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WT-Int. Crude - $16.98
WTIC Posted - $14.25

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY
May 20, 1999
Vol. 51 No. 17
10 Pages 50¢
Home Of Kim Wilson



RUMMAGE SALE — Scurry County Museum, located on the Western Texas College campus, will hold its sixth annual rummage sale from 8 a.m. until noon Saturday. Museum Director Charlene Akers is shown setting up for the sale. (SDN Staff Photo)

TB scare prompts testing of students at local health unit

The possibility that a Snyder High School student may have contracted tuberculosis prompted the Scurry County Health Unit to notify some 50 students' parents of the need for their children to be checked for TB.

However, information received this morning by Scurry County health officer, Dr. Gary Nussey, indicated the female student who had been identified as possibly having the disease, does not, and testing of other students is no longer necessary.

"A student had an unusual type of pneumonia suggesting it might be TB," Dr. Nussey said. "While we were waiting on the cultures to return, we thought it best to begin testing students who might have been in contact with the student with pneumonia."

Thirty-four students were tested Wednesday, said Cindy Nix, health unit department head.

"The positive thing about this situation was the way the health department quickly responded to identify the way the suspected infection might have been spread, and then started testing for it," Dr. Nussey said.

Dr. Nussey said tuberculosis (TB) is spread from person to person through the air. When a person with pulmonary or laryngeal TB coughs or sneezes, droplet nuclei containing M. tuberculosis are expelled into the air. These tiny particles (1-5 microns in diameter) can remain suspended in the air for several hours.

If another person inhales air containing droplet nuclei, transmission may occur.

The probability that TB will be transmitted depends on three factors: the infectiousness of the person with TB, the environment in which exposure occurred and the duration of the exposure.

Supt. Gayle Lomax said the determination of which students were to be screened was made by the district's school nurses.

"Certain high school students were in close proximity to the student who had been identified as possibly having tuberculosis," said Lomax.

"These students were asked to complete skin testing as a precautionary measure," added Lomax.

"I would rather be proactive in a situation like this than to sit back and take no action at all," said Lomax. "I applaud the work of the Scurry County Health Department."

Annual band concert set for tonight

Three Snyder ISD bands will perform today in Worsham Auditorium.

The concert gets underway at 7 p.m. with the sixth grade, or beginners' band, from West Elementary School performing four songs.

They will be followed by the junior high band which will also do four numbers.

The high school band will close out the program. Numbers will include "El Camino Real," "Epinicion," "Jesus loves me...It is Well," Holst's "First Suite in E Flat," and music from "Amistad."

There is no admission charge and the public is invited.

Band directors include Walter Reneau, Kay Kennedy and Gust Whitt.

Local effect not known...

PennEnergy merger announced

From Local, Wire Reports

PennzEnergy Company, operator of Scurry County's SACROC unit, will merge with Devon Energy Corporation of Oklahoma City.

The transaction, announced this morning, will result in a top 10 independent oil and gas company with equity market capitalization of approximately $2.6 billion.

Houston-bazed PennzEnergy and Devon will merge into a new Devon Energy Corp, a joint statement from the two companies revealed.

PennzEnergy shareholders will own about 31 percent of the new company, while Devon shareholders will hold 69 percent. PennzEngery shareholders will receive 0.4475 share of the new company for each PennzEnergy common share, while each Devon share will be converted into one share of the new company.

Ted Winter, office manager at SACROC, said it is too early to know the effect on SACROC. "For us, it's business as usual until we hear otherwise."

On a combined basis, the new Devon will have reserves of about 3.1 trillion cubic feet of gas and 318.5 million barrels of oil, or 660 million barrels of oil equivalent.

The company will have core North American operations onshore in the U.S., in the Gulf of Mexico and in Canada. The company also has substantial international assets, highlighted by significant interests in Azerbaijan.

The combination, a purchase transaction that is expected to be tax-free by shareholders of both companies, is subject to approval of shareholders of both companies.

The new Devon expects to save between $50 and $60 million a year through reduced operating, general administrative, interest and exploration expenses.

It will also reduce its debt from between $400 and $500 million by rationalizing assets and issuing more stock or other equity-linked securities.

Devon President J. Larry Nichols will head the new company. Devon's executive staff will continue in current capacities, and PennzEnergy will contribute selected executive staff to augment the management team. No details were offered.

The new Devon expects a one-time charge of between $350 and $500 million after-tax, depending on commodity prices, in connection with the agreement.

Devon Energy shares closed Wednesday at $31.50 on the American Stock Exchange, while PenzzEnergy finished at $14.625 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Businessman Steve Talbott killed in 3-vehicle accident

Steve Talbott, a Snyder oilman, was killed Wednesday night in a three-vehicle accident on I-20, inside the Cisco city limits.

Talbott, 42, was pronounced dead at the scene of the 11:25 p.m. accident at the intersection of I-20 and the U.S. 183 overpass.

Talbott, a resident of Fort Worth, was president of BHT Marketing and vice president of HAT Oil and Gas Inc., both headquartered in Snyder.

Talbott was headed west toward Snyder on I-20 when the mishap occurred. Talbott, driving alone in a 1994 Lexus, was attempting to pass another west-bound vehicle when the two collided, knocking Talbott's vehicle across the median into the east-bound path of an 18-wheel truck. Talbott's vehicle then caught on fire.

The other west-bound vehicle contained two people who were being treated for unknown injuries. The accident was still under investigation this morning by the Department of Public Safety and by the Cisco Police Department.

Services for Talbott, a 1974 graduate of Snyder High School, are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Air Force appears ready to settle suit in far West Texas

From local, wire reports

ODESSA — The U.S. Air Force appears very willing to settle a lawsuit filed against it in connection with plans to increase low-altitude bomber training flights in West Texas, a rancher says.

A group of agriculturalists sued the agency over plans to boost low-level flights over much of the region by more than 1,000 planes.

"The Air Force came along with an offer to settle, and they are really trying to stay out of court," Karre Remme, co-owner of McCoy Land and Cattle Company and one of the five plaintiffs in the dispute, said Wednesday. "If it's not settled pretty quick, we'll be going to court on Aug. 8."

U.S. District Judge Lucius D. Bunton offered the Air Force only half the standard six months to settle out of court.

The abbreviated time was appreciated and expected because cases proceed faster in Bunton's court, Remme told the Odessa American.

The Air Force's proposal, known as the Realistic Bomber Training Initiative (RBTI), would bring B-1B and B-52 Stratofortress bombers from Abilene and Barksdale, La., to train at altitudes as low as 300 feet over much of West Texas.

The Air Force's proposal to increase low-level flight training over Scurry and seven adjoining counties has also drawn opposition, but no lawsuits as yet.

Members of Heritage Environmental Preservation Association (HEPA) have threatened to sue if the Air Force increases the number of flights over this area.

If the parties fail to reach an agreement, the lawsuit will move into Bunton's courtroom in Pecos.

Although Remme said he could not talk about the Air Force's offer or a possible out-of-court solution to the matter, he suggested that nothing but a total reversal of the Air Force's bomber training initiative would stop litigation.

Remme blames the overflights for loss of sleep by residents, structural damage and harm to livestock, and contends that constitutes a violation of the Third Amendment. It says citizens should not be forced to quarter military troops during peacetime.

"Some people laugh" at the Third Amendment argument, Remme said. "The people who did not file lawsuits in the past . . . they've been quiet, so they're called patriots."

The military flight route travels from New Mexico past Valentine, cuts north over Big Bend National Park, passing Alpine, Fort Davis and Balmorhea before returning to New Mexico.

Remme said the Air Force's proposal to "increase" flights through military airspace at low altitudes under a bomber training proposal would bring more than 1,000 flights annually.

Pupil shoots six at school in Georgia

CONYERS, Ga. (AP) — A student with two guns opened fire at his high school today, shooting six schoolmates exactly one month after the Colorado massacre, authorities said. A suspect was quickly taken into custody.

None of the injuries was believed to be life-threatening.

The suspect was described as a 15-year-old sophomore at Heritage High School who according to a friend had recently broken up with his girlfriend. The gunman had two weapons, a .22-caliber rifle and a .22-caliber revolver, District Attorney Richard Read said.

"I looked to my left and saw this guy in front of the girls' bathroom," said Jessie McCumber, a 15-year-old freshman. "He started running sideways and shooting his gun at no particular person. Everyone's screaming, 'Oh, my God, he's got a gun!'"

The shootings happened about 7:55 a.m., or about 20 minutes before classes were to begin in this middle-class suburb 20 miles east of Atlanta. Today was the final day of classes for seniors at Heritage.

"I thought it was firecrackers until I saw the kids running toward me," math teacher Tony Gray said.

Senior Joe Watts said the gunman dropped the rifle as he fled. Once outside, he pulled out a revolver, dropped to his knees and put it in his mouth, Watts said.

An assistant principal embraced the gunman, who began crying and said, "Oh, my God, I'm so scared," Watts said.

Heritage High, which has about 1,300 students, has no metal detectors but does employ a campus policeman and has surveillance cameras.

SJHS Pops Concert set

Snyder Junior High School's Pop Concert will be held at 7 p.m. Friday in Worsham Auditorium.

Tickets may be purchased in advance on Thursday and Friday from noon to 4 p.m. for $3. Everyone is asked to pick up tickets in person.

Tickets at the door will be $4.

THE SDN COLUMN
By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "When down in the mouth, remember Jonah. He came out okay.

It seems that image is important these days.

In politics, it's not necessarily what you are that counts, but rather what people think you are.

The same is true for cities. Dallas, for example, is fretting over the EPA contention that Big D is out of compliance regarding clean air.

With almost eight million people in the area, smog is a giant problem. You may notice that weather guys on TV will give you a reading on the haze and other stuff.

It was either the smog or traffic that caused the guy to go off in that high-dollar restaurant recently.

A Fort Worth man, armed with a crowbar, stormed the four-star (or is it five-star) Mansion on Turtle Creek in Dallas.

He smashed tables and sent other diners scrambling before police arrived and charged him with disorderly conduct — among other things.

We have to wonder if the service was really that bad, or was it the size of the tab?

Lubbock is fretting over the image of its police force, and abilene is worried that it is getting a bad wrap about how it disposes of stray animals. In addition, there's been the on-going discussion over whether hunting is good or bad.

Now the image debate has moved to Central Texas where folks in Austin are learning how to get to the new and improved airport.

For years, the official weather station was located at the old airport, near downtown. Temperatures reported from Robert Mueller Municipal Airport over the years has given the Capital City the reputation for enjoying a mild climate.

Now that the weather station has been moved to the new Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, the rural location has presented a problem.

One recent morning, the temperature at the old airport was a mild 42 degrees. At the new one, the temp hovered just one degree below freezing.

To prevent the perception that Austin's climate is a victim of the ice age, a new location for the weather station has been found.

We've noticed a similar problem in Snyder.

The official weather station at the city's water plant never gets as much rainfall as our coffee chum Leon Autry who lives in Cedar Creek.

If we want to appear all wet, then we just listen to — and quote — Leon.

ASK US

Q—Do any of the area cities served by TCA/Cox Cable have "digital" capabilities?

A—Sweetwater does, and Big Spring is expected to be digital in the fall.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Wednesday, 87 degrees; low, 58; 7 a.m. Thursday, 69; no precipitation; total for 1999, 5.57 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy; less than 20% chance evening storm. Low 60-65. SE wind 10-20 mph. Friday, mostly sunny, warm. High 90-95. SE wind 10-20 mph, gusty.

Jake Alaniz
Sunny

Sunset: 8:36 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:44 a.m.
Of 139 days in 1999, the sun has shone 132 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

"Get good counsel before you begin; and when you have decided, act promptly."

Sallust

MAY 20 1999

Judah named teacher of year for 1999

Deborah Judah, third grade teacher at Central Elementary School, was all smiles when she was named teacher of the year by the local Wal-Mart store assistant manager, Debra Perez.

Judah was one of more than 2,500 teachers from around the country who were selected to receive the 1999 award. Winners received a total of more than $1.25 million in grants for their schools or school districts.

"Teachers have one of the most challenging and critical jobs in our country," said David Glass, president and chief executive officer of Wal-Mart Stores Inc. "The Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Award program is our associates' way of letting teachers know how much we appreciate their contributions to the education of our youth, which in turn contribute to the vitality of our communities."

The program honors teachers who distinguish themselves as mentors, motivators and innovators in education. Since the program began in 1996, Wal-Mart and Sam's Club have saluted more than 7,600 teachers of the year and contributed $3.8 million in education grants to local schools.

Central received $500 and Mrs. Judah received a Wal-Mart vest which students Ashley Gonzales and Nicole Means helped her to put on. Snyder superintendent Gayle Lomax was on hand to congratulate Mrs. Judah. Refreshments were served to students and guests.



TEACHER OF THE YEAR — Debra Judah, a third grade teacher at Central Elementary, has been named teacher of the year by Wal-Mart. From left are, Debra Perez, Snyder Wal-Mart's assistant manager who made the presentation; Mrs. Judah; Gayle Lomax, SISD superintendent; and students, Nicole Means and Ashley Gonzales. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

AF seeks millions to fix problem

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Air Force is asking Congress for $100 million to fix engine problems with F-16 jets that have been blamed for seven crashes since November.

The first of the recent F-16 crashes blamed on engine problems occurred Nov. 19 when an F-16 lost thrust during takeoff at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina.

Voters to decide...

Gubernatorial succession

AUSTIN (AP) — As Gov. George W. Bush eyes the White House, state lawmakers want voters to clarify how Texas' top job will be filled if he runs for and wins the presidency.

Texas senators voted 28-1 Wednesday for a proposed constitutional amendment that Sen. Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi, said would "make clear that if there is a permanent vacancy in the office of governor that the lieutenant governor will move up to governor."

"At the same time, there is no doubt that the lieutenant governor will not be occupying both positions, as might be the case under the present constitution," Truan said.

The proposed constitutional change, which earlier won House approval, goes on the Nov. 2 statewide ballot.

The current constitution says the lieutenant governor exercises the power and authority of the governor's office if there is a vacancy.

Officials have said a 1914 attorney general's opinion raised the possibility that a lieutenant governor could keep his or her former office while also carrying out the governor's duties.

Under the amendment, the lieutenant governor would become governor. The lieutenant governor's vacancy would be filled by an election among the senators within 30 days.

Lt. Gov. Rick Perry, who is poised to move up should his fellow Republican become the nation's second President Bush, has said it's the right time right to consider the orderly transfer of power because "the nation's eyes are focused on Texas and our great governor."

Voting against the proposal was Sen. Mario Gallegos Jr., D-Galena Park. He said he opposes the timing of the selection process for the successor lieutenant governor.

Gallegos said the process would allow a "lame-duck" Senate — in which lawmakers who lost re-election in a November election — to choose the presiding officer for incoming senators, who wouldn't take office until the following January.

That would deny a successful candidate the ability to vote for a lieutenant governor with similar views on such important issues as education, health care and crime, he said.

"You deny me the right to vote for the lieutenant governor of my choice. Automatically, I'm cut off from what I promised my constituents that I would do. ... Any way you look at it, it's wrong, whether you be Republican or Democrat," he said.

Republicans currently hold 16 Senate seats and Democrats 15, so a political power shift could easily occur.

Texas' last vacancy in the governor's office occurred with the 1949 death of Beauford Jester.

The gubernatorial succession amendment is HJR44.

Utility market...

Texas House mulls deregulation bill

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas House is scheduled to begin debate on a bill to deregulate the state's $19-billion-a-year utility market. Here are some key points of the bill by Rep. Steve Wolens, D-Dallas:

WHAT WE HAVE NOW

The state's electric system breaks down into three parts: generation—the making of electricity; transmission—transporting the electricity; and distribution—the delivery of electricity to customers.

Under Wolens' bill the Public Utility Commission would continue to regulate the transmission lines, but anyone could generate and deliver the electricity to consumers.

CUSTOMER CHOICE

Customers served by investor-owned utilities, including Dallas-based TU Electric and Houston Lighting and Power, would be able to choose a new electric company starting Jan. 1, 2002. The state's nine private utilities sell about 82 percent of the electricity in Texas.

Cooperatives such as Pedernales and city-owned utilities such as Austin and San Antonio could choose to remain monopolies in their geographic areas.

REDUCED RATES

The rates of investor-owned utilities would be frozen until Jan. 1, 2002. The companies would then reduce their rates 6 percent and competition would begin. Lawmakers hope that competitors will enter the market and offer an even lower price to sway consumers to leave their current provider.

The incumbent companies wouldn't be able to lower their rates or compete for three years or until competitors take away 40 percent of their customers.

STRANDED COSTS

Utilities would continue to recover the costs of building power plants that may not be cost-effective in a competitive market through a fee on monthly electric bills. The estimates for this cost vary.

ENVIRONMENT

Utility power plants that have been grandfathered from clean air laws must reduce their air pollution by Sept. 1, 2003 or close down. The cost for the upgrades would be billed to ratepayers.

The electric utility business is SB7.



Veronica Maldonado

Maldonado gets National Award

Veronica Maldonado has been named a National Award winner in art, by the United States Achievement Academy.

The Snyder Junior High School student is the daughter of Estroberto and Esmeralda Maldonado Jr. of Snyder. Grandparents are Rosalio and Rosalinda Gutierrez of Snyder and Estroberto and Manuela Maldonado Sr. of Nuevo Laredo Tamps.

Ex-worker wins lawsuit

BECKLEY, W.Va. (AP) — A Raleigh County jury has ordered Texas-based Pizza Hut of America Inc. to pay a blind former worker more than $8,000 in damages.

Johnny Ray Stover filed a discrimination lawsuit after his work hours at the Beckley restaurant were reduced despite favorable evaluations and regular merit raises. He was a dishwasher from 1992 to 1996.

Pizza Hut is headquartered in Dallas.

Defense attorney Daniel Schuda argued the restaurant was the victim of increased competition and that Stover was not discriminated against because of his disability.

"They cut the working hours of every employee in the store. Mr. Stover happened to be one of them," Schuda said.

The circuit court jury Wednesday awarded Stover $3,150 in compensatory damages and $5,000 in punitive damages.

High Blood Pressure

The Silent Killer

In 1995, high blood pressure killed 39,981 Americans and contributed to the deaths of about 190,000. It is a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke.

Also known as hypertension, high blood pressure is often called "the silent killer" because, in most cases, it has no warning signs. That's why it is vitally important to have your blood pressure checked regularly, to follow your doctor's instructions, and to stay on your medication.

The following dietary and lifestyle choices can help control your blood pressure:

- Reduce your weight to ideal levels for your height and build.
- Decrease your sodium intake to less than 2000 milligrams a day.
- Make sure your diet is rich in fruits and vegetables.
- Exercise regularly.
- Be moderate in your drinking.
- Reduce stress on and off the job.
- If you are smoking, stop.

Remember! Have your blood pressure checked regularly. The blood pressure reading you have today may not be the one you have six months from now.

American College of Emergency Physicians

EMS Saving Lives

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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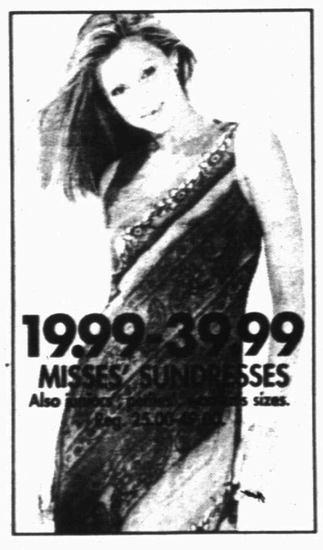
By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $85.80 balance of Texas and out of state $113.86.

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BUSINESS YARD OF THE MONTH — Snyder Garden Club selected Wright Colonial Funeral Home for business yard of the month. Garden Club members Sonya Vinson and Bonnie Fry, from left, delivered the sign to remain in the front of the funeral home for a month. Wright Colonial Funeral Home employees include Kent Wright, owner, Brendon McNeil and Nathan Zalman. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)



BYBEL PRESENTS ARTIST PROGRAM — Janet Bybel of Lubbock presented a demonstration in oils to members of the Palette Club which meets in the Winston Airport terminal building twice a month. Bybel studied art at Stephens College in Missouri and also at Texas Tech., and with Jan Herring. She has work in the Southwest Gallery in Dallas, The LaCouture Fine Arts in Ruidoso, Folgers Gallery in Midland and Charles Adams Gallery in Lubbock. Bybel has a studio in her home where she does fine art, portraits, Trompe L'oeil and faus finishes. Members in the background include Jay Huckabee, Laverne Lee, Evelyn Mebane, Joy McGlaun and Myrtle Joiner. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Bridge By Phillip Alder



	North	05-20-99
	♠ J	
	♥ Q 9 5	
	♦ A 10 7 5 3 2	
	♣ 8 5 2	
West		**East**
♠ K Q 9 7 5		♠ 10 8 6 3
♥ 8 3 2		♥ J 7
♦ 6		♦ K Q J
♣ K J 9 7		♣ 10 6 4 3
	South	
	♠ A 4 2	
	♥ A K 10 6 4	
	♦ 9 8 4	
	♣ A Q	

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: South

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

Opening lead: ♠ K

When the winners wobble

By Phillip Alder

Do you like deals in which world champions misplay contracts you're sure you would have made? I do — but it just goes to show that no one is perfect. (Sounds like a comment on spouses too.)

Well, how would you play in four hearts after West has led the spade king?

If West had known his partner held four-card support, he would have been tempted to save in four spades. Note that four spades doubled costs at most 500, if the defense gets its club ruff.

The simple route home in four hearts is to ruff your two spade losers in the dummy, eventually losing two diamonds and one club. There are some communication problems, but with the actual trump position, you should survive.

The world champion perhaps had overtricks in mind. After winning trick one, he played a diamond to dummy's ace and another diamond, West discarding an encouraging club. Declarer finessed on the club switch, West winning with the king and exiting with a club. Now, when declarer led his last diamond, West threw his final club.

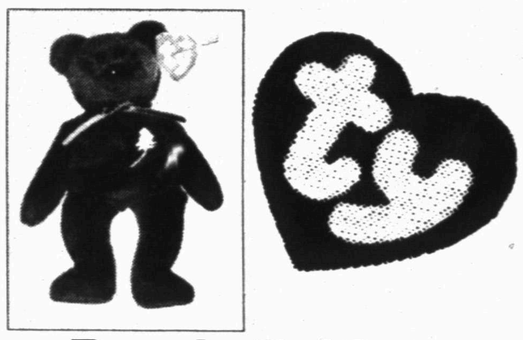
On East's club-10 continuation, declarer could have succeeded by ruffing with the heart 10. Then he could have drawn trumps ending in the dummy and run the diamonds. However, he felt West was more likely to have the heart jack. So, South ruffed with the heart king, cashed the heart ace, and played a heart to dummy's nine.

Disaster! East produced the jack and led a spade, forcing dummy to ruff. Now declarer couldn't stop West's heart eight from being promoted. Suddenly the contract was two down.

Everyone is human occasionally.

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Community Calendar

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 573-9742.

Just For Today NA; Snyder Park Club; for information, call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

Scurry County AA, closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for information, call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; 8 p.m.

***

Age in a virtuous person, of either sex, carries in it an authority which makes it preferable to all the pleasures of youth.

—Sir Richard Steele



Instead of being over the hill at forty, Val you went straight down the hill. GOTCHA!

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MAY 20 1999

Comic Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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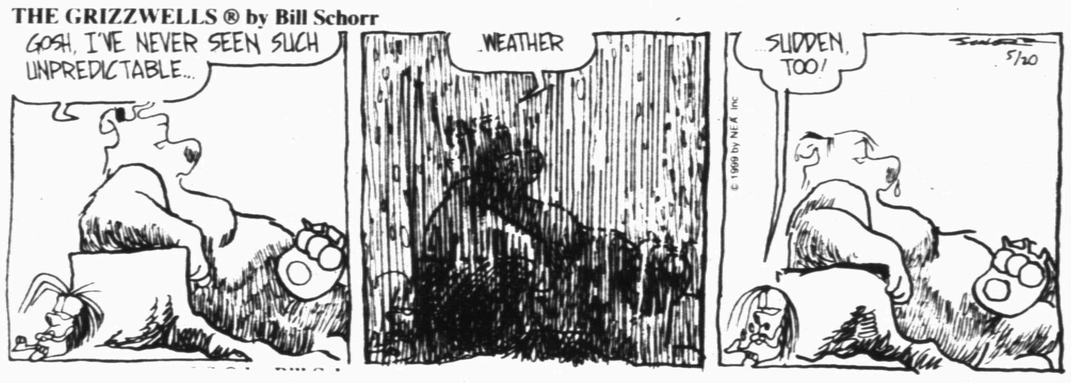
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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

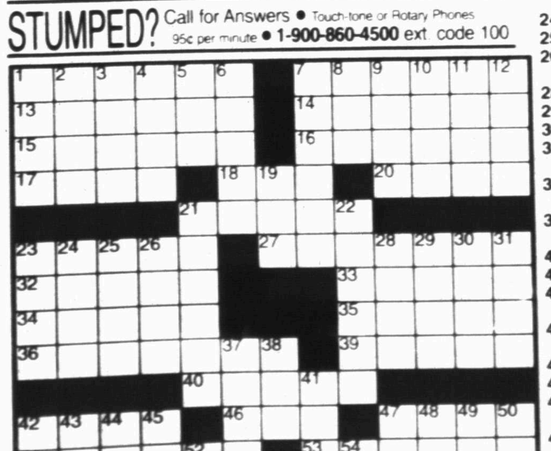
1 Actress Stefanie
7 Common allergen
13 Style of type
14 Type of straight
15 Skunk feature
16 Makes fun of
17 First-rate
18 Butterfly collector's equipment
20 Processes leather
21 V.I.P.
23 Comedian Richard
27 Long journey
32 — — Cologne
33 Bell sounds
34 Weary
35 Come up
36 Doorways
39 Passover feast
40 Support
42 Labor mightily
46 Collection of sayings
47 Belly button stuff
51 Dome homes
53 Wedding vow word
55 Brightly colored bird
56 If
57 More orderly
58 Fastidious

DOWN

1 Leaning Tower site
2 Director Preminger
3 Alarm
4 Author — Wiesel
5 Tear
6 Episode
7 Full of holes
8 Single
9 Future attys.' exam
10 Actress Bonet
11 First garden
12 Capone's nemesis
19 "Hold On Tight" band
21 College course unit
22 Detour around
23 Baseball's Rose
24 Pour down
25 Circular tent
26 River in Germany
28 Arid
29 Pronounced
30 Different
31 River in Belgium
37 End of a pencil
38 Earth's star
41 Palatable
42 Noun ending
43 Giant of fairy tales
44 Skeleton parts
45 Booty
47 Sites
48 Afghanistan neighbor
49 Home, figuratively
50 Low card
52 Bullring cry
54 "— — Clear Day . . ."

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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



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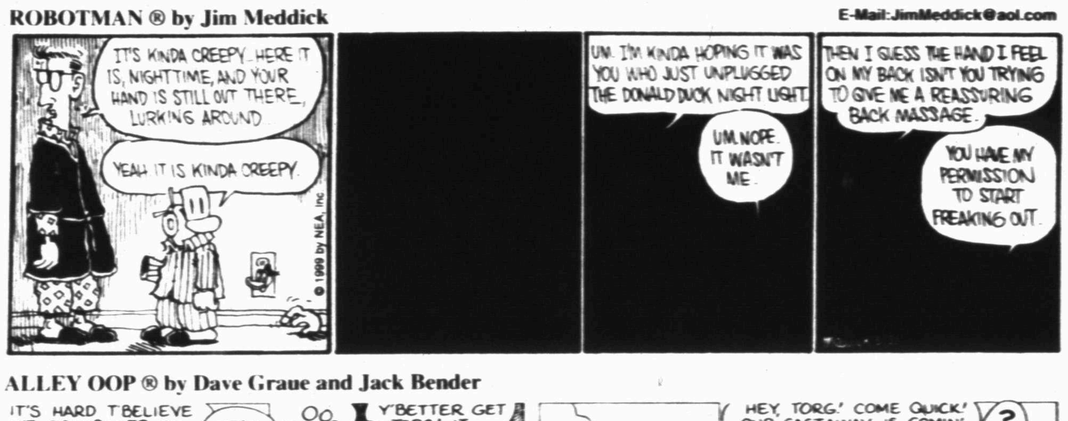


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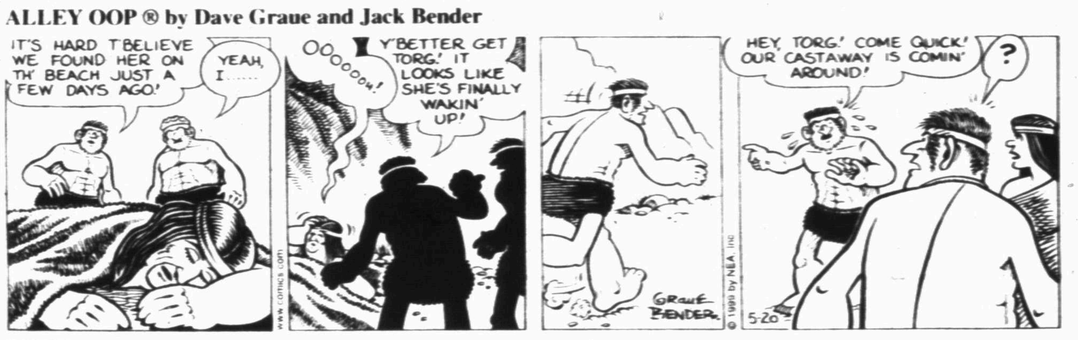


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"RUN FASTER, JOEY! WE DON'T HAVE A PLAN B!"

SPORTS

Spurs nip Lakers for 2-0 series lead

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tim Duncan made the go-ahead basket with 8.4 seconds left as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Los Angeles Lakers 79-76 Wednesday to take a 2-0 lead in the their Western Conference semifinal series.

Trailing 76-75, Duncan took a pass from Mario Elie and scored on a right-handed jump hook to draw a roar from the Alamodome crowd.

The Lakers had another chance to score, but lost the ball inbounding it as Avery Johnson knocked the entry pass away. Sean Elliott then made two free throws for the Spurs, and Kobe Bryant missed a 30-footer at the buzzer.

Duncan led the Spurs with 21 points and eight rebounds, while Elliott added 19 points.

The Spurs once again used a large arsenal against the powerful Shaquille O'Neal, assigning David Robinson, Duncan, Malik Rose and Will Perdue to guard him at various points.

O'Neal was held to just four points in the first half. He began to find his game in the third, scoring 10 points in the period on 5-for-5 shooting, but finished with only 16 points for the game.

O'Neal, who complained about the officiating after Game 1 when he went to the foul line 14 times, got to shoot only 10 free throws Wednesday night and made just two.

There was lots more banging under the basket to come, but the officials tried to keep a tight grip on the game.

Game 3 in the best-of-7 series will be Saturday at the Great Western Forum.

With the score tied at 73-73, David Robinson moved in for a dramatic dunk with 1:00 left to give the Spurs a 75-73 lead.

But Bryant answered with a 3-pointer as the shot clock was running down and the Lakers moved ahead 76-75 with 36.8 remaining.

Bryant had a chance to increase the lead to three as he went to the line for two free throws with 18.1 seconds left, but he missed both shots.

Bryant led the Lakers with 28 points. Glen Rice added 16,

The Spurs led 61-59 entering the fourth quarter, and Bryant ignited a 10-2 Lakers rally that gave Los Angeles a 69-63 lead.

The Los Angeles bench, outscored 17-2 by the Spurs' reserves in Game 1, played a little better this time but was still outscored by the San Antonio reserves 14-10.

San Antonio got off to a quick start and held a 14-point advantage late in the first quarter as Duncan scored 10 points in the period on 4-for-7 shooting.

Rice had 10 points in the second quarter, and a 13-3 run gave Los Angeles a 38-36 lead with 2:44 left in the first half. San Antonio moved back ahead, though, and led 44-41 at halftime.

Earlier Wednesday, the NBA fined O'Neal $7,500 for failing to leave the court in a timely fashion and verbally abusing officials after the Lakers' loss in Game 1. O'Neal ran after referee Steve Javie after that game, but Los Angeles coach Kurt Rambis kept him from getting too close.



GOOD JOB — Ira head coach Bubba Edwards praises right fielder Terry Jamison during the Bulldogs' playoff clinching victory over Rotan. Ira will face Marfa in a 1A bi-district contest at 2 p.m. Saturday in Monahans. (SDN Staff Photo)

Big 12 baseball tourney...

Grand slam lifts UT past Red Raiders, 7-3

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Texas First baseman Jeff Ontiveros launched a 420-foot homer into left-centerfield in the top of the ninth inning, giving the Texas Longhorns a 7-3 victory over Texas Tech in fourth game of the Big 12 Conference baseball tournament Wednesday.

Ontiveros' grand slam snapped a trend in which Nebraska and Baylor pitchers posted back-to-back one hitters earlier in the tournament.

Texas starter Dax Leone was cruising with a one-hit shutout through seven innings when the Red Raiders (40-14) erupted for three runs in the bottom of the eighth inning to tie the contest.

The Longhorns took a 3-0 lead after five innings and held it until Tech tied the contest in the eighth.

Longhorns' shortstop Jason Moore drove in two of the first three runs with a triple in the first inning before teammate Chris Houser forced home another run in the fifth with a run-scoring groundout.

Texas Tech countered off Leone and winning pitcher D.J. Jones (9-6) with a two-run double by shortstop Lance Woodcock in the eighth. Woodcock subsequently scored when an errant relay throw went into the Red Raiders' dugout after he reached third on an attempted throw to the plate.

The Longhorns (35-22) advanced to meet intrastate rival Baylor Thursday in the eighth game of the tourney.

Tech starter Shane Wright (9-4) took the loss after allowing two runners to get on base before Ontiveros hit his four-run shot off relief pitcher Brandon Roberson.

The Raiders will battle Missouri at 1 p.m. Thursday in an elimination game.

BIG 12 TOURNAMENT
Wednesday's Games
Division One
Oklahoma 10, Texas A&M 5
Nebraska 5, Oklahoma St. 0
Division Two
Baylor 2, Missouri 0
Texas 7, Texas Tech 3
Today's Games
Loser's Bracket
Division One
Texas A&M vs. Oklahoma St., 10 a.m.
Division Two
Missouri vs. Texas Tech, 1 p.m.
Winner's Bracket
Division One
Oklahoma vs. Nebraska, 5 p.m.
Division Two
Baylor vs. Texas, 8 p.m.

Trio of homers fuels Texas win

ARLINGTON (AP) — Rafael Palmeiro hit two home runs and the Texas Rangers hit three consecutive homers for the second time in club history to beat the Tampa Bay Devil Rays 7-6 Wednesday.

With the game tied at 6 in the eighth inning, Lee Stevens singled off Scott Aldred (2-1) and moved to second when reliever Rick White walked Roberto Kelly. One out later, Tom Goodwin hit an RBI single to snap the tie and end the Rangers' three-game skid.

The two teams combined for seven home runs, including Jose Canseco's major league-leading 16th for Tampa Bay. Eleven of the 13 runs came on homers.

Jeff Zimmerman (3-0) pitched 2 1-3 perfect innings, tying a club record by retiring 23 consecutive batters. John Wetteland pitched the ninth for his 12th save in 13 opportunities.

Palmeiro hit a two-run shot to right field off Devil Rays starter Bobby Witt in the third inning and had a solo shot to right-center in the fifth.

Palmeiro has five homers in the past six games and 11 on the season. It was his first multihomer game of the season and the 20th of his career.

Ivan Rodriguez had a two-run homer in the fifth inning off Witt, his seventh. Palmeiro and Todd Zeile followed with homers. The only other time Texas homered in three consecutive at-bats came last Aug. 28, when Juan Gonzalez, Will Clark and Rodriguez homered against Chicago.

Canseco hit his fourth homer in four games on a two-run shot off Rangers starter Mark Clark in the third inning. He has six in his last nine games and is one ahead of Seattle's Ken Griffey Jr.

Paul Sorrento hit a 491-foot home run off Clark in the second inning for the longest ever at the Ballpark in Arlington, eclipsing Canseco's 480-foot blast on June 6, 1994. It was also the longest in Tampa Bay history.

Witt allowed six earned runs — on four homers — and six hits, in his first start against Texas since being traded by the club last year.

LA drops streaking Astros

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kevin Brown scattered four hits in eight innings, and Eric Karros hit his first home run in 3½ weeks as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Houston Astros 5-2 Wednesday night to snap a three-game losing streak.

Brown (5-2) walked two and struck out eight before being relieved by Jeff Shaw to start the ninth inning. Brown, who signed a seven-year, $105 million contract with the team last December, won his third straight start.

The Astros, who brought an NL-leading .298 batting average into the game, lost for just the fifth time in 18 games.

Jeff Bagwell hit two homers for Houston, giving him 13 this season.

Brown held the Astros hitless until Bagwell homered with one out in the fourth.

Sports Briefs

Malone, O'Neal fined by NBA

NEW YORK (AP) — Karl Malone of the Utah Jazz and Shaquille O'Neal of the Los Angeles Lakers were fined by the NBA for their actions in the opening games of the conference semifinals.

Malone was fined $10,000 for elbowing Portland's Brian Grant with 3:27 left in the second quarter of their game Tuesday night. O'Neal was fined $7,500 for failing to leave the court in a timely fashion and verbally abusing officials after the Lakers lost to the San Antonio Spurs on Monday night.

UT retiring Williams' number

AUSTIN (AP) — The University of Texas Longhorns will retire football jersey number 34, which was worn by Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams during a career in which he set the NCAA Division I career rushing record.

Williams becomes only the third UT athlete to receive such recognition.

Earl Campbell, who won the Heisman in 1977, was the first. Longhorns pitcher Roger Clemens, who went on to win five Cy Young awards in the major leagues, was the second.

Williams, the first-round draft pick of the New Orleans Saints, will be honored at a ceremony in Austin later this year.

Playoff baseball game

Moffett Field will host a Class 2A regional quarterfinal contest between Coahoma and New Deal at 7 p.m. Friday. Ticket prices are $3 for adults and $2 for students.

SCC scramble and MGA

A members' scramble is held each Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at Snyder Country Club. At 5:30 each Thursday, the Men's Golf Association hosts a 9-hole event. Thursday's format varies.

WTC junior golf clinic

A junior golf clinic for ages 10-17 will be held at Western Texas College May 31-June 4. Cost is $75 per student for the week.

Instructors will be WTC head pro Rick Kahlich, and Snyder High School coaches Matt Glenn and Primo Gonzales. Covered during the clinic will be the short game, putting, trouble shots, etiquette and rules, with video swing analysis also provided.

The first 50 golfers to register will be accepted. For more information, all the WTC pro shop at 573-9291.

WGA couples play

The Women's Golf Association of Snyder Country Club will hold a mixed foursomes event Friday evening at 5:30.

Basketball camps

The 1999 Jason Weese Girls Basketball Camp will be held June 1-4 at Ira High School. Instruction will run from 8:30 a.m. to noon, and cost is $40 per camper. For more information, contact Coach Weese at 573-2628 (work), or 573-2647 (home).

The 1999 Bubba Edwards Boys Basketball Camp will be held June 1-4 at Ira High School. Instruction will run from 1-5 p.m., and cost is $40 per camper.

Two Sam Tipton Basketball Camps will be held at Snyder High School. The first camp will be June 7-10 for incoming 3-6 grade boys and girls. The second camp will be June 28-July 1 for incoming 7-9 grade girls only.

Instruction will run from 9 a.m. to noon. Cost per camper is $50, which includes a camp T-shirt. For more information, contact Coach Tipton at 573-6301 ext. 30 (work) or 573-4437 (home).

Junior Rodeo Results

High Plains Junior Rodeo at Canyon

8-under: Clayton Hirt: second place, goat tying.

9-12: Hadley Hirt: second place, calf touching. Kassey Burney: seventh place, barrel racing. Ciara Latta: eighth place, goat tying.

13-15: Casey Uptergrove: seventh place, breakaway roping.

16-19: Shelley York: first place, ribbon roping. Darcee Purcell: third place, pole bending. Jessica Bradshaw: seventh place, pole bending.

Next event: Saturday-Sunday, Odessa.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	25	14	.641	-
New York	21	18	.538	4
Philadelphia	21	18	.538	4
Montreal	12	26	.316	12½
Florida	11	29	.275	14½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	24	14	.632	-
Chicago	20	17	.541	3½
St.Louis	20	18	.526	4
Cincinnati	19	18	.514	4½
Pittsburgh	19	20	.487	5½
Milwaukee	18	19	.486	5½

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Arizona	23	18	.561	-
SanFrancisco	23	18	.561	-
LosAngeles	21	18	.538	1
SanDiego	16	22	.421	5½
Colorado	15	21	.417	5½

Wednesday's Games

Atlanta 7, Pittsburgh 3
Cincinnati 24, Colorado 12
San Francisco 8, Arizona 3
Milwaukee at New York, ppd., rain
Chicago 8, Florida 7
Montreal 10, Philadelphia 9
Los Angeles 5, Houston 2
San Diego 7, St. Louis 6

Thursday's Games

Milwaukee (Abbott 0-4 and Woodard 3-3) at New York (Leiter 1-4 and Yoshii 3-3) 2, 4:40 p.m.
St. Louis (Bottenfield 6-1) at San Diego (Hitchcock 3-2), 5:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Benson 3-2) at Florida (Meadows 3-4), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago (Trachsel 2-4) at Atlanta (Maddux 4-3), 7:40 p.m.
Arizona (Johnson 4-1) at Colorado (Kile 2-3), 9:05 p.m.
Houston (Hampton 5-1) at Los Angeles (Park 3-3), 10:10 p.m.
Only games scheduled

Friday's Games

Milwaukee (Nomo 1-1) at Montreal (Pavano 2-5), 7:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Schourek 2-3) at Florida (L.Hernandez 2-4), 7:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (Loewer 2-3) at New York (Hershiser 2-4), 7:10 p.m.
Chicago (Farnsworth 2-0) at Atlanta (Chen 0-0), 7:40 p.m.
Arizona (Daal 3-4) at Colorado (Astacio 4-3), 9:05 p.m.
Cincinnati (Tomko 1-1) at San Diego (Williams 1-2), 10:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Acevedo 2-1) at Los Angeles (Valdes 4-1), 10:10 p.m.
Houston (Bergman 2-1) at San Francisco (Gardner 0-4), 10:35 p.m.

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	23	16	.590	-
New York	21	17	.553	1½
TampaBay	21	20	.512	3
Toronto	20	22	.476	4½
Baltimore	14	25	.359	9

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	29	10	.744	-
KansasCity	20	18	.526	8½
Chicago	18	19	.486	10
Detroit	17	22	.436	12
Minnesota	13	27	.325	16½

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Texas	22	18	.550	-
Oakland	21	19	.525	1
Seattle	19	21	.475	3
Anaheim	18	22	.450	4

Wednesday's Games

Texas 7, Tampa Bay 6
Boston 6, New York 0
Anaheim 5, Baltimore 4
Detroit 7, Toronto 3
Cleveland 13, Chicago 7
Kansas City 14, Oakland 3
Seattle 7, Minnesota 0

Thursday's Games

New York (Hernandez 3-4) at Boston (Portugal 3-1), 7:05 p.m.
Anaheim (Belcher 2-3) at Baltimore (Johnson 0-0), 7:05 p.m.
Detroit (Mlicki 1-3) at Toronto (Halladay 2-2), 7:05 p.m.
Oakland (Oquist 4-2) at Kansas City (Suppan 2-3), 8:05 p.m.
Only games scheduled

Friday's Games

Toronto (Escobar 3-1) at Boston (Rapp 1-2), 7:05 p.m.
Texas (Helling 4-4) at Baltimore (Ponson 3-3), 7:05 p.m.
Anaheim (Saunders 3-3) at Tampa Bay (Hill 1-3), 7:05 p.m.
Detroit (Blair 1-4) at Cleveland (Burba 4-1), 7:05 p.m.
New York (Clemens 2-0) at Chicago (Snyder 6-1), 8:05 p.m.
Oakland (Haynes 2-5) at Minnesota (Hawkins 1-6), 8:05 p.m.
Seattle (Moyer 3-4) at Kansas City (Witasick 1-2), 8:05 p.m.

NBA GLANCE

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
(Best-of-7)
Monday, May 17
Indiana 94, Philadelphia 90
San Antonio 87, L.A. Lakers 81
Tuesday, May 18
New York 100, Atlanta 92, New York leads series 1-0
Utah 93, Portland 83, Utah leads series 1-0
Wednesday, May 19
Indiana 85, Philadelphia 82, Indiana leads series 2-0
San Antonio 79, L.A. Lakers 76, San Antonio leads series 2-0
Thursday, May 20
New York at Atlanta, 8 p.m.
Portland at Utah, 10:30 p.m.
Friday, May 21
Indiana at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 22
Utah at Portland, 3 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 23
Indiana at Philadelphia, 12:30 p.m.
Atlanta at New York, 3 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 5:30 p.m.
Utah at Portland, 8:30 p.m.
Monday, May 24
Atlanta at New York, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, May 25
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, TBA, if necessary
Portland at Utah, TBA, if necessary
Wednesday, May 26
Philadelphia at Indiana, TBA, if necessary
New York at Atlanta, TBA, if necessary
Thursday, May 27
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, TBA, if necessary
Utah at Portland, TBA, if necessary
Friday, May 28
Indiana at Philadelphia, TBA, if necessary
Atlanta at New York, TBA, if necessary
Saturday, May 29
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, TBA, if necessary
Portland at Utah, TBA, if necessary
Sunday, May 30
Philadelphia at Indiana, TBA, if necessary
New York at Atlanta, TBA, if necessary

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

CONFERENCE FINALS
(Best-of-7)
Saturday, May 22
Colorado at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 23
Buffalo at Toronto, 2 p.m.
Monday, May 24
Colorado at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 25
Buffalo at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 26
Dallas at Colorado, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 27
Toronto at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, May 28
Dallas at Colorado, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 29
Toronto at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 30
Colorado at Dallas, 2 p.m., if necessary
Monday, May 31
Buffalo at Toronto, 7:30 p.m., if necessary
Tuesday, June 1
Dallas at Colorado, 7:30 p.m., if necessary
Wednesday, June 2
Toronto at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m., if necessary
Thursday, June 3
No games scheduled
Friday, June 4
Colorado at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., if necessary
Saturday, June 5
Buffalo at Toronto, 7:30 p.m., if necessary

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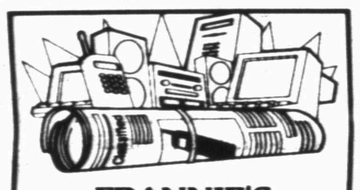
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20 Acres 3-1-2 Cp. Sheds.....$50T.
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107 Elm St. 4 Bdrm.....$23,320.
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Report reveals China gained critical technology from U.S. weapons labs

WASHINGTON (AP) — China has been able to make substantial gains in modernizing its nuclear weapons program because of U.S. secrets obtained in a pervasive campaign of espionage and misuse of legally obtained technology, a long-awaited congressional report says.

The report, according to officials familiar with it, concludes that there is little question that China has obtained critical information about an array of U.S. warheads through theft from U.S. nuclear weapons labs as well as meticulous scanning of publicly available information.

The 700-page report by a special House committee was ready to be released, possibly as early as today, after months of negotiations with the Clinton administration over how much of it should remain classified.

Many details of the report, which has been a year in the making, have been leaked in recent weeks.

Still, its formal findings are certain to add to the growing turmoil over charges of lax security at the government's prestigious nuclear weapons research labs.

Under pressure from a string of embarrassing revelations in the news media, President Clinton and Energy Secretary Bill Richardson have said steps were being taken to improve security at the labs. And congressional Republicans said they would make sure improvements took place.

Security at weapons labs has been the subject of intense scrutiny since early March when a scientist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico was fired after being suspected since 1996 of having provided China with warhead secrets.

The scientist, Wen Ho Lee, has not been charged with a crime and through his lawyer has denied providing nuclear secrets to China or anyone else. Chinese officials also have denied that the country stole secrets.

The special House committee, headed by Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Calif., heard extensive testimony concerning the investigation surrounding Lee. But the declassified version of the panel's report provides little additional information about the Los Alamos investigation, said officials familiar with the document.

Nevertheless, the report sharply criticizes security and counter-intelligence activities at three weapons research labs — Los Alamos and Sandia in New Mexico, and Lawrence Livermore in California — saying it has led to the loss of secrets to China under both Republican and Democratic administrations, spanning more than two decades.

And the report maintains the security problems persist today and adequate counterintelligence measures are unlikely to be in place before 2000, according to officials who summarized the findings. They spoke only on condition of not being further identified.

Both the Energy Department and White House declined comment late Wednesday on the report in advance of its formal release.

But senior administration officials have raised concerns privately — as negotiations dragged on over how much of the report to make public — that the document does not adequately take into account security and counterintelligence improvements made in recent months.

And, they have complained, the bipartisan committee's findings — approved unanimously last December — is based largely on conjecture, taking too pessimistic of a view on the extent to which China may have actually benefited from its espionage, citing a recent CIA finding that expressed less certain conclusions.

DPS teaches parents about violent lyrics and messages on television

AUSTIN (AP) — Most parents probably don't know the lyrics to the latest dance songs, but the Texas Department of Public Safety is making sure they do in an effort to prevent teen violence.

Safety education trooper and part-time disc jockey Garry Parker created the "Games Children Play" program, a multimedia presentation that gives parents examples of violent messages found in songs, on television and in the movies.

"We're not trying to establish a direct link between violence and movies, video games and what have you ... but we do think it's important that parents know as much about what their kids are doing as their kids do," said DPS spokesman Tom Vinger.

The presentations will include song samples and pictures from television shows and movies with violent and sexually explicit material.

Although program plans began before the school massacre in Littleton, Colo., the incident pushed DPS to kick off the program at Bastrop Middle School on Wednesday. Next week, the program moves to an Austin high school.

"The actual genesis of this program began before (Littleton), but I think it's one of the things that pushed it to fruition," Vinger said.

Parker is one of 36 DPS safety education officers in the state, but he is the first to create a parent awareness program like "Games Children Play," according to Vinger. In addition to showing parents examples of violent messages, Parker will discuss preventive measures.

Parents are key in preventing violence on television from affecting their children, said John P. Murray, a child psychologist and professor of family studies and human services at Kansas State University.

"My advice to parents is to sit down and watch television with their children," he said. "Get that message across that these things are not real and if you acted that way, there would be very serious consequences."

Murray, who has studied the effects of television violence on children, said children usually react one of three ways to the make-believe violence.

A common effect is desensitization, where children become more tolerant and less affected by violence in the real world. Other children become fearful.

In some cases, children act out what they see, Murray said.

"If you watch a lot of violence on television, you may become more aggressive or use aggression to solve problems," Murray said.

Although Murray believes the direct effect of TV violence was a contributing factor in highly publicized school shootings over the past year, it was not the only cause.

"They seem to share, in all of these outbreaks, a long history of abuse of some sort or the other — abuse at home, abuse at school," Murray said. "They are outcasts. They are marginalized. They are very unh[illegible]y ... very angry."

Youngsters who act out the violence they see on television, movies or video games have gotten the message that violence is "not as unusual or not as abhorrent to society as it in fact is," Murray said.

"We create the fertile ground for these outbreaks and then we add other factors," Murray said.

Programs like "Games Children Play" are a positive step, he said.

"That's a start — to help parents understand what their children are watching because most parents don't pay much attention," he said.

Coppola defends new movie

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The critics are out in force against George Lucas and the "Star Wars" sequel. At least his old friend Francis Ford Coppola is standing by him.

"George worked very hard on it. I know he's gotten some bad reviews, but he didn't slough it off or anything," Coppola said Wednesday.

"Nonetheless, it's going to be an extraordinary success. It's all-out 'Star Wars.' I don't think people really will be disappointed," said the Academy Award-winning filmmaker whose works include "The Godfather" trilogy and "Apocalypse Now."

Two subjects in custody

Two subjects were taken into custody Wednesday.

Officers arrested a 20-year-old male at 7:23 p.m. in the 2600 block of 32nd Street for driving while license suspended.

Following a disturbance call in the 600 block of Avenue R, officers took a 36-year-old male into custody for Class A assault/family violence.

In other activity, James Snowden requested an officer at the American Legion at 8:02 a.m. in reference to reporting a burglary of his vehicle. An offense report was filed.

IGA Manager C.R. Perez requested to speak to an officer at 10:54 a.m. at the store in reference to a forgery.

Sheriff Darren Jackson spoke with him and advised a suspect has been identified and the case has been forwarded to the district attorney.

Officers worked a two-vehicle minor accident at 7:56 a.m. in the 2900 block of 35th Street. Involved were a 1988 Chrysler Fifth Avenue driven by Rebecca Michelle Welsh of 3102 39th Street and a 1989 Ford F-350 pickup driven by Gregory Clay Graves of 2442 Sunset.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp s	68	66¼	67½	—1 11-16
AT&T Corp s	58¼	58⅝	—	5-16
AirTouch	107½	104¾	107¼	+ 5¼
Albertsons	50¼	50	50	3-16— 3-16
AlldSignal	61	5-16	60 11-16	60 15-16— ⅜
Alltel	71	5-16	70¼	71 + 7-16
AmOnline s	137	15-16	133¾	134⅜+ ⅛
AmStores	30	15-16	30¼	30¼— 1-16
Ameritech	66	65¼	65¾	+15-16
AndarkPtr s	38¼	37⅞	37	11-16— 1-16
ArmcoInc	5	13-16	5¾	5 11-16+ 1-16
AtlRichfld	83	7-16	82½	82 13-16+ 7-16
ATMOS Egy	24	15-16	24¼	24¼— 1-16
Aviall	16		15	13-16 16 + ¼
BP Amoco	108¾	107	11-16	107¾+ 7-16
BakerHughes	29	7-16	28¾	29 + 5-16
Bank of Amer	69¼		68¼	68¾— ⅜
BellAtl s	57	9-16	56¾	57 1-16— 5-16
BellSouth s	48		47¼	47⅞+ ¼
BethSteel	8	15-16	8	13-16 8 13-16— ⅛
BurlNoSFe s	35¼		34¾	34¾— ⅛
CBS Corp	44	13-16	43¾	43⅞— ⅜
Caterpillar	59¾		58	59½+ 1¼
CenSoWst	25	11-16	25¼	25 9-16+ ⅛
Chevron	93	9-16	91¾	93 7-16+ 1¾
Citigroup	70	15-16	69¾	70 7-16
Citigroup wi	47	5-16	47	47 + ½
Coastal s	39¾	39	3-16	39¼— 7-16
CocaCola	68¾	67	9-16	68¼— 5-16
ColgatePalm	97⅞		96¼	97 1-16+ ¾
ColgatePal wi	48¼		48¼	48¼
ComclMetals	23¼	23	1-16	23¼+ ⅛
CooperIn	52	5-16	51¾	51¾— ⅛
CyprusAmax	14¾		14¼	14¼— ¼
DaimlrChry n	92¼	92	1-16	92 7-16—13-16
DallSemicn	45¼	44	7-16	45 1-16+ 7-16
DeltaAirl s	63¼	61	5-16	63 3-16+1 11-16
Dillards Inc	35		34¼	34¾+11-16
DowChem	127	15-16	126	15-16 127⅞+ ⅜
DuPont	70¼		69¾	69 13-16+ ⅛
EastmanChem	52⅞		52¼	52½
EstKodak	76¼		74¼	75 15-16+ 1½
EDS Corp	57	5-16	55	15-16 57 3-16+ ⅛
Entergy	32	9-16	32	5-16 32¾— ⅜
Exxon	79¾		78¼	79¾+11-16
FstBksAm	18		18	18 + 1-16
Flowers	23	15-16	23	11-16 23¼+ ⅛
FordMotor	58	1-16	56	15-16 57¼+ 3-16
GTE Cp	66⅛		65	1-16 65¾+ 1-16
GenDynam	66¼		66	66 1-16+ 1-16
GenlElec	109	5-16	107⅞	108 13-16+13-16
GenMills	79	3-16	78½	78⅝— ⅛
GenMotors	80¼		79¾	79 11-16
GaPacGP	94		90¼	92¼+ 3
GlobalMar	13	11-16	13	5-16 13 7-16— ⅛
Goodrich	42	1-16	41	11-16 42 + 3-16
Goodyear s	60¼		59¾	59¾— 3-16
GtAtlPac	34		33¼	33 13-16+ 9-16
Halliburtn	39¾		38¼	38 13-16— 3-16
Hanson ADS	46		45¼	45¾+ ⅛
HarteHanks	23	15-16	23	9-16 23 9-16— ¼
HomeDepot	58	11-16	58	58 7-16+ ⅛
IBM	236⅜		234½	234 15-16—15-16
IBMwi	118	117	11-16	117 15-16+ 3-16
IntlPaper	55	7-16	54	11-16 55⅛+ 1¼
JohnsonJn	94¼		93¼	94 7-16+1 1-16
K mart	17	3-16	17	17⅛+ 1-16
Kroger Co	52	3-16	51	13-16 52 3-16+ 5-16
Litton	63¼		62¼	62½— ½
LockheedM s	41	3-16	40¼	40 15-16+ 3-16
Lowes Cos s	53¼		52⅜	53⅛+ ⅛
Lubys	16	15-16	16¼	16 15-16+ 1-16
LucentTech s	60¼		59⅛	60
MayDeptStr s	43	9-16	43	43½+ ½
MediaOne	74	15-16	74	5-16 74⅛+ ½
Medtronic	68	15-16	67¼	68¼+ ⅜
Mobil	98¾		97⅞	98⅛+ ½
Monsanto	46		44	9-16 44⅝— 1⅛
MorganJP	139¾		138⅜	139⅛+ ⅛
Motorola	85	1-16	84¼	85 1-16+ 1-16
NCR Corp	42	15-16	42	5-16 42⅞+15-16
Navistar	54¼		53¼	54 1-16+13-16
Penney JC	51	3-16	49	3-16 51 1-16+ 2
PennzEnergy s	14	13-16	13¾	14¼— ⅜
PepBoys	19¼	18	15-16	19 + 5-16
PepsiCo	37	11-16	37¼	37⅜— ⅛
PhelpDodge	62¼	60	9-16	60¾—15-16
PhilipPet	50¾	49	13-16	50 5-16+ 7-16
PilgrmPrd B	21		20¼	20¾— 1-16
Polaroid	23¾	22¾	23	1-16+ 5-16
Praxair	52	15-16	52¾	52¾— ⅛
ProctGamb	96¼	94¼	96	3-16+1 3-16
PubSNwMx	19¾		19	19⅜+ 7-16
ReliantEngy	30¾		30¼	30¾
RoyalDut	55¾	54	11-16	55 3-16+ 5-16
SBC Comm	52	7-16	51	5-16 52 3-16+15-16
SaraLee s	23	15-16	23	11-16 23 11-16
Scripps EW	47¾		47¼	47¾— 1-16
SearsRoeb	49½		48	9-16 49 + ⅛
SherwinW	30¾		30¼	30¾+ 9-16
SmithKlBchm	64	11-16	62¾	64 3-16+ 2¼
SouthernCo	28		27	9-16 27¾+ ⅛
SwstAirl s	32	15-16	32	32¼— ⅛
SprintFON n	110¾	108	13-16	110 3-16+ 1
SprntFON wi	55		54¼	55 + ⅛
SprintPCS n	47		46¼	47 + 3-16
Sunoco Inc	32¼	32	5-16	32⅝+ ⅛
TNP Ent	33	1-16	32¼	33 + 1-16
Tandy	78	13-16	77¼	78¼+ 1
TempleInland	73¾	71	11-16	73⅛+ 1⅛
Tenneco	24¼	24	7-16	24⅜+ 5-16
Texaco	64½		63¼	63¾— ⅛
TexInd	34⅝		33¼	34 — ⅛
TexasInst	117¼	115	3-16	115⅞— 1⅛
TexUtil	44	7-16	44¼	44¼— 3-16
Textron	94	13-16	92¼	94⅜+ 1⅛
TriconGlbR	59	3-16	58	9-16 59 1-16— 3-16
TrinityInds	36¼	35	13-16	36¼+ 5-16
TritonEngy	12	3-16	11	13-16 11 15-16— 1-16
TylerTech	6¼		6¼	6½— 1-16
US West Inc	55½		54¼	55 + ⅛
USX-Marathn	30	3-16	29	7-16 29⅝— ⅛
USX-USS	29¼	28	9-16	28⅝— 5-16
UnCarbde	56¼	55	1-16	56¼+ 1⅛
UnionPacif	59¼	58	9-16	59 1-16+1 3-16
UnitedTech s	66	1-16	65	65⅝— ¼
Unocal	41¼	40	13-16	40⅞— ⅜
Venator Grp	11½	10	15-16	11 — ⅛
WalMart s	46¼		45¾	45 15-16+ ¼
WellsFargo	41¼	41	7-16	41¾+ ⅜
WstnGasRs	12¾		12¼	12¼
WinnDixie	35	1-16	33	5-16 34 13-16+ 1¼
Xerox Cp s	60	5-16	59¾	60 — ¼

Local Interest STOCKS

PTEN	7 9/16	-3/16
KMG	46 7/16	+1/16
WMT	45 13/16	+1/8
CPQ	25 5/8	-3/8
ENE	74 3/16	+1 3/16
SRV	18 7/8	0
GTE	65 11/16	0
SBC	52 1/8	+7/8
TXN	116	-1 3/8
UNP	59 3/16	+1 5/16

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NASA spending bill eliminates Gore's satellite program

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Al Gore's vision of putting an Earth-viewing satellite in orbit has been brought down to Earth by House Republicans who say the idea is wasteful and unnecessary.

The House on Wednesday approved a three-year $42 billion NASA authorization bill that, over the protests of Democrats, effectively kills a Gore-inspired plan to launch a satellite that would put 24-hour views of the Earth on television and the Internet.

The $32 million originally set aside for the Triana project is less than 1 percent of the proposed National Aeronautics and Space Administration budget, but Democrats and the White House suggested the legislation might be subject to a presidential veto if the money is not restored when the Senate takes up the matter.

Democrats said it was part of the GOP campaign to trip up Gore's run for the presidency next year. "I can think of no reason for the elimination of this particular program except partisan politics," said Rep. Joe Moakley, D-Mass.

The Triana spacecraft, named for the sailor who first spotted the New World on the journey with Christopher Columbus, was to have been launched by NASA in December next year.

But the House Science Committee, on a party-line 21-18 vote last Thursday, transferred all the money for the program to life and microgravity research.

Rep. David Weldon, R-Fla., chief sponsor of the amendment, argued that views of the Earth are already available on the Weather Channel and NASA-TV and he considered it an "insult" that some 600 people were being laid off at the Kennedy Space Center at the same time the agency was "finding tens of millions of dollars to fulfill a vision for the vice president."

"Just because the new Star Wars movie is opening today doesn't mean we have to spend $30 million on a far-out boondoggle," said House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas.

But NASA and the White House argued that the satellite would transmit an image twice as clear as new high-resolution television sets and would be unique in presenting a full-Earth view.

Berry's World



"Ray, you're lacking a moral compass. What's YOUR take on our problem?"

How does the government trace guns?

FALLING WATERS, W.Va. (AP) — The call came in to the nondescript building in the rolling hills of West Virginia in late afternoon — an urgent request for help tracing the guns used in the Littleton, Colo., high school shootings.

As night fell, two workers began calling manufacturers and poring over paper records and microfilm rolls in a laborious process propelled by a serial number. Computers were no help.

The next day, they could report some results: Two of the four guns wielded by two students to kill 12 fellow students and one teacher before committing suicide had once been sold at Denver area stores. Then the trail went cold. It was up to police in the field to track those guns the rest of the way to the shooters — and to find sources for the other two guns.

The process — repeated 200,000 times a year — is an example of how the nation's gun laws actually work in practice, both in their power and their limitations.

Despite the difficulties, federal agents at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, spurred by the Clinton administration, have dramatically increased the number of traces done on guns confiscated at crime scenes. The nearly sevenfold increase, up from just 30,000 a decade ago, is part of an effort to solve crimes and to find patterns of illegal trafficking.

But agents must walk a political tightrope, taking care not to trample gun owners' rights under strict limits set by Congress, including a blanket prohibition against any computerized master list of gun owners.

The issue is at the heart of the current gun debate in Congress, as lawmakers try to balance the goals of keeping firearms from criminals and other illegal users while keeping them accessible to law-abiding people.

The National Rifle Association, fighting some proposals for further restrictions on guns, says it supports efforts to crack down on illegal traffickers but questions why that hasn't led to more federal prosecutions.

"If enhanced gun-tracing efforts allow them to target traffickers, we support that," said James Baker, the NRA's chief lobbyist. "But you'd figure if they were doing more investigations, it should result in more prosecutions, not less."

The Clinton administration says ATF increasingly shares its tracing data with local police who pursue more prosecutions under state laws.

What agents can trace is limited. They start with a gun's make and serial number, moving forward from the manufacturer to a wholesaler and distributor to the first retail sale by a federally licensed gun dealer. All sales by licensed dealers must be recorded, and those records must be provided to ATF if it asks.

After that, however, any sales by individuals or by collectors at gun shows, for example, are considered private and exempt from recording requirements. That is where ATF's Littleton trail ended.

The lack of high-technology also limits the tracing. Licensed dealers' records are usually handwritten, sent to ATF in dusty boxes when a dealer goes out of business. Workers sitting in front of screens search fuzzy microfilmed copies for a serial number that might be duplicated 10 times by different manufacturers.

The center manages to trace a gun to its first retail sale about 52 percent of the time, according to the agent in charge, Forest Webb.

Each time it does, agents enter the information into a database that is the backbone of the center's second function — to help police look for patterns of suspicious gun sales.

Trigger locks OK, but should be voluntary, gun club official says

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The executive director of the Texas State Rifle Association says his organization is concerned about child safety but still feels trigger locks on firearms should be voluntary, not mandatory.

Randy Gibson, executive vice president of the association, voiced concern as Uvalde County officials investigated the fatal shooting Monday night of a 9-month-old boy by his 2-year-old brother.

Police said the gun was fired after the 2-year-old found it in a dresser drawer in a bedroom.

"Apparently the older child crawled up into the bed, got into a dresser drawer and found the pistol," Uvalde County Sheriff Beaumont Watkins said.

The U.S. Senate has just approved legislation that would require trigger locks be sold with every handgun purchased in the United States.

"It is in everyone's interest to keep a household safe, whether it is with firearms or prescription medicine," Gibson said. "I just don't think it is the government's right to come into my home and tell me that I have to have a trigger lock."

Gibson said his organization is planning to join in statewide efforts during Childrens' Firearm Safety Week on Oct. 18-22, which was recently passed by the Texas Legislature and signed by Gov. George W. Bush.

The governor is on record as a supporter of voluntary use of trigger locks.

Watkins said the shooting occurred about 7 p.m. Monday at the home of James and Bertha Riddick in Uvalde County just north of Sabinal, about 60 miles west of San Antonio.

The infant, identified as William Lawrence Riddick, also was on the bed and was hit one time in the right side of his neck when the .22-caliber semiautomatic pistol fired, Watkins said. The child died while being airlifted to Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio.

"The mother was in the home, and there were also other children there," Watkins said. "Everyone else was fixing supper.

"Nothing like this (involving an infant) has ever happened here that I can remember," he said.

Michael Bernard, first assistant district attorney in Bexar County, said state law permits the filing of criminal charges against an adult if a readily dischargeable firearm is made accessible to a child.

The law, enacted in 1995, carries a maximum penalty of a year in jail and a $4,000 fine for the Class A misdemeanor.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Friday, May 21, 1999

Dare to establish several objectives in the year ahead for yourself which you felt were beyond your reach. Your chances are excellent, and growth in both character and material circumstances are likely.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) The results of your efforts aren't apt to be too gratifying today in instances where you behave impulsively or indifferent. Conversely, sober evaluations will produce desirable results. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that will govern you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Use your head instead of your heart when considering money issues today with people who are already indebted to you. If the accounts get too out of balance, you'll be the one who'll suffer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Success will be dependent upon setting realistic targets for yourself today. Don't waste valuable time pursuing an elusive or unattainable goal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Be sure all information relayed to you today is accurate before you pass anything onto others. This will be especially true when dealing with rumors or gossip.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Although you're lucky when dealing with others today, your judgment may leave a little to be desired. If you link up with the wrong types, you could negate what you have going for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) If you're not careful today, you could get drawn into something where you'll be slightly overmatched. When it comes to competitive activities, use discretion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) The harder you work today, the luckier you are likely to be. However, don't expect Lady Luck to stick around if you're simply being lazy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Don't let yourself be used as a pawn today by someone who is both manipulative and crafty. Keep your guard up at all times, especially when socializing with people you don't know.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) What should be a wonderful day spent with those you love could turn into something disagreeable, simply because someone insists upon having his or her own way. Don't let it be you.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) It's best not to say anything about a pal who isn't present when talking with friends today. Unless your words are carefully chosen, something could be misinterpreted and repeated.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Both advantageous and adverse financial effects could come through some changes you're contemplating making today. Be certain the good outweighs the bad before proceeding.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) It's right to be cognizant of the aims of your associates and try to accommodate their interests today, but not at the expense of restricting your own mobility of purpose. Be sensible.

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Datebook

May 20, 1999

Today is the 140th day of 1999 and the 62nd day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1862, the Homestead Act, which gave away millions of acres of free land to settlers, was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln.

On this day in 1939, Pan American began the first scheduled transatlantic airline service.

On this day in 1958, pianist Van Cliburn became the first musician to receive a ticker-tape parade in New York City. He had just won the Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in Moscow.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Dolly Madison (1768-1849), first lady; John Stuart Mill (1806-1873), economist-philosopher; Sigrid Undset (1882-1949), writer; James Stewart (1908-1997), actor; Moshe Dayan (1915-1981), Israeli general; Joe Cocker (1944-), singer, is 55; Cher (1946-), singer-actress, is 53.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1964, golfer Ken Venturi won the U.S. Open.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "There is no such thing as absolute certainty, but there is assurance sufficient for the purposes of human life." — John Stuart Mill

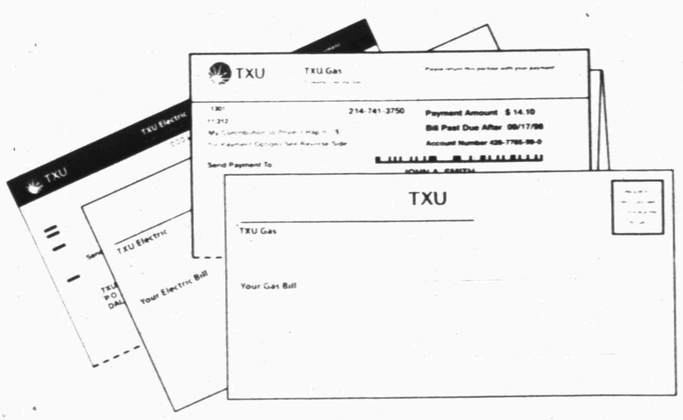
TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (May 15) and first quarter (May 22).

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President James Garfield could simultaneously write Latin with one hand and Greek with the other.

Seals depend mainly on muscle to move around on land and travel much like earthworms.

Stop! Wait!



Look at that envelope again before you accidentally throw your electric or gas bill away! That's the tip from TU Electric and Lone Star Gas because they have changed their names to TXU Electric & Gas. And your June bills will have a new look.

Texas Utilities changed its name to TXU. The new name goes along with the company's changing shape and scope.

TXU has expanded into new businesses and new countries, so that in addition to electricity and gas, it offers other kinds of essential services, including telecommunications and Internet access (in a limited area).

The new name symbolizes the diversity of TXU and its services, while boldly stating the company's continued focus on its Texas customers and Texas roots.

The new name will be phased in on company vehicles, signs and stationery. For the near term, electric and gas bills will remain separate because the services are governed by different regulatory agencies. The new bills will have "TXU Electric" and "Your Electric Bill" or "TXU Gas" and "Your Gas Bill" printed in blue on the left side of the envelope. If TXU provides both electricity and natural gas to your home, you'll still get two bills that need to be paid separately with two checks and two return envelopes.

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Abortion bill delayed again

AUSTIN (AP) — A bill requiring parents to be notified before their minor daughter can get an abortion was put in danger Wednesday after opponents used a technicality to postpone its consideration in the House.

"I was hoping for the best, expecting the worst," said bill sponsor Rep. Dianne White Delisi, R-Temple.

The breakdown came when the House voted down a proposal by Rep. Patricia Gray, D-Galveston, to make the bill more flexible.

"There is no perfect answer. I am trying to reach that child who is not going to let their parent be told," said Ms. Gray.

Under the legislation, a minor would have to notify her parent or get a judge's permission before getting an abortion. Ms. Gray's amendment would have allowed the minor to notify a close adult relative, including a grandmother, grandfather, aunt, uncle or sibling instead.

After the amendment failed 77-68, Rep. Harold Dutton, D-Houston, called a "point of order" — a procedural tactic lawmakers use to kill a bill — saying he couldn't support it otherwise.

Dutton said he had agreed not to endanger the bill if the amendment was added.

"Because the amendment failed, then I felt an obligation to just have them start all over in this process," Dutton said.

A similar tactic was used to kill a parental notification bill in 1997. Dutton's procedural challenge said mistakes were made at the committee level before the bill was sent to the House.

The State Affairs Committee then met immediately and endorsed the bill again, sending it back to the full House. Lawmakers said it could be up for consideration again by Friday or Saturday.

"Is there time for this bill to be heard on the floor? Yes," said committee member Rep. Sylvester Turner, D-Houston. "But any additional delay certainly puts this bill in jeopardy."

Time is particularly important with less than two weeks left in session. If the House approves the bill later this week, it would still need to be approved by the Senate, which passed a similar version of the legislation. The session ends May 31.

Ms. Delisi said she remained confident the legislation would pass.

"This is a magnificent piece of legislation demonstrating willingness of all of us that come from diverse philosophical stances, diverse constituencies, that have come together with a bill that I think addresses what Texans want," she said.

Wortion, perhaps across the border, because they cannot face their parents," she said.

Other lawmakers argued that the amendment was needed for girls from non-traditional families.

"I could vote against this amendment if we lived in a perfect world," said Rep. Helen Giddings, D-DeSoto. "But this is not 'Leave it to Beaver.'"

The parental notification bill is SB30.



A-B HONOR ROLL — These Snyder High School seniors are named to the A-B Honor Roll for 1998-1999. From left, first row, Mimi Stout, Laurie Kerely, K.K. McClain, Renae Hall, Starla Davis, Michelle Rollins, Dana Durst, Elicha Roberts, Adrienne McJimsey, Alicia Martin; back row, Justin McNair, Tyler Warren, Banks Alexander, Rad Eicke, Andy Parker, Aaron Stansell, Jacob Smith. Not pictured: Blake Bell, Joni Hembree, Jamie Hoyle, Brad Roemisch, Brandon Williamson. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)



A HONOR ROLL — These Snyder High School seniors are named to the A Honor Roll for 1998-1999. Front row, from left, Lina Alvarez, Tamra Anderson, Allison Bowden, Jim Collins, Brock Durham, Keisha Gafford, Brett Gibson, Holly Goebel, Ashley Grimmett; back row, Ana Hanan, Keila Helms, Mandy Hess, Jacob Hodges, Marci Irvine, Vanessa Jones, Cory Mandrell, Nickolas Means. Not pictured are Thomas Bishop, Brittany Drummond, Reid Johnson, Catrina Lopez. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Sick-Leave Policy Punishes Good and Bad Workers Alike

DEAR ABBY: After reading the letter this morning about "Al," the lineman who works for the utility company, I had to write.

My husband worked for Southern California Edison for 31 years. I worked for a school district. We both saw the way many people use their sick leave. My husband noticed that the younger workers felt the days were theirs to use whether they were sick or well, and they always used all the sick days each year for whatever they wanted.

Companies do not give sick-leave days for that purpose. You are supposed to be sick. Poor Al appears to be honest and needs to understand that he's paying the price for the dishonesty of other employees. It's a shame it has to be that way for those who have integrity.

LAURA JEAN IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LAURA JEAN: I agree. Conscientious employees should not have to pay the price for a few malingerers in the workplace. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: A visit to the doctor is not always feasible, and finding a new job may be difficult for Al the lineman. But there is something he and his co-workers can do to change the way the company treats its employees. They can join a union!

With a good union contract and a strong grievance procedure, the workers will be protected against bad health and safety practices, have job security and be treated with respect.

MIRIAM PANGER LUDWIG, RETIRED UNION MEMBER

DEAR MIRIAM: You could be right. However, Al's wife said her husband works for one of the largest electrical utility companies in the country. It's safe to assume they are already unionized. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: You are probably going to get a lot of flak about your answer to "Lineman's Worried Wife" about his sick leave. There are laws protecting employees' sick-leave rights. You should have asked a professional for advice on the question.

The lineman and his wife should first check the employee handbook (if his company has one). It will state what is expected of an employee regarding doctors' excuses, and their rights under the law. The lineman's sick leave may also be covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993. In addition, most states have their own family- and medical-leave acts.

Abby, answers like "There is nothing to be done except consider finding a job with a different company" set the fair work standards back about 20 years. I hope the lineman hasn't given up his job based on your advice.

LESLIE DUNAWAY, EMPLOYEE RELATIONS REP

DEAR LESLIE: I've indeed received a bale of mail regarding that letter and my reply. Thank you for sharing your expertise. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Many companies now require employees to bring notes from their doctor when taking sick days. If employees would not abuse sick days, the companies would not be so strict.

LISA IN NEVADA

DEAR LISA: That's an astute observation. One reader related an experience he'd had with an employee who was repeatedly out sick, but always showed up with a printed and properly filled-out physician's certificate. One of the supervisors began wondering about the repeated absences and called the county medical association to locate the doctor whose name was printed on the certificate. Lo and behold — there was no such doctor! The innovative young man had gone to a print shop and had forms created for his own use. Guess what happened next?

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Bush concerned about private nuclear dumps

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. George W. Bush voiced concern Wednesday about legislation to allow private companies to store and bury low-level radioactive waste, saying he doesn't want Texas to be the nation's nuclear dump.

A Texas Senate committee last week approved a bill that would allow private companies, not a state agency, to store or bury low-level waste.

The sponsor of the proposal, Sen. Buster Brown, said it would provide for a limitation on the amount of waste the private companies could receive. He said Bush's concerns are addressed in the bill, and that he shares the position that Texas shouldn't be a dumping ground.

The measure endorsed by the Senate Natural Resources Committee differs from one that already has passed the House.

The Senate proposal would eliminate a state agency formed in the 1980s to operate such a low-level radioactive waste dumpsite. The agency's plan for a facility near Sierra Blanca in West Texas was scrapped last fall because of a geologic fault line there.

Under the House plan, only the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Authority could obtain a license to dispose of waste by burial. The House version would allow the authority and a private company to obtain a license for long-term storage of the material in above-ground vaults.

The radioactive waste bills are HB1910 and HB1171.

Oprah Winfrey, beau to teach course at Northwestern

CHICAGO (AP) — Actress. Talk show host. Bookseller. Empire builder. And now, professor.

Oprah Winfrey and longtime beau Stedman Graham will teach a course titled "Dynamics of Leadership" this fall at Northwestern University's J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

"It has always been a dream of mine to teach," Ms. Winfrey, who didn't finish her bachelor's degree until 1987, said Wednesday. "We share the same beliefs in the importance of dynamic leadership in this country."

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Dr. Gott by Peter Gott, M.D.

Treating chronic diarrhea

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I can't recall my diagnosis, but I suffer from chronic diarrhea. My doctor prescribed prednisone and sulfasalazine tablets. Please help me to beat this thing, because I hate taking so many pills. I'm 77 and otherwise in good health.

DEAR READER: From the medicine you are taking, I conclude that your doctor believes you have a form of colitis, a chronic intestinal inflammation. I suggest that you discuss your medications with him. Prednisone is a potent form of cortisone and may cause many unwanted, serious side effects. The sulfa is OK. If you are concerned about the consequences of your ailment and its treatment, request a referral to a gastroenterologist. There may be newer and safer treatments for your problem.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am confused by the term "blood-thinner" when applied to Coumadin. How can it "thin" the blood?

DEAR READER: It cannot. The blood is not "thinned" by the medicine.

Coumadin is an anticoagulant that causes the blood to clot more slowly. The drug is a very useful treatment for patients who tend to form inappropriate blood clots in the vascular system. For example, patients with atrial fibrillation (an irregular heart beat) or with venous thromboses (blood clots in the leg veins) are often helped by anticoagulant therapy, which prevents the blood from clotting too quickly and causing organ damage. The term "blood thinner" is inaccurate and, in my opinion, should be discarded because it is confusing.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm 68, and whenever I walk more than a block, I get pain in my pelvis and down into my legs. I've been to two orthopedic doctors who diagnosed a "weak back," for which I do special exercises. What else can I do?

DEAR READER: The pain you describe could be caused by arthritis or by a herniated disc in your spine. In my opinion, you need further testing, such as an MRI scan, to differentiate these conditions. The treatment for each is different.

I must say that the relation of your pain to exercise intrigues me. Some forms of arterial blockage will cause exercise-induced cramping in the buttocks, thighs and legs. This condition, called claudication, is due to the reduced availability of oxygen supplies to the pelvic and leg muscles. Of course, this affliction is totally unrelated to either arthritis or disc disease.

Ask your orthopedic surgeons for the name of a good internist — a medical diagnostician. Although you may have arthritis, I would feel more comfortable knowing that another, treatable disorder is not the cause of your pain.

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DR. GOTT



PETER GOTT, M.D.

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MAY 20 1999

2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Senate panel OKs open briefings bill

AUSTIN (AP) — Now-secret "staff briefings" of governmental bodies would be opened to the public under a bill approved Wednesday by the Texas Senate. Its sponsor said taxpayers are owed no less from those they elect to office.

Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio, said it can be difficult for officials to resist the temptation to get involved in a discussion about the issues when they're being briefed behind closed doors.

"We thought taxpayers ought to at least be able to be in the room and watch the debate," said Wentworth, a former county commissioner and university regent.

The bill, which passed 29-0, already has been approved by the House. It returns to that chamber for consideration of Senate amendments, including removal of an exemption for the Texas Transportation Commission.

"Government operates best in the bright light of day, and this staff briefing bill opens up more government activities to public and media scrutiny," said Lt. Gov. Rick Perry.

The bill would eliminate an exception to the open meetings law that allows for closed briefings, sessions in which a public body can receive information from a third party in private as long as they don't discuss the issue.

Backers of the measure say the exception results in secret meetings at which officials may discuss and make up their minds on important matters. They say in some cases, only the final vote may be public.

Senators approved the measure after questioning whether it would apply to such things as legislative committee dinners — likely not — or Republican and Democratic caucuses — not intended to do so.

Wentworth said the measure targets such groups as county commissioners courts, city councils, school boards and state agency boards.

Tighter restrictions slated for gun show background checks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Acting only hours after another school shooting, the Senate today approved tighter restrictions on firearms transactions at gun shows and pawn shops. Democrats said the measure still enables people to buy guns without undergoing background checks.

By 79-29 vote, the Senate passed a Republican amendment to a juvenile crime bill that would require background checks on all firearms dealings at pawn shops and gun shows, reversing a proposal it passed a week earlier.

The measure was adopted after a shooting at a high school in Conyers, Ga., about 35 miles east of Atlanta.

After approving the Republican proposal, the Senate turned to a vote on a Democratic amendment that would allow three days to complete background checks. The provision backed by the Republican majority set a 24-hour time limit, after which the sale could go through even if the background check were not completed.

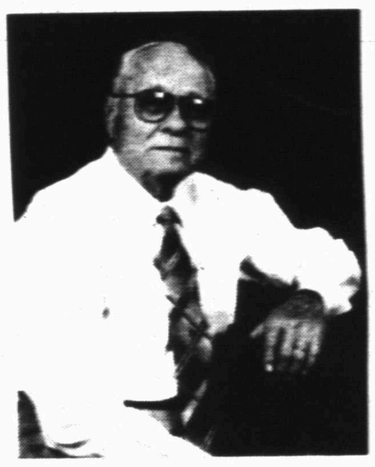
Referring to the Georgia school shooting, Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., asked, "How much longer are we going to embrace the gun lobby?"

It was the images of the Littleton, Colo., school shooting last month that generated pressure on the Senate to tighten laws governing gun sales, particularly at gun shows.

Six students were injured in the Georgia shooting this morning and all were in stable condition, according to authorities.

Democrats renewed their charge that Republicans are resisting effective restrictions on gun sales at the behest of the National Rifle Association.

Obituaries



Stanley Noah

Stanley Noah

1911-1999

Funeral service for Stanley B. Noah, longtime Snyder businessman and active civic worker, is set for 2 p.m. Friday in the Colonial Hill Baptist Church where he was a charter member.

The Revs. Miller Robinson and Jimmie Nelson, former ministers, along with current pastor Dr. Tommy Culwell, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Mr. Noah, 87, died Tuesday, May 18, at his home in Snyder after a lengthy illness.

Born Dec. 8, 1911 in Fannin County, he moved with his family to Lubbock when he was five years old. He was a graduate of Lubbock High School and attended Texas Tech.

Mr. Noah worked for the Woolsworth variety store chain and Firestone Tire and Rubber before moving to Snyder in 1950. He founded Central Tire Service in Snyder, retiring in 1978.

Mr. Noah served as a member of the Snyder City Council from 1958 to 1962. He was a member of the Snyder Masonic Lodge, a Scottish Rite Mason and Shriner. He served as a deacon, trustee and Sunday school teacher at Colonial Hill Baptist Church. Mr. Noah was an active member of the Snyder chamber of commerce and was co-chairman of a committee that raised funds to build the current chamber office.

Mr. Noah married Clara Mae Rayburn on Nov. 10, 1933 in Plainview. She died June 10, 1990. He married Francene Allen on Nov. 4, 1990 in Snyder.

Survivors include his wife, Francene Noah of Snyder; a son, Stanley Morris Noah of Dallas; a daughter and son-in-law, Judy and Dr. Chris Schmoker of Burleson; a sister, Mrs. Sam Davis of Lubbock; a stepson and his wife, Dr. Larry and Lori Allen of Shreveport, La.; a stepdaughter and her husband, LeaAnn and Ronnie Shields of Snyder; four grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Chris Schmoker, Craig Schmoker, Trey Schmoker, Kevin Dobson, Col. Robert Davis, Ronnie Boyd and James Allen Shields.

Personal, Professional Service

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G.L. Autry Jr.

1917-1999

G.L. Autry Jr., a lifelong resident of Scurry County, died Tuesday, May 18, in Lubbock's Covenant Hospital following a brief illness.

Funeral service for Mr. Autry, 82, is set for 10:30 a.m. Friday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. Jake Chaney, pastor of the Christian Fellowship in Colorado City, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Born Feb. 4, 1917 in Ira, he married Mary Frances Sears on Jan. 1, 1937 in Sweetwater.

Mr. Autry was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. He was a retired fireman, having served the Snyder Fire Department for 32 years. Mr. Autry also worked for the city in other capacities. He was a member of the Christian Fellowship in Colorado City.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Frances Autry of Snyder; a daughter, Jimmie Ann Yeilding of Snyder; a sister, LaRue Williamson of Snyder; two brothers, Leon Autry of Snyder and Wendell W. Autry of Amarillo; two granddaughters, Mary Jimm Martin of Snyder and Rhana Pratt of Fraser, Colo.; a grandson, George Yeilding of Midland; five great-grandchildren; three stepgreat-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Pallbearers will be Odell Cox, Jimmie Browning, George Yeilding, Jay Martin, Tip Baker, Tommy Guynes, Darby Scott and Dennis Williamson.

Lola Chappell

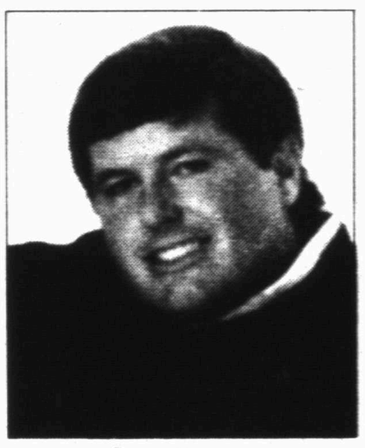
1912-1999

AUGUSTA, Kan. — Lola Chappell, grandmother of Rhonda Fletcher of Snyder, died Monday, May 17, in a Wichita, Kan., hospital after a sudden illness.

Service for Mrs. Chappell, 86, was held today in an Augusta Methodist Church. Burial was to follow in Elmwood Cemetery in Augusta under the direction of Hillside Funeral Home.

Born on June 28, 1912 in Mulvane, Kan., she married George Chappell on March 24, 1930 in Augusta. He survives.

Survivors also include two daughters, Barbara Ehret of Augusta and Betty McClelland of Plainville, Kan., three sisters; five other grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren including Jarrod Fletcher of Snyder; and 12 great-great-grandchildren.



Steve Talbott

Steve Talbott

1956-1999

Funeral service for Stephen Allan Talbott, 42, is set for 2 p.m. Sunday in the First Baptist Church. The Revs. Miller Robinson and Marty Akins will officiate.

Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Home.

Mr. Talbott, a resident of Fort Worth, died Wednesday, May 19, in a three-vehicle accident on I-20 inside the Cisco city limits.

Born June 4, 1956 in Olney, Mr. Talbott was a 1974 graduate of Snyder High School and a 1978 graduate of the University of Texas.

He married Jana Moore in August, 1986 in Las Vegas, Nev.

Mr. Talbott, an oil and gas operator, was president of BHT Marketing and vice president of HAT Oil and Gas Inc., both headquartered in Snyder.

Survivors include his wife, Jana Talbott of Fort Worth; two sons, Chase Talbott of Fort Worth and John Talbott of Dallas; his parents, Cloyce and Anita Talbott of Snyder; his mother Virblene Talbott of Olney; a brother, Stanley Talbott of Midland; and a sister, Stacy Walker of Jamestown, Tenn.

John Crenwelge

1912-1999

HOUSTON — John T. Crenwelge, the father of Ted Crenweldge of Snyder, died Wednesday, May 19, in Houston.

Services for Mr. Crenwelge, 86, are pending with Forest Park Lawndale.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Sherry Jenkins, Eugenia Henderson, Marvin Howard, Terri Townsend and Vernon Young.

DISMISSALS: Vernell Alger and baby girl, Jacob Mitchell, Syvola Waller and Vernon Young.

Births

Stefan and Lori Dean announce the birth of their son at 6:21 p.m. on May 19 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. He weighed eight pounds, one ounce.

Katy Spradlin announces the birth of her sister, Sarah Marie Spradlin, on April 19 in San Angelo Community Medical Center. Sarah Marie weighed seven pounds, 12 ounces.

Wayne and Betty Woodard of Snyder and Bob and Oneida Spradlin of Ira are their grandparents.

Ashely Dawn Semler announces the birth of her brother, Nathan James Semler, on May 3 in Baylor Medical Center in Richardson. He weighed eight pounds, three ounces.

Grandparents are Joe and Gloria Semler of Dallas and Larry and Linda Schwarz of Snyder. Great-grandparents are Raymond and June Schwarz of Loraine and Ann Schattel of Snyder. Great-great-grandmother is Ora Heath of Sweetwater, formerly of Snyder.

Edward and Maryann Leal of Snyder are parents of a son, seven-pound, 13-ounce Edward Martin Leal, born at 8:49 a.m. on May 5 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Edward has twin sisters, Andee and Sandy Leal. Paternal grandparents are Alfred Leal of Levelland and the late Consuelo Leal. Maternal grandparents are Ray and Josie Garcia of Idalou.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Retirement reception

A retirement reception to honor Snyder High School staffers Katie Necessary and Dewey Farley will be held from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. today in the high school library.

Walk across Texas party

The eight-week "Walk Across Texas" fun/fitness program will end this evening with a party from 6 until 7 at the Towle Park barn. Prizes and awards will be presented, and all team captains and members are encouraged to attend.

Goldcoat luncheon

A Snyder chamber of commerce Goldcoat luncheon will be held at noon Friday at Jaramillo's.

Ira awards assembly

Ira junior and senior high school will hold an awards assembly at 1:30 p.m. Friday in the new gym.

Retirement reception

A retirement reception in honor of Dixie Smith will be held from 3-4 p.m. Friday in the library of West Elementary.

PowerNight

Pastor Ruben and First Lady Vanessa Ramirez of Nations Church, International in San Angelo will minister during "PowerNight" at 7 p.m. Friday in the Scurry County Coliseum. All seats are free.

Museum rummage sale

Scurry County Musem's sixth annual rummage sale will be held from 8 a.m. until noon Saturday. The sale will continue next week until next Thursday. Proceeds go toward operating expenses of the museum, located on the WTC campus.

LVN registration at WTC

Students wishing to enroll in the September class for Licensed Vocational Nursing at Western Texas College need to contact the counseling office to arrange to take the pre-entrance exam. Tests will be given through July 27, and interviews will be scheduled through Aug. 9. For more information call 573-8511, ext. 313 or toll-free at 1-888-GO TO WTC (468-6982)

Summer registration at WTC

Summer registration at Western Texas College will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday; from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday; and from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 1. Classes toward an associates degree in a variety of liberal arts and pre-professional fields are offered, along with vocational programs in computerized business technology, welding, criminal justice, golf and landscape technology, and licensed vocational nursing. For more information call 573-8511.

GED testing dates announced

The GED Testing Center on the WTC campus will administer exams Saturday and June 26, at 8:30 a.m. Any person who is not enrolled in high school, has not graduated from high school, is at least 16 years old, and meets other requirements may be tested for a high school equivalency diploma. The battery of five GED tests costs $60 and takes 7½ hours to complete. Examinees need not take all tests in one sitting. For pre-registration and more details call 573-2973 or 573-8511, ext. 246.

Retirement party

There will be a retirement party for retiring Stanfield Elementary teacher Carole Haynes at 4 p.m. Monday at the Dermott school.

Ira homecoming

There will be a 7 p.m. meeting Monday in the Ira community center to plan Ira's homecoming for Sept. 18. For more information, contact Lorita Keller at 573-3825, Linda Dunn at 573-6997 or Leon Huddleston at 573-5024.

Bible study tapes

Bible study video tapes air weekly on cable TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 p.m. Monday are "Listening to the Right Messenger," followed by "How to Discuss God in Your Home."

Ira field day

Ira elementary field day and awards assembly will be held next Thursday. Kindergarten graduation begins at 8:15 a.m. in the cafetera, followed by the awards assembly. The field day begins at 10 a.m. at the football field, followed by a hamburger picnic at 12:30 p.m. Students will be released early that day, at 1:30 p.m.

Garage sale items needed

Lighthouse Assembly of God, 1900 Trinity Blvd, is accepting items for their garage sale to benefit the church building fund. Furniture, clothes, appliances and other items are appreciated. Call 573-5124 or 573-2947 for pickup.

Pick 3

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

5-3-0

Lotto Texas

By The Associated Press

One ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket, worth an estimated $10 million, was sold in Houston.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 50 were: 2, 3, 5, 22, 23, 30.

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $4 million.