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WT-Int. Crude - $28.40
WTIC Posted - $25.50

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY

March 22, 2000
Vol. 51 No. 278
10 Pages 50¢

Home Of Janie Graham

'Pray for Rain' meet scheduled for tonight

As scattered heavy rains fall

Sometimes it just might be the thought that counts.

As the Scurry County Ministerial Alliance was making final plans for tonight's area-wide prayer service for rain, a severe thunderstorm warning was issued for Scurry County and more than three inches of moisture was recorded Tuesday evening .

Rainfall throughout the county measured from the high of 3.1 inches at the Scurry County Gin on the Lamesa highway, to only .2 at the city's water treatment plant.

Not a sprinkle was reported in the southern and southeastern portions of the county.

Golf ball size hail fell during the height of the storm in the area around Snyder Country Club and north on the Clairemont highway.

The National Weather Service issued a tornado warning for the county at 7:17 p.m. as its Doppler radar indicated a possible tornado three miles north of Snyder, moving to the northeast.

That warning expired at 8 p.m. and law enforcement personnel this morning had not received reports of any tornado damage.

However, officers reported the front glass blown out of D&D Auto on North College Avenue around 7 p.m.

Law enforcement personnel did barricade FM 1611 north of Highway 180 around 8 o'clock as water was over the roadway. Scurry County deputies requested assistance getting a tractor-trailer rig unstuck from the bar ditch on Highway 84 at this time also. There were also reports of washed-out terraces.

Electricity was off for around an hour in some parts of Snyder due to the storm, and the Town & Country convenience store on College Avenue had to close during this time.

At 8:30 p.m., the tornado warning was dropped, and a thunderstorm warning was issued.

Warnings and watches continued most of Tuesday night and early Wednesday for West Texas.

Most of the rainfall and hail was west of Snyder as the Deep Creek water shed had the creek flowing this morning.

Forecasters were calling for a 70 percent chance of rain for today, and a 30 percent for Thursday.

This could change with the prayer service set for 7 this evening in the Scurry County Coliseum. The churches of Scurry County will host the event because concerns for the plight of farmers and others in the community who are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood.

The prayer service is open to the whole community and everyone is welcome. Pastors and community leaders from various churches will share scripture passages and lead in prayer. Those in attendance will be encouraged to join in prayers and to spend time afterward praying with friends and family.

The ministerial alliance is a voluntary association of all Christian churches in Scurry County dedicated to ministering to the needs of the community.

The alliance also hosts Easter Holy Week services and a community Thanksgiving service. In addition, the alliance administers cooperative benevolence activities including the community Food Bank and emergency assistance with utilities.

Rainfall Reports

Snyder	.20
North of City	2.00
East of City	.20
West of City	2.75
NW of City	2.50
Lake Thomas	None
Hermleigh	Trace
Fluvanna	Trace
Polar	.10
Loyd Mountain	.70
Camp Springs	.30
Dunn	None
Ira	Trace
Dermott	.10
Union	3.10
Gail	.30
Scurry County Gin	3.10
Inadale	Trace

As reported by area residents for Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "The only thing that could replace most husbands is a winning lottery ticket."

Frank Miller retired several years ago as an elementary school principal, but he may have stayed in the business too long.

He brought this item in. And if you can't blame it on elementary intellect, then just blame it on Frank being an Aggie.

"You know that all potatoes have eyes. Well, Mr. and Mrs. Potato had eyes for each other and they finally got married and had a little one – a real sweet potato who they called 'Yam.'

"They wanted the best for little Yam, telling her all about the facts of life. They warned her about going out and getting half baked because she could get mashed.

"She could get a bad name like Hot Potato, and then end up with a bunch of Tater Tots.

"Yam said not to worry, no Mr. McSpud would get her in the sack and make a Rotten Potato out of her. But she couldn't stay home and become a Couch Potato either.

"She would get plenty of food and exercise, so as not to be skinny like her Shoestring cousins.

"Mr. and Mrs. Potato even told her about going off to Europe and to watch out for the Hard Boiled guys from Ireland and even the greasy guys from France called the French Fries.

"They also said she should watch out for the Indians when going out west because she could get Scalloped.

"Yam told them she would stay on the straight and narrow and wouldn't associate with those high class Blue Belles or the ones from the other side of the tracks who advertise their trade on all the trucks you see around town that say Frito-Lay.

"Mr. and Mrs. Potato wanted the best for Yam, so they sent her to Idaho U, that's Potato University, where the Big Potatoes come from. When she graduated, she'd be in the Chips.

"But one day she came home and announced she was going to marry Walter Cronkite. Mr. and Mrs. Potato were very upset and said she couldn't marry him.

"He was just a Common Tater."

Just one last question for when the booing dies down…

Will Bill Clinton's presidential library be X-rated?

Disaster training is set by American Red Cross

The American Red Cross will hold disaster training classes Thursday through Saturday in Snyder at the Scurry County Senior Center.

The classes are free and open to the public. The Red Cross is encouraging prior-registration through the Odessa office at 1-800-219-2154, but walk-ins are welcome.

For more information, contact Susie Whitman at the Odessa office.

On Thursday, the class will be introduction to disaster and damage and will be held from 6-10 p.m.

On Friday at the same times, the class will be mass care and shelter operations, and Saturday; the class will be from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Saturday's class will focus on emergency assistance to families.

Officers, directors re-elected by TSB

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

Re-elected as directors were board chairman David Cotton along with Dr. James Cave, Monte West, Keith Hackfeld, Dr. Charles Church, John Coffman, Daryl 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. Named assistant vice president was Sally Herrington.

PLAY WITHIN A PLAY — Michael Gibson, far left, won best actor Tuesday at district one-act play competition for his portrayal of Nick Bottom, weaver, who with his comical friends, played by Chris Showmake and Austin Haire, continuing from left, stage a foolish 'play' they plan to play at the wedding of Theseus, the duke of Athens. Snyder High School won district with *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

It's no dream, SHS drama production wins first place

How sweet it is! Victory that is.

Snyder High School won the district 5 4A one-act place contest in Big Spring Tuesday with its production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare.

The local thespians now advance to the area competition, which Snyder will host on April 7.

Snyder also collected five acting awards, more than any other school. Michael Gibson, who portrays the dual roles of Bottom and Pyramus, was named best actor.

Three others were named to the all-star cast and one received honorable mention. Mark Haines, Hayli Henderson and Valerie Haines earned all-star recognition and Corey Knipe received honorable mention.

Haines plays Puck, the mischievous elf. Henderson also plays dual roles: Hippolyta, queen of the Amazons, and Titania, queen of Oberon. Valerie Haines plays Peaseblossom, the main fairy.

Knipe also has dual roles. Besides Theseus, Duke of Athens, he also plays Oberon.

"It was a wonderful performance from the cast and crew," said Jerry Worsham, drama director. "They had worked very hard during spring break and their work paid off. They received high praise from the critic judge, Victor Siller of Tyler, as well as many, many compliments from the audience. I am very proud of this group, they certainly represented Snyder with class and excellence," Worsham added.

SHS' won state in 1995 with A Midsummer Night's Dream. In all, the school has won 13 state titles. Under Worsham's tenure, Snyder has advanced to the state contest 27 times.

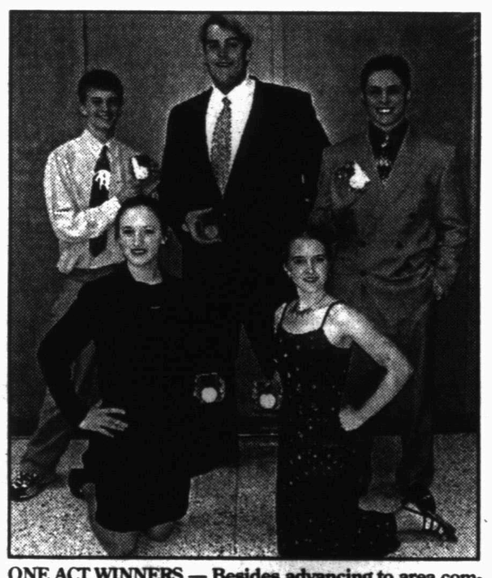
Advancing with Snyder will be Big Spring High School's production of *They Dance Real Slow in Jackson.*

Other acting awards included Lauren Fraser of Big Spring as the best actress. Additional all star cast members are Zack Bloom of Andrews, Liz Banks of Sweetwater, George Williams of Big Spring, Hesper Lehnert of Ft. Stockton, Shannon John of San Angelo Lake View.

Also earning honorable mention are Brandi Vaughn and Gaberiel Arntt of Lake View, Erin Simms of Fort Stockton, Sarah Smith and Toryn Haynes of Big Spring, Shannah Head of Sweetwater and Stephanie Dupont of Andrews.

Lake View's production of *Wings* was declared the third place winner.

Other high schools competing were Fort Stockton, *Fables A Play In One Act;* Sweetwater, *A Gap in Generations*, and Andrews High School, *The Crucible.*



ONE ACT WINNERS — Besides advancing to area competition on April 7, Snyder High School thespians earned five acting awards at district one-act competition Tuesday, more than any other school. Back row from left, Mark Haines, all-star cast; Corey Knipe, honorable mention all-star cast; Michael Gibson, best actor. Front row from left, Hayli Henderson and Vallery Haines, both all-star cast. (Contributed Photo)

Ira High advances in zone competition

The cast and crew of Ira High School's one-act play *And They Dance Real Slow in Jackson* will hardly have time to catch their breath before entering the second round of one-act play competition in Thursday's District 9-A one act play contest to be held at Dawson High School.

Ira won the right to advance during the east zone contest held Tuesday at Borden County High School.

Five individual Ira players were also recognized, including Trey Shirley who was named best actor. Katie Howard and Shade Everton were named to the all-star cast, and Tosha Walker and Case Hardy, received honorable mention.

Triana Jackson, who directed Ira's play along with Supt. Rick Howard, said, "I was very impressed with the cast and crew."

Hermleigh High School also competed in Tuesday's East Zone contest. Randi K. Herrington and Jared Higgins were named to the all star cast and Terrel Culp received honorable mention. Hermleigh performed *Ondine.*

ASK US

Q—Will the book sale at the library be during regular hours?

A—It will be regular hours Friday and Saturday. The library is open until 9 p.m. Thursday, but the sale will close at 8 o'clock.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Tuesday, 79 degrees; low, 51; 7 a.m. Wednesday, 51; .2 precipitation; total for 2000, 2.06 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, cloudy, 70% rain chance. Low, upper 40s. E to SE wind 15-25 mph, gusty; Thursday, some clouds, windy, 30% rain chance.

Joe Rivera
Rain

Sunset: 6:57 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:44 a.m.
Of 81 days in 2000, the sun has shone 80 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

The beginnings of all things are small.

—Cicero

MAR 22 2000

Hostages freed; suspect killed

DUNDALK, Md. (AP) — Police were willing to wait for slaying suspect Joseph Palczynski to release his three hostages.

The hostages weren't.

With Palczynski sleeping on the living-room sofa, Lynn Whitehead and Andy McCord climbed out a first-floor bedroom window late Tuesday, leaving their 12-year-old son asleep on the kitchen floor.

Palczynski, accused of kidnapping Whitehead's daughter and killing four people before the standoff began, died minutes later after police stormed the apartment and shot him to death. The little boy was rescued.

"I'm just so glad it ended up how it did. My family's safe," Mary McCord, Lynn Whitehead's sister, told WJZ-TV. "And now we can all sleep, go on with our life."

Her husband, David McCord, said Andy McCord had called during the weekend and said: "'Dave, I love everybody,' he said, 'and tell mom — tell her I love her too, because I don't know if I'm going to make it or not.' And he was crying his eyes out."

Palczynski, a 31-year-old unemployed electrician with a history of mental illness, stormed into the apartment on Friday. Police negotiations had continued even after shots were fired out of the apartment over the weekend.

"We were willing to stay as long as it took," police spokesman Bill Toohey said afterward.

Whitehead fled first and McCord followed several minutes later. Once they left, police said they had no choice but to enter.

"They knew there was one 12-year-old boy in there, and a man who had murdered four people," Toohey said.

Palczynski was asleep on a sofa with a gun on his lap under a blanket when police burst in through a living room window, Toohey said. Palczynski "began to sit up, and tactical officers shot and killed him," police spokeswoman Vickie Warehime said.

She said two officers fired shots, but the number of shots was not immediately known.

Attorney David Henninger, a longtime friend of Palczynski who was involved in the negotiations, said he knew the end was coming.

Palczynski was arrested March 4 on assault charges for allegedly beating his girlfriend, Tracy Whitehead, when she tried to move out of their apartment. He was released the next day on $7,500 bond despite a lengthy criminal record.

The killings began March 7, when police say Palczynski abducted Tracy Whitehead at gunpoint and fatally shot George and Gloria Shenk, the couple who had sheltered her. Outside the Shenk home, he allegedly shot and killed David Meyers, 42, a neighbor who tried to help Whitehead during the struggle.

Whitehead escaped the next day by running to a police officer who happened to be at a motel where Palczynski took her.

Also that day, police said, Jennifer McDonel was fatally shot and a 2-year-old boy was wounded when they drove by as Palczynski fired shots during an attempted carjacking.

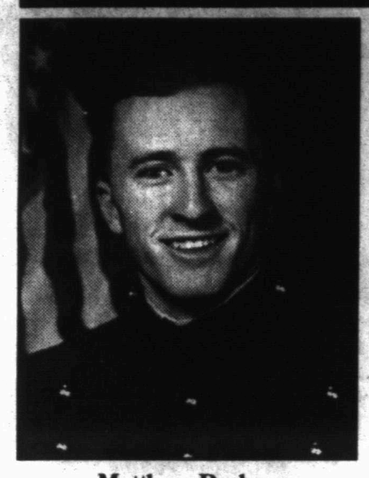
Palczynski then led police on a manhunt for more than a week before surfacing in this Baltimore suburb. Police said his main demand during the standoff was to speak to Tracy Whitehead.

In a phone call to WJZ-TV on Sunday that the station aired for the first time Tuesday night, Palczynski said police wouldn't let him talk to her.

"I love her dearly. I did not mean to kill those people," Palczynski said. "I've been begging for them to just allow me to talk to Tracy. I will surrender peacefully. I won't kill anybody else, I won't hurt anybody else. I did not mean to do any of this."

Ecstatic neighbors let out a cheer when they learned the standoff was over.

Melissa Haley, who was trapped in her house with six other adults, two teen-agers, three young children and three dogs, was getting ready for bed so she would be ready to go to work for the first time since last week.



Matthew Parker

Parker on Dean's List, gets Silver Star at West Point

Army Cadet Matthew L. Parker was placed with honors on the Dean's List at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. for maintaining a required 3.0 grade point average.

The cadet also received a silver star, which is awarded to students who are on the Dean's List for a year, carry an academic performance score greater than 3.0 with a full academic load, and have no failing grades.

The cadet plans to graduate in the year 2000 with a bachelor's degree and will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

The cadet's academic concentration is in general management.

Parker is the son of Bill C. and Barbara J. Parker of Snyder.

He graduated from Snyder High School in 1996 and plays on the Army football team.

Ely begins basic training in Army

Army National Guard Pfc. Patrick A. Ely has entered basic military training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Ely is the son of Barbara E. and Robert J. Vincent of Snyder. He graduated from Snyder High School in 1999.

—

Arkansas is the 25th state.

Post and Steakley listed on honor roll

DALLAS —Two students from Snyder have been placed on the recently released undergraduate honor roll for the fall semester at Southern Methodist University.

Christopher Post, a junior finance and economics major, is the son of Mike and Kathy Post.

Joseph Jene Steakley is a sophomore and son of Jene and Elaine Steakley.

To be listed on the SMU honor roll, students must achieve a 3.5 or higher cumulative grade point average, which places them in the top 22 percent of all SMU undergraduate degree students.

Glock, Browning nix new gun deal

SMYRNA, Ga. (AP) — Two gunmakers — Glock Inc. and Browning — will not sign voluntary gun-contratory agency."

Rich Bauter, vice president of firearms marketing for Browning, also said the company would not agree to an accord.

"I would think that everybody in the country should be absolutely outraged, at not only Smith & Wesson's steps, but also the U.S. government's steps that have intruded into the legislative process," he said Tuesday.

Browning was founded by Mormon pioneers and has offices north of Salt Lake City, but is owned by Fabrique Nationale d'Armes de Guerre of Belgium.

"OUR SON is a suspect in the denial-of-service attacks on those big commercial Internet sites."

Date Book

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Today is the 82nd day of 2000 and the third day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail. He intended to find a western sea route to India, but instead found the New World.

On this day in 1963, the first Beatles album, "Please, Please Me," was released in the United Kingdom.

On this day in 1990, President George Bush stated that he did not care for broccoli.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Karl Malden (1913-), actor, is 87; Marcel Marceau (1923-), mime, is 77; Stephen Sondheim (1930-), composer-lyricist, is 70; Pat Robertson (1930-), evangelist, is 70; William Shatner (1931-), actor, is 69; Andrew Lloyd Webber (1948-), composer, is 52; Bob Costas (1952-), sportscaster, is 48.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1967, Muhammad Ali knocked out Zora Foley.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Never get a mime talking. He won't stop." — Marcel Marceau

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (March 19) and last quarter (March 27).

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Twentyfive million of the 162,000,000 telephones in the United States have unlisted numbers.

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FACES FROM THE PAST

Do You Know These Faces? If You Do **ENTER!!!** You Don't Have To Know Them All!
The Prize For The Winner This Week Will Be **3 Months Subscription**
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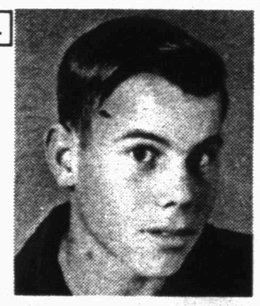
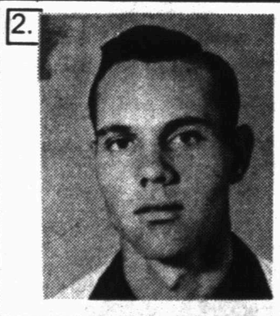
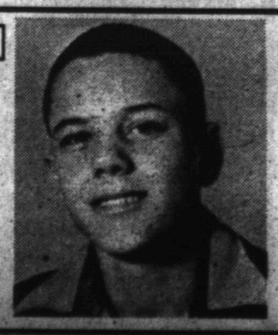
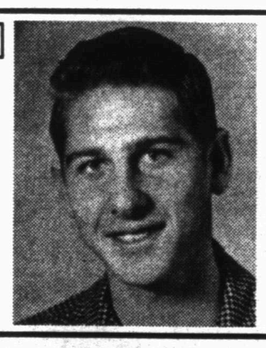
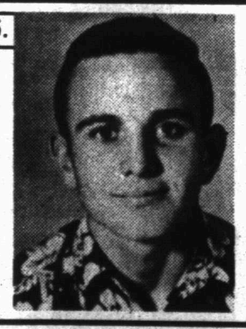
1. 
Texas Savings Bank
Member FDIC
2619 College Avenue
Snyder, Texas 79549
915-573-9305

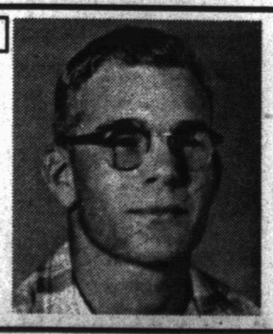
2. 
Fast Oil Change
Mark & Angie Strickland
417 27th Street
(Ave E & 25th Street)
915-573-9643

3.
Plaza Cafe
Hwy. 84 Bypass
& Huffman

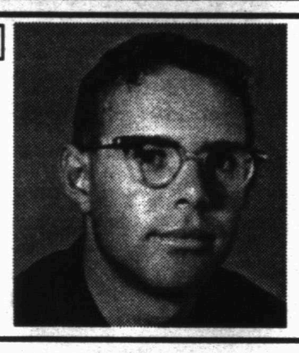
4. 
Cutting Edge Hair Salon
Xalyn Palacios
574-EDGE (3343)
2109 College Ave.
Snyder, Texas 79549

5. 
West Texas State Bank
Member FDIC

6. 
American State Bank
"Right Size To Be Friendly"
3610 College Ave
573-4041
Member FDIC

7. 
Rudy's
4604 College Ave
573-7455
Tiger Fanatics

8.
Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home
3101 College Ave.
573-5454

9. 
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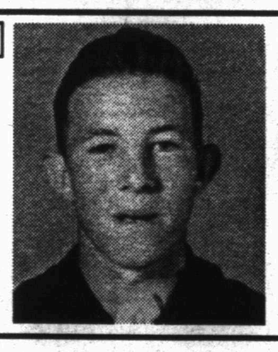
3600 College Ave
573-5486

10. 
THE SUBWAY
A SANDWICH SHOULD BE.
3903 College Ave.
573-9782
Snyder, Texas

LAST WEEK'S WINNER IS Helen Kellner
FACES FROM THE PAST ENTRY WEEK 112

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4. Cutting Edge _____
5. West Texas State Bank _____
6. American State Bank _____
7. Rudy's Restaurant _____
8. Bell-Cypert-Seale _____
9. Snyder Daily News _____
10. Subway _____

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

In each advertisement you will find a face from the past. Identify the faces on the entry blank opposite the name of the sponsoring business. **Bring or mail the entry blank to the Snyder Daily News, 3600 College Ave. PO Box 949, Snyder, Texas 79550.** The deadline for entering is 5 pm Monday before the next contest appears on Wednesday. The weekly winner will be drawn from all the correct entries. Employees of the SDN are not eligible to enter.

Last week's photos: 1. Belinda Davis 2. Beverly DeShazo 3. Carroll Stone 4. Gary Blacksher 5. Glenda Dicky 6. Jerry Hazel 7. Mary Breedon 8. Mel Heard 9. Raymond Graves 10. Rita Alexander

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Weather radios stand sentry as guards against bad storms

DEAR ABBY: Again the other morning the news was about the terrible losses from a tornado striking in the middle of the night — this time in south Georgia. Could you please tell people about weather-warning radios? Sadly, they seem to be a well-kept secret.

After tornadoes struck at night in other states last year, I bought weather radios for each of my children's homes and for myself. They're relatively inexpensive ($30 to $60) and can be tucked in a corner, out of the way. What they do is respond to a radio signal from the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) when dangerous weather is imminent. The signal turns on the radio to alert people.

The radio at our house is in the hallway outside our bedrooms. It's tuned to the nearest weather station, with the volume up all the way. At 2:30 a.m. on the night the storm hit Georgia, we were awakened by the signal and the warning of a potentially dangerous storm. Luckily, we had only torrential rain and some tree-trimming wind. At least we knew what was happening and could have made it to the basement if things had gotten worse.

We are blessed with attentive weather people on television and at NOAA who notify us of impending storms. However, at night there is no better way to learn of impending bad weather than from a weather radio. I'd rather be awakened for a storm that doesn't turn bad than chance what happened to those poor folks in Georgia.

Thanks, Abby, for giving me a forum. I hope you'll consider this letter worth printing. — **JANET H. MAHANNAH, GASTONIA, N.C.**

DEAR JANET: Your letter is certainly worth space in my column. I'm sure there are many other individuals like me who have never heard of weather-warning radios.

After reading your letter, I made some inquiries about NOAA Weather Radios, which continually broadcast National Weather Service forecasts, warnings and other important weather information. They can be programmed to receive information specific to a certain geographic area.

The NOAA Weather Radio is the one government-operated radio system that provides direct warnings to the public for natural and manmade hazards — from floods to forest fires to oil spills.

The radios are available at many retail stores that sell electronic appliances, marine supply stores, truck stops, cable shopping networks, mail-order catalogs and the Internet. They cost from $20 to $80 depending on the model.

For people who live, in areas where violent storms occur, a NOAA weather radio could be a lifesaver. However, while most areas in the country are covered by the NOAA warning system, a few areas may not be, so ask at your local National Weather Service office before you purchase the weather radio.

**

DEAR ABBY: In your column, you have indicated your interest in thoughts on friendship. I am a member of the Jesuit community in Wauwatosa, Wis. During a clergy renewal semester at Notre Dame University, I developed the following statement:

"A true and genuine friend, one of those very few special persons who enter my life, is one with whom I can share my brokenness without feeling cheapened." — **RENEWED CLERGYMAN**

DEAR RENEWED: Your words are beautiful, and I know they'll resonate with my readers as they did with me.

P.S. Please don't feel "cheapened in your brokenness." None of us emerge from the kiln of life without a few cracks, which lend character to the finish.

**

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Bush finds signs of potential trouble

CHICAGO (AP) — George W. Bush and Al Gore cruised to victories in Illinois primaries, but about a third of Republicans withheld their votes from Bush in what some analysts said could be a sign of trouble for the likely GOP nominee.

Chris Mooney, director of the Illinois Legislative Studies Center at the University of Illinois at Springfield, said some GOP voters probably want to send their nominee a message by voting for Sen. John McCain or Alan Keyes.

"After it's sewn up, its safe to vote for the odd candidate in order to make a statement," Mooney said after Tuesday's voting. "That's something Bush obviously has to deal with. He has not dealt with the McCain question."

With 97 percent of precincts reporting in the Republican primary, unofficial returns showed Bush with 484,706 votes, or 67 percent, and McCain with 154,968 votes, or 22 percent. Keyes had 64,321 votes, or 9 percent.

But in the races for delegates who actually pick the GOP nominee, Bush was winning in every district.

On the Democratic side, with 97 percent of precincts reporting, Gore had 662,809 votes, or 84 percent, according to unofficial returns, while Bill Bradley had 112,575 votes, or 14 percent.

In primary races around the country a week ago, Bush never got less than 74 percent of the vote.

"We may have a little bit of work to do," acknowledged John Pastuovic, a spokesman for Bush's Illinois campaign. "I think what that shows is that the McCain voters are staying in the Republican Party. Come general election day, they're going to be in Governor Bush's column."

Mooney agreed that Bush has time to shore up his support, as did Dick Simpson, a former Chicago alderman who now teaches political science at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

But Simpson noted Bush also will probably face conservative Patrick Buchanan running for the Reform Party.

"That means Bush has to overcome the McCain split and he's attacked from the right by Buchanan, who can be very effective on the stump," he said.

To some degree Tuesday's presidential contest was less a primary than an early skirmish in the general election.

It's no coincidence that both Bush and Gore visited Illinois shortly before the election, even though the outcome of the primary was not in doubt. They were trying to build support for the fall in a key state.

Presidential candidates always fight hard for Illinois and its 22 Electoral College votes.

Teen driver death rate goes up with each passesnger

CHICAGO (AP) — Blaming "foolishness and distractions," researchers reported today that the risk of a teen-age driver dying increases with each additional passenger — particularly with young passengers.

Johns Hopkins School of Public Health researcher Li-Hui Chen and her colleagues found that 16-year-olds carrying one passenger were 39 percent more likely to get killed than those driving alone.

That increased to 86 percent with two passengers and 182 percent with three or more. The rate for 17-year-olds was higher: 48 percent, 158 percent and 207 percent, respectively.

The rate was as much as 21 times higher during early morning hours when passengers were present, according to the study in today's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Chen also found that the driver death rate increased significantly when the passengers themselves were in their teens or 20s.

While the death statistics relate specifically to drivers, experts said other studies have shown that accidents involving new teen drivers also often kill or seriously injure passengers and people in other vehicles.

The problem is "general foolishness and distractions" for drivers who are just getting to know the rules of the road, said Robert Foss of the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center.

"They will egg one another on to try to run a stop light or say, 'Let's see if you can get it up to 70 miles an hour before the next stop sign,'" Foss said.

Even more often, he said, it's simpler things — animated conversation, for example.

"Most of it is things that are no problem for an experienced driver," said Foss, who wrote an editorial accompanying the study funded in part by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The findings — coupled with numbers showing teen accidents rates increasing after 10 p.m. and even more dramatically after midnight — are prompting safety experts to renew their calls for stiffer restrictions on new drivers.

"It's pretty clear that states should not let them drive later at night for a while and not let them drive with teen passengers," said Foss, who thinks the curfew should be 10 p.m.

Ten states — most recently Washington — restrict the number or age of passengers who can ride with new teen drivers. Twenty-eight states have driving curfews, most of them beginning at midnight. New York, which imposes a 9 p.m. curfew on drivers under 18, is among the states with the toughest restrictions.

Previous studies of young drivers in New Zealand, Canada and Florida found that so-called graduated driver licensing reduced crashes by 7 percent to 32 percent, Foss said.

Foss said that in states with no such rules, "parents of 16- and 17-year-old drivers would be well-advised to impose the restrictions themselves."

On the Net: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety site: http://www.highwaysafety.org/safety—facts/safety.htmteens

Journal site; http://jama.ama-assn.org

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 03-22-00
♠ A 5 3
♥ Q 4 3
♦ 8 4 3
♣ K J 10 9

West
♠ 7 2
♥ 9 7 5 2
♦ 10 9 7 6
♣ 6 4 2

East
♠ K 8 6
♥ K J 10 8
♦ Q J 2
♣ A 7 3

South
♠ Q J 10 9 4
♥ A 6
♦ A K 5
♣ Q 8 5

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 NT	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

Opening lead: ♦ 10

If South had continued with a third club, East would have returned the diamond queen to defeat the contract. Instead, South cashed the diamond ace, East unblocking the queen, and played another diamond. However, West switched to a heart, setting up the fourth defensive trick before East could be endplayed with his club ace. (Yes, South can succeed by playing a diamond when in dummy with the spade ace.)

The Bridge World includes Bridgeworks, a 12-page section featuring material for the advancing player. An annual subscription is $57, and full details may be obtained by calling (800) 366-1939 or going to www.bridgeworld.com.

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Saving it for the right moment

By Phillip Alder

The final trump-entry-killing deal in Ely Culbertson's article, reprinted in this month's Bridge World magazine, is by far the hardest. Even two top experts would be happy to defeat four spades. Well, do you see how they might do it?

I dislike the auction. I would have been in three no-trump in two bids (1 NT-3 NT), which is easy here, even after a heart lead from West.

The defenders need to win one trick in each suit. The declarer must either discard a red-suit loser on the fourth club or endplay East to lead away from the heart king.

First, to try to avoid an endplay, East plays the diamond jack at trick one. Declarer wins and takes the spade finesse; East ducks. South repeats the spade finesse, East winning with the king and returning his last spade to remove dummy's entry. Then, when declarer plays on clubs, East, noting his partner's two on the first round to show an odd number, holds up his ace for two rounds.

Engine blamed on 3 crashes

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — An engine used in some F-16s — including the one that crashed at the Kingsville Naval Air Station — has been blamed on three aerial disasters since 1995, an aerospace engineer says.

The F110-GE-129 engine was in the F-16 Fighting Falcon being flown by Major Brison Phillips when it crashed during a weekend air show, killing the combat veteran pilot. Investigators have not determined if mechanical failure caused the mishap.

Bobby Stone, an aerospace engineer at the Air Force Propulsion Product Group at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times the military asked Congress for $100 million after several F-16 crashes in 1999 were attributed to engine failure.

The money was used to speed up repairs already under way on the engines, manufactured by General Electric. Stone said he did not know if the engine in the jet being flown by Phillips had been repaired.

Capt. John Hutcheson, public affairs officer with Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, said investigators have not determined what caused the crash at Air Show 2000. He said the Air Force would not release details of the plane's mechanical history.

Phillips, 35, of Shaw Air Force Base near Sumter, S.C., had over 2,300 flight hours of experience in the F-16 Falcon that went down while he performed a "split-S," a maneuver in which the plane begins inverting at about 6,500 feet.

Between January 1999 and Sunday, 16 F-16s have crashed in "Class A" crashes — accidents that cost $1 million or more, result in destruction of an Air Force aircraft or a fatality or permanent total disability.

Stone said General Electric is making the repairs to toughen the engine's fan blades, which are used to compress air in the engine. The blades need toughening to withstand impact from bits of debris such as pebbles that sometimes are sucked into a jet's intake.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

On February 22, 2000, TXU Electric Company (TXU Electric) filed Rate DG - Distributed Generation Interconnection with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission). This filing, which has been assigned Tariff Control No. 22147 was made in compliance with Substantive Rule 25.211 and provides for interconnection and parallel operation of distributed generation. Rate DG is a voluntary rate and includes rates applicable to distributed generation facilities for standby, maintenance, and supplemental power. Upon approval by the Commission this rate will be available systemwide and will remain in effect until January 1, 2002.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon this proceeding should notify the Commission as soon as possible. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is April 28, 2000. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission's Office of Customer Protection at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512)936-7136.

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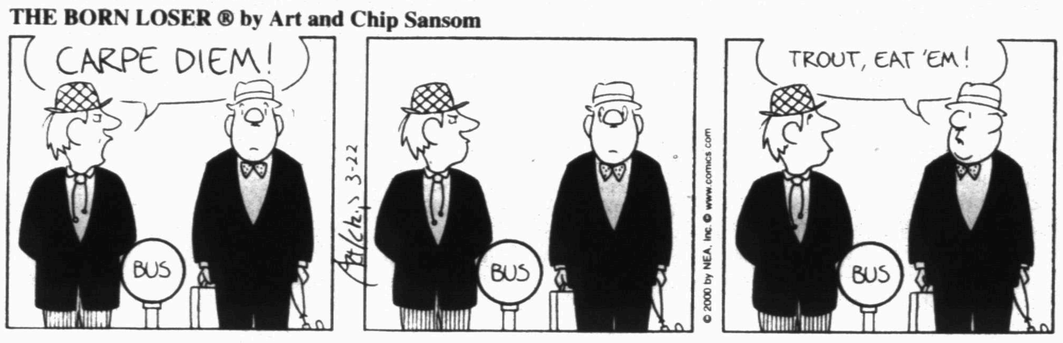

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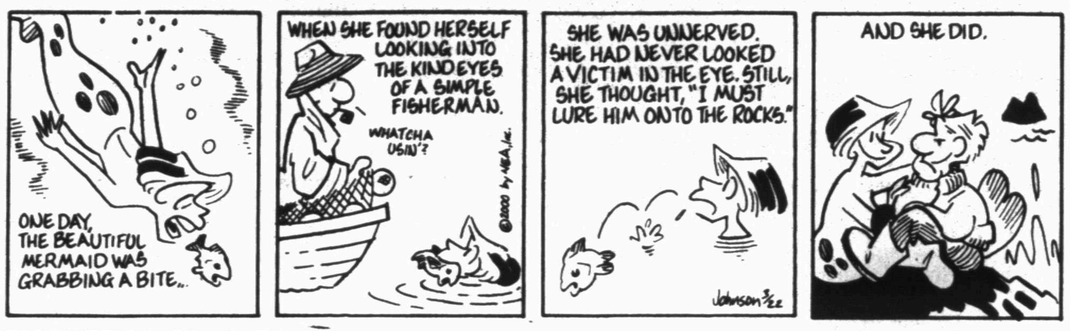

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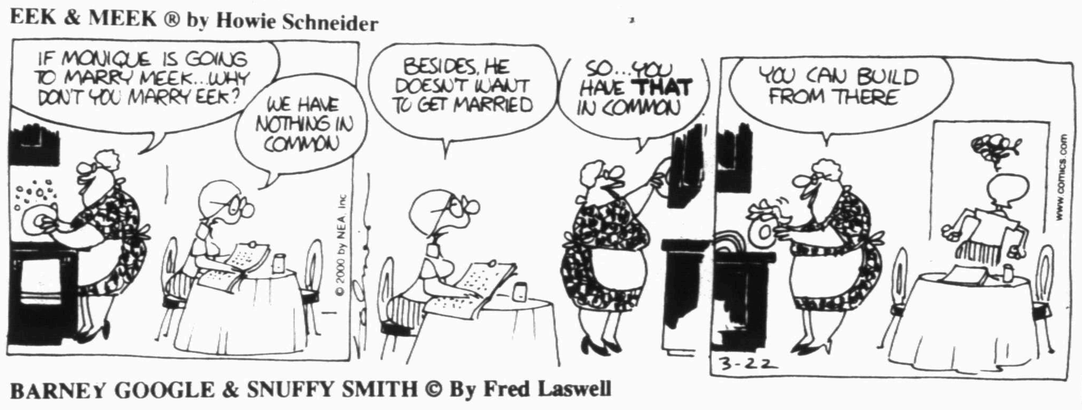

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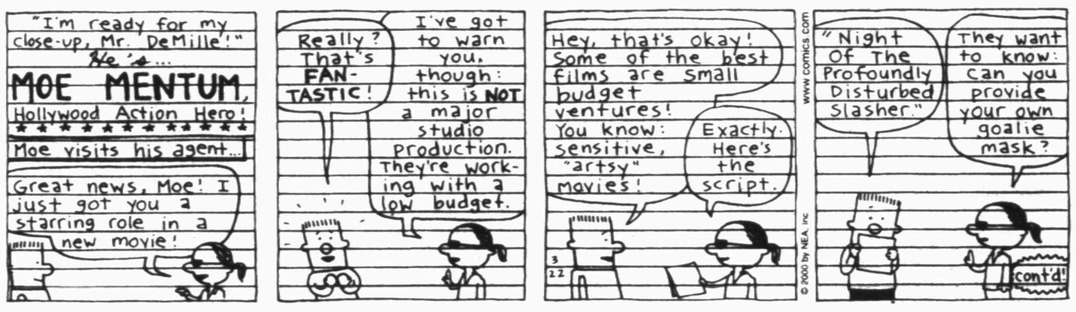

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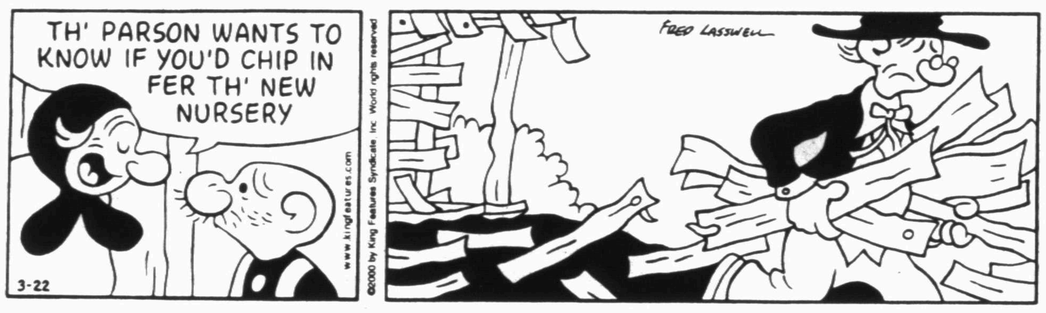

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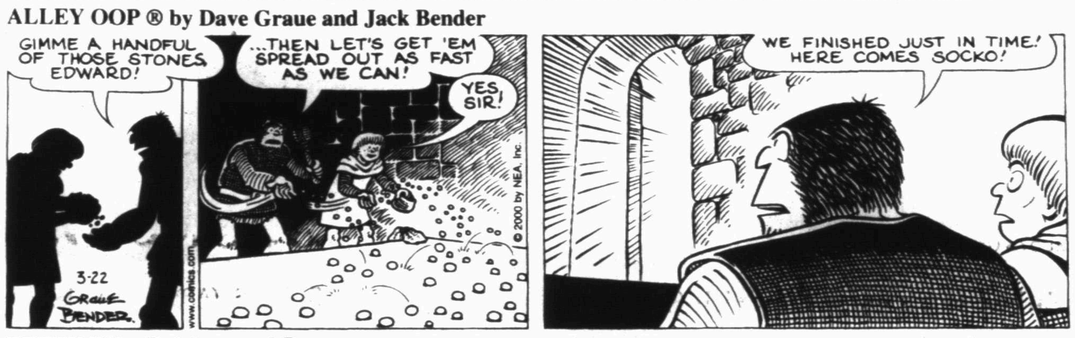
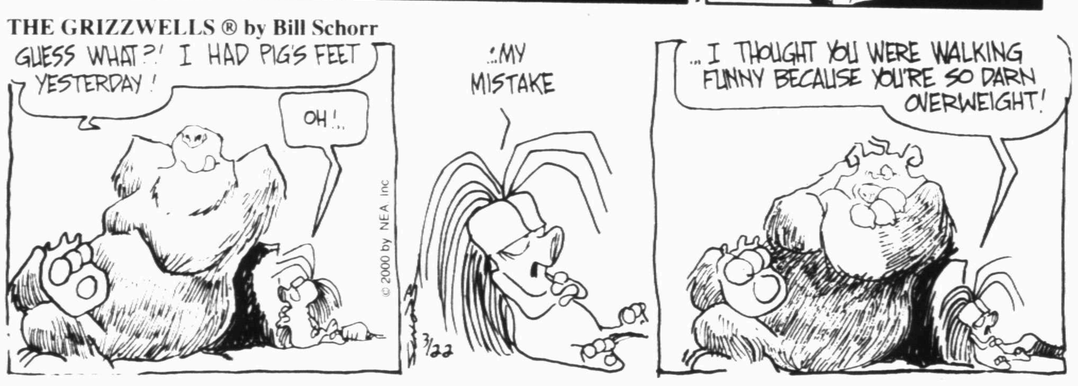


THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



BETTY ™ by Delainey and Rasmussen

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Most inferior
6 "Casablanca" bar owner
10 Bird's home
12 Rushed
14 Hagman/Gray TV series
15 High ground
16 Building wing
17 Have a snack
19 "Kitchen" end
20 Horse's gear
23 Thin cookie
26 — and me
27 Beetle
30 Schedule
32 Debonair
34 Basin, e.g.
35 Planted
36 Type of curve
37 Ship-shaped clock
39 Intent look
40 Musical passage
42 Take the bus
45 Yank
46 New socialite
49 Not ready for eating
51 Crystalline gem
54 Used a pencil part
55 Faces
56 Jane Austen title
57 Musician Xavier —

DOWN

1 Walk in water
2 Egg-shaped
3 Small brook
4 Actor Mineo
5 — -la-la
6 Seance sound
7 Man and Capri
8 Converse
9 Superman's alias
11 River in Belgium
12 Obedient
13 Ike
18 One, no matter which
20 Female birds
21 Enthusiastic
22 Most certain
23 Brain —
24 Ripens
25 Actor Parker
27 Art movement started in 1916
28 Remarkable person
29 Advise, old style
31 Put on guard
33 Videotape type
38 Pot-au- —
40 Earthquake
41 Weekend-welcoming abbr.
42 Wish undone
43 Regarding (2 wds.)
44 Apothecary's weight
46 Bell sound
47 Miss Kett of the comics
48 Most wonderful
50 Shade of green
52 Whale
53 Comedian Costello

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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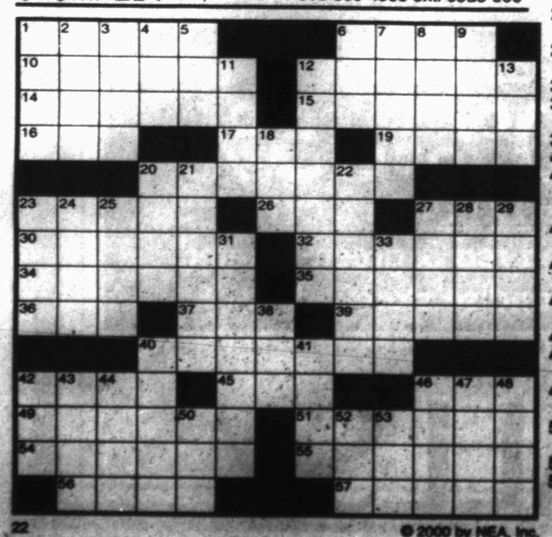

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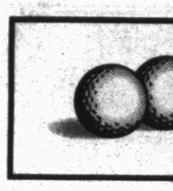
KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

HERMAN® by Jim Unger

"Teacher says if I don't do well at school, I'll end up like you."

"MY MOM DOESN'T NEED ANY OF THAT BEAUTY STUFF, BUT THE RED-HEADED GIRL NEXT DOOR COULD USE YOUR HELP."



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Zubov signs

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SPORTS

Lady Tigers blast Ft. Stockton

FORT STOCKTON — With the district race heating up, the Snyder Lady Tigers continued to raise their level of play on Tuesday

Snyder dominated in all phases of the game Tuesday to shut out Fort Stockton, 9-0, at Prowler Field.

With the win, the Lady Tigers remain in a tie for second place with Lake View at 2-1. Big Spring sits atop the standings with a perfect mark of 3-0.

Snyder set the tone early with six runs in the first two innings, and pitcher Kristin Martinez and her defensive mates took care of the rest.

Martinez never surrendered a hit through the seven-inning affair, facing only two batters over the minimum.

The Lady Tigers committed only one error to go along with seven hits.

"Fort Stockton is pretty good about putting the ball in play, but we shut them down," said Snyder coach Robbie Dickenson. "Having Kristin and Courtney (Rinehart) pitching well gives us an advantage over everybody else. We're playing very consistent softball right now, and that's key to a team's success."

After scratching out a pair of runs in the first inning, the Lady Tigers blew the game open with four runs in the second.

Whitney Webb belted a double to drive in two runs. Next up, Rinehart laid down a bunt that was misplayed by the Prowlers, allowing Webb and Rinehart to come all the way around.

The Lady Tigers added another run in the third and two more in the fifth.

Webb also slapped a single to go along with her double, and Martinez busted a triple and a double.

Kira Diaz had a double, with Cameron Mackey and Chaelyn Robinson knocking singles.

Snyder can grab a share of the district lead with a victory Friday at Big Spring.

"I think we'll step up and meet the challenge on Friday," said Dickenson. "That's one thing I've really liked about our team this year. Almost every time we've needed to, we've stepped up and got the job done.

"Against Big Spring, it will be important for us to put the ball in play. They have a pitcher that throws pretty hard, and we just have to make contact and make the most of our at-bats."

Tigers let lead slip away against Wylie

ABILENE — With the district opener less than a week away, the Snyder Tigers are hoping their current slump is only temporary.

Snyder held the lead twice Tuesday, but couldn't put Wylie away as the Bulldogs rallied to knock off the Tigers, 6-4, in non-district action at Wylie Field.

The Tigers, who fall to 7-9 on the year, have one game remaining before opening district play Tuesday against Fort Stockton, and Coach Roland Herrera hopes his squad can turn things around before the Panthers come to town.

"We just have to keep working and not give up," said Herrera. "We keep talking about working through our adversity now, so we can play our best baseball during district. Hopefully we'll be able to do that."

Snyder took its first lead in the top of the second on three straight hits. Matthew Grimmett singled and scored on a double by Adam Beck, who then came home on a single by R.J. Hernandez to give the Tigers a 2-0 advantage.

Wylie quickly rallied with three runs in the third, before Snyder took its final lead with two more runs in the top of the fifth.

But the Bulldogs answered again with a pair of runs in the bottom of the frame to take the lead for good.

Snyder's final district tune-up will be Friday at Frenship. A strong outing against Frenship is key for the Tigers, according to Herrera.

"It's important for us to play well against Frenship." The Snyder skipper said. "We need to have a good game to give us some momentum heading into district play."

Friday's contest gets underway at 4:30.

The Tigers open 5-4A action Tuesday when they host Fort Stockton at 7:30 p.m.

Westerners finish 10th at Weatherford

WEATHERFORD — Western Texas shaved five strokes off its first-round score to crack the top 10 at the Weatherford Invitational on Tuesday.

WTC followed up its opening round 324 with a 319 to finish 10th at the tournament, which was won by Tyler Junior College.

"The course was real tough and we played about average, and finished in the middle of the field," said WTC coach Milton Ham. "It's tougher since they voted to drop the golf program. The guys' excitement level isn't the same as it used to be, but we're going to keep working to finish out the year."

James Higdon paced the Westerners with rounds of 83 and 76 to finish at 159.

Martin Gustafson fired an 81-79—160, with Scott McLauchlan carding a 79-82—161.

Brandon Hicks turned in an 81-86—167, and Cory Mahaney finished with an 87-82—169.

Western Texas will be back on the links Monday and Tuesday at the Midland tournament.

Bulldogs rout ACHS

IRA — Abilene Christian High School learned Tuesday just how potent the Ira line-up can be.

Ira pounded out 10 hits and made short work of Abilene Christian, closing out the ballgame in five innings with a 13-3 victory.

The Bulldogs, who advanced to the second round of the playoffs last season, improve to 5-1 and Coach Bubba Edwards believes this year's squad is on track for another strong campaign.

"We did pretty well last year, but we're definitely further along right now than we were at this same time last year," Edwards said. "The guys are feeling pretty confident, and it shows in their performance."

Jerek Brown got the job done on the mound, and chipped in at the plate.

Brown surrendered only two hits and struck out nine batters, and blasted a home run to help fuel a seven-run fourth inning.

Jenson Gainer also had a productive day at the plate, going 2-for-3 with a pair of doubles and three RBIs.

The Bulldogs made only two errors in the field, and Edwards says that's a key part to his squad's success.

"I've been trying to get the guys to relax in the field," stated Edwards. "Because we're going to make some errors every once in a while, but our bats can get back some runs for us. We just can't give up the big inning, and so far we haven't."

Jeremy Bowden and Drew Wall belted a pair of singles, with Eric Dickerhoff, Jase Olvera and Richard Wilkins slapping singles, as well.

The Bulldogs will be on the diamond again Friday when they host a doubleheader with Wilson.

Sports Briefs

Little league sign-ups scheduled

Today is the last day to register for Snyder Little League, ages 8-12, and Snyder Senior League, ages 13-16. Players can sign up between 5 and 8 p.m at Caprock Securities.

Registration fee is $30 and players must bring a copy of their birth certificate.

Senior league needs help

Snyder Senior Baseball League is in need of board members. Anyone interested in serving on the board, or helping in any capacity, should contact Joel Hook at 573-4872 or 573-5213.

Pitching clinics held weekly

Fastpitch softball pitching clinics will be held every Wednesday. Class size is limited. For more information, contact Herman Martinez at 573-0390.

Zubov signs extension with Stars

DALLAS (AP) — The Stars signed defenseman Sergei Zubov to a five-year contract extension through the 2004-05 season.

Zubov is third overall in Dallas scoring this season with nine goals and 32 assists in 73 games.

In his eight-year NHL career, Zubov has 83 goals and 331 assists in 534 games. Zubov won a Stanley Cup in 1994 with the Rangers.

Jets not trading Johnson

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP) — Jets coach Al Groh said the team no longer is considering trading leading receiver Keyshawn Johnson.

Johnson, through agent Jerome Stanley, expressed dissatisfaction with his contract, which has two years left at less than $2 million per season. The two-time Pro Bowler believes that's far under market value.

Smith apologizes for comments

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Running back Ricky Williams apologized for critical comments he made about New Orleans and the Saints in a magazine article.

In the article published last week in Sports Illustrated, Williams said he did not like living in New Orleans and suggested the Saints move to San Antonio.

Williams said he expressed his disappointment with the story and its fallout in a conciliatory phone call to Saints coach Jim Haslett and owner Tom Benson.

Dorsett signs with Raiders

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) — The Raiders signed defensive back Anthony Dorsett to a free-agent contract.

Dorsett, who spent the last four seasons with the Titans, made one regular-season start, then started at safety in the Super Bowl and shared the team lead with five tackles.

Dorsett, the son of Hall of Fame running back Tony Dorsett, was selected as a Pro Bowl alternate.

Cowboys re-sign Spellman

IRVING (AP) — The Cowboys re-signed troubled defensive tackle Alonzo Spellman to a multiyear contract. Spellman had 16 tackles last season, including five sacks.

For sexual misconduct...

SMU investigates basketball program

DALLAS (AP) — Officials at Southern Methodist University are investigating members of its basketball team for alleged sexual misconduct, a Dallas television station reported Tuesday night.

No charges have been filed. But a 20-year-old SMU cheerleader told police in Fresno, Calif., that players groped and fondled her during a recent road trip, according to KTVT.

University officials told the station Tuesday that an investigation has been launched.

The sexual assault was alleged to have occurred at a team hotel March 10, hours after the Mustangs were eliminated from the Western Athletic Conference tournament.

The police report said the alleged victim appeared to be drunk around the time of the attack.

The cheerleader apparently refused to file formal charges. But SMU basketball coach Mike Dement said the university is prepared to take disciplinary action if the report turns out to be true.

Local Sports Schedule

THURSDAY

Baseball: Snyder JV at Sweetwater tourney

Golf: Snyder boys at San Angelo

Rodeo: Western Texas College at Odessa rodeo

FRIDAY

Baseball: Snyder varsity at Frenship, 4:30

Baseball: Snyder JV at Sweetwater tourney

Baseball: Abilene High at Snyder freshmen, 5 p.m.

Softball: Snyder at Big Spring, varsity at 4, JV at 6 p.m.

Track: Snyder at San Angelo Relays

Rodeo: Western Texas College at Odessa rodeo

SATURDAY

Softball: Snyder vs. Breckenridge in Abilene, JV at 1, varsity at 3 p.m.

Track: Snyder at San Angelo Relays

Baseball: Snyder JV at Sweetwater tourney

Golf: Snyder girls at Sweetwater

Rodeo: Western Texas College at Odessa rodeo

NIT Tourney Glance

All Times EST
Second Round
Monday, March 20

Notre Dame 76, Xavier 64
Penn State 105, Siena 103
Kent 81, Villanova 67
Brigham Young 82, Southern Illinois 57

Tuesday, March 21

North Carolina State 60, Arizona State 57
Wake Forest 72, New Mexico 65
Mississippi 70, Southwest Missouri State 48
California 60, Georgetown 49

Third Round
Wednesday, March 22

Kent (23-7) at Penn State (17-15), 7 p.m.
Brigham Young (22-10) at Notre Dame (20-14), 9 p.m.

Thursday, March 23

Mississippi (19-13) at North Carolina State (19-12), 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 24

California (18-14) at Wake Forest (19-14), 7:30 p.m.

Girls' Little Dribblers

8-YR-OLDS

Swifts 9, Hoopsters 7

Swifts: Samantha Medrano, 9. **Hoopsters:** Keonna Ward, 5; Lindsey Urias, 2.

JUNIOR LEAGUE

Hot Shots 19, Mystic 18

Hot Shots: Kelby Seale, 6; Devin Davidson, 5; Destinee Neagle, 4; Lauren Zamora, 2. **Mystic:** Ashley Hagins, 12; Samantha Garcia, Shaquita Sneed, Ashlie Lopez, 2.

Little Tigers 26, Red Hots 11

Little Tigers: A'Lex Koonce, Erma Rodriguez and Shelbie Talavera, 8; Chelsea Young, 2. **Red Hots:** Alexandra Urias, 11.

Rockets 35, Red Hots 23

Rockets: Erin Hogan, 19; Chelsea Castillo, 8; Tilatha Akins and Amanda Sanchez, 4. **Red Hots:** Urias, 20; K'Ana Garcia, 2; Teryn Sullenger, 1.

Sharpshooters 26, Rockets 9

Sharpshooters: Kaci Waller, 12; Karly Buchanan, 8; Brittany Mitchell, 6. **Rockets:** Hogan, 4; Akins, 3; Pinkerton, 2.

Swoopsters 13, Little Tigers 6

Swoopsters: Cayelea Rhodes, 6; Nakita Pickerel, 3; Kelly Holdren and Cecelie Slaughter, 2. **Little Tigers:** Talavera, 4; Rodriguez, 2.

MAJOR LEAGUE

Panthers 26, Magic 11

Panthers: Sequoya Powell, 14; Terann Ragland, 7; Morgan Bilderback, 4; Jordan Stansell, 1. **Magic:** Elizabeth Dominguez and Breanna Talavera, 4; Jessica Yanez, 2; Katie Curry, 1.

Sonics 27, Nikes 15

Sonics: Teddie Crenwelge, 9; Shaela Thompson, 8; Katy Crenwelge, 6; Christi Williams, 4. **Nikes:** Ashton Wall, 6; Kendra Burns, 5; Candace Chandler, 4.

Hornets 32, Starzz 18

Hornets: Erica Little and Aeryal Peoples, 14; Christina Martinez and Teisha McGlouthin, 2. **Starzz:** Kelbi Pitner, 7; Khristian Torres, 6; Stephanie Grant, 5.

Sonics 41, Jazz 20

Sonics: T. Crenwelge, 18; Thompson, 10; K. Crenwelge and Williams, 4; Krista Dorsett, 3; Camri Hill, 2. **Jazz:** Brittany Dickerhoff, 12; Whitney Payne, 8.

Magic 23, Nikes 19

Magic: Curry and Talavera, 10; Amelia Lopez, 2; Tabitha Jones, 1. **Nikes:** Chandler, 5; Burns and Temi Thompson, 4; Leslie Eades, 3; Wall, 1.

Lady Raiders 24, Fastbreak 14

Lady Raiders: Alana Culp, 9; Glenn Wright, 7; Alicia Culp, Ashley Pruitt, Wendy Reed and Sydney Wright, 2. **Fastbreak:** Emily Jones, 7; Audrey Jones, 5; Amber Luecke and Ashley Luecke, 1.

Panthers 38, Sonics 15

Panthers: Powell, 16; Ragland, 8; Ciara Latta, 7; Bilderback, 5; Stansell, 2. **Sonics:** T. Crenwelge, 10; K. Crenwelge, 5.

National Basketball Association

All Times EST

	W	L	Pct	GB
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
Miami	42	25	.627	—
New York	40	26	.606	1½
Philadelphia	38	28	.576	3½
Orlando	32	36	.471	10½
Boston	30	37	.448	12
New Jersey	29	37	.439	12½
Washington	23	46	.333	20
Central Division				
x-Indiana	47	21	.691	—
Toronto	39	27	.591	7
Charlotte	35	31	.530	11
Detroit	34	32	.515	12
Milwaukee	31	36	.463	15½
Cleveland	26	41	.388	20½
Atlanta	25	41	.379	21
Chicago	13	53	.197	33
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
x-Utah	45	21	.682	—
San Antonio	42	25	.627	3½
Minnesota	40	26	.606	5
Dallas	29	38	.433	16½
Denver	27	40	.403	18½
Houston	24	43	.358	21½
Vancouver	19	49	.279	27
Pacific Division				
x-L.A. Lakers	56	12	.824	—
x-Portland	50	16	.758	5
Phoenix	43	23	.652	12
Sacramento	39	27	.591	16
Seattle	40	28	.588	16
Golden State	17	50	.254	38½
L.A. Clippers	14	54	.206	42

x-clinched playoff berth

Tuesday's Games

New Jersey 100, Toronto 93
Atlanta 82, Miami 77
Indiana 95, New York 91
Minnesota 111, Cleveland 107, OT
Dallas 97, San Antonio 96
Utah 96, Denver 83
Vancouver 98, Golden State 82
Sacramento 98, Washington 86
Detroit 100, Seattle 90

Wednesday's Games

Minnesota at Boston, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Detroit at Portland, 10 p.m.
Golden State at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Milwaukee at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Washington at Denver, 9 p.m.

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JAYTON - Farmers Society #1 237-9922 7:30-8:30 a.m.
SNYDER - Ezell-Key Feed Store 573-6691 10:00-11:00 a.m.
GAIL - Coyote Country Store 756-4330 12:00-1:00 p.m.
LAMESA - The Country Store 872-2422 2:00-3:00 p.m.
TAHOKA - John Witt Butane Gas Co. 998-4822 4:00-5:00 p.m.

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REWARD! Lost female calico cat w/long hair. Vicinity: 30th & Ave. U. 573-4438 after 6p.m.

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Any time is the right time to use the classified ads in The Snyder Daily News. Call 573-5486 now!

Miss America winners getting skinnier

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Miss America is getting skinnier and skinnier, according to researchers who conclude that many winners are undernourished.

Nutrition experts from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health used the heights and weights from most of the winners in the pageant's 78-year history for their study in today's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Benjamin Caballero, director of the Center for Human Nutrition at Johns Hopkins, said pageant officials should screen out contestants who are too skinny in order to "promote a message of healthiness."

"The actual influence of pageant competitions on young women's decisions about diet and lifestyle is not well-documented," he wrote, "but it is likely to have a strong, if indirect, effect."

The researchers used the height and weight figures to calculate a measure, called body mass index, and concluded that it has generally fallen over the years. BMI is weight divided by the square of height.

In the 1920s, contestants had BMIs in the range now considered normal, which is 20 to 25, the researchers said. But an increasing number of winners since then have had BMIs under 18.5, which is the World Health Organization's standard for undernutrition.

The highest index was 22.4 for Miss America 1941, Rosemary LaPlanche; the lowest, 16.9, for Miss America 1986 Susan Akin.

The pageant was not held from 1927 to 1933, and vital statistics were not available for some of the years since 1990, when the pageant stopped listing contestants' heights and weights.

The medical journal did not publish the heights and weights of the winners.

The lightest Miss America, according to The Press of Atlantic City newspaper archives, was also the first — 1921's Margaret Gorman, who weighed 108 pounds. The heaviest was Miss America 1952 Colleen Kay Hutchins, who weighed 143.

Pageant winners, like the rest of the U.S. population, have gotten progressively taller. But that doesn't explain the thinning of Miss America, the researchers said. Pageant winners' height increased less than 2 percent, but body weight decreased 12 percent.

However, Robert Renneisen Jr., chief executive of the Miss America Organization, said recent winners have had some of the highest body mass readings, a reflection of pageant officials' emphasizing brains over beauty.

The swimsuit competition counts for only 10 percent of the total score, he said.

"We long ago made the change from more superficial to more substantial criteria," Renneisen said. "We're seeing that, not only in the caliber of the young women competing but the very data they show here, which shows that from 1986, even physically, the kind of person is changing."

One eating disorders expert said the report substantiates what he has suspected all along.

"Beauty pageants, like the rest of our media-driven culture, give young women in particular a message, over and over again, that it's exceedingly important to be thin to be considered successful and attractive," said Dr. Harry Brandt, director of the Center for Eating Disorders at St. Joseph Medical Center in Towson, Md.

On the Net:
Journal site: http://jama.ama-assn.org
Miss American site: http:www.missamerica.com

More increases likely after Fed raises rates for fifth time

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve's decision to raise interest rates for a fifth time since June is likely to be followed by additional rate boosts in coming months as the central bank struggles to slow the rampaging economy and keep inflation under control.

Many economists predicted that the central bank will boost rates at least twice more this year, at meetings on May 16 and June 28, because of the head of steam the economy had going into the new year.

Richard Yamarone, an economist with Argus Research Corp., said the Fed appears to be trying to take some of the booze out of the punch to try and calm down the inflation-risking economic party the country is enjoying.

"Nevertheless, we believe that the economic soiree will continue to roar along," Yamarone said. Thus, he said, rates will still go higher.

Many analysts estimate the economy is expanding at close to a 6 percent rate in the current quarter, much faster than the Fed is comfortable with. In the final three months of 1999, the economy grew at a rip-roaring 6.9 percent rate.

In explaining its decision to bump up interest rates Tuesday by a quarter of a point, the Fed said it remains worried that the rapidly growing economy "could foster inflationary imbalances that would undermine the economy's record economic expansion."

The economy entered into its 108th consecutive month of uninterrupted growth in March and in February broke the record of the 1960s expansion to become the longest in U.S. history.

In the Fed's one-page policy announcement, some economists detected growing worries about inflation. Specifically, they said that the Fed dropped past references to increased productivity helping to keep prices in check and concentrated instead on potential inflation problems from the supercharged economy.

"They are turning more hawkish and growing more fearful that the economy is getting away from them," said Mark Zandi, economist with RFA Dismal Sciences.

Wall Street took the latest rate increase in stride. The Dow Jones industrial average, up by more than 100 points before the Fed acted, soared higher after the announcement and finished the day up 227.10 points at 10,907.34.

The Fed boosted its target for the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge on overnight loans, to 6 percent from 5.75 percent. It marked the fifth quarter-point increase since last June 30, when the funds rate stood at 5 percent.

The Fed also increased by a quarter-point, to 5.5 percent, its largely symbolic discount rate, the interest it charges for loans made directly to banks.

In response, commercial banks, led by Bank of America and Wells Fargo, raised their prime lending rates — the benchmark for millions of consumer and business loans — by a quarter-point to 9 percent, the highest level in five years.

In the part of the Fed's statement that reflects possible future moves, the central bank said "risks are weighted mainly toward conditions that may generate heightened inflation pressures" in coming months.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has worried for months that with unemployment near a 30-year low, the tight labor markets soon will translate into rising wage demands and higher inflation.

Critics of Greenspan's tight money policies complained that the Fed is acting without any evidence that inflation, outside of energy prices, is starting to become a problem.

AMA guidelines eye ethics on the Web

NEW YORK (AP) — The American Medical Association is updating its Internet guidelines to help consumers assess the reliability of what they read online.

As more patients turn to the Internet for medical information, the nation's largest doctors' organization hopes its new policy becomes a model for other sites.

The standards, published in today's Journal of the American Medical Association, could reduce worries about misleading information and breaches of confidentiality.

"The guidelines stress disclosure, stress informed consent and stress privacy and confidentiality as absolute tenets that must be adhered to," said Robert Musacchio, the AMA's senior vice president for publishing and business services.

Dr. Margaret Winker, who as deputy editor of the influential journal supervised the effort, said the medical group needed to raise standards because "there's a lot more potential for ethical lapses on medical sites than other parts of the Internet."

The effort was prompted by the upcoming launch of a for-profit site, Medem, by the AMA and six other doctors' groups. The site will offer health information and allow patients to correspond with doctors online.

Currently, AMA sites offer journal research articles and limited consumer information.

The new guidelines will apply to all of those sites. Authors of the guidelines believe private sites could adopt them as well, although the medical group has no plans to police or endorse other sites.

Through the Internet, consumers can research anything from allergies to weight management and obtain details about prevention, symptoms and treatment. But there is potential for incomplete, misleading or inaccurate information, particularly with sponsors involved.

And while many non-health sites routinely track how visitors spend their time online, doing so at health sites could violate privacy. For instance, employers or insurers could guess medical conditions by monitoring what diseases Web users research.

The AMA will require its sites to warn users and obtain their consent before collecting personal information. Those sites may collect group data without consent as long as individuals are not identified. They should, however, obtain permission before disclosing information to outsiders.

Deborah Pierce, an attorney with the Electronic Frontier Foundation in San Francisco, lauded the AMA guidelines, saying they surpass in detail and protection the policies at most other Web sites. But she said sites should get users' consent in all cases.

The new AMA guidelines prohibit placing ads next to online articles on the same topic. They also call for sites to review articles for accuracy and to disclose outside affiliations — for example, if an author has a stake in a company that makes a drug discussed.

Former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, in particular, was criticized last year for failing to fully disclose the sponsors of his site, drkoop.com. For a time, Koop was entitled to a commission on products sold through his Web site.

And the AMA was severely criticized from within and without over a 1998 deal to endorse products of appliance maker Sunbeam Corp. The AMA eventually paid Sunbeam nearly $10 million after backing out of the deal.

Last month, a coalition that includes industry, academia and patients groups released a draft of an ethics code. A final version is expected in May.

Dr. Helga Rippen, chairwoman of the coalition, said she believes the AMA matches her group's intent, though the AMA guidelines may be too detailed to be practical for every Web site.

The new guidelines also do not address the ethics of doctors who make diagnoses online and authorize prescriptions without ever seeing the patient. Some rogue Web sites also let computer users order drugs without a prescription.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -Morning stocks

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp s	31⅝	30⅜	30 9-16	—13-16
AT&T Corp s	56½	55⅜	55⅝	— ⅛
Albertsons	28 13-16	28 5-16	28⅝	+ 7-16
Alltel	71¾	69½	69½	—2 3-16
AmerOnline s	70	68	69 7-16	+ 1⅞
AndarkPtr	34⅜	33 13-16	34⅛	+ ⅜
AtlRichfld	83 13-16	82⅞	83 7-16	+ ⅝
ATMOS Egy	17⅞	17½	17 11-16	+ ⅛
Availl	9	8 15-16	9	+ ⅛
BP Amoco s	52	51⅜	51⅞	+ ⅛
BakerHughes	28 9-16	27 7-16	28 3-16	+ 15-16
Bank of Amer	51⅞	51 3-16	51¾	
BellAtl	58 13-16	57¾	57 13-16	—1 1-16
BellSouth	45½	45 1-16	45 3-16	—13-16
Beth Steel	6 9-16	6⅜	6 7-16	+ 1-16
BurlNoSFe	21¾	21 5-16	21 7-16	
CBS Corp	63	61	62⅞	+ 1 13-16
Caterpillar	39½	38¾	39 3-16	— ⅝
CenSoWst	17 9-16	17 1-16	17 1-16	— 7-16
Chevron	85¾	84 5-16	84 13-16	—1 3-16
Citigroup s	58 15-16	57⅝	57⅞	— ⅛
Coastal	44	42 13-16	43	—1 5-16
CocaCola	49	47⅜	47 11-16	— 1¾
ColgatePal s	49⅞	48¾	49⅛	—1 3-16
ComclMetals	28¼	27⅜	27⅜	— ¾
CooperIn	34 9-16	33 1-16	33 3-16	—1 1-16
DaimlrChry	66¾	65¼	66	+ 9-16
DallSemicn s	42 11-16	41 1-16	42 7-16	+ 1⅛
DeltaAirl	52⅝	51 3-16	51½	— ⅞
Dillards Inc	17 3-16	16 11-16	16 11-16	— ⅛
DowChem	109 7-16	106⅞	107	—2 7-16
DuPont	54	52 11-16	53 9-16	— ⅜
EastmanChem	43⅛	42 3-16	42 5-16	—15-16
EstKodak	57⅞	56½	56⅝	— 1⅛
EDS Corp	70	66¼	69½	+ 3⅛
Entergy	19⅝	19 5-16	19 5-16	— 9-16
ExxonMobil	77	75 5-16	75 13-16	—1 3-16
FstBksAm	17¾	17¾	17¾	
Flowers	13 9-16	12 15-16	13⅛	— 9-16
FordMotor	45¼	44⅜	44⅜	— 1⅜
GTE Cp	68½	67 3-16	67⅜	— 1¼
GenDynam	46⅛	45⅞	45 15-16	— 9-16
GenElec	151 15-16	149 1-16	150⅛	— 1
GenMills s	34⅝	34 5-16	34⅜	— ⅜
GenMotors	82 1-16	80 5-16	81 11-16	+ 1½
GaPacGP s	41⅜	40 1-16	40¼	— 3-16
GlobalMar	24½	22⅛	24 5-16	+ 2 5-16
Goodrich	28¼	27 5-16	27⅜	—11-16
Goodyear s	24 3-16	23¾	23 13-16	+ 1-16
GtAtlPac	19¾	18 15-16	19 11-16	+ 13-16
Halliburtn	39½	37¾	38⅝	+ 1⅛
Hanson ADS	32	31⅞	31 15-16	+ ⅛
HarteHanks	21¾	21 7-16	21½	+ 1-16
HomeDepot s	62 11-16	61 15-16	62 1-16	—1 7-16
HoneywellIntl	49⅜	47 9-16	48	—1 11-16
IBM s	114 15-16	113 15-16	114⅜	+ ⅜
IntlPaper	39	38 1-16	38 3-16	— ⅞
JohnsonJn	81	79¾	79 15-16	— 5-16
K mart	10 3-16	9⅞	10⅛	+ ¼
Kroger Co s	17⅜	16¾	17 5-16	+ 11-16
Litton	34 15-16	34⅝	34⅝	— 1-16
LockheedM	17¼	17	17 1-16	— ¼
Lowes Cos	51⅜	50 5-16	50⅞	
Lubys	9⅞	9 11-16	9 11-16	— 3-16
LucentTech	66	64¼	64¼	— 2¾
MayDeptStr	30 7-16	29 11-16	29 11-16	— 9-16
MediaOne	79 7-16	78¼	78½	— ¾
Medtronic s	53¼	52 7-16	52¾	— ½
Monsanto	47⅝	47 1-16	47 3-16	— ⅝
MorganJP	128¼	126	126 1-16	—2 15-16
Motorola	165¼	160½	164⅞	+ 5 15-16
NCR Corp	43¾	42¼	42⅜	—11-16
Navistar	39 1-16	38⅝	38¾	— 9-16
Penney JC	15 15-16	15¼	15 5-16	— 5-16
PepBoys	6⅞	6 11-16	6¾	+ 1-16
PepsiCo	34⅜	32⅞	32⅞	—1 7-16
PhelpDodge	50 13-16	49 1-16	49⅛	—1 11-16
PhilipPet	43½	42¼	42 13-16	—11-16
PilgrmPrd B	7¼	7⅛	7⅛	— ⅛
Polaroid	26 13-16	25 15-16	26½	+ ⅛
Praxair	38½	37⅞	38⅛	—13-16
ProctGamb	57 11-16	56 9-16	56¾	— 1-16
PubS NwMx	15 13-16	15¼	15¼	— 5-16
ReliantEngy	22 15-16	22 7-16	22 7-16	—11-16
RoyalDut	57 9-16	56 13-16	56 15-16	— 1⅛
SBC Comm	44 15-16	44	44¼	— 1
SaraLee	17⅞	17⅝	17 11-16	— ⅛
Scripps EW	44 11-16	44 7-16	44 7-16	— 3-16
SearsRoeb	33⅛	31½	31⅝	— ⅝
SherwinW	22⅜	21¾	21⅞	— ⅜
SmithklBchm	68 5-16	67 3-16	67½	+ ½
SouthernCo	21½	20¾	20⅞	— 7-16
SwstAirl s	20 3-16	19⅞	20 1-16	— ⅛
SprintFON s	60¼	59 1-16	59⅞	— ⅛
SprintPCS s	60⅜	59¼	59 11-16	+ 11-16
Sunoco Inc	27⅞	27 7-16	27 9-16	— 7-16
TNP Ent	43⅝	43 9-16	43 9-16	— 1-16
Tandy s	50½	49 1-16	49 9-16	+ 1 3-16
TempleInland	49½	47 15-16	48 3-16	— 1¾
Texaco	52⅞	51¾	51 15-16	—15-16
TexInd	34	33⅞	33 15-16	+ ⅛
TexasInst s	174⅝	171½	171 9-16	+ 5-16
Tex Util	30¾	29¾	29 13-16	— ⅞
Textron	60 3-16	59⅛	59⅛	—13-16
TriconGlbR	30½	29¾	30 5-16	— ⅜
TrinityInds	22 15-16	22 11-16	22 15-16	+ 3-16
TritonEngy	36⅜	34¾	36⅜	+ ⅜
TylerTech	5 11-16	5 9-16	5⅝	— 1-16
US West Inc	70 7-16	68 13-16	68 15-16	— 1½
USX-Marathn	24⅜	23 15-16	24 3-16	— 5-16
USX-USS	23⅞	23⅜	23¾	— 3-16
UnCarbde	53	51 11-16	52 1-16	— 5-16
UnionPacif	40 7-16	39 5-16	39 5-16	—11-16
UnitedTech s	58¼	57 7-16	57½	+ ¾
Unocal	27⅞	27 11-16	27⅞	— ⅛
Venator Grp	8⅛	7 15-16	7 15-16	— ¼
WalMart	56½	55 1-16	55⅜	— 1¼
WellsFargo	40 3-16	39⅜	39¾	+ 3-16
WstnGasRs	16 1-16	15⅞	16	+ ⅛
WinnDixie	17 15-16	17⅜	17 13-16	
Xerox Cp	28⅞	28	28 9-16	+ ⅜

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The West Central Texas Workforce Development Board (WCTWDB) Abilene, Texas, is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for solicitation of bids for the management and operation of the Child Care service delivery system.

The WCTWDB is appointed by local elected officials to plan and oversee operation of the public workforce system, including child care resources in the West Central Texas 19 county area.

The purpose of Child Care Program Operation is to offer child care to eligible families and to improve the quality, availability and affordability of child care in Texas. This proposal will address delivery and payment for child care services to be provided in the WCTWDB Service Delivery Area which includes the following counties: Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor and Throckmorton.

Public and private service providers, or other interested parties may obtain a RFP by contacting the West Central Texas Workforce Development Board, PO Box 3195, Abilene, Texas 79604, Attn: Karen Spaar, or by calling (915)672-8544.

A bidders conference will be held March 31, 2000 at 10:00a.m. in the large conference room at the offices of West Central Texas Council of Governments, 1025 EN 10th., Abilene, Texas 79601. Attendance at the bidders conference is not required but is recommended. Proposers unable to attend the bidders conference may submit written questions, via mail or fax, no later then 5:00p.m., March 29, 2000 to the following address:

West Central Texas Workforce Development Board
P.O. Box 3195
Abilene, Texas 79604
Fax (915)675-5214

Deadline: Proposals must be received in the WCTWDB offices by 5:00p.m., May 5, 2000 to be considered. Proposals received at the WCTWDB offices after the deadline will not be accepted. There will be no exceptions. Proposals may be mailed to the above address or hand delivered to the WCTWDB offices Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon and 1:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. at 1025 EN 10th, Abilene, Texas 79602. The WCTWDB will not accept proposals transmitted by facsimile (FAX).

Local Interest
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Dol. Gen.	24 1/8	-5/16
GTE	67 3/4	-7/8
SBC Comm.	44	-1 1/4
BJ Services	68 1/2	+3 13/16
LU	64 13/16	-2 3/16
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Scurry County Country

Diversified

By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

The Bobwhite Brigade Wildlife Camps are seeking top high school recruits for its quail camps this summer. There are three camps held in Texas — Rolling Plains (June 25-29) at Lueders; South Texas (July 16-20) at Camp Belton and East Texas (July 23-27) at Broaddus. The Bobwhite Brigade offers a hands-on learning experience for Texas youth interested in the outdoors.

Each camp offers a four-day curriculum designed to make quail experts of its members. Cadets are given intensive training on quail biology and management by leading Texas wildlife biologists and managers. After graduation, each member is expected to present education programs in his or her home county.

"Camp graduates consistently rate the brigade as the best youth camp they've ever attended," said Dr. Dale Rollins, San Angelo-based Extension Wildlife Specialist and originator of the Bobwhite Brigade concept. He reports, "Most return home from the hardest week of work they've ever been through, then work through the coming year for the chance to return as assistant counselors."

Rollins said no matter what the cadets' future career choice is, it is important that they develop the ability to think, plan, and present their ideas to others. A major component of the brigade involves developing the communication skills necessary to tell others about wildlife conservation and management. To that end, cadets are taught to write news releases, present educational programs, and to present themselves on television and radio.

Though the Texas Agricultural Extension Service is a major camp sponsor, applicants are not limited to the extension's 4-H youth program. Any high school (sophomore through senior) student with at least a "B" grade average is eligible.

All applications must be received by April 15. Applicants will be evaluated by a steering committee in late April. The committee will select 30 cadets and two alternates for each camp. Successful applicants will be notified soon after the selection process.

Camp tuition is $200 per cadet. The cost covers meals, lodging and supplies. Cadets are encouraged to solicit all or part of the tuition fee from the local Soil and Water Conservation District, banks, civic groups or any conservation organization. The Bobwhite Brigade will help locate sponsors if requested.

Prospective applicants should contact the Scurry County Extension office at 915-573-5423 for the necessary paperwork or write: Bobwhite Brigade, 3427 Northeast Parkway, San Antonio, TX, 78218 or call Helen Holdsworth at 210-467-6575 or 6578. You may also apply via the Internet and obtain additional information on the Bobwhite Brigade at http://texnat.tamu.edu and click on the Bobwhite Brigade logo.

Lubbock auction

The Lubbock Stockyards, Inc. had a run of 703 head of cattle for the Thursday, March 16, sale. Cows $1 to $2 better. Calves and yearlings were steady. Trading and demand were good.

Slaughter cows
(High dressing — cutters — utilities: 37-45.50
Canner and low cutters: 30-36.50
Slaughter bulls: 455-57.50
Feeder steers — choice:
300-400: 105-130
400-500: 90-115
500-600: 85-105
600-700: 85-92.50
700-800: 80-83
Feeder heifers:
300-400: 92-115
400-500: 85-105
500-600: 80-87.50
600-700: 77-85
700-800: 75-80
Feeder Bulls — good and choice:
500-600: 85-100
700-800: 72-82
Cow and calf pairs:
Good: 675-900
Grade: 500-675
Springers: 450-750
Baby calves: 125-200
Doodlers. 150-240

Officers elected

Members of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association have elected officers for 2000-01 and John R. "Rich" Anderson of Gail has been named an honorary director.

J. Mark McLaughlin from San Angelo was reelected as president.

Serving with Anderson as honorary directors will be Arlan Youngblood of Lamesa, Red McCombs of San Antonio, Lon Cartwright of Dinero and Reynaldo Alaniz of San Isidro.

The 123-year-old trade organization's 14,000 members manage approximately 2.7 million head of cattle on 81.2 million acres of range and pasture land.

C-City auction

The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 850

head of cattle for the Saturday, March 18, sale. Compared to last week: Feeder steers and heifers were steady to $2 lower. Slaughter cows were steady to $1 higher. Bulls were steady. Bred cows and pairs were $25/hd higher, pairs were steady. Trading was active and demand good.

Feeder steers:
200-300: 125-136
300-400: 117-122
400-500: 107-115
500-600: 97-105
600-700: 85-89
700-800: 85.25
Feeder heifers:
200-300: 109-121
300-400: 100-109
400-500: 96.50-102
500-600: 85.50-96
600-700: 80-85
700-800: 79.50
Replacement cows:
Young bred cows: 560-730
Bred cows: 450-550
Pairs: 660-775
Aged pairs: 560-675
Slaughter cows: High yielding: 43-47
Slaughter bulls: High dressing: 47-50.75

Farm laborers wooed by out-of-state meat packers

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — After more than 20 years of following work from one town to another, former California farm laborer Martin Feliscian has headed east, lured by the promise of steady work at a bacon processing plant in Ohio.

"There's a lot of seasonal jobs here and I finally got tired of it and started looking for something else," Feliscian said during a telephone interview from his mother's Visalia home just hours before he got on a bus to make the two-and-a-half-day trip.

The abundance of low-wage agricultural workers in the Central Valley is attracting meat packing and processing recruiters from as far away as Alaska, Iowa and Ohio. They come looking for rural laborers to take jobs many of their local workers find distasteful.

The Central Valley also is characterized by pockets of high unemployment, up to 45 percent in some rural areas, versus pockets of low unemployment in places like Iowa and Ohio, where rates have hovered between 2 percent and 4 percent for the last several months.

The 35-year-old Feliscian, who's worked in California's citrus groves and vegetable fields since he was 13, says he's done just about every field labor job there is and still can't get ahead. There are few opportunities for workers with limited education, he said.

"And the pay is really low. You can't live on $5.75 an hour. You're not going to make it on that," he added.

For years he has managed to scrape by, trying to make payments to help support his eight kids, but it's been tough, working in the fields or at tire shops around Visalia. When he heard about a local job service program matching workers to jobs out of state, Feliscian said he couldn't wait to sign up.

He was offered full-time work at $7.25 an hour with medical benefits starting after six months, a free bus ticket to Washington Court House, Ohio, and a $75 advance on his first paycheck.

Hundreds of workers every year are following Feliscian, says Karen Davidson, who runs a program in Tulare County called More Opportunity for Viable Employment, which recruits workers from the area for companies. Davidson's program will also pay workers' families' moving expenses if they qualify under certain welfare guidelines.

"We move people throughout the U.S. to areas were jobs are very, very plentiful — to 34 different states in the last year-and-a-half," Davidson said.

The valley has become known for producing workers with the skills and endurance necessary to tackle tough, unpleasant jobs in agriculture. The meat and fish packing industries are finding it fertile ground for their recruiting drives.

"We find a lot of people in the area have experience picking grapes or oranges and are used to the long hours in extreme weather conditions," said Elizabeth Procious, a recruiter for Westward Seafoods, a Seattle-based company with packing plants in Alaska's Aleutian Islands.

Despite the tough work, the difficult conditions and the unfamiliar town, Feliscian is determined to carve out a life for himself in Ohio.

"I'm very excited about it," he said. "I wanted to just bust up in tears when I heard about the job."

USDA proposing to cut back on some inspections of plants

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cutting back on inspectors' visits to meat processing plants could save millions of dollars in overtime pay that is borne by the industry, while allowing the government to concentrate on facilities where food is most likely to be contaminated, federal officials say.

Inspectors currently are required to visit each processing plant once a shift, including overtime runs. The Agriculture Department wants to switch to daily, random checks, starting in a year.

"By having our resources allocated based on risk the public is well served," Margaret Glavin, associate administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, said Tuesday.

Critics said the move could imperil public health. "This idea comes out of left field with no data to support it," said Caroline Smith DeWaal of the Center for Science in the Public Interest. "It's just saving money for the industry."

Processors, who must cover the inspectors' overtime pay, would save an estimated $19 million a year. The department, which has 7,500 inspectors, would save $4 million, which would be shifted to other food safety programs.

Inspectors, who often work 12-hour shifts, can earn up to $14,000 a year in overtime in addition to their salaries, which average $35,000 to $45,000.

Slaughtering plants, which must have USDA inspectors on site at all times, would not be affected.

Inspections would be reduced at processing plants, including soup canneries, where the risk of contamination is lowest, and focused instead on plants that have a history of problems or are considered to be riskier because of what they process, such as ground beef, the most common source of the deadly E. coli O157:H7.

Several major incidences of food poisoning have been traced to processed meat products in recent years, including a 1998 outbreak at a Michigan hot dog plant that killed 15 people and sickened at least 100 others.

Study says protein deposits may cause Alzheimer's disease

CHICAGO (AP) — Certain protein deposits in the brains of Alzheimer's victims may be a cause of the mind-robbing disease — not just a symptom, researchers suggested today.

Autopsies on 79 nursing home patients confirmed that beta-amyloid protein plays a role in the earliest stages of Alzheimer's, even before symptoms of dementia appear, the researchers reported in today's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Sticky plaques of beta-amyloid in the brain and tangles of a protein known as tau inside brain nerve fibers are two of the distinguishing features of Alzheimer's, which affects more than 4 million Americans.

Scientists disagree over which feature may play a more central role in the destruction of brain cells. And some believe that the plaques and tangles are actually markers left by nerve cells killed by some other unknown cause.

The study's authors favor the beta-amyloid theory because they found that the presence of beta-amyloid preceded development of tau protein in the brain's frontal cortex.

In an accompanying editorial, Dr. Dennis J. Selkoe, a neurologist at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital, called the conclusion exciting and said it could lead to new ways to diagnose and treat Alzheimer's.

"This work, coupled with early work, clearly points to amyloid build-up as the cause," said Selkoe, who holds a stake in Elan Corp., which is testing a vaccine aimed at preventing beta-amyloid accumulation.

But an executive at the Alzheimer's Association said the study does not prove what causes the disease.

"What it doesn't tell us is which comes first, the chicken or the egg — the disease or beta-amyloid," said William Theis, vice president for medical and scientific affairs at the Alzheimer's Association.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

On January 25, 2000, TXU Electric Company (TXU Electric) filed a Tariff Filing with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) and all cities with original jurisdiction over its rates. This Tariff Filing was made pursuant to Substantive Rule 25.241. The Tariff Filing requested revisions to 27 of its retail rates/riders to be effective March 1, 2000. The primary purpose of this Tariff Filing is to modify, close, or delete certain existing tariffs in order to facilitate the transition to a competitive retail market as of January 1, 2002, pursuant to Senate Bill 7. Specifically, TXU Electric proposes to (1) close certain existing retail tariffs to new customers for services deemed competitive energy services by the Commission's Substantive Rule 25.343; (2) close and/or modify optional retail tariffs with contract provisions that extend beyond the January 1, 2002, start date for full retail market competition or that are no longer necessary; (3) modify retail tariffs for basic rates to limit contract terms to December 31, 2001; and (4) delete retail tariffs that are no longer being utilized.

The Tariff Filing does not propose to either increase or decrease any existing charge or rate, and TXU Electric does not anticipate any change in revenues as a result of these proposed tariff revisions. The changes proposed in this Tariff Filing are designed to address new customers and do not directly impact current customers receiving service under these rates.

The Commission has established Docket No. 22051, "Application of TXU Electric Company to Revise Retail Rates/Riders, Pursuant to P.U.C. SUBST. R.§25.241" to address these proposed revisions and has suspended the proposed effective date until June 30, 2000. Persons who wish to intervene in the proceeding or comment upon action sought, should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, at P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call the Public Utility Commission's (commission) Office of Customer Protection at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512)936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll-free) 1-800-735-2989. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is March 27, 2000 and a letter requesting intervention should be received by the commission by that date. Correspondence concerning this proceeding should reference Docket No. 22051.

TXU ELECTRIC COMPANY

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Talks positive, but prospect of peace accord are mixed

WASHINGTON (AP) — With talks between Israel and the Palestinians here off to a positive start, the Clinton administration today gave a mixed report on prospects for a peace accord between Israel and Syria.

A senior U.S. official, responding to an interview Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak gave to The Washington Post in Cairo, said the two sides were showing interest in resolving their differences.

The official, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, said there still are both substantive and procedural hurdles to an accord.

In a move to accelerate an ultimate agreement, President Clinton has arranged to meet in Geneva, Switzerland, on Sunday with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Their first meeting in six years is expected to result in a resumption of Israeli-Syrian negotiations that were suspended in Shepherdstown, W.Va., in mid-January.

Mubarak will fly to Washington on Friday and meet Tuesday with Clinton at the White House. The Egyptian president, who has been cast in a go-between role, also will confer with Vice President Al Gore and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

One of the main obstacles to a settlement is disagreement over how much territory Israel will turn over to Syria in exchange for a promise of peace.

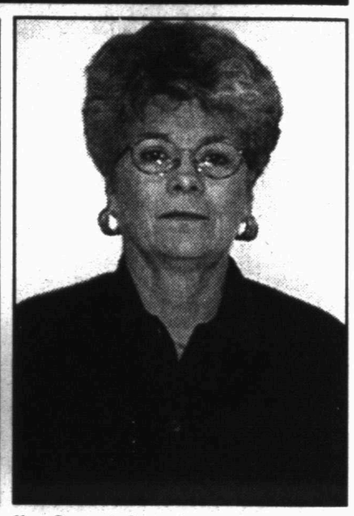
Assad is demanding land all the way to the Sea of Galilee, a source of Israel's precious water supply. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak has signaled his willingness to surrender at least some of the Golan Heights, a strategic buffer that Syria lost in the 1967 Mideast war.

The Post quoted Mubarak as saying Israel and Syria had come close to an agreement through unannounced, indirect discussions, and that the issues left to be decided in formal talks "will not be so complicated."

The negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians at a secluded U.S. Air Force base here appear more promising. According to a senior Israeli official, drafting of a prospective agreement could begin by week's end.

The two sides began over lunch at the officers' club at Bolling Air Force Base Tuesday, then met head-to-head Tuesday night at a townhouse there.

American mediators Dennis Ross and Aaron Miller were on hand, and Albright was a telephone call away. Clinton was in South Asia.



NEW BANK OFFICERS – Janelle Orr, left, was promoted to vice president of Snyder National Bank, while Lois Brewster was named assistant cashier during Tuesday's shareholders' meeting. Brewster will also head the bank's note department. (SDN Staff Photos)

Seniors will benefit from new legislation

WASHINGTON (AP) — With both parties wooing elderly voters, the Senate today unanimously passed legislation to quit taking Social Security benefits away from people who continue to work through their late 60s.

The 100-0 vote sends the bill back to the House, which also passed it unanimously on March 1, because the Senate added a measure to assure that 64-year-old workers are not penalized.

President Clinton has said he will sign the bill, and House aides predicted that it will be approved there again as soon as a vote can be scheduled. The change would be made retroactive to Dec. 31, 1999, effectively boosting the income of 800,000 workers 65 through 69 by thousands of dollars before election day next November.

"As the baby boomers begin to retire, it is more important than ever that older Americans who are willing and able to work should not have their Social Security benefits deferred when they do," Clinton said in a letter to senators from India, where he is visiting.

Under current law, elderly workers 65 through 69 lose $1 in Social Security benefits for every $3 in wages they make above $17,000.

After the vote, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., recalled how his own mother questioned why she had to give up a part of her Social Security because she worked past the age of 65. "This is a wonderful piece of legislation," Lott said.

Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, said in statement "This is a victory for seniors and common sense."

"The earnings limit is part of a bygone era," said the Senate Finance Committee chairman.

Obituaries

Roy McCloskey

1910-2000

Roy Jacob McCloskey, longtime Snyder businessman, died Tuesday, March 22, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital following a lengthy illness.

Roy McCloskey

Funeral service for Mr. McCloskey, 89, will be held at 10 a.m. Friday in the First Baptist Church. Dr. Marty Akins, pastor, will officiate.

Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens. Arrangements are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Oct. 5, 1910 in Blackwell, Okla., he was the eldest son of Thomas P. and Mary Hannah McCloskey.

A 1935 graduate of Arkansas State University with a bachelor of science degree in education. Mr. McCloskey taught school in Missouri.

He joined the Navy in 1941 and served in the African and European Theaters, specializing in codes and ciphers for the naval area of the Mediterranean. He later served as a district training area officer of Great Lakes, New Orleans and Abilene. He retired as Naval Commander and was a life member of the Naval Reserve.

Moving to Snyder in 1956, Mr. McCloskey was the first agent for State Farm Insurance Company in Scurry County. He retired in January, 1995 after serving 40 years.

Mr. McCloskey was active in church and civic affairs. Having a 44-year perfect attendance record, he served as Kiwanis Lieutenant Governor of District 22 in 1966-67 and 1989-90.

Mr. McCloskey was a member of the Snyder Masonic Lodge 706, Snyder Shrine Club, Scottish Rite, the Suez Temple and the American Legion Post 0181.

A longtime member of the First Baptist Church, Mr. McCloskey was a charter member of the CITA Bible Class. He was also a co-founder of the Snyder Goodfellows.

He married Opal Alexander in 1941. She preceded him in death in 1970. He married Elizabeth Odom on March 17, 1974.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth McCloskey of the home; two daughters and a son-in-law, Rozanne Stark of Atlanta, Ga., and Beth and Weldon Harris of Lee's Summit, Mo.; a son and daughter-in-law, John and Robbie Odom of Floydada; a brother, Thomas McCloskey of Winnemucca, Nev.; seven grandchildren, Julie Childress of Independence, Mo., Kevin Harris of Lee's Summit, Mo., David Stark of New York City, Thomas Stark of Atlanta, Ga., John Patrick Odom, Nicole Maureen Odom and Brian C. Odom, all of Floydada; two nephews; and one niece.

Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church in Snyder, the building fund at Floydada First Baptist Church or to a favorite charity.

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Sonny Harrell

1938-2000

C.W. "Sonny" Harrell, a lifelong resident of Scurry County, died at 10:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, in Lubbock's Covenant Medical Center.

Sonny Harrell

Funeral service for Mr. Harrell, 61, is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in the First Christian Church. The Rev. Miller Robinson, retired Baptist minister, and Dr. Tim Griffin, pastor of the First Christian Church, will officiate.

Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born Dec. 2, 1938 in Scurry County, he married Jan Wellborn on June 30, 1960 in Snyder.

A graduate of Snyder High School, Mr. Harrell was a rancher and farmer in the Camp Springs area. A member of the First Christian Church, he was a director of the Scurry County Junior Livestock Association and a director of the Scurry County Rodeo Association. He also was a member of the Southwest Cattle Raisers Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Garrett and Buice Harrell; and two aunts, Fay and Myrtle Harrell.

Survivors include his wife, Jan Harrell of Snyder; two daughters and sons-in-law, Becky and Van Hale and Kathy and Vance Voss, all of Snyder; and two grandchildren, Katie Voss and Garrett Hale, both of Snyder.

Pallbearers will be Tim Collier, Ray Courtney, Sid Johnson, John Billy Koonsman, Eddie Eicke, Ted Crenwelge, Glen Patterson, John Ward, Jimmy Hale and Weldon Beck.

Runaway located, released to parent

Officers located a 15-year-old female Tuesday afternoon who had been reported as a runaway on Sunday.

The girl was located at 1:09 p.m. in the 2100 block of 40th Street and was transported to the police department where she was later released to her mother.

An offense report for Class B theft was taken from Rip Griffin's at 10:43 a.m. Tuesday in reference to a subject leaving without paying for $98.02 worth of diesel.

Officers investigated a two-vehicle accident that occurred at 1:44 p.m. Tuesday in the 2100 block of 37th Street. Involved were a 1994 Chevrolet Cavalier driven by Rebecca Lynn McCravey, 24, of 3782 Dalton and a 1994 Ford Escort driven by Chrystalene Woolsey, 75, of 100 37th Street #2.

Snyder EMS transported Woolsey to Cogdell Memorial Hospital where she was treated and released.

Directors of United Way meet Monday

Scurry County United Way directors met Monday in the CADA office to start planning the campaign for 2001.

President Ken Wright appointed an allocations committee to hear and review agency requests. Committee members include Steve West, Rodney Dupree, Stephen Covey, Marita Burton and Nathan Zalman.

Receiving their first allocations from the recent fund drive were the American Red Cross of Southwest Texas, Boys and Girls Club of Scurry County, Buffalo Trail Council Inc., Boy Scouts of American, Gateway Services Inc. (formerly Noah Project Inc.), Snyder Area Council of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Snyder Child Day Care Center Inc. and West Texas Girl Scout Council, Inc.

The next meeting is set for April 10 in the chamber of commerce boardroom.

Births

John and Charlotte Mann of Snyder announce the birth of their son weighing seven pounds, 12 ounces. He was born at 9:30 p.m. on March 22 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Calvary Baptist revival

A revival at Calvary Baptist Church, 2405 35th St., ends with today's 7 p.m. service that features Clark Bosher of Arlington, nationally-known evangelist. A nursery will be provided and the public is invited.

'Inhalants: The Silent Epidemic'

"Inhalants: The Silent Epidemic" will air at 5 p.m. today and Friday on Channel 2. The film is sponsored by Cox Communications and Snyder CADA. "A Parents' Guide to Preventing Inhalant Abuse" is available at the CADA office, 2513 College Ave. Call 573-1141 or come by for a free copy.

Diabetes support group

The Diabetes Support group will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday in Cogdell Memorial Hospital cafeteria.

FBC worship service

The First Baptist Church Sunday morning worship service airs at 3 p.m. each Thursday on TV Channel 2.

Gold Coat luncheon

The Chamber of Commerce Gold Coat luncheon will be Friday at noon at Golden Corral.

Eighth grade party

The end of school party planning committee for SJHS eighth graders will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday at 2211 41st St. All eighth grade parents are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Gaylan Mason at 573-7125.

American Diabetes Association Walk

The American Diabetes Association Walk for East Elementary's fourth graders is scheduled Friday. Christi Smith, PE instructor, asks everyone to "help the students with this worthy cause." For more information, contact Smith at 573-1769.

LCU chorus

Lubbock Christian University's Praise! Chorus will perform at 7 p.m. Saturday at East Side Church of Christ. Allison Bowden, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Bowden, and Jenise Judah, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Judah, are members of the LCU chorus. The concert is free and open to the public.

MAWC luncheon

Martha Ann Woman's Club will host a luncheon Sunday starting at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are $8 for adults and $4 for children six and under. For reservations call 573,3427, 573-6443 or 573-6717.

HEPA meeting

A general membership meeting the Heritage Environmental Preservation Association will be held from 6-8 p.m. Monday at the Wagon Wheel Ranch. Red Steagall will perform. The membership will discuss Air Force plans to conduct training flights over this area.

SHS reunion meeting

SHS classes of 1943-45 will have a class reunion planning meeting at 3 p.m. Tuesday at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. For more information, call 573-5149.

Annual sausage festival

St. Elizabeth Sausage Festival is set for Sunday, April 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Parish Center. Tickets are available at the door for $6 for adults and take-outs, and $3 for children under 12. The sausage dinner with all the trimmings is all-you-can eat. The festival will also have game booths, raffles and a country store. Sausage sold by the pound is $2.75 uncooked and $3.75 cooked.

Golden K fish fry

The Golden K Kiwanis will host a fish fry from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 9, at the Senior Citizens Center. Plates, including carryouts, are $6.50 each. Children under six may eat free.

1990 SHS reunion

The 1990 senior class of SHS is planning a 10-year reunion in July. If you are a graduate, or have contact with a graduate, contact Anne Osborn @Echostar.com, or call Jennifer Pate at 915-223-9110 in San Angelo, or contact Shelley LaRoux at 574-1826, or mail information to 3209 40th St.

WTC basic education classes

Adult basic education classes at Western Texas College are taught Tuesday and Thursday from 8-11 a.m., and from 6-9 p.m. Classes include G.E.D. and E.S.L. refresher courses. For additional information, call 573-8511, ext. 322.

Windbreak trees

Windbreak tree seedlings have arrived at the Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation office in Snyder. If you missed the ordering deadline, there are plenty of extra trees for sale at the USDA complex, 5309 Big Spring highway.

WTC planetarium shows

The planetarium at WTC is available for spring offering of star shows. Presentations will be held on Fridays by special arrangements. Shows are by reservation only and there is no charge. Shows are available to fit any age group. For reservations call 573-8511, Ext. 312.

Snyder Neighbors Sharing

SNS is in need of workers and monetary donations for the April 29 work day. For more information, contact Thomas Fogleman at 573-3538, or Sam Robertson at 573-4053.

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients is available every day free of charge to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland. For more information call Martha Schiebel at 573-8626 or Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

Cash Five

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

2-11-13-16-32

Pick 3

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

8, 8, 2

MAR 22 2000

Scurry County Country

Diversified

By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

The Bobwhite Brigade Wildlife Camps are seeking top high school recruits for its quail camps this summer. There are three camps held in Texas — Rolling Plains (June 25-29) at Lueders; South Texas (July 16-20) at Camp Belton and East Texas (July 23-27) at Broaddus. The Bobwhite Brigade offers a hands-on learning experience for Texas youth interested in the outdoors.

Each camp offers a four-day curriculum designed to make quail experts of its members. Cadets are given intensive training on quail biology and management by leading Texas wildlife biologists and managers. After graduation, each member is expected to present education programs in his or her home county.

"Camp graduates consistently rate the brigade as the best youth camp they've ever attended," said Dr. Dale Rollins, San Angelo-based Extension Wildlife Specialist and originator of the Bobwhite Brigade concept. He reports, "Most return home from the hardest week of work they've ever been through, then work through the coming year for the chance to return as assistant counselors."

Rollins said no matter what the cadets' future career choice is, it is important that they develop the ability to think, plan, and present their ideas to others. A major component of the brigade involves developing the communication skills necessary to tell others about wildlife conservation and management. To that end, cadets are taught to write news releases, present educational programs, and to present themselves on television and radio.

Though the Texas Agricultural Extension Service is a major camp sponsor, applicants are not limited to the extension's 4-H youth program. Any high school (sophomore through senior) student with at least a "B" grade average is eligible.

All applications must be received by April 15. Applicants will be evaluated by a steering committee in late April. The committee will select 30 cadets and two alternates for each camp. Successful applicants will be notified soon after the selection process.

Camp tuition is $200 per cadet. The cost covers meals, lodging and supplies. Cadets are encouraged to solicit all or part of the tuition fee from the local Soil and Water Conservation District, banks, civic groups or any conservation organization. The Bobwhite Brigade will help locate sponsors if requested.

Prospective applicants should contact the Scurry County Extension office at 915-573-5423 for the necessary paperwork or write: Bobwhite Brigade, 3427 Northeast Parkway, San Antonio, TX, 78218 or call Helen Holdsworth at 210-467-6575 or 6578. You may also apply via the Internet and obtain additional information on the Bobwhite Brigade at http://texnat.tamu.edu and click on the Bobwhite Brigade logo.

Lubbock auction

The Lubbock Stockyards, Inc. had a run of 703 head of cattle for the Thursday, March 16, sale. Cows $1 to $2 better. Calves and yearlings were steady. Trading and demand were good.

Slaughter cows
(High dressing — cutters — utilities: 37-45.50
Canner and low cutters: 30-36.50
Slaughter bulls: 455-57.50
Feeder steers — choice:
300-400: 105-130
400-500: 90-115
500-600: 85-105
600-700: 85-92.50
700-800: 80-83
Feeder heifers:
300-400: 92-115
400-500: 85-105
500-600: 80-87.50
600-700: 77-85
700-800: 75-80
Feeder Bulls — good and choice:
500-600: 85-100
700-800: 72-82
Cow and calf pairs:
Good: 675-900
Grade: 500-675
Springers: 450-750
Baby calves: 125-200
Doodlers. 150-240

Officers elected

Members of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association have elected officers for 2000-01 and John R. "Rich" Anderson of Gail has been named an honorary director.

J. Mark McLaughlin from San Angelo was reelected as president.

Serving with Anderson as honorary directors will be Arlan Youngblood of Lamesa, Red McCombs of San Antonio, Lon Cartwright of Dinero and Reynaldo Alaniz of San Isidro.

The 123-year-old trade organization's 14,000 members manage approximately 2.7 million head of cattle on 81.2 million acres of range and pasture land.

C-City auction

The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 850

head of cattle for the Saturday, March 18, sale. Compared to last week: Feeder steers and heifers were steady to $2 lower. Slaughter cows were steady to $1 higher. Bulls were steady. Bred cows and pairs were $25/hd higher, pairs were steady. Trading was active and demand good.

Feeder steers:
200-300: 125-136
300-400: 117-122
400-500: 107-115
500-600: 97-105
600-700: 85-89
700-800: 85.25
Feeder heifers:
200-300: 109-121
300-400: 100-109
400-500: 96.50-102
500-600: 85.50-96
600-700: 80-85
700-800: 79.50
Replacement cows:
Young bred cows: 560-730
Bred cows: 450-550
Pairs: 660-775
Aged pairs: 560-675
Slaughter cows: High yielding: 43-47
Slaughter bulls: High dressing: 47-50.75

Farm laborers wooed by out-of-state meat packers

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — After more than 20 years of following work from one town to another, former California farm laborer Martin Feliscian has headed east, lured by the promise of steady work at a bacon processing plant in Ohio.

"There's a lot of seasonal jobs here and I finally got tired of it and started looking for something else," Feliscian said during a telephone interview from his mother's Visalia home just hours before he got on a bus to make the two-and-a-half-day trip.

The abundance of low-wage agricultural workers in the Central Valley is attracting meat packing and processing recruiters from as far away as Alaska, Iowa and Ohio. They come looking for rural laborers to take jobs many of their local workers find distasteful.

The Central Valley also is characterized by pockets of high unemployment, up to 45 percent in some rural areas, versus pockets of low unemployment in places like Iowa and Ohio, where rates have hovered between 2 percent and 4 percent for the last several months.

The 35-year-old Feliscian, who's worked in California's citrus groves and vegetable fields since he was 13, says he's done just about every field labor job there is and still can't get ahead. There are few opportunities for workers with limited education, he said.

"And the pay is really low. You can't live on $5.75 an hour. You're not going to make it on that," he added.

For years he has managed to scrape by, trying to make payments to help support his eight kids, but it's been tough, working in the fields or at tire shops around Visalia. When he heard about a local job service program matching workers to jobs out of state, Feliscian said he couldn't wait to sign up.

He was offered full-time work at $7.25 an hour with medical benefits starting after six months, a free bus ticket to Washington Court House, Ohio, and a $75 advance on his first paycheck.

Hundreds of workers every year are following Feliscian, says Karen Davidson, who runs a program in Tulare County called More Opportunity for Viable Employment, which recruits workers from the area for companies. Davidson's program will also pay workers' families' moving expenses if they qualify under certain welfare guidelines.

"We move people throughout the U.S. to areas were jobs are very, very plentiful — to 34 different states in the last year-and-a-half," Davidson said.

The valley has become known for producing workers with the skills and endurance necessary to tackle tough, unpleasant jobs in agriculture. The meat and fish packing industries are finding it fertile ground for their recruiting drives.

"We find a lot of people in the area have experience picking grapes or oranges and are used to the long hours in extreme weather conditions," said Elizabeth Procious, a recruiter for Westward Seafoods, a Seattle-based company with packing plants in Alaska's Aleutian Islands.

Despite the tough work, the difficult conditions and the unfamiliar town, Feliscian is determined to carve out a life for himself in Ohio.

"I'm very excited about it," he said. "I wanted to just bust up in tears when I heard about the job."

USDA proposing to cut back on some inspections of plants

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cutting back on inspectors' visits to meat processing plants could save millions of dollars in overtime pay that is borne by the industry, while allowing the government to concentrate on facilities where food is most likely to be contaminated, federal officials say.

Inspectors currently are required to visit each processing plant once a shift, including overtime runs. The Agriculture Department wants to switch to daily, random checks, starting in a year.

"By having our resources allocated based on risk the public is well served," Margaret Glavin, associate administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, said Tuesday.

Critics said the move could imperil public health. "This idea comes out of left field with no data to support it," said Caroline Smith DeWaal of the Center for Science in the Public Interest. "It's just saving money for the industry."

Processors, who must cover the inspectors' overtime pay, would save an estimated $19 million a year. The department, which has 7,500 inspectors, would save $4 million, which would be shifted to other food safety programs.

Inspectors, who often work 12-hour shifts, can earn up to $14,000 a year in overtime in addition to their salaries, which average $35,000 to $45,000.

Slaughtering plants, which must have USDA inspectors on site at all times, would not be affected.

Inspections would be reduced at processing plants, including soup canneries, where the risk of contamination is lowest, and focused instead on plants that have a history of problems or are considered to be riskier because of what they process, such as ground beef, the most common source of the deadly E. coli O157:H7.

Several major incidences of food poisoning have been traced to processed meat products in recent years, including a 1998 outbreak at a Michigan hot dog plant that killed 15 people and sickened at least 100 others.

Study says protein deposits may cause Alzheimer's disease

CHICAGO (AP) — Certain protein deposits in the brains of Alzheimer's victims may be a cause of the mind-robbing disease — not just a symptom, researchers suggested today.

Autopsies on 79 nursing home patients confirmed that beta-amyloid protein plays a role in the earliest stages of Alzheimer's, even before symptoms of dementia appear, the researchers reported in today's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Sticky plaques of beta-amyloid in the brain and tangles of a protein known as tau inside brain nerve fibers are two of the distinguishing features of Alzheimer's, which affects more than 4 million Americans.

Scientists disagree over which feature may play a more central role in the destruction of brain cells. And some believe that the plaques and tangles are actually markers left by nerve cells killed by some other unknown cause.

The study's authors favor the beta-amyloid theory because they found that the presence of beta-amyloid preceded development of tau protein in the brain's frontal cortex.

In an accompanying editorial, Dr. Dennis J. Selkoe, a neurologist at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital, called the conclusion exciting and said it could lead to new ways to diagnose and treat Alzheimer's.

"This work, coupled with early work, clearly points to amyloid build-up as the cause," said Selkoe, who holds a stake in Elan Corp., which is testing a vaccine aimed at preventing beta-amyloid accumulation.

But an executive at the Alzheimer's Association said the study does not prove what causes the disease.

"What it doesn't tell us is which comes first, the chicken or the egg — the disease or beta-amyloid," said William Theis, vice president for medical and scientific affairs at the Alzheimer's Association.

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573-5486

PUBLIC NOTICE

On January 25, 2000, TXU Electric Company (TXU Electric) filed a Tariff Filing with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) and all cities with original jurisdiction over its rates. This Tariff Filing was made pursuant to Substantive Rule 25.241. The Tariff Filing requested revisions to 27 of its retail rates/riders to be effective March 1, 2000. The primary purpose of this Tariff Filing is to modify, close, or delete certain existing tariffs in order to facilitate the transition to a competitive retail market as of January 1, 2002, pursuant to Senate Bill 7. Specifically, TXU Electric proposes to (1) close certain existing retail tariffs to new customers for services deemed competitive energy services by the Commission's Substantive Rule 25.343; (2) close and/or modify optional retail tariffs with contract provisions that extend beyond the January 1, 2002, start date for full retail market competition or that are no longer necessary; (3) modify retail tariffs for basic rates to limit contract terms to December 31, 2001; and (4) delete retail tariffs that are no longer being utilized.

The Tariff Filing does not propose to either increase or decrease any existing charge or rate, and TXU Electric does not anticipate any change in revenues as a result of these proposed tariff revisions. The changes proposed in this Tariff Filing are designed to address new customers and do not directly impact current customers receiving service under these rates.

The Commission has established Docket No. 22051, "Application of TXU Electric Company to Revise Retail Rates/Riders, Pursuant to P.U.C. SUBST. R.§25.241" to address these proposed revisions and has suspended the proposed effective date until June 30, 2000. Persons who wish to intervene in the proceeding or comment upon action sought, should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, at P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call the Public Utility Commission's (commission) Office of Customer Protection at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512)936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll-free) 1-800-735-2989. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is March 27, 2000 and a letter requesting intervention should be received by the commission by that date. Correspondence concerning this proceeding should reference Docket No. 22051.

TXU ELECTRIC COMPANY

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