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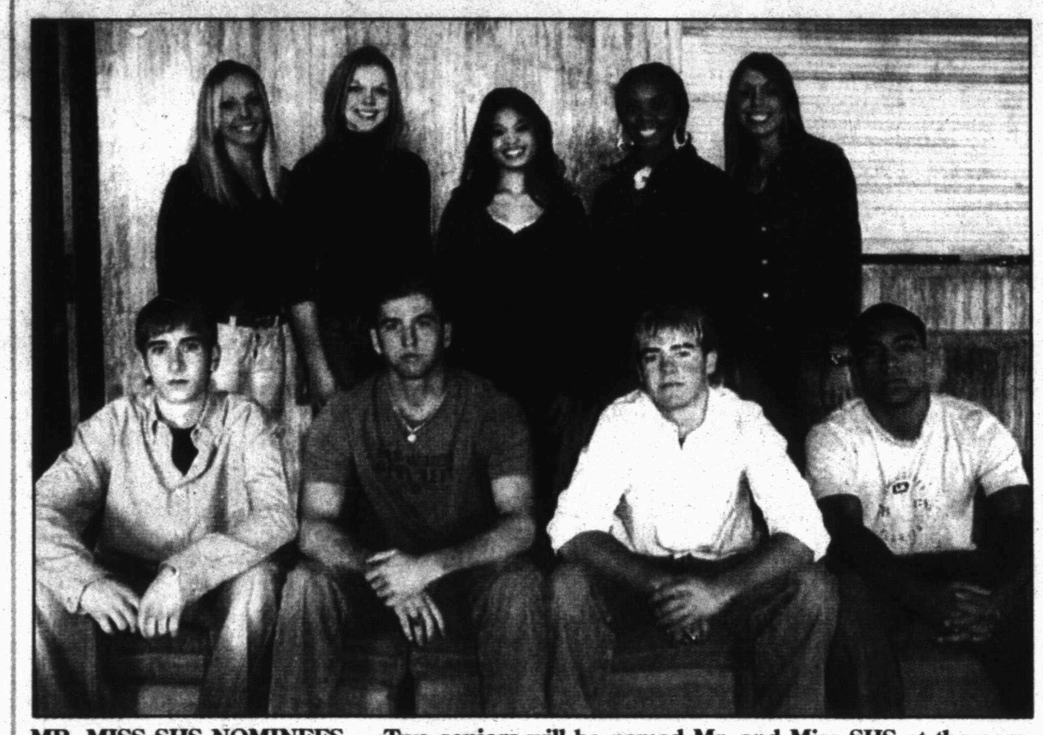
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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY
Feb. 5, 2004
Vol. 55 No. 241
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Mario Garcia

S.H.S. nominees...



MR, MISS SHS NOMINEES — Two seniors will be named Mr. and Miss SHS at the coronation at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday in the Worsham Auditorium. Miss SHS nominees are, from left, Kelsi Johnson, Erin Burleson, Ashlye Amox, Misha Wofford and Kelby Drum. Mr. SHS nominees are Lee Scott, Blake Grimmett, Bradley Price and Boicy Martinez. Not pictured is Sterling Millhollon. Class favorites, sweethearts and former Mr. and Miss SHS and nominees will be recognized. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Baugh event will benefit WTC sports

Tickets go on sale Monday; sports celebrities will attend

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

Western Texas College will host a birthday bash for gridiron legend Sammy Baugh next month, with a list of sports celebrities and a memorabilia auction on tap.

The "Sammy Baugh: Celebration of a Living Legend" is scheduled for March 20, and will commemorate Baugh's 90th birthday.

The event, in addition to hailing one of the most revered players in NFL history, will raise funds for the WTC athletic department.

"This is not just a celebration of Sammy Baugh, but a celebration of what he is willing to do for WTC," said Dr. Greg Williams, WTC president.

The idea for the birthday party is the brainchild of Bob O'Day, who has been collaborating with the school for roughly two years, according to Williams.

O'Day, a former WTC athletic director, said Baugh is interested specifically because the money raised would go for more educational opportunities for high school graduates.

"The celebration is a joint effort — besides celebrating Sammy, it will help the kids," O'Day said.

"Now it's gained a life of it's own," WTC athletic director Dave Hanes said.

The event will feature speeches from several former players and friends of Baugh, including Don Maynard, E.J. Holub, Walt Garrison and Spike Dykes.

Former Texas head coach Darrell Royal will attend but will not speak.

Hanes said the list of celebrities is expected to grow as the event gets closer.

Several players will donate memorabilia to be sold at a silent auction between 2-5 p.m. at Scurry County Coliseum. Some memorabilia also will be sold at WTC.

A VIP reception will be held from 4-6 p.m., and a banquet is scheduled for 7 that night at the Coliseum.

Tickets to the banquet are $50, $75 and $100. Corporate sponsors can purchase a package for $5,000 for a table of six — five from the sponsor and one celebrity. The price also includes admittance to the VIP reception and the name of the purchaser will go in the program as a corporate sponsor.

The money will go to the WTC athletic department, with some funds going to the Scurry County Boys and Girls Club.

Dinner will be West Texas fare, including barbecue, and dress is casual.

In addition to the reception, auction and banquet, the campus golf course will be closed to the public during the celebration.

Williams said a proposal would be submitted to the board of trustees this month to rename the golf course after Baugh.

Williams said he expects this to be a national event, given the personality of the guest of honor.

"He's one of a kind," Williams said of Baugh.

O'Day concurred. "This could be the biggest event Snyder's ever had."

Tickets go on sale Monday, with 500 tickets available. Advance sales end March 12. Ticket information can be obtained through the college's special events office at 573-8511, ext. 220 or 240.

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN
by Annie Rowe



In the few months I've lived in Snyder, I've figured out that this is a very literate town. Folks I've met will often talk about articles that have been written. They'll enlighten me about who's who and who's kin to who and so forth.

That's why I'm sure you've all read about the recent rash of car burglaries we've had lately and the loss that this latest quandary is causing our neighborhood.

Now, I'm sure that the person pulling off these infinitesimal schemes really thinks that he or she is a very intelligent little soul. But obviously, someone needs a job.

It's a shame to think of what a waste of energy it is for a person to prowl the neighborhoods all night searching for the chance to steal some CDs, some cell phones, tools or even loose change from the cars of honest working people.

My first order of business when I start my workday here at the paper is stopping by the police department to pick up the blotter from the day before. Over the past few weeks the calls from folks reporting the burglaries have been tremendous.

That's why I believe we've got to start taking some responsibility for ourselves by making sure we take better precautions against these low-down scoundrels.

We take it for granted that Snyder is a low-crime area. Compared to some of the places I've lived in the past, it sure is. But sadly, crime is everywhere these days so we have to start being more cautious.

Now don't get me wrong. I'm as quick as the next person to run inside a store for a couple of minutes to grab a loaf of bread or some milk and not lock the door. But it's important that we trash that habit right now.

I'll make it simple. Lock your car doors. From the looks of things, the cars that have been broken into were parked and not locked. The perpetrator simply walked up, opened the door and took whatever he or she wanted. They were in and out in a matter of a few seconds and the damage was done. The other thing is to remember is not to leave anything of value in the car where it can be seen. If you leave some CDs or a cell phone in the car, hide it someplace, or better yet, take that with you too. If the ding-dong doesn't see anything, maybe it won't be worth messing with your vehicle.

I want to make this last part perfectly clear. I think that Snyder and Scurry County law enforcement are some of the best officers and deputies I've ever met. When some of these crimes have happened, residents have requested something called a "close patrol".

That's a wonderful service, but the fact is an officer has a whole community to look after and he or she can't hang out in front of a house all night.

Several years ago I lived in Dallas where if you asked an officer for a close patrol of your house, he would say, "Is your house on the way to the donut shop? I'll patrol it closely when I pass."

The fact is we have to exercise precautions. When you go home after that day of nothing but solid labor, take a few more minutes to gather up the stuff in your car that's important to you. Maybe if we give this criminal no more CDs to steal, they'll no longer consider Snyder a "jackpot" and move on to some greener pastures.

Suspect in disappearance not cooperating with police

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — The suspect linked to a missing 11-year-old girl whose abduction was captured by a surveillance camera is not cooperating with investigators, authorities said today.

Joseph P. Smith, 37, is not answering any questions about the disappearance of Carlie Brucia, who has been missing since Sunday evening, Sarasota County Sheriff Bill Balkwill said.

"We want to know where Carlie is," Balkwill said.

Smith was taken into custody Tuesday on a probation violation charge unrelated to the disappearance. A telephone tip led authorities to link him to the car wash's surveillance video.

He has not been charged in the disappearance but remains jailed without bond in the probation violation.

"We have strong evidence that he is in fact the perpetrator," said Capt. Jeff Bell, the lead Sarasota County sheriff's investigator on the case.

Smith has been arrested at least 13 times in Florida since 1993, according to state records. He was arrested in 1997 in Manatee County on kidnapping and false imprisonment charges, but was acquitted a year later. Records also show other arrests ranging from misdemeanor battery to felony drug possession.

Smith's car was being searched by investigators. A home he had recently lived in was cordoned off with yellow police tape and several paper bags, presumably holding evidence, were carried out by investigators.

Officials declined to say what, if anything, was found in the searches except to say that no body was found.

Carlie's stepfather, Steven Kansler, was among those who visited the cordoned-off home. He was visibly distraught as he left there late Wednesday night.

Chuck Chambers, a private investigator hired by the girl's family, said today on ABC's "Good Morning America" that investigators had told Kansler "something about a body," but "there was no evidence after that there was a body." He said the family was in seclusion.

The video footage of Carlie's apparent abduction showed a tattooed man wearing a mechanic's shirt with a name patch leading the girl away. Carlie did not appear to know him, and the girl's parents said they did not recognize him. The girl was going home from visiting a friend when she took a short cut near the car wash that had the security camera.

Smith works as a mechanic and has many tattoos, officials said.

Ron and Linda Thompson, neighbors of Smith, said they were shocked that he was linked to the disappearance, but conceded that the videotape looks like him.

"We haven't known any side of Joe that would indicate that he's capable of this," Linda Thompson said on NBC's "Today."

Carlie's family remains hopeful that she will soon come home, Kansler said Wednesday, shortly before officials announced Smith was in custody.

"She's full of life and she's not going to give up," Kansler said.

Friends from the girl's former Girl Scout troop took a day off from school Wednesday to pass out fliers at malls and canvass neighborhoods.

New coach is on Hermleigh agenda today

Hermleigh ISD board of trustees will meet at 7 p.m. today and is expected to take formal action on hiring Jason Brewer as the district's athletic director and head coach.

The meeting, to be held in the high school library, was originally set for Monday but was changed to today due to conflicts.

Brewer is currently the head coach and athletic director at Charlotte High School in Atascosa County where he has been since July 2002.

He has a total of seven years head coaching experience.

Prior to moving to Charlotte, Brewer coached at Cotulla.

The district received 80 resumes for the position.

Hermleigh will begin playing 11-man football this fall and under the new UIL alignment, will be in the same district as Bronte, Forsan, Roby, Roscoe, Sterling City and Winters.

Drama season to start



Lacey Rowe prepares for upcoming drama season.

The opening of Western Texas College's 2004 theatre season is just around the corner and there are three plays scheduled.

"The program saw a lot of success in the 2003 fall semester and this semester will equal, if not surpass that one," said WTC drama instructor Ray Newton.

The first play of the season is *The Mai*, a drama by Irish playwright Marina Carr, will be performed Feb. 19-22.

The following weekend, Feb. 27-28, the department will present the two-woman comedy *Parallel Lives* by Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney.

"We try to do a variety of shows and believe me, these two shows are as different as they can be. The first is a serious Irish drama, while the second is a hilarious American piece. Really something for everyone," said Newton.

The theatre department has scheduled the final production of the semester for April 22-25, but the play has yet to be named.

"We want to make sure that the students have a well-rounded theatre experience, while providing the highest caliber of entertainment that we can," Newton added.

The department will be branching out to invite high school students to taste the theatre experience at the college level by hosting the WTC Theatre Festival on March 23.

"The theatre festival is going to be a very enjoyable experience for the visiting students and I believe the WTC theatre students also will get a lot out of the experience as well," he said. "It will give WTC a chance to show off the program to younger students who may be interested in attending in the future."

The festival will incorporate the production of three plays by the attending schools and each presentation will receive a judged critique.

ASK US

Q—Why was the movie, "Cold Mountain" rated PG-13 in Snyder, and "R" elsewhere?

A—Cinema owner Ryan Smith said it was an honest mistake and was immediately corrected when brought to his attention. He offered his apology.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Nancy Pippin...

...has been a resident of Snyder for three years, moving from Amherst. She is married to Craig Pippin and they have two children: Ashely, 8, and Jonathan, 12. Nancy is employed at United Supermarket as a price coordinator and her favorite hobbies are reading, camping and spending time with family.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Don't tell people what to do. The gifted don't need it, and others can't take it.
—Katherine Anne Porter

FEB 05 2004

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Masonic Lodge

Scurry Masonic Lodge No. 706 will meet at 7 p.m. tonight to work in the EA Degree. Chilli and beans will be served at 6:30 p.m. All Master Masons are welcome.

SHS freshman work night

SHS freshman work night is 5-7 this evening in the student center. Work will be on fundraiser project assembling party favors. For more information, call Christy Smith or Diane Arnold at 573-6301.

Scouting food drive

Local Boy, Cub and Girl Scouts will hand out bags today and Friday for non-perishable food items (no glass please) to benefit the Snyder Food Cupboard. Donations will be picked up starting at 9 a.m. Saturday. If items have not been picked up by noon, call 207-2260.

Singles night out

Learn how to play bridge at singles night out, for those above 30, to be held from 7 to 8:30 tonight at the building due south of First Baptist Church. For more information call John Fenton at 573-7337 or Bill Johnson at 573-2772.

SHS baseball boosters

Snyder High School baseball boosters will meet at 7 tonight in the film room.

New Saturday landfill hours

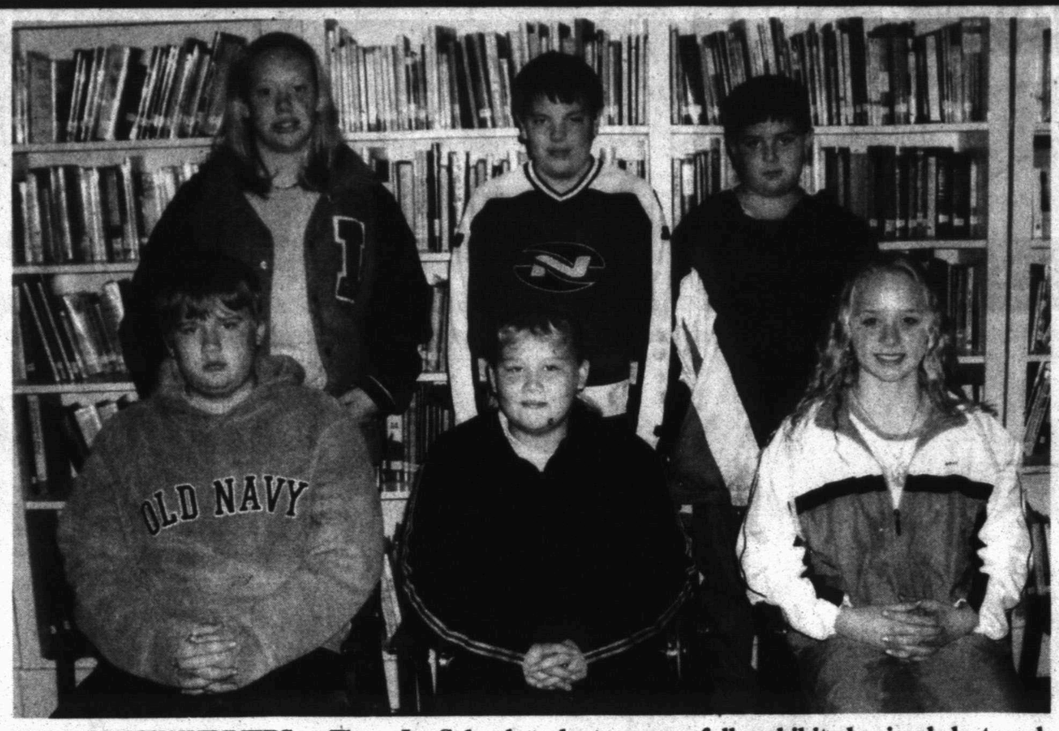
Starting Saturday hours of operation for the Snyder landfill will be from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Flag retirement ceremony

Snyder Boy Scouts will hold a flag retirement ceremony at 2 p.m. Sunday on the south side of the courthouse. For more information call Joe Hefner at 573-0171.

What's up guidelines

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



STOCK SHOW WINNERS — These Ira School students successfully exhibited animals last week during the Fort Worth Stock Show. Front row from left are Chad Nickerson, sixth place goat; Baily Nickerson, champion light weight goat; Kaci Waller, fifth place heavy fine wool cross lamb; back row from left are Lacie Thompson, 15th and 16th place fine wool lambs; Jake Riley, 16th place light weight fine wool cross lamb; and Brandon Lunsford, 16th place medium weight fine wool lamb. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Amnesty program brings in money

ODESSA (AP) — A one-time amnesty for business owners is putting extra money into the budgets for Ector County, two school districts and a hospital.

The Ector County Appraisal District says business owners in Odessa and Ector County added $53 million to the tax rolls with their declarations of business personal property that had either been omitted or undervalued.

The amnesty period during which business owners could avoid back taxes and penalties ended Dec. 1, in advance of a new state law that imposes a 10 percent penalty for failing to render property on time, and a 50 percent penalty for filing a fraudulent rendition. The law took effect Jan. 1.

The $53 million translates to $800,000 in additional property taxes for the Ector County Independent School District, $250,000 for the county, $106,000 for Odessa College and $50,000 for the Ector County Hospital District.

While Assistant Superintendent Bruce Revell didn't expect the Ector County ISD to get all of the $800,000, he said the windfall was good. He said the school district will be eligible for $500,000 to $750,000 in state matching funds for its effort to collect the maximum amount of property taxes, The Odessa American reported in its today editions.

County Auditor David Austin said $250,000 will help ease county financial burdens.

"We'll have to wait and see how the tax receipts come in, but certainly, if we get additional revenues we weren't counting on, it'll be applied against the deficit."

Body in Oklahoma identified as missing retired TCU professor

FORT WORTH (AP) — One of two people accused of abducting and killing a retired Texas Christian University professor told police he wrapped duct tape around her face after leaving a grocery store parking lot, according to an arrest warrant affidavit.

Edward Busby, 31, and Kathleen Latimer, 39, both of Fort Worth, were charged with capital murder Wednesday in the death of Laura Lee Crane. They were jailed on $1 million bond in Oklahoma City, where they were arrested Sunday after being stopped driving Crane's car.

Crane's body was found Tuesday afternoon off Interstate 35 near Davis, Okla. An autopsy showed she was asphyxiated. She had been abducted Friday.

Busby said that he drove Crane away from the lot before putting duct tape around her face so that Crane was unable to breath, according to capital murder warrants obtained Wednesday by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Busby said that he and Latimer drove to Ardmore, where they spent the night, and that Crane was dead when he checked on her the next morning, according to the affidavits.

Authorities were led to the body after Busby confessed, said Fort Worth police Lt. Roger Dixon, a detective who went to Oklahoma City to question the suspects.

Crane's body was found at the bottom of an embankment with duct tape across her face, Dixon said. Her death was ruled homicide by asphyxiation, and she also had suffered blunt force trauma, he said.

Dixon would not say when or in which state Crane was killed. Dixon said robbery was a motive and that she appeared to be a random target.

According to the affidavits, Busby initially told an FBI agent that he had purchased the car for $200 and that there was no body in the trunk when they left for Oklahoma City. But police said in the affidavit that Busby later said another man took the car and killed Crane and offered him the car if he would dispose of the body.

Crane's daughter, Allen Walker, said the family was grieving but would put faith in the judicial system.

She thanked the authorities and volunteers.

"To Mrs. Crane's students, past and present, we want to say that you are her life and you are the hope of the future," Walker said. "She knows what you are capable of and she expects the best from you. Your success will keep her memory alive, and remember that each of you now has your very own special guardian angel."

Astronauts...

Investigator for the Columbia disaster says more could die

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — An investigator of the Columbia disaster fears more astronauts will die if NASA rushes ahead with a space shuttle launch this fall without making all the needed repairs.

"An early launch could create the same conditions which cost us 16 lives," Air Force Brig. Gen. Duane Deal said earlier this week. He was referring to the crews of the Columbia and Challenger and two men who died in a helicopter crash while searching for shuttle debris.

NASA's top spaceflight official insists, however, that the plan for resuming shuttle flights as early as September or October will be driven by milestones, not schedule. He stressed Wednesday that those months are merely planning dates.

"If we don't meet milestones, we don't fly in September or October. It's that simple," said Bill Readdy, a former shuttle commander in charge of the spaceflight office.

Readdy said he appreciates that "there are concerns out there."

"That's normal," he said. "It's part of the open discussions that we have about all these items, that show that we've learned an awful lot here in the year since the accident, paid tremendous attention to the very thoughtful commentary and the recommendations and observations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board."

Deal, commander of the 21st Space Wing at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado, has investigated about a dozen military aircraft and rocket accidents. He said in an e-mail Tuesday that he stays in touch with shuttle workers who tell him pressure is building to launch this fall.

He said workers also have confided to him that there is still resistance within NASA to institutional change.

In their final report last summer, Deal and the other Columbia investigators blamed the Feb. 1, 2003, accident not only on a piece of flyaway foam, but also NASA's broken safety culture. The general wrote a supplemental report citing numerous other safety infractions that he said could be the next O-ring or piece of foam.

Deal, said progress is lacking on some of the critical recommendations made by the investigators, especially regarding the inspection and repair of damaged shuttle wings in orbit.

A gash in the leading edge of Columbia's left wing, from a piece of fuel-tank foam insulation at liftoff, let in the searing gases of re-entry and led to the ship's destruction over Texas.

Deal also worries about NASA's "definition of what is and isn't critical damage," which could hinder astronauts' repair capability in orbit.

In an interim status report last month, the task force overseeing return-to-flight activities noted that NASA's progress on the recommendations is "uneven" and said it is too soon to predict when space shuttles might fly again.

NASA has spent more than $200 million so far on its return-to-flight efforts, and President Bush is seeking another $200 million for that in the agency's 2005 budget.

Readdy acknowledges "the future is fuzzy" regarding the shuttle and international space station, in light of Bush's new space initiative that puts high priority on returning astronauts to the moon by 2020.

But the president's 2010 deadline for completing the station and retiring the shuttle should not be cause for concern among employees or an impetus for pressure, Readdy said.

"That's still about half a dozen years off," he said. "There's a tremendous amount of work for us to do, but job one is return to flight, return to flight safely."

Associated Press writer Robert Weller in Denver contributed to this report.

On the Net:
NASA: www.nasa.gov

Today's chuckle

Cow hairpieces disqualify exhibitors



COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Three livestock exhibitors at last year's Ohio State Fair have been disqualified for allegedly outfitting their Holstein cows with hairpieces.

State Fair inspectors said the three glued or painted hair from another part of the animal or from another animal to create straighter backs on the cows and enhance their appearance in the show ring.

Kreg Krebs and his brother Kenneth of Fredericksburg, and Scott Long of Clayton, Mich., could be required to forfeit all winnings, said Department of Agriculture spokeswoman Melanie Wilt. The winnings had been withheld by fair officials.

Wilt said state inspectors at the fair discovered the fake hair when the cows were leaving the show ring on Aug. 10.

The men have 30 days to request a hearing in which they could present their cases to an independent hearing officer.

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TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Wednesday's Lottery Numbers
Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 14-20-30-37-44. Bonus Ball: 44.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: None.

Number matching five of five: 2. Prize: $11,873.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 8. Prize: $2,694.

Number matching four of five: 435. Prize: $108.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 442. Prize: $94.

Number matching three of five: 16,356. Prize: $5.

Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 6,119. Prize: $5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 30,536. Prize: $3.

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: $5 million.

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 4-13-18-20-31.

Number matching five of five: 1.

Prize per winner: $43,515.

Winning tickets sold in: Houston.

Matching four of five: 123. Prize: $160.

Matching three of five: 4,074. Prize: $12.

Matching two of five: 42,283. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Pick 3
(Day) 1-9-2
(Night) 5-9-4

World Almanac

Thursday, Feb. 5, 2004

Today is the 36th day of 2004 and the 46th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1631, Roger Williams, the founder of Rhode Island, arrived in Boston from England.

In 1937, President Franklin Roosevelt announced a plan to expand the Supreme Court to as many as 15 justices.

In 1988, former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega was indicted on drug smuggling and money laundering.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Adlai Stevenson (1900-1965), politician/diplomat; Red Buttons (1919-), comedian, is 85; Hank Aaron (1934-), baseball player, is 70; John Guare (1938-), playwright, is 66; Jennifer Jason Leigh (1962-), actress, is 42.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1943, boxer Sugar Ray Robinson lost the first bout of his career when he was upset by Jake LaMotta, "the Raging Bull."

TODAY'S QUOTE: "It is often easier to fight for principles than to live up to them." — Adlai Stevenson

TODAY'S FACT: The Third Punic War, between Rome and Carthage, led to the destruction of the city of Carthage; in 146 B.C.; some 2,100 years later, on Feb. 5, 1985, the mayors of Rome and Carthage met in Tunis, Algeria, and signed a friendship treaty formally declaring the end of the war.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 21.8 — Length in inches of a cubit, the unit of measure mentioned in the Bible.

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Jan. 29) and full moon (Feb. 6)

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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
Wade Warren, Managing Editor
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VISITORS FRO... Birkenes of Kris... this week follow... Clifton. Bill and... ing John Billing... Street; the Ciel... the historic John... bara visited Ole... in Norway. Fron... Paul Hudgins.

Victor...

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Finally, in 2001... her admitted to ... stent compassi... gram. At that ... development, ... Cypher(tm) St...

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Horseshoe Pi... horseshoe court... coliseum; every... for further infor... 9762.

Deep Creek C... at the coliseum... 8:30 p.m.

AA Big Book... meeting; contac... 574-1292 or 573-...

FR...

Free blood p... Senior Citizens ... 11 a.m.

Blood pressur... at Cogdell H... Health Services... Blvd., Suite B; 1...

ABCL Open ... Bridge; Snyder ... 1:30 p.m.

Cornelius-Do... open by appoin... 0538 or 573-077...

NA Just Fo... meeting; Park C... mation call 573-...

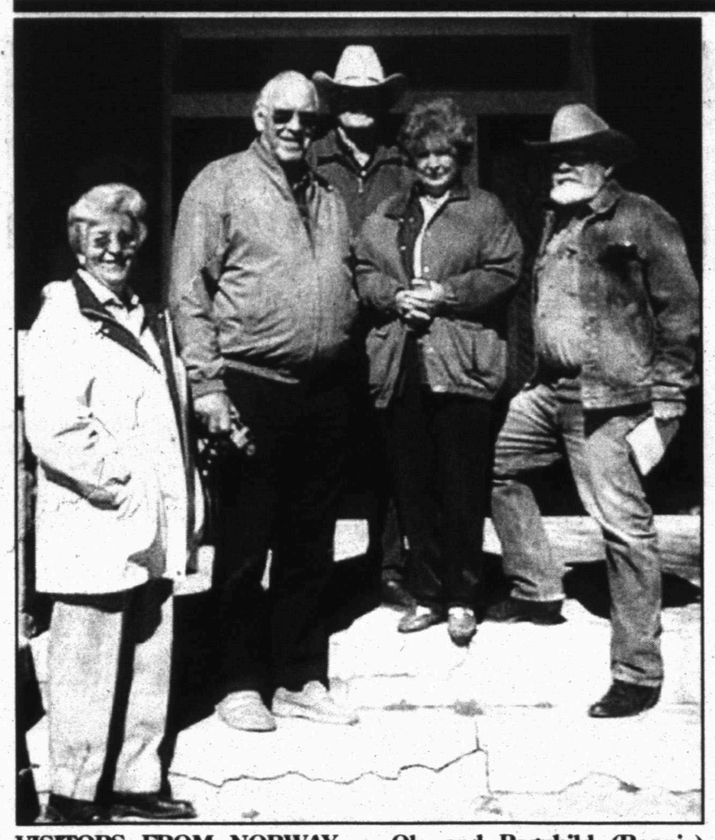
Scurry Coun... meeting; Park C... Park; for inform... 1292 or 573-945...

Al-Anon open... Club; 573-3733, ... 1141; 8 p.m.

SUN...

Scurry County... ing; Park Club in... for information ... 573-9458; 10 a.m...

Best Available Copy



VISITORS FROM NORWAY — Ole and Ragnhild (Ronnie) Birkenes of Kristiansaud, Norway, visited Bill and Barbara Tune this week following a visit to the "Norwegian capital of Texas" at Clifton. Bill and Barbara gave them a brief tour of the city including John Billings' office at the Law Enforcement Center on 26th Street; the Cielo Wind Energy and Texas Wind Energy project, the historic Johnson house; and downtown Snyder. Bill and Barbara visited Ole, Barbara's third cousin, and Ronnie last summer in Norway. From left are Ronnie, Ole, Bill, Barbara and a friend, Paul Hudgins. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Victory over heart disease

Heart disease: It's no longer just a man's problem. According to figures from the National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease, 2003, an estimated six million American women now have coronary artery disease-the life-threatening condition that blocks the vessels supplying oxygen and vital nutrients to the heart.

Fortunately, more and more tales of heart disease may soon have happy endings. Just ask 75-year-old Helen Rehak — who's just one of a few heart patients who is now benefitting from a medical discovery called a drug-eluting stent.

For Rehak, the battle began nearly 25 years ago when she developed chest pain while playing tennis. Over the next two decades, her life became an endless series of heart treatments, including three open-heart operations and numerous other procedures. Time after time, her vessels would reblock, and Rehak would be back in the hospital undergoing another treatment.

Finally, in 2001, her doctor had her admitted to the drug-eluting stent compassionate use program. At that time, the new development, known as the Cypher(tm) Sirolimus-eluting Coronary Stent, was still being studied. The early results with this new device were so remarkable the U.S. Food & Drug Administration authorized its early use in patients like Rehak who had exhausted every available option for keeping their heart vessels open.

The Cypher Stent is a tiny stainless steel scaffolding structure coated in the drug sirolimus. The stent braces the artery open and gradually releases sirolimus into the vessel lining to help prevent tissue regrowth, the leading cause of reblockage in diseased coronary arteries.

Today, more than a year since Rehak received the new stent, she is enjoying life with her husband. "I recently had a clinical follow-up and was so pleased to learn that my arteries are as the doctor left them that day. It's wonderful to be pain-free."

The Cypher Stent was approved for use in the United States in April 2003. Today, more than 250,000 heart patients around the world have been treated with this new device.

For more information, visit www.cypherusa.com.

For Helen Rehak, as with millions of women, a new kind of coronary artery stent has solved decades of health problems.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

Snyder Garden Club; "Designing From the Handbook," video tape from NGC Inc.; Scurry County Library; 4 p.m.

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

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

AA Big Book Study; closed meeting; contact numbers are 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

NA Just For Today open meeting; Park Club; form information call 573-6179; 6-7 p.m.

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club at Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 8 p.m.

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

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 10 a.m.

NA Just For Today open meeting; Park Club; for more information call 573-6179; 6-7 p.m.

Births

Reynaldo and Melissa Hernandez of Snyder announce the birth of their daughter, Annalisia LaRea Nicole Hernandez, at 12:44 p.m. on Feb. 2 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. She weighed six pounds, six ounces.

Paternal grandparents are Laredo and Sylvia Hernandez and maternal grandparents are Juan and Mary Pena, all of Snyder.

—

Sometimes it is said that man cannot be trusted with the government of himself. Can he, then, be trusted with the government of others? Or have we found angels in the forms of kings to govern him? Let history answer this question.

—Thomas Jefferson

—

Make yourself necessary to somebody.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 02-05-04
♠ K 4 3
♥ 7 5 2
♦ K 6
♣ 8 6 5 3 2

West
♠ J 9 6
♥ 8 4
♦ 8 7 4 2
♣ K J 9 4

East
♠ 2
♥ A K Q J 10 6
♦ 10 9 5 3
♣ 10 7

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

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	3 ♥
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ 8

Is this a reprise or a variation?

By Phillip Alder

Two days ago, we saw a deal featuring an uppercut. If the declarer could have drawn trumps, he would have done so without loss. But before he could gain the lead, a defender ruffed in with a middling trump. Declarer was forced to overruff with an honor, and this spawned a trump trick for the other defender.

Is this deal another example of a defensive trump promotion, or is there a twist in the tadpole's tail?

Here is how the play went at the table in four spades: East won trick one with the heart 10, cashed the heart ace, and continued with the heart king. South ruffed up with his trump ace, cashed the spade queen, and crossed to dummy's spade king, East throwing a heart. Now the declarer played a club to his queen, but the finesse lost to West's king. Declarer had no option but to concede one down, the defenders taking one spade, two hearts and one club.

True, South was unlucky. Spades might have divided favorably, and East, for his three-level overcall, rated to have the club king. But bridge — like life — isn't always fair.

It looks as if declarer walked into a trump promotion. However, if he had just paused to consider his options, he might have noticed that, barring West's having all four trumps, he had only three losers: two hearts and one club. At trick three, he should have calmly discarded his club queen.

If East leads a fourth heart, declarer can ruff (or overruff) in the dummy, then draw trumps without loss.

When the defense is trying for an uppercut, look for a loser to pitch.

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TV star to appear at Lubbock show

LUBBOCK — West Texas Home Builders Association announces the appearance of Jason Cameron, the new carpenter on TLC's hit TV show, *While You Were Out*, at the 2004 Home & Garden Show

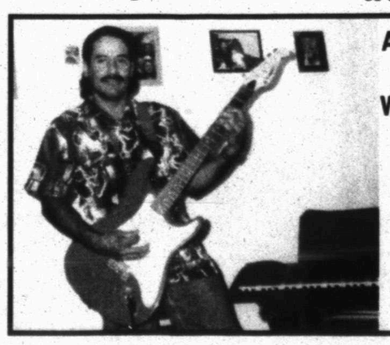
.Cameron can be seen at the Home & Garden Show to be held at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center Feb. 27-29.

Cameron joined the *While You Were Out* crew in July 2003. After auditioning for a different show, the casting director (who also happened to work with TLC) suggested that he audition for *While You Were Out*. Cameron, already a huge fan of the show, auditioned and became a member of the cast a month later.

While You Were Out broadcasts on TLC every Friday at 9 p.m.(et). Each episode features a homeowner who sneakily sends his or her partner, parent or roommate out of town for a couple of days as designer and two carpenters to work around the clock to create a new look for an indoor or outdoor space.

Meanwhile, TLC secretly videotapes the absent party during their getaway, gaining information for the pop-quiz portions of the show. All of which leads to the big surprise at the end of each show.

"I am honored and thrilled to be able to come to Lubbock, not only for the show, but to see the sights of the city as well," Cameron said.



As the days go by and the years do too.
We all wish Mario Garcia a Happy Birthday!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARIO!



GS GAME DAY — Scouts brought their favorite board games and snacks to share with other scouts at a Jan. 24 meeting. Enjoying the game LIFE are Kiersten Price, Cherie Northcutt, Allison Downing, all from Troop 100, and Lieren Tindel from Troop 172. (Contributed Photo)

Plan for raising healthy children

Today 10 percent of children age two to five and 15 percent of children and adolescents age six to 19 are overweight.

Frances Berg, in her new book *Underage & Overweight* (Hatherleigh Press, $24.95), advises parents, teachers, and other caregivers concerned about children's weight problems to forget about restrictive diets or rigid routines. Instead, they should help their children develop healthy, confident, diet-free lifestyles in which sound habits for eating and activity come naturally.

Find out whether your child is overweight.

Your doctor or other health care professionals can determine whether your child's or adolescent's weight is healthy.

Offer love and appreciation.

An overweight child probably knows better than anyone else that he or she has a weight problem.

Be a role model.

Eat well and live an active life yourself. Your children learn from what you do—not just what you say.

Increase your and your child's physical activity.

Aim to get 30 to 60 minutes of physical activity most days of the week. Plan family activities that provide everyone with exercise.



GIRL SCOUT COOKIE TIME — Samantha Shankles, standing, from Junior Troop 150 is selling cookies to Tressi Martin. This year they offer Shortbread, Thin Mint, Piñatas, Peanut Butter Patties, Carmel Delights, Animal Treasures, Peanut Butter Sandwiches and Reduced Fat Lemon Pastry Creme. Proceeds help support scouts in Snyder. Girls will be taking orders for cookies until Feb. 11 and those not contacted by a Girl Scout can call 573-7556 or 573-7722 to place orders. (Contributed Photo)

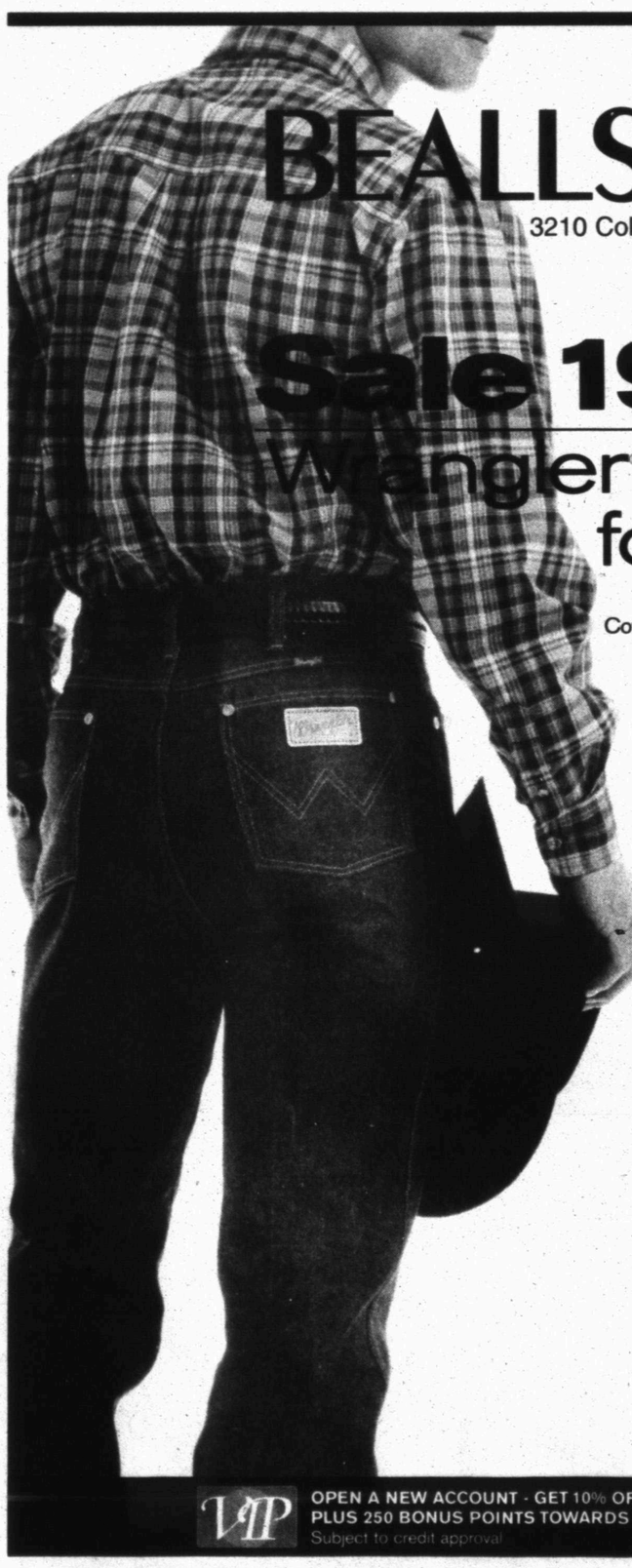
Debra Messing admired Donny Osmond

NEW YORK (AP) — She's expecting her first child with husband Daniel Zelman, but "Will & Grace" star Debra Messing once had a very different domestic arrangement in mind.

"I grew up in the days of Donny Osmond and Shaun Cassidy," she tells People magazine in its Feb. 9 issue. "They had a power over me that I was not capable of overcoming."

Osmond, who co-hosted the musical-variety series "Donny and Marie" in the 1970s, was a huge part of her childhood, Messing said.

"I told myself I was going to marry him someday. Then he got married to a woman named Debra (Glenn). I was convinced that I was the Debra and it was a parallel-life thing."



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Sale 21.99
Rigid indigo; 38" & 40" inseams. Reg. 26.00.
Sale 24.99
Prewashed indigo; regular inseam. Reg. 28.00.
Sale 26.99
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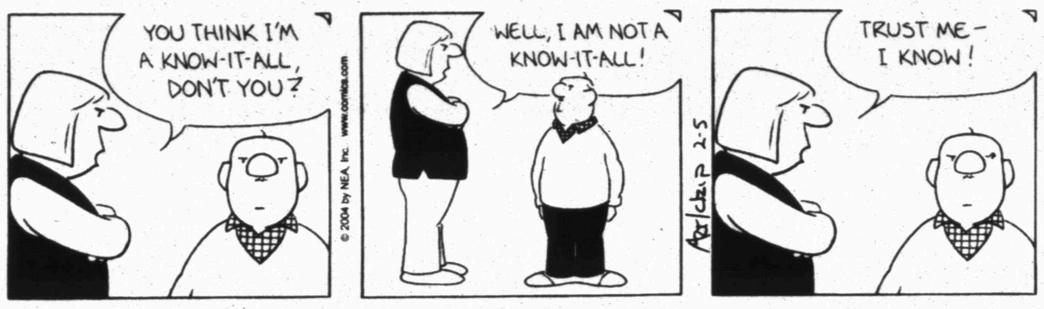
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ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



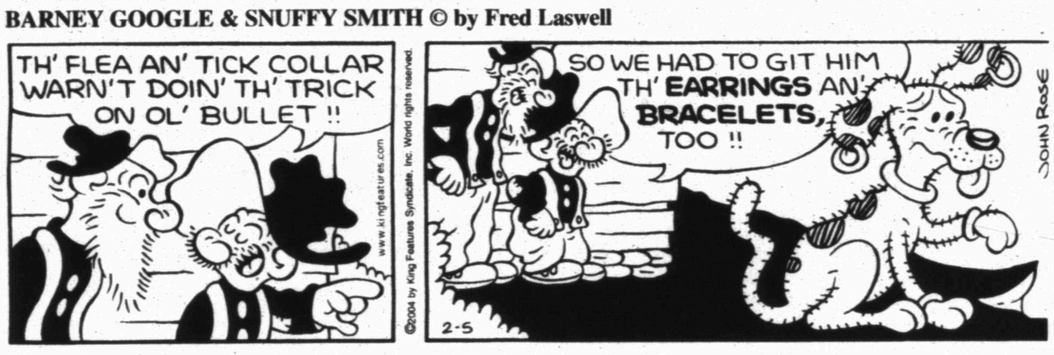
THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



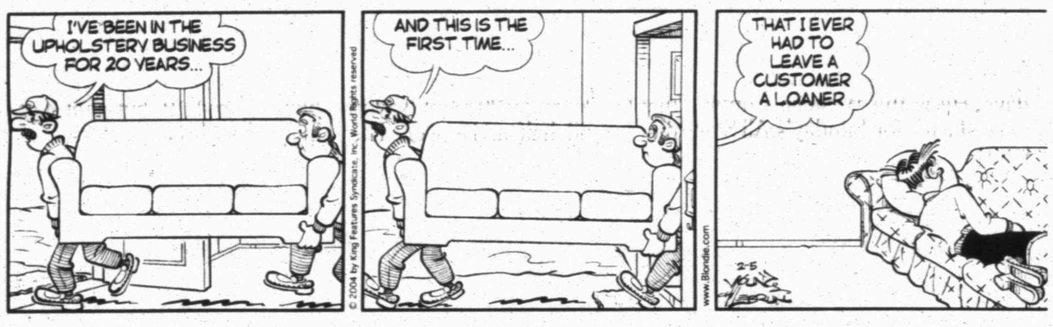
SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Delight in
6 Edge past
11 Decoys
12 Work clay
13 Ranger's beat
15 Movie theater
16 Type of gasoline
18 Shriver of tennis
19 Geisha's' accessory
21 Place to sleep
22 Shah's land
23 Leave a mark
25 Sizzling
28 Char
30 Pizarro's quest
31 Cen. fractions
32 Daily record
33 P.O. service
35 Inexpensive
37 Annapolis grad
38 Secluded valley
40 Kitchen pests
41 Great Lakes cargo
42 West of "Diamond Lil"
43 Mineral spring
46 Foremen
48 Gobbled down
50 Literary genre
54 Get acclimated
55 Happen again
56 Office notes
57 Goody-goodies

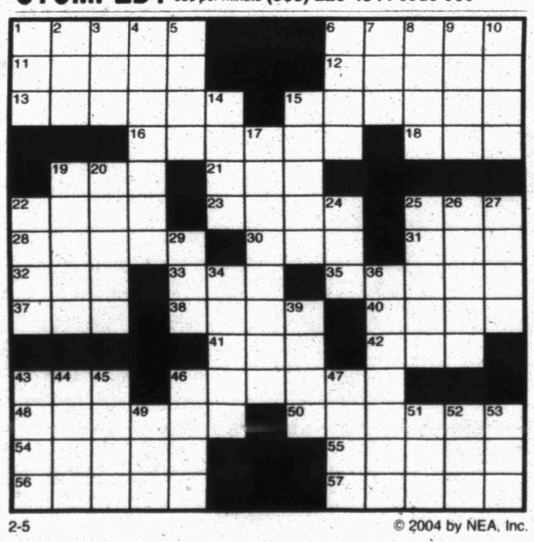
DOWN

1 Politico — Landon
2 Sonny and Cher, once
3 Bruin ice great
4 Dizzy
5 Latin I verb
6 Fishtail
7 Traveler's stop
8 Profound
9 "Lost Horizon" role
10 Party-tray cheese
14 Dinner checks
15 Fragrant wood
17 Message unscramblers
19 Mythological hunter
20 Hairstyle
22 Capri or Wight
24 Legendary bird
25 Veldt scavenger
26 Declaim
27 Cookbook amts.
29 Unit of work
34 Oversupply
36 Pet in a cage
39 Famed loch
43 Go to the pool
44 Corn bread
45 Grad
46 Nectar gatherers
47 Tombstone deputy
49 To and —
51 Here, in Cannes
52 Snug bug's locale
53 Uh cousins

Answer to Previous Puzzle

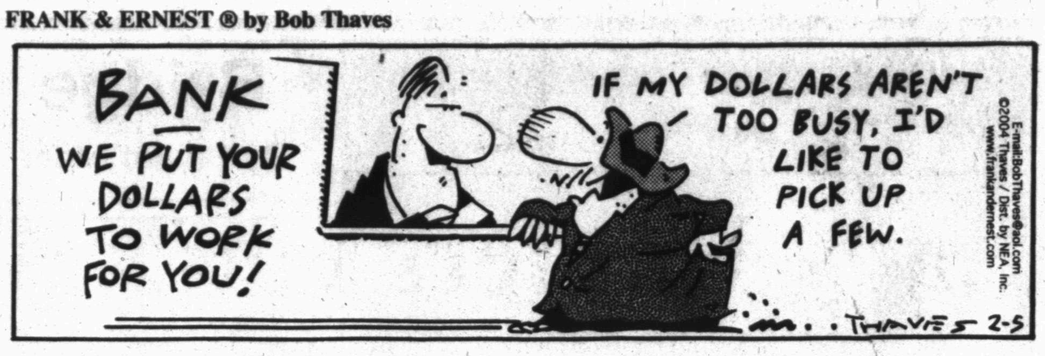
T	R	A	S	H			P	O	O	P	E	D
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			R	E	S		S	S	T			
	W	O	K		O	W	E		I	F	S	
E	A	U		U	T	E		D	O	I	N	G
L	I	T		S	O	L		I	N	T	E	L
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			A	L	A		T	O	W			
M	E	L	L	O	W		E	L	A	T	E	D
O	R	E	L	S	E		R	A	R	I	T	Y
B	R	A	Y	E	D	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

STUMPED? Call for answers • Touch-tone or rotary phone 95¢ per minute (900) 226-4344 code 000



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FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



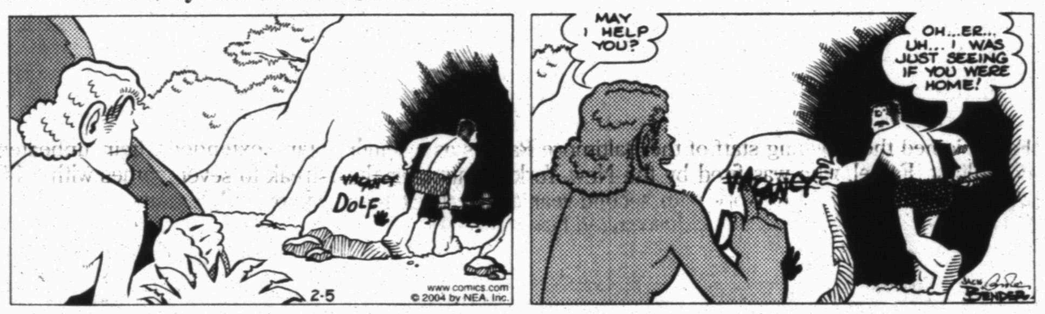
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BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

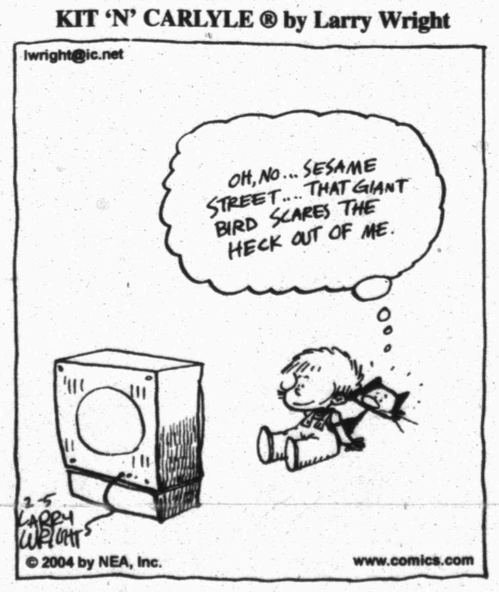


HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"I'm having a fabulous evening, but I really must be home by 8 o'clock."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"DID YOU GUYS KNOW THE POWER WENT OFF?"

Best Available Copy

SPORTS

Lady Raiders rout Jayhawks

LUBBOCK (AP) — From the outset, Texas Tech's Erin Grant knew she could have a big night against Kansas.

The Jayhawks left her open often on the outside as they tried to defend the basket, allowing her to score a career-high 27 points to lead ninth-ranked Tech past Kansas 67-44 Wednesday night.

"I don't think there's any question that the story of the night is Erin Grant," Tech coach Marsha Sharp said. "I'm really glad she had a game like tonight to back up the Texas game because I thought the game Sunday was one of the most courageous performances I've ever seen."

In the loss to No. 3 Texas, Grant had 14 points, seven rebounds, four assists and two steals in 38 minutes.

Against Kansas, Grant had two 3-pointers. That doubled her output in nine previous tries.

The crowd often encourages her to put up 3-pointers.

"They tell me to shoot it every time," Grant said. "I can't shoot it every time down but I try to just take the good shot, the open shot and I think I did that tonight."

She finished 10 of 13 from the field, and had six assists, five steals and no turnovers in 30 minutes.

She also hit all five of her free throws. Grant hasn't missed from the line in the last two games. She hit all four of her free throws in the Texas loss.

Alesha Robertson and LaToya Davis added 12 points each for the Lady Raiders (19-3, 5-3 Big 12). Grant's previous career high of 18 points came in a loss to Texas last year in the conference tournament.

Tamara Ransburg had 13 points and Aquanita Burras 10 to lead Kansas (9-10, 2-6).

It was the second game the Jayhawks played without coach Marian Washington, who took a leave of absence for medical reasons.

"We're just trying to hold steady right now," interim coach Lynette Woodard said.

She also had high praise for Grant's play.

"She knows the game, she understands the game," Woodard said. "She just stayed within herself and did a nice job."

Unforced turnovers hurt the Jayhawks. They finished with 25 overall and Tech converted 31 points off of them.

"We stumble on offense and the ball would go off of our foot or in transition, we come right down and make a turnover," Woodard said. "If we had slowed down and run our sets, I think we would have had a better opportunity."

The Lady Raiders built their biggest lead of at 62-36 with 6:30 remaining on a layup by Grant.

Tech led 34-17 at halftime.

SHS golfers swing into spring this weekend

The Snyder varsity golf teams swing into spring this weekend, with the boys hosting the Snyder Tournament and the girls heading to San Angelo.

The boys team begins the second half of the pre-district season Friday at Scurry County Golf Course, with several area teams competing in the event.

The boys varsity team is Tanner Bloom, Jake Cottrell, Jay Weaver, Blake Seale, Cole Robertson, Alan Gray and Wyl Wiggins.

The girls get the spring schedule underway in San Angelo Friday.

The girls varsity golfers are Cami Trout, Brooke Jackson, Shannon Mangis, Kendra Martinez, Christi Williams and Ashley Luecke

The junior varsity boys also will play in the Snyder Tournament, while the JV girls have an open date this week.

They will begin the spring schedule Feb. 13 in Big Spring.

The Snyder boys will begin district play March 30 in Sweetwater, while the girls begin district play April 1 in Gaines County.

Els takes charge with 12-under 60

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Ernie Els shot a career-best 12-under 60 today in the first round of the Heineken Classic, leaving him a stroke short of becoming the first player to shoot a sub-60 round in the history of the European and Australian tours.

The South African star, seeking his third straight victory on Royal Melbourne's composite course, parred the final two holes and had a bogey on No. 15. He finished the round in windless conditions with an eagle, 11 birdies, five pars and the lone bogey.

"I felt really good on the driving range this morning, and I could see the conditions were pretty ideal," Els said. "I knew that Michael Campbell had a 64, so I kept plugging away."

On the par-4 17, Els left a 35-foot birdie putt 3 feet short. On No. 18, also a par-4 hole, his approach from the adjoining 17th fairway went to the back fringe of the green, and his birdie putt went nearly 3 feet past the hole.

Els, who took a four-stroke lead over New Zealand's Campbell, broke the previous Royal Melbourne record of 62 set by New Zealand's Richard Lee in 2002.

"A 60 at Royal Melbourne — put that in the books," Els said. "I think I'll be talking about that for a long time."

The South African's best previous round was a 61 in the 1994 Dubai Desert Classic.

"I felt that today's flags were accessible, and the greens were just perfect," said Els, who had nines of 29 and 31.

"They had a little bit of moisture and without the breeze, the moisture doesn't get blown out. When they are firm, fast and when the wind blows, you have to play pretty well to break par. But on a day like this, without any breeze, you can shoot some low numbers."

Three PGA Tour players have shot 59s, Al Geiberger in the 1977 Memphis Classic, Chip Beck in the 1991 Las Vegas Invitational, and David Duval in the 1999 Bob Hope Chrysler Classic. All three were 13 under on par-72 courses. Annika Sorenstam also accomplished the feat in the LPGA Tour's 2001 Standard Register Ping.

Jason Bohn shot a 13-under 58 in a 2001 Canadian Tour event, and Japan's Shigeki Maruyama also had a 13-under 58 in qualifying for the 2000 U.S. Open in Rockville, Md. Two Nationwide Tour players also have had 59s, Doug Dunakey and Notah Begay.

New Zealand's Mahal Pearce and Australians Wade Ormsby and Craig Carmichael were five strokes behind Els after 65s. England's Nick Faldo opened with a 68, Greg Norman shot a 71, and former U.S. amateur champion Ricky Barnes had a 72.

Nowitzki, Jamison help Mavs hold off Hornets

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki and Antawn Jamison made sure Dallas didn't blow another fourth quarter lead.

Nowitzki had 10 of his 28 points in the final period and Jamison added eight of his 17 in that span to help the Mavericks hold off the New Orleans Hornets 113-104 on Wednesday night.

"We want to make a great deal of an effort that we don't give up leads all the time," Nowitzki said. "We did nice job in the fourth quarter defensively, rebounding the ball. When we rebound the ball, we always give ourselves a good chance to win the game."

Nowitzki grabbed 11 rebounds as Dallas won for the 11th time in 13 games and extended the Hornets' losing streak to four games.

Three games ago, Dallas lost after leading 78-70 in the fourth quarter at Utah. They followed that by blowing a 20-point lead in the second half at Denver. The Hornets tried to make it three times in four games.

New Orleans was only down six with 2:44 left and the shot clock winding down when Michael Finley (22 points) banked in a 3-pointer from 33 feet that gave Dallas a 101-92 lead.

"It kind of made what may have been a sticky last couple minutes a win going away," said Steve Nash, who added 18 points and 12 assists for the Mavericks.

For Nowitzki, his scoring output ended a three-game span in which he had averaged 14 points, about seven points below his average for the season.

Darrell Armstrong led New Orleans with 27 points. He hit five 3-pointers, including two early in the fourth quarter to keep New Orleans in it. One day after being selected to his first All-Star game, Jamaal Magloire had 23 points and 12 rebounds. Jamal Mashburn scored 19, but shot 4-of-17 in the first three quarters.

Sports Briefs

Fassel joins Ravens' staff

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP) — Former New York Giants coach Jim Fassel joined the coaching staff of the Baltimore Ravens as a senior consultant. Fassel, who was fired by the New York Giants after the 2003 season, was hired to work with second-year quarterback Kyle Boller to improve a passing attack that ranked last in the NFL.

Green picks McCown, releases Blake

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Arizona Cardinals coach Dennis Green released Jeff Blake, saying Josh McCown showed at the end of last season that he was the team's quarterback of the future. Green refused to discuss Blake's shortcomings and said the decision had more to do with McCown's potential.

ESPN cancels controversial series

BRISTOL, Conn. (AP) — ESPN canceled "Playmakers" after one season, ending a show that drew criticism from the NFL and some players. The show focused on a fictional football team and featured plots that included drug use, marital infidelity, racism and homophobia.

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE							
Atlantic Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Philadelphia	27	12	11	5	70	153	122
New Jersey	28	13	10	1	67	123	96
N.Y. Islanders	26	20	5	2	59	152	133
N.Y. Rangers	20	24	7	4	51	143	157
Pittsburgh	11	36	5	3	30	109	207
Northeast Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Toronto	29	14	8	3	69	147	127
Boston	26	14	11	4	67	136	126
Ottawa	28	15	7	3	66	176	115
Montreal	27	20	6	2	62	137	122
Buffalo	23	25	5	1	52	130	135
Southeast Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Tampa Bay	27	17	6	3	63	142	117
Atlanta	21	26	6	2	50	149	165
Florida	18	23	11	3	50	122	150
Carolina	17	26	10	2	46	105	138
Washington	17	31	5	2	41	129	173
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Detroit	30	15	8	2	70	178	129
Nashville	26	19	6	2	60	128	137
St. Louis	25	20	7	1	58	127	133
Columbus	15	28	8	3	41	112	153
Chicago	14	29	7	5	40	125	163
Northwest Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Colorado	30	11	9	3	72	165	120
Vancouver	30	15	7	3	70	164	127
Calgary	26	19	5	3	60	131	121
Minnesota	19	20	15	2	55	123	125
Edmonton	22	24	8	1	53	141	144
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
San Jose	25	13	11	5	66	133	111
Dallas	27	20	9	0	63	118	122
Los Angeles	21	15	13	5	60	145	139
Phoenix	18	18	14	3	53	136	143
Anaheim	17	23	8	7	49	119	148

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

Wednesday's Games

Philadelphia 5, Washington 1
Minnesota 4, N.Y. Rangers 3
Dallas 1, Columbus 0
Florida 5, Phoenix 4, OT
Edmonton 5, St. Louis 3
Anaheim 3, Carolina 2

Today's Games

Boston at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
Toronto at Ottawa, 6:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Montreal, 6:30 p.m.
Vancouver at New Jersey, 6:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Nashville, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Calgary, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Phoenix at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
New Jersey	27	20	.574	—
New York	23	27	.460	5½
Boston	22	28	.440	6½
Miami	21	29	.420	7½
Philadelphia	20	29	.408	8
Washington	14	33	.298	13
Orlando	13	38	.255	16
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Indiana	36	14	.720	—
Detroit	33	17	.660	3
Milwaukee	26	22	.542	9
New Orleans	26	23	.531	9½
Toronto	23	24	.489	11½
Cleveland	19	30	.388	16½
Atlanta	16	34	.320	20
Chicago	14	36	.280	22
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Minnesota	34	14	.708	—
San Antonio	32	18	.640	3
Dallas	31	18	.633	3½
Denver	29	21	.580	6
Houston	27	21	.563	7
Memphis	27	21	.563	7
Utah	24	25	.490	10½
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Sacramento	34	12	.739	—
L.A. Lakers	29	17	.630	5
Seattle	23	24	.489	11½
L.A. Clippers	22	25	.468	12½
Portland	22	25	.468	12½
Golden State	20	27	.426	14½
Phoenix	18	33	.353	18½

Wednesday's Games

Toronto 110, Orlando 90
Memphis 103, Washington 101
L.A. Clippers 95, Boston 86
Atlanta 97, Minnesota 89
New Jersey 99, Miami 88
L.A. Lakers 111, Cleveland 106, OT
Dallas 113, New Orleans 104
Houston 103, Milwaukee 89
Chicago 95, Utah 79
Portland 104, Phoenix 97

Today's Games

L.A. Lakers at Philadelphia, 6:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Seattle, 9 p.m.

Turco, Stars blank Columbus

DALLAS (AP) — Marty Turco stopped 18 shots for his fifth shutout and NHL-best 26th win Wednesday night, and the Dallas Stars extended their unbeaten streak to seven games with a 1-0 win over Columbus.

Turco has played in 29 straight games for Dallas, all but one of them starts. He has missed just two of the Stars' 56 games and has already played 3,202 minutes — one short of his total last season.

"He looks at me like it's kind of an insult if he's not playing," Stars coach Dave Tippett said. "He wants to be the guy."

Turco won't get much of a break, even though the Stars played their only game in 10 days. He is the Western Conference starter for Sunday's All-Star game.

The Stars got the only goal they would need when Jason Arnott scored on a backhander with 13:01 left in the second period. Arnott's 13th goal came after Steve Ott's pass from against the boards in the corner.

"The way Marty's playing right now, we know if we get a couple, we're going to win," Arnott said.

Area Sports Caendar

TODAY

Basketball: SJHS B boys in Snyder Tournament
SJHS A boys at Lamesa Tournament

FRIDAY

Basketball: Snyder varsity girls vs. Lamesa, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder varsity boys vs. Lamesa, 8 p.m.
Ira varsity girls and boys vs. Sands, 6:30 p.m.
Hermleigh varsity boys and girls at Westbrook, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder JV boys vs. Lamesa, 5 p.m.
Snyder JV girls vs. Lamesa, 5 p.m.
Snyder frosh boys vs. Lamesa, 6:30 p.m.
Snyder frosh girls vs. Lamesa, 8 p.m.
SJHS B boys in Snyder Tournament
SJHS A boys at Lamesa Tournament
Baseball: WTC at NMJC, noon
Softball: WTC at Galveston Tournament
Golf: Snyder boys in Snyder Tournament
Snyder varsity girls at San Angleo

SATURDAY

Basketball: Snyder girls at Frenship Tournament
IJHS at Highland Tournament
Snyder frosh boys at Lamesa Tournament
SJHS B boys in Snyder Tournament
SJHS A boys at Lamesa Tournament
Baseball: WTC at NMJC, noon
Softball: WTC at Galveston Tournament
Golf: Snyder boys in Snyder Tournament
Snyder varsity girls at San Angleo
Taekwondo: Championships, Scurry County Coliseum

USC has best recruiting class

By The Associated Press

The question isn't if the recruiting class landed by Southern California on signing day is the best in the nation. All the top recruiting services agree it is.

Just call it the Trojans' second national championship in a month.

What the recruiting analysts are wondering is whether the Trojans' star-loaded freshman class will turn out to be one of college football's best of all time.

"It could come down to that," Tom Lemming of Prep Football Report said Wednesday. "I prefer to wait for three to four years, after all the hype dies down, but it could rank as one of the best."

Bobby Burton of rivals.com called it the best class he's seen in his 11 years of analyzing prep recruiting.

The Trojans didn't just come away with many of California's top players, including defensive end Jeff Schweiger and offensive lineman Thomas Herring. They also journeyed into recruiting hotbeds Ohio (wide receiver Fred Davis) and Florida (linebacker Keith Rivers) to land Top 25-caliber players.

Southern Cal also signed the nation's most highly recruited lineman, Gatorade and Parade player of the year Jeff Byers of Loveland, Colo. He's considered one of the top linemen of the last five years and perhaps the best center produced during that time.

The Trojans signed 17 high school players, three junior college players and three other freshmen — including Davis — who are already enrolled in school.

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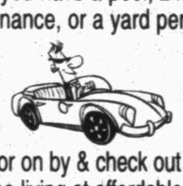
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News Briefs

U.S. bans importing birds from 8 countries

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government on Wednesday announced a ban on the import of birds from eight Southeast Asian countries following outbreaks of avian flu that have killed at least 15 people and millions of birds.

The temporary ban, announced by the Agriculture and Health and Human Services departments, is effective immediately, and is aimed to protect people and poultry in the United States from the possible spread of bird flu.

There is no evidence any birds infected with bird flu have been imported to the country, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said.

The ban applies to birds and uncertified bird products from Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and China, including Hong Kong. Bird products are allowed in if they have been processed to render them noninfectious.

Students ready to start voting at 'Prairie'

PRAIRIE VIEW (AP) — The student president at Prairie View A&M University expects classmates to become heavily involved in the democratic process in Waller County now that Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott has said they have the right to vote in their university town if they choose that as their residence.

"We expected this and were ready for it, but the battle goes on. This is about more than just voting," Hendrik Maison said in a story in the Houston Chronicle. "The student body here is now awake. We've registered 4,000 voters and are having town hall meetings to discuss the issues. We're looking forward to making a difference in the primaries."

Abbott said in a 15-page opinion issued Wednesday that it is well established in Texas law that college students can vote locally if they designate their campus address as their residence.

"The right to vote is a fundamental right in this state and in this country," Abbott said. "College students cannot be targeted for discriminatory residency requirements, and nothing prevents them from voting where they attend school."

Timberlake says own family was offended

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Justin Timberlake said Wednesday that his own family was offended by his racy Super Bowl halftime duet with Janet Jackson, but he insisted he thought only her bustier would be revealed when he pulled on her costume, not her breast.

Uproar over what Timberlake memorably described as a "wardrobe malfunction" is showing no sign of letting up. A publicist for Jackson said she's probably pulling out of a scheduled appearance at Sunday's Grammy Awards, which will be broadcast on a delay system to avoid any similar incidents.

Timberlake, in an interview with KCBS-TV outside the Staples Center, where he was rehearsing for the Grammys, said he understood "how unfortunate this is."

"I do understand that there were a lot of people that were completely offended by what happened, including my own family. And I think that's probably the part that's frustrating the most for me and it's completely, completely, completely, regrettable," he told KCBS.

He also said he was frustrated that his character was being questioned.

Mystery evidence is victim's fingernail

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The defense in music producer Phil Spector's murder case has refused to turn over a torn piece of the victim's fingernail, blackened with gunpowder residue, prosecutors said in court documents released Wednesday.

Deputy District Attorney Douglas Sortino demanded that attorney Robert Shapiro turn over the evidence, which he said was collected by the defense after sheriff's deputies overlooked it in their investigation of the crime scene.

Prosecutors had earlier said the defense had a mystery "item of physical evidence," but identified it in the motion filed Monday as the fingernail of actress Lana Clarkson.

Spector, 62, was arrested on Feb. 3, 2003, after Clarkson was found shot to death in the foyer of his hilltop home. The crime scene was searched by authorities and then by Spector's defense team, which includes famed criminalist Henry Lee.

Big money paid for fake Super Bowl tickets

HOUSTON (AP) — Their team was a winner, but New England Patriots fans Paul Broft and Brendan Gibbins had become big financial losers by the time they prepared to return home this week.

Then, as they awaited their flight to Boston on Monday afternoon at Bush Intercontinental Airport, their luck seemed to change.

They recognized two men waiting for the same plane as the ones they said sold them a pair of Super Bowl tickets for $2,800 the previous day. The tickets, they found out when they tried to enter the stadium, were no good.

Broft, 27, and Gibbins, 28, called police.

"They said, 'That's the dude who sold the tickets to us,'" said Houston attorney Bill Stradley, who represents one of the men charged in the scam.

Bruce Smith, 33, of Providence, R.I, and Steven Ross, 31, of Boston were charged with theft, punishable by up to two years in state jail. Each was released on $2,000 bail, their attorneys said Wednesday.

Fake birth control patches sold on Internet

WASHINGTON (AP) — An overseas Internet site is shipping counterfeit versions of a popular Johnson & Johnson birth control patch, versions that won't provide any protection against pregnancy, federal health officials warned Wednesday.

Do not use Ortho Evra patches — or any other drugs — ordered from the Web site www.rxpharmacy.ws, the Food and Drug Administration warned.

While the contraceptive patch is the only drug so far proved a fake from that site, the FDA said consumers should consider its other products suspect, too. Contact a health provider immediately if you've used them, the FDA advised.

That Web site is the only known source of the counterfeit patches, said the FDA, which is investigating the fraud's source.

ITV apologizes for string of expletives

LONDON (AP) — Television station ITV apologized Wednesday after former Sex Pistols singer John Lydon let fly with a string of expletives on a live reality show.

Lydon, formerly known as Johnny Rotten, made the foul-mouthed rant on the Australian set of "I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!" — a hugely popular program that's being beamed back to about 10 million viewers in Britain nightly.

Lydon's comments, made when he was told that the public had voted to keep him in the "Big Brother"-style show, prompted almost 100 complaints to ITV and Britain's media watchdog Ofcom.

"It was a live broadcast, so it was unpreventable. But we apologize for any offense caused," ITV said. "It's no excuse, but there is a warning which goes out before the program saying there might be bad language."

An ITV spokeswoman later said the company would start putting a "very short" time delay on live sections of the show "to enable us to bleep unacceptable language."

Ofcom said it was still considering whether to take action.

"I'm a Celebrity" strands C-list celebs in the Australian rain forest, subjects them to a series of unpalatable trials involving spiders and snakes, and allows the public to vote them off the show one by one.

Massachusetts lawmakers grapple with latest ruling on gay marriage

BOSTON (AP) — Legislators opposed to gay marriage are planning ways to circumvent the ruling by the state's highest court that paves the way for same-sex marriages as early as May.

"The court has overstepped its boundary and has not let the legislative process to unfold the way it has on other issues," said Rep. Eugene O'Flaherty.

The 4-3 advisory ruling Wednesday by the Supreme Judicial Court creates a legislative dilemma that could force many uneasy lawmakers to choose sides on a contentious social issue.

The court Wednesday doused one compromise option, ruling that gay couples were entitled to all the benefits of marriage and that Vermont-style civil unions don't go far enough.

But some gay marriage opponents, including powerful House Speaker Thomas Finneran, said they haven't closed the door on other legislative responses.

"I intend to closely study today's advisory opinion," said Finneran. "I will refrain from any comment until I have thought through the options which remain for the people of Massachusetts and their elected representatives."

Opponents of gay marriage pin their hopes on part of the court's original ruling that said state law provided no "rational" basis for prohibiting same-sex couples from the benefits of marriage.

Some lawmakers, including O'Flaherty, hope to craft a bill providing a rational basis for the exclusion of gay couples from marriage while conveying some new benefits to same-sex couples.

The much-anticipated opinion came a week before next Wednesday's Constitutional Convention, where the Legislature will consider an amendment backed by Gov. Mitt Romney that would define marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

"The spotlight is now shining brightly on the Constitutional Convention. I can't believe any lawmaker would want to run from this," said Rep. Philip Travis, who sponsored the amendment.

The soonest a constitutional amendment could end up on the ballot would be 2006, meaning that the nation's first gay marriage could take place in Massachusetts as soon as May.

"We've heard from the court, but not from the people," Romney said in a statement. "The people of Massachusetts should not be excluded from a decision as fundamental to our society as the definition of marriage."

Senate President Robert Travaglini, who will preside over the Constitutional Convention, said he needed time to talk with fellow senators before deciding what to do next.

"I want to have everyone stay in an objective and calm state as we plan and define what's the appropriate way to proceed," said Travaglini. "There is a lot of anxiety out there obviously surrounding the issue but I don't want to have it cloud or distort the discussion."

The advisory opinion was issued about three months after the court's original ruling that same-sex couples were entitled to all the benefits of marriage. That ruling prompted the Senate to ask if civil unions would satisfy the court.

Wednesday's opinion left no doubt.

"The history of our nation has demonstrated that separate is seldom, if ever, equal," four justices wrote in Wednesday's opinion. "For no rational reason the marriage laws of the Commonwealth discriminate against a defined class; no amount of tinkering with language will eradicate that stain."

Lawmakers who cheered the ruling said they welcomed the chance to stand up and be counted. Sen. Jarrett Barrios, a supporter of gay marriage, said the opinion treats gay and straight couples equally.

Jobs disparages Disney as Pixar earnings soar over Nemo movie

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Boosted by a record financial performance, Pixar Animation Studios chief Steve Jobs on Wednesday explained his company's decision to split with The Walt Disney Co., blasting Disney as weak creatively and unwilling to compromise on a new agreement.

In a conference call with analysts to discuss Pixar's quarterly and full-year earnings, Jobs took a slap at Disney's recent animated films.

"The truth is there has been little creative collaboration with Disney for years," Jobs said. "You can compare the creative quality (of Pixar films) with the creative quality of Disney's last three films and judge each company's creative ability yourselves."

Pixar announced last week it was ending 10 months of talks to renew its deal with Disney to produce and distribute films. The company has two more films to deliver on its contract, including "The Incredibles," due out in November, and "Cars," to be released in 2005.

Pixar has been in business with Disney since 1991; the first film they made together was 1995's "Toy Story." The two companies co-finance each film and split the profits evenly, with Disney claiming an additional 12.5 percent distribution fee.

Pixar's latest film, "Finding Nemo," has earned more than $800 million at the international box office to date, surpassing the record for an animated film previously held by Disney's 1994 film "The Lion King."

Pixar on Wednesday said its earnings more than quadrupled in the fourth quarter on the strength of "Nemo."

Pixar, based in Emeryville, Calif., reported net income Wednesday of $84 million for the quarter ended Jan. 3, compared to $17 million in the same quarter last year. The performance exceeded analysts' expectations.

For the full year, Pixar reported net income of $125 million, compared to $90 million in 2002. Revenues for 2003 rose to $262 million, compared to $202 million in 2002.

Jobs said he offered Disney better terms than he knew he could get from a rival studio during their negotiations, but said Disney balked at allowing Pixar to fold the last two movies due under the current deal into a new agreement with more favorable terms for Pixar.

Jobs also said the Pixar brand has become more powerful in animation than the Disney brand and expressed confidence about Pixar's chances with a new studio.

Disney spokeswoman Zenia Mucha said Jobs "grossly mischaracterized good faith negotiations" to extend an agreement that "has been beneficial to shareholders of both Pixar and Disney."

"It's also sad and unfortunate that he has resorted to insults and name-calling in the wake of the disagreement," Mucha added. "We expected better of him."

Jobs said every major studio has expressed interest in working with Pixar. Negotiations with at least four of them will begin in March and Pixar hopes to have a new deal in place by the fall.

"Honestly, we're sad about it," Jobs said about the breakdown of talks with Disney. "I'm confident ... Pixar's golden age will continue to evolve without missing a beat."

Ford Explorer Sport Trac rates poorly in rollover tests

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Ford Explorer Sport Trac got the worst rating among 14 vehicles subjected to a new government safety test designed to predict the likelihood of a rollover during a sharp turn.

The federal auto safety agency, which announced the ratings Wednesday, uses a rating system in which five stars is the best score and means the likelihood of rollover is less than 10 percent.

The Sport Trac 4x2, a sport utility vehicle with rear-wheel drive, earned two stars, meaning the rollover risk in a one-vehicle crash is 30 percent to 40 percent.

A Ford spokeswoman, Kristen Kinley, said the test uses an extreme maneuver that does not necessarily reflect real-world driving. She said company tests indicate the Sport Trac is very safe, but added that Ford is considering adopting the test conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The government used to predict the rollover risk by using a mathematical formula based on a vehicle's height and the width between its rear wheels. A driving test added last fall measures a vehicle's performance when it swerves sharply to the left and then to the right. The agency uses both tests to determine a vehicle's rating.

Earning four stars were two SUVs, the Volvo XC90 and the Chevrolet Trailblazer 4X4; two station wagons, the Ford Focus and the Subaru Outback; the Chevrolet Silverado 4X4 and 4X2 pickups; and the compact Toyota Echo. Four stars means the likelihood of rolling over in a one-vehicle crash is 10 percent to 20 percent.

Vehicles earning three stars were the Chevrolet Trailblazer 4x2, the Jeep Liberty and Toyota 4Runner sport utility vehicles and the Toyota Tacoma 4x4 pickup. The rating means the likelihood of rollover is 20 percent to 30 percent.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	15.73	15.40	15.57	+ .17
AT&T Corp	19.30	19.10	19.14	
Albertsons	24.00	23.29	23.51	—.04
Alltel	49.88	49.40	49.78	+ .08
AmEl Pw	33.37	33.20	33.29	—.04
AndarkPtr	49.93	49.00	49.00	—.68
ATMOS Egy	25.15	24.95	25.00	+ .08
Aviall	15.31	15.10	15.15	—.20
BP PLC	47.57	47.25	47.31	—.27
BakerHughes	35.70	34.75	34.76	—.57
Bank of Amer	81.89	81.40	81.82	+ .12
BellSouth	29.51	29.10	29.51	+ .10
BurlNoSFe	32.08	31.60	31.73	—.08
Caterpillar	76.50	75.28	76.26	+ .36
CenterPoint	10.29	10.16	10.24	
ChevronTex	85.32	84.65	84.68	—.47
Citigroup	48.90	48.16	48.18	—.39
CocaCola	50.50	49.58	50.06	+ .31
ColgatePal	54.14	53.83	54.00	+ .24
CmclMetals	28.40	27.75	28.29	+ .78
ConocoPhill	65.53	64.83	64.95	—.31
Cooper Inds	56.25	55.60	56.00	+ .55
DaimlrChry	46.65	46.34	46.42	+ .18
DeltaAirLines	9.95	9.65	9.73	+ .03
Dillards Inc	17.21	16.91	17.01	+ .44
DowChem	42.00	41.11	41.98	+ .73
DuPont	44.13	43.63	44.02	+ .26
EastmanChem	39.84	39.40	39.80	+ .45
EstKodak	29.15	28.56	28.62	—.40
EDS Corp	23.07	22.80	22.85	—.22
Entergy	59.75	59.29	59.66	+ .11
ExxonMobil	40.55	40.32	40.34	—.01
FootLocker	24.53	24.10	24.10	—.50
GenDynam	94.90	93.03	94.27	+ .72
GenElec	33.45	33.05	33.11	—.07
GenMills	45.22	44.65	45.08	+ .17
GenMotors	48.27	47.75	48.22	+ .25
GaPacific	27.55	26.82	27.42	+ .74
Goodrich	29.95	28.66	28.99	—1.11
Goodyear	9.46	9.18	9.24	—.18
GtAtlPac	8.01	7.79	7.96	+ .28
Halliburtn	30.20	29.51	29.55	—.55
Hanson PLC	39.27	38.95	39.10	+ .99
HarteHanks	22.03	21.72	22.01	+ .01
HomeDepot	35.85	35.34	35.57	+ .11
HoneywellIntl	35.23	34.86	34.97	+ .12
IBM	100.31	98.97	99.01	—1.18
IntlPaper	41.09	40.56	40.95	+ .23
JohnsonJn	54.85	54.48	54.55	+ .07
KinderMorg	59.85	59.16	59.59	+ .24
Kroger Co	19.10	18.80	18.82	—.22
LockheedM	49.19	48.79	49.04	+ .24
Lowes Cos	54.10	53.32	53.49	—.07
Lubys	3.55	3.42	3.42	—.16
LucentTech	4.35	4.20	4.25	+ .05
MarathonOil	32.08	31.76	31.83	—.05
MayDeptStr	34.18	33.40	33.70	+ .64
Medtronic	49.65	46.83	47.61	—4.39
Motorola	16.41	16.08	16.33	+ .31
NCR Corp	43.16	42.22	42.95	+ .51
Navistar	47.79	46.67	47.56	+ .87
PNM Rescs	30.00	29.89	29.90	+ .04
Penney JC	27.35	26.80	26.91	—.09
PepBoys	21.83	21.50	21.72	+ .35
PepsiCo	48.65	48.05	48.50	+ .90
PhelpDodge	73.21	72.11	72.97	+ .76
PilgrimsPride	20.05	19.85	19.96	+ .35
Praxair s	35.67	35.14	35.60	+ .40
ProctGamb	103.21	102.61	103.12	—.08
RadioShack	33.15	32.73	32.83	+ .08
RoyalDut	47.39	47.15	47.25	—.30
SBC Comm	25.90	25.28	25.64	+ .08
SaraLee	21.10	20.96	21.02	—.03
Scripps EW	93.91	92.85	92.85	—.95
SearsRoeb	46.67	45.24	45.99	+ 1.39
SherwinW	34.33	33.85	33.99	+ .81
SouthernCo	29.41	29.20	29.26	—.06
SwstAirl	14.73	14.46	14.60	+ .17
SprintFON	17.10	16.76	16.99	—.08
SprintPCS	9.30	8.85	9.07	+ .51
Sunoco Inc	56.88	56.16	56.56	+ .40
TXU Corp	23.80	23.48	23.56	+ .14
TempleInland	59.33	58.89	59.19	+ .34
TexInd	34.17	33.92	34.01	+ .01
TexasInst	30.60	30.05	30.05	—.02
Textron	53.98	53.50	53.79	+ .34
TimeWarner	17.35	17.06	17.08	—.11
TrinityInds	30.95	30.82	30.82	+ .01
TylerTech	9.46	9.13	9.23	+ .01
UnionPacif	64.28	63.75	64.04	+ .14
USSteel	32.51	31.45	31.99	+ .52
UnitedTech	94.30	93.61	94.12	—.01
Unocal	36.14	35.71	35.72	—.58
VerizonComm	36.80	36.41	36.62	—.07
WalMart	56.54	55.50	56.44	+ 1.05
WellsFargo	57.20	56.68	56.88	—.22
WstnGasRs	46.38	46.14	46.15	—.15
WinnDixie	6.18	5.96	6.06	—.06
Xerox Cp	14.44	14.17	14.38	+ .11
YumBrands	33.50	33.13	33.35	+ .25

FEB 05 2004

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High school freshman wants to ban wild animal performances

DENVER (AP) — When Heather Herman put an issue on the ballot asking Denver voters whether they wanted to ban wild animal performances, the 15-year-old took on everyone from Ringling Bros. to Blinky the Clown.

The high school freshman said she attended circuses as a child but recently became concerned about the treatment of animals. She created a group, Youth Opposed to Animal Acts, started a petition and collected enough signatures to put the question on the Aug. 10 ballot.

"In the wild, bears are not riding bicycles and tigers are not jumping through hoops on fire," Herman said. "I believe strongly that wild animals do not belong in the circus."

More than 15 communities around the nation, including nearby Boulder, bar performances involving exotic animals, industry officials say. But similar attempts have failed in larger cities and Herman is taking on a long circus pedigree.

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus has been performing in Denver since 1919, and the city's Barnum neighborhood is named after circus founder P.T Barnum, who bought 760 acres here in 1882 as a winter respite for his show.

Perhaps Herman's biggest opponent is money. City officials estimate the circus' annual two-week stint pumps $8 million into the local economy.

Feld Entertainment, which owns Ringling Bros., was caught off guard by the proposal until it came before the City Council late last year. The company protested the plan and even recruited a local television icon, Blinky the Clown, to testify on its behalf.

"We take it serious any time our industry and profession is attacked," said Tom Albert, vice president of government relations for Feld. "Heather is clearly well-intentioned and sincere, but she is misinformed and has bad information."

The council put the question on the ballot because Herman had collected more than 6,000 valid signatures. The proposal would not include exotic animals at the Denver Zoo, the National Western Stock Show & Rodeo or a local aquarium. It is targeted at circuses such as Ringling Bros. and the Shriners.

City Councilman Charlie Brown said he opposes the ban and wondered if Herman is being misled by information from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. The organization posts circus protests on its Web site.

But a group that helped collect petition signatures said the proposal was Herman's and no one else's.

"I think it shows a lack of faith in our youth to question she's being influenced by a larger organization," said David Crawford, executive director of the Rocky Mountain Animal Defense.

John Kirtland, executive director of animal stewardship for Feld Entertainment, disputes claims that Ringling Bros.'s more than 200 animals are mistreated. Its Asian elephants live up to 20 years longer than zoo elephants because they get more exercise, he said.

The circus animals are trained to perform by reinforcing positive behavior with food and praise, he said. Federal inspectors visit the training facility weekly.

"Where does she think these animals would go?" Kirtland asked. "They were all born in captivity and if they went back to the wild it would be a certain death sentence."

Herman's response is that more than 25 large circuses operate without performing animals. Feld Entertainment invited Herman to visit its animal training facility in Florida, but she declined.

"I know that they will say and what they will show me," she said. "It won't be what it is really like."

On the other side of the issue is Rob Sanchez, 23, who helped start a "save the circus" Web site.

"This is a handful of activists versus people of Denver who love to go to the circus," said Sanchez, who has attended circuses in Denver since he was a child. Still, he gives Herman credit for getting the issue on the ballot.

Boy charged with first-degree murder in classmate's killing

PALMETTO BAY, Fla. (AP) — A 14-year-old boy was charged with murder in the slaying of a classmate, a musician and baseball player who was found bleeding to death in a middle school bathroom.

A fellow student said the victim and the boy accused of killing him were friends who competed with each other to get top grades.

Jaime Rodrigo Gough, 14, was found early Tuesday at Southwood Middle School, a magnet school specializing in visual and performing arts, authorities said. His neck had been slashed.

Michael Hernandez, 14, signed a statement admitting he killed the boy and the knife used in the attack was found in his backpack, Miami-Dade County police Detective Randy Rossman said Wednesday. Police had obtained a search warrant for the backpack.

Hernandez was charged with first-degree murder late Tuesday and waived his right to appear Wednesday in juvenile court. He was placed in secure detention.

The slaying was the second inside a school this week. A 17-year-old boy was shot in a Washington, D.C., high school hallway Monday.

Police said Gough and Hernandez knew each other, but refused to discuss a possible motive Wednesday.

Twelve-year-old Genesis Llapur said she dated Hernandez for about a month last year. She described him as a good student in honors classes who often competed with Gough for better grades.

"They were really good friends. I don't know what happened," she said.

Megan Hopper, 12, shared the same first-period class with Hernandez. She said he was late for class Tuesday and arrived with blood stains on the collar of his white T-shirt, pants leg and shoes.

He offered a variety of excuses, telling their teacher he bumped into someone, and his classmates that he bumped into a door or had a nosebleed, she said. Hernandez was removed from the classroom around lunchtime.

Hopper recalled Hernandez downloading gruesome pictures of decapitated heads from the Internet but otherwise described him as fun and talkative.

"The only thing he'd usually do bad was chew gum in class," she said.

A judge set a Feb. 24 hearing in the case after prosecutors asked for time to decide whether to seek a grand jury indictment and try the teen as an adult. Prosecutors and Hernandez's public defender declined to comment.

Juveniles accused of first-degree murder in Florida are usually charged as adults. If convicted of first-degree murder as an adult, he would be sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Yellow tape cordoned the Hernandez home Wednesday, but the teen's father spoke briefly to The Associated Press by telephone.

"We've already expressed our condolences to the family of the victim and that's all we can say at this time," Jesus Hernandez said, declining further comment.

The school in Palmetto Bay, one of Miami-Dade County's wealthiest cities, did not have a history of violence, Miami-Dade School spokesman Mayco Villafana said.

Antonio Gough, who identified himself as the victim's uncle, said his nephew was a good student who played baseball, the violin and flute and was not a troublemaker.

"I still can't believe this can happen," he said.

Southwood students returned to the school Wednesday morning, and grief counselors were made available. Several hundred people gathered for a candlelight vigil at the school Wednesday night. They carried white candles and laid carnations at the base of a tree planted in Gough's honor.

Eighth-grader Michael Chakoff, 14, was wearing a T-shirt with the words "4ever in our hearts" on the back.

"It will take a long time to get over this," he said.

In the Washington case, Thomas J. Boykin, 18, surrendered to police Tuesday in the shooting of James Richardson, a Ballou High School student who died after being shot several times in the chest. Boykin was ordered held without bail Wednesday on a second-degree murder charge.

On the Net:

Southwood Middle School: http://www.dade.k12.fl.us/southwood/

Palmetto Bay: http://www.palmettobay-fl.gov/

High crime rates in Dallas lead to new study

DALLAS (AP) — An Austin company has been commissioned to conduct a management and efficiency study of the Dallas Police Department, a move that prompted criticism from two City Council members because the city is without a police chief.

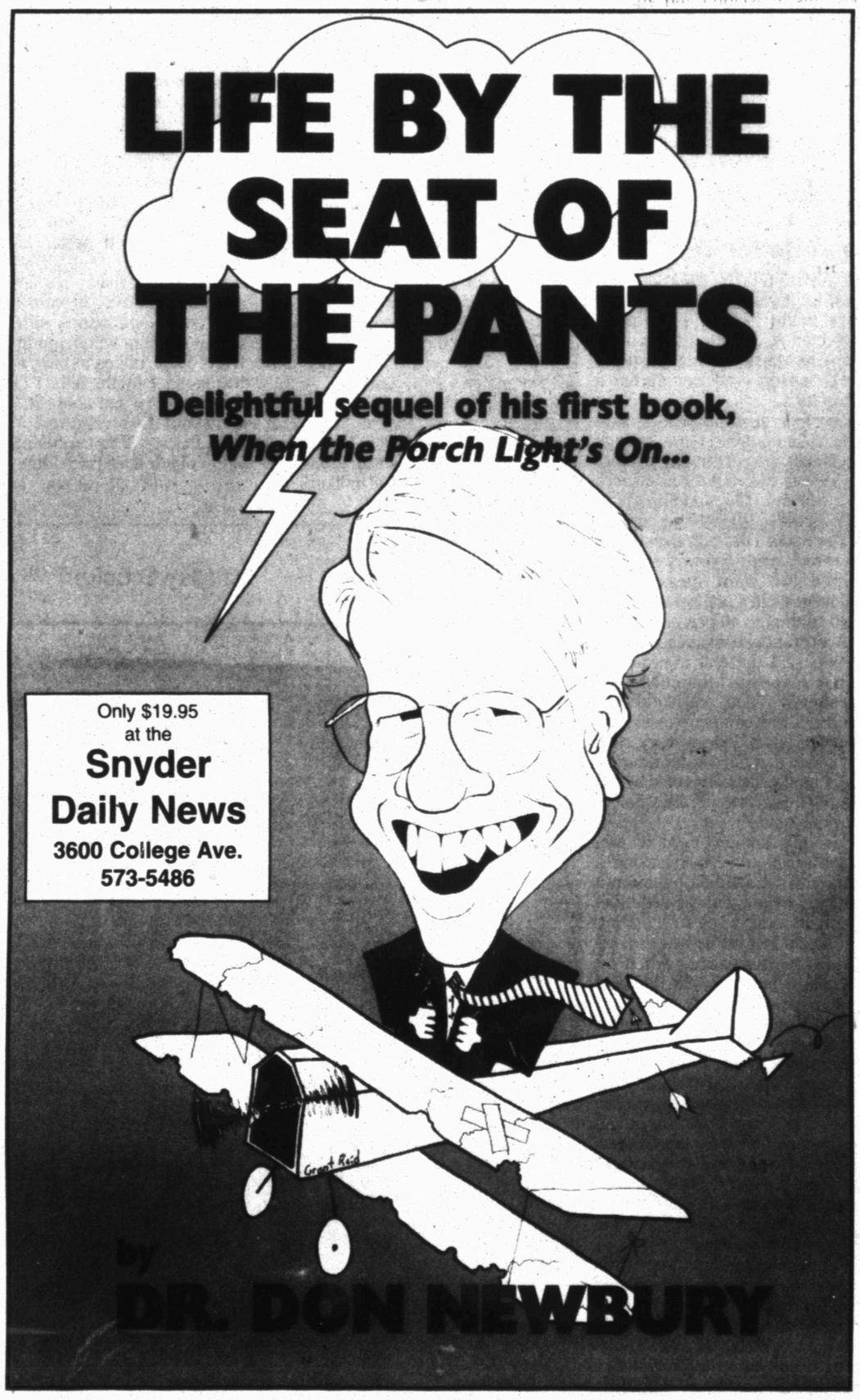
Several council members said the study must begin immediately because Dallas' crime rates are consistently high among major U.S. cities.

The city is looking for a police chief to replace Terrell Bolton, who was fired last summer following a tenure marred by a fake drugs scandal and rising crime rates. Dallas is poised to record the highest per capita crime rate in the country for six years in a row,

City officials say they will have hired a new chief by May.

The $485,000 study was approved on a 10-2 vote Wednesday with one person absent.

"We've got a crime rate on the rise. We can't wait any longer," said Gary Griffith, vice chairman of the council's Public Safety Committee. "This'll give him a management tool that he or she will be glad to have."



Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Friday, Feb. 6, 2004

A number of major changes could be in store for you in the year ahead, and chances are all will be of a positive nature. Each alteration you make will be responsible for improving your life in some manner.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Someone who has your best interests at heart may suggest a course of action for you today. If you allow your stubbornness to prevail, you might insist on following a precarious path.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — People with whom you associate today may have far more respect and appreciation for your talents and abilities than you do yourself. They're right, you're wrong.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Give everybody you meet for the first time today the benefit of the doubt. If you judge them not by their appearance or who they're with, you might meet someone you'd really like.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Even if you feel you're the true injured party in a tangle with another today, be the peacemaker by finding a way to dissolve the disagreement that arose between you and the other person.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Think important matters over carefully today, but do not use excessive deliberation. Vacillating back and forth will only confuse you further and impair your judgment, not help it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — In a situation today where you may be sharing something of value with another, be sure the division is equal and fair. Unless all is just, hurt feelings could arise that will have to be repaired.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You're apt to be a bit more susceptible to flattery today than usual. Someone who is aware of this fact may try to wrap you around his or her finger in order to get something out of you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Be particularly careful about disclosing any confidential information that could hurt another. Talk frankly to those you trust, but be on guard and tight-lipped with all others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Your resolve and self-discipline may stand the test of time today, but if you're aware of it, you should be up to the task when temptation is strewn over forbidden paths.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Put honor above personal gain today if you find yourself in a situation where you could derive some type of benefit if you would only lower your standards a bit. Don't succumb to deception.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Get past being a procrastinator today and be a producer. Instead of searching for excuses as to why something shouldn't be done, take stock of yourself and measure up to your worth.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Be prepared to stand up for your rights today in matters where you feel you are not being treated fairly. Any wrongs you believe are being perpetrated on you can be easily rectified.

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

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Doctors and patients must openly communicate

DEAR DR. GOTT: Your response to the woman who complained of fatigue after taking 1,000 IU of vitamin E prompted me to write you about my experience.

I am 74, active and healthy. But I have struggled to keep my cholesterol level below 200. I had been taking Lipitor along with the vitamin capsule. When I told my doctor this, she told me to stop the E immediately. Shortly thereafter, my cholesterol bottomed out at 174.

Later that year, I was diagnosed with macular degeneration for which my ophthalmologist prescribed "eye vitamins," including E. My cholesterol climbed above 200.

When I attempted to resolve this issue with my doctor, she became enraged and told me I had "problems with control." This outburst caused me to end my relationship with her. If I cannot discuss concerns and issues with my physician, then I am seeing the wrong doctor. I am a well-informed individual (and want to stay that way) who wishes to have my opinions respected.

DEAR READER: While I don't understand the relationship between your cholesterol and vitamin E, I agree that open communication between doctor and patient is a vital part of a sound therapeutic relation. I think you did the right thing. Is your new physician more understanding and willing to respect your opinions?

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: Is it true that the weak voice in patients with Parkinson's disease can be helped by using a nicotine patch?

DEAR READER: Some such patients are helped by the nicotine patch. The reason for this is unknown, but the treatment is harmless and is certainly worth trying.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Help! I'm 68, 50 pounds overweight and have terrible hot flashes from menopause. I was all right until I stopped my hormone replacement therapy (HRT) six months ago, because of fear that the drugs could cause cancer. Is there a safe substitute that I could use?

DEAR READER: There are several plant-based, herbal supplements that have been touted to relieve the symptoms of menopause. I have had no experience with these products, so I suggest that you discuss this issue with your gynecologist. While so-called phyto-estrogens are safer than standard HRT, the herbal remedies are not consistently effective. Also, your doctor may suggest that you shed those unwanted pounds; being overweight can accentuate the unpleasant effects of menopause.

If readers would like to contact Dr. Gott, they may write him through your newspaper or send their mail directly to Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th fl., New York, NY 10016.

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Best Available Copy

Panel OKs $56.5 billion for mass transit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal spending to modernize mass transit rail systems for big cities won approval Wednesday from the Senate Banking Committee as part of a $56.5 billion bill for public transit programs over the next six years.

The spending, some $20 billion over the current six-year program, is part of a $318 billion highway and infrastructure bill already on the Senate floor.

The transit funding, approved without dissent, includes $9 billion for the 2004-2009 period to modernize railways in cities such as Chicago, San Francisco, Washington, Boston and New York with older systems. That's up from $6 billion for the transportation bill that expired last fall and was temporarily extended until the end of this month.

Committee aides said senators also decided to maintain the current matching ratio where the federal government provides 80 percent for transit construction starts. The administration, which proposed $46 billion for transit programs in its highway bill version, is seeking to change the ratio with state and local governments to 50-50.

The House Transportation Committee has suggested $69 billion in transit spending as part of a more expensive $375 billion program, but the committee has met opposition from the administration and House GOP leaders over its proposals to raise the federal gasoline tax.

The highway bill would bring billions of dollars and tens of thousands of jobs to every state, but comes to a vote as Congress is trying to cope with record-high budget deficits and administration demands that lawmakers show greater fiscal restraint.

Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and Treasury Secretary John Snow this week warned that they would recommend a presidential veto if the legislation raised taxes, used bonds to conceal the true cost to taxpayers or used other budgetary gimmicks to shift the spending burden from the Highway Trust Fund to the general Treasury fund.

Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota said it was troubling that the administration "seems to be putting up roadblocks instead of paving the way for improved infrastructure and more jobs."

Highway construction is paid for by the Highway Trust Fund, which comes from the 18.4 cents in federal taxes that drivers pay for a gallon of gas. The current highway bill is spending $218 billion and the administration has proposed $256 billion for the next six years.

The Senate Finance Committee on Monday approved several budgetary actions that members said would add $35 billion to the trust fund without raising the federal gas tax, Those include cracking down on fuel tax fraud and creating a tax credit for the trust fund to offset an ethanol subsidy.

Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, said he was satisfied that the Finance Committee steps abided by the principles set forth by Mineta and Snow.

But Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., said the Senate was engaged in "illusory" accounting mechanisms and that "if we allow this bill to go forward in its present form, we will be significantly aggravating the deficit."

The Senate bill, answering complaints from senators that their states lose out under highway spending formulas, ensures that no state receive less than 95 cents of every dollar it sends to the highway account of the Highway Trust Fund.

Court in Germany aquits 9-11 suspect

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — A Hamburg court today acquitted a Moroccan man of helping the Sept. 11 hijackers after rejecting a dramatic last-minute motion for new evidence by a lawyer for relatives of American victims of the attacks.

Abdelghani Mzoudi was cleared of more than 3,000 counts of accessory to murder and charges of belonging to a terrorist organization, capping weeks of wrangling as prosecutors introduced new witnesses and testimony to try to salvage their case in only the second trial anywhere of a Sept. 11 suspect.

Presiding Judge Klaus Ruehle said the five-judge court had to give him the benefit of the doubt.

"Mr. Mzoudi, you have been acquitted and this may be a relief to you, but it is no reason for joy," said Ruehle, turning to Mzoudi on the defendant's bench. "You were acquitted not because the court is convinced of your innocence, but because the evidence was not enough to convict you."

Prosecutors had sought the maximum 15 years in prison. Last February, similar evidence secured the maximum sentence on the same charges against Mzoudi's friend Mounir el Motassadeq.

Prosecutors alleged that Mzoudi provided logistical support to the Hamburg cell under lead hijacker Mohamed Atta, helping with financial transactions and arranging housing for members to evade authorities' attention. Mzoudi spent time at a terrorist camp in Afghanistan in 2000.

Mzoudi's lawyers denied the charges, saying that while their client was friends with many of the Sept. 11 principals, he knew nothing of the plot to attack the United States.

Ruehle acknowledged that some might be "bitter" about the outcome. "We know the horror of international terrorism is far from overcome, but this trial was exclusively about the guilt of the defendant," he said in explaining the verdict.

The acquittal came after the court rejected a last-ditch motion from a lawyer for relatives of American victims of the attacks. Lawyer Andreas Schulz said he had "new information" from the U.S. Department of Justice, but was "not authorized" to tell the court what it was.

His motion urged the court to again ask U.S. authorities for testimony by Ramzi Binalshibh, a Yemeni believed to be the Hamburg cell's key contact with al-Qaida, saying there were signs recently that they might release the information.

Dean looks for a lifeline in the other Washington

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — In a state that prefers its coffee strong and its politicians feisty, Howard Dean's sputtering presidential campaign may find the life raft it needs since his fall from the front-runner's mantle.

The land of Microsoft and anti-war protesters seems tailor made for Dean, a former Vermont governor whose Internet-driven campaign and opposition to the Iraq war vaulted him to the front of the Democratic pack.

He also has drawn some of his biggest crowds and fattest campaign contributions from the region.

Winless after contests in nine states, Dean predicted a breakthrough win in Saturday's caucuses. But rival and front-runner John Kerry is looking for wins, too, and hopes to make Washington one of them.

"We're known for our edgy liberalism," said state Democratic Chairman Paul Berendt, who backs Dean and thinks he can blunt Kerry's momentum after the Massachusetts senator's wins Tuesday in five states.

"Washington loves the maverick," Berendt said in an interview Wednesday, noting previous successes here over establishment favorites by Democrats Paul Tsongas, Jerry Brown, Gary Hart, and Jesse Jackson.

Kerry, who delivered a jubilant victory speech in Seattle after his wins Tuesday, will be a strong contender for a big chunk of the delegates up for grabs. But Berendt predicted that Dean will score the much-needed victory he needs to breathe new life into his imperiled campaign.

The state's 78 pledged delegates to the Democratic National Convention are at stake — the largest bloc since voting began last month in Iowa.

Kerry blocked Big Dig provision, then got large donations

WASHINGTON (AP) — John Kerry intervened in the Senate to keep open a loophole that had allowed a major insurer to divert millions of federal dollars from the nation's most expensive construction project, then received tens of thousand of dollars in donations from the company during the next two years, documents show.

American International Group paid Kerry's way on a trip to Vermont and donated at least $30,000 to a tax-exempt group Kerry used to set up his presidential campaign. Company executives also donated $18,000 to his Senate and presidential campaigns, according to records obtained by The Associated Press.

But Kerry, the current leader of the Democratic presidential race, says there was no connection between his actions in 2000 and the donations that followed in 2001 and 2002.

"John Kerry has long supported getting special interest money out of the political system," campaign spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter said. "If anybody believes that a political contribution influences John Kerry then they are wasting their money."

But some government watchdogs said Kerry's story is a textbook case of Washington special interest politicking that he rails against on the presidential trail.

"The idea that Kerry has not helped or benefited from a specific special interest, which he has said, is utterly absurd," said Charles Lewis, head of the Center for Public Integrity that just published a book on political donations to the presidential candidates.

"Anyone who gets millions of dollars over time, and thousands of dollars from specific donors, knows there's a symbiotic relationship," Lewis said. "He needs the donors' money. The donors need favors. Welcome to Washington. That is how it works."

The documents obtained by AP detail Kerry's effort as a member of the Senate Commerce Committee to persuade committee chairman John McCain, R-Ariz., to drop legislation that would have stripped $150 million from the Big Dig project and ended the insurance funding loophole.

The Massachusetts Democrat actually was critical of the loophole but didn't want money stripped from the project because it would hurt his constituents who needed the Boston project finished, Cutter said.

When the "AIG investment scheme (came) to light, John Kerry called for public hearings to investigate the parties involved and the legality of the investment practices. However, he firmly believed cutting funding for the Big Dig was not the answer," Cutter said.

Instead of McCain's bluntly worded legislation, Kerry asked for a committee hearing in May 2000. Kerry thanked McCain at the start of the hearing for dropping his legislation and an AIG executive was permitted to testify that he believed the company's work for the Big Dig was a good thing even though it was criticized by federal auditors.

"From the perspective of public and worker safety and cost control, AIG's insurance program has been a success," AIG executive Richard Thomas testified.

Asked why Kerry would subsequently accept a trip and money from AIG in 2001 and 2002 if he was concerned by the investment scheme, Cutter replied: "Any contributions AIG made to the senator's campaign came years after the investigation."

The New York-based insurer, one of the world's largest, declined to comment on its donations to Kerry, simply stating, "AIG never requested any assistance from Senator Kerry concerning the insurance we provided the Big Dig."

The Big Dig project has become a symbol of government contracting gone awry, known for its huge cost overruns that now total several billion dollars, and its admissions of mismanagement.



Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Mother-in-law's disregard doesn't bode well for future

DEAR ABBY: I am upset about what my mother-in-law did at my wedding last Saturday. This is my second marriage and my husband, "Sherman's," first. Instead of eloping, we chose to have a wedding with family, close friends and only my children, who are 8 and 11. No other children were invited.

We made arrangements at a hotel to provide supervised activities and snacks for the children. One of my brothers refused to attend because he was unwilling to leave his son with someone he didn't know. My other brother went to great lengths to find a sitter of his own choosing.

My mother-in-law informed us before the wedding that she wanted to bring her daughter's 3- and 4-year-old children. We clearly stated that no children other than my own were invited and offered to include her grandchildren at the hotel with the other children. She declined the offer and assured us that the little ones would be taken care of by a friend of their father's.

Fifteen minutes before the ceremony, those little ones were out of control, waving plastic machine guns and running wild through the church. I asked that they be driven to the hotel immediately. They disappeared, and I assumed that's where they went. When the ceremony began, they were in the second row with Sherman's parents.

During the 30-minute service, they sat on various people's laps, kicked the back of the pew in front of them, shrieked, and loudly asked questions about what was going on. They turned an intimate, private affair into a circus.

Now my two brothers and sisters-in-law won't speak to me because they think I favored Sherman's family over my own. Other guests with older and better-behaved children are also upset because I told them only my children would be there.

I haven't slept a full night since because of this. Today Sherman confronted his mother. She said her grandchildren are family, and she wasn't about to exclude them, and if my brothers were upset, they should have brought their children, too.

I am at my wit's end. Sherman fully supports me in this. I don't want a fractured relationship with Sherman's mother, but I have never had anyone disregard my wishes with such effortless aplomb in my life. I no longer want to visit her, spend holidays with her or do anything with her at all. It bothers me that she has set a precedent of what she says, goes.

What can I reasonably do other than pack up my family and move to another state or country? — **MAD AS A HORNET IN N.C.**

DEAR MAD AS A HORNET: Tell your siblings and their spouses — in writing if necessary — that what your mother-in-law did was against your expressed wishes.

Your mother-in-law was determined to get her way regardless of whom it offended. I don't blame you for wanting to distance yourself. Under the circumstances, your feelings are understandable. Unless you live in a very small town, you don't have to move to another community to avoid your husband's mother. See her only when absolutely necessary. That rude, self-centered woman is nothing but trouble.

**

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Teachers fault math on education spending

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry, who has proposed financial incentives for public school achievement, has cited a figure of $10,400 a year per student as Texas' rate of spending on education.

He attributes the statistic to the National Education Association, the nation's largest teacher group. Perry argues that Texas already puts a lot of money into education, despite what critics say.

But a spokesman for the NEA's affiliate in the state, the Texas State Teachers Association, said the $10,400 figure does not appear in any NEA report and is actually a result of creative computing by the governor's aides, The Dallas Morning News reported .

"That is at best a disingenuous use of the statistics," said Richard Kouri of the state teachers association. He did not deny there were numbers in the NEA's annual report on school statistics that were used by Perry aides to arrive at the figure.

Financial records of the Texas Education Agency, the usual source of such numbers, showed that schools spent an average of $7,088 per student in 2002-03. The TEA showed average revenues of $6,919 per pupil, 34 percent lower than the governor's estimate.

"With their figures, they're trying to say that schools already have enough money," said Wayne Pierce, executive director of the Equity Center, an association of several hundred low- and medium-property-wealth school districts.

"I wish that were the case, but it's not," Pierce told the Morning News. "If school districts are getting $10,400 per student, then there are a lot of superintendents out there who want to know where the rest of their money is, because they need it desperately."

The national report the governor cited included a number called "total revenue receipts" for education in every state, listing Texas' amount at $40.7 billion.

Besides traditional revenue sources such as local property taxes, state funding and federal aid, the figure also included sources not typically included in comparisons.

For Texas, $5.3 billion was added just to reflect the value of new construction bonds issued by school districts that year. Also included were pension contributions. All of the amounts were furnished to the NEA by the state.

The governor's aides simply divided the $40.7 billion by the state's average daily attendance to come up with $10,400 in revenues per pupil.

Star witness under cross-examination

NEW YORK (AP) — Defense lawyers in the Martha Stewart trial aimed today to show star witness Douglas Faneuil routinely joked with Stewart's stockbroker.

The judge blocked the lawyers from putting e-mails into evidence showing that Faneuil, then a Merrill Lynch & Co. assistant, had an easygoing relationship with broker Peter Bacanovic, Stewart's co-defendant.

Bacanovic attorney David Apfel said one of the joking e-mails from Faneuil to Bacanovic describes "a man having sex with a goat." U.S. District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum ordered the remark stricken from the record.

Faneuil claims Bacanovic ordered him to tip Stewart on Dec. 27, 2001, that ImClone Systems founder Sam Waksal was dumping shares of stock, leading Stewart to do the same. He also claims that Bacanovic pressured him to support a false cover story for the sale.

On the witness stand today, Faneuil admitted he joked with Bacanovic at work even as the broker was pressuring him. Faneuil described their relationship as "schizophrenic."

"Everything having to do with the events of Dec. 27 was extremely compartmentalized," Faneuil said.

Apfel asked Faneuil whether Bacanovic had specifically asked him to lie to investigators. Faneuil said Bacanovic had not — but "I understood what he was telling me."

The defense began cross-examining Faneuil on Wednesday after he delivered damaging testimony against the homemaking maven and her stockbroker.

Under questioning from Apfel on Wednesday, Faneuil admitted he has repeatedly used marijuana and Ecstasy.

Asked whether he used any of those drugs while on the job at the brokerage, Faneuil replied: "Absolutely not."

Apfel also walked Faneuil through some of the dates of his many meetings with the government since he changed his story in June 2002 and implicated Stewart and Bacanovic.

In early 2002, Faneuil had supported Stewart and Bacanovic's version of the stock sale — that they had a pre-existing arrangement to sell Stewart's 3,928 ImClone shares when the price fell to $60.

Apfel appeared to suggest that Faneuil was cooperating with the government in part to avoid prosecution for his drug use.

Candidate to visit

Eleventh Congressional District candidate Dr. Bill Lester (R) will hold a town hall meeting at 5:30 p.m. today in the boardroom at the Chamber of Commerce building, 2603 Ave. R.

Lester will speak about national security, the economy of West Central Texas and a number of other topics of interest to citizens.

No additional ricin discovered

WASHINGTON (AP) — A thorough search of Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's personal mailroom has turned up no additional traces of ricin and no threatening letters or messages, law enforcement officials said today.

Hazardous materials teams from the FBI, Capitol Police Department and Postal Service finished examination and testing of all the mail that had been isolated after ricin was found on a mail-opening machine on Monday.

Nothing suspicious was found, including no message from a mysterious "Fallen Angel" who has sent two threatening letters containing ricin to government agencies, said two federal law enforcement officials speaking on condition of anonymity.

Still, they said, the possibility that the ricin had arrived in the mail has not been ruled out.

The earlier typewritten "Fallen Angel" letters, addressed to the White House and Transportation Department, warned that more ricin would be used unless some trucking regulations that went into effect Jan. 4 were scrapped.

Three Senate buildings were closed for a second day Wednesday, but one was being reopened today, one Friday and the Dirksen building — where the ricin was found — is scheduled to reopen on Monday.

Capitol Police Chief Terrance Gainer said investigators have found "no obvious direct connection" between the Frist case and the letters signed by "Fallen Angel." Those letters were discovered in mail facilities that serve the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport in South Carolina and the White House.

They were found Oct. 15 and Nov. 6, respectively, but the existence of the White House letter was not disclosed by the Bush administration until Tuesday.

Officers arrest three, work accident

• Arrests

A report of a possible intoxicated driver led to the arrest of a 55-year-old man on CR 243 at 1:14 p.m. Wednesday. He was arrested for misdemeanor DWI, driving with license suspended and criminal trespass.

A 30-year-old woman was taken into custody in the 1300 block of 26th St. at 6:57 p.m. Wednesday on city warrants for no liability insurance.

Snyder officers arrested a 27-year-old man at the Law Enforcement Center at 7:10 p.m. Wednesday on multiple city warrants.

• Accident

State troopers investigated a one-vehicle, non-injury accident that occurred on Hwy. 84 near Hermleigh at 6:34 p.m. Wednesday.

• Officer requested

A caller reported hearing a loud explosion at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday in the 2300 block of 24th St. The officer located an electrical transformer that had blown.

• Harassment

A report of a person making an offensive gesture toward another person was made at 6:13 p.m. Wednesday.

A caller reported at 9:10 p.m. Wednesday that an individual had verbally harassed his daughter in the high school parking lot earlier.

Obituaries

Ralph Eades

1926-2004

Ralph Eades, longtime Snyder resident, died Tuesday, Feb. 3, in Covenant Lakeside Hospital in Lubbock after a sudden illness.

Funeral service for Mr. Eades, 77, is set for 10 a.m. Saturday in the East Side Church of Christ with Tom Holcomb, minister, officiating. Burial will follow in the Dunn Cemetery under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.



Ralph Eades

Born on Feb. 12, 1926 in Snyder, he married Betty Jo Crabtree on Nov. 25, 1948 in Snyder. She died Sept. 10, 1998. Mr. Eades was retired after 33 years with Sun Oil Co. where he was a mechanic. He also retired from Wal-Mart in September, 2003, after 13 years service.

His parents, John and Drucilla Belle Eades, two sisters and 10 brothers preceded him in death.

Survivors include a daughter, Peggy Eades of Colorado City; a son and daughter-in-law, Ricky and Diane Eades of San Angelo; five grandchildren and their spouses, Clay and Kassandra Eades of Colorado City, Becky and Robert Garza of Wichita Falls, Amy Eades and Leslie Eades, both of Colorado City; and Megan Eades of San Angelo; and three great-grandsons, Keelan and Keegan Eades of Colorado City and Mason Garza of Wichita Falls.

Family visitation will be from 7 to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

The family suggests memorials to the West Texas Rehab Center, 4601 Hartford St. in Abilene, 79605

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Gail Duckworth

1955-2004

LUBBOCK — Gail Dawn Duckworth, a Snyder High School graduate, died Monday, Feb. 2, at her home in Lubbock.

Funeral service for Mrs. Duckworth, 48, is set for 2 p.m. Friday in the Resthaven's Abbey Chapel with Rev. Harry Allen officiating. Burial will follow in Resthaven Memorial Park under the direction of Resthaven Funeral Home.



Duckworth

Born Aug. 15, 1955 in Colorado City to Louis "Suede" and Ruby Alexander, she graduated from Snyder High School in 1973.

She married Dennis Duckworth on Jan. 25, 1984 in Seminole. They moved to Lubbock in 1999 where she became an active member of the Coronado Neighborhood Association. She was a homemaker and helped her husband in their business.

She was preceded in death by her father; her brother, Michael Wayne Alexander; and uncles, Jack and Hardy Alexander.

Surviving are her husband, Dennis Duckworth of Lubbock; two daughters, Angela and Sara Duckworth of the home; and a son, Clint Duckworth, also of the home; her mother, Ruby Alexander of Snyder; a brother, Pat Alexander of Snyder; a sister, Ruth Montgomery of Deer Park; two aunts, Jimmy Ruth Angel of Fort Worth and Louise Prater of McAllen; an uncle, Mike Alexander of Pasadena; six cousins; five nieces; three nephews; three great-nephews; and one great-niece.

Mary Perez

1957-2004

MIDLAND — Mary Lou Perez, the mother of Mary Alice Hernandez of Snyder, died Monday, Feb. 2, in a Midland hospital.

Rosary for Mrs. Perez, 46, is set for 7:30 this evening in the Pipkin Funeral Home Chapel. Mass is set for 11 a.m. Friday in Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Midland.

Born March 7, 1957 in Lamesa, she married Adam Perez in 2002. He survives.

Survivors also include three other daughters, Jessica Alday of Austin, Lila Stanley of Fort Hood and Victoria Aguilar of Midland; her parents, Victor and Alicia Aguilar of Midland; a sister, Victoria Aguilar of Midland; and 10 grandchildren.

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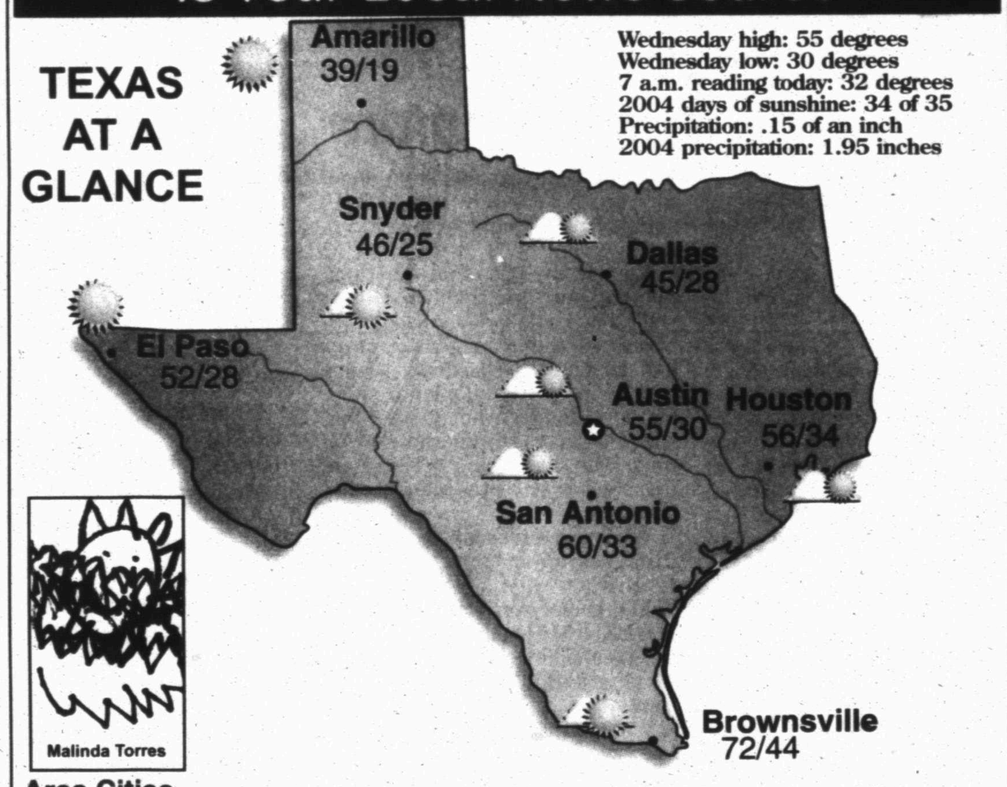
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Fri 2/6	Sat 2/7	Sun 2/8
46/25	52/39	50/37
Clouds and sun mixed in the morning, then generally sunny for the afternoon.	Plenty of sun. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 30s.	Few showers. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise 7:35 AM, Sunset 6:21 PM	Sunrise 7:34 AM, Sunset 6:22 PM	Sunrise 7:34 AM, Sunset 6:23 PM

–Come Rain or Shine–
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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Wednesday high: 55 degrees
Wednesday low: 30 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 32 degrees
2004 days of sunshine: 34 of 35
Precipitation: .15 of an inch
2004 precipitation: 1.95 inches

Malinda Torres

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	47	26	mst sunny	El Paso	52	28	sunny	Midland	49	28	mst sunny
Amarillo	39	19	sunny	Fort Stockton	51	30	mst sunny	Raymondville	71	40	mst sunny
Austin	55	30	pt sunny	Gainesville	42	22	pt sunny	Rosenberg	56	33	pt sunny
Beaumont	56	33	pt sunny	Greenville	43	25	pt sunny	San Antonio	60	33	pt sunny
Brownsville	72	44	mst sunny	Houston	56	34	pt sunny	San Marcos	56	30	pt sunny
Brownwood	50	27	mst sunny	Kingsville	66	39	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	44	26	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	62	39	pt sunny	Livingston	53	28	pt sunny	Sweetwater	48	27	mst sunny
Corsicana	46	28	pt sunny	Longview	47	28	pt sunny	Tyler	46	27	pt sunny
Dallas	45	28	pt sunny	Lubbock	45	22	sunny	Weatherford	44	24	pt sunny
Del Rio	61	34	mst sunny	Lufkin	52	29	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	43	23	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	58	35	rain	Houston	56	34	pt sunny	Phoenix	65	39	sunny
Boston	33	31	mixed	Los Angeles	69	49	mst sunny	San Francisco	55	46	rain
Chicago	32	21	sn shower	Miami	80	70	pt sunny	Seattle	49	41	rain
Dallas	45	28	pt sunny	Minneapolis	25	3	sn shower	St. Louis	31	14	sn shower
Denver	32	16	pt sunny	New York	39	36	mixed	Washington, DC	43	37	rain

Moon Phases

First	Full	Last	New
Jan 29	Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20

UV Index

Fri 2/6	Sat 2/7	Sun 2/8
4	5	4
Low	Moderate	Low

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

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