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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND

Feb. 15 & 16, 1997
Vol. 47 No. 245
38 Pages 50¢

Home of Amber Loyola

Clinton's intervention keeps jets in the air

Appoints group to study dispute

WASHINGTON (AP) — A strike by American Airlines pilots was just four minutes old Saturday morning when President Clinton intervened to prevent the shuttering of the nation's largest domestic carrier at the start of a busy holiday weekend.

While the pilots continue to fly, a three-member emergency board named by Clinton will take 30 days to propose a settlement. The union and the airline then have 30 days to reach an agreement. Failing that, Congress could impose a settlement.

"This dispute needs to be resolved as soon as possible," the president said in a statement authorizing the emergency board.

It was not immediately clear when talks would resume. American's president, Donald Carty, said there would be little disruption of Saturday's flights.

The White House announced Clinton's decision at 12:07 a.m. EST, after four days of marathon talks produced few results. Four minutes earlier, James Sovich, president of the Allied Pilots Association, had ordered strike leaders around the country to shut down the airline, which would have stranded up to 40,000 travelers.

While airline executives praised the president for staving off a potential financial disaster, union officials questioned his decision.

"There is no deal, there is no contract, there is no labor peace," Sovich said. "I prefer that it not have occurred."

Sovich's strike announcement elicited loud cheers at a meeting of union members and their families in Dallas-Fort Worth, the airline's headquarters. Boos greeted the news of Clinton's decision.

American's chief executive officer, Robert Crandall, thanked the president "for his wisdom in preventing a strike that would have been very harmful to American's many constituencies and to the nation as a whole."

Circus here Tuesday

Circus Gatti comes to Scurry Coliseum Tuesday with performances scheduled for 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.

The three-ring circus is sponsored by the Scurry County Sheriff's Posse.

The circus is billed as the "world's largest thrill show" and features more than 100 performing daredevils presenting all kinds of dangerous stunts ranging from handstands on 80-foot-tall swaying flagpoles to riding ninja-cycles inside a steel globe.

HANGIN' IRON — Workers with Hobie Bolin Construction of Colorado City are preparing the framework for a new Higginbotham-Bartlett Home Center adjacent to the present site on 25th Street. The 10,000 square-foot building is expected to be completed in late spring, said manager Greg Rains. (SDN Staff Photo)

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "The real chore is to reconcile gross habits with net income."

We just missed it. We had written ourself a note, but we couldn't read it.

Last month contained National Handwriting Week.

The experts says that our p's and q's tell more than we think. The American Handwriting Analysis Foundation declares, "Our signature is our personal badge to the world."

Known as graphoanalysis, it is said to be really "brainwriting," projecting the unconscious personality onto paper." It is said to combine a study of the physical and the emotional. Here are some conclusions:

--The way the letter "t" is crossed tells about a writer's self esteem. The higher the crossbar on the "t," the higher the level of personal confidence.

--A big loop on a "d" means a person is very sensitive, perhaps even paranoid.

--A dot close to the stem of the letter "i" signals a great eye for detail and a good memory.

Long descender strokes indicate determination and strong physical drives.

Handwriting can indicate characteristics such as loyalty, ambition, logic, business acumen, interpersonal skills, concentration, decision making ability, ethics, anger, laziness or even deceitfulness.

We once had our handwriting critiqued by a panel of elementary teachers. The conclusion was unanimous; sloppy!

We think it's time to find the most unique signature in Snyder. Between now and the end of February, send us someone's "John Hancock." All signatures must be from residents of Scurry County. Your boss' signature might be a good prospect.

First prize will be a dinner for two at the Snyder restaurant of your choice. We'll also obtain a free analysis of the 10 most unique signatures.

It could be fun, so happy writing!

Filing date nears for May elections

Eight school board places, four city seats to be on ballot

Filing for candidacy in the city council and public school board elections begins Monday and at least one current office holder has said she will not seek another term.

Geraldine Parker, who has completed two terms in the Place 2 seat on the Snyder ISD board of trustees, announced Thursday that she will not file as a candidate for a third term.

Richard Chambers, the only other SISD trustee whose term comes up for election in May, indicated he probably will file for another Place 3 term.

There are 12 terms up for election throughout the county. The first day to file as a candidate is Monday. The filing period runs through April 2.

Four seats up for election are in city government where the two-year terms of Mayor David Holt and at-large councilmen Ron Shaw and Dayton Robertson end. Also on the ballot will be the District 3 spot, a one-year term. That seat, originally held by former councilman Kenny Gambrell, has been vacant for most of the past year.

There are also four places on the Hermleigh ISD board, all at-large. Those seats are held by Jimmy Hudgins, John Williamson, Chip Roemisch and Tim Dacus.

At Ira, Place 4, held by Bo Robinson, and Place 5, held by Dirk Dunn, will be up for election. All seats on the Ira ISD board are at-large, but candidates must designate which place they are seeking.

There are no seats up for election on the Western Texas College board of trustees.

Persons wishing to file as a candidate should do so in the respective business office of the entity which they wish to represent.

Snyder ISD school officials note that Monday is a holiday for the district. The business office will be closed but a number to call will be posted on the door for anyone wishing to file that day.

Early voting in the May 3 elections is April 14-29.

Grievance ruling expected Tuesday

A ruling is expected Tuesday by County Judge Ricky Fritz on a wrongful dismissal grievance filed by a former dispatcher for the sheriff's office.

Anita Peavy, who had worked as a dispatcher for 14 months, was terminated from her position on Feb. 5 by Sheriff Darren Jackson.

In a letter to Peavy, Jackson cited the abuse of authority, misuse of county and state funds, failure to dispatch a back-up unit as requested and habitual tardiness.

Peavy has said, however, that the firing was triggered by an incident in which Peavy had asked a DPS trooper to transport her child's and a friend's forgotten luggage to the Scurry-Garza county line in order for her to have clothing for a church youth group meeting in Lubbock the weekend of Jan. 17. The two joined other members of a Colonial Hill Baptist youth group following a girls basketball game in Lamesa.

A DPS trooper from Post then carried the luggage to the Lubbock county line where another trooper picked it up and carried it to the motel where the group was staying.

Peavy said the luggage also contained medicine for her daughter's friend.

Peavy said she did not feel this request was out of the ordinary for DPS troopers or other law enforcement personnel.

Following her dismissal, Peavy filed a grievance with the county in an attempt to get her job back, citing wrongful accusations by Jackson.

Peavy said Saturday that she was considering several options, including filing a civil suit, if she is not reinstated.

County policy calls for the judge to make a ruling on grievances when filed against an elected official, such as the sheriff.

St. Mary Clinic opens Monday

St. Mary Family Healthcare Center will open Monday morning and the four family practitioners who call it home are already praising the 13,500 square foot facility.

"This is a great advantage to our practice and makes our medical record system much more accessible to each physician," said Dr. Paul Thompson. "With an increase in exam rooms, we will also have the convenience of performing more procedures in the office."

The other family practitioners located at the facility are Drs. Jim Burleson, Gary Nussey and Nazem Abdelfatta. The staff also includes family nurse practitioner Beth Ashley.

The Center features 23 exam rooms, four special procedure rooms, in-house laboratory and X-ray capabilities and a conference room.

"This is a great opportunity to increase the health care services available to the people of Snyder," said Dr. Burleson.

St. Mary Family Healthcare Center has grown from 14 employees to 20 within the last 12 months and meets an annual payroll of more than $650,000.

The Center offers total family care, obstetrics and gynecology, prenatal care, minor office surgical procedures, minor casting, gastrointestinal procedures, dermatology and geriatric care. Businesses will use the Center for drug screenings and schools will be sending students and athletes there for required physicals.

"We look forward to continuing to provide quality medical care to Scurry County," said Dr. Burleson.

St. Mary officials said the Center will help solidify the Lubbock hospital's association with Cogdell Hospital.

"Our commitment to help provide quality health care to Snyder began in 1987 with our partnership with Cogdell Memorial Hospital and the completion of this new facility further solidifies that St. Mary will continue to support the people of this community, said Susan Neves, St. Mary assistant vice president.

Jeff Reecer, Cogdell CEO, called the Center "the best physician recruitment tool this community has had in a long time."

Carla Nunley is on-site supervisor for the facility, located at 5009 College Avenue. A grand opening is planned from 4:30-6 p.m. March 26.

Chamber board to meet Tuesday

Requests for hotel/motel funds and approval of a coliseum contract are items Snyder Chamber of Commerce board will consider in a meeting set for 11:30 a.m. Tuesday.

President's day prompts closings

Monday is President's Day and local bank employees and Snyder public schools will recognize the occasion by taking a holiday.

County and federal offices and the Western Texas College campus will also be closed. Mail will not be delivered on routes, but will be placed in boxes at the post office.

County buildings to be closed Monday include the courthouse, library, museum and health unit.

President's Day will not be a holiday for city employees or employees and students within Ira and Hermleigh school districts.

ASK US

Q—Has the date been set for the annual Canyon Reef Relays?

A—Yes, the popular track meet is set for March 8.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Friday, 53 degrees; low, 28; 7 a.m. Saturday, 28; trace precipitation; total for 1997, 1.85 inches.

Area Forecast: Saturday night, clear. Low around 30. Variable wind 5-10 mph. Sunday, sunny. High 60- 65. SE wind 5-15 mph.

Katrina Matchett
Sunny

Sunset: 6:31 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:24 a.m.
Of 45 days in 1997, the sun has shone 39 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

A man is not paid for having a head and hands, but for using them.

- Elbert Hubbard

FEB 16 1997

Young founders of Internet endow Yahoo chair at SU

STANFORD, Calif. (AP) — Yahoo! The founders of the Internet company with the funny name have endowed a $2 million chair at Stanford University two years after they dropped out to pursue their fortune.

"We feel obligated to give back to them," Yahoo! co-founder David Filo said.

Filo, 30, and Jerry Yang, 28, are worth about $140 million each as a result of their Internet directory company, which went public last spring.

They are the youngest people to endow a chair at the university. The chair, the Yahoo! Founders Professor of the Stanford School of Engineering, was approved by the trustees on Wednesday.

"We were delighted to have the 'Yahoo!' in the name," said Laura Breyfogle, spokeswoman for the School of Engineering.

Yang and Filo were working on their doctorates in computer science at the engineering school when they started making a list of their favorite sites on the World Wide Web. The two — working at night, dining on pizza — turned the list into an extensive guide to the Web.

One night, they started searching the dictionary for a name for their list.

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UNITED WAY RECIPIENTS — United Way funds were distributed to eight recipients Friday. From left, back row, Treva Moore, UW president; Dee Wilson, Noah Project; Leslie Cooley, CADA; Jerry Vestal, Scurry County Ministerial Alliance Food Bank; Jack McGlaun, Boys and Girls Club; Peggy Vernon, area manager for Scurry County Girls Scout, a division of West Texas Girl Scout Council; Shirley Fritz, Snyder Day Care Center. Seated in front, from left, Janet Cross and Ellen Pate, both of Midland, Red Cross representatives; and Warren Wallace of Big Spring, Boy Scouts district executive of Lone Buffalo division of the Buffalo Trail Council. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Tiny newsletter has approval but no money to open bureau

BALTIMORE (AP) — With just one paid full-time editor, the CubaINFO newsletter seemed out of place with the list of journalism giants that won White House approval to open bureaus in Havana.

And with only about 700 subscribers, the Johns Hopkins University-based newsletter, which comes out every three weeks, doesn't have the money to maintain such an office.

"We would have to raise the money because there is no way in our present budget we can afford it," said Franklin Knight, head of the Johns Hopkins Latin American studies program, which oversees the newsletter.

Despite the lack of cash, the university plans to seek permission from the Cuban government to open a small bureau.

"We are not going to try to compete with CNN or the other news organizations," Knight said. "I think we would probably begin with a one-person office and the usual electronic communications so we could get immediate reports."

Wayne Smith, director of the university's exchange program for Cuban and American scholars, applied to the Treasury Department two years ago for a license to open a news bureau in Havana.

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier-in Snyder, $8.00 per month.

By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $78.00 balance of Texas and out of state $99.00.

Roy McQueen, Publisher
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RIBBON CUTTING — The Snyder Chamber of Commerce Gold Coats welcomed Brenda G. Hedges, investment professional, and Advantage Capital Corp. into the chamber with a reception and ribbon cutting ceremony Tuesday. Chamber manager Donna Fowler presented Mrs. Hedges with a membership plaque. The new business is located at 3203 College Ave. and is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Staff Photo by Jo Ann Nunley)

David Bowie rocks Wall Street; will other entertainers follow?

NEW YORK (AP) — David Bowie, the chameleon of rock 'n' roll, is ch-ch-ch-changing his image once again, going to Wall Street to market bonds that will pay interest from his old song royalties.

An innovation for both the investment world and the entertainment industry, the bonds will allow the British music icon to collect $55 million up front instead of waiting for royalty checks to trickle in over many years.

The Bowie bond is tied to royalties from 25 albums, such as "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and The Spiders from Mars," that the 50-year-old rocker recorded before 1990. Current and future works are excluded.

Whoever thought investors would be enticed by esoteric bonds tied to royalties from a singer's hits? But these albums sell more than 1 million copies annually.

Prudential Insurance Co. of America, knowing a good risk when it sees one, loosened its tie and snapped up all the bonds.

They provide Prudential with a 7.9 percent return on its investment over 10 years — an even higher return, by the way, than the 6.37 percent yield on the new 10-year Treasury note.

Bowie has opened what is envisioned as a new market for so-called asset-backed bonds, which derive value from payments on such things as home mortgages or car loans. In this case, the asset is Bowie's songs, such as "Let's Dance," "Changes," and "Space Oddity," which still generate strong sales.

Alternate juror says minds made up before he arrived

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — A man who joined the O.J. Simpson civil jury in the middle of deliberations said jurors ignored a judge's order to start over and many had already made up their minds.

"According to the judge's instructions, they should start all over in the beginning, but no, that is not the case," alternate Arthur Li told KCAL-TV on Thursday. "(The) majority of the jurors actually had their minds made up already."

Li said jurors went over some of the critical evidence but did not go into "every single detail." He voted with the majority each time.

The group of six men and six women found Simpson liable for the June 12, 1994, killings of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman. They also awarded compensatory and punitive damages totaling $33.5 million.

Li was chosen to replace Rosemary Caraway, the lone black on the jury. Caraway was dismissed after three days of deliberations because she failed to tell attorneys her daughter worked for the district attorney's office.

Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki told the reconstructed jury to start talks anew.

Felan to report for basic training

Benjamin L. Felan has joined the United States Army under the Delayed Entry Program at the U.S. Army Recruiting Station in Huntsville.

Felan, a 1992 graduate of Snyder High School, will report to Fort Leonard Wood, Waynesville, Mo., for basic military training on Tuesday.

He is the son of Anita R. Felan of Snyder. Felan earned an associate degree in 1994 from Western Texas College.

The Delayed Entry Program provides the opportunity to delay enlistment into the Army for up to one year before reporting to basic military training.

The enlistment gives the new soldier the option to learn a skill, travel and become eligible to receive as much as $30,000 toward a college education. After completion of basic training, soldiers receive advanced individual training in their career specialty.

Quiros completes hospital training

Navy Hospitalman Recruit Amador Quiros, son of Juan B. and Luzelarba Quiros of Snyder, recently graduated from the Basic Hospital Corps School at Naval Hospital Corps School, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the 14-week course, Quiros learned a wide range of medical procedures used to provide first aid and assist Navy doctors and nurses. Quiros also received an introductory instruction for service in a variety of medical environments, from fleet hospitals and shipboard medical departments to fleet Marine forces and medical administration offices.

The 1995 graduate of Snyder High School joined the Navy in July 1996.

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Drug traffickers suspected in deaths of dolphins and whales

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Scientists said Friday that drug traffickers are among the suspects in the mysterious deaths of dolphins and whales off Mexico's west coast.

Forty-two dolphins were found dead on beaches near Culiacan on Mexico's northern Pacific Friday following the discovery of at least three dead whales in the same area in the last week.

Fishermen are also reporting schools of dead sardines floating in Gulf of California.

Scientists say they are looking into a cyanide-based chemical used by drug traffickers to mark ocean drop-off sites as one of the possible causes of the die-off, the largest reported in at least a year.

That phosphorescent chemical, known as Natural Killer-19 or "NK-19" is used to guide low-flying aircraft to areas in the ocean where bales of drugs have been dumped from passing ships.

Biologist Benito Mejia of the University of Sinaloa said in a telephone interview that the whales were probably travelling into the Gulf of California to breed when they died.

Jaime Loya Chairez, an assistant to the state Attorney General's office was quoted by the daily Noroeste de Culiacan as saying that NK-19 was probably the cause of the deaths.

However, the decomposed state of most of the mammals washed ashore on the Tetuan and Novolato beaches may make the investigation difficult.

The first of the dead whales to wash up Feb. 7 near a tourist beach has already been towed to a local landfill.

"We are sending a team to take samples from the animals, to check chemical and pollution levels," said biologist Luis Miguel Flores, director of the School of Ocean Sciences at the University of Sinaloa.

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NEW PARTNER — Snyder Junior High School welcomed American State Bank as its newest adopt-a-school partner during a signing ceremony on Tuesday. From left are, Jeffery Martin, ASB vice president; Kellye Starnes, principal; and Janeen Patterson, drama teacher. Not pictured are ASB representatives Linda Hughes and Melanie Schwertner who also attended the ceremony. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Financial Focus

We live in an automated world. Computers, electronic transfers, online shopping — you name it, and you can probably press a button to get it. Automation can simplify life, leaving more time for fun.

Mutual funds have offered automated services for a long time. Unfortunately, many investors have become so comfortable with the old way that they unknowingly overlook newer, easier ways of doing things. Other investors may not even know that these services exist. Many of these services are free, even from load funds.

For example, did you know that most mutual funds will automatically invest for you? That's paying yourself first and taking advantage of dollar-cost averaging all at the same time. It's generally as easy as requesting that the fund automatically withdraw a specified amount from your bank account each month and invest it in the fund of your choice.

Payroll deduction is another easy way to invest regularly. You can have money automatically deducted from your paycheck and electronically transferred to your mutual fund.

If you receive a monthly Social Security check or another regular payment from the federal government, you can have a portion of that income automatically invested in your mutual fund. This service is called Direct Deposit (Government Allotment) Program.

One of the best automatic services for mutual funds is dividend reinvestment. Having dividends automatically reinvested in your mutual fund lets you take advantage of one of the best deals in investing: the magic of compounding.

These are all ways to automatically put money into your mutual fund; you also can withdraw it automatically. Tell your mutual fund how much you want and when you want it. On the specified day each month, the fund will withdraw the specified amount and mail you a check.

Mutual funds can compute IRA distributions for retirees, who must take required minimum withdrawals upon reaching age 70-1/2. Your mutual fund can calculate the required amount and either send you a check or automatically invest the money in another fund outside your IRA.

These automated services are usually free and yours for the asking. Mutual funds encourage shareholders to take advantage of these conveniences. Contact your investment representative or mutual fund for more information. Modern technology has made these automated services possible; they're a deal you shouldn't refuse.

ATTENTION INVESTMENT CLASS
WTC Continuing Education Investment Class
Beginning February 25th through March 24th
Tuesday Nights from 6 - 9 p.m.
Whether you're a novice investor or a seasoned veteran, you will be interested to know that I am offering an investment class, and I'd like to invite you to join us.
The class begins with the very basics of finances, including examining some of the most common reasons why people fail to meet their investments goals, some money management tips that can help make sure you don't fall into those traps, and rules that every investor should know and follow.
Next, we'll examine many of the investments available today--everything from guaranteed investment certificates to locked-in retirement funds--and the advantages and disadvantages of each. This will allow you to determine which investments are best suited to your personal needs and objectives.
We'll finish the course with a look at retirement planning and ways to ensure your older years will indeed be your golden years.
Finally, as a follow-up to the class, I invite each student and his or her spouse to meet with me for a private consultation. This will give you an opportunity to ask questions about your personal financial situation. Of course, this consultation is entirely voluntary and free of charge.
If you'd like to attend this class, please call WTC at 915-573-8511 ext. 390 to reserve your place.
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Train-car collision claims 2

SUDAN (AP) — A Castro County couple was killed Friday when a freight train slammed at 55 mph into their car at a railroad crossing in this small South Plains town.

James Ervin Welch, 64, and Rita Joy Welch, 63, both of Dimmitt, were killed at the crossing on FM 1843 at U.S. 84 in southeastern Sudan shortly after noon Friday, police said.

No one aboard the Burlington Northern Santa Fe train was injured.

The impact slammed the 1992 Chrysler Fifth Avenue 81 feet into a telephone pole, Lamb County Justice of the Peace Carolyn Harmon said.

The Welches, neither wearing a seat belt, were ejected from the car, the Texas Department of Public Safety said.

"He just did not see the train, unfortunately," Ms. Harmon said.

The crossing has warning lights and bells but no barricades.

Welch operated Welch Cattle Co. in Dimmitt. The Welches were taking a weekend trip and driving south on FM 303 when road construction on U.S. 84 in Sudan forced them to detour east to FM 1843, Ms. Harmon said.

Sudan, a town of about 1,000 residents, is 60 miles northwest of Lubbock

Date Book

Feb. 15, 1997

Today is the 46th day of 1997 and the 57th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1898, the U.S. battleship Maine blew up in Cuba's Havana Harbor.

On this day in 1933, Chicago mayor Anton Cermak was killed in Miami by an assassin whose intended target was President Franklin Roosevelt.

On this day in 1989, Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev withdrew the last Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Galileo Galilei (1564-1642), astronomer; John Augustus Sutter (1803-1880), U.S. pioneer; Charles L. Tiffany (1812-1902), jeweler; Cyrus McCormick (1809-1884), inventor; Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906), social reformer; John Barrymore (1882-1942), actor; Harold Arlen (1905-1986), composer; Art Spiegelman (1948-), artist-author, is 49; Jane Seymour (1951-), actress, is 46; Matt Groening (1954-), cartoonist, is 43.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1978, Leon Spinks won the heavyweight boxing title by beating Muhammad Ali in a 15-round split decision.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "How can 'the consent of the governed' be given, if the right to vote is denied?" — Susan B. Anthony

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1986, Chinook winds, with gusts above 120 mph, damaged 1,300 road signs in eastern Colorado.

SOURCE: 1997 Weather Guide Calendar; Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: Day after first quarter.

Feb. 16, 1997

Today is the 47th day of 1997 and the 58th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1862, Confederate troops evacuated Fort Donelson in Kentucky, surrendering control of Tennessee and Kentucky to the Union.

On this day in 1941, Duke Ellington recorded "Take the A Train."

On this day in 1959, Fidel Castro pronounced himself premier of Cuba.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Henry Brooks Adams (1838-1918), historian; George Macauley Trevelyan (1876-1962), historian; Edgar Bergen (1903-1978), ventriloquist; George F. Kennan (1904-), U.S. diplomat-historian, is 93; Patty Andrews (1920-), singer, is 77; Sonny Bono (1935-), singer-politician, is 62; John McEnroe (1959-), tennis player, is 38.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1980, American speed skater Eric Heiden won the second of five Olympic gold medals at Lake Placid, N.Y.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Knowledge of human nature is the beginning and end of political education." — Henry Brooks Adams

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1959, California's Mount Shasta was in the midst of a seven-day snowstorm that dumped more than 15 feet of snow on the mountain.

SOURCE: 1997 Weather Guide Calendar; Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Feb. 14) and full moon (Feb. 22).

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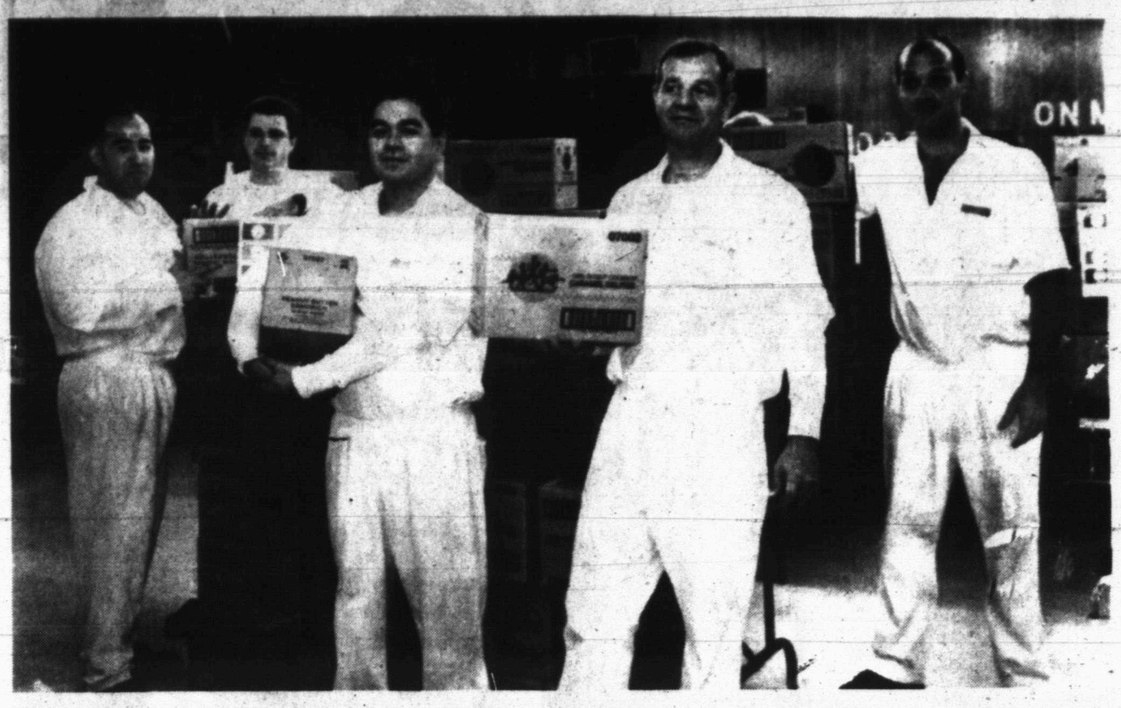

HELPERS — These inmates from Price Daniel Unit helped unload 675 cases of Girl Scouts cookies on Tuesday. They also helped separate the cookies into stacks for each troop. Front row, from left are Moses Martinez, Gabriel Rodriguez, Tommy Luffman; back row, Brad Merreighn, Scott Eiland. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Skeptic wants NASA to spend 15 years proving Mars theory

SEATTLE (AP) — To find out if life once existed on Mars, a prominent scientist says NASA should launch a 15-year effort to retrieve and analyze rocks from the red planet — looking for three key ingredients that would provide proof.

Geochemist John Kerridge of the University of California, San Diego is an outspoken skeptic of the theory that traces of ancient microbes are present in a meteorite from Mars. It will take much more than a four-pound rock from Antarctica to prove that, he said Friday.

"The quality of the evidence is going to depend very, very strongly on whether we can identify the right rocks and bring them back," Kerridge said in Seattle at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

NASA researchers announced in August that they'd found signs of life in a meteorite known as ALH 84001, discovered in Antarctica 13 years ago. They pointed to a number of chemicals in the rock that can be produced by bacteria, as well as the presence of unusual microscopic shapes that could be interpreted as fossilized microbes.

At no time, however, did the group ever claim to have discovered proof of life on Mars, said Chris Romanek, a researcher at the University of Georgia and a member of the NASA team.

"We have not found life on another planet," Romanek said.

Kerridge said that he would need to see three things in a martian rock to be convinced that alien microbes had once lived in it:

Chemicals. There are certain types of carbon-containing molecules that could only be produced by living organisms. The NASA team claimed that the presence of one class of carbon-containing molecule in the martian meteorite, known as the PAHs, is a possible sign of life. But Kerridge said he'd be much more convinced by larger molecules made of long chains of carbon atoms.

Fossils. The strange microscopic blobs found in the martian meteorite aren't necessarily the remains of ancient alien bacteria. The blobs could have formed through completely non-living processes, Kerridge said, and he'd like to see more convincing specimens.

Isotopes. Life preferentially absorbs some types, or isotopes, of carbon atoms from the environment. So those preferred types of carbon should be more prevalent in places where life has been than in barren rocks. In fact, Kerridge said, the oldest evidence for life on Earth is an imbalance of carbon isotopes in 3.85 billion-year-old rocks from Greenland.

"The combination of those three would win over most skeptics, I think," Kerridge said.

'Biggest mess I ever saw'...

Vietnam War troubled LBJ

AUSTIN (AP) — Almost a year before he began the large-scale buildup in Vietnam, President Johnson called the war "the biggest damn mess I ever saw" and lamented: "I don't think it's worth fighting for, and I don't think we can get out."

Johnson made the complaint in a May 27, 1964, phone conversation with his national security adviser, McGeorge Bundy. Tapes of the conversation, and another the same day with his close friend and political mentor, Sen. Richard Russell of Georgia, were released Friday by the LBJ Presidential Library.

They show that six months after he became president, Johnson agonized over what to do about Vietnam and was tormented by the prospect of sacrificing U.S. soldiers to a war he considered pointless.

"It's just the biggest damn mess I ever saw," he said.

Although he believed public opinion was already against the war, Johnson also worried that Congress might run him out of office if he tried to withdraw.

"They'd impeach a president, though, that would run out, wouldn't they?" he asked.

He also spoke movingly of not wanting to endanger U.S. soldiers in Vietnam.

"I've got a little old sergeant that works for me over there at the house, and he's got six children, and I just put him up as the United States Army and Air Force and Navy every time I think about making this decision," he told Russell.

"Thinking about sending that father of those six kids in there ... and what the hell we're going to get out of his doing it? It just makes the chills run up my back."

"It does me, too," said Russell, then chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. "We're in the quicksands up to our neck, and I just don't know what the hell to do about it."

At the time, the government's stated Vietnam strategy involved sending a few thousand U.S. advisers to help train the South Vietnamese to fight the North. The first U.S. soldiers sent officially for combat arrived on March 8, 1965, and their numbers swelled to more than 500,000, of whom 58,000 died.

Minutes after talking with Russell, Johnson repeated his anxiety to Bundy.

"The more that I stayed awake last night thinking of this ... it just worries the hell out of me," he said. "It's damned easy to get in war. But it's going to be awfully hard to ever extricate yourself if you do get in."

Again he brought up the sergeant as an example.

"What in the hell am I ordering him out there for?" he asked. "What the hell is Vietnam worth to me? What the hell is Laos worth to me? What is it worth to this country?"

While historians have written about Johnson's anguish over escalating U.S. involvement in Vietnam, the tapes offer an intimate portrait of just how painful the dilemma was, said Harry Middleton, director of the library.

"He was clearly tormented by it," Middleton said, adding that Vietnam was interfering with Johnson's hopes to enact civil rights and other Great Society legislation.

'Star Wars' breaks $400 million and recaptures box office title

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Star Wars" surpassed "E.T. — The Extraterrestrial" to reclaim the all-time No. 1 spot at the box office, and became the first film to break the $400 million mark.

Twenty years after its initial release, and two weeks after its reissue with several minutes of new scenes, "Star Wars" crossed the $400 million mark Thursday. George Lucas' futuristic blockbuster has now taken in $400.1 million.

"E.T." director Steven Spielberg saluted the space classic by placing an advertisement in a trade magazine today that read: "Dear George, Congratulations for renewing the most enduring motion picture in cinema history. Your pal, Steven."

The ad, on Daily Variety's back page, depicted E.T. placing a crown on top of R2D2, the lovable "Star Wars" robot.

Lucas is re-releasing all three installments in the "Star Wars" trilogy. "The Empire Strikes Back" and "Return of the Jedi" come out Feb. 21 and March 7.

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SPORTS

Rockets, Spurs lose...

Atlanta ends streak

By The Associated Press

Dennis Rodman jawed and jostled with Dikembe Mutombo, and tangled and taunted with Christian Laettner. Michael Jordan, of course, took Chicago's last shot — and missed.

The Bulls won anyway.

Chicago ended Atlanta's 20-game home winning streak Friday night with an 89-88 victory over the Hawks, who showed the defending NBA champions they'll be a team to watch in the playoffs.

"Nothing comes easy in Atlanta," Jordan said. "Their defense was active and they play hard. Atlanta's a team to be reckoned with. They're trying to get over the hump into the elite class.

"When they beat us, they'll be there."

Laettner, whose college career at Duke included several dramatic game-winning shots, missed an open, but hurried, 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Elsewhere in the NBA, it was Detroit 109, Charlotte 103; Seattle 105, Houston 85; Washington 125, New Jersey 107; Milwaukee 106, Toronto 102; Minnesota 104, Orlando 100; Phoenix 110, the Los Angeles Clippers 93; Vancouver 109, Boston 106; and Golden State 108, San Antonio 94.

Rodman, playing his second game since coming back from an 11-game suspension for kicking a cameraman, didn't start. Instead, Chicago coach Phil Jackson went with Toni Kukoc at forward, deciding that was a better matchup against Laettner, Atlanta's All-Star forward who scored 37 on the Bulls in December.

Kukoc scored 21 points while Rodman finished with two points and 12 rebounds before fouling out with just over two minutes remaining. Rodman had several physical exchanges with both Laettner and Mutombo.

"Mutombo thinks he owns the rim out there," Rodman said. "I just kept telling him, 'Give us a chance, too. Quit crying and play the game.'"

Laettner and Smith had 21 points apiece for the Hawks.

The game was played with a playoff-like intensity before some of sport's biggest names, who were in the city for a sporting goods trade show. Heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield, Denver quarterback John Elway and tennis great John McEnroe were among the sellout crowd.

SuperSonics 105, Rockets 85

At Seattle, Gary Payton scored 23 points and Detlef Schrempf had 16 of his 20 points in the second half for Seattle.

The win was Seattle's first in three games against the Rockets this season. The Sonics entered the game 0-7 this season against Western Conference powers Houston, Utah and the Los Angeles Lakers.

Mario Elie led the Rockets with 17 points, and Charles Barkley had 14 points and 12 rebounds.

Houston's Hakeem Olajuwon was held to six points in 29 minutes and did not play in the fourth quarter.

Warriors 108, Spurs 94

At San Antonio, Latrell Sprewell scored 32 points and Joe Smith added 20 for Golden State.

Chris Mullin added 18 points and Mark Price 11 for the Warriors, who won for just the second time in six games.

Dominique Wilkins led the Spurs with 22 points and Cory Alexander added 15.

Plainview edged by tough Canyon

Only one District 2-4A girls' team remains in the state playoff, but runnerup Plainview gave top-ranked Canyon a huge scare Friday night.

The Canyon Lady Eagles edged Plainview, 40-39, in the Region 1-4A quarterfinals game played in Amarillo.

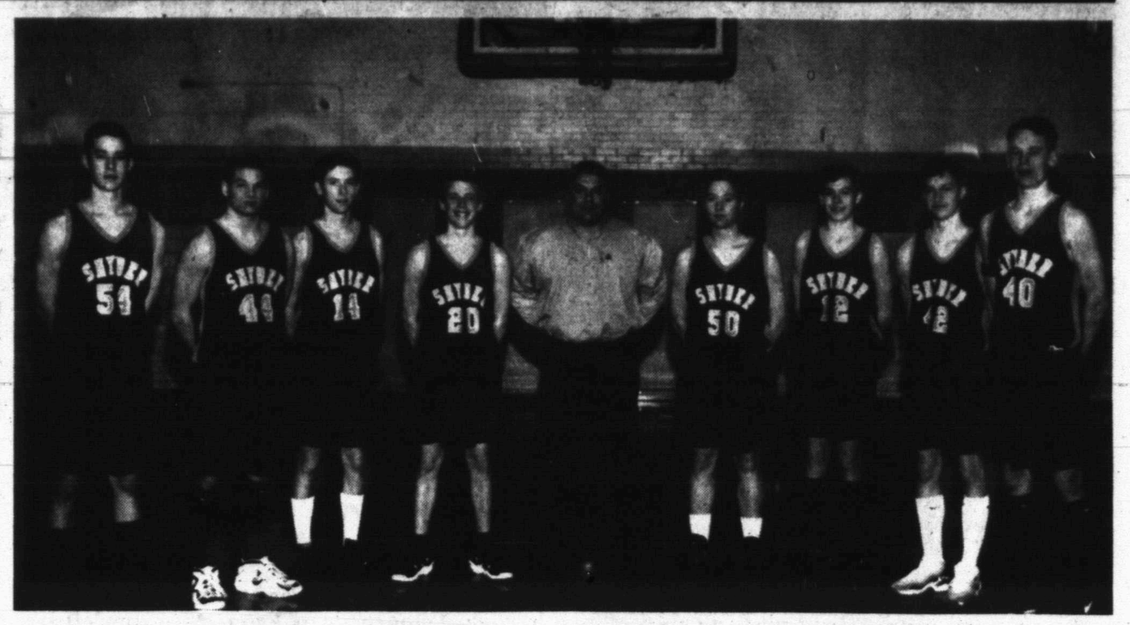
It came down to the wire, a controversial call, with two seconds left. Plainview's Laura Bass took a 14-foot shot that was blocked by Canyon's Tara Sherrod.

Plainview fans thought a foul should have been called, giving Bass two free shots and a chance at the upset victory.

Canyon grabbed the rebound as time ran out, giving the Lady Eagles their 61st consecutive victory. Canyon's season record is 29-0 and the Lady Eagles will face Graham at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Floydada.

District 2-4A champion Levelland was to take on Hereford today in Plainview.

The Plainview boys advanced in the playoffs with a 65-49 win over the Hereford Whitefaces in Canyon. Plainview will now take on the El Paso Bowie Bears at an undetermined time and location.



TIE SCHOOL RECORD — The SHS freshmen A-team tied the school record for best season record with a 23-1 season tally. Pictured from left to right are: Justin Phillips, Paul Camp, Jared Hester, Greg McAnaw, coach Matt Guiterrez, Josh Ward, Layne Scott, Justin Rosson and Sonny Cumbie. Not pictured is Trey Gorman. (Contributed Photo)

Jamal Mashburn headed to Miami in mid-season trade

MIAMI (AP) — Pat Riley, thwarted in his offseason bid to get Juwan Howard, finally found some scoring help for the Miami Heat's 1-2 punch of Alonzo Mourning and Tim Hardaway.

The Heat traded three players Friday, none of them current starters, to the Dallas Mavericks for small forward Jamal Mashburn.

The Heat have the second-best record in the NBA, but Riley knew he needed at least one more scorer if he is to make a run at the Chicago Bulls.

In exchange for Mashburn, the Mavs' 1993 first-round draft pick, Dallas got forward Kurt Thomas and reserves Sasha Danilovic and Martin Muursepp.

"I said if there was an opportunity for a front-line player who was young and long-term, I would consider a trade, and I did," said Riley, in his second season as coach of the Heat. "Anytime you make a trade, there are always risks involved. But to get a starter who averages 21 points a night, it is a risk we have to take in light of the injury to Dan Majerle.

"We felt we needed to shore up the 3 spot and we gave up good young players to get one very good young player," Riley said.

Mashburn, 24, is in his fourth pro season out of Kentucky. In 37 games with the Mavericks this season, he is averaging 10.6 points, 3.1 rebounds and 2.5 assists. But his scoring total this season is less than half his average for his four-year career.

He is in the fourth year of an eight-year contract that will pay him $3.8 million this year and average $5.3 million over the next four. Mashburn suffered a knee injury that knocked him out most of last season. He broke a cheekbone when he crashed into a teammate earlier this season, and his numbers have been way off.

Despite Miami's success, Riley had been looking for a small forward with scoring punch to complement Mourning and Hardaway. Howard was to play that role until the NBA blocked the offseason signing.

But the Heat have been surprisingly strong this season despite the setback. Only the defending champion Bulls (43-6) have a better record than the Heat (38-12), who have won eight straight.

The winning streak currently is the longest in the NBA. The team ranks fourth in defense and has scored 100 points six times in the past eight games. With a patchwork bench, it has overcome injuries to three key players — Majerle, Thomas and Gary Grant.

SDN Sports Week

Monday

SHS varsity baseball hosts San Angelo Central, 5:30 p.m., Moffett Field.
SHS JV baseball at Odessa High, 4 p.m.
SHS JV boys and girls golf host Snyder Tournament.

Tuesday

SHS varsity softball at Big Spring, 6:30 p.m., JV at 5.

Thursday

WTC Lady Westerners at Howard College, Big Spring, 6 p.m.
WTC golf team at Bronco Invitational, Roswell, N.M.
SHS varsity baseball at San Angelo Tournament.
SHS JV softball at Abilene ISD Tournament.

Friday

SHS varsity boys and girls golf at Midland Tournament.
SHS varsity baseball at San Angelo Tournament.
SHS varsity track at ABC Relays, Frenship.
SHS varsity softball hosts Midland Greenwood, 7:30 p.m., Cates Field.
WTC golf team at Bronco Invitational, Roswell, N.M.
SHS JV softball at Abilene ISD Tournament.

Saturday

SHS varsity boys and girls golf at Midland Tournament.
SHS varsity softball at Midland Christian, 2 p.m.
SHS JV softball at Abilene ISD Tournament.
SHS varsity baseball at San Angelo Tournament.
SHS varsity track at ABC Relays, Frenship.
WTC golf team at Bronco Invitational, Roswell, N.M.

NBA at glance

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Miami	38	12	.760	-
NewYork	36	14	.720	2
Orlando	24	23	.511	12½
Washington	23	26	.469	14½
NewJersey	14	35	.286	23½
Philadelphia	12	36	.250	25
Boston	11	38	.224	26½
Central Division				
Chicago	44	6	.880	-
Detroit	36	13	.735	7¼
Atlanta	32	16	.667	11
Charlotte	30	21	.588	14½
Cleveland	27	22	.551	16¼
Indiana	23	25	.479	20
Milwaukee	23	26	.469	20½
Toronto	17	32	.347	26¼
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
Utah	35	14	.714	-
Houston	33	17	.660	2½
Minnesota	24	26	.480	11½
Dallas	16	30	.348	17½
Denver	16	34	.320	19½
SanAntonio	12	36	.250	22½
Vancouver	11	43	.204	26½
Pacific Division				
L.A.Lakers	37	13	.740	-
Seattle	34	15	.694	2½
Portland	26	24	.520	11
Sacramento	22	29	.431	15½
L.A.Clippers	20	27	.426	15½
GoldenState	19	29	.396	17
Phoenix	19	32	.373	18½

Thursday's Games
New York 107, Philadelphia 92
Miami 106, Indiana 90
Golden State 107, Dallas 99
L.A. Lakers 132, Denver 117
Utah 110, Portland 86
Sacramento 105, L.A. Clippers 98

Friday's Games
Milwaukee 106, Toronto 102
Washington 125, New Jersey 107
Detroit 109, Charlotte 103
Chicago 89, Atlanta 88
Minnesota 104, Orlando 100
Golden State 108, San Antonio 94
Phoenix 110, L.A. Clippers 93
Seattle 105, Houston 85
Vancouver 109, Boston 106

Saturday's Games
Washington at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Denver at Milwaukee, 9 p.m.
Dallas at Utah, 9 p.m.
Houston at Portland, 10 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Indiana at New York, 12:30 p.m.
Detroit vs. Toronto at Maple Leaf Gardens, 12:30 p.m.
Seattle at L.A. Lakers, 3 p.m.
Phoenix at Minnesota, 3:30 p.m.
Orlando at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.
Denver at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
Boston at Portland, 10 p.m.

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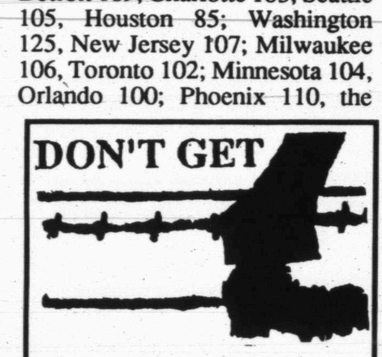

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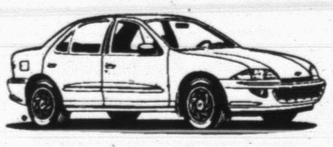

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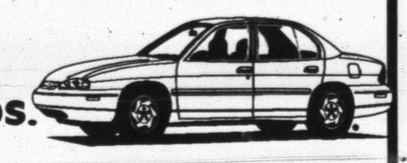

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SPORTS

In bi-district playoff...

Lady Cardinals fall to tall Robert Lee, 54-41

By Jamie Sharp
Sports Editor

SWEETWATER — The Hermleigh Lady Cardinals were feeling the effects of the weather Friday night, shooting an ice-cold 20 percent from the floor in a 54-41 Class A bi-district playoff loss to the towering Robert Lee Lady Steers.

At the start, it looked as if Robert Lee was going to have its way. The Lady Steers scored the first seven points before Kelly Gonzales nailed a jumper to put the Lady Cards on the board at 7-2.

Hermleigh then proceeded to score the next seven, including a three from Michelle Roemisch that gave the Lady Cards their first lead, 9-7, with 2:43 remaining.

In the closing minutes opening period, the Lady Cards held Robert Lee to only two points to end the quarter with Hermleigh on top, 16-11.

In the second, Hermleigh made it hard to keep its lead, shooting a miserable six per cent from the floor, allowing Robert Lee to take a 25-22 lead at the half.

Hermleigh scored its only field goal of the period when Kelly Gonzales banged down a trey at the seven-minute mark to put Hermleigh on top, 19-13.

The second period produced two ties that Robert Lee was able to overcome. At the 1:20 mark, the Lady Steers took the lead for good at 23-21 and then scored five unanswered points to end the half.

Robert Lee's three big women, 6-1 Shalawn Waldrop, 6-2 Amy Bolding and 6-1 Jennifer Scott were a thorn in Hermleigh's side all evening. Bolding, Scott and Waldrop scored 10 of Robert Lee's 14 second-quarter points in the Lady Steers' comeback.

The third period saw Hermleigh continue its cold shooting with the Lady Cards hitting only three out of 16.

Gonzales brought the Lady Cards to within three at 26-29 with baseline jumper at the four-minute mark. Robert Lee answered on a Waldrop jumper that put the Lady Steers up 31-26. Gonzales again brought the Lady Cards closer to the lead when she hit a trey to up the score to 31-29 with 1:50 ticks remaining.

Robert Lee closed out the period scoring four unanswered points to enjoy a 37-29 lead after three.

The Lady Cards had their chances in the fourth to get back into the game, but the Lady Steers big women were too strong down the stretch.

Hermleigh's shooting woes also continued. The Lady Cards shot only 21 percent on four of 19.

Gonzales scored Hermleigh's first bucket of the period when she knocked down a jumper to up the score to 37-31. Robert Lee answered, as it did for the remainder of the game, on a Scott jumper in the lane to up the Robert Lee lead to 39-31 with 7 minutes remaining.

Gonzales hit her fourth trey of the night at the four-minute mark to bring the score to 48-36, but the Lady Cards ruined their chances at a comeback when they went on a 3:42 scoring drought to end the game. Ester Martinez ended the drought with a lay-up with 18 seconds remaining, but it was too late.

"I'm really proud of these girls," said coach Brandye Hughey. "They came out and played hard for four quarters, which is something they haven't done too often. These last three or four games, they played like they wanted it, and I'm proud of them for that."

Gonzales led the way for the Lady Cards hitting a game high 20, while Jennifer Roemisch knocked down 7. Melissa Brasuel added 5, and Martinez bagged 4. Michelle Roemisch nailed 3, while Randi Herrington ended with 2.

Robert Lee's Waldrop, Scott and Bolding accounted for all but four of the Lady Steers points. Waldrop hit for 19, Scott bagged 16 and Bolding nailed 15.

Hermleigh finished its season with an unbeaten 6-0 district record and a 15-13 season tally.

LAYING IT UP — Hermleigh's Ester Martinez lays the ball up in the Lady Cardinals' 54-41 bi-district playoff loss to the Robert Lee Lady Steers. Martinez finished with four points. (Photo by Jamie Sharp)

Borden County bombs Jayton; Rotan next

Borden County held Jayton to only four points in the opening quarter and scoreless in the third, enroute to an impressive 59-28 Class 1A bi-district playoff victory Friday night in the Scurry County Coliseum.

Borden County advances to area-round play and will face Rotan, a 44-20 winner over Rule Friday in Abilene. Borden County is now 23-7 and Rotan's ledger is 14-15.

Borden County enjoyed a comfortable 30-12 halftime lead and were up 44-12 going into the final period of play.

Julie Mayes and Jill Stout paced the Lady Coyotes' scoring with 12 points apiece. Also in double figures with 11 was Lindsey Smith.

Ky Merritt nailed seven points while Sandy Brumett had six and Adrianna Baeza putched in five. Shaina Isaacs contributed three while Shelby Isaacs had two and Amanda Watts added one point.

Christy Phillips, who fouled out, led Jayton with eight points. Kristi Downing and Shyla Johnson each put in four. Jayton finished the season with a 17-11 mark.

College scores

EAST
Dartmouth 82, Columbia 47
Fairleigh Dickinson 73, St. Francis, NY 65
Harvard 75, Cornell 59
Penn 58, Brown 47
Princeton 81, Yale 51

FAR WEST
Montana St. 97, Weber St. 85
Pepperdine 75, Santa Clara 69
St. Mary's, Cal. 69, Loyola Marymount 65

Bowling News

Men's Commercial
League Standings as of 01/21/97

Team	Won	Lost
Stephens Office Supply	34	22
Bar-H-Bar	33	22
Reef Chemical	30	26
The Shack	29	27
Racers	28½	27½
Levens Gas & Oil	27½	28½
Blue Sunoco	27	29
E.D. Walton Const.	26	30
Price Const.	24½	31½
Whit Parks Auto	20½	35½

High Series Scratch: Rick Mammolite 603.
High Series Handicap: Barney Tate 647.
High Game: Bob Motley 225.
High Game Handicap: Don Pavlosky 268.
Splits: Charles Collins 4-10, 5-6, Wayne Monroney 4-5-7, Strick Posey 3-6, 7-10, David Carroll 3-10, 5-10.

Roll-n-Hope
League Standings as of 01/20/97

Team	Won	Lost
Fuller Foods	58	34
Eddins-Walcher	58	34
Should of Beens	46	46
Lawrence IGA	46	46
Carousel Arcade	45	47
Redman	43	49
City National Bank	40	52
J.C. Wells	32	60

High Series Scratch: Ginger Moore 555.
High Series Handicap: Paula Beurlein 639.
High Game Scratch: Lynn Maldonado 204.
High Game Handicap: Dorris Martin 244.
Splits and Special Mentions: Debra Wells 5-10, Donna Smith 4-5-7, Dorris Martin 5-10, 5-6, 3-10, Bernie Sealy 3-10, Mildred Baze 2-7, Cara Lindsey 3-10.
200 Games: Lynn Maldonado 204, Alma Posey 200, Ginger Moore 200.
500 series: Lynn Maldonado 555, Ginger Moore 532, Paula Beurlein 501.

SDN Sports Briefs

JV golf here Monday

Snyder will host a boys and girls junior varsity golf tournament starting at 9 a.m. Monday.

Snyder JV and 10 other girls teams will compete at Snyder Country Club. The Tigers will join nine other boys' teams for a 18-hole round at Western Texas College.

Little League umpires needed

Snyder Little League is in need of umpires for the coming season. Umpires are needed for all levels of play such as Farm League, Senior League and Girl's Softball. Contact Phil Robinson at 573-7985 or 573-7970.

Ground Hog Tourney

Snyder Country Club Ground Hog tournament is set next Saturday and Sunday. Format will be a two-man scramble. Entry fee is $80 per team.

WTC to play on campus

The WTC Lady Westerners' final home game of the season Feb. 24 against Frank Phillips College will be played in the WTC gym instead of the Scurry County Coliseum. Tipoff is 7:30 p.m.

Andrews softball tourney

The 12th annual Spring Classic men's softball tournment is accepting teams for the March 14-16 meet. Deadline for entries is March 12 and entry fee is $110 per team.

For more information, contact Marvin Lee at (915) 523-3014, Steve Vaughn at (915) 523-6031 or Mike Erwin at (915) 523-2212.

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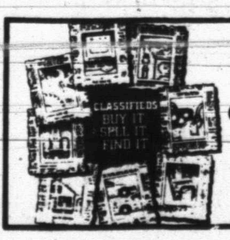

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KLH 80386 COMPUTER: (IBM Compatible), 16 MHZ, 3½" disks, 1.44 MB floppy system. 640 KB memory with 384 KB extended memory, EGA/VGA 13" color display, 101/102 keyboard, software included (Geoworks Ensemble 2.0, DR DOS 5.0, Sound Blaster with speakers, mouse, over 25 games). $700.

ORGAN: Hammond organ with separate tone cabinet. Full pedalboard with Great and Swell keyboards. Adjustable sound drawbars, along with preset keys. Appropriate for church or home. $700. 573-6634, leave message.

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Solid Wood Maple desk, $85. Table/4 chairs $45, Room Size Carpet, $25. 573-5525.

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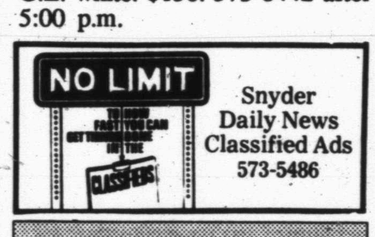

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360 REAL ESTATE

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573-5612 or 573-1755

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3403 Irving 4-2 Patio	$69.5T
Country Close-In 3-2-2-shop	$62.5T
33 Acres Close In	$21.5T
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101 Elm 2-1-1	$25.9T
3001 34th 3-2	$59.9T
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2808 Ave. T 3-2-2 Bsmnt.	$65T
15A House, Ponds, Barns Lmsa.Hwy House Lg.Shp	$35T
4008 Jacksboro 3-2-2	$53.5T
2212 43rd 3-1	$39.9T
2217 Sunset 3-1-1 Red.	$31.5T
2 Houses outside Snyder	$65T
4514 Galveston 3-2½-2	$100T
Colonial Hill 3-2-2	$89.5T
Com.Bldg Lmsa Hwy	$27.5T
2304 30th 3-1	$30T
1904 Ave. M 2-1-1	$25T
2903 36th 3-3-2 loft	$89T
Country 3-2-2cp Red.	$58T
200 35th	$28.5T
Lmsa.Hwy 3 ComBldg	$49.5T
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Nice 3303 Ave.U w/Lots	$74T
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Sparkling upgraded 3-2-1 Dalton Dr.	
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Prestigious Historic homes Call to view.	
4300 Ave. U-3-2-2-	$50s.
West 4-2-cp on 1 acre.	
40 Acres & 25 Acres	
Hermleigh 2-1-1 on 2 A.	$18T.
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Farm & Ranchland listed	
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#2 SECTION OF RANCH LAND Some minerals, lots of deer, nice home.
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573-7682

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The Classifieds, of course. That's where everyone goes when they're in the market for just about anything at all. It's the place to find a great bargain, scout out a new job, look for a new car or home...and when you have something to sell or a service to offer, Classifieds are the place to get fast results! You can't go wrong with the Classifieds!
Snyder Daily News

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010 LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO BIDDERS: Scurry County Commissioners Court will open bid proposals for the Purchase of Books from the Scurry County Law Library on Monday, February 24, 1997, during special session of the Commissioners Court beginning at 10:00 a.m. Specifications may be obtained at the County Judge's Office, Scurry County Courthouse, Snyder, Texas.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND SPECIFICATIONS: PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE
ROTAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
102 NORTH MCKINLEY AVENUE
ROTAN, TEXAS 79546

Request for proposals and specifications on the following insurance coverage:

Part 1--Property Casualty and Contents
Part 2--General Liability, Personal Injury Liability, and Employee Benefits Liability
Part 3--Professional Legal Liability
Part 4--Automobile Liability, Physical Damage
Part 5--Boiler and Machinery

TIME AND PLACE FOR PROPOSALS

1. Sealed proposals shall be received in the office of the Superintendent of Schools, 102 North McKinley Avenue, Rotan, Texas 79546 by 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 4, 1997.
2. Each proposal received shall be in a sealed envelope plainly marked "Insurance Proposal-3/4/97".
3. Proposals shall be opened in the office of the Superintendent of Schools, at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 4, 1997.
4. The board shall consider the proposals and take apporpiate action at a public meeting on Thursday, March 6, 1997 beginning at 7:30 p.m., in the Rotan ISD Cafeteria.
5. Additional information may be obtained from the Superintendent of Schools or Mickey Early, Junior High Principal, at (915) 735-2332.
6. Proposers may not withdraw their proposals after the closing time for submission of proposals.

(s) Mickey Early, Principal

The WEST TEXAS STATE BANK, SNYDER, SCURRY COUNTY, TEXAS intends to apply to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for authorization to establish a branch at 123 Main Street, Rowena, Runnels County, Texas. All offices of the named institutions will continue to be operated.

Any person wishing to comment, protest, or request a hearing in connection with this application may file his or her observations in writing with the Regional Director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at its regional office, Suite 1900, 1910 Pacific Avenue, Dallas,Texas 75201 before processing of the application has been completed. Processing will be completed no earlier than the 15th day following either the date of the required publication or the date of receipt of the application by the FDIC, whichever is later. The period for comment may be extended by the Regional Director for good cause. The nonconfidential portion of the application file is available for inspection within one day following the request for such file. It may be inspected in the Corporation's Regional Office during regular business hours. Photocopies of information in the nonconfidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request. A schedule of charges for such copies can be obtained from the Regional Office.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MIDLAND-ODESSA DIVISION

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

TO: The Unknown Heirs of Melda Neish, Deceased, Defendants/ Involuntary plaintiffs in the cause described in this citation.

You, and each of you, are commanded to appear and to answer before the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Midland-Odessa Division, in the George Mayon Federal Building-Courthouse in Midland, Midland County, Texas, at or before 10 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, being at or before 10 a.m. on Monday, the day of March 31, 1997, then and there to answer the petition of Jones County Minerals, Inc., et al, in cause Number MO-96-CA-184, styled Jones County Minerals, Inc., et al. v. Thomas C. Echols, et al., in which Jones County Minerals, Inc.; Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma; Kirby Minerals, L.C.; Herman L. Loeb; Stuart Interests, L.L.C.; and James Roger Peacock, individually and as successor trustee for the Frank Hudson Trust of Dallas, Texas, are plantiffs, Thomas C Echols; Janice Kay Echols; R.L. Halvorsen d/b/a Halvey Energy Company; Barry D. Halvorsen; Maddox Oil Properties, Inc.; Richard H. Coats; Richard B. Hamm; Fred Landis; Mark H. Lowrance, Jr.; Donald J. Ray; Larry Murphy; Madeline D. Norwood; Osprey Resources, Inc.; Paper Time, Inc.; Jimmie R. Parker, Jr.; Schlagal Brothers; and Wes-Tex Drilling Company are defendents, and Nora Oschner, Linda T. McElroy, Dudley Oschner, American Exploration Company, American Minerals Corporation, Ann B. Fletcher, William S. Burford, Carolyn Brady, and W.G. Bodling , Jr. are defendents/involuntary plaintiffs. The petition, filed on December 9, 1996, discloses that the nature of the suit is as follows:

Civil action for violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (18 U.S.C. § 1961 et seq.), breach of fiduciary duty, conspiracy to breach fiduciary duty, fraud, and conspiracy to defraud, related to acts and omissions concerning the mineral estate in land, specifically all of the East Half of the Southwest Quarter (SE/4) of section 65, in Block No. 3, H&GN Ry. Co. Survey, Scurry County, Texas, of which the Unknown Heirs of Melda Neish, Deceased, are belived to be owners of a 1/120 interest.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THIS COURT on this the 11th day of February, 1997, at Midland, Midland County, Texas.
William G. Putnicki, Clerk
(s) S. Mendenhall, Deputy Clerk

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573-5486

Card Of Thanks

Thank You

We wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for the many expressions of sympathy following the death of our mother, Helen Blake.

A very special thank you to Dr. Bid Cooper, the nursing staff of Cogdell Memorial Hospital and Father Patrick Maher and a number of special friends for their help and love.

Max Blake & family
Laurie Haines

In Texas...

Archeologists show off cannons from first Europenan settlement

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Beaming state archaeologists on Friday showed off eight iron cannons unearthed on a ranch near Victoria that confirm the site of Fort St. Louis, the first European settlement in Texas.

The fort was founded in 1685 by the French explorer La Salle and abandoned three years later, but the site never before has been officially determined.

"It is a great day in the history of Texas," John Nau, chairman of the Texas Historical Commission, said.

Jim Bruseth was the archaeologist who operated the back hoe that retrieved the French cannons from a shallow clay pit last fall.

"People have been digging around out there with metal detectors for years and years," Bruseth said. "It's almost a miracle these things weren't found earlier and someone else dug them up and carted them off."

The cannons, along with artifacts from a companion project to recover the wreckage of one of La Salle's ships from Matagorda Bay in the Gulf of Mexico, are being cleaned and preserved at a lab at Texas A&M University, where they were on display for the first time Friday.

The cast-iron weapons, brownish-orange and crusty with rust, are about 6 feet long and weigh from 900 to 1,400 pounds each. Three cannons could fire 3-pound balls, three could fire 4-pound balls, and the remainder shot 6-pound balls.

"It's thought they were all cast as a group," said Curtis Tunnell, lead archaeologist on the dig and executive director of the Texas Historical Commission. "They all have the same markings on them.

"To my knowledge, these are unique for this time period. Most of the cannons earlier were bronze."

Tunnell said it's especially gratifying to find the cannons because they are well-documented in French manuscripts and Spanish archives. The Spanish took over the area when Fort St. Louis failed due to disease, Indians, rattlesnakes, alligators, mosquitoes and the harsh Texas weather.

The Spanish came upon the site in 1689, two years after La Salle was murdered by some of his own men and a year after the fort was abandoned. The Spanish buried the weapons because they feared the French would return to get them.

Documents show another Spanish expedition found the cannons a year later and reburied them.

The weapons, though, were not seen again until last September. That's when a foreman at a Victoria County ranch, thinking he had come across a pipeline, accidentally found them with a metal detector.

They were less than 2 feet under the earth near Garcitas Creek and several miles upstream from Lavaca Bay.

After he found a second cannon, the Texas Historical Commission was called.

"I've been digging archaeological sites for 40-some-odd years and it was certainly exciting for me to see all these cannons in that pit," Tunnell said. "It was kind of hard to believe. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"I've excavated all kinds of sites — the Alamo, 10,000-year-old sites, prehistoric. This is one of the highlights of my career."

Tunnell suggested that dense clay where the weapons were buried contributed to the cannon's good condition by helping keep oxygen and moisture away.

"We're really fortunate these guns were not on a shipwreck," Don Hamilton, in charge of preserving the cannons, said. "If

Women's statement describes hazing, harassment at Citadel

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — One of the female cadets who left The Citadel says male cadets barged into her room wearing little clothing, forced her to serenade their girlfriends and made sexual comments about her.

A 230-page deposition given by Jeanie Mentavlos and released Friday describes the harassment she says she received from males at the state-supported military school.

Ms. Mentavlos, who dropped out in January, said she and Kim Messer were singled out for harsh treatment by upperclassmen and she did not feel comfortable telling even a female military officer.

"All of these people were, like, connected. So there was nobody I could go to. No matter who I went to it was like, them against me," she said.

Ms. Mentavlos said one male cadet would enter her room in the middle of the night and she would have to jump out of bed at attention in her bicycle shorts and T-shirt.

The cadet "repeatedly made sexual comments about me in my spandex shorts," Ms. Mentavlos said.

She said another male cadet routinely came into her room wearing nothing but boxer shorts. Others entered the women's rooms when the female cadets had just returned from showers and were wearing only bathrobes, she said.

Ms. Mentavlos said she had to get down on her knees and sing "You've Lost That Loving Feeling" to the girlfriends of male cadets.

Two of the four women who entered the formerly all-male school in September remain enrolled. One of the those women, Petra Lovetinska, was upset because Ms. Mentavlos and Ms. Messer were singled out for abuse, Ms. Mentavlos said.

"She was crying, really crying, and saying she couldn't understand why I was catching all this hell and she wasn't getting anything," the statement said.

Disciplinary hearings are scheduled for next week against 10 male cadets accused of harassing the women.

Senior Center News

Members of the Scurry County chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons will meet at noon Monday in the Senior Citizens Center. Anyone interested in joining AARP is invited to attend.

Bridge at 9:30 a.m. Monday will get the week's activities underway. 42 is scheduled at 10 a.m. Tuesday. Hoss Clayton and his band will be performing at 11 a.m. Bingo games will start at 10 a.m. Wednesday and the line dancing class will meet at 1:15 p.m. The Senior Saints will be performing at 11 a.m. Thursday and the Tri Chem Textile Painting Class will hold its monthly meeting at 9 a.m. A bridge tournament is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. Friday.

Bernhard Bartels will be in the center from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1-3 p.m. on Wednesday to help senior citizens fill out income tax returns. Persons seeking assistance must bring papers pertaining to income and expenses.

Volunteers who give time to the center at the annual recognition banquet on March 21 and volunteers must turn in their hours before Feb. 28 to receive recognition on that evening. Forms for reporting hours are available in the office.

The mobile audiology hearing lab from the West Texas Rehabilitation Center will be at the Senior Center Tuesday and Wednesday. The lab brings diagnostic hearing evaluations to senior citizens and information about the lab can be obtained by calling the Senior Center.

Partial autopsy results released

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — An autopsy of 6-year-old JonBenet Ramsey indicates she was sexually assaulted, bruised and strangled, while other details of her death were kept secret to prevent hindering the investigation.

The autopsy report, portions of which were ordered released Friday by a judge, stated JonBenet had injuries to her neck, face, shoulder, leg and vagina; bruises to her scalp; internal bleeding; and a bound wrist.

Other details were blacked out because only the killer and investigators would know them.

"The opinion of key law enforcement personnel is that release of certain information would impede and hinder them," Judge Carol Glowinsky said in her ruling. "The court finds support for this opinion."

JonBenet, a former Little Miss Colorado, was found in the basement of her family's home Dec. 26. Until the autopsy report, authorities had released few details about the investigation.

Facts not made public include the time of death and the location of the body. The blacked-out parts were ordered sealed for 90 days or until an arrest is made.

Boulder city spokeswoman Leslie Aaholm said Friday that police have returned to Atlanta to again question family members.

Lucinda Ramsey Johnson, former wife of John Bennett Ramsey and mother of two of his children, said Boulder police want to talk to her and to friends and family members with whom she celebrated the Christmas holidays.

The children, John Andrew Ramsey, 20, and Melinda Bennett Ramsey, 26, spent Dec. 24 and 25 at her home in Atlanta, and flew to Michigan on Dec. 26, she said.

Two graduate

LUBBOCK — More than 1,600 students at Texas Tech University received degrees during 1996 fall commencement exercises.

Graduating students receiving degrees were Jill Kathleen Price, bachelor of arts degree in English, and Alanna Lorraine Stirling, magna cum laude, bachelor of business administration in accounting.

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( ) Adults ( ) Children Ages:_____ _____ _____
_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Income:
( ) Employed Where:_____
Gross Weekly Income: $_____
( ) Spouse Employed Where:_____
Gross Weekly Income: $_____
( ) No One Employed
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( ) Social Security: Amount $_____
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( ) Supplemental Income: Amount $_____
( ) Other: _____
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Mail to: P.O. Box 541, Snyder, Tx. 79550
Applications Need To Be Returned
By January 15, 1997

Benefits to be cut for legal immigrants

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government is notifying hundreds of thousands of low-income elderly and disabled legal immigrants that they are losing Social Security benefits.

Letters going out to the immigrants result from last year's welfare overhaul requiring cuts in assistance that take effect in August and September.

Immigrant-advocacy groups are worried.

"One of our greatest fears is that the United States will have a rash of suicides among the very old and disabled immigrants who are left without any source of income or medical care," Catholic Charities official Sharon Daly told a House subcommittee this week.

Between now and the end of March, the Social Security Administration is mailing out 900,000 letters informing legal immigrants of their status under the Supplemental Security Income program.

The Republican-crafted welfare law President Clinton signed last year will cut off disability benefits to as many as 500,000 of the 803,000 noncitizens now drawing assistance.

SSI provides an average of $425 a month in aid for poor people who are elderly, blind or disabled. Until now, this help has gone to citizens and legal immigrants alike.

"For many individuals, this is the sole means of support," said SSA spokesman Phil Gambino.

Seeking to put a face on the cuts, immigrant advocates point to individual hardship cases:

—A 71-year-old Cuban woman whose U.S. citizen husband died in 1995, leaving her in poverty. Her lack of English and deteriorating physical and mental condition make taking the citizenship exam a virtual impossibility, and her ailing daughter is unable to care for her.

—A 53-year-old woman who fled Vietnam's communist regime in 1975, relocating to California with her husband and three children. After hospitalization for mental illness, she lost touch with her family. "If I lose my SSI benefits, I will not be able to pay my rent and will be out in the street," she told an advocacy group.

Authors of the welfare law acknowledge the human impact of the policy changes. But they say it was imperative to rein in SSI's costs, which have swelled in part because of the growing numbers of noncitizens on the program's rolls. The number of immigrants on SSI grew fivefold between 1982 and 1994.

Nearly one in four elderly noncitizens received SSI in 1994, compared with one in 25 of the elderly born in this country.

"It shows how the immigrants are really coming here and using the U.S. as a retirement program," said Rep. Clay Shaw, R-Fla., chairman of the House Ways and Means human resources subcommittee.

Most immigrants must have a sponsor to gain legal residence here. Sponsors must sign an affidavit of support pledging that the newcomers will not become a public charge.

The SSI cuts will hit hardest in California, New York, Florida, Texas, Illinois and Massachusetts, where nearly three-quarters of those affected are clustered.

Exempted from the cuts are legal immigrants with military service, as well as their spouses and dependents; those who can prove they worked at least 10 years here; and refugees and those granted asylum for their first five years in the United States.

The Road Back Ministries
•Prayer Line

Is there anything too hard for the Lord?
Praying Prayers, Thanking God For Answers.
Marcia Sanders James 5:16
573-6369

Foster named assistant VP

SWEETWATER — Rodney Glenn Foster has been elected assistant vice president of First National Bank.

He began his new duties earlier this month. He works with consumer and agriculture loan customers.

Originally from Hermleigh, he is a graduate of Texas Tech University and has been employed by Security State Bank of Merkel.

Foster graduated cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture economics, with an emphasis on agricultural finance.

He received a master of agricultural business management degree from Tech in December of 1993.

Foster is the son of Doug and Belinda Foster of Hermleigh.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Sunday, Feb. 16, 1997

In the year ahead, you might make several significant and beneficial changes in your lifestyle. Each of these changes will be triggered by an event you will not be able to control.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Your judgment regarding ideas presented to you by others might not be up to par, so don't make hasty decisions. Take extra time if necessary. Aquarius, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Make sure to state your zodiac sign.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Financial conditions might be difficult to understand today. Take extra precautions to ensure that your hard-earned gains do not slip through your fingers.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Strive to be as self-reliant as possible today. The people you count on for help might not have time for you right now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Try to keep your priorities in order today. If you spend too much time on frivolous activities, you might not have enough time for your responsibilities.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) When socializing with friends today, keep one eye on the clock. Others will appreciate your companionship, provided you don't wear out your welcome.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Do not take anything for granted today. If you get careless, an agreement you have worked hard to conclude will begin to unravel.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You will have good fortune in most of your endeavors today; but don't push your luck. Use logic and common sense.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today you will get a lot of mileage out of your money if you spend it on your family. You will not feel fulfilled if you act selfishly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Today your initial assessment of a development will be accurate. However, if you overanalyze the problem, your indecisiveness could impede your progress.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) If you take control of the situation, everything should work out well for you today. Tasks you delegate to others will not have the same degree of success.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Today, avoid being put into a position that will force you to support a new acquaintance rather than an old friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today, focus your attention on situations which have the potential to bring you immediate returns. Do not try to do too many things at once.

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Your Birthday

Monday, Feb. 17, 1997

You have a strong chance of success this year, providing you do not spread yourself too thin. Focus on areas of your greatest potential and use them as springboards.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Use your common sense and take precautions when working today. Do not do something on your own that requires a competent, extra pair of hands. Major changes are in store for Aquarius in the coming year. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today. Mail $2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Guard against taking light comments too seriously today. Laugh along with your friends if you're the butt of a harmless joke.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You and other family members could have short fuses today. You can't control their behavior, but you can control yours. Stay cool.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) When something annoys you, you usually express it. Today, however, you might only grumble and growl under your breath, causing others to wonder what's wrong.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) If you have an outstanding financial obligation, try to pay off a portion of it today if you can't clear it up completely.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Today, if you're feeling assertive or pushy, push for everyone's collective benefit rather than just your own.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You might not have much luck getting others to do things for you today. Conversely, however, others might be lucky getting you to bear their burdens.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A problem you've had with a friend or former friend isn't totally resolved yet. Be tactful if you encounter this individual today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Do not make demands in a delicate situation in which you require the cooperation of others. If your behavior is arrogant, they might let you fend for yourself today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) If you want to avoid trouble today, don't impose your views on a person who has repeatedly told you he or she doesn't endorse them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Move cautiously in your financial affairs today, even if another encourages you to take risks. The loss will be yours, not his or hers.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Avoid pressured decisions today; your judgment might not be up to its usual high standard. Do not let others usurp your mobility and independence.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Obituaries

Lorenza Chavez

1923-1997

Service is set for 10 a.m. Monday in Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church for Lorenza Chavez, 73, of Snyder. Father Patrick Maher, pastor of the church, will officiate. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Rosary will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday in the chapel of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Mrs. Chavez died Friday, Feb. 14, at her residence after a sudden illness. A housewife, she was a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Silverio Chavez, on Dec. 23, 1979.

Survivors include two daughters, Nickalasa Jalomos of Snyder and Sylvia Rodriquez of Plainview; two sons, Joe Chavez and Jesse Chavez, both of Snyder; 15 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

Horace Aylor

1922-1997

Service has been set for 2 p.m. Sunday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Chapel for Horace E. Aylor, 75. Dr. Tim Griffin, pastor of First Christian Church, will officiate, and burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Mr. Aylor, a resident of Snyder since 1950, died Thursday, Feb. 13, in Lubbock's Methodist Hospital after a lengthy illness.

Born Feb. 1, 1922 in Olden, Mr. Aylor was a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service for 28 years before his retirement in 1984. He was a veteran of WWII, serving in the Army Air Corp from 1943-47 in the Pacific Theatre. Mr. Aylor was a member of the First Christian Church.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Beatrice Aylor, on Feb. 11, 1992.

Survivors include two daughters, Sharon Miller of Lubbock and Karen Townsend of New Deal; three granddaughters, Stacey Carver of Panama City, Fla., Denise Sherrod of New Home and Magan Miller of Lubbock; and four great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the Scurry County Library.

Personal, Professional Service

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME

3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Marvin Shipp

1933-1997

BURNET — Marvin Shipp, the brother of Winfred Shipp of Snyder, died Wednesday, Feb. 12. Service was held Friday in the Burnet First Baptist Church. Burial followed in the Post Mountain Cemetery.

A native of Kent County, Mr. Shipp, 63, was a U.S. Navy veteran and a member of the Burnet First Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Yvonne Shipp of Burnet; two daughters, Charlotte Lynn Johnson of Brownwood and Barbara Densman of Fort Worth; two sons, Marvin Shipp of Tolar and Alan Shipp of San Marcos; a sister, Dorothy Walden of Abilene; three other brothers, Harvey Shipp of Brownwood, Eugene Shipp of Roby and Andy Shipp of Rotan; and eight grandchildren.

Betty Lamb

1935-1997

CHILDRESS — Betty R. Lamb, the mother of June McNeil of Snyder, died Friday, Feb. 14, in Childress.

Funeral service for Mrs. Lamb, 62, is set for 9 a.m. Monday in the Johnson Funeral Home Chapel in Childress. Burial will follow in Norman, Okla.

Born Jan. 7, 1935 in Oklahoma City, she married Millard Lamb on Jan. 7, 1935 in Norman, Okla. A homemaker, she was preceded in death by two sons, one brother and one sister.

Survivors include her husband, Millard Lamb of Childress; a son, Mitchell Lamb of Childress; another daughter, Marlene Clifton of Childress; 15 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

AARP to offer 55 Alive course

The American Association of Retired Persons will offer the 55 Alive/Mature Driving Course at the Scurry County Senior Center on Wednesday and Thursday.

The program will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and includes one hour for lunch. Enrollees must attend both sessions to receive a certificate. The certificate entitles the driver up to 10 percent reduction in auto insurance premiums for three years. There are no graded tests or exams.

Those who participate do not need to be a member of AARP but must be at least 50 years of age.

Developed by AARP to improve driving safety for all senior drivers, each participant receives a workbook which can be retained for future reference.

Tuition is $8.

Interested persons are requested to make reservations by calling 573-4035 or 573-5301.

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Two arrested, two in custody

Two people were arrested Friday and two others were taken into custody early Saturday morning as the weekend got off to a fast start for local law enforcement agencies.

Officers were called to the 2200 block of West Drive at 5:17 p.m. Friday in reference to a possible fight. Contact was made with two subjects and a 32-year-old male was arrested on two warrants for public intoxication.

City officers arrested a 27-year-old male at 10:38 p.m. Friday at the Law Enforcement Center on warrants for speeding and failure to appear.

Two people were taken into custody at 1:14 a.m. Saturday in the 1100 block of 19th Street. Arrested were a 23-year-old male for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated and a 21-year-old male for public intoxication.

A person notified officers at 3:59 p.m. Friday of juveniles possibly discharging fireworks in the 1200 block of 24th Street.

Frank Morgan notified deputies at 5:25 p.m. Friday of a burglary at his residence on the south side of Lake Thomas. An offense report for burglary was submitted.

An officer was requested at the Movie Stop at 9:56 p.m. Friday in reference to a shoplifter.

A deputy was requested at Allsup's in Hermleigh at 1:14 a.m. Saturday in reference to the clerk advising officers that a woman indicated she did not want to leave the store with two men who were with her. The three left the store immediately after the clerk called and an attempt to locate bulletin for welfare concern was given to Garza, Nolan and Dawson County authorities.

Nurses at Cogdell Hospital notified officers at 3:31 Saturday morning of an assault victim in the emergency room. No charges have been filed in the incident and an 18-year-old male was treated and released.

Oral history program set at museum

A two-day oral history training program will be conducted next Friday and Saturday at Scurry County Museum.

Dr. Louis Marchiafava, oral historian from Houston, will conduct the workshop. The project is being undertaken to train persons who will interview people who lived and worked in Scurry County and the surrounding area during the oil boom years.

Marchiafava will address the ethics of oral history, equipment usage, legal issues and the interview process during the first day. On Saturday, he will demonstrate techniques to use in interviewing.

Participants will be given the role of interviewer or interviewee in order to acquire interviewing skills through role playing.

Individuals who wish to attend should call the museum at 573-6107.

The trained volunteers will interview people who lived during the boom years. The taped interviews will be utilized to prepare a booklet and future museum displays.

The major goal of the project is to perserve the memories of people who lived during a significant time in Scurry County history. Anyone interested in participating as an interviewer, interviewee, transcriber or editor is encouraged to contact the museum.

The project is made possible in part by a grant from the Texas Council for the Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

After Sir Walter Raliegh introduced tobacco to England in the 1600s, King James I argued against smoking it.

What's Up?

Lucky 13 Sweetheart Formal

The Lucky 13 Sweetheart Formal will be held Saturday from 8 until midnight at the country club. Admission is $3 per person or $5 per couple. The formal is for sophomores, juniors and seniors. Photographs will be taken by Wadleigh Studios.

Girls Softball meeting

The Snyder Girls Softball Association will meet at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at Snyder National Bank.

American Legion dinner set

The American Legion Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor a chicken spaghetti dinner from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday at the post home. Dine in for $4. Carryouts are $4.50.

Bible study video tapes

Bible study video tapes are airing on TCA Cable TV Channel 2. They are followed by a new series titled "Angels." The program continues at 7 p.m. Monday. It will be followed by lesson five in The Story of the Bible: "The Disciples."

Scurry Youth Center

Scurry Youth Center, located at the Boys & Girls Club, will be closed until further notice, due to remodeling.

SNS needs financial help

Snyder Neighbors Sharing, which repairs homes of persons over 65 or disabled, is in need of donations for the April 26 workday. Donations can be mailed to SNS, P.O. Box 541, Snyder, or dropped off at Sam Robertson's Insurance or the West Elementary School office.

Grief support group

The grief support group meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church.

GED testing dates slated

GED testing times are 6 p.m. Tuesday and 8:30 a.m. Wednesday. Contact the college continuing education department for more information.

TASP Test review set

Western Texas College will hold a TASP Test review on Wednesday, from 1-2 p.m. and 5-6 p.m. in room 101 in 7B.

The actual test will be administered Feb. 22. For more information call 573-8511, ext. 296.

All students who have completed nine semester hours must take the TASP Test before continuing their education.

Senior Swimnastics

Senior Swimnastics is held each Tuesday and Thursday at the Western Texas College pool from 2:15-3:45 p.m.

Football booster club

The football booster club encourages players, parents and Tiger Moms from the 1996 football season to meet Thursday at the Edward D. Jones office.

Tiger baseball fund-raiser

Chances for a $500 trip certificate from Premier Travel will be sold for $2 each by Snyder baseball players, with a drawing set for 1 p.m. March 1. Proceeds will be used to purchase baseball equipment and help with travel expenses. Contact any high school baseball player for tickets, or call 573-3155, 573-7145, 573-7437 or 573-3298.

Kiwanis Pancake Feast coming

Snyder Noon Kiwanis Club members are selling tickets for their annual pancake feast, set for March 1 in the West Elementary cafeteria. The all-you can east feast will be from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tickets are $4. Children under age 6 can eat free. You can have tickets delivered by calling 573-0972.

Windbreak seedlings available

Windbreak seedlings have arrived at the NRCS office at 5309 Big Spring Highway and are ready to be picked up. Several different kinds are available for purchase.

Pick 3

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

7-0-5

(seven, zero, five)

Cash 5

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery:

6-14-19-23-27

(six, fourteen, nineteen, twenty-three, twenty-seven)

Computer Solutions expands Internet service in Snyder

Bullard's Computer Solutions, Inc. is substantially expanding their modems to keep pace with their rapid growth in customers.

"Our goal is in continuing to provide a fast, reliable, busy signal free service for our customers. Since Scurry County is our primary service area, all our attention is concentrated on keeping our local customers happy," said Drew Bullard, president of BCSI.

"If you have a question or problem, you can just pick up the phone and call us," Bullard added.

BCSI is a full service computer store. In addition to being an Internet provider, they design web sites for businesses large and small with a number of successful sites already to their credit.

"Web site design is a growing part of our business," said Bullard, "and we encourage anyone with an interest in establishing a presence on the Internet to contact us."

BCSI also sells new computers, upgrades and repairs old ones, sets up networks, and answers your computer related questions. If you have any computer needs, Computer Solutions can be reached at 573-4801 or you can come by their store located at 3405 College Avenue across from the Kwik Kar Lube and Tune.

Girl from Sweden enjoying life in Hermleigh

Anna Tahkapaa, a senior, will graduate in May

Scurry County Folks

by Shirley A. Gorman

Anna Tahkapaa of Koping, Sweden needed a break from her studies, so she decided to visit the United States.

Since August, Anna has been living in Hermleigh where she is a senior and will graduate in May.

Her parents and grandparents will attend the ceremony.

Anna's visit is arranged through the Intercultural Student Exchange Program.

Her host parents are Clarence Spieker, Hermleigh principal, and his wife, Mary, who teaches there.

This past week, Anna said she has enjoyed getting to know her host parents, whom she also counts as friends, and the other students.

She likes her studies here because they are a welcome change of pace. She enjoys team sports such as basketball and the school spirit everyone displays.

She plays on the Lady Cardinal basketball team which won district and is currently in the playoffs. She also competed in cross country and is a member of the BETA Club.

For the past several months, she has been absorbing American culture. Ironically, in the process, she has also learned more about her own country and has a new appreciation for her home city.

Anna became interested in the cultural exchange program through an older sister, who is 20 and lived in the U.S. for five weeks a few years ago. Many of her friends either are or were foreign exchange students as well, including one girl currently living in Arizona and another who is visiting in the French-speaking part of Canada.

In addition, she visited relatives in Washington State several years ago. Following graduation, she and her parents and grandparents will visit them.

Another reason Anna chose to live in the United States was because she wanted to improve her English. She said Swedish children start studying English in the fourth grade and while many become proficient writers, they don't always know how to speak it fluently.

She said Sweden is now considering introducing English language studies earlier than the fourth grade, something she's not sure she agrees with because she thinks students should learn how to spell before they begin studying another language.

Since arriving in Scurry County, Anna has discovered some differences between the U.S. and Sweden. In Sweden, students enter school at age 7 and attend nine years before selecting a special area of study. They then attend three more years before they are ready for college.

At 17, Anna has to complete two years of high school when she returns home this summer. Therefore, she has not as yet chosen what career she wants to pursue.

While Snyder's population is smaller than Koping, she said Snyder is more spread out and has more fast food restaurants. Almost everyone here has a car for transportation whereas in Koping people mainly travel by bike or public transportation.

Anna likes biking, noting that Koping is about three miles across, an easy ride, she added.

In Sweden, Anna said, young people walk or bike more because driver's licenses aren't issued until age 18.

She also said she is a scout in Sweden which has mixed troops for both girls and boys. Their activities are mainly nature oriented.

Anna thought about the Intercultural Exchange Program for a long time before she applied. Among the requirements were writing an essay about herself, securing a recommendation from a teacher and a personal interview with a member of the foundation sponsoring the exchange program. Her grades were also examined by the foundation.

While Anna wanted to live in Colorado or another state where she could snow ski, she does not regret coming to Texas.

When Anna learned she would be living in the state, she said she didn't really know what to expect. She had heard about cowboys and she then thought the state was located in the desert.

When she arrived during the hottest days of August, she said she thought she had indeed come to the desert.

Since her arrival, Anna has taken trips to Dallas and San Antonio.

When asked what advice she might have for someone considering a foreign exchange student program, Anna said she would tell them to choose a country they really wanted to visit and then ask themselves if they had the courage to live away from home for year. If they thought they might be too homesick, she would advise them to stay home. But if they like adventure, she would tell them to "take a chance."

Her dad works for Volvo and her mother works at a day care.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT — Anna Tahkapaa of Koping, Sweden, a senior at Hermleigh High School, is shown in the school library and working on a painting. She is with the Intercultural Student Exchange Program. She is living with Clarence and Mary Spieker. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Gene mutation is discovered

WASHINGTON (AP) — Researchers searching for the secrets of aging have found a gene mutation that causes a type of worm to live up to 50 percent longer than normal.

Although the research has no immediate application to humans, Siegfried Hekimi of McGill University in Quebec said the discovery does suggest a fundamental process of aging that may apply to all animals.

"This suggests that aging is something that happens in each individual cell and is not the result of just a breakdown of major organ systems," said Hekimi.

He was lead author of a study to be published Friday in the journal Science.

In the study, Hekimi said he and his colleagues proved that mutation of a gene called CLK-1 caused a type of nematodes to live up to 48 days, compared to about 30 days for the longest-lived of the normal worms. The mean lifetime of 50 of the mutated worms was 28.1 days, compared to a mean lifetime of 20.4 days for the unaltered worms.

Hekimi said the CLK-1 gene appears to slow metabolism in cells, which causes the cells to live longer.

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School Menus

Ira

MONDAY
Barbecued Weiners
Creamed Potatoes
Green Beans
Biscuits
Frosted Fruit Bars

TUESDAY
Manager's Choice

WEDNESDAY
Pinto Beans
Broccoli
Macaroni & Tomatoes
Corn Bread
Peach Cobbler

THURSDAY
Chicken Strips w/Gravy
Parsley Potatoes
Vegetable Salad
Rolls
Sheath Cake

FRIDAY
Sandwiches
Cheetos
Bomb Pops

Hermleigh

All meals are served with milk.

BREAKFAST

MONDAY
Fruit
Buttered Grits
Toast

TUESDAY
Juice
Dry Cereal
Toast

WEDNESDAY
Fruit
Biscuits/Fried Ham

THURSDAY
Juice
Waffles/Syrup

FRIDAY
Fruit
Buttered Rice
Toast

LUNCH

MONDAY
Pepper Steak
Steamed Rice
Cole Slaw
Hot Rolls
Baked Apples

TUESDAY
Chicken Pot Pie
Buttered Spinach
Hot Biscuits
Chilled Peaches

WEDNESDAY
Pinto Beans
Sweet Potatoes
Fried Okra
Corn Bread
Iced Graham Crackers

THURSDAY
Frank & Cheese Wraps
Potato Wedges
Carrot Sticks
Chocolate Pudding

FRIDAY
Chicken Noodle Soup
Toasted Cheese Sandwiches
Relish Cup
Crackers
Pineapple Fruit Bars

BABY SHOWER — A baby shower honored little Daniel Miller on Jan. 12 in the home of Janie McCormick. He was born on Dec. 7, 1996 to David and Sally Miller of Snyder. Daniel is pictured with his mother and his sisters, Kristen and Audrey. (Contributed Photo)

Snyder

BREAKFAST
All breakfasts are served with assorted cereal, toast, fruit juice; all meals are served with variety of milk.

MONDAY
Holiday

TUESDAY
Breakfast Taco

WEDNESDAY
Pancakes w/Syrup

THURSDAY
Breakfast Pizza

FRIDAY
Cinnamon Rolls

LUNCH

TUESDAY
Beef Vegetable Soup
Grilled Cheese
Chicken Burger
French Fries
Oranges

WEDNESDAY
Baked Chicken
Chicken Fried Steak
Green Beans
Yeast Rolls
Cream Gravy

THURSDAY
Chili Dog
Corn Dog
Tater Tots
Pickles
Fruit, Fresh Assorted
Chocolate Cake

FRIDAY
Hamburger on a Bun
Steak Burger
Burger Salad
French Fries
Fruit Gelatin

Senior Center Menu

MONDAY
Sauerkraut & Weiners
Scalloped Potatoes
Baked Beans
Tomato Wedges
Chocolate Pudding

TUESDAY
Beef Stew
Fried Squash
Cucumber-Onion Salad
Corn Bread
Fruit Salad

WEDNESDAY
Steak Fritter
Cream Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Chopped Broccoli
Jellied Vegetable Salad
Bread Pudding

THURSDAY
Barbecued Baked Chicken
Pinto Beans
Whole Kernel Corn
Lettuce & Tomato Salad
Pineapple Flop Cake

FRIDAY
Fried Fish
Tater Tots
Macaroni & Tomatoes
Pea & Cheese Salad
Ice Cream & Cookies

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 02-15-97
♠ 4
♥ A K 6 5 2
♦ K 3
♣ 9 7 6 4 3

West
♠ 9 7 6
♥ Q 9 7
♦ Q 10 9 8 4 2
♣ J

East
♠ 10 8 5
♥ J 10 8 4 3
♦ J
♣ Q 10 5 2

South
♠ A K Q J 3 2
♥ ---
♦ A 7 6 5
♣ A K 8

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: West

South	West	North	East
	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
7 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♦ 10

The first winners were ...

By Phillip Alder

There was an inaugural world championship in Rhodes last year: the World Mixed Teams Championship. And this event featured another first for a world championship. Never before had players from different countries been allowed to play together. So, it was fitting that the winners should come from two countries, Great Britain and Iceland. The gold medalists were Heather Dhondy, Liz McGowan, Jon Baldursson, Bjorn Eysteinsson and Adalsteinn Jorgensen. (Ragnar Hermansson was also on the team, but didn't play in the knockout stage.) In the final, they beat the American quartet of Mark Feldman, Sharon Osberg, and Rozanne and Bill Pollack by 66 to 55.

This deal decided the final.

The Americans stopped in six spades, just made. In the more ambitious Scottish-Icelandic auction given, five clubs showed one ace.

Against seven no-trump, West led the diamond 10. The declarer (McGowan) won in hand and ran her spade winners, bringing everyone down to six cards. Dummy retained three hearts, the diamond king and two clubs. East kept three hearts and three clubs. However, on a diamond to dummy's king, East had to decide which suit to guard. Placing declarer with a singleton heart for her Blackwood bid (usually, you shouldn't employ Blackwood with a void), East discarded a second club. So, declarer's club eight won trick 13.

Maybe there was another clue: If West had started with only two hearts, perhaps he would have discarded one of them.

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Seven of Canada's 12 provinces and territories have a population of less than 1 million.

MAY WEDDING PLANNED — Mrs. Vergil William Dobbs of Lubbock announces the engagement and approaching marriage of her daughter, Gaylene Dobbs, to John Randolph McMackin. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Ralph McMackin of Ontario, Canada. An 8 p.m., May 10 wedding is being planned to be held in East Side Church of Christ. (Contributed Photo)

Community Calendar

MONDAY

AARP local chapter; Senior Center; Ricky Fritz will speak; noon; the board meeting will follow.

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

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

Narcotics Anonymous; Winston Park Club; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 6 p.m.

Stargazers, FCE Club; 3117 Ave. T; 7 p.m.; for more information, call 573-5144.

Delta Kappa Gamma, Zeta Lambda Chapter; MAWC; 7 p.m.

Alateen; Park Club at Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for more information call 573-8971 or 573-2101; 8 p.m.

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for more information call 573-9458, 573-8626 or 573-8929; 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Art Guild Study Club; MAWC; 6 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous; Winston Park Club; for more information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 6 p.m.

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

Hermleigh Order of the Eastern Star; Masonic Lodge; 7:30 p.m.

New Horizon Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-1141 or 573-2101; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-3956, 573-2101,573-1141 or 573-8626; 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Altrurian Daughters Club; MAWC; 11:30 a.m.

Cosmorama Study Club; MAWC; program, Daryl Thomas with TU; hostesses, Donna Stehley, Nan Swanson and Tizzie Hall; 4:15 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-2101, 573-0949, 573-3667 or 573-1579; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Cogdell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary; board room; all members are urged to attend; 10 a.m.

Upper Colorado SWCD meeting; country club; noon.

Scurry County Pen Women; hostess and gift, Bert Warren and Sherry Bryant; guest, Mrs. Schiebel to talk on "Punctuation;" program, Helene Tutt; 1:30 p.m.

Al-Anon meeting (smoke free), noon to 1 p.m., brown bag. Park Club in Winston Park. For information call 573-4203 or 573-5525.

TOPS TX56, (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; 2501 35th. For information call Peggy Eubank at 573-6509.

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

Snyder Chapter No. 450 Order of the Eastern Star; Masonic Hall, 1912 35th; 7:30 p.m.

Codependents Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-7358; 7 p.m.

New Horizons Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club Addition in Winston Park; for information call 863-2349 or 573-8626; 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointments; 573-9742 or 573-2763.

NA Anonymous; Snyder Park Club; for information call 573-3667, 573-1579 or 573-0949; 6 p.m.

Hermleigh Community Center Family Night; 6:30 p.m.

Scurry County Alcoholics Anonymous; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 573-8929; 8 p.m., open meeting (last Friday of the month is the birthday meeting, pot luck at 7 p.m.).

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th & Ave. M; for information call 573-3956 or 573-2101; 8 p.m.

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DEXTER
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Sale $49.95

MIA
Slides & Sandals
Reg. $42
Sale $34.95

LADIES DANEXX Boots
Reg. $39.95 Sale $29.95
Reg. $46 Sale $32.95
Reg. $49.95 Sale $34.95

KID'S DANNEXX Boots
Reg. $34.95
Sale $24.95

PRIMA ROYALE
Ladies Combat Boots
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$39.95

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Ladies SAS Leather Purses
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Open Records Act not used enough

"The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created." — preamble to the Public Information Act.

By STEVE BREWER
Beaumont Enterprise

The door to government is open, but not a lot of Texans walk through it.

For that matter, many never even knock.

The Public Information Act, known for years as the Texas Open Records Act, provides almost total access to state and local government information. Volumes of documentation about the work the government does are there for the taking.

But experts on the law say Texans don't use the law enough, and without universal use, the access it provides will disappear.

Instead, journalists and special interest and watchdog groups use the provision the most. Sometimes, a taxpayer with a keen interest in government or a crime victim will use it, but not often enough.

"Most people don't know their rights," said Nancy Monson, director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. "It's the 'shooting themselves in the foot' syndrome. There's a belief that these laws are media laws and that's not true."

Monson said the law's connection to media causes many to view it with disdain. But she said Texans must take ownership of the law because of the impact it can have on their lives.

Monson and Suzy Woodford, Common Cause executive director, said there's a government agency for practically every type of information. Somewhere in the bureaucratic maze is an answer someone might need.

A few examples:

Want to know your exact tax rate or how much the government thinks your property is worth? Check with your local appraisal district and taxing entities.

Need to check the background of a doctor, lawyer or the qualifications of a teacher educating your child? State agencies and school districts hold that information.

Want to know how much crime takes place on your street? Police departments can do a crime analysis for you.

Fly in your soup? Restaurant health inspections are on file.

Bad hair day? Even barbers are licensed by the state.

Documents on hospitals, nursing homes and day care centers are open for review, along with school policy manuals and budgets. And that's just the surface.

So why don't more people use the law?

Monson and Woodford say intimidation of the government and lack of knowledge of the law are factors.

After all, it's easy to use and puts the burden on the government to provide the information. If officials refuse to release something they must prove it's not public record and, in many cases, are forced to seek an attorney general's opinion.

"Freedom of information is not some new left-wing notion," Monson said. "The Founding Fathers of our country said if people want to be our own governors, they have to know what government is doing. Unless they identify the laws with their own lives, they're not going to want to get involved."

It's hard to find a so-called "regular Joe" who uses the law a lot. Most people who use it weekly or even once a month are paid to do so — journalists, attorneys, private detectives and deed researchers.

"There's someone in every town who fights with it all the time," Monson said. "They're sometimes hard to find."

Monson said one problem is that many times taxpayers or concerned citizens use the law and don't realize it.

"They might ask for something at a meeting or at city hall and just get it and not know why," Monson said.

And it's not as if government officials don't encourage use of the law.

"Information is power," said Sandra Coaxum, chief of the Texas Attorney General's Open Records Division. "It gives some realm of accountability when people know they're being watched. They're going to be more careful and make sure things are done properly."

Coaxum's boss, Texas Attorney General Dan Morales, agreed and said the law provides answers to important questions.

"Is a major corporation planning and lobbying for a possible waste site or prison near you? Will the huge petrochemical plant down the road get a special permit to release waste into the air or water?" Morales said. "Will a curfew be imposed on our teenagers? How did the decision to raise electricity and water rates come about? Are those same officials giving themselves a pay raise while spending our tax money in a questionable way?"

The guardians of government documents are often lawyers and the ones who work for local governmental entities say 99 percent of the time their advice is to release information to the public. That's because there are only a few exceptions allowing anything to be kept from the public.

However, the attorneys agree the law is not used a lot.

See Open, Page 4B

Public Records

New Vehicle Registrations

Deshonna and Brent Taylor, 1997 Chevrolet van from Big Country Autoland.

Efrain Torres, 1997 Jeep from Snyder Chrysler.

Associates Leasing Inc., 1997 Ford Explorer from Wilson Motors.

Bill Winters, 1997 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Charles R. Dunn, 1996 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Kathy Lee, 1997 Chevrolet from Big Country Autoland.

Brad Hart, 1997 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Leonard L. Deere, 1996 Buick from Big Country Autoland.

Camillio and Teresa Jasso, 1996 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Jason Brooks, 1997 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Jake and Don Unruh, 1997 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Mary W. Watt, 1997 Ford pickup from Wilson Motors.

Geraldine Stone, 1997 Dodge pickup from Snyder Chrysler.

Harold Holladay, 1997 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Bobby and John Clinkinbeard, 1997 Dodge pickup from Snyder Chrysler.

V.O. Barron, 1997 GMC pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Harold D. Ellis, 1997 GMC pickup from Big Country Autoland.

AMOCO Pipeline Co., 1997 Dodge pickup from Brookdal Dodge.

Patterson Drilling Co., 1997 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Molly A. Wilson, 1997 Chevrolet Tahoe from Big Country Autoland.

Sandra Chambers, 1997 Chevrolet from Big Country Autoland.

Sierra Well Services, 1997 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Richard Farms, 1997 Chevrolet pickup from Big Country Autoland.

Marriage License

Juan Francisco Arenas and Maria Elena Cabrera, both of Snyder.

Cody Thomas Fry and Kelly Ann Ellis, both of Snyder.

John Henry Guzman and Hazel Claudia Apodaca, both of Snyder.

Filed in District Court

Shelia Benitez, vs. Francisco Ramirez, suit for damages, motor vehicle.

Deed Records

Otha Gray to Dan Cotton, 122.5 X 170 varas out of the northwest one-quarter of Section 88, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Donald J. Halverson to Michael D. and Mary E. Peterson, all of Lots 1, 3 and 4 and the north one-half of Lot 2, all in Block 2 of the D.R. Layman's Subdivision of Block 115, Town of Hermleigh.

Travis E. Brackeen to Richard Earl Brackeen III, three acres out of the northwest one-quarter of Section 149, Block 3, H&TC survey.

Scurry County, City of Snyder and Western Texas College to Snyder Independent School District, Lots 1-3 in Block 56 of the Gann Block of the Wilmeth Addition.

Mary Herrington to Ronnie Clawson, all of Lots 8 and 9 in Block 11, Alamo Heights Subdivision, a part of the south one-half of the northwest one-quarter of Section 96, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Robert L. and Rena D. Potter to Larry E. and April McClure, a tract out of Section 211, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Joseph Crayton to Columbus Crayton Sr., tract one being the east 50 feet of Lot 3 in Block 30 of the T.N. Nunn Addition; tract two being the west 50 feet of Lot 4 in Block 30 of the T.N. Nunn Addition.

Dale B. and Virginia Johnston to Kenneth and Kim Dierschke all of Lot 5 in Block I of the Replat of Towle Place Addition.

Edna E. Davis to Richard Wayne and Cathy Lynn Trout, all of Lot 6 in Block 5 of the Cedar Creek Addition.

Jerry Evans to Betty Ann Baker, the west 60 feet of the north one-half of Lot 1 in Block 18 of the Blankenship Addition.

Weldon E. Lloyd to Shanna D'Lyn Lloyd, Susan M'Lys Lloyd and Carrie A'Lise Lloyd, an undivided one-half interest in 27.8 acres out of the northeast one-quarter of Section 483, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Simon and Leonor Bernal Quiros to Juan Bernal Quiros, all of Lot 4 in Block 24 of the Chambers Addition.

Simon and Leonor Bernal Quiros to Simon Bernal Quiros Jr., all of Lot 3 in Block 24 of the Chambers Addition.

Bob Lewis to Barry L. Rinker, individually and dba as Rinker Printing, Lot 2 in Block 5 of the Original Town of Snyder.

William R. and Laska Sue Lyon to Jonathan D. and Hillary A. Nelson, all of Lots 7-9 in Block 13 of the Colonial Hill Addition.

Snyder Savings and Loan Association to Gary Gene and Nichole M. Antognini, an 0.497-acre tract out of Section 124, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Carroll Ray and Gloria J. Myers to Melton Russell and Donna Ruth Barry, all of Lot 9 in Block 2, Scott and Browning Addition.

Melton Russell and Donna Ruth Barry to Thomas L. and Brenda J. Martin, all of Lot 9 in Block 2 of the Scott and Browning Addition.

Independence Funding Co. to David L. and Sherry L. Thompson, an 0.8-acre tract in Section 153, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Harbourton Mortgage and The Veteran Land Board of Texas to Theresa J. Burton, all of Lot 15 in Block 11 of the Replat of the south one-half of Block 7 and the replat of Blocks 6 and 11 of the Highlands Addition.

Mildred Peavehouse to Darvin and Nelda Baze, a tract out of Section 133, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Ramona Thompson Littlefield to David L. Thompson, tract one being 5.76 acres out of the northwest one-quarter of Section 125, Block 3, H&TC survey; tract two being 85.85 acres out of Sections 125 and 126 in Block 3, H&TC survey; tract three being 39.3 acres out of Sections 125 and 126, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Q&A

More about Ritalin

In response to the growing concern among parents, educators and other affected members of our community, Snyder Daily News, in cooperation with Al-Anon support groups and the Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, devotes this column to readers' questions and concerns about the increasing threat of substance abuse in our community.

This time we will answer a question that has come in recently:

"My child is on Ritalin and has been for some time. I think it has helped with school performance and behavior problems. However, recently my child and another teenager crushed some tablets that my child took from home. I believe they were going to inhale the resulting powder if we had not discovered what they were doing. Why would they do this?

The Q&A column last May dealt with the drug Ritalin. To quote from that article: "Ritalin (methylphenidate), a drug long used to treat hyperactivity in children, is quickly becoming the drug abuse 'hot topic.' Ritalin is a central nervous system stimulant, similar to amphetamines in nature and duration of its effects. It is supplied in 5 to 20 mg. doses and intended for oral use.

In order to make the Ritalin tablets large enough to handle easily, at least 100 mg. of "inert ingredients" are added to increase their size. These ingredients are "inert" (harmless) only when taken by mouth and can be serious problems when inhaled ("snorted") like cocaine, or injected like heroin.

When crushed and snorted, the ingredients in the tablets can damage the delicate tissues lining the nasal cavities, causing nose bleeds and open sores. Deterioration of nasal cartilage may also occur.

The rapid delivery of drugs by injection makes it difficult to control the intensity of the effect, thus making toxic overdose more likely.

Because the hypodermic syringe was designed to deliver a concentrated dose of a drug quickly, it bypasses many of the body's natural defense mechanisms. This can result in infections, blood clots and circulatory problems.

When taken in accordance with usual prescription instructions, Ritalin would be classified as having mild to moderate stiumlant properties, but when snorted or injected it has a strong stimulant effect.

Even when taken according to the prescription directions, there is a risk of developing dependence and tolerance to the drug.

Adult supervision should always be maintained when administering any perscription drug. It is important not to become careless in handling drugs which have been prescribed for longer periods of time.

Twenty-four hour confidential information is available by calling 573-1141 in Snyder or 1-800-659-6722 from other areas. Information on 12-Step Groups may be found in the SDN Community Calendar. Send your questions to P.O. 695, Snyder, TX 89550, or call (915) 573-1141. All questions and personal inquiries may be submitted anonymously.

The U.S. Customs Court, based in New York City, handles disputes over customs duties that arise at any U.S. port of entry.

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Holly Barkowsky & Bart Bynum
Laci Naylor & Greg Box
Cinimin Carney & Jeremy Paden
Angie Robinson Key & Reagan Key
Renee Matthews & Rayland Goswick
Jenny Anthony & Lee Haddox
Cathrine Hoyle & Joey Hammit
Emilee Taylor & Joe Don Marrow, Jr.
Kim Adcock & Mitch Page
Amy Eicke & Scott Ellis

Bridal Consultant, Accessories and Rentals

Baby Shower Registry

Bobby & Mikki Clinkinbeard *Primary & Pastel
John & Deana Stokes • Western
Stephen & Melanie Sullenger Girl • Mickey Mouse, Bright
Jeff & Dena Reecer Boy • Noah's Ark, Pastel
David & Sally Miller Boy • Rocky Horses & Bears
Bryan & Karri Brunson Boy • Bears & Primary Colors
Paul & Gina Jones Girl, Bears
Charles & Kaila Bethel Boy, Blue
Todd & RexAnne Clark •Looney Tunes, Loveables
*Nursery Theme

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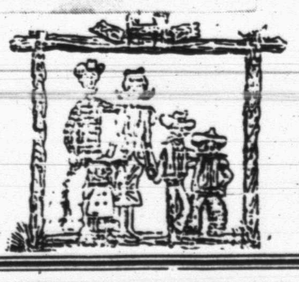


U.S. House approves family planning funds

WASHINGTON (AP) — The international family planning issue moves to the Senate after the House narrowly approved an administration request to release family planning funds without imposing abortion restrictions.

In the first abortion-related vote of the new Congress, the House on Thursday voted 220-209 to begin releasing, without abortion restrictions, $385 million in family planning funds.

House members then seemingly contradicted themselves by voting 231-194 for a bill offered by anti-abortion leader Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., that released the funds but reinstated a Reagan-era policy barring aid to private groups that perform or promote abortions overseas.

But it was the first vote that was crucial. The Senate is expected to approve the administration bill, which Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., said will come up for a vote on Feb. 25. The Smith bill, on the other hand, has little support in the Senate.

The Smith bill, said Gloria Feldt, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation, was "a way to give, as they say in Washington, cover to those members who do consider themselves anti-choice. We do have hope and belief that the Smith bill will not go anywhere in the Senate."

The administration bill passed on the strength of 44 mostly moderate Republicans joining 175 Democrats and one independent. Supporters stressed that family planning aid was an essential element in preventing abortion.

Rep. Jim Greenwood, a Pennsylvania Republican, spoke of how shocked he was on a recent visit to Bolivia when he was told that 50 percent of hospital beds are filled by women suffering from botched or illegal abortions. "Every year 7 million infants die on this planet because their mothers were not healthy enough for their pregnancies or they lacked obstetric care," he said in support of the bill.

Another Republican, Constance Morella of Maryland, cited a report estimating that the 35 percent cut in U.S. family planning funds since fiscal 1995 has resulted in an additional 4 million unintended pregnancies and 2 million more abortions worldwide.

Thursday's vote was the outcome of a dispute over abortion that nearly brought down last fall's negotiations between the White House and congressional Republicans over the fiscal 1997 budget.

In a compromise, the two sides agreed to fund family planning at $385 million without abortion restrictions, but to freeze the release of the money until July 1, nine months into the fiscal year, and then mete it out at only 8 percent of the total a month.

The agreement also gave the president the authority to certify that the delay was seriously affecting family planning programs, moving up the release date to March 1. He did so on Jan. 31 and the House vote Thursday confirmed that.

Smith's bill would reinstate the so-called Mexico City policy in effect during the Reagan and Bush administrations but revoked by Clinton early in his first term. That policy goes beyond a 1973 law banning all direct U.S. funding for abortion overseas and prohibits aid to private groups that perform or promote abortion.

Sixteen Republicans and 12 Democrats voted for both the administration and Smith bills.

Smith warned that a vote for the administration bill "pours hundreds of millions of U.S. taxpayer dollars into organizations that have made the toppling of pro-life laws and policies in developing countries their mission and explicit goal."

He promised to keep trying to attach Mexico City language to family planning spending bills. "That will not be the end of it, I can assure you."

Douglas Johnson of the National Right to Life Committee also said the close vote on the administration bill was "a wake-up call to the Clinton administration that its crusade to legalize abortion on demand ... has turned this into a very controversial program."

But Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who led the pro-administration forces, said it was unfortunate that family planning had become such a battleground over abortion.

"The trend is both ironic and harmful, given that access to family planning reduces unintended pregnancies and, therefore, reduces the number of abortions," she said.

Administration bill is H.J.Res. 36

Smith's bill is HR581

Tax Update

By The Associated Press

Earned income explained below

WASHINGTON (AP) — The earned income tax credit for the working poor is worth more than ever before with the completion of a three-year expansion initiated by President Clinton's 1993 budget.

The maximum credit now is $3,556 for families with two or more children in 1996, up from $3,110 last year and more than double the $1,511 maximum before the expansion.

The maximum for families with one child is $2,152, up from $2,094 last year and $1,434 three years earlier. For childless people, the credit is $323, up from $314 last year and zero three years ago.

Republicans, who fought unsuccessfully to cut the program, point out that it's more than a tax credit. For many, it's a government income supplement. Even if your credit exceeds your tax liability, you still get it.

With inflation, the amount you can earn and still be eligible has increased for 1996. With no children, the maximum credit is reached when income hits $4,200 and starts declining when income reaches $5,300, hitting zero at income of $9,500.

With one child, the maximum credit is reached when income hits $6,300 and starts declining when income reaches $11,650, hitting zero at income of $25,078.

With two or more children, the maximum credit is reached when income hits $8,850 and starts declining when income reaches $11,650, hitting zero at income of $28,495.

Any credit you receive won't be used in determining your eligibility for Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, food stamps and low-income housing.

Your tax return's instructions booklet has a series of questions to determine if you're eligible, plus a worksheet for determining the credit. Publication 596 has the rules in detail, but these are the basics:

In a change for 1996 returns, people with investment income of more than $2,200 won't be eligible. Generally, that's the total of dividends and interest, both taxable and tax-exempt.

People who were nonresident aliens any part of 1996 also can't claim the credit, unless they are married to a U.S. citizen and choose to be treated as a resident alien.

Also, remember to put down a correct Social Security number for every person on your return — yourself, spouse and dependents — born before December, 1996. This is important. The IRS will deny the credit if you don't. If you need to get a number, apply by filing Form SS-5 with the Social Security Administration. It takes about two weeks.

Childless people can take the credit on forms 1040EZ, 1040A and 1040. You must be at least 25 years old but younger than 65. If you're married, either you or your spouse must be between those ages. You can't be a dependent on someone else's return.

If you have a child, you can't use Form 1040EZ. Attach Schedule EIC to your return, either Form 1040A or Form 1040.

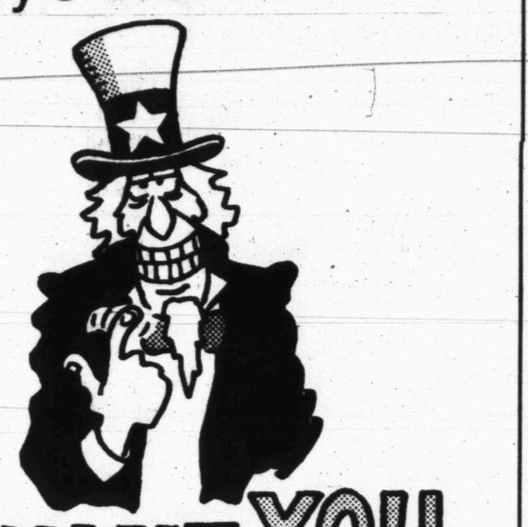
To qualify, your child must be younger than 19 at the end of the year, younger than 24 and a full-time student, or any age and permanently and totally disabled. The child must be your own son or daughter, adopted child, grandchild or stepchild and must have lived with you in the United States for at least half the year. Foster children qualify if they lived with you all year.

People who are married but file separate returns can't take the credit. Also, only one person can claim the credit when an unmarried couple lives together with a qualifying child. The person with the highest adjusted gross income is the one allowed to claim the credit.

The Internal Revenue Service is promoting an advance payment feature that allows people with children to receive a part of their earned income credit every time they get paid instead of waiting until the end of the year. File a Form W-5 with your employer.

If you received advance payments in 1996, you must report them on line 49 of Form 1040 or line 26 of Form 1040A.

Berry's World



Open Records Act

Continued From Page 3B

"I think the law is appropriate and useful, positive and good," said Lane Nichols, Beaumont city attorney. "My advice is almost always to give the record up. In almost every case, I say, 'Why withhold it?' "

Jefferson County Assistant District Attorney Tom Rugg, who advises county officials on records requests, said the law shouldn't intimidate people.

"The law basically is not hard to understand," Rugg said. "It simply requires a person to make a request and expect a proper result. . . . People may be intimidated a little bit because they don't know what to ask for, but that comes with talking to government officials."

But be warned. Rugg said there are not a lot of experts on the law in government.

"I think as a general rule government officials are not well-informed as to the act and its requirements," Rugg said. "It's certainly not hard to run across people in public office who don't have a clue that the act exists and they have responsibilities under the act."

Tanner Hunt, a Beaumont attorney who represents the Beaumont Independent School District and other districts, said the law makes good sense for taxpayers and government.

"(Obeying the law) is good public relations and public policy," Hunt said.

Distributed by The Associated Press

Scurry County Service Men & Women

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

Marisa Barrera:
PFC Barrera, Marisa
263 Mt. Co.
Box 78
Ft. Hood, TX 76544

Ward & Rachel Baze
Ward & Rachel Baze
1506 Bundrane Apt. 119
Killeen, TX 76543
Delta Company
1st Battalion
22 Mechanized Regiment
4th Infantry Division

Scott M. Cole
RM3 Scott M. Cole
USS Safeguard ARS 50
FPO AP 96678-3221

Cole Drum:
QMSN Delton C. Drum II
MCM Rotational Crew Golf
463-29-0621
Unit 60535
FPO AE 09501-4507

Tony & Robin (Rogers) Ferard:
Tony & Robin Ferard
1925 D AMA R.D.
AMR
Honolulu, HI 96818

Cory & Jamie Fisher:
Cory & Jamie Fisher
101 South Reynolds St.
Apt. H
#406
Alexandria, VA 22304

Amadeo Garza
Capt. Amadeo B. Garza
CJSOTF/ILIZDA Complex
Operation
Joint Endeavor
APO AE 09780

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Scott & Amy Graham
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Hope Mills, NC 28348

Michael D. Long
Sgt. Michael D. Long
C-Trp 1/4 Cav.
CMR464 Bx. 306
APO AE 09226

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Ft. Drum, NY 13602

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AIC Neeley, Ed
3128 Postal Service Cntr.
Nellis AFB
NV 89191-0041

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

Michael A. Perez:
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HHC 2-35 INF. 25 ID
Schofield Barracks, HI 96857

Brad Pilgrim
SRA Pilgrim, John B.
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APO AE 09012

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Mark & Stacy Pilgrim
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Pinehurst Estates
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Angie Ramirez
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Holloman AFB
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Roy Tavarez:
Roy Tavarez
WPNS Co. 3/3 DRAGONS
MCBH
Kanoehe Bay, HI 96863

W.S. Warren
SSgt. W.S. Warren
PSE 559 PO BX 5530
FPO AP 96377-5530

Bridal Registry

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and Michael Alarcon
Jenny Marie Anthony
and Robert Lee Haddox
Holly Barkowsky
and Bart Bynum
Lisa Duncan Steadham
and Michael Steadham
Laci Naylor
and Greg Box
Juli Lay
and Eric Springer
Amy Eicke
and Scott Ellis
Angie Robinson Key
and Reagan Key
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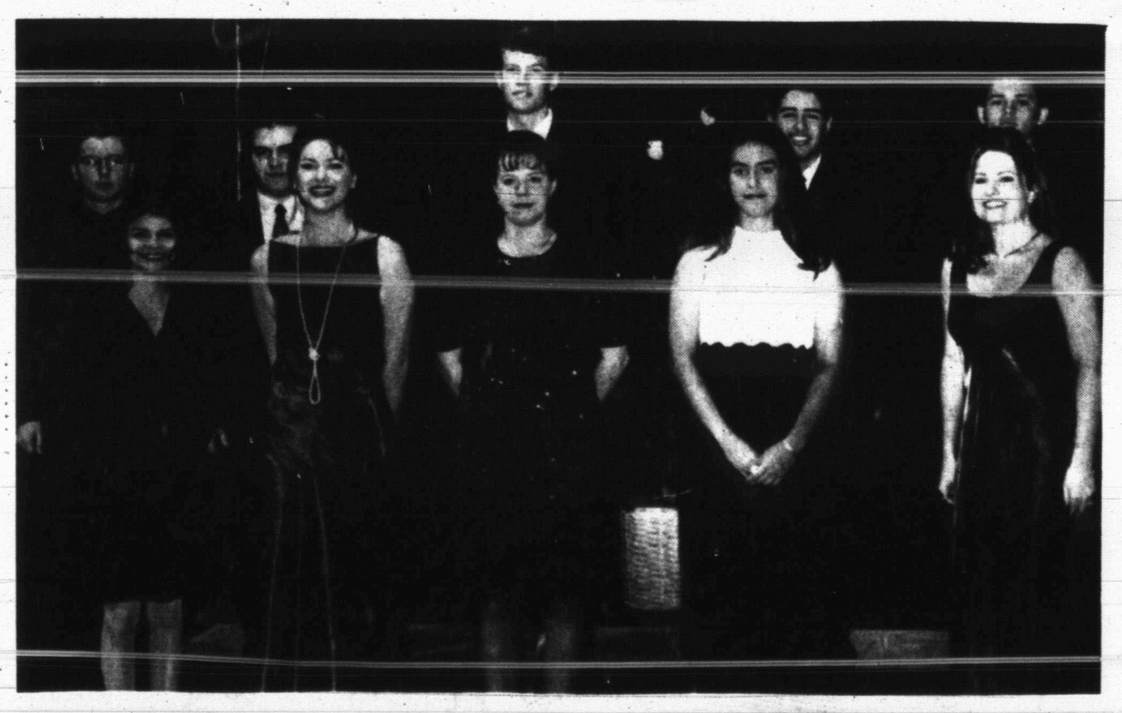
NOMINEES — These Snyder High School seniors were Mr. and Miss SHS nominees. From left are, Keri Kemp and Zeb Alexander; Elyse Merritt and Clark Church; Cara Stansell and Jeremiah Johnson; Meeghan York and Eric Tovar. York and Johnson were the winners. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

STILL MORE SWEETHEARTS — These sweethearts and escorts were also recognized at Snyder High School. From left are, Ryan Landes, KTXS Academic Challenge; Shala Gilliland, escort; Candace Barrow, photojournalism, Jonathan Pennington, escort; LaTrisha Lee, KTXS Academic Challenge, Nickolas Means, escort; Christy Garner, NHS, Casity Reneau, escort. Not pictured is Clark Church, also an NHS sweetheart. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

CLASS FAVORITES — Snyder High School recently elected class favorites. From left are, Amy Brooks and Justin Phillips, freshmen; Sharika Wofford and James Allen Shields, sophomore; Michelle Lewallen and Chris Riggins, juniors; and Tiffany Garza and Jeremiah Johnson, seniors; and Rick Henderson, who was Garza's escort. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

OTHER SWEETHEARTS — These sweethearts and escorts were recently recognized at Snyder High School. From left are, Lone Pedersen, foreign exchange student, Jack Hedges, escort; Shauna Huddleston, FFA, Cody Cribbs, escort; Jessica Perkins, football, Chris Post, escort; Emily Zeck and Jay Don Griffin, both drama; Julie Doolittle, FCA, and Matthew Miller, escort. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

SWEETHEARTS — Sweethearts and escorts were recently recognized at Snyder High School. Shown from left are, Michelle Lewallen, boys track; Matthew Miller, FCA escort; Michelle Barbosa, DECA, and Bryan Billings, escort; Sarah Knowles and L.S. McClain, III, both choir; Melissa Castro, cross country, and Matt Melton, escort; Jay Holley, varsity cheerleader, and Monie Pena, escort. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)



MORE SWEETHEARTS — These sweethearts and escorts have also been recognized at Snyder High School. From left are, Angela Rodriguez and Justin Guy, both Tiger's Lair sweethearts; Tyra Brooks, Spanish Club, Richard Rodriguez, escort; Katy Cooper, Sun Club, Kyle Callison, escort; Laura Gonzales and Jamie Juarez, both tennis sweethearts; Mary Hollis, powerlifting, Jerry Burton, escort. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

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Online: Power of the written word

Deanie Francis Mills

Well, love is in the air this time of year, and even though Valentine's Day will be officially over by the time this column appears, I've been thinking about how technology has changed the oldest game; how, especially, the ability to go online and meet people through a home computer who may live thousands of miles away has changed human relationships in all kinds of subtle and some not-so-subtle ways.

This came home to me a few weeks ago, when I got involved in an online "chat" with a woman who works as a police dispatcher in New York City. This lady had not only carried on lengthy online communications with an Australian cop she has met on a law enforcement forum we both frequent, but they had also exchanged photos, written letters to one another, and had even gotten into the habit of talking on the telephone once a week. She told me that the Aussie was planning a trip to New York, just to meet her.

She also told me that she was married.

I asked her if her husband knew about this online relationship, and she said, "He knows we are friends, and he knows about the visit, but he's not too worried about it."

"Should he be?" I asked.

And she answered, "Yes. He should be."

This little conversation made me very, very nervous — and that was before a high-profile crime occurred in which a woman had received roses from a man she'd met online, and her husband had stabbed her to death — almost decapitating her in the process — and then shot himself.

And it occurred to me that online friendships and communications should have a certain set of "rules" that don't always necessarily apply in face-to-face meetings and friendships.

First of all, you must never underestimate the power of the written word. It has been pointed out that in any totalitarian society, the first freedom which is always taken away from the citizenry is the freedom of the press. And in any underground revolution, the most potent form of rebellion is the written word, printed in the form of underground newspapers.

Words have power.

When you are communicating through the written word, and the written word alone, all normal societal barriers, be they skin color or race or culture or age or dress or economic standing — all fall away, leading to an exchange of ideas in their purest sense. In an online communication with a stranger, you may reveal a confidence or eschew a passion of which your closest friends may be completely unaware.

This is because you may hold back from expressing an opinion in polite society that could cause people to look askance at you. You may keep your mouth shut at a normal social gathering on a subject and shout it to the rooftops when you are online, because you are only sharing the power of words, and not all the little niceties that mask most people when they are in a conventional social situation.

So to discover a kindred spirit; someone who accepts your opinions at face value, even though they don't know where you go to church or what kind of car you drive, can be a heady thing. It's easy to mistake that passionate exchange for a relationship.

This is especially dangerous when you are using an online service which allows you to use nicknames or fake names. In a case like that, all bets are off. You have no idea to whom you are speaking, in reality. They could be completely fabricating everything about themselves and you would never know. Granted, this could occur in any online setting, but some services are more notorious than others.

I prefer to use a service which requires real first and last names, and which has Systems Administrators — or "Sysops" — who moniter exchanges and prevent such practices as "flaming" (hurling insults; name-calling), off-color sexual remarks or profanity, and who have the power to "lock out" offensive members from the forum. This keeps debates as debates should be: lively, intelligent exchanges of opinion — not slandrous assaults.

So my first rule would be, start by choosing a sensible online service which offers some protections.

Next, never give out your phone number or address online. If you have spent enough time getting to know someone and you wish to exchange "snail mail," then ALWAYS use a post office box number. I not only have a post office box, but I also remain deliberately vague when asked where I live, saying only, "a remote area in West Texas a hundred miles from a mall."

I only give my phone number after I've had an opportunity to check out a source and make sure that he or she is legitimate. So far, I've never had any problem with giving my phone number to someone who then abuses that privilege. This is because I am very, very careful — I don't even have my phone number printed on my business cards or letterhead stationery.

When it comes to casual friendships and harmless flirtations — and yes, there are plenty of flirtations in this world that are harmless — I always maintain a few cruicial ground rules. For one thing, I make it adamantly clear upfront that I am happily married, have been happily married for many years ... and that my husband is a big guy and a combat veteran.

Okay — I'm joking a little — but you get my drift. When I'm joking or flirting around with a male friend online, he knows that a friendship is a friendship and a marriage is a marriage and that I never get the two mixed up. I am not above a smile and a wink from time to time, but always, ALWAYS against the rich backdrop of my very solid marriage.

So far, everyone with whom I've established an online friendship over the past two years has had no problem understanding this.

Now, if I were single, naturally the rules would change to some degree, but I still strongly advise anybody out there who has the ability to go online through a home computer that they always remain on guard and somewhat suspicious of everybody until they've had a chance to be checked out. There's nothing wrong with having some fun online, as long as you are sensible, cautious, and careful. The trick, I think, is that you don't do anything online that you wouldn't do face-to-face.

The ability to make friends or find love online is a wondrous thing. The friends with whom I've exchanged letters and phone calls have become precious to me. There is no doubt that being online shrinks this planet and puts us in touch with people we might never know otherwise.

And true love HAS been known to happen in just that way.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Using budget to push reform

The (McAllen) Monitor

Many people have said that once Bill Clinton no longer had to run for president his true colors would show through. The first budget proposal of his second term proves that Clinton still wants to be all things to all people.

The president's proposed spending plan features many of the tax cuts he promised during his re-election campaign, including a $500 tax credit for parents of young children and another for college expenses. At the same time he wants to pump more money into government programs, satisfying the liberals who insist on more and more government involvement in our lives.

He also reinstated about a third of the welfare programs that were eliminated last year. Believing his election might hang in the balance, Clinton reluctantly signed Congress' welfare reform, to appease more conservative voters; but he promised liberals that he would work to negate some of those reforms if liberals would vote for him also. He is keeping that promise.

Clinton plans to pay for these tax cuts and programs by trimming Medicaid payments and corporate tax breaks. In addition, his $1.69 trillion budget proposal for fiscal year 1998 carries a $125.6 billion shortfall, up from a $107.5 billion deficit in the current year.

Mortality rate of youths

The Austin American-Statesman

"Our children are getting killed or killing themselves at higher rates than any other country." That was the startling summation of a new report from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta by CDC epidemiologist Dr. Etienne Krug, reported by the Associated Press last week. ...

Novelist John Updike was asked a few years ago to write in Forbes magazine about why, when we have it so good in this country, we feel so bad. ...

No longer does American society devote a generous share of its resources and attention to the young, he said. ...

"Their high schools no longer look like castles but like second-rate airports, low slung and shabby, while the society's riches are reserved, in a curious gerontocratic shift, to the old, with their Social Security, their pensions, their Medicare and the government entitlements that account for close to 30 percent of the national budget," Updike wrote. "A nation where the old are coddled and the young are deprived of both purpose and means is surely one where people are entitled to feel bad."

Guide takes aim at male prey

Pamela Coleman

If you didn't learn enough man-snaring tips from "The Rules," check out "The Husband Hunting Handbook."

Personally, it makes me want to hurl.

Of course, I'm not a big fan of "The Rules," either, which makes all women sound like spineless, relationship-dependent creatures. (OK, some are out there, but we're not all miserable at the possibility of kicking back on the couch solo on Valentine's Day, picking through a box of chocolates sent by Dad.)

The new book is packed with informational gems like where to find a man ("Go to church, like Mama said"), and even contains a segment entitled "Make a Splash in the Kitchen." (Which reminds me of the time a decidedly non-Pyrex pot exploded in a fiery mass of broken glass and scalding water when I tried to make spaghetti once. But that's another story...)

This book answers those all-important questions like, "I have fallen for a guy after three dates, and I KNOW he's the one. Should I tell him?" My answer might differ a little from the authors of the hunting guide, who advise the woman to "keep trolling slow and easy." I'd suggest the woman stick her head in a block of cement — anyone who thinks she can track down her perfect mate in three dates needs to slow down the romantic adrenalin a tad, don't you think?

What disturbs me most about both these books is the undertone that women are out there trying to snare a man at all cost. They'll ply him with meat loaf and mashed potatoes, swoon him with a freshly mopped kitchen floor and attend church every Sunday — not because they like to cook, clean and worship, but because they're on a mission to get married.

Yikes.

It's just as bad for the guys. The books make them look like so many beached and brainless whales, simpleminded and prone to the first harpoon heaved their direction.

Both books make a big deal out of that last-minute date thing. Never, never, never accept a weekend date after Wednesday, they preach. If you do, you'll be considered desperate and easy — which, of course, many women who want so dearly to marry ARE.

It all sounds so fake, like installing a shiny veneer over a balsa wood table.

For example, the hunting guide suggests that women bone up on their sports knowledge if they're dating a guy who, say, can't be pried from the television set during basketball season.

"If your beau likes sports, at least stay mildly informed," "The Husband-Hunting Handbook" advises. "Watch games together, and ask questions only during commercials or replays."

Why not just flat out tell women to rush out and force themselves to take an interest in something they never really cared about, just to try to make somebody like them?

If I conducted my life in the manner suggested by these books, I'd be destined never to marry.

My cooking skills pretty much max out with the frozen burrito in the microwave thing. Call me on Thursday and I'll probably join you at the movies on Friday if I don't already have plans. And I'm not going to blow out a knee genuflecting in church solely to meet a guy who thinks he's pious.

Come to think of it, maybe I will be single the rest of my life. Is that so bad?

Pamela Coleman is deputy metro editor of The (McAllen) Monitor.

A bad approach

Bill McClellan

Rep. Arlene Wohlgemuth has filed a bill she believes will help marriages last. Her idea to keep mom and dad together is to make it as tough as possible for them to get a divorce.

It's a lawyer's dream come true.

No more could one partner say "I've had enough, I want out," and file for a low-cost, no-fault divorce. Under Wohlgemuth's bill, most divorces cases would involve a long and potentially expensive court process.

Supporters of the bill believe it would cut down on divorces, and they are probably right — but not for the right reasons.

Right now in Texas, a no-fault divorce can occur with only one person's consent. There is a a 60-day waiting period — two months.

If Wohlgemuth's bill becomes law, both husband and wife will have to consent to the divorce. Then, there will be a one-year waiting period — and that's only if they don't have adult children.

If they do have children under age 18, one of the parents will have to be found to be "at fault" — guilty of cruelty, adultery or abandonment, for instance.

In addition to being a money maker for lawyers, Wohlgemuth's bill is a batterer's dream. This is one more weapon an abusive husband can use to keep a hold on his wife. Not only would she have to go through the steps of proving him to be cruel and abusive, under this bill she would have to wait a full year before she could be shed of the jerk.

Wohlgemuth also has plans to introduce another bill that would require one year of counseling before marriage or divorce. She said her current bill is a first step.

Counseling before marriage? Perhaps that has some merit. Too many couples get married too quickly.

But who, I'd like to know, is going to pay for this "state-mandated" counseling if the couple can't afford it? Ms. Wohlgemuth? Not on your life.

We have laws that state spouses can't abuse each other. We have laws that say parents have to take care of their kids, put them through school.

These laws don't always work. Statistics show that most violent deaths occur in the home. Not on the highways, not on the streets. At home.

Do we really believe that Rep. Wohlgemuth's bill will change that? Will making it harder and more expensive to get a divorce insure harmony in the home? I don't think so.

The goal, to keep families together so the kids don't suffer, is an admirable one. But this isn't the way to go about it.

Your Elected Officials

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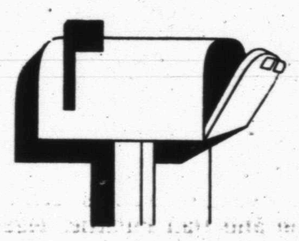


More than a cannon

Editor's Note: The following letter was addressed to the mayor of Colorado City.

Dear Mr. Mayor - The mother city of West Texas has just been raped. Even though you and I and the local VFW made an attempt to protect her, she was still violated as you and I talked on the phone.

This a lot more than just a World War I cannon.

1. How could veterans' organizations be so disrespectful to all Mitchell County vets from World War I to the present? My grandfather, Marion Tarter, was gassed in WWI and came back to Colorado City and died a few years later. I would like to think he helped bring the cannon to the American Legion.

2. How dare the Sweetwater VFW to make a premeditated attack on the history of Colorado City and my memory. Before TV and air conditioning on Saturday nights, the American Legion would have a dance with the window open. People came from all over the county to visit and listen to the music. I remember playing around the cannon at about five years old.

And I will never forget sitting on that cannon the night of D-Day. I was about 10 years old at the time.

There were people all around the American Legion and cars going up and down 2nd Street, then up to 3rd Street, making the block around the American Legion, then back to 2nd, honking and hollering as they went. Quite a night.

That was the night I really learned what patriotism meant. Freedom!

3. What I don't understand is how a man could move into Colorado City and pretend to be part of the community by going to civic clubs and at the same time plan to steal the historical cannon, legally or illegally.

4. The mother city of West Texas, and that is what Colorado City used to be called, has taken a lot of licks in the past. I would like to list some of the jobs these men who brought the cannon to Colorado City might have worked.

• They may have worked at the salt plant that was located southwest of town.

• Perhaps they worked for the WPA during the Depression, building the park and curbing for streets in town.

•Maybe they worked at the cotton seed oil mill located at the west end of land between the railroad and the river. When this plant closed, all cotton seed was hauled to Sweetwater, Texas. Still is.

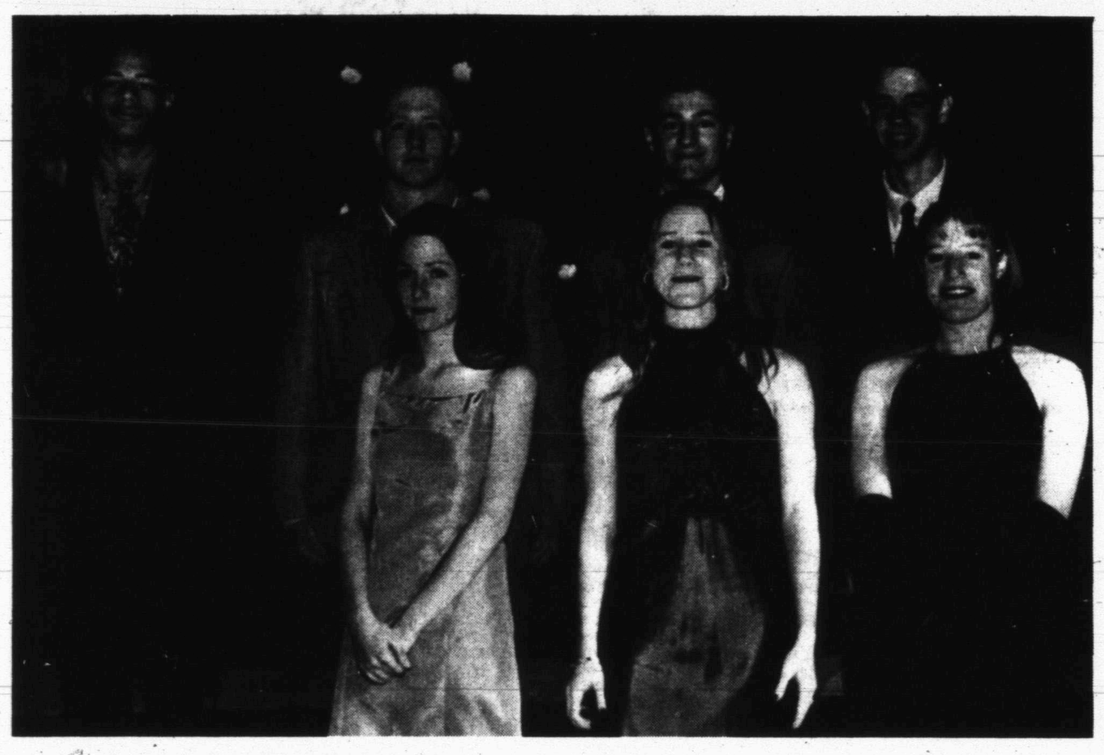
• They could have worked at one of three cotton gins located at the west end of the towns and the river. They could have been one of the two cotton buyers at the time. They could have been one of the many farmers or sharecroppers in the area.

• They also could have worked at the cotton compress located on

See Letters, Page 10B

ALSO SWEETHEARTS — These sweethearts and escorts were recently recognized at Snyder High School. From left are, Alicia Peoples, industrial technology, Scott Squires, escort; Troy Allen, girls golf, Daysha Weaver, escort; Jessica Brown, French Club, Thomas Bishop, escort; Matthew Fambro, girls track, Devon Reed, escort; Geoffrey Loper, girls basketball, Darla Blackwell, escort. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

SHS SWEETHEARTS — These Snyder High School sweethearts and escorts were recognized recently. From left are, Shane Beauchamp, art, Nicole Kerry, escort; Mandy Heaton, baseball, Richard Canas, escort; Sarah Lilly, band, Chad McMillan, escort; Alissa Wells, boys golf, Reid Johnson, escort; Melanie Kidd, boys basketball, David Smith, escort. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)



ADDITIONAL SWEETHEARTS — These Snyder High School sweethearts and escorts were recognized recently. From left are, Chris Riggins, FHA sweetheart. Latecia Anderson, escort, is not pictured. Others are, Molly Wilson and Dan Pulattie, Tiger's Tale sweethearts; Mac McCraw, volleyball, Raechele Wemken, escort; Trevor Thompson, softball, Joanie Wemken, escort. (Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

In historic shift, Army goes to sea

CHARLESTON S.C. (AP) — Hundreds of Army trucks, bulldozers and tankers rumbled across the windswept wharf, ascending one by one up a steep ramp and vanishing into the cavernous hold of the giant cargo ship.

In a historic mission shift, the Army this week began a process which, by 2002, will see half of the traditionally land-based service's equipment permanently moored at far-flung anchorages around the globe.

Pointing at the USNS Gordon, the first of a new class of 19 "roll-on, roll-off" vessels that will serve as floating warehouses, Vice Admiral Phil Quest declared: "It gives the U.S. Army the flexibility to go wherever the action is."

Foreign military observers invited to see the ship at a Navy base near Charleston were awed by the massive operation, and by the shipbuilding program — now the largest in the world.

But some were skeptical.

"Ships of this size can carry a lot, but they are also very vulnerable, a huge target," noted Maj. Gen. Yair Yoram of Israel.

The 58,000-ton Gordon was being loaded with support equipment for armored and mechanized infantry units. The manifest included 14 tracked vehicles, mostly bulldozers; 921 wheeled vehicles; 300 containers; and 174 pieces of general cargo.

With the Army no longer focused on fighting the Soviet Union in Europe, "a complete change in strategic thinking" has occurred in the past five years, said Quest, who heads the Navy's Military Sealift Command.

The shift is an outgrowth of the post-Cold War doctrine that calls for America's armed forces to prepare to fight two regional wars roughly at the same time. As a result, a massive supply concept known as "prepositioning" was devised for volatile regions of the world.

It calls for heavy items such as battle tanks, artillery and support equipment to be stored in friendly nations — such as Kuwait or Qatar — or on ships anchored within several day's sailing distance. In a crisis, U.S. troops are flown in and "married" to their equipment.

Although the concept has been criticized as unnecessarily expensive, five years ago Congress allocated $6 billion for 19 new prepositioning vessels.

In 2002, the equipment of five of the Army's 10 divisions will be floating at anchorages in Saipan, Guam, Diego Garcia, and in the western Mediterranean.

"This is a historic event that will enable the U.S. Army to project its power anywhere in the world at very short notice," said Col. Michael Lindquist, commander of the Asian segment of the ship-borne arsenal.

The Pentagon first implemented the prepositioning plan immediately after the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Tow truck museum popular in Chattanooga

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) — Driving his Tin Lizzie over the rough Old Byrd's Mill Road in 1916, John Wiley jerked the wheel to avoid a bump, landed upside down in a creek and inspired a wondrous invention of the automobile age: the tow truck.

Some 70 years later, the invention and the entire $7 billion-a-year towing industry are saluted at Chattanooga's International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame and Museum, which pulls people in from all over the world, if only during their lunch hour in many cases.

Stephan Klochner, 22, of Hamburg, Germany, was so intrigued he dropped by twice while visiting friends in Chattanooga. "We don't have tow truck museums in Germany," he said.

When Wiley wrecked his car, he called a former student of his business school to help him, Ernest Holmes. Holmes took nearly a day to right the car, stringing a wooden block in the top of a tree and getting a half-dozen men to help him pull the rope.

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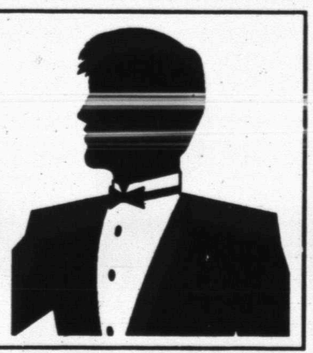

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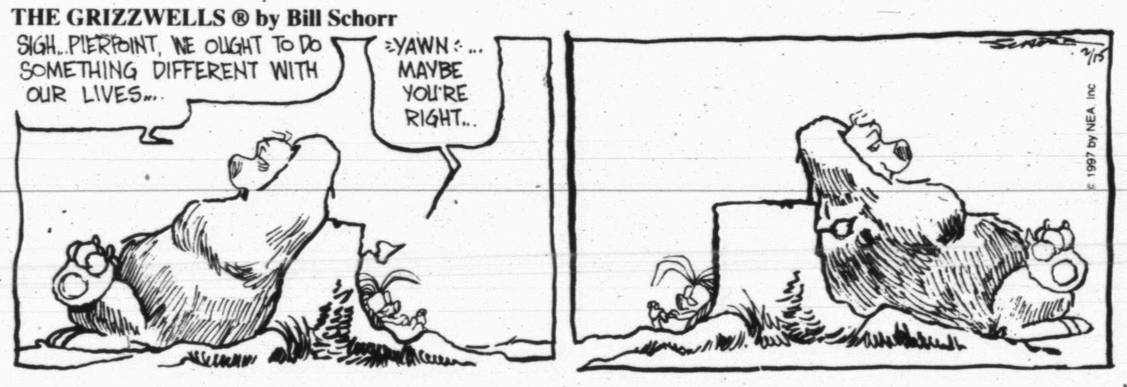

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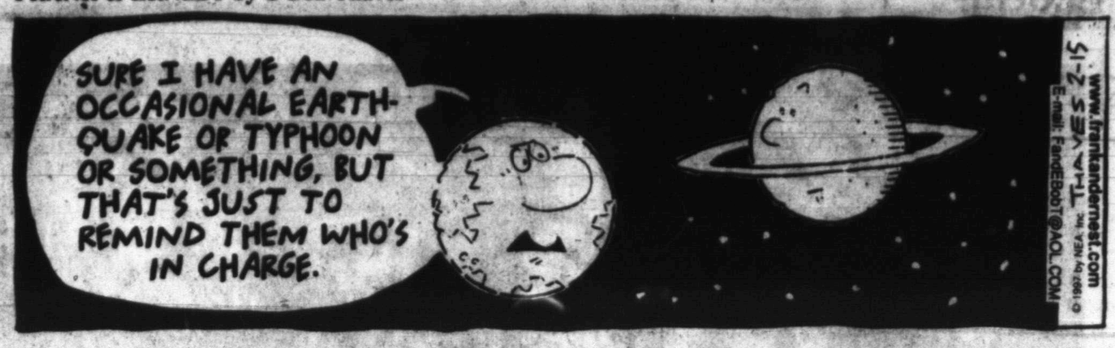

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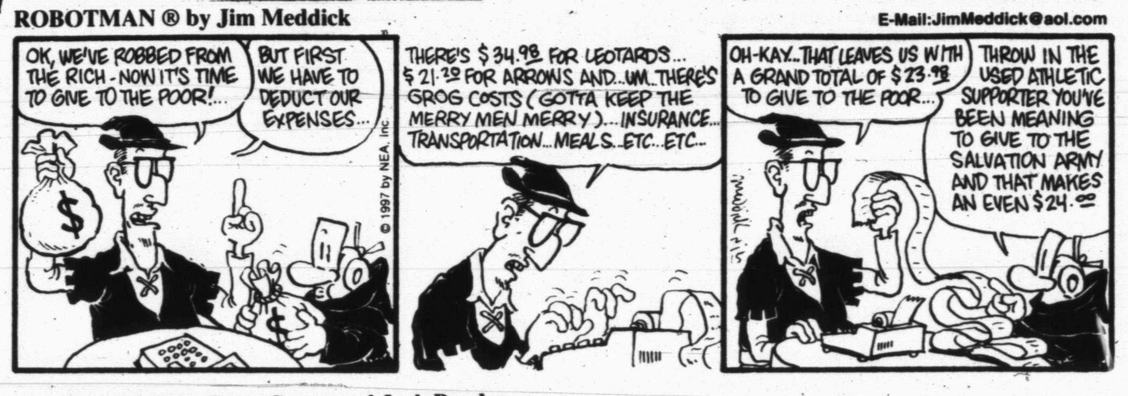

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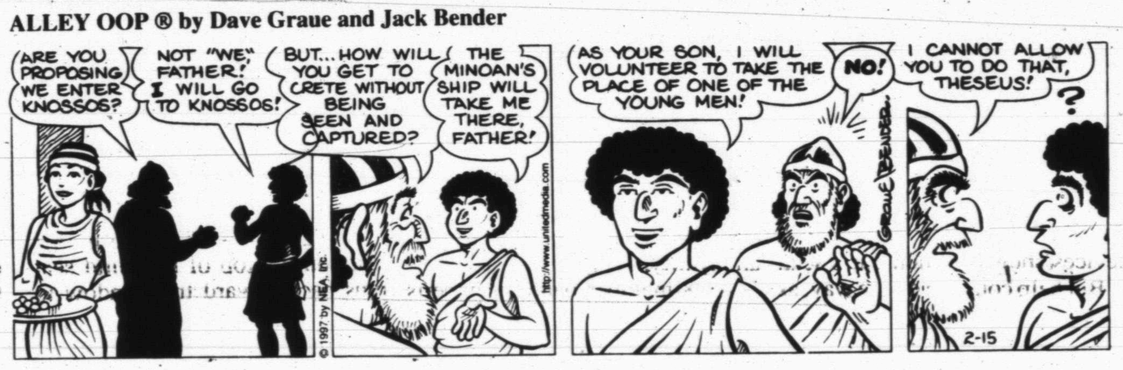

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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 South African tribe
5 TV's talking horse (2 wds.)
9 Place
12 Burden
13 Breezy
14 Wheel of Fortune buy (2 wds.)
15 Spheres
16 Singing group (2 wds.)
18 Male title
19 Shame!
20 Skirt edges
21 Of wine
23 Investigative agcy.
25 Georgia city
26 Doing a laundry task
30 White gypsum
32 TV's Peeples
33 Permit to
34 Using one's ears
36 Perfectly
38 — on (acts like a grandparent)
39 Dancer Charisse
40 Namely (2 wds.)
41 Stubborn animal
44 Electrical unit
45 Small island
47 Not fit to eat
50 Hearty dish
51 Break a commandment
52 Cornelia — Skinner
53 Folksinger Seeger
54 Thoroughfares (abbr.)
55 Naked
56 Tennis player Arthur —

DOWN

1 Animal parks
2 Incomparable
3 Oil
4 Navy ship pref.
5 David Copperfield's forte
6 Annoy
7 Prior to
8 Stain
9 Blanched
10 E pluribus —
11 File-folder parts
17 Beard site
19 At last
22 Head (sl.)
23 Worry
24 Lack of interest
25 African land
26 — -bitsy
27 Starts
28 Follower of 89th.
29 Jokes
31 Small herring
35 Today
37 Served perfectly
40 The ones here
41 Fail
42 Single quantity
43 Camera part
44 Having an offensive odor
46 Chirp
48 Charged particle
49 Energy abbr.
50 Health resort

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	O	P		M	A	I	D	S		L	O	T
S	A	O		E	X	I	S	T		I	W	O
A	T	O	N	A	L	I	T	Y		P	E	N
T	H	R	O	N	E			M	O	S	S	Y
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A	G	U	E		S	U	E			I	R	E
L	E	S			A	R	E		S	A	G	A
T	E	E	N	A	G	E		V	O	L	E	S
			E	W	E	R		O	R	E		
M	Y	R	O	N			E	L	E	C	T	S
I	O	U		I	N	E	L	A	S	T	I	C
L	U	G		N	O	L	A	N		I	N	A
E	R	S		G	R	A	N	T		C	S	T

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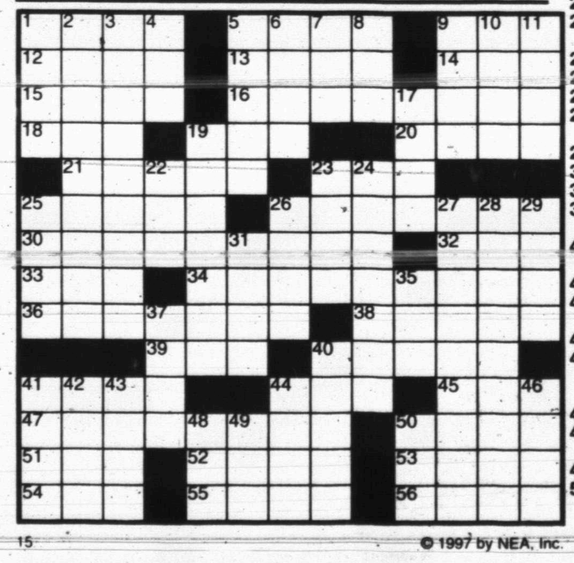

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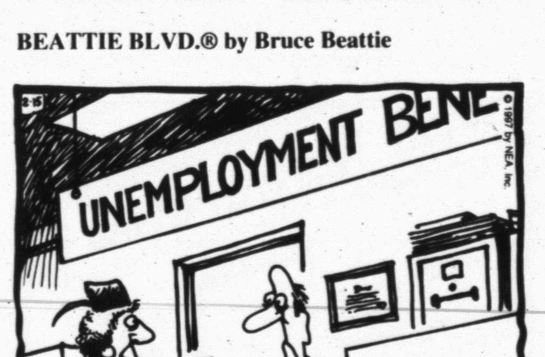


"I was a full-time nanny . . . till I got caught dropping the kids off at a day-care center."

"IF YOU WANT TO PRESERVE YOUR SELF-ESTEEM, NEVER PLAY DENNIS A VIDEO GAME."

$7.7 trillion story tucked in fed budget plan

AP news analysis

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tucked away in the back of the book, there's a $7.7 trillion chapter in the federal budget. It covers government insurance and credit commitments, a giant enterprise that backs bank deposits, underwrites home mortgages, lends money to students and provides an alphabet soup of other guarantees.

The administration plans a year-long review of the way all this works, leaning toward increased reliance on private credit, and on requiring that private lenders share the cost when borrowers don't repay.

There are still social objectives to be served, notably that of providing credit to minority and low-income Americans the budget calls "borrowers at the boundary," who couldn't invest in homes or education without government-backed lending.

Directly and indirectly, the federal government is the largest U.S. lending institution and insurer against risk. By the numbers, Washington is providing:

— $165 billion in direct loans.

— $805 billion in loan guarantees.

— $5 trillion in insurance.

— More than $1.7 trillion in loans and guarantees through government sponsored enterprises, privately held but federally chartered and backed financial institutions.

Those programs have little visible impact on the budget, which has made them politically appealing in a time of sparse resources and promises, like President Clinton's, that the era of big government is over.

The loans and guarantees involved benefit anybody who puts money in the bank, plus farmers, veterans, retirees and future pensioners, students, home buyers, small businesses, exporters and more. The massive deposit insurance system dates from the Depression, and now guarantees about $2.7 trillion in bank and savings and loan deposits, insured at up to $100,000 an account.

The crisis in deposit insurance in the 1980s and early 1990s, and the savings and loan bailout, prompted a closer look at the array of federal guarantees. Since 1991, the federal budget has had to appraise each program, covering the direct costs and the potential future liabilities.

Most of those liabilities will remain potential, unless there are wholesale loan failures or crises that force insurance bailouts.

The Clinton budget foresees none, although it includes a warning that while the savings insurance system is in good shape now, "an economic downturn could put significant pressure on the deposit insurance funds."

During the crisis years, 1,400 banks and 1,100 savings and loans failed, busting the insurance fund and forcing the bailout. In 1996, only five banks and one savings and loan went under.

Even so, the risks remain. While the banking business has recovered and consolidated, the budget notes, it also is assuming "the risks inherent in providing a growing array of increasingly sophisticated services," including international operations.

The changing financial marketplace also will affect pension guarantee programs and disaster insurance.

Federal credit programs could be marked by those changes, too.

The budget notes that private lenders and insurers may start taking over functions that have been underwritten by the government. While that could provide more leeway to help the people who most need it, a problem goes with it.

Private institutions, the budget appraisal says, "may take away the best risks among those who have been borrowing from the government or with its guarantee, leaving the federal program facing a smaller pool of riskier clients."

That could dump future costs on the taxpayers unless the programs involved are remodeled or even ended.

As a politically practical matter, not many will be. The benefits are too widespread and too popular, the immediate costs low and effectively outside the rigors of the drive for balanced budgets.

The low-profile credit guarantees can mesh with high visibility policy objectives, Clinton's education push, for example. Student loans are expected to increase by 40 percent over the next five years.

Besides, the credit programs usually keep going. One was set up to help get electricity and telephone services to rural America, when there wasn't much. Now more than 99 percent of rural households have electric power, and 97 percent have telephones. There are still $40 billion in loans out.

FBI lab woes may affect 50 plus cases

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fifty prosecutors are on notice from the Justice Department that FBI lab problems could affect their cases, and the figure might rise.

Deputy Attorney General Jamie Gorelick disclosed Thursday that the 50, half of them in state and local government, have been told that lab irregularities in their cases might be serious enough to reveal to defense attorneys. Prosecutors are required to advise defense attorneys of any evidence that might clear their clients.

She said the investigation by the Justice Department's inspector general could produce more such notices to prosecutors before it is complete. A lawyer for the FBI whistle-blower who raised the lab issue said the count might exceed 1,000 cases.

"In each of the cases ... there could be an issue raised by defense counsel," Gorelick told a news conference. "We're just going to have to see how each court reacts to each separate fact pattern that's presented" before anyone can say whether lab errors will harm the prosecutions.

But Stephen Kohn, attorney for FBI scientist-agent Frederic Whitehurst, said, "The figure of 50 is considerably understated. We believe when finished it will be well over 1,000 cases."

Whitehurst, who triggered the inspector general's investigation, has charged that parts of the lab are contaminated, that supervisors lack adequate scientific training and that lab reports and testimony have been biased in favor of prosecutors. A still-secret draft report by the inspector general supports some but not all of his charges, officials have said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, who chairs a subcommittee that oversees the FBI, said Gorelick's statement "is at odds with" an assertion by Deputy FBI Director Weldon Kennedy on Jan. 28 that lab problems will not compromise "any past, present or future prosecution."

In light of Gorelick's statement, Grassley wrote Attorney General Janet Reno that Kennedy's remarks "give the appearance of misleading the public and a United States senator."

Three FBI supervisors have been transferred out of the lab as a result of the draft report. Whitehurst was suspended with pay after refusing to cooperate with a separate inquiry into leaks of his allegations.

Federal prosecutors preparing for the trial of Timothy McVeigh for the 1995 Oklahoma City federal building bombing have replaced one of the transferred lab supervisors, Dave Williams, with another expert witness from the lab as a result of the draft report.

Earlier this week, federal prosecutors in Seattle dropped one count of possessing a destructive device against a member of the separatist Freeman group after an FBI lab technician testified that a detonator had been mistakenly listed in an FBI lab report as part of the apparatus. The technician testified the device actually had no detonator or fuse and was unlikely to detonate.

On another topic, Gorelick said the department continues to investigate who leaked that Atlanta security guard Richard Jewell was a suspect in the Olympic bombing. "I would not exactly characterize it as promising," because "hundreds of people were in possession of the relevant knowledge."

She also said the FBI is "nearing completion" of its response to a separate Justice investigation of whether agents tried to trick Jewell into waiving his rights months before he was cleared.

Uniform child-safety seats are coming

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some 50 styles of child safety seats — with varied belt and seat configurations — are now on the market, and many parents find it difficult and frustrating to install the devices snugly to their car's seat.

But help could be on the way, as the government's highway safety agency will soon issue a proposal for a uniform system of parent-friendly child seats.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says some 80 percent of child seats are not properly installed. The agency is expected to issue a proposal for a single child seat system sometime this month, a source said Thursday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

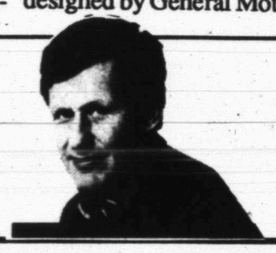
A 28-member panel of experts commissioned by NHTSA recommended a uniform system of child safety seats in 1995. At that time, the experts favored the Isofix system, which snaps the child seat into metal bars anchored to a vehicle's seat.

However, the current leading design utilizes soft straps on either side of the child seat buckled into the car seat between the back and the cushion, sources said. Another strap on the top of the child seat runs back toward the window to hold the seat taut.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday that as early as this week NHTSA would specifically back one such system designed by General Motors Corp.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Is this reflux or a heart attack?

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I suffer from reflux. This causes chest pain, indigestion and gas that is ordinarily controlled by medicine, such as Prilosec. However, on occasion, I have "breakthrough" symptoms (chest pressure and jaw pain) despite therapy. How do I know that I'm not having a heart attack?

DEAR READER: You are correct that the symptoms of peptic disease, reflux and other stomach ailments often mimic those of angina and heart disorders. The reason for this is that the nerves supplying the stomach and esophagus also supply the heart; thus, stimulation of these nerves causes a reaction that the brain may not be able to interpret correctly.

This is why people having heart attacks frequently believe that they're having indigestion; similarly, patients with reflux and ulcers may mistakenly fear that their hearts are to blame.

In all fairness, it's sometimes difficult even for doctors to differentiate the two sources of pain.

I suggest that you solve the problem by having a stress test. If your heart functions completely normally, during exercise, you can safely attribute your symptoms to reflux, the backwash of stomach acid into the esophagus. In this case, you may need additional medicine to treat your chest pressure and jaw pain.

Ask your doctor to order the stress test and monitor your progress.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have been diagnosed with lymphatic leukemia. My white blood cell count is 35,000. My doctor told me that treatment is not necessary at this point, but may be necessary in the future as my white count rises. I've had multiple blood tests, a CT scan and a bone-marrow analysis. I feel perfectly normal. Is my doctor on the right track?

DEAR READER: Chronic lymphatic leukemia is, in most instances, a relatively benign condition. Marked by an increase in certain blood cells (called lymphocytes), CLL does not usually affect health, until the white blood cells exceed 75,000.

At that point, anti-metabolic drugs, such as Myleran, are prescribed to lower the WBC count. (A high count is associated with excess thickening of the blood, which causes complications, such as blood clots.)

I believe that your doctor is on the right track. You need periodic blood counts (every six months or so) to monitor your lymphocytes. No therapy is indicated until the count increases to about 75,000.

To give you more information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Blood: Donations and Disorders." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What is the drug DHEA and what does it do?

DEAR READER: Dehydroepiandosterone, called by some promoters the "Fountain of Youth," is not classified by the Food and Drug Administration as a drug. Legally, it is considered to be a dietary supplement. This somewhat arbitrary judgment causes several problems, which I'll mention in a minute.

DHEA is a hormone. More precisely, it is a precursor for a number of human hormones, including androgens in males and estrogens in females. Manufactured from the adrenal glands of animals, DHEA is the darling of the health-food industry, because it can be sold without a prescription and its manufacture is not subjected to stringent federal regulations.

Unfortunately, as a food supplement, the hormone has not been thoroughly studied and tested in humans. However, preliminary reports indicate that it can improve mood, energy, sexual interest and memory in the elderly. (Scientists have reported that DHEA blood levels fall about 2 percent a year as we get older, so that a person in his or her 70s may have less than a third of the hormone levels of a 30-year-old.) In addition, DHEA may boost the immune system, prevent heart disease, reduce the severity of diabetes and lupus, and alleviate depression.

It has some pitfalls, too. The compound can cause liver inflammation, increase the risk of ovarian cancer (and, possibly, prostate cancer), and lead to masculinizing effects in women (such as facial hair and deepening voice).

DHEA has not been shown to promote weight loss, retard the signs of aging, prevent Alzheimer's disease, affect Parkinson's disease, build muscle mass, or cure cancer.

Nonetheless, many scientists are crying out for more studies to investigate the potential health consequences (both favorable and dangerous) of DHEA. In short, the benefits are tantalizing and need further elucidation; the hazards are simply unknown.

Experts decry the practice of some physicians who dispense or recommend DHEA to their patients, because such patients become unwitting experimental subjects. The authorities point to a similar fad of many years ago: Tryptophan, an amino acid touted to cure insomnia and other afflictions, was discovered to cause severe, sometimes fatal, lung reactions.

Also, there are serious questions of quality control in the manufacture of DHEA. For example, dosages may vary; some promoters aggressively market vegetable sources of DHEA (such as yams), which are totally ineffective.

In summary, DHEA probably has merit as an antidote for a wide variety of age-related medical ailments. However, its dangerous side effects are incompletely understood, and its manufacture is subject to unacceptable inconsistencies. More research — much of it already underway — is mandatory before DHEA can be accepted as an effective and safe compound.

One cautionary word. If you choose to take DHEA on your own, buy it from a large health-food chain that can afford to be sued if you have an adverse reaction.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

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Name-Calling in Family Is Too Much for This Dad

DEAR ABBY: I have a daughter who is 50 years old. When she was born, my wife and I named her Susan. Recently, Susan joined a religious organization. It seemed like a good Christian organization, but she has now changed her name to "Rose ..." (I won't bother you with the rest of the name, but there's more to it.)

For 50 years, I have called her Susan, and the habit is so strong that it's hard for me to start calling her "Rose ..." even if I wanted to, which I don't. If I slip and call her Susan, she objects strenuously, repeatedly calling attention to my error.

I think she should be happy that others in her group use her new name, but there is nothing wrong with the name we gave her, and we do not want to call her anything else.

I am 82 years old, and it is hard for old dogs to learn new tricks. What do you think, Abby?

SUSAN'S FATHER
IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SUSAN'S FATHER: I think it is unrealistic of your daughter to expect you to remember her new name. Remind her, "... that which we call a rose/By any other name would smell as sweet." (William Shakespeare)

***

DEAR ABBY: I didn't read the original letter from the man who won't touch the hospital patients he visits, but I did read the comment from Bob Burns, the hospital chaplain in Florida who wrote to tell him that he can't "catch" anything from simply touching a sick person. Abby, may I add my two cents to the discussion?

Last winter I was in Arcadia Methodist Hospital in Arcadia, Calif., with the flu, pneumonia and something else the doctors couldn't identify. (It turned out to be meningitis.) In spite of the fact that I was pretty much out of things, I overheard the neurologist tell my nurse that he was going to give me a spinal tap, and asked her to distract me. Well, when I heard "spinal tap," I was panic-stricken.

The nurse knelt by the side of my bed and took my hands between hers and started to talk. Suddenly, she let go of my hands, peeled off her gloves, and then she clasped my hands again. Do I have to tell you how much more comforting the touch of her warm skin was than latex?

Abby, I don't remember that nurse's name, but I will never forget the compassion she showed that day. I didn't even feel the needle go in.

JOAN FRY, NEWHALL, CALIF.

DEAR JOAN: Thank you for a touching letter.

***

DEAR ABBY: The letter you printed from "Concerned in Oceanside, N.Y." regarding the neighbor lady meeting her lover in front of his house reminded me of a similar incident several years ago.

A married neighbor from down the hill would meet her friend in the parking strip of our side lot so her family wouldn't see her. This went on both day and night, and we, too, were concerned about the impressionable youngsters in the neighborhood.

After we figured out what was going on, we simply set up a few lawn chairs and invited the other neighbors over to observe the doings — which moved elsewhere quickly and permanently.

Abby, could this have been the roots of the "Neighborhood Watch" programs?

"BIG T" IN TACOMA, WASH.

DEAR BIG T: Well, it sure brings new meaning to the term!

***

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

DEAR ABBY: This letter is in response to the woman whose husband had recently confessed to an affair. She signed herself, "I Love Him With All My Heart." She said she didn't know of any marriages that had survived an affair — and I want to assure her that there are many that have.

My husband and I had been married only four months when he got re-involved with a woman he had an affair with during his first marriage. When my husband broke it off, she got so upset she told her husband, and it was mayhem after that!

I told my husband that the affair had not changed my love for him, but it *had* deeply wounded me and affected my trust in him. I was willing to stay and work it out only if he was willing to go to counseling with me and work to earn my trust. He was more than willing, and we found a wonderful counselor who helped us achieve our goal — to heal and strengthen our relationship.

"I Love Him" expressed concern that her husband would grow tired of her pain. She's correct in that she does need someone else to confide in. Her pain is a very heavy load for her husband to carry alone, and the pitfall in confiding in friends is that they are usually not as objective as a counselor would be.

If I may offer a bit of advice, as part of a couple who has successfully navigated this trauma: Find a good counselor with whom you both feel comfortable, be honest with the counselor and each other, and be patient with yourself and your husband.

Also, if you have children, don't take for granted that you can shield them from your pain and stress. Make sure that they, too, have a counselor they can talk to.

STRONGER BECAUSE OF IT
IN ATLANTA

DEAR STRONGER: That's excellent advice from someone who's walked a mile in her moccasins. Your maturity and perseverance in your marriage are to be admired. And so is your generosity in speaking out about such a personal matter.

DEAR ABBY: I am so happy that I asked you to help me find my deceased wife's relatives so that I could give them her family album. Because of your column, I was able to locate a man named Hemenover who was raised together with my wife by Mrs. A. Hemenover of 1300 San Pablo Ave. in Oakland. So I have dispatched the album to him. He is 80 years old. I hope he can identify some of the people in the pictures. I also came up with two great-grandchildren, and some valuable information about my wife's background, too. (She had told me almost nothing about her family.)

Abby, the C.I.A. should put you under contract!

The response of your readers was swift, gracious and sincere. From coast to coast, they sent information and offered their help and encouragement.

I have talked to several of the Hemenovers. Abby, you have fired up a great new interest in their family background — an amazing feat, and all in less than one month!

An observation: When my daughter suggested I contact you, she said, "Some people read sports, editorials, finance and funnies, but *everybody* reads Dear Abby." She was correct. So thank you very much for being there and bringing my search to a successful conclusion.

GAYEL CHEW,
MEDFORD, ORE.

DEAR MR. CHEW: I have often said that my readers are the most generous and caring people in the world — and your letter illustrates that I wasn't exaggerating. I'm pleased that your problem was so quickly and happily resolved. Thank you for a dandy day-brightener.

***

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TRIVIA

Julius Caesar is the namesake of the Julian calendar. In 1582, **Pope Gregory XIII** reformed it with his Gregorian calendar.

Political pact signed

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Several well-known Mexican political mavericks have signed a pact allowing independents to run for office under the banner of the Mexican Ecologist Green Party, newspapers reported Friday.

Under the agreement, the independents, including a political commentator and a congressman, can run as Green Party candidates without adhering to the party's platform.

The agreement lets the independents draw on federal matching funds available to official parties and lets the party try to attract candidates who will help it draw votes. Parties lose their automatic places on the ballot if they fail to win enough votes.

"Now is the time to vie for votes (of) the biggest party in Mexico — all those who belong to no party," said Jorge Castaneda, a political scientist whose political commentary frequently appears in Newsweek.

Letters to the Editor

Continued from Page 6B

the north side of Highway 80 before going up West Hill and across the highway from the Col-Tex refinery, another place to work.

• From the cotton compress, there was a railroad spur going east almost to the river and a dirt bridge built over it. Any of these men could have been one of many who got enough money to buy two horses and a wagon to haul gravel out of the river, loading it by hand. They got paid a dime, 10 cents, per wagonload. As an artist, this is one picture I will paint someday. By the way, the only cotton compress that I know of now is in Sweetwater, Texas.

• Most of the above had railroad spurs to them and at the closing of each, less railroad men were needed, so after awhile they also were gone. They took part in the D-Day celebration. In writing this I can still hear the old steam engine blowing off steam to go to work.

I cannot end this without mention of the Jewish heritage in Colorado City. There were the Berman Bros. who had Berman Dry Goods, Berman Five and Ten, Pick 'n' Pay Grocery and Berman Hotel. There was Kirschbaum Appliance Store and Botson Suits Store.

I don't know about how they felt after WWI but I do know they were awfully proud of America after World War II and they were there on D-Day.

In closing, I would like to say I have lived most of my entire 62 years in what I call my triangle: Colorado City, Sweetwater and Snyder, Texas.

I would like to hope that none of my many schoolmates that I went to schol with from 1948-1951 in Sweetwater are involved in this and if they were I would ask — no, beg — please reconsider and let their voice be heard on this to their VFW.

I am a member of American Legion Post 181 in Snyder and my wife is a life member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW through her father.

In 1990, as an artist, I was asked to make a Liberty Bell by both the American Legion and the VFW for the Fourth of July parade. I built this bell to scale and we put it on a trailer. On the sides we had the motto, "Let Freedom Ring." We won first place in the parade.

I was honored when the VFW in Colorado City wanted to use it in the parade there. I am very proud of where I came from and very, very proud to have had the nonor to serve my country.

You may use this letter any way that will bring the WWI cannon back to its real home, the old American Legion building, set on concrete with a plaque telling what both the building and cannon have meant to the history of Colorado City, Texas.

Yours very truly,
H. David Hines
Snyder

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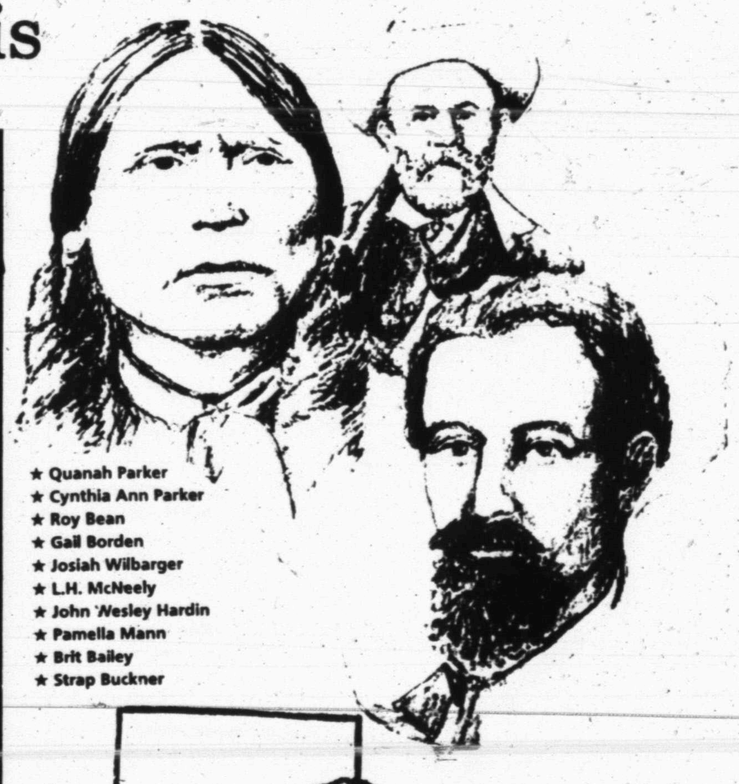

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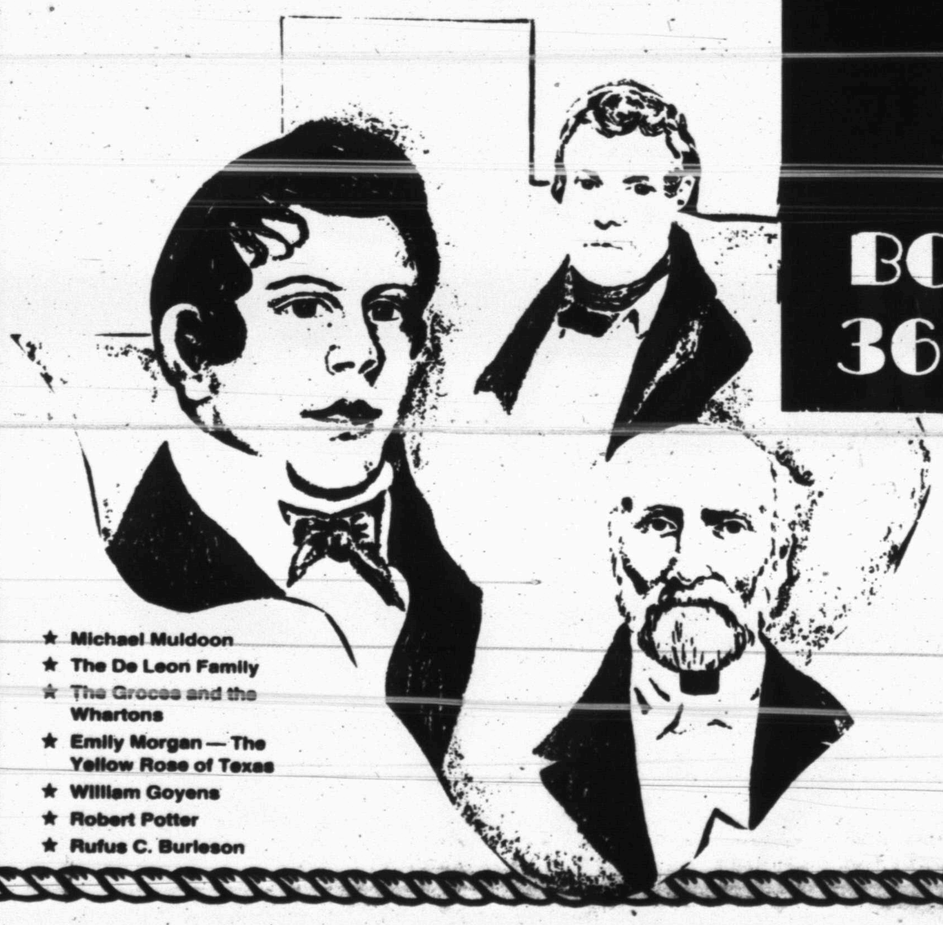

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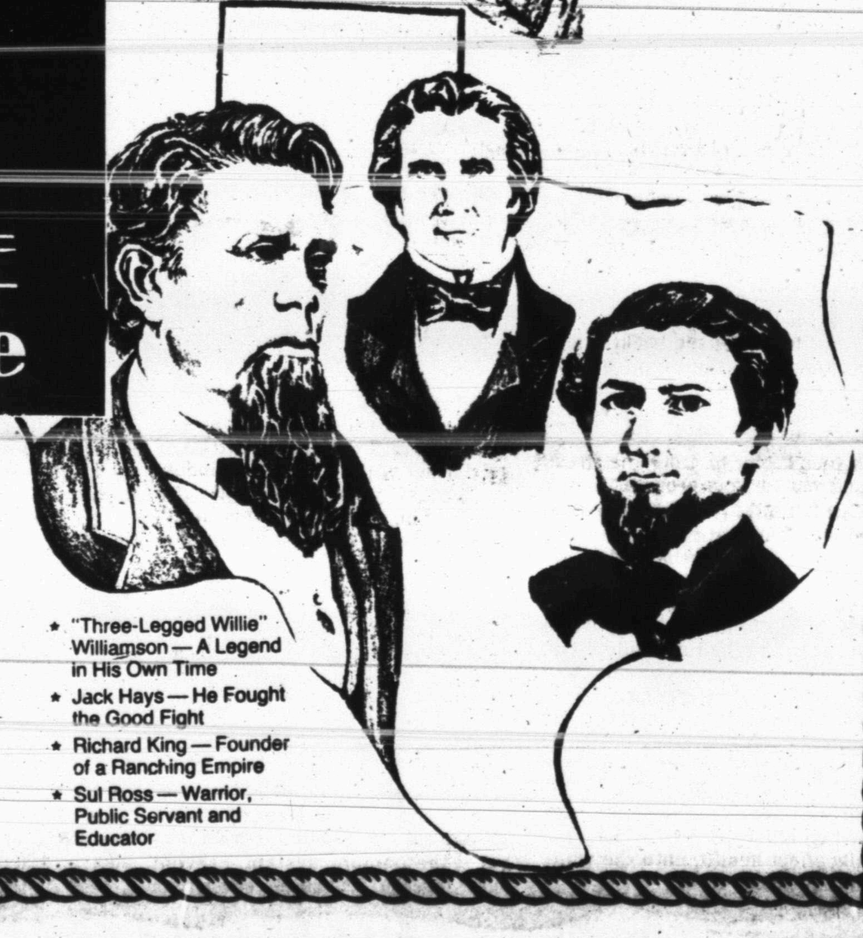

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