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WT-Int. Crude - $25.98
WTIC Posted - $22.75
Natural Gas - $5.287

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY

March 21, 2001
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Home of James Allen Shields

Hermleigh ISD meeting does not generate many positives

By Wade Warren
SDN Managing Editor

A round table discussion at Hermleigh schools Tuesday night, intended to inject positive ideas to combat declining enrollment, did not take long to stray from the agenda.

Coming under fire from the audience were Supt. Jerry Church, Hermleigh teachers and their lack of participation in school activities as well as the lack of participation by parents, and the overall condition of the Hermleigh community.

"We were disappointed that no viable solutions were offered to us," said Church.

Church came under fire early from Jayme Roemisch who addressed the superintendent and stated, "It's time for a change and I wish you would retire. We need some changes, from the superintendent on down."

Other personalities also entered into the discussion as one audience member questioned why a Hermleigh teacher sat in the opposing team's stands at a football game two years ago.

And Juluis Roemisch questioned why he sees very few teachers at ball games, or other activities, and school board members as well.

Board president Tim Dacus told the crowd that they could encourage teachers to attend school events, but could not make them go.

"We can't tell them what to do after school," said Dacus.

"We've been to workshop after workshop and we are constantly told that we cannot tell a teacher what to do on their own time."

"We start doing that...you just think we have problems now," emphasized Dacus.

When the discussion did focus on the intended subject of the meeting, the lack of transfer students into the district was the first point of discussion, and Church was asked why the district did not have more students transferring into it.

Church said he had a letter from the Texas Education Agency stating the district cannot accept any transfers of white students because it would throw off the racial balance.

"We can't accept any legally," said Church. "I'm certainly not against transfer students, but we would have to do it legally. When questioned how other small schools such as Highland in Nolan County has so many transfer students, Church replied that some schools show students as children of full-time employees, when in fact the parents may be employed only part-time.

"The law says the parents who are employed must be participating in the teacher retirement system," said Church.

Juluis Roemisch said he would rather take a chance doing it against the rules as opposed to closing the school.

As for the number of potential transfers in, Church said in the years he has been with the district, there are five to eight per year who want to transfer in.

"Of these, one or two are for legitimate reasons, while the others have discipline problems in the school they are wanting to leave," said Church.

Church said 38 students who reside in the Hermleigh district now go to school in Snyder, while an average of eight to 10 attend Roscoe schools.

The low number of Hermleigh students who participate in extra-curricular activities also was a topic.

"I believe this is because of a lack of school spirit," said Julie Culp. "Our school morale is low."

Culp also stated that the number one problem concerning students, she believed, is a parental problem. "That's not just here, it's across Texas."

The audience discussed possible ways to increase participation in school activities, and reviving past activities such as the Halloween carnival.

"That's good," added one teacher. "But we have to have community support for the program. The teachers cannot do it by themselves."

When asked for a show of hands of those 50 in attendance who would help with a Halloween carnival, about half raised their hands.

As the meeting was winding down, Dorothy Sprig said much of the audience had missed the whole concept of the meeting.

"We're not here to bash any teacher...that's not our place. The teachers and school board cannot do this alone. They need the community's help," said Sprig.

The group also discussed briefly what could be done about cleaning up the community, and what it would take to incorporate Hermleigh.

Burton Sandefur said a meeting to discuss incorporating the community might be held at a later date. "It would be a community meeting, not with the school board," said Sandefur, board vice president.

Church summed up Hermleigh's plight by saying every district west of I-35 is facing similar problems.

"Some of you remember one year when we didn't field a football team because there were only five boys in high school. We're not at the end of the world with our current enrollment, either. We've been low on students before and we've always been able to claw our way back."

Following the round table discussion, the board extended all present teacher contracts, including a half-time teaching contract for Richard Smith, ag teacher.

The board also accepted the resignation of Paul Morton, social studies teacher and girls coach.



INTERESTED CITIZENS — Kelly Murphy, left, and Terri Williams were among some four dozen persons attending a round table discussion Tuesday night at Hermleigh High School. (SDN Staff Photo)

SHS to compete in one-act play

Snyder High School's one-act play, William Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*, will compete in 4A South Zone competition Thursday at Worsham Auditorium. The local thespians take the stage at 4 p.m.

Andrews will follow at 5 p.m. and San Angelo Lake View at 6 p.m. Big Spring will compete first at 3 p.m.

Hermleigh High School's *Daddy's Dyin' (Who's Got The Will?)* will compete in district competition at 5 p.m. in Dawson.

Hermleigh students also won several best acting awards, including Lori Eckert as best actress. Chris Bilberry and Billy Lambaren were named to the all-star cast, and Sheena Callaway and Justin Williamson received honorable mention.

On Tuesday, Snyder High School hosted the 4A North Zone competition. Plainview's *The Lover of Life* and Levelland's *Blood Wedding* both advanced. Estacado's *The Tell Tale Heart* is the alternate.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "A con man believes that people are okay – if you know how to take them."

There's mounting evidence that we are getting on up in years. Not only are we getting invitations for AARP discounts and memberships, we're now being targeted for scams.

And we consistently have read that senior citizens are the favorite targets for rip-off artists.

This one came by the fax machine and was correctly addressed to us. It warned that the "privileged and confidential information" was intended only for the addressee. Also any dissemination of the communication by someone other than the intended recipient (me) is "strictly prohibited."

We almost responded, not because we believed the message, but this ole newspaper editor has always wanted to know the difference between "prohibited" and "strictly prohibited."

It's one of those probing questions that newspaper types have worried about for years – burning issues such as the difference between "destroyed" and "completely destroyed."

Destroyed is like pregnant, either you are or you ain't.

Sorry, we digressed.

Even an ole geezer like us knew it was a scam. Experts warn that if the deal appears too good to be true, it probably is.

Such was the content of this attractive offer, seeking advisory board members.

"This notice is to inform you of the opportunity to participate as a member of the Advisory Board, as well as become a partner in the Internet company, a premiere gateway for companies to the World Wide Web.

"Company headquarters is offering Advisory Board Members the opportunity to earn an additional seventy-five thousand dollars ($75,000). A minimal amount of your time will be required, approximately thirty (30) minutes of telephone conferences per month which will include your examination of corporate documentation and voting on the same."

The offer further invited us to call a toll free number to receive a participation income and disclosure package, as well as a new director's questionnaire.

Urgency ended the offer. "There are a limited number of board seats available...an immediate response is recommended."

It was tempting to respond, not because we had faith in the deal, but only to see what angle somebody had thought up to take advantage of us older gents.

Drug problem hits hard, says mother

By Joyce May
Staff Writer

Scurry County does have an alcohol and drug problem, some 60 attendants of a community coalition meeting were told Tuesday night by a panel of speakers that included the mother of a 17-year-old addict currently locked up for offenses connected to his drug use.

Vicky Jones told the heart-wrenching story of her experience with her son, Brady, and his addiction. She even shared a letter he wrote to the attendants from the detention facility where he has been locked up seven months for stealing his grandparents' car and violating his probation.

She showed a family picture of her and her husband and two clean-cut sons. A third son was not pictured. She asked, "Which one looks like a drug addict?"

The petite woman revealed that she was a welder for YZ Industries and then questioned, "I don't look like a welder, do I? Does a drug addict look like a drug addict? What does a drug addict look like?"

In his letter, Brady told of how he started to smoke marijuana at age 13. At 14, he started crushing his Ritalin and snorting it, before looking for cocaine and a higher high at 15.

He was then turned on to "huffing" hair spray and spray paint. "Hair spray and plastic bags were his thing," his mother said, showing a can of Lysol and the Ziploc bags, just like the ones that kept disappearing when her son was home,

See Coalition, Page 9



COALITION MEETS — Some 60 attended a community meeting Tuesday to address the drug and alcohol problem in Scurry County. Visiting afterwards are, from left, Krista Maddox, coalition chairperson, Snyder Police Chief Steve Warren and Susie White. (SDN Staff Photo)

Officers, directors re-elected by TSB

Officers and directors of Texas Savings Bank were re-elected Tuesday afternoon as part of the bank's annual stockholders meetings.

Re-elected as directors were David Cotton, Dr. James Cave, Monte West, Keith Hackfeld, Dr. Charles Church, Darryl Calley and J.B. Tate Jr.

Tate was re-elected president and Calley was named vice president and comptroller. Kendra Stephens was re-elected vice president, compliance officer and secretary. Assistant vice president is Sally Herrington.

Snyder National promotes Menix

A promotion and the re-election of officers and directors were announced Tuesday following the annual shareholders meeting of Snyder National Bank.



Menix

Kristi Menix, secretary to the bank chief executive officer, was named assistant cashier.

Directors re-elected were chairman Ted Crenwelge, Jack Greene Sr., Joe Jackson, Bruce Kallemeyn, Ralph Miller, Max von Roeder, William N. Tolleson, John Ward and Don Wills.

Jackson was also re-elected president and chief executive officer.

Other officers are Jack Gorman Jr., senior executive vice president; Kallemeyn, executive vice president; and Doug Scott, senior vice president and cashier.

Vice presidents are Edna Anderson, Sid Hardegree, Helen McLeod and Janelle Orr. John Clinkenbeard and Janie Sullenger are assistant vice presidents.

Other assistant cashiers are Paula Bond, Juanita Gambrell, Janelle Pollard and Lois Brewster.

ASK US

Q—Does Snyder have a weed ordinance?

A—Yes. Ordinance 350 says weeds and grass must be kept at a "non-objectionable" height.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Tuesday, 71 degrees; low, 34; 7 a.m. Wednesday, 42; no precipitation; total for 2001 4.23 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy, breezy, low mid 40s, S wind 15-25 mph, S wind 15-25 mph. Thursday, increasing clouds, high hear 80, SW wind 10-20 mph.



Mitchell Marcon
Sunny

Sunset: 6:57 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:45 a.m.
Of 79 days in 2001, the sun has shone 70 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

If you don't have a vision for your life, then you probably haven't focused in on anything.
—Dr. David Burns

MAR 21 2001

Inquiry into sub sinking Japanese boat ends

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP) — A Navy court of inquiry into the collision of the USS Greeneville and a Japanese fishing boat ended with the submarine commander's testimony and key players blaming bad information, bad judgment and each other.

During the hearing Tuesday, Cmdr. Scott Waddle was by turns apologetic and defensive.

"As commanding officer, I am solely responsible for this truly tragic accident, and for the rest of my life I will live with the horrible consequences of my decisions and actions that resulted in the loss of the Ehime Maru," he said.

But he also told the admirals: "I was trying my best to do the job that I was assigned."

Waddle's sworn testimony came as a surprise. His attorney had indicated he wouldn't testify without immunity to protect him against future charges based solely on what he said. The Navy rejected the request.

Waddle's attorney on Tuesday implored the three admirals presiding over the hearing not to recommend court-martial for Waddle, one of three officers under investigation in the deadly crash.

"Commander Waddle exercised his judgment, and he did his level best," attorney Charles Gittins said. "He may have fallen short on that day, but it wasn't criminal."

Lt. Cmdr. Brent Filbert, representing Lt. j.g. Michael Coen, the officer of the deck, told the court of inquiry that Waddle had "rushed himself and rushed his crew."

The admirals were expected to take three weeks to recommend possible punishment for Waddle, Coen and the submarine's executive officer, Lt. Cmdr. Gerald Pfeifer. The head of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Adm. Thomas Fargo, will have 30 days to decide what punishment, if any, the officers should face.

Nine people died when the Greeneville crashed into the Ehime Maru while the sub crew was demonstrating a rapid-surfacing drill for a group of civilians.

"The inquiry is over, but we cannot put this behind us unless Navy officials make clear the causes and responsibility for the accident," said Ryosuke Terata, whose 17-year-old son was among the victims.

Japan's Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, who had been meeting with President Bush in Washington, visited the crash site Tuesday to pray for the victims.

"I felt a big lump of sorrow rising up to my throat," Mori said in a statement. He told the victims' relatives that Bush had promised to provide utmost efforts to speed up compensation and the salvaging of the Ehime Maru.

The 12-day Navy inquiry into the crash has focused on whether Waddle rushed preparations for surfacing and whether he performed an inadequate periscope search before taking the Greeneville up. The periscope search lasted 80 seconds, compared to the standard three minutes.

Gittins blamed the crash on "a series of errors and mistakes, circumstances that were not necessarily within Commander Waddle's control."

He also noted that at the time Waddle was checking the surface by periscope, a crewman had a reading of a vessel 4,000 yards away but said nothing.

The crewman, Petty Officer 1st Class Patrick Seacrest, testified he didn't notice the reading. He said he heard Waddle report that the surface was clear and thought the situation was under control.

During the hearing, Waddle, 41, said he felt it was imperative he speak. "This court and the families need to hear from me," he said.

Coen, 26, read his own apology during Monday's hearing. Pfeifer, 38, submitted a written statement that was not released.

The admirals questioned Waddle about his decisions, including giving Coen five minutes to perform a maneuver that should take longer.

One by one, Waddle addressed criticisms directed at him and his crew over the past two weeks: why was the boat running late, why did they perform the dangerous maneuver of rapid surfacing, why didn't Waddle and his officers have a clearer picture of what was going on.

Waddle said he had no reason to doubt his crew.

"I didn't micromanage my crew. I empowered them to do their job," he said.

Waddle said much of what happened Feb. 9 fell short of his own command standards and that he was unaware of the problems until the inquiry.

"The teamwork broke. No one raised a flag," Waddle said.

Although there was testimony that the 16 civilian visitors did not directly contribute to the crash, Gittins said the reasons they were aboard warranted further investigation. The admirals indicated they would make such a recommendation.

As the hearing concluded, Vice Adm. John Nathman, the inquiry's presiding officer, reflected on how the collision has affected Japanese and American families.

"While this inquiry cannot change what has happened, a thorough understanding of what occurred on Feb. 9 can serve to prevent a similar tragedy."

On the Net:
Navy/Greeneville:
http://www.cpf.navy.mil/greeneville.html

Bills about religion, charities planned

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's plan to provide support and money to religious groups is getting rolling on Capitol Hill with little consensus on whether congregations should get greater access to government programs.

A House bill would open 10 new programs to religious groups, allowing them to compete for government money without stripping away their religious character, as Bush has proposed. But a Senate bill leaves this controversial provision, known as "charitable choice," out altogether.

The bills would create tax credits to match the savings of low-income participant and give new tax breaks to encourage charitable giving.

The tax credit for banks, credit unions or community groups would create individual development accounts, which match the savings of low-income participants. The institutions would match up to $500 of an individual's savings and get a tax credit for doing so.

Participants could use the matching funds to finance a home, pay for education or start a small business.

The White House professed no concern that the central element of Bush's plan is being left out of the Senate bill.

"This is an important first step," said spokesman Scott McClellan. "We're pleased this bipartisan group of congressional leaders is moving forward to implement the president's initiative."

Charitable choice has come under attack from diverse quarters. That includes Christian conservatives who worry that government money will undermine the religious core of these programs and civil libertarians who argue that the program amounts to an unconstitutional government funding of religion.

Opponents also argue that under charitable choice, these religious groups could continue to hire people on the basis of religion, an exemption from federal civil rights law.

"We urge you to continue the 60-year history of banning federally funded religious discrimination," the American Civil Liberties Union wrote Tuesday in a letter to members of Congress.

Charitable choice is now available for welfare, drug treatment and community services programs. The House bill, sponsored by Reps. J.C. Watts, R-Okla., and Tony Hall, D-Ohio, would extend it to several other domestic programs, making it clear that religious groups are eligible for government money in programs for housing, juvenile justice, community development block grants, job training, child welfare, child care, crime prevention, senior citizen services, domestic violence and hunger relief.

The Senate bill, sponsored by Sens. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., and Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., leaves this provision out. Santorum has said he would introduce it as a separate measure later this spring, giving the White House a chance to respond to the criticism. Lieberman has not promised to back it, though.

Both bills would:

—Allow the 70 percent of tax filers who claim the standard deduction (rather than itemizing their deductions individually) to claim an extra deduction for charitable contributions.

—Allow people to donate money from their individual retirement accounts to charity without paying taxes on the withdrawals.

—Expand the charitable deduction for donation of food to non-corporate taxpayers. This would allow restaurant franchises, for example, to claim a deduction for food donations.

Neither bill includes a Bush proposal to allow states to use their federal welfare money for state tax breaks to encourage charitable giving. Critics worry that this will drain money needed for direct aid to the poor and that it will wind up favoring some charities over others.

Massachusetts warned of Big Dig cost

BOSTON (AP) — Big Dig officials were warned as early as 1994 that the Boston highway project would probably cost $14 billion, but kept reporting an $8 billion price tag, according to a state report issued Tuesday.

The report by the state Inspector General's office also estimates the final cost of the highway project at $18 billion, well above the most recent $14.1 billion estimate by Big Dig officials.

The report criticizes the administrations of Govs. William Weld and Paul Cellucci and Federal Highway Administration officials in Boston.

"Records show that local Federal Highway Administration officials acted in partnership with state officials to downsize the Big Dig cost estimate for public relations purposes," the report said.

The Big Dig, officially known as the Central Artery-Third Harbor Tunnel project, is one of the largest public works projects in U.S. history. Interstate 93 is being rerouted beneath downtown Boston.

The Big Dig was initially expected to cost about $2.6 billion. Last year, Big Dig officials said it would run about $14.1 billion.

James J. Kerasiotes was ousted in April as head of the project after a federal audit found evidence that a $1.4 billion cost overrun had been concealed. The audit led to threats from Congress to withhold funding, and to an investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission into whether the state misled investors.

Since Kerasiotes' departure, the project has established a realistic cost estimate and has been open about its finances, Big Dig spokesman Bob Bliss said.

Bliss also disputed the $18 billion prediction, which includes interest on debt and interim borrowing. Bliss said the $14 billion estimate is the true cost of construction.

The 1994 higher cost estimate came from Bechtel/Parsons Brinckerhoff, the construction company managing the Big Dig.

The state arrived at the lower number by "a largely semantic series of exclusions, deductions and accounting assumptions that covered up the $6 billion difference," the report said.

Cellucci, now governor, served as head of the administration's Big Dig Oversight Task Force in 1994 when he was lieutenant governor. Cellucci said Tuesday that he never heard the $14 billion estimate in 1994.

Cellucci said there was no effort by Weld or himself to cover up the true cost of the project. He accused Kerasiotes of not disclosing the rising price tag.

events

Texas Lottery

RESULTS

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery:
20-12-32-19-7

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
4-0-8

Berry's World



Date Book

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Today is the 80th day of 2001 and the second day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1867, the New York Philatelic Society was founded. It was the first society for postage-stamp collectors in the United States.

On this day in 1917, Loretta Walsh of Philadelphia became the first female petty officer in the U.S. Navy.

On this day in 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led civil rights demonstrators on a 54-mile march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), composer; Benito Juarez (1806-1872), Mexican revolutionary leader; Florenz Ziegfeld (1869-1932), producer; Phyllis McGinley (1905-1978), poet; Peter Brook (1925-), director, is 76; Timothy Dalton (1946-), actor, is 55; Matthew Broderick (1962-), actor, is 39.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1970, in the NCAA championship game, UCLA defeated Jacksonville 80-69.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Genius is of no country." — Charles Churchill

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (March 16) and new moon (March 24).

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Bridge

By Phillip Alder



	North	03-21-01
	♠ A K 2	
	♥ Q J 7 6	
	♦ K J 5	
	♣ K 3 2	
West		**East**
♠ 9 6 5 3		♠ 10 8 7
♥ 10 8		♥ 9 5 2
♦ 10 9 8 6		♦ 7 4 3
♣ Q 8 5		♣ 9 7 6 4
	South	
	♠ Q J 4	
	♥ A K 4 3	
	♦ A Q 2	
	♣ A J 10	

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
2 NT	Pass	7 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♦ 10

Don't mislead intentionally

By Phillip Alder

Yesterday, I mentioned that you may take advantage of an opponent's hesitation, but you do so at your own risk. That is true only if the opponent is not intentionally trying to mislead you. Bridge is not like poker. Attempts to deceive the opponents with out-of-tempo bids and plays are illegal.

There are some other nefarious card tricks. This deal features the Alcatraz Coup.

Declarer is quickly into seven no-trump. However, the mirror distribution leaves him with only 12 top tricks. He needs to find the club queen. An honest declarer would cash all his winners in the other three suits, hoping to gain some clue as to the club distribution. Then, he would play the opponent with the greater number of clubs for the queen.

Alcatraz Artie adopts an alternative approach. After winning trick one in the dummy, he calls for the club two and plays his spade jack. If West produces a low club, declarer corrects his revoke with the club jack. But if West triumphantly plays the club queen, South replaces the spade jack with the club ace, then finesses through West.

In a tournament, the contract would be scored as seven no-trump one down. And if South were thought to have tried this coup intentionally, he would probably receive a lengthy suspension for such unethical behavior.

Yet in the best of all possible worlds, West, noticing South's revoke, would play a low club at trick two. Then, when declarer substituted his club jack, West, who is also allowed to change his play, would produce the queen!

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Cameras sought for nursing homes

NEW YORK (AP) — Surveillance cameras keep a silent watch these days at schools, shops and offices. Could grandma's bedroom at the nursing home be next?

The nursing home industry hopes not; it has steadfastly opposed so-called "granny cams." But industry critics, including some whose parents were abused at nursing homes, think surveillance could reduce mistreatment of elderly residents and improve services for them.

Lawmakers in four states have joined the fight. They've proposed bills that would require nursing homes to let residents install cameras in their rooms.

"People are angry with the nursing home industry," said Maryland legislator Sue Hecht said. "This is a way for them to turn that around."

During a visit two years ago, Hecht found her 88-year-old mother in tears in her nursing home bedroom as an employee screamed at her.

Hecht channeled her anger into drafting a surveillance camera bill. Similar proposals are now before the legislatures in Florida, Texas and Arkansas.

Hecht's measure died in committee this month, but industry officials agreed to cooperate in a two-year pilot program in Maryland. It will involve at least two nursing homes; details remain to be worked out.

"We'll be able to dispel a lot of the hysteria from the nursing homes about what's going to happen, that employees will leave in droves, that there will be privacy problems," Hecht said.

Nursing homes worry that "granny cams" would give lawyers raw material for loads of unwarranted lawsuits, driving up insurance costs for the industry. Employees also dislike working under the camera's ever-present eye.

"Our biggest problem is recruiting and retaining staff," said Adam Kane, public policy director for the Mid-Atlantic Non-Profit Health & Housing Association. "We're concerned that this will exacerbate the problem."

Proponents of surveillance cameras say nursing home residents and their families should decide for themselves whether to install the devices and how to use the footage. But Kane says this would be unfair.

"Other businesses are monitored, but it's a management tool. In this case, management never even sees the tape," he said. "What we're afraid of is the tape goes straight from someone's room to a law firm."

Privacy is another concern. Dr. Charles Roadman, president of the American Health Care Association, has warned that in-room cameras may show patients undergoing medical procedures or being assisted using the toilet.

Advocates of the cameras agree that privacy is a sensitive issue, but insist that families — not management — are the best arbiters of what's appropriate.

"My mother would not want a video camera under any circumstances. My father would welcome it," said Barbara Hengstebeck, executive director of the Florida-based Coalition to Protect America's Elders. "Most families know what their parents would want."

Hengstebeck said cameras might detect some flagrant abuses, but she believes the industry's fears really center on poor service.

"They're worried about what people are not going to see," she said. "There's more neglect than anything else. You're going to see people not getting bathed, not getting fed, call bells not getting answered. That's what they're afraid of."

In theory, said Hengstebeck, most nursing home residents already have the legal right to install cameras. But she and other advocates say nursing homes discourage the practice, in some cases threatening to evict residents.

Violette King, who directs the Illinois-based advocacy group Nursing Home Monitors, is recruiting lawyers and families in several states to challenge the status quo on cameras. The idea would be for a family to install a camera, then fight the ensuing court battle with the nursing home.

"Even with the promise of legal help, a lot of families aren't willing to take the risk," King said.

King believes surveillance cameras could be a win-win proposition — bringing peace of mind to families and encouraging nursing-home to make improvements that eventually would lower insurance costs.

One Florida businessman, Mark O'Steen, would probably agree. He has installed cameras in the common areas of an assisted living facility he owns in Lake City.

"I want to keep an eye on my people and see what's going on," he said. "I'll put cameras anywhere it won't invade the privacy of the residents."

Winter weather produces many potholes

BROOKFIELD, Vt. (AP) — The sounds of a new season have arrived in New England: Birds chirping. Sap buckets tapping. And car mufflers scraping.

With the official onset of spring Tuesday, many here have turned their attention to the urgent details of this year's New England thaw: the potholes.

They come in a variety of shapes, sizes and names: frost heaves, ice jacking, thaw weakening and ice depressions. By most accounts, this year will see a bumper crop that will leave the Northeast's roads as smooth as a moonscape.

Potholes form when moisture gets under the pavement, where it freezes and expands. That makes the ground soft, pushes the asphalt up and no longer provides a good base for the pavement.

"Water is the enemy," said Raymond Cyr, a general supervisor for Vermont's transportation agency, as he careens about in his truck. "A week ago I couldn't stay in my seat."

In Vermont and other New England states, the problem is further compounded by the age and quality of roads. Most were built up to 50 years ago, and are little more than improved cow or carriage paths with some asphalt on top.

"It's definitely worse here in the Northeast," says Michael Hedges, a Vermont transportation official. "This is some of the worst parts of the country for this because of wet climate and deep freezes."

Adding to the suffering this year is the fact that most town and state budgets are bowing under the weight of a banner year for snow and ice in the Northeast.

Many are strapped with piled-high costs for salt, sand and plow drivers' overtime. There isn't much left over for patching roads, laying gravel or flattening bumpy roads.

So towns and state offices are posting the worst roads with Day-Glo orange "BUMP" or "FROST HEAVE" signs, banning large trucks from traveling the roads or throwing a shovelful of coal and asphalt into the holes and hoping that outlasts the thaw.

"This year was an especially deep frost, which means that it will take a while to thaw out," said Vincent Janoo, a research civil engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "Especially on unsurfaced roads, it'll be a mess."

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Parents willing to listen will have children willing to talk

DEAR ABBY: I read your column daily and have found the questions concerning when to talk to children about sex very interesting.

I feel it's up to the children to bring up the subject first. If you have made them comfortable talking to you, they will expect their questions to be answered honestly.

I was working in the kitchen one day when my daughter, age 8, broadsided me with, "Mommy, how old do I have to be before I can have sex?"

I took a deep breath and told her not until she found a man she really loved and wanted to be her baby's daddy, because when you have sex you could get pregnant and have a baby.

She responded matter-of-factly, "You could always use the pill." I told her there were other ways, and she said, "You could just say no." I praised her and thought the exchange was over when she asked if, when her daddy and I were dating, did I ever tell him no? Here I copped out and told her that was something she needed to ask her daddy.

My husband was outside and unaware of what was taking place in the kitchen, so he was unprepared when his 8-year-old daughter approached him and pointedly asked if, when he was dating Mommy, did she ever say no to having sex? He and I are on the same page when it comes to parenting. Without hesitating he answered, "Yes, repeatedly." She said OK and walked away, discussion over.

My daughter did wait for the man she truly loved to come along. They now have two beautiful sons.

I'm relating this story so that young parents will know the importance of listening to their children and answering their questions honestly. This holds true throughout their lives. You may not always like what you hear, but if you have always been willing to listen, they will continue to talk to you. — **HAPPY GRANNY IN WALDO, FLA.**

DEAR HAPPY GRANNY: Thanks for a letter that's sure to promote discussion among people of all ages. It addresses the importance of responding to children's questions in an age-appropriate way. It reminds me of a story I heard years ago: A young mother was asked by her 7-year-old son, "Mommy, where did I come from?"

The mother had prepared herself well in advance for that question and was ready with the answers, in all their anatomical detail. When she finished her lecture, her son replied, "Oh. My friend Jimmy said he came from St. Louis."

**

DEAR ABBY: I am a 79-year-old grandmother of 17 and great-grandmother of eight. I am writing about the grandma letters you printed in your column. I was shocked at how some of them talk about their "terrible" grandchildren. I love all my grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

They come with their pink and blue suitcases that say "Going to Grandma's" and spend the weekend with us. I have had as many as seven stay overnight at one time. In the morning, I ask what they want for breakfast. They all want something different: waffles, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, eggs, bacon and toast. Guess what? I fix it all.

I live for the times when they visit. I always have five days to get my house back in order. I do laundry, clean and make beds until Friday — when they come back again. I love it! — **GRANDMA SUSIE, SHAWNEE, OKLA.**

DEAR GRANDMA SUSIE: Some people may say you are giving up your life for your grandchildren. The truth is, you are receiving love and making precious memories for the children with whom you are sharing your life.

**

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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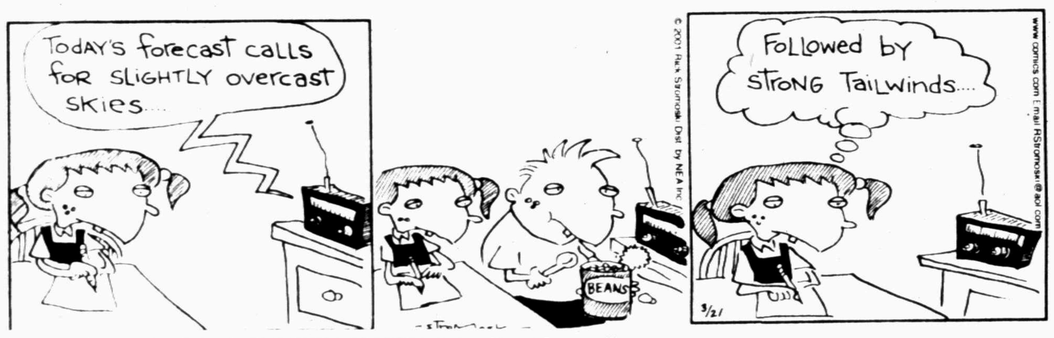
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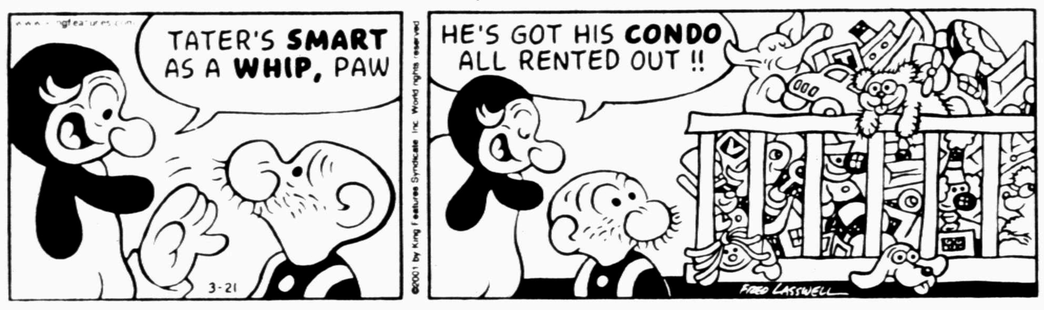
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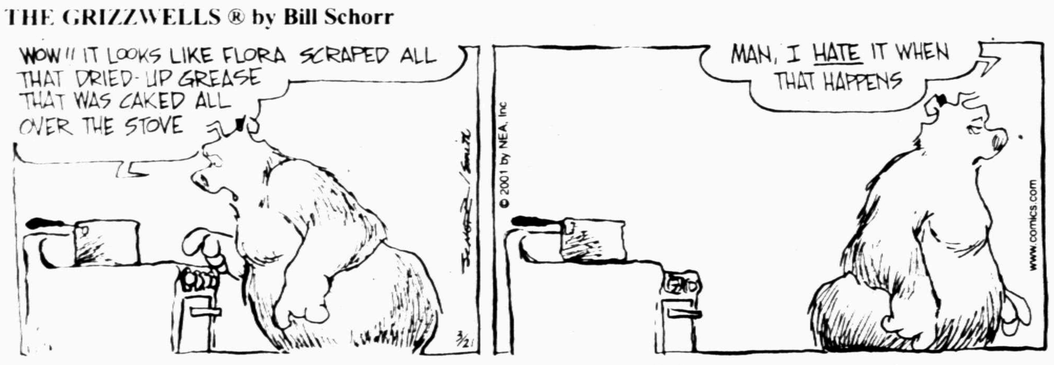
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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 — Rica
6 Huck Finn's transport
10 Fats, e.g.
12 Easter flowers
14 As a precaution (2 wds.)
15 One devoted to religious work
16 Type of tuber
17 MD's chart
19 Suit to — —
20 Monsterlike
23 Hot chocolate
26 Emulate Harrison Ford
27 Whale group
30 Actress Gabor (2 wds.)
32 For each person
34 Impose a tax on
35 Soup scoops
36 Cheer
37 Compass pt.
39 Extremist
40 Collapse, like a regime
42 Astronaut's agcy.
45 Suffer remorse
46 Videotape type
49 '60s radical
51 Hereditary
54 Mistakes
55 Place
56 "Auld Lang —"
57 Repaired (shoes)

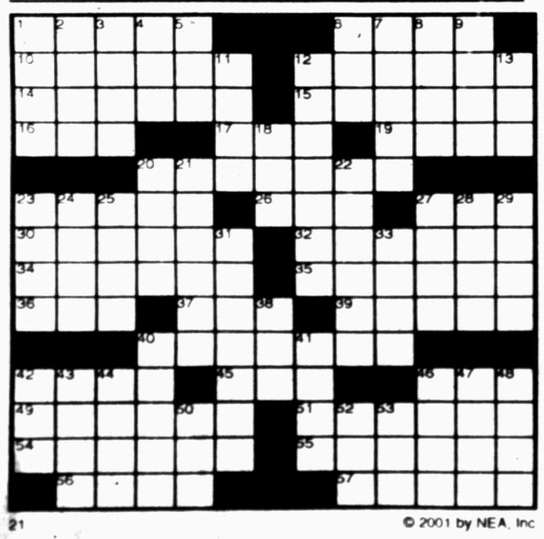
DOWN

1 Muse of history
2 Sty sound
3 Animal welfare org.
4 Maria's aunt
5 They could be personal
6 Tease
7 Moslem deity
8 Italian car
9 French head
11 Clairvoyant
12 Reasonable
13 View
18 New Zealand parrot
20 Leak out
21 Funny remark (sl.)
22 Minnesota capital (2 wds.)
23 Former Russian ruler
24 Greek peak
25 Dough
27 Money (sl.)
28 Maple genus
29 High plateau
31 Guarantees
33 Doing nothing
38 Flightless bird
40 Fowl entree
41 Senator Claiborne —
42 Brood of pheasants
43 Ventilates
44 Nimble
46 Meat entree
47 — and hearty
48 Toboggan
50 Rage
52 Greek island
53 Sgt., e.g.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Z	Y	G	O	T	E			A	I	M	E	E
I	M	A	G	E	S		D	I	M	M	E	R
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			E	L	A		S	L	Y			
K	I	M		A	T	R	I	A		K	I	D
N	O	A	H		E	A	R	N		I	D	A
I	D	L	E			N	E	E	D	L	E	S
F	I	A	N	C	E	S			E	T	A	H
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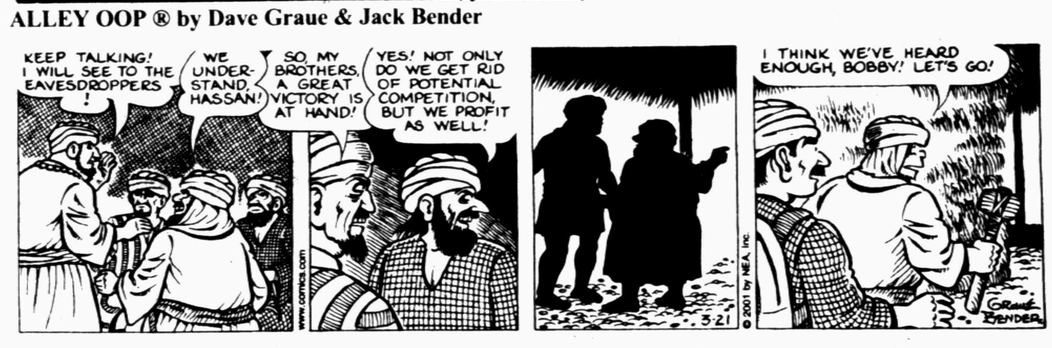
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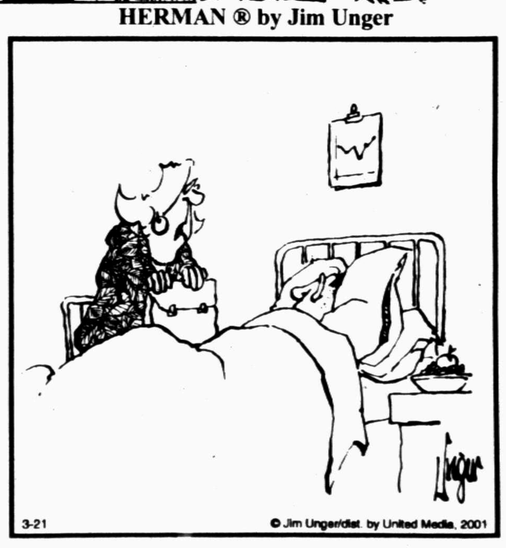
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"The police towed away the car, so I bought another one."

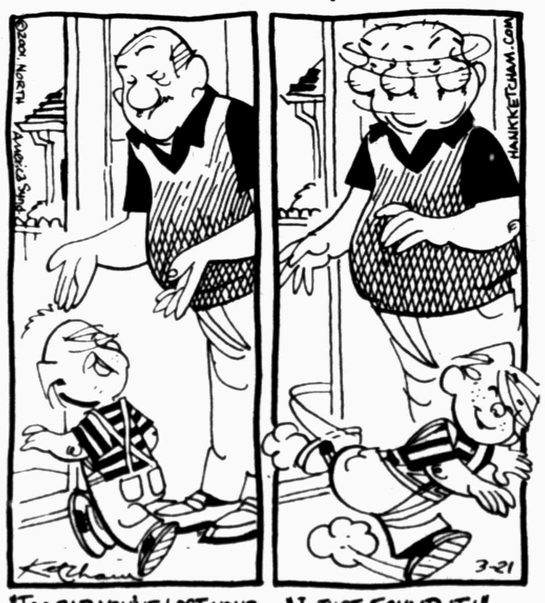
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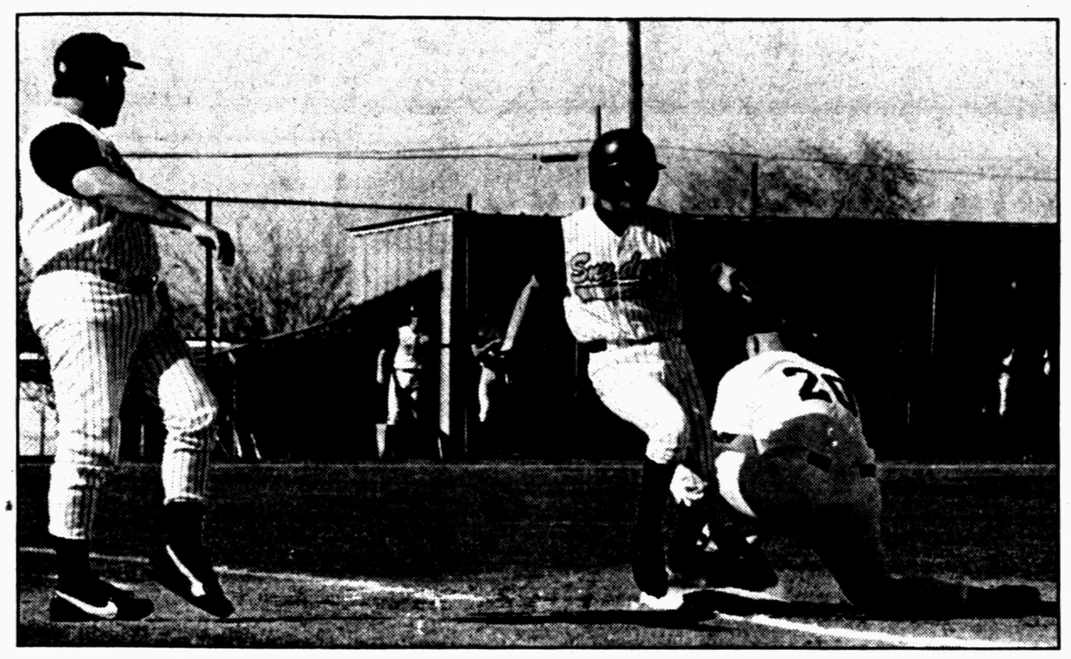
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"TOO BAD YOU'VE LOST YOUR APPETITE. WE'RE HAVING BURGERS AN' APPLE PIE."

"I JUST FOUND IT!"

SPORTS



HUSTLING DOWN THE LINE — Snyder's Ralph Ramon legs out a bunt Tuesday, while SHS coach Charlie Bollinger looks on during the Tigers 8-4 victory at Big Spring. (SDN Staff Photo)

Tigers use late rally to break Big Spring jinx

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

BIG SPRING — The past two seasons, the Snyder Tigers traveled to Big Spring with an unblemished district record. On both occasions, Big Spring sent Clint Bammert to the mound, and the Steers sent the Tigers home with a loss.

With the same elements in place on Tuesday, the Tigers were one out away from their third consecutive collapse at Steer Park.

But what a difference one out can make.

Jesse Haines delivered a two-out RBI single to tie the game in the seventh, and the Tigers erupted for four more runs in the first extra frame to break the Big Spring jinx with an 8-4 victory Tuesday in District 4-4A baseball action.

This time around, the Tigers (10-4) left Steer Park with their perfect league record intact at 3-0, while Big Spring (7-8) slipped to 1-2.

"This was definitely a big win for us," said Snyder skipper Roland Herrera. "Bammert has had a jinx on Snyder, and they've had our number for the past few years. But no matter what happened, I told our guys throughout the game to keep their heads up and keep plugging away. That's what they did, and we finally got the momentum going our way."

After surrendering three runs in the top of the first, Bammert cruised through the next five innings and finished with 11 strikeouts on the day.

The only threat came in the fourth when the Tigers loaded the bases with two outs, but failed to score a run.

That changed in the top of the seventh, with the Tigers trailing, 4-3. After Ralph Ramon laced a double off the left-field fence, Haines brought him home with a single to center field to knot the tally at 4-4.

Tito Alaniz, the Tigers third pitcher of the day, retired three consecutive Steers after issuing a leadoff walk to send the game into extra innings.

In the eighth, the Tigers rattled Bammert with doubles from Alaniz and Brandon McGuire, and singles by Ramon and Billy Pena, to chase the Big Spring starter.

Brooks Nunley followed with a base hit to right field off reliever Mike Solis to plate the Tigers' eighth run of the game.

Alaniz struck out the side in the bottom of the eighth to secure the win.

"There were a couple of momentum changes in the game," said Herrera. "We got off to a good start, then they took the momentum and held it through the middle five innings, before we finally got it back in the seventh."

Four of Snyder's 16 hits came in the top of the first when the Tigers staked a 3-0 advantage.

Big Spring closed the gap with a run in the bottom of the inning, before taking a 4-3 lead in the second when the wheels came off Snyder starter Ralph Ramon.

Ramon, a key ingredient on the Tigers' staff the past two years, struggled to find the plate. After hitting a batter and issuing a walk in the first inning, the senior hit three more Steers in the second.

Big Spring took advantage with a sacrifice bunt and a Ryan Guinn single to post three runs.

"We had the momentum in our favor, and then Ralph had that inning where he hit three guys," Herrera stated. "That's something we can't defend against, and it gave Big Spring some confidence."

Junior Jase Olvera, who pitched all seven innings in the Tigers' win on Friday, worked the next four frames. Olvera held Big Spring scoreless and struck out eight Steers, before giving way to Alaniz to start the seventh.

The victory sets up a showdown with Frenship on Friday at Moffett Field, with the winner retaining at least a share of the district lead.

"I told the guys that we're going to have to play a near perfect game to win, and so will Frenship," Herrera remarked. "Neither team will be able to afford a mistake. We've played games with Frenship before where one error was the differe e between winning and losing. This year will probably be the same way."

Friday's game gets underway at 7 p.m.

Snyder	ab	r	h	bi
McLeod cf	5	1	2	0
Pena ss	5	2	1	1
Ramon p	5	2	3	0
Greenwood cr	0	1	0	0
McGuire rf	5	1	2	4
Nunley 2b	4	0	1	1
Haines 3b	5	0	2	1
Pollard c	2	0	1	1
Olvera p	2	0	0	0
Dorsett ph	1	0	0	0
Pendleton 1b	4	0	1	0
Alaniz dh	4	1	3	0
Totals	**42**	**8**	**16**	**8**

Big Spring	ab	r	h	bi
Choate cf	4	2	0	0
Smith rf	4	1	0	0
Phillips 2b	3	0	0	1
Guinn 1b	3	0	1	2
Birmelin lf	3	0	1	0
Mendoza ss	2	0	0	0
Gregory ss	1	0	0	0
Beauchamp dh	3	0	0	0
Olague 3b	3	0	0	0
Yanez c	1	1	0	0
McKinnon ph	1	0	0	0
Thomas c	1	0	0	0
Totals	**29**	**4**	**2**	**3**

Snyder	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	4—	8 16 6
B. Spring	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0—	4 2 4

LOB - Snyder 11, Big Spring 10. 2B - Ramon, McGuire, Alaniz.

Snyder	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Ramon	1 2/3	0	4	3	1	1
Olvera	4 1/3	2	0	0	1	8
Alaniz	2	0	0	0	1	6
Big Spring	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**
Bammert	7 2/3	14	8	6	0	11
Solis	1/3	2	0	0	0	1

Lady Tigers blast Plainview

PLAINVIEW — For two innings Tuesday night, the Plainview Lady Bulldogs were poised for an upset.

The Snyder Lady Tigers killed that notion in the top of the third.

Snyder scored 18 runs in the third inning to bury Plainview with a 27-2 victory in District 4-4A softball action.

The win pushed Snyder's record to 4-1 in league play, and the Lady Tigers blasted two home runs for the second straight game.

"When we were leading only 2-1 after the second inning, I pulled the girls together," said Snyder coach Shelly Hayes. "Plainview was cheering and hollering, and I told our girls that they thought they could play with us. I told them that we were the better team, but we weren't showing it.

"Then we scored 18 runs in the next inning and it just kept going from there."

Snyder sent 22 batters to the plate in the top of the third. The inning was highlighted by Shelley Fisk's grand slam.

After Leticia Martinez walked, Whitney Webb slapped a double. Cameron Mackey drew another walk to load the bases, before Fisk belted a towering shot to plate all four runs.

The home run was Snyder's second of the night. Mackey busted a two-run shot in the opening frame to give Snyder the early lead. It was Mackey's fourth homer of the season and second in as many games.

"I'm really pleased with the offense we've been producing," Hayes stated. "I think the girls are more comfortable with the hitting technique that we teach, and it's paying off."

In addition to the two home runs, Snyder tallied five doubles for a total of seven extra-base hits. Webb knocked a pair of doubles, and Vanessa Freeman, Valerie Hernandez and Kelsi Johnson had one each.

Johnson also turned in a strong performance on the mound. The freshman limited Plainview to only two hits and two walks, and struck out five batters.

The Lady Tigers played solid defense behind her, committing two errors compared to eight for the Lady Bulldogs.

Plainview posted its final run in the bottom of the third, and Snyder ended the game with seven runs in the fifth.

In the district standings, the Lady Tigers (11-10) are tied for second place with Andrews.

Snyder	ab	r	h	bi
Webb lf	5	5	4	3
Mackey cf	3	4	2	4
Fisk ss	4	2	1	4
Diaz 3b	4	2	1	1
Newman 1b	5	2	0	0
Freeman c	5	2	3	4
Hernandez 2b	5	3	3	3
Johnson p	5	3	2	1
L.Martinez rf	2	4	1	2

Snyder	2	0	1	8	0	7	—	27	17 2
Plainview	1	0	1	0	0	—		2	2 8

LOB - Snyder 1, Plainview 2.

Snyder	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Johnson	5	2	2	1	2	5



HARDWOOD HONORS — Ten Ira High School basketball players received honors for their efforts this past season. The Ira cagers are, front row from left, Morgan Clements, Celeigh Sterling, Tara Allen, Kristen Harless and Michelle Nettles. On the back row are Nathan Smith, Bryce Wilkins, Eric Dickerhoff, Seth Sterling and Todd Wall.

Ira cagers garner hoop honors

Ira High School sent both of its basketball teams to the playoffs this past year, and picked its share of honors along the way.

The Ira girls were led by senior Morgan Clements who garnered first-team honors on the six-man coaches association all-state team.

Morgan, who led the Lady Bulldogs in scoring each of the past three years, was also named to the six-man all region team and was first-team all-region in Class A, along with district MVP.

Sophomore Celeigh Sterling joined Clements on the six-man all-region squad, in addition to earning second-team all-region honors in Class A and a spot on the all-district team.

Seniors Tara Allen and Kristen Harless, and sophomore Michelle Nettles received all-district honorable mention.

On the boys' side, seniors Nathan Smith and Bryce Wilkins were all-district selections, along with sophomore Eric Dickerhoff.

Senior Seth Sterling and junior Todd Wall received honorable mention.



ALL-STARS — Snyder Major All-Stars open the Little Dribblers Regional Tournament at 6 p.m. Thursday against Plainview in Levelland. members of the team are, front row from left, Brent Bollinger, Ricky Sanchez, Pete Villa, Jamie Arnold and Tyler Driggers. On the second row are Lance Day, Ryan Mitchell, Cody Burney, Corbin Clements and Brooks Gafford. On the back row are coaches Jody Day and Russell Gafford. (Contributed Photo)

Local all-stars open tourney in Levelland

Snyder begins its quest for a pair of national tournament berths tonight when Snyder Junior opens play in the Little Dribblers Regional Tournament in Levelland.

Snyder Junior faces Plainview II at 6 o'clock this evening, with the winner advancing to Thursday's quarterfinals where it will meet either Andrews or Levelland II.

Snyder Major plays its first-round game at 6 p.m. Thursday against Plainview II. A victory would send the local squad into the second round to face Levelland or Lamesa II.

The tournament continues through Saturday. The champion and runner-up earn berths in the national tournament to be held April 5-7 in Plainview.

'Dogs hold off Hornets

ASPERMONT — After a rocky start, the Ira Bulldogs were solid when they needed it most.

Ira overcame an early deficit with a three-run sixth inning Tuesday to hold off Aspermont, 9-7, in Class A baseball action.

The Bulldogs blasted 11 hits on the day, five for extra bases, to improve their season mark to 3-1.

"I like the way we're playing right now," said Ira coach Bubba Edwards. "Our guys are playing hard, and they're doing everything they can to make sure they win.

"We're still having to change our line-up almost every game because of injuries and different things, but everyone we've put on the field has done a good job."

The Hornets held the early edge after posting a pair of runs in the bottom of the first.

Ira scratched out five runs over the next three frames, before Aspermont pulled even in the fourth.

After the Bulldogs jumped out front, 6-5, in the top of the fifth, the Hornets took their final lead of the night in the bottom of the frame and chased Ira starter Josh Gutierrez.

Sophomore Eric Dickerhoff held the Hornets scoreless the remainder of the way, and picked up the win on the mound.

Ira got its offense back on track in the sixth with three runs to put the Hornets away.

Jeff Fine paced the Bulldogs at the plate with a triple, a double and three RBIs

"Jeff has really been a key for us all season," Edwards stated. "He has stepped up and hit the ball well, and he's played two or three different positions in the field. He did those things again in this game and it helped us get the win."

Dickerhoff, Terry Jamison and Jerry Jamison also doubled for Ira.

The Bulldogs will be in action again at 5 p.m. Friday when they take on second-ranked Cross Plains at McMurry University in Abilene.

Ira hosts Lubbock Christian at 5 p.m. Tuesday, before opening district play March 30 against Roby.

National Basketball Association

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Philadelphia	48	20	.706	—
New York	41	26	.612	6½
Miami	40	27	.597	7½
Orlando	37	30	.552	10½
Boston	29	37	.439	18
New Jersey	23	47	.329	26
Washington	16	51	.239	31½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	41	25	.621	—
Charlotte	39	28	.582	2½
Toronto	36	31	.537	5½
Indiana	29	37	.439	12
Detroit	25	43	.368	17
Cleveland	24	43	.358	17½
Atlanta	21	47	.309	21
Chicago	11	55	.167	30

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	47	20	.701	—
Utah	46	20	.697	½
Dallas	43	24	.642	4
Minnesota	39	28	.582	8
Houston	38	30	.559	9½
Denver	33	35	.485	14½
Vancouver	20	49	.290	28

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	45	21	.682	—
L.A. Lakers	45	22	.672	½
Portland	44	24	.647	2
Phoenix	39	27	.591	6
Seattle	37	33	.529	10
L.A. Clippers	24	45	.348	22½
Golden State	16	51	.239	29½

x-clinched playoff spot

Tuesday's Games

New York 110, Cleveland 75
New Jersey 104, Vancouver 90
Toronto 102, Indiana 81
Orlando 103, Chicago 95
Portland 96, Dallas 88
Utah 84, Detroit 79
Phoenix 105, Washington 91
Sacramento 125, Houston 109
L.A. Clippers 88, Philadelphia 77

Wednesday's Games

San Antonio at Boston, 7 p.m.
Orlando at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Washington at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games

San Antonio at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at Utah, 9 p.m.
Phoenix at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Detroit at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.
Houston at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Sports Briefs

Horseshoe pitchers' meeting

The Snyder horseshoe pitching club will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday at the chamber of commerce office to organize its schedule for the upcoming season. Anyone interested in joining the club is invited to attend.

District 4-4A Baseball

Team	District W	District L	Season W	Season L
Snyder	3	0	10	4
Andrews	3	0	11	3
Frenship	3	0	12	6
Big Spring	1	2	7	8
Plainview	1	2	5	8
Estacado	1	2	4	7
Lake View	0	3	2	10
Levelland	0	3	7	9

Tuesday's results: Snyder 8, Big Spring 4 (8 innings); Frenship 11, Estacado 1; Andrews 3, Lake View 0; Plainview 14, Levelland 8.

MAR 21 2001

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS
ALWAYS A WINNER

Lost & Found

Found: 7 goats. Call 573-1141 days or 573-6641 nights.

Found: Male, brown **Dachshund**, by Jr. High Tennis Court **573-4438** after 6p.m.

Vehicles

*1975 1-ton Ford Dually.
*1986 Ford 3/4 ton 4 wheel dr. 4x4
573-3832 after 6p.m.

SALE!
*1976 Chevy Blazer, $2,500.
*1981 Cadillac Eldorado, $2,250.
*1993 Mitsubishi Mirage, $750.
*1990 Buick LeSabre, $750.
*1993 Chrysler LeBaron, $1,500.
Jack's Used Cars
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*1994 Ford Ranger Splash $5,995
*1986 Honda Civic, engine needs work. $400
We buy & sell used vehicles.
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Very sharp 1993 Cougar XR7. $5,000. Call **573-0902**.

Motorcycles

1996 Honda Shadow VLX Deluxe 600, 6,000 miles. Garage kept, lots of chrome. $4,800 Call 573-4385.

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Big Country Landscape Mgmt. 1st 20 customers receive 1st lawn mowing at 1/2 price. Free Estimates. Mowing, Edging, Hedge trimming, plus more!! Call Cody at 574-1051 after 5p.m. for more details.

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Mowing & Weed Eating Service
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$16.95 for 5 days, get 6th day FREE! 15 words or less

Employment

11-7 LVN NEEDED: SIGN UP BONUS OF $500. Salary $11.75 per hour, plus travel expense if qualified. Good Benefits, Meals, Holidays, Vacation. Apply in person to Terri Owens, Director of Nurses at Kristi Lee Manor, 1941 Chestnut, Colorado City, TX

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Employment

AVON REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED. No fees through March 28th. For more information call 573-1271. Ind. Rep.

Equipment Operators needed. Apply in person at E.D. Walton Construction, 900 Old Lubbock Hwy.

Home Mailers Needed
Earn $635 weekly mailing letters. Easy! Limited open positions. Call 1-888-333-7114 Ext. 8125 24 Hrs.

Employment

General assignment reporter. Experience helpful, but willing to train. Grammar and typing skills necessary. Send resume to Box 949, Snyder, TX 79550.

Employment

First United Methodist Church will receive job applications for Director of Discovery School through March 25. Minimum standards and job description can be obtained in Discovery School church office, 2700 College Avenue, 573-4770.

Immediate opening for car wash hands. Apply at 3304 College Ave.

Join the SNYDER HEALTHCARE staff and become part of a caring healthcare team.
New Wage Scale For Certified Nurse Aides
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Good Work environment
CONTACT: Gloria Mann, Administrator
Or
Darla McCarter LVN
(915)573-6332
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EEOC Employer

Kent County Nursing Home has an immedieate opening for a full-time LVN for mainly 3-11 position with possibly some 7-3 or 11-7 if needed. Salary $10.50 per hour with benefits. Benefits include Group Health Insurance, including dental and prescription, County Retirement, Vacation, Sick Days, 8 holidays and also Bonus Paid Days Off for working your schedule each month, meal also furnished. For applications contact Kay Alderman or Kathy Lisenbee, 806-237-3036

Kent County Nursing Home is accepting applications for part time LVN, any shift. Contact Kay Alderman or Kathy Lisenbee for further information. 806-237-3036

Nail Tech, Hair Stylist & Massage Therapists Wanted
THE CUTTERY
2417 College Ave.
Attn: (4) weeks **FREE** booth rent w/6mo. contracts. Call today!
Talk To Gina

NEED SUMMER CHILD CARE? Discovery School, 2700 College Ave., provides care for children 6wks – Pre-K 5yrs, M-F, 7:30a.m.–5:30p.m. Now enrolling. CCPO provider. 573-4770.

!!!!NEW HIGHER WAGES!!!! Truckdrivers needed for oil field work. Must be able to travel. No need to relocate, Class A CDL, good driving record. Oil field experience helpful, truckdriving experience a must. Call 1-800-588-2669 Mon.–Fri., 8a.m.- 5p.m. No calls after 5p.m.

Now hiring part-time bartender at American Legion. Apply in person. No phone calls.

Part-time bookkeeper with Quick Books Pro. Experience preferred. **573-4942**

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Call Shane Roberts 800-708-7342
Or fax resume to 915-264-6697

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(1) Full Time Housekeeper
Must be available 24-7
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Apply In Person
Hwy. 180 & U.S. 84
10:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.

CITY OF SNYDER
The City of Snyder has the following job openings

Position	Starting Salary	6 mo. salary	1 yr. salary
Laborer, Landfill	$1,411.00 mo.	$1,497.00 mo.	$1,542.00 mo.
Laborer, Water/Sewer	$1,411.00 mo.	$1,497.00 mo.	$1,542.00 mo.
Heavy Equipment Operator, Landfill	$1,619.00 mo.	$1,718.00 mo.	$1,770.00 mo.
Meter Repairer	$1,411.00 mo.	$1,497.00 mo.	$1,542.00 mo.
Sr. Clerk, Municipal Court	$1,619.00 mo.	$1,718.00 mo.	$1,770.00 mo.
Clerk, Records Management	$1,411.00 mo.	$1,497.00 mo.	$1,542.00 mo.
Police Officer	$2,061.00 mo.	$2,187.00 mo.	$2,253.00 mo.
PT Laborer, Landfill	$5.15 hr.		
PT Animal Shelter	$5.15 hr.		

Benefits include insurance, retirement, vacation (after one year), sick leave, holidays and more. If you are interested in applying for any of the above listed job openings you may go by the TWC Career Stop C/O WTC, 6200 S. College, Snyder, EOE, Employee paid ad.

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SNYDER, TEXAS 79549
POSITION: SECRETARY DEPARTMENT: CONTINUING EDUCATION–CORRECTIONAL OFFICER TRAINING DEPT. SALARY: College Scale **DUTIES:** Typing, filing, record keeping, correspondence, reports (organization and submission to State agencies), related office duties as required. Work schedule may include some evening work. **EMPLOYMENT:** Full-time. **QUALIFICATIONS:** High School diploma or GED required, AA degree preferred. Evaluation by the Work Assessment Center required. **SPECIAL SKILLS:** Ability to effectively deal with the public. Good communication skills, Microcomputer experience required, knowledge of Windows 98 and Microsoft Office minimum. **DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS:** Position open till filled with review of applications to begin on March 26, 2001. **SEND APPLICATION/RESUME TO:** Human Resources, Western Texas College, 6200 College Avenue, Snyder, TX 79549-9502. Applications are available at the Human Resources Office and the Switchboard Operator's Office in the WTC Administration Building. NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE. DATE OF EMPLOYMENT: ASAP
WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION AND IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED AND CONSIDERED WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, CREED, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, VETERAN'S STATUS OR DISABILITY.

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Experienced truck drivers needed to haul crude oil and salt water. Must have a good driving record, CDL required. Tanker and hazardous material endorsement will be required. Must be able to pass a DOT physical and drug screen. Local hauls and excellent benefits and pay. In-experienced drivers could qualify for training program. $500.00 sign on bonus. Openings available in the Post & Snyder area.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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200 crossties, 8ft. $5 each. Call **573-3832.**

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1979 20ft. Shasta travel trailer. $2,000 Days 573-4053, Nights 573-4892

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Bedroom suite: King-size bed w/box spring & mattress, triple dresser w/large mirror & chest. All in good condition. 573-1619

Central heat and air unit. Good condition, still in use. Will trade for 500 gal. LPT tank. Call 573-3911.

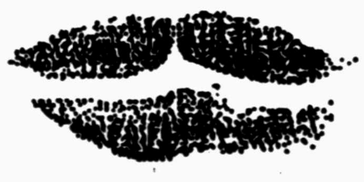
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Queen-size mattress sets, $125. Twin sofa bed, $75. Mirrors, Night stands, Head boards, Desks, Chairs, Lamps, TV stands, Bath lights. Nothing over $50! See @ Purple Sage Motel.

New 2001 Heavy Duty SINGER School Model.
Sews Denim, Leather, Jeans, Silk, Cotton, Buttonhole, Monongram, more.
New in factory cartons; World-wide Singer Warranty.
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Snyder Daily News CLASSIFIEDS
573-5486

Merchandise

WURLITZER Piano, excellent condition, $650. Roscoe, **915-267-8100** after 5p.m.

Pallets for sale, $1.00. Call 573-5486 or come by Snyder Daily News.

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

Dogs, Pets, Etc.

Free Kittens, 6wks old. (2)male, (2)female. Call 573-1728.

Garage Sales

BACKYARD SALE
2317 Sunset Ave.
Weds., Thurs., Fri. 8a.m. - ?
Large clothes, Artificial flowers, VCR, Toys, Rings & lots of misc.

ESTATE SALE
3003 42nd St.
Friday & Saturday 9a.m. - ??
Furniture, Clothes, Kitchenware, Yard equipment, Tools & more!

GARAGE SALE
Association for Retarded Citizens open each Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-3:30p.m., 2504 Ave. W. Good used Children's clothes. Donations of Useable & Sellable items accepted. For local pickup on items, call 573-4186, 573-5374 or 573-3729.

YARD SALE
Thursday 9a.m. - ??
1712 College
(Across from Melly's)
Come See!!

Apartments For Rent

1 bedroom furnished garage apartment. Bills paid. $275/mo. 2709 Ave. O Call 573-2101 after 5p.m. or leave message.

2 bedroom apartment available in clean, quiet 16-unit complex. Locally owned 573-0340, days. 573-7959, nights.

Small apartment, bills paid. 2904 Ave. V Call 573-9068.

Houses For Rent

***2807 38th,** 2 bedroom, corner lot, garage, fenced backyard. Need References.
573-8739

2 bedroom brick duplex. Appliances, CH/A. 573-1012

2 bedroom house, $325/mo. water paid. $100/dep.
725-2764

For Rent: 2-1½-2 brick house CH/A, large fenced yard, patio, storage building. $400/mo. 2908 Ave. X Call 573-2101 after 5p.m. or leave message.

Mobile Homes For Rent

***1 bedroom mobile home,** 1 person, $275.
***Small mobile home,** 1 person $200.
Both furnished & bills paid. 2709 Ave. O Call **573-2101** after 5p.m. or leave message.

2-2, CH/A w/storage building in Dunn. $300/mo., $200/dep. **573-1535,** leave message.

3 Bedroom Mobile Homes for rent. $250/month. 573-1711.

FOR RENT/SALE
2-2, washer/dryer & appliances.
2403 27th $300/mo., $100/dep.
915-728-3064/915-267-7037
or
Jack & Jack Realtors
573-8571

Mobile Homes For Rent

Furnished 2 bedroom mobile home, washer & dryer, fenced yard & storage building. $200/mo., no bills paid. 1805 40th Call 573-2101 after 5p.m. or leave message.

Real Estate

1,623 acres south west of Snyder on FM 1609, 1607, 1606. (2) water wells, several tanks, 280 acres of crop land. $150 an acre. Allen Real Estate 915-698-4600, office; 915-675-0522 home; 915-668-6465, mobile.

3008 Denison Ave., 3-2-1 w/pool. New tile, carpet, paint. $79,900 573-0632 after 6p.m.

3-2-2 + carport, 2,000 sq.ft. New carpet, CH/A, Ceiling fans, Wood burning stove, Sun room, landscaped yard. 3108 Hill Ave. 573-5491 or 573-4203

Brick Home, 3-2-2, CH/A, Newly painted, Fireplace, Covered Patio, Large backyard with privacy fence, New water softener and RO system. 3505 44th St. $65,000 Call 573-5491 or 721-1838.

For Sale By Owner
Brick, 3 bedroom, 1½ bath, new carpet. 1804-38th. Call Carie, 915-573-4382 or Kenneth, 806-856-5212.

FOR SALE BY OWNER
Owner Financing Provided
Low down payment. Will work with your tax refund on down payment. Low monthly. 3-1, 3201 42nd. Call Kelly, 915-425-9994.

For Sale: 2 bedroom house, furnished, w/garage apartment, (2) small furnished mobile homes, water well, large storage building. Asking $20,000 Call 573-2101 after 5p.m. or leave message. 2709 Ave. O

OWNER FINANCE
3-1 w/large den. 1467 sq.ft.
Low down payment. 2107 41st
$22,000 Negotiable **573-6864**

Owner Financed Homes
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218 29th St.
*$1,500 down, $375/mo. 2-1, fenced, storage shed, large garden. $28,000, 20 years.
134 20th Place
*$1,500 down, $350/mo., 3-1, fenced, laundry room. Under repair. $28,000, 20 years.
126 20th Place
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Toll Free

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Wonderful Game Rm+4-1¾-4 2208 45th $62T
Good Size Home 2805 Ave. V 3-1¾+1cp $46.5T
Lrg. 2505 Sq. Ft. 4-1¾-2 2800 35th St
Price Lowered Country Dream Home 4-1½-2 Wonderful Storage, 20 A's, Pool, Outbuildings.....$175T
14.49 Acres 3-2-Hot Tub, Sprinkler System...$95T
3107 40th St. 3-1-1-1cp.....$11T
3774 Dalton Dr. Lg. Home 3-1¾-1cp $37.5T
Doris Spikes.....573-6602

Resorts

(2)-houses on 3 lease lots. North side of Lake Thomas near Bull Creek Park. **915-367-8724**

Classified
The link between buyer and seller
573-5486

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Ovarian cysts helped by hormones

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm a 30-year-old mother of two. I was diagnosed several years ago with ovarian cysts. Initially, I was treated with birth control pills and depo-progesterone injections that totally shut down my menstrual cycles — all in an effort to reduce the sizes of the cysts. My period never returned. Now my doctor has me on fertility pills to force a period, and he claims that the cycles I had weren't cycles at all. What does he mean?

DEAR READER: Ovarian cysts — fluid-filled blisters that can cause abdominal pain — are usually related to ovulation. When an ovum leaves the ovary at the beginning of its journey to the uterus, a cyst can form at the site. Over time, the cyst may enlarge and cause discomfort.

Your doctor initially followed customary procedure by giving you birth control pills, which inhibit ovulation (and cyst formation), followed by progestin shots to cause the uterine lining to shed. Therefore, you had menstrual periods without ovulation.

Neither I nor my gynecological consultant understand why your physician would follow this treatment with "fertility pills." Such medication, by stimulating ovulation, might well make matters worse by causing yet more cysts. As a general rule, medicine that encourages ovulation is not recommended for women with ovarian cysts.

Perhaps you misunderstood your doctor's comments about your cycles. If not, you should obtain a second opinion from a qualified gynecologist, who can suggest more appropriate treatment.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Are microwave ovens safe? And what about the food cooked in them? My doctor clams up and won't give me an answer. Since you have disagreed with your colleagues in the past, I'm hoping you will give me a straight answer.

DEAR READER: While I have disagreed with my colleagues on occasion, I doubt that my answer to your question will be at odds with current medical information. Microwaved food is safe, because such ovens do not use radiation, such as X-rays. Rather, the ovens bombard food with extremely high-frequency sound waves, which stimulate the food molecules to vibrate, thereby causing heat, so that substances "cook" from the inside out.

Once removed from the oven, food cools because the molecules are no longer excited by microwaves. X-rays and other radiation alter molecules and have a residual effect; microwaves do not.

You can assume that microwave ovens are safe if used according to manufacturers' directions. However, there are two caveats. First, with continued use, the seals on the devices deteriorate, allowing leakage of microwaves during operation. This can be a hazard because such waves can escape into the environment and cause health complications, such as cataracts, in humans.

Also, this escaping microwave energy can be dangerous to patients with cardiac pacemakers, because the energy can penetrate the skin and cause the pacemakers to reprogram inappropriately. Therefore, a microwave oven should be used carefully. Check door seals periodically and seek authorized service if you suspect that leaks may have developed.

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp		34.07	34.00	34.06—.05
AOL TimeWrn		39.45	38.25	39.07 + .28
AT&T Corp		22.55	21.50	22.40 + .05
Albertsons		29.05	28.56	28.60 + .05
Alltel		51.77	50.89	51.56—.46
AmEl Pw		44.97	44.11	44.74 + .09
AndarkPtr		66.09	63.10	63.23—2.82
ATMOS Egy		22.92	22.70	22.85—.05
Aviall		6.50	6.45	6.50
BP Amoco		49.48	49.20	49.26 + .41
BakerHughes		41.45	40.00	40.25—1.05
Bank of Amer		52.75	50.90	52.66 + 1.37
BellSouth		39.04	37.70	38.29—.84
Beth Steel		2.51	2.43	2.46—.03
BurlNoSFe		28.80	27.90	28.33 + .53
Caterpillar		43.25	41.55	42.50—1.37
Chevron		90.15	88.81	89.49—1.14
Citigroup s		45.00	43.11	45.00 + .70
CocaCola		48.00	47.00	47.21—.22
ColgatePal		53.60	52.46	52.70—.96
ComclMetals		26.00	25.75	25.76—.24
Cooperln		36.83	35.18	35.58—1.19
DaimlrChry		46.15	45.47	46.04—.21
DallSemicn		29.10	27.30	28.50 + 1.00
DeltaAirl		39.90	38.91	39.90 + .56
Dillards Inc		17.75	16.95	17.60
DowChem s		31.45	30.04	30.90—.54
DuPont		43.80	42.20	42.79—.71
EastmanChem		49.91	48.24	48.70—1.27
EstKodak		42.05	41.32	41.90 + .44
EDS Corp		56.23	54.57	56.02 + .87
Entergy		37.08	35.67	36.91 + .37
ExxonMobil		80.84	79.80	80.05—.61
FstBksAm		21.40	21.40	21.40 + .15
Flowers		16.78	16.70	16.70—.06
GenDynam		67.11	65.80	66.40—.85
GenElec s		40.60	39.03	40.38 + .33
GenMills		43.23	42.40	42.60—.15
GenMotors		55.35	54.25	55.33 + .14
GaPacGP		29.73	28.62	28.89—1.03
GlobalMar		28.10	26.85	27.17—.87
Goodrich		37.50	36.00	36.45—1.55
Goodyear s		24.80	23.90	24.20—.74
GtAtlPac		9.06	8.86	8.90—.16
Halliburtn		41.16	39.50	39.62—1.48
Hanson ADS		29.80	29.60	29.80—.60
HarteHanks		22.90	22.75	22.90 + .28
HomeDepot		42.84	41.40	42.75 + .80
Honeywellintl		39.84	38.10	39.58 + .13
IBM		91.40	87.75	90.50 + 2.20
IntlPaper		36.70	35.44	36.20—1.16
JohnsonJn		90.55	89.56	89.85—.95
K mart		8.86	8.45	8.82—.11
KinderMorg		53.10	52.26	52.41—.68
Kroger Co		24.15	23.80	23.89—.03
Lifton		79.55	79.43	79.44—.15
LockheedM		35.13	34.10	34.70—.27
Lowes Cos		62.70	60.99	62.45 + .08
Lubys		7.40	7.33	7.36 + .01
LucentTech		12.20	11.29	12.03 + .83
MayDeptStr		38.43	37.45	38.38 + .12
Medtronic		47.30	46.10	46.27—1.03
Motorola s		14.94	14.05	14.79 + .67
NCR Corp		40.98	40.01	40.60—.06
Navistar		23.75	23.01	23.15—.85
Penney JC		16.40	15.88	16.00—.38
PepBoys		6.35	6.08	6.20—.15
PepsiCo		41.08	40.25	40.83—.79
Pharmacia		48.25	47.75	47.85 + .73
PhelpDodge		43.70	42.50	42.80—.92
PhilipPet		55.77	54.37	54.70—1.06
PilgrmPrd B		11.55	11.40	11.55 + .17
Polaroid		4.90	4.75	4.83 + .02
Praxair		45.50	43.01	44.06—1.54
ProctGamb		65.80	63.75	64.38—1.52
PubS NwMx		25.86	24.96	25.86 + .85
RadioShack		34.95	34.22	34.74—.21
ReliantEngy		42.88	41.60	42.69 + .59
RoyalDut		57.43	56.71	56.82—.28
SBC Comm		40.84	39.50	40.65—.25
SaraLee		21.74	21.38	21.41—.12
Scripps EW		57.97	57.50	57.52—.38
SearsRoeb		36.10	35.30	35.95—.14
SherwinW		24.80	24.22	24.53—.07
SouthernCo		32.94	32.40	32.55 + .04
SwstAirl s		17.27	16.87	17.22 + .17
SprintFON		21.38	20.40	20.71—.51
SprintPCS		18.37	17.77	17.97—.29
Sunoco Inc		32.45	31.21	31.61—.89
TXU Corp		40.35	39.87	40.20 + .25
TmpleInland		44.83	42.80	43.15—1.59
Texaco		67.95	66.80	67.32—1.18
Textind		30.83	30.56	30.58—.24
Texasinst s		34.20	32.04	33.67 + 1.42
Textron		56.99	54.89	54.93—1.98
TriconGlbR		37.15	36.97	37.05 + .09
TrinityInds		20.71	19.96	19.99—.62
TritonEngy		20.45	19.55	19.64—.66
TylerTech		1.24	1.15	1.15—.09
USX-Marathn		28.20	27.16	27.43—.97
USX-USS		15.76	15.07	15.15—.63
UnionPacif		52.48	51.83	52.40 + .57
UnitedTech		71.71	70.11	70.84—.99
Unocal		36.02	35.11	35.13—1.05
Venator Grp		13.49	13.18	13.37—.02
VerizonComm		47.20	46.00	46.81—.23
WalMart		48.50	47.28	48.40 + .59
WellsFargo		47.12	46.15	46.80—.05
WstnGasRs		31.92	31.55	31.55 + .05
WinnDixie		26.94	26.62	26.62—.24
Xerox Cp		6.25	5.75	6.18 + .38



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MAR 21 2001

Scurry County Country

UCSWCD Report

The Austrian Pine is a medium to large stature coniferous tree introduced from Europe that can achieve heights of 60 feet and widths of 30 feet. It has medium water requirements, and is adaptable to most well-drained soils.

The canopy of dark green needles is dense and stiffly pyramidal in youth becoming more flat-topped with age.

The tree produces ovate, woody cones. In Texas, this plant should be reserved for use in the northern portions of the state, the Panhandle, and adjacent regions of Oklahoma and Arkansas. While being somewhat tolerant of salt and alkaline soils, it is not particularly heat tolerant.

Rainfall in West Texas, even during average years, doesn't provide enough moisture for young trees and shrubs.

Regular watering should be done from March through November, and the soil should not be allowed to dry out during the winter.

Young trees and shrubs need 5 to 8 gallons of water per week the first year, 10 to 15 gallons per week the second year, and 20 gallons per week the third year. Most trees and shrubs are sufficiently established to need only enough supplemental water to prevent drought stress.

Watering should be done several times a week, rather than all at once. Many heavier (clay) soils retain water long enough to drown the root stock, if too much is applied at one time.

Trickle or drip irrigation is a relative labor free and cost effective way to apply water at proper rates.

The Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District still has several Russian olive, thornless honey locust, Shumard oak, aromatic sumac, and Austrian pine seedlings for sale.

The District office is in the USDA Service Center, located at 5309 Big Spring Hwy. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Water delivery agreement lauded

AUSTIN (AP) — Farmers in the Rio Grande Valley and the state agriculture commissioner applauded Tuesday an agreement under which Mexico will repay some of its water debt to the United States.

"Overall there is a positive feeling in the Valley. They have really been desperate," said Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs.

Citrus, vegetables and cotton are grown in deep South Texas. Farms there have been hard-hit by drought the past two years and have had to rely on dwindling water sources for irrigation, Combs said.

Two major reservoirs in South Texas, Amistad and Falcon, are at only 44 percent of their capacity.

Mexico agreed to deliver nearly 200 billion gallons of water into the Rio Grande this year as part of a repayment timetable announced Monday by the White House.

The U.S. and Mexico agreed to develop a plan by the end of this year for Mexico to repay its overall water deficit of 1.4 million acre feet, governed by a 1944 treaty pertaining to the Rio Grande and Colorado and Tijuana rivers.

The long-term agreement is a major step forward, Combs said.

"That's important so we won't get in this situation again. It's so hard to catch up when you're behind," she said.

Ray Prewett, executive vice president of the trade association Texas Citrus Mutual, said the water shortage has caused a $400 million annual loss to agriculture in the Valley.

The new agreements with Mexico help to "settle this serious dispute between neighbors which had the potential of threatening the positive relations between our two nations," Prewett said.

Under the U.S.-Mexico Water Treaty, Mexico is supposed to release 350,000 acre feet — or 114 billion gallons — of water each year from six tributaries to the Rio Grande. The United States is to deliver 1.5 million acre feet of water per year from the Colorado River.

But Mexico's flow stopped in 1992 because of drought and trade-related development.

An acre-foot is the amount of water that would cover an acre to a depth of one foot, or about 326,000 gallons.

Like Combs, citrus producers are glad to see a deadline for a plan for Mexico to retire its entire water debt, Prewett said.

Gov. Rick Perry said delivery of a large amount of water within the next 60 days is crucial to many farmers in Hidalgo and Cameron counties. Already, citrus growers are moving into the spring planting season.

Combs agreed, saying she hopes the "water flows will be in a timely manner for our guys."

The agreement was worked out based on instructions given during President Bush's meeting in February with Mexico President Vicente Fox.

State Sen. Eddie Lucio, D-Brownsville, praised the agreement.

"I'm thrilled to see that we finally reached an agreement that is fair to both countries and will prevent economic hardships to the Rio Grande Valley," Lucio said.

U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla, R-Texas, said the agreement is a good start.

"I've said for a long time that Mexico must present a plan to repay their water debt. Our farmers and ranchers are in dire straits. This water is not a luxury — it's a necessity," Bonilla said.

Diversified

By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

Sweet Corn Flavor

The flavor of sweet corn is influenced by a gene that controls its sugar content.

The seed corn you buy may have some special genes which are designated su, se, sh, shz, or SB. The very best flavor, or the flavor you want, is available if you pay attention to which of these genes your seed corn has.

The "su" gene is in the standard sweet corn you have grown through the years. It gives a rich corn flavor and the quality is best if it is isolated from field corn, picked and eaten in the same day. Silver Queen, a variety recommended for our area has this gene.

The "se" gene increases the original levels of sugars in the kernels, extends the flavor and slows the loss of moisture from the kernel. These varieties should also be isolated from field corn and have a slightly better flavor if isolated from varieties with the "su" gene. Kandy Korn, a very popular variety in our area, has the "se" gene.

The "sh" gene raised the levels of sugar further, again extending flavor and shelf life. The varieties with the "sh" gene are often called the "super sweets" or "extra sweets."

The latest development in sweet corn varieties gave us the "SB" gene and these varieties are often called the "sweet breed." They have an important characteristic. They can be planted near "su" or "se" type without losing flavor. However, they should still be isolated from field corn and varieties with the "sh" gene. High sugar content long shelf life, good germination in cold soils and vigorous characterize these varieties. Varieties with the "SB" gene are not readily available but they very, very similar gene "shz" is present in the All-American Selection, How Sweet It Is.

Check these sweet corn designations when you buy your seed and you may be better satisfied with the flavor.

Information is taken form article in the March 2001, Horticulture Update.

Markets

Colorado City

The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 524 head of cattle for the Saturday, March 17, sale. Compared to last week: Feeder steers and heifers were steady to $3 lower. Slaughter cows were steady to $1 lower. Bulls were steady and bred cows and pairs were also steady. Trading was active and demand good.

Feeder steers:
200-300: 135-138
300-400: 121-127
400-500: 114-121
500-600: 90.50-94.50
600-700: 85-87

Feeder heifers:
300-400: 120-123
400-500: 111-118
500-600: 90-95
600-700: 85.50

Replacement cows:
Young bred cows: 625-710
Aged cows: 480-620
Pairs: 730-860
Aged pairs: 600-710

Slaughter cows:
Breakers: 1000-1250 Lbs. 41.50-46.50
Boners: 1000-1200 Lbs. 44.50-47
Boners High Yielding 1120-1350 Lbs. 48-49.50
Lean: 900-1200 Lbs. 40-44
600-1000 Lbs. 38.41.50
Under 750 Lbs. 32.50-35.50
Slaughter Bulls Yield Grade 1-2 1300-2100: 50-55
High Dressing 1500-2200 Lbs. 59.50
Low Dressing 1000-1300 47-49.50

Lubbock

The Lubbock Stockyards, Inc. had a run of 1,151 head of cattle for the Thursday, March 15, sale. Cows were $3 to $5 cheaper. Yearlings and calves were $2 to $3 cheaper. Trading and demand were good.

Slaughter cows
(High dressing — cutters — utilities: 42-47.50
Canner and low cutters: 35-42
Slaughter bulls: 48-56/50
Feeder steers — choice:
300-400: 105-135
400-500: 100-120
500-600: 90-105
600-700: 84-92.50
700-800: 80-85
Feeder heifers:
300-400: 105-125
400-500: 90-107
500-600: 83-92.50
600-700: 78.50-85
700-800: 75.83
Feeder Bulls — good and choice:
500-600: 87-102
700-800: 77.50-85
Cow and calf pairs:
Good: 750-1,050
Grade: 600-750
Springers: 450-810
Baby calves: 175-210
Doodlers: 240-310

Ranchers find other uses for their land

RAYMONDVILLE — Ray Burdette doesn't really miss the old days when cattle ranchers rode the range on horseback, inspecting the herd from beneath the brim of a Stetson and squinting into the bright South Texas sky for signs of much-needed rain.

This next-generation cowboy spends little time tending pastures, hauling calves to the feedlot or studying the market for cattle futures.

Instead, Burdette is more concerned with whitetail deer, the ferruginous pygmy-owl and how many places to set for dinner.

Today's cattlemen have found a more lucrative line of work selling hunting trips and bird-watching tours on once-thriving ranch land, and, like many ranchers across the Rio Grande Valley, Burdette has shifted his focus from beef to birds and from hay to hunting.

His El Canelo Ranch north of Raymondville draws hunters from around the world who pay thousands of dollars a day to shoot trophy-sized whitetail on his 3,200-acre spread. Artists, photographers and Auduboners pay handsomely for the privilege of seeing rare birds and other wildlife in their natural habitat.

Since Burdette sold his first hunting trip in 1991, ranching has become just a hobby for him a way to pass the time when the oppressive summer heat keeps tourists away.

"If you can't make a living on the cows, you've got to make a living somehow," said Burdette, who also operates an overnight lodge at El Canelo that brings in up to $150 a night from each of the seven bedrooms. "The hunting brings a lot more money than the grazing."

Last year in Hidalgo County, an estimated 32,000 head of cattle and calves were being kept on area ranches, according to figures from the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service. That's the lowest total on record since the first estimates were recorded in 1969.

The county's cattle ranching industry peaked in 1973, when there was an inventory of 93,000 cattle and calves.

But drought, high costs and poor market conditions have taken tens of thousands of cattle out of the region over the past 30 years, according to TASS data, and the local ranching industry is less than half the size it was in the 1970s.Those conditions, coupled with more stringent government regulations, foreign beef imports and the construction of new subdivisions and shopping centers on land once occupied by cattle, have forced ranchers to face hard economic realities. And slowly, a piece of South Texas agricultural tradition has begun to disappear.

A few commercial beef producers still remain, but most local ranches now are owned by doctors, lawyers and other professionals who maintain a small herd as a hobby, not as their primary source of income.

"Yes, there's been a tremendous decline," said Jimmy McAllen, a San Isidro rancher whose great-grandfather, John McAllen, is the city's namesake. "Since 1970, we've all been hit with a disastrous drought, one every three or four years that lasts a couple of years. Nobody can afford to feed the cattle, so they sell them.

"It's only those ranchers who are a little creative who are going to be the survivors," he said.

Ranching has been a part of life in the Rio Grande Valley since the first Spaniards arrived in the 1700s.

Most ranches in the area started as Spanish land grants — and mighty grants they were. Many had their own churches, stores and schools.

Over the past year, when you wanted to know:
*What county government did at its meetings...
*What local school boards did at their meetings, too...
*Who got married to whom and where...
*Who played who in sports...
*What school events are happening...
*What's new at the library...
*Where you can get more deals on classifieds...
*Where the most real estate ads can be seen...
*Who's in the hospital...
*And any number of other interesting things going on in Scurry County...

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Happy Birthday Melvin Cobb

Herm

It was almost to two incumbent trustees filed fo Tuesday night lengthy meeting a

Sherene Digb Higgins both si another term.

Today is the la for a spot on the for local school b city council.

Candidates see on the Ira board p.m. to file whi board hopefuls ha

Citizens wishin councilman seat post must do so b closes at 5 p.m.

Two contested developed in Ira hopeful threw his Tuesday.

Dirk Dunn, a member, signed joins Doug Whit Sanchez seeking post.

Dunn ran last elected, but he when his wife too the school. He ha board and his wif months before again.

Sanchez is a

Hosp

ADMISSIONS: neth Armstrong, Ruth Varner, H Debby Miller and

DISMISSALS: Herminia Arellan mer, Ambrosia He Rhodes.

CENSUS: 47 Long-term Care Nursery-2)

Birt

Laura Renter announces the bi 9:33 p.m. on Mar Memorial Hospit seven pounds, 15

Gene McC

1935-

KILLEEN – McClurg, forn Texas College Wednesday, Ma Killeen hospital.

Services for D were held Satur Baptist Church in Killeen with the Rev. Randy Wallace officiating, crema tion followed.

Born Sept. 13, 1935 in New Mexico, he was reared in El Paso. He earned his B.S Texas Western advanced degre A&M University

A U.S. Air Fo worked for the schools, Odess GTE in San Ang ing the faculty o

He was dean education and t ics, applied phys puter programm ground school.

In 1982, he jo TSTI in Sweetw taught for Texa

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3101 College A

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Hermleigh board attracts two

It was almost to the wire, but two incumbent Hermleigh trustees filed for re-election Tuesday night following a lengthy meeting at the school.

Sherene Digby and David Higgins both signed up for another term.

Today is the last day to file for a spot on the May 5 ballot for local school boards and the city council.

Candidates seeking a place on the Ira board have until 3:30 p.m. to file while Hermleigh board hopefuls have until 4 p.m.

Citizens wishing to file for a councilman seat or the mayor's post must do so before city hall closes at 5 p.m.

Two contested races have developed in Ira and another hopeful threw his hat in the ring Tuesday.

Dirk Dunn, a former board member, signed up, and he joins Doug White and Gilbert Sanchez seeking the Place 7 post.

Dunn ran last May and was elected, but he had to resign when his wife took a position at the school. He had to be off the board and his wife employed six months before he could run again.

Sanchez is a self-employed floor-covering contractor. He was defeated last year by Dennis Taylor in a race for Place 4.

Kirby Sterling has filed for the Place 2 position currently held by Bo Robinson on the Ira school board. Robinson is not seeking re-election.

In addition, Fran Farmer, First American Bank branch manager and local business owner, has filed for the Place 2 post, as has Jeff Kellner, an Anadarko employee.

Farmer has worked for the bank for 25 years, and she also owns Farmer's Design Group, a manufacturing business located on F.M. 1606. A native of Snyder, she has two grandchildren — Haley and Dustin Farmer — attending Ira schools. Her son, Paul, lives in Ira, and her daughter, Tammy Stocker, lives near Austin at Dripping Springs.

Farmer said an interest in the education system and the community prompted her to file.

"We have a great school system. I like the small community school," she said.

Kellner has also lived in Scurry County most of his life, and he and his wife, Kathy, have two children in the Ira school system. Sarah is in kindergarten and Wesley is in eighth grade.

An Ira resident, he is a crew pusher for Anadarko and has worked for the company 11 years.

A 1983 graduate of Ira High School, Kellner says he has a desire for involvement in the community.

"I am trying to get my family and myself more involved in the school system," he said.

Three incumbents have also filed at Ira. Shane Smith is thus far unopposed in Place 5 and Keith Clements is unopposed in Place 6.

Two incumbents have also filed for the Snyder ISD board — Luann Burleson and Cathy Peoples.

Thus far, the city council has attracted three candidates for two at-large positions — Carl L. Moon Jr., Terry Martin and John Reed.

Two candidates have filed for mayor — present councilman James Ashley and Francene Allen-Noah.

Dayton Robertson, who currently holds the mayor's post, has said he will not seek another term.

Early voting begins April 18 and concludes May 1.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: March 20-Kenneth Armstrong, Colton Hunter, Ruth Varner, Richard Grice, Debby Miller and Laura Renteria.

DISMISSALS: Jane Bollinger, Herminia Arellano, Sarah Brammer, Ambrosia Hegedus and Coy Rhodes.

CENSUS: 47 (Med./Surg.-18, Long-term Care-24, OB-3 and Nursery-2)

Births

Laura Renteria of Snyder announces the birth of her son at 9:33 p.m. on March 20 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. He weighed seven pounds, 15 ounces.

Complaint made of trash dumping

• ***Dumping trash***

Deputies received a complaint at 2:08 p.m. Tuesday of someone dumping trash on the side of the road in the 2700 block of Church Avenue.

• ***Loud music***

A resident in the 100 block of Browning was issued a citation at 3:41 p.m. Tuesday for loud music.

Officers were called to the College Park Apartments at 4503 College Avenue at midnight to a report of loud music. Officers spoke with a tenant and advised her to keep the music down.

• ***Gas drive-off***

A clerk with Town & Country on East Coliseum Drive reported a gas drive-off in the amount of $7.01 at 5:02 p.m. Tuesday.

• ***Arrests***

A 26-year-old woman was taken into custody at 8:59 a.m. Tuesday on an Abilene Department of Public Safety warrant for speeding. She was escorted to the sheriff's office where she paid the fine and was released.

At 10:40 a.m., a 37-year-old man was arrested by a DPS trooper on U.S. Highway 84 for no driver's license and possession of drug paraphernalia.

An outstanding San Angelo DPS warrant for not wearing a seatbelt landed a 38-year-old woman in jail at 11:07 a.m. Tuesday. An officers arrested her in the 100 block of Milburn.

A 22-year-old man was taken into custody at 6:34 p.m. Tuesday just east of town on Highway 180 for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

DCOS to meet on Thursday

The Development Corporation of Snyder has a routine agenda for its 4 p.m. meeting Thursday.

The board will consider the monthly financial statements and hear a report from John DeLille, executive director.

The meeting will be in the DCOS boardroom at American State Bank.

Chamber grants 2 hotel/motel funds

Snyder Chamber of Commerce directors granted two hotel/motel requests totaling $6,500 during its Monday meeting.

Directors approved $5,000 to promote the June 6-10 West Texas Western Swing Festival to be held at the coliseum. The other request was to sponsor a life-size fiberglass buffalo statue named "Spirit Within Us," one of a "herd" of buffaloes in the Texas cultural tourism project of the Center for Contemporary Arts in Abilene.

Several artists are involved in painting the buffaloes for the project that will increase the awareness of the buffalo and hopefully promote more tourism.

Ruth Jackson, former Snyder resident and employee of Snyder Daily News, painted the statue chosen by chamber manager Donna Fowler.

The "herd" can first be seen May 10-30 at Western Heritage Week in the Abilene Civic Center. On June 1-5 they will be in the Back to Rath City celebration at Hamlin, and on June 10-16 the fiberglass buffaloes will be at the West Texas Western Swing Festival at the Scurry County Coliseum. They will also be included in festivities at the Albany Fandangle and the Stamford Cowboy Reunion July 1-7, and other

West Texas shows and events.

In August, "Spirit Within Us" will be placed permanently on the lawn at the chamber office.

It was also decided that Mark Cypert and Mike Rodriquez would co-chair the annual July 4th activities.

Obituaries

Gene McClurg

1935-2001

KILLEEN – Dr. Gene R. McClurg, former Western Texas College dean, died Wednesday, March 14, in a Killeen hospital.

Services for Dr. McClurg, 65, were held Saturday in the First Baptist Church in Killeen with the Rev. Randy Wallace officiating, cremation followed.



Gene McClurg

Born Sept. 13, 1935 in New Mexico, he was reared in El Paso. He earned his B.S. degree from Texas Western College and his advanced degrees from Texas A&M University.

A U.S. Air Force veteran, he worked for the El Paso public schools, Odessa College and GTE in San Angelo before joining the faculty of WTC in 1974.

He was dean of occupational education and taught electronics, applied physics, math, computer programming and aviation ground school.

In 1982, he joined the staff of TSTI in Sweetwater and later taught for Texas Tech, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Arizona and at New Mexico State University.

In Snyder, he was a Goldcoater, a member of the Industrial Foundation, Heart Association and Rotary Club.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara McClurg of Copperas Cove; two daughters, Terri Robles of Odessa and Kimberly Parris of Austin; two stepsons, James Holdampf of Big Spring and Barry Holdampf of Salado; three stepdaughters, Sheri Rountree of Sheridan, Wyo., Christine Yengst of Austin and Danette Stallings of Marble Falls; and 14 grandchildren.

Lula Metcalf

1913-2001

Funeral service for Lula Viola Boyd Metcalf of Big Spring is set for 3 p.m. Friday in the Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Larry White, pastor of Faith Baptist Church, will officiate. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Mrs. Metcalf, 87, died Friday, March 16, in University Medical Center in Lubbock after a sudden illness.

Born May 31, 1913 in Rogers, Mrs. Metcalf was a homemaker and a Baptist. She married Jerry Metcalf in 1977 in China, Tex.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Walter Boyd in 1968; three brothers, Milton, Bill and Leroy Strickland.

Survivors include her husband, Jerry Metcalf of Big Spring; two sons, Billy Don Boyd of Beaumont and Ruel Lynn Metcalf of Las Vegas, Nev.; two daughters, Rena Beth Lee of Wichita Falls and Rhonda Mulholland of Portland, Ore.; two sisters, Elnora Clark of Snyder and Lorene Snyder of Odessa; one brother, David Strickland of Chandler; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

Family visitation will be held from 6-8 this evening at the funeral home.

Freddie Roberts

1956-2001

LEVELLAND – Freddie Roberts, the brother of Mike Roberts of Snyder, died Monday, March 19, in Lubbock.

Funeral service for Mr. Roberts, 44, is set for 2:30 p.m. Thursday in the Geo. C. Price Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Larry Cothrin officiating. Burial will follow in the City of Levelland Cemetery.

Born May 5, 1956 in Levelland, he attended Levelland schools and married Anita Trayler on Feb. 13, 1990 in Levelland.

A lifelong resident of Levelland, Mr. Roberts was manager of T&B Well Service.

Survivors also include his wife, Anita Roberts of Levelland; three sons, Joe, Michael and Jody Roberts, all of Levelland; three daughters, Terry, LaShea and Shasta Roberts, all of Levelland; his parents, Billy Joe and LaRaina Roberts of Levelland; and a sister, Rhonda Wallace of Hobbs, N.M.

Betty Bickley

1929-2001

DALLAS – Betty Bickley, the sister of Mary Lou Scott of Snyder, died Saturday, March 17, at her home in Dallas.

Funeral service for Mrs. Bickley, 71, will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday in the Wheatland United Methodist Church. Interment will follow in the DFW National Cemetery.

Mrs. Bickley was preceded in death by her husband, Rankin Bickley, and a brother-in-law, Troy Scott, both who died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident last January in Dallas.

Born Aug. 4, 1929 in Dallas, she was a graduate of Sunset High School and attended Texas State College for Women in Denton, graduating in 1950 with a degree in music. She earned a master's in elementary education from North Texas State University.

She turned down offers to play in an orchestra and band and instead taught band for one year in Farmersville. She spent the next 39 years with the Dallas ISD. She also played trumpet with the Oak Cliff Symphony Orchestra.

Memorials may be made to the IOOF Lodge of Irving or the Wheatland United Methodist Church.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

4-H Horse Club

Scurry County 4-H Horse Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. today in the East Elementary cafeteria.

Financial aid workshop

A financial aid workshop for area high school students planning to attend college and with questions about financial aid will be held at 7 this evening at Snyder High School. If you have questions, or plan to attend, call Janell Jones at 574-6049.

FFA Booster Club

The Snyder FFA Booster Club will meet at 7 tonight in the SHS ag building.

Snyder girls softball association meeting

The Snyder girls softball association will meet at 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Texas Savings Bank. All board members are urged to be present.

Stress workshop

A stress survival skills workshop will be presented Friday and Saturday at Colonial Hill Baptist Church. Cost is $10 and includes lunch Saturday plus all conference material. Friday's sessions are from 7-10 p.m. and Saturday's sessions are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 573-8596 for reservations. Deadline is today.

C.H.I.P. signup

Children's Health Insurance Program signup will be held from 2-6 p.m. Thursday at Central Elementary. Another registration will be held from 2-7 p.m. Tuesday at Northeast Elementary.

Parents meeting

Parents of all Snyder 8th grade students are urged to attend a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at the junior high auditorium. High school counselor Debbie Phillips will provide information and answer questions concerning high school registration procedures, course selection and requirements for the diploma programs.

Northeast reading night

Northeast Elementary will host family reading night starting at 6:30 Thursday. Pizza and soft drinks will be served and childcare is provided.

West family reading night

West Elementary holds its family reading night from 6-7:30 p.m. every Thursday. New sessions have been added. Childcare and refreshments are provided.

GED testing dates

Testing dates this month for GED (high school equivalency) will be Friday and Friday, March 30. For more information call Molly Kattes, 573-2919, or Emily Hataway, 574-2112 at home, or 573-8511, ext. 297 at WTC between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Revival services

The public is invited to revival services at Faith Baptist Church beginning Sunday. Services will be held Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., and at 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Jerry Reed is the evangelist.

Calvary Baptist Church special services

Calvary Baptist Church will have evangelist Clark Bosher speaking at 9:45 and 10:50 a.m. Sunday. There will be a barbecue dinner served after the morning service. Bosher will also speak at 1:30 p.m. Special music will be provided by the adult choir and men's group in the morning, and the children's choir in the afternoon. For transportation to the church at 2405 35th St., call 573-2191.

Ave. D Baptist Church concert

The Robert Haynie Family from Lubbock will be in concert at 5 p.m. Sunday at the Avenue D Baptist Church, 324 30th St. Everyone is invited. For additional information, call 573-0971.

Weigh Down Workshop

An orientation for a Weigh Down Workshop will be held at 7 p.m. Monday at the Word is Life Church. For more information, call Donna Nehring at 573-7471

Cancer Society board meeting

Directors of the Scurry County unit of the American Cancer Society will meet at 5 p.m. next Tuesday in the Cogdell Hospital board room.

Alzheimer support group

The Alzheimer family support group meets at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at Snyder Oaks Care Center.

Adult basic education classes

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

Rabies vaccination day

The yearly rabies vaccination day will be held from 1-7 p.m. on Saturday, March 31, at the Snyder Fire Department. The cost is $6 for the vaccination and city tags will be free. Patrons are asked to park behind Texas Savings Bank.

Free preview of training film set

The public is invited to a free preview of a training film entitled "Retaining a Quality Workforce" set from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday at the Western Texas College science lecture hall.

The training is provided by The West Central Texas Workforce Center in coordination with WTC and is designed to provide supervisors an overview of the three-hour class that will be held at a later time and date.

Dr. Ben Gray is the instructor. His experience includes management development services in a variety of settings including healthcare, psychiatric, mental health and mental retardation and the non-profit sector.

He has more than 30 years experience in the workforce and fourteen years of instruction at the university level. He places special emphasis upon skills development and applying those skills to the workplace.

The training will cover material for employers and supervisors on retaining the workforce, recognizing needs of the employees and weaknesses of the employer.

MAR 21 2001

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Thursday, March 22, 2001

It's quite possible that your interests might shift in the year ahead regarding the types of friends with whom you'll want to associate. To be a doer, select companions of this ilk.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Even when talking about someone who deserves a tongue lashing, be careful what you say about this person and to whom. Your remarks could make you look bad instead of the wrongdoer.

Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Carefully examine your reasons for your mode of behavior today when fighting for something you want. If it's purely materialistic, your prize will be hollow.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — When dealing with career issues, be careful not to get into a finger-pointing contest with an associate as to who is right and who is wrong. You'll both look foolish and no one will win.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Don't get jockeyed into a position today of playing political intrigue games, be they at work or when socializing. They'll cause nothing but problems for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — That change for which you've been striving may happen today much because of your urgings. However, what transpires afterward may leave you wondering if you did the right thing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Check several sources before lashing out today after hearing about some unflattering things someone claims were being said of you. The story you get might not be based on fact.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — If you're all about wishing for things instead of working for them today, that ambitious objective about which you're talking will never be fulfilled. It's all fantasy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Naivete usually turns out to be expensive, and today could be no exception. Believing everything you hear because it's what you want to hear and then taking action on it will be a major mistake.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Better have a back-up lined up if what you're involved in today requires a helping hand. Chances are that person upon whom you're depending will be a no-show.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Don't waste any more time making excuses today about an assignment that has turned out to be a thorn in your side. Do what needs doing, no matter how distasteful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Those extravagant whims you get from time to time might surface today and dominate your prudent inclinations. Some form of waste or even a loss is probable.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — The only way you're going to finish what you start today is to first get organized and then be persistent. The more anxious you become about completion, the less efficient you'll be.

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Harris, Florida secretary of state, releases chad-free election plan

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida's days of punchcard ballots are history, Secretary of State Katherine Harris said Tuesday in offering a 21st-century solution to the state's maligned election system.

Harris wants the state to lease precinct-based optical scanners for the 2002 election and to develop a system for 2004 that would let people cast ballots from anywhere in the state using a high-tech, direct-recording system yet to be developed.

Included in Harris' three-year plan is a centralized voter database that would automatically update registration information, identify duplicates and remove the names of dead voters from the rolls.

She said she was seeking comprehensive reform, not a "Band-Aid elixir that gives all of us some sense of reprieve before the next problem ... the next glitch ... the next outcry about process and fairness."

Lawmakers are having a hard time looking past the $200 million price tag on the three-year plan, which must be approved by the Legislature.

The Senate has allocated $20 million for election reform, but has not specified how it should be spent. The House budget sets aside $23 million.

Senate President John McKay said the state should not pay to put scanners in each precinct.

Oklahoma uses precinct-based optical scanners and is the only state with a statewide voting system.

Harris, a Republican, was in the spotlight during Florida's five-week vote-recount saga last year that ended with in a 537-vote victory by George W. Bush over Al Gore. Possible errors in punchcard balloting, questions about voters dropped from the rolls and other problems led to widespread calls for reform.

After criticism of partisan influence, Harris also proposed removing much of the power from Florida's 67 county canvassing boards, shifting decision-making about election disputes and manual recounts to the state canvassing commission.

The bill also includes a recommendation for provisional ballots which would let voters cast their ballot even if their registration is in question on busy election days. Election officials would later verify the eligibility, and strike the vote if the person was ineligible.

Harris' plan calls for lawmakers to spend $49 million this year, including an estimated $20 million to lease optical scanner systems for 41 counties not already using the technology.

Voters fill in bubbles next to a candidate's name and the scanners read the ballots. If there is a mistake, the machines kick the ballots out so they can be corrected.

McKay, a Bradenton Republican, has said leasing the scanners is a bad deal and precinct-based technology is unnecessary.

Jim Smith, co-chairman of an elections task force appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush, said Harris' proposal was ambitious.

"What is reliable and available and affordable for Florida right now is the optical scanner at the precinct level," Smith said.

Bush strongly recommends the precinct-based scan technology along with establishing statewide recount standards and a centralized voter database.

But, Bush said, "The exact details are not as important as getting this done."

Judge to rule if prison oversight ends

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal appeals court Tuesday gave U.S. District Court Judge William Wayne Justice 90 days to decide whether Texas has improved its state prisons enough to be free of his continued oversight.

The decision from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans edges Texas closer to the end of what has been nearly a 30-year legal battle over conditions in state prisons.

"I am sure that the conditions that existed when the consent decree was entered no longer exist, and I am sure many of those affected at the time are long gone from the penitentiary," wrote Judge Reynoldo Garza in a concurring opinion. "If any of the present prisoners have need for some kind of help, they can file another lawsuit against the Texas prison system, but this case has to be ended."

He urged Justice "to do so if at all possible."

Tuesday's ruling reverses Justice's refusal in 1999 to completely surrender his oversight of Texas prisons but returns the case to him. State officials last November, in arguments before the 5th Circuit, appealed Justice's 1999 decision, where he acknowledged the state had made dramatic improvements but declined to totally sever his jurisdiction over the agency and end a 1992 consent decree.

"This is a huge victory for Texas," Attorney General John Cornyn said. "Never before has the 5th Circuit acknowledged the Ruiz decision is now virtually a moot point."

Tuesday's ruling, he added, "soon will lead to the restoration of Texas' sovereignty over its prison system."

In its 12-page ruling Tuesday, the appeals court said Justice needed to define specifically any problems he found in the prisons and determine how they violated his orders.

"On remand, the court should make an assessment ... as to each provision of the 1992 judgment, in light of its findings of the unconstitutionality of various conditions in (the prison system)," Judge Carl E. Stewart, writing for the court, said.

As an example, Stewart said if excessive use of force is the only constitutional violation found, then Justice can decide provisions regarding crowding issues may no longer be necessary.

Cornyn said the effect of the appeals court ruling was that Justice needed to justify to the higher court why he and not Texas should be operating the state's prisons.

"It should be gratifying to all Texans that control and accountability over our prison system is now very close to being in the hands of Texans once again," Cornyn said.

The case began in 1972 when inmate David Ruiz, in a handwritten federal court lawsuit, claimed conditions were so brutal and crowded they amounted to cruel and unusual punishment, a constitutional violation.

Justice agreed in 1981 and the state's eventual response was to spend billions of dollars on new prisons and improvements. Most federal controls were lifted in the 1992 settlement but the judge retained oversight. It was that control state officials want to end.

"Our official position is that now the ball is back in Justice's court and we will look forward to seeing what he says," said Glen Castlebury, Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman.

Growing drug, alcohol use in Scurry County topic of meet

continued from Page 1

baffling her as to where they were going.

She said she has tried numerous options, and she is still not positive Brady will come home and stay clean.

"We are on plan "P", but I'm not going to give up on Brady."

Several other speakers, including Justice of the Peace Deborah Boyd, spoke.

"We have a drug and alcohol problem in Snyder," she said. "I certainly did not realize it until I started working in this office."

The judge told of the numerous drug paraphernalia and alcohol-related cases that come through her courts and the direct connection with the truancy cases she sees.

"We drug screen lots of kids on truancy cases and most test positive for marijuana. Some have traces of cocaine and opiates. What is happening is the drug dealers are lacing the marijuana and getting our kids hooked."

She told of a 13-year-old boy whose mom is in prison and whose dad is in and out of jail. She said he admits his marijuana use. Then there is a 16-year-old boy she sees in her office on a regular basis. "I don't think that I've ever talked to him that he was not loaded."

She also told of a "sharp dressed" young man, one who she said any mom wouldn't think twice about her daughter bringing home, who is on drugs.

"It is not just poor families or minority families. It is in white families, in rich families, in middle class families."

Judge Boyd showed pictures of Stacy and Amber Short, who attended school briefly here before their family moved to Port Arthur. The sisters were killed by a drunk driver in a two-vehicle accident last December.

"Somehow, someway, we have to get the message across that drinking and driving does not mix. Let's not wait until it is one of our teenagers. Let's pull together. Let's do something to stop the drug and alcohol problem in Scurry County."

GSgt. David Presley of the S.T.A.R. Bootcamp and his cadets were also at the meeting.

"We work on life skills," he said. "They are not bad kids. They are good kids that made bad decisions."

Sy Tabor, Community Supervisions and Corrections Department director and a member of the Boys and Girls Club board, said, "I've known for a long time that Scurry County has a drug problem. I've known for a long time that Scurry County has an alcohol problem."

Tabor said he works with offenders every day. "I have no lack of business," he said. He said he likes to tell people, "I am in the business of trying to put myself out of business."

He said as he began looking at his life, he reached two personal decisions — one was that he needed to be in church and one was that he needed to be involved. That's is when he got involved with the Boys and Girls Club. "There is a whole lot of potential to do a whole lot of prevention."

Tabor urged the citizens to get involved in the community and to care. "That is what is changing lives," he said, noting a saying he has heard — "People need people. They don't need alcohol or drugs."

Leslie Cooley, CADA programs coordinator and local volunteer, also urged citizens to become volunteers at a local agency or church. She said everyone has something to offer, even if they think they have no special gift. "If you can lick a stamp, you have a special gift."

Tony Wofford, pastor of the Word Is Life Deliverance Church, also addressed the group.

"What I would like to see is more parenting, getting involved with your children — crying with them, playing with them, laughing with them."

Drawing from his experience as a father of four, the pastor said what kids need and desire is love, direction and discipline. "Parents, it is alright to tell your kids 'no'. It is alright that they don't get to do everything they want to do."

He encouraged youth to stay away from alcohol, drugs and premarital sex. "You don't have to do it because you think everyone else is doing it. Be original."

CADA prevention specialist and coalition chair Krista Maddox closed the three-hour meeting. She said the purpose of this first session was to seek input and to gather prospective volunteers. Sign-up sheets were handed out and those indicating a desire to volunteer will be connected with a local agency that is in need of a volunteer.

The coalition also will plan positive youth-centered activities. "We need to come together to keep these kids out of trouble," Maddox said.

Interest rates cut by half a percent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve is sending a strong signal that it stands ready to do whatever is necessary to keep the economy from falling into recession. That could include another interest rate cut before the Fed's next meeting in two months.

The prospects of future rate cuts gave no comfort to investors on Wall Street. The market suffered a huge drop immediately after the Fed's announcement Tuesday of a half-point cut in a key interest rate. Investors were hoping for a bigger, three-quarters-point reduction. The disappointment carried over into trading Wednesday. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 102 points, while the Nasdaq was up 6 points in morning trading.

Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues slashed a key interest rate again Tuesday, the third half-point reduction this year, in an effort to keep the ailing economy afloat.

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