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INSIDE
What's Up 2
Lifestyles 3
Sports 5
Midday stocks 7
Weather 9

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WTIC Posted - $29.50
Natural Gas - $5.610

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY
Jan. 23, 2002
Vol. 54 No. 229
10 Pages 50¢

Home of W. C. McFatridge

Hermleigh fire kills four

By Brian Brisendine
SDN Staff Writer

Snyder firefighters battled flames and freezing temperatures this morning at a house fire in Hermleigh that claimed four lives and sent a 41-year-old man to Cogdell Hospital suffering from burns and smoke inhalation.

Desiree Flores, 18, perished in the blaze that consumed the mobile home at 811 Reed Street, just a block from U.S. 84.



Flores

She is the daughter of Snyder residents Ernest and Connie Flores and had attended Snyder High School.

Also killed in the fire were the woman's three small children, ages 2, 1 and one month.

Salvador Luna, owner of the home and grandfather of the three children, was admitted to Cogdell and remains in stable condition with burns to his face and for smoke inhalation, according to Sheriff Darren Jackson.

"Mr. Luna entered the home to try to save the others, but he wasn't able to reach them," Jackson said.

Luna and three others escaped from the home. Jimmy Lee Luna, 18, the father of the children who died, was unharmed.

Also surviving without injury were Salvador Luna's wife and their 12-year-old daughter.

Cause of the blaze is unknown, but the case remains under investigation. An electric heater was believed to have been in the home, but wasn't yet blamed for the fire.

Deputy State Fire Marshal Kelly Vandygriff is leading the investigation and said the fire appears to be accidental.

The point of origin was determined to be in the living room near a couch.

Jackson said no accelerants were located.

The four victims were removed from the charred remains of the home at 9 this morning and were to be transported to University Medical Center in Lubbock for autopsy.

Justice of the Peace Deborah Boyd pronounced the victims dead at 2:45 a.m.

The windchill factor dropped into the teens during the night and high winds also made the fire hard to fight, Jackson said.

"Our firefighters did everything they could and they had the situation under control quickly," he said.

The firemen had to open the nozzles on the hoses in order to keep the water from freezing at the tips. The ground around the scene was spotted this morning with patches of ice from the water used to extinguish the blaze.

Also engulfed in flame was a car parked next to the home. Adding to the danger of the fire was a large propane tank just a few feet away from the burning structure.

"That was a real concern for the firefighters," Jackson said. "They had two trucks working on the house and another concentrated just on that tank."

A camper trailer was parked near the scene this morning to allow the firefighters a place to escape the frigid weather during breaks.

"The wind has been pretty relentless all night long," Jackson said. "We've had to work a while and then get out of it and then go back to work. You just can't stay out in it."

The American Red Cross of Southwest Texas is responding to the crisis.

Disaster action teams and Red Cross counselors were dispatched and will be assisting the family with all emergency needs including funeral expenses, food, clothing, shelter and counseling.

Donations may be taken to the Snyder Chamber of Commerce or to the Hermleigh community center.



FATAL FIRE — Snyder firemen view the remains of a mobile home destroyed in an early morning fire today in Hermleigh. Desiree Flores, 18, and her three small children died in the blaze, while four others escaped with their lives. The fire started in the living room of the residence, but cause is undetermined. A deputy state fire marshal is leading the investigation. (SDN Staff Photo)

Cogdell board tables action on new Covenant agreement

By Wade Warren
SDN Managing Editor

The management agreement between Cogdell Memorial Hospital and Covenant Healthcare Systems was tabled during this morning's hospital board meeting.

The pact renewal is expected to be on next month's agenda.

Board members today were provided a draft of the proposed agreement as presented by Jim Bullard of Covenant.

"We're just giving you something to look at," Bullard told the board. "We can review the basic principles, or perhaps your finance committee could look at it and then bring it back to the entire board."

Board president Carl Williams agreed with Bullard on having the finance committee review the document. "We're operating on the old agreement on a month-to-month basis now. We're not ready to make a final decision this morning," said Williams.

Hospital Chief of Staff Dr. Bid Cooper spoke favorably on continuing an agreement with Covenant.

"I don't think the hospital would be here today if we hadn't had that agreement," Dr. Cooper said.

Williams added that he had spoken with a board member of the Crosbyton hospital that also has an agreement with Covenant. "He said the same thing about their hospital as Dr. Cooper did about ours."

Cogdell Hospital and the former St. Mary Hospital of Lubbock first entered into a management agreement in 1987, and it has continued in various forms since that time.

At one time, the agreement called for Covenant to share in the profits and losses of Cogdell, but the present agreement does not.

It does require the hospital to reimburse Covenant for the salary and most benefits of the chief executive officer.

"I think the agreement gives the folks here a network of resources that can be called upon at any time," said Bullard.

"We (Covenant) insist that the relationship be a win-win situation for both of us. It is not one-sided."

In a medical report by Dr. Cooper, he said Dr. Gary Nussey, former Snyder physician, had applied for credentials to work in the hospital emergency room. The board unanimously approved this request.

Dr. Nussey was a employee of Covenant Healthcare Systems before moving his practice to San Angelo.

In other action items, Bo Robinson took the oath of office as a new board member and E. D. Walton was recognized for his six years on the board.

Williams was re-elected board chairman and Dink Foree was re-elected vice president. Dr. Charles Church will serve as secretary.

The board approved the monthly financial statements and certified the accounts payable, and heard an in-service report from Jo Beth Hardegree.

Also approved were the rural health clinic policies and procedures.

Tabled was the approval for the request for proposal for the renovation of the dietary department.

"We'll consider this in February when we have more facts and figures," said George Parsley, hospital CEO.

Williams presided and board members in attendance were Robinson, Foree, Church, Bill Voss and Terry Williams.

SHS to host speech meet

Snyder High School speech department will host a two-day TFA state-qualifying tournament Friday and Saturday.

Dubbed "winter classic," the tournament kicks off at 4 p.m. Friday and will run until 11:30 p.m. Saturday's sessions will be from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Twenty schools are entered including Dallas, Monahans, Granbury, Abilene and Kermit.

Judges will include faculty members, people from the community and former speech students from SHS and Brownfield High School.

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN

by Brian Brisendine



Sometimes actual news stories are kookier than those headlines on the supermarket tabloids. Two such stories caught our eye this week.

Both stories deal with evolution, but on opposite ends of our planet's timeline.

The first reported the discovery of a 200-million-year-old fossil in China.

The new dinosaur is being called "the weirdest animal" ever to walk the earth — or in this case, fly the skies.

The odd-looking creature had four wings and feathers on its tail. It's got scientists in a tizzy, arguing over its relationship to modern birds.

The strange critter, they say, most likely glided from tree to tree instead of actually flying around, but it wasn't far from doing so.

One scientist pointed out that very little is actually known about the planet's history, because the discovery of just one fossil will re-write textbooks and form new ideas of how earth's inhabitants got from point A to point B on the evolutionary chart.

We don't have any theories on evolution's quirky habits, but we always find these things interesting.

Something to think about.

The second article that got us daydreaming also involved evolution. Actually the article was about a robotics company named Evolution.

The company announced this week that it has developed a new technology that will make robots operate more easily and should bring their price down considerably.

The new software allows the independent little machines to rove around on their own using an "eye" mounted on their front.

The eye is actually a web-camera that many computer gurus already have in their house.

The company says that the robots will soon be affordable for all families, but we're not sold on the idea.

We doubt their definition of affordable is the same as ours and we're also not too sure we want any self-reliable machines marching around our home.

We can see some benefits though to household robots.

The company plans to sell them to complete everyday chores like vacuuming and dusting. That might not be so bad.

But it also said the robots can be trained to play with children and read with them.

We think kids spend too much time indoors already. Having a robot to entertain them probably would only increase the problem.

And we're also skeptical of the parent who would rather sit their kid in front of a robot to read that favorite book instead of tucking them in at night and doing it themselves.

The article also said before long robots will be able to mow the lawn and take out the garbage. Our first thought was of how great that would be. We'll never have chores again.

But then we realized those are two of the reasons the missus even keeps us around.

With a few robots around the house she may not even see the need for a husband who requires food and laundry and cleaning up after.

This is starting to make us nervous. Brings to mind the words of one famous robot.

"Danger, Will Robinson!"

ASK US

Q—What is the telephone number of the Red Cross in Odessa?

A—1-800-219-2154, and 915-570-6161.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Bethany Nell Mackey...

...is two years old and enjoys spending time with her parents, Chris and Brooke. She also loves spending time with her grandparents, Linda and Stanley Cozart and Steve and Judy Mackey, and with her friends. Bethany loves playing with her many toys, running wild outside and dancing to music. She plans on attending school in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Persistence is self-discipline in action.

—Brian Tracy

JAN 23 2002
3

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Stanfield Winter Wonderland

Stanfield Elementary's Winter Wonderland will be held from 5-7 p.m. Saturday in the gym and cafeteria. Tickets are on sale Friday from 8-8:30 a.m. for five for $1 or at the door at four for $1. Winter Wonderland is for Stanfield students and families only.

Tailgate party

Residents and staff of Snyder Healthcare Center will have a Super Bowl tailgate supper from 5-5:30 p.m. Sunday.

Support groups

Adult family violence support group and children's family violence support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Monday at Gateway Family Service. For information call 573-1822.

Shattered dreams program

Parents of SHS junior and seniors who are interested in their children participating in the Shattered Dreams Program are invited to attend a committee meeting at 7 p.m. Monday in the Snyder Junior High auditorium.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday The Miracles of the Holy Spirit," followed by "Walking with Jesus."

WTC testing dates

Western Texas College's testing date for LVN ASSET COMPASS QUICKTASP will be Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact the counseling office at 573-8511 ext. 313.

Wednesday night Bible study

Beloved Disciple, a small group study by Beth Moore led by Janeen Patterson, will be starting at 6 p.m. Wednesday at First United Methodist Church. If interested, call Andra at 573-5416.

Book fair

Scurry Community Services, 2800 2nd St., will hold its annual book fair from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Jan. 27-31, and 6-8 p.m. next Thursday.

FBC services televised

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

Ira picture day

Spring portraits, class group pictures and friendship pictures for be taken at Ira next Thursday. Each student will be photographed at no charge, and then orders may be placed from proofs that will be sent within two weeks. There is a required $2 fee per person for the friendship pictures.

Senior class parents meeting

Parents of SHS seniors will meet at 7 p.m. next Thursday in the student center. Discussion will be on upcoming senior class events.

Senior water aerobics

Senior water aerobics will be held from 10-11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the WTC pool.

Relay for Life cookbooks

The cookbooks of the Cogdell Memorial Hospital Relay for Life team are now available for a $10 donation. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. Call Becky Craig at 573-2472, Jo Schooler at 573-7807 or 573-6374.

SHS booster club fundraiser

The SHS drama booster club is collecting old cell phones and used printer cartridges for recycling. Drop off at the sheriff's office. For more information, call Jan Scott at 573-8027.

Tiger's Lair Yearbook deadline

The deadline for orders for the 2003 Tiger's Lair Yearbook is Feb. 3. Balances will have to be paid in full at that time and orders are taken at Snyder High School. Cost is $50 each, with additional options available. Call 574-6138.

2003 Ira annuals available

The 2003 Ira Bulldog annuals may be purchased until Feb. 17. Cost is $26 with name on cover or $22 without. Contact the school to purchase one.

WTC adult basic education classes

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

Windbreak trees

Orders for windbreak trees and drip irrigation are being taken at the Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation office through Jan. 31. The office is located in the Scurry County USDA office complex at 5309 Big Spring Highway. Call 573-6317, ext. 2.

Choir trip planned

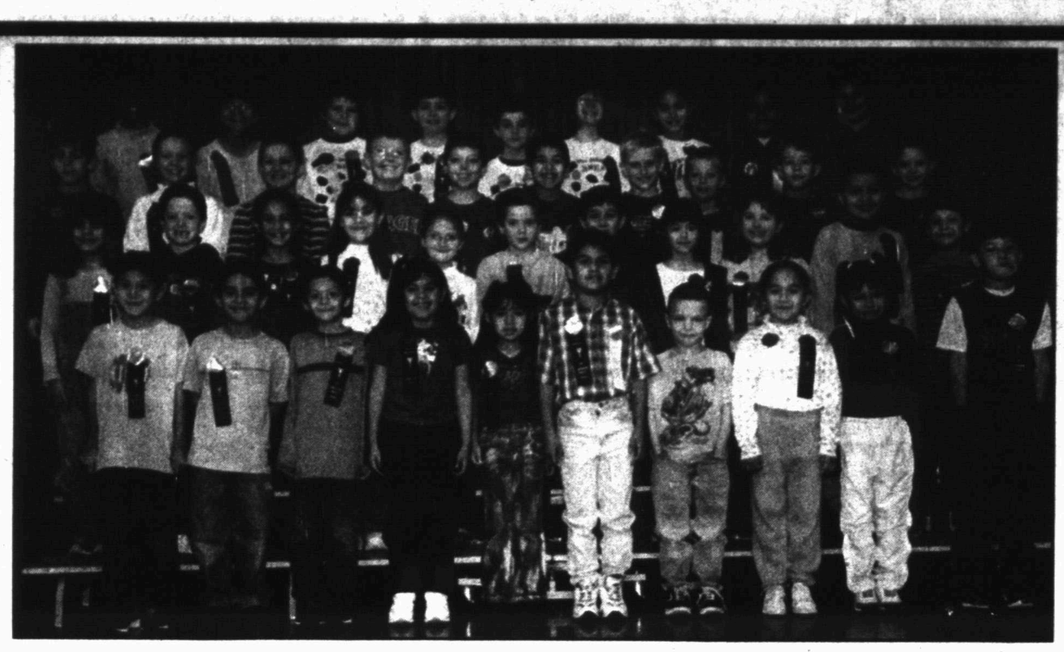
SHS choirs are also planning a trip to Boston on Easter weekend, April 17-21. There are six available positions for anyone who wants to make the trip. For more information, call Ronda Haire, choir director, at 573-6301.

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland is available free of charge. Call Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993 or Blakey Fargason at 574-8041. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

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.



CENTRAL A HONOR ROLL — Central Elementary students named to the A Honor Roll for the fall semester include from left, back row, Jordan Peoples, Alicyn Hernandez, Samuel Ashley, Damian Donaldson, Cole Etheredge, Amber Steelman, Taylor Garcia, Jessica Guardado and Miriam Itzel Arellano; third row, Chase Price, Jentri Driggers, Audrey Miller, Caleb Hester, Christian Nichols, Justin Torres, Reagan Head, Dakota Owens, Brady Williams and Tyson Sullenger; second row, Ryanna Martinez, Hunter Cox, Sadee Bernal, Andrea Miranda, Kaitlin Stewart, Nicholas Clanton, Matthew Martinez, Monica Glover, Sarah Pyburn, Armando Monroy and Adelberto Jaimes; front row, Jonathan Garcia, Andrew Chavarria, Christian Garcia, Flor Garcia, Nayely Cabrera, Damian Medina, Christian Nakamura, Michelle Martinez, Estefany Olivarez and Eddie Torres. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Fed judge dismisses class-action lawsuit against fast-food place

NEW YORK (AP) — People who wolf down supersized, high calorie foods cannot blame the fast-food industry for their weight and health problems, a federal judge has ruled.

In dismissing a class-action lawsuit that claimed that McDonald's food caused health problems in children, U.S. District Court Judge Robert Sweet said consumers "cannot blame McDonald's if they, nonetheless, choose to satiate their appetite with a surfeit of supersized McDonald's products."

"If a person knows or should know that eating copious orders of supersized McDonald's products is unhealthy and may result in weight gain ... it is not the place of the law to protect them from their own excesses," Sweet wrote in the 65-page ruling issued Wednesday. "Nobody is forced to eat at McDonald's."

The lawsuit, filed last summer, became a flashpoint for pundits and editorial writers who jeered that it was the latest example of a litigious society in which people abdicate personal responsibility.

"Common sense has prevailed," McDonald's spokesman Walt Riker said after the decision. "We said from the beginning that this was a frivolous lawsuit. Today's ruling confirms that fact."

Attorney Samuel Hirsch, who represented the plaintiffs, said they "have every intention of amending their complaint and refiling it in the federal court within the next 30 days."

Hirsch had argued the high fat, sugar and cholesterol content of McDonald's food is "a very insipid, toxic kind of thing" when ingested regularly by young kids.

He cited the case of a 13-year-old New York City boy who said he ate at McDonald's three to four times a week and is now 5-foot-4 and 278 pounds. Other affidavits filed by the parents of obese children claim they never saw posters or pamphlets inside McDonald's restaurants describing the nutritional content of the food.

According to a McDonald's Web site, a Big Mac packs 590 calories and 34 grams of fat while a large french fries weighs in at 540 calories and 26 grams of fat.

Riker said McDonald's "has been providing nutrition information about our food for the past 30 years so that customers can make informed choices about what they eat."

Federal appeals court will not review decision by three judges

DETROIT (AP) — A federal appeals court has declined to review a decision by three of its judges that hearings for a jailed Muslim activist must be open to the public.

The federal government had requested the review, contending that open deportation hearings for Rabih Haddad and others suspected of links to terrorism would compromise the Justice Department's terror probe.

The ruling Wednesday by the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals stems from lawsuits filed last year by several Detroit area newspapers, the American Civil Liberties Union and Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., seeking access to Haddad's hearings.

The decision contradicts an October ruling by the U.S. 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia that such hearings could be closed to the public, the Detroit Free Press reported today.

Attorneys predicted the dispute would wind up before the U.S. Supreme Court.

"The stage is really set for a showdown in Washington over which appeals court is right," said Herschel Fink, an attorney for the Free Press, one of the newspapers that filed suit.

The Justice Department is deciding whether to appeal Wednesday's ruling, a spokesman said.

Two girls stabbed, one dies

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Kristyana Cowen and Brittney Bergeron were home alone in the middle of the night when they heard knocking at the door of their mother's trailer. The visitor said he was bringing bad news about their mom, who was gambling at a nearby casino.

"When she opened the door, he held his hand over her mouth and started to stab her. That's the last thing she remembers," said Joe Szalay, deputy police chief in Mesquite, Nev.

Police say the attacker killed 3-year-old Kristyana and repeatedly stabbed 10-year-old Brittney with a butcher knife early Wednesday.

Brittney was at University Medical Center in Las Vegas in critical condition, hospital spokesman Rick Plummer said. Hafen said the girl is expected to survive.

Beau Santino Maestas, 19, was arrested Wednesday in Utah and has confessed to the crime, police said.

"We pretty much had the story before he confessed," said Lt. Jerry Hafen, a Nevada Department of Public Safety spokesman. "It was a just a matter of filling in the details."

The girls were stabbed just before 2 a.m. inside a trailer at the CasaBlanca casino-resort recreational vehicle park in Mesquite, a fast-growing desert town near the Utah state line about 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

The children, their unemployed mother and the woman's boyfriend were living at the CasaBlanca, police said. Hafen said the girls were left alone in the trailer when the mother and her boyfriend went to the casino.

Maestas confronted the couple in the casino and demanded they pay him $125, Hafen said.

The mother and her boyfriend were still inside the casino when the man attacked the girls, Hafen said.

Szalay declined to identify the girls' mother or the woman's boyfriend. He said they were at the hospital, where Plummer said they were declining comment.

Maestas, his sister and another teenage girl were being held at a jail in Nephi, Utah. The trio surrendered without incident after Utah troopers stopped their car about 260 miles northeast of Mesquite.

Date Book

Thursday, Jan. 23, 2003

Today is the 23rd day of 2003 and the 34th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1849, Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to receive an M.D. degree.

On this day in 1964, the 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which eliminated poll taxes and other taxes as a prerequisite for voting in federal elections, was ratified.

On this day in 1975, "Barney Miller" made its television debut.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: John Hancock (1737-1793), first signer of the Declaration of Independence; Marie Henri Beyle (Stendhal), (1783-1842), French writer; Edouard Manet (1832-1883), painter; Richard Dean Anderson (1950-), actor, is 53; Tiffany-Amber Thiessen (1974-), actress, is 29.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1988, Bob Benoit bowled a perfect game to win the Quaker State Open, the first time a television audience had been witness to a perfect bowl.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "A very small degree of hope is sufficient to cause the birth of love." — Stendhal

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Jan. 18) and last quarter (Jan. 25).

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Berry's World



events

LOTTO TEXAS™

TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Wednesday's Lottery Numbers

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

The ticket was worth an estimated $53 million.

The tickets were) sold in: Brownsville and Grand Prairie.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 17-25-28-40-42-46.

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

Pick 3
(Day)7-7-9
(Night) 6-4-4
Cash Five
1-27-34-35-37

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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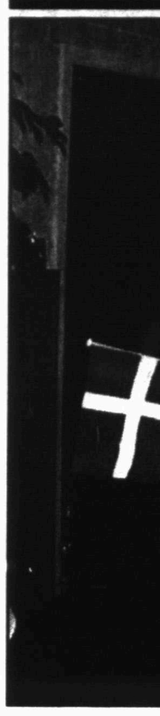
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*The Obligatory Fine Print: 50% off all regularly priced merchandise except: Pipka Santas & Angels, Seraphim Angels and Daddy's Longlegs Dolls are 35% off. Up to 75% off items previously marked clearance or closeout. Service items such as Western Union & Band Supplies are excluded. Cash, Check or Bank Card only; no layaways. Gift wrap charge on all reduced price items.

Lifestyles



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FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT SPEAKS — Mathilda Frikke, Rotary sponsored foreign exchange student from Denmark, presented the program to Beta Sigma Phi members Tuesday at the Snyder Country Club. She presented slides and displayed memorabilia from her country. Mathilda is a Snyder High School senior and is living in the home of Tim and Nova Dea. (SDN Staff Photo)

Statue of Lincoln and son to be unveiled in Richmond

Abraham Lincoln and his son Tad are returning to Richmond, Va. A new bronze statue of Lincoln and his youngest child will be unveiled in Richmond on Saturday, April 5, 2003.

The statue commemorates their only visit to the city on April 4 and 5 in 1865, just prior to the end of the Civil War.

The United States Historical Society has commissioned the sculptor David Frech to create a life-size rendering of Lincoln and Tad, who was then 12 years old.

The statue vividly commemorates an imagined, private moment during their historic 1865 visit of reconciliation. They are seated on a bench against a plain granite wall. The words "To Bind Up The Nation's Wounds" will be cut into a granite capstone. Beside the President is a copy of the Richmond Whig, dated April 5, 1865. The sculptor has provided space on both ends of the bench for visitors to sit and be photographed.

The United States Historical Society is donating the statue to the Civil War Visitor Center of the National Park Service in Richmond. The Center is on land that once served as the site for the Tredegar Iron Works, an important supplier of munitions to the Confederate Army.

The statue will be placed outdoors on a hillside in sight of The James River and the Richmond skyline.



"Here is a national hero, a small boy, and a beautiful city by the James River, all united again. This time it's for all time," said Robert Kline, Chairman, United States Historical Society that commissioned the statue.

The Society is generating funds for the project by issuing a limited-edition of solid bronze miniature statues mounted on a marble base. Miniature bronzed resin copies of the original are also available. Proceeds from the sale of the miniatures will be used to defray the cost of the Lincoln statue.

The United States Historical Society is a nonprofit organization that works on behalf of museums, educational institutions, foundations, and other organizations to authorize projects that have historic significance, artistic value and authenticity.

Bridge club banned from senior activities

WARNER ROBINS, Ga. (AP) — A bridge club whose members are younger than 50 has been banned from taking part in activities at a senior activities center.

City attorney Jim Elliott made the ruling Tuesday after the 10 members of the Warner Robins Duplicate Bridge Club complained the city was unfairly excluding them from the Senior Activities Center.

Elliott said his research indicates the city can legally ban people younger than 50 from participating in programs at the center.

"I don't think that there is any unlawful discrimination involved," Elliott said.

Bridge club members disagreed.

"We pay for the use of this building," club spokeswoman Dee Walls said. "We can't understand why they don't want us in the building."

Club manager Linda Greene said the club has operated in the building for nine years and has always had members younger than 50.

Officials said the age requirement doesn't ban people younger than 50 from the center, only from participating in programs at the center.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

	North ♠ 7 ♥ A 9 4 2 ♦ 8 7 5 3 2 ♣ K 6 4	01-23-03
West ♠ K 8 5 4 3 ♥ J 10 8 6 3 ♦ 6 ♣ Q 10		East ♠ 10 6 ♥ 7 ♦ Q 9 4 ♣ A J 9 8 5 3 2
	South ♠ A Q J 9 2 ♥ K Q 5 ♦ A K J 10 ♣ 7	

Dealer: West
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
	Pass	Pass	2♠
Dbl.	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All pass

Opening lead: ♣ Q

Thursday, Jan. 23, 2003

Push toward slam, stop in best game

By Phillip Alder

The debate continues about what bidding systems and conventions should be permitted in world championships (and elsewhere). Outside North America, where the regulations are much more lax, most pairs use some sort of multipurpose two-bid structure. One solution, employed in this country and sometimes in world championships, requires pairs who use strange methods to write out a suggested defense, to which the opponents may refer.

East's two-spade opening enjoys some popularity. It showed a weak three-bid in either minor. (Some Poles would open two spades with that West hand, showing at least 5-5 in spades and another suit. That might even end the auction!)

After the two-spade opening, the "English" pair of Lionel Wright (an ex-New Zealander) and Gunnar Hallberg (a Swede by birth) did well to reach the best contract.

If South had passed out three no-trump, North would have had to guess the diamond suit (which the declarer understandably did not do at the other table). However, South had his eye on a slam.

West led the club queen. Hallberg ruffed the second club, cashed his two top trumps, took the spade ace, ruffed a spade in the dummy, trumped dummy's last club in his hand, and cashed the heart king.

When East followed suit, he was known to have started with exactly 2-1-3-7 distribution. So, Hallberg led the spade queen and discarded a heart from the dummy when West played low. East ruffed, but declarer had the rest for plus 400.

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Births

James and Leslie Hoyle announce the birth of their daughter, Kasey Colleen Hoyle, at 8:58 p.m. on Jan. 20 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Kasey weighed seven pounds, 10 ounces and was 20½ inches long.

Grandparents are Ralph and Denise Hoyle of Snyder, Mitch and Patty Lewallen of Granbury and Dalvin and Belinda Alexander of Snyder.

Soup warms your bones from inside out

With the cold seasonal temperatures comes a tendency toward hibernation, made apparent by the fact that 64 percent of Americans polled said they eat lunch "in" —whether at their home or office — more often during the winter than other seasons.

One consequence of this behavior is that people have to get the sensory stimulation they'd typically get from the great outdoors, inside their home or office. Given the absence of the bright bursts of color found naturally in other seasons, experts say a great way to add more color to a winter day is with the foods you eat.

Sixty-two percent of people make their own lunch. Experts say this is the perfect opportunity to provide a daily feast for your senses. "Soup is one of the best foods to deliver overall sensory appeal," says Marcia Levin Pelchat, Ph.D., a sensory expert at the Monell Center, a research institute for the study of taste and smell.

"Food is a sensory and nutritional feast. Soup, in particular, stimulates almost all of our senses," she says. "It's warm, savory and has a wonderful aroma. There's even evidence that foods are especially well liked if they contain a variety of textures, so that the feeling in the mouth changes from the time that the food is tasted until it is swallowed. Soup fits this bill perfectly."

Vegetable soup varieties are a great choice for sensory stimulation. Every bowl offers a variety of colors, flavors and textures.

This winter could be a great time to rediscover this classic lunchtime choice because Campbell Soup Company reports making significant improvements to its vegetable soups in the famous red and white can, such as Vegetable Beef, Vegetable (Alphabet), Chicken Vegetable, Minestrone and six others. All 10 of the company's vegetable varieties have truer flavors, tastier ingredients and brighter, clearer broth than ever before, thanks to an investment in an innovative blending process.



The vegetable varieties are the first in a series to receive a major upgrade that will reinvent condensed soup as only Campbell's can.

Instead of just "doing lunch" as usual, there are more ways than ever to add color and variety to your day with a classic midday meal enjoyed in the warmth of your own home or office. Reinvigorate your senses by rediscovering some of these classic combinations:

• Update the classic soup and sandwich combo by pairing your favorite condensed vegetable soup with a wrap, quesadilla or pita. Or try this quick recipe:

MINI PIZZAS

½ cup hearty meat pasta sauce

4 slices Italian bread, ½-inch thick, toasted

¼ cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Spread about 2 tablespoons of pasta sauce on each bread slice. Top with a sprinkling of cheese. Place under the broiler and broil 2-3 minutes or until cheese is melted.

• Begin any meal with a warm bowl of hearty soup like Beef with Vegetables and Barley to take the edge off the winter chill.

• Make strides toward getting your recommended 5 to 9 servings of fruits and vegetables a day by trying Vegetable (Alphabet), Vegetarian Vegetable, Minestrone or Hearty Vegetable with Pasta. Get a full serving of vegetables in each serving of soup!

For more information and serving suggestions, visit www.camp bellsoup.com.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

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

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

AA Big Book Study; closed meeting; contact numbers are 574-8015, 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Competing
6 Retirement plan
11 — Babies
12 Dues payer
13 Valuable fur
14 Planets' courses
15 Preference
16 North-forty unit
17 — as it is
19 Hindu prince
23 CEO's auto, perhaps
26 Summit
28 Musician's job
29 Grills
31 Brick type
33 Release (2 wds.)
34 "Sawed logs"
35 Blasting material
36 Run-in
39 Traipse about
40 Put away gear
42 Not up yet
44 Squeals on
46 — layer
51 Monasteries
54 Indian groups
55 Expensive
56 Ask too much
57 Standings
58 Real estate

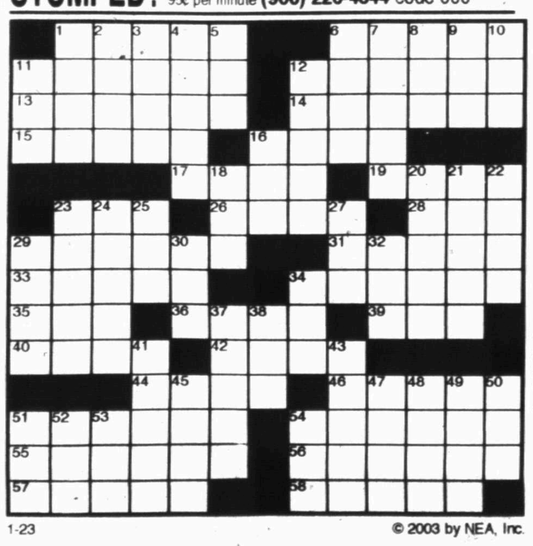
DOWN

1 Actress — Miles
2 Orange vegetables
3 — — for keeps
4 Baseball teams
5 "— whiz!"
6 "Quo Vadis" co-star
7 Coal
8 Geisha's accessory
9 Fetch
10 Ballgame stat
11 Poker stake
12 Gourmet coffee
16 Make a hole in one
18 Brown-truck logo
20 Socrates' forum
21 Agreed
22 Like smooth brandy
23 Mr. Musburger
24 Slogan
25 Disguise item
27 Topeka loc.
29 Deli orders
30 Part of UCLA
32 Lab or boxer
34 Sault — Marie
37 Easy victim
38 Tummy muscles
41 Ruin
43 Students' quarters
45 Votes in favor
47 Fastens
48 Clarinet kin
49 Snug retreat
50 Compass dir.
51 Aries mo.
52 Lingerie item
53 Corn crib
54 Senorita's aunt

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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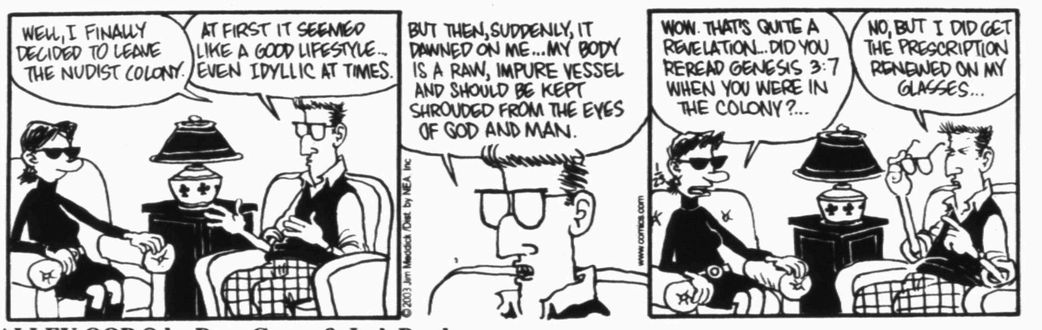
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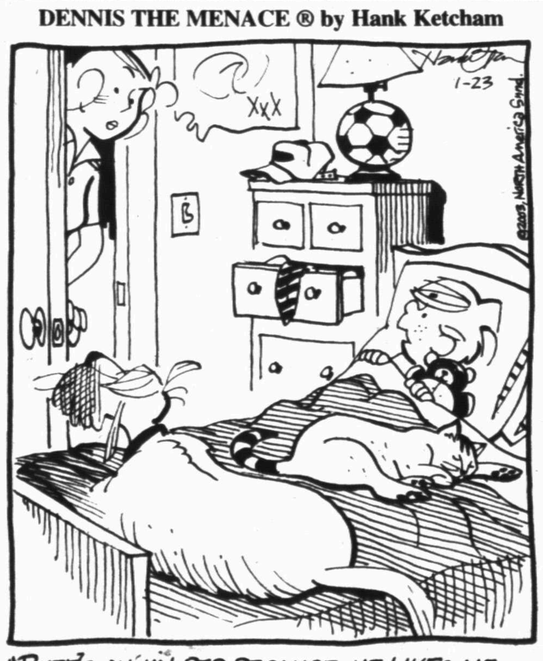
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KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



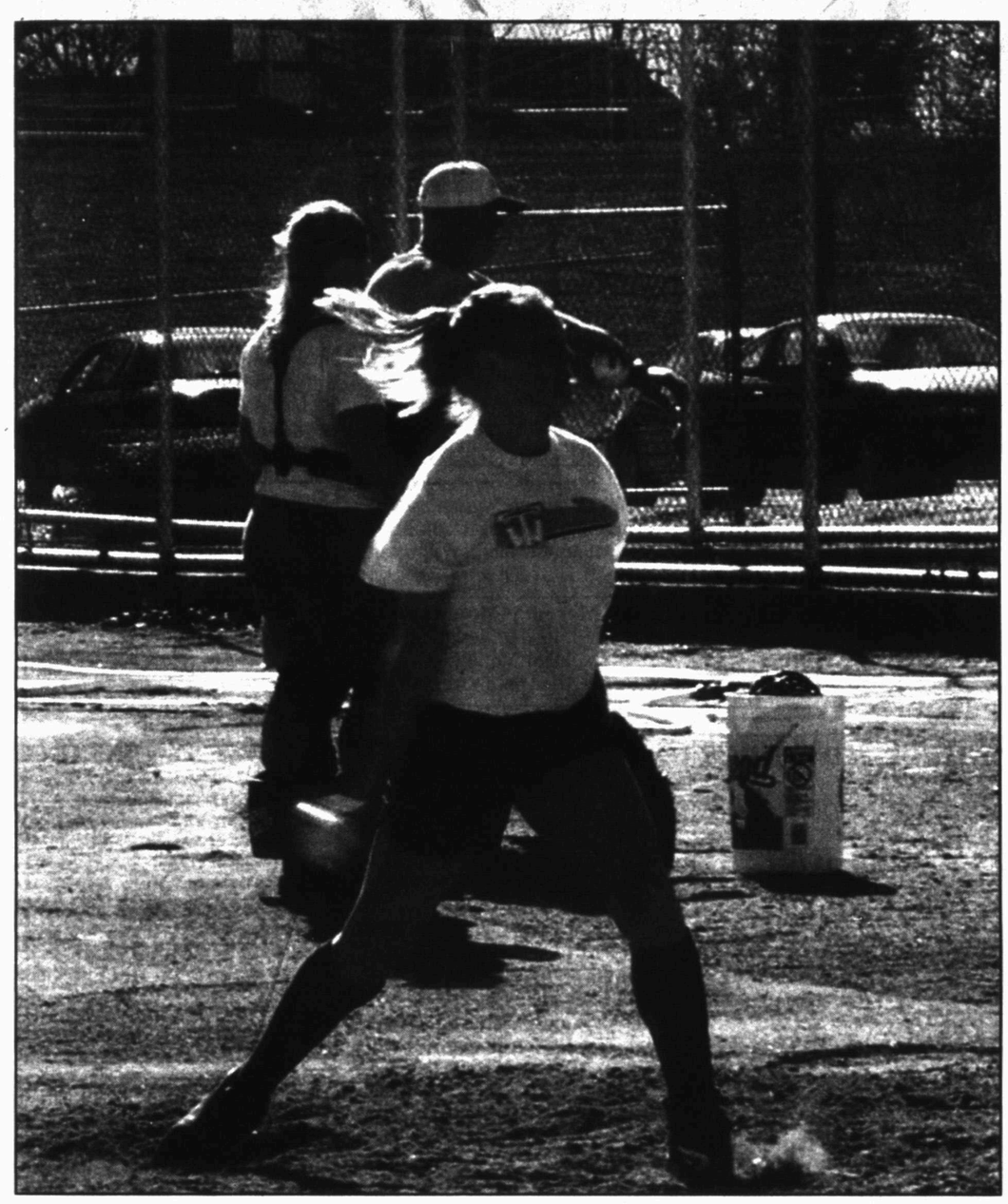
Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"RUFF'S ON MY BED BECAUSE HE LIKES ME. HOT DOG JUST LIKES MY BED."

SPORTS



PITCHING PROWRESS — Western Texas College pitcher Amber House practices delivery during practice this week. In the background, head coach Rodney McNeil talks with catcher Heather Patterson. The Lady Dusters open their inaugural season Monday. (SDN Staff Photo)

WTC softball program ready for season to get underway

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

Western Texas College softball coach Rodney McNeil faced a daunting task when he was hired.

Not only was he responsible for guiding and teaching softball players, he was the point man in building a junior college sports program from scratch.

"I have never been as tired as I have been this year," the 32-year-old former Texas Wesleyan head coach said. He said during the holidays he had close to two weeks away from the game, and said he feels rejuvenated by the time off.

After a fall of scrimmages and the winter break, the program will begin its first season Monday at 1 p.m. against Cisco JC at Cates field.

McNeil was hired for the post in December of 2001 and immediately began the process of recruiting. He said the idea was to get the players first, then set up the program's infrastructure and build a schedule.

"You get a vision of what the program will be like," he said. "You've got to recruit and put the team together, then purchase equipment and hire all the assistants. It's pretty overwhelming."

The Lady Dusters will be in a conference with four other teams, including Midland JC, Odessa JC, Howard and El Paso Community College.

McNeil said the team is ready to get the season underway.

"You can only get so pumped up for fall games," he said. "(The players and coaches) have spent a lot of time together and the coaching staff has a good feel for what we can do."

McNeil hired 23-year-old Christy Cerecedes as an assistant coach. Cerecedes played for Gordon's Panthers of the American Softball Association, and played college ball at Florida State.

McNeil looked to Dean Peters to be his pitching coach. Peters has coached softball for 40 years.

McNeil said the past couple of years, four-year universities have been losing women to junior colleges, which has caused an explosion among junior college softball programs.

"Ten years ago, there were only 10 junior college softball programs. Now there are over 30," he said.

He said California is a gold mine as far as players go, since that state has their own tournaments and doesn't offer softball scholarships in any school.

"California is the biggest softball state in the country, but doesn't provide any opportunities for players after high school," he said.

Because of that, McNeil said it is easier to recruit out there than it is in Texas, since a quality player in this state will have every program competing for her.

"We recruited heavily in California," he said.

He said the planned softball/baseball facility at WTC will be one of the best in the country, and will aid in attracting talented players to the school.

"Next fall we will be practicing on a new field," he said. Currently, the team practices on the softball fields at Towle Park

"It is a beautiful campus," he said, adding that most schools provide a quality education, meaning that drawing card is a virtual wash for players when choosing a school. "Players will look at the facilities and the people in the community. The people here are friendly and receptive to the kids, and that will stand out for recruits."

McNeil said women's softball is the fastest growing sport in the country, primarily because it is a fan friendly game — more so than baseball — according to the coach.

"The average play in softball is 3.3 seconds, in baseball it's about five seconds," he said. "A seven-inning game takes about an hour and a half, and if a fielder bobbles a ball, the runner is safe."

He said the proximity of the mound to home plate means softball, like baseball, is a game that can be dominated by an outstanding pitcher.

"The mound is 43 feet away, and the reaction time on a 64-mph pitch is the same as a 102-mph fastball in baseball," he said.

He said dominant pitchers in the women's game also have more angles to throw at batters, including a rise pitch and, in the case of dominant pitchers, a wicked off-speed pitch that comes in around 30-mph and twists batters into pretzels.

McNeil said that the throwing motion in softball puts nowhere near the strain on pitcher's arms as baseball does.

"A good softball pitcher sees her velocity go up as the game progresses," he said. "They can pitch on back-to-back days. We've had teams with only one main pitcher."

The team will play doubleheaders on each game date, with the regular season running until April 24. After the season, the regional tournament will take place the first week of May, and the Junior College World Series will follow on May 15-17.

McNeil said the team can't wait to get started Monday.

"Offseason is the toughest time — you're sore and tired," he said. "We're excited. We've put a lot into this."

Rodriguez signs one-year deal with Marlins

ARLINGTON (AP) — There's no place like home, former Texas Rangers star Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez says, adding that signing a deal with the Florida Marlins will make possible a yearlong reunion with his family.

A formal announcement of the $10 million, one-year contract for the 10-time All-Star catcher was expected Thursday.

Rodriguez played his final game with the Rangers on Sept. 29 to multiple standing ovations. He said he would never forget the fans and that game.

But Rodriguez was not offered a new contract by the Rangers, for whom he had played since reaching the major leagues in 1991 at age 19.

"The only team that wanted me very badly was Florida, and that was nice," said Rodriguez, who has a home in Miami Beach. "I'm going to be home, at least for a year, and my kids will see me all year."

Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria on Wednesday said Rodriguez, 31, has agreed to the deal.

Rodriguez became available when the Rangers refused to offer him salary arbitration.

Grizzlies snap streak against Spurs

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Pau Gasol has been around long enough to get excited about Memphis' victory over San Antonio.

The second-year player from Spain had 28 points and 17 rebounds as Memphis beat San Antonio 98-93 on Wednesday night to snap a six-year, 21-game losing streak against the Spurs.

"I only lost six times to this team," Gasol said. "I felt really good to get a win against them, especially on the road. We're trying to build for the future; get this team in the right direction."

Memphis hadn't beaten the Spurs since Feb. 12, 1997, when the franchise was based in Vancouver. So long ago that even point guard Jason Williams, the four-year veteran, had to reach back to point out that he was somewhere between Florida and West Virginia.

The Grizzlies improved to 4-26 against San Antonio.

"With a young team like we are, the effort and willingness to learn has been terrific," Grizzlies coach Hubie Brown said. "Tonight's win definitely shows how hard they have worked down the stretch."

The loss ended the Spurs' four-game winning streak.

"When you play a team you're supposed to beat, in a strange way, teams have to focus more than when they play a team with the same record," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "Its a tough loss."

Gold team falls to Seminole

The Snyder Jr. High eighth grade Gold team got six points from five different players Monday, but were defeated by Seminole, 62-35.

Jamie Arnold, Donald Jeffery, Ryan Mitchell, Ricky Sanchez and Matthew Schoolcraft all recorded six points, for 30 of the teams' 34 points.

Saturday, the team played two games, dropping the first tilt to Jim Ned, 50-25.

Sanchez paced the squad with six points.

Arnold and Jeffery each scored five in defeat, and Syd Wiggins finished with four.

The second game Saturday was closer, with the team falling to Merkel, 45-32.

Tyler Driggers, Ryan Mitchell and Jeffery drained six points apiece, and Sanchez added five.

The team will next play Monday afternoon at Merkel, with games set to start at 5.

Sports Briefs

Knox named to TSWA All-State team

Senior center Josh Knox was named as an honorable mention on the Texas Sports Writers Association Class 3 All-State team.

Knox was named the starting center on the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal's* Super Team, as well as being selected to the All-State team.

Hoyle honored for special teams play

Deep snapper Danny Hoyle was named as the Special Teams Player of the Year at the Snyder Tigers' football banquet Saturday.

Marcus Villarreal also was honored as Rookie of the Year.

Jordan passes Wilt on scoring list

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Michael Jordan passed Wilt Chamberlain for third place in career NBA scoring as the Washington Wizards played the New Orleans Hornets.

Jordan's career scoring was at 31,420 points in his 1,032nd regular season game.

Chamberlain scored 31,419 points in 1,045 regular season games. Jordan now trails only Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (38,387) and Karl Malone (35,487).

Shockey gets rookie award

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Two days after fining Jeremy Shockey $10,000 for tossing a cup of ice at fans, commissioner Paul Tagliabue honored the New York Giants tight end with the NFL Rookie of the Year Award.

Conradt joins Summitt with 800 wins

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas coach Jody Conradt became just the second women's coach to reach 800 career victories night when the 17th-ranked Longhorns beat No. 7 Texas Tech 69-58.

Conradt joined Tennessee's Pat Summitt (802) as the only women's coaches in the 800-victory club.

Checketts offers $650 million for Dodgers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former New York sports executive David Checketts has made a reported $650 million offer to buy the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Sakic out with broken foot

DENVER (AP) — Colorado Avalanche captain Joe Sakic will be out two-to-four weeks because of a broken right foot.

NASCAR driver retires from exhaust poisoning

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Years of breathing fumes in a race car has given NASCAR driver Rick Mast carbon monoxide poisoning that will end his career.

Mast has not raced since May. He made 364 starts over a 15-year Winston Cup career.

District 3-3A Basketball Standings

BOYS

Team	District W	District L	Season W	Season L
Merkel	24	2	4	0
Sweetwater	12	9	4	0
Seminole	8	16	2	2
Denver City	17	8	1	3
Snyder	10	15	1	2
Lamesa	10	14	0	4

GIRLS

Team	District W	District L	Season W	Season L
Lamesa	14	11	5	1
Sweetwater	22	5	4	2
Denver City	14	11	3	3
Merkel	9	14	3	3
Snyder	17	9	2	4
Seminole	12	14	1	5

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE — Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	28	13	.683	—
Boston	24	18	.571	4½
Philadelphia	22	20	.524	6½
Orlando	23	21	.523	6½
Washington	21	21	.500	7½
New York	17	23	.425	10½
Miami	15	27	.357	13½
Central Division				
Indiana	30	12	.714	—
Detroit	27	14	.659	2½
New Orleans	23	20	.535	7½
Milwaukee	20	21	.488	9½
Chicago	15	27	.357	15
Atlanta	14	28	.333	16
Toronto	10	33	.233	20½
Cleveland	8	35	.186	22½
WESTERN CONFERENCE — Midwest Division				
Dallas	32	8	.800	—
San Antonio	26	15	.634	6½
Utah	25	16	.610	7½
Houston	23	17	.575	9
Minnesota	24	18	.571	9
Memphis	13	28	.317	19½
Denver	10	31	.244	22½
Pacific Division				
Sacramento	31	11	.738	—
Portland	25	15	.625	5
Phoenix	25	18	.581	6½
L.A. Lakers	19	22	.463	11½
Seattle	18	22	.450	12
Golden State	18	23	.439	12½
L.A. Clippers	16	25	.390	14½

Tuesday's Games
Orlando 103, Cleveland 94
Dallas 107, Houston 86
Sacramento 109, New Jersey 102

Wednesday's Games
Milwaukee 106, Boston 97
Indiana 101, Toronto 98
Orlando 94, Chicago 91
Philadelphia 92, Detroit 83
Miami 92, Phoenix 85
New York 97, Denver 88
Minnesota 96, Seattle 91
Portland 112, Atlanta 110, 2OT
Memphis 98, San Antonio 93
L.A. Clippers 96, Utah 89
New Orleans 103, Washington 94
Golden State 114, L.A. Lakers 110

Thursday's Games
Dallas at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Memphis, 8 p.m.
New Jersey at Golden State, 10 p.m.

Friday's Games
Phoenix at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Seattle at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Denver at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Chicago, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Portland at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Utah, 9 p.m.
New Jersey at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Tiger Baseball

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Saturday, Jan. 25
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Major League Speaker . . . . . .6:00 p.m.
Meet The 1983 State Champions . .6:30 p.m.
MEET THE 2003 TIGERS . . . . . .6:45 p.m.
Cow Chip Bingo . . . . . .7:00 p.m.
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Classified Ads $17.55 for 5 days, get the 6th day FREE!!
15 words or less
(Excluding Garage Sales & Displays)
Ads must be in by 3:00p.m. the day before you want them in the paper!

Vehicles

1987 Ford F-150, 4-wheel drive standard, white w/blue stripe & interior. 573-6270 after 6p.m.

1994 Suburban, leather, blue & silver. Good condition. Call 573-7043

1997 Ford F350 crew cab, 4-wheel drive, gasoline or propane. Excellent condition. New motor & clutch. Will wholesale. 915-737-2403 or 338-4949.

2000 Mercury Mountaineer Leather, loaded, low miles. Excellent condition. 573-6086 after 6p.m. weekdays.

FOR SALE
1979 3/4 ton suburban, 454 engine. Motor locked down. $500 573-6147

Business Services

A COMPUTER PROBLEM?
"Don't Unplug, we come to you."
Repair, Upgrades, Networking, Tutoring, etc.
Fast Track Computer Service
573-8995

Chimney Cleaning & Repairs
Walter Banks or Darrell Craig
573-4736 573-2472
Leave Message

HANDYMAN
Can fix anything, inside or out. Painting, cut trees, haul, yard work.
573-3894 725-2151

Tilling–Leveling
Front-end loader, Walk-behind tiller, Tractor tiller, Small acreage plowed. 915-573-8264

Employment

Bartenders needed part-time. Apply in person at American Legion, 1800 Ave. R, after 3pm.

Experienced machinist to do good work in a nice shop. CNC experience a plus. Must own your own tools. Apply in person @ 1318 Ave. T M–F 9–4 or send resume to above address.

Hiring 3 mentors at HOBBS Alternative Education Co-op. Job to begin February 3, 2003, through May 29, 2003. Please call 915-735-2850, 8:30–2:30, for additional info.

Housekeeper needed every Friday. Call 574-2303.

KITCHEN HOSTESS
First Baptist Church
Responsible for planning, total preparation and serving of a meal for approximately 100 people on Wednesday nights. This also includes purchasing supplies and the cleaning and sanitation of the kitchen. Experienced in food service a plus. Training in food safety and sanitation rules preferred. Pick up application in church office at 1701 27th and return by January 31st.

Cogdell Memorial Hospital
RN, Circulating Nurse
Full-time position. Requires at least one year of Operating Room or Acute Care Nursing experience.
Operating Room Housekeeper/ Tech
We offer an outstanding compensation and benefits package including medical insurance, dental insurance, life insurance, retirement program, participation with a credit union, paid holidays, vacation, sick time, and recognition program.
EOE Applicants may contact
Jo Beth Hardegree, RN
Human Resources office
Cogdell Memorial Hospital
1700 Cogdell Blvd.
Snyder, Texas 79549
915-574-7282
by FAX: 915-574-7136
or e-mail: jbhcmh@snydertex.com

Employment

NOW HIRING
Lone Star Industries is now taking applications for two permanent employees at our cement plant in Maryneal, Texas. High school diploma or GED is required. Mechanical skills or mobile equipment experience would be helpful. Starting salary is $12.58/hr. Excellent benefits include Group Medical and Life Insurance, Vacations, Holidays, Retirement, and 401K.
To receive an application, please contact Judy Hill at (915) 288-4221 between 9:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. Monday thru Friday. You may also contact her by email at jhill@lonestarind.com
Applications will be taken until Friday, January 31, 2003.
Lone Star Industries is an Equal Opportunity employer.

OUTREACH HEALTH SERVICES
Outreach Health Services has an immediate opening for LVNs to work in all our Community Care programs. Traveling required. Medicare or nursing home experience a plus. Hiring, training and supervising attendant caregivers part of the position. Independent self-starter desired. Ability to speak Spanish an asset. Good pay, mileage reimbursement, insurance and 401K available. Send resume to 409 North Willis, Abilene, TX 79603. For application call 915-676-2281 or 1-800-669-2291. EOE

Now taking applications for CNAs, all shifts. Apply in person at Snyder Oaks Care Center.

Progressive dentist needs administrative assistant. Needs to be goal oriented, organized, attentive to detail, computer literate with 2 years experience in the dental field. 4 weeks paid vacation, merit bonus, competitive salary. Send resume to P.O. Box 2802, Big Spring, TX 79721 or fax to 915-267-7840.

Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital
Sweetwater, TX
is currently seeking a full-time, 3p.m. - 11p.m., M.L.T., M.T. or equivalent with appropriate registry. RPMH offers excellent benefits and salary, modern J.C.A.H.O. accredited facility, and friendly, team-oriented environment. Call Human Resources at 235-1701, ext. 222 or fax resume to 235-1783. EOE

Secretary/Bookkeeper
Approx. 20 hours per week.
Apply at **Bowlin Automotive**.

SELL AVON
No door to door selling.
$10 to start.
573-1271 Ind. Rep.

SNYDER DQs are looking for bright, friendly, customer service leaders for day and night shifts. Above average pay for above average people. Starting at $6 an hour for qualified workers. Flexible hours for full/part ime help. Vacation and holiday pay. Smoke and drug free environment. Drug test required. Apply in person to Store Managers.

Snyder Oaks Care Center is now taking applications for LVN's on all shifts. Starting pay is $14.50 hr. plus we pay 3/4 of your health insurance. Call Kellie or Darla at 573-9377 if interested or apply in person at 210 E. 37th St.

Taking applications for LVNs, all shifts. Apply in person at Snyder Oaks Care Center or call 573-9377.

POSTAL JOBS $9.04-$14.21
+ Benefits, No Exp. FOR INFO,
1-800-495-5514 Ext: 7262
8a-9p/7Days-avail. varies

For best results, use Snyder Daily News classifieds. They really work! 573-5486

SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIED
ALWAYS A WINNER

Farmer's Column

HAY FOR SALE
Round Coastal & #2 Alfalfa
Square-Wheat, Sudan, Coastal
Also, 6700 Ford Tractor
w/cab & air, 4950 hrs.
Ross Preston
573-1217 725-9444

Merchandise

(4) lighted glass cases.
(6) flower bedding tables.
(1) Refrigerated flower box.
735-2581 or 735-3211

CONVALESCENT NEEDS
Wheel Chairs, Walkers, Canes, Home Blood Pressure Kits, etc.
Sales & Rentals
3706 College **573-7582**

FIREWOOD FOR SALE
Dry mesquite, delivered & stacked. $110 cord
573-0316 or 915-665-6459

FIREWOOD!! Mesquite!
Local cutter. Part seasoned.
24"-22"-20"-18". Some split.
Delivered. **573-1216**

GUARANTEED USED APPLIANCES
Washers, Dryers, Refrigerators, Ranges & Freezers
WESTERN AUTO 2510 Ave. R

Sectional sofa, $350 OBO, coordinating La-Z-Boy recliner, $200 OBO, Coffee table, $50 OBO. Nordic stove fireplace insert w/brass canopy or could use freestanding, $400 OBO. Weider weight machine (home gym), $150 OBO. 915-573-1563

Newspaper End Rolls
$1.00 & Up
Call 573-5486 or come by Snyder Daily News today!

Building Materials

4x8 masonite siding, $14.50.
2x4x8, $2.25. Metal doors, $35.
Builders Surplus - Sweetwater
915-518-9219

FLOOD SALE
Texas factory has 3 never erected steel buildings. 25x30, 30x44, 30x60 1-800-283-5903

Dogs, Pets, Etc.

Can I be your Valentine??
AKC Miniature Dachshunds for sale, 1st shots.
573-6639 or 338-0013

Garage Sales

NOAH'S ATTIC
1503 26th St.
Thursdays & Fridays
10a.m. – 5:30p.m.

YARD SALE
406 35th St.
Friday, Saturday & Sunday
9a.m. – Dark
Lots of knick knacks, Washer, & Lots of misc.

Apartments For Rent

2 bedroom apartment available in clean, quiet, 16-unit complex. Locally owned. 573-0340 or 575-4934

Western Crest & Windridge Village
3901 Ave. O
Snyder, TX
573-1488
Quality Living At An Affordable Price
1 Bedroom, 1 Bath
Pool
2 Bedrooms, 2 bath
W/D Connections, Pool & Playground

Apartments For Rent

Fieldcrest Apartments
Under New Ownership
1 bedroom/1 bath - $290
(very big bedroom)
2 bedroom/1+ bath - $310
***We pay water**
***You pay electricity**
***$100 security deposit**
***No application fee -**
700 E. 37th
(across from coliseum)
573-3519

Houses For Rent

2409 28th
2-1, fenced backyard, storage building. No pets. 6 month lease required. 573-4454

HOUSE FOR RENT
Available Now
3004 40th St. 3-2 .....$375
Elizabeth Potts Realtors 573-8505
Suzan Pinkerton 573-0004

Real Estate

Beautiful Brick Home
Newly updated 3 bdrm-2bth, CH/A, fireplace, 2-car garage, large corner lot, new 6 ft. privacy fence. 3014 El Paso 573-6496

BY OWNER
5603 CEDAR CREEK DR.
3 BEDROOM, 3 BATH, BONUS ROOM. FAMILY FRIENDLY.
573-9780

House w/2 lots priced to sell.
111 24th St. 915-523-5897 or 806-894-6891

MAD? BANKS DON'T GIVE HOUSE LOANS DUE TO CREDIT PROBLEMS, I DO!
LD KIRK (254)947-4475
TEXAS FAIR RATES

OWNER WILL FINANCE
3-4 bedroom, 1 bath, w/an apartment in back. Low down, low monthly. 2109 41st. 806-790-0827

JACK & JACK Realtors
611 Coliseum Dr
Ford Spikes, Owner/Broker
573-8571 573-3452
Corner 3-1¾-2 + RV shed + shop & other
Gorgeous Home 1986 Sq. Ft. on 12 + Acres
Lrg. Home Nice neighborhood 5-1¾ ..$59.5T
Shop Bldg. + 3 Lots 407 College & 2-1 Merrill
Stock Farm 146 Acres Near Dermott
REDUCED! 2510 Towle Park Rd 3-2-2cp, 1Acre
5 Business Shopping Complex 606 Coliseum
2 Living Areas, 3-1¾-1+2cp....2111 43rd
Nice Storm Cellar 3-2-2cp 314 36th $37.5T
Good Floor Plan 3-1¾-2 4006 Jacksboro $54.9T
1.89 Acres 2-1-2cp South of Hermleigh....$20T
80 acres 5 mi. SE of Hermleigh, 3-2-2 + office + shop & out building.....Call
Stonewall Co. 1,315 acre cattle operation. Water well + 6 earth tanks. Deer, quail, turkey & hogs.....Call
We Will Work For YOU!
We Need Listings
Doris Spikes.....573-6602

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Snyder Daily News Classified Ads
573-5486

Arkansas students discover giant fossil

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — University of Arkansas students unearthed the world's largest fossil of the squid-like, straight-shelled cephalopod at a city intersection as cars and trucks zipped by them.

Freshman Sarah Kee and senior Kevin Morgan made the discovery while digging along a drainage ditch for ammonoid fossils, a spiral-shelled subclass of cephalopods. A cephalopod is a marine mollusk that has a distinct head with suckers attached to it, highly developed eyes and varying numbers of arms.

After Kee noticed a bulge in the shale, the students dug farther and found a calcite shell fossil almost 9-feet long and nearly 325 million years old. The students had found another subclass of cephalopod, the straight-shelled, called a nautiloid.

Walt Manger, a university geology professor who has written several publications on cephalopods, said the fossil is the world's largest of its kind.

"I really have to admit, when they called me up I was a little skeptical," Manger said Wednesday. "They said, 'We've got one over eight feet long.' And I said, 'Maybe.' But when I came out on Tuesday, I said, 'Yeah, you got it. That's exactly what it is.'"

Manger said the nautiloid lived in a water column during a time when most of the southern United States was under water. The creature lived in the lower, larger part of the straight shell and used the narrower part of the shell to maintain buoyancy.

Cephalopods reproduced when they were young, then died, Manger said, which explains the typically small size of their fossils. The professor said the cephalopod found by the students is a pathological giant, which possibly suffered from parasitic castration. In other words, parasitic algae destroyed the reproductive organs of the creature and the creature continued to grow.

Kee called a friend to help them remove the fossil, and the students carefully chiseled away shale for almost 24 hours before the fragmented fossil could be seen.

Manger and the students said they will move the fossil from its black shale bed and transport it to the university, where they can examine the shell and theorize why the creature was so large. The fossil will then be moved to the University Museum for public display.

California game wardens arrest 11 for bear poaching

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP) — State Fish and Game wardens arrested 11 people for investigation of bear poaching, breaking up three rings of hunters they say illegally killed the animals for profit.

The arrests of hunters and guides Wednesday came after a yearlong investigation sparked by a hunter's tip, department spokesman Steve Martarano said.

Another person was being sought.

"These guys were on-season, off season. They were just in it for profit. Any way they could make money, they'd do it," Martarano said.

Seven of the arrested were held in the Kern County Jail, with bail ranging from $35,000 to $75,000. They face felony charges related to poaching, including the pursuit and hunting of bear and illegal killing of deer, said prosecutor Michael Yraceburn.

Man executed for killing woman

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A construction worker convicted of killing his grandmother to steal money to buy cocaine urged his wife and friends to be strong and not forget him shortly before he was executed.

"When it comes, you can't run from it and I'm not going to run," Robert Lookingbill said in his final statement from the death chamber gurney Wednesday night.

Lookingbill, 37, the third convicted killer put to death this year in Texas, thanked his wife, Brenda, whom he married while on death row, and several friends as they looked on.

"I would like to thank all my loved ones that are standing over there for all the kindness and support you have shown me over the years," he said.

Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

When your heart belongs to tangerines

Dear Dr. Blonz: What's happened to tangerines? They used to be the easiest to peel of all citrus fruits, and now they're just about the worst! Additionally, they don't taste the same. There's a peachy flavor that detracts from the once-wonderful taste of a really juicy tangerine! Have they been genetically altered? Crossbred? What? Thanks. — **H.W., Princeton, N.J.**

Dear H.W.: I enjoy eating tangerines and drinking their juice, too. Due to the fruit's popularity, there are now more varieties of tangerines coming to market. The variety you remember might not have been available when you bought the ones you didn't like. Or perhaps you happened to get some that didn't have the flavor you wanted. This can happen even under the best of circumstances, and should not be viewed as evidence of any genetic-engineering shenanigans. I would advise you to keep trying. Then, when you find one that tastes the way you like, make a note of the variety. Also, if at all possible, opt for tangerines with green leaves attached. This assures that the fruit has been allowed to ripen on the tree.

Dear Dr. Blonz: Is vitamin K cream really effective in removing spider veins? — **C.S., no city given**

Dear C.S.: Spider veins are small veins that fan out from red blood vessels just beneath the skin's surface, usually on the legs. Treatment involves locating and disrupting the blood supply to the veins. Spider veins are not a sign of poor health in and of themselves, but they can be a source of embarrassment.

Vitamin K plays a role in the coagulation (clotting or blocking) of the blood, and current treatments of spider veins involve coagulating the blood flow to the visible vessels. One medical technique uses a laser to "photo coagulate" the master vessel feeding the veins, while another uses a saline injection to bring about blockage.

The notion that an externally applied vitamin K cream will clear up spider veins seems logical, but aside from a number of claims by manufacturers there is little evidence to support the effectiveness of this treatment. The companies that sell these products say they are "effective," but I would be interested in seeing the proof.

All things considered, these creams seem to be a relatively low-risk treatment; it is unclear whether they accomplish anything, but there appears to be little danger stemming from their use.

However, keep in mind that this is not vitamin K taken orally, but a cream applied topically to the affected area. It is not effective to take vitamin K by mouth in the hopes of eliminating spider veins. Also as a caution, individuals with a blood clotting disorder, or those taking anticoagulants, should speak with their physician before using any product containing vitamin K.

Dear Dr. Blonz: A friend told me to take guarana pills for alertness, better concentration and faster learning. I don't know if it's true, because I've heard that guarana is also used as a cure for impotence. Could you tell me if I should try this pill or not? — **D.P., Portland, Ore.**

Dear D.P.: Guarana comes from the seeds of a South American shrub. The effects you mention, at least those associated with alertness and better concentration, are due to the fact that guarana contains high levels of caffeine — higher even that coffee beans, kola nuts or cacao (cocoa). With regards to guarana and impotence, the financial success of the pharmaceutical drug Viagra is most likely responsible for the host of natural products claiming to have the same or better effects at a lower cost. Aside from its ability as a general stimulant, I could find no evidence to support the use of guarana or caffeine as a remedy for impotence.

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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Today's chuckle

Cop retiring after more than 60 years

MILWAUKEE (AP) — One of the oldest active police officers in the country is retiring after more than 60 years on the force.

"I woke up one morning at 4 a.m. and it just seemed as though God was standing there and telling me, 'It's about time Andy,'" said Lt. Andrew Anewenter, 86.



The great-grandfather holds the record for longest service in the department. His last day is March 14.

Anewenter said he figured he would have to learn a whole new procedure in November when the department gets a new chief — and he's tired of all the paperwork and 10-hour days.

"I think I needed a little bit more time for myself and my wife," Anewenter said.

He made the decision last week and turned in his paperwork Monday. He was invited to the command staff meeting Wednesday, where they presented him with a plaque and praised him for all his years on the job.

"I am retiring to possibly some other category, you know, whether it's volunteer work or financial return," he said. "Even with my seniority, they feel I have things to offer and I have."

Anewenter started with the department June 1, 1942, and has investigated murders, assaults, thefts, counterfeiting, drugs and a plane crash, and done security for celebrities, including Elvis Presley.

President Bush congratulated Anewenter for his decades of service last May during a visit to Milwaukee.

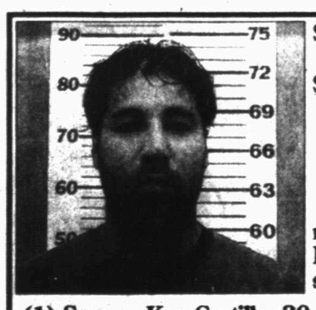
Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	3.95	3.51	3.59	—.18
AOL TimeWm	14.17	13.51	14.15	+ .24
AT&T Corp rs	24.00	19.50	19.99	—5.33
Albertsons	22.51	22.22	22.30	—.03
Alltel	50.42	48.51	49.14	—1.08
AmEl Pw	27.08	26.40	26.99	+ .42
AndarkPtr	45.85	45.25	45.67	+ .29
ATMOS Egy	22.13	21.94	22.12	+ .19
Aviall	7.75	7.65	7.75	+ .09
BP PLC	37.10	36.70	36.95	—.12
BakerHughes	30.73	30.05	30.69	+ .39
Bank of Amer	71.33	70.80	71.25	+ .35
BellSouth	24.68	22.80	23.89	—1.39
BurlNoSFe	26.10	25.61	25.81	+ .11
Caterpillar	44.75	42.74	43.17	—1.28
CenterPoint	7.75	7.67	7.73	+ .14
ChevronTex	65.52	65.02	65.27	—.43
Citigroup	36.40	36.10	36.28	+ .38
CocaCola	44.81	44.28	44.76	+ .21
ColgatePal	52.35	51.50	52.33	+ .35
CmclMetals s	15.29	15.07	15.08	
ConocoPhill	47.75	47.23	47.49	+ .03
Cooper Inds	35.32	34.55	34.67	+ .01
DaimlrChry	29.30	28.56	28.69	—.45
DeltaAirl	11.02	10.60	10.74	+ .16
Dillards Inc	16.59	16.28	16.41	+ .02
DowChem	30.49	30.14	30.30	+ .05
DuPont	41.18	40.75	41.18	+ .53
EastmanChem	36.25	35.16	35.86	+ .22
EstKodak	33.38	32.31	32.62	—.56
EDS Corp	17.05	16.75	16.80	+ .04
Entergy	46.60	46.19	46.59	+ .44
ExxonMobil	33.63	33.25	33.53	+ .04
FootLocker	10.32	10.19	10.29	+ .05
GenDynam	65.70	63.70	64.25	—.60
GenElec	23.90	23.62	23.84	+ .29
GenMills	47.00	46.66	46.95	+ .15
GenMotors	38.52	37.71	38.07	+ .29
GaPacific	16.60	16.25	16.38	—.05
Goodrich	18.15	17.91	18.11	+ .18
Goodyear	6.72	6.61	6.64	+ .07
GtAtlPac	5.71	5.60	5.60	—.11
Halliburtn	18.66	18.17	18.33	—.02
Hanson ADS	22.80	22.65	22.65	+ .05
HarteHanks s	18.35	18.15	18.34	+ .06
HomeDepot	21.93	21.13	21.72	+ .14
Honeywellintl	24.37	23.91	24.24	+ .33
IBM	80.77	79.80	80.06	+ .36
IntlPaper	36.84	36.50	36.80	+ .42
JohnsonJn	54.80	54.25	54.76	+ .76
KinderMorg	45.25	44.90	45.25	+ .75
Kroger Co	16.49	16.06	16.16	—.13
LockheedM	51.95	51.05	51.73	+ .73
Lowes Cos	35.74	34.80	35.15	
Lubys	2.80	2.75	2.77	+ .01
LucentTech	2.00	1.87	1.97	+ .16
MarathonOil	21.30	21.02	21.11	+ .17
MayDeptStr	21.68	21.36	21.55	+ .10
Medtronic	45.79	45.14	45.59	+ .29
Motorola	8.89	8.37	8.53	
NCR Corp	20.32	19.47	19.62	—.04
Navistar	24.57	24.17	24.25	+ .15
PNM Rescs	22.08	21.87	22.06	+ .23
Penney JC	20.47	20.04	20.13	—.17
PepBoys	11.00	10.75	10.80	—.06
PepsiCo	42.24	41.81	41.99	—.81
Pharmacia	42.65	42.30	42.52	+ .33
PhelpDodge	35.65	35.00	35.38	+ .51
PilgrmPrd B	7.19	7.07	7.15	+ .05
Praxair	56.00	55.45	55.65	—.11
ProctGamb	86.14	84.74	85.99	+ .86
RadioShack	21.15	20.65	20.80	—.01
RoyalDut	41.17	40.92	41.09	—.12
SBC Comm	27.00	25.05	25.69	—1.24
SaraLee	22.17	21.95	22.06	+ .14
Scripps EW	82.00	80.20	80.39	—.67
SearsRoeb	27.73	26.75	27.33	—.05
SherwinW	28.05	27.52	27.69	+ .02
SouthernCo	29.13	28.50	29.03	+ .39
SwstAirl	13.39	12.73	13.09	+ .79
SprintFON	14.86	13.15	13.40	—1.45
SprintPCS	4.60	4.04	4.04	—.36
Sunoco Inc	31.70	31.29	31.62	+ .12
TXU Corp	19.22	18.85	19.13	+ .29
TempleInland	45.90	45.26	45.45	+ .34
TexInd	24.00	23.83	23.99	+ .09
TexasInst	16.90	15.51	15.90	+ 1.65
Textron	40.30	37.00	38.41	—1.86
TrinityInds	17.95	17.65	17.83	+ .17
TylerTech	3.92	3.87	3.92	+ .02
UnionPacif	58.57	57.28	57.83	+ .72
USSteel	16.65	16.22	16.32	—.02
UnitedTech	64.60	64.04	64.48	+ .68
Unocal	28.59	28.25	28.56	+ .11
VerizonComm	37.61	35.00	35.65	—1.34
WalMart	48.55	47.61	47.97	—.10
WellsFargo	47.50	47.10	47.48	+ .45
WstnGasRs	34.40	34.00	34.34	+ .22
WinnDixie	16.34	16.17	16.17	—.14
Xerox Cp	8.84	8.53	8.60	—.18
YumBrands s	24.77	23.90	23.98	—.76

LEGAL NOTICE



SNYDER POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION
January 22, 2003

NOTICE

The following person has registered with the Snyder Police Department as a convicted sex offender.

(1) Sammy Ken Castillo, 30 years of age, male, 1201 26th Street, Snyder, Texas 79549, convicted of "Sexual Assault". Victim was a female child 15 years old.

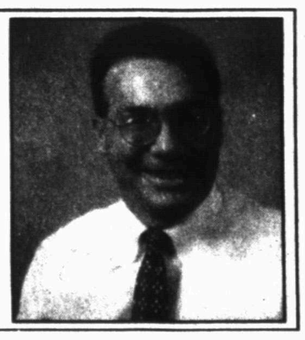
NOTIFICATION

El siguiente persona se a registrado con el Departamento de Policia de Snyder, y fue convicto de una offensa sexual.

(1) Sammy Ken Castillo, Un hombre, 30 anos de edad, 1201 26th Street, Snyder, Texas 79549, convicto de "Asalto Sexual". La victima era nina, 15 anos de edad.

(s) Stephen W. Warren
Chief of Police

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Contact Scott Bolton, IAR
573-4041



JAN 23 2003

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Friday, Jan. 24, 2003

Several new and unique interests or undertakings may come to your attention in the year ahead. It will be worth your while to look into them, because one or two could be real winners for you and your loved ones.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — An arrangement you have with a good friend that has gotten off to a bad start can be rectified today. But you'll need to act on it immediately while both are in an amicable mood.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Bypass those who lack clout and head right to the top dog today if you have any hope of completing a critical assignment. You'll get no place dealing with underlings.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Chances are all the pieces of the puzzle are in your hands and by now you should have had time to figure out where they fit. Act in accordance with the way you've reasoned things out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — If you give free reign to your desires today, they'll direct you in ways that will serve to captivate a person you're eager to impress.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Two situations that have appeared to be going no place can be linked up today for a successful merger. Once you spot how, act on it immediately.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Things could suddenly take a turn for the better today in relation to a matter that has given you some concern. It looks like everything is going to be finalized to your satisfaction.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Your fast-thinking brain will put you head and shoulders above the masses today. While others are still figuring things out, you're quick speed will have the job completed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today may be the day to make adjustments to improve your position if things haven't lived up to your expectations lately. You should be more astute about matters at this time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Put your best foot forward today and be your most ingratiating self. Something quite beneficial could come out of a social involvement at this time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — By using an indirect approach today, you should be able to make great headway in your business dealings. Play things slowly and subtly, and then spring your trump card when nobody is expecting it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Don't wait to be asked: assume control of a social activity that seems to be in limbo that involves several friends. You're the one who can get things rolling today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Do not procrastinate any longer about going after something that is important to you. Conditions are extremely favorable at this time for getting what you want, but they might not be tomorrow.

Get a jump on life by understanding the influences which are governing you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph year ahead predictions by mailing $1.25 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167.

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Environmental group lists legislative goals

AUSTIN (AP) — Promoting water conservation, boosting state revenue from pollution enforcement and creating infrastructure to transmit wind energy from West Texas to Central and East Texas top an environmental group's list of legislative priorities.

"By investing in air and water quality today, we'll save lives and avoid unnecessary health care costs in the future," Erin Rogers, coordinator for the Alliance for a Clean Texas, said today.

Water conservation will allow the state and localities to avoid expensive and environmentally damaging reservoir development, as well as costly water treatment plants, the group said.

The group also said the state needs to instruct the Public Utility Commission to develop at least a five-year plan to get transmission lines built from West Texas to other parts of the state so that energy generated from wind can be utilized.

The Alliance, which has 13 legislative recommendations, is a group of 21 environmental, religious and consumer groups.

BUDGET CUTS

The cuts are coming. And maybe sooner than state agency heads previously thought.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst said today that given a predicted $1.8 billion shortfall in the current state budget, officials must start cutting back now. Combined with a projected $8.1 billion shortfall for the 2004-05 budget, lawmakers are staring at a potential $9.9 billion hole.

"We will balance fiscal year 2003 and part of that is going to be by having reductions in spending by some of the state agencies," Dewhurst said without identifying what agencies should cut spending and by how much.

"In order to balance in '03 we're going to have reductions in spending during this year," he said.

Dewhurst, who presides over the state Senate, said a letter from himself, Gov. Rick Perry and House Speaker Craddick, all Republicans, will soon be sent to state agencies with that message.

He would not discuss specifics of what the letter would say.

"We've made big progress on the budget crisis," Dewhurst said. "I'm optimistic that we'll be able to balance our budget without new taxes and without eliminating essential services."

HEAVY DRESS

Laredo residents dressed as George and Martha Washington and Pocahantas were guests at the Texas Legislature today.

The group, in full historic regalia, including a 95-pound gold-beaded gown, attended the House and Senate sessions in recognition of Laredo's upcoming Washington's Birthday celebration.

Laredo's Abrazo Children, representing both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border, also were recognized.

DOCTORS ORDERS

The Texas Medical Association, which lobbies on behalf of 38,000 physicians, has added four well-known heavy hitters to its staff.

Former Health and Human Services Commissioner Don Gilbert, former state Sen. David Sibley, former Secretary of State and Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer and longtime consultant Mario Martinez will go to bat for the doctors.

The new team will work for the association after a high-profile spat with Gov. Rick Perry last session over his veto of a bill to speed up payments to doctors from insurance companies. The group endorsed Perry's rival, Democrat Tony Sanchez, during the campaign for governor this past fall.

Perry won. Now the association is mending fences as the Legislature tackles doc-important issues such as curbing medical malpractice lawsuits.

CORPORATE TAXES:

The Texas State Teachers Association is asking the Legislature to be careful not to allow too many corporate tax breaks that could take money away from public schools.

Right now, local school boards have the authority to approve property tax abatements and Tax Increment Finance Districts, which are often used to give tax breaks to corporations to encourage them to bring a new business to an area.

A National Education Association report released today says that leaving the authority with the locals puts in place safeguards to ensure against too much revenue being taken away from schools.

Donna New Haschke, president of the Texas group, said she hopes lawmakers will look to the report before proposing more corporate tax breaks.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"It's a real honor. ... Now let's get to work." — Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, presiding over the Senate floor session for the first time.

Billions lost through fraud, waste in Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — At a time when lawmakers face a $9.9 billion budget shortfall, a new state auditor's report shows that there could be as much as $7 billion of fraud and waste at state agencies.

"SAO audits and investigations continue to show that many agencies do not establish appropriate financial controls to protect state assets, that state resources are not always spent as the Legislature intended, and that there are many instances of fraud and abuse throughout state government and its contractors," the report from the State Auditor's Office said.

State Auditor Lawrence F. Alwin wrote in a letter sent to lawmakers Friday that his office is preparing a second report to list more details. That report will make recommendations for specific savings, he said.

Those suggestions will come as lawmakers deal with a shortfall of at least $1.8 billion in the current $114 billion state budget. The comptroller has estimated another $8.1 billion shortfall for the 2004-05 budget if lawmakers keep programs and services the way they are now.

The auditor's report cited several examples of problems at various agencies including:

— Poor documentation, lack of "basic controls and oversight" and noncompliance with state laws at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

— A significant mismanagement of money at the Texas Human Rights Commission resulting in overspending its budget by $1.1 million this biennium.

The report said there were "financial management and accountability issues" at other agencies, including the Texas Education Agency, Department of Health, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Department of Economic Development.

Texas could lose as much as $7 billion over two years because of fraud and abuse at agencies, the report said.

The state is more susceptible to fraud or abuse because of weak controls over contractors and personnel, it stated.

From 2000 to 2002 the Auditor's Office logged 443 complaints of alleged fraud and abuse totaling $214 million, but the report said that number is likely far higher.

The report recommended that lawmakers strengthen financial management by requiring agency heads to sign a letter each year assuring that financial risks and other operating issues have been studied.

The report showed problems with private contracts and grants given to carry out state business. Texas spends about a third of its budget — $20 billion — on such awards.

The Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board has serious management problems with $1 billion in grants and could not show the Legislature that it had awarded the grants as lawmakers intended, the report stated as an example.

The report also cited problems with the state's main Medicaid contractor, Plano-based Electronic Data Systems Corp., as an example of trouble with private contractors.

Boy helps great-grandmother escape; fire breaks out in home

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — An 8-year-old Brownsville boy was named an honorary fire chief Wednesday for leading his 96-year-old great-grandmother to safety after a fire broke out in her house.

Austin Serra was watching television last week when a fire started in the kitchen. He said his great-grandmother, Irene P. Gonzalez, had wanted to try to put the fire out with glasses of water. Gonzalez was reluctant to leave, so Serra insisted.

"There was too much smoke," Austin said in a story in Thursday's editions of The Brownsville Herald. "She didn't listen, so I just took her hand and took her outside."

Gonzalez recalled with pride how her great-grandson led her from the house and put a jacket over her.

"I was very afraid and very nervous," she said. "I didn't know what to do."

The fire did not spread from the kitchen and no major damage was done to the home.

Along with his new title, Serra was given a firefighter's badge for his bravery before his third-grade class Wednesday.

"You have to use your position to educate the rest of the kids," said Brownsville Fire Inspector Cassandra Teran. "In case anything like that ever happens, they remember what Fire Chief Austin taught them."

One death reported in fraternity brawl

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Fraternity members who apparently met in a suburban park to settle a disagreement ended up brawling with sticks and knives, in a melee that left one dead and several injured, police said.

The large group from San Jose State University's Pi Alpha Phi and Lambda Phi Epsilon fraternities fought in the park in the early morning hours Wednesday. Pi Alpha Phi members from the University of California, Santa Cruz, also participated, police said.

"Quite honestly, except for the lack of the tattoos, this is a gang fight," Sgt. Steve Dixon, a police spokesman. "Instead of gang members, it's frat members."

Four people were stabbed, including Alam Kim, who died Wednesday on his 23rd birthday. One person was treated for head trauma.

A neighbor reported the fight.

"They could hear somebody screaming 'Somebody's been stabbed!'" said Dixon.

The fight apparently grew from an argument at a pool hall Monday and the groups agreed to meet to settle things, Dixon said.

More than 60 of the fighting fraternity members and other witnesses remained at police headquarters Wednesday for questioning.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Disabled man's sexual fling meets parents' disapproval

DEAR ABBY: I am writing not for advice, but to help others in a situation that I recently encountered.

I have a dear friend I'll call "Kent" who has muscular dystrophy. Kent is 95 percent paralyzed, but mentally he is one of the most intelligent, mature, open-minded, wonderful people I have ever met. At age 40, he is confined to his parents' home, to his bed and to a ventilator. Kent lives every day knowing that his next breath could be his last.

Kent has never had a girlfriend nor any sexual experiences, although he has all the normal sexual feelings and desires that any able-bodied man would have. For the past four years, Kent has asked me to arrange a sexual experience for him. He called and asked again recently, so I agreed.

I contacted an escort service and before I could finish two sentences, the manager said, "Don't worry about it. We've got it covered — and we'll do it for free." The encounter went very well. The woman had a medical background and was not shocked by his disability or life-support devices.

When Kent's religious parents found out (they were not at home at the time), I was banned from their house, from contacting him, and his phone book suddenly "disappeared." I regret that I may have lost a dear friend, but I am more saddened to realize that a 40-year-old man can be held captive in his room by his disabled body and by his parents' morals and values as though he were a 13-year-old adolescent.

Abby, there must be many "invisible" people with disabilities that we never see because they are trapped inside. I hope this letter will open the lines of communication in some homes, and also make people understand the normal, natural needs of these individuals. — **VIC IN GRAHAM, N.C.**

DEAR VIC: So do I, because the situation you describe is tragic. Too often, assumptions that have nothing to do with reality are made about people with disabilities. One of these is that people with disabilities do not have sexual feelings. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Healthy relationships help a person build self-esteem. They should be encouraged because they are an important part of a person's development. It is wrong for a person in control to project his or her own moral values on another adult who is dependent. For parents to confine an adult child, to prevent that person from having relationships, and to discourage that person from living life as fully as possible is to me both cruel and ignorant.

I would only hope that someone in your community who understands this could intercede and explain to Kent's parents that there is room for nontraditional relationships in cases like this one.

**

DEAR ABBY: I just turned 21 and am engaged to be married in May. My fiance and I have been together all through college, but I have been feeling hostile toward him for the last couple of months. I get mad for the stupidest things and don't know why. Lately I've been feeling I want to go out and "experience life." Should I call off the wedding? — **OVERWHELMED WITH CONFUSION IN OKLAHOMA**

DEAR OVERWHELMED: You are overdue for a frank talk with your fiance. You may be experiencing pre-wedding jitters or are feeling trapped. Whether the wedding should be postponed or called off is up to the two of you to decide. You both would benefit from premarital counseling.

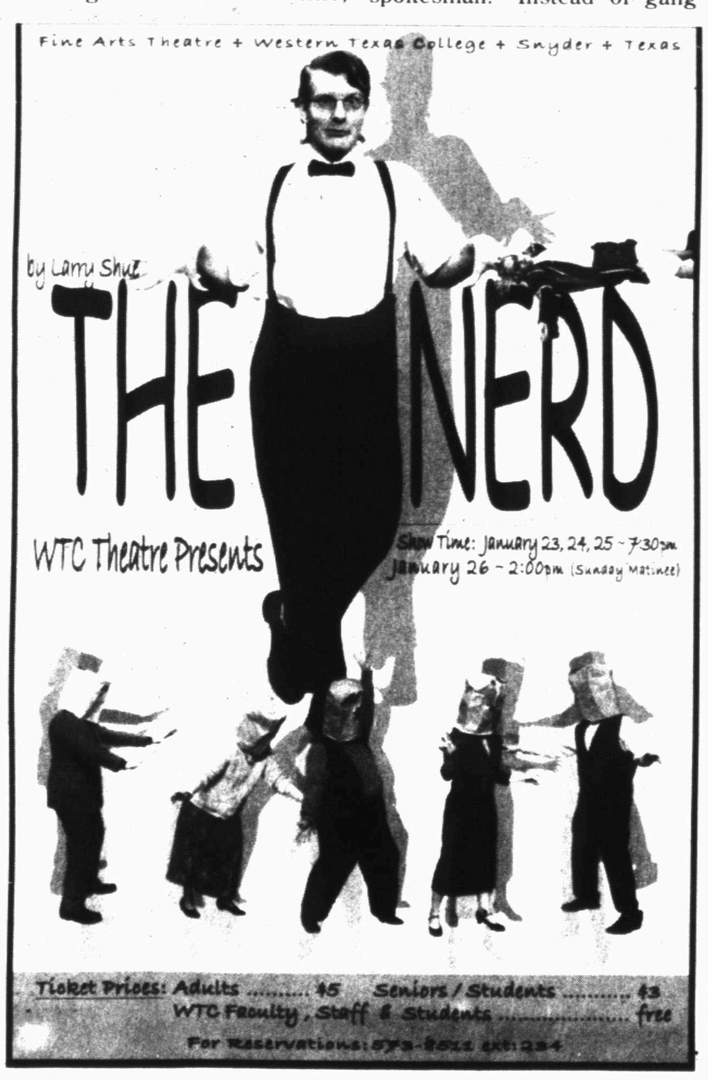
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Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Gov. Perry freezes millions in grants

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry has put on hold $221 million in grants for public schools, universities, libraries and health care facilities while he and state lawmakers assess the state's budget crisis.

"In light of this budget situation, you're going to see a lot of spending questioned," said Kathy Walt, a Perry spokeswoman.

Perry's actions irked some state agency officials and others who say the grants are needed to fund programs for rural and underserved areas throughout the state.

The grants fund projects that link Texas schools, universities, libraries, and hospitals for distance learning, information sharing and general communications.

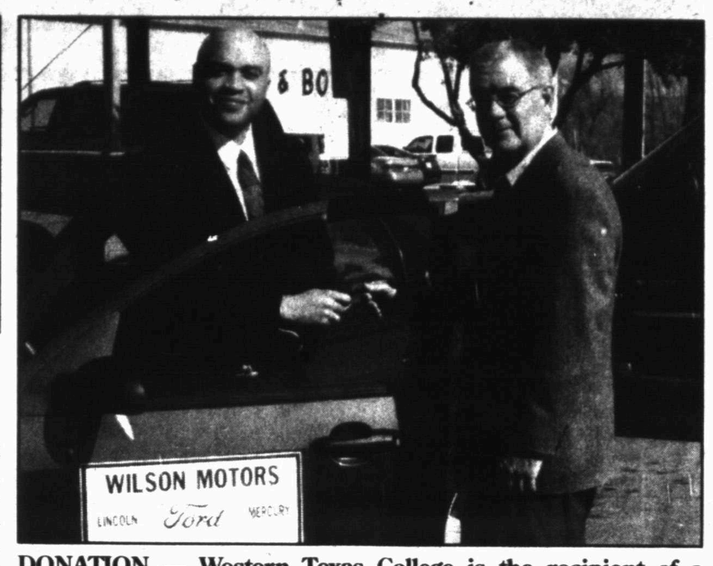
The grants are awarded by the nine-member Telecommunications Infrastructure Board, which has doled out more than $1 billion since the agency was created in 1995.

Lawmakers created the fund to spur telecommunications infrastructure growth in Texas.

In Corpus Christi, Del Mar College received more than $500,000 in TIF grants that, if cut off permanently, could mean the loss of thousands of periodicals and publications in the school's library system, said college President Gustavo R. Valadez Ortiz.

"It would cut off many of the research opportunities for our students and others in the Coastal Bend community," Valadez said "We're very, very concerned."

The grant money was also used to develop a training facility for faculty to pursue offering distant learning education to students, and it pays 15 percent of a high speed Internet "gateway" that the college recently implemented.



DONATION — Western Texas College is the recipient of a 2003 Ford Focus courtesy of Wilson Motors to be raffled off in support of the college's fundraising efforts. Shown accepting the auto is WTC President Greg Williams with Bill Wilson III, representing the Ford dealership. (SDN Staff Photo)

Powell, French clash over U.N. weapons inspections

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Colin Powell, chafing over criticism of the Bush administration's Iraq policy, says he sees no need for further inspections before moving ahead with enforcement of U.N. resolutions requiring Saddam Hussein to disarm.

A burgeoning dispute between the United States and some of its allies could hamper efforts to reach a consensus next week when the monitors report on 60 days of searches and the U.N. Security Council considers its next moves.

The White House sought to minimize the dispute. Presidential spokesman Ari Fleischer said "the president is confident that Europe will heed the call." Fleischer acknowledged, however, that "it's entirely possible that France won't be on the line."

As the dispute heated up, leaders reacted angrily today to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's dismissal of France and Germany as the "old Europe," saying the comments underscore America's arrogance.

Finance Minister Francis Mer said he was "profoundly vexed" by the remarks.

"I wanted to remind everyone that this 'old Europe' has resilience, and is capable of bouncing back," Mer told LCI television. "And it will show it, in time."

Rumsfeld, joining the trans-Atlantic debate over inspections, said Germany and France were "a problem," but that the vast majority of other countries in Europe backed the United States.

Today, Powell seemed anxious to cool down the rhetoric, although he acknowledged "there are different ideas right now about how to proceed."

But in a joint appearance with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, Powell said the administration anxiously awaits the report of inspectors to the U.N. next Monday and said it would consider its next steps at that time.

Powell noted that the U.N. "came together and responded to the challenge" that Bush laid down last fall.

"To say never mind now, or walk away from this problem or allow it to be strung out, I think, would be a defeat for the international community and a serious defeat for the United Nations," he said.

"I enter into all of these issues with a desire to hear others and recognizing that they have principles that they believe," Powell said. "We listen to others and we find a way forward. There is a way forward if we remain united, if we don't take our eye off the ball."

"There is still a way with which this can be resolved peacefully," Straw said. He said Saddam's weapons buildup is the issue. Of all U.S. allies, Britain has been most supportive of the administration regarding Iraq.

Said Powell: "I don't think we'll have to worrying about going it alone. I think the case is clear. I'm sure we have a strong coalition."

Delivery van crashes into local business

Tim Burton was sitting at his desk at Snyder Electronics Wednesday evening when he got a big surprise.

A delivery van crashed through the southeast corner of the building, just 15 feet from where he was sitting.

The van, a 1995 Kenworth driven by Lindsey Franklin of Abilene, was involved in a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of Coliseum Dr. and Ave. E and then careened into the electronics business.

Also involved in the 5:35 p.m. mishap was a 1990 GMC pickup driven by Randall Seaton, 43, of 3001 40th Street.

Seaton was transported by ambulance to Cogdell Hospital for minor injuries.

Snyder firefighters were dispatched and TXU also was contacted for downed power lines.

Franklin was issued a citation for disregarding a red light and an offense report was filed for the two-vehicle major commercial accident.

Burton was not injured.

Burton's son, Mike, said this morning that the building would be repaired and business would continue as usual.

Lottery tickets reported stolen

Theft

At 3:22 p.m. Wednesday, a clerk at Allsup's in Snyder reported the theft of Lottery tickets. Police filed a report for Class B theft.

Fraud

Police Sgt. Brian Peterson received a complaint from Kim Lane at 3:14 p.m. Wednesday concerning fraudulent checks. She was advised of the proper steps to take.

Harassment

A man contacted police at 11:03 a.m. Wednesday to report that a man was harassing his future stepdaughter. The accused party was contacted and advised of the complaint.

Break-in

Shortly after 8 p.m. Wednesday, officers were called to a residence in the 1100 block of 26th Street where a woman reported that three persons had broken into her home.

The three told investigators that they did not enter illegally, but were invited in by another subject. The trio did leave the residence.

Hit-and-run

A hit-and-run mishap was reported by Mattie Smith at 11:45 a.m. Wednesday at Snyder High School. Police were looking for a damaged vehicle carrying four Hispanic subjects.

Obituaries

Truman Murdock

1918-2003

LUBBOCK — Funeral service for Truman Lee Murdock, 84, of Lubbock is set for 2 p.m. Friday in the Resthaven's Abbey Chapel with Ricky Oliphint officiating. Burial will follow in Resthaven Memorial Park under the direction of Resthaven Funeral Home of Lubbock.

Mr. Murdock died Tuesday, Jan. 21, in Lubbock.

Born July 26,1918 in Eastland County, he married Ellen Marie Isbell on Feb. 16, 1941. She died on March 19, 1985.

Mr. Murdock served in the U.S. Army artillery during WWII from 1944-1946.

A resident of Lubbock since 1957, he was a licensed and certified HVAC technician and was co-owner of H&T Heating and Air in Lubbock.

Survivors include two sons, Harold Murdock of Wolfforth and Don Murdock of Snyder; a daughter Laveta Vestel of Lubbock; three brothers, E.V. Murdock of Killeen, Ottie Murdock of California and Don Murdock of Utah; nine grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

His parents, two brothers and a sister preceded him in death.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 this evening at Resthaven Funeral Home.

Geneva Tealer

1938-2003

ODESSA — Geneva Tealer, the sister of six Snyder residents, died Sunday, Jan. 19, in the Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Crane.

Service for Mrs. Tealer, 64, is set for 10 a.m. Friday in St. Matthew's Baptist Church with the Rev. Unice C. Brazil officiating. Burial will follow in the Mt. Zion Cemetery in Brownfield under the direction of Martinez Funeral Home.

Born in Taylor, Mrs. Tealer was a retired nurse and a Baptist.

Survivors include four sons, Willie James Tealer, Carl Lee Tealer and Ray Lee Tealer, all of Odessa, and Eddie Tealer Jr. of Wichita Falls; three daughters, Dollie White and Mary Jones, both of Odessa, and Elaine Tealer of Brownfield; five brothers, Robert Braziel, Napolean Braziel, Rufus Braziel and Luther Braziel, all of Snyder, and Unice C. Braziel of San Antonio; four sisters, Birdie Anderson and Mozelle King, both of Snyder, Evelyn Wesley of Lubbock and Ida Mae Nelson of Odessa; 16 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Bill Sojourner

1930-2003

ABILENE — William Clinton "Bill" Sojourner Jr., the brother of Barbara Sojourner of Snyder, died Tuesday, Jan. 21, in an Abilene hospital.

Funeral service for Mr. Sojourner, 72, is set for 10 a.m. Friday in the Southern Hills Church of Christ with John Risse officiating. Burial will follow in Elmwood Memorial Park under the direction of Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home.

Born Aug. 14, 1930 in Cross Plains and was a 1947 graduate of Abilene High School and earned a degree in geology from the University of Texas in 1956.

He married Barbara Ann Fielder on Dec. 28, 1952 in Abilene.

Mr. Sojourner served as president of Sojourner Drilling Corporation from 1963 to 1996.

A U.S. Army veteran, Mr. Sojourner was a Methodist, a member of the West Central Texas Oil and Gas Association, the Paleozoic Society and the Oil Well Drillers Association.

He was preceded in death by his father, William Clinton Sojourner Sr.

Survivors also include his wife, Barbara Ann Sojourner of Abilene; a son, William Clinton Sojourner III and wife Jana of Abilene; two daughters and sons-in-law, Sherry and Ronnie Clark of Weatherford and Cindy and Gene Brady of Abilene; his mother, Rita Sojourner of Hamlin; a brother, Jim Sojourner of Broaddus, Tex.; an aunt, Novella Rash of Hamlin; and five grandchildren.

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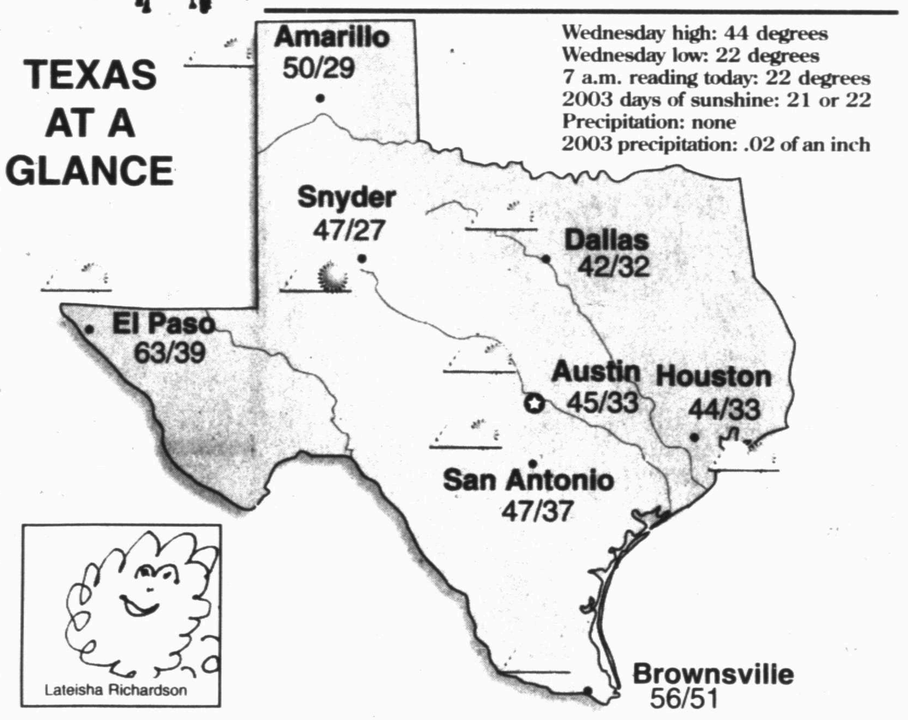
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Fri 1/24	Sat 1/25	Sun 1/26
47/27	58/29	56/27
Sunshine along with some passing clouds. High near 55F.	Mostly cloudy. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the low 20s.	Overcast. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the mid 20s.
Sunrise 7:43 AM, Sunset 6:09 PM	Sunrise 7:43 AM, Sunset 6:10 PM	Sunrise 7:42 AM, Sunset 6:10 PM

WEST TEXAS STATE BANK
1901 26th Street • 573-5441
FDIC

TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Wednesday high: 44 degrees
Wednesday low: 22 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 22 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 21 or 22
Precipitation: none
2003 precipitation: .02 of an inch

Lateisha Richardson

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	46	32	pt sunny	El Paso	63	39	pt sunny	Midland	53	32	cloudy
Amarillo	50	29	pt sunny	Fort Stockton	56	35	pt sunny	Raymondville	53	46	cloudy
Austin	45	33	pt sunny	Gainesville	38	24	pt sunny	Rosenberg	44	33	pt sunny
Beaumont	43	30	pt sunny	Greenville	38	25	pt sunny	San Antonio	47	37	pt sunny
Brownsville	56	51	cloudy	Houston	44	33	pt sunny	San Marcos	46	34	pt sunny
Brownwood	46	30	pt sunny	Kingsville	51	43	cloudy	Sulphur Springs	39	26	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	48	43	cloudy	Livingston	43	27	pt sunny	Sweetwater	47	28	cloudy
Corsicana	41	30	pt sunny	Longview	38	25	pt sunny	Tyler	41	31	pt sunny
Dallas	42	32	pt sunny	Lubbock	52	29	cloudy	Weatherford	40	25	pt sunny
Del Rio	51	40	pt sunny	Lufkin	42	29	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	44	30	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	32	16	mst sunny	Houston	44	33	pt sunny	Phoenix	76	52	pt sunny
Boston	24	7	windy	Los Angeles	74	56	pt sunny	San Francisco	59	51	cloudy
Chicago	15	11	cloudy	Miami	60	48	pt sunny	Seattle	51	42	rain
Dallas	42	32	pt sunny	Minneapolis	13	12	flurries	St. Louis	20	19	cloudy
Denver	53	28	pt sunny	New York	26	14	pt sunny	Washington, DC	34	19	mst sunny

Moon Phases

Full	Last	New	First
Jan 18	Jan 25	Feb 1	Feb 9

UV Index

Fri 1/24	Sat 1/25	Sun 1/26
3	4	4
Low	Low	Low

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

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JAN 23 2003

Two winners reported in Lotto Texas' jackpot

GRAPEVINE (AP) — Truck driver D.C. Edie was picking up lotto tickets all over North Texas, hoping to hit Wednesday's $53 million jackpot. He should have spent his time in Grand Prairie.

Two winning tickets were sold for Wednesday's jackpot — one at a Kroger grocery store in Grand Prairie and one at a convenience store in Brownsville — Texas lottery officials said. The winning numbers were 17, 25, 28, 40, 42 and 46.

"The bigger it gets — the more you buy," said the 50-year-old as he picked up a hot lunch and five more tickets at a Grapevine convenience store Wednesday. "I'm hoping they'll have a winner tonight because I'm getting broke doing this."

It was the biggest Lotto Texas jackpot since it hit $70 million in June. Earlier that month, it had been at $50 million.

The winning tickets were purchased at Speedy Stop No. 80 in Brownsville and Kroger 817 in Grand Prairie, the Lottery Commission said.

All across Texas, long lines formed at counters. Lottery officials estimated that $14 million would be sold on Wednesday alone, though that was less than half the one-day record of about $32 million in March 2001, when the jackpot was $85 million.

Had nobody won the jackpot Wednesday night, the next drawing on Saturday would have gone to an estimated $70 million. Instead, the jackpot will start over at $4 million on Saturday.

Soon though, the chances of winning may decrease to let the jackpot amount increase. The odds were changed in July 2000 from one in 15.8 million to one in 25.8 million. A current proposal would increase the odds to 45 million-to-1 under a variety of scenarios.

Vasquez said that one of the proposals will be recommended to the Texas Lottery Commission at its Jan. 31 meeting.

Tom Clowe, chairman of the three-member Texas Lottery Commission, said the commission then would decide how or if to go forward. If they decide to post it for a rule-making, the public would have a chance to comment on the proposal.

"We know that people like big jackpots," Clowe said. "We're going to listen to whatever the staff's proposal is. We're at the early stage of anything that might be considered."

Vasquez said Lotto Texas sales have been down because the jackpot has not been in the high numbers people like to see. "We've had a lot of jackpots in the single digits and those are not the numbers people like to see," she said.

"This is the kind of jackpot we'd hoped we'd see last time when we changed the game."

Edie doesn't agree with making it harder to win. "You're going to have people not playing. I wouldn't spend as much," he said.

The jackpot inspired Jennifer Tolman, 37, of Rockwall to buy five tickets at the Grapevine convenience store, her first lotto buy in about a year. "I was just on vacation in Florida and I thought it would be nice to retire early," she said.

Tolman is against making it harder to win just to increase the jackpot. "You don't need more money," she said.

At Wright Stop, a Texaco station about two blocks away from the Mexican border in Brownsville, clerk Jose Gaona said many of the customers cross over from Mexico just to play.

Five-room museum to honor film maker

ROME (AP) — Fans of Federico Fellini will soon have another reason to travel to the resort city of Rimini, the filmmaker's hometown and the setting of his 1973 film, "Amarcord."

A cultural organization dedicated to the director's memory plans to open a five-room museum on the ground floor of the Fellini family home to display his storyboards and sketches.

Organizers hope to open the museum in time for the Oct. 31 anniversary of the director's death in 1993, Catia Donini, a spokeswoman for the Federico Fellini Foundation, said Wednesday.

Two local deputies save surviving miners following explosion

CAMERON, W.Va. (AP) — The explosion thundered 940 feet underground just as workers, using dynamite and acetylene torches, were in the final stages of digging a 24-foot-wide ventilation shaft at Consol Energy Inc.'s McElroy Mine.

The early morning blast Wednesday killed three men. Three others remained trapped after local emergency crews said they weren't qualified to attempt the rescue.

That's when — and why — Marshall County sheriff's deputies Brent Wharry and Steve Cook got involved.

"Nobody would get the guys out, so we had to jump in," said Wharry, who entered the still-smoking shaft with Cook about an hour after the explosion. They successfully rescued the surviving miners.

"We just did what we do every day," Wharry said. "This one is just blown out of proportion."

The deaths were West Virginia's first mine-related fatalities of the year — the state had six last year.

Officials said the suspected methane explosion tore through the bottom of the shaft where the six employees of Central Cambria Drilling Co. were working. The shaft was about 60 feet from a coal seam when the blast occurred; the seam is known to release methane gas.

Central Cambia has been involved in 11 other accidents at the same mine since 2001, but the blast was the Ebensburg, Pa., company's first fatal accident since 1995, according to contractor records on the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration's Web site.

From 1995 to 2003, the company had 43 nonfatal accidents and injuries at the McElroy Mine and other mines in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Injuries recorded at the McElroy Mine since 2001 involving Central Cambria ranged from cut fingers to those caused by rock falls during drilling, according to the MSHA Web site. The last accident occurred Nov. 21 when a worker was hurt while dumping a muck bucket.

Company officials did not return telephone calls Wednesday. Company president Jack Williamson was at the mine, according to a woman who answered the phone at the company headquarters.

State and federal mine inspectors were expected to return to the site today to determine what sparked the explosion.

"We're pretty convinced it was a methane explosion," said C.A. Phillips, deputy director of the state Officer of Miners' Health Safety and Training.

Investigators also plan to interview Aaron Meyer, 28, of Moundsville, who was the only worker to be treated and released after the explosion.

Two other men — crew boss Richard Brumley, 51, of Waynesburg, Pa., and Benjamin Bair, 23, of Pentress — were being treated for second-degree burns and other injuries at Pittsburgh's Mercy Hospital.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Significance of DNR

DEAR DR. GOTT: What actually does a DNR order mean? Does it prohibit patients in hospitals or nursing homes from receiving antibiotics or pain medication?

DEAR READER: Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) is an expression of patients' wishes to avoid undergoing resuscitative efforts at the end of life. For example, a DNR patient who is found to be pulseless and not breathing would not receive closed chest cardiac massage, artificial ventilation, machine life-support and other techniques used to revive a person who appears to have died. DNR does not cover the use of medications (such as antibiotics), does not prohibit hospitalization (for heart attack or stroke, for instance) and does not mean that a person would be deprived of pain medication if this were needed.

Most patients who opt for DNR status do not want heroic efforts to bring back life in situations where death appears to have occurred.

Other quality-of-life issues (such as tube feedings and advanced life support) are best addressed in a document called a living will. Most older adults should have living wills. The forms are available through a variety of sources, including attorney's offices.

DEAR DR. GOTT: After a week in the hospital, four months of outpatient visits and three CT scans, I was told I had an inflamed pancreas with a "mass" associated with it. After agreeing to one more CT scan (when I was symptom-free) and having already run up a $15,000 bill, I have been told by my physician that everything is fine; the mass isn't there anymore. What do you think of the situation?

DEAR READER: It's hard to know what to think. The Case of the Disappearing Mass may raise more questions than it answers. On the surface, it looks as though someone fouled up your diagnosis — at considerable expense, I might add. And many people would be unjustifiably tempted to have at the medical establishment for being inept and overpriced.

However, in my experience, pancreatic problems can be exceedingly difficult to sort out. For example, an inflamed pancreas can cause abdominal pain that resembles many conditions, including peptic ulcer, because the organ lies close to the stomach and intestine. Furthermore, pancreatitis usually leads to swelling of the gland on CT scanning. Once the inflammation has healed, the swelling (which looks like a mass in the x-ray films) regresses and — eureka! — no more mass. This is what probably happened in your case. A further possibility is that a cyst formed in your inflamed pancreas. Once your problem resolved, the cyst did, too.

The doctors were understandably concerned because pancreatic cancer is difficult to diagnose without an operation and biopsy, and such a tumor is all but impossible to treat. Therefore, I conclude that you are fortunate that the "mass" disappeared. While your recent experience with the medical profession was far from ideal and once again proves that medical testing is not 100 percent reliable, you got through the ordeal with flying colors. Congratulations.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Do copper bracelets really prevent arthritis?

DEAR READER: Several years ago, copper bracelets enjoyed widespread popularity as a supposed arthritis preventive. This was nothing more than a medical fad. Such bracelets failed the test of scientific scrutiny.

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

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