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WT-Int. Crude - $21.43
WTIC Posted - $18.25
Natural Gas - $2.265

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
Feb. 18, 2002
Vol. 53 No. 250
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Richard Hardin

Filing began today...

SISD, college boards attract candidates

Western Texas College's board of trustees gained two candidates this morning, both incumbents, while Snyder ISD had one hopeful file for the Place 5 post being vacated by Janet Stribling.

Incumbent board members Drew Bullard, Place 1; and Jackie Greene, Place 2; filed for re-election. Both are completing their first six-year terms.



Bullard

Bullard, 54, said he believes the college is headed in the right direction.

"I enjoy serving on the board because I understand how important the college is to Snyder," he said. "It's important to the education of our young people and it's important to the economy of our community."

Bullard said the college's biggest problem is funding, not lack of positive attitude.

"There is a lot of energy on that campus right now and a lot of activity," he said. "We are going to have to start finding our own money much like private schools do."

Bullard added that advancements in distance learning, including interactive television and Internet courses, and the start of baseball and softball programs are positive steps for the two-year school.

Bullard is the owner of Bullard's Computer Solutions.

Greene, 48, is a graduate of Snyder High School and Southwest Texas State University.

He was elected to the board in 1996, defeating incumbent Carl Williams for the Place 2 seat.

Greene said today he is "pleased with the things that are happening at the college.



Greene

"I am optimistic about the college's present course and I want to continue to participate by serving on the board," he said.

Prior to his election to WTC's board, Greene served on the Snyder city council for four years and served as mayor pro-tem from 1991-1992.

Before returning to Snyder, Greene was a teacher in the Nederland school district.

Doug Neff filed this morning for Place 5 on the Snyder school board.

Incumbent Janet Stribling said she would not seek another term on the school board because she is a Democratic candidate for Scurry County judge.

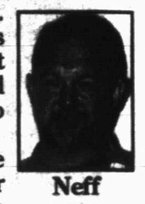
Neff, 40, said he wants to serve on the school board because he is concerned with the educational welfare of children.

Neff and his wife Wetonia, a loan administrator at First Ag Credit, have two children in Snyder schools. The couple's daughter Jenna, 17, is a junior at Snyder High and a son, Dakotah, is in kindergarten at West Elementary.

"If elected to the school board I will put the children of our community first," he said.

Neff is a partner in a boar and goat operation in Sonora.

"That allows me to stay home and help my children," he said. "Most fathers don't get that opportunity and I'm glad I'm able to do that."



Neff

Today also is the first day to file for positions on the city council.

Ron Shaw, who served on the council from 1993-1997, has stated his intention to run for Place 4 of that governing body.

The post is currently held by long-time council member I.E. Martin who said last week he will not seek another term.

Shaw, a Snyder resident since 1976, has worked for the U.S. Postal Service since 1982 and enjoyed a reputation of being thoroughly prepared for council meetings.

Ira ISD will call an election tonight and Hermleigh ISD will follow suit on Tuesday.

On the Ira school board, Sid Wall, Place 1; Fran Farmer, Place 2; and Lance Autry, Place 3; are up for re-election.

In the Hermleigh ISD race, the places of Tony Lambaren, Burton Sandefur and Larry West will be on the ballot.

West's post is an unexpired term.

The filing period for all local boards extends through March 20.

All the elections will be held Saturday, May 4, unless there are no competitive races. State law allows the boards to declare an unopposed candidate duly elected.

April 4 is the deadline to register to vote in the May elections and early voting will take place April 7-30.

From Abilene unit...

Inmate told father escape would be easy

ABILENE (AP) — John William Roland III, serving life in prison for murder, had often said how easy it would be to escape, his father said.

Roland, 33, turned the boast into reality early Sunday, overpowering a correctional officer at the Robertson Unit just north of Abilene, donning his uniform and driving away from the maximum-security facility.

Roland handcuffed Sgt. Wesley Hurt and beat him in the head and legs before taking Hurt's gray 2001 Silverado Chevrolet pickup about 4:50 a.m. and driving away, Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Larry Todd said.

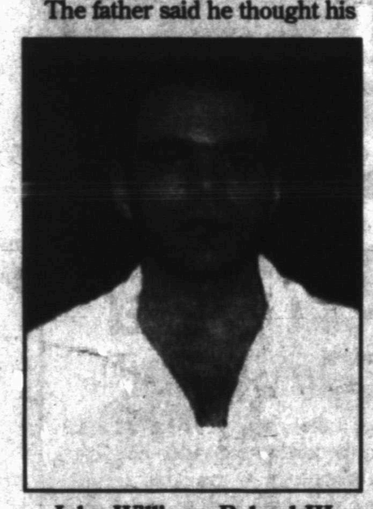
Todd said there was no weapon in the officer's pickup, which has a license plate number 5SBC30.

Roland is white, 5-foot-8, 182 pounds, with hazel eyes, brown hair and a ruddy complexion.

"He told me how easy it would be to overpower a guard and put on his uniform and walk out the gate, that security at the prison was really kind of lax," said Hurt's father, Johnny Roland Jr.

The elder Roland said he last visited his son two weeks ago. As he was leaving, he said his son told him he might want to call first before the next visit because he was going to be let out soon.

The father said he thought his son was joking.



John Williams Roland III

"I am in shock that he did this. I never thought it would happen. I never thought he would do this. Of course, I never thought he would kill anybody," Johnny Roland Jr. said.

Roland's father, speaking from his home in a Fort Worth suburb, predicted his son would "turn into a hermit" in the woods somewhere.

"I don't think he would hurt anybody. I don't think that's what is on his mind. I just know he does not want to go back to prison ... does not want to live as a caged animal," the father said.

He said he fears his son will attempt suicide under the pressure of the search.

In June 1994, Roland was convicted of capital murder in the death of Thomas Columbus "T.C." Barrett, 56, a construction contractor with whom Roland had been living for several weeks.

Police went to Barrett's residence in Hurst, a Fort Worth suburb, on May 25, 1993, after neighbors reported that his pickup and boat had been parked in a Hurst shopping mall parking lot for days.

Police found Barrett's body under a quilt in the hallway of his home. He had been shot several times with his own .22-caliber handgun. Police said Roland used Barrett's credit cards to make a string of illegal purchases across the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Two days after Barrett's body was found, Roland was arrested when he showed up at his sister's apartment in Haltom City, another Fort Worth suburb. Police said Roland, 25 at the time, attempted suicide by slitting his wrists just minutes before his arrest.

Roland and Barrett were related by marriage, and Roland considered Barrett his uncle, his defense attorneys said at his trial.

At the trial, in June 1994, defense attorney Santiago Salinas argued that a love triangle led Roland to kill Barrett. They said Roland became enraged when he was told that his girlfriend had slept with Barrett.

"This was a crime of passion. This is not a case of capital murder," Salinas said, arguing that Roland should be convicted of voluntary manslaughter, a lesser offense.

A jury in Fort Worth took just less than two hours to convict Roland of capital murder. Prosecutors declined to pursue the death penalty, and he was automatically sentenced to life in prison, with no parole possible for at least 35 years.

Todd said Roland had just finished eating breakfast with other inmates Sunday morning when he asked to speak with Hurt in a more secluded area of the prison and began beating him.

Because of the darkness of the area, Todd said the other inmates and guards did not see the fight. By the time another officer noticed that Hurt had been beaten and handcuffed, Roland had already taken Hurt's keys and escaped.

"An officer out at the front of the unit noticed the pickup leaving the premises, but thought it was not unusual since it appeared to be driven by a correctional officer," Todd said.

Hurt was released from Hendricks Hospital in Abilene about noon Sunday with some cuts and scrapes.

Todd said the prison was conducting an internal investigation which could take from two to six weeks to complete.

Todd said it was the first escape from a state prison this year. Last year an inmate who escaped from the Stiles Unit near Beaumont was recaptured a few days later.

The Abilene unit is locked down due to the escape, but things are operating normally at the Price Daniel Unit.

"We are doing things as we normally do," Warden Wilhelmenia Howard said this morning.



EIGHT FLAVORS OF GS COOKIES — Cherie Northcott of Brownie Troop 100, Taylor Reed and Sarah Cearley of Brownie Troop 172 and Tressie Martin of Senior Troop 100 (from left) display boxes of Girl Scout Cookies on sale for two weeks. Seven flavors are back from last year plus a new one — Friendship Circles. Each box sells for $3.25. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

Jail inspection cites need for more jailers

Actions to resolve deficiencies highlighted by a recent state inspection at the Scurry County Jail will be discussed at the 10 a.m. meeting of the commissioners' court Tuesday.

Sheriff Darren Jackson said he would address the court regarding a recent state inspection of the county jail and recommend adding four staffers.

Jackson will ask approval to remedy deficiencies, including adding four staff positions because of a growth in inmate population.

Jackson said state law requires one jailer for every 48 inmates and the county jail now averages more than that on a daily basis.

"We are going to have to start having two jailers per shift, rather than one as we have in the past," he said.

The jailers work in four shifts, Jackson said.

Other new business is consideration of a request by Snyder Wheels Car Club for use of the square Saturday, May 4.

The court also will consider a resolution in support of freedom to pray.

In old business, the court will consider approving a firm to develop a master plan to dictate the future of the county's parks and recreation facilities. Such a plan is expected to cost as much as $80,000 but is mandatory in attaining a half million dollar grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Parks director Scott Crenwelge provided the court with a list last month of firms capable of developing the plan.

Another item of old business is the consideration of contracting with State Tax Management and Review to collect funds possibly overpaid to the Metropolitan Transit Authorities.

Any line-item transfers or budget amendments presented will be considered.

The meeting will be held in the county courtroom on the third floor of the courthouse.

Ira board meets today

Ira ISD's board of trustees has two main items of business to take care of when it meets at 6:30 this evening.

Trustees will set May 4 at the date for the district's trustee election as the terms of Sid Wall, Place 1; Fran Farmer, Place 2; and Lance Autry, Place 3, expire.

The board also will appoint election judges and clerks.

The contract of principal Mike Duke will be reviewed, and the board will conduct his annual evaluation.

Trustees will review the criteria for the gifted and talented program, and approve a class size waiver for the third grade.

Supt. Jim Rumage said the third grade at the school currently has 23 students – one over the state recommendation.

Snyder ISD board to meet

Snyder ISD will meet at noon Tuesday to call the trustee election for Place 4.

Board president Mark McCormick currently represents that area of the school district.

On Thursday, the board called the election for May 4 for Places 1 and 5, but Place 4 had been left off the agenda, resulting in the need for Tuesday's meeting.

Trustees will meet in the boardroom of the administration building.

ASK US

Q—Is there a web site for Fox Network's popular "24"?
A—Go to Fox.com/24.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 63 degrees; low, 28; high Sunday, 64; low, 35; 7 a.m. Monday, 44; no precipitation; total for 2002, 1.46 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy, breezy, slight rain chance, low near 40; S winds 15-25 mph. Tuesday, sunny, windy; high mid 60s; W winds 20-30 mph.



Kelton Garcia
Sunny

Sunset:
6:33 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:21 a.m.
Of 48 days in 2002, the sun has shone 45 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

The greatest mistake you can make is to be continually fearing you will make one.

—Elbert Hubbard

FEB 18 2002

School voucher case tests separation policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — For Roberta Kitchen, the national debate over school vouchers is more about the education of her 11-year-old daughter than entrenched arguments over separation of church and state.

The girl attends a Lutheran elementary school almost entirely on the public dime. Her tuition is tuition paid by a pilot program available to parents whose children attend Cleveland schools.

Hers is the test case in the legal battle over voucher plans that give parents alternatives to public education.

Civil liberties groups and many educators want the Supreme Court to declare the Cleveland program unconstitutional. The Bush administration is urging the court to uphold the program.

"I am hoping this great debate will finally end with a yes vote by the Supreme Court, but my major concern is still my daughter, that she continue to do well," Kitchen said in an interview.

The court will hear arguments Wednesday in three cases arising from the 6-year-old Cleveland experiment.

With their blend of religion and politics, vouchers have emerged as the most talked-about issue before the court this term. The issues has attracted 38 friend-of-the-court briefs, more than any other case this year.

Conservative and religious advocacy groups such as Focus on the Family and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops are among sponsors of some 30 filings that support the Cleveland plan. The Anti-Defamation League and the National School Boards Association are among those on the other side.

The case presents a straightforward constitutional question: Is it a violation of the principle of separation of church and state for public tax money to pay for religious education?

A court ruling endorsing the program probably would encourage other states and cities to try similar things and could strengthen Bush's hand as he tries to win congressional support for a national voucher plan.

A ruling that strikes down the Cleveland program as unconstitutional could also stop the flow of public dollars for religious tuition in Milwaukee and Florida, and could all but end the drive for a national, public-funded voucher program.

Supporters of vouchers usually call the idea school choice. In the Cleveland case, parents theoretically have the choice to pull their children from one of the worst-rated public school systems in the country and enroll them in another public school, a secular private academy, or a parochial school.

The administration says that range of options makes the program constitutional.

The administration's top Supreme Court lawyer, Theodore Olson, argues that religious schools are on the same footing as other schools. He says parents, not the government, choose how to spend the public money.

"Parental choice, not government indoctrination, is ... the hallmark of the Ohio program," Olson wrote.

Ralph Neas, president of the liberal People for the American Way and a voucher opponent, said the Cleveland program places a facade of parental choice over a giveaway of public money to religious schools.

"There's virtually no choice," he said.

Suburban public schools have not signed up to take the inner city students, and there are only five eligible private academies in the city from which parents may choose.

In the current school year, the program is underwriting tuition for 4,456 students, almost all of whom are attending some kind of religious school. About three-quarters of the students go to Catholic schools.

The program pays up to $2,250 per year to qualified students, most of whose families are poor. About half the students are black.

The Cincinnati-based 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the program, saying it "clearly has the impermissible effect of promoting sectarian schools." Ohio appealed to the Supreme Court, which is expected to rule by summer.

The program continued while the case was appealed.

Backers say vouchers give poor parents a way out of failing public schools and offer incentive to improve those schools.

Teachers' unions and other education organizations say vouchers rob the neediest schools of money that might make them better, while skimming off the brightest or most motivated students.

American Red Cross criticizes BBB service

WASHINGTON (AP) — The American Red Cross is feuding with a philanthropic advisory service that is seeking information about the charity's post-Sept. 11 fund raising.

The Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance requested information last month from the Red Cross about the $850 million donated for its terrorist relief fund.

The alliance said it merely wanted to decide whether the Red Cross still met its standards for charities in light of news media reports and complaints from donors about the fund raising.

"We are very confident that the Red Cross will satisfy all of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance's criteria for sound management," Harold J. Decker, interim president of the Red Cross, said in a letter. "We doubt that there is any charity that has had more scrutiny than the American Red Cross over the past months."

Decker requested that the alliance restore a report on the Red Cross that was pulled because of questions about the charity. The report was due to expire soon. Each group listed on the alliance's Web site is reviewed every 18 months.

"I am surprised by the tone of Mr. Decker's letter," the alliance's president, H. Art Taylor, said Sunday. "I am at a loss to find any criticism of the Red Cross in my statements."

On Saturday, Taylor explained by the request for information by saying, "We want to make sure that the public can be confident in what's going on at the Red Cross."

Death of young girl investigated

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Authorities Sunday were investigating the death of a 12-year-old Orange Grove girl whose body was found a day earlier along a county road.

Jim Wells County authorities have collected enough information to prepare a search warrant, but no one had been arrested late Sunday in the death of Heather Drager, Mayor Carlos Garza said.

The Sheriff's Department has classified the death as a homicide, but officials said little about the killing.

"We're a small town," County Commissioner Wally Alanis told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

"Everybody knows each other, almost. When something bizarre like this comes up, it's shocking news to everybody. This is something that we read about in the newspapers and the headlines about other big towns," he said.

Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Sharp Image Energy will drill the No. 10 Ira, a 7,500-foot wildcat located six miles north of Ira. Location is in Section 187, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Nolan County

R.L. Adkins Corp. will drill the No. 1 Morrow, a 4,999-foot wildcat located four miles northeast of Nolan. Location is in Section 68, Block 5, T&P survey.

Pioneer Exploration will drill the No. 1 Minnie Roane in the Hylton northwest field, six miles southwest of Nolan. Planned for a depth of 6,200 feet, drill site is in Section 27, Block Z, T&P survey.

Date Book

Monday, Feb. 18, 2002

Today is the 49th day of 2002, and the 60th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1815, The United States and Great Britain signed a peace treaty, formally ending the War of 1812.

On this day in 1861, Confederate President Jefferson Davis was inaugurated.

On this day in 1885, Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" was published.

On this day in 1930, American astronomer Clyde Tombaugh discovered Pluto.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Mary Tudor (1516-1558), first reigning English queen; Jack Palance (1920-), actor, is 82; Milos Forman (1932-), director, is 70; Yoko Ono Lennon (1933-), singer, is 69; Cybill Shepherd (1949-), actress, is 53; John Travolta (1954-), actor, is 48; Vanna White (1957-), "The Price is Right" hostess, is 45; Andre "Dr. Dre" Young (1965-), rap artist, is 37; Molly Ringwald (1968-), actress, is 34.

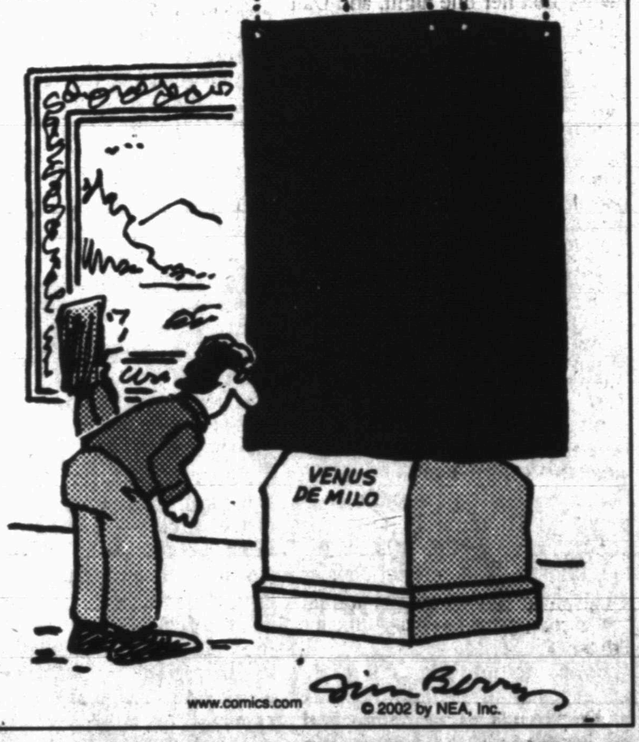
TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1960, the eighth Winter Olympics opened in Squaw Valley, Calif., where the United States won the gold medal in ice hockey.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "All my concerts had no sounds in them; they were completely silent. People had to make up their own music in their own minds!" - Yoko Ono,

TODAY'S MOON: Between the new moon (Feb. 12) and the first quarter (Feb. 20).

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Berry's World



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 $13 million.

The ticket was sold in: Duncanville, Texas.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 40-4-10-2-20-43.

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:

0-1-2

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
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Birthday Bash CASH!

If You Were Born June 19, 1966 You Are A Winner!

Must Claim Prize By Monday, February 18, 2002 by 5:00 p.m. in person at Snyder Daily Ne ws.

All You Have To Do Is Come To The Snyder Daily News And Claim Your Birthday Bash Cash.

Proper Identification Needed

Today's Birthday Bash Cash $50

Bash Cash value increases $10 when there is no winner.

Weekend Birthday Bash Cash Numbers

0 6 - 1 9 - 6 6
Month Day Year

Deadline 5 p.m. Monday, February 19, 2002

New Birthday Bash Cash Numbers In The Tuesday Edition Of The Snyder Daily News

HOW TO PLAY:
-You win if BASH CASH numbers match your birthday in sequence.
-Each BASH CASH starts with $50.
-BASH CASH increases $10 each time there is no winner.
-NEW BASH CASH numbers will be published Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday Editions of The Snyder Daily News.

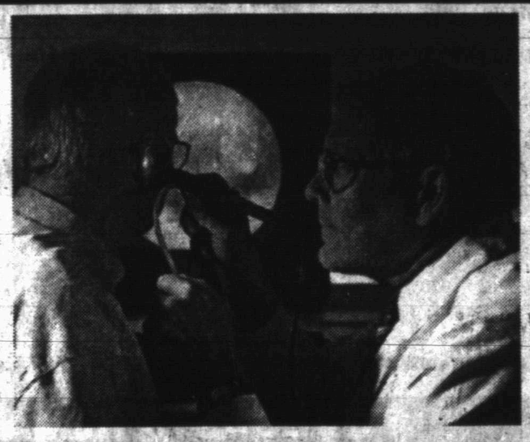
ELIGIBILITY:
-Resident of Scurry County
-Must be at least 16 year old.
-Employees of the Snyder Daily News , their spouses and children are not eligible.

TO CLAIM BIRTHDAY BASH CASH
-Prize must be claimed in person by deadline.
-In case of multi-winners prize will be divided equally.
-Prize is claimed at Snyder Daily News, 3600 College Ave.
-Must provide proof of birthday and legal residence.
-Proof: driver's license, voter registration card, birth certificate, phone book, utility bill or other documentation.

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Murder-suicide rate higher in Florida?

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Last year, killers in Florida used their murder weapons to take their own lives an average of once every six days, more often than recorded in any other state, one expert said.

The murder-suicides were most frequent in South Florida. In 2001, 25 of Florida's 66 cases occurred in Broward, Palm Beach or Miami-Dade counties, said Donna Cohen, a psychologist and professor at the University of South Florida's Department of Aging and Mental Health.

"It's definitely the largest cluster," said Cohen, who has researched murder-suicide for more than a decade.

With four murder-suicides reported in January, South Florida is keeping pace with last year's statistics, she said.

Although data is not kept for every state, Cohen said she believes Florida has the nation's most murder-suicides.

She said the rates appear to be highest in Florida, California, New York and Texas.

"Florida has a large aging population, loose gun control and high suicide rate, and those factors contribute to this state ranking among the highest, if not the highest, in the country," Cohen said.

The majority of cases involve a spouse or significant other with a man as the aggressor, she said. Elderly men often act because they suffer from dementia and expect to lose their dignity as they age. Younger men often can't accept the end of a romantic relationship, she said.

Between 1,000 and 1,500 people fall victim each year to murder suicides, Cohen said.

Holocaust survivors call for boycott of Jewish Museum

NEW YORK (AP) — A group of Holocaust survivors have threatened to boycott an upcoming exhibit of Holocaust-related art that features a depiction of a concentration camp built from Lego blocks.

The exhibit, "Mirroring Evil: Nazi Imagery/Recent Art," is scheduled to open at The Jewish Museum in New York on March 17. Its catalogue has already been released, generating plenty of debate and outrage.

Besides the Lego artwork, the show includes a piece in which an artist has inserted a picture of himself — holding a can of Diet Coke — into a photo of concentration camp survivors.

"It is a disgrace to the memories of the victims of the Holocaust and insulting to the survivors," said Sam Bloch, senior vice president of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

The group's leadership conference, made of about 70 representatives from Holocaust survivor groups around the country, unanimously passed a resolution Sunday calling for museum to cancel the exhibit, Bloch said.

If the exhibit is not canceled, the resolution calls for synagogues, churches, schools, Jewish and civic organizations and individuals to boycott the museum while the exhibit is on display, Bloch said.

The Manhattan museum's administrative offices were closed Sunday, and a telephone message seeking reaction to the boycott was not immediately returned.

In interviews with The Associated Press last month, the museum's curator and director said that the exhibit is complex and challenging and that the show's 13 artists raise new issues about the Holocaust and Nazi Germany.

"They ask how do we guard against the notion that the Holocaust is something that happened just back then and doesn't have relevance to our lives today," said the museum's director, Joan Rosenbaum.

Menachem Rosensaft, the chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, backed the boycott. He said he fears the exhibit will legitimize future works that ridicule or trivialize the Holocaust and will upset survivors.

"The intellectual argument and explanation," he said, "will be lost in the wake of the pain that this creates."

On the Net:
The Jewish Museum:
http://www.jewishmuseum.org
Artist Alan Schechner:
http://www.dottycommies.com

Fed government has responsibility for airline security

CHANTILLY, Va. (AP) — Airline passengers had their airport routines sharply altered after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and now the way they're protected has changed as well.

The new Transportation Security Administration took over responsibility for airline security Sunday, the first step toward a system where better-trained, higher-paid federal employees screen passengers and luggage.

Passengers at Washington Dulles International Airport were pleased with the changes, even if security is tougher.

Tanie Guy, an Oracle Corp. employee, now arrives two hours early at the airport. "They're a bit stricter, to say the least," he said before going through the security checkpoint en route to San Francisco.

"If a private organization does it, they're looking to make money so they're cutting costs and cutting corners in order to make money," said Brandon Buhai of Chicago, departing O'Hare Airport, also for San Francisco. "You hope cost is not as much of a concern to the government."

Travelers, however, said the security changes they observed Sunday weren't dramatic.

"I was with passengers a lot, and they really didn't notice any difference," said Melanie Miller, a spokeswoman for Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

Employees have not been given any new instructions, said American Airlines spokesman John Hotard. "We've always reinforced that they need to do their jobs," he said.

At Boston's Logan Airport, originating point for the two jetliners that crashed into the World Trade Center Sept. 11, there were no outward signs of the federal takeover.

The only things passengers will notice at first are chairs to sit on when asked to remove their shoes to be checked for explosives, said John Magaw, undersecretary for transportation security. In addition, travelers inspected with handheld wands will have their valuables in front of them.

"I hope that they'll notice a slight difference in the courtesy," Magaw said. Magaw was at a security checkpoint at Dulles, where a plane was hijacked Sept. 11 and crashed into the Pentagon.

"Hopefully, they won't notice anything much different than that," Magaw said.

Some arriving passengers said they saw tighter security.

"They were very thorough," said Alison O'Keefe of Boston, arriving at Dulles to visit relatives. "They made me take my shoes off. They went through my purse."

Before the changeover, actions taken since Sept. 11 by the Transportation Department or mandated by Congress have tightened airline security.

The Federal Aviation Administration has closed airport concourses and rescreened passengers because of security breaches.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Single woman's paper trail could point the way to safety

DEAR ABBY: When I was single and living alone, whenever I went out with friends or on a date, I'd leave a note on my refrigerator stating the date, time I left, with whom I was going, the person's phone number, address, work, where we met — anything. I would also jot down when I expected to return.

My friends thought this practice was silly. But if Chandra Levy or other missing persons who lived alone had done this, at least there might have been a trail to follow. Call me paranoid, but to me it was always a basic safety issue.

Maybe this letter will help other singles out there — both women and men. Thanks. — **SHELLEY IN SAINT CLOUD, MINN.**

DEAR SHELLEY: Thank YOU. You displayed intelligence and maturity at a young age. I suspect many young people may be reluctant to leave that kind of information because they're afraid it might somehow curtail their independence. However, it's a potent form of insurance in the case of any kind of emergency.

**

DEAR ABBY: I was engaged in 2000. Sadly, my fiancee passed away from cancer. I was with her throughout her ordeal, at every doctor's appointment and all night with her in the hospital. I held her hand when she passed away.

She left a 7-year-old son, "Danny," who now lives with her parents. Before she died, I promised her I would stay in Danny's life. He calls me Dad, and I call him my son. He stays with me quite often, and in my eyes I am his dad.

This year, I plan to begin dating again. However, Danny comes first, and I will not jeopardize our relationship by bringing someone into his life I feel would not be good for him.

My question: When someone asks if I have children, do I have the right to say I am a dad? How do I explain the circumstances without feeling like I am trying to exploit the situation? — **BACHELOR FATHER IN TEXAS**

DEAR BACHELOR FATHER: Just be honest and tell it like it is. A deathbed promise — a lifetime commitment.

**

DEAR ABBY: I'm a worried 11-year-old girl. My dad went to a class reunion last summer without my mom because Grandma was in the hospital.

When he was at the reunion, he met up with an old band member who used to be his girlfriend. They've been e-mailing and calling each other ever since.

I wasn't worried until my whole family met her one night, and Dad kissed her on the cheek! Then a few days ago, she called and they met for lunch. He keeps saying they're just friends, but I'm not so sure.

My sister doesn't like this whole thing any more than I do, because this woman is divorced. Abby, do you think she's after our dad, or is it just a friendly thing? — **AN 11-YEAR-OLD IN VIRGINIA**

DEAR 11-YEAR-OLD: Have a little more faith in your father. Since he has introduced her to "the whole family," it indicates how proud he is of all of you. From his point of view, I'm sure it's strictly friendship. If it isn't that way from her point of view, she'll have the other three women in his life to reckon with. I don't think she'd stand a chance!

**

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

**

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

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2002

The key to success is to make yourself indispensable,no matter what job is thrown at you in the year ahead. You won't have to look elsewhere for advancement, it'll happen wherever you are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Nobody will follow you if you don't know where you're going yourself. You must have a concise plan of action if you hope to take on a leadership role. 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 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — To your credit, your nobler instincts will be easily aroused when you see that another needs help. Just be careful not to give of yourself to someone who merely wants to use you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Be conscious of conditions when in the company of someone who hasn't done as well financially as you have lately. Thoughtlessness on your part could be hurtful or embarrassing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — If your purpose is to create good will with friends or associates, be sincere in all dealings. Cajoling will not accomplish your purpose; only ambush it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Keeping secrets may not be your long suit, so be particularly diligent of what you say, and to whom. You could let something told to you in confidence slip out to the wrong party.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Try to do anything important yourself, instead of delegating the job to another. If you select the wrong surrogate, it'll get botched up.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Even if conditions aren't optimum, it will be better to take decisive measures than engage in ineffective non-action concerning something important. Excuses won't help you one bit.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You could save yourself a peck of trouble if you first take the time to read the directions thoroughly when working with tools or materials with which you're unfamiliar.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Although your natural probing mind may be merely searching for answers, poking your nose into the wrong places could get you in a heap of trouble. Be more discerning.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — When it comes to remembering commitments that you've made to your spouse or family members, you could have other things on your mind, and you may let them down. Check your memory.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Don't blame those who are carrying out a job for you if you didn't give them clear and explicit directives. Fuzzy instructions could create serious problems.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Betting should not be allowed to enter the picture when involved in a social activity with friends. The side-effects it produces could be very unpleasant.

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The computer mouse was invented by Douglas Engelbart of the Palo Alto Research Center in California. He first demonstrated the mouse in public in 1968.

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WEST TEXAS STATE BANK FDIC

OLYMPIC COVERAGE

Witty earns another gold for USA

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — It was the best day of Chris Witty's Olympic career — a gold medal against long odds with the greatest race she'd ever skated.

She succeeded where other U.S. teammates failed — just barely — on Sunday: the Nordic combined team, now 78 years without a medal, and the American bobsledders, without a medal for 46 years. Both finished fourth, just missing a streak-breaking medal.

There were two other medals awarded Sunday night: to the Canadian figure skating pair of Jamie Sale and David Pelletier, resolving the judging scandal that marred the games' first week.

Six days after they skated, the couple received the golds in an extraordinary ceremony that left everybody smiling.

It was four years between medals for Witty, although not many people gave her much of chance of duplicating her 1998 success in Salt Lake City.

Witty, diagnosed with mononucleosis before the Winter Games, set a world record with her stunning victory in the 1,000 meters. Teammate Jennifer Rodriguez won the bronze as the Americans took medals for the ninth straight day of the games.

"I don't know where that came from," Witty said. "Yesterday, I felt awful. Today, I didn't feel so good. I was a little tired."

Her health woes led Witty to alternate her practice days in an effort to keep her strength. But the schedule didn't appear to work; in her first race, the 500, the 26-year-old Witty finished 14th.

This time, she delivered her greatest performance. Four years ago in Nagano, Witty earned Amarica's only speed skating with a silver in the 1,000 meters and a bronze in 1,500.

It was the first medal for Rodriguez, a former in-line skater who stepped on the ice for the first time just 18 months before the Nagano Games.

With a week left in the games, the Americans are now just two medals short of their goal of 20.

Germany remained atop the medals table as the Olympics headed into its final week with 22 (6 gold, 10 silver, 6 bronze). Next was the United States with 18 (4-7-7), followed by Norway (8-5-0) and Austria (1-3-9) with 13 apiece.

The U.S. men's bobsled team of Todd Hays and brakeman Garrett Hines was fifth heading into Sunday's two runs. They managed to move up one spot, but not enough to grab the medal that has eluded the Americans across the last half-century.

"I don't know if there's a worse place in sports than fourth place in the Olympics," Hays said. "It's going to sting for a long time."

The German team of Christopher Langen and Markus Zimmerman, with the fastest run in the fourth heat, won their country's first two-man gold in 18 years. The silver and the bronze went to the Swiss.

Even at an Olympics of unprecedented U.S. success, before wildly enthusiastic home crowds, the American Nordic combined team couldn't break its decades-old losing streak.

The Americans were third heading into Sunday's cross-country skiing portion of the event, but wound up fourth — 1 minute, 11.9 seconds behind the winning Finns.

"We left it all out there," U.S. team member Bill Demong said. "It just didn't happen for us."

After Saturday's ski jump, the U.S. Nordic combined squad was third and talking medal. By the end of Sunday's event, the Americans were still 0-for-the-Olympics.

Germany captured the silver, finishing 3.5 seconds ahead of the bronze medal-winning Austrians.

Is everybody happy?

After a week's worth of charges, counter-charges, threats and investigations, Canadian pairs skaters Sale and Pelletier stood on a platform with co-gold medalists Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze of Russia to collect their medals.

The crowd gave all four skaters a standing ovation. The two couples hugged, kissed, chatted and posed for photos, providing a classy finale to an ugly controversy.

"I think the four of us were part of history, and that's something that's great for the four of us," Pelletier said.

In the ice dancing, the original dance portion ended with France's Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat winners in the compulsories — routing the field with their flamenco-flavored program.

Russia's Irina Lobacheva and Ilia Averbukh were second, while world champions Barbara Fusar Poli and Maurizio Margaglio of Italy were third. The final leg of the competition is Monday night's free dance, worth 50 percent of the total score.

Italian skier Daniela Ceccarelli offered no explanation for her improbable gold medal run in the Super G.

"I don't know," the Italian skier replied when asked about her success — an Olympic victory despite a career that does not include a single World Cup win.

Ceccarelli, 26, a military policewoman, seemed stunned when she looked up at the board to see her winning time. Her competition appeared just as stunned.

Janica Kostelic of Croatia, gold medalist in the combined, took the silver, while Italy's Karen Putzer won the bronze.

America's top medal hope, Caroline Lalive, suffered another disappointment. Lalive fell 10 seconds into her run, and has failed to finish nine straight Olympic or world championship races.

Norway won its Salt Lake City-high eighth gold medal — and it did so without its triple-gold winner, Ole Einar Bjoerndalen.

The team decided not to include Bjoerndalen on its 40-kilometer cross-country squad because he had already raced more than 46 miles in competition in these games.

"It was not an easy decision because we have so many good skiers," teammate Anders Aukland said.

The silver went to Italy, while Germany won the bronze. The United States took fifth, its best-ever showing in the event.

Goalie Tommy Salo outdueled Dominik Hasek as Sweden beat the defending men's hockey champion Czech Republic 2-1 for its second consecutive impressive victory.

Mats Sundin scored his third goal in two games and Kim Johnsson had a power play goal as Sweden — following up its unexpectedly easy 5-2 victory Friday over Canada — opened up a 2-0 lead, then weathered a strong last two periods by the Czechs.

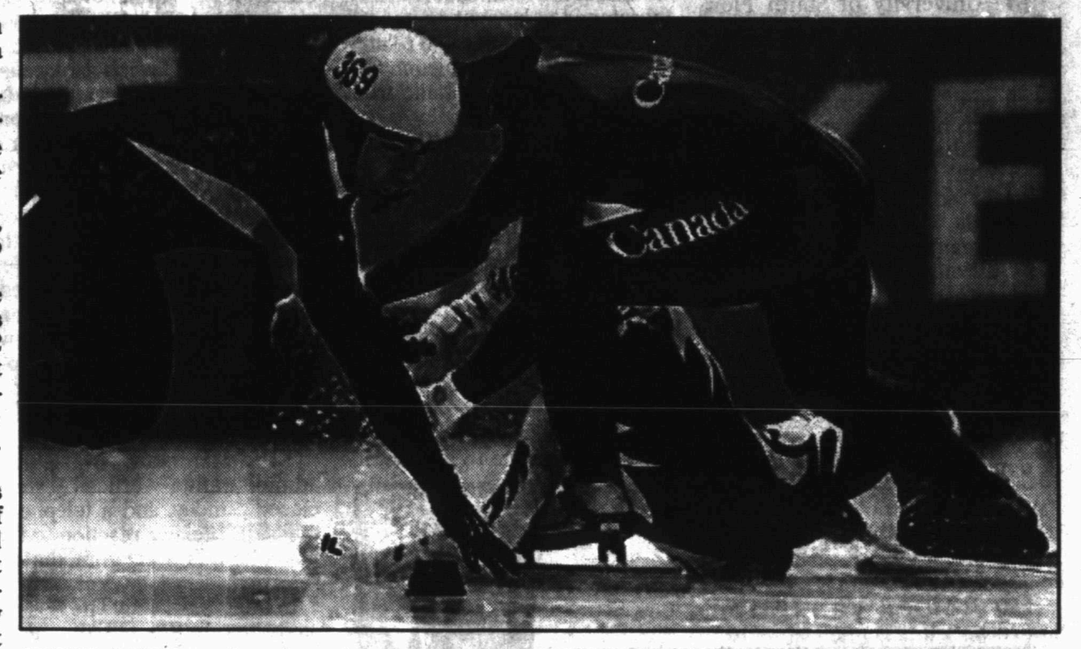
The victory all but assured Sweden of winning its four-team pool in the Olympic hockey tournament.

The Canadians, coming off a loss, defeated Germany 3-2 behind goals by Joe Sakic, Paul Kariya and Adam Foote. The powerful Canadians struggled against a German team featuring just a pair of NHL players, in contrast to Canada's star-laden squad.

Canadian captain Mario Lemieux took a night off to rest his injured hip.

Three of the four semifinalists are set in men's curling: Canada, Norway and Sweden. Canada improved to 7-1 with a 9-4 victory over Norway (6-2), while Sweden (6-2) beat Germany 5-4. The Americans (3-4) have a slim chance at the fourth and final slot.

In the women's competition, the Americans moved toward securing a medal round slot with a 6-5 victory over Great Britain.



OH NO OHNO — American Apolo Ohno, left, and Canadian Mathieu Turcotte are taken down by South Korea's Ahn Hyun-soo during the men's 1000m short track speed skating final Saturday night. The crash enabled Australian Steven Bradbury to come from last place to win the gold, with Ohno crawling across the finish line for the silver medal. (AP Photo)

Men's Hockey Standings

GROUP C

Team	Games	W	L	T	GF/GA	+/-GD	Points
Sweden	2	2	0	0	7/3	+4	4
Czech Republic	2	1	1	0	9/4	+5	2
Canada	2	1	1	0	5/7	-2	2
Germany	2	0	2	0	4/11	-7	0

GROUP D

Team	Games	W	L	T	GF/GA	+/-GD	Points
USA	2	1	0	1	8/2	+6	3
Russia	2	1	0	1	8/6	+2	3
Finland	2	1	1	0	8/7	+1	2
Belarus	2	0	2	0	5/14	-9	0

Today's final games of group play: Czech Republic vs. Canada; Germany vs. Sweden; Belarus vs. USA; Russia vs. Finland.
Playoffs begin Wednesday.

Note: Teams are awarded two points for a win, and one point for a tie.
Key: (GF/GA) = goals for/goals against; (+/-GD) = goal differential.

Medal Count

By The Associated Press
(Through Sunday, Feb. 17)
(44 total medal events)

Nation	G	S	B	Tot
Germany	6	10	6	22
United States	4	7	7	18
Norway	8	5	0	13
Austria	1	3	9	13
Russia	4	4	2	10
Italy	3	2	2	7
Switzerland	3	1	2	6
France	2	3	1	6
Finland	3	1	1	5
Canada	2	0	3	5
Netherlands	2	2	0	4
China	1	0	2	3
Bulgaria	0	1	2	3
Sweden	0	1	2	3
Spain	2	0	0	2
Croatia	1	1	0	2
South Korea	1	1	0	2
Estonia	1	0	1	2
Japan	0	1	1	2
Poland	0	1	1	2
Australia	1	0	0	1
Czech Republic	0	0	1	1

Television Schedule

MONDAY
NBC, noon-5 p.m.
Men's hockey: Belarus vs. USA; Russia vs. Finland.
CNBC, 5-11 p.m.
Men's hockey: Czech Republic vs. Canada; Germany vs. Sweden. **Curling:** Preliminaries.
NBC, 7-10:30 p.m.
Figure skating: Dance free. **Ski jumping:** Team K120 finals. **Freestyle skiing:** Women's aerials finals. **Biathlon:** Women's 4x7.5km relay.
NBC, 11:05 p.m.-12:35 a.m.
Highlights.
TUESDAY
MSNBC, noon-5 p.m.
Women's hockey: Semifinals.
NBC, 3-4 p.m.
Cross-country skiing: Men's and women's 1.5km sprint.
CNBC, 5-8 p.m.
Women's hockey: Semifinals.
NBC, 7-10:30 p.m.
Bobsled: Two-woman. **Figure skating:** Ladies' short program. **Speed skating:** Men's 1500m. **Freestyle skiing:** Men's aerials finals.
NBC, 11:05 p.m.-12:35 a.m.
Highlights.
Events not televised
Women's hockey: Fifth and seventh-place games.
WEDNESDAY
MSNBC, noon-5 p.m.
Men's hockey: Quarterfinals.
NBC, 3-4 p.m.
Biathlon: Men's 4x7.5km relay.
CNBC, 5-11:30 p.m.
Men's hockey: Quarterfinals.
NBC, 7-10:30 p.m.
Skiing: Women's slalom. **Skeleton:** Men's and women's finals. **Short track speed skating:** Men's 1500m finals; Women's 3000m relay finals. **Men's hockey:** Quarterfinals. **Speed skating:** Women's 1500m.
NBC, 11:05 p.m.-12:35 a.m.
Highlights.
Events not televised
Skeleton: Men's and women's preliminaries. **Short track speed skating:** Women's 1000m preliminaries. **Curling:** Semifinals.
THURSDAY
MSNBC, noon-6 p.m.
Women's hockey: Bronze medal game. **Curling:** Women's gold and bronze medal matches.
NBC, 3-4 p.m.
Cross-country skiing: Women's 4x5km relay.
CNBC, 6-9 p.m.
Women's hockey: Gold medal game.
NBC, 7-11 p.m.
Figure skating: Ladies' free program. **Skiing:** Men's giant slalom. **Women's hockey:** Gold medal game. **Nordic combined:** Sprint K120.
NBC, 11:35 p.m.-1:05 a.m.
Highlights.
FRIDAY
MSNBC, noon-6 p.m.
Men's hockey: Semifinals. **Curling:** Men's gold medal match.
NBC, 3-4 p.m.
Speed skating: Men's 10,000m.
CNBC, 5-8 p.m.
Men's hockey: Semifinals.
NBC, 7-10:30 p.m.
Skiing: Women's giant slalom. **Bobsled:** Four-man, initial runs. **Nordic combined:** Sprint 7.5km.
NBC, 11:35 p.m.-12:35 a.m.
Highlights.
SATURDAY
NBC, 12:30-4:30 p.m.
Men's hockey: Bronze medal match. **Speed skating:** Women's 5000m.
NBC, 7-10:30 p.m.
Skiing: Men's slalom. **Bobsled:** Four-man, final runs. **Short track speed skating:** Men's 500m finals, 5000m relay finals; Women's 1000m finals. **Cross-country skiing:** Men's 50km classical.

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SPORTS

Lady Tigers can't catch Andrews

After a disappointing first round at the Snyder Girls Invitational, the Snyder Lady Tigers shaved 15 strokes on Saturday. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to catch the defending state runner-up.

Snyder carded a 336 Saturday at Western Texas College to finish 26 strokes behind Division I champion Andrews.

The Lady Tigers had a lot of ground to make up after their first-round 351, and the Lady Mustangs didn't give them any help. Andrews followed up its 338 on Friday with a closing-round 323 to finish at 661.

"Andrews played pretty well. And to be honest, we really didn't," said SHS coach Matt Glenn. "For some reason, we never play very well at our own invitational.

"I don't know if the girls put extra pressure on themselves because they want to win at home, or what. But we didn't get it done this weekend."

Andra Lancaster paced the Lady Tigers with rounds of 82 and 79 for a 161 to earn second place in the individual standings.

Katie Kerley carded an 83 on Saturday, with Hailey Putnam recording an 85. Lauren Day turned in an 89, and Kellie Dodson finished with a 91.

Snyder had better luck in Division II where Snyder II tallied a 360 Saturday at Snyder Country Club to win the event by 40 strokes.

Paige Smith's rounds of 82 and 78 earned her medalist honors. Catherine Whitworth was second in the individual race after a final-round 79.

Cami Trout closed with a 101. Brooke Jackson posted a 102, and Kendra Martinez shot a 113. Megan Minor, competing as a medalist, carded a 101.

Snyder I is in tournament competition Friday and Saturday at the Midland Invitational.

SNYDER GIRLS INVITATIONAL
Division I

Team standings: 1. Andrews 338-323—661, 2. Snyder 351-336—687, 3. San Angelo Central 356-354—710, 4. Abilene Cooper 387-388—775, 5. Lubbock Coronado 390-391—781, 6. Lamesa 395-412—807, 7. Plainview 398-424—822, 8. Abilene High 420-405—825, 9. Brownfield 457-467—924.

Individual standings: 1. Amy Young, San Angelo Central, 76-80—156; 2. Andra Lancaster, Snyder, 82-79—161; 3. Megan Hall, Andrews, 84-78—162; 4. Ashley Robb, Andrews, 80-84—164; 5. Vanessa Fuganti, Andrews, 86-79—165.

Other Andrews: Jessica Thurston 88-82—170, Halli Richards 94-87—181.

Other Snyder: Katie Kerley 95-83—178, Hailey Putnam 92-85—177, Lauren Day 85-89—174, Kellie Dodson 92-91—183.

Other San Angelo Central: Mendy Black 93-89—182, Lisa Terrazas 96-97—193, Sarah Reyes 96-91—187, Heather Stout 91-94—185.

Abilene Cooper: Erin McPherson 96-NC—NS, Sarah Gentry 106-95—201, Clarissa Nix 94-91—185, Barbara Sohn 98-94—192, Cathy Clyburn 99-108—207.

Lubbock Coronado: Laura Hunter 94-98—192, Jamie Schurr 103-87—190, Shelby Garcia 92-107—199, Kimberly Namken 109-105—214, Danielle Jonus 101-101—202.

Lamesa: Kortney Britt 95-92—187, Leslie Finch 100-107—207, Corley Hodges 101-106—207, Liz Villalobos 111-109—220, Michelle Boardman 99-107—206.

Plainview: Ali Pohlmeir 95-96—191, Jessica Newman 93-105—198, Melissa Higgins 94-97—191, Hayley Pierce 116-126—242, Lauren Gilleland 121-136—257.

Abilene High: Caitlin Willis 98-96—194, Katherine Cox 104-92—196, Casilea Calderon 108-110—218, Kaitlyn Lillick 119-107—226, Terrell Black 110-120—230.

Brownfield: Jessica Tate 104-131—235, Hillary Swain 106-107—213, Jennifer Wilson 123-111—234, Kasey Lowe 124-118—242.

Division II

Team standings: 1. Snyder II 400-360—760, 2. Abilene Wylie 414-386—800, 3. Lake View 424-402—826, 4. Big Spring 416-412—828, 5. Lubbock Monterey 438-416—854, 6. Levelland 456-426—882, 7. Abilene High II 462-421—883, 8. Abilene Cooper II 474-447—921, 9. Lubbock High 463-467—930.

Individual standings: 1. Paige Smith, Snyder, 82-78—160; 2. Catherine Whitworth, Snyder, 95-79—174; 3. Chandra Hayes, Abilene Wylie, 91-90—181; 4. Jessica Harbin, Abilene Wylie, 96-86—182; 5. Ashleigh Hoffman, Lake View, 96-88—184.

Other Snyder II: Cami Trout 110-101—211, Brooke Jackson 118-102—220, Kendra Martinez 113-113—226.

Other Abilene Wylie: Darby Beal 107-103—210, Trudy Holloway 120-127—247, Cara Emmett 120-107—227.

Other Lake View: Kelli Cooper 106-104—210, Fallon Bradford 99-89—188, Shawnna Vance 141-NC—NS, Brittany Gotschall 123-121—244.

Big Spring: Jessica Hicks 112-106—218, Angela Payne 105-91—196, Rachel Gee 94-104—198, Kate Smiley 105-111—216, Kelli Warrusten 118-127—245.

Lubbock Monterey: Paige Wilkins 104-95—199, Emily Arledge 112-109—221, Kyla Drake 105-104—209, Krisa Darnell 132-108—240, Natalie Nix 117-112—229.

Levelland: Amber Pinkert 118-102—220, Lori Barnard 109-92—201, Lindsey Stansifer 113-111—224, Whitney Capps 116-121—237, Jessica Reeves 137-128—265.

Abilene High II: Melissa Boyd 117-104—221, Robin Lozano 120-108—228, Lauren Goodnight 112-101—213, Keely Coston 113-108—221, Alyssa Morrison 123-124—247.

Abilene Cooper II: Jenna Hall 98-94—192, Stephanie Sparks 120-114—234, Nydia Grey 121-117—238, Lana Givens 135-122—257.

Lubbock High: Amanda Acreman 97-91—188, Brittany Castro 120-129—249, Kristen Lewallan 108-118—226, Shelbi Wallace 138-129—267.

Permain stages rally to surpass Tiger linksters

ABILENE — Unbelievable.

After Snyder's opening-round 303 gave it a 12-shot cushion heading into the final day of the Big Country Invitational, it seemed the Tigers would have to collapse on Saturday to not walk away with their second title of the season.

The collapse never came, but neither did the crown.

Snyder carded a second-round 299 only to be upstaged by a remarkable effort of 272 by Odessa Permian to finish as tournament runner-up.

Despite shaving four shots off Friday's effort, the Tigers went from leading by 12 strokes to finishing second by 15.

"There's not much you can do when another team plays like that," said SHS coach Matt Glenn. "You just have to shake their hands, and go on. There are a lot of college teams that don't shoot 272. Our guys played well. Permian just had an unbelievable round."

The Panthers recorded scores of 63 and 67 to go along with a pair of 71s for their 272.

Snyder finished 18 strokes ahead of third place Midland.

Britt Sharrock and Zach Starnes carded rounds of 74 both days to pace the Tigers with two-day totals of 148.

Stafford Gray followed up his opening-round 80 with a 73 for total of 153. Calmes also finished at 153 after turning in a 78 on Saturday. Matt McCormick came in with an 83-80—163.

Snyder is in tournament competition again March 1-2 at the Austin Invitational.

Big Country Invitational

Team standings: 1. Odessa Permian 315-272—587, 2. Snyder 303-299—602, 3. Midland High 322-298—620, 4. Midland Lee 315-305—620, 5. Lubbock Coronado 327-306—633, 6. Brownwood 333-307—640, 7. Abilene Cooper 320-321—641, 8. Sweetwater 334-309—643, 9. Abilene Wylie 341-310—651, 10. (tie) Abilene High 349-312—661 and Abilene High II 352-309—661, 12. Abilene Cooper II 363-317—680, 13. Abilene High III 362-336—698, 14. Anson 371-359—730, 15. Merkel 382-356—738.

SHS opens baseball season at Midland

While major league players are just reporting to spring training, the high school baseball season opens today when the Snyder Tigers travel to face Midland High at 4 o'clock at Zachary Field.

After four scrimmages, the Tigers are eager to start playing for keeps, and Coach Roland Herrera believes his squad is ready.

"You never know exactly what to expect for the first game, but I feel good about the way we've looked so far," said Herrera. "The kids have been working hard, and we're ready to face some competition. I'm sure both teams will have a few jitters for the first game, but I expect us to play well."

Senior left-hander Tito Alaniz is the expected starter on the mound for the Tigers.

Following this evening's contest, the Tigers are in action again Thursday against Canyon Randall in the opening round of the San Angelo tournament.

SHS softballers secure third place at Borger

BORGER — Take away two innings, and the Snyder Lady Tigers are staring at the Borger softball tournament title.

Snyder rolled over its first three opponents, before suffering a pair of narrow setbacks to finish third in its first tournament of the season.

The Lady Tigers (3-3) turned in solid efforts in the field and at the plate, with the exception of only two innings, according to Coach Shelly Hayes.

"I was really proud of the way our girls played," said Hayes. "For this early in the season, we made some great defensive plays, and we hit the ball pretty well.

"We had one bad inning in each of our losses, and that ended up being the difference. But two bad innings out of five games isn't all that bad at this point in the year."

Snyder stormed out of the gate with a 9-2 victory over Dumas, before shutting out Canyon, 5-0. Next up, the Lady Tigers whipped Amarillo High, 13-6, to earn a match-up with undefeated Amarillo Tascosa.

Snyder was edged by the Lady Rebels, 6-5, then fell to Borger, 4-3, to finish third.

"We're still working on things to see who we want in the field," Hayes said. "I was impressed with some of the plays we were able to make, so we have quite a few girls who can fill several positions."

The Lady Tigers are in action again at 6 p.m. Thursday against Midland Christian in the Midland tournament. Snyder JV opens the event at 7:30 p.m. Thursday against Hereford.

Boys Basketball Playoffs

CLASS 5A
Region I
Bi-district
EP Austin (13-15) vs. EP Eastwood (14-16)
Midland Lee (25-5), bye
Lubbock Monterey (18-13) vs. Odessa (13-14)
EP Bel Air (27-5), bye
FW Paschal (22-10) vs. Lewisville (23-8)
Cedar Hill (30-1), bye
South Grand Prairie (19-12) vs. Arlington Bowie (23-8)
The Colony (27-2), bye
EP Andress (14-18) vs. EP Montwood (18-12)
Amarillo (23-8), bye
Lubbock Coronado (20-11) vs. Midland (24-6)
EP Franklin (27-5), bye
Colleyville Heritage (20-10) vs. Flower Mound (26-6)
Duncanville (21-9), bye
Irving MacArthur (22-9) vs. Arlington Houston (25-7)
Coppell (26-8), bye

CLASS 4A
Region I
Bi-district
EP Bowie (17-13) vs. Clint (16-14)
Lubbock Estacado (28-6), bye
Canyon Randall (19-11) vs. Frenship (21-10)
Fabens (16-13), bye
Wichita Falls (19-11) vs. FW Brewer (15-14)
North Crowley (29-3), bye
FW Polytechnic (24-5) vs. Cleburne (15-15)
Southlake Carroll (20-11), bye
El Paso (11-17) vs. San Elizario (15-16)
Canyon (25-5), bye
Amarillo Palo Duro (22-11) vs. Levelland (19-15)
EP Parkland (22-7), bye
Azle (12-16) vs. NRH Birdville (25-7)
FW Dunbar (28-2), bye
FW Eastern Hills (19-10) vs. Crowley (13-16)
Burkburnett (24-8), bye

CLASS 3A
Region I
Bi-district
Sanford Fritch (25-3) vs. Lubbock Cooper (15-16)
Fort Stockton, bye
Denver City (22-4) vs. Kermit
Dimmitt (25-7), bye
Abilene Wylie (20-8) vs. Iowa Park
Kennedale (16-10), bye
Lake Worth (14-19) vs. Alvarado (13-14)
Decatur (25-6), bye
Childress (12-12) vs. Shallowater (20-8)
Seminole (17-11), bye
Midland Greenwood (20-9) vs. Crane
Perryton (15-11), bye
Sweetwater (16-10) vs. Bowie
Glen Rose, bye
Aledo (14-16) vs. Whitney (23-6)
Merkel (25-3), bye

CLASS 2A
Region I
Bi-district
Ozona (17-11) vs. San Angelo Grape Creek (21-9)
Sundown (23-6), bye
Plains (16-11) vs. Tahoka (17-9)
Wall, bye
Hale Center (18-10) vs. Spearman (12-11)
Olney (24-5), bye
Archer City (20-5) vs. Hamlin (14-8)
Panhandle (22-7), bye
Tornillo vs. Eldorado
Coahoma (16-8), bye
Colorado City (12-14) vs. Idalou (15-12)
Reagan County, bye
Morton (23-5) vs. West Texas (15-5)
Holliday (21-6), bye
Memphis (21-9) vs. Haskell (22-7)
Abernathy (24-4), bye

CLASS A
Division I, Region I
Bi-district
Stratford (15-8) vs. Claude (18-10)
Farwell (25-6) vs. Petersburg (12-9)
O'Donnell (23-1) vs. Robert Lee (11-13)
Marfa vs. Iraan
Booker (15-15) vs. White Deer (19-5)
Hart (15-15) vs. Lorenzo (20-8)
Crosbyton (24-4) vs. Roscoe (14-6)
Fort Hancock vs. Irion County

CLASS A
Division II, Region II
Bi-district
Balmorhea (20-1) vs. Marathon
Ira (23-3) vs. Blackwell (15-9)
Panther Creek (20-4) vs. Richland Springs
Utopia (26-1) vs. Cherokee (13-8)
Fort Davis vs. Sanderson
Grady (18-8) vs. Trent (21-5)
Novice (15-6) vs. Brookesmith (21-7)
D'Hanis vs. Lometa (19-4)

Girls Basketball Playoffs

CLASS 5A
Region I
Regional Quarterfinals
Abilene (24-6) vs. Lubbock Coronado (19-8)
Mansfield (29-3) vs. Euless Trinity (32-4)
Amarillo (29-4) vs. Lubbock Monterey or (24-8)
Duncanville (31-4) vs. Weatherford (29-2)

CLASS 4A
Region I
Regional Quarterfinals
Plainview (30-1) vs. Lubbock Estacado (25-8)
Granbury (29-4) vs. Southlake Carroll (25-6)
Canyon (28-1) vs. Amarillo Palo Duro (24-10)
FW Wyatt (23-5) vs. Stephenville (23-9)

CLASS 3A
Region I
Regional Quarterfinals
Amarillo River Road (21-11) vs. Shallowater (27-4)
Vernon (21-6) vs. Decatur (25-4)
Muleshoe (27-5) vs. Perryton (29-2)
Merkel (19-14) vs. Ballinger (24-8)

CLASS 2A
Region I
Regional Quarterfinals
Post (23-2) vs. Wall (24-2)
Abernathy (21-8) vs. Canadian (24-8)
Seagraves (29-1) vs. Tahoka (14-15)
Lockney (22-7) vs. Floydada (21-6)

CLASS A
Division I, Region I
Regional Semifinals
Sudan (28-5) vs. Robert Lee (25-4)
Smyer (25-4) vs. Roby (20-11)

CLASS A
Division II, Region II
Regional Semifinals
Borden County (27-5) vs. Utopia (23-4)
Grady (21-10) vs. Brookesmith (21-9)

Local Schedule

TODAY
Baseball: Snyder at Midland High, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY
Basketball: Ira boys vs. Blackwell at Merkel, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY
Baseball: Snyder at San Angelo tourney
Softball: Snyder at Midland tourney

FRIDAY
Baseball: Snyder at San Angelo tourney
Softball: Snyder at Midland tourney
Golf: Snyder girls at Midland tourney
Tennis: Snyder at Odessa tourney

SATURDAY
Baseball: Snyder at San Angelo tourney
Softball: Snyder at Midland tourney
Golf: Snyder girls at Midland tourney
Tennis: Snyder at Odessa tourney

SHS netters turn in solid effort at first tournament

BIG SPRING — In its first tournament competition of the spring, the Snyder tennis team recorded a pair of top-five finishes at the Big Spring Invitational.

Pat Vargas and Andra Dunham anchored Snyder's effort with a second-place showing in girls doubles. Teammates Jackie Beccue and Afton Sutter teamed up to finish only four spots back in sixth.

On the boys side, Curt Phillips and Adam Rodgers posted the highest finish by earning fourth place in doubles. The duo of Tanner Reed and Joseph Ynguanzo finished 15th.

In girls singles competition, Cozy Jones wrapped up 10th place, with Kara Brumley finishing 13th.

For the boys, Horacio DePaz was 14th, and Tyson Kubena finished 15th.

Also competing at the tourney were Abilene Wylie, Big Spring, Midland High, Odessa High, Odessa Permian, Uvalde and Carlsbad, N.M.

Snyder is in action again this weekend at the Odessa High tournament.

Sports Briefs

Groundhog golf tournament set

The Groundhog Tournament is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at Snyder Country Club. Format is two-man scramble, and cost is $80 per team. There will be a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days.

Burton wins Daytona 500

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — There were no side-by-side sprints to the checkered flag and no passes for the lead on the final lap.

Yet the finish of the Daytona 500 will be remembered as one of the most bizarre in its 44-year history.

Ward Burton took advantage of Sterling Marlin's blunder for his first victory at Daytona International Speedway. It also was the first win for Dodge at NASCAR's most famous track since July 1977, when Richard Petty beat Darrell Waltrip.

Elliott Sadler finished second, about a car length behind the winner, and Geoffrey Bodine was a surprising third. Bodine, the 1986 winner, has been out of the sport for most of the past two seasons and was competing as part of a four-race deal with car owner James Finch.

Suns' coach steps down

PHOENIX (AP) — Scott Skiles stepped down as coach of the disappointing Phoenix Suns and was replaced by assistant Frank Johnson.

The Suns, who have made the playoffs every year since the 1987-88 season, currently are out of postseason contention with a 25-26 record. They fell under the .500 mark by losing their past two games.

The 43-year-old Johnson, the first black head coach in franchise history, plans no immediate lineup changes. He said he believes the Suns need fine-tuning to turn around their season of underachievement.

Mattiace wins Nissan Open

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After 220 tries, Len Mattiace finally won on the PGA Tour.

Mattiace closed with a 3-under 68 and took advantage of a late collapse by crowd favorite Scott McCarron to win the Nissan Open, becoming the third 0000first-time winner on tour this year.

Mattiace has never finished higher than 61st on the money list in seven years and came to Riviera Country Club as the 157th player in the world ranking.

Former Packer, TCU great dies

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Tommy Joe Crutcher, a linebacker who helped the Green Bay Packers win three straight NFL titles and the first two Super Bowls, has died. He was 60.

National Basketball Association

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	34	17	.667	—
Boston	30	23	.566	5
Washington	27	23	.540	6½
Orlando	27	25	.519	7½
Philadelphia	25	26	.490	9
Miami	20	30	.400	13½
New York	20	31	.392	14

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	29	21	.580	—
Detroit	28	22	.560	1
Toronto	29	25	.537	2
Indiana	26	27	.491	4½
Charlotte	25	26	.490	4½
Atlanta	19	33	.365	11
Cleveland	18	33	.353	11½
Chicago	12	39	.235	17½

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	37	19	.698	—
Minnesota	35	17	.673	1½
San Antonio	33	18	.647	3
Utah	29	24	.547	8
Houston	17	34	.333	19
Denver	16	33	.326	19
Memphis	15	37	.289	21½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	39	13	.750	—
L.A. Lakers	35	15	.700	3
Portland	27	24	.529	11½
Seattle	27	25	.519	12
L.A. Clippers	26	27	.491	13½
Phoenix	25	27	.481	14
Golden State	15	34	.306	22½

Saturday's Games
Orlando 109, Houston 100
Cleveland 114, Chicago 101
Seattle 99, Boston 79
L.A. Clippers 119, Dallas 110

Sunday's Games
New Jersey 98, Denver 77
Milwaukee 91, Toronto 86
Memphis 92, Charlotte 78
Indiana 86, Philadelphia 76
Minnesota 93, Miami 80
Portland 111, L.A. Lakers 105
Utah 92, New York 89
Dallas 105, Phoenix 92
Seattle 126, Sacramento 116
Atlanta 100, Golden State 94

Monday's Games
Houston at Washington, 1 p.m.
Utah at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Denver at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Portland at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Golden State at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Memphis at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Seattle at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Atlanta at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Boston at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

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A call to M immediately retu to the crem answered by a re ing callers to the

A bond heari uled this afterno

Authorities re grounds near th matory, where t ered 97 bodies age sheds and woods.

Officials hav expect to find a bodies at the cre ing some that h decomposing fo

Walker Count Wilson' said au asking relatives bodies had been matory for any i might help iden ones, including and dental recor

He said inve continuing the se and tagging" the find them.

Like hundreds this hamlet, Li understand how leave her mothe alongside piles



Can s

DEAR DR. BL ested in learning degeneration. In looking for food lutein and zeaxan that these nutrien to slow the progre ease. What is you ments as a preven macular degenera and both of his from the condi weren't afflicted u or older. — D.L.,

DEAR D.L.: T part of the eye w focused. At the ce la is the "fovea ce point where our vi It is in the macula trical impulses tha what we are look ed, and it is only a make their way to optic nerve that understand exact have seen.

One of the un tions associated breakdown of the macular degenera ing cause of bli Americans.

The precise ca degeneration is no it is thought that the lens) suffers o Some have sugge antioxidants, incl min C, vitamin E selenium might b carotenoids, pa antioxidant com (LOO-teen) and uh-ZAN-thin), ar concentrated in th they are the o known to exist region of the reti referred to as mac

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Vegetables ar sources of lutein

Tri-state crematory operator arrested again

NOBLE, Ga. (AP) — The operator of a north Georgia crematory where dozens of corpses were found was arrested for a second time and charged with 11 more counts of theft by deception, authorities said today.

Ray Brent Marsh, 28, had been arrested Saturday and released from jail Sunday after posting $25,000 bond on five original charges of theft by deception. He was arrested again Sunday night.

A call to Marsh was not immediately returned, and calls to the crematory were answered by a recording directing callers to the sheriff's office.

A bond hearing was scheduled this afternoon.

Authorities returned today to grounds near the Tri-State Crematory, where they had recovered 97 bodies stacked in storage sheds and discarded in woods.

Officials have said they expect to find as many as 200 bodies at the crematory, including some that had likely been decomposing for up to 15 years.

Walker County Sheriff Steve Wilson said authorities were asking relatives of people whose bodies had been sent to the crematory for any information that might help identify their loved ones, including surgical scars and dental records.

He said investigators were continuing the search, "bagging and tagging" the bodies as they find them.

Like hundreds of residents in this hamlet, Lisa Cash can't understand how anyone could leave her mother's body to rot alongside piles of other human remains.

Cash's mother, Norma Hutton, 55, died Dec. 31 of kidney failure. Based on her deceased mother's wishes, Cash asked for the remains to be cremated. They weren't.

Now Cash must try to reconcile for her kids the newly uncovered body of their grandmother with the urn that they were told contained her remains.

"They don't understand. How can granny be there and here too?" Cash said of her four children, ages 13, 12, 11 and 8. "I explained: 'Somebody lied.'"

Investigators said Marsh told them the bodies were not cremated because the incinerator was broken.

"They just piled them on top and then piled more on top. And then they just left them," said Dr. Kris Sperry, Georgia's chief medical examiner. "I wish we had a good explanation for this, but we don't."

Authorities said they recovered 97 bodies — including one infant — from storage sheds and in the woods behind the crematory. Sixteen have been identified.

"We're just barely skimming the surface," Sperry said. "Some of the remains are mummified."

Between 25 and 30 funeral homes in Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama routinely sent bodies to Tri-State for cremation.

One day after declaring a state of emergency to provide financial assistance to help identify remains, Gov. Roy Barnes visited Noble and met privately Sunday with about a hundred people who believed their loved ones were at the crematory.

"They are mad," Barnes said. "They are angry. I would be upset too. "They thought they had closure on the death of a loved one and they do not."

Georgia Emergency Management director Gary McConnell said the state would pay the cost of identifying the bodies.

There are two crematory inspectors in Georgia, said McConnell. He said only crematories that deal directly with the public have to be inspected, and that Tri-State was never inspected because it worked only with funeral homes.

Officials denied reporters access to the 16-acre tract but photographers who flew over the area about 25 miles south of Chattanooga said they could see lines of white body bags.

"I have no idea how this happened," Samuel Marsh, who is Marsh's brother, said in a telephone interview Sunday. "It's just crazy to me."

The crematory owners, Ray and Clara Marsh, turned the business over to their son in 1996. The couple has turned over company records to authorities and were cooperating, Walker County chief deputy Hill Morrison said.

Families on Sunday completed Red Cross paperwork to help identify the bodies and several dentists opened their offices to make dental records available. Counselors also were on hand.

Authorities are asking families to return ashes for testing. Officials suspect ashes from wood chips were provided to funeral home customers instead of the remains of loved ones.

Gwendolyn Walton, of Chattanooga, Tenn., carried a silver-colored plastic urn as she walked to the Walker County Civic Center with her two adult sons Sunday. The urn is supposed to contain the cremated remains of her husband, the Rev. Robert G. Walton, who died Nov. 2 from heart failure.

"In my heart after hearing about this situation, I really didn't want to pass judgment," said one of the sons, Terrance Walton. "I just need to find out if this is my father's remains."

Broadcast news pioneer dies

WASHINGTON (AP)— Howard K. Smith, whose career as a newscaster ranged from World War II as one of "Murrow's Boys" at CBS to roles as co-anchor and analyst for ABC, is dead at age 87.

Smith died of pneumonia aggravated by congestive heart failure on Friday evening at his home in Bethesda, Md., his son, Jack, said today.

Although out of the public eye for nearly a quarter-century, Smith was a broadcasting pioneer and, from television's infancy, a presence on the air.

Along the way, he made at least two appearances of lasting impact even beyond the journalistic.

In 1960, he served as the moderator of the first Kennedy-Nixon presidential debate, a seminal TV event generally thought to have played a decisive role in Kennedy's election.

Smith also is memorialized in Robert Altman's 1975 political satire "Nashville," in which Smith portrayed himself as a broadcast commentator covering the presidential campaign of the never-glimpsed candidate Hal Phillip Walker.

Howard Kingsbury Smith was born May 12, 1914, in Ferriday, La., and, after attending Tulane University, began his years as a foreign correspondent working for United Press in Copenhagen and Berlin.

In 1941 he joined CBS News as a member of the team assembled by the legendary Edward R. Murrow during World War II, and in 1946 succeeded Murrow as CBS's London correspondent. He covered Europe and the Middle East for CBS until 1957, when he came to Washington, D.C., as a correspondent and commentator on the network's nightly TV newscast.

With the civil rights struggle heating up, Smith narrated a 1961 documentary, "Who Speaks for Birmingham?," in which he quoted Edmund Burke's observation that "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." When the quote was deemed "editorializing" by his bosses and cut from the program, Smith resigned from the network.

Joining ABC News soon after, Smith served as a correspondent and anchored several series, including the respected mid-1960s documentary program "Scope," which focused on the Vietnam War.

In 1969 he became co-anchor with Frank Reynolds of "The ABC Evening News," then two years later was joined at the ABC anchor desk by his former CBS colleague Harry Reasoner.

In 1975 Smith gave up his co-anchor role but continued as a political commentator. Four years later, after denouncing a flashy four-anchor evening-news format that uncomfortably married Reynolds, Peter Jennings, Barbara Walters and Max Robinson, Smith retired.

His several books include the 1942 bestseller "Last Train from Berlin," which describes Hitler's rise to power and his own experiences as the last American correspondent to leave Berlin after war was declared, and his 1966 memoir, "Events Leading Up to My Death: The Life of a Twentieth-Century Reporter."

His numerous awards include a Peabody and an Emmy.

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Benedicte Traberg Smith, and one daughter and one son and three grandchildren.

Austin firefighters receive Medal of Honor

AUSTIN (AP) — Two Austin firefighters were honored Sunday for helping aid a veteran police officer who was attacked last year.

On April 7, 2001, an assailant attempted to cut the throat of officer Robert Simmons, according to an affidavit. The attack was stopped when the firefighters stepped in.

"He had a knife. I had an ax," said Brandon Wade, 23, one of the two who received the Austin Fire Department's Medal of Honor, its highest honor for an act of personal bravery involving extreme risk of life.

The other medal winner was Richard Platz, 32, who was with the department four years before he resigned in July to attend the University of Michigan. He will graduate in December and enter medical school.

The pair was escorted by an honor guard, with bagpipes playing, during the department's annual awards ceremony.

Simmons, 47, said he can recall little about that afternoon, except that he was on the ground, wrestling a man with a knife.

"I was glad that they were there. They saved my life," he said. "Thank God, they were there."

The incident began when firefighters saw one man stabbing another in the middle of the street. The assailant went into the house, and the officer followed him.

"Next thing we know, we hear the officer telling the guy to drop the knife and backing out of the house and the guy is coming at him with the knife," Wade said. "He just kept coming at him and the officer was telling him to stop. He finally started to shoot at him and the officer tripped and fell on his back. The guy got right on top of him and started stabbing at him, and Rick Platz and I decided we'll help him."

Platz wrestled the man down, but he still had a knife and was trying to fight.

"I just kept hitting him with the ax until he dropped the knife," Wade said.

According to police, Dorian Eli Bass fled and barricaded himself in the home, leading to a two-hour standoff with police. Bass surrendered and was transported to the hospital with multiple, nonlife-threatening gunshot wounds.

Bass, 20, remains in the Travis County Correctional Complex in Del Valle awaiting trial in lieu of $400,000 bail. He was charged with attempted capital murder of a public servant, attempted murder and injury to a child.

In the past 14 years, only four others have received the department's Medal of Honor. Two of them were awarded posthumously to firefighters killed in the line of duty in the 1970s.



On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

Can supplements prevent blindness?

DEAR DR. BLONZ: I am interested in learning about macular degeneration. In particular, I am looking for foods that contain lutein and zeaxanthin. I've heard that these nutrients might be able to slow the progression of the disease. What is your view on supplements as a preventive measure for macular degeneration? My father and both of his siblings suffer from the condition, but they weren't afflicted until they were 75 or older. — **D.L., Charlotte, N.C.**

DEAR D.L.: The macula is the part of the eye where images are focused. At the center of the macula is the "fovea centralis," the focal point where our vision is at its best. It is in the macula where the electrical impulses that correspond to what we are looking at are initiated, and it is only after these signals make their way to the brain via the optic nerve that we are able to understand exactly what it is we have seen.

One of the unfortunate conditions associated with aging is a breakdown of these tissues, and macular degeneration is the leading cause of blindness in older Americans.

The precise cause of macular degeneration is not yet known, but it is thought that the retina (and the lens) suffers oxidative damage. Some have suggested that dietary antioxidants, including zinc, vitamin C, vitamin E, vitamin A and selenium might be protective. The carotenoids, particularly the antioxidant compounds lutein (LOO-teen) and zeaxanthin (zee-uh-ZAN-thin), are known to be concentrated in the macula. In fact, they are the only carotenoids known to exist in the macular region of the retina, and they are referred to as macular pigments.

Spinach and corn are good sources of lutein and zeaxanthin. A study in the journal Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science (August 1997) reported how increased intakes of these foods elevated blood levels of the key macular pigment compounds. A study in the same journal in October 2000 reported increased levels of macular pigment after 12 weeks of supplemental lutein (10 milligrams of lutein per day). In the June 2000 issue of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, a study reported how servings of corn and spinach raised blood levels.

Given the evidence, it makes sense to pay special attention to lutein- and zeaxanthin-rich foods, and to antioxidant nutrients in general. Ingesting these nutrients is a win-win situation, because they can help reduce the risk of other chronic diseases.

Vegetables are the richest sources of lutein and zeaxanthin. The vegetables that contain the highest concentrations are kale, collard greens, spinach, cress leaf, Swiss chard, chicory leaf, mustard greens, beets greens, red peppers, okra, endive, celery, romaine lettuce, leeks, broccoli, leaf lettuce, green peas, pumpkin, iceberg lettuce, Brussels sprouts, yellow corn, yellow pepper and green beans. Fruits contain lesser amounts, but the best of the lot include avocados, plums, kiwis, pears and grapes.

As for the supplement question, it is a reasonable option, but it does not eliminate the need for healthful foods. If you use supplements, lutein is better absorbed when taken with meals that contain fat.

Be aware that there are many multipurpose supplements claiming that they contain lutein (or zeaxanthin), but there may be little present. Check the label, and compare with the 10 milligrams per day used in the study cited above.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: Periodically, I read articles stating that combining calcium and vitamin C at a meal is not advantageous, as one counteracts the other. This notion creates a problem for me at breakfast. I like to drink orange juice with a serving of yogurt or cottage cheese. If these nutrients are incompatible, why do some orange juices contain added calcium? — **D.W., San Diego, Calif.**

Dear D.W.: There are no incompatibility problems between calcium and vitamin C. If anything, the vitamin C can help keep calcium in solution and facilitate absorption.

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

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

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 02-18-02
♠ K 7 4 3
♥ K J
♦ A Q 5 4
♣ J 10 6

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

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

South
♠ Q
♥ A Q 10 7 6 3 2
♦ 6 3
♣ 7 5 4

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
3 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ A

Monday, Feb. 18, 2002

Discarding on partner's winner

By Phillip Alder

It is a trump contract. Your partner is cashing a side-suit winner, and you are void of that suit. What should you discard?

The stupid and sensible answer is: Keep winners; throw a loser. However, this week let's try to be more specific.

First, if you discard from a suit yet to be played, you are making an attitude signal. If you discard your lowest card in the suit, you are saying to partner that, based on the information available to you at that point, it is your opinion that it would not be ideal for partner to shift to this suit. But, if you discard an unnecessarily high card, you are requesting — not demanding — a switch to that suit.

In this deal, what would you discard on the third round of clubs?

South's three-heart opening shows some 5-9 high-card points with a decent seven-card suit. North is right to pass. He has no great fit for hearts and knows the values for game are not present. He should hope the opponents make the mistake of entering the auction.

Five tricks are needed to defeat the contract. There is a temptation for East to assume his partner has the spade queen, and to ask for a shift to that suit by discarding the spade nine. However, here that is a disaster. If East wins trick four with the spade ace, declarer will discard his diamond loser on the established spade king.

Better is to discard the diamond nine, asking for a switch to that suit and aiming for these five defensive tricks: one spade, one diamond and three clubs. As you can see, this works like a charm.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



A serious consequence of smoking

DEAR DR. GOTT: Please educate me about Buerger's disease, its cause, symptoms, treatment and prognosis.

DEAR READER: Buerger's disease (thromboangiitis obliterans) is an arterial disorder, primarily affecting men, marked by progressive circulatory deficiency. The cause is unknown, but the disorder is seen almost exclusively in cigarette smokers.

The affliction begins gradually as an inflammation of the linings of both arteries and veins, which causes blood clots (thrombi) to form, thus progressively blocking the blood vessels. Patients usually experience coldness, numbness and pain in the fingers and toes, which may tingle and turn blue. Arterial pulsations are diminished or absent. Some tissue may die (gangrene) from lack of nutrients and oxygen. The skin may ulcerate. The disease progresses proximally, meaning that arms and legs are eventually affected.

The diagnosis is confirmed by special arterial studies, such as arteriography, that demonstrate multiple blockages of small and medium-sized arteries.

In the treatment of Buerger's disease, factors that compromise blood supply to the extremities must be identified and treated.

Therefore, patients must stop smoking, pay special attention to regulating blood sugar levels (if diabetic), stay warm and avoid tissue injury (from infection, tight footwear, minor trauma and chemicals such as iodine). In the early stages, patients are urged to exercise (in order to stimulate circulation); however, in advanced cases, bed rest may be necessary. Hands and feet need protection with bandages and foam rubber booties.

Drugs, such as calcium-channel blockers, may improve circulation, but most medications, including cortisone and anticoagulants, are not effective. In addition, surgery, such as by-pass grafting, is rarely helpful.

In short, Buerger's disease is a serious and progressive circulatory disorder, related to cigarette smoking. It is challenging to treat, because the precise cause has yet to be identified. The prognosis varies. You should question your own physician about therapy and other techniques to manage this affliction.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What is trigeminal neuralgia? Every article I read points to an external stimulus, such as touching my face, as an instigator of pain, yet my own pain worsens when I chew, drink, touch my tongue to a tooth, swallow, cough, sneeze, brush my teeth or shave. I'm now taking Tegretol and wonder if the pain will return once the medication is stopped.

DEAR READER: Trigeminal neuralgia, called tic douloureux, is a disorder of a nerve on the side of the face, producing sharp shocks of pain that are ordinarily triggered by activity, such as chewing, that may stimulate the nerve. The cause is unknown. Unlike nerve damage from other causes, such as infections and tumors, tic douloureux is not associated with numbness, tingling or loss of sensation.

Some patients appear to be excessively sensitive to any stimulation of the nerve. Thus, your discomfort on sneezing, drinking and coughing is unusual, but consistent with the diagnosis.

Treatment is ordinarily a prescription drug called Tegretol. It usually relieves pain, but must be taken for several months. Customarily, the medication is taken until the patient is free of symptoms. Then it is tapered or stopped. If the neuralgia recurs, further courses of medicine can be prescribed. You need to know that Tegretol can, in rare instances, lead to liver damage and bone marrow depression, so periodic blood tests are advisable. If Tegretol is ineffective, other drugs (such as Dilantin) may be tried. Surgery to cut the nerve is a last resort. I cannot predict whether your pain will re-appear after Tegretol therapy. Often it does not.

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Laundering drugs

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — When "laundering" comes up in narcotics cases, it usually has to do with concealing drug money. Not so in the latest case at Orlando International Airport, according to federal court documents.

A Colombian laundry used heroin as starch for shirts and blue jeans and hired a smuggler to take the drug-soaked clothes into Florida, the documents said.

Customs Service inspectors stopped Alejandro Mejia Garcia at the airport on Feb. 5 and noticed the unusually stiff clothes that smelled of vinegar and left a trail of white powder, according to the documents.

Mejia was charged with smuggling heroin.

FEB 18 2002

ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



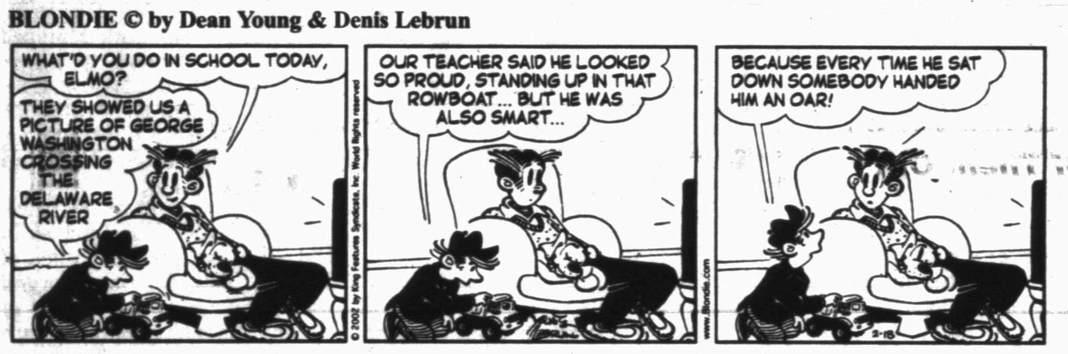
SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



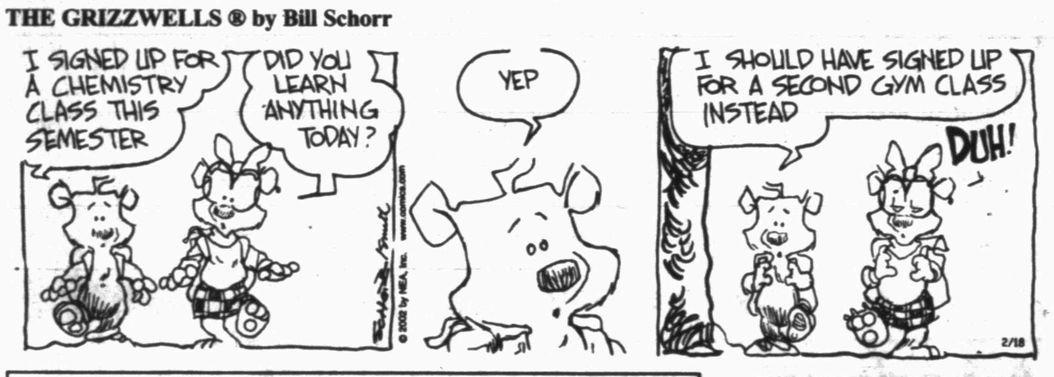
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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Rough it
5 Dry, as champagne
8 Honorable
12 Comply
13 Surpass
14 Do a fall chore
15 Greed
16 Film speed ind.
17 Makes a faux pas
18 Leisure garment
20 Senor's house
21 Lummox
22 Toady's answer
23 Ms. Close, of films
26 Current
29 Kooks
30 Valuable figurine
31 Witness
33 Old hand
34 Paretsky or Teasdale
35 Elongated circle
36 Special aptitudes
38 Reindeer herders
39 Sturgeon delicacy
40 Fleck
41 Entertainer Eartha
43 Barn loft
46 Pasta variety
47 Sawbuck
48 Fencer's blade
50 French islands
51 Prince Valiant's son
52 Opera set in Egypt
53 Harbor
54 Noisy bird
55 In case

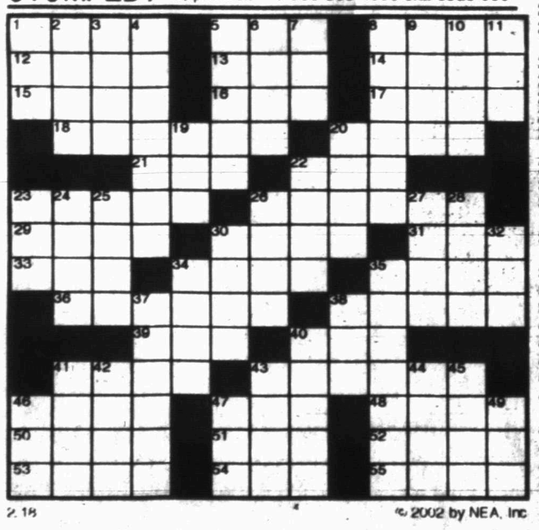
DOWN

1 Mountain pass
2 Border on
3 Recruit's dinner
4 Boas
5 Neck wrap
6 Compass heading
7 Licensed accountant
8 Lubricate
9 Skiff movers
10 Pods for stews
11 Some, to Yvette
19 Actor Carmichael
20 Grant
22 "Star Wars" mentor
23 Economic ind.
24 Prowl
25 British school
26 Red planet
27 Invitation letters
28 Kind of tide
30 Copacetic
32 Windy City trains
34 Man from Dundee
35 Hot cereal
37 Canvas user
38 Actress Myrna
40 DeVito of films
41 Metric pound
42 Livy's road
43 Zeus' wife
44 Sheriff Andy's son
45 Ties the knot
46 Fasten a coat
47 — Mahal
49 Snack

Answer to Previous Puzzle

W	E	D		P	I	C	A		P	O	K	E
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A	S	K		U	N	T	O		A	L	I	T
K	E	E	L	S			M	A	R	I	N	A
		O	H	O			F	L	E	E		
Q	U	I	P		L	E	E	R	S			
U	R	N	S		S	I	L	O		L	P	N
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G	A	L	E		Y	A	R	D		D	I	N
S	L	E	D		S	O	N	S		E	D	S

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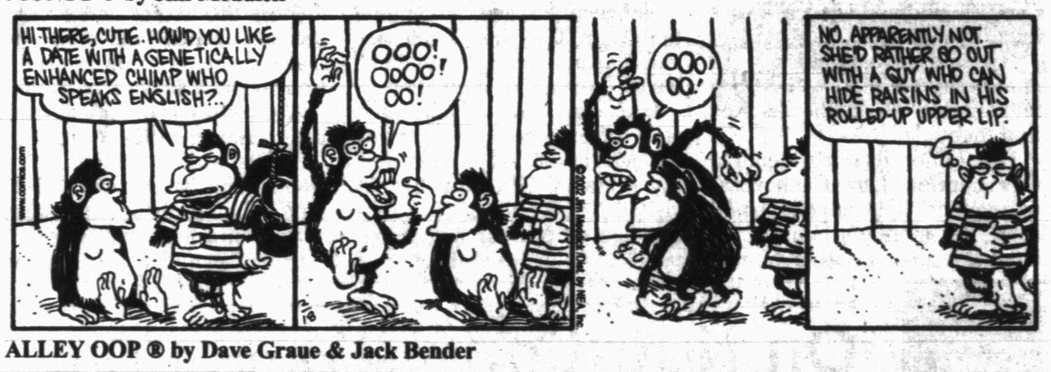
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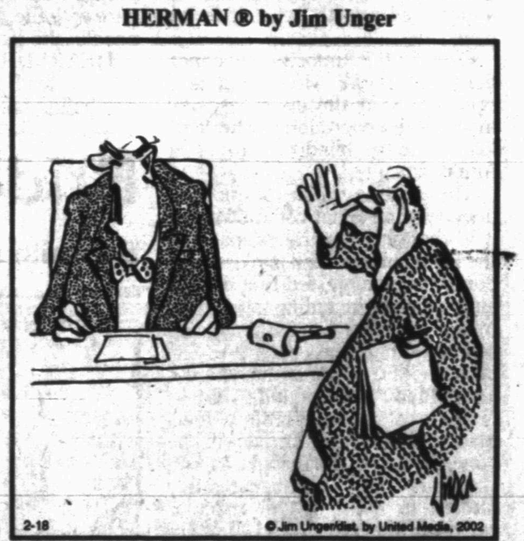
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HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"See what happens when you find them not guilty?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



Snyder Daily News

Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



National

Ped

WASHINGTON
Offered for just
power adjusters fo
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bag, which can infl
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Pedal adjusters could create legal troubles

WASHINGTON (AP) — Offered for just three years, power adjusters for the gas and brake pedals have become Ford Motor Co.'s best-selling optional feature.

Ford markets the adjusters as a convenience that allows drivers to sit farther from the steering wheel while still reaching the pedals. The feature has been popular with consumers of all sizes, and other automakers are beginning to offer adjusters.

But a lawsuit against Ford contends the adjusters are not just for comfort — they can save shorter drivers from injuries in a crash by keeping them farther back from the steering wheel air bag, which can inflate at speeds of up to 200 mph.

The suit, which goes to trial Tuesday in Louisville, Ky., claims Ford was negligent because it knew about adjusters' safety potential long before it started offering the option.

"There was a major risk that was known in the automobile industry to short-statured female drivers from the deployment of air bags, and this particular invention eased that risk," said attorney Ron Hillerich, representing the family of a woman who died when an air bag deployed.

Ford rejects the claim. It acknowledges the safety benefit but said it has not tried to market the adjusters that way.

"Even before you had these adjustable pedals, you could purchase pedal extenders," Ford spokeswoman Sara Tatchio said. "This isn't a new concept, but a more convenient way of delivering it."

If the company were to promote the adjusters as helping prevent air bag injuries, Ford officials fear it could be open the automaker to more lawsuits if a driver is hurt or killed by an air bag while using the adjustable pedals.

"I think we are a little reluctant to call it a safety feature because there's some baggage associated with that," said Susan Cischke, Ford's vice president of environmental and safety engineering.

Adjusters can move the pedals up to 3 inches closer to a driver. They are deployed by pressing buttons next to the steering wheel.

"Three inches can clearly mean the difference between life and death," said Sean Kane of Strategic Safety, a research company that is helping Hillerich and other attorneys planning lawsuits over the adjusters.

Pedal adjusters were first patented in the 1950s. General Motors Corp. introduced them in its larger vehicles in the 1970s, but phased them out a few years later because of slow sales.

Modern electric versions were introduced in the 1990s, after reports surfaced of people dying from injuries when air bags deployed in low and moderate speed crashes. Many of the victims were shorter women who tend to sit closer to the steering wheel.

Since 1990, at least 68 drivers have been killed by air bags, including 21 who were wearing their seat belt, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Ford introduced the adjusters in the 1999 models of its Explorer and Lincoln Navigator sport utility vehicles and has expanded the option to other models. Sales range from 43 percent of buyers on F-series trucks and Taurus cars to 25 percent on the Explorer.

"It's a great feature to sell," said Eric Hoffman, an owner of Ken Stillwell Ford/Mercury in Hillsdale, Mich. "The shorter people are definitely enjoying them, but some taller people like the pedals closer because it gives you the ability to sit up straighter."

Other manufacturers are getting in on the market. DaimlerChrysler AG offers the adjusters on its newest minivans and the 2002 Dodge Ram and Jeep Grand Cherokee. Toyota hopes to introduce the adjusters on the 2003 Camry.

DaimlerChrysler spokeswoman Angela Ford said her company sells the pedal adjusters as a benefit for safety and comfort. But, she added, "I don't think that in any way we are saying it would save someone's life."

The government recommends drivers maintain at least 10 inches between their chest and the air bag. But a study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety showed that as many as 5 percent of female drivers sit closer.

"I used to sit right on top of the steering wheel and I couldn't stretch out my arms," said Margaret Braman of Coldwater, Mich., who bought the adjuster for her 2002 Mercury Sable. "I would have a hard time going back to a normal car because I'm so used to them now."

In the Kentucky suit, Lynn Struttman of Lexington, Ky., who was 4-foot-9, died after being struck by the air bag in her 1997 Sable when it deployed in a low-speed crash.

Hillerich said the adjuster would have saved Struttman's life, "without question."

Tatchio cited a study by Canadian safety officials that shows that even in vehicles with pedal adjusters, short women tend to sit too close to the air bag.

"That's why we stress that these are not a safety feature but a comfort and convenience feature," she said. "We pay an enormous amount of attention to developing technology to protect people of different sizes.

Fighter jet crashes during training mission

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. (AP) — A two-seat fighter jet crashed as it tried to land during a training exercise, killing one Marine and injuring another, a spokeswoman said.

The crash took place shortly after 2 p.m. on Sunday at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, said Capt. Teresa Ovalle. The pilot and weapons system officer both ejected from the F/A-18 Hornet, she said. The pilot was treated at Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital and released.

The weapons system officer died of a heart attack about four hours later at Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs after suffering injuries to his head and internal organs, said Stephanie D. Stratton, an administrative nursing supervisor. The names of the officer and the injured pilot are being withheld pending notification of their families.

The crash happened about 135 miles east of Los Angeles.

Both Marines belonged to the Second Marine Aircraft Wing in Beaufort, S.C., where seven F/A-18 squadrons are stationed.

The men were part of a three-week exercise that included nearly 3,400 Marines from North Carolina and South Carolina. The mission involved air and ground live-fire combat.

It was the third deadly training accident in California in 12 days.

Two Camp Pendleton Marines were killed in a military helicopter crash near the California-Arizona border on Thursday. Three Marines died Feb. 6 when a 5-ton truck rolled over during a night artillery exercise at Camp Pendleton, about 45 miles north of San Diego.

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FEB 18 2002 2

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Islamic pilgrims are headed to Mecca

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghan officials, aided by planes sent from Britain, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, scrambled today to take would-be pilgrims to the annual pilgrimage in Mecca. A lack of flights has blocked thousands from making the journey, stirring anxiety in a nation struggling to consolidate a shaky peace.

In Pakistan, police found four rockets aimed at Karachi International Airport a half mile from Terminal One, which is used by the U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan, according to Waqar Mulan, an airport security official. Police suspected Islamic extremists were responsible.

Waqar Mulan, an airport security official, said the Chinese-made rockets were equipped with homemade launchers and a timing device for automatic firing.

Two of the rockets were aimed at the airport terminal used as a transport and supply hub for the coalition and two at an airport hotel used as a barracks by coalition forces, police said. The city's bomb squad defused the rockets, Mulan added.

Karachi's police chief, Kamal Shah, said he doubted the rockets would have done much damage, but said they probably were intended as a statement of defiance by religious extremists opposed to President Pervez Musharraf.

Land- and sea-based planes launched airstrikes against enemy forces in eastern Afghanistan over the weekend after coalition forces were attacked while trying to pass a roadblock, U.S. officials confirmed.

The urgency in moving pilgrims out of the airport developed after Afghanistan's aviation minister was killed at the Kabul airport last week during a riot among would-be pilgrims furious over flight delays to Saudi Arabia. Afghan interim leader Hamid Karzai blamed the killing on high ranking conspirators within his own government — and it's not clear if he was implying that the conspirators used the mob as cover or if he thinks they incited the riot.

Speaking to reporters at the presidential palace in Kabul Sunday, Karzai said that more suspects had been arrested in the killing of Abdul Rahman, the aviation and tourism minister, and vowed that the perpetrators would be dealt with "very, very sternly."

Karzai said he expected that three senior government officials wanted in connection with the minister's death on Thursday would be returned to Afghanistan from Saudi Arabia. Karzai met Sunday with the Saudi ambassador.

Arrests pick up over weekend

•Arrest

DPS troopers arrested a 23-year-old woman Saturday on outstanding warrants from Amarillo and Abilene.

An 18-year-old man was taken into custody on U.S. 84 Saturday night on misdemeanor charges of driving while intoxicated.

Snyder officers arrested two men in the 1800 block of 17th Street just before 1 a.m. Sunday. Arrested were a 24-year-old man for driving while intoxicated and possession of marijuana and an 18-year-old man for public intoxication and a warrant for failure to attend school.

A 26-year-old man was arrested at 2:30 a.m. Sunday for two counts of Class A assault and family violence and for public intoxication. Officers were called to the 4400 block of Ave. U concerning the man creating a disturbance at an apartment.

At 5:10 a.m. Sunday, officers arrested a 42-year-old man in the 1700 block of 28th Street for driving while intoxicated.

A 20-year-old man was taken into custody in the 100 block of College Ave. at 8 p.m. Sunday on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Troopers arrested Robert Mark Hamilton, 42, of Dublin on U.S. 84 Sunday night for possession of a controlled substance.

•Close patrol

A woman requested a close patrol in the 3000 block of Ave. V Saturday night after seeing several juveniles walking with flashlights.

A man in the 1600 block of 8th Street reported problems with prowlers just after midnight Sunday and requested a close patrol of his neighborhood.

•Gas drive off

A clerk at Rip Griffin's Truck Stop reported a drive off worth $12.26 at 8 a.m. Saturday. Another drive off of $16.75 was reported from the station Saturday afternoon.

At 7:15 p.m. Saturday the clerk at Town and Country North advised officers of a drive off.

A drive off was reported at 1:15 a.m. Sunday at Allsup's.

The clerk at McD's reported a $16 drive off at 1:15 p.m. Sunday.

Another drive off was reported from Town and Country East Sunday evening in the amount of $31.50.

Births

Jesse Beltran and Crystal Gutierrez announce the birth of their daughter, Audrey Michelle Beltran, at 9:10 p.m. on Feb. 16 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Audrey Michelle weighed seven pounds, 7½ ounces.

Paternal grandparents are Marvel and Maria Beltran of Colorado City, and maternal grandparents are Mary Lou and Felipe Gutierrez of Snyder.

Obituaries

Ray Heath

1930-2002

Alford Ray Heath, 71, died Sunday, Feb. 17, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital after a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mr. Heath is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Charles Day, pastor of the Ave. D Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Born Dec. 7, 1930 in Snyder, Mr. Heath was a veteran of the Korean Conflict and served two tours in Vietnam working as a helicopter mechanic for the department of defense.

He worked for Bell Helicopter and spent 3½ years in Iran. He later was employed by Owens-Corning Fiberglass in Amarillo, retiring in 1993 after 15½ years.

Mr. Heath returned to Snyder in 1994.

Survivors include a daughter, Jerrilynn Flores of Las Vegas, Nev.; two sons, Gerald Heath and Marvin Heath, both of Las Vegas; two sisters, Margie Sumruld Cole of Snyder and Betty Sue Dye of Roscoe; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Inez Dunn

1938-2002

BROWNFIELD — Inez Dunn, the sister of two Snyder residents, died Thursday, Feb. 14.

Funeral service for Mrs. Dunn, 63, was set for 2 p.m. today in the Greater New Hope Baptist Church with Archie Ross and the Rev. Eugene Reed officiating. Burial was to follow in the Mount Zion Cemetery under the direction of Mark Jones Funeral Directors.

Born Nov. 24, 1938 in Eldorado, she moved to Brownfield in 1955 and later to Lubbock. She was a member of the Faith Temple Church of God in Christ in Brownfield.

Her husband, Johnnie Dunn, preceded her in death.

Survivors include three daughters, Barbara Dunn of Amarillo, and Eegee Dowdy and Evette Dunn, both of Lubbock; a son, Tony Dunn of Lubbock; her stepmother, Erma Harrell of Brownfield; 11 sisters, Francis Williams and Joyce Harrell, both of Snyder, Erlene McMinn and Ella Harrell, both of Abilene, Merlene Robison of Dallas, Bobby Wilburn, Annie Harrell, Bessie Coe and Leatrice Hines, all of Brownfield, Vera Gipson of Denver City, and Dorothy Lawrence of Andrews; nine brothers, Robert McDaniel of Phoenix, Stance and Maurice Harrell, both of Abilene, Lesley Harrell of St. Louis, David Harrell of Dallas, and J.W., Douglas, Claude and Johnny Harrell, all of Brownfield; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

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Ted Sorrells

1908-2002

COLORADO CITY — Oscar W. "Ted" Sorrells, a native of Scurry County, died Sunday, Feb. 17, in Mitchell County Hospital.

Funeral service for Mr. Sorrells, 93, is set for 11 a.m. Tuesday in the Kiker-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. Kerry Cain, Church of Christ minister, will officiate. Burial will follow in the Maryneal Cemetery.

Born Aug. 2, 1908 in Ira, he got his first paying job as a cowboy at age 11. He married Marsha Holcomb on March 28, 1942 in Snyder. She died on Dec. 9, 1993.

A resident of Maryneal, Mr. Sorrells worked on the Spade Ranch for more than 50 years, retiring in 1990.

He also was preceded in death by his parents, F.O. and Lydia Sorrells; a sister, Nina Engle; and a granddaughter, Cynthia Kay Sorrells.

Survivors include two sons, Gene Sorrells of Maryneal and Geral Sorrells of San Angelo; three brothers, Vollie Sorrells of Snyder, Claude Sorrells of Sweetwater and Jessie Sorrells of Abilene; five grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jack Hale

1933-2002

ABILENE — Jack G. Hale, a native of Scurry County, died Saturday, Feb. 16.

Funeral service for Mr. Hale, 68, is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Caps Baptist Church with the Rev. Andy Anderson officiating. Entombment will follow in Elmwood Memorial Park under the direction of Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home.

Born May 3, 1933 in Snyder, he earned a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War.

He married Sherry Callaway on Dec. 1, 1978 and retired from West Texas Utilities in 1994 after 25 years as a substation and transmission engineer.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph G. and Bulah L. Hale; and a sister.

Survivors include his wife, Sherry of Abilene; a son, Mike Hale of Bryant, Ark.; a daughter, Misty Hale of Abilene; five sisters, Vi Jones, Neta McMillan and Lovena Gryder, all of Lubbock, Veda Adams and Reba Adams, both of Odessa; and one grandchild, Cassie Hale of Bryant, Ark.

Preston Patton

1914-2002

BRADY — Preston Howard Patton, the father of Tina Roland of Snyder, died Sunday, Feb. 17, in Brady.

Funeral service for Mr. Patton, 88, is set for 3 p.m. Tuesday in the Heritage Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Ray Ash officiating. Burial will follow in Rest Haven Cemetery.

Born Jan. 23, 1914 in San Saba County, he married Mildred Higginbotham on Feb. 18, 1971 in McCamey.

Mr. Patton was a rancher and a member of the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Mildred Patton of Brady; another daughter, Sybil Gryder of Comanche; two stepdaughters, Carla Bratton of Brady and Linda Hester of Florida; two stepsons, Bill Schooling of Dallas and Joe Kilkrist of Houston; two brothers, Bryant Patton and Raymond Patton, both of San Saba; and nine grandchildren.

Mildred Stark

1908-2002

NORMAN, Okla. — Mildred Stark, sister of John Roddy of Snyder, died Tuesday, Feb. 12, in Norman.

Graveside service for Mrs. Stark, 93, was held Friday in Restland Cemetery in Dallas with the Rev. Thomas Maynard officiating.



Mildred Stark

Born Sept. 16, 1908 near Honey Grove, she and her family later moved to Fluvanna. After completing high school, she attended Draughon's Business College in Abilene. She worked many years as a secretary in San Antonio, moving to the Wylie area after her retirement to be near her brother, Robert Roddy.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Fisher O. Stark; three brothers, Jack Roddy, Robert Roddy and Layne Roddy; a nephew, Gary Roddy; and a longtime friend, Loxley Winder.

Survivors also include one sister, Maurine Fulford; a sister-in-law, Juanita Roddy of Snyder; and many other relatives.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Missionaries return for visit

Pat and Charlie Reynolds, missionaries to Guatemala, will be at the Word is Life Deliverance Church at 6:30 p.m. today. The public is invited. Reynolds is a former deputy sheriff and peace justice in Snyder.

Technology students booster meeting

The Technology Student Association booster meeting will be at 6 tonight in the SHS shop building. Parents and business representatives are invited. A fundraiser and the banquet will be discussed.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "The Kingdom of the Last Days" followed by "Music in the Christian Worship.".

Tiger baseball booster club

The Snyder Tiger baseball booster club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the athletic film room. Parents of all high school players need to attend to discuss the Snyder tournament.

Jury call cancelled

A jury panel summoned for Tuesday in 132nd District Court has been cancelled, according to District Clerk Trina Rodgers.

Ira TAAS testing

Ira schools will administer TAAS tests starting Tuesday with the writing test for 4th and 8th grades and exit level for grade 10. Wednesday is the exit level math and Thursday is the exit level reading.

Team captain meeting

There will be a meeting for Relay for Life team captains at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at city hall.

Emmaus meeting

Mesquite Country Emmaus community meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Calvary Baptist Church in Colorado City, 1025 E. 15th.

Free income tax help

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

First Church of Nazarene series

Snyder First Church of Nazarene will be discussing "The Doctrine of Holiness" during a five-week series beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

State board candidate here

The public is invited to a reception for Lubbock resident Bob Craig at 1:30 p.m. Thursday at Martha Ann Womans Club. Craig is a candidate for the state board of education.

Vocational nurses graduation

The vocational nursing program at Western Texas College will hold a graduation and pinning ceremony at 7 p.m. Thursday at First United Methodist Church. The public is invited.

WTC production

Lost in Yonkers opens Thursday at Western Texas College's Fine Arts Theatre. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are $5 for adults and $3 for WTC students and senior citizens. Call 573-8511, ext. 234 to make reservations.

Adult basic education classes

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

WTC pool hours:

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

Seniors swimnastics

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

ESL, GED classes

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

Ira class of 1944 sets 58th reunion

The class of 1944 of Ira High School will have its 58th reunion Saturday in the Ira Baptist Church fellowship hall. Visitors are welcome. Call 573-6655 or 573-0604 for more information.

Kiwanis pancake day

Kiwanis pancake day will be from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, March 2, at West Elementary cafeteria. A color TV will be given as a door prize.

Community choir class

A community choir class will begin Monday, March 4, in Western Texas College's Fine Arts Theatre. The class will meet Mondays from 7-9 p.m. for seven weeks, followed by a performance on April 26. The class is free and registration will be on the first day of class. Call 573-8511 for more information.

FBC support groups

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

American Legion spring convention

The American Legion's spring convention will be March 16-17. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. on March 16. For more information call 574-6805.