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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
July 28, 2003
Vol. 55 No. 76
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Mollie Shearer

On interlocal agreement...

City, county to hold joint meeting tonight

Snyder city council and the Scurry County commissioners' court will meet to discussed shared services in a joint session at 6 p.m. today at city hall.

The expired intergovernmental contract between the two entities is the only item on the agenda.

The commissioners will recess from this evening's meeting and will reconvene at 10 a.m. Tuesday in the county courtroom.

Tuesday's agenda for the county includes a budget workshop and a discussion on this evening's meeting.

The cost of fighting fires outside the city limits by the Snyder Fire Department has been one item of contention by the city council as the council has discussed the present interlocal agreement several times over the past few months.

Also, the council has indicated liability in fighting the fires is also a point of contention.

The commissioners' court contends the present agreement is fair since the county furnishes several services to the city, including the Scurry County Jail and supplements EMS services.

At a recent county budget workshop, the commissioners discussed the EMS service and Precinct Four Commissioner Chloanne Lindsey said she understood that if the agreement becomes invalid, the county could no longer supplement the EMS.

A letter from Snyder mayor Francene Noah to the commissioners and county judge dated June 16 gave notice that the city intends to terminate the present agreement 90 days from that date.

Lindsey also has said the liability issue is moot since Texas law states the county would hold harmless civil liability for city firefighters responding to fires outside the city limits.

Most honored comedian...

Bob Hope dead at age 100

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bob Hope, ski jump-nosed master of the one-liner and favorite comedian of servicemen and presidents alike, has died, just two months after turning 100.

Hope died late Sunday of pneumonia at his home in Toluca Lake, with his family at his bedside, longtime publicist Ward Grant said today.

The nation's most-honored comedian, Hope was a star in every category open to him — vaudeville, radio, television and film, most notably a string of "Road" movies with longtime friend Bing Crosby. For decades, he took his show on the road to bases around the world, boosting the morale of servicemen from World War II to the Gulf War.

President Bush said today that "the nation lost a great citizen" with Hope's death.

"Bob Hope served our nation when he went to battlefields to entertain thousands of troops from different generations," the president said. "We extend our prayers to his family. God bless his soul."

Hope perfected the one-liner, peppering audiences with a fusillade of brief, topical gags.

"I bumped into Gerald Ford the other day. I said, 'Pardon me.' He said, 'I don't do that anymore.'"

He poked fun gently, without malice, and made himself the butt of many jokes. His golf



Bob Hope

scores and physical attributes, including his celebrated ski-jump nose, were frequent subjects:

"I want to tell you, I was built like an athlete once — big chest, hard stomach. Of course, that's all behind me now."

When Hope went into one of his monologues, it was almost as though the world was conditioned to respond. No matter that the joke was old or flat; he was Bob Hope and he got laughs.

"Audiences are my best friends," he liked to say. "You never tire of talking with your best friends."

He was admired by his peers, and generations of younger comedians. Woody Allen called Hope "the most influential comedian for me."

Hope earned a fortune, gave lavishly to charity and was showered with awards, so many that he had to rent a warehouse to store them.

Through he said he was afraid of flying, Hope traveled countless miles to entertain servicemen in field hospitals, jungles and aircraft carriers from France to Berlin to Vietnam to the Persian Gulf. His Christmas tours became tradition.

He headlined in so many war zones that he had a standard joke for the times he was interrupted by gunfire: "I wonder which one of my pictures they saw?"

So often was Hope away entertaining, and so little did he see his wife, Dolores, and their four adopted children, that he once remarked, "When I get home these days, my kids think I've been booked on a personal appearance tour."

Hope had a reputation as an ad-libber, but he kept a stable of writers and had filing cabinets full of jokes. He never let a good joke die — if it got a laugh in Vietnam, it would get a laugh in Saudi Arabia.

On his 100th birthday, he was too frail to take part in public celebrations, but was said to be alert and happy — and overwhelmed by the outpouring of affection. The fabled intersection of Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street was renamed Bob Hope Square, and President Bush established the Bob Hope American Patriot Award.

"He can't believe that this is happening and that he's made it to his Big 100," son Kelly Hope said at the time.

He was born Leslie Townes Hope on May 29, 1903, in Eltham, England, the fifth of seven sons of a British stonemason and a Welsh singer of light opera. The Hopes emigrated to the United States when he was 4 and settled in Cleveland. They found themselves in the backwash of the 1907 depression.

The boy helped out by selling newspapers and working in a shoe store, a drug store and a meat market. He also worked as a caddy and developed a lifelong fondness for golf. A highly competitive golfer, he later shot in the 70s and sponsored the Bob Hope Golf Classic, one of the nation's biggest tournaments.

Hope changed his name to Bob when classmates ridiculed his English schoolboy name.

He boxed for a time under the name Packy East — "I was on more canvases than Picasso" — and also tried a semester in college before devoting himself to show business. He quickly veered from song and dance to comedy patter, and his monologue routine was born.

Hermleigh board meets at 7 tonight

Mostly routine business awaits the Hermleigh ISD board of trustees when it will meet in a called session at 7 o'clock this evening.

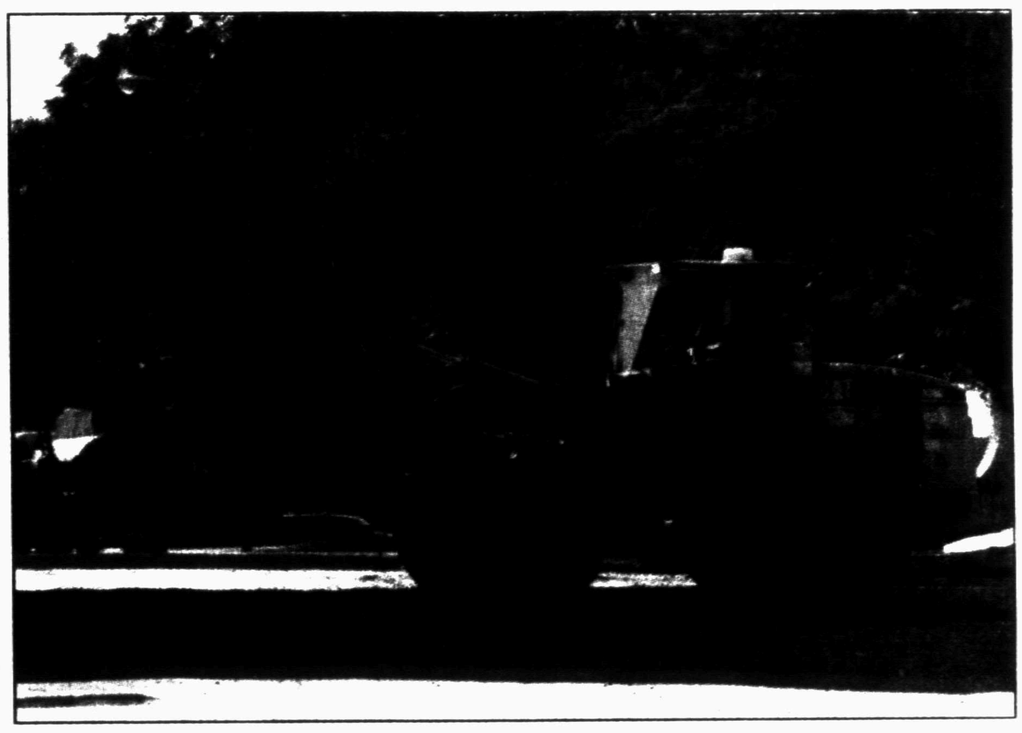
One personnel matter is on the agenda as the board is expected to hire a replacement for second grade teacher Carrie Greene who has resigned.

Supt. Marvin Beaty said the trustees also will discuss board goals and training, employee handbook revisions, and the student handbook and code of conduct.

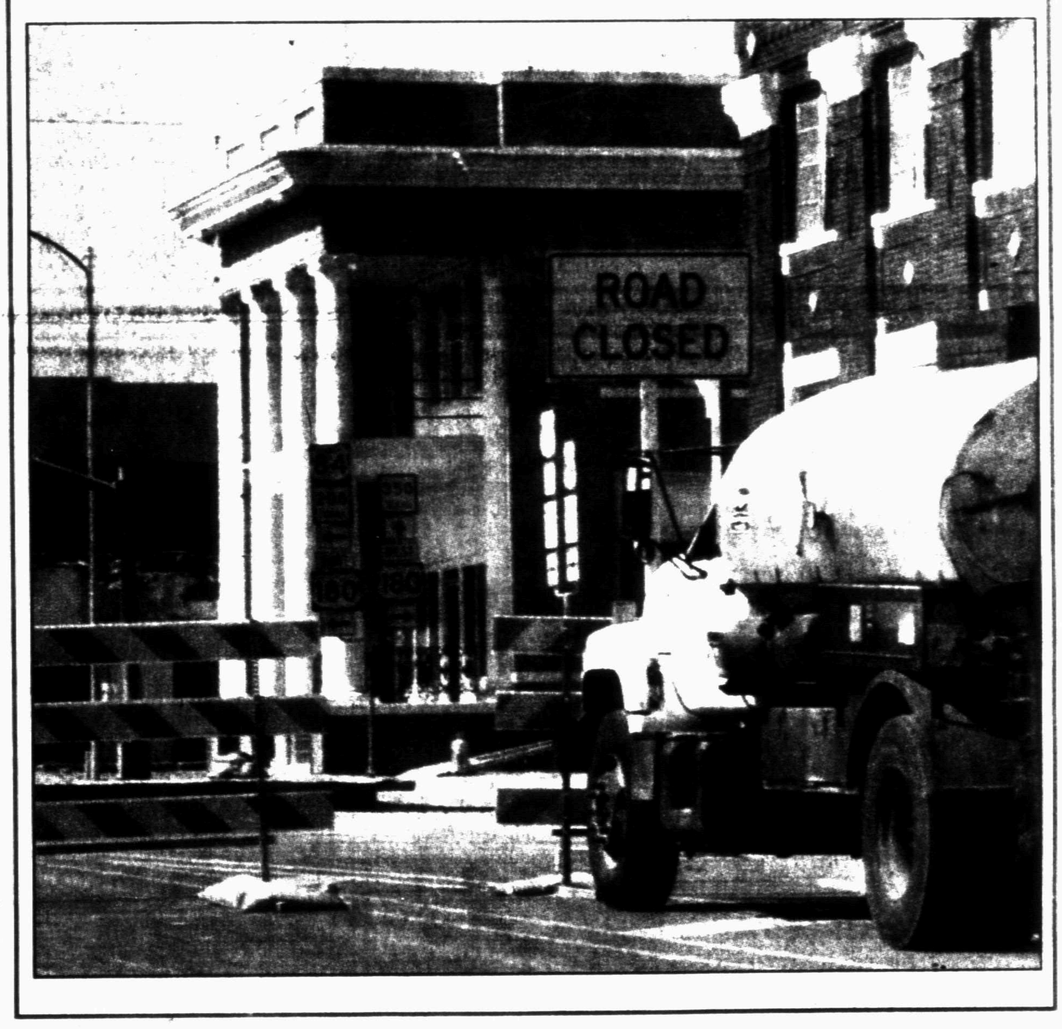
The annual contract for property insurance also will be reviewed.

The meeting will be in the homemaking room at the high school.

Road work begins...



CONSTRUCTION — The College Ave. project got underway this weekend beginning at 25th Street on the square, heading south. The first two phases will include revamping the roadway to 30th Street and reconstruction of Deep Creek bridge. (SDN Staff Photos)



Leslie Schmidt joins SDN staff

Leslie Schmidt, a Western Texas College graduate and Sweetwater native, is the newest addition to the Snyder Daily News staff.

Schmidt, 38, joins the SDN staff as a general assignment reporter.

Schmidt graduated from WTC in 1988. She was a reporter for the Sweetwater Reporter in 1999.

"Now I'm returning to my calling," Schmidt said. "Writing has been important to me since I was a child."



Leslie Schmidt

Schmidt's husband, Fred, recently returned from a one-year mission with the Texas National Guard. He works for the Texas Department of Transportation in Roby.

Leslie's children, Dylan, 15, and Jessica, 12, will be attending school in Snyder this year.

Schmidt also has two stepchildren, Cortney, 13, and Colten, 10, who live in Terrell.

"I am looking forward to getting to know this community and meeting the people who call it home."

Schmidt will fill the news writing slot held by Brian Brisendine, who is transferring to Hereford as publisher of the Hereford Brand.

Schmidt's hobbies include reading, cooking and raising cattle.

Band rehearsals to begin Friday

Snyder High School band rehearsals begin Friday from 8:30 a.m. until noon and from 1:30 until 4 p.m.

Rehearsals will continue weekdays until school begins on Aug. 18. Percussionists will report one day earlier on Thursday from 9 a.m. until noon and from 1:30 until 4 p.m.

High school director Donnie Reston may be contacted at 574-6045.

ASK US

Q—When do the WTC dorms open?

A—The doors open at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 22.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Israel Ortegon...

...is assistant market manager at United Supermarket. He is a lifelong resident of Snyder and his wife, Monica, stays home with the couple's three children. The kids include sons, Joel, 5, and Gabriel, 4, and a daughter, two-year-old Laura. Israel's favorite pastimes include spending time with his family and playing golf.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Every scholar is surrounded by wiser men than he.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

JUL 28 2003

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Church of God VBS

Vacation Bible School at Church of God, 21st and Ave. O, is held daily this week from 6-8 p.m. through Wednesday. Call 573-6875 if you need a ride.

First Methodist VBS

First United Methodist Church is holding Vacation Bible School from 6 to 8 p.m. daily through Friday. For ages kindergarten through 5th grade, theme is "God People Celebrate." Register at 2700 College Ave. or call 574-1547.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "What Does the Church See When It Looks in the Mirror," followed by "His Grace Reaches Me."

GED registration, test dates

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

FBC services televised

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

Computer drawing

The Scurry County Anti-Drug Connection will have a drawing for a computer Friday at the Back-to-School Bash. Buy a chance to win a Dell computer system for $1 each, or 6 for $5 from any CADA member. Call 573-1141, 574-1931, or come by 2513 College Ave. The bash is from 7-11 p.m. at the Towle Park Barn.

Class of '83 reunion dance

The SHS class of '83 reunion dance will be held from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday at the Snyder Country Club. Music will be by Cross Mojo Nation. Cost is $10 per person. Classmates, friends, teachers and the public are invited.

'59 HHS class reunion

The Hermleigh High School class of 1959 reunion will begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday with a brunch at Martha Ann Woman's Club. Meet at MAWC for class picture at 5 p.m. and the evening meal will follow at 6 p.m. RSVP by July 28 to Carllee Burleson at 573-0921, or Harold Robbins at 573-8083.

First Christian Bible Camp

First Christian Church, 37th and Austin, has set its Morning Bible Camp from 9-11:30 a.m. beginning next Monday through Thursday, Aug. 7. Children from kindergarten through sixth grade are eligible. Call 573-6877 to register.

Head Start registration

Scurry County Head Start registration continues through Aug. 18 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 2800 2nd Street. The following will be required: child's certified birth certificate, current immunization record, social security number and proof of family income.

Senior swimnastics

Swimnastics for senior citizens is held from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the WTC pool.

SHS football program ads

Advertisements are now being sold for the 2003 football program. Anyone interested in purchasing an ad can call Christy Smith at 573-6301.

Sonshine registration

Sonshine School at 37th St. Church of Christ is currently registering students for the fall semester. For more information, call director Wendy Barnett at 574-1960.

Cancer treatment transportation

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

Prosecutors investigate MCI practices

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal prosecutors are delving into nearly a decade of alleged misconduct by MCI to determine if the telephone company defrauded competitors by disguising long-distance calls as local ones, lawyers and others familiar with the probe say.

The investigation involves MCI's alleged avoidance of charges it is supposed to pay local phone companies.

The allegations surfaced in the past eight to 10 weeks when a former MCI employee called the FBI and disclosed a company project known as "Canadian Gateway," said two lawyers familiar with the events.

In this arrangement, MCI phone traffic is allegedly routed north of the U.S. border and then dumped onto the network of AT&T.

The whistle-blower also contacted Verizon and informed that company of an alleged MCI practice dating to the mid-1990s called "Project Invader," said the lawyers, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The whistle-blower was said to know of six to nine companies that MCI had teamed up with in the alleged scheme. One of the lawyers said MCI made "scores" of such arrangements with small companies, many of them predating MCI's merger with scandal-plagued WorldCom.

Separately, San Antonio-based SBC Communications has been looking into allegations that MCI employed methods to bypass local access charges, the lawyers said.

MCI said in a statement that "access charges between local and long-distance carriers have existed for decades and are routine in the industry. As always, we take all inquiries by the U.S. attorney's office very seriously and will cooperate fully with any investigation."

"We were shocked at the scope of these scams that are ongoing today and we are cooperating with the major crimes section of the U.S. attorney's office" in New York City, said William Barr, executive vice president and general counsel of local provider Verizon Communications.

The New York Times quoted an unidentified AT&T executive as saying some of the diverted calls were placed by the State Department and other government agencies. Industry lawyers told the newspaper that such diverted calls could not be protected from eavesdropping that could compromise national security.

The allegations are raising questions on Capitol Hill about the fate of MCI's federal contracts.

"To the extent that these allegations prove true, they raise additional troubling questions about WorldCom's business ethics and practices," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, chairwoman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.

The latest disclosure "may have an impact on MCI's suitability" as a federal contractor "and to that extent we will look at it," said Michael Bopp, staff director of the committee, which is investigating why MCI has continued to receive government contracts.

David Drabkin, deputy associate administrator for acquisition policy at the federal General Services Administration, said "it's way too early to tell" whether the investigation by prosecutors in Manhattan "will have any impact" on MCI's government contracts.

Rep. John Sweeney, R-N.Y., a member of the House Appropriations subcommittee overseeing the GSA, said that regarding federal contracting, "it's critically important ... to be shutting the door to entities that pervasively commit misdeeds."

In mid-May, MCI received a government contract worth a reported $45 million to set up a mobile network in Iraq. MCI does more than $1 billion a year in federal business.

School district is suing nearby system, TEA over 'white flight'

HEARNE (AP) — A central Texas school district and three parents are suing the Texas Education Agency, a neighboring school district and its superintendent for allegedly violating a 30-year-old desegregation order protecting against "white flight."

The lawsuit claims that Mumford Independent School District's policy of recruiting transfer students from neighboring Hearne has resulted in Mumford illegally increasing its population of white students while decreasing its number of minorities.

Hearne's attorney, Donald Henslee, said the recruitment policy, which includes circulating brochures and providing bus transportation for transfers, has created an "artificial imbalance of the racial makeup of the two school districts," and has sucked state funds provided per student away from Hearne.

"It constitutes white flight," Henslee said. "I'm not going to speculate as to their motivations, but the effect has been to attract white kids."

As of August 2001, about 75 percent of Mumford's students were transfer students from Hearne, the lawsuit states. Mumford went from being 30 percent white, 55 percent Hispanic and 15 percent black in 1997-1998 to 49 percent white, 38 percent Hispanic and 13 percent black in the 2000-2001 school year, according to the lawsuit.

The federal desegregation order does not allow TEA to approve transfers that change the racial or ethnic makeup of a district by 1 percent, Henslee said.

Mumford officials could not be reached by The Associated Press. A call to superintendent Pete Bienski was not returned.

The lawsuit states that the district is suing the state's education agency because it has turned "a blind eye" and allowed the racial imbalance in the districts to continue.

TEA spokeswoman DeEtta Culbertson declined to comment on the lawsuit because she had not seen it. But she said the agency has been working with Mumford ISD to bring it into compliance.

"We believe they're on the road to resolving this area. We're going to continue to work with them to make sure they don't have any more problems," Culbertson said.

She said a TEA report last August showed that Mumford had been coding transfer students as exempt from the 1 percent rule when they shouldn't have been exempt. Culbertson said TEA informed the school last summer that the state would not fund any more transfers until the district came into compliance.

Hearne's lawyer welcomed TEA's efforts but said the agency has not managed to get the racial and ethnic ratios back to their prior levels. The agency may have stopped the flow of new transfers into Mumford, but a grandfather clause has allowed students who already transferred from Hearne to stay in Mumford schools, he said.

Today's chuckle

Cat alerts sleeping woman to fire



CHESTER HILL, Pa. (AP) — Mayor Karen Kephart escaped a house fire thanks to her cat.

Kephart said she doesn't usually close the bedroom door, but did the night she was awakened by her 3-year-old black-and-white cat, Nuggets, knocking on the door.

"I said, 'This is it,'" Kephart said Thursday from her sister's home. "I opened the door, she ran in and I stepped out. The whole hallway was filled with smoke."

The home had a smoke detector, Kephart said, but she did not hear it go off during Wednesday's fire. Unable to get downstairs because of the fire and smoke, Kephart yelled for help from a second-floor window until a neighbor brought a ladder, allowing Kephart and Nuggets to escape.

Rick Loughhead, fire chief for the Chester Hill Fire Company, said much of the first floor was gutted by the fire, which caused between $32,000 and $35,000 in damage.

Wildfire battle looms in Montana

WEST GLACIER, Mont. (AP) — Fire officials were positioning manpower and equipment to battle an approaching wildfire with fire, but hoped they won't be forced to light a 5,000-acre burnout sooner than planned because of changing weather in Glacier National Park.

Dangerous though it may be, the strategy could pinch off the threat to hundreds of houses, cabins and businesses. And there may be no other choice, fire commanders said Sunday.

"When the weather conditions are right and we have the equipment and people and resources to do the burn, that's what we'll do," said information officer Pete Buist. "The exception is if the fire starts to move quickly. Then we will have to do the burn quickly."

Officials said the burnout could be ignited as early as today but they hoped to wait until Tuesday.

Only essential personnel remained at the park's headquarters in West Glacier and much of the western half of the park, where at least three separate fires were burning, is closed during what normally is the height of the tourist season.

Late Sunday, finger fires were flaring on the western portion of a 9,300-acre fire and it was "watch out time," said Dawn LeFleur, a fire information officer.

She said forecasts call for more hot weather today with a front moving south out of Canada, suggesting increasing wind.

Some limited burnouts, many aimed at protecting buildings, were ignited Sunday.

Incident commander Joe Stam said his team was proceeding very deliberately with burnouts, which could take an unexpected turn and do more harm than good.

That concerns Apgar resident Monica Jungster.

"I'm kind of cringing right now," she told a community meeting Sunday. "My question is, 'Is it dangerous to use this (backfire)?'"

Stam told Jungster after the meeting that burnout planners are nationally renowned experts and every precaution will be taken.

"It's not something we take lightly," Stam said. "We're sweating bullets when we say, 'Go ahead and light.'"

The blaze was one of three major blazes in and around the park that had blackened 44,500 acres by Sunday.

Datebook

Monday, July 28, 2003

Today is the 209th day of 2003 and the 38th day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1868, the 14th Amendment was officially ratified, guaranteeing citizenship and all its privileges to African-Americans.

On this day in 1869, in Lynn, Mass., the first convention of the Daughters of St. Crispin was held. The Daughters of St. Crispin was the first national women's trade union.

On this day in 1915, Haiti came under the military occupation of the United States.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Beatrix Potter (1866-1943), author; Marcel Duchamp (1887-1968), artist; Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis (1929-1994), first lady; Bill Bradley (1943-), basketball player and politician, is 60.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1991, Dennis Martinez pitched the first perfect game in Montreal Expos history. The Expos won 2-0 against the Dodgers.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Thank goodness I was never sent to school; it would have rubbed off some of the originality." — Beatrix Potter

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (July 21) and new moon (July 29).

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events

TEXAS LOTTERY RESULTS

Saturday's Lottery Numbers

Lotto Texas

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

Winning numbers drawn: 3-19-28-29-38. Bonus Ball: 15.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Number matching five of five: 4. Prize: $18,177.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 22. Prize: $2,999.

Number matching four of five: 1,421. Prize: $100.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 1,232. Prize: $101.

Number matching three of five: 54,702. Prize: $5.

Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 14,750. Prize: $5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 66,302. Prize: $3.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: $47 million.

—

Cash Five

3-4-13-17-23

—

Pick 3

(Day) 3-4-7

(Night) 9-2-6

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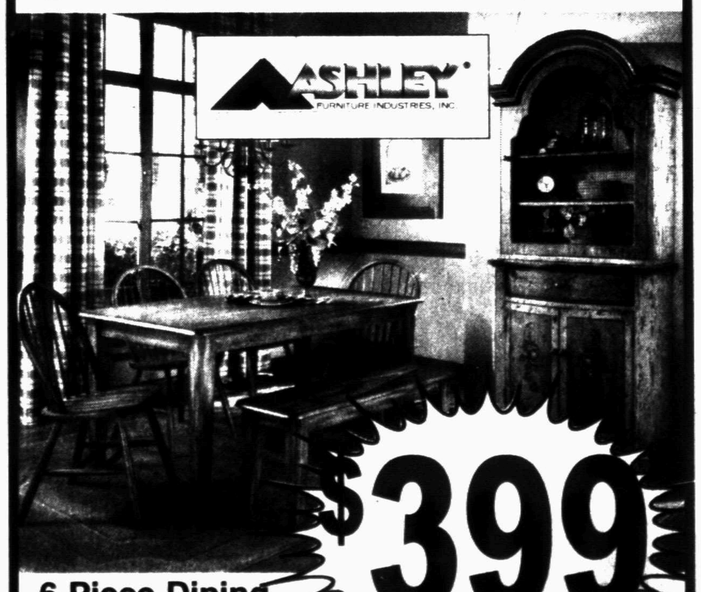
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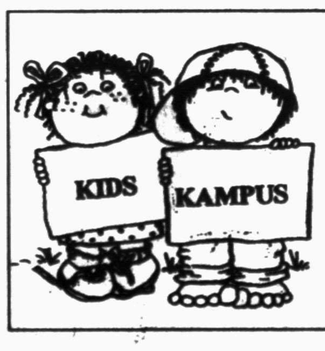
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Among Muslims, a reluctance to make Iraq next Afghanistan

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Saddam Hussein's exhortations to the Muslim world to join him in a war may strike a powerful chord, but there is little sign of active recruitment, and it likely would take time for foreign militants to join the fray.

Any attempt to replicate the jihad fought against the Soviets in Afghanistan must overcome a lack of support from key Arab governments and skepticism about fighting for Saddam, said Dia'a Rashwan, an expert on radical Islam at Egypt's Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies.

It took months for foreign fighters to rally to the Afghan cause, and even then, they had the backing of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Reagan administration. Rashwan said he expected to see recruiting drives in the future, but believed they would take six to nine months to yield results.

Meanwhile, there's little evidence of recruiting at campuses or on Web sites. Visits to mosques in several Arab capitals also yielded no sign that preachers are trying to mobilize the faithful for jihad.

In Iraq, the U.S.-led coalition has detained foreigners suspected of involvement in attacks on Americans, but officials say they are only remnants of the Arab volunteers who came to Iraq before the war.

Many of those non-Iraqi fighters returned home disillusioned at Baghdad's quick fall and with stories of Iraqis showing little enthusiasm to fight to save Saddam's regime.

"We were duped, and now I know that slogans are different from reality," said Khaled al-Hojeiri, a 22-year-old Lebanese quarry worker who said his cousin died as a volunteer fighter in Iraq.

Since the first phase of the war, though, Arabs have increasingly applauded news reports of daily attacks on U.S. forces. Anger is stirred by news reports of U.S. troops storming into the homes of Iraqi civilians in the hunt for Saddam loyalists or searching Iraqi women.

"Iraq is a Muslim country," said Mustafa Abdel al-Ghafar, a 25-year-old Egyptian shopkeeper. "Jihad is a must because Americans are aggressors, and Iraq is suffering injustice."

In a tape attributed to him broadcast on Arab satellite stations Wednesday, Saddam praised Iraqis and "brother mujahedeen" for their "honorable jihad operations." But in fact, the ideologically secular Saddam was never a key rallying figure for a jihad.

"When I went to Iraq, I did not go because I was with Saddam, but because I was against the Americans," a 27-year-old Lebanese man explained, saying he fought in the war and would return.

"The Americans have always been against Arabs and Muslims everywhere and every capable person should fight them," he said, identifying hiomself only by his nom de guerre, Abul Toul.

Such talk succinctly sums up the ideology of groups like al-Qaida, for whom Iraq is an opportunity not to be missed, said Rohan Gunaratna, an expert on Islamic militancy at the Center for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at St. Andrew's University in Scotland.

Pushed out of Afghanistan by the U.S.-led war following the Sept. 11 attacks, militants need the morale-booster of "a new theater of conflict, where they can psychologically and physically war-train their followers," Gunaratna said.

American targets are plentiful in a Middle Eastern country, and Iraq's neighbors Iran and Syria are no friends of the United States, making it possible they would look the other way as militants slipped across long and porous borders.

But Arab governments may think twice about supporting al-Qaida, lest the United States punish them.

The Station employees deal, with guilt, emotional scars

WEST WARWICK, R.I. (AP) — Paul Vanner moves from nightclub to nightclub, setting up sound equipment for concerts benefiting survivors of February's deadly fire at The Station.

It's a somber gig, but it helps him honor his four colleagues who were among the 100 people killed in the blaze.

The five months since the fire have been rough for surviving club employees — some are still out of work, some have faced questioning by criminal investigators, and many say personal relationships are strained with friends and family members who didn't witness the disaster or hear the screams of victims that night.

"It's hard for them to understand what happened," said bartender Julie Mellini, 35.

So they reach out to each other.

On Thursdays, for example, some of them meet at Kent County Hospital for counseling. Afterward they go to The Cowesett Inn restaurant to continue their group therapy over beers.

"There are a lot of people out there that don't understand what The Station was all about," said Kevin Beese, the club's manager. "It was like a family. It was a nightclub, but it had a corner bar feel."

The one-story, wooden building was destroyed Feb. 20 when a fire, sparked by a band's pyrotechnic display, raged through The Station, claiming 100 lives and injuring nearly 200 others.

Mellini said she sometimes feels guilty because she escaped the inferno without injuries and her friend, Linda Fisher, who she invited to the club that night, suffered serious burns.

"She's got grafting from here to here on both arms," Mellini said, pointing from her elbow to her wrist. Mellini also faced criticism for taking her tip jar and cash register drawer as she escaped through the kitchen door.

"A bartender is responsible for her drawer. I was just doing my job. I thought we'd be going back into the club once the fire was under control," she said.

Mellini, who worked at the club for five years, doesn't go out as much as she used to but she has made it to group outings at The Cowesett Inn, which is across the street from where The Station once stood.

"At first, I couldn't be near where it happened. They'd all meet, go over to the site even, I couldn't do it yet," she said. "But four, five months later, it's a bit easier."

Some former employees describe their colleagues like family. Mellini once rented a room from Vanner's parents. Vanner's mother celebrated her 70th birthday at The Station.

"I met my husband there too," Mellini said.

After their shifts ended, many employees would stay at the club to play pool or battle each other on arcade games.

Beese, 38, comes back to the site frequently to reminisce and walk around the crosses that have been erected as a makeshift memorial.

The former prison guard hasn't found permanent work yet — although he has made suggestions on nightclub safety to state officials. Like Vanner, Beese has made a life out of helping at concerts benefiting fire survivors.

Napster may be reborn

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Napster may be long dead, but the name and the "kitty" logo of the pioneer online music-swapping program could return to cyberspace before the year is out.

Santa Clara-based Roxio Inc., which owns the rights to the Napster name, plans to shelve its current online music service, pressplay, and roll out Napster 2.0 by Christmas, Chris Gorog, Roxio's chairman and chief executive, told The Associated Press.

Gorog was scheduled to announce details of the venture today at the Jupiter Plug.IN Conference & Expo in New York.

Software maker Roxio acquired pressplay, a joint venture of Universal Music Group and Sony Music Entertainment, in May, six months after it bought the rights to Napster for about $5 million. The company hopes to generate interest and sales off what is arguably the most recognizable brand name in online music.

"Napster 2.0 has really been designed with a deep respect for the characteristics that made the original Napster so successful," Gorog said. "Consumer choice is really the biggest value that we have been able to carry over."

The new service may carry the Napster name, but it will have little else in common with the original, which provided a means for users to download music free of charge before it was forced to shut down in 2001 after losing court battles with the music industry.

Unlike its predecessor, Napster 2.0 will have the blessing of the five major record companies and many independent labels. But users will have to pay to download music files, and some of the song files will have restrictions on a variety of usage rights, such as how many times they can be burned onto CDs or moved to a portable digital music player, if at all.

Moderately Confused



Bridge

North 07-28-03
♠ 8 3
♥ 5 4
♦ A Q J 10 6 5
♣ A Q 3

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

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

South
♠ K 7 6
♥ K 9 3
♦ K 9 4
♣ K J 10 9

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♠ Q

Do not accept the inevitable

By Phillip Alder

James Russell Lowell wrote, "There is no good in arguing with the inevitable. The only argument available with an east wind is to put on your overcoat."

That is true if the inevitable really is inevitable. Sometimes, though, you can leave off the overcoat and keep on the swim suit. On this deal, you are sitting East, looking only at your hand and North's. South is in three no-trump, and your partner, West, kicks off with the spade queen. How would you plan the defense?

North was right to rebid three no-trump. Whenever you have a long minor and know partner has some fit, think three no-trump.

The natural reaction is to get partner's spade suit established. However, if you give South a trick with his spade king, what will happen? He will run off eight or more tricks in the minors. Declarer must have at least one minor-suit king for his opening bid, and even if he is missing the other one, you know that that finesse is working.

Might your side win the first five tricks? Maybe — if you can collect one spade and four hearts. This means that you must immediately win with the spade ace and shift to a heart — but to which heart?

From this type of holding, if you need three or more tricks, lead high. (If you need only two tricks, lead low in case declarer has a king-jack guess to make.) Note that if you switch to the heart queen, you do not suffer another inevitable minus score. But if you lead a low heart, declarer will put in his nine and inevitably make his contract.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Marriage flounders as wife and husband drift slowly apart

DEAR ABBY: I love my husband very much. "Gary" and I have been together for 11 years. However, he seems to be less and less interested in me. We no longer spend time alone together.

Gary works long hours, so it's rare when we share a meal together. Every night before he comes home from his shift, he stops at the local diner and sits with his friends for an hour or so.

When we DO go out, Gary insists we patronize this same diner, so his buddies can sit and join us.

Recently, my husband had surgery. It has temporarily limited his physical activities. He claims to be in too much pain to do anything — or go anywhere — with me. But if one of his diner buddies invites him to go somewhere, he's up and out of the house in a heartbeat.

Abby, do I have a legitimate beef? Or should I leave our marriage "as is" and accept it? — **LONELY ON LONG ISLAND**

DEAR LONELY: You are being isolated. A successful marriage must be worked on by both parties. If you don't speak up now, you and your husband will continue to drift further apart. So, speak up and tell him that you are concerned about your lack of communication, and offer him the option of marriage counseling.

**

DEAR ABBY: I am a professional in my mid-20s and have met a great guy over the Internet. I'll call him Randy. Randy is in the military and stationed in Japan. The two of us have been e-mailing and calling each other daily for the past seven months.

Randy will return home next month and we plan to meet for the first time. Neither of us knows what to tell our parents about our Internet romance. I know for a fact that my mom and dad will not approve of my meeting someone in this fashion. But how else can Randy and I explain the "sudden" seriousness of our relationship? — **GENERATION X-ER IN CHICAGO**

DEAR GEN-X-ER: I see no reason for either of you to be ashamed about how you met. Many people meet via the Internet these days and form successful unions. Granted, no one should make a decision in haste, but the Internet can be a useful tool in getting to know someone.

**

DEAR ABBY: My mother is struggling with melanoma. Sadly, I have become extremely familiar with the warning signs, which include moles that are unevenly shaped, a mole that's a different color than the others, or spots that are inflamed or irritated.

Abby, when I see a suspicious spot or mole on a stranger, is it appropriate for me to suggest that he or she be examined by a dermatologist? A young woman sat next to me at a baseball game recently. I wanted to say something to her, but didn't want to offend her or be intrusive.

The truth is, a simple checkup could save a life. What do you think? — **SKIN SLEUTH IN DELAWARE**

DEAR SKIN SLEUTH: By all means say something to a stranger if you think it's necessary. When you do, explain WHY you felt it was important to tell him or her. Suggest the person go for a checkup, but do it privately if possible.

I hope your mother is doing well and has a good outcome.

**

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

**

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

(EDITORS: For editorial questions, please contact Alan McDermott, amcdermott(at)amuniversal.com)

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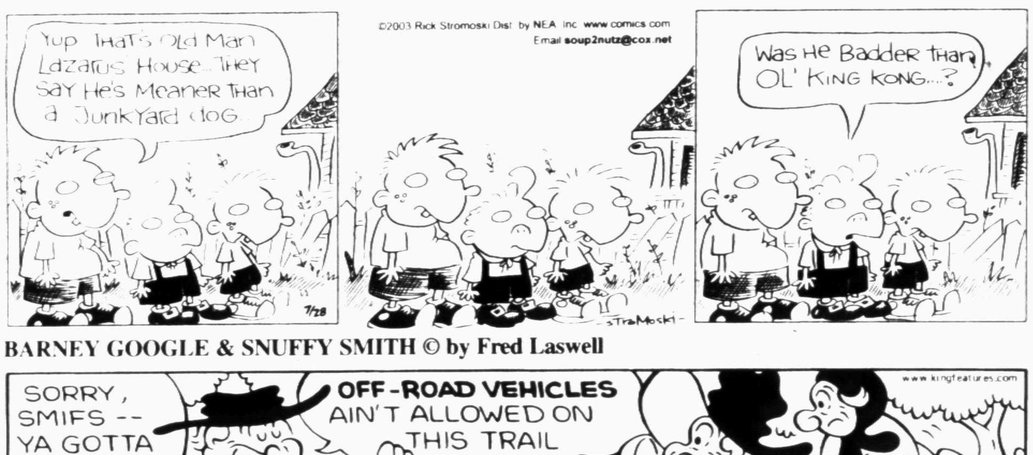
ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



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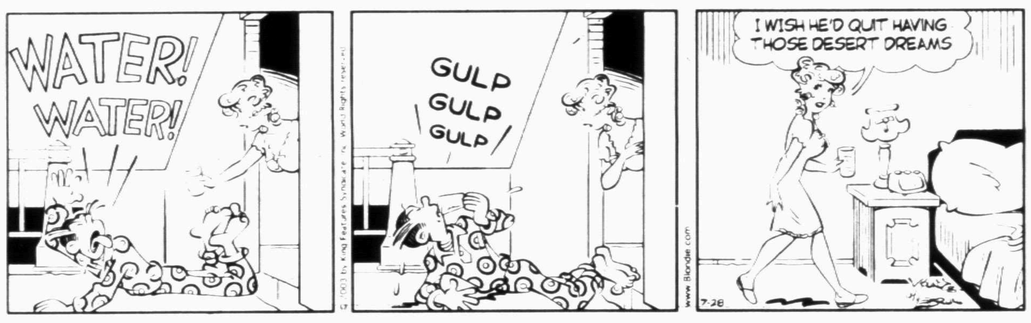
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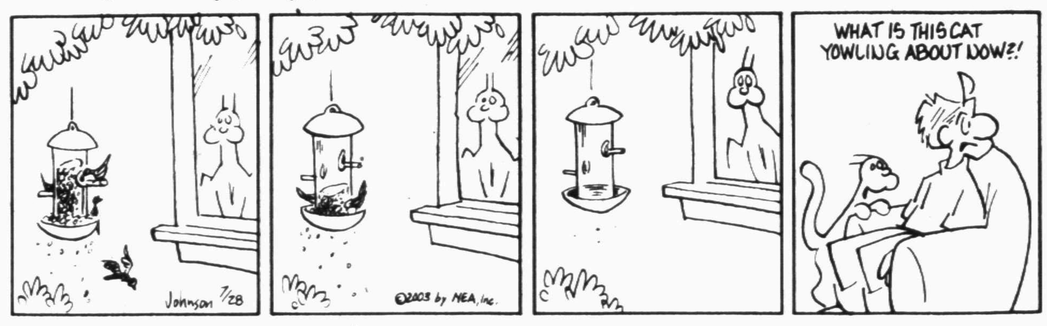
THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



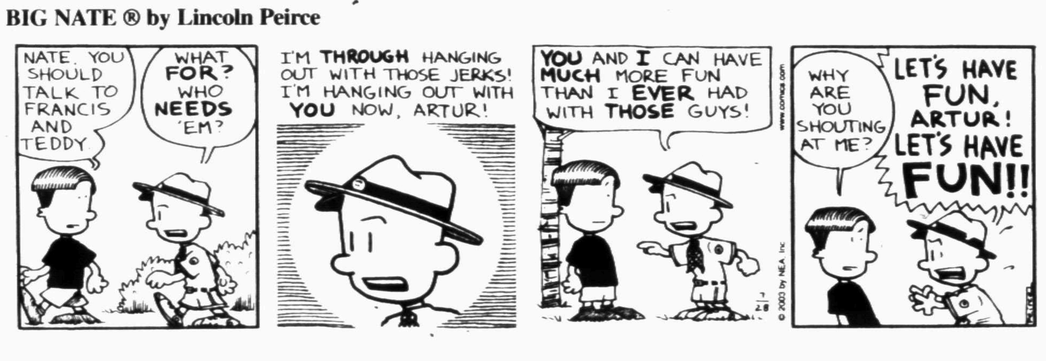
FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



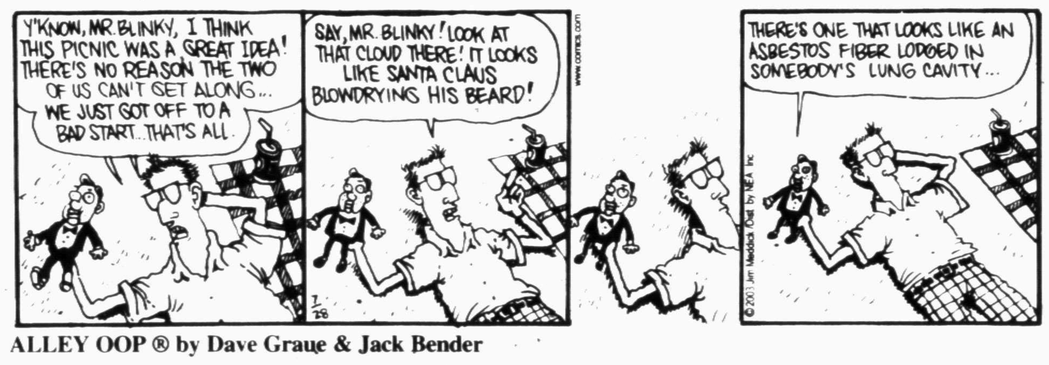
ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Mayo holder
4 Put in the attic
8 Monopolize
11 Washstand item
13 Boundless
14 Cockney's optimism?
15 Brain part
16 Frosted
17 Chignon
18 Pack animals
20 Raise, as a question
21 Those elected
22 Casual farewell
24 Agreement
27 Temporary wheels
30 Clouds
31 Wander
32 Bird beak
34 Plastic — Band
35 Blow hard
36 Mince
37 Destroys
39 Enticed (2 wds.)
40 — Vegas
41 Sharp turn
42 Caterwaul
45 Hubbub
49 Exist
50 Colorado ski resort
53 If not
54 Russell or Olin
55 Neutral color
56 Consumes
57 Grass
58 ORD guesses
59 Lucrative

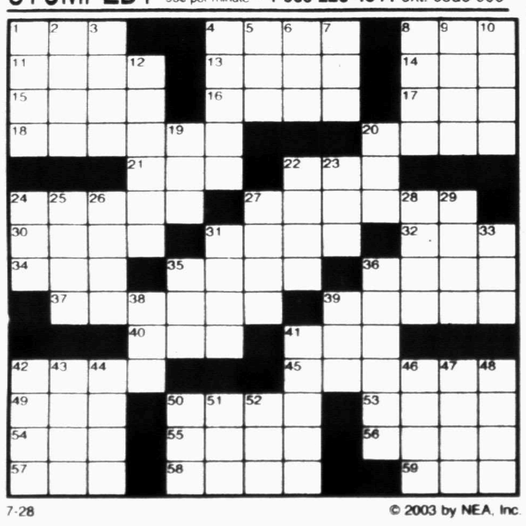
DOWN

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5 Twitch
6 Lyric poem
7 Take vows
8 Freight hopper
9 Comics penguin
10 Actor — Hackman
12 Sends money
19 Whichever
20 Coop
22 Harbor craft
23 Sweet potato
24 Saucer
25 Zilch
26 Mad scientist's aide
27 Red-ink amount
28 Tennyson heroine
29 Puerto —
31 Has regrets
33 London's Big —
35 Cookie-selling org.
36 Longitude unit
38 The works
39 Gloss target
41 Bantu people
42 Talks endlessly
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44 Proceed
46 Norwegian monarch
47 Movie canine
48 Remains
50 Kind of neckline
51 Perform in a theater
52 401(k) cousin

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"I know what you got me for my birthday. It was on the 11 o'clock news."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



Gar Texa

SEATTLE (A
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Garcia at his be
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The two-time
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Garcia (9-10)
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SPORTS

Garcia falters as Texas tops Seattle

SEATTLE (AP) — Just when the Seattle Mariners need Freddy Garcia at his best, they're getting his worst.

The two-time All-Star lost his fourth straight decision as the Texas Rangers beat Seattle 7-3 on Sunday.

Garcia (9-10) is 0-4 with a 9.45 ERA in July after being the AL pitcher of the month in June with a 5-0 record and a 2.05 ERA. Against the Rangers, he pitched 5 2-3 innings and allowed six runs — five earned — on 10 hits and two walks.

Garcia's roller-coaster season began with a 3-6 start. The Mariners can only hope he gets better as they try to hold off the Oakland Athletics in the AL West.

The Mariners are 5-6 since the All-Star break and 10-13 in July. Their lead over Oakland in the division was cut to three games Sunday, the closest the Athletics have been since May 27.

"They're going to play good ball because of the pitching staff they've got," Mike Cameron said. "That's the reason why they're still in the thing right now. They are a pretty good team. It's the West, man."

The Rangers got four hits from Michael Young and eight solid innings from starting pitcher John Thomson.

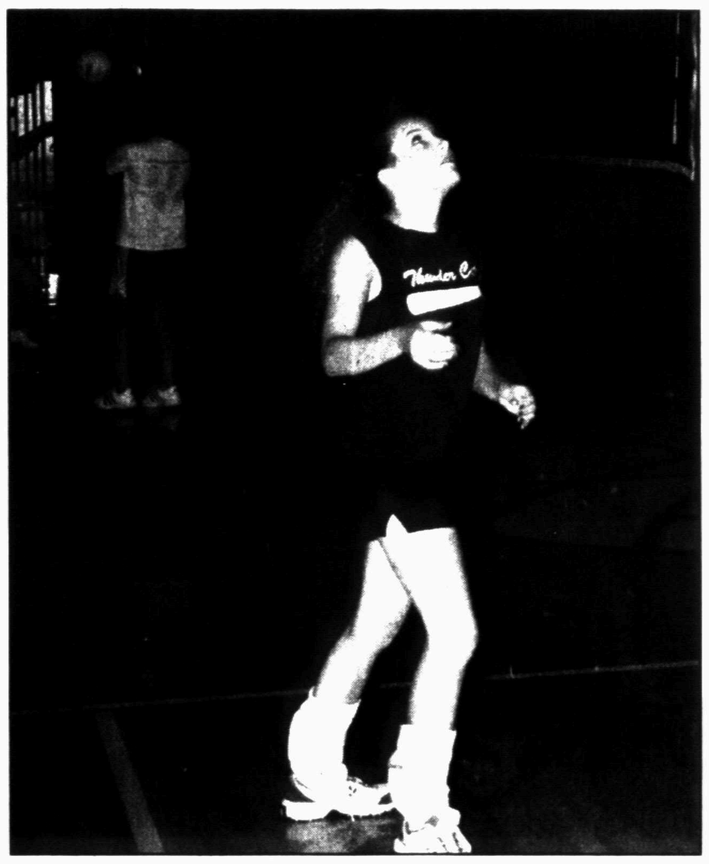
Rafael Palmeiro and Hank Blalock each drove in two runs for Texas. Alex Rodriguez celebrated his 28th birthday by going 2-for-4 with a triple and two runs scored. Young also scored twice.

Randy Winn drove in all of Seattle's runs with a two-run homer in the second and an RBI single in the third.

Thomson (8-10) gave up three runs on eight hits and five walks, striking out seven. His five walks tied a career high, but he leads the team in wins.

He matched his career high for victories set with Colorado in 1998.

"It feels good to me to go out there and go eight, especially when I struggled early in the game," Thomson said.



CAMP SETTING — Sarah Covington practices her sets at the SHS volleyball camp this morning. Covington and the incoming freshmen will work out through Wednesday. (SDN Staff Photo)

Babe Ruth splits games in tourney

WARREN, Ark. — The Snyder Babe Ruth All-Stars are still playing after going 1-1 over the weekend at the Southwest Regional Babe Ruth tournament.

Snyder won its opening game Saturday, 13-7, over Northern Arkansas.

Snyder led 1-0 heading into the fifth in the first game, before both offenses picked things up.

North Arkansas scored all seven of its runs in the fifth, while the Snyder nine plated 10 runs in the same frame.

Lance Day picked up the win and went 2-4 with two singles and a pair of runs.

Brent Bollinger also collected two base hits, including a double.

Jesse Conner, Ryan Arredondo and Dustin Murdock each added a key hit for Snyder.

Brooks Gafford and Ryan Gonzales helped the cause with patience at the plate, with both reaching base three times apiece via the free pass. Each scored twice in the game.

Bollinger came out on the short end of a complete-game performance Sunday, falling to South Arkansas, 8-5. He allowed three runs on six hits, but was plagued by three errors.

Snyder collected four hits, with Murdock going 2-for-3 while Ryan Claxton and Bollinger each had a base hit.

The 13-year-old squad was scheduled to play at 5 today against the all-stars from Mississippi. If the team wins, it will play the winner of the East Texas-Northern Arkansas tilt, which was slated for a 2:30 start today.

Reds axe manager, GM

CINCINNATI (AP) — General manager Jim Bowden and manager Bob Boone were fired today by the Cincinnati Reds, who failed to live up to expectations in a new ballpark.

The clubhouse was closed and the moves were announced shortly before an afternoon makeup game against the Philadelphia Phillies. Bench coach Ray Knight ran the team for the day.

Triple-A Louisville manager Dave Miley will run the Reds on an interim basis for the rest of the season.

The Reds also fired hitting coach Tom Robson and third base coach Tim Foli, who were brought in by Boone. The Reds are last in the NL in pitching and have the worst defense in the majors.

Bowden and Boone were in the final years of their contracts and were under pressure to win in the first season at Great American Ball Park. Bowden was in charge of a rebuilding that was supposed to bring a winner in 2003, but the team was 46-55 when he was fired.

The ballclub planned a news conference for later in the day. The clubhouse was closed to reporters.

The firings marked a dramatic shift for the Reds, who have pointed to their move into the new ballpark as a watershed moment for the franchise. Instead, it has been a huge disappointment.

Bowden became the youngest general manager in major league history, only 31 when he took over before the 1993 season.

Bowden became one of the most influential general managers in club history, guiding the team through former owner Marge Schott's gaffes and suspensions for inflammatory comments.

Anderson, Brock claim Partnership

Larry Anderson and Billy Brock fired a 120 to claim the Championship Flight at the Partnership Golf Tournament at Scurry County Golf Course over the weekend.

The duo used an opening round 59 to win the flight by two strokes over Stafford Gray and Levi Mandrell. Jarvis Haynes and Sean Howard placed third with a 126.

Mario Dimas and Henry Villalobos captured the President's flight with a 129 to best the second place pair of Billy Wayne Harris and Jim Blume by five shots. Lyndon White and Bob Carr placed third.

Eicke Perry and Wes Key won the first flight with a 141, edging the 143 from the team of Mike Levens and Jim Petty. Pete Greene and Glenn Patterson fired a 144 for third.

Mackey Greene and Dutch Stehley won a scorecard playoff with Randy Miles and Danny Brumley for the top spot in the second flight. Sonny Cumbie and John Sellers placed third in the flight with a 146.

Format for the tournament was scramble on Saturday and low ball on Sunday.

Partnership Golf Tournament
Scurry County Golf Course
July 26-27

Championship Flight
1. Larry Anderson-Billy Brock, 59-61 120; 2. Stafford Gray-Levi Mandrell 60-62 122; 3. Jarvis Haynes-Sean Howard 63-63 126.

President's Flight
1. Henry Villalobos-Mario Dimas 63-66 129; 2. Billy Wayne Harris-Jim Blume 66-68 134; 3. Lyndon White-Bob Carr 65-69 134.

First Flight
1. Eicke Perry-Wes Key 67-74 141; 2. Mike Levens-Jim Petty 68-75 143; 3. Pete Greene-Glenn Patterson 68-76 144.

Second Flight
1. Mackey Greene-Dutch Stehley 69-74 143; 2. Randy Miles-Danny Brumley 68-75 143; 3. Sonny Cumbie-John Sellers 67-79 146.

Armstrong ties record with fifth Tour victory

PARIS (AP) — Just moments after Lance Armstrong won his record-tying consecutive fifth Tour de France title, he was already motivated to win another.

"The other years, I won by six, seven minutes," Armstrong said. "I think it makes it more exciting and sets up an attempt for No. 6."

Triumphant over crashes, illnesses, hard-charging rivals and some bad luck, Armstrong sipped champagne in the saddle Sunday as he coasted to the Champs-Elysees in Paris to get his winner's trophy.

But it was close. For Armstrong, used to winning the Tour by comfortable margins, his 61-second victory over Jan Ullrich just wasn't good enough.

Armstrong's problems almost overwhelmed him. He had a stomach flu that was so bad before the Tour, he nearly didn't make the flight to France. He was bruised in a crash in the second day. He lost 11 pounds through dehydration riding a time trial in a heat wave and struggled up the Tour's most daunting climb, the 8,728½-feet Col du Galibier, with a faulty back brake rubbing against the wheel.

Murray, Carter join immortals

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP) — The chant never stopped for Eddie Murray. And for a change, he didn't mind one bit.

As hundreds of Baltimore Orioles fans chanted, "Eddie, Eddie, Eddie," Murray took his place among baseball's immortals Sunday, entering the Baseball Hall of Fame. He joined former Montreal Expos catcher Gary Carter, Milwaukee Brewers broadcaster Bob Uecker, and Ohio sports writer Hal McCoy of the Dayton Daily News as this year's inductees.

Although he struggled with emotions and nerves on the podium, Murray, who shunned the media for much of his remarkable 21-year major league career, spoke eloquently of his life on the field.

"It's a dream — one of the few things I never dreamed of," said Murray, the 38th player selected in the first year of eligibility. "When Ted Williams was inducted, he said he must have earned it because he didn't win it because of his friendship with the writers. I guess in that way, I'm proud to be in his company.

"I've never been much on words," Murray said. "I had a job to do. I'd seen people get caught up with doing well. I didn't want things like that to control me."

The reticent Murray broke out of his shell as he stood before the adoring crowd, actually asking fans to chant before he spoke and as he was about to finish.

"Steady Eddie" broke in with the Orioles in 1977 and won AL Rookie of the Year honors after hitting .283 with 27 homers and 88 RBIs. Taught to switch-hit in the minors, he quickly became one of the most feared clutch hitters of his generation. He hit 504 homers, including 19 grand slams, second all-time to the 23 of former Yankees great Lou Gehrig. He also drove in at least 75 runs for a major league-record 20 consecutive seasons.

Carter, whose selection came on his sixth try, is the first inductee to have an Expos hat on his Hall plaque. He thanked the people of the province of Quebec in French, and also thanked former President George Bush, who created a stir when he sat down in the audience right before the ceremony got under way.

Nicknamed "Kid" because of his youthful exuberance, Carter's trademark smile disappeared when he began to speak about his family. Carter's father, who was his Little League coach, died three weeks after the Hall of Fame voting in January. His mother died when he was 12.

"This is where it might get a little bit tough," said Carter, a star quarterback in high school in the Los Angeles area. "My parents can't be here with me in person, but I know they're smiling down. Mom, pop, you're missed but will never be forgotten. I know how proud you guys are today."

Carter made the big club for good in 1975. During his 19-year career, he was an All-Star game MVP twice, helped lead the New York Mets to the 1986 World Series title, and holds the major league career record for most putouts at catcher (11,785) and most chances accepted at catcher (12,988).

Uecker played just six unremarkable years as a backup catcher for four major league teams, barely hitting .200 with 14 homers and only 74 RBIs. But his blend of quick wit and homespun wisdom has since made him a star in movies, on TV shows and in beer commercials — and it's turned him into a cultural icon.

Sports Briefs

Football booster club

The football booster club will meet at 7 tonight in the film room. Discussion will include the two-a-day schedule and upcoming scrimmages. Everyone is invited to attend.

Pee Wee football coaches meeting

A meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Boys and Girls Club for all interested Pee Wee and flag football coaches. Contact Brad Hinton at 573-0878 or 868-0139 or Chad Welch at 573-3344 for more information.

Ladies play day

The SCGA hosts a ladies play day at 9 a.m. each Tuesday. Format is blind partners.

Hermleigh athletic physicals

All incoming sixth, ninth and 11th grade Hermleigh athletes are reminded to get a physical. Forms can be picked up at the high school and all paperwork must be completed prior to the physical.

Snyder athletic physicals

Physicals are required for students wishing to participate in SISD athletics. Those needing physicals include all incoming seventh, ninth and third-year high school students; all new students to SISD who plan to participate in athletics; any student who answered yes to questions 1, 4, 5, 6, or 7 on their medical history form; and any student who has not participated in athletics in the past.

The district will pay for physicals until Friday with the following doctors: Rakov, Burleson, Cooper, Thompson and Wolboldt. Incoming seventh and ninth graders pick up physical forms at the doctor's office.

Men's softball tourney

A men's softball tournament to benefit Baile Folkloric De Guadalupe will be held Saturday and Sunday at Winston Field. For more information call Cal Luis at 573-7321.

Kiwanis Club golf tournament

The Snyder Kiwanis Club will sponsor a four-person scramble Aug. 9 at WTC to benefit the Cargile Scholarship Foundation. The tournament begins at 8:30 a.m. Cost is $30 per person, and cash prizes will be awarded.

The tournament includes a long drive and putting contests, closest to the hole par three and $100,000 shoot-out. Call the WTC pro shop at 573-9291 or Russell Fisk at 573-3438 to sign-up or to reserve a cart.

Major League Baseball

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	68	36	.654	—
Philadelphia	57	46	.553	10½
Florida	56	49	.533	12½
Montreal	54	51	.514	14½
New York	43	61	.413	25

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	57	48	.543	—
St. Louis	54	50	.519	2½
Chicago	52	52	.500	4½
Pittsburgh	47	55	.461	8½
Cincinnati	46	58	.442	10½
Milwaukee	41	63	.394	15½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	67	38	.638	—
Arizona	56	49	.533	11
Los Angeles	54	50	.519	12½
Colorado	55	53	.509	13½
San Diego	40	66	.377	27½

Sunday's Games

Montreal 13, Atlanta 10
Cincinnati 8, N.Y. Mets 5
Florida 7, Philadelphia 6
Chicago Cubs 5, Houston 3
St. Louis 4, Pittsburgh 3
Colorado 6, Milwaukee 1
San Francisco 6, San Diego 2
Los Angeles 1, Arizona 0

Today's Games

Philadelphia (Wolf 11-5) at Cincinnati (Dempster 3-7), 11:35 a.m.
Pittsburgh (Suppan 9-7) at St. Louis (Tomko 6-6), 12:40 p.m.
Atlanta (Hampton 6-5) at Montreal (Vazquez 8-6), 6:05 p.m.
Arizona (Batista 7-5) at Florida (Redman 8-4), 6:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Rusch 1-12) at N.Y. Mets (Seo 5-7), 6:10 p.m.

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	63	40	.612	—
Boston	62	42	.596	1½
Toronto	54	51	.514	10
Baltimore	49	53	.480	13½
Tampa Bay	37	66	.359	26

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	57	46	.553	—
Chicago	54	51	.514	4
Minnesota	51	53	.490	6½
Cleveland	44	61	.419	14
Detroit	28	75	.272	29

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	63	41	.606	—
Oakland	60	44	.577	3
Anaheim	51	52	.495	11½
Texas	42	62	.404	21

Sunday's Games

Toronto 10, Baltimore 1
Cleveland 3, Minnesota 2, 14 innings
Kansas City 5, Detroit 1
Chicago White Sox 9, Tampa Bay 1
Oakland 10, Anaheim 1
Texas 7, Seattle 3
Boston 6, N.Y. Yankees 4

Today's Games

Texas (Benoit 5-5) at Seattle (R.Franklin 7-8), 9:05 p.m.
Oakland (Zito 8-8) at Anaheim (Washburn 8-10), 9:05 p.m.

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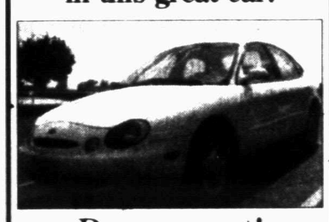
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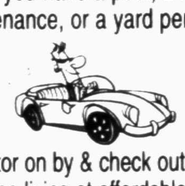
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States eye growing prison populations

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's prison population grew again in 2002 despite a declining crime rate, costing the federal government and states an estimated $40 billion a year at a time of rampant budget shortfalls.

The inmate population in 2002 of more than 2.1 million represented a 2.6 percent increase over 2001, according to a report released Sunday by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Preliminary FBI statistics showed a 0.2 percent drop in overall crime during the same span.

Experts say mandatory sentences, especially for nonviolent drug offenders, are a major reason inmate populations have risen for 30 years. About one of every 143 U.S. residents was in the federal, state or local custody at year's end.

"The nation needs to break the chains of our addiction to prison, and find less costly and more effective policies like treatment," said Will Harrell, executive director of the Texas American Civil Liberties Union. "We need to break the cycle."

Others say tough sentencing laws, such as the "three strikes" laws that can put repeat offenders behind bars for life, are a chief reason for the drop in crime. The Justice Department, for example, this year ordered Bureau of Prisons officials to stop sending so many white-collar and nonviolent criminals to halfway houses.

"The prospect of prison, more than any other sanction, is feared by white-collar criminals and has a powerful deterrent effect," Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson said in a memo announcing the change.

Yet the cost of housing, feeding and caring for a prison inmate is roughly $20,000 per year, or about $40 billion nationwide using 2002 figures, according to The Sentencing Project, a nonprofit organization that promotes alternatives to prison. Construction costs are about $100,000 per cell.

Even as these costs keep limbing, the federal government is tackling a giant budget deficit and 31 states this year are cutting spending — most often across all programs — to deal with shortfalls, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

"The prison population and budget figures, taken together, should be setting off alarm bells in state capitols," said Jason Zeidenberg, director of policy and research for the Justice Policy Institute, a nonprofit organization focused on ending reliance on incarceration.

Drug offenders now make up more than half of all federal prisoners. The federal penal system, which has tough sentencing policies for drug offenses, is now the nation's largest at more than 151,600 — an increase of 4.2 percent compared with 2001.

Over the same period, state prison and jail populations grew just 2.4 percent. Prison alternative advocates credit moves in some states to divert drug offenders to treatment programs and other innovations for that lower growth rate.

Texas, for example, recently passed a drug treatment alternative law and saw its prison population remain virtually unchanged from 2001 to 2002. Ohio, which revised its sentencing and parole guidelines in the late 1990s, had its prison and jail population rise just 0.8 percent last year compared with 1.9 percent for the Midwest as a whole.

"The way to reduce prison spending is to reduce the number of people in prison and the number of prisons, like some states across the country have done," said Rose Braz, director of Critical Resistance, a California-based group opposed to prison expansion.

At the same time, the Justice Department report found that 17 states reported increases of at least 5 percent year-to-year in their prison populations, with Maine's increasing by 11.5 percent and Rhode Island's rising 8.6 percent. The federal prisons and almost all state corrections systems are over their capacities, with 71,000 offenders serving their state or federal sentences in local jails.

Other key points in the report:

—As of last Dec. 31, there were 97,491 women in state or federal prisons, or about 6.8 percent of all inmates and one in every 1,656 women. There were over 1.3 million male inmates, or about one in 110 men.

—About 10 percent of all black men between 25 and 29 were incarcerated last year, compared with 1.2 percent of white men and 2.4 percent of Hispanic men. Overall, the 586,700 black men in prison outnumbered both the 436,800 white males and 235,000 Hispanic males. Black males account for about 45 percent of all inmates serving a sentence longer than a year.

—Privately operated prisons held 93,771 inmates, about 5.8 percent of state prisoners and 12.4 percent of those in federal jurisdictions.

—At year's end 2002, the federal government held 8,748 people at immigration detention facilities, 2,377 at military jails and 16,206 in U.S. territorial prisons.

On the Net:
Bureau of Justice Statistics: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs

Pedophile lost urge after brain tumor was removed

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — There was something wrong with the schoolteacher with the headache — doctors could see that from the start.

Though charming and intelligent, the 40-year-old man couldn't stop leering at female nurses. He had been in trouble with the law for sexual advances toward his stepdaughter, and now he was talking about raping his landlady.

University of Virginia Medical Center neurologists Dr. Russell Swerdlow and Dr. Jeffrey Burns had never seen a case like this.

The man had an egg-sized brain tumor pressing on the right frontal lobe. When surgeons removed it, the lewd behavior and pedophilia faded away. Exactly why, the surgeons cannot quite explain.

"It's possible the tumor released some pre-existing urges," Burns said. "But that's a tough debate, we just don't know."

The outcome raises questions not only about how tumors alter brain function, but also how they can influence behavior and judgment.

Daniel T. Tranel, a University of Iowa neurology researcher, said he has seen people with brain tumors lie, damage property, and in extremely rare cases, commit murder.

"The individual simply loses the ability to control impulses or anticipate the consequences of choices," Tranel said.

Dr. Stuart C. Yudofsky, a psychiatrist at the Baylor College of Medicine who specializes in behavioral changes associated with brain disorders, also has seen the way brain tumors can bend a person's behavior.

"This tells us something about being human, doesn't it?" Yudofsky said. If one's actions are governed by how well the brain is working, "does it mean we have less free will than we think?"

It's a question with vast implications in the criminal justice system.

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that executing mentally retarded murderers is unconstitutionally cruel because of their diminished ability to reason and control their urges.

Chris Adams, a death penalty specialist for the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, thinks the next logical step would be to include people who have brain tumors.

"Some people simply don't have the frontal lobe capacity to stop what they're doing," he said.

Human behavior is governed by complex interactions within the brain. But scientists think most "executive functions" — decisions with major consequences — are controlled within the frontal lobes, the most highly evolved section of the brain.

Tumors in that area can squeeze enough blood from the region to effectively put it to sleep, dulling someone's judgment in a way that's similar to drinking too much alcohol.

Only in very rare cases would the tumor turn the person to violence or deviant behavior on its own, Tranel said.

Dr. Patrick J. Kelly, chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at New York University Medical Center, said he's never seen a tumor turn someone into a pedophile.

"I've seen them make people hyperactive, forgetful, apathetic," Kelly said. "And it usually takes a fairly extensive tumor to do that ... the size of an orange maybe."

The Virginia schoolteacher with the tumor didn't respond to written interview requests by The Associated Press made through his doctors.

Castro observes 50th year of revolt

SANTIAGO, Cuba (AP) — Standing before the military barracks where he launched his revolutionary battle 50 years ago, Fidel Castro accused the European Union on Saturday of being America's "Trojan horse" and saying its economic aid is no longer needed.

In a speech broadcast live on state-run television and radio, the Cuban leader mocked Europe's political leaders, saying they were unable to deal independently with the communist state without taking American policies into consideration.

"Cuba does not need the help of the European Union to survive," Castro told an enthusiastic crowd of about 10,000 invited guests, mostly Cuban officials and party leaders gathered for the 50th anniversary of the battle that launched their revolution.

Castro was enraged in early June when the 15-member European Union announced it was reviewing its policies toward Cuba over human rights concerns. He also was troubled by Britain's support of U.S. military action in Iraq.

The European Union, Cuba's largest trade and investment partner, opened an office in Havana earlier this year to administer the $16.4 million it provides the island in annual aid.

Thousands of Castro's supporters cheered and chanted his name as he took his seat for the anniversary celebration of the audacious armed attack he led on the Moncada barracks in eastern provincial capital of Santiago when he was just 26 years old.

Castro, who turns 77 next month, is the world's longest ruling head of government and his island nation is among only four communist systems in the world and the only one in the Americas.

But Castro's government is struggling with a severe cash crisis, despite a recent jump in the number of visitors to the island following a slump following the Sept. 11 attacks.

Cuba also has come under international criticism in recent months after a crackdown on political opponents in which his government sentenced 75 dissidents to prison terms of up to 28 years and executed three men who hijacked a ferry and tried to reach Florida.

Before dawn on Saturday, hundreds of Cuban schoolchildren with ancient BB guns arrived outside the barracks in vintage American sedans to reenact the raid by 129 revolutionaries on then-dictator Fulgencio Batista's army.

'Spy Kids 3-D' tops box office for the weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over" came in first at the box office this weekend with $32.5 million, but the mystery remained which of four contenders would come in second.

Two new films — the Angelina Jolie adventure sequel "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider — The Cradle of Life" and the true-life racehorse drama "Seabiscuit" — became locked in a virtual dead-heat for the follow up slot with the recent releases "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" and the action-comedy "Bad Boys II."

Weekend earnings estimates on Sunday placed all the films within $900,000 of each other. "There are four films here that could literally change places today when we get the final figures," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

Although No. 2 remained almost too close to call, the prospective victor was "Pirates of the Caribbean," which estimates showed earning $22.4 million, followed by "Bad Boys II" with $22 million.

The "Tomb Raider" sequel ranked fourth with $21.8 million, less than half what the original film earned in its opening weekend when it debuted in June 2001 with $47.7 million. Dergarabedian characterized the second "Tomb Raider" performance as further evidence of the unreliability of sequels this summer, comparing it to failed expectations for "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle."

"Seabiscuit" came in fifth this weekend, with $21.5 million, although Universal Pictures argued that the movie was running in a different race, since it showed on at least 4,200 fewer locations than each of its rivals.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

It was with interest and astonishment that I read the July 23rd edition of the SDN concerning remarks made at the Commissioners' Court budget hearing. Commissioner Limmer insinuated that the budget of the Scurry County Board of Development had been previously cut by 80% because "some of the things the money was used for didn't pertain to county development." I would now ask that Mr. Limmer provide information showing the exact guidelines for the use of Board of County Development money. Maybe he can come up with something more than the State Attorney General's office or the attorneys that have researched the issue in the past.

In the 6 years that I had the privilege of serving on said board, we always asked the question "If we give this money, will it return that amount plus benefits to Scurry County?" If Commissioner Limmer is bold enough to make such public comments, he needs to prove his point. It is also with great interest noted that at no time was I ever approached by a member of the Commissioners' Court in reference to misappropriation of funds.

After then county Judge Fritz announced the cut (via letter) we were informed that we still had access to 'reserve' funds, i.e. dollars unspent by the board that had been returned to the county. It is interesting to note that a considerable amount of the money left unspent was from the board having to deny requests from various county residents who had gone to the Commissioners' Court with requests such as having their roads paved. The commissioners then passed them to us where we had the unpleasant task of telling them no.

Reading quotes in the paper from our elected officials has recently become troubling, at the least. I'm still wondering if the county or the city should have been billed for the Band-Aids required by Sheriff Jackson and the late Donna Fowler when their chins hit the pavement after the ludicrous "I've heard" remarks about their operations.

In closing, I would implore our elected officials to think before they speak. If that is not possible, remain silent.

With due respect,
Tony Scott
Snyder

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	10.60	10.05	10.13	— .12
AOL TimeWrn	15.77	15.38	15.74	+ .42
AT&T Corp rs	21.88	20.75	21.75	+ 1.34
Albertsons	18.53	18.25	18.35	— .26
Alltel	47.99	47.35	47.52	— .11
AmEl Pw	28.28	27.92	28.19	+ .36
AndarkPtr	45.05	44.13	44.33	— .72
ATMOS Egy	24.53	24.26	24.35	— .06
Aviall	12.18	11.95	11.95	— .17
BP PLC	41.80	41.51	41.67	+ .22
BakerHughes	32.31	31.62	31.94	— .09
Bank of Amer	83.55	82.80	83.25	— .28
BellSouth	25.95	25.41	25.63	— .09
BurlNoSFe	28.05	27.75	27.98	+ .04
Caterpillar	65.58	65.09	65.30	
CenterPoint	8.29	8.05	8.13	— .02
ChevronTex	72.88	72.10	72.43	— .30
Citigroup	46.00	45.28	45.66	— .07
CocaCola	44.94	44.45	44.57	— .47
ColgatePal	55.77	55.35	55.64	— .26
CmclMetals	17.53	17.43	17.48	+ .05
ConocoPhill	53.49	52.90	53.45	+ .51
Cooper Inds	44.55	44.12	44.37	— .08
DaimlrChry	36.12	35.87	36.02	— .32
DeltaAirl	11.79	11.36	11.67	+ .36
Dillards Inc	14.90	14.42	14.79	+ .26
DowChem	35.05	34.55	34.96	+ .61
DuPont	45.00	44.41	44.88	+ .19
EastmanChem	36.60	35.77	36.48	+ 1.13
EstKodak	27.75	27.31	27.72	+ .22
EDS Corp	22.20	21.70	22.10	+ .20
Entergy	51.25	50.78	50.86	— .04
ExxonMobil	35.89	35.58	35.84	+ .08
FootLocker	15.00	14.72	14.72	— .03
GenDynam	79.97	78.70	79.36	+ .48
GenElec	28.80	28.21	28.57	+ .14
GenMills	47.39	46.86	47.35	+ .02
GenMotors	37.00	36.70	36.82	— .02
GaPacific	20.45	20.13	20.29	— .26
Goodrich	23.90	23.15	23.89	+ .82
Goodyear	5.34	5.13	5.30	+ .17
GtAtlPac	8.97	8.38	8.40	— .50
Halliburtn	21.16	20.50	21.06	— .04
Hanson ADS	28.35	28.15	28.27	+ .39
HarteHanks	19.38	19.13	19.23	— .03
HomeDepot	32.37	31.80	31.89	— .11
Honeywellntl	28.90	28.44	28.79	— .03
IBM	83.70	82.76	82.95	— .60
IntlPaper	38.35	38.05	38.33	+ .13
JohnsnJohn	51.92	51.45	51.80	— .43
KinderMorg	53.70	53.24	53.32	— .44
Kroger Co	16.86	16.50	16.56	— .19
LockheedM	54.20	53.50	53.90	+ .90
Lowes Cos	48.70	48.21	48.48	+ .25
Ludys	2.60	2.56	2.56	— .02
LucentTech	1.83	1.77	1.78	— .01
MarathonOil	26.30	25.80	25.94	— .36
MayDeptStr	23.78	23.35	23.51	— .10
Medtronic	50.95	50.31	50.90	+ .26
Motorola	11.00	9.12	9.31	+ .14
NCR Corp	28.20	27.58	27.93	— .24
Navistar	38.67	37.90	38.50	
PNM Resrcs	26.33	25.80	25.93	— .20
Penney JC	18.09	17.82	18.02	— .05
PepBoys	14.32	14.03	14.31	+ .08
PepsiCo	47.15	46.40	46.68	— .45
PhelpDodge	43.40	42.30	42.83	+ .04
PilgrmPrd B	12.00	11.70	11.90	+ .06
Praxair	64.85	63.10	64.46	+ .71
ProctGamb	89.14	88.27	88.51	— 1.04
RadioShack	27.06	26.73	26.94	+ .29
RoyalDut	44.70	44.40	44.44	— .22
SBC Comm	23.95	23.52	23.91	+ .37
SaraLee	19.50	19.23	19.42	
Scripps EW	83.53	82.93	83.30	+ .02
SearsRoeb	41.12	40.60	40.96	+ .16
SherwinW	29.79	29.53	29.75	— .08
SouthernCo	29.10	28.75	28.85	— .10
SwstAirl	17.04	16.93	17.02	+ .02
SprintFON	15.40	15.00	15.13	— .06
SprintPCS	6.95	6.25	6.50	+ .18
Sunoco Inc	37.36	36.95	37.08	— .34
TXU Corp	20.35	20.01	20.24	— .12
TempleInland	46.18	45.65	45.76	— .41
TexInd	23.50	23.27	23.30	
TexasInst	19.86	18.50	19.28	+ .23
Textron	43.88	43.36	43.82	+ .22
TrinityInds	22.64	22.05	22.61	+ .72
TylerTech	5.43	5.26	5.34	+ .17
UnionPacif	61.25	60.53	60.67	— .55
USSteel	15.43	15.25	15.30	— .13
UnitedTech	75.96	74.82	75.83	+ .19
Unocal	29.90	29.60	29.75	— .04
VerizonComm	35.76	35.02	35.74	+ .70
WalMart	56.49	55.82	55.96	— .23
WellsFargo	52.30	51.79	52.08	— .01
WstnGasRs	39.05	38.51	38.55	— .20
WinnDixie	11.39	11.18	11.37	+ .07
Xerox Cp	11.10	10.68	10.99	+ .26
YumBrands	29.45	28.95	29.44	+ .39

JUL 28 2003

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Amtrak to be offered plan to overhaul itself

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush wants to keep the nation's passenger railroad on track, but at a cost to some nationwide service.

Bush's long-awaited plan to eliminate Amtrak's unprofitable long-distance routes and force states to spend more on intercity service will be submitted to Congress on Tuesday.

His intention is to solve Amtrak's continuing fiscal problems, which have led to annual $1 billion operating deficits.

Critics of the administration's approach say Amtrak's troubles stem from years of underinvestment in rails and equipment, and that all passenger railroads require government subsidy.

"No intercity rail system has ever made money," Rep. John Olver of Massachusetts, ranking Democrat on the House subcommittee that funds Amtrak, said recently.

Rep. John Mica, R-Fla., a senior member of the House transportation committee that sets infrastructure policy, was briefed on the administration's proposal last week.

"If properly implemented, this could be as dramatic as the establishment of the Interstate highway system in the Eisenhower years," said Mica, who has drawn up his own Amtrak restructuring plan.

Mica said the bill would improve service, encourage private investors to build railroads and promote high-speed rail service between cities. Congestion would be eased at airports because people would prefer to take fast trains for trips under 500 miles, he said.

The plan would give states the responsibility to form regional railroads that would hire Amtrak or other operators to run the trains. The federal government would help fund some of those operations, Mica said, though the goal would be to minimize subsidies.

The popular Northeast Corridor line between Boston and Washington would be treated differently because it's the only large segment of rail that Amtrak owns. Under the plan, the Northeast Corridor would be broken into three entities: a compact between the federal and state government to lease and improve the railroad infrastructure; a company to operate the train

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, July 29, 2003

Diplomacy and flexibility are the two tools that will be the most successful for you in the year ahead. Involvements or ventures you believe need prompting will be perfect candidates for your skills.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Someone who thinks he or she has the upper hand today could be in for a rude awakening. In reality, it will be you who holds the trump card and gets to play the last trick.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — When it comes to your own personal interests you're likely to put out only nominal effort today, but let a matter be important to a loved one and your attention and exertions turn vigorous.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — One of your greatest assets is your ability to get along well with everyone you encounter. Today all you have to do to open up doors for yourself is to let your affable demeanor prevail.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — It's important to remain positive today, even if avenues for gain appear blocked early on. The right attitude will create developments that could lead to larger returns, or even a bonus or a raise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Try not to entangle yourself with non-producers today, even if it means you have to work alone. With a free hand to operate independently, your potential for success increases considerably.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Don't think that only those areas in which you operate daily hold all the advantages. Situations that you can derive some type of side benefit from might be your largest producers today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Something quite beneficial could result today through people with whom you'll be socially involved. However, what you gain isn't likely to be of a material nature.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Wishful thinking never gets things accomplished — it takes elbow grease and hard work to make life happen. Today, nothing will be gained until you get up and get going.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — An individual who has promised to help you advance a present interest should not be depended upon to contact you. If your need is urgent, open up the lines of communication yourself today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — The timing could be propitious today for implementing some changes you've needed to make that would enhance your material security. Don't be shy about it — give things a try now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Someone with whom you'll be involved today has a long memory, so let's hope you showed him or her cooperation and support in the past. You'll get what you've given.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Although you could be faced with multiple responsibilities today, which is a bit intimidating to you, believe in yourself. You'll be able to handle a number of assignments simultaneously.

Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker wheel instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167.

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California Senate passes compromise budget

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Seeking to end California's 27-day budget deadlock, the state Senate approved a compromise spending plan Sunday that imposes nearly $13 billion in cuts but raises no new taxes.

The budget bill passed on a 27 to 10 vote, with only five Republicans supporting the plan. The nearly $100 billion proposal now goes to the Assembly, which is expected to embrace it early this week.

The proposed budget largely protects education funding for the next year. Public health and human service programs also are expected to be maintained at the same levels as last year.

"There's something in here for almost everybody to hate," said Senate President Pro Tem John Burton.

—

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



A word about staph

DEAR DR. GOTT: Just what is a staph infection and what will cure it? I've had one for two years and was told that it is resistant to antibiotics and cannot be cured.

DEAR READER: Staphylococcus bacteria are ubiquitous in nature. For example, all of us carry millions of staph germs on our skin all the time. By and large, staph bacteria are not a serious health problem; they cause pimples, boils and other relatively innocuous ailments.

Some strains of staph, however, are exceedingly dangerous because they are resistant to most antibiotics and tend to burrow deeply into the body, setting up abscesses in bones and other tissues. For this reason, extensive or deep staph infections usually have to be surgically drained, and the pus tested exhaustively in the lab to discover which antibiotic would be appropriate to use. Such infections can become chronic and last several years, despite appropriate intravenous therapy.

I don't necessarily agree with the dismal prognosis that you were given. I believe that your infection can be cured by aggressive, intense therapy. Consequently, I urge you to seek a consultation with an infectious disease authority, many of whom are associated with teaching hospitals and medical centers. Let me know how this turns out.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I suffered from anorexia and bulimia for almost five years before getting into counseling. However, I still take up to six laxative tablets a day, even as I continue to struggle to overcome my ailment. What effects will the prolonged use of laxatives have on my body?

DEAR READER: First, lef me congratulate you for taking positive steps to deal with your eating disorder. This takes courage, and I admire you for doing it.

The chronic use of laxatives, especially in large quantities, can harm the intestine, set the stage for habituation, and reduce the absorption of vital nutrients, leading to malnutrition and vitamin deficiencies.

People with eating disorders often come to rely on laxatives because these compounds promote weight loss. Part of your recovery must entail training your body to function without laxatives. You can be helped in this quest by a physician, who will suggest the proper use of fiber, psyllium and other natural laxatives to get you over the hump.

The persistent use of any laxative should be discouraged; the amount you are consuming is clearly inappropriate. Ask your counselor to work with a medical consultant to help you overcome the physical consequences, as well as the emotional attributes, of your eating disorder.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm 80. At 48, I had a hysterectomy. Since then, I've been taking hormone replacement therapy. My cardiologist advises me to discontinue this. Do you agree?

DEAR READER: Without question. Previous studies have proved that HRT may cause cancer and other complications. Newer studies show that HRT probably contributes to brain disorders leading to dementia. Thus, several experts have recently recommended that all women past menopause should avoid HRT.

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

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Candidate wants all children to have health care coverage

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards wants to require parents to have health insurance for their children, making medical care an American birthright much like education.

Children not covered by private insurance would be enrolled automatically in government plans when they are born, enter school or visit a health clinic. Edwards, a North Carolina senator, would then give $25 billion annually in tax credits to help parents pay the cost.

Edwards' plan is a targeted alternative to costlier and more widespread proposals to cover the uninsured being offered by several of his rivals for the Democratic nomination.

Edwards said the nation's 12 million uninsured children should be the first priority in reforming the health care system.

"Parents have a responsibility to make sure their children get health care, and we have a responsibility to make sure they can afford it," Edwards said in a speech prepared for an appearance Monday in Manchester, N.H.

A plan that helps keep kids healthy could prove politically popular. Insuring children also is less costly than covering adults because they generally don't require as much medical attention.

Edwards' plan, estimated to cost $53 billion a year, also includes some targeted subsidies aimed at helping more than 8 million uninsured adults afford health care.

Poll suggests support for shuttle and space exploration still exist

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two-thirds of Americans say the space shuttle should continue to fly despite two disastrous accidents, but enthusiasm for putting civilians aboard is declining, an Associated Press poll finds.

A higher number, nearly three-fourths, said they think the space program is a good investment, according to the poll conducted for the AP by ICR/International Communications Research of Media, Pa.

"I'm very proud of it," David Wines, a 46-year-old carpenter from upstate New York, said of the U.S. space exploration program. "I think that it shows the rest of the world that we're not afraid to go out to places that are unknown and find out what's out there."

Enthusiasm for the program of space exploration was greater among younger adults, those with more education and those with higher incomes. Whites were more likely than blacks and men were more likely than women to think the shuttle should continue to fly.

The strong support continues even after the fiery disintegration of Columbia in February and the grounding of the remaining shuttles during an investigation into the cause of the accident that killed the crew of seven astronauts.

That investigation, by an independent board, has pointed to a 11/2-pound chunk of foam insulation breaking off from the shuttle's fuel tank during liftoff and slamming into the leading edge of the left wing. The resulting crevice in the wing allowed super-hot gases to penetrate the shuttle during its re-entry into the atmosphere.

The board's final report, to be issued in late August, will deal with both the technical causes of the Columbia accident and management issues that could affect flight safety. Engineers' concerns about the foam strike were discounted and never forwarded to top officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe says the agency already is addressing issues raised by the accident. Earlier this month, he told reporters the agency is looking toward a return to space in six to nine months.

Oil Path News

Scurry County

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 167-7 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, six miles northwest of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 7,600 feet, drill site is in Section 253, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 168-03 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, five miles northwest of Snyder. Also scheduled for a depth of 7,600 feet, drill site is in Section 253, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Borden County

Chevron has completed the No. 5335 Jo-Mill field unit, 15 miles southwest of Gail. The well was completed to produce 120 barrels of oil and 171 barrels of water. Location is in Section 27, Block 33, T4N, T&P survey.

Chevron has completed the No. 5510 Jo-Mill field unit, 15 miles southwest of Gail. The well was finaled to produce 197 barrels of oil and 106 barrels of water. Location is in Section 25, Block 33, T4N, T&P survey.

Garza County

Miranda Energy Corp. will drill the No. 6 Connell in the Rocker A field, seven miles southeast of Post. Planned for a depth of 3,000 feet, drill site is in Section 12, Block 5, GH&H survey.

Mitchell County

Gruy Petroleum Management Co. will drill the No. 5515 Westbrook southwest field unit, three miles northwest of Westbrook. Planned for a depth of 3,600 feet, location is in Section 31, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Gruy Petroleum will drill the No. 1018 Westbrook southwest field unit, three miles northwest of Westbrook. Also planned for a depth of 3,600 feet, location is in Section 29, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Gruy Petroleum will drill the No. 5117 Westbrook southwest field unit, three miles northwest of Westbrook. Contracted for 3,600 feet, drill site is in Section 29,

Block 28,T1N, T&P survey.

Gruy Petroleum will drill the No. 5120 Westbrook southwest field unit, three miles northwest of Westbrook. Planned for a depth of 3,600 feet, location is in Section 29, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Gruy Petroleum will drill the No. 5121 Westbrook southwest field unit, three miles northwest of Westbrook. Also set for a depth of 3,600 feet, location is in Section 29, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Gruy Petroleum will drill the No. 4122 Westbrook southwest field unit, three miles northwest of the townsite. Projected depth is 3,600 feet, and location is in Section 29, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Kent County

LeClair Operating Co. Inc. will drill the No. 1 Streit, a 4,880-foot wildcat located two miles northwest of Girard. Location is in Section 127, Block 1, H&GN survey.

Howard County

Cleo Thompson will drill the No. 1 Grantham, a 9,000-foot wildcat located 1.5 miles northeast of Knott. Location is in Section 7, Block 33, T2N, T&P survey.

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JUL 28 2003

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Flooding forces hundreds from homes

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — Flooding forced hundreds of people from their homes today in northeast Ohio following weekend storms that also knocked out power to thousands of people elsewhere in the Midwest,

Barbara Ruscitti woke up early today and saw her dresser floating in her basement bedroom of her Canton home.

"When I put my feet over the side of my bed, my feet were in water," she said. "I was just stunned. I started yelling and screaming and crying."

The basement flooded to its ceiling within minutes, she said. She and her family and other residents of the duplex had to wade a block through neck-deep water to a fire station.

The Canton Fire Department estimated 1,000 people had been forced from their homes in the city and surrounding areas. Ruscitti was one of hundreds of people who spent today in three Red Cross shelters in the area.

The fire department used boats to pluck about 200 people from their homes.

The Akron/Canton area reported 3.78 inches of rain in just three hours Sunday and wind gusted to 70 mph at Sandwich, Ill., about 65 miles west of Chicago, the National Weather Service said.

'Murky intelligence' must be acted on, says Pentagon official

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon's second-ranking official says the United States must be prepared to act on less-than-perfect intelligence in a world where the main threat is terror, even though information about terrorism is inherently murky.

"If you wait until the terrorism picture is clear, you're going to wait until after something terrible has happened," Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"And we went to war, and I believe we are still fighting terrorists and terrorist supporters in Iraq, in a battle that will make this country safer in the future from terrorism."

Making the rounds of television talk show, Wolfowitz told "Fox News Sunday" that "Iraq now is the central battle in the war on terrorism."

He similarly linked the U.S.-led invasion and its aftermath to President Bush's war on terror. At the same time, he emphasized that intelligence dealing with terrorists is intrinsically "murky."

On CBS' "Face the Nation," Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, ranking Democrat on the Armed Services Committee, said he was struck by Wolfowitz's use of the word.

"Boy, it sure didn't sound murky before the war," Levin said. "There were clear connections, we were told, between al-Qaida (terrorists) and Iraq. There was no murkiness, no nuance, no uncertainty about it at all. ... That's the way it was presented to the American people."

Critics of the Bush policy of pre-emptive attack based on intelligence revealing a threat to U.S. security, on which the Iraq invasion was based, have contended that spying is too uncertain to support such a policy.

Wolfowitz did not say specifically that the Iraq campaign resulted from murky intelligence. But he said a congressional intelligence report released last week blamed the administration for not discerning, from bits of evidence, the terrorist threat that was borne out on Sept. 11, 2001. Critics are trying to have it both ways, he said.

Wolfowitz said he was unsure whether a recent upsurge in American combat deaths in Iraq represented a trend or merely a spike triggered by the killing last week of two sons of deposed President Saddam Hussein.

There were 13 deaths in the seven days ending Saturday, one of the bloodiest weeks of the war. Another soldier died Sunday.

Witnesses said today at least three American soldiers were injured in an attack on their convoy as it drove through Baghdad. Others, however, said the soldiers were killed.

Seven arrests keep Snyder police busy

Arrests

An 18-year-old man was arrested at 12:07 a.m. Sunday on Hwy. 208 for a misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

Officers were requested at the VFW at 12:40 a.m. Sunday by a woman reporting a domestic disturbance in the parking lot.

Officers arrested a 20-year-old man for assault, family violence and disorderly conduct-abusive language.

At 12:55 a.m. Sunday in the 1700 block of Ave. T, a 20-year-old man was taken into custody for no driver's license and no liability insurance.

A 22-year-old woman was arrested at 2:32 a.m. Sunday at U.S. 180 and Apple Ave. for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

Officers arrested a 25-year-old man in the 1000 block of 23rd Street on warrants for no driver's license.

Also arrested at that time was a 39-year-old man on warrant for motion to revoke probation on an original charge of driving while intoxicated.

At 5:22 a.m. officers arrested a 21-year-old man in the 1300 block of College Ave. for Class A criminal mischief after police received a call from a woman reporting that her common-law husband had punched a hole in the grill of her vehicle and damaged a gate.

Accidents

Snyder officers responded to an accident in the 1200 block of College Ave. at 3:42 p.m. Friday.

Involved were a 1992 Ford Ranger driven by David Long, 20, of 3613 40th Street and a 1996 Ford Explorer driven by Claudette Fuentez, 43, of 2104 41st Street. No injuries were reported.

At 9:55 p.m. Friday, another accident occurred in the 4000 block of College Ave.

Involved were a late-model Ford Explorer driven by Nancy Felan, 41, of 3902 Muriel and a 1992 Chevrolet Cavalier driven by Jeremy Roemisch, 19, of Hermleigh. There were no injuries.

Laura Thomas reported Sunday that a vehicle struck her mailbox and fled. A hit-and-run report was submitted.

Thefts

Mrs. Bud England of 1905 Round Rock Ave. reported at 8:34 a.m. Saturday that a hubcap had been taken. A report for stolen property was filed.

At 9:12 a.m. Saturday, James Beckham reported three window air conditioning units stolen from a house he is selling. A report for Class A theft was filed.

Officers responded to a call at 7:30 p.m. by Robert Cardwell reporting that an air-conditioning unit had been stolen out of his rent house. A report for theft was submitted.

Andrew Dupree reported a bicycle stolen from Snyder Lanes at 11:17 p.m. Saturday. A report for Class B theft was submitted.

Debbie Casey reported at 7:30 p.m. Sunday that her house had been broken into. A report for burglary of a building was filed.

At 11:49 p.m. Dolly Moncebious reported that her residence had been broken into by two subjects. A report for burglary of a residence was submitted.

Family violence

Officers responded to a call at 10:09 p.m. Saturday from a mother reporting a disturbance between her daughter and son. A report for family violence was submitted.

Criminal mischief

At 12:24 a.m. today officers reported a possible forced entry at the Auto Center on College Ave. The owner was contacted and a report for criminal mischief was filed.

Gas drive offs

A clerk at United reported a gas drive off worth $29.06 noon Saturday.

At 1:36 p.m. a clerk at Rip Griffin's Truck Stop reported a gas drive off of $15. A report for Class C theft was filed.

A clerk at Town and Country North reported a gas drive off worth $17 at 2:46 p.m.

Obituaries

Hazel Rannefeld

1925-2003

Hazel Marie Rannefeld, a resident of Snyder since 1950, died Saturday, July 26, at her home in Snyder after a lengthy illness.



Rannefeld

Funeral service for Mrs. Rannefeld, 78, is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. Jim Wright, pastor of the Grace Lutheran Church, will officiate. Burial will follow in the Roscoe Cemetery.

Born May 2, 1925 in Rotan, she was a 1942 graduate of Sweetwater High School and attended San Angelo Junior College.

She married Vernon O. Rannefeld on July 27, 1944 in Roscoe. They moved to Snyder in 1950 and were owners and operators of Snyder Heating and Air Conditioning until their retirement on March 15, 1989.

A charter member of the Grace Lutheran Church, Mrs. Rannefeld served as church treasurer for 15 years and was the first woman to serve on the church council.

A son, Terry Wayne Rannefeld preceded her in death, on July 31, 1988.

Survivors include her husband, Vernon Rannefeld of Snyder; a daughter, Kay Holder of Midland; a son, James W. Rannefeld of Taos, N.M.; two sisters, Wilma L. Key of Dallas and Mabel L. Brown of Crane; two brothers, John E. Loving of Los Alamos, N.M., and James C. Loving of Georgetown; and six grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 7 to 8 this evening at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Minnie Bollinger

1925-2003

Minnie Bollinger, 77, died Sunday, July 27, at her home in Snyder after a sudden illness.

Services for Mrs. Bollinger are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Sept. 28, 1925 in Baird, she married Elvis Benton "Bo" Bollinger on Oct. 29, 1959 in Clovis, N.M. He died in 1991.

A homemaker, Mrs. Bollinger was a member of the Union Baptist Church.

Survivors include two daughters, Dianne Walker of Snyder and Sandra Tschirhart and husband Tony of Georgetown; a stepdaughter, Patricia Woodard and husband Stean; two stepsons and their wives, Benny and Darlene Bollinger and Donnie and Karen Bollinger, all of Snyder; a sister, Winnie Patterson of Hobbs, N.M.; four grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; and several step-great-grandchildren.

Mary Maxwell

1959 — 2003

DALLAS – Mary Maxwell, the sister of Floyda Collins of Snyder, died Tuesday, July 22, in Chicago.

Funeral service for Mrs. Maxwell, 43, is set for 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Greater Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Dallas.

Born Dec. 9, 1959 in Colorado City, she was preceded in death by a brother, Elroy Devorce.

A former resident of Colorado City, she was the daughter of L.C. and Verna Mae Devorce of Colorado City.

Netty McDaniel

1921-2003

ROTAN — Netty Lois McDaniel of Rotan, a former Snyder resident, died Friday, July 25, in Brownfield.

Graveside service for Mrs. McDaniel, 81, is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Belvieu Cemetery in Rotan with Brett Atkins officiating. Weathersbee-Ray Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Born Nov. 12, 1921 in Rotan, she married Woodrow Pickens McDaniel on Jan. 6, 1940. They had lived in Rio Vista, Andrews, Snyder and Brownfield. She was a member of the Bethel Baptist Church in Brownfield and the VFW Ladies Auxiliary. Mrs. McDaniel retired as line foreman at Walls Industries.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Absolum Alexander and Mary Beatrice (Kinsey) Hull; three brothers, J.L., Dewey and Waylon Hull; three sisters, Linda Pearl Feucht, Gladys Farrar and Stella Goodwin.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Ann and Bob Woodson of Brownfield; two brothers, Allen Hull of Rotan and Ben Hull of Long Beach, Calif.; one sister, Betty McDaniel of Rotan; two grandsons, Daniel and Tony Woodson; and many nieces and nephews.

Clarence Goebel

1918-2003

HASKELL — Services are pending at Holden Funeral Home in Haskell for Clarence Goebel, former Hermleigh farmer.

Mr. Goebel, 84, died Sunday, July 27, in Rice Springs Nursing Home.

Survivors include two sisters, Dora Woellert of Snyder and Nell Gill of Victoria.

Personal, Professional Service

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME

3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Independently Owned & Operated

WCFH

WRIGHT COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME

200 East 37th Street

Snyder, Texas

915-573-6200

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

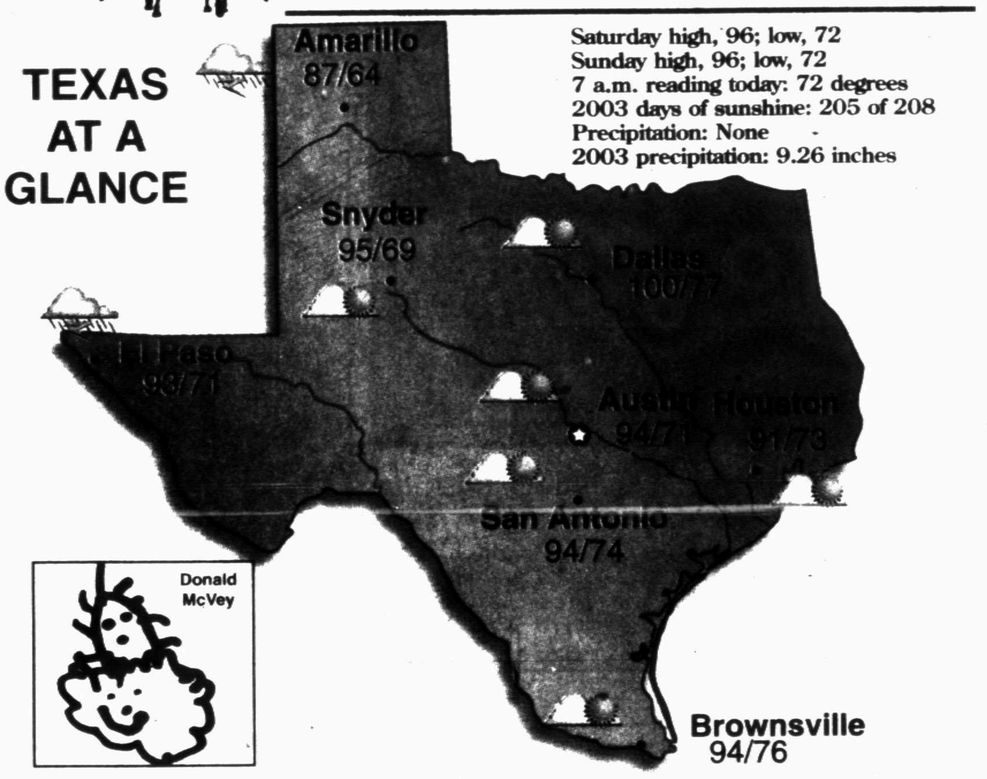
Tue 7/29	Wed 7/30	Thu 7/31
95/69	97/68	86/66
Partly cloudy skies. High near 95F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph.	Slight chance of a thunderstorm.	A few thunderstorms possible. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 60s.
Sunrise 6:55 AM / Sunset 8:44 PM	Sunrise 6:56 AM / Sunset 8:44 PM	Sunrise 6:57 AM / Sunset 8:43 PM

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FDIC

TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Donald McVey

Saturday high, 96; low, 72
Sunday high, 96; low, 72
7 a.m. reading today: 72 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 205 of 208
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: 9.26 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	97	73	mst sunny	El Paso	93	71	t-storm	Midland	95	71	mst sunny
Amarillo	87	64	t-storm	Fort Stockton	93	69	pt sunny	Raymondville	96	74	pt sunny
Austin	94	71	pt sunny	Gainesville	99	72	t-storm	Rosenberg	92	73	pt sunny
Beaumont	90	73	t-storm	Greenville	100	72	t-storm	San Antonio	94	74	pt sunny
Brownsville	94	76	pt sunny	Houston	91	73	pt sunny	San Marcos	94	72	pt sunny
Brownwood	99	73	mst sunny	Kingsville	94	73	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	100	71	t-storm
Corpus Christi	91	76	pt sunny	Livingston	92	71	pt sunny	Sweetwater	97	72	pt sunny
Corsicana	100	74	mst sunny	Longview	95	71	pt sunny	Tyler	97	74	pt sunny
Dallas	100	77	pt sunny	Lubbock	93	67	pt sunny	Weatherford	100	72	pt sunny
Del Rio	95	76	pt sunny	Lufkin	93	72	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	100	72	t-storm

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Atlanta	85	68	t-storm	Houston	91	73	pt sunny	Phoenix	100	84	t-storm
Boston	77	64	pt sunny	Los Angeles	78	65	cloudy	San Francisco	74	58	pt sunny
Chicago	84	63	mst sunny	Miami	86	77	t-storm	Seattle	91	63	sunny
Dallas	100	77	pt sunny	Minneapolis	84	67	pt sunny	St. Louis	85	67	pt sunny
Denver	83	58	t-storm	New York	79	66	pt sunny	Washington, DC	78	68	t-storm

Moon Phases

Last	New	First	Full
Jul 21	Jul 29	Aug 5	Aug 12

UV Index

Tue 7/29	Wed 7/30	Thu 7/31
Extreme	Very High	High

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

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