SOUTHWEST MICRO
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Pact would permit 'closer look' at hospital

An agreement that would allow a firm interested in leasing Cogdell Memorial Hospital to more closely scrutinize the hospital's finances and physical plant will be considered by the Scurry County Commissioners Court Monday morning.

The court will consider a "due diligence agreement" with Community Health Systems (CHS) when it meets at 10 o'clock.

The Brentwood, Tenn. firm has made a preliminary offer to lease Cogdell Memorial Hospital with up-front payments totaling nearly $10 million.

If the court approves the agreement, it will serve several purposes, including allowing CHS to actually look at the books of the hospital as opposed to just looking at financial reports. It will also allow the firm to bring in architects and engineers to inspect the hospital to get detailed costs on plans for capital expenditures and improvements.

The agreement would also allow the local steering committee to take a closer look at the operations of CHS, including touring a medical facility the firm has leased since 1989 in Tennessee. The hospital in Oneida is similar to Cogdell in size, as it also has 99 licensed beds.

County Judge Ricky Fritz said all expenses related to the tour of the Tennessee facility would be borne by CHS.

The local committee is composed of Fritz, Precinct 4 Commissioner Jerry Gannaway, hospital board members E.D. Walton and Stanley Martin, Cogdell employees Lisa Cross, RN, Laurie Stark, RN, and hospital auxiliary president Lynn Heard, plus Dr. Gary Nussey, Cogdell's chief of staff. The group made its first fact-finding trip to a CHS-owned facility Friday as it toured Scenic Mountain Medical Center in Big Spring, a facility CHS acquired in October, 1994.

The ad hoc committee is expected to meet again a week from Tuesday.

Other major points of the agreement that the court will consider Monday include:

—formally defining the transaction between the county and CHS as a lease of assets, including the hospital, real property used in connection with the operation of the hospital, equipment inventory and supplies at the facility, accounts receivable, hospital records and selected liabilities.

—the length of the lease which will be 30 years with CHS paying an inital amount of $5 million with the firm paying $250,000 per year beginning in the sixth year of the lease.

—the purchase of selected items of working capital.

—the establishment of a governing board consisting of seven to nine members including the hospital's chief of staff, administrator and with the remaining members to be appointed by CHS upon recommendation of the current hospital board.

—CHS committing to the same level of indigent care currently provided by Cogdell.

—funding capital improvements and purchasing equipment to a minimum of $3 million over

See HOSPITAL Page 12A

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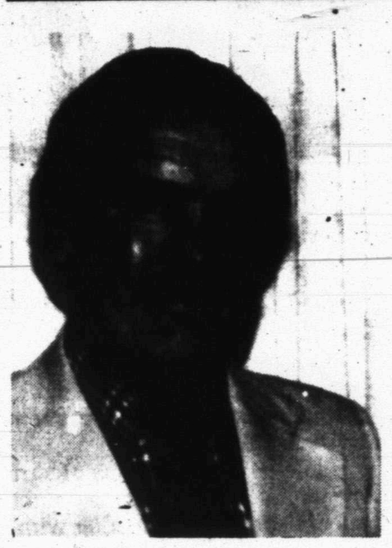
WT-Int. Crude - $21.63

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND

Feb. 22 & 23, 1997
Vol. 47 No. 251
38 Pages 50¢

Home of Justin Logston



Richard Chambers

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Never carry an umbrella when going to the bank. It looks like you can't afford to be rained on."

We had mud on our face Thursday evening — but it was eggactly what was needed.

The terrific rains Wednesday and Thursday that made farmers and ranchers smile played havoc with newspaper deliveries in the Hermleigh area.

The regular carrier was involved in a stock show with her family, and the substitute carrier didn't know the low places to be avoided.

The substitute got stranded, waded out and walked several miles to a nearby home to call her husband for assistance. By then it was almost 6 p.m. and the telephones were already lighting up with calls from Hermleigh.

The carrier told us the papers and route list were back in her car and there was no way to get to them. Office staff helped roll and bag more papers which we attempted to deliver in the Hermleigh area in the dark. We also noticed there wasn't much dry ground, even in Hermleigh proper.

Also in the stranded vehicles were newspapers destined for the Hermleigh post office. Early Friday morning, we got a fresh batch ready for the Hermleigh mail.

To those customers who were inconvenienced, we hope you agree with Hermleigh postmaster Doug Vineyard who said there's nothing that beats a three-inch rain — and that includes a dry copy of the Snyder Daily News.

Mickey Nunley, owner of the Plaza Truck Stop, said he was considering vertical-integration of his Friday night all-you-can eat catfish.

Rainfall also made his parking lot look like a lake, and Nunley said he was considering raising his own catfish.

Rain has also affected some local telephone service. We're told that work on 30th Street has allowed moisture to get in some of the telephone lines, resulting in some phones in the area being out temporarily.

Wet anything — it's a nice problem to have for a change.

Chambers to run...

Filing is light in first week

Snyder native Richard Chambers filed Friday for a second term on the Snyder ISD board of trustees.

Filing was light for the first week with only four incumbents electing to toss their hats into the ring. There are 12 seats up for election in May, eight on the three public school boards in Scurry County and four in city government.

The filing period continues through April 2.

Chambers, a pump special with Continental Emsco, is seeking to retain the Place 3 seat he has held for the past three years. The other seat up for election on the Snyder ISD board is Place 2. Geraldine Parker, the current trustee representing that spot, has said she will not seek re-election.

A graduate of Snyder High School and Western Texas College, Chambers has a daughter, Dara, who is a sixth grader. He has been a member of the Christian Temple in Colorado City for the past 23 years.

"I have enjoyed serving on the SISD board, and we have enjoyed success in every avenue of education," Chambers said. "Our test scores are up, our dropout rate is decreasing, teacher and community relations are high. The past several years has seen our board working in harmony and with the administration to help set the stage for a sucessful school district. We must continue to work to ensure that our children are prepared for the 21st Century."

Dirk Dunn filed last Tuesday for another three-year term on the Ira ISD school board. Dunn, an area farmer, was elected to Place 5 on the board in 1994.

Place 4 on the Ira board, currently held by Bo Robinson, is also up for election.

Four seats are up for election on the Hermleigh ISD board. As yet, Tim Dacus has been the only person to file. Dacus, a technician specialist for Sun Pipeline, was elected last year to fill out an unexpired term. He will be seeking a full term this time around.

Also on the Hermleigh ballot will be terms held by John Williamson and Chip Roemisch, and the uncompleted term of Jimmy Hudgins, who recently resigned from the board.

In addition to the school board, voters will choose a mayor and three city council members.

Mayor David Holt has filed for re-election. No one has filed for city council, though at-large councilman Ron Shaw has announced that he will.

Seats up for election on the council are an at-large post held by Dayton Robertson and the District 3 seat, vacated last year by Kenny Gambrell.

TAAS testing starts Tuesday

Snyder ISD will give the state-mandated Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) test beginning Tuesday.

Sophomore students enrolled in Snyder High school, juniors and seniors who have not shown mastery on one or more portions of the test and registered out-of-school examinees are eligible for exit-level testing.

TAAS writing for exit-level and Grades 4 and 8 will be given Tuesday.

Exit-level TAAS and TEAMS math will be given on Wednesday with TAAS reading and TEAMS English/language arts to follow on Thursday.

Scurry County Coliseum will be the testing site for sophomores and out-of-school examinees. Juniors, seniors and English limited proficiency students will be tested in the high school library. Those taking the test must be present and on time. No make-up sessions will be allowed.

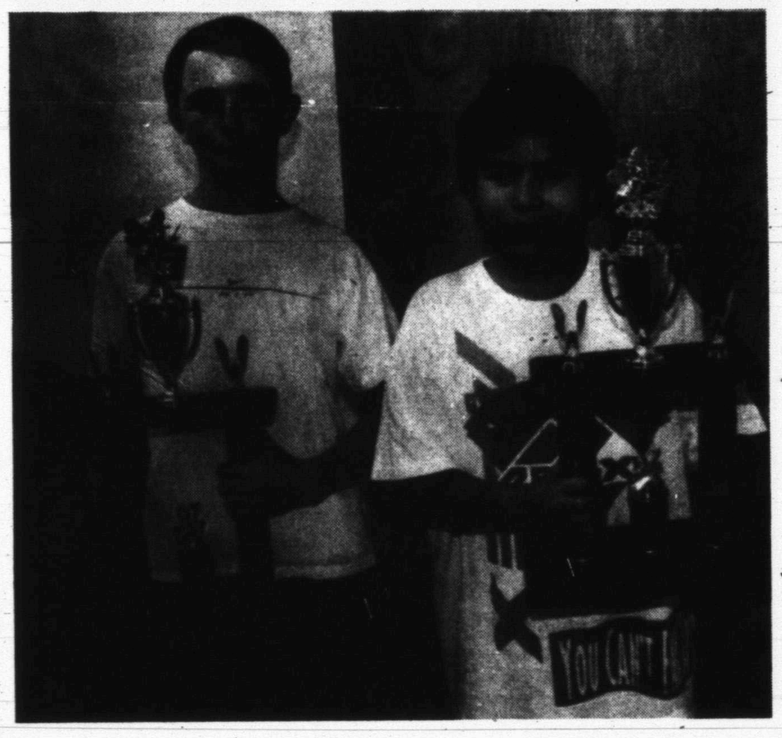
Out-of-school examinees should be at the coliseum by 8:30 a.m. with an admission letter and picture identification. Only pre-registered TAAS and TEAMS examinees will be admitted.

Anxiety 4th Hereford sale set here Monday

The 48th annual National Anxiety 4th Hereford Breeders bull and female sale will be held Monday in the Scurry County Coliseum.

The show begins at 9 a.m. and the sale will be held at 12:30 p.m. Stanley Stout will serve as auctioneer.

Consignors for the sale are from Post, San Angelo, Plainview, Stratford, Eden, Bowie, Hamlin, Dalhart, Roby, Stamford, Big Spring and Snyder.



SJHS BEE WINNERS — Two boys won the spelling bee at Snyder Junior School Friday afternoon. Tim Green, left, 8th grader, finished first. Joe Martinez, 7th grade, took second place. Both will advance to the county bee next month. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Clinton opposed to budget amendment

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton said Saturday it takes only two ingredients to balance the budget: Congress' vote and his signature. He asked lawmakers not to spoil the recipe by trying to rewrite the Constitution.

"We must balance the budget, but a balanced budget amendment could cause more harm than good," Clinton said in his weekly radio address. "Instead, we should simply act this year and act together."

But the president's overture may go unheeded in a Republican-led Congress growing increasingly warm to the idea of a balanced budget amendment.

The issue could come up for a March vote in the Senate, where it failed by only one vote last year. In an attempt to prevent it from dying in the House, a bipartisan group has formed to address some members' concerns over how the amendment will affect Social Security benefits.

"The balanced budget amendment is in trouble — it's very, very close" in the Senate, Rep. John Kasich, R-Ohio, chairman of the House Budget Committee, said in Cincinnati on Friday. "I'm deeply concerned about it."

A two-thirds majority in each house is required for passage of a constitutional amendment, followed by ratification by three-fourths of the states. A recent poll showed 33 Democratic senators opposed the amendment; it would take 34 votes to defeat it.

ARC meet is Monday

The ARC of Texas has scheduled a meeting here Monday to inform parents and advocates how to ensure financial stability for family members with disabilities.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Snyder Training Center, located behind Humble-Smith School. Refreshments will be served.

Monday's meeting follows a series of townhall meetings last November here, in Monahans, Big Spring and Sweetwater, held to give parents, advocates and individuals the chance to become better educated about their rights, and how to have a say in decisions that impact them.

At those meetings, ARC officials noted that many parents said setting up a trust for a family member was a major concern.

Monday, Don Rettberg of the Austin ARC will discuss setting up trusts. Also discussed will be ways to become involved in advocacy groups and how to gain information about the services for a family member.

Also discussed will be the new 23-county MHMR center which will open March 1 in Big Spring.

Dr. Abdelfattah...

Doctor moves to Lubbock

Dr. Nazem Abdelfattah, a family practitioner in Snyder for the past six months, is leaving Snyder to practice in Lubbock.

Dr. Abdelfattah's final day at the St. Mary Family Healthcare Center in Snyder was Friday. He had resigned his hospital privileges with Cogdell Memorial Hospital effective Feb. 17.

Dr. Abdelfattah will continue his association with St. Mary Family Healthcare Centers and work at an out-patient clinic in Lubbock.

Dr. Abdelfattah, who started practice in Snyder last September, said his reasons for leaving were "personal and professional." The doctor said he had two years remaining on his contract with St. Mary Health Care Centers and said he had no long-term plans past that.

Carla Nunley, Snyder clinic coordinator, said no doctor has been recruited to replace Dr. Abdelfattah, but that the St. Mary group is working to recruit other physicians to the new St. Mary Clinic which opened last Monday.

Dr. Abdelfattah moved to West Texas from Detroit where he attended medical school at Wayne State University. He completed his residency in family practice at Grace Hospital.

Prior to coming to Snyder, he resided in Lubbock for one month where he worked in other St. Mary clinics in the area.

SJHS names bee winners

Snyder Junior High School spelling bee winners were determined Friday afternoon.

Tim Green, 8th grader, finished in first place. Runner-up was Joe Martinez, 7th grader.

Tim is the son of Patsy Taylor and Joe is the son of Joe and Olga Martinez.

Both will advance to the county bee on March 7.

Five students participated. Kris Murphy was the director.

Sylvia Sapsky was the pronouncer. Kori Glenn was the dictionary judge. Other judges included Virginia Trevey and Linda Huestis.

Ira School has set its spell-off Thursday.

ASK US

Q—How much water did Lake Thomas receive from the rain this week?

A—About 700 acre-feet, or a vertical rise of a little less than six inches.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Friday, 48; low, 29; 7 a.m. Saturday, 29; trace precipitation; total for 1997, 4.65 inches.

Area Forecast: Saturday night, fair. Low, 30-35. Light SE wind. Sunday, mostly cloudy. High 50-55. SE wind 10-20 mph.



Nathan Ricossa
Mostly Cloudy

Sunset: 6:37 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:17 a.m.
Of 52 days in 1997, the sun has shone 46 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

It is better to be approximately right than precisely wrong.

Warren Buffet

'Happy bus' whistle-blower said guilty

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A sergeant who accused the Army of retaliation after he brought the riotous "Happy Bus" trips to Fort Sam Houston officials' attention has been found guilty by a court-martial of insubordination.

Sgt. Joseph Ortega, who filed complaints against drill sergeants and instructors, was found guilty Friday of two insubordination counts and innocent of being absent from a place of duty.

Ortega, 40, argued that the charges were revenge for complaints he made against drill sergeants since December 1995, including a sexual misconduct complaint about non-commissioned officers and trainees during a trip to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.

The trip, known as the "Happy Bus" trip, involved alleged drinking binges and sexual contact between students and their drill sergeants and instructors. Five non-commissioned officers were disciplined last year as a result of an investigation into the trip.

Prosecutors said Ortega failed to follow the chain of command for airing grievances.

"When you are a soldier you follow procedures; you don't jump the chain," said Capt. Wendi Wilson, the Army prosecutor, in her closing arguments Friday. "He did it and did it on more than one occasion."

But the defense argued that the charges were in some cases fabrications and in others exaggerations of events meant to retaliate against Ortega.

"Who do you turn to when you have no one to turn to?" asked defense attorney Capt. Mark Tellitocci during closing arguments. "That's the attitude they have — it's us and you."

The defense presented seven witnesses and a written statement that supported Ortega's claim that he was being singled out for past complaints.

But 10 prosecution witnesses who testified Thursday and Friday portrayed Ortega as someone with no regard for authority.

Ortega said he was disappointed by the verdict but said the case is not over.

For Results Use Snyder Daily News Classified Ads 573-5486

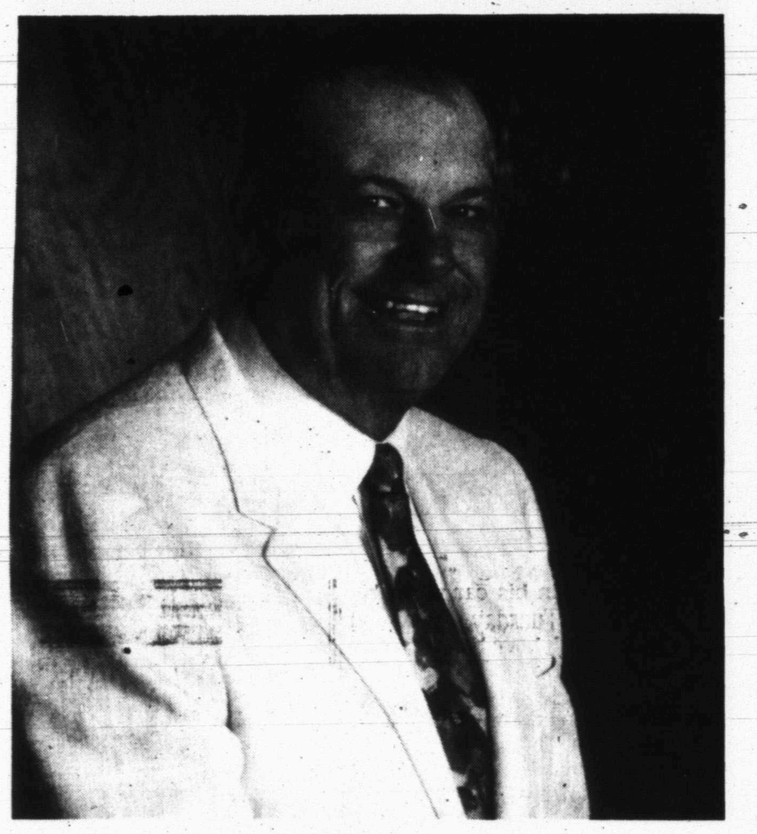
THIRTY FIVE YEARS AGO WHEN SHE WAS ONLY FIVE WE COULD NOT HAVE GUESSED THAT TODAY WHEN KIDDIES GET THE HIVES AND YOU GO TO DOCTOR T., SHE'LL BE WORKING THERE BUSY AS A BEE. HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU, CILE



Bible Study:
"The Day Jerusalem Was Destroyed"
Hope for Life's Journey
"Things Only Heaven Can Cure"
TCA Cable TV
Channel #2
Mon., Feb. 24, 1997, 7:00 p.m.

We've got that hometown spirit and we're passing it around!

A Bright Spot In Our Hometown!



Ted Crenwelge

He keeps going, going, going — and after more than 30 years of community service — he's still going.

Fourteen years as a public school trustee, six years on the hospital board and five as a water district director — Ted Crenwelge is a worthy recipient of this month's Hometown Spirit Award.

Ted Crenwelge, a native of Houston, graduated from Texas Christian University in May, 1961. A member of the Horned Frog football team, Crenwelge has used that same energy and drive in both business and civic affairs.

A successful farmer and rancher, Crenwelge is a member of the board of Snyder National Bank and serves as its chairman.

Crenwelge has a long history of service to his community. He was a member of the Snyder Independent School District board of trustees for 14 years, from 1966 to 1981. He served three years as president of the board.

Crenwelge also served as a member of the board of Cogdell Memorial Hospital from August, 1991 to January, 1997. He was chairman of that board in 1996.

The Snyder City Council appointed Crenwelge to the board of the Colorado River Municipal Water District in 1984. He served three years and was reappointed in 1995.

In past years, Crenwelge was involved in youth baseball and served as a Little League manager. He has been a member of the Snyder Lions Club for 23 years. Crenwelge has also served on the board of the Scurry County Farm Bureau and he currently is a director of The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District.

He and his wife, Jane, are members of the Colonial Hill Baptist Church. They have two married children and six grandchildren.

Scott Crenwelge and his wife, Lana, have three children — Teddi, Katy and Jake Crenwelge. Carrie, and her husband, Elliott Cox, also have three children — Courtney, Alison and Hunter Cox.

Snyder National Bank is pleased to salute Ted Crenwelge — a bright spot in our hometown.

SNYDER NATIONAL BANK
SERVING SCURRY COUNTY SINCE 1905
FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
Lobby Hours 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
MEMBER FDIC
Motor Bank Hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sharing the HOMETOWN SPIRIT Since 1905

Central

Central students received awards for the fifth sixth weeks on Friday.

Positive Action Super Kids

Tara Kubena, Chris Smith, Breanna Talavera, Claire Pollard, Abel Estrada, Christi Williams, Emily Jones, Jason Wenninger, Jessica Taylor, Kiki Wofford, Whitney Kinney, Jessica Calvert.

Unit Recognition

Wendy Reed, Steven Wright, Austin Brunson, Marcus Torres, Chris Vera, Jason Cave, Michelle Williams, Zech Arizmendi, Erica Little, Eric Martinez, Joel Lollar, Ozzy Benitez.

Tokens

June Holcomb, 15; Betty Thompson, 12; Paula Bowden, 9; Kathy Moore, 7; Edilyn Smith, 7; Deborah Judah, 7; Stanley Cozart, 6; Magdalena Jaimes, 6; Molly Kattes, 6; Kathy Spoor, 5; Judy Barkowsky, 5; Judy Moss, 4.

Routier gives up custody

DALLAS (AP) — Permanent custody of the sole surviving child of convicted child killer Darlie Routier has been awarded to her husband's parents.

The arrangement was reached in an agreement between the Routier family and state child-welfare officials.

Darin Routier, husband of the death row inmate and father of 16-month-old Drake, will yield primary caretaker status but can see the child as much as he and his parents want, said Michael Munden, a Dallas County assistant district attorney who represented state Child Protective Services.

State District Judge Cheryl Shannon is scheduled to review the agreement at a March 7 hearing. If it's approved, CPS will withdraw from the case.

Mrs. Routier, 27, was convicted in Kerr County this month of fatally stabbing her 5-year-old son, Damon, in a June 6 attack that also killed his 6-year-old brother, Devon. The same jury sentenced her to death.

Drake, who was asleep upstairs, was not injured in the early morning attack.

Routier, 29, said that he wants to be with his son as much as possible. However, it is in the boy's interest to be with his grandparents until he puts his life back together, Routier said.

The grandparents live in Lubbock, 350 miles northwest of the north Dallas suburb of Plano, where Routier now lives. Routier said he doesn't have a home of his own and is in financial straits.

"For right this second, all of us think that is the right thing to do until I get settled," he told The Dallas Morning News. "I hope to get full custody again, but I have to have a home and a job and the capability of being able to take care of him."

Routier said he is trying to rebuild his small high-tech business but probably will file for bankruptcy soon.

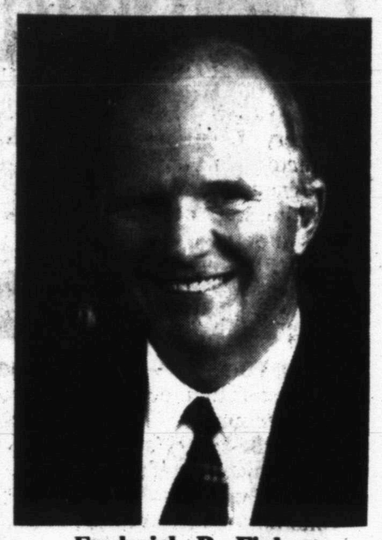
CPS removed Drake from his father's custody and placed him in a foster home June 19, the day after Mrs. Routier's arrest.

Routier had not been charged in the case and had never been accused of abusing his children. However, CPS officials wrote in a court affidavit that his belief in his wife's innocence compromised his ability to protect Drake.

In July, a judge awarded Routier's parents temporary custody of Drake and granted Routier supervised visits.

Routier would have to petition the court to regain primary caretaker status.

The basic monetary unit of Poland is the zloty, and its chief fractional unit is the grosz.



Frederick R. Finley

Snyder native promoted to VP

Frederick R. Finley, a Snyder native, has been promoted to vice president at Texas Instruments Systems Group.

Finley joined Texas Instruments in 1976 as an assembly supervisor after graduating with a bachelor of business administration degree from Texas Tech University.

From 1984 to 1988, he was the TI Plano Parkway site manager and manufacturing manager responsible for production of airborne surveillance radar systems.

From 1988 until his recent promotion, Finley was the division operations manager for Electronic Systems Division in TI's facility in McKinney. He was responsible for a multi-site manufacturing operation.

Finley is married to the former Carolyn Hardegree. They reside in McKinney and have two children.

Avalanches kill one

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — Three weeks — and 12 feet — of snow fell in parts of western Georgia, leading to avalanches that killed a man, injured many and prompted evacuations, according to a news report Friday.

More than 100 families have been evacuated from communities in the Black Sea province of Adzharia, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported. More than 50 houses have been damaged, it said, citing local officials.

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Roy McQueen, Publisher
Bill McClellan, Managing Editor

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Annie

presented by Drama & Choral Departments
Feb. 27, 28 & March 1 7:00 p.m.
Snyder Junior High School Auditorium
Reserved Seats $3 In Advance
$4 At Door

Ira Spanish Club sets visit to Mexico

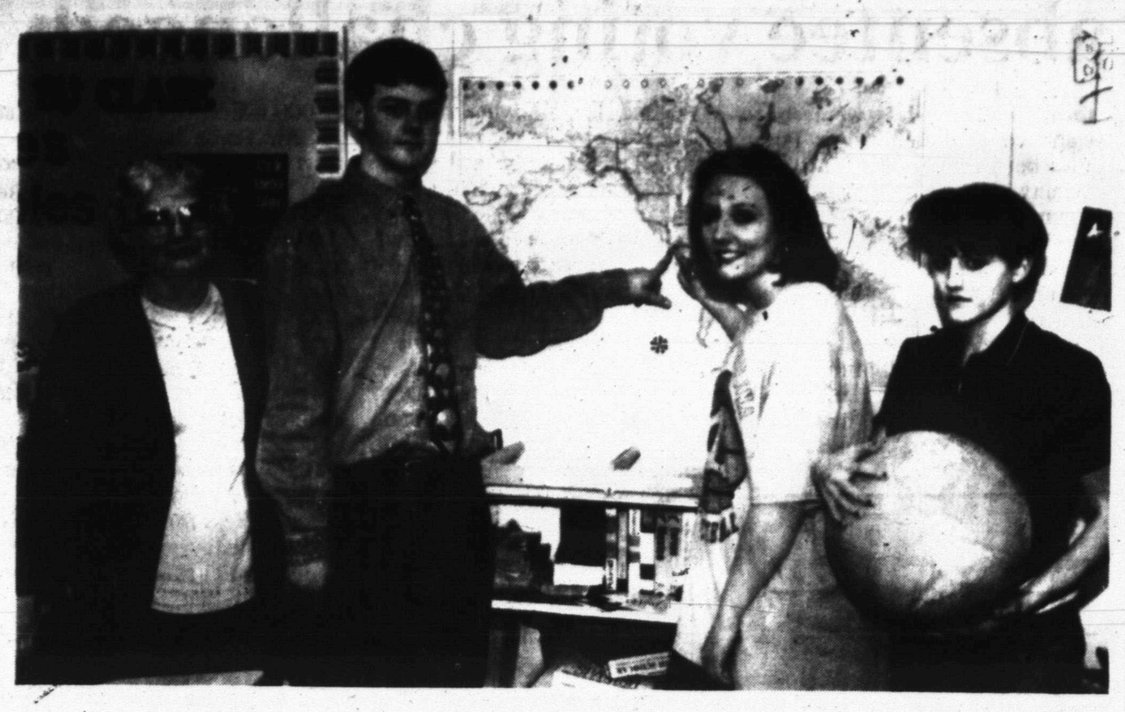
Some Ira students have another reason to anticipate the end of the school year in May.

Spanish Club members are bound for Mexico and they couldn't be happier.

The four — Emily Hardy, Tye Shirley, Carla Smith and Brook Wilkes — and Lillie Sullivan, sponsor, will spend nine days visiting Mexico City and Cancun, beginning May 26.

The group has been conducting fund-raisers for the past three school years, including Mexican suppers, a special program, and selling candy, pens and pencils.

Donations were also made by West Texas State Bank and McCormick Marketing, Inc.



BOUND FOR MEXICO — These Ira Spanish Club members will visit Mexico in May. From left are Lillie Sullivan, sponsor; Emily Hardy, Tye Shirley and Carla Smith. Brook Wilkes is not pictured. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Marketing director leaves lottery group

DALLAS (AP) — Texas Lottery Commission marketing director Karen Porter has resigned, becoming the third high-ranking staffer to leave the agency this month.

Ms. Porter gave notice Friday that she's giving up the $69,500 per year job she's held since June 1994.

Ms. Porter was among a handful of staff members who belatedly reimbursed Gtech Holdings Corp., the lottery's prime contractor, for meals, golf and other activities. The delays prompted the commission last week to revise its rules on socializing with vendors.

Lottery spokesman Steve Levine said Ms. Porter is leaving voluntarily in two weeks to take a job with a Colorado-based company.

"It was a wonderful opportunity and she took it," Levine said. "Her departure has nothing to do with any of the controversy surrounding the agency."

Ms. Porter sent Gtech a $15 check on Dec. 10 for a meal the company paid for in March 1995, agency records show. A check she said she sent Gtech for the meal in June 1995 did not clear the bank, records show.

Two other high-level lottery employees who resigned this month — acting director Zoann Attwood and security director Billy Rhea — also belatedly sent Gtech checks after an inquiry by The Dallas Morning News.

Talk show 'Guardian Angel' debunked by Lotto officials

HOUSTON (AP) — A troubled Canadian teen who appeared on the television talk show "Sally" thought a Houston man would help him with his winnings from a Texas Lotto jackpot, but officials say the man never won a lottery.

On Oct. 8, a 15-year-old boy from British Columbia appeared on the Sally Jesse Raphael show. The boy, who was bailed out of jail so he could attend the show, said he wanted to change a life of shoplifting and drug use.

Roy Eugene "Jake" Porter, 54, contacted the show days later and said he wanted to use part of a $10 million lottery prize to buy the boy a car and pay for his college education, said "Sally" spokeswoman Lee Fryd.

Porter told the show that he was a former $5.50-an-hour department store stocker who had won a $10 million jackpot in the Oct. 16 Lotto Texas drawing was touched by the teen-ager's story.

Raphael compared Porter to Santa Claus on a follow-up show taped Feb. 12, where Porter got a big round of applause from the audience.

However, after the show, the Texas Lottery Commission said that no one named Roy Eugene "Jake" Porter had ever won a $10 million drawing, said Texas Lottery spokeswoman Eileen Reid. The Oct. 16 jackpot was actually $4 million.

People who appear on talk shows have to sign statements promising truthfulness, and "Sally" officials were working on verifying Porter's claims, Fryd told the Houston Chronicle.

"We don't know what's going on with this guy," Fryd said. "I don't have any answers."

The show has not been aired yet, and Fryd said he doubted it ever will.

Porter could not be reached for comment, the Houston Chronicle reported.

No one answered the door when reporters went to Porter's Houston home for comment.

In British Columbia, however, the mother of the 15-year-old said she still has hopes it is real.

"I'm not worried," she said. "Why would Jake say he won the lottery when he didn't?"

Travels to Belgium

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AP) — President Vaclav Havel, still recovering from lung surgery, left Friday for a week at the picturesque resort of Spa, Belgium.

Havel was accompanied by his wife, Dagmar, the CTK news agency reported. No further details were made available.

Europe's rich and famous have been visiting Spa, in eastern Belgium near the German border, for its mineral springs since the 16th century.

The Road Back Ministries Prayer Line

Is there anything too hard for the Lord?
Praying Prayers, Praising God For Answers.
Marcia Sanders James 5:16
573-6369

Carthage reaction mixed to apology by Sen. Nixon

CARTHAGE (AP) — State Sen. Drew Nixon has apologized after his arrest on a sex charge. But reactions are mixed as to whether an apology is enough for local residents.

Describing himself as "humbled and ashamed," Nixon on Friday said he would seek "professional help." The Republican added, though, that he won't resign from the Senate seat he won last November.

Nixon, 37, posted a personal bond Wednesday morning after spending the night in jail on a charge of prostitution. The Class B misdemeanor carries a punishment up to 180 days in jail and a $2,000 fine.

Within hours of his public apology Friday, Nixon was charged by the Travis County district attorney with unlawfully carrying a weapon on the night he was arrested. The Class A misdemeanor carries punishment of up to a year in jail and a fine of up to $4,000.

In his apology — Nixon's first public statement since his arrest — he said he regretted his actions.

"As an elected official, I should never have put myself in a position that even had the slightest hint of inappropriateness in it," Nixon said at a press conference in his hometown. "I don't deny being there. Details ... we could sit here forever itemizing things. I don't know if that accomplishes anything."

Nixon would not confirm nor deny offering police Officer Christine Shelton $35 for oral sex.

He admits stopping his car in front of a small church and talking to Ms. Shelton late Tuesday.

Police said investigators reviewed videotape and audiotape made during Nixon's arrest, standard in prostitution stings.

Larry Brumley, chairman of the Panola County Republican Party, said Nixon's apology appeared sincere and should be accepted by the community.

But Brenda Jones, who owns The Fudge and More Store several blocks away from Nixon's accounting office, said if the senator were sincere, he would resign.

"We all make mistakes, but you don't make that kind of mistake twice and say 'Oh, I made a mistake,'" Mrs. Jones said.

Nixon was stopped by police in East Dallas in 1993 with three prostitutes and a loaded handgun in his car. He said he didn't know the women were prostitutes.

Nixon, who isn't licensed to carry a concealed handgun. acknowledged having a loaded 9 mm handgun in his car when he was arrested Tuesday.

"It shouldn't have been there," he said.

Robert Davis, who was eating at Joe's Family Restaurant, said he's voted for Nixon in the past and will vote for him again.

"This was bad judgment — absolutely," Davis said. "But I look at the bills he's filed and the bills he's voted for and I think he has used good judgement there. I think he's doing a good job."

Davis said he's not a Democrat or a Republican, but supports Nixon.

Willie Greer, an employee at Henry's Citgo gas station, said he's a longtime Democrat. But he said he accepts Nixon's apology.

"I think he might overcome it," Greer said. "I just can't believe he would do something so dumb."

Nixon said he believes fellow lawmakers also will forgive him. He added that most important was forgiveness from his wife of nine months, Cheryl Nixon.

Crying through much of a short statement, Mrs. Nixon said she had forgiven her husband, but won't stand for another such mistake.

"When we return to Austin next week, it is understood that the past is behind us," she said as Nixon reached to hold her hand. "Work for the district and for ourselves must continue with a single-minded focus."

Stanfield sets tree planting

Joel Griffin to be honored

A tree will be planted at Stanfield Thursday in honor of the late Joel Griffin, longtime principal.

The ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. Testimonials will be given and a reception will follow at the school.

The Stanfield Parent Council purchased the tree.

Griffin's tenure at Stanfield began in 1964-1965 and concluded in 1978-1979.

Mother jailed

TYLER (AP) — A judge sentenced a Tyler woman to jail Friday after her children missed dozens of days of class.

Smith County Justice of the Peace Judge Quincy Beavers sentenced Karen Castaneda to five days in jail or a $500 fine. Ms. Castaneda remained in Smith County Jail Friday night.

Her third-grade son has missed 76 out of 114 school days so far this year. Her fifth-grade daughter missed 88 days. Castaneda's ninth-grade daughter is not enrolled.

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Military absentee voting challenged

DEL RIO (AP) — Something strange happened on Election Day in this dusty border county.

The Hispanic candidates for sheriff and county commissioner who were leading all night ended up losing when absentee ballots came pouring in for two whites, one of them a former Ku Klux Klansman.

A closer look at the 800 mail-in ballots revealed that almost all were cast by military members and their dependents — most of them whites who were once stationed at Laughlin Air Force Base but hadn't lived in Val Verde County for years. Val Verde County is 70 percent Hispanic.

"We all thought that this was a fraud and that democracy was not being respected," said Jovita Casarez, who filed a federal lawsuit over the election. "When this type of fraud is committed, it's embarrassing for all the nation."

The feud could have far-reaching effects, determining once and for all what military families on the move can list as their legal residence, and where they can mark their ballots for local elections.

Military families retain residency in one place for the sake of convenience, so that they don't constantly have to get new driver's licenses and registrations.

Texas, with 18 military bases, is particularly attractive as a place of residency because there is no state income tax and because public college tuition for residents is among the cheapest in the nation.

Even George Bush claimed a Houston hotel suite as his official residence while he was president.

The "phantom voters," as some people in Val Verde County call those who reside here on paper only, helped bring about Republican sheriff candidate D'Wayne Jernigan's 267-vote victory over Democratic interim sheriff Oscar Gonzalez Jr., and Republican Murry Kachel's 113-vote win over Democrat Frank Coronado for county commissioner.

A federal judge has barred Jernigan and Kachel from taking office until residency questions are settled in a separate state lawsuit filed by the Democratic losers of the election against the Republican winners. That case is set for April 21.

The Republicans' victory would give the GOP its first majority on the commissioners court in the 111-year history of Val Verde County, a place of 42,000 residents, 2,900 of them at the Air Force base.

"I followed the law," insisted Val Verde County Clerk Maria Elena Cardenas, who oversaw the November election and is a defendant, along with the county, in the federal case.

Texas has a "flexible definition" of residency that largely depends on the voter's intent, said Ann McGeehan, deputy assistant secretary of state for elections.

The Texas Secretary of State's Office says service members can apply for a ballot by supplying a Texas address for a place the voter plans someday to return to. The voter doesn't actually have to have a home at that address.

In fact, one of the out-of-town voters was a San Antonio man who spent three days at his wife's grandmother's home in Val Verde County during his honeymoon 25 years ago, according to court papers.

"What happens to your representation when you have phantom voters?" candidate Gonzalez asked. "What happened to the one-man, one-vote principle?"

Texas Rural Legal Aid claimed virtually all of the 800 votes in question were military officers and their dependents and that 95 percent were white and 85 percent were Republican. TRLA questionnaires to the out-of-town voters found that 457 had last resided in Val Verde County more than four years ago.



WINS ESSAY CONTEST — Jason Hall, Snyder High School seventh grader, has won first place in the middle school division essay contest for the Midland area. He is shown with Elaine Bragg, his accelerated English teacher. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Financial Focus

Americans are concerned with the bottom line. With mutual funds, that bottom line is called total return.

A mutual fund's total return includes income dividends, capital gain dividends and changes in the value of the fund's shares. For example, assume you invested $10,000 in a mutual fund at the beginning of the year. During the year, the fund's income dividends were $300 and capital gain dividends were $600. At year-end, the shares are worth $400 more than what you paid, or $10,400. Your total return is $1,300 (300+$600+$400), or 13 percent.

That sounds simple enough. Why, then does a fund's published total return not always agree with investors' calculations?

Kempler Fundamentals, a newsletter on the basics of mutual funds, offers a hypothetical illustration to explain the difference between a fund's published return and investors' actual experience. The example shows the total return of a $10,000 investment in a mutual fund for the period April 30, 1995, through April 30, 1996. How and when that $10,000 investment was made affected total return.

How/when $10,000 invested	Income and capital gains	Total return
1. $10,000 investment made 4/30/95; no purchases or redemptions	Reinvested	30.14%
2. $10,000 investment made 4/30/95; no purchases or redemptions	Taken in cash	29.83%
3. $10,000 invested on 1/10/96	Reinvested	6.78%
4. $1,000 invested for 10 months beginning 4/30/95	Reinvested	26.55%
5. $50,000 invested on 4/30/95 and $40,000 redeemed on 12/31/95	Reinvested	32.50%

Source: Towers Data Systems, Kemper

The illustration is based on the performance of the Standard & Poor's (S&P) Index of 500 stocks over the given period. The S&P 500 is an unmanaged index generally considered representative of the U.S. stock market.

So, why does your fund's published annual return look different from what you receive? The total return shown on your account statement, shareholder report and most other publications is calculated assuming that:

1. the full sum was invested on the first day of the one-year period;
2. the shareholder did not add to or subtract from the invested amount; and
3. all income and capital gain dividends were reinvested.

In other words, mutual funds publish total return as shown in the first example of the illustration. However, not all individual investments are made that way, as shown in examples 2 through 5. For instance, in example 2, all dividends were taken in cash. Without the advantage of compounding, total return was lower for example 2 than it was for example 1.

In addition, the fund's value fluctuates during the year, so total return is not a constant factor. How and when you invest, therefore, affects your total return.

Fortunately, mutual fund companies understand the confusion over total return. Some are working on ways to develop account statements with annual total return figures that reflect your activity.

Until then, however, use the old total return equation and a pencil with a good eraser to check your individual bottom line.

Critics pan 'Shine' prodigy but his audiences love him

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — David Helfgott — the piano prodigy featured in the Oscar-nominated film "Shine" — is making a concert tour that's drawing praise from audiences but complaints from critics.

The Australian pianist, who rebuilt his life and career after a breakdown and 10 years in mental institutions, gave a sellout performance in Christchurch that was panned by reviewers Friday.

The audience greeted Helfgott's work with repeated calls for an encore. But Christchurch Press critic Timothy Jones wrote that the pianist was "hopelessly self-indulgent and communicated precisely nothing about Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Liszt or Chopin."

Wellington critic John Button more politely described Helfgott's concert in that city as "an interesting, yet hazardous, musical journey."

New Zealand talk radio callers — many of them familiar with Helfgott's ordeal through seeing "Shine" are chastising the cold-hearted critics.

The movie follows Helfgott's career from a child prodigy, through a debilitating breakdown while studying in London, to his comeback and marriage in 1984.

Following up on the success of the film — nominated this year for seven Oscars, including best picture — Helfgott began a six-month world tour, which moves to the United States in March.

The reaction to the tour mirrors the reception to his recording of the Rachmaninov "Piano Concerto No. 3," which got mixed reviews but shot to the top of the classic CD sales charts in America and elsewhere.

Helfgott's wife defended her husband from the critics — especially those who suggested the pianist was hamming it up by grinning and waving his arms during performances.

"Sometimes I think they don't grasp the essence of David's playing, but the audience does," Gillian Helfgott told a television interviewer Friday. "Music is his whole life, it is his great love, it is his passion. There's no way that David is a dishonest musician."

Critics "can't quite associate David's eccentric mannerisms with music," she said.

Jason Hall wins essay contest

Jason Hall, Snyder High School seventh grader, was so excited after learning that he won the essay contest that he started running around his room.

He is the son of C.W. and Sandy Hall.

Jason's excitement was warranted as he has won two roundtrip tickets on Southwest Airlines to visit any city served by that airline. The tickets are valid through Dec. 31.

In addition, Jason will also receive accomodations for three days and two nights at a Ramada Inn in that same city.

While he said he does not know where he will go, he said it has already been decided that his mother will accompany him.

Jason's essay, entered in "What The Holidays Mean To Me" contest won the middle school category (grades 7-9) from all entries submitted in the Midland area.

Essays were judged on the basis of content, sincerity, originality, creativity and writing ability.

The contest was sponsored by Southwest Airlines, Ramada Inn and "The Midland-Reporter Telegram."

New faces, names matched for Black History display

AUSTIN (AP) — New faces and names at the Capitol aren't limited to the House and Senate chambers. They also are part of the "Forever Free" Black History Month exhibit.

"Forever Free" is a display telling the story of the 52 African-Americans who served as legislators in state government beginning in 1870.

The exhibit includes new names and new pictures in addition to more details about the lawmakers' lives away from the Capitol. It has been expanded from when it was first went on display more than 20 years ago.

"I hope this won't be just a Black History Month event," said exhibit co-author Minnie M. Miles. "I hope it'll find its right place in history."

The display will remain in the Capitol Extension through the end of the month before moving to the Capitol Complex Visitors' Center to be displayed from July through Feb. 1998.

A preview of the exhibit last year, brought responses from around the state and even as far away as Washington, D.C., adding personal details and new names and photographs to the display.

"We're still hoping to get more" information, said Ms. Miles. "There's still so much more out there. We see legislators not only as far as legislators, but as people in a particular environment."

Many of the 52 black state legislators had been slaves with no civil or legal rights until "Juneteenth" — June 19, 1865 — and did not receive the right to vote until 1870. Yet more than half of the African-American legislators served in the 1870s, including 10 at the 1868-69 Texas Constitutional Convention.

By the 1880s, the election of African-Americans to state office began to decline. After the election of Rep. Robert Lloyd Smith, in 1896, 70 years passed before another African-American was elected to the Texas Legislature.

Ms. Miles — the niece of African-American historian J. Mason Brewer — and Texas State Preservation Board curator Ali Turley worked together on the display as well as coordinating the pictures and memorabilia sent them by descendants of the lawmakers.

The display — centered around a composite of the legislators' pictures — was first exhbited in the 1970s. But it has since grown in the number of legislators named and pictured as well as the details of the men's lives.

"These legislators were not the Texas Southern negative stereotypes," Miles said. "They proved to be competent, responsible people. I'm gratified to be part of exposing this."

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We'll finish the course with a look at retirement planning and ways to ensure your older years will indeed be your golden years.

Finally, as a follow-up to the class, I invite each student and his or her spouse to meet with me for a private consultation. This will give you an opportunity to ask questions about your personal financial situation. Of course, this consultation is entirely voluntary and free of charge.

If you'd like to attend this class, please call WTC at 915-573-8511 ext. 390 to reserve your place.

I look forward to hearing from you!!



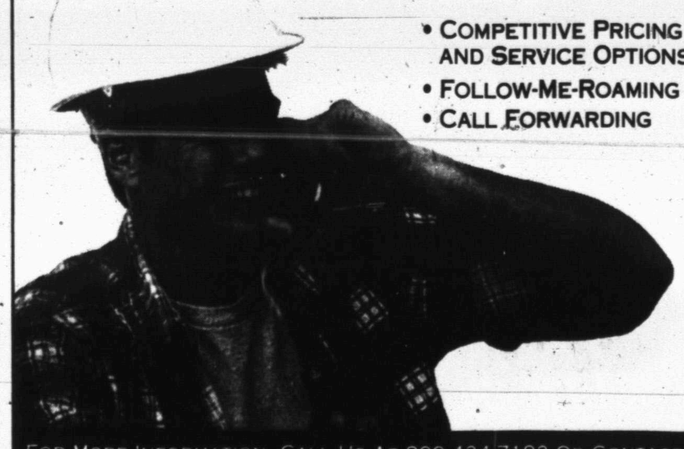
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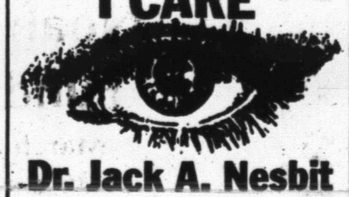
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FIRST ONE — Snyder Chrysler is the first local business to adopt Snyder Independent School District's Safe Child After School program. Keith Ruddick, general manager, displays the plaque he received Friday afternoon at Northeast. SISD representatives shown with him are, from left, Carolyn Torres, Mary Ann Juarez and Wendell Sollis. Four other elementary schools participate in the program: East, West, Central and Stanfield. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Starr reverses decision; will stay with probe indefinitely

WASHINGTON (AP) — Under a hail of criticism, Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr reversed his decision to resign this summer and said Friday he would stay until investigative work and any prosecutions are "substantially completed."

"Public confidence in the investigation calls upon me to continue my service now," Starr said, capping a dramatic week begun by his unexpected announcement Monday that he would leave by Aug. 1 for a law school dean's job in California.

The earlier move caused critics including fellow Republicans to question his commitment to the three-year probe that began with questions about the Clintons' investments in Arkansas.

He said Friday he was committed to the successful completion of the investigation, which has expanded to include such matters as the White House travel office firings and FBI files search.

Starr said he believed at the time of the earlier announcement that "my role and responsibility could be discharged during the time that was left." In a lawyerly understatement, he acknowledged Friday that his own staff disagreed.

"I think there was a fairly broad-based sense that I had made a mistake" by setting an arbitrary date for resigning, he said.

SHS drama, choir students set 'Annie'

Forty-two Snyder Junior High School drama and choir students have joined together to present the musical "Annie."

The production opens Thursday and will run through Saturday with a 7 p.m. curtain time. All seats will be reserved.

"Annie" is based on the Little Orphan Annie comic strip. It is the story about a small orphan girl, her friends, and Mr. Warbucks, the billionaire. Miss Hannigan, who runs the orphanage, her brother Rooster, and his girlfriend, Lily, have evil plans to get money for Annie. Daddy Warbucks adopts Annie and stops Hannigan's plans.

Tara Price plays the part of Annie. Other orphans include Bailey Stoker as Molly, Kim Moore as Pepper and Missey Hicks as Duffy.

July is played by Claire Cotton, Tessie is played by Kirstin York and Emily is played by Emily Vinson. Shannon Chambers, Sarah Pilgrim and Leslie English play Kate, Sissy and April.

Leslie Handcock plays the evil Miss Hannigan. Rooster is played by Jessie Haines and Lily is played by Jessica Dea.

Brandon McCraw is Mr. Warbucks. His secretary, Grace Ferrell, is played by Lesley Starnes. Josh Heaton is Warbucks' butler.

Mrs. Greere is played by Kameron Kallemeyne and Mrs. Pugh, the cook, is Kara Harrison. The maids and servants are Jennifer Bryan, Tiffany Sutter, Lindsey Bunch, Nathalie Alexander, Garrett Luft, Stevan Crain, Josh Orgeton and Mat Coronado.

Others in the cast are Jordan Northerns, Scott Reston, Wes Hardin, Matthew Grimmett, Zack Allred, Ralph Ramon, Haley Elkins, Joanna Burk, Jay Scott and Tyson Kubena.

Military-civilian close calls said rare

WASHINGTON (AP) — One pilot climbs to an altitude assigned to another plane. A second fails to tell ground control he has turned to avoid a storm. Time and again, failure to communicate shows up in records of close calls between military and civilian planes.

Despite concern about a seeming series of close encounters recently, such close calls are not common. On the other hand, federal records obtained by The Associated Press show they aren't unheard of, either.

In an April 1991 case, severe weather and failure to communicate produced a close call between two fighter planes and a medium to large airliner over Utah.

The fighter pilots decided to turn to avoid a thunderstorm but didn't tell air traffic control. They then asked for permission to fly over the storm, but it was denied and they were told to turn left because of traffic in the area.

"I informed them we could not do this due to (weather)," the lead pilot reported. The fighters did not turn left until they had passed the storm.

When they got back to base, the fighter pilots were told they had violated minimum distance from a transport that was flying in an emergency with an engine out.

"None of this was passed to me in the air," the lead pilot complained. "I will not fly directly into a thunderstorm intentionally."

That was one of 77 close calls between civilian and military planes uncovered by the AP in a search of National Aeronautics and Space Administration records back to 1988.

Military-civilian encounters gained attention two weeks ago after a Nations Air plane took evasive action when approached by an Air National Guard F-16 fighter off the coast of New Jersey. Following that, and three other reported close calls, the Defense Department halted pilot training in parts of the country and instituted reviews for aviators.

NASA's Aviation Safety Reporting System collects reports of air safety problems from pilots, air traffic controllers and others.

Since 1988, the system has received 9,157 reports of airplanes coming closer to one another than legally permitted, said NASA's Vincent J. Mellone. But just 77 involved an encounter between military and civilian planes, he said.

Known as loss of separation, close encounters don't necessarily indicate a major danger, Federal Aviation Administration officials stress. The FAA says it receives 1,000 to 1,200 reports annually of planes of all types failing to stay least five miles apart horizontally and 1,000 to 2,000 feet apart vertically.

"That was too close," a fighter pilot complained to air traffic control, after passing within 400 feet of a large transport plane over Florida in March 1991. The military pilot had climbed above his assigned altitude of 14,000 feet, heading instead for the altitude given to another plane.

In January 1992, a Texas air traffic controller ordered a military trainer to make a quick right turn to avoid civilian light planes that weren't following ground instructions. The controller later reported that the offending planes were from a school that trains non-English-speaking pilots.

In March 1993, a large airliner was flying at 35,000 feet off the coast of Texas when a fighter approached it head-on, climbing up from 34,000 feet. The collision alert on the airliner sounded, causing the pilot to pull up rapidly and turn. A passenger suffered a broken ankle.

Air traffic controllers had told the fighter pilot to climb to 37,000 feet to pass above the airliner, but he wasn't able to do so quickly enough. They then directed him to remain at 34,000 feet, but he was already above that, bringing him too close to the airliner.

The NASA records do not disclose the names of the pilots or airlines involved or, in most cases, the types of planes other than fighter, large airliner, wide-body airliner and so forth.

'The Dresser' to open Thursday at college

Western Texas College drama department opens its production of "The Dresser" Thursday.

The play, the first production of the spring semester, will be on stage at the Fine Arts Theatre through Saturday with performances at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee.

The production will be student-directed by Michael McQuerry, a sophomore theatre arts major from Snyder. This will be his second time to direct a WTC play. Last spring, he directed "American Primitive."

According to Michael Endy, drama department head, "The Dresser" is about friendship.

The play revolves around an aging actor, Sir, and his dresser, Norman. Sir, who has been knighted by the king, is about to give a performance of Shakespeare's "King Lear."

Endy will take the role of Sir and Norman will be played by Garden City sophomore Cody Cummings.

The entire play takes place in a single night in Sir's dressing room and in the wings of the stage. "The Dresser" is set in 1944, during the bombing of London.

"This is not a children's play. It is a mature, intelligent and serious play that is good for actors," Endy said.

Other cast members for the production include Her Ladyship, portrayed by Tonya Tiday of Graham; Madge, played by Melissa Shatney of Snyder; Irene, played by Anne Simmons of Lubbock; Geoffrey Thornton, played by J.E. Tydlaska of Tow; and Mr. Oxenby, played by Burzin Unwalla of Houston.

Production crew members are Endy, set design; Tiday, props mistress; Simmons, stage manager; Unwalla, publicity director; Shatney, costume design; and Steven Drgac of Garden City, light design.

Museum to host independence day observance

Scurry County Museum and the Scurry County Historical Commission will host a Texas Independence Day observance on Sunday, March 2 in the museum.

A Texas Ranger exhibit on loan from the Heritage Museum in Big Spring will be featured, along with other related items.

A copy of "I'm Frank Hamer," who is ranked among the most famous Texas Rangers, will be given as a door prize. Hamer married Gladys Johnson, daughter of W.A. (Uncle Billy) Johnson, an early-day Scurry County rancher and banker, and lived in Scurry County for a time.

Other door prizes will be a copy of "From the Cookie to the Chef," a cookbook published locally during the Texas Sesquicentennial, and two other area history books.

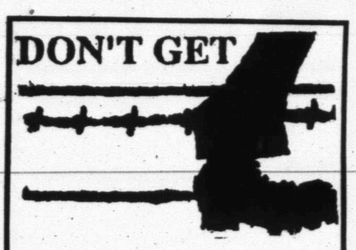
Refreshments will be served. The museum will be open from 1-3 p.m.

Jury finds convicted killer liable

HOUSTON (AP) — Jurors on Friday found a death row inmate liable for $26.6 million for the slayings of his five family members.

The probate court jury's decision against Robert Coulson came in a wrongful death suit filed by the deceased family's estate and the sole survivor in the 1992 killings, now four years old.

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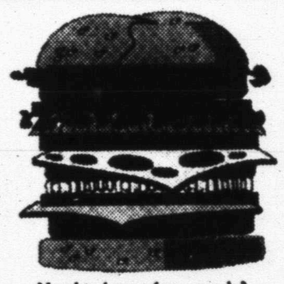
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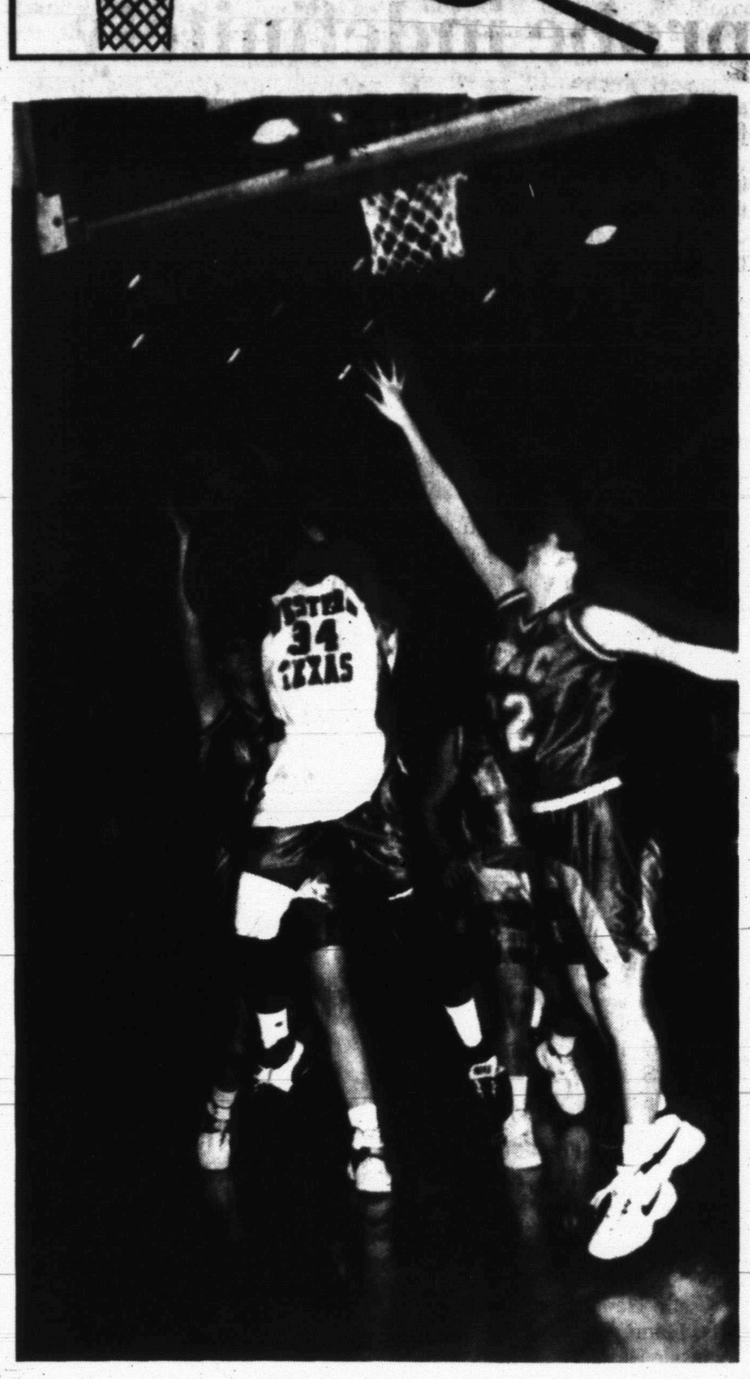
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SPORTS



ROUGH GOING — WTC's Celestine Otuoro finds the going a little rough as her defender attempts to block her shot. The Lady Westerners play their final home game of the season Monday at 7:30 in the WTC gym.

Lady Westerners play final home game of season Monday

The Western Texas College Lady Westerners will play their final home game of the season Monday night against the Frank Phillips College Lady Plainsmen.

WTC has lost 11 straight games after falling, 84-46, to Howard College on Thursday. The loss dropped the Lady Westerners to 2-13 in conference play and 4-25 for the season.

Western Texas has split its previous two meetings with the Lady Plainsmen. On Dec. 10, WTC edged Frank Phillips, 60-57, on two Shanna Gathright free throws. But on Jan. 30, Frank Phillips got its revenge, taking a 53-52 squeaker.

Frank Phillips is coming off a 67-51 loss to South Plains. The Lady Plainsmen are 5-22 in conference play and 3-13 for the season.

Tip-off is slated for 7:30 p.m. in the WTC gym.

Hawks avenge earlier loss to Rockets, 127-98

ATLANTA (AP) — Mookie Blaylock's clutch basket and Dikembe Mutombo's outstanding defense got the Atlanta Hawks just what they wanted — revenge for a 29-point embarrassment four nights earlier.

Blaylock's 15-foot jumper with one-tenth of a second left gave the Hawks a 76-74 victory Friday night over the Houston Rockets, who on Monday crushed the Hawks 127-98 in Houston.

"We said we were going to find a way to pay them back," said Mutombo, who had seven blocked shots and held Hakeem Olajuwon to nine points.

"I learned a lot from the last time," Mutombo said. "I said if I can deny him (Olajuwon) from getting the easy baskets, we can win. I think I did a good job on him."

Blaylock's basket was Atlanta's only score in the final 5:08 after Steve Smith's shot gave the Hawks a 74-68 lead.

"Describe the shot?" asked Blaylock. "It went in. I got a pick and got a good look. I'm just glad it went in. We went out there (Houston) and got our butts beat, so it was good to get this one."

"I thought our defense was phenomenal, but so was theirs," Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "I don't think Mutombo could play much better than that. He was amazing down underneath the basket."

The Hawks' winning basket came after a Houston mistake.

After Olajuwon's two free throws forged a tie at 74 with 1:21 left, neither team was able to score again until the end.

Houston was in position to have the final possession, but the Rockets were called for a 10-second violation for failing to get the ball past midcourt in time, giving the Hawks possession with 14:4 seconds to play.

"The officials made the correct call," said Charles Barkley, who led the Rockets with 22 points.

"Down the stretch, we just made a mental mistake," he said. "They have a good team, they have a good coach, but we're obviously the better team."

Blaylock led the Hawks with 17 points, Christian Laettner had 14, Smith 12 and Henry James 11.

Barkley led the Rockets with 22, Kevin Willis had 13 and Matt Bullard 10.

"We came out with great intensity from the beginning of the game," Mutombo said. "We knew it was going to be a physical game, and we knew if we were going to beat them, we had to be more physical than they were."

Laettner said Mutombo "had a great night. They's why Olajuwon had a bad night."

"I focused on the defensive end," Olajuwon said. "This was two good teams playing with pride. It felt like a playoff game."

The victory was the 22nd in 24 home games for the Hawks this season.

Spring training in full swing; nearing season

By The Associated Press

Although his Florida Marlins are considered a top-notch contender, Jim Leyland wants his players to know that's not good enough.

"We have a lot of good players," he said Friday after telling them what he expected. "The question is, do we have a good team?"

On paper, it would certainly appear that they do. No one knows that better than Leyland, who left Pittsburgh after 11 seasons when his early successes gave way to an austerity program that made the Pirates non-contenders the last several years.

"I'm not a rocket scientist, but I know what the expectations are in South Florida," Leyland said. "I expect us to have a real good year. That's why I came here."

Among the other new faces are hard-hitting free agents Bobby Bonilla and Moises Alou, and pitcher Alex Fernandez.

The Marlins already had some outstanding players in Gary Sheffield, Charles Johnson and Edgar Renteria, and an outstanding 1-2 punch on the mound with Kevin Brown and Al Leiter.

Leyland broke his players into four groups at Melbourne, Fla., hoping his message would be more easily understood by smaller audiences.

"What I say is the most important thing I will say all year," Leyland explained.

John Cangelosi, who spent four years with Leyland in Pittsburgh, said the speech was familiar in one aspect — Leyland didn't mince words.

"The thing with Jimmy is he's straightforward," Cangelosi said.

White Sox

Albert Belle had the distinction of being baseball's highest-paid player for only three months. Although he fell to No. 2 when Barry Bonds got a two-year, $22.9 million extension from the San Francisco Giants, Belle doesn't mind.

The extension gave Bonds an average annual salary of $11.45 million. Belle's five-year, $55 million contract signed last November with Chicago averages $11 million.

"I'm happy for Barry," Belle said. "You look at his situation. He really didn't have the kind of people you wanted behind him to protect him in the lineup. He still put up the big numbers."

Yankees

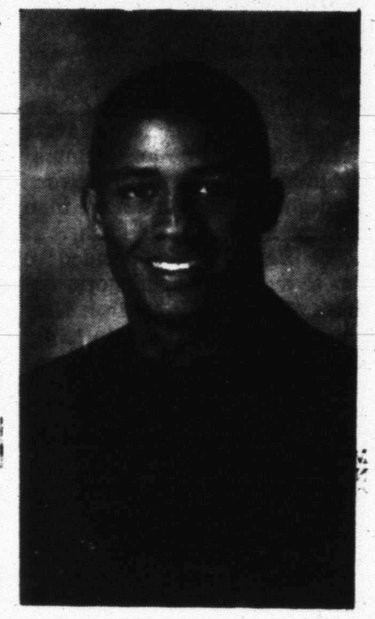
Pitcher David Wells worked out after missing four days because of gout. The left-hander threw on a bullpen mound for about 10 minutes.

"I was very pleased with that I saw," Yankees pitching coach Mel Stottlemyre said. "He threw the ball well and had no signs of anything bothering him. He didn't favor the foot at all."

"My arm feels good," Wells said. "It felt good throwing."

Gout is an inflammation of the joints, caused by an excess of uric acid in the blood.

Wells, 11-14 with a 5.14 ERA last year with Baltimore, joined the Yankees after signing a $13.5 million, three-year contract.



Lady golfers in fourth place

The SHS varsity girls golf team is sitting in fourth place in the San Antonio Northside Invitational. There are 118 teams from New Mexico and Texas attending.

The first round of the tournament was played at the scenic Silver Horn Golf Club. The course was a difficult 5,836 yard par 72.

Keisha Gafford and Julie Doolittle each posted a 90, while Daysha Weaver, Alissa Wells and Randi Reed each fired a 92.

The second round was to be played Saturday at the Pecan Valley Golf Club, site of the 50th annual PGA National Championship.

Snyder shot a team total 364, behind first place San Antonio Churchill who shot a 306. Churchill, a 5A school, is considered to be the best girls golf team in the nation. Abilene High and Westwood both shot a 363 to tie for second.

Saturday Night DANCE
9:00-1:00
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Members & Guests

Ripken lineup card to be auctioned off

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio (AP) — Bowling Green State University stands to make up to $850,000 from the sale of a piece of baseball history.

The university owns the lineup card used during the game in which the Baltimore Orioles' Cal Ripken Jr. broke Lou Gehrig's record of 2,130 consecutive games played. Umpire Larry Barnett donated the card to Bowling Green in December 1995 in hopes of raising money for student athletes.

The card was to be on display today at the Eldersburg Wal-Mart. The school expects to sell it for up to $1 million.

Proceeds from the sale, minus a 15 percent seller's fee, will be used to fund football scholarships in the name of Barnett, a native of Prospect, Ohio.

"We can always come down in price, but the whole point is to raise as much money as possible for Bowling Green students," said Robert Urban, a Maryland sports memorabilia expert contracted by the school to sell the lineup card. "The most money ever paid for one sports-related item was $640,000 for the Honus Wagner baseball card. Anything paid above that will set the record."

Urban also will be asking $1 million for the home run ball Ripken hit during the game in which he tied Gehrig's record.

The lineup card, which Ripken signed, is mounted in a framed display that also includes a game program signed by the umpiring crew and Ripken, an uncut ticket from the record-tying game and an uncut ticket from the record-breaking game.

There are six lineup cards in all, but the one donated by Barnett — who was behind the plate for the record-setting game on Sept. 6, 1995 — is the original. The opposing managers from the Baltimore Orioles and California Angels each have cards, and others were given to Ripken, the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., and the Babe Ruth Hall of Fame in Baltimore.

SDN Sports Week

Monday

WTC Lady Westerners host Frank Phillips College, 7:30 p.m., WTC gym.

Thursday

WTC Lady Westerners at New Mexico Junior College, 6 p.m.
SHS varsity softball at Clyde, 6 p.m.
SHS JV softball hosts Coahoma, 6 p.m., Cates Field.

Friday

SHS varsity boys golf at Andrews.
SHS varsity girls golf at Midland.
SHS varsity softball at Brownwood Tournament.
SHS JV softball hosts Midland Christian, 5 p.m., Cates Field.
SHS varsity baseball at Sweetwater, 6 p.m.
SHS varsity tennis at Sweetwater Tournament.

Saturday

SHS varsity baseball hosts Sweetwater, 1 p.m., Moffett Field.
SHS JV baseball at San Angelo Central, 1 p.m.
SHS JV softball at Midland Christian, 11 a.m.
SHS varsity boys and girls track at Mustang Relays, Andrews.
SHS varsity boys golf at Andrews.
SHS varsity girls golf at Midland.
SHS varsity softball at Brownwood Tournament.
SHS varsity tennis at Sweetwater Tournament.

Gonzales to play soon

DALLAS (AP) — Juan Gonzalez says he'll be able to play with the Texas Rangers before May, earlier than doctors have predicted.

Gonzalez, the defending American League Most Valuable Player, reported for spring training in Port Charlotte, Fla. Friday.

The right-fielder tore the ulnar collateral ligament in his left thumb while playing in the Puerto Rican winter league and had surgery two weeks ago. The Rangers were told Gonzalez would not be able to play for 12 weeks and the club said he would likely return in early May.

"May is too long," Gonzalez told The Dallas Morning News. "Maybe I'll only miss the first two weeks of April.

"I feel bad, because I'm going to miss some games. I'm in the greatest shape ever. I'm 110 percent ready to play."

Gonzalez's recovery will depend on his pain tolerance. Gonzalez can swing a bat with the thumb still in a protective device when he feels comfortable, said Rangers orthopedic consultant Dr. John Conway.

During spring training, Gonzalez will work on conditioning, throwing and one-handed swings. His winter-league play means he won't need extended preparation time when he's cleared to play.

The Rangers are scheduled for 26 games in April. Gonzalez missed 28 games last season and still hit .314 with 47 home runs and 144 RBIs to clinch the MVP award.

Fambro named Who's Who

Snyder senior Matthew Fambro has been named Who's Who in Sports for the second consecutive year.

Less than 5 percent of sports participants in high school receive this honor.

Fambro was named to the South Plains Top 15 in College Recruits by the Lubbock Avalanche Journal this year, and he recently signed a national letter of intent to play football for the University of Texas-El Paso. He also plans to run track.

During his high school career, Fambro has run track, played basketball, and been a standout on the gridiron for the Tigers. He was named All-District first team defense for his efforts in football. He started on the varsity basketball team, and he was named All-District, All-Region and All-State in the 110 high hurdles. He was also named All-District in the high jump.

Fambro's parents are Densell and Jeanie Fambro.

Dance To KELLY SPINKS & Miles Of Texas
Saturday, Feb 22
VFW
Members & Guest

Computer Solutions expands Internet service in Snyder

Bullard's Computer Solutions, Inc. is substantially expanding their modems to keep pace with their rapid growth in customers.

"Our goal is in continuing to provide a fast, reliable, busy signal free service for our customers. Since Scurry County is our primary service area, all our attention is concentrated on keeping our local customers happy," said Drew Bullard, president of BCSI.

"If you have a question or problem, you can just pick up the phone and call us," Bullard added.

BCSI is a full service computer store. In addition to being an Internet provider, they design web sites for businesses large and small with a number of successful sites already to their credit.

"Web site design is a growing part of our business," said Bullard, "and we encourage anyone with an interest in establishing a presence on the Internet to contact us."

BCSI also sells new computers, upgrades and repairs old ones, sets up networks, and answers your computer related questions. If you have any computer needs, Computer Solutions can be reached at 573-4801 or you can come by their store located at 3405 College Avenue across from the Kwik Kar Lube and Tune.

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SPORTS

WTC golfers burn up frigid course with 9-under round

ROSWELL, N.M. — Not everyone can play in cold weather, but Western Texas College blocked out the adverse elements Friday and fired an impressive nine-under par 279 to take the first-round lead in the Broncho Collegiate Invitational.

Coach Milton Ham's linksters were nine strokes ahead of the field following the first 18 holes. A final 18 holes were scheduled for Saturday.

Fredrik Widmark of Sweden, who joined the team at mid-term, paced the Westerners with an sizzling eight-under 64.

Freshman Andreas Ljunggren, also of Sweden, fired a three-under 69. Sophomore Morten Vildhoj of Denmark was one under par at 71.

Ole Fuglsang, a freshman from Denmark, carded a 75 while Jake McCullough, a freshman from Big Spring, finished with a 78. Bryan Hawkins, a sophomore from Lamesa, played as a medalist and shot a 76.

Midland College Gold was in second place with an even par 288. New Mexico Junior College Gold team was in third place with a 289. The Air Force Academy finished the first round in fourth with a 290 and the University of New Mexico was in fifth with a 291.

Originally, 36 holes were scheduled Friday, but it snowed early in the day and play did not begin until 11 a.m. The last three holes of the day were played in sleet and snow.

Injury-prone Spurs edge Bucks, 98-93

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Carl Herrera proved to be a cure for the injury-depleted San Antonio Spurs.

Herrera scored a career-high 24 points to lead the Spurs to a 98-93 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks.

"His points were great, but his presence was unbelievable," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "He hit the boards on both ends and did a great job of being physical."

San Antonio, which broke a five-game losing streak, suited up only eight players as David Robinson, Chuck Person, Sean Elliott, Charles Smith, Vernon Maxwell and Monty Williams all watched the game from the bench in street clothes.

"Part of the problem is we have a different team every night, but as long as we shoot well, even though we are depleted, we're in the game every time," said Popovich, who saw his team connect on 55.4 percent of its field goal attempts.

Four San Antonio players scored in double figures as Herrera was joined by Avery Johnson with 20 points and Dominique Wilkins and Vinny Del Negro scored 18 apiece.

Milwaukee was led by Vin Baker with 27 points, while Glenn Robinson added 21, Ray Allen 17 and Sherman Douglas 13.

After trailing by as many as 21 points, Milwaukee rallied in the fourth quarter to cut San Antonio's lead to 88-87 on a dunk by Allen with 1:36 to play.

Herrera responded with back-to-back baskets as San Antonio regained the momentum and led 92-88 with 46.2 seconds to play.

"I was trying to stay active on the inside and rebound well," Herrera said. "Every night we just have to come out and play our hardest and try to give the fans a great game."

Loboettes end Canyon's 62-game winning streak

The Levelland Loboettes did something that no one has done in a long time. They beat Canyon.

The Loboettes (30-3) ended the Canyon Lady Eagles' (30-1) 62-game win streak with a 24-22 victory Friday night in the Region 1-4A championship in Plainview.

The score was tied at 22 with only 13 seconds remaining before Levelland's Missy Frazier drove the lane and banked in a jumper that put Levelland up, 24-22.

Canyon tried to answer with desparation three, but it bounced high off the backboard giving Levelland the upset win

"It was just like we thought it would be," said Loboette coach Dean Weese. "We kept telling our kids if we keep it close, something good might happen to us at the end-and it did."

Canyon was the defending state champion and was ranked number one in the state.

Levelland advances to to the UIL state girls basketball tournament which is sheduled to begin next Thursday in Austin.

The Estacado Matadors could not dispatch the Sweetwater Mustangs in an area playoff held Friday night in the Scurry County Coliseum.

The Matadors fell, 80-69, on a hard-fought ball game that the Matadors could not control.

Sweetwater was up by 36-16 at the half, but the Matadors fought back to cut the lead to 42-39 in the third quarter. Sweetwater had an answer though, going on a 16-4 run to take a 58-43 lead.

Estacado gave one last effort to take the lead when Marcus Harris nailed a trey to up the score to 60-54, but it was not enough as Sweetwater took the win.

"These kids were ready to play, but we just got too aggressive by taking some ill-advised shots," said Estacado coach Jimmy Moore.

The Matadors finished the season as District 2-4A champs with a 17-16 season tally. Sweetwater (23-11) will play the winner of Friday's Azle-Fort Worth Polytechnic game in a regional semifinal.

Warren Moon released from Vikings for turning down offer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A $3.8 million pay cut was too much for Warren Moon to swallow.

The Minnesota Vikings released Moon on Friday when the 40-year-old quarterback turned down a $500,000 offer to back up Brad Johnson next season. Moon's agent, Leigh Steinberg, said it was an amicable parting, and he expects Moon to sign with another team in a few weeks.

"We're pleased that they went ahead and did this now instead of waiting, because now we'll have a much better chance to find a new home," Steinberg said.

Moon had been scheduled to earn $4.3 million in 1997 in the second year of a three-year, $15 million contract. When he refused the $3.8 million pay cut, the Vikings let him go. Moon flew to Minnesota for a physical Friday — he passed, Steinberg said — and then returned to his suburban Houston home.

Houston, where Moon spent his first 10 NFL seasons, is among several teams believed to be interested. Seattle, Tampa Bay and St. Louis also might have interest in Moon.

After Moon failed to get the Oilers into an AFC championship game during his 10 seasons there, he was traded to Minnesota for two mid-round draft picks in what amounted to a money-saving move for the Oilers.

The Vikings hailed Moon's arrival as the piece that would give them a chance to get back to the Super Bowl for the first time since 1976, and they started 7-2 in his first season.

Medley, Post toss discus for top spots

The SHS boys track team is competing in the ABC Relays in Frenship this weekend.

The preliminaries were held on Friday, with the finals taking place today.

Snyder senior Joey Medley finished in first place in the discus with a toss of 137 feet, two inches. Medley's teammate, senior Chris Post, took fifth with a throw of 125 feet, seven inches.

Snyder is sitting in third place in the team standings with a team score of 12, behind Abilene Wylie with 18½ and Big Spring with 22.

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EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	41	13	.759	—
New York	39	15	.722	2
Orlando	26	25	.510	13½
Washington	24	29	.453	16½
New Jersey	15	38	.283	25½
Philadelphia	13	39	.250	27
Boston	11	42	.208	29½
Central Division				
Chicago	47	6	.887	—
Detroit	39	13	.750	7½
Atlanta	35	17	.673	11½
Charlotte	33	21	.611	14½
Cleveland	29	23	.558	17½
Indiana	25	27	.481	21½
Milwaukee	25	28	.472	22
Toronto	18	35	.340	29

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	38	14	.731	—
Houston	35	19	.648	4
Minnesota	27	27	.500	12
Dallas	17	33	.340	20
Denver	17	38	.309	22½
SanAntonio	13	39	.250	25
Vancouver	11	46	.193	29½
Pacific Division				
L.A.Lakers	38	15	.717	—
Seattle	37	15	.712	½
Portland	29	25	.537	9½
Sacramento	24	30	.444	14½
L.A.Clippers	21	29	.420	15½
GoldenState	20	31	.392	17
Phoenix	20	35	.364	19

Thursday's Games
Miami 92, New Jersey 87
Philadelphia 101, L.A. Clippers 84
Indiana 92, Denver 68
Milwaukee 101, Dallas 99
Houston 107, Toronto 97
Utah 122, Boston 105
New York 109, Sacramento 87

Friday's Games
Charlotte 114, L.A. Clippers 96
Detroit 98, New Jersey 84
Atlanta 76, Houston 74
Orlando 99, Denver 86
Portland 114, Miami 110
Minnesota 101, Golden State 82
Chicago 103, Washington 99
San Antonio 98, Milwaukee 93
Phoenix 94, Cleveland 88
Seattle 84, New York 64
L.A. Lakers 99, Vancouver 91

Saturday's Games
Portland at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at Chicago, 8:30 p.m
Toronto at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Boston at New Jersey, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Washington, 1 p.m.
San Antonio at Houston, 1 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Milwaukee, 2 p.m.
Cleveland at Vancouver, 3 p.m.
Seattle at Utah, 3:30 p.m.
New York at L.A. Lakers, 3:30 p.m.

SDN Sports Briefs

Coliseum to host area playoff

The Scurry County Coliseum will play host to a Class 2A area playoff between the Tahoka Bulldogs and the Coahoma Bulldogs.

Tahoka (26-5) defeated Stanton, 78-69, Thursday night in the coliseum. Coahoma (22-9) advanced to the area playoffs with a 64-51 win over the Hawley Bearcats in Sweetwater.

Tip-off is set for 6:30 p.m. and Admission will be $3 for adults and $2 for students.

Little League umpires needed

Snyder Little League is in need of umpires for the coming season. Umpires are needed for all levels of play such as Farm League, Senior League and Girl's Softball. Contact Phil Robinson at 573-7985 or 573-7970.

Andrews softball tourney

The 12th annual Spring Classic men's softball tournment is accepting teams for the March 14-16 meet. Deadline for entries is March 12 and entry fee is $110 per team.

For more information, contact Marvin Lee at (915) 523-3014, Steve Vaughn at (915) 523-6031 or Mike Erwin at (915) 523-2212.

Soccer sign-ups

The Snyder Soccer Association will hold sign-ups for the upcoming season.

All girls and boys must be four years old on or before July 31, 1997. There is a $20 fee for each player, and each child must must be accompanied by an adult. All participants must bring their birth certificate and social security number.

Sing-ups were being held Saturday afternoon from 1-4 in the First Baptist Church Family Life Center, and on Feb. 27-28 from 4:30-7:30 p.m.

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Game Scores
Sweetwater 49-11
Big Spring 50-18
Andrews 67-27
Lamesa 55-24
Colorado City 56-10
Sweetwater 48-10
Andrews 40-26
Lamesa 31-20
Colorado City 39-18

Snyder Tournament
1st Place
Big Spring 44-6
Abilene Wylie 37-27

Andrews Tournament
1st Place
Pecos 52-15
Big Spring 40-18
Lamesa 34-25

• John, Chris & Andrew Bane • Christy Brown & Riley Sterling
• Ola & Toby Delce & Keith Wallace
• Johnnie Joe, Fairy & Rad Eicke • Paul & Judy Haines
• Don & Armanda Herrera & Tiffany Garza
• Bruce & Vicki Kallemeyn • Steve, Judy & Chris Mackey
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1985 Chev. Suburban 350, 75K, $3850. 1986 ¾ ton Chev. Pickup, 454 Automatic, alum. wheels, new tires, CD Player. $2850. 573-1640.

1985 Toyota Supra with P/W P/L, Sun-roof, turbo charged in-line 6. High miles/runs good. $2500. 573-6900.

1993 F150 PICKUP Ext. Cab, bucket seats, new tires, white w/ blue interior, high mileage. 573-6839.

'81 Chevy Suburban (all power), 350/overdrive. $2950. See at Ben Wilson Supply. Call 573-2849 evenings.

'93 Chevy Ext. Cab Siverado, 34,000 miles. '87 Suburban, extra clean. After 5:00 pm call 573-0939.

FOR SALE: 1983 light green Cadillac Coup DeVille, 2 door. 50,000 miles. Excellent condition. $5,000. Call 573-2237 for appt.

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Business Directory of Services

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$ **Timely Pawn And Gun** $
$ U.S.A. Made 9mm Ammo $7.99 $
$ S/W M-10 2" 357 ..... $259 $
$ Ruger Sec-Six 357 ..... $259 $
$ Lady Rossi ST.S 38 SPL $229 $
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Drying Wet Carpets
We Rent Carpet & Floor Dryers
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All Types Of Yard Work, Clean Up and Removal. Trees, Shrubs, Vacant Lots, General Home Repair and Maintenance.
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The Snyder Daily News cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Claims cannot be considered unless made within 5 days from date of first publication. No allowance can be made when errors do not materially affect the value of the advertisement. All out of town orders must be accompanied by cash, check or money order. All ads are cash unless customer has an established advertising account with The Snyder Daily News.
The Publisher is not responsible for copy ommissions, typographical errors, or any unintentional error that may occur further than to correct it in the next issue after it is brought to his attention.

160 EMPLOYMENT

Accepting Applications for Part-time Phsyciatric Nurse (R.N.). Mon-Fri 8-5. Call 915-573-9646.

POSTAL JOBS $12.68/hr. to start, plus benefits. Carriers, Sorters, Clerks, Computer Trainees. For an application & exam information call 1-219-791-1191, ext. 40. 8 am.-8 p.m. 7 days.

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SALES, INDUSTRIAL. Local Career Opportunity with the fastest growing Industrial Company in our industry. First year earnings in excess of $32-35,000. Our products feature advanced design, energy savings and environmental benefits, repeat type business with innovative benefit package, and extensive training program. No evenings. No weekends. For a confidential interview, call Jim Ryan, Monday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 1-800-257-8353, ext. 2.

Taking applications for a parts person. Apply at 507 E. Coliseum Drive, Key Brothers Implement.

MLT, ASCP or equivalent, for 99-bed JCAHO accredited hospital. Full-time position with competitive salary and benefits. EOE Apply through Human Resources at Cogdell Memorial Hospital, 1700 Cogdell Blvd., Snyder, TX 79549 (915)573-6374 or FAX (915)573-9667.

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NOW HIRING Experienced machinists. Apply at Browne Bro. Colorado City. 915-728-5241.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS AND LABORERS: Experienced dozer & scraper operators required for short-term project in Snyder, Texas. Must be able to cut and finish to grade. Interviews to be held locally. Telephone: 281/597-3001 or 281/597-3083.

WANTED: Team Oriented CNAs!
To join our team of nurses working full time on the day or evening shifts. We offer good wages and benefits including: vacation, uniforms, and tuition assistance. **Apply at: Snyder HCC, 5311 Big Spring Hwy, 573-6332, EOE.**

ATTN: SNYDER Postal positions. Clerks and sorters. No experience required. Benefits. For exam, salary, and testing information call 1-630-906-5570 ext. 3657 8am-8pm.

"AVON" Representatives Needed! No Inventory. No Door-to-Door Required. IND/SALES/ REP 800-236-0041.

BURGER KING: We are seeking a business minded, people oriented individual with excellent communication skills (College preferred) for management position that can open up an exciting future. Send/ Fax your resume to Ron-Bar. Inc., Century Plaza Suite 414, Abilene, TX 79760, fax 915-695-0318. Ron-Bar Inc. individual franchise for Burger King.

WIRELINE SUPERVISORS: Wedge Dia-Log, Inc., has openings for Wireline Supervisors in Hobb, N.M., Big Lake, & Odessa, Texas. Wedge has grown almost 50% in the Permain Basin in the last 3 years & we continue to grow. We need experienced supervisors who are looking for a career with a company that is going places. Starting salary is based on experience & includes Job bonus, medical and dental benefits, 401K, meal allowance & company vehicle. Please send resume & Salary requirements to: **Wedge Dia-Log, Inc. P.O. Box 4835, Odessa, Texas 79760, Attn: Personnel.** If you are experienced in Cased-Hole Logging, Perforating. Pipe Recovery or Profiling

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST/ MAMMOGRAPHER, ARRT. Must meet ACR Standards and have Texas Licensure. Full-time position with competitive salary and benefits. EOE Apply through Human Resources at Cogdell Memorial Hospital, 1700 Cogdell Blvd., Snyder, TX 79549 (915)573-6374 or FAX (915)573-9667.

ROLLING PLAINS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, Sweetwater, Tx., is currently seeking a R.N. for our Obstetrical Department. The position is full time, 7 p.m.-7 a.m., excellent salary and benefit package, shift and specialty area differential. Previous OB experience preferred. Interested candidates should call 915-235-1701, ext. 222 or send resume to P.O. Box 690, Sweetwater, TX 79556. EOE

The following positions are available at Golden Plains Care Center Post, Texas:
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*Excellent Working Conditions
*A Place On The Go
Contact: Bill Snider R.N. D.O.N.
Tabitha Mills, Administrator
605 W. 7th Post, Tx 79356
806-495-2848
Let me hear from you. Thanks-Bill Snider R.N.

Mitchell County Emergency Medical Service is accepting applications for Part-Time EMTs, for 911 emergency service. For more information call (915) 728-3431 ext. 351.

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KOCH Industries, Inc. is a privately held, multi-billion dollar, diversified international energy company. Currently we seek Truck Driver candidates that possess a CDL with hazardous materials and tanker endorsements, good driving record and the ability to pass a DOT physical and drug screen.

KOCH offers competitive wages, excellent benefits and pleasant, professional working conditions in a smoke free environment.

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EXCELLENT BENEFITS

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FAX: (915)336-8640

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Pool Company, an industry leader in oil field services, has immediate openings in the Snyder area for experienced Crew Chiefs, Derrick Workers, and Crew Workers. Crew Chiefs must have experience operating a rig and a current CDL driver's license.

POOL offers an excellent wage and benefit package including medical/dental insurance, paid vacation, holiday premiums, 401-K, credit union, and retirement.
Qualified applicants should apply at:

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EEOC-M/F/D/V

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Master Journeyman and beginning machinists wanted. Training provided. Send application/ resume to Shop Foreman, YZ Industries, Box 890, Snyder.

EARN $1000 Weekly stuffing envelopes at home. Start now. No experience. Free supplies, info. No obligation. Send LSASE to: Ace, Dept: 1143 Box 5137, Diamond Bar, Ca. 91765.

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RUSH IT TO THE CLASSIFIEDS AS THEY'RE BUZZIN' WITH ACTION
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MARY KAY COSMETICS. For a complimentary facial and reorders call Geraldine Thames, 915-573-9433, 1808 38th St. Snyder, Tx.-

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CLEAN-COASTAL HAY FOR SALE: Round or Square Bales. Will deliver. 817-639-2519 or 817-639-2459.

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HAY FOR SALE: COASTAL or SUDAN. MICHAEL WHITFIELD 915-667-7470.

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Snyder Farm & Ranch Supply. 573-0767.

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Call Harold Yearwood
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'78 GLASTRON WALK-THRU 150 h.p., excellent condition. Cloth roof-Orange/Beige. Excellent trailer. See at Jack's Used Cars. 573-9001.

260 MERCHANDISE

4 VCR's For Sale. $125 each. Call Tommy Williams at 573-7567.

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Wheel Chairs, Walkers, Canes, Home Blood Pressure Kits, Etc.
Sales & Rentals
3706 College 573-7582

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GUARANTEED USED APPLIANCES: Washers, Dryers, Refrigerators, Ranges & Freezers. WESTERN AUTO 2510 AVE. R.

NOW DELIVERING 1 Rick or ½ Cord of Mesquite firewood, $75. 1 Rick limit per customer. Call (8-5) 573-1579 after (5) 863-2349.

Over 200 yards of carpet-Like New Condition! To view call 573-3916 for an appointment. $800 OBO.

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ALL GARAGE SALES must be paid in advance.

310 GARAGE SALES

ESTATE SALE
Hermleigh, TX-Cardinal Cafe (next to Allsup's off Hwy. 84)
Sunday February 23rd 1:00 p.m.-?

320 RENT OR LEASE

FOR RENT: 2400 sq. ft. Office/ Shop. Hwy. 84 & E. 23rd. $450/mo. 573-0972.

KEY MOBILE HOME PARK on West 37th St. Large Lots. Now Locally Owned. 573-2149.

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✔ CHECK OUT OUR NEW RATES. WESTERN CREST APTS. 573-1488.

1 bedroom furnished apartment for rent. Bills & cable paid. Deposit. 573-5879 or 915-728-8482.

1 bedroom furnished Apartment-For rent. No utilities paid. 573-9047.

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100 37th Street
Snyder, Texas
915- 573-5261

- One Bedroom From $240
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- Resident Manager

Equal Housing Opportunity

330 HOUSES FOR RENT

FOR RENT: 3 bedroom 1 bath, carport, references, deposit. 573-9812 after 5:00 weekdays.

3-1-1 CH/A, nice neighborhood. 3757 Highland, $425/mo $250/dep. Call 573-7988.

573-5486 Puts you in the Classifieds.

335 MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

2 & 3 BEDROOM Mobile Home for rent starting at $275. 573-1711.

340 MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

1997 Doublewide #1 homebuilder in America! 5 yr. warranty. $1495 down, $233.69 month, 360 months, 9.25% apr var. Homes of America Odessa, TX. 1-915-363-0881 or 1-800-725-0881.

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Do you want your baby's room next to the master bedroom? We have it, all new floor plan with lots of room to grow. 5% down, $249.35 month, 300 months, 9.75% apr var. Homes of America Odessa, TX. 1-915-363-0881 or 1-800-725-0881.

FEBRUARY SWEETHEART SALE: Call now for huge savings. 800-378-0998. J. Hite Homes.

Invierta su income tax en su casa Amueblada de 3 recamaras con $1450 de enganche y solo $149 por mes 120 meses, 13.50% apr var Homes of America Odessa, TX. 1-915-363-0881 or 1-800-725-0881. Pregunte por Dimas Avalos,

MANAGERS SPECIAL: 4 bedroom 2 bath Model #325, only $338.84 month, 10% down, 360 months, 10.50% APR. Includes mormal delivery, A/C. J Hite Homes, Abilene, TX. 915-793-999 or 1-800-378-0998.

New 1997 front kitchen 16 wide, 2 bedroom for only 5% down, $182 month, 300 months, 9.75% apr var. Homes of America Odessa, TX 1-915-363-0881 or 1-800-725-0881.

Nice used mobile home, 3 bedroom, with all the goodies included; you get a sofa bed, chair, coffee table, dinette set for 6, all the beds, for only 10% down, $164 month, 180 months, 13.75% apr. Homes of America Odessa, TX. 1-915-363-0881 or 1-800-725-0881.

PALM HARBOR DOUBLE WIDE: $202.80/mo. Includes delivery, set-up & A/C. 10% down, 8.25% APR, 360 months. 800-378-0998 J. Hite Homes.

360 REAL ESTATE

3700 Muriel 3704 Nobel $11,900 each or both $22,000. Cash only. Will trade for cars. Call 573-9001.

CASH FOR YOUR HOUSE OR EQUITY REGARDLESS OF CONDITION. (806)794-5964.

FOR SALE: 2 Lots in Hillside Memorial Gardens. Call 915-643-2520.

FOR SALE BY OWNER: 2 Story Log Home. 3-2 Orchard, Barn, pens, 160A. 863-2425.

FOR SALE: Lot in Hillside Memorial Gardens. 86 B Space 1 Section 11. Call 915-573-3970.

Small 3 bedroom house-75% remodled. To be moved. Days 573-4092 Evenings 573-6417.

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573-5612 or 573-1755

Outside City 3-2-2cp.	$86.5T
Towle Park 3-2-2 Red.	$85T
3403 Irving 4-2 Patio	$69.5T
4300 Ave. U 3-2-2	$59T
Country Close-In 3-2-2-shop	$62.5T
33 Acres Close In	$21.5T
3730 Ave. U 3-1	$31.5T
Com. Buildings on the square	
Country 2-1	$18T
404 35th St. 3-2 CH/A	$35T
101 Elm 2-1-1	$25.9T
3001 34th 3-2	$59.9T
640 Acres NE Cult. & pasture	
2808 Ave. T 3-2-2 Bsmnt.	$65T
15A House, Ponds, Barns Lmsa.Hwy	
House Lg.Shp	$35T
4008 Jacksboro 3-2-2	$53.5T
2212 43rd 3-1	$39.9T
2217 Sunset 3-1-1 Red.	$31.5T
2 Houses outside Snyder	$65T
4514 Galveston 3-2½-2	$100T
Colonial Hill 3-2-2	$89.5T
Com.Bldg Lmsa Hwy	$27.5T
2304 30th 3-1	$30T
1904 Ave. M 2-1-1	$25T
2903 36th 3-3-2 loft	$89T
Country 3-2-2cp Red.	$58T
200 35th	$28.5T
Lmsa.Hwy 3 ComBldg	$49.5T
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Doris Beard	573-8480
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3907 Miland Deck w/hot tub
Near Golf Course view to appreciate 3-2-2 Pool
Fully Updated 3-2-1 Dalton
1868 Santa Fe 3-2-2-shop
Large Rms 3-2-2 4300 Ave. U
Outstanding 4-3 w/Charm
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Dolores Jones 573-5308
Wenona Evans 573-8165
Faye Blackledge 573-1223
Wendell Wilks 573-8965

Elizabeth Potts Realtors
573-8505
1707 30th Street

West 4-2-2 Pool-Pool house
Nice 3503 44th 3-2 W/Office
4304 Lubbock 3-2-1 Low $50's
3303 Ave. U 3-2-2 X-Lots $70's
3101 Ave. T 3-1½-1 $28.5T
Farm Land CALL FOR INFO.
Nice 2-2 3714 Austin $25T
West 3-2-2 $50s
3908 Eastridge 3-1-2 $30T nice
2-1 Homes $7.5 to $27.5T
Nice 3-2 $49T
3113 Ave. T 3-2-2 49.5T
2704 47th 3-2½-2 Studio
Country2-1-Barn/Pens/6.88A
3000 Crockett 4-3½-2 Pool
3505 Houston 3-2 $40's
Brand New Home/Royal Cedar
Annette Waller 573-9467
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NOTHING DOWN to qualified buyers. Formal 2-Story brick home with beautiful view, in Loraine. 4 bedroom, 5 living areas, 3 baths and more. $69,500. Call Steve Warner @ 915-692-8311 or 915-676-5454.

362 FARMS & RANCHES

292 ACRES FOR SALE: Good fences, 120 in cultivation, running spring, concrete tank. Camp Spring area-paved road on 2 sides. Owner Finance. 573-7152 or 573-7337.

FOR SALE: 653 acres seven miles Northwest of Snyder on CR 253. 180 acres improved pasture. Remainder in native grass. Wheat allotment. One water well. Two dirt tanks. Crossfenced. Farmhouse, garage and bunkhouse. Call 573-8394 or 573-8654.

Feeling great about The Snyder Daily News Classifieds

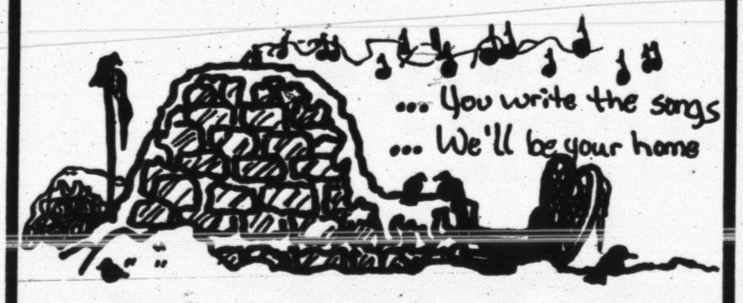
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FARM EQUIP. - ANTIQUES - COLLECTIBLES - PLUMBING - CARPENTER SUPPLIES

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279 SC Rd. 243 Snyder, Texas

DIRECTIONS: From downtown Snyder (N.W. corner of the Courthouse) take Hwy 180 West approx. 4 miles to Scurry County Rd. #243 then N. approx. 8/10 mi. then West to Auction Site. WATCH FOR SIGNS.

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Skid Mounted 12x20 Portable Building, 1954 Model 40 W.F. John Deere, J.D. Shredder, 10' Grain Drill, 8' Disc, 6' & 8' Blade (1 Adj.), Fresno, Post Hole Digger, 7 Shank Chisel Plow, 5 1/2' & 8' Rd. Stock Tanks, Lg. Lot of Corner Post, T.A. Stock Tri., Lots of Plumbing & Carpenter Supplies, Lots of Corrg. Fiberglass Panels, New Vinyl Underpinning (28'X50'), 1947 Slant Back 2 Door V-8 Cadillac, 58 Dodge Powerwagon, 78 Dodge Van, 86 Chevy Van, 1933 -40 Running Boards Plus Other Older Cars & Parts, 17' Tri-Hull Boat w/Trlr, 3 Door Wooden Icebox, Carved Fireplace Mantels, Old Ceiling Tin, Furn., House, & Stove Trim, Oak Desk, Old Barber Chair, Cast IronGriswald Skillet, Avon Steins, Haynes, Singletrees, Traps, Hay Hooks, Gas Power Lawn Mower, Honda Motorcycle (Needs Workk), Cushman Scooter Frame & Cab, Jacks, Tools, Heaters, Evap. Coolers, Scrap Metal, Plus Much, Much More.

For More Information Call 1-915-728-8292. Food on Site. Inspection Time: 8:30 a.m. Saleday. IN THE EVENT OF BAD WEATHER (ICE) AUCTION MAY BE RE-SCHEDULED.

AUCTIONEER: Grady W. Morris TXs - 6785

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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS
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010 LEGAL NOTICES

NO. 53-38
ESTATE OF LESTER O. MOORE, DECEASED
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF SCURRY COUNTY, TEXAS
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF LESTER O. MOORE

Notice is hereby given that on February 13, 1997, Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of LESTER O. MOORE were issued to MARTHA E. MOORE, as Independent Executrix, in proceedings in the County Court of Scurry County, Texas, pending in said Court and that she now holds such Letters.

All persons having claims against this Estate are hereby required to present the same to MARTHA E. MOORE as Independent Executrix of said Estate, addressed in care of MARTHA E. MOORE at the post office address given below within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

The residence of said Independent Executrix is in the City of Snyder, Scurry County, Texas and her post office address is as follows:
1507 Augusta Drive
Snyder, Texas 79549
DATED the 18th day of February, 1997

RAYMOND C. JORDAN, JR. & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
310 OFFICE PLAZA
310 EAST INTERSTATE 30
SUITE M115
GARLAND, TEXAS 75043
(972) 226-0361
(S) By: Raymond C. Jordan, Jr.
State Bar No. 11016400
Attorneys for MARTHA E. MOORE, Independent Executrix of the Estate of LESTER O. MOORE, Deceased.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND SPECIFICATIONS: PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE
ROTAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
102 NORTH MCKINLEY AVENUE
ROTAN, TEXAS 79546
Request for proposals and specifications on the following insurance coverage:
Part 1--Property Casualty and Contents
Part 2--General Liability, Personal Injury Liability, and Employee Benefits Liability
Part 3--Professional Legal Liability
Part 4--Automobile Liability, Physical Damage
Part 5--Boiler and Machinery
TIME AND PLACE FOR PROPOSALS
1. Sealed proposals shall be received in the office of the Superintendent of Schools, 102 North McKinley Avenue, Rotan, Texas 79546 by 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 4, 1997.
2. Each proposal received shall be in a sealed envelope plainly marked "Insurance Proposal-3/4/97".
3. Proposals shall be opened in the office of the Superintendent of Schools, at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 4, 1997.
4. The board shall consider the proposals and take appropiate action at a public meeting on Thursday, March 6, 1997 beginning at 7:30 p.m., in the Rotan ISD Cafeteria.
5. Additional information may be obtained from the Superintendent of Schools or Mickey Early, Junior High Principal, at (915) 735-2332.
6. Proposers may not withdraw their proposals after the closing time for submission of proposals.
(s) Mickey Early, Principal

INVITATION TO PROPSALS
Sealed proposals, addressed to Jerry Church, Superintendent, Hermleigh Independent School District, P.O. Box 195, Hermleigh, Texas 79526 are being received for separate trade proposals for Renovations to the Elementary School.Proposals will be received in the office of the Construction Manager until 5:00 p.m., March 17, 1997. Proposals will be received until 1:00 p.m. on March 18, 1997, at the Office of Hermleigh I.S.D. Superintendent, at which time the proposals will be opened and read publicly in the Hermleigh I.S.D. Board Room at Hermleigh, Texas. All proposals mailed prior to this date and all inquiries should be to the Construction Manager.
D.S.A., INC.
P.O. BOX 698
CLEBURNE, TEXAS 76033
817/645-8864
METRO 477-2139
Bids received after 1:00 p.m., March 18, 1997, closing time will be returned unopened. Seperate contracts and purchase orders will be awarded for the various disciplines of work required. Time on this project is of the utmost importance. Each proposal will be considered based on price and time schedule on each portion of work to be completed. The awarding of bids will not be made at this time. Payment and Performance Bond shall be as follows:

For a contract price of $25,000 or more, the Contractor will furnish a Payment bond and a Performance bond of not less than one hundred (100%) percent of the contract price, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the contract and upon payment of all persons supplying the labor or furnishing the materials used on this project. Costs of the bonds shall be paid by the Contractor.

Plans and Specifications may be secured from D.S.A., Inc., P.O. Box 702, Cleburne, Texas 76033, 817/645-8864 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday of each week beginning February 24, 1997.

The Owner reserves the rights to waive any formalities or to reject any or all proposals. No proposals may be withdrawn until the expiration of 30 days from the date proposals are opened. Proposal prices will be accepted according to price of equal work and materials, the ability of the contractor to man the project and complete the project, as time is very important to meeting time schedules of the Owner.
Sealed Proposals:
Hermleigh Independent School District
Jerry Church, Superintendent
C/O D.S.A., Inc.
(Construction Manager)
P.O. Box 698
Cleburne, Texas 76033

BID NOTICE
Mitchell County Ambulance Service is accepting bids for a 1984 Type I ambulance. Send bids to MCAS at 1543 Chestnut St., Colorado City, TX 79512 by February 28, 1997, or call (915) 728-3431, ext. 351 for inquiries.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MIDLAND-ODESSA DIVISION

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

TO: The Unknown Heirs of Melda Neish, Deceased, Defendants/ Involuntary plaintiffs in the cause described in this citation.

You, and each of you, are commanded to appear and to answer before the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Midland-Odessa Division, in the George Mahon Federal Building-Courthouse in Midland, Midland County, Texas, at or before 10 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, being at or before 10 a.m. on Monday, the day of March 31, 1997, then and there to answer the petition of Jones County Minerals, Inc., et al, in cause Number MO-96-CA-184, styled Jones County Minerals, Inc., et al. v. Thomas C. Echols, et al., in which Jones County Minerals, Inc.; Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma; Kirby Minerals, L.C.; Herman L. Loeb; Stuart Interests, L.L.C.; and James Roger Peacock, individually and as successor trustee for the Frank Hudson Trust of Dallas, Texas, are plantiffs, Thomas C Echols; Janice Kay Echols; R.L. Halvorsen d/b/a Halvey Energy Company; Barry D. Halvorsen; Maddox Oil Properties, Inc.; Richard H. Coats; Richard B. Hamm; Fred Landis; Mark H. Lowrance, Jr.; Donald J. Ray; Larry Murphy; Madeline D. Norwood; Osprey Resources, Inc.; Paper Time, Inc.; Jimmie R. Parker, Jr.; Schlagal Brothers; and Wes-Tex Drilling Company are defendants, and Nora Oschner, Linda T. McElroy, Dudley Oschner, American Exploration Company, American Minerals Corporation, Ann B. Fletcher, William S. Burford, Carolyn Brady, and W.G. Bodling , Jr. are defendants/involuntary plaintiffs. The petition, filed on December 9, 1996, discloses that the nature of the suit is as follows:

Civil action for violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (18 U.S.C. § 1961 et seq.), breach of fiduciary duty, conspiracy to breach fiduciary duty, fraud, and conspiracy to defraud, related to acts and omissions concerning the mineral estate in land, specifically all of the East Half of the Southwest Quarter (SE/4) of section 65, in Block No. 3, H&GN Ry. Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas, of which the Unknown Heirs of Melda Neish, Deceased, are believed to be owners of a 1/120 interest.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THIS COURT on this the 11th day of February, 1997, at Midland, Midland County, Texas.
William G. Putnicki, Clerk
(s) S. Mendenhall, Deputy Clerk



Classifieds
573-5486

CARDS OF THANKS

Thanks

I am absolutely astounded at the concern and the sympathy that has been shown to my family and myself during my recent illness and accident. I have received so many phone calls, cards, prayergrams and visits that I will never be able to properly thank everyone for what you have done and are continuing to do to make this time of trouble a little easier.

We really appreciate everything and thank you very much.

Rodger and Janie Sullenger

Thank You

The family of Ray C. Smith wishes to thank everyone who sent flowers, cards and food. Also thanks to those who called and made donations in Ray's name. We would also like to thank Snyder Oaks Care Center for the good care and Bell-Cypert-Seale and Rev. Ernie McGaughey, pastor of 1st United Methodist Church for the service.

Kenneth and Joyce Smith
Buster and Jo Smith
Bobby Jim Smith
and families

Thank You

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray, if so we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,as any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did say to console our hearts,
We Thank You so much, whatever the part.

Thank You,
Billy & Trish
Phillip & Whitney Payne
Clarance & Earlene Payne





CENTRAL PLAY — These two classes presented "How Yukky Duck Became Sir John Swan" last week. Judy Barkowsky's students in the top photo are from left. Ashton Wall, Matthew Massey, Wendy Reed, Khristian Torres, Keenon Garcia, Logan Lloyd, Chase Ashworth; middle row, Krisa Murphrey, Wanda Martinez, Stanley Forbes, Joe Limones, Barrett Bowlin, Anthony Duckworth, Greg Pesina; bottom row, Cody Alaniz, Tara Kubena, Serina Medrano, Stephanie Grant, Sequoya Powell, Tyler Price. Judy Moss' students in the back photo are from left, Jessica Taylor, Ashley Bailey, Natasha Schwoerer, Tye Stone, Leslie Wright, Tommy Garza, Colton Guynes; middle row, Caleb Gutierrez, Samantha Pena, Jeremy Reed, Amelia Lopez, Nathan Ricossa, Tyler Hogan, Tyler Baze, Erica Little; front row, Jonathan Browning, Ashley Hyer, Kayla Hartzog, Kenetra James, Chris Lopez. Paula Howard is the music director. (Staff Photos By Shirley A. Gorman)

Gammage's mother calls for federal civil rights charges

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department should consider federal civil rights charges against police officers involved in a struggle in which a black motorist was killed in Pittsburgh, the motorist's mother says.

Narves Gammage, calling on Attorney General Janet Reno to put aside any affinity she might have for fellow law enforcers, said only the Justice Department could help restore her faith in the criminal justice system.

"You must put the Constitution above your own personal belief," Mrs. Gammage said Friday at a news conference. "To restore my faith, you must act now."

Jonny Gammage, 31, a native of Syracuse, N.Y., and a cousin of Pittsburgh Steelers defensive lineman Ray Seals, died in a fight with suburban Pittsburgh police on Oct. 12, 1995. All of the officers are white; Gammage was black.

A coroner's jury recommended that all five officers be charged with murder in Gammage's death, but prosecutors brought involuntary manslaughter charges against only three of them.

Officer John Vojtas was acquitted in November by an all-white jury, and his lawyer said Mrs. Gammage's pleadings do not change that fact.

"We live in America, and anybody can make any charges or request they want to make," James M. Ecker said. "As far as I'm concerned, Mr. Vojtas has been found not guilty."

Police had pulled Gammage over after a chase. A struggle broke out, and police subdued Gammage by pressing on his back and neck. The coroner ruled he suffocated; defense lawyers argued he could have died from exhaustion or an adrenalin rush.

The trial of the two other officers charged in the case ended in a mistrial after 10 days. A new trial is expected this year.

After the news conference Friday, nearly 200 supporters demonstrated outside the Justice Department, demanding that civil rights charges be brought against the five police officers. About 10 of the supporters met for about an hour with Richard Roberts, head of the criminal section of the civil rights division.

Myron Marlin, a department spokesman, said a federal investigation into the Gammage case has been open for some time. He said he could not comment further because the probe was ongoing.

William D. Thompkins, vice president for the Urban League of Pittsburgh, said the Gammage case pointed to a larger issue of police misconduct.

Early morning fire, arrests noted locally

A early morning fire Saturday, two arrests Friday and one Saturday highlighted emergency and police activity in Snyder as the weekend began

At 12:47 a.m. Saturday, the fire department was notified of a fire at the restored Sinclair service station in the 700 block of 25th Street.

The structure suffered extensive damage to the roof, but a one-inch thick ceiling saved the interior from damage, said Fire Chief Terry Don McDowell. McDowell said the fire originated around a transformer or timer that regulated the neon lights on the building.

Two people were arrested Friday and one person was taken into custody early Saturday morning.

Officers arrested a 20-year-old female at 8:18 p.m. Friday on an outstanding city warant for no liability insurance.

A 17-year-old female was arrested at 10:53 p.m. Friday in the 2400 block of 27th Street for public intoxication.

Following a disturbance call at the Plaza Restaurant at 2:03 a.m. Saturday, officers arrested a 23-year-old male on an outstanding Scurry County warrant and a warrant for the issuance of a bad check in Mitchell County.

In other activity, Keith Herrley requested an officer at Pizza Inn at 1:35 p.m. Friday in reference to a theft. An offense report for Class A theft was submitted.

An officer was requested in the area of Northeast Elementary around 4 p.m. Friday in reference to a juvenile throwing rocks at vehicles.

An offense report for assault/ family violence was submitted at 7:24 p.m. Friday.

Officers responded to a report of a disturbance at 10:07 p.m. Friday in the 1008 block of 26th Street. A vehicle had sustained some damage but the owner declined to press charges.

A report of suspicious persons in the area of the 3100 block of Avenue V was made at 11:35 p.m. Friday.

A report of a possible prowler was made at 1:10 a.m. Saturday from the 2500 block of Avenue W.

Local/Na



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Healthcare an
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WHEELCHAIR DONATION — Barbee Medical Supply donated two new Invacare wheelchairs to St. Mary Family Healthcare Center for patient safety and for the staff's convenience. St. Mary Healthcare and Barbee Medical Supply employees are pictured from left, standing, Frances DeLeon, Shirley Coffey, June Mebane, Valerie Minefee, Pat Williams, Judie Runnels, Deborah Boyd, Bertha Deere, Cindy Drain, Linda Sharrock, Jeanette Sutton and Ben Boyd; on the front row are Kaila Bethel, Carolyn Barbee, Samantha Boyd, Kassi Drain, Cara Stansell and Carla Nunley. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Ex-heavyweight champion quits Marine after 11 days

By TED ANTHONY
AP National Writer

The few and the proud are walking a little prouder today. Riddick Bowe, former heavyweight champion of the world, couldn't cut it as a U.S. Marine. He threw in the towel after just 11 days of basic training.

Bowe bowed out Friday, telling his drill instructor and battalion commander that the regimen was too strict, that he missed his family, that he wished he'd enlisted when he was younger.

The few good men who've been through Parris Island's punishing boot camp weren't too surprised.

"When you're a boxer, if someone hits you, you can hit them back," said former Marine Kay Patterson, 66, a South Carolina state senator. He couldn't stop laughing for nearly a minute after hearing the news.

"Down at Parris Island," Patterson said, chuckling knowingly, "you ain't hitting anybody back."

Bowe made a big deal of going in. Not on the way out. A relative picked him up at the South Carolina base, and quietly whisked him away.

The 29-year-old multimillionaire fighter was trying to do what other boxing stars had done, only backwards: Gene Tunney, Leon Spinks, Ken Norton and Mike Weaver were all Marines before winning the heavyweight championship. But the fast end to his 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., in-your-face existence seemed more reminiscent of "Gomer Pyle" than "A Few Good Men."

"He couldn't handle the regimented training lifestyle," Master Sgt. Chuck Demar said at the U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island.

Prizefighters have rigorous regimens too — but boxers are surrounded by people hired to idolize them and serve their every whim. Next to Marines, veterans say, they just can't cut it.

"He may have heard the bugles blowing and said, 'Hey — I'm a Marine.' But it's tougher than you think," said Angelo Dundee, who trained Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Leonard.

"In sports, there's no harder training athlete than a fighter. In the service, the Marines are considered the best-conditioned guys out there," said Dundee, who was in the Army Air Corps.

Bowe walked the walk as a boxer. He won the heavyweight championship over Evander Holyfield in 1992, though Holyfield took it back a year later. That was his only defeat against 39 wins, 32 by knockout.

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Senate plan hopes to force better ratings

WASHINGTON (AP) — The TV industry would have to provide more detailed information about shows' violent content or air them only when children are not likely to be watching under a proposal being floated on Capitol Hill.

The plan by Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., responds to critics' complaints that the industry's existing rating system doesn't give parents enough information about the type, amount and intensity of violence in each show.

ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox and some cable networks are already carrying on-screen tags suggesting appropriate age groups for shows.

Unveiled in December, the TV industry's system is similar to the one used for movies for 28 years.

The six-tier, aged-based system uses designations from "TV-G," program suitable for all ages, to "TV-M," for mature audiences only. Most shows have been rated "TV-PG," parental supervision suggested.

As required by law, the Federal Communications Commission is reviewing the rating system. If the FCC finds the system unsuitable, it can move to appoint an independent advisory board to create a new system. But the government cannot require its use.

Hollings plans to introduce his bill on Tuesday, two days before the Senate Commerce Committee holds the first hearing on TV ratings since the industry began ratings programs, said one of his attorneys, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"He does not think the TV industry's age-based ratings system meets the intent of the law," the attorney said.

Though critics also have complained that the rating system doesn't provide adequate information about sexual and language content, Hollings' proposal deals only with violence.

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Officials want to know who gave convict Snow a pistol

MENDENHALL, Miss. (AP) — A convict, sentenced hours earlier to 40 years in prison, is accused of somehow smuggling a gun into a police car and killing two deputies before eluding authorities for nine hours in the woods of Mississippi.

Police want to know if someone gave Eric Leondra Snow a gun during his court appearance Friday, when he pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

Witnesses said Snow, 21, pulled a pistol from between his legs and shot deputies J.P. Rutland and Tommy Bourne in the head and the neck as the patrol car traveled on a rural, two-lane highway in southern Mississippi.

Another prisoner in the car, a woman convicted of fraud, was found screaming in the back seat as the two deputies slumped in the front. The car had no cage separating the prisoners from the front seat.

Snow, who escaped from a Mississippi jail three years ago by cutting window bars with a smuggled saw blade, fled into the woods. He was captured late Friday near a Mendenhall grocery after police spotted him with night-vision equipment.

Earlier Friday, Snow pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the 1994 shooting death of Jerome Keyes, 19, and to aggravated assault for shooting another man that year.

Authorities said they were looking into the possibility that someone slipped a gun to Snow in the courtroom, but had no other details.

After Snow escaped from a county jail in 1994, he remained at large for several months before being captured in Missouri.

Corrections spokesman Ken Jones said the deputies were taking Snow and the other convict, Patricia Gholar, to the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility outside Jackson.

Ms. Gholar told authorities that they had been driving for about 20 minutes when Snow started shooting.

Becky Monk said she saw the patrol car run off the road and then heard four or five shots as she backed her car out of a driveway.

"That's when I saw a man run from the scene," she said. "He had a long-barreled pistol in his hands."

Mrs. Monk said Ms. Gholar was screaming in the car when she arrived. A trucker stopped to help and they called 911.

The deputies still had their weapons on them when they were found. Their bodies remained in the car for three hours as investigators took notes and photographs.

There was a bullet hole in the passenger side windshield and another in the roof; blood had soaked the front seats and head rests.

Snow had escaped into the thick woods surrounding Mendenhall, a tiny rural farming community of 2,700 people about 30 miles southeast of Jackson.

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FEB 23 1997

2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Possible serial bomber suspected...

Atlanta nightclub bomb injures five

ATLANTA (AP) — A bomb blew up at a crowded lesbian nightclub, blasting nails through the room and injuring at least five people. It was the fourth bomb explosion in Atlanta in the past seven months.

Authorities confirmed Saturday that they may be looking for a serial bomber.

A second bomb was found in a backpack outside the Otherside Lounge after the explosion Friday night. Unlike a recent abortion clinic double bombing, the second bomb didn't go off this time.

"This is eerily reminiscent of last summer and last month," Mayor Bill Campbell said this morning, referring to the abortion clinic attack and the downtown park bombing during the summer Olympics.

Campbell said it was unknown if the latest blast was related to the earlier bombings, but there were similarities like the use of backpacks and using common nails as shrapnel.

"We will be searching out the possibility that we have a serial bomber," said Woody Johnson of the FBI.

The investigation was turned over to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and FBI.

"We truly believe we are dealing with a deranged killer, but one who is very clever as well," Campbell said.

Memrie Wells-Griswell of Snellville, who had surgery this morning, was the most seriously wounded but her injuries were not life-threatening, Campbell said. She remained hospitalized at Grady Memorial Hospital.

"The injuries to the other four were fairly minor. They were treated and released," Campbell said. Hospital officials said the injuries ranged from shrapnel wounds to pain in the ears.

"Several customers thought a lady had been shot," said bartender Rhonda Armstrong, who was mixing drinks when she saw a flash and heard a loud explosion. "She rolled her sleeve up and had a spike nail through her arm."

The explosion occurred about 10 p.m. in a rear patio area of the lounge just north of downtown. About 150 people were in the club.

"It was just a loud boom," said Steve Raimer, who works at the Hot Spot nightclub across the street. "It shook the doors."

The blast came five weeks after two explosions rocked a suburban Atlanta abortion clinic and seven months after the bombing of Centennial Olympic Park, which killed one person and injured about 100.

Jury trial is Monday for Daniel inmate

A jury panel of some 150 persons has been called for duty at 9 a.m. Monday in 132nd District Court.

District Judge Ernie Armstrong will preside over the criminal trial of Carl Anthony Jones, a 40-year-old Price Daniel unit inmate.

Jones was indicted last September for the July 12 assault on a correctional officer. Jones, who was serving a sentence in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for aggravated assault in Nueces County, is accused of hitting a correctional officer about the head and shoulders.

The pentalty for the assault, if the defendant is found guilty, could be enhanced because of the prior conviction. District attorney Dana Cooley will prosecute the case.

Personal, Professional Service

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573-4031

Hospital

Continued From Page 1

the first four years of the lease.

The original letter of intent submitted by CHS restricted the county's ability to negotiate with other firms which might be interested in leasing the hospital. However, Fritz said CHS would allow negotiations to continue with St. Mary Hospital of Lubbock which currently has a three-year management contract with Cogdell which was approved by the hospital's board of managers on Jan. 30.

This contract calls for a 180-day notice of termination by either party.

The letter of intent with Community Health Systems is not a contract. It calls for the county and CHS to cooperate in good faith in negotiating an agreement with each party reserving the right of final approval or disapproval for any reason.

In other matters Monday, the court will open and consider proposals for selling duplicate books in the county's law library, and consider budget amendments and line-item transfers.

Obituaries



Joycelyn Holder

Joycelyn Holder

1928-1996

Marie Joycelyn Holder, a resident of Snyder since 1950, died Friday, Feb. 21, at her daughter's home in Grapevine.

Service for Mrs. Holder, 69, is set for 11 a.m. Monday in St. Elizabeth Catholic Church. Monsignor Curtis Halfmann of Lubbock and the Rev. Gerald Leatham will officiate.

Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens. Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Born Jan. 6, 1928 in Ville Platte, La., she married Waylen Holder Sr. on April 26, 1949 in Ville Platte. Mr. Holder died on Dec. 8, 1995. A son, Tommy Holder Jr., died on June 10, 1980.

Mrs. Holder was a homemaker and an active member of the St. Elizabeth Catholic Church. She was also active in the Ladies Golf Association at Snyder Country Club and was a member of the Cogdell Hospital auxiliary.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Grace Anne and Danny Smedley of Grapevine and Michelle Holder-Witzel and Ron Witzel of Roanoke; five grandchildren, Thomas Talbott, Aaron Talbott, Michael Talbott, Lauren Smedley, all of Grapevine; and Brandon Holder of Roanoke; and a brother, Luther Louis Launey of Sulphur, La.

The family invites her friends to join them at 6 p.m. Sunday at Bell-Cypert-Seale Chapel to visit and help celebrate her life.

The family suggests memorials to St. Elizabeth Catholic Church Memorial Fund or the American Cancer Society.

Lillie Cantrell

1918-1997

CANTON — Funeral service is set for 1:30 p.m. Monday in the Eubank Funeral Home for Mary Lillie Cantrell of Midland. The Rev. Jerry Don Stanger will officiate. Burial will follow in the Haven of Memories Memorial Park in Canton.

Mrs. Cantrell died Friday, Feb. 21, in Midland Memorial Hospital, following a lengthy illness.

Born on April 2, 1918 in East Texas, she married James Rolen Cantrell in 1937. They moved to Snyder in 1952, then to Ben Wheeler in 1981.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1982, moving to Trinity Towers in Midland in 1993.

Survivors include four sons, Bobby Cantrell and Jackie Cantrell, both of Midland, Dale Cantrell and Billy Cantrell, both of Snyder; two daughters, Yvonne Castleberry of Midland and Darlene Chandler of Denton; two sisters, Mae Stanger and Millie McDonald of East Texas; and a brother, Willie Gowins of East Texas.

What's Up?

HISD to have holiday Monday

Monday will be a holiday for Hermleigh ISD students and employees.

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Deluxe Breakfast



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$1.99

Snyder, Texas
Colorado City, Texas

McDonald's

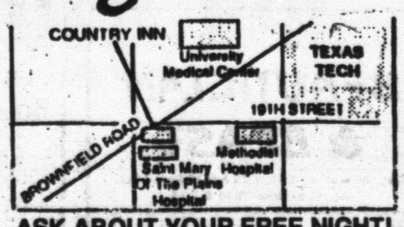
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2502 Ave. R Snyder, Texas 915 / 573-6536 Layaways

2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Possible serial bomber suspected...

Atlanta nightclub bomb injures five

ATLANTA (AP) — A bomb blew up at a crowded lesbian nightclub, blasting nails through the room and injuring at least five people. It was the fourth bomb explosion in Atlanta in the past seven months.

Authorities confirmed Saturday that they may be looking for a serial bomber.

A second bomb was found in a backpack outside the Otherside Lounge after the explosion Friday night. Unlike a recent abortion clinic double bombing, the second bomb didn't go off this time.

"This is eerily reminiscent of last summer and last month," Mayor Bill Campbell said this morning, referring to the abortion clinic attack and the downtown park bombing during the summer Olympics.

Campbell said it was unknown if the latest blast was related to the earlier bombings, but there were similarities like the use of backpacks and using common nails as shrapnel.

"We will be searching out the possibility that we have a serial bomber," said Woody Johnson of the FBI.

The investigation was turned over to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and FBI.

"We truly believe we are dealing with a deranged killer, but one who is very clever as well," Campbell said.

Memrie Wells-Griswell of Snellville, who had surgery this morning, was the most seriously wounded but her injuries were not life-threatening, Campbell said. She remained hospitalized at Grady Memorial Hospital.

"The injuries to the other four were fairly minor. They were treated and released," Campbell said. Hospital officials said the injuries ranged from shrapnel wounds to pain in the ears.

"Several customers thought a lady had been shot," said bartender Rhonda Armstrong, who was mixing drinks when she saw a flash and heard a loud explosion. "She rolled her sleeve up and had a spike nail through her arm."

The explosion occurred about 10 p.m. in a rear patio area of the lounge just north of downtown. About 150 people were in the club.

"It was just a loud boom," said Steve Raimer, who works at the Hot Spot nightclub across the street. "It shook the doors."

The blast came five weeks after two explosions rocked a suburban Atlanta abortion clinic and seven months after the bombing of Centennial Olympic Park, which killed one person and injured about 100.

Jury trial is Monday for Daniel inmate

A jury panel of some 150 persons has been called for duty at 9 a.m. Monday in 132nd District Court.

District Judge Ernie Armstrong will preside over the criminal trial of Carl Anthony Jones, a 40-year-old Price Daniel unit inmate.

Jones was indicted last September for the July 12 assault on a correctional officer. Jones, who was serving a sentence in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for aggravated assault in Nueces County, is accused of hitting a correctional officer about the head and shoulders.

The pentalty for the assault, if the defendant is found guilty, could be enhanced because of the prior conviction. District attorney Dana Cooley will prosecute the case.

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Snyder, Texas
Auto-Truck-Farm
573-4031

Hospital

Continued From Page 1

the first four years of the lease.

The original letter of intent submitted by CHS restricted the county's ability to negotiate with other firms which might be interested in leasing the hospital. However, Fritz said CHS would allow negotiations to continue with St. Mary Hospital of Lubbock which currently has a three-year management contract with Cogdell which was approved by the hospital's board of managers on Jan. 30.

This contract calls for a 180-day notice of termination by either party.

The letter of intent with Community Health Systems is not a contract. It calls for the county and CHS to cooperate in good faith in negotiating an agreement with each party reserving the right of final approval or disapproval for any reason.

In other matters Monday, the court will open and consider proposals for selling duplicate books in the county's law library, and consider budget amendments and line-item transfers.

Obituaries



Joycelyn Holder

Joycelyn Holder

1928-1996

Marie Joycelyn Holder, a resident of Snyder since 1950, died Friday, Feb. 21, at her daughter's home in Grapevine.

Service for Mrs. Holder, 69, is set for 11 a.m. Monday in St. Elizabeth Catholic Church. Monsignor Curtis Halfmann of Lubbock and the Rev. Gerald Leatham will officiate.

Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens. Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Born Jan. 6, 1928 in Ville Platte, La., she married Waylen Holder Sr. on April 26, 1949 in Ville Platte. Mr. Holder died on Dec. 8, 1995. A son, Tommy Holder Jr., died on June 10, 1980.

Mrs. Holder was a homemaker and an active member of the St. Elizabeth Catholic Church. She was also active in the Ladies Golf Association at Snyder Country Club and was a member of the Cogdell Hospital auxiliary.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Grace Anne and Danny Smedley of Grapevine and Michelle Holder-Witzel and Ron Witzel of Roanoke; five grandchildren, Thomas Talbott, Aaron Talbott, Michael Talbott, Lauren Smedley, all of Grapevine; and Brandon Holder of Roanoke; and a brother, Luther Louis Launey of Sulphur, La.

The family invites her friends to join them at 6 p.m. Sunday at Bell-Cypert-Seale Chapel to visit and help celebrate her life.

The family suggests memorials to St. Elizabeth Catholic Church Memorial Fund or the American Cancer Society.

Lillie Cantrell

1918-1997

CANTON — Funeral service is set for 1:30 p.m. Monday in the Eubank Funeral Home for Mary Lillie Cantrell of Midland. The Rev. Jerry Don Stanger will officiate. Burial will follow in the Haven of Memories Memorial Park in Canton.

Mrs. Cantrell died Friday, Feb. 21, in Midland Memorial Hospital, following a lengthy illness.

Born on April 2, 1918 in East Texas, she married James Rolen Cantrell in 1937. They moved to Snyder in 1952, then to Ben Wheeler in 1981.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1982, moving to Trinity Towers in Midland in 1993.

Survivors include four sons, Bobby Cantrell and Jackie Cantrell, both of Midland, Dale Cantrell and Billy Cantrell, both of Snyder; two daughters, Yvonne Castleberry of Midland and Darlene Chandler of Denton; two sisters, Mae Stanger and Millie McDonald of East Texas; and a brother, Willie Gowins of East Texas.

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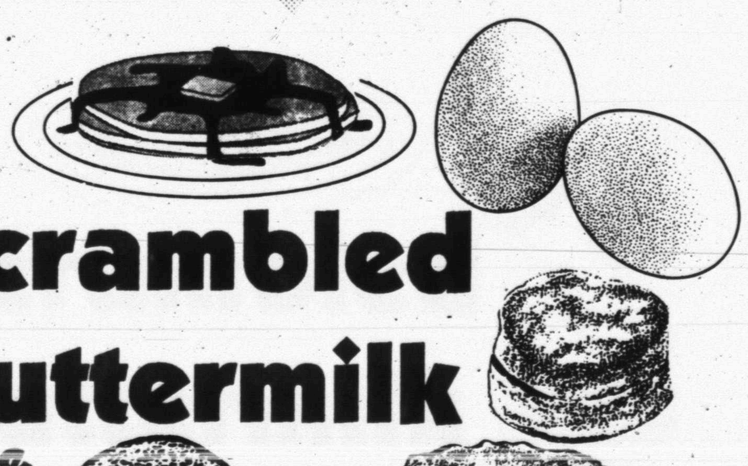
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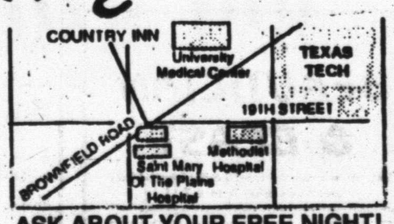
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2502 Ave. R Snyder, Texas 915 / 573-6536 Layaways

Menus

Snyder

All meals are served with choice of milk.

BREAKFAST

All breakfasts are served with assorted cereal, toast and fruit juice.

MONDAY
French Toast Sticks w/Syrup

TUESDAY
Cinnamon Rolls

WEDNESDAY
Waffles w/Syrup

THURSDAY
Sausage & Biscuits

FRIDAY
Breakfast Pizza

LUNCH

MONDAY
Rib Sandwich
Turkey & Cheese Sandwich
Burger Salad
French Fries
Pineapple Chunks

TUESDAY
Sausage Pizza
Corn Dog
Tossed Salad
Fresh Assorted Fruit

WEDNESDAY
Enchilada Casserole
Taco, Beef
Pinto Beans
Corn Bread
Tossed Salad

THURSDAY
Spaghetti and Meat Sauce
Chicken Nuggets
Mixed Vegetables
Tossed Salad
Cherry Cobbler

FRIDAY
Hamburger on a Bun
Chili Dog
Tator Tots
Burger Salad
Fresh Assorted Fruit
Cowboy Cookies

Hermleigh

All meals are served with milk.

BREAKFAST

MONDAY
Student Holiday

TUESDAY
Juice
Cinnamon Toast

WEDNESDAY
Fruit
Blueberry Muffins

THURSDAY
Juice
Cheese Toat

FRIDAY
Fruit
Pancakes/Syrup

LUNCH

TUESDAY
Pizza
Shredded Lettuce
Tater Tots
Pink Applesauce

WEDNESDAY
Chicken Dumplings
English Peas
Hot Biscuits
Fruit Cup

THURSDAY
Barbecued Pork Patties
Potato Salad
Relish Cup
Hot Rolls
Lime Jello

FRIDAY
Fried Fish
French Fries
Cole Slaw
Hush Puppies
Orange Cake

Ira

MONDAY
Burritos w/Chili & Cheese
Corn
Vegetable Salad
Plain Cookies

TUESDAY
Chicken Fried Steak/Gravy
Creamed Potatoes
Green Beans
Rolls
Pineapple Slices

WEDNESDAY
Soup
Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
Bananas
Peanut Butter Chewies

THURSDAY
Tamale Pie
Ranch Style Beans
Corn
Crackers
Devil Food Cake

FRIDAY
Sloppy Joes
French Fries
Relish Cup
Peaches

Senior Center Menu

MONDAY
Boneless Barbecued Ribs
Black-eyed Peas
Cream Style Corn
Tossed Salad
Baked Apple

TUESDAY
Pepper Steak
Tomatoes & Green Beans
Potatoes Au Gratin
Peach and Cottage Cheese Salad
Chocolate Chip Cookies

WEDNESDAY
Chicken and Dumplings
Green Peas
Carrot Coins
Pickled Beets and Onions
Chocolate Brownie

THURSDAY
Tamale Pie
Refried Beans
Spanish Rice
Tossed Salad
Red Jello w/Topping

FRIDAY
Fried Fish
Parslied Sliced Potatoes
Green Bean Casserole
Raw Vegetable Salad
Spice Cake

Teacher gets 15 cents change

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — A 7-year-old girl who complained of choking on a quarter coughed up 40 cents when her teacher came to the rescue.

During class Thursday, Kashay McCleese turned to her teacher, Trumillia Britt, and gasped, "Mrs. Britt, I swallowed a quarter."

Mrs. Britt quickly turned the child to do a makeshift Heimlich maneuver. After a pound on the chest, out popped a quarter. That was followed by a dime, then a nickel.

Bridge By Phillip Alder

North 02-22-97
♠ 5
♥ A Q J 9 6
♦ A K 5 2
♣ A J 5

West
♠ J 9 8 7 6 3
♥ K 5
♦ 4 3
♣ 9 8 4

East
♠ K
♥ 10 7 4 3
♦ Q J 10
♣ Q 10 6 3 2

South
♠ A Q 10 4 2
♥ 8 2
♦ 9 8 7 6
♣ K 7

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
2 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	6 ♦	All pass

Opening lead: ??

From large and small

It was good to see so many lesser-known countries — from the bridge-playing point of view — at the World Team Olympiad. For example, there were teams from Colombia, Cyprus, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Mauritius, Monaco, Palestine and San Marino.

One of the best opening leads was made by Massimo Soroldini from San Marino, which nestles on the slopes of Mount Titano, on the Adriatic side of central Italy. San Marino covers an area of 23.5 square miles (61 square kms), and until the independence of Nauru in 1968, it was the smallest republic in the world.

To test yourself, look only at the West hand in the diagram. South opened two spades, showing 6-10 points with five spades and at least four cards in either clubs or diamonds. North asked for the minor with two no-trump, then jumped to six diamonds. Your lead?

On, say, a club start, declarer tries dummy's jack, capturing East's queen with his king. With a trump loser, declarer will be forced to assume West has the heart king. The play will go something like this: A heart to dummy's jack, two top trumps, the club ace, a club ruff in hand, a heart to the king and ace, the heart queen, a heart ruff and claim, conceding one trump trick to East.

Soroldini found the one chance to deflect destiny: He led the heart five! Now that the heart finesse looked doomed, declarer decided to rely on the club finesse. After calling for dummy's heart ace, he played a club to his king and a club to dummy's jack. However, East won with the queen and returned a heart: two down.

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VIVACE CLUB TEA — Vivace Club members entertained their mothers and grandmothers at Valentine Tea and recital in the home of Margaret Drum of Fluvanna. Playing special songs and sonatinas were, from left, bottom row, Marleah Akins, Jerica Tyler of Post, Danisha Akins, Zach Greenlee of Rotan; top row, Jessica Sollis, Faith Feaster of Roscoe, Karomy Drum, Craig Bowen and Stormy Clark. Music teacher and sponsor is Lynn Bethel. Vivace Jr. Club is a member of Texas and National Federation of Music Clubs which sponsor the Pastorale Music Festival at Texas Tech and the All-state musicians competition at Southwest Texas State University. Secret pal valentines were exchanged. Hosts included Karomy Drum, Marleah and Danisha Akins, Jerica Tyler, Jessica Sollis, Craig Bowen, Stormy Clark, Zach Greenlee, and Faith Feaster. (Contributed Photo)

Snyder Duplicate Bridge Scoreboard

Dot Casey directed Duplicate Bridge Club games at the Snyder Country Club on Friday, Sunday and Tuesday.

FRIDAY

Six tables.

1. Malven Stevenson, Anita Talbott.
2. Sue Reed, Margaret Birdwell.
3. Jane Hinton, Maribeth Vestal.

SUNDAY

Four tables.

1. Pat Floyd, Billisue Stuard.
2. TIE: Rube McKinley, Barbara Yorgesen — Nona Morrison, J.O. Morrison.

TUESDAY

Four tables.

1. Jane Hinton, Louise Thompson.
2. Dora Blakey, Anita Talbott.
3. Pat Floyd, Robbie Floyd.

Tough grannies foil would-be robbers plans

MOSES LAKE, Wash. (AP) — Two "pistol-packing grandmas" were honored for foiling the plans of some would-be robbers.

Four intruders forced their way into the home of 75-year-old Dorothy Cunningham and 61-year-old Marty Killinger late last week and demanded their car keys.

While Ms. Killinger argued and struggled with one of the intruders in the living room, Ms. Cunningham got her Luger from her bedroom and ordered the young men to head for the hills.

"I said some strong words to them that I don't usually use," she said. "I told them to get out or I'd shoot and kill them."

The men ran outside but continued taunting the two women — until Ms. Cunningham fired four shots over their heads.

"I was raised in the Tetons, and whenever I wasn't herding sheep or cattle or working in the fields, I'd take a .22 rifle and target shoot," explained Ms. Cunningham. "I'm not afraid of guns, and I know how to use them."

A 20-year-old and three teenagers were arrested on suspicion of burglary and attempted robbery.

And Ms. Cunningham and Ms. Killinger got some official attention of their own.

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After tractor accident...

Recovery surprises doctors

PHOENIX (AP) — Five-year-old Desiree Ferguson was not expected to survive when a tractor ran over her head, crushing her skull and rupturing a major artery at the base of her brain.

Doctors who treated her say they know of no other patient who has stayed alive after that artery has been torn. But two weeks after surgery, the little brown-haired girl says she feels great and is planning a trip to Disneyland.

Dr. John P. Laurent, chief of pediatric neurosurgery at Texas Medical Center in Houston, says Desiree could have been expected to die right away.

"This artery supports the body's life-support system," he explains. "This is not an easy vessel to get to. You have to have a little luck and skill to get into there quickly."

Doctors at Saint Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix repaired the basilar artery by cooling Desiree's body temperature to 59 degrees and stopping her heart and brain functions for 42 minutes. They closed the artery with three small clamps that will remain in her body, Dr. Robert F. Spetzler said at a news conference Thursday.

Desiree and two playmates were in a stable owned by friends on Jan. 18, when a tractor carrying animal feed knocked her to the ground. The tractor backed over the girl's head, but luckily it was cushioned somewhat by the soft, muddy ground.

When Desiree first came to the hospital, she went right into surgery to repair a severe laceration caused by a metal object on the tractor.

Doctors didn't notice the artery tear until she underwent a CAT scan days later. The tear didn't kill her immediately because a blood clot formed near the rupture.

"If it didn't wall off, we wouldn't be here today," said Spetzler, who performed the surgery.

Stacy Ferguson, Desiree's mother, believes something more powerful is responsible for her daughter's recovery.

"The Lord took her under his wing. I was always confident she would recover," Ms. Ferguson said. "It's just a miracle."

Desiree, who was released from the hospital Monday, held her grandmother's hand as she looked out at the television cameras and lights. Her lip quivered as reporters began questioning the family, and she said only that she felt "great" and wanted to visit Disneyland.

"I think she is kind of shy," her mother explained.

Desiree's once-long hair was close-cropped and a scar runs from her left temple to her ear. She has no movement in her left eye, and doctors don't know if she will ever regain control of it. Otherwise, she has made a full recovery from the accident and the surgery, which was performed on Feb. 6.

The family says they don't blame the driver of the tractor, who said he was distracted by another child and didn't see Desiree.

"He is real torn about it," said Debbie Ferguson, Desiree's grandmother. "It was an accident. She's OK. That's all we care about."

Pat Boone offends thousands

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Pat Boone will have to explain his foray into heavy metal before he gets back his weekly gospel music show.

The plain-vanilla crooner, whose latest album covers heavy metal hits in typical Boone style, offended fundamentalist Christian fans when he appeared in black leather and fake tattoos on the American Music Awards show Jan. 27.

"I thought everybody saw it for what it was, sort of a parody, just a sendup," Boone, 62, said Wednesday, after the Trinity Broadcasting Network canceled "GospelAmerica," which airs on 400 stations nationwide.

"Of course, it was difficult for Christian people, who have followed me for years and years. It seemed like I had burst out in some demented way."

Network officials said thousands of viewers called to complain. Trinity Broadcasting said Boone was invited to appear on another show to explain himself, and "GospelAmerica" will stay off the air in the meantime.

The PB&J is the most popular sandwich that kids carry to school, according to the Texas Peanut Producers Board.

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"MUSIC FROM ANOTHER TIME" — Joe Williamson, seated at the piano, presented a music program including a selection of tunes from the past at the Altrurian Daughters Club meeting Wednesday. Mrs. Lisbeth Pedersen, mother of exchange student Lone Pederson. She was a guest of June McGlaun. Lone's family left for Denmark Friday and Lone will complete the school year at Snyder High School. She is staying in the home of Mike and Marsha Levens. Altrurian Daughters Club will meet on March 19 in the Martha Ann Woman's Club where Jo Ashley will give a book review. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

A little 'sunshine' helps brighten up winter

For those people who love the winter, these cold months bring sledding, skiing and snowman building. For those who don't enjoy the frigid temperatures, the season brings a longing for sunshine and warmer days.

Don't let the snow and gray days get you down. This winter, try livening up meals with a little bit of tropical sunshine. "The New Cuisine of Hawaii" (Villard), by Janice Wald Henderson, offers recipes from 12 celebrated chefs of Hawaii Regional Cuisine.

This cuisine brings together healthy ingredients of the islands — including tropical fruit and fresh fish — with the cooking styles of the Asian and Western residents of the island. Many of the recipes in the book use Hawaiian Island fish and produce, most of which are available in Asian markets. Henderson provides a list of companies that supply the cuisine ingredients on a mail-order basis.

Also included are a glossary of ingredients, notes on Hawaiian word pronunciation and tips on purchasing premium-quality fish for use in the recipes. Most of the dishes offer "wine notes" to assist in creating a complete Hawaii Regional Cuisine dining experience.

The following "sunshine" recipe is courtesy of chef Sam Choy, owner of Sam Choy's Restaurant and Catering. This tasty, exotic salad is the perfect way to bring a taste of Hawaii to the dinner table and will help chase away those winter blues.

MAUNA LOA SUNSHINE SALAD (WITH PUNA PAPAYA DRESSING)

4 servings

Puna papayas from the Big Island lend an elusive, sweet flavor and assist in balancing the slightly spicy overtones of marinated tofu. This salad is a great selection for vegetarians, who might consume it as an entrée rather than a first course.

TOFU

- 1 cup soy sauce
- ½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- ½ cup sliced green onion
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 teaspoon peeled, grated fresh ginger
- Pinch of dried crushed red pepper
- 14 ounces firm Chinese tofu, cut into 4 pieces

DRESSING

- ¼ cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon peeled, minced fresh ginger
- ½ papaya, peeled, seeded and diced

SALAD

- 12 cups mixed baby greens
- ½ cup julienne of carrot
- ½ cup julienne of daikon radish
- ½ cup julienne of peeled, cooked beets
- 1 papaya, peeled, halved, seeded and sliced

For the tofu: Mix the first 6 ingredients in a large bowl. Add the tofu and refrigerate 1 hour.

For the dressing: Purée the first four ingredients in a blender. Pour the dressing into a bowl. Mix in the papaya. Cover and refrigerate 1 hour.

For the salad: Preheat the broiler. Arrange the greens on broilerproof plates. Top with the tofu. Broil until the tofu is heated through, about 3 minutes. Spoon the dressing over the salads. Garnish with carrot, daikon, beets and papaya and serve. *Z1975114*

Homes: take care of repairs

By BARBARA MAYER

A house may seem delicate and prone to maladies that take expensive expertise to remedy. It doesn't have to be that way.

"Even an uninformed homeowner can notice unexplained water or wet patches that indicate a leak, feel for drafts around doors and windows, or recognize wood that is soft to the touch," says Paul Spring, editor of Today's Homeowner magazine in New York.

"A few hours spent looking at the house and its systems can stave off household emergencies," adds Spring, "such as when the roof is leaking badly or four inches of water have collected in the basement."

Taking care of small repairs in a timely fashion will keep a house in good working order. But what takes precedence?

"For most people, household repairs are tied to the seasons," says Mark Collini, Home Depot's district manager for northern New Jersey, in Edison.

It never fails in areas with harsh winters that customers arrive each fall with questions about weatherstripping and caulking, says Collini. And in the spring, deck repair, landscaping and lawn care queries predominate, he adds. In localities with fierce summers, like Phoenix and Houston, caulking and weatherstripping projects are tackled in the summer because of the heat.

In any season, Spring advises focusing on areas that are critical to the whole house. "The greatest threat to your home comes from water — rain, snow, plumbing systems, moisture in the air," he says. "The roof keeps the weather out so it's the first thing to look at."

Leaks typically develop first at stress points such the flashing, where roof and house meet. Gutters that become clogged and downspouts that drain directly into the area around the foundation also cause significant problems. Yet fixing these problems is usually fairly simple, well within the abilities of amateurs or easily done by professionals.

Weatherstripping and caulking to keep heat and air-cooled air in — relative no-brainers — amply repay the time and money spent doing them.

The heating system is important enough to merit a regular inspection. "Get the heating company to come out and inspect the system and tell you what kind of life you have left and what maintenance you can do," Spring advises.

Inside the house, small maintenance chores may well stave off big jobs. Replacing a worn-out washer stops the irritating drip-drip of a faucet and also keeps the problem from getting worse. Before a plumbing valve or hose actually breaks, it usually shows signs of wear and can be replaced, thus eliminating the source of a potentially nasty leak. Caulking around tubs, sinks and toilets often prevents leaks that can lead to expensive repairs such as replacing parts of the floor.

Moisture problems in the home are on the increase because the high cost of energy has caused many people to seal their homes more tightly, Spring says. Something as simple as turning on the fan in the bathroom or putting a lid on the spaghetti pot when it is boiling can curtail rot due to the build-up of moisture.

Human nature being what it is, most homeowners probably will not arrange for a professional home inspection and then set up a regular maintenance and improvement program.

Not to worry. Sources of information include publications, videos, knowledgeable employees at home centers, and even a neighbor.

"A knowledgeable neighbor can often help a homeowner determine whether something is a little problem or a big one, and most professionals will come out to look at a potential problem and give an opinion without charging," says Spring.

Those who haven't learned how to do repairs at their father's knee are capable of learning.

"Dad called in people, but I do most of the maintenance chores in my own house," says Collini, who last year put in weatherstripping, caulked, checked out his home water and septic systems.

Although it's scant comfort to someone facing a whopping estimate for replacing the roof, the cost of owning and maintaining a home has risen less on average than the overall rate of inflation, Spring says. Inflation has risen about 3.5 percent a year, while costs in five key spending categories for the home have averaged an annual 2 percent rise.

Today's Homeowner developed the figures to track costs of operating and maintaining a private home. Property taxes and insurance have kept pace with inflation, or exceeded it in some localities. But the cost of items such as floor coverings, appliances and furniture went up only 0.9 percent between 1985 and 1995.

Student attendance motivated by day out of school

The Associated Press

TROTWOOD, Ohio (AP) — Teachers in this Dayton suburb have found a new way to get students to attend school: Give them a day off.

Twenty-five students at Trotwood-Madison Junior High School with perfect attendance for the latest nine-week term got exactly that last week.

They cashed in a PA day, which stands for "perfect attendance" and "paid absence," according to teacher Bobbie Eagle, who dreamed up the idea.

"It's paying them off for having attended school," Ms. Eagle said. "I think that is three-fourths of the game — getting them here. If they're here, we can do something about their education."

Eagle said the PA day is more than just a legal way to play hooky. Students are required to spend at least half of the day at a site in the community. Strict guidelines and assignments related to their experience are laid out, and parents must arrange transportation.

Peanuts are naturally cholesterol-free and are also low in saturated fat. What's more, the monounsaturated fat in peanuts can help lower total (serum) cholesterol and "bad" LDL cholesterol, according to the Texas Peanut Producers Board.

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Start the day with good health in mind

For more than 100 years, people have been enjoying delicious, nutritious oatmeal as a healthy way to start the day. A perfect choice for mornings, oatmeal is loaded with carbohydrates and contains no saturated fat or cholesterol. It's a great source of the vitamins and energy that are necessary to start the day off right.

The benefits of breakfast are nothing to yawn about. People who eat breakfast tend to have higher overall intakes of fiber, vitamins and minerals — especially calcium, vitamin C and folic acid. Also, preliminary research suggests that breakfast eaters burn more calories throughout the day, and it may help with weight control by reducing overall fat intake and minimizing impulse snacking and overeating at other meals.

There are traditional ways and newer, more creative ways to get a healthy dose of oatmeal, and "Bradley Ogden's Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner" (Random House New York), by Bradley Ogden, shows how to conquer both. In addition to delicious variations on old-fashioned oats, Ogden provides a plethora of taste temptations for every meal.

January is National Oatmeal Month, when oatmeal consumption is at its highest. Try these hot and cold recipes using old-fashioned oats, and experiment with your own variations using toppings like brown sugar, fruit, maple syrup and honey.

OLD-FASHIONED OATMEAL

Makes 2 cups

- 1 cup old-fashioned oats
- 2 cups milk
- ¼ cup water
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon firmly packed brown sugar
- Pinch of cinnamon

Soak the oats in 1 cup of the milk and the water overnight in the refrigerator.

In a heavy-bottomed saucepan, combine the oats with all the remaining ingredients. Bring to a slow boil over medium heat. Reduce the heat to bring the mixture to a slow simmer and cover. Cook for 10 minutes, stirring often. Remove from heat and let the oatmeal stand, covered, for 2 to 3 minutes before serving.

Serving suggestion: Top each serving with 1 teaspoon butter and serve with warm milk and a sprinkle of cinnamon.

GRAIN AND NUT CEREAL

Makes 5 cups

Not only does this make a satisfying breakfast dish, it's also a great energizing snack as the day goes on. Vary the combination of dried fruits to include your own particular favorites.

- 1½ cups old-fashioned oats
- ½ cup whole almonds
- ½ cup whole raw cashews
- ½ cup unsweetened shaved coconut
- ⅓ cup sunflower seeds
- ⅓ cup unprocessed bran, oat bran, or a mixture of both
- Grated rind of 1 orange
- 1 teaspoon safflower oil
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 cup assorted dried fruit, cut into small pieces (for example, a mixture of currants, figs, apricots, and dates)

Preheat oven to 300 F.

Combine the oats, nuts, coconut, sunflower seeds, bran, orange rind, and oil in a large mixing bowl. In a small saucepan combine the butter, honey, and syrup. Over low heat, cook until butter is melted and honey and syrup are blended. Pour the butter mixture over the oat mixture and blend well.

Pour the cereal into a large roasting pan and bake, stirring often, for 30 to 35 minutes or until golden brown and dry. Remove from the oven and mix in the dried fruits. Let cereal cool before serving or storing. Keep in a tightly sealed container. *Z1975130*

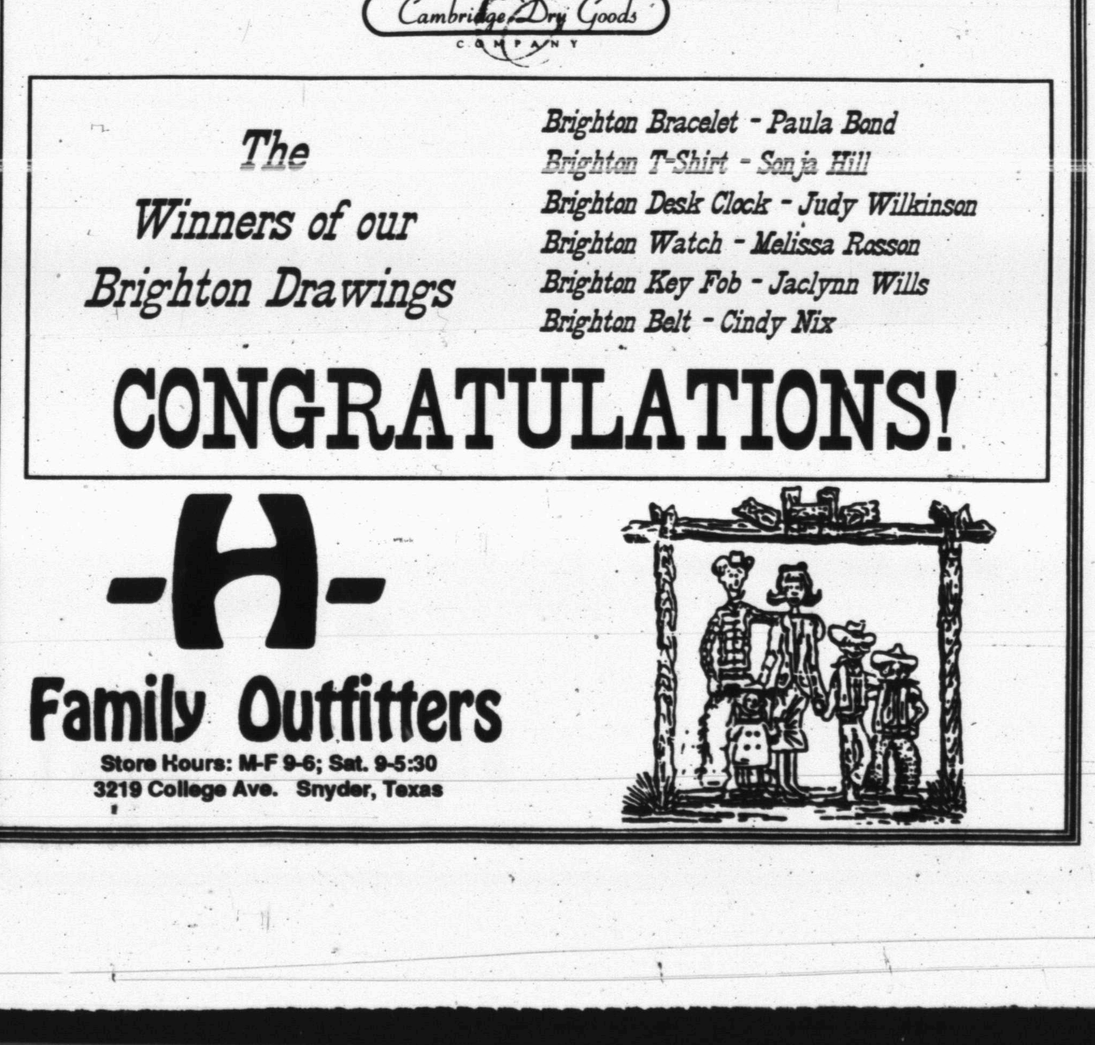
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MIXED ENSEMBLE — The mixed ensemble singing "Come Sing This Round With Me" included top row, Riley Tatum, Crissida Tyler, Whitney Webb; second row, Valery Haines, Cameron Mackey, Brandon McCraw; back row, Mat Coronado and Amanda Clark. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)



INDIVIDUAL WINNERS — Best play honors went to "I Never Saw Another Butterfly." Individual awards went to, from left, front row, Melinda Langham, all-star cast; Tara Price, best actress; Jesse Haines, Leslie Hancock and Ashley Tucker, honorable mention; back row, Kristin York and Josh Heaton, honorable mention; Zach Allred, best actor; Jessica Dea, all-star cast; Leslye Starnes, honorable mention. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)



EARN DIVISION I RATING — Snyder Junior High School choir students earning a Division I rating in Region 16 solo and choir ensemble competition in Lubbock include from left, bottom row, Jamie Hayley, Alma Estrada, Shannon Chambers, Jeremy Miller, Lane Whitefield, Heath Conner, Charli Boone; second row, Jordan Hardin, Whitney Graham, Crissida Tyler, Sara Cave, Mateo Coronado, Garrett Luft, Michael Compton; third row, Cameron Mackey, Valery Haines, Natalie Alexander, Tiffany Sutter, Cassie Cooper, Joanna Burk, Patrick Vantine, Trace Dennis; top row, Leslie English, Casey Blackard, Glenda Parra, Brandon McCraw, Jeremy Bowden, Mark Medley, Kevin Marshall; and not pictured, Lindsey Bunch, Eva Tabullo, Kristin Early and Lisa Hall. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)



WINNING PLAY — The cast of best play "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" included, from left, front row, Melinda Langham, Kristin Murray, Stacey Olsen, Melissa Hicks, Kim Moore, Cheryl Reed; middle row, Brian Long, Josh Heaton, Zach Allred, Leslye Starnes, Ashley Tucker, Leslie Hancock; back row, Jesse Haines, Patrick McKamie and Levi Mandrell. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)



TENOR/BASS SMALL ENSEMBLE — Tenor/Bass Small Ensemble members singing "Ghost Ship" are shown, front row, from left, Patrick Vantine, Lane Whitefield, Robert Early; middle row, Kevin Marshall, Brandon McCraw, Mark Medley, Wade Pinson; back row, Jeremy Bowden, Michael Compton. Mat Coronado, and Garrett Luft. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)



ANOTHER MIXED ENSEMBLE — Mixed ensemble members singing "Turtle Dove" include front row, from left, Tiffany Sutter, Patrick Vantine, Lane Whitefield; middle row, Kara Harrison, Garrett Luft, Kevin Marshall; back row, Claire Cotton, Leslie English, Whitney Graham, Jordan Hardin; and not pictured, Lisa Hall. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

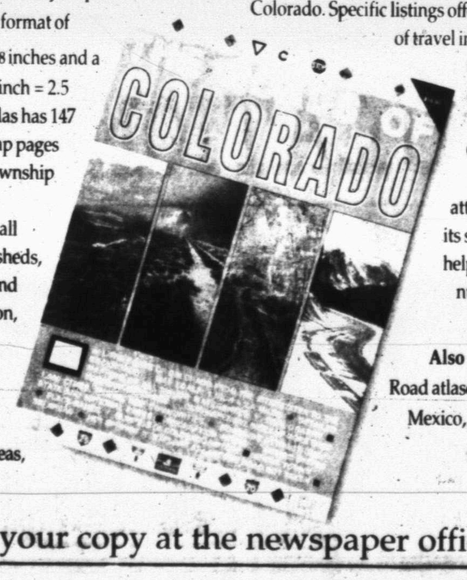
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Gabor wants to auction Oscar

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Zsa Zsa Gabor is selling the Oscar won by her former husband, George Sanders, in the 1950 movie "All About Eve."

Sanders, who committed suicide by overdosing on sleeping pills in a Barcelona hotel in 1972, received the best supporting actor Oscar seven years before his divorce from Ms. Gabor.

Henry's Auction House said Wednesday that it will try to auction Sanders' Oscar for about $5,000, along with thousands of dollars worth of Ms. Gabor's jewelry, on Feb. 28 and March 1.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts opposes the sale of Oscars. It considers them the property of the recipients, their heirs or the Academy itself.

Band, choir, drama students win awards

Snyder Junior High School band, choir and drama students recently won awards.

Choir students garnered several Division I ratings at solo and ensemble competition held at Estacado High School in Lubbock.

Six of nine ensembles who performed earned Division Is as well as 58 medals.

The band students also earned several Division I solo awards.

Drama students competed in UIL competition at Grady, winning best drama and several individual awards.

Winning ensembles included two mixed ensembles singing "Come Sing This Round With Me" and "Turtle Dove," respectively; "Two Eighth Grade Girls Small Ensembles, singing "One Little Candle," and "Dreams," respectively; Seventh Grade Small Ensemble, "One Little Candle," and Tenor/Bass Small Ensemble, "Ghost Ship."

The play "I Never Saw Another Butterfly," picked up best drama honors.

(Please see pictures above and on page 5B.)

Newspaper backs off claim that Starr held 4 mock trials

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — A newspaper said Friday it was wrong in reporting that the office of Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr held four mock trials of President Clinton and his wife.

"Our Saturday story concerning the mock trials was obviously wrong," said Griffin Smith jr., executive editor of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

The newspaper reported Saturday that two mock trials had been held in Washington and two in Little Rock, at which members of Starr's staff presented evidence for two counts each of obstruction of justice against Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Each jury voted to acquit the Clintons, with the closest vote being 8-4, the paper reported. The paper stood by its story after Starr said his office never conducted the trials.

In today's article, the Democrat-Gazette said its source began questioning his information about the trials after repeated denials from Starr's office.

The source talked to an acquaintance in Starr's office Wednesday, the newspaper reported, and was told the information was incorrect.

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BAND DIVISION I — Junior High School band members bringing home a Division I rating include, from left, front row, Andra Reneau, Jennifer Bell; middle row, Neil Cooper, Lyndell Lee; back row, Eric DeLeon and Joe Bishop. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)



EIGHTH GIRLS CHOIR — The eighth grade girls choir is shown singing "Dreamer" included, top row, Valery Haines, Glenda Parra, Brooke Williams; middle row, Toyka Green, Kara Harrison, Jamie Hayley; top row, Natalie Alexander, Leslie English, Alma Estrada; and not pictured, Lindsey Bunch. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)



SEVENTH SMALL ENSEMBLE — Seventh grade girls small ensemble singing "One Little Candle" include, front row, Shannon Chambers, Cassie Cooper; back row, Joanna Burk, Sara Cave; and not pictured, Kristin Early. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)



GIRLS 8TH SMALL ENSEMBLE — Eighth grade girls small ensemble singing "One Little Candle" were, front row, Cameron Mackey, Crissida Tyler; second row, Whitney Graham, Tiffany Sutter, Whitney Webb; top row, Claire Cotton, Jordan Hardin; and not pictured Lisa Hall. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Raquel Welch considered for role

NEW YORK (AP) — If you liked Raquel Welch as "Myra Breckinridge," will you love her as "Victor/Victoria"?

Producers of the Broadway hit "Victor/Victoria" said Welch, 56, is one of several stars under consideration for the lead role in the cross-dressing musical when Julie Andrews exits June 1.

A decision won't be made for a couple of weeks, producer Tony Adams said.

Welch, who was acclaimed in her last Broadway stint, 1982's "Woman of the Year," is no stranger to gender-bending roles. In 1970, she played a transsexual in the movie "Myra Breckinridge."

Tax Update

By The Associated Press

Taxes and child care explained below

WASHINGTON (AP) — The tax code gives working parents who pay for child care two breaks.

Both are for children younger than 13. The breaks also cover disabled spouses and other dependents, such as elderly parents, if they are unable to take care of themselves.

Both breaks are well worth the effort of filling out some extra paperwork. The most lucrative — under most but by no means all families' circumstances — is an exclusion offered through many larger employers. It can shelter up to $5,000 from income, Social Security and Medicare taxes.

The other break is a credit taken on your tax return.

If you received dependent-care benefits from your employer or want to claim the credit, use Schedule 2 with Form 1040A or Form 2441 with Form 1040. IRS Publication 503 explains the rules.

Both you and your spouse must work. Or, if only one spouse works, the non-working spouse must have been a full-time student during at least five months of the year or could not take care of himself or herself.

Qualifying child-care expenses include payments to sitters working in your home, nursery schools and day-care centers, after-school care programs, and sitters who care for your child in their home. Educational expenses, such as private school tuition for first grade and above, don't count.

If you're divorced or separated, the custodial parent gets to claim the credit. If there's joint custody, the credit goes to the parent with whom the child spends the most time.

You must report the name, address and Social Security number of your dependent-care provider, or, in the case of a school or center, the TIN, or taxpayer-identification number.

EMPLOYER-PROVIDED CARE: This break's value depends on your tax bracket. If you're in the 15 percent bracket, it can save you as much as $1,132.50 in income and payroll taxes; in the 28 percent bracket, as much as $1,782.50.

Your employer can offer up to $5,000 in tax-free care, such as an on-site day-care center. The aid can also take the form of a "flexible spending arrangement" or a "salary reduction plan."

Generally, an amount you choose at the beginning of the year, up to $5,000, will be deducted from your salary, before taxes, and "paid" to you as you submit child care receipts.

But be careful how much you choose to have put into a dependent-care account. You forfeit anything left over at the end of the year. If you have $5,000 deducted from your salary but have only $4,000 in expenses, you lose $1,000.

CHILD-CARE CREDIT: For families with two or more children, it's worth up to $1,440, depending on the family's income and other variables. For families with one child, it's worth a maximum of $720.

In figuring the credit, you may consider up to $2,400 of dependent-care expenses with one dependent, and up to $4,800 with two or more. Those figures must be reduced by any employer-provided service you received.

The maximum credit is 30 percent of expenses. As adjusted gross income rises above $10,000, that declines gradually. For families above $28,000, the maximum is 20 percent.

NANNY TAX: If you directly employ your care provider and his or her annual wages were $1,000 or more, you must withhold Social Security and Medicare taxes (7.65 percent) from the provider's wages. And, as an employer, you must match that amount and send both amounts to the IRS.

You report this "nanny" tax directly on line 50 of your Form 1040. Attach a Schedule H.

As an employer, you'll need an employer identification number, or EIN. File Form SS-4 to get one.

You also may have to pay the federal unemployment tax (FUTA) and withhold income taxes from your provider's wages. See Publication 926. And you should contact a state tax office to see if you are subject to state withholding tax and state unemployment tax.

Lott says unrestricted giving 'American way'

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — After wining and dining 200 of his party's biggest donors at a oceanside resort, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott defended laws that let donors give as much as they want to campaigns.

"I think for them to have the opportunity to do that is the American way," Lott said Thursday after meeting behind closed doors with members of "Team 100" — donors who gave at least $175,000 over four years to the Republican Party.

The Mississippi senator said he was not opposed to some form of campaign finance reform, as long as it did not restrict the amount of money people or corporations are allowed to spend.

And he said he is against Democratic efforts for public financing of campaigns.

"We need a way to get our message to the American people," Lott said. "But we are not for food stamps for politicians."

GOP leaders — including House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Lott and new party chairman Jim Nicholson — chatted with donors during three days of private sessions at the Breakers, an Italian Renaissance-style hotel on the Atlantic Ocean.

Lott stopped for a bit to talk to reporters, who asked if events like this give the impression that people can buy access to lawmakers.

"I support people being involved in the political process," he said.

Republicans have attacked Democratic fund raising, claiming they solicited money from foreign nationals living legally in the United States and allowed top donors to have coffee with the president at the White House.

Democrats said they returned money raised inadvertently from foreign citizens, which is illegal, and no one was given special treatment for donating.

President Clinton also recently ordered the Democratic Party to stop taking money from American subsidiaries of foreign corporations. Although the donations are legal, Democrats returned many that were suspected of coming from the foreign parent company.

Republicans continue to raise such money and in the 1995-96 election cycle raised more from the subsidiaries than Democrats.

Even members of Team 100 said changes were needed.

"There's too much money on both sides," textile executive and politician Robin Hayes of Concord, N.C., said. "It gives a message to the American people that those in politics are not to be trusted."

Senior Center News

Senior citizens are invited to supper in the Senior Center Tuesday evening preceding the February country/western dance and game session. The meal is to be served at 6 p.m. as a make-up meal for some of the noon meals missed due to bad weather. There will also be a noon meal on Tuesday.

The center will honor its volunteers at the annual recognition banquet on March 31 and volunteer hours must be reported by Friday to be counted in this year's recognition.

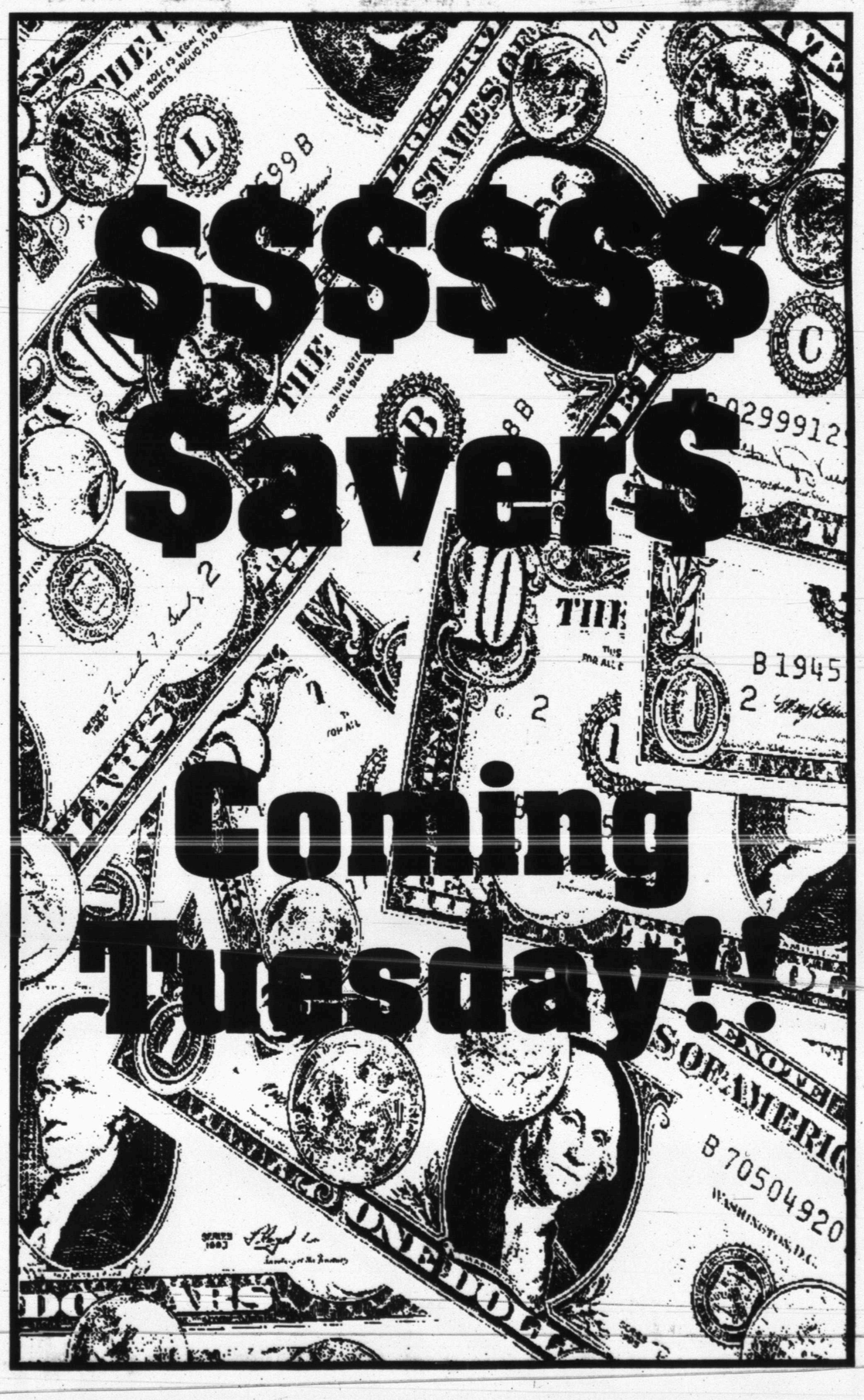
A domino tournament is scheduled starting at 10 a.m. Monday. Bridge games begin at 9:30 a.m. Monday and again on Friday. 42 is scheduled at 10 a.m. Tuesday and the Local Yokels will present a program of music at 11 a.m.

The Kitchen Band will be performing at 11 a.m. Wednesday following a 10 a.m. birthday party for all senior citizens born in February. The line dancing class meets at 1:15 p.m. Wednesday afternoon. A program on nutrition will be given at 11:45 a.m. Thursday. A Sing Along is held at 11:30 a.m. each Friday.

The center is planned to replace the dining room chairs and has received enough donations to purchase 90 chairs at present. The chairs now being used were purchased when the center first opened and newer chairs will be safer because of improved styles.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to help with the new chairs is invited to contact the center or visit the building at 2603 Ave. M. The center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

With Easter just a month away, senior citizens are reminded that the center's annual Easter Party and Easter Bonnet Parade are scheduled for March 28. There will be prizes for the winners in the parade and everyone is encouraged to get a head start on decorating their entries.



Comic Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



EEK & MEEK ® by Howie Schneider



Barney Google and Snuffy Smith ® By Fred Lasswell



BLONDIE ® by Dean Young and Stan Drake



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



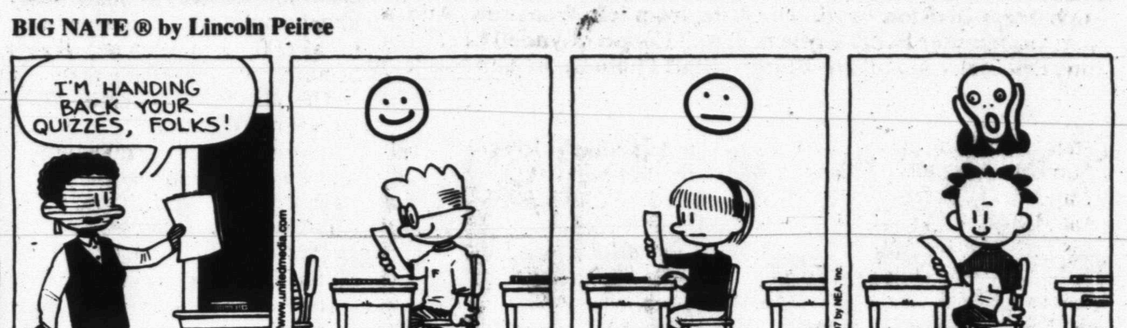
FRANK & ERNEST by ® Bob Thaves



ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick

E-Mail:JimMeddick@aol.com



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Arctic resident
7 Days — — Lives
12 Used a pencil part
13 Theater district
14 President Reagan
15 Avoided adroitly
16 Born
17 Coq au —
18 Choose
21 Cosmetician Lauder
23 Gls' club
26 Fake
28 Paving liquids
29 Negatives
30 Arrive
31 Hamburger condiment
33 Texas city
36 Roseanne's former surname
37 — Tin Tin
38 Coarse hair
40 Large knife
41 Droop
42 Politician Mario —
44 Waterless
45 Chubby
46 — Miss
48 Appetizer
51 More uncanny
55 One who maltreats
56 Baby shoe
57 Campers' homes
58 Agree

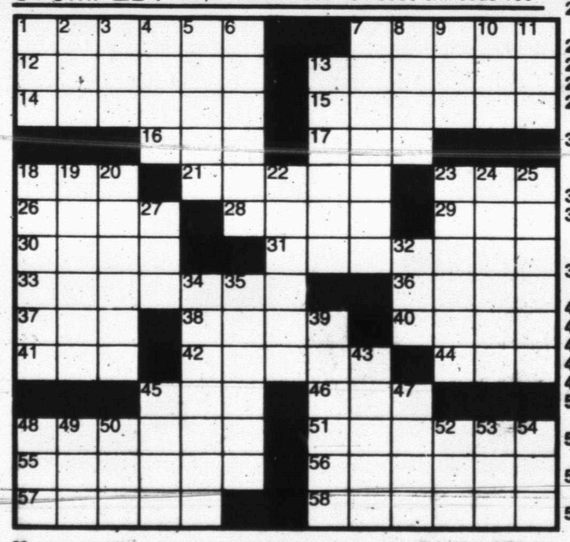
DOWN

1 Ending for auction
2 Theater sign (abbr.)
3 North of Okla.
4 No man — — island
5 Brawl
6 Most peculiar
7 Slickest
8 Satyr
9 Ancient
10 Shoshonean
11 Actor Steiger
13 Esteem
18 Acting trophies
19 Fear
20 Domesticating
22 Become fond of (2 wds.)
23 Let go
24 More tart
25 Sea hawk
27 Actor Gibson
32 Murphy Brown's network
34 Gets away
35 Neither masculine nor feminine
39 One-celled organism
43 Margarines
45 Rapid
47 God of love
48 Feline
49 Actor Vigoda
50 Convent dweller
52 Inhabitant (suffix)
53 Poetic contraction
54 Soak (flax)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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"I WISH YOU WERE MY BROTHER, JOEY. I'M TIRED OF BEING OUTNUMBERED AT HOME!"

Senator's arrest adds lore to rogue's gallery of Texas pols

AUSTIN (AP) — The arrest of a state senator in an undercover prostitution sting is the latest in a long line of missteps that have helped give Texas politics its rogue's gallery reputation.

Those deeds ranged from resume padding to paying college football players to a legislator having himself shot.

An agriculture commissioner stuck his arm down a fire ant mound and was bitten 32 times. A gubernatorial candidate listed his occupation as "alleged racketeer."

Not even presidential hopefuls escaped. Petitions seeking places on the Texas ballot for three Republican candidates in the 1988 primary included numerous forgeries, including signatures of Democrats and the dead.

"Over the years, state officials and legislators have been indicted for bribery, perjury, promotion of prostitution, pornography, using state employees for campaign purposes, cocaine delivery and cattle rustling," says the "Political History of Texas," published by the Texas Almanac.

Sen. Drew Nixon, R-Carthage, whose official Senate biography describes him as favoring "a strong criminal justice system," was missing from the Senate Thursday and has refused to comment on his arrest and jailing this week.

Austin police say Nixon, 37, was charged with offering undercover officer Christine Shelton $35 to perform oral sex. Ms. Shelton also said Nixon had a 9-mm handgun in his car at the time.

Nixon's arrest made him the latest Texas pol to hit the headlines for something other than politicking. Newspaper archives and the Political History book are filled with stories:

— Then-Rep. Michael Martin, R-Longview, in 1981 catapulted into the national spotlight after being shot in the arm. He blamed the shooting on a Satanic cult. His cousin, Charles Goff, said Martin hired him to shoot him with a shotgun as a publicity stunt in hopes of winning a Senate seat. Martin left office.

— In 1982, Agriculture Commissioner Reagan Brown stuck his hand down a fire ant mound as TV cameras rolled. During that same losing campaign, Brown used a racial slur to describe black educator Booker T. Washington. He blamed the insult on food poisoning from a "bad turkey sandwich in Laredo."

— Former Gov. Bill Clements acknowledged after taking office a second time in 1987 that, while he was chairman of the Southern Methodist University Board of Governors, the board authorized continued payments to football players. "Ponygate" brought a few calls for impeachment, but Clements served out the term.

— Former House Speaker Gus Mutscher, an aide and another House member were found guilty of conspiring to accept a bribe in the Sharpstown stock fraud scandal. He completed four years' probation and later was elected a county judge.

— Former House Speaker Gib Lewis, who held that post for a decade, bumped into ethics laws twice. In his first term as speaker he pleaded no contest to failing to disclose holdings in a number of firms in his official financial statements. In his last term, he pleaded no contest to ethics charges and didn't seek re-election.

— Former Supreme Court Justice Don Yarbrough was indicted for lying to a grand jury, faced impeachment proceedings and resigned in 1977, about six months after taking office.

— Stanley Adams Jr., a former owner of Lamar Savings Association who faced federal charges in the thrift's failure, entered the Democratic gubernatorial primary in 1990. On filing papers, he listed his occupation as "alleged white-collar racketeer." He lost.

— Former Rep. David London was found guilty of stealing five head of cattle from a Wills Point rancher in June 1982. He said he was framed by political rivals but lost a re-election bid.

— GOP presidential hopefuls Bob Dole, Pete du Pont and Alexander Haig found themselves with forged petitions in 1988. Testimony at the trial of a Houston political consultant said teenagers were hired, given free beer and told to sign phony names during a forgery party.

— Lena Guerrero, a former House member, resigned her Railroad Commission post in 1992 after acknowledging that she lied for 12 years about being an honors graduate of the University of Texas. She had no diploma, apologized to voters but lost her election bid.

Not all politicians saw their careers end so abruptly, however.

In 1974, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby pleaded no contest to a drunken driving charge. "I hope the people of Texas will judge me on the basis of all my actions and not just this one instance," he said. They did. He served as lieutenant governor for another 16 years.

Couples, court await divorce according to the Irish style

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — For 14 years, Mags O'Brien has been married against her will, to a husband who has already divorced her and married again. Now her day is finally at hand.

"The first time I got married in Rome. This time it'll just be in a Dublin registry office. The difference is, this time I know what I'm doing — I think," she said.

O'Brien, 45, led the grass-roots Divorce Action Group for a decade in a successful effort to amend the Irish constitution, which decreed marriage was for life. The payoff comes on Thursday, the effective date of a new law permitting divorce and remarriage after four years of separation.

An estimated 90,000 people stuck in failed marriages will have the chance to make a break, and perhaps marry again.

O'Brien hopes to be granted a divorce by June from Con Brogan. They married in 1976 and split in 1982.

"Things were fine in the first flush of love. They always are," she said with a slight smile.

"But he got involved in transcendental meditation. He'd meditate for 20 minutes in the morning, and again in the evening. Then he got into an advanced course and it started to snowball. He became a vegetarian, and he quit smoking and drinking. He started going to bed at 7 o'clock every night as part of his regime."

Oddly enough, Brogan has already divorced her — though not in the eyes of the Irish Republic.

He took up residence in England long enough to qualify for a divorce there, and 12 years ago he remarried under British law in Northern Ireland. Now he lives in Dublin again with his second wife and two children.

"Some people here say my marriage is kosher, and some don't. It's been good enough for me," said Brogan, 47.

"Now Mags is going to petition an Irish court for a divorce — and obviously I will agree. She insisted that it was very important for her to marry in Ireland rather than abroad."

Voters in this predominantly Roman Catholic country of 3.5 million narrowly approved divorce in a 1995 referendum. Opponents went all the way to the Supreme Court before accepting that the battle was lost — that Catholic Ireland would be like any other European country.

So far, Dublin's lawyers have demonstrated more enthusiasm for divorce than their potential clients.

"People are reluctant to be the first to test the waters," said Brian Gallagher, senior counsel in the largest of 10 Dublin firms specializing in family law.

"But when the Bar Association organized a seminar last Wednesday night on the ins and outs of the divorce law, more than 300 lawyers came."

Even if more people decide to untie the knot, they may have a wait in store. Ireland has only three family law judges — two in Dublin and one in Cork.

The courts are already backed up with separation cases, which typically take six months. Separations can be contentious, because that's when couples have to work out a property settlement. Couples must have lived apart for at least four years to qualify for a divorce.

Among the hesitant is Jim Cullinan, who is separated and has just started to consider the possibility of marrying his partner of five years, Maria Mulraney.

Cullinan wed in 1985, but the marriage broke down within a year. "She wasn't a one-man woman, basically," he said, recalling the time he caught her in bed with a good friend of his.

Mulraney says a wedding is not her top priority. There are more pressing demands on their funds: medical bills for their 3-year-old boy, a fix-up job on the three-bedroom home they bought in 1994, insurance for their car, and college tuition for Mulraney, who is three months pregnant.

But Cullinan said cutting old ties makes sense.

"I would like to have a divorce, just to finally kill it off," he said. "It's dead, but I'd like to bury it."

Former Philip Morris researcher says documents were destroyed

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A former Philip Morris USA scientist has told Texas lawyers in a suit against the tobacco industry that research on cancerous agents in cigarette smoke was destroyed in the late 1980s on company orders.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch, in a story published Friday, said the allegation was made by William Raymond Morgan in a statement to attorneys for the state of Texas, which is among 22 states that have sued the industry to recover health costs related to smoking.

An attorney for Philip Morris denied Morgan's claim.

"The evidence at trial we think will show Dr. Morgan is mistaken," said Michael York, a Washington attorney for the cigarette manufacturer. "We think testimony will show he was given no such directive."

According to Morgan, his boss ordered him to destroy documents containing a test that found high levels of a cancer-causing chemical in smoke from a store-bought pack of Virginia Slims cigarettes.

Using cigarettes available at stores violated company testing policies, said Morgan, a Philip Morris research and development center employee who worked for the company for 20 years until he was laid off in 1992.

"She came back to me and told me that I was to destroy all that data," Morgan said in a 124-page sworn statement.

"This is devastating evidence against the tobacco industry," said Texas Attorney General Dan Morales. Morgan's statement will be turned over to the Justice Department, said Grant Kaiser, an attorney in Morales' office.

According to Ron Motley, the attorney who took Morgan's deposition, the testimony represents "the first time an eyewitness has said he was ordered to destroy evidence." Such destruction would have violated a number of court orders in effect at the time, Motley said.

Other evidence of document destruction has been introduced in a Minnesota case against the tobacco industry, but it has never been backed up by an eyewitness.

The alleged destruction came around 1989 during the testing of Virginia Slims for possible carcinogens in secondhand smoke, according to Morgan's deposition.

Normally, researchers were instructed to use a generic test cigarette — called a "reference cigarette" — that lacked the flavorings and additives used in real Virginia Slims, Marlboros or other brands.

Motley called these "fake cigarettes" used to avoid legal problems of obtaining damaging test information about real cigarettes.

York said the practice is standard in the industry.

'Empire' hits theatres in battle of re-releases

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Many of the same "Star Wars" fans who lined up three weeks ago to see the space adventure re-released, lined up again Friday for the saga's second phase: "The Empire Strikes Back Special Edition."

Dozens of gotta-be-first "Empire" enthusiasts lined up for the morning show at Mann's Chinese Theatre, where the forecourt's famous footprints include an impression from the robot R2D2.

"'Empire's' the best," said Andrew Aranada, 28, who camped out overnight on a leather chair in front of Westwood's Mann Village theater for good seats.

"I was here the first day for 'Star Wars.' This time I was smart. I spent the night," declared Audra Aki, 22, as she spent a 13th hour outside San Francisco's Coronet theater.

The revamped "Empire" includes a new scene showing the Wampa Ice Creature gnawing on a frozen killed snack, more screen time for Darth Vader and computer-enhanced graphics.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



The inescapable consequences of aging

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What, exactly, are the effects of aging?

DEAR READER: The answer to this question could fill a book. However, because I'm interested in the subject (yes, I'm aging, too), I'll merely summarize the important events that occur as we get old.

• Body composition. We gain fat and lose body water. This means that not only do our bodily configurations change, but we respond differently to medication. For example, fat-soluble drugs stay in the system longer; water-soluble medications may reach higher concentrations. In addition, thermoregulation and thirst sensation become impaired with age. Finally, we make fewer red blood cells, so some degree of anemia is common in the elderly.

• Cardiovascular. Blood pressure increases, maximum heart rate decreases, the heart muscle loses cells (so the cardiac output falls — by about 30 percent by age 65), electrical conduction through heart muscle becomes slower, and fat deposits appear on arterial linings (leading to blockages).

• Musculoskeletal. There is a pronounced loss of muscle mass (down by at least 20 percent by age 65) and bone density (as much as 3 percent per year after age 55). Connective tissue elasticity is lost (causing wrinkling and sagging). The viscosity of synovial fluid (the liquid that lubricates our joints) decreases, leading to pain and stiffness.

• Respiratory. Progressive diminution of breathing capacity and lung efficiency (down 50 percent by age 70) is associated with low blood-oxygen levels and intolerance to exercise. These consequences are markedly aggravated by smoking and air pollution.

• Genitourinary. Increased size of the prostate in males leads to urinary retention and a host of other symptoms. In women, shrivelling of the genitourinary tract is often associated with incontinence and vaginal inflammation. Loss of kidney efficiency leads to poor excretion of medications, so that unintentional toxicity can be a problem — especially since the aged are more likely to take medicines.

• Gastrointestinal. Diminished liver function causes intolerance to alcohol and poor or delayed metabolism of many drugs. Reduced vitamin D absorption contributes to the development of osteoporosis. Digestion becomes less efficient, lactose (milk sugar) intolerance may appear, and constipation is almost universal.

• Immunity. This decreases, leading to more susceptibility to infection.

• Nervous system. Nerve conduction is reduced (up to 15 percent by age 60), neurons die and are not replaced (causing forgetfulness, confusion and so forth), the brain shrinks (beginning after age 20), reflexes markedly slow (leading to unsteady gait and a tendency to fall), and the sleep center malfunctions (causing insomnia).

Of course, there are other obvious consequences of aging — such as failing vision and hearing, tooth and hair loss, and the general wearing-out of body parts. But, I believe, my litany covers the major factors.

Fortunately, modern medical treatments can lessen the severity of many of these age-related complications — or, at least, reduce the disability they cause. However, sooner or later, Father Time catches up with us. This is reason enough, I suppose, to live each day to its fullest, while learning to adapt to our handicaps, being thankful for what advantages we are granted by our genes, and trying to avoid abusing our fragile good health.

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DEAR DR. GOTT: Since my doctor forbids me to consume caffeine, I have to read labels carefully. I have been told that beverages labeled "no caffeine" are devoid of caffeine, whereas soda labeled "caffeine-free" contains some caffeine. Is this true?

DEAR READER: To my knowledge, the labels "no caffeine" and "caffeine-free" indicate that the beverage contains insignificant quantities of the stimulant.

I believe that you are safe to take the label at face value, because the trivial amounts of caffeine in some beverages should not harm you in any way.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What is Lamisil? What are the side effects?

DEAR READER: Lamisil (terbinafine) is a new prescription drug, marketed for the treatment of fingernail and toenail fungus. The usual dose is 250 milligrams orally once daily for 6 to 12 weeks.

Side effects, which are usually mild and infrequent, include diarrhea, heartburn, taste disturbances, and liver inflammation (extremely rare).

The drug, although as expensive as its counterparts, has a high safety/efficiency profile.

To give you more information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Consumer Tips on Medicine." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I suspect that my friend has an eating disorder. I found 15 boxes of laxative in her medicine cabinet. Should I worry?

DEAR READER: Some forms of eating disorder — especially bulimia — are associated with binge eating, followed by vomiting and/or inappropriate use of laxatives.

I hesitate labeling your friend as bulimic, based solely on the laxatives in her bathroom. However, you should certainly follow-up your concerns by discussing this with her.

Many bulimics are exceedingly clever at hiding evidence from those who are worried about them; this is part of the denial process of the affliction. Therefore, use your best judgment. The over-use of laxatives would certainly reflect a problem, but you'll want to proceed cautiously.

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Call for moratorium a slap in the face to victims

Richard H. Collins

The American Bar Association wanted to give Richard Brimage Jr. a break.

On Feb. 3, the nation's largest group of lawyers called for a moratorium on executions until they are satisfied — satisfied that each state is treating convicted killers according to their definition of fairness.

If the Texas Department of Criminal Justice had heeded this advice, Richard Brimage Jr. would be sitting on death row for yet another year. Instead, he was executed Feb. 10 by lethal injection.

Brimage was convicted of killing a 19-year-old college freshman from Kingsville. Her body was found in the trunk of a car with a sock jammed down her throat. Brimage himself said he lured the woman to his parent's house to rape her. When she resisted, he injected her with cocaine.

For this crime, Brimage was convicted and sentenced to death. After the sentence, the victim's family waited. They waited nine years as Brimage's lawyers filed a seemingly endless series of appeals.

Brimage died nine years to the day after he was escorted onto death row.

But Brimage was executed not because his lawyers had exhausted all avenues for a stay of execution. The inmate himself demanded that no more appeals be filed on his behalf.

It is this kind of senseless delay that the Texas legislature sought to address in 1995 when it limited the process known as habeas corpus appeals. These are appeals filed separately from "direct" appeals of guilty verdicts. Such tactics are seldom designed to seek justice, but merely to delay a jury's verdict with repeated legal assaults.

Currently, delays are so successful that the average stay on death row is more than eight years. And these executions must also be put in perspective. In 1995, the same year the state executed 19 individuals, 1,645 offenders were sent to Texas prisons for the crime of murder. Ten thousand Texans have been murdered in the last five years alone, yet Texas juries have seen fit to place just 420 on death row since execution became an option in 1982.

Sentencing a convicted killer to death in this state is not "haphazard," as the Bar would have us believe.

The greatest irony of the ABA's abrupt call for a moratorium is that the organization is gravely concerned about whether or not defendants are getting competent lawyers in this appeals process. But what better organization is there than the Bar to ensure competency?

The American Bar Association has 37,000 members. It boasts five divisions, 22 sections, 80 commissions, and is one of the country's largest publishing houses. It influences who sits on the Supreme Court, and according to its own literature, is made up of more than 2,200 individual entities. That's one "entity" for two-thirds of the 3,000 inmates on death row in the United States. One would think the Bar could provide legal advice meeting its standards to each of them.

But in Texas, at least, there is little evidence defense attorneys are willing to work on the very problem they consider severe enough to suspend executions nationwide.

The same 1995 law that limited habeas corpus appeals also called upon the State of Texas to pay legal fees in such cases so as to guarantee representation. Under its current budget, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals can pay $100 an hour for lawyers to take on death penalty appeals.

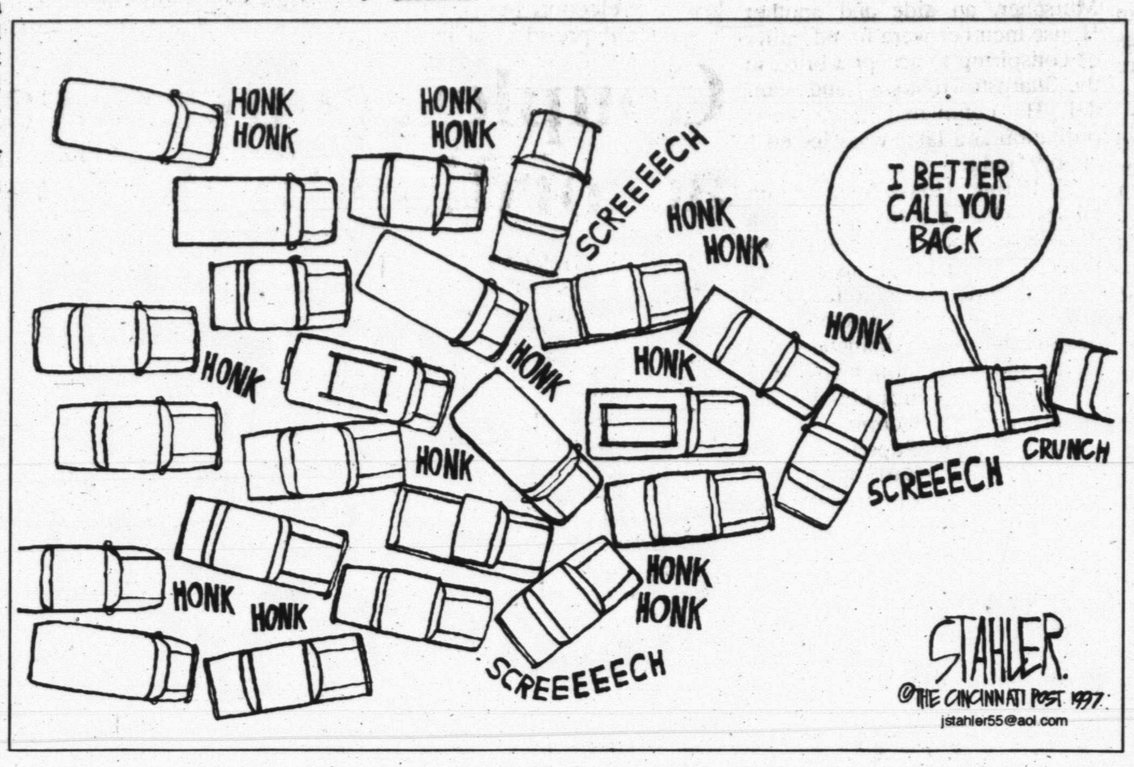
But the Court has had few takers. There are so few, in fact, that the Court has literally drafted lawyers into representing the habeas corpus cases presented before them.

How can this be? The nation's largest group of lawyers says there's a problem. Why aren't their own members willing to solve it?

Perhaps a clue lies in what the chairman of the State Bar of Texas had to say about this new system of compensation. He called the $100 an hour "a sacrificial amount" for most attorneys.

Maybe it's time members of the American Bar Association make that sacrifice before broadly condemning an entire system.

Richard H. Collins is chairman and founder of Associated Texans Against Crime, a program of the Today Foundation.



'Eternal romantic' is confused

Deanie Francis Mills

The March/April issue of "Psychology Today" contains an essay entitled "Confessions of an Eternal romantic," by an Austin freelance writer and columnist named Michael Ventura. The piece is beautifully illustrated with moody photographs set, dream-like, on blue-colored pages, captioned with quotes such as this one by Shakespeare: "She loved me for the dangers I had passed, and I loved her that she did pity them."

Elegantly written, the article examines the question: Can you have both passion and security in love? Ventura, who is fifty and unmarried, seems to think not. He admits that: "six years is my record for being with someone, usually it's been more like two."

The way he sees it, either you can be a "romantic," riding the love roller coaster of falling deeply in love one day and climbing back out of it the next, flinging relationships aside on the dizzying curves and arriving at the end of the ride exhilerated but sick or, basically stuck in a series of stagnant compromises that make up long-term marriage. Ventura refers to it as "the constrictions of maturity."

Indeed.

Not that he's overjoyed at this observation. He says, "I know people (like myself) who have gone from passion to passion, and are hitting middle age fearful and almost in despair, because they can hardly believe anymore that they'll ever find security in a relationship." Those who have, he maintains, "admit that they resent the lack of passion in their lives."

Oh, really.

He writes about friends of his, married 30 years and with two kids, "who seem, no matter what the strain, to weather every crisis and remain deeply connected." After his latest traumatic breakup, Ventura visited his friends, and while sitting alone in their living room after they'd gone to bed, "was hit with this insight: These friends have never had to discuss, not for one hour, the meaning of all the important words — God, work, love, money, child, home, risk, safety, intellect, future, responsibility, politics, sex."

Well, my goodness. One wonders what they've found to talk about all these years.

Ventura believes that, "their very metabolisms agree, and always have," and adds, "the meaning of the words we build our daily lives around has not substantially changed for them."

Uh, huh.

He feels that his friends, "trusted their shared values, and each other. I seemed only to trust the journey, the search itself, and you can't share a search for very long."

So it would appear that the crux of this man's problem is that he's spent the majority of his 50 years on this earth searching for someone who agrees, by "their very metabolism," with him on virtually every "important word."

No wonder he's still single.

There are several serious flaws with this reasoning, as I see it, not the least of which is that we arrive on the steps of adulthood with all our beliefs about life all packed up neatly in one grown-up suitcase. Nothing could be more ridiculous. All of our life-paths are journeys, and as human beings, we grow and stretch, ebb and flow, backslide and struggle through the process, stepping delicately through the landmines of emotional crisis that can blow us apart or, at the very least, cripple us, and at the most, make us stronger in the broken places. None of us is the same at the end of our journey as we were at the beginning.

A good healthy marriage is exactly the same. Only the bad ones stagnate, just as only the most tragic among us as individual persons goes all the way through life without ever adapting to, assimilating, or learning from life's experiences. In many ways it is like a house. You move in and the outward structure remains solid, but through the years inside, you paint and carpet and wallpaper and buy new furniture and knock out walls and even build on additions from time to time. You cut down trees that are diseased, plant shrubs and a garden. You maintain.

But if you live in that house for 20 years or more, it's just not going to be the same house as it was when you first moved in, because your needs have changed. The guest room gets converted into a nursery, and then a child's room. When the child leaves home, it may become a study or a studio or a den or a gameroom or a greenhouse. It may even revert back to being a guest room, but it will be a much more handsomely furnished guest room than it was when you were first starting out in life as a couple.

I find it sad to think that there are many Michael Venturas out there, who honestly believe that in order to find a lasting, secure love...they will have to forfeit any of the thrills that keep so many people coming back to that old roller coaster ride. They fail to realize that in a good, healthy, long-term relationship, what happens is you fall in love over and over again — with the same person.

They don't understand that the meaning of all those important words becomes infinitely fascinating, that you can explore their meanings together and find something new every day — like a prism held up to the sunlight, reflecting white hot light in all its glorious colors.

Can you have both passion and security in love? Absolutely. Does it come that way all tightly packed away in its own little suitcase? No.

How do you get it? You decide together, before you even leave on that trip, where you are going. And then, along the way, you pick up what you need and discard the unnecessary. I guarantee you'll never take a more exciting trip, and unlike that old roller coaster — you actually have a destination. At the end of the journey, you will have really gone somewhere.

But Michael Ventura remains confused. "What are we to do with this situation?" he asks, and adds, "Anyone who tries to provide a definitive answer to so profound and rending a dilemma is a liar, fool, profiteer, or all three."

Hmmmm. Well, if you knew what I get paid for these columns, I think you would agree that I'm no profiteer. And, since I can claim a passionate marriage to the same man of almost 23 years, then it's a pretty sure bet I'm not a liar.

You get to decide who's the fool.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

White House for sale

The Austin American-Statesman

As exhausting as the unrelenting river of White House scandal has become, reports that the Chinese communists may have contributed money directly to the Democratic Party cannot be ignored.

A swell of money-driven disgrace continues to roll through Washington, the Democratic Party and the White House. But The Washington Post's report that the Chinese government planned campaign contributions from the Chinese Embassy dropped the sorry story of political fund raising another notch lower. ...

Clinton and the Democrats must wake up and take down the "For Sale" sign on the White House lawn.

On campaign finances

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Dozens of FBI gumshoes are looking into the money machine that worked to re-elect President Clinton. Meanwhile, Republicans on Capitol Hill are papering the town with subpoenas and gearing up for hearings.

Trouble is, the Grand Old Party has an ax to grind and, with all respect to the FBI, its director reports to the attorney general, who reports to the president.

The problem isn't just that the FBI and the Justice Department might pull punches about wrongdoing high in the Clinton administration. It's that no internal investigation could have the total trust of the public.

This situation cries out for an independent counsel. ...

On independent counsel Starr

The New York Times

Kenneth Starr's decision to leave his post as Independent Counsel in the Whitewater affair sometime this summer reflects a selfish indifference to his important civic obligations. Mr. Starr is not investigating some obscure town commissioner. The matters he has been asked to look into involve a sitting President of the United States, the First Lady and a score of senior officials.

This is unquestionably one of the most important prosecutorial jobs in the country right now, and Mr. Starr should not have taken it unless he were willing to see it through. ...

Mr. Starr should reconsider his departure. No one forced him to take the job of Independent Counsel. But having taken it, he has an obligation not to bail out prematurely. When all is done, there should be no room for questions that the investigation was somehow truncated, or that hard choices were ducked, because of his race for the exit.

Give people all the facts

Dear Editor:

An open letter to Cheryl Chance, RN, nurse manager, ER/CC Med Surg, Trama Coordinator:

This letter is an answer to all the statements made by you in your open letter to Judge Ricky Fritz and the Commissioners Court. Let's address each of them one by one.

No. 1. You said you were very angry about comments made on several occasions about RNs getting paid too much. It was not Judge Fritz and the Commissioners Court that gave out the hospital pay scale. It was me. I had copies of it (pay scale) and other letters and documents made and gave them to a lot of people in our county.

No. 2. You said you're so angry because of all the turmoil our community hospital is going through. Well so are we.

The turmoil and fear is being caused because you and your little group of people in our town are not telling the employees and the people the facts and the whole truth.

Do what we did. Go to the hospitals at Big Spring — Highland at Lubbock. Garland Hospital. If you can't go, call them. They'll be glad to answer all your questions and take you on a complete tour of each hospital.

For the record, this is what we found out:

The hospital employees keep their jobs. They do not lose their seniority. It is rolled over to Community Health.

The things that will be changed are: the pay scale is higher, the benefits are better, the insurance is better and at much less cost to the employees. I have copies of their insurance. I'll be glad to give you one. The auxiliary ladies are kept as is, no change whatsoever. The local hospital board is kept as is.

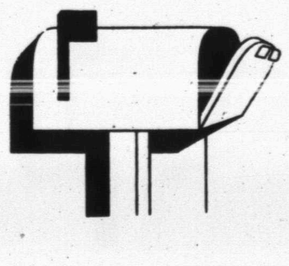
Community Health Systems, at their cost, put in state of the art equipment, redo the whole interior. Bring in their own CEO and pay his and all employees' salaries. Plus pay county taxes.

No. 3. Yes, we have very fine people employed at Cogdell. And they deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.

And for the life of me I cannot understand why you and your group are so dead set against the Cogdell employees and the people of Scurry County being told all the facts, all the truth, good, bad and otherwise. And let them make up their own minds.

The minute you people heard about Community Health being interested in leasing Cogdell you began a campaign to totally squash it without one bit of consideration to what would be best for our people and county. This is totally unfair and unacceptable. And by the way, no one that I know of has a problem with your wages.

No. 4. In your letter, you also stated how fortunate at present in the West Texas area to not have corporations that are introducing unlicensed assistive personnel in place of RNs to care for sick



patients and that there were bills being ready to be introduced to denounce this practice.

Shame on you. You should have told the people in your letter what you were talking about was HMOs, not Community Health Systems. There is absolutely not one bill being introduced denouncing Columbia or Community Health Systems. You know it, and so do we.

Community Health acquired Big Spring Hospital two years ago. They have put in state of the art equipment, are redoing all the interior. Go look for yourself. We did. It's beautiful.

Cogdell Hospital lost 200 employees in two (2) years. That's a big turnover. Quite a few of Cogdell's ex-employees are working at the hospital in Big Spring. Talk to them. They'll tell you more than you'd like to hear about Cogdell Hospital and the way it's being run.

It was some of Cogdell's exes that told Community Health to contact Judge Fritz. You and your group are using untruths and scare tactics for your own personal gains. You don't want the people to know what's really going on at Cogdell. Like one of the many things the RN nurses not being paid overtime since 1991. And that one of you that work out there finally got up the courage to turn management in to the wage and labor board. And now Cogdell is being forced to pay the RNs (back overtime) for the last two (2) years. Several thousand dollars per nurse, to the tune of around 75 to 80 thousand dollars.

Another thing you did get right. We do have very fine and good doctors in our county. And we're all very proud of them. We also think they deserve the very best hospital we can provide for them to care for their patients.

You said you were so tired for all of us who feel we are constantly having to justify our jobs to the commissioners court. Well, you are working for a county hospital. Isn't that the commissioners' job to see that all county entities are managed properly?

Our county judge, Ricky Fritz, and county commissioners are elected by the people for the people (not just an elite few) to do what's best for the whole county.

All we've ever asked of the judge and commissioners was to look at all sides and aspects of St. Mary's, or any others who submit offers, to judge fairly, and do what's right and best for our Scurry County people.

Just one more thing:

How sad to use the death of a precious 12-year-old child to further your own agenda.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Shaw
Taxpayer
Housewife

Public Records

New Vehicle Registrations

Cleburne Murdoch, 1996 Ford van from Wilson Motors.

B.J. Bruner, 1997 GMC pickup from Big Country Autoland.

William S. McClellan, 1997 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Larry and Genifer K. Johnson, 1997 Chevrolet from Big Country Autoland.

Mesquite Oil Tools Inc. and Jerry Pechacek, 1997 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Vicky Lee and Donald Jack Graham, 1997 Ford truck from Wilson Motors.

Lloyd Clemmer, 1996 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Kathy Gee, 1997 Chevrolet from Big Country Autoland.

Bobby Lee, 1997 Dodge pickup from Snyder Chrysler.

VT Inc. as Trustee for World Omni Ltd, 1997 Chevrolet Tahoe from Big Country Autoland.

Gerald Brown, 1997 Pontiac from Big Country Autoland.

Elias Torres, 1997 Dodge pickup from Snyder Chrysler.

Bradford Hicks, 1996 Chevrolet Astro van from Big Country Autoland.

Humberto Calderon, 1997 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

West Gaines Seed and Delingers, 1997 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Kody S. King, 1996 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Abraxas Petroleum Corp., three 1997 Ford pickups from Wilson Motors.

Doyle W. Parks, 1997 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

James M. Strawn Jr., 1997 Chevrole pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Robert Noyes, 1997 GMC Yukon from Big Country Autoland.

Mary Shields, 1997 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Jack O. Briant, 1997 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

A.C. Alexander III, 1997 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Patterson Drilling Co., 1997 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Gerald Brown, 1997 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Sandra L. Lain, 1997 Chevrolet from Big Country Autoland.

Geary Meador, 1997 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Marriage License

Brandon Scott Messenger of Camp Pendleton, Calif. and Shannon Lynn Dearstine of San Diego, Calif.

Martin Domingo Torres and Misty Michelle Simpson, both of Snyder.

Donald Wayne Gray and Elizabeth Moreno, both of Snyder.

Joel Lamoin Collier of Roscoe and Christy Ann Williams of Snyder.

Action in District Court

Scurry County vs. Edgar Williams, et al, order of partial dismissal.

Scurry County vs. Bobbie Brown Bilberry, et al, order of partial dismissal.

Scurry County vs. Lillian M. West, deceased, notice of non-suit.

Scurry County vs. Lola Lopez, et al, order of partial dismissal.

Scurry County vs. Maria Benita Rios, et al, notice of non-suit.

In the marriage of Tracy Renee Velasquez and Robert M. Velasquez, divorce granted.

In the marriage of Charles Kenneth Peterson and Tabatha Ann Peterson, divorce granted.

Deed Records

Florentz Winston Joyce to Wade Hatter, Travis Hatter, Helen Hatter and Mary Boone, each a 2.52 percent undivided interest in approximately 7,022.8 acres commonly known as the South Pasture Ranch, located in the Dallas Trust and Savings Bank Subdivision of the Grimes Ranch Lands in the J.P. Smith survey.

Richard Dupree to John W. Cagle, all of Lot 4 in Block 5 of the 1st Replat of the Noble Heights Addition.

Robert J. Summerville to Sally Jean Summerville, all of Lot 6 in Block 2 of the Parkway Addition.

Marshall Thad and Charlotte Springer to Walter and Mary Rabb, all of Lot 24 of the 2nd Replat of Block 3, 1st Section of the Parkway Addition.

Scurry County to David and Donna Holt, Lots 3-7 in Block 11 of the Greenhill Addition.

James Collins and Teresa Ann Burns to Nelson and Nancy Brice, all of Lot 24 in Block 3 of the Eastridge Addition.

Hugh W. Galyean to Douglas Reed Galyean, the west one-half of Lot 3 in Block 36 of the Blankenship Addition.

Edwin L. and Linda L. Stagner to Bessie Lanell Simmons, all of Lot 2 in Block 6 of the Cody Addition.

Richard Land, et al, to Edwin Nelson and Linda Lou Stagner, all of Lot 2 in Block 6 of the Cody Addition.

Date Book

Feb. 22, 1997

Today is the 53rd day of 1997 and the 64th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1924, President Calvin Coolidge delivered the first radio address from the White House.

On this day in 1956, city officials in Montgomery, Ala., announced that they would arrest the leaders of the bus boycott movement.

On this day in 1983, Harold Washington won the Democratic primary on his way to being elected Chicago's first black mayor.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: George Washington (1732-1799), U.S. president; Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860), philosopher; James Russell Lowell (1819-1891), poet; Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950), poet; Luis Bunuel (1900-1983), film director; Edward M. Kennedy (1932-), U.S. politician, is 65; Jonathan Demme (1944-), film director, is 53; Julius Erving (1950-), basketball great, is 47; Drew Barrymore (1975-), actress, is 22.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1959, the first Daytona 500 was held.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "To marry is to halve your rights and double your duties." — Arthur Schopenhauer

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1987, 24 inches of snow fell on Lancaster, Pa.

SOURCE: 1997 Weather Guide Calendar; Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: New moon.

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Feb. 23, 1997

Today is the 54th day of 1997 and the 65th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1861, an attempt to assassinate Abraham Lincoln was foiled in Baltimore.

On this day in 1942, a Japanese submarine surfaced and shelled an oil field near Santa Barbara, Calif.

On this day in 1991, allied military forces launched their ground attack against the Iraqi forces occupying Kuwait.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Johannes Gutenberg (1395-1468), inventor; Samuel Pepys (1633-1703), diarist; George Handel (1685-1759), composer; Emma Willard (1787-1870), educator; William E.B. DuBois (1868-1963), civil rights leader-writer; Peter Fonda (1939-), actor, is 58; Bobby Bonilla (1963-), baseball player, is 34.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1994, American speedskater Bonnie Blair won an Olympic gold medal in Lillehammer.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "I do hate to be unquiet at home." — Samuel Pepys

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1936, blowing dust reduced visibility to near zero in southeast Colorado.

SOURCE: 1997 Weather Guide Calendar; Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: Day after new moon.

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Vice president named

NEW YORK (AP) — Bill Bradley has gone from Capitol Hill to Wall Street.

The former three-term senator from New Jersey and former New York Knicks star was named vice chairman Thursday of J.P. Morgan's International Council.

The council, established in 1967, is chaired by former Secretary of State George P. Schultz and consists of leaders in business and public life from 16 countries.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

© 1996 Universal Press Syndicate



Women's Bathroom Takeover Forces Man to Search for Relief

DEAR ABBY: Here's one for which I would appreciate a solution. The guys at the office didn't have an answer.

I was at a very crowded shopping mall and needed to use the rest room as I was leaving. The men's room and the ladies' room were side by side. The ladies' room had a line outside it, while the men's room had no waiting line.

As I approached the men's room, the women started to grumble loudly about having to wait and split up into lines outside both rest rooms. This effectively restricted my access to the men's room, so I departed the mall and drove to the nearest gas station to use the rest room there.

What should a male's proper course of action be in a situation like this?

LEGS CROSSED IN NEWARK

DEAR LEGS CROSSED: I think your course of action was intelligent. But on my way out, I would have reported it to mall security.

***

DEAR ABBY: Why would a bright, pretty 23-year-old allow herself to be emotionally abused by her husband?

Birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, St. Valentine's Day, etc. come and go without so much as a card or any kind of acknowledgment. They have had many fights over this — and my daughter has told him how hurt she is. He is always "sorry" and has some kind of excuse, but this happens over and over again.

It hurts me to see how upset she gets, but as a parent, what should I do?

UPSET MOTHER DOWN SOUTH

DEAR MOTHER: Do not offer any "solutions" or advice. It's nice to be remembered on special occasions, but how does he treat your daughter every other day in the year?

***

DEAR ABBY: The story of the Spanish speakers who assumed two blond Anglos wouldn't understand their rude comments reminds me of two incidents.

A blond man my husband works with had learned Hmong while serving in Vietnam. One day he was on the Paris subway while two girls were speaking Hmong to each other, harshly criticizing fellow passengers. The man waited until a break in their conversation, then gave them an equally bold critique — in fluent Hmong. They were so stunned, they missed their stop.

Then there was the deaf woman I often waited on in a fabric shop where I worked. She liked for me to help her since I would sign "Hi" (the only word I knew in sign language), speak clearly while facing her, and take the time to puzzle out her speech. One day she told me that two women shopping nearby were planning to steal quite a few very expensive buttons by tucking them into the folds of the fabric they were buying. Sure enough, the manager stopped the women outside the store and the buttons were in the fabric. How did my customer know? She had read their lips!

CORYN WEIGLE, ALEXANDRIA, VA.

***

DEAR READERS: Today we celebrate the 265th birthday of George Washington, the father of our country: Happy Birthday, George!

***

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

DEAR ABBY: I've never been one to cry, but my grandfather, Jesse "Mim" Toney, died in October 1996, and I miss him. He was a hero. A *real* hero. Not just because he was Gen. George S. Patton's chauffeur and valet during World War II, but because of who he was.

His life taught me something I need to share. It's something we are losing as individuals, as families, and even as a country. It's something that is there, like faith, even when everything else falls apart. You need it. I need it. The whole world needs it. You can't build enough of it. It won't leave you when times get tough. It will carry you. It's what makes real men and women honorable. It's being underappreciated. It's what grew the fastest the weaker he got. It was his character!

Yes, character. Like respect, it is not something you ask for; it's something you earn. Like strength, it's not something granted; it's developed. It may only count to those who have it — but character counts.

He was not impressed by what someone accomplished, but by what they had overcome. That's character.

He didn't take the easy way. He took the right way. That's character.

He accepted responsibility for his actions, faced the consequences without complaint and lived his life the best he could. That's character.

His road map was the Scriptures; his compass was his heart; his passion was his family; his character was his art.

That's what he taught me, and I think the message is worth repeating.

JEFF POWELL, DUBLIN, OHIO

DEAR JEFF: Please accept my sympathy on the painful loss of your beloved grandfather. Obviously, your letter was written from the heart. It would have made a beautiful eulogy. Thank you for sharing the important life lessons your grandfather taught you.

***

DEAR ABBY: I was raised in an old-fashioned home. I was taught to sew and cook and be a worthy wife and mother. I cooked and fed my family wholesome meals.

Unfortunately, one of my sons ("Tom" — not his real name) married a woman who never cooks. She waits until Tom comes home after a hard day's work at the office, then she sends him out to some fast-food place to pick up their evening meal. This is not just occasionally; this is every night of the week except when they go out to eat. I invite them to my home for dinner as often as I can.

Tom is a good husband and father. He doesn't drink, smoke or gamble. He's a good provider and allows his wife to stay home and not work.

My question is, why aren't mothers these days preparing their daughters for marriage? Don't you think men should consider this a requisite when courting? It could save marriages.

OLD-FASHIONED AND GLAD OF IT

DEAR OLD-FASHIONED: You and I are a generation apart from your son and his wife, so it would be easy for me to agree with you.

However, these days it takes more than talent in the kitchen to make a marriage work. I find it telling that your son is not the family member who is complaining. As long as he has you, I'm betting neither he nor his wife will learn to cook.

***

For Abby's favorite family recipes, send a long, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet No. 1, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Italian computers struggle with many dialects in country

ROME (AP) — The elegant language that developed from Dante's "Divine Comedy" is spoken by millions of Italians — sometimes.

The rest of the time, Italians still speak widely varying regional dialects, confounding their communication with one another — and with computers.

Now, modern technology has risen to at least one of the challenges by developing a recording device capable of understanding everyone from Milan to Naples.

Dialects, it seems, were about to undo one of Italians' small triumphs over one of the annoying chores of everyday life in Italy: waiting in line to pay utility bills in post offices.

Great sighs of relief greeted the start a couple of years ago of automated telephone services, which consumers can call to give meter readings and identification numbers so bills can be paid from bank accounts.

But numbers expressed in dialect stumped the computers.

The recording of the Neapolitan gas company would switch off after a couple of requests by a computerized voice to "please repeat" a number, Rome's Il Messaggero newspaper reported Thursday. Similar defeats were being tallied in other places where dialect is commonly used.

The solution was simple — add the dialect variations of the numbers into computers' memory — but it was no easy task.

The newspaper ran a table of how to say one through 10 in different dialects. Some varieties: Ten in Milan is "des," but it's "dis" in Emiliano and "rieci" in Sicily. (It's "dieci" in standard Italian, a language which grew out of the Florentine tongue used by poet Dante in the 13th and 14th centuries.)

And some words in in the northern Emiliano dialect change if the speaker is a man or a woman.

Dialects don't just cause problems for computers, or just in mundane matters.

Last month, a jury in Calabria in far southern Italy acquitted two men of the murder of Nicholas Green, the 7-year-old California boy who was shot to death in 1994 during a highway robbery attempt.

A key piece of evidence for the prosecution was an intercepted telephone conversation. But linguistic experts, for both the defense and prosecution, couldn't agree if one of the suspects, speaking in a thick Calabrian dialect, was admitting to the killing or talking about something else.

A recent survey by the Italian statistical bureau ISTAT found that standard Italian is most likely to be used in Tuscany, the birthplace of Dante. At least 87 percent there spoke it at home and 92 percent with "outsiders."

Least likely to speak it were Sicilians, Calabrians and Neapolitans — less than 20 percent of residents were found to always speak in standard Italian.

The same study found that compared to a decade earlier, the percentage of standard usage was up most sharply among children and in tiny towns, where dialect had long been strong.

Some experts attributed the change in children's speech to the many hours spent watching TV, where standard Italian is used almost exclusively.

Jackson ships elephant home

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Michael Jackson apparently doesn't want two hungry mouths to feed, so he sent his pet pachyderm packing.

Three days after Jackson's first child was born, he shipped his African elephant, Ali, to the Jacksonville Zoological Gardens.

The 4,500-pound male elephant arrived by truck Thursday after a four-day ride from Jackson's Neverland Zoo near Los Angeles.

"We're really excited," zoo spokeswoman Doreen Sabina said.

Actually, Ali's move has been in the works for some time.

Jackson had wanted to breed the 7-year-old elephant. But when construction of his breeding areas was delayed, Jackson decided to donate Ali to an established breeding program.

Ali, who moved to Neverland in 1993, may be gone but not forgotten.



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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Sunday, Feb. 23, 1997

You could be particularly fortunate in partnership arrangements this year, especially if they are with persons who are older or more experienced than you.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20). Conditions you have little control over could impede your progress today, especially if you make them into something larger than they are. Pisces, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) If you and a friend are involved in an endeavor that has to be resolved by an outsider today, be sure the referee is impartial. It will benefit both of you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Steer clear of an individual who created two problems for you in the past. He or she might attempt to flex his or her muscles again today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) If you enter into an important agreement today, insist on getting verification of everything told to you. Oversights will be difficult to rectify later.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Use your common sense in health matters today. If there are things you know you shouldn't eat or drink, pass them up. Don't pile problems on your plate.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your intentions are good, but don't make commitments for others today without first getting their approval. Let everyone decide for himself or herself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Only tackle repair problems you are certain you can handle. If you start what you can't finish, it could end up costing you much more.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Don't scatter your forces if you hope to operate effectively today. Instead of putting additional irons in the fire, see how many you can pull out of it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Today you might feel as though your wallet is being surrounded on all sides. Be careful what you spend or what you are enticed by others to spend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Be open and aboveboard in your dealings with associates today. If they think you're trying to manipulate them, your house of cards could collapse.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Be careful not to put yourself in a vulnerable position today in which an adversary will utilize all the power you abdicate and call the shots instead of you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) If you have an old obligation to a friend, you'd better have your answers ready today, because there is a chance the marker might be called in.

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Your Birthday

Monday, Feb. 24, 1997

You will have some excellent chances for advancing your ambitious expectations this year. However, once you achieve your objectives, they'll have to be continuously maintained through an awareness of contemporary knowledge.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) A business deal you are involved in might not live up to its promises and your expectations. In order to extricate yourself, you might have to take a loss or provide additional funds. Major changes are ahead for Pisces in the coming year. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today. Mail $2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Someone you need to support you today might let you down instead. Before responding angrily, find out why this occurred. It could make the situation forgivable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) If you find yourself with a foggy head or aching bones today, it might be due to a recent overindulgence. Respect your body's limitations.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Be mindful of others and selective with your comments today. A jury of your peers may take what you say the wrong way and judge you a fabricator.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You could put yourself in a sweat when you discover neglected responsibilities to which you should have attended. Beware of wasteful efforts this morning.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Adversaries will now be better prepared to combat your strategies and attack your weaknesses. Do not get caught off guard.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your extravagant impulses today might cause you to ignore life's fiscal qualities. You might overindulge and regret it later.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You might experience frustration today from being stymied and unable to do what you want. Be patient, this too shall pass.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) In order to accomplish a new endeavor, understand exactly what is needed in advance. If you miscalculate, the entire project might go down the pipe.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) A group to which you belong might try to palm off some heavy duties on you today. Do not fall for any old bromides regarding the honor of serving.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) A plan that looks easy on paper might require substantially more fortitude than you're willing to show. Be prepared for a test of wills.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) All will run smoothly in a group endeavor today, provided there are no disagreements. If opposing views surface, they might not be handled properly.

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Appearance panned

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sean Penn's political endorsement doesn't seem to carry much weight.

The actor showed up at UCLA Wednesday with mayoral candidate Tom Hayden, a state senator and the former husband of Jane Fonda, but the crowd panned the performance.

"I thought it was very weird a politician would associate with Sean Penn," said senior Connie Lee, who was among about 200 students listening to the address. "It's like he's trying to find someone somewhat more hip and cool than he is."

After his speech, Hayden turned to the Penn, the star of "Dead Man Walking," and asked the audience, "Anybody have a question for Sean?"

No one did.

"I don't think Sean Penn stands for serious political thought," senior Sean Thompson said.

White House employees will be taken off DNC payroll list

WASHINGTON (AP) — Saying the practice was creating a hassle for the Clinton administration, the White House no longer will pay five employees with Democratic National Committee political funds.

White House chief of staff Erskine Bowles decided to shift the five workers to the White House payroll after President Clinton ordered a review of the practice, White House spokesman Mike McCurry said Thursday.

"Frankly, it's not worth the hassle," McCurry said. "On balance, we'd rather have the (five) individuals currently on the DNC payroll on the White House payroll and discontinue the practice."

The administration acknowledged that the DNC has paid the salaries of about 20 White House employees during Clinton's administration. The White House originally said four workers remain in their jobs, but said later Thursday the number also included a staffer who does travel advance trips in Vice President Al Gore's office.

McCurry could not say how long it would take to transfer those employees to the White House payroll, but he said the administration would move quickly in order to quiet the matter.

"We just don't need this set of questions at this time," McCurry said.

The head of a House investigating committee called on the White House for a complete list of everyone who has received any compensation from the DNC or any other political entity.

"It shows the blurring of the lines between the official functions of the presidency and the partisan politics, which should be over at the Democratic committee or the re-election committee," said Rep. David M. McIntosh, R-Ind., chairman of a House Government Reform and Oversight subcommittee.

The employees had been carried on White House records as volunteers. Defending the practice of paying them with political funds, McCurry said, "Well, it's a practice that has occurred at previous White Houses, apparently."

He said the Reagan White House obtained a legal opinion sanctioning the practice in 1982 and again in 1987 from the Justice Department. A number of outside organizations, such as think tanks, have financed salaries for people who work at the White House as volunteers, McCurry said.

He attributed the use of outside employees to Clinton's order for a 25 percent staff cutback at the opening of his administration. Suggesting that the administration had reached too far, McCurry said, "It sounds like that there was more work to do than the downsizing would have allowed."

McIntosh said he was concerned that at least one of the DNC-financed employees had direct access to a computerized White House list of people with whom Clinton had come into contact during his career. McIntosh said that was "further indication that the database was used for political purposes." But McCurry said the employee had "minimal use" of the database and "did not share the information outside the White House."

Of the employees still being paid with DNC funds, three are in the office of the vice president, one is in the scheduling and advance office and the fifth is in the public liaison office, directed by Alexis Herman, Clinton's nominee for labor secretary.

Her nomination has been on hold while Senate Republicans investigate whether she improperly mixed politics with her White House duties.

Galileo sweeps within 360 miles of icy moon

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Galileo spacecraft made its closest pass yet to the Jupiter moon Europa, gathering information scientists hope will provide clues of microscopic life on the moon's ice-covered surface.

The unmanned craft passed within 360 miles of Europa on Thursday, recording details of surface features down to a few hundred yards across.

The data won't be transmitted to Earth until Saturday and images could take weeks to refine, said William O'Neil, the Galileo project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

Researchers believe Europa may have two ingredients essential for life: water and a source of internal heat.

Europa, first spied by telescope by Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei in 1610 and slightly smaller than Earth's moon, is believed to have an ocean that could be 60 miles deep beneath a fractured crust of icy slabs.

The 2½-ton Galileo spacecraft, launched in 1989, arrived at Jupiter in December 1995 and began a two-year tour of the giant planet and its major moons. It passed within 430 miles of Europa on Dec. 19, and will return again Nov. 6.

As with each of its flybys, Galileo is busily recording data on several targets. On this pass, those include two small moons, Amalthea and Thebe.

The spacecraft also monitors plumes of gas from Jupiter's geologically active moon Io, where it detected recent deposits of sulfur spewed from volcanoes. It is also examining Jupiter's rings and its white oval storm, a persistent vortex of winds similar to the planet's Great Red Spot.

LEGENDARY TEXIANS

Joe Tom Davis



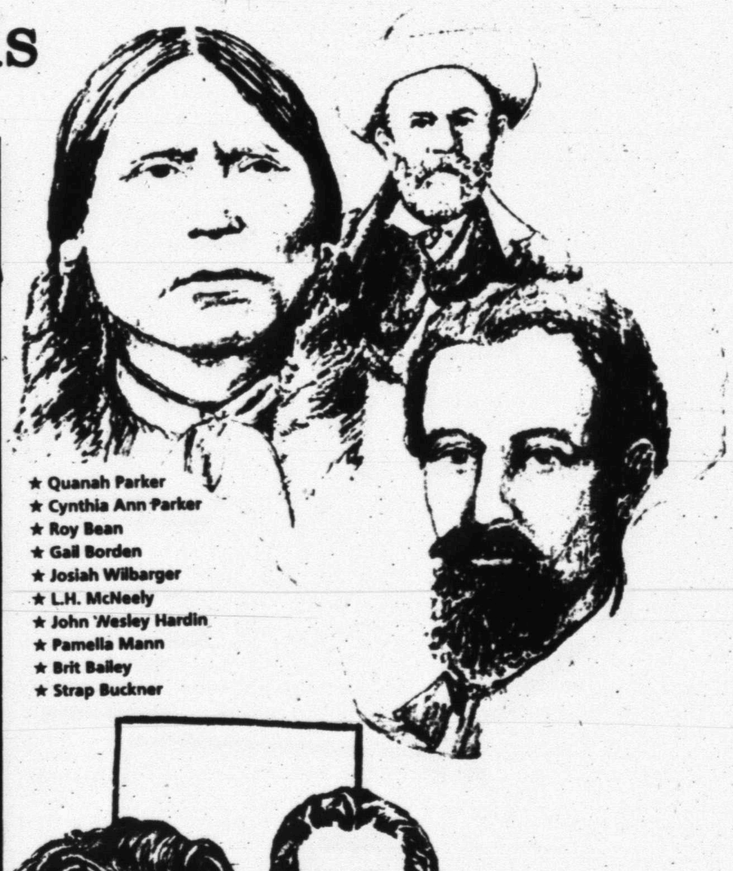
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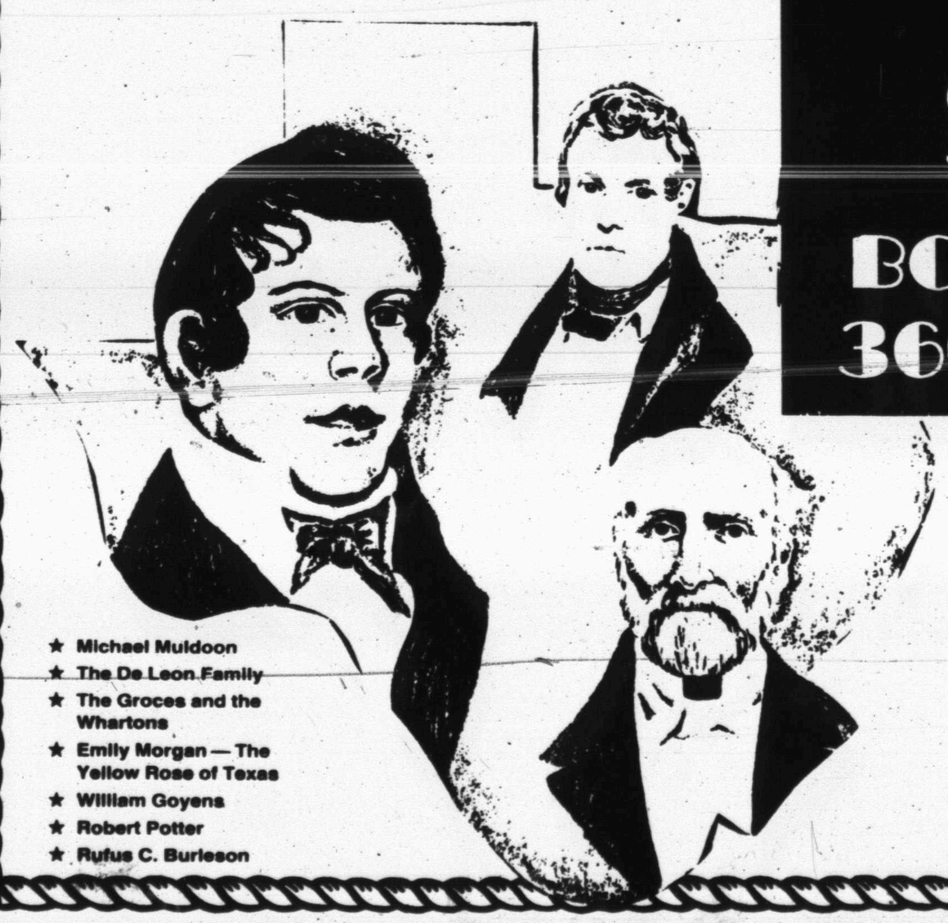
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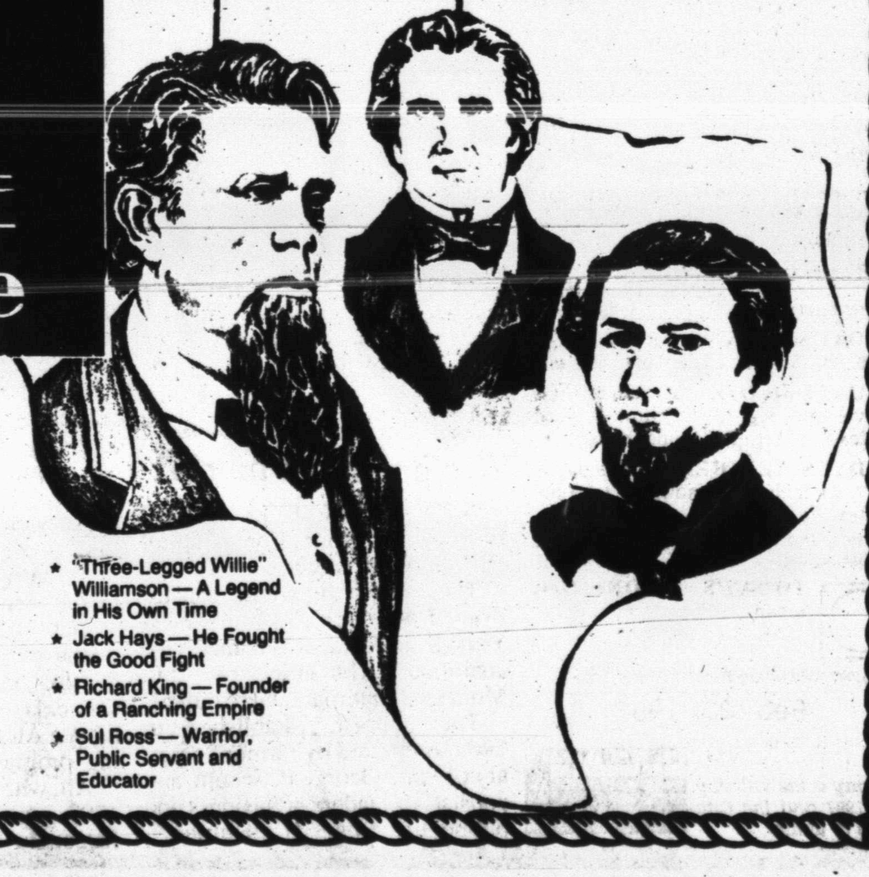


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