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INSIDE

WT-Int. Crude - $26.53
WTIC Posted - $23.00
Natural Gas - $5.440

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY

April 28, 2003
Vol. 54 No. 310
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Camry Hill

Wind farm tax talks at snail's pace

By Brian Brisendine
SDN Staff Writer

Scurry County commissioners' court this morning was hammering out a deal to entice Cielo Windpower to construct a wind farm in northern sections of the county.

The scope of the project and terms of abatement both were unclear, but at noon today the negotiations appeared to be stalled on the amount the county would be paid if taxes are abated.

Cielo representative Dave Groberg said the county could end up with as many as 90 turbines in the project, but a tentative contract presented to the court calls for a minimum of 60 turbines.

The commissioners' court made it clear that the county favors a minimum of 80 turbines and would move to place that number in any contractual agreement.

Randy Sowell of Cielo said the company hasn't been able to design a project to produce as many megawatts as planned in Borden County.

"So Scurry County could reap the benefits and more turbines to make up the difference," he said. "As a result, most of the project will be in Scurry County."

The tentative deal also offered the county $400 annually, per turbine, which wasn't viewed favorably by the court.

"I was very disappointed with the $400 offer with a 10-year abatement," said County Judge Rod Waller.

At noon, the court was discussing a $1,000 fee per turbine for up to 80 of the towers. Each turbine above that number would draw a smaller fee, if the company accepted the terms.

The deal would generate a minimum of $800,000 for the county through the 10-year abatement.

Another term in the tentative agreement offered by Cielo called for the county to give up its right to seek back taxes should the company file for bankruptcy during the abatement period.

Citing its recent trials with back taxes regarding Lorber Industries and the spinning mill, the court also made it clear that the county is not interested in such an offer.

The $1,000-per-turbine offer will not include that stipulation.

Both sides were still discussing the agreement at noon today.

Estimated cost of the project was originally said to be $80 million, but company officials this morning revised the estimate to $56 million. Each turbine now is estimated to cost $700,000.

In other business, the court rescinded existing guidelines for operation of the septic facility program in Scurry County and adopted new rules set by the state.

Waller was presiding over the meeting and all commissioners were present to include Ralph Trevey, Jerry House, Howard Limmer and Chloanne Lindsey. County attorney Mike Hartman also was present to assist in negotiations.

Bush touts efforts in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is touting his administration's efforts to plant the seeds of democracy in the rubble of Saddam Hussein's toppled dictatorship, courting Michigan's Arab community with an eye on his re-election.

Bush traveled today to Dearborn, Mich., a Detroit suburb where about 30 percent of residents claimed Arab ancestry in the latest census.

He was not ready to declare combat in Iraq over yet, aides said Sunday. That is likely to come later this week.

But Bush was offering an "optimistic vision of a liberated Iraq, and how Iraq can live in peace with its neighbors and become representative of an Islamic democracy," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said in previewing the trip.

Helping craft an "Islamic democracy" is dicey business, however. The United States has promised democracy for Iraq, but has ruled out the kind of Islamic government that democracy could yield.

With Shiite Muslims forming more than 60 percent of Iraq's population, a free vote could produce an Islamic-oriented government with close ties to the historically anti-American Shiite clerics who have governed Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said the United States will not allow a religious government like Iran's to take hold in Iraq.

Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., said Rumsfeld's position "demonstrates the kind of quagmire that we are potentially going to be in Iraq."

"If you talk about a democracy, which means that people vote and select the political leadership that they desire, then you can't say, 'But there are certain segments of the population that are off-limits,'" the 2004 presidential hopeful said Sunday.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS — Lubbock DPS Trooper John Gonzales instructs Snyder resident Eva Romero on how to properly harness her two-year-old son, Antonio, into his car seat Saturday in the Varsity Square parking lot. New seats were provided at no cost to parents who did not have a seat or who had a defective seat. (SDN Staff Photo)

Local students facing TAKS tests this week

Snyder, Hermleigh and Ira students will be taking the new state-mandated TAKS tests beginning Tuesday.

All juniors as well as students in grades 3-8 will take the TAKS math test Tuesday.

In addition, Snyder and Ira students in grades 11-12 will retest on the writing portion of the TAAS, if necessary. Also in Ira, the State Development Alternative Assessment (SDAA) test will be given for grades three and four for mathematics.

On Wednesday, the TAKS reading retest will be administered at Snyder and Ira for third graders, and the TAKS reading test will be given in all three schools for grades four through eight, and the math test will be given to all sophomores.

The exit level retest for TAAS math also will be Tuesday.

Ira students in grades three through eight also will be given the SDAA for reading.

On Thursday, the TAKS math test will be given to all ninth graders, and the TAKS social studies will be taken by eighth graders, sophomores and juniors.

Also on Thursday, the TAKS science test will be given to all fifth graders.

Re-testing for the TAAS reading test also will be Thursday for juniors and seniors.

Snyder ISD has moved its TAKS science test from Friday to Thursday for sophomores and juniors due to a large number of students involved in UIL competition.

Hermleigh and Ira will hold TAKS tests for science on Friday.

This is the first re-testing session for the TAKS grade three reading test.

Third graders have three opportunities to pass this test.

The third and final TAKS third grade test will be given on July 8. If third graders do not pass this portion of the tests, state guidelines say they could be retained.

At Snyder, the TAAS Exit Level Tests will be given to any juniors and seniors that have not passed a section of the TAAS for graduation requirements.

Snyder, Ira and Hermleigh students have all consistently scored above the state-average on state-mandated tests.

Congress to resume tax cut fight

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress returns from spring break this week facing a $200 billion disagreement over how much to trim from President Bush's tax cut plan.

The White House, resigned that Congress won't pass Bush's original proposal for $726 billion in cuts over 10 years, is pushing for the $550 billion package passed by the House.

But moderate Republican Sens. George Voinovich of Ohio and Olympia Snowe of Maine blocked more than $350 billion in cuts in the Senate. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, angered House GOP leaders by making a deal to limit the final cut to $350 billion to get the crucial votes from Voinovich and Snowe.

Grassley said Sunday that Republicans are still looking for ways to offset the cost of additional tax cuts, such as closing corporate tax shelters and extending customs fees. But he said it would be difficult to reach $550 billion.

"We've got a divided government, and we have to operate within the realities of a Senate that is divided 51-49," he said on "Fox News Sunday."

Senate rules make passage of major legislation virtually impossible without 60 votes because of parliamentary delays or a filibuster — nonstop debate that can be stopped only by three-fifths of the 100 senators.

Bush renewed his campaign for bigger tax cuts in Voinovich's home state during the break, but Voinovich said Sunday that he won't go a penny higher than $350 billion.

"Anybody that knows George Voinovich knows that when I say something I mean it," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

The Senate was resuming work today, the House on Tuesday. The White House has summoned GOP leaders to a meeting Tuesday. Though legislative aides consider the infighting likely to come up, Bush frequently invites leaders to such sessions after congressional breaks to discuss the legislative schedule.

The House and Senate aren't likely to grind to a halt because of the GOP's infighting.

Early voting ends Tuesday at Hermleigh

For three school board positions

With early voting in the Hermleigh school board election ending Tuesday, 34 early votes had been cast as of this morning.

Incumbent trustees Tim Dacus, Joe Roemisch and Alan Culp face opposition by Jim Lionberger, Benny Sauceda and Jimmy Digby.

Early voting Tuesday will be from 9 a.m. until noon.

The Hermleigh school district is the only Scurry County entity with an election scheduled for May 3 as no opposed races developed in the Snyder or Ira school boards, or for the Snyder city council.

WINDY EVENING —Strong winds Sunday evening blew down this tree on the Thompson farm located some three miles south of 37th Street and Ave. E. Area showers skipped Snyder but parts of Fisher County received brief, heavy rain. (Contributed Photo)

ASK US

Q—Where can tickets be bought for the Saturday May Day barbecue?

A—They are available through Friday at the Senior Citizen Center, and can be purchased at the dinner that will be served from 4:30-6 p.m. in the coliseum.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Connie Fine...

...has lived in Scurry County 27 years and has been a secretary at National Fuel and Lubricant for four years. Her husband, Alan, is employed at Mesquite Oil Tools. They have two children who attend school at Ira. Jeff, 17, a senior, and Kylor, 10, a fourth grader are active in sports. Connie spends numerous hours watching baseball, basketball and golf. She also enjoys traveling.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Trust is a calculated risk made with one's eyes open to the possibilities of failure.
—Robert Levering

APR 28 2003

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Final hometown performance

Snyder High School's drama department will present the final hometown performance of *The Tempest* at 7:30 this evening. Admission is $5 for adults and $4 for students.

Choir parents to meet

All SHS choir parents are urged to attend the Choir Booster Club meeting at 6:30 p.m. today in the choir room. Banquet decorations will be made.

Support group

Gateway Family Services support group meets at 6:30 p.m. each Monday to focus on the educational needs of adult victims of family violence and sexual assault. Help in the area of literacy, GED progress and computer skills will be offered in both group and individual settings. Children's support group will meet at the same time and childcare will be available. Call 573-1822 for more information.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "The Case for Christianity," followed by "The Case Against Gambling."

TSA booster meeting

The technology student association booster meeting will be at 7 tonight at the high school. Results from the Odessa show will be discussed and plans for the banquet will be finalized.

Caregivers dinner

Odyssey Health Care Hospice will host a caregivers dinner at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall.

4-H play day

The Scurry County 4-H Horse Club fun day is set for 7 p.m.Tuesday at the coliseum annex. Entry fees are $5 per member. For more information, call Laura King at 574-1378 or 207-2756.

Genealogy Society meeting

The Scurry County Genealogy Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the library. The program is "U.S. Migration and Settlement, Patterns 1607-1900."

SISD parents meeting

Lucy Smith of the Region 14 Education Service Center will present a parent meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday at the service center, 4200 College Ave. the hour-long session will explain parental involvement policies at Snyder elementary campuses.

Central seminars

Central Elementary will conclude its series of Thursday afternoon seminars at 3 p.m. Thursday and May 15. *Keep Them Reading This Summer* will be presented by Janie Romine, Scurry County librarian. *Bully proofing Your Child* will be the topic on May 15. Snyder school counselor Debbie Shaw will give parents tips on how to help children stand up to a bully. Child care will be provided.

FBC services televised

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

Snyder Wheels car show

The Snyder Wheels Car show featuring live music will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday in the American State Bank parking lot. Saturday's event will be from 10:30 to 4 p.m. on the Snyder square. The Saturday cruise will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Call 573-2171 or 573-3977 for more information.

Yard and bake sale

Snyder Healthcare Family Council will sponsor a yard and bake sale beginning at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at 5311 Big Spring Highway (in back).

May Day

The Scurry County Senior Citizen Center May Day will be Saturday at Scurry County Coliseum. Booths open at 2 p.m. with the barbecue dinner from 4:30-6 p.m. Tickets are $6.

Antique tractor, equipment display

Scurry County Antique Tractor and Equipment Club's display and show will be Saturday at the Scurry County Coliseum. Tractors and equipment will be set up from 9-10 a.m., and on display from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. A parade around the square will be from 1:30-2 p.m. Demonstrations will be from 2:30-5 p.m.

Midnight movie madness

Midnight movie madness, sponsored by the SHS senior class, will be held Saturday. Waiting on company bookings for Malibu's Most Wanted or Bullet Proof Monk. Tickets are $5 at the door and also are available at high school. All ages welcome and concessions will be open.

Lord's Acre lunch

First United Methodist Church will hold a Lord's Acre chicken-fry lunch at noon on Sunday in Wesley Hall, 2700 College Ave. Adult tickets $7, children under 10, $4. Carryouts will be available.

FBC support groups

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

Boy Scouts Fish-a-Thon

Snyder Boy Scouts will hold the annual Fish-a-Thon from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 10, at Towle Park Pond. $5 per person to enter and prizes will be given hourly for the largest fish. No fishing license is required.

Joy School fall registration

Fall registration for Joy School, 201 31st. St., is from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. weekdays for birth to pre-K children. For more information call 573-3554.

Senior water aerobics

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

WTC adult basic education classes

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

Downtown Austin included in film shoot

AUSTIN (AP) — The first major retelling of Texas' battle for the Alamo since John Wayne directed and starred in the 1960 version of his film is shooting this week at the state capital.

Filmmakers will shut down a one-block section today and Tuesday as crews for the movie "Alamo" descend on downtown Austin.

Much of this week's filming with stars Billy Bob Thornton, Dennis Quaid and Jason Patric was expected to take place indoors.

The production, envisioned as the most historically accurate movie account of Texas' defining 1836 battle, is directed by John Lee Hancock and produced by Ron Howard.

The entire movie is being shot within a 30-mile radius of Austin, including the battle at the Alamo on the main set near Dripping Springs. About 200 people have come to Austin with trailers and equipment trucks for shooting in the urban setting, said Ernie Malik, the film's publicist.

"The circus is coming to town," Malik told the Austin American-Statesman.

Police will be on hand for security.

Crews today were scheduled to be inside the Driskill Hotel, shooting a conversation between Davy Crockett, played by Thornton, and Sam Houston, portrayed by Quaid. Patric was to play James Bowie.

Cinematographers will move to the Paramount Theatre on Tuesday to film a scene in which Crockett goes to see a play about himself called "Lion of the West" before leaving Washington for Texas. They were also scheduled to shoot a short scene late Tuesday outside the Austin Woman's Club.

Texians declared independence from Mexico on March 2, 1836, as Mexican Gen. Santa Anna's forces surrounded the Alamo mission, which now is located in downtown San Antonio.

With five weeks remaining on their 90-day filming schedule, movie crews are scheduled to wrap up by May 30, said Malik. Remaining are scenes depicting action at San Felipe and Gonzales, which will be shot on sets built on Reimers Ranch near Dripping Springs, and three weeks in Bastrop, where the Battle of San Jacinto will be staged.

The movie is scheduled to open on Christmas Day.

The Paramount is making its bid for the premiere with a marquee sign that reads, "John Lee Hancock: Please premiere your Alamo here."

Alamo historians said earlier they were pleased with the movie's direction. Plans called for Mexican actors to speak 19th-century Spanish and Native Americans to speak Cherokee, with subtitles in those portions — a first for a major Alamo movie.

Today's chuckle

Burglars steal everything including alligator

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP) — There must be easier things to steal.

Along with a Remington 870 Express shotgun, a custom-made pool cue and a Tupperware container with change, a 2-foot-long alligator was stolen from a Kenosha home by burglars.

"It's no big monster or nothing to be worried about," said homeowner Kenneth Grandou. "But they had to have some guts to grab it."

Grandou called police at about 5:30 p.m. Thursday after he arrived home from work and found several items missing. He told police he found the back door unlocked.

But at 7:15 p.m., officers were called back when Grandou's son arrived home and discovered his pet alligator was taken from an aquarium in the basement.

Grandou said he's more worried about the shotgun causing harm than the alligator.

Police say the suspect or suspects removed a screen and pried open a door to gain entry into the home.

Martin moderates discussion at UCLA

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Rock Bottom Remainders is one of the richest rock groups without a hit song — but the bandmates have sold plenty of books.

The group is made up of successful authors who get together for one week each year to raise money for charity. Their motto is: "We play as good as Metallica writes novels."

Steve Martin moderated a discussion Friday with members of the band at UCLA's Royce Hall. Members include Amy Tan, Mitch Albom, Dave Barry, Kathi Kamen Goldmark, Scott Turow, Ridley Pearson, Roger Iles and Matt Groening.

Lawsuit filed against Dial soap plant for harassment

CHICAGO (AP) — Dozens of women at a Dial soap plant faced sexual harassment, from crude comments to groping to pornography, and supervisors did nothing to stop it, according to the government.

Someone even whittled a bar of soap into the shape of a male body part, said a lawsuit by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The suit, filed on behalf of 90 current and former workers at the Aurora plant, is the biggest sexual harassment case brought by the EEOC since a landmark lawsuit against Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing of America five years ago, according to the federal agency.

Mitsubishi settled for $34 million. The company's North American division paid awards ranging from $10,000 to $300,000 to 486 female workers to settle allegations that women on an assembly line in Normal were groped and insulted and that managers did nothing to stop it.

So far, the Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Dial Corp. has declined to follow Mitsubishi's lead, saying the charges are unfair and the trial set for Monday in District Court will vindicate the company. But both sides left the door ajar for a last-minute deal.

EEOC Attorney John Hendrickson said a trial could take seven weeks, with the government calling as many as 50 witnesses, including many women who say they were afraid to report any harassment.

Sumiko Baker, 42, said she was working the night shift when a male co-worker came up close behind her. She said he told her, "We could get a lot closer."

She said she kept quiet because she didn't want a reputation as "a huge troublemaker."

"I was not going to be a martyr who was going to change things at the risk of not getting a reference" for another job, said Baker, who now works elsewhere.

Dial attorney Camille Olson said such women didn't want to get their male co-workers in trouble over mere horseplay.

She said the testimony about the Aurora plant, which produces 2.3 million bars of soap a day, will prove less than steamy.

"One of the allegations is, 'the supervisor touched me on the shoulder' or 'a person looked at me when I came into the room,'" Olson said. "Another is that 'a supervisor called me honey.'"

She said some of the harshest allegations, such as male workers exposing themselves on the shop floor, supposedly occurred decades ago, too long ago to qualify for this trial.

As for pornography, Olson said a few copies of Playboy may have been squirreled away in drawers but not much more.

Dial said men who caused real problems were warned and in some cases fired. The company said it established a training program to head off such problems as early as 1990, and even got an EEOC award for a job well done.

On the Net:
http://www.eeoc.gov
http://www.dialcorp.com

Date Book

Monday, April 28, 2003

Today is the 118th day of 2003 and the 40th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1788, Maryland ratified the U.S. constitution by a vote of 63 to 11. It was the seventh state to do so.

On this day in 1789, a mutiny took place aboard the H.M.S Bounty.

On this day in 1945, Benito Mussolini was executed along with several of his friends, his mistress and other leaders of Italy's Fascist Party.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: James Monroe (1758-1831), U.S. president; Lionel Barrymore (1878-1954), actor; Harper Lee (1926-), writer, is 77; Jay Leno (1950-), TV personality, is 53; Jessica Alba (1981-), actress, is 22.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1966, the Boston Celtics defeated the Los Angeles Lakers to win their eighth consecutive NBA championship.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime. Teach a man to create an artificial shortage of fish and he will eat steak." — Jay Leno

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (April 23) and new moon (May 1).

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LOTTO TEXAS — TEXAS LOTTERY

Saturday's Lottery Numbers Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

A winning ticket would have been worth an estimated $4 million.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 3-5-26-39-50-54.

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $5 million.

Pick 3
(Day) 6-6-2
(Night) 6-9-1
Cash Five
17-19-20-30-34

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Wednesday, April 30, 2003
at
1911 25th Street

Investigation of FBI's DNA lab broadens

WASHINGTON (AP) — With defense lawyers stepping up challenges to genetic evidence, the Justice Department inspector general is examining the FBI lab unit that analyzes DNA in hundreds of cases a year after a technician was caught failing to follow proper procedure.

The inquiry, expected to last several more months, already has led to changes inside the lab's DNA unit in response to advice from outside scientists brought in by Justice investigators, government officials told The Associated Press.

The inspector general, an independent watchdog, is trying to identify any vulnerabilities in the lab after an FBI technician went undetected for two years as she failed to follow required procedure in analyzing DNA evidence, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

DNA evidence has become increasingly important in criminal cases and in appeals from old convictions before such biological evidence was widely used.

The investigation, coupled with recent revelations of DNA irregularities in a few local crime labs that work with the FBI, could affect Attorney General John Ashcroft's project to create a national DNA database to help law enforcers identify crime suspects through their genetic fingerprints.

Criminal defense lawyers are planning challenges to the database and to DNA evidence in cases involving the FBI lab technician or the local crime labs accused of wrongdoing.

"All of us are depending on DNA as a gold standard in forensics work — innocence projects, prosecutors and defense lawyers. And now we don't have a gold standard. The gold has been tarnished," said Frederic Whitehurst, a lawyer and former FBI lab employee whose whistleblower allegations led to major changes in the lab in the mid-1990s.

The AP reported this month that FBI lab technician Jacquelyn Blake quit while under investigation for failing to follow required scientific procedures while analyzing 103 DNA samples over the past couple of years, and a second lab employee was indicted for allegedly providing false testimony.

Inspector General Glenn Fine expanded the Blake inquiry to examine the FBI lab's broader practices in DNA cases. The FBI has been cooperating, the government officials said.

The officials said the goal of the investigation is to identify vulnerabilities in lab procedure that could affect the quality of the FBI's DNA analyses or permit a rogue employee to go undetected.

FBI Lab Director Dwight Adams, himself a DNA scientist, disclosed the existence of the wider Justice Department inquiry during recent briefings on Capitol Hill, law enforcement and congressional officials said.

Adams told lawmakers and their staffs the DNA section has put changes in place to deal with issues raised by the outside scientists brought in by the inspector general, the officials said.

"We want correct and unassailable results and objective testimony, and to do that we've got to be open to outside scrutiny and outside review," Adams told the AP.

The investigation is the broadest inspector general's review of the FBI lab since one concluded in 1997 that scientists in the lab's explosive units engaged in bad science and gave inaccurate testimony. Those findings led to an overhaul of the world-renowned forensics facility.

FBI officials also are facing questions about how to protect the bureau's national DNA database from a growing number of problems at local police crime labs.

The police lab in Houston is under grand jury investigation for its DNA work. A police lab in Fort Worth is facing a criminal inquiry after revelations that a senior forensic analyst ignored proper DNA procedures. Florida is grappling with a state crime lab worker in Orlando who falsified DNA data.

FBI officials have pulled DNA samples from the Houston lab from its national database and said they will examine the allegations involving Fort Worth and Orlando to determine if any action is required to protect the national DNA registry.

The inspector general has pressed the FBI to conduct regular audits of state and local labs that put DNA evidence into the national registry. An audit in 2001 disclosed half the local labs examined were not in compliance with FBI DNA standards.

"No such audits of the DNA profiles in CODIS (the Combined DNA Index System) were being conducted at any level," the inspector general's report said.

"The FBI needs to improve its oversight ... to ensure the laboratories are in compliance with the act, the FBI's quality assurance standards and the FBI requirements for laboratories participating in the national index," it said.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 04-28-03
♠ 3
♥ 7 6 4 2
♦ 8 3 2
♣ 9 8 6 5 3

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

East
♠ 4 2
♥ A 9 3
♦ A 10 9 6
♣ A K J 10

South
♠ A K J 8 7 6
♥ K Q
♦ 7 5 4
♣ Q 7

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
			1 NT
2 ♠	Dbl.	All pass	

Opening lead: ♣ 4

Sidestep to avoid the snapping alligator

By Phillip Alder

How do you view crocodilia? I admire a species that effectively hasn't changed in a million years. They are formidable and fearsome.

Earlier this year, a six-year-old child, Jesse Valdez, was rescued by his uncle, Ever Vasquez, from a 325-pound alligator. (In Florida from 1993 to 2002, there were 159 alligator attacks on humans, of which six were fatal.)

Look only at the West hand. Your partner opens one strong notrump, and the next player overcalls two spades. What would you do?

The deal occurred during a game in North Palm Beach, Fla. Judy Bennett (West) had no hesitation in doubling for penalties.

The "normal" lead against two spades doubled looks like the diamond king. And if that suit is continued, the contract goes "only" three down. However, West guessed to start with the club four. Sandy Fredericks (East) won with her king, cashed the club ace, and continued with the club jack. South ruffed low and West overruffed.

Now came three rounds of diamonds, ending with East's ace. East's fourth club was ruffed low and overruffed. A heart to East's ace was followed by the 13th diamond, which promoted West's spade queen as a trick. So, with the perfect timing, the contract went four down: 1,100 to East-West.

South felt as if she had been attacked by two alligators. She had made a normal overcall, yet was chomped on severely. But did you notice her error? South should not have ruffed the third club. If she had discarded a diamond, making a loser-on-loser play, she would have held the loss to 800. Hardly a bargain, but it's better than nothing.

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S. Texas airman dies on mission in Afghanistan

DEL RIO (AP) — A South Texas family is mourning the loss of their son, an airman who was killed in Afghanistan.

A1C Raymond Losano, 24, was fatally wounded Friday while on patrol, his father, Roberto Losano of Del Rio told The Associated Press.

Air Force officials notified the family on Saturday. Losano said his daughter received the news and told him and his wife later that day when they returned from a trip to Arizona.

The family last spoke to the Raymond Losano on Easter Sunday, his birthday, his father said.

Raymond joined the Air Force in November 2001 and was deployed to Afghanistan about a month ago. He was stationed at Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina.

"He also wanted to be in the special forces," Losano said.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Mom wants to slow down daughter's rush to maturity

DEAR ABBY: My 15-year-old daughter, "Betsy," looks and acts older than her age. She's interested in older guys (17 to 19), and they're interested in her. Even though Betsy is not yet allowed to date or go to teenage clubs in town, it's becoming difficult for me to say no all the time.

How can I slow down my daughter's maturity? I would like Betsy to enjoy her childhood while she can. I realize her dad and I must allow her to grow up — I just don't want it to be this early. And yes, she is aware of sex. We've had "the talk." — **WATCHFUL MOM IN LOUISIANA**

DEAR WATCHFUL MOM: Keep your daughter busy. Get her involved in sports, dance, art, theater. But don't count on "slowing down her maturity." Much as you might wish to, you cannot hold back the hands of time.

P.S. I'm pleased you've had "the talk" with your daughter. At 15, she's well on her way to womanhood. Keep the lines of communication open, do not jump to conclusions, give her your unconditional love and listen without being judgmental. You're her mother, not her warden.

**

DEAR ABBY: Last year, my 32-year-old husband, "Tom," came down with a bad case of chicken pox. He never had it as a kid and couldn't be vaccinated because he is severely allergic to the vaccine.

The outbreak left Tom with pockmarks on his face, neck and back. He hasn't said much about it, but I know my husband. I can tell by the way he now styles his hair and wears his clothes that he's trying to hide the marks on his skin.

Tom is still very handsome, but he acts self-conscious and embarrassed about his appearance. Should I try to get him to talk about it — yes or no? And if I can get him to open up, what should I suggest? Thanks, Abby. — **CONCERNED ABOUT HUBBY IN PENNSYLVANIA**

DEAR CONCERNED: By all means talk to him. These days, many men avail themselves of cosmetic surgical procedures — and not just in Hollywood.

Suggest that he consult a dermatologist about his options for improving the appearance of the scarring. In recent years, tremendous progress has been made in skin resurfacing. However, the procedures should be done ONLY by an experienced, board-certified physician.

**

DEAR ABBY: Here is a true "he never says he loves me" story: On a beautiful, moonlit night in August of 1935, my future husband, Bill, and I were on our first date. We went swimming in a small lake with a dance pavilion on the shore. From the beach, Bill and I could hear the orchestra.

Suddenly we both got very quiet, listening to a beautiful melody. When the song ended, Bill said, "Gee, that's a pretty song — do you know the name of it?" I answered, "Love Me Forever." Bill took my hand and said, "Well, that's a long time, but I'd sure like to try!"

Over the years, whenever I told the story about "our song," I liked to tease Bill with, "That was the first and last romantic thing you ever said to me." Not the truth, of course, but it made a good story.

I am now an 86-year-old widow. My Bill died in 1971 — and the "forever" feels as true today as it did that summer night. — **VIRGINIA "TOOTS" WEITZEL, OLEAN, N.Y.**

DEAR "TOOTS": It may have been a first date, but your Bill knew a good thing when he saw one — and how to close a sale. Your letter touched me. Thank you for sharing your love story.

**

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.

**

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Lockheed union workers approve new contract

FORT WORTH (AP) — Ending a two-week strike over wages and health care, machinists at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co. have approved a new three-year contract after the company backed off on what union members considered to be givebacks on health care and other benefits.

Members of the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers Local 776 will begin their new three-year contract with the 7 a.m. shift today at the Fort Worth assembly plant.

Machinists voted by an 80 percent margin Sunday to accept the latest offer. Pat Lane, the union local's president who had recommended that members end their two-week strike against the aerospace manufacturer, said after the vote that he was "extremely pleased."

"We're glad to get this behind us," Lockheed Martin Aeronautics President Dain Hancock told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "This is important to the company, our customers and the community."

Representatives of the 4,000-member local and Lockheed Martin agreed early Saturday to the new contract proposal. Union members then voted 2,192 to 554 for the deal.

Employees will get a $1,500 bonus for signing the contract along with a 4 percent raise this year and 3 percent raises each the remaining two years in the contract.

It was the second strike by machinists against Lockheed Martin in three years and the third walkout since 1984. It began on April 14 after IAM members rejected a proposal with wage increases that some union members said would be consumed sharply by higher health care costs.

One of the most objectionable provisions, according to workers, was a change requiring greater worker co-payments on prescription drugs. Negotiators for Lockheed Martin agreed to a plan setting the co-payment at 10 percent with a $10 maximum for generic drugs and 20 percent with a $20 cap for brand-name drugs.

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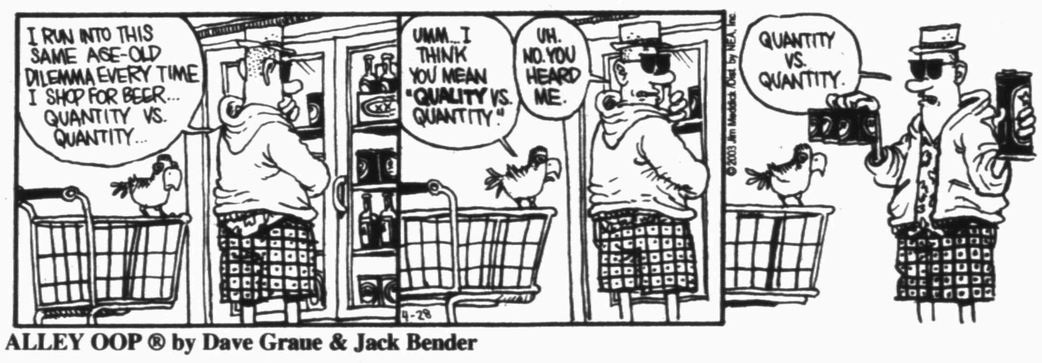
MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Moth or ant
4 Grey Cup org.
7 Pirate's swig
10 — — creek
11 Pusan's country
13 Before
14 Witty remark
15 Pile up
16 Khan of note
17 Close
19 Fjord
21 — Paulo
22 Make bales
23 Millionaire's toy
26 Desk items
30 Of guys
31 Above, in verse
32 Nev. neighbor
33 Sweater letter
34 Crumple up
35 Use a whetstone
36 Road surface
39 — up (got fit)
40 Authorizes
41 Shock
42 "Iliad" poet
45 Choose
48 Finale
49 Missouri range
51 Cen. fractions
53 Overhead trains
54 "Star Trek" regular
55 Id companion
56 Strong soap
57 AMA members
58 Wear

DOWN

1 Mooch
2 Bone — —
3 Airport exit
4 Dance band
5 Unravel
6 Guitarist
7 Authentic
8 Egg on
9 Vegan's no-no
11 Gold — Paul
12 From China measure
18 Arthur — of tennis
20 The Big Apple
22 Round up
23 Swimming pool loc.
24 Contented murmurs
25 Neaten the hedge
26 Sphagnum moss
27 Click-on item
28 Country road
29 Husky vehicle
31 Night fliers
35 Mesa dweller
37 Furrow maker
38 Ohio city
39 In poor taste
41 Goose eggs
42 Cad
43 Merely
44 Store stock (abbr.)
45 Clammy
46 Tinted
47 Proof word
50 Sharp turn
52 Hair, often

Answer to Previous Puzzle

E	S	P	N		F	I	R		B	A	B	Y
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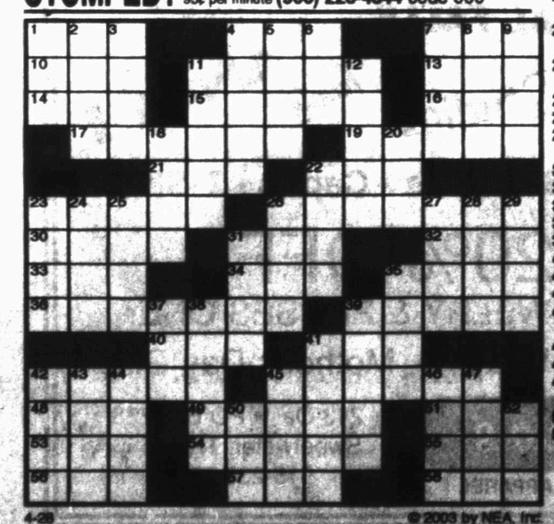

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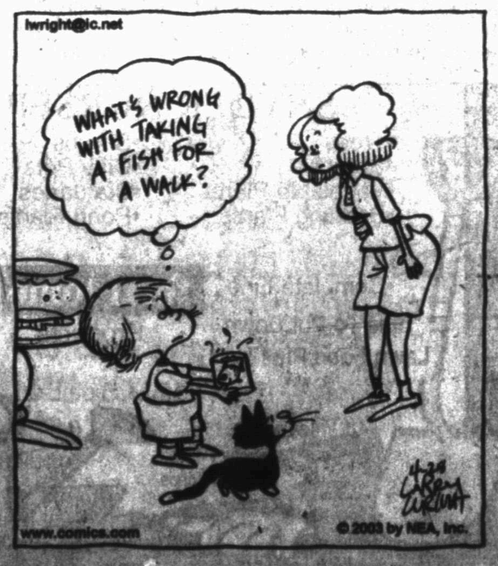
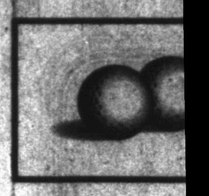
Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"It comes with three vegetables: two peas and a carrot."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright





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Houston	11
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Cincinnati	10
Milwaukee	9
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San Francisco	18
Colorado	14
Los Angeles	12
Arizona	10
San Diego	10

Sunday's G
Houston 6, Montreal 3
Atlanta 7, Milwaukee 1
Arizona 6, N.Y. Mets 1, 1st
Arizona 7, N.Y. Mets 3, 2nd
Cincinnati 7, San Diego 5
Los Angeles 6, Pittsburgh 2
Philadelphia 1, San Francis
Colorado 6, Chicago Cubs
St. Louis 7, Florida 6, 20 in
Monday's G

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SPORTS

WTC rodeo squad gets conference goal

STEPHENVILLE — Western Texas College had two goals heading into the spring rodeo season — qualify the most riders and ropers for the conference rodeo, and take one of the top two spots in the division.

One out of two will work.

The WTC rodeo team placed fourth at the Tarleton State University rodeo over the weekend, falling to third in the standings, but securing nine slots in the Southwest Conference Rodeo scheduled May 29-31 in Hobbs, N.M.

Clay Bunney captured the final berth in bareback riding, using a short round score of 75 to vault into third in average score for the TSU rodeo.

"The main thing is we got Clay Bunney qualified for the conference finals," rodeo coach Greg Rhodes said. "We met one of our two goals. I was extremely pleased. Everything that happened after Bunney was just icing on the cake."

Rhodes said having more riders at the finals was the more important of the two team goals.

"There is no reward for a team to finish in first or second in the standings," he said. "If you get as many as you can at regionals, the odds are better, and that's how you win the nation."

The team got solid individual performances as Randus London won the short round in breakaway roping with a time of 3.1 while teammates Erin Anglin was the runner-up with a 3.2. The women shared the average lead.

Sam Spreadborough continued his productive spring campaign with a second place finish in the average in saddle bronc riding.

Cody Carter and his partner placed fourth in both the short round and the average of the team roping competition.

Along with Bunney, the following rodeo team members who qualified for region are: Tyson Thompson and Jake Marshall, bareback riding; Spreadborough and Cody Horwedel, saddle bronc; Trent Cormier, Steven Turner and Hadley Hunting, bull riding; Turner, steer wrestling; Ashley Ryan and London, breakaway roping; and London, barrel racing.

Rhodes said he felt that the women's team members saddling up for the conference rodeo could handle their events.

"They can pull everything off," Rhodes said.

He said he feels confident in his team as the postseason schedule gets underway.

"There are two different seasons in rodeo, and everybody starts over now," he said. "I think we'll do pretty well."

Dallas drafts three likely starters

IRVING (AP) — This time, Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones waited until the end to do his trading in the NFL draft, and only then got a running back.

And Jones and new coach Bill Parcells seemed to co-exist well. Both are known to be powerful forces during the draft, and this was their first together.

Instead of trading down on the first day like a year ago, the Cowboys stuck with their No. 5 overall pick and took Kansas State cornerback-returner Terence Newman on Saturday.

Newman's proven ability at cornerback, a position where the team needed help, plus his return skills overshadowed questions about nerve damage in his left shoulder and the fact he'll be 25 when the season begins, about two years older than the average first-rounder.

On Sunday, the Cowboys traded their last pick, sending their second seventh-round pick (236th overall) to Detroit for running back Aveion Cason. Dallas, which has let NFL career rushing leader Emmitt Smith go, didn't take a running back with any of its seven picks.

In between Newman's pick and their draft-ending trade, the Cowboys tried to follow the pattern that worked so well a year before in a draft that produced five players that started last season for the Cowboys.

After their three picks Saturday, including potential starters in Wisconsin center Al Johnson in the second round and Tennessee tight end Jason Witten in the third round, the Cowboys added LSU linebacker Bradie James in the fourth round to start Sunday.

"I feel we got significant value with our first four picks. They will have to be in the mix for us to be successful next season," Jones said.

The Cowboys then stuck to their draft board and tried to add depth at several positions.

"Like our draft last year, we wanted find players to address our depth issues with players that have an upside," Jones said.

Dallas didn't have a fifth-round pick but used their final three choices to accomplish that goal. The Cowboys got Wisconsin defensive back B.J. Tucker and Hampton receiver Zuriel Smith in the sixth round and Colorado guard Justin Bates in the seventh round before Jones made his 33rd trade in 15 drafts since buying the team.

Parcells never addressed the media Sunday, but Jones said the two felt good about what they accomplished in the draft for the Cowboys, who are coming off consecutive 5-11 seasons, and worked well together.

"If the two of us had differences, and we didn't have many, there were differences about strategy," Jones said. "But in the long run it wasn't about what Bill wanted or what Jerry wanted. It came down to about what was best for the Dallas Cowboys."

The 6-foot-2, 242-pound James fits Parcells' like for big linebackers. James was an All-American while setting an LSU record with 154 tackles last season.

Jones said the Cowboys had talked with Oakland about moving up into the third round to select James, so they were ecstatic he was still available Sunday.

"He's going to have a lot of company at linebacker," Jones said. "But we expect him to come in and contribute significantly."

KIDDING AROUND — Jay Kidd holds the flag on hole nine of the WTC golf course Saturday during the Slingin' Sammy Baugh booster club tournament while his father, Pop, marks his shot. (SDN Staff Photo)

Rangers top Yanks, 10-7

ARLINGTON (AP) — Alex Rodriguez went 5-for-5 and drove in six runs Sunday, making up for what had been a frustrating weekend, and the Texas Rangers beat the New York Yankees 10-7 to give manager Buck Showalter his first win against his former team.

In the first two games of the series, Rodriguez struck out five times, pushing his AL-high total to 30. That included watching three straight strikes for the last out in the 10th inning of Saturday night's 7-5 loss in which he homered but also had three strikeouts.

His third career five-hit game, A-Rod's first in Texas, had him feeling much better.

"This is good for the psyche," said Rodriguez, who raised his average from .289 to .326 and has more hits (31) than strikeouts again.

His two-run double tied the game at 4 in the fourth. An inning later, his three-run double into the right-center field gap capped a five-run outburst that put the Rangers up 9-5.

With an RBI single in the seventh in his last at-bat, Rodriguez matched a career high and a Texas record with five hits. His six RBIs were one short of a career best.

The Yankees still won eight of 10 games on their road trip.

Blazers beat Mavs to stay alive

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — No NBA team has ever come back after losing the first three games of a best-of-seven series. Bonzi Wells wants his fellow Portland Trail Blazers to forget that fact.

The Trail Blazers took the first step Sunday night, beating the Dallas Mavericks 98-79 to avoid their third straight first-round sweep.

Coach Maurice Cheeks earned his first playoff victory as a head coach after six unsuccessful tries.

Without injured stars Scottie Pippen, Derek Anderson and Arvydas Sabonis, the Trail Blazers rallied to send the series back to Dallas for Game 5. Zach Randolph had 25 points and 15 rebounds, and Damon Stoudamire had 17 points and 11 assists.

Dirk Nowitzki had 26 points and 11 rebounds for the Mavericks, who lacked intensity. Dallas scored a team playoff-low 10 points in the third quarter, and the Trail Blazers took over.

"Wednesday's game is huge. You don't want to build their confidence even more. We did that today," Nowitzki said.

Tigers host Greenwood Friday

The Snyder Tigers are set to play a best-of-three series with the Midland Greenwood Rangers in a bi-district baseball series, with the opener scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday at Moffett Field.

The teams would then play the next game Saturday in Midland at noon, with the finale to immediately follow game two should the teams split the first two contests.

Tigers coach Charles Bollinger said Greenwood is looking to secure a field at either Midland Christian or Midland Lee for Saturday's games.

Chance Greenwood will get the nod for the Tigers in the bi-district tilt.

Wells earns spot in Austin in 200M run

Snyder thinclad October Wells will represent the school in one more event when she travels to Austin for the state meet.

Wells

After taking the runner-up spot in the triple jump Friday, Wells placed second in the 200M dash Saturday with a time of 25.98 seconds to come in just behind Ashley McCarty of Sanger, who was clocked at 25.48 seconds.

Wells and McCarty also are the representatives from 3A in the triple jump. Wells personal best leap of 37-9 was just shy of McCarty's leap 38 feet.

Wells is tentatively scheduled to participate in the triple jump on May 10 at 10 a.m., then run the 200M at 2:45 that afternoon.

The state track meet will be held May 8-10 at Myers Stadium on the University of Texas campus.

Little Dribblers

Major

Storm 36, Mystics 12

Storm: Tosha McGlouthin 14, Heather Newton 10, Shaquita Sneed 10, Nan'kita Davis 2. **Mystics:** Rebecca Juarez 10, Ryanna Alexander 2.

Jazz 51, Lady Raiders 8

Jazz: Brittany Mitchell 20, Samatha Medrano 12, Briana Bryant 9, Lareshia Carey 4, Stephanie Rodriguez 4, Aryn May 2. **Lady Raiders:** Tayla Wesson 4, Kailea Shaw 2, A'Lex Koonce 2.

Junior

Sharpshooters 26, Wildcats 19

Sharpshooters: Ashton Bruton 12, Blaire Toombs 12, Stacey Kemer 2. **Wildcats:** Jessica Ibarra 9, Meagan Robbins 4, Tania Rodriguez 4, Carly Gill 2.

Mercury 34, Rockets 27

Mercury: Lucera Espinoza 24, Latasha Richardson 6, Elsa Gallegos 4. **Rockets:** Rebecca Jones 10, Briana Rose 8, Amber Baker 4, Kenna Scott 3, Jentri Driggers 2.

NHL Playoffs

All times EDT
CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
(Best-of-7)

Thursday, April 24
New Jersey 3, Tampa Bay 0
Anaheim 4, Dallas 3, 5OT

Friday, April 25
Ottawa 4, Philadelphia 2
Vancouver 4, Minnesota 3, OT

Saturday, April 26
New Jersey 3, Tampa Bay 2, OT, New Jersey leads series 2-0
Anaheim 3, Dallas 2, OT, Anaheim leads series 2-0

Sunday, April 27
Philadelphia 2, Ottawa 0, series tied 1-1
Minnesota 3, Vancouver 2, series tied 1-1

Monday, April 28
New Jersey at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

Tuesday, April 29
Ottawa at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30
New Jersey at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

Thursday, May 1
Ottawa at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

Friday, May 2
Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 7 p.m., if necessary
Vancouver at Minnesota, 9 p.m.

Saturday, May 3
Philadelphia at Ottawa, 3 p.m.
Anaheim at Dallas, 3 p.m., if necessary

Sunday, May 4
New Jersey at Tampa Bay, 3:30 p.m., if necessary

NBA Playoffs

All times EDT
FIRST ROUND
(Best-of-7)

Saturday, April 26
Milwaukee 119, New Jersey 114, OT, series tied 2-2
New Orleans 99, Philadelphia 85, Philadelphia leads series 2-1
Utah 107, Sacramento 104, Sacramento leads series 2-1

Sunday, April 27
Boston 102, Indiana 92, Boston leads series 3-1
L.A. Lakers 102, Minnesota 97, series tied 2-2
Orlando 100, Detroit 92, Orlando leads series 3-1
Portland 98, Dallas 79, Dallas leads series 3-1
Phoenix 86, San Antonio 84, series tied 2-2

Monday, April 28
Philadelphia at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Utah, 10:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 29
Milwaukee at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at San Antonio, 7 p.m.
Boston at Indiana, 9:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30
New Orleans at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Orlando at Detroit, 8 p.m.
Portland at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Utah at Sacramento, 11 p.m.

Thursday, May 1
Indiana at Boston, 7 p.m or 8 p.m., if necessary
New Jersey at Milwaukee, 8 p.m. or 9 p.m.
San Antonio at Phoenix, 9 p.m. or 9:30 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Friday, May 2
Detroit at Orlando, TBA, if necessary
Philadelphia at New Orleans, TBA, if necessary
Sacramento at Utah, TBA, if necessary
Dallas at Portland, TBA, if necessary

Saturday, May 3
Boston at Indiana, TBA, if necessary
Milwaukee at New Jersey, TBA, if necessary
L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, TBA, if necessary
Phoenix at San Antonio, TBA, if necessary

Sunday, May 4
New Orleans at Philadelphia, TBA, if necessary
Orlando at Detroit, TBA, if necessary
Portland at Dallas, TBA, if necessary
Utah at Sacramento, TBA, if necessary

Major League Baseball

National League
All Times EDT

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	15	10	.600	—
Montreal	15	10	.600	—
Philadelphia	15	10	.600	—
Florida	13	13	.500	2½
New York	11	14	.440	4
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	14	11	.560	—
St. Louis	11	12	.478	2
Houston	11	13	.458	2½
Pittsburgh	10	14	.417	3½
Cincinnati	10	15	.400	4
Milwaukee	9	16	.360	5
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	18	6	.750	—
Colorado	14	11	.560	4½
Los Angeles	12	13	.480	6½
Arizona	10	15	.400	8½
San Diego	10	15	.400	8½

Sunday's Games
Houston 6, Montreal 3
Atlanta 7, Milwaukee 1
Arizona 6, N.Y. Mets 1, 1st game
Arizona 7, N.Y. Mets 3, 2nd game
Cincinnati 7, San Diego 5
Los Angeles 6, Pittsburgh 2
Philadelphia 1, San Francisco 0
Colorado 6, Chicago Cubs 3
St. Louis 7, Florida 6, 20 innings

Monday's Games
Florida (Wayne 0-0) at Arizona (Dessens 2-2), 9:35 p.m.
Philadelphia (Myers 1-2) at Los Angeles (Dreifort 1-2), 10:10 p.m.

American League
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	20	5	.800	—
Boston	16	9	.640	4
Baltimore	12	12	.500	7½
Tampa Bay	10	15	.400	10
Toronto	10	16	.385	10½
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	17	5	.773	—
Chicago	14	11	.560	4½
Minnesota	10	14	.417	8
Cleveland	7	18	.280	11½
Detroit	3	20	.130	14½
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	16	9	.640	—
Oakland	15	10	.600	1
Anaheim	11	14	.440	5
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Sunday's Games
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THIS IS WHERE ALL THE ACTION IS! The Snyder Daily News 573-5486

N. Korean nuke claims puts U.S. on spot

By Sonya Ross
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — North Korea seems today to have crept closer to a crisis by claiming it has, and might test, a more potent nuclear arsenal than the Americans thought it had.

Even if the country's declaration were nothing more than bluster, it presents a dilemma for the Bush administration. And it shows that, the success in Iraq notwithstanding, the United States is unlikely to resort to drastic measures to take out the nuclear bombs.

"You could have a precision strike. You could invade. You could have a NATO blockade," said Lee Hamilton, a former chairman of the House International Relations Committee and now director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

"But all these things risk some chaos in the area — starvation of civilians, heavy casualties on both sides. It would not be Afghanistan, and it would not be Iraq."

Talks broke down in Beijing last week over North Korea's nuclear assertions. President Bush said North Korean President Kim Jong Il was simply playing "the old blackmail game."

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer explained the disparate treatment given North Korea and Iraq, where Bush sent close to 200,000 troops to bring down President Saddam Hussein's government.

"Because you deal with a threat through military action in one region of the world does not automatically mean you must deal with it the same way in a different part of the world," Fleischer said last week.

In other words, said Cato Institute scholar Doug Bandow, you do not idly rattle sabers at a foe that can fire missiles at thousands of American soldiers on the demarcation line between North and South Korea and devastate its neighbor and your ally, South Korea, in the process.

"Even if the North Koreans didn't launch their military in terms of an armed invasion, they could use artillery and Scuds to hit Seoul," the South Korean capital, Bandow said.

"It would risk a retaliatory spiral that could lead to full-scale war. This possibility requires the United States to look at the Korean peninsula very differently than it looked at Iraq," he said.

So rather than move down the road to war, the administration has pulled back to consult with allies about penalties against North Korea. It is a move that North Korea once considered tantamount to declaring war but may now entertain for the sake of its survival, said Don Oberdorfer, an East Asia specialist at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

AP Analysis

"There are some in North Korea who believe that the only way to survive in this situation is to have the strongest possible military machine, including the production of nuclear weapons," Oberdorfer said.

"Others, who do not seem dominant right now, believe negotiation or diplomacy with the United States and others could give them confidence that the United States will not threaten them or attack them."

One factor is Iraq.

North Korea looked at Saddam's fall and saw that offering talks with the United States could buy more time for the North's nuclear pursuits.

"The North is brilliant at mixing conciliation and provocation. If you worry about the United States potentially attacking you, you say, 'Well, we're willing to talk.' You slow the process down. You stall," Bandow said.

"The North Koreans have far more at stake. We worry about them shooting at us, but they know they'd be wiped from the face of the Earth. They're embattled, they're isolated, they're impoverished, they're starving. They are dealing with their survival."

The administration has not decided what to do about its broken discussion with North Korea. It seems content to leave it on the short list of countries that are candidates for Bush's policy of striking first against potential enemies.

Despite that, Hamilton said, the makings of a deal are there.

North Korea would assure, and independent inspectors would verify, that it has stopped making nuclear weapons and is not shipping nuclear materials to unfriendly states or terror groups. In exchange, the United States would promise security and aid.

"Getting there is very tough," Hamilton said. "It will take a long time, difficult negotiations and more threats before we get there."

Demo leaders want colleagues to give early

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats are pledging not to repeat the mistake of the 2002 elections when lawmakers in safe districts ended the campaign season sitting on $60 million in unspent campaign money.

This time, Democratic campaign leaders are asking their colleagues to contribute early and often. So far, the results dwarf those of two years ago. Democratic lawmakers have transferred $2.1 million from their accounts to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in the first three months of the year. In 2001, the amount was less than $650,000.

Overall, the committee raised $7.4 million in the first quarter, a third of what its Republican counterpart took in.

"It was really a shame because if we would have just gotten one-sixth of that ($60 million), it would have made a difference in some races, and we might have taken the House back," said Rep. Robert Matsui, D-Calif., the committee chairman.

Republicans had a net gain of six House seats in the midterm elections.

In California alone, where House Democrats ran in districts drawn by the Democratic-dominated state Legislature, incumbents had more than $6 million in the bank after the 2002 elections, according to Federal Election Commission records.

This election cycle, Matsui and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., have drawn up a plan to close the Republicans' 12-seat edge in the House and return Democrats to power for the first time since 1994. A priority is to ensure the party has enough money to intervene in close contests.

Democrats consider the transfer of cash from lawmakers to the party, which is not subject to federal election law limits, vitally important now that soft money contributions to the national parties have been banned under the campaign finance law that took effect in November.

Soft money includes corporate and union contributions of any size and unlimited donations from any source.

"We need your help to show that Democrats are serious about taking back the House. Reporters will be tallying up our receipts for this critical time period and comparing us to the GOP," Pelosi wrote her colleagues just before the March 31 deadline for first-quarter contributions. "Early financial support from Democrats like you is critical to demonstrate our strength as a party."

House Republicans so far have given only $125,000 to the National Republican Congressional Committee. Their contributions will pick up later in the campaign cycle, committee spokesman Carl Forti said. "There's no need for it at this point," Forti said.

Republican lawmakers contributed $20 million to the party's House campaign fund in the last election cycle. Democrats gave $13 million.

Matsui said his goal is to have Democratic giving rise to more than $20 million before the 2004 elections.

"With the new campaign finance laws, it makes it incumbent for all of us to work together," Matsui said.

New Jersey Rep. Robert Menendez, the No. 3 Democrat in the House, led his colleagues, moving $125,000 from his campaign funds to the Democratic committee's account. Menendez is one of at least 12 Democrats with more than $1 million in available campaign cash and few worries about being re-elected.

Pelosi gave $100,000 in campaign and political action committee money, while Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., the No. 2 Democrat, and Matsui contributed $75,000 and $50,000, respectively, from their campaigns.

Five dozen Democrats moved at least $10,000 each from their funds to the party's House campaign, but more than 125 Democrats gave the committee nothing in the first quarter. Matsui said he will press all his colleagues repeatedly, except those who are anticipating tough re-election campaigns. "We're not going to ask them to pony up," he said.

Salt Lake Tribune reporters sold info to National Inquirer

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Two reporters for The Salt Lake Tribune have been disciplined for contributing to the National Enquirer about the Elizabeth Smart story.

Kevin Cantera and Michael Vigh, the Tribune's lead reporters on the Smart case, had a dinner meeting with a reporter from the tabloid and outlined the investigation into the girl's disappearance, Tribune editor James E. Shelledy said in his regular Sunday letter to readers.

The reporters were paid an undisclosed amount for their contributions, and they worked with the Enquirer without the Tribune's permission.

Elizabeth, then 14, was taken at knifepoint from her bedroom on June 5. She was found with her alleged captors, Brian Mitchell and Wanda Barzee, March 12 in a Salt Lake suburb. Barzee and Mitchell are each being held on $10 million bail in the Salt Lake County jail on charges of aggravated kidnapping, aggravated sexual assault and aggravated burglary.

Cantera and Vigh, who told the newspaper about their work with the Enquirer last week, offered to resign, but Shelledy refused.

"I verbally wrung their necks and formally disciplined them for ignoring stated policy, but the act did not quite constitute a firing offense," he said. He did not disclose how the reporters were disciplined.

Calls seeking comment from Shelledy, Cantera and Vigh were not immediately returned Sunday.

But in a statement provided by the Tribune, Vigh and Cantera said: "In hindsight, we made a bad decision by associating with the National Enquirer. We regret any embarrassment this brings to our colleagues or The Salt Lake Tribune."

Information given by Vigh and Cantera to the tabloid either had been published in the Tribune or was known to the newspaper but not published because of authenticity issues or irrelevancy, Shelledy wrote.

No one was available to comment Sunday at the National Enquirer, an operator said. Messages left with an editor at the tabloid were not returned Sunday afternoon.

J. Taylor sings at bridge ceremony

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — James Taylor didn't have a guitar or even a microphone when he sang during the weekend, and he was backed up by Gov. Mike Easley and the Chapel Hill High School band.

The song was "The Star-Spangled Banner," and the occasion was a ceremony to unveil a sign naming a bridge in his honor.

The "James Taylor Bridge" sign will soon be posted where U.S. 15-501 South crosses Morgan Creek. The award-winning singer and songwriter spent much of his childhood in Chapel Hill in a home near the creek, and the memories inspired his hit song "Copperline."

Taylor told the crowd of hundreds he felt strongly connected to the area.

On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

Dating tips for food

DEAR DR. BLONZ: My fiance refuses to use dairy products after the expiration date. My question is: How long after the expiration date can you use milk, eggs, cheese or yogurt? — **M.K., Bedford, Ind.**

DEAR M.K.: Clearing up a misunderstanding about dating seems proper for a couple about to get married. The good news is that to some degree you are both correct. Food should not be consumed after an expiration date. However, the foods you mention don't tend to have expiration dates, and rely instead on a quality-control dating system that allows for consumption after the posted date. That said, let's go through the different dating systems you'll find on various products:

Sell-by Date (also called a Pull Date) — This is the last date on which a product should be sold. Manufacturers use these dates to let retailers know how long to sell the product. There is an allowance for normal home use with these dates. It is found on short shelf-life (perishable) foods such as dairy products, fresh meats, snack foods and refrigerated deli foods.

Assuming that they are stored properly, milk products, for example, tend to be fresh for up to seven days after they are opened, but you might not get a full week if you first open the product on the sell-by date. Much depends on the number of times a product is opened, and how long it has been kept at room temperature.

Use by, Enjoy by, and Best if Used by Date (also called a Freshness Date) — This date relates to food quality as opposed to food safety. Manufacturers want you to enjoy their products, so this represents the recommended time in which you could expect the best flavor, quality and nutritional value.

Consumption after this date would not necessarily mean that the food is unsafe. This type of date is used on shelf-stable foods such as canned goods, cereals, processed cheese and some snack foods.

(Bakery goods use either freshness or sell-by dating.) Stores often sell such goods at reduced prices for a short period after this date has passed.

Expiration Date — A rigid date, representing the last day on which consumers should use a product. Special-use products, such as baby formula, yeast, refrigerated dough and pharmaceuticals make use of this type of dating, but you may find it on other products as well. Foods should be discarded after the expiration date has passed, as this is the time after which there is an increased risk of spoilage microorganisms.

Pack Date — This indicates when the food was first manufactured, processed or packaged. It lets you know how old the food is when you buy it. Pack dates are used with products that have shelf lives measured in months and years, such as canned, bottled and frozen foods. The information is typically used by stores so that they can properly rotate their stock.

Prepared On — This lets you know when a freshly prepared food item was made. This is often used for sandwiches and other deli foods.

Perishable frozen food dates — Perishable foods that are frozen before or immediately after packaging, and remain frozen until use, often bear a "Keep frozen, use within X days after thawing" statement.

Whether or not there's a date on a package, it's common to find a separate set of letters and/or numbers there. This is the manufacturer's code, used to help identify when and where that particular package was made. Such information is used for quality control and is vital if a product recall is required.

Finally, even with the presence of product dating, there's no guarantee of freshness or safety. The breakdown of food is a gradual process and doesn't take place on one particular day. The accuracy of any dating system relies on the proper handling of foods. If there's been any mishandling by the manufacturer, trucker, supermarket or consumer, the life — and safety — of the product can be compromised. In the end, consumers must trust their eyes, nose and palate in addition to those numbers stamped on a carton. If you notice an "off" taste, smell or appearance in a food product, forget the date and toss it out.

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

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

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Markets

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Albertsons	19.65	19.34	19.63	+ .23
Alltel	46.56	45.97	46.56	+ .76
AmEl Pw	25.45	25.14	25.22	+ .06
AndarkPtr	46.43	45.80	46.18	+ .18
ATMOS Egy	22.85	22.47	22.70	+ .39
Aviall	7.74	7.57	7.74	+ .17
BP PLC	38.54	38.00	38.54	+ .23
BakerHughes	28.85	28.36	28.64	+ .28
Bank of Amer	73.94	72.59	73.80	+ 1.22
BellSouth	24.65	23.44	24.62	+ 1.15
BurlNoSFe	28.08	27.70	28.07	+ .18
Caterpillar	52.77	51.70	52.74	+ .81
CenterPoint	8.23	8.13	8.18	+ .04
ChevronTex	64.42	63.00	64.37	+ .97
Citigroup	39.38	38.45	39.36	+ .91
CocaCola	40.39	39.75	40.38	+ .96
ColgatePal	57.61	56.56	57.59	+ .91
CmclMetals s	15.24	15.14	15.24	+ .11
ConocoPhill	50.77	50.00	50.71	+ .70
Cooper Inds	37.40	36.65	37.38	+ .55
DaimlrChry	32.19	31.71	32.18	+ .66
DeltaAirl	12.43	11.85	12.35	+ .38
Dillards Inc	13.28	12.98	13.23	+ .30
DowChem	31.82	30.96	31.71	+ .84
DuPont	41.83	41.08	41.75	+ .63
EastmanChem	30.30	29.95	30.25	+ .28
EstKodak	30.19	29.32	29.98	+ .69
EDS Corp	17.59	16.92	17.13	+ .23
Entergy	48.45	47.80	48.05	—.03
ExxonMobil	35.44	34.53	35.41	+ .62
FootLocker	10.93	10.69	10.91	+ .22
GenDynam	62.18	60.96	62.13	+ .24
GenElec	29.50	28.70	29.46	+ .35
GenMills	45.44	45.10	45.44	+ .39
GenMotors	36.42	35.60	36.38	+ .76
GaPacific	15.68	15.16	15.60	+ .45
Goodrich	14.51	12.20	13.51	—1.21
Goodyear	5.82	5.55	5.80	+ .25
GtAtlPac	6.51	5.65	6.45	+ .90
Halliburtn	21.49	21.10	21.46	+ .26
Hanson ADS	26.95	26.62	26.94	+ .32
HartmHanks s	18.00	17.73	17.98	+ .18
HomeDepot	27.87	27.50	27.94	+ .47
Honeywellnt	23.06	22.60	23.00	+ .31
IBM	84.87	83.62	84.83	+ .95
IntPaper	35.68	35.06	35.61	+ .16
JohnsonJn	57.23	56.20	57.23	+ 1.02
KinderMorg	47.10	46.55	47.09	+ .07
Kroger Co	14.52	14.20	14.50	+ .30
LockheedM	50.36	49.02	50.25	+ .84
Lowes Cos	45.00	44.15	44.96	+ .54
Lubys	1.90	1.75	1.81	+ .14
LucentTech	1.80	1.73	1.76	+ .04
MarathonOil	23.12	22.79	23.06	+ .39
MayDeptStr	21.00	20.34	20.91	+ .48
Medtronic	48.60	48.05	48.50	+ .42
Motorola	8.02	7.84	8.02	+ .12
NCR Corp	21.71	20.82	21.71	+ .77
Navistar	28.93	28.25	28.69	+ .44
PNM Rescs	22.44	22.25	22.36	+ .31
Penney JC	16.98	16.60	16.95	+ .07
PepBoys	8.80	8.55	8.80	+ .25
PepsiCo	43.45	42.80	43.13	+ .48
PhelpDodge	31.70	31.28	31.70	+ .12
PilgrmPro B	8.70	8.10	8.67	+ .52
Praxair	58.30	56.70	58.23	+ 1.90
ProctGamb	90.90	88.45	90.83	+ 1.69
RadioShack	23.29	22.73	23.26	+ .54
RoyalDut	41.55	40.90	41.47	+ .54
SBC Comm	22.95	22.20	22.95	+ .83
SaraLee	17.23	16.91	16.92	—.04
Scripps EW	78.44	78.00	78.24	+ .24
SearsRoeb	27.49	26.94	27.47	+ .42
SherwinW	28.09	27.38	28.05	+ .80
SouthernCo	29.16	28.86	29.15	+ .32
SwstAirl	15.56	15.21	15.56	+ .45
SprintFON	11.16	10.85	11.14	+ .14
SprintPCS	3.90	3.77	3.82	+ .02
Sunoco Inc	37.89	37.22	37.77	+ .60
TXU Corp	19.37	18.96	19.30	+ .31
TemplnInland	44.36	43.55	44.30	+ .68
TexInd	19.76	19.58	19.73	+ .13
TexasInst	18.90	18.21	18.90	+ .54
Textron	29.73	28.90	29.57	+ .57
TrinityInds	16.42	15.94	16.41	+ .48
TylerTech	3.82	3.81	3.82	
UnionPacif	59.95	59.12	59.94	+ .58
USSteel	14.01	13.55	13.95	+ .34
UnitedTech	61.32	60.40	61.13	+ .75
Unocal	27.69	27.25	27.62	+ .37
VerizonComm	37.21	36.30	37.19	+ 1.13
WalMart	55.75	51.01	55.72	+ .72
WellsFargo	48.25	47.48	48.17	+ .75
WstnGasRs	36.34	35.60	36.33	+ .81
WinnDixie	12.58	12.27	12.55	+ .18
Xerox Cp	9.59	9.47	9.58	+ .11
YumBrands s	25.29	24.63	25.17	+ .66

APR 28 2003

POW Edgar Hernandez returns home to S. Texas

McALLEN (AP) — South Texans joined relatives of former prisoner of war Spc. Edgar Hernandez to welcome him back to the Rio Grande Valley on Sunday.

"I especially look forward to mom's home cooking," Hernandez, 21, said after arriving at Miller International Airport in McAllen shortly before noon Sunday.

He and four other former POWs received medical clearance from Fort Bliss in El Paso and were granted 30 days leave last week to spend time with their families.

Crowds who gathered at the airport chanted "USA-USA" as Hernandez arrived with his parents. He then went to a conference room where he was able to greet his grandmother and other relatives before re-emerging to address the crowd, some wearing shirts which spelled out "Welcome Back Edgar."

"He was teary with his grandmother. She was very tearful," said Irma Garza, a spokeswoman for the city of McAllen. "He's going around the room talking to everybody. There's a lot of hugs and kisses."

Hernandez was presented with a key to the city of McAllen before he thanked the crowd in both Spanish and English, KGBT-TV in Harlingen reported Sunday on the station's Web site.

"On behalf of my family, I want to thank the American public for their prayers and support in our efforts to free the Iraqi people," he said, often wiping tears from his eyes. "God bless all of you."

Hernandez, dressed in his Army uniform, said he would like to spend the next few days with his relatives and resume a "normal life."

Besides thanking the American public, he also thanked his parents for their support and prayers during his captivity.

"They never lost their faith in God," he said of his parents. "Their prayers worked."

Hernandez and his fellow soldiers were captured on March 23 near the southern city of Nasiriyah, Iraq, when their convoy was ambushed. They had deployed to the Middle East on Feb. 17 and were released April 13 near Tikrit in northern Iraq.

Pfc. Jessica Lynch, who was also captured in the ambush, became separated from her fellow soldiers and was rescued April 1 by special operations forces in a hospital in Nasiriyah. She returned to the United States separate from her fellow soldiers and is being treated at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

The secret to success for you in the year ahead is to be extremely disciplined in all your important undertakings. You'll discover it'll give you the ability to even take on projects that would otherwise be intimidating.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Being your own person and doing everything the way you want is fine when it isn't done with a lack of regard for others. Make certain you consider how your actions affect others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — An associate who knows how to manipulate you might pull off something cute on you again today. Be alert, so that you don't end up kicking yourself for your naivete.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Extending financial generosity to someone in hopes of impressing this person is apt to backfire on you. Instead of this individual thinking well of you, she or he might feel you're a patsy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You might have a hard time keeping from doing your personal projects on company time today. Chances are it'll be noticed, and there could be a price to pay.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Listening to negative babble today from one who is always looking down on things will put you in a sour mood as well. Keep your thinking cap on straight and refuse to be influenced.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Normally you have few problems getting along with just about everybody. However, today a self-seeking person could be a bit much even for you to take. If possible, simply walk away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — If you rely on the performance of another to make your work easier today, you'll be sadly disappointed. Your chances are slim to nothing of getting any help from this person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — All your efforts to work on a committee assignment today might be for naught. If the others aren't willing to pitch in at this time, don't waste your energy on it either.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — If you're not careful, an insensitive individual could goad you into discussing a family problem at a social function today. What you say would be broadcast far and wide.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Should you not receive the cooperation you were counting on from the family today, it won't do any good to display open hostility. Keep your disappointment to a quiet grumble.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Information you were counting on receiving today in order to complete your work isn't apt to be forthcoming. It might be wise to have other options in mind to fall back on.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Hanging around with those who can spend freely might cause you to empty your bank account today. Don't put yourself in a position that would be unpleasant for you down the line.

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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Officials investigate apparent poisoning of cattle in Nebraska

By The Associated Press

The carcasses of 250 cattle were found dead of apparent poisoning on a ranch in northeast Nebraska, authorities said.

The state patrol was investigating the deaths north of Richland with the Colfax County Sheriff's office, the state Department of Agriculture and the University of Nebraska.

"We don't really know if it's accidental or intentional yet," said Terri Teuber, a spokeswoman for the state patrol.

The cattle were yearlings owned by Jack Barta of Fremont who said he received word of the deaths Sunday morning.

Organic phosphate may have poisoned the cattle because about 30 that survived were responding to a drug used to combat nerve gas in soldiers, Barta said.

Your Complete Area

Business Directory

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BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

Spotlight

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No more flat tires, even in the most hazardous operating environments. Tom Machen, owner of Tom's Marine Sales and Service, located at 315 Coliseum Drive, now offers flatproofing. Your pneumatic tires will roll right over spikes, scrap metal, nails, rocks...you name it. You could even shoot them with an elephant gun and they would keep right on rolling.

With flatproofing, you will get the full tread life of your tire, frequent tire repair costs will be eliminated or drastically reduced, the potential for tires or wheels to fail with explosive force will be eliminated and never again will you get stuck due to tire failure.

Flatprdoofing is also ideal for bicycles and hunting vehicles.

Put an end to expensive tire-related costs, premature tire failure and downtime - see Tom Machen at Tom Marine, 315 Coliseum Drive or give him a call at 573-6562 and let him flatproof your tires.

Some college officials agree to cut tuition

By The Associated Press

Scared off by a $21,000 price tag for tuition, room and board at Davis & Elkins College, Leslie Bennett enrolled instead at West Virginia's more affordable Fairmont State College last fall.

Yet just one semester later, Bennett transferred to Davis & Elkins, a tiny West Virginia independent with an enrollment of 650.

The reason? Like the sticker cost on a car and the fare charged for an airline seat, the price at Davis & Elkins — and many other schools — is subject to change — and getting a break on the cost may be as simple as asking.

That's especially true at private schools, which are interested in students who will diversify their classes and are increasingly willing to lower their tuition to get them.

Davis & Elkins, for instance, discounted Bennett's tuition in part because she is a first-generation college student. Along with work-study and state and federal grants, the money provided to Bennett is allowing her to receive a tuition-free education.

"I figured I'd get some help," she said. "But not this much."

Tuition discounting differs from need-based financial aid in that it is based on factors other than a student's ability to pay.

"Schools allocate resources to discount tuition because they want to shape their class," explained Lucie Lapovsky, the president of Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.

"They are willing to spend money to get certain kinds of students who are not likely to enroll in the numbers that they want at their published price — whether it be for diversity, whether it be for student leaders, whether it be for students with higher academic ability, musicians, dancers, whatever."

Like Bennett, many students and parents draw the wrong conclusion from the figures posted in college guidebooks.

"People see the original sticker price, if you will, and say, 'I can't afford to send my child to a private school,'" said Bryan Marshall, a spokesman for Millikin University in Decatur, Ill.

Marshall and others urge sticker-shocked parents and students to ask colleges if a published price is negotiable.

Applicants to schools where discounting is available usually aren't aware of the practice until they start looking more closely at financial aid packages.

The secret to learning about available discounts, said Lapovsky, is simply asking.

"Tell them that the sticker price is daunting and that you can't afford it," she said. "And then ask 'What are the chances of getting financial aid?'"

A survey published in March by the National Association of College and University Business Officers found discounts on 39 percent of the tuition paid to private colleges and universities. By comparison, independent schools discounted slightly more than 26 percent of tuition in 1990.

Private colleges have the option of simply lowering their price by siphoning from endowments, operational costs and even the full tuition paid by other students.

Subsidized by public money, state-funded colleges and universities generally do not discount tuition. State schools instead offset costs through scholarships provided primarily by outside sources.

But even with scholarship money and state-subsidized tuition, public schools sometimes can't compete with the savings offered by independents.

Impressed with Brent Smoyer's academic credentials, Nebraska Wesleyan lured him away from the University of Nebraska three years ago by discounting its tuition to a rate below that of the state's largest school.

"I just got a better deal," said Smoyer, now a Nebraska Wesleyan junior.

The president of the Council of Independent Colleges acknowledged that subsidizing students for reasons other than financial need "makes some people foam at the mouth."

"Some people say the use of institution funds to lower the sticker price for middle-class kids is a bad idea, that it should all be dedicated to the low-income kids," said Richard Ekman, who oversees the council, a consortium of small colleges and universities.

"I don't think that's right; I think there should be lots of ways to diversify a class."

Some towns also suffer from downturn in airline industry

PEACHTREE CITY, Ga. (AP) — This tree-lined Atlanta suburb bears little resemblance to Rust Belt communities, but the "For Sale" signs posted outside $250,000-and-up homes betray the fact that like factory and mill towns, this area is suffering amid the decline of its major industry.

Layoffs at the major airlines, particularly at Delta, have hit hard, forcing employees to cut their spending and, in some cases, move away.

Furloughed Delta pilot Grady Boyce is doing without the luxuries that drive economies in airline towns: No more movies, no eating out, no expensive gifts.

"First time you get furloughed, you figure you're not going to be out that long," said Boyce, 34, who has been off the job a year. "It takes a while to settle in. You go through depression, a whole cycle of getting over the shock. It's really a bummer for the people it affects."

The lingering effect of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks continues to weigh on the industry — Delta and Northwest reported heavy losses in the first quarter, gave gloomy outlooks and have laid off thousands of workers. Delta has laid off 16,000 employees since the attacks and has 1,116 pilots on furlough, the pilots' union says.

The war in Iraq and the SARS virus in Asia have slowed international travel even more. And the struggling economy has prompted deep travel discounts.

All that trickles down to the communities the airlines' employees call home.

In Peachtree City, an upper middle-class community of 35,000 about 30 miles south of Atlanta and close to Hartsfield International Airport, one in 20 households has some connection to the aviation industry.

Sales tax revenue has dropped 3 percent in the past year, and small restaurants and mom-and-pop shops that relied on the airline employees are hurting.

Chris Clark of the Fayette County Development Authority said his office helped 187 small businesses last fiscal year that were looking to downsize or were on the verge of closing. That number has swelled to 255 so far this year in part because of Delta's problems, he said.

"We've seen some stores change their hours, a few close, some look to other areas," Clark said.

Bloomington, Minn., is going through similar problems because of its concentration of Northwest employees from nearby Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. In March, Northwest cut its work force by 4,900.

There's no denying the impact the airlines' woes have had on the local economy, said Bob Hawbaker, a senior planner in the community of 85,000 people next to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

"It's critically important to business to have good airline transportation in and out of the city," Hawbaker said. "That and the interstate highway system are the economic engines of Bloomington."

Boyce has applied for numerous jobs in the service, managerial and teaching fields, but has had no luck.

He faces soaring medical costs because his 2-year-old daughter was born with an intestinal tract defect. His union is paying for temporary coverage, but he worries about the airline's future.

Boyce sold his home in late February and moved to one that could accommodate his in-laws, who are going to share living expenses.

"It cut down my exposure and gave me a little bit more cash to operate with," he said.

More homes are being put up for sale by out-of-work employees, but fewer are being bought.

Lynn Amos, an agent with The HomeSource Realtors in Peachtree City, said 603 homes sold in the community last year. Only 142 have sold during the first four months of this year, she said.

Peachtree City has been working to diversify its economy to make its tax base less reliant on the airlines since the collapse of Eastern Airlines in 1991, Mayor Steve Brown said.

Property tax revenues have remained steady so far, but the city is watching the situation at the airlines carefully, the mayor said.

"We can weather a rough period with them as long as they stay in business," Brown said. "However, if the business fails altogether, that's going to be an interesting scenario we would rather not encounter."

Police chief sought help for stress

GIG HARBOR, Wash. (AP) — Before shooting his estranged wife and killing himself, Tacoma Police Chief David Brame had sought professional counseling to help deal with the stress of his impending divorce, a city official said Sunday.

City Manager Ray Corpuz said Brame also went to an FBI seminar in January on emotional survival training for law enforcement officers. Brame was so impressed, Corpuz said, he arranged to have the instructor come to Tacoma in March to provide the training for his department.

"What makes this situation particularly difficult to understand is that Chief Brame recognized and was concerned about how emotional stress can affect police officers," Corpuz said.

David Brame, 44, was pronounced dead Saturday evening at St. Joseph Medical Center in Tacoma after shooting his estranged wife, Crystal Brame, and then himself in a shopping center parking lot.

Crystal Brame, 35, was flown to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. Hospital officials were not releasing any information, but television news reports said she was in critical condition with a gunshot wound to the head.

The chief and his wife, who had been going through a divorce, arrived in the parking lot in separate cars in what appeared to be a prearranged meeting Saturday afternoon, said Pierce County Sheriff's Detective Ed Troyer.

The couple's two children — an 8-year-old girl and 5-year-old boy — were initially in Crystal Brame's vehicle. At one point, the chief put the children in his car, then went back to his wife's car and got inside. A heated conversation ensued, then witnesses reported hearing two quick shots, Troyer said.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Unusual metabolic disorder is serious

DEAR DR. GOTT: My 10-year-old daughter was diagnosed with mucopolysaccharidosis, Class II Hurler-Scieie syndrome. What information do you have about this affliction? All I know is that it affects all the body's major organs and causes an early death.

DEAR READER: The mucopolysaccharidoses are a group of severe, extremely rare, genetically related diseases caused by specific inherited defects, primarily deficiencies in enzymes needed for metabolism. The disorders are characterized by bone abnormalities, mental retardation, clouding of the eyes' corneas, liver/spleen enlargement and the excess excretion of urinary mucopolysaccharide, a constituent of metabolism.

The disorders are untreatable by any present methods. With respect to your daughter's case, I'll have to defer to her pediatrician who can give you specific information about her prognosis and the supportive care that she will eventually need.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What sterilization procedure is appropriate for dental instruments? I've read that the autoclave is the best protection against AIDS, yet some dentists in my community use dry heat.

DEAR READER: An autoclave is a pressure cooker that steam-sterilizes. There are other equally efficient methods to sterilize medical/dental equipment, using chemicals, gas or dry heat. All these methods, if used correctly, get the job done — and all kill viruses, including the human immunodeficiency virus, the cause of AIDS.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm a 35-year-old and have regularly enjoyed drinking up to 12 cans of beer a day since I was 14. Three months ago, a miracle happened. I grew up. My physician prescribed Vistaril to help me with withdrawal and anxiety. Now my life is better, my thinking is clearer, and I feel a new surge of optimism. Is there any harm in taking the Vistaril at bedtime to sleep? Are there any long-term side effects that I should know about?

DEAR READER: I assume that your "miracle" means that you recognized you have a drinking problem and finally took a positive step in controlling your alcoholism: You stopped drinking. Congratulations.

The temporary use of Vistaril, an anti-anxiety drug, is an appropriate means of getting you "over the hump" while you struggle with your new gift of sobriety. However, it is not a good choice for long-term therapy, especially for an alcoholic. It's all too easy to substitute one addiction for another; pills for booze.

The side effects of the drug include dry mouth, drowsiness, habituation, involuntary muscle movement and convulsions.

Therefore, I believe you would be better off not taking Vistaril for a prolonged period. Make an effort to become totally drug-free.

Of course, you may have used the alcohol to self-treat feelings of depression. In this case, your doctor may recommend that you switch to a prescription anti-depressant. Ask him or her about this, which — in my opinion — would be a more appropriate therapy for chronic use. Also, you would be aided by attending a self-help support group, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, to maintain your sobriety.

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

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Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Sharp Image Energy will drill the No. 2-A Towle Park, a 7,500-foot directional wildcat located one mile southwest of Snyder. Location is in Section 182, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Borden County

Manzano Oil Corp. will drill the No. 1 Golden Bullet in the Thirty-Three field, nine miles north of Gail. Planned for a depth of 8,900 feet, location is in Section 19, Block 30, T6N, T&P survey.

EGL Resources Inc. will drill the No. 1 Ernie in the Jo-Mill field, 11 miles southwest of Gail. Contracted for a depth of 7,500 feet, drill site is in Section 8, Block 32, T4N, T&P survey.

Garza County

Kerry Petroleum Co. Inc. will drill the No. 18-B Connell in the Rocker A northwest field, five miles southeast of Post. Planned for a depth of 3,100 feet, drill site is in Section 12, Block 5, GH&H survey.

Nolan County

Pioneer Exploration will drill the No. 12-A Billie Hanks in the Hylton northwest field, eight miles south of Nolan. Planned for a depth of 5, 942 feet, location is in Section 28, Block Z, T&P survey.

Pioneer Exploration will drill the No. 44-A Billie Hanks in the Hylton northwest field, eight miles south of Nolan. Contracted for a depth of 6,222 feet, location is in Section 28, Block Z, T&P survey.

Pioneer Exploration will drill the No. 34-A Billie Hanks in the Hylton northwest field, eight miles south of Nolan. Planned depth is 6,270 feet, and location is in Section 28, Block Z, T&P survey.

VRC Oil and Gas will drill the No. 1 Thornburg, a 7,040 re-entry project located five miles north of Roscoe. Drill site is in Section 10, Block 23, T&P survey.

May Day
Saturday—May 3rd
The Scurry County Coliseum
Admission Free—Booths Open at 2 p.m.
Bid On The Silent Auction—Enjoy Music
Shop For Crafts & Baked Goods
Scurry Co. Senior Center Fundraiser
Quilt Auction
6:30 p.m.
Grady Morris, Auctioneer
Antique Tractor & Farm Equipment Show
ENTERTAINMENT
2—2:30 Sparkle City Line Dancers
2:45—3:30 Deep Creek Cloggers
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Bar-B-Q 4:30—6 p.m. Tickets $6
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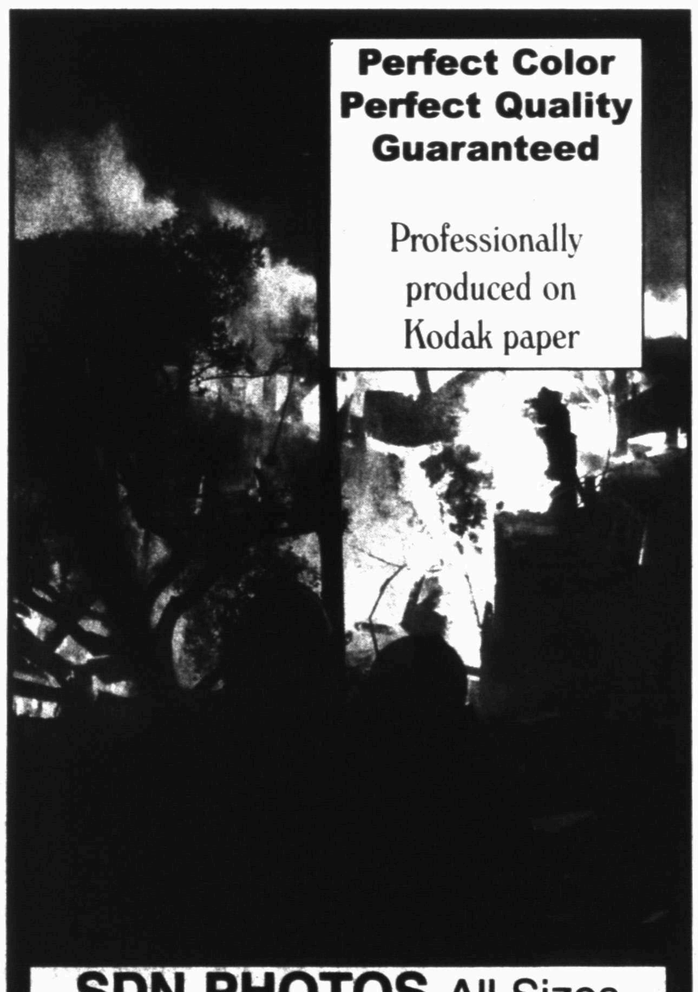
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SNYDER DAILY NEWS
3600 College Ave 573-5486

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WHO: SARS contained in Vietnam

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — The World Health Organization said today the worst of the SARS outbreak appears to be over in Singapore, Hong Kong and Canada, while Vietnam has become the first country to contain the highly infectious respiratory disease.

SARS is spreading in China even as the government takes increasingly aggressive steps to halt the disease, said David Heymann, the chief of communicable diseases for WHO.

Heymann, who is in Bangkok to attend an emergency summit on SARS of Southeast Asian leaders Tuesday, said the situation is worrisome in China.

"In China, as you know, we are receiving more and more reports of cases and it doesn't appear it has peaked as far as spread" of the disease is concerned, Heymann told reporters.

Hong Kong, Singapore, and Toronto are having fewer cases every day and Vietnam has reported no new SARS victims, the WHO said.

"It appears that the outbreak has peaked in those countries," Heymann said.

Heymann also said wearing a mask in public for protection against SARS is not necessary, and the risk of getting the illness was not as great as people believed.

"SARS is not transmitted when you are walking down the street," Heymann said. "We have concerns about the perceived risks of people living in Asia. The perception that these people have in many places appears to be greater than the actual risk."

There were eight new fatalities in China, five in Hong Kong and one in Singapore reported today, raising the worldwide death toll for severe acute respiratory syndrome to at least 333, mostly in China and Hong Kong. It has sickened around 5,000 people.

India reported two new SARS cases today, raising the number of cases in the country of 1 billion to nine so far. One of the cases was a taxi driver apparently infected by members of a family with SARS.

Asian governments kept up the fight with quarantines and travel restrictions. Taiwan began enforcing a 10-day quarantine for visitors arriving from areas hit hard by SARS, prompting airlines to cancel some flights there. Taiwan's Premier Yu Shyi-kun warned hospitals today not to reject patients suspected of having SARS after the city of Hsinchu refused to take seven people sent there.

Eleven new cases were reported in Taiwan, the largest jump so far on the island.

FINAL HOMETOWN PERFORMANCE — Snyder High School drama students will present the final hometown performance of *The Tempest* at 7:30 tonight at Worsham Auditorium. Portraying Ariel from left are, Nicole Sloboda, Malorye Miller and Sara Cantu. They have received honorable mention all-star cast recognition at the district, area and regional contests. Snyder's play competes at 4 p.m. Thursday in the state contest in Austin. Tickets for tonight's performance are $5 for adults and $4 for students. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Delegates from inside, outside of Iraq begin talks on future

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Stressing unity in a divided land, more than 200 delegates from inside and outside Iraq haggled today over Iraq's future, meeting in Saddam Hussein's elaborate convention hall under the protection of a ring of U.S. tanks.

Clear differences among the delegates emerged on the United States' involvement, with exiles generally seeking a diminished role for Washington.

Elsewhere, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld visited Camp As Sayliyah in Qatar, thanking U.S. troops for removing Saddam: "You protected our country from a gathering danger and liberated the Iraqi people."

In the north, Kurdish paramilitary forces in Mosul began complying with U.S. Army orders to stop armed patrols at checkpoints to relieve tensions there between Arabs and Kurds, U.S. officials said.

The meeting in Baghdad coincided with Saddam's 66th birthday. For years, April 28 was a national holiday filled with official celebration and enforced adulation of the authoritarian leader, who was "unanimously" endorsed by voters over the years in unopposed "elections."

After an opening reading from the Quran, the 250 delegates, including a few women, were welcomed by the U.S. civil administrator for Iraq.

"Today, on the birthday of Saddam Hussein, let us start the democratic process for the children of Iraq," retired U.S. Lt. Gen. Jay Garner told the delegates.

Shiite and Sunni Muslim clerics in robes, Kurds from the north, tribal chiefs in Arab headdresses and Westernized exiles in expensive suits assembled for the one-day political conference, second in a series expected to extend well into May.

"We hope we can form a unified government, one that reflects the entire spectrum of Iraq," said Ahmad Jaber al-Awadi, a representative of the newly formed Iraqi Independent Democrats Movement.

One prominent exile, Saad al-Bazzaz, said many delegates had discussed the possibility of a presidential council rather than naming a single leader for Iraq.

"I'm not expecting one person as president. I'm expecting a presidential council" of three to six members, he said. "We have been discussing this, many of us."

Chicago 12-year-old shot, killed

CHICAGO (AP) — A 12-year-old boy was gunned down by gang members after he and other children had just finished cleaning up their neighborhood, police said.

Authorities were questioning three "persons of interest" in the shooting, police spokesman Matthew Jackson said. The victim, Rene Guillen, apparently was mistakenly shot by the gang members, Jackson said.

Witnesses said several youths, at least one of them riding a bicycle, fired shots at a group of kids who had been participating in the neighborhood cleanup program Saturday.

"This is a case were the victim was just a victim," Jackson said, adding that no one had been arrested. "Here you have a minor who was shot down by gang members who were shooting at rival gang members who had been fighting in the area for weeks."

Two arrested, one for PI

•Arrests

Snyder officers located a man in the barrow ditch on Ave. V at 7 a.m. Sunday and requested an ambulance for possible injuries, but no transport was made. The 18-year-old subject was arrested for public intoxication and booked into jail.

A 21-year-old man was taken into custody at Varsity Square Shopping Center at 10:20 a.m. Sunday for outstanding Abilene warrants for unrestrained rider and failure to appear before a judge.

•Disturbance

Officers responded to a residence on Ave. L at 6 p.m. Saturday here a family disturbance was reported. A 60-year-old man was transported by Snyder EMS to Cogdell Hospital for possible fractured ribs and a report was filed for Class A assault, family violence.

•Theft

At 3:15 p.m. Saturday, a woman reported her license plate stolen in the 1300 block of 19th Street. An offense report for theft was submitted and a close patrol initiated.

•Criminal mischief

A woman reported at 11 a.m. Saturday that her vehicle was damaged in the 2800 block of Ave. Y. Officers submitted an offense report for criminal mischief.

A man on U.S. 350 reported damage to his mailbox at 3 p.m. Saturday and a report or criminal mischief was filed.

At 8:20 a.m. Sunday, a man reported damage to a rear window at his residence and a report for criminal mischief was submitted.

•Suicide threat

An employee at Snyder Oaks Care Center requested an ambulance at 10 p.m. Sunday and reported a 48-year-old woman hitting herself.

Officers advised the subject was violent and threatening suicide. MHMR was contacted and an offense report was submitted.

•Close patrols

A woman requested officers in the 3600 block of Kerrville after finding obscene language written on her vehicle with shoe polish.

Births

Cody and Toni Rankin of Hermleigh announce the birth of their daughter, six-pound Tyan Raye Rankin, at 1:14 p.m. in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Paternal grandparents are Mike and Peggy Matherly of Midland. Maternal grandparents are Terry and Shirley Babcock of Odessa and the late Dan Moore of Gail.

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Tue 4/29	Wed 4/30	Thu 5/1
83/59	**87/56**	**85/52**
A mix of clouds and sun with the chance of an isolated thunderstorm in the .	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	Partial sunshine. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 50s.
Sunrise 6:59 AM / Sunset 8:24 PM	Sunrise 6:58 AM / Sunset 8:24 PM	Sunrise 6:57 AM / Sunset 8:25 PM

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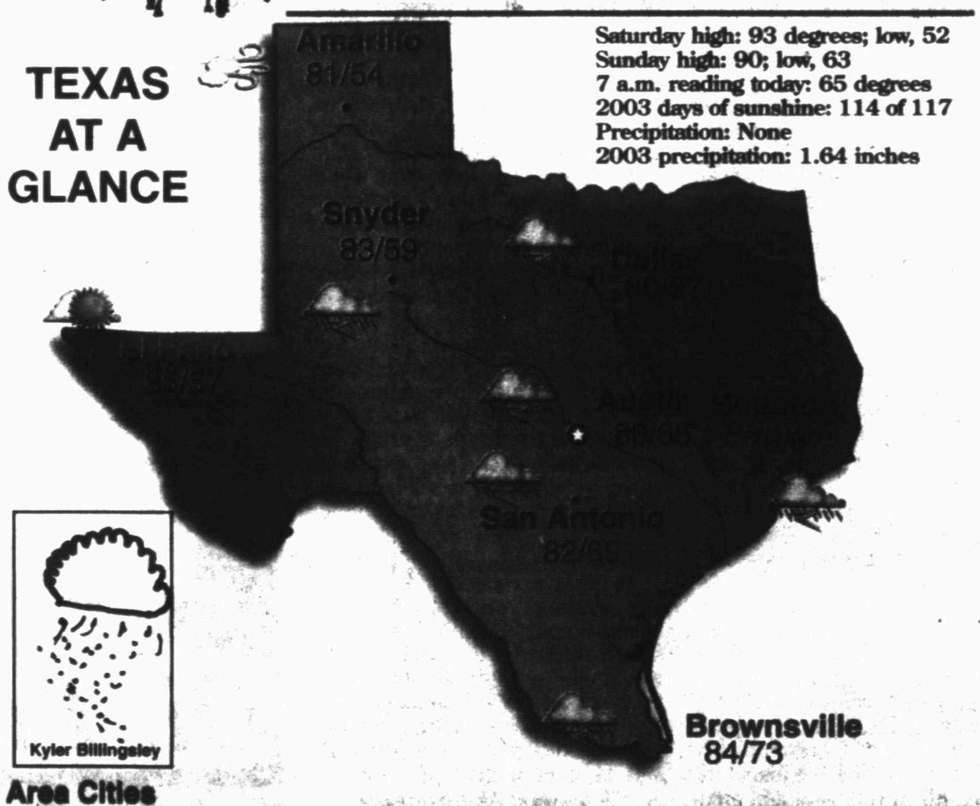
TEXAS AT A GLANCE

Saturday high: 93 degrees; low, 52
Sunday high: 90; low, 63
7 a.m. reading today: 65 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 114 of 117
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: 1.64 inches



Kyler Billingsley

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Abilene	81	63	t-storm
Amarillo	81	54	windy
Austin	80	66	t-storm
Beaumont	79	66	cloudy
Brownsville	84	73	t-storm
Brownwood	84	63	t-storm
Corpus Christi	80	71	t-storm
Corsicana	79	64	t-storm
Dallas	80	67	t-storm
Del Rio	89	71	pt sunny
El Paso	85	57	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	91	61	mst sunny
Gainesville	79	62	pt sunny
Greenville	79	62	pt sunny
Houston	79	67	t-storm
Kingsville	84	70	t-storm
Livingston	80	63	cloudy
Longview	81	61	pt sunny
Lubbock	86	57	pt sunny
Lufkin	80	64	pt sunny
Midland	90	60	pt sunny
Raymondville	85	71	t-storm
Rosenberg	79	67	t-storm
San Antonio	82	69	t-storm
San Marcos	81	67	t-storm
Sulphur Springs	80	62	pt sunny
Sweetwater	83	61	t-storm
Tyler	81	64	pt sunny
Weatherford	79	62	t-storm
Wichita Falls	80	62	t-storm

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Atlanta	81	58	pt sunny
Boston	74	49	pt sunny
Chicago	61	50	pt sunny
Dallas	80	67	t-storm
Denver	69	43	cloudy
Houston	79	67	t-storm
Los Angeles	64	49	pt sunny
Miami	82	73	t-storm
Minneapolis	62	48	cloudy
New York	73	50	pt sunny
Phoenix	83	58	mst sunny
San Francisco	56	48	rain
Seattle	63	46	cloudy
St. Louis	76	61	t-storm
Washington, DC	79	57	cloudy

Moon Phases

Last	New	First	Full
Apr 23	May 1	May 9	May 16

UV Index

Tue 4/29	Wed 4/30	Thu 5/1
High	Very High	Very 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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Obituaries

Gayle Harrison

1918-2003

ODESSA — Marion Gayle Harrison, the grandmother of Harrison Druesedow of Snyder, died Friday, April 25, in Haskell.

Graveside service for Mrs. Harrison, 84, was set for 2 p.m. today in Sunset Memorial Gardens followed by a memorial service at 3 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Steve Deines was to officiate.

Born Oct. 21, 1918 in Wichita Falls, she was a graduate of Wichita Falls High school, Midwestern State University and Texas State College for Women. She married Joe B. Harrison on July 1, 1946 in Wichita Falls. He died in 1990.

Mrs. Harrison taught at Byres and Henrietta before moving to Odessa where she taught English and drama for 16 years. She also taught private speech lessons and was the first director of the Children's Theatre sponsored by the Junior Service League.

She was a member of the Eastern Star, Odessa Study Club and Retired Teachers Association.

Survivors include two daughters, Becky Sullivan of Plano and Jill Druesedow of Haskell; and three other grandchildren.

Cecil Meredith

1950-2003

LIVINGSTON — Cecil Harrison Meredith died Friday, April 15, at his home in Livingston.

Funeral service for Mr. Meredith, 53, is set for 4 p.m. Wednesday in the Cochran Funeral Home Chapel with the Revs. Fred Alford and Jerry Bennett officiating. Burial will be held Thursday in the Houston National Cemetery.

Born March 8, 1950 in Junction, Mr. Meredith served in the U.S. Air Force from 1974 to 1977. His first wife, Elizabeth Neely Meredith, was a former Snyder resident. He married Elizabeth Oliver on June 17, 1993 in San Angelo.

A graduate of Angelo State University, he was teacher of the year at Livingston Junior High in 2002. Mr. Meredith was a member of the Blanchard Baptist Church and was a Sunday school teacher.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Meredith of Livingston; a daughter, Trina Schmidt of Mason; four sons, Pat Meredith of Leakey, Troy Meredith of Uvalde, Will Neely of Seguin and Wesley Neely of Bonham; four brothers, Larry Truelove of Pearland, Hoyt Truelove of Poland, Barry Truelove of The Colony and Alan Truelove of Deer Park; and six grandchildren.

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