INSIDE

WT-Int. Crude - $25.78
WTIC Posted - $22.50
Natural Gas - $3.905

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY

Nov. 11, 2002
Vol. 54 No. 166
10 Pages 50¢

Home of Tom Machen



NEW NEIGHBORS — Five representatives of a Belgium-based textile company were in Snyder today meeting with the Development Corporation of Snyder board of directors to discuss the company's purchase of the former Lorber facility. Mayor Francene Noah serves the group some coffee as the meeting got underway. Shown from left are Yvan Vandamme, Philippe Vlerick and Alain Vermeersch. (SDN Staff Photo)

Belgium firm has plans to re-open textile facility

By Wade Warren
SDN Managing Editor

Pending the approval of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court later this month, the assets of the Lorber Industries of Texas plant will be transferred to UCO Textiles with plans to re-open the plant by the first of the year.

"If the court clears the way on Nov. 22, we will be in operation by Jan. 1," said Philippe Vlerick, UCO chairman and CEO.

Five members of the Belgium-based company were in Snyder over the weekend and announced their plans at a press conference this morning.

Vlerick said one of the strengths of their company is the ability to act quickly, as they have done with the negotiations on the Lorber property.

"We began talking about this in September and here we are today," said Vlerick.

The company had world-wide sales last year of some $200 million, up from $144 million four years ago.

"We believe in investing a lot of cash flow into maintaining state-of-the art equipment, and for expansion," said Vlerick.

The CEO said his company is impressed with the people of Snyder they had met so far, and they place a big value on the quality of employees.

"Our people are the main part of our company," said Vlerick. "They are one of our main strengths as we stress honesty, creativity and hard work."

The company employs approximately 1,400, with 1,100 in Belgium and the remainder in a plant in Rockingham, N.C.

The UCO plant here will have a workforce of between 45 and 50 when operations begin.

"This plant fits into our system," said Vlerick. "It is state-of-the-art and has been very well-maintained."

Jack Whitworth, who opened the plant here for Lorber, will return as the plant manager for UCO. Whitworth has been working for Lorber Industries in California, but his family has remained in Snyder.

"We look to being loyal and good partners with your community," concluded Vlerick.

Others meeting with the Development Corporation of Snyder board this morning were Yvan Vandamme, chief financial officer of UCO Textiles; Alain Vermeersch, chief executive officer of UCO Sportswear; Bart Van de Woestyne, president and chief operating officer of UCO Fabrics; Mike Freeman, manufacturing manager from Rockingham; and Dan W. Daly, administration manager and controller of UCO Fabrics.

Lorber closed the Snyder operations in October, 2001.

Dozens killed by storms; cleanup beginning today

MOSSY GROVE, Tenn. (AP) — Emergency crews searched for survivors early today amid the wreckage of communities pulverized by a series of storms that barreled through more than a half-dozen states, killing at least 33 people and injuring more than 200.

The long band of storms, including several tornadoes, stretched from Louisiana to Pennsylvania, with Tennessee and Alabama the hardest hit Sunday. The death toll included 16 in Tennessee, 10 in Alabama and five in Ohio. Pennsylvania and Mississippi reported one death each. In addition, one man died of a heart attack in Tennessee today while cleaning up around his home.

One tornado in Ohio blasted apart a theater just minutes after a movie ended.

The stormy weather continued this morning, with tornado warnings posted for sections of Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia. Thousands lost power in the Carolinas and possible tornadoes damaged homes in Louisiana and South Carolina.

The hardest-hit area in Tennessee was a five-mile swath in Morgan County, about 40 miles west of Knoxville. The county includes Mossy Grove, where four people died.

At least 40 people remained unaccounted-for today in Morgan County. Rescuers said most of the missing were probably alive but out of touch with family members because the storm knocked out phone service and blocked roads.

Of the 20 or so residences in Mossy Grove, about a dozen were destroyed. In many cases, all that remained was a foundation and rubble a couple of feet high.

"It's mass destruction, death," said Ken Morgan, an officer in nearby Oliver Springs. "Mossy Grove is destroyed."

Carbon Hill, Ala., was in a similar situation after a nighttime swarm of storms belted the area and sent giant hardwood trees crashing onto homes.

"I reckon about a third of the town is gone," said Terry Murray, part of a crew surveying the extent of the damage in Carbon Hill.

"Everybody's house is just totally gone. My son doesn't even know where his house is," said Sheryl Wakefield in Carbon Hill. "It's gone. It's just gone."

Wind hit an estimated 140 mph in Tennessee and the storms carried torrential rain and golf-ball-sized hail.

Unseasonably high temperatures Sunday in the 80s, followed by a cold front, made conditions ripe for tornadoes, which are not unusual this time of year.

Trustees to discuss applicants for superintendent's position

Snyder ISD's board of trustees will meet at 6 p.m. today as it continue the search for a new superintendent.

The trustees and representatives of the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) will meet in executive session to discuss the applications.

Trustees also will decide tonight how many applicants will be interviewed.

Thirty-eight applications were received by TASB for the position vacated by the abrupt resignation of Gayle Lomax.

Trustees also have meetings scheduled at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to interview candidates. The interviews will be held in closed sessions.

The board has targeted Dec. 5 as the date a finalist will be named, with the final vote coming on Jan. 6.

WTC board will review bids on vehicles to update aging fleet

Western Texas College board of trustees will consider bids on several vehicles at its regular monthly meeting at 7 tonight.

The board issued a request for bids last month for two mid-size sedans and a minivan.

Patricia Claxton, director of fiscal services, said today the bids received were much lower than anticipated and that she plans to ask the board's permission to purchase three sedans.

"We got a lot of bids and they were very low, which is good news," she said.

Twelve bids were received from five companies for the pre-owned program cars.

Eight bids also were submitted from five companies for the minivan.

Also on the agenda is consideration of revisions to 24 board policies.

The majority of the policies pertain to the administrative alignment at WTC.

Many positions that reported to the vice president will now be under supervision of the president.

Some of the policies also pertain to official titles for employees.

The 2003-2004 school calendar also will be considered.

On the agenda for information and discussion are pre-bid consideration of a greens mower for the golf course and all phases of construction of the sports complex to be constructed on the southwest corner of campus.

Mike Thornton, dean of continuing education, will present the education report and information will be provided on the recent purchase of a minibus for use by the sports teams.

Dr. Greg Williams, WTC president, also will give his monthly report.

The meeting will be held in the administrative boardroom.



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY — J.H. Roddy, left, and Bob Sealy raised the Stars and Stripes this morning at a Veterans Day Ceremony at the American Legion Post. (SDN Staff Photo)

Attorney criticizes interrogation

McLEAN, Va. (AP) — Lawyers for the sniper suspects criticized the police interrogation of 17-year-old John Lee Malvo and said they would seek to bar his alleged confession from court.

Malvo reportedly confessed to being the triggerman in several of the Washington-area sniper shootings, including the Virginia slaying in which his alleged accomplice, 41-year-old John Allen Muhammad, is charged with murder.

Malvo's lawyer, Michael Arif, criticized police for questioning Malvo without his court-appointed guardian or attorney and for leaking the alleged confession to The Washington Post.

"The police are flooding the media and poisoning the jury pool with their own paraphrasing and subjective interpretations of statements made during an unconstitutional interrogation," Arif said.

He said the leak "suggests an insecurity on the part of the commonwealth with the admissibility of these statements."

Malvo talked to investigators for seven hours after he and Muhammad were handed over to Virginia authorities Thursday for prosecution on death-penalty murder charges. Sources told the Post that Malvo was talkative and even bragged in some of his responses, but kept quiet about Muhammad.

For a murder conviction, prosecutors must show that the defendant was the triggerman. However, under the state's post-Sept. 11 anti-terrorism law, Muhammad could face the death penalty even if he is not found to be the gunman.

A Fairfax County police spokesman declined to comment on the interrogation, and Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Robert F. Horan Jr. did not return calls.

One of the shootings for which Malvo reportedly took responsibility is the Oct. 14 slaying of FBI analyst Linda Franklin. Fairfax County prosecutors charged Malvo with capital murder in that killing.

Muhammad is being prosecuted in Prince William County for the slaying of Dean Harold Meyers. It is unclear how Malvo's alleged confession to that crime might affect Muhammad's case.

County court to canvass vote

Scurry County commissioners' court will reconvene at 10 a.m. Tuesday to canvass last week's election results.

The court recessed Friday to allow time for a requested recount of the county judge's race and also to allow military ballots to be received.

Democrats Jerry House and Chloanne Lindsey defeated Republican opponents in last Tuesday's general election. Former Snyder Mayor Rod Waller, a Republican, defeated Democrat Janet Stribling, a former Snyder ISD trustee.

The meeting will be held in the county courtroom on the third floor of the courthouse.

Hermleigh trustees to review meal rule

Hermleigh's school board will meet at 5:30 this evening to review a new policy on providing meals for students on extra- curricular trips.

Earlier in the year, the board agreed to have students on out-of-town trips eat at a restaurant before returning home. This has caused some concern from parents about students arriving home late from the events, and the board agreed last month to review the policy and perhaps make some changes.

The trustees also will review the yearly audit report by representatives of Davis, Kinard and Co., and appoint the district's textbook committee.

The meeting will be in the high school building.

ASK US

Q—What is the easiest way to get to Odessa's Ratliff Stadium for the Tigers' playoff game?

A—Exit off I-20 on Loop 338 North and it will take you to the stadium.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Roger White...

Roger White is a biology teacher at Snyder High School, as well as the head track coach and an assistant football coach. He and his wife Kathy have lived in Snyder for two years, and they have a son, Brent, and a daughter, Ashlea. Roger likes to work his cows, hunt, fish and play golf.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Goals can give you power in your life. A person or an organization without a goal is powerless.

—Lewis Timberlake

NOV 11 2002

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Child welfare board meeting

The child welfare board of directors will meet at 7 tonight in the Child Protective Services office in Snyder Shopping Center.

Support groups

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

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 this evening is "Bearing One Another's Burdens," followed by "Deliver Us From Evil."

York Rite Masons

York Rite Masons will have a stated meeting at 7:30 tonight at Scurry Lodge.

4-H horse club meeting cancelled

The 4-H horse club has cancelled their scheduled Tuesday meeting.

AARP board meeting

The AARP board will meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Senior Center.

SJHS sets play

Snyder Junior High School's drama department will present *Night of the Living Beauty Pageant* at 7 p.m. Thursday and also on Tuesday, Nov. 19. Tickets are $2 in advance and $3 at the door. All seats are reserved. Tickets must be picked up at the junior high office.

FBC support groups

Support groups dealing with divorce, death, cancer or caring for elderly parents meet at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the First Baptist Church educational building. A special group for students facing these problems is held at the same time.

Drama Production

Snyder High School drama department will present *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* at the Ritz Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are $5 for adults and $4 for students. To make reservations call the box office at 573-8880 from 2-5 p.m. through Friday.

Parenting seminar

"Tired of Yelling," a parenting seminar hosted by Joy School at East Side Church of Christ, will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the East Side multi-purpose building. Call 673-8971 to register.

Lord's Acre

Lord's Acre, hosted by the First United Methodist Church, will be held Sunday at the Scurry County Coliseum starting with a brisket meal with all the trimmings from noon to 1:30 p.m. Price is $7 for adults and $4 for those under the age of 11. There will be an auction at 12:20 p.m. and the event also will feature crafts, baked goods and homemade items.

Alzheimer information meeting

A meeting on Alzheimer's will be held from 6-7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at Colonial Hill Baptist Church library. Sponsored by Snyder Oak Care Center, those attending will continue watching the film, "Alzheimer 101."

Mesquite Country Emmaus Thanksgiving

Mesquite Country Emmaus annual Thanksgiving celebration will be at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 19 at the Wagon Wheel Ranch. RSVP to Elois Pruitt at 573-6603 before Friday. Initials A-L bring vegetables, and M-Z bring desserts.

Home for the holidays

Home for the holidays is set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19, at the First United Methodist Church. The event will feature recipes, holiday gift wrapping ideas, food garnishing, door prizes and music by Cindy Nix. The $5 fee will cover the cost of food. Seating is limited and the deadline for making reservations is Wednesday. Call the county extension office at 573-5423 to reserve a spot.

Workshop for parents

A workshop for parents and other early childhood educators will be held from 1-2:30 p.m. and 6-7:30 p.m. Nov. 21 at the Region 14 Education Service Center. VaLynda Miller, early childhood education consultant, will be the presenter. Call Central Elementary at 573-8592 to register.

Junior high yearbook

The Snyder Junior High yearbook is on sale through Nov. 26 in room 110. Price is $16 with a deposit of $8 required when ordering. No extra copies will be available.

Washington, D.C. trip

Applications are due by the end of November for persons wishing to participate in next June's trip to Washington, D. C. and surrounding areas. For an application booklet or for further information, contact Charlotte Clifton at 573-2430, or Darlene Robbins at 573-0795.

Tiger's Lair on sale

Orders for the 2003 Tiger's Lair are being taken. Cost is $45 with options available at an addition fee. The price will increase to $50 after Dec. 1. Also deadline for senior dedications is Dec. 1. Dedications are $45 per photo and message. Call 574-6138 for information.

Ira Bulldog annuals on sale

The 2003 Bulldog annuals are on sale. Reserve your copy from now until Nov. 26. Cost is $26 with your name on the cover or $22 without. The supply is limited, so reserve your copy as soon as possible. To order, contact Becky Hudgins at Ira School.

WTC adult basic education classes

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

Sr. citizen swimnastics

Swimnastics for senior citizens is held from 10-11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call the senior center at 573-4035 for more information.

Bush's replacement triumphs on his own

AUSTIN (AP) — By winning his race for governor, Republican Rick Perry finally may step out of George W. Bush's shadow.

The job Perry has held for nearly two years didn't originally belong to him. He moved up to governor and hurriedly began his administration after Bush resigned in December 2000 to become president.

Bumps along the way — including some criticism for his record 82 vetoes last year — didn't turn out to be roadblocks to Perry's election to a full four-year term.

Though he was far outdistanced in spending in a race that set records in that category, Perry defeated wealthy Democrat Tony Sanchez by a margin of 58 percent to 40 percent Tuesday.

"The campaign was about providing a blueprint for the future, and now we must focus on the mission of ensuring greater opportunity and prosperity for our people," Perry said.

Perry will be working with two legislative chambers controlled by Republicans for the first time in 130 years, which likely will aid his ability to promote his agenda of education, transportation and lawsuit reform.

State budget problems also will figure into the equation when Perry begins his full term and legislators convene in January. Texas is expected to face a budget shortfall of at least $5 billion for the coming two-year cycle.

"Texans can know that my three top priorities will be educational opportunity, fiscal discipline and greater economic security for individual Texans," Perry said the day after his victory.

Perry has said he doesn't favor raising taxes. The likely new speaker of the House, Republican legislator Tom Craddick, also said he believes the state budget can be balanced without raising taxes.

Any tax bill would have to originate in the House.

Grappling with a budget shortfall without a tax increase could prove tricky for legislators and state leaders, said Bruce Buchanan, a government professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

"It'll be interesting to see them struggle with that. Where are they going to cut?" he said.

The leaders of the Texas Republican Party may have legislative expectations of their own.

Party chairwoman Susan Weddington said she would like to see debate on such issues as taxpayer-funded private school vouchers and a state ban on same-sex marriages.

On Wednesday, when Weddington celebrated her party's clean-sweep victory of statewide offices, she heaped praise on Perry for his leadership. Early in the election cycle Perry gathered Republican leaders and candidates and stressed party unity, she said.

"He said, 'We're a team, we're a family. And basically it's one for all and all for one and we're going to do this together.' And then he went out and he worked so hard to connect with people across ethnicities, across genders, across geographic areas of the state, across faiths and gained their support," Weddington said.

Throughout the gubernatorial race, Perry pointed to his 17 years in state office as the reason he was more suitable than Sanchez to govern.

Perry, 52, a former Texas A&M yell leader and Air Force pilot, entered state politics as a Democrat representing a West Texas district in the Legislature beginning in 1985. He became a Republican in 1989 because, he said, the GOP philosophy fit more with his own.

He then successfully ran for state agriculture commissioner in 1990 and served two terms before narrowly getting elected lieutenant governor over Democrat John Sharp in 1998.

In that job, considered by many to be the state's most powerful post, Perry also followed another legendary politician, Democrat Bob Bullock.

In 1999, Perry presided over the Texas Senate as lieutenant governor as lawmakers approved a $3,000 pay raise for teachers, a $1.35 billion property tax cut and $506 million in consumer and business tax relief.

It was a showcase session for George W. Bush, who then was in his second term as governor and moving toward a run for president.

President Bush showed up in Texas occasionally to campaign with Perry this year and headlined a fund-raiser for him, but Perry campaign officials never ran television ads that included Bush.

Trying to stick with his own message, Perry wasn't one to invoke Bush's name frequently, as did successful Republican U.S. Senate candidate John Cornyn.

Bush's shadow over Perry may have been shrinking, but his clout in Texas politics was never in doubt.

"George Bush will be a presence," Perry said as the campaign began. "He will be an influence. And he will be for me."

Today's chuckle

Wild turkey pesters community

OBERLIN, Ohio (AP) — This is one tough turkey.

A 15-pound wild turkey has been pestering residents of this northeast Ohio community and eluding trappers who want to capture it.



The bird has chased after schoolchildren and pets, trapped people in cars and left its droppings on porches.

"Most people think it's a poor, cute little wild turkey," animal trapper Dave Thorn said. "People begin feeding the wild animals, which is the wrong thing to do because, basically, this turkey has taken over this territory."

Thorn said the bird may be roosting in the chimney of Prospect Elementary School, where it has been swooping on the playground. Principal Linda Dawson said the turkey has gotten bolder with children, raising fears about attacks.

Lorain County wildlife officer Dave Shinko said he has gotten 20 complaints about the bird. He said it will be killed once it is caught and could be donated to a food bank.

"But who knows if it's even any good," Shinko said. "I mean, we're not talking Butterball here."

Date Book

Monday, Nov. 11, 2002

Today is the 315th day of 2002 and the 51st day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1889, the state of Washington was admitted to the Union. It is the only state named after a U.S. president.

On this day in 1918, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, Germany signed a truce with the Allies that formally ended World War I.

On this day in 1921, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was dedicated at Arlington Cemetery, in Virginia. President Warren G. Harding officiated the ceremony.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821-1881), novelist; George Patton (1885-1945), U.S. Army general; Kurt Vonnegut (1922-), novelist, is 80; Jonathan Winters (1925-), comedian, is 77; Demi Moore (1962-), actress, is 40.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1964, Kelso won the Washington, D.C., International horse-racing event.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Innovators and men of genius have almost always been regarded as fools at the beginning (and very often at the end) of their careers." — Fyodor Dostoyevsky

TODAY'S MOON: First quarter (Nov. 11).

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Appears at fundraiser

NEW YORK (AP) — Deborah Voigt is taking a night off from opera to join Broadway stars in a fund-raiser for AIDS research.

The soprano, known for her portrayal of Wagnerian heroines, was to join original "Rent" star Adam Pascal, Malcom Gets of "Amour" and Tom Wopat of "42nd Street" on Monday night for the 10th anniversary performance of Classical Action: Performing Arts Against AIDS.

Dick Cavett is the host.

On the Net:
http://www.classicalaction.org

events

LOTTO TEXAS™ TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Saturday
Lottery Numbers
Lotto Texas

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

The ticket was worth an estimated $27 million.

The ticket was sold in Sanger.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 4-17-21-32-34-37.

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

Pick 3
(Day) 4-4-4
(Night) 1-4-1
Cash Five
5-13-16-30-36

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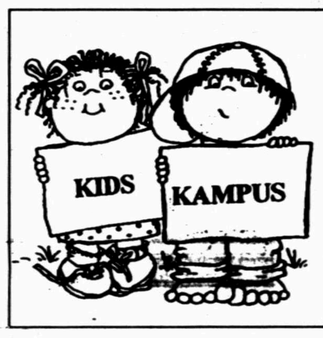
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South Texas Demo legislators ponder their role

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Despite predictions to the contrary by Republican leaders, South Texas Democratic lawmakers said they're confident they will still have power and influence in a state House and Senate now firmly under GOP control.

Frank Yturria of Brownsville, an avid supporter of Republican candidates and causes, said his party's General Election victories have rendered the Cameron County Democratic delegation useless.

"They are all going to be insignificant Democrats," said Yturria, an appointee of Gov. Rick Perry last year to the Texas Historical Commission.

"They have no political influence, no power, no nothing," Yturria said in Sunday's editions of The Brownsville Herald.

"That is what 'la palanca' (straight party ticket) has given the Rio Grande Valley," Yturria said. "They all campaigned for Tony Sanchez and for the Democratic straight party ticket. What has it gotten them? It means now that Brownsville and the Rio Grande Valley will remain a poverty stricken area with Third World conditions."

Yturria's comments mirror those of Frank Morris, chairman of the Republican Party in Cameron County, who said South Texas Democrats "will be on the outside looking in because that is what the voters determined here in the Valley."

Yturria added: "All of them are going to lose the committees they have chaired."

State Rep. Rene Oliveira, D-Brownsville, described the words of Yturria and other Republican hard-liners as "mean-spirited, arrogant, and terroristic rhetoric."

Oliveira and state Rep. Jim Solis, D-Harlingen, argued that their earned seniority and experience in the Texas House is not to be easily dismissed. They also point to established bipartisan efforts and long-lasting friendships forged with members across the aisle.

"I have served under four different governors and now, under four different speakers and it has always been and always will be bipartisan," Oliveira said. "I would not have carried and passed major pieces of legislation ... without Republican support. That will have to continue."

In referring to the county delegation, Yturria included state Rep. Irma Rangel, D-Kingsville, who now represents Cameron County, because of last year's redistricting of the 43rd District.

Oliveira, who ranks 14th in seniority among the 150 members of the House, is chairman of the Ways & Means Committee and also serves in the Public Education Committee and the Select Committee on Teacher Health Insurance.

Rangel, who ranks fourth in seniority in the House, chairs the Higher Education Committee and serves on the Pensions & Investments committee. Solis chairs the Economic Development Committee and serves on the Calendars and Judicial Affairs committees and also enjoys seniority.

"If Speaker-elect Tom Craddick continues with the bipartisan trend, which his colleagues say he will, then we should do well in the Valley," Solis said. "There is no room for extremists."

In the Senate, Eddie Lucio, D-Brownsville, serves on numerous committees including Business & Commerce, Committee of the Whole Senate, Finance, Natural Resources, and he chairs the Subcommittee on Border Affairs.

"After visiting very briefly with Lt. Gov.-elect David Dewhurst, I believe he will be very fair with me," Lucio said. "I believe that probably because of my seniority, I will keep what I have now.

"He (Dewhurst) was very cordial and said that he wanted to work with all of us bipartisanly to achieve our goal," Lucio said.

Farmers Insurance, state reach interim deal

AUSTIN (AP) — Farmers Insurance Group reached an interim deal with state officials on the eve of its scheduled pullout, agreeing to renew homeowner policies for another 30 days as negotiations continue.

State officials have been trying to keep the company from following through on its threat to stop renewing policies for its customers today. As many as 60,000 customers stood to lose their coverage this month if no deal had been reached, a state lawmaker has predicted.

Under the interim agreement reached late Sunday, Farmers also agreed to cut its rates between 5 percent and 10 percent for customers whose policies are renewed, the Austin American-Statesman reported on its Web site today, citing sources involved in the talks who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Gene Acuna, a spokesman for Gov. Rick Perry, would not confirm the agreement when reached by phone early today.

"The negotiations continued through the weekend," Acuna said. "I'll know more when I get into the office."

Officials with Farmers and the state insurance department could not be reached by The Associated Press early today.

Farmers had told its customers it would stop renewing policies rather than pay restitution or steep fines that also were to begin this week.

The state has agreed not to impose the fines under the interim agreement. Details were still being worked out late Sunday, but the agreement is expected to be finalized today.

Negotiations involved top officials of the attorney general's office, the Insurance Department and Perry's office; top Farmers executives in the company's Los Angeles headquarters; and state legislators.

Farmers faces a lawsuit by the attorney general's office, which had accused the company of overcharging customers and of deceptive trade practices. The company denies wrongdoing.

A major sticking point is Farmer's refusal to pay any restitution. While state officials are open to compromise, they are insisting that the company pay something to customers who the state maintains have been overcharged.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Soldier asks if we are worthy of those who gave their lives

DEAR ABBY: I am a retired soldier. Some time ago, I wrote the following verse for those who are now fighting for us. What can we do for them? Write, yes! But better than that, LIVE. — **CORTLAND E. RICHMOND, ROHNERT PARK, CALIF.**

DEAR CORTLAND: Thank you for granting me permission to use excerpts from your poem. Today is Veterans Day, and I am sure it will strike a responsive chord with all who read it.

CURRENCY

Do not give medals for our death;
Where we are, we cannot know.
Do not raise flags and hold parades;
Where we are, flags don't go.
We ask but one thing of our land,
Of you who had us fight:
"Please be WORTH the blood we shed,
"Be worth the eternal night."
We are the currency you spend
For freedom, fear or oil;
Our blood, the coin you pay,
Dark on some foreign soil.

**

DEAR ABBY: In the year 2000, I graduated from law school. Since then I have been unable to pass the state bar exam, which is offered only twice a year. It's a tough exam for someone like me who has never tested well. I have tried four times. The last time I was only 24 points away from passing.

Last month I was laid off from my job, and my husband has been supporting me and our two sons, 4 and 2. My husband is wonderful in that he not only supports me, but also encourages me to study harder and try once again to pass the bar. He knows that if I pass, I could one day double our current income.

I would be happy as an attorney, yet I think I could also find happiness in ANY job where I can help people. With the education I already have, I might be able to obtain a state or federal job, so I'm wondering if I should continue trying to pass the bar.

Do you think I should move on with my life and find another job, so I can begin repaying my student loans and not feel so guilty all the time?

Abby, looking back, I don't know if my four years of college and three more in law school were worth it. Perhaps my repeated failure to pass this one exam is really fate trying to tell me something. What do you think? — **FEELING GUILTY IN MISSOURI**

DEAR FEELING GUILTY: I do not agree. You've worked hard; please don't give up now. However, before you take the bar exam again, be sure you're mentally and physically prepared. Take the bar review courses until you know the material backward and forward.

Consult your physician about your anxiety. He or she may be able to recommend an anti-anxiety medication to help you relax. The day before the bar exam, treat yourself to a full-body massage and listen to relaxing music. In the morning, eat a nutritious meal, look in the mirror and say, "I CAN DO THIS!" — then take the bar exam. My readers and I are pulling for you.

**

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

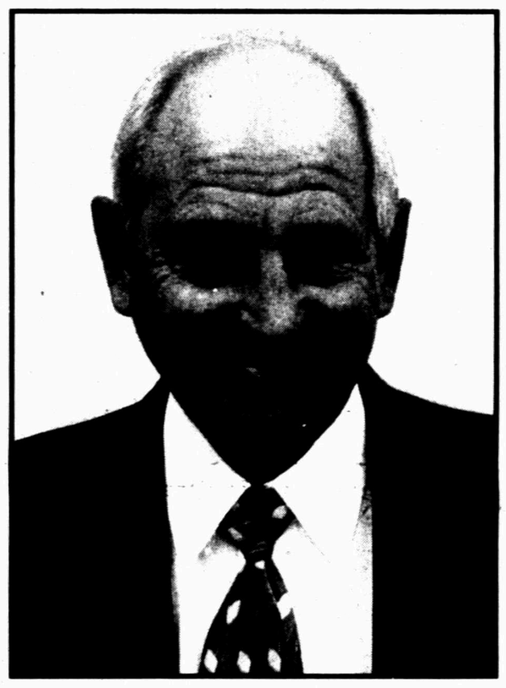
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For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet,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

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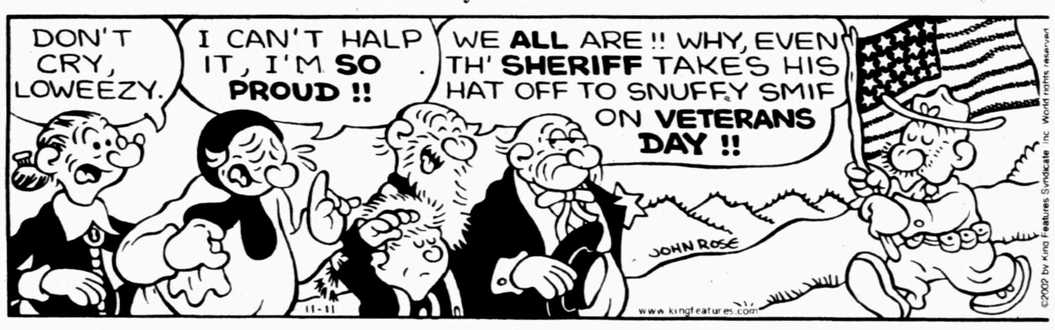
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THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Ticket info
4 Whack a fly
8 Uncooked
11 — out (scraped by)
13 Charter
14 Kyoto sash
15 SEATO counterpart
16 "Puppy Love" singer
17 Summer mo.
18 Mollusk
20 Joule fractions
21 Fasten
22 Charge
24 Contributed
27 Prepared food
30 Blurted out
31 Zen question
32 — wrestling
34 Ottoman official
35 Dosage unit
36 Dog name
37 Firstborn
39 Hardens bricks
40 Brown-truck logo
41 Reunion crowd
42 Kind of insurance
45 Ogled
49 All-purpose vehicle
50 "Soft Watches" painter
53 Crazy, to Pedro
54 Scarlet
55 Verve
56 Fabric measure
57 Uh's cousins
58 Kitchen herb
59 Pair

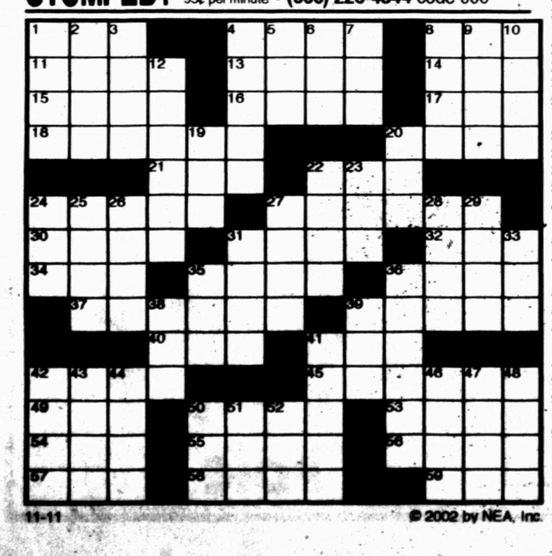
DOWN

1 Gambler's town
2 Approve
3 Sprinkles
4 Portion
5 Come out on top
6 Mo. neighbor
7 Hot brew
8 Hearty laugh
9 Snug as — — in a rug
10 Fashion accessories
12 Speckled
19 German article
20 Shriek
22 Young horse
23 Long time
24 Cookie-selling org.
25 Desdemona's enemy
26 Bottle
27 Wild West revolver
28 Qatar ruler
29 Tenderfoot
31 Smooch
33 Old PC system
35 Energy
36 Delicately
38 Unpaid
39 "Phooey!"
41 Actor Kevin —
42 Bait
43 Highway, to Ben-Hur
44 G-men
46 Boulevard
47 Neutral color
48 Nonflying bird
50 — Plaines, Ill.
51 Crimson Tide st.
52 Dawdle

Answer to Previous Puzzle

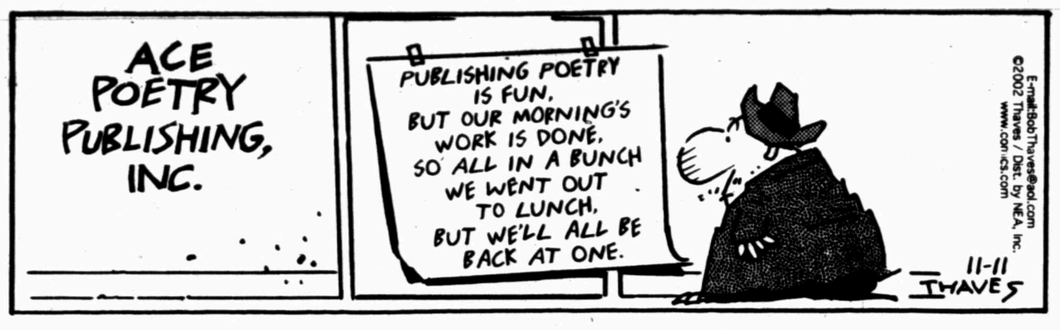
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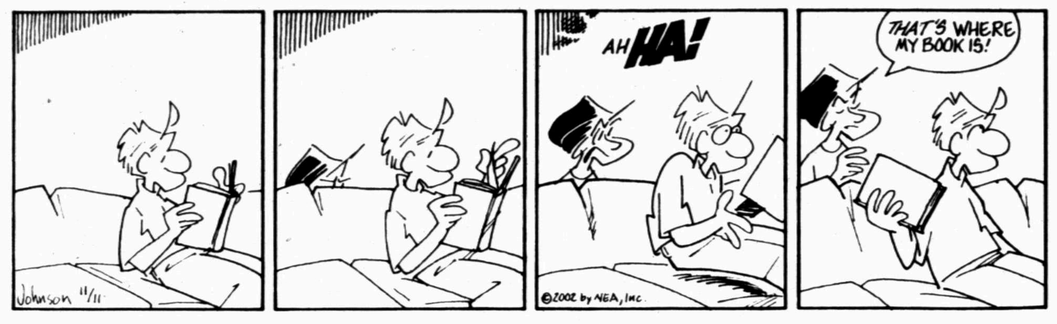


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ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



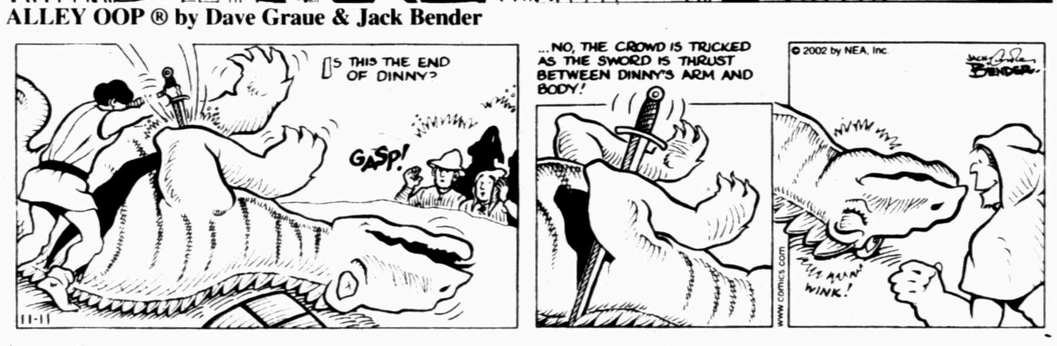
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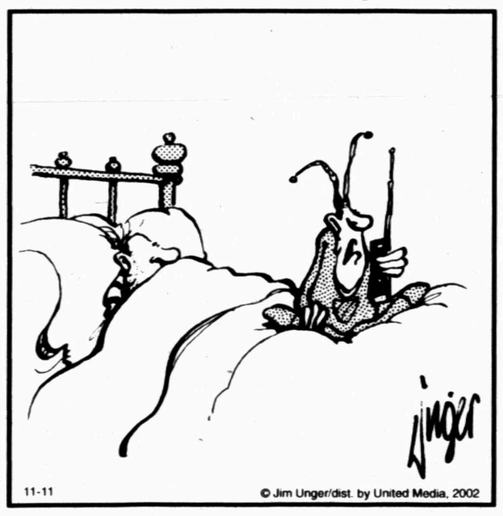
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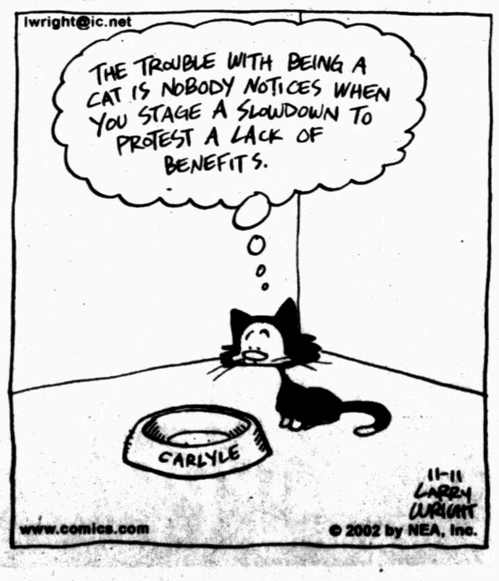
Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"We don't want to abduct this one — he has the flu."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



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AP T

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3. Washington
4. Oklahoma
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6. Iowa
7. Georgia
8. Southern Ca
9. Notre Dame
10. Alabama
11. Kansas St.
12. Michigan
13. Virginia Tech
14. LSU
15. Florida St.
16. Penn St.
17. Colorado
18. Pittsburgh
19. Maryland
20. Florida
21. Colorado St.
22. N.C. State
23. Oregon
24. Auburn
25. TCU

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SPORTS

Steelers, Falcons play one for the ages

By the Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Mike Vick rallied Atlanta from 17 points down in the fourth quarter, and the Falcons withstood Maddox's franchise-record 473 yards passing to tie Pittsburgh 34-34 Sunday.

Maddox was 28-of-41 for 473 yards, easily breaking Bobby Layne's 1958 club record of 409 yards. Burress made nine catches for a team-record 253 yards and two touchdowns, but Pittsburgh still couldn't hold a 34-17 lead in the fourth quarter.

Both teams remained unbeaten in their last five games and are 5-3-1.

Despite fighting off the constant pressure, Vick dodged and weaved his way to a 294-yard passing day, going 24-of-46.

Feely's 56-yard attempt in the closing seconds also was blocked, leading to the near-miracle Maddox-to-Burress completion on the final play.

Rams 28, Chargers 24

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis (4-5) was led by Marc Bulger's 453 yards passing — the fourth-most in franchise history — and Isaac Bruce, who lost two of the fumbles but caught three touchdown passes, including the 7-yard game-winner with 1:14 to play. He finished with 10 catches for 163 yards.

Bulger was 36-of-48 with four touchdowns in perhaps his last game before Kurt Warner comes back. Warner's broken pinkie on his throwing hand appears to have healed, and he threw some 40-yard passes during warmups.

Giants 27, Vikings 20

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kerry Collins threw for 300 yards and two touchdowns and Tiki Barber ran for 127 yards. Barber also scored the go-ahead touchdown on an 8-yard run with 2:43 left.

Daunte Culpepper was pulled for Todd Bouman in the third quarter, and Bouman nearly rallied the Vikings. Culpepper was just 9-for-20 for 91 yards.

Colts 35, Eagles 13

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Peyton Manning threw for 319 yards and three touchdowns, and James Mungro ran for 114 yards and two TDs, leading the Colts past the Eagles.

Mungro, making his first career start because Edgerrin James and Ricky Williams are out with hamstring injuries, had TD runs of 6 and 10 yards.

Donovan McNabb threw for 281 yards and one TD and ran for 62 yards, but he dropped a pass on a critical fourth-and-1 in the third quarter and also lost a fumble.

Packers 40, Lions 14

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — The Packers improved their NFL-best record to 8-1 while taking a five-game lead over second-place Detroit (3-6) in the NFC North.

Ahman Green (12 carries for 50 yards) didn't play after halftime with a mild concussion. Najeh Davenport gained 73 yards in 10 carries before hurting his ankle in the third quarter.

Favre had 295 yards passing by halftime and was taken out in the third quarter.

Saints 34, Panthers 24

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Aaron Brooks threw a 7-yard touchdown pass to Donte Stallworth with 31 seconds to play Sunday, and Charles Grant returned Rodney Peete's fumble 34 yards on the final play to preserve the Saints' victory.

Brooks threw for 259 yards and one touchdown.

Ravens 38, Bengals 27

BALTIMORE (AP) — Jamal Lewis ran for 135 yards and two touchdowns as the Ravens (4-5) snapped a two-game losing streak and denied Cincinnati a second straight victory.

Cincinnati's Brandon Bennett ran a kickoff back 94 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter, the Bengals' first score in Baltimore since 1998. But Cincinnati (1-8) lost its sixth straight on the road against the Ravens.

Patriots 33, Bears 30

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (AP) — Tom Brady hit David Patten on a 20-yard TD pass with 21 seconds left — on a play that was upheld by video review — and the Patriots overcame a 27-6 second-half deficit to win.

The Bears' seventh straight loss was one they'll never forget. Twice in the final minute, video replays didn't go their way in a wild and disheartening finish.

Brady completed 36 of 55 passes for 328 yards for New England (5-4).

Jaguars 26, Redskins 7

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Mark Brunell threw for 194 yards, and Fred Taylor ran for 82 yards and a touchdown to help the Jaguars (4-5) snap a four-game losing streak.

The Redskins (4-5) saw their two-game winning streak snapped. Shane Matthews directed a 77-yard touchdown drive to open the game, but Washington didn't score again. Matthews finished 27-for-51 for 256 yards with two interceptions.

49ers 17, Chiefs 13

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Terrell Owens caught seven passes for just 51 yards, never breaking away for significant yards after a catch, while Jeff Garcia passed for just 175 yards.

Eddie Kennison caught eight passes for 134 yards for the Chiefs. Trent Green was 15-of-27 for 193 yards. Gonzalez had one catch for 6 yards.

Seahawks 27, Cardinals 6

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Matt Hasselbeck completed 23 of 31 passes for 260 yards — 4 yards shy of the career best he set a week ago against Washington — and the Seahawks (3-6) scored on all five of their first-half possessions.

Jets 13, Dolphins 10

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — John Hall kicked a 28-yard field goal with 2:17 left, and the Jets won for the third time in four games to further scramble the AFC East race.

Titans hold off Texans

NASHVILLE (AP) — Steve McNair threw two touchdowns passes, and Lance Schulters intercepted a pass with 1:11 left as the former Houston Oilers held off the expansion Houston Texans 17-10 on Sunday.

The Titans (5-4) stayed atop the AFC South with their fourth straight victory following a four-game losing streak.

"Every notch in the win column is pretty," Titans defensive end Kevin Carter said.

It could have been much prettier and easier if the Titans hadn't struggled against the Texans (2-7) offensively. They had just 251 yards offense and managed just one 24-yard field goal despite starting four drives in Houston territory.

"A win is a win," said Titans running back Eddie George, who ran for 86 yards. "But when we have opportunities like that, it makes it frustrating. We had opportunities to get it done. You have to take care of it."

The Titans gave credit to their replacements for helping them struggle. The Texans have held offenses below 300 yards in five of nine games, and they intercepted two of McNair's passes, including one in the end zone.

McNair, who didn't practice last week because of a sore right toe, was 10-of-21 for 109 yards but kept drives alive as he scrambled eight times for 46 yards. He had TD tosses of 13 yards to Derrick Mason and 17 yards to Shad Meier as Tennessee held the ball for more than 33 minutes.

AP Top 25

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Miami (74)	9-0	1,850	2
2. Ohio St.	11-0	1,771	3
3. Washington St.	9-1	1,592	5
4. Oklahoma	8-1	1,590	1
tie. Texas	9-1	1,590	4
6. Iowa	10-1	1,560	6
7. Georgia	9-1	1,403	7
8. Southern Cal	7-2	1,275	10
9. Notre Dame	9-1	1,256	9
10. Alabama	8-2	1,175	11
11. Kansas St.	8-2	1,114	12
12. Michigan	8-2	1,021	13
13. Virginia Tech	8-2	818	8
14. LSU	7-2	816	16
15. Florida St.	7-3	725	17
16. Penn St.	7-3	649	19
17. Colorado	7-3	628	18
18. Pittsburgh	8-2	561	22
19. Maryland	8-2	527	—
20. Florida	7-3	437	23
21. Colorado St.	8-2	391	24
22. N.C. State	9-2	382	14
23. Oregon	7-3	344	15
24. Auburn	7-3	138	—
25. TCU	8-1	118	—

Others receiving votes: Boise St. 105, Bowling Green 50, UCLA 50, Texas A&M 35, Iowa St. 26, West Virginia 13, Arkansas 10, Marshall 9, Tennessee 5, Texas Tech 5, Nebraska 4, Arizona St. 3, California 3, Minnesota 1.

Area High School Football Playoff Pairings

CLASS 5A

DIVISION I
Bi-district
Region I

EP Montwood (5-4) vs. Lubbock Coronado (5-5), 2 p.m. Saturday at EP's Socorro Athletic Complex.

Midland (8-2) vs. Duncanville (8-2), 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Abilene's Shotwell Stadium.

Euless Trinity (9-1) vs. Arlington Lamar (9-1), 9 p.m. Friday at Irving's Texas Stadium.

Coppell (7-3) vs. Irving (7-3), 1 p.m. Saturday at Irving's Texas Stadium.

DIVISION II
Bi-district
Region I

EP Franklin (10-0) vs. Amarillo (4-5), 1 p.m. Saturday at Dick Bivins Stadium in Amarillo.

Abilene Cooper (10-0) vs. Burleson (6-4), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Burleson.

Colleyville Heritage (9-1) vs. Arlington Sam Houston (5-5), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Arlington's Wilemond Field.

Southlake Carroll (10-0) vs. Irving MacArthur (7-3), 7 p.m. Saturday at Irving's Texas Stadium.

EP Socorro (9-1) vs. Lubbock Monterey (5-5), 8:30 p.m. Friday at EP's Socorro Athletic Complex.

Abilene (9-1) vs. DeSoto (6-4), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Abilene's Shotwell Stadium.

Hurst Bell (6-4) vs. Arlington (9-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Birdville ISD Complex.

The Colony (5-5) vs. Irving Nimitz (8-2), 4:00 p.m. Saturday at Irving's Texas Stadium.

CLASS 4A

DIVISION I
Bi-district
Region I

EP Irvin (6-4) vs. EP Del Valle (7-3), 8:30 p.m. Friday at EP Irvin.

Amarillo Palo Duro (7-3) vs. Wolfforth Frenship (10-0), 5 p.m. Friday at Lubbock's Lowrey Field.

Wichita Falls (8-2) vs. Denton (9-1), 4 p.m. Saturday at Southlake's Dragon Stadium.

FW Arlington Heights (6-4) vs. Brownwood (6-4), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Waco ISD Stadium

DIVISION II
Bi-district
Region I

EP Canutillo (7-3) vs. EP Ysleta (7-3), 8:30 p.m. Thursday at Canutillo.

Canyon Randall (8-1) vs. Big Spring (6-4), 8 p.m. Friday at Lubbock's Lowrey Field.

WF Hirschi (5-5) vs. Lewisville Hebron (7-3), noon Saturday at Southlake's Dragon Stadium.

FW Dunbar (7-3) vs. Aledo (9-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Bedford's Pennington Field.

EP Burges (4-6) vs. EP Riverside (10-0), 8:30 p.m. Thursday at EP Riverside.

Pampa (7-3) vs. Andrews (5-5), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Andrews' Mustang Bowl.

Springtown (6-4) vs. Denton Ryan (9-1), 8 p.m. Saturday at Southlake's Dragon Stadium.

FW Western Hills (7-3) vs. Stephenville (9-1), 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Birdville ISD Complex.

CLASS 3A

DIVISION I
Bi-district
Region I

Borger (4-6) vs. Brownfield (6-4), 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Amarillo's Dick Bivins Stadium.

Snyder (6-4) vs. Monahans (6-4), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Odessa's Ratliff Stadium.

Graham (9-1) vs. Abilene Wylie (8-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday at the University of Texas-Arlington.

Lake Dallas (3-7) vs. Everman (9-1), 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Bedford's Pennington Field.

DIVISION II
Bi-district
Region I

Perryton (8-1) vs. Littlefield (5-5), 5 p.m. Friday at Amarillo's Dick Bivins Stadium.

Sweetwater (7-3) vs. Kermit (4-6), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Midland's Grande Communications Stadium.

Iowa Park (8-2) vs. Comanche (6-4), 7 p.m. Saturday at Justin Northwest.

Decatur (10-0) vs. Glen Rose (5-5), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Southlake's Dragon Stadium.

Canyon (5-4) vs. Muleshoe (4-5), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Hereford's Whiteface Stadium.

Denver City (7-3) vs. Midland Greenwood (10-0), 1 p.m. Saturday at Midland's Grande Communications Stadium.

Vernon (5-5) vs. Ballinger (7-3), 2 p.m. Saturday at Sweetwater's Mustang Bowl.

Bridgeport (8-2) vs. Kennedale (9-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Coppell.

CLASS 2A

DIVISION I Bi-district
Region I

Alpine (7-3) vs. Reagan County (8-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Iraan.

Colorado City (8-2) vs. Shallowater (8-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Odessa's Ratliff Stadium.

Friona (7-3) vs. Canadian (8-2), 8 p.m. Friday at Amarillo's Dick Bivins Stadium.

Holliday (9-1) vs. Eastland (5-5), 1 p.m. Saturday at Justin Northwest.

DIVISION II
Bi-district
Region I

Marfa (6-4) vs. Wall (5-5), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Crane.

Crane (9-1) vs. Post (7-3), 4 p.m. Saturday at Seminole's Wigwam Stadium.

Lockney (8-2) vs. Stinnett West Texas (7-3), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Canyon's Kimborough Stadium.

Quanah (9-1) vs. Anson (6-4), 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Wichita Falls Memorial Stadium.

Van Horn (5-5) vs. Ozona (10-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Fort Stockton.

Seagraves (4-6) vs. Idalou (9-1), 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Lubbock's Lowrey Field.

Floydada (8-2) vs. Panhandle (8-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Floydada.

WF City View (7-3) vs. Cisco (10-0), 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Birdville ISD Stadium.

CLASS 1A

Bi-district
Region I

Stratford (8-2), bye

Wellington (8-2) vs. Springlake-Earth (8-2), 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Amarillo's Dick Bivins Stadium.

Anton (8-2) vs. Whiteface (6-4), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Anton's Bulldog Stadium.

Iraan (10-0), bye

Sunray (8-2), bye

Wheeler (4-6) vs. Nazareth (8-2), 4:30 p.m. Thursday at Amarillo's Dick Bivins Stadium.

Petersburg (7-3) vs. Sundown (6-3), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Levelland's Lobo Stadium.

McCamey (6-4), bye

SIX-MAN

Region I/II

Fort Elliott (10-0) vs. Silverton (9-1), 7:30 p.m. Thursday at McLean.

Whitharral (10-0) vs. Ropesville Ropes (5-5), 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Meadow.

Ackerly Sands (8-2) vs. Fort Davis (8-2), 7:30 Friday at Rankin.

Aspermont (8-2) vs. Ira (8-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Aspermont.

Follett (7-2) vs. Turkey Valley (10-0), 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Miami.

Amherst (9-1) vs. Wellman Union (8-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Ropesville Ropes.

Borden County (7-3) vs. Sanderson (10-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Water Valley.

Rule (8-2) vs. Highland (7-3), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Rotan

Region III/IV

Guthrie (10-0) vs. Strawn (8-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Hawley.

Panther Creek (8-2) vs. Rochelle (7-3), TBA

Zephyr (8-2) vs. Iredell (6-4), TBA

Blum (7-3) vs. Abbott (9-1), TBA

Benjamin (3-7) vs. Gordon (10-0), 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Olney.

Blackwell (9-1) vs. Richland Springs (10-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Santa Anna.

Jonesboro (8-2) vs. Mullin (8-2), TBA

Trinidad (5-4) vs. Calvert (10-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday at Milford.

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Sports Briefs

Baseball booster club

The baseball booster club will meet tonight at 7 in the film room.

Volleyball booster club

The volleyball booster club will meet tonight at 7 at Tiger Gym.

Beane declines BoSox GM post

OAKLAND (AP) — Oakland Athletics general manager Billy Beane withdrew from consideration for the same job with the Boston Red Sox, ending a whirlwind weekend in which he was widely expected to leave.

Two QBs throw for 450 yards Sunday

NEW YORK (AP) — The St. Louis Rams' Marc Bulger and the Pittsburgh Steelers' Tommy Maddox became the first quarterbacks in NFL history to throw for at least 450 yards on the same day.

Bulger completed 36 of 48 passes for 453 yards and four touchdowns. Maddox passed for a franchise-record 473 yards to break Bobby Lane's 1958 team record of 409 yards.

Three NFL teams lose players for season

NEW YORK (AP) — Cincinnati Bengals defensive tackle Oliver Gibson and New York Giants wide receiver Tim Carter tore Achilles' tendons, and cornerback Ligarius Jennings tore his left ACL against Baltimore to sideline them for the season.

Chicago quarterback Chris Chandler sprained his neck in the second quarter and left the Bears' game against New England.

Spadafora retains lightweight belt

CHESTER, W.Va. (AP) — Unbeaten Paul Spadafora regrouped after a rough start to retain his IBF lightweight title with a unanimous decision over Denmark's Dennis Holbaek. Spadafora, cut underneath his right eye, improved his record to 36-0 in his seventh IBF title defense.

Shaq may sit Tuesday

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) — Los Angeles Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal may not return to the lineup Tuesday night, as the team originally hoped. O'Neal still was feeling pain in the bottom of the right foot he had surgery on in September.

Sorenstam wins 10th title this year

OTSU, Japan (AP) — Annika Sorenstam became the first LPGA player in 34 years to win 10 times in one season, successfully defending her Mizuno Classic title.

The Swedish star birdied the two closing par-5 holes for a 5-under par 67 and 15-under 201 total, giving her a two-stroke margin over South Korea's Grace Park.

Sorenstam is the first player to win 10 times in a season since Kathy Whitworth and Carol Mann both accomplished the feat in 1968.

Serena tops Capriati at WTA Championship

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Top-seeded Serena Williams overcame her own uneven play to beat No. 3 Jennifer Capriati 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the WTA Championships semifinals. Older sister Venus was forced out by a leg injury trailing 5-0 in the first set of her semifinal against Kim Clijsters.

Mavs keep cruising in rout of Pistons

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks expected their first serious test of the season from the Detroit Pistons on Saturday night, but the game soon deteriorated into a rout.

Michael Finley had 25 points and Steve Nash added 17 as Dallas continued its franchise-best start with a 114-75 runaway over the road-weary Pistons.

Area Sports Calendar

TODAY

Basketball: Snyder Jr. High girls vs. Denver City, 5 p.m.
Basketball: Snyder freshmen girls vs. Denver City, 6:30 p.m.
Basketball: Hermleigh Jr. High vs. Loraine, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

Basketball: Snyder JV and varsity girls vs. Colorado City, 5 p.m.
Basketball: Hermleigh at Southland, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Basketball: Snyder JV girls at Lake View tournament.

FRIDAY

Football: Snyder varsity vs. Monahans, Ratliff Stadium, Odessa, 7:30 p.m.
Football: Ira vs. Aspermont, Aspermont, 7:30 p.m.
Football: Borden County vs. Sanderson, Water Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Basketball: Snyder frosh and varsity girls at Lake View, 6 p.m.
Basketball: Snyder JV girls at Lake View tournament.

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To those indebted to, or holding claims against the estate of ANDREW ROY HALLMAN, deceased, Probate Case Number 5,766:

The undersigned, having been duly appointed Independent Co-Executors of the estate of ANDREW ROY HALLMAN, deceased, late of Scurry County, Texas, by RICKY FRITZ, Judge of the County Court of said county, on the 7th day of November, 2002, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said estate to come forward and make settlement, and those having claims against said estate to present them to Rodney Gale Hallman and/or Billy Roy Hallman, c/o Billy Roy Hallman, at 1602 Morris, Sweetwater, TX 79556, within the time prescribed by law.

Executed this 7th day of November, 2002.

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NASA delays Endeavour's launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — An abrupt and puzzling leak in the astronauts' oxygen supply forced NASA to delay today's planned launch of space shuttle Endeavour by at least one week.

With just two hours remaining in the countdown Sunday night, NASA called off the flight to the international space station and apologized to the seven-member crew.

Commander James Wetherbee had just strapped into his cockpit seat.

"I'd like to welcome you aboard ... but tonight's not our night," NASA test director Steve Altemus said. "I know you guys are going to be disappointed, but I think we want to give you a healthy vehicle before we cut you loose from the cape here."

Wetherbee replied: "Absolutely."

The oxygen leak is believed to be somewhere deep in the midbody of Endeavour beneath the payload bay. It is in one of two systems that feed oxygen into the crew cabin for breathing and into the astronauts' pressure suits during launch and landing.

Launch controllers had just begun fueling Endeavour for an early today morning launch when they detected the leak. It was a stunning discovery since both oxygen lines had passed all inspections back in the hangar.

The concern was that the leak, while small, could worsen. It was the latest in a series of problems that have plagued NASA's shuttles this year, most notably fuel line cracks that grounded the entire fleet all summer.

"It's like this leak just appeared out of the blue," said shuttle program director Ron Dittemore. "For that alone and knowing that you still have the shake, rattle and roll to go through to get to orbit, caused us to pause and want us to understand it better."

Dittemore said the oxygen systems are redundant and NASA probably could have launched Endeavour without any issues. But he noted: "It's the unknown, why this happened after it passed the checks. Did we have some collateral damage? Is it worse? ... We just couldn't go and launch in the blind."

Endeavour was poised to carry up a fresh three-man crew to replace the current space station occupants, who have been on board since June. The shuttle also holds a $390 million girder for the orbiting complex.

Launch director Mike Leinbach said Endeavour's payload bay doors will be opened and even though it will be a tight squeeze for workers to find and fix the leak, the 14-ton girder should not have to be removed. The problem could be a loose seal or tube fitting, he noted.

The launch was rescheduled for no earlier than Nov. 18.

Mission Control immediately notified the one American and two Russian space station residents about the delay in Endeavour's launch — and their ride home. Sunday was their 158th day in orbit.

Peggy Whitson and her cosmonaut crewmates were supposed to return to Earth last month. But their mission was extended because of the summerlong grounding of the shuttle fleet.

Cracks in the fuel lines of all four shuttles resulted in a launch moratorium that did not end until last month.

Then when Atlantis finally lifted off on Oct. 7, half of the explosive charges for releasing bolts that hold the shuttle onto the pad did not fire. Fortunately, only one set of explosives is needed for release; the other set serves as a backup.

Even though engineers could not determine what caused the electrical failure, NASA pressed ahead with Endeavour's launch, saying the problem was almost certainly an isolated event. Nevertheless, the wiring for Endeavour's explosive charges were double-checked and, in some cases, replaced.

Man alleged to wear fake war medals gets arrested on Sunday

HOUSTON (AP) — An ex-Marine whose military records show he never saw combat was arrested Sunday for impersonating a war hero bearing some of the Navy's highest medals for bravery.

Paul Alan White, 47, offered no resistance when he was arrested at his Houston home Sunday morning, U.S. Attorney Michael Shelby said. He would remain jailed through Veterans Day at the federal detention center in Houston until his first appearance before U.S. Magistrate Marcia Crone on Tuesday.

Federal officials didn't know Sunday if White had hired an attorney, but could receive a court-appointed federal public defender Tuesday if needed. The telephone at his home went unanswered.

Federal prosecutors alleged that in 2001 and 2002 White repeatedly wore the uniform of a U.S. Marine Corps warrant officer III adorned with the Navy Cross, the Silver Star and the Purple Heart to various speaking engagements and veteran gatherings where he would talk about experiences in combat and in Vietnam.

But White's military records at the U.S. Marine Corps National Records Center show he served in the Marines from November 1973 to November 1976 and his highest rank was E-5, a lower rank than warrant officer. The records showed he never received the three medals he routinely wore, nor did he serve in Vietnam or in combat, prosecutors said.

The Navy Cross is second to the Medal of Honor as the Navy's highest award for heroism. The Silver Star is awarded for extraordinary heroism in combat, and the Purple Heart is awarded for wounds received in combat.

Prosecutors also allege that White was issued a Texas Legion of Valor license plate based on a forged April 2001 form that said he had received those awards as well as the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal.

An affidavit written by Houston Police Sgt. P.J. Schneider said White wore the uniform and medals to a Marine Corps birthday celebration at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Houston on Nov. 2001; a Marine birthday ball at a Houston hotel a few days later; and spoke at a Marine event at a Houston restaurant in February this year.

Witnesses told Schneider that during his speech at the restaurant, White said he won the Navy Cross in Vietnam by flying a helicopter to safety after its pilot was killed. After the speech, the group gave White an award.

The affidavit also said that White's military records show he received the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Pistol Sharpshooters Badge and the Rifle Expert Badge.

If convicted, White faces up to 15 years in prison and a fine of up to $250,000.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Mitral valve prolapse is common

DEAR DR. GOTT: My daughter, 35, was recently diagnosed with mitral valve prolapse. Her doctor assures her that this is basically harmless, common and untreatable. Doesn't my daughter need some form of therapy? I really don't trust her doctor's skills.

DEAR READER: The physician is almost completely correct. MVP refers to a floppy valve that doesn't shut completely during the cardiac cycle. It is common and leads to a click or a murmur (extra sound in the heart). In some instances, the valve abnormality can be associated with various types of aberrant rhythm disturbances in the pulse rate. Such disturbances may require medication for control and prevention. However, a sizeable proportion of patients with MVP have no symptoms whatsoever.

In either case, prophylactic antibiotic coverage is recommended in preparation for dental cleaning and other work, as well as certain surgical procedures, including colonoscopy, bowel operations and so forth. The reason for the antibiotics is to prevent endocarditis, bacterial infection of the floppy valve.

Therefore, while your daughter's doctor was correct that MVP is, in most instances, entirely benign, he should have warned her — in my opinion — to take prophylactic antibiotics under certain circumstances.

DEAR DR. GOTT: As an avid bicyclist, I have read with interest your several articles about biker's penis, the damage to the penile nerves and arteries that often occurs in dedicated cyclists. Why are women spared this serious complication?

DEAR READER: Because they don't have penises. However, they may experience their own, gender-related genital complications. As reported in the British Medical Journal (USA edition), September 2002, scientists in Belgium have identified another complication in high-intensity female cycling competitors. Called "Bicyclist's Vulva," this uncomfortable condition is a harmless but uncomfortable ailment, marked by chronic swelling of one or both of the genital labia. The researchers concluded that this swelling may be due to a combination of factors: chronic inflammation of the external genitalia, in conjunction with damage to the lymphatic circulation in this delicate area.

Although the doctors' recommended treatment includes standard measures for preventing bicycle saddle lesions, thorough care of the perineal region, cold compresses, physiotherapy and leg-elevation, I suspect that the condition — like biker's penis in men — could be ameliorated by just plain common sense: a more appropriate bicycle seat.

The current racing saddles are so narrow that a rider cannot support him or herself in an operational position that avoids undue pressure on the delicate tissues of the genital area. In this instance, when the weight of the rider is not dispersed on the bones of the pelvic floor, predictable harm — some of it permanent— can result. Those cyclists who experience biker's penis or bicyclist's vulva should seriously investigate other saddle options.

There is no reason why we cyclists need to suffer life-altering consequences of what should be an enjoyable activity. Both men and women should use more appropriate equipment.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I know that the ultraviolet radiation in sunlight can cause skin problems. What about tanning booths?

DEAR READER: Tanning booths are also associated with skin cancer. Most authorities advise against using such therapy.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Viruses and Cancer." Other readers who would like a copy should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to mention the title.

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	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	7.25	6.51	6.52	— 44
AOL TimeWrn	15.23	14.96	15.14	— 20
AT&T Corp	13.78	13.52	13.76	— 14
Albertsons	20.20	19.80	20.05	+ 23
Alltel	49.15	48.45	48.49	— 76
AmEl Pw	25.25	24.45	24.86	— 38
AndarkPtr	47.47	47.02	47.24	+ 06
ATMOS Egy	21.99	21.71	21.71	— 19
Aviall	8.25	7.90	8.03	— 27
BP PLC	38.80	38.52	38.72	+ 06
BakerHughes	31.07	30.59	30.98	+ 23
Bank of Amer	67.58	66.77	67.35	+ 24
BellSouth	26.80	26.16	26.17	— 71
BurlNoSFe	26.69	26.41	26.50	— 19
Caterpillar	43.01	42.05	42.15	—1.01
CenterPoint	6.70	6.16	6.43	+ 07
ChevronTex	67.99	67.00	67.48	— 02
Citigroup	36.87	36.07	36.23	— 64
CocaCola	44.99	44.26	44.92	+ 40
ColgatePal	54.80	53.95	54.05	+ 02
CmclMetals s	16.21	16.10	16.10	— 13
ConocoPhill	49.30	48.55	48.87	— 36
Cooper Inds	32.05	31.75	31.83	— 21
DaimlrChry	32.94	32.65	32.87	— 64
DeltaAirl	12.35	11.65	11.67	— 04
Dillards Inc	17.18	16.67	16.78	— 39
DowChem	26.59	26.05	26.22	— 31
DuPont	42.21	41.63	41.91	— 42
EastmanChem	38.05	37.33	37.55	— 17
EstKodak	34.15	33.92	34.05	— 05
EDS Corp	14.14	13.74	13.98	+ 18
Entergy	42.88	42.24	42.57	— 17
ExxonMobil	34.84	34.55	34.63	+ 02
FootLocker	10.35	10.12	10.17	— 17
GenDynam	81.80	80.40	80.56	—1.04
GenlElec	25.05	24.24	24.37	— 73
GenMills	42.65	41.73	42.28	+ 43
GenMotors	34.51	34.05	34.50	+ 08
GaPacific	14.10	13.80	13.91	— 16
Goodrich	15.56	15.05	15.09	— 60
Goodyear	7.11	6.91	6.99	— 14
GtAtlPac	5.93	5.75	5.80	— 16
Halliburtn	16.75	16.20	16.49	— 09
Hanson ADS	22.99	22.75	22.97	— 13
HarteHanks s	18.95	18.60	18.66	— 02
HomeDepot	26.68	26.27	26.41	— 24
HoneywellIntl	26.01	25.28	25.30	— 71
IBM	77.59	76.70	77.25	— 34
IntlPaper	34.82	34.43	34.60	— 26
JohnsonJn	60.79	60.10	60.78	+ 51
vjK mart	64	61	61— 02	
KinderMorg	38.00	37.51	37.54	— 38
Kroger Co	14.20	13.90	14.02	— 08
LockheedM	57.50	56.14	56.43	
Lowes Cos	39.65	38.75	39.20	— 27
Lubys	4.05	3.96	4.00	+ 02
LucentTech	1.21	1.10	1.11	— 10
MarathonOil	20.99	20.50	20.82	+ 10
MayDeptStr	22.49	21.37	22.18	— 30
Medtronic	46.89	46.22	46.58	— 26
Motorola	8.72	8.51	8.58	— 22
NCR Corp	23.01	22.60	22.66	— 64
Navistar	23.22	22.81	22.94	— 28
PNM Rescs	22.35	21.97	22.05	— 10
Penney JC	19.45	18.59	18.92	— 52
PepBoys	11.80	11.51	11.65	— 15
PepsiCo	43.81	43.42	43.69	— 09
Pharmacia	45.65	45.28	45.45	— 55
PhelpDodge	32.63	31.52	31.52	— 98
PilgrmPrd B	7.60	7.36	7.48	— 03
Praxair	54.61	53.76	54.12	— 18
ProctGamb	87.70	86.55	86.75	— 94
RadioShack	18.51	18.10	18.15	— 55
RoyalDut	43.65	43.35	43.58	+ 09
SBC Comm	27.21	26.08	26.34	— 87
SaraLee	23.24	22.89	22.93	— 22
Scripps EW	77.31	76.42	76.51	— 90
SearsRoeb	24.01	22.80	23.58	— 45
SherwinW	28.35	27.75	28.11	— 09
SouthernCo	27.41	27.05	27.10	— 28
SwstAirl	15.37	14.91	14.97	— 06
SprintFON	13.24	12.85	12.87	— 33
SprintPCS	3.80	3.51	3.71	+ 05
Sunoco Inc	29.39	28.88	29.03	+ 03
TXU Corp	14.79	14.40	14.66	— 24
TempleInland	41.27	40.78	40.97	— 29
TexInd	23.50	23.15	23.24	— 17
TexasInst	14.71	14.20	14.37	— 63
Textron	42.69	41.78	41.90	— 93
TrinityInds	18.80	18.47	18.78	— 02
TylerTech	3.99	3.94	3.94	
UnionPacif	60.06	59.72	59.97	— 33
USSteel	12.70	12.40	12.56	— 41
UnitedTech	62.26	61.71	62.05	— 96
Unocal	27.65	27.26	27.56	+ 20
VerizonComm	38.59	37.90	38.04	— 64
WalMart	54.04	53.30	53.55	— 48
WellsFargo	46.42	45.68	46.13	+ 67
WstnGasRs	33.61	33.01	33.25	+ 25
WinnDixie	14.72	14.24	14.39	— 32
Xerox Cp	7.25	7.00	7.13	— 12
YumBrands s	22.25	21.88	22.01	— 14

CHRISTMAS HAPPENINGS

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NOV 11 2002

Maryland man wanted in pipe bombing investigation gives up

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Maryland man wanted in connection with a Washington, D.C., pipe bomb explosion that nearly killed his half brother turned himself in to Montana police Saturday after he was featured on "America's Most Wanted."

Prescott Sigmund, 35, surrendered to police in Missoula, Montana, shortly after seeing himself on the Fox television show, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Special Agent Harold Scott Junior said Sunday.

Sigmund of Potomac, Md., was living under an assumed name, but Scott said he had no further details about his life since his disappearance in July.

Federal authorities issued an arrest warrant Oct. 4 for Sigmund. He is charged with interstate transportation of an explosive device with the intent to harm someone. His initial court appearance is scheduled for early Tuesday in front of a federal magistrate in Montana. Then proceedings will begin to bring him back to the District of Columbia where other charges may be pending, Scott said.

Sigmund vanished three days after the July 12th blast left his 21-year-old half-brother Wright Sigmund critically injured.

The younger Sigmund was getting into his father's Chevrolet Blazer in a Washington D.C., garage when a device containing two pipe bombs detonated, according to ATF officials. It ripped away his right buttock and left him with third-degree burns.

Authorities have said they believe Sigmund was targeting his father, Donald Sigmund, 65, a prominent insurance executive in the hopes of benefiting financially from his death.

"I'm just really happy that at least he's turned himself in," said Wright Sigmund from Dallas. "It's a pretty strange situation."

Scott Sigmund disappeared July 15 after telling investigators he would take a lie detector test. Family members subsequently learned that he had lost his job as a salesman, run up debts, argued with his father over money and looted his wife's retirement account, according to online editions of The Dallas Morning News.

His wife, who has filed for divorce, told "America's Most Wanted" that Scott Sigmund had once said he would inherit $300,000 if his father died.

Pilot dies in vintage plane crash

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — A Korean War veteran flying his World War II-era fighter in an air show crashed in the woods and was killed.

Joseph O. Tobul, 68, was flying his F4U Corsair in formation with other aircraft Sunday when smoke began to trail from the fighter, witnesses said.

The planes were going to fly over the Dorn VA Medical Center, a tribute Tobul thought up for the disabled veterans who couldn't get to the Celebrate Freedom Festival air show.

Tobul's son, Jim, and two grandsons were piloting three of the other planes in the formation and witnessed the crash. Jim Tobul could see his father was having engine trouble. Using his radio, he tried to help him. But it was too late.

"For him, it was an honor to fly it because it represented the heroes," said Jim Tobul, 45. "This was his true passion."

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2002

Your chart indicates that in the year ahead there will be a large amount of balance in your life between your esthetic needs and your material requirements. This will set up harmonious conditions for you in general.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Today you could be endowed with the rare ability to manage and direct others — and make them like it. This deft touch will lead and inspire your peers. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astrograph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Give credence to that small, inner voice of yours that tells you that everything is going to work out for you in ways that you need — and then act on it. It knows more than you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Don't be discouraged if things haven't been going your way. Today is another day that is promising to set things right with a number of happy developments.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Concentrate on your career today, because conditions that have a direct bearing on it could be a bit more beneficial at this time than usual. Make hay while the sun is shining.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Charm, wit and tact always do wonders for dealing with members of the opposite gender. Be sure to utilize these tools to your advantage.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — A person who is quite fond of you may do something for you today that you lack the power to do for yourself. You'll be very pleased with it, so remember to express your gratitude.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You could get the chance today to improve upon an important alliance that can make your life a lot brighter. Take whatever constructive action you can when the opportunity arises.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Deal with your co-workers today in a manner that encourages them to go that extra step for you when needed. If you take the lead in doing so, they'll follow suit.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — The positive attitude you have today allows you to see the bright spots that exist in the world. Chase those rainbows: they really do have pots of happiness at the end of them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Fortunate are those today who are closest to your heart. By putting their interests ahead of your own, you'll be gratifying their desires and they, in turn, will love you all the more.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Companions will find you a most pleasant person to be around today. You know how to help them come out of the shadows and view the sunshine that exists all around them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Attitude is everything and the good one you possess today turns all of your endeavors into labors of joy. As a result, the profit you turn could be quite substantial.

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Your Complete Area

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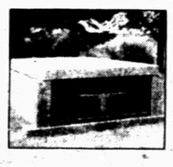
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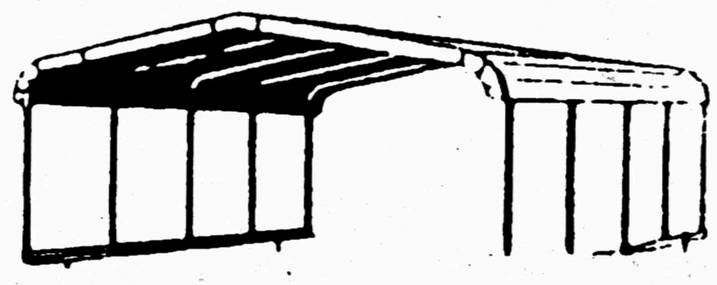


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Terror attacks renew world's interest in al-Qaida

WASHINGTON (AP) — Using a bomb, a plan and a crowded nightclub in Bali, al-Qaida operatives gave Indonesia and Australia a rude awakening to terrorism. The lesson was much the same for Russia when Chechen separatists brought explosives into a Moscow theater and took the audience hostage.

Yemen, chock-full of suspected al-Qaida and long uncomfortable with terrorism investigations, helped bring about a CIA missile strike that killed six militants, including a top al-Qaida organizer said to be planning new attacks on Western targets in Yemen.

Many countries felt the sting when the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks claimed by al-Qaida killed thousands — including some of their citizens — in the United States.

But it took the recent spate of smaller-scale, deadly attacks for them to see that Osama bin Laden's network is truly a threat in their own back yards.

"Whilst (terrorism) needs to be addressed at source in places such as Afghanistan, we nevertheless have to also attack it where it's been realized," Australian Defense Minister Robert Hill said after talks in Washington last week. "This is, you know, brought home to us in the most stark and terrible way."

Indonesia certainly saw the light. After nearly 200 people, about 90 of them Australians, died in the Bali nightclub, Indonesian officials stopped denying that a significant Islamic terrorist threat existed in their country, and President Megawati Sukarnoputri announced tighter anti-terror measures.

Bruce Hoffman, head of terrorist research at Rand Corp., a private research group, said countries now are more vigilant of tape-recorded threats from al-Qaida's second in command, Ayman al-Zawahri.

In the recording, al-Zawahri warned U.S. allies to get out of the Muslim world and referred specifically to Germany and France, making it clear to other countries that al-Qaida is "perfectly content to enmesh the citizens of other nations in their struggle," Hoffman said.

Germany, which rooted out al-Qaida clusters and, in a rare move, joined an international military campaign by sending soldiers to Afghanistan, stepped up its counter-terror activity after 11 Germans died in the bombing of a Tunisian synagogue last April by a group linked to al-Qaida.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, in Washington recently to repair a rift over Iraq, discussed cooperation on terrorism as well with his U.S. counterpart, Colin Powell.

"On our agenda, the war against terror is top priority number one," Fischer said. "This is a new totalitarianism, and there is no possibility to negotiate with Osama bin Laden or similar guys."

France, too, has elevated its anti-terror profile after an al-Qaida-linked group blew up a bus in Pakistan in May, killing 11 French citizens, and when a French oil tanker was rammed near a port in Yemen by a boat packed with explosives — an attack similar to the USS Cole bombing pinned on al-Qaida that killed 17 American sailors.

After Australia was hit hard by the carnage in Bali, authorities immediately began a door-to-door hunt in Sydney for members of Jemaah Islamiyah, a group also believed to have ties to al-Qaida.

Military veterans volunteer to give funerals

SARATOGA, N.Y. (AP) — It's chilly, a bit damp. And 76-year-old Navy veteran Bud Taylor is standing stock still in the soldiers' cemetery again, saluting the approaching hearse with a white-gloved hand.

These are final honors for a fellow veteran who served during World War II. The members of Taylor's honor guard squad — mostly white-haired retirees — fire three volleys into the air, play taps and fold the flag on the coffin. Taylor presents the flag to the widow with the words he's repeated hundreds of times:

"This flag is presented on behalf of a grateful nation as a token of our appreciation ..."

An average of 1,700 veterans die each day, with World War II-era veterans accounting for more than half that number, according to federal estimates. At a minimum, eligible veterans are due a flag presentation and taps from military representatives.

Around the nation, services are performed by military personnel, veterans' groups or a mix. Saratoga is among 11 national cemeteries out of 120 with its own volunteer honor guard, according to the Veterans Administration.

It can be tough on old bones. Ceremonies can last 20 minutes and guards stand still throughout. Three or more services a day are common. Guards work when the summer sun bakes their shiny black shoes, when the winter wind whips over the low hills, and when it's so cold the bugler has to lollipop his mouthpiece so he can play.

"Very difficult," says 65-year-old Frank Sabatino. "Some of the priests are very long. Very difficult. Especially at our age."

Taylor's squad, one of six at the cemetery, works on Fridays. Eleven guards show up most days, including a rifle team, three guard members to fold the flag and a bugler.

Taylor arrives at their cemetery office first to make coffee, load the M1 rifles with blanks and check the service schedule. The rest file in and adjust their uniforms — yellow canoe cap, yellow ascot, black military sweater and black slacks. Gloves and belts are white.

Services are held at one of two stone shelters by the rows of graves. Taylor and three others stay inside. The firing squad stands outside. At the shouted command of "Fire!" they shoot three volleys.

The Saratoga National Guard Honor Guard Association has about 100 active members. All were or are in the military, which is a requirement. Four are women, including a 29-year-old Army reservist who is the group's youngest, says Commander William Potts.

The six squads handle about 700 to 1,000 services a year.

Harry Cronin, 76, will read the obituaries — "You get to my age, that's what you do every day," he says — and work additional ceremonies if he reads about someone he knows coming through.

Often, squad members don't know who they're honoring — just that a veteran is being buried. All the same, the grief of strangers can tug at their hearts.

Berry's World



Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 11-01-02
♠ K J 8 5 3
♥ A Q 8 6
♦ Q 6 3
♣ 5

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

East
♠ 10
♥ 10 7 5 4
♦ 4 2
♣ K Q 8 7 3 2

South
♠ A 9 6 4
♥ J 3 2
♦ K J 10 8 7
♣ A

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
			3 ♣
3 ♦	5 ♣	6 ♦	All pass

Opening lead: ♣ J

Monday, Nov. 11, 2002

The 11th card in the suit

By Phillip Alder

What is the 11th card in a suit? Some would claim the four, but many would go for the queen. So, on 11/11, let's look at a deal from "Right Through the Pack" by Robert Darvas and Norman Hart (Devyn Press, 1996) that features a key play by a queen. South is in five clubs. West leads the heart seven: king, two, eight. How may a queen have a leading role? How could declarer make that majesty a spectator?

In my auction (the one in the book is convoluted), North's three-spade rebid is a splinter, announcing at least game values in clubs with a singleton or void in spades. South might have opted for three no-trump, but that contract has no chance if West leads a spade.

Given the actual distribution, there is one way to make the contract: At trick two, declarer must play a low club from the dummy to bring down the bare ace. Then South can use his spade entry to pick up the trump suit and lose only one diamond and one club.

However, since that wouldn't be so clever if West had one fewer club and East one more, South played a spade to his ace, then ran the club jack, losing to East's ace.

East found the only lead to defeat the contract at this point: the heart queen. This locked declarer in the dummy; he couldn't get back to hand safely to finesse West out of his club queen.

South tried a low diamond from the dummy, but East went in with the ace and led another heart to score West's club queen. South had to lose one diamond and two clubs.

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Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Occidental Permian will drill the No. 6148-A Cogdell Canyon Reef field unit, eight miles north of Snyder. Planned for a depth of 7,200 feet, location is in Section 551, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Occidental Permian will drill the No. 6366-A Cogdell Canyon Reef field unit, eight miles north of Snyder. Contracted for 7,200 feet, drill site is in Section 551, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Occidental Permian will drill the No. 6109-A Cogdell Canyon Reef field unit, eight miles north of Snyder. Also planned for a depth of 7,200 feet, location is in Section 551, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Occidental Permian will drill the No. 61-2-A Cogdell Canyon Reef field unit, eight miles north of Snyder. The venture will be drilled to a depth of 7,200 feet and location is in Section 551, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Kinder Morgan will drill the No. 8403 SACROC unit in the Kelly-Snyder field, four miles northwest of Snyder. Planned depth is 7,200 feet, and location is in the Kirkland and Fields survey.

Borden County

Fagadau Energy has completed the No. 27-4 Martin in the Clayton Ranch north field, nine miles northwest of Gail. The venture was finaled to produce 60 barrels of oil and 250 barrels of water. Perforations were from 5,770-794 feet, and location is in Section 27, Block 31, T6N, T&P survey.

Fagadau Energy has completed the No. 3-27 Martin the Clayton Ranch field, nine miles northwest of Gail. The well was completed to produce 200 barrels of oil and 108 barrels of water. Perforations were from 5,745-753 feet, and location is in Section 27, Block 31, T6N, T&P survey.

Kent County

Occidental Permian will drill the No. 1127 Cogdell Canyon Reef field unit, 13 miles southwest of Clairemont. Planned for a depth of 7,200 feet, drill site is in Section 716, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Occidental Permian will drill the No. 1126 Cogdell Canyon Reef field unit, 14 miles southwest of Clairemont. Contracted for 7,200 feet, location is in Section 705, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Mitchell County

Manzanti Corporation will drill the No. 25 McCabe in the Jameson field, four miles north of Silver. Planned for a depth of 7,174 feet, drill site is in Section 6, Block 1-A, H&TC survey.

Gruy Petroleum Management will drill the No. 805 Westbrook southwest field unit, three miles northwest of Westbrook. Planned for a depth of 3,600 feet, drill site is in Section 32, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Gruy Petroleum will drill the No. 5811 Westbrook southwest field unit, three miles northwest of Westbrook. Also scheduled for a depth of 3,600 feet, location is in Section 32, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Gruy Petroleum will drill the No. 5810 Westbrook southwest field unit, three miles northwest of Westbrook. Also contracted for 3,600 feet, location is in Section 32, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Gruy Petroleum will drill the No. 5809 Westbrook southwest field unit, three miles northwest of Westbrook. Planned depth is 3,600 feet, and drill site is in Section 32, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Gruy Petroleum will drill the No. 5808 Westbrook southwest field unit, three miles west of the townsite. Scheduled for a depth of 3,600 feet, location is in Section 32, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Gruy Petroleum will drill the No. 5806 Westbrook southwest field unit, three miles northwest of Westbrook. Planned depth is 3,600 feet, and location is in Section 32, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

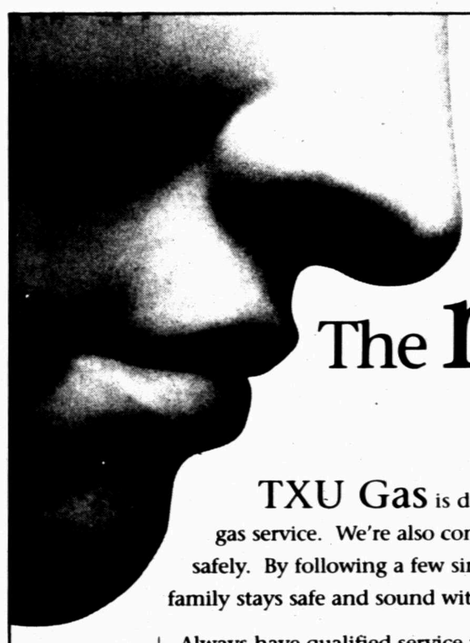
Gruy Petroleum will drill the No. 5443 Westbrook southwest field unit, three miles northwest of Westbrook. Also planned for 3,600 feet, drill site is in Section 32, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Howard County

Partee Drilling Inc. will drill the No. 338 Twins, an 8,200-foot wildcat located seven miles south of Coahoma. Location is in Section 33, Block 31, T1S, T&P survey.

LCS Production will drill the No. 613-C Guitar, a 5,999-foot wildcat located five miles northwest of Big Spring. Location is in Section 13, Block A, Bauer and Cockrell survey.

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TXU

NOV 11 2002

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Bush honors veterans as administration readies for possible conflict with Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Honoring those who served in yesterday's wars, President Bush declared on Veterans Day 2002 that the United States and its allies today face an "urgent task" in confronting Iraq.

"Should military action become necessary for our own security, I will commit the full force and might of the United States military and we will prevail," Bush said today in a White House speech.

Underscoring the threat, senior administration officials said the president has approved tentative Pentagon plans for invading Iraq should a new U.N. arms inspection effort fail. The strategy calls for a land, sea and air force of 200,000 to 250,000 troops, officials said.

Bush, who began his day with rain-soaked pre-dawn visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, called on new generations of warriors to draw inspiration from those who served — and in many cases, died — before.

"Especially in this time of war, we see in our veterans an example of courage and selfless sacrifice and service that inspires a new generation and will lead this country to victory," he told an East Room assembly upon his return from the early-morning outing to the memorial just blocks from the White House.

"We think first of those who fell and never lived to be called veterans. We remember those whose fate is still undetermined," Bush said. And, he said, that America remembers today those killed on Sept. 11, 2001. Bush reaffirmed his doctrine of making war with terror networks and, if necessary, to rid the Iraqi regime of its "weapons of mass murder."

"The danger from Iraq is clear and its multiplied a thousand times over by the possibility of a chemical or biological or a nuclear attack," Bush said. "The time to confront this threat is before it arrives, not the day after."

"This is an urgent task for America and the world," Bush said, "because the events of September the 11th clearly demonstrate that a threat that gathers on the other side of the earth can bring suffering to the American homeland."

He promised that the United States' enemies would be met with its "overwhelming power."

On his impromptu visit to the 20-year-old black granite wall honoring the fallen in Vietnam, Bush encountered a group of veterans. "Thank you for serving," he told them. "God Bless you all."

A steady rain pelted his dark umbrella as the president walked up to the wall and scanned the tiny script that records the 58,229 names of those killed or missing in the war from 1959 to 1975. Air Force Col. Jeff Newell, a White House military aide, handed Bush an American flag, and the president placed it at the base of the wall.

The president shook hands and chatted with people gathered at the wall, including a group of veterans who plan to march through Washington later in the day. "It's a proud group," Bush said.

Later, he was presiding over a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Aides said Bush intended to renew the administration's demands that Iraq disarm or face "serious consequences."



TOTAL LOSS — Snyder firefighters responded to 2900 Ave. V Saturday morning where a storage shed was completely engulfed in flame. The structure was a total loss, but no one was injured. Twenty-four firefighters responded to the 11:30 a.m. blaze and it was quickly extinguished. (SDN Staff Photo)

Compromise needed on bill for homeland security department

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate's Democratic and Republican leaders say they are confident compromise is close on legislation creating a homeland security department.

President Bush has demanded immediate congressional action on a homeland defense bill after months of delay. His proposal would create a 170,000-employee, Cabinet agency by combining existing pieces of the federal bureaucracy with roles in domestic security.

Incoming Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" that he has the votes to pass homeland security legislation and believes it will happen during a lame-duck session that starts Tuesday. Negotiators worked on a compromise over the weekend, he said.

"We hope by Tuesday or Wednesday we could have a bill that would be passed by the Senate by a wide margin," Lott said. "It would be different than probably either side proposed earlier."

Outgoing Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said he also believes a compromise can be reached. He said he would provide one of the 60 votes needed to stop a Senate filibuster if one develops.

"We are going to try to get this done," Daschle said.

It remains to be seen whether Lott or Daschle will run the Senate during the post-election session. That depends on which wins the vote of an independent temporarily named to the seat of late Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn. Appointee Dean Barkley, an independent, has not said what he will do.

Firefighters respond to blaze

Fire report

Snyder firefighters responded to a blaze at 2900 Ave. E Saturday morning. A storage shed was engulfed in flames and the structure was a total loss.

Twenty-four paid and volunteer firefighters responded with four fire trucks. No one was injured and the fire remains under investigation.

Arrests

Officers arrested a 25-year-old man in the 100 block of N. College Ave. early Sunday morning for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

At 3 a.m. Sunday, DPS troopers took a 26-year-old man into custody on Hwy. 180 for misdemeanor DWI.

Accidents

A minor accident was reported on Cherry Street Saturday afternoon. Involved were a 1997 Mazda pickup driven by Jerry Tatom, 52, of 1802 Scott and a parked 2000 Ford Expedition owned by Sheryl Lamb of Colorado City.

Officers responded to a minor accident Friday in the 1900 block of 37th Street. A 1997 Dodge Intrepid driven by Wanda Goodwin, 62, of Denver City was involved in the accident with a 1998 Lincoln Navigator driven by Melissa Heaton, 42, of 3614 41st Street.

Thefts

Sherry Kenny reported items stolen from the side of her home Saturday. Deputies responded to the residence on CR 2128 and advised an offense report would be submitted.

Debra Yandrich reported a theft of money from her purse Saturday while she was at work, but requested no report be made.

Family violence

A woman reported a man who had left her residence assaulted her and officers advised a report for family violence would be submitted.

Fight

A jailer reported a fight in the county jail Saturday evening and deputies and police officers responded and separated two individuals. A report of the incident was filed.

Close patrols

A woman reported a window screen removed at her residence on 36th Place and requested a close patrol.

A woman on Ave.W reported juveniles on scooters after 10 p.m. Saturday and requested a close patrol.

A broken glass door was reported at Snyder One Stop at 2:30 a.m. Sunday and a close patrol was requested.

Snakes

Celia Morales reported a rattlesnake in her neighbor's yard on 44th Street Saturday afternoon and the animal was disposed of.

Elida Medrano reported a rattlesnake in her backyard Sunday afternoon. An officer removed the snake.

Gas drive off

A clerk at Town and Country East reported a gas drive off worth $11 at 12:40 a.m. today and provide officers with a description of the vehicle and its driver.

Obituaries

Forrest King

1964-2002

Graveside service for Forrest Wayne "Pee Wee" King was set for 2 p.m. today in Hillside Memorial Gardens. Larry Billingslea, his father-in-law from Midland, was to officiate. Arrangements were under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Mr. King, 38, died Saturday, Nov. 9, in an accident that occurred north of Snyder on CR 245.

Born Jan. 25, 1964 in New Mexico, he married Laura Billingslea on May 13, 1995 in Midland.

He was a graduate of Buena Vista High School and attended Sul Ross State University. A resident of Snyder the past two years, Mr. King was plant superintendent for Torch Energy.

Survivors include his wife, Laura King of Snyder; two sons, Kole King and Kauy King, both of Snyder; his mother, Maxine King of Imperial; a sister, Jo Cleere of Gardendale; and a brother, Blair Armstrong of Bloomfield.

Chuck Asplof

1947-2002

AMARILLO — Chuck Asplof, the father of Troy Menix of Snyder, died Thursday, Nov. 7.

Funeral service for Mr. Asplof, 55, was set for 11 a.m. today in the Rector Funeral Home Chapel with Bob Crass, minister of the Central Church of Christ, officiating.

Born in Amarillo, Mr. Asplof was a U.S. Army veteran and had worked as a welder for 35 years. He was a member of the Plumbers and Steam Fitters Local and the Central Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his father, Paul Asplof; a son, Charles Ray Asplof; a sister, Wanda Gayle Dyer; and a brother, Perry Asplof.

Survivors also include two brothers, Paul Asplof and John Asplof, both of Canyon; his mother, Juanita Asplof of Canyon; and two grandsons.

Births

Jessica Hernandez and Venancio Torres announce the birth of their son, Emilio Pablo Hernandez, at 12:46 p.m. on Nov. 9 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Emilio weighed seven pounds, three ounces.

Paternal grandparents are Benancio and Arcelia Torres and maternal grandparents are Pablo and Juanita Hernandez, all of Snyder.

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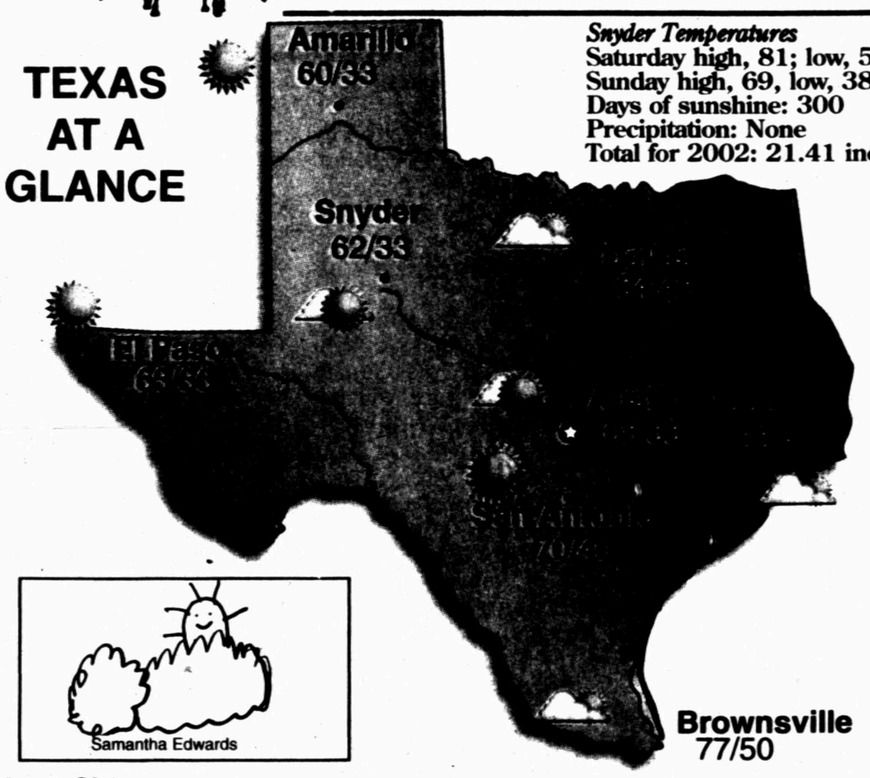
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Tue 11/12	Wed 11/13	Thu 11/14
62/33	68/37	64/37
A few clouds from time to time. High 62F. Winds NNW at 5 to 10 mph.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise 7:11 AM, Sunset 5:44 PM	Sunrise 7:12 AM, Sunset 5:44 PM	Sunrise 7:13 AM, Sunset 5:43 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Snyder Temperatures
Saturday high, 81; low, 51
Sunday high, 69, low, 38
Days of sunshine: 300
Precipitation: None
Total for 2002: 21.41 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Abilene	63	38	mst sunny	El Paso	63	36	sunny	Midland	63	37	sunny
Amarillo	60	33	sunny	Fort Stockton	62	38	sunny	Raymondville	76	45	mst sunny
Austin	68	38	mst sunny	Gainesville	62	36	mst sunny	Rosenberg	67	40	pt sunny
Beaumont	65	39	pt sunny	Greenville	62	37	mst sunny	San Antonio	70	40	sunny
Brownsville	77	50	pt sunny	Houston	66	41	pt sunny	San Marcos	69	39	mst sunny
Brownwood	66	37	sunny	Kingsville	74	43	sunny	Sulphur Springs	62	37	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	71	44	sunny	Livingston	64	34	pt sunny	Sweetwater	63	35	mst sunny
Corsicana	65	40	mst sunny	Longview	60	34	pt sunny	Tyler	63	39	pt sunny
Dallas	64	42	pt sunny	Lubbock	63	34	sunny	Weatherford	63	37	mst sunny
Del Rio	69	42	sunny	Lufkin	62	36	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	64	38	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond	City	Hi	Lo	Cond
Atlanta	53	38	rain	Houston	66	41	pt sunny	Phoenix	83	56	sunny
Boston	57	45	pt sunny	Los Angeles	84	55	mst sunny	San Francisco	63	51	cloudy
Chicago	46	34	pt sunny	Miami	87	72	pt sunny	Seattle	56	46	rain
Dallas	64	42	pt sunny	Minneapolis	43	31	cloudy	St. Louis	49	36	pt sunny
Denver	54	31	mst sunny	New York	58	45	cloudy	Washington, DC	56	44	rain

Moon Phases

First	Full	Last	New
Nov 11	Nov 20	Nov 27	Dec 4

UV Index

Tue 11/12	Wed 11/13	Thu 11/14
Low	Low	Low

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

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