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WT-Int. Crude - $27.56
WTIC Posted - $24.25
Natural Gas - $4.66

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY

Sept. 17, 2003
Vol. 55 No. 120
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Glen Stephens

SEE YOU AT THE POLE — Area students met at their respective flag poles this morning to pray for their schools, teachers, classmates and the leadership of America. Snyder High School students are shown at the prayer service that is held each year on Sept. 17. Area students will meet at 7 this evening in Worsham Auditorium for a Saw You at the Poles rally. (Staff Photos by Jo Ann Nunley)

United Way to to start new drive Thursday

The Scurry County United Way will begin its journey in the 2004-2005 campaign at its kickoff luncheon Thursday at the Martha Ann Woman's Club.

Scurry County's United Way goal is $85,000.

The United Way is governed by local directors and volunteers to raise money for 11 agencies.

Dayton Robertson, manager of Y-Z Systems and former Snyder mayor, is the keynote speaker.

United Way president Stephen Covey will give a presentation on agencies supported by the annual fundraising effort.

United Way agencies include the Boys & Girls Club, Snyder Child Day Care Center, Gateway Family Services, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Snyder Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the Food Cupboard, American Red Cross of Southwest Texas, Scurry County Youth Outreach and the Volunteer Fire Department.

The city provides office space for the agency at 2311 Ave. T, just west of city hall. Rana Anderson, secretary, is available at the office during the campaign from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday.

Officers for United Way include Stephen Covey, president; Christy Brown, vice president; Brenda Clem, secretary; and Peggy Vernon, treasurer.

Mark Cullifer nominated for appraisal district board

Ira school trustees Tuesday night nominated Mark Cullifer to be on the ballot for election to the Scurry County appraisal district board and accepted the county's recommended appraisal process.

The board also discussed the preliminary Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST). Ira was given superior achievement, the highest rating that can be awarded by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Plans for the senior trip to Florida were discussed. Ira seniors will visit Disney World and Universal Studios. New guidelines to be implemented next year were approved. In the future, trips will be taken during the school year instead of the summer, and a cap of $1,150 per student has been set.

A posted executive session was not held.

Dirk Dunn presided over the meeting and all members were present to include Keith Clements, Fran Farmer, Lance Autry, Dennis Taylor, Sid Wall and Shane Smith.

REDISTRICTING TALK – Garza County Judge Giles Dalby, Sen. Robert Duncan (R-Lubbock) and Scurry County commissioner Ralph Trevey look over one of the many redistricting maps presented at a public meeting held by Duncan Tuesday in the Western Texas College fine arts theatre. (SDN Staff Photo)

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN

by Jo Ann Nunley

There are many unattractive, displeasing words to the ear and one of those words and probably the most used word in adult conversations today (men and women alike) is d-i-e-t.

I was definitely not prepared to deal with the "ugly" word since the first part of my life friends and their moms served up banana splits and the like because they thought I needed to gain weight.

But like it or not, the time to sit up and take notice is long overdue. So, I've begun to read the articles that dominate most publications nowadays about food and healthy lifestyles and I lean more toward the common sense advice like the following I'll share.

1. Start moving.

Get up and get yourself moving, whether it's walking, swimming, biking or running. Try to do at least 15 minutes a day of aerobic activity.

2. Get off the scale.

Americans are notoriously obsessed with body weight. Weigh yourself once and measure against the body mass index (BMI), then put your bathroom scale in the closet for a few months. Scales can be inaccurate, misleading and a psychological deterrent to your success.

3. Target fat and fat will lose.

Excess body fat is a killer. Learn how to measure and manage your body fat percentage by using body fat calipers. Body fat measurement is a more accurate indicator of health and wellness than weight alone.

4. Do it for health benefits.

Shift your fitness focus to your health, not just your appearance. It will add years to your life, reduce major health risks plus you'll feel and look better.

5. Cut out the soda and save.

Soda adds useless and expensive calories to your diet. Just drinking water rather than soda can put an extra $2-$3 in your pocket each day. Over one year, that adds up to over $1,000 saved (and 100,000 fewer calories consumed.

6. Avoid "Get Thin Quick" schemes.

If it sounds too good to be true, it is. From dangerous "fat burning" diet pills to electronic ab stimulators, the promise of results without effort is just a marketing gimmick designed to reduce your wallet — not your waistline.

7. Be active — be smart.

Proper diet and exercise go hand in hand. One without the other is a recipe for failure. Just because you walked for 30 minutes doesn't mean you can reward yourself with a pint of your favorite ice cream.

8. Reduce the calories.

Americans take in too many calories. Period. Weight reduction is a caloric formula: Calories in (through eating) versus calories out (through activity). Simple, stick with smaller portions when eating out or at home.

9. Take it outside.

Enjoy yourself now that fall is almost here. Get outdoors.

10. Remember that health starts at home.

Help our children to stay focused with eating "good" foods for meals and snacks. Toss out the junk food and turn off the television set. Get active. Get healthy. Make it a family thing.

The common sense approach brings to mind a lesson from teaching second grade Sunday school — the Lord advised Daniel and his friends some 300 years BC not to eat the rich food offered by the king, without using the "ugly" word.

By Texas House...

Redistricting map approved

AUSTIN (AP) — Congressional redistricting has emerged from the House, but the contentious measure remains far from the homestretch.

After a 76-43 vote early today, the measure was adopted in the Texas House. The bill next goes across the rotunda to the Senate, where it will likely be rejected in favor of their own map.

For the third time this summer, the House approved the map sponsored by Rep. Phil King, R-Weatherford, that would likely give Texas Republicans an edge over Democrats in Congress.

Democrats argued — as they have since the issue started gaining steam in the spring — that the map would dilute the voting power of minorities and rural Texans in favor of urban and suburban Republicans.

"This is political gerrymandering at new heights at an unprecedented level," said Rep. Mike Villarreal, D-San Antonio.

King maintained that his map was fair and did not dilute minority districts.

"I in no way think it dilutes minority districts," King responded to Democrats' arguments.

The GOP is battling for domination of the 32-member Texas delegation in Congress. Democrats hold a 17-15 advantage, but Republicans — urged on by U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Sugar Land — say existing congressional boundaries don't allow for election of members of Congress who reflect the state's increasingly GOP voting patterns.

A federal court drew Texas' congressional districts after state lawmakers failed to do so in 2001, leaving open the possibility that the districts could be redrawn by the Legislature. Republicans say districts should be redrawn by the Texas Legislature. Democrats say the current map should stay in place until the next redistricting cycle.

King's map would give Texas Republicans as many as 21 seats in Congress.

The Legislature on Monday began a third special session to consider redistricting after the return of 11 Democratic senators who fled to Albuquerque, N.M., last month to prevent consideration of the issue. Republicans began trying to push redistricting legislation through in April, but attempts have been thwarted in the regular session and two special sessions called by Gov. Rick Perry.

Senators have already said the House map wouldn't pass muster in the Senate. That would leave the issue to be hashed out in a conference committee made up of delegates from both chambers, where the legislation could run into roadblocks within the GOP.

At issue is a West Texas district that includes the area from Lubbock to Midland. Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick, a Midland native, wants his home district to be represented in Congress separate from Lubbock.

Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, chair of the Senate Jurisprudence Committee charged with redistricting, wants to keep Midland in the district now represented by U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock.

Each side has shown little willingness to budge.

HISD makes plans for gym improvements

Hermleigh school trustees Tuesday night moved forward on plans for renovating the school gymnasium.

The board adopted a resolution to borrow $300,000 from Government Capital in Fort Worth through the issuance of maintenance notes. The board voted not to issue time warrants.

A plan was approved for the gym renovation and a survey of school property in need of renovation was authorized.

Tim Dacus presided over the meeting and all board members were present to include Alan Culp, David Higgins, Sherene Digby, Roy Gill, Jim Lionberger and Larry West.

Bridge to be one lane on Thursday

As the renovation of College Avenue continues, the bridge over Deep Creek on College Avenue will be for one-lane only on Thursday.

Motorists will be delayed as oncoming traffic crosses the bridge so TxDOT suggests motorists take an alternate route.

Area sales tax rebates

City	Set '03	Sept '02	+/-	Year '03	Year '02	+/-
Abilene	$2,148,281.90	$2,041,940.22	5.20%	$19,536,079.68	$19,243,113.13	1.52%
Big Spring	$265,271.95	$266,390.29	-0.41%	$2,729,605.52	$2,876,143.12	-5.09%
Colorado City	$32,629.10	$29,779.90	9.56%	$304,199.02	$305,061.31	-0.28%
Lamesa	$61,766.90	$57,719.70	7.01%	$646,690.97	$626,743.71	3.18%
Lubbock	$2,151,665.79	$2,277,421.91	-5.52%	$21,194,179.73	$21,532,895.09	-1.57%
Post	$22,286.44	$20,822.89	7.02%	$202,237.89	$196,892.39	2.71%
Roby	$1,668.53	$1,613.30	3.42%	$15,850.05	$15,799.72	0.31%
Rotan	$10,420.22	$11,417.14	-8.73%	$105,659.50	$101,463.17	4.13%
Snyder	$147,081.38	$116,724.55	26.00%	$1,362,034.96	$1,077,495.19	26.40%
Sweetwater	$159,925.24	$155,482.57	2.85%	$1,500,819.42	$1,390,077.69	7.96%

HEALTHY REBATE — Snyder's state sales tax rebates continue to be strong as this month's rebate mirrored the yearly average of a 26 percent increase. The city will received $147,081.38 this month as compared to $116,724.55 for the same time in 2002.

ASK US

Q—What will the proceeds from the band booster's fajita supper before Friday night's game be used for?

A—For the band's spring trip to Winter Park, Colo.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Johnny Reed...

...has been a salesman at Southern Electric for the past four years and has lived in Scurry County all of his life. His wife, Stacy, is a massage therapist in Abilene. They have one daughter, Randi, who is a senior at McMurry University. Johnny's favorite pastime is golf.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Endeavor to live so that when you die, even the undertaker will be sorry.
—Mark Twain

SEP 17 2003

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Girl Scout fundraiser

Snyder Girl Scouts are taking orders for their fall sale of nuts and calendars. To order, call Judy Martin at 573-7556.

West Elementary pictures

West Elementary School will have school pictures made Thursday morning in the auditorium.

Cogdell auxiliary to meet

The Cogdell Hospital Auxiliary will meet at 9:30 a.m. Thursday in the hospital boardroom. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer is invited.

Eastern Star to meet

Eastern Star Snyder Chapter #450 has set its stated meeting for 7:30 p.m. Thursday. All members are encouraged to attend.

Fajita dinner

Snyder High Band Boosters will sponsor a fajita dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday in the cafeteria prior to the Snyder-Midland Greenwood game. Tickets can be purchased from any band student for $5.

Word is Life fundraiser

The Word is Life Deliverance Church is having a fundraiser to benefit its Youth Group Mission. The group is selling 2004 God's Creation calendars for $6 each. Call Davina Douglass at 573-2949. Persons needing a ride to children's church at 7 p.m. or the regular services at that time can contact William Clayton at 573-5305.

Canyon community reunion

The Canyon community reunion will be held Saturday in the fellowship hall of the Ira Baptist Church. Doughnuts and coffee will be served at 9:30 a.m. Meat, paper goods and drinks will be furnished for lunch. Bring vegetable or salad and desert. For more information cal Louise Layne at 573-2012 or Lorita Keller at 573-3825.

Youth group car wash

The First United Methodist Church youth group will hold a car wash from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday in the Wal-Mart parking lot. Cost is by donation and proceeds will go to mission expenses and a youth ski trip.

Antique Tractor, Equipment Club

Scurry County Antique Tractor and Equipment Club will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, at Jack's Road Boring on the Colorado City Hwy. For more information, call 573-4414.

Annual Jamaica

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church has set its annual Jamaica for Sunday, Sept. 28, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Besides food, DJ and live music, the event will also feature volleyball, horseshoe and washers tournament and a talent show for all ages. Folkorico Dancers will perform and there will also be a celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Important GED dates

Mandatory pre-registration for the GED test will be Thursday, Oct. 2, at the GED testing center, Western Texas College, Building 7B, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The math segment of the GED will begin promptly at 8 a.m. on the following day, Friday, Oct. 3. For more information about the GED test, call Betty Thompson, 573-2310, or Emily Hataway, 573-8511, ext. 297 or 574-2112. It is recommended that candidates receive some preparation before attempting the test.

First Christian fajita dinner

First Christian Church, 37th and Austin, has set its annual park and eat fajita dinner for Friday, Oct. 3, from 5-7 p.m. Call 573-6115 or 573 6687 for advance tickets. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

Quilt showing

Quilts are needed for the quilt display during White Buffalo Days Oct. 10-11 at the Scurry County Coliseum. Persons wishing to put a quilt on display should call Joan Bunch at 573-7404. After 5 p.m. call 573-0047.

Addresses sought

E-mail addresses or phone numbers are still needed for members of Snyder High School class of 1963 to plan a reunion. Information may be sent to t.dolan@mail.utexas or call 325-207-1718 and leave a message.

1950s dance contest

A '50s dance contest will be held Saturday, Oct. 11, in conjunction with the White Buffalo Festival. Judging for the $100 prize will be 50% costume and 50% dance skills. The White Buffalo Committee also solicits 1950s yearbooks for the display. For more information call Jackie at the coliseum at 573-9811.

Organize riding club

Anyone interested in forming a riding club for families is asked to contact Debbie Elder at 325 574-1622.

Senior citizens swimnastics

Swimnastics for senior citizens at WTC is held from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call 573-4035.

Band fundraiser

SHS band boosters and students are spray painting Tiger Paws on sidewalks and driveways for donations. For information, call 573-5061.

Pick up Tiger's Lair

The 2003 Tiger's Lair yearbook can still be picked up in room 229 at Snyder High before and after school. Only students who paid for a yearbook or their parents may get the book. There are a few extra yearbooks for sale. They are $50 while supply lasts.

2003 Bulldog annuals arrive

The 2003 Bulldog annuals have arrived and have been delivered to those who purchased one. To purchase an extra annual at a cost of $22 each, contact Becky Hudgins at Ira School.

Cancer treatment transportation

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

ABC to continue sitcom without Ritter

LOS ANGELES (AP) — ABC executives have decided that the show must go on and will continue production of "8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter" despite the death of star John Ritter.

Network officials said Tuesday that the sitcom will show the TV family coping with his character's loss.

"Everybody recognizes that John loved that show. ... He'd have wanted the show to continue," Lloyd Braun, chairman of ABC Entertainment Television Group, told a telephone news conference Tuesday.

Braun and ABC Entertainment President Susan Lyne said the sitcom will premier next Tuesday as planned and that the network will air the three episodes Ritter filmed before his death last week.

After that, the series co-starring Katey Sagal will go into repeats while writers retool it and production starts. No date was given for when the show will return to the air.

Ritter, making a TV series comeback 25 years after he starred in "Three's Company," became ill on the "8 Simple Rules" set and died last Thursday of an undetected heart problem. He was 54.

It hasn't been decided if the death of Ritter's character, Paul Hennessy, will mirror what happened to the actor, ABC executives said.

Ritter's series, which debuted last year with solid ratings, was considered a key part of ABC's comeback effort and anchored its Tuesday night lineup of family comedies.

ABC knows it is facing a difficult task, rebuilding a comedy on a death and especially that of the series' star, network executives acknowledged.

"We're going to take it an episode at a time," Lyne said. While the idea of recasting Ritter's role was quickly rejected, new characters will be added at some point, the ABC executives said.

Although Braun lauded Sagal as a "fantastic actress" capable of taking on a greater role in the series, he said it would become more of an ensemble production.

Ritter's widow, actress Amy Yasbeck, and the series' cast and producers supported the decision to keep going, Braun said. An ABC News tribute to Ritter was to air Tuesday night.

A similar episode in television history came when comic Redd Foxx died in 1991, after making seven episodes of his comeback series on CBS, "The Royal Family." The show returned without him six months after his death, but lasted only a few episodes.

Comedian Freddie Prinze, star of "Chico and the Man," committed suicide in 1977 in the third year of the popular NBC sitcom. The network cast a new younger Chico but the show was gone in a year.

The rarity of such occurrences makes it difficult to predict how "8 Simple Rules" will fare, Braun said. "I think it will be a show we'll be proud to put on," he said.

Each of the first three episodes already shot will start with a special introduction, featuring the cast members. The next new show will deal with Paul Hennessy's death.

"Future episodes will take viewers into the Hennessy household as they experience the loss of a father and construct a new life together," said Braun. "We will play out the situation as real life."

Executives said they considered a number of options, including canceling the show.

"This is a business," analyst Steve Sternberg of the ad-buying firm Magna Global USA said of the network's decision. But it's a risky one, he said.

"Initially, the show could benefit from the publicity," Sternberg said. "But they will have to do it well. If they don't, it could flop quickly and ABC will look bad doing it."

Divorce rate soars in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's divorce rate rose to a new record high last year, reflecting an increasing number of middle-aged and older couples who are parting ways.

The number of divorces rose for a 12th straight year in 2002, according to recently released government statistics that provided the latest confirmation that the stigma long associated with breaking up is fading in Japan.

According to the nation's Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry, a record 289,836 couples divorced last year, up 1.4 percent from the previous all-time high of 285,911 in 2001.

That amounted to 2.3 divorces for every 1,000 people in Japan, also a record and more than double the rate of 1.07 in 1975.

Behind the rise is an increasing number of couples who are parting ways after having been married for 20 years or more: They accounted for 15.7 percent of divorces in 2002, up from just 5.7 percent in 1975.

Divorce was long seen as a social taboo in harmony-conscious Japan.

Today's chuckle

Japanese cab company goes 'Hello Kitty'

TOKYO (AP) — It might be the perrrfect cab to some: A pink and baby blue sedan with two Hello Kitty characters painted on the side, a Hello Kitty blanket inside and Hello Kitty music piped in through the sound system.

This mobile paradise for fans of the popular kitten character is the latest service offered by a Japanese taxi company, Kanachu.

The 10 Hello Kitty cabs — equipped with Hello Kitty umbrellas, ponchos, and tissue for customers — have been operating since April.

Kanachu integrated the new taxis into their fleet of 500 cabs serving suburban Tokyo after deciding they needed a special service targeting children. They also figured there was also no danger of alienating anyone with the cute cat, said Katsuo Habu, a manager at Kanachu.

Kanachu has licensed Hello Kitty from Sanrio, the character's creator, for three years. Fares — about 660 yen for the first 1.2 miles — are the same as regular taxis.

The cars are driven only by women drivers, in part to satisfy Sanrio, Habu said.

"The Sanrio people told us they associated taxis with bearded, smoking male drivers. That is why they were not really sure if they wanted us to use their character," Habu said. "But we told them that we would have female drivers and the cars would be nonsmoking."

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events

LOTTO TEXAS
TEXAS LOTTERY

Tuesday's Lottery Numbers
Texas Two Step

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 6-9-10-32. Bonus Ball: 9.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Prize: $200,000.

Number matching four of four: 9. Prize: $1,612.

Number matching three of four, plus Bonus Ball: 35. Prize: $50.

Number matching three of four: 1,249. Prize: $20.

Number matching two of four, plus Bonus Ball: 849. Prize: $19.

Number matching one of four, plus Bonus Ball: 5,544. Prize: $7.

Number matching Bonus Ball alone: 8,714. Prize: $5.

Estimated jackpot for Friday night drawing: $250,000.

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 5-12-19-20-36.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Prize per winner: $0.

Matching four of five: 157. Prize: $413.

Matching three of five: 4,879. Prize: $9.

Matching two of five: 48,614. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Wednesday night

Pick 3
(Day) 5-1-4
(Night) 1-8-9

Date Book

Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2003

Today is the 260th day of 2003 and the 89th day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1787, the Constitution of the United States of America was signed by 38 of the 41 delegates of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, ratifying the document.

On this day in 1862, the Battle of Antietam was fought. It became the bloodiest day in American history.

On this day in 1976, NASA publicly unveiled the first space shuttle, the Enterprise, which took almost 10 years and nearly $10 billion to create.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Hank Williams Sr. (1923-1953), musician; Roddy McDowall (1928-1998), actor; Anne Bancroft (1931-), actress, is 72; Ken Kesey (1935-2001), author; John Ritter (1948-), actor, is 55; Baz Luhrmann (1962-), director, is 41; Bryan Singer (1965-), director, is 38.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1920, the National Football League was formed in Canton, Ohio.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "You don't lead by pointing and telling people some place to go. You lead by going to that place and making a case." — Ken Kesey

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Sept. 10) and last quarter (Sept. 18).

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Engineer says NASA may not be able to meet emergency recommendations

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — A top NASA engineer says future astronauts venturing out on spacewalks may not be able to fix the kind of damage that doomed Columbia, despite accident investigators' recommendations.

"It is absolutely our intent" to repair damage to the leading edges of the wings, said Steve Poulos, manager of NASA's shuttle vehicle engineering office. "My uncertainty is what our true capability for repair is going to be. In other words, what level of damage can we ultimately repair."

Astronauts on the next space shuttle flight, for instance, may not be able to patch a hole as big as the one that brought down Columbia in February, Poulos said Tuesday.

It was the first time that someone so high within NASA expressed uncertainty about the possibility of equipping future shuttle astronauts with the necessary materials and tools to patch potentially deadly holes in spacecraft wings.

"There's nothing off the table" for developing a patch for the thermal shielding on the leading edges of wings, Poulos said. "If we can make that work, that is what we're going to go fly. If we cannot make that work, then we have some decision points that we as an agency need to sit down and talk about and decide is that a risk that we're willing to take."

NASA hopes to resume launches sometime next year. A tentative March or April date has been ruled out for Atlantis, the next shuttle up, and it will be a few more weeks before shuttle officials settle on a new target date.

Poulos said at a return-to-flight seminar at Johnson Space Center that the "paramount" objective is to eliminate or at least minimize the amount of insulating foam and other debris shed from the external fuel tank during liftoff. But later in the afternoon, the deputy manager of NASA's external tank project, Neil Otte, told reporters it will be impossible to completely prevent foam from coming off, given the current technology.

A chunk of foam the size of a suitcase tore a hole in Columbia's left wing 82 seconds after liftoff in January, and the gap let in the searing gases of re-entry two weeks later. The spaceship broke apart over Texas on Feb. 1, killing all seven astronauts.

In their final report issued late last month, the Columbia accident investigators urged NASA to not only eliminate flyaway foam and other launch debris, but to toughen the shuttle wings and develop a plan for astronauts to make emergency repairs in case their ship is damaged. They recommended that the repair plan cover "the widest possible range of damage."

The gash in Columbia's left wing was an estimated 6 inches to 10 inches. Poulos said he does not know whether astronauts on the next flight — or any successive flight — will be able to patch such a big hole given the difficulty in finding a material that can adhere to the carbon composite panels on the wing edges and withstand the thousands of degrees of re-entry.

Any roughness in the patch could make matters worse by creating more turbulence during re-entry and causing even more heat buildup in the damaged area.

Federal Reserve signals probable long spell of historically low interest rates in the U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — It is music to the ears of some borrowers, but a sour note for some savers: A key short-term interest rate might stay at a 45-year low for quite some time, Federal Reserve policy-makers hinted.

Economists said that could mean near rock-bottom short-term rates through the rest of this year and into part of next year.

Amid signs that the economy is improving, Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan and his Federal Open Market Committee colleagues decided Tuesday to hold the federal funds rate at 1 percent. They said such superlow rates are providing "important ongoing support to economic activity" and "can be maintained for a considerable period."

The funds rate, the interest banks charge each other on overnight loans, is the Fed's primary tool for influencing the economy.

Holding the funds rate steady means that commercial banks' prime lending rate for many short-term consumer and business loans will remain at 4 percent, the lowest level since 1959. Any changes to the funds rate affects the prime lending rate.

"By leaving rates unchanged, the window of low-rate opportunity remains open for auto loans, home equity and other consumer loan products. However, returns for money markets and short-term certificates of deposit are showing no signs of substantive improvement," said Greg McBride, a financial analyst with Bankrate.com, an online financial information service.

Low short-term rates are good for borrowers, but can mean measly returns for savers. The average nationwide rate on a one-year CD is 1.09 percent, McBride said. Longer-term rates are better. The national average on a 5-year CD is 3.05 percent, he said.

Maintaining a climate of near rock-bottom short-term borrowing costs, however, may make consumers and businesses feel more inclined to step up spending and investment, which would spur economic growth.

Low short-term interest rates, along with President Bush's third round of tax cuts, have helped get the economy's anticipated rebound in the second half of this year off to a good start, economists said. Some analysts predict the economy will grow at a rate of more than 4 percent in the final six months of this year, an improvement from the 2.3 percent growth rate seen in the first six months.

Consumers have been the main force keeping the economy going. They are keeping cash registers humming and have kept home sales brisk even as longer-term mortgage rates have crept up. But businesses still are somewhat cautious with capital spending. They still also are reluctant to go on hiring sprees, an ingredient crucial, but as yet missing, to the economy's return to full throttle, economists said.

The Fed said economic data since the last meeting, on Aug. 12, confirmed that "spending is firming, although the labor market has been weakening." That marked a slightly more cautious note on the jobs front from the August meeting when policymakers said "labor market indicators are mixed."

The latest snapshot of the employment climate, released by the government this month, showed that although the nation's unemployment rate dipped to 6.1 percent in August, businesses slashed 93,000 jobs. It marked the seventh month in a row the economy lost jobs.

While other parts of the economy are on the mend, the job market will be the last to heal, economists said. Businesses will wait to return to hiring, until they are sure of the recovery's vigor and profits improve, analysts said. Healthy productivity gains have allowed companies to produce more with fewer workers, a factor in the lackluster job climate, Greenspan says.

As long as the job market doesn't take a turn for the worse, which most analysts don't foresee.

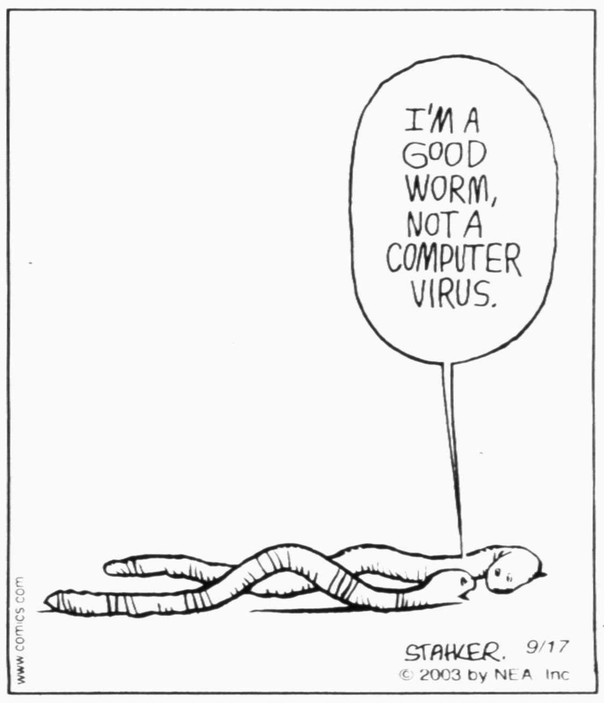
Bomb squad picks through UPS plane

PHOENIX (AP) — Members of Phoenix's bomb squad were unloading a grounded UPS cargo plane by hand early today after the company received two threatening phone calls, including one mentioning a bomb in the shipment.

The 757 made an emergency landing at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport on Tuesday night following the calls. The plane was taken to a secure area of the airport and emergency personnel closed in.

"We're going very slowly. We can't use robotics or anything of that nature. You have to use humans," said Phoenix police Lt. Rick Gehlbach.

The plane had taken off from Los Angeles and was traveling to Louisville, Ky., with two crew members and a third UPS employee aboard, said Mark Giuffre, public relations manager for UPS Airlines in Louisville, Ky.



Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 09-17-03
♠ 10 9 6
♥ 7
♦ A 8 6 4 3
♣ K 5 4 2

West
♠ 3
♥ K J 10 9 8 6
♦ K Q J
♣ J 10 8

East
♠ Q J 5 2
♥ 4
♦ 10 9 7 5
♣ A Q 9 6

South
♠ A K 8 7 4
♥ A Q 5 3 2
♦ 2
♣ 7 3

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	2 ♥	2 ♠	??
??			

Opening lead: ♦ K

Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2003

The fit was good; the signs were bad

By Phillip Alder

This week, we are looking at evaluating a hand not purely on its high-card content, but also on how it fits with partner's hand. In addition, you must listen to the opponents' bidding and occasionally be influenced by that.

In this deal, two players have interesting bidding decisions to make. First, look only at the East hand. Your left-hand opponent opens one spade, your partner overcalls two hearts, and your right-hand opponent raises to two spades. What would you do now, if anything?

After deciding, turn your attention to the South hand. You open one spade, but this time your left-hand opponent passes. Your partner bids two spades, and your right-hand opponent passes. What would you do, if anything? Now ask yourself the same question, except that West on your left overcalls two hearts. Would that change your answer?

First, let's return to East's problem. He has good defense and little offense, especially given the singleton in his partner's suit. East should pass.

Now let's turn to South. If West does not overcall, South should make a game-try with three hearts. But when West overcalls in hearts, this greatly devalues the South hand — what will he do with all those hearts? He should pass over two spades.

West should also pass out two spades; he said his piece on the first round.

West leads the diamond king, and even two spades is too high. South rates to lose two spades, two hearts and two clubs. East overruffs the dummy twice, then returns a trump to stop a third heart ruff.

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Woman can't shut her eyes to peeping Tom's intrusion

DEAR ABBY: Our family recently went to visit my in-laws at their cottage. While we were there, the septic system stopped working and my mother-in-law, "Doris," suggested that my niece and I relieve ourselves behind the shed.

After I followed her suggestion, I noticed my father-in-law, "Ralph," standing not too far away watching me. I was shocked and offended, but didn't tell my husband until we left a few minutes later.

We have had a problem in the past with Ralph. Once when I was nursing, he sat close to me and stared at my chest. My husband said, "There's only enough room for one head, Dad." Immediately afterward, I spoke to Doris and the peeping stopped.

The nursing thing was weird, but this goes way beyond that. I like and respect Ralph for the most part, but I don't know what to do. We go to my in-laws' every other weekend. I can't go over there and pretend nothing happened.

My husband wants to talk to his father alone, but I feel Ralph needs to account to someone other than his son — he should also account to Doris. Is this taking it too far? — **UPSET IN CONNECTICUT**

DEAR UPSET: I don't think so. Your father-in-law appears to have a serious problem with "boundaries." He also appears to be a voyeur — a Peeping Tom. Since "peepers" have been known to escalate their behavior, it should be called to Doris' attention before her husband gets himself arrested and has to register as a sex offender. Please don't wait. It is possible that you are not the only person Ralph has been watching.

**

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Kent," and I have been married for seven years, and I'm facing a painful decision. Kent has a drug problem. I didn't know about his addiction until recently, when money started disappearing from our joint account.

Kent admitted to me that he's had a habit since before I met him. However, he doesn't consider it to be a "problem." He made it clear that he has no intention of quitting. And I made it clear that I don't want to be married to someone who's addicted to drugs.

I should probably leave him, but I love him too much — and we have four precious children who love him, too. My husband rarely shows any signs of drug abuse; that's why I never had a clue until now.

To his credit, Kent is a great husband and father. Please help me decide what to do, Abby. I am against drug use, but I dearly love my husband. — **TORN IN SASKATCHEWAN**

DEAR TORN: You already know what you have to do. Until your husband is willing to admit he has a problem, he cannot get the help that's available.

Kent should be encouraged to get into rehab and attend meetings of Narcotics Anonymous where other addicts have found new courage, strength and hope. Call telephone information for the local number.

The N.A. Web site offers meeting (and other) information: www.na.org; the e-mail address is nainfo(at)na.org; or write to N.A., P.O. Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409.

If your husband refuses help, separate your finances from his and get the children away from him before they get the impression that drug use is acceptable.

**

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

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To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

(EDITORS: For editorial questions, please contact Alan McDermott, amcdermott(at)iversal.com)

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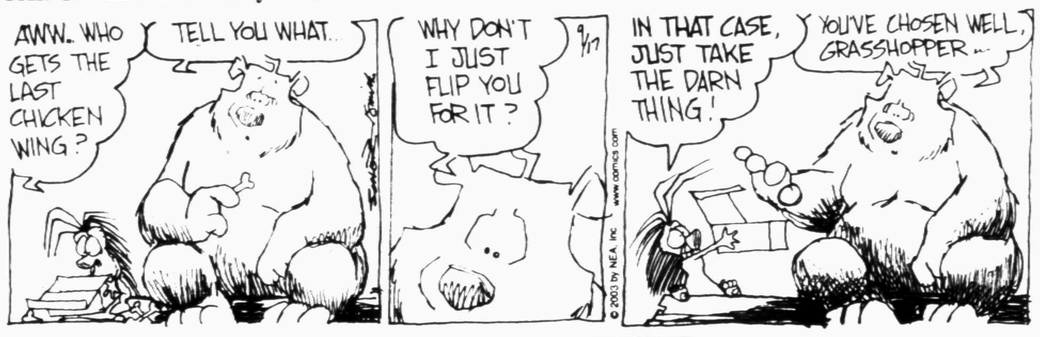

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"Whad'dya mean triplets? *He* was here first."

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Carnivals
6 "Kubla Khan" setting
12 Not outside
14 Makes glad
15 Bahamas resort
16 Clank
17 Capone foe
18 Ottawa's prov.
19 Furniture mover
21 Bobby —
23 Creeping vine
26 Uncle or granddad
27 Evergreen
28 Asian capital
30 Leo mo.
31 Blustery
32 Complain
33 Garlic section
35 CPR giver
37 Tax pro
38 Majorette's gait
39 — Angeles
40 Munich single
41 "My gal" of song
42 Diamond org.
43 Sonnet cousin
44 Mai — cocktail
46 Prickly seedcase
48 Pudgy
51 Motorcycle race
55 Teases
56 Slimmed down
57 Trickery
58 Drift

DOWN

1 Plane stabilizer
2 Miscellany
3 Badges
4 Gymnast's stickum
5 Increase sharply
6 Copier brand
7 Mr. Greenspan
8 More dapper
9 LL.D. holder
10 PC key
11 Function
13 Finland neighbor
19 Domes
20 Longhaired cat
22 "1984" author
24 Said
25 Affluent person
26 Slickers
27 Worry
28 Bane of pvts.
29 Skinny
34 Non-finicky eater
36 Crowded around
42 Thick of things
43 Buy by mail
45 Opposed
47 Part of BTU
48 Rural addr.
49 Fiesta shout
50 Muscle spasm
52 Arapaho foe
53 Stimpy's buddy
54 Unmatched

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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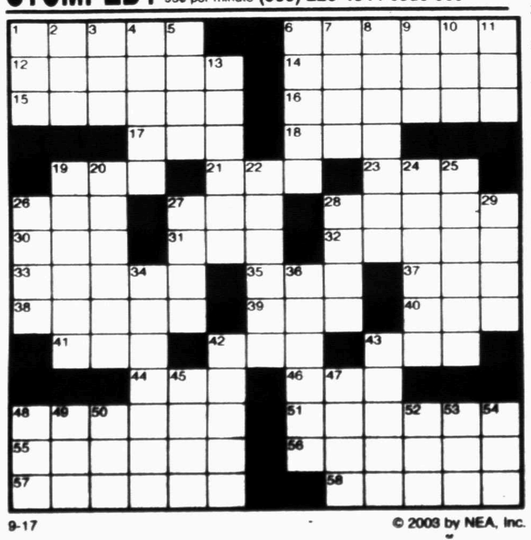

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Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"HOW WAS IT? LET'S JUST SAY, FOR ME, IT WAS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

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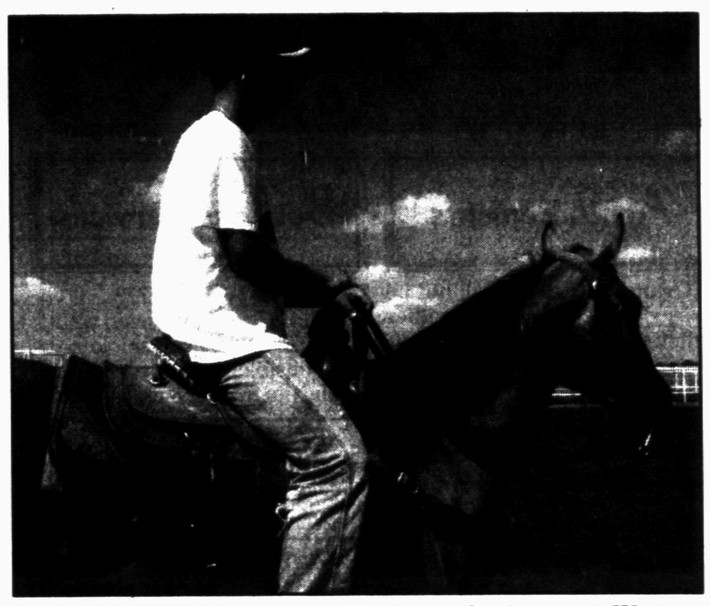
SPORTS



CANADIAN HAND — Arron Koster, a freshmen at Western Texas College from Alberta, Canada, rides "Sunny" during rodeo practice last week. Koster, who is on scholarship, is studying welding. The WTC rodeo team opens the 2003-2004 season Thursday at Eastern New Mexico. (SDN Staff Photo)

WTC opens rodeo season

The Western Texas College rodeo team opens the 2003-2004 season Thursday, coming out of the chute in Portales at Eastern New Mexico University rodeo.

The team is coming off a fourth-place finish for the women in the Southwestern Conference and a third-place standing for the men, who finished a mere 240 points out of the top spot.

Rodeo coach Greg Rhodes said the team has several goals for the upcoming season.

"We want to win the conference this year," Rhodes said. "We have some good hands returning we and picked up some good hands. In the short term, we want to show up at rodeos and leave there knowing we performed to the best of our capabilities."

Rhodes said he thinks both the men and women "will be stout this year."

The program lost all-around cowboy Steven Turner during the summer to Tarleton State, but is strengthened by a host of experienced riders and ropers.

The team will be bolstered by the return of saddle bronc rider Sam Spreadborough, who advance to nationals last year and is consistently in the top 20 on the money list.

The team recruited brothers Denny and Jared Farley from Australia, as well as Mario Paoliello — brother of Bruno — from Brazil.

Rhodes said C.R. Moore, a calf-roper from the Metroplex will be "very handy."

The fall schedule for the team after Eastern New Mexico will take WTC to Sul Ross Oct. 2-4, Vernon JC Oct. 9-11 and Texas Tech Oct. 23-25.

Aggies, Hokies to play in spite of hurricane

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — Virginia Tech expects to play Thursday night against Texas A&M unless Hurricane Isabel veers farther west than forecast.

"The latest report indicates we will have scattered showers ... and not until late in the evening," athletic director Jim Weaver said. "The winds of any degree of velocity are supposed to be 100 miles or so east" of Blacksburg.

Weaver, who has been monitoring Isabel with city police since Monday, said he will try to decide whether to postpone the game before the Aggies leave College Station today, but that such an early call might not be possible.

Isabel was downgraded to a Category 2 Hurricane on Tuesday, with maximum sustained winds near 105 mph. It had previously recorded wind speeds of 160 mph.

ESPN, which is showing the game nationally, also has been involved in the contingency discussions, Weaver said, though it's unclear whether the cable network could fit the game into its Saturday lineup if it ends up being moved to the weekend.

Hokies coach Frank Beamer said he can't worry about something he can't control.

"If it rains it rains. If the wind blows, we'll still go play," Beamer said. "I don't want us thinking about the weather. I want to think about Texas A&M."

Major League Baseball

American League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	94	57	.623	—
Boston	88	62	.587	5½
Toronto	77	73	.513	16½
Baltimore	67	83	.447	26½
Tampa Bay	59	91	.393	34½
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	82	69	.543	—
Chicago	80	70	.533	1½
Kansas City	78	72	.520	3½
Cleveland	65	87	.428	17½
Detroit	38	112	.253	43½
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	91	61	.599	—
Seattle	86	65	.570	4½
Anaheim	72	80	.474	19
Texas	67	84	.444	23½

Tuesday's Games

Boston 3, Tampa Bay 2
Toronto 9, Detroit 6
N.Y. Yankees 6, Baltimore 3
Kansas City 12, Cleveland 8
Texas 10, Seattle 5
Minnesota 5, Chicago White Sox 2
Anaheim 6, Oakland 5

Wednesday's Games

Oakland (Zito 12-12) at Anaheim (Shields 4-5), 3:05 p.m.
Toronto (Halladay 20-6) at Detroit (Loux 0-0), 6:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Zambrano 10-9) at Boston (Suppan 2-2), 6:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Wells 14-6) at Baltimore (DuBose 2-5), 6:05 p.m.
Kansas City (Abbott 1-1) at Cleveland (Westbrook 6-9), 6:05 p.m.
Seattle (Moyer 18-7) at Texas (Drese 2-3), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Garland 11-11) at Minnesota (Rogers 11-8), 7:05 p.m.

National League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Atlanta	94	58	.618	—
Florida	83	67	.553	10
Philadelphia	83	68	.550	10½
Montreal	77	75	.507	17
New York	63	87	.420	30
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	82	68	.547	—
Chicago	81	70	.536	1½
St. Louis	78	74	.513	5
Pittsburgh	69	81	.460	13
Cincinnati	65	86	.430	17½
Milwaukee	64	87	.424	18½
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	92	57	.617	—
Los Angeles	80	69	.537	12
Arizona	78	73	.517	15
Colorado	68	83	.450	25
San Diego	59	91	.393	33½

x-clinched playoff spot

Tuesday's Games

Montreal 5, Atlanta 4, 10 innings
Cincinnati 12, Pittsburgh 4
Philadelphia 14, Florida 0
Chicago Cubs 3, N.Y. Mets 2
St. Louis 6, Milwaukee 5
Houston 14, Colorado 4
Arizona 3, Los Angeles 2
San Francisco 4, San Diego 2

Wednesday's Games

N.Y. Mets (Leiter 14-8) at Chicago Cubs (Wood 12-11), 1:20 p.m.
Atlanta (Hampton 13-7) at Montreal (Tucker 1-2), 4 p.m.
Florida (Redman 12-9) at Philadelphia (Myers 14-7), 6:05 p.m.
Cincinnati (Etherton 2-3) at Pittsburgh (D'Amico 8-15), 6:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Sheets 11-12) at St. Louis (Stephenson 7-13), 7:10 p.m.
Houston (Villone 6-4) at Colorado (Oliver 11-11), 8:05 p.m.
Arizona (Webb 9-7) at Los Angeles (Od.Perez 12-11), 9:10 p.m.

District volleyball...

Lady Tigers off to sound start

LUBBOCK — The Snyder Lady Tigers opened the district schedule in impressive fashion Tuesday, overcoming a lopsided loss in the first game to top the Lubbock Cooper Pirates in the five-game match, 8-25, 25-14, 21-25, 25-10 and 15-12.

Vasquez

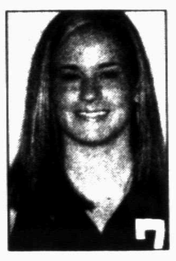
"We're happy to win the district opener," head coach Laura Moses said. "It shows we can go out and get a win."

The match was marked by several changes in momentum, with Cooper blasting out of the gates to take an 8-1 lead in the first game, before the Lady Tigers rallied to dominate the second game.

"I don't know what happened in that first game, and the girls don't either," Moses said.

After the opening game, Snyder altered their defense to counter the tips from Cooper's front line, Moses said.

"We gave Missy (Vasquez) a bigger area to cover," Moses said. "She's quick with good lateral movement, and she did a good job."



Cox

Vasquez finished the night with 30 digs, and she did not miss a chance in the match.

Moses said the adjustments also were possible from the more consistent play of the team, an area she was concerned with heading into district.

"We were able to adjust instead of worrying about our consistency," she said.

"The first game we couldn't get anything going," Moses said. "But our sets were good, and (Sarah) Crawford is smart and she made adjustments. We sent Emily (Jones) in to help, and she did a good job

Moses also made adjustments on the front line, allowing Crawford — who had nine blocks and eight kills — to patrol the net, while backing Kelsi Johnson off the net to counter Cooper's tips, which the Lady Pirates employed because of Crawford's blocks.

Crawford

Johnson recorded 22 digs in the match, while Jones tallied six blocks.

Teddi Crenwelge also had a solid outing. The sophomore contributed nine digs, eight kills and three assists in a versatile performance.

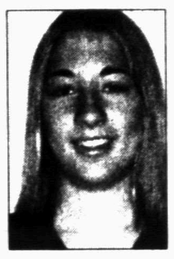
Senior Kelbi Drum came up big in several key moments, saving many errant digs with hustle and court awareness.

She posted 17 digs, five kills and 15 assists in helping the Lady Tigers dominate the second and fourth games of the match.

Courtney Cox added 13 digs and five kills, and Erin Hackfeld had two assists.

Moses said the team was thrilled to walk away with a victory in a five-game match — something they were not able to do this season until Tuesday.

"We're hoping we can keep it going and keep the expectations high," Moses said. "We just have to stick with it, and hopefully we can do the same Saturday."



Jones

The Lady Tigers will host Seminole at 1 p.m. Saturday.

The junior varsity and freshmen teams also left Lubbock with a win Tuesday.

The JV spikers cruised to a two-game sweep, 25-18, 25-15. Coach Darren Pool said the team, like the varsity club, started out flat in the first game before finding their intensity.

"In the second game we stepped up," he said. "We hit well, got our serves in and played together."

The freshmen also swept Cooper, 25-21, 25-18.

Cowboys were prepared for scenarios Monday

IRVING (AP) — Before Bill Parcells began spending part of every training camp workout teaching the Dallas Cowboys how to react to obscure game situations, he told them a story about his tenure with the New England Patriots.

His first season there, Parcells prepared the Pats for the same scenarios. It wasn't until late in the season before they found themselves in one — and they knew exactly what to do, pulling out a rare win and earning more faith in their new leader.

The Cowboys needed only two games.

As Monday night turned into Tuesday morning, Dallas pulled out a 35-32 overtime victory against the New York Giants in part by staying cool under pressure.

Given one play from their 40 with 11 seconds left, Quincy Carter completed a sideline pass to Antonio Bryant for 26 yards. Billy Cundiff then nailed a career-best 52-yard field goal to tie it at the end of regulation. He hit a 25-yarder in overtime for the victory, Parcells' first with the Cowboys.

"It's really ironic that I've been trying to emphasize these situations and a game so early in the season will come down to one of those very situations that we've spent a lot of time on," Parcells said Tuesday.

The in-game circumstances were remarkable enough. Dallas surprisingly led by 13 points at halftime and by 15 in the fourth quarter before falling behind 32-29.

Pulling out the victory on the road, against a division rival, on a Monday night, in a hostile environment — one that happens to have been Parcells' home stadium for 11 of his previous 15 seasons as a head coach — and with dozens of his former players there ... well, it was enough to almost make Parcells choke up.

Saying he didn't want to be too sentimental, Parcells made it clear how much it meant to him that Lawrence Taylor, O.J. Anderson, Mark Bavaro and several other players he led to two Super Bowls with the Giants stopped by the visiting locker room after the game.

"That's really why I coach, for that," Parcells said. "When you see those kids you had and they're 45, 46 years old now and they're coming and hugging you, saying, 'Hey, go do your work. Get your job done,' it means a lot to you. It makes you feel special."

The emotions were broken when he got to the team bus, clicked on his cell phone and listened to about eight messages. All were congratulatory, though most aren't fit for print.

"Friendly obscene," he described them, adding they were hilarious.

Later Monday, Bob Knight called to praise a rookie for a heady play during crunch time. When Carolina offensive coordinator Dan Henning phoned, the former Parcells assistant skipped hello and went straight to the Xs and Os behind the pass to Bryant.

"He just called the play the way we call it in the huddle," Parcells said.

Players were off Tuesday and won't practice Wednesday. They'll meet, though, and they're sure to hear about more negatives than positives, such as blowing a lead for a second straight game, with the defense getting pushed around in both.

Sports Briefs

Alumni hats

The SHS football booster club is selling hats for Snyder alumni for $30 for homecoming week. The caps feature the name, class and organization, if any. All orders should be put in by Sept. 26 for the Oct. 3 homecoming game against Levelland. Contact Mike Tyrrell at 207-2315 for more information.

15th annual Blowout Partnership on tap

The Scurry County golf course will host the 15th annual Blowout Partnership Sept. 27-28. Cost is $300 per team, and all participants must be 21 or older. The field is limited to 56 and the first 56 paid teams will determine entries.

Shotgun will start at 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. both days of the tournament, with scramble being the first round format and lowball the format for the final round. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top four teams. There also will be a welcome and registration date on Sept. 26, with a practice round available. Call Rick Mammolite at the pro shop at 573-7101 for more information.

Jamaica volleyball tournament

Our Lady of Guadalupe will be hosting the Jamaica Volleyball Tournament Sept. 28. Call Louis at 573-7321 for more information.

Flag football league forming

Any teams interested in playing men's flag football should contact Earl Ware at 573-0800. The season begins in October.

WTC golf tournament

The third annual Western Texas College Student Government Association Golf Tournament will be held Oct. 4 at the WTC golf course. Format is four-person scramble, and cost is $120 per team. Shotgun will start at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top three teams, and deadline to register is 5 p.m. on Oct. 3. Contact the WTC pro shop at 573-9291 for more information.

Area Sports Calendar

THURSDAY	
Football:	Greenwood junior high at Snyder junior high, 5 p.m.
Football:	Borden County JV at Ira JV, 7 p.m.
Football:	Borden County junior high at Ira junior high, 5:30 p.m.
Rodeo:	WTC at ENMU.
FRIDAY	
Football:	Snyder varsity vs. Greenwood, 7:30 p.m.
Football:	Ira at Borden County, 7:30 p.m.
Rodeo:	WTC at ENMU
SATURDAY	
Volleyball:	Seminole at Snyder varsity, 1 p.m.
Rodeo:	WTC at ENMU

NASCAR cancels on-track events at Dover Speedway

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The expected path of Hurricane Isabel has prompted NASCAR to cancel the on-track activities at Dover International Speedway scheduled for Thursday and Friday.

Cancellations include qualifying for both the Winston Cup and Busch series, as well as the Busch North Series race, none of which will be rescheduled.

The 43-car fields for the Winston Cup and Busch races will be determined by owner championship points, the same as any normal rain situation.

That means Matt Kenseth and Dale Earnhardt Jr. will be at the front of the field in Sunday's MBNA America 400 Cup, while David Green and Brian Vickers will be on the front row for Saturday's Stacker 200 Busch Series race.

"After listening to the latest forecast regarding projected weather conditions in Delaware and discussing contingency plans with state officials as well as officials at Dover, we felt it best to cancel on-track activities set for Thursday and Friday," NASCAR President Mike Helton said Tuesday.

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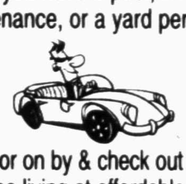

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Historical documents returned to rotunda

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's history is on display again at the National Archives.

After being locked away for two years at an undisclosed location, the original Constitution, Bill of Rights and Declaration of Independence have returned to the rotunda of the Archives after undergoing treatment to ensure their longevity.

For the first time, all four pages of the Constitution will be on permanent display. Previously, just the first and last pages were.

President Bush will help unveil the exhibit today, with Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and congressional leaders. On Thursday, the rotunda will be opened to the public.

The documents, displayed at the Archives since 1952, were shielded from the public when the building's marble and limestone rotunda was closed to tourists on July 5, 2001, for the renovation project. The documents were given a careful review, the first close examination of the three pieces of history in half a century.

John Carlin, archivist of the National Archives and a former Kansas governor, thinks the remodeled rotunda and remounted documents will help convey their historical significance.

"We want people to have a real experience coming here," Carlin said during a preview for the media Tuesday. "We want them to come away with feelings about the importance of records, the importance of these documents."

The new exhibit will be much more user-friendly.

For example, the Declaration of Independence was mounted high on a wall in the previous exhibit, which made it hard to read. Now, it will be housed in an exhibit case on the ground. So too will the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, to allow the documents to be more accessible to people in wheelchairs and to small children.

The historical originals are showing their age a bit, with yellowing around the parchment's edges. But the documents, known collectively as the Charters of Freedom, underwent an extensive restoration process in their absence.

Some flakes of ink from the charters had begun to curl and lift upward, explained Catherine Nicholson, senior conservator at the Archives. The conservation team inserted super-small droplets of adhesive beneath the flakes to reattach the ink to the parchment.

Modern encasements also were built for the documents. The new cases, outlined in 24-karat gold-plated titanium, are filled with argon, an inert gas that helps preserve the documents, according to Rick Judson, the project engineer.

The glass in the cases also won't rest directly on the documents, as it had before.

Experts also renovated two large works by the 20th century muralist Barry Faulkner. They depict the presentation of the Declaration of Independence to John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress, and James Madison presenting his final draft of the Constitution to George Washington.

Company makes new tracking system for beef cattle in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Meatpackers and fast-food restaurants are backing a new database that could help health officials quickly track the source of an outbreak of food-poisoning all the way back to the farm.

VeriPrime Inc., a company in Wichita, Kan., created the new tracking system for cattle and beef products, which has been endorsed by meatpacker Swift & Co., ConAgra Cattle Feeding Co. and fast-food chain Burger King.

John Lawrence, a VeriPrime vice president, said the National Cattlemen's Beef Association also is supportive of the system, which keeps tabs on cattle herds from birth to slaughter by marking each newborn calf with a coded tag.

"We know what lot it came from and what herd it came from," Lawrence said. "Once it gets packed and sent out we can track it back to a specific herd. That will help in recalls."

The United States does not have a system for tracking most animals, a gap underscored in May when U.S. and Canadian officials spent days tracking down animals possibly linked to a case of mad cow disease in Canada. Scientists deemed it an isolated incident.

The VeriPrime database was developed because meat industry officials and retailers were concerned that cattle could become infected with mad cow and other infectious diseases like foot-and-mouth, an illness harmless to humans but devastating to livestock.

The Agriculture Department is not endorsing VeriPrime, but it is urging the meat industry to participate in a national system to track all meat from farms to packing plants and stores.

Chuck Lambert, the department's deputy undersecretary of marketing programs, said the information companies collect on livestock will improve the security and safety of the nation's food supply.

Lambert said the department is helping states and the meat industry set up a nationwide database so that officials know where livestock are being raised and shipped. A plan for tagging animals will be in place by July 2004, he said.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

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Alltel	47.87	47.67	47.76	— .14
AmEl Pw	29.37	29.20	29.33	— .13
AndarkPtr	42.20	41.60	41.82	— .26
ATMOS Egy	24.50	24.16	24.19	— .16
Avaya	13.80	13.71	13.77	+ .12
BP PLC	43.05	42.83	42.87	— .16
BakerHughes	31.18	30.48	30.69	— .40
Bank of Amer	77.99	77.20	77.74	+ .10
BellSouth	25.56	25.35	25.50	— .07
BurlNoSFe	28.85	28.75	28.85	+ .09
Caterpillar	70.70	70.00	70.55	+ .85
CenterPoint	8.86	8.78	8.82	— .08
ChevronTex	73.10	72.70	72.81	— .19
Citigroup	45.15	44.25	45.03	+ .33
CocaCola	42.99	42.72	42.97	+ .05
ColgatePal	55.50	55.07	55.23	— .39
CmclMetals	19.70	19.44	19.44	— .36
ConocoPhill	56.84	56.07	56.22	— .62
Cooper Inds	50.09	49.73	50.00	
DaimlrChry	38.59	38.30	38.33	+ .13
DeltaAirl	15.00	14.67	14.88	+ .03
Dillards Inc	15.39	15.20	15.31	+ .01
DowChem	33.59	33.37	33.54	— .26
DuPont	43.97	42.13	42.80	—1.17
EastmanChem	35.32	34.54	34.93	— .39
EstKodak	28.34	27.86	27.90	— .26
EDS Corp	21.43	21.08	21.09	— .27
Entergy	54.99	54.40	54.70	+ .49
ExxonMobil	37.55	37.09	37.12	— .59
FootLocker	17.14	16.95	17.02	+ .07
GenDynam	86.38	85.76	85.95	— .41
GenElec	31.94	31.61	31.73	— .20
GenMills	47.72	47.15	47.35	— .38
GenMotors	41.98	41.58	41.76	— .12
GaPacific	25.32	24.75	25.20	+ .17
Goodrich	25.81	25.61	25.75	+ .29
Goodyear	8.12	8.03	8.12	+ .02
GtAtlPac	9.33	9.03	9.29	+ .01
Halliburtn	24.50	24.02	24.03	— .49
Hanson ADS	32.84	32.79	32.82	+ .24
HarteHanks	19.02	18.94	18.97	— .13
HomeDepot	33.31	32.96	33.11	— .19
Honeywellntl	28.91	28.51	28.59	— .43
IBM	91.35	90.20	91.20	+ .91
IntlPaper	40.91	40.52	40.65	— .35
JohnsonJn	50.89	50.10	50.29	— .56
KinderMorg	52.44	52.23	52.30	— .12
Kroger Co	17.99	17.66	17.84	+ .04
LockheedM	50.00	49.50	49.75	— .25
Lowes Cos	53.65	53.15	53.15	— .15
Lubys	2.40	2.32	2.35	+ .03
LucentTech	2.40	2.30	2.32	+ .01
MarathonOil	28.55	28.15	28.21	— .20
MayDeptStr	25.60	25.21	25.60	+ .14
Medtronic	50.28	49.31	49.35	— .69
Motorola	10.90	10.71	10.73	— .20
NCR Corp	29.81	29.38	29.79	+ .23
Navistar	41.37	40.80	40.97	— .25
PNM Rescs	28.32	28.10	28.28	— .11
Penney JC	21.71	21.51	21.63	— .14
PepBoys	17.10	16.63	17.10	+ .35
PepsiCo	45.80	45.36	45.63	— .20
PhelpDodge	49.61	49.30	49.32	— .18
PilgrmPrd B	13.65	13.33	13.65	
Praxair	63.68	63.12	63.36	— .32
ProctGamb	92.63	92.09	92.46	— .13
RadioShack	29.44	28.81	29.31	— .04
RoyalDut	45.41	45.08	45.17	— .33
SBC Comm	23.52	23.32	23.40	— .01
SaraLee	19.30	19.20	19.26	— .03
Scripps EW	87.50	87.08	87.30	— .47
SearsRoeb	45.85	44.89	45.61	+ .73
SherwinW	30.09	29.97	30.09	— .11
SouthernCo	29.05	28.86	29.04	— .11
SwstAirl	18.84	18.65	18.72	
SprintFON	14.78	14.55	14.68	— .03
SprintPCS	6.13	6.01	6.09	+ .11
Sunoco Inc	39.93	39.49	39.58	— .37
TXU Corp	22.77	22.30	22.75	+ .41
TempleInland	52.08	51.54	51.61	— .52
TexInd	26.75	26.01	26.15	— .35
TexasInst	25.04	24.55	24.68	— .07
Textron	43.03	42.71	42.96	— .02
TrinityInds	26.89	26.66	26.78	— .02
TylerTech	6.80	6.65	6.80	— .01
UnionPacif	60.60	60.31	60.52	+ .07
USSteel	19.49	19.22	19.26	— .36
UnitedTech	80.16	79.33	79.72	— .12
Unocal	31.63	31.34	31.43	— .22
VerizonComm	35.65	35.45	35.58	+ .07
WalMart	58.60	57.60	57.70	— .72
WellsFargo	50.63	50.38	50.46	+ .01
WstnGasRs	38.14	37.70	37.72	— .38
WinnDixie	10.28	10.14	10.18	— .10
Xerox Cp	10.42	10.33	10.37	— .03
YumBrands	30.31	30.10	30.15	— .10

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By Greg Gruben, County Extension Agent

Feeding Deer-
Supplementing or Baiting?

SAN ANGELO — Wildlife biologists are often asked, "What and when should I feed the deer"? "Nothing — ever" may well be the answer according to Ken Cearley, Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife associate at San Angelo.

"Usually, the best way to feed deer is to let them find their own groceries on the range," said Cearley. "We can ensure deer are getting adequate nutrients for optimal growth, reproduction and antler development through good land stewardship.

This means sound grazing practices and well-planned brush management. Few things are more rewarding to a land manager — and all wildlife managers are land managers — than knowing his or her efforts have improved the health of the range land and the wildlife that live there. The first step then in feeding deer is to have the range in top shape through proper use and proper stocking of livestock and wildlife."

Cearley said land managers with properly stocked range and high quality pasture who still insist on feeding should consider three important factors before proceeding. First, assuming that feeding deer will produce more fawns, the manager must have some means to thin the herd to avoid overstocking.

"Too many deer on the range land will cause overuse and degradation of the habitat, in other words, they'll literally eat themselves out of house and home," said Cearley.

"Second, unless 'money is no object,' plans must be made to somehow recoup the feeding expense which will be considerable, especially if done year-round. And third, consider the effect of abruptly halting a feeding program if it becomes necessary. Will the deer have become dependent on the supplement for their existence? If so, they will suffer because an artificially high number of deer are present compared to what the habitat alone can support. Simply put, once started, you may become locked-in to a feeding program forever."

Cearley said specific goals must be set before becoming married to a deer feeding program. Bucks with larger and more massive antlers are often a major factor. Sometimes a greater number of fawns are sought. Or the objective might be to help carry the animals through a particularly stressful dry time or extremely cold period. Maybe the need is simply to attract deer for observation or hunting.

"Managers serious about accomplishing their goals should decide whether they want to feed a dietary supplement or just use feed as an attractant or bait," said Cearley. "The two feeding methods are not the same, and require considerably different feed stuffs.

"True supplementation involves feeding nutrients that are lacking in the diet. These feeds commonly contain sources of energy and/or minerals, and protein. Protein is usually the primary nutrient of concern. A level of 16-20 percent crude protein in the deer diet supplement is generally considered best. There are scores of high quality deer feeds made today that will meet this protein level."

Baiting is what is practiced by many, if not most, Texas deer hunters and many wildlife observers to draw deer within range. Cearley said since shelled corn is highly palatable to deer and is thus a strong attractant, millions of pounds of "deer corn" are sold every year in Texas for these purposes. Over 300 million pounds were reported sold in Texas during 2000 alone. That's six million 50-pound bags.

"If you want to just attract deer and not necessarily increase their nutritional plane, shelled corn will probably fill the bill," said Cearley.

"Avoid using corn to fill a large portion of the deer's diet because it's basically a source of starch, or energy, and it's woefully short on protein and mineral content.

"White-tailed deer are ruminants, meaning they have a four-chambered stomach like a cow. They eat, until the rumen (the first chamber) is full, then bed down and ruminate, or chew the cud — regurgitated rumen contents — and swallow again.

"Their digestive system requires at least an eight percent protein level to enable the rumen's digestive bacteria to break down the plant material for further digestion. Corn's protein content isn't high enough to maintain rumen function. Corn is a high energy feed. It's good for boosting deer through extraordinarily stressful periods, such as extreme cold."

All things considered, Cearley feels balancing a well-managed habitat with a proper stocking rate is the most gratifying and cost-effective way to provide for a deer herd's dietary needs. He warns managers who remain convinced that supplemental deer feeding is advantageous to carefully weigh all the options and consequences they'll face before ordering that first truckload of feed.

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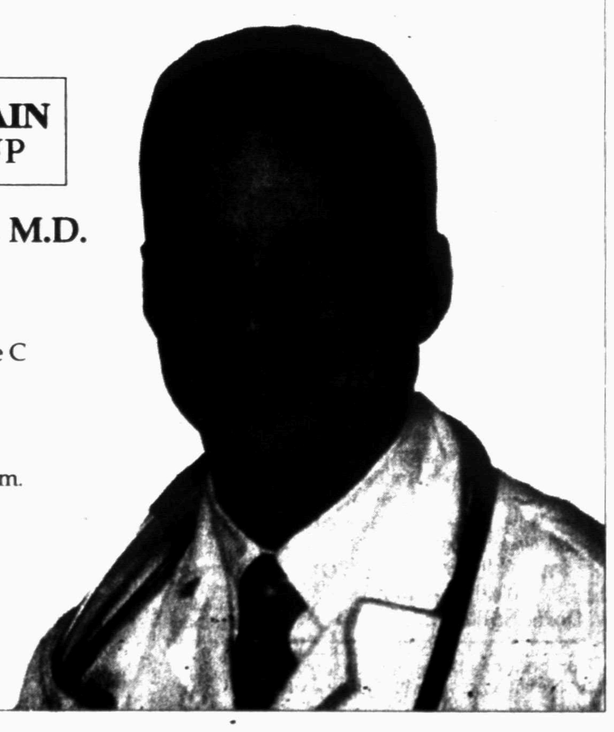

Scurrying Around Snyder

Beth Davenheim, CEA—Family and Consumer Sciences, 2605 Avenue M, Snyder, Texas 79549

Can Everyone Drink Milk?

Lactose, the sugar found in milk and dairy foods, can cause abdominal discomfort in some people. A person with lactose intolerance has trouble digesting lactose. Lactose intolerance is not common among infants and young children, but can occur in older children, adolescents, and adults. It is more common among people of African-American, Hispanic, Asian, and American Indian and Alaskan Native descent.

For people with lactose intolerance, milk is often better digested when drunk in small amounts and when combined with other foods, such as cereal with milk. In addition, many people can eat dairy foods such as cheeses or yogurt, which cause fewer symptoms.

Recent studies also show that many people who are lactose intolerant can drink 2-3 8 oz. glasses of milk each day without getting any symptoms. Also, lactose-free milk products are now available in most stores and there are pills and drops that make it easier to digest milk and dairy products that have lactose in them.

Some people, however, are allergic to milk and dairy products and should not eat them. For those people who cannot have any milk, calcium can come from non-dairy sources like dark green, leafy vegetables such as kale, or foods like broccoli, lime-treated tortillas, and tofu processed with calcium. There are also foods with added calcium, such as calcium-fortified orange juice, soy beverages, and some cereals. Getting calcium from food is recommended, but calcium supplements can also be a way to add necessary calcium.

Solving the Calcium Crunch

Getting enough calcium is important for building strong bones and ensuring future health. Here are three things you can do to help get enough calcium and keep bones and teeth strong.

1. Think of ways to incorporate milk and other calcium rich foods into meals and snacks. For example, top a baked potato with broccoli and low-fat cheese, or dunk baby carrots into low-fat yogurt dip.

2. Keep foods with calcium in the house and put them on the table during meals and snacks.

3. Keep drinking milk throughout your life, and be sure to eat and drink other foods with calcium. These foods should be an important part of the diet your whole life long.

Ideas for High Calcium Meals and Snacks

Breakfast

Pour low-fat or fat-free milk over your breakfast cereal.

Have a cup of yogurt.

Drink a glass of calcium-fortified orange juice.

Add low-fat milk instead of water to oatmeal and hot cereal.

Lunch

Add low-fat or fat-free milk instead of water to creamed soups, such as tomato.

Add cheese to a sandwich or a soft corn tortilla.

Have a glass of milk instead of soda.

Make mini-pizzas or macaroni and cheese.

Snack

Try flavored milk like chocolate or strawberry.

Have a frozen yogurt.

Try some pudding made with low-fat milk.

Make a "smoothie" with fruit, ice, and milk.

Dip fruits and vegetables into yogurt.

Dinner

Make a salad with dark green, leafy vegetables, such as spinach.

Serve broccoli or cooked, dry beans as a side dish.

Top salads, soups and stews with low-fat shredded cheese.

Add tofu made with calcium to stir fry and other dishes.

Try rice pudding made with low-fat milk for dessert.

?Weather Whys?

Topic: Fog

Q: What causes fog?

A: Fog — and mist — are simply clouds that form immediately above the ground, says Andrew Odins of Texas A&M University.

"Fog can occur at different times for different reasons," Odins explains. "The most common form is radiation fog, usually called ground fog. If the air near the ground is cooled sufficiently, it becomes saturated and fog can develop.

"This often occurs at night and this time of year. During fall is often when fog develops most frequently. The nights are longer in fall and that allows the ground more time to grow cold enough to condense water vapor into the air, and fog can form."

Q: How big are the water drops fog?

A: Very tiny, says Odins. "Fog and mist drops are very small," Odins adds. "They very from about 1-500th of an inch to even 1-25,000th of an inch, so just a little moisture can cause a lot of fog and mist.

"In strict meteorological terms, fog occurs when surface visibility is reduced to less than 3,000 feet. Many times, airports are forced to close when the visibility is reduced by far less.

"Fog normally disappears not long after sunrise. The warmth of the sun tends to evaporate fog and it gradually disappears. One type of fog, called valley fog, forms in mountain valleys during winter and it can be as much as 1,500 feet thick, so thick that it often does not evaporate even during sunlight. This type of fog can last for several days."

ABOUT WEATHER WHYS...

"Weather Whys" is a service of Texas A&M University's Department of Atmospheric Sciences. Past and current topics can be viewed via the web at http://rev.tamu.edu/weather-whys/.For more information, please contact Keith Randall at(979) 845-4644 or kr@univrel.tamu.edu. Suggestions for future topics may be directed to news@univrel.tamu.edu.

Markets

Colorado City

The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 1,533 head of cattle for the Wednesday, Sept. 11, sale. Market was active and demand good. Feeder and stocker steers and heifers were $3 to $7 higher. Packer cows and bulls were $3 to $4 higher. Bred cows and pairs were $10 to $20 higher.

Feeder Steers:
300-400: 94-103
400-500: 93.50-103
500-600: 87-98.50
600-850: 82-90-50
Feeder Heifers:
300-400: 112-125
400-500: 103-113
500-600: 95-104.50
600-700: 94-106
700-950: 90-99.75
Replacement cows:
Bred cows: 595-760
Pairs: 725-910
Packer cows: 41.50-52.25
Packer bulls: 55-61.25
Representative Sales:
Donnell Cattle Co. Alpine 73 steers 705 lbs. - 102
Dunn Farms, Ira, 6 steer calves 630 lbs. - 101
Eighteen Ranch, Blackwell, 1345 steers, 134 steers 965 lbs. - 91
John Phillips, Garden City, 11 black steers 440 lbs. - 119
Joyce McClure, Colorado City, 4 steers 410 lbs. 106.50
Tommy Hickman, Blackwell, 66 steers, 871 lbs. - 96
Red Brown, Valentine, 68, steers, 705 lbs. – 104.50
Cecil Smith, Blackwell, 7 black – black baldy heifers 995 lbs. – 81.50.

COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

WEEKLY LAKE AND WATER DELIVERY REPORT

LAKE J. B. THOMAS (200,604 ACRE FEET AT ELEVATION 2258.00 FT.)

	ONE YEAR AGO 9-15-02	LAST WEEK 9-8-03	THIS WEEK 9-15-03
ELEVATION (FEET)	17.02	18.43	18.53
CONTENTS (ACRE-FEET)	17,763	20,616	20,828
PERCENT FULL	8.85	10.28	10.38
RAINFALL (INCHES) *		0.00	1.30
IVIE TO LAKE THOMAS (Gal.)		0	0
SPENCE TO THOMAS (Gal.)		0	0

*RAINFALL MEASUREMENT AT BIG SPRING/ODESSA INTAKE.

E.V. SPENCE RESERVOIR (517,262 ACRE-FEET AT ELEVATION 1898.00 FT.)

	ONE YEAR AGO 9-15-02	LAST WEEK 9-81-03	THIS WEEK 9-15-03
ELEVATION (FEET)	39.61	41.83	41.63
CONTENTS (ACRE-FEET)	40,577	45,345	46,710
PERCENT FULL	7.84	9.15	9.03
RAINFALL (INCHES) *		0.25	0.00

* RAINFALL MEASUREMENT AT SPENCE PUMP STATION

O.H. IVIE RESERVOIR (554,340 ACRE-FEET AT ELEVATION 1551.50 FT.)

	ONE YEAR AGO 9-15-02	LAST WEEK 9-8-03	THIS WEEK 9-15-03
ELEVATION (FEET)	28.40	25.90	25.85
CONTENTS (ACRE-FEET)	220,157	195,854	195,396
PERCENT FULL	39.72	35.33	35.25
RAINFALL (INCHES) *		0.00	3.44

* RAINFALL MEASUREMENT AT DAM.

INFORMATION BASED ON NEW AREA CAPACITY CURVE DATA

MUNICIPAL WATER DELIVERIES IN GALLONS

	LAST WEEKS DAILY AVERAGE 9-8-03 9-2-03	THIS WEEKS DAILY AVERAGE 9-15-03 9-9-03	THIS WEEKS PEAK DAY 9-15-03 9-9-03
BIG SPRING	4,592,857	4,822,857	5,604,000
ODESSA	21,029,000	21,303,429	25,116,000
SNYDER	1,942,571	2,126,000	2,296,000
MIDLAND	27,617,143	23,298,143	26,470,000
SAN ANGELO	16,422,143	17,253,857	20,304,000
STANTON	281,286	279,000	340,000

National

Defi evol

WASHINGTO bers of both pa federal deficits a of evolving into cal issue, fed b over the size of $87 billion reque

Until now, vot tle attention as years of budget ly morphed int expected to soar lion this year attention inste focused on the Iraq and Afgh threat of terroris

Astro

By Bernice

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Dr. C

By Peter

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National

Deficit, Iraq spending could evolve into significant issues

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of both parties say record federal deficits are showing signs of evolving into a powerful political issue, fed by voter concern over the size of President Bush's $87 billion request for Iraq.

Until now, voters have paid little attention as four consecutive years of budget surpluses abruptly morphed into shortfalls now expected to soar beyond $400 billion this year and next. Public attention instead has been focused on the economy, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the threat of terrorism.

Now, however, people seem to be paying attention. Members of Congress returning home say they are hearing about deficits and Iraq spending from constituents, and recent polls show a growing discontent with Bush's handling of the economy and the budget.

"They're saying, 'You have a half-trillion-dollar deficit and you're asking for another $87 billion?'" said Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan. "That's a very high price."

Underscoring that, a Washington Post-ABC News poll last week found Americans opposing Bush's $87 billion plan for Iraq and Afghanistan by 61-38 percent.

Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., said the United States was "embarked on nothing less than nation-building in its most profound sense."

He said his constituents are asking "how is this equitable" now that the federal surplus is gone and the government is borrowing money to rebuild the Iraq economy.

Brownback said he has told White House budget chief Joshua Bolten that the administration needs to publicly discuss specific ideas for reducing deficits. Brownback said he believes the administration will lay out such plans in about a month.

Bolten and other White House officials have said they believe there is little evidence that deficits are harming the economy. They say shortfalls can be halved in five years through economic growth and spending restraint.

Bush's Iraq spending package is expected to pass Congress overwhelmingly, with both parties flashing their support for U.S. troops. But sensing an opportunity, Democrats in Congress and those running for president have begun discussing the deficit with growing frequency.

They cite the Iraq spending request as an example of administration incompetence in running the economy — perhaps the key issue on the horizon for 2004. They use it to challenge the wisdom of Bush tax cuts that have aggravated the government's long-term shortfalls, and link it to Bush's spending plans for Iraq as well.

"We are already facing a nearly half-trillion-dollar deficit, and American taxpayers deserve to know how this spending will affect our ability to address the unmet needs in our own country," House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Tuesday.

In an AP interview last week, presidential contender Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., said he would oppose the $87 billion proposal without assurances that the administration will "put America in a stronger position" by raising funds for Iraqi reconstruction from U.S. allies.

Some GOP leaders say they are not concerned that deficits or the Iraq package will deal their party any political blows.

They say Americans understand that a recession and the costs of fighting terrorism forced the return of red ink after the four annual surpluses under President Clinton. Underscoring that, GOP leaders said the House would pass a bill this week increasing charitable deductions for many taxpayers — and adding $12.6 billion to deficits over the coming decade.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Thursday, Sept. 18, 2003

Your possibilities for accumulative growth are quite strong in the year ahead. In fact, once you put your will to the tack, you could be quite a bit better off before your next birthday or anniversary rolls around.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — So long as you keep your demands on others within reasonable bounds today (instead of asking of them more than they are able to provide), the support you need will be there for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — New ways of doing things can come about from being tired of doing difficult things. You are great today at figuring out better ways of making tough tasks easier. Put your ideas into action.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — No matter how uninterested you are, don't turn down an invitation today to do something where you can meet new people. A very pleasant surprise could be in store for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Through collective effort, an unfavorable situation can be reversed today and put in good working order. This is especially true when a family effort pulls everyone together for a common cause.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Try not to lock yourself into any involvement today that could hold you in one place all day long. Chances are you'll be in a restless mood and need multiple engagements to satisfy your needs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — It is to your benefit today to push a little harder at things or in situations that offer you financial promises. You should be lucky with money issues and could do quite well.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Your managerial qualities are quite effective today, because you know how to deal with people in ways that can get them to hold firm to the cause. None will resent your directives.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Give your family members the same slack you give your friends for their imperfections. Everyone is human and, as such, subject to making mistakes. Don't hold kin to a higher standard.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — If you can, try to socialize today with a person who has connections in business matters that could help you. Once you win over his or her friendship, this individual will open doors for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Regardless of how the market starts out today, conditions that have a direct effect upon your material well-being will be encouraging again for you. Watch for signs in the afternoon hours.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Although it may take a bit of creativity on your part today, don't put any restrictions on your probabilities. In order to accomplish your purposes, use some imaginative tactics.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Lucky you — you could profit today through something that is largely from another's effort. It will be interesting, yet strange how it all comes about. Be alert for the opportunity.

Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker wheel can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167.. Visit www.bernice4u.com for more advice.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

The value of the scientific method

DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm a healthy male in my early 40s. I've been diagnosed with premature ventricular contractions (PVCs). After eliminating salt and sugar from my diet to no avail, I avoided drinking chlorinated tap water. Sure enough, after switching to bottled water, the PVCs vanished within a week. Perhaps chlorine and other ions interfere with the electrochemical functioning of the heart's pacemaker. Your view?

DEAR READER: The infinitesimal amount of chlorine in municipal water supplies is too small to have an appreciable effect on the body's metabolism. Thus, in my view, there is no relation between chlorine and the heart.

Nevertheless, I am intrigued by the apparent effect your drinking water had on your heart rate. Here are my thoughts.

PVCs are extra heartbeats that occur in everybody from time to time. They are often related to stress, fatigue, nicotine and caffeine. In addition, they are harmless — except in cases where they may reflect a cardiac disorder, usually diagnosed by a cardiogram and other tests. PVCs come and go.

Millions of people regularly consume chlorinated water.

Therefore, I suspect that the chlorine/PVC relation may simply be pure serendipity: two common but unrelated events occurring close together.

People have a need to find order in a world that appears unpredictable and sometimes chaotic. Consequently, it is human nature to conclude that if B follows A, A must have caused B. However, as George Gershwin wrote, it ain't necessarily so. In fact, the two events may be totally divergent. The strength of the A-B relation lies in how impressive A or B is (an eclipse or volcanic eruption, for instance) or how often the two happenings occur in proximity. Superstitions are built on this sort of compelling reasoning.

The value of the scientific method is that it can help people discover true cause-and-effect relations. In your case, for example, maybe something else is going on. You may have decided to walk to the store to purchase your bottled water. (Exercise can reduce the frequency of PVCs.) You may have cut back on caffeinated beverages. Or there may be some other behavioral change of which you are unaware.

Just for fun, I suggest that you perform an experiment. Alternate, on a weekly basis, your consumption of tap and bottled water. See what happens and, by all means, let me know.

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

If readers would like to contact Dr. Gott, they may write him through your newspaper or send their mail directly to Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th fl., New York, NY 10016.

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Man charged with murder in killing in Amish cornfield

HOLMESVILLE, Ohio (AP) — A family friend was charged with murder Tuesday in the shooting of a young man who was throwing tomatoes at passing vehicles from a cornfield, a traditional prank in the Amish community.

Marion D. Weaver, 58, drove his car past the field several times, deputies said, and after the vehicle was hit repeatedly with tomatoes, fired several shotgun rounds blindly into the cornstalks.

The victim, Steven L. Keim, 23, was hiding in the dark field with about 10 others, ages 15 to 23, who told authorities they were throwing the tomatoes and firing paintball guns.

Keim's death shocked the Amish of Mount Hope, about 60 miles south of Cleveland. Keim's family was Amish when he was born. They later became Mennonites, who share beliefs with the Amish but drive and use modern conveniences.

The victim's father said Weaver was a family friend.

"I don't really know how I feel," Reuben Keim, 48, said from the front porch of his house in Orrville. "I've known him close to 30 years. He went fishing with the whole family up on Lake Erie. Stevie shot trap with him. I'm sure he didn't realize that Stevie was in there."

"...The amazing thing, of course, is the speed at which it works..."

New High-Speed Diet Formula Used By Top Fashion Models Produces An Extremely Fast Weight-Loss!

"...contains an enormously-effective ingredient from the Himalayas now available in the U.S. for the first time!"

If you are overweight, this is the most important message you will ever read.

Here is why.

There is now an all-natural *(and ultra-fast acting)* diet formula which destroys fat... even if... you cheat or refuse to diet. News of this "killer" fat-fighting product (it's from the Himalayas) is spreading like wildfire from one top fashion model to another... *all over the world!*

Why? The answer is easy: You see, even though this product is extremely bio-active, it contains *no drugs* whatsoever... and... according to very impressive anecdotal evidence...

It Burns Off More Fat Than Running 98 Miles Per Week!

This product contains several highly-unusual ingredients (three of which are *extremely hard* to find) which are combined together... in such a way... that scientists call it "synergistic." This means... all... of the ingredients... are... much more effective at producing a high-speed weight-loss. This is because of the way *each* of the ingredients interacts with each of the *other* ingredients. Thus, this unique formula produces a safe "thermogenic" (fat-burning) effect which is... *so effective...*

Adipose Tissue (Body Fat) Is Almost Immediately Destroyed And Flushed Right Out Of Your Body!

Why does it work so fast? The secret is in the ingredients and the ingenious way they are combined. The main ingredient (the one from the Himalayan Mountains) maximizes and optimizes your body's natural metabolic process. Therefore, it promotes the utilization (burn-off rate) of body fat and prevents it from being stored.

Another works as an insulin mimic to normalize your blood sugar level. (Note: This is very important... because... it is a low blood sugar level which causes intense food cravings.)

Another ingredient is a potent antioxidant which enhances your immune system and provides "insurance" your metabolism remains at a continuously high level.

The other ingredients influence the thyroid gland, assist in vitamin and mineral absorption and reduce cravings for sugar and fatty foods.

Warning!

Obviously, this is *not* an ordinary diet product. It is *truly extra-ordinary.* If you follow the simple instructions and use the product with water as directed... YOU WILL...*reverse years of overeating!* However, there is a trend in this country (especially among attractive women) to want to be *dangerously* thin. Therefore, before you start any weight-loss program *(especially one which works as fast as this one)* you should get advice from your physician on how fast it is safe for you to lose weight. Also, you and your physician... *together...* should determine your personal, *perfect* weight goal.

***Guaranteed* Weight-Loss!**

Because this product is so incredibly effective... and... because it is natural and so safe... it is being sold with the most amazing guarantee in the world. Check *this* out: Take the product as directed and follow the simple instructions which come in the package. Then, just look in the mirror every day and see the visible results of unwanted fat... unwanted flab... unwanted cellulite... totally disappear... *right before your very eyes!* You will be totally thrilled with your safe, rapid and dramatic weight-loss. However, if you are not satisfied, simply return the empty product container with a short note about how you took the product (three times a day with water) and followed the simple instructions... and then... AVS Marketing (the *only* company authorized to sell this product in the U.S.) will send you... *double your money back!*

And, guess what? This is *not* a 10-day guarantee. This is *not* a 30-day guarantee. This is *not* a 90-day guarantee. No. This is a *Lifetime* guarantee!

How can AVS Marketing make such a guarantee? How can they offer a *Lifetime... double-your-money-back...* guarantee?

Well, you can only make this type of guarantee... if... you are 100% certain... your product is going to... *almost force...* people to lose every single pound of *all* their excess weight.

It's just that simple.

The name of this product is the **"Himalayan Diet Breakthrough"** and, it is easy to order. All you have to do is call **1-866-202-3837 ext.** 2588 and order with your credit card. By the way, this is a toll-free number (it won't cost you a penny) and you can call anytime... 24-hours per day... 7-days a week.

"I lost 37 pounds in just 8 weeks!"

*"After using the **Himalayan Diet Breakthrough** for just two months, I went down to a size 3!"*

"Taking off these pounds was the best thing that ever happened to my modeling career. As you can see I'm delighted with my new weight of 107. I recommend this new product to all my friends who need to lose weight fast but don't want to use dangerous stimulants like ephedra, caffeine or Ma Haung. Himalayan Diet Breakthrough really works. Thanks again."

Sara DuBerrier
Fashion Model

"... just look in the mirror every day and see the visible results of unwanted fat... unwanted flab... unwanted cellulite... totally disappear... right before your very eyes..."

Supply Options: $39.95 for a 30-day supply. $69.95 for a 60-day supply (you save 12.5%)... or... a full 90-day supply for only $97.97 (you save 18.3%). Whatever quantity you choose, you must include $5.95 per order for standard delivery and handling arriving in 3-4 weeks. Add only $5.00 and your Himalayan Diet Breakthrough will be shipped within 24 hours via United States Postal Service Priority Mail arriving as fast as 5-7 business days (sometimes even sooner). There is an *enormous* demand for this product...if our phone lines are busy...please keep calling back.

Thank you.

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Ext. 2588

or send check or money order to:

AVS Marketing
13941 Fairhaven Rd.
P.O. Box 488, Dept. 2588
Thomson, IL 61285

P.S. You should not order a 90-day supply... unless... you need to lose more than 50 pounds.

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SEP 17 2003

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Three ex-Merrill Lynch executives charged

HOUSTON (AP) — Three former Merrill Lynch & Co. executives were charged with fraud today for helping Enron Corp. appear to have met earnings targets with a loan wrongly booked as a sale in the last days of 1999.

Daniel Bayly, Robert Furst and James Brown were named in a three-count federal indictment unsealed today in Houston. They were scheduled to appear before a judge later in the day.

All three were charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and falsifying books and records.

Two pit bulls, property reported missing in Snyder

• ***Theft***

Betty Martinez of 1803 39th St. Tuesday morning reported two pit bulls missing from the back yard. Officers filed a report for Class B theft at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

• ***Missing property***

Officers filed a report for missing property after Estella DeLeon reported items missing from her residence.

• ***Harassment***

Officers stood by in the 1900 block of 30th Street Tuesday morning as a woman spray-painted over obscenities written about her on city-owned dumpsters.

• ***Mischief***

A woman notified officers at 1:52 p.m. Tuesday that a man was getting scrap food from a dumpster in the 2200 block of 41st Street and then throwing it at her dog. The woman said the man had done the same thing in the past.

• ***Criminal mischief***

Seven reports of criminal mischief were filed at 5:04 p.m. Tuesday as seven cars parked at Central Elementary had been keyed.

• ***Livestock at large***

At 12:41 this morning, a motorist reported 20 to 30 head of cattle running at large in the area of U.S. 84 and Avenue E. The motorist reported one cow had already been hit by a vehicle.

• ***Arrest***

Officers arrested a 23-year-old male at 2:48 p.m. Tuesday for driving while license suspended.

• ***Motorist assists***

Officers assisted five motorists who had locked their keys in their cars.

• ***Accident***

A two-vehicle accident occurred at 7:34 p.m. Tuesday in the 2100 block of 40th Street. Involved were a 1967 Mustang driven by Race Van Dale, 39, of 3013 38th St., and a parked and unoccupied 1967 Buick owned by David Johnson of 2101 40th St. Dale was taken to Cogdell Memorial Hospital by private vehicle where he was treated and released.

U.S. vetoes U.N. protecting Arafat

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Yasser Arafat dismissed the United States' veto of a U.N. resolution against Israel's threats to expel him, saying today that the step will not "shake us." Arabs expressed anger, saying Israel may see the veto as a green light to move against the Palestinian leader.

Washington says it opposes expelling Arafat from the West Bank. But it said the U.N. resolution calling for Israel to halt its threats was "lopsided" and didn't condemn terrorist groups attacking Israel.

Arabs were dismayed by the veto, with some saying the vote showed the United States had lost its credibility as an honest broker in the Middle East. Amr Moussa, secretary-general of the Arab League, said he hoped the veto doesn't mean the United States supports Israeli policies "which are opposed by the whole world."

Arafat, speaking to supporters at his West Bank headquarters in Ramallah, dismissed the American move. "No decision here or there will shake us," he said. "We are bigger than all decisions."

Nabil Shaath, the Palestinian foreign minister, said U.S. officials "informed us officially" that the veto "is not in any way a green light for Israel."

But that did not reassure many in the Arab world.

"The pretext saying that the draft resolution was unbalanced is baseless," Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher said Wednesday.

Maher echoed concern Israel might see the vote as a license to go after Arafat. He said that if nations don't pressure Israel to desist from its "provocative and aggressive" policies, it would show the international community's "powerlessness."

Syria's U.N. Ambassador Fayssal Mekdad expressed regret at the veto, calling it "extremely regrettable" and warning that it "will antagonize the feeling of Arabs in the region.

Syria, the only Arab nation on the Security Council, had pressed for a vote since last week's decision by Israel's security Cabinet to "remove" Arafat in a manner and time to be decided. Israel blames Arafat for sabotaging the peace process and doing nothing to prevent terrorist attacks.

The Palestinians had generated wide global support for the resolution. Of the 15 Security Council members, 11 voted Tuesday in favor of the resolution. Britain, Germany and Bulgaria abstained.

U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte said the resolution did not contain a condemnation of terrorist groups such as Hamas and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, blamed for several suicide attacks against Israel.

He said, "It was lopsided and ... it didn't take into account the elements we thought it ought to take into account, including a robust criticism of Palestinian terrorism."

Obituaries

S.D. Hays

1913-2003

S.D. Hays Jr., a Scurry County rancher, died Tuesday, Sept. 15, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital after a brief illness.

Services for Mr. Hays, 90, are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born May 14, 1913 in Scurry County, his parents, S. D. and Fannie Hays, moved to the Crowder community in Scurry County and later bought a farm near the Union community.

S.D. Hays

He was preceded in death by a granddaughter, ShannaHays in 1994; and two sisters, Lee Falls and Elnor Tuck.

Survivors include his wife, Judy Hays of Snyder; a son and daughter-in-law, Randy and Jessie Jo Hays of Snyder; four sisters and two brothers-in-law, Billie Lou and E.J. Richardson of Snyder, Bobbie Jo and Robert Melcher of Lubbock, Ethel Lynn Mitchell of Lamesa and Beth Williams of Booneville, Ark.; a brother-in-law, Pat Falls of Snyder; and a grandson and his wife, Shawn and Tammy Hays of Sulphur, Okla.

Oletha Gibson

1921-2003

Oletha Gibson, 82, died Tuesday, Sept. 16, in Mitchell County Hospital in Colorado City.

Service is set for 11 a.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church in Colorado City with Henry Lee officiating. Burial will follow in the Mitchell County Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Wright Colonial Funeral Home in Snyder.

She was born on Dec. 12, 1920 in Wortham and married Dan Emerson Sr. in 1938 in Waco. He died in 1956. She married Eddie Gibson in 1970 in Big Spring. He died in 1983.

Survivors include four sons, Donald Lee Emerson and Thomas Lee Emerson, both of Colorado City, Daniel Emerson Jr. of Odessa and William Ross Emerson of Tulsa, Okla.; five daughters, Martha Louise Green of Snyder, Carolyn Salinas of Bedford, Edie Mae Garrett of Oklahoma City, Francis Emerson and Bernell Gibson, both of Colorado City; 48 grandchildren; 101 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Dorothy Gaurcia

1925-2003

McKINNEY – Dorothy Gaurcia, a former resident of Snyder, died Monday, Sept. 15, in McKinney.

Graveside service for Mrs. Gaurcia, 78, is set for 10:30 a.m. Friday in the Ridgeview Memorial Park with Zerlene Simpson, minister, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow Funeral Home.

Born Feb. 19, 1925 in Lubbock, she married Lorinza Gaurcia in 1974 in Snyder. He preceded her in death.

Mrs. Gaurcia, a resident of McKinney, was a housekeeper and a member of The Word is Life Deliverance Church in Snyder.

She also was preceded in death by her parents, Charles Henry and Rosie Turner; two sisters, Ruth Bell and Ruby Turner; and a nephew, Marcus Anderson.

Survivors include a daughter, Norma Archie of Albuquerque, N.M.; a sister, Jearldene Anderson of Abilene; a brother, Charles Turner Jr. of Arizona; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Bud Thornburg

1916-2003

SWEETWATER — Hillis Deford "Bud" Thornburg of Roscoe, brother of Ada Staton of Snyder, died Tuesday, Sept. 16, in Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital.

Service for Mr. Thornburg, 87, is set for 2 p.m. Friday in the First Baptist Church in Roscoe. Dr. Rick Willis will officiate. Masonic graveside rites will follow in the Sweetwater Cemetery under the direction of McCoy Funeral Home.

Born on Aug. 22, 1916 in Mingus, Mr. Thornburg was a retired farmer and had lived in Roscoe since 1924. He was a World War II veteran and was a member of American Legion Post 227, a member of the Suez Shrine Temple and El Paso Scottish Rite Bodies. Mr. Thornburg also was a past member of Roscoe Masonic Lodge 980 and the Sweetwater Masonic Lodge 571.

He was preceded in death by his parents, M.L. and Myrtle Thornburg; his stepfather, Frank Bassinger; a stepbrother, Shorty Bassinger; and a niece, Barbara Scrivner.

Survivors also include a brother, Lowell Thornburg of Roby; a stepbrother, Leslie Bassinger of Eldorado; a stepsister, Gladys Geiger of Colorado City; several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Masons.

Rev. Vergauwen

1917-2003

BALLINGER — The Rev. Peter Vergauwen, former priest of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Snyder, died Monday, Sept. 15, in Padua Place, a retirement home for priests in San Antonio.

A wake for Rev. Vergauwen, 86, is set for 5 p.m. today at St. Boniface Church in Olfen and a mass is set for 10 a.m. Thursday at St. Boniface.

Born Oct. 6, 1917 in Oppuurs, Belgium, he served in the Belgian Medical Army Air Corps. He was captured by the German army and taken on foot to a forced labor camp in Silezia, Poland where he escaped and returned to the seminary. He was ordained as a priest on July 19, 1942 and was appointed teacher of chemistry and physics at the Apostolic School in Waregem, Belgium.

He moved to Texas in 1951, serving churches in Snyder (1962-65), Coyanosa, Imperial, Sweetwater, San Angelo, Menard, Andrews, Abilene and Olfen.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Josephine Vergauwen; and two brothers.

Willie Turner

1927-2003

LUBBOCK — Willie Turner, father of Jan McClain of Snyder, died Thursday, Sept. 11, in the Amarillo VA Medical Center.

Service for Mr. Turner, 76, is set for 11 a.m. Friday at St. Matthews Baptist Church. The Rev. Edward Canaday, pastor of the church, will officiate. Burial will follow in Peaceful Garden Memorial under the direction of Jamison Funeral Home.

Mr. Turner was born March 3, 1927 in Vernon. He was a member of St. Matthews Baptist Church where he was active in the choir and the Federated Choir of Lubbock.

He was preceded in death by 12 sisters and brothers.

Survivors include his wife, Ruby Pearl Turner of Lubbock; a son, Clyde Jackson III of Lubbock; four other daughters, Barbara Ann Baca of Albuquerque, N.M., Gail Turner, Sarah Turner and Nichole Turner, all of Lubbock; and a sister, Berneice Hameed of Lubbock.

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Thu 9/18	Fri 9/19	Sat 9/20
82/58	77/55	83/61
Some clouds and possibly an isolated thunderstorm in the afternoon.	More clouds than sun. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the mid 50s.	Mostly cloudy. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 60s.
Sunrise 7:29 AM, Sunset 7:46 PM	Sunrise 7:30 AM, Sunset 7:45 PM	Sunrise 7:30 AM, Sunset 7:43 PM

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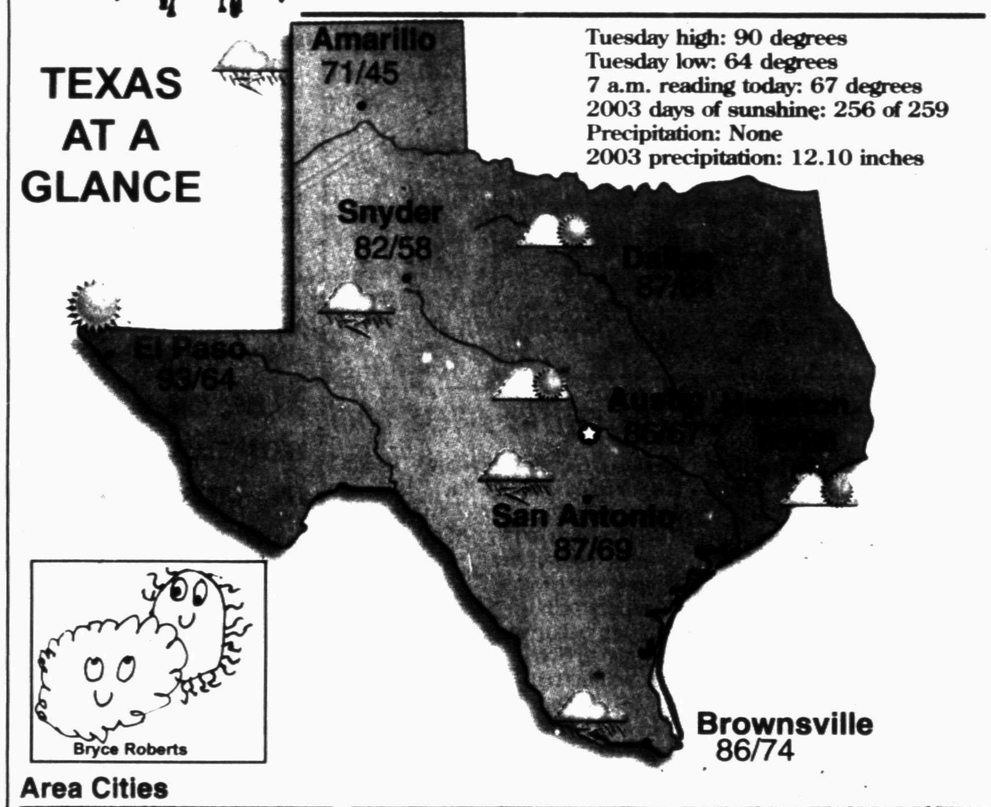
TEXAS AT A GLANCE

Tuesday high: 90 degrees
Tuesday low: 64 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 67 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 256 of 259
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: 12.10 inches



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	84	62	t-storm	El Paso	93	64	sunny	Midland	85	63	pt sunny
Amarillo	71	45	t-storm	Fort Stockton	89	64	sunny	Raymondville	87	72	t-storm
Austin	86	67	pt sunny	Gainesville	85	59	pt sunny	Rosenberg	88	67	pt sunny
Beaumont	89	67	pt sunny	Greenville	86	60	pt sunny	San Antonio	87	69	t-storm
Brownsville	86	74	t-storm	Houston	89	68	pt sunny	San Marcos	88	67	pt sunny
Brownwood	88	63	pt sunny	Kingsville	87	71	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	87	60	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	86	72	t-storm	Livingston	90	64	pt sunny	Sweetwater	83	60	t-storm
Corsicana	88	63	pt sunny	Longview	88	63	pt sunny	Tyler	89	64	pt sunny
Dallas	87	64	pt sunny	Lubbock	77	54	windy	Weatherford	87	60	pt sunny
Del Rio	90	71	pt sunny	Lufkin	91	65	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	81	57	t-storm

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	82	58	mst sunny	Houston	89	68	pt sunny	Phoenix	102	78	sunny
Boston	69	62	windy	Los Angeles	78	62	mst sunny	San Francisco	78	57	sunny
Chicago	81	56	mst sunny	Miami	88	73	mst sunny	Seattle	64	54	rain
Dallas	87	64	pt sunny	Minneapolis	62	44	rain	St. Louis	82	55	pt sunny
Denver	64	40	mst sunny	New York	70	66	windy	Washington, DC	69	67	rain

Moon Phases

Full	Last	New	First
Sep 10	Sep 18	Sep 26	Oct 2

UV Index

Thu 9/18	Fri 9/19	Sat 9/20
High	High	High

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

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