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WT-Int. Crude - $28.28
WTIC Posted - $25.00
Natural Gas - $4.891

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
April 30, 2001
Vol. 52 No. 311
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Charlie Bell

FOURTH WTC CANDIDATE — Dr. Dusty R. Johnston visits this morning with Pam Murray, Western Texas College's director of human resources. Dr. Johnston is the final candidate to interview in hopes of being named college president. (SDN Staff Photo)

Final candidate to meet with college trustees

The last of four interviews of finalists for the presidency of Western Texas College will be conducted by the board of trustees this evening.

Dr. Dusty R. Johnston, dean of instruction at Rich Mountain Community College, is on campus today meeting with faculty and staff and touring college facilities.

Dr. Johnston originally was to have interviewed with the board last Monday, but a scheduling conflict resulted in the postponement.

He will meet with the board at 7 o'clock.

Three candidates – Dr. Greg Williams of Midland College, Dr. James Palmer of WTC and Dr. John Pruit of Mountain View College in Dallas - have already completed the interview process.

After tonight's session, board president Lee Presswood has indicated that a decision will be made soon.

Dr. Johnston is no stranger to West Texas. Prior to his present assignment at the community college in Mena, Ark., Dr. Johnston spent 11 years with Howard College in Big Spring.

He served as ag instructor and rodeo coach, dean of students, vice president for student services and lastly as vice president for instruction.

In 1981-82, Dr. Johnston was vocational ag instructor at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch.

Dr. Johnston earned all three of his degrees from Texas Tech University – his bachelor of science in 1980, his master of education in 1984 and his doctor of education in 1990.

Civic involvement includes Western Arkansas Workforce Development Board, and a director of Healthy Connections Inc. and the Mena Lions Club.

A member of the First Baptist Church, in Big Spring he served on the city traffic commission, president of the Howard County Stock Show and campus director for the United Way.

Born and reared in Shamrock, he and his wife Judith, the career education coordinator at Rich Mountain, have two children. Jerod is a high school senior and Audra is a freshman.

"We're looking forward to getting back to West Texas," Dr. Johnston said this morning. "My wife is from Lubbock and her parents still live there."

The successful candidate will succeed Dr. Harry Krenek, WTC president the past 14 years, who is retiring in August. WTC has had two other presidents in its 29-year history – Dr. Robert Clinton and Dr. Don Newbury.

Demos attack record...

Bush completes 100 days

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top aides to President Bush marked his 100th day in office Sunday by declaring he'd brought new civility to policy debates in Washington. Democrats dismissed the claim, and aired ads bitterly attacking Bush as a captive of special interests.

"We don't talk, we don't negotiate, we don't really collaborate and work together on these policies," said House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo. "It's really been more of the same — my way or the highway, in the Congress every day on every issue."

High-ranking administration officials took to the airwaves bearing a different message: that Bush had delivered on his promise to improve the tone in the nation's capital.

"The president has changed the way Washington talks about its job," said White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card on ABC's "This Week." "Civility is back in Washington, and Democrats and Republicans can have a disagreement without being disagreeable, and that means that we can get work done for the American people."

As evidence, Bush political adviser Karl Rove said the president had successfully pushed for a major tax-cut package.

"The support is growing for the president's initiative, and it's growing in the halls of Congress and across the country," Rove said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Asked why the Senate had approved a tax cut of $1.2 trillion over a decade, far short of Bush's proposed $1.6 trillion plan, Rove said: "We're going to get a significant tax cut, a big tax cut, when a year ago people said we ain't going to get it, and three months ago, 97 or 98 days ago, people were counseling us to toss it overboard."

The Bush aides faced tough questioning on Bush's policies on the environment and consumer-protection laws, and even Sen. John Breaux, a Louisiana Democrat who has emerged as a Bush ally, was critical of Bush's leadership on the environment.

"I think they've handled it fairly badly," said Breaux. "I think they scared a lot of American people, and that's certainly not good for anyone."

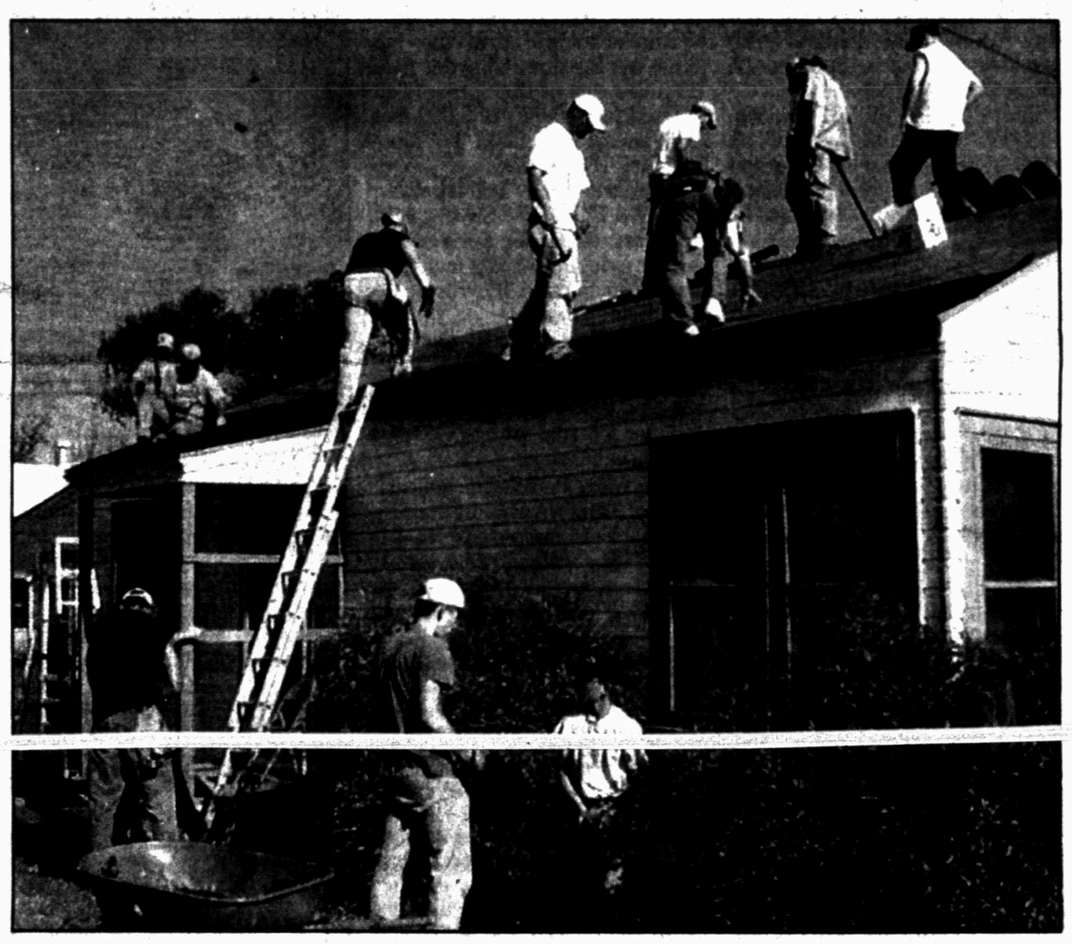
Three directors re-elected to Big Country's board

Big Country Electric Cooperative held its annual meeting Saturday and re-elected by members to the board were James Seidenberger in district three, Carl Thompson in district four, and Mickey Sterling in district seven.

This was the second meeting of the co-op since Midwest Electric Cooperative and Stamford Electric Cooperative consolidated in 1998.

Next year, elections will be held in districts one, five and six.

Jerry Stapp is the general manager of the co-op and other board members are John Ben Glover of Rochester, Jerry Upshaw of Roby, Carl Williams of Camp Springs, Wilbert Klose of Haskell, J. F. Dozier of Old Glory, Bobby Gruben of Rotan and Sue Herring of Snyder.



SNYDER NEIGHBORS SHARING — Snyder folks help one another daily, but one day is set aside in April each year for Snyder Neighbors Sharing volunteers to do major repairs for some that are unable to do it themselves. This home in Snyder was roofed and painted by volunteers Saturday. Several other homes were also repaired. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Self-defense training set at college gym

The sexual assault program of Gateway Family Services Inc. will conduct training in self-defense today and Tuesday from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Western Texas College gym.

There is no cost for the training, which is being presented by Lea Ann Bell, sexual assault program coordinator for Gateway, and Sgt. Keith Ward of the Snyder Police Department.

Registration is required for the two-part training.

To register, contact Bell at 573-4351 by 5 p.m. today. Class size is limited, so registration needs to be done as soon as possible.

Topics to be covered include date and acquaintance rape, sexual harassment, date rape drugs and stalking. In addition, attendees will participate in actual self-defense maneuvers.

BIG COUNTRY MEETING — The annual meeting of Big Country Electric Cooperative was held at the Scurry County Coliseum Saturday. Prior to lunch and a business meeting, Jimmy Kiker, left, retired assistant manager, visited with manager Jerry Stapp of Roby. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Drive-by shooting trial starts Tuesday

A 17-year-old Snyder man, charged as a result of an alleged drive-by shooting last October, goes on trial Tuesday in 132nd District Court.

Michael Jason Garcia of 2006 Avenue N is charged with deadly conduct, a third degree felony, as a result of the incident that occurred in the 4000 Block of College Avenue last Oct. 15.

Garcia was one of two persons initially charged after being arrested by officer Brian Peterson. A 14-year-old male was taken into custody also, but later released to his father after questioning by the police department.

Police became involved about 12:21 a.m. when a clerk at the Allsup's store on College Avenue activated the store's panic alarm. The clerk called 911 and advised dispatchers of a possible drive-by shooting in the parking lot of the Dollar General store just south of Allsup's.

Police were told shots were fired from a brown Chevrolet pickup and several persons who had been on the High- ing lot had run into the store after the shots were fired.

An investigation revealed that the shooting apparently resulted from an earlier fight. The shots were fired from a shotgun, police said.

Some 140 jurors have been summoned for 8:30 a.m. Tuesday with District Judge Ernie Armstrong presiding.

District Attorney Dana Cooley will represent the state and Peter Lopez of Sweetwater is the defendant's court-appointed attorney.

ASK US

Q—When is Mother's Day and Father's Day?
A—Mother's Day is May 13, while Father's Day is June 17.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 79 degrees; low, 50; high Sunday, 80; low, 53; 7 a.m. Monday, 61; no precipitation; total for 2001, 5.40 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy, low upper 50s, SE wind 10-20 mph. Tuesday, morning low cloudiness, high upper 80s, S wind 10-20 mph.

Javiel Esparza
Cloudy

Sunset: 8:23 p.m.
Sunrise: 7 a.m.
Of 119 days in 2001, the sun has shone 107 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

I like people who refuse to speak until they are ready to speak.
—Lillian Hellman

APR 30 2001

Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Sharp Image Energy will drill the No. 12-K Northwest Ira, a 7,300-foot wildcat located six miles southwest of Snyder. Drill site is in Section 187, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Borden County

Devon Energy will drill the No. 1702 Canon Ranch unit in the Jo-Mill field, 13 miles southwest of Gail. Planned for a depth of 1,100 feet, location is in Section 47, Block 33, T5N, T&P survey.

Mitchell County

First Permian will drill the No. 1062 Southeast Westbrook field unit, 13 miles southwest of Colorado City. Planned for a depth of 3,250 feet, drill site is in Section 41, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

First Permian will drill the No. 1061 Southeast Westbrook field unit, 13 miles southwest of Colorado City. Contracted for 3,250 feet, location is in Section 41, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

First Permian will drill the No. 3705 Southeast Westbrook field unit, 11 miles west of Colorado City. Also planned for 3,250 feet, location is in Section 34, Block 26, T1N, T&P survey.

First Permian will drill the No. 843-W Southeast Westbrook unit, 12 miles west of Colorado City. Scheduled depth is 3,250 feet, and location is in Section 33, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

First Permian will drill the No. 1914-W Southeast Westbrook unit, 10 miles west of Colorado City. Planned for a depth of 3,250 feet, location is in Section 27, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

First Permian will drill the No. 1856-W Southeast Westbrook unit, 10 miles west of Colorado City. Planned depth is 3,250 feet, and drill site is in Section 27, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

First Permian will drill the No.1854-W Southeast Westbrook unit, 10 miles west of Colorado City. Also planned for 3,250 feet, location is in Section 27, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

First Permian will drill the No. 1404-W Southeast Westbrook unit, 12 miles southwest of Colorado City. Scheduled depth is 3,250 feet, and location is in Section 40, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

First Permian will drill the No. 1318 Southeast Westbrook unit, 12 miles southwest of Colorado City. The venture will be drilled to 3,250 feet, and location is in Section 40, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

First Permian will drill the No. 1067-W Southeast Westbrook unit, 13 miles southwest of Colorado City. Also set for 3,250 feet, location is in Section 41, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

First Permian will drill the No. 1066-W Southeast Westbrook unit, 13 miles southwest of Colorado City. Also planned for a depth of 3,250 feet, drill site is in Section 41, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

First Permian will drill the No. 1065-W Southeast Westbrook unit, 13 miles southwest of Colorado City. Planned for a depth of 3,250 feet, location is in Section 41, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

First Permian will drill the No. 1063-W Southeast Westbrook unit, 13 miles southwest of Colorado City. Scheduled for a depth of 3,250 feet, location is in Section 41, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

First Permian will drill the No. 725-W Southeast Westbrook unit, 12 miles west of Colorado City. Also planned for 3,250 feet, location is in Section 33, Block 28,T1N, T&P survey.

First Permian will drill the No. 722-W Westbrook Southeast unit, 12 miles west of Colorado City. Scheduled for a depth of 3,250 feet, location is in Section 33, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

First Permian will drill the No. 539-W Southeast Westbrook unit, 11 miles west of Colorado City. Planned depth is 3,250 feet, and location is in Section 28, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

First Permian will drill the No. 538-W Southeast Westbrook unit, 11 miles west of Colorado City. Also set for 3,250 feet, location is in Section 28, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

First Permian will drill the No. 1405-W Southeast Westbrook unit, 12 miles west of Colorado City. Set for 3,250 feet, location is in Section 40, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Howard County

Anadarko Petroleum will drill the No. 3327-WA B.S. in the Snyder field, 15 miles east of Big Spring. Planned for a depth of 3,900 feet, location is in Section 33, Block 30, T1S, T&P survey.

Anadarko will drill the No. 3328-WA B.S. in the Snyder field, 15 miles east of Big Spring. Contracted for a depth of 3,900 feet, drill site is in Section 33, Block 30, T1S, T&P survey.

Anadarko will drill the No. 3326-WA B.S. in the Snyder field, 15 miles east of Big Spring. Also set for a depth of 3,900 feet, location is in Section 33, Block 30, T1S, T&P survey.

Anadarko will drill the No. 3326-WA B.S. in the Snyder field, 15 miles east of Big Spring. Contacted for 3,900 feet, location is in Section 33, Block 30, T1S, T&P survey.

Anadarko Petroleum will drill the no. 3416-WA B.S. in the Snyder field, 15 miles east of Big Spring. The well will be drilled to 3,900 feet, and location is in Section 33, Block 30, T1S, T&P survey.

Anadarko Petroleum will drill the No. 3344-WA B.S. in the Snyder field, 15 miles east of Big Spring. Also set for a depth of 3,900 feet, location is in Section 33, Block 30, T1S, T&P survey.

Westport Oil and Gas Inc. will drill the No. 6 H.R. Clay in the Howard-Glasscock field, eight miles east of Forsan. Planned depth is 3,250 feet, and drill site is in Section 126, Block 29, T2S, T&P survey.

Belco Energy Corp will drill the No. 1211 Howard-Glasscock field east unit, eight miles east of Forsan. Planned for a depth of 2,778 feet, location is in Section 86, Block 29, W&NW survey.

Nolan County

R.L. Adkins will drill the No. 1-117 Dickson, a 7,500-foot wildcat located three miles northwest of Maryneal. Location is in Section 117, Block X, T&P survey.

NASA hears from Pioneer 10 spacecraft

By ANDREW BRIDGES
AP Science Writer

NASA scientists said Sunday they have contacted the Pioneer 10 spacecraft, ending fears that the robotic probe had gone silent 29 years into a mission that has carried it more than 7 billion miles from Earth.

A radio antenna outside Madrid received a signal from Pioneer 10 on Saturday, marking the first time the spacecraft had been heard from since Aug. 19. The spacecraft was launched March 2, 1972.

"Pioneer 10 lives on," project manager Larry Lasher said in a status report posted Sunday on the mission's Web site.

Pioneer 10 was the first spacecraft to pass through the asteroid belt and the first to obtain close-up images of Jupiter. In 1983, it became the first manmade object to leave the solar system when it passed the orbit of distant Pluto.

The spacecraft is currently 7.29 billion miles from Earth, traveling at 27,380 mph relative to the sun. At that distance, radio signals take 21 hours and 45 minutes to make the roundtrip between the Earth and the spacecraft.

The Pioneer 10 mission came to a formal close in 1997, but the probe had remained in fairly regular contact with Earth, returning limited scientific data before going silent in August.

Picking out the faint signal of the spacecraft's eight-watt transmitter put the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's international network of antennas to the test. Further communications with Pioneer likely will remain difficult, because engineers can contact the spacecraft only by first beaming signals to it.

"In order (for Pioneer 10) to talk to us, we need to talk to it," said Ric Campo, the mission's chief flight controller.

Even in silence, the spacecraft will continue its steady voyage toward the constellation Taurus. It should pass one of the stars in the constellation more than 2 million years from now.

The spacecraft carries a gold plaque engraved with a message of goodwill and a map showing the Earth's location within the solar system.

NASA's oldest operating spacecraft is Pioneer 6, which scientists contacted in December to mark the 35th anniversary of its launch.

On the Net:
Pioneer Project: http://spaceprojects.arc.nasa.gov/Space—Projects/pioneer/PNhome.html

Possible traces of Big Bang discovered

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists have discovered possible traces of the cosmic match that ignited the Big Bang and created the universe 14 billion years ago, according to published reports.

Two detectors in Antarctica discovered minute patterns — probably created by microscopic energy fluctuations — in a glow from primordial gases, The New York Times reported today.

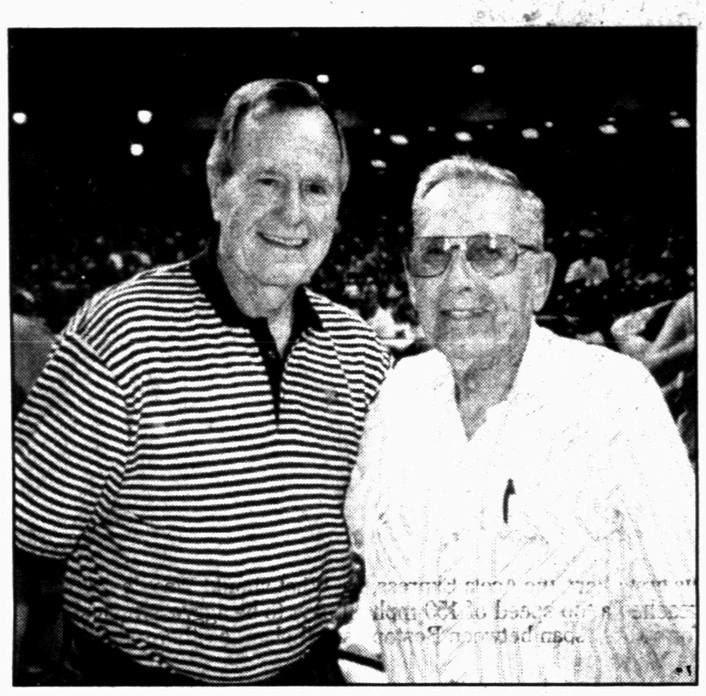
The glow, called cosmic microwave background radiation, carried an imprint of large waves to the detectors on Earth. The fluctuations probably set the waves in motion and agitated the young universe.

The findings eased recent astronomer concerns that their Big Bang theory of the origin of the universe might be inaccurate.

"This study provides strong confirmation that, overall, we're using the right model to describe the universe," Paul Richards of the University of California at Berkeley told the Washington Post on Monday.

University of Chicago scientists oversee the Degree Angular Scale Interferometer, a microwave detector at a South Pole research station operated by the National Science Foundation, which made the pattern observations.

The announcement was made today at a meeting at the American Physical Society in Washington, where two other groups shared similar observations.



NOTHING ROUTINE – Howard Franks of Snyder intended for a trip to Houston to visit his daughter, Judy Dargis, to be relatively uneventful. En route, Franks became seriously ill and required emergency surgery on March 25 followed by several days in ICU. Less than a month later, Franks was seated behind home plate in the VIP section of Houston's new Enron Field watching the Houston Astros along with former President George H. Bush. Franks returned to Snyder last Wednesday. (Contributed Photo)

Lotto Texas

RESULTS

AUSTIN — No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket was worth an estimated $4 (M) million

15-16-29-51

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $6 (M) million.

Pick 3

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

0-5-5

Date Book

Monday, April 30, 2001

Today is the 120th day of 2001 and the 42nd day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1789, George Washington was inaugurated as president of the United States. The ceremony took place at Federal Hall in New York City.

On this day in 1898, the New York State legislature passed the nation's first truth-in-advertising law.

On this day in 1975, North Vietnamese forces took Saigon, Vietnam.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Franz Lehar (1870-1948), composer; John Crowe Ransom (1888-1974), poet-critic; Cloris Leachman (1926-), actress, is 75; Willie Nelson (1933-), singer-songwriter, is 68; Jill Clayburgh (1944-), actress, is 57; Isiah Thomas (1962-), basketball player, is 40.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1969, Jim Maloney pitched a no-hitter for Cincinnati against Houston. The final score was 10-0.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "In a brief space the generations of living beings are changed, and like runners pass on the torches of life." — Lucretius

TODAY'S MOON: First quarter.

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Paul McCartney is interviewed by ABC

NEW YORK (AP) — Paul McCartney, who lost his wife Linda to breast cancer in 1998, says he's comforted by thoughts that her spirit lives on.

"After Linda died, I think all of us in the family would hear noises or see things and think 'That's Linda; that's mom...' And I think in some ways, it's very comforting to think she's still here," McCartney told ABC's "Good Morning America" in an interview that was to air Monday.

McCartney said he has been compelled to write poetry since her death, including a poem called "Her Spirit" in which Linda's spirit visits him in the woods, in the form of a white squirrel.

"You don't know if it's true. But it's a great thought. And it's an uplifting thought. And so I allow myself to go there," McCartney said.

McCartney recently published Blackbird Singing, an anthology of 48 poems and song lyrics.

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ARE YOU CURRENTLY ON HOME OXYGEN OR USING A NEBULIZER?

Has your equipment been properly maintained by qualified personnel? If you do not feel you have been receiving the quality care you deserve, please give Dana or Beatrice a call and let us visit with you about your options.

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Amtrak Railway, turning 30, still faces familiar problems

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amtrak turns 30 on Tuesday, but it still carries the burden of a troubled infancy.

Formed in 1971 to relieve freight railroads from the cash-draining responsibility of passenger service, the national railway never resolved its core challenge: maintaining a national passenger system, while functioning as a bottom-line business.

The struggle continues, with new urgency. In 1998, just one of Amtrak's 40 routes made money, and Congress has ordered Amtrak to right itself financially by 2003 or face dissolution.

Amtrak supporters and critics alike say it's time to decide whether the nation wants long-distance train service, and at what cost.

Rep. Don Young, chairman of the House Transportation Committee, said Congress is finally ready to put its foot down if Amtrak does not make major improvements to its bottom line.

"I won't let this slide again," said Young, R-Alaska.

Amtrak President George Warrington is confident about the future, saying the railway is ready as more Americans turn to rail as an alternative to crowded highways and airports.

"We have made extraordinary progress in shedding a lot of the negative baggage about Amtrak the institution," he said.

Amtrak has consumed more than $23 billion in federal subsidies since 1971. It lost $944 million last year, the most in its history, according to the Department of Transportation's inspector general.

There is no shortage of opinions on why Amtrak has struggled for so long.

Ronald Utt, a senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, blames management. "What you have is a board that survives because it's politically adept at getting enough money to keep the railroad in existence," he said.

Anthony Haswell, who played a role in Amtrak's creation as founder of the National Association of Railroad Passengers, says the railway stubbornly insists on retaining a national system of trains rather than focusing service on areas with most profit potential.

The Amtrak Reform Council, an oversight board formed by Congress in 1997, blames a "flawed institutional structure" that forces the railway to juggle government and business roles.

Tom Downs, who preceded Warrington as Amtrak president, says Congress and the White House never told Amtrak whether it was more important to be profitable or to continue serving parts of the country where it loses the most money.

"The railroad is always trying to make 10 pounds worth of political expectations fit in a five-pound bucket," Downs said.

Amtrak engineers will literally blow their own horns at noon on Tuesday to mark completion of the railway's third decade. A more appropriate sound would be a sigh of relief.

Once the dominant means of long-distance transportation, U.S. rail service declined in the 20th century as automobiles, then air service, flourished. By the 1960s, railroads wanted out of their passenger-service obligations so they could concentrate on freight delivery.

Congress and President Nixon responded in 1970 by creating the part-public, part-private National Rail Passenger Corp. It took the nickname Railpax but quickly changed to Amtrak.

At an inaugural service in New York on May 1, 1971, then-Transportation Secretary John Volpe predicted "a new era" in rail service and said Amtrak would begin to break even financially in about three years.

Almost immediately, pressures mounted. Amtrak spokesmen warned Congress that the railway would need more money than had been anticipated. Lawmakers wasted no time in demanding service to their states.

Amtrak fell far short of its promise to become profitable within a few years. But as Washington focused on crises like Vietnam and Watergate, Amtrak continued to roll on — and to lose money.

In an attempt to stem its losses, in 1995 Amtrak cut train service by about 12 percent and let go about 2,000 workers. Warrington opposes more cuts and last year announced Amtrak would pursue new routes and business opportunities such as time-sensitive package delivery.

Amtrak is staking its future on European-style high-speed rail. Its first effort, the Acela Express, reaches a top speed of 150 mph for a short span between Boston and New York.

DONATION — Snyder Rotary Club donated $500 to Snyder Neighbors Sharing annual workday. The presentation was made during the club's weekly meeting at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. Pictured from left are Jack Gorman Jr., April program chairman; Thomas Fogleman, president of SNS; and Lee Maddox, Rotary Club president. (Contributed Photo)

Bridge

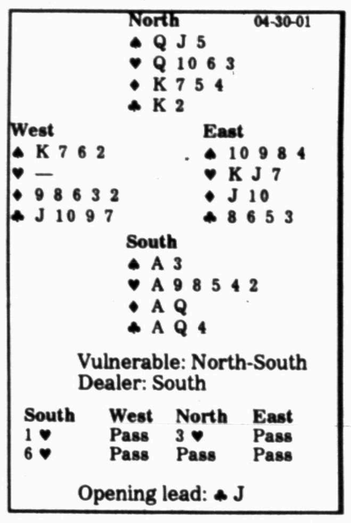
By Phillip Alder

The safe play in a slam

When you own six hearts
With 20 points to pulse them
Bid and make small slam
— Kathleen M. Schartner, Sewickley, Penn.

In this deal, South has an awkward hand for a natural system. It is good for a one-bid, but a tad shy of a stronger, forcing opening. Here, though, one heart worked fine when North responded three hearts, a limit raise promising 10-12 support points with at least four trumps. Now South had a clear-cut quantitative jump to six hearts.

What should West lead? Often it pays to be aggressive against a small slam, so there is a strong case for selecting a low spade (not that it helps here). However, West picked the club jack.



Since declarer could discard his spade loser on dummy's diamond king, he realized the trump suit was his only potential problem. What is the best play there?

A careless declarer would start with the heart ace. This works fine when there is a 2-1 split or West has all three, but here it is fatal. A more thoughtful player wins trick one in the dummy, then calls for a low heart. (All right, but slightly worse, is to start with a low trump from hand.) When East plays the seven, declarer covers with the eight. If West wins the trick, the suit must be 2-1. Here, though, the eight wins, and declarer has no more problems. Finally, if East discards on the first trump, South puts up his ace and leads back toward dummy's queen.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Veterans of Merchant Marines should enjoy hard-won status

DEAR ABBY: World War II mariners, who suffered the highest casualty rate of any of the branches of service while they delivered troops, tanks, airplanes and fuel to every theater of war, were belatedly awarded veteran status in 1988 and in 1998.

Thus far, only 95,000 out of a quarter-million eligible mariners, or their survivors, have applied for veteran status. Application procedures can be found at www.USMM.org/update.html or by sending a business-size self-addressed, stamped (55 cents) envelope to AMMV: WWII, P.O. Box 2361, Berkeley, CA 94702.

This is important because men and women who served in the U.S. Merchant Marines and the U.S. Army Transport Service may be eligible for medical care and prescriptions through the Veterans Administration. At the very least, they can tell their grandchildren they are "veterans of World War II," and can get a flag for their coffin and a grave marker.

Mariners from the Korean, Vietnam, Gulf wars, and the U.S. Maritime Service, the official WWII Merchant Marine training organization, should contact AMMV: OTHER, at the above address, so that they, too, can join together in applying for veteran status. — **DANIEL HORODYSKY, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS**

DEAR DANIEL: I am pleased that these unsung heroes are now able to receive benefits, as they should have been in the first place. Better late than never.

**

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for printing the letter from "Karen in Virginia," who after years of suffering was finally diagnosed as having endometriosis. After reading your column, I visited the Web site you mentioned (www.killer-cramps.org). Many of the symptoms were familiar to me, so I took the quiz and discovered that was probably my problem, too.

I talked to my mother about it and learned that both she and my [illegible] so I made an appointment with my gynecologist. The doctor recommended that in the very near future I undergo a procedure to have the tissue removed.

Had I not read about it in your column, I never would have known how serious endometriosis can be. Because of that column, I won't have to endure more years of pain. Thank you again, Abby. Sign me ... **GRATEFUL IN OKLAHOMA**

DEAR GRATEFUL: I was surprised at the number of women who suffer from this problem. More than half a million women visited the Endometriosis Association Web site after reading Karen's letter. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: "Karen in Virginia" wrote about the pain and suffering of endometriosis. It is also important to note that this debilitating disease can cause infertility.

Women with endometriosis who wish to have children need special care from their OB-GYN and must take steps early to preserve their fertility. These women should not wait until they are ready to start their families before seeking medical help.

RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association has information and educational materials for women with endometriosis who are planning to have children. For more information, patients can visit the RESOLVE Web site at www.resolve.org or call the RESOLVE helpline at 617-623-[illegible] **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

DEAR JOAN: I hope you're prepared for an onslaught of inquiries — because you're going to get them.

**

Dear Abby is written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips.

**

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby's "Keepers," P.O. Box 447, [illegible] 0447. (Postage is included.)

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First in wintertime...

Veteran doctor retells Antarctic rescue

DENVER (AP) — Before attempting to treat his own potentially fatal illness, the South Pole's only doctor said his practice was limited mainly to treating the common cold.

"I was hoping for a nice, quiet winter," said Dr. Ronald S. Shemenski, 59, who was evacuated last week after being diagnosed with pancreatitis through a satellite-transmitted ultrasound.

It was the first-ever Antarctic winter rescue and Shemenski, a former stunt pilot, recounted his departure aboard the twin-engine plane on skis.

He said he made himself a bed on top of plywood planks laid out over extra fuel tanks stored in the back of the Twin Otter for the 10-hour flight.

"I slept until they needed the [illegible] when I got up," said Shemenski, who arrived in Denver on Sunday via Santiago, Miami and Punta Arenas, Chile.

It had been a quiet assignment at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station until then, which suited Shemenski. He'd given up his family practice in Oak Harbor, Ohio, eight years ago to travel to remote places, meet new people and take care of them. "I like the isolation," he said.

As the winter decended, there were no flights to bring new germs and the number of troublesome viruses and illnesses dropped along with the station population. In the summer there were 225 people on site, and only 50 in the winter.

On April 1, with the sun not expected to rise again until September, Shemenski awoke with an upset stomach. "Then all hell broke loose, and I began to vomit."

He conducted tests on himself with the aid of a nurse, and put a tube down his throat. A newly installed ultrasound device didn't work for a week. When station scientists finally coaxed the device into operation, the image was transmitted to Swedish Hospital in suburban Englewood, Colo., and helped doctors there confirm Shemenski had passed a gallstone. This week, doctors will determine whether he needs surgery.

It was the first year there had been a nurse and a doctor at the site, as well as the first time for ultrasound. It was the third time in a row that the station's doctor had fallen ill or been injured.

"If bad things do come in threes as they say, we're going to be all right for a while," Shemenski said.

The marathon rescue and ordeal has not dampened his [illegible] foot-high station. Shemenski said he wants to apply to return.

Relatives of two girls marry

BUENA VISTA, Va. (AP) — Relatives of two girls who were switched at birth have married.

Carlton Conley, the biological father of Rebecca Grace Chittum, wed Pamela Miskovsky, the biological aunt of Callie Marie Conley, on Saturday at the Pentecostal Holiness Church.

In 1995, Conley left the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville with Callie. Rebecca went home with Callie's biological parents, Kevin Chittum and Whitney Rogers.

Miskovsky had assumed Rebecca was her niece until the hospital discovered the mix-up in 1998, shortly after Kevin Chittum and Rogers died in a car crash.

The girls' identities were revealed through DNA test results arising from a child support dispute between Rebecca's biological mother, Paula K. Johnson, and Carlton Conley.

The marriage makes Carlton Conley Callie's uncle by marriage as well as her biological father.

Johnson, Carlton Conley's ex-girlfriend, has custody of Callie. The Rogers and Chittum families share custody of Rebecca.

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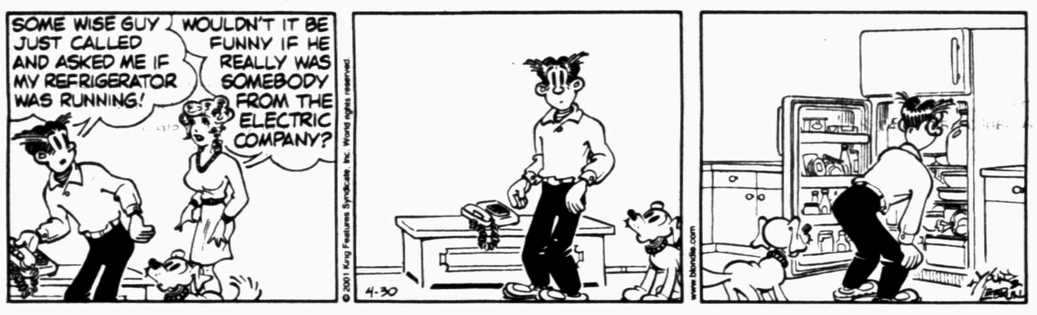

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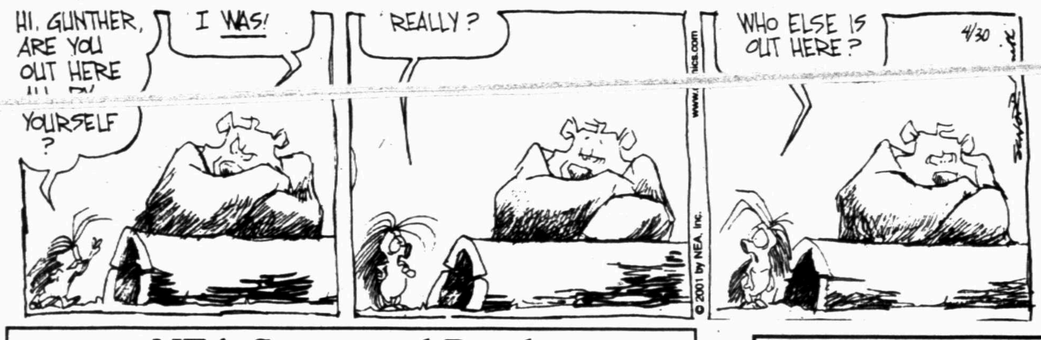

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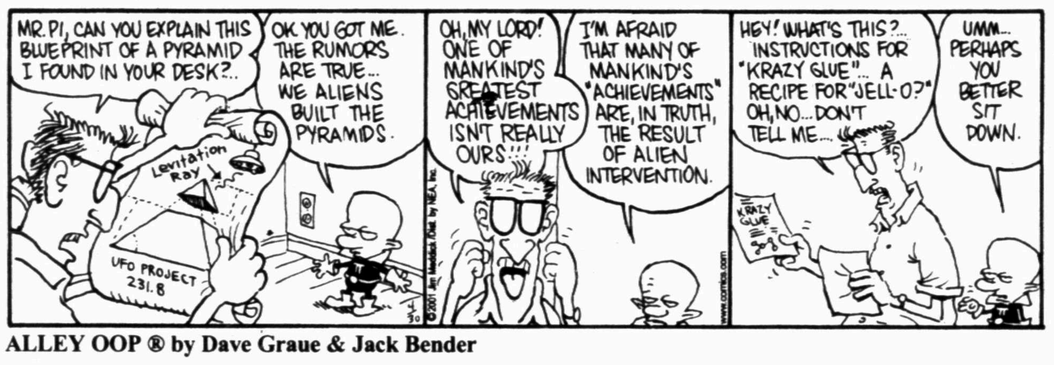

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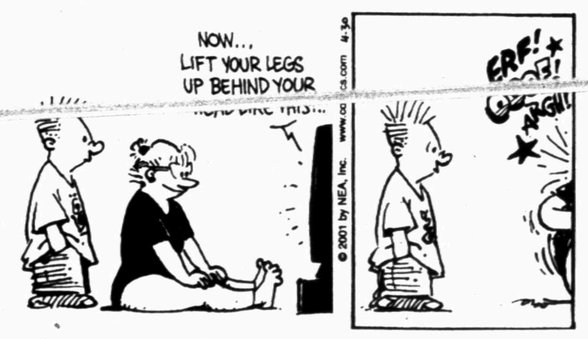

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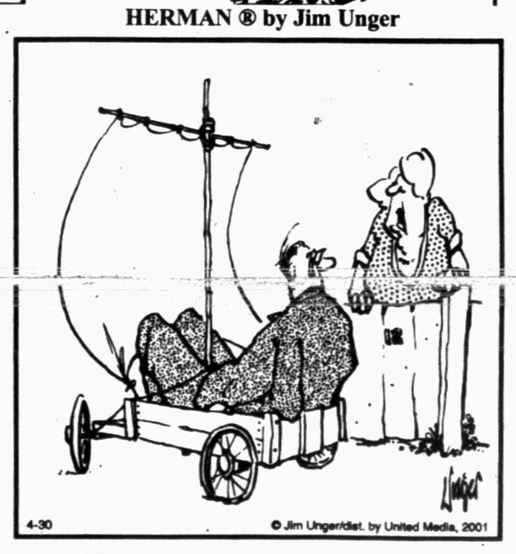

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Minor problem
7 Moved smoothly
13 Nonmetallic element
14 Crystalline gem
15 Actor Lorne —
16 North —
17 Char
18 Poor grade
20 — Islands of Ireland
21 "— — in the Dark"
23 Many Middle Easterners
27 More serpentine
32 Vapors
33 TV's Uncle Miltie
34 Tropical basket fiber
35 Boundary
36 Pogo, for one
39 Rub out
40 Goads
42 Mexican sandwich
46 Opp. of NNW
47 Bugle call
51 Kind of beard
53 "Ms." founder Steinem
55 Demand (something)
56 Male aviators
57 Sumptuous meals
58 Bentsen and Nolan

DOWN

1 Musicians' jobs
2 Traditional knowledge
3 Thought
4 Wedding-cake layer
5 TV co.
6 Obeys
7 Biblical hero
8 Mauna —
9 Actress Chase
10 Designer Christian —
11 Miss Kett of the comics
12 College hotshot
19 Questioning sounds
21 Estimate
22 Restaurant furniture
23 Exchange premium
24 Grate
25 Concerning (2 wds.)
26 Units of sound
28 Actor Dullea
29 "— La Douce"
31 Nerve network
37 Distresses
38 Greek letters
41 Royal
42 End-of-wk. abbr.
43 First-rate
44 Maria's house
45 Elevator inventor
47 Bull, in Spain
48 Service branch
49 Like a certain piper
50 Without
52 Superlative ending
54 Mae West role

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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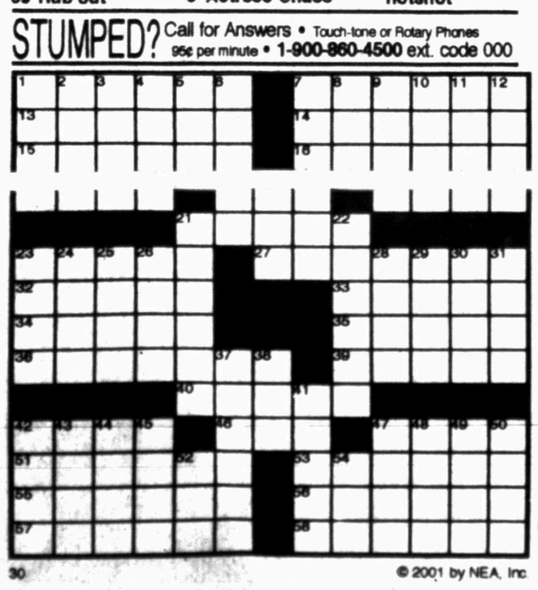

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Snyder Daily News Comics

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"I WANT TO MAKE MR. WILSON HAPPY, SO I'M STAYING HOME TODAY."

"How are you gonna get to work when it's not windy?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SPORTS

SHS falls short of state meet

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

SAN ANGELO — In what turned out to be one of the toughest regions in the state, Snyder High School turned in a solid performance Saturday, but was simply overmatched.

Snyder didn't qualify a competitor for state, but finished eighth out of 37 schools at the Region I-4A track and field meet at Angelo State University.

For the second consecutive year, the team that edged Snyder for the district crown went on to win the regional meet as Lubbock Estacado grabbed the team title ahead of Fort Worth Dunbar and Fort Worth Eastern Hills.

"I'm really proud of the way our kids performed," said SHS coach Chad Rogers. "This was already a tough region. Then they added the 10-team district out of Fort Worth this year, and there were some unbelievable times posted.

"We had a great season. These kids have come so far in two years. This group of seniors came a long way and they've built a great foundation for the years to come."

Senior Mark Medley, who was gunning for his second state berth in the shot put, finished fourth in the event on Saturday. Medley's best throw measured 57 feet, 9½ inches. His fourth-place showing came on the heels of a third-place finish in the discus on Friday.

Burleson's Othinn Thorsteinsson won the shot put with a toss of 60-4½.

The Tigers' sprint relay team had qualified for Saturday's finals, as had hurdler Wade Pinson.

The relay squad crossed the line in sixth place ahead of Wichita Falls Hirschi and Borger, but couldn't keep pace with the speedy foursomes from FW Wyatt and Estacado.

Wyatt blistered the field with a time of 40.94 seconds to take the title, with Estacado earning second place.

After recording the third fastest time in the preliminaries of the 110 hurdles, Pinson, a junior, finished fourth in the finals with a time of 14.72.

Andrews' Josh Hadley won the event, followed by Dustin Wagner of Azle.

Snyder's final competitor of the day was Rudy Martinez in the 1,600. After placing 13th in Friday's two-mile run, Martinez came in 12th in the mile with a time of 4:43.10.

Grapevine's Rob Morrow won the race in 4:24.71.

"I'm disappointed for the kids, because I know how bad they wanted to go to state," said Rogers. "But I'm not disappointed in their performances. They've raised the bar for Snyder track.

"Anytime you set your goals as high as we did, you run the risk of being disappointed. But it's been a long time since Snyder has even been able to set its goals as high as these kids did. They surpassed a lot of people's expectations."

Estacado had the meet title in hand heading into the 4x400 relay, where the Matadors finished third.

FW Dunbar raced past the field in the mile relay in a time of 3:14.24.

NECK AND NECK — Snyder's Wade Pinson (right) races side-by-side with an Azle runner in the 110-meter hurdle event at the regional track meet in San Angelo. (SDN Staff Photo)

REGION I-4A TRACK & FIELD MEET
at ASU Multipurpose Complex
Angelo State University
BOYS

Team standings: 1. Estacado, 72; 2. FW Eastern Hills, 45; 3. FW Dunbar, 42; 4. Burleson, 41; 5. Dumas, 38; 6. FW Wyatt, 36; 7. Azle, 31; 8. Snyder, 22; 9. WF Hirschi, 21; 10. NRH Birdville, 16.

Field Events

High jump: 1. Michael Peterson, WF Hirschi, 6-8; 2. Steven Hughes, Borger, 6-6; 2. Jarred Stone, Crowley, 6-6; 4. Aaron Loya, Clint, 6-6; 5. Brandon Moss, FW Dunbar, 6-6; 6. Chris Jean, Burleson, 6-4.

Triple jump: 1. Donald Kinney, Estacado, 47-10 1/2; 2. Derrick Gleason, FW Eastern Hills, 46-7 1/4; 3. Quinchun Carey, FW Eastern Hills, 46-2 1/2; 4. Melvin Lucas, EP Parkland, 45-7 1/4; 5. Demetrik Hallman, Lake View, 44-5 1/4; 6. Jay Vanderford, Azle, 43-7 1/2.

Shot put: 1. Othinn Thorsteinsson, Burleson, 60-4 1/2; 2. Clayton Harmon, Stephenville, 59-4; 3. Quintin Echols, FW Wyatt, 59-0; 4. Mark Medley, Snyder, 57-9 1/2; 5. Ben Lyons, Lake View, 55-10 1/2; 6. Trey Madrigal, Hereford, 51-1 1/4.

Running Events

4x100 relay: 1. FW Wyatt, 40.94; 2. Estacado, 41.52; 3. FW Dunbar, 41.55; 4. North Crowley, 42.37; 5. Brownwood, 42.63; 6. Snyder, 43.07.

800: 1. Coby Brown, Dumas, 1:56.79; 2. Justin Roberts, Burkburnett, 1:57.23; 3. Kevin Cooper, Estacado, 2:00.03; 4. Mike Debillie, EP Parkland, 2:00.71; 5. Charlie Chairez, Mountain View, 2:00.82; 6. Cole Hollingsworth, Burleson, 2:01.22.

110 hurdles: 1. Josh Hadley, Andrews, 14.33; 2. Dustin Wagner, Azle, 14.38; 3. Clinton Solomon, FW Eastern Hills, 14.61; 4. Wade Pinson, Snyder, 14.72; 5. Joey Daniells, Dumas, 14.83; 6. Kerry Jackson, North Crowley, 14.94.

100: 1. Nicholas Johnson, FW Wyatt, 10.33; 2. Antione Sheppard, Estacado, 10.55; 3. Marcus Payne, FW Southwest, 10.62; 4. Derek Logan, WF High, 10.71; 5. Chauncey Lanier, WF Hirschi, 10.78; 6. Dwayne Shepard, Clint, 10.90.

400: 1. Michael Lozano, Canyon Randall, 48.31; 2. D.J. Davis, FW Dunbar, 48.81; 3. Chris Scott, Estacado, 48.99; 4. David Hase, Amarillo Caprock, 50.04; 5. Josh Davis, Mineral Wells, 50.19; 6. Aaron Ball, Granbury, 51.29.

300 hurdles: 1. Jay Vanderford, Azle, 38.01; 2. Dustin Wagner, Azle, 38.30; 3. Joey Daniells, Dumas, 38.39; 4. Wayne Saddler, FW Arlington Heights, 39.09; 5. Bryan Scott, Estacado, 39.35; 6. Brian Tidwell, Burleson, 39.48.

200: 1. Derek Logan, WF High, 21.76; 2. Marcus Payne, FW Southwest, 21.91; 3. Dwayne Shepard, Clint, 22.29; 4. Derrick Gleason, FW Eastern Hills, 22.33; 5. Antione Sheppard, Estacado, 22.34; 6. Michael Lozano, Canyon Randall, 22.57.

1,600: 1. Rob Morrow, Grapevine, 4:24.71; 2. Coby Brown, Dumas, 4:24.78; 3. Derek Yorek, NRH Birdville, 4:25.77; 4. Matt Cartwright, Azle, 4:31.79; 5. Aldo Sanchez, EP Riverside, 4:31.94; 6. Alex Ramos, Mountain View, 4:32.76.

4x400 relay: 1. FW Dunbar, 3:14.24; 2. FW Eastern Hills, 3:17.09; 3. Estacado, 3:19.49; 4. WF Rider, 3:22.32; 5. North Crowley, 3:23.25; 6. Southlake Carroll, 3:23.32.

GIRLS

Team standings: 1. FW Eastern Hills, 64; 2. FW Wyatt, 48; 3. Crowley, 46; 4. FW Dunbar, 44; 5. Hereford, 36; 6. Brownwood, 34; 7. Stephenville, 27; 8. Borger, 24; 9. Grapevine, 20; 10. North Crowley, 18.

Field Events

High jump: 1. Lessundra Ford, FW South Hills, 5-6; 2. Ryan Hill, Grapevine, 5-5; 3. Teresa Murray, Amarillo Palo Duro, 5-4; 4. Tonillle Todd, Hereford, 5-2; 5. Judy Delhierro, Andrews, 5-2; 6. Quiana Hart, WF Hirschi, 5-2.

Triple jump: 1. Shatoya Hill, Estacado, 38-6 1/2; 2. Tiffanie Jordan, WF High, 38-5 1/2; 3. Marilyn Sauls, Borger, 37-5 1/2; 4. Zulaykah Ali, FW Eastern Hills, 37-1 1/2; 5. Karissa Magers, Big Spring, 36-9 3/4; 6. Latoya Banks, Crowley, 36-7 1/2.

Shot put: 1. Cassaundra Lee, FW Wyatt, 44-8; 2. Kelly Looney, Borger, 42-4 1/2; 3. Markeisha Edwards, Stephenville, 41-3; 4. Tojiinay Thompson, Plainview, 40-6 1/2; 5. Kandra Chatman, WF High, 39-6; 6. Tracey Burke, Southlake Carroll, 39-3 1/2.

Running Events

4x100 relay: 1. FW Dunbar, 46.66; 2. Crowley, 47.73; 3. FW Wyatt, 48.07; 4. WF Hirschi, 48.64; 5. Brownwood, 49.03; 6. Estacado, 49.65.

800: 1. Emi Fitzgerald, Grapevine, 2:18.61; 2. Jackie Wren, Frenship, 2:20.92; 3. Amy Crox, Hereford, 2:20.94; 4. Katie Leonard, Burkburnett, 2:21.34; 5. Angie Wallace, Cleburne, 2:22.60; 6. Mandy McGee, Stephenville, 2:24.41.

100 hurdles: 1. Jhacque Minor, North Crowley, 14.64; 2. Mary Minor, North Crowley, 14.71; 3. Tonillle Todd, Hereford, 14.84; 4. Raquel Harris, FW Southwest, 14.85; 5. Dora Taylor, Estacado, 15.63; 6. Ellen Meyer, Grapevine, 15.76.

100: 1. Chauntae Bayne, FW Boswell, 11.70; 2. Ladedra Guy, FW Wyatt, 11.82; 3. Marquisha Sefas, FW Trimble Tech, 12.04; 4. Deontria Finley, Brownwood, 12.22; 5. Mikeshia Hurd, WF Rider, 12.44; 6. Kameshia Melton, Grapevine, 12.62.

4x200 relay: .. FW Eastern Hills, 1:40.48; 2. Crowley, 1:41.38; 3. Big Spring, 1:45.10; 4. FW Dunbar, 1:45.41; 5. Brownwood, 1:45.96; 6. Levelland, 1:46.30.

400: 1. Ashley Stevens, FW Eastern Hills, 56.45; 2. Latoya Fry, FW Wyatt, 56.50; 3. Jenny Thomasson, Burleson, 57.87; 4. Tashia Wooldridge, Southlake Carroll, 59.43; 5. Staci Smith, Azle, 1:00.57; 6. Stephanie Renteria, Canyon Randall, 1:01.97.

300 hurdles: 1. Raquel Harris, FW Southwest, 43.74; 2. Megan Hawkins, FW Arlington Heights, 44.80; 3. Jennifer Baker, Canyon, 45.40; 4. Mandy McGee, Stephenville, 45.80; 5. Tonillle Todd, Hereford, 45.92; 6. Lindsay O'Conner, Southlake Carroll, 47.04.

200: 1. Ladedra Guy, FW Wyatt, 24.56; 2. Marquisha Sefas, FW Trimble Tech, 24.93; 3. Ashley Jacques, Brownwood, 25.60; 4. Erin Simpson, Canyon, 26.33; 5. Jessica Richardson, WF Hirschi, 26.52; 6. Ashley Nickerson, Amarillo Palo Duro, 27.03.

1,600: 1. Jessa Vacek, Southlake Carroll, 5:06.16; 2. Katie Leonard, Burkburnett, 5:23.49; 3. Danielle Almeida, NRH Birdville, 5:25.05; 4. Brionne Yosten, Hereford, 5:34.49; 5. Teneal Manley, Brownwood, 5:35.19; 6. Rachel Collins, Granbury, 5:37.05.

4x400 relay: 1. FW Eastern Hills, 3:51.65; 2. FW Dunbar, 3:55.84; 3. Crowley, 3:56.29; 4. Stephenville, 4:02.89; 5. Hereford, 4:03.24; 6. Canyon, 4:06.19.

Playoff site still not set

The Snyder Lady Tigers will face El Paso Ysleta later this week in the area round of the softball playoffs, but when and where the game will be played is still up in the air.

The Snyder-Ysleta contest is tentatively scheduled for 4 p.m. Friday in Midland, but final details still haven't been set.

SHS girls' athletic coordinator Sam Tipton is hopeful that a time and site will be agreed upon by this afternoon.

"We're still in negotiations with Ysleta on where to play," said Tipton. "Right now we're just waiting around for them to call us back."

Snyder, the District 4-4A runner-up, rolled over Canyon Randall in the bi-district round, 19-1.

Ysleta was the District 1 champion and earned a bye in the first round.

Bi-District	Area
EP Parkland 2, San Elizario 1	EP Parkland vs. Big Spring
Andrews 11, Borger 1	Andrews vs. Pecos
Burkburnett 1, Justin Northwest 0	Burkburnett vs. Burleson
FW Eastern Hills 1, Granbury 0	FW Eastern Hills vs. Southlake Carroll
EP Riverside 4, Clint 0	EP Riverside vs. Dumas
Snyder 19, Canyon Randall 1	Snyder vs. EP Ysleta
FW Brewer 9, Azle 3	FW Brewer vs. FW Southwest
Crowley 6, FW Arlington Heights 0	Crowley vs. WF Rider

Sports Briefs

SHS sports banquet

The Snyder High School sports banquet will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday at Jack Greene's Place. Parents and sub-varsity players must purchase tickets before 3:30 p.m. Wednesday. Tickets are $5. All parents should bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on.

Moffett to host practice game

Class 5A Midland High and 3A Abilene Wylie square off at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Moffett Field in a playoff practice game. Tickes are $2 for adults, and $1 for students.

Snyder Tiger Basketball Camp

Snyder Tiger Basketball Camp will be held June 25-28 at the SHS gym. Sessions are scheduled for incoming third through sixth grade boys and girls, and for incoming sixth through ninth grade girls only.

Cost of the camp is $60, and deadline to register is May 19. Registration forms can be picked up at the SHS girls' athletic office. For more information, contact Coach Brent Parr at 574-6040 or 721-7930.

Umpires needed

Snyder Girls' Softball Association needs umpires for the upcoming season. A clinic for all new and returning umpires will be from 1-4 p.m. May 6. For more information, call Dave Hanes at 573-3127.

Booster club meeting

Snyder girls' basketball booster club will meet at 7 tonight at the SHS gym.

Tuesday scramble and all-day MGA

The Men's Golf Association of Snyder Country Club holds its weekly scramble at 5:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

Also, an all-day MGA event will be held each Thursday.

WGA play day

The Women's Golf Association of Snyder Country Club holds its weekly play day at 9 a.m. each Tuesday. Format this week is most fours on the back nine. A luncheon and business meeting will follow play.

WTC squads advance to conference rodeo

STEPHENVILLE — The Western Texas women wrapped up the regional title Saturday, while the WTC men made a run at Tarleton.

The Lady Westerners took first place at the Tarleton rodeo to secure the regional crown, while the Western Texas men closed the gap on Tarleton before finishing 40 points out of the top spot.

The Westerners trailed Tarleton by 185 points entering the final rodeo, then made up 145 points to finish a close second.

The Lady Westerners accumulated over 400 points to win the title by a comfortable margin.

"Both teams performed extremely well," said WTC coach Greg Rhodes. "For the men to make up that many points is really great, and the women had another one of their strong rodeos."

Jamie Standifer won the barrel racing and took fourth in the breakaway roping. Kassie Mowry was second in the barrels, and Jennifer Freeland was runner-up in the goat tying.

Standifer, Mowry, Freeland and Tibba Smith qualified for the conference finals starting Thursday in Hobbs, N.M.

On the men's side, Tyson Thompson grabbed the top spot in the bareback competition, while J.W. Todd was third in the steer wrestling.

Joining Thompson and Todd at the conference finals will be Trevor LaValley, Houston Hutto, Rawley McFarland, B.J. Scott, Joseph Gernantz, Wes Dinwiddie and Sean Willingham.

The top seven finishers in each event will qualify for the national finals to be held June 12-16 at Casper, Wyo.

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East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	14	10	.583	—
Atlanta	12	14	.462	3
Montreal	11	14	.440	3½
Florida	10	14	.417	4
New York	9	15	.375	5

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	15	9	.625	—
Cincinnati	14	10	.583	1
Milwaukee	13	11	.542	2
Houston	12	11	.522	2½
St. Louis	12	12	.500	3
Pittsburgh	9	14	.391	5½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	15	10	.600	—
Colorado	13	11	.542	1½
Arizona	13	12	.520	2
San Francisco	12	12	.500	2½
San Diego	10	15	.400	5

Saturday's Games

Milwaukee 8, Montreal 4
N.Y. Mets 6, St. Louis 5, 11 innings
Houston 6, Florida 4
Cincinnati 9, Colorado 4
San Francisco 5, Chicago Cubs 0
Atlanta 3, Arizona 1

Los Angeles 7, Philadelphia 6

Sunday's Games

Milwaukee 10, Montreal 0
St. Louis 12, N.Y. Mets 1
Florida 11, Houston 5
Colorado 14, Cincinnati 7
Chicago Cubs 11, San Francisco 2
Los Angeles 4, Philadelphia 1
San Diego 6, Pittsburgh 1
Arizona 7, Atlanta 5

Monday's Games

Houston (Elarton 3-2) at N.Y. Mets (Trachsel 0-4), 7:10 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Arizona at Montreal, 7:05 p.m.
St. Louis at Florida, 7:05 p.m.
Los Angeles at Cincinnati, 7:05 p.m.
San Francisco at Pittsburgh, 7:05 p.m.
Colorado at Philadelphia, 7:05 p.m.
Houston at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.
Milwaukee at Atlanta, 7:35 p.m.
San Diego at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.

American League
All Times EDT

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	16	8	.667	—
Boston	16	9	.640	½
New York	14	11	.560	2½
Baltimore	11	14	.440	5½
Tampa Bay	8	17	.320	8½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	17	6	.739	—
Cleveland	14	9	.609	3
Kansas City	9	15	.375	8½
Chicago	8	15	.348	9
Detroit	8	15	.348	9

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	20	5	.800	—
Texas	11	14	.440	9
Anaheim	10	15	.400	10
Oakland	8	17	.320	12

Saturday's Games

Anaheim 4, Toronto 1
Kansas City 8, Boston 2
N.Y. Yankees 7, Oakland 6
Tampa Bay 7, Detroit 3
Cleveland 7, Texas 3
Baltimore 5, Minnesota 2
Seattle 8, Chicago White Sox 5

Sunday's Games

Cleveland 9, Texas 2
Kansas City 11, Boston 8, 11 innings
Detroit 6, Tampa Bay 1
N.Y. Yankees 3, Oakland 1
Minnesota 4, Baltimore 0
Chicago White Sox 2, Seattle 1, 14 innings

Monday's Games

Kansas City (Suppan 1-3) at Toronto (Hamilton 1-0), 12:35 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Wilson 1-2) at Baltimore (Roberts 3-0), 7:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Pettitte 3-2) at Minnesota (Radke 4-0), 8:05 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Tampa Bay at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota, 8:05 p.m.
Detroit at Texas, 8:05 p.m.
Cleveland at Kansas City, 8:05 p.m.
Boston at Seattle, 10:05 p.m.
Toronto at Oakland, 10:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Anaheim, 10:05 p.m.

Steers' victory ends Tigers' hopes of postseason berth

On the season's final day, the Snyder Tigers couldn't get the help they needed to stay in the playoff chase.

Big Spring downed Plainview, 9-3, Saturday to eliminate Snyder from the postseason hunt.

The Tigers, who knocked off Andrews by a 6-4 score on Friday, needed losses by Big Spring and Lake View to earn a share of third place.

Lake View fell to Frenship, 9-0, but Big Spring's victory earned the Steers the final playoff spot.

Snyder finished the season with a record of 14-11.

NHL Playoffs

All Times EDT
CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
(Best-of-7)

Thursday, April 26

Toronto 2, New Jersey 0
Pittsburgh 3, Buffalo 0
Los Angeles 4, Colorado 3, OT

Friday, April 27

St. Louis 4, Dallas 2

Saturday, April 28

Pittsburgh 3, Buffalo 1, Pittsburgh leads series 2-0
Colorado 2, Los Angeles 0, series tied 1-1
New Jersey 6, Toronto 5, OT, series tied 1-1

Sunday, April 29

St. Louis 2, Dallas 1, St. Louis leads series 2-0

Monday, April 30

Buffalo at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 1

New Jersey at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Dallas at St. Louis, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2

Buffalo at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.

Thursday, May 3

New Jersey at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Dallas at St. Louis, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 4

Los Angeles at Colorado, 8 p.m.

NBA Playoffs

All Times EDT
First Round
(Best-of-5)

Friday, April 27

Charlotte 94, Miami 79, Charlotte wins series 3-0

Saturday, April 28

Philadelphia 92, Indiana 87, Philadelphia leads series 2-1
Dallas 94, Utah 91, Utah leads series 2-1
Minnesota 93, San Antonio 84, San Antonio leads series 2-1
Orlando 121, Milwaukee 116, OT, Milwaukee leads series 2-1

Sunday, April 29

New York 97, Toronto 89, New York leads series 2-1
Sacramento 104, Phoenix 96, Sacramento leads series 2-1
L.A. Lakers 99, Portland 86, L.A. Lakers wins series 3-0

Monday, April 30

San Antonio at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 1

Milwaukee at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Utah at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2

New York at Toronto, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Indiana, 9 p.m.
Sacramento at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.

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The City of Snyder is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of asphalt. The bids will be received until Tuesday, May 15th at 3:30 p.m. Bid packages are available at the City Hall. The City of Snyder reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Lost & Found

REWARD
Neighbor moved black cat to Snyder, Midland tags. Named Boog. Call **915-634-5905** or **800-349-0199**

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1997 Dodge Stratus, dark green. Good condition, 30K on new engine. $10,000 OBO 573-5629 after 5:30p.m.

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Houses For Rent

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Jailed crime boss active

NEW YORK (AP) — When ailing crime boss Vincent "Chin" Gigante was sentenced to 12 years in prison in 1997, even the judge wrote him off as "a shadow of his former self."

But prosecutors now say heart disease and life behind bars have not been enough to dethrone Gigante. A sweeping racketeering indictment filed last week identified the inmate as the reigning boss of the secretive and powerful Genovese organized crime family.

Although Gigante, 73, was not among the 45 defendants charged with crimes ranging from murder to stock fraud, officials claimed he still calls shots from a federal lockup in Fort Worth, Texas. They said Genovese affiliates refer to him by rubbing their chins.

Officials declined to elaborate on any new evidence against Gigante, who was convicted on murder conspiracy charges in 1997.

Before the conviction, Gigante would wander Greenwich Village in a bathrobe, mumbling to himself — a routine that earned him the nickname "Oddfather." His lawyers insist he's mentally ill; authorities call him a faker.

An FBI report obtained by The Associated Press details an October 2000 dinner conversation about the family's leadership between a reputed Genovese solider and an informant.

During the meeting at an Italian restaurant on Manhattan's Upper East Side, the alleged soldier, Paul "Slick" Geraci, explained that Frank "Farby" Serpico — once believed to have ascended to acting boss in Gigante's absence — "ain't the guy. He never was the guy."

"This," Geraci allegedly said, touching his chin, "is the guy. Don't say nothing to nobody."

Gigante attorney Michael Marinaccio denied his client has ties to Geraci or any other mob defendant. He accused the government of exploiting Gigante's notoriety to publicize its case.

Marinaccio said that all Gigante's phone calls and visits are restricted and monitored.

Jerry Capeci, who has an Internet column on New York's Mafia, said Gigante could send and receive secret messages through fellow inmates and others.

LOST BOYS — Snyder Junior High School's *Peter Pan* continues at 7:30 tonight and Tuesday at the school auditorium. The cast of characters includes the Lost Boys, (from left) Kiki Wofford and Temi Thompson, as the twins; Casey Crain (lying down) as Slightly; Wendy Reed as Curley; and Paul Haines as Nibs. Tickets are $5 each. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Separate road audit requested

HOUSTON (AP) — An outside auditor must review city crews' claims to have performed thousands of pothole repairs that were never done, a councilman says.

Mayor Lee Brown's recent announcement that Department of Public Works and Engineering Department officials would audit performance of their own agency does not go far enough, according to council member Chris Bell.

The councilman, who is challenging Brown for mayor this fall, stood in front of a botched pothole repair, calling the problems a case of the "fox guarding the hen house" and adding that the public's confidence in the city would be better served if an independent auditor looked at the public works department.

The pothole scandal should prompt the city to consider managed competition for its maintenance duties as municipal budget battles begin, Bell said. He said infrastructure maintenance such as pothole filling, water and sewer line repairs and ditch cleaning would be ideal candidates for managed competition.

The city, under managed competition, would compete against private companies to see which could provide the most efficient and effective service at the best price.

But Brown countered that an outside audit would be a waste of taxpayers' money.

Nutrition By Ed Blonz

How sweet is sweet?

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I have a number of questions about sweeteners. I read that fructose is sweeter than sucrose and so fewer grams of fructose are needed to achieve an equivalent sweet taste. Is this information true? And what is the difference between sugar, invert sugar and honey? — **K.E., Lexington, Ky.**

DEAR K.E.: There is a definite difference in the level of perceived sweetness between the various sweet-tasting substances. Sucrose, or table sugar, is a double sugar made up of glucose linked to fructose.

It is used as the sweetness standard, being assigned the value 1.0.

Fructose, also called fruit sugar, has a relative sweetness of 1.7, which means it is 70 percent sweeter than sucrose. When compared to sucrose, less fructose is needed to achieve an equivalent level of sweetness. This fact highlights one of the health advantages of eating fresh fruits: You get more sweetness per calorie, plus all the other nutrients found in the fruit. Glucose by itself is less sweet than sucrose, having a relative sweetness of 0.7

Invert sugar, honey and sucrose are similar in that they are all made up of glucose and fructose. The difference is that with invert sugar and honey, the glucose and fructose are not linked . This affects the degree of sweetness, with invert sugar and honey having a relative sweetness of 1.3, or 30 percent greater than sucrose.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: Is 5-HTP safe to take two or three times a week? - S.H., Tucson, Ariz.

DEAR S.H.: Your question is difficult to answer with any degree of confidence. The best I can manage is "possibly."

5-HTP stands for 5-hydroxytryptophan (5-hy-drox-see TRIP-toe-fan). Tryptophan is an essential amino acid that is a part of protein. In addition, it serves as a precursor to a key brain chemical (neurotransmitter) called serotonin, which encourages, among other things, relaxation. An insufficient production of serotonin is associated with several problems, including depression and insomnia. A number of anti-depressant medications work by helping the body maintain higher levels of serotonin in the brain. 5-HTP comes in to play because it is one of the intermediary substances along the conversion pathway from tryptophan to serotonin.

Tryptophan used to be sold in health food stores as an over-the-counter relaxant. A number of years back, though, there were contaminant questions connected with its manufacture. (The naturally occurring tryptophan in food is perfectly safe.) Tryptophan sales were outlawed, and soon thereafter 5-HTP began appearing as a "safe" alternative.

There is some research evidence to attest to the potential benefits of taking 5-HTP, but there are also safety questions. (You don't mention what you are interested in taking it for. It's difficult to say whether current research supports your intended use.)

5-HTP is normally converted to serotonin in the brain, and it is unable to cross the blood-brain barrier and circulate through the rest of the body. When 5-HTP is taken as a supplement, serotonin gets produced in the rest of the body as well. There is some concern that serotonin in the bloodstream outside of the brain might contribute to spasms of the coronary blood vessels and trigger a heart attack. Those at high risk for coronary heart disease should be sure to discuss this possibility with their physician. Medical supervision is also advised for those taking other medications, such as anti-depressant or anti-anxiety drugs or MAO-inhibitors.

Another factor to consider is that in 1998 a report revealed that the same contaminants found in tryptophan might also be present in synthetic 5-HTP. As 5-HTP is also available from a natural source, called the griffonia bean, this is a nonissue if one opts for the natural source until all safety questions are answered.

Finally, if you are interested in 5-HTP to help with insomnia, keep in mind that regular exercise, a warm glass of milk (flavored or not) before bedtime, and/or a warm bath are tried-and-true remedies.

Send questions to: "On Nutrition," Ed Blonz, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. For e-mail, address inquiries to: ed@blonz.com. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Ed Blonz, Ph.D., is a nutrition scientist and the author of "Power Nutrition" (Signet, 1998) and the "Your Personal Nutritionist" book series (Signet, 1996).

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Sales' not sure why career rebounding

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Comedian Soupy Sales says he's not sure why his career is on the rebound some 40 years after he started his first television show, best remembered for Sales' pie-throwing antics with celebrity guests.

"Maybe as you get older people feel sorry for you or something," said Sales, 75. "Or maybe they just need more older actors."

Sales has a recurring role on "Black Scorpion" on the Sci-Fi cable TV channel and appears in three films scheduled for release in coming months: "This Train," "Little Bit of Lipstick" and "Palmer's Pickup."

He plans to host a May 3 reception and auction for the West Virginia International Film Festival's 16th annual spring film series and says he has no plans to stop performing.

"Why should I retire? I don't do any heavy lifting," he said.

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp		38.09	37.74	37.74
AOL TimeWm		51.50	50.00	51.10 + 1.11
AT&T Corp		22.90	22.36	22.84 + .19
Albertsons		34.05	33.00	33.90 + .85
Alltel		54.77	54.25	54.65 + .65
AmEl Pw		49.99	49.30	49.41 — .59
AndarkPtr		67.10	66.02	66.30 + .30
ATMOS Egy		22.68	22.30	22.60 + .20
Aviall		8.92	8.70	8.91 + .36
BP Amoco		54.39	54.00	54.25
BakerHughes		39.55	38.30	39.38 + .48
Bank of Amer		57.47	56.70	57.39 + .47
BellSouth		42.91	42.31	42.90 — .05
Beth Steel		3.60	3.50	3.60 + .09
BurlNoSFe		30.24	29.41	29.55 — .35
Caterpillar		51.27	50.35	51.05 + .74
Chevron		97.80	97.00	97.45 — .04
Citigroup s		51.48	50.25	50.96 + .05
CocaCola		46.75	46.22	46.40 — .60
ColgatePal		56.90	56.21	56.71 + 1.06
ComclMetals		25.98	25.90	25.90 — .08
CooperIn		38.00	37.00	37.81 + .60
DaimlrChry		50.20	49.88	50.05 + .77
DeltaAirl		44.48	44.02	44.28 — .24
Dillards Inc		17.19	16.78	17.05 + .11
DowChem s		34.65	34.00	34.15 — .13
DuPont		46.58	45.81	46.52 + .30
EastmanChem		54.16	53.59	53.97 — .03
EstKodak		42.50	42.05	42.16 — .07
EDS Corp		65.72	64.25	65.32 + 1.97
Entergy		40.44	40.10	40.31 + .03
ExxonMobil		89.74	88.61	89.56 + .50
FstBksAm		21.60	21.56	21.60 + .08
GenDynam		77.35	76.50	76.94 + .44
GenElec		50.01	49.56	49.58 — .37
GenMills		40.02	39.32	39.91 + .92
GenMotors		55.05	54.57	54.95 — .10
GaPacGP		32.50	30.60	32.50 + 1.93
GlobalMar		29.17	27.70	29.05 + .96
Goodrich		40.50	39.90	40.39 + .18
Goodyear s		25.15	25.01	25.07 — .08
GtAtlPac		11.40	10.50	11.30 + 1.07
Halliburtn		43.50	42.32	43.43 + 1.32
Hanson ADS		34.05	33.77	34.01 + .24
HarteHanks		23.10	22.56	22.75 — .03
HomeDepot		48.50	47.85	48.06 — .04
Honeywellntl		49.95	49.50	49.68 — .27
IBM		117.90	116.05	117.82 + 1.62
IntlPaper		39.40	38.51	39.14 + .40
JohnsonJn		96.23	95.80	96.16 + .78
K mart		10.06	9.67	10.01 + .19
KinderMorg		59.00	57.34	58.50 + 1.16
Kroger Co		22.80	22.35	22.80 + .49
Litton		79.78	79.70	79.70 — .07
LockheedM		36.35	35.86	36.16 + .16
Lowes Cos		63.10	62.45	62.75 + .65
Lubys		7.70	7.45	7.45 — .21
LucentTech		11.15	10.80	10.86 + .06
MayDeptStr		37.86	37.13	37.20 — .41
Medtronic		45.30	44.32	44.92 + .67
Motorola s		16.03	15.55	15.86 + .37
NCR Corp		47.55	47.07	47.30 — .03
Navistar		26.54	26.15	26.48 + .70
Penney JC		21.07	20.25	21.04 + .38
PepBoys		4.88	4.65	4.67 + .26
PepsiCo		44.65	43.85	44.03 — .07
Pharmacia		52.58	51.90	52.30 + .05
PhelpDodge		45.08	44.45	44.90 + .19
PhilipPet		60.25	59.86	60.20 + .41
PilgrmPrd B		10.35	10.30	10.30 — .10
Polaroid		3.77	3.45	3.71 + .17
Praxair		48.73	47.90	48.23 — .27
ProctGamb		60.29	59.30	59.51 — .32
PubS NwMx		37.25	37.02	37.21 + .60
RadioShack		31.75	31.10	31.29 — .20
ReliantEngy		48.89	47.90	48.75 + .33
RoyalDut		60.20	59.60	60.02 — .13
SBC Comm		42.13	41.50	41.56 — .34
SaraLee		20.29	20.10	20.24 + .04
Scripps EW		65.10	64.43	64.43 + .33
SearsRoeb		37.60	36.75	36.80 — .80
SherwinW		21.42	21.13	21.20 — .22
SouthernCo s		23.39	23.06	23.29 + .23
SwstAirl s		18.47	18.20	18.30 — .12
SprintFON		21.95	21.45	21.89 + .34
SprintPCS		26.22	25.51	25.85 + .60
Sunoco Inc		38.64	38.01	38.64 + .35
TXU Corp		43.60	43.25	43.50 + .07
TempleInland		51.20	50.25	51.19 + 1.02
Texaco		73.29	72.90	73.16 — .24
TexInd		30.45	29.95	30.45 + .40
TexasInst		39.08	37.55	38.91 + 1.93
Textron		54.03	53.35	53.47 — .56
TriconGlbR		44.95	43.49	44.85 + 1.15
TrinityInds		19.54	19.28	19.50 + .22
TritonEngy		25.45	24.46	24.98 + .53
TylerTech		1.55	1.50	1.50 — .01
USX-Marathn		31.98	31.65	31.93 + .33
USX-USS		19.09	18.90	19.08 + .30
UnionPacif		58.48	57.61	57.63 — .84
UnitedTech		79.40	78.30	79.37 + .87
Unocal		37.92	37.60	37.81 + .26
Venator Grp		13.39	13.23	13.25
VerizonComm		56.40	55.50	56.16 + .46
WalMart		53.30	52.42	52.67 — .16
WellsFargo		48.15	47.67	47.73 — .09
WstnGasRs		40.00	39.66	39.97 + .43
WinnDixie		31.70	31.19	31.58 + .41
Xerox Cp		9.10	8.85	9.01 + .19

APR 30 2001

Hollywood braces for possible writers' strike

By Anthony Breznican
AP Entertainment Writer

With only two days left in the Hollywood writers contract, negotiators still have not reached an agreement to avert a walkout that would halt TV and movie production.

Representatives of the Writers Guild of America and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers met throughout the weekend, but ended talks Sunday without bridging a $100 million gap between their respective demands.

With both sides participating in a news blackout, it was unclear whether they had made any progress.

The real cliffhanger for audiences is whether a strike will keep their favorite comedies and dramas off the air in the fall.

If the writers walk out at midnight Tuesday, the first victims would be daily soap operas and late-night variety shows, followed by sitcoms and hour-long dramas if a strike drags on.

"It might be the winter season before the public starts seeing a lot of new shows," said Doug Lieblein, a writer-producer on the CBS comedy "Yes, Dear."

Studio officials and WGA leaders have said they are willing to compromise — but only a little.

"The notion, which has been offered by some, that the gap between us can possibly be bridged by simply meeting in the middle is ill-informed and, unfortunately, a nonstarter for us," DreamWorks SKG studio head Jeffrey Katzenberg said.

Walkout fears have strained Hollywood for months, with studios preparing for a dead zone in production by rushing film shoots and trying, mostly in vain, to stockpile scripts.

Not only is Tuesday the last day of the writers union's contract for its 11,000 members, but agreements for the two performers' unions — the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists — expire on June 30.

Back-to-back strikes could devastate the entertainment industry by delaying the TV season and new movie releases even more.

TV networks say they may rely on more reality programming to make up for a lack of scripted shows, but writers dismiss that plan.

"Imagine if the networks' today lineup was essentially 'Survivor,' 'Millionaire' and 'Weakest Link,' and then on Tuesday, 'Survivor,' 'Millionaire' and 'Weakest Link,'" Lieblein said. "The networks may pretend that won't kill them, but it will."

Movie studios may turn to releasing more foreign films or independently made pictures to compensate for the shortage of Hollywood-produced fare.

Talks between the writers and the alliance began Jan. 22, but halted March 1 amid disagreements over how much residual pay studios owe writers when films or TV shows are broadcast overseas or rerun domestically. The writers also want more money from videocassettes and DVDs.

Negotiations resumed April 17 and continued Sunday.

John Wells, president of the western unit of the writers' union and a writer-producer of "ER" and "The West Wing," has said Hollywood writers earned a total of about $1.2 billion in 2000 and are demanding a $99.7 million increase over three years.

The producers' alliance, however, has said that raising the minimum pay would also raise the scale for top writers, amounting to an actual increase of $227.4 million over three years.

Studios say they can't afford that in today's burgeoning entertainment world.

"Costs keep going up but the ability to achieve the kind of audience levels necessary to cover those costs seemingly is going down because of all the competition," said Walt Disney Co. president Robert Iger.

Even Lieblein, the writer, said he doesn't agree with all of the union's demands and, with a wife and infant son to support, he isn't willing to strike at any cost.

"We're all saving our money to prepare for the worst-case scenario," Lieblein said. "We'd be stupid not to."

Behind-the-scenes workers also are planning for the possibility of a strike.

Costume-maker John David Ridge, who did wardrobe on the film "Charlie's Angels" and the upcoming "Spider-Man," is looking for business on Broadway.

"I'd have to lay off 18 to 25 really good seamstresses and tailors" if there were a strike, he said. "These are people with no cushion, no residuals, no royalties — nothing coming in to help them through a strike."

A recent study commissioned by Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan found that prolonged strikes would cost the area's economy as much as $6.9 billion and could result in the loss of around 130,000 jobs, pushing the city's unemployment rate from 4.8 percent to 6.9 percent.

Robert Dowling, editor in chief of The Hollywood Reporter, believes an agreement will be reached, probably over the next few days.

"The mood has really changed," he said. "I think they're saying let's take this to the finish line" and end the dispute.

Others say the union might extend its contract until late June, when the actors' contracts are set to expire, which could give both writers and actors more leverage in negotiations.

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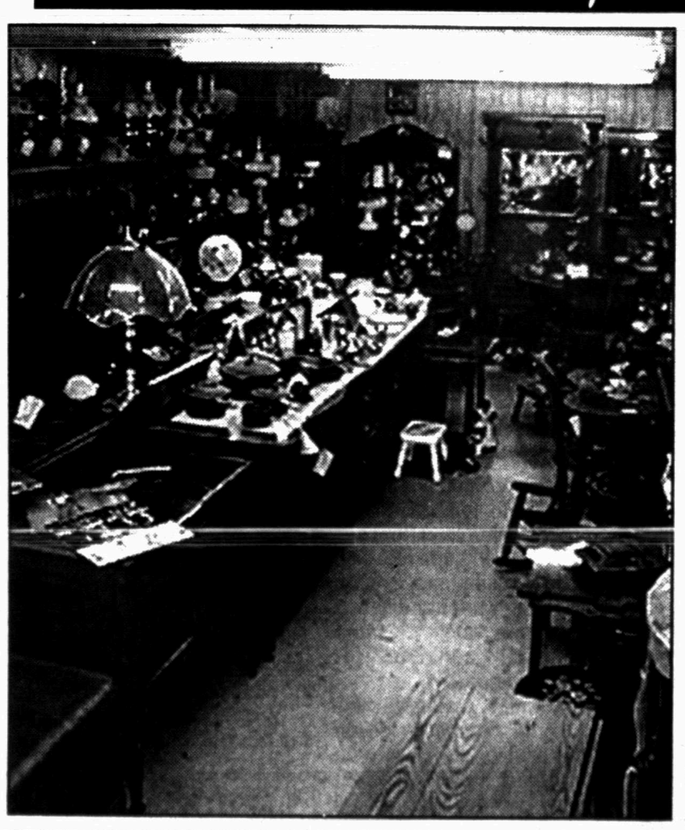

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If you're new in town or just haven't been lately, go by and see how things have changed. New merchandise is arriving weekly.

Local/State

Texa

DALLAS (AP) Worth had its ch with Boeing Co. will watch nervou space company this week for the three-city, move ters tour.

"It's been a go said Reid Rector, Chamber of Com and one of the org North Texas bid. from the Boeing positive."

Now Dallas w phone.

Officials for Sea ing say they will month where th headquarters wil Denver or Chicag that, they weren't

A Boeing spoke to say whether the eliminated any pa although some lar buildings were ex told they had faile cut.

State officials

PRINCIPAL FOR second grader to eligible, he had t Reader Program. 220 points. (Staf

Dr. Go

By Peter Got

Grapefrui

DEAR DR. GO learned that certa should not be taken juice. Is this true? If

DEAR READE important health iss more public attentio

The body norm tures a wide variet whose job it is to met substances that are c such system, which marily in the liver an ing, is called cytochr primary role is to ingested medicatio calcium-channel b hypertension and h statin drugs (to red lesterol levels), Viagr tain hormone pills prednisone, antihist dine and many cytochrome enzyme denatures the co grapefruit juice. Th patient takes medic juice, the cytochrom used up, causing the of the medicines to ri 1,500 percent, leadin light headedness, fai more serious conse result of this dangero (which can also oc medications are cons neously), medical au patients not to take grapefruit juice, and patients should prob low several medicine time. While this rea problem with all drugs, patients shou their physicians abou cines should be tak Because many othe are being investigate yet appreciate the fu possible interaction fruit juice, I admonis to avoid taking medi to 24 hours after dr fruit juice or eating obvious reasons, th means that grapefruit tually eliminated fro patients who take drugs on a daily basi

To give you rela tion, I am sending

Texans played host to Boeing visitors

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas-Fort Worth had its chance to dance with Boeing Co. Now, the area will watch nervously as the aerospace company visits Denver this week for the final stop on its three-city, move-the-headquarters tour.

"It's been a good two days," said Reid Rector, a Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce official and one of the organizers of the North Texas bid. "The feedback from the Boeing folks was very positive."

Now Dallas will sit by the phone.

Officials for Seattle-based Boeing say they will announce next month where the company's headquarters will go: Dallas, Denver or Chicago. Other than that, they weren't talking.

A Boeing spokesman declined to say whether the company has eliminated any particular sites, although some landlords whose buildings were examined were told they had failed to make the cut.

State officials said it's even unclear whether Boeing will announce its preferred region first, then select a location — or announce both at the same time.

Boeing officials toured about a dozen possible headquarters buildings in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. They also looked at residential neighborhoods where relocating Boeing executives might live, and they read a consultant's reports about schools and demographics of local communities.

After they left Wednesday, local officials were putting together additional information requested by the company and its consultant, Ernst & Young, about quality-of-life factors, SAT scores of local schools and other tidbits.

"Many of these companies who relocate here are concerned about teacher-student ratios, test scores, what kind of degrees the teachers have," said Mary Frances Burleson, an official with Dallas-based Ebby Halliday Realty, which helped arrange residential tours for the Boeing team.

"I don't have a crystal ball — they didn't say what they're going to do," Burleson said.

At stake is 500 jobs, civic pride and possible leverage to attract other companies.

Texas officials believe their bid was helped this week by an Federal Aviation Administration report that found Chicago O'Hare ranked No. 2 in the nation in the number of delayed takeoffs or landings in 2000. The report put Dallas-Fort Worth at No. 8.

"That FAA report came out of the blue," said Jeff Moseley, executive director of the Texas Department of Economic Development. "It was a very profound statement about DFW airport and it's potential for global trade and growth."

North Texas officials were quick to contrast what they termed their businesslike appeal to Boeing with a glitzier campaign in Chicago that included a lavish reception at the Art Institute, complete with Renoirs and Cezannes. They said they obeyed Boeing's wishes for a low-key approach — although they did add a cocktail reception after hearing about the Chicago soiree.

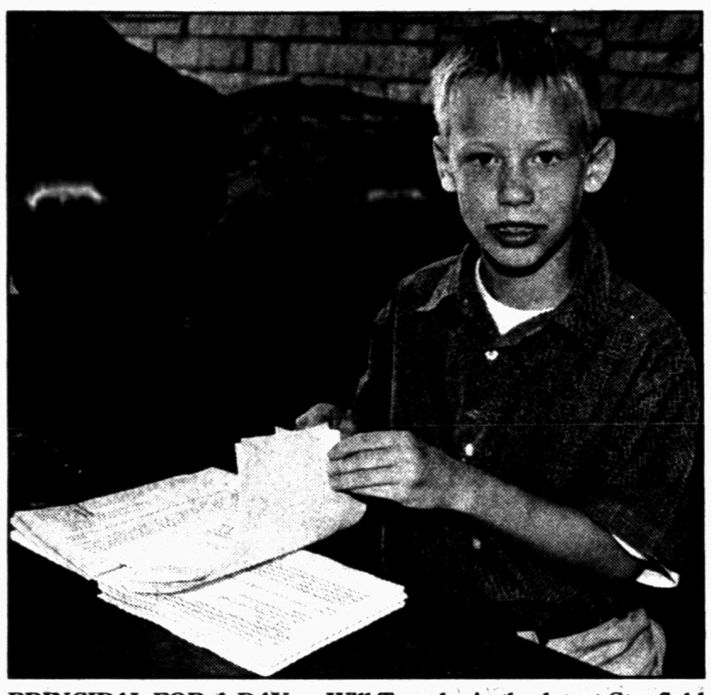
Local officials said they will follow news accounts of Boeing's visit to Denver.

"Denver gets the benefit of seeing how we handled it and how Chicago handled it, and I'm sure they've been talking to Boeing," said Bill Sproull, vice president for economic development of the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce.

"If they dine and schmooze, it'll tell you what's the right way" to impress Boeing, Sproull said. "If it's very businesslike, that'll say something else."

Even if Dallas loses, some local officials said all the attention lavished on Boeing's selection process would help the region.

"There's been a lot of hype around this," said Gary Slagle, mayor of Richardson, a north Dallas suburb. "It's really highlighting each of the three regions. Companies who may be considering expansion or growth will know about us."



PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY — Will Toombs is the latest Stanfield second grader to receive Principal For A Day recognition. To be eligible, he had to have earned 180 points in the Accelerated Reader Program. At the time this photo was taken, Toombs had 220 points. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Protesters call for Dillard's boycott

HOUSTON (AP) — In response to the 1994 death of a black Dillard's customer, which is now being litigated, demonstrators rallied Sunday at the location where Darryl Robinson allegedly received his fatal injuries after police hogtied him.

"Not one black dime at Dillard's," protesters chanted before a group of black clergymen, backed by about 50 demonstrators, announced a 180-day boycott of the Little Rock, Ark.-based store chain and their demands of company officials.

"We have come mobilized to say our people must be respected with dignity, they must be respected as consumers," Minister Quanell X of the New Black Panther Party. "We say to Dillard's that we know what you have been doing to our people.

"We say to Dillard's, we did not come here to pin the tail on the donkey, we came here to pin the tail on these no-good honkeys."

Quanell X, assisted by Nation of Islam Minister Robert Muhammad, National Black United Front chapter leader Kofi Taharka and the Rev. Chris Wright of Grace Ministries, listed some initial demands of Dillard's:

—Develop and enforce an anti-racial profiling policy.

—Reveal minority sales figures for the last seven years, along with the amount spent on advertising specifically targeted at black shoppers.

—Disclose the racial breakdown of Dillard's employees, "all the way from the board of directors to the janitors," Muhammad said.

—Make public the racial breakdown of those arrested at Dillard's since 1994.

Dillard's spokesman Skip Rutherford has said previously the company does not discriminate against any customers. He did not return a call last week regarding the boycott effort.

The protest was staged at the Galleria-area location where Robinson, 37, was arrested and hogtied — restrained by linking hands and feet behind the back — after some witnesses say he demanded $1 million and shouted about demons on June 1, 1994.

The demonstration occurred as a wrongful death lawsuit entered its fourth week. Robinson's relatives are seeking unspecified damages from the department store chain, the city of Houston, five Houston police officers, two Harris County sheriff's deputies and two store guards.

Plaintiffs' witnesses have testified Dillard's personnel and law enforcement used excessive force to control Robinson. The defense has argued Robinson entered the store June 1, 1994, and soon erupted into a scene that demanded he be restrained to prevent him from hurting himself or others.

The five Houston police officers hogtied Robinson to prevent him from striking his head while flailing around, city attorneys said.

Coroners initially ruled that Robinson died of a heart attack, but one later changed the cause of death to asphyxiation. Robinson's family says the man was unable to breathe properly because of the restraints.

In a news release last week, the Houston chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said the group was monitoring the trial and would consult with national officials about any possible actions against the retailer.

Rose Garmond, from suburban Missouri City, was among a handful of prospective black shoppers the group convinced to turn around during the 30-minute rally. She said she was somewhat aware of the Robinson case but did not know it happened at the store.

"They (Dillard's) just ought to do something about this," Garmond said, referring to alleged incidents of racial profiling.

At least one Houston police officer watched the demonstration from afar. Neither police nor Dillard's tried to interfere with the rally.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

The year ahead looks like an exceptionally good one for improved earning potential and adding to your resources. Problems could arise only from a tendency to spend more than you take in.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Don't stall any longer on reciprocating for something nice another has done for you. It's an obligation that is long overdue and one that has put you in a bad light. Correct it.

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.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — It's very important that you define your self-interests today, but it is also imperative that you first discern how they are interwoven with the needs of others. Work them out together.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — There can't be any in-between when it comes to getting involved in another's endeavor today. Either support it all the way or completely back off. You can't have one foot in each camp.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — If you feel you have to buy someone's friendship today, you're involved with the wrong person. When vibes don't blend, it's a fruitless effort.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Keep your hands off of anything that doesn't need fixing today, even if you think it's time for a change. If things are running smoothly, don't gum up the machinery.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Whether you want it to be or not, your attitude will have a much stronger effect on others today than you may realize. Set the tone yourself. You want to be around upbeat people.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Obligations you offered to take on might need your undivided attention today, even if it isn't convenient. Don't look for shortcuts or use half-hearted measures.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Use the powers you possess judiciously today instead of trying to push your weight around. You may get what you want with the latter, but the former will win you respect as well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — It's unlike you, but today it might be too tempting to walk away from what you start, leaving a bigger mess to clean up later. Don't waffle merely because things get complicated.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — By laying down too many rules, you make it impossible for others to follow them. Keep the game plan simple, and you'll get a whole lot more cooperation and productivity.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — The two extremes you possess as a Piscean could have you behaving either very generous or attaching too many strings on that which you give. Find the middle of the road.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Although your powers of observation will be quite acute today, sadly, you could focus them on searching for what's wrong with things, instead of what's right with your world.

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Fords realize need for research

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — Former President Gerald Ford and his wife say their health problems have made them realize the significance of medical research and preventive medicine.

"I think it does ... point out the need and the necessity for recognition of the problems and what you can do to prevent them," said Gerald Ford, speaking at an American Heart Association fund raiser. He suffered a stroke at last year's Republican National Convention.

Betty Ford has battled breast cancer, heart problems and alcoholism. She recalled her public fight with breast cancer in 1974 when the couple was in the White House.

"I was very happy that we all agreed we would be open and honest with the press. I had no idea it would have the impact it did," she said Saturday, speaking at the Gerald R. Ford Museum. "It has been worth so much because it has saved so many lives."

After she overcame her abuse of alcohol and prescription pain relievers, she founded the Betty Ford Center, regarded today as among the nation's top drug and alcohol centers.

—

Lady Jane Grey, who was Queen of England for nine days, and her husband, Lord Dudley, were beheaded in 1554 for treason.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Grapefruit and medicine don't mix

DEAR DR. GOTT: I recently learned that certain medicines should not be taken with grapefruit juice. Is this true? If so, why?

DEAR READER: This is an important health issue that needs more public attention.

The body normally manufactures a wide variety of enzymes whose job it is to metabolize foreign substances that are consumed. One such system, which is present primarily in the liver and intestinal lining, is called cytochrome P-450. Its primary role is to break down ingested medications, including calcium-channel blockers (for hypertension and heart ailments), statin drugs (to reduce high cholesterol levels), Viagra, Valium, certain hormone pills, Coumadin, prednisone, antihistamines, quinidine and many others. The cytochrome enzyme system also denatures the components in grapefruit juice. Therefore, if a patient takes medicine with the juice, the cytochrome is essentially used up, causing the concentration of the medicines to rise as much as 1,500 percent, leading to flushing, light headedness, fainting, or even more serious consequences. As a result of this dangerous interaction (which can also occur if certain medications are consumed simultaneously), medical authorities urge patients not to take medicine with grapefruit juice, and, in fact, such patients should probably not swallow several medicines at the same time. While this reaction is not a problem with all prescription drugs, patients should check with their physicians about which medicines should be taken separately. Because many other medications are being investigated and we don't yet appreciate the full spectrum of possible interactions with grapefruit juice, I admonish my patients to avoid taking medicine within 12 to 24 hours after drinking grapefruit juice or eating the fruit. (For obvious reasons, this restriction means that grapefruit should be virtually eliminated from the diets of patients who take prescription drugs on a daily basis.)

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Consumer Tips on Medicine." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: After my friend fell five feet onto concrete pavement, she was hospitalized for severe pain, even though X-rays failed to reveal a fracture. Three hours after being admitted, she requested pain medication but was told she had to wait her turn. We later learned that one of the patients ahead of her had just been circumcised. What could my friend have done to assert her right to immediate attention?

DEAR READER: Access to immediate attention can be a real problem in today's modern hospitals, where patients are usually very ill. Although doctors write orders for pain medication, the nursing staff is largely responsible for prioritizing which patients get what and when. In many institutions, nurses are in short supply, and patients simply must wait their turn to receive medication. For obvious reasons, nurses try to attend to the sickest and most needy patients first.

Unfortunately, this reality sometimes means that other patients are unavoidably put off. Without demeaning your friend's need for analgesia, I must say that circumcision is painful. Evidently, the nursing staff perceived that this patient took priority over your friend.

I do not believe that she had a "right" to immediate attention; the system is not really this responsive to patients needs. Perhaps she (and other patients) have to realize that staffing problems sometimes result in delays, frustration and anger. If your friend feels truly ill-treated, I suggest that she request a private meeting with the head nurse or nursing supervisor. I believe that through an open and frank discussion, the issue you raised could be resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

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Eddie Van Halen says he has cancer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Guitarist Eddie Van Halen, cofounder of the rock band that bears his name, has confirmed he has cancer and said he is beating the disease.

In a note posted on the official Van Halen Web site, the 44-year-old rocker apologized for his earlier silence on the issue, calling it "a very unique and private matter."

Van Halen said he had been examined by oncologists and head and neck surgeons at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. He and hospital spokeswoman Grace Cheng declined to identify the type of cancer.

"I was told that I'm healthier than ever and beating cancer," Van Halen said in the note posted Thursday. "Although it's hard to say when, there's a good chance I will be cancer-free in the near future."

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Bad weather likely for shuttle landing

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — NASA warned space shuttle Endeavour's astronauts today about bad landing weather as they packed to come home from their space station construction mission.

The shuttle is scheduled to touch down Tuesday morning at Cape Canaveral, Fla.

"Just to let you know, the weather's not good at the cape at the moment. We are expecting it to be poor all week," Mission Control said, adding that the problems were high wind, low clouds and possible rain.

The weather at the backup landing site in Southern California, though, looks good all week. "So we're going to keep that in our hip pocket," Mission Control said.

Endeavour's undocking from the international space station Sunday cleared the way for Russian Soyuz spacecraft carrying two Russian cosmonauts and California millionaire Dennis Tito, the world's first space tourist. The Soyuz docked at Alpha as planned early today.

The seven shuttle astronauts spent today testing flight control services and steering jets and stowed away equipment used over the past 11 days in orbit in anticipation of landing. They accomplished their major objective last week: delivering and installing a billion-dollar robot arm for space station Alpha.

Crippling computer troubles aboard Alpha kept Endeavour there an extra day. Last week the two backups to a command-and-control computer critical to operating the new Canadian-built arm repeatedly failed.

Mission Control engineers scrambled for four days to fix them while the station and Endeavour crews unloaded Italian-built cargo carrier Raffaello of 6,000 pounds of supplies delivered to Alpha. The crews tested the 58-foot arm on Saturday.

Mission Control representative Larry McWhorter said it appeared that the problems centered around failed hard drives on the two backup computers. A spare computer aboard Alpha replaced one of the backups, and its hard drive had been reformatted today. That replacement was being loaded with software to act as a command-and-control computer.

The second backup was operating, but without a hard drive.

NASA said the hard drives contain all information necessary to control the various systems at Alpha and send commands to those systems.

Endeavour is bringing the original backup to Earth so engineers can determine what went wrong.

Bush approach on defense shield may resemble father's

WASHINGTON (AP) — The missile defense favored by President Bush bears a striking resemblance to the approach his father's Pentagon was pursuing a decade ago. The Clinton administration quickly killed it.

Bush will outline his intentions for missile defense in a speech Tuesday that aides say will link the concept to his desire for substantial, perhaps unilateral reductions in the U.S. nuclear missile arsenal.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer refused today to provide a detailed preview of the speech. He noted Bush's remarks during the presidential campaign that the key threat to the United States and its allies is from a small-scale nuclear attack, not the all-out nuclear war that was feared during the Cold War.

"It's a totally different world," Fleischer said.

Rose Gottemoeller, a nuclear weapons expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said today that Bush may be willing to commit the United States to reducing its nuclear arsenal to a range of 1,500 to 2,000 warheads, which compares with the 2,000-2,500 range President Clinton had accepted.

On missile defense, the question Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has been mulling is how to go beyond the current approach that is focused on a land-based intercept system designed to protect just the 50 U.S. states.

One approach reported to be under consideration by Rumsfeld and Bush is known as a "layered" missile defense.

It might combine the Clinton approach, which would use ground-launched rockets to intercept missiles midway through flight, with sea- and space-based weapons that would make the intercept during the hostile missile's ascent phase, or while its rocket plume was still burning inside the atmosphere.

The result would be a missile defense system with global reach.

Obituaries

Clara Womack

1898-2001

ABILENE – Clara May Hayter Womack, a former resident of Snyder, died Friday, April 27, at her home in Lubbock.

Graveside service for Mrs. Womack, 103, is set for 1 p.m. Friday, May 4, in the Abilene City Cemetery under the direction of Franklin-Bartley Funeral Home.

Born Feb. 25, 1898 in the Hobbs Community, she attended school at Hobbs, Snyder and Cisco. She was a graduate of the Britain Training School in Cisco. After graduating from Southern Methodist University in 1921, she taught in the Hobbs school for one year.

She married W. Victor Womack on Oct. 8, 1922. He died in 1987. She also was preceded in death by a son, W. Victor Womack Jr.

A member of the First United Methodist Church, she was a member of the Builder's Sorosis Sunday School Class, Lubbock Woman's Study Club, Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the American Colonies.

Survivors include a daughter, Vondell Byrne of Dallas; a son, Russell Womack of Lubbock; a sister, Connie Tutt of Rotan; a nephew, Dr. Fehrlin E. Tutt of Sugar Land; a niece, Helene Tutt of Snyder; six grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

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Early voting ends Tuesday

Early voters cast 10 ballots this morning at Snyder City Hall to bring the total number of ballots cast early to 98 for the May 5 election.

James Ashley and Francene Allen-Noah are running for mayor, while Terry Martin, John Reed and Carl Moon Jr. are vying for two at-large council posts.

Early voting ends at 5 p.m. Tuesday at city hall.

In Ira, eight more votes were cast to bring the total to 44.

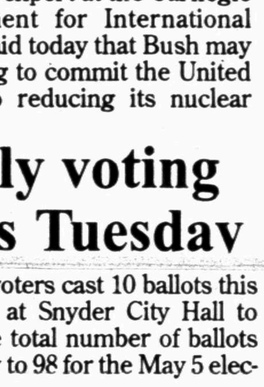
Dirk Dunn, Gilbert Sanchez and Doug White are running for Place 7 on the Ira ISD board, while Fran Farmer, Jeff Kellner and Kirby Sterling are seeking the Place 2 spot.

Shane Smith and Keith Clements are unopposed on the Ira school board.

Voters may cast ballots today and Tuesday until 3 p.m. in the Ira school business office.

The office is closed at noon for lunch.

Vote
FRANCENE ALLEN-NOAH
For Snyder Mayor



Early Voting Ends
Tuesday, May 2

Election Day is Saturday, May 5

Political Ad Paid For By Francene Allen-Noah, 2507 30th, Snyder, Texas, Marsha Lovelady, Treasurer

Man arrested on warrant Saturday

• ***Arrests***

Officers arrested a 38-year-old male at 2:53 p.m. Saturday on an outstanding warrant for no liability insurance and failure to appear.

The man was taken into custody in the 200 block of Birch.

At 2:58 p.m. Saturday, officers arrested a 34-year-old male in the 4400 block of Avenue U for Class C assault, family violence.

A 29-year-old female was taken into custody at 4:51 p.m. Saturday in the 1300 block of 26th Street on outstanding warrants for driving while intoxicated.

A fight that reported at 10:30 Saturday night resulted in three people being arrested.

Taken into custody in the 600 block of 29th Street were three males, ages 30, 38 and 57. All were charged with public intoxication.

At 1:32 a.m. Sunday, officers arrested a 24-year-old male in the 2100 block of Avenue E for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

A 28-year-old female was taken into custody at 1:35 a.m. Sunday for disorderly conduct. She was arrested in the 300 block of 30th Street.

DPS troopers arrested a 31-year-old male in the 2500 block of Avenue I at 2:19 a.m. Saturday for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

At the same location, a 29-year-old male was taken into custody for public intoxication and on an outstanding warrant for assault, family violence. Also a 40-year-old male was arrested for public intoxication.

Officers were called to the parking lot of Pizza Inn at 8:05 p.m. Sunday as a person reported another vehicle hitting his and then leaving the scene.

A short time later, officers located this vehicle and a 20-year-old male was arrested for a minor driving under the influence of alcohol. Officers also filed reports for hit-and-run, plus failure to stop and render aid.

The final arrest over the weekend was made at 11 p.m. Sunday for a 42-year-old male driving while license suspended.

• ***Assault***

Officers were called to the 3000 block of Avenue I at 10:22 p.m. Saturday in reference to an assault. Officers filed a report for Class A assault.

At 11 p.m. Saturday, officers responded to the 3600 block of Avenue U after Cogdell Memorial Hospital ER nurses reported a person had been assaulted. An offense report for assault, family violence was submitted.

• ***Burglary***

Casey Frizzell told deputies at 6:32 p.m. Sunday that the former Inadale Community Center had been burglarized. Items taken include a stereo receiver, CD player and approximately 200 CDs.

• ***Thefts***

Officers were called to the 1100 block of 33rd Street at 11:15 p.m. Saturday as Dana Durst reported her wallet had been stolen. An offense report for Class B theft was submitted.

Dora Little told officers at 12:28 p.m. Sunday that her vehicle had been broken into and missing were CDs and a cellular telephone. A Class B theft report was filed.

• ***Criminal mischief***

Buster Collins told officers at 6:42 a.m. Saturday that a window had been broken on his vehicle while it was parked in the 4400 block of Avenue U.

Brandy Berkley requested to speak to an officer at 5 p.m. Sunday in reference to her vehicle being vandalized Saturday night while it was parked at the American Legion. A report for Class B criminal mischief was submitted.

• ***Gas drive off***

A clerk at Town & Country East told officers at 12:28 a.m. Sunday that a customer left without paying for $16 worth of gasoline.

Births

Shanequa Giles of Snyder announces the birth of her son at 7:49 a.m. on April 28 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. He weighed seven pounds, five ounces.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: April 28-Refugia Rodriquez of Hermleigh; Shanequa Giles; and April 29-Ruby Pullis.

DISMISSALS: Leona Snider, Pablo Romero, Cherie Rosas; and April 29-None.

CENSUS: 38 (Med./Surg.-13, Long-term Care-24)

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

7th grade showcase

Snyder Junior High will host a showcase for incoming 7th graders from 6-7 this evening. Parents and students are asked to meet in the auditorium for a brief meeting and then a building tour. Various departments will have displays and information available.

All-sports banquet meeting

There will be a meeting at 6 p.m. today at the SHS student center to discuss the all-sports banquet on May 3. All club representatives need to be present.

SHS football booster club

Snyder High School football booster club will meet at 7 tonight in the student center. Parents of high school and junior high players are urged to attend. The upcoming fundraiser and the all-sports banquet will be discussed. The public is invited.

Self defense training

Gateway Family Services will offer self defense training from 6-9 p.m. today and Tuesday at WTC's gym. Topics to be covered include date and acquaintance rape, sexual harassment, date rape drugs and stalking. Class size is limited and registration is required by calling 573-4351. There is no cost.

Ira sports banquet

The Ira sports banquet will be at 7 tonight in the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. Tickets are $6.50 each and are available at the Ira school office.

Bible study tapes

Bible study videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "A Prophet Like Moses," followed by "20 Years and Counting."

Grief seminar

A free six-week seminar, "Life After Loss," begins today. Sponsored by Community Care Hospice, sessions will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. each Monday through June 4 in the Cogdell Hospital board room.

Snyder Band Boosters

Snyder Band Boosters will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the band hall. Officers will be elected and plans will be made for the band banquet.

Class of '56 reunion

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

Registration extended

Summer childcare registration for Discovery School for school age children through seven years old has been extended through Wednesday. Summer activities begin May 21. Some spaces are open for ages six weeks to four years. For more information call 573-4770.

West family reading night

West Elementary will have only two more family reading nights this school year. The sessions will be from 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday and also May 10. New sessions have been added. Childcare and refreshments are provided.

Pyron Cemetery meeting

The yearly report for the Pyron Cemetery will be given at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Hermleigh Community Center. A covered dish lunch will be served.

Mayday

The Senior Citizens Center's annual Mayday fundraiser begins at 2 p.m. Saturday. Activities include quilt auction, silent auction, barbecue dinner, crafts and food booths, flower show and antique tractor show. Barbecue tickets are $6 each.

Abiding Life Conference

Michael Wells of Abiding Life Ministries International, will be featured Sunday through Tuesday, May 8, in the Family Life Center at First Baptist Church. Author of "Sidetracked in the Wilderness," sessions are at 6 p.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. weekdays.

Alzheimer support group

The Alzheimer family support group meets at 6 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Snyder Oaks Care Center.

Senior steak supper

Parents of SHS seniors should send $20 for the steak supper and all-night party for the Class of 2001 to P.O. Box 768 in Snyder.

WTC swimming pool

The WTC swimming pool is now open for public use. Lap swimming: M-F 6:30-8 a.m., and 12-1 p.m. Open swimming: M-TH 7-9 p.m. Cost is $2 per person or $50 for a semester pass. The pool is also available for parties on Fridays and Saturdays. For more information, contact Lisa Christensen at 573-8511, ext. 290.

Fewer big ticket items purchased

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumers spent modestly in March but cut back sharply on purchases of big-ticket items such as cars. Incomes rose more quickly than spending.

The Commerce Department reported today that Americans' spending grew by 0.3 percent last month, slightly stronger than the 0.2 percent rise many analysts were predicting.

Incomes went up even more quickly, rising 0.5 percent last month, matching many analysts' expectations.

The spending and income figures aren't adjusted for inflation.

On Wall Street, stocks were buoyed by investors' increasing optimism about the economy. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 58 points and the Nasdaq was up 60 points in the first 50 minutes of trading.

One reason consumer spending hasn't collapsed in the face of a highly volatile stock market and higher energy prices is that most Americans still have jobs, even with the economic slowdown.

Consumer confidence made a comeback in March after five straight months of declines. Confidence dropped sharply again in April.