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WT-Int. Crude - $37.57
WTIC Posted - $34.25
Natural Gas - $6.41

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY

June 24, 2004
Vol. 56 No. 47
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Tommy Fletcher

Cogdell votes to upgrade CT scanner

By Roy McQueen
SDN Publisher

Cogdell Hospital's board this morning approved the purchase of a high-speed, multi-slide CT scanner in hopes of not only keeping business locally, but also attracting patients from outlying areas.

Despite the hefty price tag of $713,500, projected payout with a profit of $600,000 is five years.

Carol Hanes, hospital chief executive officer, recommended the outright purchase of the refurbished CT scanner from GE which has the same one-year warranty as a new unit costing $1 million.

The 8-slide CT will replace a single-slide unit purchased in 1997, and will allow for more procedures more quickly.

The new equipment also will allow for non-envasive cardiac-related evaluations.

Tracy Moore, head of the radiology department, said the current equipment takes about 30 minutes for some procedures, as compared to about 8 seconds with the upgraded unit.

After the first year, the board also approved the purchase of a service agreement at the cost of $91,000 annually.

Board chairman Dink Foree questioned how the purchase would be financed, and Hanes recommended the use of certificates of obligations. The approval to purchase was unanimous.

Moore said that walls in the radiology department would have to be removed to make room for the larger piece of equipment.

In other business, board members agreed to keep the hospital's self-funded health insurance with the same carrier until October when the county-owned hospital hopes to be able to return to the Texas Association of Counties' insurance plan.

The board also agreed to step up physician recruitment, and informally agreed with management that use of a recruitment firm on a contingency basis would be the preference rather than a firm that works on a retainer.

Board member Terry Williams suggested that closer contact be made with prospects from the Texas Tech Medical School.

The CEO sought guidance on a policy for tuition reimbursement, not ing that the current policy needs refinement.

Hanes said she would attempt to bring a revised recommendation to the board at a future meeting.

The board also approved the first quarter quality improvement report, the year-end safety report and the hospital auxiliary annual report.

The auxiliary in 2003 awarded $21,668 in scholarships and $10,000 for hospital operations.

In the quality improvement report, Jo Beth Hardegree noted that a team is being formed that will rotate daily responsibility for seeing each patient for feedback on service satisfaction.

Dr. Bid Cooper, chief of staff, had no official report but noted that the next joint conference committee meeting would be on Tuesday.

Hospital finances continued to show improvements. Richard Murphy, interim financial officer, reported net patient revenues of $2.6 million for May, bringing the year's total to $13 million.

Net profit for May was $68,040 and the year-to-date profit for five months was $473,255. Murphy also reported that bad debt expense for May was $304,409 to bring the year's total to $1,334,932.

In Hanes' report to the board, she said she has appointed Laquita Culwell to be interim director of nurses. She will replace Cheryl Chance who is moving to Midland.

Culwell will continue in her role as operating room and day surgery manager. She has been with the hospital since Feb. 1997.

Hanes also reported that she has narrowed the list for a permanent CFO to four candidates and will be having the second interview with one candidate this weekend.

Foree presided at the three-hour meeting and board members present were Bo Robinson, Charles Church, Williams, Mark Cullifer and Wade Warren.

Clinkinbeard pleads not guilty to theft

In a brief, 10-minute hearing in Lubbock's federal district court, bank officer Anita Clinkinbeard entered a plea of 'not guilty' to embezzling $815,802.83 from West Texas State Bank.

Clinkinbeard's plea came after U.S. attorney Jeffrey Haag read the indictment returned May 19.

Standing with her attorney, Michael Price of Dallas, Clinkinbeard answered "yes, your honor" when asked by Magistrate Judge Mary Koenig if she understood the charges against her.

Clinkinbeard also replied in the same manner when read her Miranda rights.

Judge Koenig then asked Haag if the federal government opposed releasing Clinkinbeard on personal recognizance, and he replied it did not.

The judge then warned Clinkinbeard not to contact any potential witnesses in the case, and to maintain her employment. Currently she is working at Snyder Oaks Care Center.

Clinkinbeard also was told to seek mental health counseling, and was told to have all firearms removed from her residence and not to be around any firearms.

"I understand your husband has firearms. They need to be kept by a friend or relative until this is concluded," said Judge Koenig.

The judge also instructed Clinkinbeard to provide financial records to the court.

It was expected Clinkinbeard was to have been arraigned Wednesday — action her attorney said he expected.

However, the judge told the court that the arraignment would wait.

"The arraignment will be by the regular U.S. Attorney who is out of town," said Judge Koenig. This action is expected within the next 30 days.

Clinkinbeard, a former assistant vice president, was indicted by a federal grand jury and charged with having taken the funds over a five-year period.

ONE WAY TRAFFIC? — Shy-anne Nolan, 5, tries to climb up the slide while Michael Franklin, 17, and Kimberly Nolan, 12, try a more conventional method. The activity was taking place in Towle Park. (SDN Staff Photo by Jeff West)

Court refuses to change sentences

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court refused today to overturn the death sentences of more than 100 inmates who argued their fates were improperly determined by judges, not jurors.

The 5-4 decision spares at least four states from having to decide whether to spend millions of dollars for new sentencing hearings or consent to prison sentences for the convicted killers.

It was issued on the two-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's ruling that the constitutional right to a trial by jury means that jurors should weigh factors that determine whether a particular killing merits death or life in prison.

Area sales tax rebates

City	May '04	May '03	+/-	Year '04	Year '03	+/-
Abilene	$2,009,790.63	$2,008,125.97	0.08%	$13,412,221.11	$12,921,585.69	3.79%
Big Spring	$296,479.66	$288,443.42	2.78%	$1,977,697.96	$1,792,284.28	10.34%
Colorado City	$33,808.79	$27,915.82	21.10%	$219,931.63	$197,689.65	11.25%
Lamesa	$61,001.98	$63,700.80	-4.23%	$425,156.70	$431,250.00	-1.41%
Lubbock	$2,181,431.06	$2,044,171.31	6.71%	$15,088,047.94	$14,283,725.85	5.63%
Post	$36,468.75	$21,380.53	70.56%	$245,748.50	$130,975.31	87.62%
Roby	$1,584.11	$1,530.77	3.48%	$10,848.25	$9,805.12	10.63%
Rotan	$10,653.77	$9,317.68	14.33%	$71,179.06	$65,791.80	8.18%
Snyder	$127,707.33	$160,446.61	-20.40%	$910,273.19	$872,164.43	4.36%
Sweetwater	$131,225.48	$156,454.22	-16.12%	$955,137.85	$1,014,521.87	-5.85%

MIXED BAG OF SALES TAX — Snyder sales tax took a tumble in May while most of the area was up. Snyder remains ahead of last year at this time. Statewide sales tax climbed just one percent for the month.

SHS ranks in top ten

Snyder High School academic and athletic success in the 2003-2004 school year has translated into a top 10 standing in the University Interscholastic League's Texas Dodge Dealers Lone Star Cup competition.

Snyder placed ninth in Class 3A with 44 points, tying with Abilene Wylie, Forney and Wharton.

The top school in 3A was Canyon with 69 points, followed by Lindale (58), Graham (56), Monahans and Wimberly (50), Atlanta (47) and Devine and Yoakum (46).

The cup honors the best overall athletic and academic programs in Texas. Schools accumulate points based on their teams' performances in district and state championships. Winning schools in each classification will receive the Lone Star Cup trophy.

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN

by Jeff West

Talking to a friend the other day, visions of the aftermath of 9-11 came to mind, then the aftermath of a South American earthquake and then the aftermath of a tornado that destroyed a town.

The aftermath wasn't the destruction that was obvious, but the response from people around the country — strangers, who gave up, money, clothes, blood and time to help.

Recalled were stories of people standing in line to give blood after 9-11. There was so much blood donated that some had to be discarded after the expiration date.

There were stories of people leaving their families to help in New York. People are generally good about helping in the aftermath of a crisis.

But crises happen every day. The just don't always make the news. They are personal crises, a crisis for one family. There are crises happening in Snyder and you can help.

When people get sick, get old, get frail and need more medical treatment for cancer than they can get here — that is a huge crisis. Just because the numbers are smaller doesn't mean the pain, panic and need are any less.

If someone needs to visit a specialist in Abilene, get chemotherapy in Lubbock or radiation in Midland and have no way to get there - it is a crisis.

The family does what it can, the spouse or children will take the patient for the tests, or therapy or treatment, but that can mean leaving work or other responsibility, sometimes every day for weeks.

It could just mean that a spouse whose health may not be all that good has to make the trip and stay with the patient, then drive them home.

Luckily for Snyder there is a group of volunteers who help through the American Cancer Society. They drive folks to their doctor's appointments, their treatment, their therapy. Sometimes it's a trip to Lubbock for a 15-minute treatment, then back home. Sometimes it's a doctor's appointment in the morning and a two-hour session in the afternoon, taking up much of the day.

These volunteers don't drive every day, some don't even drive every week. But when they are needed, and can, they drive.

But right now the pool of drivers is running low. Some of them have gotten sick, some of them are getting older and can't make the trips as often. Vacations and other facts of life can make drivers unavailable.

Bottomline is this group of Samaritans needs reinforcements. If you have a flexible daytime schedule, whether you work at night, work a seven on seven off schedule, are a homemaker or retired or just have your days off during the week and have reliable transportation, they need you.

If you can only do it on every second Wednesday, then you can tell them that. They may need somebody the next time your available.

It's a chance to make a difference. To the folks from New York or Nicaragua or even Nebraska, the help they receive from Snyder might not even be noticed. But to the neighbor down the street, your help could be the only help they have.

Potential volunteers should call Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993.

Be good to one another and be good to yourselves.

ASK US

Q—Will camping be allowed at Towle Park this year?

A—Yes, with a permit obtained from the parks department. They are available at the Scurry County Coliseum office.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Linda Wright...

...has lived in the Rotan area for 19 years. She is a caregiver in Fisher County. She and husband, Richard, have two sons. Jeromie Baugh lives in Coppell and Eddie Baugh lives in Abilene. Stepchildren Murray Wright and Misti Wright reside in Coleman. Linda enjoys going to garage sales, camping, fishing and movies.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

**I started out with nothing.
I still have most of it.
—Michael Davis**

JUN 24 2004

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Business after hours

Snyder chamber of commerce will host its monthly business-after-hours session this evening at Lake Allan Henry. Meet at the chamber at 6 p.m. to caravan to the lake.

SISD computer, ESL classes

SISD is offering free classes in basic computer skills and beginning ESL from 8 a.m. to noon in the Region XIV Service Center every Friday in June. Call 574-6012 for more information.

Car wash

SHS cheerleaders will hold a car wash and bake sale starting at 9 a.m. Saturday in the Wal-Mart parking lot.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "Christians and Civil Government," followed by "Why Be Baptized?"

SHS cheerleader car wash

Advance tickets for the SHS cheerleader car wash are on sale now. To purchase tickets, call 573-3475. The car wash is Saturday at Wal-Mart.

GED, ESL classes

GED and ESL classes at Western Texas College are held from 8 a.m. until noon every Tuesday through Thursday and from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays through June 30. Classes will then resume in August. For more information call 573-8511, ext. 322.

AA meeting

An AA meeting is held at noon every Tuesday and Friday at the Witherspoon house next door to the First Presbyterian Church. The meeting is non-smoking and closed. For more information, call 574-2656, or 207-1325.

East Side VBS

East Side Church of Christ will have Vacation Bible School from 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday nights through July 7. Call 573-3583 for more information.

Love and Logic classes

East Side Church of Christ will offer Love and Logic classes from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesdays through July 7. Pam Hart is the instructor. The classes are geared toward parents and grandparents. A meal will be served at 5:15 p.m. in the multi-purpose building Wednesday at the Family Life Building.

Water aerobics

Water aerobics for seniors is held from 10-11 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday at the WTC pool.

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland is available free of charge. Call Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993 or Blakey Fargason at 574-8041. If not home, leave message.

WTC GED testing dates

Western Texas College GED testing date is set for Thursday, July 8 and also and Aug. 18. To take the test or for more information contact Betty Thompson at 573-2310 or Emily Hataway 573-8511, ext. 297 or 574-2112. It is recommended that candidates receive some preparation before attempting the test.

What's up guidelines

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

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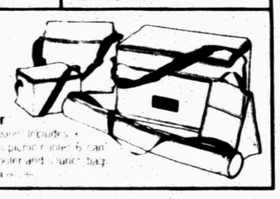

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Big D falls behind San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Big D isn't looking so big anymore.

San Antonio, buoyed by a steady population influx and plenty of room to spread out, has eclipsed Dallas as the nation's eighth-largest city, according to estimates released today by the Census Bureau.

It's the first change in the roster of America's top 10 cities since the 2000 census, though Phoenix is bearing down on Philadelphia for the No. 5 spot and San Jose, Calif., could eclipse Detroit at No. 10 before the next official headcount in 2010.

"The town is fantastic and the people are great," said Richard "Chad" Chadwick, 58, who lived in San Antonio briefly as a teen but didn't move back until 2002.

While the San Antonio he remembered as a youth is long gone, Chadwick always loved the warm climate, clear skies and riverside charm he believes the city has maintained despite its growth.

"We're going to progress, we're going to grow," said Chadwick, who lived in several places as a career military man. "What you need to do is make it grow the way you want it to grow."

The Alamo City has been gaining on Dallas for years as it attracted new residents and annexed neighboring communities while Dallas lost residents and reached its expansion limit. According to the annual estimate, which measures population as of July 1, 2003, San Antonio had about 1,214,725 residents compared to Dallas' 1,208,318.

Only Los Angeles, New York and Phoenix added more people since 2000 than San Antonio, the fastest-growing city in Texas. An estimated 60,000 people moved into the city over the past four years, followed by 50,000 to Houston and 40,000 to Fort Worth.

Lawmaker says Texas elder-care program broken, calls for audit

AUSTIN (AP) — The head of a Texas House panel reviewing the state's elderly care program says the system is broken and called for a statewide audit of practices.

Rep. Carlos Uresti said Wednesday he plans to introduce legislation to make the system more accountable but wants "immediate" changes in caseworker training.

"The state is committing malpractice," said Uresti, the House Health and Human Services Committee chairman, adding that caseworker training "is all but nonexistent" and turnover rates are too high.

Uresti said that, even when an elderly Texan is identified as needing help, "he still doesn't get it, because the available resources aren't there."

In April, Gov. Rick Perry ordered a review of 200 El Paso cases and Adult Protective Services policies statewide after receiving case summaries outlining how the program declined to remove elderly people from squalid and dangerous living conditions. A state probate judge had complained to the governor about how APS' performance in the West Texas city.

Uresti, D-San Antonio, told a hearing Wednesday that the system for protecting the elderly from abuse and exploitation is "in a state of crisis, badly broken down and needs an immediate fix."

Thomas Chapman, Department of Family and Protective Services commissioner, did not dispute Uresti's assessment of APS, which is the agency responsible for protecting 2.1 million Texans over age 65, as well as those with mental illnesses or mental retardation.

"This is ridiculous," Uresti said after hearing testimony from Gregg Phillips, deputy executive director of the Department of Health and Human Services, the parent agency of the family services department. "How this has not come out sooner is a fearful question to ponder."

Phillips' group is conducting a similar investigation in Tarrant County, "and there is nothing to indicate that the horrors found in El Paso won't also be found in Fort Worth, San Antonio and Corpus Christi," Uresti said.

Through a spokesman, Chapman said the agency recognizes it has "problems and issues" but takes its responsibilities seriously.

"I think that these things that were brought out at (Wednesday's) hearing are systemic and will need to be addressed on a systemwide level," said spokesman Goeff Wool.

New caseworkers receive three weeks' training before they're assigned to the field, Uresti said.

"How can they ... be expected to cope with complex issues like abuse and exploitation of elders? I think six months' training might be just adequate," Uresti said in an interview outside the hearing room.

The Health and Human Services Commission is reviewing all APS programs.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Applied psychology stops mom's chronic complaining

DEAR ABBY: I had a problem similar to the one described by "Stressed Out by Mom," the college student whose mother calls to unload her problems. A therapist taught me a technique that worked wonders. When Mom called and complained, instead of sympathizing (which is why she called in the first place), I'd mirror her complaint back to her so she didn't receive the positive feedback she was seeking.

When she said, "Your sister doesn't know how to save money," I'd reply, "So what you're saying is my sister doesn't know how to save money." However, when she said something positive, like, "Isn't it a lovely day?" I'd be sure to give her all kinds of positive feedback. "It sure is! I'll bet your marigolds are really blooming now!"

It worked like a charm and preserved my relationship with my mother. She quickly lost interest in the topics that didn't bring positive feedback, and we'd end up talking about all kinds of interesting things.

This method is tried-and-true. It's based on behavioral psychology, and it works with spouses, kids, coworkers — the applications are endless. **— TRIED IT IN PORTLAND, ORE.**

DEAR TRIED IT: Thank you for the suggestion. I was unprepared for the deluge of mail I received from readers who identified with "Stressed's" problem. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 57-year-old woman who has had the same problems with my now 76-year-old mother since childhood. Please tell "Stressed Out" that she must take immediate steps to set healthy boundaries. She should schedule an appointment at the student health center and talk to a psychologist about her problem.

I am the only family member still on speaking terms with Mother. Her eight siblings, the folks at the senior center and people from her former church no longer talk to her. I'm the only one she has left to lash out at — and if I try to set boundaries now, the breach it will create will leave her with no support system at all. **— WISH I'D DONE IT IN FREDERICKSBURG, VA.**

DEAR WISH: Perhaps the suggestion offered by the next writer will be of help to you.

DEAR ABBY: I have a relative who is an alcoholic. He calls to ramble, complain and generally make me miserable. I relieve my stress by playing computer games, reading a magazine or watching TV while he's talking. The trick is to otherwise engage your mind while uttering an occasional response. It works. When he hangs up, I have no idea what he said, but he is happy and I'm not stressed. He's never really wanted answers — just somebody to unload on. **— COPING IN BLOOMINGTON, IND.**

DEAR COPING: Not everyone has your level of tolerance. **Read on:**

DEAR ABBY: I made similar calls to my daughter. They would begin as friendly calls to chat and nosedive from there. I hope that girl's mother locates a therapy group to attend. Maybe she can find some help and comfort there. My daughter eventually made it plain that if I continued to cry when we were on the phone, she would not talk to me. I know she screens her calls and often doesn't pick up.

So now I talk to the women in the group about my problems. Most of them have daughters they're close to. When I see families with mothers, daughters and grandmothers all together I am happy for them, but sometimes I'm jealous. **— SCREENED OUT IN SACRAMENTO**

DEAR SCREENED OUT: I'm pleased you're getting emotional support from your therapy group. It may be healthier for all concerned. Many people have confessed that they, too, screen their calls because they haven't the courage to set boundaries. However, no one ever solved problems by dodging them.

**

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

**

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Texas missionary is rescued in Australia

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — A Mormon missionary from Texas was in a critical condition in an Australian hospital this morning after falling 230 feet into a canyon, officials said.

The 21-year-old former Brigham Young University athlete fell Wednesday afternoon from a lookout in Morton National Park, in New South Wales state's southern highlands, south of Sydney.

Matthew Weirich was walking with three other missionaries when he fell into the canyon after climbing over the lookout's safety barrier to retrieve a shoe, ambulance officials and a family spokeswoman said.

Rescuers tried to reach him late Wednesday, but the effort was postponed because of dwindling light and the rugged, forest-clad terrain. The rescuers reached him this morning and winched him aboard a helicopter before rushing him to a hospital.

The man was unconscious when rescued and was suffering from serious head and spinal injuries, officials said. Temperatures overnight had dipped to 35 degrees.

"We feel like a miracle happened," said Jinger Aleman, a friend of Weirich's family in Fredericksburg, Texas who was serving as their spokesperson.

Weirich was serving in the Australia Sydney South mission, said Dale Bills, spokesman for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Aleman said he was due to return to Fredericksburg in August.

Weirich spent two years at Brigham Young University before leaving on a mission, Aleman said.

He placed third in the decathlon at the Mountain West Conference meet, was second at the Junior National Track and Field meet in 2002, and was a Junior All American and member of the USA Junior World team, according to the BYU athletic department Web site.

Weirich's parents are expected to go to Australia to see their son, Aleman said.

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American Legion Post 181

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events

LOTTO TEXAS TEXAS LOTTERY RESULTS

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

6-9-12-31-35

Bonus Ball: 33

Estimated jackpot: $5 million

Next Lotto Texas game: Saturday night.

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery:

5-15-18-27-29

Pick 3 Day

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

4-8-6

Pick 3 Night

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

0-3-6

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Media blamed for dismissal of juror

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. (AP) — Within moments of being dismissed, a juror in the Scott Peterson murder trial weighed in how he would have voted after hearing testimony so far: Not guilty.

Justin Falconer, replaced Wednesday by an alternate, told reporters outside the courtroom that the prosecution failed to convince him that Peterson killed his pregnant wife, Laci.

"There's no way that you could possibly convict him," said Falconer, now free to discuss the case. "He'd be innocent, because the prosecution hasn't given us any reason to believe otherwise so far."

Falconer, a 28-year-old airport screener, wouldn't comment on what the other 11 jurors were saying about the case. The others each were questioned privately by Judge Alfred A. Delucchi.

After Falconer was dismissed, defense attorney Mark Geragos called for a mistrial, telling Delucchi that media coverage has tainted the case. The judge denied the request.

"I've got a client who is on trial for his life," Geragos said, "I think it's an outrage what is going on in this case."

Falconer said Delucchi didn't specify why he was dismissed but did tell him the deciding factor was his televised exchange with Laci Peterson's brother, Brent Rocha. A video camera recorded Falconer and Rocha joking inside the courthouse last week.

The judge and Falconer had met Monday behind closed doors about his behavior. According to a transcript of that meeting, Falconer said he hadn't discussed the Rocha incident but had discussed coverage of the case with his girlfriend.

The judge determined Falconer hadn't "done anything wrong," according to the transcript.

The transcript of the Delucchi's questioning of Falconer before his dismissal was sealed.

On Wednesday, Falconer confirmed he and his girlfriend had discussed coverage of the exchange, along with newspaper and TV reports that he had interacted with Peterson and his lawyer. Falconer and Geragos denied any exchanges.

Prosecutors allege Peterson, 31, murdered Laci in their Modesto home on or around Dec. 24, 2002, and that an affair was his alleged motive. They charge he then dumped Laci Peterson's body into San Francisco Bay, using a cover story that he went fishing.

The defense asserts someone abducted Laci Peterson, then framed her husband after hearing his widely publicized alibi.

Today's chuckle

Rodeo clowns didn't amuse singer

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (AP) — Country singer Michael Martin Murphey wasn't amused by the bawdy humor of clowns at the Buffalo Bill Rodeo.

Murphey, who was honored on Saturday at the Nebraskaland Days festival for promoting family values in his work, says the clowns are sending the wrong message.

"Why don't we try to clean up some of the so-called humor in rodeo so that it's better for our kids to attend?" he asked the crowd during his performance Saturday. He received the Buffalo Bill Award for "outstanding contribution to quality family entertainment" in the tradition of Buffalo Bill Cody, who based his famous Wild West Show out of North Platte.

When asked by The North Platte Telegraph about his comments, Murphey sent a letter stating that he was "disappointed, dismayed, shocked and sickened to hear the extremely dirty, smutty, below-the-belt 'humor' of the rodeo clowns."

Audience member Sue Elmshaeuser said the clowns dumped out a suitcase of women's underwear and bras and then dragged them around the arena. Another clown who was dressed as a woman used large balloons for breasts, she said.

Elmshaeuser said that one clown, after spotting Miss Rodeo America, exclaimed, "Looking at her makes me want to go home and slap my wife."

Utah engineer new king of Jeopardy!

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A Utah man is the new Jeopardy! king, having pocketed more than a half-million dollars during a dominating 16-show run on the quiz show.

Ken Jennings was seen on his 16th straight Jeopardy! episode Wednesday, winning once again to bring his total winnings to $512,959.

The 30-year-old software engineer broke the Jeopardy! record early in his run. Tom Walsh, of Washington, D.C., held the previous mark, earning $184,900 in seven days on the show in January.

Then along came Jennings, who is no stranger to the world of quick quiz. He was a member of Brigham Young University's successful College Bowl team in the 1990s. Jennings also edits literature and mythology questions for the National Academic Quiz Tournament.

Jennings' Jeopardy! streak is over, though viewers may not realize it. The Jeopardy! episodes featuring him were taped in February, and Jennings is back home in Utah, though he is refusing comment for now.

After the show featured him passing the $250,000 mark last week, Jennings told The Salt Lake Tribune, "It's a little bit like shock, like you can't believe how fast it goes by. Thinking back, it's all just a blur."

Two Jeopardy! rule changes over the years have helped Jennings set the record.

Children of slain dentist settle suit

HOUSTON (AP) — Lawyers representing the children of a cheating husband, who was fatally run down by his wife in a jealous rage two years ago, and representatives of a hotel and detective agency say they've reached a tentative settlement in a lawsuit stemming from the slaying.

The twin sons of orthodontist David Harris and their half-sister had sought damages from the Nassau Bay Hilton Hotel and the Blue Moon Investigations agency of Webster.

The lawsuit was brought on behalf of Brian and Bradley Harris, 5, and Lindsey Harris, an 18-year-old daughter by a previous marriage.

The daughter's attorney, John A. Davis Jr., said Wednesday the settlement terms are confidential. Lindsey Harris was in a Mercedes-Benz with Clara Harris when her stepmother ran over her husband in the parking lot of the Clear Lake-area hotel on July 24, 2002.

The tentative settlement followed a long day of mediation among the parties in May but will not be final until Galveston County Probate Judge Gladys Burwell approves it, Davis said. He said the judge probably will discuss the settlement with the parties before the end of July.

Papers filed in the lawsuit alleged that Blue Moon, which Harris' wife hired to photograph her husband with another woman, should not have told Clara Harris that the two were at the hotel. The detective agency should have instead waited a day to give out that information, tracking its own policy, the lawsuit said.

Blue Moon's investigations chief, Jeff Moore, said that company officials were pleased with the outcome. "We're just glad it's over," Moore said.

The hotel's management was also accused in the lawsuit of failing to provide effective security, notify police in time to prevent Harris' death or train employees to deal with domestic disputes.

Ervin Apffel Jr., the hotel's attorney, confirmed that the lawsuit had been tentatively settled.

Clara Harris is serving a 20-year sentence for murder in the case. Lindsey Harris sued her stepmother for wrongful death and was awarded about $2 million from her father's estate, as were her half-brothers. Clara Harris retained $1.2 million in assets.

$1 million taken include tax funds

HOUSTON (AP) — Tax payments and other public funds were among about $1 million stolen by pistol-wielding bandits at an armored car and security business.

A law enforcement task force that includes the FBI continued today to investigate the weekend robbery at the Triple D Security building.

The funds included $50,000 in cash from the office of Tax Assessor-Collector Paul Bettencourt and numerous checks made payable to him, says a spokeswoman for the Harris County office. The office handles high volumes of cash and checks daily from residents paying their property taxes and vehicle registrations, as well from collecting state sales taxes on motor vehicle sales.

"We acknowledge public monies were stolen. We are cooperating with an investigation under way by the Houston Police Department and the FBI," Bettencourt spokeswoman Lisa Hernandez said.

Two masked men with pistols overpowered an employee, then tied up the three or four the other workers inside the security company building about 1:30 p.m. Sunday, police said. No serious injuries were reported.

Besides tax office funds, other money was also stolen, but FBI officials could would not elaborate on that Wednesday.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 06-24-04
♠ —
♥ Q 3
♦ A K 6 5
♣ K 8 7 6 5 4 3

West
♠ K Q 10 4
♥ K 9 8 5
♦ 9 7
♣ A J 10

East
♠ J 6 2
♥ J 6 4 2
♦ 8 3 2
♣ Q 9 2

South
♠ A 9 8 7 5 3
♥ A 10 7
♦ Q J 10 4
♣ —

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
			Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	5 ♦	All pass

Opening lead: ♦ 7

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Good players think; top players do more

By Phillip Alder

Henry David Thoreau wrote, "The success of great scholars and thinkers is commonly a courtier-like success, not kingly, not manly."

Bridge is rarely played in a court or palace, but the more manly or womanly thinking about kings and other cards that you do, the better.

This deal occurred during a team event in London, England. The only successful declarer was Tony Forrester, who is considered by most to be that country's best player. If you were South in five diamonds, what would be your basic plan after West leads a trump?

North's two-heart rebid was fourth-suit forcing. On the next round, he should have bid a forcing three diamonds, but he was an inexperienced player. (With game-invitational values, North would have raised two diamonds immediately to three diamonds.)

Forrester aimed to lose one spade and one heart, but his communications were tenuous. Spotting the best line, he won trick one in hand, then ruffed a spade on the board with the diamond king. (Ruffing low costs the contract.) Next, South ran dummy's heart queen to West's king. Winning the trump return in hand, declarer ruffed a spade with dummy's diamond ace, played a heart to his 10, drew the outstanding trump, cashed the spade ace, and conceded a spade. Since his hand was high, Forrester claimed.

Others played in five diamonds by North. When East led a heart, ducked to West's king, none realized the necessity to unblock the heart queen. Then, every West accurately shifted to a trump to kill the contract.

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Bar sought smoking ban

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — A bar owner who sought to extinguish the city's smoking ban has become the first tavern operator to come under fire for violating it.

Bill Delaney, owner of Delaney's Lounge, was convicted Tuesday in Toledo Municipal Court of 11 misdemeanors, including having ash trays available and failing to post no-smoking signs. Authorities also found people smoking in his bar.

Delaney faces a $100 fine on each violation when he is sentenced July 17. Several other bar owners also have been charged with violations.

Delaney was a leader of "Taverns for Tots," which formed after the ban.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

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

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; at the coliseum annex; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

AA Big Book Study; closed meeting; contact number is 573-1141; 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment, call 573-0538 or 573-0770.

NA-Just For Today; Park Club; 6-7 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

NA-Just For Today open meeting; Park Club; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

NA-Just For Today; Park Club; 6-7 p.m.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Differences between two forms of dementia

DEAR DR. GOTT: What is the difference between Parkinson's dementia and Alzheimer's disease? Is benign essential tremor common in one or both? Is treatment available?

DEAR READER: Dementia is a medical term that refers to a progressive decline in cognitive function, memory and judgment. It is a major component of many neurological disorders, including chronic alcohol abuse, vitamin deficiencies, thyroid problems and Parkinson's disease. Dementia is the most prominent feature of Alzheimer's.

Not all patients with Parkinson's disease become demented. These mental changes, when they occur, appear during the advanced stages of the disease and correspond to a wide range of physical characteristics, including tremor and other movement disorders. In other words, dementia is a late manifestation that, along with the physical alterations, can usually be successfully treated with a variety of prescription drugs, including Sinemet, which replace dopamine, a brain chemical that Parkinson's patients lack.

In contrast, Alzheimer's disease, a dreaded and common affliction of unknown cause, is marked by dementia early in the course of the ailment, and this mental state inexorably progresses until the patient requires total nursing care. A person can shift from vague forgetfulness to total numbing confusion in the space of a few short years.

Moreover, the physical components of Alzheimer's disease are relatively trivial when compared to the mental changes. Unfortunately, there is — as yet — no cure for this disease. Instead, powerful tranquilizers are usually needed just to make advanced Alzheimer's patients comfortable and relatively manageable.

Benign essential tremor is not related to Parkinson's or Alzheimer's diseases, although the former typically leads to a type of resting tremor that may not be evident during movement. The condition usually appears in childhood with tremulousness of the hands and voice; it is harmless, may be worsened by stress, does not progress and usually needs no treatment.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Alzheimer's Disease." Other readers who would like a copy should send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Is calcium plus vitamin D a suitable alternative to Fosamax for treatment of osteoporosis?

DEAR READER: In order for Fosamax and other similar drugs to be effective, they must be supplemented with calcium and vitamin D. Therefore, the simple answer to your question is "no." However, I cannot come to any firm conclusions because I don't have enough information — for example, how advanced is your osteoporosis? Ask for your doctor's guidance; he or she can best advise you.

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Growin' Up A Cowboy

By Frank Miller, Jr.

Frank Miller, Jr. grew up a cowboy on ranches owned and leased by his father and his Uncle Clyde. He spent many years in the saddle and still ranches.

This book is a tribute to his father, Frank Miller and his Uncle Clyde, and to all the good cowboys and cowgirls in his family - and there are many.

Available at

Snyder Daily News
3600 College Ave.
573-5486

for only $29.95 + tax

JUN 24 2004

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski

BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell

BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun

THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Arched ceiling
6 After sunset
11 Out of kilter
12 Wouldn't hurt — —
13 Dissertation
15 Sponge up
16 Gourmet delicacies
18 Existed
19 Hippo's home
21 Tunnel blaster
22 Cat or vase
23 Holiday lead-ins
25 Bride's new title
28 Restless
30 Incan treasure
31 Not hither
32 Part of mph
33 Every one
35 Red Sea peninsula
37 Lemon cooler
38 Change address
40 Fill a pipe
41 Cowboy nickname
42 Feminine ending
43 "The Bells" poet
46 History warehouse
48 Orchard produce
50 Cloves and ginger
54 Eats less
55 Arkansas range
56 Parakeet treats
57 Like some letters

DOWN

1 Wine container
2 Hearth residue
3 Luau instrument
4 Pupil's chores
5 One of a pair
6 Captures
7 Maybes
8 Show pleasure
9 Jealous goddess
10 Typewriter keys
14 More than fill
15 Let out a skirt
17 Entails
19 Like city real estate
20 Bizarre
22 Winemaking valley
24 Distress signal
25 Chatty pets
26 Travels aimlessly
27 Swatch of material
29 Orange root
34 Water lily
36 Make a list of
39 Former spouses
43 Tablets
44 Sheriff Andy's son
45 "En garde" weapon
46 Untidy condition
47 Very soon after
49 British inc.
51 Crow's sound
52 Speaker's pauses
53 Moon's place

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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R	E	A	C	H		B	E	D		L	P	N
A	L	T	O	S		L	A	C		S	E	A
	S	S	N		P	E	G		T	E	D	
			Q	U	O		L	O	W			
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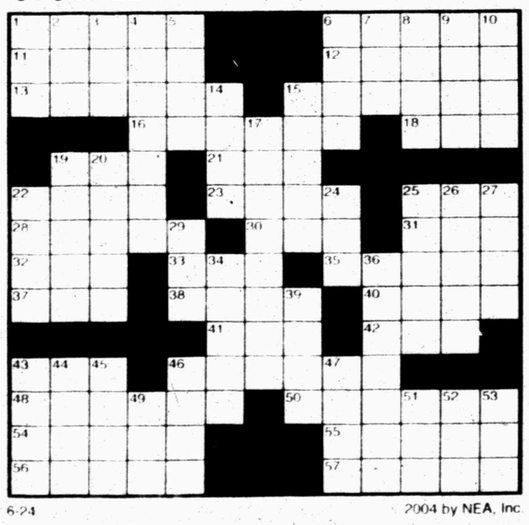
STUMPED? Call for answers • Touch-tone or rotary phone 95¢ per minute (900) 226-4344 code 000



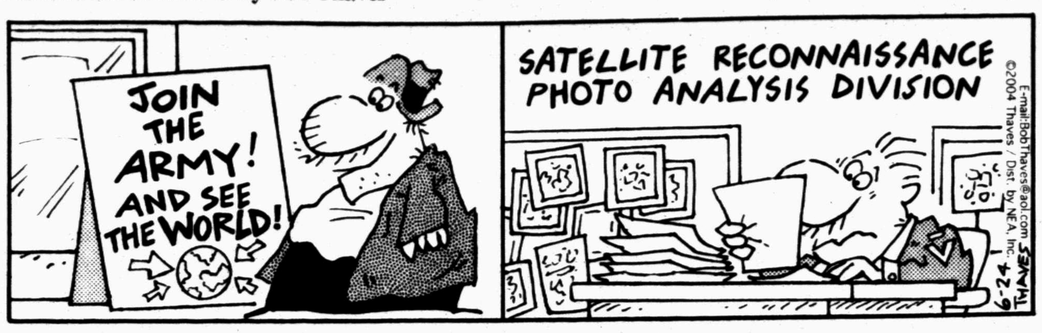
6-24 2004 by NEA, Inc.

Snyder Daily News Comics

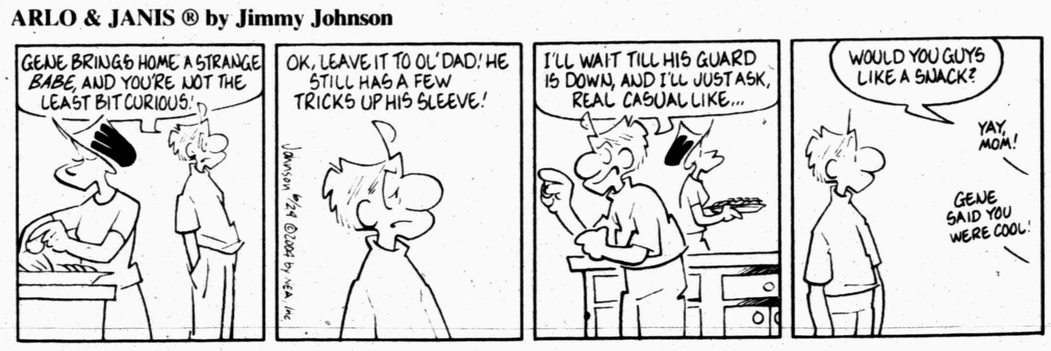
DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"I WAS KINDA HOPIN' YOU WOULDN'T NOTICE."

FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves

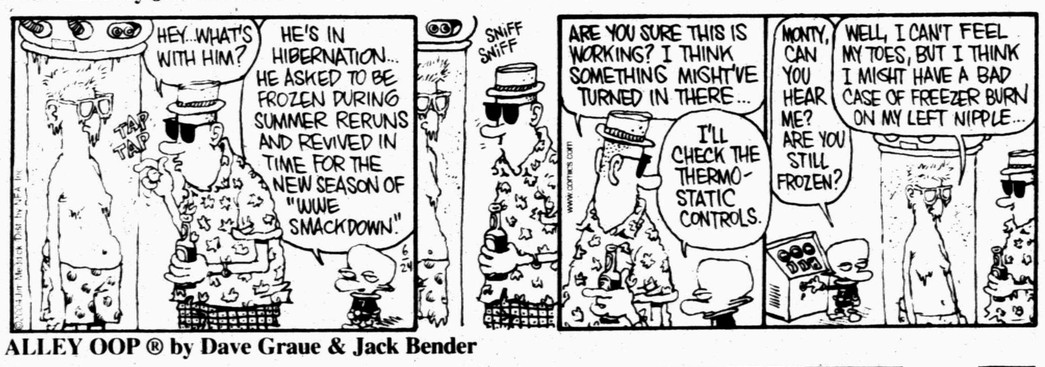


ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce.

MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



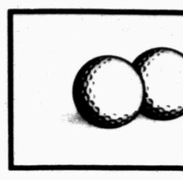
ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

"People are beginning to complain about too much violence on cave walls."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



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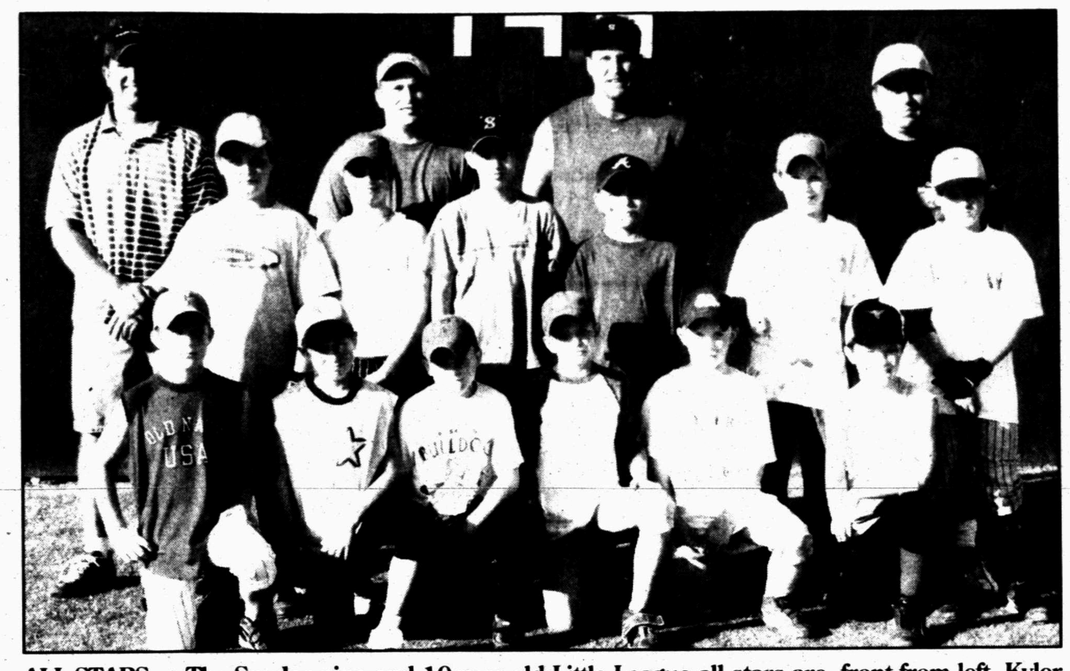


ALL-STARS — The Snyder nine and 10-year-old Little League all-stars are, front from left, Kyler Billingsley, Lance Morris, Taylor Hollingsworth, Tyson Sullenger, Brenon Rhodes, Hunter Cox, standing from left, Brandon Davis, Robbie Rinehart, Kenner Escobedo, Jonathon Torres, Garrett Smith and Kolton Cox. Coaches are manager Les Rinehart, Kyle Hollingsworth, Elliott Cox and David Tate. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

U.S. sprinter admits steroid use, implicates Conti, Bonds

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Track star Tim Montgomery testified last year that he used performance-enhancing drugs, and also said the man at the center of a Bay Area ring told him he supplied slugger Barry Bonds with steroids, according to a newspaper report.

The San Francisco Chronicle's report today includes direct quotes from Montgomery's testimony to the federal grand jury that investigated the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.

The newspaper did not say how it obtained the information. It is illegal to give grand jury testimony to the media.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency plans to seek a lifetime ban against Montgomery for alleged drug violations, according to two sources familiar with the letter who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Montgomery, the world's fastest man at 100 meters, was among dozens of elite athletes — including Bonds, New York Yankees first baseman Jason Giambi and Montgomery's girlfriend, Olympian Marion Jones — who testified.

Montgomery's lawyer, Cristina Arguedas, lashed out at the leak of her client's secret testimony from Nov. 6.

"No one can legally or legitimately have Tim's grand jury testimony, and if they think they have it, I would like to see it," Arguedas told the Chronicle. "Otherwise, there's no way I can respond to these blind allegations, and I'm not going to comment on it."

Montgomery reportedly testified that in 2001, BALCO founder Victor Conte gave him weekly doses of human growth hormone and a substance called "the clear." That substance was later to be determined to be THG, a previously undetectable steroid at the center of the BALCO scandal, which now threatens to keep some of America's top sprinters out of the Athens Olympics.

They include Michelle Collins, Alvin Harrison and Chryste Gaines, who have all been accused by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency of steroid use.

Collins, the 2003 world indoor champion at 200 meters and potential medalist at this summer's Athens Games, also was notified USADA would seek to ban her for life, according to her lawyer, Brian Getz.

Collins is a former Garland Lakeview Centennial sprinter who was a training partner of Jones. She is being investigated for possible doping by USADA but has not been formally notified she is the target of a probe.

Montgomery said Conte began giving him banned substances soon after the 2000 Olympics, and he followed the regiment for about eight months, the newspaper reported.

Montgomery also gave secondhand testimony implicating Bonds, the San Francisco Giants' slugger who has hit the third most home runs in baseball history. According to the Chronicle, Montgomery was asked during his testimony about Conte's dealings with Bonds, telling the grand jury that Conte said he gave the outfielder the steroid

Rangers claim fifth straight

ARLINGTON (AP) — The Texas Rangers scored five runs in the sixth inning and Nick Bierbrodt pitched six strong innings to win for the first time in more than two years to send the Rangers to their fifth straight victory, 6-3 over the Seattle Mariners on Wednesday night.

On Tuesday, Texas scored six in sixth on the way to a 10-2 win.

The Rangers (39-29) are 10 games over .500 for the first time since the end of the 1999 season, when they last went to the playoffs.

Rich Aurilia homered and Jolbert Cabrera had three hits for the Mariners, who have lost six of eight games to the Rangers this season.

Texas trailed 2-1, but scored five runs in the sixth inning. Rod Barajas' RBI single gave the Rangers a 3-2 lead in an inning where they sent 10 batters to the plate and got five hits.

Paper reports OSU not interested...

Vitale stumps for Knight in Ohio State coaching search

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — NCAA investigators are snooping around campus, the Buckeyes are coming off a dreadful season and attendance at Value City Arena is on a downward spiral.

Despite the potential for sanctions, the losses and a general lack of interest, Ohio State's vacant men's basketball coaching position is still considered a prize.

"It's a job you can get back to the top of the mountain quickly," ESPN college basketball analyst Dick Vitale said Wednesday.

Ohio State coach Jim O'Brien was fired on June 8 after athletic director Andy Geiger said O'Brien admitted he had given $6,000 to a recruit in 1999.

The suddenness of the firing — O'Brien had always been considered above NCAA violations — has many in this city talking basketball in the summer instead of the upcoming Ohio State football season.

Much of the talk has centered on Bob Knight. But a report today indicated Knight is not under consideration. The Columbus Dispatch quoted unidentified sources as saying Geiger is not interested in hiring Knight.

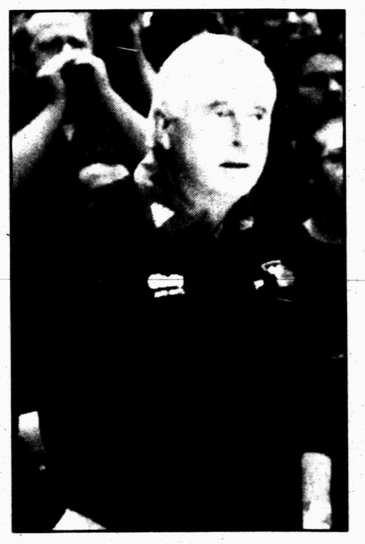
University officials are mum. Geiger has consulted with several former Ohio State players to get their thoughts on the coaching vacancy, but has avoided reporters and has stayed away from making public statements.

Alabama coach Mark Gottfried's name was mentioned as a candidate Wednesday. Gottfried, 40, is a Crestline, Ohio, native who is fresh from guiding the Crimson Tide to a 20-13 record and a berth in the Elite Eight, where they lost to eventual national champion Connecticut.

Asked if Ohio State officials had spoken to Gottfried, Geiger declined to answer. Snapp was asked if Geiger had talked to Gottfried and said, "The answer would be no. He has not been in contact with him."

Minnesota coach Dan Monson got his job five years ago under circumstances somewhat similar as those facing the next Ohio State coach. He was hired in midsummer following a massive academic scandal revolving around fired coach Clem Haskins and his staff.

Monson said most coaches tend to look at the positives.



Texas Tech head coach and OSU alum Bob Knight.

"You look at the job as a whole and not the couple of years it's going to take you through probation or whatever sanctions there are going to be," Monson said Wednesday. "Ohio State will get a good coach who sees the big picture. Certainly there will be some roadblocks early but if there weren't a job like that doesn't come open."

Similar to what Monson received at Minnesota, Ohio State would most likely have to offer a new coach a lengthy contract. Monson's original contract extended for five years after the school went off NCAA probation.

Ohio State has many selling points. The new coach will make more than $1 million a year, his team will play in a 19,000-seat arena that is only six years old and the Big Ten offers high visibility and prestige.

Dennis Hopson, the Buckeyes' career scoring leader, believes it is imperative that Ohio State hire someone who is not an outsider.

"I would like to see somebody who has ties with Ohio State get the job," he said. "It's not like the history isn't there, like this is a program that's starting from scratch. This is a big-time university. It would be a great job."

Vitale, as expected, wasn't shy about expressing his opinion on who should get the job.

"There's one guy for that job, man," Vitale said. "If they want a buzz, man, and create some excitement for at least a five-year period it would be an absolute win-win situation. His positives totally outweigh the negatives — I'd make the call to Robert Montgomery Knight."

Knight, a 1962 graduate of Ohio State, is currently the coach at Texas Tech. He is 832-323 over 37 years and needs just 48 wins to pass North Carolina's Dean Smith as the winningest major-college coach.

The volatile Knight won three national championships during his 29 seasons at Indiana. He was fired in 2000 for "defiant and hostile" behavior. There is little question that Knight would draw a lot of attention to Ohio State's often overlooked basketball program.

Mavs deal Jamison to Wizards

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks agreed Wednesday night to trade Antawn Jamison to the Washington Wizards for the No. 5 pick in the draft, Jerry Stackhouse and Christian Laettner, a source close to the deal told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The trade can't be official until the NBA offices open today. By then, Dallas may be working toward other deals in its pursuit of Shaquille O'Neal.

While O'Neal remains the center of the Mavericks' dreams, the high pick also gives them the chance to take 7-foot-5 Pavel Podkolzine, a 19-year-old Russian.

Podkolzine or the pick also could be part of the package the Mavericks would offer the Los Angeles Lakers for O'Neal.

Dallas did not previously have a first-round pick in Thursday night's draft, having traded it last summer to Boston in the deal for Antoine Walker.

The Wizards had made it clear they weren't enamored with any of their choices at the top of the draft. Taking Jamison, a proven scorer over his six-year career in Dallas and Golden State, is a much safer move, even if he is owed nearly $58 million over the next four years.

For the Mavericks, all moves for the immediate future will be viewed as positioning for a prospective trade for O'Neal.

Sports Briefs

More honors for Lady Tigers

The Region I finalists Snyder Lady Tigers softball team received more individual honors after five players were named to the Odessa American All-Permian Basin team.

Seniors Ashley Martinez, Kelsi Johnson and Missy Vasquez were named to the squad as honorable mentions, along with freshman Terann Ragland and junior Laura Clanton.

Fun League needs pants, equipment

The Snyder Summer Fun League is looking for used baseball pants of all sizes and other baseball equipment. Contact Fred Ramirez at 575-3733 or 573-7034.

Volleyball camp

Snyder head coach Laura Moses will host a volleyball camp July 12-14 at the high school gym for incoming fourth through ninth graders. All participants should bring knee pads and a water bottle.

Fourth through sixth grade spikers will go from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. and cost for that group is $20 and includes a T-shirt.

Seventh and eighth graders are slated for 2:30 p.m. until 4 p.m., while freshmen will begin at 3:30 p.m. and finish at 5 p.m. Cost is $25 and also includes a shirt.

Deadline to register is July 2. Contact coach Moses at 573-8531 or 436-9067 for more information.

Snyder doubles tournament

The Snyder tennis booster club will host a doubles tournament July 3. Events include open men's, women's and mixed doubles. Entry fee is $5 per person per event, and players may enter two events. To enter

Major League Baseball

National League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Florida	39	32	.549	—
Philadelphia	37	32	.536	1
New York	35	35	.500	3½
Atlanta	32	38	.457	6½
Montreal	23	46	.333	15
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
St. Louis	42	29	.592	—
Chicago	40	31	.563	2
Cincinnati	39	32	.549	3
Milwaukee	36	32	.529	4½
Houston	37	34	.521	5
Pittsburgh	27	41	.397	13½
West Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
San Francisco	40	32	.556	—
Los Angeles	37	32	.536	1½
San Diego	37	34	.521	2½
Arizona	27	45	.375	13
Colorado	26	44	.371	13

Wednesday's Games

Florida 6, Atlanta 0
Philadelphia 5, Montreal 2
St. Louis 10, Chicago Cubs 9
Cincinnati 6, N.Y. Mets 4, 12 innings
Colorado 3, Milwaukee 2
Pittsburgh 7, Houston 2
San Diego 4, Arizona 3
San Francisco 3, Los Angeles 2

Today's Games

Philadelphia (Milton 9-1) at Montreal (Armas Jr. 0-2), 12:05 p.m.
Cincinnati (Lidle 4-5) at N.Y. Mets (Glavine 7-3), 12:10 p.m.
Colorado (Cook 1-2) at Milwaukee (Sheets 6-4), 1:05 p.m.
Atlanta (Hampton 1-7) at Florida (Willis 6-4), 6:05 p.m.
Los Angeles (Nomo 3-8) at San Francisco (Tomko 1-4), 6:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (S.Burnett 0-1) at Houston (Clemens 9-2), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Clement 7-5) at St. Louis (Carpenter 7-2), 7:10 p.m.

American League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	44	25	.638	—
Boston	40	30	.571	4½
Tampa Bay	33	35	.485	10½
Toronto	31	40	.437	14
Baltimore	29	38	.433	14
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Minnesota	39	31	.557	—
Chicago	36	32	.529	2
Cleveland	35	35	.500	4
Detroit	31	39	.443	8
Kansas City	28	40	.412	10
West Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Texas	39	29	.574	—
Oakland	39	31	.557	1
Anaheim	39	32	.549	1½
Seattle	29	40	.420	10½

Wednesday's Games

Minnesota 4, Boston 2
Toronto 2, Tampa Bay 1, 10 innings
Baltimore 13, N.Y. Yankees 2
Texas 6, Seattle 3
Cleveland 9, Chicago White Sox 5
Kansas City 7, Detroit 3
Oakland 7, Anaheim 1

Today's Games

Tampa Bay (Halama 3-1) at Toronto (Lilly 6-3), 11:35 a.m.
Minnesota (Radke 4-3) at Boston (Wakefield 4-5), 12:05 p.m.
Seattle (Pineiro 3-8) at Texas (Benoit 2-2), 1:05 p.m.
Cleveland (Westbrook 6-3) at Chicago White Sox (Rauch 0-1), 1:05 p.m.
Detroit (Robertson 5-3) at Kansas City (George 1-0), 1:10 p.m.
Oakland (Mulder 8-2) at Anaheim (Ra.Ortiz 3-5), 3:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Vazquez 7-5) at Baltimore (Ponson 3-9), 6:05 p.m.

STARTING from PYRON

By Jane Gilmore Rushing
Photos by Billie Roche Barnard
Introduction by A.C. Greene
Cost: $25.00

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Summer rains raise hopes in West

DENVER (AP) — Early summer showers have raised hopes that the West's long drought is finally waning, but the real answer could come from a network of research buoys bobbing far out in the Pacific.

So far, the answer everyone from firefighters to farmers wants to know is only a 'maybe.'

Buoys, ships and satellites monitor water temperatures in the Pacific Ocean that help indicate whether the weather pattern known as El Nino will spread snow across the southern half of the West next winter.

Runoff from that snow provides the bulk of the region's water.

"The thinking here is that it's too soon (to predict an El Nino), even though there are a few models that suggest one will develop. But only a few," said Doug Le Comte, a drought specialist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center.

Much of the West remains desperately dry. The U.S. Drought Monitor shows a vast, S-shaped swath in an extreme or exceptional drought, from Oregon south to Arizona, back north to Idaho and Montana, and then southeast to Nebraska and Kansas.

Fire danger is high across much of the far Northwest and the far Southwest.

In Colorado, June rains dampened the risk of wildfires over the eastern half of the state for at least a week, said Larry Helmerick of the Rocky Mountain Coordination Center, the state's main wildfire command center.

The weather could also slow the spread of West Nile virus, which last year killed 63 people in Colorado. Virus-bearing mosquitos multiply more slowly in cool, wet conditions, which in turn slows their ability to spread the disease, said John Pape, an epidemiologist with the Colorado health department.

"It's certainly beneficial," state climatologist Roger Pielke Sr. said of the June rain. "But it does not imply that we've broken the back" of drought.

That would take several winters of heavy snowfall to refill reservoirs and recharge bone-dry soils.

For the winter outlook, the West must look to the Pacific Ocean, where small temperature changes in the water can create an El Nino, which pushes moisture-bearing storms over the Southwest and southern Rockies, or a La Nina, which pushes the moisture north, sometimes into Canada.

At the Climate Prediction Center in Camp Springs, Md., just outside Washington, scientists use more than a dozen models to predict whether the winter will bring El Nino, La Nina, or neither.

"The suite of forecast models or statistical techniques generally range from neutral to the weak end of an El Nino," Michael Halpert, head of forecast operations for the center, said Wednesday.

A strong El Nino would require a rise in ocean temperatures of 2 or 3 degrees Celsius, or nearly 4 to 6 degrees Fahrenheit. None of the models currently indicate a rise of more than 1 degree Celsius, he said.

"We're not seeing any indication of a strong situation," Halpert said. "It's kind of flirting with that minimum."

NASA taking more chances, including today's space walk

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA is taking bigger chances and more of them — even bending its own safety rules — to keep the international space station running with a two-man crew and no shuttle visits.

Tonight, both astronauts will take a riskier than usual spacewalk, wearing an odd mishmash of Russian and U.S. gear, cut off at times from communications, and struggling with tools in extra-stiff gloves never intended for the repairs they will make.

They'll be forced to alternately speak Russian and English and communicate with two different control centers. They'll travel an unprecedented distance over dangerous terrain, about 45 minutes each way.

Why? Because there's been no space shuttle to bring them the equipment they need. Russian spacecraft are too small to carry large replacement parts.

Despite the added risks, astronaut Mike Fincke and cosmonaut Gennady Padalka said Wednesday they're excited and ready.

"We're all in this together," Fincke told Mission Control. "This is going to be fun."

Their task will be replacing a fizzled circuit breaker.

When the space shuttles were flying, managers never would have considered a spacewalk requiring occasional hand signals and jury-rigged suits. But last year's Columbia disaster changed everything.

The Russians have been bailing out NASA with crew and supply drop-offs ever since the shuttle accident, and are demanding compensation for this evening's six-hour spacewalk since it involves repairs to the U.S. section. They threatened to postpone the outing, but agreed Tuesday to worry about payment later.

The trouble in orbit began in April, just hours after Fincke and Padalka arrived at the space station for a six-month stay.

A critical circuit board failed, cutting power to a gyroscope, or spinning wheel. The breakdown left the station with just two functioning gyroscopes, the bare minimum needed to keep the complex stable and pointed in the right direction.

Then last month, Padalka could not get the water-cooling system of his U.S. spacesuit to work. The only option was to send Padalka and Fincke out in Russian spacesuits from the Russian side of the station, more than doubling their travel distance over a landscape of protruding metal parts.

The spacemen added American helmet lights and handcuff checklists to the brand new Russian suits, for extra safety.

Station operations manager Mike Suffredini said safety officials were in on the debate and stressed that this spacewalk "is one that we can go do and should go do." To put it off could jeopardize two spacewalks planned by the Russians later this summer for assembly chores, he said.

But a retired agent in NASA's inspector general office, Joseph Gutheinz, wonders whether NASA and the Russian Space Agency are "sweeping any known risks under the table in an effort to keep the space station program alive." He said the agencies downplayed risks at Russia's Mir station during visits by U.S. astronauts in the 1990s.

Gutheinz also questions whether it's safe to send an entire crew out, with no one to monitor systems inside. The station has been empty during a spacewalk only once before, in February.

Although the station's U.S. pressure chamber was designed to accommodate Russian spacesuits, the parts needed for that are on the ground. So Fincke and Padalka will have to leave from the Russian hatch and travel between 80 feet and 100 feet to the repair site, using a 50-foot crane to swing themselves partway.

Exiting from the U.S. hatch would have put them 30 feet from the fried circuit breaker.

Because Fincke and Padalka will venture so far from the Russian antenna, they expect communication blackouts, not only with flight controllers but with each other. To get messages across, they've come up with hand signals: crossing their arms in front of their chests indicates an emergency, jutting a fist up means, 'hey, pay attention,' and a thumb-up means everything is OK.

If all else fails, they will hustle to a designated spot with a clear line of sight to the Russian antenna.

There's also the fatigue factor, and not just from all the extra scampering around.

Baby 'superman' has rare genetic mutation

By The Associated Press

Somewhere in Germany is a baby Superman, born in Berlin with bulging arm and leg muscles. Not yet 5, he can hold seven-pound weights with arms extended, something many adults cannot do. He has muscles twice the size of other kids his age and half their body fat.

DNA testing showed why: The boy has a genetic mutation that boosts muscle growth.

The discovery, reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, represents the first documented human case of such a mutation.

Many scientists believe the find could eventually lead to drugs for treating people with muscular dystrophy and other muscle-destroying conditions. And athletes would almost surely want to get their hands on such a drug and use it like steroids to bulk up.

The boy's mutant DNA segment was found to block production of a protein called myostatin that limits muscle growth. The news comes seven years after researchers at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore created buff "mighty mice" by "turning off" the gene that directs cells to produce myostatin.

"Now we can say that myostatin acts the same way in humans as in animals," said the boy's physician, Dr. Markus Schuelke, a professor in the child neurology department at Charite/University Medical Center Berlin. "We can apply that knowledge to humans, including trial therapies for muscular dystrophy."

Given the huge potential market for such drugs, researchers at universities and pharmaceutical companies already are trying to find a way to limit the amount and activity of myostatin in the body. Wyeth has just begun human tests of a genetically engineered antibody designed to neutralize myostatin.

Dr. Lou Kunkel, director of the genomics program at Boston Children's Hospital and professor of pediatrics and genetics at Harvard Medical School, said success is possible within several years.

"Just decreasing this protein by 20, 30, 50 percent can have a profound effect on muscle bulk," said Kunkel, who is among the doctors participating in the Wyeth research.

Muscular dystrophy is the world's most common genetic disease. There is no cure and the most common form, Duchenne's, usually kills before adulthood. The few treatments being tried to slow its progression have serious side effects.

Muscle wasting also is common in the elderly and patients with diseases such as cancer and AIDS.

"If you could find a way to block myostatin activity, you might slow the wasting process," said Dr. Se-Jin Lee, the Johns Hopkins professor whose team created the "mighty mice."

Lee said he believes a myostatin blocker also could suppress fat accumulation and thus thwart the development of diabetes. Lee and Johns Hopkins would receive royalties for any myostatin-blocking drug made by Wyeth.

Dr. Eric Hoffman, director of Children's National Medical Center's Research Center for Genetic Medicine, said he believes a muscular dystrophy cure will be found, but he is unsure whether it will be a myostatin-blocking drug, another treatment or a combination, because about a dozen genes have some effect on muscles.

Nine wounded in wild gunfire

DETROIT (AP) — A gunman opened fire into a crowd that had gathered downtown to watch the city's annual fireworks display, wounding nine people and forcing hundreds of revelers to scatter.

Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings said early Thursday that the shooting apparently occurred after an argument and that innocent people were caught in the crossfire.

"This is what happens when you don't know how to resolve conflicts without violence," Bully-Cummings said. "We are following up with witnesses now, trying to understand what happened."

Bully-Cummings said investigators recovered a handgun used in Wednesday's shooting at the Hart Plaza area and had a good description of the suspect.

One of the victims, a 22-year-old man, was in critical condition with a bullet wound to his heart. The conditions of the other victims wasn't immediately known.

At the site of the shooting, yellow police tape was used to cordon off the scene. Inside the area, a bike, backpacks, coolers and blankets were scattered about.

Hundreds of thousands of people packed into downtown and along the Detroit River that runs between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, to watch the display, a summertime tradition that celebrates the bonds between the cities.

One witness won't return. Andrea Bobo, 23, of Detroit, said she was about 30 feet from where the shooting took place and had seen several fights in the area before the fireworks display.

"I don't think I will ever come back again," Bobo said.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	11.68	11.42	11.43	—.14
AT&T Corp	15.40	14.82	14.96	—1.45
Albertsons	27.07	26.63	27.02	+.39
Alltel	50.18	49.76	50.07	+.14
AmEl Pw	32.17	31.73	32.16	+.40
AndarkPtr	60.00	59.26	59.56	+.01
ATMOS Egy	25.09	24.83	24.99	+.18
Availl	18.23	17.86	18.22	+.36
BP PLC	54.55	54.27	54.38	
BakerHughes	36.95	36.41	36.49	—.41
Bank of Amer	85.22	84.86	85.20	+.43
BellSouth	25.51	25.20	25.21	—.27
BurlNoSFe	35.05	34.83	34.84	—.22
Caterpillar	79.40	78.03	79.10	+1.21
CenterPoint	11.53	11.36	11.49	+.10
ChevronTex	94.98	94.51	94.70	—.18
Citigroup	47.57	46.34	47.44	+.20
CocaCola	51.39	51.01	51.21	—.09
ColgatePal	58.24	58.12	58.18	—.24
CmclMetals	32.99	32.47	32.56	—1.42
ConocoPhill	78.76	78.44	78.59	—.04
Cooper Inds	57.92	57.54	57.70	—.22
DaimlrChry	46.89	46.68	46.87	+.15
DeltaAirLines	6.60	6.40	6.50	—.12
Dillards Inc	22.87	22.60	22.73	—.04
DowChem	40.88	40.51	40.76	+.01
DuPont	44.44	44.06	44.12	—.28
EastmanChem	44.73	44.22	44.57	+.21
EstKodak	26.21	25.51	26.18	+.35
EDS Corp	18.69	18.45	18.63	+.13
Entergy	56.25	55.89	56.07	—.08
ExxonMobil	45.53	45.30	45.37	—.09
FootLocker	23.78	23.48	23.73	+.13
GenDynam	100.01	99.30	99.46	—.69
GenElec	33.25	33.04	33.16	—.06
GenMills	45.85	45.35	45.72	—.11
GenMotors	48.23	47.81	47.96	—.30
GaPacific	35.93	35.30	35.32	—.15
Goodrich	32.30	31.98	32.00	—.30
Goodyear	10.13	9.87	9.94	—.06
GtAtlPac	7.70	7.45	7.56	—.08
Halliburtn	30.75	30.33	30.57	—.05
Hanson PLC	34.50	34.19	34.45	—2.15
HarteHanks	23.80	23.50	23.57	+.22
HomeDepot	36.11	35.46	35.87	+.43
HoneywellIntl	37.24	36.91	36.99	—.52
IBM	90.92	90.27	90.68	—.11
IntlPaper	44.12	43.88	43.95	—.08
JohnsonJn	56.00	55.55	56.00	+.36
KinderMorg	60.13	60.01	60.13	+.13
Kroger Co	18.25	17.83	18.22	+.24
LockheedM	52.03	51.29	51.98	+.17
Lowes Cos	54.65	53.85	54.20	+.30
Lubys	6.93	6.77	6.90	+.10
LucentTech	3.83	3.73	3.76	—.07
MarathonOil	37.51	37.16	37.38	—.08
MayDeptStr	29.70	29.22	29.40	+.21
Medtronic	48.98	48.78	48.98	—.07
Motorola	18.59	18.29	18.50	+.13
NCR Corp	49.84	49.43	49.84	—.07
Navistar	40.25	39.65	39.94	—.47
PNM Rescs s	20.39	20.28	20.32	
Penney JC	39.13	38.76	38.78	—.16
PepBoys	26.30	25.80	26.30	+.52
PepsiCo	55.35	55.02	55.23	—.26
PhelpDodge	76.53	75.20	75.76	+.64
PilgrimsPride	29.74	29.00	29.31	+.80
Praxair s	38.73	38.20	38.73	+.47
ProctGamb s	55.83	55.00	55.56	—.40
RadioShack	29.44	28.83	29.39	+.55
RoyalDut	52.87	52.70	52.80	+.58
SBC Comm	24.28	23.85	23.86	—.39
SaraLee	23.14	22.90	22.94	—.18
Scripps EW	105.90	105.50	105.90	+.30
SearsRoeb	41.04	39.06	40.28	+1.19
SherwinW	41.25	40.93	41.10	+.02
SouthernCo	29.31	29.10	29.27	+.06
SwstAirl	15.91	15.76	15.82	—.13
SprintFON	17.21	16.95	17.03	—.22
Sunoco Inc	63.82	63.12	63.35	—.44
TXU Corp	40.00	39.80	39.97	—.10
TempleInland	67.85	67.24	67.29	—.31
TexInd	41.05	40.17	40.88	+.42
TexasInst	24.48	24.10	24.22	—.10
Textron	59.24	58.76	59.05	—.18
TimeWarner	17.45	17.28	17.43	+.08
TrinityInds	32.14	31.77	31.78	—.33
TylerTech	9.14	8.80	8.93	—.02
UnionPacif	58.35	57.82	58.28	+.28
USSteel	34.75	34.00	34.05	—.49
UnitedTech	89.88	89.25	89.37	—.24
Unocal	38.99	38.52	38.62	+.04
VerizonComm	35.50	35.20	35.40	—.05
WalMart	53.86	53.55	53.65	+.10
WellsFargo	59.01	58.75	58.92	—.13
WstnGasRs s	32.50	32.13	32.38	+.32
WinnDixie	7.06	6.95	6.98	—.12
Xerox Cp	14.90	14.75	14.80	—.05
YumBrands	37.46	37.25	37.43	+.02

JUN 24 2004

Spamming impacts 92 million online

NEW YORK (AP) — Millions of AOL customers were hit with junk e-mail after an America Online insider stole the Internet giant's subscriber list and sold it to spammers, prosecutors say.

The scheme resulted in AOL customers being sent unsolicited advertisements for herbal penile enhancement pills and Internet gambling come-ons, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Prosecutors said Jason Smathers, 24, stole 92 million AOL screen names while working at AOL offices in Dulles, Va., and sold the list to a Las Vegas man, Sean Dunaway. Dunaway used it to send gambling ads and then sold it to spammers, a criminal complaint said.

Smathers' list also included customer ZIP codes and credit card types, prosecutors said. AOL said it did not appear that Smathers had gained access to credit card numbers, which the company keeps in a separate facility.

Smathers and Dunaway, 21, were arrested and charged with conspiracy.

"We deeply regret what has taken place and are thoroughly reviewing and strengthening our internal procedures as a result of this investigation and arrest," AOL spokesman Nicholas Graham said.

AOL, owned by Time Warner Inc., has about 32 million customers worldwide, Graham said. Many customers register several different screen names for family members or themselves.

David Kelley, the U.S. attorney for Manhattan, said the arrests were two of the first prosecutions under federal anti-spamming legislation that took effect early this year.

Dunaway declined to comment after he left a federal courthouse. Secret Service agents confiscated his computer equipment when they arrested him Wednesday, said his lawyer, Kevin Kelly.

Smathers was to appear in court in Virginia. No lawyer for him could be located. Each man could face up to five years in prison and at least $250,000 in fines if convicted.

Smathers was not authorized to have access to the screen name list, which is kept in Dulles, but used another employee's access code last year to steal it, prosecutors said. AOL fired Smathers on Wednesday.

Prosecutors did not immediately say how much they allege Dunaway paid Smathers for the list, but they said Dunaway later paid him $100,000 for an updated version of it.

World Almanac

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Today is the 176th day of 2004 and the fifth day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1497, navigator and explorer John Cabot reached the East Coast of North America and claimed the land for England.

In 1901, the first exhibition of Pablo Picasso's work opened.

In 1948, the Soviet Union began the Berlin Blockade.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Jack Dempsey (1895-1983), boxer; Mick Fleetwood (1942-), musician, is 62; George Pataki (1945-), New York governor, is 59; Anna Paquin (1982-), actress, is 22.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1922, the American Professional Football League (APFA) changed its name to the National Football League (NFL).

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Through art we express our conception of what nature is not." — Pablo Picasso

TODAY'S FACT: Anna Paquin became the second-youngest Oscar winner ever for her 1993 performance in "The Piano."

TODAY'S NUMBER: 104,000,000 — record amount, in dollars, paid for a Picasso work (Garcon a la Pipe, sold May 2004), and the highest amount ever paid for an individual work of art.

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (June 17) and first quarter (June 25)

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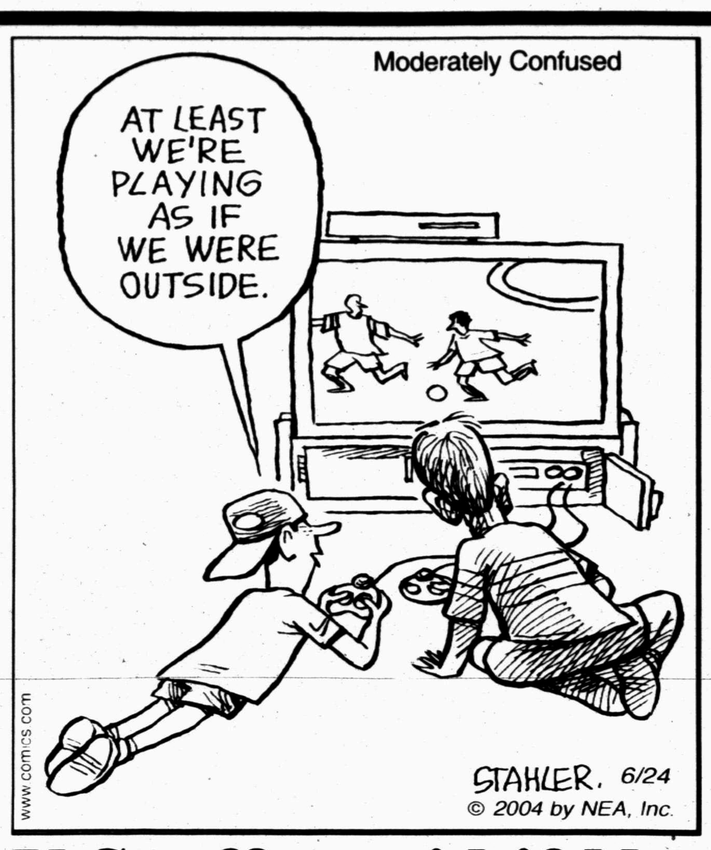

Kids suspected in counterfeiting bills

LAKE JACKSON (AP) — The counterfeit bills police say boys were passing had crooked printing and were cut out with scissors, but some frazzled clerks were honoring them just the same.

Investigators confiscated a computer they believe was used by 11- and 13-year-old boys to make the bogus bills at home.

Police Lt. Robert Turner said he is taking the seized computer to the U.S. Secret Service today, where computer experts will clone the machine's hard drive and see if any images of the fake money remain.

It may take a month or more for experts to retrieve the information, Turner said. He said no arrests have been made yet.

Brazoria County law officers received tips the youths were selling fake $20 bills for 50 cents or $1 to other youths. Officers believe that the two boys also made $100, $50, $10 and $5 bills.

"We're not talking about brilliant geniuses here," Turner said, adding that most of the $20 bills had one side printed upside down.

Police said a scanner and color printer was also used by the boys, who tumbled the fake bills in a clothes dryer to make them appear old.

Since January, the bogus bills have shown up in Lake Jackson, Clute, Freeport and Angleton.

Turner said whoever is involved in making and passing the phony money could face both state and federal charges.

A 21-year-old college student who owns the computer says he had loaned it to two younger friends, who manufactured the fake money.

U.S. offers aid if North Korea agrees to nuclear disarmament

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States proposed on Wednesday that North Korea agree to a series of nuclear disarmament measures over a three-month period in exchange for economic benefits and an easing of its diplomatic isolation.

The proposal, unveiled at the start of six-nation talks in China, would ultimately lead to the end of North Korea's nuclear program.

It was the most detailed U.S. proposal for bringing about a diplomatic solution to the North Korea nuclear impasse since it surfaced almost two years ago.

The United States considers North Korea to be a threat to peace and stability in Northeast Asia. North Korea has sold missiles to countries such as Iran and Syria, and the possibility of exports of nuclear weapons technology is a major concern here.

The United States is being joined at the Beijing talks by China, South Korea, Japan and Russia in addition to North Korea itself. The American delegation is headed by Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly. Talks resumed Thursday morning in Beijing.

During the three-month "preparatory period," North Korea would disable its nuclear weapons and remove key weapons ingredients.

"The permanent and verifiable dismantlement and removal of North Korea's nuclear programs would follow," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

During the initial period, the nations in the Beijing talks would be willing "to ease the political and economic isolation of North Korea," according to the U.S. proposal.

Outside assistance would focus on deliveries of fuel, particularly from South Korea.

No lasting benefits would be provided to North Korea until after the disarmament had been completed, Boucher said. There would be no American assistance until the later stages of the process.

A North Korean response to the proposal was expected on Thursday, said a senior administration official, asking not to be identified.

In the meantime, North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Gye Gwan offered an alternative, promising to freeze operations at its main nuclear complex, Japan's Kyodo news agency reported, citing officials at the conference. The freeze would allow for inspections.

Kim said Pyongyang has been developing nuclear weapons for protection from possible U.S. attack.

"If the United States gives up its hostile policy toward us ... we are prepared to give up in a transparent way all plans related to nuclear weapons," he said.

Under the U.S. proposal, some form of security guarantees also would be offered to give North Korea the confidence that disarmament would not trigger an attack.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Friday, June 25, 2004

The aspects will be helping you deal with your feelings more honestly in the year ahead, allowing you to reach inside yourself and find out what you really want. Once you do, your life will take a turn for the better.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Those within the household might be a bit crabby today. If you're smart, you'll yield on minor points to avoid locking horns with any member of the family in order to keep the peace.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Failing to speak out on something that is bothering you could put you in a cranky mood today. Tactfully clear the air with the person rather than take things out on others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Funds that are earmarked for essential expenses should not be used for frivolous purchases today. If you're prudent, you'll like yourself a whole lot better later on in the day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Keep a cool head at all times today, but be especially careful in work-related situations. Your dignity and reputation will suffer if you behave badly around the wrong people.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Normally you're the person who is more sensitive to others' troubles than are your companions, but this may not be true today because of a poor attitude. Don't be hard-hearted with pals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — You could be wrongfully disappointed in someone you know socially if you expect this person to make business concessions to you that he or she couldn't do for anybody. Be realistic.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — By making assumptions involving a joint venture you have with an associate, it could lead you to take actions that are contrary to the goals of the one with whom you're affiliated and consequently cause problems.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — In projects that require co-workers, do not shirk your part of the duties or select all the easy jobs for yourself. Such tactics will invite rebellion by your co-workers.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Beware of tendencies to be careless with the resources or property entrusted to you by others today. You'll be held accountable for damage or errors you make in handling what's not yours.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Normally, when you make an arrangement with a pal, you are prepared to stand by your promise, but today if something appears more interesting, you'll try to squirm out of your commitment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today might not be very productive for you because chances are you'll find better reasons to postpone your chores than for doing them. It won't make you look good.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Be wary of taking speculative risks today, especially if you can't afford to lose. All gambles must be based on logical possibilities for gain, not on wishful thinking.

Get a jump on life by understanding the influences which are governing you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph year ahead predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

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Vietnam added to global AIDS program

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — President Bush, on a fund-raising trip to Pennsylvania, said Wednesday he will commit more money to a program for delivering medications to people with HIV and AIDS. The administration said it would make an additional $20 million available immediately for the drug program.

The announcement was made as Bush flew here to visit the Greater Exodus Baptist Church and to raise money for the Republican Party. It was his 29th visit as president to Pennsylvania, a crucial state in his fight for re-election.

The administration also announced it was making Vietnam the 15th country in its $15 billion plan to fight AIDS.

While India and other countries have larger populations with AIDS or HIV, the virus that causes the disease, the administration opted to add Vietnam to its global AIDS focus because it was on the brink of an AIDS epidemic, with cases predicted to rise from 130,000 currently to 1 million by 2010, officials said.

Vietnam is the first country outside Africa and the Caribbean to be included in the five-year AIDS fighting plan that Bush unveiled in 2003.

Congress approved the five-year $15 billion AIDS relief plan last year with broad bipartisan support, but there's since been some criticism that actual spending is not reaching the promised level.

Congress appropriated $2.4 billion in this fiscal year for the program, and is seeking $2.8 billion for next year. The administration has said it will increase spending in later years to reach the $15 billion mark.

Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif., a leading advocate for the AIDS bill, praised the president's action on Vietnam but said "we also need the president to live up to his promises and provide full funding to our Global HIV/AIDS initiative if we are to tackle not only Vietnam but India, Russia and China. That means we need nothing less than $3.6 billion this year."

The administration said Bush also would propose renewing the Ryan White CARE Act, which provides funds domestically to help people with HIV and AIDS who have low incomes and no insurance. The law expires next year.

In May, the administration announced a new initiative to speed up the approval process for new combination AIDS drugs that will bring cheap, easy-to-use treatment to millions of people in Africa and the Caribbean.

At the recent economic summit in Georgia, the president won agreement from major allies to accelerate development of an HIV vaccine.

STUDENT WORK ADS

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'Optimism' new theme of presidential election

WASHINGTON (AP) — Happy days are here again. Or so say President Bush and John Kerry, who paint a rosy picture of America's future when they're not pounding each other with criticisms.

"I'm optimistic about America because I believe in the people of America," Bush says in campaign commercials. Kerry does too. "We're a country of the future," the Democrat says in one of his TV ads. "We're a country of optimists. We're the can-do people."

With the presidential race even in the polls, both candidates are trying to win over voters by projecting a bright outlook, despite looming challenges in Iraq and a host of domestic woes.

"It's a bedrock principle in the United States," said Darrell West, who teaches political science at Brown University. "Americans almost always go for the optimistic candidate."

But taking the glass-is-half-full approach requires delicate balancing.

The incumbent, Bush, must couch his enthusiasm for economic growth at home with the reality of ongoing turmoil in Iraq — or risk being seen as out of touch. Kerry, too, must walk a fine line as the challenger, trying to appear positive while pointing out the deficiencies he says merit a change in leadership. But he must do it without going so negative that he gives credence to Bush's new label for him: pessimist.

Both can be done.

As the sitting president in 1984, Ronald Reagan recycled his "Morning in America" campaign mantra from four years earlier into "Morning Again in America," stressing the nation was strong but could be better. Bill Clinton ran as a can-do challenger in 1992 and successfully tempered his criticism of the first President Bush while tapping into the country's upbeat, forward-looking nature.

For Bush and Kerry, the definitions of optimism are different, said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, an expert on political rhetoric at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center.

"The president has to be more optimistic about the moment we're in," Jamieson said, "and the challenger needs to be more optimistic about where he can take you."

Both candidates have latched onto the theme. Kerry released an ad titled "Optimists" while Bush criticized Kerry in another called "Pessimism." Nearly everyday, they or their surrogates say they are optimistic about something.

Bush began his re-election campaign by telling voters he believed America was prevailing through tough times — the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and the economic recession. Then, the political environment turned sharply negative. His campaign simultaneously unleashed attack ads against Kerry and received a rash of difficult news out of Iraq.

Once the economy started to rebound, Bush had something to be hopeful about. He now embraces job-growth numbers — and tries to paint Kerry as a downer.

As jobs grew, Kerry argued America could do better and that Bush was not in tune with the public's concerns. The Democrat said any new jobs were low paying and proposed boosting the minimum wage. He claimed families continue to struggle and offered a plan to give parents more child care money.

Kerry noted that Bush still has "the worst jobs record of any president since Herbert Hoover" and said "the middle class has been losing."

Meanwhile, Kerry's campaign circulated a document called "Americans are too optimistic to settle for George Bush's economy" and unveiled TV ads that seek to subtly contrast policies under the Republican's administration with Kerry's own proposals — without naming Bush.

Bush swung back with the pessimist label, in effect, inoculating himself from Kerry's criticisms. The president's latest TV and radio ads list ways he says the economy is better and then accuse Kerry of talking about the Great Depression, intoning "pessimism never created a job."

At a recent speech before the National Federation of Independent Business, Bush referred to "modern-day economic pessimists," an obvious reference to Kerry. "They can find the dark cloud, but they can't see the sunshine," Bush said, "and they don't know where to take the country and they don't know where to lead."

In e-mail missives and conference calls, Bush's campaign said Kerry was on a "Pessimism and Misery Tour," and campaign manager Ken Mehlman criticized the Democrat for "talking down the economy" with "1970s rhetoric."

Republicans said Kerry simply criticizes Bush's economic policies without recognizing job growth, giving Bush legitimate reason to call Kerry a pessimist.

"It's a framework you'll see for a while," said Charlie Black, a former Republican National Committee chairman.

Democrats find it baffling that Bush is crying pessimism after spending months attacking Kerry through TV ads.

Jenny Backus, a Democratic strategist, called Bush a "Georgie-come-lately" to the notion of optimism. "Bush left open the high road for six months and John Kerry took it," Backus said.

New UT-Pan American chief inadvertly gets commets aired

EDINBURG (AP) — Faculty and news reporters who tuned into the University of Texas-Pan American's announcement of a new campus president got an earful when a technician pressed a button too early.

"I think we need a new provost," Blandina Cardenas is heard telling the UT System Regents during a live Internet broadcast Monday evening, shortly before she was named president. "The problem is, how much backup do I have and how quickly can I move to make that change?"

Provost Rodolfo Arevalo told The (McAllen) Monitor that he had not yet talked with Cardenas about the broadcast, but was not holding it against her.

"Probably, just in general terms, I think her take on it was the tail end on a much larger discussion," Arevalo said.

A university spokeswoman said Cardenas was not available for comment Wednesday.

State Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, D-McAllen, was present when the comments were aired and said they indicated she would be a strong president.

$447 billion defense bill covers on fraction of war on terrorism

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate passed a massive defense spending bill that, at $447 billion, still only covers a fraction of war costs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The vote Wednesday night capped weeks of wrangling over missile defense, the Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal and numerous other proposed amendments.

The bill, which now must be reconciled with a similar House bill passed a month ago, includes a military pay raise, an increase in the size of the Army and billions of dollars for weapons systems.

Lawmakers voted 97-0 shortly before midnight on the bill, which authorizes Pentagon and Energy Department defense programs for the budget year that begins in October.

The measure includes $25 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But the Bush administration plans to submit a supplemental budget at the start of the next calendar year, after November's election, that is expected to seek at least an additional $25 billion for the two ongoing military campaigns.

Defying the White House and Pentagon, senators also included a provision to add 20,000 troops to an Army stretched thin by the war in Iraq, the global war on terror and other commitments around the world.

Lawmakers have for months heard complaints from families of service men and women who have served repeated deployments or been forced to remain on duty after their obligation has ended under a Pentagon device called "stop-loss."

The Senate bill would increase the Army by about 4 percent, to 502,400. The House version would add 30,000 Army soldiers and 9,000 Marines over three years.

The House also would delay for two years the next round of military base closures, set to take place next year. But, generally, the Senate authorization bill mirrors the House version, for instance also including an across-the-board 3.5 percent pay raise for military personnel and higher danger pay.

Pair from San Angelo plead guilty to theft from Head Start

LUBBOCK (AP) — A former Tom Green Community Action Council Inc. employee and a businessman have pleaded guilty to separate charges of theft or embezzlement from federal programs, and aiding and abetting, officials said Wednesday.

Vanessa Johnson, the CAC employee, and Rodolfo Escobar Castaneda, also known as Rudy Castaneda, each face maximum sentences of 10 years in prison, a $250,000 fine and restitution. Sentencing has not been set.

Johnson said in court documents that she and former CAC Executive Director J.D. Cortez schemed to defraud the agency by causing nine CAC checks worth $51,013 to be issued to her between March 2001 and November 2002.

Johnson said she was instructed by Cortez to falsely inflate her invoices for research on grants and submit false invoices for research and supplies she never bought.

Castaneda, an appliance store owner, admitted that he embezzled about $60,000 from the CAC.

The government said in a news release that Cortez instructed Castaneda and the owner of another business to submit vouchers to the CAC falsely showing that equipment, supplies and services had been provided to various Head Start facilities when they instead had been sent to Cortez' restaurant, Henry's Diner in San Angelo.

Cortez pleaded guilty to embezzling federal funds and was sentenced earlier this year to serve five years and three months in prison, ordered to pay $805,083.55 restitution, and a $20,000 fine.

Tom Green CAC, a private, nonprofit corporation and organization, serves Tom Green County and surrounding counties.

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2002 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat $14,995
5.4, leather, fully loaded, excellent condition, 142K miles

2001 Ford F250 CrewCab Lariat 4x4 ..... $19,995
Powerstroke, auto, shortbed, grill guard, 143K miles

1999 Ford F350 Crew Cab Dually $19,995
Powerstroke, 6 speed, Regency Conversion, 75K miles

2001 Ford F150 Supercab XLT $10,995
4.6, auto, power windows, power locks, one owner, 76K miles

2003 Ford Windstar LX $15,995
V-6, 4 door, power windows, power locks, dual A/C, factory warranty 25K

2002 Chevy Venture LS $14,995
4 doors, power windows, power locks, keyless, dual A/C, 33 K miles

2004 Ford Escape XLT 4x4 ..... $19,995
V-6, auto, power windows, power locks, keyless, warranty, 21K miles

2002 Ford Escape XLT $15,995
V-6, auto, power windows, power locks, keyless, 64K miles

2001 Ford Escape XLT $14,995
V-6, auto, power windows power locks, keyless, 43K miles

2002 Ford Expedition XLT $19,995
5.4, V-8, power windows, power locks, keyless, 45K miles

2000 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer $16,995
5.4, leather, new tires, 6 disc CD, one owner

1998 Dodge Durango SLT, 4x4 ..... $5,995
V-8, 3rd Seat, rear air, power windows, poiwer locks, 131K miles

2003 Ford F150 Reg. Cab XL $15,995
V-6, auto, CD, cruise, A/C, only 11K miles

1992 Chevy C1500 Ex. Cab Silverado $5,995
350 V-8, auto, power windows, power locks, 102K miles

2003 Ford F150 Supercab XLT $20,995
4.6, V-8, power windows, power locks, bed cover, only 8K miles

22002 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT 4x4 ..... $30,995
Powerstroke, auto, power windows, power locks, short bed, 39K miles

2000 Ford F250 Supercab XLT 4X4 ..... $19,995
Powerstroke, 6 speed, power windows, power locks, long bed, 94K miles

2001 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT $23,995
Powerstroke, auto, power windows, power locks, shortbed, 66K miles

2003 Ford Focus SE $11,995
4 cyl., auto, power windows, power locks, keyless, 19K miles

1999 Chevy Cavalier $5,995
2 door, auto, CD, A/C, 74K miles

2003 Ford Mustang Convertible $18,995
V-6, auto, power windows, power locks, keyless, 16K miles

2004 Ford Mustang $16,995
V-6, auto, power windows, power locks, keyless, 13K miles

2002 Ford Mustang $12,995
V-6, auto, power windows, power locks, keyless, 29K miles

2001 Mitsubishi Eclipse RS $9,995
4 cyl., auto, power windows, power locks, CD, A/C, 44K miles

2003 Mercury Grand Marquis LS $18,995
V-8, leather, power windows, power locks, 12K miles

2004 Lincoln Town Car Signature $30,995
Leather, power windows, power locks, 14K miles

JUN 24 2004

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Iraqi insurgent attacks continue

BAQOUBA, Iraq (AP) — Insurgents launched coordinated attacks against police and government buildings across Iraq today, less than a week before the handover of sovereignty. The strikes killed 69 people, including three American soldiers, and wounded more than 270 people, Iraqi and U.S. officials said.

Most of the casualties were in Mosul, where 44 people were killed and 216 were injured in attacks that included a string of car bombs. Clashes also occurred in Baqouba, Ramadi, Baghdad and other areas.

The extent of the attacks was a clear sign of just how powerful the insurgency in Iraq remains and could be the start of a new push to torpedo Wednesday's transfer of sovereignty to an interim transitional government.

Iraqi police appeared outgunned and unable to hold positions in most of the cities under fire. American troops raced to offer support, using aircraft, tanks and helicopters to repel the guerrillas.

The military wing of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's group, the Tawhid and Jihad movement, claimed responsibility for today's attacks in a statement on an Islamic Web site.

Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said the attacks were meant "to foil the democratic process," but he said the situation was under control.

President Bush, who is appealing to NATO to help quell the escalating violence, updated members of Congress about the situation in Iraq during an hour-long meeting at the White House.

In Baghdad, the Health Ministry said at least 66 people were killed and 268 injured nationwide. In addition to the three dead, at least 12 American soldiers were wounded.

Some of the heaviest fighting was reported in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, where two American soldiers were killed and seven were wounded, the U.S. 1st Infantry Division said. Attackers also targeted police stations in Ramadi, Mahaweel and the northern city of Mosul, where car bombs rocked the Iraqi Police Academy, two police stations and the al-Jumhuri hospital.

Khalid Mohammed, an official at the hospital, said dozens of injured were brought there. At least 50 people died and 170 were wounded there, he said. A U.S. soldier also was killed and three were wounded in Mosul.

Mosul's governor imposed a 9 p.m.-6 a.m. curfew, and the city television station urged people to stay home for the "general good."

Four Iraqi soldiers were killed in an explosion near a checkpoint manned by Iraqi and American soldiers in the southern Baghdad district of Dora. Three U.S. soldiers tended to what appeared to be a wounded American soldier on the road. The soldier's helmet lay nearby. Black smoke and flames shot up from a burning pickup truck.

Attackers also set off an explosion as a military convoy passed in Baghdad, wounding one soldier.

Also in Baghdad, insurgents attacked four Iraqi police stations using mortars, hand grenades and AK-47s on Wednesday and this morning. Police fought back and defended the stations with minimal assistance from coalition forces, a U.S. statement said.

U.S. aircraft dropped three 500-pound bombs on an insurgent position near the city soccer stadium in Baqouba, said Maj. Neal E. O'Brien, a U.S. 1st Infantry Division spokesman. Insurgents roamed the city with rocket launchers and automatic weapons, seized two police stations and destroyed the home of the provincial police chief, O'Brien said.

Doctors struggled to deal with a steady stream of wounded as civilian cars and pickup trucks carrying wounded raced to the door of the main hospital's emergency ward. Corridors were spattered with blood.

"May God destroy America and all those who cooperate with it!" one man screamed in the corridor.

Another man carried the body of a young man shot in the back of the head and cried, "Oh God! Abbas is dead!"

The city was almost deserted by late morning. U.S. gunships flew low over the city, some swooping down on suspected rebel hideouts in palm groves.

Some motorists flew white flags from atop their cars.

Former senator new ambassador to U.N.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate today agreed to send one of its own, former Sen. John Danforth of Missouri, to the United Nations to serve as the new U.S. ambassador.

Danforth, an Episcopalian priest thrust back into the national spotlight after being chosen to officiate at President Reagan's state funeral, was confirmed by voice vote.

"This is a man of great integrity as well as dedication, compassion, even a dry sense of humor when appropriate," said Sen. Kit Bond, R-Mo., who worked under Danforth when the minister served as Missouri attorney general.

Danforth replaces John Negroponte, who was sworn Wednesday as U.S. this morning called on Senate Foreign Relations chairman Richard Lugar, R-Ind., and ranking Democrat Joe Biden, D-Del., to quickly get Danforth confirmed so the U.S. ambassador position won't be empty at the United Nations when the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority turns over political sovereignty to Iraq on June 30.

Bush wants his personal representative at the United Nations not only to deal with Iraq but also to preside over the annual U.N. General Assembly session starting in September.

"We're grateful a leader of his stature is willing to step forward," Lugar said.

Democrats also praised the former GOP senator, who served in the Senate for 18 years and was on Bush's short list as a possible vice presidential choice in 2000.

Biden called him the "ultimate professional diplomat" from his years as minister, U.S. senator and state attorney general.

"He knows how people think and feel and move," Biden said. "But you know what I like the best about Jack Danforth going up there? He will be absolutely straight. ... Jack has the stature to go to the president and say 'Mr. President, I disagree or think you shouldn't or I'd recommend the following.' The president is going to get unvarnished advice."

In the Senate, Danforth, 67, was an ally of the first President Bush. During the Clinton administration, he acted as a special counsel appointed by then-Attorney General Janet Reno. He conducted a 14-month inquiry into the deaths in 1993 of about 80 Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas. His investigation cleared the FBI of wrongdoing.

While in the Senate, he helped lead the confirmation battle for Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas, a former Danforth assistant who was nominated to the high court by the first President Bush. The senator's support was considered crucial in winning confirmation after sexual harassment accusations against Thomas by former aide Anita Hill.

Danforth, a Republican, acquired some diplomatic seasoning as Bush's envoy to Sudan.

British Marines captured by Iran taken to Tehran embassy

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Eight British servicemen who were detained after their boats strayed into Iranian territorial waters have been turned over to British diplomats and were taken to the embassy in Tehran under tight security, officials said today.

Protesters angry about the occupation of Iraq tried to approach the six Royal Marines and two sailors as they arrived at Tehran's airport accompanied by British consular officers, but they were kept away by police.

The eight were detained Monday after their boats apparently strayed into the Iranian side of the Shatt-al-Arab waterway, or Arvand River, that runs along the Iran-Iraq border while delivering a patrol boat to Iraq's new river police.

"I'm told that they are in very good spirits and were well cared for," British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said in a brief statement.

On hearing the news, Paula Harkins, wife of Royal Marine Sgt. Thomas Harkins, said: "I'm ecstatic." Harkins was shown on Iranian state television Tuesday apologizing for entering Iranian waters.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said Iran also will release the three British boats and the troops' equipment, state TV reported.

"We will hand over the boats and the equipment the British troops were carrying within the next five days," it quoted Kharrazi as saying. Previous reports said Iran would keep the boats, firearms and equipment.

Iran also briefly detained, investigated and then released an unspecified number of Turkish troops who strayed across the border "by mistake," state TV reported.

It gave no timing for the detention or release of the troops, but unconfirmed reports said Wednesday that 25 Turkish soldiers chasing Kurdish rebels crossed into Iran and were detained by Iranian forces.

A number of protesters waited at the Tehran airport for the arrival of the British servicemen and demanded they stand trial for entering Iran illegally, state TV said. Hard-line Iranians opposed to Britain's prominent role in the occupation of Iraq have in recent weeks held angry demonstrations outside the British Embassy.

Strains between the two nations rose last week when Britain helped draft an International Atomic Energy Agency resolution rebuking Iran for past nuclear cover-ups.

Pipe bomb suspect is detained in Tyler

TYLER (AP) — A man who has allegedly had discussions for weeks with an informant about making pipe bombs and selling them will remain in the Smith County Jail until a grand jury can review his case, an East Texas judge has ruled.

The 44-year-old suspect, who also allegedly agreed to blow up a woman for undercover authorities, was arrested in connection with the murder-for-hire investigation st Thursday. He faces a charge possession of an unregistered explosive device for which he could face 10 years in prison and a $250,000 fine.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Harry McKee said he believed the man was a flight risk and a danger to the community.

Federal prosecutors said they expect to take his case before the grand jury July 17.

The Smith County District Attorney's Office could pursue charges of solicitation to commit capital murder against the man.

FBI agents received a call June 8 from an acquaintance who said the suspect had been making homemade pipe bombs and was planning to sell them to people in Houston for $7,000, FBI Special Agent Gerald "David" Moore testified during the detention hearing. The informant was offered $1,000 to deliver the bombs.

Loose snake causes excitment in WTC's mens locker room

• ***Loose snake***

A snake was discovered in the men's locker room at WTC at 10:13 p.m. Wednesday. The non-poisonous snake was captured and released onto the golf course.

• ***Arrests***

A 47-year-old male was arrested on U.S. 84 at 12:47 a.m. today on a city warrant for an expired inspection sticker.

• ***Disturbance***

Police responded to a disturbance call at 12:49 a.m. today in the 3100 block of Ave. U.

• ***Gas drive off***

A gas drive off of $54.05 was reported at the Town and Country east at 12 midnight.

• ***Criminal mischief***

A broken window was reported at 1:34 p.m. Wednesday in the 10000 block of FM 1606.

Juveniles throwing eggs at a residence was reported in the 2000 block of Ave. O at 11:34 p.m. Wednesday.

Broken windows of a vehicle were reported at the Katz Club at 12:36 a.m. today.

• ***Shoplifting***

Police responded to a report of an 11-year-old caught shoplifting at Wal-Mart at 5:02 p.m. Wednesday. A citation was issued and the suspect was released to his guardian.

• ***Harassing phone call***

Harassing phone calls were reported at 8:15 p.m. in the 8900 block of CR 1142.

Personal, Professional Service
BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME
3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Friendly Flower Shop
3203 1/2 College Ave
325-573-3851

COUNTRYPLACE
Floral & Gifts
4213 College
325-573-1817

WCFH
Independently Owned & Operated
WRIGHT COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME
200 East 37th St.
Snyder, Texas
325-573-6200

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Fri 6/25	Sat 6/26	Sun 6/27
86/64	83/64	82/64
A few isolated thunderstorms developing during the afternoon under partly c.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 60s.	Isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 60s.
Sunrise 6:38 AM, Sunset 8:55 PM	Sunrise 6:38 AM, Sunset 8:55 PM	Sunrise 6:38 AM, Sunset 8:56 PM

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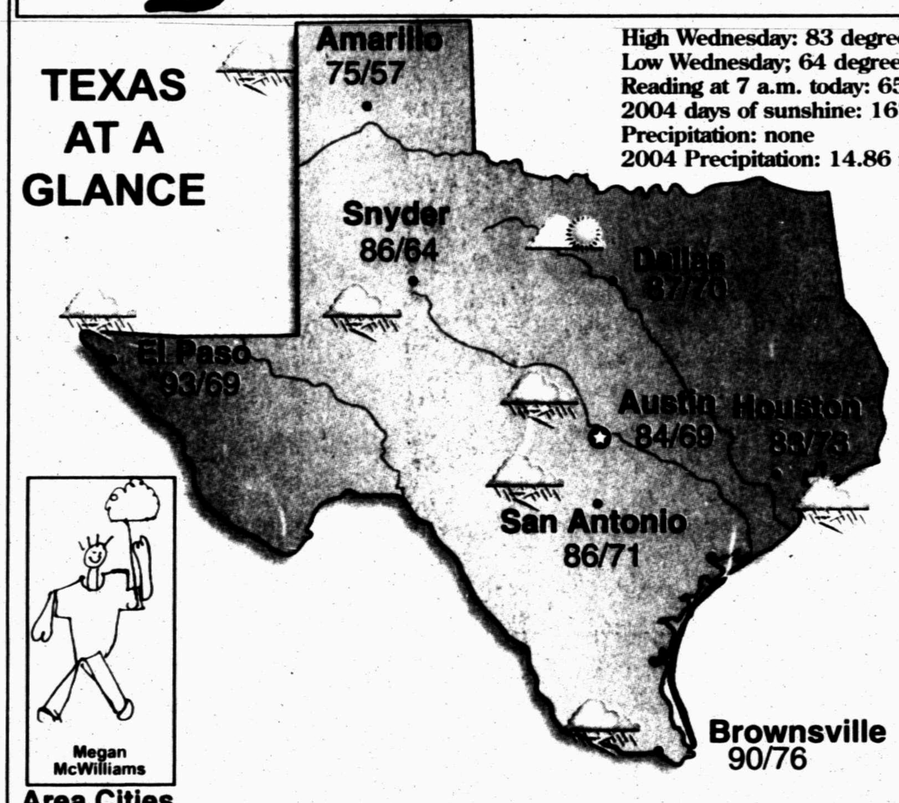
TEXAS AT A GLANCE

High Wednesday: 83 degrees
Low Wednesday; 64 degrees
Reading at 7 a.m. today: 65
2004 days of sunshine: 167 of 175
Precipitation: none
2004 Precipitation: 14.86 inches



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Abilene	86	66	mst sunny	El Paso	93	69	t-storm	Midland	89	66	sunny
Amarillo	75	57	t-storm	Fort Stockton	87	66	mst sunny	Raymondville	90	73	t-storm
Austin	84	69	t-storm	Gainesville	84	66	t-storm	Rosenberg	83	72	t-storm
Beaumont	82	72	t-storm	Greenville	84	67	t-storm	San Antonio	86	71	t-storm
Brownsville	90	76	t-storm	Houston	83	73	t-storm	San Marcos	85	70	t-storm
Brownwood	87	67	mst sunny	Kingsville	88	73	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	83	67	t-storm
Corpus Christi	86	75	t-storm	Livingston	82	69	t-storm	Sweetwater	86	65	mst sunny
Corsicana	84	68	t-storm	Longview	83	68	t-storm	Tyler	83	68	t-storm
Dallas	87	70	pt sunny	Lubbock	81	62	t-storm	Weatherford	85	67	pt sunny
Del Rio	87	71	t-storm	Lufkin	82	70	t-storm	Wichita Falls	86	65	t-storm

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Atlanta	80	68	t-storm	Houston	83	73	t-storm	Phoenix	104	80	mst sunny
Boston	75	63	t-storm	Los Angeles	79	63	mst sunny	San Francisco	68	54	windy
Chicago	70	54	pt sunny	Miami	90	80	t-storm	Seattle	67	58	mst sunny
Dallas	87	70	pt sunny	Minneapolis	70	51	mst sunny	St. Louis	76	57	rain
Denver	68	54	t-storm	New York	80	68	t-storm	Washington, DC	83	68	t-storm

Moon Phases

New	First	Full	Last
Jun 17	Jun 25	Jul 2	Jul 9

UV Index

Fri 6/25	Sat 6/26	Sun 6/27
Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

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

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