THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND

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Home of Juliet Rios

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WT-Int. Crude - $26.28
WTIC Posted - $23.00
Natural Gas - $5.025

Home Sweet Home

There's one for you if you're looking

By Joyce May
Staff Writer

Low interest rates and the high availability of homes make it an ideal time to purchase a home, local real estate agents say.

"We are getting a lot of new listings," Wenona Evans with Stevenson Real Estate and a member of the Snyder Board of Realtors said. "For people who are renting, now is the time to buy. Interest rates are down and there are several homes to chose from."

The local board of realtors is hosting an open house Thursday for homebuyers and sellers. Real estate, lender and closing agents will be on hand to offer tips on making home buying easy.

The event is set from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Texas Savings Bank community room at 2619 College.

Those attending will have the opportunity to preview homes currently on the market and ask questions concerning the buying process.

"With the real estate market being as slow as it has been, we feel we need to provide buyers and sellers with some good information as far as what is available to both. This would be in marketing homes and what lenders have as far as incentives for buyers," Debbie Miller of Heritage Homes Realtors, said. She is also president of the Snyder Board of Realtors

"We don't look for the market to pick up real soon. Possi[illegible] it might. Right now we need to provide the public with some positive information."

Evans said that a person can often get into a home with payments more economical than renting. "And if you have good credit, you can get a 100 percent loan. Also, some sellers are willing to help with the closing costs."

There are four active real estate offices in Snyder including Heritage Homes Realtors, Elizabeth Potts Realtors, Jack & Jack Realtors and Stevenson Real Estate.

Sign of the times

All are members of the Snyder Board of Realtors, Abilene Board of Realtors, Texas Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors.

Evans pointed out that all realtors must have mandatory continuing education hours and updates on real estate laws every two years.

She estimated there to be between 130 and 140 homes currently on the market in the Snyder area.

"There are probably more homes on the market now than there have been in the past few years, and they are listed at all price ranges," she said. "We are getting a lot of new listings. There have been several moves and transfers."

Bill Dryden [illegible] Stevenson Real Estate, added, "The rates are very favorable and lenders are eager to help you get into a home."

The board of realtors set the open house to address questions and concerns people may have about becoming homebuyers.

"As a board of realtors, we felt like the public needed to know that there is good financing available and not to be afraid to try and buy a home. No one needs to be afraid of buying a home. If you've been thinking about it, now is the time to do it," Evans said.

She explained briefly the process involved in buying a home.

"When you buy a home you go through the process of finding the home that suits your needs with your realtor," she said. "Then you go to your lender for information on the types of loans you qualify for and what is available. They process your financing for you and then the closing agent completes the transaction and does the legal work."

The realtor's job is coordinating the whole process. "The real estate agent will lead you through this."

On the other side, the realtor also assists the seller listing the home.

This is also an opportune time for investors, Evans said.

"It is a good time for investors to think about purchasing rental property. It seems like there is a shortage of rental property. They stay full."

Other realtors' board officers are Dolores Jones of Heritage who is vice president, and Kayla Moreland of Stevenson Real Estate who is secretary-

Directors are Evans, Temi Matthies of Elizabeth Potts Realtors, Shirley Drum of Heritage and Ann Simms, a real estate agent from Post.

At WTC Wednesday...

Attendance at safety career fair to be high

More than 500 are expected to attend Wednesday's Public Safety Career Fair on the campus of Western Texas College.

John Gibson, dean of vocational instruction at WTC, describes the response to the first-ever Public Safety Career Fair as "very good."

"That might be an understatement," said Gibson "We were hoping to get 200 people to attend."

Through Friday, more than 500 had indicated they would be on hand to visit with representatives of more than two dozen law enforcement and safety agencies.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for students and the public to visit with these agencies and discuss a possible career with them," said Gibson.

Students from area high schools and Snyder Junior High will make up the bulk of those present.

"Being able to bring the junior high kids out to the fair is really great," said Gibson. "If they see a field they might be interested in, they can be preparing for it all through their high school days."

Gibson said the public also is encouraged to attend.

"If a person feels they might be interested in a career in correctional officer training, or emergency medical services, WTC will be the place they need to be on Wednesday," said Gibson.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the WTC gymnasium.

There will also be a barbecue lunch served to the students attending, and the general public may eat for $4.

"This will also be a good time for anyone who might want to tour the campus," noted Gibson. "We'll have WTC students available to conduct the tours and answer questions."

The fair was the brainchild of criminal justice instructor Eric Coleman and EMS instructor Tammy Shirley.

"They got the ball rolling, and we have had plenty of help from others at the college as well," said Gibson.

The appeal of a career in law enforcement is what is attracting the students, and others who might be looking for a career in this direction.

The fair itself has attracted the top federal law enforcement agencies in the country including the Secret Service, FBI, Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division, Customs Division, Border Patrol and the Marshal's Service.

Local representatives include those from the Snyder Police Department, Snyder Fire Department and Snyder EMS.

Other cities that will have representatives from their police department are Abilene, Midland, Lubbock, San Angelo and Dallas.

The Texas Department of Public Safety will be represented, as will the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife. The New Mexico State Police will also have a booth at the fair.

Other agencies include the Sweetwater Fire Department, AeroCare and AirMed 1, Mitchell County EMS, Tech Prep and the college's correctional officer training.

Weather permitting, the air ambulances will have their helicopters on display.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "There is nothing so powerful as truth — and often nothing so strange."

We're always a little leery of April Fool's Day. The newspaper is a poor place to play a trick on readers, so we don't.

Just a few years ago, the publisher of a daily newspaper in the Panhandle ran a banner story on April 1, stating that Wal-Mart had chosen that city for a new store.

Folks in town had been hoping for a new discount store for years, and residents had even conducted a letter-writing campaign to the company headquarters in Arkansas.

However, there were no such plans for a location in that Panhandle town. The editor had fessed up at the end of the story, but jubilant townspeople didn't read that far.

When it finally got around town that the story was a hoax, the editor had to take a few days off to let his telephone cool down.

Our friend learned a valuable lesson that day. There's just some things that you don't joke about.

And this was a cruel April Fool's prank that occurred at a newspaper up north.

A group of high school youth thought it was be humorous to have the school's homecoming queen get engaged.

They gathered up a picture, complete with information that appeared authentic and sent it to the newspaper's family life department.

The not-so-minor problem was that the young lady, a honor student headed for college, wasn't close to being engaged. In fact, she wasn't even thinking about it.

To make matters worse, the pranksters named the most unlikely person in school as the prospective groom.

Now came the bigger problem as the girl's mother was not amused. The newspaper, also a victim, quickly put some security measures in force to prevent a repeat.

At the funeral of Margie McNair, longtime Snyder teacher who died last month, minister Miller Robinson told how Mrs. McNair enjoyed a good prank.

She told of accompanying her husband, then SDN editor Wacil McNair, to a newspaper convention in New Orleans. While Wacil was in sessions, Mrs. McNair would take off to the shopping mall.

She told friends how she was looking through a rack of clothes when a security person came up and said she was suspected of shoplifting.

She was placed in a small room that contained another suspect of questionable character. Finding the door locked, Margie told friends how she opened a window and was attempting to crawl out when somebody grabbed her leg and pulled.

"Just like I'm pulling yours now," she would conclude with a big smile.

Fire chief disagrees with proposed bill

A Houston-area senator may need to venture off that city's freeways and see what is going on in rural Texas following his introduction of a bill that would require four firefighters on all trucks that leave a fire station.

Sen. Mario Gallegos, whose Senate district is entirely within the Houston city limits, proposed a bill that would establish minimum staffing for all fire vehicles.

"This would be physically impossible for us," said Snyder Fire Chief Perry Westmoreland. "We would have to increase our paid staff from nine to 50."

"This might work in Houston, or Dallas, but not here."

The bill is supported by firefighters unions and states that "each engine, rescue truck, hazardous material unit, or airport rescue unit placed in operation by a fire department during a shift shall be staffed with at least two firefighters, one engineer qualified to operate the unit, and one captain."

"This bill would have an adverse effect on all communities whose firefighters are mostly volunteers," added Westmoreland.

The fire chief also said he was not surprised to hear of such a bill. "There's some lawmakers who want to require four paramedics in an ambulance. This firefighter's bill makes about the same amount of sense."

Dale Huff to begin duties Sunday with 37th St. Church of Christ

Dale Huff, a graduate of Abilene Christian University, begins his duties Sunday as minister of the 37th Street Church of Christ.

Dale Huff

Huff, 46, moves to Snyder from Haskell where he has served both as minister and as missionary to Haiti.

Huff earned a bachelor of arts degree in Bible from ACU in 1976 and earned a master of science degree in New Testament from ACU in 1993. He currently is working on a thesis for a master's degree in church history and theology from ACU.

Huff began his preaching career while an ACU student at Voca and Weinert. During the summers, he worked with the Northwest Church of Christ in Fort Worth and also at the church in Beaverton, Ore.

From 1975-77, he was associate minister in Beaverton and from 1977-79 he preached for the Central Church of Christ in Del Rio.

In 1979, he began working with the church in Eldorado. In 1983, he became the evangelist for the La Marque Church of Christ.

In 1988, he became the minister of the congregation in Haskell that sent him to Haiti in 1999.

Huff's wife, Diane, is a third grade teacher in Haskell. They have four children. Robert is married and is a graduate student at Rice University. Charissa is a graduate student at Hardin University in Arkansas while Philip is a junior math and computer science major at the same school. Their youngest child, Jimmy, is a senior at Haskell High School.

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday.

Work to begin on Round Top Road

Work begins Monday on the only portion of Round Top Road that has not been widened in the past couple of years.

County Commissioners Howard Limmer and Chloanne Lindsey, whose precincts share the road, urge motorists to take an alternate route if possible.

"Due to the wet conditions now, it will be impossible to detour motorists in the burrow ditch and traffic will have to be stopped in one direction while a pilot vehicle is being used," Limmer said.

Approximately 1.7 miles will be under construction.

The road will be widened one foot on each side, and new markings placed on it when completed.

ASK US

Q—What is the toll-free number for contacting Southwestern Bell Telephone about long distance service?

A—It is 1-877-PICK-SWB, *not* 1-800-PICK-SWB. The latter number will add $1.99 to your telephone bill and is considered a scam.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Friday, 68 degrees; low, 47; 7 a.m. Saturday, 50; .01 of an inch precipitation; total for 2001, 5.21 inches.

Area Forecast: Saturday night, partly cloudy, low 40-45. Sunday, partly cloudy, breezy, warmer, high 75-80, wind 15-25 mph. Sunday night, low near 50.

Lorettajaramillo
Partly Cloudy

Sunset: 7:03 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:33 a.m.

Of 89 days in 2001, the sun has shone 77 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug.
—Mark Twain

APR 01 2001

SHS DECA students attend two contests

Snyder High School DECA students have recently attended Career Development Conferences.

Kim Moore and Ryan Burk attended the state CDC on March 1-4 in Arlington at the Arlington Convention Center. They were in competition with approximately 600 students from around the state.

On Feb. 2, several students attended the District 9 Career Development Conference held at the Convention Center in San Angelo.

Students competed in either an individual series event or a team decision making event, in which they had to take a national marketing test as well as participate in a role play event before a judge.

Students attending were Dana Stribling, who was a state qualifier in the food marketing series event; Ryan Burk and Kim Moore were state qualifiers in the hospitality team decision making event.

Others attending were Anjela Quiros, Lisa Marie, Martinez, Natalie Alexander, Kara Herrley, Brian Castillo and Annette Perez who were in competition with approximately 150 students around the state.

Lisa Williams, DECA sponsor, accompanied the students.

(Top Photo) AT SAN ANGELO CONVENTION CENTER — (From left) Dana Stribling, Ryan Burk, Anjela Quiros, Lisa Marie Martinez, Natalie Alexander, Kara Herrley, Brian Castillo, Annette Perez and Kim Moore, kneeling, are pictured at the San Angelo Convention Center. (Contributed Photo)

(Photo At Right) AT ARLINGTON CONVENTION CENTER — Kim Moore, Lisa Williams, DECA sponsor, and Ryan Burk are pictured at the state Career Development Conference at Arlington. (Contributed Photo)

SHS garners top award at District UIL competition

Snyder High School students wowed the competition in Friday's District 4-4A Academic UIL meet hosted by Howard College. SHS earned 407 points to capture first place honors. Their victory, along with the one-act play's district win on Tuesday, earns Snyder the Sweepstakes trophy.

Students who placed first through third advance to the regional UIL meet set for April 20-21 at Angelo State University. First place teams will also advance. Fourth place winners are alternates.

Students placing in the top six of each category won points for their school. For the first time, an extra 10 points was added to the school with the most points in a whole category.

Andrews High School was a distant second with 294 points and Big Spring High School was third with 161 points.

Snyder students captured the first four places in accounting. Tyler Kerr placed first; followed by Kate Wright, second; Leslye Starnes, third; and Stormy Clark, fourth.

The accounting team — consisting of Tyler Kerr, Kate Wright and Leslye Starnes — garnered first place.

In computer applications, Jeremee Lester took first place honors, and Anna Williams was second.

In computer science, Laura Billingsley was fifth and Ryan McAnally tied for sixth place with Andrew Finley of Andrews High School.

Snyder's computer science team finished second with 279 points. Members include Laura Billingsley, Trent Boyd and Ryan McAnally.

In current issues and events, Dustin Whitson was fourth.

Jacinda Judah finished fifth in literary criticism. Snyder's literary criticism team tied for first place with Frenship High School. Each had 191 points. SHS team members include Jacinda Judah, Joanna Burk and Emily Vinson.

Josh Kemp was fourth in mathematics. He also was third in number sense.

In ready writing, Ryan McAnally was fourth and Cody Beaver was fifth.

In overall science, Dustin Whitson captured fifth place. He was also the top scorer in biology. Whitson, Charlie Gorman and Craig Bowen also placed second as a team.

Snyder also captured two wins in spelling and vocabulary. Wendy Proffitt was second and Alex Best earned third place.

In the speech events, Jaci Smith and Lyndell Lee captured first and second place honors, respectively, in the Lincoln-Douglas Debate. Will Davis earned fourth place in LD Debate.

Jaci Smith placed first in informative speaking, and Austin McCormack was sixth.

In persuasive speaking, Lyndell Lee was second place and Will Davis was third.

Kelli Henderson finished fifth in poetry interpretation. Matt Coronado earned first place in prose interpretation.

SHS students also did well in journalism events. Ashley Tucker finished first in feature writing and third in news writing. Eric DeLeon was fourth and Haley Elkins sixth in feature writing.

In editorial writing, Eric DeLeon was first; Haley Elkins, second; and Ashley Tucker, fifth. Joanna Burk was third in headline writing.

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Cox Cable TV Channel 2,
April 2, 7:00 pm

Corpus Christi will honor slain Tejano singer

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Abraham Quintanilla, the father of slain Tejano star Selena, said the outpouring of love for his daughter has not wavered since her death.

It has been a bittersweet six years, he told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times for its Saturday editions.

"Naturally it is consoling to us," Quintanilla said of the outpouring. "But we would rather have her here with us."

Fans of Selena Quintanilla Perez from around the globe were expected in Corpus Christi on Saturday to mark the sixth anniversary of the star's death.

"There will never be another Selena," said Sylvia Florescq of Laredo. "She was just unique. A truly unique and special person."

Flores said she and others from an Internet chat group dedicated to Selena's music and memory will meet at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Selena statue on Shoreline Boulevard. The chat room is sponsored by Q Productions, the record and distribution company owned by the Quintanilla family.

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events

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RESULTS

Texas Million

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Texas Million numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
26-52-39-95

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery:
12-5-3-13-2

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
6-9-5

New site launched...

TotalWestTexas.com

"A new Web site called Total West Texas has just been launched," said Drew Bullard, one of the developers. "This site is intended to be a community gathering place for West Texans. We are going to give it a test run in Snyder to see how it works."

The site allows West Texans to buy, sell, barter, and communicate with one another. The really unique feature of the site is how easily different groups can inform their members.

For example, the manager of a Little League team can have a special Web page and as soon as the game is over, can log onto the Internet, post the game score, tell who did what, and comment about the game. Then grandma in Dallas can see how junior did. Public school coaches can use this also. It is free. Churches can utilize the site to communicate with their congregation and clubs with their members. Any group that wants instant interactivity without having to go through a Web designer each time a change is made should call Bullard's Computer Solutions at 573-4801.

Total West Texas also includes free classifieds, local business catalog stores, and numerous links of interest to West Texans.

"We want this to be a community watering hole," said Bullard. "If you can come up with a way to use the site let us know. We have sound capability. For example, a whole basketball game or club meeting could be recorded and published on the site for people to listen to. Businesses can sell not only to other West Texans but to the world. The site is in its infancy but over time will build up traffic and we can expand it to surrounding communities. West Texas is a unique area of the United States. There is no reason why we can't market ourselves to the world. Visit the site at totalwesttexas.com and give us some feedback.

3rd officer resigns

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Another officer has resigned in the aftermath of federal drug indictments that rocked the San Antonio Police Department last week.

David Anthony Morales, who posted a $100,000 bond on Thursday, resigned from the department Friday. He had been an officer for 12 years.

Morales, 39, joins two other officers who resigned from the department earlier in the week after getting out jail on bond.

Twelve people were arrested in the FBI's police corruption sting, including Bexar County Sheriff's Deputy Richard Rowlett "Bucky" Buchanan, who was charged with theft of public money.

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Investigators work through wreckage of airplane crash

ASPEN, Colo. (AP) — A charter jet carrying business partners to a lavish weekend birthday party in Aspen slammed into a hillside 35 seconds after the pilot told the control tower the runway was in sight, investigators said.

With no flight data recorder to work from, federal investigators at the crash scene were searching the wreckage for details they hoped would explain what happened in the seconds before the Gulfstream III crashed. All 18 people on board were killed.

Robert New, a 36-year-old financier, was among the passengers, his brother, Jonathan New said in Saturday's Rocky Mountain News.

Jonathan New said his brother had planned the party for his business partner, Mario Aguilar, and 13 others. He said Aguilar's mother, aunt and two brothers were on the plane when it went down.

Robert New "was renting a jet, renting a beautiful house. There was a catered dinner waiting," Jonathan New said. He said his brother and Aguilar were partners in Prestige Automobiles, a luxury rental car business in Beverly Hills, and New had some entertainment interests in Los Angeles.

Robert New owned homes in Snowmass, Colo., Miami and Beverly Hills. His wife, Monica, who lives in Snowmass with their 9-year-old son, Matthew, said her husband planned to spend time with them this weekend.

She said she had left a car for him at the airport and had to take a detour home because of the crash. She said she didn't learn until she reached home that the plane that crashed had been carrying her husband.

Carol Carmody, the National Transportation Safety Board's acting chairwoman, said investigators were considering several possible reasons for Thursday's crash, including the snowy weather.

She said the plane's left wing hit the ground first, moments after radio transmissions indicated that the runway lights were on and the pilot saw the landing strip. No distress calls were reported.

"Fifty-five seconds after the hour, the pilot said 'Yes, I have the runway in sight,' and that was the last transmission from the pilot," Carmody said.

The Los Angeles Times, citing sources close to the investigation, reported in Saturday's editions that the plane had abandoned its initial approach and was making a second attempt when the crash occurred. The Times reported that two other jets, in front and behind the Gulfstream, also missed their first passes and rerouted to another airport.

The Gulfstream was owned by Airborne Charter Inc. and its parent Cinergi Pictures Entertainment Inc., producer of the "Rambo" movies and "Total Recall." No employees of either company were on board.

Carmody said the plane had been used in Ivory Coast in West Africa until an accident in 1988. She did not elaborate. The plane was purchased by Gulfstream and was repaired in 1989, after which it was sold to Airborne Charter.

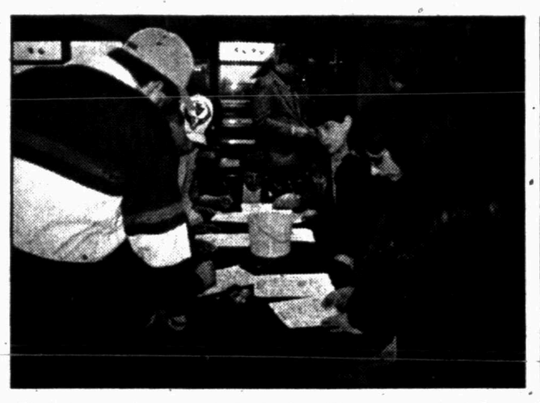
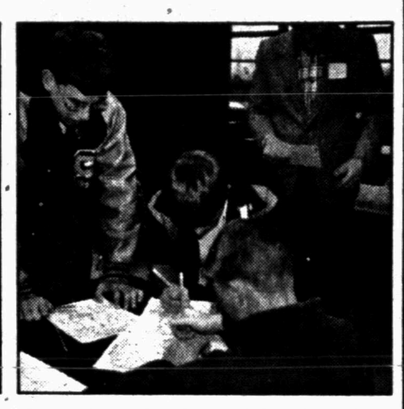
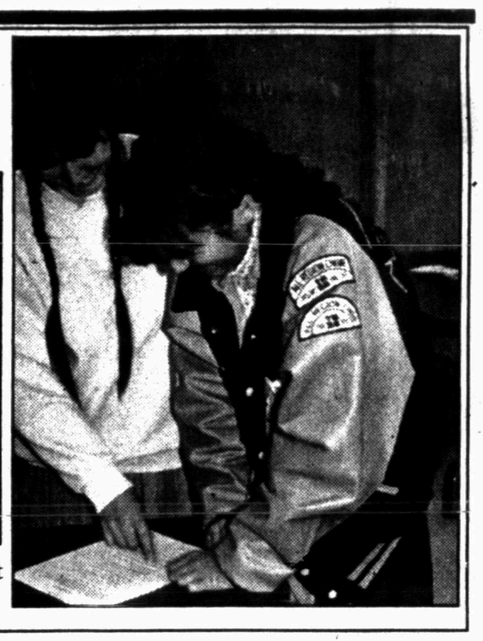
The twin-engine jet left Burbank, Calif., and made a stop at Los Angeles International before heading to Aspen. Just after 7 p.m., the jet crashed, skidded across a culvert and hit a bluff 500 yards short of the airport.

The National Weather Service reported light snow at the time of the crash, and visibility dropped from 10 miles to less than two miles in about 20 minutes just before the plane went down.

Even in clear weather, the airport is one of the nation's trickiest for pilots. Its single runway is surrounded by mountains that force approaching aircraft to make steep descents.

Snyder Junior High School

Math, science can be fun

Eighth graders and their families attended fun with math and science Monday night at Snyder Junior High School. (SDN Staff Photos By Shirley A. Gorman)

Low snowpack dims hopes for power

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — New measurements show the snowpack in the Sierra Nevada is so low, California's hydroelectric production could fall more than a third below normal this summer.

It's not what state officials already struggling with tight power supplies and worried about blackouts wanted to hear.

California draws about a fourth of its power from in-state hydroelectric plants, which rely on melting snow to fill reservoirs for summer when precipitation is scarce. The dry winter and resulting low snowpack mean power production could drop more than a third below normal, said Maury Roos, the state's chief hydrologist.

"This is a blow from Mother Nature," said Christy Dennis, a spokeswoman for Pacific Gas and Electric Co., the state's biggest utility.

California already expected little hydroelectric power from the drought-stricken Pacific Northwest to help power grid operators keep the lights on.

The state has struggled with high wholesale power costs and a tight supply for months, due in part to power plant maintenance and scarce Northwest hydroelectricity. On Friday, it was under a Stage 2 electricity alert as reserves fell to around 5 percent.

Despite the low snow levels, Roos said groundwater levels are healthy, so there is no reason to declare a drought anywhere but in the Klamath Range of northwestern California, which is "desperately dry."

Overall, the state is simply experiencing its first dry year after six wet winters, Roos said.

The Department of Water Resources' sensors showed the Sierra Nevada snowpack at about 60 percent of average Friday, spokesman Jeff Cohen said. He said the snow was only a few feet deep at Echo Summit near Lake Tahoe, less than half the normal depth.

"It looks more like the conditions at the end of April than at the end of March," Cohen said. "There's just a very, very slim chance of this picking up in April."

Hydroelectricity is especially useful because storing water behind dams is the equivalent of storing power for use during peak times. Other forms of electricity cannot be stockpiled. In addition, the water can be recycled, pumped back into its reservoir and used to run the electric turbines again during periods of high demand.

The low snow levels mean a potential double-whammy for California farmers. State and Central Valley water regulators already have trimmed farmers' irrigation supplies to keep reservoirs full in the event of another dry year, Cohen said.

Farmers will have to draw more groundwater, but that means using more electricity at prices driven up by the state's power shortage.

Jason Peltier, manager of the Central Valley Project Water Association, said his reservoirs are 115 percent of normal and can survive a low snow year. However, much of that water isn't available to Central Valley farmers because of environmental restrictions, he said.

Northwestern California's drought means bad news for growers there who depend on irrigation, Peltier said.

"The farmers there are going to get goose eggs," he said.

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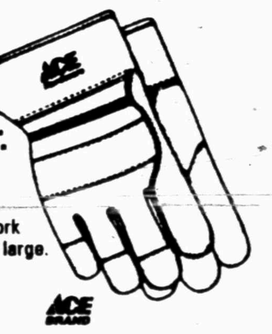
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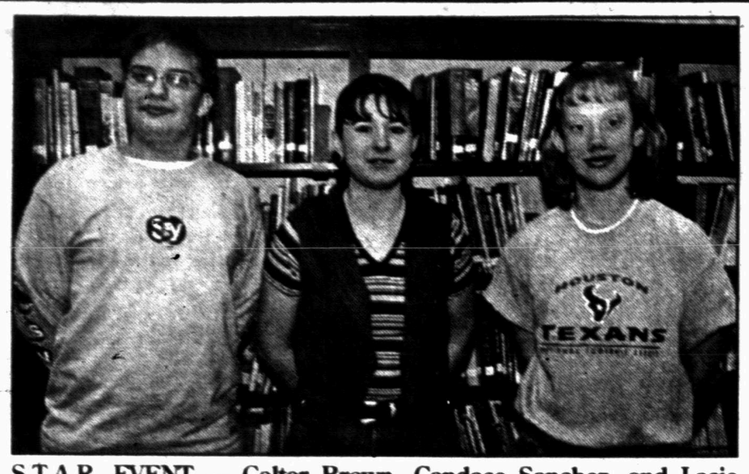
What's going on at Ira School?



S.T.A.R. EVENT — Colter Brown, Candace Sanchez, and Lacie Thompson, from left, Ira's FCCLA S.T.A.R. Event team, will compete in the state contest in the applied technology division, April 18-21 in Houston. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Stock shows winners listed

Six Ira students placed animals at recent stock shows.

Tyler Fry: 10th place fine wool cross lamb at San Antonio; 16th place fine wool cross lamb at Houston; 12th place fine wool lamb at San Angelo.

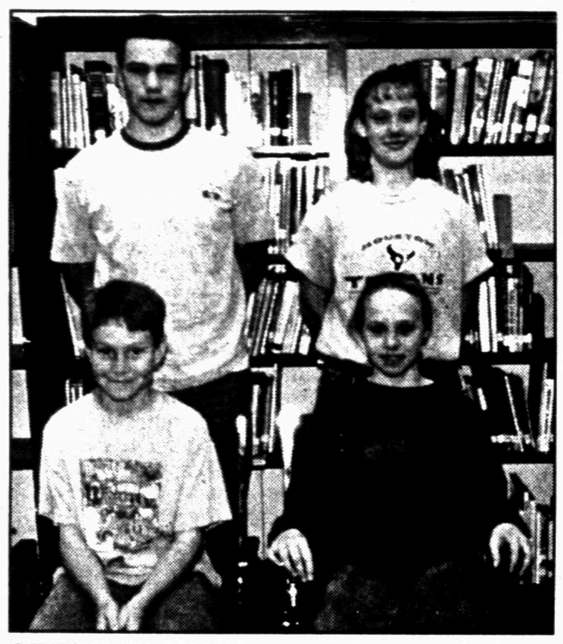
Lacie Thompson: 6th place fine wool cross lamb at San Antonio.

Kendyll Pilcher: 7th place heavy weight pig at Houston.

Kaci Waller: 8th place fine wool cross lamb at San Antonio; 17th place fine wool cross lamb at Houston; 9th place fine wool cross lamb at San Angelo; 12th place fine wool cross lamb at San Angelo.

Kelbi Pitner: 1st place medium wool lamb at San Antonio.

Sara McCown: 10th place light Hampshire pig at San Angelo.



LIVESTOCK SHOW WINNERS — Ira students who placed animals at recent livestock shows are back row from left, Tyler Frey and Lacie Thompson; and front row, Kendyll Pilcher and Kaci Waller. Kelbi Pitner and Sara McCown are not pictured. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Seven students advance to regional UIL

Seven Ira School students have qualified for the UIL regional contest to be held at Hardin-Simmons University on April 21. They won the right to advance by placing in the top three during district UIL contests held Tuesday and Thursday at Borden County ISD.

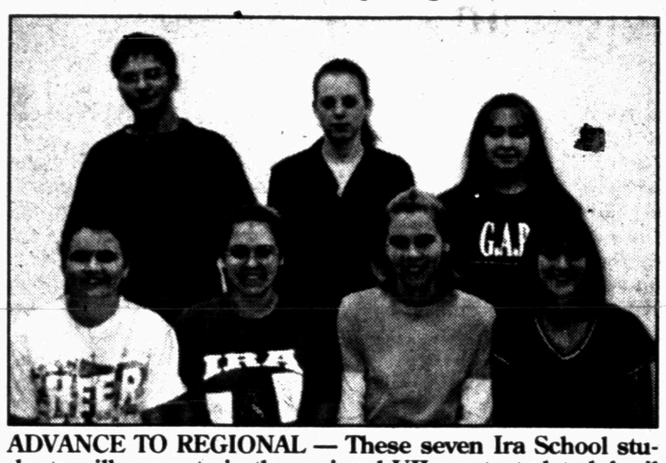
In Spelling and vocabulary, Kendra Krop placed first and Colter Brown was second. The spelling team, made up of Kendra Krop, Colter Brown and Jessie Green, placed first and advanced to regional as a team.

In computer applications, Tosha Walker was first and Morgan Clements was second.

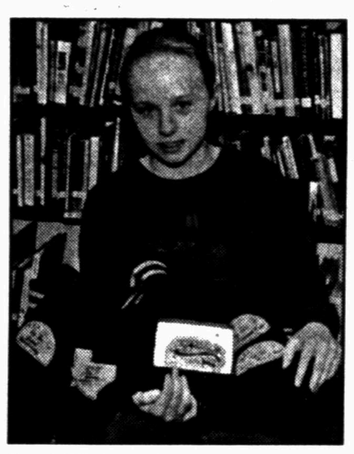
In accounting, Mikanna Herring was second and Morgan Clements was fourth. They, along with Davi Barnes, were the first place team and advance to regional as a team.

In ready writing, Colter Brown was second.

Others who placed at district but did not advance to regional are Case Hardy, sixth in current issues and events, and Rusty Josey, sixth in informative speaking.



ADVANCE TO REGIONAL — These seven Ira School students will compete in the regional UIL contest slated April 21 at Hardin-Simmons University. Back row, from left, Colter Brown, Jessie Green, Kendra Krop; front row, Tosha Walker, Davi Barnes, Morgan Clements, MiKanna Herring. (Contributed Photo)



Kaci Waller displays the jacket, bucket and watch she recently won. (SDN Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Waller wins Fine Wool Cross Division

Kaci Waller of Ira has won the Texas Club Lamb Association Fine Wool Cross Division.

Each year several junior exhibitors (9-11) compete in the association's summer, fall and winter shows throughout Texas. Kaci attended 37 shows this year and earned enough points, 1,774, to win this division.

There are four divisions, medium wool, fine wool, fine wool cross and south down. There are also three age divisions, however, all ages compete together during the show and in each class.

Kaci showed 12 different sheep this year and not only won the fine wool cross division but also received patches in medium wool, the all around and the showmanship divisions. She earned 435 medium wool points.

There are also regional awards in which the state is broken up into 10 different regions and the all around awards are given to the top three divisions.

Kaci was third and won a watch. She has also won a jacket and buckle and is looking forward to showing again this summer.

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AIDS Memorial Quilt leaves San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The AIDS Memorial Quilt dedicated to 80,000 victims of the disease left San Francisco on Friday with a tearful send-off from the city where the first of its 40,000 panels were stitched together 14 years ago.

The NAMES Project Foundation is moving its AIDS Memorial Quilt to Atlanta, hoping it will have a greater impact in the South, where HIV among blacks is rampant. The 54-ton memorial will be housed in a climate-controlled warehouse.

"By being in Atlanta, we are going to be able to make sure that this quilt is as useful and as powerful and as important to the African American community and its struggle against this terrible disease as it was to us in the Bay Area and in the gay and lesbian communities," said Cleve Jones, who stitched the first panel in 1987 to remember his best friend.

Gert McMullin, who has repaired and sewn thousands of panels dedicated to AIDS victims throughout the world, said the quilt should stay in San Francisco.

"It angers me in a lot of ways," she said. "This is where it is loved. It was built here by these people. These people who are now dead."

"I'm moving to Atlanta because of the quilt," she said, hugging friends and AIDS survivors.

Others could not bear to watch as a group of activists and politicians folded the final 12-foot-square section and loaded the quilt into a truck that will carry it across the country.

"I think it's better for me not to be there, because I would just cry my eyes out," said Felicia Elizondo, who is HIV-positive and has sewn nearly 60 panels since 1988. "I think my heart would just fall to the ground if I saw the last panel leaving."

AIDS officials in Atlanta awaited its arrival.

"Here in the South, we feel that the church is a perfect vehicle for reaching the young black community. The quilt is a safe way of getting the message into that community," said Chris Parsons, acting deputy director of AID Atlanta, the largest AIDS service organization in the Southeast. "I hope that we can do San Francisco proudly by handling it as well as you did out there."

The foundation is also moving its offices from San Francisco to Washington.

The origin of the quilt can be traced to a 1985 candlelight memorial march for former San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and openly gay city supervisor Harvey Milk. The two politicians were gunned down by former supervisor Dan White in 1978.

Jones handed out cardboard squares and markers to those attending the memorial, urging them to jot down something about a loved one lost to AIDS. The crowd then pasted cardboard panels on the outer wall of a health services building.

Jones mentioned to a friend that the panels looked like a quilt.

Over the years, the quilt was taken across the country and around the world, but always came back home to San Francisco, where it was kept in a warehouse.

Man convicted in girlfriend's death

SULPHUR SPRINGS (AP) — A jury on Friday sentenced a 29-year-old Sulphur Springs man to death after finding him guilty of capital murder in the strangulation death of his girlfriend.

Prosecutors said Daniel Acker abducted and killed 32-year-old Marquetta George of Sulphur Springs last March. Her body was found on a Hopkins County road as law officers were responding to a domestic disturbance call involving the couple.

Defense attorneys contended that the woman jumped from Acker's truck and was then hit by the vehicle.

Financial Focus

Boost College Savings With a 529 Plan

College costs are high — and they're going up. So if you're a parent with young children, when should you start saving?

How about today?

It's never too soon to start saving for college. Consider the numbers. For the 2000-2001 school year, the average cost for tuition, fees, room and board at a four-year, private college is $33,541 per year, according to the College Board. For a four-year public school, the corresponding cost is $8,470 per year. If college costs rise just 4 percent a year for the next 18 years, today's newborns will face a four-year bill of about $194,000 for an average private college and $73,000 for an average public school.

Those are big numbers. But you can make them more manageable if you start saving early. And one of the better savings vehicles you have available is a Section 529 plan, named after the portion of the IRS code authorizing these accounts.

You can establish a 529 plan for your children or grandchildren. And you can choose from two types of this plan:

Prepaid tuition programs — In a prepaid tuition plan, you buy future tuition credit — at today's prices — at an in-state, public school.

Tax-deferred savings plans — Under these plans, your earnings grow tax-deferred until you withdraw the money to pay for qualified higher education costs. Withdrawals are then taxed at the students' tax rate, which will typically be lower than yours.

Of the two arrangements, the tax-deferred savings plan is far more popular because it doesn't restrict students to certain colleges in specific states, as does the prepaid tuition plan. In other words, you can invest in any state's plan. Also, you'll receive several other significant benefits, including the following:

- You can contribute large amounts. Generally, you can contribute more than $100,000 per year to a 529 plan, although contribution limits vary by state. You may want to consider the applicable gift tax rules.
- You control withdrawals. If you're the account owner of the 529 plan, you'll manage all withdrawals for the life of the account. The student doesn't automatically take control of the assets at the age of majority. You can even change beneficiaries, if you choose.
- You'll minimize the impact on financial aid awards. Because the money in a 529 plan is held in your name, it won't significantly jeopardize any financial aid packages your child or grandchild may receive. Colleges generally require students to contribute 35 percent of their assets to pay for school, compared to less than 6 percent for parents.

The 529 plan offers some important benefits. But make sure you use your plan strictly for college. If you make a withdrawal for anything other than higher education expenses, you may have to pay taxes and a 10 percent penalty on the earnings at your tax rate. Also, keep in mind that different state plans choose different money managers — so you might want to research the organization that's investing your money.

But if you're satisfied that you've found a good 529 plan, give it some careful consideration — it can help you cope with the high costs of higher education.

You are invited to attend this Issues and Solutions broadcast:
College Funding 101
•Go to the head of the class! Learn how to plan for your grandchild's or child's college education.
•Don't be tardy. Time is money. We'll show you how to get started.
•Be smart! Keep control of these earmarked funds that are specifically reserved for the student's education.
Special guests Scott Zarinelli of Edward Jones and Gail Bucker of Putnam Investments will discuss ways to invest for college education: 529 plans, Education IRAs and more.
This program is free, but seating is limited. To reserve your seat or for more information, please call or stop by today.
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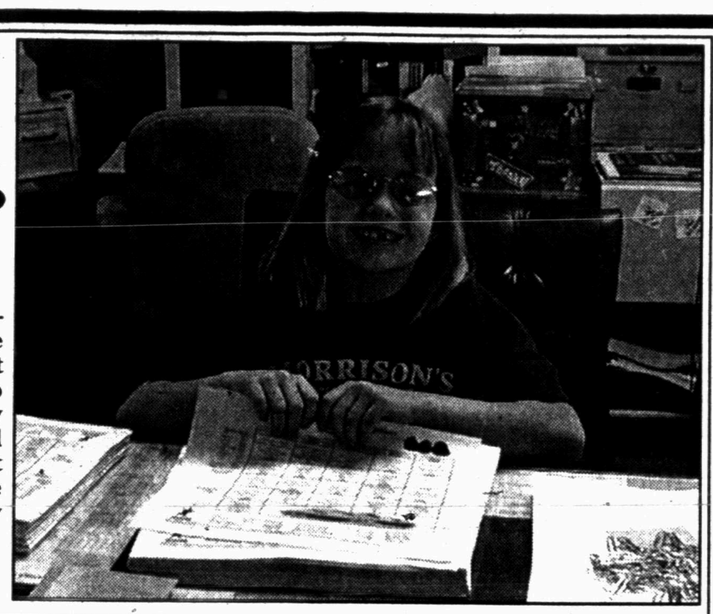
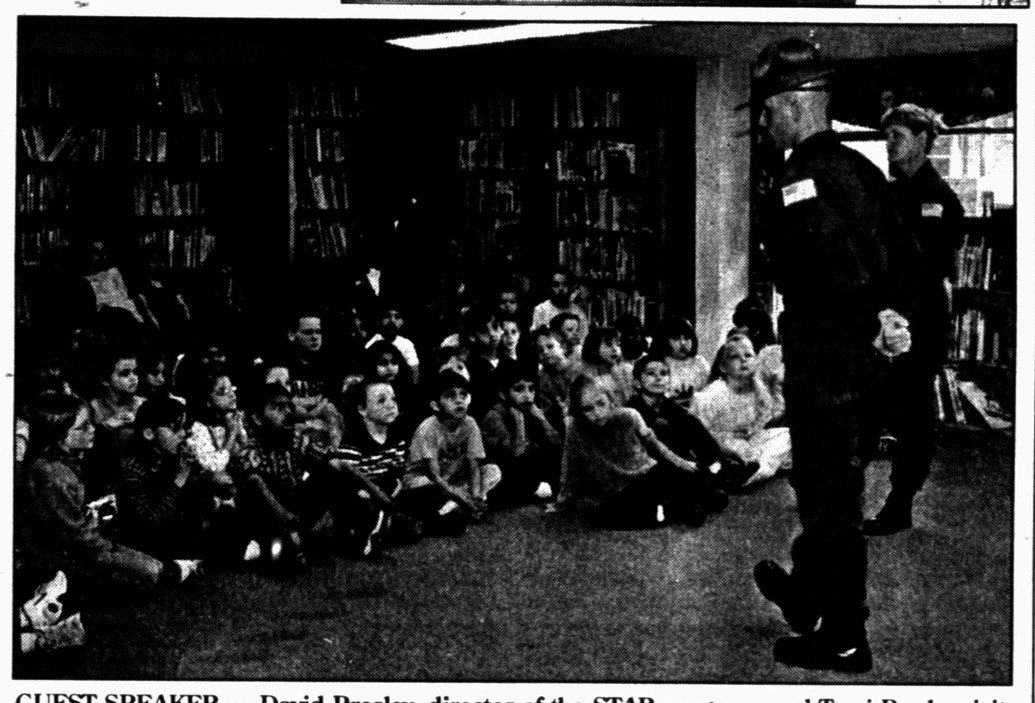
Stanfield: What's happening?



PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY — Kaitlin Horton, second grade student of Naomi Harlin at Stanfield Elementary, got to be principal for a day Friday by earning 180 Accelerated Reader points, the most points in her grade for the AR program. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)



GUEST SPEAKER — David Presley, director of the STAR program, and Terri Rawls, visited Stanfield last week and spoke to students about the program for students who misbehave in class. (SDN Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Drifter is acquitted in slaying

BELLEVILLE, Ill. (AP) — A drifter was acquitted Friday by a St. Clair County jury in his third murder trial for the 1988 death of a newspaper intern.

Jurors took about three hours to find Rodney Woidtke innocent of murdering Audrey Cardenas, an intern for the Belleville News-Democrat. The body of Cardenas, 24, of College Station, Texas, was found in a dry creek bed June 26, 1988.

"I am happy the verdict came out the way it did. I'm just thankful for the fair trial," Woidtke said in a brief press conference. Woidtke, who is from California, said he planned to drive this weekend with his brother and sister-in-law to their home near Sacramento.

Friday's verdict is the latest chapter in a 12-year-legal battle that has included Woidtke's first murder conviction by a judge being overturned by an appeals court, then a retrial this year ending soon after it began, and defense attorneys' contention that another man is the real killer.

During the trial, prosecutors contended Woidtke killed Cardenas, beating her with a pipe, after she spurned his sexual advances during a chance meeting. Woidtke, a diagnosed schizophrenic, had been living in the woods and sleeping in the trees for several months around Belleville before he was arrested.

Woidtke confessed to the crime three times, but recanted those confessions. Also, some of his claims were contradicted by physical evidence. In fact, there was no physical evidence linking Woidtke to the killing. Experts have testified that DNA, blood and hair tests were all inconclusive.

Three days before she disappeared, Cardenas was seen at Belleville Township High School East, near the spot where her body was found.

Gateway planning second fundraiser

Gateway Family Services, Inc. a center for victims of Family Violence and Sexual Assault, will present a fundraiser at 7 p.m. next Saturday at First Baptist Church's Family Life Center.

Tickets are $25 each. They may be purchased at the door, but those wishing to attend are encouraged to contact the Gateway Office at 573-4351 to reserve a spot for the evening.

A night of food and fun is planned. Kerry Clay will cook the meal, which includes a choice between brisket, ribs or sausage, complete with all the trimmings and dessert.

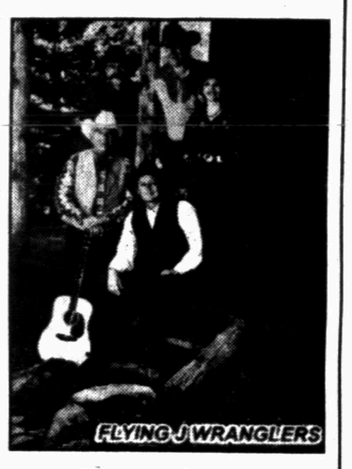
Flying J Wranglers of Ruidoso, N.M. will provide the entertainment. The group is internationally known and has performed in Japan, Italy, Germany and France.

The group has also performed on the Nashville Network and the Grand Ole' Opry.

The Wranglers have been performing their own brand of traditional western music at their ranch in Lincoln County just north of Ruidoso since 1982.

Their performance includes western harmonies and tall tales of the Old West. Cindy Hobbs, a member of the group, is the WMA Yodeling Champion. Others in the group play guitar, mandolin and banjo.

Gateway Family Services was formally associated with Noah Project of Abilene. It provides services for families and individuals in Scurry, Nolan, Mitchell, Fisher and Kent Counties.



Gateway provides shelter, food, counseling, transportation, legal advocacy, information and referrals to local community agencies for both victims of family violence and sexual assault.

Gateway also presents programs regarding family violence and sexual assault to local civic organizations, religious groups, schools and other interested parties.

Heidi Fleiss goes back to jail

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Convicted Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss was returned to jail after she admitted she had used methamphetamines and failed to report for drug testing, officials said Friday.

She was arrested by federal marshals Thursday for allegedly violating probation, said Thom Mrozek, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Fleiss was jailed to await a hearing expected next week.

Lawyer Jeralyn Keller, who represents Fleiss, did not immediately return telephone messages left on her answering machine.

Marshals arrested Fleiss at the federal courthouse as she arrived for a scheduled meeting with her probation officer, Mrozek said.

Fleiss was released from a federal women's penitentiary in Northern California on Sept. 21, 1999, after serving more than three years on charges related to her Hollywood call-girl business.

Retiree maintains town's timepiece, eight stories up

By The Associated Press

First Tom K'Burg climbs 138 steps in a narrow spiral staircase. Then he ascends a ladder to a room holding a huge clock bell. Finally, he makes his way up a second ladder to a small clock tower.

There, eight stories above the town of Salem, N.J., in the tower of the First Baptist Church, rest the workings of Salem's official timepiece.

Twice a year, at the start and finish of daylight-saving time, and in between when the clock needs repair, K'Burg, a 60-something retiree, makes the long climb to move the hands and ensure the town's 6,800 residents can operate on the correct time.

"It gets higher and higher every year," said K'Burg, who collects and repairs other clocks, as well, in this town, about 45 miles south of Philadelphia.

Daylight-saving time begins Sunday at 2 a.m., and though he may not be there at that precise moment, K'Burg will be climbing the steeple's stairs to set the clock ahead one hour.

He has maintained Salem's official timepiece for almost 20 years, ever since the clock suffered from what he called "runaway striking" in the early 1980s and rang for hours on end.

City officials — the city owns the steeple and clock but not the church beneath them — couldn't afford to fix the clock, so they stopped it. Then K'Burg volunteered to do the job for free.

"I think it's a good clock here, and it ought to run," he said. "I've kept it running ever since."

K'Burg has climbed the tower's steps night and day. He was there in 1999 during Tropical Storm Floyd when wind shook the steeple so violently the clock kept resetting itself and rang continuously. "It was sort of like being on board a ship up there in a wind storm," he said.

The clock was installed in 1846, after citizens raised money for an official timepiece and city fathers decided to put it in the church, which sits in the middle of town. It could be seen from almost everywhere in the city, and could be heard for miles, K'Burg said.

"Before the turn of the century, we didn't have electricity and the town clock was everything. They used it to know when to go to work and when to start school," he said. "It is a very, very important part of the city of Salem."

Internet appreciation day advocated

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Oh, how the mighty have fallen.

Wringing their hands in despair over the dot-com meltdown, some Web boosters are calling for an Internet appreciation day — encouraging people to shop only online, buy shares in their favorite online company and donate online to charity.

The organizers hope their "Back the Net" rally Tuesday will "send the world a loud, clear message that the Net will not only survive, but thrive."

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SPORTS

Snyder 10, Estacado 4...

Tigers end drought with win over Mats

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

LUBBOCK — After back-to-back losses, the Snyder Tigers were looking to end their winless drought Friday in Lubbock.

While the 10-4 victory over Estacado was far from sparkling, it did the job, and the Tigers are hoping it will get them back on track for the playoff chase.

"I though we could've played a lot better," said Snyder coach Roland Herrera. "We should have scored a lot more runs off their pitcher. And then we shouldn't have let them score. We made way too many simple errors, and they ended up scoring four runs. But at least it's a win, and we'll try to build on it in our next game."

Snyder managed 10 runs on only 10 hits, but committed five errors in the field. It was the pitching of Ralph Ramon who helped save the Tigers.

After a shaky start, Ramon finished with 11 strikeouts, and surrendered only two hits and three walks.

Estacado scratched out three runs in the third to cut the deficit to 7-4, before Ramon buckled down. Estacado put the ball in play only 15 times on the day, and reached base five times on Snyder errors.

The Matadors three runs in the third came on just one hit, three Tiger miscues, and a pair of wild pitches from Ramon.

Once Ramon took control on the mound, the Tigers seemed **destined to finish the Matadors** early. Snyder's bats went quiet, however.

The Tigers got only four hits through the middle four innings, and left four runners on base.

"We had other chances to score, but we couldn't come up the hits when we needed them," said Herrera. "Some guys would get on base, and then we couldn't drive them in. We have to do a better job when we have runners in scoring position."

The Tigers took advantage of their opportunities in the first two innings, scoring three runs in the first and four more in the second.

Singles by Ramon and Tito Alaniz, and a Jesse Haines double, led to the three-run opening frame. Haines two-bagger was the only extra-base hit on the day.

The Tigers' four-run outburst in the second came on just one hit and two errors.

The top of Snyder's revamped batting order did most of the damage. With Ramon moved into the leadoff spot, and Haines elevated to the third slot, six of the Tigers' 10 hits came from the top four men in the order.

"We changed our batting order today for the first time in a few weeks," Herrera stated. "The change seemed to help our guys at the top, but we still struggled some in the bottom half of the order."

The victory keeps Snyder in third place in the district standings, heading into Tuesday's match-up with Andrews. The Mustangs knocked off Frenship on Friday to take sole possession of first place.

"Andrews is solid again this year," Herrera said. "We'll have extremely well to beat them. We're capable of playing that way, because we have shown it this season. We just have to get back to doing things right at the plate, and in the field."

Tuesday's contest is slated for 7 p.m. at Moffett Field.

The game with Andrews marks the end of the first half of district competition.

Snyder	ab	r	h	bi
Ramon p	5	1	2	0
Pena ss	4	2	1	0
Haines 3b	4	2	1	0
McGuire rf	2	2	2	0
Pollard c	4	0	0	0
Alaniz dh	4	0	1	0
Nunley 2b	3	0	0	0
Franks 3b	1	0	0	0
Pendleton 1b	3	0	1	0
Olvera ph	1	1	1	0
McLeod cf	1	2	0	0
Greenwood ph	1	0	1	0
Totals	**33**	**10**	**10**	**5**

Estacado	ab	r	h	bi
P.Upshaw cf	4	2	1	0
McKinzie ss	4	1	0	0
Catsro 1b	4	0	0	0
K.Upshaw p	2	0	1	0
Holguin lf	2	0	0	0
Shaw c	2	0	0	0
Taylor rf	3	0	0	0
Rodriguez 2b	2	0	0	0
Lee ph	1	0	0	0
Carranza 3b	3	1	0	0
Totals	**27**	**4**	**2**	**0**

Snyder	3	4	0	1	1	0	1—	10	10	5
Estacado	1	0	3	0	0	0	0—	4	2	3

DP - Estacado 1. LOB - Snyder 6, Estacado 5. 2B - Haines.

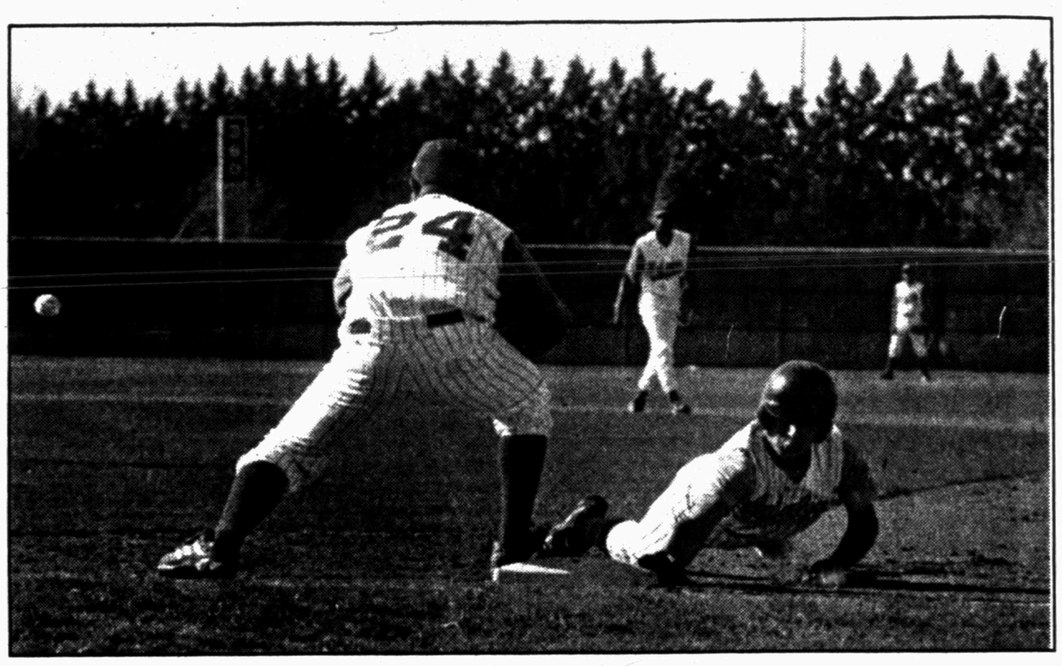
Snyder	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Ramon	7	2	4	1	3	11
Snyder	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**
K.Upshaw	7	10	10	7	4	4

District 4-4A Baseball

Team	District W	District L	Season W	Season L
Frenship	6	0	15	6
Andrews	5	1	13	4
Snyder	4	2	11	6
Plainview	3	2	7	8
Big Spring	2	3	8	9
Lake View	1	4	3	11
Estacado	1	5	4	10
Levelland	0	5	7	11

Friday's results: Snyder 10, Estacado 4; Frenship 3, Andrews 2.

Saturday's games: Plainview at Lake View; Big Spring at Levelland.



BACK IN TIME – Snyder pitcher Ralph Ramon slides back into first base following a single in the Tigers' 10-4 win over Estacado in District 4-4A action Friday. The Tigers overcame a two-game losing streak in defeating the Matadors in Lubbock. (SDN Staff Photo by Eric Drennan)

Snyder boys race to meet title

SWEETWATER — The Snyder Lady Tiger track team turned the momentum from last week's success into another strong performance, while the Snyder boys got back on track.

The Snyder Tigers racked up 212 points to run away with the boys' title of the Rattlesnake Relays, while the Lady Tigers posted their second highest point total of the season to grab fourth place.

After a somewhat disappointing performance last week at the San Angelo Relays, the SHS boys had a point to prove in Sweetwater. The Tigers won nine events, including another sweep of the shot put and discus by Mark Medley. The senior has won both events in all five meets he's entered this season.

Danny Ortegon was fifth in the shot and Trey Roland was fifth in the discus.

The Tigers continued their domination of the field events when Corey Clay won the triple jump and took third in the long jump. Jared Thornhill followed up with a 15-foot effort to win the pole vault.

Wade Pinson, Matthew Grimmett and Bradley Spells grabbed fourth through sixth places in the high jump.

Distance runners Charles Kerry and Anthony Vasquez grabbed the top two spots in both the mile and two-mile runs. Jay Scott was sixth in the mile and the 800.

Grimmett won the 100, and registered a second-place finish in the 200. Edwin James was fourth in the 100, and Spells was fifth in the 200.

Pinson was runner-up in the 110 hurdles. Josh Arizmendi was runner-up in the 400, with Spells securing sixth place.

The Tigers won the sprint relay with a time of 42.96 seconds, and took second in the mile relay.

In the girls' competition, the Lady Tigers continued to shine after a stellar performance at last week's Caprock Relays.

Loryn Brown anchored the Lady Tigers' effort. The SHS junior won the triple jump, 100 hurdles and 300 hurdles.

Callie Bane, who was third in the 300 hurdles, secured the top spot in the shot put, with teammate Amy DeLorea only one spot back. DeLorea was also third in the discus.

Both Snyder squads will be in competition again next Saturday at the Big Spring Relays. The event will be the final tune-up before the district meet April 12-13 at Tiger Stadium.

XFL Glance

All Times EST

EAST CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	PF	PA
x-Orlando	7	1	.875	178	138
Chicago	3	5	.375	140	160
NY/NJ	3	5	.375	92	122
Birmingham	2	6	.250	107	188
WEST CONFERENCE	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
x-Los Angeles	6	2	.750	199	139
Las Vegas	4	4	.500	157	113
San Francisco	4	4	.450	142	128
Memphis	3	5	.375	124	151

x-clinched playoff berth

Saturday, March 31
Chicago at New York-New Jersey, 8 p.m.
Orlando at Birmingham, 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 1
Los Angeles at Memphis, 4 p.m.
San Francisco at Las Vegas, 7 p.m.

Local Sports Schedule

SATURDAY

Rodeo
Western Texas at Odessa College rodeo

Baseball
Big Spring at Snyder JV Black, doubleheader, 11 a.m.
Snyder JV Gold at Sweetwater

MONDAY

Golf
Snyder boys at San Angelo
Snyder girls at Andrews

National Hockey League

All Times Eastern

EASTERN CONFERENCE — Atlantic Division	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
x-New Jersey	44	18	12	3	103	275	182
x-Philadelphia	40	24	11	2	93	230	198
Pittsburgh	39	27	9	2	89	262	239
N.Y. Rangers	30	41	5	1	66	237	276
N.Y. Islanders	20	47	7	3	50	172	287
Northeast Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
x-Ottawa	46	20	9	3	104	261	191
x-Buffalo	43	28	5	1	92	204	173
Toronto	35	27	11	5	86	223	196
Boston	32	29	8	8	80	211	236
Montreal	26	39	8	5	65	197*	224
Southeast Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
x-Washington	39	25	10	3	91	222	200
Carolina	35	31	8	3	81	197	212
Florida	20	36	13	9	62	192	237
Tampa Bay	24	44	6	4	58	193	266
Atlanta	22	42	12	2	58	202	276
WESTERN CONFERENCE — Central Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
x-Detroit	46	18	9	4	105	242	195
x-St. Louis	41	20	11	5	98	238	185
Nashville	32	34	9	3	76	177	193
Chicago	29	37	7	4	69	199	229
Columbus	25	37	9	6	65	179	221
Northwest Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
y-Colorado	50	14	9	4	113	257	178
Edmonton	38	27	10	3	89	231	210
Vancouver	35	25	11	7	88	232	227
Calgary	26	33	14	4	70	186	221
Minnesota	24	36	12	5	65	158	194
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
y-Dallas	45	24	7	2	99	225	178
San Jose	37	26	12	2	88	201	181
Phoenix	33	26	16	3	85	204	204
Los Angeles	35	28	12	2	84	238	220
Anaheim	24	39	10	5	63	182	234

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.
x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Thursday's Games
Montreal 6, Tampa Bay 2
Toronto 2, Philadelphia 1
N.Y. Rangers 6, N.Y. Islanders 4
Pittsburgh 5, Chicago 2
Nashville 4, Phoenix 3, OT
Colorado 1, Calgary 0
Los Angeles 3, Columbus 0
San Jose 7, Anaheim 4

Friday's Games
Ottawa 5, Boston 4, OT
Buffalo 4, Atlanta 0
Carolina 4, Washington 3, OT
Tampa Bay 4, Florida 2
Dallas 5, Edmonton 4
Anaheim 2, Vancouver 2, tie

Saturday's Games
St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 3 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 3 p.m.
Detroit at Philadelphia, 3 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at New Jersey, 3 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Boston, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Nashville, 8 p.m.
San Jose at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Dallas at Calgary, 10 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Carolina at Ottawa, 2 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Atlanta, 3 p.m.
Edmonton at Chicago, 3 p.m.
Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 6 p.m.
Washington at Detroit, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Anaheim, 8 p.m.

Sports Briefs

WGA play day

The Women's Golf Association of Snyder Country Club will host its weekly play day at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

Lions Club tournament

The Snyder Lions Club Golf Scramble will be held April 28 at the Western Texas College golf course.

Entry fee for the four-person scramble is $50 per player, and includes green fee, golf cart and a hamburger lunch. Teams must have a combined handicap over 50.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top four teams. Hole-in-one prizes will be a $5,000 CD and a 2001 Ford Focus. Entry forms can be picked up at the WTC pro shop.

Battier, Doherty receive awards

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Atlantic Coast Conference scored a rare sweep when Duke All-American Shane Battier and North Carolina coach Matt Doherty were presented with Player of the Year and Coach of the Year awards by The Associated Press.

It marked the first time since 1979 that a single conference won both awards. That year they were won by coach Bill Hodges and Larry Bird of Indiana State.

Battier averaged 19.9 points and 7.2 rebounds this season, leading the top-ranked Blue Devils to the NCAA Final Four. He is the reigning two-time national defensive player of the year and is the first player in ACC history to finish with at least 1,500 points, 500 rebounds, 200 blocks, 200 assists and 200 steals.

Doherty, in his first season at his alma mater, led the Tar Heels to a 26-7 record and a share of the ACC regular-season title.

Philly retires Barkley's jersey

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Charles Barkley returned to Philadelphia to become the seventh player in 76ers history to have his number retired.

Barkley's eyed watered as his No. 34 jersey was lifted to the rafters. Former 76ers teammate Moses Malone and former coach Billy Cunningham also were on the floor during the ceremony.

Barkley averaged 22 points and almost 12 rebounds while earning nine All-Star selections over 16 NBA Seasons.

Jaguars re-sign Brunell

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — The Jacksonville Jaguars signed quarterback Mark Brunell to a four-year, $30 million contract.

The Jaguars had until 4 p.m. to restructure Brunell's contract, trade him or pay a $3 million roster bonus; the final option would have made his salary unmanageable for a team only a few thousand dollars under the cap.

The new deal saves the Jaguars about $2.5 million in cap dollars.

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Community Service
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FOR April 2nd CLASS
The next driver education class begins April 2 and ends on April 30, 2001. Total Cost of the class is $300. Receive a 10% discount on car insurance upon completion of an approved Driver Education Course.
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Law Enforcement Position
Schleicher County Sheriff David Doran is accepting applications for a Deputy Sheriff position. Applicants must be TCLEOSE certified. Applications can be picked up at the Schleicher County Sheriff's Department, at 4 S. Divide St., Eldorado, Texas 76936 or by calling 915-853-2737. Deadline for applications is April 30, 2001. Schleicher County is an Equal Opportunity employer.

SPORTS

WTC eyes Big Spring rodeo crown

BIG SPRING — Heading into Saturday's final round, the Western Texas women solidified their position, and the WTC men were still in good shape from Thursday's performance.

Three Lady Westerners will join eight WTC men in Saturday night's short round of the Howard College rodeo.

Jamie Standifer secured a spot in the finals with a run of 11.4 seconds in the goat tying to grab second place in the long round.

Tibba Smith's effort of 3.0 seconds in the breakaway roping gave her third place in the early going, while Kassie Mowry crossed the line in 17.66 seconds to take sixth in the barrel racing.

On the men's side, bareback rider Tyson Thompson and saddle bronc riders J.W. Todd and Rawley McFarland were still in good shape after their efforts in Thursday's performance.

Bull riders Sean Willingham and Wes Dinwiddie were also bidding for spots in the short round.

Calf roper Cimmaron Boardman posted a time of 9.3 to earn second place in the first round. Steven Turner and Joseph Gernantz were seventh and eighth in the steer wrestling.

Following Saturday night's final round, both Western Texas squads will begin preparations for the WTC rodeo, which begins Thursday at Scurry County Coliseum.

Lakers use O'Neal to top Mavs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — So much for "Hack-a-Shaq," at least if Shaquille O'Neal can keep up his sharpshooting from the line.

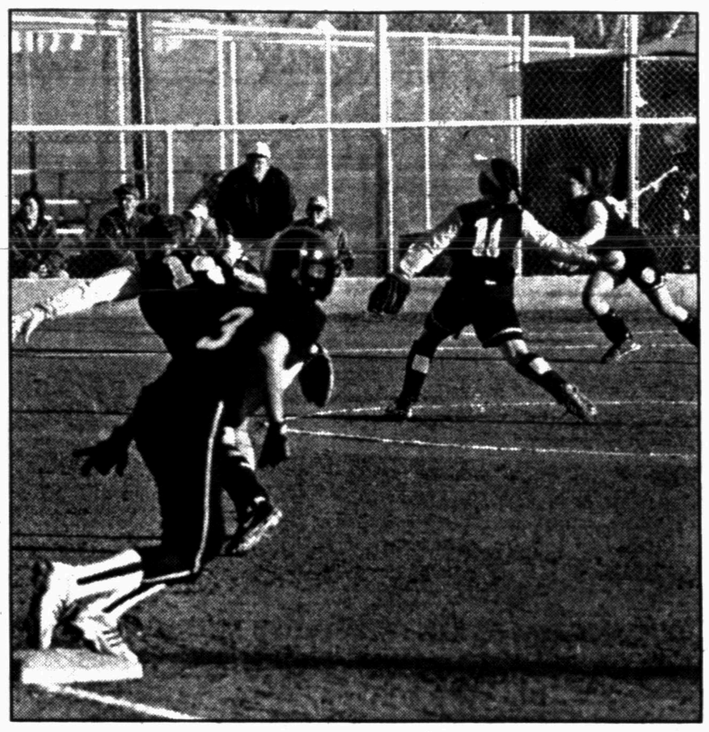
The Lakers' center outshot the entire Dallas Mavericks team at the foul line Friday night , going 13-of-17 in Los Angeles' 98-89 victory. The Mavericks collectively were 9-of-20.

O'Neal had 35 points to lead the Lakers, whose balanced scoring made up for the [illegible] of the injured Kobe Bryant. Los Angeles ended a two-game losing streak and snapped the Mavericks' three-game winning string.

A career 50 percent shooter from the line and shooting just 37 percent earlier this season, O'Neal has made some 70 percent of his free throws in the last seven games.

O'Neal also had 13 rebounds, and Brian Shaw had 14 points while Derek Fisher, Horace Grant and Isaiah Rider each had 12 points.

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 24 points, but just five after halftime.



IN MOTION — An Andrews runner takes off from first base, while Snyder's Ashley Martinez (11) delivers a pitch Thursday during the Lady Tigers' victory over the Lady Mustangs. Jennifer Newman (14) guards first base, and Kira Diaz (far right) charges in from third. (SDN Staff Photo)

Lady Tigers overpower Levelland for 9-1 win

With Tuesday's win over Andrews behind them, and with another Big Spring battle looming only 10 days away, the Snyder Lady Tigers' toughest job might be staying focused for the games in between.

Friday against Levelland, the Lady Tigers did just that.

Snyder kept its focus and turned a close game into a 9-1 rout of Levelland at Cates Field.

The victory keeps the Lady Tigers (14-10, 7-1) alone in second place in the district standings, only one game behind unbeaten Big Spring.

"We have to keep our focus from one game to the next. We can't be looking down the line at somebody else," said Snyder coach Shelly Hayes. "The girls did a good job of that. They know that there are teams in this district capable of jumping up and beating you, if you don't play well."

That wasn't the case Friday at Cates Field. Despite only a two-run lead through three innings, the Lady Tigers were always in control of the action.

Snyder pitcher Jacque Alvarez limited the Lady Lobos to just two hits and held them scoreless until the last inning. Alvarez issued six walks on the day, but made up for them with nine strikeouts.

After scoring once in the first and again in the second, the Lady Tigers broke the game open with five runs in the fourth. Snyder put Andrews behind them in the same stretch of innings Tuesday night, and Hayes believes it's a trend.

"It's usually the third or fourth inning when we get it going," Hayes remarked. "I think it's because there is such a variety of pitching in this district, it takes the girls a few innings to get their timing right."

Kira Diaz had her timing most of the game, going 3 for 4 with a double. Vanessa Freeman and Chaelyn Robinson also doubled. Whitney Webb also went 3 for 4.

The Lady Tigers' next opponent is Lake View. The Maidens were a preseason favorite to make a run at the postseason, but have struggled thus far.

"Lake View was supposed to be one of the stronger teams in the district," Hayes remarked. "But for one reason or another, they're struggling right now. Their record doesn't matter to us, though. We know that they have the players to beat almost anybody in this district."

The contest is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in San Angelo.

The Lady Tigers travel to Frenship on Friday, before returning home to host Big Spring on April 10.

Snyder	ab	r	h	bi
Ramon p	4	0	0	0
Jones lf	3	0	0	0
Cumbie c	3	0	0	0
Beck 1b	2	0	0	0
Hernandez 3b	2	0	0	0
Allred 3b	1	0	0	0
Grimmett cf	4	0	0	0
Ward ss	4	0	0	0
Gordon rf	2	0	0	0
Ortegon 2b	3	0	0	0
Totals	**28**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Levelland	0 0 0 0 0 0 0—	0	0 0
Snyder	0 0 0 0 0 0 0—	0	0 0

LOB - Central 6, Snyder 6.

Snyder	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Ramon	8	4	1	1	3	7

Wildcats ready for challenge of defending national champs

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Before they were elite, Michigan State and Arizona had image problems.

"Arizona was soft," Wildcats forward Eugene Edgerson said, mimicking the critics who wrote off that program in the mid-90s.

And, quite simply, Michigan State wasn't Michigan.

National championships and trips to the Final Four have shattered those stereotypes. With the teams playing Saturday in the first national semifinal, it seems like decades, not years, since the decision to play basketball at Michigan State or Arizona was such a huge leap of faith.

In Michigan State's case, four Big Ten titles, three Final Four trips and one national title helped turn things around.

Still, the prospect of four years in East Lansing didn't seem like such a great deal in 1997, after the team went 9-9 in the Big Ten for the second straight year.

"I grew up in the state of Michi- [illegible] senior guard Charlie Bell said. "The talk was University of Michigan. When I chose to go to Michigan State, a lot of people wondered why."

Back then, an unknown former assistant, Tom Izzo, was still trying to establish himself in the shadow of Jud Heathcoate, whose program remained solid but still second-tier in the 15 seasons after Magic Johnson and the national title.

Upstate, the Fab Five and the era of Michigan dominance was in full swing. It was still largely a state where young kids grew up dreaming of playing for titles in Wolverine maize and blue.

"My first couple years, they were rough both on the court and in the recruiting," Izzo said. "It was difficult to get started. I was a new coach, unproven. I had to do a lot of selling."

The next great chapter of Michigan State history is still being written. The Spartans have a chance to become the first team since the 1991-92 Duke Blue Devils to win consecutive titles. They're only the ninth team to reach three straight Final Fours.

Meanwhile, Arizona had no past titles to fall back on in the mid-90s.

The Wildcats earned the reputation as a soft-as-butter program prone to unsightly losses when the world was watching.

In 1993, they became just the second No. 2 seed to lose to a No. 15 in the opening round of the NCAA tournament. Their first-round flops (1992, '93, '95) defined them better than their single trip to the Final Four in 1994. Common in those days were live TV shots of low-seeded teams celebrating on selection day when they learned Arizona was their first-round opponent.

Edgerson was on the 1997 team that won the title, shocking a nation of basketball fans.

Knight dismisses players

LUBBOCK (AP) — It took Bob Knight just seven days to show he's in charge.

Three players were kicked off the Texas Tech basketball team Friday for "some violation of team rules," school president David Schmidly said. A fourth player asked for and was granted his release.

Freshman reserve Brannon Hayes said he and two other players were dismissed from the team because of a misunderstanding during a meeting with Knight earlier this week. The others were identified as Jamal Brown, the Red Raiders' starting guard who averaged 10.6 points per game, and Rodney Bass, another freshman reserve.

Schmidly said he does not receive reports on problems with basketball players and was unaware of which rules or what type of violations occurred.

Bass told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal that the three had been late to practice.

"It was just a misunderstanding in the meeting between the three of us," Hayes told the Associated Press. "All I know is I was just not wanted here next year. Personally, I think the decision was made before I even knew it."

Brown, Bass and Hayes will k[illegible] scholarships through next year.

The school granted a fourth player, Ronald Hobbs, his release Friday.

Hobbs, a backup guard who averaged 5.5 points per game, said his departure was planned weeks before former coach James Dickey was fired March 9 following the Red Raiders' 9-19 season.

The news caught other players off guard.

"I was surprised to hear that," Hobbs said. "I thought I was by myself."

Junior center Andy Ellis, who is Brown's roommate, said he didn't know about the dismissals.

SHS golfers continue district march

Both Snyder High School golf teams continue their march toward the regional tournament Monday, when they resume district tournament competition.

The Lady Tigers trail Andrews after two rounds, while the SHS boys trail Mustangs after only one event.

"We're in good shape with both teams," said Snyder coach Matt Glenn. "We're in a position to make the regional tournament with both squads.

"We just have to finsh out district the same way we started it."

In the individual standings, Snyder's Andra Lancaster is tied for the lead with a pair of Andrews golfers.

On the boys' side, the Tigers are led by Landon Day who is currently tied for fourth.

"We're getting good play from our top players, and our fourth and fifth players," Glenn stated. "That's what it takes to be successful in district and regionals."

Following Monday's competition, both teams will have only one round remaining to decide their postseason fate.

"After Monday, there's only one event left, so each round is huge," Glenn remarked. "We just have to keep our focus and composure, and play like we're capable of."

District 4-4A Golf Standings

District 4-4A Boys' Golf
through 1 of 3 events

Team standings: 1. Andrews A, 312; 2. Snyder A, 317; 3. Frenship A, 321; 4. Snyder B, 322; 5. Andrews B, 331; 6. Plainview A, 335; 7. Big Spring A, 346; 8. Lake View, 349; 9. Levelland A, 354; 10. Frenship B, 361; 11. (tie) Plainview B and Big Spring B, 374; 13. Levelland B, 415.

Medalist standings: 1. (tie) Shaun Melville, Frenship and Luke Varner, Andrews, 71; 3. Brandon Melville, Frenship, 75; 4. (tie) Colby Brownlee, Andrews, Parker Stovall, Andrews, Landon Day, Snyder, Joe Taylor, Plainview, Justin Dever, Andrews, 78; 9. (tie) Levi Mandrell, Snyder and Stafford Gray, Snyder, 79.

District 4-4A Girls' Golf
through 2 of 4 events

Team standings: 1. Andrews A, 326-338—664; 2. Snyder A, 339-340—679; 3. Andrews B, 363-388—751; 4. Snyder B, 373-379—752; 5. Plainview A, 400-396—796; 6. Levelland, 388-445—833; 7. Lake View, 413-421—834; 8. Plainview B, 415-420—835; 9. Big Spring, 398-462—860.

Medalist standings: 1. (tie) Megan Hall, Andrews, 81-84—165, Jessica Thurston, Andrews, 83-82—165 and Andra Lancaster, Snyder, 87-78—165; 4. Kellie Dodson, Snyder, 84-82—166; 5. (tie) Ashley Robb, Andrews, 82-85—167, Jessica Thames, Andrews, 80-87—167 and Tamara McDonald, Levelland, 80-87—167; 8. Kerri Self, Andrews, 85-83—168; 9. Katie Kerley, Snyder, 83-86—169; 10. Halli Richards, Andrews, 79-92—171.

National Basketball Association

All Times EST
EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Philadelphia	50	22	.694	—
Miami	42	29	.592	7½
New York	42	30	.583	8
Orlando	39	33	.542	11
Boston	33	39	.458	17
New Jersey	25	50	.333	26½
Washington	18	54	.250	32

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Milwaukee	45	26	.634	—
Charlotte	40	32	.556	5½
Toronto	40	32	.556	5½
Indiana	33	39	.458	12½
Cleveland	26	46	.361	19½
Detroit	26	46	.361	19½
Atlanta	22	51	.301	24
Chicago	12	59	.169	33

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	51	21	.708	—
Utah	48	24	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dallas	46	26	.639	5
Minnesota	42	30	.583	9
Houston	39	33	.542	12
Denver	35	38	.479	16½
Vancouver	21	52	.288	30½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Sacramento	49	22	.690	—
L.A. Lakers	48	25	.658	2
Portland	47	25	.653	2½
Phoenix	44	27	.620	5
Seattle	41	34	.547	10
L.A. Clippers	26	47	.356	24
Golden State	17	55	.236	32½

x-clinched playoff spot

Friday's Games

Toronto 110, New Jersey 99
Philadelphia 102, Golden State 89
Denver 103, Charlotte 96
Indiana 92, Boston 87
Detroit 100, Orlando 97
Utah 95, Cleveland 88
Seattle 94, L.A. Clippers 84
Portland 96, New York 79
Sacramento 110, Minnesota 98
L.A. Lakers 98, Dallas 89

Saturday's Games

Houston at Washington, 7 p.m.
Denver at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Times EDT

Indiana at Philadelphia, 12:30 p.m.
Utah at Vancouver, 3 p.m.
Boston at Charlotte, 3 p.m.
Minnesota at Portland, 3 p.m.
New York at L.A. Lakers, 5:30 p.m.
Orlando at Toronto, 5:30 p.m.
Houston at New Jersey, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Detroit, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
Milwaukee at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

NCAA Basketball Tournaments

All Times EST
THE MEN'S FINAL FOUR
At The Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome
Minneapolis
National Semifinals
Saturday, March 31

Michigan State (28-4) vs. Arizona (27-7), 5:42 p.m.

Duke (33-4) vs. Maryland (25-10), following first game

National Championship
Monday, April 2

Semifinal winners, 9:18 p.m.

All Times EST
THE WOMEN'S FINAL FOUR
At The Savvis Center
St. Louis
National Semifinals
Friday, March 30

Purdue 81, Southwest Missouri State 64
Notre Dame 90, Connecticut 75

National Championship
Sunday, April 1

Purdue (31-6) vs. Notre Dame (33-2), 8:30

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Legal Notice

Notice to Bidders

Competitive Sealed Bids for Ira Independent School District HVAC will be received at the Administration Building, P.O. Box 240, Ira, Texas 79527, until 2:00 p.m. April 17, 2001. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened.

Bids will be received for the General Construction including Heating, Air Conditioning and Electrical Work.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive all formalities.

Specifications may be obtained from the Administration Office at 6195 West FM 1606.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF SCURRY §

To all persons having claims against the estate of Georgia E. Mooty, Deceased: Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary were granted in the Estate of Georgia E. Mooty, Deceased, to Robert L. Mooty as Independent Executor by Court Order dated March 18, 2001, in Cause No. 5,659 on the docket of the County Court at Law of Scurry County, Texas, which cause is still pending. All persons having claims against the estate being administered are hereby required to present them to the Independent Executor at the address shown below, before same is barred by General Statutes of Limitation, before such estate is closed and within the time prescribed by law.

"The estate of Georgia E. Mooty, C/O The Law Offices of James L. Killion, 2521 74th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79423."

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Exxon Mobil Corporation, P.O. Box 4358, Houston, TX 77210-4358 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil or gas. The application proposes to inject fluid and oil and gas wastes that are exempt from regulation under Subtitle C of the Federal Resource Conservation Recovery Act into the Canyon Reef formation, Salt Creek Field Unit lease, Well Number G26W located 9 miles NW from Clairemont, TX and in Salt Creek Field in Kent County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth intervals between 6200' to 6500' feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section; Oil and Gas Division; Railroad Commission of Texas; P.O. Drawer 12967–Capitol Station; Austin, Texas 78711-2967 (Telephone: (512)463-6792).

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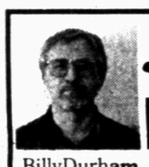
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3310 Ave. V 3-2-2 ..... $62T
3405 44th 3-2-2 ..... $59.9T
2602 35th 3-2-1-2cp $52.5T
College Ave. Large Office Bldg.. $48T
2207 42nd 3-2-1 ..... $45.9T
3007 41st Updated 3-1 Reduced $43.9T
1809 KSNY Dr. 3-1 on 4 lots .. $42.5T
Hwy 180 - 80 Acres - pens- well $42T
3606 Irving Nice 3-2-1 ..... $39.9T
3402 Irving 3-1-1 ..... $39T
3717 Avondale Cute 3-1-1 ... $35T
2106 42nd 3-1-1 screened porch.. $34.5T
2401 40th 3-1½-Office-cp $29.5T
Car Lot & Office Bldg. 1100 25th ... $25T
Approx. 7.5 A's Corner 180 & 84 $25T
2803 Ave. Y 2-1½-1 Owner Finance $13T
305 32nd 2-1 ..... $15.9T
Approx. 7 acres Ave. E. & 16th.. $15T
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Blockline Rd. 4-2-2 w/pool + 20 acres
Hermleigh 3-2 w/acreage Call for Details
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C-City 3-2-2 Must See! $68T
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Reduced! 3500 Ave. W 3-3-2.... $79.9T
2907 33rd SOLD fill 4-3-Pool.. Reduced!
2606 47th Lg lot Great Neighborhood $8T
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Nice 3406 44th 3-1 Ready to move into $29.8T
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Old Lubbock Hwy. - Office w/shop.. Only $30T
2312 FM 1611 Unique $135T
2944 Gary Brewer Rd. 3-2¾ ... $76.5T
Cedar Creek 4-2¾+2 Nice ... Reduced
3308 Ave. A 2-1 Nice $39T
2609 37th 3-2¾+3 Living Areas . $112.5
1801 22nd Reduced Comm., 7 offices/yd
3773 Highland 2-1-1cp Brick, Fp Cute .. $26.9T
2605 33rd Magnificent Custom Home
Very Nice 2708 48th 4-2-2 Brick .. $88.5T
10.14 A's 5 BR Hm/Shop/Country/Pecan
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2701 34th 3-2-2 ..... $86T
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Dolores Jones
Broker/Owner
573-5308

Joan Tate
573-8773

Debby Miller
573-2075

Shirley Drum
573-1550

Faye Blackledge
Broker/Owner
573-1223

5 Acres 3-2-2 8709 W. Hwy. 180 $60T
2312 40th Excellent Buy 3-1-1 $25T
2207 28th - Estate Sale 2-1-cp $18.5T
3502 Jacksboro - Brick, 3-2-2/patio $50T
Great Investment - 3002 37th 3,2,cp in rear - 40's
Established Business/Income Property May live on site - Many possibilities/Call for details
2202 41st Close to school, 3-1-LR+Den $30's
2907 Ave. W -Personality Plus- 3-2-2, plus sun room.....$58T
2905 Ave. W -Open & Airy- 3-1½ $40.5T
2300 32nd -Must See- 5 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage & more.....$155T
3107 Ave. A -Excellent Condition- 3-2-1 $42.5T
2510 Towle Park Rd. Great view & location 3-2-cp-pool .....$90's
2208 45th -Spacious- 4-2-4.....$62T
2018 37th Wonderful 2 Story Home, 2 master suites and Apt.....$100's
Log Home You will love this 3-2 basement, open loft, w/1 acre.....$100's
Im-1905 older home- 3-2, office, 30 A & rentals $100's
3505 Irving -Easy Terms! 3-1-¾, detached garage.....$40's
Country -Well designed for beauty & comfort 3-2-2, pool.....$100's
Custom Built -21 acres, pond 2-2, office $100's
HERMLEIGH 3-1¾+cp 160 A's mostly pasture. $100's
2812 Ave. U - Charming 2-1-2.....$45T
2902 34th Wants Offer! 3-2-2 CP....$90's
2809 Westridge - Beautiful location- 3-3-2, basement.....$100's
2701 34th -Beautiful tile- 3-2-2, plus bonus room $86T
2907 33rd Spacious 4-3-cp, pool.....$98T
Close-In Pretty 3-2-w/cp.....14 Acres
E. 23rd 3-2-shop, covered patio, 9A's...$120T
3500 Ave W -Great View 3-3-2...$85.9T
3303 Irving GREAT BUY! 4-2-2...$99.9T
4107 Avondale Brick 3-1-1.....$38T
3409 Apple COZY 3-2-fireplace .....$40's
2609 37th Needs family!! 3-2¾+2 $112.5T
2908 42nd Close to park 3-2 den & living $60T
1806 Tuscola 3-2-2.....**Reduced** $85.5T
3509 40th 3-2-cp Seller will pay $1,000 toward buyer costs .....$40's
3502 44th Perfect Touch 3-2-2 patio...$65T
IRA 3-2 Mobile Home 18 Acres.....$58T
IRA 3-2 M.H. game room, shop.....$58T
IRA Older Brick w/284 A's.....$130T
Martha Ann Blvd. Great Bldg. site .. $21T
Ready for new business - Over 10,000 sq.ft. $92.5T
1310 25th $15T & 711 26th $20T
APARTMENTS & STORAGE UNITS
$125T or Consider Trade!
We Have Rental/Lease Property

APR 01 2001

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS ALWAYS A WINNER

Dogs, Pets, Etc.

5-month old, apricot Tiny Toy Poodle. Registered, shots, $100. Very friendly, likes lots of attention. 573-5171/721-5151

Adorable Rat Terrier puppies, with shots. Also, pair of Cockatiels. Call 573-4448.

Border Collie puppies, $50. Working parents. 573-8707, 573-5325, 725-5555.

CRITTER CORNER
Fish Birds Small Animals
Aquariums Cages Supplies
Guinea Pigs $12.99!
T-W-TH-F-S 1:00–5:30
573-0990

Just in time for Easter! Very, very cute, full-blooded Boston Terriers for sale. 573-5314 575-1557

ShihTzu puppies. (2) females, registered, 1st shots. Call **573-1730**

To Give Away
Large female Chihuahua. Sweet natured, has shots. Call 574-1374 or 338-3763.

Garage Sales

ESTATE SALE
2602 35th
Friday Noon – 6p.m.
Sat. & Sun. 8a.m. – 6p.m.

INSIDE GARAGE SALE
DAYS INN
Saturday, Sunday & Monday
3p.m. – 6p.m.
Credenza, $15; Lounge table w/2 chairs, $15; More furniture & TVs

Apartments For Rent

1–2 Bedroom Apartments
Furnished/Unfurnished, all bills paid, no pets. Start at $275/mo. More information 573-5773

1 bedroom furnished garage apartment. Bills paid. $275/mo. 2709 Ave. O Call 573-2101 after 5p.m. or leave message.

Houses For Rent

1801 39th for rent. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, fenced backyard. $275/mo., $100/dep. Call **573-0900.**

***2807 38th,** 2 bedroom, corner lot, garage, fenced backyard. Need References. **573-8739**

2 bedroom brick duplex. Appliances, CH/A. 573-1012

2 bedroom, carpeted, CH/A, fireplace in den. 3009 Ave. T $15,000 573-7127

2 bedroom, CH/A, $325.00/mo. 2105 27th Call **573-8015**

2 bedroom house, $325/mo. water paid. $100/dep. **725-2764**

3-1, new carpet & paint. 2100 40th References & deposit required. No pets. $375/mo. 573-3192 or 573-2326

3-2-2, brick, CH/A, 10 miles east - Snyder 180. References. **806-629-4335**

Available May 1st
4 bedroom, 2 bath. $600/mo., $200/dep. Call 573-4782.

Small 2 bedroom house, shingled roof, cottage look. Appliances, fenced. Ideal for single or couple with child. City utility paid. $250/mo. 2506 Ave. I Call 573-9639 for particulars.

Mobile Homes For Rent

***1 bedroom mobile home,** 1 person, $275.
***Small mobile home,** 1 person $200.
Both furnished & bills paid. 2709 Ave. O Call **573-2101** after 5p.m. or leave message.

Mobile Homes For Rent

2-1½ mobile home. $250/mo., $100/dep. Call 573-0207 If no answer please leave message.

3 Bedroom Mobile Homes for rent. $250/month. 573-1711.

FOR RENT/SALE
2-2, washer/dryer & appliances.
2403 27th $300/mo., $100/dep.
915-728-3064/915-267-7037
or
Jack & Jack Realtors
573-8571

Furnished 2 bedroom mobile home, washer & dryer, fenced yard & storage building. $200/mo., no bills paid. 1805 40th Call 573-2101 after 5p.m. or leave message.

Mobile Homes

1995 Clayton Mobile Home. Santa Fe Model, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 16x80 $16,000 573-3369 573-4749

$500 Move-In
Owner Finance
Call Juan **915-725-4133**

Beautiful Doublewide in country. Call Laura 915-665-3544.

Cute Little House. Very Affordable. Call 915-673-7353.

Commercial Buildings for Sale or Lease

FOR SALE/LEASE
Commercial Building. Excellent location, College Ave., just off square. For more information:
573-5525/573-0990

Real Estate

3008 Denison Ave., 3-2-1 w/pool. New tile, carpet, paint. $79,900 573-0632 after 6p.m.

3-1 house. **2706 37th.** Will assume loan. Back porch deck, CH/A, close to all schools and churches. Call 728-8727 after 6p.m.

3-2-2 + carport, 2,000 sq.ft. New carpet, CH/A, Ceiling fans, Wood burning stove, Sun room, landscaped yard. 3108 Hill Ave. $67,500 573-5491 or 573-4203

For Sale By Owner
Country 3-1¾-2, fireplace, CH/A, all electric, 1 plus acres. 4664 Pleasant Hill Rd. 573-7909

Real Estate

Brick Home, 3-2-2, CH/A, Newly painted, Fireplace, Covered Patio, Large backyard with privacy fence, New water softener and RO system. 3505 44th St. $65,000 Call 573-5491 or 721-1838.

For Sale By Owner
Brick, 3 bedroom, 1½ bath, new carpet. 1804-38th. Call Carie, 915-573-4382 or Kenneth, 806-856-5212.

For Sale: 2 bedroom, brick. 4015 Eastridge $22,500, $2,000 down, owner financed. Must have good credit. Call 573-2649 before 5p.m.

MAD? BANKS DON'T GIVE MORTGAGE LOANS DUE TO CREDIT PROBLEMS. I DO! L.D. KIRK (254)947-4475 TEXAS FAIR RATES!

OWNER FINANCE
3-1 w/large den. 1467 sq.ft.
Low down payment. 2107 41st
$22,000 Negotiable **573-6864**

Owner Financed Homes
*$1,500 down, $350/mo., 3-1, fenced, laundry room. Under repair. $28,000, 20 years.
126 20th Place
Call Dan
1-888-525-3667
Toll Free

Work in C-City? Assume loan on 3-2-2 on 48 acres 3 miles west of C-City. Will consider trade for home in Snyder area. 915-728-2136 after 6p.m.

Kiss unwanted items goodbye

by selling them in the
Snyder Daily News
CLASSIFIEDS

573-5486

CARDS OF THANKS

THANK YOU

The family of Joe L. League wishes to express to our kind neighbors and thoughtful friends our heartfelt thanks for their many expressions of sympathy. The beautiful floral offerings were especially appreciated.

Gertrude League
Joe Charles & Bette League
Grandsons Joe Foster, Jim & wife Karen

The Family of Donna Jo "DJ" Blair

wishes to show its appreciation for all the prayers, food, flowers and cards. We also wish to thank everyone for the time and compassion shown during Donna's illness and passing.

A special thanks goes to the Doctors, Hospital Staff, friends and to anyone that touched our lives.

THANK YOU

The family of Edna Clift wishes to thank the staff of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home, Dr. Rex Reynolds, Carla Thompson, and all who served as pallbearers, for their service in mother's graveside service.

Also a great big thank you to all who provided food for the lunch.

Jerry Clift
Carolyn Clift DeLa Cruz

Tracking a fugitive: How FBI caught up with James Kopp

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — By eavesdropping on the phone calls and e-mail of two anti-abortion activists, investigators were able to follow the movements of one of their 10 most wanted fugitives, a man suspected in the 1998 sniper slaying of an abortion doctor.

FBI agents spent two years tracking James Charles Kopp from New Jersey and through Europe until Thursday, when police in France arrested him as he stopped at a post office for money.

A court affidavit signed by FBI agent Michael Osborn describes how the authorities followed Kopp's trail and finally pinned him down.

Kopp, 46, became a suspect within two weeks of the sniper attack that killed Dr. Barnett Slepian as he stood at his kitchen window near Buffalo on Oct. 23, 1998. But by the time officials went looking for him, their suspect had disappeared.

Agents believe he fled to New York City, then New Jersey, then to Ireland and finally France.

Osborn explains in the affidavit how police finally caught up with Kopp by following the movements of Dennis John Malvasi and Loretta Claire Marra in Brooklyn, two radical abortion foes arrested Thursday on federal charges of harboring a felon.

Marra had been arrested with Kopp during protests in Italy and Vermont. Malvasi, her husband, had pleaded guilty to involvement in two abortion bombings in 1987 and had served five years in prison.

When the couple were found living in a Brooklyn apartment rented under a false name, the FBI grew suspicious. Agents determined they were creating a safe house for an ailing and penniless Kopp.

"He started to tire," said Paul Moskal, an FBI agent in Buffalo. "He was living hand to mouth. It took its toll on him and I think he was looking for comfort."

As agents led Malvasi to court in handcuffs Friday, he told reporters he had "never met (Kopp) in his entire life. ... I don't know this man." Marra's attorney called her "normal in every respect."

Osborn's affidavit details a series of events in the last two months that led to Kopp's capture.

Agents monitored e-mail messages between the apartment and a person they suspected was Kopp in Ireland. He was believed to be living in hostels there and working temporary jobs.

On March 8, an Internet message from Brooklyn to Kopp reads: "What's going on, anyhow? Haven't heard from you in ages. Please let me know how you are."

The affidavit says Kopp left Ireland in the following days, and on March 21 he was traced to France by an Internet message he posted. He asked for money to be sent, and said "the sooner I get about $1,000, the sooner you'll see this smiling cherubic face."

On March 22, the affidavit says Kopp was making plans to return to the United States by way of Montreal, according to a conversation between Marra and Malvasi. They wondered why they had not heard from him:

Malvasi: "He probably doesn't have money to go to a cafe to get online ..."

Marra: "I know."

Malvasi: "I'm afraid he doesn't have enough money to get himself back."

In a message a day later, Kopp indicated he was ill. Marra responded that she and Malvasi could accommodate him, and they made plans to send him money.

On March 29, Kopp entered the post office in Dinan, France, to pick up the money, investigators said.

At the request of the FBI, French police were waiting, and they arrested Kopp, who identified himself and offered no resistance.

Kopp, of St. Albans, Vt., and known as the "Atomic Dog" in anti-abortion circles, faces state and federal charges of murder and violating the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act by using deadly force against an abortion doctor.

Both charges carry up to life in prison, and the federal charge can bring the death penalty.

That could be a problem for prosecutors trying to get him back to the United States.

French prosecutor Christine Lecrom said Friday that Kopp would not be extradited if he risks facing the death penalty. France abolished capital punishment in 1981, and French law prohibits the extradition of foreign nationals to countries where they could face the death penalty.

"They will refuse to extradite him," Lecrom said.

FBI Director Louis Freeh has acknowledged that Kopp's extradition could be a long process, but he said people originally charged with capital offenses have been extradited from France before.

The United States has 40 days to file the extradition request.

On the Net:
FBI: http://www.fbi.gov/

Lynchburg, South Carolina struggles to hold on as town

LYNCHBURG, S.C. (AP) — Allen Tyler has lived in this small crossroads town for 60 years. He loves its streets, its businesses and its people, but he says it's time Lynchburg disappeared.

The rural town of 588 people is walking a financial tightrope, and with this year's revenue at $179,000 and a debt half that amount, it could be out of money by June — and out of services.

"Lynchburg needs to be unincorporated. Every time we get money, it disappears," Tyler said as he stood outside his hardware store on a recent rainy day.

On Valentine's Day, Town Council members called a special meeting and approved ending all municipal services in April. They voted 2-1 to seek someone else to manage the police, the municipal court and the town's water and sewer system.

But the mayor and others reject the thought of the town dissolving.

"We're trying to hold on and control our own town," said Mayor Pro Tem Herman Felix Jr.

Across the nation, small local governments like Lynchburg are struggling to finance their municipal services. Towns with small and declining populations can lack the tax base needed to keep city services running, said Irene Rubin, professor of political science at Northern Illinois University.

"Small local governments are really feeling the pinch," Rubin said.

With no budget planned this year, Bibb City, Ga., officials voted to dissolve their 91-year-old charter and merge their 600 residents with the neighboring city of Columbus. Residents from of small towns from Alna, Maine, to Big Water, Utah, have become frustrated enough with their poor services to call for their towns to be unincorporated.

In Lynchburg, Town Hall shares the same block of an almost-deserted street as a post office, two hair salons, a funeral home and a tax business. The entire town is barely more than a square mile.

Lynchburg employs eight workers, but with no money to fund his position, Town Clerk Russell Miller has written himself out of his $850-a-month job starting in May.

"It's no secret things are bad right now," said Mayor Davis McClam. "There's no way this town can raise the money for its services."

Lee County already provides Lynchburg's fire protection and trash pickup. The town wants the county to consider also running the town court and possibly the police. The water and sewer system could be taken over by a private company or a neighboring city.

McClam prefers to use business terms like "consolidating" and "downsizing" to describe Lynchburg's situation and rejects suggestions that it dissolve.

"That would be utterly ridiculous and self-defeating. I attribute that talk to miseducation and ignorance," McClam said.

The decision to shut down the services followed several years of turmoil. Former Mayor Nathaniel Bess Sr. pleaded guilty last year to embezzling about $32,000 of public money from a day-care center where he worked as a bookkeeper. In 1995, Mayor Clifton Jefferson was fined and sentenced to two years' probation after he pointed a gun at a town councilman.

"We're paying taxes. We deserve better," Tyler said.

Jack McElveen, 63, who has lived in Lynchburg for nearly four decades, feels it has no choice but to farm out municipal services.

"I don't see how this town will grow. There's no way for it to go but down," he said.

In 1999, the Internal Revenue Service slapped a lien on Lynchburg town property after it failed to pay more than $50,000 in payroll taxes deducted from employee paychecks.

The Department of Health and Environmental Control said the town's water and sewer system was poorly maintained. When one of the town's two wells broke in January, the agency asked Lynchburg to spend $100,000 on repairs or contract out the service.

Bill Duncombe, an associate professor of public administration at Syracuse University, says there are trade-offs to consolidation and privatization. Merged and private services may be superior and cost-effective, but also could be impersonal.

"Clearly, people are not going to know Officer Joe down the street. The question is, how much is having a personal relationship with the police worth to you?" Duncombe asked.

A personal relationship makes all the difference for Lynchburg resident Cindy Belcher.

"I'm a little disturbed about it. I think we need the police in town because crime might go up," she said.

Larry Logan, a county councilman and Lynchburg resident, said unincorporating the town doesn't make sense.

"We just can't go 'poof' and be gone," he said. "We're already here."

Sing Sing officer killed inmate's kittens in trash compactor

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — A Sing Sing prison officer who allegedly killed five kittens in a trash compactor has been charged with cruelty to animals. The kittens' mother, Midnight, escaped by running away through the prison yard.

Sgt. Ronald Hunlock, who was charged Thursday, had found a box of kittens in an inmate's cell during a search March 11, Department of Correctional Services officials said. Hunlock allegedly told the inmate to drop the kittens in a trash compactor, but the inmate refused. Hunlock then dumped them in and turned the machine on, killing the kittens, officials said.

Midnight, found by other prison officials during an investigation, was being cared for at a shelter in Manhattan.

Hunlock, who has worked at Sing Sing Correctional Facility in Ossining, N.Y., for five years, was arrested Thursday and was to be suspended from his job without pay.

The animal-cruelty charge against him is a felony with a maximum penalty of two years in prison.

Hunlock pleaded not guilty. His bail was set at $25,000, and he was sent to a Westchester County jail.

Hunlock's next court appearance is set for April 3 in Ossining Village Court.

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Millions flowed to political parties

WASHINGTON (AP) — The political parties have tried feverishly to raise millions of dollars so far this year as Congress worked to restrict the donations they can seek.

Fund-raising committees for each party say money flowed rapidly during the first three months of an off-year for elections.

The Senate votes Monday on a bill that would dramatically change campaign laws. It would end the practice of corporations, unions and wealthy individuals funneling through the political parties unlimited amounts of almost completely unregulated "soft money" — close to $500 million in the last election.

"It's too early to tell the impact of this law," said Dwight Morris, president of the Campaign Study Group. "We have no idea what the ultimate bill should it ever emerge will look like.

"Both parties have to look at this as though nothing has changed and the arms race is still on," he said.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee announced this week that it will have raised $7.5 million in the first quarter of 2001, including more than $5 million at a single dinner held at the capital's Mayflower Hotel.

The committee "has exceeded all fund-raising expectations for this quarter," said its chairwoman, Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y. "Throughout the country there is tremendous support for Democrats to take back the House, and there's no question that we will be able to give Democratic candidates the resources they need to win."

Its GOP counterpart, the National Republican Congressional Committee, said it raised nearly as much — $7 million — at a dinner Wednesday night at the Washington Hilton Hotel, where Vice President Dick Cheney spoke. The committee won't release its overall fund-raising totals until this summer.

Committee chairman Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., said the turnout of close to 2,000 at the dinner was "a demonstration of enthusiasm in this town for President Bush, Vice President Cheney and the Republican Congress."

The Democratic National Committee raised close to $3 million Thursday night at a dinner for 300 at the National Museum for Women and the Arts. The DNC won't announce its overall totals until summer.

"In July, people will be surprised at how well we've done in an off-year," said DNC spokeswoman Jenny Backus. "Reports of our death are greatly exaggerated."

The Republican National Committee reported raising $17 million during the first two months of 2001. It cited a record number of small donations, and party Chairman Jim Gilmore called it a sign of support for administration proposals for tax relief, school improvements and strengthening the military.

Kids will be helped by tax cuts, Bush says

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is offering a new reason to support his budget and tax-cut plan; Do it for the children.

Bush devoted his weekly radio address Saturday to emphasizing the initiatives his budget provides to improve "the education, health and character of American children."

"My budget spends additional money on these goals and spends it in effective, creative ways," he asserted.

The president is making children and their needs the focus of the coming week. On Tuesday, he will participate in a round-table discussion at a Boys and Girls Club in Wilmington, Del. On Wednesday, he is scheduled to welcome to the White House members of the Children's Miracle Network, which raises money for pediatric hospitals.

In the radio address, Bush laid out these budget priorities:

—Place a new emphasis on the teaching of reading, with the goal of helping all children read by the third grade. He said his plan, "Reading First," would triple the available money to improve and expand reading programs.

—Increase federal money for Head Start while focusing the popular program on preparing "our nation's most disadvantaged children to learn as soon as they enter school."

—Spend more than $1 billion, a 12 percent increase from this year, on research on childhood diseases at the National Institutes for Health.

Chamber requests no camping waiver

Hoping to increase attendance to the annual Fourth of July celebration in Towle Park, the Snyder Chamber of Commerce has approached county commissioners about waiving the no camping ordinance during the holiday this year.

The court will discuss the request when it meets at 10 a.m. Monday.

Camping was banned in the park several years ago due to problems with some of the campers.

"It was getting to be a problem. People were parking vehicles and RVs on the grass area," County Judge Ricky Fritz said. "There were no restrictions, so people were parking everywhere and anywhere and staying for extended lengths of time. The police department also was having trouble controlling alcohol and after-hours mischief."

The holiday falls on a Wednesday this year.

"When the Fourth of July falls in the middle of the week, traditionally, we don't have very good attendance, so maybe this will help a little bit," Judge Fritz said.

Commissioners will also consider a request from Sheriff Darren Jackson for an Internet line at the sheriff's department.

"He is requesting an Internet line at the sheriff's office so he can do direct reporting to the state," Fritz said.

In one other agenda item, the court will discuss seeking bids for the sale of scrap metal. Fritz said the scrap metal has accumulated at the county's precinct barns over the years.

"They want to sell it and get it out of the yards," said Fritz.

CID investigating injury, stolen car

• ***Under investigation***

The Criminal Investigations Division of the Snyder Police Department is investigating a case of injury to a child and a case of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, both reported Friday.

Sgt. Keith Ward filed the offense report for injury to a child at 2:45 p.m. while Officer Mike Duddleston took the report for UUMV from Tim Mitchell at 9:26 a.m. Friday.

• ***Trespass warning served***

Officers were called to the Plaza Truck Stop Friday morning in reference to a man creating a disturbance and then leaving. The man was served with a criminal trespass warning to stay away from the restaurant.

• ***Disturbance***

A representative with Cogdell Memorial Hospital requested officers at 1:19 p.m. Friday in reference to a family disturbance. A 22-year-old man was arrested for Class A assault and family violence.

• ***Boy with BB gun***

Police were contacted at 1:40 p.m. Friday about a juvenile male pointing a BB pistol at several young children at the Kiddie Park on March 23. An officer spoke with the mother of the juvenile and advised her of the complaint.

• ***Loud music***

A woman in the 3800 block of Noble Drive was issued a citation at 1:31 a.m. Saturday following a second complaint of loud music coming from her residence.

• ***Arrests***

At 10:26 a.m. Friday, an 18-year-old woman was taken into custody on misdemeanor warrants for theft and motion to revoke probation.

A Potter County misdemeanor warrant for issuance of a bad check landed a 43-year-old man in jail at 1:54 p.m. Friday.

A 24-year-old man was arrested at 10:53 p.m. Friday on warrants for failing to pay fines for expired motor vehicle registration and inspection.

Senior Center Menu

Monday

Chopped BBQ on a bun, potato salad, pinto beans, pickles/onions/peppers, tropical fruit.

Tuesday

Oven fried chicken w/cream gravy, steak fries, green beans, pineapple cheese salad, coconut pudding.

Wednesday

Grilled ham, buttered carrots, English peas, tomato wedges, peach whip.

Thursday

Smothered steak, mashed potatoes, spinach, carrot/raisin salad, chocolate cake w/cream cheese frosting.

Friday

Fried fish, hominy w/cheese sauce, tomatoes & green beans, Jellied vegetable salad, cherry cheesecake dessert.

Senior Center News

The Golden K Kiwanis fish fry will be from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. next Sunday in the Senior Center dining room. Meals are $6 per plate and children under six eat free. Tickets may be purchased from Golden K Kiwanis members, at the Senior Center office, or at the door.

Take-out plates will be available. The center is located at 2603 Avenue M. The Golden K Kiwanis is a service organization, so please make plans to attend the fundraiser and support them in their efforts to serve our community.

A "55 Alive" class is scheduled for April 16-17, from 12:30- 4:30 p.m. Cost is $10 and attendance is required on both days. Call the center at 573-4035 for more information.

Our inventory of folding chairs is low, so we are asking for penny donations to replenish our supply of chairs. Please help — every penny counts.

Monday

At the center, bridge play begins at 9:30 a.m., the domino tournament at 9:30 a.m., and daily exercise at 11. Seniors may enjoy swimnastics at WTC, from 10-11 a.m.

Tuesday

Eighty-eight play begins at 10 a.m. The Western Band will entertain at 11 a.m. in the dining room and the Golden K Kiwanis meet at noon.

Wednesday

Volunteer Bernhard Bartels will be available from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1-3 p.m. to assist low-income individuals with the income tax filing forms. April 11th will be his last day at the center. The Kitchen Band will entertain the residents of Snyder Healthcare from 10-11 a.m. Line dancing and clogging are scheduled for 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., respectively.

Thursday

The fabric painting class begins at 9 a.m. in the quilting room. The Sunshine Choir will entertain at Snyder Healthcare from 10-11 a.m. Swimnastics for seniors at WTC begins at 1 p.m.

Friday

The blood pressure checks and bridge play begin at 9:30 a.m., eighty-eight at 11, and the sing-a-long at 11:30 a.m.

The Center's Mayday fundraiser is only five weeks away. We encourage all volunteers to make plans to attend and participate by helping with preparations, booths, barbecue, silent auction, quilt auction, and making crafts and baked goods. The ExxonMobil cooking team has again offered to prepare the brisket for the barbecue. Grady and Molly Morris have also volunteered to auction the quilts.

In addition, the Garden Club will display their projects and have their yearly competition. There will also be an antique farm equipment and tractor show. Make plans to join us for a great day beginning at 2 p.m. at the Scurry County Coliseum.

Obituaries

Eva Gonzales

1921-2001

SEGUIN — Eva Barnhardt Gonzales of Stockdale, mother of Elida Rodriguez of Snyder, died Wednesday, March 28, in a Seguin hospital.

Mrs. Gonzales, 79, will be cremated and a memorial service will be held in Stockdale at a later date. Arrangements are by Palmer Mortuary in Sequin.

She was born Aug. 16, 1921 in Nixon.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Marcos Gonzales, in 1967.

She is survived by another daughter, Manuela DeLeon of Luling, and her husband, Luke; another son-in-law, Ector Rodriguez of Snyder; a brother, Leslie Barnhardt of Sutherland Springs; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Personal, Professional Service

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME

3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Births

Nikki Hudson and Salvador Castillo of Snyder announce the birth of their daughter, Hailie Xalyn, at 9:44 a.m. on March 30 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Hailie weighed six pounds, five ounces.

WCFH

Independently Owned & Operated

WRIGHT COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME

200 East 37th St. Snyder, Texas

915-573-6200

FOR INFORMATION GO TO WWW.AMERICANMEMORIALS.COM

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Church on the Rock revival

Church on the Rock, 2214 42nd St., concludes its revival with evangelist Rodrigo Salazar at 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Word is Life revival

The Word is Life Church, 312 Coliseum Drive, revical continues at 7 p.m. and at 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Evangelist is George Rojas of Ft. Worth.

Spring revival services

North College Avenue Baptist Church will host a spring revival Sunday through Wednesday. On Sunday, the church will try to set a record attendance for Sunday School and Sunday night. Monday is "blues night" with everyone encouraged to wear blue. Tuesday is music night with special choir music. Wednesday is children and youth night. There will be a dessert fellowship each evening, with Sunday being ice cream, Monday is pie and Tuesday is cake night. A hot dog social will follow the Wednesday meeting.

First Assembly of God revival

The First Assembly of God, 1809 College Ave., will have a revival at 7 p.m. nightly Sunday through Thursday. Jerry Wilkerson is the evangelist.

Choir concert

A choir concert is set for 7 p.m. Monday at Worsham Auditorium. The junior high choirs will perform the selections that won their sweepstakes honors at the UIL contest held Wednesday. The high school choirs will perform the songs they will sing for UIL competition on Wednesday and Thursday. No admission will be charged.

Grand jury

Scurry County grand jury is expected to have a brief session Monday when it convenes at 8:30 a.m. in 132nd District Court. Two felony cases are expected to be considered.

Central book fair

Central Elementary School will have a Scholastic Book Fair Monday through Friday from 8-8:30 a.m. and 3:30-4 p.m.

VFW Auxiliary election

Election of VFW Ladies Auxiliary officers will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the VFW post.

Bible study tapes

Bible study videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "The Salt of the Earth," followed by "Are You Listening?"

Public safety career fair

Western Texas College and the West Central Texas Tech Prep will host a public safety career fair from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Wednesday in the WTC gym For more information, call the vocational division at 573-8511, ext. 250.

Income tax help

An IRS-approved program for elderly and low-income persons of any age is held from 9 a.m. until noon and from 1-3 p.m. every Wednesday at the Snyder Senior Citizens Center.

Joy School pre-registration

Joy School pre-registration starts Thursday at Eastside Church of Christ. Sign-up times are from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Call 573-3554 for more information.

West family reading night

West Elementary holds its family reading night from 6-7:30 p.m. every Thursday. New sessions have been added. Childcare and refreshments are provided.

FBC worship service

The First Baptist Church worship service airs at 3 p.m. each Thursday on TV Channel 2.

Gateway fundraiser

Gateway Family Services will present the Flying J Wranglers from Ruidoso at 7 p.m. next Saturday in the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. Tickets are $25 and include an evening of food and entertainment.

Enchilada plate fundraiser

Faith Revival Church, 3212 Ave. J, will have enchilada plates for $5 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. next Saturday. For information call 573-1798.

Golden K fish fry

Golden K Kiwanis Club will serve catfish with all the trimmings from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. next Sunday at the Senior Citizens Center. Cost is $6, including carryouts. Children under six eat free.

Benefit turkey dinner

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 13th Street and Ave. K, is having a benefit dinner beginning at 11 a.m. next Sunday. Tickets are $5 for adults and $2.50 for children. For tickets, call Anita at 573-9670 or Irene at 573-3732.

Experiencing God, The Musical

The combined choirs of Colonial Hill Baptist Church and First Baptist Church will present Experiencing God, The Musical, at 2 and 7 p.m. next Sunday at the First Baptist Church Worship Center. There is no admission charge and everyone is welcome.

Alzheimer support group

The Alzheimer family support group meets at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at Snyder Oaks Care Center.

SHS senior student pictures

Parents of SHS seniors are asked to bring student pictures for the May steak supper to the high school office. Pictures are needed for the video from baby years, elementary school and middle school. Deadline is Thursday, April 12. Videos may also be used.

Adult basic education classes

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

APR 01 2001

TSU student's death resulted from hazing

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A Tennessee State University student's death — ruled the result of an initiation ritual — isn't the first for the Omega Psi Phi fraternity, an attorney said.

Joseph T. Green, 25, collapsed while jogging at the Whites Creek High School track Jan. 29 at about 5:30 a.m. He was taken to Skyline Medical Center in cardiopulmonary distress with a temperature of 103.7 before he died.

A coroner's report released this week concluded Green, a junior, died as a result of "exercise during fraternity initiation." Nashville medical examiner Bruce Levy said he believes Green was asked to perform various exercises, such as calisthenics and jogging, as part of initiation into the fraternity.

Green died of exercise and environmentally induced hyperthermia and acute asthma attack, the report said. Toxicology tests found no drugs or alcohol in Green's body.

A criminal investigation into Green's death is under way, and some evidence has been turned over to the district attorney's office for review, police spokesman Don Aaron said. No charges have been filed.

Terry McNabb, an attorney for Green's mother, said the family is contemplating a lawsuit against the fraternity, the students involved in the incident and the university. He said Green, a daily runner, was in good health with no history of asthma or other problems when he collapsed.

"Running someone to death is about as bad as you can get," McNabb said. Pointing to another case in Texas, the attorney said, "This is not the first time this has happened."

Green's death is not unlike the death of Harold A. Thomas, a junior at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, who suffered a cardiac hemorrhage in 1987 after jogging four miles on the university track — exercise that was part of an initiation ritual into Omega Psi Phi, McNabb said.

However, the fraternity denied involvement in that incident, and a grand jury later decided hazing was not a factor. A university commission also determined that hazing was not involved in Thomas' death.

Tennessee State released a statement saying administrators are cooperating with the investigation into Green's death.

"The university has clear rules in place regarding the intake process for membership into Greek organizations ...," according to the statement. "Upon due process regarding this matter, appropriate and immediate disciplinary action will be taken."

Omega Psi Phi in 1983 was suspended from the TSU campus for five years after a student died of alcohol poisoning following a party given as an initiation ceremony. Vann Watts, 20, had a blood-alcohol level of 0.52 — five times the legal limit.

An Omega Psi Phi chapter at the University of Louisville in Kentucky agreed to pay $1 million to a student who suffered renal failure after being beaten with wooden paddles in 1997 as part of a hazing ritual.

A fraternity member at North Carolina A&T State University was given a two-year prison sentence in 1987 for hitting pledges in the head with a piece of lumber.

An attorney for Omega Psi Phi did not immediately return messages left by The Associated Press.

Yet, Carl Hunter, adviser to the TSU chapter, said that while the fraternity has strict guidelines prohibiting hazing, "you can't stop individuals. You can't really stop people from doing wrong if they want to do wrong."

Virginia LeBlanc, executive director of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, the governing body of black fraternities and sororities, said hazing is a problem for all colleges and universities that is difficult to root out.

Despite efforts to educate students on laws prohibiting hazing, "it's so embedded in some of the individual chapters that ... it's not something that can be wiped out over night."

On the Net:

Tennessee State University: www.tnstate.edu/

Omega Psi Phi: www.charweb.org/organizations/fraternal/omega.htm

National Pan-Hellenic Council: www.nphc.org/

Tuscon center giving up artificial heart link

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — University Medical Center, a pioneer in heart transplants, says red ink is forcing it to sever its link with an artificial heart it developed and a company it created.

UMC officials said Thursday the center will still perform heart transplants and will still use artificial hearts for patients in greatest need while awaiting transplants.

However, the teaching hospital will no longer operate CardioWest Inc., the company UMC established 10 years ago to develop the only total artificial heart.

The device is the only one of its kind that replaces the entire heart. It is used as an emergency measure for patients near death with advanced heart disease.

UMC losses exceeded $4 million this year, and CardioWest losses have run as high as $1 million a month, forcing the decision, UMC Chief Executive Greg Pivirotto said.

"This is a gut-wrenching decision, and I don't say that lightly," Pivirotto said. "The question has been in the back of our minds for many years: Can we as a relatively small academic medical center really sustain this effort?"

The reluctant move comes just as the current artificial heart is on the verge of winning final Food and Drug Administration approval for sale in the United States, Pivirotto said.

Lack of such approval is one of the factors that have cramped CardioWest and UMC operations.

The CardioWest device is licensed in Europe and Canada. In this country, however, the FDA allows only a handful of hospitals to use it — and the agency bars CardioWest from earning a profit on it.

FDA approval would allow CardioWest to sell the device and at prices probably greater than the European price of $25,000 to $50,000 per unit, said Rich Smith, a biomedical engineer who is vice president of CardioWest and director of UMC's artificial heart program.

Such approval also would tend to lead health insurance plans to pay for the device's use, which most won't do now.

The artificial heart program was developed under the leadership of Dr. Jack Copeland, recognized as one of the world's leading heart surgeons.

Since September 1985, when Copeland first succeeded in the then-radical step of using an artificial heart as a temporary bridge to a donor heart transplant, UMC doctors have implanted 68 artificial hearts and 119 mechanical heart-assist devices.

Even as UMC was stepping away from CardioWest, five patients were being kept alive by the company's devices, including a 65-year-old man who received one Wednesday night.

Setting CardioWest adrift is "breaking my heart," Copeland said. "We were doing a great thing, something that no one else in the world has ever done, which is to get this through the FDA. It would have been spectacular for UMC to do.

"But I understand the hospital is having financial trouble, and I wouldn't want to feel the CardioWest is dragging UMC down," Copeland said.

Officials said it is likely that another hospital or company will buy or take over CardioWest and produce the device.

Solar eruptions is likely to disrupt telecommunications

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — Intense storms raging on the sun made the night sky shimmer red and green as far south as Palm Springs, Calif., and southern New Mexico, and scientists say the storms could briefly disrupt telecommunications as they continue through the weekend.

The biggest sunspot cluster seen in at least 10 years has developed on the upper right quarter of the side of the sun visible from Earth, according to satellite readings.

Friday night, the light from solar flares was reported near cities including Palm Springs and Sacramento, Calif.; Flagstaff, Ariz.; and Albuquerque and Carlsbad, N.M.

"It has totally lit up the sky. We've had dozens and dozens of calls. People want to know what it is," said Bill Seigel, a producer at radio station KESQ in Palm Desert, 115 miles east of Los Angeles. "Some people thought it was UFOs."

Just north of Albuquerque, David MacKel was making the rounds at his security job when he saw the lights. He noted it on his report at 11:23 p.m.

"It was blood red. That's all I can say. It was kind of opaque and you could see the stars through it," MacKel said. He said he had seen the Northern Lights while in Alaska, but "the Northern Light move, this was more gaseous. It kind of got me freaked out."

Eddy County, N.M., Deputy Danny Gonzales described it as a purple haze. "It was very distinct in color," he said. "I have never seen anything like it."

Anthony Watts, a meteorologist in Chico, Calif., about 170 miles north of San Francisco, said the glow from the coronal mass ejection was interesting, but posed no threat.

"There's no danger, however there is the likelihood that we'll have radio or television interruptions," Watts said.

The sunspot, which is a cooler, darker region on the sun's surface, is caused by a concentration of temporarily distorted magnetic fields.

Student shot near school

GARY, Ind. (AP) — Students were gathering in front of Lew Wallace High School for the last day of classes before spring break, a day featuring a talent show, when a gunshot blast sounded in the parking lot.

Neal Boyd, a 16-year-old sophomore, dropped to the ground as students scattered. The gunman then fled, witnesses told police.

"They said he walked up to him (Boyd), shot him once, walked away, then pulled up his hood and started running," said Gary Police Officer Jeff Tatum, who is stationed at the school.

Donald Ray Burt Jr., 17, a former student at the school, was taken into custody about 45 minutes later and was charged with murder, Lake County prosecutor Bernard A. Carter said.

Police Chief John Roby told The Associated Press that the suspect admitted shooting Boyd and told authorities where he hid the gun.

"It was a one-on-one incident," Roby said. "Basically what happened, the 17-year-old walked up to the 16-year-old and put a gun to his head and fired one shot."

After the shooting, Tatum ran to the scene, where he found Boyd trying to get up after he was shot.

"He was saying, 'Help me, help me,'" Tatum said. "It wasn't very clear, but you could understand what he was saying."

Scurry County Service Men & Women

(Editor's Note: Citizens are invited to write their servicemen and servicewomen stationed stateside and overseas. Anyone having additions, changes or corrections to the list should submit them in writing to the Snyder Daily News, P.O. Box 949, Snyder, TX, 79550, or bring them by the office at 3600 College Ave. Sorry, no addresses will be accepted over the telephone.

Sgt. Joe Bilano Jr. USMC
Marine Security Guard Detachment
American Embassy Mexico City
P.O. Box 3087
Laredo, Tx. 78044-3087

Marisa Barrera Clement
CMR 477 Box 688
APO AE 09165

Jeremy Clifton MP Division
USS John Young (DD 973)
FPO AP 96686-1211

Mineman First Class
(SW) Delton C.
"Cole" Drum II
Mobile Mine Assembly
Unit Eleven
2214 W. Old Tom Rd.
Goose Creek SC 29445-8608

Sgt. Cory M. Fisher
1983 Oakwell Farm
Parkway #807
San Antonio, Tx. 78218

Maj. Amadeo B. Garza
Hidelburg A.F. Base
Florida

Scott & Amy Graham
29 Ridgecrest Dr.
Hope Mills, NC 28348

Japan
AO3 Gulseth, Sharon
VS-21 AO SHOP
FPO AP 96601-6500

Recruit Hardin, Wil C.
PLT 1131, DCO, 1st RTBN, MCRD
40002 Midway Ave. Unit 5
San Diego, CA 92140-5525

SR Justin C. Herrington
456-39-8525
First Division
USS Dubque LPD-8
FPO AP 96663-1711

Sgt. Michael R. Hill
ALPHA Co. 10th Signal BT.
10640 South Riva Ridge Loop
Ft. Drum, NY 13602

LCPL Jones, N.J. (Nicky)
CSC/Maintenance Platoon
Box 33038
MCB Kaneohe, HI 96863

Quintin and Christina Kasparek
15540 East Center Ave.
Apartment #E-103
Aurora, Co. 80017

Sgt. Michael D. Long
C Trp ¼ Cav.
CMR 464 Bx. 306
APO AE 09226

PFC Mann, Louis
Delta Company 4-5AOA
Fort Hood, Tex. 76544

William Jared McMillan
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Chase Minter
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APO AE 09603

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4063 PSC#4
Lackland AFB, Tex. 78236-6040

Melchor Para
2/1 Weapons CO. 81 PLT
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055

Lt. Col. Greg Pavlik
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San Antonio, TX 78247

Ssgt Brad Pilgrim & Dawn Pilgrim
4615 A
Redwood St. SW
McChord AFB,WA 98439

Ssgt Mark S. & Ssgt. Stacy J. Pilgrim
67th Fighter Squadron
PSC 80 Box 15172
APO, AP
96367

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Marine Corps Detachment
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Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.65473

Cpl. Freddie &
Christy Rocha
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29 Palms, Calif. 92278

Sgt. Jason Sealy
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Bolling AFB DC 20336

L.CPL Thompson Jacob L.
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Virginia Beach, VA 23456

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APOAE 09703

EM3 Wittie, Shawn D.
4100 L Declaration Drive
Grafton, VA 23692

Sgt. Daniel A. Wells
ACO 602D ASB
Unit #15725
APO AP 96257

Boy has magic touch

SAN ANTONIO — OK, so Zac Salyer didn't graduate from the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. But the 8-year-old Universal City boy still has a few tricks up his sleeve that would do Harry Potter proud. And we're not just talking balls disappearing under cups. Give Zac a small deck of cards or a goldfish and he'll do things with them that'll leave you scratching your head in amazement.

Zac's magic act recently was televised on "Lance Burton's Young Magicians Showcase" on FOX Family cable. Burton, the famous Las Vegas magician, screened more than 200 video submissions. Of the 15 kids selected, Zac was the youngest wizard of the bunch. (He was 7 when he taped his "Showcase" segment.)

"At first I kind of felt like I wouldn't look that good in front of all these bigger kids," says Zac from the Salyer home. "But then I found out that I really actually have good tricks. They had better ones, but that didn't bother me."

Talk about magic modesty. Some of Zac's illusions include conjuring goldfish and rabbits, as well as transforming ropes into scarves and changing a four of diamonds into a nine before your eyes.

One of his favorite tricks, called the bird box, involves making a fake bird vanish from its coop.

"We could use a real dove but my mom wouldn't let animals in the house," Zac says.

Just the same, Zac's parents wholeheartedly support their son's magic endeavors.

"You hate to brag on your own son but he's a natural," says Steve Salyer, a physician's assistant at the University Hospital Emergency Center. "Zac has a stage persona that all of (the magicians in Las Vegas) would love to have. But we don't push him. He also plays guitar and plays G.I. Joe. And then there's soccer and baseball."

But with Zac it's all about the magic. Sally Salyer recalls how her son got the magic bug when he was 3. A friend's birthday party had a magician amusing the guests. Young Zac sat mesmerized in the front row, hounding the magician with a "How'd you do that?" at every turn. When Steve and Sally later went to Las Vegas, they saw Burton's magic show and returned with two souvenirs: A Barbie for their daughter Laura (now 11) and a Lance Burton magic kit for Zac.

"Zac was just thrilled to death," says Sally, a substitute teacher in the Judson School District.

For his first show, Sally painted a Mandrake-like mustache on Zac and dubbed him "Senor Zac." Mr. Zac quickly became a kindergarten sensation at Olympia Elementary School and soon performed feats of prestidigitation at family get-togethers.

The Salyers chronicled Zac's magic ride on video. Then in July 1999, a friend of Sally's mentioned a casino magazine ad looking for young magicians. The Salyers quickly mailed off Zac's video and crossed their fingers. In September, a big package from Burton arrived.

Zac and his family were flown to Vegas in December 1999 to tape Zac's magic segment before more than 1,200 at the Lance Burton Theatre in the Monte Carlo Resort & Casino.

There, Zac exchanged sleights of hand with magic greats such as Gary Darwin, Mac King and Fielding West. And when Zac couldn't wow the crowds with his onstage sorcery, he got laughs with a jaunty soft-shoe routine.

Sally says that's all part of her son's bubbling personality. Since he's gotten into magic, she's noticed his conduct grades have taken a magical turn for the better, too.

"If he behaves and gets good grades, he gets a magic trick," she says. "We go to the magic shop and spend hours there. He works real hard at school."

He also works hard at preserving magic's, well, magic. Thanks to masked magicians and Web sites exposing tricks of the trade, Zac upholds the time-honored magician's code: Keep 'em guessing.

Brooke Williams

Brooke Williams pageant finalist

Brooke Williams, daughter of Terry and Michelle Williams of Snyder, has been selected a finalist in Texas' 21st annual Homecoming Queen Selection to be held April 21-22 at the DFW Marriott in Irving. She was crowned Snyder High School homecoming queen last fall.

Texas' 2001 homecoming queen will receive a cash scholarship plus an expense paid trip to the national finals to compete with queens from the other states for America's homecoming queen.

America's Homecoming Queen Inc. is a non-profit organization promoting education, educational travel, and non-violence in schools in all 50 states.

Four charged in boar's slaughter

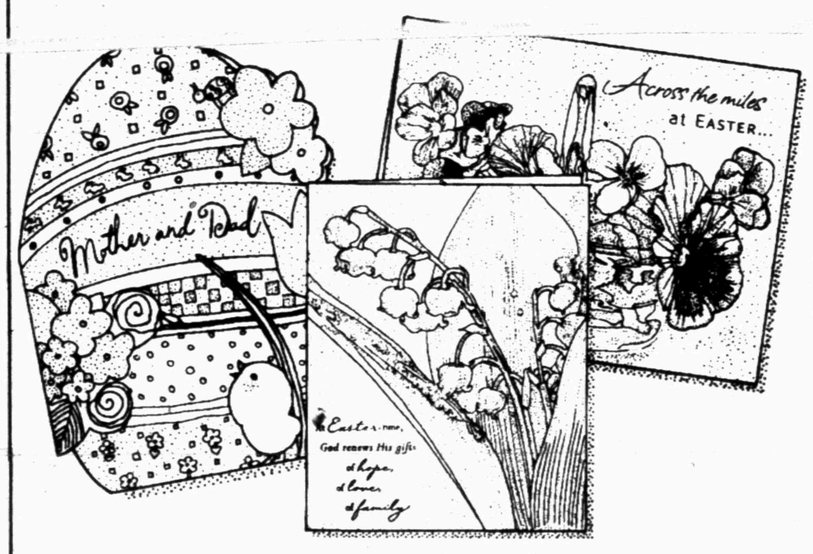
TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Radio talk show host Todd Clem and three others were charged with animal cruelty for the castration and slaughter of a wild boar in a radio station's parking lot.

The charges, filed Thursday, are punishable by five years in prison.

Hundreds of people sent letters and e-mails to WXTB-FM and to law enforcement agencies complaining about a Feb. 27 "roadkill barbecue" promotion that took place while Clem was on the air.

Clem was suspended after the event.

Hallmark has Cards for Everybunny!



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We have cards for all your Easter bunnies.
Easter is Sunday, April 15.
Hallmark
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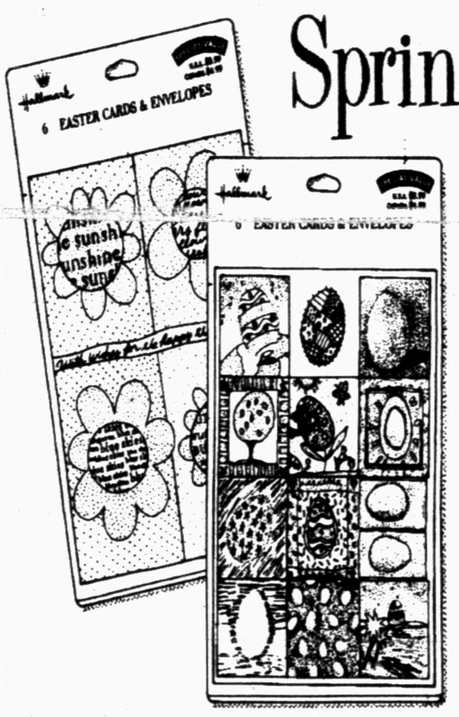
Spring for Cards for Everyone!



Special value prices mean more people get to hear from you!
Easter is Sunday, April 15.
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The Pleasure's Mine
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APR 01 2001

MARRIAGE ANNOUNCED— Betsy Griffin and Merle Griffin announce the marriage of their son, John Feagan Griffin, to Amanda Marie Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Sanders and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Marts. They wre married in Dallas on Jan. 5. (Contributed Photo)

Knowing about dangerous drug interactions could save your life

Learning more about dangerous drug interactions could save your life.

For example, many people may assume that it's okay to take an over-the-counter remedy with a prescription drug, but this decision could provoke a serious health risk.

"Patients often mistakenly believe over-the-counter medications or herbal remedies are safe under all circumstances because they can buy these products at the supermarket or health food store without a prescription," said Andrew Garling, M.D., senior vice president of clinical operations for AdvancePCS, a leading health improvement company. "Most common nonprescription therapies can have serious effects when taken with certain prescription medications."

The potential for dangerous interactions is huge. About two-thirds of the nation's population currently uses medicines. According to government estimates, Americans buy nearly $11 billion in over-the-counter drugs annually. The sale of herbal remedies represents a market exceeding $2 billion-excluding vitamins and minerals.

Surveys commissioned by AdvancePCS confirm many people are unaware that common, and seemingly harmless, herbal remedies and over-the-counter medications can be dangerous when combined with certain prescription medications. For example:

Taking a prescription blood thinner, such as Coumadin, with an herbal remedy containing garlic, could cause uncontrolled bleeding and/or excessive bruising.

Combining prescription pain relievers containing acetaminophen, such as Percocet or Darvocet, with nonprescription cold remedies containing acetaminophen, such as Tylenol Cold or Contact Cold, could cause liver damage.

Taking St. John's Wort, a natural remedy for depression, with a prescription antidepressant such as Prozac, could cause agitation, confusion, sleeplessness, and elevated blood pressure.

AdvancePCS recommends that people keep a written record of all prescriptions, over-the-counter medicines, herbal remedies, and vitamin supplements they use so it's easy to share the information with their physicians and pharmacists.

Bridal Registry

Mauna Flora and Dell Blackwell
Kassie Drain and Sammy Meche
Michelle Lewallen and Steve Wiseman
Stephanie Whittenburg and Donny Smith
LaTrisha Lee and Carl Spain
Sarah Lilly and Chris Post
Kalli Pierce Babb and Jake Babb
Tiffany Greene and Arron Epps
Melissa Hicks and Brodie Harris
Jamee Goolsby and Michael Moreno
Amber Rich and Cody Stewart
Christina Gonzales and Tracy Chavez
Jennifer Jones and John Smith
Alicia Kubena and Shane Guldbransen
Frances Bavousett and Lucus Burris
Alisha Allen and Jeremy Bowden
Melody Shultz and Chris Mackey

Infant Registry

Wedding Invitations
•Tuxedo Rentals
Phone In Orders Welcome
Free Delivery To Bridal Shower

Classic Interior
2520 Ave. R East Side of Square 573-1701
Open Mon.-Fri. 9:30-5:30, Sat. 10:00-4:00

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 03-30-01
♠ 7 6 3
♥ A 7 5 2
♦ A 8 6 4 3
♣ 4

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

East
♠ K Q 10 8
♥ 8 6
♦ Q 10 7
♣ 8 6 5 3

South
♠ J 2
♥ K 4 3
♦ K 5 2
♣ A K Q 10 9

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ Q

Friday, March 30, 2001

The exception proves the rule

All week, we have been looking at various suit combinations. Monday and Tuesday, I gave this rule to follow when you have only one honor missing: Divide the number of cards the opponents hold by two, rounding up if the answer includes a half. That is their number. Then add up your top tricks. If your number is less, finesse. But if your top-trick total is equal to or greater than their number, play for the drop.

However, I have found one combination that — by 0.4 percent! — doesn't work. It is the exception that proves the rule — which is, in my view, one of the more daft proverbs.

You cruise into three no-trump via a Stayman inquiry. West leads the heart queen.

If you play on diamonds, the defenders might cash their spade tricks. Agreed, they might not, but if you can net five club tricks, you don't need help from the defense.

Since you are missing seven cards, their number is four. You have only three top honors. So, the rule says to take a first-round finesse of the 10. (And that would be mathematically best if you didn't have the nine.) However, my reference works tell me that finessing on the first round works 35.9 percent of the time; whereas playing the honors from the top gets home 36.3 percent of the time.

Having said that, I spent ages trying to construct a deal in which you had no good reason to ignore the percentages. So, please don't write in and say that because West is longer in hearts, the odds change. Just bear with me for once.

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North 03-31-01
♠ A J 9
♥ A Q 7 6 4 2
♦ 2
♣ A K 5

West
♠ Q 10 8 7
♥ K 10 8
♦ 9 8 4 3
♣ 9 7

East
♠ 5 4 3 2
♥ J 9
♦ J 7 6 5
♣ Q J 10

South
♠ K 6
♥ 5 3
♦ A K Q 10
♣ 8 6 4 3 2

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: North

South	West	North	East
		1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	6 ♣	All pass

Opening lead: ♣ 9

Saturday, March 31, 2001

The winners have been identified

Finally I can announce the winners of my Christmas Competition. The problem was to find the highest-scoring North-South contract, given that you knew where all 52 cards were located and that West would lead the club nine.

Some readers proposed redoubled contracts with profitable overtricks, but leaving that aside, only the following entrants had the right answer: Colin Campbell, New Haven, Conn.; Mel Hochster, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Rudra Jyoti Dutta Majumdar, West Bengal, India; Gaar Potter, Denver, Colo.; Karla and Michael Shippey, Yorba Linda, Calif.; Harold Simon, Ventura, Calif.; Dick Tani, Mount Prospect, Ill.; Joseph Tanne, Conshohocken, Pa.; and Frank Turco, Henderson, Nev.,

The senryu idea proved most popular, with many wonderful entries. The unluckiest — if that is the right word — person was Nancy Seeley, who has been a prize winner for the last two years. Her entry was 11 verses of senryu, but unfortunately she had the wrong answer! (She added another 23 senryu as well!) However, she and several others will receive prizes. And over the following weeks, I will try to find space for my favorites.

Based on their senryu, I have decided to declare joint grand-prize winners: Messrs. Potter and Tanne. (The latter was also successful three and four years ago.) One of Potter's senryu was the answer:

Declare seven spades,
Top clubs, four diamonds, throw club,
Finesse hearts, cross home.

Note that "diamond" can be either a two- or three-syllable word.

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Duplicate Bridge Scores

Friday, March 23

Monte West directed games at Snyder Country Club.

A group.

1. Dot Casey, Margaret Birdwell.
2. Pat Floyd, Peggy Hardin.
3. Barbara Yorgesen, Dora Blakey.
4. Ann Davis, Monte West.

G group.

1. Pat Floyd, Peggy Hardin.
2. Suzy Reed, Martha Fagin.
3. LaVerne Hood, Gwen Sealy.
4. Nina Nesbit, ElWanda Nall.

Sunday, March 25

Jane Hinton directed.

1. Margaret Birdwell, Jane Hinton.
2. Maribeth Vestal, Barbara Yorgesen tied with Pat Floyd, Peggy Hardin.
3. Dora Blakey, Nina Nesbit.

Tuesday, March 27

Monte West directed.

1. Margaret Birdwell, Dorothy Rosson.
2. Linda West, Monte West.
3. Nonnie Ward, Martha Fagin.
4. Louise Thompson, Tizzy Hall.

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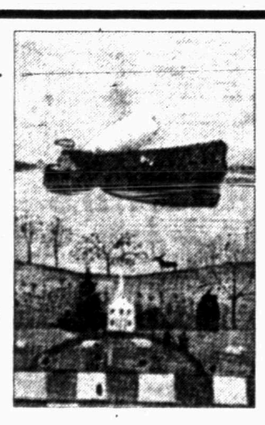

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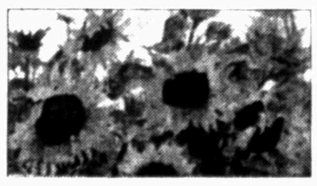

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SUMMERS-DOME ENGAGED — Susan Summers and Marion Dome announce their engagement and approaching wedding. Parents of the couple are Rodney and Judy Summers of Snyder and Floris and Bernadette Dome of Pfeifer, Kan. Summers is a Snyder High School graduate and attended Western Texas College and is employed at Central Kansas ENT. Her fiancé, a Victoria High School and Kansas State University graduate, is a corporate engineer with Schwan's in Salina. They plan to marry at 2:30 p.m. on May 12 at Holy Cross Church in Pfeifer. (Contributed Photo)

Tucker, Volcik set wedding date May 26 in Pottsboro

POTTSBORO — Tami Rhea Tucker and her daughter, Macie Kay, announce Tami's engagement to Jason Wade Volcik. They will be united in marriage on May 26 at Lakeway United Methodist Church in Pottsboro.

Virgil Feinsod, former Snyder resident, will officiate.

The bride-eleot is the daughter of Johnny and Sandy Tucker of Mead, Okla., former longtime Snyder residents, and is a 1996 graduate of Snyder High School.

The prospective groom is the son of Jerry and Gloria Volcik of Pottsboro. He is a 1996 graduate of Pottsboro High School.

Community Calendar

MONDAY

Rock and Roll Quilting Club; Hermleigh Community Center; everyone is invited for free quilting lessons, and special projects are to help someone in need; call 863-2426 for more information; 8 a.m. to noon.

.Al-Anon Brown Bag Open Meeting, Snyder Park Club in Winston Park; noon.

Weight Watchers meeting; Trinity United Methodist Church; for more information call Nathalie at 573-1868 during the evening; weigh-in is at 5 p.m.

Scurry County Museum's hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Manic Depression (Bipolar) support group; Family Life Community Church, 904 26th Street; 7 p.m.

Scurry County AA; closed meeting; Park Club; for more information, call 573-9458, 8 p.m.

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Scurry County Chapter of American Heart Association; The Shack; noon.

Overeaters Anonymous, Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for more information call 574-1254, 573-8322 or 573-3733; 6:30 p.m.

Snyder Fire Dept. Auxiliary; Central Fire Station; 7 p.m.

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

AA Beginner's Meeting-Open; Snyder Park Club, 1212 37th Street; 7 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-4048,; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for more information call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; 8 p.m.

TOPS TX56 (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5 to 6 p.m.; 2501 35th. For more information call Phillis Leatherwood at 573-6105.

WEDNESDAY

Storytime at the Scurry County Library for 4- and 5-year-olds; 10 a.m.

Spiritual Solutions for Living Problems Book Study; Snyder Park Club; 6 p.m.

Just For Today NA, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-8018; 8p.m.

THURSDAY

Snyder Garden Club; MAWC; plant and seed exchange; hostesses, Marie Armstrong and Glenda Glasscock; 9:30 a.m.

Al-Anon brown bag; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-2101 or 573-0695; noon to 1 p.m.

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

Rock and Roll Quilting Club evening meeting; Hermleigh Community Center; for more information call 863-2426; 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; for information call 573-8626; 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-9458; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Just For Today NA open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 7 p.m.

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BSP NEW MEMBERS — New members of Beta Sigma Phi, Brenda Billingsley and Jana Neal, were pinned in a candlelight ceremony at the Snyder Country Club Tuesday. Also receiving her exemplar pin was Janine Schoolcraft. From left are Jacalyn Lowrance, president; Billingsley, Neal, Schoolcraft and Carolyn Greene, vice president. (Contributed Photo)

Former resident is featured in Hardin-Simmons' Range Rider

Col. L. Bryan Shelburne Jr., son of former Snyder residents, earned his bachelor of music degree in performance at Hardin-Simmons University in 1965 and was featured in the HSU Range Rider, Winter 2000-2001.

Little did Shelburne suspect he would spend most of his career as an Army music leader and 10 years as conductor of "Pershing's Own" U.S. Army Band. He retired in April as Conductor Emeritus, a distinction without precedent for an HSU graduate.

Top military and civilian leaders, including U.S. Presidents, have heard music directed by Shelburne.

His parents, Leslie and Betty Shelburne, owners of a a construction business in Snyder for many years, had eight children. Bryan graduated from Hamlin High School before their move to Snyder and the other seven children graduated from Snyder High School.

While in Snyder, Leslie had Shelburne & Son and Betty had a bookstore for several years. After their children finished school, they moved back to Hamlin.

Col. Shelburne has been a leader, commander and principal musical director for seven performing groups including the Concert Band, the Ceremonial Band, the Herald Trumpets, the Army Chorus, the Army Chorale, the Army Blues and the Army Strings.

He was commandant of the U.S. Army Element, Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk, Va., in 1977 and was leader and commander of the U.S. Army, Europe, Band and Chorus, 1980-82 and officer in charge and director of the U.S. Army Chorus 1982-87. From 1987 to 1990, he was director of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

A trombone player, he received HSU's Distinguished Alumni Award in 1990. According to the Range Rider magazine, the citation in his honor quoted a professor who said of him, "It would be a miracle if he was able to amount to a hill of beans."

He was the sixth appointed conductor of the prestigious Army band in 1990. In his decade as head of the band, Bryan conducted bandsmen in performances all over the world, including an international goodwill concert with Soviet Union's Navy Band in Stockholm, Sweden.

He directed the Army Band for the last time for the late Army Chief of Staff Gen. John J. "Blackjack" Pershing, who founded the unit in 1922.

Bryan and Sareta Kiser married in 1963 and share a longtime musical bankground. As a freshman, Sareta sat in the clarinet section of the Concert Band as Bryan sat across in the trombone section and began dating. Married for over 38 years, both are HSU alumni and Bryan says he is grateful to the college and school band directors who influenced him by good example or by encouragement.

His siblings, Tom Shelburne, is an attorney in Tennessee; twins Lynne Williams and Anne Newton live in the Fort Worth area; twins Judy Montgomery lives in the Fort Worth area and Jan Teer lives in Arlington; Jimmy Shelburne resides in Greenville, Tex., and the youngest, Carol Shelburne lives in Hamlin where she teaches

SC Library News & Views

By Janie Romine, Librarian

To all those who supported the Scurry County Library book sale, we thank you for your support.

We especially want to thank the volunteers who boxed books, added books, and collected donations for us.

The library staff and the Scurry County Library Board also wish to thank the businesses that allowed us to post signs for the book sale. For all of you who shopped and made generous contributions we thank you for supporting our youth's summer reading program. We would not be able to give prizes at our reading program without the contributions you made for our students.

We hope that while you shopped, you were able to find interesting books to add to your home collections.

Our periodical fundraiser is still in progress, and we have two remaining subscriptions that have not been picked up by a donor. If you would like to donate $55 to cover the cost of Business Week, or $14 to cover the cost of McCall's, please contact the library staff. Both businesses and individuals are invited to participate in our periodical fundraiser. Remember, if you wish, we designate on the cover that the magazine is a gift from you to the library patrons.

For a few more weeks, the library will have posted on the front windows those persons who have books overdue by at least two months, or who owe fines.

If you owe a book, remember that you owe no fines on it because we do not charge fines on books. We just want the book to come back so that all can enjoy it. If you see a friend's name on this list, please help us by letting them know they are on the list. Although we send out two notices before a person's name is put on the list, we realize that life gets busy and people forget to return books.

During spring-cleaning everyone wants to get things organized, the library is not an exception. If you owe something, please come by and clear your record.

This coming week is National Library Week. In honor of this week, we will be accepting half-price fines for those of you who owe past fines on videos. Take advantage of this offer. It only happens once a year!

School Meuns

Snyder

All meals are served with choice of milk.

CLASSROOM BREAKFAST MENU (East, Northeast, Stanfield)

Monday
Cinnamon Toast
Juice

Tuesday
Ham & Egg in a Biscuit
Juice

Wednesday
Pigs in a Blanket w/Syrup
Juice

Thursday
Breakfast Pocket
Juice

Friday
Teddy Grahams
Juice

Breakfast Other Schools

Monday
Pancakes & Sausage
Assorted Dry Cereal
Toast w/Jelly
Juice

Tuesday
Scrambled Eggs & Bacon or
Assorted Dry Cereal
Toast w/Jelly
Juice

Wednesday
Breakfast Burrito w/Salsa
Assorted Dry Cereal
Toast w/Jelly
Juice

Thursday
French Toast Sticks w/Syrup or
Assorted Dry cereal
Toast w/Jelly
Juice

Friday
Biscuit w/Gravy or
Assorted Dry Cereal
Toast w/Jelly
Juice

LUNCH

Monday
Hamburger on a Bun or
Texas Chili & Beans w/Corn Bread
Potato Wedges
Lettuce, Tomato & Pickle
Chilled Peaches

Tuesday
Stuffed Baked Potato w/Chili or
Ham & Cheese Sub
Frito Corn Chips
Tomato & Cucumber Salad
Fresh Apple Wedges

Wednesday
Pizza or
Chicken BLT on a Bun
Tater Tots
Cucumbers & Carrot Sticks w/Dip
Cherry Cobbler

Thursday
Sloppy Joe on a Bun or
Oven Fried Chicken
Tater Tots
Corn on the Cob
Chocolate Pudding

Friday
Fish Wedge on a Bun or
Country Fried Steak & Hot Roll
Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy
Seasoned Green Beans
Gelatin

Hermleigh

All meals are served with milk.

BREAKFAST

Monday
Juice
Waffles/Syrup

Tuesday
Fruit
Fried Ham
Toast

Wednesday
Juice
Kolaches

Thursday
Fruit
Cinnamon Toast

Friday
Juice
Biscuits & Gravy

LUNCH

Monday
Sloppy Joe
Potato Chips
Relish Cup
Cardinal Cake

Tuesday
Spaghetti/Meat Sauce
Buttered Corn
Soft Bread Sticks
Vanilla Pudding

Wednesday
Smothered Steak
Parsley Potatoes
Hot Rolls
Apricot Crisp

Thursday
Chicken & Dumplings
Buttered Spinach
Hot Biscuits
Chilled Pears

Friday
Hamburgers
Burger Salad
French Fries
Blonde Brownies

Ira

All meals are served with choice of milk.

BREAKFAST

Monday
Breakfast Bagels
Juice

Tuesday
Sausage
Biscuits & Gravy
Juice

Wednesday
Blueberry Pancake
Sausage on a Stick
Juice

Thursday
Breakfast Pizza
Juice

Friday
Breakfast Burritos
Juice

LUNCH

Monday
Pizza
Vegetable Salad
Corn
Crackers
Plain Cake

Tuesday
Turkey & Brown Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Rolls
Peaches & Cream

Wednesday
Sloppy Joe
French Fries
Ranch Style Beans
Shape-ups

Thursday
Chili Cheese Burritos
Mexicali Corn
Shredded Lettuce
Crackers
Cookies

Friday
Charbroiled Patties w/Brown Gravy
Parsley Potatoes
Carrots
Bread
No-bake Cookies

Lindsey Bunch

Lindsey Bunch named Lions Club Sweetheart here

Lindsey Bunch, daughter of Travis and Joan Bunch, is Snyder Lions Club Sweetheart and will enter the District 2-T2 Lions Queen Scholarship Contest on May 18-19 on Lubbbock Christian University campus.

Lindsey will graduate from Snyder High School in May with 27 college hours. She plans to attend Southwest Texas University and then medical school to become a pediatrician.

She has been active in solo and ensemble competition, and has been a member of SATB Choir for three years. Lindsey was varsity volleyball manager and is a teacher's aide.

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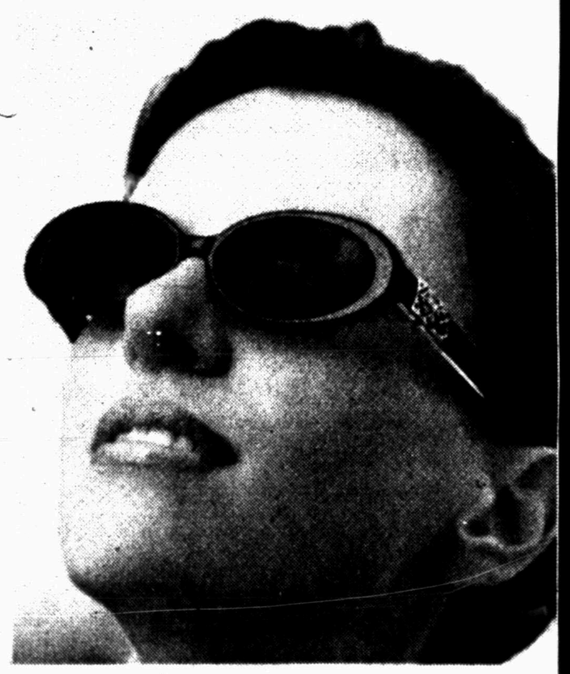

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APR 01 2001

Cheney on standby to break tie in Senate next week

WASHINGTON (AP) — For Vice President Dick Cheney, 10 weeks of listening, lobbying and $5 lunches come down to this: Senate budget votes promising to be such squeakers that he'll be on standby all next week to break any ties.

"There will be a vote-a-thon. And given the nature of that kind of a process, we're going to have to watch it very closely," said Nancy Dorn, who coordinates Cheney's unusually active Capitol Hill activities.

This week, he was as busy lining up Republicans for next week's budget votes — a critical, if only symbolic verdict on President Bush's economic agenda — as he was collecting input on the energy policy recommendations that Cheney and his Cabinet-level task force are due to give Bush in May.

Think of the genial former Wyoming congressman as the president's ambassador to Capitol Hill.

The real bare-knuckle stuff — the arm twisting and side deals — is left to Bush's chief liaison to Capitol Hill, former lobbyist Nicholas Calio, and his dozen lieutenants.

Cheney has not, for example, personally lobbied the handful of moderate Republican holdouts who are the key to Bush's budget success, including Sens. Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins of Maine, Jim Jeffords of Vermont and Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island.

Not yet, anyway.

"He listens. That's his m.o.," said vice presidential spokeswoman Juleanna Glover Weiss.

Listens, that is, to lawmakers pleading their cases on budget issues big (debt repayment, entitlement spending) and small (this pet project or that) and then, reports back to the president.

"Never underestimate the size of the issues that claim his attention," said Dorn. "It does range from the sublime to the ridiculous."

Cheney is a fixture at the Senate Republicans' weekly strategy luncheon, where he takes notes, typically speaks only in reply to senators' questions, and forks over $5 for the fare like everyone else.

"He's there enough, almost every week now, that he's part of the fabric," said adviser Mary Matalin.

From his office outside the Senate chamber and another on the House side of the Capitol, Cheney is so engaged that last Tuesday, he asked Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to meet him there instead of at the White House as they'd planned.

In his constitutional role as president of the Senate, Cheney is poised to cast what will look to some like the mirror image of Vice President Al Gore's tiebreaker for President Clinton's 1993 budget-balancing package of tax hikes and spending cuts. The short-term pinch of that legislation cost several Democrats re-election in 1994.

While the issue this time is President Bush's tax cuts and spending restraints, and the substance only a budget blueprint — not actual law — the stakes are potentially as high, said Tom Mann, a Congress watcher at the Brookings Institution.

Bush has gambled his first 100 days in the White House on pushing the $1.6-trillion cut through the Congress but has so far not convinced moderates in his own party who are more concerned about paying off the national debt and funding social services.

"Losing at this stage almost ensures that the shape of the tax cut and the budget will not be what the president wants," Mann said.

Still, whatever happens next week in a Senate evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans, it should not be used to gauge Cheney's effectiveness, Mann added.

"You can't expect Cheney to compensate for the difficulties that result from the president deciding to stick with a fundamentally conservative package."

For all his activity in the halls of Congress, the vice president has been conspicuously hands-off on the campaign finance reforms laboring their way through the Senate to White House chagrin.

SWEEPSTAKES (7TH GRADE CHOIR) — The seventh grade choir earned a sweepstakes Wednesday during the UIL concert and sight reading contest held at Texas Tech. Back row from left, Jamie Putnam, Ciara Latta, Kimberly Bell, Erica Little, Shaela Thompson, Emily Jones, Glyn Wright, Wendy Reed, Megan Crisp, Yuliana Arellano, Aeryal Peoples, Katie Curry, Ashley Flores, Rashida Norman, Amelia Lopez, Katrina Matchett; middle row, Jana Lewis, Jena Dooley, Jessica Taylor, Sequoya Powell, Jessica Calvert, Teddi Crenwelge, Sarah Henson, Ashton Wall, Temi Thompson, Claire Pollard, Tara Kubena, Ashley Pruitt, Dalesa Traylor, Krysta-Anne Burleson; front row, Crystal Villasana, Laura Zamora, Ashley Bailey, Kenetra James, Breanna Talavera, Morgan Bilderback, Megan McCormick, Camry Hill, Bethany Burleson, Dondi Brock, Whitney Kinney, Kayla Hartzog, Samantha Peña, Bianca Gonzales, Merissa Pierson, Daniela Garcia. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

SWEEPSTAKES (EIGHTH GRADE) — The eighth grade girls choir won sweepstakes Wednesday during the UIL concert and sight reading contest held at Texas Tech. Back row, from left, Ashlee McGinty, Lacey Kincaid, Cassie Gordon, Michelle Miller, Kelsey Shaw, Jessica Davis, Taren Knipe, Heather Holmes, Stephanie Parmer, Sarah Carpenter, Casey Crain; middle row, Alicia Wagner, Tanisha Norman, Courtney Stanley, Sandra Alfara, October Wells, Heather Zajicek, Abby Foree, Kayla Guerrero, Kalli Wesson, Erin Hackfeld, Courtney Coy; front row, Jessica Hines, Kim Rocha, Andrea Rios, Mechelle Renfro, Marisa Munoz, Meggan Minor, Elizabeth Powell, Sharonda Emerson, Traci Jordan, Kassey Burney. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Farmers to sharply boost plantings of genetically engineered soybeans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Farmers will sharply boost their plantings of genetically engineered soybeans this year, despite opposition to biotechnology overseas and signs of unease among U.S. consumers, the government said Friday.

About 63 percent of this year's soybean crop, or about 48 million acres, is expected to be genetically engineered, up from 54 percent in 2000, according to the Agriculture Department's annual survey of farmers' planting intentions. The biotech soy is immune to the Monsanto Co.'s popular Roundup weed-killer.

"Clearly farmers like using Roundup-ready soybeans," said Bill Nelson, a commodity analyst with A.G. Edwards & Sons.

Slightly under 10 million acres of the cotton that farmers will plant this spring, or 64 percent, is expected to be biotech, compared to 61 percent in 2000, USDA said. Biotech cotton is either resistant to insect pests or herbicides, or both.

"The reports of our death are erroneous," said Lisa Dry, a spokeswoman for the Biotechnology Industry Organization. "It just shows that farmers see the tremendous benefits of this technology."

About 24 percent of the 2001 corn crop will be genetically engineered, compared to 25 percent last year, USDA said.

The biotech industry was embarrassed last year when a gene-altered variety of corn, known as StarLink, was found in the food supply without being cleared for human consumption.

StarLink, one of the least used of the various biotech corn varieties, has been withdrawn from the market. But farmers are concerned that stray seeds from last year's StarLink crop may sprout in their fields and have been encouraged to plant biotech soybeans on that acreage. Any wild StarLink plants will die when the genetically modified soybeans is treated with herbicide.

Although there is strong resistance to biotech food in Europe and Japan, most U.S.-grown corn and soybeans are consumed domestically.

Yield-robbing weeds have long been a problem for soybean growers, so development of the biotech varieties has made it much easier to grow the crop. Many farmers have expanded their acreage as a result. In other cases, the crop has freed up time for growers to take off-farm jobs to supplement their incomes.

"There are a lot of different opportunities there," said Tony Anderson, president of the American Soybean Association. "There's no doubt about the appreciation of the technology that Roundup-ready offers."

A spokesman for Monsanto said there should be no shortage of seed, but Anderson said some of the most prized varieties may not be available everywhere.

The USDA report also confirmed that farmers are cutting back on overall corn acreage this year largely because of higher energy and fertilizer prices and switching to soybeans.

Farmers are expected to grow about 76.7 million acres of both crops this year. That would represent a decrease of 4 percent in corn plantings from last year and a 3 percent increase for soybeans.

In Iowa, which ranks No. 1 in both corn and soybeans, farmers will plant an estimated 11.9 million acres of corn this year, down from 12.3 million in 2000. They are increasing their soybean acreage from 10.7 million to 11 million.

This year's wheat acreage is estimated at 60.3 million, a 4 percent reduction from 2000 and the lowest level since 1973.

Publicist confirms Nicole Kidman's miscarriage

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Nicole Kidman's Australian publicist confirmed that the star of "Eyes Wide Shut" and "Batman Forever" suffered a miscarriage earlier this year, a Sydney newspaper reported Friday.

Kidman's publicist, Wendy Day, said, "It is a private matter for Tom and Nicole to work out," The Daily Telegraph reported.

Day told the Australian Associated Press, "I believe the story is out there and running. We can't deny the story." She declined further comment.

The Daily Telegraph also cited an unidentified Australian friend of Kidman as saying the star had the miscarriage shortly after her split with husband Tom Cruise.

Cruise filed for divorce last month in Los Angeles, citing irreconcilable differences after 10 years of marriage. The couple separated in December, the filing said.

Kidman, 33, is believed to have miscarried at a Los Angeles clinic earlier this month.

It was first reported Thursday in the Star supermarket tabloid; Kidman's publicist in New York, Toby Fleischman, declined comment Thursday.

Contacted by The Daily Telegraph at her Sydney home, Kidman's mother declined comment.

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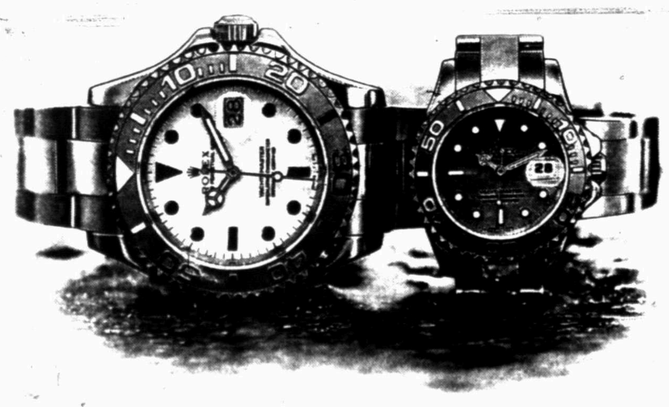

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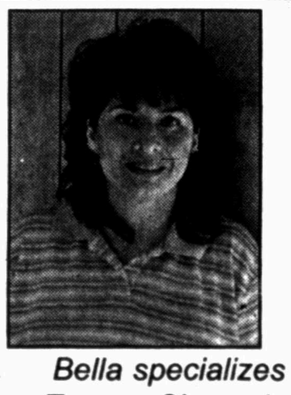
Proper shoe wear can help prevent complications of your diabetes. It is important for all diabetics to have a diabetic foot check-up at least once a year.
Also...If you are on Medicare, you may qualify for diabetic shoes and inserts at no cost to you.
Please call our office to schedule an appointment.
Dr. Gloria Gerstner
915-574-1581



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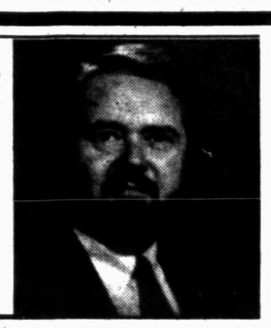
Minding Your Own Business

By Don Taylor



Making Connections: Another Marketing Strategy
(First of two parts)

Trade shows, conventions and business exhibitions can offer great opportunities to find new customers, meet new suppliers, locate manufacturers and distributors, and build your business. The best part is they also provide opportunities for conducting cost-effective market research, analyzing your competition, learning about merchandising, observing quality displays and making solid business connections.

There are two methods you can use to take advantage of these opportunities. First, you can be an attendee and visit a variety of shows and conventions. Second, you may become an exhibitor, set up a booth to sell your wares and promote your business.

The purpose of this two-part series is to give you some tips for using both methods to build your business. We'll begin this week with some helpful suggestions for exhibiting at trade shows and business expositions. In part two, we'll offer several tips for building your business by attending these events.

Before you sign up

There are several steps you should take before you spend the time and money to become an exhibitor at a show or convention. First, attend any show you may consider as a potential event to ensure the target customers you wish to reach are there. Next, make a list of what you want to accomplish. This list may include making sales, getting leads, boosting your visibility and demonstrating your product or service to a certain number of prospects.

The next step is to count the costs. Consider direct costs such as space, booth or display rental and services. You should also consider the indirect costs such as time to set up and tear down, follow up and the time away from your normal activities. Finally, start early. Plan a year or more in advance if possible. Consider your displays, product samples and handouts carefully. Get copies of the show rules and contracts to avoid surprises.

Once you commit to setting up a booth, list the supplies you'll need to take. For example, you'll want a good supply of business cards, brochures, flyers, order forms, pens and special giveaways. Also, take scissors, scotch tape, duct tape, an extension cord, markers, a knife, a hammer and other hand tools.

At the show

•**Be visual.** Have something unusual to catch the attention of those passing by. Working models, product displays or photographs may do the trick.

•**Have a single, central theme.** What you offer in your booth or exhibit should be obvious.

•**Keep your booth open and uncluttered.** Stand up, make eye contact and greet everyone you can. Make it easy for attendees to interact with you.

•**Wear comfortable shoes.** Take two pairs and change during the day.

•**Be certain that the name of your business or product is easy to see and read.** Most passersby will only glance at your booth for a second or two.

Make the most of it.

•**Never leave your booth unattended.** You might just miss the most important contact of the whole show. Have relief help to cover the booth when you have to be away.

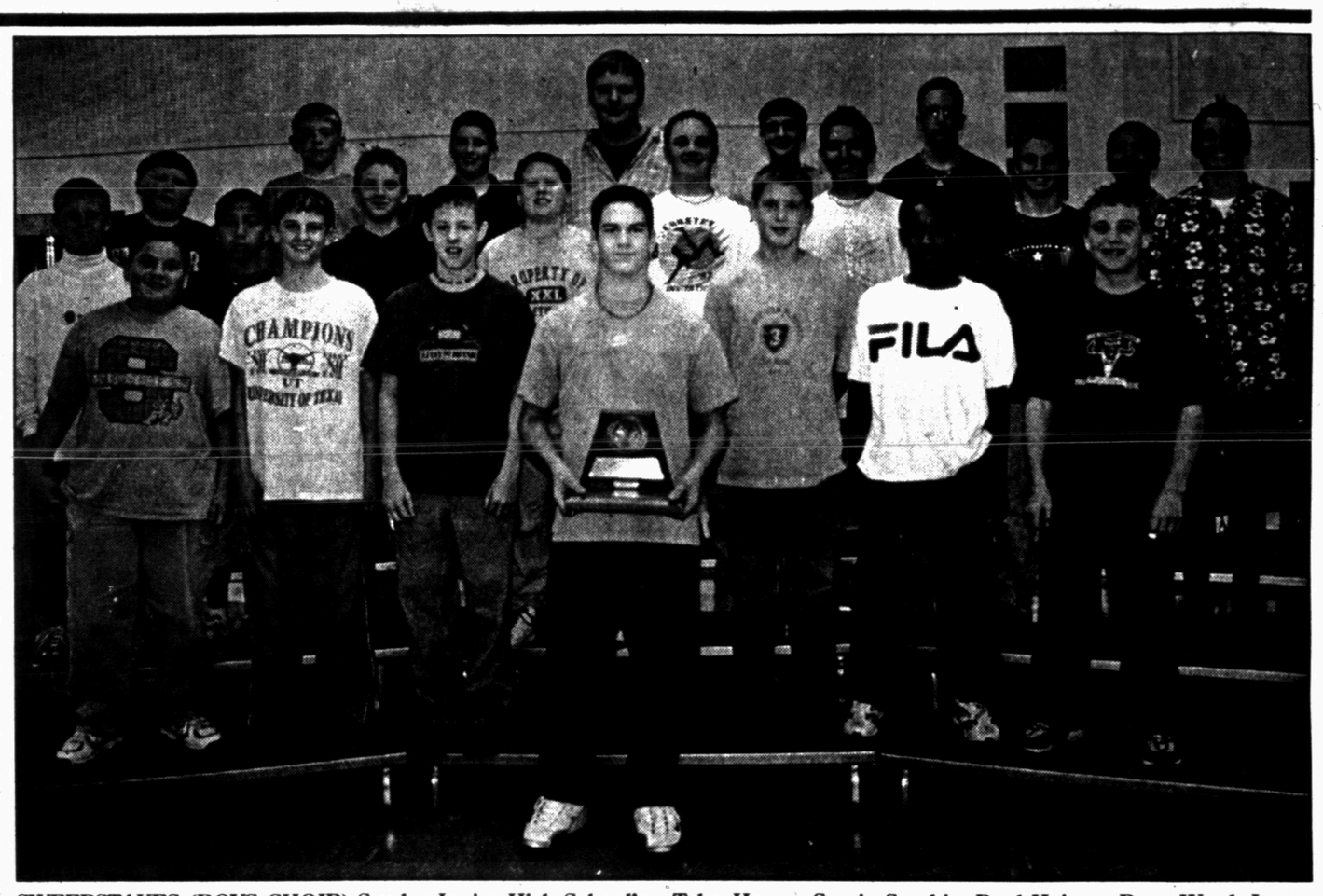
•**Create some "special show offers."** If your intent is to generate orders, show specials will add incentive for immediate purchase.

•**Look your image.** Neat displays and well-groomed appearances are always instyle.

•**Don't eat or drink in the booth.** If you can't leave the booth for a few minutes to grab a bite to eat, you don't have enough help. The one exception to this rule is if you are offering edible samples.

In summary, plan well in advance, promote early, work hard and follow-up. Have a great show.

Don Taylor is the co-author of "Up Against the Wal-Marts." You may write to him in care of "Minding Your Own Business," PO Box 67, Amarillo, TX 79105.



SWEEPSTAKES (BOYS CHOIR) Snyder Junior High School's boys choir won sweepstakes Wednesday during the UIL concert and sight reading contest held at Texas Tech. Back row, David Martin, Dustyn Williams, Cole Robertson, Ricky Early, Garrett Pinson, Michael Nelson, Chris Lopez; middle row, Tyler Hogan, Sergio Sarabia, Paul Haines, Ryan Ward, Logan Martin, Eric Martinez, Chris Smith, Lico Castillo; front row, Rudy Ibarra, Cade Simpson, Jason Cave, Alex Neal, Blake Seale, Leon Tippens-Triggs, Wes Chandler. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Dog attack lawyer may try to move trial

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The lawyer for the couple charged in the dog-mauling death of a neighbor said he likely will seek to move their trial. And he also will tell them to stop speaking publicly.

"Their attitude about this case has just tarnished them," attorney George Walker said Thursday after a judge delayed arraignment for Marjorie Knoller and her husband, Robert Noel, until April 13.

"I can tell them now what to do, and you won't hear a word from them," he said.

Walker said it's likely he will defend Knoller, who faces a second-degree murder charge in the Jan. 26 death of Diane Whipple. Noel will hire his own lawyer.

In addition to the murder charge against Knoller, both she and Noel face charges of involuntary manslaughter and keeping a mischievous dog that killed a person.

Walker, who asked for a delay in the arraignment because he had not had sufficient time to review the case, said he likely will ask to move the case out of San Francisco because of the heavy media coverage.

"Their words have colored the thinking of San Francisco," Walker said. He said he would have advised the couple — both lawyers — not to talk to the grand jury, make statements or write letters. Noel had written a letter to prosecutors blaming Whipple for the attack.

At a hearing Wednesday, the day after they were indicted, Knoller's bail was set at $2 million and Noel's at $1 million. Authorities said the bail was high because the couple were a flight risk. They had surrendered in Corning, about 170 northeast of San Francisco.

Knoller faces the stiffer charge because she was with the dogs in the hallway of their apartment building when they fatally mauled Whipple, a 33-year-old lacrosse coach.

Prison officials say the animals were part of a dogfighting ring run out of Pelican Bay State Prison by inmates Paul Schneider and Dale Bretches, who are serving life sentences without parole.

According to court documents released Thursday, authorities contend Knoller and Noel had struggled in the past to control the large dogs.

The run-ins allegedly included two attacks on a blind woman and her guide dog. Another dog nearly died after being bitten, and even Noel nearly lost a finger while trying to restrain the male dog, Bane, the documents say.

Walker said he has not seen the evidence and refused to comment on it.

The couple's apartment was searched, as well as Schneider's and Brethes' cell, the documents say.

Carlos Sanchez, a top investigator for the San Francisco district attorney's office, wrote that a prison guard found a letter to Schneider from either Noel or Knoller "regarding sexual activity between Noel, Knoller and the dog Bane," along with nude photos of Knoller.

Sanchez told San Francisco Superior Court Judge Lenard Louie that investigators believed the dogs were being sexually assaulted by Noel and Knoller.

Under California law, sexually assaulting an animal is a misdemeanor, but no charge was brought against the couple.

While neither Noel nor Knoller has directly addressed the sex allegations publicly, Noel has said it's nobody's business.

"There used to be a time when guy-on-guy or woman-on-woman relationships were looked at as unnatural acts," Noel told the San Francisco Chronicle last month. "What concern is it to anybody if there is or isn't a personal relationship?"

The Associated Press, the San Francisco Chronicle and the San Jose Mercury News had asked the judge to make public the search warrants and prosecutors' theories supporting the searches.

Proposal would mean hardship

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — Hot-tub lovers threw cold water on Mayor Mike Crowley's proposal to fine people who use "nonessential" electric appliances like hot-tubs during power emergencies.

Crowley's proposal would establish fines of up to $100 a day for people who use too much electricity during a severe power emergency.

At a public hearing, one hot-tub salesman told City Council the measure would encroach on citizens' "God-given right" to recreation.

One person's nonessential appliance is another's necessity, said Bruce Shamp, a shareholder in Aqua Rec's Swimmin' Hole.

"Do you need to toast your bread?" Shamp asked. "Do we really need dryers?"

Fines would be a last resort, Crowley said, and there would be no "hot tub police." Instead, the plan would rely on residents turning each other in.

Funding for EMS and fire department may be cut

MANVEL (AP) — On the brink of not being able to pay its bills, the Brazoria County town of Manvel is mulling over whether it should eliminate funding for its fire department and emergency medical service for the rest of the year.

City Administrator Joe Wertz says spending must be cut by $350,000 or Manvel won't be able to pay its bills in July, The Facts, Brazoria County's daily newspaper, reported in its Friday editions.

Wertz, who was hired last month, said the town of 5,000 about 25 miles south of Houston has spent more than it has had in its budget since 1994. The city's annual budget is about $1.2 million.

In order to pay these deficits, tax revenues from subsequent years have been used. The city also has borrowed the maximum amount, can't sell any more bonds and has no reserve funding.

As a result Wertz is proposing budget cuts that include reducing the number of public works programs, city staff and eliminating money to the fire department and EMS for the rest of the year. He said if the proposal is approved by the city council, Manvel should be $8,000 in the black by the end of the year.

Fire department officials have said if their money is cut, they can survive until the end of the year. Emergency medical service officials, however, say if their money is stopped they may be forced to shut.

"We are in a bad situation," Mayor J.C. Dean said.

The idea of cutting fire department and EMS dollars was not popular with some residents who attended Thursday's city council meeting.

Mutual funds can be taxing

Keep the income tax on your mutual funds as low as possible. First, choose the best method for calculating cost when you sell some shares in a fund. Second, don't forget to add reinvested dividends and capital gain distributions to your tax basis (cost) in the fund. For assistance in minimizing mutual fund taxes, call us.

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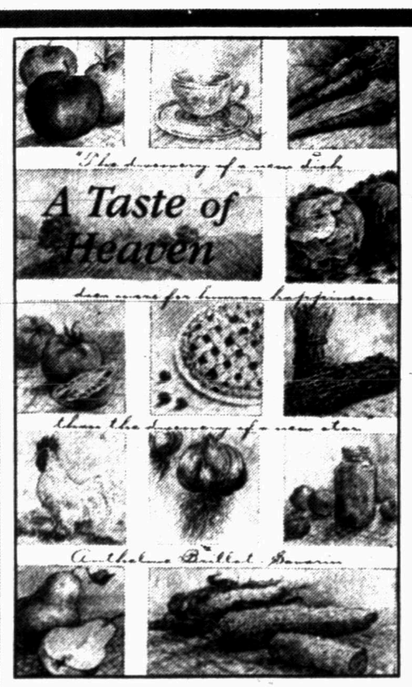

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Cell injections may help repair hearts

By Joseph B. Verrengia
AP Science Writer

A promising series of experiments with laboratory animals suggests doctors may soon be able to heal damaged hearts by reinjecting people with the body's own repair cells.

In experiments with mice and rats, the so-called stem cells grew into new muscle and blood vessels.

So far, the treatment is limited to short-term experiments. Doctors said that if the approach continues to work, testing on humans could begin within three years.

The idea is to harness a patient's own restorative powers to reverse the damage done by heart attacks, a leading killer throughout the industrialized world.

"This could happen in three to five years, although these things tend to go faster than we expect," said John Fakunding, heart research program director at the National Heart, Blood and Lung Institute.

The two new studies involve adult stem cells taken from bone marrow. Stem cells are the body's building blocks for all types of tissue. In recent years, research has increasingly shown that adult stem cells are remarkably adaptable and can repair disease damage.

Other scientists who did not participate in the studies said they demonstrate the body's remarkable flexibility in how it responds to disease and injury.

"The implications are profound," said Mark Sussman of the Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati. "The challenge now is to find out just how well these new cells can perform new tricks in their new homes."

About 1.1 million Americans suffer heart attacks every year, and 450,000 die as a result.

A heart attack occurs when a blockage in coronary arteries reduces blood supply to the heart muscle, suffocating cells. Death typically results if more than 40 percent of the left ventricle, the heart's main pumping chamber, is damaged.

Nor does the damage necessarily end there. In a process known as "remodeling," muscle cells grow abnormally large, extra blood vessels branch out and scar tissue forms, further weakening the heart.

Medications can help, but researchers increasingly are looking for biological fixes.

One of the new studies, conducted by researchers from the National Human Genome Research Institute in Bethesda, Md., and New York Medical College in Valhalla, N.Y., will appear in the April 5 issue of the journal Nature.

They isolated stem cells from the bone marrow of male mice. To easily trace the cells' activity, they were reengineered with a gene that produces a fluorescent green protein.

The cells were injected into the rapidly beating hearts of 30 female mice in which heart failure was induced. Over an average of nine days, the stem cells turned into heart muscle cells, filling in 68 percent of the damaged areas in the hearts of 12 mice. The stem cells also turned into smooth muscle and blood vessel cells.

The treatment failed in 18 mice. Researchers said the experiment was difficult because the tiny mouse heart beats 600 times per minute and it has very thin walls. Researchers said they had only seconds to expose the heart and inject the stem cells.

The second study, conducted at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City, is published in the April issue of Nature Medicine.

Researchers extracted adult stem cells known as endothelial precursors from human bone marrow. These cells prompt the growth of new blood vessels.

Scientists injected the cells into the tails of rats that had suffered heart attacks. Over a two-week period, the stem cells migrated to the rats' hearts and new capillaries grew within the heavily damaged ventricle walls.

Over the next 15 weeks, blood flow improved, fewer heart cells died and scar tissue was substantially decreased.

Using adult stem cells would enable researchers to sidestep the controversial use of stem cells extracted from human embryos.

Embryonic stem cells are thought to be the more flexible biologically. Their use has generated fierce political opposition because they are harvested from aborted fetuses and discarded embryos. President Bush has signaled he may block federal funding for studies that use them.

Residents file complaints against sheriff's deputies

ANAHUAC (AP) — Some Chambers County residents are accusing sheriff's deputies in the southeast Texas county midway between Houston and Beaumont of using excessive force.

The complaints come on the heels of allegations of official misconduct and racial profiling made against the sheriff's department during a bond hearing last week for a man facing charges of attempted capital murder and aggravated assault of a police officer, The Baytown Sun reported in its Friday editions.

Vernon Coates is accused of attempting to run over a sheriff's department sergeant with his pickup truck March 15. Coates denied coming anywhere close to striking the officer and accused the sergeant of using unnecessary force in a previous confrontation where Coates said his lip was split and required stitches.

Coates filed a complaint with the FBI and said he is being targeted because he is black.

Four residents have filed written complaints about deputies and other verbal complaints are being made, County Attorney Cheryl Swope-Lieck said.

Not all complaints have been from black residents and most of the complaints concern excessive force, Swope-Lieck said.

The complaints are being referred to Sheriff Monroe Kreuzer.

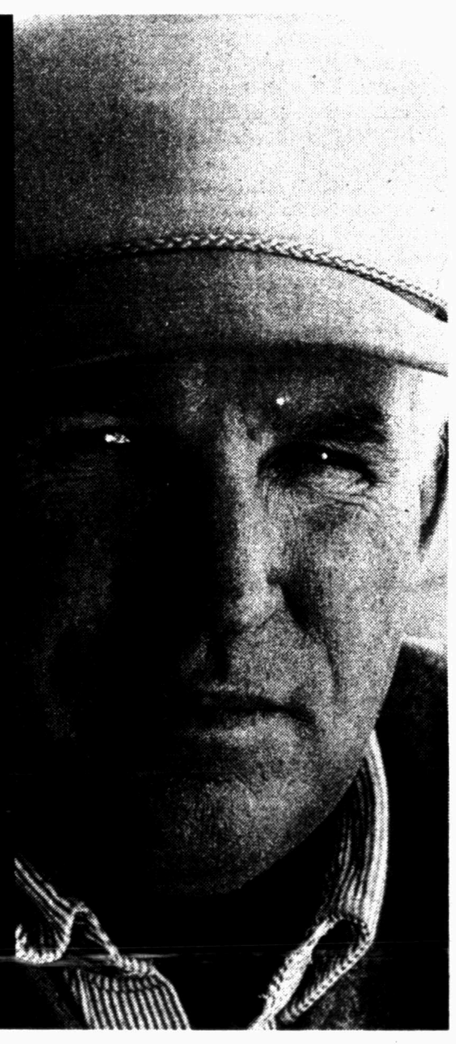
"We are reviewing the cases involved in the complaints and if we feel like it warrants it, an outside organization may be used, such as the Texas Rangers or the FBI," Kreuzer said.

Kreuzer previously has said arrest numbers involving his department do not support a claim of racial profiling.

Chambers County has a 9 percent black population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

In January, 42 percent of the 137 arrests involved blacks. In February, 45 of the 143 county arrests were blacks, or 31 percent. Kreuzer said blacks have comprised 26 percent of the arrests so far in March.

"Take your time and you'll only need to pull the trigger once."



Like his father and grandfather, Johnny Edmondson is a rancher. His spread is 660 acres, but with irrigation and improved pasture, he manages to run 3000 head through it in a year. Coop power, the same power he's depended on for thirty years, makes that kind of efficiency possible.

Johnny belongs to a Smart Choice cooperative. What's "Smart Choice?" We are. We're a coalition of West Texas cooperatives committed to making the right decision on electric deregulation.

The goal of deregulation is to bring the benefits of retail competition to the power industry. But so far, in states such as California and Pennsylvania, reality has fallen short of the promise, often bringing higher rates and even power shortages. The Texas Legislature gives cooperatives an opportunity to wait and see how deregulation will affect Texans. We intend to take advantage of that time to be *sure* deregulation is right for our member-owners.

Texas electric cooperatives have been providing power to Texans since 1937. As coops, we are non-profit and member-owned. To learn more about deregulation visit us at our web site, or call your local Smart Choice cooperative.

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www.smartchoicecoops.com

Q & A

Protect children

The Snyder Daily News, in cooperation with Al-Anon support groups and the Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, devotes this column to information and questions about substance abuse.

How can we protect our children?

HOW TO WRITE AN OBITUARY FOR YOUR TEENAGER

You sit quietly, watching your child sleep. Your hands are still shaking, your mind still spinning. You take a deep breath, close your eyes, and try letting your mind drift. The intercom blared every few minutes, serving as a constant reminder of where you are. And why. Your child is in the hospital, and you're still in disbelief. You fix the blanket you brought from home, carefully tucking it in around his feet just the way you used to. He loves this blanket, you think to yourself. There has been no movement since you last tucked it in, but that doesn't matter. It gives you something to do. Keeps your mind off things. The doctor says it's a losing battle. You're not ready for that.

It's been two days since your child's friends carried his unconscious body into the emergency room. When you got the phone call at work, you figured it was a minor cut, another broken collarbone. The nurse at the hospital mentioned something about inhalants. Surely that was a mistake, you thought. But as you soon learned, "sniffing"—inhaling household products to get high—was not a mistake. It was a habit. A habit you never knew existed.

Another day passes. And another. For four days, you don't leave his bedside. Dozens of tests have been done, but all they've proven is what damage inhalants can do to a body. They can cause heart failure, or damage the kidneys, the liver, the brain. Inhalants can even kill the first time they're used. As you stare at your child, you wonder whether that wouldn't have been better.

Almost a week has passed. The doctor finally convinces you to go home. To change. To sleep. The answering machine filled with well-wishers. The neighbors bring over food—chili, you think. You're still too numb to eat. You're still too numb to do anything. The everyday products your child could've sniffed—spray paint, markers, correction fluid—lie around unnoticed. The house is quiet. You begin to realize this is something you will have to get used to.

It's been 16 hours since your child was pronounced dead. You struggle to compose yourself as you begin to face reality. The relatives you phoned didn't know about inhalants. It seems no one did. It's been 35 hours since you slept, and 12 more will pass before you do again. Because you have a funeral to arrange, and people to console. And someone from the obituary section is on the phone. They need to know about the child you just lost.

Listing the cause of death in the obituary is at the family's discretion
It is appropriate to include the child's nickname if well-known.
Families often prefer to have the funeral home handle the obituary.

Could this be your child? We sincerely hope not. Unfortunately, inhalant abuse is on the rise among children of all ages, and its not about to go away. Because the average home contains over 100 ordinary household products that can be used as inhalants. These products are found in the garage, under the sink, in the bathroom. And the paraphernalia used for sniffing includes commonplace items as socks, soda cans, even empty lunch bags. Please take the time to call and learn more about inhalant abuse. Because sniffing may be new to you. But it probably isn't to your child.

If you don't want to learn about obits, please learn about sniffing

National Inhalants & Poisons Awareness Week was observed March 18-24.

Above article provided by the National Inhalant Prevention Coalition.

Please send your questions on drugs or addiction to P.O. Box 695, Snyder, Texas 79550. All questions and personal inquires may be submitted anonymously. Twenty-four-hour confidential information is available by calling (915) 573-1141 or 1-800-658-6722. Information on help groups and individual's phone numbers may be found in the SDN Community Calendar.

Beach Boys planning 40th anniversary

WASHINGTON (AP) — Singer Mike Love has big plans for The Beach Boys' 40th anniversary — but they're floating among the stars.

"I want to do a tour that would touch down in every one of the 50 states," he told AP Radio. "I always have ideas, but I'm a Pisces, so sometimes, I take my sweet time gettin' those ideas done."

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Public Records

Marriage License

Joshua Kirk Rodgers of Plainview and Tiffany Chere Jones of Snyder.

Action in District Court

In the marriage of Linda Jeanette Lowery and Thomas Marshall Lowery, divorce granted.

In the marriage of Harold Wayne Gasaway and Regina Ann Gasaway, divorce granted.

In the marriage of Melinda Kay Stewart and Jeffrey Dee Stewart, divorce granted.

In the marriage of Theresa Annette Daniel and Rodney Trent Daniel, divorce granted.

In the marriage of Domingo Moncevais III and Rebecca Jean Moncevais, divorce granted.

In the marriage of June Alice Snyder and Dennis Lee Snyder, divorce granted.

In the marriage of James Robert Sparlin and Sharlot Janea Sparlin, divorce granted.

Scurry County vs. Jody Gilbert, et al, release of judgment.

Deed Records

David and Anna Elizondo to Laurence Jaramillo, the west one-half of Lot 4 in Block 48 of the Blankenship Addition.

Karlton D. and Robyn Elaine McMillan to Dionicio Espinoza, tract one being a 90x120-foot tract east and west out of the southeast one-quarter of Section 133, Block 97, H&TC survey; tract two being the north 20 feet out of Section 133, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Bobby Lee Holamon to Maurice and Amelia Rosas, tract one being 10 acres out of the northeast corner of the northeast one-quarter of Section 187, Block 3, H&GN survey; tract two being 10 acres out of the northeast corner of the northeast one-quarter of Section 187, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Opha Lou Voss to Gabriel and Angela Rodriguez, all the west 102.5 feet of Lot 1, Block J of the Replat of the Highland Park Addition.

Gordon S. Daniel to Robert W. and Liesel M. Lehrer, Lot 4 in Block 31 of the Winston Co. Replat of the Colonial Hill Addition.

Dionicio Espinoza to Tomas and Sharon Juarez, tract one being a 90x120-foot tract east and west out of the southeast one-quarter of Section 133, Block 97, H&TC survey; tract two being the north 20 feet out of Section 133, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Wendy Ann Perry to Tresa Kay Cornett, Lot 16 in Block B of the Replat of the Highland Park Addition.

Swartz and Brough Inc. to Carl L. and Holly D. Moon, all of Lot 7 in Block I of the Replat of the Towle Place Addition.

JoAnne Larez Tovar to Stetson Luke and Elizabeth Merritt, the south 140 feet of the west 57.5 feet of the east 115 feet of Lot 4 in Block 7 of the Grayum and Nelson Heights Addition.

First American Bank to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, two tracts in Section 208, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Charles G. and Margie Lou Anderson to Keith and Temi Matthies, 160.25 acres being the northwest one-quarter of Section 61, Block 1, J.P. Smith survey.

Two killed in shell explosion

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Two people were killed when an artillery shell left over from World War II exploded in a forest in eastern Ukraine, emergency officials said Friday.

The accident occurred when the victims tried to disassemble the shell Tuesday, the Emergency Situations Ministry said in a statement. It was unclear why the two were dismantling the explosive.

Emergency workers found 62 more shells close to the site of the accident.

—

Etruscans of the so-called Billanovan period, about 900 B.C. often kept ashes of their dead in urns shaped like their thatched huts.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

No-strings relationship may knock woman off her feet

DEAR ABBY: I am attracted to one of my college friends. We went out last Saturday night, and I asked if he would like us to be "more than friends." He said, "No. We're graduating in a few months, and I don't want either of us to become 'attached.'"

I asked him if he would like us to be "friends with benefits." You know — friends who show affection and who comfort each other, with no strings attached. He said OK as long as I promised there would be no repercussions — then he kissed me. Abby, it was one of those kisses that if I had been standing up, I would have fallen down!

I haven't been able to stop thinking about that kiss. I know we're going our separate ways in a few months, and I think I can protect myself from becoming attached. On the other hand, do you think I am setting myself up for a fall? — **"NO STRINGS" GIRL IN VIRGINIA**

DEAR "NO STRINGS": Yes, big time. Don't sample the goodies unless you're willing to risk addiction and withdrawal. You're hoping that the young man will change his mind about you in a few months and give you a commitment. However, what you really would be doing is fulfilling many a young man's fantasy — a physical relationship with a woman who has no expectations.

Think twice about your "benefit package." Do you really want a broken heart as a graduation gift?

**

DEAR ABBY: I recently lost my brother to suicide. After many months of depression, medication and trips to a psychologist, life was more than he could bear. It has been very hard the last few weeks dealing with everything that has gone on.

I know people don't mean to be cruel, but when they hear that someone has died, they ask, "How old?" (He was only 43.) Then they say, "Oh, did he have a heart attack?"

It's painful to say, "No, he committed suicide." Now I think I have come up with a good answer that has stopped a few people already — and it's the truth. My minister suggested I pass it along to you to share with your readers.

A lady at church asked the usual questions, and my response was, "No, he died as a result of severe depression." That stopped her in her tracks. With an embarrassed look on her face, she said, "Oh" and turned and left.

Hope this is a help to others who are faced with the same situation. — MARY ANDERSON, STILLWATER, MINN.

DEAR MARY: Please accept my sympathy for the untimely loss of your beloved brother. I have said many times that it is impolite to ask the cause of death when extending one's sympathy to the bereaved, because discussing the details is usually painful regardless of how the person died. I think you handled the intrusion extremely well.

**

DEAR ABBY: I am 14 years old. My ex-boyfriend told one of my friends from sixth grade that he and I had sex. Not only did we NOT have sex, but we never even kissed, and I haven't spoken to him since sixth grade. Should I confront him? — **FURIOUS IN ADRIAN, MICH.**

DEAR FURIOUS: Absolutely. And do it publicly. I'd be furious, too.

**

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

DEAR ABBY: I am a 39-year-old gay man. After knowing I am gay for more than 15 years, my parents recently announced that my longtime partner and I are no longer welcome in their home. They say that if any of their neighbors found out they have a gay son, they would be outcasts in their community.

Abby, I am devastated. Although they were never totally supportive of my orientation, they have been guests in our home many times and seemed to genuinely like my partner. We are successful people in our community and socialize with an array of civic leaders and wonderful people of all orientations. I am unable to accept the level of shame my parents wish me to bear, and they seem unfazed about dropping me from their lives.

I cannot convince my parents of their folly. They say their decision is final and don't wish to discuss it further. I have spent thousands of dollars in counselling trying to deal with this loss. My siblings tell me that having put my parents through the "horrors" of having a gay son, I should be more understanding of their fears. This has destroyed my relationship with them as well.

I have trouble sleeping at night and would appreciate any advice you can offer. — **HURTING IN HOUSTON**

DEAR HURTING: Please accept my condolences for the premature loss of your dysfunctional family. You're not going to change them, and they're not going to change you. Perhaps one day they'll realize their loss and change their minds, but you can't live your life waiting for that to happen. It might help you to remember that sooner or later, every one of us becomes an orphan. Sadly for you, you were "orphaned" sooner than most.

Alcoholics Anonymous has a saying called the "Serenity Prayer." I hope you will commit it to memory and use it as the need arises:

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

You now have the opportunity to create your own supportive family through your loving friends and neighbors. The good news is that from your description of the people with whom you socialize, you and your partner are already off to a good start.

**

DEAR ABBY: Recently a friend from my church passed away. She was 83 years old. I stopped by the funeral home to pay my respects to her and her family.

During my visit, I was completely ignored by family members who were standing around in nearby rooms enjoying animated conversations.

I feel that at least one family member should have acknowledged my presence and that of several others. Should I have interrupted their conversations to pay my respects? — **MOURNING IN PITTSBURGH**

DEAR MOURNING: I agree that someone should have taken the time to acknowledge the presence of a new arrival, whether a staff member at the mortuary or a designated family member.

However, since no one did, you could have stepped forward, introduced yourself and expressed your sympathy.

**

Dear ABBY: How can I tell my boyfriend that he is a bad kisser? — **WANTS TO BE TACTFUL**

DEAR WANTS: Say nothing negative. Keep the message positive and offer to demonstrate.

**

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Families of bonfire collapse victims receive assistance

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — The families of the 12 Aggies who died and 27 others who were injured in Texas A&M University's deadly November 1999 bonfire collapse so far have received $378,030 from a school fund established to help pay for their expenses.

In addition, the families of the 12 who died received $10,000 each through an insurance policy held by the university. The families of the 11 victims who were students were reimbursed for fall 1999 tuition and fee costs, the Bryan-College Station Eagle reported in its Friday editions. The 12th fatality, Christopher Breen, already had graduated.

Texas A&M released the fund-related documents this week in response to a request from the newspaper filed under the Texas Public Information Act.

The documents show officials have paid families of the deceased students $129,500 from the Bonfire Relief Fund. Each family received at least $10,000 from the fund. Injured students have received $248,530.

A&M students who were relatives of those killed have received grants and scholarships totaling $14,650.

The Association of Former Students — a nonprofit corporation — set up the fund to accept donations to help the bonfire collapse victims and their families.

Nearly $278,000 remains in the fund.

At least one family's request for additional money was not paid, the Eagle reported.

Andrea and Les Heard — parents of victim Christopher Lee Heard — originally asked for $50,000 in April 2000 to help pay for various expenses, including the loss of family income.

They've said publicly the school has not done enough to fulfill the needs of bonfire victims' families since the collapse Nov. 18, 1999.

Last November, J. Malon Southerland, A&Ms vice president for student affairs, wrote them that the university could reimburse families for "actual expenses" related to the collapse. He asked the Heards to provide a total dollar amount in two categories: family travel and funeral expenses.

The Heards' Brownsville attorney, R.W. Armstrong, repeatedly has asked A&M to approve his clients' request.

On Wednesday, the first lawsuit seeking damages from A&M was filed by the mother of victim Jerry Don Self.

Some documents obtained by the newspaper point to A&M's plan to establish a funding source for injured students who need long-term care. The original target for "definite information" on such a fund — December 2000 or January 2001 — has been pushed to May.

One victim survivor, the father of Nathan Scott West, declined Thursday to discuss how much money his family has received from A&M and the relief fund. Richard West, however, said he doesn't feel "shorted" by the university.

Foley ends 3 years as ambassador to Japan

TOKYO (AP) — U.S. Ambassador Thomas Foley said goodbye to Japanese government officials and colleagues Friday, ending a three-year tenure marked by strained U.S.-Japan security relations.

Foley is scheduled to leave this weekend for Washington, D.C., where he will practice law and teach at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, said Patrick Linehan, an embassy spokesman.

On Friday, Foley planned a private farewell ceremony at the embassy after meetings with Japanese Cabinet ministers, Linehan said. Foley had dinner with Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori on Thursday.

U.S.-Japanese relations have suffered recently from a string of crimes by U.S. military personnel and the sinking of a Japanese fishing boat by a U.S. Navy submarine.

Foley was forced to delay his departure by one month to deal with the aftermath of last month's collision off Hawaii between the USS Greeneville and a Japanese fisheries high school training boat. The accident killed nine Japanese.

Last year, Foley apologized to Japanese officials after a Marine on Okinawa Island was arrested for allegedly entering a house, crawling into bed with a 14-year-old girl and fondling her. The Marine, who pleaded guilty, was sentenced to two years in prison by a military court.

That case — along with crimes ranging from theft and assault — have fueled anti-American sentiment on Okinawa, home to about half the nearly 50,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan.

Foley, a former House Speaker, will likely be replaced by former Sen. Howard Baker, whose nomination to the post awaits Senate confirmation.

Carter gets award

LEXINGTON, Va. (AP) — Virginia Military Institute gave its first humanitarian award for public service to former President Carter in recognition of his lifelong contribution to human rights.

"I'm convinced that the greatest challenge we face this century is overcoming the increasing chasm between the richest and the poorest people in the world," Carter told the crowd of about 2,500.

Play sparks controversy at Florida State

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP) — Several state lawmakers threatened to cut state funding of Florida Atlantic University programs because its theater department is staging a play featuring a gay Christ character.

Corpus Christi, which opened Wednesday at FAU, chronicles a Christlike character named Joshua who is growing up gay in modern-day Texas. The story parallels parts of the Gospels.

A kiss between Joshua and a character named Judas is similar to the kiss the biblical Judas used to identify Jesus to the Romans.

"For anyone who's a Christian, it's very offensive," said state Sen. Debby Sanderson, whose district includes Florida Atlantic.

School officials said they would allow the play to finish this weekend's run.

"It's a matter of academic freedom," university spokeswoman Lynn Laurenti said. She said top administrators did not know of the play's content until this week.

Sanderson and other senators said Thursday they would read the play and then decide what action, if any, to take. Last year, the school received $112 million from the state.

Corpus Christi, written by Terrence McNally, debuted on Broadway in 1998. It was met with fierce protests from Roman Catholic groups.

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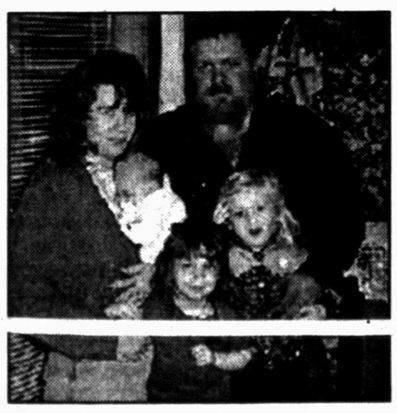

Gary, Heather, Breea, Brielee, Makayla Daniell

The Wagon Wheel Ranch is a great place to step off the highway, sit back & relax, and enjoy some good eating. If you can't feel at home here, you can't feel at home at your own house.

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Silver Dollars and Sweetheart Cash are getting scratched April 30th.

On April 30th, 2001, two Texas Lottery instant games will close – *Silver Dollars* (#123) and *Sweetheart Cash* (#187.) You have until October 27th, 2001, to redeem any winning tickets for this game. You can win up to $25,000 playing *Silver Dollars* and up to $1,000 playing *Sweetheart Cash*. You can claim prizes of up to $599 at any [illegible] or more are redeemable at one of the 22 Texas Lottery claim centers or by mail. Questions? Call the Texas Lottery Customer Service Line at 1-800-37-LOTTO (1-800-375-6886).

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APR 01 2001

Letters to the editor

Good Samaritan please call

Dear Editor:

Our daughter was involved in an auto accident Sunday afternoon that sent both her and her passenger friend to the hospital for an overnight stay. The accident occurred on Camp Springs road.

Our daughter was ejected from the vehicle and rendered unconscious for a short time. After she had rallied, she had enough presence of mind to call us on the cell phone.

The man that came upon the scene was a major help and we are sorry we did not get his name. We wish to thank him for his direction and help with calling the ambulance.

There was also a woman on the scene that covered our daughter with her sweater, as her clothes were badly torn. We have your sweater and want to return it with our deepest gratitude for your kindness.

Please call us if you are either of these good Samaritans for we wish to thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Also we would like to thank Snyder EMS for its continued quality service. They were a very big help to our daughter and her friend. The emergency room staff was expedient with their care and compassion.

Snyder should be proud of their emergency service. Again thank you for all the help.

Phil and Shanna Covington

Thanks to volunteers

Dear Editor:

The Scurry County Library wishes to thank the volunteers who so diligently helped us with our book sale this year.

We know that most people have few free hours, so we are especially grateful to these volunteers for giving so freely of their time.

We also want to thank the citizens who gave generously to support our youth's summer reading program.

Extra thanks go to United Supermarket and Family Dollar for loaning us the use of their small baskets to help our shoppers, and to the Snyder Daily News for our front-page publicity.

All of these citizens working together made our book sale a success. From the Scurry County Library Board and the Scurry County Library staff, "Thank you!" to the citizens of Scurry County.

Sincerely,
Jane Romaine

MDA shamrocks

Dear Editor:

Even the leprechauns are green with envy over Snyder's response to the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Shamrocks Against Dystrophy campaign.

Many thanks to the thousands of people who donated to MDA and signed paper shamrocks in businesses in February and March. Their generous participation in shamrocks will help MDA continue to provide families affected by neuromuscular diseases in our community with valuable services.

As one of many who has a loved one affected by a neuromuscular disease, I'm genuinely grateful for the caring support of customers and employees at convenience stores, supermarkets, restaurants and other retailers in Snyder.

The 18th annual Shamrocks Against Dystrophy campaign raised more than $10 million nationally. These donations help MDA fund almost 400 research teams worldwide.

On behalf of the millions of Americans affected in some way by the more than 40 diseases covered by MDA — thank you — and may St. Patrick bless you all year long!

Sincerely,
Maureen McGovern
National Chairperson
MDA Shamrocks Against Dystrophy

We want "Bear" back

Dear Editor:

This is an open letter to the three young men that on Monday, March 26, around 4:15 p.m., went into our carport and into our back yard and took two locks off our front and back gates and let our two dogs out.

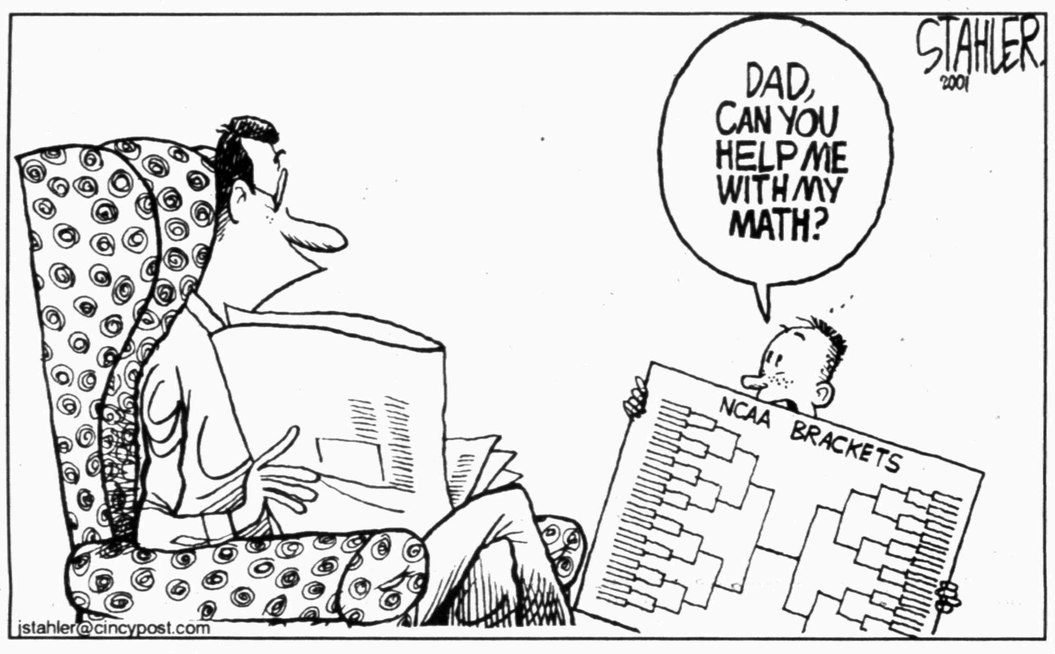
Our home is private property. As far as we can tell there was no damage done, except for letting our two dogs out.

We live on Avenue U., close to the Stanfield Elementary.

I know you walk by our house everyday going home from school. If you bring "Bear" home safe and unharmed, there will be no charges filed against you.

All we want is our dog "Bear" back home where he belongs. Please bring him back home. We miss him.

Jan and Kenneth Pierce



North of Forty By Red Green

Sporty or reliable?

I was watching a TV commercial for men's underwear yesterday and was disturbed by the way the male model looked.

He had a full head of hair. He was wide at the shoulders and narrow at the waist, with muscles rippling all over the map.

There was a time in my life when I would have compared my body to his and would have ended up feeling bad. That's because I thought there was some chance that one day, with a tremendous amount of effort and self control, I'd be able to look like that. I'm way past that stage now.

I consider all good-looking muscular young men a different species than I am. They are sports cars. I'm a truck. I have bigger tires and a heavier trailer, so I stick to the slow lane. And yes, a young sporty thing like him is good if you're only going around the block. But if you're in it for the long haul, you're better off with an 18-wheeler like me.

THE WORKING STIFF

I want to put in a plug for all of the blue-collar workers out there. There's a ton of hype these days about information technology and staying in school until you reach retirement age, but I think there's still a lot to be said for learning a trade and then just getting out there and doing it.

I think that as we get more and more computerized, the blue-collar work force will diminish, while the demand for their services will go up. When the water is backing up the drain in my basement, I want a plumber, not a Web site designer. When my car breaks down on the highway, I want my passenger to be a mechanic, not a sports marketer.

So don't look down at the blue-collar worker. In life, things break or wear out, so there's always work for a guy who can either fix your old one or build you a new one. They say the blue-collar workers are the first ones to get laid off. They're also the first ones to get hired on. Being useful is the best job security you'll ever have. I'd rather be an unemployed carpenter than an out-of-work human resources manager.

So here's to the blue-collar workers. We need the people who do the jobs, not just the people who do the deals.

WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID?

Sometimes at a party, you'll be standing in a group and you will suddenly say something insensitive or inappropriate. It's usually associated with alcohol consumption or a general overestimation of how much people like you. If you notice the problem right away, you may be able to quickly apologize and avoid a social disaster. Unfortunately, you are often unaware of your faux pas, so here are some signs to watch for that indicate you've said something offensive:

— People's eyes are so wide open, you can see all of the white part.

— You look down at their hands, and everyone's making a fist.

— More than one person is choking on their hors d'oeuvres.

— There's a huge pause, and then everyone laughs.

— There's a huge pause, and then everyone shouts.

— There's a huge pause, and then everyone leaves.

— There's a huge pause, and then you're in the hospital.

GOOD TO BE BAD

During an NBA game the other night, there was a guy shooting foul shots. He fires the first one up, and it clangs on the rim and arcs up over the backboard. This was a terrible shot. And yet all of his teammates come over immediately and shake his hand and congratulate him. What kind of a message is that? You're useless, but that's perfectly fine with us. I can see why so many civil servants are basketball fans.

Quote of the Day: "If you want to feel younger, become a waitress in Florida." — **Red Green**

Red Green is the star of "The Red Green Show," a television series seen in the U.S. on PBS and in Canada on the CBC Network, and the author of "The Red Green Book" and "Red Green Talks Cars: A Love Story."

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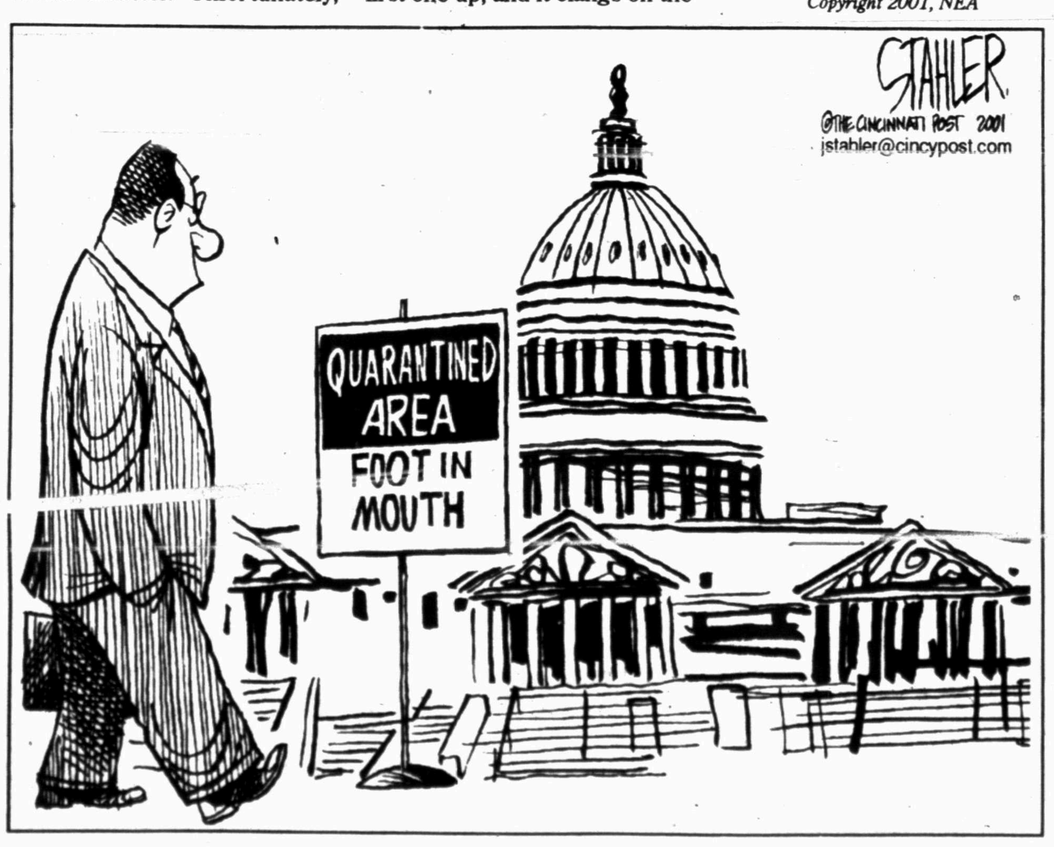

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Amarillo Globe-News

Commander's testimony

His testimony was described in contrasting styles, from "apologetic" to "defensive." Still, Navy Cmdr. Scott Waddle, an Austin native, deserves a degree of recognition for his sense of responsibility and accountability in the wake of a tragedy that resulted in the loss of nine innocent lives.

On Feb. 9, the USS Greeneville, under Waddle's command, collided with a Japanese fishing boat during a demonstration of a rapid-surfacing drill. Nine Japanese were killed.

Waddle, who personally apologized to family members and friends of those who died, surprisingly chose to testify Tuesday during court proceedings at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Waddle was not required to testify, and the U.S. Navy refused to grant him legal immunity for doing so.

Despite the possible legal ramifications, Waddle not only took the stand but said that he was "solely responsible" for the tragedy that has drawn international attention and criticism.

Waddle also remarked that he will have to live with this knowledge for the rest of his life.

Waddle's decision to testify, which reportedly was against the advice of his legal counsel, does not absolve the commander of any possible punishment for his responsibility or role in the tragedy.

The legal process, including a potential court marshal, will determine precisely if Waddle should assume "sole responsibility," and these processes must be carried out in an efficient manner despite Waddle's testimony.

Austin American-Statesman

Wiring money down the drain

The transfer of money from Mexican immigrants in the United States to family members in Mexico is the equivalent of a sizeable foreign aid program.

An estimated $8 billion a year flows from Mexicans working in the United States across the border to Mexico. That's a dollar amount equal to Mexico's tourism industry and nearly as much as the country makes from oil production.

Remittances of cash from immigrants represent a huge and growing business for Mexico. But too large a percentage of that money — hundreds of millions of dollars each year — is lost to fees charged for the transfer of cash.

It has been typical for an immigrant worker sending $300 to Mexico to be charged $80 or $90 in fees. Mexican President Vicente Fox wants to find ways to end the fee gouging so residents in Mexico, not usurious middlemen, receive more of the money from workers in the states.

The biggest success so far has been a program established through the World Council of Credit Unions and its Texas arm, the Texas Credit Union League. Under the credit union system, a $300 remittance costs only $20.50. To date, 10 Texas credit unions have signed on to the program — though none in Austin is yet providing the service.

Maritta Bush, senior vice president of the Texas Credit Union League, hopes to have 100 member unions participating by the end of the year. She is ecstatic about the success of the program so far. She said the push to establish a remittance program came from Hispanic credit union members who wanted to avoid the exorbitant fees some companies were charging to wire money.

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

New coach Bob Knight

New Texas Tech men's basketball coach Bob Knight and the fans of the Red Raiders struck up an almost instant friendship at the United Spirit Arena, an indication that the pioneer spirit of looking forward instead of backward is still alive in West Texas.

The more than 5,000 people in attendance at the arena greeted (with thunderous approval) the official announcement by Tech that Mr. Knight was the new basketball coach.

From Mr. Knight's appearance on the big video screen over the basketball court just before 6 p.m. until he left the stage an hour later, Red Raider fans were embracing the legendary sports figure.

And, Mr. Knight embraced them in return.

Mr. Knight brought down the house when he announced that he would present President David Schmidly with a check for $10,000 to establish a special fund for the university library, and he encouraged all of those in attendance to support the library with a contribution if they liked what they saw on the basketball court.

Mr. Knight instantly connected with the students when he told them they would decide via a special vote which type of sweater he will wear on the sidelines when coaching the Red Raiders. It is obvious from listening to Mr. Knight that he plans to encourage students to get an education, whether they are basketball players or not.

And Karen Knight, the coach's wife and a basketball coach of some renown in her own right, told the audience that she hopes that those who are critical of her husband will get to know him personally before they pass judgment on him.

Although the coach has a reputation of losing his temper publicly less than a half-dozen times, West Texans know that a person's mettle is made over a lifetime.

It's easy to be critical of people we don't know; that's the way many in the national media seem to have judged Mr. Knight. West Texans judge people after they get to know them.

Let's get to know Mr. Knight.

The Dallas Morning News

Cybercheating

There is a new twist to an age-old practice. High school students are cheating. That isn't unusual. The new part is that the Internet seems to be making it easier for them to cut corners and harder for school authorities to catch on.

When the Center for Academic Integrity at Duke University interviewed 500 students in five New Jersey high schools, it found that nearly half admit to using the Net to cheat. The most common trick is for students to engage in what the center's founder, Don McCabe, calls "cut-and-paste plagiarism" where students copy sentences, paragraphs and even whole term papers. About a fifth of students went further by purchasing completed assignments from any one of a number of sites that offer this commodity.

Why is Internet cheating so popular? It's easy to get away with it, say the kids. Some say that teachers are less likely to know their way around the Net than they are more traditional portals of information like books, magazines and newspapers.

And even when teachers do recognize it, researchers say, they are not bothered by it. While college instructors see "cut-and-paste" for what it is cheating high school teachers may chalk it up to "research."

That needs to be addressed. Secondary schools should mark down papers that rely heavily on borrowed work. Educators may beat cheaters at the game with old-fashioned common sense, by watching carefully to see if the cadence of sentences in papers changes noticeably or if a student's work on paper doesn't match the student's efforts in person.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

New treatment for hyperhydrosis

DEAR DR. GOTT: Ever since I was a child, I have suffered from excessive sweating, primarily under my arms and on my palms and soles. I perspire profusely irrespective of activity or stress. Sometimes my shirts are drenched when I'm just sitting. More often than not, I am embarrassed to shake hands.

My doctor diagnosed hyperhydrosis and has tried many therapies, including the application of aluminum-based antiperspirants and various medications. None has worked. My social life is in a shambles. I am desperate for a cure. Is there any help for me?

DEAR READER: Your letter is representative of literally hundreds I have received over the years. Until now, my answer to people with hyperhydrosis has been a qualified endorsement of traditional therapy, such as you mentioned.

Based on a new study, however, I can say that a cure has been found. Researchers from Munich, Germany, recently reported in the New England Journal of Medicine (Feb. 15, 2001), that therapy with injections of botulinum toxin A can stop excessive sweating.

This toxin blocks nerve impulses and has been used extensively to treat patients with dystonia, spasticity, chronic anal fissures and other afflictions. In the above study, doctors discovered that most subjects with hyperhydrosis improved markedly after botulinum injections, and that 98 percent of these patients would recommend the treatment for others. Side effects were minimal.

Hyperhydrosis unquestionably affects the quality of life; thus, an effective, new and safe treatment is welcome. As yet, the precise injection schedule has not been published, but in the German trial, a single botulinum injection produced beneficial results for up to a year and a half. Ask your doctor about this breakthrough. Inasmuch as customary therapy has been unsuccessful, I believe that you are a prime candidate for botulinum toxin. Let me know how this plays out.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What is a carcinogen? Is it burnt meat, barbecue, burnt vegetables, marshmallows or toast? Are all black foods, such as pepper, carcinogens?

DEAR READER: A carcinogen is anything that may cause cancer. The list of such elements is endless, ranging from tobacco smoke and asbestos to hydrocarbons and certain forms of radiation.

In the past, some types of overcooked meat were reported to be carcinogenic but, for all practical purposes, this observation is not a practical consideration. Specifically, charred, non-meat products are not a significant health risk. Therefore, I can assure you that environmental carcinogens are more a problems than are foods.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Viruses and Cancer." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What does it mean if my doctor does not belong to the American Medical Association?

DEAR READER: The AMA is a worthwhile organization. However, joining it is not a reflection of a doctor's competence. Other issues — such as board certification, experience and skill — are more crucial indicators of excellence. Many competent physicians are reluctant to join the AMA because they view the organization as a political interest group that is more concerned with lobbying than defining quality. If your physician is caring, respectful and considerate, and he gets good results, you can disregard his lack of AMA membership.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Here are some of the ways people know that they are getting old:

You're over the hill when

— You sit on a rocking chair and can't get it going.

— Your knees buckle but your belt won't.

— Your back goes out more then you do.

— Jane Fonda was starring in "Barbarella" the last time you wore a bikini.

— You hear a Beatles' song from your youth on the Muzak in the elevator.

— You realize that when Errol Flynn was your age, he had been dead eight years.

— Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.

— You feel like the night before, but you haven't been anywhere.

— Your little black book contains only names ending in "M.D."

— You can't wait for Baskin-Robbins to market an oat-bran ice cream.

— A dripping faucet causes an uncontrollable bladder urge.

— You know all the answers, but nobody asks you the questions.

— You remember the first time your favorite outfit was in style.

— You've stopped counting freckles and started counting age spots.

— Your children look middle-aged.

— You get winded playing cards.

— Power-walking seems as challenging as a contact sport.

— You look back nostalgically on your "mid-life crisis."

— Salespeople laugh when you suggest wearing white at your wedding.

— The gleam in your eye is from the sun hitting your bifocals.

— You turn out the lights for economic rather than romantic reasons.

— You have too much room in the house and not enough in the medicine cabinet.

— You watch a program on the Golden Age of TV and sing along with the "Mr. Ed" theme.

— You see antique shops selling Underwood typewriters. And you buy one.

— The cop who pulls you over looks too young even to be in high school.

— You sink your teeth into a steak, and they stay there.

— You need glasses to find your glasses.

— You look forward to a dull evening.

— You know what LSMFT means.

— Your teen heartthrob was Marlon Brando. Marlon Brando?

— Your favorite outfielder is elected to the Hall of fame. Posthumously.

— You wonder what happened to the pH factor in shampoos.

— You can no longer recall your true hair color.

— You finally reach the top of the ladder and find it leaning against the wrong wall.

— You begin to outlive enthusiasm.

— You decide to procrastinate, but never get around to it.

— You're still chasing women, but can't remember why.

— Your mind makes contracts your body can't meet.

— Your favorite part of the newspaper is "25 years ago today."

— You regret all those mistakes resisting temptation.

— You're 17 around the neck, 42 around the waist, and 96 around the golf course.

— You stop looking forward to your next birthday.

— After painting the town red, you need a long rest before applying a second coat.

— Dialing long distance wears you out.

— You're startled the first time you are addressed as "old timer."

— You remember today that yesterday was your wedding anniversary.

— You just can't stand people who are intolerant.

— The best part of your day is over when the alarm clock goes off.

— You burn the midnight oil after 9 p.m.

— A fortune teller offers to read your face.

— Your pacemaker makes the garage door go up when you watch a pretty girl go by.

— The little gray-haired lady you help across the street is your wife.

— You look down and see your mother's hands.

DEAR READER: Which goes to show that a little humor always helps — and it's cheap medicine. Thanks for writing.

By the way, for those too young to remember, LSMFT translates as "Lucky Strike Means Fine Tobacco."

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Fort Lauderdale will not have any more wild spring breaks

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — As a flamenco dancer twirled her ruffled red dress in front of a middle-aged audience at BeachPlace, 20-year-old Nate Dunlap wondered whether spring break could get any lamer.

"I guess I always assumed it was a spring break haven. I don't know why I assumed that," said the Cornell University sophomore. "College is definitely crazier, but it's colder."

Fort Lauderdale was immortalized as a spring break destination in the 1960 movie "Where the Boys Are." But the city has graduated from the days of overflowing bars, lewd behavior and litter-filled beaches. It has redefined itself as a spot for families, business travelers and well-to-do college students.

On a recent Wednesday, businessmen in ties sipped beers on their lunch break as college students in bathing suits tossed a volleyball on the beach.

"The younger kids that are here now, they're more mature," said Scott Loiselle, a manager at Hooters restaurant. "They're not as rowdy. We haven't had a fight yet."

In the early 1980s, hundreds of thousands of young people descended on the city, turning it upside down. They destroyed hotel rooms, left trash on the beach and scared away locals. In 1986, two spring breakers died in falls from balconies, and a third was killed in a motorcycle crash.

Faced with a record 350,000 students in 1985, business leaders and City Council decided to make a change. Mayor Robert Dressler went on ABC's "Good Morning America" to say that college students were no longer welcome.

The City Council said no to MTV and inflatable beers cans and passed a law forbidding open alcoholic containers on the beach side of U.S. Highway A1A. Overnight parking on the beach was also prohibited.

Police strictly enforced the new ordinances the following year, arresting almost 2,500 people during spring break. The students started staying away. Only 60,000 visited during spring break 1988. About 25,000 are expected this spring.

The city's raucous reputation lingered even after more and more students opted for other party locations, such as Panama City Beach, Daytona Beach and Cancun, Mexico.

"It probably took 10 years before we could go out and pass the straight-faced test in the marketplace and say we had an alternate destination to sell," said Nicki Grossman, president of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Tourism officials are trying to market Fort Lauderdale as an upscale paradise, where Ferraris and Porsches purr down boulevards and sophisticated tourists dine in fine restaurants, as they do in Palm Beach or Miami.

While the marketing efforts have not completely erased the wet-and-wild image — in mid-March, a New Jersey teen-ager died after falling from a motel balcony in Fort Lauderdale's first serious spring break accident since 1986 — the shift away from spring break has begun to pay off.

The $110 million spent by students during spring break in the mid-1980s has been more than offset by the $773 million currently spent by tourists during the same period, Grossman said.

The Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center, opened in 1991, will be the site of 23 conventions from January through June 2001. The meetings will bring an estimated 100,000 visitors and more than 175,000 room nights, with an economic impact totaling an estimated $106 million, Grossman said.

To attract well-heeled tourists, hotels, restaurants and shopping areas have had to undergo renovations, much to the delight of older tourists who first visited the city decades ago.

Ken Johnson, 65, of Westfield, Mass., toured the city 30 years ago during a visit to his parents' home — a trip that coincided with spring break.

"Some places were downhill," said Johnson, after taking an afternoon cruise along the Intracoastal Waterway. "Now this is upscale. It's a lot nicer." A1A is still lined with tattoo parlors, T-shirt shops and open-air bars, but upscale businesses are slowly pushing their way in. A five-star hotel is being built on the lot where a popular spring break bar, the Candy Store, used to sit.

Even the cheapest beachside hotels were too expensive for Dunlap and his friend, Justin Gray, 20, of Union College in Schenectady, N.Y. They decided to stay downtown for $50 a night.

Dunlap, who spent his first week of spring break in New Orleans, said he wasn't sure yet whether the plane ticket to South Florida was worth it.

"New Orleans was kickin'. I haven't seen anything like that yet," he said.

On the Net:

Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitor's Bureau: http//www.sunny.org

BeachPlace: www.fortlauderdalebeach.com/beachplace

Dioxin levels still high in U.S. food

HOUSTON (AP) — Levels of dioxin — a toxic chemical known for causing various forms of cancer — remain high in the U.S. food supply although they have declined in the environment, a new study says.

In a study of food samples from around the country, scientists at the University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston found no decline from test samples taken more than a decade ago.

Through food alone, Americans are getting 22 times the maximum dioxin exposure suggested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the study said. Among nursing infants, that level is 35 to 65 times the recommended dosage.

"It means we still have to tighten up and clean up our environment more than it is right now," said Dr. Arnold Schecter, who directed the study. "We have to reduce the highly toxic, persistent chemicals in the environment."

Meat and dairy products are considered the biggest sources. Dioxins concentrate in animal fat, and the best way to avoid them is to eat more fruits and vegetables.

"This is just one more reason for having less animal fats in our diets," Schecter told the Houston Chronicle in Friday's editions. "Blood samples from pure vegans, who consume no animal products, show that they have less dioxins in their bodies than average Americans."

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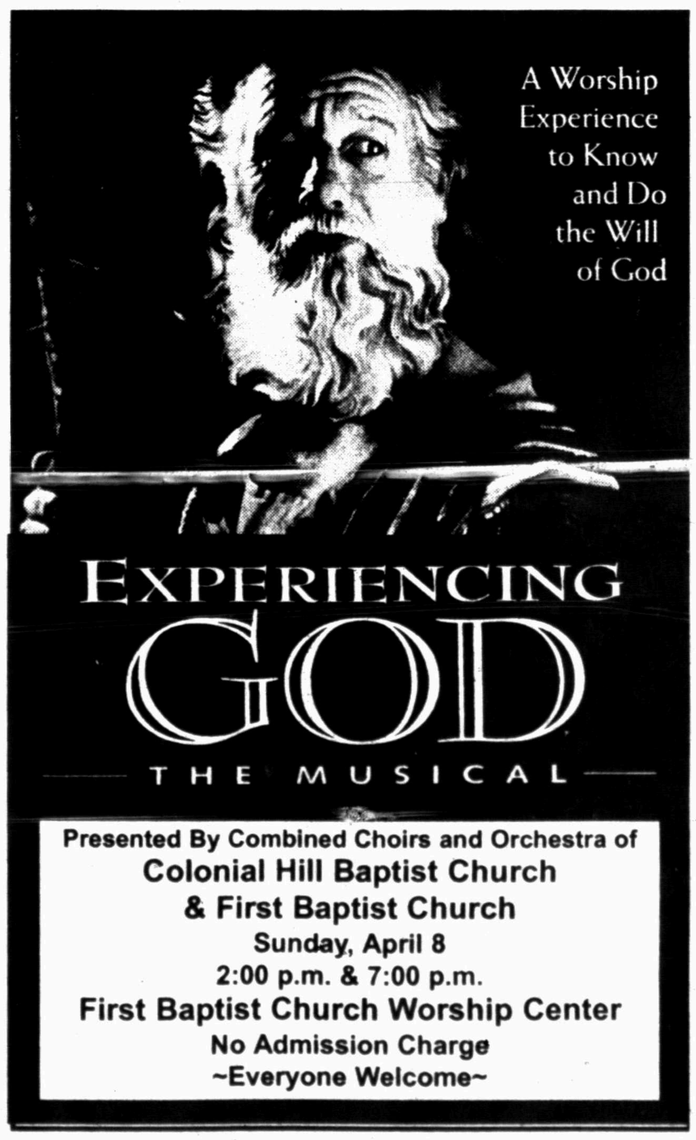

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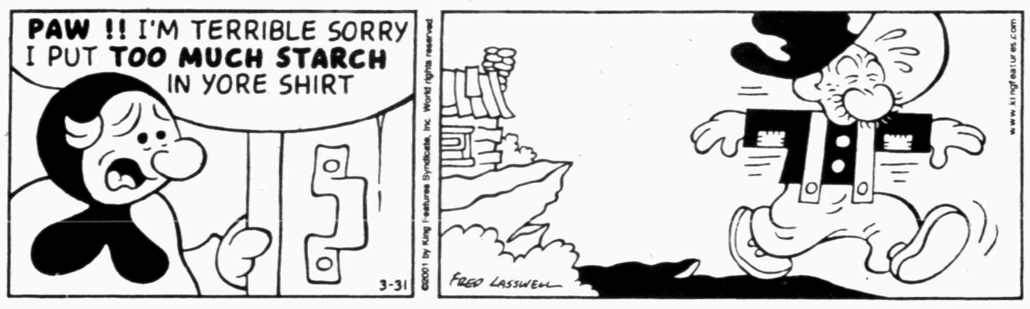
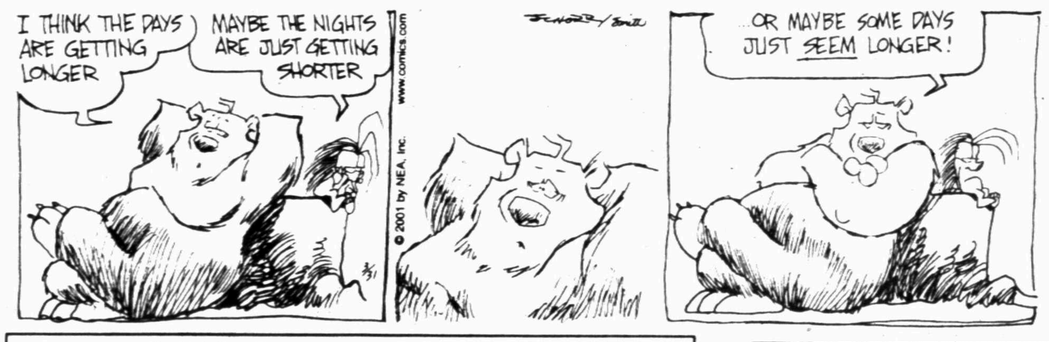


BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun

THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



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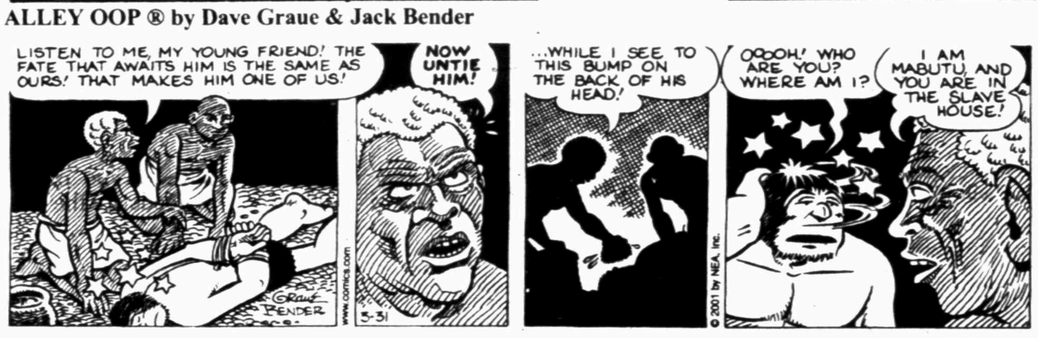

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

"I can't understand it! He just burst in and shot my violin."

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 — Rica
6 Northeasterly winter wind
10 Well-mannered
12 Nonmetallic element
14 "20 Questions" category
15 Device
16 Used a chair
17 Relatives
19 Italian noble family
20 More like the head honcho?
23 Spy, at times
26 Alps, e.g. (abbr.)
27 Actress Francis
30 "Night of the —"
32 Large home
34 Necessitated
35 Lawyer Clarence —
36 Moray
37 Ice-T's music
39 Cries out
40 Evergreen tree
42 Actor Wyle
45 2,000 lbs.
46 Female bird
49 Look up to
51 Become electrically charged
54 Car- — (shared the driving)
55 Colorful flower
56 Valley on the moon
57 Sailing vessel

DOWN

1 They're good with nos.
2 A Chaplin
3 Skirt feature
4 Comic Allen
5 "One Day — — Time"
6 Furry wrap
7 More unusual
8 Manipulates dishonestly
9 Work without — — (be daring)
11 Large deer
12 Set fire to
13 Paris season
18 Doctrine
20 Necklace unit
21 Hard to manage
22 Compositions
23 Movie
24 S-shaped molding
25 Sword fight
27 Designer Lagerfeld
28 At the summit
29 Evergreens
31 Made suitable
33 Three (Sp.)
38 Not con
40 Ice
41 City in Oklahoma
42 40 winks
43 Aroma
44 "Help!" in France (2 wds.)
46 City in Hawaii
47 Singer Pinza
48 Tide type
50 Sister, e.g. (abbr.)
52 Treaty assn.
53 Devils' org.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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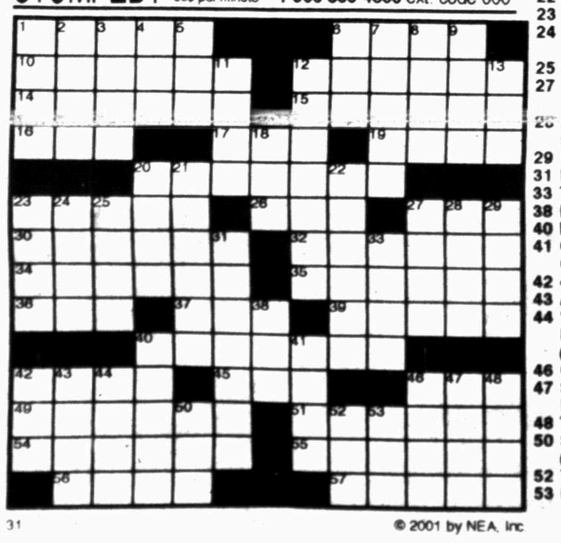

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"UH-OH! MOM'S READING LABELS. THAT MEANS WE'RE GONNA HAVE A HEALTH FOOD DINNER."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Sunday, April 1, 2001

The possibilities for success in the year ahead loom larger than they have been for quite some time. Take advantage of opportunities that come along for you, and make each one count.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Owing to a far more favorable set of conditions today, something you've been struggling to finish can finally be completed today and gotten out of the way. 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) — Make this truly a day off for you by getting together with people you like and doing one or more of your favorite pleasurable activities with them. The recreation will do you good.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Although this may not be a work day for you, it is still good for financial activities that can add to your income or resources. A channel can be opened to generate a greater flow.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — It might have been due to some recent behavior under difficult circumstances that warrants the applause you'll be receiving today. You "done good."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Provided you don't rock your own boat, Lady Luck wants to use her magic stuff on you today. Let life flow along in its own direction so she can make things better.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — One of your greatest assets today will be your ability to deal with groups or complex organizational situations. You'll be the one who stands out in the crowd.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Because your grasp of issues today is rather profound, you will be able to find a number of uses for your insights and instincts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — In helping a friend today, you'll end up helping yourself in the process by bringing about something quite nice for both of you. You'll be as happy for his or her joy as you will be for yours.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Something could develop between yourself and someone with whom you'll be involved today, with the benefits of this encounter spilling over onto you. It could be a case of being in the right place at the right time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Something you come across or someone you talk to today may have extremely valuable information or advice for you. In this case, it's smart to take it at face value.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Lady Luck wants to help today, but she might do so through someone else. If you're offered something nice, don't be too proud to accept it.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — The types of treasures you'll come across today and store up on can't be stolen or corroded. They're the kind that come through warm and loving friendships.

Monday, April 2, 2001

In the year ahead, that in which you become involved could be larger in scope than your past endeavors. Your enterprises will not only be successful but will bring you great joy as well.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Something you've been wanting, either for yourself or for your home, might be found today at a price you can afford. The acquisition will make you very happy. Major changes are ahead for Aries in the coming year.

Send for your Astro-Graph predictions 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 a pal does something worthy of acclaim today, don't hold back your praises. Compliments from you will mean a lot and have considerable impact on that person.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Although your intentions will not be self-serving, a situation in which you begin as a giver today could have you ending up as the biggest receiver. It'll prove that you get what you give.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Although a new twist might look intriguing, your judgment in not discarding proven traditional methods or procedures will prove to be quite wise. Old ways still work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — The aspects indicate that today there could be someone vouching for you concerning something you've been striving for. This person's actions will be of tremendous help to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Don't put off another day getting in touch with that individual who you think could offer you some information difficult to attain. He or she will be able to help.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — One of the things you do best is enhance that which others start. Chances are you'll take a so-so situation today and turn it into something really great.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Don't limit your thinking today to petty terms, because a restricted imagination yields meager returns, whether you're seeking material rewards or artistic ones.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Your generosity to others is not likely to be an exception today. However, the rewards for your good deeds might be more than anyone would expect.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Because you have the ability to make what you're doing seem important, yet fun, others will want to be around you. These are the elements that magnify your attractiveness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — When working on refurbishing your home today, use only quality materials that will stand the test of time. The splendor you create will be more enduring if the goods are the top of line.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — You'd be wise today to take advantage of any social invitation you get, especially if you are presently unattached. Someone quite attractive may be in attendance.

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No question too invasive at bankruptcy hearings

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Your financial life flashes in front of you in a matter of minutes: your mortgage, income, bills, life insurance, taxes. You're being grilled under oath in a room full of strangers, each awaiting a turn under the spotlight.

"Still got the '91 Honda Civic?" attorney Gordon Peyton asked a man while scanning a document listing what the man had and what he owed. "Are you expecting a tax refund this year?"

Watchers sat solemnly in rows of comfortable chairs. Some spoke in anxious tones with their lawyers. A nervous din filled the hallway outside, while on a brick veranda, cement urns were loaded with fresh cigarette butts.

Peyton is a bankruptcy trustee who conducts these one-on-one public meetings with people who want to wipe away their debts under Chapter 7 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. Mandatory sessions like this take place across the nation.

People come here for many reasons — job loss, medical disaster, divorce, drug addiction. It's the culmination of a financial struggle for many, marked by pressing phone calls from creditors and sleep-starved nights. Some are eager to tell their story to a reporter but are too embarrassed to have their name printed.

Proponents of overhauling the bankruptcy laws say it's too easy to erase credit-card and other debts under Chapter 7, and that the system is being abused. Both the House and Senate this month passed bills to toughen the rules, and President Bush has signaled he would sign such legislation.

Congress proposes a new income-based test for those seeking Chapter 7 protection. If a person were found to have sufficient income to repay at least 25 percent of the debt over five years, debtors generally would be required to file instead under Chapter 13, which requires a court-approved repayment plan, rather than dissolution of unsecured debts.

For about 500 years in England, imprisonment for defaulting on debts was the order of the day. Creditors in ancient Rome were authorized to carve up a debtor's body, according to scholars.

There are no debtors' prisons in this country. The closest this system comes to a public pillory may well be these meetings under Section 341 of the Bankruptcy Code.

In Alexandria, across the Potomac from Washington, dozens of people were interviewed on a recent afternoon. Each was sworn in while sitting alongside his or her lawyer at a large table, and on the other side sat Peyton and his two assistants. Occasionally a creditor's lawyer — from a department store or bank, for example — pulled up a chair.

The filers were young and not-so-young, men and women, whites and African Americans and Asians and Hispanics. Their occupations include postal worker, delivery driver, candy store owner, retail clerk. They live in upscale suburbs like Falls Church as well as rural towns in northern Virginia.

Many were casually dressed. Nearly all had an attorney.

"These people wanted to live the American dream," lawyer Joel Steinberg said. "Their kids have doctor bills, they have car problems, they begin to dip into the credit cards."

Steinberg said many of his Chapter 7 clients have fallen on hard times in an expensive area of the country despite jobs that pay fairly well. That means they likely would fail the means test in the new legislation and be forced into Chapter 13 reorganization.

Peyton and other trustees are private attorneys appointed by the Justice Department. Their job is to clear out the underbrush, to administer a heavy load of cases so most of them don't have to go before a judge. At the federal bankruptcy courthouse, six blocks away in Alexandria's historic Old Town district, some days go by without any cases being heard.

"This is where the rubber meets the road," Peyton said after the grueling four-hour session. He averages 12 interviews an hour and is paid $65 per case, regardless of how simple or complex. He is a bit like a circuit-riding judge, coming to preside at these meetings once every two weeks.

A large, affable man, Peyton wishes several of the debtors "Good luck" with a hint of sympathy when he releases them from the interview.

When he suspects abuse, Peyton's good humor vanishes. He sharply scolds an immigrant woman with an apparent gambling problem who he believes to be less than honest. If she doesn't file her back tax returns in 30 days, he says, he'll recommend to the bankruptcy judge that she be incarcerated.

"Then she's going to be back in front of that judge to explain why she shouldn't go to jail," Peyton told her lawyer and translator. "I want some truthful answers. I want to know how come she owes this casino $2,700."

In return for debtors' clean financial slate under Chapter 7, the trustee legally takes over their property, except for basic necessities such as a car, clothing and work tools.

Property with value is sold to pay creditors. Debtors generally are allowed to keep some personal items and possibly some of the equity in their home, depending on state laws.

"Still got the Olds?" Peyton asked another woman. "They're not going to make those any more — you'd better hold on to it."

On the Net:
Text of the bills:
http://thomas.loc.gov
Executive Office for U.S. Bankruptcy Trustees:
http://www.usdoj.gov/ust
American Bankruptcy Institute:
http://www.abiworld.org

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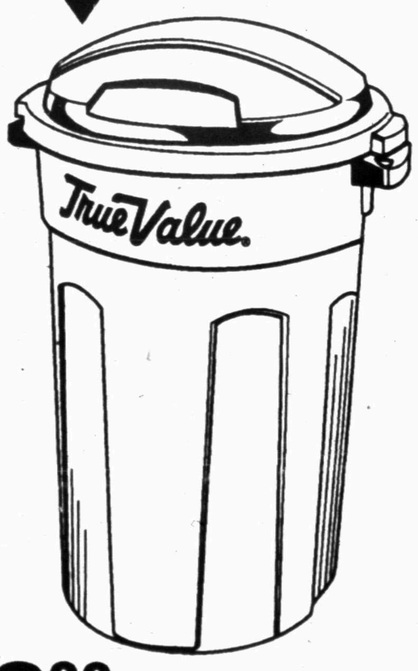
BARGAIN OF THE MONTH



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Date Books

Saturday, March 31, 2001
Today is the 90th day of 2001 and the 12th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1889, a ceremony marked the completion of the Eiffel Tower. At the time, it was the world's largest steel structure.

On this day in 1923, the first dance marathon was held at New York City's Audubon Ballroom.

On this day in 1992, the USS Missouri, the last U.S. battleship in active service, was decommissioned.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Rene Descartes (1596-1650), philosopher-mathematician; Andrew Marvell (1621-1678), poet; Joseph Haydn (1732-1809), composer; Jack Johnson (1878-1946), boxing great; John Fowles (1926-), novelist, is 75; Gordie Howe (1928-), hockey great, is 73; Shirley Jones (1934-), actress, is 67; Christopher Walken (1943-), actor, is 58.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1985, Mr. T and Hulk Hogan defeated Paul Orndorff and Rowdy Roddy Piper in the first Wrestlemania contest.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "To know what people really think, pay regard to what they do, rather than what they say." — Rene Descartes

TODAY'S MOON: Day before first quarter (April 1).

Sunday, April 1, 2001
Today is the 91st day of 2001 and the 13th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1929, the Marx toy company introduced the yo-yo.

On this day in 1957, the single "Bye Bye, Love" was released by the Everly Brothers.

On this day in 1963, the television daytime drama "General Hospital" premiered.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Nikolai Gogol (1809-1852), writer; Edmond Rostand (1868-1918), dramatist; Lon Chaney (1883-1930), actor; William Manchester (1922-), writer, is 79; Jane Powell (1929-), actress-singer, is 72; Ali MacGraw (1939-), actress, is 62; Annette O'Toole (1952-), actress, is 49.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1920, the Ottawa Senators won the Stanley Cup by defeating the Seattle Metropolitans.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "All who joy would win/Must share it — Happiness was born a twin." — George Byron

TODAY'S MOON: First quarter.

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Ex-congressman pleads innocent

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Former Rep. Edward Mezvinsky has pleaded innocent to charges he lied to banks and defrauded law clients, including his mother-in-law, in a $10.4 million scheme.

Mezvinsky, who represented Iowa from 1973 to 1977, faces 56 counts of fraud and 10 related offenses. He entered the plea Thursday.

His attorneys have said Mezvinsky didn't intentionally defraud clients, but that his use of an anti-malaria medication exacerbated his bipolar disorder, a psychological condition that affected his judgment.

A federal magistrate released Mezvinsky on $50,000 bond.

No special training need for 'Spy Kids'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Carla Gugino didn't go through any strenuous training regimen to play an ex-spy and a mother of two in the new family adventure film "Spy Kids."

Director Robert Rodriguez didn't give her any time.

"I sat down and spoke with Robert about this and I was shooting 48 hours later," Gugino told reporters. "I'm a pretty physical person anyway and, given the chance, I love to try doing all that kind of stuff."

Gugino said she overcame fears as a child, just like the young characters do in the movie.

"I had fears of heights, actually, which I did eventually get over, fear of singing which I still haven't gotten over," she said, laughing. "I think that that's sort of a part of growing up."

"Spy Kids," which also stars Antonio Banderas and Alan Cumming, opens today.

Aid for nuclear workers headed for Justict Dept.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration is a step closer to shifting agency control of a new compensation program for sick Cold War-era nuclear weapons plant workers, a move critics say will delay badly needed payments.

The Office of Management and Budget has drafted an executive order that would move the program from the Labor Department to the Justice Department. The shift is supported by Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, who says the Justice Department is better suited to oversee the program.

Richard Miller, a lobbyist with the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers International Union who helped negotiate the compensation program's provisions, said he feared such a move would make it impossible for dying workers to quickly get the checks and medical benefits they've been promised.

"What they have just done is pour cement boots over this program," Miller said Thursday.

The proposed order, which must be signed by President Bush to take effect, would amend an order by President Clinton, who put the Labor Department in charge, and defy Congress, which last year appropriated money to the Labor Department.

The program calls for payments of $150,000 plus medical care to workers with cancer or incurable lung disease because of their Cold War-era exposure to radiation, beryllium or silica.

On the Net:
Report on compensation issues:
http://www.eh.doe.gov/benefits

Nutrition

By Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

Is grapefruit juice harmful?

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I have been advised to stop drinking grapefruit juice because it impedes the body's ability to get rid of medications. Could you please comment on this advice? - **A.R., Coronado, Calif.**

Dear A.R.: The body has a number of systems designed to eliminate unwanted substances. Substances can leave the body through our kidneys, the digestive track, exhaled via breathing, or even through our skin. Medications are given for a reason, but from the body's perspective, they are just more foreign substances that need to be eliminated. In many cases, medications and other undesirable compounds have to be broken apart by specialized enzymes prior to disposal. (It is similar to the way foods have to be taken apart by digestive enzymes before they can be absorbed.)

The body has a number of enzymes in its disposal system, but one of the stars is called cytochrome P-450 3A4, or CYP3A4, for short. This enzyme is present in the liver, which is the organ that does the lion's share of the breakdown work. CYP3A4 is also present in the walls of our digestive track, perhaps to get a head start on compounds before they are even absorbed.

Grapefruit juice, it turns out, contains a compound that does a great job inhibiting CYP3A4. This interaction was uncovered in 1989, when a researcher innocently used grapefruit juice to mask flavors in a study designed to test how alcohol affected a particular medication. The results were bizarre, and the scientist concluded that grapefruit juice had affected how the medication was absorbed and broken down by the body. From that point on, researchers began investigating the range of the grapefruit juice effect.

Researchers have since discovered that grapefruit juice interacts with a wide range of medications that are normally "handled" by the CYP3A4 system. When grapefruit juice is around, more of the drugs get absorbed because the breakdown in the walls of the intestines no longer takes place. The effect persists, however, and it impacts the liver enzyme's ability to break down the medication. This means that blood levels remain higher for a longer period of time.

Depending on the medication, the grapefruit juice effect can be serious, and it can remain long after the juice is consumed. In one study, the effect was significant 24 hours later. Many drugs are affected, including cholesterol-lowering drugs, certain anti-convulsants, calcium-channel blockers (prescribed for heart disease), cyclosporine (medication used after transplants) and benzodiazepines. If you enjoy grapefruit juice and are on prescription medications, it is essential that you check with your pharmacist or your physician to see if your medication is at risk.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: Could you please give me information on the Slim-Gal Patch? It is a patch that contains the fat-melting substance called Guaranine and is the discovery of a doctor at a clinic in The Netherlands. The patch also contains Citrus aurantium. I hope you can help me. - **V.T., London, Conn.**

Dear V.T.: Citrus aurantium is Bitter Orange, which is a source of the stimulant synephrine. I am not familiar with "guaranine" and could not find it listed in any of my chemical directories. If I had to guess, I would say it probably refers to caffeine from the guarana plant. If this is the case, neither it nor the synephrine are fat-melting substances. If you stop and think about it, though, a patch that contains a fat-melting substance would dissolve your flesh.

One problem I have with these devices is I have not seen any evidence that the substances they contain can be absorbed through the skin in sufficient amounts to have a physiological effect.

If these companies were interested in proving that their products work, they would need to compare a patch with the "active ingredients" against one that contains a placebo. This experiment would have to be conducted in a controlled environment in which volunteers (and the researchers they interact with) have no idea which type of patch they are wearing. Comparison with a placebo patch is essential because the wearing of a "diet patch" could serve as a reminder to avoid overeating.

Demand evidence! Save your money.

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

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

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At least 17 killed in Bangladesh highway accident

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A cement-laden truck overturned Friday on a highway in northern Bangladesh, killing at least 17 people and injuring 30 others, police said.

The overloaded truck was carrying 48 passengers when it toppled after one of its rear wheels burst near Sherpur, 90 miles north of the national capital, Dhaka, a police spokesman said.

All the passengers were day laborers, hitching a ride home from the capital for the weekend, police said.

Local villagers rushed to the scene after hearing a loud noise and took the wounded to local hospitals. Rescuers pulled 14 bodies from the wreckage.