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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY
Feb. 19, 1997
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Home of Amanda Jane Luera

Judge upholds sheriff's action

County Judge Ricky Fritz ruled Tuesday afternoon that the dismissal of a former dispatcher for the sheriff's department was "neither illegal or discriminatory in any manner," and therefore upheld Sheriff Darren Jackson's action in the matter.

Anita Peavy had filed a wrongful dismissal grievance against Jackson after she was terminated on Feb. 5.

Peavy, who had worked as a dispatcher for 14 months, said this morning she will contact the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People before determining what steps she might take next.

"Scurry County is an at-will employer and department heads and elected officials have the right to fire at-will unless a person is dismissed for illegal or discriminatory reasons," said Fritz.

Fritz said interviews with Peavy, Jackson and other persons who had knowledge of the circumstances regarding the dispatcher's dismissal did not reveal any reasons for him to rule against the action taken by the sheriff.

In a letter to Peavy on Feb. 5, Jackson cited abuse of authority, misuse of county and state funds, failure to dispatch a backup unit as requested and habitual tardiness as the reasons she was dismissed.

Peavy disputed this, however, and said the firing was a direct result of an incident in which Peavy had asked a DPS trooper to transport her child's and a friend's forgotten luggage to the Scurry-Garza county line in order for her to have clothing for a church youth group meeting in Lubbock the weekend of Jan. 17. The two joined other members of a Colonial Hill Baptist youth group following a girl's basketball game in Lamesa.

A DPS trooper from Post carried the luggage to the Lubbock County line where another trooper picked it up and carried it to the motel where the group was staying.

Peavy said the luggage also contained medicine for her daughter's friend.

Peavy said she did not feel this request was out of the ordinary for DPS troopers or other law enforcement personnel.

The Scurry County policy handbook states that the county judge rules on grievances filed against an elected official, such as the sheriff.

WTC receives program grant

Western Texas College has received a grant which will allow it to continue its summer youth employment program.

The grant, amounting to just over $15,000, comes from the West Central Texas Council of Governments. Western Texas has been operating the program, or ones similar, since 1989.

"It's a good program for everybody involved," said Mark Bland, WTC director of community services. "It pays salaries for the teachers, the kids, expenses, and we feel like it is a very beneficial program."

Western Texas contributes about $4,700 to the program, in addition to use of office equipment, facilities and time spent on the project by Bland and a secretary.

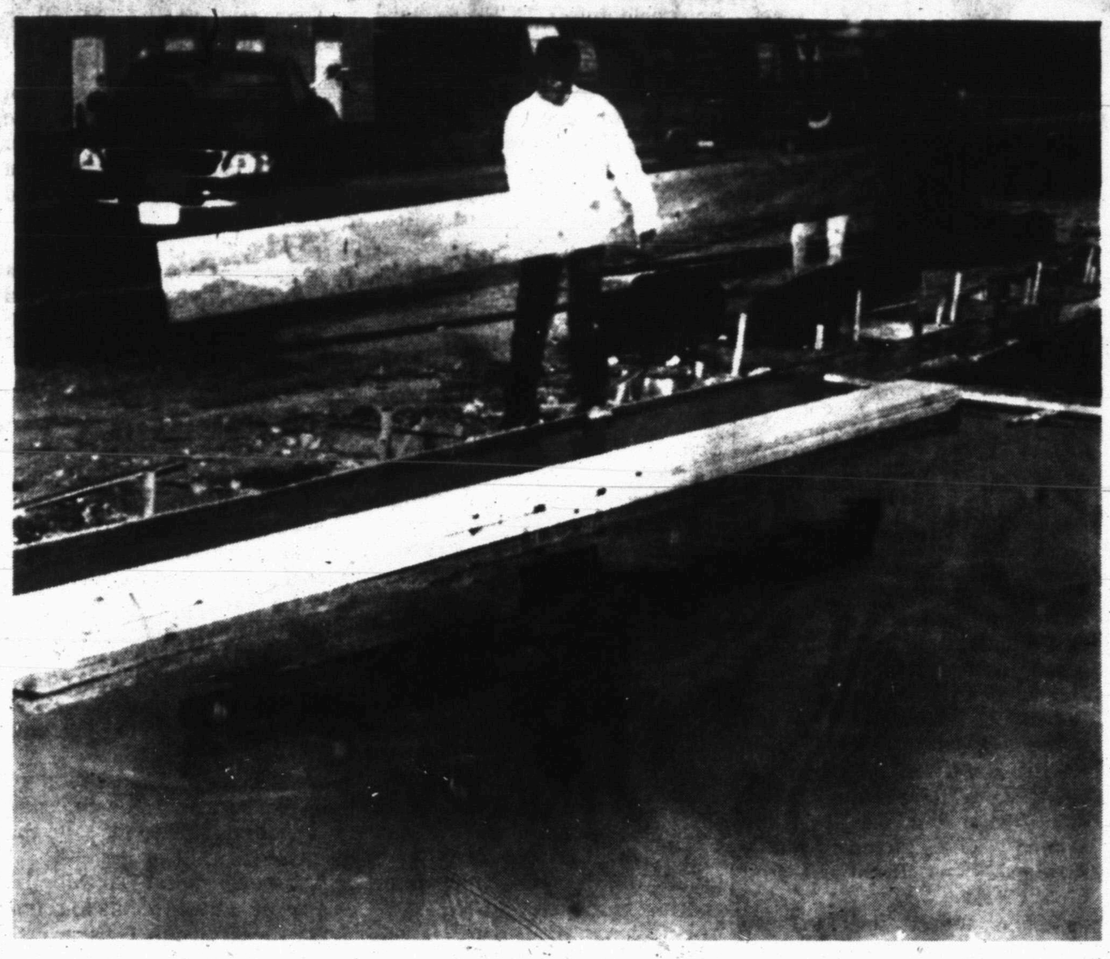
The program will allow 14 area youth age 14 to 21 to earn some money and learn life and job-related skills at the same time.

Those accepted for the four-week program will work with the Snyder Beautification Committee and the Ritz Community Theatre, helping with such projects and landscaping and set design. Between time on the job, they'll receive instruction in everything from personal hygiene to managing a checkbook and resume writing.

The program is non-residential and students will bring their own lunches for the Monday-through-Thursday program.

"The overall purpose is to teach work skills, how to survive the workplace. They get paid while learning," said Bland.

The program will be held in June and is open to economically disadvantaged youth. Anyone interested in inquiring about the program can call 573-8511, ext. 342.



WORK GOES ON - Plummie Woods said a little rain this morning would not interfere with work on some new storage units being built adjacent to 37th Street. Owner Gary Landes said the project is expected to be completed within 90 days. (SDN Staff Photo)

Chamber board OKs requests from Little League, rodeo team

Snyder Senior Little League and the Western Texas College rodeo team were granted hotel/motel tax funds for upcoming events during Tuesday afternoon's chamber of commerce board meeting.

Board members were also made aware of changes in the operating contract for Scurry County Coliseum for the next two years as approved by the county commissioners.

During an executive session, the Senior Little League's request of $1,400 and the request by the rodeo team for $1,275 was approved.

The funds are to be used for promotion and expenses for the events.

The chamber board had planned to sign the contract between it and the county for the operation of the coliseum for the next two years, but this action will take place at a later date due to the fact the board did not have an original contract on hand.

The contract was approved by Scurry County commissioners on Feb. 3 and calls for a new two-year pact with the county subsidizing the coliseum operations in the amount of $170,000 in 1997 and $165,000 in 1998. Also, the county will be responsible for all major equipment or building repairs after total costs per occurrence exceed $1,000.

The chamber approved the purchase of a new 6 by 12 foot scoreboard for the coliseum at a cost of $4,995, with the Coca-Cola company donating $1,000. The present scoreboard that hangs over the playing surface is beyond repair, and the new scoreboard will be placed on the east end of the coliseum.

Chamber manager Donna Fowler said she is seeking volunteers to work at the Stanton-Tahoka playoff basketball game Thursday night and the Sweetwater-Estacado game Friday night.

Other upcoming events at the coliseum include the Snyder Wheels Car Show and Swap Meet on March 1; the chamber banquet on March 13; the WTC Rodeo on April 10-12, and the Carson & Barnes Circus on April 24, sponsored by the chamber and the Kiwanis Club.

The chamber office will be closed Thursday. The staff will attend the luncheon meeting with Gov. George Bush in Lubbock, where he will give details of his property tax proposal.

Attending the Tuesday's meeting were Jeffrey Martin, Ann McCabe, Rod Waller, Dr. Marty Akins, Trent Driggers, Helen McLeod, Jack Greene, Keith Hackfield, Sandra Barbosa and Fowler.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "The guy who doesn't know where he's going can take any road and still get nowhere."

Rick Hall is probably the most vocal basketball fan in Snyder. If he doesn't know the names of refs, he'll make up one for them.

Hall, owner of Snyder Insurance Agency, says evidence is mounting that officials have a vision problem.

We came across an incident recently that supports Halls' theory concerning blind sports officials.

Walt Parker is a former NFL referee. During his career he officiated 300 games, including two Super Bowls.

Parker, 79, looks after the interests of the University of North Texas when the legislature is in session.

While in Austin early this session, Parker was challenged that he was parked in the wrong space at a downtown apartment house. The woman, very courteously, informed Parker that he was in her assigned space.

The former ref checked his rental agreement, and discovered she was right. He went back to apologize in person.

The woman gave him a business card and wrote down her telephone number, just in case other questions arose.

When Parker returned to Denton, he told his wife about the mixup and how gracious and attractive the young woman had been. He then showed her the business card.

His wife reportedly said, "Do you know who this is?"

The "blind" former ref didn't recognize movie star Sharon Stone.

While on the current session of the legislature, a lot of strange bills are quietly introduced.

Rep. Miguel, D-Weslaco, has introduced a bill allowing for the compensation of public school district trustees.

The bill, if approved, would allow a local school district to call an election for the purpose of submitting a measure on trustee compensation to the voters. The measure would have to include a specific amount.

Even if the bill should pass, don't look for paid trustees to surface anytime soon in Scurry County.

6th graders win first bee

Two Hermleigh sixth graders are winners of the first campus spelling bee held Tuesday afternoon.

Terrel Culp, 12, emerged as the top speller. He is the son of Alan and Julie Culp.

Brandi Doggett, 11, finished as runnerup. She is the daughter of Steve and Roxie Doggett.

Winners in Hermleigh's junior high bee were to be determined this afternoon.

Two spell-offs are slated Thursday. West begins at 9 a.m. and Northeast starts at 2:15 p.m.

Two bees are also set for Friday. East will begin at 8:45 a.m. and Snyder Junior High School will begin at 2:15 p.m.

Ira School will complete the campus bees with a spell-off Feb. 27.



TOP SPELLERS — These sixth graders were the best spellers in Hermleigh's elementary spelling bee held Tuesday. Terrell Culp finished first, followed by Brandi Doggett. Both will advance to the county spelling bee March 7 at Western Texas College. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Dunn files for second term

Dirk Dunn filed Tuesday for another three-year term on the Ira ISD school board.

Dunn, an area farmer, was elected to Place 5 on the board in 1994.

He becomes the second person to file for one of eight seats up for election in May on three public school boards in the county. The filing period began Monday and will continue through April 2.

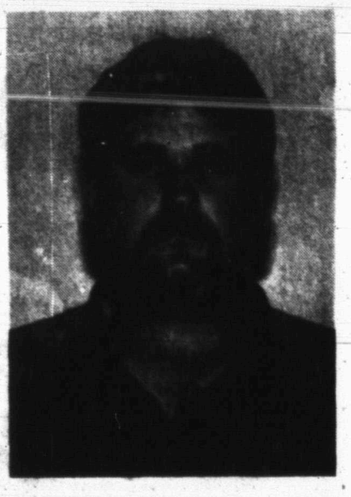
Tim Dacus filed Monday for a full term on the Hermleigh school board. Dacus, a technician specialist for Sun Pipeline, was elected last year to fill out an unexpired term on the board.

Both the Ira and Hermleigh boards have other seats to fill. Place 4 on the Ira board, currently held by Bo Robinson, is up for election. Also on the Hermleigh ballot will be terms held by John Williamson and Chip Roemisch, and a term by Jimmy Hudgins, who recently resigned from the board.

No one has filed for either of the two places up for election on the Snyder ISD board. Last Thursday, Geraldine Parker announced she will not seek a third term as the Place 2 trustee on the board. Richard Chambers, who holds the Place 3 seat, has indicated he will run again, but has not filed.

In addition to the school board elections, voters will be deciding on a mayor and three city council members.

The current mayor, David Holt, filed Monday for re-election. No one has filed for city council, though at-large councilman Ron Shaw has indicated he plans to.



Dirk Dunn

ASK US

Q—Now that the commissioners court has allowed Scurry County Library to be in the Internet, will the facility start opening to the public at 9 a.m. instead of 10?

A—See Ask Us, Page 9.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Area Forecast: Tonight, heavy rain possible. Low, mid 40s. E-NE wind 10-20 mph. Thursday, cloudy, 50% rain chance. High around 60. NE wind 10-20 mph, becoming N by afternoon.

Snyder Temps: High Tuesday, 69 degrees; low, 46; 7 a.m. Wednesday, 55; no precipitation; total for 1997, 1.85 inches.



Tyler Price
Rain Forecast

Sunset: 6:34 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:20 a.m.
Of 49 days in 1997, the sun has shone 43 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

- Mahatma Gandhi



ONLY IN WEST TEXAS — Few things are as fickle as West Texas weather. While temperatures were expected to reach 60 degrees today, exactly one week ago, 20-month-old Miranda — the daughter of Scott and Rosie Vincent — was building a pint-sized snowman with her mother's help. (Contributed Photo)

New bid on main lottery contract sought

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Lottery Commission chief says it's time to think about giving another company a shot at running the state's numbers game.

Commission Chairwoman Harriet Miers wrote in a letter to the agency's acting executive director Tuesday that "the time has come" to reopen the bidding process for the lucrative contract now held by GTECH.

The Rhode Island company won the first contract to run the games in 1992 and received a five-year extension last year.

But GTECH has been under close scrutiny since reports that a former company official hired a close friend of recently fired lottery director Nora Linares.

GTECH also has been at the center of controversy about questionable business practices and costs related to the lottery.

Officials say questions about the lottery operator have not affected the integrity of the games. Separate auditing contractors have found no problems with the Texas Lotto or other lottery drawings.

The commission hadn't been expected to consider reopening the bidding until after hearing testimony GTECH President Guy Snowden.

However, Ms. Miers asked acting executive director Kim Kiplin, also the commission's top attorney, to set a meeting as soon as possible for the commission to make a decision.

"I am convinced the Texas Lottery Commission and the state of Texas will be best served by a re-bid of the lottery operator contract as soon as possible," Ms. Miers wrote in her three-page letter. "I am convinced that recent events dictate a bidding process.

"In calling for a re-bid at this time, I make no judgements about GTECH nor the outcome of the bidding process."

GTECH expects to make up to $700 million during the five-year extension of its contract. The company was paid $132,322,983.08 last year.

The state sold $3.1 billion worth of tickets and netted about $1 billion last year.

A GTECH spokesman did not return a telephone call from The Associated Press Tuesday, but the company released a statement saying it was "very surprised and disappointed."

"The course of action suggested by Ms. Miers puts at risk the continued demonstrated success of the lottery, and the important revenue stream," GTECH said.

"The company expects the Texas Lottery Commission to live up to the extension agreement. GTECH intends to explore all options at its avail to complete the contract for which its performance has been widely acclaimed."

GTECH came under fire last November, when it was reported that the company hired Mike Moeller, a close friend of Ms. Linares.

Ms. Linares said she knew nothing about Moeller's job with the company. She was fired after the lottery commission said the controversy had affected her ability to carry out her job.

Attorneys for Ms. Linares say GTECH is responsible for her firing. They said the company knew about Ms. Linares' friendship with Moeller, now in prison on an unrelated charge, and knew hiring him would cause problems for their client.

GTECH has said it was former company official J. David Smith who hired Moeller. Smith is awaiting sentencing in New Jersey on a conviction that he defrauded the company.

Rendine and other GTECH officials have said the company didn't know Smith hired Moeller. They also said Moeller apparently did little if anything for GTECH.

Mike Chambrello, a GTECH vice president, told the lottery commission last week that the company has made some mistakes during its tenure as lottery operator. But he also said GTECH has taken steps to fix the problems, has sought more direction from the commission and has helped create one of the nation's most successful lotteries.

Scurry County residents donate 112 pints of blood

Scurry County residents donated 112 units of blood during last week's drive, officials have reported.

Seventy-two units were collected at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center, 17 at Cogdell Hospital and 23 from Price Daniel Unit employees.

Receiving donor pins were Jack Fulford, five gallons; J.B. Tate Jr., four gallons; Barney Tate and Larry Bridges, three gallons; Kathy Post, two gallons; and Frankie Hinds, Charles Darlin and Janie Davis, one gallon.

Winners of meals at The Shack were Jeff Mason and Mark Henson.

Receiving gift certificates for Jaramillo's were Olin Bunch, Joe Schooler, James Boren, Amanda Barerra and Apolinar Molina Spanish Inn winners were Elizabeth Jenkins, Keith Ward, Rona Sikes, Kevin Walker and Mike Velasquez.

Subway winners were L.V. Anderson, Judy Smallburer, Vernest Tippens, Pat Helms, Zelma Irons and Betty Bredemeyer. Winners of certificates to Rudy's were Cecil Langford, Luis Hernandez, Trish Payne, Olin Bunch, Kathy Post and Walter Reneau.

Pizza Hut winners were Patricia Olivarez, Valerie Drum, Mark Her, Danita Roe, Charles Kittle Dannie G. Pierce, Vicky Rowland, Ana Rodriguez and Lena Clark.

Winners for certificates to Pizza Inn were Lisa Tate, Reece Martin, Melissa Garvin, Jim Hart and Doris Spikes.

Lota' Burger winners were Jeffrey Levens, Karen Franklin, Jeff Spradlin, Richard West, Maggie Rains and Larry Bridges.

The next drive will be April 15-17.

The Earth is divided into 24 time zones, one for each hour of the day.

Julie Zeck on Dean's List

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Julie Zeck of Snyder has been named to the Fall 1996 Dean's List for the School of Engineering at Vanderbilt University.

In the School of Engineering, a minimum grade point average of 3.25 earns Dean's List honors.

Judge dismisses four remaining lawsuits

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston judge has dismissed the state's lawsuits against four remaining surgical assistant defendants who had been accused of passing themselves off as licensed physicians.

State District Judge David West ruled Tuesday that the state attorney general's office violated his orders to return medical records and restrict calls to potential witnesses.

West accepted defense motions to invoke so-called "death penalty" sanctions against the state and dismissed the lawsuits.

Attorney General Dan Morales said he filed the lawsuits to stamp out medical fraud that cost an estimated 10,000 Houston-area residents more than $1 million.

Twelve defendants had earlier accepted what they called "toothless" minor settlements and returned to their jobs assisting licensed surgeons in operations.

In the lawsuits, Morales alleged that the surgical assistants had passed themselves off as licensed physicians, gaining the higher rates of compensation from patients and insurance carriers.

The defendants denied the allegations and said their work was efficient and economical for consumers.

John Klug, the lawyer who represented the final four defendants, told the judge that Morales' office repeatedly violated orders West issued on Dec. 23 and Jan. 6.

"They have nobody to blame but themselves," he said of attorneys for the state. "The court's orders were clear — and they clearly violated those orders."

Spokesman Ron Dusek said Morales will "without question" appeal West's ruling.

"We have complied with the judge's orders to the 'letter,'" Dusek said. "The court is wrong on the law. If this were the law, the state would not be able to represent consumers and prosecute (civil) health care fraud at all."

Letters To The Editor

Please, keep quality of care

Dear Editor:

An Open Letter to Ricky Fritz and the Commissioner's Court:

It is Monday night at 10:10 p.m. and I am so angry and upset that I cannot even begin to think of going to bed and going to sleep. I am angry because I am thinking of all the turmoil our great community hospital is going through at the present time.

I am angry to think about the comments that you have made on several occasions about "RNs getting paid too much." But what I am upset and angry over is that today I had to watch my ER, CCU and Med Surg nurses, along with the Emergency Department physician and other hospital personnel, trying to save the life of a child who was the victim of a gunshot wound to the chest.

You cannot even begin to imagine how feverisly these dedicated people worked to try to bring life to a young, lifeless child and the looks of pure defeat over not being able to do so.

The director of nurses, the day supervisor and myself had to tell the family that their child had not made it. That is one of the hardest things there can be to do on this earth, especially when you have a child of your own, and can feel the agony this family is feeling and to hear their wails of despair; and to take them to see their beloved child for one of the last times on earth.

Tears fell from all of our cheeks as well as the family's. It is during times like this I know that Snyder is truly blessed to be a close-knit community, and to have such dedicated, caring professionals as we have.

I hardly think that what the nurses are paid can even begin to touch the pain and sorrow that they deal with on a frequent basis, not to mention how well-trained and equipped they are to handle any emergency that may walk in that door at any second, knowing that all the training in the world sometimes is not enough to deal with situations such as today. We can only believe that God had a better design than we knew about.

I feel very confident in saying that if a for-profit organization comes and "gobbles" up Cogdell Hospital, we will not have the quality of care we have today. Corporations do not use common sense to staff the hospital so there is enough nurses per patient acuity. They use complicated patient acuity formulas to justify themselves when what they are after is "bottom line."

We are fortunate at the present in the West Texas area to not have corporations that are introducing "unlicensed assistive personnel" in the place of RNs to care for sick patients, but it is coming. You do not have to take my word for it. It is in literature everywhere and well-known medical professionals are speaking out against it now.

There are bills being ready to be introduced that denounce this practice and make it possible for medical professionals to speak out and report this abuse of the American public without fear of losing their jobs.

We don't have this abuse now, so why invite it in to our front yard by allowing a corporation to have total control of our community hospital?

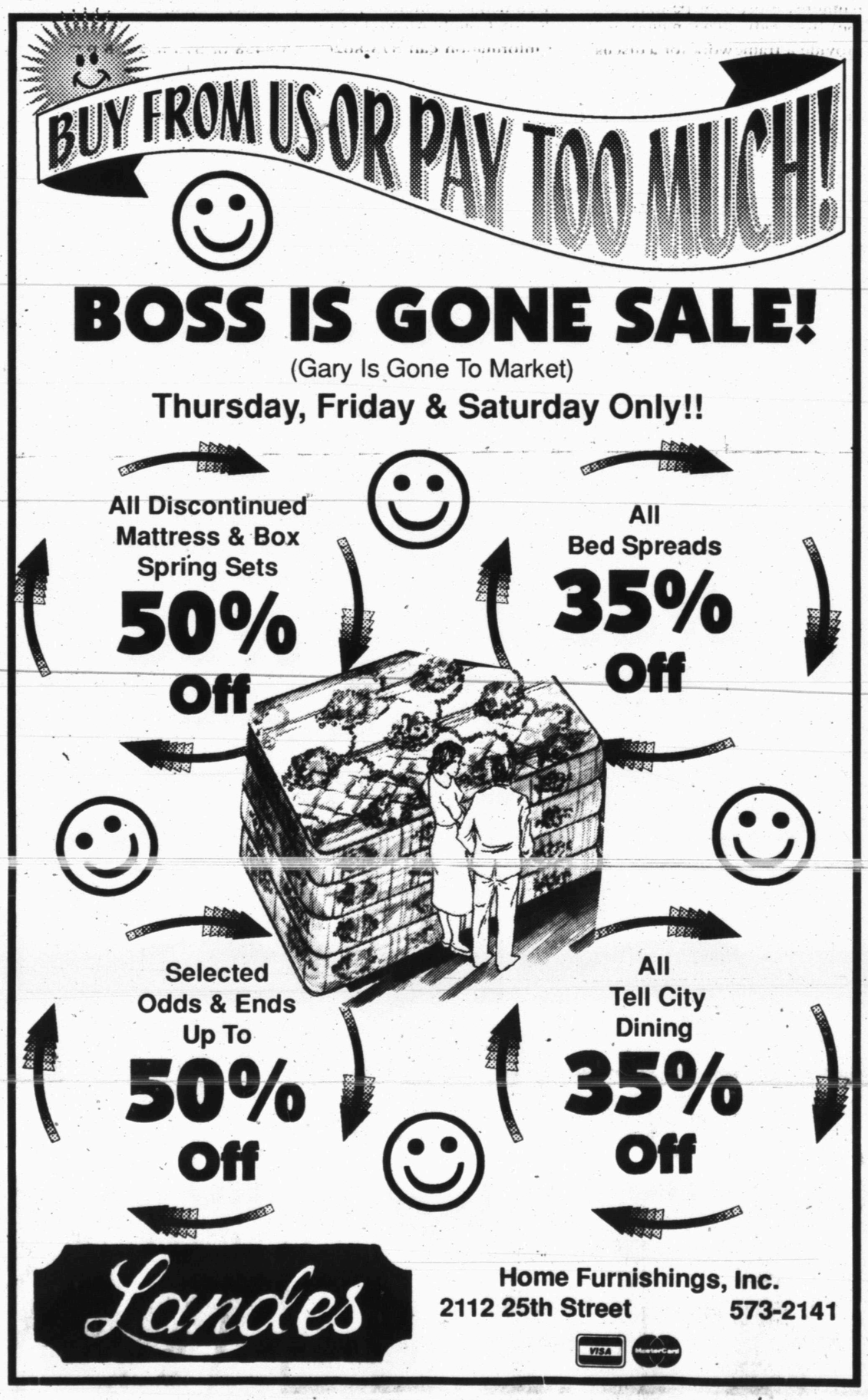
In closing, I just want to state that we have the finest employees there could be right here at Cogdell. We have some really great LVNs who I would request take care of me or my family if we were at death's door.

We have great lab, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, X-ray — you name any department and there couldn't be better anywhere.

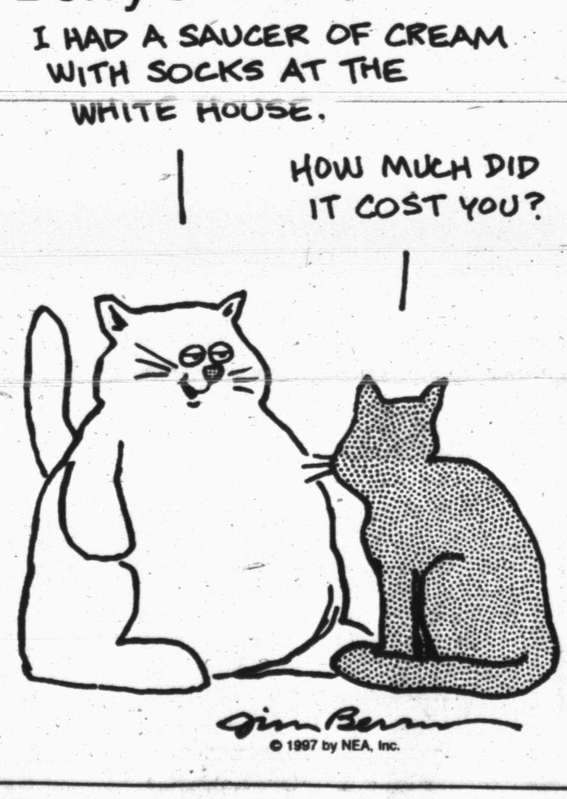
I am so tired for all of us here who feel we are constantly having to justify our jobs to the Commissioner's Court. As far as what RNs and LVNs, too, for that matter, make per hour is well worth the $8-$15 they make and should be paid more.

I only hope it doesn't take a tragedy similar to today to make you realize it.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Chance, RN
Nurse Manager
ER/CCU/Med Surg
Trauma Coordinator



Berry's World





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STUDENT TEACHERS — Around 130 Southwestern Oklahoma State University students in Weatherford are doing their practice teaching assignments during a 12-week period of the 1997 spring semester. Their assignments started Feb. 10 and will continue through May 2. Included in the School of Education group are SWOSU students (seated from left): David M. Ham of Texarkana, teaching at Clinton, and Jon Keller of Wichita Falls, teaching at Washita Heights. Back from left: Shonda Harrison of Wheeler, teaching at Cordell; Ken Knight of Canadian, teaching at Hobart; and Kasey Reed of Snyder, teaching at Weatherford, West Elementary. (Contributed Photo)

Detroit, New Orleans among worst cities for child poverty

WASHINGTON (AP) — Children in big cities are more likely than U.S. children in general to be underweight when born, live in welfare-supported homes and drop out of high school, a children's advocacy group says.

Among the 50 largest cities, the highest children's poverty rates were in Detroit and New Orleans, 46 percent, and Miami, 44 percent; the lowest were in Virginia Beach, Va., 8 percent; Honolulu, 11 percent; and San Jose, Calif., 13 percent.

The poverty figures in the City Kids Count report Tuesday from the Annie E. Casey Foundation are based on 1990 census data.

Overall, the foundation looked at 10 factors affecting young people, including infant mortality, high school dropout rates, youth unemployment and single-parent households.

While some data used in assembling the report are five or six years old, they still can help policy-makers understand the plight of urban children, said foundation spokesman Bill Rust.

Big-city children were worse off than the national average in all 10 of the categories studied. Nine percent of big-city children were low-birth weight babies in 1994 compared with 7.2 percent nationwide.

In 1990 dropout rates for children aged 16-19, urban children outpaced children nationally 14 percent to 11 percent. Twenty-one percent of city children under 15 were living in homes receiving public assistance, compared with 12 percent nationally.

Detroit ranked last in several of the foundation's 10 categories, with 42 percent youth unemployment in 1990, 45 percent of small children living in welfare homes in 1989, and 60 percent of children living in single-parent households in 1990.

It also ranked last for children living in "distressed neighborhoods," a composite measure of areas with high concentrations of poverty, female-headed families, male unemployment and welfare dependency.

What does Starr's departure mean?

WASHINGTON (AP) — The initial reaction at the White House was barely contained glee. Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr was heading for the door.

But reality set in Tuesday as Starr spelled out the likely meaning of his departure: a court-appointed successor this summer and a criminal investigation of President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, that will continue indefinitely.

Any perception that the investigation will end soon "is wrong, it is erroneous ... and it would be very wrong, very wrong, very misguided, for anyone to make any judgment with respect to the future of this investigation," Starr said.

Here, in question and answer form, are some of the issues raised by the latest twist in the Whitewater probe of the Clintons' ties to a failed Arkansas savings and loan:

Q. Will the probe slide into neutral gear when a new prosecutor unfamiliar with the evidence comes in?

A. "They won't miss a beat," predicts Terry Eastland, a former Justice Department spokesman during the Reagan years whose one-time boss, Attorney General Edwin Meese, was investigated by three independent counsels.

Whenever Starr leaves, he can appoint someone to run the office until a three-member panel of federal appeals court judges appoints a replacement.

A new prosecutor will review the evidence and get up to speed fairly quickly, says Eastland, who has written a book about the post-Watergate independent counsel law under which investigators like Starr are appointed.

The current staff available to any newcomer includes seasoned investigators such as career federal prosecutor Hickman Ewing. Starr's deputy in Little Rock, Ark., Ewing has been investigating Whitewater for two years.

Q. Could a new prosecutor start over again and replow the same investigative ground, as Starr did when he first came on the job in August 1994?

A. That's almost unthinkable. While a new prosecutor might reinvestigate some aspects of what has gone before, the main task will be picking up where Starr left off. Former Arkansas Gov. Jim Guy Tucker goes on trial again in September, accused of attempting to avoid paying millions of dollars in taxes in a cable television deal. And prosecutors have only begun a lengthy criminal investigation of payments to Whitewater witness Webster Hubbell by Clinton loyalists.

The payments to Hubbell raises a potentially explosive possibility: Was it hush money to Clinton's longtime friend? Hubbell's memory lapses have frustrated prosecutors' efforts to get answers about Mrs. Clinton's dealings with Hubbell's father-in-law, prominent Little Rock businessman Seth Ward. One area of interest to the prosecutors: Who at the White House knew about the payments to Hubbell? The money came from sources such as a company owned by Indonesian billionaire Mochtar Riady, a supporter and friend of Clinton.

Q. Does Starr's decision to leave this summer mean he won't seek indictments against the Clintons?

A. Not necessarily. Starr's staff has compiled a memo several hundred pages in length summarizing the evidence involving the Clintons, most of it pertaining to the first lady. The memo will provide a framework for a discussion among Starr's prosecutors of what action if any to take against the Clintons. A conference on the matter was to have been held Jan. 31, but was postponed because the memo was being revised. Whether a conference will be held before Starr leaves to be law school dean at Pepperdine University isn't publicly known.

What is known is the status of the investigation: "We've made very substantial progress and we're very much in the investigative and evaluative stage," Starr said.

As long as prosecutors are gathering evidence, there is a chance that a new picture will emerge suggesting that the Clintons or their associates have engaged in wrongdoing in their business dealings in Arkansas.

Q. What has Starr accomplished?

A. To date, a dozen people have been convicted in the scandal. They include Tucker, who was governor of Arkansas at the time of his conviction by a Little Rock jury; and the Clintons' Whitewater business partners, Jim and Susan McDougal. Jim McDougal has been cooperating since last summer with prosecutors, who say he has provided significant information to them that is still under investigation. McDougal now is backing the account of another Whitewater witness, David Hale, who says then-Gov. Clinton participated in a conversation in 1986 about a fraudulent $300,000 loan that helped finance a land purchase placed in Whitewater's name.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



'Big Apple' Traces Its History To Racetrack in New Orleans

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DEAR ABBY: I can help out your reader who asked why New York City is called "the Big Apple."

Attorney/word sleuth Barry Popick spotted two 1920s articles which clarify that John J. FitzGerald, racing editor for the New York Morning Telegraph — a leading horse-racing newspaper of the day that later became the Daily Racing Form — heard "the big apple" mentioned in a conversation between two African-American stable hands in New Orleans (January 1920). The term referred to the New York City racetracks as the big time in horse racing.

FitzGerald picked up the term and popularized it in his newspaper, still in reference to the NYC racetracks.

In the 1930s, black jazz musicians then applied the term to Harlem specifically, and New York City in general, as the big time in jazz.

In 1971, Charles Gillett, president of the New York Convention and Visitors Bureau, revived the term as part of a public relations campaign on behalf of New York City. He readily acknowledged deriving "the Big Apple" from the 1930s jazz scene.

The term itself goes back ultimately to the big red Delicious apples developed in Iowa in the 1870s. They were regarded as something extra-special. And for jockeys active in the "bushes," the New York City tracks represented the big time, the big treat they looked forward to, i.e., "the big apple."

GERALD COHEN, PROFESSOR OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ROLLA

P.S. I am the former president of the American Name Society. Your 1988 column on "the Big Apple" was the stimulus that led to my research on the term: a book (1991) and two updates.

DEAR PROFESSOR COHEN: Thanks for straightening this out. I heard from several readers offering varied explanations about the origin of the nickname for New York City. Helen Tovey of Summerville, S.C., described a Harlem nightclub called the Big Apple that she had seen in 1936 and which had a big red apple over the entrance. She included a Roxy Theater program, dated Sept. 3, 1937, in which was featured a new dance called "The Big Apple — introduced by the contest winners from the colleges of North and South Carolina."

I also heard from Barry Popick, author of the article on the Big Apple published in the January/February issue of Irish America magazine, which is fitting since the name originated with an Irishman. Mr. Popick related that on Jan. 29, he appeared before the New York City Council in support of a permanent "Big Apple Corner" street sign at West 54th Street and Broadway, John J. FitzGerald's address for the last 30 years of his life. (The measure was approved.)

If anybody has any information about Mr. FitzGerald, Mr. Popick can be contacted at: bapopik@aol.com. Mr. Popick also mentioned that my original 1988 "Big Apple" column was what got everything started. Howda ya like them apples!

***

DEAR ABBY: In response to the English teacher in San Francisco who would like to have "frank talks" with her students regarding sex, but is afraid to lose her job. Good! She is an English teacher, not a biology/science or sex education instructor. She should stick to what she is employed to teach.

BRIAN CHIEDO, DALLAS

***

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Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY

Cosmorama Study Club; MAWC; program, Daryl Thomas with TU; hostesses, Donna Stehley, Nan Swanson and Tizzie Hall; 4:15 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Cogdell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary; board room; all members are urged to attend; 10 a.m.

Upper Colorado SWCD meeting; country club; noon.

Scurry County Pen Women; hostess and gift, Bert Warren and Sherry Bryant; guest, Mrs. Schiebel to talk on "Punctuation;" program, Helene Tutt; 1:30 p.m.

Al-Anon meeting (smoke free), noon to 1 p.m., brown bag. Park Club in Winston Park. For information call 573-4203 or 573-5525.

TOPS TX56, (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; 2501 35th. For information call Peggy Eubank at 573-6509.

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; American Legion; 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Snyder Chapter No. 450 Order of the Eastern Star; Masonic Hall, 1912 35th; 7:30 p.m.

Codependents Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-7358; 7 p.m.

New Horizons Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club Addition in Winston Park; for information call 863-2349 or 573-8626; 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointments; 573-9742 or 573-2763.

NA Anonymous; Snyder Park Club; for information call 573-3667, 573-1579 or 573-0949; 6 p.m.

Hermleigh Community Center Family Night; 6:30 p.m.

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 573-8929; 8 p.m., open meeting (last Friday of the month is the birthday meeting, pot luck at 7 p.m.).

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-3956 or 573-2101; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; Horseshoe Courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome; 3 p.m.

People Without Partners; Inadale Community Center; games of 42 and dominos; 6:30 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for more information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 863-2349; 10 a.m.

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

Narcotics Anonymous Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 5 p.m.

Beginners Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club at Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; 7 p.m.

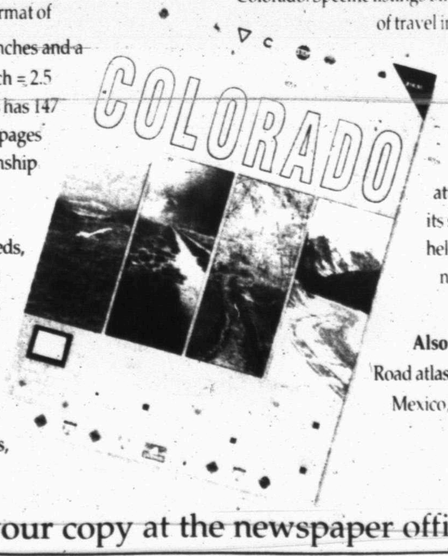
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With a large format of 11 1/8 x 15 3/8 inches and a scale of one inch = 2.5 miles, the atlas has 147 full-color map pages that show township and range, topography, all major watersheds, mountains and their elevation, forests, grasslands, wilderness areas, state recreation areas, monuments, campgrounds and many more details. All communities are noted—whether there are three residents or 300,000. Cemeteries, schools, post offices, churches, and other cultural features are shown in rural areas.

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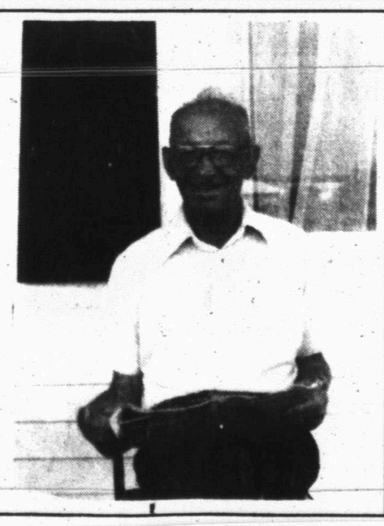
In Loving Memory of

Oscar Hooper

12-28-05 - 02-19-84

Daddy,
We love and miss you so very much.

Wanda, Larry & The Grandkids



Comic Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



EEK & MEEK ® by Howie Schneider



Barney Google and Snuffy Smith ® By Fred Lasswell



BLONDIE ® by Dean Young and Stan Drake



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Knicks' center Patrick —
6 Actress Collins
10 Like O'Henry's stories
12 Poetic foot
14 Go back on a promise
15 Iron grating
16 Annapolis grad
17 Author Anais —
19 T of TV
20 Quotas
23 Praise
26 Indignation
27 Timber tree
30 Shrimp — (spicy dish)
32 Holiday drink
34 Ended
35 Type of solution
36 Popeye's gal
Olive —
37 Actor Brynner
39 Stories
40 Got away
42 Soupe du —
45 From — — Z
46 Garfield, e.g.
49 Increase abruptly
51 Carport
54 Bird
55 Actress Merle —
56 Permits
57 Paradises

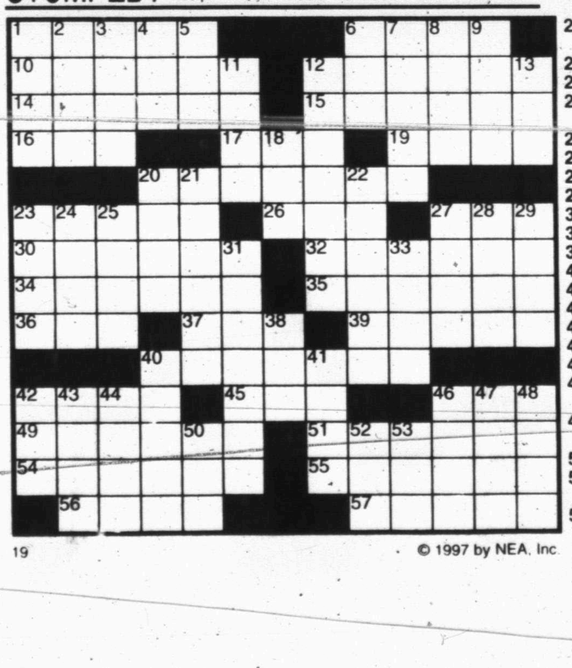
DOWN

1 Emerald Isle
2 Songbird
3 Charged particles
4 Compass pt.
5 Musician's job
6 Food container
7 Leaves out
8 Competent
9 — and void
11 Penny
12 Refuses to notice
13 View
18 Roman three
20 Word used before beer or canal
21 Narrow streets
22 Make invalid
23 Resound
24 Medical picture
25 Divulge
27 Dye
28 Corn bread
29 Grows old
31 Instruct
33 Pleased
38 Map abbr.
40 Burst open
41 Type of stick
42 Actor Carrey
43 Kind of test
44 Prod
46 Concern
47 Dramatic conflict
48 Decade numbers
50 Greek letters
52 Lincoln's nickname
53 Crimson

Answer to Previous Puzzle

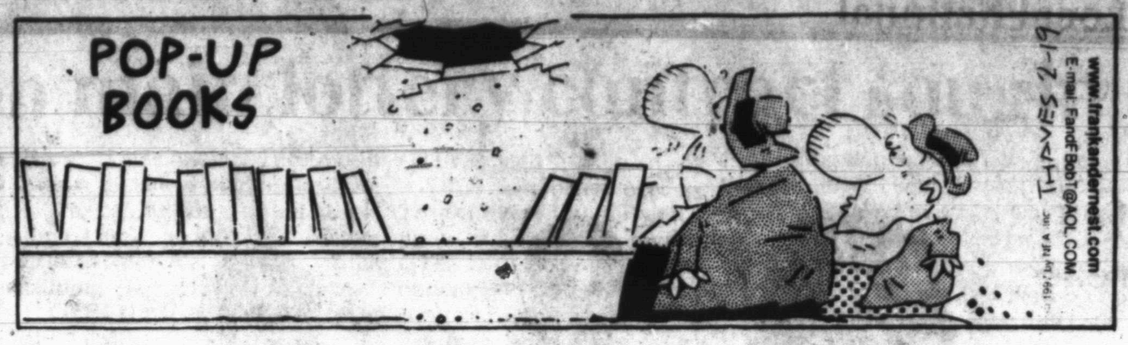
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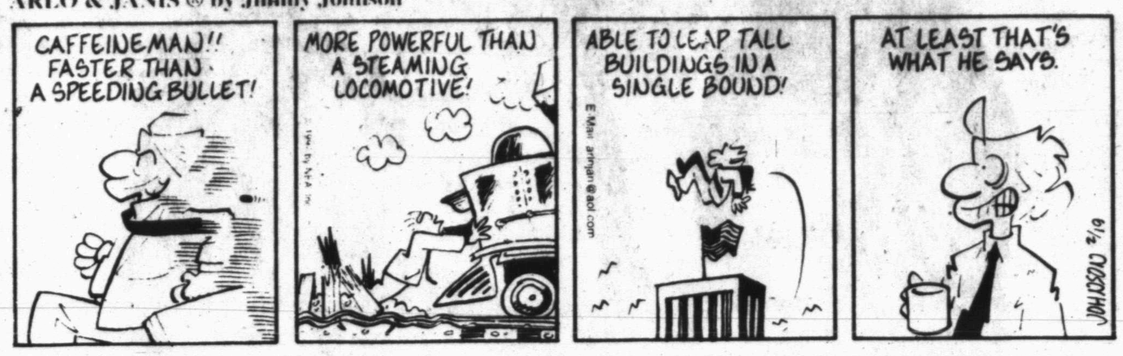


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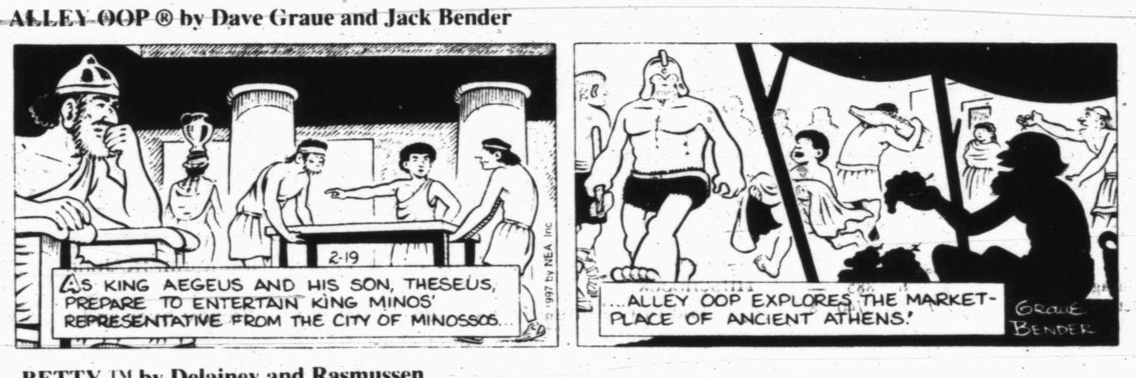


ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick

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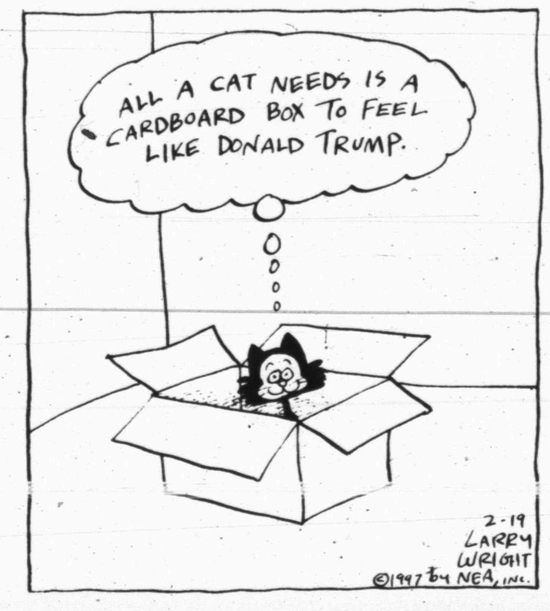
ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



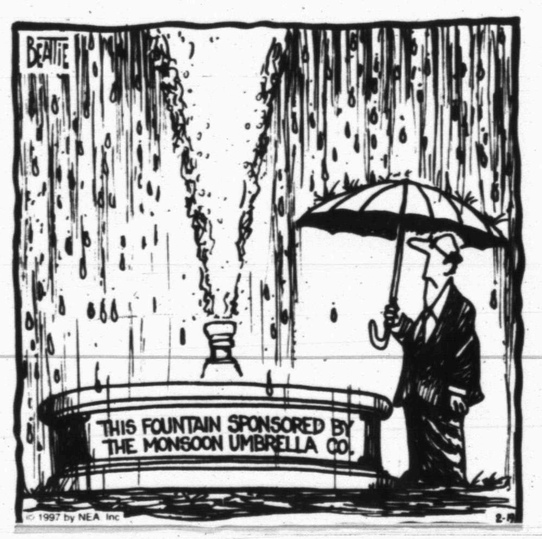
BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen

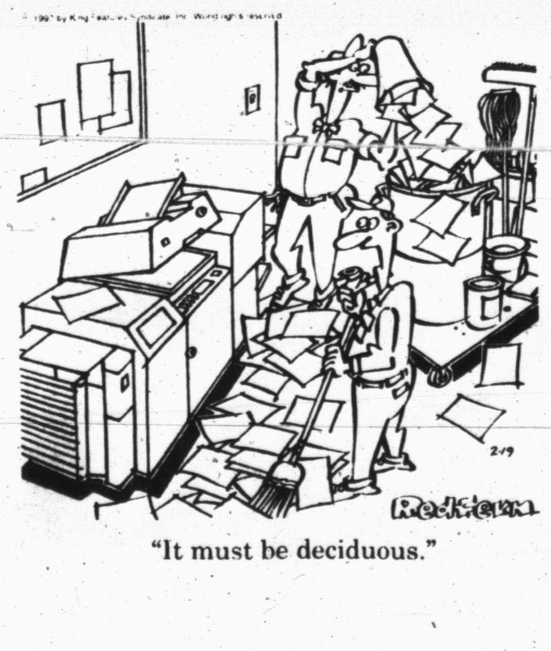


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SPORTS

WTC golf team ready for season

The Western Texas College golf team opens its season Thursday when it travels to Roswell, N.M. for the Bronco Invitational.

WTC is returning 10 golfers from last year's team, plus two new ones from Denmark and Sweden.

"I feel that this is the best golf team we've ever had since I've been here," said coach Milton Ham. "I think that we're going to be hard to beat in the spring."

The experience will help the Westerners, and the young golfers will gain experience as the season progresses.

The two new golfers for WTC are Soren Muller and Fredrik Widmark.

"They, (Widmark and Muller) have to get used to the competition." Ham said. "You think you can just go out there and play, but you can't. You have to get used to it."

"I expect both of them to play well this season."

Ham also thinks that with his current roster WTC can place well in their scheduled tournaments.

"There are 12 golfers on the team, and out of those 12, I think that at least six can play consistently this year."

"We're excited about this season. I'm excited as a coach and the players are ready to get started."

Orlando Magic head coach Brian Hill fired

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Brian Hill looked relieved, if not pleased.

The fired coach of the Orlando Magic sat on a podium Tuesday, smiling and patiently answering questions about the stressful 48-hour period that preceded his ouster.

He insisted he couldn't see his players' dissatisfaction with him as the victories piled up before the All-Star break. When he learned they felt they might be better off without him, he was stunned and disappointed.

"I've always had an open door policy with the players and told them if they had a problem with me, or something they were doing, to come in and share it with me," Hill said.

"But I also understand that is not the nature of a lot of today's players to do that ... and maybe I should have forced the issue more in that respect."

Although the Magic were an NBA-best 9-1 in the 10 games before the All-Star break, the players told general manager John Gabriel that a rift with Hill had been brewing for weeks.

No one, including co-captains Penny Hardaway and Horace Grant, owned up to leading a campaign to get rid of Hill, who guided Orlando to the NBA Finals with Shaquille O'Neal two years ago, but was off to a 24-25 start without Shaq this season.

Interim coach Richie Adubato, a Magic assistant who compiled a 106-228 record in head coaching stints with Detroit and Dallas, will make his debut at home against Portland tonight.

"I'm not bitter with any of the players ... Sometimes players need to hear a different voice. That may be what this situation is all about," Hill said.

Grant said the players held a meeting last week in Minnesota, then related their concerns to Gabriel.

NBC-TV reported during Sunday's loss at Chicago that Hill would be fired after the game. Although that didn't happen, it was clear the coach was on shaky ground when Gabriel wouldn't guarantee he'd remain on the job beyond Monday night when Orlando lost again at Charlotte.

"Brian Hill has done a tremendous job in leading us through one of the most successful periods in Magic history," the general manager said.

"However, at this time, with this particular team, it was the organization's feeling that in order to take the next step, a change in the leadership at the coaching level was needed."

Hill, who led the Magic to 50, 57 and 60 victories the past three seasons, received a three-year contract extension last season worth $750,000 a year.

But with O'Neal now playing for the Los Angeles Lakers and injuries to Hardaway and Nick Anderson preventing Hill from using his regular lineup much of this season, the team struggled.

While he found it difficult to replace someone so close to him, Adubato supported management's decision.

"We don't deal with kids with crewcuts — like I did when I started — and you tell them to dive through the wall and they do it," Adubato, who coached Hill in high school, said of the players' power play. "They tell you to do it."

Orlando was 191-104 in just over 3½ years under Hill, captured two Atlantic Division titles and appeared in the Eastern Conference finals the past two seasons. In the 1995 NBA Finals, the Magic were swept by the Houston Rockets.

Gabriel did not rule out making another change before the end of the season, saying the team will weigh its options before deciding when a permanent replacement will be hired.

"What we would like to do is examine ... some of the names that would be available to us now," he said, though declining to answer questions about possible candidates.

Lady Westerners looking to end 10-game losing streak

The Western Texas College Lady Westerners will be looking to end their 10-game losing streak Thursday when they travel to Big Spring to take on the Howard College Lady Hawks.

WTC lost its 10th straight Saturday against non-conference foe Clarendon College, 57-41.

Western Texas is now 2-12 in the conference and 4-24 for the season.

Howard College is ranked seventh in the nation with a 13-3 conference mark and a season tally of 24-4. The Lady Hawks are looking to get back on track after falling, 80-75, to South Plains on Monday.

In their two previous conference meetings, the Lady Hawks have had their way with the Lady Westerners winning, 77-53 and 46-32.

Tip-off is slated for 6 p.m. in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum in Big Spring.

Estacado advances; Levelland to face undefeated Canyon

Two District 2-4A cage squads were in action Tuesday night in post-season play.

The Estacado Matadors, the district champions, edged the Andrews Mustangs in their first playoff game of the season. The Mats ripped the Mustangs 78-61 for the win. Estacado will now face the 22-11 Sweetwater Mustangs in the Scurry County Coliseum Friday night at 7:30.

The Plainview Bulldogs came up against a stronger foe Tuesday night as the the El Paso Bowie Bears squeked by the Bulldogs, 52-51. Plainview finished the season with a 17-15 season record. El Paso will face the Randall Raiders who own a 26-5 season tally.

On the girls' side, the Levelland Loboettes, who are 29-3, face a tough challenge. Levelland's next opponent in the playoffs will be the defending state champions, the Canyon Lady Eagles.

The Lady Eagles are the number one-ranked team in the state, and the third-ranked team in the nation. Canyon also owns a 62-game win streak. The Lady Eagles went undefeated with a 32-0 record last season, and are 30-0 this season.

The location and time of the game is undetermined.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	40	12	.769	—
NewYork	38	14	.731	2
Orlando	24	25	.490	14½
Washington	24	27	.471	15½
NewJersey	15	36	.294	24½
Philadelphia	12	39	.235	27½
Boston	11	40	.216	28½

Central Division

Chicago	46	6	.885	—
Detroit	37	13	.740	8
Atlanta	33	17	.660	12
Charlotte	31	21	.596	15
Cleveland	28	22	.560	17
Indiana	24	26	.480	21
Milwaukee	24	27	.471	21½
Toronto	17	34	.333	28½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	37	14	.725	—
Houston	34	18	.654	3½
Minnesota	25	27	.481	12½
Dallas	17	32	.347	19
Denver	17	36	.321	21
SanAntonio	12	38	.240	24½
Vancouver	11	44	.200	28

Pacific Division

L.A.Lakers	37	14	.725	—
Seattle	36	15	.706	1
Portland	28	24	.538	9½
Sacramento	24	29	.453	14
L.A.Clippers	21	27	.438	14½
GoldenState	19	30	.388	17
Phoenix	19	34	.358	19

Monday's Games

Washington 95, Milwaukee 93
Cleveland 108, New Jersey 101
Indiana 105, Toronto 103
Charlotte 124, Orlando 110
Houston 127, Atlanta 98
Dallas 100, Vancouver 95
Seattle 113, Boston 108

Tuesday's Games

Miami 111, Philadelphia 83
New York 95, Phoenix 94
Utah 113, San Antonio 105
Chicago 134, Denver 123
L.A. Clippers 87, Dallas 69
Sacramento 95, Minnesota 84

Wednesday's Games

Phoenix at Charlotte, 6:30 p.m.
Indiana at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
Washington at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Portland at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Toronto at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Vancouver, 9 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.
Boston at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Miami at New Jersey, 6:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Philadelphia, 6:30 p.m.
Denver at Indiana, 6:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Houston, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Utah, 8 p.m.
New York at Sacramento, 9:30 p.m.

NCAA BASKETBALL SCORES

By The Associated Press

EAST

Bucknell 71, Holy Cross 61
Iona 74, Fairfield 64
Lafayette 71, Army 64
Loyola, Md. 75, Siena 55
Providence 79, Rutgers 74
Seton Hall 85, Notre Dame 74
St. Joseph's 77, Delaware 65
West Virginia 100, Towson St. 86

SOUTH

Duke 84, Clemson 77
Georgia St. 82, Mercer 57
Md.-E. Shore 78, Hampton U. 65
South Carolina 78, Arkansas 65
Temple 45, Virginia Tech 41

MIDWEST

Bradley 77, N. Iowa 61
Cincinnati 97, Houston 64
Illinois St. 78, Indiana St. 68
Purdue 89, Indiana 87, OT
Wis.-Green Bay 58, Butler 56, OT

SOUTHWEST

Sam Houston St. 71, NE Louisiana 57

FAR WEST

Cal Poly-SLO 99, Idaho St. 64

Sports Briefs

Alomar arrives at spring training

No surprise, Roberto Alomar showed up at spring training, and right away the questions started all over again about umpire John Hirschbeck.

"The only thing I can say about that is it's already over and I don't even want to talk about it," Alomar said Tuesday after reporting to the Baltimore Orioles' camp in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

"I don't want to bring that issue up," Alomar said. "It's already over and I have to move on. I've said what I have to say about that whole situation. I just want to play the game of baseball and have some fun at the game."

Alomar will serve a five-game suspension at the start of the regular season for spitting in Hirschbeck's face last September.

Rick Mirer headed to Chicago

CHICAGO (AP) — Finally, Rick Mirer is on his way to Chicago.

After four months of trade talks and more than a week of speculation, the Seattle Seahawks on Tuesday night dealt their former quarterback of the future to the Bears for a first-round draft choice.

"We believe Rick has the qualities to be an outstanding player and help us get to the next level," Bears coach Dave Wannstedt said in a statement.

Mirer couldn't get the Seahawks to the next level.

After passing for 41 touchdowns at Notre Dame, he was the second overall pick in the 1993 draft. He had a promising rookie season, starting all 16 games and completing 274 of 486 passes for 2,833 yards. But he never realized his potential and spent much of 1996 as John Friesz's backup.

Mirer signed a three-year contract with the Bears, who gave up the 11th overall pick in the April 19 draft. Seahawks spokesman Steve Wright said Seattle completed the deal by giving a fourth-round choice to Chicago.

Norton Jr. will not fight

DALLAS (AP) — USA Boxing on Tuesday knocked out Ken Norton Jr.'s bid to enter a Golden Gloves tournament, saying it would set a bad precedent to allow a professional football player to compete in the amateur event.

Federation rules say pros from any sport cannot fight, but the San Francisco 49ers linebacker and son of former heavyweight champion Ken Norton Sr. hoped an exception would be made for him.

His appeal was based on the fact he was entering a novice division of this week's Dallas tournament that does not advance to the state tournament.

"If you bend the rules for one guy, where do we stop?" USA Boxing spokesman Steve Ross said. "Personally, I think we get in dangerous territory if he would be let into this tournament."

Ross said the decision was made upon the recommendation of its corporate counsel, C. Brian Renfro.

Students elect football coach

TAFT (AP) — There are lots of Texas towns where the high school football coach is popular enough to get elected. Taft might be the only town where the football coach was elected.

Freshmen, sophomores and juniors at Taft High School have elected Keno Aleman, an assistant coach in nearby Corpus Christi, over two other candidates to serve as head football coach and athletic director.

Taft superintendent Don Madden said he and a selection committee came up with a list of 10 qualified candidates after Rick West resigned the post in September.

The list was whittled to three before students were allowed to vote on Feb. 7. The school board unanimously endorsed their choice Feb. 8.

Ownership of golf course to be raffled off

Many golfers dream of owning their own course. Wayne Aekin dreams of giving one away. All you need is $100 and 250 words explaining why you want to own the Evergreen Par 3 and it can be yours.

Shortly after Aekin and his wife Cynde decided to act on a whim in 1994 and build the course in Greenwood, Del. — 25 miles south of Dover — Aekin was disabled by spinal arthritis.

Unable to work the course any longer, he decided to sell it. Then he got another idea — to raffle it off.

"All you have to do is say in 250 words or less why you want to own and operate a par-3 golf course like Evergreen and it can be yours," Aekin, 50, said Tuesday by telephone from the course.

The entries will be judged by a panel that includes a minister, a greenskeeper and a publisher. And while that may sound like the first line of a joke — "A minister, a greenskeeper and a publisher walk into a bar ..." — it is an assurance that the whole thing is on the up-and-up.

To get in on the action, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Evergreen Par 3 Essay Contest, P.O. Box 186, Harrington, Del., 19952. Or send a fax to 302-349-4653.

Little Dribblers results

JAZZ 46, SPURS 36

Jazz: Shane Kitchens 3, Lee Scott 5, Josh Knox 2, Josh McGaha 14, Josh Mendoza 19. Spurs: Dustin Davenport 2, Stafford Gray 18, Cory Lyons 10, Shawn Roemisch 6.

WARRIORS 37, CELTICS 30

Warriors: Blake Grimmet 2, Kris Hatley 22, Isaac Ramon 2, Robin Hollingsworth 5, Justin Stoker 2, Will Davis 4. Celtics: Jordan Dea 3, Demetris Horn 2, Andrew Vargas 9, Clay Williams 10, Taylor Cotton 6.

MAGIC 43, PACERS 24

Magic: Matt McCormick 3, Tanner Beard 11, Marcus Villareal 17, Brady Reed 10, Patrick Alderetti 2. Pacers: Adam Rogers 4, Jess Wall 3, Nathan Wilkins 4, Justin Boyd 6, Jake Barnes 7.

MAVERICKS 31, JAZZ 29

Mavericks: T.J. Jones 10, Zach Starnes 17, Colter Williams 2, Bret McClendon 2. Jazz: Lee Scott 10, Josh McGaha 9, Josh Mendoza 10.

MAJORS

CELTICS 58, PACERS 31

Celtics: Demetris Horn 4, Thomas Vargas 10, Andrew Vargas 15, Clay Williams 20, Billy Duck 9. Pacers: Adam Rogers 8, Jess Wall 3, Justin Boyd 6, Jake Barnes 10, John Garner 3.

RAPTORS 37, T'WOLVES 27

Raptors: Tanner Reed 2, Colby Driggers 11, Chance Greenwood 7, Andrew Bane 8, Brad English 2, Joseph Ynganzo 7. T'wolves: Kenneth Fabre 5, Zach Cain 4, Logan Hill 18.

CELTICS 41, T'WOLVES 21

Celtics: Jordan Deas 4, Demetris Horn 8, Thomas Vargas 6, Andrew Vargas 6, Clay Williams 17. T'wolves: Joel Silva 4, Kenneth Fabre 8, Tyler Kerr 2, Logan Hill 7.

PACERS 43, T'WOLVES 30

Pacers: Adam Rogers 11, Jess Wall 2, Nathan Wilkins 1, Justin Boyd 13, Jake Barnes 16. T'wolves: Joel Silva 9, Kenneth Fabre 2, Logan Hill 17, Brock Tyrel 2.

MAGIC 39, WARRIORS 33

Magic: Matt McCormick 3, Tanner Beard 11, Marcus Villareal 4, Brady Reed 13, Patrick Alderetti 8. Warriors: Blake Grimmet 8, Kris Hatley 12, Isreal Sosa 3, Isaac Ramon 6, Will Davis 4.

MINORS

ROCKETS 40, KNICKS 37

Rockets: Kasey Krop 2, Kennon Garcia 2, Lico Castillo 32, Chris Smith 2, Adam Hopper 2. Knicks: Pedro Villa 1, Cade Simpson 25, Jeremy Ruiz 2, David Duck 9.

NUGGETS 45, PISTONS 30

Nuggets: Tyler Hogan 14, Ta Ta Groage 1, Zach Garcia 28, Jarrod Fletcher 2. Pistons: Nathan Ricossa 6, Jason Cave 12, Antwoine Jeffery 8, Cale Lancaster 4.

LAKERS 40, HEAT 10

Lakers: Jordan Lollar 6, Loel Lollar 4, Jeremy Reed 6, Garrett Pinson 6, Jeffery Gibson 2, Wesley Kellner 12, Nathan Graves 4. Heat: Justin Rios 2, Brandon Bragg 4, Andrew DuPree 2, Bryan Clifton 2.

BULLS 31, SONICS 28

Bulls: Jay Weaver 7, Blake Seale 2, Austin Lyle 2, James Castro 4, Cade Owen 4, Eric Martinez 10, Paul Haines 2. Sonics: Dustin Williams 10, Chase Luft 18.

NUGGETS 32, ROCKETS 32

Nuggets: Tyler Hogan 10, Ta Ta Groage 2, Zach Garcia 18, Jarrod Fletcher 2. Rockets: Kasey Krop 2, Lico Castillo 26, Chris Smith 5, Barrett Bowlin 4, Adam Hopper 1.

LAKERS 42, KNICKS 30

Lakers: Garrett Pinson 10, Jeffery Gibson 4, Wesley Kellner 28. Knicks: Louis Silva 3, Pedro Villa 4, Cade Simpson 21.

BULLS 24, PISTONS 11

Bulls Jay Weaver 8, Cade Owen 6, Eric Martinez 6, Paul Haines 2. Pistons: Nathan Ricossa 4, Jason Cave 2, Antwoine Jeffery 4, Cale Lancaster 1.

SONICS 28, HEAT 19

Sonics: Dustyn Williams 8, Tommy Garza 2, Chance Grantham 4, Chase Luft 14. Heat: Justin Stoker 2, Raymond Valdez 6, Brandon Bragg 2, Bryan Clifton 9.

LAKERS 40, ROCKETS 24

Lakers: Garrett Pinson 14, Jeffery Gibson 3, Wesley Kellner 23. Rockets: Lico Castillo 18, Chris Smith 2, Adam Hopper 4.

Snyder falls to Big Spring, 13-3

The Lady Tiger softball squad lost its second game in a row Tuesday night, falling 13-3 to the Big Spring Lady Steers.

"We hit the ball better this time," said coach Billy Hicks, "but Big Spring has one of its best hitting teams in a long time."

The game was called due to the ten-run rule in the fifth, when Big Spring's Martinez belted a home-run to put the Lady Steers on top by ten.

Amanda Huff took the loss for the Lady Tigers making her 0-3 on the mound for the season. She also stole three bases.

Joanie Wemken went two for three with a double and an RBI. Starla Davis also went two for three, belting a triple and an RBI.

The JV squad ripped Big Spring 11-3. Randy Haggard went two for four with two singles and Cary Hernandez went three for four.

Snyder falls to 0-3 with the loss, while Big Spring remains undefeated at 4-0.

Next up for the Lady Tigers are the Aledo Lady Bearcats and the Mineral Wells Lady Rams on Saturday. The JV will travel to the Abilene ISD Tournament on Thursday through Saturday.

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010 LEGAL NOTICES

BID NOTICE
Mitchell County Ambulance Service is accepting bids for a 1984 Type I ambulance. Send bids to MCAS at 1543 Chestnut St., Colorado City, TX 79512 by February 28, 1997, or call (915) 728-3431, ext. 351 for inquiries.

THE STATE OF TEXAS
To any Sheriff or any Constable within the State of Texas — GREETING:

You are hereby commanded to cause to be published once each week for four consecutive weeks, the first publication to be at least twenty-eight days before the return day thereof, in a newspaper printed in Scurry County, Texas, the accompanying citation, of which the herein below following is a true copy.

CITATION OF PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

To Travis Glenn Massengill, Defendant, Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Honorable 32nd District Court of Fisher County at the Courthouse thereof, in Roby, Texas, by filing a written answer at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the first Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of the issuance of this citation, same being the 24th day of March A.D. 1997, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said court, on the 10th day of January A.D. 1997, in this cause, numbered 5409 on the docket of said court and styled IN THE INTEREST OF MADISON PAIGE ATKINSON, A CHILD, Plaintiff, vs, Defendant.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-with:* PETITION TO TERMINATE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

If this citation is not served within ninety days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved:

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Roby, Texas, this the 4th day of February, A.D. 1997.

Attest (s) Bettie Hargrove, Clerk, 32nd District Court,
Fisher County, Texas.
By Deputy.
Seal

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Mitchell County Emergency Medical Service is accepting applications for Part-Time EMTs, for 911 emergency service. For more information call (915) 728-3431 ext. 351.

MLT, ASCP or equivalent, for 99-bed JCAHO accredited hospital. Full-time position with competitive salary and benefits. EOE Apply through Human Resources at Cogdell Memorial Hospital, 1700 Cogdell Blvd., Snyder, TX 79549 (915)573-6374 or FAX (915)573-9667.

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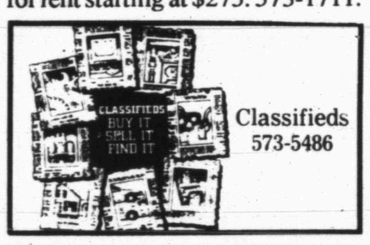
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Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 02-19-97
♠ A K 8 4
♥ 7 2
♦ A 8 7
♣ A K 8 2

West
♠ 9
♥ 9 6 3
♦ K J 10 5 4 2
♣ 9 7 6

East
♠ J 7 2
♥ A 10 8 5
♦ Q 9 3
♣ Q J 4

South
♠ Q 10 6 5 3
♥ K Q J 4
♦ 6
♣ 10 5 3

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: North

South	West	North	East
		1 ♣	Pass
Pass/1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	6 ♠	All pass

Opening lead: ♦ J

What would you have done?

When you play in a world championship, you can see only one opponent, as a screen runs diagonally across the table. To make a bid, you put a card from a bidding box onto a tray. After both players on one side of the screen have bid, the tray is pushed under the screen.

Imagine that when the bidding tray comes under the screen, you see that your left-hand opponent has opened with an artificial one club, promising any hand with at least 16 high-card points, and your partner has passed. With his mind on the previous deal, your right-hand opponent passes his partner's forcing bid. What should you do? As no one else would be any the wiser, do you let him take his "misbid" back, or do you pass, leaving them in one club?

It is a difficult decision. Sportsmanship tells you to let him replace his pass; the desire for victory tells you to pass. In Rhodes, the Italian Andrea Buratti let his Bulgarian opponent retract his pass on this deal. How did it work out, do you think?

It looks bad, doesn't it? Instead of being perhaps minus 130 against one club, suddenly Buratti appears booked for minus 1430 against six spades. Declarer only has to lead hearts twice from the dummy toward his hand. If East ducks his ace twice, South loses just one club trick. However, if East

See Bridge, Page 9

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	83⅛	82⅛	82⅛	+ ⅛
AT&T Corps	41	40⅜	40⅜	+ ⅛
AirTouch	28⅝	28¼	28⅜	— ⅛
Albertsons	35¼	35⅛	35⅛	— ⅛
AlldSignal	74⅞	74	74⅛	+1⅛
Alltel	34	33¾	33¾	
AmerOnline	36	34⅞	35⅛	— ⅛
AmStores		44½	44¼	44¼
Ameritech	64⅛	63⅝	63⅝	— ⅛
Amoco	87⅛	87⅛	87½	— ⅛
AndarkPtr		61¼	60⅞	61
ArmcoInc		4½	4¾	4¾
AtlRichfld	128¼	126¾	128	— ¼
ATMOS Egy		23⅛	23¼	23¼
Aviall		11⅜	11½	11⅜
BakerHughes	36½	35⅞	36⅜	— ⅛
BellAtl	70⅜	70⅛	70⅜	— ⅛
BellSouth	46⅞	46¼	46⅛	— ⅛
BethSteel		8	7⅞	8
BritPet	132⅜	131	132	+2
BurlNoSFe	86⅜	85⅜	85⅛	—1⅛
Caterpillar	80⅜	79½	80½	+ ⅜
CenSoWst	24⅛	24¼	24⅛	— ⅛
Chevron	68⅛	67⅛	67⅛	— ⅜
Chrysler s		35	34¾	34⅞
Coastal	48⅜	48¼	48⅛	— ⅜
CocaColas	61⅞	61⅛	61⅜	+ ⅛
ColgatePalm	106¼	105⅜	105⅛	—1¼
ComclMetals	29	28⅛	29	+ ⅜
CooperIn	45¼	44⅞	45	+ ⅛
CyprusAmax	22⅛	22¼	22½	+ ⅛
DallSemicn	26⅛	26	26⅛	+ ⅛
DeltaAirl	83¼	83¼	83¼	— ⅛
DigitalEq	34½	33⅞	34⅛	+ ⅛
Dillard	29	28¼	29	+ ⅛
DowChem	80⅜	80	80⅜	— ⅛
DresserInd	32	31⅛	31⅜	— ⅛
DuPont	109¼	108⅛	108¾	— ⅜
EastmanChem	55⅛	55⅛	55⅝	— ¼
EstKodak	94⅛	93⅜	94⅜	— ⅛
EDS Corp	47⅛	46⅜	47⅛	+ ⅛
Enserch	21	20⅞	20⅞	— ⅛
Entergy	26⅛	26⅛	26⅛	— ⅛
Exxon	104⅛	103⅜	104½	+ ⅜
FstBksAm		10⅜	10⅜	10⅜
Flowers	23	22⅛	22⅛	+ ⅛
FordMotor	33¼	32⅞	33	— ⅛
GTE Cp	49	48⅛	48⅜	— ⅜
GenDynam	70⅞	70¼	70¼	— ⅛
GenElec	108⅛	107	107½	+ ¼
GenMills	67⅜	66⅞	66⅞	— ⅛
GenMotors	58⅜	58⅛	58⅛	— ⅛
GaPacif	76	74⅜	74⅝	—1⅛
GlobalMar		21	20⅞	20⅞
Goodrichs		43¼	42⅞	43
Goodyear s	54⅜	53¼	53⅜	— ⅜
GtAtlPac	31¼	30⅜	31	+ ⅛
Haliburtn	69¼	68⅜	69	+ ¼
Hanson ADSs		7¼	7⅛	7⅛
HarteHanks	26⅜	26¼	26⅜	+ ¼
HomeDepot	51⅛	50½	51⅛	— ¼
HoustonInds		22¼	22¼	22¼
IBM	145⅛	143¾	143⅞	—1⅜
IntlPaper	42⅞	42¼	42⅜	— ⅜
JohnsnJn s	62⅜	62¼	62⅜	— ⅜
K mart		11	10⅞	10⅞
Kroger	51⅛	50⅜	50⅞	— ⅛
Litton	44⅞	43¾	44⅛	+ ¼
LockhdMart	89¼	88¼	89⅛	+ ⅛
Lowes Cos	34½	34¼	34¼	— ⅛
Lubys		21¼	21¼	21¼
LucentTech n	60	59¼	59⅜	+ ⅜
MayDeptStrs	46½	45¾	46	— ⅛
Medtronic	67⅞	65⅝	67⅜	—3½
Mobil		131⅛	130⅛	131⅛
Monsanto s		38⅜	38¼	38¼
Motorola	63¼	62	62⅝	+ ⅛
NCR Corp n	36¼	35⅜	35⅝	— ⅛
Nationsbk	123	121½	122⅝	+ ¼
Nationsbk wi	61¾	61¼	61⅜	+ ⅛
Navistar	9⅞	9⅜	9⅜	— ¼
NoramEngy	15	15	15	— ⅛
Norwest	51½	51¼	51⅜	— ¼
Nynex	52⅛	52⅛	52⅝	+ ⅜
OryxEngy	21¾	20¾	21⅜	+ ⅜
PacTelesis	40⅞	40½	40⅝	—9-64
PanEnergy	44	43¾	44	+ ⅛
Penney JC	48½	48	48½	— ¼
Pennzoil	61¼	60⅝	61¼	— ¼
PepBoys	34¼	33¾	34	— ⅛
PepsiCo s		32⅛	32½	32¾
PhelpDodge	73¼	72⅜	72⅞	+ ⅛
PhilipPet	43⅛	42⅜	43	— ⅛
PilgrmPrd		12	11¾	12
Polaroid		44	43¾	43¾
Praxair	50	49¾	49¾	— ⅛
ProctGamble	129¾	128	128½	—1
PubSNwMx		18¾	18⅜	18½
RoyalDutch	179⅜	178¼	178½	—3⅜
SBC Comm	57	56⅞	56⅞	— ⅛
SaraLee		39¼	39¾	39¾
SearsRoeb	54⅜	54¼	54¼	— ⅛
SherwinW	57⅞	57⅛	57½	— ½
SmthBchADS	76⅜	75	76⅛	+1⅛
SouthernCo	22¼	21⅞	22	— ⅛
SwstAirlines	23½	23¼	23⅜	+ ⅛
Sprint	44⅞	44¼	44⅜	+ ¼
SunCo	27⅞	27⅞	27⅞	— ⅛
TNP Ent	26⅛	26⅛	26⅛	— ⅛
Tandy	48	47¾	47⅞	— ⅛
TemplInl	56⅛	56	56	— ⅛
Tenneco	40⅜	40	40	— ½
Texaco	103¼	101¾	102⅛	+ ¼
TexasInd	56¼	56⅛	56⅛	— ⅛
TexasInst	82¼	80⅝	82¼	+1⅝
TexUtil	40⅜	40⅛	40½	— ⅛
Textron	103¼	102	102	—1⅜
Travelers s	58	57⅜	57⅝	— ⅛
TrinityInds	33	32¾	32⅝	— ⅛
TritonEngy		45¼	44¾	44¾
US WestCm	34¼	34	34	— ¼
USWstMda	19⅞	19¾	19⅞	+ ⅛
USX Delhi		15¾	15⅝	15⅝
USX-Marathn	27¼	27¼	27½	— ¼
USX-USS	32¼	32¼	32⅜	— ⅛
UnCarbde	47	46¾	47	+ ⅜
UnPac s		60¼	60	60¼
UnitedTech s	76⅞	76¼	76½	+ ⅜
Unocal	40¼	40¼	40⅜	— ⅛
WalMart	24¼	24¼	24⅜	— ⅛
WstnGasRs		20	20	20
WestghEl		17¼	17½	17⅜
WinnDixie	31½	31¼	31¼	— ⅜
Woolworth	19⅜	19½	19½	— ⅛
XeroxCp s	57⅛	56¼	56¼	+ ⅜
ZenithE	10⅞	10¾	10⅝	— ⅛

Astro-graph By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Thursday, Feb. 20, 1997

You might experience minor delays in what you hope to accomplish. Be patient, because when you make your move it will be significant.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Occasionally doing things in a routine manner is better than experimenting with untested methods. Time could be wasted today by departing from established patterns. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Persons who talk a lot but have little to say will make you feel uncomfortable today. Simply avoid them rather than alter your plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Watch your subordinates today, but try not to be unduly critical of minor infractions. No one is perfect, including yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your salesmanship might not be up to par today since you have a tendency to omit salient points. Take time to tell the entire story in detail.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Avoid individuals who are reluctant to share with others. Their approach might cause you to say something better left unsaid.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Associates usually know exactly where you stand on pertinent issues, but today it might be difficult for you to make up your mind, and your confusion could confuse them as well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Someone who has no business prying into your personal affairs might do so today. His or her clever probing could get you to reveal more than you should.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Do not discuss something you hope will happen too freely with others today. If it doesn't happen as you intended, detractors might make a big thing of it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You are able to cope relatively easily with major impediments today. Be very careful, however, not to blow petty annoyances out of proportion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Your criticism will not be well received. If you can't say something complimentary today about another's ideas, change the subject or say nothing at all.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) If you purchase anything of significance today, be sure the guarantees and warranties are in writing. Verbal promises will not mean very much.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) You are a quick thinker today, but you might be inclined to jump around too much for your own good. Focus on a purpose.

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Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Annie Dunn, P.O. Box 912; Opal Taylor, 1401 18th.

DISMISSALS: Jessica Highfield, Jeannie Wilkinson, Donnie Chorn, Vanice Lovett, Andrew Pace.

CENSUS: 53 (Med., Surg.-14, Long-term Care-36, CCU-1, OB-1, Nursery-1).

Scurry County Country

Diversified

By Terry J. Millican, County Extension Agent

COLLEGE STATION — A drug act recently signed into law by President Bill Clinton will increase drug availability for animals while still maintaining tight controls on the safety of the product.

Dr. Murl Bailey, professor of toxicology at Texas A&M University, said the Animal Drug Availability Act of 1996 will cut the time and cost of having animal drugs approved.

"The number of approved animal medicines to treat all diseases in all types of animals is extremely low," Bailey said.

The changes in the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) procedures will provide that agency with the flexibility to approve more products that are safe and effective for various types of animals.

"We have a lot of drugs that are approved for dogs and cats. We have a few more that are approved for horses, but we have very few drugs that are used in either beef or dairy cattle, hogs or sheep or goats because they are a food source or are a minor species," he said.

It takes from 7 to 10 years to get a drug approved now, he said, and that time could be cut by 20 percent.

There are some drugs that are approved for both human and animal use and some of the drugs used for humans are actually cheaper than the animal line.

Some veterinarians have been using the human line in small animals without FDA approval. Since this law cuts the approval time, the cost also should be reduced.

Specifically, the new legislation clarifies and expands the types of tests the FDA can accpet as evidence of an animal drug's effectiveness.

"What this means is if the company of the manufacturer has developed a good model, a model that they can do within their own research facililties, they may get enough data to get acceptable submission," Bailey said.

The legislation also:

•Removes the requirement that field investigations of a drug's efficacy (efficiency or strength) be required in every instance, while preserving the FDA's right to require such tests when necessary.

•Creates a binding presubmission conference at which the FDA and drug sponsors will agree on the types of date the agency will need for reviewing an application, and

•Streamlines the approval requirements when companies seek to market two previously-approved drugs in combination.

Colorado City Livestock Auction

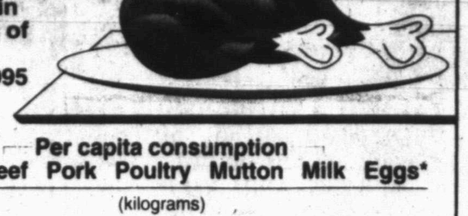
COLORADO CITY — The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 351 head of cattle at the Saturday, Feb. 15 sale. Feeder steers and heifers were steady. Slaughter cows and bulls were steady. Trade was active and demand good.

Heifers: 400 to 600, 66 to 74.50; 600 to 800, 64 to 69.
Steers: 400 to 500, 75 to 80; 500 to 600, 67.50 to 76; 600 to 800, 65 to 68.50.
Medium age to older bred cows: 445 to 515
Young cows and calves: 630 to 680.
Medium age to older cows and calves: 450 to 750.
Packer cows: 28 to 38.50.
Packer bulls: 42.25 to 48.75.

Wyoming is the Equality State.

Countries & consumption

Annual per capita grain use and consumption of livestock products in selected countries, 1995



Country	Grain use	Per capita consumption Beef	Pork	Poultry	Mutton	Milk	Eggs*
		(kilograms)					
United States	800	45	31	46	1	288	174
Italy	400	26	33	19	2	197	158
China	300	4	30	6	2	5	196
India	200	1	.4	1	1	34	<30

*number per person

Source: Worldwatch NEA Graphic

The people of the United States are among the world's major per capita consumers of grain, beef and poultry. The Italians and the Chinese consume about as much pork and eggs per capita as U.S. citizens.



NRCS Notes

By Terry Hefner, Soil Conservationist

Instead of using conventional two or three-week sign-up periods as in previous years, the popular U.S. Department of Agriculture Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) will begin an open-season format for landowners to enroll in the program.

The open-season format means that the sign-up period for enrollment will continue over the coming months. Landowners who feel they have lands that qualify for the program can stop by local offices of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to obtain more information and apply for the program.

The new 1996 Farm Bill, or Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, required that to the extent practicable, one-third of the remaining WRP acres be enrolled through the use of permanent easements, one-third through the use of 30-year easements, and one-third through the use of restoration cost-share agreements.

No new permanent easements can be enrolled until at least 42,333 acres of non-permanent easement are enrolled in the program nationwide.

As in previous sign-ups, the WRP objectives are to purchase conservation easements from, or enter into cost-sharing agreemments with, willing owners of eligible land. The program also helps eligible landowners restore the original hydrology, native vegetation, and natural topography of eligible lands. Another program objective is to restore and protect the functions and values of wetlands in the agricultural landscape.

Under the 1996 Farm Bill, the primary emphasis of the WRP is to restore the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain habitat for wildlife and migratory birds, including threatened and endangered species.

The WRP is administered by the NRCS in concurrence with the Farm Service Agency and in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other cooperating agencies and organizations like local soil and water conservation districts and Cooperative Extension Service.

Texas has been a national leader in enrollment acres in the WRP helping to convert former or degraded wetlands back into healthy, productive wetland ecosystems for the betterment of this state and nation.

For more information on the WRP, contact the local office of the NRCS (formerly called the Soil Conservation Service). All programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or disability.

TPWD News

By Calvin Richardson, Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Two weeks ago, we talked about the Good Ol' Days when there was an abudance of fowl for bird hunters. I stressed how much the drought and changes farming and irrigation methods have made a major impact.

This week, I will address some other points.

"Decrease the bag limit and shorten the season."

Upland bird populations have always shown severe fluctuations among years (regardless of hunting pressure) and will continue to show large fluctuations as determined by the weather's impact on habitat.

Numerous field studies conducted over the past 50 years have repeatedly demonstrated that a large proportion of birds die from natural causes each year (75-90 percent of quail and 70-80 percent of pheasants) regardless of whether we hunt or not.

Quail and pheasant populations completely protected from hunting have followed the same "roller coaster" pattern as bird populations that were hunted the entire season.

The combined effects of disease, accidents, nutritional problems, predation and exposure to weather extremes have always played the greatest role in determininng population trends and will continue to do so because they are directly related to habitat quality.

Although weather is the primary driving force of bird population trends in West Texas, land managers still have the ability to maximize the effects of good weather when it finally comes.

For quail, this includes light to moderate, rotational grazing, prescribed burning, spring discing, and the proper height and density of brush. For pheasants, this includes a good combination of cereal grains (corn or sorghum and wheat), creating or maintaining dense cover, and the strategic use of water to create beneficial food, cover and nesting conditions.

"Texas Parks & Wildlife should release some birds to boost the population."

I just explained how tough it is on birds to survive and reproduce when drought conditions persist and result in scarce escape cover, food and nesting cover. What kind of chance does a pen-reared bird have with only a fair ability to escape and search for food?

Landowners who are releasing birds during an extended drought may feel good about their efforts, but the hawks and coyotes are even happier! (Most quail starve within five days of being released).

Even in the best of conditions when native birds are thriving, pen-reared upland birds have demonstrated only a 5-10 percent survival rate over a six-month period.

Upland birds have a tremendous reproduction potential under proper weather and habitat conditions. With some good moisture during the winter and spring, quail populations can bounce back from fair or even poor numbers.

Because quail tend to use bunchgrasses for nesting (previous year's growth), the "boom" years for quail usually occur when we get a second consecutive year of adequate and timely rainfall.

"But how can the birds "bounce back" if we don't have any "seed stock?"

First of all, there are few farms and ranches that are devoid of any birds. you may not see them when hunting in the fall or winter, but I challenge you to spend some early mornings in April and May listening for quail whistling and pheasant cocks crowing.

Secondly, upland birds have behavioral mechanisms that continually allow them to repopulate and take advantage of available habitat.

Studies in Oklahoma and Texas have documented quail moving as much as 35 and 50 miles, respectively. These long distance movements normally occur in September and October. This behavior in bobwhite quail has sometimes been referred to as the "fall shuffle."

Pheasants have the ability to move even greater distances than quail. So even if you don't have "seed stock" on your farm or ranch today, it's just a matter of time.

For those interested in improving wildlife habitat on their land, free techincal assistance is available from Texas Parks & Wildlife Biologists through the Private Land Enhancement Program.

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Town & Country Topics

By Kathryn Roberts, County Extension Agent

Typically, young children do not receive instructional programs on preventing sexual abuse. It has generally been believed that children 4 to 6 years old are simply too young to understand the concepts involved, or that it would instill too great a fear in them.

However, research performed at the University of Colorado provides evidence that successful sexual abuse training can be effective with young children.

Using a behavioral skills training program, children learned when it is inappropriate for adults to touch or look at their private parts. These 4 to 6 year olds learned how to stop an uncomfortable situation by saying "No," loudly and repeatedly and removing themselves from the situation. Children were also taught how to report the incident to someone.

Following the training, extensive follow-up was performed to determine if the children had in fact retained the information and if the information about sex abuse prevention had caused them any anxiety.

Researchers reported that children were able to explain the difference between appropriate and inappropriate touching, and had a good grasp of the sexual abuse concept. These children also scored well on a standardized measure of personal safety skills. There was also no evidence through personal interviews with the children that they suffered any anxiety from their new knowledge.

Area Angus breeder noted

Joe Canon of Gail owns one bull listed in the 1997 Spring Sire Evaluation Report, published by the American Angus Association.

Issued in both the spring and fall, the new report features the latest performance information available on 4,424 sires.

The information is in the form of Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs). It is compiled from Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) submitted by breeders to the American Angus Association.

EPDs are excellent indicators of the genetic merit animals have for specific traits, according to John Crouch, director of performance programs for the Association. When using EPDs with high accuracy values, cattle producers can depend on EPDs for predicting performance.

Traits for which EPDs are available include birth weight, weaning weight, milk, yearling weight, mature daughter size and scrotal circumference.

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Deer farms: A growing industry

BURRILLVILLE, R.I. (AP) — When things get tough on the farm, a smart farmer usually looks for a new way to keep things going. For John Barnatowicz, the answer is deer antlers.

When the deer on his farm in Burrillville get old enough, he and a veterinarian will tranquilize the animals and remove their antlers. But the antlers won't be mounted above his fireplace. He'll sell them whole or grind them into a powder for homeopathic medicine to treat arthritis, high blood pressure and other ailments.

Barnatowicz has started the first deer farm in Rhode Island. He owns about 20 male bucks and plans to buy 20 pregnant does to build a herd of about 300 males on the Granite Acres Red Deer Farm.

He'll harvest the antlers while they are soft, when they contain a special combination of nutrients used for homeopathic medicines popular in many countries. Some practitioners claim that soft antler strengthens the blood, reduces stress, protects against liver damage, promotes bone growth and improves sex.

"The biggest market for us would be South Korea," says Barnatowicz, a carpenter whose family has owned the farm since 1929.

He said he got the idea from a newspaper article about the growing deer farming industry in Maine.

2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

NATO weapons ceiling reductions eyed

LONDON (AP) — Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is taking a proposal for reductions in NATO weapons ceilings to Moscow on Thursday in an effort to ease Russia's concerns with the projected eastward expansion of the military alliance.

Albright stopped here today to discuss a range of concessions with British Prime Minister John Major, Defense Minister Michael Portillo and Foreign Minister Malcolm Rifkind.

The aim is to placate Russia with assurances that NATO is not the same alliance that confronted the Soviet Union during the Cold War. On her trip to Europe this week she has dismissed such fears as "old think."

The NATO allies already enjoy a 3-1 superiority over Russia in tanks and other nonnuclear forces in Europe. And the United States and its allies, with the Cold War over, are actually below their permissible ceilings.

Still, Congress members wary of any U.S. military cutback, even one that is mainly theoretic, are apt to be critical of the offer. At the same time, some are skeptical of expanding NATO to Russia's western border because of the cost.

The ceilings were established in the Conventional Forces in Europe accords in 1990. As part of the conciliation, Russia is likely to get a green light to redeploy its tanks and other equipment to take NATO's expansion into account, administration officials said.

"No longer is NATO arrayed in opposition to any one country," Albright said Tuesday in Brussels, Belgium. "Its mission is peace and cooperation with all who wish to work with it."

Anti-abortion demonstrators gain free speech ruling from high court

WASHINGTON (AP) — Anti-abortion demonstrators have a free-speech right to confront clinic patients and staffers up close on public streets and sidewalks as long as they stay more than 15 feet away from the clinic, the Supreme Court ruled today.

In splintered voting, the court struck down a federal judge's order that had kept most demonstrators at abortion clinics in the Buffalo and Rochester, N.Y., areas 15 feet away from any patient or staff member.

The court said that a "floating buffer zone" — on public byways — violates demonstrators' free-speech rights, as guaranteed by the Constitution's First Amendment.

But the court upheld a fixed buffer zone that keeps demonstrators at least 15 feet away from clinic doorways, driveways and driveway entrances.

The court also upheld a part of the federal judge's order requiring so-called sidewalk counselors who approach patients within the fixed buffer zones to retreat when patients indicate a desire not to be counseled.

In other action, the court:

—Ruled 7-2 in a Maryland case that police can order passengers, as well as drivers, to get out of vehicles during traffic stops.

—Agreed unanimously in a Florida decision that states cannot cancel early-release credits after giving them to inmates in an effort to ease prison overcrowding.

—Ruled that sergeants and lieutenants in the St. Louis Police Department are not entitled to time-and-one-half pay for working overtime. The officers are exempt as white collar employees from the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, the court said.

The justices also heard arguments in a dispute over building permits between a Catholic church and officials in a tiny Texas town, a legal battle that has become a Supreme Court test of the constitutionality of a 1993 religious freedom law.

The case being argued before the justices today has been billed as one of the most important religious freedom cases ever before the high court.

Obituaries



Michael Fennell

Michael Fennell

1984-1997

Service for Michael Keith Fennell, 12, is set for 10 a.m. Friday in the First Baptist Church Chapel. Dr. Marty Akins, pastor, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Michael, a student at Snyder Junior High School, died Monday, Feb. 17, at Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Born May 24, 1984 in Big Spring, he was a member of the 7th grade football and basketball teams.

Survivors include his parents, Tommy and Judy Fennell of Snyder; two sisters, Cynthia Fennell of Snyder and Kristie Fennell of Seattle, Wash.; his maternal grandmother, Bobbie Wheelus of Monroe, La.; his paternal grandparents, Juanita Fennell of Snyder and C.C. Fennell of Vernal, Utah; and his great-grandmother, Ruby Reese of Snyder.

Clarence Merritt

1905-1997

Clarence Thomas Merritt, 91, of Dunn died Tuesday, Feb. 18, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital following a lengthy illness.

Services are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Sept. 14, 1905 in Mansfield, Mr. Merritt married Jack Ann Hickey on Jan. 27, 1949 in Tom Green County. She died in 1995.

Mr. Merritt, a farmer, was also preceded in death by several brothers and sisters.

Survivors include a son, Roger Williams of Lubbock; and two sisters-in-law, Florene Merritt and Pauline Merritt, both of Snyder.

Personal, Professional Service

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME

3101 College Ave. 573-5454

D'Alve Alford

1909-1997

D'Alve "Dee" Alford, a former resident of Snyder, died Sunday, Feb. 16, at her home in Gilbert, Ariz.

Graveside service for Mrs. Alford, 88, is set for 11 a.m. Thursday in Snyder's Hillside Memorial Gardens. The Rev. Ernie McGaughey, pastor of the First United Methodist Church, will officiate. Arrangements are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Feb. 13, 1909 in Valley Mills, Tex., she was married to Roswell Alford who preceded her in death. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Snyder.

A homemaker, Mrs. Alford had moved to Gilbert, Ariz., one year ago.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Jackie and Daphne Alford of Gilbert; two grandchildren, Teri McDonald and Shea McDonald; two sisters-in-law, Cotheo Mann of Clifton and Willie Mann of Wichita Falls.

She was also preceded in death by six brothers and one sister.

L.H. Terrell

1922-1997

BELTON — A memorial service has been set at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Dossman Funeral Home for L.H. Terrell of Belton, brother of Jessie Scarborough of Snyder. Belton Masonic Lodge 166 will also conduct rites at the service.

Mr. Terrell, 74, died Monday, Feb. 17, in the Temple Healthcare Center. His body has been willed to the Texas A&M College of Medicine.

Born on Oct. 21, 1922 in Kirkland. Mr. Terrell was a graduate of Kirkland High School and attended West Texas State University in Canyon. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

Mr. Terrell married LaVerne Hander on Dec. 31, 1948 in Childress. He was a Civil Service employee for 37 years, and had been a salesman for USDA Crop Insurance in Belton. He was a member of the Belton Masonic Lodge, the American Legion and the First United Methodist Church.

Other survivors include his wife, LaVerne Terrell of Belton; two sons, Don W. Terrell of Palestine and Allen Terrell of Dallas; and two grandchildren.

Ask Us

Q—Now that the commissioners court has allowed Scurry County Library to be in the Internet, will the facility start opening to the public at 9 a.m. instead of 10?

A—The library is not on the Internet at this time, but anticipates having that capability in the near future. When that occurs there are no plans to open the library earlier. Library hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The library is closed Sunday.

Two teens in custody

Two teen-agers were arrested Tuesday on alcohol-related charges following an accident which occurred at 9:29 p.m. in the 500 block of Coliseum Drive.

Arrested were two 18-year-old males, one for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated and the other for public intoxication.

The accident followed a report of a fight at 9:20 p.m. in the 2800 block of West Highway 180 in which the two people who were later arrested were present.

Two reports of juvenile problems were made Tuesday night. At 7:50 p.m., four juveniles were reported around the soft drink machine at the Rental Store and More. Officers were to check with the owners today to determine whether any additional damages to the machine was incurred. One of the juveniles was later located and released to his mother.

An offense report for family violence was submitted at 3:29 p.m. in reference to a woman being assaulted by her husband. No charges were filed.

At 8:05 p.m., a clerk at Skinny's on East Highway reported problems with a juvenile in the store. The subject was released to his mother.

The fire department responded to a small grass fire at 2:18 p.m. on Highway 208 South.

A report of a gas drive-off was made at 5:59 p.m. from the Plaza Truck Stop.

Officers investigated a two-vehicle accident at 9:29 p.m. in the 500 block of Coliseum Drive. Involved were a 1993 Chevrolet pickup driven by Chad Stewart of 4510 El Paso and a 1991 Chevrolet driven by Carma Brandon of 1112 30th St.

WTC students will be honored

Jonathon Carroll of Hawley and Jana McCloy of Morse, both members of the Psi Zeta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, will travel to Austin Thursday for a luncheon honoring them for being named to the All USA Community and Junior College Academic Team.

The Western Texas College sophomores were chosen in a campus-wide selection process held last semester.

The luncheon is sponsored by USA TODAY and Phi Theta Kappa.

Datebook

DATE BOOK

Feb. 19, 1997

Today is the 50th day of 1997 and the 61st day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1878, Thomas Edison received a patent for the cylinder phonograph.

On this day in 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the order that sent more than 100,000 Japanese-Americans to internment camps.

On this day in 1981, George Harrison was found guilty of plagiarizing the song "She's So Fine" in writing "My Sweet Lord."

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Nicolas Copernicus (1473-1543), astronomer; Stan Kenton (1912-1979), musician; Eddie Arcaro (1916-), jockey, is 81; Carson McCullers (1917-1967), writer; Lee Marvin (1924-1987), actor; John Frankenheimer (1930-), director, is 67; William "Smokey" Robinson (1940-), singer-songwriter, is 57; Amy Tan (1952-), author, is 45.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1984, American brothers Phil and Stave Mahre won the Olympic gold and silver medals in the slalom at Sarajevo.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Finally we shall place the Sun himself at the center of the Universe. All this is suggested by the systematic procession of events and the harmony of the whole Universe, if only we face the facts, as they say, 'with both eyes open.'" — Nicholas Copernicus

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1884, an outbreak of tornadoes raked the southeast, from Mississippi to Virginia.

SOURCE: 1997 Weather Guide Calendar, Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Feb. 14) and new moon (Feb. 22).

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Bridge

Continued From Page 7

takes his ace, both dummy's club losers disappear on South's heart winners. But declarer misplayed, leading a heart honor from hand: one down.

Do you think he felt guilty and did it intentionally?

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What's Up?

Football booster club

The football booster club encourages players, parents and Tiger Moms from the 1996 football season to meet at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Edward D. Jones office.

Nurses to graduate Thursday

Graduation and pinning ceremonies for vocational nursing students at Western Texas College will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday at Trinity United Methodist Church.

SNS needs financial help

Snyder Neighbors Sharing, which repairs homes of persons over 65 or disabled, is in need of donations for the April 26 workday. Donations can be mailed to SNS, P.O. Box 541, Snyder, or dropped off at Sam Robertson's Insurance or the West Elementary School office.

Adult education classes

GED and ESL classes are available at Western Texas College. Times are 8-11 a.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contact the college continuing education department for more information.

Tiger baseball fund-raiser

Chances for a $500 trip certificate from Premier Travel will be sold for $2 each by Snyder baseball players, with a drawing set for 1 p.m. March 1. Proceeds will be used to purchase baseball equipment and help with travel expenses. Contact any high school baseball player for tickets, or call 573-3155, 573-7145, 573-7437 or 573-3298.

Free tax help provided

An AARP tax aide will be available on Wednesdays at the Senior Center from 9 a.m. until noon and 1-3 p.m. to help middle and low income older taxpayers prepare their personal income taxes. For information, call 573-4035 or 573-3822.

Junior high night out

Snyder Junior High Night Out will be Tuesday at Spanish Inn. All parents, students and staff are encouraged to participate.

McMurry Concert Band

The McMurry University Concert Band will perform at Snyder High School at 1 p.m. next Wednesday.

Kiwanis Pancake Feast coming

Snyder Noon Kiwanis Club members are selling tickets for their annual pancake feast, set for March 1 in the West Elementary cafeteria. The all-you can east feast will be from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tickets are $4. Children under age 6 can eat free. You can have tickets delivered by calling 573-0972.

Barbecue luncheon slated

The 4th annual barbecue luncheon, a Noah Project fund-raiser, will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 2, at Saint Elizabeth Catholic Church. Tickets are $6 for adults and $3 for children 12 and under and are available at the door or in advance by calling 573-1822.

Windbreak seedlings available

Windbreak seedlings have arrived at the NRCS office at 5309 Big Spring Highway and are ready to be picked up. Several different kinds are available for purchase.

Bible study video tapes

Bible study video tapes are airing on TCA Cable TV Channel 2. They are followed by a new series titled "Hope for Life's Journey." The first Bible tape, "The Day Jerusalem Was Destroyed," will air at 7 p.m. Monday. It will be followed by "Things Only Heaven Can Cure."

Grief support group

The grief support group meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church.

Senior Swimnastics

Senior Swimnastics is held each Tuesday and Thursday at the Western Texas College pool from 2:15-3:45 p.m.

Pick 3

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

6-9-3

(six, nine, three)

Cash 5

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

Winning numbers drawn: 11-22-24-27-37.

Number matching five of five: five.

Prize per winnner: $33,905.

Winning ticket(s) sold in: Corpus Christi, Waxahachie, Dallas, Port Arthur, Eagle Pass.

Matching four of five: 418. Prize: $608.

Matching three of five: 15,792. Prize: $27.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Father admits he killed his children

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — In a surprise admission on the day his murder trial was to begin, a man sobbed as he told the judge how he strangled his 12-year-old daughter and killed his 10-year-old son during a custody battle over their religious upbringing.

"I held my hands around her neck for about five minutes with my face pressed to hers," Avi Kostner said Tuesday in court. "I cried ... 'Please forgive me. Please God forgive me.'"

Kostner said he drugged the children and put them in the back of a car. He killed the girl after she awoke but said couldn't bring himself to strangle the boy, so he gave him more of a tranquilizer. He also used a hose to fill the car with its exhaust fumes.

Kostner, a taxi driver and part-time Hebrew teacher, surprised even his own lawyer when he suddenly asked to address the court after the judge had sent the newly selected jurors to lunch. He then pleaded guilty and confessed to the killings, which came during a battle over custody and whether the children would be raised as Jews.

Capitol Briefs

Bill will regulate abortion facilities

AUSTIN (AP) — State regulation of abortion facilities would be strengthened under a bill passed by the Texas Senate.

The bill by Sen. Chris Harris, R-Arlington, was passed Tuesday and goes to the House for consideration.

Supported by such diverse groups as the National Organization for Women and the Eagle Forum, the bill would authorize administrative penalties against abortion clinics that violate state standards.

It also would allow the Texas Department of Health to immediately suspend or revoke an abortion facility's license when people's health and safety are threatened.

The department would be allowed to release to state licensing boards information and records relating to abortion facilities in order to enforce state licensing laws.

The bill is SB407.

Convictions to be harder to reverse

AUSTIN (AP) — State appeals courts couldn't throw out criminal convictions for "harmless errors" that occurred at trial under a bill passed by the Texas Senate under the banner of victims' rights.

"Crime victims all across the state are asking the Legislature to make it very, very clear that criminals are entitled to a fair trial. They're not entitled to a perfect trial," said Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown, R-Lake Jackson, author of the bill.

The measure passed Tuesday and goes to the House for consideration.

Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, said he supports crime victims but voiced concern that the bill would upset the balance between their rights and those of defendants.

"The passage of a bill like this pretty much allows trial court judges to pick and choose the standards that they want to enforce," West said.

Under the bill, appeals courts could not reverse a case unless the record showed it was "more probable than not" that a trial court error affected the verdict or sentence to the defendant's detriment — unless the error involved constitutional rights.

For constitutional errors, courts would have to reverse a case unless the record showed beyond a reasonable doubt that the error didn't contribute to conviction or punishment.

As an example of a conviction that should not have been reversed, Brown cited the case of Lionell Gonzales Rodriguez, convicted twice in the 1990 slaying of 22-year-old Tracy Gee of Houston.

Rodriguez was found guilty of shooting her at a stoplight, stealing her car and running over her body.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in 1993 overturned his first conviction because names of potential jurors were shuffled twice before trial instead of once. Rodriguez was tried again, convicted, and again sentenced to death. His second death sentence was upheld.

'It had a devastating effect on the family of that victim" to have to undergo a second trial, Brown said. "If one (conviction) is reversed that does not need to be reversed, then I think we are not doing our job."

The harmless error bill is SB114.

Children's protective legislation

AUSTIN (AP) — Bills meant to protect young people by expanding health care coverage, making tobacco less accessible and instituting "zero tolerance" for juveniles who drink and drive were promoted as a "triple threat" by lawmakers.

The bills "are a clear indication that we're looking out for the future of Texas and that we must continue to press forward to fulfill that mission," said Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi, one of several sponsors of the legislative package.

The "triple threat" package includes a House bill that would make children's health care coverage more available; a Senate bill that would lower the allowable blood alcohol content for drivers under age 21 from 0.07 to zero; and a Senate bill that would, among other things, require tobacco retailers to verify the age of purchasers younger than 27.

Some of the measures have failed in previous legislative sessions. The Senate bill to control tobacco sales is in its third legislative round, but sponsors, such as Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, say the timing is right.

"This bill is overdue in terms of passing," said Ms. Zaffirini of the bill which was referred to the Senate Health Committee.

In addition to requiring identification, the tobacco bill would:

— Restrict vending machines to places inaccessible to minors;

— Prohibit the distribution of free samples or coupons redeemable for free or discounted tobacco products.

— Prohibit outdoor advertising of tobacco products except at facilities leased or owned by a professional sports franchise.

The "zero tolerance" bill, which was passed unopposed in the Senate and has been referred to the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, would also affect non-driving alcohol offenses by minors, such as possession, imposing sanctions such as driver's license suspension; community service and fines.

The "Healthy Kids" bill, which has been referred to the House Public Health Committee, would create a non-profit corporation to administer a low-cost insurance plan for children who don't qualify for Medicaid coverage. Families would enroll voluntarily and pay a sliding-scale premium based on their income.

When asked about the prospects of passing all three bills, Berlanga was confident.

"I don't think anyone can (oppose the legislation)," Berlanga said. "I want someone who's opposed to children having insurance in Texas to come forth and to tell me why ..."

The tobacco control bill is SB55. The zero tolerance bill is SB35. The health insurance bill is HB3.

Athiests' property seized by IRS

AUSTIN (AP) — The bizarre case of missing atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair has taken another twist with the Internal Revenue Service seizure of her home and property to pay $250,000 in back taxes.

Ms. O'Hair, whose 1962 lawsuit led to the U.S. Supreme Court banning school-sponsored prayer, has been missing for about 18 months.

Stuart Bradford, a spokesman for the IRS in Texas, said the agency filed a lien on Ms. O'Hair's property on Jan. 21 for personal taxes unpaid in 1980, 1986, 1987 and 1988.

Agents showed up with moving trailers at 11 a.m. Tuesday to take possession.

"The tax lien was for real and personal property and so today we're seizing the property to protect the government's interest in the tax lien," Bradford said.

Two trailers were parked outside of Ms. O'Hair's northwest Austin home, where 10 IRS agents were taking an inventory of property and removing items from the home, including furniture, boxes and televisions.

The agency expected to finish removing the items today.

"It wouldn't take us a day and a half if it was (left in good condition)," an agent said of the home's interior. He asked not to be identified.

Bradford said the house and personal possessions will be auctioned soon to pay the debt. Auction dates haven't been set.

Consumers warned about deadly drug

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's billed as an easy high and an aphrodisiac — and at $10 a vial, cheap enough for teen-agers to easily buy — but the government is warning Americans that even a small amount of the increasingly popular party drug GHB can kill.

The illegal chemical is blamed for dozens of hospitalizations and at least three deaths, the Food and Drug Administration said in issuing its consumer warning Tuesday. Among the deaths: a Texas high school student whose soft drink was spiked at a dance club, and a Virginia woman in her 20s who police thought had been driving drunk before an autopsy discovered GHB.

FDA's criminal investigators are tracking underground laboratories that produce GHB, known by such street names as "cherry meth" and "liquid ecstasy." The FDA is calling on police officers and emergency room doctors to aggressively test for the chemical so the government will have a better idea of how widely it is abused.

"The individual consumer should not even be thinking about taking this drug," said Jim Dahl, assistant director of the FDA's Criminal Investigations Office. "It is very bad for you, and it can certainly cause death."

GHB, or gamma hydroxybutyrate, is an odorless, nearly tasteless drug that produces a high. But it also can cause vomiting, tremors and seizures — side effects strong enough to send some people into comas.

Those side effects derailed GHB's original development as a surgical anesthetic. In 1991, when the chemical became popular among body builders as a steroid alternative, the FDA declared GHB illegal to manufacture or sell for any purpose.

But after an initial lull, the FDA says, GHB is experiencing a resurgence.

Just a week ago, three Massachusetts college students were hospitalized after trying GHB. Two fell into a coma, but all eventually recovered. The drug is believed one of several that sickened dozens of youths at a New Year's Eve concert in Los Angeles, and California doctors last fall reported having to resuscitate Hollywood nightclub patrons who stopped breathing after ingesting the drug.

And police officers around the country are reporting that GHB can be used as a "date rape" drug, slipped into a woman's drink to render her helpless.

Since 1995, FDA prosecutors have begun 45 investigations of underground GHB manufacturing or distribution, 12 of which have resulted in convictions so far.

Its inherent danger aside, doctors say GHB is made so haphazardly that people might think the dose that gave them a mild buzz once is safe to try again — only to have the same amount send them into a coma because the new batch is more potent.

"It's a very narrow margin of error," said Dr. Rossanne Philen of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is preparing to publish a study of GHB injuries in Texas and New York. "There's no easy way for an individual who is going to consume this substance to tell the purity of it."

The drug commonly is distributed as a white powder or clear liquid that can be mixed into a drink.

Carrey wants to change his repertoire

NEW YORK (AP) — Jim Carrey may be growing up.

The actor, who often plays sophomoric maniacs, wants to expand his repertoire.

"I do all these wacky things, and that's truly a part of me," he says in the March issue of Premiere magazine. "But I'm just trying to show you that there's a worthwhile something inside here — not just funny faces and tricks."

But Carrey's latest film, another comedy, doesn't appear to be a departure: It's called "Liar, Liar."

After four straight blockbusters, including "Ace Ventura, Pet Detective," many critics panned Carrey's last movie, the dark comedy "The Cable Guy."

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Discuss impotence with the doctor

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: At age 70, I have problems with impotence. More important, my semen has taken on a pinkish color. My prostate blood test was slightly high, but I had a biopsy that was normal. Is the semen problem part of the aging process?

DEAR READER: Usually not. I suspect that you are experiencing bleeding into your semen. This may be caused by something as trivial as a low-grade prostate infection or it may have more ominous overtones, such as cancer.

I am further concerned about your high PSA level. This blood test is useful in diagnosing prostate cancer. Possibly your urologist's biopsies missed such a malignancy, but it's more likely that the abnormal test (and the bleeding) is coming from prostatitis (a prostate infection).

In my opinion, you should return to your urologist and discuss this situation with him. You probably need to undergo cystoscopy, a test during which the specialist examines your lower urinary tract for tumors, polyps or signs of infection. Further, at the time of your visit, the doctor can address the problem of impotence, which is an issue unrelated to your prostate gland.

To give you more information, I am sending you copies of my Health Reports "Impotence" and "The Prostate Gland." Other readers who would like copies should send $2 for each report plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title(s).

DEAR DR. GOTT: During several visits to my doctor, he discovered that my blood pressure was lower in my left arm (88/52) than in my right arm (130/70). He gave me no explanation for this, saying only that my blood pressures are normal. At age 75, should I be concerned about this?

DEAR READER: Although the arterial circulation is a hydraulic system and the pressure within it should be the same throughout, in practice this may not be true, especially in the elderly. As older folks develop inevitable arteriosclerotic plaques, the pressure may be lower in arteries that are partially blocked. If, for example, you had some obstruction to the blood flow in your left arm, the pressure might well be significantly lower than on the right side.

In your case, both pressures are low and normal; therefore, you can ignore the discrepancies. Nonetheless, in some patients, discordant blood pressures associated with hypertension (blood pressures above 150/90) can be serious and require therapy. This is the reason that doctors routinely check the blood pressures in both arms when examining patients with hypertension.

However, given your normal blood pressures, I believe that the higher value is probably the valid figure, about which you need to do nothing.

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SEARS

BIG SPRING & SWEETWATER

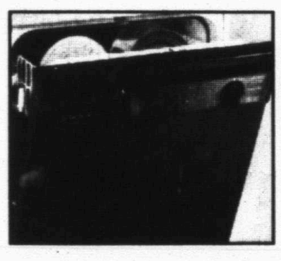
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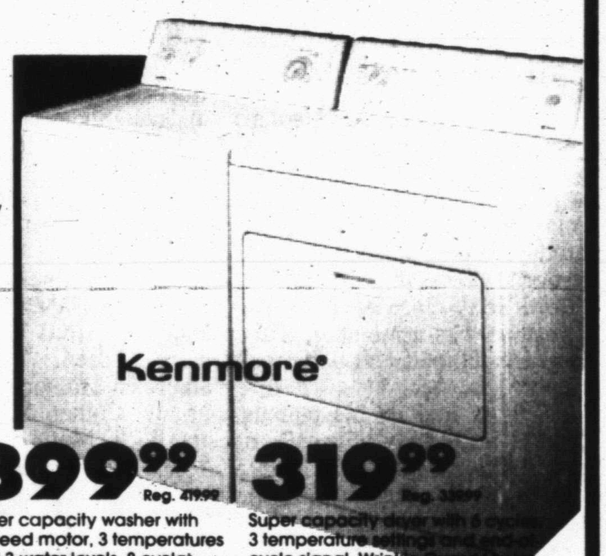


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Kenmore

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CRAFTSMAN

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