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WT-Int. Crude - $27.03
WTIC Posted - $23.75
Natural Gas - $3.128

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY

July 30, 2001
Vol. 53 No. 77
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Jessica Carroll

At 6:30 meeting...

City to continue work on 2001-2002 budget

Snyder's city council and administration will continue work on the city's 2001-2002 budget when it meets this evening at 6:30.

The proposed budget is $9,324,167 – up from the present $8,830,040. Included in this figure is pay raises for employees totaling $248,218.

The pay hike issue is expected to again be the focus of tonight's meeting. Some council members have said they have received citizen feedback on the proposed raises, both pro and con.

An alternate distribution plan is expected to be presented this evening.

Councilman Terry Martin said last week that most of the objections he had heard centered on employees receiving $6,000 to $9,000 raises.

Mayor Pro-Tem Vernest Tippens said the public needs to be educated as to why the raises are necessary and where cuts have been made to fund the increases. Earlier, staff had indicated that the raises are necessary to stem a 16 percent employee turnover rate.

To date, there have been no other proposals submitted by council members suggesting alternative pay raises.

The city's director of finance, Jeanne Johnson, said last week that $172,247 of the increase could be funded from personnel cuts from last year that eliminated the positions of city engineer, community service supervisor, a municipal court clerk and the secretary in the planning and zoning office.

In addition to these reductions in staff, Johnson said $75,971 had been cut from the budget in other areas.

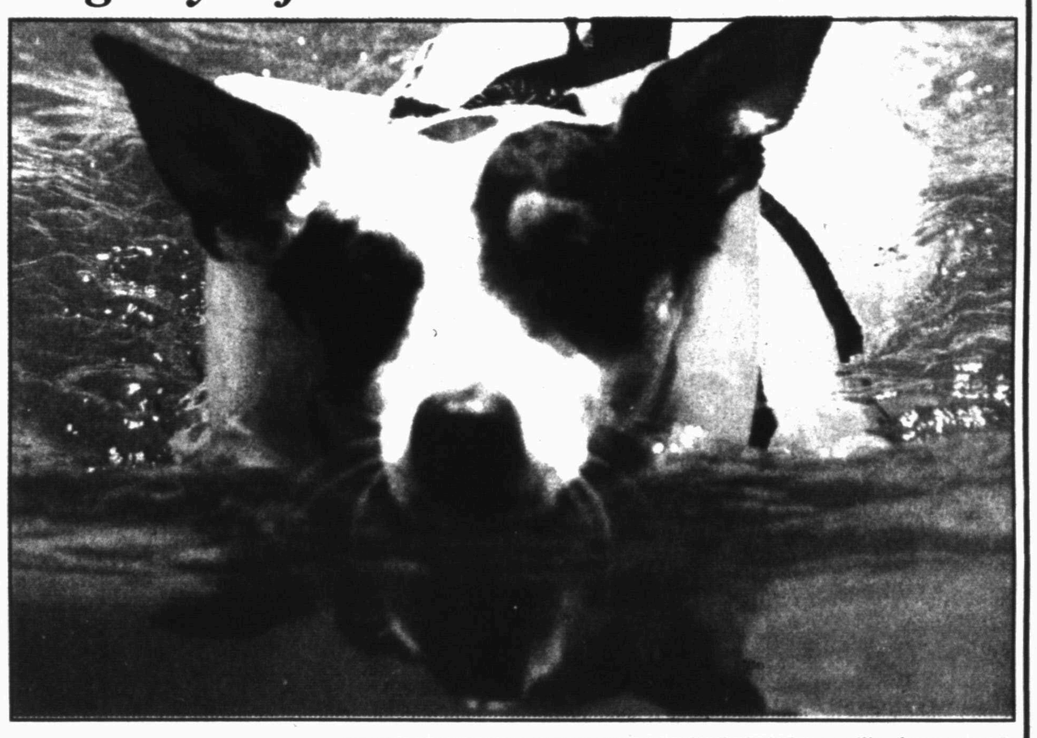
Johnson has said numerous times during the council's budget discussions that the raises fall well within the range of communities similar to Snyder. "We've set the salaries at average – nothing more."

The council is proposing keeping all utility rates the same, except for a raise in water rates that will be the pass-through costs from the Colorado River Municipal Water District.

Figures are expected to be released this week from the water district as to what percentage rates will increase.

The Odessa and Big Spring city councils have projected their water rates could increase by 25 to 30 cents per month due to higher rates from CRMWD.

Dog days of summer...





TAKING A DIP — Bandit, a three-year-old miniature rat terrier, took a swim at Lake Colorado City this weekend to escape the summer heat. Area temperatures hovered around 100 degrees during the weekend and are expected to rise as high this week. (Staff Photos by Brian Brisendine)

Two-year old dies of heat

Final ruling on youth found in car is pending

FORT WORTH (AP) — A toddler who was alone for at least 15 minutes in his family's hot car in Arlington died today, according to the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's office.

Relatives found two-year-old Abdulziz Abufayyod in his family's car at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Arlington police Lt. James Hawthorne said.

"The little boy was reported to be unconscious and sweating profusely," Hawthorne said. The toddler's parents and his 11-month-old brother were attending services at a mosque when he apparently became separated from his parents, Hawthorne said.

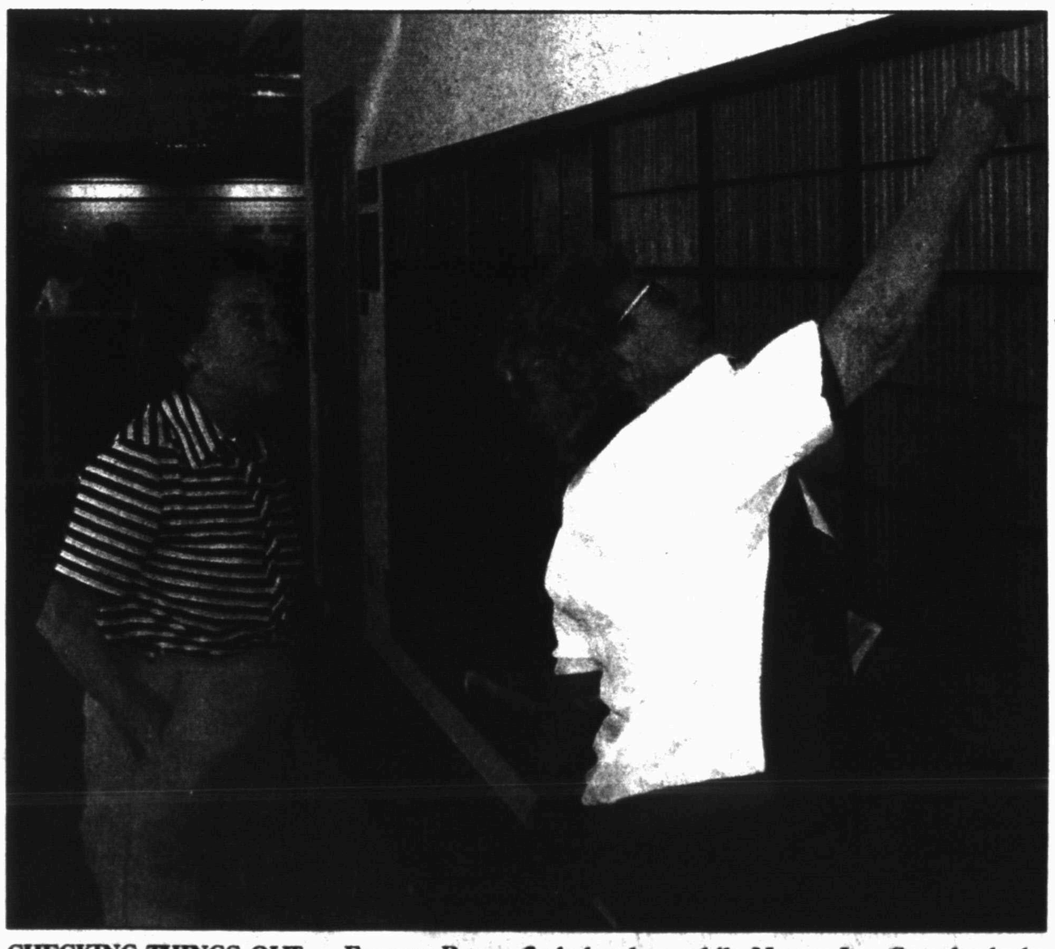
"The two-year-old managed to get back outside in the parking lot and somehow got in the family car," he said.

The car was unlocked, Hawthorne said. Police continue to investigate.

The child was taken to Arlington Memorial Hospital. He was transferred to Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth where he died this morning.

The medical examiner's office said on its Web site that the final results on the manner and cause of death are pending.

Temperatures in the Dallas-Fort Worth area on Friday at 2:30 p.m. ranged from 93 to 95, the National Weather Service said.



CHECKING THINGS OUT — Frances Brown finds her box, while Mayme Lee Crowder looks on this morning at the new post office. This is the first day the new building has been open for business. (SDN Staff Photo)

Electrical deregulation pilot program to start

AUSTIN (AP) — After three delays, the state's entrance into the deregulated electric market begins Tuesday.

At 12:01 a.m., officials of the state's electrical grid planned to begin switching customers who signed up for Texas' electric deregulation pilot program to new electric competitors.

The Legislature created the pilot program to give power companies several months to test their systems before full-scale deregulation begins Jan. 1 for most of the state.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which manages the grid, gave the go-ahead last week.

"We have done all of the testing, so have our market participants," said ERCOT Chief Operating Officer Sam Jones. "We just need to get it done and get down the road."

Deregulation for the first time will let customers choose their electric provider much like they select a long-distance telephone carrier.

Customers who signed up for the program should receive the first bills from their new power company in late August or early September, depending on the company's billing cycle, said ERCOT spokeswoman Jennifer Taylor.

Companies began recruiting customers in February.

Under the program, up to five percent of electric customers can switch power companies.

The pilot program starts nearly two months after its first scheduled start date of June 1. The numerous delays were caused by computer problems. Some of the problems included glitches in the settlement and billing processes, and problems in communicating service-change orders from electric providers to ERCOT's central facility in Austin.

Officials believe the state will be ready for full-scale deregulation next year, when all customers of investor-owned utilities such as TXU, Reliant and CPL will be able to switch.

While the delays were unfortunate, "we think waiting until all the systems are ready will let us provide good customer service," said Eleanor Scott, spokeswoman for Austin-based Green Mountain Energy.

ERCOT officials are confident the program will run as planned.

"Of course, there are some things that you can't work out in a practice mode," Taylor said. "You just have to ahead and launch the pilot program."

Local electrician burned while on Anadarko lease

An employee of Southern Electric sustained burns on his right arm and left hand while working on an Anadarko lease this morning.

Weldon McFatridge, 34, was transported from the lease site by Snyder EMS and treated in Cogdell Memorial Hospital's emergency room. He was later transferred by the ambulance service to Lubbock's University Medical Center where his condition is listed as good.

The accident was reported at 9:10 a.m.

Torrential rains are flooding Virginias

MULLENS, W.Va. (AP) — Hundreds of Virginians and West Virginians fled to higher ground as a torrential downpour triggered flooding and mudslides in the area for the third time in a month. Two people were killed.

"We came out with just the clothes on our backs," Tyrone Pollard of Kistler, W.Va., said after he and his family were evacuated Sunday. "If it wasn't breathing, we left it behind."

West Virginia Gov. Bob Wise canceled his plans today and headed south to areas hit by the flooding. The state had more than 1,400 National Guardsmen working on flood relief.

Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore declared a state of emergency for several counties in southwestern Virginia and activated more than 100 National Guard troops.

The body of a 3-year-old boy was recovered from the Tug Fork River just outside Davy, W.Va. The boy had been playing outside of his home and was swept into a drainage culvert.

In southwest Virginia, a 77-year-old man was killed Sunday when his mobile home was washed away by a flash flood.

ASK US

Q—What was the salary of the city manager, finance director and utilities director in 1991 and in 2001 (before the approved raise)?

A—CM $53,604 and $64,656; FD $37,080 and $44,844; UD 34,020 and $41,100. Information had to be obtained through a formal Open Records request.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 98 degrees; low, 76; high Sunday, 101; low, 76; 7 a.m. reading Monday, 82; .01 of an inch precipitation; total for 2001, 9.45 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, mostly clear, low upper 70s. Tuesday, mostly sunny, high 100-103, S wind 10-20 mph. Tuesday night, mostly clear, low upper 70s.



Joe Morin
Sunny

Sunset:
8:41 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:01 a.m.
Of 210 days in 2001, the sun has shone 198 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Every man has three characters — that which he exhibits, that which he has, and that which he thinks he has.

—Alphonse Karr

JULY 30 2001

Longtime protester's case on appeal

HOUSTON (AP) — Pete Arnold's ex-wife and his neighbors agree he's mentally disturbed and a real pain in the neck, but say Harris County officials went too far in prosecuting him for arson after he set a trash fire on his own property.

An accomplished harasser, Arnold has been jailed for such things as trying to spray paint on then-Police Chief Lee Brown, stalking former Harris County Sheriff Johnny Klevenhagen with signs accusing him of being a transvestite, and accusing a female judge of bad personal hygiene.

People who know Arnold say feuding is his nature. He is an expert at perceiving wrongdoing, people say, and of harassing that perceived wrongdoer.

Further, Arnold feels compelled to point out the shortcomings of public officials.

It was not always so.

Growing up in Bellaire, Arnold was an Eagle Scout, a high school football player and a Golden Gloves boxer.

His brothers and sisters became engineers, chemists, accountants. He joined the Marine Corps and went to Vietnam.

He came home after his honorable discharge in 1968 and began selling cars, which segued into a job as a NASCAR driver.

In 1971, he married. In 1978, he was divorced. But By the early '70s, it was apparent to all that Pete Arnold was ill. And though divorced from him, Barbara Arnold has never stopped taking care of her ex-husband. As he acted upon his delusions and compulsions, taking care of him became a full-time job.

According to lawyer and psychologist Floyd Jennings, who has treated Pete Arnold, symptoms of his mental disorder are "bizarre delusions and beliefs of a conspiracy against him."

Arnold, who has been described as bipolar, paranoid, schizophrenic and delusional, is best known for his vitriolic protests, targeting every official who ever had a hand in processing the many charges filed against him over the past 20 years.

But more recently, Arnold was convicted of felony arson after he set a trash fire on his southeast Houston property that, which burned onto neighboring land.

He had been feuding with a contractor who was working on the neighboring property.

Arnold was convicted of arson Feb. 5, 1999, and received a five-year prison term, despite repeated protests from his "victims" that he did no harm and they did not wish him prosecuted or imprisoned.

The conviction was appealed to the First Court of Appeals in Houston, saying in part that Arnold should have had a competency hearing and had ineffective counsel. That appeal was denied.

The case now is currently being appealed to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

"They want to send him to prison for being Pete Arnold," Arnold's ex-wife told the Houston Chronicle.

Arnold has twice been found incompetent in court hearings. He has had about 16 psychiatric hospitalizations in the past 20 years, 14 of them involuntary. He has drawn Social Security income for mental disability for 20 years.

Arnold's current trouble began in July 1998, on six acres he owns. For 10 years he has visited the property regularly and burned trash and brush that collect there, Barbara Arnold said.

The property neighbors that of the Cullen Missionary Baptist Church, pastored by the Rev. Robert Jefferson.

In July 1998, workers were clearing part of the church's property in preparation for construction and Pete Arnold was feuding with the contractor, Roy Owens, about brush and debris left on Arnold's property.

Arnold dressed up in a wig and a Hawaiian-print dress and carried a sign up and down the street in front of the property.

"When he found a toilet dumped in a ditch, he sat down on it and pretended to read a newspaper, just to get attention from the people driving by," his ex-wife said.

On July 17, 1998, Pete Arnold built a trash fire on the corner of his property. The fire crossed into neighboring land and burned high enough that the pastor's daughter called the Houston fire department.

The resulting report labeled it a trash fire involving no structure, and placed the estimated dollar loss at "none."

The fire was referred to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, as a matter of routine, because it was believed to have involved property belonging to a black church. Three days after the fire, an ATF investigator visited the site and talked to witnesses, generating a report that characterized the incident as a brush fire on church property, with no structure involved.

A day later, Pete Arnold was charged with felony arson.

"I was shocked when I found out he had been charged with arson," Jefferson said. "It was a trash fire in the ditch."

Finding himself named as the complainant in the case, Jefferson called and wrote letters to the district attorney's office saying he never complained about the fire.

More than 200 members of Jefferson's congregation signed a petition stating, "Pete Arnold did not burn any part of our church and should not go to prison. We did not prosecute or ask for him to be prosecuted on our behalf."

"They said we didn't have any say in the matter; it was a crime against the state," Jefferson said. "It's silly. This man has been burning trash back there for years."

Dallas police resist change to small unmarked vehicles

DALLAS (AP) — The wave of the future for local governments in Texas is to small, fuel-efficient vehicles — a change that has some Dallas police officers grumbling.

According to the Texas Clean Fleet Program, at least half of all new city fleet vehicles must produce lower emissions. After September 2002, the law will require that at least 70 percent of light-duty vehicles and 50 percent of heavy-duty vehicles meet those standards.

In Dallas, when the newest fleet of unmarked police cars hit Dallas streets last summer, veterans who had developed wider girths over the years were skeptical about squeezing themselves and their supplies in and out of the 136 teal, white and silver Honda Civics powered by environmentally friendly natural gas.

Officers also complained about the limited range of the pressurized fuel tanks — typically about 80 miles per fill-up. Police Chief Terrell Bolton and his command staff decided not to use the vehicles because of their limited trunk space.

Despite the complaints, more of the alternative fuel cars are on the way to the police fleet. The Dallas-Fort Worth area's status as a pollution non-attainment area puts the city under restrictions that require a portion of all city vehicles to produce low emissions.

The Hondas have found roles mostly in administrative police work and on jobs that don't require transporting prisoners and witnesses, Dallas police Sgt. Mike Flusche told The Dallas Morning News.

Senior Cpl. Glenn White, president of the Dallas Police Association, said the size and range of the natural gas-powered Hondas make them ineffective for many types of police work.

"A 1-year-old child will fit comfortably in the back seat, but anything more is difficult," White said. "And you've got to figure every 80 miles that you have to be near a natural gas station."

In Texas, Dallas-Fort Worth, El Paso and Houston fall under the pollution restrictions. To comply, cities can purchase vehicles that use natural gas or propane, or hybrid vehicles that alternately use gasoline and electricity. Some new gasoline engines operate efficiently enough to meet the same pollution standards.

Dewayne Jackson, assistant director of fleet operations in Dallas, said the city already exceeds the state's requirements for purchasing clean-burning vehicles.

"Every opportunity we have to buy a vehicle that runs on clean fuel, we ought to buy it," he said. "That's the way we've always approached it."

The city is also experimenting with 10 Toyota Prius sedans that operate alternately on gasoline and electricity. The small white sedans will be used by the Fire Department and equipment and building services.

Dallas police officials say they remain committed to using low-emission vehicles, but this year they've chosen to purchase 26 full-size sedans that run on alternative fuel.

Flusche, who oversees the police fleet, said the new cars still have a shorter mileage range than gasoline-powered cars, but the extra room of a full-sized sedan will make them more useful.

When the new cars go into service later this year, 162 of the department's fleet of 394 unmarked police cars will be clean-burning vehicles. Officers also use pickups, vans and paddy wagons that run on natural gas, and officials said they plan to continue replacing aging gas-powered vehicles with ones that burn cleaner fuels.

The department plans to purchase 20 more natural gas cars and retire an equal number of gasoline vehicles in the next budget year.

Unlike the year-old Hondas, the new modified Ford Crown Victoria sedans will be equipped with hidden police lights and radio equipment so they can be used for more than just administrative police work.

The cars are sitting idle temporarily because Ford has issued a recall on the seatbelts. The price of natural gas has gone up about 30 cents since July 2000, but at about $1.04 a gallon, the fuel still is less expensive than gasoline.

Five stations in Dallas and 21 stations in the Dallas-Fort Worth area sell compressed natural gas, officials said. The natural gas cars have such a short range because the fuel tanks hold only about five gallons. Filling the tank is more like putting air in a tire, and the tanks have less capacity in warm weather, Flusche said.

events

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — One 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 $20 (M) million

The ticket was sold in Texarkana

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 4-21-33-46-47-54

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $4 (M) million.

Pick 3

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

9-8-2

Large crowd turns out for columnist

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (AP) — Syndicated columnist Bob Greene hadn't forgotten about a column he wrote almost 10 years ago about North Platte's World War II canteen.

North Platte residents hadn't forgotten, either. The Chicago Tribune writer was greeted by a large crowd at a welcoming ceremony when he arrived last week.

"I thought there must be some other event happening. I couldn't believe that some of these people drove across the state to see me," Greene said Friday.

Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Sharp Image Energy Inc. will drill the No. 2-A Ride South, a 7,200-foot wildcat located 10 miles southwest of Snyder. Location is in Section 158, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Rocker A Operating Co. will drill the No. 20-B T.R. Martin in the Corazon field, four miles northeast of Fluvanna. Planned for a depth of 2,500 feet, drill site is in Section 574, Block 97, H&TC survey.

D. Gail Latimer Enterprises has completed the No. 2 Mary Jane in the Tonto field, 11 miles northeast of Snyder. The well was finaled to produce six barrels of oil and 182 barrels of water. Perforations were from 5,005-012 feet, and location is in Section 265, Block 2, H&TC survey.

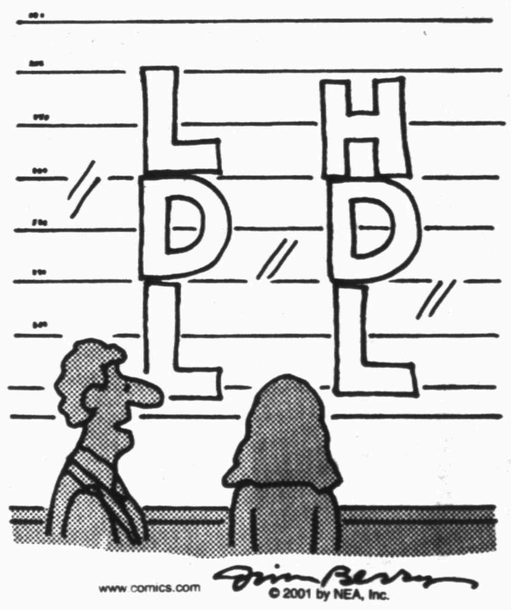
Kent County

Patton Exploration Inc. will drill the No. 1 Nichols-Zenker, a 4,400-foot wildcat located 17 miles south of Jayton. Drill site is in Section 358, Block 2, H&TC survey.

Howard County

Devon SFS Operating will drill the No. 4-25 Texaco, an 8,300-foot wildcat located five miles south of Coahoma. Location is in Section 25, Block 31, T1S, T&P survey.

Berry's World



"DO YOU THINK YOU CAN POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THE BAD CHOLESTEROL UP THERE?"

FOOD HANDLER SEMINAR

On Thursday, August 2, 2001, the Scurry County Health Unit will be sponsoring a Food Handler Seminar. The class will be held in Room A at the Scurry County Coliseum. The morning class will be from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and the afternoon class will be from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Both classes will cover the same material so shift workers can attend.

Tom Lackey R.S., Food & Drug Investigator with the Texas Dept. of Health located in Abilene, will be our speaker for the seminar. We strongly urge owners, managers, or other persons in charge of any and all food establishments to attend. We will address the Inspection Report Form E-5.

All persons who are interested in learning safe food handling practices in public places are encouraged to attend. The purpose of this seminar is to create a consciousness of constant sanitary practices in storage, preservation, and serving of food and beverages.

Date Book

Monday, July 30, 2001

Today is the 211th day of 2001 and the 40th day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1844, the New York Yacht Club was founded.

On this day in 1942, President Roosevelt signed an act establishing the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). More than 80,000 women served in the WAVES in World War II.

On this day in 1975, labor leader Jimmy Hoffa disappeared. He was last seen outside a restaurant near Detroit, Mich.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Emily Bronte (1818-1848), writer; Thorstein Veblen (1857-1929), economist; Henry Ford (1863-1947), auto manufacturer; Casey Stengel (1890-1975), baseball manager; Paul Anka (1941-), singer-songwriter, is 60; Arnold Schwarzenegger (1947-), actor, is 54; Chris Mullin (1963-), basketball player, is 38.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1908, George Schuster came in first in the first automobile race around the world.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Chop your own wood, and it will warm you twice." — Henry Ford

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (July 27) and full moon (Aug. 4).

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British forces invaded Washington in 1814 and proceeded to set fire to the Capitol and the White House.

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Published each Sunday morning and each evening, except Saturday, by Snyder Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 College Ave., Snyder, Texas 79549.

Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Snyder, Texas, Publication Number USPS611-520.

POSTMASTER send change of address to P.O. Box 949, Snyder, Texas, 79550.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier in Snyder, $9.25 per month.

By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $88.80 balance of Texas and out of state $113.85.

Roy McQueen, Publisher
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2 au pair firms fight new regulations

BOSTON (AP) — Two au pair agencies have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars lobbying against regulations proposed after a British au pair was convicted of shaking a baby to death.

Cambridge, Mass.-based EF Au Pair and Stamford, Conn.-based Au Pair in America have spent $256,000 lobbying Massachusetts lawmakers since 1997, according to a review of campaign finance records by The Associated Press.

"They're targeting one specific form of child care that is a reaction to a very specific case," said Nancy Walter, a spokeswoman for EF Au Pair, which placed Louise Woodward with the family of 8-month-old Matthew Eappen.

Woodward, now 22 and a London law student, was convicted in 1997 of murdering Matthew when he was in her care. A judge later downgraded the conviction to manslaughter and she was freed after serving 279 days in jail.

Bills under consideration in the Massachusetts legislature would require criminal background checks and additional training for foreign child care workers.

EF Au Pair and Au Pair in America argue that a patchwork of state regulations would make it difficult to do business nationwide.

"This is already a heavily regulated program," said William Gertz, executive vice president of Au Pair in America. "We feel strongly that the federal regulations are sufficient."

The au pair program, started in 1986, is overseen by the U.S. State Department. After the Eappen case, the department tightened training requirements and now mandates courses on stress management and shaken baby syndrome.

Still, some Massachusetts lawmakers say more regulation is needed to guarantee au pairs know what they're getting into.

"If the young people knew they were going to wash the baby's clothes and feed the baby and take care of the baby, they might think twice," said state Rep. Marie Parente, who sponsored one of the bills that would tighten regulations.

Parente's bill mandates more training and brings au pair agencies under the control of the state Office of Child Care Services, which licenses child care and day care centers.

Au pair agencies are not now licensed by the state.

Another bill, sponsored by Rep. Michael Cahill, would require monthly meetings between au pairs and representatives of placement agencies to ensure the au pairs are not overwhelmed.

"I would err on the side of protecting children from abuse and neglect and protecting these young women from being exploited as workers," Cahill said.

The bills are currently before the joint House-Senate Human Services Committee. In 1999, the committee approved Parente's bill, but it was not acted on by the full House and Senate.

The lobbying effort by au pair agencies against the regulations doesn't surprise some observers of the Massachusetts Legislature.

"It's much easier to block a law than the pass one," said Ken White of the government watchdog group Common Cause. "Unless you've got huge momentum on your side, all it takes is one powerful monied interest to block progress."

The Eappen family has an unlisted phone number and could not be reached for comment.

Under the State Department au pair program, au pairs are given 12-month visas to stay and work in the country. Host families provide meals, lodging, a salary of $139 per week and a $500 educational stipend.

Au Pair in America and EF Au Pair charge families a fee of more than $5,000 for each au pair, in addition to the salary and stipend, to cover the costs of airfare, training, insurance, screening and support services.

On the Net:
EF Au Pair: http://www.efaupair.org
Au Pair in American: http://www.aupairinamerica.com
State Department: http://exchanges.state.gov

Agassi puts money on genes

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Andre Agassi has put his money where his genes are.

After beating rival Pete Sampras to win the Mercedes-Benz Cup, Agassi joked that the baby he and Steffi Graf are expecting would beat a future Sampras offspring.

"I've got a hundred bucks that says my baby beats Pete's baby," Agassi told the crowd Sunday at the Los Angeles Tennis Center.

Agassi and Graf are expecting a baby boy in December. Graf dominated women's tennis with a lethal forehand before retiring in 1999.

"I've got genetics on my side," Agassi later told reporters.

Sampras married actress Bridgette Wilson in September. They have yet to start a family, but Sampras believes his 6-foot-1 height combined with Wilson's 5-9 stature would be an advantage over the 5-11 Agassi and 5-9 Graf.

"The only thing is, if I have a little girl, I could be in trouble," Sampras said, noting that parental tennis abilities don't always influence their offspring's success.

"My parents didn't pick up a racket and I turned out all right."

Retailers beef up denim offerings; glut of jeans likely across the country

NEW YORK (AP)— Let the denim wars begin.

At a time when apparel sales are anemic, manufacturers and retailers, particularly those catering to teens, are reaching back to the past for fashion's latest fix: denim, particularly jeans.

Two years ago, denim made headlines when designers including Oscar de la Renta played up denim on everything from coats to ballgowns. It also achieved renewed status at Gucci, which showed jeans with adorned hemlines that incited a slew of knockoffs.

Now, denim has been redefined for back-to-school, with the focus on low-rise jeans, and a multitude of washes, styles and embellishments. That includes jeans that are sandblasted or bleached, studded or frayed. And there are plenty of mini skirts.

Department store retailers ranging from moderate-priced Kohl's to upscale Saks Fifth Avenue are filling their racks with denim while apparel chains including Gap, Pacific Sunwear of California Inc. and J. Crew are increasing their offerings. Even Limited Inc.'s Lerner New York, which in the past only offered a few denim styles, has joined its rivals.

Denim veterans including Levi Strauss & Co. and Diesel have increased their selection too.

All this activity means consumers will have plenty of choices. But clearly, the industry's zealousness over denim is cause for concern among analysts who fear a denim glut will result in price wars that will only further erode retailers' profits.

"We are witnessing a 15 to 20 percent buildup in denim at stores, but only expect a 10 percent increase in denim sales this fall," said Richard Jaffe, an analyst at UBS Warburg. "You are going to see a lot of leftover denim — at all prices."

"Retailers are digging in their heels, refusing to be the first ones to break price," said John Morris, an analyst at Gerard Klauer Mattison. "But when one does, they all will."

Already, a recent visit to Gap's store in midtown Manhattan found prices on a few denim styles, from capri retro cut to low-rise flared jeans, cut in half.

The good news is that many analysts believe the back-to-school season will get a big boost from the tax rebates that have started arriving in consumers' mailboxes.

Still, jeans aren't exactly unique. Cotton Inc., the industry trade group, reports that the average American owns about seven pairs of jeans.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Mother-daughter communication marred by static over pregnancy

DEAR ABBY: My 20-year-old daughter, "Justine," has gotten pregnant. She is not married and lives with her boyfriend, his mother and brother. I did not raise her this way.

My problem is she asked me how many baby showers I plan to give her. I told her none. She asked me why. I told her it is not appropriate to give a baby shower "under the circumstances." The few choice words she had for me were so bad I hung up on her.

Abby, her boyfriend doesn't work, and half the time neither does Justine. I was so angry I forgot to tell her that her father and I would make sure she and her baby had what they needed. Should I try to make amends and give her a baby shower? — **GRANDMA-TO-BE IN ALABAMA**

DEAR GRANDMA-TO-BE: First, it is improper for a mother to give a shower for her married or unmarried daughter. It should be hosted by a friend, an aunt or a cousin.

Second, whether you approve or not, the baby is a fact of life. So accept it, and try to be a little less judgmental. Your daughter and grandchild will need your support emotionally, and probably financially.

Third, your husband should have a heart-to-heart talk with the young man. He must be told what is expected of him as a man, breadwinner and father-to-be because it appears he hasn't a clue.

**

DEAR ABBY: I hold strong beliefs about historic preservation and zero population growth. You could call me an activist. I am generally against any sort of land development. However, I recognize and respect that others — including my longtime boyfriend, "Brian" — do not share my beliefs.

We recently attended a small dinner party. A young couple we had just met were enthusiastically discussing their purchase of an undeveloped plot of land in one of our city's oldest neighborhoods. They are planning to build a new home.

I smiled and said nothing. Brian, however, volunteered the fact that I believe it's unethical to develop virgin land, and that people who have the means to do it should restore old homes instead.

While I tried to demur, everyone at the table insisted I explain myself. I was mad at my boyfriend, and later told him he was rude to the couple for putting a damper on their happiness — and to me, for forcing me to assume an adversarial position with people I barely knew. Brian says we're all mature adults and we should be able to have an engaging discussion about such topics without hurt feelings or anger. What do you say, Abby? Sign me ... **TOO SENSITIVE(?)**

DEAR (NOT) TOO SENSITIVE: Your boyfriend may have been bored and wanted some more lively conversation, but it's no excuse for putting you on the spot. Had you wanted to air your beliefs, you would have done so. He had no right to speak for you.

**

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I are considering living on a sailboat together. He is my true love. We're not yet married, but perhaps we will be in the near future. We get along really great, but I am not confident that living together would be a good idea. Our parents would hate us. What should I do? — **MOTION IN THE OCEAN**

DEAR MOTION: Listen to your intuition. Keep your feet firmly planted on dry ground, or else you could find yourself not only in over your head, but up a creek without a paddle.

**

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

**

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder



Monday, July 30, 2001

The quirks of a pro-am

By Phillip Alder

Pro-am competitions are well-known in many fields: golf and tennis immediately come to mind. These events are usually organized to raise money for charity. In bridge, however, more often it is to give the ams a chance to partner a pro and encourage them to become more involved in the tournament world. (Some are charity events, though.) The attitude of most pros is that they get a lot of enjoyment from bridge, they remember when they were beginners, and they wish to put something back into the game, to inspire others. Yet it is an evening of unpredictability. This week, let's look at six deals from a tournament in New York City in 1989.

At my table, against four spades, the opening lead was a diamond; and East switched correctly to a heart. We were therefore plus 620. How do you think we scored in matchpoints, when that result was compared with the other North-South pairs?

Note that East-West is laydown for 11 tricks in either red suit. Yet this result was worth only one-third of the matchpoints. At most tables, South played in four spades. One declarer won all 13 tricks, two collected 12 tricks, and three took 10. The top North-South score was for three no-trump by South making all 13 tricks, presumably after an auction of 3 CLUBS-3 NT and a spade lead! There were three embarrassing results. At two tables, the declarer — the pro! — went one down in four spades. And one went two down in five spades. How?

My guess is that West led the club jack and declarer carelessly cashed the spade ace at trick two.

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North 07-30-01
♠ J 10
♥ 9 7 6
♦ 9
♣ A Q 7 6 5 4 2

West
♠ 9 8 7 5
♥ A J 3
♦ K 10 5 2
♣ J 10

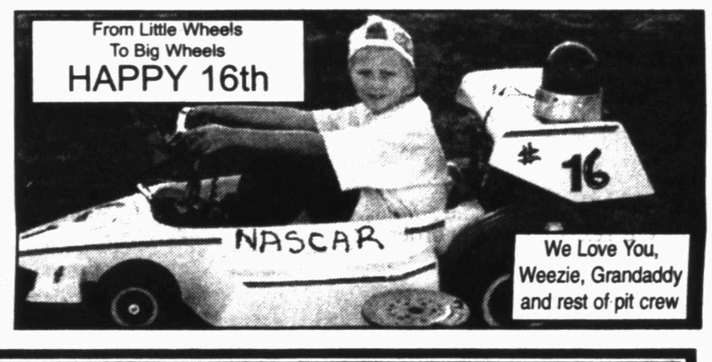
East
♠ —
♥ Q 10 5 4 2
♦ A J 8 7 6 3
♣ 8 3

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

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
		3 ♣	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♦ 2



WAREHOUSE FURNITURE

STOREWIDE JULY SALE

Final Sale Ends Tuesday, July 31, 2001
STOREWIDE SALE ON ALL LIVING ROOMS - BEDROOMS - DINING ROOMS - RECLINERS - CHAIRS - MATTRESS SETS

6 PC FAMILY ROOM GROUP
Sofa, Chair, Rocker, 3 All Wood Tables. Reg. $599.95
SALE $348

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3 PC GLASS TOP TABLE SET
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SALE $49

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In Rich Pine Finish - Slight Damage
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Sturdy Black Metal Frame With Deep Cushiony Pad Reg. $249.95
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SALE $99

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In Rich Decorator Cover, Loveseat has Slight Damage, Reg. $1199.95
SALE $598

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STORE HOURS: 10 A.M. TO 6 P.M. MON. - SAT.


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DANCE ON BROADWAY
Miss Tamara's Dance Studio
25th Street & Ave. R (Formerly Judy's Dance Studio)
•Tap • Jazz • Ballet
Ages 3-Adult, Registration Mid August
Classes Start September 4
Call 725-1010
(Local)

one extreme event
one exciting day ...
Sat. Aug4
Live At The House
and the rap group
URBAN SOLDIERZ
Doing it up for Snyder!
2524 Ave R.(at the square)
11:00am * free
info- 573-6510

JUL 30 2001 1

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



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THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



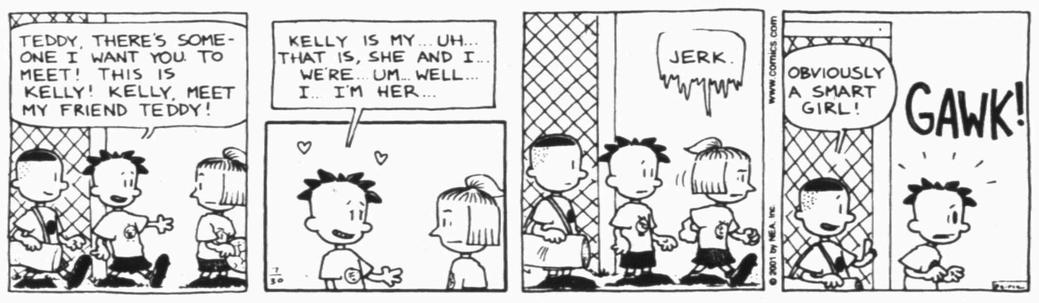
FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



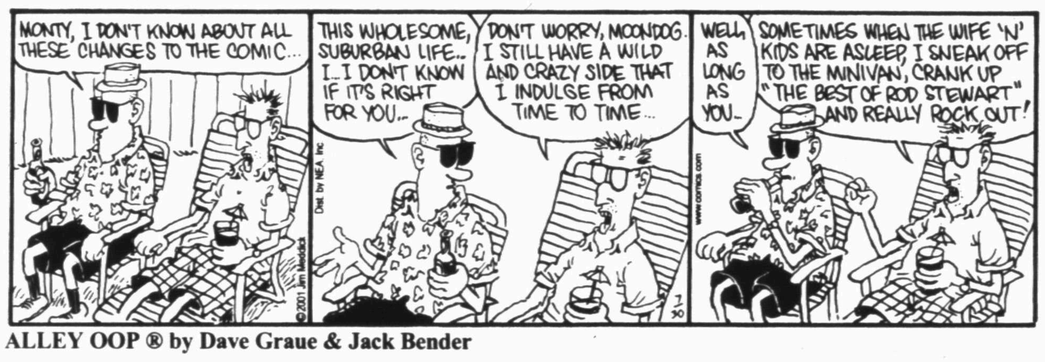
ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



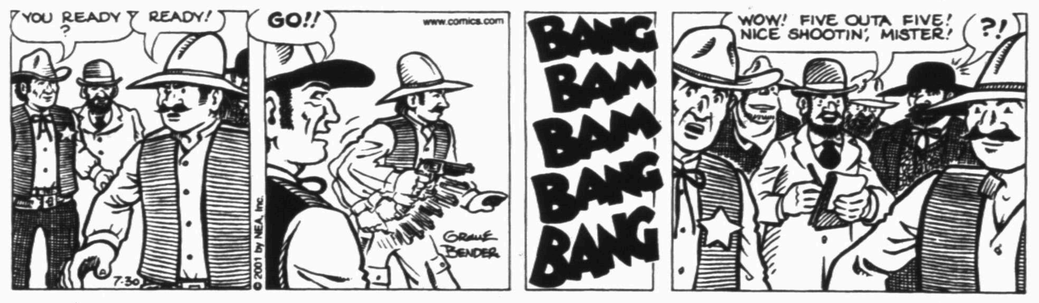
BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"It's not my fault we're short of beds."

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Odor
6 Suit part
10 Lots and lots
12 Purplish red
14 Young lady
15 Boxing strategy
16 Compass pt.
17 Poetic time
19 Cell residents
20 Life jacket (2 wds.)
23 Friend of Snow White
26 Look at
27 Mas' guys
30 Solar-system model
32 He'll take you out
34 Kind of carriage
35 Plant with showy flowers
36 Air-quality org.
37 Roman 1,051
39 Of Yucatan natives
40 More suspicious
42 — Beach, FL
45 Permit to
46 "Verb" end
49 Slow musical movement
51 Real-estate agent, e.g.
54 Using a stopwatch
55 Small hole
56 Diplomacy
57 Clear the slate

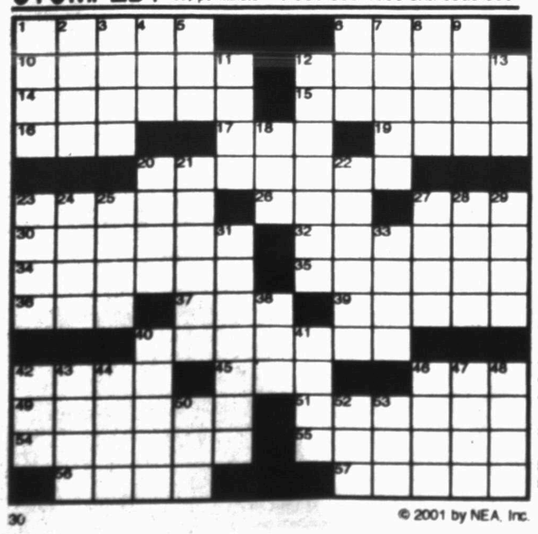
DOWN

1 A few
2 — and groan
3 Singer Adams
4 Atty.'s deg.
5 Director Spike
6 Actor Heflin
7 Construct
8 "And — — bed"
9 Type of meeting or hall
11 Large knife
12 Wealthy
13 Negatives
18 Female sheep
20 TV horse (2 wds.)
21 Like some ski chalets
22 Type of seed
23 Apportion
24 Woman's garment
25 Wild buffalo
27 "Ester" start
28 Opera fare
29 Comedian Laurel
31 Christmas item (2 wds.)
33 Scorch
38 Indignation
40 Valid reasoning
41 "Let — —" (Beatles' song)
42 Tank
43 Work on "Time"
44 Incarnation of Vishnu
46 Sooner St.
47 Views
48 Art deco illustrator
50 Profit on bank acct.
52 Reuben bread
53 Above (poet.)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

O	X	C	A	R	T		O	S	W	A	L	D
B	A	R	N	E	Y		C	O	O	L	E	R
E	V	A	D	E	S		C	L	E	A	V	E
S	I	D			O	R	A			R	I	G
E	E	L	S		N	O	S		P	I	E	S
	R	E	V	S		C	I	V	I	C	S	
			E	E	R		O	I	L			
			L	E	O		N	E	F			
	B	A	T	M	A	N			R	E	A	P
Y	O	R	E			D	O	C			R	O	I	L
O	V	A				S	T	A			U	L	A
G	I	B	L	E	T			B	E	L	D	A	M
I	N	L	O	V	E			A	V	I	A	T	E
S	E	E	G	E	R			L	A	D	D	E	R

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"HEY, MOM! IT'S ONE OF THOSE LIVE COMMERCIALS."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright





Cow

WICHITA FA
Dallas Cowboy
have their best
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fastest.

In filling thei
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"I don't know
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Dave Campo sa
speed gives you
have to be do e
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by a knee injury
out for about a m

Fellow speed

Boys Club f

Participants i
return all equipm

Also, a meetin
Potts Realtors fo

SHS golf qua

Qualifying for
school Aug. 15-1
573-0239.

High school

All Snyder High
at 7 a.m. next Mo

Kiwanis golf

Snyder Kiwanis
Memorial Scholar

Entry fee for th
gun starts at 8 a.m
four teams. Hole-

Call the WTC
register.

Tennis meeti

Snyder High Sc
at 6 p.m. Thursda
season.

Golf tournam

Price Daniel U
Sweetwater Cou
Texas.

Cost is $50 per
shirts and hats wi
winners. Hole-in-
ets, a set of Hoga

Entry deadline
Connie Rushing.
Olympics.

Western Texa

The Men's Golf
ly event at 6 p.m.
shop by 5:30.

Tuesday scra

The Men's Golf
ly scramble at 5:3

Also, an all-day

WGA play d

The Women's
weekly play day a

Junior high f

All Snyder Junio
Aug. 14. Eighth
graders from 5-7.

Athletic phys

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P.A. Beth Ashley.

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Gossett hang

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SPORTS

Cowboys' strong suit is speed

WICHITA FALLS (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys certainly won't have their best team this season. They may, however, have their fastest.

In filling their roster with rookies and castoffs, the Cowboys placed an emphasis on speed and came up with plenty.

"I don't know if we're talented right now, but we're fast," coach Dave Campo said. "The thing that speed gives you is that you don't have to be do everything exactly right every time. That's exciting for us."

Dallas has 25 players who have run the 40-yard dash in less than 4.5 seconds. Eight guys did it in under 4.3, including starting receivers Joey Galloway (4.15, on grass) and Raghib Ismail (4.24, after knee surgery) and Pro Bowl linebacker Dexter Coakley (4.28).

The most eye-popping figure was the 4.12 by receiver Damon Dunn, which tied the team record. However, Dunn's bid to make the team has been slowed by a knee injury that'll keep him out for about a month.

Fellow speedsters competing for receiving jobs include Bashir Yamini, a former track star at Iowa who was timed at 4.23, and Chris Brazzell, a two-year veteran who came in at 4.28. Brazzell strained a hamstring Sunday, but shouldn't miss much time.

Fast receivers are a must this season because Dallas hopes to throw deep a lot to take advantage of quarterback Tony Banks' strong arm.

"I think it's a perfect fit," Banks said. "It's not necessarily just getting to the long ball, they're also good after they catch it. That's something I look forward to seeing. Get them on the turf and they'll be even faster."

Running back John Avery, a former first-round pick by Miami, has shown incredible speed out of the backfield and on kick returns. He was timed at 4.27.

Rookie quarterback Quincy Carter didn't make the 4.3 club, but he's shown fleet feet and some great moves.

On defense, the top speedster is Dell Bates, who earned his way to training camp by running a 4.2.

The likely trio starting linebackers — Coakley, Darren Hambrick and Dat Nguyen — all run 4.6 or less. Ditto for defensive end Ebenezer Ekuban.

"I think our linebacker corps right now is probably as fast as we've had, and I'd have to say our secondary is pretty fast too," Campo said.

Campo realizes that the only way speed matters is if it gets players into the end zone, or if makes players stop the other team from doing so.

"We're fast, but we've still got to produce," he said. "If you told me would you like to have a bunch of guys who can run or eight Pro Bowl players, I'd take the Pro Bowl players because experience matters. But speed makes up for some of those deficiencies."

Irvin pleads innocent this morning

DENTON (AP) — Former Dallas Cowboys receiver Michael Irvin entered an innocent plea today for a felony charge of possessing less than a gram of cocaine that resulted in his arrest almost a year ago.

If convicted on the felony possession charge, Irvin could face six months to two years in jail and up to a $10,000 fine.

"I don't know anything about it," Irvin said outside the courthouse.

Attorney Peter Ginsberg said after the brief court appearance that his office is conducting its own investigation of the charges and will give the results to the judge. He said he hopes the case will not go to trial.

The charge stems from Irvin's Aug. 9 arrest at a North Dallas apartment where law officers said they found marijuana and ecstasy pills. Less than two months earlier, Irvin had completed probation on a no-contest plea to felony cocaine possession.

Irvin was not charged after the arrest. He was indicted 10 months later.

Ginsberg said Irvin was arrested on one charge and is being prosecuted on another charge. He said he also was concerned about the delay in the indictment.

"I'm deeply disturbed by the way Michael has been treated by law enforcement. There's definitely something wrong with the charges," Ginsberg said.

Assistant District Attorney Lee Ann Breading has said her office didn't receive the case until February, and further investigation and additional laboratory testing took several additional months. She also said a key Plano officer involved in the investigation was injured in a motorcycle accident in March and wasn't available until June.

The case evolved after officers with the Collin-Denton County Drug Task Force, of which the FBI is a part, attempted to arrest Rhonda Adaham on a federal warrant at her apartment.

Adaham was not there, but her sister, Nelly Adaham, and Irvin were found and arrested. Nelly Adaham was indicted also on the same charge as Irvin, but Rhonda Adaham was not indicted.

"Michael is trying to move into the next stage of his life after football," Ginsberg said Monday. "This has been devastating to him emotionally."

Ginsberg also said that Irvin was looking at the possibility of a career in broadcasting and has been spending time with his wife and children.

Sports Briefs

Boys Club football

Participants in last season's Boys Club football program need to return all equipment.

Also, a meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday at Elizabeth Potts Realtors for anyone interested in coaching next year.

SHS golf qualifying rounds

Qualifying for Snyder High School golf teams will be held after school Aug. 15-18. For more information, call Coach Ricky Hunter at 573-0239.

High school football

All Snyder High School football players will receive their equipment at 7 a.m. next Monday at the SHS field house.

Kiwanis golf tournament

Snyder Kiwanis Club will host the annual Hubert and Mary Cargile Memorial Scholarship Tournament Sunday at Western Texas College.

Entry fee for the four-person scramble is $120 per team, with shotgun starts at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top four teams. Hole-in-one prize is $10,000.

Call the WTC pro shop at 573-9291, or Russell Fisk at 573-3438 to register.

Tennis meeting

Snyder High School tennis players will meet with Coach Ted Phillips at 6 p.m. Thursday at the field house film room to plan the upcoming season.

Golf tournament

Price Daniel Unit will host a four-man scramble next Monday at Sweetwater Country Club. Proceeds benefit Special Olympics of Texas.

Cost is $50 per player, including green fee, meal and cart. Trophies, shirts and hats will be awarded to the top teams, with $50 going to the winners. Hole-in-one prizes are a 2001 Ford Mustang, two airline tickets, a set of Hogan irons and a year's supply of Top Flite golf balls.

Entry deadline is Tuesday. Entry fees should be mailed to PDU c/o Connie Rushing. Checks should be made payable to Area 14 Special Olympics.

Western Texas MGA

The Men's Golf Association of Western Texas College holds a weekly event at 6 p.m. each Tuesday. Players need to register in the pro shop by 5:30.

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 is held each Thursday.

WGA play day

The Women's Golf Association of Snyder Country Club holds its weekly play day at 8:30 a.m. each Tuesday. Format is blind partners.

Junior high football

All Snyder Junior High football players will pick up their equipment Aug. 14. Eighth graders will be from 3-5 p.m., followed by seventh graders from 5-7.

Athletic physicals

Seventh and ninth grade SISD athletes, and anyone who has never participated in Snyder athletics must take a physical. SISD will pay for the physicals through Friday.

An appointment should be made with one of the following doctors: Raykov, Burleson, Cooper, Thompson, Nussey, Wobolt, Leighton or P.A. Beth Ashley.

All SISD athletes must return completed athletic forms to the athletic director's office or Steve Kreuger.

Gossett hangs on for victory

SILVIS, Ill. (AP) — David Gossett earned a spot on the PGA Tour, closing with a 5-under-par 66 for a one-stroke victory over Briny Baird in the John Deere Classic.

Gossett, the 1999 U.S. Amateur champion, is the first player to win using a sponsor exemption since Tiger Woods in the 1996 Las Vegas Invitational. The former University of Texas star earned $504,000 and gained a tour exemption through 2003.

Gossett finished with a 19-under 265 total on the TPC at Deere Run.

Major League Baseball

National League
All Times EDT
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	60	45	.571	—
Philadelphia	57	48	.543	3
Florida	52	52	.500	7½
New York	49	57	.462	11½
Montreal	45	61	.424	15½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	61	43	.586	—
Houston	57	48	.543	4½
St. Louis	52	51	.505	8½
Milwaukee	45	58	.437	15½
Cincinnati	41	63	.394	20
Pittsburgh	41	63	.394	20

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	61	45	.576	—
Arizona	59	46	.562	1½
San Francisco	57	49	.538	4
San Diego	51	54	.486	9½
Colorado	44	61	.419	16½

Saturday's Games
Pittsburgh 9, Houston 8, 1st game
Houston 12, Pittsburgh 3, 2nd game
N.Y. Mets 4, Philadelphia 3
St. Louis 7, Chicago Cubs 4
Los Angeles 10, Colorado 6
Atlanta 10, Montreal 5
Cincinnati 5, Florida 0
San Diego 6, Milwaukee 2
San Francisco 11, Arizona 4

Sunday's Games
N.Y. Mets 6, Philadelphia 5
Cincinnati 8, Florida 4
Atlanta 8, Montreal 1
Pittsburgh 4, Houston 1
San Diego 12, Milwaukee 5
San Francisco 4, Arizona 3
Chicago Cubs 7, St. Louis 5
Colorado 3, Los Angeles 2

Monday's Games
No games scheduled

Tuesday's Games
N.Y. Mets (Rusch 6-6) at Houston (Mlicki 6-8), 8:05 p.m.
Florida (Dempster 11-9) at Milwaukee (Sheets 10-7), 8:05 p.m.
Atlanta (Millwood 2-4) at St. Louis (Hermanson 8-8), 8:10 p.m.
Philadelphia (Person 9-5) at Colorado (Bohanon 5-6), 9:05 p.m.
Montreal (Munoz 0-0) at Arizona (Schilling 14-5), 10:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Lieber 13-5) at San Diego (Hitchcock 2-1), 10:05 p.m.
Cincinnati (Acevedo 2-3) at Los Angeles (Gagne 4-4), 10:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (D.Williams 1-3) at San Francisco (Hernandez 9-11), 10:15 p.m.

American League
All Times EDT
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	64	41	.609	—
Boston	60	44	.577	3½
Toronto	48	58	.453	16½
Baltimore	44	61	.419	20
Tampa Bay	34	71	.324	30

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	60	44	.577	—
Minnesota	60	45	.571	½
Chicago	51	52	.495	8½
Detroit	45	58	.437	14½
Kansas City	41	64	.391	19½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	76	29	.724	—
Oakland	56	49	.533	20
Anaheim	53	52	.505	23
Texas	46	58	.442	29½

Saturday's Games
Cleveland 6, Detroit 4, 1st game
Detroit 4, Cleveland 2, 2nd game
N.Y. Yankees 12, Toronto 1
Seattle 5, Minnesota 1
Kansas City 9, Oakland 3
Chicago White Sox 3, Boston 1
Tampa Bay 7, Texas 3, 10 innings
Anaheim 6, Baltimore 4

Sunday's Games
N.Y. Yankees 9, Toronto 3
Detroit 8, Cleveland 3
Boston 4, Chicago White Sox 3
Oakland 6, Kansas City 4
Seattle 10, Minnesota 2
Baltimore 1, Anaheim 0
Texas 2, Tampa Bay 0

Monday's Game
Texas (Davis 5-7) at Baltimore (Ponson 5-6), 8:05 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Anaheim (Washburn 9-4) at Boston (Arrojo 2-3), 7:05 p.m.
Seattle (Sele 12-2) at Detroit (Lima 2-2), 7:05 p.m.
Minnesota (Mays 12-7) at Toronto (Loaiza 6-9), 7:05 p.m.
Texas (Oliver 8-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Lilly 3-3), 7:05 p.m.
Oakland (Lidle 4-5) at Cleveland (Westbrook 3-2), 7:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Wilson 3-7) at Baltimore (Towers 6-5), 7:05 p.m.
Kansas City (Byrd 2-4) at Chicago White Sox (Biddle 2-7), 8:05 p.m.

Sports Whirl

By SDN Sports Editor Eric Drennan

The closer they get, the more difficult it is to wait. Football workouts begin a week from today.

For some great story telling, get Horrace Bostick, Jack Gorman and Ollie Peek together in a room.

Those three were waiting in the Snyder High School office for the arrival of a Phoenix TV station last week, and the stories were flying. The TV crew was in town interviewing people about Arizona Cardinals head coach David McGinnis who hails from Snyder.

Bostick (the Tigers' head coach from 1961-65), Gorman (former principal and assistant superintendent), and Peek (former SHS math teacher) had nothing but good things to say about McGinnis.

"He was 'Mr. Everything' at the high school," Peek remembered. "He was class favorite, Mr. SHS, captain of the football and baseball teams. Everybody liked David."

Aside from McGinnis, the three Snyder wisemen brought up other stories, like the time Bostick's level head kept the SHS football team out of the courtroom.

"I remember after we lost in the playoffs one year, and everybody thought that the referees had done us wrong," Bostick explained. "This was during the real oil boom, and a lot of those wealthy guys had sons playing on the team.

"They were trying to convince me that we should take the referees to court and dispute the game. I had to keep telling them that the game was over, and there was nothing we could do about it now."

While discussing the current-day cost of athletics, Gorman recalled some of the fund-raising techniques used during his playing days.

"We sold watermelons at the rodeo to pay for our football shoes," Gorman told. "And we always sold enough to buy them."

"How did you get the watermelons to begin with?" Peek asked. "Through a little midnight requisition?"

"No. We didn't have to pay for them," Gorman said. "But we also didn't have to pick them up in the middle of the night. People donated them."

Whew, once again the Tigers stayed out of the courtroom.

On the subject of Snyder natives in the coaching ranks, here's an update on a couple of ex-Tigers.

Tony Degrate, who went from Snyder to the University of Texas where he won the Lombardi Trophy in 1984, is the new defensive coordinator at Austin Hyde Park Baptist, a Class 4A private school.

Another Snyder native you might remember is a gentleman by the name of Grant Teaff. The former Tiger coached the Baylor Bears to quite a few Southwest Conference victories, and is a member of the college football coaches' hall of fame.

Teaff, who is the current executive director of the American Football Coaches Association, returns to Snyder Aug. 8 as keynote

Texan wins third straight Tour

PARIS (AP) — At long last, Lance Armstrong got to do some sightseeing.

Riding at a leisurely pace down the Champs-Elysees in the final stage of the Tour de France, the Texan caught a good look at the Arc de Triomphe, the Place de la Concorde and the Louvre museum.

It mattered little that he finished the stretch in 70th place.

He had locked up his third Tour title an entire week earlier in the mountains, where there was no time for taking in the scenery.

The jagged peaks of the Alps flashed by as Armstrong sprinted to the top of L'Alpe d'Huez, leaving his main rival, Jan Ullrich, nearly two minutes.

Nor was there was opportunity to appreciate the wild beauty of the densely wooded Pyrenees when Armstrong powered up a grueling climb to Pla d'Adet, cementing his lead.

He won the stage, taking the leader's yellow jersey, which he kept all the way to Paris. He looked up to the sky and dedicated his victory to former teammate Fabio Casartelli, who fatally crashed there in the 1995 Tour.

Armstrong built up a lead of six minutes and 44 seconds over Ullrich in the overall standings, an unbeatable advantage that only accident or sickness in the final days could have undone.

"It's the best feeling of the last three (wins)," Armstrong said in faltering French after finishing the last of 20 legs. "As always I am happy to finally arrive, to finally finish the Tour. It's a special feeling."

With the majestic Arc de Triomphe behind him, Armstrong stood at attention during "The Star-spangled Banner" and smiled with satisfaction as he savored an end to three weeks of grueling racing.

The only hitch came when he tried to take a lap of honor; the Texas flag he was waving got caught briefly in his bike chain. He grinned sheepishly as he awaited help, then continued up the Champs-Elysees as tens of thousands of spectators looked on.

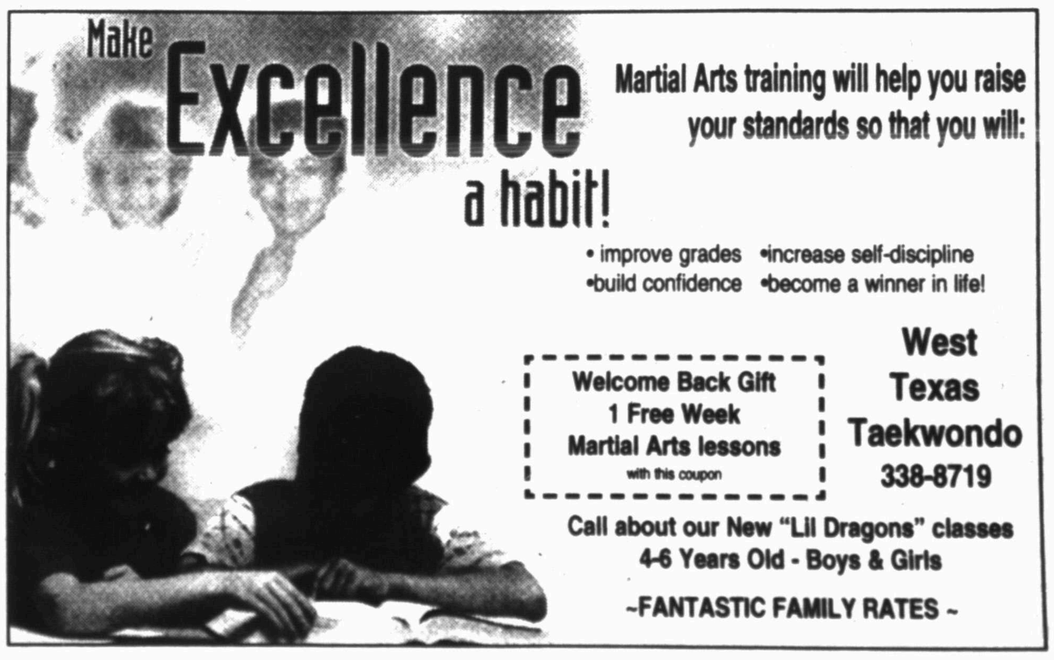
French fans, who favor their own cycling heroes and find Armstrong somewhat distant, cheered his achievement.

"He's untouchable, it's true," said Dominique Maquet, 43, who came to Paris from the Ardennes region near Belgium to watch the finish under a scorching July sun.

"Perfect," said Pierre Couturier, a 53-year-old postman from Normandy, giving the thumbs-up sign. "Armstrong totally deserved it."

This victory was in some ways the most impressive of all three wins. Because this time, the field he crushed was in top form — especially Ullrich.

"I don't know what I should do," said Ullrich after losing at L'Alpe d'Huez. "I did everything well — except for Lance."



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Centuries-old art form used in paper currency

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's revamped paper currency is a technological marvel aimed at thwarting sophisticated counterfeiters. But the most prominent part of the redesign — the oversized portraits of American statesmen — features a centuries-old art form only a few practice.

Gary Slaght and a small group of 11 others put the word "engraving" in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the place that makes the nation's paper money.

"It is a lost art. We are dinosaurs here," says Slaght, a letter and number engraver.

The government gave the nation's paper currency a high-tech makeover between 1996 and last year, producing new versions of all U.S. notes — except for $1 and $2 bills. Slaght and his fellow engravers played an essential role in making that happen, using an art form that has changed little from its 15th century origins.

By hand, the engravers meticulously cut into steel all the portraits, buildings, letters and numbers featured on the new bills.

Until the redesign, most of the portraits on paper currency were engraved many years ago. For instance, the portrait of Abraham Lincoln on the old, still-circulating $5 bill originally was engraved in 1869.

The engraved image of a note is the first step in the production of money. Each redesigned bill on average took roughly 1,200 hours for engravers to complete, Slaght estimates.

Armed with only an engraving tool, a magnifying glass and a portrait, Thomas Hipschen spent 500 painstaking hours hunched over a piece of metal, cutting an intricate pattern of tiny dots, dashes and lines to create the face of Ben Franklin that Americans see on the new $100 bills, which debuted in 1996. They were the first to get a facelift.

"I wanted to be certain every single dot was perfect and his expression was everything I wanted," recalls Hipschen, a picture engraver at the bureau.

One year later, Franklin was joined by an oversized Ulysses S. Grant on the new $50, then by a new Andrew Jackson on the $20 in 1998. Last year, redesigned $5 and $10 bills, carrying the faces of Abraham Lincoln and Alexander Hamilton, respectively, were released.

Slaght engraved all the letters and numbers for the new $10, $50 and $100 bills.

The new notes have been gradually replacing the old bills when they wear out. While the redesigned bills include a number of new features, people usually notice the bigger and slightly off-center portraits first.

The bigger portraits are easier to recognize and their added detail harder to duplicate. Moving them away from the center — where bills are usually folded — reduces wear on the portraits.

Other features on the redesigned bills include watermarks that are visible when held up to a light; embedded polymer security threads that glow when exposed to an ultraviolet light; and very tiny printing, visible with a magnifying glass.

"Aesthetically, you want everything to look good, but you also want to do something that cannot be reproduced by the general public," says Peter Cocci, a designer who worked on the new bills.

All the changes are aimed at making it harder for people to produce bogus currency. Over the years, counterfeiters have graduated from offset printing to sophisticated color copiers, computer scanners, color ink-jet printers and publishing-grade software — technologies readily available.

While this part of the money-making process is increasingly high-tech, Slaght's and Hipschen's roles were decidedly not.

After graduating with an art degree from the University of Maryland, Slaght entered into an apprenticeship at the bureau in 1972 to learn how to engrave letters and numbers. At the time, his father worked there as a plate printer.

Hipschen, whose artwork was always on display in his childhood home, came to the bureau fresh out of high school in Iowa in 1968, for an apprenticeship for picture engraving.

"Technology hasn't really impacted us all that much," says Slaght. "We still engrave in steel. We still engrave backward. It is a very slow and tedious job."

After a hand-engraved steel image of a note is complete, it is subjected to an intense heat that hardens the steel so that it can no longer be engraved on. This hardened image is known as the master die. Multiple images of the master die are made and transferred to printing plates, which are covered in ink and used to print sheets of money.

Protecting the nation's currency from savvy counterfeiters is an ongoing effort. The government is considering further changes to paper currency, including putting a light tint on the bills. No final decisions have been made and any changes are likely to be several years off.

On the Net:
Bureau of Engraving and Printing: http://www.moneyfactory.com/

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Doctors owe patients explanations

DEAR DR. GOTT: Here is a letter my stepmother wrote to me.

DEAR MARGE: You know I'm just a housewife and have never had a career outside the family. I've raised a family and made a good home for your father. I pride myself in having a modicum of horse sense, which is the good sense horses have not to bet on humans. I thought I'd seen it all — until I visited my doctor for a routine checkup last month. I'm sharing the consequences of this with you because the experience frightened me, unnecessarily I believe.

On Thursday, I received a report on the blood tests I'd had. After reading it, I was confused and alarmed enough to need some clarification, so I dashed to the telephone and called the doctor. I was told that he was "not available for comments" on that day or on Friday. Can you believe it? Not available for comments, after I had spent a whole day and $700 for the exam. Naturally, Saturday and Sunday were out. The receptionist assured me that "perhaps" the doctor would return my call on Monday, but there was "no guarantee."

I hung up feeling guilty that I had been so selfish and presumptuous to bother the doctor and his nurse.

I re-read the report. "Your blood sugar is slightly elevated." Slightly? I fantasized that the doctor was trying to break the news gently to me, the news that I have diabetes. I remembered that diabetes leads to blindness and the amputation of one leg, if not both.

I read on. "Enclosed is your authorization for a scan for goiter." Goiter? I didn't know I had a goiter. I felt healthy and peppy before the report came. A quick check in the mirror. My neck was certainly not swan-like, but nothing was bulging; my eyes were not popping out. Oh, well, maybe that would happen tomorrow.

Nervously, I studied the report. "You should come back for another blood test after fasting." No mention of how long to fast. Images of Ghandi and starving, African children passed before my eyes.

"Your cholesterol level was 236." Now, Marge, I have a college education and remember the date of the Battle of Hastings. I know quite a bit about American 19th century poets. But I do not know the normal value for cholesterol. Let's see ... on a scale of one to 10, 236 must be high. A heart attack is imminent, probably one before a stroke or heart surgery, or one during and several after the operation. Or worse.

I continued. "You have a high HDL." What in the world does HDL stand for? Harvard-Dartmouth-Lafayette? Doctors are always saying things are too high, especially their insurance premiums. Therefore, high means bad and HDL means Horrible Disintegration of Life. Fatal. Probably a matter or months - no, weeks.

Back to my goiter. "Your blood test showed that your thyroid function was normal, but you tested positive for antibodies." My God! That sounds as if the doctor were scolding me. I must not be meant to have antibodies at all. What are antibodies anyway? Something against the body. Antibodies must mean the presence of infection or a foreign substance, a growth... a tumor. Cancer.

At this point, I contemplated having a nervous breakdown for the rest of my life. Of course, with all the fatal illnesses I had, I didn't have long to live and this would cut down on the costs. The children would be sad but, in a strange and predictable way, grateful.

The end.

P.S. The average person has a little knowledge, which we all know can be dangerous. But physicians should be willing to take the time to explain things. And they should watch their language. Fortunately for me, I eventually called my brother, a doctor, and he answered my questions. But I'll tell you, I was properly frightened for several days. If I hadn't had an explanation, I'd be a basket case. I think that I'll change doctors or avoid them altogether. You'd suppose that physicians would be sensitive enough to sit down with patients and take the time to put things in perspective. What good are all the tests if we patients don't know what to make of them? At any rate, I'm better now, feisty and back to normal.

P.P.S. Is it possible that the schoolchild was correct when asked about the Golden Rule? He said: "Do one to others before they do one to you." Isn't that marvelous?

Love, Phyllis.

DEAR READER: I'm numb. Phyllis said it all.

As an addendum, I heard that a student once wrote: "Most religions endorse a lifelong marriage between two partners. Unlike polygamy, this is called monotony."

Thanks for writing.

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'Apes' conquer box office following record premiere

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Primates inherited the box office from dinosaurs with what looks to be a record debut.

Tim Burton's "Planet of the Apes" took over the No. 1 slot from "Jurassic Park III," grossing $69.55 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"This really proves apes do rule the planet," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Exhibitor Relations, which tracks the box office.

If the estimate holds when final numbers are released today, that would be the second best three-day opening ever and a record for a movie premiering over a non-holiday weekend. "The Mummy Returns" set the previous non-holiday record last May with $68.1 million.

"Jurassic Park III" fell to No. 2 in its second weekend, taking in $22.5 million. The movie has grossed $124.8 million in 12 days, crossing the $100 million mark in just over a week.

The all-time best opening is held by that film's predecessor, "The Lost World: Jurassic Park," which debuted with $72 million from Friday to Sunday over Memorial Day weekend in 1997.

"Planet of the Apes," a new take on the 1968 movie, stars Mark Wahlberg as an astronaut stranded on a world ruled by talking simians. Tim Roth and Helena Bonham Carter co-star as two of the key apes.

Reviews were mixed for the remake, though Burton earned generally high marks for the visual flair of his ape planet.

Playing in 3,500 theaters, "Planet of the Apes" averaged a whopping $19,871 a cinema. The movie took in nearly as much money as the rest of the top 10 combined.

"You're dealing with three things here," said Bruce Snyder, head of distribution for 20th Century Fox, which released the film. "You're dealing with the concept of 'Planet of the Apes,' you're dealing with Tim Burton and you're dealing with Mark Wahlberg. It became an event."

The original "Planet of the Apes" was followed by four sequels, a live-action television show and an animated TV series. Fox executives said no decision has been made on a sequel to Burton's version.

"I think it's an enduring idea, and audiences are having fun with this. But as for a sequel, it's too early to say," said Tom Rothman, Fox studio chairman.

The overall box office was up for the second straight weekend after a three-week slump. The top 12 movies grossed $143.4 million, up 18 percent from the same weekend a year ago.

Hollywood revenues are running about 10 percent ahead of summer 1999, when the industry had its best summer ever. With two big sequels opening over the next two weekends — "Rush Hour 2" and "American Pie 2" — a new summer box-office record appears likely.

"This summer proves the unpredictability of summer," Dergarabedian said. "On paper, this looked like a no-brainer that was going to sweep all the way through every weekend. But we fell into a little slump there. Now we're back on track to have a record summer."

Besides "Jurassic Park III," "Dr. Dolittle 2" also topped $100 million, the ninth movie released this year to cross that mark.

"Planet of the Apes" was the only new film in wide release this weekend.

Murders at Davis' mansion not forgotten

FORT WORTH (AP) — Even a quarter century later, a shooting rampage at an oil tycoon's mansion continues to frustrate the prosecutors, anger the victims and intrigue the public.

Cullen Davis, then the wealthiest man ever to stand trial for murder, faced the death penalty in the slaying of his 12-year-old stepdaughter on Aug. 2, 1976. His estranged wife's boyfriend also was killed, and she and a family friend were wounded.

Despite several witnesses saying Davis was the disguised gunman, he was acquitted. Two years later, he was found innocent of hiring someone to kill the judge handling his divorce.

But the saga didn't end there.

Developments through the years kept it fresh: Davis' well-publicized religious conversion in the early 1980s, and testimony in civil lawsuits filed by gunshot survivors. Several books about the case renewed the public's interest, as did the 1995 television miniseries "Texas Justice."

And earlier this year, new allegations surfaced that defense attorneys bribed an investigator in the prosecutor's office to reveal strategy.

"The case has got a life of its own," prosecutor Joe Shannon said recently. "It's got a little something for everybody: wealth, sex, drugs, murder. It runs the gamut of human experiences. It kind of never dies."

Shannon had been with the Tarrant County district attorney's office six years when he was assigned the Davis case, which was moved to Amarillo because of pretrial publicity.

Shannon felt he had a strong case even with some circumstantial evidence.

The day of the murders, a judge had approved Priscilla Davis' request to postpone the divorce trial. She already had been granted temporary custody of the couple's Fort Worth mansion, which Cullen recently had been barred from entering.

"We had all the physical evidence prior to hearing (Priscilla's) story. The blood types, the slugs, the bloodstains ... everything fit what she told us," Shannon said. "That was what I felt was damning to him."

Priscilla Davis testified that her estranged husband, wearing a wig, shot her and then Stan Farr, who died. Another witness testified seeing Cullen Davis shoot a family friend outside the mansion, Bubba Gavrel.

But after defense attorneys portrayed Priscilla as a drug-addicted, unfaithful wife who wanted to frame Cullen so she could get his millions in the divorce, Shannon was not surprised about the ensuing acquittal.

A year later Shannon decided to practice family law, which he did until returning to his job as a Tarrant County prosecutor in 1999.

Today, a couple of courtroom sketches from the 1977 trial hang in his office. Shannon says he remains frustrated by the verdict.

"In my opinion, the evidence clearly indicates he is guilty," Shannon said.

Steve Sumner had recently graduated from law school when he was chosen to lead the defense team's investigation.

"It was a monstrous responsibility for a young lawyer to assume that role with the stakes being as high as they were," Sumner said. "I'd say it advanced my career about 15 years because it generated so much notoriety, and I was able to work with such good attorneys on both sides."

Sumner, who opened his own firm in Dallas in 1986, also defended Davis in the $16.5 million wrongful-death lawsuit filed by Priscilla Davis over the slaying of her daughter, Andrea Wilborn. The 1987 suit ended in mistrial.

"The civil case was front-page news, almost like the (killing) had happened yesterday," Sumner said.

Davis now lives with his third wife in Colleyville, where he sells skin cream and other industrial products from his home and remains active in church. He has maintained his innocence through the years.

"You don't have to ask God to forgive you for something that you did not do," Davis told Texas Monthly magazine last year.

Sumner says he believes his client.

"I've probably had to ask that question more than anybody," Sumner said. "I knew the case better than anybody and also saw a lot of evidence that never made it to the public domain. ... A jury has never been able to convict him. Beyond that, I don't believe he did it."

Jack Strickland was a top death penalty prosecutor when he helped lead the state's murder-for-hire case against Davis in 1978.

Davis, who faced life in prison, was accused of hiring someone to kill his divorce court judge and a dozen others — including his younger brother and some witnesses who testified against him during the murder trial.

Strickland says FBI audiotapes, pictures and a videotape showed Davis looking at a faked photo of the judge dead and then paying his friend $25,000 and giving him a handgun with silencer, allegedly to kill others.

Defense attorneys said the friend did most of the talking and, working with authorities, was trying to set up Davis.

A Houston jury deadlocked, resulting in a mistrial. In the second trial in 1979, moved back to Fort Worth, a jury found Davis innocent.

"People confused his wealth with innocence," Strickland said. "I think maybe the public is a little more perceptive, a little more cynical now."

Strickland left the district attorney's office in 1980 and since then has been a defense attorney in Fort Worth.

"I wish I had prevailed, but I don't think I'd be alive today if I had," Strickland said. "... Cullen would have been a lot less forgiving."

Priscilla Davis died in February of breast cancer with few possessions, according to family and friends.

"I had a daughter killed. You never get over that. I also saw the person doing the shooting. I don't care what the verdict was. I live knowing that every day," she told The Dallas Morning News years ago.

Bubba Gavrel, who also was shot that night, reached an out-of-court settlement in his civil suit against Cullen Davis and cannot discuss the case.

Gavrel, who still has a bullet in his spine, remains paralyzed in his right leg and walks with crutches. He is married, has a daughter and is doing well, said his father, Gus Gavrel Sr.

The family has tried to put the case in the past, and no one broaches it anymore, the elder Gavrel said.

"Time has faded it," Gus Gavrel Sr. said. "But ... don't let nobody kid you. He done every bit of it."

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp		35.45	35.05	35.26 + .46
AOL TimeWrn		45.97	45.10	45.10 — .04
AT&T Corp s		20.49	20.22	20.27 — .21
Albertsons		32.19	32.00	32.01 — .07
Alltel		61.93	61.72	61.81 — .08
AmEl Pw		44.20	43.18	44.10 — .10
AndarkPtr		60.00	58.06	59.63 + 1.07
ATMOS Egy		20.13	20.01	20.05 + .05
Aviall		10.52	10.43	10.47 + .07
BP PLC		49.19	48.80	48.81 + .06
BakerHughes		36.80	35.80	36.40 + .23
Bank of Amer		63.45	63.00	63.16 — .34
BellSouth		41.70	41.20	41.37 + .35
Beth Steel		2.21	2.09	2.09 — .12
BurlNoSFe		26.98	26.81	26.83 — .41
Caterpillar		53.77	53.15	53.20 + .45
Chevron		91.53	90.30	91.45 + .35
Citigroup s		50.04	49.55	49.64 — .41
CocaCola		44.79	44.01	44.06 — .73
ColgatePal		53.99	53.50	53.74 — .25
ComclMetals		32.35	31.94	31.94 — .27
CooperIn		40.73	40.10	40.10 — .40
DaimlrChry		49.25	48.60	48.89 — .68
DeltaAirl		44.60	44.25	44.38 + .03
Dillards Inc		14.74	14.36	14.56 + .22
DowChem		35.78	35.13	35.38 + .58
DuPont		42.14	41.69	41.75 — .38
EastmanChem		43.46	42.96	43.03 — .51
EstKodak		43.37	42.76	42.78 — .52
EDS Corp		65.10	64.39	64.56 + .33
Entergy		37.40	36.35	36.68 — .82
ExxonMobil s		42.70	42.25	42.37 — .36
FstBksAm		28.89	28.50	28.50 — .20
GenDynam		82.40	81.00	81.30 + .09
GenElec		44.90	43.65	43.71 — .94
GenMills		43.80	43.23	43.28 — .42
GenMotors		63.88	62.05	62.05 — .85
GaPacGP		36.11	35.60	35.60 — .15
GlobalMar		18.54	17.75	18.36 + .44
Goodrich		35.70	35.15	35.25 — .15
Goodyear s		28.59	28.36	28.44 — .06
GtAtlPac		16.30	16.01	16.27 + .08
Halliburtn		36.59	35.65	36.23 + .13
Hanson ADS		36.10	35.82	35.82 + .01
HartleHanks		23.86	23.70	23.70 — .01
HomeDepot		49.95	48.86	48.86 — .79
Honeywellntl		37.70	36.97	37.26 — .11
IBM		105.88	104.76	105.45 + .75
IntlPaper		39.55	38.90	39.07 + .02
JohnsonJn s		53.15	52.15	52.31 — .70
K mart		11.39	11.15	11.20 — .02
KinderMorg		53.95	53.01	53.16 — .49
Kroger Co		25.79	25.35	25.68 + .04
LockheedM		39.03	38.28	38.28 — .92
Lowes Cos s		39.44	38.91	39.17 + .27
Lubys		9.10	8.95	8.95 — .20
LucentTech		7.25	7.04	7.09 + .08
MayDeptStr		32.33	31.81	31.87 + .05
Medtronic		49.19	48.33	48.33 — .22
Motorola		19.45	19.00	19.01 + .01
NCR Corp		39.93	39.00	39.85 + .97
Navistar		32.19	31.94	32.03 + .33
Penney JC		28.30	27.14	27.96 + .82
PepBoys		13.75	13.16	13.21 + .06
PepsiCo		45.99	45.63	45.65 — .02
Pharmacia		42.70	42.14	42.39 + .27
PhelpDodge		40.90	40.40	40.60 — .53
PhilipPet		57.49	57.10	57.30 + .33
PilgrmPrd B		15.15	14.85	14.90 + .25
Polaroid		1.24	1.15	1.15 — .02
Praxair		45.28	44.80	44.80 — .21
ProctGamb		70.85	70.05	70.70 + .23
PubS NwMx		29.75	28.95	29.46 — .19
RadioShack		29.15	28.70	28.88 + .12
ReliantEngy		32.29	31.53	31.90 — .50
RoyalDut		58.30	57.73	57.87 — .01
SBC Comm		44.08	43.80	43.93 + .06
SaraLee		19.92	19.61	19.62 — .18
Scripps EW		68.40	68.00	68.28 + .31
SearsRoeb		46.37	45.85	45.96 + .21
SherwinW		22.39	22.30	22.38 + .04
SouthernCo s		22.98	22.46	22.85 — .13
SwstAirl s		19.52	19.18	19.20 — .25
SprintFON		22.60	22.39	22.52 + .05
SprintPCS		26.95	26.02	26.11 — .79
Sunoco Inc		35.21	34.75	34.81 — .07
TXU Corp		46.45	45.58	46.18 — .07
TempleInland		59.39	58.44	58.80 + .05
Texaco		69.35	68.49	69.30 + .35
Textrnd		38.79	38.20	38.25 — .29
Texasinst		35.88	34.78	34.93 + .08
Textron		54.87	54.25	54.81 + .32
TriconGlbR		43.69	43.00	43.40 — .10
Trinitylnds		22.50	21.72	22.27 + .61
TritonEngy		44.77	44.72	44.75 + .03
TylerTech		2.45	2.44	2.45
USX-Marathn		30.10	29.79	29.80 — .04
USX-USS		19.85	19.57	19.60 — .03
UnionPacif		54.60	54.00	54.12 — .48
UnitedTech		73.50	72.74	72.80 — .38
Unocal		36.09	35.70	35.85 — .11
Venator Grp		18.31	18.10	18.21 + .23
VerizonComm		56.55	55.80	55.93 — .20
WalMart		58.00	54.74	54.76 — .65
WellsFargo		45.68	45.35	45.47 + .06
WstnGasRs		30.15	29.91	30.15 + .25
WinnDixie		22.66	22.34	22.62 + .28
Xerox Cp		7.80	7.75	7.78 — .12

JULY 30 2001

Dallas to get Internet crime prosecutors

DALLAS (AP) — New prosecution teams specializing in Internet crime will be put in place in Dallas and nine other U.S. cities to combat computer crimes.

The Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property Unit, also known as CHIP, "is really going to help our region," Assistant U.S. Attorney Erin Nealy Cox, who also prosecutes cybercrimes, told The Dallas Morning News.

"We're the only city in Texas with a CHIP unit and the only city in the Southwest."

The first CHIP unit went to San Francisco. Others will be established in Los Angeles, San Diego, Atlanta, Boston, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Seattle and Alexandria, Va.

Justice Department officials said the cities were chosen for the CHIP units because they have significant concentrations of high-tech industry that could become targets for computer intrusion.

Five men in four states used their home computers and the Internet to steal more than $1.5 million in long-distance services from telephone companies in 1995.

Though unintended, their actions helped Dallas become one of the cities receiving special prosecution teams devoted to combating computer crimes.

Four of the men have gone to prison for the thefts — largely from a Dallas firm — and the fifth remains a federal fugitive. Still, the computer crooks became minor footnotes in Internet history.

That's because an employee of the FBI's Dallas office reached into cyberspace and snatched one of the group's incriminating e-mail messages before it could arrive at its destination.

Federal officials revealed in 1999 that the quiet event in the Dallas investigation was the first in which law enforcement officials in this country successfully intercepted computer-to-computer messages as they occurred.

A court order had authorized the operation. The case demonstrated the potential damage posed by computer criminals and a new level of expertise on the part of investigators, federal officials in Dallas said last week after the U.S. Department of Justice announced that the U.S. attorney's office in Dallas would receive three new prosecutors for Internet investigations.

"We'll actually have four prosecutors on the team," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda Groves, one of two Dallas prosecutors who have tracked computer crimes on a part-time basis for several years.

The agreement with Justice Department officials requires a four-person prosecution team, she said. The prosecutors for Dallas won't be added until a new U.S. attorney is selected to lead the Dallas office.

Three prosecutors are finalists for the position, which will be filled by President Bush.

Bungee cord snaps; two are injured

DALLAS (AP) — A cord on a two-seat bungee ride snapped, hurling two men into a support tower and leaving them temporarily stranded about seven stories above the ground.

Gregary Carr, 25, and his brother-in-law, Philip Morgeson, 35, were treated and released at a hospital after the accident early Sunday and were resting at home later in the day.

"That was the first and last time I'll get on a ride like that," said Carr, 25, who had 13 stitches in his leg after the accident at the Zero Gravity Thrill Amusement Park just off Stemmons Freeway in northwest Dallas.

Carr and Morgeson were riding the Texas Blastoff ride about 1 a.m. Sunday when one of two cords holding the ride broke. Morgeson suffered bruises, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Johnny Kuczaj, general manager of Zero Gravity, said it was the first accident in the park's 10-year history.

He said the Texas Blastoff, which opened six years ago, will remain closed until the cause of the accident can be determined. Three other rides at the park will remain in operation, he said. State officials have been called to inspect the Texas Blastoff, and the ride manufacturers will be notified, Kuczaj said.

Kuczak said two nylon backup tethers embedded in the bungees worked as designed to keep the men from falling to the ground when the cord broke. "There was no damage to the safety line, and all of the safety lines worked 100 percent the way they were supposed to," he said.

"The emergency lowering was handled quickly and the people were on the ground safely before emergency crews got there. It's the first cord failure in our history."

In the ride, two people pay $27 each to be strapped into a chair that is surrounded by a metal, cagelike device. The device is suspended from two 120-foot-high towers by bungee cords. The chair is pulled toward the ground and released, shooting the device and its occupants 150 feet into the air at 70 mph.

After Carr and Morgeson were released, the seat went up and bounced down normally. It was on the second bounce that they noticed trouble.

"When we fell down the second time, we heard a pop. ... We heard something snap, and I could see the bungee cord recoiling and kind of waving in the wind," Carr said. "And we felt the cage tilt and we just knew something was wrong. A few seconds later we slammed into the metal tower and we bounced back out."

When the two hit the tower a second time, they reached out and grabbed the metal scaffolding because they were afraid the other bungee might snap, Carr said. "My first thought was that I didn't want to keep bouncing off that pole," Morgeson said.

It took about 15 or 20 minutes for the men to be lowered to the ground, they said. One witness said they appeared to be stranded about 70 feet into the air.

Paramedics treated the pair at the scene before a friend drove them to the hospital.

Kuczaj said more than 100 people had ridden the Texas Blastoff earlier in the evening without any problems. He added that park employees inspect the bungee cords after every 25 launches.

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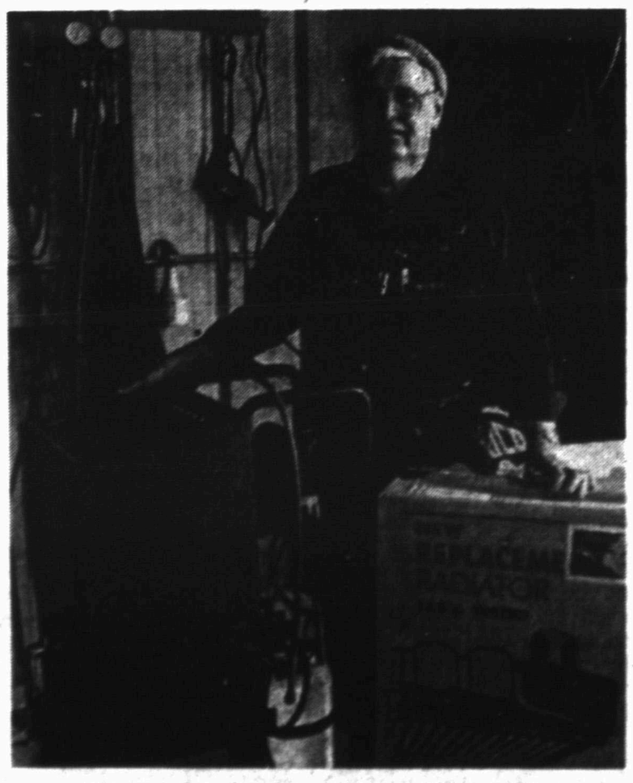
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By Bernice

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Four men killed when tractor explodes at Ohio fairground

MEDINA, Ohio (AP) — An antique steam-powered tractor exploded at a fairground, killing four men and injuring about 50 others a day before one of Ohio's oldest and largest county fairs was to officially open.

The Sunday blast, which hurled hot oil and shrapnel up to 100 yards away, came on the eve of the 156th Medina County Fair, an annual event which drew 120,000 people last year.

"Our sympathies go out to the people. My emotions right now are going crazy," said Fair President Dave Bertram. The fair was opening today despite the accident but would start two hours late because more time was needed for preparations, officials said.

Sheriff Neil Hassinger said investigators would examine the remnants of the tractor, built in 1918.

"We'll just leave nothing unturned," he said.

But the investigation would be complicated because the operators of the equipment were killed, authorities said.

"We lost the expertise," said James R. Bigam, head of security at the fair.

The fair was open Sunday only for horse races and setting up exhibits. The gates were open to all, however, so many people were there.

"It sounded like a big boom. I heard all kinds of people crying, people screaming," said Brian Witt, 15, of Medina, who suffered burns to his arms and face.

About 50 people were injured, and fairgoers rushed to aid bloodied and blackened victims until they could be taken to hospitals. "Everybody was just trying to help everybody out," said oncology nurse Patty Potts.

The injured included two police officers who were about to cite the tractor's driver for operating the heavy vehicle on city streets, Fire Chief Bill Herthneck said. The officers were standing by the engine and talking to the driver when the explosion happened about 6:30 p.m., he said.

The tractor that exploded was to be part of an outdoor exhibit on steam-powered engines. The vintage equipment is a common feature at county fairs across the Midwest.

Authorities kept people off the fairgrounds Sunday night as crews working under bright lights cleared scraps of burned metal from the exhibition area.

The dead were identified as Cliff Kovacic, 45; his son, William, 27; Alan Kimble, 46; and Dennis Jungbluth, 58, all Medina County residents. Three of the men died at the scene; the fourth died at a hospital.

Gene Sulzener, director of the Medina Life Support Team, which coordinates county emergency medical services, said the injured suffered mostly burns and broken bones from the shrapnel.

Medical helicopters from as far away as Pittsburgh carried the injured to hospitals. Surgeons were aboard some of the helicopters, said county Coroner Neil Grabenstetter.

Nine people remained hospitalized today morning at Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron, one of them in serious condition. Six other hospitals reported treating or admitting 39 people.

Events at the fair, about 25 miles southwest of Cleveland, include harness racing, concerts, tractor pulls, animal shows, fireworks and rides.

Last year, about 30 people who attended the fair or an attraction at the fairgrounds later in the year became ill with E. coli, an intestinal bacterium that causes cramps, diarrhea and, in extreme cases, kidney failure. No one died.

A report from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggested that water and ice used by food vendors may have become contaminated by water from the animal barns.

On the Net:
http://www.medinafair.com
http://www.ohioexplorer.com/Fairs/MedinaCounty

Arrest of city mayor further tarnishes Connecticut city

WATERBURY, Conn. (AP) — Gov. John G. Rowland likes to call his home town "the center of the universe." He has taken some political heat for steering plum state business such as the Department of Motor Vehicles headquarters to this former industrial center.

But even with the governor's help, Waterbury seems more like the center of chaos than a celestial hub.

A half-century after its heyday, the state's fifth-largest city is known more for a colorful history of political corruption than for its proud past as the country's largest brass manufacturer.

From a financial crisis that led to a state takeover and 30 percent increase in property taxes, to chronic problems in the downtown business district, to allegations of wrongdoing in municipal contracts, Waterbury's image is more than a little tarnished.

But even those long accustomed to Waterbury's woes were taken aback by the arrest last week of Mayor Philip Giordano on federal sex charges involving a minor.

An outraged Rowland immediately called on Giordano to resign. Throughout the city of 107,000, residents and leaders were taking the scandal personally.

"He's nothing but a creep," retired diver Carmen Yovina said of the 38-year-old mayor, a three-term Republican who is a married father of three boys.

Giordano, who was soundly defeated last year in a bid to unseat U.S. Sen. Joseph Lieberman, is charged with using an interstate facility to entice a minor to engage in sexual activity. He is being held without bond pending a hearing Tuesday in federal court in Bridgeport.

Waterbury's mayorship has been a rocky place. Former Mayor Joseph Santopietro served more than six years in prison after his 1992 conviction for conspiring to accept bribes and kickbacks disguised as loans.

Former Mayor Edward Bergin Jr. — the man Santopietro beat in 1985 — was arrested in 1988 on a charge of taking a bribe related to towing contracts. Bergin was acquitted three years later and reclaimed the mayor's office, only to be defeated by Giordano in 1995.

Republican Town Chairman Michael Stolfi, who helped convince Giordano to run that year, has long defended him. Now Stolfi is reconsidering.

"If the charges are fact, it's in the best interests of Phil and especially his family to step down and deal with the problems he's made for himself," Stolfi said.

It was nearly impossible last week to find anyone in Waterbury to defend Giordano. Mostly there was venom — and sadness for the city.

"I just think it's a shame," said Maria Lemay, a Waterbury resident and waitress at Jimmy's Charcoal Kitchen, a restaurant across the street from City Hall.

Ironically, many Waterbury residents had been expecting the mayor of another downtrodden Connecticut city to be arrested — Joseph Ganim of Bridgeport.

Six people — four of them longtime Ganim friends or associates — have pleaded guilty in an ongoing federal investigation into kickbacks and bribes to win contracts from the state's largest city.

California's power refunds will be reduced

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — California will receive refunds for overpriced electricity, but not as much as it had asked for.

A closer reading of last week's order from federal energy regulators shows the amount the state will receive could be slashed to just under $4 billion — less than half what the state requested.

Gov. Gray Davis plans to appeal the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission decision today, state officials said. Refunds could help prevent the state from raising electric rates to cover its power buying costs, which are now beyond $8 billion.

"We found a number of disturbing things that lead us to believe FERC may not be so pro-refund as they want Californians to believe," said Nancy McFadden, an adviser to Davis.

For months, Davis and other state officials have asked the commission to rule electricity prices charged since May 2000 to be unjust and unreasonable — prices which climbed 10 times higher than past years.

The state stands to lose a portion of the billions it has spent buying electricity for Pacific Gas and Electric Co. customers and two other financially ailing utilities. Power companies maintain they did not work together to drive up power prices to unreasonable levels.

The commission's 40-page decision confirms it will only order refunds for power bought since October 2000, rather than May 2000. That means $2 billion less than the state, utilities and others could hope to receive, McFadden said.

In addition, the commission also said it will not issue refunds for power the state Department of Water Resources bought directly from power companies.

Eleven are injured when car runs into packed restaurant

JOHANNESBURG, Mich. (AP) — A woman's sandal lay among dishes, condiment bottles and splintered wood after a driver crashed her car through the wall of a northern Michigan restaurant, injuring herself and 10 people inside.

"It looks like a bomb went off in here," said Leonard Pohutsky, the owner of the Old Depot restaurant in this town of about 1,000 residents.

The accident occurred Sunday as a lunchtime crowd of about 40 tourists and churchgoers packed the converted train depot. A 38-year-old woman from Johannesburg missed a sharp curve, then shot through the parking lot and into the restaurant, state police said.

Four people who were inside remained in critical condition late Sunday.

"It just came around the corner and didn't even try to turn," said Melvin Slagel, 50, who lives nearby and saw the aftermath. "There were no skid marks or black marks or anything. She drove straight across — at a pretty good speed it looks like."

Witnesses told state police the woman's 1994 Pontiac sedan was traveling 50 to 60 mph, Trooper Michael Nasser said. The posted speed limit is 25 mph.

The car went airborne when it hit the steps at the restaurant's entrance, sending it into the ceiling and collapsing part of the roof before it trapped customers and workers against a back wall.

"The entire car went right in the middle of the dining room," Slagel said. "It was close to being full, and it's tiny, so there was nowhere for people to go."

About 20 people pushed the car onto its side to free two victims trapped underneath, Pohutsky told the Detroit Free Press in today's editions.

The injured, including members of two families, were taken to Otsego Memorial Hospital in Gaylord, hospital spokeswoman Jan Korthase said.

Three children — a 6-year-old girl, a 2-year-old boy and a 6-month-old girl — were airlifted to Hurley Hospital in Flint with head injuries and listed in critical condition Sunday night, Hurley spokeswoman Stephanie Motschenbacher said.

Their father, 33, was upgraded from critical to serious condition late Sunday, Motschenbacher said. The mother, 28, was treated for cuts and bruises and released.

Three members of another family were taken to Blodgett Memorial Medical Center in Grand Rapids, Korthase said. They were a woman, 29, with critical head injuries; a man, 38, with serious chest and abdominal injuries; and a girl, 6, who suffered bone fractures and was in stable condition. Another family member, a 10-year-old boy, was treated for minor injuries.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

In the year ahead, persons who like you will be more likely to go out of their way for you than usual, especially when it involves undertakings in your chosen field of endeavor. Be reciprocal.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Something that starts out simple could turn into a big headache for you today if you do not manage your tasks with attention to details. Move slowly and deliberately through each step. 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.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You'll draw attention to yourself all right by trying to upstage your friends who are making points, but the type of response you'll receive won't do a thing for your popularity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Conditions in general could make a swift change from yesterday and leave you scratching your head as to how you went amiss. It's not you; it's just the way things are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — If you fail to screen your sources first, you may find out after the fact today that the persons from whom you sought direction were the least equipped to help you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — It's best you do without rather than borrow something today that the lender treasures. There are indications that too many people are careless now, and the object could get damaged.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Being uncertain or indecisive with those you have dealings today could, in turn, affect others by making them think they have all the answers. If they don't, you'll go down with them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Tasks you find distasteful could suffer from a poor performance on your part and end up having to be done over again. It might be wiser to postpone what you can to another day.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Optimism tempered with realism creates successes. However, trying to build expectations today upon false premises will guarantee failure. Face the facts first, then the game plan.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Luck and chance are not your allies today. If you rely a bit too heavily on them to get you over the rough spots, you're going to be faced with failure. Make things happen yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Sometimes we can fudge our way through situations about which we don't fully understand. Today, however, you'd better have the knowledge to back you up on what you do or say.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Keep a sharp eye today on any involvement that entails financial dealings. If you get careless or indifferent, you could make a miscalculation that will prove to be costly.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — It might be one of those days for you where the harder you try to please others, the less you are appreciated. To spare yourself frustrations, stay away from persons who take you for granted.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Mount Etna eruptions closes airport

ON MOUNT ETNA, Italy (AP) — Overnight eruptions by Mount Etna forced the closure of Catania airport today, as emergency workers reinforced embankments despite signs the two main lava flows were slowing.

The eruptions caused a rain of black ash that made it impossible for planes to land or take off from Catania's Fontanarossa airport, the main one in eastern Sicily.

Officials said that the airport, which shut down at midday, would be closed until 6 p.m., with all flights diverted to Palermo.

It was the third time the airport closed since the mountain erupted two weeks ago. On Saturday, dozens of flights were canceled or delayed, causing a major disruption at the beginning of Italy's busy vacation period.

Workers on Mount Etna, Europe's biggest and most active volcano, remained on high alert to stem the lava flow, which has been unpredictable, slowing one day, then speeding up, according to the Civil Protection Agency.

The earthen dams and volcanic rock put up to protect a tourist base, Rifugio Sapienza, were so far diverting the flow and keeping it under control, officials said.

The other river of lava, which in the past days threatened the town of Nicolosi, appeared to have stopped advancing at about 21/2 miles from the town — home to 6,000 people.

Three central pylons of Mount Etna's ski lift and the parking lot at Rifugio Sapienza were destroyed last week, prompting the government to send in army bulldozers and other heavy equipment to protect the station.

Etna, which towers 10,860 feet above Sicily, comes to life every few months. The last major eruption was in 1992.

Although none of the towns on Etna's slopes have been damaged, there have been losses in agriculture and tourism. The government has earmarked about $8 million to help the area recover.

On the Net:

http://www.videobank.it/etna2001/

http://www.lasiciliaweb.com/

http://volcano.und.nodak.edu/vwdocs/volc—images/img—etna.html

Mueller goes before Senate Judiciary Committee to discuss plans for FBI

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators considering Robert Mueller's nomination as FBI director want to know how he plans to revive public confidence in the nation's premier law enforcement agency, which has been hit recently by a string of high-profile mishaps.

"This won't be a 'Hi, how are you,' type (confirmation) hearing," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"He's going to have to articulate clearly what he's going to do with the FBI. In the past, there's been some sacred cows in the FBI, questions that just weren't asked. He's going to have to answer those questions."

Mueller — nominated by Bush on July 5 — will have plenty of time to answer questions, because the committee announced that his confirmation hearing, beginning today, will last at least two days.

The committee already has held FBI oversight hearings, and was expected to use Mueller's first appearance before Congress to ask for specific reforms within the FBI, and to set benchmarks for the agency to live up to.

This would be a markedly different confirmation hearing for Mueller than for his predecessor, Louis Freeh. When he came before the Judiciary Committee on July 29, 1993, it was a lovefest, with Freeh giving the customary promises to fight crime on all fronts while retaining independence from political influence and increasing the number of minority and female agents.

He was done in three hours and confirmed less than two weeks later.

Barring major controversy during the hearing, Mueller's confirmation also is all but assured by the Senate. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., also says he hopes to get a final vote on his nomination by the end of the week.

Mueller, 56, is a no-nonsense Justice Department veteran and former federal prosecutor who has served in senior posts under both Republican and Democratic administrations. Unlike Freeh, who retired two years short of his 10-year term, Mueller has never been an FBI agent.

But his Marine Corps background — he received the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for his service in Vietnam — will enhance his image among agents, many of whom are former Marines, FBI officials said.

Although most senators say they like Mueller, their questioning was likely to be tough at times.

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, one of the Judiciary Committee's harshest FBI critics, warned Mueller that he planned to delve into what he sees as a "cowboy culture" within the bureau.

Fighting worsens in Middle East

NABLUS, West Bank (AP) — An explosion ripped through a car parts store today in the West Bank, killing six Palestinian activists in one of the deadliest single episodes in 10 months of violence. Hours later, Israeli helicopters rocketed the Palestinian police headquarters in Gaza City, injuring two policemen.

The helicopter strike sent white smoke rising from the police compound as people ran frantically from the buildings into the street.

The Israeli military said the compound was used for manufacturing weapons and mortar rounds. Jewish settlements in Gaza have come under frequent mortar attack, and the Israelis have criticized Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for failing to prevent the attacks. The police compound is near Arafat's seaside offices, though he was out of the region at the time.

The six activists killed in the blast that destroyed the car parts store — a roadside tin shack outside the West Bank city of Nablus — were all from Arafat's Fatah movement.

Palestinians called the predawn blast part of Israel's efforts to kill suspected militants. "The Israeli government continues its policy of assassination," said Palestinian Cabinet Secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman. "This policy will destroy any hope for peace. Resistance will continue."

But Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Dalia Rabin-Pelossof called the explosion a "work accident," Israel's euphemism for a Palestinian-made bomb that goes off prematurely.

Obituaries

Rosie Clement

1932-2001

Graveside service for Rosa Nell "Rosie" Clement was held at 10 a.m. today in Hillside Memorial Gardens. The Rev. Miller Robinson, retired Baptist minister, officiated, and arrangements were under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Mrs. Clement, 69, died Friday, July 27, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital after a brief illness.

Born Feb. 5, 1932 in Snyder, she married Bill Clement on Jan. 19, 1976 in Duncan, Okla. He died Jan. 2, 1996. She also was preceded in death by a sister, Juanita Gilchrest.

A member of Colonial Hill Baptist Church, Mrs. Clement was bookkeeper for Clark Lumber for 23 years and was owner of B&R Frame Shop on West 30th Street for many years.

Survivors include two sons, Randy Underwood of Snyder and Jeff Clement of Merkel; a daughter, Catherine Keith of Abilene; a brother, Hoyle Holladay of Snyder; and four grandchildren.

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Alcohol violations lead to arrests

Arrests

DPS Trooper Terry Snyder arrested two subjects on U.S. 84 at 8 p.m. Saturday for alcohol violations. A 69-year-old man was taken into custody for driving while intoxicated and his 61-year-old wife was arrested for public intoxication.

A 19-year-old woman was arrested on Hwy 350 for driving under the influence as a minor.

A 26-year-old man was arrested on Hwy 208 for driving while intoxicated and for an outstanding warrant from Tom Green County for forgery of a financial instrument. His bond was set at $7,500.

His companion, a 34-year-old man, was also taken into custody for public intoxication.

A 25-year-old man was arrested on College Ave. Sunday on outstanding DPS warrants for speeding and failing to appear before a judge. He was transported to the sheriff's office where he paid the fines and was released.

Officers arrested a 50-year-old man for public intoxication Sunday evening. He was walking in the 1900 block of 18th Street when officers located him.

A 41-year-old man was arrested on U.S. 180 for an outstanding warrant from Smith County for revocation of probation.

A 19-year-old man was taken into custody early this morning following a short pursuit. The officer reported a vehicle running from him west in the 500 block of 25th Street. The subject was stopped and arrested in the 600 block of 28th Street.

His charges included driving while intoxicated, evading arrest and driving with no license or insurance.

Fire notes

Bear Williams reported a grass fire near his residence at 3646 CR 132 at 6:45 p.m. Saturday. The fire department was dispatched.

Loud music

Officers were dispatched to the 3100 block of 40th Street early Sunday morning in reference to loud music. A man playing an electric guitar was contacted and notified of the complaint.

Fight

Cheryl Clayton called police to report a fight at the VFW at 1 a.m. Sunday. At the same time, another call came in reporting the fight across the street from the VFW. Officers responded and found two subjects involved in the altercation.

Both were transported to Cogdell Hospital's emergency room, where one of the subjects was admitted for treatment. The other, a 28-year-old man, was taken into custody for public intoxication. At 1 p.m. Sunday, officers arrested the man again for driving with a suspended license.

Gas drive-off

A clerk at the Plaza Truck Stop reported a gas drive-off at 3 a.m. Sunday in the amount of $13.92. The clerk described the vehicle as a maroon, two-door car with no rear license plate.

At 2 p.m. Sunday a clerk at Rip Griffin's Truck Stop reported a gas drive-off in the amount of $29.57. The clerk described the vehicle as a black van, but did not know which way it traveled.

A Town and Country East clerk reported a gas drive-off worth $23.98. The vehicle was a black four-door car with tinted windows.

Births

Branda Gutierrez of Snyder announces the birth of her daughter at 11:15 p.m. on July 27 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. She weighed seven pounds, 2½ ounces.

Calli and Jake Babb of Snyder announce the birth of their eight-pound, three-ounce daughter. She was born at 4 p.m. on July 27 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Naomi Larralde of Snyder announces the birth of her daughter at 3:47 p.m. on July 27 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. She weighed seven pounds, 8½ ounces

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: July 27-Elida Garcia, Maynor Hanks Jr., Bill Houston, Odie Wall, Branda Gutierrez, Calli Pierce, Naomi Larralde; July 28-Helen Martin, Clara Smith, Petra Delao, Guadalupe Munoz; July 29-Orlando Avilez and Chrystalene Woolsey.

DISMISSALS: July 27-Elsa Freeman, Beverly Mitchell, William Raborn, Lois Moore; July 28-Texa Ball, Rose Dry, Eunice Yandell, Bill Houston, Odie Wall, Lewis Wright; July 29-Naomi Larralde and baby, Calli Pierce and baby, Orlando Avilez and Guadalupe Munoz.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Bible study tapes

Bible study videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "God Has Spoken of Mercy," followed by "they Crucified Him There."

Lions Club to meet

Rodger Sullenger, airport manager, will give the program for the Lions Club meeting at noon Tuesday at Martha Ann Woman's Club. Guests are invited and should call 573-3427 for reservations.

Genealogical Society

The Scurry County Genealogical Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the children's room at Scurry County Library. Election of officers will be held, followed by a discussion of finding female ancestors. The public is invited. Yearly membership dues are $12.50 per person or $15 for a couple.

SHS football booster club

The SHS football booster club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the film room. "Meet the Tigers Night" set for Aug. 11 will be discussed.

New SHS students

Students new to Snyder High School and to Snyder ISD need to attend a registration Wednesday and an orientation on Thursday. For more information, call the high school at 573-6301, or the counselors' office at 574-6049.

Gateway Family support group

Gateway Family Services will offer family support groups for family violence victims from 6-7 p.m. on Wednesdays. There will be groups for adults, for children under four and for children four and older. To attend, call 573-1822.

GED testing

GED testing will be offered at Western Texas College Wednesday and the following Wednesday. For more information, call Molly Kattes at 573-2919 or Emily Hataway at 574-2112.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School at Snyder First Church of the Nazarene, 2462 So. Hwy 208 (across from Big Country Autoland) will be from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Puppets, games, refreshments, Bible stories will be featured. Awards will be presented Sunday. For a ride or more information, call 573-5601.

Food handler seminar

The Scurry County Health Unit will hold a food handler seminar Thursday in Room A of Scurry County Coliseum. The first class will be from 9-11 a.m., and the afternoon class will be from 2-4 p.m. Inspection form E-5 will be addressed. Tom Lackey, food and drug investigator with the Texas Department of Health, will be the speaker.

Lloyd family reunion

The Lloyd family reunionwill be held Friday and Saturday at Willow Park Inn.

Potter's House event

The Potter's House will present Live at the House and the rap group Urban Soldierz at 11 a.m. Saturday, at 2524 Ave. R. There is no charge. For more information, call 573-6510.

Certified nurse's aide program

Snyder Oaks Care Center will conduct a certified nurse's aide program starting Sunday. Classes will be held each weekend, for a total of 75 hours. Call 573-9377 or 863-2426 for more information.

New teacher luncheon

The local chapter of the Texas State Teachers Association will hold a Snyder ISD new teacher luncheon at noon Tuesday, Aug. 7, at Snyder Country Club.

Heart walk meeting

The American Heart Association directors will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, at The Shack to plan the heart walk.

Married For Life

Married For Life outreach, information and sign up night is set for 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 13, at the Word Is Life Church, 312 Coliseum Drive. The Home Cell Bible study for married couples starts in August and September. For more information call, 573-7471.

WTC swimming pool

The WTC swimming pool is open for public use. Lap swimming: M-TH 6:30-8 a.m. Open swimming: M-TH 2-5 p.m. Cost is $3 per person or $50 for a semester pass. The pool is also available for parties on Fridays and Saturdays. For more information, contact Mike Harrison at 573-8511, ext. 279.

Mesquite Country Writers Guild

Mesquite Country Writers Guild invites citizens to send in original poetry to be considered for publication in the newsletter, "Bards of a Feather." The limit is 20 lines and the theme is fall and the holidays. Deadline is Sept. 15 to mail entries to MCWG, Box 237 in Ira, 79527, or e-Mail to dade@bigcountry.net.

Bush stands by Vieques decision

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush stands by a U.S. Navy decision to stop military exercises on Puerto Rico's Vieques Island in the next two years, despite a local referendum Sunday demanding an immediate end to the bombing.

"We're moving forward with the Navy's proposal," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said today.

Nearly 70 percent of voters in the nonbinding referendum supported an end to the bombing and the Navy's withdrawal from the island. Thirty percent supported the Navy's remaining indefinitely and resuming bombing with live munitions. Only 1.7 percent backed Bush's plan for the Navy to withdraw by May 1, 2003, and continue exercises with dummy bombs until then.

A legally binding referendum is scheduled for November.

"The president asked the secretary of defense to look into this, which he did. The Navy made a decision; the president supports that decision, which basically says that we need to balance the needs of our military preparedness and training with the needs of the Puerto Rican people," McClellan said.

Bush's decision in June drew criticism from both sides of the issue.