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WT-Int. Crude - $26.68
WTIC Posted - $23.50
Natural Gas - $3.03

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
Aug. 20, 2001
Vol. 53 No. 95
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Leslie Cooley



HELPING OUT — Colt Blackman of Seminole helped his sister, Kaci Loffer, mop her new dorm room Saturday at WTC. First-year students were on campus Saturday for Freshmen Fun Day, an orientation allowing newcomers the opportunity to get to know the college's faculty and facilities. Registration was underway today and classes begin Wednesday. (SDN Staff Photo)

County won't seek coliseum proposals

County Judge Ricky Fritz said today he sees no reason to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for operation of the Scurry County Coliseum.

Citing "irreconcilable differences" between the county and the chamber, the judge tried to put to rest the debate over who should manage the facility.

The judges' comments were made at the start of the regular session of Commissioner's Court this morning.

"I feel like it is time for someone to stand up and state the obvious," Fritz said. "The coliseum is not on the agenda today. We have included in our proposed budget $135,000 for the coliseum. We feel that is a fair amount considering the big picture."

Fritz said the county had received a request for the RFP with a cover letter from chamber executive director Donna Fowler.

"The chamber does not agree with that and they sent a proposal to us for management of the coliseum," he said. "In my opinion and after reading about it for two months on the front page of the *Snyder Daily News*, I feel that we have irreconcilable differences.

"The chamber has adequate reserves now that will allow them to do more than they have ever done before, so I see no reason to put out a RFP."

Included in the chamber's proposal was an annual supplement of $165,000 and changes in the wording of the contract that would free the chamber from liability for catastrophic happenings such as the $35,000 gas leak.

The chamber also requested a three-year pact, whereas the county proposed five years.

In other business, commissioners received copies of the 2002 proposed $22.6 million budget.

That figure includes Cogdell Hospital's $16,411,087 budget of which includes $395,000 in tax subsidy.

Without the hospital, the county's proposed budget totals $6,271,868.

The budget also includes a proposed tax rate of 46.92 cents per $100. The rate is just under the rollback limit and roughly five cents more than the effective tax rate.

However, due to a $159,956,690 hike in the county's values, the proposed tax rate is a decrease of four cents.

A public hearing on the tax rate is set for 10 a.m. Aug. 27.

Peace Justice Deborah Boyd told the court about new court costs that could generate up to $80,000 over the next four years, the period in which the rate would be effective.

House Bill 177 will allow the court to create a Justice Court Technology fund by collecting a fee of up to $4. Boyd said revenues from the fee would be used to purchase new computers for her office.

Boyd also asked the court to approve an Omnibase program for collecting fines on Class C misdemeanors. The program would make collecting fines easier and could net the county as much as $600,000 over the next six years.

It would require a full-time position, rather than the part-time employee currently working at the JP office. No action was taken.

The court also tabled discussion of the Texas Association of Counties' Silver Choice insurance plan until it has more information. Auditor Charlie Bell will meet with TAC representatives this week.

The court also voted unanimously to appoint John Fair as assistant county veterans officer.

Billy Haynes with the Scurry County Historical Society also spoke to the court seeking funding for repairs to the Dodson House and the Dermott School House. No action was taken.

Pickup wreck kills two in Dimmitt, injures 8

DIMMITT (AP) — Eight teenagers remained hospitalized today after being thrown from a pickup in a rollover accident south of here that killed two other teens, officials said.

Stacy Saenz, 18, and Casey Villanueva, 16, both of Dimmitt, were dead at the scene of the crash, which happened about 2:30 a.m. Sunday just south of Dimmitt, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Saenz was trapped in the cab of the 2000 model Chevrolet pickup; Villanueva was ejected in the crash, as were all eight of the injured, said DPS information officer Wayne Bieghle.

Beighle said the pickup, driven by Jake Laurent, 17, was traveling north at a high rate of speed when it struck a small dip in the road, causing the driver to lose control. The vehicle ran off into the east ditch and struck a power pole.

The six boys in the bed of the pickup and the three boys in the cab all were ejected.

Two of the injured were in critical condition Monday, and six were in stable condition.

Alcohol and high speed were suspected as contributing factors, Beighle said.

Beighle said the bodies of Saenz and Villanueva were taken to Lubbock for autopsies.

Injured were:

— Laurent, taken to Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt with a head injury, then transferred to Covenant Medical Center, Lubbock, reported stable;

— Clay Eby, 17, taken to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo with head injuries, reported Monday in critical condition;

— Andy Sais, 15, taken to the burn intensive care unit of University Medical Center in Lubbock, reported in critical condition;

— Matthew Gauna, 17, taken to Plains Memorial Hospital, chest and abdominal injuries, transferred to Covenant, reported stable;

— Kenneth Worsham, 16, taken to Plains with a fracture, transferred to Covenant, reported stable;

— Lupe Cisneros, 17, remained Monday in Plains, contusions, stable;

— Anthony Oltivero, 19, Plains, minor injuries, stable;

— Juan Gonzales, 18, Plains, minor injuries, stable.

A law passed this spring that takes effect Sept. 1 bans children under 18 from riding in open beds of pickup trucks on Texas' public roads. A violation is a misdemeanor punishable by up to a $500 fine.

Rainfall Reports

Snyder	.18
North of city	Sprinkle
West of city	1.4
Lake Thomas	0
Fluvanna	0
Dunn	.10
Ira	1.5
Dermott	0
Gail	0
Farmer's Co-op	.20

Totals as reported by area residents for Saturday evening.

Culinary event is Thursday

Tickets remain on sale for the 5th annual Taste of Scurry County, a fundraiser to benefit the Scurry County Museum, which will be held Thursday at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center.

The format has been changed for this year's event.

"The meats and vegetables will be prepared by local chefs - Jerry Baird, Jim Rumage and Kerry Clay. Other local cooks will add desserts, salads and breads. It will be quite a dining experience," said Charlene Akers, museum director.

Three local civic clubs –Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis – provided funding for the meat.

A live auction under the direction of Charlie Bell, county auditor, will be held immediately following the meal that begins at 6:30 p.m.

Auction items include quilts, a newspaper from Nolan Ryan's hometown headlining his seventh no-hitter, original paintings from local artists, and a print by nationally recognized painter Linda Miller.

Other items include pottery, a hunting trip, a catered dinner at the donor's home, food items and much more.

Door prizes will be given throughout the evening. The event is expected to last less than two hours.

Taste of Scurry County is the museum's annual fundraiser and this year's goal is $6,000. The museum hopes to use the funds to upgrade the permanent gallery that preserves the history of the area.

Tickets for Taste of Scurry County, in the form of a $12.50 donation, are available at the museum (573-6107), from board members and at Bullard's Computer Solutions (573-5100).



KEEPING THE BEAT — Paul Glover keeps the rhythm going for Heart-N-Soul, a Christian rock group, Saturday at a garage sale in Towle Park. The sale's proceeds will help send the rock group to a Christian motorcycle rally in Colorado. (SDN Staff Photo)

Trial starts Tuesday for cocaine delivery

A 30-year-old Snyder man, arrested last December as a result of an undercover drug investigation, goes on trial Tuesday in 132nd District Court.

Marlon Christopher Garrett of 201 26th Street is charged with delivery of a controlled substance, cocaine, within 300 feet of a youth center, a drug-free zone.

Some 240 prospective jurors have been summoned for 8:30 a.m. in Judge Ernie Armstrong's courtroom.

District Attorney Dana Cooley will prosecute and Gerald R. Lopez of Odessa is the defense attorney.

ASK US

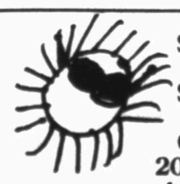
Q—When is the last day a student may register for classes at WTC?

A—The last day to register, or add or change a class for the fall semester is Tuesday, Aug. 28.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 92 degrees; low, 65; high Sunday, 95; low, 65; 7 a.m. Monday, 70; .18 of an inch precipitation; total for 2001, 10.49 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, clear, low near 70, SE wind 5-15 mph. Tuesday, partly cloudy, high mid 90s. Tuesday night, mostly clear, low around 70.



Lance Egan
Sunny

Sunset: 8:21 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:14 a.m.
Of 231 days in 2001, the sun has shone 219 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Winning is a reflex action. If you've been there in your mind, you'll go there in your body.

—Denis Waitley

AUG 20 2001

SS: Women, minorities political battleground

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration and its allies are focusing on women and minorities as they try to build support for overhauling Social Security by creating personal investment accounts.

The support of those two groups is essential, and the administration — as well as proponents of private accounts — are laying the groundwork in speeches, policy papers, interviews, memos and reports.

"If they don't make a case that Social Security reform is better for women and minorities than the current system, the battle is really lost," said David John, Social Security policy analyst for the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank that favors individual accounts.

Opponents of such accounts say Social Security has provided a safety net for women and minorities, who are disproportionately dependent on the benefits.

Social Security is an insurance program that "has been spectacularly successful in reducing poverty among the elderly and the disabled, and in ensuring that people who have worked hard all their lives have a minimally decent standard of living in retirement," said Rep. Robert Matsui, D-Calif.

Both sides agree that Social Security, which reached its 66th anniversary Tuesday, will face funding problems when the large baby boom generation starts retiring in the coming decade and fewer workers pay into the system.

To help shore up funding, President Bush has proposed letting younger workers invest some of their payroll taxes in the stock market. He has created a commission to devise a plan, recommend how to pay for it and report to him in the fall.

Women and minorities are most at risk, the commission said in its initial report last month. It asked the Social Security Administration for more information on women and minority beneficiaries.

The administration also has been pitching private accounts as a way to build larger retirement nest eggs, which officials say would benefit women more because they tend to live longer than men.

"They should be able to put the magic of compound interest to work for them, generating greater financial security and peace of mind," Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill told the Bond Market Association last month.

For minority men, who have shorter average life spans, the accounts create wealth that can be passed on to survivors, he said.

"Instead of forfeiting all the payroll taxes they've paid into the system, shouldn't they be able to pass that nest egg on to their children, to improve their families' living standards?" O'Neill said.

This ownership is a big appeal for privatization advocates.

"This is about helping the people that need to be helped," said Mario Rodriguez, president of the Hispanic Business Roundtable and a member of the White House commission. "This is not about helping the rich."

House Majority Leader Dick Armey, in a memo to Republicans last month, said blacks and Hispanics are hurt in the current system. "Happily, these problems can be remedied by letting workers invest their own payroll tax dollars in personal retirement accounts," Armey, R-Texas, wrote.

Opponents say those arguments fail to acknowledge that Social Security is a progressive system — structured so lower-wage earners get more in benefits for what they paid in comparison with higher-income workers. That benefits women and minorities. Social Security also provides guaranteed benefits that increase with inflation, they note.

"Private accounts are not a guaranteed, lifetime benefit — when your money runs out, it's gone," said Marilyn Leist of the American Association of University Women, which opposes privatization. "Private accounts do not assure cost-of-living adjustments, which keep older women on the other side of the poverty line."

Another argument in favor of the current system is that it provides automatic benefits for spouses with little or no work history and for surviving spouses, though they must have been married at least 10 years. Both those benefits favor women, who live longer and who are more likely to take time off work to care for children.

On the other side, the Alliance for Worker Retirement Security, created by the National Association of Manufacturers in 1998 to push for personal accounts, argues that the current structure hurts divorced women who must have remained married 10 years to get spousal or survivors benefits.

"The large increases in divorce rates over the past decades will mean an increased percentage of women entering their elderly years without the income protections that have traditionally been extended to married women and to widows," the group says.

Private accounts could be structured so the working spouse contributes to both accounts, proponents say. If the couple divorces, the non-working spouse would have ownership of his or her own account.

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RESULTS

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — One ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket was worth an estimated $20 million.

The ticket was sold in Seguin.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 1-18-26-32-45-52.

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $4 million.

Pick 3

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

2-6-9

Florida surfers are anxious following six shark attacks

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A day after three surfers were attacked by sharks off the Florida coast, another group of surfers suffered the same fate in roughly the same area.

None of Sunday's bites was life-threatening, said Joe Wooden, deputy beach chief for Volusia County, on central Florida's Atlantic coast. Blacktip and spinner sharks were blamed for the attacks.

A 17-year-old female surfer was off Wilbur-by-the-Sea when a shark attacked her left foot. She was treated and released from a hospital. Her name was not released because authorities had been unable to contact her parents.

Five miles away, two other surfers were bitten within a minute of each other in New Smyrna Beach, near where Saturday's attacks occurred. Becky Chapman, 17, was bitten in the left calf and a 32-year-old man, Robert Kurrek, was bitten in the right foot, Wooden said.

A one-mile stretch of beach was then closed for the rest of the day and the victims were hospitalized. Chapman will undergo surgery but was in good condition late Sunday. Kurrek was released on Sunday.

On Saturday, Jeff White, 20, and Dylan Feindt, 19 were competing in a surfing contest when they were both bitten in the foot. A third surfer, Jason Valentine, 20, underwent surgery for a hand injury. He was listed in good condition late Sunday, officials said.

Of the 37 shark bites reported worldwide this year, 17 occurred in Volusia County, Wooden said.

On a good weekend, hundreds of surfers head to New Smyrna Beach, one of the best surfing spots in Florida. Sharks are drawn to the area because it is rich in bait fish, Wooden said.

The attacks over the weekend may have occurred because so many surfers were splashing around in the water, not because the animals are getting more aggressive, an expert on shark attacks said.

"I don't think it indicates we're under siege or anything like that," said George Burgess, director of the International Shark Attack Files at the University of Florida. "The results are almost inevitable given the conditions."

Sharks also have been on the attack this month in the Bahamas, where two Americans were bitten in the leg. Both are recovering at a Miami hospital, one after having his leg amputated.

Special Tupac arts center to open in 2003

STONE MOUNTAIN, Ga. (AP) — DeKalb County political leaders joined with the family of Tupac Shakur to break ground over the weekend for an arts center honoring the slain rapper.

Organizers expect the Tupac Amaru Center for the Arts to open in March 2003 in Stone Mountain. Shakur's family has lived in the area for nearly a decade.

The center will feature studio space for the performing arts and a gallery that initially will hang the art of Shakur's fans who have sent their work to his mother, Afeni Shakur.

An adjacent garden will commemorate Shakur, who was shot dead in Las Vegas in 1996, and other victims of violence.

Date Book

Monday, Aug. 20, 2001

Today is the 232nd day of 2001 and the 61st day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1741, Dutch explorer Vitus Bering discovered what is now known as Alaska.

On this day in 1911, staff members of The New York Times sent a telegram to themselves around the world. The message, which was "This message sent around the world," took about 16 minutes to travel around the globe.

On this day in 1971, Texas Instruments introduced the electronic pocket calculator.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Benjamin Harrison (1833-1901), U.S. president; H.P. Lovecraft (1890-1937), writer; Eero Saarinen (1910-1961), architect; Isaac Hayes (1942-), musician, is 59; Graig Nettles (1944-), baseball star, is 57; Connie Chung (1946-), broadcast journalist, is 55; Robert Plant (1948-), singer, is 53.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1880, Pud Galvin pitched a no-hitter for Buffalo, N.Y., against Worcester, Mass. Buffalo won the game 1-0.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Minds are conquered, not by arms, but by love and magnanimity." — Baruch Spinoza

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (Aug. 18) and first quarter (Aug. 25).

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Berry's World



THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Published each Sunday morning and each evening, except Saturday, by Snyder Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 College Ave., Snyder, Texas 79549.

Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Snyder, Texas, Publication Number USPS611-520.

POSTMASTER send change of address to P.O. Box 949, Snyder, Texas, 79550.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier in Snyder, $9.25 per month.

By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $88.80 balance of Texas and out of state $113.85.

Roy McQueen, Publisher
Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The HERMLEIGH I.S.D. will hold a public meeting at 5:30 P.M. AUGUST 30, 2001 in HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING HERMLEIGH, TX. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted.** Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	$ 1.49	$ -0- *	$ 1.49	$ 4137.	$6241.
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	$ 1.44	$ -0- *	$ 1.44	$ 3950.	$6240.
Proposed Rate	$ 1.45	$ -0- *	$ 1.45	$ 4100.	$6240.

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	$ 22,109.	$ 22,633.
Average Taxable Value of Residences	$ 13,172	$ 13,462.
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per $100 Value	$ 1.49	$ 1.45
Taxes Due on Average Residence	$ 196.26	$ 195.20
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		$ (1.06)

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.4720. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.4720.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	$ -0-
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	$ -0-

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 08-20-01
♠ 8 6 4
♥ A 2
♦ K 10 5
♣ A K Q 7 4

West
♠ Q 9 7 3
♥ 10 8 4 3
♦ 8 7
♣ 8 6 5

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

South
♠ A K 10 5 2
♥ 7 5
♦ Q 9 6 2
♣ J 9

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
		1 NT	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ 8

Programmer, back to the circuit board!

By Phillip Alder

J.G. Ballard, an English author, said in an interview, "Electronic aids, particularly domestic computers, will help the inner migration, the opting out of reality."

Four computers, each running the same program, vied in this deal. However, the play was certainly out of reality at times. How many errors can you spot?

Against four spades, West led the heart eight: ace, nine, five. A spade to the ace was followed by three rounds of clubs, declarer discarding the heart seven. After ruffing a heart in hand and cashing the spade king to get the bad news, South continued with the diamond queen. East won with the ace and returned the diamond jack, so declarer conceded only two trumps and the diamond ace.

The "normal" lead is the heart three. I tend to count the 10 as an honor at trick one, but not afterwards. Maybe East should drop the king under dummy's ace, but the nine is reasonable. After a spade to the ace, South should cash the king next. Then, when the bad split is revealed, declarer can switch to clubs, discarding the heart loser.

South had to guess who held the diamond jack — but went wrong by starting with the queen. If East had ducked, the contract would have failed. And was that such a hard play to find, keeping the ace-jack over dummy's king-10?

After East won the ace, the diamond-jack return was absurd, but nothing would have worked. On a heart lead, declarer would pitch a diamond from hand and ruff in the dummy. Then the last diamond loser would evaporate on one of dummy's club winners.

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Bush headed to nation's heartland

CRAWFORD (AP) — President Bush is taking his plans for coaxing the economy out of a slump and redesigning Social Security to what he calls "communities of character" in the nation's heartland this week.

But Bush's departures from his rugged ranch near this sun-baked central Texas town also seem to serve another purpose — they put him on the stump in states where he struggled during his election campaign.

The president was flying to Milwaukee on Monday to attend the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention and tour a Harley-Davidson motorcycle plant. On Tuesday, he plans to use an appearance at a high school in Independence, Mo., to tout his fiscal priorities, including Medicare, Social Security and an expected budget surplus.

Bush lost in Wisconsin and narrowly won Missouri in 2000. He said last week he would take his messages to America's "communities of character."

"It's somewhat sly, but it looks like Bush is doing some early campaigning for 2004," said James Tyson-Shelding, a political analyst in Fort Worth, Texas. "He's heading to states that he probably feels he should have won or almost lost ... places where there is a substantial Republican population but his message didn't take root."

Bush's staff has closely guarded what his specific messages will be, but the administration has been moving forward on plans for both Social Security and Medicare

To help shore up funding for Social Security, the president has proposed letting younger workers invest some of their payroll taxes in the stock market. He recently created a commission to devise a plan, recommend how to pay for it and report to him in the fall.

The social program is expected to face shortfalls when the baby-boom generation starts retiring in the coming decade and fewer workers pay into the system.

Bush is also expected to talk about an expected budget surplus. On Wednesday, the White House's Office of Budget Management is expected to release figures on how much money is left over.

Political analysts say Bush is clearly on the campaign trail.

"It's a two-birds-with-one-stone situation," said Patrick Delraj, a political science professor at the University of California. "He's laying groundwork to be in a stronger position next time around."

Last week, the president went to New Mexico, a state he lost to Democrat Al Gore only after a recount determined he was 400 votes behind.

Continuing his trips to campaign hotspots, Bush heads to Pennsylvania next week — another state he lost. He will visit with union workers in Pittsburgh and attend the Little League World Series in Williamsport.

On Aug. 29, he plans to attend the American Legion's national convention in San Antonio, Texas.

During Bush's trips this week, Democrats will try to undercut his message with tough criticism of his plans.

"Social Security isn't about maximizing private gain," said Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn. "Social Security is about being part of a larger community that shares burdens and responsibilities.

State Sen. David Sibley won't run again

WACO (AP) — State Sen. David Sibley, one of the state's most influential lawmakers, announced Sunday that he will not seek re-election in 2002.

Sibley, who recently withdrew from the race for the state's lieutenant governor, said he intends to finish his current Senate term, which expires in January 2003.

"My decision not to run for lieutenant governor was more of a practical decision," Sibley said Sunday at a press conference in his Waco district office. "However, my decision not to seek another term in the Texas Senate has been an emotional process.

"During the past 10 years, I have made lasting friendships with families across Senate District 22 as well as with the men and women who have been my legislative colleagues. It has been an honor and privilege to represent my constituents and to have served with some of our state's legendary leaders, such as former Gov. George W. Bush and the late Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock. But now it is time for my wife, Pam, and I to move on to new challenges."

Sibley endorsed State Rep. Kip Averitt, R-Waco, for the seat. Averitt was Sibley's first chief of staff in the Senate.

Sibley, 53, is credited with playing a leading role in such legislation as lawsuit reform, electric deregulation and a patients' rights bill.

He came within a single vote of being elected lieutenant governor by his colleagues this year after then-Lt. Gov. Rick Perry resigned to succeed George W. Bush as governor. Many believe the experience embittered him.

In an interview last week, Sibley told the Austin American-Statesman he believes he is finished with politics — a statement some may find hard to believe for one of the stars of the state Republican party.

But Sibley, a civil lawyer, said 10 years in the Senate have left him little opportunity to earn money beyond his $600-a-month legislative salary.

"This is pretty much a financially driven decision," said Sibley. "When I got elected to the Senate 10 years ago, my wife and I got together and we talked about certain ground rules and what we would do and wouldn't do. It's involved dipping into savings to continue to do this, and I just can't afford to do it anymore."

Last spring, Sibley submitted his name as a candidate for a federal judgeship. He then withdrew it when he entered the race for lieutenant governor.

He said he hasn't decided whether he will re-submit his name but noted that so far the available judgeships have been in Dallas and East Texas. When asked whether he would move for such a job, he said, "Not far. I just prefer Waco. I like the lifestyle here."

Sibley's departure will leave a hole in the Republican Party.

"I think the last half of the decade, from 1995 to 2001, was legislatively, to a large extent defined by Senator Sibley's leadership in a number of areas," said Sen. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan.

Ogden said Sibley played a critical role this year as caucus chairman in bringing Senate Republicans together.

David Sibley facts

By The Associated Press

Some facts about state Sen. David Sibley, who announced Sunday he will not seek re-election:

Hometown: Waco

Education: Baylor University; Baylor College of Dentistry; Baylor School of Law.

Occupation: Oral surgeon/Lawyer

Legislative Experience: Republican Senator, 1991— present

As a senator:

Named "Texas Medicine's Best Legislator" by the Texas Medical Association.

Made Texas Monthly's 10 Best Legislators list in 1993, 1997 and 1999

Beazley's execution urged by top law enforcement officials

TYLER (AP) — District Attorney Jack Skeen Jr. and Smith County's top law-enforcement officials have sent letters urging Gov. Rick Perry to allow the execution of Napoleon Beazley to go forward.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on Wednesday granted Beazley a stay of execution, hours before he was scheduled to be put to death.

Jurors convicted Beazley six years ago of killing John Luttig, the father of a federal judge in Richmond, Va., during a carjacking in the driveway of his Tyler home.

Testimony at Beazley's trial showed he stood in a pool of blood while going through Luttig's pockets, searching for the car keys. Beazley shot him in the head in front of Luttig's wife while trying to steal a Mercedez-Benz.

Primarily because Beazley was only 17 at the time of the crime, his pending execution has prompted outcries from international critics of Texas' capital punishment laws.

Just before the stay was issued, Beazley's trial judge, Cynthia Kent, faxed a letter to Perry asking him to commute the killer's sentence to life imprisonment.

Although the trial was free of error, the judge wrote, Beazley should be spared because he was 17 when the crime occurred. Under Texas law, a sentence of life or death is determined by the jury.

Kent has declined to comment further..

Friday, Skeen compiled a packet of letters to Perry in response to Kent's request. Included were letters from Tyler Police Chief Gary Swindle and Smith County Sheriff J.B. Smith, the Tyler Morning Telegraph reported.

In his letter to the governor, Skeen said Kent's recommendation for commutation was basely solely on Beazley's age at the time of the crime.

Tamara's Dance On Broadway

New Studio! New Teacher!
Boys & Girls 3 years old through adults
Creative Movement, Tap, Jazz & Ballet
Physical & Character Development

Registration: August 24th 2:00-7:00 p.m.
August 25th 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Join The Fun!

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Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The Scurry County Commissioner's Court will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 18.04% percent. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The public hearing will be held on Monday, August 27, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. in the County Courtroom, Scurry County Courthouse.

For the proposal: **Ricky Fritz, Ralph Trevey, Roy Idom, Howard Limmer, Chloanne Lindsey**
Against the proposal: None
Present and not voting: None
Absent: None

The following table compares taxes on an average home in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average home this year. Again, your individual taxes may be higher or lower, depending on the taxable value of your property.

	Last Year	This Year
Average residence homestead value	$32,017.00	$32,290.00
General exemptions available (amount available on the average homestead, not including senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	$6,403	$8,017
Average taxable value	$25,614	$24,273
Tax rate	0.5388/$100	.4692/$100
Tax	$138.00	$114.00 proposed

Under the proposal, taxes on the average homestead would decrease by $24.00 or 17.39% percent compared with last year's taxes. Comparing tax rates without adjusting for changes in property value, the tax rate would decrease by $0.0696 per $100 of taxable value or 5.04% percent compared to last year's tax rate. These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.

Criminal Justice Mandate (for counties)

The Scurry County Auditor certifies that Scurry County has spent $14,001.40 in the previous 12 months beginning December 1, 2000 for the maintenance and operations cost of keeping inmates sentenced to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Scurry County Sheriff has provided information on these costs, minus the state revenues received for reimbursement of such cost.

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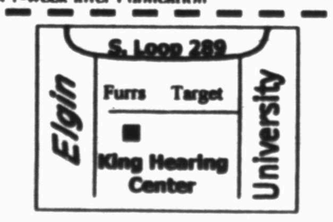
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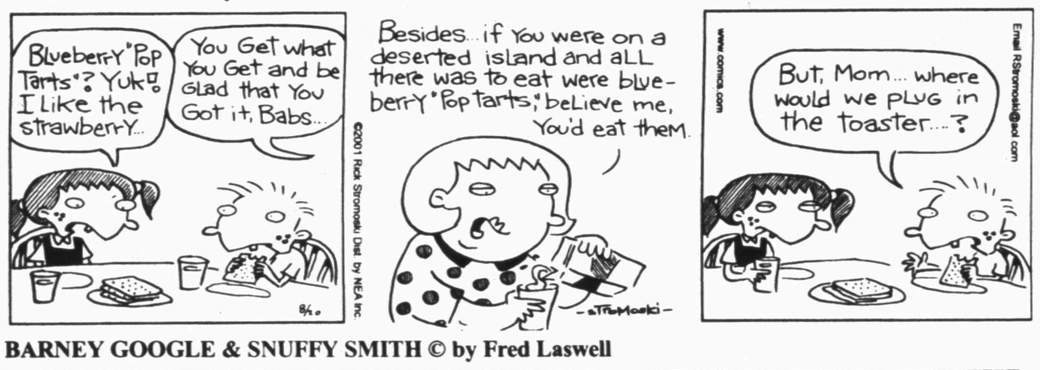
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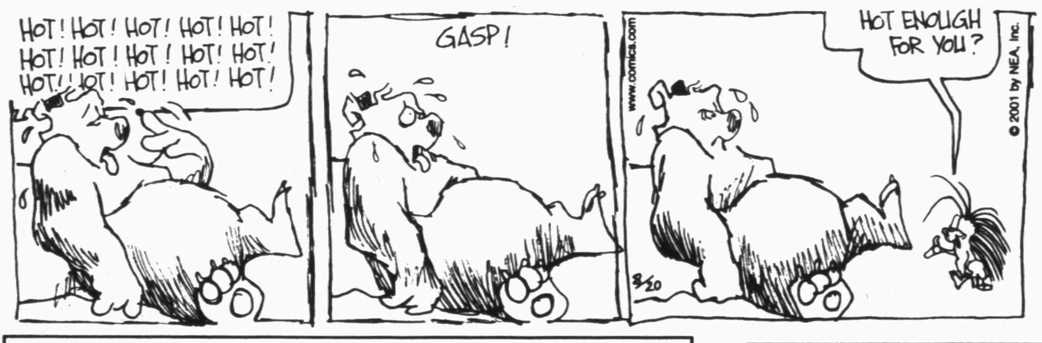
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THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Big lizard
7 Ice houses
13 Wretched
14 Earl Grey container
15 Crazy
16 Designer Giorgio —
17 Sewing line
18 Everything
20 Winglike
21 Killed
23 Handy (2 wds.)
27 Coldness
32 Senator Hatch
33 Of the ear
34 Rings, like a bell
35 Mild cigar
36 Actor Peter —
39 — — ease (nervous)
40 — B. Anthony
42 Bar brews
46 Astronaut's ferry
47 High cards
51 Seaweed product
53 Snub
55 Linger aimlessly
56 Illuminated naturally
57 Saturates
58 Grab

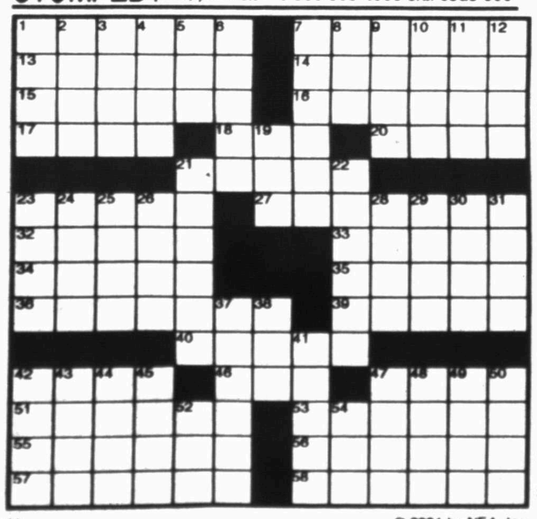
DOWN

1 Egyptian goddess
2 Missing
3 Celestial bear
4 Actor Sandler
5 Author Anais —
6 "Let's Make — —"
7 Style of type
8 Neighbor of Fr.
9 Tibetan monk
10 October birthstone
11 A Chaplin
12 Agitate
19 Medieval poem
21 Feels
22 Vitamin that prevents pellagra
23 "How clumsy of me!"
24 Gratis
25 — Mountains of Europe
26 Window part
28 — and void
29 Of a time
30 Poet Teasdale
31 Vegas machine
37 Measuring sticks
38 Opp. of NNW
41 Faulty
42 Isn't well
43 Plunder
44 Singer Adams
45 Location
47 Visitor to Siam
48 Young horse
49 Guitarist Clapton
50 Clockmaker Thomas
52 Neighbor of India (abbr.)
54 Weapon

Answer to Previous Puzzle

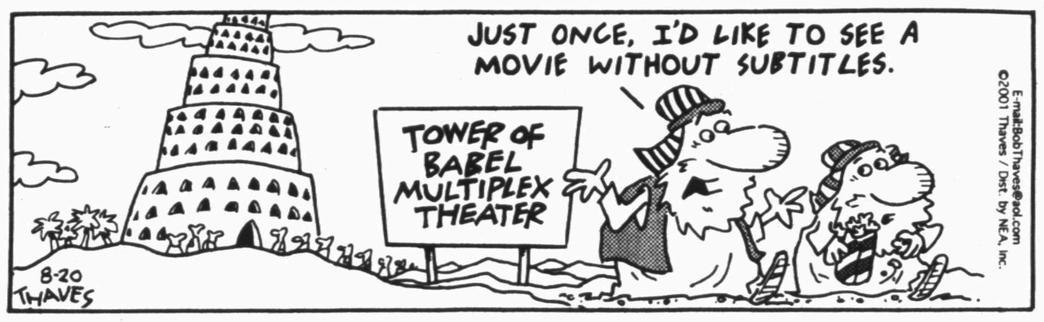
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K	E	R	R		E	D	D		E	S	S	E
	L	S	A	T			D	I	R	E	S	T
			N	A	T		A	O	L			
			C	L	U		N	I	P			
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E	T	A			L	A	G			T	A	R
A	S	P	I	R	E		O	P	O	R	T	O
R	E	E	V	E	S		R	E	L	I	E	D
S	T	R	E	S	S		A	T	E	A	S	E

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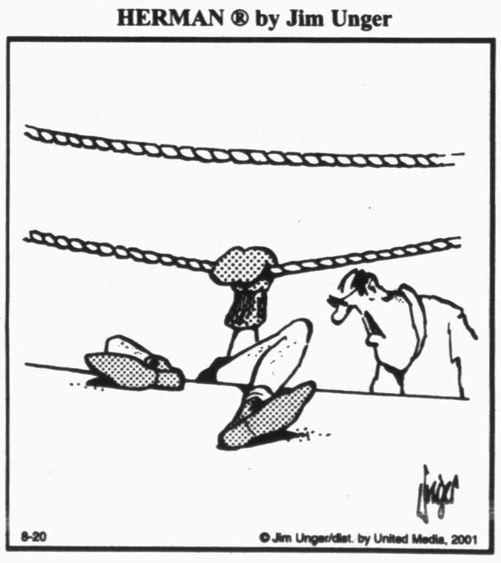


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"Keep it up! He's getting overconfident."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketchum



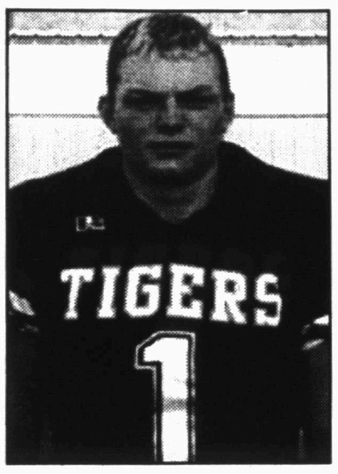
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Snyder Daily News
Comics

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SPORTS

Tigers lose starting linebacker to injury



T.J. Cagle

Snyder senior T.J. Cagle figured to be a key ingredient in the Tigers' success this year, but his contributions will have to be put on hold.

Cagle, a 6-0 185-pound linebacker and fullback, will be sidelined up to eight weeks with an injury he sustained on the second play of the Tigers' intrasquad scrimmage on Friday.

The senior suffered a broken bone in his forearm, just below the elbow and was scheduled for surgery this morning in Lubbock. Pins or screws were to be inserted to repair the bone, and early reports are Cagle could be back by the Andrews game Oct. 12.

"T.J. was primed to have a good year," said Snyder coach Chad Rogers. "You always hate to lose a player with his intensity and work ethic. Now we'll ask some other players to step up and fill the void.

"When T.J. gets back from Lubbock and starts his rehab, he'll still play a big role on this team, because we need his leadership in the locker room."

Junior Josh Montoya and sophomore Isaac Ramon will likely see more time at linebacker. Montoya will remain the starter at fullback, sharing time with junior Clay Williams.

The Tigers are in action again Thursday when they travel to Sweetwater for their only scrimmage before the Aug. 31 opener at Monahans.

Ward, Torres grab Blowout title

There would be no playoff at this year's Blowout Partnership. Steve Ward and Michael Torres made sure of that.

Ward and Torres followed up a blistering first-round 59 with a 60 on Sunday to win the Blowout Partnership at Snyder Country Club by three strokes.

Steve Alexander and Mickey Scott were the closest competition with a 60-62—122, while Billy Brock and Larry Anderson finished another two shots back in third.

The President's Flight needed a scorecard playoff to declare Cuppy Graham and Kyle Doby as the winners. The Graham-Doby tandem finished deadlocked with eventual runners-up Abel Alvarez and Monty McWright at 130. Bob Ricks and Martin Higgon grabbed third place with rounds of 64 and 69.

Competition was tight in the first and second flights, which completed only 27 holes after rain halted Saturday's opening round.

Five teams posted 105 in the first flight, with Jeff Fowler and Perry McCallister winning the playoff. Billy Hill and Gary Williams claimed the runner-up spot. John Greene and Pete Greene were third.

In the second flight, Sam Robertson and Dayton Robertson carded 35-71—106 to nab top honors. John Greene and Chris Canonico were only one stroke back at 107, followed by Gary Smith and Clay Berryman at 109.

Sixty teams took part in the annual tournament. Format was select shot on Saturday and lowball for the final round.

BLOWOUT PARTNERSHIP
at Snyder Country Club
Championship Flight

Steve Ward-Michael Torres, 59-60—119; Steve Alexander-Mickey Scott, 60-61—122; Billy Brock-Larry Anderson, 62-62—124; Scott Rundell-George Simmons, 60-65—125; Kenny Dierschke-Chris Beaty, 66-61—127; Adolf Garza-Kevin Glaspie, 62-65—127; David Stobaugh-Steven Stobaugh, 63-66—129; David Armstrong-Ernie Armstrong, 63-67—130; Alton Patterson-Randy Weaver, 62-68—130; Cory Adams-Ben Greene, 67-65—132; David Sharrock-John Medlicott, 63-71—134; Tom Rees-Randy May, 65-69—134.

President's Flight

Cuppy Graham-Kyle Doby, 63-67—130; Abel Alvarez-Monty McWright, 64-66—130; Bob Ricks-Martin Higgon, 64-69—133; Clay Allen-Bill Allen, 67-67—134; Tommy Lay-Mike Strickland, 68-67—135; Joe Stinson-Blake Hammond, 67-69—136; Glenn Patterson-Donny Newman, 66-70—136; Mark Waldrip-Dobie Williams, 67-69—136; John Lacik-Rickey Billingsley, 70-71—141; Edwin Lewis-Mike Macy, 68-74—142; Carter Wiggins-Elliott Cox, 70-72—142; Ricky Williams-Billy Smartt, 71-71—142; Rick Beard-Jeral Beard, 71-74—145; Curt Rinehart-Blake Rundell, 70-75—145; Wes Key-Brent Beck, 72-73—145; Rickey Daniell-Randy Glasscock, 72-76—148.

First Flight

Jeff Fowler-Perry McCallister, 35-70—105; Billy Hill-Gary Williams, 33-72—105; John Greene-Pete Greene, 34-71—105; Clay Hill-Ray Hill, 33-72—105; Mackey Mandrell-Don Murray, 35-70—105; Bert Greene-Jordan Jalbert, 35-71—106; Eric Spring-Robert Patterson, 33-74—107; Eicke Perry-Scott Hallman, 35-72—107; Jean Steakley-Earl McKinstry, 34-74—108; Kim Robertson-Richard Trout, 35-73—108; Randy Miles-Jeff Walker, 34-74—108; George Alderete-Eddie Stewart, 33-76—109; Tracy Lammert-Jack Shoults, 36-73—109; Don Sasser-Lucky Merket, 37-73—110; Mike Levens-Jim Petty, 36-74—110; Malcom Rainwater-Stewart Phillips, 38-74—112; Don Chandler-Dale Jenkins, 38-75—113; Barry Blackmon-James Caldwell, 38-83—121.

Second Flight

Sam Robertson-Dayton Robertson, 35-71—106; John Greene-Chris Canonico, 34-73—107; Gary Smith-Clay Berryman, 38-71—109; J.J. Eicke-Seale Haney, 36-73—109; Cary Coffee-Gordon Gray, 36-74—110; Larry Brazil-Jason Rios, 38-72—110; David Harrell-Brad Robertson, 40-70—110; Gary McLeod-Mike McLeod, 36-75—111; Pinky Ferguson-Jack Gorman, 38-73—111; Mickey Neff-Mike Ratliff, 37-75—112; Mickey Nunley-Keith Boyd, 42-73—115; Mark Strickland-Scott Mabry, 43-72—115; Giles Kemp-Rick Longley, 41-77—118; John Bloom-Billy Wilkerson, 41-85—126.

Tourney experience benefits SHS spikers

ABILENE — With four matches and some pool-play games under their belts, the Snyder Lady Tigers are getting more comfortable on the volleyball court.

If the squad can just iron out some communication worries, it will be on the right track, according to Head Coach Patty Grimmett.

"Our younger girls are becoming accustomed to the speed of varsity volleyball, and that's evident when we're playing really well," said Grimmett. "But we're not communicating very well on the court and its causing us to have some up-and-down performances."

Saturday's action at the Bev Ball Classic was evidence of the coach's remarks. Snyder rolled over Breckenridge, 15-2, 15-5, before falling in the Challenger's Bracket semifinals to Weatherford, 15-12, 15-12.

"We played really well in the first match, and we could have kept it going against Weatherford," Grimmett stated. "But our communication broke down at key times, and it gave Weatherford some easy points.

"It's a match we could have won, and I think the girls know that. But that's part of the learning experience. Next time they'll know what to do."

The Lady Tigers carry a 2-2 record into Tuesday's action against Midland Lee and Pecos at Midland. Matches begin at 5 p.m.

"The girls have really learned a lot and come a long way in a short time," Grimmett said. "We're so inexperienced, we have a lot to learn. But I'm proud of the way the girls are working. They aren't hanging their heads when things don't go their way. They just keep working to get better."

American Ryder Cup squad set

DULUTH, Ga. (AP) — Paul Azinger is returning to the Ryder Cup for the first time since 1993, joining rookie Scott Verplank as the two captain's picks announced Monday by Curtis Strange.

"I knew what I was missing all these years, and I'm glad to be back," Azinger said.

Strange became the first U.S. captain to select a rookie in taking Verplank, a former U.S. Amateur champion with a comeback story of his own — three elbow surgeries that forced him to go through Q-school to get back on tour.

Verplank finished 14th in the Ryder Cup standings. The top 10 qualify, with two captain's picks filling out the team that will try to retain the cup against Europe on Sept. 28-30 at The Belfry in England.

Strange passed over Tom Lehman, who got bumped out of the top 10 when David Toms won the PGA Championship on Sunday.

Lehman has never lost a singles match in his three Ryder Cup appearances, and played the leadoff match in 1999, when the United States staged the greatest comeback since the Ryder Cup began in 1927, making up a four-point deficit on the final day.

"Paul Azinger was, I think, an obvious choice," European captain Sam Torrance said. "He has a good record in the Ryder Cup and has played at The Belfry before, so he has experience of the course. Overall I feel it is a very strong team, enhanced by two good picks."

Azinger finished 22nd in the Ryder Cup standings, the lowest position of a captain's pick since Strange (No. 23) was chosen by good friend Lanny Wadkins in 1995. Strange went 0-3 in his matches that year.

Verplank had to miss most of the '91 and '92 seasons after elbow surgery, and another operation on his elbow followed in 1996. He had to return to Q-school in 1997, but was named Comeback Player of the Year in 1998.

"To come back from something like that shows a lot of intestinal fortitude," Strange said.

The selection of Verplank means the U.S. team will take three rookies to The Belfry — Toms and Stewart Cink, who finished 10th in the standings, have never played in a Ryder Cup.

The 10 players who automatically qualified are Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, David Duval, Mark Calcavecchia, Toms, Davis Love III, Hal Sutton, Scott Hoch, Jim Furyk and Cink.

Europe's team will be decided in three weeks.

Houston player dies following grid workout

HOUSTON (AP) — Doctors told the family of a 14-year-old high school football player who died after passing out during a scrimmage that he had a temperature of 107 degrees.

Leonard Carter, who would have enrolled Monday as a sophomore at Lamar High, collapsed Saturday and died less than two hours later at Texas Children's Hospital.

Investigators are not speculating on Carter's cause of death pending autopsy results due next week.

Bill Hawkins, the boy's uncle, said the family was told at the hospital that Carter had a 107-degree temperature.

"There were no signs of any illness," Hawkins told the Houston Chronicle. "He had breakfast with his father this morning, and they were laughing and joking."

Sports Briefs

Bowling meeting

The Men's Commercial League will meet at 7 p.m. Aug. 30 at Snyder Lanes to prepare for the upcoming season. League bowling begins Sept. 6.

Sammy Baugh tournament

The 10th annual "Slingin" Sammy Baugh Snyder Golf Tournament will be held Sept. 8 at Western Texas College. Proceeds benefit Snyder ISD golf programs.

Format is four-person scramble and cost is $140 per team. Shotgun starts are scheduled for 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Cash prizes will be awarded with $600 going to the winning team.

Entry deadline is Sept. 7. Registration forms can be picked up at the WTC pro shop.

Flag football

Any teams interested in playing in the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation flag football league should contact Earl Ware at 573-0800.

Western Texas MGA

The Men's Golf Association of Western Texas College holds a weekly event at 6 p.m. each Tuesday. Players need to register in the pro shop by 5:30.

Tuesday scramble and all-day MGA

The Men's Golf Association of Snyder Country Club holds its weekly scramble at 5:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

Also, an all-day MGA event is held each Thursday.

WGA play day

The Women's Golf Association of Snyder Country Club holds its weekly play day at 8:30 a.m. each Tuesday. Format is queen of the hill.

Toms holds off Mickelson

DULUTH, Ga. (AP) — Davis Toms played it conservatively on the decisive 18th hole and made it pay off with a 10-foot par putt to win the PGA Championship with a 1-under-par 69 and deny Phil Mickelson a major.

With only a one-stroke lead and one hole to play, Toms decided to lay up short of the water on the 490-yard closing hole, the longest par 4 in PGA Championship history, and take his chances with his putter.

After Mickelson's 30-foot birdie putt stopped 2 inches short of going in, Toms confidently rapped in his putt for par.

He finished at 265, breaking by two strokes the record first set at Royal St. George by Greg Norman in the 1993 British Open and later matched by Steve Elkington.

Mickelson finished with a 68Sunday. Steve Lowery was third with a total of 268, and Mark Calcavecchia was two strokes further back.

Major League Baseball

National League
All Times EDT
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	68	55	.553	—
Philadelphia	67	56	.545	1
Florida	59	64	.480	9
New York	56	68	.452	12½
Montreal	53	71	.427	15½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	71	53	.573	—
Chicago	68	54	.557	2
St. Louis	68	55	.553	2½
Milwaukee	53	68	.438	16½
Cincinnati	48	75	.390	22½
Pittsburgh	45	78	.366	25½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	72	51	.585	—
San Francisco	70	54	.564	2½
Los Angeles	67	57	.540	5½
San Diego	61	62	.496	11
Colorado	53	70	.431	19

Saturday's Games

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

Sunday's Games

Milwaukee 6, Cincinnati 4
St. Louis 9, Philadelphia 0
Houston 12, Pittsburgh 2
Colorado 6, Florida 5
N.Y. Mets 6, Los Angeles 5
Montreal 2, San Diego 1
Arizona 13, Chicago Cubs 6
San Francisco 4, Atlanta 1

Monday's Games

Milwaukee (Wright 8-8) at Chicago Cubs (Lieber 16-5), 5:05 p.m., 1st game
St. Louis (W.Williams 10-8) at Cincinnati (Reitsma 5-13), 7:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Levrault 5-8) at Chicago Cubs (Zambrano 0-0), DH, 2nd game

American League
All Times EDT
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	73	51	.589	—
Boston	67	55	.549	5
Toronto	58	66	.468	15
Baltimore	53	71	.427	20
Tampa Bay	44	81	.352	29½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	69	54	.561	—
Minnesota	65	59	.524	4½
Chicago	60	62	.492	8½
Detroit	51	71	.418	17½
Kansas City	50	74	.403	19½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	89	35	.718	—
Oakland	72	52	.581	17
Anaheim	66	58	.532	23
Texas	54	70	.435	35

Saturday's Games

Cleveland 4, Anaheim 2
Oakland 5, Chicago White Sox 4
Texas 12, Toronto 5
Seattle 7, N.Y. Yankees 6
Boston 5, Baltimore 1
Kansas City 8, Detroit 4
Minnesota 6, Tampa Bay 4

Sunday's Games

Texas 8, Toronto 4
Baltimore 13, Boston 7
Anaheim 4, Cleveland 1
Seattle 10, N.Y. Yankees 2
Detroit 4, Kansas City 3
Tampa Bay 5, Minnesota 1
Oakland 8, Chicago White Sox 7

Monday's Games

Toronto (Escobar 4-5) at Minnesota (Mays 12-11), 8:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Clemens 16-1) at Texas (Helling 9-9), 8:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Lowe 6-3) at Kansas City (Stein 4-6), 8:05 p.m.
Boston (F.Castillo 7-7) at Anaheim (Valdes 8-6), 10:05 p.m.
Detroit (Sparks 8-7) at Seattle (Garcia 14-4), 10:05 p.m.
Cleveland (Finley 5-5) at Oakland (Zito 8-8), 10:05 p.m.

NFL Glance

Preseason
All Times EDT
Saturday's Games

New England 23, Carolina 8
San Diego 23, Miami 20, ot
Buffalo 6, Philadelphia 3
Cleveland 7, Tampa Bay 6
New York Jets 16, Baltimore 3
New Orleans 16, Dallas 10
Detroit 27, Indianapolis 26
Kansas City 10, Chicago 9
Arizona 16, Seattle 13

Sunday's Game

San Francisco 20, Oakland 17

Monday, Aug. 20

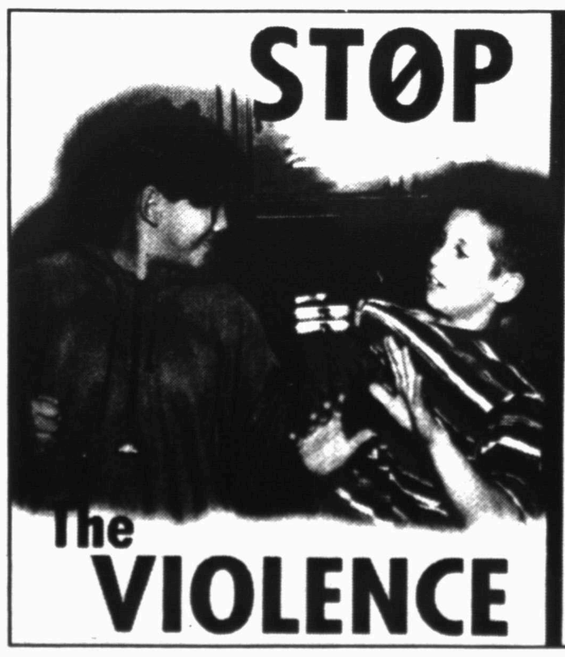
Denver at Green Bay, 8 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 23

Carolina at Baltimore, 7:30 p.m.
Kansas City at Jacksonville, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Tennessee, 8 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 24

Cleveland at Washington, 8 p.m.
Indianapolis at Minnesota, 8 p.m.



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★ *(Columbia White Dot) ★
★ SPONSORED BY MEN'S BOWLING ★
★ ASSOCIATION AND SNYDER LANES ★
★ *OFFER GOOD FOR "FIRST" 30 PEOPLE WHO ★
★ SIGN UP AND BOWL IN A FALL LEAGUE AND ★
★ HAVE NOT BOWLED IN A LEAGUE WITHIN ★
★ THE LAST TWO YEARS ★
★ OPEN TO MEN AND WOMEN ★
★ CALL US FOR DETAILS ★
★ SNYDER LANES ★
★ 573-2811 ★
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

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Legal Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO BANKING INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF SNYDER

NOTICE is hereby given that the Governing Body of the City of Snyder, subject to the provisions the Texas Local Government Code Sections 105 and 131, will receive applications from all interested banking institutions within the City of Snyder to serve as prime depository of the City of Snyder and maintain custody of the funds of the City for a period of three years from October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2004. Any such applications must be mailed or delivered to the City Secretary's office at 1925 24th Street, to be opened publicly at 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 5th, 2001.

Announcements

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New drugs: Approved too slow or too fast?

WASHINGTON (AP) — First, critics charged the Food and Drug Administration was endangering Americans by speeding approvals of new medicines, citing dangerous drugs that had to be yanked off the market.

Now, some manufacturers are complaining to Wall Street that the FDA began slowing drug approvals to a crawl last year, reluctant to let new medicines sell for fear of more such problems.

Who is right?

The latest government records show no major slowdown: Breakthrough drugs still are speeding through the FDA. One, a major advance in leukemia therapy called Gleevec, even set a record this spring when it won FDA approval in less than three months.

Total approval time, counting less important drugs and breakthroughs, did go up by four months last year. But that was largely because long-languishing products — like the abortion pill RU-486, which the FDA delayed for four years until its sponsor found an acceptable manufacturer — finally were approved, skewing the statistics.

Plus, there are not many breakthroughs each year. Drug companies actually are sending fewer novel medicines to the FDA today, instead creating more "me-too" drugs similar to ones already sold. Federal law gives the FDA longer to review those kind of drugs.

"We're not slowing down," said the FDA's drug chief, Dr. Janet Woodcock.

She challenged the industry to create more groundbreaking medicines.

In 1999, half the drugs the FDA approved were priority drugs, breakthroughs or medicines deemed to advance public health. Last year, just one-third were. The agency expects to receive applications for just 28 entirely new chemicals this year, 15 fewer than in 1998.

"That's not our slowdown," Woodcock said. "We're sitting here with open arms."

Still, some recent high-profile rejections — such as the experimental treatment Zelnorm for irritable bowel syndrome — suggest the FDA is being more cautious.

Some FDA watchers say that is because drug makers may overpromise products to investors and patients — in some cases touting drugs with clear regulatory problems.

A report by the investment research company UBS Warburg cited some evidence the agency is taking a tougher stance on safety.

"However, it could be argued that companies had been adopting a more laissez-faire attitude with the FDA," it says, adding: "A cynic might suggest that it is easier to blame the FDA than admit that the clinical information submitted was not adequate."

Ira Loss, a pharmaceutical analyst at HSBC Washington Analysis, says some companies "began to think that anything you throw at FDA they're going to approve, and some of them started throwing anything there. If it doesn't work, the FDA's not going to approve it."

Last year, the median approval time for priority drugs was six months, unchanged since the late 1990s.

Overall drug approval time was 15.6 months, up from 11.6 months in 1999.

The drug industry's main trade group agrees the FDA did not appreciably slow down last year. But the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America group is tracking this year's approvals to see if reviews are lagging.

A separate look at biotechnology drugs shows these more complex products have taken longer than regular pharmaceuticals to be approved.

Median approval time for biotech drugs went from 11.5 months in 1998 to 16.5 months in 1999, and rose by an additional month last year.

Biotech review chief Robert Yetter attributes the 1999 jump to companies submitting applications before they finished properly studying the medicines.

The FDA scheduled 1,000 meetings with companies last year to improve understanding of federal requirements and avoid incomplete applications.

On the Net:
Food and Drug Administration: http://www.fda.gov
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America: http://www.phrma.org

'American Pie 2' lingers as main course at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Audiences took a second helping of "American Pie 2," which grossed $21.4 million to remain the No. 1 movie for the second straight weekend.

It was the first movie since "Pearl Harbor" to hold the top spot for two weekends running. A new movie had debuted in first place for each of the previous 10 weekends.

Other new films had soft openings, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The comedy "Rat Race," directed by "Airplane!" co-creator Jerry Zucker, debuted in third place with $11.8 million.

The World War II romance "Captain Corelli's Mandolin," starring Nicolas Cage and Penelope Cruz, opened in sixth place with $7.1 million.

The western "American Outlaws," starring Colin Farrell as Jesse James, opened at No. 8 with $4.8 million.

Overall, the box office rose. The top 12 movies grossed $103.1 million, up 19 percent from the same weekend last year, when "The Cell" debuted as the No. 1 film.

By next weekend or shortly thereafter, the industry should surpass its summer revenue record of $3 billion set in 1999, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., which tracks the box office.

"American Pie 2" held the top spot again despite its gross dropping a sharp 53 percent from its opening-weekend take. That's been the pattern this summer — movies posting huge debuts followed by big declines because so many people already saw the films over opening weekend.

"It's the established pattern because we're opening pictures so much bigger than we used to before," said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal, which released "American Pie 2."

A few movies, such as "Shrek," "Legally Blonde" and "The Princess Diaries," have defied that trend as moviegoers talked up the films.

"Rat Race" distributor Paramount and Universal, which distributed "Captain Corelli's Mandolin," hope the same holds true for their films.

"Do we want a bigger opening? Yes," said Rob Friedman, vice chairman of Paramount's motion picture group. "Will it get bigger? Yes. We're confident the movie's going to be around a long time."

More so than in past summers, the industry has stacked up major releases. Every weekend, another high-profile film has come along to knock off the previous No. 1 movie.

"Planet of the Apes," "American Pie 2" and "Rush Hour 2" were opening in late July and August, a time when Hollywood's summer season traditionally has tapered off.

It looks more like a typical late summer through Labor Day, with smaller movies opening to smaller audiences.

They include the sci-fi thriller "John Carpenter's Ghosts of Mars," "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back" from "Dogma" director Kevin Smith; the baseball flick "Summer Catch" and Woody Allen's comedy "The Curse of the Jade Scorpion."

"We're going to hit the dog days pretty soon," Dergarabedian said. "The $60 million openers for the summer are pretty much done. If any new movies do really well from now on, it would be sort of unexpected."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures are to be released today.

1. "American Pie 2," $21.4 million.
2. "Rush Hour 2," $19.2 million.
3. "Rat Race," $11.8 million.
4. "The Others," $10.8 million.
5. "The Princess Diaries," $9.5 million.
6. "Captain Corelli's Mandolin," $7.1 million.
7. "Planet of the Apes," $6.9 million.
8. "American Outlaws," $4.8 million.
9. "Jurassic Park 3," $4.3 million.
10. "Legally Blonde," $2.6 million.

Hispanics now dominating many districts in inner cities

.WASHINGTON (AP) — Miguel Contreras recalls his anger when Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., did an ad on behalf of the white candidate and against the Hispanic candidate in the Los Angeles mayor's race in June.

"In the long run, it's going to come back to haunt her," says the Los Angeles union leader.

One reason may be that Waters' House district is one of four held by blacks but with populations that have turned from black to Hispanic majorities in the past decade.

Contreras says many Hispanics in Waters' district in South Central Los Angeles feel she "played the race card against the Latino candidate," state Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa, who lost to City Attorney James Hahn.

"We're not seeing her address Latino issues or support Latino candidates."

Waters, a fiery liberal, disputes that. She says her office has a bilingual staff and numerous Hispanic outreach programs. "We service our constituents — all of them."

Among the 39 black members of Congress, Waters is not alone in finding herself representing an ethnic population different from the one that put her in office. As blacks move to the suburbs, Hispanics emerged as the biggest population in four historically black districts, the 2000 census shows.

Her colleagues immediately to the north and south — Reps. Diane Watson of Culver City and Juanita Millender-McDonald of Compton — are in the same situation, though Watson has been in office little more than two months.

Longtime Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., was uncontested in his last election. Hispanics in his Harlem district jumped to 51 percent of the population in 2000 from 46 percent in 1990.

For Democratic Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, head of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Hispanic population in her Texas district increased to 35 percent from 17 percent.

"There's a growth of Hispanics that is altering the landscape everywhere," said Dowell Myers, a demographer at the University of Southern California.

So far, no black incumbents face Hispanic challengers in next year's election. California gains a 53rd House seat from the 2000 census. Preliminary proposals submitted by Hispanic groups would leave intact districts represented by black lawmakers.

For one thing, analysts say, much of the Hispanic population in those districts is immigrants who are not yet citizens. Even when they become citizens, activists face the challenge of getting them registered and voting.

But, says Myers, the day will come when "the weakest politicians that haven't been serving the new constituency are going to get bumped off."

The discontent in Waters' district — where the population switched to 54 percent Hispanic from 43 percent in the 1990s — illustrates the new balancing act that black lawmakers face.

"It requires whoever represents those districts to be conscious of the fact that their constituencies are very diverse," said Arturo Vargas, executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Education Fund. "They don't represent a single constituency."

David Bositis, an analyst at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Washington think tank focusing on black issues, points to New Orleans as an example of demographic changes having a lagging political impact.

Long after it became a predominantly black district, the city continued to re-elect white Rep. Lindy Boggs every two years.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Skin lesions may be markers

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have small nodules on my shins that a dermatologist has diagnosed as erythema nodosum. Will they go away?

DEAR READER: Erythema nodosum is a relatively unusual skin condition, consisting of red, tender lumps on both shins; occasionally they occur on the calf, rarely in other parts of the body. These bumps are not, by themselves, the problem. Rather, they reflect disease elsewhere in the body. They act like allergic markers to direct the doctor's attention away from the skin, to other tissues.

For example, erythema nodosum is commonly associated with strep infections, tuberculosis and sarcoidosis (a low-grade lung inflammation of unknown cause).

Drug allergies may cause erythema nodosum. The skin lesions can be seen in patients with ulcerative colitis and other bowel disorders. Sometimes they arise during pregnancy.

Therefore, while the dermatologist's diagnosis is a good start, you can see that you have a way to go. You need a thorough medical examination, with blood tests and chest X-rays. Obviously, if you're pregnant, you have no worries; the lumps will disappear with time. On the other hand, if you have a hidden infection or are reacting to a medication, you need further diagnosis and treatment — not for the skin lesions but for whatever is causing them.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have been taking Synthroid for years because of a sluggish thyroid gland. Now I read that the Food and Drug Administration has threatened to withdraw the drug from the market. What's the story?

DEAR READER: This is as much a matter of timing as it is a medical issue. According to a lead article in The Medical Letter, a respected authority on therapeutics, Synthroid (synthetic thyroid hormone replacement) was for years considered to be the best in its class. Then, starting in 1989 and continuing through 2000, the manufacturer began having problems with standardization and drug potency. This led the FDA to rule that all such thyroid replacement medicines should be re-classified as "new" drugs After the agency required New Drug Applications from the manufacturers, three companies submitted such applications and two were approved. Abbott Laboratories, the maker of Synthroid, failed to meet the application deadline; hence the government threat to withdraw the product. The expert consensus is that Synthroid will remain on the market and will, sooner or later, receive FDA approval.

My advice is: Stick with the Synthroid. If it becomes unavailable, have your pharmacist substitute one of the two equally effective alternatives, Unithyroid or Levoxyl.

DEAR READERS: This is a follow-up on my concerns that the S.C. Johnson product Glade Plug Ins Scented Oil, could cause lung problems in some consumers.

My fears were ungrounded. The company has kindly sent me test results proving that the aroma released from the device does not constitute a health hazard; the scent is analogous to the smell of pinesap from a freshly cut Christmas tree.

I thank my many readers who had questions about the product. I'm grateful to the S.C. Johnson executives who provide comforting data, and I am relieved that the issue can be put to rest once and for all.

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp		32.68	32.27	32.49 + .03
AOL TimeWrn		40.12	39.50	40.00 + .30
AT&T Corp s		19.58	19.28	19.48 + .16
Albertsons		34.99	34.50	34.87 + .27
Alltel		57.98	57.45	57.66—.08
AmEl Pw		45.39	45.01	45.38 + .37
AndarkPtr		57.95	56.80	56.86—1.39
ATMOS Egy		22.60	22.45	22.54 + .05
Aviall		10.95	10.90	10.94 + .04
BP PLC		51.89	51.27	51.56—.14
BakerHughes		34.75	34.05	34.27—.48
Bank of Amer		63.25	62.85	63.12 + .43
BellSouth		39.34	38.75	39.34 + .42
Beth Steel		2.02	1.97	1.98—.02
BurlNoSFe		27.02	26.50	26.52—.48
Caterpillar		53.60	52.25	52.68—1.07
Chevron		92.28	91.62	91.82—.19
Citigroup s		47.30	46.60	47.18 + .58
CocaCola		48.09	47.71	48.08 + .54
ColgatePal		55.45	55.00	55.22—.06
ComclMetals		31.75	31.55	31.61—.19
CooperIn		56.35	56.00	56.20—.28
DaimlrChry		44.65	43.75	44.59 + .84
DeltaAirl		39.90	39.55	39.81—.12
Dillards Inc		18.05	17.66	17.85 + .11
DowChem		34.18	33.90	33.97—.59
DuPont		41.20	40.51	41.11 + .25
EastmanChem		41.57	40.98	41.21—.35
EstKodak		44.90	44.15	44.73 + .36
EDS Corp		60.00	59.15	60.00—.27
Entergy		39.30	39.00	39.25 + .30
ExxonMobil s		40.87	40.35	40.78 + .31
FstBksAm		30.65	30.55	30.55—.20
GenDynam		81.70	81.26	81.46—.23
GenElec		41.58	40.41	41.37 + .57
GenMills		44.50	44.25	44.43 + .13
GenMotors		58.85	57.50	58.28—1.19
GaPacGP		36.95	36.32	36.68—.07
GlobalMar		18.01	15.67	15.83—.12
Goodrich		35.14	34.80	34.95—.35
Goodyear s		26.25	25.44	25.72—.53
GtAtlPac		19.99	19.17	19.23—.76
Halliburtn		32.20	31.30	31.73—.19
Hanson ADS		37.90	37.72	37.84 + .46
HartleHanks		23.13	23.00	23.07 + .06
HomeDepot		49.98	49.01	49.95 + .72
Honeywellint		37.44	37.02	37.42 + .47
IBM		105.00	104.15	104.46—.13
IntlPaper		41.00	40.41	40.93—.26
JohnsonJn s		55.00	54.00	54.90 + 1.15
K mart		12.49	12.20	12.43 + .42
KinderMorg		54.46	54.20	54.20—.34
Kroger Co		25.57	25.35	25.52
LockheedM		39.18	38.75	38.77—.38
Lowes Cos s		36.77	35.13	36.57 + 1.53
Lubys		9.25	9.15	9.16—.09
LucentTech		6.53	6.39	6.47 + .13
MayDeptStr		33.33	32.95	33.18 + .12
Medtronic		44.11	43.90	43.95—.40
Motorola		16.93	16.50	16.70—.30
NCR Corp		38.13	37.78	37.79—.33
Navistar		35.56	34.35	34.62—.95
Penney JC		26.75	26.00	26.45 + .57
PepBoys		12.52	11.74	12.47 + .76
PepsiCo		45.98	45.70	45.98 + .30
Pharmacia		44.44	44.12	44.39—.05
PhelpDodge		38.29	37.77	38.13—.25
PhilipPet		58.14	57.70	57.96—.06
PilgrmPrd B		14.78	14.70	14.71—.03
Polaroid		1.40	1.35	1.36—.05
Praxair		46.15	45.80	46.04—.09
ProctGamb		74.90	74.27	74.62—.13
PubS NwMx		29.36	28.98	29.08 + .10
RadioShack		24.06	23.62	23.76 + .08
ReliantEngy		29.95	29.69	29.85—.09
RoyalDut		56.19	55.60	56.02—.32
SBC Comm		43.47	42.65	43.42 + .87
SaraLee		20.50	20.31	20.46 + .26
Scripps EW		68.11	67.91	67.96—.01
SearsRoeb		45.00	44.80	44.96—.02
SherwinW		22.78	22.62	22.75 + .14
SouthernCo s		23.19	22.96	23.18 + .31
SwstAirl s		18.10	17.83	18.07 + .44
SprintFON		23.18	22.85	23.12 + .07
SprintPCS		22.84	22.51	22.73 + .13
Sunoco Inc		35.40	35.08	35.11—.09
TXU Corp		46.70	46.26	46.60 + .35
TempleInland		60.00	59.35	59.75—.34
Texaco		70.55	69.90	70.16—.13
Textind		39.96	39.50	39.74—.21
TexasInst		33.86	32.65	33.52 + .38
Textron		55.57	55.24	55.29 + .04
TriconGlbR		44.10	43.92	43.98—.06
TrinityInds		26.29	25.69	25.69—.50
TylerTech		3.15	2.99	2.99—.02
USX-Marathn		30.65	30.45	30.58 + .01
USX-USS		20.08	19.71	19.96 + .06
UnionPacif		54.15	53.50	53.55—.40
UnitedTech		72.10	71.67	72.09 + .34
Unocal		36.45	36.25	36.33—.12
Venator Grp		18.23	17.82	18.21 + .56
VerizonComm		52.80	52.25	52.76 + .26
WalMart		51.62	50.80	51.41 + .61
WellsFargo		46.84	46.05	46.70 + .63
WstrnGasRs		33.30	32.53	32.80 + .23
WinnDixie		24.10	23.65	23.68—.14
Xerox Cp		8.80	8.56	8.60—.16

AUG 20 2001

Florida man sets new goals in 2nd chance

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Hanns Jones' life was in shambles. The love of his life had kicked him out, his work as an inventor stirred little interest and a lifelong search for his father had turned up empty.

Alone and hopeless, he drove to the center span of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge and jumped 200 feet — the equivalent of a 20-story building — into the choppy waters of Tampa Bay.

Jones felt the rush of the air. He can still visualize the descent. But before he hit the water, he changed his mind.

"As I got closer to the bottom," he said, "I had the feeling this was a bad idea."

The image of his 18-month-old son, Braner, flashed before him. Suddenly, life was precious. Jones wanted to live. He wanted his son to grow up knowing his father.

Jones slammed into the water feet first and lost consciousness. The impact stripped the clothes from his body. When he came to, he felt his hand move.

"I could feel myself swimming. I saw rocks and I started thinking about my son. It was like he was there in front of me. There was no way I was not going to make it.

"I was hurting real bad — broken ribs both sides, a broken neck, a burst spleen and a collapsed lung. But I made it. I swam nearly half the length of a football field. I don't know how. It was absolutely a miracle."

Paramedics found the 36-year-old Jones naked and clinging to a bridge piling.

"It's unbelievable the man survived," said Jim Cunningham, one of the paramedics who responded.

Jones' plunge resulted in an unlikely second chance, leading him on a journey that helped him find his father and made him realize how much he wanted to be a father himself to his four children.

Jones was born in Mineral Wells, Texas, and was raised alone by his mother. He never knew his father, and hit dead ends when he tried to look for him.

"I had gotten to the point where I thought my father was deceased," he said. "It was very troubling to me, a great stress in my life."

During his two-week hospital stay, a woman who finds missing people read about Jones' May 30 bridge jump. In just six days, she found his father.

The two plan to meet next month after Jones sheds his head and neck brace and finishes recuperating at his sister's home outside Neosho, Mo.

Jones' father was "amazed and speechless" to learn his son was looking for him, said Lynn-Marie Carty of Reunite People. She tracked him down out West using the Internet, a network of contacts and a maze of Army files.

"Her finding my dad was more improbable than my surviving a jump off that bridge," said Jones, who won't disclose his father's name or say where he is living.

"I don't know my father, but I know I love him," he said.

During his teen-age years Jones went out on his own, served in the Army Reserve and began working odd jobs to give him time to work on his inventions. One of them was Sock Locker, attachable socks that stay together in the wash.

At the time of the jump, Jones was financially devastated and had just broken up with the girlfriend who had given birth to one of his children.

Cunningham, whose marine rescue team is responsible for the Skyway, said authorities get about 12 to 15 calls a year about a person jumping from the bridge. In his 17 years on the job, only five or six have lived.

"You always go out with it in your head you're going to save someone, but the odds are so stacked against you," Cunningham said. "This man was given a second chance; no doubt about it."

No one is more aware of that than Jones, whose three sons and a daughter range in age from little Braner to 14 years.

Firm accused of forging endorsements

EL PASO (AP) — A dietitian who formerly worked for Sodexho Marriott contends the company forged her signature hundreds of times on its weekly menus for the El Paso County Nutrition Program to comply with a state rule requiring approval by a registered dietitian.

Helga Carreon of El Paso was hired by Sodexho Marriott in 1995 and again in 1999 for two four-month stints when she reviewed menus to make sure they met nutrition standards for the county program, said her lawyer, Andrew Krafsur.

But her endorsement continued to be placed on menus after she left the company, Krafsur said.

"I'm absolutely certain that my client's signatures were forged at least 260 times. They forged (her signature) for five years, week after week after week, and it was intentional," Krafsur said..

Jorge Orozco, general manager for Sodexho Marriott in El Paso, referred questions to the company's lawyers, who could not be reached for comment.

"What they're saying is not true," Orozco said. "But I can't really say much more about it right now."

Krafsur sent a memo to the county in late June, and the county attorney's office is investigating the matter. The memo alleges that Carreon went to work for Lutheran Social Services last spring and saw her name on a menu that Sodexho Marriott had provided to Lutheran Social Services.

A Sodexho Marriott diet technician told Carreon that employees were told to cut and paste her signature onto the menus, the memo alleges. Krafsur said in the memo that Carreon found changes had been made to the meals she originally approved.

Lee Shapleigh, assistant county attorney, said the county auditor is conducting an audit and the county attorney is looking into the matter.

The county pays Sodexho Marriott $4.25 each for homebound meals and $2.37 for meals served at one of the county's 20 nutrition centers.

Nutrition Program director Rafael Reyes said a registered dietitian hired to check the menus in question has found "nothing of consequence."

The Texas Administrative Code requires meals served by the nutrition program to be approved by a registered dietitian. They must meet one-third of the recommended daily nutrition allowance for older adults, and the menus must provide variety in flavor, consistency, texture and temperature.

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BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

Spotlight



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Dear

By Abigail V

Cruel w cut dee

DEAR ABBY: It
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Danny Comstock
describe what man
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there will know th
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CALIFORNIA

DEAR SURV
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DEAR ABBY: I
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Alan Greenspan can be hard to understand

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alan Greenspan's speaking style can be incredibly hard to decipher, and he knows it. He calls it constructive ambiguity.

After 14 years in office, the chairman of the Federal Reserve has become a modern-day Greek oracle of Delphi, spouting enigmatic comments that leave listeners befuddled.

In congressional testimony, his sentences start here, twist there and double back so many times that questioners give up trying to pin him down.

Even Greenspan's wife, NBC reporter Andrea Mitchell, has trouble figuring out what he is trying to say. When they were courting, he tried on three occasions to propose marriage. She did not realize it until the third attempt.

At a recent congressional hearing, he was asked whether he was signaling that the Fed would cut interest rates again at its meeting this Tuesday. Greenspan smiled and replied, "I was scrupulously open to extraordinary ambiguity on that very subject."

Still, analysts who monitor the Fed closely say it is becoming easier to understand Greenspan, at least when he wants to be understood.

They also note that he has done more than any other chairman to open the secretive Fed to public scrutiny.

"One of his greatest marks on central banking will be that he has led the way to greater transparency, providing clear communication to financial markets and the public regarding the Fed's objectives," said David Jones, chief economist at Aubrey G. Lanston & Co. He is writing a book on the Greenspan Fed.

When Greenspan was sworn in as chairman on Aug. 11, 1987, he hewed to the operating style of previous chairmen, inserting so many caveats into every statement that listeners were at a loss to predict what the Fed was about to do.

That style of speaking, labeled Fed-speak, has had a long run at the Fed. "Secrets of the Temple," a best-selling book in the 1980s, depicted the Fed's love of secrecy, closed-door meetings and a belief that the less the public knew the better.

Arthur Burns and Paul Volcker, two previous Fed chairmen, were masters at obfuscation, employing props for the purpose. Burns puffed on a pipe during hearings while Volcker spoke behind a haze of cigar smoke.

"Burn's pipe gave him a mumble so that you couldn't even tell what words he was using much less what they meant," recalls David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's Co. in New York.

But over his years at the Fed, Greenspan has moved to more openness. Some credit that to his increased stature. He is viewed on Wall Street as the architect of the country's record-long economic expansion. It has been 101/2 years since the country was in recession.

That success rate, extolled earlier this year by Bob Woodward in his best selling book, "Maestro," has given Greenspan a standing on Wall Street and among the public not enjoyed by past Fed chairmen.

Of course, as economic growth has slid close to recession territory this year, critics have emerged. They complain that Greenspan pushed interest rates too high last year and waited too long to begin cutting them in early January.

Martin Mayer, author of "The Fed," argues that Greenspan has had to become more adept at communicating because banks, the traditional channel through which the Fed operates, now supply only a third of the credit needed by businesses and individuals. The rest comes from financial markets.

"In the old days, the market was the last to know what the Fed was doing. Now the Fed has to go through the markets," Mayer said.

Before Greenspan, the Fed did not reveal when it was raising or lowering its key policy lever, the federal funds rate, the rate banks charge on overnight loans to each other.

Big banks and Wall Street investment houses employed economists as "Fed watchers" to monitor the Fed's daily buying and selling of Treasury securities to divine whether rates were being changed.

All that ended when Greenspan pushed his colleagues in 1994 to announce decisions on interest rates immediately at the end of their meetings, which occur eight times a year.

That experiment has been made permanent, turning the 2:15 p.m. EDT announcement time on Fed meeting days into a televised event. All-news cable channels train their cameras on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange to watch the frenzied reaction.

Over the years, the Fed's announcements have provided more of the reasoning behind the rate moves. In 1999, the central bank also began pinpointing what it viewed as the greatest risks to the economy, crucial information for analysts trying to determine Fed moves.

Greenspan has become adept at using his own speeches to signal changes in Fed thinking.

When the central bank decided to stop worrying about inflation and start worrying about a recession late last year, first word came in a Greenspan speech, several weeks before Fed policymakers met to vote on the issue.

"Greenspan has done a good job of taking away the mystery over what the Fed does," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis. "You no longer have to hire an economist to figure out what the Fed is doing."

Greenspan typically writes the rough drafts of his speeches in the bathtub during long morning soaks, a practice he started years ago to deal with a bad back. He believes his IQ is at its highest then.

The speeches are all Greenspan, reflecting the thought patterns of a Ph.D economist who has spent over a half century analyzing the nooks and crannies of the U.S. economy.

While he wins high marks for clarity from other economists, the discussion can at times be heavy going for others.

"That is not a deliberate effort to obfuscate. That is just how Greenspan thinks," said former Fed board member Lyle Gramley.

Greenspan's words still can have an impact even when the meaning is not clear.

One famous example occurred in 1996 when Greenspan wondered aloud whether investors were in the grip of "irrational exuberance."

Even though he never answered his own question, his mere utterance of that phrase triggered a global market sell-off because of the panicked belief that the Fed was about to jack up interest rates to prick a stock market bubble.

"Chairman Greenspan is quite excellent at communicating clarity when he wants to and ambiguity when he wants to," says Gene Sperling, who served as director of President Clinton's National Economic Council.

Sperling remembers one incident in which Clinton, responding to a reporter's question, seemed to be staking out a position at odds with Greenspan.

Sperling rushed to a telephone to alert Greenspan that he might be queried about a possible disagreement with the administration.

"He told me, 'Don't worry, Gene. I will say a little bit on this side and a little bit on that side and it will confuse them and there won't be a story,'" Sperling recalls. "And that is exactly what happened."

On the Net:
Federal Reserve:
http://www.federalreserve.gov

State's Hispanic students score lower on ACT test

McALLEN (AP) — A state education report shows that Hispanic students in Texas scored lower on a national achievement test this year than Hispanic students nationwide.

The Texas Education Agency this week released figures on the ACT, a curriculum-based achievement test that measures students' abilities in English, reading, math and science. Many colleges and universities consider ACT scores for admissions.

The report says that Texas Hispanic students scored 18.0 on average, compared with 18.5 earned by Hispanic students across the country, The Monitor of McAllen reported in Sunday's editions.

The maximum score on the test is 36.

The report found that Asian and black students in Texas scored higher than their peers nationwide. The state's Asian students averaged 22.2, compared with 21.7 scored by Asians nationwide. Black students averaged 17.1, compared with 16.9 nationally.

White students earned an average of 21.7, compared with 21.8 nationally.

Nearly 69,000 Texas students took the exam this year, an 957-student increase over last year. But the average composite ACT score stayed the same for the fourth consecutive year.

Scott Owings, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction at the McAllen school district, said schools must work to provide students with the language skills they need to succeed.

"A lot of our kids are far behind in English-language development. Many of them are starting off not speaking English and we need to do everything we can to improve that," Owings said.

He said although there's a need to improve the scores of Hispanic students, colleges and universities shouldn't rely on standardized tests alone to determine student success. Many students who do not score high on the exams may do well in college, he said.

Mission school Superintendent Jackie Dyer said that students whose parents don't speak English have a more difficult time scoring well on standardized exams.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2001

More activity than usual is likely for you in the year ahead for both practical and pleasurable purposes. However, so as not to overtax yourself, you must keep things in proper perspective.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Even if you only drink beer while your companions are drinking champagne, don't make a big fuss over splitting the bill. It'll make you look cheap and stingy. Trying to patch up a broken romance? **The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker c/o this newspaper P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167.**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Unfortunately, today you could drive yourself to the limit over something you think you want, only to find out after you achieve it, it is worthless to you. Have more forethought.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — The opportunity might present itself today to get a few licks in while talking to some friends about a person you dislike. Sadly, it'll reflect poorly on your character, not your enemy's.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Be careful not to appear as if you're taking advantage of an associate who offers a kind gesture. You might get away with it today, but never again will this person trust you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — A pessimistic teammate could make things worse for you today by introducing negative vibes into the working relationship. Be more selective about whom you bring in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Keep pace with your duties today, because should things start to pile up on you, you're not apt to work too well under the pressure. Don't let work accumulate in the first place.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Better check to see what an activity costs before agreeing to join up with your pals today. If it's more than you can afford, you're likely to start taking your frustration out on them.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — A meeting over the minds between you and your mate concerning finances could get pretty heated today. It's best to leave such topics until a time when each is more tolerant.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Your mind-set could be a bit off today when working with another. You could become so concerned over your cohort holding up his/her end, you'll forget to hold up yours.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — If you don't make as much as you'd hoped today, don't add insult to injury by soothing your spirits and going on an expensive spending spree.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — How much tolerance you have for your family today could be tested when they see you showing patience for an outsider who they feel doesn't deserve it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Nursing an old grudge today could crowd out some of the sunshine that's trying to break through those storm clouds. The past is over, forgive and forget, and move on.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Cruel words aimed at kids cut deep and heal slow

DEAR ABBY: It was easy for me to rewrite "Words of Love?" by Danny Comstock, in order to describe what many young people hear when they're growing up. I speak from experience. Please print it so other unhappy kids out there will know they're not alone. Please do not identify me, Abby. Just sign me ... **SURVIVOR IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR SURVIVOR: Verbal abuse is toxic and cumulative. The scars left by ugly words can take far longer to heal than those from physical abuse. The victims may become successful adults, but underneath, the wounds remain. Read on:

WORDS OF LOVE?

You're neurotic! You're immature!
You're skinny! You're ugly!
You're nothing but a slob!
Do your schoolwork! Clean your room!
Clean the house! Take care of the baby!
Can't you do anything right?
You don't have any skills!
You will never get a job!
You're lazy! You're selfish! You're spoiled!
No wonder you don't have any friends!
You embarrass me, but I'm willing to put up with you —
Because no one else will tolerate you!
You need me to take care of you —
You wouldn't last two seconds on your own!
The only reason I berate and criticize you
Is because I'm trying to build your character
And make you a better person!
If I didn't, I wouldn't love you!

**

DEAR ABBY: I will be starting high school in September. I am nervous about going to a new environment. Middle school wasn't bad because I knew most of the kids from elementary school. High school is different. Students from all over the city will be attending.

Some of my best friends will be going to different high schools. I'm not very outgoing, and I'm having a hard time figuring who to hang out with. Abby, I need your advice on how to adjust to my first days in high school. — **FRESHMAN IN DALLAS**

DEAR FRESHMAN: This is an opportunity to meet new people and a chance to expand your circle of friends. If you see someone who is shy or hanging back, realize that the person is probably experiencing the same feeling you are, so reach out.

Get together with your old friends on the weekends. You'll have a lot to share and talk about.

**

DEAR ABBY: I am pregnant with my second son. My first is 4 1/2, and I have saved everything of his. A friend of the family wants to host a baby shower. My husband and I think it is greedy to have another shower when we already have everything we need. Abby, what is the proper etiquette, if any? — **SON SET IN OREGON**

DEAR SON SET: A baby shower is a celebration of a new life to come. Participating in a baby shower for your second child isn't greedy.

However, if accepting gifts you don't really need makes you feel guilty, have your friend announce a charity shower and make it clear that the gifts you receive will be donated to a women's shelter, a church or some similar organization. Alternatively, you could donate the items you saved from your first son to a family or young mother who needs them.

**

Dear Abby is written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips.

**

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

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Oil Patch News

Garza County

Texland Petroleum Inc. will drill the No. 406 Canyon Valley unit in the Forbes field, 14 miles north of Post. Planned for a depth of 3,900 feet, location is in the T&T Railway Survey.

Howard County

L.C.S. Production Co. will drill the No. 213-A Would Have in the Guitar field, five miles northwest of Big Spring. Planned for a depth of 5,999 feet, location is in Section 13, Block A, Bauer and Cockrell survey.

Fagadau Energy Corp will drill the No. 1 Bronaugh, a 10,073-foot wildcat located three miles southwest of Big Spring. Drill site is in Section 29, Block 33, T1S, T&P survey.

Nolan County

Pioneer Exploration will drill the No. 48-A Billie Hanks in the Hylton field, eight miles south of Nolan. Planned for a depth of 6,500 feet, location is in Section 28, Block Z, T&P survey.

Pioneer Exploration will drill the No. 47-A Billie Hanks in the Hylton field, eight miles south of Nolan. Also planned for 6,500 feet, location is in Section 28, Block Z, T&P survey.

Pioneer Exploration will drill the No. 1-A R.R. Petty in the Hylton field, three miles south of Nolan. Planned for a depth of 6,000 feet, location is in Section 13, Block Z, T&P survey.

Enrich Oil Corp. will drill the No. 1 Beckham, a 4,100-foot wildcat located 14 miles southeast of Sweetwater. Location is in Section 57, Block 5, T&P survey.

Boys and Girls Club
ATHLETIC SIGNUPS
BEGIN MONDAY, AUGUST 20th
3:00 P.M.
AT THE CLUB BUILDING
1500 28th STREET

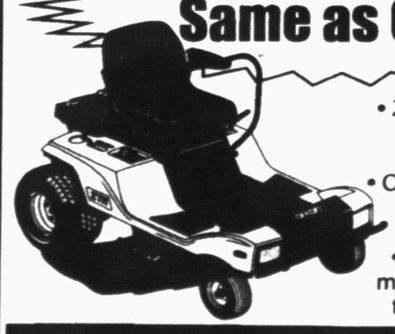
Football—Boys in 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th Grade

Volleyball–Girls in 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th Grade

Soccer—Boys & Girls in Pre-K - Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grades

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AUG 20 2001

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Discovery undocks, heads home

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Space shuttle Discovery pulled away from the international space station today, starting the trip home for the former crew members of the orbiting outpost and leaving behind their replacements.

The shuttle undocked from space station Alpha as the two spacecraft soared 250 miles over the southern Pacific Ocean.

The shuttle is scheduled to return home Wednesday, bringing back the space station crew that spent about 51/2 months in orbit.

Before hatches between the two spacecraft were closed, Frank Culbertson, Alpha's new skipper, thanked the outgoing crew of ex-commander and cosmonaut Yuri Usachev and U.S. astronauts Jim Voss and Susan Helms.

"Yuri, Jim, Susan, I know it's a tough day. I know it's hard to say good-bye but we really, really are proud of all you've done," Culbertson said. "We will do our best to keep up the tradition you have started."

Departing station crew members were busy during their time in space. They saw a robot arm and air lock arrive during their mission and helped hook both up.

Passengers says driver of crashed bus seemed sleepy

SPRINGFIELD, Tenn. (AP) — Passengers on a Greyhound bus that ran onto a median and overturned, killing one passenger, said they had quarreled with the driver because he seemed sleepy.

Forty-five people were injured in the Sunday crash.

"Everybody was yelling at the driver because he fell asleep twice," Brian Jacobs told WKRN-TV after the bus overturned on Interstate 24 northwest of Nashville.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol was working on a "very complicated reconstruction" of the accident that was expected to take several days to finish, spokeswoman Dana Keeton said. Kristin Parsley, spokeswoman for Greyhound, would not comment until the investigation was complete.

Ten people remained hospitalized early today. Some on board said they rescued three fellow passengers by lifting the bus off them before emergency crews arrived.

The bus was eastbound when it drifted from the right lane to the left lane and hit a median, Keeton said.

When it slid on wet grass, the driver overcorrected to get back on the road and the bus overturned onto its right side.

"The bus actually spun around and overturned," Keeton said.

Gorbachev reflects on attempted coup in 1991

MOSCOW (AP) — While Russia's two post-Soviet presidents stayed silent, former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev reflected Monday on the coup attempt that shook the USSR to pieces 10 years ago, admitting to mistakes but defending his reform efforts.

Rallies to celebrate or bemoan the attempt by Communist hardliners to oust Gorbachev attracted only a few hundred people Sunday, the 10th anniversary of the day the putsch was announced on state television and tanks rolled into Moscow.

President Vladimir Putin made no public comment on the anniversary. Neither did Boris Yeltsin, who faced down the coup plotters from atop a tank later that day and rallied tens of thousands of Russians to the opposition.

Gorbachev, who now runs a political think tank in Moscow, has been outspoken in recent days about the 1991 events and their world-changing legacy.

"I made many errors," he said on state-run Radio Russia on Monday. Chiefly, he said, he was too slow in reforming the Communist Party and in reforming the Soviet Union.

"The union was a rigid and unwieldy structure and it had to be reformed. I held my ground until the last — I believed that the union must be reformed but we must preserve it," he said.

Gorbachev had been planning to return to Moscow to sign a treaty transferring more powers to the Soviet Union's 15 republics when hard-line associates opposed to his reform efforts put him under house arrest on Aug. 18, 1991.

At the time Yeltsin was president of the Russian Federation, one of the republics. He drove to the Russian White House and issued a call to resist. Hordes of people heeded him, building barricades and tent encampments intended as human shields.

Two days later, the coup plotters gave up and Gorbachev returned to Moscow, though his authority had been fatally weakened. The ties that bound the Soviet republics together broke and Gorbachev signed the country out of existence four months later, on Dec. 25.

Several juveniles arrested for drugs during weekend

•Arrests

An anonymous caller requested that officers locate a black Ford Ranger pickup at 8:30 p.m. Saturday. Officers located the truck in the 400 block of 31st Street and made contact with three male juveniles.

One of the juveniles was taken into custody for possession of marijuana, less than two ounces, and possession of tobacco. Another juvenile was issued a citation for possession of tobacco.

At 1 a.m. Sunday, officers arrested a man on a warrant for failure to maintain financial responsibility and no insurance.

Three juveniles were taken into custody at 2:30 a.m. Sunday. Officers arrested the minors in the 3600 block of El Paso for possession of alcohol. The trio was transported to the police department and later released to their parents.

A 21-year-old man was arrested by DPS troopers early Sunday morning for driving while intoxicated, first offense.

Officers arrested a 20-year-old man just before midnight Sunday on warrants for public intoxication and failure to appear before a judge.

•Oven fire

At 1:05 p.m. Sunday, the fire department was dispatched to 2802 46th Street to a report of an oven on fire. Ten firefighters and two fire trucks responded to the residence, owned by Joe Bass.

Upon arrival, Bass had the fire in the oven shorted out. Posey said damage was confined to the oven.

•Noise disturbances

Officers responded to six calls of noise disturbances during the weekend.

Saturday night, complaints of loud music came from the 3100 block of 40th Street, the 3200 block of Ave. V and the 2800 block of Ave. X. On Sunday, officers responded to the 3000 block of 40th Street, the 2300 block of Ave. I and the 3800 block of Highland on complaints of loud noise.

•Criminal mischief

Darrel Reston requested an officer in reference to damage done to his travel trailer. Officers responded and advised that a report for criminal mischief would be submitted.

Officers filed an offense report for Class B criminal mischief at Rudy's Restaurant in reference to an attempted break in.

•Theft

Karen Owens requested an officer at 3200 Ave. D in reference to her son's bike being stolen. Officers submitted a report for Class B theft.

Obituaries

Charles Taylor

1923-2001

Funeral service for Charles Payne Taylor of Snyder is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Larry McAden, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, will officiate. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.



Charles Taylor

Mr. Taylor, 78, died Friday, Aug. 17, at his home in Snyder following a lengthy illness.

Born on June 18, 1923 in Snyder, he married Jonnie Pendleton on Oct. 9, 1948 in Fluvanna. Mr. Taylor, a World War II veteran, was a heavy equipment operator for E.L. Farmer & Co., and a member of the Calvary Baptist Church.

One daughter, Linda Ann Robinson, preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, Jonnie Taylor of Snyder; a daughter, Judy Taylor of Snyder; and a sister, Virginia McMillan of San Angelo; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Personal, Professional Service

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G.G. Rodriguez

1905-2001

Gumercindo Galen Rodriguez, 96, died Saturday, Aug. 18, at his home in Snyder.

Rosary for Mr. Rodriguez is set for 7 this evening in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel with Deacon Salome Barrera officiating.

Funeral service is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Leo Moras, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, will officiate. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Born Jan. 13, 1905 in Floresville, Mr. Rodriguez had lived in Snyder since 1965, having moved from Gail. A Catholic, he was a retired meat cutter and farmer.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters; one brother; and a grandson, Cornelio Rodriguez.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Amanda and Lupe Hernandez and Belia and Larry Nakamura, all of Snyder; six sons and five daughters-in-law, Isidro and Martha Rodriguez, Louis and Oralia Rodriguez and Raul and Rosa Rodriguez, all of Snyder, Domingo and Emma Rodriguez of Denver, Colo., Paul and Jane Rodriguez of Abilene, and Tony Rodriguez of Saltillo, Miss.; his former wife and mother of his children, Conception Chavez of Snyder; 30 grandchildren; and 31 great-grandchildren.

Morris Ashley

1913-2001

Edgar "Morris" Ashley, longtime Scurry County resident, died Friday, Aug. 17, in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock following a brief illness.

Funeral service for Mr. Ashley, 87, was set for 2 p.m. today in the Wright Colonial Funeral Home Chapel with Roy Rosson officiating. Burial was to follow in the Dunn Cemetery.



Morris Ashley

Born Sept. 16, 1913 in Brown County, he moved to Dunn with his family at an early age and attended the Dunn school where he was an outstanding athlete and set many school records.

He married Lillian Copeland on Dec. 22, 1935 in Colorado City.

A retired stock farmer and building contractor, he was a member of the Dunn Church of Christ.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Frances Machen on Aug. 5.

Survivors include his wife, Lillian Ashely of Snyder; two daughters and sons-in-law, Margo and Randy Lambert of Big Spring and Betse and John Rosson of Modesta, Calif.; a son, Wade Ashley of San Miguel, Mexico; a brother, Carl Ashley of Snyder; a sister, Modean Johnston of Snyder; three grandchildren; Lisette Patrick, Clay Rosson and Ryan Rosson; two great-grandchildren, Brittany Price and Logan Rosson; three step grandchildren; and six step great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the Parkinson's Foundation.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Bible study tapes

Bible study videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 tonight is "Guilt and Repentance," followed by "In His Steps."

Hermleigh Booster Club

The Hermleigh Booster Club will meet at 7:30 this evening in the school cafeteria to elect officers and begin projects for the coming year. All parents, faculty and other interested persons are invited.

Central orientation

A parent orientation for kindergarten and first grade students at Central Elementary will be held at 3 p.m. Tuesday in the child's classroom. Orientation for parents of third graders will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the student's classroom.

4-H Banquet, kickoff

The annual Scurry County 4-H banquet and kickoff will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday in the Family Life Center at First Baptist Church. Anyone in grades 3-12 and their parents are invited for hot dogs with all the trimmings. Bring a favorite canned drink. Dress is casual. To RSVP call 573-5423.

FFA Booster Club

The Snyder FFA Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the SHS ag building. Business includes election of officers, fundraisers and upcoming events. Bring favorite recipes for the cookbook. For more information, contact Molly Tatum at 573-8180 or Susan Blackard at 573-0989.

Emmaus ice cream supper

The Mesquite Country Emmaus Community will have an ice cream supper starting at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Towle Park Pavilion.

MAWC luncheon

Martha Ann Woman's Club will have its fourth Wednesday luncheon and game day Wednesday. Cost is $7.50 and reservations are necessary by calling 573-3427 by 5 p.m. Tuesday. Serving is from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. and guests are welcome to come for the meal only.

Cub Scouts signup

Cub Scouts signup day is set for 7 p.m. Thursday at West Elementary's cafereria. Boys in grades 1-5 are eligible, but must be accompanied by their parents. Parent volunteers are also needed. For more information call Rhonda Fletcher, 573-7065 or Chris Smauley, 573-5183.

Taste of Scurry County

The fifth annual Taste of Scurry County, an annual fundraiser for Scurry County Museum, is scheduled for Thursday at the First Baptist Church's Family Life Center. Chefs Jerry Baird, Jim Rumage and Kerry Clay will prepare the meats and vegetables. Local cooks will add desserts, salads and breads. A live auction featuring a variety of items will follow. Tickets in the form of a donation are $12.50, available at the museum (573-6107) or Bullard Computer Solutions (573-4801.)

Garage and bake sale

Discovery School is having a garage and bake sale from 6-8 p.m. on Friday and from 8 a.m. until noon Saturday. It will be held at 27th St. and Ave. R. All proceeds go to buy toys and equipment for the school. The school will also have a bake sale Saturday at Wal-Mart.

Annual museum rummage sale

The Scurry County Museum will hold its annual rummage sale from 8 a.m. until noon Saturday. Items also will be on sale Monday through Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. All proceeds go to the operation of the museum, located on the WTC campus.

First Church of Nazarene

Pastor and Mrs. Michael W. Howard's last Sunday in Snyder will be Sunday. A potluck dinner will be provided after the morning service. The two are moving closer to their home in Tennessee.

Girl Scout registration

A Girl Scout registration rally will be held from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. next Monday at the Girl Scout Hut, 2501 35th. For information call Jo Ann at 573-3926, Judi at 573-7556 or Carla at 574-8004.

Enchilada dinner

Discovery School will have an enchilada dinner from 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 9. Tickets are $5 for adults and $3 for children under 12. Take-outs will be available. Tickets will be available at the door or by calling 573-4770.

Heart Association memorial address

Memorials and donations to the American Heart Association are now processed through American Heart Association, P.O. Box 15186 in Austin, 78761-5186, or by calling 1-800-AHA-USA1, according to Dee Chasteen, president of the Scurry County chapter.

Mesquite Country Writers Guild

Mesquite Country Writers Guild invites citizens to send in original poetry to be considered for publication in the newsletter, "Bards of a Feather." The limit is 20 lines and the theme is fall and the holidays. Deadline is Sept. 15 to mail entries to MCWG, Box 237 in Ira, 79527, or e-Mail to dade@bigcountry.net.

Charges announced in pier collapse in May 2000

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A grand jury indicted two owners in the collapse of a nightclub pier that sent people tumbling into the Delaware River last year, killing three and injuring dozens, prosecutors said today.

Pier 34 owner Michael Asbell and Heat nightclub owner Eli Karetny were each charged with three counts of involuntary manslaughter, 43 counts of recklessly endangering another person and additional charges.

The defendants were also charged with risking a catastrophe, failing to prevent a catastrophe and criminal conspiracy.

Three women were killed and dozens of patrons injured on May 18, 2000, when the pier supporting the week-old open-air nightclub broke apart and plunged into the river.

A canvas tent over the 91-year-old wooden pier also collapsed, blanketing many people who had fallen into the water.

Three employees of the New Jersey State Aquarium, at the night club celebrating a friend's birthday, were killed: Jean Ferraro, 27, DeAnn White, 25, and Monica Rodriguez, 21.

Oofficials at a construction company said it told Asbell and Karetny hours before the tragedy that a collapse was imminent.