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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
July 15, 1996
Vol. 47 No. 62
10 Pages 50¢
Home Of Virginia Lowrance

Unitized road and bridge system put on hold

Trevey questions commissioner's role under proposed system

Scurry County Commissioners Court this morning tabled action on placing a unitized road and bridge system on the November ballot until they meet in two weeks.

By then, commissioners hope to have input from county residents on their feelings of the plan, which would take most of the control of maintaining county roads away from individual commissioners.

In this morning's meeting of the court, the proposal to unitize the road and bridge system was greeted with little acceptance from Precinct 1 Commissioner Ralph Trevey,

"What will our role as commissioners be in a unitized system?" questioned Trevey.

"Will our salaries be cut? Will we no longer have the use of a county vehicle?"

County Judge Ricky Fritz said the court would continue to set the policy for the road and bridge department and would set the budget.

"All of that would remain the same," said the judge.

"You would still be representing the people in your precinct by giving input to the road and bridge foreman," said Fritz.

In answer to Trevey's other questions about salaries and vehicles, Fritz said those details would have to be worked out at a later date if the proposal is placed on the ballot and voters approve it.

Trevey questioned even why the court would consider going to a unitized system and noted they (the commissioners) had tried similar plans twice in the past.

"I don't see it accomplishing anything. It failed twice before," he said.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Jerry Gannaway said he thought the county could save close to $70,000 per year by going to a centralized plan.

"The only reason to change would be to save money," said Gannaway.

"I question the fact that we would save that much money," Trevey said.

Trevey then questioned where the agenda item even came from.

Fritz said it seemed to come up every year prior to budget talks.

Gannaway told Trevey that several people ask him every year if the county is going to a unitized system in the hopes of saving money.

"Who are those people?" said Trevey.

"You want me to give you the names of everyone who has questioned me about this?" replied Gannaway. "I don't remember everyone who has ever asked me.

"Hey," said Fritz. "We're just trying to decide whether to put the issue to the voters or not. Let's just get as much input as we can for the next two weeks."

Precinct 2 Commissioner Roy Idom said he viewed the unitized system as working more with less equipment.

C.D. Gray Jr., Precinct 1

See Commissioners, Page 10

Hearts on Fire...

The Hearts on Fire Youth Rally concluded Saturday night with keynote speaker Byron Hanspard, junior running back and 1996 Heisman Trophy candidate from Texas Tech. Hanspard spoke to approximately 400 people on the subject of 'Going for the Goal.' Hanspard is an ordained Episcopal minister. Entertaining before the speech were (left to right) local musicians Judy Brown, keyboard; Tim Whiteley, sax; Michael Howard, guitar; and Debra McGlouthin and Jackie Hackfeld, vocals. (SDN Staff Photos by Brent Taylor)

Yeltsin postpones Gore visit

Russian president's health suspect again

MOSCOW (AP) — Boris Yeltsin raised new doubts about his health when he suddenly postponed a meeting today with Vice President Al Gore and retreated to a health resort.

Aides said the Russian president was well and had started a two-week vacation Sunday at the government resort outside Moscow. They said he likely would meet with Gore there Tuesday.

"The president's tired. He's really very tired, and he just needs a good, proper rest," Yeltsin's chief spokesman, Sergei Medvedev, told reporters in the Kremlin.

"He has not gotten sick."

Medvedev said the president worked 16- and 17-hour days during his re-election campaign and now faces pressures to form a new government.

He said doctors might examine the 65-year-old Yeltsin during the vacation. Yeltsin has refused in recent weeks even to allow his blood pressure to be measured, and has not had a real checkup since late last year, Medvedev said.

"It's very difficult for the doctors," he said.

Yeltsin did continue shaking up his government today, naming prominent reformer and campaign strategist Anatoly Chubais to replace hard-liner Nikolai Yegorov as chief of staff. Chubais, 41, was ousted from the Cabinet in an anti-reform sweep in January. He had overseen the unpopular push to sell state property to private owners.

Yeltsin won re-election on July 3, and his office said he wanted to take a break before his Aug. 9 inauguration. But the vacation in Barvikha was not announced until this morning, after reporters had already gathered at the Kremlin for Yeltsin's scheduled meeting with Gore.

"He's OK," Igor Ignatiev, chief of the presidential press service, told them. "He just decided to take a vacation."

Gore arrived in Moscow on Saturday, mainly for meetings on economic issues with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The two met Sunday and today, when the joint commission they head began its two-day session.

Natural gas well explodes, kills two

DIME BOX (AP) — Firefighters and blowout specialists have removed one of two victims killed by a natural gas well explosion and continued looking for the second today amid the well's fiery wreckage.

A raging fireball continued to fill the sky above otherwise tranquil Central Texas prairie as members of Joe Bowden's Wild Well Control, Inc., used high-powered hoses to cool down areas broiling at more than 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit where the second victim might be found.

"They are trying to get to the easiest parts around the rig, by cooling them down with water jets," said Adam Gonzales, Lee County deputy sheriff.

Gonzales said the blowout specialists would try to cool down as many areas of the burning rig as possible to look for the second victim before completely removing the wreckage in order to control the fire and cap the well.

"If they don't find him around the areas where they can get to, I imagine they will start focusing primarily on getting the wreckage out of the way and putting the fire out," Gonzales said.

The fire could take up to 10 days to extinguish, according to members of Joe Bowden's Wild Well Control, who use a hose system that shoots water at 2,000 gallons per minute, far outmuscling the force of typical hoses used by firefighters.

The victims are believed to be J.E. Traweek Jr., 39, of Caldwell, Texas, and Steve Patridge of Lafayette, La., Gonzales said. No other injuries were reported.

The body recovered from the wreckage has been taken to the Travis County medical examiner's office in Austin for identification, Gonzales said.

The rig, owned by WCS Oil & Gas Inc. of Dallas, erupted in a series of three explosions Saturday night, creating a ball of fire nearly 40 feet in the air. Onlookers said the blaze illuminated the blackened sky like a rising sun from 20 miles a way.

Workers used ear plugs to dampen the sound of the fire, which rivaled that of a jet engine or freight train.

"It'll probably take a week to get this fire out," said Pat Campbell, vice president of Joe Bowden's. "The gas doesn't pose much of a threat because everything is burning. You almost have complete combustion. Everything else is dissipating into the air. It's quite safe."

Danny Anderson, the on-site manager for WCS, said the cause of the blast was still undetermined Sunday.

Victim had family here

A man believed killed in gas well explosion Saturday evening near Dime Box was the son-in-law of a Snyder resident.

J.E. Traweek Jr. of Caldwell was one of two men believed to have been killed when the WCS Oil & Gas-owned rig erupted shortly after 7 p.m. Traweek is the son-in-law of Nell Wright of Snyder.

Traweek is survived by his wife, Donna, and two children, Carrie and Shannon. His parents are Mary Reagan and J.E. Traweek Sr. of Merkel.

The other victim is believed to be Steve Patridge of Lafayette, La. One body has been taken to the Taylor County medical examiner's office for identification. The other body had not been located as of noon by officials on the scene, who were fighting a fire estimated at more than 1,000 degrees Farenheit.

Bombing dampens hopes for peace in Northern Ireland

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Thousands turned out today for the funeral of a Roman Catholic man killed in the resurgence of violence in Northern Ireland, where a weekend car bombing at a hotel further dampened hopes for peace.

A week of rioting capped by Sunday's bombing has left many in the embattled British province convinced that "the troubles" are returning. More than 230 people have been hurt in the disturbances.

In Londonderry, Northern Ireland's second-largest city, thousands of mourners attended the funeral of Dermot McShane, who was crushed by an army vehicle during street fighting Saturday.

"Scarcely in 21 years since I have been here have I found people so depressed and sickened even to the point of despair," said the Rev. Con McLoughlin, who conducted the funeral at St. Columba's Roman Catholic church.

McShane, 35, had been a member of the Irish National Liberation Army, an IRA splinter group, and served a prison sentence for a firearms offense.

The Irish Republican Army denied that it planted the bomb that exploded early Sunday outside the Killyhevlin Hotel in Enniskillen — the first in Northern Ireland since the IRA stopped its violent campaign against British rule in 1994.

The latest violence began a week ago when police blocked Protestants from marching through a Catholic enclave in Portadown to mark a historic 17th century victory over Catholics. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the senior British official in Northern Ireland, told the House of Commons today he ordered a review of the routing and policing of marches to avoid a blow-up next year.

The violence abated but didn't disappear from the streets early today. In Belfast, Catholic nationalists threw about 50 gasoline bombs at a police station.

Grant confirmation is received by DCOS

Development Corporation of Snyder, Inc., has received confirmation of a Rural Development grant from the United States Department of Agriculture in the amount of $383,000.

The notice follows verbal approval last week that the City of Snyder will be awarded a Texas Capital Fund grant of $489,000.

When received, the funds will be used for utility and roadwork at the city's industrial park.

ASK US

Q—Was this the first time commercial businesses were allowed to operate booths in Towle Park during the July 4 celebration, and will this continue?

A—Yes, this was the first year. Chamber officials say current plans are to allow them to operate booths again next year.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 92 degrees; low, 71; trace precipitation; high Sunday, 82; low, 69; 7 a.m. reading Monday, 70; .06 precipitation; total for 1996, 5.50 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy, slight chance of storms. Low, lower 70s. S wind 5-15 mph. Rain chance less than 20%. Tuesday, partly cloudy. High, lower 90s. S wind 10-20 mph.

Partly Cloudy
Chris Rodriquez

Sunset: 8:49 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:50 a.m.
Of 196 days in 1996, the sun has shone 192 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

It is a snare for a man to devote rashly something as holy, And afterward to reconsider his vows.

Proverbs 20:25

JUL 15 1996

Film sparks different kind of invasion at UFO Mecca

AMARILLO (AP) — Some think aliens visited the eastern New Mexico city of Roswell nearly 50 years ago. This summer, the human invasion of Roswell has been indisputable.

The July 2 release of the wildly successful alien attack flick "Independence Day" happened to coincide with the city's annual UFO convention. Not coincidental are the hundreds of national and international media that have flocked there.

In Roswell, the alien business is no joking matter.

"People here do not laugh about it; they are easily offended by people who don't take them seriously," Deon Crosby, director of the International UFO Museum and Research Center, told the Amarillo Globe-News.

Crosby organizes the annual Roswell UFO Encounters convention in a city of 50,000 residents and three museums dedicated to the extraterrestrial.

Roswell became the hub of UFO study in 1947 following a mysterious crash near the now-closed Walker Air Base there. Visitors and media have brought extra attention to a place already etched in interplanetary history.

The "Area 51" crash site at Roswell is a key to the plot of "Independence Day" and is part of the story line of another summer action release, "The Rock."

The president of UFO Central Home Video recently said that videos based on extraterrestrial themes have piggybacked on the success of "Independence Day."

Tim Crawford said that some, including "Alien Autopsy," and "UFOs: The Best Evidence," are related directly to Roswell.

One of the scores of television cameras recently focused upon Roswell belonged to CBS' "Late Show with David Letterman." Movie reviewer "Manny the hippie" was dispatched from San Francisco to Roswell to check out UFO fever.

"Is this some sort of punishment?" a less-than-enthusiastic Manny responded to Letterman's travel plans for him.

Everyone from "Late Show" to ABC's "Nightline" has taken a crack at Roswell this month.

Despite all the hype, many still treat claims of life outside our universe as pure fancy, a view another museum curator believes inaccurate.

"I just tell them, 'You know, it's a proven fact that your more educated people believe we're not alone in the universe," said John Price, founder of the UFO Enigma, another museum. "That usually shuts them up."

Roswell is about 200 miles southwest of Amarillo.

'Independence Day' rules box office

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Independence Day" continued to dominate the box office with estimated weekend receipts of $36 million, industry sources said.

The sci-fi thriller, which opened just before the Fourth of July holiday, was estimated to have reached $161 million in total ticket sales.

"Phenomenon" with John Travolta moved into second place on its second weekend, and the Denzel Washington-Meg Ryan Gulf War story "Courage Under Fire" debuted in third.

"The Nutty Professor," starring Eddie Murphy, slipped to fourth.

"Harriet the Spy," the big screen version of the children's favorite, was No. 5 on its first weekend.

Preliminary figures are based on industry estimates of ticket sales Friday through Sunday. Final figures will be released today.

1. "Independence Day," $36 million.
2. "Phenomenon," $13.1 million.
3. "Courage Under Fire," $12.75 million
4. "The Nutty Professor," $11.8 million.
5. "Harriet the Spy," $7.3 million.
6. "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," $6.5 million.
7. "Eraser," $6 million.
8. "The Rock," $4.4 million.
9. "Striptease," $3.2 million.
10. "Twister," $1.9 million

Michael J. Fox to return to TV series on ABC

NEW YORK (AP) — Family ties are bringing Michael J. Fox back to television.

Fox says he decided to star in ABC's "Spin City" so he could spend more time with actress wife Tracy Pollan, 6-year-old son and 16-month-old twin daughters.

"The key for me as a parent is to be able to take my kids to school or maybe pick them up every day. If they're in a school play, I want to be there to watch them," Fox said in Sunday's New York Daily News. "That's why a television series suddenly became so attractive."

The former "Family Ties" star said he became homesick last year while filming "The Frighteners" in New Zealand. He went on location right after his daughters, Aquinnah and Schuyler, were born.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Know the limits of hypertension

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm a male in my mid-40s with borderline hypertension. My last reading was 150/82. I always thought it was the bottom number that made you have high blood pressure. What can I do to bring the reading down, and what does my salt intake have to do with the condition?

DEAR READER: The blood pressure is expressed as two numbers: systolic and diastolic. Systolic pressure (the top number) is measured when the heart contracts; diastolic (the bottom number), when the heart relaxes and fills with blood in preparation for the next contraction.

The normal blood pressure for an adult should not exceed 150/90 millimeters of mercury; probably 140/80 is safer. (A child's blood pressure should be much lower.)

In the past, doctors believed that the diastolic blood pressure was more important than the systolic: that is, a consistent diastolic elevation was more apt to cause stroke and heart disease than was a high systolic pressure.

However, studies have shown that both components are equally important and, when elevated, should be seriously addressed.

It's not always necessary for hypertensive patients to take prescription drugs. Alterations in lifestyle will often reduce high blood pressure to normal levels.

For instance, hypertension is frequently associated with obesity, smoking, excess dietary salt, lack of exercise and alcohol consumption. Thus, hypertensive patients may substantially lower their blood pressures by losing weight, stopping smoking, cutting back on salt, exercising regularly, and imbibing less alcohol.

Many people with high blood pressure suffer from a kidney abnormality, such as renal artery stenosis, that prevents them from excreting unnecessary salt. When such patients consume too much salt, the body retains the excess (along with fluid), which increases the blood volume and leads to hypertension.

Consequently, these patients should reduce their intake of salt by shunning salty foods and avoiding the salt shaker. A well-balanced diet will provide adequate salt without the necessity of adding extra amounts to the food.

With your doctor's approval, follow the suggestions I made. You may be quite surprised at how effective they are in lowering your blood pressure — which really isn't that high to begin with but will probably increase as you grow older unless you take steps now to correct it.

To give you more information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Hypertension." 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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Residents, counties beginning to assess damage by Bertha

SURF CITY, N.C. (AP) — Residents returned home to find sand dunes in the street and waterlogged belongings after Hurricane Bertha battered the Carolina coast. Damage estimates shot into the tens of millions.

More than 4,000 residents of Topsail Island, part of North Carolina's Outer Banks, were allowed to return to their evacuated homes Sunday, but vacationers were being steered away.

Some residents were kept waiting on the single road to the island. Officials said there were still some loose electrical lines and that sewage pumps were clogged with sand.

"I've been here since yesterday," Bobby Harrelson of Greensboro said Sunday as he waited to get to his vacation home. He said he had slept in his van with his wife and two children.

By Saturday, assessment teams in several southeastern counties had tallied close to $60 million in damage estimates, including $40 million in coastal Onslow County. Tourism officials estimated a loss of $24 million to businesses over the weekend.

Property damage in Topsail Beach was $2 million, including major damage to 40 residential units, Town Manager Eric Peterson said. The island's southern end was under more than a foot of water at one point during the storm.

Towering drifts of sand covered the streets of Surf City. The town's two major piers had partially collapsed, leaving broken pilings jutting from the surface of the water.

"Removing the sand and debris is the largest job we have," Peterson said.

It will be several days before visitors can get to the island.

Graham Hood returned to find his condominium's first floor covered in sand and water.

"We're going to have to replace the carpet downstairs, but that's about it," Hood said. "We've been here 18 years and this is the first major storm we've had."

Harold Tassel said his house weathered the storm just fine, although his driveway was covered with sand.

"The pictures weren't even crooked," he said.

Richard Erickson, a spokesman for USAA Insurance Co., which has about 45,000 policyholders in coastal North Carolina, said Sunday the company had received more than 1,600 claim notices.

"We expected by this time to have four times the number of claims we've gotten," he said. "So it looks like we dodged the bullet."

By Sunday evening, the American Red Cross estimated that nearly 5,800 North Carolina homes had been damaged by the hurricane. Of those, nearly 180 were destroyed and another 900 were uninhabitable, spokeswoman Elizabeth Quirk said.

Five Red Cross shelters remained open Sunday evening and Red Cross vehicles were delivering hot meals to heavily affected areas.

State officials planned to tour hurricane-damaged areas today.

While most coastal residents were spared, many farmers were not so lucky. A team of agricultural officials were to survey the damage today.

"We have extreme crop damage on our hands," said Cecil Logan, emergency management coordinator for Brunswick County. Logan estimated the county lost 75 percent of its tobacco crop and 50 percent to 60 percent of its corn.

Tourism officials, meanwhile, tried to return to business to prevent more losses.

"What we are trying to do is get the word out that everything is up and running," said Jane Peterson, president of the Cape Fear Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau. "People look at the Weather Channel and CNN and just assume the worst scenario."

British pair's divorce nears

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles and Princess Diana were granted a preliminary decree of divorce today, and should be free of the bonds of marriage within six weeks.

Neither was in court for the brief hearing. Charles was in Brunei for the 50th birthday celebrations of the sultan.

The decree was granted two weeks before the couple's 15th anniversary.

They announced on Friday that they had agreed to an undisclosed financial settlement. Diana will keep her home at Kensington Palace and the title of princess, but will no longer be addressed as "her royal highness." She and Charles will have equal access to their sons William, 14, and Harry, 11.

The divorce is expected to become final on Aug. 28.

Drought affecting residents

DALLAS (AP) — As the 1996 drought drags on, drinking water is becoming an increasingly precious commodity in many small North and West Texas cities and rural water systems.

Overworked pumps, falling water tables and water lines broken by parched and shifting soil are forcing customers to cut back on outdoor watering.

About 280 small towns and private water supply companies statewide have reported mandatory or voluntary water restrictions to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, a dramatic increase over most years; commission spokeswoman Linda Fernandez said.

"There are real problems out there," she said. "Brownsville is having water mains break because the soil is so dry. San Antonio is having quadruple the number of water main breaks they normally have."

Ms. Fernandez said the commission anticipates the situation will become worse before it gets better.

"Our best chance for sustaining rains lies in the autumn," he said. "We may be getting some isolated relief from the hurricane season, but not anything enough to replenish rivers and streams and restore underground water supplies."

In the Panhandle, four cities that depend on McKenzie Reservoir in Briscoe County are getting less than 50 percent of their normal supply.

In East Texas, the small town of Edgewood closed coin laundries and car washes and banned all but emergency water use when the town's only source of water dried up. With help from the state, Edgewood got a 10-inch water line hooked up to bring water from Lake Tawakoni to the Edgewood lake.

Measured by the yardstick that water experts use, this year's long, hot summer doesn't compare to the drought of the 1950s. During the drought of 1950-56, rainfall in some parts of the state averaged only 14.05 inches a year.

Back then, Dallas pumped in brackish water from the Red River to supply thirsty customers.

The long-range effect was rusted-out radiators and hot water heaters, said John Jadrosich of the Trinity River Authority. Over the years since, larger cities have built more reservoirs.

The Tarrant County Water Control and Improvement District, which supplies raw water to Fort Worth, Arlington, Mansfield and other Tarrant County cities, is in good shape, said Mike Williams, water district spokesman. However, some of the small water supply companies that serve isolated rural communities may be facing serious problems, he said.

"Smaller systems that rely on wells have reached or will soon reach some critical points," he said. "Their aquifers are dropping and wells are not able to produce enough to maintain an adequate supply or adequate water pressure."

Flower Mound's limits are typical. Residents are asked not to water lawns or flower beds during peak-demand hours, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday through Monday.

The Denton County suburb of Dallas adopted the restrictions after a construction crew accidentally cut the line that brings in most of the town's water from Dallas. The line was repaired the next week.

Oil Patch News

Borden County

Sharp Image Energy will drill the No. 1 Smith in the Tyler-Gordon field, 18 miles northwest of Gail. The plug back is planned for a depth of 9,200 feet, and location is in Section 10, Block 32, T6N, T&P survey.

Garza County

HAT Oil and Gas Inc. will drill the No. 1 Black Knight, an 8,800-foot wildcat located 14 miles north of Gail. Drill site is in Section 7, Block 30, T7N, T&P survey.

Howard County

Saga Petroleum will drill the No. 27-A H.R. Clay in the Howard-Glasscock field, 3.5 miles east of Forsan. Planned for a depth of 2,800 feet, location is in Section 126, Block 29, W&NW survey.

Fisher County

Erin Oil Exploration Inc. will drill the No. 1-C Neversuch, a 3,999-foot wildcat located five miles west of Hamlin. Location is in Section 203, BBB&C survey.

Erin Oil will drill the No. 2-C Neversuch, a 3,999-foot wildcat located five miles west of Hamlin. Drill site is in Section 203, BBB&C survey.

Erin Oil Exploration Inc. will drill the No. 3-C Neversuch, a 3,999-foot wildcat located five miles west of Hamlin. Location is in Section 203, BBB&C survey.

Sullivan and Co. will plug and abandon the No. 1 Linda Stuart, a 7,000-foot wildcat located three miles southeast of Rotan. Drill site was in Section 16, Block 2, H&TC survey.

Nolan County

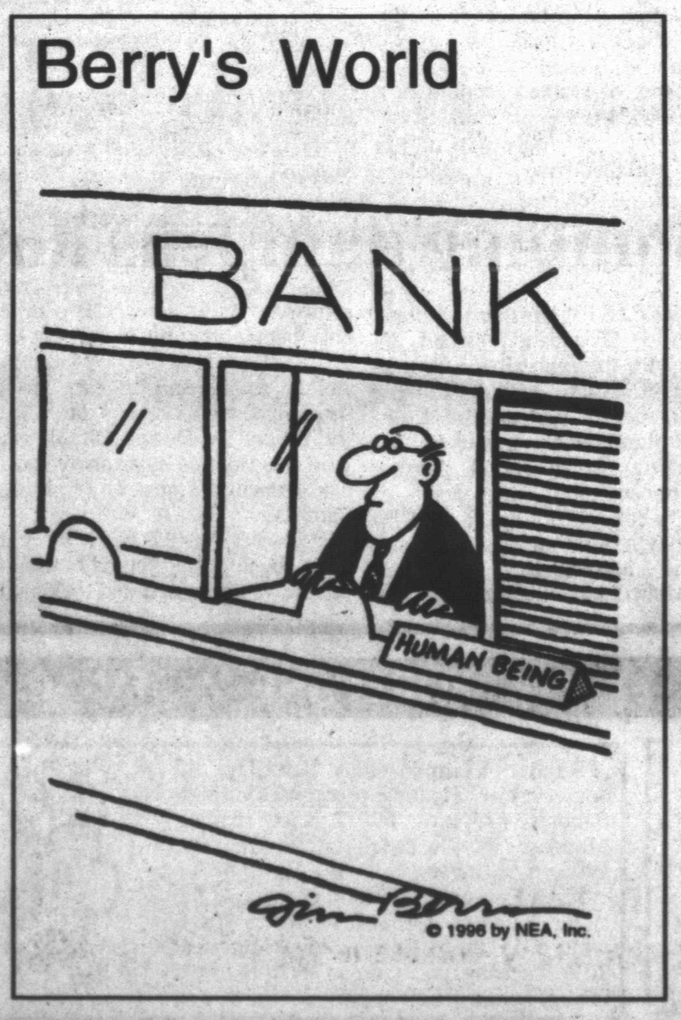
Lytle Creek Operating Inc. will drill the No. 1 Pearl Lewis, a 7,300-foot wildcat located 11 miles south of Sweetwater. Location is in Section 54, Block X, T&P survey.

Oryx Energy has completed the No. 2319 Southwest Nena Lucia unit, 10 miles southwest of Maryneal. The well was finaled to produce 110 barrels of 44.3 gravity oil and 10 barrels of water. Perforations were from 6,687-916 feet, and location is in Section 97, Block 1-A, H&TC survey.

Oryx Energy has completed the No. 3127 Southwest Nena Lucia unit, 11 miles southwest of Maryneal. The well was completed to produce seven barrels of 44.2 gravity oil and 14 barrels of water. Perforations were from 6,926-7,026 feet, and location is in Section 86, Block 1-A, H&TC survey.

Enexco Inc. will plug and abandon the No. 16 Frymire in the Lake Trammel West field, 6.5 miles southwest of Sweetwater. Drill site was in Section 23, Block 11, T&P survey.

Berry's World



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Community Calendar

MONDAY

Narcotics Anonymous; Winston Park Club; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 6 p.m.

Stargazers FCL Club; home of Pauline Withers, 2107 42nd St.; interested persons are welcome and for more information call 573-5423 or 573-9095.

Alateen; Park Club at Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for more information call 573-8971 or 573-2101; 8 p.m.

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for more information call 573-9458, 573-8626 or 573-8929; 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Weight Watchers; Trinity Methodist Church (south wing); noon; for more information, call 1-800-359-3131.

Narcotics Anonymous; Winston Park Club; for more information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 6 p.m.

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

Hermleigh Order of the Eastern Star; Masonic Lodge; 8 p.m.

New Horizon Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-1141 or 573-2101; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-3956, 573-2101,573-1141 or 573-8626; 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Called meeting for the Martha Ann Woman's Club board of directors; all members are urged to attend; 10 a.m.

Al-Anon meeting (smoke free), noon to 1 p.m., brown bag. Park Club in Winston Park. For information call 573-4203 or 573-5525.

TOPS TX56, (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; 2501 35th. For information call Peggy Eubank at 573-6509.

Upper Colorado SWCD meeting; Snyder Country Club; noon.

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

Codependents Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-7358; 7 p.m.

New Horizons Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club Addition in Winston Park; for information call 863-2349 or 573-8626; 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 appointments; 573-9742 or 573-2763.

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

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 573-8929; 8 p.m., open meeting (last Friday of the month is the birthday meeting, pot luck at 7 p.m.).

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-3956 or 573-2101; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

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

Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for more information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 863-2349; 10 a.m.

Christmas in July for Veterans at the American Legion; turkey and dressing dinner for $3; 1-4 p.m.

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

Narcotics Anonymous Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 5 p.m.

Beginners Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club at Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; 7 p.m.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 07-15-96
♠ J 8 7
♥ A Q J 6
♦ J 10 2
♣ Q J 2

West
♠ A K 9 6 3 2
♥ 4
♦ A 9 8 4
♣ 6 4

East
♠ Q 5
♥ 10 9 3 2
♦ Q 6
♣ 9 8 7 5 3

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

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1♦	1♠	Dbl.	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠ K

Small slip, high price

By Phillip Alder

Are you careful with the cards that you play? True, against many opponents it won't matter if you make a small slip, but not against an expert like Kit Woolsey, from Kensington, Calif.

North's double was negative, showing hearts.

Against four hearts, Woolsey led the spade king: seven, five, four. From this, Woolsey realized that his partner had started with either the singleton five or the doubleton queen-five. With the doubleton 10-five, East would have played the 10, not the five. So, Woolsey continued with the spade nine, the high card being a suit-preference signal for diamonds.

After winning with the spade queen, East, Bill Pollack from Warren, N.J., returned the diamond six. When declarer played low from hand, it was tempting, given South's one-diamond opening bid, for Woolsey to win with the ace and try to give his partner a diamond ruff. But Woolsey played low. Why?

Knowing East had four hearts, Woolsey realized South couldn't draw all the trumps. If South did that, Woolsey would run his remaining spades when in with the diamond ace. And if South drove out the diamond ace before pulling all the trumps, East would get his ruff, whether he started with a singleton or doubleton diamond. The contract was dead.

What was South's error?

At trick one, he should have dropped the spade 10. Then it would have been dangerous for Woolsey to lead a low spade at trick two because East might have begun with the doubleton five-four.

To make it harder for the defenders to read their signals, copy their methods, playing high from a doubleton and low from a tripleton.

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Heart attack triggers need not be feared

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. (AP) — At least a quarter-million heart attacks a year in this country are triggered by getting angry, having sex, exerting oneself or just getting up in the morning, a researcher says.

That's about 17 percent of the nation's heart attacks — but it's no reason for most heart disease patients to be fearful, says Dr. James Muller.

For most patients, the risk of a heart attack is still tiny even after experiencing one of the potential heart-attack triggers, said Muller, director of the Kentucky Heart Institute at the University of Kentucky in Lexington and a pioneer in the study of heart attack triggers.

"Our general message is one of reassurance for heart patients," he said. About 11 million Americans have heart disease, which narrows the blood vessels that feed the heart muscle.

People with heart disease should talk to their doctors to see if that message applies to them, he stressed.

It wouldn't apply to people with unstable angina, who get chest pain without any exertion. Nor would it apply to patients who have a narrowing of the aortic valve, which is one of the main valves of the heart, Muller said.

In addition, sedentary heart disease patients should be cautious about sudden heavy exertion, he said. And people who are angry all the time, even if they're not heart patients, should get counseling or learn stress-reduction techniques.

Muller spoke in an interview before discussing heart attack triggers Sunday at a meeting of the American Heart Association. His don't-worry message about sex received wide publicity in May when he published a study in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Sidney Smith, chief of cardiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, said further research is needed to determine which groups of patients are particularly vulnerable to triggering. That knowledge should lead to recommendations for doctors, he said.

In the meantime, he said, patients should discuss their individual cases with their doctors.

Research shows that in anybody, heart patient or not, the risk of having a heart attack in a given hour doubles if the person gets angry, has sex or just gets up in the morning, Muller said.

If a person goes through sudden heavy exertion, like singles tennis or running through an airport with a suitcase, the risk of a heart attack goes up six-fold, he said.

Victims' rights group seeks doctor to perform castration

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — When convicted child molester Larry Don McQuay asked for surgical castration to stop him from abusing other children upon his release from prison, a victims' rights organization readily agreed to pay for the operation.

But despite the group's best efforts, it cannot find a surgeon who will perform the surgery.

"Larry McQuay is convinced that surgical castration is his best bet, and he wants to get on with it," said Dianne Clements, president of the Houston-based Justice For All.

"Right now we're in consultation with another physician to see if he is willing to do the procedure."

One doctor agreed to perform the operation if McQuay first underwent eight weeks of chemical castration. McQuay balked at that requirement, Clements said.

The group has raised $2,700 in donations to pay for the operation.

"Everything is status quo," Clements said. "Larry McQuay is still in prison, he still wants to be castrated and we're still trying to help him do that."

McQuay remains behind bars at the Central Texas parole violators' detention center in San Antonio, which is privately run by Wackenhut Corrections Corp. He was transferred there after his April 8 release from state prison.

He had served six years of an eight-year sentence for a 1990 conviction of sexually molesting a 6-year-old San Antonio boy.

John Fleming, a spokesman for the San Antonio office of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's pardon and parole division, said Mcquay is undergoing "constant psychological evaluation and consultation with a sex-offender therapist, as well as psychiatric evaluation."

McQuay's parole is widely regarded as one of the most restrictive in state history — he is detained under 24-hour monitoring.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Success is indicated in the year ahead if you finish old projects before tackling new ones. Try to remain patient and stick to your timetable.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Strive for fairness in your business situations today, but also be realistic and firm. Specify your terms, but make concessions when necessary. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) If you are truly determined to achieve a specific objective today, you will succeed, but you must not doubt your capability.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Information pertaining to a confidential issue should be restricted to the people who are directly involved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You might have an opportunity today to do something constructive to strengthen an important relationship. Take advantage of this favorable trend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You may receive acknowledgment or a reward as a result of a recent effort. This accolade will fit your expectations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Treat today's events philosophically, even when dealing with serious matters. When your mind-set is positive, you will get better results.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Try to take on more management responsibilities today in a collective arrangement. Both you and your partner can benefit from this.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) In order to get others to support your interests today, you must first be willing to cooperate. Everything will be done on a quid-pro-quo basis.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You can handle your commercial affairs more effectively today than you will be able to tomorrow. Keep this in mind when you arrange your agenda.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today you can direct others without acting in a dictatorial manner. Let your effectiveness determine your behavior.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) An opportunity of a limited nature might come your way today via a concerned associate. Treat this opportunity with respect.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Handle your most difficult assignments early in the day. Both your drive and expectations might diminish later in the day.

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Happy
Birthday
Misti
Dawn Rae
From, Stacy Ann Marie

Date Book

July 15, 1996

Today is the 197th day of 1996 and the 26th day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1933, Wiley Post completed the first solo flight around the world in just under seven days, 18 hours and 50 minutes.

On this day in 1968, a commercial air link was established between the Soviet Union and the United States.

On this day in 1986, the airplane Voyager set a continuous-flight record of 111 hours in the air.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669), artist; Clement Moore (1779-1863), poet-educator; Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917), religious worker; Iris Murdoch (1919-), writer, is 77; Julian Bream (1933-), musician, is 63; Linda Ronstadt (1946-), singer, is 50; Kim Alexis (1960-), model, is 36.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1876, St. Louis' Washington Bradley pitched baseball's first no-hitter, defeating Hartford 2-0.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house / Not a creature was stirring — not even a mouse." — Clement Moore

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1988, the temperature in Chicago reached 102 degrees.

SOURCE: 1996 Weather Guide Calendar; Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: New moon.

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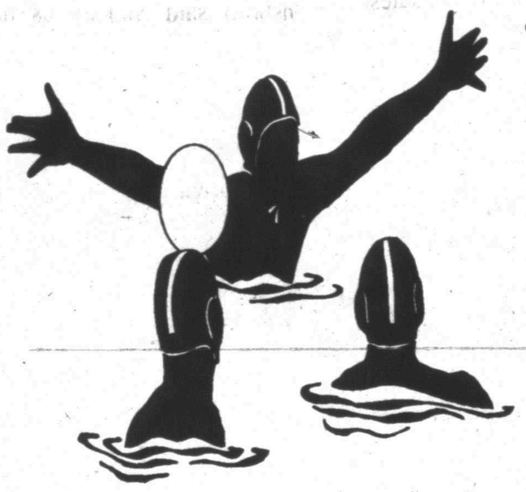

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Comic Page

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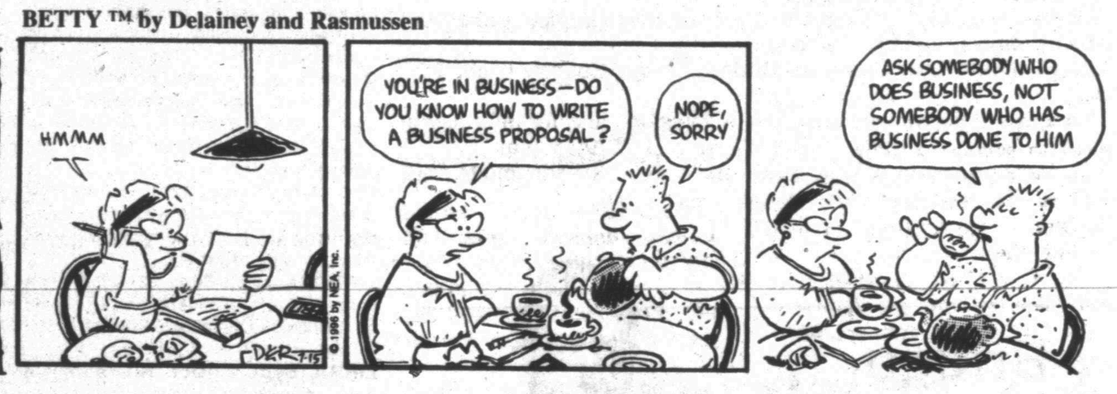

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Charged atom
4 Rush
9 Demon
12 Pasture sound
13 Cosmetics executive — Lauder
14 Plus
15 Lawyers
17 Tavern
18 — Island
19 Composition
21 Ending for Brooklyn
23 JFK sight
24 Most artificial
28 Kind of grain
32 Debtor's note
33 Farm product
34 Fishing reel
35 Chore
37 — — first you don't ...
39 Female deer
40 Bohemian
41 Poet — (distinguished title)
43 Put down
45 Actress — Ullmann
46 Tourist lodging
49 Writer Shute
53 One, in France
54 CEO's quality?
58 Hair-styling lotion
59 Not suitable
60 It's in the bag!
61 Mrs. in Madrid
62 Temperamental
63 Collector's goal

DOWN

1 Construction beam (2 wds.)
2 Vow
3 Western defense org.
4 Certain dissenter
5 Naval abbr.
6 Map abbr.
7 Spanish king
8 Positive words
9 How sweet — —
10 — Lisa
11 Small horse
16 Scandinavian god
20 Come to an end
22 Creepily
23 Minnesota capital (2 wds.)
24 Pocket bread
25 White frost
26 Remove (from office)
27 Couch
29 Verdi opera
30 Horse's gait
31 Large knife
36 Actor — MacLachlan
38 Group of three
42 Smooth
44 Music buff's purchase
46 Embraces
47 Something unique
48 Layer of tissue
50 Doggie docs
51 Words of understanding
52 Future attys.' exam
55 Lennon's love
56 Calif. airline destination
57 Comedian Caesar

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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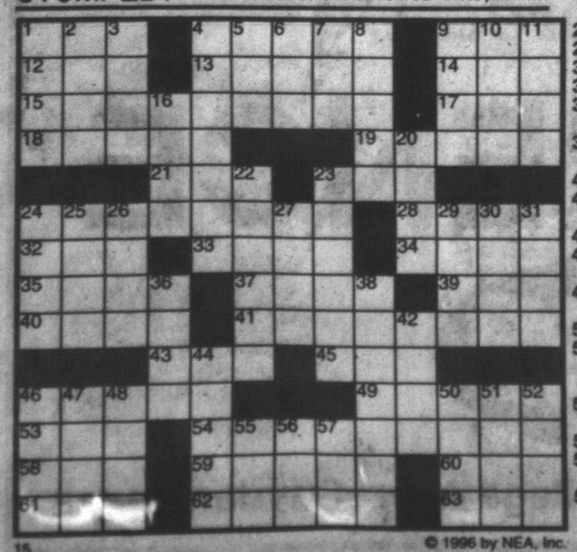

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SPORTS

Wilkens pleased by the progress of Dream Team

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Dream Team is right where coach U.S. coach Lenny Wilkens wants it to be heading to the Atlanta Olympics.

"We're just now really getting a good feel for one another," Wilkens said of his NBA all-star squad that tuned up for the games with a sweep of its five-game exhibition schedule.

"I would have been a lot worried had we had that feel early, because then I think we may have flattened out. But we've been moving on sort of an uphill thing since training camp."

Sparked by hometown favorite Reggie Miller, the U.S. Olympic team cruised to its most lopsided victory of its exhibition tour Sunday, routing Greece 128-62 before a crowd of 36,702 at the RCA Dome.

"The team is reaching the point where we want them to be when we go to Atlanta. I feel real good about it. Our players have played tremendous," said Wilkens, who will fine-tune the team during workouts at Orlando, Fla., through Wednesday in the final phase of its Olympic preparations.

The United States opens Olympic play against Argentina on Saturday.

The Americans ran over Greece, running up a 27-2 advantage in fastbreak points. Greece was 6-3 in previous pre-Olympic exhibition games.

Helped by nine first-half steals, the United States led 74-34 at halftime, shooting 62 percent. Greece shot 35 percent in the opening half and was outrebounded 28-15.

It didn't get any better for Greece in the second half, and it never drew closer than 37 points in the period and fell behind by 67 when Mitch Richmond's layup made the score 125-58 with 53 seconds left.

"We're trying to get better every game we play," said Shaquille O'Neal, who watched the first half from the bench as Wilkens tried to divide the playing time. "We got on the Grecians early. ... They never really got a chance to get into it."

Meanwhile, Charles Barkley was looking forward to some time on the golf course while not worrying about Phoenix trading him after a reported deal sending him to Houston fell apart.

"The only thing that's going to affect me is I don't hit it good tomorrow on the golf course," he said. "I'm going to sit back and see what happens. The season doesn't start until October. I've got plenty of time to rest and work on my golf game."

And he's now willing to return to Phoenix for another season.

"They came to me and said, 'We feel bad for the way we've treated you.' That (staying with Phoenix) will be fine. ... It's not inconceivable that I'd go back there," he said.

In the meantime, he's anticipating claiming another Olympic gold medal to go with the one he earned with Dream Team I in 1992.

The United States had six players finish in double figures Sunday, with Miller scoring 21, Karl Malone 19 and Grant Hill 15.

"That's our best show. Hopefully, we'll stick with that and we'll be ready to go," said Barkley, who doesn't care if Wilkens selects him as a starter.

"It don't matter to me. I can play starting or coming off the bench," he said. "I can get it done. I think we're ready. ... We're going to go in and we're going to win the gold medal."

Fragiskos Alvertis scored 14 points to lead Greece, which opens its Olympic schedule against Yugoslavia on Saturday.

The United States outscored its five exhibition opponents 570-355. The only close game was the opener against the a team of U.S. college players, who led by 17 at halftime.

Miller was the leading scorer in the five games with 71 points, followed by Richmond and Malone with 62 each.

GOLD ALL-STARS — Snyder's 8- and 9-year-old all-stars include, front row left to right, Domingo Luera, Austin Lyle, Tyler Hogan, Sergio Sarabia and Danny Ortegon. Middle row is Jeremy Reed, Nathan Ricossa, Nicolas Martinez, Eric Martinez, Adam Hopper, Jason Bushons and Brandon Bragg. Coaches on the back row are Kyle Leonard, Layne Hopper and Gordon Ricossa. (Contributed Photo)

Anderson, Brock win Golfers' Memorial

Larry Anderson and Billy Brock teamed up to shoot a two-day total 116 to take top honors in the 1996 Snyder Country Club Golfer's Memorial Partnership held over the weekend.

Dalton Maddox and Hobie Bolin were second in the Championship flight with a 121. Third place went to David Stobaugh and Bubba Stobaugh.

In the Presidents flight, Kyle Dolby and Cuppy Graham fired a 124 for first place. There was a tie for second with Shawn Ragland and Kelly Ragland winning a scorecard playoff against Charlie Powell and Tom Rees. Both teams carded 126.

Ben Greene and Mackey Greene won the First flight with a a 127. Four strokes back were Clay Hill and Tim Hill and Gabe Cherry and Jay Moore with 131. The Hills won a scorecard playoff for second.

Two groups tied for first in the Second flight. Wade Lancaster and Don Chandler won the playoff over Ron Rice and Keith Yankowsky. Both teams carded a 132. Third place in the flight went to Gary Harrell and Scott Harrell with a 136.

The Third flight also ended in a tie. Powell Box and George Alderete were awarded first with a 133. Second was Barry Blackmon and Niel Paige. Mark Cypert and James Caldwell shot a 135 for third.

Ricky Daniell and Jim Griswold took the top spot in the Fourth flight with a 139. Jerry Owen and Wes Key won a playoff over Riley Sterling and Cary Coffee for second. Both teams fired a 143.

COUNTDOWN TO ATLANTA XXVI

XXIII Olympiad 1984 Los Angeles

For the third consecutive Olympiad, a boycott prevented all member nations from attending the Summer Games. This time, the Soviet Union and 13 Communist allies stayed home in an obvious payback for the West's snub of Moscow in 1980. Romania was the only Warsaw Pact country to come to L.A.

While a record 141 nations did show up, the level of competition was hardly what it might have been had the Soviets and East Germans made the trip. As a result, the United States won a record 83 gold medals in the most lopsided Summer Games since St. Louis 80 years before.

The American gold rush was led by 23-year-old Carl Lewis, who duplicated Jesse Owens' 1936 track and field grand slam by winning the 100 and 200 meters and the long jump, and anchoring the 400-meter relay. Teammate Valerie Brisco-Hooks won three times, taking the 200, 400 and 1,600 relay.

Sebastian Coe of Britain became the first repeat winner of the 1,500 meters since Jim Lightbody of the U.S. in 1906. Other repeaters were Briton Daley Thompson in the decathlon and U.S. hurdler Edwin Moses, who won in 1976, but was not allowed to defend his title in '80.

Romanian gymnast Ecaterina Szabo matched Lewis' four gold medals and added a silver, but the darling of the Games was little (4-foot-8¾), 16-year-old Mary Lou Retton, who won the women's All-Around with a pair of 10s in her last two events.

The L.A. Olympics were the first privately financed Games ever and made an unheard of profit of $215 million. Time magazine was so impressed it made organizing president Peter Ueberroth its Man of the Year.

Team USA won a total of 174 medals (83 gold, 61 silver, 30 bronze), while West Germany was second with 59 (17 gold).

American athletes set 12 Olympic records and five world records.

Astros split twin-bill with Mets

NEW YORK (AP) — Finally, Pete Harnisch got a victory to go along with a good effort.

"I had been keeping the team in the game in most of my starts although I didn't get any wins," said Harnisch, who won for the first time since June 1 with a 10-3 decision over the Houston Astros in the second game of a doubleheader Sunday.

Harnisch allowed an unearned run in the first inning of the nightcap and the Mets scored six times off Astros starter Mike Hampton (6-6) to salvage a split.

In the opener, the Astros won 7-5 in 11 innings with Jeff Bagwell's tie-breaking homer leading the way.

Harnisch (5-6) and Paul Byrd combined to hold the Astros to eight hits in the rain-splattered second game while Edgardo Alfonso drove in three runs with three hits. Harnisch had made eight starts before finally winning.

"Today he didn't have his best stuff by far but he got the job done," Mets manager Dallas Green said of Harnisch. "We gave him some runs and that helps."

Harnisch also gave up a pair of homers as Derek Bell hit his 10th and Orlando Miller hit his ninth for the Astros, both with the bases empty, in the sixth.

"Pete wants to pitch like he did before the (shoulder) operation. It's not going to happen that quickly," Green said.

Lance Johnson tripled and scored on Alfonso's infield out to tie the score in the first inning of the nightcap and then had a two-run single in the second inning to give the Mets a 3-1 lead.

Alex Ochoa's RBI infield single and a two-run single by Butch Huskey gave the Mets three more runs in the third inning to put them in front 6-1 and Harnisch took it from there.

Alfonso hit his first homer, a solo shot, in the fourth off reliever John Johnstone and then doubled home another run in the Mets' two-run sixth. Seldom-used Carl Everett also hit his first homer, a solo shot off Xavier Hernandez, the fourth Astros pitcher, in the eighth.

"Starting pitching was the problem," Astros manager Terry Collins said. "Mike didn't have it today and that hurts."

In the opener, Hernandez (1-4) earned the win with two innings of hitless relief after the Astros had tied the game off John Franco in the ninth.

Bagwell's homer came off Dave Mlicki (4-4) and Bell doubled in an insurance run in the 11th before Todd Jones came on to get his 17th save.

A's finish off Texas

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Kevin Gross started the game with a sore back. He ended it with a sore back and an inflated ERA.

The Oakland Athletics scored six runs off Gross in two-plus innings to begin a 9-1 win Sunday over the Texas Rangers. Scott Brosius and Matt Stairs hit solo homers and Jason Giambi had three RBIs for the A's.

Gross (9-7), who gave up six hits and four walks, said his sore back feels similar to an injury that sent him to the disabled list in late May and early June.

"It's hurting bad. I can hardly sit down," he said while standing in front of his locker. "The longer I was out there, and having to battle, it was getting worse. When you can't finish throwing, you're not going to have much velocity."

Gross has given up 19 runs on 22 hits in 11 2-3 innings in his last three starts to raise his ERA from 4.97 to 6.02.

"He said he was fine, but he was never able to get loose or throw the breaking ball," said Texas manager Johnny Oates, who visited the mound in the second inning. "Looking at the results, I don't think he was fine."

Jose Herrera and Rafael Bournigal had three hits apiece for Oakland, which has homered in a season-high 10 straight games. Geronimo Berroa had a two-run double for Oakland, giving him nine RBIs this season against Texas.

The only starter in the A's lineup without a hit was Mark McGwire, who went 0-for-3 with a walk and was hit by a pitch.

Doug Johns had a career-high seven strikeouts and allowed just one run in eight innings for the Athletics. Johns (6-10) notched only his second win since May 25, the other coming in an 18-2 rout of California.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

By The Associated Press

American League Standings
All Times EDT

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
NewYork	56	33	.629	—
Baltimore	46	43	.517	10
Toronto	41	50	.451	16
Boston	40	49	.449	16
Detroit	27	65	.293	30½
Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	55	36	.604	—
Chicago	53	38	.582	2
Milwaukee	44	46	.489	10½
Minnesota	42	48	.467	12½
KansasCity	39	53	.424	16½
West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Texas	53	38	.582	—
Seattle	49	40	.551	3
Oakland	45	47	.489	8½
California	44	48	.478	9½

Saturday's Games
New York 3, Baltimore 2, 1st game
New York 7, Baltimore 5, 2nd game
California 6, Seattle 4
Boston 10, Detroit 5
Chicago 3, Kansas City 1
Toronto 15, Milwaukee 7
Cleveland 19, Minnesota 11
Texas 8, Oakland 1

Sunday's Games
Boston 6, Detroit 4
New York 4, Baltimore 1
Minnesota 5, Cleveland 4
Chicago 3, Kansas City 2
Oakland 9, Texas 1
Seattle 8, California 0
Toronto 7, Milwaukee 5, 10 innings

Monday's Games
New York (Mendoza 3-4) at Boston (Wakefield 5-9), 7:05 p.m.
Toronto (Flener 0-0) at Baltimore (Krivda 2-4), 7:35 p.m.
Detroit (Sager 1-1) at Milwaukee (Bones 6-10), 8:05 p.m.
Chicago (McCaskill 5-4) at Minnesota (Aldred 3-7), 8:05 p.m.
Cleveland (Tavarez 3-5) at Kansas City (Pugh 0-1), 8:05 p.m.
California (Hancock 4-1) at Texas (Witt 7-8), 8:35 p.m.
Seattle (Wolcott 5-7) at Oakland (Telgheder 0-0), 10:05 p.m.

National League Standings

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	57	34	.626	—
Montreal	50	41	.549	7
NewYork	43	48	.473	14
Florida	41	50	.451	16
Philadelphia	40	50	.444	16½
Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
St.Louis	49	42	.538	—
Houston	49	44	.527	1
Cincinnati	42	44	.488	4½
Chicago	42	49	.462	7
Pittsburgh	40	51	.440	9
West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
LosAngeles	49	44	.527	—
SanDiego	48	45	.516	1
Colorado	46	44	.511	1½
SanFrancisco	40	50	.444	7½

Saturday's Games
Houston at New York, ppd., rain
St. Louis 10, Chicago 5
Atlanta 3, Florida 0
Cincinnati 3, Pittsburgh 0
Philadelphia 6, Montreal 2
Colorado 11, San Diego 6
San Francisco 7, Los Angeles 0

Sunday's Games
Houston 7, New York 5, 11 innings, 1st game
New York 10, Houston 3, 2nd game
Atlanta 15, Florida 10
Montreal 5, Philadelphia 2
Cincinnati 7, Pittsburgh 6
St. Louis 7, Chicago 6
Colorado 8, San Diego 4
San Francisco 6, Los Angeles 0

Monday's Games
Houston (Wall 6-1) at Florida (Rapp 4-11), 7:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Morgan 2-3) at Cincinnati (Salkeld 4-2), 7:35 p.m.
Montreal (Rueter 5-6) at Atlanta (Maddux 9-6), 7:40 p.m.
Philadelphia (Springer 2-6) at New York (Wilson 3-5), 7:40 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Miceli 1-4) at Chicago (Castillo 2-11), 8:05 p.m.
San Francisco (Bourgeois 1-1) at Colorado (Bailey 0-1), 9:05 p.m.
San Diego (Ashby 8-2) at Los Angeles (Astacio 4-7), 10:05 p.m.

Doping equals death in eyes of the IOC

ATLANTA (AP) — Doping equals death is the IOC's stark warning for drug cheats.

International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch delivered a blunt message to any Olympic athletes using performance-enhancing drugs.

"Doping leads to physical and moral death because of the irreversible behavioral changes that drug use entails," he said in a speech at Sunday night's opening ceremony of the 105th IOC session.

Samaranch said the Olympic movement would continue to lead the fight against "this despicable — and dangerous — form of cheating."

"Doping is the negation of sport and its role as we understand it," he said. "Athletes who use banned substances to improve their performance commit a series of acts that transgress and violate certain immutable principles.

"First and foremost, they destroy their health, which is the most precious thing they possess."

Doping could be a major issue during the Centennial Games. Atlanta's drug-testing lab is equipped with three high resolution mass spectrometers, state-of-the-art machines that can detect the use of steroids dating back months.

There have been a total of 51 positive tests at the Olympic Games since doping controls were introduced in 1968. At the last summer games in Barcelona in 1992, five athletes failed drug tests.

The IOC holds three days of meetings starting today, hearing reports from Atlanta organizers, as well as those from the 1998 winter games in Nagano, 2000 summer games in Sydney and 2002 winter games in Salt Lake City.

Among those attending Sunday's ceremony at the Woodruff Arts Center Symphony Hall were President Clinton's special adviser Thomas McLarty, House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Georgia Gov. Zell Miller, Atlanta mayor Bill Campbell and Atlanta organizing chief Billy Payne.

McLarty commended the IOC for helping finance the reconstruction of war-ravaged sports facilities in Sarajevo and said the government supports the call for an "Olympic truce" during the Atlanta Games.

"President Clinton believes we must all ponder the tragedy of sports venues turned into battlegrounds and then graveyards, and redouble our efforts for peace," McLarty said.

Gingrich, a Georgian, said the Olympic movement is more vital than ever in promoting peaceful competition in a world where "it seems we have become a global village made up of strangers."

Samaranch thanked Payne and his committee for their work in organizing the 100th anniversary games of the modern Olympics.

"There is no doubt in my mind that they will be truly exceptional ... and maybe, maybe, the best games in history," he said.

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010 LEGAL NOTICES

REQUEST FOR BIDS ON TEXAS HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Sealed Proposals for 0.965 miles of rehabilitate city streets, SH 350 on 30th St., FM 1607 in Snyder covered by STP 96(836)UM, on 27th St. in Snyder at Dry Run Creek covered by BR 93(175)0 and on SH 350 at 30th St. in Snyder covered by C 693-3-32 in Scurry County, will be received at the Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, Texas, until 1:00 p.m., August 13, 1996, and then publicly opened and read.

This contract is subject to all appropriate Federal Laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Texas Department of Transportation hereby notifies all bidders that it will insure that bidders will not be discriminated against on the ground of race, color, sex or national origin, in having full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation, and in consideration for an award.

Plans and specifications, including minimum wage rates as provided by Law, are available for inspection at the office of Michael Taylor, Area Engineer, Snyder, Texas, and at the Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, Texas. Bidding proposals are to be requested from the Construction and Maintenance Division, 200 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704-1205. Plans are available through commercial printers in Austin, Texas, at the expense of the bidder. Usual rights reserved.

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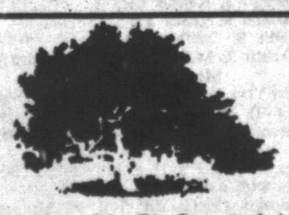

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Perot candidacy could be fatal to Dole, Buchanan says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bob Dole may have little chance of winning in November if Ross Perot launches another third-party presidential run, says Pat Buchanan, who was Dole's chief rival for the Republican nomination.

In the long run, Buchanan said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation," the emergence of Perot's Reform Party "threatens the viability of the Republican Party."

Buchanan said the Reform Party would attract many of the "conservative populists" who backed him in the primaries, and in future elections the GOP would have no choice but to form coalitions with the new group to have any hope of defeating the Democrats.

"The Perot candidacy, as opposed to Governor (Richard) Lamm, is a mortal threat to the Republican Party in 1996 because Ross Perot can win the Buchanan voters," the conservative commentator said.

Lamm, the former Democratic governor of Colorado, announced earlier this month that he would seek the Reform Party nomination and push its platform of fiscal austerity, campaign finance reform and America-first economics.

Perot, the Texas billionaire who garnered 19 percent of the popular vote in the 1992 election, said last week he was willing to challenge Lamm for the nomination.

Buchanan, who came in second to Dole in the primaries, has declined to formally endorse the Dole candidacy and stressed that "we're not going to that (Republican) convention as supplicants."

"We have access to voters who can give the Republican Party victory. Our people are going to be treated with respect," Buchanan said.

It has not been announced whether Buchanan will be allowed to give a prime-time speech during the convention next month in San Diego. Buchanan's fiery speech at the GOP convention in Houston four years ago set a right-wing tone to President Bush's campaign that many analysts said contributed to his defeat.

Markets

NEWYORK(AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	83⅜	82¼	82¼	— ¾
AT&T Corp	58¼	57¼	57⅛	—1 11-32
AirTouch	27⅞	26¼	26⅝	— ¼
Albertsons	40⅞	40⅛	40⅝	— ⅛
Alldsignal	55⅛	54⅜	54⅝	— ⅜
Alltel	29⅝	29⅛	29⅝	— ⅛
AmStores	37	35¾	36	—1
Ameritech	58	57⅞	57⅞	— ⅛
Amoco	69⅞	69⅜	69⅛	—11-32
AndarkPtr		59⅞	59½	59⅝
ArmcoInc		4⅜	4½	4⅜
AtlRichfld	121⅛	120⅞	121	—25-64
ATMOS Egy		26	26	26
Avialt		8⅜	8⅜	8⅜
BakerHughes	34½	34	34⅛	— ⅛
BellAtl	61⅞	61½	61⅝	— ⅛
BellSouth s	41½	41⅛	41⅛	—9-64
BethSteel	11¼	11⅛	11⅛	— ⅛
BritPet	112⅞	112	112	—1⅛
BurlNoSFe	83	82¼	82¾	—11-16
Caterpillar	67⅛	66⅞	66⅞	— ⅜
CenSoWst	28⅛	28¼	28⅛	+ ⅛
Chevron	60⅞	59⅞	60	—49-64
Chrysler	56⅞	55¾	56⅛	+ ¼
Chryslerwi	28⅝	28⅛	28¼	— ⅜
Coastal	43⅝	43¼	43¼	— ½
CocaColas	47	46⅞	46⅞	— ¼
ColgatePalm	83⅛	82⅛	82⅛	— ¼
ComclMetals	31⅛	31	31	— ⅛
CooperIn	38⅛	38¼	38¼	— ¼
CyprusAmax		22⅛	22	22
DallSemicn	17⅞	17⅛	17⅞	+ ¼
DeltaAirl	79	77⅞	77⅞	— ⅞
DigitalEq		34⅛	34	34⅛
Dillard	34¼	33⅞	34	+ ⅛
DowChem	78⅞	78⅜	78⅜	— ¼
DresserInd	30⅝	30⅝	30⅝	— ⅛
DuPont	77⅞	77½	77½	— ⅜
EastmanChem	60	59⅞	59⅞	— ¼
EstKodak	71⅛	69⅞	69⅞	—1¼
EDS Corp		49¼	48⅞	49⅛
EljerInd	10⅝	10⅝	10⅝	— ⅛
Enserch	22⅛	22⅛	22⅛	+ ⅜
Entergy	26⅞	26⅜	26⅜	— ¼
Exxon	89⅞	89⅛	89⅛	—7-16
FstBksAm s	9⅝	9⅝	9⅝	— ⅛
Flowers s	17⅞	16⅞	16⅞	— ⅛
FordMotor		31	30¾	30¾
GTE Cp		43⅜	43	43⅛
GenDynam	61¼	60⅞	61⅛	— ¼
GenElec	83⅜	82¾	82⅞	—1⅛
GenMills	53⅜	52¼	53⅛	+ ⅛
GenMotors	48⅜	47⅞	48⅛	+ ¼
GaPacif	74¼	73⅛	74⅛	+1
GlobalMar	16⅛	15⅞	15⅞	+ ⅛
Goodrichs	37⅞	37	37	— ⅜
Goodyear s	45⅛	44⅛	44⅛	— ⅛
GtAtlPac	30	29⅛	29⅛	— ¼
Haliburtn		57¼	56⅞	56⅞
Hanson ADS	13¼	13⅛	13⅛	— ⅛
HarteHanks s	26½	26¼	26¼	— ⅛
HoustonInd s	24	23⅞	24	+ ¼
IBM	94⅞	93⅛	93⅛	—1 13-16
IntlPapers		40⅞	40	40⅛
JohnsnJn s	47⅛	46⅛	46⅛	—7-16
K mart	11	10⅞	10⅞	— ⅛
Kroger	39¼	38⅞	38⅞	— ⅜
Litton	44	43⅜	43⅜	— ⅜
LockhdMart	82¼	81⅛	81⅛	—1⅛
Lowes Cos	33¼	32⅝	32½	— ½
Lubys	23	22½	22½	— ½
LucentTech n	36¼	35¾	35¾	— ¼
MayDeptStrs	42½	42⅛	42⅛	— ⅜
Medtronics	50¼	49⅞	50¼	+ ¼
Mobil	117	116	116	—35-64
Monsanto s	30⅝	29¾	29¾	— ⅜
Motorola	56	55	55⅛	— ⅜
Nationsbk	80⅜	79⅞	80⅛	—3-16
Navistar	10⅛	10	10⅛	— ⅛
NoramEngy		11⅛	11¼	11⅜
Norwest	33	32¾	33	+ ¼
Nynex	46⅛	46	46⅛	— ⅛
OryxEngy		16	15⅞	16
PacTelesis		33¾	33⅜	33¾
PanEnergy	33⅛	33	33	— ⅜
Penney JC	51	49⅞	50	— ⅜
Pennzoil	48⅜	48⅛	48⅛	+ ¼
PepBoys	31⅜	31⅛	31⅜	+ ⅛
PepsiCo s	33¼	32¾	33	— ⅛
PhelpDodge	59⅛	58⅞	59⅛	+ ⅜
PhilipPet	43⅜	43¼	43⅜	— ⅜
PilgrmPrd	8	7⅞	7⅞	— ⅛
Polaroid	43¾	43	43	— ⅜
Praxair	39	38¾	38⅞	— ⅛
ProctGamble		86½	85⅞	86½
PubSNwMx		19⅞	19⅞	19⅞
RoyalDutch	154⅛	153⅜	153⅜	— ⅞
SBC Comm	49⅛	48⅞	49	— ¼
SaraLee	31⅞	31⅛	31⅛	— ⅛
SearsRoeb	45⅛	44½	44⅛	— ⅜
SherwinW		46⅞	46⅞	46⅞
SmthBchADS	54	53⅛	53⅜	— ⅜
SouthernCo	23⅜	23⅛	23⅜	— ⅛
SwstAirlines	26	25⅛	25⅛	—1
Sprint	39	38⅛	38⅛	— ⅜
SterlingChm	11⅛	11⅜	11⅛	+ ⅛
SunCo	29⅛	29⅛	29⅛	— ⅜
TNP Ent	25⅜	25⅜	25⅜	— ¼
Tandy	41	40⅝	40⅝	— ⅛
TempleInl	49⅜	49	49⅜	— ⅛
Tenneco	49⅛	48	48	— ⅞
Texaco	89⅛	88⅜	89⅛	+ ⅜
TexasInd	65⅞	65	65⅞	— ⅜
TexasInst	44⅛	43⅛	43⅜	—1⅛
TexUtil	43⅜	43	43⅛	+ ⅜
Textron	75¼	73	74⅝	+ ⅜
Travelers s	41⅜	41	41⅛	— ⅛
TrinityInds	33⅜	33	33	— ⅛
TritonEngy	48	47	47⅛	— ⅜
Tyler	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	— ⅛
US WestCm s	31⅛	31⅛	31⅛	— ⅜
USWstMda n	17⅛	16⅛	16⅛	— ⅛
USX Delhi		12⅛	12⅛	12⅛
USX-Marathn	21⅜	21¼	21⅜	— ⅛
USX-USS	27	26⅜	26⅜	— ⅛
UnCarbde	39⅛	38⅞	39	— ⅜
UnPac	70⅜	69⅛	69⅜	—1
UnitedTech	109⅜	108¼	108⅜	— ⅜
Unocal	33⅜	33⅛	33⅜	— ⅜
WalMart	24	23¾	23⅞	— ⅛
WstnGasRs	15⅜	15⅛	15⅜	+ ⅜
WestghEl		17⅞	17⅛	17⅞
WinnDixie s	33¼	33⅛	33⅜	— ⅛
Woolworth	20⅞	20⅞	20⅞	— ⅛
XeroxCp s	49⅞	49	49	— ⅜
ZenithE	10⅛	9⅞	9⅞	+ ⅛

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DISMISSALS: Tonnie Richburg and baby.

CENSUS: 55 (Med., Surg.-19, Long-term Care-34, OB-1, Nursery-1).

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Terrorism redefining U.S. troop deployment

By DONALD M. ROTHBERG
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Terrorism is redefining the context in which U.S. forces are deployed in the world's trouble spots. Whether it is Somalia, Bosnia or Saudi Arabia, the primary mission is becoming zero casualties and a clear exit strategy.

The phrase brought to the forefront by the tragedy in Saudi Arabia is force protection. Congress is demanding to know whether enough was done to guard against the terrorist attack that killed 19 U.S. airmen at a housing complex June 25.

Why wasn't the defensive perimeter farther from Khobar Towers? Was enough attention paid to suspicious incidents in the weeks before the bombing? Why didn't the United States press the Saudi government to allow the FBI to question four men convicted of a terrorist bombing in Riyadh seven months ago?

Those questions dominated a Senate hearing last week at which Defense Secretary William Perry and Gen. John Shalikashvili, the nation's top uniformed military officer, were grilled about the bombing.

The questions demand answers. Congress and the public at large have a right to know if neglect played a part in allowing the terrorists to set off a truck bomb that close to the housing area.

But whatever answers come forth, the reality is that there is no way of assuring that U.S. officials and troops are totally safe from terrorist attacks.

"It's quite counterproductive to have American forces when they go overseas to just immediately crawl into their bunkers and hang on," said Eliot Cohen, a professor of strategic studies at Johns Hopkins University who directed a Pentagon study of the Persian Gulf air war.

"If we're going to be a global power we're going to periodically get hit," said Cohen.

"You cannot ever throw an impenetrable curtain around the incredible multiplicity of American facilities and officials either in this country or serving abroad," said former CIA Director Robert Gates.

"The fact is, U.S. counterterrorism operations are far more effective, far more aggressive and far better than most Americans know," he said.

In light of the impossibility of creating that impenetrable curtain, Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., the Senate's most respected authority on defense questions, saw danger in allowing self protection to become the primary mission of U.S. forces.

"I hope we don't come out of this hearing with a mentality that the only thing that a commander does in the field protecting our national interest is to protect the force," Nunn said.

"Because if that is the whole mission, then we will have a bunker mentality, and we will not be able to protect America's national interests, and the largest superpower in the world will find itself immobilized," he continued.

"I hope we don't come to a conclusion that zero casualties is possible in the military, or really for that matter in any kind of risky endeavor."

According to Pentagon figures, 1,054 military personnel died during the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 1995. Six of those were in terrorist attacks. More than half the total were the result of accidents. The Pentagon could not supply a breakdown of how many of the accidental deaths occurred during military activities such as training exercises or plane crashes.

The threat of casualties and the possibility of being bogged down for an indefinite time were major issues during the debate over whether the United States should contribute 20,000 troops to the NATO peacekeeping force in Bosnia.

So far, that mission has been remarkably free of combat casualties.

The pullout of U.S. forces from Bosnia will begin soon and should be nearly complete by early November. Under the plan set forth when the troops were committed, they would stay for not more than one year, a deadline that expires at the beginning of December.

But what if Bosnia has not been transformed into a multi-ethnic democracy by then? What if the prospects are that fighting will resume when the NATO force withdraws?

Will the Americans stay to complete the mission of giving the Bosnians the opportunity to create a stable democracy? Or will the primary mission prove to be getting out?

EDITOR'S NOTE: Donald M. Rothberg covers national security issues for The Associated Press.

AP Analysis

Two brothers fight for release of stepfather

HOUSTON (AP) — Did two boys lie when they reported their stepfather molested them in 1984, or are they lying now when they say their biological father force-fed them the concocted story?

The case of Joe Elizondo is now before the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals after a state district judge ruled he should get a new trial or be released.

The 62-year-old Port Arthur man is awaiting the appeals court decision from his cell at the Wynne prison unit on the northern edge of Huntsville.

Robert and Richard Bienvenue Jr., now 23 and 21 respectively, say they lied during the Elizondo's trial a dozen years ago.

Robert Bienvenue and his brother were living with their father and stepmother in 1983 when his fourth-grade teacher telephoned that she had found a sexually explicit drawing the boy had made of a kangaroo.

"I don't know why I did that," Robert Bienvenue said last week. "It was just something stupid." He said he'd seen sex acts in movies on cable TV and had peeked at Playboy and Hustler magazines that his stepfather kept hidden. "I knew what things looked like, even at that young age."

But he says his father, Richard Bienvenue Sr., forced him to repeat a story that he and his brother had been sexually abused during weekends when they visited their mother and stepfather.

"He brainwashed me, that's what he did, brainwashed me," Robert Bienvenue said.

Not so, says the boys' father, Richard Bienvenue Sr.

"They were already telling that story by the time I came home from work," he said.

The elder Bienvenue said he thinks his sons changed their story as part of a plan to file lawsuits against him. "We own a little business and I think somebody has given them the idea that they might get something out of it."

"It's not for that," Robert Bienvenue said. "Joe's in jail for something he didn't do."

The typed, one- and two-page statements the boys signed in 1983 tell of their mother, Mary Ann Elizondo, and sometimes another man and two women forcing the boys to remove their clothes and commit sexual acts with the adults and with each other.

Both brothers told their stories to Port Arthur police and to other investigators.

"I didn't know anybody was going to get in trouble for what we said," Robert Bienvenue said.

Port Arthur police knew Joe Elizondo well. The surveyor had a small construction company and a long record of arrests, mainly for public intoxication, driving while intoxicated and getting into fights.

When he was arrested on charges of sexually abusing his stepsons, he already was serving a probationary term for marijuana possession.

In his brief trial on one of the sex charges, a jury found Elizondo guilty and, because of his previous record, handed him a life sentence. He was not tried on the other one.

The boys' mother went to court next and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. She pleaded no contest to a second charge of sexual assault and received a 35-year sentence.

She continues to claim that both she and her now ex-husband are innocent.

Mary Ann Elizondo, who was released on parole in 1991, said she pleaded no contest to the second charge because her lawyer advised that she likely would serve only three years.

Assistant District Attorney Rodney Conerly of Jefferson County said he believes the Bienvenue brothers' 1983 and 1984 statements.

"These are not the kinds of things that they could have been taught to say," he said, noting that the boys told virtually the same story on several different occasions.

He said Elizondo shouldn't be released because people who sexually abuse children usually commit the same type of crime again.

Elizondo's defense attorney Douglas Barlow disagrees.

"This story just doesn't sound true," he said, noting that the boys said they engaged in group sex with their mother, stepfather and at least three other people. "It is my experience that sexual abuse does not take place in group situations like this but in private."

One other man was charged in the case, but not indicted. Neither of the other two women mentioned in the brothers' original statements were charged.

'Friends' cast seeks raises

NEW YORK (AP) — The tight-knit gang on "Friends" make a great union.

All six cast members of the hit NBC sitcom got together to demand big raises, threatening a strike if they don't get about $100,000 per show — each.

Time magazine reports the ultimatum in its latest issue, on newsstands Monday, and says it threatens taping of the show's new season.

Then little-known, Courteney Cox, Jennifer Aniston, Matthew Perry, David Schwimmer, Lisa Kudrow and Matt LeBlanc signed five-year contracts for about $22,500 per episode when "Friends" began two seasons ago, Time said.

Undisclosed raises followed after the show took off, but they apparently weren't high enough to satisfy the now famous cast, prompting the ultimatum to Warner Bros., the magazine said.

Time also said Warner Bros. has reportedly sold "Friends" into syndication for $4 million per episode, an unusually high sum, but the deal depends on the cast returning for at least two more years to generate enough shows for reruns.

Concert planned

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Hootie and the Blowfish called, so Willie Nelson is coming.

Nelson is bringing his next Farm Aid concert to the rock band's South Carolina hometown, the country singer announced Saturday.

The Oct. 12 concert will feature Hootie and the Blowfish, Nelson, and Farm Aid co-founders John Mellencamp and Neil Young. The Nashville Network will broadcast the concert a week later.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

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Long Hair and Full Beard Hide Honey of a Husband

DEAR ABBY: I had to write in response to "Available in Maine." Girls, if you know this man, or any man like him, grab him! If I didn't know better, I would have sworn you were describing my husband.

I work full time as a schoolteacher and he stays home with our four children. He not only takes excellent care of the kids, he also cleans the house and runs our small farm. The only thing he can't do is cook.

Abby, I just had to tell the ladies out there that there are some absolute gems among men; however, they may not look like a magazine cover. My husband is the most wonderful, patient, loving, generous man a woman could want, but most women wouldn't take the time to find out because of his appearance.

He has very long hair and a full beard and mustache; therefore most people think he is a criminal, a "biker" or some kind of unsavory character. It's a shame more people don't get to know what a really great guy he is. You may use my name.

KIT CONNALLY,
LONE OAK, TEXAS

DEAR KIT: A man can wear his hair down to his shoulders as well as a full beard and mustache, but if it's shampooed and trimmed regularly, he can look like a magazine ad. Besides, you can't judge a book by its cover.

* * *

DEAR ABBY: I received an engraved invitation that has me more than a little puzzled. The invitation is to a "commitment ceremony" for two men, followed by a reception at a swanky downtown hotel.

I have been friendly with one of these men for more than 30 years. Only recently he told me he is gay. I do not want to do anything that would offend him, and I have indicated that I will attend the ceremony and reception.

I have no idea of the protocol for such an occasion. While it's not a wedding per se, that is the idea. Do I take a gift? If so, what kind of gift is appropriate? The parties involved are highly successful businessmen — one is a magazine editor, the other a prominent lawyer. They don't need a blender.

This is a first for me. I want to express my respect for the union my friend and his partner are forming. What would you do, Abby?

MINNEAPOLIS READER

DEAR READER: I would treat their "commitment ceremony" as though it were a wedding, because that is what it is to them and those who care about them.

Yes, do send a gift. Something for their home would be nice.

* * *

DEAR ABBY: I have heard (and known) about showers for the bride for a long time, but never have I heard about any shower to benefit the groom. Just recently I was surprised to receive an invitation to a "tool" shower for my grandson who is engaged and will soon receive his degree in construction management.

I thought this was a great idea. Surely this is an idea that should be more popular. It would benefit all future grooms.

J.H.S. IN TEXAS

DEAR J.H.S.: While bridal showers and showers for the couple are more common, showers for the groom are not unheard of. I'm sure many brides would cheer if the common (and frequently offensive to them) stag party were replaced by a more practical shower for the groom.

* * *

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Gridlock rules as Congress faces major issues

WASHINGTON (AP) — There is a glimmer of hope on welfare, but election-year politics appear still to be standing in the way of passing a health insurance bill both parties say they want.

Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle used a national television appearance Sunday with his Republican counterpart, Trent Lott, to propose a way to break a three-month deadlock on health insurance. Lott dismissed it out of hand.

Daschle, D-S.D., suggested on NBC's "Meet the Press" that the main aims of the bill — to ensure that people who lose or change jobs keep their insurance and are not punished for pre-existing medical conditions — be handled separately from a GOP-backed plan to create tax-exempt medical savings accounts, or MSAs.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., has blocked appointment of senators to House-Senate negotiations on working out differences in their health care bills because GOP leaders intend to include the accounts for millions of employees of small businesses.

Democrats say they would support only a small-scale experiment with the program. They contend that a large-scale program would siphon off healthy and affluent people from group health insurance plans and thus raise premiums for the ill and the poor.

Lott, R-Miss., responding to Daschle's suggestion that MSAs be dealt with separately, said: "As soon as Senator Daschle gets Senator Kennedy under control and agrees that we are going to have MSAs and portability, we are going to get health insurance reform this year."

The Democrats put forth another compromise proposal on MSAs last week, but chances for an agreement were cast against an increasingly hostile election-year atmosphere that has brought legislating in the Senate to a near standstill.

Nevada Sens. Harry Reid and Richard Bryan, both Democrats, angered Republicans last week when they blocked the 1997 defense spending bill to filibuster over legislation to set up temporary storage facilities for nuclear waste in their state.

"To my shock all of a sudden I found that everything was being blocked and I saw for the first time it looked to me like there was a planned gridlock in the Senate," said Lott, who took over as majority leader from GOP presidential candidate Bob Dole a month ago.

"We're not going to apologize for stopping extreme legislation," Daschle replied.

The two leaders have tried to maintain an image of civility, but Lott snapped at a Daschle comment that his support for ending taxpayer funding of the National Endowment for the Arts was an example of Republican extremism.

"I don't impugn Tom Daschle's integrity when he disagrees with me, but when he disagrees with me he calls it extremism," Lott said. "I don't appreciate his response."

Lott said attacks on Republicans are coming from the "looney left" in Congress who "have nothing really to say."

The GOP leader was somewhat more optimistic on an overhaul of the welfare system, saying "we're going to get it through the Senate in the next couple of weeks if the Democrats don't filibuster this, too."

President Clinton said Saturday that the Republicans' decision to meet Democratic demands and separate welfare from changes in the Medicaid health care system for the poor "can be a real breakthrough." He indicated willingness to sign welfare legislation.

Clinton has vetoed two previous welfare bills produced by the Republican-run Congress because he objected to certain provisions or opposed the packages in which they were included.

House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, told CNN's "Late Edition" that he would work with Democrats on the welfare issue, but he was not optimistic about their cooperation.

"The Democrats are absolutely experts at sounding sincere, but their idea of negotiation is 'you give us everything we ask or you're extreme' ... You can't talk to people who are just fundamentally self-centered and unreasonable," Armey said.

Lott said the Senate would not have time this year to bring up two issues that could further highlight tensions between the two parties — repealing the ban on assault-type firearms and restricting affirmative action programs.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., speaking on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley," also said the House will not consider a major affirmative action bill soon, but he said it would debate a bill to end quotas and set-asides in small businesses.

Lindale school curriculum scrapped by board

DALLAS (AP) — Trustees in a Northeast Texas school system have scrapped the English curriculum because of what they identify as profanity or sexual content in some books once assigned to freshman through senior advanced placement English classes.

The board voted unanimously on Tuesday, concluding that some of the 34 books in the program at Lindale High School were too explicit for students in the town of 2,400 residents.

Board member Gary Camp told The Dallas Morning News he doesn't know much about literature, but does know what he doesn't want the town's high school students to read.

"We did not ban a single book," said Camp, an accountant who joined the Lindale school board this spring. "All we are saying is, some of these books — there's just no reason for them."

The move leaves teachers scrambling to develop a new curriculum to replace at least some of the books.

A proposed new reading list now being reviewed by a committee of parents and teachers excludes six books, two plays and two films from the original curriculum.

Among the excluded items are works by William Shakespeare, Ernest Hemingway, John Steinbeck and several world-renowned Latino authors, according to a list released by school officials.

Some parents praised the move, but others said they fear that their children's education will suffer from what they view as censorship.

"It's going to eviscerate the curriculum," said Alan Jackson, a Lindale parent whose two children are in the advanced placement English program.

"If your bottom line is you can have no book with profanity, no book with any suggestion of sexuality and no book with violence, then you've eliminated a lot of serious literature."

School officials said the issue arose this spring when about 150 students who had signed up for the four-year English program got reading lists for the upcoming school year.

The school has offered voluntary advanced placement classes to juniors and seniors for about four years and expanded the program two years ago to include freshmen and sophomores.

Officials and board members said a few parents complained to the board that some of the books on the course reading list were unsuitable. So in May, the board appointed a committee of parents and teachers to review the list.

"It was not a mass complaint," Lindale High School principal Jim Bernard said.

Bernard and others said the books most often singled out for complaints were best-selling newer works, including:

— "The Joy Luck Club" by Chinese-American author Amy Tan, which was deemed too profane;

— "The House of the Spirits" by Chilean author Isabel Allende, which was considered pornographic.

— "Bless Me, Ultima" by Latino author and New Mexico resident Rudolpho Anaya, which was considered profane and full of weird spirituality.

Get in the spirit of the season. It's almost time for those pre-Christmas and post-Christmas holiday merchandise sales.

Business and Industrial News

Kerry Bredemeyer awarded MST title

From its Milwaukee, Wis. based engine manufacturing facility, Briggs and Stratton Corporation has announced that Kerry Bredemeyer has recently taken and passed the Master Service Technician Exam.

This outstanding achievement makes Kerry one of only 1,200 engine technicians worldwide to have achieved the Master Service Technician status.

The Master Service Technician exam is a test of a candidate's ability to efficiently service any Briggs & Stratton product. It is intended to recognize only those industry professionals exhibiting superior skills in all phases of product service and support.

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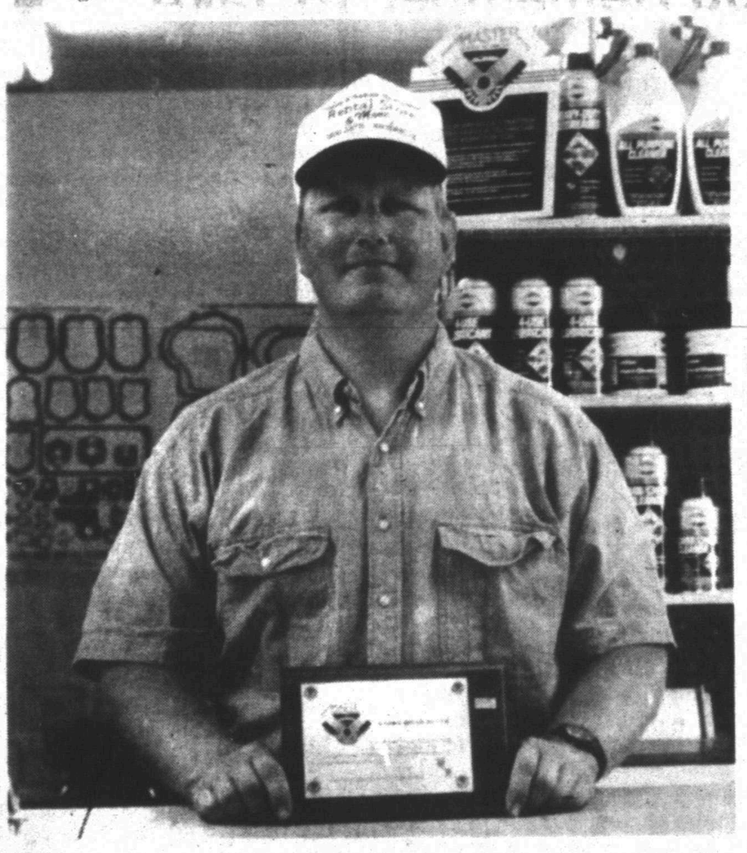
The MST test is open to any technician in the air cooled engine industry.

The Rental Store and More is located at 1300 25th and is proudly owned and operated by Kerry and his wife, Betty.



Kerry Bredemeyer, Master Service Technician

LARGE SELECTION AVAILABLE — The Rental Store and More carries a wide selection of mowers, tillers and lawn tractors, as well as a large number of other tools and equipment to keep your yard looking its best this summer. (SDN Staff Photo)

Novelist receives award

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP) — Novelist Russell Banks, who said he modeled his early writing on Ernest Hemingway's, received the Conch Republic Prize for Literature on the grounds of Hemingway's former home.

Banks, author of "Continental Drift," "Searching for Survivors," and, most recently, "Rule of Bone," received the award Sunday at the start of Key West's weeklong, annual Hemingway Days Festival.

Paparazzi upsets Diana

LONDON (AP) — Royal divorce deal in hand, Princess Diana admits she's upset, but it's not the split that's really bothering her. It's the pursuing pack of paparazzi hounding her every step.

Sunday tabloids splashed photos of the unhappy princess across its pages, pictures taken a day after the Friday announcement that she and Prince Charles had agreed on divorce terms.

"The fact that the Princess of Wales was persistently followed by seven press motorbikes and two press motor cars this morning is the reason for the distressing photographs which are now being published," Diana's office said Saturday. "She has asked that her sons and their parents are given some understanding at a sad time for all of them."

"Princess of Wails" trumpeted The Sunday Mirror over a picture of the princess scolding photographers.

"Diana's Tears in the Park" was the The News of the World headline above a photo of the princess apparently sobbing in a park near her Kensington Palace home.

A divorce court will process the case of Wales vs. Wales on Monday, and on Aug. 28, the uncontested divorce should be final.

Diana will lose the title Her Royal Highness, but reportedly will get up to $25.5 million, plus $600,000 annually to run her office.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

New U.S. space endurance record set by NASA astronaut Shannon Lucid

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA astronaut Shannon Lucid set a new U.S. space endurance record today and said she misses her family but doesn't mind spending an extra 1½ months aboard the Russian space station Mir.

Early this afternoon, the 53-year-old biochemist surpassed the 115-day, 10-hour record set last year by another U.S. astronaut aboard Mir. Because space shuttle Atlantis is grounded with rocket problems, she has an additional 70 days or so to go before she returns to Earth.

Lucid said in a space-to-ground news conference this morning that her husband and three children feel she's been gone an awfully long time and that's "it's time to come home to start doing the things that I normally do around the house."

She said they have been extremely supportive and send her daily computer messages, including a scrapbook complete with family snapshots. She also has periodic TV conferences with them.

"That has made all the difference to me," she said. "I mean, I really like that. That's just super. So I know what's going on in their lives. I haven't lost contact with them on a daily basis."

Lucid, who arrived at Mir in March, is the second American to live on Mir. Improvements in communications and other areas were made following that first visit by Dr. Norman Thagard, who held the U.S. space endurance record until today. The world record, 439 days, was set by a Russian cosmonaut last year.

Lucid also is only the third woman to live on the 10-year-old space station, and will set a new space endurance record for women in September.

Lucid hadn't planned on breaking the women's record.

She was supposed to return to Earth in early August. But on Friday, NASA bumped Atlantis' launch from July 31 to around Sept. 15 to replace its solid-fuel rocket boosters.

Hot gas leaked into joints on Columbia's boosters last month, most likely because of a new adhesive, and shuttle managers did not want to take a chance with Atlantis.

Until the docking mission was delayed, Lucid said she had been counting down the days until she'd be reunited with her family.

"But so I'm going to stay up here a little longer and I'll be home a little bit later, and when I get home later they'll be just as excited to see me and I'll be just as excited to see them as I would have in the first part of August," she said.

"The two things that I planned on being home for were my son's birthday and my daughter's birthday," she added. "But I told them we'd make it up to them when I do get home."

Son Michael, her youngest, turns 21 on Aug. 22. Daughter Kawai, her oldest, turns 28 on Sept. 19.

To help make the remaining days go faster, Lucid's family has sent some books to Russia for launch on a supply ship later this month.

Obituaries

Ralph Bryant

1922-1996

Ralph C. Bryant, the brother of two Ira residents, died Friday, July 12, in Avalon Place Nursing Home in Odessa. He was 73.

Funeral service was set for 2 p.m. today in the Westbrook First Baptist Church with the Rev. S.L. Yielding officiating. Interment was to follow in the Ira Cemetery under the direction of Frank W. Wilson Funeral Directors.

Born in Loraine, Mr. Bryant married Wanda Molen in San Antonio in 1942. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II.

Mr. Bryant earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Hardin-Simmons University, and he moved to Odessa in 1969. He taught school in Westbrook and in the Ector County Independent School district, and was a member of the First Baptist Church in Odessa.

Survivors include his wife, Wanda Bryant of Odessa; a son, Tommy Bryant of Odessa; three daughters, Donna Hoyle of Matador, Sandra Bell of Odessa and Carolyn Hicks of Bedford; his stepmother, Grace Bryant of Arlington; three brothers, Franklin Bryant of Ira, Quann Bryant of Aroyo City and Ferrell Bryant of Arlington; three sisters, Darla Huddleston of Ira, Pat Scharnhorst of Kerrville and Mary Jo Martin of Lubbock; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Hickman

1906-1996

Funeral service is pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home for Maybelle Hickman of Abilene, former longtime Scurry County resident. She was 90. Mrs. Hickman died Monday, July 15, in Hendrick Wisteria Place in Abilene after a lengthy illness.

Born on Jan. 22, 1906 in Joaquin, Tex., she married W. Bailey Hickman on July 16, 1922 in Center. He preceded her in death. A housewife, Mrs. Hickman was a member of Southside Baptist Church in Abilene.

Survivors include six daughters, Brenda Craft of Spring, Margie Finley of Abilene, Marscline Beissner of San Antonio, Mary Kiger of Houston, Thelma Kmeic of Tomball and Linda Leisinger of Houston; a sister, Silby Hermenzers of Louisiana; and a brother, Elidge Parker of San Antonio.

Memorials may be made to West Texas Rehabilitation Center.

Mrs. Claxton

1907-1996

COLORADO CITY — Funeral service is set for 3 p.m. Tuesday in the Kiker-Seale Funeral Home Chapel for Alma Rene Marshall Claxton, 89, who died Thursday, July 11, in a Lubbock nursing home.

Auda Vee Claxton and the Rev. Fred Smith will officiate. Burial will follow in the Colorado City Cemetery.

Mrs. Claxton was the stepmother of Gladys Faye Oden of Snyder.

Born in Bowie, she married Rufus Marshall on May 25, 1925 in Colorado City. He died in 1969. She married Bill Claxton on July 7, 1976 in Colorado City, and he died in 1978.

She was a long-time resident of Colorado City, was a homemaker and a member of the Oak Street Baptist Church.

Survivors include two stepsons, Auda Vee Claxton and Wayne Claxton, both of Colorado City; two other stepdaughters, Juanice Peach of Frisco and Verla Owens of Loraine; three brothers, Harold Garlington of Lubbock, Woody Garlington of Graham and Tom Garlington of California; 16 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Ty Holladay

1986-1996

AZTEC, N.M. — Funeral service for Glen Tyrell Holladay, 10, were held Friday at Bethel Baptist Church in Aztec, N.M., with the pastor of the church, the Rev. Bob Schlauger, officiating. Burial followed in Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Farmington.

Born on June 5, 1986 in Odessa, Ty died in a playground accident near his Farmington home on Monday, July 8.

He is survived by a his parents, Greg and Cheri Holladay of Farmington; a sister, Callee, also of Farmington; maternal grandmother, Glenda Porter of Wheeler, Tex.; paternal grandparents, Hoyle and Joan Holladay of Snyder; great-grandmothers, Thelma Ford and Laura Holladay, both of Snyder.

Memorials may be made to the Ty Holladay Little League Baseball Fund at First National Bank, 100 E. Broadway, Farmington, N.M. 87401, or to the First Baptist Church Organ Fund in Snyder.

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For An Appointment

Commissioners convene

Continued From Page 1

commissioner, said it would not cost the county much to put the issue to the voters in November.

"Let's let the voters decide," said Gray.

In an action item this morning, the court voted to accept the resignation of Frances Billingsley from the post of county clerk "with regret."

The court voted unanimously to appoint Jenna Vee Miller, the chief clerk in that office, to serve as county clerk until the November general election. At that time, the winner of the election will take office as soon as the vote is official and canvassed.

Commissioners also approved election judges and alternates for the November election. They are:

Pct. 5, Fluvanna, Bill Jones and Carolyn Stansell; Pct. 6, Union, Jo Longbotham and Jessie Jo Hayes; Pct. 7, northwest and west Snyder, Jerry House and Sharon Bruns; Pct. 8, west central Snyder, Jeanne Bullard and Bob Ivey; Pct. 9, Ira, Wanda Falls and Anita Erwin; Pct. 10, southwest Snyder, Betty House and Faye Layne; and Pct. 11, Dunn, W.J. Fuller and Jerry Fuller.

Others are, Pct. 12, central and southeast Snyder, Laverne Hood and S.H. Gillum; Pct. 13, Hermleigh, Carol Haynes and Pete Foster; Pct. 14, Loyd Mountain, Ann Barrett and Irene Jordan; Pct. 15, north and northeast Snyder, Janelda Davis and Elois Davis; and Pct. 16, early voting, Pat Floyd and Martha Martin.

Commissioners approved a budget amendment of $3,750 in repairs, $1,250 in equipment and $1,000 in fuel oil and grease in Precinct 3, part of which was for the painting of the hangar roof at the airport.

Line item transfers approved were:

—$6,000 from capital outlay, machinery to part-time help in Pct. 2 to replace someone who had retired;

—$1,526 from equipment to small office equipment at the mental health department;

—$2,000 from general payroll to part-time salaries at the sheriff's office;

—$4,000 from capital outlay to repairs at the consolidated precinct;

—and $282 from other equipment to fuel, oil and grease at the airport.

Judge Fritz presided. All commissioners were present.

New news service

NEW YORK (AP) — MSNBC, the joint venture of NBC and Microsoft, began airing its all-news format on cable TV and computer screens today, after a brief problem getting online.

"It looks like a cross between a Seattle coffeehouse and the bridge of the starship Enterprise," MSNBC anchorwoman Jodi Applegate said, previewing her bare-brick and I-beam studio for NBC's "Today" show.

The set had as many computer monitors as TV screens, plus a battery of coffee and espresso machines.

The CNN-like cable TV service got rolling at 9 a.m. EDT, but the network's Internet component, MSNBC Interactive, at first displayed the same text, graphics and pictures it had shown since going online Wednesday.

What's Up?

Barrel race open to 12-under

Young barrel racers in Scurry County are invited to enter in a 12-and-under event Thursday through Saturday during the Scurry County Rodeo Association rodeo. To enter, call Molly Tatum at 573-8180 as soon as possible. Entries will be limited to five contestants nightly. A buckle will be given each night.

Key to the Kingdom series

Video tapes of the Key to the Kingdom series are airing on TCA Cable TV Channel 2. The next tape, "Known by His Justice," will air at 7 this evening.

SHS senior photos to be taken

Snyder High School seniors will take yearbook photos Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the auditorium. Students should wear regular school clothes.

Christmas in July

Christmas in July will be held for veterans at the American Legion from 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Cost for the turkey and dressing dinner is $3.

Cheerleading camp 3 days

Stars-R-Us gym and SHS varsity cheerleaders will host a cheerleader mini-camp July 29 through Aug. 1 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the high school gym. Campers must be 4 years old or older. Fee is $40 and includes a T-shirt if a child is preregistered.

Preregistration will be held from 12-1 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. today through Wednesday at the gym, 2502 Ave. V. Call 573-8360 or 573-1602 for more information.

Martha Ann Woman's Club

Martha Ann Woman's Club board will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday. All board members are encouraged to attend.

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday by the Texas Lottery, in order:

3-4-8

(three, four, eight)

Lotto Texas

By The Associated Press

No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn for the latest Lotto Texas, state lottery officials said.

The lotto jackpot was worth an estimated $12 million.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 50 for the twice-weekly game were: 10, 21, 27, 30, 32 and 47.

The lottery said 84 tickets sold with five of the six numbers were each worth $2,436. Another 6,058 tickets had four of the winning numbers, with each receiving $122.

Also, 126,832 tickets were sold with three of six numbers, with each worth an automatic $3.

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $18 million.

Six people jailed on various charges; officers continue to work burglaries

Six people were arrested over the weekend, and peace officers continued to investigate vehicle and residential burglaries.

At 6:46 a.m. Sunday, J.T. Farqhar notified officers that someone had attempted to steal his car from 206 36th St. sometime Saturday night. An offense report for attempted theft was submitted.

Lewis Solis notified officers at 3:17 p.m. Sunday that someone had taken some compact discs from his vehicle at the Kingswood Apartments. An offense report for burglary of a vehicle was submitted.

Another report of a vehicle being broken into at the Kingswood Apartments was reported at 3:53 p.m. Sunday. A vehicle belonging to Amanda Loyola had been broken into. An offense report for burglary of a vehicle was submitted.

An offense report for Class C theft was submitted at 6:04 p.m. Sunday in reference to a male juvenile taking a soft drink from Cox's Minute Market.

Jennifer Pool requested to speak to an officer at 6:46 p.m. Sunday in reference to someone breaking into her residence at 2006 26th Street. An offense report for burglary of a residence was submitted in reference to miscellaneous household items being taken.

Brenda Ingram requested to speak to an officer at 8:15 a.m. Saturday in reference to a wrought iron table and chairs being stolen. An offense report for Class B theft was submitted.

A 17-year-old male was arrested at 11:05 p.m. Saturday in the 1900 block of Coleman Avenue on city warrants for failure to control speed and failure to appear.

Following a report of a possible intoxicated driver at 12:05 a.m. Sunday in the area of Denison Street, officers arrested a 31-year-old male at 12:36 p.m. in Towle Park for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

Officers arrested a 21-year-old male at 3:11 a.m. Sunday in the 1100 block of 25th Street for public intoxication.

Officers arrested a 26-year-old male at 8:22 a.m. Sunday in the 600 block of 25th Street on an city warrant for public intoxication and failure to appear.

A 19-year-old male was arrested at 10:01 a.m. Sunday at 25th and College Avenue on DPS warrants from San Antonio for no driver's license and no liability insurance and city warrants for no driver's license, no liability insurance and for failure to appear on both charges.

A 40-year-old male was arrested at 11:25 p.m. Sunday at the sheriff's office for public intoxication.

In other activity over the weekend, Daryl Drain requested to speak to an officer at 7:22 a.m. in reference to someone throwing eggs on and inside a vehicle in the 1900 block of Santa Fe Friday night. An offense report for Class B criminal mischief was submitted.

An offense report for Class C assault was submitted at 12:11 a.m. Sunday in reference to a person being assaulted in the 3400 block of College Avenue.

A report for two found bicycles were made at 2:46 this morning in reference to an officer on patrol finding the bicycles in the 3900 block of Avenue V.

Nolan Treadway notified officers at 5:22 this morning of glass being broken on overhead doors at B & F Well Service. An offense report for Class B criminal mischief was submitted.

The fire department responded to reports of two fires Saturday. At 4:35 p.m., a grass fire was reported some 16 miles east of Snyder on CR 1150. The cause of the fire was lightning. At 5:10 p.m., the department responded to a report of a trailer house fire on US Highway 84 near Ezell-Key Grain Co. Occupants of that location were burning trash and no other fire was found.

Tobacco firm can question whistle-blower

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The former chief of research at Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. expressed relief at finally being able to talk under oath today about how his claim the company misled the public about the dangers of nicotine.

Brown & Williamson contends that Jeffrey Wigand is the one not telling the truth, and said they were ready to prove it in court.

"After nine months of efforts to avoid being cross-examined, despite his efforts to stop the deposition, we are nevertheless starting this morning," said Gordon Smith, an attorney representing the tobacco company.

Wigand didn't take questions from reporters today, but said going public with allegations against his former employer was worth any difficulties he's encountered.