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Texas legislative highlights
Comics
Sports
Garage sales
Church directory

WT-Int. Crude - $26.58
WTIC Posted - $23.50
Natural Gas - $4.927

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

FRIDAY

16, 2001
No. 273
Pages 50¢

Home of Jessie Keller

SPRING CHORES — Jim Manley took time to wash his truck between sand storms this week. Other Snyder residents were doing yard work as temperatures were in the 70s. Temperatures are expected to be in the 50s over the weekend, however. (SDN Staff Photo)

Highway 84 is site of two rollover accidents

U.S. 84 north of Snyder has not been traveler-friendly the last two evenings.

One-vehicle accidents occurring Wednesday and Thursday have seen the drivers of those vehicles having to be airlifted to Lubbock and Abilene, respectively.

Pearl Murphrey, 20, of Fluvanna was airlifted to Lubbock's Covenant Medical Center from the scene following a one-vehicle rollover Wednesday night. She was dismissed this morning.

The accident occurred about 11 miles north of Snyder.

DPS trooper Jeremy Usener of Colorado City investigated.

Trooper Usener said two passengers in the 1992 Ford Explorer were transferred by Snyder EMS to Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Krisa Murphrey, 13, of Fluvanna was later transferred to Covenant and she was dismissed Thursday morning. Bethany Burleson, 14, of Snyder was treated and released from Cogdell Wednesday evening.

Another one-vehicle accident occurred around 5:30 p.m. Thursday within a half-mile of the Wednesday accident.

Snyder Fire Marshal Cy Posey said a late-model Chevrolet Suburban driven by Marsha Vermillion of Eastland overturned and ended up near the railroad tracks that run parallel to the highway.

Vermillion, 51, was first transported by Snyder EMS to Cogdell Hospital, and then airlifted by First Flight to Hendrick Hospital in Abilene.

Vermillion was listed in stable condition this morning in the Abilene hospital.

Posey said Santa Fe Railroad delayed rail traffic in the area of the accident due to the overturned vehicle's close proximity to the railroad tracks.

DPS trooper James Arnwine investigated.

Seven in Colorado to receive reward money

IRVING (AP) — Seven people in Colorado have been awarded a total of nearly $426,000 for helping capture fugitives from a Texas prison charged with the Christmas Eve slaying of a police officer, authorities said today.

Without the help of the seven Coloradans who assisted in the capture of the six surviving escapees, law enforcement officials say their capture would have taken far longer.

"I don't think they were monetarily motivated. They stepped forward because they were good citizens," said Irving Police Chief Lowell Cannady.

They split a total of $425,949 in reward money, Cannady said.

The rewards were distributed during a private ceremony at police headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colo., on Thursday because five of the recipients did not want to be identified. The size of each reward varied according to the recipients' role in tracking down the inmates.

The seven inmates broke out of the Connally Unit near Kenedy about 60 miles southeast of San Antonio on Dec. 13. They were captured in late January on a tip from the owners of the Woodland Park RV park where they had passed themselves off as a church group.

The inmates are charged with killing Irving Officer Aubrey Hawkins during a Christmas Eve robbery of a sporting goods store. After the robbery, the inmates fled to Colorado in a Chevy Suburban left for them at a Wal-Mart in Kenedy.

Rewards went to Jim Heitzmann, manager of the Hungry Farmer restaurant in Colorado Springs where two of the inmates left a van, and Melissa Christenson, a clerk at a Holiday Inn where the pair booked a room. The other recipients were not identified. One person sent two lawyers to pick up the check.

Heitzmann said he would split his money with seven restaurant workers. One of the workers spotted the van and all of them checked to see if it was connected with the inmates. Heitzmann called police.

He said police have always encouraged him to call about anything suspicious. "If it's nothing, don't worry about it. Could turn out to be the Texas Seven, too," he said.

Christenson, 19, called police after Patrick Murphy Jr., 39, and Donald Newbury, 38, checked into the hotel, paying in cash and showing false identification. Photos of the fugitives were posted at the front desk.

Murphy and Newbury surrendered hours later. Four other inmates were arrested peacefully in an RV two days earlier and a fifth committed suicide as authorities closed in.

Area sales tax rebates

City	Mar '01	Mar '00	+/-	Year '01	Year '00	+/-
Abilene	$1,730,261	$1,537,199	12.55%	$6,423,911	$6,465,426	-0.64%
Big Spring	$239,892	$263,415	-8.92%	$927,271	$895,279	3.57%
Colorado City	$29,984	$32,424	-7.52%	$113,418	$112,454	0.85%
Lamesa	$49,520	$61,180	-19.05%	$219,993	$229,968	-4.33%
Lubbock	$2,055,789	$1,787,830	14.98%	$7,286,008	$7,102,866	2.57%
Post	$18,244	$20,531	-11.13%	$70,038	$64,067	9.31%
Roby	$1,265	$2,265	-44.13%	$6,509	$6,904	-5.71%
Rotan	$7,234	$10,422	-30.58%	$34,439	$32,299	6.62%
Snyder	$96,054	$114,827	-16.34%	$351,420	$368,064	-4.52%
Sweetwater	$102,556	$138,745	-26.08%	$452,437	$492,653	-8.16%

SALES TAX REBATES — Sales tax rebates to the City of Snyder were down 16.34 percent for the month of March — $96,054 compared to $114,827 in 2000. March rebates represent sales taxes collected in January and reported to the comptroller in February.

Austin policeman claims big jackpot

AUSTIN (AP) — An Austin police officer and his wife are the winners of Lotto Texas' record $85 million jackpot and are planning to make a public appearance today.

Robert and Beverly Chody claimed their winnings Thursday, a check for $51.2 million, sources told The Associated Press. The couple chose the cash-option payment so they received a smaller share of the winnings in a lump sum.

Beverly Chody purchased the winning ticket at Shopper's Mart in north Austin for the March 7 lottery drawing.

The prize money was issued to a partnership, RBH CNC Ltd., which records show includes a company called RBH Rags-to-Riches Inc., lottery officials said.

Attempts to reach the Chodys before their planned news conference Friday were unsuccessful.

The retailer that sold the ticket is eligible to receive a 1 percent bonus up to $500,000.

The winning numbers were 10-31-36-37-45-51. The winning ticket was a Quick Pick selection in which a computer selects the numbers at random.

The largest jackpot prior to the March 7 drawing was $75 million. It was shared by five winning-ticket holders.

House ready to tackle Bush's tax proposal

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House next week turns its attention to President Bush's proposals to ease the tax penalty on marriage, double the $500 child tax credit and abolish the estate tax, with Republican leaders promising votes on two more tax-cutting bills by early April.

If those measures are passed, the House would embark on its annual spring recess having passed the bulk of Bush's 10-year, $1.6 trillion package. The heart of that plan, the $958 billion income tax cut, was sent to the Senate last week.

"We are just beginning to provide real and lasting tax relief to the American people who pay the bills," said Rep. Bill Thomas, chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

Thomas, R-Calif., acknowledged Thursday the difficulty of holding to Bush's $1.6 trillion figure. Many Republicans want greater relief from the tax marriage penalty than Bush recommended and are pushing for a bipartisan bill raising contribution limits on IRAs and 401(k)s.

GOP leaders also want to make sure the House-passed $958 billion, across-the-board income tax cut will not force middle-class taxpayers to pay the complex alternative minimum tax, which Democrats say would cost $200 billion to prevent. And some upcoming components of Bush's plan could be made retroactive — which also raises the price — to put more money in consumers' pockets sooner amid signs of a worsening economy.

The White House acknowledged Friday that the administration is working with lawmakers to adjust the plan so that more components could take effect in 2001. The Treasury Department estimated that at least 17.4 million small businesses and entrepreneurs who don't pay corporate income taxes would benefit primarily from the House-passed income tax cuts, many of them through proposed cuts in the top tax rate from 39.6 percent to 33.0 percent.

Thomas compared the challenge of meeting the $1.6 trillion figure to "putting a pound and a half of sugar into a one-pound bag." He added: "I think we might be able to get that done."

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "When a Hollywood couple gets remarried, it usually means their divorce didn't work out."

The census figures are out, and folks are already demanding a recount.

We don't know whether to blame it on dimples or hanging chads, but something doesn't add up.

Our population may be down, but the percentage is up. According to the racial percentages in the census figures for Snyder, the number of Anglo residents is 79 percent, 31 percent is Hispanic and just under one percent is black.

That's almost 110 percent.

Perhaps the census is where that ole saying started, "Close enough for government work."

We happen to agree with DCOS executive director **John DeLille** who said Snyder has already reached its economic low and is now bouncing back.

Much of the population loss came when petroleum prices fell, and jobs dried up. Currently, there are service companies seeking employees.

And don't forget about last week's positive announcement for a $30 million CO2 flood project in the Cogdell Field by Oxy Permian.

Hearty Scurry County folks just keep on clawing.

The Snyder Tigers captured the championship crown of the Canyon Reef Relays while the baseball team took the runner-up trophy.

For the Tigers, **Mark Medley** got a gold medal in both the discus and the shot put. **Corey Clay** was first in both the triple jump and long jump while **Jared Thornhill** captured first in the pole vault.

Thornhill joined **Edwin James**, **Matthew Grimmett** and **Josh Arizmendi** for a first place finish in the 4x100 meter relay.

With spring break winding down, sports action is only slightly curtailed this weekend.

The Snyder Tigers are 1-0 in District 4-4A and travel to Levelland tonight. Meanwhile the Lady Tigers softball squad, now 2-1, hopes to get back on the winning track by hosting Frenship this evening.

Watch for the Spring Garden and Home Improvement section in this weekend's ***Snyder Daily News***. Tuesday is the first day of Spring and Wednesday is the deadline for candidates to file for school board and city council positions.

Enjoy the weekend!

ASK US

Q—How many pounds of rattlesnakes were collected at the recent Sweetwater Jaycee's Rattlesnake Round-up?
A—3,043.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Thursday, 67 degrees; low 30; 7 a.m. Friday, 31; no precipitation; total for 2001, 4.13 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy, low upper 30s, SE wind 10-02 mph. Saturday, mostly cloudy, 20% rain chance, high mid 50s, SE wind 10-20 mph.

Ty Burton
Cloudy

Sunset: 6:53 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:52 a.m.
Of 74 days in 2001, the sun has shone 65 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Six essential qualities that are keys to success: sincerity, personal integrity, humility, courtesy, wisdom and charity.
—Dr. William Menninger

MAR 16 2001

Highlights from Thursday Legislature

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate Finance Committee unanimously approved $563 million Thursday to fund pay and benefit raises for state employees in the coming two years. Another $224 million in federal funding would go toward salary increases.

The plan includes a 5 percent across-the-board pay raise for all state workers. The employees must receive a minimum raise of $100 per month.

Correctional and juvenile correctional officers would receive an extra $6 per month per year of service in each of the next two years.

"We couldn't come up with enough but it's certainly a substantial increase over what we did in better economic times," said Senate Finance Chairman Rodney Ellis, D-Houston.

BANNING BOOZE

Riding around with a beer in your hand wouldn't be allowed any longer in Texas under a bill approved by the Senate. All open containers of alcohol would be banned in passenger compartments of vehicles.

Currently, only the driver can be ticketed for having an open container of alcohol, and that's only if a law officer sees the driver consuming the container's contents.

If it becomes law, the open container law will allow Texas to recoup some $43 million annually in federal highway money, said the bill's sponsor, Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound. More importantly, she said, it will save lives.

"I am horrified that Texas is number one in alcohol-related traffic deaths and I think if we pass this legislation it will certainly save lives," Nelson said.

The legislation also requires people convicted of a second drunken driving offense within a five-year period to have an alcohol breath monitor installed in their cars.

YOU SPEED, YOU PAY

Speeding tickets for drivers going 95 mph or faster could cost even more under a bill approved by the Senate. The bill would increase the range of fines given out for driving that speed to between $200 and $500. The current range for fines is between $1 and $200.

INSURANCE GRIPES

Sparks flew on the Senate floor when Sen. John Carona, a Dallas businessman, explained his bill that would allow rental property owners and property management firms to sell renters insurance to their residents.

Sen. Carlos Truan, an insurance agent, said that if the bill passes, renters would be "silently coerced" into buying renters insurance from their landlords.

"There are many landlords that are scoundrels and will do whatever they can to try to get the most they can from the people they are renting to," said Truan, D-Corpus Christi. "I am just telling you that no profession is free of abuse and this is true of landlords as well."

Carona, R-Dallas, said the legislation would relieve landlords of liability for negligence but will alleviate worries when there is "an unfortunate loss."

Under the legislation, the Texas Department of Insurance would not regulate the rate landlords could charge for the insurance, Carona's office said. Truan said that would cause a major insurance group to monopolize the industry without state oversight.

Carona withdrew the bill from floor debate and said he will bring it up next week.

PRIVACY

The government would be prohibited from giving out citizens' Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, computer passwords or computer network locations without an attorney general opinion, under a bill approved by the Senate.

The bill by Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, also sets up principles for handling sensitive information, directs the Department of Information Resources to establish minimum privacy standards for all government Web sites and requires government entities to establish and publish a privacy policy.

TEXAS TORNADO

Lawmakers honored the late musician Doug Sahm with a memorial resolution as his family members stood at the front of the Senate chamber.

Sahm, a main figure in the Tex-Mex supergroup Texas Tornados and the lead in the Sir Douglas Quintet, died in November 1999.

Born in San Antonio, he became a master of many different musical styles — rock, country, blues and Tex-Mex.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"President Bush called me and I had to take that call," Sen. Ken Armbrister, D-Victoria, joking as he was caught off guard when acting Lt. Gov. Bill Ratliff recognized him to speak while he talked on a phone at his Senate desk.

IN CONCERT — The Brashears, Arkansas' Ambassadors of Good Will, will be in concert at 6 p.m. Sunday at the First Baptist Church in Ira. An offering will be taken during the concert. The Brashears present about 250 concerts each year. Janice writes many of the songs and Jerrel writes for a nationally distributed magazine. The Brashears started singing gospel music with their three children. Now that their family is grown, the Brashears continue to perform as a couple. For the past 26 years, the Brashears have given concerts throughout the U.S. (Contributed Photo)

events

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Pick 3

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

5-9-8

Cash Five

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

6-12-20-21-36

Handyman convicted in 2 deaths

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A 34-year-old handyman has been convicted of strangling two women, including an actress who provided the voice of Norman Bates' mother in the classic Alfred Hitchcock film "Psycho."

Kenneth Dean Hunt was found guilty Thursday of two counts of first-degree murder. He could receive the death penalty at his sentencing, set for Monday.

Hunt avoided suspicion in the 1988 killing of actress Myra Davis for 10 years. Authorities originally thought his 1998 victim, Jean Orloff, 60, died of a heart attack.

It wasn't until Orloff's family was preparing to have her body cremated that it was discovered she had been strangled.

Police quickly linked the two killings, noting the victims had similar markings on their necks. Both women had been raped and their houses burglarized.

Davis, 71, had also appeared as Janet Leigh's body double in "Psycho." Her professional name was Myra Jones.

Actor's art collection to be display in April

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Steve Martin? Fine art? Las Vegas?

As Martin might say, "Well, excuuuuuuuse me!"

The comedian, actor, author, banjo player, singer — who'll add Academy Awards host to his resume on March 25 — is going to show the public yet another facet when he displays his collection of modern and contemporary art April 7 at the Bellagio hotel-casino on the Las Vegas Strip.

Why a Las Vegas casino?

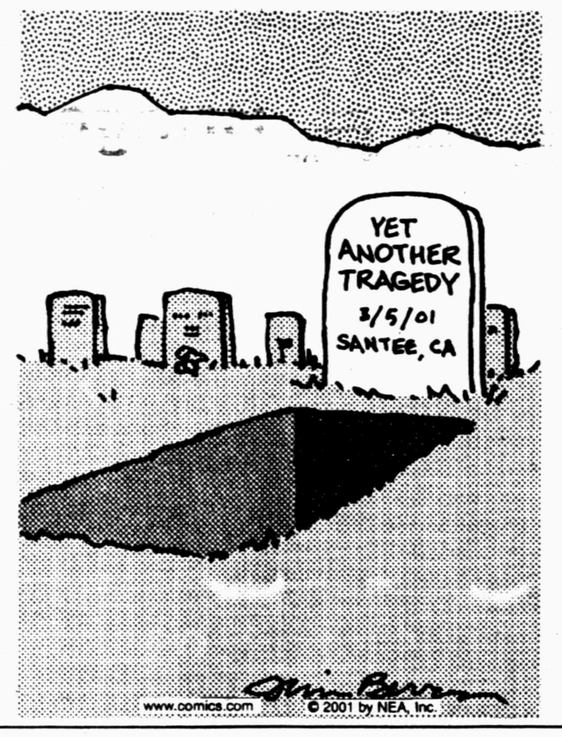
"The real reason," Martin says in a catalog to be sold at his first-ever show, is "it sounds like fun."

Martin's show of 28 pieces will include works by Georges Seurat, Roy Lichtenstein, Pablo Picasso, David Hockney, Edward Hopper and others. Two works by David Park and Neil Jenney that Martin previously donated to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art will also be shown.

"The juxtaposition of great art in Las Vegas seems almost like an oxymoron," acknowledged Alan Feldman, spokesman for MGM Mirage resorts, which owns Bellagio.

The upscale resort and The Venetian Resort-Hotel-Casino are among those trying to change the city's neon-lit, velvet painting, home-of-boxing image by promoting museum-quality art galleries.

Berry's World



7 persons share the reward for fugitives

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — Seven Coloradans were given a total of $425,000 in reward money Thursday for helping capture seven Texas fugitives.

The rewards were distributed during a private ceremony at police headquarters because some recipients did not want to be identified. The size of each reward varied according to the recipients' role in tracking down the inmates.

The seven inmates broke out of prison Dec. 13 and fled to Colorado. They were captured in late January on a tip from the owners of the Woodland Park RV park where they had passed themselves off as a church group.

Lowell Cannady, the police chief of Irving, Texas, distributed the reward money. The inmates are accused of killing Irving Officer Aubrey Hawkins during a Christmas Eve robbery. He would not say how much each person received.

Rewards went to Jim Heitzmann, manager of the Hungry Farmer restaurant in Colorado Springs where two of the inmates left a van, and Melissa Christenson, a clerk at a Holiday Inn where the pair booked a room. The other recipients were not identified. One person sent two lawyers to pick up the check.

Heitzmann said he would split his money with seven restaurant workers. One of the workers spotted the van and all of them checked to see if it was connected with the inmates. Heitzmann called police.

He said police have always encouraged him to call about something suspicious. "If it's nothing, don't worry about it. Could turn out to be the Texas Seven, too," he said.

Christenson, 19, called police after Patrick Murphy Jr., 39, and Donald Newbury, 38, checked into the hotel, paying in cash and showing false identification.

Date Book

Friday, March 16, 2001

Today is the 75th day of 2001 and the 86th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1521, Ferdinand Magellan discovered the Philippines.

On this day in 1925, the U.S. Senate rejected President Calvin Coolidge's nomination of Charles Warren to be attorney general.

On this day in 1966, Neil Armstrong became the first civilian astronaut in space. He and Maj. David Scott orbited for 10 hours, 42 minutes in the Gemini 8 spacecraft.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: James Madison (1751-1836), U.S. president; Georg Simon Ohm (1789-1854), physicist; Jerry Lewis (1926-), comedian, is 75; Daniel Patrick Moynihan (1927-), U.S. politician, is 74; Kate Nelligan (1951-), actress, is 50.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1988, Julie Croteau became the first woman to play baseball on a men's NCAA baseball team.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "A government deriving its energy from the will of the society ... is the government for which philosophy has been searching, and humanity been fighting, from the most remote ages." — James Madison

TODAY'S MOON: Last quarter.

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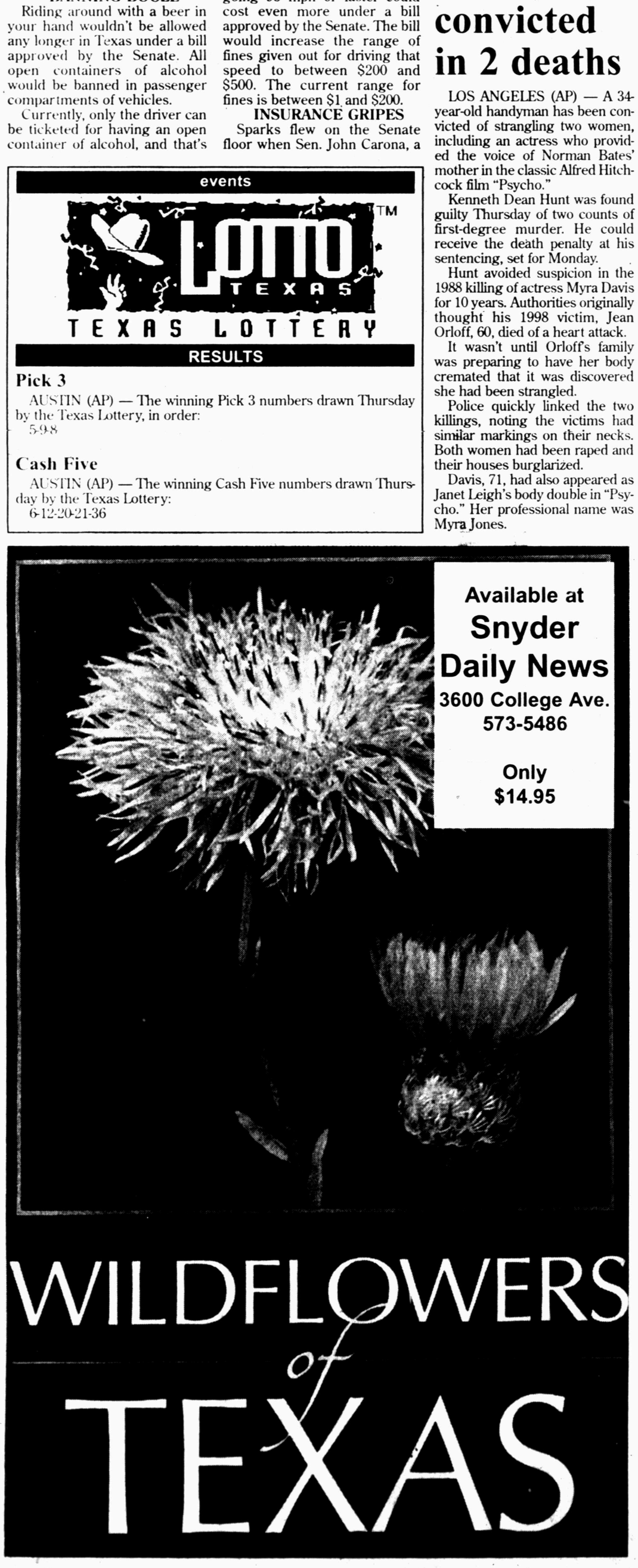


SWEET NOVEMBER PG13

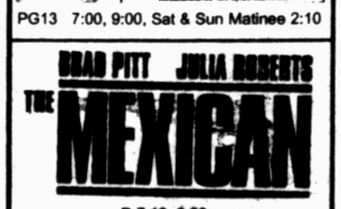
★★★Keanu Reeves plays the part of a workaholic who finds love and the meaning of life from a free-spirited woman played by Charlize Theron **Starring Keanu Reeves, Charlize Theron**

THE MEXICAN R

★★★Brad Pitt stars as Jerry who is sent by the mob to Mexico to retrieve a legendary, priceless pistol, the Mexican. Julia Roberts plays Jerry's girlfriend Sam. Action, comedy and romance make this movie a must see. **Starring Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts, James Gandolfini**

CINEMA I & II
1907 Snyder Shopping Center
573-7519

PG13 7:00, 9:00, Sat & Sun Matinee 2:10



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Sat & Sun Matinee 2:00

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
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By Abigail

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Elite Rangers to get brown berets

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a concession to the elite Rangers, the Army has approved their request to switch the color of their distinctive beret — to tan from the black that is going to be the standard-issue beret color for most of the rest of Army starting in June.

The decision appeared to settle the major element of a controversy that has drawn the attention of key members of Congress and even President Bush, who recently asked Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld to look into the controversy over beret fashion in the Army.

As a result of Bush's request, the Pentagon is still studying whether the Army erred in contracting with Chinese and other non-American manufacturers to supply the black berets.

For years, the black beret has been the exclusive headgear of the Rangers, a small, elite force with a glory-covered history. Currently, only three Army units are authorized to wear berets: Airborne units wear maroon berets, Special Forces wear green (and are known famously as the Green Berets) and Rangers wear black.

In an announcement Thursday evening, the 75th Ranger Regiment, based at Fort Benning, Ga., said the Army had approved its request to change the regiment's beret color "to maintain the distinctiveness of the unit and reflect the legacy of more than two centuries of Ranger history."

"After studying several options, the Rangers decided on the Ranger tan beret," the announcement said. It said Col. P.K. Keen, the regiment's commander, sent a memorandum to the Army chief of staff, Gen. Eric Shinseki, on March 9, requesting the change from black to tan.

Shinseki approved it Thursday.

"The decision to adopt the Ranger tan beret is based upon maintaining a distinctive beret for our Rangers as the Army transitions to the black beret," Keen said. He said the Rangers support the Army's decision to make the black beret the standard headgear.

"Rangers have never been measured by what they have worn in peace or combat, but by commitment, dedication, physical and mental toughness, and willingness to lead the way — anywhere, anytime," Keen said. "The beret has become our most visible symbol — it will remain so."

Still unresolved is the Army's decision to get a waiver of a legal requirement to have the black berets manufactured in the United States. It did so because of the rush to institute the black beret as standard headgear for the Army on June 14, the Army's birthday.

The controversy began last October when Shinseki made a surprise announcement that all soldiers, from the most junior to the top ranks, would wear a black beret as standard Army headgear.

"When we wear the black beret it will say that we, the soldiers of the world's best army, are committed to making ourselves even better," Shinseki said when he announced that the change. He said the beret would be a "symbol of unity."

The announcement drew immediate and lasting protests, mainly from retired Rangers who felt Shinseki had cheapened their proud tradition by making the black beret a common currency.

Justice defends Electoral College

HARRISONBURG, Va. (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas says people who want to abolish the Electoral College should think carefully about why the Constitution's framers created it.

Speaking Thursday at James Madison University, Thomas said, "Before people go making changes to something that was thoughtfully implemented, they should be as thoughtful in what the consequences would be."

George W. Bush won the presidency by electoral votes even though he lost last year's nationwide popular vote to Al Gore by more than a half-million votes. Some exasperated Americans suggested amending the Constitution to do away with the Electoral College.

"They should understand why it's there, as a protection so regions won't dominate other regions," the justice said. "They should see that before they go and change these things just because they don't like a result."

Thomas also said it would be a "huge mistake" to view the nation's highest court as basing its decisions on politics.

During the presidential election case in December, "I just wish that there was some way that the American people could truly have seen the court function with this thing that had everybody else torn apart," he said. "I still say after almost 10 terms, I have yet to hear the first unkind word."

The court issued a sharply divided 5-4 decision that ended the Florida ballot recount and the effort by Gore's campaign to save his candidacy.

Asked whether he believed there would be a new effort to overturn the right to abortion under the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision, Thomas said, "I don't have a clue. I have one vote."

Thomas said Americans should not get into a "major food fight" over issues such as affirmative action but should be thoughtful, as the Constitution's framers were.

"Now it's a war of words, it's a war of politics, and I don't see where it does any good," he said.

Thomas said he had always thought affirmative action was intended to help disadvantaged children instead of helping more well-off children based on race.

Thomas, one of the court's most conservative justices, noted the court has been criticized for recent rulings that have tipped the federal-state balance of power toward the states. But he said state power puts a check on the federal government and protects individual liberty.

Such emphasis on state authority should not be blamed for the evils of slavery and segregation, he added.

"The men and women who perpetrated both slavery and segregation were those who committed the wrongs and who perverted the American system of government for their own ends and their own prejudices," Thomas said.

The justice said he once was questioned by a man who thought he interpreted the Constitution too narrowly. He said he told the man he sought to follow the framers' intent.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Saturday, March 17, 2001

Improved conditions where you can express your ideas and resourcefulness will be brought into the fray in the year ahead. It'll help you realize a few hopes and expectations.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Project warmth and friendliness today and you'll attract those types of people to you. You don't have to do anything special — just be yourself. Trying to patch up a broken romance?

The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Play everything down the middle today. Pushing too hard in either direction could get you off track, and instead of feeling good about things, you'll wonder what went wrong.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) The opportunity to discuss a matter that is very important to you might present itself today. Don't beat around the bush; be right up front about everything.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Even if you don't learn about it today, someone is looking out for your interests at this time. It will have something to do with what you can share with another.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Instead of trying to steer things your way today, let destiny carve its own course for you. If you do, this will turn out to be a very pleasant day for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You need some type of activity today that stimulates you both mentally and physically. It doesn't have to be anything strenuous or extraordinary, just healthy and invigorating.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) One of your greatest talents is being able to effectively manage others in ways they'll not feel manipulated. You'll effectively use this talent today, because your intentions will be constructive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) The self-assured, calm and peaceful attitude you display today will prove to be an example others want to emulate. Don't be surprised if everybody wants to be with you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Should you find yourself a bit restless today, get out and find someplace where you can unobtrusively stroll and observe the beauty that's all around us. It'll be inspiring to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Events in which your commercial involvements are concerned favor you today, be they work related or simply going shopping. Try to spend some time on material acquisition.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Working together is always acceptable; however, today you might be able to realize better gains operating solo, where you can develop some personal successes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) If you're not in the mood to go out on the town today, don't feel pushed into doing so. Much can be gained from introspective hours in a quiet place.

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Artifacts are found

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Scientists excavating the interior of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley have found two buttons — the first personal effects from the crew of the hand-cranked vessel.

"The buttons bring goosebumps to us," said state Sen. Glenn McConnell, chairman of the South Carolina Hunley Commission.

Scientists are excavating the crew compartment, hoping to find the remains of the nine crewmen at the bottom of the silt-filled sub. The buttons, which were located Thursday but not yet removed and examined, were a sign the scientists could be getting closer.

Also found was the edge of a wooden plank that could have been a seat or a shelf. The plank was too large to recover Thursday.

"To find this organic substance in such a high state of preservation increases the reasons to hope the other artifacts and human remains are also well preserved," McConnell said.

The Hunley sank Feb. 17, 1864, after sinking the Union ship Housatonic.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Sniffing household products is dangerous way to get high

DEAR ABBY: Please lend your powerful voice to one of the most overlooked substance abuse problems in America and assist us in launching National Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week, March 18 to 24, 2001.

Your readers already know about the dangers of alcohol-impaired driving, underage smoking and drinking, and illicit drug abuse. But I wonder how many mothers and fathers understand that their kids are also at risk from common household products not usually associated with drug abuse.

Nail polish remover, airplane glue, bleach, paint, kerosene and many other products can cause serious health problems when children and adolescents use them to get high.

Sniffing or "huffing" (inhaling through the mouth) can induce effects ranging from temporary headaches to long-term brain damage or even death. Younger children, who may experiment out of curiosity, are the most likely inhalant abusers. They do not understand that ordinary products may be dangerous if used for something other than the intended purpose.

Abby, please ask parents to teach their children that sniffing and huffing are dangerous. Adults must be alert to missing household products and soaked rags, bags or socks. It is important for parents to inform kids that inhalant abuse is harmful, unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Knowing what your children are doing, who they hang with, and making arrangements for them to participate in supervised after-school activities are also important steps grown-ups can take to prevent youth substance abuse.

Readers who want help or additional information should call the Department of Health and Human Services' national clearinghouse at 1-800-788-2800 and and request a parenting skills brochure. Our multilingual Web site is www.theantidrug.com.

Thank you, Abby, for your leadership during this year's campaign, and for all you do to help your readers enjoy safe, healthy lives. — **EDWARD JURITH, ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

DEAR MR. JURITH AND PARENTS EVERYWHERE: I am pleased to help and to urge parents to support your campaign to discourage children and teens from heedlessly risking their health. With close to a million new inhalant users a year and 5 percent of eighth-graders reporting inhalant use in the past 30 days, there's cause for concern.

Whether innocently or intentionally misused to get high, everyday products — and less common ones such as "laughing gas" — are no laughing matter.

I'm troubled to hear that only one-fourth of America's children have what one study calls "hands-on" parents — parents who have established rules and expectations for their teens' behavior, and who monitor what their teens do and where they are during evenings and weekends. That one-fourth of our youth are at one-quarter the risk of smoking, drinking and using drugs as those with "hands-off" parents.

It is vital that parents take an active role with their kids, so that their youngsters refrain from abusing inhalants and other dangerous substances. Introducing them to the tantalizing fumes of a good, home-cooked meal is an excellent place to start. Children are like flowers. They blossom in the sunshine of interested, involved parents.

**

Abby shares her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "Abby's More Favorite Recipes." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $7.90 ($9 each in Canada) to: Dear Abby Cookbooklets, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder

	North	03-16-01
	♠ K Q 4 2	
	♥ 5 4 3	
	♦ 7 6 3	
	♣ A 7 4	
West		**East**
♠ J 8 7 5		♠ A 10 9 6
♥ —		♥ Q 10 9
♦ 10 9 8 5		♦ Q J 4
♣ K Q J 6 5		♣ 10 9 2
	South	
	♠ 3	
	♥ A K J 8 7 6 2	
	♦ A K 2	
	♣ 8 3	

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ K

Friday, March 16, 2001

The judge puts a shrimp on the barbie

By Phillip Alder

Michel Foucault, a French philosopher, not the pendulum man, wrote, "The judges of normality are present everywhere. We are in the society of the teacher-judge, the doctor-judge, the educator-judge, the 'social worker'-judge."

Four weeks ago, I commented that I like deals in which the "normal" approach is wrong. Here is another, which I was shown by Ron Klinger, the Australian bridge-writer-teacher-player-judge!

How would you plan the play in four hearts? West leads the club king. You duck in the dummy, hoping he might become allergic to the suit, but irritatingly he continues with the club jack. What now?

You seem to start with 11 easy tricks: one spade, seven hearts, two diamonds and one club. You can expect a 2-1 trump split; after all, it has a 78 percent probability. And that useful heart two gives you an entry to the dummy once you have driven out their spade ace. Could anything be easier?

Well, there's the rub, of course. There is one potential moth in the moistener: a 3-0 heart break. Then you might have to lose a trick in each suit. If West has all three, there's nothing you can do. But what if East has the trio? Now we're getting closer. When you lead a trump from the dummy and East follows low, finesse your jack!

If it loses, the hearts must be 2-1. You can win West's minor-suit return, draw the last trump, and play a spade to guarantee your contract. Here, though, the finesse wins and West discards. You are still safe, with 10 tricks from seven hearts, two diamonds and one club.

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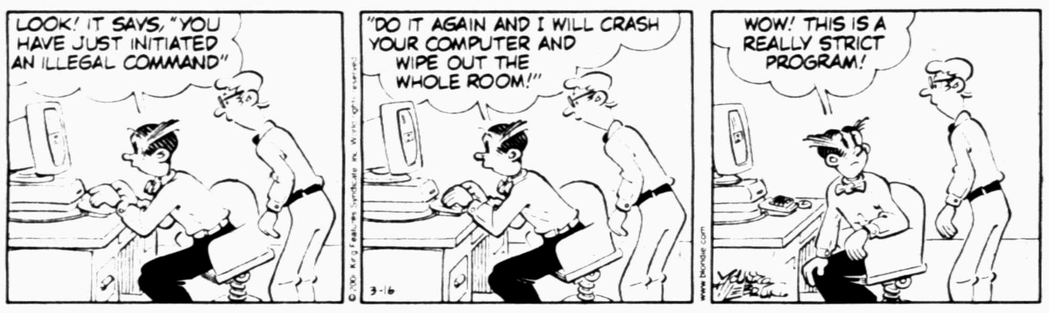

THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Actress Lily —
7 Salad staple
13 Conceive
14 Accustoms
15 Less difficult
16 Ambassador Harriman
17 Actress Cannon
18 Dachshund's doc
20 District in Germany
21 Fable writer
23 "We're — — see the wizard"
27 Uniform ornament
32 OPEC vessel
33 Official proclamation
34 Publish
35 Bothersome things
36 Go on a cruise (2 wds.)
39 Rocky Mountain park
40 Express scorn
42 She gets what she wants
46 Heat abbr.
47 Station
51 Line on a map
53 Theater district
55 Actress Cates
56 Open
57 Did a carpentry chore
58 Moe or Larry, e.g.

DOWN

1 Tongue- — (speechless)
2 Singer Anita —
3 High plateau
4 Reclined
5 "Graph" finish
6 Gall
7 Extremely good
8 "— — Clear Day"
9 Fall flowers
10 Locale
11 Tissue
12 Gravel ridges
19 Compass pt.
21 Large arteries
22 "The Prince and the —"
23 "How clumsy of me"
24 Ignite
25 Fly quickly
26 Decade numbers
28 Luau strings
29 Endure
30 Ancient Italian family
31 "Guarding —"
37 Deep-seated
38 Allow
41 East wind deity
42 Gloss targets
43 Safety agcy.
44 Aquatic bird
45 Not up yet
47 El —, Texas
48 Vegetable spread
49 Male deer
50 Lacquered metalware
52 Lincoln's nickname
54 Bank-statement abbr.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

D	Y	N	A	M	O		D	A	P	P	L	E
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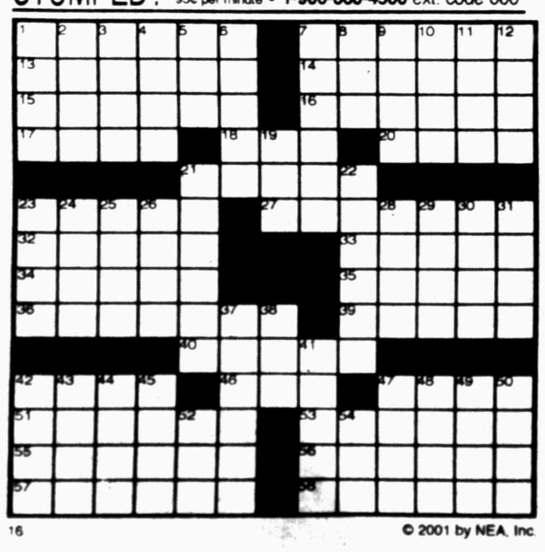

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"Hey! Do you wanna see a UFO?"

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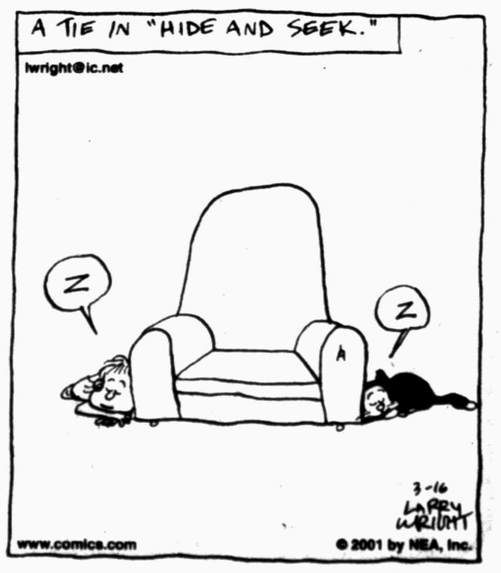

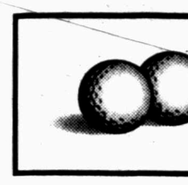

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SPORTS

Upsets highlight opening round

By The Associated Press

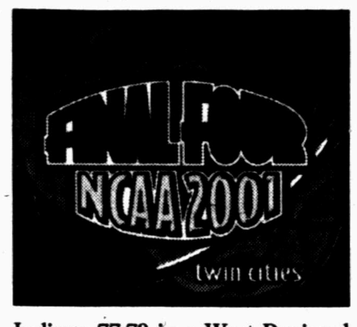
Seeded low and lightly regarded, Hampton, Georgia State and Utah State rocked the NCAA tournament.

Upsets and close calls filled the first half of the tournament's opening round Thursday, with 15th-seeded Hampton punctuating a wild four-game set in Boise, Idaho, in West Regional games.

Last year, three teams seeded 10th or lower won first-round games. With just half the first round completed, five double-digit seeds have advanced to the second round.

Hampton beat second-seeded Iowa State 58-57. No. 11 Georgia State beat sixth-seeded Wisconsin 50-49, and 10th-seeded Georgetown stopped No. 7 Arkansas 63-61. Third-seeded Maryland avoided an upset, holding on for a 83-80 win over George Mason.

In other first-round upsets, No. 13 Kent State beat fourth-seeded



Indiana 77-73 in a West Regional game in San Diego, and No. 12 Utah State stopped No. 5 Ohio State 77-68 in overtime in an East Regional game.

Tarvis Williams flipped in a 4-footer in the lane with 6.9 seconds remaining as Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference champion Hampton stunned Iowa State.

Jamaal Tinsley missed a layup with 1.2 seconds to go, setting off a celebration as the Pirates (25-6) and their fans stormed the floor.

Hampton, making its first NCAA tournament appearance, became the fourth 15th seed to beat a No. 2 since the tournament expanded to 16 seeds per region in 1985.

"It was a great win. I thought our kids persevered," coach Steve Merfeld said. "They took control of the game, but we just hung in there and hung in there."

The Cyclones (25-6), who came within one game of the Final Four last season, left the court in shock.

"It's just devastating to go out like this," Iowa State guard Kantrail Horton said.

Georgia State, led by former Maryland coach Lefty Driesell, knocked off the sixth-seeded Badgers to set up a second-round showdown with the Terrapins.

"I told my team this might be the greatest win I've ever had," said Driesell, fired by Maryland 15 years ago. "We came back in the second half and showed what kind of club we have."

Georgia State's Darryl Cooper made a four-point play and a steal to set up the game-winning basket in the final minute.

Maryland (22-10) used Steve Blake's late 3-pointer and Juan Dixon's two free throws with 4.9 seconds left to beat George Mason (18-12). Dixon and Byron Mouton scored 22 points each for Maryland.

In other West Regional play in San Diego, St. Joseph's upset Georgia Tech 66-62, top-seeded Stanford beat North Carolina Greensboro 89-60 and Cincinnati beat Brigham Young 84-59.

In the East Regional in Uniondale, N.Y., Kentucky edged Holy Cross 72-68, Iowa beat Creighton 69-56, Boston College held off Southern Utah 68-65 and Southern California beat Oklahoma State 69-54.

In Greensboro, N.C., UCLA defeated Hofstra 61-48, top-seeded Duke beat Monmouth 95-52 and Missouri edged Georgia 70-68.

Men's NCAA Tournament

All Times EST
EAST REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 15
At Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum
Uniondale, N.Y.
Kentucky 72, Holy Cross 68
Iowa 69, Creighton 56
Boston College 68, Southern Utah 65
Southern California 69, Oklahoma State 54
At Greensboro Coliseum
Greensboro, N.C.
Utah State 77, Ohio State 68, OT
UCLA 61, Hofstra 48
Duke 95, Monmouth, N.J. 52
Missouri 70, Georgia 68
Second Round
Saturday, March 17
At Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum
Uniondale, N.Y.
Boston College (27-4) vs. Southern California, 5:30 p.m.
Kentucky (23-9) vs. Iowa (23-11), 30 minutes after previous game
At Greensboro Coliseum
Greensboro, N.C.
Duke (30-4) vs. Missouri (20-12), 1:10 p.m.
UCLA (22-8) vs. Utah State (28-5), 30 minutes after previous game
SOUTH REGIONAL
First Round
Friday, March 16
At The Pyramid
Memphis, Tenn.
Virginia (20-8) vs. Gonzaga (24-6), 12:25 p.m.
Oklahoma (26-6) vs. Indiana State (21-11), 30 minutes after previous game
Michigan State (24-4) vs. Alabama State (22-8), 7:40 p.m.
California (20-10) vs. Fresno State (25-6), 30 minutes after previous game
At The Louisiana Superdome
New Orleans
Texas (25-8) vs. Temple (21-12), 12:30 p.m.
Florida (23-6) vs. Western Kentucky (24-6), 30 minutes after previous game
Penn State (19-11) vs. Providence (21-9), 7:50 p.m.
North Carolina (25-6) vs. Princeton (16-10), 30 minutes after previous game

MIDWEST REGIONAL
First Round
Friday, March 16
At University of Dayton Arena
Dayton, Ohio
Illinois (24-7) vs. Northwestern State (19-12), 12:15 p.m.
Tennessee (22-10) vs. Charlotte (21-10), 30 minutes after previous game
Kansas (24-6) vs. Cal State Northridge (22-9), 7:40 p.m.
Syracuse (24-8) vs. Hawaii (17-13), 30 minutes after previous game
At Kemper Arena
Kansas City, Mo.
Wake Forest (19-10) vs. Butler (23-7), 12:30 p.m.
Arizona (23-7) vs. Eastern Illinois (21-9), 30 minutes after previous game
Mississippi (25-7) vs. Iona (22-10), 7:55 p.m.
Notre Dame (19-9) vs. Xavier (21-7), 30 minutes after previous game
WEST REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 15
At Cox Arena at Aztec Bowl
San Diego
St. Joseph's 66, Georgia Tech 62
Stanford 89, North Carolina-Greensboro 60
Kent State 77, Indiana 73
Cincinnati 84, Brigham Young 59
At BSU Pavilion
Boise, Idaho
Georgia State 50, Wisconsin 49
Maryland 83, George Mason 80
Georgetown 63, Arkansas 61
Hampton 58, Iowa State 57
Second Round
Saturday, March 17
At Cox Arena at Aztec Bowl
San Diego
Kent State (24-9) vs. Cincinnati (24-9), 5:38 p.m.
Stanford (29-2) vs. St. Joseph's (26-6), 30 minutes after previous game
At BSU Pavilion
Boise, Idaho
Maryland (22-10) vs. Georgia State (30-4), 3:20 p.m.
Hampton (25-6) vs. Georgetown (24-7), 30 minutes after previous game

JV Tigers win doubleheader

Snyder's bats started hot and stayed that way Thursday as the Tigers rolled over Coahoma in a junior varsity baseball doubleheader.

Snyder notched a 19-10 victory in the opener, before taking the second game, 17-9.

Danny Hoyle pitched the opener for the Tigers, then relieved Blake Grimmett for the final inning of the second game.

Zach Rollins belted three doubles and two singles on the day, while Isaac Ramon slapped a triple, double and a pair of singles.

Snyder will be in action again at 1 p.m. Saturday when it hosts a doubleheader with San Angelo Lake View

Snyder 19, Coahoma 10

Snyder: Zach Rollins, two doubles and two singles; Blake Grimmett and Shawn Roemisch, double and three singles; Marcus Villarreal, double and two singles; Brit Harbin, three singles; T.J. Cagle and Heath Connor, two singles; Isaac Ramon and Danny Hoyle, single.

Snyder 17, Coahoma 9

Snyder: Ramon, triple, double and single; Hoyle triple and single; Grimmett, double and two singles; Rollins, double; Roemisch, two singles; Cagle and Connor, single.

Sports Briefs

Bass club meeting

Snyder Bass Club will meet at 6:30 Tuesday evening at the TXU warehouse on Ave. M. All participants should bring their weigh-in slips.

Lions Club tournament

The Snyder Lions Club Golf Scramble will be held April 28 at the Western Texas College golf course.

Entry fee for the four-person scramble is $50 per player, and includes green fee, golf cart and a hamburger lunch. Teams must have a combined handicap over 50.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top four teams. Hole-in-one prizes will be a $5,000 CD and a 2001 Ford Focus. Entry forms can be picked up at the WTC pro shop.

Ali apologizes to Frazier

NEW YORK (AP) — Muhammad Ali has apologized for some of the things he said about Joe Frazier before their legendary fight 30 years ago.

Frazier, who for years was bitter about Ali's comments, told the New York Times he accepted Ali's apology.

Frazier outpointed Ali in what was billed as "The Fight" on March 8, 1971, in Madison Square Garden. They fought twice more, with Ali winning both times.

Before the first fight, Ali called Frazier an "Uncle Tom" and said he was "too ugly to be the champ." Before the third fight, in Manila, he compared Frazier to a gorilla.

Mickelson shares Bay Hill lead

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Phil Mickelson birdied his final hole with a 3-iron from the rough to 8 feet for a 6-under 66, giving him a share of the lead in the Bay Hill Invitational.

Grant Waite, Mark Calcavecchia, Steve Pate and Dennis Paulson also opened with 66s. Tiger Woods made his first triple bogey in 1,201 holes of official competition, hitting into the water on No. 8 and going from two strokes out of the lead to a 71.

Knight focused on obtaining Tech job

LUBBOCK (AP) — When old friend Gerald Myers asked Bob Knight to come to Texas Tech to dedicate the school's new $68 million arena, Knight didn't blink. He brought his Hoosiers south.

"I think that explains how I feel about Gerald, and that's really important to me," the former Indiana basketball coach said Thursday, a few hours after returning to Lubbock to discuss Myers' open head-coaching job.

With his friend of 30 years at his side, Knight told reporters he has brushed aside other job possibilities to focus on Tech.

"I've had contacts since talking to Texas Tech in different ways, and I've just said I don't have any interest," Knight said. "This is a situation that appeals to me tremendously.

"I think this is a community that I would really like. I think the people here are people that I would really like. ... If I coach here, I hope that we would put a team together that they could thoroughly enjoy."

Knight's enthusiastic comments came during his first visit back to the United Spirit Arena, where the Hoosiers won 68-60 on opening night, Nov. 19, 1999.

Meanwhile, at least 58 faculty members have put their names on an e-mail petition opposing Knight on grounds that his well-publicized outbursts would cast a shadow on the school.

During Knight's news conference, which kicked off a three-day visit to the campus, he took no questions.

The Hall of Fame coach, who led Indiana to three national championships and 11 Big Ten titles over 29 years, has sat out the past six months after being fired for violating a zero-tolerance behavior policy.

Now, Knight is being courted to succeed James Dickey, fired last Friday after going 9-19 in his 10th season as coach of the Red Raiders. In the past few years, Tech has lost nine scholarships because of NCAA sanctions over recruiting and unethical conduct.

Under university policy, the job must remain open for 10 business days, or until 5 p.m. March 23.

While Myers has said he has drawn up a list of 12 potential candidates, Knight is the only one who has been invited to the campus. In discussing his interest, Myers has echoed that the two would work well together.

During his visit, Knight will meet with Schmidly, Chancellor John Montford, three regents, athletic department staff and some coaches. He also will attend the Texas Tech women's NCAA game against Pennsylvania on Friday night.

National Basketball Association

All Times EST
EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Philadelphia	48	16	.750	—
New York	39	26	.600	9½
Miami	39	27	.591	10
Orlando	35	29	.547	13
Boston	28	37	.431	20½
New Jersey	22	45	.328	27½
Washington	16	48	.250	32
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	39	25	.609	—
Charlotte	38	27	.585	1½
Toronto	35	31	.530	5
Indiana	27	36	.429	11½
Detroit	24	41	.369	15½
Cleveland	23	41	.359	16
Atlanta	20	45	.308	19½
Chicago	11	52	.175	27½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	45	19	.703	—
Utah	44	19	.698	½
Dallas	42	23	.646	3½
Minnesota	38	28	.576	8
Houston	37	29	.561	9
Denver	32	34	.485	14
Vancouver	20	46	.303	26
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	43	20	.683	—
L.A. Lakers	43	21	.672	½
Portland	42	23	.646	2
Phoenix	38	26	.594	5½
Seattle	34	33	.507	11
L.A. Clippers	22	44	.333	22½
Golden State	16	49	.246	28

x-clinched playoff spot

Thursday's Games
New York 88, Toronto 72
L.A. Lakers 125, Detroit 119, OT
Seattle 108, Milwaukee 102
Dallas 103, Minnesota 83
Houston 108, New Jersey 106
Boston 105, Phoenix 101

Friday's Games
Atlanta at Indiana, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Washington, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Charlotte at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
New Jersey at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Boston at Denver, 9 p.m.
Utah at Portland, 10 p.m.
Golden State at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Detroit at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.

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VFW
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WTC opens spring rodeo competition

After a three-month break from regional competition, Western Texas College is ready to get back in the saddle this weekend at the Lovington, N.M. rodeo.

The WTC women hold a 75-point lead in the regional standings, while the Western Texas men are 127 points out of first place behind Tarleton State.

Four rodeos were held during the fall semester, with six more scheduled for this spring. Both WTC squads are gunning for return trips to the national finals in Casper, Wyo.

"Heading into the second half of the season, I'm comfortable with where we are in both the men's and women's standings," said WTC coach Greg Rhodes. "It has been great competition so far, and it's going to come down to who has the best rodeos this spring."

The Lady Westerners are led by Jamie Standifer who ranks second in the region in barrel racing, and third in breakaway roping. Also in the barrel racing, Kassie Mowry is fifth and Jennifer Freeland is seventh.

Tibba Smith is 10th overall in the goat tying.

In the men's events, WTC's Sean Willingham is the top bull rider in the region, while Houston Hutto leads the calf roping standings.

Rawley McFarland is fourth in the saddle bronc event, and Trevor Lavalley is fourth in bareback riding.

The Westerners will be without the services of Lavalley for this weekend's rodeo. The WTC bareback rider suffered a thumb injury and is unable to compete.

"He wants to try and ride next week in the Odessa rodeo," Rhodes said. "He'll have to ride left-handed, and we'll have to see how he does on some practices rides next week."

WTC will host its collegiate rodeo April 5-7 at Scurry County Coliseum.

Tigers visit Levelland...
Lady Tigers host Frenship...

SHS teams continue district campaigns

As spring break winds down, District 4-4A competition continues to heat up on the baseball and softball diamonds.

The Snyder Tigers visit Levelland at 4:30 this afternoon, while the Lady Tigers host Frenship at 7 tonight in a pair of key district contests for both SHS squads.

The Tigers (8-4) won Tuesday's league opener over Lake View and can remain tied for first place with another victory today.

The Lady Tigers (9-10), who suffered their first district setback at the hands of Big Spring on Tuesday, will be looking to get back on track against Frenship.

"We played pretty well against Lake View," said Tiger skipper Roland Herrera. "If we can do the same things we did on Tuesday, but eliminate our errors, then I think we're in good shape."

Herrera will send junior Jase Olvera to mound against the Lobos. Olvera, who spent the last two seasons at Ira High School, compiled a 3-0 record in non-district play with an ERA of 0.750.

The junior right-hander will have to contend with a Lobo lineup that features its share of power hitters. Levelland's Wesley Wise blasted a home run over the centerfield wall during the Snyder Tournament, and Derrick Boggs has slugged three homers.

"They have a few guys who can do some damage if you make a bad pitch," Herrera stated. "We just don't want to fall behind in the count, and have to give those guys a pitch they can drive."

In tonight's action at Cates Field, the Lady Tigers can maintain a share of second place with a victory over Frenship.

After knocking off Lake View and Levelland to start the district campaign, Snyder saw a 3-2 lead evaporate in the final inning against Big Spring.

"We feel like Tuesday's game was one we should have won," said Lady Tiger coach Shelly Hayes. "But we can't worry about it now. We have to put it behind us and move on. We're still playing well, and I think we learned from our mistakes on Tuesday."

With a win over Frenship, the Lady Tigers will be tied for second with either Andrews or Big Spring. The Lady Mustangs and Lady Steers, who are both 3-0, square off today in Andrews.

Following today's action, the Tigers travel to Big Spring on Tuesday, while the Lady Tigers visit Plainview.

District 4-4A Baseball

	District		Season	
Team	W	L	W	L
Snyder	1	0	8	4
Andrews	1	0	9	3
Frenship	1	0	10	6
Big Spring	1	0	5	6
Levelland	0	1	7	7
Lake View	0	1	2	8
Plainview	0	1	4	7
Estacado	0	1	3	6

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)

District: Abilene

Contract 6068-22-001 for LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE in SCURRY County, etc. will be opened on April 19, 2001 at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of $9,099.96.

Contract 6068-32-001 for CLEAN AND SEAL BRIDGE JOINTS in NOLAN County, etc. will be opened on April 19, 2001 at 1:30 pm at the District Office for an estimate of $299,999.40.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDot Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or District Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDot at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies in Austin, Texas at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 3144

State Office

Construction Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

District Office (s)

Abilene District
District Engineer
4250 N. Clack
Abilene, Texas 79601
Phone: 915-676-6800

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex or national origin.

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LOST: Silver SHS 2002 class ring, w/name Stephanie. Lost at United Thursday night. 574-2448

Vehicles

1976 Ford pickup, $1,200. Call 573-1700.

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Meter Repairer	$1,411.00 mo.	$1,497.00 mo.	$1,542.00 mo.
Sr. Clerk, Municipal Court	$1,619.00 mo.	$1,718.00 mo.	$1,770.00 mo.
Clerk, Records Management	$1,411.00 mo.	$1,497.00 mo.	$1,542.00 mo.
Police Officer	$2,061.00 mo.	$2,187.00 mo.	$2,253.00 mo.
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Benefits include insurance, retirement, vacation (after one year), sick leave, holidays and more. If you are interested in applying for any of the above listed job openings you may go by the TWC Career Stop C/O WTC, 6200 S. College, Snyder, EOE, Employee paid ad.

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GARAGE SALE
208 Elm
Friday & Saturday
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GARAGE SALE
2909 35th St.
Saturday 8a.m. – ??
Furniture, Clothes & misc.

GARAGE SALE
2605 28th St.
Saturday 8a.m. – 2p.m.
Old Coke machines, Coke collectibles, Home Interior, Old Avon bottles, Furniture, Lamps, Sports Memorabilia, lots of misc.

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3405 44th St.
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Everything Cheap!!

GARAGE SALE
3407 44th St.
Saturday 8a.m. – Noon
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GARAGE SALE
3602 Ave. B
Saturday 7a.m. – ??
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Ave. L & 24th St.
Apt. size electric range, Electric honey separator, Clothes, Toys and lots of misc.

HUGE GARAGE SALE
2109 43rd St.
Saturday 8a.m. – ??
Piano, Old tack, Glassware, Collectibles & much more!

MOVING IN SALE
1901 Ave. G (in carport)
Saturday 8a.m. – 2p.m.
Large size men's & women's clothing, Kitchenware & lots of other items.

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1–2 Bedroom Apartments Furnished/Unfurnished, all bills paid, no pets. Start at $275/mo. More information 573-5773

2 bedroom apartment available in clean, quiet 16-unit complex. Locally owned 573-0340, days. 573-7959, nights.

For Rent: 1 bedroom apartment in quiet area. Call **573-8533** after 5:30 p.m.

Large 1 bedroom apartment. Furnished, electric paid. $200/mo. + deposit. 573-0990 or 573-5525

Large 1 bedroom upstairs apt. Furnished *Private* CH/A Water/Electric paid. $375/mo. $225/dep. 573-0990/573-5525

Small apartment, bills paid. 2904 Ave. V Call 573-9068.

Houses For Rent

***2807 38th,** 2 bedroom, corner lot, garage, fenced backyard. Need References. **573-8739**

2 bedroom brick duplex. Appliances, CH/A. 573-1012

2 bedroom house, $325/mo. water paid. $100/dep. **725-2764**

Houses For Rent

4002 EASTRIDGE
3 bedroom 1 bath, 2 car garage, fenced yard, fireplace, new paint. $400/mo., $200/dep. References. **Dupree Rentals. 573-9001,** Mon.–Fri. 8a.m.–6p.m.

Mobile Homes For Rent

2-2, CH/A w/storage building in Dunn. $300/mo., $200/dep. **573-1535,** leave message.

3 Bedroom Mobile Homes for rent. $250/month. 573-1711.

FOR RENT/SALE
2-2, washer/dryer & appliances.
2403 27th $300/mo., $100/dep.
915-728-3064/915-267-7037
or
Jack & Jack Realtors
573-8571

Mobile Homes

3 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home. Financing available. Call 573-4749 or 573-3369

$500 Move-In
Owner Finance
Call Juan **915-725-4133**

Beautiful Doublewide in country. Call Laura 915-665-3544.

Cute Little House. Very Affordable. Call 915-673-7353.

Commercial Buildings for Sale or Lease

FOR SALE/LEASE
Commercial Building. Excellent location, College Ave., just off square. For more information: **573-5525/573-0990**

Real Estate

1,623 acres south west of Snyder on FM 1609, 1607, 1606. (2) water wells, several tanks, 280 acres of crop land. $150 an acre. Allen Real Estate 915-698-4600, office; 915-675-0522 home; 915-668-6465, mobile.

3008 Denison Ave., 3-2-1 w/pool. New tile, carpet, paint. $79,900 573-0632 after 6p.m.

3bdrm.–1bth, CH/AC, fenced yard, very nice neighborhood, beautiful trees. Owner Finance 3012 Austin **573-2251**

Brick Home, 3-2-2, CH/A, Newly painted, Fireplace, Covered Patio, Large backyard with privacy fence, New water softener and RO system. 3505 44th St. $65,000 Call 573-5491 or 721-1838.

For Sale By Owner
3609 Irving, 3 bedroom, 1 3/4 bath, brick. Call Monty at 1-800-658-6364.

For Sale By Owner
Country 3-1 3/4-2, fireplace, CH/A, all electric, 1 plus acres. 4664 Pleasant Hill Rd. 573-7909

FOR SALE BY OWNER
Owner Financing Provided
Low down payment. Will work with your tax refund on down payment. Low monthly. 3-1, 3201 42nd. Call Kelly, 915-425-9994.

House For Sale By Owner
707 26th, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, with 2 lots, servant quarters on back. 573-0063

Classified
The link between buyer and seller
573-5486

Real Estate

STEVENSON REAL ESTATE
2405 25th Street
573-5612 or 573-1755
Bill Dryden Broker/Owner

2700 46th 3-2 1/2-2 w/2 LA's $109T
2903 32nd 3-3-2 2 living areas $99.9T
2705 35th 4-3-2-Office Reduced ..$98.5T
West 3-2-2 w/rental + sm. acreage.Red! $98T
2907 33rd Reduced 3-3-cp +Pool $98T
2501 Towle Park Rd. 3-2-2cp $95T
2706 28th 3-2 1/2-2 ..... $94.5T
2511 30th 3-2-3 w/off., RV cover $90T
2708 48th 4-2-2 ..... $88.5T
2701 34th 3-2 Nice Tile $86T
1861 Tuscola 3-2-2 sm. acreage ... $85.9T
3500 Ave W 3-3-2 Courtyard $85.9T
2805 El Paso 3-2-2, shop $76T
FM 1607 3-2-cp w/5 Acres..... $69.5T
CR 243 - 10 A's, Shop 3-2-2cp $69.5T
4123 Jacksboro 3-2-2 + 2cp $67.5T
CR 395 -7.4 Acres 3-4 cp mobile hm ..$64T
3310 Ave. V 3-2-2 ..... $62T
2602 35th 3-2-1-2cp $52.5T
Fluvanna - Brick 2-1 on 6 Acres $45T
3003 42nd 3-1 1/2-1 RV cover $48T
College Ave. Large office bldg. $48T
3007 41st Updated 3-1 Reduced $43.9T
1809 KSNY Dr. 3-1 on 4 lots $42.5T
Hwy 180 - 80 acres - pens - well $42T
3606 Irving Nice 3-2-1 ..... $39.9T
3402 Irving 3-1-1 ..... $39T
3717 Avondale Cute 3-1-1 ..... $35T
2106 42nd 3-1-1 screened porch..$34.5T
3725 Ave. U 3-1-1cp + 2cp, storage $29.5T
2103 41st 3-1-1 storage $27.5T
2711 Ave. T 2-1-1 CH/A $25T
409 20th 3-1 CH/A Own. Fin. $20T
2218 Sunset 2-1-1 ..... $19.5T
2803 Ave. Y 2-1 1/2-1 ..... $18.5T
2704 Ave. G 3-1-1cp $17T
Log home - 1 acre–upstairs-basement 3-2-2
Country S. 3-2-2cp w/Inc. property, acres.
2 Story – plus apartment ....2018 37th St.
Quality Home in Cedar Creek ..... Call
Hermleigh 3-2 w/acreage ...Call for details
Comm. bldgs. N, S, W sides downtown
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Doris Beard **573-8480**
Kayla Moreland **573-4809**
Billy Durham **573-0446**
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Pleasant Hill 3-2-3 & cp, 2 acres .. $70's
Country-Owner moving - 3-2-2 ... $70's
3606 Irving - First home - 3-1 3/4-1. $39.9T
2903 32nd - Need space? 3-3-2,study, beautiful den $99.9T
211 37th - Beautiful home 3-2-2, covered patio $85T
2708 47th - Rare Find - 4-2-2 ....$80's
2509 48th - Entertain- 3-2-5-2 & RV space $110T
2906 Denison 3-2-2 basement.. $85T
2908 42nd -Walk to park- 3-2 . $60T
3303 Irving -Carefree living - 4-2-2 . $99.9T
2501 48th - Unique & Flowing Plan 3-3-5, extra parking ..... $100's
4104 Eastridge 2-1-1 ..... $20T
3914 Eastridge - 3-1-2-or will build bath . $30's
321 35th - Super Buy - 3-1 ... $20T
104 Milburn -Brick- 2-1-cp ... $28T
1209 Coliseum Drive - Owner Finance - 3-2-den ..... $30's
211 34th - Bargain! - 3-2-cellar. $27T
Gary Brewer Rd 3-2 M.H./Shop....$40's
1861 Tuscola 3-2-2 Small acreage, with barn $85.5T
Horses dream -80 A's, barn, pens, well....$42T
Building Site 3.8 acres $12T
161 acres pasture ... Call to view
Call about other country listings!

Dolores Jones **573-5308**
Broker/Owner
Debbie Miller **573-2075**
Shirley Drum. **573-1550**
Faye Blackledge **573-1223**
Broker/Owner
Joan Tate **573-8773**

Little ads get big results!

Real Estate

Elizabeth Potts
Realtor
573-8505
Temi Matthies, Owner/Broker

2907 33rd Pool - 4bdrm-3 1/2 bath $98T
3704 Muriel 2bdrm Sell or Lease..Call
4-1 3/4 Brick-Country w/Rentals.....Call
3606 Irving 3-1 3/4-1 .....$39.9T
2708 48th 4-2-2 Brick, Very Nice, Extras $88.5T
Reduced Metal Shop w/4 car carport.....$25T
2606 47th Lg. Lot Great Neighborhood Only $8T
7 miles from Town 5-3, 2 shops, 10 Acres
1601 Ave. E 2-1-1 2cp CH/A.....$22T
1861 Tuscola Ave 3-2-2 w/2.36 A's.....$85.5T
1801 22nd Great Business Location-REDUCED!
Lg. shop w/20 parking spaces, 7 offices Lease or Sell
Great Area! 3-2-Brick, Ready to move into $65T
Round Top Acres 6 to 21 acre tracts Owner Finance
Great Buy! 3303 Irving 4-2-2 Beautiful $99.9T
3015 38th Reduced! 3-1-1, CH/A.....$28T
Owner Finance! Only $3950 Down, 3-2-3cp with 3 Acres, Spacious..... $39.9T
IRA! 4-2-2 Storage Bldgs.....$165T
2944 Gary Brewer Rd. 3-2 3/4.....$76.5
Commer. Shop, full bath, over 2600 sq. ft. $40T
Sell or Rent 3-1-cp CH/A Cute!!!.....$25.9T
2903 32nd 3-3-2LA's, Sunroom ..$99.9T
2903 34th 3-1 3/4-2 Must See!.....$79.9T
Owner Finance 3773 Highland .....Nice 2-1
160 Acres Tanks, Pasture Land .....Call
2501 48th Fantastic Shop, Pool, RV area
C-City 103 E. 21st 3-2-2 Call Today.....$68T
New Lisitng 2207 42nd 3-2-1 .....$45.9T

Annette Waller **573-9467**
Rita Knox **573-7082**
Dee Kemp **573-1152**
Sarah Jamison **573-4028**

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573-8571 573-3452

RED! 2800 35th 4-1 & 3/4 & 1/2-2 Covered Patio
Ira ISD 30 A's w/Stor. Bldg. 4-1 3/4-2cp+Income Prop.
Neat 3-2 3/4 + Den 2944 Gary Brewer Rd $76.5T
3-2 1/2-2+4+RV Gar., Pool, Hot Tub, 2501 48th
2701 34th Updated-Nice 3-2-2+sunroom $86T
Beautiful 3-2 3/4-2 + Nice garage apartment 2018 37th St. $185T
Lovely 4-1 & (2) 3/4-2cp Pool 2907 33rd.....$98T
Red. Wonderful Location 3-2 3/4-2 Fpl.....$85.9T
Really Nice Starter 302 36th Pl. 3-1....$32.5T
Nice & Roomy 3-2-2+2 **Living Areas**...$92.5T
Red! Nice, Close in 2.37 A's 3-1 3/4-2 $85.5T
Good Size Home 3-1 3/4-2cp 308 23rd $25T
Good Starter Home 211 34th 3-1 3/4 $27T
ATTRACTIVE! 4-2-2 2211 27th St. $42T
Good Farm 3 miles out, 160 Acres 3-1 3/4-2
Great Location Commercial 3311 College Ave.
C. City 4+A's Lovely Home 3-2-2.....$60T
New Exclusive 3-1 3/4-2 4006 Jacksboro
Older Home w/personality 2-1-2 Detached
160 A's 3-2-1cp 5.2 miles NE of Hermleigh
3505 40th Large, Lovely Den.....$48.9T
3726 Highland Dr. 2-1-1 Fenced.....$26T
Bargain Buy 2-1-1 2218 Sunset.....$20T
Eastridge 4104 Nice 2-1-1+ office...$29T
IRA BULLDOG CORNER STORE HWY 350
Starter Home 2-1-1 707 27th St.....$19.5T
Wonderful Game Rm + 4-1 3/4-4 2208 45th $62T
Good Size Home 2805 Ave. V 3-1 3/4-1cp..$46.5T
Large 2505 Sq. Ft. 4-1 3/4-2.....2800 35th
Price Lowered Country Dream Home 4-1 3/4 Wonderful Storage, 20 A's, Pool, Out Buildings.....$175T
14.49 Acres 3-2-Hot Tub, Sprinkler System...$95T
3107 40th 3-1-1-1cp.....$11T
Fixer-Uppers: 1011 28th & 2311 Ave. M
3774 Dalton Dr. Lg Home 3-1 3/4-1cp..$37.5T

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*$1,000 down, $325/mo. 2-1, fenced, remodeled kitchen and bath. $25,000, 15 years.
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134 20th Place
*$1,500 down, $350/mo., 3-1, fenced, laundry room. Under repair. $28,000, 20 years.
126 20th Place
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Toll Free

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Snyder Devotional Page

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The mouth of a righteous man is well of life: but violence coverth the mouth of the wicked..

Proverbs 10:11

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Providing Healthcare For Life

He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.

Proverbs 14:29

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1212 25th Street 573-9001

MD LAUNDRY & DRY CLEANERS
1900 Snyder Shopping Center
Snyder, Texas 573-2821

In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.

Psalm 138:3

Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

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SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

This devotional and directory is made possible by these businesses who encourage all of us to attend worship services.

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Lee Nelson

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312 26th Street, 573-5778

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2613 Ave. Z
Steven Pena

The Lighthouse Assembly of God
Ave. G & 30th, 573-5359
Danny Williams

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30th & Ave. D, 573-6878
Charles Day

Calvary Baptist
2405 35th St., 573-2191
Larry McAden

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107 Wheat, Hermleigh
863-2305

Colonial Hill Baptist
36th & ElPaso, 573-8596
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573-2631
Mike Henson

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863-2455
Dr. Rex Reynolds

Fluvanna Baptist
573-2049, 573-7985
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Knapp Community, 573-6009
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Morningside Baptist
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New Hope Baptist
3305 Ave. L, 573-7243
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21st & Ave. M, 573-7696
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Dunn, Texas
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573-6150
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Bobbie Woods

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Rocky Alexander

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South of Traffic Circle
Mike Howard

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Eddie Manley

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J.R. Vargas

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15 Miles N. on Hwy 84
Clay Belcher

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Lupe Hernandez

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For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:8

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Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

Isaiah 12:2

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Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.

Psalm 141:3

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n't mind that his
Earth has been
day because it giv
time to prepare the
post's second crew

"It gives us a
relaxed timeline
astronaut Bill Sh
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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Shuttle's return delayed one day

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — The international space station's first commander doesn't mind that his return trip to Earth has been delayed by a day because it gives him more time to prepare the orbiting outpost's second crew.

"It gives us a little more relaxed timeline to do that," astronaut Bill Shepherd said early today. "We've been very busy on our expedition and we're kind of enjoying a somewhat slower pace. We're happy to stay one more day."

Shepherd and his two Russian crewmates, Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev, have been on space station Alpha for more than four months. They are set to leave the station aboard space shuttle Discovery on Sunday and return to Earth on Wednesday, a day later than originally planned.

NASA added an extra day to Discovery's mission to finish packing an Italian-made module with more than a ton of trash and unnecessary equipment from Alpha. It took longer than expected to refill the module.

Shepherd and his crew are being relieved by astronauts Jim Voss and Susan Helms, and Russian cosmonaut Yuri Usachev, who will be the new station commander. Alpha's second crew will stay four months.

Shepherd said he is eager to return home and see his wife and two dogs. But he isn't looking forward to having his body readjust to gravity.

"Sergei and Yuri have done this before and they're telling me it's going to be arduous," Shepherd said.

Gidzenko said he is looking forward to seeing his wife and their two sons — and taking a shower.

Through many days of hard work, Shepherd said he and his crewmates were able to turn an uninhabited outpost into a fully functional station where the next crew can do research.

"I do think I would like to fly again in space. I'd like to do it on a vehicle that's going to go somewhere," Shepherd said.

Besides returning Alpha's first crew to Earth, Discovery will also take back the reusable module, named Leonardo.

It was brought up by Discovery and attached to the station late Monday. It had been filled with 5 tons of supplies including electronics, communications gear and emergency medical equipment.

Leonardo was unloaded faster than expected but the process of carefully packing it so things wouldn't bang around during the bumpy plunge through the atmosphere was another story. The mass also had to be balanced because of center-of-gravity concerns upon return.

Troops, rebels clash in Macedonia

TETOVO, Macedonia (AP) — Mortar explosions shook the outskirts of Macedonia's second-largest city today as government troops fought ethnic Albanian rebels near the Kosovo border for a third day.

State radio spoke of "real war in Tetovo." Meanwhile, government commandos fired mortar and heavy machine-gun rounds at rebels on the slopes of Mount Sar Planina. Police spokesman Stevo Pendarovski said police on the outskirts of Tetovo and army units on the mountain were trying to push the guerrillas toward Macedonia's border with Kosovo.

Ethnic Albanians account for at least a quarter of Macedonia's 2 million people, and the rebels among them are fighting a guerrilla battle here for causes that range from more rights to independence. The volatile situation has sparked fear of a new Balkan war.

Today, news reports said police repelled an attack near the Tetovo suburb of Strmno, where rebels had come within 60 feet of homes. Troops also reported progress today around the border village of Tanusevci, where fighting erupted last month.

The Macedonian government said Tanusevci and two other volatile border villages were cleared of land mines. It urged ethnic Albanian villagers to return to their homes.

A new conflict appeared to be building elsewhere in the country. Pendarovski said there was overnight shooting just outside Kicevo, about 70 miles southwest of Skopje, the capital, and a police station was targeted in the village of Zajas, near the border with Albania.

Fighting outside Tetovo ended shortly after daybreak, but residents who feared further violence continued to flee. Police said that by Thursday evening 400 families had left.

One Tetovo resident said some ethnic Albanian men were seeking refuge with Slavic Macedonian neighbors because they were afraid they would be forcibly recruited by the guerrillas.

On Thursday, the government lifted a restriction that had barred the army from fighting in highly populated areas. Later, the National Security Council — a panel of top government and defense officials — said the government would "take additional urgent and efficient measures for the Macedonian security forces to neutralize the terrorist groups."

On Thursday, two ethnic Albanian civilians were wounded by stray bullets, Macedonian state radio reported. One person was killed Wednesday and at least 14 others were wounded, 11 of them policemen.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: March 15-Jana Amezquita, Clyde Brown of Ira, Ima Emerson, Bianca Jalomos, Dorothy Peterson, Jacqueline Self, Nickolas Villa and Andrew Zapada.

DISMISSALS: Hedwig Bechtol, William Foreman, Juana Silva and Mary Woods.

CENSUS: 41 (Med./Surg.-15, Long-term Care-25 and OB-1)

Births

Nick and Molly Turner Hernandez of Big Spring announce the birth of their eight-pound daughter, Marissa Renee Hernandez. She was born at 5:58 p.m. on Feb. 13 in West Wood Memorial Hospital in Midland.

Grandparents are Frances Hernandez of Big Spring, Jack and Wanda Cunningham of Big Spring, and the late Hal Turner of Snyder.

Kinney and Theressa Mabry of Snyder announce the birth of their son, Ethan Bradford Mabry, at 6:41 p.m. on March 12 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Ethan weighed eight pounds, 13 ounces.

Grandparents are Clyde and Joan Foster and Gary and Dixie Mabry, all of Abilene. Great-grandparents are Ina Bowlin of Abilene, Clyde and Lydia Foster of Weatherford and Juanita Butler of Mesquite.

Dr. Cotton and Brenda Merritt of Lubbock announce the birth of their son, Coreban Blane Merritt, on March 11 at University Medical Center in Lubbock. He weighed six pounds, eight ounces.

Grandparents are Craig and Janet Merritt and great-grandparents are Jack and Dorris Martin and Florine Merritt, all of Snyder.

Report of assault being investigated by deputy

• ***Assault***

Deputy Bil West was contacted by a Gateway Family Services representative at 9 a.m. Thursday in reference to a possible assault.

Deputy West said the incident is under investigation and that he is preparing to file an offense report. He said the victim was an adult, but it is unknown at this point whether the assault was sexual or a family violence situation.

He declined to give any other details at this time other than he would be speaking to the district attorney concerning the case and may possibly present it to the grand jury in April or May.

• ***Vehicles burglarized***

Lexie Beard went to the police department at 9:54 a.m. Thursday to report that someone had stolen her purse from her vehicle while it was parked at The Movie Stop.

Officers took a report for burglary of a vehicle at 9:36 p.m. Thursday after Tiffany Brown notified them that her wallet had been taken from a friend's vehicle while it was parked at 2601 Avenue V.

• ***Windows shattered***

At 3 p.m. Thursday, Demetra Cobb contacted officers in reference to the front and rear windows on her 1968 Chevrolet being shattered while the vehicle was parked at 1007 29th Street.

• ***Gas drive-off***

A clerk with Town & Country on East Coliseum Drive reported a gas drive-off in the amount of $11.85 at 6:59 p.m. Thursday.

• ***Dog bite***

An offense report for dog bite was filed at 7:10 p.m. Thursday in reference to a 21-year-old female being bitten on the right outer thigh. The incident occurred at the corner of North Avenue P and Texas Avenue.

• ***Arrest***

An 18-year-old man was taken into custody at 1:29 p.m. in the 2100 block of Avenue M on a misdemeanor warrant for burglary of a coin operated machine. The arrest stems from a Feb. 20 burglary at the Oasis Carwash, Sgt. Keith Ward said.

Obituaries

Robert Sharp

1946-2001

Funeral service for Robert "Bob" Edward Sharp is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in the Wright Colonial Funeral Home Chapel. Mickey O'Briant, a cousin who is a minister in Sweetwater, will officiate. Burial will follow in the Roby Cemetery.

Mr. Sharp, 54, died Wednesday, March 14, at his home in Snyder following a lengthy illness.

Born Oct. 7, 1946 in Rotan, Mr. Sharp was a retired welder and a Baptist.

Survivors include two sisters, Rose Mary Jones of Snyder and Gloria Jean Sain of Freeport; three nieces; a nephew; and several aunts and uncles.

Family visitation will be held from 6 to 8 this evening at Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

Personal, Professional Service

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Marley Cribbs

1938-2001

THROCKMORTON – Marley J. Cribbs, the stepfather of Butch Thurmon of Snyder, died Monday, March 12, in San Diego, Calif.

Funeral service for Mr. Cribbs, 62, was set for 10 a.m. today in the Merriman-Archer Funeral Home Chapel with Silas Short officiating. Burial was to follow in the Throckmorton Cemetery.

Born Oct. 1, 1938 in Olney, Mr. Cribbs was a lifelong resident of Throckmorton County and was a U.S. Navy veteran. A truck driver for 20 years, he was a member of the Church of Christ.

Survivors include a son, Marley M. Cribbs of Colorado City; another stepson, Billy Joe Thurmon of Colorado City; his mother, Lorene Cribbs of Throckmorton; a sister, Jane Cook of Throckmorton; a brother, Jody Cribbs of Center Point; and six stepgrandchildren.

Oliva Moreno

1952-2001

BIG SPRING – Olivia "Bimbo" Moreno, the sister of Elvira Castillo of Hermleigh, died Wednesday, March 14, at her home in Big Spring.

A vigil service for Miss Moreno, 48, is set for 7 this evening at the Myers & Smith Funeral Home Chapel.

Mass will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with the Rev. Jeremiah McCarthy officiating. Burial will follow in Trinity Memorial Park.

Born April 16, 1952 in Big Spring, she attended Borden County School in Gail and Coahoma High School. She had worked for West Texas Security Systems and Upjohn's before caring full-time for her late parents, Bill and Christine Moreno.

Survivors include four other sisters, Terrie Wilson of Junction City, Kan., Carmen Brooks and Hope Lopez, both of Big Spring and Gloria Mirelez of St. George, Kan.; three brothers, Thomas Moreno and Ernest Moreno, both of Big Spring, and Willie Moreno of Justiceburg.

The family suggests memorial to the American Cancer Society or to the Community Care Hospice.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Hermleigh one-act

Hermleigh High School will present its one-act entry, ***Daddy's Dyin' (Who's Got the Will?)*** at 6 this evening in the high school auditorium. Ice cream will also be sold. The zone one-act play contest will be Monday at Westbrook.

Motorcycle fun run

A St. Patrick's Day fun run will be held beginning at 9:30 a.m. Saturday from the Wal-Mart parking lot. The destination is Guy W.'s chili cookoff in Midland. For more information, contact Matt Cross at 573-5726 or Paul Glover at 573-7311.

Ira sophomore fundraiser

Ira sophomore class will hold a fundraiser from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday at Western Golf Land. Miniature golf and batting cages will be $3 for kids and $3.50 for adults. The class will also conduct a car wash with donations accepted.

Enchilada dinner

Faith Revival Church, 3212 Ave. J, will host an enchilada dinner fundraiser from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday. Cost is $5 per plate.

8th grade party planning

All parents of 8th graders are invited to a meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday at Tiger Health and Fitness to plan the 8th grade party. For more information, call 573-7205.

AARP meeting

AARP Chapter 2063 will meet at noon Monday at the Snyder Senior Center. Brian Moffett, radiology department head at Cogdell Hospital, will be the guest speaker.

Community coalition meeting

A community coalition meeting, sponsored by the Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. The substance abuse problem in Scurry County will be discussed.

Financial aid workshop

A financial aid workshop for area high school students planning to attend college and with questions about financial aid will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Snyder High School. If you have questions, or plan to attend, call Janell Jones at 574-6049.

4-H Horse Club

Scurry County 4-H Horse Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the East Elementary cafeteria.

FFA Booster Club

The Snyder FFA Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the SHS ag building.

C.H.I.P. signup

Children's Health Insurance Program signup will be held from 2-6 p.m. Thursday at Central Elementary. Another registration will be held from 2-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, at Northeast Elementary.

Parents meeting

Parents of all eighth grade students are urged to attend a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at the junior high auditorium. High school counselor Debbie Phillips will provide information and answer questions concerning high school registration procedures, course selection and requirements for the diploma programs.

West family reading night

West Elementary holds its family reading night from 6-7:30 p.m. every Thursday. New sessions have been added. Childcare and refreshments are provided.

Stress workshop

A stress survival skills workshop will be presented next Friday and Saturday at Colonial Hill Baptist Church. Cost is $10 and includes lunch Saturday plus all conference material. Friday's sessions are from 7-10 p.m. and Saturday's sessions are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 573-8596 for reservations. Deadline is Wednesday.

Weigh Down Workshop

An orientation for a Weigh Down Workshop will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, March 26, at the Word is Life Church. For more information, call Donna Nehring at 573-7471

1961 SHS class reunion

The class of 1961 is seeking current e-mail and mailing addresses of class members for a summer reunion. To submit information call Ginny Sims Griffith, 573-0212, or e-mail griffdg@bigcountry.net, or Gilbert Merritt, 573-1921, or e-mail gmerritt@snydertex.com.

1986 class reunion

The SHS class of 1986 is seeking current addresses of class members for a reunion set for July 6-7. To submit names and addresses or for more information call Mike McWilliams, 573-6543 or Xalyn Harris Palacios, 574-3343 or 573-2148.

SHS '91 class reunion

The SHS class of 1991 reunion is set for July 20-21. Addresses are being sought for classmates. Send information to Robbie Braziel at 2303 Ave. H, or 573-6632, or Melissa Jones at 1045 CR 132 or call 574-8005.

Class of '56 seeks addresses

The SHS Class of 1956 is seeking addresses of class members for a June 30 reunion. Also, classes of 1954, 1955, 1957 and 1958 are invited. To submit names and addresses call Gay Birdsall Kimmel at 573-5021, or Anniece Hardy Trujillo at 573-8987 or 573-7455. RSVP by May 1.

Adult basic education classes

Adult basic education classes at WTC are held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. until noon, and from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes include E.S.L., GED and refresher courses. Certified teachers and Spanish speaking aides teach these classes. Call 573-8511, ext. 322.

MAR 16 2001

Saudi forces storm hijacked Russian aircraft

MEDINA, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi security forces stormed a hijacked Russian plane today, freeing more than 100 hostages and ending a crisis that began when armed Chechen men commandeered the plane after takeoff from Istanbul. Three people were killed and several others injured, paramedics said, while three suspects were reportedly in custody.

A representative of the breakaway Chechen Republic identified one of the hijackers as a former Chechen interior minister. The report could not immediately be confirmed.

Those killed were one Turkish passenger, one hijacker — "apparently the younger one" — and one stewardess, aides to Kremlin envoy Sergei Yastrzhembsky said. The paramedics said the woman was stabbed to death while the two men were shot.

A passenger with bloodied trousers was seen being carried away from the plane. One man was handcuffed and led away by Saudi security forces, the paramedics said.

The operation by Saudi forces took only minutes, after an hours-long standoff between Saudi authorities and the hijackers, who reportedly numbered between two and four.

Russia's Interfax news agency quoted Yastrzhembsky as saying three hijackers were in custody and the rest of the passengers were being searched. He said the storming was approved by Russian authorities.

The hijacking began when Chechen men wielding knives and claiming to have a bomb hijacked the plane carrying 174 people after it left Turkey on Thursday, bound for Moscow. They forced it to land in the holy Saudi city of Medina.

Topa Bilgetin Toker, General Director of Turkish Civilian Aviation, said the Saudi forces stormed the plane after the pilots escaped the aircraft. Up to 112 people were still aboard the plane at the time Saudi forces moved in. Earlier, as many as 46 people had been freed or escaped.

Minutes before the raid, more than 30 members of the Saudi army's special forces unit in full battle gear, armed with semi-automatic rifles and wearing helmets and bullet proof vests, were loaded into an army bus. About six ambulances and fire engines surrounded the plane, which was parked in an isolated area on the tarmac while Medina airport remained open to commercial flights. Two Saudi air force cargo planes were parked a few hundred yards away.

Other members of the special forces unit huddled in tents in the service area of the airport, out of sight of the plane. Four army vehicles and four armored personnel carriers were parked behind the tents. Paramedics were on hand to offer first aid and medical assistance to other passengers.

Toker said the decision to move in came after the hijackers failed to establish further contact with the Saudis. Four to five people may have been injured, Toker said.

A surgeon who boarded the plane after the rescue operation said seven people were injured, and most of them were being treated for minor cuts and bruises.

Aftayeva Fariza, a representative of the breakaway Chechen Republic in Amman, Jordan, identified the hijackers as Aslambek Artsayev, the former Chechen interior minister, and his brother, Sufian. She said the information comes from a third brother, Adam, who was not among the hijackers.

She said the reason for the hijacking was not terrorism or money, but to attract world attention to the situation in Chechnya.

She also said the hijacker's brother felt sorry the operation resulted in casualties, which was "not the aim of the hijackers."

It wasn't clear what the hijackers' demands were. Saudi officials said they had earlier asked to fly to Afghanistan. Russian Embassy official Igor Kremnev told Russia's NTV television that the hijackers' demands were unclear.

An official at Medina airport, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the hijackers had earlier asked authorities to refuel the plane and prepare it for a long flight but later changed their minds. He did not say where the hijackers planned to go.

Chechen separatists' violent campaign to break free of Russia often has spilled over the republic's borders in hijackings and raids, with Turkey a frequent site for audacious actions. At least 25,000 Chechens live in Turkey, and the separatists have many Turkish supporters.

Texas sodomy law ruled constitutional

HOUSTON (AP) — A Texas appeals court upheld the state's sodomy law Thursday in the case of two men charged with having sex in a private home.

The nine-member 14th Court of Appeals voted 7-2 to overturn a June ruling by three members of the same panel that said the law was unconstitutional because it forbids sex between same-sex partners, yet allows the same acts between heterosexuals.

The sodomy law, which has been on the books for more than a century, was challenged after John Geddes Lawrence and Tyron Garner were arrested on Sept. 17, 1998 and charged with engaging in homosexual conduct.

Harris County sheriff's deputies had entered Lawrence's apartment after receiving a false report of an armed intruder inside but found the men having sex.

Under the sodomy law, homosexual oral and anal sex is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to $500.

Lawrence and Garner pleaded no contest in a justice of the peace court and later in a Harris County Criminal Court-at-Law so they could start the legal challenge.

Prosecutor Bill Delmore said he was pleased with the ruling.

Ruth E. Harlow, legal director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, who argued the case on behalf of the two men, said they would appeal.

"The court's ruling failed to enforce the constitution's promise of equality," she said.

She said the ruling also allows the government to overstep its bounds by "bashing down the bedroom door" to criminalize consensual sex between same-sex partners.

"It guts the right to privacy," she said.

Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kansas are the only states that outlaw sodomy between same-sex partners. Texas has had a sodomy law since 1860 but decriminalized it for opposite-sex partners in 1974.

Twelve other states prohibit sodomy between same- and opposite-sex partners. Harlow said similar laws in Georgia, Tennessee and Montana have recently been thrown out.

Britain steps up its efforts to kill animals exposed to virus

LONDON (AP) — Dramatically escalating its bid to stop the wildfire spread of foot-and-mouth disease, Britain announced plans Thursday to slaughter up to 100,000 animals that may have come in contact with the virus — in addition to more than 200,000 sheep, cows and pigs already killed or marked for death.

The drastic move, announced by Agriculture Minister Nick Brown, came as reverberations of the nearly month-old outbreak rippled far beyond British shores.

Continental Europe, shaken by the disease's spread to France this week, worked to strengthen its internal defenses against the virus — even as the rest of the world scrambled to shut out European meat and dairy products, including those from countries that have remained disease-free.

Foot-and-mouth disease poses no threat to humans, but when it strikes countries or trade blocs that had previously been certified as free of the ailment it can have disastrous commercial consequences.

If they want to restore their disease-free status — crucial for agricultural trade — countries can find themselves faced with the necessity of destroying enormous numbers of animals.

If they resort instead to vaccination, which does not always work well, they effectively renounce their claim to a share of the lucrative export market; as long as its herds carry antibodies to the virus, the country cannot be certified as disease-free.

As the outbreak drags on, relations between Britain and the rest of Europe — and Europe and the rest of the world — were showing signs of strain. Europe is unhappy over U.S. and Canadian bans on European Union livestock, fresh meat and dairy products announced Wednesday.

The European Commission said Thursday it would not immediately take trade action against the United States and Canada, but did not rule out retaliatory steps later.

Within the EU, which has made the breaking down of borders and barriers its raison d'etre, customs posts were being reactivated.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

FDA should supervise herbals

DEAR DR. GOTT: My healthy 43-year-old daughter began having seizures and sleep disorders about a month after she started taking a nationally marketed herbal supplement made in China. After a particularly distressing seizure, she was taken to the emergency room, where tests revealed that her blood contained speed, which the doctors discovered was an ingredient in her herbal remedy, not listed on the label. Naturally, we are very concerned, not only because of her health problem, but because the lab findings could have cost her the job she has been working at for 10 years. I have contacted my representative in Washington about this deplorable situation, but he has yet to respond. When is the Food and Drug Administration going to do something to control dangerous herbal remedies?

DEAR READER: Alas, I wish I knew. I've championed such control for years, to no avail.

Herbal remedies are, under present regulations, classed as dietary supplements and are not under the jurisdiction of federal or state authorities. As a result, manufacturers of such products can ignore quality controls, make outrageous claims and put pretty much whatever they want into these "supplements." This problem is all the more serious with respect to products imported from many foreign countries. Chinese herbal remedies, for example, have been found to contain therapeutic amounts of digoxin, steroids and other prescription drugs — without so much as a mention on the ingredient label. Moreover, even if dangerous additives, such as ephedia, are listed, their concentration may vary and is not governed by law.

I agree with you that FDA supervision is mandatory — and long overdue. The multi-billion dollar herbal industry should be made accountable, and we consumers deserve to have consistent product potency, not to mention protection against potent additives that carry dangerous health risks.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have lymphedema caused by a fall. Should I see a specialist?

DEAR READER: In addition to blood circulation, each of us has a secondary system of fluid circulation called lymphatic channels. Lymph is the colorless, watery liquid that fills blisters. Small amounts of it are normally present in all tissues. Lymph circulates back to the heart through a complicated series of thin-walled tubes that are systematically interrupted by lymph nodes — balls of tissue acting as filters.

If the lymph channels are injured or the lymph nodes damaged (or removed during surgery), the lymph fluid accumulates in the part of the body supplied by these structures. Tissue swelling (lymphedema) ensues.

I assume that you must have had a serious fall that disrupted the lymph channels, and now the fluid is pooling in a part of your body — probably an arm or a leg, the most common locations for this to occur. The affliction, however, is not a hazard to health.

Nevertheless, if you are bothered by the edema (that is, if it is painful or quite pronounced), you should be examined by a doctor, preferably a vascular surgeon, who specializes in circulatory problems. Using a sophisticated type of x-ray test, called a lymphangiogram, the practitioner may be able to pinpoint the area of lymph blockage and repair it surgically. Or the specialist may suggest non-surgical therapy, such as diuretic medicine and pressurized sleeves, to relieve your edema. As a final option, you may simply choose to wait, because lymph channels usually heal from injury in a matter of months.

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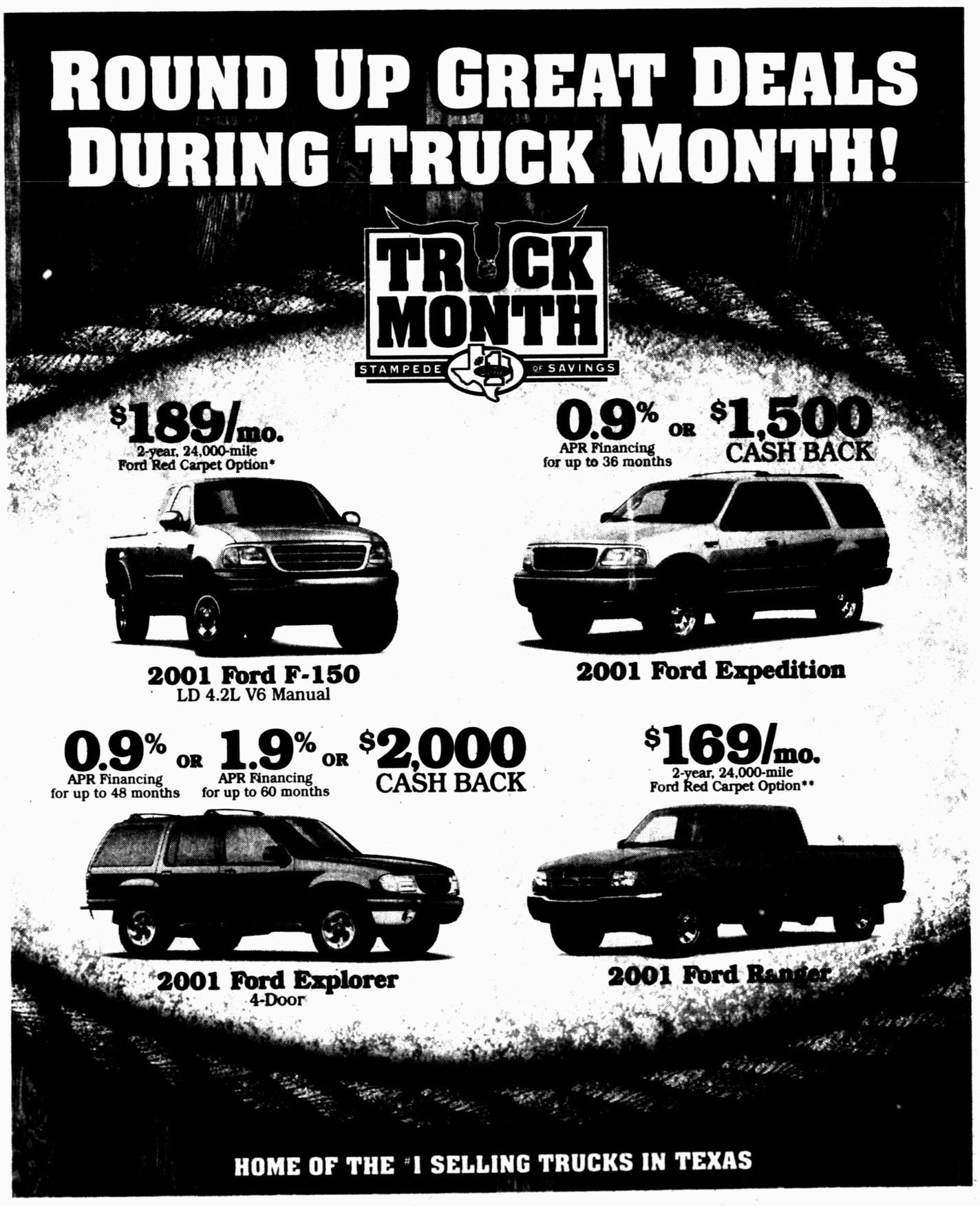

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NOT ALL CUSTOMERS WILL QUALIFY FOR LOWEST PAYMENT OR APR. SEE DEALER TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY. Residency restrictions apply. For cash back and limited-term Ford Credit APR, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 4/02/01. See dealer for details. *2001 Ford F-150 XL Regular Cab with 4.2L engine and manual transmission. MSRP of $19,060 excluding tax, title and license fees. Down payment of $1,726. 3.75% Ford Credit APR for qualified buyers. 23 payments of $189.33. Customer may purchase F-150 with optional final payment of $10,102, refinance the amount owed, or return F-150 to dealer with $250 fee plus any charges for excess miles or wear and tear. Offer subject to change at any time. Offer only available to residents of Texas. Excludes Lightning. **2001 Ford Ranger XLT SuperCab with automatic transmission. MSRP of $19,550 excluding tax, title and license fees. Down payment of $1,858. 1.75% Ford Credit APR for qualified buyers. 23 payments of $169.54. Customer may purchase Ranger with optional final payment of $11,144, refinance the amount owed, or return Ranger to dealer with $250 fee plus any charges for excess miles or wear and tear. Offer subject to change at any time. Offer only available to residents of Texas. Excludes Ranger Edge.

Spring 2001

MAR 16 2001

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LAWN & GARDEN HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE

Snyder Daily News
Section C
Sunday, March 18, 2001

Vinyl Siding Is Best With Quality Installation

(MS) — Across the country, vinyl has replaced wood as the siding of choice for remodeling. Homeowners have discovered that vinyl siding offers the same design flexibility as wood, but with virtually none of the maintenance. And they've discovered that vinyl siding can perform excellently in harsh weather conditions, for decades.

An attractive and high-performance exterior depends on the skill of the installer. If it's not done correctly, even the best-looking siding will suffer because it does not look straight on the wall and may actually show buckling. Additionally, improper nailing — nails in the wrong place, too many nails, or too few — can compromise the performance levels reported by the manufacturer.

You can insure the best possible look and performance from your siding in two ways: by finding a professional contractor, and by using a siding that is designed for accurate and secure installation.

FIND THE RIGHT INSTALLER FOR YOU

Often, the best leads for finding an experienced and skillful contractor come from friends who have had their homes re-sided. Ask around. But check with your local siding distributor or the national siding manufacturers, too. For example, the country's leading vinyl siding manufacturer, CertainTeed Corporation, offers a service on the company's Web site called "Locate a Contractor" that will instantly provide you with a list of siding installers in your zip code area. Check it out at www.certainteed.com.

CHOOSE SIDING THAT HELPS INSURE A QUALITY JOB

All vinyl siding products typically have nail slots and locks that hold the panels together. These features vary from product to product. But they all count on a skilled and experienced installer for proper installation.

Now, however, there's a product designed to make the installer's job easier and more accurate: CertainTeed's Monogram STUDfinder™ Siding System.

This new product is engineered with nail slots that are always perfectly aligned with construction standards for stud spacing — whether the studs are 16 inches or 24 inches apart. What's more, each nail slot has a graphic printed under it to make it easy for the contractor to find the repeating studs.

Fastening to the studs is extremely important. Many siding manufacturers recommend that siding be nailed every 16 inches and that those nails penetrate at least three-quarters of an inch. In most cases, the only way to be certain of such an installation is to nail into the studs.

There are many benefits to this kind of installation. First, it helps insure that the siding will meet optimum performance levels. For example, CertainTeed's Monogram™ siding is tested to withstand windload pressures up to 180 mph with nails and 235 mph with staples when fastened to studs.

Next, nailing accurately to the studs is safer. Random nails that may penetrate the space in the wall between studs could strike wires or pipes, with dangerous and costly consequences.

Further, spacing the nails as recommended is designed to help insure an attractive, straight-on-the-wall appearance. Which means you get the true wood-look of the siding you've chosen — for decades.

Overall, a product that is installer-friendly for the contractor can give you better results. CertainTeed's Monogram not only has a nearly foolproof installation system — its locking system, thickness and rigidity make it easier for the contractor to handle. The proprietary CertiLock™ self-aligning locking system is another unique feature that helps promote a quality installation. A true 0.44-inch thickness provides outstanding strength and durability, while a double-thick nailing hem and a ¾-inch panel projection provide excellent rigidity to deliver a straighter-on-the-wall appearance.

GETTING STYLE AND BEAUTY, TOO

In addition to developing siding products that help make installation precise and secure, CertainTeed's Monogram siding is the leader in siding color and style. It has natural wood-grain textures molded directly from real cedar boards. It also offers the industry's largest selection of colors — more than 30 in all — including unique darker colors and semi-transparent stained blends.

For help in finding a siding contractor near you, or for more information on the Monogram STUDfinder™ Siding System, visit www.certainteed.com. Or call (800) 782-8777.

Clean Out Gutters Before Spring Rains

As spring approaches, make sure all outside gutters and drains are free of leaves and debris. Check for any leaks in downspouts and between gutter seams. Be sure rainwater is not being trapped near the foundation and that water easily flows away from the home. Hydrostatic pressure — water trapped between the soil and foundation wall — causes cracks and other damage, allowing water to permeate into a basement or crawlspace, leading to future problems.

Patching and repairing holes in your gutters, downspouts and seams ensures effective water flow, saving landscaping close to the home's perimeters while preventing expensive gutter replacement.

Preventative gutter maintenance is easy and inexpensive with Bondo Home Soulutions™ Easy Patch™. Repair your gutters in as little time as a half-hour. Easy Patch is a sun-activated, self-adhesive repair patch that requires no mixing or the need to purchase additional supporting products.

First clean the repair area with warm, soapy water. Let dry and then roughen the area with sandpaper or a wire brush. Cut the product to the size needed for the repair area and remove it from the UV-protected package. Peel off the adhesive back and apply. The patch will cure watertight in five to 15 minutes on a sunny day. Easy Patch will not rust or rot, and the area can be painted in less than an hour.

Add an Exotic Touch to Your Garden

By Mike Ferrara, The Lazy Homeowner

(MS) — I like to think of myself as an "armchair gardener." Like other products that help make tasks around the home easier and more enjoyable, I look for flowering plants that will thrive all by themselves. I've discovered a one-of-a-kind begonia called "Dragon Wing™" that does all of the work and let's me take all of the credit! The Dragon Wing Begonia has an exotic look with red flower clusters set against a dramatic backdrop of glossy, wing-shaped green leaves.

More versatile than standard begonias, Dragon Wings are great for so many purposes. Put them in hanging baskets, patio containers and window boxes, but don't be afraid to plant them in the ground because these plants also make superb garden-bed plants. I was amazed how fast they grew and how much they spread from when I first purchased them as small green plants at the garden center. In the garden center, young Dragon Wing plants may exhibit scarlet or salmon-colored flowers. But don't worry, after one week in the garden, they turn a beautiful red.

My Dragon Wings reached about 16-inches tall and spread to about 18 inches. They tolerate a wide range of growing conditions, too. In the South, the flowers will do best in a location of partial shade; in the North, they can be grown in full sun, but afternoon shade is recommended. Full days of sun will turn the edges of the dark leaves red and cause them to curl, but will not harm the plants in any way.

THE DRAGON WING BEGONIA has an exotic look with red flower clusters set against a dramatic backdrop of glossy, wing-shaped, green leaves.

These low-maintenance plants are covered with brilliant blooms all season long. And the begonias are self-cleaning, so forget about pinching off old flowers. About the only other task required of me is to feed the plants with an all-purpose fertilizer about every two weeks.

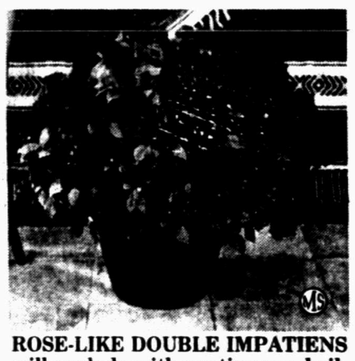
Dragon Wing Begonias will be easy to spot at garden centers, nurseries and home improvement stores. Just look for the distinctive "white hot" Dragon Wing pot with the "dancing flames" logo. To learn more, visit www.wave-rave.com. *SH012155*

Enjoy Roses for the Shade

(MS) — I've always dreamed of growing roses. But dream as I may, this gardener is in no way enthused about the challenge of tending roses. I don't have the will, the time, or the sunny spaces to attempt to grow these fragile beauties. There's reason to celebrate though ... I've discovered "Fiesta™," a carefree, shade-loving double impatiens that has an amazing rose-like quality. My neighbors may be fooled into wondering how I manage to grow roses, and in the shade, no less.

Of the choices in the Fiesta spectrum of 13 colors, the delicate rose-likeness is most apparent with the Fiesta Pink Ruffles, the Fiesta Sparkler Salmon and the Fiesta Sparkler Rose varieties. Other choices include the vigorous Fiesta Orange Spice with its bold orange flowers and Fiesta Coral Bells, with its rich masses of deep coral blooms. Purple Piñata and Stardust Lavender are new for 2001. Who would have dreamed that your shady spots could radiate with such color?

Soon after you get them home, you will know why this brand is the No. 1 selling double impatiens in North America. These plants will explode with continuous, brilliant color from early in the season until first frost. A little morning sun followed by afternoon shade is ideal, but even a fully shaded area will be fine. And don't worry if the temperature rises; Fiesta double impatiens are quite heat-tolerant. Just keep the soil moist at all times and lightly fertilize every two weeks or so.



ROSE-LIKE DOUBLE IMPATIENS will explode with continuous, brilliant color from early in the season until first frost.

Although these flowers are well suited for landscapes, they are also perfect in hanging baskets and patio planters. Space them about ten inches apart in beds and they'll grow about 12 inches tall and spread up to 15 inches.

Part of a new national brand of consumer-friendly flowers called "Simply Beautiful™" look for Fiesta double impatiens at fine garden centers. They'll be easy to spot in their custom pots with the Fiesta sunburst logo. To learn more about Fiesta, visit www.ballfloraplant.com. *SH012154*

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By Mike Ferra

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... And Don't Forget

When you're looking at zero turning radius mowers, make sure you keep the following in mind:

- Look for strong, sturdy construction. You want the machine to have some weight to it. A wide wheelbase and low center of gravity also help to create a more stable ride.
- Make sure the control levers are smooth and easy to operate. The last thing you want are controls that make the ride rough and leave you with sore muscles.
- You want performance when you're choosing a mowing deck. Is the deck big enough to handle your mowing needs?
- Does it have anti-scalp rollers? Does it have an effective mulching option?
- Does the machine come with other options? Is it a tool you can use for more than just mowing? *SH012151*

Perfect Plants With a Flick of the Wrist

By Mike Ferrara, The Lazy Homeowner

(MS) — I believe I'm among the majority of homeowners who loves the luxury of lush plants and lavish landscaping, but could do without much of the expense and time it takes to maintain it. Fact is, there have been years where I've returned home from a summer vacation to find literally hundreds of dollars of investment lying wilted on the ground.

Luckily, The Toro Company recently introduced a series of do-it-yourself drip irrigation kits that makes maintenance as simple as a flick of the wrist. After the few hours it took to install, I simply turned on the spigot and walked away, confident that the only thing that will wither this year is my water bill.

The Toro kits can be used for flower beds, ground cover, trees and shrubs, gardens, even planters and containers. Even better, all materials needed for the different applications are assembled in clearly marked packaging. Need a kit for a flower garden? Grab the box with the picture of a flowerbed on it — it's that simple.

I decided to install a custom system based on the design of my landscaping, so I purchased the Toro Ground Cover Drip Kit and the Patio Container Drip Kit. The ground cover kit has factory-installed emitters — perfect for dense landscape beds and is extremely easy to install.

My mission was to irrigate the flowers and plantings bordering my patio as well as several planters sitting on the patio itself. Although I'm no irrigation expert, the installation was easy with the help of the colorful instructions on the packaging. First, I carefully unrolled and placed a length of Blue Stripe™ Drip Hose with the pre-installed emitters from the kit throughout my plantings and connected it to a spigot with the adapter that was included in the kit. Because I also have planters sitting on my patio, I installed a Patio Container Drip Kit as well, which included five spray stakes.

And yes, I made a few mistakes in my original layout. Toro wisely assumed I would and included hose plugs in the kits for just that reason. They snapped in just as easily as the spray stakes did, and I simply moved the stakes to a better location. They even include tie-down stakes for the hose to keep it secured once the correct layout has been placed. Once installed, I covered the hose system with mulch for aesthetics as well as to reduce water evaporation.

EASY-TO-INSTALL Toro Drip Irrigation Kits are custom-packaged for gardens, plant beds, trees and shrubs — even containers and planters.

This summer I'll turn the system on for about 15 minutes every other day, in a warm humid climate that should keep my garden thriving without wasting water. Besides saving water and the time it takes to hand-water my plants, my drip irrigation system allows the water to soak in slowly, and that reduces erosion. More important, it minimizes weed growth by delivering water directly to the plant's root system. And that matters to homeowners like me who prefer to spend time outdoors with a glass of lemonade in their hand rather than a handful of weeds!

You can find Toro drip irrigation products at home centers and discount stores like Home Depot and Target. You can also visit www.lazyhomeowner.com for more information.

Learn How to Mow Your Lawn Like the Pros

By Mike Ferrara, The Lazy Homeowner

(MS) — If you're a lazy homeowner like me, the last thing you look forward to doing on a Saturday morning is cutting your lawn. I want my yard to look nice, but I don't want to spend all day doing it. So when my neighbor told me his new lawn mower cut his mowing time in half, naturally I was interested in what he had to say.

How'd he do it? It turns out he bought a zero turning radius riding mower. The secret, he says, is all in the drive system. Riding mowers with a zero turning radius drive system are easy to maneuver and they're fast. You've probably seen a lawn care contractor in your neighborhood riding around on one. For these folks, time is money. They need an efficient machine to help increase their bottom line. These machines hug the terrain, make tight turns around trees and speed along a straightaway with ease.

Now you can bring the technology of the professional lawn contractor to your own home. The Toro Company has developed a zero turning radius mower that makes the power and productivity of the professional models available to homeowners. The TimeCutter ™ Z can help you complete your mowing tasks in half of the time.

In a word, zero turning radius mowers are more efficient. The rear wheels provide both the power and the steering, and they operate independently. So, one wheel can rotate forward while the other rotates in reverse. This allows you to make any turn, from zero to 360 degrees. That unlimited maneuverability means you can trim around your mailbox, cut close to your flowerbeds and reach right to the edge of your lawn.

With this new machine you can forget about taking extra time to trim with a walk-behind mower after you cut your grass. While lawn tractors aren't able to cut every area, the TimeCutter's maneuverability allows it to reach just about every space in your lawn. There's virtually nothing left to trim.

The TimeCutter is also very easy to use. It's loaded with features that make it more comfortable and efficient. Complicated pedals, gear selectors and the steering wheel are all replaced by two levers. The smooth-moving levers control the speed and direction of the mower. The mower's engine is in the rear of the machine. This allows you to see where you're going. You don't have to look over the engine to see the lawn in front of you. It also comes with a 5-gallon gas tank so you'll make fewer trips back to the garage to fill up.

CUT YOUR MOWING TIME in half with the the Toro TimeCutter™ Z.

My favorite feature is its speed. Depending on the conditions, the Toro TimeCutter can mow effectively at speeds of up to 6.5 mph. That's a couple of miles per hour faster than most tractors and much faster than walking behind a mower.

Even though the TimeCutter is fun and easy to drive, it's not a toy. It's made of durable, heavy-gauge steel and comes with tough, hard working mowing decks. Choose from a 44- or 52-inch deck, both with anti-scalp rollers and seven height-of-cut positions so you can pick the perfect length of your grass depending on the season. You can even get an optional Toro Recycler mulching kit so you won't have to bag your clippings.

My days of mowing the grass while my neighbor sits sipping lemonade are over. I'm getting a new mower. This machine gets me back into my lawn chair in half the time. That's something any lazy homeowner can appreciate.

Garden-Inspired Poetry For Children to Enjoy

A child's imagination and thirst for knowledge are areas you should encourage as a parent. An excellent way to stimulate young minds is through literature and poetry which can be enjoyed at a picnic under spring skies or during quiet time when play for the day is through.

As you prepare your garden beds for beautiful blooms and keep the lawn healthy and green, entice your child's knowledge of the world to grow beyond the walls of the house by sharing garden-themed poetry.

This piece called "The Gardener," by Robert Louis Stevenson is just one of several enchanting verses for children from "A Child's Garden of Verses" (William Morrow and Company).

THE GARDENER

The gardener does not love to talk,
He makes me keep the gravel walk;
And when he puts his tools away,
He locks the door and takes the key.

Away behind the currant row,
Where no one else but cook may go,
Far in the plots, I see him dig,
Old and serious, brown and big.

He digs the flowers, green, red and blue,
Nor wishes to be spoken to.
He digs the flowers and cuts the hay,
And never seems to want to play.

Silly gardener! Summer goes,
And winter comes with pinching toes,
When in the garden bare and brown
You must lay your barrow down.
Well now, and while the summer stays,
To profit by these garden days
O how much wiser you would be
To play at Indian wars with me!

Decorate the Garden

(MS) — Gardening is no longer restricted to planting and maintaining flowers, shrubs and other greenery. Gardening has become an art form. Homeowners are dedicating more time and money to add individuality and personality to their gardens. Like decorating a room, gardens too can become custom-made spaces, enclosed not only by trees, shrubs and flowers, but also with decorative structures.

For information about lattice, trellis and arbors to decorate your garden, and to receive an idea book full of distinctive gardening ideas, call TUFF-BILT at (800) 394-6679 or visit www.tuffbilt.com.

Organic Gardening

(MS) — There are many natural ways to cultivate landscapes and enhance natural beauty. "Organic Gardening" (Hungry Minds Inc., $25), by Crow and Elizabeth Miller, one of the country's best known gardening teams, meets the overwhelming demand for knowledge and expertise in this field.

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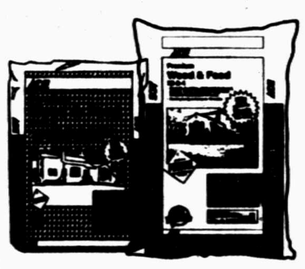

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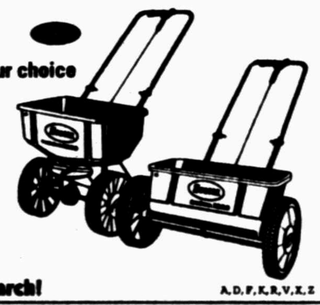

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From Weary to Wow With Little Work

(MS) — This season, pay attention to your garden borders. By installing edging around landscape beds, your yard can go from "weary" to "wow" with just a little work.

Edging helps to form clean, neat lines between planting areas and turf or groundcovers. Its function is simple, but important. Properly installed, edging will accent special garden areas and help keep mulches contained.

Nowadays, there are so many easy-to-use and effective edging products on the market that even the most inexperienced gardeners can install their own edging. Another great thing about today's edging is that it comes in a wide variety of styles.

Choose an edging that suits your taste and shows off your garden in style. Perhaps you love the clean, crisp look of white fencing. That traditional look is available in edging with Easy Gardener's new Cape Cod Classic Edging.

Each piece of the Cape Cod Edging is 32 inches long and can be easily curved around trees and beds to create a long, fence-like look. Every white fence piece features stylish curved lines that connect easily and won't come apart.

Perhaps the look of black wrought iron is more appealing to you. If so, Easy Gardener's Forged Iron Edging is something you may want to consider. This new UV-treated plastic edging features the realistic look and texture of wrought iron in easy-to-handle sections.

The 24-inch black edging has easy-to-use connectors that allow bending around corners. In addition, the edging can be stacked together, giving gardeners the option to create taller borders.

If the rustic look is more your style, you'll want to check out Natural Cedar Edging. This product, yet another made by Easy Gardener, has the appearance of real cedar edging but is actually made of strong, durable plastic.

Ideal for creating a natural-looking focal point in the garden, this "cedar" edging is very flexible and finished on both sides so it looks good from any angle. You can make straight edges, slight curves or even sharp right angles by simply connecting each piece of the 20-inch long Natural Cedar Edging.

GIVE ANY YARD A MAKEOVER with decorative and functional edging products like this Cape Cod Classic Edging.

All of the products are easy to install — all you have to do is simply follow package directions. One of the best things about the Cape Cod, Forged Iron and Natural Cedar edgings is that once you install them, they'll last for years. Find the edging at local garden centers, hardware stores, your favorite chain retailer or by calling (800) EASY-INC.

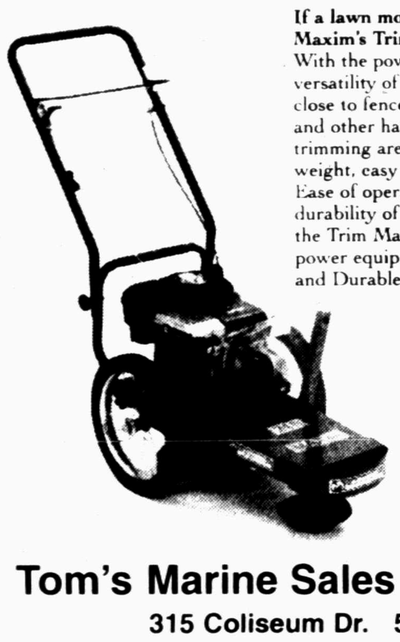
So do check out your borders this season. If they're not up to par, change them. With just a little effort you can give your landscape beds that professionally manicured look for years to come.

The strength and ease of use of Fiskars new lightweight Telescoping Pruning Stik™ will amaze you. The four pound tree pruner extends 13 feet and features a ropeless Powerstroke™ cutting action ... simply pull on the handle, or the ball end of the Stik for smooth, easy cutting. The cutting head rotates 240 degrees to handle any awkward pruning angle. The ultra-hardened steel blade cuts branches up to 1¼ inch in diameter and has a PTFE coating which resists rust and reduces cutting friction. For larger branches, simply attach the 15-inch saw blade.

Maintenance-Free Wishing Well

Imagine a beautiful wishing well for your garden that never needs maintenance. Now imagine having that wish come true. The new 7-foot high Niagara Wishing Well from the Presidio™ line of maintenance-free garden products produced by Westech® Fence has the beauty of freshly painted wood, but is made of the highest quality vinyl that resists denting and looks great. Unlike wood, it's totally weatherproof, requires no painting or staining, will never peel, blister, splinter, flake or rot, and is impervious to moisture and termites.

MAXIM trim master



If a lawn mower just won't cut it Maxim's Trim Master probably will. With the power of a lawn mower and the versatility of a string trimmer you can get close to fence rows, trees, landscaping and other hard to reach areas. Problem trimming areas disappear with the lightweight, easy to operate Trim Master. Ease of operation combined with the durability of all steel construction make the Trim Master a smart choice. Maxim's power equipment – Versatile, Adaptable, and Durable.

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What's Your 'Junk' Worth?

Top Ten Mistakes When Spring Cleaning

You could be tossing out a small fortune when you clean house.

The values of ordinary looking items has skyrocketed in recent years according to Tony Hyman, host of "What's It Worth?" each week on CBS-TV network news. Because most folks don't realize how valuable these items have become, they get thrown away or sold on lawns for pennies.

Top Ten items you should never discard or sell at a yard sale include:

1. Balloon tire bicycles: Most balloon tire bikes (1934 to 1960) are worth $100 or more; a lady's bike worth $3,500 was recently found in an Ohio trash can; your newer banana seat bike can bring $500 and up;

2. Costume jewelry: Costume isn't junk. A Palm Springs yard sale yielded a $10 box of costume jewelry that the new owner resold for $75,000;

3. Fountain pens: A Massachusetts church rummage sale sold a $15,000 pen for $55; a $42,000 pen turned up in a Midwest dresser last year;

4. Baseball gloves: Gloves you played with in the 1960s can be worth up to $2,500;

5. Perfume bottles: The record price for a 20th century perfume bottle is more than $40,000;

6. Marbles: 20th century machine-made glass swirls can be worth hundreds of dollars each. $2,500 for a coffee can full is not unusual.

7. Toys of the 1960s: GI Joe®, Barbie®, and space toys of all sorts bring $15 to $500;

8. Fishing Tackle: Rods, reels and lures have all topped the $1,000 each mark; a $15,000 reel sold at an Illinois yard sale for $.50;

9. Advertising and packaging: Cigar boxes, coffee cans, cereal boxes, tobacco tins, signs ... anything featuring a product more than 20 years old;

10. Cast iron cookware: One of the biggest surprises is that more than 400 different cast iron pots, pans, skillets and lids can put from $40 to $1,000 in your pocket if you sell them to the right person!

Other common items with uncommon values include Hawaiian shirts, beer mugs, pocket knives, musical instruments, briar pipes, old toasters and typewriters, war souvenirs, transistor radios, calculators, 78 and 33 rpm records, auto owners' manuals, cap guns, cartoon glasses, cookie jars, nodder dolls, Disneyland souvenirs, electric trains, rock and roll posters, lunch boxes, lace, yo-yos, television board games, china, cigarette lighters and hundreds of others.

To find out if you own something valuable you need expert advice and to find out who wants to buy your item at a fair price. There's only one good buyer of cigar boxes in the country, and people who want sewing machines, BB guns, and cocktail shakers can be equally hard to find.

"It's like having a roadshow in your own front room."

The way to make the most money, according to Hyman's viewers, is to contact buyers and appraisers by mail. For 22 years, Hyman has been helping amateurs dispose of their possessions by publishing the names, addresses, phone numbers and now e-mail addresses of experts like those you see on television appraisal shows.

The latest 640 page ninth edition of "Hyman's Trash or Treasure Guide To Buyers" introduces readers to the top 1,200 collectibles experts in the United States and Canada. Send $29.95 plus $5 shipping and handling to Trash or Treasure, Box 3028-SC, Pismo, Calif. 93448. For Mastercard and Visa orders, call (800) 549-7500 from 9 to 6 Pacific time. Give the name of this paper when you order, and you will also receive "The World's Most Accurate Price Guide" and a 30-day money-back guarantee at no extra charge.

"It's like having your own private roadshow in your home," says one reader, "even better, because I didn't have to stand in line for hours and could ask about hundreds of items, not just two."

"People are a lot richer than they think," Hyman says, "but until now they haven't been able to cash in on what they own because they didn't know what they have, who wants it, or how much it's worth."

You don't need to know whether you have a $5 fishing lure or a $500 lure, Hyman says, as long as you deal with honest experts. Ask them what you have. Experts will know, he says, and pay you fairly.

"Something as simple as a plastic Pez® candy dispenser is worth $400 to one person and $.10 to another," Hyman points out, "and a 1966 Hot Wheels® Volkswagen toy can be worth twice as much as the real car to the right buyer."

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Don't Let Allergies Keep You Out of the Garden

Just because you suffer from allergies or asthma doesn't mean that you have to forgo the beauty and pleasures of gardening. Research, common sense and knowledge are all you need to create fabulous landscapes and gardens that will not make you, your children or your neighbors sick, according to Thomas Leo Ogren, author of "Allergy-Free Gardening: The Revolutionary Guide to Healthy Landscaping" (Ten Speed Press). Approximately 50 to 60 million Americans suffer from allergies, including allergic asthma according to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. Annually, seasonal allergies cost more than $4.5 billion in medical care. As a gardener, you have control over what you plant, and, with enough knowledge and understanding, can drastically limit allergens in your garden.

The most important thing a gardener can do to reduce the allergy potential of a garden is to plant those species which cause little or no allergy. Allergenic plants that already exist in the landscape may be removed, one at a time, and replaced with cleaner choices. In addition to the selecting and planting of nonallergenic plants, however, other important things can be done to limit allergies in the home landscape.

1. Lawn Care. There are several ways to limit pollen release in lawns. Most lawn grasses release their pollen from about 3 a.m. to 8 a.m, therefore, it is never a good ideal to mow lawns early in the morning.

Hardware stores sell inexpensive, yet effective paper face-mask filters to cover the nose and mouth. For those who are especially allergic to grass pollens, wearing a mask may not be enough. These gardeners would be wise to hire someone else to do the mowing or replace the lawn with low-allergy ground cover. If you employ a maintenance gardener, ask him or her to do your yard later in the day. At the least, close the windows for a few hours until all of the pollen has settled down.

2. Plant Identification. If you buy a house with a landscape and garden already in place you may not know exactly what kinds of plants you have growing in your yard; ask an expert. Never be embarrassed or afraid to admit your uncertainty; there are simply too many different kinds of plants out there and no one can possibly know them all.

3. Trees and Pruning Away Allergy.

Many trees grow large and tall, often towering above everything else in the garden. If they produce allergenic pollen they have a serious effect on the overall air quality of your garden. With many trees, especially non-evergreen trees, a yearly hard pruning, in which the ends of all branches are cut back, results in a tree that — for the next season — will produce only leaves, not allergy inducing flowers.

4. Keeping Trees and Shrubs Healthy. For one reason or another, despite being given plenty of attention, certain trees, shrubs or other garden plants fail to thrive in some gardens. Plants that are not growing well quickly become targets for pests, diseases or insects. As insects suck the juices out of a plant, they secrete a sticky substance called honeydew, and mold grows on this honeydew. Mold produces millions of airborne spores that cause allergy, and the insects themselves cause even more allergy.

5. Insecticides and Herbicides. Pesticides, especially chemical ones cause allergy, and often a single overexposure can leave many people hypersensitive to many substances that never bothered them before. Use all pesticides sparingly, and never when the wind is blowing.

A very effective insecticide can be made by mixing several teaspoons of liquid dish soap and three teaspoons of vegetable or mineral oil into one gallon of warm water. For increased effectiveness, substitute a commercially produced insecticidal soap. If warm-blooded pests like rabbits are a problem, add a few drops of hot pepper sauce to your home-made sprays. If you've never tried simple sprays like these, do so. They often work well and are nontoxic.

Quick and Easy Driveway Tips for Professional Results

Sealing your blacktop driveway is easy and will increase the beauty and value of your home while protecting your investment. However, preparation is a critical step that should not be overlooked or neglected. You can eliminate more than 90 percent of potential problems by following these simple steps.

Step 1 — Rinse driveway. | **Step 2 — Use driveway cleaner.** | **Step 3 — Apply crack filler/patch.** | **Step 4 — Treat oil spots with primer.** | **Step 5 — Apply sealer**

SECRET TIPS FROM THE PROS

1. Repair all cracks and holes the day before.
2. Turn buckets upside down prior to opening, to promote easier mixing (make sure that the lids are securely attached).
3. Beat the heat — applying the sealer in the morning hours allows easier spreadability and proper time to dry. If your driveway is more than 85 F, lightly mist the surface to cool down and aid in spreadability of the material.
4. Use a brush/squeegee applicator to apply seal coat, not rollers.
5. Brush sealer in a side-to-side motion. Start from your home and work to the street. This will hide imperfections and improve the look of your driveway.
6. Place empty buckets at the end of the driveway. This is the easiest and most cost-effective protection for blocking your newly coated surface.

For more information on getting the best results for your driveway, visit www.gardnerasphalt.com on the Internet or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Gardner Asphalt, P.O. Box 5449, Tampa, Fla. 33675, Attn: Info Request # GA-1001. *SH012230*

Ten Tips For Selecting Windows for the Home

Building a new home can be both rewarding and challenging. There are dozens of people involved in the construction of your house, and there are literally hundreds of decisions to be made. Each choice is important and plays a role in the final outcome of your home.

For most people, choosing which windows to use in the home can be a daunting task. There are considerations of what materials the windows should be made of, type of glass specified, shapes, sizes, styles and options. To help navigate these decisions, Weather Shield Windows & Doors, one of the nation's leading manufacturers of windows, offers these tips:

1. Research your options. Do your homework by talking with window dealers, builders and architects to find out the types of windows they recommend. Review manufacturers' catalogs and Web sites. Learn as much as you can about the options available in your price category.

2. Select windows that complement your home's style. All the pieces of your home should come together for a unified look. Work with your architect and builder to select the size, style and shape of windows that enhance your home.

3. Determine the level of maintenance you prefer. For the ease of low maintenance, you can't beat all-vinyl windows, like Visions 2000® by Weather Shield. Or, you may wish to have low-maintenance vinyl on the exterior and warm woods on the interior, as in a ProShield® window. Aluminum-clad wood, all-aluminum and all-wood windows are also available. Consider your climate and long-term maintenance goals when selecting the window material for your home.

4. Think big. Light plays a major role in the home, and big windows — or combinations of windows — can have a positive impact on your home. One of today's most popular trends, walls of windows, can be achieved by mixing an array of operable windows and fixed glass. These impressive focal points for the home can reach the ceiling or encompass an entire wall.

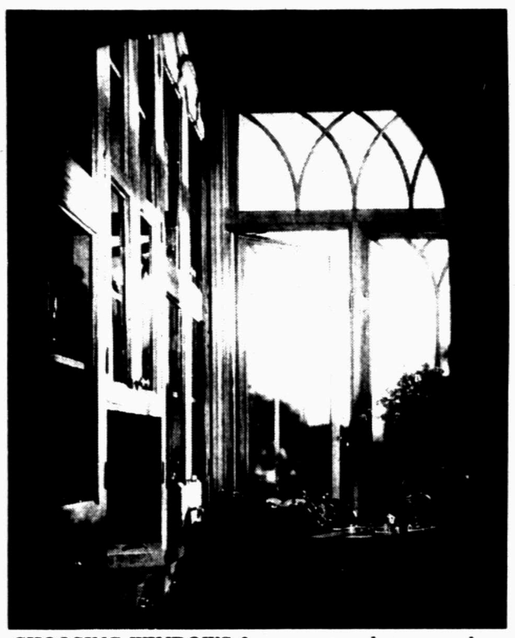
5. Make window interiors work for you. Select windows with wood interiors that complement your cabinetry, flooring and accessories. Weather Shield's Custom Wood Interiors Collection offers you maple, mahogany, oak, cherry, American fir, knotty and traditional pine interiors for your windows.

6. Decide if you want custom-made windows, with lots of options, or more standardized windows. A simple home design can often use standard-size windows. However, the options you gain from custom-made windows can really set your home apart. True Divided Lites, interior woods and grilles are just some upgrade options that custom window manufacturers can offer you.

7. Beware of "bargain" windows. There are many "no name" companies producing poor quality windows that are inexpensive. Some of these companies are only in business a short time, and may not be available years down the road when maintenance problems often occur.

8. Plan for your future needs by incorporating universal housing design elements into your windows. People of all ages benefit from making their homes more accessible and easier to maintain. Consider easy-to-turn hand cranks at the bottom of casement windows and low-placed latches to make your windows easier to operate.

9. Make energy efficiency a priority. By researching and understanding glazing options, you can make smart decisions on the glass in your windows. Consider windows with ThermoGold™ Low E² glass. Tiny gold particles (undetectable to the human eye) help filter out harmful UV rays. This glass can help save in heating and cooling bills by keeping your house warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. Glazing options are available with single, double and triple panes of glass and with Low E-coated surfaces.



CHOOSING WINDOWS for your new home can be a daunting task. Investing time in researching the windows, warranties and manufacturer's reputation up front can save endless headaches down the road.

10. Research warranties. Your long-term comfort level in the windows you select will come from purchasing products from a reputable company with strong product warranties. Carefully review the warranties for replacement stipulations, ownership transfer details and guarantees against failure of glass, frame and sash of the window.

"There's a lot for homeowners to consider when selecting windows for the home," says Bob Eckert, director of marketing for Weather Shield Windows & Doors. "The best single piece of advice we can offer a homeowner is to get educated. Investing time in researching the windows, warranties and manufacturer's reputation up front can save endless headaches down the road."

For more assistance on selecting windows for the home, Weather Shield offers an 18-page, four-color, "New Home Guide" to consumers. Free copies are available by calling (800) 477-6808 or by visiting www.weathershield.com.

Flowers Honor Special Anniversary

BLOSSOMING BEAUTY — The Lillian Vernon Rose is available by calling (800) 545-5426 or visiting www.lillianvernon.com.

William Shakespeare penned the phrase, "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Although it was written centuries ago, it's as fitting today for The Lillian Vernon Rose, a beautiful pink and yellow grandiflora bloom with a sweet and spicy scent, created in honor of mail order pioneer Lillian Vernon. A pink Asiatic Tetraploid Lily, The Real Lilly, has also been named in her honor. In addition, the specialty catalog and online retail company she founded in 1951 is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

The flowers were bred exclusively for Lillian Vernon by Meilland International. The Lillian Vernon Rose is hardy, disease-resistant and blooms abundantly and continuously into autumn. Its huge, creamy yellow blooms are splashed with highlights of vivid salmon pink.

The Real Lilly is a pink hybrid with ruby red spots, featuring 3 to 4 inch long, flared and fragrant mid-summer blooms that require little care. The catalog entrepreneur joins other notables with flowers named in their honor, including: Diana Princess of Wales, Rosie O'Donnell and George Burns.

Both flowers are sold in the Lillian Vernon Gardening catalog, in a new section devoted to live flowers, bushes, vines and greenery. The Lillian Vernon Rose retails for $14.99 and The Real Lilly costs $8.99 for three bulbs. Visit www.lillianvernon.com for more information.

Preparing Your Soil

(MS) — You can get a jump-start on the summer harvest in your vegetable and flower garden by "making your beds" with the healthiest soil you can. This spring, take a little extra time to prepare your soil before planting.

Your native soil most likely consists of either too much clay, making it thick, lumpy and clingy or too much sand, allowing water and nutrients to leach away. This year, you don't have to settle for these conditions. By adding organic matter, like Canadian peat moss, to your vegetable or flower beds, you will improve the tilth (texture) of any soil.

Peat moss has the unique ability to bind sandy soil and loosen clay soil. Its cell structure helps regulate moisture and air around plant roots, creating ideal growing conditions. The improved soil texture not only creates a healthy environment for all of your plants, but will also make weeding much easier once things start to grow. To add nutrients to your soil, blend compost with peat moss and dig both in at the same time. Simply spread 1 to 2 inches of peat moss and 1 to 2 inches of compost over your garden, then dig them into the top 6 to 8 inches of soil.

Compost is decomposed organic matter like vegetable peelings, lawn and garden debris which is packed with nutrition. When peat is blended with compost it helps extend the volume and soil-life of the nutrient-rich compost and helps to reduce soil compaction. This organic blend will provide excellent nutrition for the soil and will last for the entire season.

By making these soil preparations this spring, your vegetables and flowers will thrive this summer. For more information on how to prepare your soil with peat moss, send a self-addressed, business-sized envelope, stamped (with enough postage to reach Canada), to Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association, 7 Oasis Court, St. Albert, AB, Canada, T8N 6X2. You can also visit their Web site at www.peatmoss.com. *GT014361*

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Radon Gas In Your Home: Do You Know The Facts?

As a homeowner, you should be concerned about radon gas in your home. The Consumer Research Council answers the most commonly asked questions about radon:

Q. Where is radon found?

A. The primary source of radon in homes is underground soil. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that as many as one in 15 homes across the country has elevated radon levels.

Q. How does radon get into my house?

A. The same way air does—through cracks in the foundation floor or walls, hollow-block walls and openings around floor drains, pipes and sump pumps. Some air is sucked in through openings (cracks, doors, windows) on the lower levels.

Q. What are the health effects of radon?

A. Exposure to radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Radon can be inhaled into the lungs where it undergoes radioactive decay and can damage DNA. This damaged DNA can lead to lung cancer.

Q. How do I find out if my house has elevated levels of radon?

A. There are two basic testing options: Do it yourself or hire a professional tester. Radon test kits that meet EPA requirements are available at local hardware stores, home improvement stores and other retail outlets. Most test kits cost less than $25. You can also call 1-800-SOS-RADON (1-800-767-7236) for a reduced-cost test kit.

Q. Is it difficult to perform a radon test?

A. Testing your home for radon is as simple as opening a package, placing a radon detector in a designated area, and mailing it to a lab after the prescribed number of days.

Q. If I don't have a basement, can I assume that I don't have a radon problem?

A. No. Radon can seep in from soil anywhere around or under a home, regardless of whether it has a basement a crawl space or is built slab-on-grade. The EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend radon-testing for all types of homes, at or below the third floor.

Q. Two of my neighbors have tested their homes for radon and they don't have high levels. Why do I need to test?

A. Radon levels can vary considerably from house to house, even on the same street. The only way to know whether radon exists in harmful levels in your home is to test.

For information on fixing a home with radon, call the Consumer Research Council Fix-It Line at 1-800-644-6999.

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Let the Sunshine In With Decorative Glass Options

It's time to do something about your house. If you've wanted to jazz up the front entrance, perhaps add a little panache in the master bath — the answer is decorative glass.

A popular and affordable upgrade for quite some time, decorative glass really is coming into its own, according to Angie Neubner, a director with Boozer Lumber in Columbia, S.C. "It's a quick and easy way to add curb appeal and value to your home," she says. "Ten years ago, no one had an entry door with decorative glass. Now everyone has one. You see decorative glass in a 1,800 square-foot house and in a 7,000 square-foot house; people are the same in their quest for something to make their home different and add a touch of beauty."

Decorative-glass options are available in a wide variety of styles: clear Baroque glass with beveled border treatments for a classic look; clear and gray waterglass which creates dramatic shadowing when paired with curved and rectangular beveling; glue-chip glass combined with waterglass for a regal look; V-grooving with frosted glue-chip glass for an artistic interpretation; and screened images with center medallions for decorator options reminiscent of old-world etching. Polished brass caming adds a touch of warmth, creating a soft glow that is pleasant to the eye.

Neubner reports that the Symphony collection of decorative glass from Peachtree Doors and Windows is their top request. "Doors take on elegant sophistication when combined with luxurious decorative glass, and the Symphony Series is by far the most beautiful option we offer."

Concerned about the energy efficiency of a front door full of beautiful glass? Don't be: all Peachtree decorative-glass entry doors with brass caming feature glass designs sealed between two pieces of insulating glass for maximum energy efficiency and security. Designs without the caming option include insulating glass with one pane showcasing the decorative design.

Decorative glass isn't just for doors, however. Picture your master bathroom with a huge, gorgeous decorative-glass window, perhaps located right over the bathtub. Imagine light filtering through beveled glass, sunlight patterns dancing on the ceiling as the warm glow of brass caming covers the room in a golden aura. Now make it happen.

No matter the style of your home, whether it's old-school traditional, stunning Colonial, charming Victorian or exciting modern, decorative glass in the entry door — and even in a window or two — will add character, style, grace and a custom touch ... not to mention curb appeal.

LEND AN AIR OF ELEGANCE to any home with Symphony decorative glass from Peachtree. All decorative-glass designs for entry doors are available in the Avanti steel entry door or the Newport II entry door.

For more information on decorative-glass options for windows and entry doors, visit Peachtree's Web site at www.peach99.com. For free literature, call (800) PEACH-99.

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Tick

(NAPS)—Ticks are persistent little suckers. While attached to you or your pet, these parasites can consume up to 100 times their body weight in blood and in the process spread such diseases as Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

These parasites can multiply rapidly-a female can produce up to 8,000 eggs-and can attach to both animals and humans, feeding on warm blood.

There are some basic precautions people can take to help protect themselves against becoming an unwilling host to ticks:

- Keep landscape areas clean and well-trimmed;
- Keep crawl spaces, attics, vent holes and drains tightly sealed and screened to prevent potential hosts from entering the home;
- Keep pets well-groomed; and
- After spending time outdoors, shower and look carefully for ticks on your body. Also, examine your pets thoroughly for ticks after they come inside.

According to RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment), pesticides play an important role in reducing the health threat posed by these pests. Always carefully read and follow the pesticide label before using.

RISE is committed to working to ensure that Americans have the products they need for home, garden and structural pest control. For more information, visit their Web site at www.acpa.org\rise or write to RISE at 1156 15th Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005.

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The Tool For Every Homeowner

AN ELECTRIC LEAF-BLOWER/VAC like this Super Blower Vac® from Toro® is a must-have this season for the "Lazy Homeowner."

By MIKE FERRARA, The Lazy Homeowner

(MS) — It's a fact of life. Even people who consider themselves a "lazy homeowner" need to accomplish things around the house. That's why I look for tools and techniques that make my household chores easier.

One such tool is an electric leaf-blower/vac. No tool shed or garage is complete without one, especially in the fall. This versatile tool even may have you throwing your rake away.

When you're shopping for an electric blower/vac make sure to look for one with a number of features; you want it to be powerful enough to fit your needs. It should also be easy to convert from the blower to the vacuum mode.

Another key feature is the machine's ability to mulch or shred leaves. Mulching the leaves reduces their volume so they'll take up less space in your garbage bags. Mulching them also allows the leaves to break down faster in your compost pile. Some models reduce up to ten bags of leaves down to one.

My favorite model is the Super Blower Vac by Toro. This is *the* power tool when it comes to leaf blower/vacs. In fact, you can't buy a more powerful hand-held blower. The machine's super-powerful 210 mph maximum air stream clears away sticks, heavy leaves and other debris with ease.

This model really is a three-in-one tool. It converts from a blower to a vacuum to a leaf shredder without tools. It's perfect for gathering up all the leaves in your yard, then vacuuming and shredding them for your compost pile.

But that's not all, the vac also is great for sweeping off your driveway or deck, cleaning out hard-to-reach spaces between trees and bushes. The possibilities are endless ... kind of like your list of fall cleanup tasks.

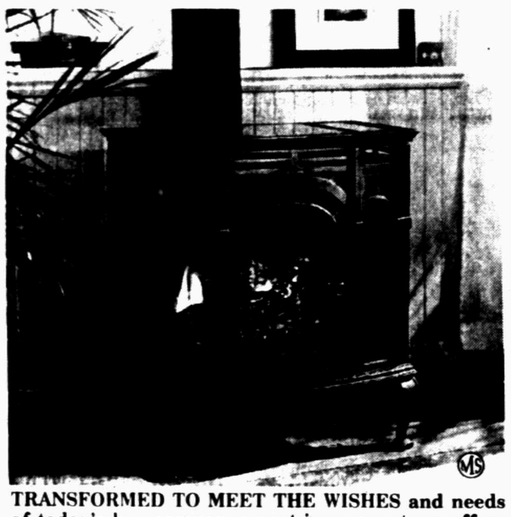
Perfecting a Classic to Heat the Home

(MS) — It has been around a long time, but that beloved American institution, the classic cast-iron stove, never has been a more popular heating and decorating option for the home.

Why? Because today's cast-iron stove has every advantage over the first one invented by Benjamin Franklin in 1742. Sure, it still has the original distinguishing characteristic of standing out from the wall, but everything else has been changed for the better — while still retaining all the charm that homeowners love.

First, today's model is gas-fueled. That makes it easy and convenient to use. Because users don't have to worry about hauling wood, getting the fire going or cleaning up messy ashes, they use today's cast-iron gas stoves a lot more, even for short periods of time.

Contemporary cast-iron gas stoves provide a nice, even heat instantly at the flip of a switch — yes, the cast-iron stove has gone remote! Yet, with today's newly designed logs, a cast-iron gas-stove fire looks totally real. It also can be equipped with a blower to distribute heat to the far corners of a room.



TRANSFORMED TO MEET THE WISHES and needs of today's homeowner, a cast-iron gas stove offers heat, convenience, and a cozy charm for the home.

Another advantage of today's cast-iron gas stove is that it can be installed virtually anywhere in the home, thanks to three possible venting methods. Homeowners and decorators don't have to compromise at all about the ideal location for their stove. Any room is a candidate, and virtually any space — an interior wall, a corner, even a finished basement.

The three venting methods are conventional, direct-vent and vent-free. The conventional method allows homeowners to vent vertically. The stove can be hooked up to an existing flue or chimney with a connecting pipe extending from the back of the stove. This method is perfect for replacing a current wood stove. Because venting is through the ceiling, it's great for installation where there is no access to an outside wall.

More versatile is the direct-vent method where venting is accomplished by a connecting pipe through a wall to the outside. This type of venting has the added advantage of extra fuel economy because combustion is supported by outside air drawn in through a portion of the vent. Inside air is warmed as it recirculates around a sealed combustion chamber, which in turn helps reduce drafts.

Finally, the most versatile method is no vent at all. Yes, it now is possible to install a cast-iron gas stove that is 99.9 percent fuel-efficient. This type is designed to be completely safe with an automatic safety shut-off system built-in. An oxygen-depletion sensor turns off the stove if it detects that not enough fresh air is available for proper combustion.

While these features add to the practicality and versatility of the cast-iron stove, that isn't the reason homeowners think about installing one in their living room, bedroom or den. It's because of the stove's cozy charm. And even in this area, charm has been improved on since Franklin's day.

For purists, there still is the classic flat-black color, but today's cast-iron gas stove comes in all kinds of decorative colors. There are other ways to customize this stove to fit right into any decor. The top has fancy grillwork, or it can be changed to inlaid stone that comes in a number of colors. The glass front can be clear or include a lacy metal pattern. It's a matter of picking from all the options and ending up with a stove that looks like it was built especially for the room that it will warm for many nights.

That's the nice thing about the modern edition of the cast-iron gas stove: it has been transformed to meet the wishes and needs of today's homeowner. Yet, if Ol' Ben walked in from the cold, he still would recognize what has become a historic slice of Americana.

For more information, visit www.empirecomfort.com on the Internet.

Three Easy Steps to a Memorable Garden Party

(MS) — The snow is a distant memory, the birds are back and your kids are dying to drop their jackets at the door. Yes, it's spring, the prelude to summer fun and savior from the winter blues. What better way to enjoy the season's new blooms than to throw the perfect garden party for family and friends? The following three steps will seal your success as a host and please even the toughest of critics.

First, prepare the perfect food. Warm-weather fare is light, colorful and full of flavor. Start out with a cucumber salad, French bread and a variety of bread dipping oils. For the main course, serve grilled chicken, old-fashioned potato salad and, of course, lemonade. Feel like a sweet treat? Try a fruit salad consisting of all your favorite flavors, whipping cream and a hint of paprika.

Second, serve this fresh feast the perfect way — buffet style. Your guests will appreciate spooning up their own helpings and you will appreciate the fact that you don't have to wait on your guests hand and foot.

Lifetime Products, a leader in the table industry, has a six-foot banquet table perfect for any outdoor party. The table is made from polyethylene and steel making it lightweight and strong. It's available at Sam's Club, Costco, BJs and Lowes. A collection of colorful, fresh-picked spring flowers would be an ideal serving-table centerpiece.

Third, find the perfect picnic table. Seating is the key to a great picnic party and can be most critical for the host. Folks standing around, wearing out your lawn or leaning against the house isn't the way to go. An ideal table would be one that sets up easily, is a breeze to clean and seats more than two people.

Lifetime also produces a lightweight picnic table that seats up to eight people comfortably. The table is pre-assembled, sets up in seconds and is stronger, lighter and more durable than wood.

Usher in springtime with this perfect party idea. It is sure to be a gathering to remember. For more information, write Lifetime Products, Inc. P.O. Box 160010, Freeport Center Bldg. D-11, Clearfield, U.T. 84016-0010, call (800) 242-3865 or visit www.lifetime.com.

SHOWCASE YOUR GARDEN by hosting an entertaining picnic in your backyard and serving up delicious foods.

Water Trees and Shrubs Where They Need It Most

The summer's hot and dry conditions can place plants under extreme stress. During this time, it is critical to water plants thoroughly — especially new transplants. This can be difficult and costly, particularly in areas with watering restrictions in effect. Soaker hoses are an effective and cost-efficient way to help plants endure the harsh summer temperatures. FISKARS® Tree and Shrub Soaker Ring is a perfect solution to watering individual plantings effectively with minimal damage to your wallet and the environment.

The ring provides controlled watering directly to the roots at a rate ideal for plants to absorb. It also reduces water usage by up to 70 percent over traditional sprinkler systems. Water slowly seeps through tiny pores in the hose, going directly into the soil so it quickly reaches roots, providing the fastest relief during hot, stressful days. And, keeping water away from foliage has a second benefit: water sprayed on leaves by traditional sprinkler systems can increase the spread of plant disease. Watering directly to the roots with a soaker hose greatly reduces that risk.

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Add Peat For Better Compost This Season

(MS) — Recycling isn't just for newspapers and aluminum cans. Composting is a way to recycle your yard and kitchen waste and is a critical step in reducing the volume of garbage needlessly sent to landfills for disposal.

Nature has always recycled. Composting is what happens when leaves pile up in the fall and begin to decay. Eventually the leaves are returned to the soil where the process continues as living roots reclaim the nutrients from the decomposed leaves. The art of composting has drawn on this natural process for years but with the help of peat moss, you can improve the quality of what horticulturists often refer to as "black gold."

It's easy to learn how to compost, and the benefits go beyond the nutrient-rich humus that is the final product (composting reduces yard waste, reduces yard work, preserves the environment and helps save money).

However, there are a couple of primary factors to consider: What kind of compost bin will meet your needs? Your garden retailer can help you decide. Bin placement is another consideration. It should be:

- Close to where it will be used and where it won't interfere with activities or offend neighbors;
- Away from drying winds;
- In partial sunlight to help heat it.

Some communities have composting guidelines, so it's important to check local authorities for these requirements.

Whether you are a first-time or long-time composter, here is a simple recipe for getting the most out of your compost:

- Add a 1-inch layer of peat moss to every 4 inches of compostable materials.
- Add water when needed (the center of the pile should be moist — not dry or soggy).
- To help cut down on odors, put a 2-inch peat moss cap on top of the pile.
- Using a garden fork, flip over the top layers of organic material every week or two and remember to cap with peat moss each time.

Follow these steps until the center of the compost pile is brown, crumbly and ready to mix into the garden.

Peat moss improves the composting process and is the secret ingredient in this recipe. When peat is used as a foundation for the compost bin, it speeds up decomposition, holds high proportions of water, controls odors, makes a great cap and won't contribute to weed seeds or pathogens. Because it's acidic, peat will trap and save valuable nitrogen sources, which are often emitted from compost heaps in the form of ammonia.

When dug into the garden, this organic duo helps you save money by reducing the amount of water and fertilizer you need and loosens the soil allowing life-giving oxygen to reach the plant's roots. Because both peat and compost are completely natural, using these soil amendments will keep your yard and garden environmentally friendly. So go ahead and start recycling in your yard this spring.

To learn more about composting and other tips for the yard and garden, send a self-addressed, business-sized envelope, stamped (with enough postage to reach Canada), to Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association, 7 Oasis Court, St. Albert, AB, Canada, T8N 6X2. You can also visit their Web site at www.peatmoss.com.

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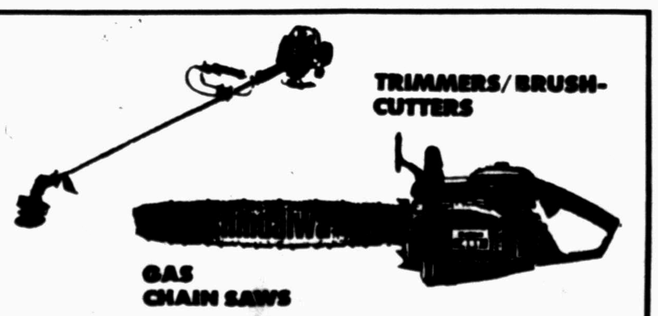

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TODAY'S MULCHING MOWERS make raking leaves a thing of the past. They recycle leaves back into your lawn adding nutrients and eliminating disposal problems.

Mulching Mowers Simplify Fall Cleanup

By MIKE FERRARA, The Lazy Homeowner

(MS) — I have to be honest, the concept of another season of raking leaves, with all the nasty calluses, torn plastic bags and debilitating back pain leaves me feeling a little wary.

Granted, fall is a great time of year all over the country, and raking leaves potentially can be a fun family activity. That said, give me a good, powerful mulching mower any day, and find a better activity for the family — like going on a picnic.

Mulching leaves in the fall is the way to go, for many reasons. For one, it's fast. In fact, Toro's Super Recycler® mulching mower technology adds a specially designed deck that increases the machine's efficiency. The leaves all but disappear. It even has a feature called Personal Pace®. This self-propelled machine allows the operator to mow at his or her own speed; just press down on the handle to vary your speed — no clunky levers to fool with.

Another benefit of mulching leaves in the fall is that it is amazingly easy. It's easy on the hands, easy on the 'ol back and feeds beneficial nutrients, and minerals, back into your lawn. Keep in mind that mowers with 4.5 horsepower engines or less will have a difficult time with mulching. A Lawn-Boy Easy Mulch Mower®, with its 6.5 horses, will have no trouble with the leaves and make your lawn look great. You also can feel good about not adding dozens of garbage bags to the landfill.

For the best results, start mulching the fallen leaves prior to the trees being completely bare. Mulching mowers make fall cleanup a snap; however, before you throw away all of your rakes, keep in mind that you still may need to rake a flowerbed or two. That is, unless you get a blower. But that's another story.

Learn to 'Weather' Spring Floods

While Mother Nature can provide bright, sunny days perfect for working in the garden, she has also proved to be an ominous foe — especially for unsuspecting flood victims. Floods are one weather phenomenon that strikes fast and often with unequaled fury. While a flood may not be a top priority while you're planting this season's blooms, for many Americans it is an ever-present danger.

Flash floods are especially dangerous because they can occur without warning. And you needn't live near a river to experience damage from these rushing currents of water. Many flash floods develop due to inadequate drainage — from overtaxed storm sewers to oversaturated soil — and can affect all areas of the country.

Today, flash floods are the No. 1 weather-related killer in the United States. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), flooding has caused the deaths of more than 10,000 people since 1900 and causes over $1 billion each year in damage to homes, businesses and crops. That is why the MetLife Consumer Education Center has developed the free brochure, "Preparing For Floods."

Produced in conjunction with FEMA and the American Red Cross, the brochure provides detailed instructions on what to do both during and after a flood, and offers tips like:

- Know which roads to take if you have to evacuate.
- Keep your automobile fueled, but *never* drive in deep or rising water.
- Learn the difference between a flash-flood watch and a flash-flood warning.
- If you don't have flood insurance, get it immediately. Read your flood-insurance policy before a flood occurs and know how to file a claim.

For more information about these and other helpful tips, call (800) 638-5433 to request your free copy of "Preparing For Floods." Made available as a public service, the brochure is part of MetLife's Consumer Education Center's Life Advice® program, created to help people better manage the major events in their lives. *GT014339*

Start Off Gardening Projects With the Right Tool for the Yard

(MS) — Spring and summer are prime times to use a chain saw to handle tricky cutting jobs around the home. However, faced with shelves full of electric and gas-powered chain saws, many people find the choices are daunting: which model is right? Like so many things, it all depends on what use is intended for the saw.

"If I am going to do light trimming around the house, and be no more than 100 feet from the house, then an electric saw may be the best choice," says Chris Smith, product manager for Poulan, a leading manufacturer of chain saws. "If trimming and cutting is something someone does only occasionally, then an electric saw is the choice, because of its light weight and lower price."

However, experts say that when more mobility is required, like cutting brush in a large field or lot, a sturdier, more mobile gasoline-powered model is the better choice.

"A good rule of thumb in choosing the size of a chain saw is that the cutting bar length should be twice the diameter of the item you plan to cut," says Smith. "For normal use, you easily can cut an 8-inch-diameter tree with a 16-inch saw. Matching the bar length to the task will get the most use and power from the engine. Otherwise, you soon will wear out the saw — not to mention the operator. For more frequent cutting or larger jobs, we recommend a step up in length and engine size to get best results from the saw. Theoretically, you can cut a 20-inch tree with a 14-inch saw, but that taxes the saw. If you continually cut large items with an undersized saw, you are asking it to do more than it was intended to."

In addition, many saws have automatic oilers, eliminating the annoying and sometimes messy chore of oiling the bar and chain. All Poulan gas-powered chain saws have automatic oilers. Another must-have feature is an anti-vibration handle which is isolated from the bar and the engine with metal springs or rubber grommets, reducing fatigue and making cutting much more comfortable for the operator.

Chain saws should also have a reduced kickback guide bar and reduced kickback chain to prevent accidents. All Poulan saws have these features and meet Underwriters' Laboratories listings and the current National Safety Institute requirements.

You should look for a chain saw with large, easy-to-fill fuel and oil caps that are easy to access and are not obscured by the handle. Look for a saw with ample handle spacing that allows the operator maximum control and leverage.

Consumers should expect to pay $79 to $299; electric models are less expensive. Most saws sold are at the 16- to 18-inch bar length and cost $129 to $189. Many saws are sold with convenient carrying cases and may include accessories like gloves, chain sharpeners or lubricants.

With these tips in mind, all the mystery of choosing the right chain saw should disappear as quickly as removing unwanted brush from the back lot. For more information on chain saws, visit www.poulan.com. *GT014405*

Choose the Right Appliances

(MS) — Remodeling your kitchen or selecting options for a new home can seem like a daunting task. Financially, it makes sense to upgrade your kitchen. Real estate professionals say that simple kitchen makeovers, like upgrading the appliances, return more value to your home than just about any other remodeling project. Depending on which part of the country you live in, most estimates say you'll recoup an average of 80 percent of your investment.

There are so many decisions to consider but one of the most important decisions is what type of appliances to choose. Since appliances are such an integral part of daily life, the quality of your family's life at home dramatically will go up when you choose the right brand and appliance features.

Many features available on today's appliances weren't even available five years ago. For instance, did you know that you can buy a dishwasher with a Sani Rinse option that actually sanitizes your dishes? All those dishwashers may look the same, but when they're in your kitchen they won't all sound the same. Make sure you choose a model that reduces distracting noise with insulating technology. There are many refrigerators that offer water filtration, but some filters are easier to replace than others. In fact, some filters can get the bad things out like dirt, rust and chlorine, while keeping in the good things like fluoride. If you're in the market for a side-by-side, you should look for a model that has an ice dispenser in the door, giving you more freezer space.

Technology and innovation in cooking appliances has advanced dramatically in the past few years. A good example is Whirlpool's SpeedCook® oven, which cooks food in half the time of a conventional oven by utilizing microwave, convection and quartz cooking simultaneously. An AccuBake system maintains oven temperatures for you, so you bake perfect cakes and cookies every time. The list of features for every type of appliance goes on and on. The key is to separate the hype from the practical and useful.

Accessories can enhance and maintain your current appliances. There are heavy-duty cleaners to keep that stainless steel looking great or remove grease. Touch-up paints conceal minor scratches and keep your appliances looking new. Fridge Aid keeps your refrigerator smelling fresh, and Disposer Care foams away grunge and odor in your disposer. And if you haven't changed your washer hoses in the last four years, now's a good time to replace them with reinforced stainless steel hose before they burst. For a large assortment of accessories, visit www.applianceaccessories.com or call (800) 462-3819 for more information.

Whirlpool Corp.'s dedicated shopping specialist can help you pick out appliances and features that fit your family and lifestyle. They also can tell you about ways to customize your appliances to match your new kitchen decor. There are many new color options out there (sorry, avocado green is not coming back). For example, the company just has introduced one of the hottest new colors, Biscuit, which is not white, but not almond either, in addition to standards like Black, White and Stainless Steel. Then there's KitchenAid, with their dramatic new Cobalt Blue side-by-side refrigerator.

The shopping service is available Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST by calling (800) 832-7174.

Vinyl Decking Helps Banish Backyard Woes

BEAUTIFUL AND RESILIENT, this low-maintenance vinyl deck lasts a lifetime and will be a complement to any home. With vinyl decking there is no worry of splinters to harm children or pets.

(MS) — There is nothing quite like relaxing on a backyard deck, particularly on a lazy summer day or crisp fall afternoon. Unfortunately, if that deck is made of wood, those relaxing moments come with a price — wooden decks require a lot of maintenance. Penetrating moisture and UV radiation from the sun quickly can destroy wood. To help preserve it, regular cleaning, staining and treating of the wood is essential. Not only are these tasks messy, they also take up hours of your time and can cost hundreds of dollars in materials every year.

So what's the best way to avoid these maintenance woes? For tens of thousands of homeowners, the solution is to install a low-maintenance vinyl deck instead of wood. Vinyl has been used as a building material for decades, beginning with vinyl siding in the 1950s. In recent years, vinyl decking, fencing and other fixtures have combined to make a totally low-maintenance exterior a reality.

Among the best-known manufacturers of vinyl decking is Kroy Building Products Inc. Kroy decking products are made of weather-resistant high-impact polyvinylchloride (PVC), so they can't rot, rust or corrode. They never need scraping or painting and they're impervious to insects and the damage they can cause. In addition, special UV inhibitors in the vinyl help prevent sun damage and keep the deck looking like new even years after it has been installed.

As if long-lasting good looks weren't enough, these vinyl products offer other advantages. For example: Because vinyl-decking components do not splinter and have no rough edges, the health risks associated with wood — like splinters, slivers and rusty nails — are eliminated. This particularly is important for homes with small children. Kroy even has developed a special hidden fastening system that eliminates the danger of protruding nails or screws — a very common problem on aging wooden decks. Best of all, the most maintenance you can expect is simply to rinse off the deck with a hose once in a while.

A deck is a great place to retreat from a hard day of work and stress. Installing a low-maintenance vinyl deck instead of wood will make that relaxation time even more enjoyable — and more plentiful. For more information on Kroy Building Products, including their vinyl decking, fencing, railing, decorative structures and accessories, call (800) 385-5938 or visit www.kroybp.com. *FH009646*

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DISTINCTIVE GARDENING TIPS

Many homeowners are designing their own landscapes and creating backyards as distinctive as they are. Following are some ideas to help you set up a unique outdoor space of your own, without spending an arm and a leg:

- Lattice
- Trellis
- Arbors
- Decorative stones and plaques
- Fountains, waterfalls and ponds
- Walkways
- Outdoor lights and luminaries
- Pots and planters
- Conservatories
- Birdhouses and bird feeders
- Antique items — wheelbarrow, watering can, etc.
- Gazebos
- Outdoor furniture

GT014356

Distinctive Gardening Sets Your Garden Apart

Gardening is no longer restricted to planting and maintaining flowers, shrubs and other greenery. Gardening has become an art form. Homeowners are dedicating more time and money to add individuality and personality to their gardens. Like decorating a room, gardens too can become custom-made spaces, enclosed not only by trees, shrubs and flowers, but also with decorative structures.

"Distinctive gardening" is a way to create a unique atmosphere; incorporating inspirational items that enable relaxation and simplification, while creating a space that is truly individual and unique from any neighbors.

Distinctive gardening styles are on the rise. Homeowners are designing their own landscapes and creating backyards that look like vacation getaways.

Structures like ponds, waterfalls and fountains add tranquility to a busy backyard. Decorative stones, walkways and plaques can also add to a garden's aura. Place an arbor over the walkway to immediately create a romantic feeling, while adding vertical growth to the garden. Trellis can help blend in shed walls, the side of the house and other objects. Whether you want to visually connect the garden to a building or just camouflage an unsightly wall, trellis can help. Add lattice to decks or create a lattice fence to complement the arbor and the trellis, and you have a well-decorated, themed garden that is unlike any other.

To obtain more information about lattice, trellis and arbors, and to receive an idea book full of distinctive gardening ideas, call TUFF-BILT at (800) 394-6679 or visit www.tuffbilt.com.

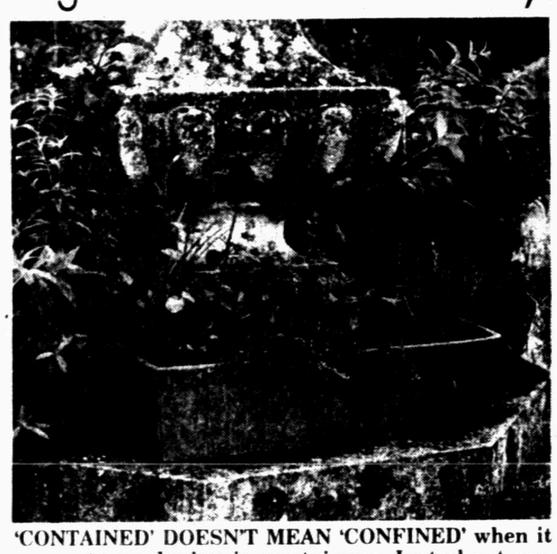
LATTICE AND OTHER DECORATIVE items from TUFF-BILT add distinction to backyard gardens.

Container Gardening Offers Design Freedom and Versatility

If one striking plant in a single pot can do wonders to brighten a window sill, take a moment to imagine the impact of a stylized line of matching plants or a cascading mixture of flowers and foliage on a landscape dominated by brick and concrete, a dull yard or a blasé balcony. Just about any location, big or small can benefit from well-placed window boxes, pots or planters.

Gardening in containers also provides the added benefit of allowing you to tend to each plant's individual needs and even add or subtract plants at will. Grouping plants in separate pots is the simplest way to create a display. Mixed-flower or foliage arrangements in a single large planter require more forethought when planting, but offer a bunch of creative possibilities. For example, although soil mix tends to dry out less quickly in large pots, it is very important that all of the plants grow at a similar pace and have similar requirements for sunlight, water and food.

Most herbs make ideal container plants. Herbs are fairly easy to grow, their aromatic leaves add gently spiced scents to window sills or patios. Fruits and vegetables demand more time and care, but are no less wonderful to have around. Following are a few more helpful hints for growing herbs, fruits and vegetables in containers, courtesy of "American Horticultural Society Practical Guides: Container Gardening" (DK), by Peter Robinson.



'CONTAINED' DOESN'T MEAN 'CONFINED' when it comes to gardening in containers. Just about any location, big or small can benefit from well-placed window boxes, pots or planters.

FRUIT

Generally, fruit in containers can be included in an ornamental garden design more easily than vegetables. For example, you can create a Mediterranean look on a sunny deck or patio by growing figs and citrus trees in pots, although they may need to be protected during the winter in a green house or conservatory. (Tip: In cool climates, citrus trees will be ornamental rather than productive.)

Consider what kinds of containers will best suit what you want to grow. Fruit trees need large containers that can hold enough soil mix to act as a buffer for roots in dry conditions. Strawberry jars, for example, are decorative, space-saving way to grow strawberry plants. Regular watering is essential while fruit is developing.

VEGETABLES

The best vegetables for containers are shallow-rooted, compact, quick-maturing varieties. To create a mini-collage effect, plant more than one type of vegetable in a single, large container, combine for instance, a frilly-leaved lettuce like "Lolla Rossa" with feathery-topped carrots. As a bonus, growing a combination of plants can help ward off pests, which are less attracted to mixed scents than strong, single ones.

For a little fun with a sunny, sheltered corner, try some of the colorful varieties of eggplant and peppers. They are tender and need a long growing season to produce anything worthwhile, but many seed suppliers offer an exciting range, sometimes as small plants.

HERBS

The greatest advantage of planting herbs in pots is that you can easily position them in a convenient spot on a window sill or near to the house. Placing an herb container by the back door, for example, will allow you to water the plants and gather foliage easily.

Be sure that mixed species chosen for the same pot all enjoy the same conditions. Many herbs are of Mediterranean origin and require plenty of sunshine and good drainage to thrive and survive wet winters. Thyme marjoram, rosemary, basil, bay and sage all need sun, which also improves their flavor. Rosemary and bay need shelter, too. Chives, parsley, chervil and mint grow well in light shade; give mint a container of its own or it will overtake its neighbors. Suitable potting mixtures include a soil/peat mix or a soilless mix. For Mediterranean herbs, add some sharp sand. GT014353

'Real' Glass Block Is the Right Choice for the Home

(MS) — Many homeowners are looking for privacy and security while still allowing natural light to shine through. Acme Brick's patented IBP Grid System, introduced in 1990 to simplify glass block installations, provides all the benefits of glass block — privacy, security and natural light in a permanent, trouble-free package. The new, thinner grid with its sophisticated look is more appealing and practical than ever. Reaction to the product's new look has been overwhelmingly positive from consumers, builders and architects.

A sleek new look was achieved by reducing the size of the aluminum grid frame to ⅞ inch from ¼ inch. This allows a sizable gain in light transmission — an additional 38 square inches inserted into a one-piece vinyl "boot" and then are placed into a grid opening. The previous design required wrapping each glass block on site with a strip of insulating tape. Also, the grid simply is screwed into a prepared opening and glass block are inserted without mortar.

Real glass block is available in a variety of colors and patterns, to complement frame colors: including white, bronze, silver, black and gold. The product offers may advantages over acrylic-block systems. Glass block doesn't burn, won't scratch easily, offers security, and does not discolor or become brittle with exposure to sunlight. It also does not create the "popping" noises associated with acrylic block as it expands and contracts. And, unlike mortar-based methods, the grid system is flexible to accommodate structural movement and temperature-induced expansion and contraction.

Appropriate for windows, walls (including multi-story), shower enclosures in many configurations, floors, skylights and partitions, IBP panels even can be grouped together to create large expanses of glass block for exterior walls. The panels also can be curved in a variety of shapes. In addition, the system remains competitively priced with traditional mortar installations.

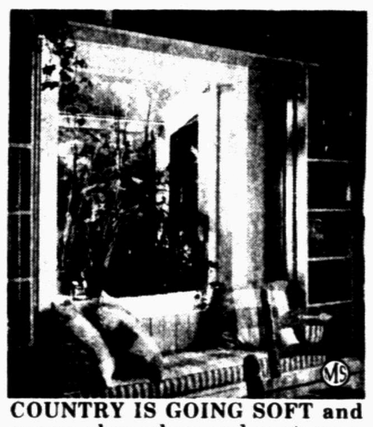
For more information, contact IBP Marketing Department, Acme Brick Company, P. O. Box 425, Ft. Worth, Texas 76101 or call (800) 932-2263.

Tips For Giving Rooms the New Sun-Country Style

(MS) — Looking for design guidance for your country-style interiors? You don't want to replicate last century's farmhouse. You're not interested in overcrowded rooms that look like a general store. And "cottage," with man-eating ruffles, frills and furbelows is not your style. Rejoice! There is something new under the decorating sun. Interior designer and former magazine editor Patricia Hart McMillan and her daughter, Katherine Kaye McMillan, a writer, describe the new look of country in their book, "Sun Country Style" (Gibbs Smith, $39.95).

"Today's country style says farewell to the old farmhouse look and hello to a lighter, brighter contemporary villa style," says Pat McMillan. "here are ways to give your rooms the new Sun Country style."

- **Create the mood.** Relaxed but never sloppy informality, with an emphasis on comfort, is basic. There's a "no fuss, no muss" approach, and a deep sense of serenity.
- **Use the mix that matters.** Furniture and accessories from here, there and everywhere mix and mingle in the new country style. There should be a go-together sense, but no attempt to match woods perfectly, nor create any particular style or period. The ultimate look is clean-lined, and more contemporary than traditional country looks Forget Windsor chairs; plenty of soft upholstered seating is essential.
- **Color the new country.** Light, bright, cheerful spring and summer garden palettes prevail. The new colors celebrate sky, water and sunshine.



COUNTRY IS GOING SOFT and sunny, cleaned-up and contemporary. "Sun Country Style" photo courtesy of Georgia-Pacific.

Ditch the deep, dark, earthy harvest colors of early farmhouse country.

- **Think unconventionally.** Avoid clichés — forget dated country looks of yesterday. Bring in elements of surprise. Don't be afraid to add a bit whimsy, a dash of the eccentric or a dollop of the eclectic.
- **Streamline sunny chic.** Avoid heavy ruffles, too many accessories and clutters of objects. Instead, emphasize quality over quantity. Select decorative accessories carefully, choosing things that mix well with each other to create areas of interest. A few big, beautiful baskets is better than a mound.
- **Pick practical materials.** The new country style calls for worry-free durable finishes and surfaces that look natural and sunny, but may not necessarily be so. Laminate flooring looks good but calls for less demanding care than wood. The same can be said of laminate surfaces for cabinets and counters. It is all about easy living.
- **Master the play of pattern and color.** Layer not-too-busy sunny florals, checks, and prints over solid colors. Use one striking pattern or several for instant country sun-inspired surroundings that make you think of a garden, forest or sunny country place. Avoid the cute, quaint and kitsch.
- **Create a sense of spaciousness.** Get the feeling of airiness by picking furniture with exposed legs. Instead of heavily ruffled and upholstered sofas and chairs, pick pieces with exposed frames and legs.
- **Design for comfort.** Think maximum comfort when picking furnishings. Consider motion furniture which lets you swivel, put your feet up and kick back. Many styles and special features are available.
- **Personalize your very own sun country.** Forget imitation ancestor portraits and antique photos of strangers Frame photos of real family and friends. Display your own quilts, pottery and art objects in a calm and controlled, organized way. Use a few, significant pieces. Stencil floors and borders with bold and bright customized designs. Put out a few personal treasures and timeless keepsakes.

If you want personal tips, ask the authors: McMillian.USA@aol.com.

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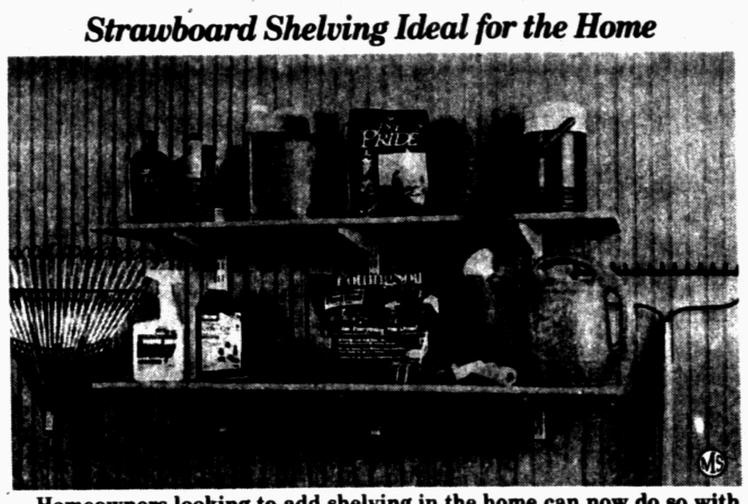

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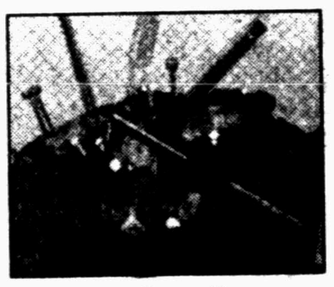

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