, in Rolling Plains Hospital.

Funeral service for Mrs. Reed, 76, is set for 2 p.m. Sunday in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Don Davies will officiate and burial will follow in the Roscoe Cemetery.

Born in Seagoville, she married Silas Harlin Reed in 1940 in Snyder. He preceded her in death. She was a former resident of Roscoe, was a member of the Roscoe First Baptist Church and had worked at Simmons Memorial and Rolling Plains hospitals.

Survivors also include three sons, Jim Reed of Spring, Silas "Butch" Reed of Allen and Joe Reed of Sweetwater; a daughter, Judy Hunter of Aurora, Colo.; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Vera Dryden

1908-1999

Vera Beatrice Dryden, 90, of Snyder died Saturday, Feb. 20, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Born on April 4, 1908, Mrs. Dryden was a homemaker. She was preceded in death by a son, Don Arvin Dryden, on Jan. 2, 1995.

A daughter, Betty Dryden, of Snyder survives; and a sister, Delia Elizabeth McDaniel.

Ernest Caffey

1906-1999

DOVER, Ark. — Ernest "Jack" Combs Caffey, a native of Hermleigh, died Monday, Feb. 15 in Dover.

Service for Mr. Caffey, 93, was held Wednesday in the St. Paul United Methodist Church. Burial followed in the St. Paul Cemetery at Dover.

Born on Jan. 12, 1906 at Hermleigh to Will and Floy Wells Caffey, he was a retired farmer. He moved to Dover from Hermleigh in 1944. Mr. Caffey was preceded in death by his wife, Reba Jewel Caffey, his parents, one sister and one brother.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Janice Caffey of Lubbock; six sisters, Golda Foster and Irene Jordan, both of Hermleigh, Vollie Moore of Covina, Calif., Leola Thompson of Crescent City, Calif., Rose Minor of Hot Springs, Ark., and Nell Lamberth of Carlsbad, N.M; two grandsons; and several great-grandchildren.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Egyptian exhibit at museum

Northeast fifth graders in Lori Grinslade's class will have their Egyptian exhibit on display at Scurry County Museum from 1-3 p.m. Sunday.

Cancer Society meeting

The American Cancer Society will meet at 5 p.m. Monday in the board room at Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Discover Creation program

A Discover Creation program, presented by former evolutionists, will be presented from 7-9 p.m. Monday through Wednesday in the Family Life Center of the First Baptist Church. Evidence from both science and scripture will be presented and will be informative for both youth and adults.

Class of '74 reunion

There will be a meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at the College Ave. Dairy Queen to plan the class of 1974 reunion. For more information, call 573-7014 or 573-3653.

Bible study tapes

Bible study video tapes air weekly on cable TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 p.m. Monday are "What Kind of Body Will We have in the Resurrection," followed by "Fear of Death."

Distance learning course

Midwestern State University will offer a trimester course, public personnel administation, through the distance learning lab on the Western Texas College campus. The course begins Tuesday and will meet from 5:30-9:15 p.m. each Tuesday. To apply, call 1-888-521-1112 or 940 397-4400.

Genealogy Society meeting

Joanne Sterling will present a program on requirements for Daughters of the American Revolution at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the meeting of the Genealogy Society in the Scurry County Library. Interested persons are welcome.

Free satellite broadcast

A free satellite broadcast on tuberculosis control in correctional facilities is planned on Wednesday from noon to 3 p.m. in Room 203 of Western Texas College's Learning Resource Center. WTC will award three contact hours to individuals participitating in the broadcast.

Community garden meeting

A meeting to plan the 1999 community garden will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the basement of First Presbyterian Church. All interested persons are welcome.

A&M mother's club

The Rolling Plains Texas A&M Mother's Club will meet at 6 p.m. Thursdav at 2806 36th St. Plans will be made for awarding two scholarships. All Aggie moms, area Aggies or interested persons are encouraged to attend. Call Caron Perkins, 573-4729 or Kathy Murphree, 915-235-1031.

Diabetes support group

Snyder Diabetes Support Group will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Cogdell Hospital cafeteria.

Parents of SHS seniors

Turn in three photos of your senior (baby, elementary, present) to be used in a video at the end-of-year steak supper. Identify on back of the photo and turn in by March 1 to Katie Necessary at the high school or mail to her at 2901 37th. Donations of $20 are encouraged and appreciated for end-of-year activities.

Kiwanis pancake feast

Snyder Kiwanis Club will held its annual Pancake Feast Saturday, March 6, in the West Elementary Cafeteria from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tickets are $4 per person and children under six may eat free. There will be a drawing for a free TV. Tickets may be purchased at the door, from any club member or by calling 573-2191.

Free tax aid service

Free tax help is available today and every Wednesday at the Senior Center. Help is also available for shut-ins. Call 573-3822 or 573-4035.

Mills medical fund

A fund to assist with the cancer treatment of Marie Mills has been opened at Snyder National Bank.

Windbreak trees available

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District has extra windbreak trees, both hardwood and evergreens, available.

Texas Million

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Million numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery:
18-31-57-62

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery:
2-8-21-26-38

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
7-1-9

Rosson marks 10th year at Central's helm

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Profiles in Education

by Shirley A. Gorman

(Editor's Note: This is the second article in a series about Scurry County educators.)

Jim Rosson's roots lie deep in Scurry County. A native of Snyder, he attended local schools and graduated from high school in 1969. An educator by profession, he taught at the high school for 12 years and then became principal at Central Elementary 10 years ago.

"One of the advantages of coming back to my hometown is that I have the opportunity to regularly see people that I have known and loved — many of them for over 40 years. It has been a pleasant, rewarding experience," Rosson said.

"There are many advantages to making a decision to live, invest in, and contribute to your hometown for most of your working life. Many of the students that I work with are children of ex-students of mine, children of people that I have worked with, children that I have taught at church or children of personal friends of my family or mine. It's a humbling experience."

For the past seven years, Rosson said they have provided a strong character-based education program. The Positive Action program rewards students for positive behavior as well as academic success, Rosson explained.

"We believe in giving our students the opportunity to excel, providing an environment in which they can excel, and recognizing them as they achieve success, Rosson said.

He noted that the staff is the key to success at any school. And Central's staff is "flexible, highly trained and self-motivated."

"Often the public does not see what goes on behind the scenes in order for a school or a classroom to operate efficiently with success," Rosson added. "The job of a classroom teacher is enormous. The truth is that it is never as easy as it appears. Successful, organized schools and classrooms where learning is taking place on a daily basis do not 'just happen'— they are the direct result of conscientious planning, organizing, directing and controlling."

Each school year, Rosson said Central's staff collaboratively develops a Campus Improvement Plan which details the educational goals and the activities they plan to follow to reach these goals.

Each student is assessed and then an educational delivery system is designed based on students' needs. This is incorporated with the state's curriculum requirements.

Students' need change, so Rosson said, they continue to assess students throughout the year and revamp instruction to meet those changing needs. "Throughout the years, our campus improvement teams have developed a number of initiatives to meet the needs of the students we serve."

The Accelerated Reader Program is one of these instructional initiatives. The program has been expanded each year, through the help of Central's office administration and the parent council.

The Accelerated Reader is a system of computerized testing and record keeping. Its goal is to increase literature-based practice among Central's students.

Rosson said, "this dovetails with the current research findings which strongly indicates that the more students read, the better they perform on academic achievement tests in both reading and math. This has been the case at Central, as both math and reading TAAS scores continue to be higher than both area and state averages."

Central was the recipient of a Texas Education Agency $45,000 restructuring grant for the 1997-1999 school years. Funds from this competitive grant have been used to provide teachers with relevant inservice training, upgrade the Accelerated Reader program, and provide parent/community training in the area of reading.

This semester. Dr. Marti Dryk, well-known educational consultant with over 30 years of experience in the educational community, will be presenting "Successful Thinking and Reading Strategies."

Rosson said parents of Central students as well as the public will be invited to attend.

Although Central's reading adoption is a whole-language, literature-based reading program, Rosson said his staff supplements

See Before, Page 4B





ROSSON AND STUDENTS OF FORMER STUDENTS — Jim Rosson, a longtime educator, is shown with some of the students he has at Central this school year who are the children of former students. Rosson has served as Central's principal for 10 years. Prior to that, he taught at the high school. Students in the top photo are from left, back row, J.W. Wesson, Layton Westmoreland, Jostlyn Wilson, Jacob Scifres, Jacob McFatridge, Dustin Murdock, Charles Peterson; front row, Megan Velasquez, Kristie Valadez, Brittany Hembree, Josh Ball, Derek Anderson, Connor Tollison. Those in the bottom photo are from left, Alison Cox, Alayna Alexander, Cody Burney, Clinton Shafer, Brent Cole, Lauren Lunsford. (Staff Photos By Shirley A. Gorman)

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ANNOUNCING ENGAGEMENT — Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Williams announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their son, Nathan David Williams, to Keely Ann Willmon, both of Austin. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Willmon of Levelland. A wedding is planned for April 24 in the First Baptist Church in Levelland. (Contributed Photo)

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



	North 02-20-99	
	♠ 8 6 4 3	
	♥ J 10 6 5	
	♦ A Q 2	
	♣ 3 2	
West		East
♠ K		♠ J 5 2
♥ 9 8 2		♥ 7 4 3
♦ J 10 8 3		♦ 9 6 5
♣ A K Q J 10		♣ 9 7 6 4
	South	
	♠ A Q 10 9 7	
	♥ A K Q	
	♦ K 7 4	
	♣ 8 5	

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: West

South	West	North	East
	1 ♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl.	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

Opening lead: ♣ A

When too strong to overcall

By Phillip Alder

Marcus Aurelius said, "Time is a sort of river of passing events, and strong is its current; no sooner is a thing brought to sight than it is swept by and another takes its place, and this too will be swept away."

That reminds me a little of bridge bidding. As the river flows, so new ideas gain strength and acceptance, sweeping away the old. Methods are accepted by experts, but for some reason they don't filter down to less good players. Today, I feature one of these methods.

A simple overcall has an upper limit of about 16 high-card points. What do you do when stronger than that? You start with a takeout double, then bid your suit after partner makes a minimum noise. By doing this, you guarantee extra values: usually at least 17 points. This is because partner's bid showed 0-8 points. You will normally need at least 17 to make reaching a game contract feasible.

How should South plan the play in four spades? West cashes two club tricks, then switches to the diamond jack.

North began with a weak collection. But when South shows 17-19 points with five or more spades, suddenly North's hand is strong; he has an automatic jump to game.

South must avoid two trump losers. When you have nine trumps, it is correct to lay down the ace first; do not start with a finesse. (This is doubly right here, because West is expected to have the spade king for his opening bid.) And after West grudgingly contributes his singleton king, declarer can bring home an overtrick.

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Snyder Duplicate Bridge Scores

Jane Hinton directed all games at the Snyder Country Club.

FRIDAY
Feb. 12th
North-South

A Group
1. Mary Bast, Anne Spitler.
2. Shirley Stewart, Mippy Brownlee.
3. Ann Davis, Monte West.

B Group
1. Shirley Stewart, Mippy Brownlee.
2. Anita Talbott, Susie Reed.
3. Margaret Presswood, ElWanda Nall.

East-West

A Group
1. Dora Blakey, Frances Ridley.
2. June Maddox, Dorothy King.
3. Nona Morrison, Johnye Van Dever.

B Group
1. Dora Blakey, Frances Stevenson.
2. June Maddox, Dorothy King.
3. Dorothy Rosson, Martha Fagin.

SUNDAY
Feb. 14

1. Dot Casey, Louise Thompson.
2. Jane Hinton, Barbara Yorgesen.



Ruby Hall

Hall celebrates 96th birthday

Mrs. Ruby Hall celebrated her 96th birthday with a family dinner Saturday, Feb. 13, at the home of Joyce and Brice Fuqua.

Ruby Walker was born Feb. 11, 1903 in Georgia to Edward and Mary Elizabeth Walker. She married Jess Hall on Nov. 26, 1921 in Dawson, Tex. He died Nov. 22, 1969.

They have one daughter, Mildred Harless of Eunice, N.M., three grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and six great-great-granndchildren.

Ruby has lived in Scurry County 66 years and is an active member of the First Baptist Church.

Attending the birthday dinner were her daughter and son-in-law, Mildred and Bernice Harless of Eunice, a granddaughter, Linda Frost of Hobbs, N.M.; Charles and Michelle Walker of Odessa, Cele Gandy of Christoval; Evelyn and Carl Stanley of Sweetwater; Maxine and Paul Barren of Loraine; Britt, Breanna and Corrina Fuqua of Abilene; Brenda, Larry and Sterling Lee, Mary Hall, Theresa, Hamp and Wade Yearwood of Snyder; Lonice and J.J. Hall of Ira; Lori, Jordan and Aaron Williamson of Hermleigh, and Cecil Hall.



The first antibiotic was penicillin, discovered by British scientist Alexander Fleming in 1928.

Pleasant Hill community reunion planned Tuesday

A Pleasant Hill reunion will be planned by a committee on Tuesday, March 9, at 1 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

Names are needed of anyone having gone to school or church at Pleasant Hill, commonly called Hell Roaring Holler.

Those unable to attend the planning session may send names and addresses to Mary Lou Merritt Farris, 118 Farm Valley Road, Snyder, 79549; or Connie Key, 2006 37th Street, Snyder.

Mary Farris' phone number is 915-573-8641 and Connie Key's number is 915-573-7465. Any information about former Pleasant Hill residents will be appreciated by the committee.

Community Calendar

MONDAY

Al-Anon, Snyder Park Club; noon.

Scurry County Museum's hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Just For Today NA, closed meeting; Snyder Park Club; for information call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

Manic Depression (Bipolar) support group; Family Life Community Church, 904 26th Street; 7 p.m.

Scurry County AA; closed meeting; Park Club; for more information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Nuestra Vueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

American Cancer Society; board room of Cogdell Memorial Hospital; 5 p.m.

Weight Watchers; Trinity United Methodist Church, 5200 Trinity Blvd.; 5 p.m.

Just For Today NA, closed meeting; for information, call 573-0949, 573-4238 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

Beta Sigma Phi regular meeting; country club; Jacalyn Lowrance and Mickey Baird, hostesses; "Fit for Life" program by Matt Cross; 7 p.m.

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

New Horizons 12 & 12, closed meeting; Park Club; 7 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for information, call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; 8 p.m.

TOPS TX56, (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 6 to 7 p.m.; 2501 35th. For more information, call Peggy Vernon at 573-3122.

WEDNESDAY

MAWC Game Day and Luncheon; cost is $7.50 with serving to begin at 11:30; games of choice will follow throughtout the afternoon; reservation needed by 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Just For Today NA, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Snyder Palette Club; airport terminal bldg; bring painting of landmark; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with noon break.

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

Al-Anon brown bag; Park Club in Winston Park; for information, call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; noon to 1 p.m.

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; houseshoe courts, located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information, call 573-9762; 3 p.m.

Just For Today NA; Park Club; for information, call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; American Legion; 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Scurry Charter Chapter ABWA; MAWC; 7 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; for information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment, call 573-9742.

Just For Today NA; Snyder Park Club; for information, call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

Scurry County AA, closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for information, call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

People Without Partners; Inadale Community Center; games of 42 and dominos; 6:30 p.m.

Just For Today NA, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA, open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 10 a.m.

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

Just For Today, closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information, call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 5 p.m.

FINAL DAYS START MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND

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Denise Thompson and Leddy Lewis
Keely Willmon and Nathan Williams
Rosie Kerry Tovar and Richard Tovar
Shelly Englert and Whitley Bradberry
Haley Boaz and Steven Ratliff
Brea Hensley and Rick Post
Samatha Boyd and Jimmy Campbell

Infant Registry

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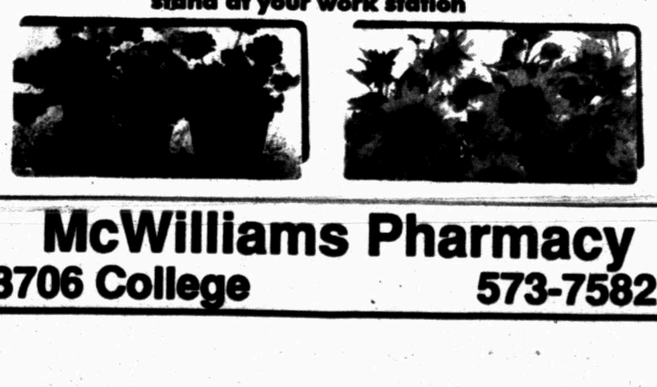
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VALENTINE TEA RECITAL — Pupils from Lynn Bethel's Studio of Music entertained some 110 mothers and grandmothers at a Valentine tea recital on Valentine's Day at 3 p.m. in her home. Pictured in the (from left) top photo, bottom row, Whitley Fulford, Erin Hogan, Audrey Jones, Vivi Weaver, Brett Bowlin and Forest Clayton; top row, Bethany Perry of Roscoe, Jami Nell Thackerson of Colorado City, Zach Greenlee of Rotan, Faith Feaster of Roscoe and Kelsey Shaw. (Contributed Photo)



MORE PIANO STUDENTS — Also performing for mothers and grandmothers at Lynn Bethel's Studio Valentine Day recital included, first row, Tilatha Akins, Magen Lee, Emily Jones, Ashley Hyer, Sydney Wright; top row, Danisha Akins, Glyn Wright, Heather Zajicek, Claire Pollard, Sheila Hicks and Marleah Akins. (Contributed Photo)



MORE PERFORMERS — Entertaining their guests, mothers and grandmothers, at a Valentine's Day recital in the home of their instructor, Lynn Bethel, were Kristen Miller whose grandmother traveled from Connecticut for the recital, Laura Lyn Landa, David Melton of Spur, Kailea Shaw, Jordan Wright; back row, Jerin Tyler of Post, and Austin Owens who also entertained as a stand-up comedian. Students performed solos, duets and trios. (Contributed Photo)

Scurry County Library News and Views

Scurry County Library accepts book donations all through the year. These donations are used to stock the paperback sections, including the junior section, the young adult section, the mystery section, and the western section. The library also adds some of the donated hardback books to the collection, as well as videotapes and audiotapes.

Any materials not added to the library collection are sold during the annual book sale in the spring. Some of the money taken in during the sale is turned in to the county; some of the money is used to increase the library's collection. Also, the library has a magazine table at the front door. You may donate or take magazines from this table at no charge.

BOOK FEATURE

"The Eagle's Secret: Success Strategies for Thriving at Work and In Life," by David McNally.

Through extensive research, David McNally has determined what sets apart the individuals who thrive rather than just survive in these trying times. The secrets used by these successful individuals are presented here.

They are creating a powerful new way to live and work, boldly confronting today's most pressing issues.

NEW NON-FICTION

The Greatest Generation," by Tom Brokaw.

Pigskin Pulpit: A Social History of Texas High School Football Coaches," by Ty Cashion.

"The Complete Tight Wad Gazette," by Amy Dacyczyn.

FEW FICTION

"The Cat Who Saw Stars," by Lilian Jackson Braun.

"Send No Flowers," by Sandra Brown.

"Olivia," by V.C. Andrews.

"In Danger's Path: A Corps Novel," by W.E.B. Griffin.

Library Hours

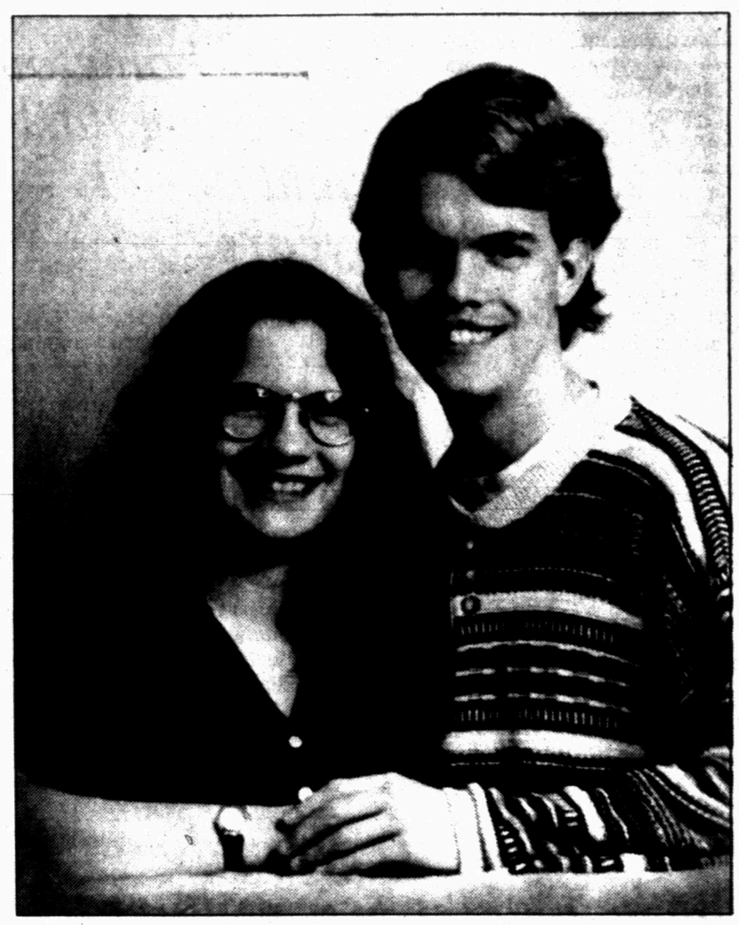
10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mon., Wed., Fri. and Sat.

10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tues. and Thurs.

Please return books promptly; there are no fines charged for overdue books. They may be placed in the book deposit in front of the library.



An American aircraft carrier can reach over a fifth of a mile long and carry close to one hundred planes.



McCATHERN-MERRYMAN ENGAGED — Rev. and Mrs. Glenn McCathern, formerly of Snyder, announce the engagement and upcoming wedding of their youngest son, Kurtis McCathern, to Sharon Merryman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cole Merryman of Austin. The wedding is set for June 19 in Austin. After graduating third in his class at Snyder High School in 1994, Kurtis graduated from Rice University in 1998 with a double major in computer engineering and mathematics. He is working for National Instruments in Austin as a computer software design engineer. Sharon will graduate in May from Rice University with a major in mathematics. They plan to make Austin their home. (Contributed Photo)

Top Video Sales

By The Associated Press

Weekly charts for the nation's most popular videos as they appear in next week's issue of Billboard magazine. Reprinted with permission:

Top Music Video Sales

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports)

1. "'N The Mix With 'N Sync," 'N Sync. BMG Video. (Platinum)
2. "All Access Video," Backstreet Boys. Jive/Zomba Video. (Platinum)
3. "Night Out With The Backstreet Boys," Backstreet Boys. Jive/Zomba Video. (Platinum)
4. "Singing In My Soul," Various Artists. Spring Hill Video.
5. "Cunning Stunts," Metallica. Elektra Entertainment.
6. "Second Coming," Kiss. PolyGram Video. (Platinum)
7. "Live At Wembley," Spice Girls. Virgin Music Video.
8. "A Night In Tuscany," Andrea Bocelli. PolyGram Video. (Platinum)
9. "Bridges To Babylon: 1998 Live In Concert," The Rolling Stones. Eagle Rock Entertainment.
10. "Psycho Circus," KISS. PolyGram Video. (Platinum)

Top Video Rentals

(Compiled from a national sample of rental reports)

1. "The Truman Show," Paramount Home Video. Paramount Home Video.
2. "There's Something About Mary," FoxVideo.
3. "Out Of Sight," Universal Studios.

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Keely Willmon & Nathan Williams
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Amanda Berry & Tony Steelman
Machea Chaney & Gabriel Hernandez
Sunshine Johnston & Wesley Davis
Brea Hensley & Ricky Post
Charlene Carnes & Blair Williams
Haley Boaz & Steven Ratliff
Olivia Madrid & Anthony Alvarez III
Denise Thompson & Leddie Lewis
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Thursday - Teresa Wall
Friday - Janelle Pollard
Saturday - Debbie Clifton

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Before Central post, Rosson taught at SHS

Continued From Page 1B

the Houghton-Mifflin series with numerous other curriculum materials at the third grade level and with the Saxon Phonics program at the kindergarten and first grade levels.

"We will have the opportunity to select a math adoption for the 1999-2000 school year," Rosson added. "Our campus Reading Improvement Program continues to effectively serve identified chapter students."

Students who need this service are provided one-on-one assistance in a small group setting with a certified reading specialist assisting them.

Regular student assessments help Rosson and his staff select students who are in need of tutoring services in the areas of math and reading. These services are offered after school and prior to school each morning.

In addition, Central also has the after school Safe Child Program for parents whose employment interferes with their ability to be home with their children after normal school hours.

Realizing the need for parents to be involved, Rosson said they offer a number of ways in which parents can be involved with the campus. For instance, the Academics 2000 Campus Initiative is a dedicated effort to provide parent/community involvement on a regular basis at Central.

"Often the public does not see what goes on behind the scenes in order for a school or a classroom to operate efficiently with success."

Each week, volunteer readers visit each classroom. Central parents also operate the school's Positive Action Store, asssist with student, teacher and parent recognition, provide funds to operate the Positive Action Program, and assist with providing motivational incentives for the Accelerated Reader Program.

"We have been very fortunate to have both supportive parents and adopt-a-school partners," Rosson said.

The 1998-1999 adopt-a-school partners are Altura Energy Limited, First Baptist Church, Burger King, and West Texas State Bank.

"In addition to providing our school with filing cabinets and varying student incentives, our parents have been instrumental in serving as volunteers," Rosson said.

They have volunteered to read to Central's students, purchase books, and serve on the Campus Improvement Team. In addition, Central also has a working relationship with both Cogdell Memorial Hospital and senior citizens who provide quilting demonstrations. In return, students present Christmas musicals for both groups.

When Rosson became principal, personal computers were not provided by SISD so he said he brought his personal computer to work. In recent years, the school district has provided school offices and classroom teachers with personal computers.

Today, SISD continues to implement the latest technology with budget constraints of our district, Rosson said. This year, the district provided staff with additional Internet access.

"We continue to offer students computer-assisted instruction in a computer lab and are striving to meet recently revised Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, TEKS, curriculum requirements in the area of technology," Rosson said.

He noted that "Central is an excellent school. Although we have the largest number of indigent students identified by the free and reduced lunch program count in the district, we continue to see increased test scores."

Central has the highest percentage of students in attendance, according to the last Academic excellence Indicator Report submitted by the Texas Education Agency.

The school has been awarded a "recognized school" award from the TEA, and the staff is striving to receive an exemplary rating from the state.

Rosson said they were encouraged last school year when they learned they had narrowly missed being an exemplary campus. "One ethnic group scored at an 88 percent mastery level in the area of math, rather than at the required 90 percent mastery we needed to reach the exemplary status," Rosson explained.

"To this end, teachers are attending applicable workshops addressing areas of student deficiency — using grant funds; and we have modified both our reading and math periodic TAAS assessments using Eisenhower math and science funds.

Before becoming principal at Central, Rosson spent 12 years at Snyder High School. He described those as "some of the best years of my life."

"I had the opportunity to work with many students on a one-on-one basis and help contribute to their academic and personal success," Rosson added.

"I was fortunate to have students recognized on the area, state and/or national levels every year that I taught marketing education at Snyder High," he added.

Because of my personal interest in technology, I introduced technology to the marketing education program at Snyder High School.

"Thanks to the generous assistance of West Texas State Bank, the marketing department was able to purchase one of the first personal computers to be used in the vocational department at SHS. Although were were not on the cutting edge of technology, it was a start."

During those years, he received several honors from his peers including being selected Area MET president, Outstanding Marketing Education Teacher in District XIV, MET state-president elect and as an area and state DECA board member.

While teaching marketing education, Rosson served on the State Board of Directors of the Texas Vocational Consortium and the Vocational Technical Association.

In addition, Rosson has served as president of the local Texas State Teacher's Association and on the board of directors of the Scurry County Child Welfare Board, and as district president of the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisor's Association.

"I was honored to be selected as a recipient of the L.W. (Bill Gray) Award for excellence in teaching economic education presented by Baylor University and the Texas Association of Business in conjunction with the Texas Joint Council on economic education. After becoming an elementary principal, I was honored to be selected as district TEPSAN of the year by my peers," Rosson added.

After Rosson graduated from Angelo State University, he was offered a teaching position at Big Spring High School. While there, he and his wife, Melissa, obtained their master's degrees from Sul Ross University. He has taken additional graduate hours in school administration from Texas Tech and Abilene Christian University.

During his years in education, Rosson said he has often been asked by friends to describe changes in the public schools in the last 25 years.

Some areas include the following: An increasingly changing, diverse student population; a larger percentage of indigent students; a more mobile population; an increased number of students receiving special education services; an increased emphasis on the the area of reading.

Also, an increased emphasis on the importance of parental involvement in the schools; increasing standards of student performance; increasing accountability standards for school personnel; the scope of school-related services expanding to include services previously reserved to individual family units; an increased emphasis of collaborative decision making regarding campus goals and objectives.

Growing up in Snyder and coming back to teach here has been rewarding," Rosson said. "Some have preconceived ideas about you. And, yes, some remember everything one of your brothers and sisters did and give you the credit. Nevertheless, I would not take for my three brothers and three sisters. All are products of Snyder Public Schools."

Two sisters and a younger brother have pursued a career in education. An older brother is an independent businessman and the other one works for the TxDOT.

Rosson's parents, R.J. and Dorothy Rosson, farm and ranch in the Snyder area. Rosson and his wife, Melissa, are active members of Colonial Hill Baptist Church.

They celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary last year. She has taught in the Snyder school system for the last 20 years. Rosson's mother-in-law, Carolyn Witten, is a retired third grade teacher in Colorado City.

The Rossons have two children. Christa is a senior education major at Texas Tech University. Seth is a junior at Snyder High School.

"One of the advantages of coming back to my hometown is that I have the opportunity to regularly see people that I have known and loved — many of them for over 40 years."

Judge criticizes attempt to have her removed

LUBBOCK (AP) — Judge Susan Scolaro laughed when she heard that her opponent in last year's primary was questioning her eligibility to run for office.

Her rival, Bob Jones, claimed that a leave of absence she took to spend time with her two children left her 15 days short of the required four continuous years of legal practice.

Ms. Scolaro won the Republican primary anyway and was elected unopposed. But she isn't laughing anymore.

Judge Bill McCoy ruled this month that Ms. Scolaro was ineligible when she was elected Nov. 3 and should step down.

Ms. Scolaro sees her case as part of something larger, and she isn't leaving — despite a prosecutor's threat to jail her.

"This is an issue that has never been presented to the Texas Supreme Court," Ms. Scolaro said. "For the sake of any other female attorney that might ever want to take a leave of absence, I'm going to see this through."

While lawyers don't necessarily have to be working cases to be considered active, they must be registered with the state bar.

The check Ms. Scolaro sent to the bar to return to active status shows that she had been reinstated three years and 350 days at the time of the election — 15 days short of four years.

Ms. Scolaro argues that the law shouldn't be interpreted to include leaves of absence.

"When it comes to running for a judgeship, their argument is that if you stop practicing law to stay home with children, when you come back you will be viewed as a brand-new attorney," Ms. Scolaro said.

"To say four continuous years just doesn't make much sense. I could have been sick for 15 days. Does that mean I wouldn't be eligible?" she said. "What if I missed two days ... would I then be ineligible?"

Ector County District Attorney John Smith, serving as an independent prosecutor in the case, argues that what Ms. Scolaro was doing or how long she was inactive doesn't matter.

A look at key dispute over Clinton's SS plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton says his Social Security rescue plan will ensure that the retirement program can pay its bills for another 50 years.

But Republican lawmakers contend the plan is just tricky accounting that won't truly ease the burden of paying Social Security benefits to the huge generation of aging baby boomers.

Who's right?

It's true that Clinton's plan relies on complex accounting. But Social Security financing always has. The fundamental disagreement between Democrats and Republicans is more of an ideological one over how best to ensure the nation can afford to support the baby boomers in old age.

What most people don't realize is that Clinton's plan doesn't actually put aside any cold, hard cash now for Social Security to use later.

Clinton has proposed a variety of ideas, including having the government invest some Social Security money in the stock market. But the key part of his plan would be using about $2 trillion in budget surpluses over the next 15 years to pay down the nation's public debt. That's debt the government owes to individuals and others who have bought Treasury bonds.

Paying off public debt is one of the best ways to give the economy a boost and increase the nation's productivity, say many economists, including Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

If the economy is growing, the government collects more taxes from rising household incomes and corporate profits. Clinton's plan assumes that, if tax rates aren't slashed and other government spending is kept under control, the result would be enough extra money to make up for the cash shortfalls expected to face Social Security in coming decades.

Republicans don't dispute that a smaller debt means a better economy — in fact, many themselves advocate using some of the expected surplus to reduce the debt. But many think tax cuts could also help the economy.

Republicans also argue that the next step of Clinton's plan would amount to accounting trickery.

That's because any future windfall of general tax revenues, such as income taxes, would not ordinarily go to Social Security, which is now financed exclusively by its own separate tax — the 6.2 percent that comes off the top of workers' paychecks and is matched by employers.

But Clinton would try to ensure that it does by writing an IOU to Social Security from the rest of the government. That would create an obligation — on paper at least — to pay for the program from the general Treasury's tax revenues for many years.

"Our plan would put priority on investing for the future," Clinton said in a recent speech.

Republicans disagree.

"That's just simply creating more debt," says Rep. Clay Shaw, R-Fla., chairman of the House Ways and Means subcommittee on Social Security. "Tax dollars have to be increased to pay off those IOUs. That's the problem."

Many Republicans — and some Democrats — would prefer to keep using just the separate Social Security payroll tax system to finance the program's benefits.

They say it's risky to commit those other, general tax revenues when a recession or other calamity could dry up government surpluses in the future. That's when the nation might have so many other priorities — from military readiness to education — competing for cash.

"The administration's proposal risks saddling our children with more debt," said Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

Also potentially at odds with Clinton's plan is the Republican desire for big, across-the-board tax cuts. Many GOP lawmakers say the financial benefits of a growing economy belong in Americans' pockets, not the government's.

"It's a moral issue, these tax cuts," said House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich, R-Ohio, who has lately been road-testing slogans in his bid for the 2000 Republican presidential nomination. "America needs to be run from the bottom up, not from the top down."

GOP leaders are preparing to push an alternative to Clinton's plan that would try to make up the expected shortfall in Social Security payroll taxes by letting individual Americans invest some of the dollars the retirement program does have in the stock market.

The expectation is that workers with personal investment accounts could grow a bigger retirement nest egg than the government now provides with the same money. In the future, Social Security checks could be then reduced proportionally.

At the outset, however, additional government spending would likely still be needed to make sure people already too old to benefit from the accounts get the Social Security checks already promised to them.

"The surplus is going to have to be used in some way ... but it would be strictly transitional," Shaw said of Republican plans.

No more rumors

NEW YORK (AP) — Celine Dion wants the rumors about her being anorexic to stop.

"I don't have an eating problem, and there's nothing more I can say about that," she tells this week's edition of People magazine.

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CDC study says...

Colon screening rates are low

ATLANTA (AP) — Despite easy take-home tests and increasing insurance coverage, only about 40 percent of Americans age 50 and older are getting regularly screened for colorectal cancer, the government said Thursday.

Cancer of the colon and rectum is the nation's second-leading cause of cancer deaths. It is expected to strike 129,400 people in the United States this year and kill 56,600. More than 90 percent of those stricken are 50 and over.

The government recommends that every five years, men and women 50 and older get a colon exam in which a long, flexible tube is inserted in the rectum. It also recommends the same age group get an annual test for blood in the stool. This can be done with a simple, at-home test.

In a 1997 survey of 52,754 people 50 and up, only 30.4 percent reported having had a colon exam within the previous five years and only 19.8 percent had been tested for blood in their stool in the preceding year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. Overall, 41 percent reported having one of the tests within the recommended time intervals.

"We're not seeing much of an improvement in screening rates," said Dr. Laura Seeff of the CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control. "It's increased by 2 percent at the most over the last year."

Screening for colorectal cancer can cut deaths by as much as a third, she said. Medicare coverage was expanded last year to include colorectal screenings, and most health insurance providers also cover them.

The CDC said that patients may not be aware of the recommendations or are afraid of the discomfort and embarrassment, and that doctors share some of the blame, too.

"It's not a subject people are comfortable speaking about," Seef said, "so patients aren't bringing it up to their physicians and physicians aren't talking about it either."

No charges will be filed in motorist's 1995 death

PITTSBURGH (AP) — No federal civil rights charges will be filed in the suffocation of a black motorist during a 1995 fight with white police from suburban Pittsburgh, a prosecutor said today.

There was not enough evidence to support charges that officers used unreasonable force to subdue Jonny Gammage after a traffic stop in October 1995, said Bill Lann Lee, acting assistant attorney general for civil rights in the U.S. Justice Department.

"We are not suggesting that Mr. Gammage's death was justified," Lee said.

Police Lt. Milton Mulholland stopped Gammage in suburban Brentwood because Gammage was tapping his brakes late at night in a luxury sedan. The car was owned by Gammage's cousin, former Pittsburgh Steelers defensive lineman Ray Seals. Gammage, 31, of Syracuse, N.Y., ran Seals' sportswear business.

Other officers were summoned to help. A fight started, and police restrained Gammage face down, suffocating him on the pavement.

The officers said his death was an accident. The Rev. Jesse Jackson called it a "lynching." Lee said he came to Pittsburgh to assure black leaders that the investigation was thorough.

Mulholland and Brentwood Officer Michael Albert were charged in state court with involuntary manslaughter.

Their first trial ended in a mistrial after Coroner Cyril Wecht testified improperly that Albert should explain his actions to a jury. Defendants are not required to testify.

In the second trial, jurors were unable to reach a verdict. Eleven white jurors favored acquittals and the lone black juror held out for convictions. A judge later ruled out a third trial, citing errors made during the second trial.

Another officer, John Vojtas, was acquitted in a separate trial. Two other officers who fought Gammage were not charged.

Q&A

What is youth tobacco use in Texas?

(In response to a growing concern among parents, educators and other members of the community, Snyder Daily News, in cooperation with Al-Anon support groups and the Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, is devoting this column to your questions about the increasing threat of substance abuse.)

What is the youth Tobacco use in Texas?

In the spring of 1998 the Texas Department of Health, in conjunction with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), conducted a landmark study of tobacco use among Texas middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12) students. The study surveyed 13,029 students at 181 public school campuses across the state asking:

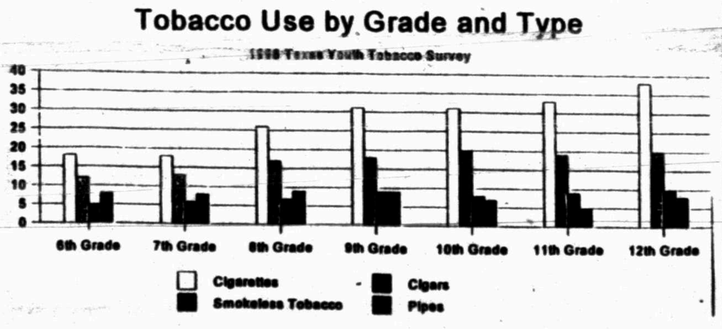
- Student's smoking status
- Current smoking patterns
- Lifetime smoking history
- Age of initiation
- Quitting history
- Health Risks
- Perceived social norms related to smoking
- Knowledge of the state's anti-tobacco laws
- Attitudes and beliefs
- Social influences and Demographics

Overall results of the study showed:

- 31% (253,954) of Texas public middle school students and 43% (440,411) of Texas public high school students are current users of tobacco products (cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, cigars, and pipes). By 6th grade, already 27% of Texas public school students were using tobacco products. The percentage of students using tobacco products increased across grades to a high of 47% of high school seniors.
- 21% (170,411) of Texas public middles school students and 33% (325,962) of Texas public school high school students are current smokers of cigarettes
- 6% (56,598) of Texas public middle school students and 9% (95,208) of Texas public high school students are current users of smokeless tobacco.
- 14% (124,888) of Texas public middle school students and 19% (203,813) of Texas public high school students are current cigar smokers.
- 8% (74,290) of Texas public middle school students and 8% (80,961) of Texas public high school students are current pipe smokers.
- Male students are more likely than female students to report any current tobacco use at both the middle and high school levels.
- Among middle school students, the prevalence of any tobacco use is highest in Black and Hispanic students. At the high school lever, Whites and Hispanics make up the largest ethnic groups using tobacco products.

Please send your questions on drugs or addiction to P.O. Box 695, Snyder, Texas 79550. All questions and personal inquires may be submitted anonymously. Twenty-four-hour confidential information is available by calling (915) 573-1141 or 1-800-658-6722. Information on help groups and individual's phone numbers may be found in the SDN Community Calendar.

Tobacco Use by Grade and Type



Andrews speaks

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Julie Andrews is raising her voice about violence against women.

Andrews and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan will direct a 90-minute video conference panel on the subject during International Women's Day on March 8.

Andrews, 63, a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations Development Fund for Women, starred in "Mary Poppins" and "The Sound of Music."

Scurry County Service Men & Women

Editor's Note: Citizens are invited to write their servicemen and servicewomen stationed stateside and overseas. Anyone having additions, changes or corrections to the list should submit them in writing to Snyder Daily News, P.O. Box 949, Snyder TX, 79550 or bring them by the office at 3600 College Ave. Sorry, no addresses will be accepted over the telephone.

Marisa Barrera
PFC Barrera, Marisa
263 Mt. Co.
Box 78
Ft. Hood, TX 76544

Joe Bilano Jr.
Lcpl Bilano Jr. Joe USMC
1/1 A Co. Wpns. Plt.
U.I.C. 39712
FPO AP 96609-9712

Scott M. Cole
RM3 Scott M. Cole
USS Safeguard ARS 50
FPO AP 96678-3221

Cole Drum
Delton C. Drum II
2969 Atlantic Blvd
463-29-0621
Apt. 712
Ingleside, TX 78362

Tony & Robin (Rogers) Ferard
Tony & Robin Ferard
1925 D AMA R.D.
AMR
Honolulu, HI 96818

Cory & Jamie Fisher
Cory & Jamie Fisher
9210-S-Hosmer
Apt. B-10
Tacoma, WA 98444

Amadeo Garza
Capt. Amadeo B. Garza
CJSOTF/ILIZDA Complex
Operation
Joint Endeavor
APO AE 09780

Scott & Amy Graham
Scott & Amy Graham
29 Ridgecrest Dr.
Hope Mills, NC 28348

Kenneth Zane Greenwood
Sgt. Kenneth Zane Greenwood
C.Co.-1-72 A.R.
Unit #15074
A.P.O.-A.P.-96224-0338
Korea

Justin Herrington
SR Herrington, Justin C.
456-39-8525
First Division
USS Dubque LPD-8
FPO AP 96663-1711

Ross Hill
Pvt. Hill, Michael R.
ALPHA Co. 10th Signal BT.
10640 South Riva Ridge Loop
Ft. Drum, NY 13602

Quintin L. Kasparek
LCPL Kasparek, Quintin L.
47-016 C Hui Iwa Place
Kanohe, HI 96744

Clinton Albert Lewis
Clinton Albert Lewis
VMAQ4...OOPL

Cherry Point, N.C. 28533-0061
Phone: 252-223-0435
Michael D. Long
Sgt. Michael D. Long
C-Trp 1/4 Cav.
CMR464 Bx. 306
APO AE 09226

Chase Minter
Chase Minter
2821 Saville Garden Way
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Ed Neeley
St. A Neeley, Edwin
51 MXS
PSC 3 Box 2689
APO AP 96266

Melchor Parra
Melchor Parra
2/1 Weapons CO. 81 PLT
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055

Greg Pavlik (Air Force)
Lt. Col. Greg Pavlik
15015 Preston Court Drive
San Antonio, Tx. 78247

Michael A. Perez
Michael A. Perez
HHC 2-35 INF. 25 ID
Schofield Barracks, HI 96857

Brad Pilgrim
SRA Brad Pilgrim
40 AS (Det. 1)
Unit 70414 Box 14
APO AE 09882

Mark & Stacy (Wright) Pilgrim
Mark & Stacy Pilgrim
1167 Maple St.
Ft. DIX, NJ 08640-5521

Angie Ramirez
Angie Ramirez
Avi Dept. b-4 Div.
USS-Wasp (LHD-1)
FPO AE 90 556-1660

Freddie & Christy Rocha
Lance Cpl. Freddie & Christy Rocha
6675-B Larkspur Ct.
29 Palms, Calif. 92278

Adam Scott
Scott, Jonathan A. (Adam)
721 Delaware Ave.
P.O. Box 2657
Holloman AFB
NM 88330-2657

Roy Tavarez
Roy Tavarez
WPNS Co. 3/3 DRAGONS
MCBH
Kanoehe Bay, HI 96863

W.S. Warren
SSgt. W.S. Warren
PSE 559 PO BX 5530
FPO AP 96377-5530

Daniel Wells
Pvt. E-1 Wells, Daniel A.
B Co. 73d Ord. ETL 1st PLT
Fort Gordon, Ga. 30905

Joe Dan Wilson
Col. Joe Dan Wilson
1302 Pepperidge
O'Fallon, IL 62269

Public Records

New Vehicle Registrations

Jane Floyd, 1999 Lincoln from Wilson Motors.

Deed Records

Bill and Iris Bowlin to Terry L. Bowden, all of Lots 2 and 3 and parts of Lots 1 and 4 in Block 8 of the A.D. Dodson Addition.

Clara Jean Beasley to Tommy D. and Carla G. Campbell, Lots 3 and 4 in Block 47 of the Original Town of Snyder.

Cynthia Kay Price to Jon Drew Price, the north one-half of Section 69 in Block 3, H&GN survey.

Opal Key to Weldon Key, Leroy Key and Roland Key, Trustees of The Opal Key Irrevocable Trust, all of Lot 4 in Block A of the West Ridge Addition.

Brenda Gayle Benton Lee to Ronald Hall Benton, all of Lots 5 and 6 in Block 2 of the A.D. Dodson Addition.

Santiago and Luz Maria Marillo to Guadalupe and Julia Romero, all of lot 7 in Block 23 of the Bootheland West Addition.

T.L. and Tina Long to Ruben Olvera and Ramona O. Fierro, Lot 10 in Block 2 of the Cullum Addition.

Irene Canales to Hilario H. and Anastacia H. Fuentez, Lot in Block 1 of the Helms Subdivision of Section 156, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Ross H. Hemphill to Angel Gomez, all of Lot 8 in Block 5 of the Provident Heights Addition.

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800-573-5459



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#B0345 *discount $2,029



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SE1 Sedan #PT0140
$299.28 mth
47 mth.
This is not a lease
MSRP $18,800. 8.50% APR WAC. If purchase option not exercised, purchaser pays .15¢/mi. for every mile over 60,000 miles. $0 due at signing. Final payment of $8836.00.
$0 Down



Deanie Francis Mills

What mid-life crisis?

For those of you who didn't get the opportunity to read the USA Today cover story the other day called, "What Midlife Crisis?," I thought I'd use this space to share some of the more significant points of this important article, written by Marilyn Elias.

It was based on a landmark study sponsored by the MacArthur Foundation. The foundation of 28 researchers surveyed a representative sample of 3,032 Americans, ages 25 to 74 years old, with some 1,200 questions on work, sex, religion, fitness and health, mental health, and so on.

This is the first study of its kind to examine, in depth, the mid-life years. The results were surprising to researchers, who discovered that just about every myth concerning the years from 40 to 60 turned out to be untrue: the so-called "midlife crisis," the desolate empty nest, the dependency of aging parents, and the trauma of menopause.

Instead, researchers found that most Americans who are middle aged are, in fact, at the top of their game. Though those of us who fit the demographic live full, busy lives and although we all have our share of problems, we are not overwhelmed. In fact, we are, as a whole, less nervous and anxious than people in their twenties, less depressed, and feel more in control of our lives. We seem heroically capable of handling high-stress events such as illness, the death of a parent, or a troubled child. "We marveled at people's resiliency," says one researcher. "Many are very tough."

Another myth concerns married life. Since the divorce rate in our country is reported to be one out of every two marriages, then you would think we boomers would be pretty miserable by now. But a whopping 72 percent of people aged 35 to 64 report that their marriages are "excellent" or "very good," a phenomenon explained by one psychologist who says, "Perhaps, by this time, the worst marriages have already dissolved."

One of the biggest myths to be debunked appear to concern menopause. Whereas women are said to be rocked by such symptoms as hot flashes while at the same time, grieving their lost fertility, the truth is that 51 percent of women aged 40 to 55 say they never experienced a hot flash, and another 24 percent report them less than once a week. Furthermore, a big majority of 62 percent said they felt "only relief" when their periods stopped, while only a tiny 1 percent report "only regret." The bottom line is that, for most baby boomer women, menopause is no big deal.

In fact, women over 50 experience, by and large, an exhuberance and heightened sense of personal authority, combined with great freedom as their children leave home — particularly those two-thirds who made major career changes between the ages of 37 and 43, referred to as "course corrections" by the researchers. It is interesting to note that those who did not make such changes and feel regret for it later are the ones most likely to suffer major depression in their late 40s.

The most dissatisfied women surveyed were those who are 35 to 44 years of age and are feeling overwhelmed by the demands of career, home and children. A full third report feeling that they have "too many demands made on them at home," either all the time or most of the time. It should come as no surprise that in that same age group, only 13 percent of the men feel that way. And therein lies the crux of the problem — working women, still do twice as many household chores as men, and those who don't, simply hire out those chores, or do less of them. (Women who stay home with the children do four times as much around the house as their husbands.)

Even so, the research shows that household chores ARE more evenly divided than they were, say, 20 years ago. Inequality in that area seems to be declining, though it remains to be seen whether it will ever disappear entirely.

As far as aging parents are concerned, the vast majority of them want to remain independent for as long as they are able. Only one in 20 in the age group of 35 to 64 had an aging parent living with them. The same can't be said about kids, however. As many as one in FIVE still had an adult child living at home. As one psychologist put it, "You can't have an ex-child."

There were some surprises in the findings on sexuality. For one thing, there was far less infidelity reported than in other surveys, (which are not as scientific or representative as this one.) Also , it would appear that baby boomers, especially those in committed relationships, are having sex just about as often as young people in their late 20s — about once a week. And finally, only about 2.5 percent reported themselves as homosexual or bisexual — far less than the 10 percent assumed by previous reports.

Spiritually, we seem to be sending mixed signals. On the one hand, more than seven out of ten of us say that religion is important to us and that we consider ourselves to be spiritual. But only one in four of us attends church regularly. Rather, people are more likely to develop a "hybird personal faith that integrates different perspective from different religions."

In the final analysis, I find the results of this research to be very encouraging and positive. Baby boomers have redefined life at every stage of it. We've changed what it means to be a minority, to be a woman, to be an entrepeneur, to be a parent — even to be middle-aged — drastically, compared to what the same things meant to our parents when they were this age. And in spite of all the media handwriting to the contrary, most things really have changed for the better.

Deanie Mills column appears weekly in the Snyder Daily News

Good article

Dear Editor:

I am an 18-year-old senior in Snyder High School. On Valentine's Day my mom sat my sister and me down. She wanted to read an article Deanie Francis Mills wrote. She wanted us to listen very carefully and wanted us to figure out who the article described.

A few times while reading the article, my mom got choked up. The article she read described my daddy. I want to thank Deanie Francis Mills for writing that article.

I know my mom would like a little more romance, but after she read the article she realized how romantic my dad really was.

My daddy is not an affectionate person. Every once in a while he will say, I love you, but it is difficult. He never says it through words, but he does through his actions.

He takes care of me when I am sick and fixes things around the house. Oh, I could go on and on. God blessed me with a dad that protects me and gives me courage.

God also blessed me with a mom who is able to hold me and tell me she loves me. I only hope that all kids are as lucky to have parents like mine. I am the daughter of William and Laura Powell.

God bless you and your family.

Sincerely,
Amanda Powell

Thanks Snyder

Dear Editor:

The Boy, Cub and Girl Scouts would like to thank the people of Snyder who donated to our food drive that was held Feb. 6 to benefit the Food Cupboard.

We had a very good turnout with approximately 272 canned goods donated.

There were also 50 boys amd girls putting out bags and picking up canned goods, along with 25 leaders and parents helping.

I would like to thank all of them.

Rhonda Fletcher
Unit Commissioner

Congratulations SHS Cheerleaders

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to a group of young ladies who are among the hardest working people anywhere, the SHS Cheerleaders.

Who went to the American Spirit Championship National Finals? The SHS cheerleaders.

Who spent many hours in practice here at home and went twice a month — for several months — to Lubbock for advanced training and did it on their own time? The SHS Cheerleaders.

Who paid for all this? SHS Cheerleaders. They did it by working and with the help of wonderful people who donated money.

Who let people know about this by placing a half page ad in the paper? The SHS Cheerleaders.

They did all this in addition to their many duties for Pep Rallies and ballgames.

Thank you Ashley, Starla, Mary, Shannon, KK, Jaci, Vanessa, Lindsey, Debbie, Janette, Lauren, Tara, Cary. We appreciate your efforts. We have truly enjoyed watching you.

Thank you Kay and Neika. We are so proud of you.

Who brought home a trophy? The SHS Cheerleaders.

Don & Gwen Sealy

Letters to the editor must be signed and must give the address of the writer. Letters should be of reasonable length. The newspaper reserves the right to refuse letters if they contain libelous material or information deemed in poor taste.

Following a long-standing policy and practice, Snyder Daily News does not publish letters pertaining to a candidate or issue once an election has been called.

Opinions in favor of or in opposition to an issue or candidate may be published in paid political advertisements.

Letters to be published in the weekend edition must be submitted no later than noon Friday.





EDITORIAL COMMENT

Olympic scandal

Denton Record Chronicle

There's a lot of speechifying out of Olympic Committee officials these days about how the investigation of scandals among their ranks is winding down and the worst is behind them.

But with bribery and corruption uncovered in the negotiations that led to Salt Lake City's winning the opportunity to host the 2002 Winter Olympics, isn't it likely that Olympic officials collected gestures of appreciation'' from other Olympic site wannabees? Salt Lake City's bribes were tendered before that city was chosen to host the games. It seems unreasonable that Olympic committee members would seek and accept bribes from Salt Lake City and not from the other competing cities.

Has the Olympic committee fully investigated this possibility of bribery in its negotiations with other cities? That question needs to be answered fully because there's a great deal that's unsavory about today's Olympics environment.

The Olympics were resurrected to provide an opportunity for athletes from around the world to meet in friendly competition. The games have now degenerated into a money-driven spectacle that appears to foster some of the worst aspects of human nature.

Because of Olympic competition, we now have children whose lives are dedicated exclusively to winning gold medals (and the fame and fortune that comes with them). Parents, coaches, business managers, and other adults attach themselves to these young folks and appear, all too often, to exploit them financially and emotionally. We have heard the stories of very young competitors who are denied the opportunity to go to school, to choose their own friends (or even to have friends), to enjoy other interests, and to know how much money they are making or how it is being spent. Young girls have starved themselves, with the apparent approval of some adults, to enhance their chances for a medal. Boys and girls have taken dangerous drugs to enhance their performances.

And when the games are over, what happens to the thousands of young folks who have spent all their time, money, energy, and sometimes their health willingly or not to perfect some narrow athletic skill? A few will win medals. Of these, even fewer will have the rare combination of personality, attractiveness and demographic appeal necessary to win big advertising and sponsor contracts. Those who don't finish first are reporting more and more frequently that life after the Olympic games is difficult.

All of this underscoring how far the Olympics have fallen from their original lofty heights. What was intended as an experience that would deepen understanding and forge friendships among generations of young adults has become a frenzied enterprise wherein young people are taught that nothing is more important than winning and making money. If this is where the athletes are focused, should we be surprised that Olympic officials some host-city hopefuls appear to be playing by the same rules?

Banking regulations

The Facts of Brazoria County

Rules proposed for the nation's financial institutions dubbed ''Know Your Customers'' should be renamed ''Spy On Your Neighbor.''

In a nutshell, the proposed rules by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation would require banks to create profiles on its customers' accounts, and when a customer steps outside that profile, he or she must be reported to the federal government for ''suspicious'' activity. In addition, banks will have to track the source of the deposits and, again, report that information to the government.

Suspicious activity is defined as large deposits or withdrawals.

Under the proposal, bank tellers would be turned into secret agents for the government. Not only that, the rules would create a costly unfunded burden for the nation's financial institutions to bear.

The proposed regulations are intended to assist the government in its efforts to combat money laundering and other illegal activities occurring at banks.

But, trampling on the Fourth Amendment prohibition against unreasonable search and seizure in the name of crime-fighting borders on police state mentality.

These rules must not be enacted.

To prevent this bad lawmaking, U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Lake Jackson, introduced a legislative package last week that would block the proposed anti-money-laundering rules that would track the habits of bank customers.

''We proclaim that American citizens have the right to be free of the snooping, spying, prying eyes of government bureaucrats,'' Paul told reporters. He said his legislation would ''give Americans the peace of mind that comes from knowing that their every financial step is not being filed away and viewed as potentially criminal.''

Paul, House Majority Whip Tom DeLay of Texas and several congressmen are co-sponsors of the bill - so prospects look good for passage.

But there is another way to apply pressure. Tell the FDIC what you think. (See address in box.) Tell them large deposits of cash aren't always made by drug dealers. That, in America, we are innocent until proven guilty. That bank teller spies aren't needed.

Otherwise, it's welcome to the First National Bank of Big Brother.

Impeachment trial's end

Houston Chronicle

Many Americans are no doubt relieved that the impeachment trial of William Jefferson Clinton is finally over.

Clinton, acquitted on the charges of perjury and obstructing justice, sailed through the trial and the arguments like a pre-directed cruise missile.

Nothing his Republican accusers could throw up was able to bring him down.

He even escaped receiving some form of official censure for his actions, which so many members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats, had called reprehensible and shameful.

Initially, at least, President Clinton appears contrite. '' ... I want to say again to the American people how profoundly sorry I am for what I said and did to trigger these events and the great burden they have imposed on the Congress and the American people. ... Now I ask all Americans, and I hope all Americans — here in Washington and throughout our land — will rededicate ourselves to the work of serving our nation and building our future together. This can be and this must be a time of reconciliation and renewal for America.''

Fine words to mark the end of a troubling time. But, though the deceitful Clinton was acquitted, he cannot be exonerated.

Nevertheless, the nation should move on.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Is eating small seeds dangerous?

DEAR DR. GOTT: What are the dangers of eating small seeds, such as those contained in grapes and watermelon? My husband contends that they will scrape and damage the intestine as they pass through. On the other hand, I'm 48 and have been eating them as long as I can remember without apparent consequences.

DEAR READER: Eating such seeds in moderation should produce no health hazards. The seeds, which are indigestible, will pass through your intestine unchanged and will not damage the bowel. There is one exception to this position. If you have diverticulosis (or have had diverticulitis), the small seeds could become wedged in the sacular diverticular pouches, causing pain and inflammation. However, your track record of uneventful seed-consumption is strong evidence that the practice is unlikely to harm you.

DEAR DR. GOTT: You and other doctors keep saying that hypoglycemia is a rare disease. After eating, I suffer mood changes, faintness and weakness. During a five-hour glucose tolerance test, my sugar dropped to 37 and I needed IVs to bring me around. Now that I am on a hypoglycemic diet, I feel fine. I see the unmistakable evidence in my own body, but you doctors tell me my problem doesn't exist.

DEAR READER: Hypoglycemia certainly does exist and, from the sound of your letter, you seem to have the disease, which is marked by symptoms attributable to low blood sugar (below 45 milligrams per deciliter). I am glad that your doctor was able to establish the diagnosis and suggest proper treatment.

Most experts contend that true hypoglycemic illness is far less common than generally believed. Experiencing dizziness or nervousness between meals is not sufficient documentation to substantiate the diagnosis. An extended glucose tolerance test is required to confirm the diagnosis of hypoglycemia, as was true in your case.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Hypoglycemia." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My husband is 26 and has used smokeless tobacco for years. Instead of spitting, he swallows the juice. Is there any harm in this practice?

DEAR READER: He must have a cast-iron stomach. Because tobacco contains carcinogenic compounds, your husband is at risk for esophageal or stomach cancer, as well as malignancies of the lips and mouth. As I am sure you are aware, tobacco in any form is a dangerous substance.

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DEAR DR. GOTT: I have asthma. For the past year, I have had frequent attacks that are only partially relieved by inhalers. I am reluctant to use steroids. Now my doctor proposes a new drug called a leukotriene modifier. What's the story? Is it safe?

DEAR READER: Asthma attacks are often caused by inflammation of the bronchial lining. Leukotrienes are potent substances in the body that worsen this inflammation and contribute to increased mucus production. Researchers have long worked to discover medicine that would block these leukotrienes, and finally, they have succeeded. Three new prescription medications have now been released: zafirlukast (Accolate), zileuton (Zyflo) and montelukast (Singulair).

These drugs antagonize the action of leukotrienes in the bronchial lining, thereby helping to prevent asthma attacks. Here's a quick run-down on each:

Accolate is generally well tolerated. Side effects include headache, infection, nausea and diarrhea. It interacts adversely with several medicines, including Dilantin, Propulsid, Hismanal and Coumadin. Women who are breast-feeding should not take it. It should be used cautiously in the elderly and in the presence of liver disease. The usual dose is 20 milligrams twice daily on an empty stomach.

Zyflo is similarly well tolerated. It may cause heartburn, headache, infection and — in a tiny percentage of patients — worsening asthma. It can also cause mild liver inflammation, so periodic blood tests must be performed. It, too, reacts badly with the prescription drugs listed above. It is contraindicated in women who are breast-feeding or in patients with liver disease. The usual dose is 600 mg. four times a day with or without food.

Singulair produces similar, but fewer, side effects, including indigestion, dizziness, infection and rash. It, too, can occasionally cause mild liver inflammation and should not be used by nursing mothers. The usual dose is 10 mg. a day.

Because these drugs are so new, I have had limited experience with them. However, my consultants tell me that the medicines are very useful in preventing the wheezing and difficulty breathing that are characteristic of asthma. I believe that your doctor is on solid ground.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Living with Chronic Lung Disease." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

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Lawmakers asking whether federal dollars paying for assisted suicide

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some House members are questioning whether Oregon is complying with federal law by covering assisted suicides in its health plan for the poor.

Congress in 1997 prohibited the use of federal money for assisted suicide. The Oregon Health Plan is funded in part by federal Medicaid dollars, but state and federal officials say assisted suicides are covered entirely by the state.

The plan covers about 350,000 Oregonians and has not paid any assisted-suicide claims since it began coverage of suicides Dec. 1.

Rep. Thomas Bliley, R-Va., who chairs the House Commerce Committee, and three other Republicans wrote a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala last week asking for a review of how Oregon was given a waiver for assisted suicide coverage.

They also want to know if officials of the Health Care Financing Administration met with Oregon officials, reviewed congressional intent behind the 1997 law and met with outside experts on assisted suicide.

HCFA spokesman Chris Peacock said, "Under no circumstances does HCFA allow Medicaid coverage for assisted suicide."

As with abortion cases, the state says it would spend only state dollars on assisted-suicide cases. Even the billing claims for assisted suicide would be handled separately by clerks who are not being paid with federal money.

"HCFA was very clear with us," said Hersh Crawford, director of the Oregon Health Plan. "No federal funds were (to be) spent on assisted suicide."

State officials said this week that 15 terminally ill Oregonians used the landmark Death With Dignity Act to end their lives during the law's first year. Two were covered by the Oregon Health Plan, but the plan didn't cover assisted suicides at the time of their deaths.

Yet another new fee showing up on telephone bills in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumers are getting hit with another new fee on their monthly phone bills. This one pays for the costs of letting customers keep their local telephone numbers after they switch carriers — even though many don't have that choice now.

The charge, typically 50 cents a month for each phone line, pays for local phone companies' costs of complying with a provision in a 1996 law. Some local phone companies began billing for the new fees in February, while others plan to do so over the next several months. Businesses also will pay a fee, which can vary by the services they get.

The charge covers the companies' cost for technical changes they must make that allow consumers to keep their phone numbers when they switch to a new local phone provider. Those changes could cost the industry $3 billion over five years, under one phone company estimate.

The concept of portable phone numbers is not new. For years, long-distance customers have been able to change their long-distance carriers without getting a new phone number.

The rationale: Consumers would be less inclined to switch to a new carrier if they had to get a new phone number each time. That would thwart the goal of competition.

Most residential customers do not have a choice of local telephone providers. Local phone competition that has evolved since the 1996 law mainly focuses on lucrative, high-volume business customers.

"The problem with this charge is it's making all consumers pay a price for something that most of them do not have and the vast majority probably will not get: That is — a choice of local phone companies," said Gene Kimmelman, co-director of the Consumers Union Washington office.

The Federal Communications Commission last year gave phone companies permission to charge the new fees to recover their costs of providing "number portability."

At that time, the FCC said the charge could start no earlier than Feb. 1, 1999, and last no longer than five years.

Senior Center Menu

MONDAY

King Ranch Chicken, potato rounds, mixed vegetables, broccoli/cauliflower salad, apple crisp

TUESDAY

Lasagna, Italian green beans, whole kernel corn, tossed salad, fruit cocktail & oatmeal cookie

WEDNESDAY

Great northern beans & ham, turnip green, fried okra, onion slices, cornbread, chocolate cream pie

THURSDAY

Hamburger steak w/brown gravy, sliced new potatoes, yellow squash & onion, pickled beets, banana pudding

FRIDAY

Fried fish, baked potato, tomatoes w/croutons, green pea salad, peach pizza

Senior Center News

MONDAY

Bridge play begins at 9:30 a.m. and daily exercise at 9:30 a.m.

TUESDAY

88 play begins at 10 a.m. and the Local Yokel Band will entertain at 11 a.m. and the Golden Kiwanis Club will meet at noon. Swimnastics is scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday from 2:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the Western Texas College pool. The center will also open at 6:30 p.m. for the dance/game night.

WEDNESDAY

McDonald's birthday cake will be served at 10 a.m. and the Kitchen Band will entertain at 11 a.m. The Sparkle City Line Dancers will entertain at 1 p.m. at Snyder Oaks. The cloggers will practice in the dining room at 2 p.m.

Assistance in filing income tax returns is available at the center on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

THURSDAY

The Sunshine Choir will sing at Snyder Oaks at 10 a.m.

FRIDAY

Bridge play and the blood pressure clinic will begin at 9:30 a.m. 88 play begins at 10 a.m. and the sing-a-long at 11:30 a.m.

Volunteers are reminded to record their hours by Feb. 26 in order to receive credit this year at the awards banquet which is scheduled for March 12.

The Senior Center in a non-profit organization that provides services for senior citizens. The participation of seniors and volunteers has made it one of the best in Texas.

It offers nutritious meals, transportation and a variety of activities. New activities are often the result of requests from seniors, so, if any senior has a special interest and would like it added to then schedule, call Pamela Fenton at 573-4035.

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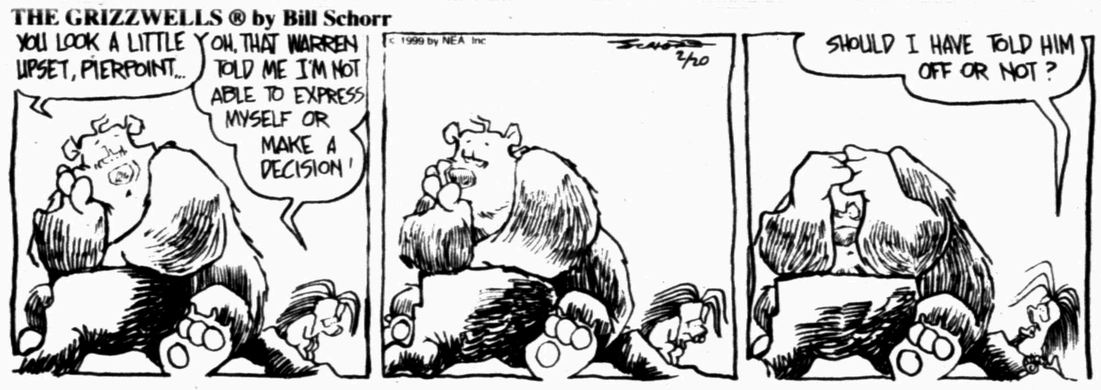


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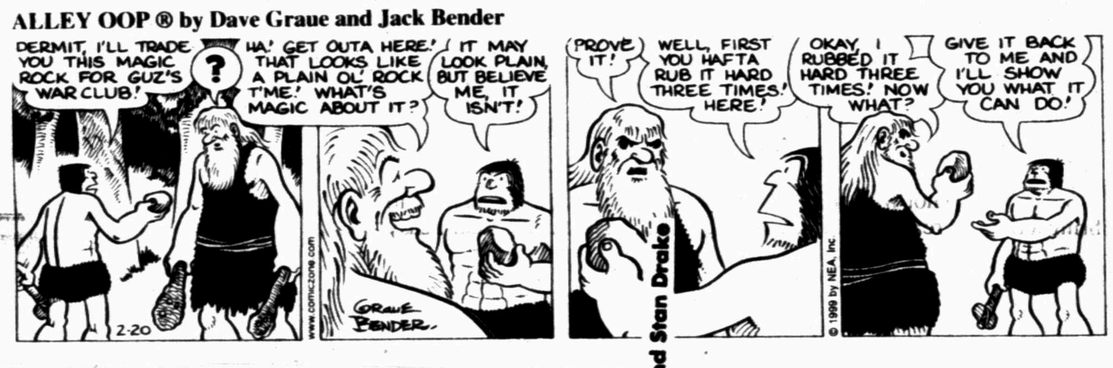
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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Referee's kin
7 Pronunciation mark
13 Prickly herb
14 Itty-bitty
15 Predatory birds
16 More banal
17 Thrusting knife
18 "Nobody Knows the Trouble — Seen"
20 Nautical prefix
21 Prophets
23 Actress Christine
27 Of summer
32 Sailing vessel
33 Donald Trump's ex
34 Fable writer
35 Christmas leapers?
36 Wobbles
39 Meeting
40 Fists, slangily
42 Sampras of tennis
46 Unit of light
47 Joseph's pride
51 Positive element
53 African land
55 More proximate
56 Baggage handler
57 Most withered
58 Falcon's weapons

DOWN

1 Southwestern Indians
2 Intend
3 Book part
4 The Emerald —
5 Female sandpiper
6 — Dinsmore
7 Declares
8 Mal de —
9 "Star Wars" princess
10 Pay one's share
11 Manipulative one
12 Beginner
19 Victory symbol
21 Drank daintily
22 Walking poles
23 Future LL.B.'s exam
24 Toward shelter
25 Watering tube
26 Spree
28 Actor — Novello
29 Differ
30 No ifs, —, or buts
31 Hold out
37 Actor Everett
38 Firmament
41 Burst open
42 Groaners
43 Olympic event
44 Russian ruler
45 See 4 Down
47 Poet Sandburg
48 Aware of
49 Arabian seaport
50 Seamen
52 — Moines, Iowa
54 Tibetan gazelle

Answer to Previous Puzzle

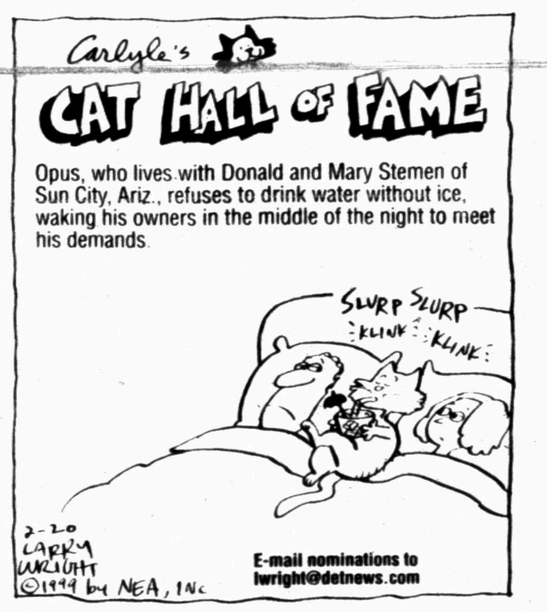
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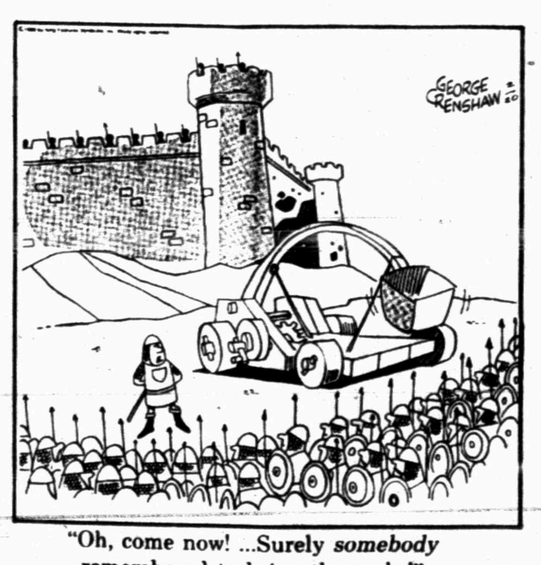
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"BOY! TWO AND A HALF HOURS AND NOT *ONE* OF THOSE COWBOYS WENT TO THE BATHROOM!"

City of Detroit...

Plan to oust school board draws fire

DETROIT (AP) — For years, the Detroit school district has been like the straight-D student who always promises to do better on the next homework assignment, then turns it in late and half-done.

Now Gov. John Engler is vowing to change that by asking the Legislature to abolish the elected school board and give Mayor Dennis Archer the power to appoint a new one.

Though a poll shows about half the city's residents support the idea, the plan has outraged many in Detroit who see a white governor and mostly white Legislature trying to oust people elected by a predominantly black city.

Hundreds of parents have shown up at community forums and committee hearings to oppose the plan. The local NAACP has come out against it.

"How dare you take away our rights as black people to vote," Helen Moore, a Detroit parent and school activist, told a state Senate committee Wednesday. "We can solve our own problems."

Caught in the middle is Archer, a black man who has been accused by some residents over the years of not being "black enough" and of working too closely with interests outside the city.

He has said that he doesn't like the governor's idea but that it will probably happen anyway, and he will do what he can to shape the legislation so that it accomplishes such things as reducing class size and bringing back summer school.

"I will insist that the terms of the legislation go far beyond the political substitution of one board for another. I will insist on real change and real benefits for the children of Detroit," Archer, himself a former teacher, said recently.

No one disputes that the schools in this city of 1 million people, three-quarters of them black, have problems. The drop-out rate was 26.4 percent in 1997, the four-year graduation rate a dismal 29.7 percent. The district has 180,000 students, 108,000 of them living in poverty.

Those who make manage to graduate often don't have much to show for it. One Detroit job training program, Focus:HOPE, said two out of three graduates of Detroit high schools who took an entrance exam for one program could not read or do math at an eighth-grade level.

Engler's proposal is similar what has been done in Chicago, Cleveland and elsewhere. The appointed board would run the schools for at least five years, at which point the public could hold a referendum on the setup.

"Time and again, I was told: 'Butt out, send more money, wait until we implement our new plan, just give us a little more time.' The bottom line: eight years of excuses to me, preceded by decades of excuses to the people of Detroit," the governor said recently.

Engler said an appointed board could make the hard decisions an elected school board cannot: "You need a board that puts kids first."

He has said among other things that he wants the school system to take the "fluff" out of the curriculum and get back to basics.

Some residents are deeply distrustful. They see Engler's plan as an attempt not only to run the education of their children but to take over a business with 20,000 jobs and billions to spend.

"We all know racism is alive and well, and it is definitely alive in that state Legislature," said Marie Thornton, a parent. "This has nothing to do with the education of little black kids. This is about revenue. They're just using our kids for excuses."

Engler said there is no racism behind the plan, and noted that real control of the schools would be in the hands of Detroit's mayor.

The elected school board is, of course, deeply opposed. It has come up with its own set of ideas, such as establishing 20 schools just for troublemakers, asking parents to volunteer a half-day per month, requiring school uniforms, and using students to clean buildings.

"At any point you can recall us and throw us out," Board President Darryl Redmond said at a recent meeting. "We don't need anybody to come in here and tell us what to do."

Willam Beckham, the head of a panel that spent four months analyzing the district, said Engler's plan could remove many distractions.

"Every two years, there's a political trauma" because of the elections, Beckham said, and the result is a cycle: ideas are debated, half-used, then thrown out by a new board two years later.

Flowers speaks

OXFORD, England (AP) — Gennifer Flowers is overseas hoping to prevent more Monica Lewinskys.

"An affair with a married man, and or a married woman, is certainly not a relationship that I advocate," Ms. Flowers told reporters at the Oxford Union, where she was due to speak Friday night.

Datebook

Feb. 20, 1999

Today is the 51st day of 1999 and the 62nd day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1962, astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the earth.

On this day in 1987, Josef Begun, who spent three years in prison for teaching Hebrew, was released by the Soviet government.

On this day in 1989, "Wild Thing," by Ton Loc, became the second single ever to be certified as double platinum.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Ansel Adams (1902-1984), landscape photographer; Robert Altman (1925-), producer-director, is 74; Sydney Poitier (1927-), actor-director, is 72; Bobby Unser (1934-), auto racer, is 65; Phil Esposito (1942-), hockey great, is 57; Charles Barkley (1963-), basketball player, is 36; Kurt Cobain (1967-1994), musician.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1988, Brian Boitano won a gold medal in figure skating at the Winter Olympics in Calgary, Canada.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterward." — Vernon Law

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Feb. 16) and first quarter (Feb. 22).

Feb. 21, 1999

Today is the 52nd day of 1999 and the 63rd day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1885, President Chester Arthur dedicated the Washington Monument.

On this day in 1947, inventor Edwin Land demonstrated the Polaroid Land camera.

On this day in 1972, President Richard Nixon visited the People's Republic of China. It was the first visit by a U.S. president to a country that had not gained diplomatic recognition by the United States.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Anais Nin (1903-1977), diarist; W.H. Auden (1907-1973), poet; Erma Bombeck (1927-1996), humorist; Nina Simone (1933-), singer, is 66; Barbara Jordan (1936-1996), U.S. politician; Rue McClanahan (1936-), actress, is 63; David Geffen (1943-), entertainment mogul, is 56.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1980, Robin Cousins won a gold medal in the figure-skating event at the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "This is living, not to live unto oneself alone." — Menander

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Feb. 16) and first quarter (Feb. 22).

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Rosemary Clooney visits Muppets

NEW YORK (AP) — Rosemary Clooney spent a morning with some very dear friends — the Muppets.

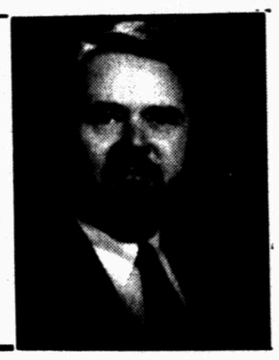
The singer recently made her first appearance on "Sesame Street" in a segment due to air Monday.

"All of my fondest memories of bringing up five children watching 'Sesame Street' were realized on the day I spent with all my 'old friends,'" she said.

In her appearance, Clooney arrives on the street when it is deserted except for Hoot the owl and greets cast regulars as they appear. During the sketch she sings "Sunny Day."

Minding Your Own Business

By Don Taylor



Six Shortcuts to Start-up Success

The American dream to be your own boss is alive and well as we head toward a new millennium. Millions of Americans are itching to paint their names over the door of a small business they can call their own.

Every week in our office we meet with men and women who want to turn their dream into reality. All too often the conversation starts like this, "Well, I want to start my own business because I've been out of work for four months and can't find a job. Since I'm about out of savings, I need some income quick. What kind of business should I start?"

While we do not wish to squelch anyone's dreams, we often have to bring a dose of reality to these meetings. Starting a business isn't easy under the best circumstances. Starting out with little or no money increases the difficulty. Not knowing what type of business to start makes it almost impossible to achieve start-up success.

The good news is there are steps you can take that will help you eliminate mistakes and reduce your start-up risks. Here are six to get you off to a running start.

Start-up Steps

•**Ask yourself why.** The first step toward success is to carefully consider your motivation for starting your own business. Not having a job, disliking your boss or wanting to ease your workload are not good reasons.

You will work harder in your own business than you've ever worked before. You will not generate quick income, and you may find that many of your new bosses — sometime referred to as customers — are difficult to work for, too.

•**Pick a business to start.** The next step is to select a type of business to start. Most experts agree that it helps if you know something about the business you want to operate. It should be something that utilizes your skills and abilities and something you enjoy. It must also include products or services that potential customers need.

•**Put together a plan.** A business plan doesn't guarantee your success, but it will improve your chances. It will show potential lenders that you've done your homework and will help you focus on success.

A good plan should address several start-up areas. It should include market research, market potential, management issues, marketing strategies, capital needs and financial projections.

•**Cover the legal bases.** You should select a legal structure, check zoning requirements and secure the proper license and permits. You'll need to check with your local tax authorities for information on sales taxes, employee taxes, and income taxes. After you've selected a name for your business, register it with the proper authorities.

•**Take charge of financial issues.** The first step I'd recommend in this area is to open a separate business checking account. Select a bank that can help with your future credit needs.

Create your own budget and record keeping system before you open the business. Accounting firms, business consultants and small business development centers can help in this area. Don't ignore your records. You'll need timely mangement information, and this can help you save on taxes later on.

•**Pull the trigger.** The final step is to put your plan in motion. Kick off your marketing plan and start learning customer's names. Go all out to make your service memorable. Every business is built one customer contact at a time. Get involved in your community, network with others and ask for business.

Don Taylor is the co-author of *Up Against the Wal-Marts*. You can reach him at *Minding Your Own Business*, P.O. Box 67, Amarillo, TX 791205.

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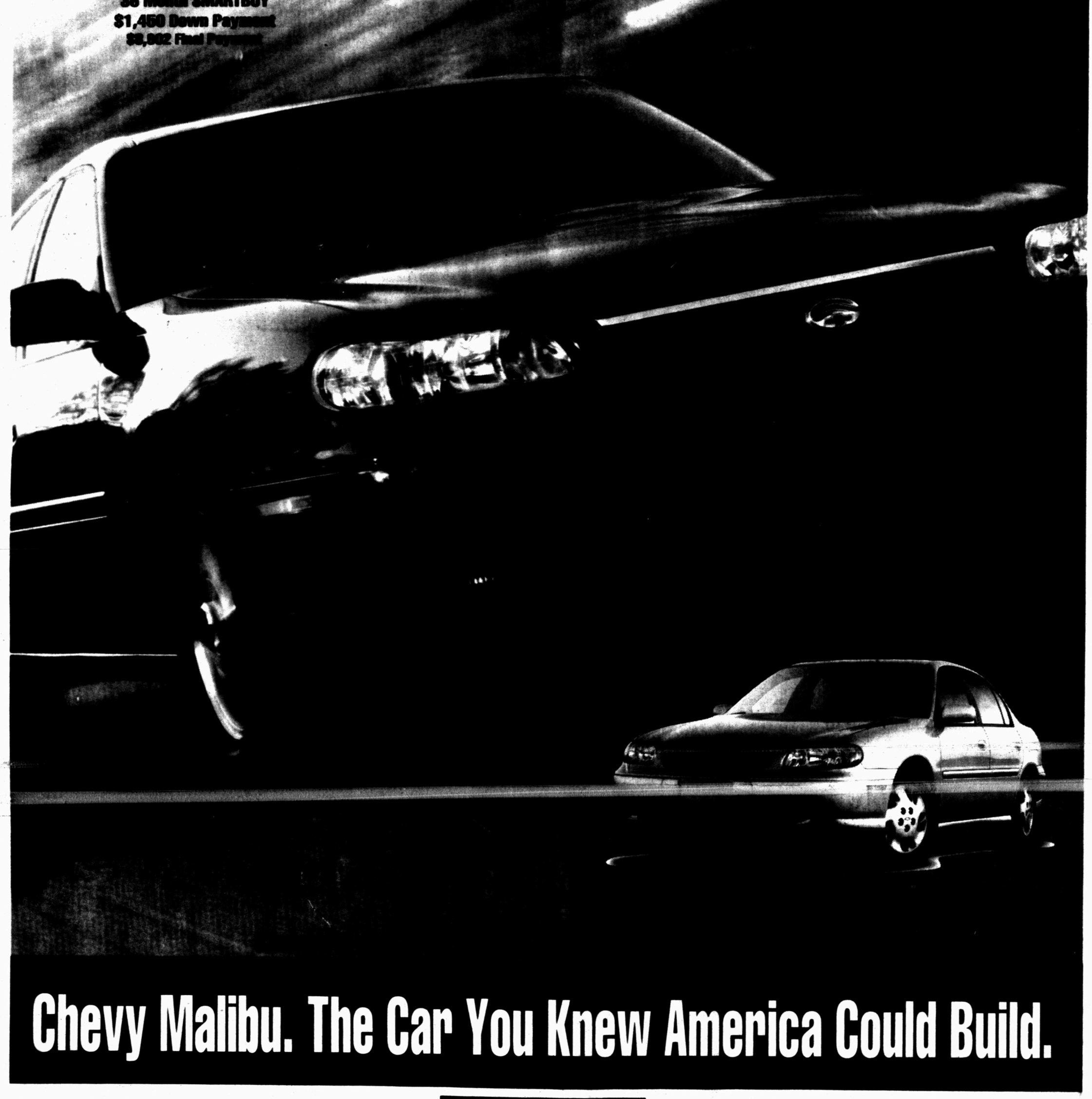
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