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WT-Int. Crude - $24.53
WTIC Posted - $21.75
Natural Gas - $3.450

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

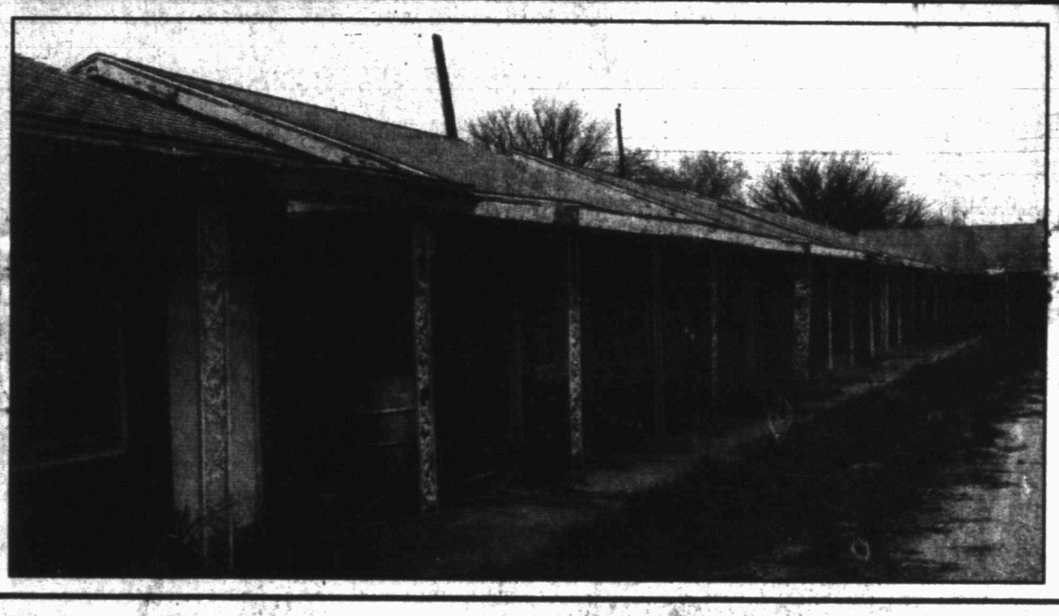
TUESDAY

March 26, 2002
Vol. 53 No. 281
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Rudy P. Torrez

MAR 26 2002

I'll huff and I'll puff...



DEMOLITION WORK — Dilapidated buildings around town have been disappearing this year as city crews have cleared several locations including this one on Hwy. 180 near El Paso Ave. City employee Anson Luna was operating the bulldozer at the site of these old apartments Monday. (SDN Staff Photos)

Gen. Tommy Franks...

Head of war effort will be in Midland

MIDLAND (AP) — The head of the U.S. war effort is returning to his West Texas hometown to brief residents on America's offensive against Taliban and al-Qaida fighters.

Gen. Tommy R. Franks, commander of the U.S. Central Command, is also scheduled to throw out the first pitch at an exhibition game Wednesday between the Oakland Athletics and their double-A franchise, the Midland RockHounds, that will open the city's new baseball stadium.

Recent visits to Russia and Pakistan, Central Command operation and the Al-Qaida terrorist network were to be among Franks' topics at an address Wednesday at the downtown Midland Center.

Franks, as commanding general of Central Command since June 2000, oversees all U.S. military operations in an area stretching from North Africa across the Arabian Peninsula to Pakistan and Central Asia.

He was a graduate of Midland Lee High School in 1963 and graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1971 while pursuing his military career. He saw his first combat in 1967 in Vietnam as an artillery officer.

General Franks

He was assigned to Fort Hood in Central Texas as III Corps Deputy Assistant G3, a position he held until 1987 when he assumed command of division artillery, First Cavalry Division, and was also the division's chief of staff.

Franks was assistant commander of the 1st Cavalry Division during the 1991 Gulf War, and later he commanded the main U.S. Army contingent in South Korea, the 2nd Infantry Division.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "There are two forms of government — the long form and the short form."

If you live in Texas, the Infernal Revenue Service filing deadline is April 15.

Most other U.S. citizens must observe the same deadline. However, the deadline is one day later for taxpayers in Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Rhode Island and upstate New York.

The reason for the delay is that April 15 is a state holiday –Patriots' Day – in Maine and Massachusetts.

The IRS says that the tax law gives a taxpayer until the next business day to satisfy a deadline that falls on a state legal holiday.

The folks in Michigan and Rhode Island and part of New York also get the extra day because the IRS tells them to mail their returns to the processing center in Andover, Mass.

Here's an idea:

Perhaps what we need is to have the state legislature declare all 365 days a state holiday in Texas, then we wouldn't have to pay taxes.

We heard about the group of employees who were discussing their tax returns.

The boss overheard a conversation and it prompted him to put a memo in the next pay envelope.

The note read: "Your salary is your personal business. It is a confidential matter and should not be discussed."

One worker returned the memo, unsigned of course, with the added note "Don't worry. I won't mention it. I'm as ashamed of it as your are."

We've come a long way in 88 years.

According to a news release from H&R Block, back in 1913 when Congress passed the new income tax law, less than one percent of the nation's population was required to pay.

The best thing about paying taxes is it gives the group something to gripe about at the coffee shop.

As one feller put it, taxation is an art. The true expert knows how to pluck the goose in order to obtain the most feathers with the least amount of squawking.

Public invited to Holy Week Services here

Snyder's Holy Week Services continue at noon Wednesday and Thursday at the First Presbyterian Church with a worship service and meal each day.

A breakfast will be served at 7 a.m. Friday at First United Methodist Church to conclude the week's services.

The public is invited to all services presented by members of The Ministerial Alliance of Scurry County.

A free will offering is taken each day to support the ministries that are undertaken by the ministerial alliance.

Help includes utility payment assistance, emergency housing, the Food Cupboard, community garden, prison ministries and the summer soup kitchen.

Fr. Roy Badilles

Wednesday's message will be brought by Fr. Roy Badilles of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, and Thursday's message will be given by the Rev. Brenda Wilson of First Christian Church.

Rev. Buddy Payne will deliver Friday's message at the 7 a.m. breakfast.

On Wednesday, St. Elizabeth Catholic Church will prepare the meal while Thursday's luncheon will be provided by First Christian Church and Trinity United Methodist Church.

Members of First United Methodist Church will prepare Friday's breakfast.

Bush urging Arab leaders to back peace offering to Isreal

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is urging Arab leaders to back a Saudi peace offer to Israel and is leaning on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to let Yasser Arafat go to an Arab League summit where the proposal is being considered.

But Sharon still had not made a decision on the eve of the summit, and a draft document prepared for Arab leaders made no mention of the Saudi offer while calling for Israel to give up all the land lost by the Arabs in the 1967 Mideast war.

And President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, whose moderate views on the Arab-Israeli conflict are prized by U.S. administrations, decided not to attend the summit.

Still, the White House persisted today on both tracks.

Spokesman Ari Fleischer said Sharon had received Bush's message. And on peacemaking, Fleischer said: "When Saudi Arabia comes out with ideas that focus on peace and focus on hope, those ideas should be welcomed and those ideas need to be received in an environment that leads to more positive thinking and positive statements."

Along those lines, Fleischer said Monday, "The president believes it is time for Arab nations in the region to seize the moment, to create a better environment for peace to take root."

Under the initiative framed by Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, Israel, in return for recognition and promises of trade, would be required to give up all of the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights. It would also cede part of Jerusalem, accept a Palestinian state with its capital there and consider repatriating hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees.

"The president would like to see come out of Beirut a recognition by Arab leaders that is consistent with Prince Abdullah's initiative," Fleischer said of the meeting that opens Wednesday in Lebanon's capital.

Bush welcomes the proposal as "very helpful in the search for peace in the Middle East," the spokesman said.

Fleischer said Israel should drop its confinement of Arafat to his West Bank headquarters in Ramallah and "should give serious consideration to allowing Yasser Arafat to attend" the summit.

San Marcos council wants quieter parties

SAN MARCOS (AP) — The San Marcos City Council has approved two ordinances aimed at reducing noise at parties, primarily those hosted by students at Southwest Texas State University.

Under the ordinances approved Monday, landlords and property owners could face $100 fines for failing to curtail tenants' loud parties. If owners continue to ignore the problems, liens can be slapped on their homes and injunctions can prevent them from using the property as residences.

Hosts of parties could face misdemeanor criminal charges and a $500 fine if their parties are too loud, if streets and driveways are blocked, if alcohol laws are violated or if trash is not cleaned up by 10 a.m. the next day.

Another provision allows police to cut power to homes where they believe drug or alcohol laws are being violated or partygoers refuse to quiet down. The power could be restored once the party is under control.

ASK US

Q—Now that we have a county parks department, why are they still paying a private contractor to work at Moffett Field?

A—Parks head Scott Crenwelge said it is more economical than hiring a full-time employee considering the condition of the field and the manpower required to maintain it.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Monday, 45 degrees; low, 28; 7 a.m. Tuesday, 29; no precipitation; total for 2002, 2.77 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, mostly clear, low near 40; SE winds 5-10 mph. Wednesday, partly cloudy, high lower 70s; S winds 10-20 mph. Wednesday night, partly cloudy, low near 50.

Shelby Grice
Partly Cloudy

Sunset: 6:59 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:39 a.m.
Of 84 days in 2002, the sun has shone 80 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Environmentalists left out of energy planning

WASHINGTON (AP) — Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham held at least eight private meetings with industry leaders but none with environmentalists as the administration crafted its energy plan, newly released documents show.

The meetings between Abraham and the energy industry executives were disclosed in thousands of papers made public Monday related to agency participation in Vice President Dick Cheney's energy task force in early 2001.

Critics of the administration's energy policies have long argued that industry had an open door to top-level administration policy makers, while those advocating conservation, energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy sources were given largely lip service.

Abraham said in a statement that the 11,000 pages of documents — everything from daily schedules to congressional testimony — "will further confirm" that the administration sought out a wide range of views, including that of environmentalists.

But the papers document no top-level meetings with advocates of energy efficiency or renewable energy sources such as wind or solar power.

The department took pains to note that the documents also catalogue 23 requests that were denied for meetings mostly with industry representatives to discuss the energy plan. Among those turned down were Houston-based Enron Corp.'s Kenneth Lay, ex-chairman, and Jeffrey Skilling, former chief executive officer.

While documents included reams of energy policy statements including some from environmental groups such as the Wilderness Society, it was the industry executives who had the access to Abraham, a key member of Cheney's task force.

In all, three dozen energy executives and lobbyists participated in eight meeting with Abraham from mid-February to late April of 2001. The Cheney energy report was released in May.

He met with a top executive of the American Coal Co.; officials of the Independent Petroleum Association of America; the chairman of Utilicorp, a major power company to discuss electricity deregulation; and with a half dozen utility executives and other oil and gas industry leaders.

A "drop-by" session to "discuss nuclear energy's role" in the Bush energy plan lasted 30 minutes on March 20 and included the head of the Nuclear Energy Institute, chairman of Westinghouse and the chief executives of a half dozen major nuclear power utilities.

Industry's access was shown in other papers among the 3,000 Energy Department documents and 4,000 documents also released Monday by the Environmental Protection Agency.

In one e-mail to Joe Kelliher, the DOE's point man on the Cheney task force, an official of Southern Company, the Atlanta-based power conglomerate, offers reasons why the administration should revamp a clean air regulation known as "New Source Review" which is at the heart of a series of ongoing lawsuits against Southern and several other utilities.

"I hope this is helpful," the utility official, Michael Riith, wrote Kelliher, adding, "I look forward to lunch on today."

The Cheney task force called for the EPA to review the clean air regulation — a review expected to lead to an easing of the regulation.

Among the papers also were EPA documents revealing an oil industry push to ease state regulation of so-called "boutique" gasoline blends and auto industry pressure to ease federal fuel economy rules.

One of the oil companies, Citco, urged the administration "to exercise federal authority to prevent states" from establishing separate fuel standards. The Cheney task force urged EPA to deal with the boutique fuels issue.

Also among the Energy Department and EPA papers was a three-page memo from the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers declaring that the federal auto fuel economy rule, known as CAFE, "is an ineffective energy policy."

The alliance instead supported consumer tax credits for advanced technology vehicles, and urged development of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. The task force report supported such tax benefits, refrained from urging higher fuel economy requirements and urged development of hydrogen-powered vehicles.

The documents, many with large portions marked out, were ordered released by two federal judges as part of lawsuits brought by private groups trying to determine who influenced the administration's energy plan.

The disclosed papers stem from Freedom of Information lawsuits filed by Judicial Watch, a conservative watchdog group, and the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group.

The Energy Department withheld 15,000 pages, citing exemptions for information related to internal agency practices, deliberations and personnel.

The administration also faces a similar lawsuit by the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress. That lawsuit was not involved in Monday's releases.

events

LOTTO TEXAS™

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Pick 3

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

9-9-4

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Monday by the Texas Lottery:

15-16-26-31-36

Scientists study orphaned killer whale

SEATTLE (AP) — A young killer whale hanging out alone in Puget Sound is in good shape, according to experts who initially had doubts that she could live in a solitary state.

The whale is eating and active and "not giving any indication that intervention is called for," National Marine Fisheries Service spokesman Brian Gorman said Monday.

She's one of two young whales in the region that became separated from their family groups, or pods, and for months have managed on their own — unique in the experience of scientists who have studied resident Northwest orcas.

"If nothing else we'll learn a great deal more about killer-whale behavior from all this," Gorman said.

The young female was first spotted in January in the middle of Puget Sound near Seattle.

Initially there were concerns that she was in poor health, based on her paint-thinner-like odor, which indicates she is digesting her own fat and may not be eating enough, and a sloughing skin ailment common to the species dubbed "killer whale pox."

The feeling then was that "we had no choice but to let her die or put her in an aquarium," Gorman said.

But when scientists learned more, the sense of crisis faded "and the aquarium-rescue option basically came off the table."

Daily monitoring has determined her condition is not getting worse, though it's not yet known whether she's getting better. Over the weekend, scientists obtained samples of her respiratory gases, Gorman said. Analysis will take about a week and will provide the first objective information on her condition, he said.

Some observers worry she is not as active as she should be, but perhaps that's because "she's not keeping up with a family group. Maybe this is how solitary calves behave," Gorman said. "We're treading new ground here in many respects and don't know how a young solitary killer whale should act."

The female was orphaned from her Canada-based family group last year. Her only living close relative is a grandmother.

"And I guess grandma is not that good a grandma," said fisheries service researcher Marilyn Dahlheim. Canadian researchers say the pod has "lost a lot of siblings," she noted. "Something's not quite right there."

Whale activists want the orphan reunited with her family group, but it's not known whether they would accept her after months of separation — or if there was some reason for her separation, undetectable by humans, that would prevent reconciliation.

The other orphan, a male spotted last fall west of Vancouver Island in Canadian waters, is from a pod based near the San Juan Islands about 100 miles north of Seattle.

Both are eating a lot of fish and nuzzling up to logs and branches in an apparent effort at comfort through contact.

Beach in Hawaii closed after shark attack

LIHUE, Hawaii (AP) — A 17-year-old body boarder lost his left foot and ankle in a shark attack, prompting authorities to close two miles of a popular beach.

Hoku Aki was attacked Monday while he was body boarding in murky water about 150 yards off Brennecke Beach. Witnesses said the youth was pulled underwater by the shark.

Aki, who was able to free himself, was helped to shore by onlookers.

"He said he was being thrashed around underwater," Kauai Fire Capt. Mike Layosa said. "He fought back and was able to grab the eye, and the shark released him."

A witness wrapped a towel around Aki's leg and applied pressure to stop the bleeding, Layosa said. Firefighters arrived and applied a tourniquet until paramedics took over.

The teen's condition was upgraded from serious to stable Monday afternoon. Authorities could not immediately determine the type of shark that attacked the teen-ager.

The boy's father, Harmon Aki, said his son was slowly remembering what happened. "It was quite an ordeal for him, but he's recovering and he's doing quite well," he said.

The attack occurred in Kauai's Poipu resort area, a popular spot for snorkeling and body surfing. It ordinarily has underwater visibility of up to 100 feet.

Fire officials closed the south shore beaches within one mile of either direction of Brennecke Beach, including Poipu, and said the beach would remain closed until conditions improve.

Kauai was in the midst of a heavy rain storm Monday, which created the murky water conditions — the most dangerous for shark attacks.

Also Monday, a shark bit an 11-year-old girl from Illinois as she waded in knee-deep water at Cocoa Beach, Fla. Tori Lawrence was listed in fair condition early today.

On the Net:
Shark Attack File:
http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/Sharks/ISAF/ISAF.htm

Berry's World

"WELL, SON, I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT YOU'VE FINALLY FOUND YOUR NICHE."

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Date Book

Tuesday, March 26, 2002

Today is the 85th day of 2002 and the 7th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1827, composer Ludwig van Beethoven died in Vienna.

On this day in 1885, the first commercial film for motion pictures was produced by the Eastman Dry Plate and Film Company.

On this day in 1953, Dr. Jonas Salk announced that he had successfully completed testing on a vaccine for polio.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Robert Frost (1874 - 1963), poet; Tennessee Williams (1911 - 1983), playwright; Sandra Day O'Connor (1930 -), U.S. Supreme Court justice, is 72; Leonard Nimoy (1931 -), actor, is 71; James Caan (1940 -), actor, is 62; Erica Jong (1942 -), writer, is 60; Bob Woodward (1943 -), journalist, is 59; Diana Ross (1944 -), singer/actress, is 58; Steven Tyler (1948 -), Aerosmith singer, is 54; Martin Short (1950 -), actor, is 52; Marcus Allen (1960 -), football star, is 42; Amy Smart (1976 -), actress, is 26.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1931, Leo Bentley from Lorain, Ohio, bowled three consecutive perfect games.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "...many of these people have their reputations as reporters and analysts because they are on television, batting around conventional wisdom. A lot of these people have never reported a story. I'm not going to name some of my colleagues who are very well-known for their television presentation — but they wouldn't know new information or how to report a story if it came up and bit them." — Bob Woodward

TODAY'S MOON: Between the first quarter (March 21) and the full moon (March 28).

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Classes will be held at Board Room at
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1700 Cogdell Boulevard
(South Parking Lot)

Instructor:
Bonnie Carroll, RN

After This Class, Next Class Begins May 2002

- Physiology of Pregnancy and Delivery
- Tips to Avoid Complications
- Breathing Techniques
- Newborn Care
- Breast Feeding Techniques
- Tour of Hospital OB Department
- Sibling Class (for future big brothers and sisters included in final class)

Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a coach.

Open To Any Expectant Parents
The fee is $40 per couple, payable prior to the first class, unless enrolled in the The Stork Club.
For more information, please contact COGDELL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, 574-7240 OB Department.

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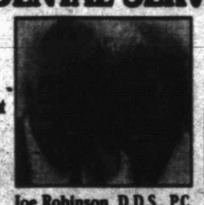

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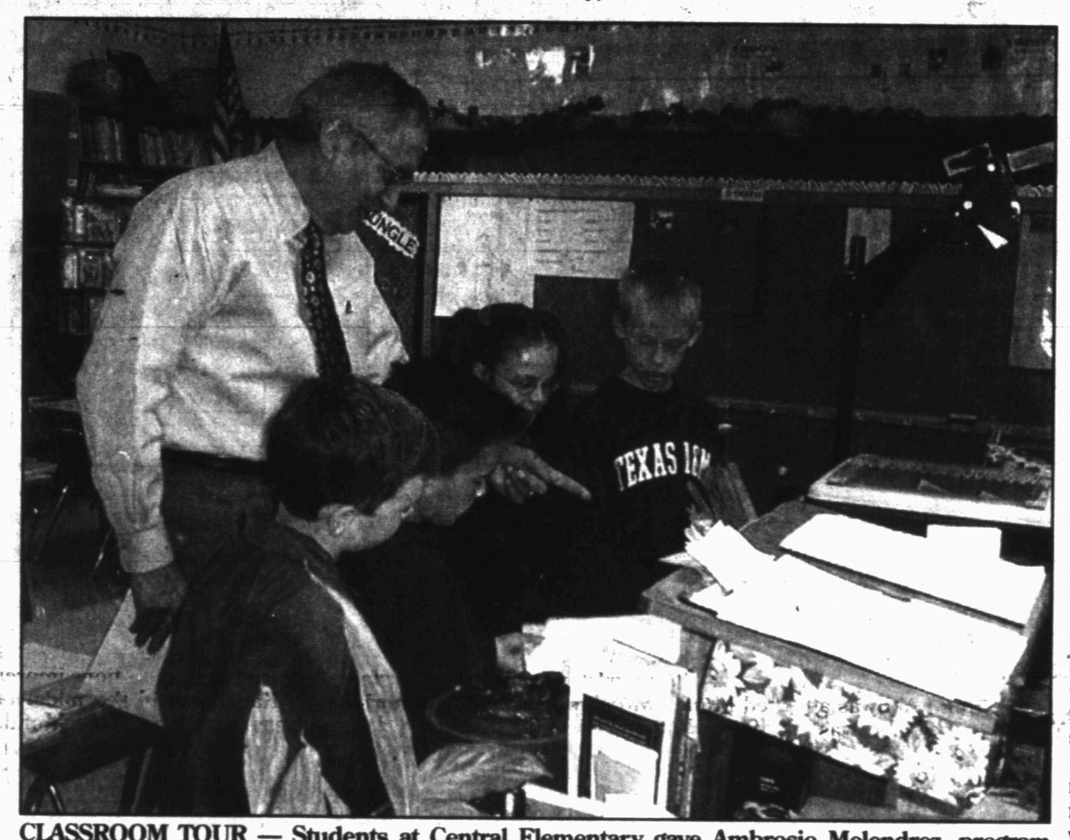
COMMUNITY SERVICES FAIR — Snyder Child Day Care Center, had a Community Services Fair Thursday in the school gym. Eighteen county agencies participated in the event. Hot dogs and drinks were served and several door prizes were given away. Interested in the "Wheel of Healthy Choice" booth, operated by Amelia Rosas with WIC, are Faith Overton, 7, and Eric Overton, 9, from left. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)



CLASSROOM TOUR — Students at Central Elementary gave Ambrosio Melendrez, program coordinator with the Southwest Center for Accelerated Schools, a tour of their classroom. Accelerated Schools is a process implemented by Central Elementary during the 2001-2002 school year and is an initiative of the Texas Education Agency's Improving Teaching and Learning grant. Shown from left with Mr. Melendrez are Collin Parsons, Robert Velasquez, Nicole Molter and Will Toombs. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Bridge

North 03-26-02
♠ 8 4 3
♥ Q 5
♦ K 10 7 2
♣ K Q 10 4

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

East
♠ Q J 9 5
♥ 10 6 4
♦ Q 8 6
♣ 9 8 3

South
♠ K 7
♥ A 8 2
♦ A J 9 5 3
♣ A J 2

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ 7

By Phillip Alder

Mark Twain wrote, "Truth is stranger than fiction, but it is because Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities; Truth isn't."

I saw this deal in a magazine, and I think the author, let's call him Joe, resorted to some fiction under the guise of fact. See what you think.

North-South raced into three notrump. West led his fourth-highest heart, the trick being won with dummy's queen. Declarer cashed the diamond king, then played a diamond to his ace. When the queen didn't drop, South continued with a third round of the suit. In with his queen, East shifted to the spade queen, netting the defenders four tricks in that suit for one down.

It seems simple enough when you look at all 52 cards, but how did East know to lead the spade queen, rather than return the heart 10? If South had begun with the spade ace and king-third of hearts, East's defense wouldn't have won any plaudits.

What did West discard on the diamonds? Joe didn't say. If South has the club ace, West knows he needs a spade shift, but if East has the club ace and South the king-queen-jack of spades, West wants a heart return.

Joe wanted to make the point that declarer misplayed. If South had finessed his diamond jack on the second round of the suit, the contract would have been assured. Even if West had the diamond queen, he would have no killing return. With South's spade king is safe from attack, he can take at least 10 tricks via two hearts, four diamonds and four clubs. Still, in the real world, I think South would survive his misplay. We are trained on our grandmother's knee to return partner's suit, especially in notrump.

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Easter brings eggs, bunnies from German traditions

This March 31, it may be appropriate to wish friends and family "Frohliche Ostern." That's because a Germanic influence is prevalent throughout many American Easter traditions. In the home and around the table, we have adopted such German customs as the Easter Bunny, egg hunts and the traditional Easter meal.

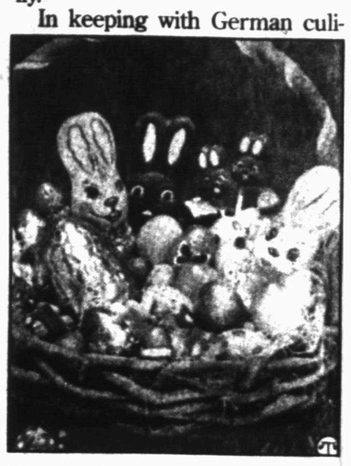
Of all the symbols associated with the holiday, the egg (which represents fertility and new life) is the most identifiable. The custom of boiling eggs and decorating them with vivid colors belongs to Germany, where Easter eggs were colored to represent the sunlight of spring. These eggs, along with other Easter gifts, were given to children as part of the festivities.

Today, most children prefer a delicious assortment of chocolates, handmade truffles, pralines or candies in their Easter baskets. Not surprisingly, Germany reigns as Europe's top exporter of confections. For centuries, the country has served as the creative center for confectionary arts, offering delicious assortments year-round.

The Easter Bunny also seems to have its origins in Germany, where it was first mentioned in writing in the 1500s. The bunny serves as a symbol of the new life of spring and Easter because it is known to be the most fertile of animals. Children in Germany believe that if they are good, the Osterhase will lay a nest of colored eggs and hide them throughout their home. In the early 1800s, the first edible bunnies were made in Germany of pastry and sugar. To this day, bunnies made of the finest German chocolate or marzipan are overwhelmingly popular.

In addition, Easter trees have long been part of Germany's Easter celebration and are sometimes seen in American communities. Easter trees consist of hollow eggs, which are dyed and hung from shrubs and trees throughout the week of Easter. With this colorful decoration, you can bring the spring season into your home and enjoy this beautiful tradition with your whole family.

In keeping with German culinary traditions, why not add variety to the typical Easter lamb by trying different recipes using the finest German food products. For instance, accompany your Easter dinner with a combination of robust breads, gentle cheeses, tangy pickles and flavorful mustards. What do you do with all those leftover boiled eggs? In Germany, they've come up with a delicious way of preparing them, in a dish called Eier in Senfsosse (eggs in mustard sauce)-a delicious favorite in the days following the holiday.



Many of our beloved Easter traditions are derived from German culture.

For traditional German holiday and other recipes, visit the Web site at

www.cmanorthamerica.org or call 1-703-739-8900-and rediscover the cuisine of Germany.

Watch For The New Cash Bash Numbers In The Snyder Daily News!

Community Calendar

TUESDAY

Weight Watchers meeting; Colonial Hill Baptist Church; for more information call Kathy at 573-1289 during the evening; weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m.

ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 7 p.m.

Beginners' AA open meeting; Snyder Park Club, 1212 37th Street; 573-8268, 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for more information call 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

TOPS TX56 (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Trinity United Methodist Church. For more information call Phillis Leatherwood at 573-6105.

WEDNESDAY

Martha Ann Woman's Club has cancelled the game day and luncheon and members are encouraged to attend Holy Week service at noon at First Presbyterian Church.

NA Just For Today, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-1438; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Snyder Palette Club; airport terminal bldg; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

LLL Club; fellowship hall of First Baptist Church; 9:30 a.m.

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; horseshoe courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762.

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; at the coliseum annex; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Scurry Charter Chapter ABWA; MAWC; 7 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information call 573-8268, 573-4048 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment, call 573-0538 or 573-0770.

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

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 573-3733, 573-2101 or 5731141; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

NA-Just For Today open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-1438; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 10 a.m.

The nickel was first issued in 1866. Between 1794 and 1873, a coin called the half-dime was available.

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Dale Huff
Minister
37th Street Church of Christ
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Snyder, Texas 79549
How Do We Know It Is Real?
Jesus promises wonderful things, amazing things. His words are awe - inspiring. There is a character to the teaching of Jesus that causes people to say today what they said when he walked on the earth, "No one ever spoke the way this man does," John 7:46. But there is a question that still comes. How do we know that these things are real? How can we be certain that there is heaven and hell? How do we know that we can really be forgiven of sin? How do we know that there is such a thing as sin? How do we know that Jesus was the Son of God and that His words are true?
The New Testament answers, "He rose from the dead." The apostles of Jesus, those men who walked with him, were grilled on this very point. As they preached Jesus Christ and him crucified for the sins of the world, they were also accusing the government leaders of killing the Messiah. This was disturbing to the leaders and they arrested the apostles and tried to stop them. But the apostles kept preaching, "You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead," Acts 3: 15. How did they know? "We are witnesses of this," Acts 3:15. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John give their written testimony. The eyewitness accounts of the resurrection of Jesus have the clear ring of truth. They give us solid testimony.
How do we know it is real? He rose from the dead. He appeared to witnesses and they have testified. Their testimony to the resurrection of Jesus tells us, "It is real." Will we believe? That is our choice.
Dale Huff

MAR 26 2002

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski

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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 Tampa Bay pro
4 Oz. or lb.
7 Bellicose deity
11 Nurses org.
12 Den dweller
14 Tear down
15 Gigantic
16 — -eyed
17 Extreme
18 Wide street
20 Carrion feeders
22 Before now
23 One, to Helmut
24 Gathered leaves
27 Hostage taker
30 Metal fastener
31 Lightweight toy
32 Violinist's need
34 Freezing
35 Hotels
36 Field mouse
37 Hero sandwich
39 Feels dizzy
40 Barrel
41 Colorless
42 Peak
45 Top stories
49 Found a perch
50 Taunt
52 Drivers' org.
53 — colada
54 Find a buyer
55 Quip
56 Divers' milieus
57 Wind dir.
58 Stop — — dime

DOWN

1 Rum-soaked cake
2 Purdue, e.g. (abbr.)
3 Canary's home
4 Ridiculous
5 Brawl
6 Way of Lao-tzu
7 Impassioned
8 Come down hard
9 "Rabbi Ben —"
10 Takes notice of
13 Warms over
19 Exigency
21 Cry of dismay
24 Stat for at-bat
25 Curved entrance
26 Boxer's punch
27 Movie
28 A woodwind
29 Teacher's roster
31 Lancelot and Gawain
33 "Scream" director Craven
35 "— ← Around"
36 Flue
38 Japanese dogs
39 Unnerve
41 Laments
42 Channel-surfs
43 Nobelist Wiesel
44 Ricci of fashion
46 Othello's foe
47 "Brian's Song" actor
48 Long story
51 Extremely small

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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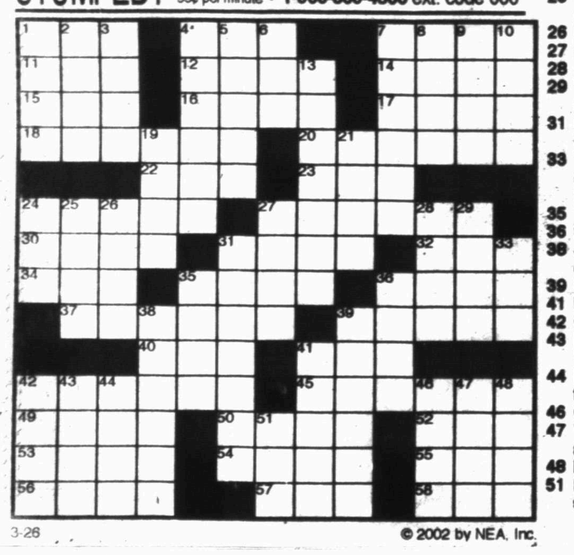

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

SPORTS

Snyder continues 4-4A diamond action tonight

The Snyder Tigers are coming off their biggest win of the season, while the Lady Tigers are looking to chalk theirs up.

After knocking off district rival Frenship on Friday, the Tigers hope to maintain their momentum when they host Plainview at 6 today at Moffett Field.

Like the SHS boys did on Friday, the Lady Tigers hope to go on the road today and unseat district favorite Andrews at 6 o'clock at Lady Mustang Field.

Snyder and Andrews are tied atop both standings, but the Lady Tigers can grab sole possession of the lead with a victory tonight.

"The girls know that we'll be in first place by ourselves if we win," said SHS coach Shelly Hayes. "We've been playing well, and we'll need to again against Andrews."

The Lady Tigers have posted five consecutive victories, shutting out three of their last four opponents. Andrews is also 5-1 in league play with its only loss coming against Big Spring.

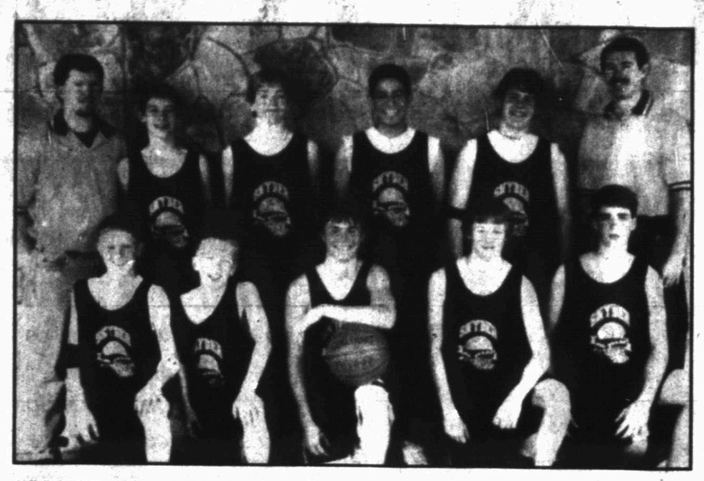
In the baseball standings, the Tigers remain unbeaten in district competition at 4-0.

After debuting at No. 10 in the state poll last week, the Tigers run-ruled Big Spring then rolled over Frenship, 9-4. The pollsters, however, weren't as kind to the Tigers this week.

Snyder dropped out of the top-10 and was replaced by Canyon Randall, a team the Tigers defeated, 12-9, earlier this year.

"The polls don't really mean that much this early in the season," said Coach Roland Herrera. "We want to stay focused on winning our district games and worry about the polls later. The only time its important to be ranked is at the end of the season."

Following today's action, the Lady Tigers are in action again Thursday at Levelland, while the Tigers host Estacado Friday at Moffett Field.



SENIOR ALL-STARS — Snyder Senior opens the Regional Little Dribblers Tournament at 6 p.m. Wednesday against Andrews II at Travis Gym. Members of the Snyder team are, front from left, Tyler Hogan, Jamie Arnold, Chris Smith, Jason Cave and Garrett Pinson. On the back row are Coach Jeremiah White, Corbin Clements, Dustyn Williams, Eric Martinez, Blake Scott and Coach Bryan Cave. A handfull of games are slated for Thursday, with the tournament getting in full swing on Friday. (Contributed Photo)

Lady Tigers second after first round

LEVELLAND — On a cold, blustery day at Levelland Country Club, everything held to form in the opening round of the District 4-4A girls golf tournament.

Andrews grabbed the early lead with a 329, while Snyder carded 346 to trail the Lady Mustangs by 17 strokes with two rounds to go.

The girls tournament resumes next Tuesday at San Angelo and wraps up April 8 at Lubbock.

Andrews, who finished second at state a year ago, is a favorite to repeat as district champions, with the Lady Tigers also figured in the mix.

"I think most people expect Andrews to win it again this year, but we're not worried about all that," said Snyder coach Matt Glenn. "We know what we're capable of doing, and we're going to try to make up 17 strokes over the next two rounds."

Andra Lancaster fired an 82 to pace the Lady Tigers. Hailey Putnam posted an 87, and Lauren Day recorded an 88. Katie Kerley and Kellie Dodson each finished at 89.

In the boys district competition, Snyder grabbed the lead Saturday at Big Spring and was looking to widen the gap when they teed off this morning at Western Texas College.

District 4-4A Baseball

Team	District W	District L	Season W	Season L
Snyder	4	0	16	6
Andrews	4	0	11	2
Frenship	3	1	13	5
Lake View	1	3	6	10
Big Spring	1	3	4	12
Estacado	1	3	5	10
Levelland	1	3	5	12
Plainview	1	3	8	10

Today's games: Plainview at Snyder; Andrews at Estacado; Levelland at Frenship; Lake View at Big Spring.

San Antonio holds off Clippers, 91-85

LOS ANGELES (AP) — David Robinson broke behind the defense, took a lob from Tim Duncan and, in one smooth motion, slammed the ball through the hoop.

That picture-perfect play gave the San Antonio Spurs a four-point lead with 1:46 remaining, and they went on to a 91-85 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Monday night.

Duncan, Robinson and the Spurs are clicking at a very good time.

The victory ran their winning streak to 13, clinched their 11th playoff berth in 12 years and put them within one game of the Sacramento Kings for the NBA's best regular-season record.

"We're trying to get to a point where we can challenge the Lakers and Kings. We're still jockeying for position, and we really feel like we can get the best record if we continue to play well," said Robinson, who had 19 points to go with Duncan's 33 points and 13 rebounds.

"We've clinched a playoff spot, but we want to keep our streak going," Robinson said of the NBA's longest victory string this season.

The Spurs are 49-21, behind only the Sacramento Kings (49-19) and Los Angeles Lakers (49-20) in the race for the best regular-season record and home-court advantage through the playoffs.

After the Spurs trailed by 13 points four minutes into the third quarter, Duncan scored six consecutive points to start an 18-8 rally over the next six minutes. Playing stifling defense, the Spurs then outscored the Clippers 24-13 in the fourth quarter.

"San Antonio is playing better ball than anybody else in the league right now," the Clippers' Eric Piatkowski said. "They're a very good defensive team. Their defensive rotation is probably better than anybody else in the league."

The Clippers, who have lost 17 of their last 18 against the Spurs, played them close, with the Spurs finally taking the lead for good on Robinson's layup for 84-82 with 3:21 remaining.

Michael Olowokandi had 26 points and 17 rebounds for the Clippers, who remained 21/2 games behind Utah for the West's final playoff berth.

"I give them a lot of credit," Robinson said. "Olowokandi was a monster. That's one of the smartest games I've seen them play. They did just about everything it took to win the game."

Elton Brand had 15 points and 10 rebounds, his 50th double-double of the season and four short of the Clippers' franchise record.

"That was a scrappy game," Duncan said. "They came out with a lot of energy."

Sports Briefs

Teenage baseball sign-ups

Baseball sign-ups for ages 13-16 will be held at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Wall Insurance Agency. An organizational meeting is also scheduled. Boys who will be 13 by July 31 and not 17 by Aug. 1 are eligible. Players should bring a parent, birth certificate and $50 registration fee. Teams will be divided by age. For more information, call 573-8048.

WGA play day begins

The Women's Golf Association of Snyder Country Club will hold its first play day at 9 a.m. next Tuesday. A business meeting and luncheon is also scheduled. For more information, call the SCC pro shop at 573-7101.

Girls basketball camp scheduled

The Snyder Tiger girls basketball camp is set for May 28-31 at the SHS gym. The camp is for incoming third through ninth graders, and cost is $60, which includes a camp T-shirt.

Registration forms are available at the elementary and junior high schools, or can be picked up at the SHS girls basketball office. Players can pre-register through May 15.

Tyson-Lewis bout scheduled for Memphis

NEW YORK (AP) — One of the biggest fights ever was salvaged when promoters reached an agreement for Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis to meet for the heavyweight title June 8 in Memphis, ending weeks of on-again off-again negotiations.

A fight that could make more than $100 million — and pay each fighter more than $20 million — is now scheduled to take place at the 20,000-seat Pyramid arena, where ringside seats will fetch $2,500.

Teams set for women's Final Four

NEW YORK (AP) — Top-seeded teams played to form in three regional finals in the women's NCAA tournament, and second-seeded Tennessee also advanced to the Final Four.

Connecticut (37-0) joined Duke and Oklahoma as top-seeded teams headed to San Antonio. The Huskies will play Tennessee in one semifinal Friday. Duke and Oklahoma are in the other.

UConn made its first 13 shots and raced to a 20-point lead 10 minutes in and beat Old Dominion 85-64 in the Mideast Regional final.

Tennessee advanced to the Final Four for the 13th time with a 68-63 victory over Southeastern Conference rival Vanderbilt in the Midwest Regional.

In the other regional finals, Duke beat South Carolina 77-68 in the East, and Oklahoma became the first Big 12 team to reach the Final Four in the conference's six-year history, beating Colorado 94-60 in the West.

Zimmerman to start season on DL

ARLINGTON (AP) — Texas Rangers closer Jeff Zimmerman is expected to start the season on the disabled list after tests confirmed that he has tendinitis in his right elbow.

Martin suspended for fifth time

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Despite calls from coaches and teammates to cool it after a fifth suspension for a flagrant foul, New Jersey Nets bad boy Kenyon Martin vowed not to change his physical game.

Martin was suspended for two more games — his sixth and seventh of the season — for throwing an elbow at Shareef Abdur-Rahim of Atlanta on Sunday.

Roaf goes from Saints to Chiefs

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Willie Roaf is headed from the New Orleans Saints to the Kansas City Chiefs, pending NFL approval of the trade.

Bucs ink Pittman, Hanspard

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The Tampa Bay Buccaneers signed free-agent running backs Michael Pittman to a five-year contract and Byron Hanspard to one year, raising questions about how Mike Alstott fits into the team's plans.

8th grade boys run well at Merkel

MERKEL — Snyder's eighth grade boys won a pair of events and showed their strength in several others Friday at the Merkel junior high track meet.

Chris Thompson, Barrett Bowlin and Garrett Pinson teamed up to win the triple jump. Pinson, Bowlin, Chris Smith and Taylor Allbritton combined to take first place in the hurdle shuttle.

In other field events, Pinson, Eric Martinez and Dustyn Williams were runners-up in the high jump. Smith, Williams and Cave took third in the pole vault.

Orlando Vasquez, Blake Scott and Ozzie Benitez were third in the shot put, and Smith, Alejo Gutierrez and Eric Martinez were fourth in the long jump.

On the track, Smith, Pinson, Gutierrez and Joel Tarin took third in the sprint relay, while Bowlin, Tarin, Thompson and Marcus Williams did the same in the 4x200.

In the 4x800 relay, Chris Vera, Joseph Yruegas, Landry Matthies and Matt Reigh captured third place. Gutierrez, Yruegas, Chris Vera and Tyler Baze were earned fourth in the sprint medley.

Pinson, Tarin, Smith and Martinez raced to a fifth-place showing in the mile relay, as did Martinez, Williams, Allbritton and Scott in the distance medley.

Vasquez, Scott, Will Floyd and Rudy Ibarra came in fifth place in the weightman relay.

Snyder JV edges Coahoma

Boicy Martinez threw a two-hitter, and Snyder made the most of its opportunities Monday in a 3-1 junior varsity victory over Coahoma.

Martinez worked all seven innings, surrendering only one hit in the first inning and another in the fifth. Coahoma scored its only run in the first.

The Tigers scored twice in the opening frame and added another run in the third.

Bradley Price and Randall Rich belted two hits apiece to pace Snyder. Ty Collier, Danny Hoyle, Marcus Rodriguez and Zach Cain also singled.

Cowboys look at Alamodome

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys await word on whether San Antonio officials approve of a proposal to hold their entire training camp this summer at the Alamodome.

Unidentified sources tell The Dallas Morning News in today's editions that the Cowboys could finalize their plans for this summer's camp Thursday if the Alamo City is on board with the idea.

The Cowboys had initially discussed training for two weeks in San Antonio and three weeks in Oxnard, Calif. But the Cowboys reconsidered and focused exclusively on a San Antonio camp after their preseason schedule showed Dallas with an East Coast trip to Carolina.

Under the Dallas proposal, the Cowboys would train on the Alamodome field and on portable, synthetic turf fields to be spread on the Alamodome parking lot.

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NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EAST REGIONAL
Semifinals
At Raleigh, N.C.
Saturday, March 23
South Carolina 79, Drake 65
Duke 62, Texas 46
Championship
Monday, March 25
Duke 77, South Carolina 68

MIDEAST REGIONAL
Semifinals
At Milwaukee
Saturday, March 23
Connecticut 82, Penn State 64
Old Dominion 88, Kansas State 62
Championship
Monday, March 25
Connecticut 85, Old Dominion 64

MIDWEST REGIONAL
Semifinals
At Ames, Iowa
Saturday, March 23
Tennessee 68, Brigham Young 57
Vanderbilt 70, North Carolina 61
Championship
Monday, March 25
Tennessee 68, Vanderbilt 63

WEST REGIONAL
Semifinals
At Boise, Idaho
Saturday, March 23
Colorado 62, Stanford 59
Oklahoma 72, Texas Tech 62
Championship
Monday, March 25
Oklahoma 94, Colorado 60

THE FINAL FOUR
At San Antonio
National Semifinals
Friday, March 29
Duke (31-3) vs. Oklahoma (28-6), 7 p.m.
Connecticut (37-0) vs. Tennessee (29-4), 30 minutes following first game
National Championship
Sunday, March 31
Semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m.

National Basketball Association

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
x-New Jersey	45	25	.643	—
Boston	40	31	.563	5½
Orlando	37	32	.536	7½
Philadelphia	37	32	.536	7½
Washington	32	38	.457	13
Miami	31	38	.449	13½
New York	26	43	.377	18½

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	41	28	.594	—
Milwaukee	37	31	.544	3½
Charlotte	36	33	.522	5
Indiana	35	34	.507	6
Toronto	32	38	.457	9½
Atlanta	28	41	.406	13
Cleveland	25	45	.357	16½
Chicago	17	53	.243	24½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	49	21	.700	—
x-Dallas	48	21	.696	½
Minnesota	42	27	.609	6½
Utah	38	32	.543	11
Houston	26	43	.377	22½
Denver	21	47	.309	27
Memphis	18	52	.257	31

Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Sacramento	49	19	.721	—
x-L.A. Lakers	49	20	.710	½
Portland	43	27	.614	7
Seattle	40	31	.563	10½
L.A. Clippers	36	35	.507	14½
Phoenix	32	38	.457	18
Golden State	17	52	.246	32½

x-clinched playoff spot

Monday's Games
Boston 87, Miami 82
Denver 84, New York 83
Phoenix 102, Cleveland 96
Seattle 106, Utah 92
Memphis 103, Portland 100
San Antonio 91, L.A. Clippers 85

Tuesday's Games
Denver at Washington, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Indiana, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Houston at Utah, 9 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Orlando at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Boston, 7 p.m.
New York at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at Toronto, 8 p.m.
New Jersey at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Memphis at Seattle, 10 p.m.
San Antonio at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

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Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
Ira ISD is applying for a waiver from TEA to start school on August 15, 2002. There will be a public hearing on April 8, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Building at 6143 W. FM 1606.

Announcement
Betty Hardwick Center is soliciting proposals from qualified agencies and individuals to provide TCADA Level 4 supportive outpatient services through contact in Region 2 (Taylor, Jones, Callahan, Coleman, Eastland, Brown, Comanche,Shackelford, Stephens, Runnels, Haskell, Stonewall, Throckmorton, Nolan, Fisher, Scurry, Mitchell, Kent and Knox counties). Providers must be experienced Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors, Licensed Professional Counselors, or Licensed Master Social Workers. Individuals or agencies must meet TCADA subcontracting standards. Proposals will be accepted through Wednesday, April 17, 2002. For further information and proposal specifications, contact:
Jenny Goode by email at jgoode@bhcmhmr.org or by phone at (915)690-5242.

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1996 Chevrolet Suburban, excellent condition. 573-6496

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Smokers of light cigarettes sue tobacco industry in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The latest battle in the tobacco wars is over claims that cigarette companies have used words such as "light" and "low tar" to deceive smokers into believing they are safer than regular brands.

Lawyers have filed class-action lawsuits against the nation's three largest tobacco companies — Philip Morris Cos. Inc., R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., and Brown & Williamson Corp. — on behalf of smokers in 11 states. They are seeking billions of dollars in damages for alleged violations of consumer protection laws.

"It's a scam, because they get people to believe that they reduce health risks when that is a false statement," said Stephen Sheller, a Philadelphia attorney who began preparing the cases four years ago.

Sheller says he is encouraged that an Oregon jury ruled Friday that Philip Morris must pay $150 million to survivors of a woman who died of lung cancer. The jury said the company falsely represented low-tar cigarettes as healthier.

Tobacco companies say the lawsuits have no merit. R.J. Reynolds spokesman Seth Moskowitz said cigarette manufacturers use terms like "full-flavor," "lights" and "ultra lights" to differentiate strength of taste and amount of tar and nicotine.

The tobacco industry generally uses the term "light" to describe cigarettes with less than 15 milligrams of tar, a carcinogen produced when tobacco is burned. Tar helps deliver nicotine to smokers.

The effort to market low-tar cigarettes gained momentum in the 1960s, after some health advocates said they could reduce health risks.

Former U.S. Surgeon General Julius Richmond recommended in 1981 that smokers switch to lights if they couldn't quit. That position has been dropped, but sales of light cigarettes have boomed. They now account for the majority of the U.S. cigarette market.

While more people were turning to light cigarettes, the American Cancer Society was conducting studies — the first in the 1960s and the second in the 1980s — that found lung cancer death rates among smokers rose even though tar levels had dropped.

A National Cancer Institute study last fall stated that cigarettes that yielded low tar and nicotine when tested on government-approved machines gave off higher levels when smoked by people. That's because people who smoke lights tend to inhale more deeply and take more puffs to get the nicotine they need.

Mild winter in Northeast is good news for budgets

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A relatively mild winter in the Northeast has cities and states looking at a greener summer — and not just because of the foliage.

Governments across the region are saving hundreds of thousands of dollars on snow removal costs — a welcome prospect during rocky economic times.

Anecdotes from across the region show that localities are in unusual territory this year when it comes to transportation budgets.

In Pittsburgh, rock salt domes are still filled to the top. In New Hampshire, a Department of Transportation spokesman said his agency won't have to ask the state Legislature for more money, a rarity.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation expects to save $25 million statewide.

"That's actual cash savings that we can redirect to repairs this spring and summer," agency spokesman Steve Chizmer said.

In the Washington, D.C., suburb of Rockville, Md., the Public Works Department will save a third of its snow removal budget this year, possibly enough to purchase a new piece of equipment, said Hal Cranor, the department's director.

"It will stay in the public works department as long as I can spend it," Cranor said.

But Cranor and other public works directors said they weren't counting the money yet as a snow storm coated several communities in the region on Monday. However, forecasters said regardless of the late storm, snowfall amounts would be well below average.

"Northern New York, New England, western Pennsylvania and down through the Appalachians have seen very little snow this year, generally well below normal.

DA looking into Yates' culpability into drownings

HOUSTON (AP) — Less than a week after Andrea Yates began serving life in prison for killing her children, the Harris County district attorney's office said it is looking into whether her husband had any culpability in the drownings.

To call it an "investigation" would be too strong, District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal said Monday.

Rosenthal said his office began looking into Russell Yates at the urging of "gazillions" of e-mails which have arrived in his office inbox in months since the drownings last June 20.

"We're looking into it, because we've been asked to look into it," Rosenthal told The Associated Press.

Russell Yates' attorney, Edward Mallett, said Rosenthal is doing his job.

"He's an elected district attorney," Mallett said. "What's he going to say, 'I'm not going to investigate.'

"Of course he's going to investigate."

Mallett said he is confident any probe of Russell Yates will come up lacking any criminal allegations against the NASA computer specialist.

"I am confident that Russell Yates is innocent of any wrongdoing," Mallett said. "It's a tragedy that Rusty now has to defend himself after standing by his wife."

Andrea Yates, 37, was convicted of two capital murder charges in the drowning deaths of three of her five children March 12. Days later, the same eight-woman, four-man jury panel, took less 40 minutes to recommend a life sentence. Yates had faced the death penalty after jurors rejected her insanity defense.

The convicted child killer, who was formally sentenced last Monday as her family toured the talk show circuit, becomes eligible for parole in 2041.

Russell Yates has blamed the medical community for failing his wife and leading to his children's deaths.

He says a doctor changed his wife's prescription two days before police arrived at the family's home after Andrea Yates' called 911. Yates confessed to killing her children, four of whom were laid out on a bed while the fifth was left floating in the bathtub where they were killed.

Prosecutors have questioned why Russell Yates left his wife alone with the children. The father told prosecutors he thought his wife would be fine with the children for the hour between when he left for work and his mother arrived to help out.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	26.12	25.10	25.98	+ .83
AOL TimeWrn	24.16	23.00	23.80	— .41
AT&T Corp s	15.49	15.26	15.34	+ .12
Albertsons	32.75	32.35	32.50	+ .23
Alltel	54.21	53.65	54.02	+ .82
AmEl Pw	46.00	45.37	45.52	— .44
AndarkPtr	56.45	55.54	55.57	— .49
ATMOS Egy	24.06	23.88	24.01	+ .08
Aviall	8.68	8.31	8.47	+ .11
BP PLC	52.30	51.45	52.08	+ .43
BakerHughes	37.70	36.56	36.87	— .37
Bank of Amer	69.42	68.05	68.80	+ .65
BellSouth	37.20	37.00	37.08	+ .18
vjBeth Steel	42	.40	42	+ .01
BurlNoSFe	30.00	29.46	29.90	+ .35
Caterpillar	57.33	55.65	56.99	+ 1.05
ChevronTex	89.53	88.70	89.19	+ .79
Citigroup	49.90	48.56	49.38	+ .73
CocaCola	52.47	51.74	52.31	+ .56
ColgatePal	56.85	56.07	56.71	+ .63
ComclMetals	39.90	39.25	39.51	— .14
CooperIn	41.50	41.30	41.31	— .09
DaimlrChry	47.30	46.20	46.90	+ 1.49
DeltaAirl	32.63	31.53	32.63	+ 1.64
Dillards Inc	24.05	23.76	23.94	— .02
DowChem	32.69	31.76	32.46	+ .59
DuPont	47.24	46.25	47.22	+ .52
EastmanChem	48.65	47.40	48.45	+ .79
EstKodak	31.89	31.35	31.46	— .31
EDS Corp	61.01	58.40	58.50	— 3.50
Entergy	43.44	42.70	42.93	— .22
ExxonMobil s	43.50	42.95	43.47	+ .62
FstBksAm	40.70	40.00	40.70	+ .90
FootLocker	16.15	15.70	16.00	+ .15
GenDynam	92.98	91.69	92.65	+ .97
GenElec	37.82	37.09	37.66	+ .62
GenMills	49.45	48.75	48.96	+ .43
GenMotors	60.36	58.71	59.40	+ .60
GaPacific	30.50	29.40	30.41	+ .71
Goodrich	30.51	30.00	30.42	+ .27
Goodyear	24.24	23.59	24.12	+ .33
GtAtlPac	27.54	27.16	27.37	— .17
Halliburtn	16.23	15.96	16.02	+ .02
Hanson ADS	38.90	38.55	38.64	+ .34
HarteHanks	30.51	30.09	30.35	+ .26
HomeDepot	49.20	48.15	48.87	+ .42
HoneywellIntl	38.42	37.51	38.14	+ .49
IBM	105.70	103.50	104.77	+ 1.21
IntlPaper	42.41	41.20	42.36	+ .70
JohnsonJn s	65.14	64.36	64.81	+ .46
vjK mart	1.70	1.66	1.68	— .02
KinderMorg	48.22	47.86	47.86	+ .01
Kroger Co	22.45	22.19	22.41	+ .24
LockheedM	57.20	55.97	57.00	+ .95
Lowes Cos s	44.25	43.35	43.94	— .02
Lubys	6.74	6.60	6.65	— .15
LucentTech	4.56	4.00	4.39	— .12
MarathonOil	28.70	28.50	28.64	+ .20
MayDeptStr	35.36	34.97	35.22	+ .13
Medtronic	44.65	44.19	44.31	— .11
Motorola	13.70	13.06	13.51	+ .03
NCR Corp	44.38	43.25	44.25	+ .55
Navistar	43.30	41.59	42.99	+ 1.38
PNM Rescs	29.81	29.69	29.75	+ .01
Penney JC	20.86	20.53	20.55	— .17
PepBoys	16.63	16.26	16.53	+ .26
PepsiCo	51.85	50.90	51.60	+ .32
Pharmacia	45.10	44.80	44.87	+ .25
PhelpDodge	40.87	39.91	40.75	+ .80
PhillipPet	61.65	61.09	61.20	+ .10
PilgrmPrd B	14.16	13.75	13.76	— .50
Praxair	58.18	57.35	57.94	+ .61
ProctGamb	89.96	89.00	89.08	— .67
RadioShack	29.98	29.02	29.89	+ .79
ReliantEngy	25.75	25.31	25.34	— .29
RoyalDut	53.63	52.86	53.47	+ .67
SBC Comm	38.60	38.15	38.38	+ .38
SaraLee	21.00	20.56	20.96	+ .42
Scripps EW	81.48	81.11	81.26	+ .04
SearsRoeb	51.20	50.12	50.55	+ .47
SherwinW	28.45	27.42	28.25	+ .80
SouthernCo s	26.70	26.45	26.60	+ .08
SwstAirl	19.18	18.60	19.16	+ .86
SprintFON	15.10	14.71	14.74	— .21
SprintPCS	10.65	10.23	10.31	— .07
Sunoco Inc	40.23	39.62	39.99	+ .32
TXU Corp	54.25	53.80	53.85	— .18
TempleInland	57.00	55.45	56.95	+ .70
TexInd	41.55	41.10	41.39	+ .29
TexasInst	33.40	32.07	33.05	+ 1.00
Textron	50.40	49.53	50.21	+ .39
TriconGlbR	58.60	57.55	58.45	+ .67
TrinityInds	24.00	23.69	24.00	+ .30
TylerTech	5.95	5.50	5.91	+ .47
UnionPacif	60.59	59.99	60.31	+ .06
USSteel	16.96	16.58	16.89	+ .39
UnitedTech	72.30	71.50	71.80	+ .10
Unocal	38.50	38.04	38.17	— .08
VerizonComm	46.42	45.51	46.21	+ .55
WalMart	62.39	61.35	62.26	+ .98
WellsFargo	49.47	48.74	49.10	+ .06
WstnGasRs	36.47	35.93	35.93	— .27
WinnDixie	16.39	16.20	16.21	— .04
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MAR 26 2002

Heaven's Gate's last member keeping faith

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Rio DiAngelo walked away from the regimented life within the Heaven's Gate cult in 1997 after three years, but a message from cult members drew him back a month later to the group's rented hilltop mansion.

There, on March 26, 1997, he uncovered the worst mass suicide on U.S. soil. The 39 cult members killed themselves, believing they were shedding their earthly "containers" to catch a ride on a spaceship trailing the Hale-Bopp Comet.

Five years later, DiAngelo, or "Neody" as he was known in the group, still sees himself as its messenger.

"I'm really the only one left," the 48-year-old Los Angeles resident said.

Interviews with news organizations five years ago left DiAngelo angry at the media, but he agreed reluctantly to a phone interview with The Associated Press last week.

Little remains from the group whose androgynous-looking men and women downed a lethal concoction of pudding or applesauce spiked with vodka and barbiturates. They sealed their fate by placing plastic bags over their heads.

The group's possessions have been auctioned off. The 9,000-square-foot mansion in Rancho Santa Fe, one of San Diego's northern neighborhoods, was sold for a fraction of its value.

Now a free-lance designer who makes ergonomic items, DiAngelo is applying what he learned from Heaven's Gate to his earthly life and cashing in on it. DiAngelo is auctioning off the cult's van on eBay to mark the Tuesday anniversary of the suicide.

He is asking a minimum of $39,000 for the 1992 Ford van, which cult members once used for road trips to SeaWorld and Las Vegas.

Some victims, who ranged in age from 26 to 72, had traveled around the country with the group for decades. They included Jackie Leonard, a grandmother who was the eldest member of the group, and Thomas Nichols, 59, whose sister, Nichelle, played Lt. Uhura on TV's "Star Trek."

Clad in black outfits with "Away Team" patches and Nike tennis shoes with their trademark comet-like swoosh, each packed a small bag and carried identification, $5 and some change for their journey toward what they believed was a "level beyond human."

Two other cultists later followed with similar suicides.

"They weren't trying to kill themselves because of a crazy idea, although some people saw it as a crazy idea," DiAngelo said. "It really is an advanced level of being."

DiAngelo said cult leader Marshall Applewhite, 66, known as "Do," was from another planet and taught DiAngelo to be more aware, honest and sensitive to the world around him: in short, a better person.

"What I've gained from this group is phenomenal," he said. "If he is just a gay music teacher from Texas how he could teach all these advanced ways of being that really work?"

At the same time, DiAngelo, is not sentimental about the past.

He signed a development deal to write a TV movie based on Heaven's Gate, but the project never got off the ground. A tabloid offered him $1 million for exclusive rights to his story five years ago, but he refused, preferring to preserve the dignity of his departed friends. Today, he said he'd take the money.

His life today is far from his days in Heaven's Gate, when members watched selected TV programs in assigned seats and wrote the "Individual Needs Department" when they ran out of deodorant.

He has re-established contact with his 19-year-old son and earns his living working in the nation's second-biggest city, slogging his way through daily traffic jams.

"Here I am a slave to commerce like everybody else," he said.

On the Net:
Heaven's Gate:
http://www.heavensgatetoo.com

A&M System officials regret confusion surrounding search for new president

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas A&M University System officials say they didn't intend to create confusion about how many candidates remain to be the school's 22nd president.

They did, however.

And some faculty members believe the mix-up has raised concerns about the search process and added more fuel to various rumors, including that retiring Republican U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm is still in line for the job.

Last today, the university system issued a news release saying three candidates had been invited for on-campus interviews. While A&M's release did not call the three candidates finalists, that was the impression.

But then a few days later, A&M System Regents Chairman Erle Nye said two unnamed candidates also were being considered for the position.

"It was not designed to confuse anyone," Jerry Gaston, deputy chancellor of the A&M System, said Monday. "It was very close to the visit of the first (candidate) and the committee wanted to alert everyone to the start the process. The choice (of words) may have been unfortunate."

Under state law, to allow for public comment, finalists for a university president or chancellor position must be publicly nominated by regents at least 21 days before the position is filled.

Gaston said while only the regents can name finalists, the names of the three candidates were released because their on-campus interviews had been scheduled.

Gaston, a non-voting member of the 24-member search committee, said the two unnamed candidates have not been identified yet because their on-campus interviews have not been finalized.

Once that happens, their names will be made public. Gaston, however, would not comment on whether something might happen to derail their visits.

The school is looking to replace Ray Bowen, who is stepping down after eight years as president.

Candidates identified so far are Robert Gates, former President George Bush's CIA director for the latter half of his term; Richard Herman, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and Jon Whitmore, provost at the University of Iowa.

Herman arrived at College Station Sunday and is visiting through Wednesday; Whitmore will visit from Wednesday through Saturday; and Gates from April 1-4.

Some faculty members are wondering why the names of all the candidates weren't revealed all at once, said Arthur Hobbs, a mathematics professor and president of the A&M chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

"It's terribly embarrassing to be interviewing three candidates while they know there are two candidates not yet (named). It leaves them in doubt and I'm worried one or more of them might withdraw on that basis. There are rumors flying around."

One of those rumors is Gramm, long considered to be in the running for the job, is one of the two unnamed candidates.

Gramm, a former A&M economics professor, was believed out of the race after last week's announcement. But Nye's disclosure of two additional candidates resurrected his chances of becoming president, a position Gramm has said would be his dream job.

Larry Neal, Gramm's spokesman, would not say Monday if the senator submitted his name for the job or interviewed for it.

"All I know is what I read in the newspapers. That seems to change everyday," Neal said.

Relatives of victims to hear tapes

By The Associated Press

Patrick Welsh has no idea what he'll hear in the Sept. 11 cockpit recordings of United Flight 93, but he knows he needs to listen. His 45-year-old wife was the lead flight attendant on board the hijacked plane that crashed in Pennsylvania.

"It's going to be a horrific thing to listen to. In some ways, it may appear almost masochistic, after what all of us have been through," he said. "But you're trying to find a truth, trying to get some more information about the events."

FBI Director Robert Mueller has approved the highly unusual decision to allow relatives of the 44 passengers and crew killed on the flight to listen to the cockpit recordings, an FBI official speaking on condition of anonymity said Monday.

Armand Talignani, 77, of New York City, who lost his brother, John, on the flight, said he has no interest in hearing the audio recordings at the private session in Princeton, N.J. on April 18.

"It's all over with, they ought to leave it alone," he said. "Will it make someone feel better to hear some Arab guy talking? We've already been through the pain and sorrow. Why prolong it? For what?"

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Wednesday, March 27, 2002

An associate who has more knowledge or is more experienced than you could become a close ally in the year ahead. They may help you move forward in your chosen field of endeavor.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Good intentions could blow up in your face if you offer advice to another about something in which you're ill informed. This person could take your counsel and fall flat on his or her face. Aries, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — If you allow too much of your time to be devoted to trivial or frivolous endeavors, you're apt to have a very small total at the end of the day when you add things up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Bragging about your achievements may cause others to call your bluff and demand you prove what you say. You'd better be prepared to provide evidence of your claims.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Be careful what you sign. If you put your signature to a legal document without understanding it thoroughly, you could get stuck with a detrimental binding agreement.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — When piled up together, little things could add up to a big heap. So, be careful in your affairs about yielding small concessions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Accepting and believing information from individuals you don't know too well could cause your affairs to misfire. Don't take anything at face value.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Using your fantastic imagination for the wrong reasons, such as concocting alibis for things you failed to do, will only get you into more hot water. Face up to the facts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Any unflattering things you say about a mutual friend who isn't present will be carried back to that pal. Chances are she or he will want to even the score.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Watch your conduct, because someone who hopes you'll behave in a manner that could become the subject of gossip is gunning for you. Walk the straight and narrow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Words of wisdom can spring from most any place, even from the mouths of babes. Thus, it behooves you to be a good listener, even when you don't respect the source.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Save all receipts from purchases, especially those of expensive items. There is a strong probability you might want to return an article for any of numerous reasons.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — It may take only one sour note to touch off a barrage of ire to disrupt harmony in the household. Make an effort not to say anything unless it is complimentary.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Teaching as second career may hold hidden penalties

DEAR ABBY: I thoroughly agree with you and "Veteran School Secretary" regarding the critical importance of teachers in our country. It is vital to our future that we recruit and retain the best of the best for our children, and it doesn't matter if they come straight to teaching from a university or they pursue another career first. The point is to get them together with our kids.

There is one point that needs to be made, however, regarding those who come to teaching from other employment. In 14 states, those who begin to teach after earning Social Security retirement benefits will be penalized upon retirement. Their Social Security benefits will be reduced solely because they have paid into another retirement system, such as the California State Teachers' Retirement System. Paying into Social Security and to CalSTRS are both requirements of employment; therefore, to penalize a retiring teacher by reducing an earned benefit is grossly unfair. Moreover, the Social Security system does not warn educators of this penalty before retirement; educators retire expecting the amount predicted by Social Security, only to find it reduced by up to 60 percent.

Educators in Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Nevada, Louisiana, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, Massachusetts, Maine and Texas are affected by this inequity.

Our association and others throughout the country are working to change this unfair and discriminatory practice. Companion bills SB1523 and HR 2638 would correct this problem, and I would urge people to write to their representatives asking their support. Until there is change, those contemplating a second career in education should be made aware that they may be punished for their interest in the youth of America. — SUSAN GOFF, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

DEAR SUSAN: Thank you for the warning. I, too, would urge concerned parents of school-age children to let their representatives know how they feel about this inequity. We need the best people teaching our children, and nothing should stand in their way.

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DEAR ABBY: My parents divorced when I was in elementary school. My father remarried seven years later. By then I was in high school. My stepmother and I were not close, but she was good to Dad and that was the most important thing.

My father passed away two years ago at the age of 76, after 26 years of marriage. Although my stepmother and I had limited contact in the months that followed, we don't anymore. I have even stopped sending her birthday and Mother's Day cards.

Can you enlighten me on the proper etiquette for sending her cards or letters on her special days? I should mention she has children of her own from a previous marriage. Please guide me in the right direction on this. — OUT OF TOUCH IN CLEVELAND

DEAR OUT OF TOUCH: The sagest advice I can offer regarding sending cards or letters to your stepmother on her special days is this: Follow your heart. She made your father happy, and you are obviously aware of the special occasions. Send her good wishes and you'll never feel guilty.

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Pauline Phillips and her daughter, Jeanne Phillips, share the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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

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37 journalists killed last year, up from 24

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of journalists killed last year rose to 37 from 24 the year before, partly because of the war in Afghanistan, a U.S. press group says.

Eight journalists were killed in Afghanistan in 2001, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists says in its annual report, out today.

But most of the journalists killed worldwide were not covering wars or other conflicts, the group said. Instead, they were murdered in reprisal for their reporting on sensitive topics, such as official crime and corruption.

In addition, the number of journalists in prison jumped nearly 50 percent — to 118 in 2001 from 81 the year before, the report said. That increase reversed four years of steady decline.

Much of the increase resulted from crackdowns in Eritrea and Nepal. In addition, China, already the world's leading jailer of journalists for the third year in a row, arrested eight more, ending the year with 35 journalists behind bars, the report said.

In all, nine journalists died in Afghanistan, including one who died of injuries suffered in 1999. Three journalists were killed in Colombia, and two each were killed in Algeria, the Philippines, Thailand, the United States and Yugoslavia.

One of the U.S. victims, William Biggart, was a freelance photographer who was killed in the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center. The other, Robert Stevens, a photo editor at The Sun, in Boca Raton, Fla., died of inhalation anthrax during the anthrax attacks.

One journalist was killed in each of the following countries: Bangladesh, Bolivia, China, Costa Rica, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Latvia, Mexico, the Palestinian territories, Paraguay, Russia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

In Zimbabwe and other countries, "national security" concerns were invoked as justification for new restrictions on the press, the report said. Some countries who cracked down cited U.S. actions after Sept. 11, such as the State Department attempt to censor a Voice of America interview with Taliban leader Mullah Omar.

Seven of the eight journalists killed in Afghanistan — all working for European news outlets — died during two incidents. Three journalists were killed on Nov. 11 when Taliban forces fired on a northern alliance military convoy. Eight days later, gunmen dragged four journalists out of a convoy and executed them with rifles.

For the first time in the group's 20-year history, it also included an American on its annual list of imprisoned journalists: Vanessa Leggett, a freelance writer based in Houston, who was arrested after she refused to turn over to a grand jury her research in a murder case.

The group said in a letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft that Leggett's detention "sends exactly the wrong signal to authoritarian governments who may now show even less restraint in using state power to restrict press freedom." Leggett was released on January 4.

The report also said that:

— Chinese journalist Jiang Weiping was sentenced to eight years in prison for reporting on corruption, while one of the officials in his article was promoted to provincial governor.

— Also in China, a prominent leftist monthly was closed after sharply criticizing the president's call for capitalists to join the Communist Party.

— In a crackdown on political dissent, Eritrean authorities suspended all the country's privately owned newspapers until further notice.

— In Ukraine, the Internal Affairs Ministry authorized journalists covering sensitive topics, such as corruption, to carry guns with rubber bullets.

— In Iran, the government closed or suspended 20 newspapers and publications in 2001.

On the Net: Committee to Protect Journalists: http://www.cpj.org/

Researchers make blood vessels

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists seeking new ways to repair damaged arteries and ailing hearts have coaxed stem cells from a human embryo into forming tiny blood vessels.

It's the first time human embryonic stem cells have been nurtured to the point where they will organize into blood vessels that could nourish the body, according to Robert Langer, leader of a laboratory team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

But it isn't likely to be the last, as scientists pursue research into uses for stem cells despite debate over the ethics of using the cells.

The new development is reported in today's online issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. John Gearhart of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine said the research is a "nice illustration" of how stem cells can serve as a source of various types of cells, in this case for blood vessels.

"I think this is terrific," said Gearhart, who was not part of the research team. "It's another good example of the isolation of an important cell type from human embryonic stem cells."

"These are the kinds of papers we are going to see a lot of," Gearhart added.

Langer said the work shows that endothelial cells can be made from human embryonic stem cells. Endothelial cells line veins, arteries and lymph tissue. They are key to the structures that carry blood throughout the body.

He said if the technique is refined, scientists may eventually be able to make in the laboratory blood vessels that could be used to replace diseased arteries in the body.

"There are thousands of operations a year now where doctors take vessels from one part of the body and transplant them to another," said Langer. Eventually, he said, such vessels might be made outside the body from embryonic stem cells.

Langer said endothelial cells also might be used to restore circulation to cells damaged by heart attacks. He said the processed stem cells may be able to re-establish blood flow to hearts failing due to blocked arteries.

The research was conducted under a private grant, but Langer said the cell culture used is one of 61 worldwide that have been approved by the National Institutes of Health for federally funded research.

The use of embryonic stem cells is controversial because extracting the cells kills a living human embryo. President Bush last summer decided that federal funding would be permitted only for stem cell cultures that already existed and were made from embryos that were to be discarded by fertility clinics. The aim was to prevent further killing for research purposes of other human embryos.

Langer said his lab will seek federal money to continue research using the same stem cell cultures, which were obtained from the Rambam Medical Center in Haifa, Israel.

Embryonic stem cells are the ancestral cells of every cell in the body. In a developing embryo, they transform into cells that make up the organs, bone, skin and other tissues. Researchers hope to direct the transformation of such cells to treat ailing hearts, livers, brains and other organs.

Langer said his team cultured the cells in such a way that they were allowed to develop into the various types of cells that are precursors to mature tissue. From this colony, the researchers extracted cells that were following a linage that would lead to mature endothelial cells.

These were further cultured and some eventually formed primitive vascular structures.

Some of the cells were injected into laboratory rodents, called SCID mice, whose immune system will not reject foreign tissue.

Langer said the cells continued to transform themselves and after 14 days they developed the tiny tubes and structure of capillaries, the small blood vessels.

He said some of the vessels contained mouse blood cells, suggesting that they had actually incorporated themselves into the mouse circulation system.

The result, said Langer, shows that embryonic stem cells can spontaneously transform to vessels and organize themselves into a pattern like that which occurs during the formation of an embryo.

"This is the first time this has been done with human cells," said Langer.

On the Net:
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences: http://intl.pnas.org/

Tyler judge dismisses DAs in case

TYLER (AP) — Nearly a dozen East Texas district attorneys subpoenaed to testify in a Tyler court on their criteria for seeking the death penalty were dismissed Monday after a judge ruled that a capital murder defendant's lawyers abused their subpoena powers.

Gregory Russeau's attorneys — Clifton Roberson and Brandon Baade — contend the hearing was needed to prove there is no standard for seeking the death penalty. They say its arbitrary, inconsistent enforcement makes capital punishment unconstitutional.

State District Judge Louis Gohmert said he would not "open the door to the interruption of justice" all over Texas, and possibly the United States, by forcing district attorneys to testify.

"That would bring justice in Texas to a halt because DAs would be subpoenaed every week," Gohmert said in today's editions of the Tyler Morning Telegraph.

"No DA should be able to be more aggressive, or have lower standards for seeking the death penalty than a lazy DA who does not go to the trouble to pursue such a difficult task," Gohmert said. "That's a dangerous thing that sets a nation on a downward spiral."

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Heel pain and neck pain have different origins

DEAR DR. GOTT: About a year ago, I began experiencing severe pain on the undersurface of my heel. This was diagnosed as plantar fasciitis and I received cortisone injections for it, with good result. I've also suffered from a stiff neck and have to wear a cervical collar. Could this be caused by stress or is it related to the heel problem?

DEAR READER: I believe that your heel and neck pains have different origins.

Plantar fasciitis is a chronic inflammation of the fibrous sheet covering the tissues of the heel. It is common in runners and is thought to be related to injury. Treatment consists of rest, foam rubber insoles, cortisone injections and drugs to combat inflammation.

On the other hand, the type of neck pain you mention is probably due to muscle cramping and contraction. Although stress may play a central role in such a symptom, arthritis of the neck bones can also cause pain. Therefore, you should have X-rays of your neck to diagnose the condition. Thereafter, you might be helped by heat, massage, gentle exercises, myotherapy (deep massage), ultrasound treatment or chiropractic manipulation.

A NOTE TO READERS: For an updated and revised Health Report on "Losing Weight" (formerly "Winning the Battle of the Bulge") that includes my No Flour, No Sugar diet send $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to mention the title. Also, be on the lookout for more updated Health Reports.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Could Dilantin cause edema in my ankles and legs? I've been treated with Lasix, but the problem remains.

DEAR READER: Many drugs cause fluid retention (edema), which can be seen as ankle and lower leg swelling. Although this is not a recognized complication of Dilantin (a medicine used to prevent seizures), it is a remote possibility. Dilantin can affect the skin (rash) and other organs, such as the bone marrow and liver; this could lead to edema in unusual cases.

I suggest that you bring this symptom to your doctor's attention. He or she may choose to discontinue your Dilantin (as a trial) or substitute another drug. If alternative therapy is available, I don't believe it makes much sense to use a powerful diuretic like Lasix to counteract the presumed effects of Dilantin. Moreover, you might be interested to learn that Dilantin reduces the effectiveness of many medications, Lasix included. Therefore, if your edema is, in fact, caused by Dilantin, Lasix is not a particularly suitable antidote. Ask your doctor about this.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My husband is 37 and uncircumcised. What is the possibility of him having the procedure and what are the complications?

DEAR READER: Circumcision in adults is commonly performed and is safe. It is usually considered in the presence of symptoms, such as repeated infections of the penis.

As you can imagine, the immediate post-operative period is quite uncomfortable and patients are rarely eager to resume sexual relations for a few weeks. Nonetheless, this is a "bread-and-butter" operation for a qualified urologist, and complications are virtually nonexistent.

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Deadline 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, 2002
New Birthday Bash Cash Numbers In The Thursday Edition Of The Snyder Daily News
HOW TO PLAY:
-You win if BASH CASH numbers match your birthday in sequence.
-Each BASH CASH starts with $50.
-BASH CASH increases $10 each time there is no winner.
-NEW BASH CASH numbers will be published Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday Editions of The Snyder Daily News.
ELIGIBILITY:
-Resident of Scurry County
-Must be at least 16 year old.
-Employees of the Snyder Daily News , their spouses and children are not eligible.
TO CLAIM BIRTHDAY BASH CASH
-Prize must be claimed in person by deadline.
-In case of multi-winners prize will be divided equally.
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-Must provide proof of birthday and legal residence.
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MAR 26 2002 2

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

bin Laden sighting not credible

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. military officials said today they have received no credible evidence that Osama bin Laden or a top aide have been seen recently in the border areas between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"It's almost a weekly occurrence, that we get a couple of reports," of sightings of bin Laden or other top al-Qaida officials, Pentagon spokeswoman Victoria Clarke said at a briefing.

But she said none of the recent reports proved credible. "We just don't know," where bin Laden is, or even whether he is dead or alive, Clarke said.

Recent media reports have quoted Afghans as saying there have been recent sightings of bin Laden and top aide Ayman al-Zawahri, bin Laden's doctor and spiritual adviser believed to have survived earlier bombing in Afghanistan that killed his family.

U.S. troops continue to try to locate pockets of al-Qaida and Taliban resistance, Clarke said.

In addition, U.S. troops have found traces of anthrax at suspected al-Qaida biological weapons sites, but the samples are so small they don't prove the terrorist network could use the deadly germ as a weapon, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said Monday.

Hundreds die in Afghan earthquake

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A powerful earthquake rocked Afghanistan and northwestern Pakistan, killing about 1,800 people and injuring 2,000, Afghan officials said today. The Afghan Defense Ministry said 600 bodies were recovered from villages still shaking from aftershocks.

ACTED, a private aid organization, estimated 10,000 people had been left homeless, basing its numbers on reports from staff in the devastated area near Nahrin, 90 miles north of Kabul on the slopes of the Hindu Kush mountains.

At the scene, regional commander Gen. Aider Khan said as many as 1,500 to 2,000 people were missing. Many of Nahrin's residents spent the night without food or shelter because nearly all of their homes were destroyed.

Officials said many people were at home when the quake struck at 7:26 p.m. Monday, and during the frequent strong aftershocks overnight, accounting for the high death toll.

"People were caught in their homes," said Nigel Fisher, a senior U.N. official in Afghanistan.

Yusuf Nuristani, a spokesman for the interim Afghan administration, said the quake measured magnitude at 6.2, though the U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colo., said it was magnitude 5.9 and centered 105 miles north of Kabul. The quake was relatively shallow, just 40 miles below the surface and likely to cause heavy damage.

By early afternoon, 600 bodies had been pulled from the wreckage of collapsed homes, said Defense Ministry official Mira Jan.

"I can say that 90 percent of Nahrin has been destroyed," Jan said. "We asked (peacekeepers) and all other humanitarian nongovernmental organizations to help the people there because they lost everything.

Taiwan dispute: China bars U.S. warship from H. Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — Signaling its anger over U.S. dealings with Taiwan, China has blocked a port call by a U.S. warship to Hong Kong and refused today to say whether Vice President Hu Jintao would go ahead with plans for a U.S. visit.

The U.S. Consulate said today that Beijing had rejected a request for an April 5-9 visit by the USS Curtis Wilbur, a guided missile destroyer belonging to the U.S. Seventh Fleet based in Yokosuka, Japan.

"No reason was given for the disapproval," said Barbara Zigli, a U.S. Consulate spokeswoman. She declined to speculate on China's motives.

The March 18 rejection came a day before the Chinese government accused Washington of committing a "series of erroneous acts" and spoiling the aura of good relations set during a February visit to Beijing by President Bush.

As often happens, the spat is over Taiwan. Beijing objected to a U.S. decision to let Taiwan's defense minister, Tang Yiauming, attend a private defense convention this month in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Since this former British colony reverted to Chinese rule in 1997, Beijing has occasionally protested U.S. actions by barring U.S. warships from visiting Hong Kong, long a popular port of call.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said today that port calls by foreign warships and aircraft are approved on a "case-by-case basis."

Zhang declined to say whether Vice President Hu Jintao, heir apparent to President and Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin, would go ahead with a visit expected for April or May.

Instead, she demanded that Washington "cease interfering in China's internal affairs by using Taiwan issues and undermining bilateral ties."

"To secure a healthy and smooth development of bilateral ties, the U.S. side should properly handle this question," she said during a routine news briefing.

Meeting today with visiting U.S. senators, Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji cited Tang's trip to Florida as one in "a series of actions that violated" China-U.S. communiques, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported.

"The Chinese government and people feel nothing but strong indignation over the action and firmly oppose the carrying out of any similar acts," Zhu told the senators, Daniel Inouye of Hawaii and Ted Stevens of Alaska, according to Xinhua.

China and Taiwan split amid a civil war on the mainland in 1949. Beijing says it will attack Taiwan if the island declares formal independence or delays too long in talks over uniting with the mainland. It has sought to isolate Taiwan diplomatically.

America severed formal ties with Taiwan in 1979 when Washington recognized China.

Burglaries reported outside Snyder

Burglary

Bill Malone requested a deputy Monday after finding a man's house broken into on FM 612 near Dermott. Deputies responded and filed a report for burglary.

At 5:50 p.m. Monday Deanna McClure reported a break-in at her home on West Hwy 180. McClure advised a television was stolen and an offense report for burglary of a habitation was submitted.

Arrests

Snyder officers arrested a 43-year-old man Monday afternoon on a warrant for forgery.

At 1 a.m. today, a 58-year-old man was taken into custody from Rip Griffin's Truck Stop on warrants for failure to appear before a judge.

Disturbance

A caller reported a fight at a residence on 23rd Street Monday morning. Officers contacted the subjects at the home and submitted an offense report for family violence.

Forgery

A man requested to speak with officers Monday afternoon after receiving a forged check and the responding officers submitted a report for forgery.

Close patrols

A woman requested a close patrol of her property Monday after finding her horse tied to a fence with a rope around its leg.

Gas drive off

A clerk at Town and Country North reported a drive off in the amount of $17.52 Monday afternoon.

Obituaries

Faye Morris

1922-2002

AMARILLO — Faye Morris of Amarillo, the sister of Emogene Sterling of Ira, died Sunday, March 24, in Baptist St. Anthony Hospital.

Funeral service for Mrs. Morris, 79, is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday in Trinity Baptist Church with Dr. David Evans officiating. Burial will follow in Hollis, Okla. Arrangements are under the direction of Schooler Funeral Home.

Born Sept. 24, 1922 in Snyder, she married Max Morris on Dec. 23, 1945 in Hollis. He died Sept. 5, 1968.

Mrs. Morris retired after 42 years with the V.A. Medical Center in Amarillo. She was a member of the American Business Women Association for 30 years and was a member of the Trinity Baptist Church.

She also was preceded in death by her parents, Sears and Pauline Cook; a daughter, Eloise Logsdon; and a sister, Eloise Crowder.

Survivors also include a daughter, Lori Herman of Amarillo; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Buddy and Marie Cook of Carmel, Calif., and Marshall and Helen Cook of Muleshoe; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the Trinity Baptist Church Building Fund, 1608 Wolflin in Amarillo, 79109.

Personal, Professional Service

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Myrtle Hall

1918-2002

MIDLAND – Myrtle Carol Hall, a former Snyder school teacher, died Friday, March 22, in Midland Memorial Hospital after a brief illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. Hall, 84, is set for 1 p.m. Wednesday in the Macedonia Baptist Church with the Rev. O.J. Archie, pastor, officiating. Burial will follow in Resthaven Memorial Park under the direction of Thomas Funeral Home.

Born Jan. 12, 1918 in Crockett, she attended school in the Hopewell community and graduated from Mary Allen College in Crockett with a major in education. She also attended Prairie View A&M.

In addition to Snyder, Mrs. Hall taught school in Hamlin, Sylvester, Roby and Rotan.

She married Ozie Henry Hall on Jan. 29, 1939 in Abilene. He preceded her in death as did two sons, William Henry and Chester Hall.

Mrs. Hall had been a resident of Midland since 1956 and was a member of the Macedonia Baptist Church where she was a deaconess and a member of the choir.

She helped organize two senior centers in Midland and served as director, retiring in 1996. She was a member of the Democratic Women's Club and the Black Coalition of Midland. Mrs. Hall also served on the Midland County child welfare board.

Survivors include a daughter, Iris Hall of Midland; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Mary Lou Landes

1947-2002

ABILENE — Mary Lou Landes, sister-in-law of Gary Landes of Snyder, died Sunday, March 24, in an Abilene hospital.

A memorial service for Mrs. Landes, 54, is set for 6 p.m. Thursday in Pioneer Drive Baptist Church in Abilene with David McQueen officiating. Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Visitation will be from 5-9 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Born Sept. 14, 1947 in Rotan, she was a 1966 graduate of Roby High School. She moved to Abilene five years ago from Rule and was employed by State National Bank.

She married Ronald Landes in Rotan on Aug. 12, 1965. Mrs. Landes was a member of Beltway Park Baptist Church, the Downtown Kiwanis Club and the Abilene Chamber of Commerce Red Coats. She was a volunteer with Meals on Wheels and active in Cross Country Emmaus.

Her parents, Arnold and Ludora Campbell Neeley, and two brothers preceded her in death.

Survivors include her husband, Ronald Landes of Abilene; two daughters, Lori Krackau and her husband, Charles, of New Braunfels, and Traci King of Abilene; three grandchildren, Cade of New Braunfels and Kendell and Kelsey of Abilene.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Cancer board meeting

The Scurry County unit of the American Cancer Society will meet at 5:00 p.m. today in the board room at Cogdell Hospital.

Foster care meeting

To learn more information of foster care and adoption, attend an informational meeting to be held from 6:30 to 8 tonight at the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services office at 3409 Snyder Shopping Center.

Genealogical Society

The Scurry County Genealogical Society will meet at 7 this evening in the Scurry County Library to continue the show and tell family heirloom program. The public is invited and members will assist visitors with research after the business meeting.

4-H horse club

The Scurry County 4-H Horse Club will have voluntary practice at 6:30 p.m. today at the rodeo grounds.

Free income tax help

Free income tax aid for low to middle income citizens of any age is available each Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon, and 1-3 p.m. at the senior center located, 2603 Ave. M.

Relay for Life lunch

The Scurry County Courthouse team that is entered in the Relay for Life to raise funds for the American Cancer Society will have lunch available for the public at 11:30 every Wednesday on the first floor of the courthouse. Wednesday's menu is hog trough stew.

MAWC game day

There will not be a fourth Wednesday game day and luncheon at the Martha Ann Woman's Club due to the Holy Week Services.

Snyder Tiger football booster club

The Snyder football booster club will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in the film room. Parents and the public are invited to attend.

FBC services televised

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

First Church of the Nazarene

The First Church of the Nazarene will have an Easter egg hunt following the Easter Sunday service that begins at 10:45 a.m.

Sausage festival

St. Elizabeth's annual all-you-can-eat sausage festival will be from 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 7. Tickets will be sold at the door and adult tickets are $6.50, children 12 and under are $3.50, and all take-outs are $6.50. Sausage by the pound is $4 cooked and $3 uncooked.

Hermleigh Cemetery

The Hermleigh Cemetery Association will meet at 6:30 p.m. next Tuesday in the Hermleigh Community Center. Anyone interested is welcome.

Gateway Family Services

Gateway Family Services has a parenting discussion group from 10:30-11:30 a.m. every Tuesday, focusing on parenting issues and special challenges. The family violence support group also meets from 6:30-7:30 p.m. every Tuesday.

Alzheimer's program

An educational program "Overview of Alzheimer's Disease," will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, at Colonial Hill Baptist Church. Use northeast entrance.

SHS class of 1992 reunion

The 1992 class of Snyder High School is needing addresses for classmates. Call Melanie at 573-4022, Julie at 573-1634 or Amy at 573-4793. The reunion will be held at the end of July.

Windbreak trees

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District has windbreak trees available for sale. Extra hardwood trees are $1 each and Evergreens are $2.25. Call 573-6317 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

American Legion membership drive

The American Legion is holding its membership drive and if you or a family member served in the military, you could be eligible for membership in the American Legion, Ladies Auxiliary or Sons of American Legion. Call 573-4082, 573-6542 or 574-6805 for more information.

Adult basic education classes

Adult basic education classes taught by certified teachers and Spanish-speaking aides are held at WTC from 8 a.m. until noon Tuesday through Thursday, and from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes include G.E.D., E.S.L., and refresher courses. For more information call 573-8511, ext. 322.

WTC pool hours

Lap swim: M-F, 6:30-8 a.m. and noon to 1 p.m.; open swim, M-TH 7-9 p.m. Memberships for the semester: $50. The swimming pool is also available for rental, contact Lisa Christensen, ext. 290.

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.

Seniors swimnastics

Swimnastics for senior citizens on Tuesday and Thursdays is held from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Western Texas College pool.

ESL, GED classes

Classes for E.S.L., GED and computers are held at 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Region 14 classroom at 4200 College Ave. For more information, call 574-6012.