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WT-Int. Crude - $36.06
WTIC Posted - $32.75
Natural Gas - $12.20

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY
Feb. 26, 2003
Vol. 54 No. 258
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Monette O'Day

New management agreement with Covenant on hospital board agenda

Cogdell Memorial Hospital's board of managers will consider the approval of a new management contract with Covenant Healthcare Systems when it meets at 8 a.m. Thursday.

The proposed document will take the place of the existing agreement that has been in effect since January 2001. According to board president Carl Williams, there are some changes expected in the new agreement, but no major ones.

The present pact does not provide for any monetary exchange between the two entities with the exception of the county reimbursing Covenant for the salary expenses for the administrator and financial officer.

In other business, Medicare requires formal board action on the appointment of an administrator or alternate administrator for the home health agency and this also is on the agenda. Pam Parsley is the administrator, and Wanda Kenner will be named the alternate. There also will be a report on the hospital nursing staff by Cheryl Chance, director of nurses.

Dr. Bid Cooper, chief of staff, will give his monthly medical report, and there will be an in-service report on the respiratory therapy unit and the rural health clinic.

The financial report will be given by CEO George Parsley, and he also will report on the Texas Hospital Trustees conference set March 6-8, and the boards strategic planning session set for March 17.

Nine die as ice coats roadways in parts of state

From wire, staff reports

DALLAS (AP) — A reprieve is on the horizon for much of North and Central Texas after two nights of sleet, freezing rain and frigid cold that have killed at least nine people.

Authorities said at least six people died in weather-related traffic accidents on icy or rain-slicked roads, and three immigrants died of exposure to the cold in South Texas.

The National Weather Service said more freezing rain is possible today before temperatures begin to lift slightly above freezing later in the day.

Temperatures are expected to rise locally, with the high Thursday forecast at 57 and into the low 60s Friday.

This morning, the area had fog and light drizzle.

Nevertheless, freezing drizzle was falling this morning in North and South Central Texas, and many schools will remain closed for a second day today.

Interstates 20, 35 and 45 south and east of Dallas-Fort Worth were closed all night by jack-knifed tractor-trailer rigs, stranding hundreds of motorists in their cars, state officials said.

"As soon as they clear one collision, another was happening," said Senior Corporal Robert White of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

About 350 to 400 drivers were stranded on Interstates 35-E and 35-W, just north of Hillsboro. They were offered shelter at a church in Hillsboro.

Some sand trucks were stranded, and even tow truck operators were having problems. Gerard Gonzalez said it took him about three hours to drive 25 miles.

"I spun out in my little old car and hit a tree," said the 59-year-old who braved the roads Tuesday night with his wife in his sedan to retrieve a large truck from his company. He recovered, though, and made it to his office.

At Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, at least 36 flights were canceled this morning as freezing drizzle forced aircraft and runways to be deiced. Airport spokesman Ken Capps said the airport train remained shut down this morning.

At DFW Airport, the temperature Tuesday never topped 28, a record-low maximum for the day.

RITZ PRODUCTION — *Arsenic and Old Lace* will open at the Ritz Theatre Friday at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale at the box office, south side of the Snyder square, through March 14 or call 573-8880 for reservations. Tickets are $7 each and groups of 10 or more are $5 each; seniors and students are $5 for matinees. Other show dates include Saturday and March 14-15 at 8 p.m., and March 2 and 16 at 2:30 p.m. Shown in the top photo are Jacob Brumley, Corey Knipe, Yolanda Cantu and in the right photo are Jennifer Presley and Ken Wright. (Staff Photos by Jo Ann Nunley)

Over 70 in custody on cocaine charges

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP) — An 18-month drug investigation led to the arrests of more than 70 people in southern New Mexico and West Texas Tuesday.

The investigation centered on an El Paso-based operation that had at least four distributors in Las Cruces, said Sanalio Gonzalez, Drug Enforcement Administration special agent in charge in El Paso.

Arrests were made Monday and Tuesday from El Paso to Hatch.

"This is both a very complex and significant investigation," Gonzalez said. "The suspects are believed to be well-established regional and international cocaine traffickers who have been dealing drugs for several years."

Approximately 50 kilograms of cocaine with a wholesale value of $750,000 was smuggled by the ring each month, Gonzalez said.

Gerado Miranda, of El Paso, was believed to be the ring leader, Gonzalez said. Saulo Facundo allegedly ran the Las Cruces operation, he said.

"This is a significant dent in the drug trafficking in this area," state police officer Richard Newman said.

A total of 35 of the people arrested were indicted on federal charges of conspiracy and distributing cocaine. The remainder were charged in state court, according to a news release.

Agencies participating in the raid and investigation included the DEA, FBI, state police, Dona Ana County sheriff's deputies, Las Cruces police and the Albuquerque police SWAT team.

Police confiscated 10 pounds of cocaine, $45,000, cars, documents and drug paraphernalia during the raids.

THE SDN COLUMN
MY TURN
by Shirley A. Gorman

The question of too much violonce on TV depends on a viewer's perspective. Violence means different things to different people.

From what we have observed, the networks appear to be pushing the envelope more this season. NBC's Sunday night movie, *First To Die*, about a serial killer targeting newlyweds, kept us guessing until the end; but it had more than a few scenes of graphic violence, especially in the beginning and at the end.

Fox's *24*, airing Tuesdays, has raised the bar on violence this season (as well as it did last reason), especially some episodes. For example, CTU agent Jack Bauer, played by Kiefer Sutherland, will do *anything* to locate a nuclear bomb before terrorists can explode it over Los Angeles.

In a recent episode, the suspected terrorist (and the audience) was led to believe that Bauer had ordered the man's son killed, while his father watched helplessly on closed circuit TV. It wasn't true (thankfully), but the terrorist didn't know that and Bauer got the information he needed. Still it was hard to watch.

President David Palmer, played by Dennis Haysbert, orders a CIA agent to do whatever it takes to get the head of an U.S. agency to tell what he knows about the bomb. An American torturing an American. That bothered us, too, but we watched.

Cable channel FX airs its violence-laced drama, *The Shield*, on Tuesday night. It follows *24* but on a different channel.

Vic Mackey, (Michael Chiklis) and his gang of cops have to be better bad guys than the dope dealers and other criminals they try to keep in check or put out of business. Sometimes the violence is graphic.

We don't watch *NYPD Blue* but have been told that it's a very gritty police drama with its share of violence. NBC recently broadcast several episodes of *Kingpin*, about drug lords, which we did not watch. But from what we have read, it sounded violent. TV Guide magazine also called it "addictive."

No doubt in their bid to attract new viewers or retain the ones they have or both, networks and cable channels like FX air more violent dramas because they are looking for the next *Sopranos*, HBO's very popular series about the mob. We haven't seen it either, but from what we've heard it's as violent as it is popular.

Besides being violent, programs like the *Sopranos*, *The Shield* and others have a way of getting viewers to empathize with the dark characters. We don't want the dirty cop or mob boss to get caught.

Back to the original question about too much violence on TV. It's a complex issue and there is no easy answer.

No doubt, arguments could be made for either point of view. We think more programs with graphic violence are being aired. They seem to attract the most attention, get the most praise, win the most awards and attract the most viewers.

We wouldn't mind if the level of graphic violence would be lowered. We suspect that the stories told would be just as compelling. That's probably not going to happen. So the audience has a choice. Do we continue to watch, change the channel or turn the box off? In our case the verdict isn't in yet.

FEB 26 2003

ASK US

Q—Was Monday night's low temperture of 14 a record for that date?

A—No. It was 12 degrees in 1947.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Kathy Tyler...

...is in her first year as secretary at Central Elementary. She has served as the computer proctor at Northeast for eight years and has lived in Snyder for 20 years. Kathy's husband, Steve, is a teacher at Windham School at the Wallace Unit at Colorado City. A daughter, Crissida, is a sophomore at West Texas A&M. Son, Brent, is a sophomore at SHS. Kathy likes reading, decorating and traveling.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

You will like yourself better when you have the approval of your conscience.

—Orison Swett Marden

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

SJHS' *Bye Bye Birdie*

Snyder Junior High School drama and choir departments will present *Bye Bye Birdie*, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday at the junior high auditorium. Tickets are $5 each and all seats are reserved.

FBC services televised

First Baptist Church services are televised on channel 2 at 3 p.m. each Thursday.

Scurry Lodge 706 to meet

Scurry Lodge #706 AF&AM will have a called meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday for work in the Fellowcraft and Master Degree. All Master Masons are invited.

GED pre-registration and testing dates

Mandatory pre-registration for the GED tests will be Thursday at the GED testing center at WTC in building 7B. Testing will be from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The math portion of the test will be given at 8 a.m. Friday. For more information about the GED test, call Molly Kattes, 573-2919, or Emily Hataway, 573-8511, ext. 297, or 574-2112. It is recommended that candidates receive some preparation before attempting the test.

Snyder Oaks family council

The family council of Snyder Oaks Care Center will meet from 6:30-7:30 Thursday. The meeting is for resident's family members for a program presented by Brenda Elkins of the Area Agency of Aging.

Jim Rosson reception

There will be a farewell reception for Jim Rosson at East Elementary from 2-4:30 p.m. Friday in the front entryway. Cake and coffee will be served and everyone is invited.

Dunn game night

There will be a game night beginning at 7 p.m. Friday at the Dunn Coummunity Center.

Chicken spaghetti fundraiser

Scurry County Anti-Drug Connection will host a chicken spaghetti fundraiser Friday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. Tickets are $6 for adults and $4 for children 6-12 and persons 50 and older. Carry-out orders will be available. Call 573-1141 or 574-1931 to purchase tickets or come by 2513 College Ave. Tickets also will be available at the door, and a door prize will be given.

Pancake breakfast

The annual Noon Kiwanis Club pancake breakfast will be from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday at West Elementary. Tickets are $5 and may be purchased at the door or from any Kiwanis Club member.

Stanfield book fair

The Stanfield book fair will be held from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. March 3-6. Sales will benefit the school library.

Stanfield parent council

Stanfield's parent council will have a short meeting at 6 p.m. Monday in the teacher's lounge (front hall) to discuss playground equipment.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "The Church as Part of Bibical History," followed by "God's Blueprint for a Happy Home."

Stanfield Muffins for Moms

In observance of Public School Week, Stanfield Elementary will host Muffins for Moms Tuesday beginning at 7:30 a.m., and Donuts for Dads beginning at 7:30 a.m on March 5.

American Legion garage sale

The American Legion will host a garage sale Saturday, March 8, from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. at 1804 Ave. R. Proceeds will benefit Gateway Family Services and the American Legion building fund.

Senior water aerobics

Senior water aerobics will be held from 10-11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the WTC pool.

Withered flowers needed

The First Assembly of God youth group is needing withered flowers for a project. Call Camelia Soa at 574-2922 to have them picked up.

Trees still available

The Soil and Water Conservation office still has several varieties of trees available at $1 each. These include Lace Bark Elm, Sand Plums, Russian Olive, Honeylocust, Amur Honeysuckle, Desert Willow, Pinyon Pine and Aromatic Sumac. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Relay for Life cookbooks

The cookbooks of the Cogdell Memorial Hospital Relay for Life team are now available for a $10 donation. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. Call Becky Craig at 573-2472, Jo Schooler at 573-7807 or 573-6374.

Relay for Life teams needed

Teams are now being recruited for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life in Scurry County to be held April 25-26 at Tiger Stadium. For more information, contact Margaret Presswood, recruitment chairperson, at 573-4873.

WTC adult basic education classes

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

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland is available free of charge. Call Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993 or Blakey Fargason at 574-8041. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

FBC support groups

Support groups dealing with divorce, death, cancer or caring for elderly parents meet at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the First Baptist Church educational building. A special group for students facing these problems is held at the same time.

Ex-Quest executives named in indictment

DENVER (AP) — In the latest criminal charges to rattle corporate America, four former Qwest Communications executives were indicted for an alleged scheme to artificially boost revenue and then cover it up.

The federal grand jury indictment announced Tuesday comes nearly a year after regulators began investigating the company's accounting practices. Qwest is the dominant phone company in 14 states in the West.

At the same time, the Securities and Exchange Commission filed a civil securities fraud complaint against the same executives and four others.

The dual legal action comes as the SEC has been unraveling accounting failures at a raft of companies such as Enron Corp., WorldCom and Adelphia Communications.

None of the indicted Qwest officials was a top-level executive.

"The biggest question is, 'Is this it?'" said analyst Michael Bowen of SoundView Technology Corp. "We're all waiting for the investigations to end."

The indictment stemmed from a deal Qwest had with the Arizona School Facilities Board to build a statewide school computer network with Internet access.

Qwest incorrectly reported the sale of some equipment so it could record more than $33 million in revenue immediately, instead of booking the revenue as the system was installed over an 18-month to two-year period, the government said.

"No boardroom is beyond the reach of the law," Attorney General John Ashcroft said. "No executive is above the law. The success of the free market depends on a marketplace known for its integrity."

The grand jury returned 12-count indictments against each of the following: Grant P. Graham of Evergreen, Colo., chief financial officer for Qwest's global business unit; Thomas W. Hall of Englewood, Colo., senior vice president in the global business unit; John M. Walker of Littleton, Colo., vice president in the unit; and Bryan K. Treadway of Atlanta, assistant controller.

The four others sued by the SEC are Joel M. Arnold, former senior vice president of the company's global business division; Douglas K. Hutchins, a former director of the division; Richard L. Weston, former senior vice president of product development in Qwest's Internet solutions division; and William L. Eveleth, currently a senior vice president of finance.

"We think this is a case where Tom Hall has been offered up as a human sacrifice by a corrupt corporation," said Jeffrey Springer, Hall's lawyer. "He's a salesperson who was given guidance and instruction from people in the finance department, the accounting department."

Defense lawyers would not comment on whether settlement talks were being held.

Qwest said it was cooperating with the government. "As a company, as individual employees, we hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards as we conduct our business," spokesman Steve Hammack said.

The SEC's civil fraud charges allege the eight former or current Qwest executives inflated the company's revenues by about $144 million in 2000-2001 to meet promises of double-digit revenue growth.

It said Qwest charged the Internet backbone company Genuity Inc. double what it charged another customer for similar equipment, then provided services at a loss to Qwest.

The SEC said it wanted the men to repay their salaries, bonuses and stock gains during the 11/2 years they allegedly engaged in fraudulent activities.

"The defendants played with the numbers so investors would believe the company was doing better than it really was," new SEC chairman William Donaldson said. "The defendants couldn't make the numbers work by following the rules, so they cheated."

Since firing Arthur Andersen LLP, the auditing firm convicted of obstruction of justice in the Enron collapse, Qwest has restated about $2.2 billion in revenue for 2000 and 2001 because of accounting errors.

The company still faces shareholder lawsuits, about $20 billion of debt and declining revenue.

On the Net:
http://www.qwest.com

Berry's World

Date Book

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2003

Today is the 57th day of 2003 and the 67th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1919, the Grand Canyon was designated a national park by an act of Congress.

On this day in 1934, President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the creation of a Communications Commission, which later become the FCC.

On this day in 1993, a 1,210-pound bomb exploded in the underground parking center of the World Trade Center in New York City.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Victor Hugo (1802-1885), writer; Levi Strauss (1829-1902), created the world's first pair of jeans; Jackie Gleason (1916-1987), comedian; Johnny Cash (1932-), musician, is 72; Erykah Badu (1972-), singer, is 31.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1978, Nancy Lopez won the Bent Tree Classic in Sarasota, Fla. It was her first LPGA victory.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "He who opens a school door, closes a prison." — Victor Hugo

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (Feb. 23) and new moon (March 2).

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Retreat for quilters set

Quilters of this area have the opportunity to attend a quilter's retreat beginning at 5 p.m. Friday through noon Sunday at the Wagon Wheel Ranch, northwest of Snyder.

Quilt Shop II of Lubbock will be on hand to give instruction.

Those attending need to bring their own sewing machines and supplies. Those who chose may spend the night at the Wagon Wheel.

For more information, call Pam Browning at 573-2348.

events

LOTTO TEXAS™
TEXAS LOTTERY
RESULTS

Tuesday's Lottery Numbers
Texas Two Step

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Two Step numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery:

15-26-29-30
Bonus number 28
Estimated jackpot:
$200,000
Pick 3
(Day) 1-6-6
(Night) 7-4-3
Cash Five
6-7-23-26-34

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NOTICE OF GAS RATE INCREASE REQUEST

TXU Gas Distribution (the "Company"), in accordance with the Gas Utility Regulatory Act, hereby gives notice of its intent to implement a new schedule of rates for natural gas service to be charged to all residential, commercial and industrial customers in the unincorporated areas in the vicinity of the West Region Distribution System ("Environs Customers"). The West Region Distribution System includes the following cities: Abilene, Albany, Alvarado, Anson, Avoca, Baird, Ballinger, Bangs, Benjamin, Blackwell, Blanket, Blum, Bronte, Brownwood, Buffalo Gap, Carbon, Carlsbad, Cisco, Cleburne, Clyde, Coleman, Colorado City, Comanche, Covington, DeLeon, Desdemona, Dublin, Early, Eastland, Glen Rose, Godley, Gordon, Goree, Gorman, Granbury, Hamlin, Haskell, Hawley, Hermleigh, Hillsboro, Impact, Itasca, Joshua, Keene, Knox City, Lawn, Lipan, Loraine, Lueders, May, McCaulley, Meridian, Merkel, Miles, Moran, Morgan, Munday, Novice, O'Brien, Olden, Osceola, Ovalo, Putnam, Ranger, Red Springs, Rhineland, Rio Vista, Robert Lee, Roby, Rochester, Roscoe, Rotan, Rowena, Rule, San Angelo, Santa Anna, Santo, Seymour, Snyder, Stamford, Stephenville, Strawn, Sweetwater, Sylvester, Talpa, Throckmorton, Trent, Truscott, Tuscola, Tye, Valera, Vera, Weinert, Whitney, Wingate, and Winters.

The proposed revisions to the respective rate schedules will impact Residential Service, Commercial Service, Industrial Sales, Industrial Transportation, Rate Adjustment Provisions (Gas Cost Adjustment, Tax Adjustment, and Surcharges), and Miscellaneous Service Charges (Connection Charge, Read for Change Charge, Returned Check Charges, Delinquent Notification Charge, Main Line Extension Rate, Excess Flow Valve Charge, and Certain Stand-by Gas Generators). The proposed new schedule of rates will also eliminate the Rate Schedule for Public Schools-N and Commercial Contract Public Schools Rate.

The proposed rates are expected to produce a $357,845 or a 10.27 percent increase in the Company's annual revenues from residential, commercial and industrial environs customers in the West Region Distribution System. The proposed change will affect 3,494 residential, 475 commercial customers and 18 industrial customers. The proposed change may constitute a "major" change as that term is defined by Section 104.101 of the Texas Utilities Code. The proposed changes will have differing impacts on individual residential and commercial customers, depending on consumption and current applicable rate schedules. A residential customer receiving a bill for 6 Mcf will see a bill of approximately $50.93, which would constitute a change ranging from a decrease of $6.93 to an increase of approximately $7.60 per month. A commercial customer receiving a bill for 30 Mcf will see a change ranging from a 14.71% decrease to a 15.39% increase. Information on the change in any specific area can be obtained from TXU Gas Distribution.

A complete copy of the Statement of Intent, filed with the Railroad Commission of Texas on January 31, 2003 is available for inspection in the Company business office located at 1601 Bryan St., Dallas, Texas 75201. Persons with questions or who want information about this filing, or a copy, may contact TXU Gas Distribution at 1-800-460-3030. Any affected persons may file written comments or protest concerning the proposed change in environs rates by March 21, 2003, with Docket Services Section of the Legal Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967.

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Perry inks bill requiring release of insurance data

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry signed legislation Tuesday that requires the state's largest homeowners insurance companies to turn over to state regulators the data they use in setting premiums.

The move is intended to be the first step for lawmakers as they try to reform the way the insurance market is regulated.

"For too many Texans the cost of owning a home has become decidedly more expensive because of soaring insurance costs," Perry said. "Even more upsetting for many Texans is there seems to be little or no explanation to these increases in rates, these skyrocketing rates."

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who was at the bill-signing, said he is optimistic that the state will find that insurance rates are 12 percent to 18 percent too high and said he hopes they can come down that much.

A spokesman later said Dewhurst's estimates came from Insurance Commissioner Jose Montemayor, who based the estimate on an analysis from his office, comparisons with other states and information obtained during a settlement last year with Farmers Insurance Group. The state had accused Farmers of unfair pricing practices.

The legislation Perry signed requires insurance companies to submit to state regulators their current rates and the rates they estimate they will charge over the next six months. The companies also will be required to turn over information that shows how those rates are determined.

"Regulators will finally begin to understand how discriminatory pricing practices like credit scoring are being used by insurance companies," Perry said. "We will know what type of customer must pay higher rates despite posing no additional risk."

The Texas Department of Insurance will compile the information and report it to lawmakers. Montemayor said he hopes to have a preliminary report to legislators in a matter of weeks.

Lawmakers are holding committee hearings on legislation that would require the industry to be rate regulated and said they want to look at the data Montemayor gathers.

Now, about 95 percent of homeowners insurance premiums are written by insurers that are not rate regulated, leaving state regulators with little control over the rates.

Homeowners have told lawmakers they have seen large rate increases in the past few years even as their coverage has been reduced.

Insurance companies blame the increased cost on water and mold claims and other factors.

The bill signed Tuesday is the first step in "delivering information which will demonstrate to consumers the massive and unprecedented losses insurers have sustained in Texas," said Jerry Johns, president of the insurance industry group Southwestern Insurance Information Service.

Perry noted that the bill is just a first step in changes to the market. He said his objectives for insurance reform include lowering rates, stabilizing the market, ending unfair pricing practices and stopping fraud.

The homeowners insurance bill is SB 310.

Teen implicated alleged sniper accomplice

FAIRFAX, Va. (AP) — Sniper suspects Lee Boyd Malvo and John Allen Muhammad worked as a team, randomly killing 10 people without any particular strategy for choosing their victims, a prosecutor said in a court filing.

The legal brief filed Tuesday by Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond Morrogh is the first public document to describe the unusual relationship between Malvo, 18, and Muhammad, 42.

Morrogh said that while they allegedly acted as equals in the shootings, Malvo referred to Muhammad as his father. The two are not related.

The filing also states that Malvo made multiple confessions to the Oct. 14 shooting of FBI analyst Linda Franklin.

"It appears from the evidence so far, that this Defendant acted in concert with his co-defendant, operating as a 'sniper team,'" Morrogh wrote in the legal brief. "One would be the spotter, while the other would do the shooting. They acted as a unit."

Morrogh wrote that Malvo's confession was not coerced and was "completely voluntary. ... In fact, the Defendant was calm and rather boastful of his doings in this case."

Efforts to reach Malvo's lawyer, Michael Arif, on Tuesday evening were not successful. Peter Greenspun, who represents Muhammad, was out of town Tuesday and could not be reached.

Malvo and Muhammad are accused of shooting 19 people — killing 13 and wounding six — in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Both face the death penalty in Virginia, where they are being tried first.

The shootings include 13 in the Washington, D.C., suburbs and the Richmond area. Ten of the shootings were fatal, and the October spree terrorized the region.

The Washington Post, citing anonymous sources, had previously reported that Malvo had confessed to the Franklin shooting and several others.

Morrogh's brief said Malvo "claimed both were equals and either could call a particular shot on or off." The prosecutor said there was "nothing in this defendant's demeanor or history to suggest that he is less violent or dangerous than his co-defendant."

Morrogh said the sniper attacks appeared to be completely random, writing that "none of the victims did a single thing to provoke their deaths. They were individuals conducting the business of ordinary life when they were murdered without warning. ... There was no provocation on the part of the victims."

Malvo's confessions are unusually detailed and evidence gathered independently corroborates them, Morrogh wrote. He said Malvo has expressed no remorse for the crimes.

Nothing in the brief indicates that prosecutors have any evidence that Muhammad ever fired any of the shots in the sniper spree. But if the pair indeed acted as a team, Muhammad could also get the death penalty under Virginia's anti-terrorism law, passed after Sept. 11. If not for that law, only the triggerman could get the death penalty.

Morrogh's brief was a response to a lengthy request from Arif for any exculpatory evidence in the case. Morrogh responded that "the Commonwealth does not have evidence that casts doubt upon Defendant's guilt."

Middle school aide arrested in Freeport

FREEPORT (AP) — A middle school instructional aide has been charged with sexual assault of a child and jailed after he allegedly had a sexual relationship with a 15-year-old female student.

Gilbert Ray Hernandez, 30, turned himself in to Freeport police Monday after investigators determined he had sex with the Freeport Intermediate School student, police Capt. Richard Miller told The Facts newspaper in Clute.

Although their stories differed, both Hernandez and the girl indicated the relationship had been going on for some time, Miller said.

Texas man accepts deal to sleep in a doghouse

ORANGE (AP) — A man accused of punishing his stepson by forcing him to sleep in a doghouse agreed to the same punishment in a plea deal.

Curtis Robin Sr. of Vidor agreed to plead guilty in exchange for a choice of punishments — 30 days in jail or 30 nights inside a doghouse.

He was indicted by an Orange County grand jury in August 2001 on charges of injury to a child. He faced up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Orange County prosecutors said Robin allegedly whipped his 11-year-old stepson with a car antenna and made him sleep in a doghouse for several days and possibly weeks. He also forced the boy to chop wood for hours, they said.

Prosecutors said he also would receive eight years' probation and be required to pay a $1,000 fine.

The deal still requires a judge's approval. Robin is scheduled to be sentenced March 13.

Robin's attorney, Keith Ellis, told Beaumont television station KFDM his client asked him not to comment on the case, and the station could not reach Robin for comment today. A person who answered the phone at Robin's home said he was out of town.

The stepson is staying in Florida with family, the station reported.

Announcing local phone service with FREE unlimited long distance anywhere anytime in the U.S., Canada and U.S. territories. Package includes caller ID, call waiting and many more features $49.95.
Sign up now and save!
573-8901

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

For diabetics, heart health is matter of life and death

DEAR ABBY: February is devoted to "matters of the heart." As president of the American Diabetes Association, I offer this message to your readers and to the 17 million Americans with diabetes: The "heart matters" when treating diabetes — much more than people realize.

Two out of three people with diabetes will die from heart attack or stroke unless they manage their blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol. The following are the ABCs of diabetes:

(A) ALC, the test that measures average blood sugar over the past three months, should be less than seven, and checked at least twice a year.

(B) BLOOD PRESSURE should be below 130/80 and measured at every visit with your doctor.

(C) CHOLESTEROL (LDL or "bad") should be below 100 and checked once a year.

It's imperative that people with diabetes work closely with their health-care provider to determine what steps they can take to reach their ABC goals. Some people may have to make changes in their meal plans or exercise routines. In many cases, medicines are needed to keep the ABCs on track.

The American Diabetes Association and the American College of Cardiology have launched a major assault on diabetes and cardiovascular disease through an initiative called "Make the Link! Diabetes, Heart Disease and Stroke." Abby, please encourage your readers to learn more about this effort by calling (800) 342-2383 or visiting our Web site: www.diabetes.org/makethelink. — FRANCINE KAUFMAN, M.D.

DEAR DR. KAUFMAN: Thank you for an important letter. Out of the 17 million Americans with diabetes, almost 6 million don't know they have it. That's because diabetes develops gradually, often without obvious signs or symptoms.

The most common symptoms of Type 1 diabetes are: frequent urination, unusual thirst, extreme hunger, unusual weight loss, extreme fatigue and irritability. Type 2 diabetes symptoms are the same as Type 1, plus: frequent infections, blurred vision, cuts/bruises that are slow to heal, tingling/numbness in the hands or feet, and recurring skin, gum or bladder infections.

There is a quick and easy test to see if you are at risk on the Web site: www.diabetes.org/risktest.

**

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Alicia," and I were married three months ago. We have a large circle of friends who gave us wonderful wedding gifts.

Yesterday, a package arrived in the mail. It was addressed only to Alicia, but we opened it together. Inside, we found a beautifully framed photograph of Alicia with her old boyfriend, "Enrico." It had been taken several years ago on Maui. They were laughing with their arms around each other (in wet bathing suits) in front of a beautiful tropical sunset. I was very offended. I took the photograph out of the frame and tore it up. Alicia thinks I overreacted, but I couldn't help myself.

Enrico has never liked me because "I took Alicia away from him." I believe he intentionally wanted to push my buttons — and he succeeded. I totally trust Alicia, but feel my anger was justified. What do you think? — **BUMMED BY THE BEACH PHOTO**

DEAR BUMMED: I think you played right into Enrico's hands. Look at it on the positive side: You have Alicia and a nice picture frame. All poor Enrico has are his memories — and the negative.

**

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

**

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

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 02-26-03
♠ 5
♥ K Q 5
♦ K Q J 4
♣ K 8 7 5 3

West
♠ K Q J 9 3
♥ A 8 7
♦ 7 3
♣ A 4 2

East
♠ 10 7 6 2
♥ 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 8 6 2
♣ Q

South
♠ A 8 4
♥ J 10 9 6
♦ A 5
♣ J 10 9 6

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
			Pass
Pass	1 ♠	Dbl.	3 ♠
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠ K

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2003

It occurs about once every three months

By Phillip Alder

How often do you have the plaque removed from your teeth by a dental hygienist? Probably every three months — and perhaps that is as often as a Dentist's Coup arises at a bridge table. This one occurred last July during the Deauville Festival, held in that charming town on the Normandy coast of France.

Note North's double. It risks, as here, reaching a 4-3 major-suit fit instead of a 5-4 minor-suit fit. But a decent partner will have five cards in her major. To make five clubs, declarer must guess the trump suit.

The declarer, Sabine Auken, took the spade king with her ace and immediately led the club jack. It was very difficult for West to win with the ace, but if he had, he would have known to give his partner a club ruff. Then, when in with the heart ace, he would deliver a second ruff to defeat the contract.

When West played low, Auken went up with dummy's king. She continued with another club, West winning with the ace and giving his partner a club ruff. Back came a spade. Declarer carefully ruffed high in the dummy, played a heart to her jack, which West correctly ducked, and ruffed another spade.

Now came the extraction: Auken cashed dummy's diamond king before playing a diamond to her ace. Then, when she led the heart 10, West had no defense.

Note that if declarer crosses immediately to the diamond ace, West will win the heart 10 with his ace and return a diamond, locking declarer in the dummy. West cannot be stopped from scoring the setting trick with his heart eight.

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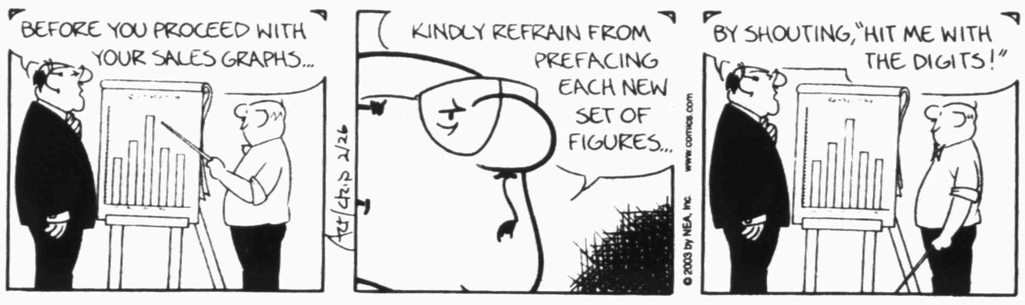

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ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

"Tell him! I was here first!"

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Kauai greeting
6 Sticky
11 Unwrapped
12 Show up
13 Like a good egg? (2 wds.)
14 News summaries
15 Existed
16 Weather system
17 KWh bill
18 Leaf out
19 Tabriz locale
23 Potter's oven
25 Zilch
26 Nitpick
29 Video companion
32 Crest
33 Ms. Peron
34 Bold
35 Snake shape
36 Chow –
38 Electric fish
40 Numerical prefix
41 Magazine VIPs
42 Tingle
46 Week fractions
48 Look fixedly
49 Gridiron conference
52 Worse, as weather
53 Away from home
54 Obstruct
55 Hot drink
56 Painter's ground

DOWN

1 One of twelve
2 Move on
3 Up next (2 wds.)
4 Take advice
5 Computer language
6 Maddux or LeMond
7 Ragamuffin
8 "Mamma – !"
9 Sports award
10 Da or ja
11 Make eyes (at)
12 Bone-dry
16 Lots and lots
18 In a funk
20 Hotel's price
21 Uproars
22 Snoozes
24 Golfer – Woosnam
26 Fictional sub commander
27 With, in Paris
28 Pace
30 Currier's partner
31 Toon Olive –
37 Dozed off
39 Tummy flatteners (hyph.)
41 Watched carefully
43 Bedtime stories
44 Tenet
45 With us now
47 Pact member
48 Not all
49 Straw item
50 Alien spacecraft?
51 Served, as time
52 Small fruit

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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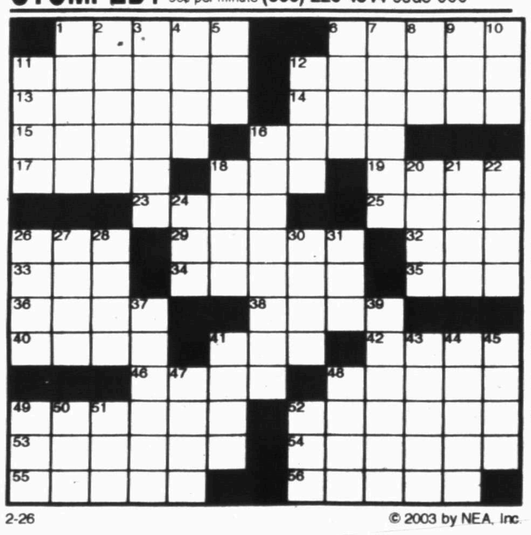

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"'ROUND AND 'ROUND SHE GOES, WHERE SHE STOPS, NOBODY KNOWS. RIGHT, MR. WILSON?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

SPORTS

Silverton ends Coyotes' season

The Coyotes' playoff run came to an end Tuesday night in Lubbock, as Silverton used a third-quarter push to oust Borden County, 48-47, in the regional semifinal game at Coronado High School.

Borden County (21-13) dominated the boards in the first half, taking a 21-17 lead into intermission.

Silverton (25-7) stepped up the defensive intensity in the third stanza, gaining second and third chances at the basket by owning the offensive glass.

Silverton's 6-foot-4 center Darin Martin, who finished with a team-high 19 points, led the third quarter attack.

Midway through the period, Silverton took a 28-27 lead, which it never relinquished.

The Coyotes stormed back in the fourth quarter to tie the game at 43-43 on a Shane Tarleton jump shot with 1:33 left in the game.

But Silverton guard Red Ivory nailed a three-pointer on the next possession to push the lead back to three.

Coyote senior T.J. Sharp drilled a trey with under a minute left to make it 48-46, then hit a free throw to make it 48-47 with :11 remaining.

Sharp led all players with 22 points.

Silverton missed the front end of a one-and-one, and Borden County grabbed the loose ball, but could not get a shot off before the buzzer.

Sophomore Ben Griffin cashed in with 12 points, and Tarleton ended the night with eight.

Silverton moves on to the semi-state semifinals to tackle Nazareth, which topped Grady, 69-52, Tuesday night.

The game is scheduled for Friday night, with the site and time still undetermined.

GOLDEN GLOVES — Eleven-year-old Alexis Nicole Everett competed in her first Golden Gloves Tournament in Lubbock on Feb. 7-8. Alexis, who just began training this year with the Lady Warriors in Lubbock, won her first bout in the tourney. She is the granddaughter of Nancy and Andy Candanoza of Snyder. (Contributed Photo)

Lady Cardinals earn All-District honors

Culp

McClure

Sauceda

Jones

Four Hermleigh Lady Cardinals earned District 13-A All-District recognition.

Fresman post player Alana Culp, the team's leading scorer and rebounder, was elected to the All-District team.

Seniors Misty McClure and Reecie Sauceda were named as honorable mentions, as was junior Brittainy Jones.

Tired Rockets fall at New York

NEW YORK (AP) — Every time coach Rudy Tomjanovich implored his team to run, they jogged.

By the time crunch time arrived, the fatigue the Houston Rockets were feeling was too much to overcome.

Latrell Sprewell and Kurt Thomas each stole the ball from Yao Ming on two late possessions as the New York Knicks snapped a four-game losing streak with a 102-95 victory over the Houston Rockets on Tuesday night.

"This was six games in eight nights, three back-to-backs in a row," Tomjanovich said. "I'm sure there was some fatigue, but this is the NBA."

Cuttino Mobley scored 25 and Steve Francis added 19 for Houston, which had its two-game winning streak snapped.

The Rockets were coming off an overtime victory at Boston the previous night, and their lack of legs was noticeable. The Knicks capitalized by coming up with several key defensive plays in the fourth.

Howard Eisley stole the ball from Mobley before hitting a 3 with 2:44 remaining to give the Knicks their first lead of the fourth quarter, 91-89.

Spurs pound Miami

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — There is no sure method for stopping the San Antonio Spurs these days.

Tim Duncan had 17 points and 10 rebounds and nine other Spurs scored as San Antonio won for the 11th time in 12 games, beating the Miami Heat 84-69 on Tuesday night.

"Having a guy like Tim, you know whom teams are going to focus on," Heat guard Travis Best said. "They have such great role players and just are in sync this season that they really just are a tough team."

Since the new year started, the Spurs are an NBA-best 20-4.

San Antonio had three other players in double figures: Malik Rose with 14, Bruce Bowen with 11 and Manu Ginobili with 10. The all-around performance of the Spurs was lauded by Duncan.

"Honestly, it started out with our guys on the perimeter," he said. "Bruce and Tony (Parker) were out there putting pressure on the ball. Once we did that, they pushed it into the middle and we had great rotation all night."

The Spurs swept the season series from Miami. They beat the Heat 67-65 earlier this year.

The Heat, who have dropped four of their last five games, were led by Eddie Jones with 13 points. Sean Lampley chipped in 11.

Rookies lead Orlando past Mavericks, 98-93

ORLANDO (AP) — When Orlando traded for rookies Drew Gooden and Gordan Giricek last week, Magic superstar Tracy McGrady admitted he "didn't know them from Adam."

Not anymore.

Gooden and Giricek scored 20 points apiece and combined for 18 rebounds as Orlando won its season-high fourth straight, 98-93 over the Dallas Mavericks on Tuesday night.

"My guys are knocking down shots for me," McGrady said after his third game — all wins — with the two newcomers. "My rookies, they're playing well right now, man."

Gooden is averaging 19 points and nine rebounds for the Magic, while Giricek has 16.7 and 5.7.

"With the talent we have, you play hard and something good is going to come up." said Gooden, who had 10 rebounds for his second double-double in a Magic uniform.

The newcomers are helping McGrady, who led Orlando with 26 points and seven assists but was frustrated as he struggled against the Mavericks' tight defense. He even drew an uncharacteristic technical foul in the first half after throwing an elbow.

"This was a night where they did a good job of double-teaming and making me give it up," said McGrady, averaging 7.5 assists over the last four games.

McGrady sank a driving layup to give Orlando a 90-89 lead, then blocked Walt Williams' dunk attempt. Giricek followed with a jumper off a loose ball that put Orlando up by three points with 1:10 remaining, and the Magic drained all six of their foul shots down the stretch as the Magic closed with a 10-4 run.

"We're finishing games," said McGrady, who made 10 of 20 shots. "We're maturing out there each night as the nights go by."

By winning their fourth straight home game, the Magic reached .500 for the first time since Jan. 31. They also opened a 11/2-game lead over Washington for the eighth playoff seed in the Eastern Conference.

"There's a glow, and we have to keep that going," Orlando coach Doc Rivers said.

Dallas, which had won six straight games, got 26 points and seven rebounds from Dirk Nowitzki. Reserve Nick Van Exel added 18 points and Michael Finley 17.

"This is the wrong time to come in here and play the Magic, as they have a lot of confidence now and they're feeling good about themselves," Dallas coach Don Nelson said. "A week ago, it probably would have been an easier time."

McGrady averaged 40.7 points over the previous three games, but was hounded all night by the physical, frenetic defense of Finley, Raja Bell and Eduardo Najera.

Lady Dusters' doubleheader to be played at Odessa today

The Lady Dusters will finally get a chance to take the field today after bitterly cold weather forced the postponement of Tuesday's scheduled doubleheader against Odessa College.

Inclement weather has wreaked havoc with the team's schedule, causing the cancellation of last weekend's Cowtown Classic tournament in Ft. Worth.

The team won both games of a twinbill last Sunday against Cisco.

Because temperatures remained chilly in Snyder this morning, the teams will play in Odessa instead of Cates Field. The first game of the doubleheader will start at 2:30 p.m., with the nightcap beginning immediately after the opener.

Texas lawmaker wants grant for college athletes

AUSTIN (AP) — Saying college athletes should cash in on at least some of the millions of dollars they generate for their schools, a Texas lawmaker has proposed letting state universities give them up to $200 a month.

A bill filed this week by Rep. Ron Wilson, D-Houston, would allow the schools to set up grant programs to give the money to scholarship athletes.

It's only fair, Wilson said, to give something back to the football, basketball and baseball players who put on the uniform and represent their schools.

"These kids are raising a lot of money for the schools," Wilson said Tuesday. "(Many) of them won't graduate and the schools know it. They're being used for the schools' benefit without any kind of compensation."

Wilson has filed the bill in previous sessions with no success. But this time, it comes on the heels of legislative action in Nebraska, where lawmakers are considering a bill that would allow the University of Nebraska to pay its football players a stipend.

There are some big hurdles for Wilson's bill, the biggest being the National Collegiate Athletic Association, which doesn't allow such payments.

The stipend for a scholarship athlete would be considered a special benefit, said NCAA spokesman Wally Renfro. Any school who paid it would put the athlete's eligibility at risk as well as face potential penalties for the entire program.

"You're basing it on the selection of them as a scholarship athlete," Renfro said. "It's an extra benefit and not permissable."

Renfro also noted financial aid programs available for athletes who are strapped for cash, including Pell Grants (which pay up to more than $3,000 a year), and other NCAA assistance programs.

Typically, a full scholarship at a Division I school provides the student athlete with tuition, room and board and books. At major universities, athletes also are given access to special tutoring and academic counseling.

Wilson dismisses critics who say that should be enough.

"You could make the same argument about the farmer who buys feed for the hogs and gives them antibodies to keep them healthy and then makes sure they have enough space so they can grow and in the end slaughter them," Wilson said. "Those ungrateful pigs, they should've been happy."

Wilson said his bill keeps universities on the right side of the NCAA by allowing — not requiring — the payments. To fund the program, schools would set aside 10 percent of athletic receipts.

Although he doesn't think schools would pay the stipends unless they're approved by the NCAA, Wilson said he expects that day will come.

Area Sports Calendar

TODAY

Softball: WTC at Odessa College, DH, 2:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Baseball: Snyder varsity at Frenship tourney.
Softball: Snyder varsity in Snyder tournament.

FRIDAY

Baseball: Snyder varsity at Frenship tourney.
WTC vs. Howard College, DH, noon.
Softball: Snyder varsity in Snyder tournament.
WTC at Howard College, DH, 1 p.m.
Golf:: Snyder varsity boys at Austin.
Snyder varsity girls at Midland
Snyder JV boys at Andrews.
Tennis: Snyder varsity at regional meet, Levelland.

SATURDAY

Baseball: Snyder varsity at Frenship tourney.
WTC vs. Howard College, DH, noon.
Snyder JV vs. Wylie, DH, 1 p.m.
Softball: Snyder varsity in Snyder tournament.
WTC at Howard College, DH, 1 p.m.
Tennis: Snyder varsity at regional meet, Levelland.
Snyder jr. high at Big Spring tournament.
Golf:: Snyder varsity boys at Austin
Snyder varsity girls at Midland.
Snyder JV boys at Andrews.
Track: Snyder varsity at Abilene Wylie.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	37	21	.638	—
Philadelphia	31	24	.564	4½
Boston	31	25	.554	5
Orlando	29	29	.500	8
Washington	27	29	.482	9
New York	24	32	.429	12
Miami	19	37	.339	17
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Detroit	37	20	.649	—
Indiana	37	20	.649	—
New Orleans	31	27	.534	6½
Milwaukee	28	28	.500	8½
Atlanta	21	36	.368	16
Chicago	20	38	.345	17½
Toronto	17	36	.321	18
Cleveland	11	46	.193	26

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	44	13	.772	—
San Antonio	39	17	.696	4½
Minnesota	37	21	.638	7½
Utah	33	23	.589	10½
Houston	30	27	.526	14
Memphis	17	38	.309	26
Denver	12	45	.211	32
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Sacramento	40	18	.690	—
Portland	36	20	.643	3
L.A. Lakers	31	25	.554	8
Phoenix	30	27	.526	9½
Golden State	27	30	.474	12½
Seattle	24	31	.436	14½
L.A. Clippers	19	36	.345	19½

Tuesday's Games

Orlando 98, Dallas 93
Cleveland 93, New Jersey 90
Washington 83, Indiana 78
New York 102, Houston 95
San Antonio 84, Miami 69
Sacramento 81, Detroit 75
Portland 89, Atlanta 86
L.A. Lakers 109, L.A. Clippers 98

Wednesday's Games

Indiana at Boston, 7 p.m.
Memphis at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
New York at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Miami at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.
Toronto at Chicago, 9 p.m.
Portland at Denver, 9 p.m.
Atlanta at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Golden State at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Houston at Washington, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.
Detroit at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	37	16	5	4	83	163	126
Philadelphia	32	17	11	2	77	145	129
N.Y. Islanders	29	24	7	2	67	171	172
N.Y. Rangers	25	31	8	2	60	171	200
Pittsburgh	25	29	4	5	59	163	185
Northeast Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Ottawa	39	17	7	1	86	203	141
Toronto	36	22	4	1	77	187	155
Boston	28	24	8	2	66	183	175
Montreal	24	26	7	7	62	162	186
Buffalo	18	30	8	5	49	134	164
Southeast Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Washington	29	25	7	3	68	177	172
Tampa Bay	26	22	10	5	67	171	173
Florida	19	22	12	9	59	148	182
Carolina	18	30	9	6	51	132	179
Atlanta	20	32	5	4	49	160	220

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	33	17	9	3	78	191	157
St. Louis	31	18	8	6	76	198	166
Nashville	24	25	9	4	61	149	156
Chicago	24	26	10	3	61	148	152
Columbus	22	32	6	2	52	160	200
Northwest Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Vancouver	38	16	9	0	85	202	156
Colorado	30	15	11	6	77	183	152
Minnesota	31	22	8	1	71	149	134
Edmonton	26	22	7	8	67	170	177
Calgary	19	31	10	4	52	140	186
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Dallas	35	12	15	1	86	191	125
Anaheim	29	22	8	4	70	154	152
Los Angeles	27	28	4	4	62	166	175
Phoenix	23	26	8	4	58	153	165
San Jose	23	28	6	5	57	169	181

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

Tuesday's Games

Dallas 5, Boston 5, tie
Minnesota 3, Ottawa 0
Tampa Bay 2, Anaheim 0
Los Angeles 5, Pittsburgh 3
Toronto 5, N.Y. Islanders 2
N.Y. Rangers 3, New Jersey 3, tie
Nashville 5, Columbus 0
Philadelphia 2, Chicago 0
Colorado 4, Edmonton 2
Vancouver 8, Atlanta 0

Wednesday's Games

Buffalo at Washington, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Carolina at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Los Angeles at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Florida at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Boston at N.Y. Rangers, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Atlanta at Colorado, 9 p.m.
San Jose at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

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Families may have to prove eligibility

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than a fourth of the 28 million children who eat free or discounted school lunches might be ineligible, and the Bush administration is considering rules to reserve the meal programs for children of families who prove their low incomes.

The number of children enrolled in the program nationwide exceeds the number in low-income families who would be eligible for it, based on a comparison of the school lunch enrollment figures with an annual survey by the Census Bureau, said Jean Daniel, an Agriculture Department spokeswoman.

Officials have calculated that as many as 27 percent of children now getting free or reduced-price meals are ineligible, she said.

Should the estimate be correct, the government may have spent about $1.8 billion last year buying lunches for children whose family income would have disqualified them. The Agriculture Department spent $6.8 billion on school lunches last year.

Eric Bost, the department's undersecretary for food and nutrition, said he thinks the 27 percent estimate of ineligibility is too high, but that the problem is significant.

Advocates for the poor accuse the department of inflating the number of ineligibles to come up with new criteria that will result in removing children from the program.

Jim Weill, president of a Washington advocacy group, the Food Research and Action Center, said a tougher verification process would scare away families of children whose low incomes would qualify. He said he suspects the problem is that some children who qualify for discount-priced lunches are instead getting free ones.

"But you should not willy-nilly make it harder for schools to operate just because a minor number of kids are given free lunches instead of reduced-price lunches," he said.

Under current program guidelines, children in a family of four with an income of less than $23,530 a year qualify for free lunches. Children in a four-member family with a total annual income less than $33,485 qualify for reduced-price meals, costing up to 40 cents per lunch.

Many schools now approve children for free and reduced-price lunches based solely on applications in which parents self-report monthly income and household size. Some also use as criteria whether families are on food stamps or are on temporary assistance for needy families, a welfare program.

Bost acknowledged that his department is looking at establishing new criteria, leaning toward a method called "direct certification" that allows schools to approve automatically free and low-cost lunches for children whose families are getting food stamps or temporary assistance. Schools can verify the information by checking with local officials in charge of those assistance programs.

"We want to look at improving the integrity of the program," he said. "We're not intent on doing anything that's going to prevent or prohibit children from participating."

The Agriculture Department is spending $2 million on a study of 22 school districts in 16 states that are testing ways to screen their school lunch programs for children who don't qualify. The study began in the 2000-2001 school year and is to be completed in June.

Preliminary results in August showed schools in the study already are screening out ineligible children.

For example, the number of children eating free meals at schools in East Stroudsburg, Pa., dropped from an average of 811 to 633 in the first year of the study. The number of children eating reduced-price lunches also fell from 305 to 257. The schools were verifying eligibility by requiring families to prove their incomes or show they were on food stamps or temporary assistance when they applied, according to the report.

Bost said more preliminary results are expected to be released at the end of the month.

Poll: Support eroding for economic plans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eroding support for President Bush's handling of the economy is undercutting the high marks he earned for tackling terrorism, says a new poll that shows his lowest job approval rating since before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

People who disapprove of Bush's handling of the economy now outnumber those who approve, according to a Pew Research Center poll released Tuesday.

It found that 43 percent now approve of the president's economic policy and 48 percent disapprove — the first time a Pew poll has found more disapproving.

His overall job approval, 54 percent, was at the lowest level in this poll since before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 sent it into the 80s.

Bush is still near 60 percent in overall job approval in some other polls, including an ABC-Washington Post poll released Monday.

Public support for Bush's handling of terrorist threats remains strong, with two-thirds, or 67 percent, saying they approve. Just under half, 48 percent, said they approve of his handling of the situation in North Korea, while just over a third disapprove.

The public's view of "Bush's stewardship of the economy continues to erode and his tax plan isn't helping him much," said Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. "The public is increasingly worried about finances."

Only four in 10 in the Pew poll, 42 percent, said they approve of his tax policy — suggesting his $670 billion tax-cut plan, including a centerpiece proposal to slash the tax on investor dividends, has not shored up eroding confidence in his economic leadership. About the same number, 44 percent, said they disapprove of his tax policy.

The poll was published the same day the Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index fell to its lowest level in nearly 10 years, plunging from 78.8 in January to 64.0 in February. That is its lowest reading since October 1993 and came in the face of analysts predictions for a reading of 77.0.

Kohut said his poll suggests many people "would roll back the last tax cut to pay for military spending rather than add to the deficit, so it's not too surprising that the new tax proposals are a nonstarter."

When asked the best approach to pay for large increases in military defense and homeland security, 40 percent said the government should postpone or reduce last year's tax cuts, 23 percent said it should add to the budget deficit and 21 percent said it should reduce spending on domestic programs.

More than half, 56 percent, said they are very concerned they will not have enough money for their retirement, up from 42 percent who felt that way in May 1997.

The poll of 1,254 adults was taken Feb. 12-18 and has an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

On the Net:
Pew Research Center:
http://www.people-press.org

North Texas fugitive murder suspect nabbed near border

FORT WORTH (AP) — A Texan who skipped bond after he was charged in the February 2000 stabbing death of a Hurst construction manager has been caught in upstate New York, near the Canadian border.

Authorities say Curtis Wayne Pope was stopped for driving the wrong way on a one-way street in Watertown, N.Y., on Monday. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported in today's editions that the 40-year-old New Braunfels man told the Watertown police officer that he was going hunting. A check of his driver's license and registration plate with state and national crime databases turned up no warrants, and Pope drove away with only a warning.

But not before he told the officer the motel where he would be staying. By Tuesday morning, Watertown authorities learned that Pope was wanted in Texas and arrested him. Pope is now in the Jefferson County Jail in Watertown, awaiting extradition to Texas.

"The Lord just intervened in this," said Judy North, the victim's widow. "If he had gotten into Canada, they might never had caught him, and my family would have lived in limbo like we have for the past three years."

Pope, who faces up to life in prison if convicted of murder, was scheduled to be tried this week on charges that he fatally stabbed Darrell B. North, 62, a project manager with Bigelow Development Corp., on Feb. 22, 2000.

North's body was found, stabbed 50 times, inside his padlocked office trailer at a motel construction site in Fort Worth.

Pope was a swimming pool subcontractor for Bigelow. He was arrested in Bexar County in August 2001 after police searched his New Braunfels home. He posted $50,000 bond and was released, but failed to show up Monday for jury selection in his trial in Fort Worth.

State District Judge George Gallagher issued a warrant for his arrest, forfeited his bond and excused the jury panel.

Pope's wife told court officials that she had not seen her husband since Saturday. New York state police were sent detailed information that Pope was en route to the Syracuse, N.Y. area, law enforcement officials said. However, the advisory did not reach Watertown until Tuesday morning.

CBS drama to highlight real case

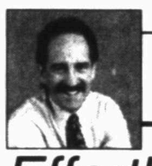
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The CBS drama "Without a Trace" will be the latest to highlight the case of Penn State University student Cindy Song, who has been missing for more than a year.

Jeffrey A. Lampinski, special agent in charge of the FBI's Philadelphia Division, said the show would profile Song at 10 p.m. EST Thursday. Each episode of "Without a Trace," about the FBI's Missing Persons Squad, features a short segment about a real person who has disappeared.

Song, a computer graphics student from South Korea, was last seen early on the morning of Nov. 1, 2001, when friends dropped her off at her apartment after a Halloween party.

Investigators have had few leads and have actively pursued television coverage in hopes of publicizing the case. The show "Unsolved Mysteries" aired a segment on the case last August, and Court TV has talked with investigators for an upcoming segment on its show "Psychic Detectives."

"Sooner or later, somebody is going to say, 'I know something about that,'" said Ferguson Township Police Chief Edward J. Connor.



On Nutrition

by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

Effortless weight loss too good to be true

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I have received at least 20 advertisements that promise to reduce my weight without exercise or dieting if I purchase human growth hormone drops. Like anyone, I'd like to lose weight without all the hassle, but I am also mindful that shortcuts often exact a hefty price. Is there some truth to these claims ("as seen on CNN, etc.")? Will this product assist in weight loss in a way that is safe? Thanks for your input. **— D.K., Baton Rouge, La.**

DEAR D.K.: Is there some truth to these claims? Based on the advertisements I have also received, my answer is a solid NO! This type of product "borrows" research findings from studies using the real human growth hormone that is administered via injection to individuals diagnosed with growth hormone deficiency. Such injections can cost over $1,000 a month. Products like the ones you are receiving advertisements for are unlikely to contain human growth hormone.

Aside from its expense, the real human growth hormone doesn't work if you take it orally. The products you mention tend to contain a mishmash of assorted amino acids and herbal ingredients, all wrapped in a clever marketing campaign. The only weight loss you are sure to experience is the weight of your pocketbook.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I have a real problem going to the bathroom on a regular basis. Is there a defined normal frequency for bowel movements? What amount of fiber is best to assure regularity? Please advise. **— E.S., no address given**

DEAR E.S.: The frequency of bowel movements differs from person to person. There should be some sort of regular schedule, whether it's once or more a day or two to three times a week. Any of these can be "normal" for a given individual. Many factors can affect bowel habits, and a family physician should be more attuned to what would be acceptable or desirable in your specific case.

For example, irregular bowel habits can be caused by medications, an insufficient intake of liquids, food allergies, food-borne illness or existing chronic health conditions. Lifestyle can also have an influence. Exercise can assist with regularity, while traveling to different time zones can put you off your cycle.

Stress can also have an influence on bowel habits. If you have questions or concerns, it is essential that they be discussed with your health care professional. Interruptions or changes in bowel habits should always be reported. Misinformation or inaction can give rise to unnecessary anxiety or worse.

To encourage regularity I would emphasize the importance of a plant-based high fiber diet containing 25 to 30 grams of dietary fiber per day. "Fiber" doesn't refer to one unique substance. Rather, it means a variety of indigestible materials that are found in plant foods.

The foods we eat are made up of a complex combination of nutrients and non-nutrient substances. In order for your body to absorb and make use of what's in a particular food it must undergo digestion, the process by which the food is taken apart piece by piece.

Enzymes are the chemical tools that make this happen. Fiber is unique because the body lacks the right enzymes to take it apart. This means that instead of being absorbed like the other carbohydrates we eat, fiber becomes part of the bulk that travels through the small intestine into and through the large intestine, and eventually out of the body.

At present our diets contain only about half the fiber we need. A considerable body of evidence has associated a healthy intake of fiber with positive effects on heart disease, certain cancers, diabetes, constipation, diarrhea, diverticulitis, hemorrhoids and ulcerative colitis. All this is quite impressive when you consider that dietary fiber isn't even absorbed.

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

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

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AUCTION

Large Antique Estates Auction Sat. March 1st - 11a.m. sharp
Dawson Co. Community Bldg. 910 S. Houston Ave. Lamesa, TX
Viewing 1 Hour Before Sale
This will be a Fantastic Auction of Fine Antique Furniture, Collectibles & other items to be sold 1 day only at the Community Bldg.
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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	2.84	2.61	2.73	—.11
AOL TimeWrn	10.45	10.23	10.28	—.15
AT&T Corp rs	18.86	18.11	18.64	+.29
Albertsons	19.40	19.05	19.05	—.24
Alltel	43.20	42.42	42.91	+.09
AmEl Pw	21.43	20.85	21.07	—.19
AndarkPtr	45.97	45.38	45.95	—.05
ATMOS Egy	22.13	21.65	21.79	—.33
Aviall	7.05	6.92	6.98	—.02
BP PLC	39.59	38.32	38.59	—.59
BakerHughes	31.62	31.18	31.55	+.37
Bank of Amer	69.07	68.30	68.60	—.47
BellSouth	21.89	21.43	21.65	—.03
BurlNoSFe	25.10	24.70	25.01	+.12
Caterpillar	46.00	45.45	45.77	—.05
CenterPoint	4.65	4.50	4.58	+.08
ChevronTex	64.39	63.75	64.29	+.10
Citigroup	32.89	32.25	32.32	—.57
CocaCola	40.32	39.85	39.93	—.45
ColgatePal	51.09	50.78	50.85	—.12
CmclMetals s	14.05	13.99	14.04	+.04
ConocoPhill	50.61	49.69	50.12	+.16
Cooper Inds	38.43	37.89	37.94	—.25
DaimlrChry	30.27	29.37	29.41	—.75
DeltaAirl	8.34	8.00	8.21	—.11
Dillards Inc	13.94	13.55	13.60	—.34
DowChem	26.96	26.04	26.72	+.22
DuPont	36.71	36.38	36.53	+.23
EastmanChem	32.29	31.85	32.02	+.09
EstKodak	29.46	29.11	29.12	—.28
EDS Corp	16.70	15.63	15.74	—.01
Entergy	45.65	45.12	45.41	+.07
ExxonMobil	34.14	33.63	33.87	—.27
FootLocker	10.58	10.32	10.36	—.24
GenDynam	61.44	60.51	60.71	—.44
GenElec	23.97	23.62	23.69	—.10
GenMills	43.90	43.25	43.31	—.67
GenMotors	33.65	33.19	33.37	—.28
GaPacific	15.15	14.72	14.76	—.02
Goodrich	15.91	15.73	15.74	—.16
Goodyear	4.10	4.00	4.05	—.05
GtAtlPac	4.95	4.75	4.82	—.05
Halliburtn	20.28	19.80	20.28	+.34
Hanson ADS	23.05	22.90	22.96	—.14
HarteHanks s	18.21	18.05	18.10	—.29
HomeDepot	23.10	22.61	22.85	+.01
Honeywellintl	23.26	22.87	22.96	—.04
IBM	79.05	78.24	78.45	—.62
IntlPaper	35.60	35.01	35.32	+.40
JohnsonJn	53.38	52.10	52.74	—.02
KinderMorg	46.27	45.99	46.08	—.09
Kroger Co	13.70	13.51	13.53	—.17
LockheedM	46.04	45.40	45.48	+.07
Lowes Cos	39.66	38.35	39.37	+.75
Lubys	1.88	1.40	1.44	+.17
LucentTech	1.53	1.43	1.49	+.04
MarathonOil	22.61	22.27	22.61	+.09
MayDeptStr	19.48	18.97	19.09	—.15
Medtronic	45.24	44.51	44.90	+.17
Motorola	8.27	8.02	8.18	+.03
NCR Corp	19.13	18.97	19.01	—.36
Navistar	24.58	24.06	24.07	—.44
PNM Rescs	20.17	20.01	20.14	—.05
Penney JC	20.06	19.78	19.80	—.26
PepBoys	9.15	8.98	9.02	—.13
PepsiCo	38.94	38.29	38.36	—.48
Pharmacia	40.53	39.30	40.52	+1.22
PhelpDodge	35.95	35.27	35.60	+.15
PilgrmPrd B	7.80	7.71	7.71	—.09
Praxair	51.51	50.95	51.37	+.28
ProctGamb	83.15	82.36	82.53	—.55
RadioShack	19.83	19.65	19.72	—.11
RoyalDut	39.80	38.60	38.98	—.63
SBC Comm	21.45	21.02	21.21	—.14
SaraLee	19.90	19.69	19.71	—.19
Scripps EW	80.52	79.79	79.81	—.55
SearsRoeb	21.20	20.65	20.73	—.47
SherwinW	26.82	26.50	26.57	—.25
SouthernCo	28.39	28.18	28.28	—.10
SwstAirl	12.27	11.97	12.21	—.04
SprintFON	13.10	12.83	12.84	—.28
SprintPCS	4.08	4.00	4.05	+.03
Sunoco Inc	35.60	34.75	35.55	+.65
TXU Corp	16.22	15.82	15.86	—.32
TempleInland	42.42	41.70	42.14	+.68
Texind	19.75	19.59	19.61	—.09
TexasInst	16.25	15.94	16.00	—.03
Textron	36.34	35.80	35.83	—.51
TrinityInds	16.85	16.40	16.53	+.01
TylerTech	3.87	3.76	3.78	—.11
UnionPacif	55.58	54.86	55.30	+.72
USSteel	11.89	11.75	11.76	—.24
UnitedTech	59.70	58.37	58.61	—.94
Unocal	26.57	26.26	26.54	+.01
VerizonComm	35.68	35.21	35.51	—.08
WalMart	48.56	48.01	48.23	—.20
WellsFargo	45.59	45.15	45.44	—.15
WstnGasRs	33.30	33.00	33.20	
WinnDixie	12.40	12.17	12.17	—.20
Xerox Cp	8.69	8.52	8.53	—.17
YumBrands s	23.07	22.72	22.88	—.05

FEB 26 2003

Report says: No Title IX policy changes needed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The law requiring equal opportunity for male and female athletes can be better enforced and explained, but the push to loosen the rules should be rejected, say two dissenting members of the nation's Title IX panel.

Their views, outlined in detail in their minority report, aim to counter a series of proposed changes in how colleges carry out the landmark anti-discrimination law.

Education Secretary Rod Paige was due to receive those recommendations, compiled by his Title IX review commission, as well as the two members' minority report today.

"Rather than changing the policies that have been so important in opening opportunities for women and girls ... the Department of Education should focus on using those policies to educate schools and the public about the importance of equal opportunity," said the minority view expressed by soccer player Julie Foudy and former Olympic swimmer Donna de Varona.

"Women and girls who play sports — and the fathers and brothers who support them — deserve no less," they wrote.

The commission's chairman, Stanford University athletic director Ted Leland, had hoped to avoid the awkwardness of competing reports by negotiating with his two dissenting members. But several phone calls failed to help; Leland viewed the commission's work as centrist while Foudy and de Varona said it would "critically weaken this important civil rights law."

The minority report asserts that Title IX, in ensuring more opportunities for women over the last 30 years, has not been the cause of any cuts in men's sports. That point of contention is central to the commission's work and many of its recommendations.

The minority report says there are fewer girls and women in sports because of "persistent discrimination" against them, not because of a lack of interest among females. Overall, the report says the commission gave short shrift to dissenting views, unfairly focused on men's sports, rushed its work and failed to even assess the impact of its ideas.

What's needed, the minority report says, is an educational campaign so schools can better understand how to meet any part of the law's "three-part" test. That test, the heart of Title IX enforcement, could change significantly if Paige adopts the commission's ideas.

Schools can now comply in one of three ways: proving they meet their female students' interest in sports; expanding opportunities for women; or ensuring opportunities for men and women are "substantially proportionate" to the percentage of men and women on campus.

Those that don't comply risk losing federal money.

It is unclear how much punch the minority report will pack. Most members of the 15-person commission thought the Education Department must give schools more flexibility.

Among the recommendations under debate:

—More flexibility in rules concerning non-scholarship athletes, older athletes and roster slots as they comply with Title IX. The minority report says those changes would lead to substantial cuts in sports for women.

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COX COMMUNICATIONS
Your Friend in the Digital Age

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Thursday, Feb. 27, 2003

In the year ahead your focus will be on your innermost personal and domestic life. You'll accomplish great growth in both these areas. That which has been unproductive will be replaced with fertile situations.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — You may be considered the shy or quiet type, but today you're capable of overcoming challenges that would intimidate most people. If you have any fears of swimming upstream, you'll easily conquer them.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Toot your own horn a bit today. Let your colleagues know you're able to do something they can't and that you would be happy to help them out by showing them how to do it. They'll welcome it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Talk to an associate today about teaming up to accomplish something that holds great promise. With the right person you can achieve an objective for which you've been hankering.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — If you have anything pending at this time that requires communication, such as attempting to reach an agreement or figuring out a tough situation, today is the day to have that discussion.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — A situation concerning a major project in which you're involved could change today, helping you to accomplish something you didn't think possible. It'll give you an advantage.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Be of good cheer if things haven't been running as smoothly as you'd like lately in the romance department. Dan Cupid is about to remedy matters — and it could happen today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — The way things finally turn out today are likely to be far more fortuitous than the way they start out. Your dour thoughts are about to turn into happy smiles.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Don't be reluctant to approach someone today who interests you. Advantages can be developed through social communication.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Financial returns could run substantially larger than usual today. If you've got something fruitful going for you, exploit it for all its worth

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Personal interests can be advanced today in a manner that may be tough but won't seem self-serving. In fact, the more enterprising you are, the more support you'll get.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Your luck could be focused in two related but specific areas today. One will be in areas that affect your career, and the other will be in areas that affect your finances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Conditions are developing in ways today that will give you good reason to raise your hopes and expectations in the social realm. Their influences could even last for a couple of days.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

War planning includes targeting Saddam

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush called Saddam Hussein "a master of disguise and delay" today and mocked the Iraqi leader for disclosing some weapons that he'd previously denied were in his arsenal.

On a day in which the White House threatened Saddam with trial as a war criminal in the event of war, Bush said, "The danger with Iraq is that he can strike in the neighborhood and the danger with Iraq is that he has got the willingness and capacity to train al-Qaida type organizations and provide them with equipment to hurt Americans."

Saddam "will be disarmed one way or the other," the president declared as his administration prepared for another faceoff at the United Nations on a resolution designed to bring about the disarmament of Iraq.

In remarks before the Latino Coalition, however, Bush stopped short of repeating previous claims of an already existing link between Iraq and al-Qaida terrorists. But he did say, "The world has waited a long time for Mr. Saddam Hussein to disarm."

From the speech, Bush stepped into a meeting with President Geidar Aliev of Azerbaijan, a country 250 miles northeast of Iraq, which has backed the U.S. call for Iraq's disarmament.

On Tuesday, Bush said that if the Iraqi president and his generals "take innocent life, if they destroy infrastructure, they will be held accountable as war criminals."

Bush was to give a speech on Iraq later today at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative Washington think tank from which he drew many of his aides.

He was expected to argue that Saddam is a menace to the Iraqi people and that getting rid of him would make the Middle East — including the volatile Israeli-Palestinian conflict — more stable.

Bush also was to stress the prospects for democracy in a post-Saddam Iraq and the United States' intention to address humanitarian needs caused by possible war, said his spokesman, Ari Fleischer.

Offering Congress and the American public a peek into war and postwar preparations, the Army's top general said Tuesday that a military occupying force could total several hundred thousand soldiers.

Iraq is "a piece of geography that's fairly significant," Gen. Eric K. Shinseki said at a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Any postwar occupying force, he said, would have to be big enough to maintain safety in a country with "ethnic tensions that could lead to other problems."

Shinseki said he couldn't give specific numbers of the size of an occupation force but would rely on the recommendations of commanders in the region.

"How about a range?" asked Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, the senior Democrat on the committee.

"I would say that what's been mobilized to this point, something on the order of several hundred thousand soldiers," the general said. "Assistance from friends and allies would be helpful."

Afterward, Levin called Shinseki's estimate "very sobering."

Today, the White House sought to minimize the impact of Shinseki's testimony, with Fleischer declining to repeat his estimate. "It's impossible to guess the exact numbers of people that would be involved in any longer-term effort," he said.

Armed pilots will begin flying soon in test program

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four dozen commercial airline pilots selected for a test program are expected to fly passenger planes while wearing a gun beginning this spring.

But the 48 will have to carry their .40-caliber semiautomatic pistols in locked cases inside nondescript bags while walking through the airport. The guns have to be put back in the case if a pilot leaves the cockpit in flight.

The Transportation Security Administration announced on Tuesday that its final plan for arming pilots would limit to the cockpit their authority to carry a gun in a holster.

Pilots don't want to carry a weapon in a locked case, saying it's more likely to fall into the wrong hands if it has to be transferred back and forth.

"We propose that we carry the weapon concealed personally on our body because that is the safest, most secure way for us to transfer the weapon," said Al Aitken, spokesman for the Allied Pilots Association.

TSA spokesman Robert Johnson said the law says pilots can carry guns for only one purpose: to defend the cockpit during flight.

"We don't want that weapon floating around inside the cabin," Johnson said.

The TSA plan mirrors the recent recommendations by a task force comprised of agency employees who met with pilots, airlines and aircraft manufacturers.

Pilots will be required to undergo psychological and background checks before being selected for a five-day training program that will include lessons on marksmanship, defensive tactics and legal policies, Johnson said. After finishing training, pilots would be issued .40-caliber, semiautomatic pistols.

Some pilots object to the psychological testing they'd have to undergo if they volunteered for the program. Others say it will make the program better by weeding out people who might have a hard time killing someone.

Congress, which overwhelmingly approved arming pilots, didn't give the TSA any money to train pilots or pay for guns. The agency cobbled together $500,000 from various accounts for a test program that can only accommodate the 48 pilots.

Johnson said the agency asked pilots' groups for nominations and expects to have them in the next week or two. The TSA will select the class, and those who complete the training will be sworn in as federal flight deck officers.

Arrests and theft reported in Snyder

•Arrests

Snyder officers arrested a 21-year-old man in the 3900 block of Ave. O at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday on warrants for motion to revoke probation.

A 21-year-old man was taken into custody in the 3900 block of Eastridge at 7:10 p.m. Tuesday on a warrant for failure to appear before a judge.

At 8:20 p.m. Tuesday, a 41-year-old woman was arrested in the 3900 block of Muriel on warrants for failure to appear before a judge and for disregarding a traffic signal.

Deputies arrested a 30-year-old man on U.S. 84 at 5 a.m. today for criminal mischief, public intoxication and also on outstanding warrants.

•Theft

A woman requested officers at Taco John's just before 9 a.m. Tuesday and reported the theft of an undetermined amount of cash. Officers submitted a report for Class B theft.

•Assistance requested

A Nolan County dispatcher advised at 1:50 a.m. today that a Fed Ex truck driver reported a vehicle traveling west in the eastbound lanes of U.S. 84.

DPS troopers and Snyder officers located and stopped an 82-year-old Slaton woman five miles east of Hermleigh. The woman was escorted to the law enforcement center, where she was released to family members.

•Assault

A woman contacted deputies at the sheriff's department to report an assault and the deputies advised a report for Class A assault, family violence would be submitted.

•Criminal trespass

Officers served a man with a criminal trespass warning at 1 p.m. Tuesday ordering him to stay away from a residence in the 3400 block of 44th Street.

Another man was ordered Tuesday afternoon not to go near a home in the 3800 block of Muriel.

•Close patrol

A man requested a close patrol of a residence in the 1200 block of 17th Street Tuesday afternoon because another subject was attempting to start a fight with his grandson.

•Gas drive off

A clerk at Snyder One Stop reported a gas drive off at 6 a.m. Tuesday.

Obituaries

Bob Boston

1920-2003

Clarence Robert "Bob" Boston, 82, died Tuesday Feb. 25, at his home in Hermleigh.

Graveside service for Mr. Boston was set for 3 p.m. today in the Snyder Cemetery with Steve Highfield, youth minister of Calvary Baptist Church, officiating. Arrangements were under the direction of Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

Born Dec. 9, 1920, Mr. Boston is survived by two brothers, Sam Boston of Hobbs, N.M., and Andy Boston of Odessa; and several nieces and nephews.

Leslie Walberg

1916-2003

Leslie A. Walberg, a former Snyder resident, died Tuesday, Feb. 25, in Meadows Nursing Home in Alvarado.

Services for Mr. Walberg, 86, are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born on Nov. 2, 1916 in Pine City, Minn., Mr. Walberg was a retired bricklayer and had worked for Red Faver's Fina Station for several years.

Survivors include his wife, Lois Walberg of Alvarado; four stepdaughters, Nancy Adams of Everton, Ark., Dorothy Malson and Linda Belt of Alvarado and Glenda McCartney of Louisiana; a stepson, David Byrd of Newcastle, Wyo.; and a brother, Allen Walberg of Pine City.

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Joe McCowen

1938-2003

POST — Joe McCowen, a native of Scurry County, died Monday, Feb. 24, at his home in Post.

Funeral service for Mr. McCowen, 64, was set for 2 p.m. today in the First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Steve Rogers officiating. Interment was to follow at 4 p.m. in Peaceful Gardens in Lubbock under the direction of Hudman Funeral Home.

Born June 18, 1938 in Snyder, he was a member of the Post Chamber of Commerce and a past-president of the Antelope Booster Club.

A Methodist, Mr. McCowen had owned and operated service stations in Post for many years and later worked on the Alaskan pipeline.

Survivors include his wife, Margie McCowen of Ruidoso, N.M.; three daughters, Nancy McDonald of Post, Patty Pruitt of Lubbock and Miranda McCowen of Ruidoso; his father, Allon McCowen of Slaton; a brother, Bobby McCowen of Houston; a sister, Carolyn Countryman of Watauga; and six grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the West Texas Parkinson Society, 3506 21st, Suite 402 in Lubbock, 79410.

Royce Eiland

1916-2003

CLAYTON, N.M. — Royce Cherry Eiland, a native of Scurry County, died Monday, Feb. 24.

Funeral service for Mr. Eiland, 86, is set for 2 p.m. Friday in the First Baptist Church with the Rev. Billy Rammage, pastor, officiating. Burial will follow in the Clayton Memorial Cemetery under the direction of Hass Funeral Directors.

Born Oct. 25, 1916 in Ira to Graydon and Ethel Cherry Eiland, he was a 1934 graduate of Snyder High School and a 1939 graduate of Hardin-Simmons University.

He married Fran Largent on May 18, 1940 and they lived in the Folsom, N.M., area from 1946 until 1977 when they moved to Clayton.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Eiland was preceded in death by a grandson, Zachery Eiland Lansford.

Survivors include his wife, Fran Eiland of Clayton; a daughter, Cherry Lynne Reif of Clayton; two sons, Don Eiland of Abilene and John Eiland of Wildorado; a brother-in-law, Bill Largent of Abilene; three cousins from Scurry County, Bill Eiland, J.R. Meadows and Joe Falls; five grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Judy Pierce

1923-2003

Hellen "Judy" Pierce, former Snyder resident, died Monday, Feb. 24, in the El Dorado Hospital in Tucson, Ariz.

Services for Mrs. Pierce, 79, are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born June 15, 1923 in Alba, Tex., Mrs. Pierce was a homemaker. She was married to George Pierce who died Dec. 25, 1994.

Survivors include two daughters and a son-in-law, Georgeanne Van Bibber and Betti and Jerry Weaver of Tucson; four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Thu 2/27	Fri 2/28	Sat 3/1
57/33	61/29	56/39
Partly cloudy skies. High 57F. Winds W at 10 to 15 mph.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 20s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise 7:14 AM, Sunset 6:39 PM	Sunrise 7:13 AM, Sunset 6:40 PM	Sunrise 7:12 AM, Sunset 6:41 PM

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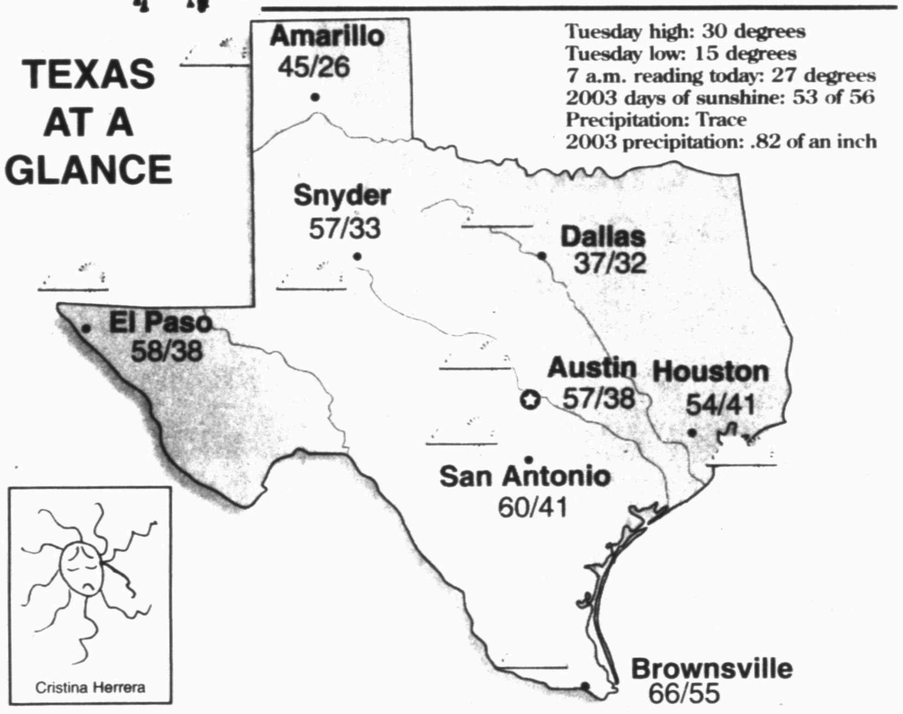
TEXAS AT A GLANCE

Tuesday high: 30 degrees
Tuesday low: 15 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 27 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 53 of 56
Precipitation: Trace
2003 precipitation: .82 of an inch



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	48	30	pt sunny	El Paso	58	38	pt sunny	Midland	63	39	mst sunny
Amarillo	45	26	pt sunny	Fort Stockton	65	41	mst sunny	Raymondvilie	62	46	cloudy
Austin	57	38	pt sunny	Gainesville	34	25	cloudy	Rosenberg	55	41	pt sunny
Beaumont	54	39	cloudy	Greenville	35	26	cloudy	San Antonio	60	41	pt sunny
Brownsville	66	55	cloudy	Houston	54	41	pt sunny	San Marcos	58	39	pt sunny
Brownwood	51	30	pt sunny	Kingsville	62	45	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	37	27	cloudy
Corpus Christi	63	50	pt sunny	Livingston	52	35	pt sunny	Sweetwater	50	27	pt sunny
Corsicana	41	31	cloudy	Longview	41	29	pt sunny	Tyler	42	33	cloudy
Dallas	37	32	cloudy	Lubbock	56	31	pt sunny	Weatherford	36	26	cloudy
Del Rio	71	48	pt sunny	Lufkin	47	33	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	36	26	cloudy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	49	37	rain	Houston	54	41	pt sunny	Phoenix	61	48	rain
Boston	30	22	pt sunny	Los Angeles	60	47	rain	San Francisco	57	43	pt sunny
Chicago	30	20	pt sunny	Miami	83	67	pt sunny	Seattle	50	39	pt sunny
Dallas	37	32	cloudy	Minneapolis	30	22	pt sunny	St. Louis	31	21	sn shower
Denver	33	18	sn shower	New York	32	25	snow	Washington, DC	33	31	snow

Moon Phases

Last Feb 23 · New Mar 3 · First Mar 11 · Full Mar 18

UV Index

Thu 2/27	Fri 2/28	Sat 3/1
6 Moderate	6 Moderate	6 Moderate

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

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FEB 26 2003

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

The high cost of medicines

DEAR DR. GOTT: I wrote the enclosed several years ago and hope your readers will enjoy it:

I have heard it said with greatest surety / That those of us on Social Security / Have a plethora of dollars to spend and burn. / Now that is an argument, which I do spurn. / Although such a situation would be bliss, / Because my financial condition is this: / Do I buy my many prescription pills / Or make a payment on my other bills? / It would certainly be a magical feat / If I could pay for my pills - and still eat.

DEAR READER: The subject of your poem is, as you know, a national outrage that may — just may — be addressed by Congress in the next few months. But it is a complex issue.

In my view, many doctors overprescribe drugs for their elderly patients, so the medical profession has to take a share of the responsibility for the high cost of prescriptions.

Recently, I have made an effort to review the medicines that I (and other doctors) prescribe for seniors who are my patients or whom I've inherited. More often than not, I can easily reduce the number of prescriptions without risking any unhealthful consequences. Or, with equal success, I can ordinarily prescribe generic alternatives, which are cheaper and just as effective as the expensive brand names.

For example, recent medical reports have documented that inexpensive diuretic medications (of the type I sharpened my teeth on as a resident) are an appropriate first-line choice for treating hypertension. Switching patients to this alternative can save them thousands of dollars a year. Moreover, by relying on natural, dietary sources of potassium (a mineral that may be depleted by diuretics), I can discontinue yet another expense: prescription potassium supplements. If doctors, as a class, were to commit to frugality, we could save our elderly patients a bundle.

Of course, this is not the only step to be considered. Some state and/or federal assistance would be appropriate for patients eligible for Medicare benefits. Nonetheless, we medical professionals have to commit to working with the government agencies to provide our patients with reasonable and affordable prescription medications. We owe this to the people we care for. As you concluded, they need to pay for their pills — and still eat.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Consumer Tips On Medications." Other readers who would like a copy should send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm having a running argument with a friend. I maintain that orange juice, unlike grapefruit juice, will not react with medications. She thinks I am crazy. Who is correct?

DEAR READER: You are.

Because grapefruit juice and many medicines are metabolized by a certain enzyme system in the body, the combination can set the stage for an interaction that can include drug toxicity. Other citrus products, including orange juice, do not cause such reactions.

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DNA links man to 3 attacks

TYLER (AP) — East Texas authorities credit DNA testing for the arrest of a 26-year-old man suspected in a string of sexual assaults in the Tyler area.

Felix Albert Kauffman of Flint has been charged with two counts of residential burglary with intent to commit sexual assault and one count of sexual assault. He was booked Monday into the Smith County Jail in Tyler with bail set at $1.5 million.

Investigators told the Tyler Morning Telegraph for a story in today's editions that Kauffman has admitted verbally to nine rapes in and around Tyler. Of those, they say he has been linked to three by DNA. Those assaults date back to 2001.

Kauffman's arrest came late Monday after a monthslong joint investigation by the Tyler Police Department and Smith County Sheriff's Office.

"We're absolutely delighted," said Tyler Police Chief Gary Swindle. "This guy is a serial rapist and sex offender sometimes you never know how many victims you're going to have until you catch him."

Of the suspect's reaction to the arrest, Smith County Sheriff J.B. Smith said, "He didn't act surprised at all he started confessing."

For Tyler police, the string of unsolved sexual attacks began in 2000 with new cases emerging just about every few weeks. Smith County deputies joined the case last May after an unknown male suspect attacked a woman near Bullard.

Authorities said he forced his way into the woman's home after throwing a towel over her head and assaulting her.

As subsequent attacks in the Flint-Gresham area in August and December began to alarm the public, authorities took note of similarities, especially the care the suspect took to conceal his identity.

There was widespread concern among many women, who sought self-defense classes, security systems and concealed carry permits.

Finally, in one of the most recent rape attempts, the rapist made a mistake. On Nov. 26, an attacker entered a garage, grabbed a woman and tried to drag her inside her house.

Chicago Mayor Richard Daley sweeps to re-election victory

CHICAGO (AP) — Mayor Richard M. Daley won a fifth term by more than a 5-to-1 margin over his closest challenger and vowed to continue what he called his life's work — running the city that his father once led.

The rout further solidified Daley's standing as one of the most popular politicians Chicago has ever seen. His popularity rivals that of his father, Richard J. Daley, who defined the Chicago Democratic machine in his 21 years as mayor.

Some say the mayor, who seldom faces any opposition from the City Council, holds too much power. What Daley calls coalition building, critics call machine politics.

But Daley scoffed at suggestions that he is too powerful.

"I don't have the power, the people have the power," Daley said after Tuesday's landslide victory. "If a public official believes they have the power because the people voted for you, boy, that is a great mistake."

Daley appeared to have won in each of Chicago's 50 wards in the nonpartisan election, crushing challenges from two black ministers — the Rev. Paul Jakes and the Rev. Joseph McAfee — and black businesswoman Patricia McAllister.

"I take pride in the fact that Chicago's united today, and that our victory was built in every community," Daley said.

With 97 percent of precincts reporting unofficial results, Daley had 79 percent, or 353,874 votes. Jakes, his closest challenger, had 14 percent, or 62,593 votes. The mayor needed to win a majority of the vote to avoid an April runoff.

Daley, 60, has been credited with improving schools, revitalizing downtown and beautifying the city since becoming mayor in 1989. He has easily beaten a succession of black politicians and community leaders in a city where blacks outnumber whites and Hispanics.

"He has a genius about being able to sense how the people feel about an issue and then decide on the issue the way they would want him to," said former Illinois Attorney General Neil Hartigan, a Democrat.

Daley emerged victorious after an unusually quiet campaign in a city known for its raucous politics.

"I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue the work of my life, the work of making this great city even greater," Daley told supporters at a brief victory party.

The election came during a time of mourning for the city and the mayor's own family. Twenty-one people died in a nightclub stampede on Feb. 17, just a day after the death of Daley's 95-year-old mother, Eleanor "Sis" Daley.

Daley asked for a moment of silence during his victory speech in memory of the victims of the stampede as well as the 97 people killed Thursday in a Rhode Island nightclub fire.

Chicago Board of Elections spokesman Tom Leach said voter turnout Tuesday was expected to be about 34 percent, a record low for a municipal election. The previous low of 38.5 percent came in 1947.

Today's chuckle

Thief caught through credit card purchase

ELIZABETHTOWN, Ky. (AP) — "Thou shalt not use a stolen credit card" isn't one of the Ten Commandments. It seems like wise advice, especially after a man accused of stealing from several churches was tracked down through a purchase at a Christian bookstore.

Cecil T. Turner, 50, of Louisville, is accused of rummaging through at least three churches and stealing money and a credit card, police spokesman Terry Cox said.

Turner, who is being held on $5,000 bond, pleaded innocent Monday to charges stemming from the allegations. He is scheduled for a hearing next week.

On Friday, an employee at one of the churches — Grace Heartland Church — reported a credit card missing from her purse. The credit card company was notified, and they told police the card had just been used at the Lifeway Christian Bookstore in Elizabethtown.

A manager at the Alpha Omega Bookstore called police. Turner was arrested about 15 minutes later for fraudulent use of a credit card and three counts of third-degree burglary. He was also cited for driving on a suspended license.

"He bought 10 copies of a Bible study called 'Making Peace With Your Past' and a follow-up study called 'Moving Beyond Your Past,'" bookstore manager Jonathan Gallegly said.

The books allegedly purchased by Turner were found in the car along with a receipt that matched the stolen credit card. The missing money and the card were found in Turner's pockets, Cox said.

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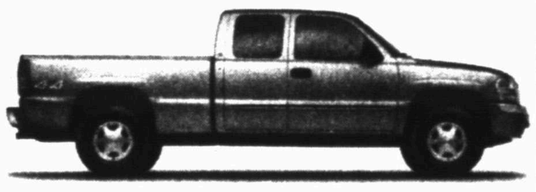
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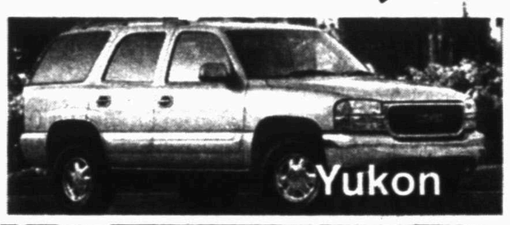
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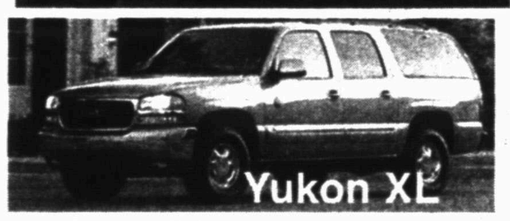
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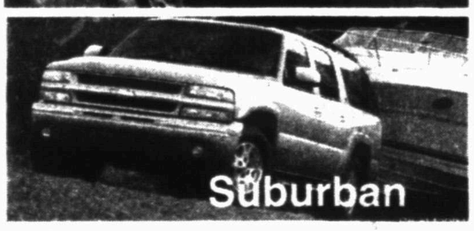
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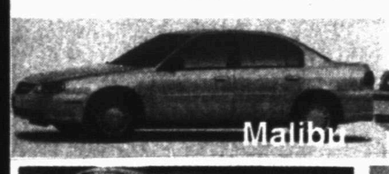
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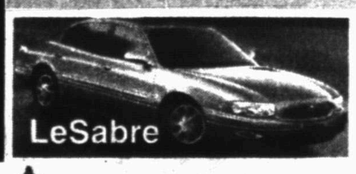
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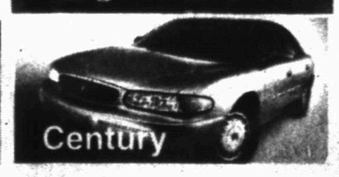
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