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INSIDE

What's up 2
Lifestyles 3
Sports 5
Midday stocks 7
Weather 10

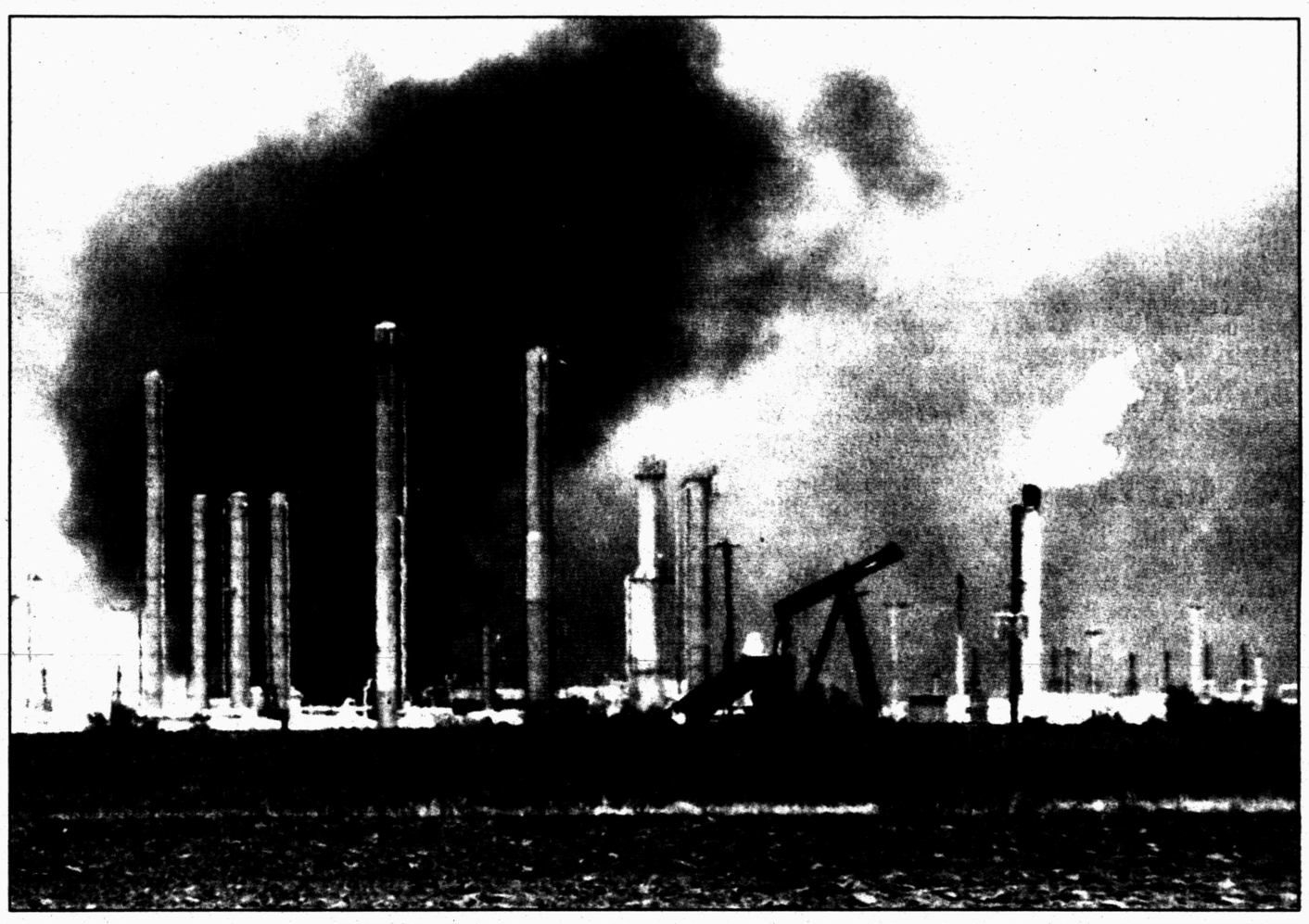
WT-Int. Crude - $41.72
WTIC Posted - $38.50
Natural Gas - $6.70

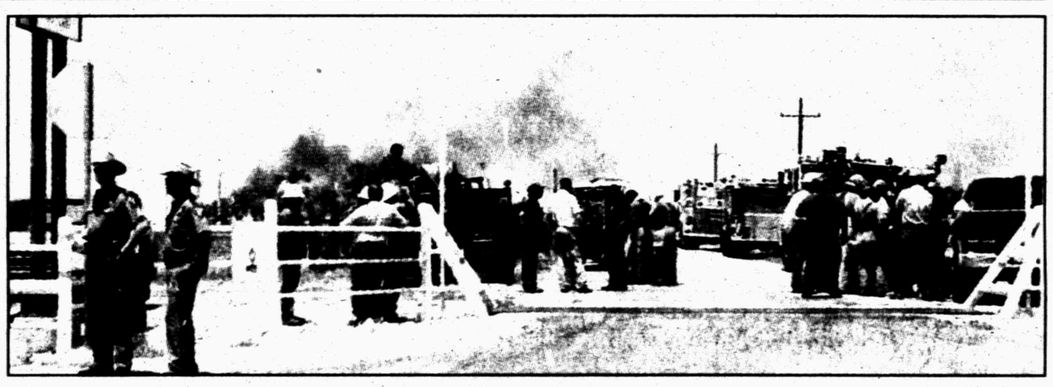
THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

TUESDAY

May 25, 2004
Vol. 56 No. 21
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Chelsea Russell





VEALMOOR FIRE — Smoke pours from the East Vealmoor Gas Plant located southwest of Snyder in Howard County. A Post man was airlifted to University Medical Center for treatment of burns over 30 percent of his body. At right, DPS troopers and emergency personnel stand by at the entrance of the plant. (SDN Staff Photos by Jeff West)

Explosion injures one at gas plant

A Post man was airlifted to a Lubbock hospital after an explosion and fire rocked a gas plant southwest of Vealmoor shortly after noon on Monday

Several area fire departments, including Snyder's and Snyder EMS, responded.

About 12:15 p.m., a fire started in one of the compression units of the West Texas Gas Company's East Vealmoor gas plant, according to Terry Chamness, deputy emergency managem coordinator for Howard County.

Brent Jones, 33, of Post apparently went into the room on fire and an explosion occurred. Jones reportedly had relatives living in Snyder.

Jones sustained burns over about 30 percent of his body and was listed in critical condition in University Medical Center's burn unit.

Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker, one of the first on the scene, said a co-worker saw Jones enter the plant engine room just before the explosion

When the sheriff arrived, the plant's eight other employees already had the burn victim wrapped in a "jell blanket," increasing the probability of survival.

The Howard sheriff and deputy Jay Fryer placed the victim in a patrol unit and then met up with a Howard County ambulance on U.S. 87.

The ambulance then was met near Ackerly in Dawson County by a medi-vac helicopter from Lubbock.

The Snyder fire department sent four fire trucks and 16 fire fighters, including Chief Perry Westmoreland and Fire Marshal Cy Posey. Westmoreland served as safety coordinator at the incident.

"We had six firefighters on the line at a time and rotated them out because of the extreme heat," Posey said.

Firefighting efforts were hampered by the proximity of a motor oil tank, which was soon set on fire by the original flames.

Efforts, using both water and foam, also were hampered because the fire hydrants at the plant were not functioning and water tanks at the plant and tankers from various fire departments had to be used.

"They had a big 36,000 gallon tank which was used to feed the trucks. I don't know why the

See EXPLOSION, Page 10

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "Congratulations graduates and best wishes."

Over the years, we've read many accounts of commencement addresses, and this still has to be one of our favorites.

This one by Ann Quindlen delivered a few years at Villanova University remains full of practical and motivational thoughts:

"It's a great honor to be the third member of my family to receive an honorary doctorate from this great university.

"I have no specialized field of expertise, which puts me at a disadvantage talking to you.

"My work is human nature. Real life is all I know. Don't ever confuse the two — your life and your work. The second is only part of the first.

"Don't ever forget what a friend once wrote Sen. Paul Tsongas when the senator decided not to run for re-election because he had been diagnosed with cancer. 'No man ever said on his deathbed that he had wished he had spent more time at the office.'

"Don't forget the words my father sent me on a postcard last year: 'If you win the rat race, you're still a rat.'

"Or what John Lennon wrote before he was gunned down: 'Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans.'

"You will walk out of here with only one thing that no one else has. There will be thousands of people doing what you want to do. But you will be the only person who has sole custody of your life...not just the life of your mind, but the life of your heart. Not just your bank account, but your soul.

"People don't talk about the soul very much. It's easier to write a resume than to craft a spirit.

"Here's my resume:

"I am a good mother to three children. I no longer consider myself the center of the universe. I show up. I listen. I try to laugh. I am a good friend to my husband. I have tried to make marriage vows mean what they say.

"I am a good friend to my friends. Without them, there would be nothing to say to you today because I would be a cardboard cutout. I call them on the phone and I meet them for lunch.

"I would be rotten, or at best mediocre at my job if those other things were not true. Here's what I want to tell you today.

"Get a life. A real life, not a manic pursuit of the next promotion, bigger paycheck, the larger house. Do you think you'd care much about those things if you blew an aneurysm or found a lump in your breast?

"Get a life in which you notice the smell of saltwater, a life in which you stop and watch a red-tailed hawk circle, or the way a baby scowls with concentration when she tried to pick up a Cheerio with a thumb and first finger.

"Get a life in which you are not alone. Find people you love and who love you. Love is not leisure, it is work. Pick up the phone, send an e-mail. Write a letter.

"Get a life in which you are generous, a life that is not taken for granted. Take money you would have spent on beers and give it to charity.

"Work in a soup kitchen. Be a big brother or sister. All of you want to do well.

"But if you do not do good, too, then doing well will never be enough...

"Learn to be happy. Think of life as a terminal illness because if you do, you will live it with joy and passion as it ought to be

MAY 25 2004

Shorter school days remainder of week

Snyder students will be dismissed at noon Wednesday and Thursday during this last week of the school year.

Thursday is the last day students will be in class, although Friday is a workday for teachers.

Also on Friday, service awards will be presented to the district's staff members at an 8 a.m. breakfast in the high school student center.

Snyder seniors graduate at 8 p.m. Friday in the Scurry County Coliseum.

Hermleigh students will dismiss at 2:30 Wednesday afternoon and 1:30 p.m. on Thursday. Friday is a teacher workday at Hermleigh and seniors will graduate at 8 o'clock that evening in the school auditorium.

Ira students will dismiss at 1:30 p.m. both Wednesday and Thursday, and Friday is a workday for teachers.

Ira will graduate its seniors in the school gymnasium at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

ExxonMobil's sale of fields excludes Salt Creek

ExxonMobil's sale of properties in West Texas to Apache Corp. does not include the company's Salt Creek Field in Kent County.

Bob Davis, a spokesman for ExxonMobil, said the sale did involve the company's interest in the Cogdell Reef Field.

However, ExxonMobil is not the operator of that field, according to Davis.

The sale was announced Monday.

Board meeting Thursday...

Cogdell Hospital finance committee meets Wednesday

Cogdell Memorial Hospital's finance committee will meet at 7:30 Wednesday morning in the boardroom.

Chaired by hospital board member Dr. Charles Church, the committee will hear the financial report by interim financial officer Richard Murphy, before hearing CEO Carol Hanes lead the discussion on several items.

These include emergency room staffing, capital acquisition policies, present hospital contracts and a review of present staff numbers.

The entire hospital board will meet at 7:30 Thursday morning.

This is the first time Hanes will meet with the board in a regular session.

DCOS looking at business expansion

Development Corporation of Snyder executive director John DeLille told board members this morning that he has been working on an expansion plan with an existing local business.

"We may need to have a called meeting as this progresses," DeLille told the DCOS board.

DeLille also said that the board would begin budget work in August and that he plans on putting more money into marketing for next year.

The only action items today were the approval of financial statements from March and April.

Board president Dayton Robertson presided and members present were James Brown, Roy McQueen and Jeffrey Martin. Absent was Ricky Daniell. Also present was Mayor Francene Noah.

SUNOCO transfers three

Three persons from the SUNOCO offices on Block Line Road will be transferred to Abilene this week.

This will leave 10 workers remaining locally as the district office transfers to downtown Abilene. Besides the three local employees, a total of 12 persons will be transferring out of Denver City and Hawley to Abilene.

The office here will remain open with the remaining employees.

Election results, student center on WTC agenda

Western Texas College trustees will canvass election returns from May 15 and elect officers for the coming year in a called meeting at 6 p.m. today.

Incumbent trustees Carolyn Barbee and Dr. Jay Kidd will be given their oaths of office. Barbee defeated Bob O'Day in the election and Dr. Kidd was unopposed.

Trustees also will discuss proposed changes in the Student Center and consider the purchase of used fitness equipment.

Dr. Greg Williams, president, said changes in the Student Center are being proposed to provide more activities for students.

"We are looking at taking out some of the offices so that it will be more attractive to students," said Williams.

The college is looking to purchase some up-to-date fitness equipment from a firm that is going out of business to replace older equipment in the health and physical education building.

The board will meet in the administrative boardroom.

ASK US

Q—Who owns th Martha Ann Woman's Clu

A—It is owned by a non-profit organization, MAWC Inc., and governed by a board of directors.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Laura Hester...

...has live in Snyder the last four years, but she and husband, Ron, have lived in the area before. They have a son, Caleb, age 10. Laura is a teacher at Northeast Elementary while Ron teaches at Snyder High School where he graduated. In her spare time, she likes to watch movies, act in local theatre, read and talk on the phone.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

A life isn't significant except for its impact on other lives.

—Jackie Robinson

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Relay wrap-up meeting

The Relay For Life Wrap-up meeting and Scurry Unit board meeting is set for 5:30 p.m. today at the First Baptist Church's Desperado classroom.

Drama booster club

The SHS drama booster club will meet at 7 tonight in the foyer of the Worsham Auditorium. Election of officers will be held.

Genealogy Society

Scurry County Genealogy Society will meet at 7 tonight at the library. The topic will be "Researching your ancestry."

What's up guidelines

Items for What's Up will be published twice at no charge, the day before and the day of the event. Events or activities requiring additional publicity will be referred to the advertising department where a special non-profit rate is available.

Parked cars fair game for police

WASHINGTON (AP) — Police can search a parked car for drugs, guns or other evidence of a crime while arresting a driver or passengers nearby, the Supreme Court ruled Monday.

The high court has already ruled that officers can search a car when arresting someone inside, and the same rule now applies if a motorist or passenger gets out of the car.

The 7-2 ruling addressed a common situation, in which police pull over a suspicious car or come upon it while it is parked. Sometimes motorists get out of the car before an officer approaches, and it was not clear until now whether police had leeway to search the car.

"In all relevant aspects, the arrest of a suspect who is next to a vehicle presents identical concerns regarding officer safety and the destruction of evidence as the arrest of one who is inside the vehicle," Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote.

Once told he is under arrest, a suspect outside a car could still lunge inside for a weapon, Rehnquist wrote.

"It would make little sense to apply two different rules to what is, at bottom, the same situation," Rehnquist wrote for himself and Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Anthony M. Kennedy, Clarence Thomas and Stephen Breyer. Justices Antonin Scalia and Ruth Bader Ginsburg agreed with the outcome.

The ruling would apply only when a suspect was arrested close to a car, and would not apply to an abandoned car with no driver or recent occupant in sight.

In Spanish bombings...

FBI apologizes to U.S. lawyer wrongly arrested

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Offering a rare public apology, the FBI admitted mistakenly linking an American lawyer's fingerprint to one found near the scene of a terrorist bombing in Spain, a blunder that led to his imprisonment for two weeks.

The apology Monday came hours after a judge dismissed the case against Brandon Mayfield, who had been held as a material witness in the Madrid bombings case, which killed 191 people and injured about 2,000 others.

Mayfield, a 37-year-old convert to Islam, sharply criticized the government, calling his time behind bars "humiliating" and "embarrassing" and saying he was targeted because of his faith.

"This whole process has been a harrowing ordeal. It shouldn't happen to anybody," said Mayfield. "I believe I was singled out and discriminated against, I feel, as a Muslim."

Karin J. Immergut, the U.S. attorney in Oregon, denied Mayfield had been a target because of his religion and maintained that the FBI had followed all laws in the case.

Court documents released Monday suggested that the mistaken arrest first sprang from an error by the FBI's supercomputer for matching fingerprints and then was compounded by the FBI's own analysts.

"The FBI apologizes to Mr. Mayfield and his family for the hardships that this matter has caused," the bureau said in a statement. The agency also said it would review its practices on fingerprint analyses.

"We need to know more about how this happened. All of us in this country need to know more about how this type of mistake can be made," said U.S. Public Defender Steve Wax, Mayfield's attorney.

Mayfield, a former Army lieutenant, was released last week. But he was not altogether cleared of suspicion; the government said he remained a material witness and put restrictions on his movements.

Those restrictions were lifted Monday.

U.S. District Judge Robert Jones said all property that had been seized from the Mayfield residence should be returned, and all copies of Mayfield's personal documents held by the federal government were to be destroyed.

The case began when FBI fingerprint examiners in Quantico, Va., searched for possible matches to a digital image of a fingerprint found on a bag of detonators the day of the Spanish bombings on March 11.

The system returned 15 possible matches, including prints belonging to Mayfield, on file from a 1984 burglary arrest in Wichita, Kan., when Mayfield was a teenager.

Three separate FBI examiners narrowed the identification to Mayfield, according to Robert Jordan, the FBI agent in charge of Oregon. A court-appointed fingerprint expert agreed.

The FBI maintained their certainty even as Spanish authorities said by mid-April that the original image of the fingerprint taken directly from the bag did not match Mayfield's, Wax said.

Last week, Spanish authorities said the fingerprints of an Algerian man were on the bag. Jordan said FBI examiners flew to Spain, viewed the original print pattern of the fingerprint on paper, and agreed that it was not Mayfield's.

As additional evidence in support of Mayfield's arrest, the FBI pointed to Mayfield's attendance at a local mosque, his advertising legal services in a publication owned by a man suspected to have links to terrorism, and a telephone call his wife placed to a branch of an Islamic charity with suspected terrorist ties.

They also noted that Mayfield represented a man in a child custody case who later pleaded guilty to conspiring to help al-Qaida and the Taliban fight U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

According to court documents, FBI agents began their surveillance of Mayfield two weeks after the attacks in the Spanish capital. Under a provision of the U.S. Patriot Act, they entered his home without his knowledge — but aroused the family's suspicion by bolting the wrong lock on their way out and leaving a footprint on the rug that didn't match any family members.

During a later raid, FBI agents took Mayfield's computers, modem, safe deposit key, assorted papers, as well as copies of the Quran and what they classified as "Spanish documents" — apparently Spanish homework by one of Mayfield's sons.

Mayfield, who runs a small Portland law office, was never facing any formal charges.

Bush's daughter Barbara graduates

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — President Bush's daughter Barbara was among 2,900 students to graduate from Yale on Monday in a ceremony that also honored baseball great Willie Mays.

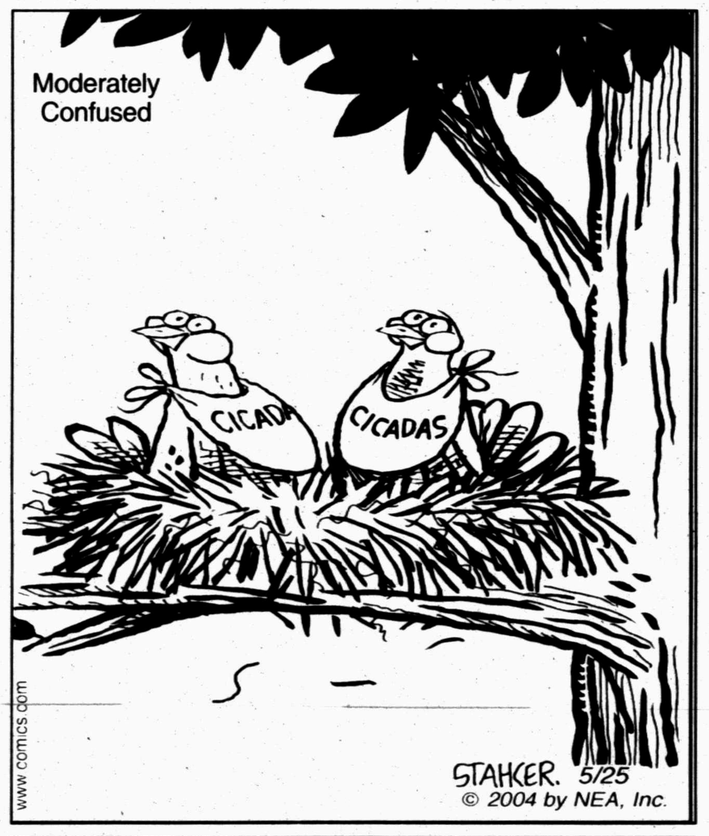
Barbara Bush, who earned a humanities degree, is the fourth generation of her family to graduate from the Ivy League school. Her twin sister, Jenna, skipped her University of Texas graduation on Saturday.

First lady Laura Bush attended Monday's university-wide commencement and a smaller ceremony for Barbara's residential college.

The president did not attend the twins' graduations; aides said he decided that his presence and that of White House security would be too disruptive.

Yale gave honorary degrees to eight guests, including Mays, writer Tom Wolfe and Nobel Prize-winning scientist David Baltimore.

Mays received a standing ovation from the crowd, which included about 15,000 guests. His over-the-shoulder outfield catch in the 1954 World Series was shown on giant video screens.



Today's chuckle

Grande dame of U.S. elephants retires

GUY, Ark. (AP) — The grande dame of American elephants, a veteran of "The Ed Sullivan Show," has retired.

Anna May, a 57-year-old Asian elephant, now roams over 300 acres of pasture, woods, ponds and mud, playing in the grass at Riddle's Elephant and Wildlife Sanctuary.

She was given to the sanctuary by renowned elephant handler William Woodcock, along with another elephant, Amy. The pair traveled the world performing with the Woodcock family.

"Anna May is probably the most famous performing elephant in the United States," said Scott Riddle, who operates the sanctuary. "It's a privilege and an honor to have her."

With Anna May and Amy, Riddle now has a herd of 14 elephants, including two baby African elephants. Riddle said he will try to breed Amy. He said breeding captive elephants is key to saving wild elephants.

Riddle's is the only sanctuary in the country to offer a home to African and Asian elephants of both sexes.

World Almanac

Tuesday, May 25, 2004

Today is the 146th day of 2004 and the 67th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1787, the Constitutional Convention convened in Philadelphia, with George Washington presiding.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy announced his goal to put a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

In 1979, American Airlines Flight 191 crashed during takeoff from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, killing 273.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), poet/essayist/philosopher; Bill 'Bojangles' Robinson (1878-1949), tap dancer; Gene Tunney (1898-1978), boxer; Mike Myers (1963-), actor/comedian, is 41; Anne Heche (1969-), actress, is 35.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1935, Jesse Owens, running and jumping for Ohio State University in a Big Ten meet, set four world records and tied a fifth in a little over an hour.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "First, I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth. ... I believe we should go to the moon." — John F. Kennedy

TODAY'S FACT: The U.S. Constitution, at 4,543 words, is both the oldest and shortest written national constitution in the world.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 377 — number of U.S. aviation accidents in 2003 resulting in a fatality.

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (May 19) and first quarter (May 27)

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events

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Monday's Lottery Numbers
Cash Five

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

Winning numbers drawn: 7-12-19-31-35.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Matching four of five: 138. Prize: $412.

Matching three of five: 4,259. Prize: $9.

Matching two of five: 44,711. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Pick 3
(Day) 8-5-1
(Night) 5-6-0

Property Tax Protest and Appeal Procedures

The law gives property owners the right to protest actions concerning their property tax appraisals. You may follow these appeal procedures if you have a concern about:

- the market or special appraised value placed on your property
- the unequal appraisal of your property
- the inclusion of your property on the appraisal roll
- any exemptions that may apply to you
- the qualification for an agricultural or timber appraisal
- the taxable status of your property
- the local governments which should be taxing your property
- the ownership of property
- the change of use of land receiving special appraisal
- any action taken by the chief appraiser, appraisal district or appraisal review board that applies to and adversely affected you.

Informal Review

As a property owner, you are encouraged to make an appointment with an appraiser to discuss your property value. This may be done by contacting the appraisal district at 325-573-8549. You should have information to substantiate why you feel that your property value or any other information is incorrect. The appraiser will review your property and may recommend that the property value be adjusted. If you are satisfied with the adjustment, it will not be necessary to appear before the appraisal review board.

Review by the Appraisal Review Board

If you can't resolve your problem informally with the county appraisal district (CAD) staff, you may have your case heard by the appraisal review board (ARB).

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that reviews problems with appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the CAD to make the necessary changes to solve problems. If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (called a notice of protest) before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing. You'll receive written notice of the time, date and place of the hearing. If necessary, you may request a hearing in the evening, Saturday or Sunday. Prior to your hearing, you may ask to review the evidence the CAD will use to uphold their determination. The CAD may ask you for a copy of the evidence you plan to present. The hearing will be informal. You or a designated agent may appear in person to present evidence or you may send notarized evidence for the ARB to review at your hearing. The CAD representative will present evidence about your case. You may cross-examine the CAD representative. The ARB will make its decision based on the evidence presented. The CAD has the burden of establishing the property's value by a preponderance of the evidence presented. You can get a copy of a protest form from the appraisal district office at: SCURRY COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT, 2612 COLLEGE AV, SNYDER, TX 79549.

***Note:** You shouldn't try to contact ARB members outside of the hearing. The law requires ARB members to sign an affidavit saying that they haven't talked about your case before the ARB hears it.*

Review by the District Court

After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail. If you're not satisfied with the decision, you have the right to appeal to district court. If you choose to go to court, you must start the process by filing a petition within 45 days of the date you receive the ARB's order.

Tax Payment

If you appeal and your case is pending, you must pay the lesser of the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value not in dispute or the amount of taxes due on the property under the order from which the appeal is taken.

More Information

You can get more information by contacting your appraisal district at:

SCURRY COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
2612 COLLEGE AV
SNYDER, TX 79549
325-573-8549

You can also get a pamphlet describing how to prepare a protest from the appraisal district or from the State Comptroller's Property Tax Division at P.O. Box 13528, Austin, Texas 78711-3528.

Deadline for Filing Protests with the ARB*

Usual Deadline

On or before May 31 (or 30 days after a notice of appraised value was mailed to you, whichever is later).

THE DEADLINE FOR FILING PROTESTS IS JUNE 18, 2004.

Late protests are allowed if you miss the usual deadline for good cause. Good cause is some reason beyond your control, like a medical emergency. The ARB decides whether you have good cause.

Late protests are due the day before the appraisal review board approves records for the year. Contact your appraisal district for more information.

Special Deadlines

For change of use (the appraisal district informed you that you are losing agricultural appraisal because you changed the use of your land), the deadline is before the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

For ARB changes (the ARB has informed you of a change that increases your tax liability and the change didn't result from a protest you filed), the deadline is before the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

If you believe the appraisal district or ARB should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent (usually February 1). The ARB decides whether it will hear your case based on evidence about whether a required notice was mailed to you.

* The deadline is postponed to the next business day if it falls on a weekend or holiday.

NEIGHBOR'S BAR-B-QUE & MORE

FOOD YOU CAN DEPEND ON!

THURSDAY & FRIDAY
ALL YOU CAN EAT

CATFISH FILLETS AND VEGETABLES **$7.95**
Regular Plate $6.95

COMBO FISH & SHRIMP $7.95

Sorry....

Due to the extreme increase in the price of **Pork Ribs** we will **NOT** be able to sell **All You Can Eat** *temporarily.*

Regular Rib Plate **$8.95**

DINE IN OR TAKE OUT ~ WE CATER
HUFFMAN & HWY. 84 573-2000

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
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The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to use for republication all news dispatches in this newspaper and also local news published for republication of special dispatches.

Lifestyles

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WORKFORCE RIBBON CUTTING — Snyder Goldcoats welcomed the Workforce Center at its new location Friday. Vicki Shroyer, chamber of commerce executive director, presented a plaque to employees Joyce McIntire and Elsie Boren. Several officials on hand for the event included Mike Mikeworth of Abilene, Workforce director; Connie Flanagan of Sweetwater, supervisor; Mary Ross of Abilene, executive director; Ken Becker of Sweetwater, representing TSTC. The Workforce Center at 1912 37th Street. McIntire and Boren serve the public with job search and training resources, college information and employer services from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., closing for lunch from 12-1. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

AUXILIARY HOSTS TEA — Two licensed vocational nurse students, Shell Hembree of Snyder Amber Brightwell of Jayton, were served punch at a recent tea honoring those in the medical field, hosted by members of the Cogdell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. From left are volunteers Jean Taylor, Mildred Hollis and Peggy Hardin, and LVN students Hermbree and Brightwell. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

TEXAS CAFÉ RIBBON CUTTING — Goldcoater Elois Pruit, pictured center, presented owners of the Texas Café at 1510 College Ave. a plaque and welcomed them into the chamber of commerce. Lee Burchfield accepted the plaque and the other owner, Tammy Marricle, is not pictured. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Doodlebug writers met at Golden Terrace

Doodlebug Writers Fellowship members met May 18 in the Golden Terrace community room with vice president Pam Mauldin presiding.

Following the minutes, members ordered an instructional book, "How to Write Poetry," by Lee Ann Russell. Each member answered roll call by reading an original poem using "spices" as the subject.

Members' original poems will be printed in the *Small Town Texas*, published in Rotan.

Sherry Bryant presented a program on the life of the "Hoosier Poet," James Whitcomb Riley. She read five of his poems.

After members read poetry they had written, Bryant presented the word of encouragement by Helen Steiner Rice entitled "Seasons of the Soul."

On June 1, members and guests will meet for hamburgers in Helene Tutt's home in Hermleigh. Cindy Nix will provide musical entertainment.

Doodlebug Writers Fellowship members will elect officers in August.

Community Calendar

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 05-25-04
♠ A 10 7 6
♥ K J 9 4
♦ 7
♣ K Q J 4

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

East
♠ K 9 8 5 4
♥ A 5 3 2
♦ 8 6
♣ 6 5

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

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
Pass	1 ♦	Dbl.	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Dbl.
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: ♦ K

What would be your opening bid?

Bridge survives partly because there are many situations in which there is no "right" action. For example, look at the West hand in today's diagram. What would be your opening bid after a pass on your right?

This deal occurred during the 1975 Bermuda Bowl, which was held on that picturesque island in the Atlantic Ocean.

A Frenchman opened five diamonds. The U.S. North doubled, and it went all pass. Declarer was allowed to ruff a club on the board, so went only one down.

An American bid four diamonds. North doubled, South advanced four spades, and that was passed out. One down was inevitable.

An Indonesian started with three diamonds. North doubled, and South jumped to four spades. East greedily doubled, and one down was the result.

For Italy, Giorgio Belladonna opened one diamond. Then the given auction occurred. There were three bizarre bids: two no-trump (instead of two spades), three clubs (instead of three no-trump) and three no-trump (instead of three spades). West passed over two no-trump because he was happy to have his opponents in that strain.

Belladonna led the diamond king. Declarer won with his ace and tried the spade jack, but when West discarded, South called for dummy's ace and continued with a low heart. East, Benito Garozzo, went in with his ace and returned the diamond eight — West played low! Getting the message that his partner had the club ace, East cashed the spade king, then led a club. Are you keeping count? The doubled contract went six down.

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AG Eliot Spitzer to mark 45th birthday

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer will make his 45th birthday party a profitable one by holding a major fund-raiser at the ESPN Zone Sports Arena in Times Square.

Tickets for the June 9 bash are going for a minimum of $1,000. For $100,000, a contributor can get 25 tickets and be listed as a chair of the event.

—

Wyoming became the 44th state in 1890.

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37th Street Church of Christ
2500 37th Street
Snyder, Texas 79549
Dale Huff, Minister

A Summer Retreat

Little league is coming to a close for many children. Graduation is upon us. Summer plans are being made by young people and families. A multitude of opportunities are in front of us. We need to recognize that this time is an opportunity for our young people to retreat from the pressures of school and refocus their mind on some important things.

The gospels tell us a great deal about the ministry of Jesus. There were a lot of people coming and going. Jesus was teaching, healing and talking constantly with people. Luke 4: 15 and 16 tell us about two aspects of Jesus' ministry:

> *Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.*

Jesus had opportunities to help people and do good things all around him. In the middle of all that, Jesus took time to withdraw from people and pray. If Jesus needed that, surely we do too, both as families and as young people.

What can we do to help our young people make the most of this time in the summer? A few suggestions:

1. Turn the TV off and take a retreat from talk shows, reality shows, sitcoms and everything else. Read the newspaper for news and take a retreat from television news.
2. Set aside a family Bible time. Read Bible stories to your children. Pray together about their lives, the war and our world.
3. Begin a spiritual activity that you have not done in the past. Go to church together.

These are just suggestions. You may have better ideas. Take the initiative and do something to help your children grow spiritually this summer. It could be the best summer ever!

Dale Huff

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Laura Hamby & Bobby Griffith
Stormy Clark & Paul Camp
Courtney Martin & Jeffrey Levens
Cassie Tollett & Jerrod Rinehart
Lisa & Clark Church
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Jeffrey & Dana Stockton
Lance & Andrea Nelson
Brad & Lindsey Robinson
Casey & Laura Johnson
Chris & Brooke Mackey
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MAY 25 2004

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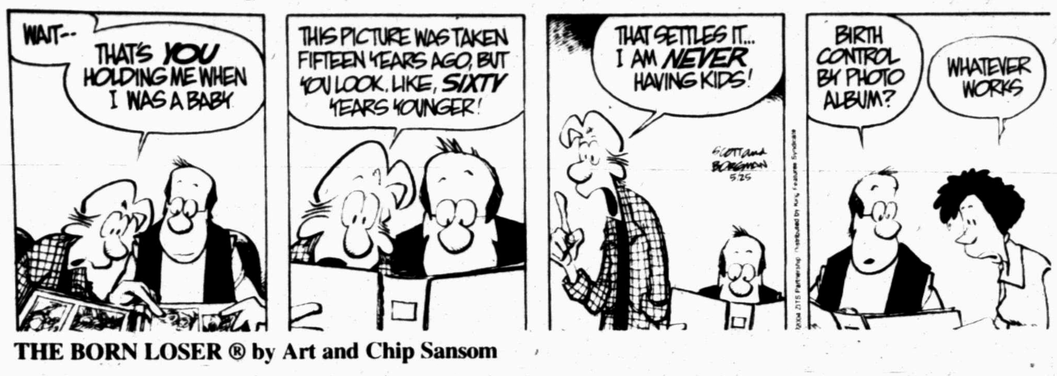

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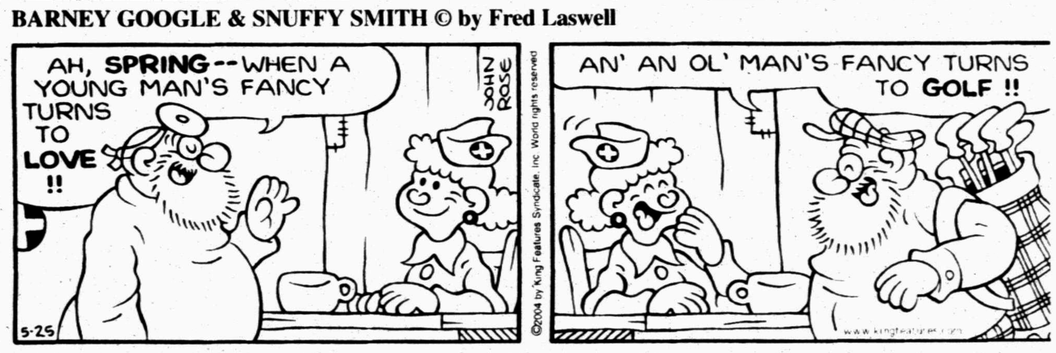
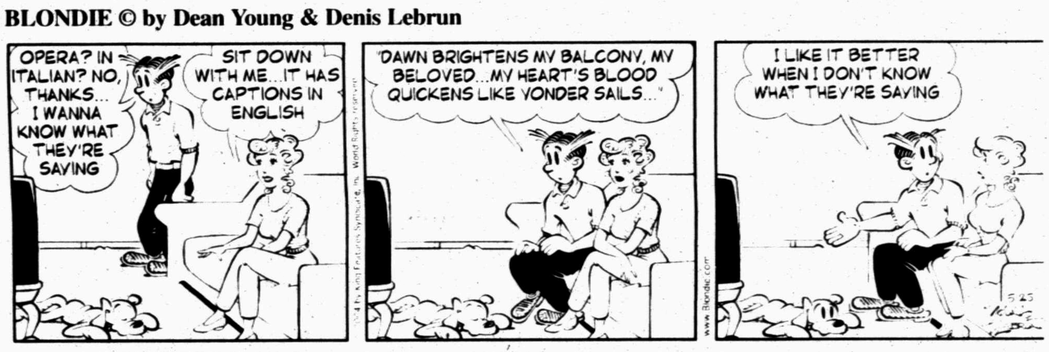


BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

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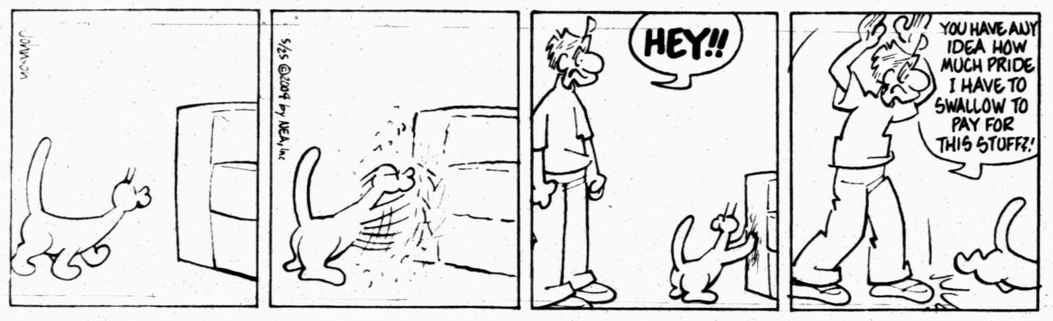

BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

MONTY ® by Jim Meddick

ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

"Dad, I'm writing my life story. Is 'poverty-stricken' one word?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Air rifle pellets
4 Cobblers' tools
8 Prehistoric
11 Sculpture or music
12 Postcard
13 Fir
14 Sock part
15 Black-and-white snack
16 Heron kin
17 Multitudes
19 Flower plot
21 Door handle
22 Headlines
25 Legendary
29 Needle hole
31 Piece of lettuce
34 Boat mover
35 Thumb site
36 Little rascals
37 "— — Blue?"
38 Spark coil outputs
39 Insult
40 Male mallards
42 Thunder
44 Molecule part
47 Murphy Brown's show
49 Fads and crazes
51 Lavish party
54 Gridiron shouts
56 Rhea cousin
57 Hound's trail
58 Moises — of baseball
59 Alley — from Moo
60 Horse's morsel
61 Ooze
62 JFK visitor, once

DOWN

1 Tub ritual
2 Running water
3 Prow opposite
4 One-celled animal
5 Conflicts
6 Untruth
7 Untidy one
8 Moon or planet
9 Circle of flowers
10 — Plaines
13 Ebb or flood
18 Tips one's hat
20 Terminate
23 Attire
24 In — (harmonious)
26 Razorback
27 Himalayan monk
28 Estrada of films
30 Magazine execs
31 Slangy hat
32 Mideast VIP
33 Lhasa —
35 Too quick
40 Shriveled up
41 Scarfs down (2 wds.)
43 Out of range
45 Margarines
46 Written reminders
48 Some CDs
49 Foot covering
50 Apartment bldg. manager
51 Baby babble
52 Dentist's org.
53 House site
55 Pub brew

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	L	O	W		M	V	P		C	O	M	E
S	E	M	I		I	I	I		A	V	E	R
N	A	I	L		L	P	N		N	E	A	R
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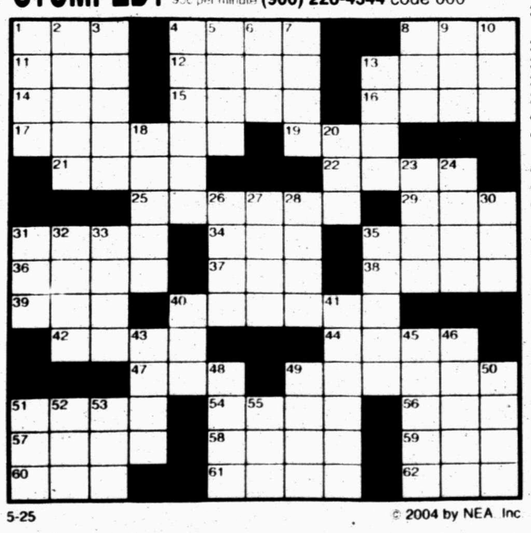

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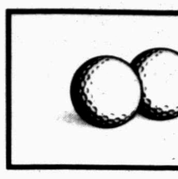
Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"HEY, MR. WILSON! I'LL GIVE YOUR NOZZLE BACK IF YOU'LL GIVE MY DRUMSTICKS BACK."



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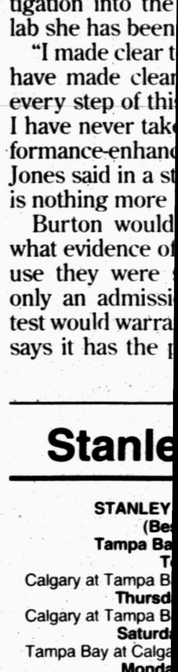

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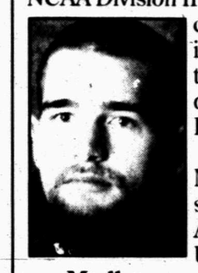
SPORTS

SHS grads to compete in Division II championships

Snyder High School graduates Wade Pinson and Mark Medley will compete in the 2004 NCAA Division II track and field championships Thursday through Saturday in Pomona, Calif.



Medley

Pinson

Pinson and Medley, both sophomores at Angelo State University, are ranked in the top 15 in the nation in their respective events.

Pinson is ranked eighth nationwide in the decathlon, a 10-event competition that includes the long jump, high jump, javelin, discus, shot put, 110m hurdles, 400m run, pole vault and 1,500m run.

Pinson placed fifth in the state in 110 hurdles his senior year at SHS.

Medley currently sits in 12th place in the country in the hammer throw in Division II.

Thornhill in NCAA regionals

Thornhill

Texas Tech junior Jared Thornhill of Snyder, ranked ninth in the nation in the pole vault, will try to complete the quest to Nationals when he competes Friday and Saturday at the 2004 Midwest Regionals in College Station.

Texas Tech will join 41 teams at the meet, and will be one of 11 schools ranked in the top 25.

Thornhill's best vault of the year is 17-10.50, which he set in March. At the time, it was the third-best vault in the country.

Thornhill's fellow pole vaulter, freshman Sage Thomas, is ranked 10th in the state.

Attorney says sprinter should not be banned

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — After seeing the evidence U.S. doping officials have against Marion Jones, her attorney is even more confident the star sprinter shouldn't be banned from the Olympics.

"I didn't see anything today that would provide a basis for them to go forward," attorney Joseph Burton said Monday after a three-hour meeting with officials from the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. "From my mind, what ought to come out of it is, she should be exonerated."

Jones and her attorney requested the meeting in Colorado Springs, Colo., where they were shown evidence obtained from the federal grand jury investigation into the Bay Area drug lab she has been linked to.

"I made clear to USADA what I have made clear to everyone at every step of this entire process: I have never taken an illegal performance-enhancing substance," Jones said in a statement. "There is nothing more I can do."

Burton wouldn't elaborate on what evidence of possible steroid use they were shown, but said only an admission or a positive test would warrant a ban. USADA says it has the power to bring a drug case against an athlete with circumstantial evidence.

"It is clear from those comments that Mr. Burton rejects the idea of a non-analytical positive and contends that only athletes who test positive or admit to a violation can be sanctioned," said Travis T. Tygart, USADA's Director of Legal Affairs. "Without commenting on the specifics of any case, USADA confirms that Mr. Burton is absolutely incorrect in his position."

Last week, sprinter Kelli White accepted a two-year ban after being confronted by documents seized in the investigation of the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.

Officials confronting Jones did not have the same kind of evidence they used against White — urine samples from BALCO and a schedule of drug dosages — according to a representative of Jones, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Stanley Cup

STANLEY CUP FINALS
(Best-of-7)
Tampa Bay vs. Calgary
Today
Calgary at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 27
Calgary at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Saturday, May 29
Tampa Bay at Calgary, 7 p.m.
Monday, May 31
Tampa Bay at Calgary, 7 p.m.
Thursday, June 3
Calgary at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m., if necessary
Saturday, June 5
Tampa Bay at Calgary, 7 p.m., if necessary
Monday, June 7
Calgary at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m., if necessary

NBA Playoffs

CONFERENCE FINALS
(Best-of-7)
Sunday, May 23
Minnesota 89, L.A. Lakers 71, series tied 1-1
Monday, May 24
Detroit 72, Indiana 67, series tied 1-1
Today
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, May 26
Indiana at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 27
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, 8 p.m.
Friday, May 28
Indiana at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Saturday, May 29
L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 30
Detroit at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Monday, May 31
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, 8 p.m., if necessary
Tuesday, June 1
Indiana at Detroit, 7 p.m., if necessary
Wednesday, June 2
L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, 8 p.m., if necessary
Thursday, June 3
Detroit at Indiana, 7 p.m., if necessary

WTC softball coach steps down

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

Western Texas College softball coach Rodney McNeill tendered his resignation Monday, citing a desire to spend more time with his family and to return to his home in the Metroplex.

McNeill

The resignation will be effective June 1.

McNeill, 33, helped build the softball program from scratch in 2003, taking the first-year Lady Dusters to the WJCAC postseason tournament in their inaugural season. The team missed the tournament this year.

He compiled a 64-54 record in two seasons at the helm, and WTC athletic director Dave Hanes said McNeill is leaving the program with a solid foundation.

"He said he would like to leave it in as good of shape or better shape than when he took over, and I appreciate that he left us in good shape," Hanes said. "I understand his basis for wanting to spend more time with his family."

Hanes said he was not surprised, as he and McNeill spoke a few weeks ago about the possibility that the coach would leave, a decision McNeill said he and his wife, Melissa, have been pondering for about a year.

The coach said his and his wife's parents, who live in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, are not in the best of health, and he wanted to be closer to them.

He also said he hoped to spend more time with his daughter as she begins school. The decision was finalized when his wife accepted a job with the Mansfield school district.

"This was not an easy decision, because I love coaching and I love coaching softball," McNeill said. "I want to spend more time with my family and I want to get back closer to our parents so our daughter can have a relationship with them."

McNeill added that he also wants to be able to attend church on Sundays, something he has not been able to do because of the team's schedule.

He said he does not believe he will coach at the collegiate level again.

The search for a new coach will begin almost immediately, according to Hanes.

"We want to get started as soon as possible," he said. "With recruiting and scheduling, it's critical for us to keep even."

Current assistant coach Rome McNary is on the list of possible replacements.

"I hope they consider Rome," McNeill said. "I would think they will have a lot of highly-qualified people interested in the job."

Hanes said the team should be in prime position to make a run at the tournament next season, with most of the sophomores returning and several other skilled players on the program's radar.

McNeill said he is proud of what the team was able to accomplish.

"I believe they have a program at WTC that they can be proud to represent, and a lot of people are envious of what we're doing," he said. "We took this thing from nothing and I believe it is in a good position."

Playoff site set in Odessa

The Snyder Lady Tigers and Monahans will play a best two out of three series for the Region I championship at Ratliff Stadium in Odessa.

The teams will open the series at 7 p.m. Thursday before resuming at 11 a.m. Saturday for game two. Game three, if necessary, will follow 30 minutes after the conclusion of game two.

Pistons block 19 shots, tie series

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — With one stunning leap, Detroit's Tayshaun Prince put the Indiana Pacers in a very unfamiliar position.

Indiana had just come up with a steal, and Reggie Miller was cruising in for a game-tying breakaway layup.

But Prince sprinted in from midcourt and made a perfectly timed block to help the Pistons beat the Pacers 72-67 in Game 2 of the Eastern Conference finals Monday night.

Detroit tied the best-of-seven series 1-1, stealing the home-court advantage from the Pacers heading to Auburn Hills for Games 3 and 4 on Wednesday and Friday nights.

The Pistons snapped the Pacers' 14-game home winning streak that included six playoff victories.

"We're in a tough spot, down one at our place," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "We haven't shot the ball well. Some of it is bad shooting, some of it is Detroit playing good defense."

The Pistons blocked 19 shots, one shy of the NBA playoff record set by Philadelphia in 1981, which played a big part in Indiana's 27.5-percent shooting.

Prince and Ben Wallace each blocked four shots and Elden Campbell added three for Detroit.

It was the third straight game Indiana has shot less than 34 percent from the field, but the Pacers couldn't find a way to pull this one out after winning the previous two.

"As much defense as you play, you have to score to win," said Al Harrington, who didn't score in the game.

Miller led Indiana with 21 points, and O'Neal had 16 points and eight rebounds.

The Pacers' poor shooting and timely offense by Detroit's Richard Hamilton in the fourth quarter gave the Pistons their first win in Eastern Conference finals play since a Game 7 victory over Chicago in 1990. That's a span of nine games after Detroit was swept in the 2003 and 1991 finals.

It also helped Rasheed Wallace make good on his guarantee that the Pistons would win the game after losing Game 1 on Saturday.

"We got Rasheed's back," said Hamilton, who scored 13 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter.

Wallace shot just 4-for-19 and scored 10 points but came up huge on the defensive end. He blocked five shots, grabbed eight rebounds and helped hold O'Neal scoreless in the second half, as the Pistons rallied from a six-point halftime deficit.

Wallace wasn't nearly as bold this time around.

When asked if there he had any more guarantees in him, he said, "I guarantee that for Games 3 and 4 we'll go back to Detroit and play."

Major League Baseball

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	24	18	.571	—
Florida	25	19	.568	—
New York	22	22	.500	3
Atlanta	21	22	.488	3½
Montreal	14	30	.318	11

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	26	18	.591	—
Chicago	25	18	.581	½
Houston	24	20	.545	2
Milwaukee	22	20	.524	3
St. Louis	23	21	.523	3
Pittsburgh	19	21	.475	5

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	23	19	.548	—
San Diego	24	20	.545	—
San Francisco	19	24	.442	4½
Colorado	17	26	.395	6½
Arizona	17	27	.386	7

Monday's Games
Florida 13, Arizona 5
Atlanta 5, Montreal 0
Cincinnati 7, Houston 5

Today's Games
Atlanta (Ramirez 2-3) at Montreal (Ohka 1-5), 6:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (Milton 5-0) at N.Y. Mets (Trachsel 4-3), 6:10 p.m.
Florida (Beckett 4-3) at Cincinnati (P.Wilson 6-0), 6:10 p.m.
Los Angeles (Ishii 5-3) at Milwaukee (Santos 2-0), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Zambrano 4-1) at Houston (Oswalt 2-3), 7:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Benson 3-3) at St. Louis (Suppan 3-4), 7:10 p.m.
San Diego (Valdez 3-2) at Colorado (Kennedy 4-2), 8:05 p.m.
Arizona (Fossum 0-1) at San Francisco (Schmidt 4-2), 9:15 p.m.

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	27	17	.614	—
New York	25	18	.581	1
Baltimore	20	20	.500	5
Toronto	18	27	.400	9½
Tampa Bay	14	28	.333	12

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	25	18	.581	—
Minnesota	25	18	.581	—
Detroit	21	22	.488	4
Cleveland	18	24	.429	6
Kansas City	13	28	.317	11

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Anaheim	29	16	.644	—
Oakland	25	18	.581	3
Texas	25	18	.581	3
Seattle	15	28	.349	13

Monday's Games
Toronto 6, Anaheim 5, 10 innings

Today's Games
Oakland (Hudson 5-1) at Boston (Schilling 5-3), 6:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Lieber 3-1) at Baltimore (Bedard 1-1), 6:05 p.m.
Seattle (R.Franklin 2-4) at Cleveland (Ja.Davis 1-3), 6:05 p.m.
Minnesota (Lohse 1-3) at Tampa Bay (Zambrano 3-4), 6:15 p.m.
Texas (Rogers 6-2) at Chicago White Sox (Schoeneweis 4-1), 7:05 p.m.
Detroit (Maroth 4-2) at Kansas City (Gobble 2-2), 7:10 p.m.

Sports Briefs

Basketball booster club

There will be a basketball booster club meeting at 7 p.m. today at the high school student center. All parents of incoming freshmen and returning players are encouraged to attend. Officers for the 2004-2005 year will be elected at the meeting.

Volleyball booster club

There will be a mandatory volleyball booster club meeting at 8 p.m. today in the main gym. Call coach Laura Moses at 436-9067 for more information.

Hermleigh booster club

The Hermleigh all sports booster club will meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the high school cafeteria. All parents are encouraged to attend.

Playoff series at Moffett Field

Snyder will be the site this week of two playoff series. Game one of the 4A regional semifinal series between Canyon Randall and Wichita Falls Rider will be played at 8 p.m. Wednesday. Game two is slated for Lubbock.

The 2A regional semifinal series between Shallowater and Electra is scheduled to begin with at 7:30 p.m. Thursday. Game two is slated for 1 p.m. Saturday. The series finale, if needed, will be played after the conclusion of game two.

Boys basketball camps

Two basketball camps are scheduled next Monday through Thursday at Snyder High School. The first will be a fundamentals camp from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. for incoming eighth-graders and below, and will be led by SHS head coach Bud Birks, assistant coach Zach Williams and graduating all-district varsity player Lee Scott. Cost is $35.

The second camp will be a shooting camp for freshmen through seniors from 10:45 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. It will be coached by former SHS all-state player and former Lubbock Christian standout Rick Henderson, and cost is $25.

Contact coach Birks at 574-6139 or 573-1297 for more information.

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CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Abilene

Contract 0908-00-059 for FLASHING BEACONS in TAYLOR County, etc will be opened on June 08, 2004 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 13185

State Office

Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div. Office (s)

Abilene District
District Engineer
4250 N. Clack
Abilene, Texas 79604-0150
Phone: 325-676-6800

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex or national origin.

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Female Roommate Wanted
Small 2 bedroom apartment, $225/mo, 1/2 electric, own car. 721-0905 after 5pm.

Vehicles

1991 Chevrolet Step Side Runs good! 573-1661

1995 GMC pickup, loaded, very clean, well maintained. $6,900 OBO 575-0000

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only 54K miles, 2.0L 16 valve, turbo fuel injected engine, power top, AC, 8 speaker CD system, power locks & windows, keyless entry, 4-speed automatic, rear spoiler, red w/black top & grey interior. $8,250 Call Wade Warren, 573-1252 after 5:30p.m.

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Please fax resume to
(325) 766-3159
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Roscoe, TX 79545

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or Call (806) 747-4218
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Applications are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas.

Make up to $3,000.00 in 11 days!
Looking for enthusiastic adult to manage a fireworks stand outside Snyder June 24 thru July 4. No investment required. Phone 10am thru 5pm for more info. 830-429-1408 or 800-364-0136.

Now hiring night clerk. Must have minimum computer skills. Apply in person at Days Inn, 800 E. Coliseum Dr.

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JD 400 6-R rotary hoe, IH 4-R cultivator, Case flip-flop 3-bottom breaking plow, 4-R double tool bar w/shanks, gage wheels, 500 gal. diesel tank w/stand, 4 JD 800 planter units. Call 573-7168.

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1985 25' Prowler, redone inside, new refrigerator. Very nice! $3,500 573-4997

1998 Wilderness 5th wheel trailer. 31' long. (2)slides, front living room. Excellent condition. 207-3384

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(across from coliseum)
573-3519 207-2731

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3-2-2, w/approx. 2200 sq.ft. living space, nice fireplace, nice yard. Recently updated. 2511 31st. Low $100's
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House and large shop on 4.5 acres. 254-968-8236 325-370-8289 or 325-370-8288

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Big, beautiful 3-2-2, formal living, den, new kitchen, isolated master, large covered patio. 2703 47th $118,900 573-1428

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GOOD LOCATION!
3-2-2, w/approx. 2200 sq.ft. living space, nice fireplace, nice yard. Recently updated. 2511 31st. Low $100's
573-5495

Great Starter Home!
2-1, office, carport, large storage building in back. Come by 103 Browning. 573-1661

House and large shop on 4.5 acres. 254-968-8236 325-370-8289 or 325-370-8288

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Dr. Gott by Peter Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: After 30 years of regular menstrual cycles, I now suffer from irregularity, cramps and a heavy flow. Instead of my normal five days, my bleeding now lasts for up to two weeks.

An endometrial biopsy was negative for cancer. My gynecologist told me that my condition is normal in some women for years before the actual menopause takes place, because I may no longer ovulate each month and the uterine lining builds up before it is shed. Do you agree?

DEAR READER: Yes, I do. Although your symptoms are severe, they are consistent with a premenopausal state. Ask your gynecologist about the use of hormone replacement therapy to help you get through these difficult times, and make sure you take iron supplements to prevent the anemia that may be a consequence of heavy or frequent menstrual flow.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My husband wants to take vitamin E as an antioxidant. What would be a safe and acceptable daily dosage of vitamin E supplements?

DEAR READER: The usual recommendation is 400 international units (IU), although doses as high as 1,000 IU are considered to be safe.

DEAR DR. GOTT: As a scientific adviser to the Cranberry Institute, I take issue with your recent position that cranberry juice interferes with Coumadin (warfarin). This is not the case. The study that you quoted, which appeared in the British Medical Journal, was ill-conceived and improperly conducted.

DEAR READER: In my role as a medical columnist, I feel an obligation to report on studies published in reputable journals. It is not my job to analyze and critique such studies; that is the responsibility of the editors and peer reviewers at the journals themselves.

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -Morning stocks

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	11.54	11.02	11.32	+ .02
AT&T Corp	16.70	16.46	16.52	— .25
Albertsons	22.85	22.59	22.83	+ .10
Alltel	50.60	50.19	50.26	— .41
AmEl Pw	30.76	30.10	30.59	+ .12
AndarkPtr	55.60	54.34	55.30	+ .47
ATMOS Egy	24.55	24.05	24.40	+ .22
Availl	17.43	17.02	17.38	+ .35
BP PLC	53.98	53.73	53.91	+ 1.44
BakerHughes	35.59	34.60	35.19	+ .28
Bank of Amer	81.75	81.05	81.75	+ .20
BellSouth	25.98	24.91	25.01	— .30
BurlNoSFe	32.61	32.00	32.59	+ .15
Caterpillar	74.36	73.37	73.87	— .13
CenterPoint	10.52	10.38	10.48	
ChevronTex	92.14	91.00	91.55	+ 1.38
Citigroup	45.77	45.17	45.67	+ .29
CocaCola	49.89	49.53	49.75	— .08
ColgatePal	56.83	56.37	56.64	— .16
CmclMetals	28.72	28.22	28.36	— .25
ConocoPhill	73.87	72.65	73.66	+ 1.11
Cooper Inds	54.60	53.65	54.41	— .04
DaimlrChry	43.04	42.47	42.92	+ .37
DeltaAirLines	6.78	6.21	6.66	+ .02
Dillards Inc	19.44	19.23	19.37	+ .04
DowChem	38.60	37.57	38.51	+ .37
DuPont	42.63	42.00	42.54	+ .16
EastmanChem	46.00	45.35	45.96	+ .33
EstKodak	26.13	25.67	25.90	— .12
EDS Corp	15.90	15.74	15.75	— .21
Entergy	52.86	52.02	52.59	+ .32
ExxonMobil	43.40	43.00	43.34	+ .54
FootLocker	22.57	22.17	22.52	+ .11
GenDynam	94.01	93.19	93.68	+ .02
GenlElec	31.01	30.67	30.97	+ .19
GenMills	45.65	45.33	45.50	— .03
GenMotors	44.43	43.43	44.29	+ .52
GaPacific	34.52	33.34	34.35	+ .57
Goodrich	27.33	27.11	27.20	— .07
Goodyear	8.75	8.44	8.64	+ .20
GtAtlPac	7.08	6.90	7.02	+ .04
Halliburtn	29.65	29.00	29.54	+ .54
Hanson PLC	37.65	37.55	37.55	+ .31
HarteHanks	22.70	22.53	22.62	— .14
HomeDepot	34.80	34.37	34.76	+ .17
HoneywellIntl	33.18	32.82	33.05	— .17
IBM	87.37	86.55	87.09	— .01
IntlPaper	41.12	40.29	40.91	+ .11
JohnsonJn	54.83	54.12	54.82	+ .51
KinderMorg	59.70	59.27	59.47	+ .17
Kroger Co	16.35	16.09	16.34	+ .14
LockheedM	48.08	47.30	47.95	+ .39
Lowes Cos	52.98	51.82	52.89	+ .69
Lubys	5.80	5.67	5.74	+ .14
LucentTech	3.23	3.18	3.20	— .02
MarathonOil	33.38	32.75	33.30	+ .54
MayDeptStr	28.58	27.99	28.46	+ .07
Medtronic	47.50	45.50	46.10	—1.25
Motorola	19.58	19.26	19.32	— .18
NCR Corp	46.66	46.06	46.44	— .05
Navistar	36.10	35.38	36.01	+ .01
PNM Rescs	29.71	29.14	29.55	+ .30
Penney JC	34.97	34.38	34.85	+ .21
PepBoys	24.41	23.98	24.36	+ .04
PepsiCo	53.44	53.00	53.29	— .13
PhelpDodge	67.30	65.87	67.15	+ 1.17
PilgrimsPride	26.20	25.95	26.02	+ .17
Praxair s	36.01	35.12	35.92	+ .67
ProctGamb	107.00	105.96	106.63	+ .46
ProctGamb wi	53.70	53.40	53.70	+ .45
RadioShack	29.67	29.00	29.52	+ .29
RoyalDut	50.18	49.94	50.03	+ .93
SBC Comm	24.19	23.69	23.78	— .41
SaraLee	22.85	22.53	22.69	— .19
Scripps EW	101.51	101.15	101.50	+ .33
SearsRoeb	37.90	37.37	37.69	— .14
SherwinW	38.20	37.67	38.11	+ .16
SouthernCo	28.59	28.21	28.39	+ .10
SwstAirl	15.55	15.25	15.44	+ .17
SprintFON	17.66	17.40	17.63	
Sunoco Inc	61.40	60.46	61.14	+ .49
TXU Corp	37.47	36.90	37.40	+ .12
TempleInland	64.44	63.20	64.33	+ .82
TexInd	36.57	35.80	36.46	+ .88
TexasInst	24.78	24.32	24.43	— .42
Textron	53.11	52.41	52.84	— .17
TimeWarner	16.64	16.46	16.54	
TrinityInds	27.25	27.01	27.01	— .14
TylerTech	9.35	9.02	9.18	+ .05
UnionPacif	56.86	56.33	56.82	+ .13
USSteel	29.83	28.65	29.52	+ .39
UnitedTech	83.16	82.43	83.00	+ .28
Unocal	36.10	35.82	36.00	+ .12
VerizonComm	35.25	34.82	34.94	— .42
WalMart	55.29	54.51	54.93	— .06
WellsFargo	58.56	58.09	58.29	— .04
WstnGasRs	55.68	54.63	55.39	+ .64
WinnDixie	6.26	6.15	6.23	+ .06
Xerox Cp	13.34	13.10	13.17	— .11
YumBrands	36.50	36.01	36.30	— .21

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Bride who had happy wedding didn't sweat the small stuff

DEAR ABBY: After reading your column on how to ensure that bridesmaids' dresses match perfectly, I would like to offer a different perspective.

I married for the first time last June at age 47, and I did it on a very low budget. I would have paid for my bridesmaids' dresses had I been able to afford them, but it wasn't possible. My solution was to simply tell my closest friends to wear what they looked and felt good in — preferably something blue.

One friend could only afford to wear the mauve dress from her daughter's wedding, so I changed my color scheme to a "rainbow" wedding.

On my wedding day, my bridesmaids were more nervous than I was. So, after they helped me into my white gown and veil, I put on a white baseball cap, blew a whistle and gave the following pep talk: "OK, team. We've trained long and hard for this day, and it's here. There's tension and obstacles, but let me ask you — have we got the heart? (Yes!) The desire? (Yes!) Are we in this together? (Yes!) Then what're we gonna do? Win! Win! Win! Yea, team!"

I didn't care if things matched perfectly. What mattered was these were the people I cared about the most, people who had a special place on our special day and enjoyed themselves. And do you know what? Everyone looked fabulous! If I was outshined, that was OK. I still had the husband, bless his patient, enduring soul.

A lot of our guests said it was one of the best weddings and receptions they had ever been to. So things weren't exact — big deal! — **IMPERFECT BUT HAPPY BRIDE IN DAYTON, OHIO**

DEAR HAPPY BRIDE: I'm sure no one shined brighter than you on your special day. You were beautiful, both from without and within. Even more important than the color scheme, your priorities were in order. I wish you and your husband many happy years together, surrounded by the friends who love you.

**

DEAR ABBY: I have never seen this problem in your column. My husband and I have been seeing "Dr. Smith" for more than 10 years. We like him, but we're considering going to another doctor who was recommended by a friend. Dr. Smith does only cursory examinations. He doesn't ask enough questions or really listen to our complaints. Our friend says her doctor is very patient and thorough.

This is a very small town, and we run into Dr. Smith at the country club from time to time. We don't want to offend him or be uncomfortable when we see him.

Your advice will be appreciated. — **ALLAN AND KRYSTAL IN THE U.S.A.**

DEAR ALLAN AND KRYSTAL: Change doctors if you feel you will receive better care. Your doctor may have such a full roster that he won't even miss the two of you. Please do not feel the need to apologize. Medicine is a business, and if Dr. Smith isn't customer-friendly, you are within your rights to seek care elsewhere. If you are asked why you felt the need to change doctors, tell him the truth. You'll be doing him a favor and helping to improve his practice for other patients.

**

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Trial of reputed 'last don' begins in Brooklyn fed court

NEW YORK (AP) — A Mafia don reached the top of the Bonanno crime family with a string of hits on fellow gangsters, building a network of illegal gambling, extortion and murder, prosecutors said Monday at the start of his racketeering trial.

"This trial is about the vicious, violent, cunning and murderous rise to power of Joseph Massino," Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Henoch told jurors in Brooklyn federal court.

Massino, 61, is the only accused head of one of New York's five Mafia families who is not in prison or awaiting sentencing, leading some to call him "the last don."

Defense attorney David Breitbart said Massino had been set up by informers who were coerced into lies by prosecutors and the FBI.

In an unusual move, Breitbart said he would not contest that Massino may have headed the Bonanno family, which was infiltrated in the late 1970s by undercover FBI agent Joseph Pistone, using the street name Donnie Brasco.

The charges against Massino include the slayings of a Bonanno captain and soldier who vouched for Pistone. The agent's testimony has helped imprison more than 120 mobsters.

Breitbart called Pistone "a slug, someone who got seduced by the organization and became a junkie, a womanizer." Prosecutors have not said whether Pistone will testify against Massino.

More devastating to Massino may be the betrayal by brother-in-law Salvatore Vitale, one of at least seven turncoats expected to testify.

The cooperators gave prosecutors crucial ammunition in their effort to imprison Massino.

President Bush...

Different audiences draw widely differing conclusions on speech

By The Associated Press

President Bush spoke to the nation about his plan to help Iraq reach a secure, democratic future amid a flurry of bad news, with attacks on coalition forces and Iraqis, graphic abuses of detainees at American-run prisons and rising criticism at home and abroad. With some polls showing the president facing his lowest support yet, Bush sought to get past the media and speak directly to voters with Monday night's speech. Associated Press writers sat with listeners in different parts of the country: a military mother at home in Indiana, diners at a suburban restaurant outside Boston, and Iraqi-Americans at a mosque in Michigan.

BROOKLINE, Mass. (AP) — Edward Goldberg and Rob McElaney, two seats apart at the counter at Zaftigs Delicatessen in this usually liberal Boston suburb, glanced up only occasionally from their dinner of eggs and matzoh to take in Bush's speech on television.

After he finished, they said they felt no less sad and angry than before.

For Goldberg, 66, an investment manager, the sadness stems from what he believes is the failure of a war he once reluctantly supported, hoping it would make the world safer from terrorism.

"I don't see how we can pull off a smooth transition," Goldberg said, shaking his head.

He is particularly wary of Islamic fundamentalism, but he was not hopeful about the president's assurances on Iraq's future, and believes the U.S. will hand authority to the U.N. as quickly as possible and pull out.

"Should we leave the country, it will be a colossal victory for the jihadist movement," said Goldberg, who voted for Bush in 2000 but said he's likely to vote against him this year.

McElaney, 38, a medical salesman, said the speech did nothing to ease his anger. "I don't feel we should have been there in the first place," he said.

As for the handover, "I don't really see it happening by the end of June," he said. "I think Spain made the right decision getting out when they did."

A third man at the counter, who wouldn't give his name, said America must accept that the Sept. 11 terror attacks were a declaration of war against the country, and America must be prepared to respond forcefully.

"I'm confused, but not so confused that I'm ready to leave Iraq," he said. "When they flew those planes into the buildings, they started a war."

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — The tea that Sam Bakir sipped Monday night at the Iraq Kabob Restaurant warmed him. But it was Bush's words that brought a smile to his face.

"How can I fault what he's saying?" asked the 32-year-old Iraqi-American. "What he's saying is what all Iraqis want to hear. We want the chance to elect our own leaders and write our own history after 30 years of being forcefed a fate we didn't want."

Around this heavily Arab Detroit suburb where thousands of Iraqi refugees have made their home since a 1991 uprising against Saddam Hussein was crushed, Bush's comments were generally welcomed, albeit at times with skepticism.

Iraqi-Americans here said they've been lied to too often to take everything at face value, but this time, they're willing to be more trusting.

"I believe that the country will get the elections," 24-year-old Nasser Nasser said while watching Bush's speech broadcast and translated over an Arabic television station.

"He says he's going to give this and that, but I'm worried that this is all for votes," Nasser couldn't help but add, as he munched on a kabob wrapped in pita. Even so, he said the United States should remain after a new government is in place because he believes an early exit could lead to civil war.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Wednesday, May 26, 2004

Look for conditions in general to change for the better in the year ahead where your work or career is concerned. Nothing will be handed to you on a silver platter, but both a promotion and increased earnings are possible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You'll give domestic matters top priority today. Without being asked, you'll focus your efforts and energies on things that you can do for your family that you know they can't do for themselves.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Use some of your spare time today to bring yourself up to date on matters you find yourself dealing the most with lately. What you learn will make your work easier down the line.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Your common sense and practicality will come into play today when it comes to your material affairs. It's not likely that you'll be bested by a shrewd horse trader as you may have in the past.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Provided you don't treat your competitors with indifference, you have the potential today to gain the upper hand over those who are rivaling for the top spot. Do your best — you can win.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Anything that is too noisy or disorganized could be quite disturbing to you today, so don't get yourself immersed in projects that would promote these conditions. Keep things peaceful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Associates who are both creative and productive will be the ones with whom you'll feel most at ease today. Aimless or colorless individuals should be avoided in order to feel satisfied.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — When it comes to career matters, clearly define your purposes today and it will give you a definite edge over your competition. Plan ahead and you'll be steps ahead of others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — A good blend of being realistic and philosophical is what is needed today when handling any critical issues that may unexpectedly pop up. A proper frame of mind assures victory over crisis.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — An opportunity might arise today to remind a friend who is indebted to you not to forget his or her obligation to you without being crude or sounding heartless. You'll make your point graciously.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Mutual benefits can be derived today through social activities that are of a harmonious nature. You'll fit nicely into arrangements with friends that require teamwork and congeniality.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — If you would like to enhance your feelings of self-worth today, you must utilize your time and talents in productive ways. You may need visible proof of your skills to make you happy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Limit yourself to a small group of select friends today if you would like to do something social. An intimate gathering has many advantages over a large one that would satisfy you at this time.

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Trawling ban to help shrimp

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — A week's long ban on trawling in Mexico's Laguna Madre is designed to give shrimp time to mature to full size and migrate into the Gulf of Mexico.

Immature shrimp can hardly be sold for bait, some shrimpers say, prompting the ban that was scheduled to begin today. The season is expected to reopen July 5. A ban on shrimping in Mexican Gulf waters has been in place since May 1 and will continue through July 31.

Because of tiny shrimp in the Laguna Madre, the season there has been pushed back. It is expected to reopen on July 5.

"It's designed to let the smaller shrimp get larger," Sergio Leal, a biologist at SAGARPA, the Mexican agency responsible for agriculture, livestock, rural development, fisheries and food in Ciudad Victoria, Mexico, told The Brownsville Herald in today's editions.

"It's important that the shrimpers respect it," said Leal.

Violating the Gulf ban could bring fines of between $450 and $9,000 or up to six months in jail.

The shrimping season in Texas closed on May 15. Shrimping is expected to resume in Texas waters sometime in July.

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STANFIELD BUGZ — Three Stanfield second grade classes presented *Bugz* last week, under the direction of Reba Bailey, music teacher. Suzanne Doolittle's students (top left photo) are top row from left, Zakary Rodriguez, Susanne Daniels, John Culwell, Rachael Berniard and Clancey Gruben; second row, Andrew Chavarria, Shiv Bhakta, Kelbie Herrley, Sloan Boren and Hunter Ward; third row, Heather McFatridge, Veronica Diaz, Katelyn Lord, Logan Rinehart, Briana Doucette and Mason Tabor; bottom row; Braden Hall, Briana Juarez, Nicole Morin, Logan Hopper, Matthew Lara and Morgan Scott. Delana Grant's students (bottom left photo) are top row from left, Henry Sandoval, Chris Sands, Ashley Martinez and Jordan Gaines; third row, Alexxus Jackson, Tiffany Hoxsey, Leon Torres, Christian Drum, Talon Carroll and Amber Fuentez; second row, Colton Claxton, Rowdy Mhoon, Bridget Beam and Teah Hinds; bottom row, Miguez Juarez, Chloe Glasscock, Kaprice Block, Tara Harlan, Miranda Espinoza and Cameron Lopez. Carolyn Torres' students (top right photo) are top row from left Dylan Kirby, Kolton Kubena, Andrew Porter, Victoria Molina and Alyssa Sturdivant; second row, Amber Diaz, Nathaniel Lopez, Eddie Torres, Vanessa Morin and Lucas Harrell; third row, Roselia Jaimes, Alina Hernandez, Jaylen Boon, Kelsey Rankin, Cipriano Aguilera and Kodi Maxfield; bottom row, Keylee Glass, Chelsea Browning, Jordan Davis, Kaitlin Bernal and Dawna Pyburn. (Staff Photos by Shirley A. Gorman)

Army copter center planned for ex-Central Texas air base

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A military helicopter research facility is planned this year for a former air base in Central Texas, according to U.S. Army officials who want to develop new technology for their fleet.

City leaders say they hope the Rotary Wing Technology Center, to be based at KellyUSA, will spark a new round of high-tech growth as the region's first military research hub. The center will involve the Defense Department and a consortium of private businesses specializing in the construction, maintenance and repair of copters.

"This will be a magnet for many firms who want to locate in San Antonio in order to be near the center," Bob Sanchez, a local businessman who led the drive to land the facility, told the San Antonio Express-News in today's online edition. "The impact is as big as the program itself. For helicopters it is in the billions of dollars."

Army officials have $14.6 billion to spend following their decision to cancel the Comanche, a reconnaissance helicopter that had been in development for 21 years. Top Army leaders plan to ask Congress to allow the service to spend the money earmarked for 121 Comanches and instead buy 796 new UH-60 Black Hawks and modernize 1,400 helicopters now in service.

The move away from the Comanche project began in 1983 and was to have cost $39 billion. The shift came after cancellation of the $11 billion Crusader artillery system. A failed attack involving 31 AH-64 Apache Longbows during Gulf War II by the Army also was a factor in the decision to junk the Comanche.

"It's a fascinating period because Army aviation could either go down or go up," Michael O'Hanlon, a Brookings Institution senior fellow, said. "It's not going to make or break the Army, but it could be quite critical in determining whether Army aviation has a brighter or dimmer future."

Opening of the KellyUSA center, which will start with just the Army and a handful of contractors, will be marked with a June 29-30 workshop. Tony Vaticalos, the center's director, said the facility should be operational by years' end and will be staffed by up to 30 civilian Defense Department workers.

He said that work force could grow to 200 employees, adding that most of them will come from the San Antonio area.

Sanchez said the center will act as a headquarters, parceling out contracts for identifying needs, as well as research, development and testing, and should grow "substantially" over time.

Judge rules government can seek tobacco industry money

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge ruled Monday the Justice Department can seek $280 billion from the tobacco industry as part of the government's lawsuit against cigarette manufacturers, clearing the way for the biggest civil racketeering case in history.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler sent tobacco company stock prices tumbling.

The Justice Department alleges tobacco companies deceived the public about the dangers of tobacco and the addictive nature of nicotine. The government also claims the companies targeted children through advertising and then lied about it.

The industry had argued in a motion that the government should not be allowed to seek $280 billion, arguing prosecutors failed to distinguish between money allegedly earned through fraud and money earned lawfully.

Kessler said in a written ruling that whether the government sought the correct amount should be determined at trial. She also warned the companies could be ordered to hand over the money if Justice lawyers demonstrate a reasonable likelihood the industry will violate racketeering laws in the future.

Philip Morris USA attorney Bill Ohlemeyer said the government would have trouble proving future wrongdoing. "There is no question that Philip Morris USA and other tobacco companies have dramatically changed the way their products are marketed," Ohlemeyer said.

He said Philip Morris, the largest U.S. cigarette manufacturer, was considering appealing Monday's ruling.

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Corp. also was considering that, company spokesman Seth Moskowitz said.

Anti-smoking groups applauded the ruling in the case, which the Bush administration inherited from the Clinton administration.

"It's a critical victory for the government because it allows the government to seek the full range of remedies that are available" under the federal racketeering statute, said Bill Corr, executive director of the Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids.

Tobacco stocks fell sharply on the news.

Shares of Altria Group Inc., parent of Philip Morris USA, fell $4.37, or nearly 9 percent, to close at $44.95 on the New York Stock Exchange. RJ Reynolds Tobacco Holdings shares fell $3.53, or 6 percent, to $53.73. Shares of Loews Corp., the parent company of Lorillard, fell $1.91 to $56.40 on the NYSE.

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MAY 25 2004

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

SBC, union reach tentative agreement

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Local-phone giant SBC Communications Inc. reached a tentative contract agreement with more than 100,000 union employees early today, hours after the workers' planned four-day strike came to an end, union and company officials said.

Communications Workers of America leaders say the five-year deal, which is subject to member ratification, improves wages and strengthens job security for the employees it represents in 13 states.

CWA workers walked off the job Friday and picketed at facilities across the nation to put pressure on SBC, but never intended for the strike to go beyond four days. Many returned to work after midnight today as planned, and the agreement came soon after.

"This agreement helps ensure that American workers and their communities benefit from the promise of new information technology jobs," CWA President Morton Bahr said in a statement, adding that the pact provides opportunity for members as they move from traditional telecom work to the new technologies of the industry.

The tentative agreement provided across-the-board base wage increases. On average, employees will receive base wage increases of 2.3 percent per year for five years and lump sums averaging $300 per year, said SBC officials.

"SBC now has a labor agreement that provides us greater control over our cost structure and flexibility to meet our competitive challenges, while continuing to provide the outstanding wages and benefits that are hallmarks of this company," SBC chairman and chief executive Edward E. Whitacre Jr. said in a statement posted on the San Antonio-based company's Web site.

The agreement also includes new access to jobs in the growth areas, protects health security for both active employees and retirees, and improves pensions.

The settlement guarantees no layoffs of employees currently on the payroll for the life of the agreement and calls for rehiring of several hundred workers who had been laid off at SBC Southwest and SBC Midwest.

Railroad Commission rejects TXU request

AUSTIN (AP) — The Railroad Commission on Monday rejected a request from Dallas-based TXU Gas that it be allowed to recoup $130 million from ratepayers for its work in identifying and removing pipe that has been linked to a series of fatal accidents.

The move came as the commission considers the company's request to raise rates for its customers by an average of 7 percent, or $3.60 a month. The company had filed a request with the commission seeking an additional $69.5 million a year.

About 1.7 million TXU Gas customers in more than 400 cities would be affected. The actual increase will vary city by city.

TXU spokeswoman Kimberly Morgan said the company is trying to recover the costs associated with $720 million in investments it says it has made in the past five years. The investment includes maintaining, testing and replacing pipe and other day to day costs.

The three-member commission spent Monday reviewing the specific items in TXU's request, however it did not take a final vote on the overall request. That decision was expected today.

One of the major costs in the request involves the expenses the company incurred as it searched for and removed pipe that had been linked to eight accidents in which five people died and several more were injured, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram has reported. Three people were killed in a gas explosion in Garland in 2000.

TXU requested that it be able to recoup $130 million from ratepayers for its work in identifying the pipe and removing it.

The commission, in a 2-1 vote, said that ratepayers should not have to pay for it and rejected that the $130 million be passed on to them.

"We are extremely disappointed in this decision," Morgan said. "This makes it woefully inadequate for companies to do business in the state of Texas and to do it in a safe and reliable manner."

Explosion

Continued From Page 1

hydrants weren't working, but I heard Howard County officials say the system was old and hadn't worked in a number of years," Posey said.

Snyder firefighters left the scene about 4:45 p.m. after they received clearance from the incident commander that everything was sufficiently cool. The last of the emergency personnel left the scene about 5:30 p.m., according to Chamness.

Cause of the explosion remains under investigation, but the fire began in an area where small natural gas lines go into the plant to be compressed and pumped out into larger lines.

The gas planted employs 23 full-time workers, but only nine were on duty at the time of the explosion.

General who led Abu Ghraib prison unit has been suspended

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army general who was in charge of the U.S. prison guards accused of abusing Iraqis has been suspended from command of the 800th Military Police Brigade, officials said Monday.

Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski and other officers in her brigade were faulted by Army investigators for paying too little attention to the prison's day-to-day operations and not acting strongly enough to discipline soldiers under her command for violating standard procedures.

Karpinski's suspension, which has not been announced by the Army, was the latest in a series of actions against officers and enlisted soldiers implicated in the abuse scandal at Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad.

Last week, Spc. Jeremy Sivits received the maximum penalty of a year in prison and a bad-conduct discharge in the first court-martial stemming from the abuse of Iraqis at the prison. He was among seven members of the 372nd Military Police Company that have been charged.

Karpinski, who has returned to the United States, has not been charged with an offense. Being suspended from her command does not mean she has been relieved of command, so technically she could be reinstated, although the intensity of the international furor over the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse makes that highly unlikely, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In an interview on MSNBC Monday night, Karpinski said she has been told of her suspension by "several sources, but I have nothing in writing." The paperwork will cite the reason for her suspension, she said.

Blueprint for Iraq sets stage for talks with critics of war

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Security Council nations gave a generally positive response to the U.S.-British blueprint for a post-occupation Iraqi government but several demanded greater Iraqi control over security and the U.S.-led multinational force that will try to restore stability.

The introduction of a draft resolution Monday by Iraq's occupying powers set the stage for intense negotiations with long-time critics of the war, such as France and Germany, who are demanding that Iraq's interim government be the key decision-maker on security issues.

The United States and Britain unveiled the long-awaited plan hours before President Bush said in a nationally televised address that American forces would stay in Iraq until it was free and democratic.

The resolution is an attempt by the Bush administration to win international backing for the post-occupation plans in Iraq, which have been severely shaken by violence. With his approval ratings sinking after repeated setbacks in Iraq, Bush is also seeking to rebuild support at home.

Under the resolution, the multinational force would be authorized to take "all necessary measures" to maintain security and prevent terrorism, while no mention is made of the Iraqi army.

The mandate for U.S.-led forces in Iraq would be reviewed after a year. U.S. deputy ambassador James Cunningham said the United States will keep its promise "that we will leave if there's a request from the government to leave," which he called highly unlikely.

Council members said one of the major concerns raised during closed-door discussions after the resolution was introduced on Monday was the question of whether sovereignty is really being restored.

Doubts over the government's legitimacy would undermine Washington's claims that the June 30 handover of power represents a major change in Iraq, with the official end of the U.S.-led occupation that many Iraqis resent.

Many in Iraq and in Europe fear that the interim government will not be seen as legitimate if it doesn't have a credible voice in the operations of armed forces on its own soil.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said the new Iraqi government "must be able to make decisions over security issues or else it won't be truly sovereign."

Man arrested for PI Monday

- ***Arrests***

Police responded to the 4700 block of El Paso at 11:15 p.m. Monday after someone called about hearing someone moaning in the alley. They arrested a 45-year-old male for public intoxication.

- ***Suspicious persons***

A suspicious male driving an extended cab pickup was reported by a female from the 3000 block of Ave. N at 8:26 p.m. Monday. Another suspicious person was reported in the 500 block of 25th Street at 9:03 p.m.

- ***Suspicious actions***

A call came in from U.S. 84 and Highway 208 reporting a man getting out of a pickup and rolling in the bar ditch yelling he was on fire. The man then got back in his pickup and drove away. This occurred at 6:16 p.m. Monday.

- ***Criminal mischief***

At 6:26 a.m. Tuesday, a call came in from A&B Transport reporting six passenger side windows shot out of tractor cabs while parked at the office at 512 N. College Ave.

A man reported his ex-wife had kicked his vehicle, causing damage to it while it was parked in the 3200 block of 42nd Street at 3:10 p.m. Monday.

- ***Theft***

A theft report for railroad property was made from CR 253 at 3:21 p.m. Monday.

- ***Prank 9-1-1 calls***

At 10:30 p.m. and again at 11 p.m. Monday, 9-1-1 dispatchers reported prank phone calls from a cell phone. Officials are attempting to track down the caller.

- ***Motorist assists***

Officials assisted six motorists Monday by unlocking vehicles that had been locked with the keys in them.

- ***Loose livestock***

Goats were reported loose near the VFW at 1:55 p.m. and cattle were on the road at CR 1137 and Ennis Creek Road at 6:56 p.m. Monday.

Obituaries

David Davis

1950-2004

David Hilton Davis, a native of Snyder, died Monday, May 24, at his home in Arlington.

Graveside service for Mr. Davis, 54, will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday in Hillside Memorial Gardens. Dr. Fane Downs, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Snyder, will officiate. Arrangements are under the direction of Moore Funeral Home of Arlington.

Born May 2, 1950 in Snyder, he was reared in Snyder and was a history teacher in the Arlington schools.

He was preceded in death by his father, J.M. "Doc" Davis on Dec. 6, 1993; and by a brother, Benny Keith Davis, on March 21, 1986.

Survivors include two sons, Jeff Davis of Arlington and Jason Davis of Abilene; and his mother, Wyvone Davis of Snyder.

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Wed 5/26	Thu 5/27	Fri 5/28
92/69	94/67	91/73
Mostly cloudy skies early, then partly cloudy in the afternoon. High 92F.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the upper 60s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 70s.
Sunrise 6:39 AM, Sunset 8:43 PM	Sunrise 6:38 AM, Sunset 8:44 PM	Sunrise 6:38 AM, Sunset 8:45 PM

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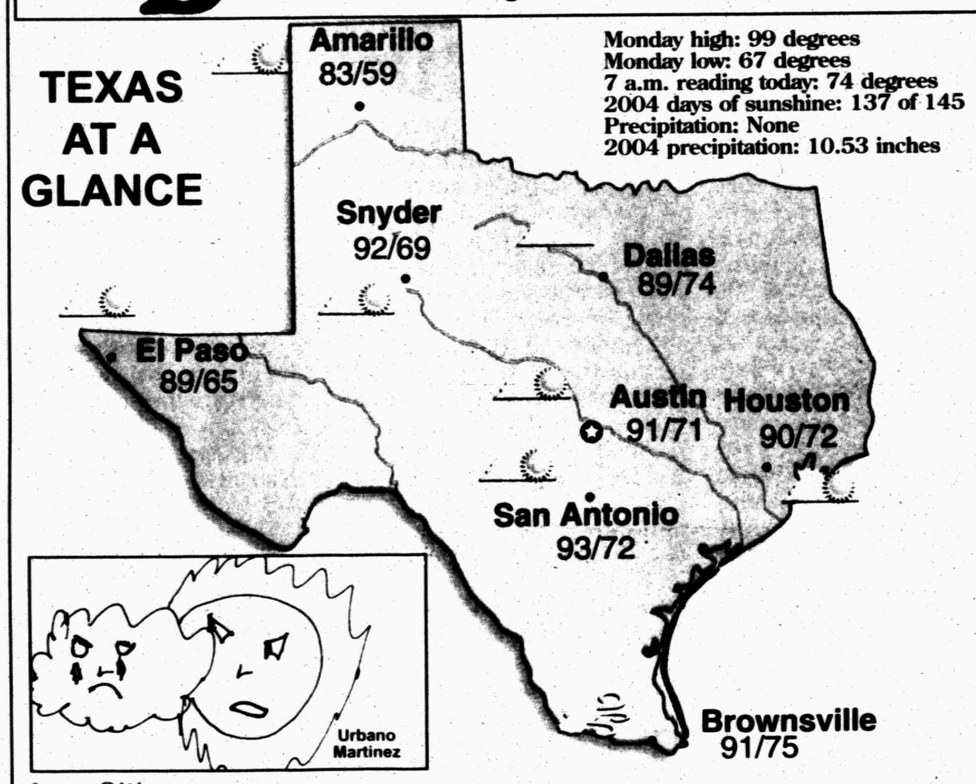
TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Monday high: 99 degrees
Monday low: 67 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 74 degrees
2004 days of sunshine: 137 of 145
Precipitation: None
2004 precipitation: 10.53 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	90	71	pt sunny	El Paso	89	65	pt sunny	Midland	95	68	mst sunny
Amarillo	83	59	pt sunny	Fort Stockton	95	68	mst sunny	Raymondville	92	73	windy
Austin	91	71	pt sunny	Gainesville	86	71	cloudy	Rosenberg	91	72	pt sunny
Beaumont	88	71	pt sunny	Greenville	87	70	cloudy	San Antonio	93	72	pt sunny
Brownsville	91	75	windy	Houston	90	72	pt sunny	San Marcos	92	72	pt sunny
Brownwood	93	70	pt sunny	Kingsville	93	73	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	86	70	cloudy
Corpus Christi	90	75	pt sunny	Livingston	93	68	pt sunny	Sweetwater	92	70	pt sunny
Corsicana	88	71	cloudy	Longview	88	69	pt sunny	Tyler	88	69	pt sunny
Dallas	89	74	cloudy	Lubbock	90	65	pt sunny	Weatherford	87	70	cloudy
Del Rio	92	74	pt sunny	Lufkin	94	69	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	89	71	t-storm

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	89	66	pt sunny	Houston	90	72	pt sunny	Phoenix	93	68	sunny
Boston	57	55	rain	Los Angeles	69	57	pt sunny	San Francisco	68	55	pt sunny
Chicago	66	50	pt sunny	Miami	85	75	mst sunny	Seattle	62	53	rain
Dallas	89	74	cloudy	Minneapolis	70	56	mst sunny	St. Louis	71	62	t-storm
Denver	68	46	t-storm	New York	74	62	t-storm	Washington, DC	85	67	t-storm

Moon Phases

New	First	Full	Last
May 19	May 27	Jun 3	Jun 9

UV Index

Wed 5/26	Thu 5/27	Fri 5/28
Very High	Extreme	Extreme

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

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