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WT-Int. Crude - $35.77
WTIC Posted - $32.50
Natural Gas - $6.175

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY
Feb. 13, 2003
Vol. 54 No. 247
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Cindy McAnally

WTC wrestles with budget trimming

By Brian Brisendine
SDN Staff Writer

Western Texas College trustees Wednesday were presented with the administration's plan for cutting more than $400,000 from the current budget, in part to comply with directives from the governor's office.

Some $240,000 could be cut as a result of the seven-percent reduction of state appropriated funds called for, while the remaining $175,000 will cover cost overruns incurred on campus.

Dr. Greg Williams, WTC president, said there is still hope that the cuts requested by the governor could be avoided, "but we can't afford to wait and see."

"The legislature will vote on the cuts so we have a chance of avoiding this," he said. "We have been in continued contact with Sen. (Robert) Duncan's and Rep. (Scott) Campbell's offices."

Dr. Williams said cuts from the current budget would account for $162,788 of the needed amount. Large expenditures to be cut include furniture and equipment that total $45,211, repairs and maintenance, which accounts for $41,761. Staff travel also could be eliminated to save $16,593.

Contingency funds and positions which won't be filled or those that are budgeted, but not being used account for $277,509.

The president said the additional expenses needed will offset increased overload and adjunct pay for instructors compensating for higher enrollment.

In new business, the board voted to reject the only bid received for dirt work at the sports complex to be constructed on the southwest corner of campus and to re-bid the project.

The lone bid was submitted by Grimmett Bros. in the amount of $260,356, which is about $150,000 more than the administration expected.

"Our architects have given us an estimate on what this project should cost and this bid was well beyond that figure," the president said. "I'm the last one here that wants to delay this project any more, but I don't think we need to push it."

Trustee Drew Bullard voiced problems about the advice of Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, the architectural and engineering firm in charge of the project.

"I have concerns that the architects so far have provided us with bad information," he said. "I know that Grimmett Bros. does things right. We're spending a bunch of money already, and I worry that if we accept a much lower bid we might get an inferior product."

Patricia Claxton, director of fiscal services, said she is comfortable with the figures provided by the architect.

"I have contacted several other colleges that have recently constructed facilities and their expenses were much less than this," she said. "I think the architects are in line and we also have just a certain amount we can spend."

Claxton said she would press the company to simplify the bid specs in order to attract more competitive contractors, but trustee Jackie Greene said that would not be easy.

"You'll have a hard time getting an engineering or architectural firm to simplify specs," he said. "It's an exceptional engineer that can produce short, meaningful specs. I'll believe it when I see it."

Bullard reiterated that corners should not be cut to save on expenses. "We need to make sure this is done right, because it's going to sit here for years."

In other business, the trustees approved transfer of tax abatement to UCO Spinning LP from Lorber Industries.

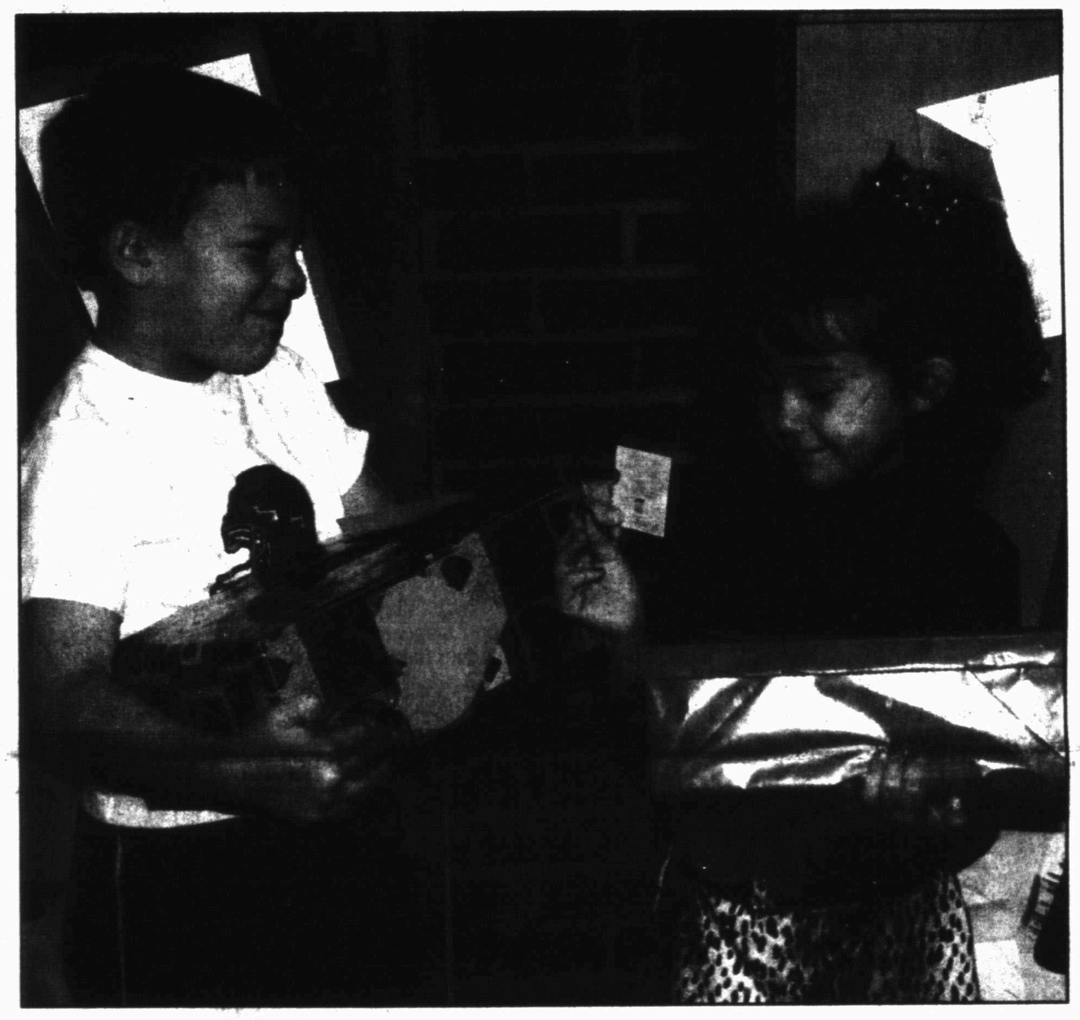
A revision to the school calendar was approved so spring break next year will coincide with Snyder ISD and the board also approved an interagency agreement with Scurry County, which allows employees at the courthouse and the sheriff's department to play the WTC Golf Course for half price. A small class report also was presented.

Other discussion items included an enrollment report from Jim Clifton, dean of student services.

Clifton said 43 percent of WTC students are female, while the remaining 57 percent are male. In-district students number 438 and out-of-district students number 876. Full time and part time students number 492 and 1,193 respectively.

Two memos were presented praising Mike Thornton and WTC's continuing education program.

LVN graduation, the February calendar and the president's report also were presented. Board president Lee Presswood presided and trustees present included Bullard, Greene and Jay Kidd. Absent were Carolyn Barbee, Eddie Peterson and Scott Richburg.



BE MINE? — Stanfield first grader Kristin Krueger accepts a valentine from classmate Riley Arnold. Snyder students exchanged the holiday messages a day early this year because they have Valentine's Day off. (SDN Staff Photo)

At 6 p.m. tonight...

Contracts top SISD meet

Personnel matters will highlight this evening's meeting of the Snyder Independent School district board of trustees.

Contract extensions for administrators will be considered as the board has a closed session set for that purpose.

Current administrators and their positions are Karen Waller, assistant superintendent for business and finance; Melissa Jones, assistant superintendent for personnel; Dixie Haggard, special programs and Chad Rogers, athletic director

Principal contracts for review include Larry Scott, high school; Bill Bell and Al Phillips, high school assistants; Kellye Starnes, junior high; Ralph Ramon, junior high assistant.

Elementary principals include Pam Hart, Central; Carmen Carpenter, Northeast; Jean McMillon, Stanfield; and Thomas Fogleman, West.

The employment contract with Mike Carter, transportation and maintenance director, also is on the agenda.

In other personnel matters, the board will act on the formal resignations of Kristi Drennan, former resource teacher at Central Elementary, and Jim Rosson, East Elementary principal.

Rosson is retiring from the district effective at the end of the school year, but will leave his position at the end of February.

Trustees also will hear a retirement incentive proposal presented by the Snyder unit of the Texas Classroom Teachers Association (TCTA).

The association is expected to propose a three-year program that will include buy-outs of eligible teacher contracts for $20,000 each.

Representatives at last month's board meeting said the program would not only save the school district money, it would enhance the retiring teacher's monthly retirement pay.

Trustees also will review bids for the heating and cooling project at West Elementary, and review a contract between the district and Scurry County for the use of Moffett Field and Cates Field–west.

Trustees also will consider the naming of the SHS baseball practice field in honor of former coach Albert Lewis, and hear a report from school resource officer Kenny Burns.

Trustees also will review the monthly financial reports as presented by Waller, and budget amendments totaling $49,000 for this school year.

The increase in the budget results from $32,000 in increased costs from the Hobbs Alternative School, and $17,000 in legal fees.

Trustees also will hear a review of the recent visit to the district's career and technical education program in the cyclical visit by representatives of the Office of Civil Rights, and a presentation for new band uniforms.

Also, trustees will call the school board election for May 3. The terms of Richard Chambers and Mike Levens will expire.

The meeting will be at 6 o'clock in the administration building.

Snyder students to get extended weekend

Snyder students will enjoy an extended weekend beginning this afternoon.

Friday is a faculty workday for SISD, but students won't return to class until Tuesday.

All Snyder school personnel will observe Presidents' Day Monday.

All local banks also will close.

Texas Savings Bank, Snyder National Bank, First American Bank, American State Bank and West Texas State Bank all will resume regular hours Tuesday.

While Snyder students get a four-day weekend, all other county schools will observe regular schedules.

Ira, Hermleigh and Western Texas College will be open Monday.

City Hall will be open, but the county courthouse will close for the holiday.

Scurry County Library will close Saturday and re-open Tuesday.

Mail will be placed in boxes Monday, but there will be no home delivery.

The county museum and the landfill both will remain open as usual.

Woman convicted

HOUSTON (AP) — The woman who ran down her philandering husband with a Mercedes-Benz after catching him with his mistress was convicted of murder today by a jury that rejected her claim she was aiming for his lover's car.

Clara Harris was expressionless as the verdict was read. The 45-year-old dentist faces up to life in prison when she is sentenced.

Jurors deliberated about eight hours over two days.

The trial was front-page news in Houston and included dramatic testimony from Harris, her romantic rival and her stepdaughter, who was in the car that day and told jurors her stepmother sped toward her father as he desperately tried to get out of the way. The parents of the victim, David Harris, took the stand, too — to testify in support of their daughter-in-law.

Harris insisted the death last July was an accident and that she only wanted to damage the black Lincoln Navigator belonging to her husband's receptionist turned lover, Gail Bridges.

She told jurors she wanted to save her 10-year marriage.

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN
by Brian Brisendine



We're becoming more and more miffed at what's coming out of our state capitol these days.

We warned before November of the triple threat that now runs our state — Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and Comptroller Carol Keeton Rylander-Strayhorn-Whatever.

All three have reneged on their campaign promises less than two months into their terms.

Gov. Perry showed us little class in the campaign process. Video footage of his berating a DPS trooper for doing her job didn't faze him and he, along with his opponent, ran one of the dirtiest campaigns in political history.

We even voted for the guy with the incorrect assumption that he was the lesser of two evils, but we'd recant if given the chance.

One of the governor's main topics while on the stump for office was education. He pressed that Texas should have half a million more college students in 15 years and gave the idea the catchy title of "The Closing the Gap Initiative."

Now, he's called on every university and college in the state to cut their budgets — not exactly a thumbs-up for education, in our opinion.

The governor now takes every opportunity in front of a camera to sing the familiar tune of "no new taxes."

The way we see it, anybody who thinks they'll get along without forking over more of their personal income is asleep at the wheel.

Actual taxes may not rise, but every fee the state can muster will go up. They'll probably go way up.

Don't be surprised when the price seems quite a bit higher than you'd remembered the next time you go in to renew your driver's license or purchase vehicle tags.

The only way to climb out of the very deep hole the state is in is with new money, and budget cuts won't get anywhere near alleviating the shortfall.

The amount of that shortfall is another new development since the election.

The comptroller said for months during her campaign that Texans faced a $5 billion budget shortage.

Just days after her election was final, the gap between black ink and red almost doubled.

Once again, anyone who believes she wasn't privy to the true budget numbers during the election should open their eyes.

Her last name isn't the only thing that's changed. As it turns out, "one tough grandma," has now changed her tune.

Dewhurst has been less vocal in recent weeks, but don't think for a second that he isn't right in the thick of things.

These are the same cronies who hurt our area in a bad way in recent years with their self-designed re-districting plan that cost every West Texan representation in Austin — something none of us can afford to lose.

We don't expect politicians or political parties to have all the answers, but we do think the voters of the great state of Texas deserve honesty and integrity, two traits that seem to be grievously lacking down Austin-way.

The worst part is, it's a long time until we get another voice with another election.

Hang on folks. It's gonna be a bumpy ride.

FEB 13 2003

ASK US

Q—How much money has the DCOS spent since John DeLille has been here?

A—The DCOS has an annual budget of approximately $300,000.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Jean McMillon...

...is principal at Stanfield Elementary and her husband, Donald, owns Snyder Heating and Air Conditioning. The couple has called Snyder home for 13 years. They have three children and seven grandchildren. When she's not at school, Jean enjoys spending time in Ruidoso and reading novels. But her favorite activity is doting on her grandkids.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

There are no obstacles that hard work and preparation cannot cure.
—Barbara Jordan

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Apostolic Faith special services

The Apostolic Faith Church is holding special services at 6:30 p.m. continues today Friday with Mark Palmer from Anchorage as guest speaker. The public is invited to attend the meetings at 2510 25th St,

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.

2003 Ira annuals available

The 2003 Ira Bulldog annuals may be purchased until Monday. Cost is $26 with name on cover or $22 without. Contact the school to purchase one.

Support groups

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

Hermleigh Masonic meeting

The Hermleigh Masonic Lodge will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday for its monthly stated meeting with a meal to follow. All Master Masons are welcome.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "Knowing What We Must Do," followed by "Proper Parent-Child Relationship."

Hospice memorial service

A memorial service for families who lost someone during 2002 will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the First Presbyterian Church.

Mesquite Country Emmaus

Mesquite Country Emmaus community meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at The Word Is Life Deliverance Church, 312 Coliseum Drive. Babe chicks meet at 6 p.m.

Alzheimer's meeting

An Alzheimer's meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Colonial Hill library. The topic will be financial management for caregivers. For more information, call Kinney Robinson at 573-9377.

Annual enchilada dinner

The Knights of Columbus, Council 8875, will hold its fourth annual enchilada dinner from 11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23, at West Elementary, 3601 El Paso. Adult tickets are $5.

Snyder Oaks family council

The family council of Snyder Oaks Care Center will meet from 6:30-7:30 Thursday, Feb. 27. The meeting is for resident's family members for a program presented by Brenda Elkins of the Area Agency of Aging.

Trees still available

The Soil and Water Conservation office still has several varieties of trees available at $1 each. These include Lace Bark Elms, Shumard Oak, Sand Plums, Russian Olive, Honeylocust, Green Ash, American Honeysuckle, Desert Willow and Aromatic Sumac. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Relay for Life cookbooks

The cookbooks of the Cogdell Memorial Hospital Relay for Life team are now available for a $10 donation. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. Call Becky Craig at 573-2472, Jo Schooler at 573-7807 or 573-6374.

Relay for Life teams needed

Teams are now being recruited for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life in Scurry County to be held April 25-26 at Tiger Stadium. For more information, contact Margaret Presswood, recruitment chairperson, at 573-4873.

WTC adult basic education classes

Adult basic education classes at WTC 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.

Cancer treatment transportation

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

Man cleared of rape by DNA evidence free after 20 plus years

a NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — A man cleared by DNA evidence after he served more than 20 years in prison for a rape he didn't commit walked out of prison a free man Wednesday.

Julius Earl Ruffin, 49, said he was heading to see his brother, sister and son as he left the Southampton Correctional Center.

"I'd like to thank God for this day," Ruffin said with tears in his eyes. "The first thing I want to do is visit my mother's grave. It's been a long 21 years."

Ruffin was convicted in 1982 of attacking a 32-year-old woman who was raped at knifepoint by a stranger who broke in through a window. DNA test results, released Tuesday, point to another man. Authorities did not release the man's name.

Ruffin had been identified by the victim but maintained his innocence, saying he had spent that night at home with his girlfriend, who corroborated that account.

His first two trials ended in hung juries; he was convicted by a third jury and given five life sentences.

Gordon Zedd, Ruffin's lawyer, said his client was released on parole because it was faster than waiting for a court to declare him innocent. Zedd said he will request an immediate pardon by the governor.

Commonwealth's Attorney John Doyle, whose office last year asked the state lab to look for stored evidence in the case, said he also planned to request a pardon.

For years, Ruffin sent letters seeking biological evidence in his case. At the time of the crime, the state lab, courts and police departments routinely destroyed biological evidence after a conviction.

Some people do not celebrate Valentine's in traditional way

By The Associated Press

Valentine's Day is the holiday of love, to be sure. It's also the holiday that many singles — with ever-increasing zest — love to hate.

Whether it's organizing bashes for people without sweethearts or even starting an alternative holiday, the unattached are fighting back. In Chicago, for instance, several taverns will be hosting anti-Valentine's Day parties Friday, complete with black balloons.

On the Internet and in stores, anti-Valentine's cards are widely available. "Out of all my wives ... you're the best," says one.

Diatribes against the holiday abound on anti-Valentine's Web sites, with particular scorn heaped on greeting card companies, florists and confectioners.

"The primary motive behind Valentine's is money," writes Xiaoxin Lu, a pro-celibacy activist. "They all do this under the guise of something called Love. They do this while making single people feel sad, degrading them."

The holiday isn't popular in some spots overseas, either.

In Iran, police this week ordered shops to remove heart-themed decorations from their windows. And in India, Hindu nationalists burned Valentine's Day cards, part of now-annual protests against what demonstrators consider a corrupt and commercial Western holiday.

Advice for Valentine's Day outsiders is plentiful — don't feel there is anything wrong with not being in a relationship, do something kind for someone in need, treat yourself to something special during the day, hook up with other single friends for some enjoyable activity.

That concept of group fun is what inspires the annual anti-Valentine's party at the Schoolyard Tavern in Chicago, according to director of operations Don Hladko.

"The majority of people who come are singles, looking for something to do other than the whole romantic thing," he said. "People just enjoy mocking the holiday."

In past years, the tavern has made special offers — for example, free drinks for patrons who brought in a photo of an ex-sweetheart. This year, with the holiday on a Friday, Hladko said he's sure of a full house without any comeons.

In cities including San Francisco and New York, a new alternative to Valentine's Day will be celebrated at parties this Friday — International Quirkyalone Day.

Started by a group of feminists — but open to men as well as women — Quirkyalone Day is geared toward people who "resist the tyranny of coupledom," according to the movement's Web site.

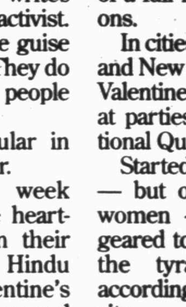
"It's a feel-good alternative to the marketing barrage of Valentine's Day and an antidote to the silicone version of love presented in shows such as 'Joe Millionaire'.

Today's chuckle

Free sports car comes with marriage

NORWOOD, N.J. (AP) — Sandy Grossman isn't promising women the moon. He is promising them a free sports car.

All you have to do is marry him.



He's serious about finding a bride by Valentine's Day, and drives around northern New Jersey in a 1959 Cadillac ambulance topped with a billboard advertisement for a bride.

The ad promises "Free Sports Car With Marriage" and lists his e-mail address, photo and vital stats: "43, 5'11, 175 pounds and NEVER MARRIED."

"It sure beats trying to come up with a snappy one-liner in a Jersey nightclub," Grossman said.

So far, he's gotten only five e-mail responses (and no "I do's") since his campaign began earlier this month. He's confident a Mazda convertible will seal the deal with someone.

"I'm a romantic," he said. "I think this is the ideal way to find somebody."

Joy Browne, author of "Dating for Dummies," gave Grossman points for trying.

"I call this 'auto eroticism,'" she said. "Somebody out there will take him up on it. It's getting him some publicity, and that seems to be the name of the game these days. Nothing is beneath contempt anymore."

Grossman says he doesn't want much from a bride.

"I don't need a model, just someone who is pretty and funny and appreciative of me," he said. "I will treat her like a queen. I just hope she can drive stick shift."

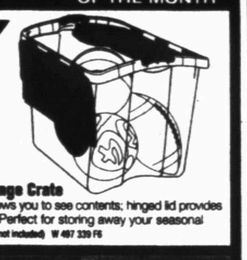
True Value
Help Is Just Around The Corner

BARGAIN OF THE MONTH



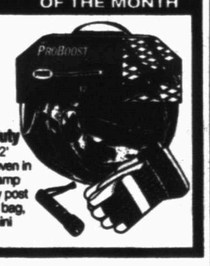
COSCO 8.88
Two-Step Stool
This handy stool with safety tread steps will give you a boost for extra reach. Folds down for easy transporting and storage. M 497 838 F4

BARGAIN OF THE MONTH



Sterilite 4.99
62-Qt. Storage Crate
Clear base allows you to see contents; hinged lid provides easy access. Perfect for storing away your seasonal items. (Contents not included) W 497 339 F6

BARGAIN OF THE MONTH



General Cable 9.99
8-Gauge Heavy-Duty Booster Cables 12' cables stay flexible, even in cold weather. SlimClamp provides easy battery post access. Incl. storage bag, work gloves and a mini flashlight. G 724 310 B6

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HERMLEIGH BEE WINNERS — Julian Fuentes won Hermleigh's spelling bee last week. He now advances to the regional bee March 22 in Lubbock. Alicia Culp was the runner-up. Julian, a sixth grader, is the son of Mike and Erlinda Portillo. Alicia is an eighth grader and the daughter of Alan and Julie Culp. (Contributed Photo)

Relatives angry when man was acquitted of molestation

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — Relatives of two teenage brothers who admitted killing their sleeping father with a baseball bat are angry the man they believe influenced the boys was acquitted of molestation.

Ricky Chavis, 41, was found innocent Wednesday of charges he kidnapped and molested the younger brother, Alex King, in the months before the slaying of 40-year-old Terry King.

Chavis was convicted of the lesser offense of false imprisonment and was sentenced later Wednesday to the maximum of five years in prison.

Kelly Marino, mother of Alex, now 13, and Derek King, now 14, said she still believes Chavis killed the boy's father — although Derek confessed he struck the fatal blows Nov. 26, 2001, and that Alex urged him on.

Marino called Wednesday's acquittal "insane" and appeared visibly disappointed when the verdict was read.

"It's an outrage," she said.

Chavis had faced a possible life sentence on the kidnapping charge.

"At least he got five years," said Linda Walker, Marino's mother and the boys' grandmother. "He got the maximum."

"That's better than nothing," said her husband, Jimmy Walker, the boys' step-grandfather.

The Walkers are hoping Chavis also draws the maximum — 10 years — if convicted on still-pending charges of accessory after the fact to third-degree murder and evidence tampering. The trial is set for Feb. 24.

Circuit Judge Frank Bell cited Terry King's frantic search for his children, who had run away from home in the days before the slaying, in imposing the maximum penalty for false imprisonment.

"His friend, Mr. Chavis, is supposed to be helping him, but instead of helping him he's the one that's got them," Bell said. "That's a little hard to swallow. That's unconscionable."

The state's case rested heavily on Alex King's testimony that he and Chavis had oral sex in the months before the killing.

"He said that he loved me," Alex testified Tuesday.

Prosecutors said 10 days before the killing, the brothers had run away from home and stayed with Chavis, who lured them with video games, marijuana and pornography. Alex testified Chavis told him if the boys killed their father they could live with him and that he hid them from police afterward.

The defense argued the allegations were part of a plot to frame Chavis for the murder so the boys could avoid life sentences.

"These are psycho-pathological killers," defense lawyer Michael Rollo told the six-member jury.

The boys and Chavis were tried separately for first-degree murder. One jury acquitted Chavis while another convicted the brothers of a lesser offense: second-degree murder without a weapon.

A judge threw out the boys' convictions and ordered mediation that resulted in both pleading guilty to third-degree murder. Alex is serving seven years and Derek eight at separate juvenile facilities.

Date Book

Thursday, Feb. 13, 2003

Today is the 44th day of 2003 and the 54th day of winter.

events
LOTTO TEXAS
TEXAS LOTTERY
RESULTS

Wednesday's Lottery Numbers Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Lotto Texas numbers drawn Wednesday y the Texas Lottery:

1-18-20-21-52-54

(one, eighteen, twenty, twenty-one, fifty-two, fifty-four)

Estimated Lotto Texas jackpot: $5 million

Pick 3

(Day) 3-0-8

(Night) 6-9-9

Cash Five

1-5-8-17-28

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1907 Snyder Shopping Center
57-FILMS (573-4567)
SNEAK PREVIEW!!!



DAREDEVIL PG13
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For Showtimes Call 57-FILMS

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1741, The American Magazine became the first magazine published in America.

On this day in 1945, an Allied firestorming of Dresden, Germany, destroyed the city and killed between 35,000 and 135,000 people.

On this day in 1997, the Dow Jones industrial average exceeded the 7,000 mark for the first time in history.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Giovanni Battista Piazzetta (1682-1754), painter; Grant Wood (1892-1942), painter; Stockard Channing (1944-), actress, is 59; Peter Gabriel (1950-), singer, is 53.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1976, Dorothy Hamill won the gold medal in figure skating at the Innsbruck Winter Olympics.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "All the really good ideas I ever had came to me while I was milking a cow." — Grant Wood

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Feb. 9) and full moon (Feb. 16).

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The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to use for republication all news dispatches in this newspaper and also local news published for republication of special dispatches.

Lifestyles



BABY SHOWE... in the parlor of ... mother; Ryan a... Holly's paterna... La Keta Jones ... Photo)

Thro... Gene...

The Scurry C... cal Society met ... Scurry County ... regular meeting. ... sented a progra... Sultana Disaster...

She explained ... a steam powere... paddle-boat, buil... lower Mississip... cotton trade. Sh... at 1,719 tons a... carry 376 passe... of 85.

She was not o... cargo but to tra... sonnel, and in M... carried the Seco... ored Troops.

When the Civ... April 9, 1865, th... in the South, ma... from prison ca... sonville and Cah... to travel on the... Mississippi Rive... Mid-Western Ho...

On April 21, ... pulled into Vic... great repatriat... been set up. Ur... gathered there ... tana to travel to ...

They boarde... bers, so great, ... decided not to ... rolls in advance ... would be made ... the vessel cast o...

While in Vick... covered the boil... badly. The Sulta... briefly, so the re... repair the boiler ... before going up ... scheduled stop... Cairo, Evansvill... Cincinnati.

The Sultana ... crowded with a... persons on boa...

Co...

THU...

Deep Creek C... the coliseum a... p.m.

AA Big Book S... ing; contact num... 574-1292 or 573-1...

FR...

Free blood ... Senior Citizens ... a.m.

Blood pressur... Cogdell Hospital ... vices, 1800 Cogd... 1-2 p.m.

ABCL Open ... Bridge; Snyder ... p.m.

Cornelius-Doc... by appointment...

Coming...



* 100 times faster is based...
Actual speeds may vary...



BABY SHOWER HELD — Holly Bullard of Lubbock was honoree at a baby shower held Feb. 2 in the parlor of First United Methodist Church. From left are Ruth Tate, Holly's maternal grandmother; Ryan and Holly Bullard, honorees; Barbra Jones, Holley's mother; and Barbara Jones, Holly's paternal grandmother. Hostesses included Mari Lyn Jones of Round Rock, Gina Jones, La Keta Jones and Heather Cochran, all of Snyder, and Joni Jones of Lubbock. (Contributed Photo)

Thrower presents program at Genealogical Society meeting

The Scurry County Genealogical Society met Jan. 28 in the Scurry County Library for its regular meeting. Jo Thrower presented a program on the 1865 Sultana Disaster.

She explained the Sultana was a steam powered, side-wheeler, paddle-boat, built in 1863 for the lower Mississippi or Missouri cotton trade. She was registered at 1,719 tons and by law could carry 376 passengers and a crew of 85.

She was not only used to carry cargo but to transport Army Personnel, and in March of 1864 had carried the Second Missouri Colored Troops.

When the Civil War ended on April 9, 1865, the Union soldiers in the South, many just released from prison camps like Andersonville and Cahaba, were slated to travel on the Sultana up the Mississippi River north to their Mid-Western Homes.

On April 21, 1865 the Sultana pulled into Vicksburg where a great repatriation center had been set up. Union soldiers had gathered there to board the Sultana to travel to their homes.

They boarded in great numbers, so great, the authorities decided not to make out muster rolls in advance, as usual. They would be made out on board after the vessel cast off.

While in Vicksburg, it was discovered the boilers were leaking badly. The Sultana stayed there briefly, so the repair gang could repair the boilers and machinery before going up the river to make scheduled stops at Memphis, Cairo, Evansville, Louisville and Cincinnati.

The Sultana was very overcrowded with an estimated 2,300 persons on board. Captain J.C. Mason was a bit concerned and cautioned the men not to all stand on one side of the boat when it made a landing. It could mean serious trouble. But two days after leaving Vicksburg the Sultana was making slow progress. The paddle boats strained against the powerful current with the heavier than usual load.

Finally it happened. About seven miles up the river from Memphis, near a small island called the Hen and Chickens, the boilers quit holding the heavy pressure of steam and exploded. Half of the Sultana was blown apart. Hundreds of sleeping men were blown into the river and drowned in the icy water near the boat.

Shortly after the boat exploded it caught fire and began coming apart. Men by the hundreds, hanging onto the bow and stern, were singed off like flies by the intense heat. To stay aboard could be worse than being in the water even though many of the soldiers were half-starved and unable to swim.

The smokestacks crashed down pinning men underneath them. Some fell through the upper deck onto the lower deck. Having no way to save themselves they slid into the hot coals and debris with the smokestacks.

Rescue boats managed to save 500 to 600 men who were taken to hospitals in Memphis, 200 men died.

Afterwards a small number of the survivors formed a society called the Sultana Survivors Society and held meetings for years.

There was never an accurate list of how many men lost their lives in the disaster but 1,700 was probably a correct number.

The Sultana disaster was one of the worst maritime disasters in history, but one that had a hard time finding it's way into the newspapers and history books.

Little mention of the disaster was in the newspapers at the time.

The Nation's mind was on the closing of the Civil War. Gen. Robert E. Lee had just surrendered and Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, commander of the Southern Mississippi and Tennessee troops, were surrendering that day. The country had a new president, Andrew Jackson. Lincoln had been dead only 11 days.

Jo Thrower explained if someone cannot find their soldier ancestor after the Civil War this could be one place to look. A partial list of survivors can be found on the Internet.

The next Genealogical Society meeting will be Feb. 25. Members will read or tell stories about the horse and wagon days and early day transportation. Visitors are invited.

The society meets the last Tuesday of each month excluding December.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; at the coliseum annex; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

AA Big Book Study; closed meeting; contact numbers are 574-8015, 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment, call 573-0538 or 573-0770.

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club at Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Defensive Driving Course; Texas Savings Bank; for more information, call 573-2850; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Just For Today open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-1438; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 10 a.m.

Zoo tour is a learning experience for humans

ATLANTA (AP) — Birds do it. Bees do it. And humans can learn how they do it during a Valentine's Day tour of Zoo Atlanta.

The amorous antics of animals are proving so popular that organizers plan to add a second night besides Valentine's Day for their "Love In The Zoo" lecture and dance party. Several hundred guests are expected.

"This is science, and it's actually fun," said Nicole Johnson, who works in marketing for the zoo.

Lecturer James Ballance says the mating games can be hilarious.

"Birds are like, totally crazy," Ballance says, waving his arms to imitate a strutting pheasant. "Some we call the backseat-of-the-car guys — they don't stick around. They leave a lot of single mothers. Then we have the guys who will build the house before they even suggest anything."

Outside the zoo's flamingo pond, Ballance points to the pairs who spend nearly all day within a foot or two of each other.

"They pair up, but there's a lot of cheating out there," he says. "You've always got female flamingoes coming home with muddy footprints all over their backs."

Other zoos around the country are finding similar talks are big draws.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder

	North ♠ A K 4 2 ♥ A J 10 8 ♦ K 2 ♣ K 5 3	02-13-03
West ♠ J 10 9 8 5 ♥ 7 ♦ Q J 10 9 3 ♣ Q J		East ♠ 7 ♥ Q 9 6 4 ♦ 8 6 4 ♣ A 10 8 6 4
	South ♠ Q 6 3 ♥ K 5 3 2 ♦ A 7 5 ♣ 9 7 2	

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠ J

Thursday, Feb. 13, 2003

Salaries go up faster than the shuttle

By Phillip Alder

How did the average CEO's salary compare to that of the average worker in 1980, 1990 and 2000?

Here is a deal from the fourth battle between the U.S. Congress and a corporate team, held in 1996. The successful declarer was Alan "Ace" Greenberg, the former CEO, now chairman of the Executive Committee, of Bear Stearns.

North, Larry Tisch, then the head of CBS, was cautious in rebidding only three hearts.

The club-queen lead would have defeated the four-heart contract, but that was hard to find, given North's opening bid. The diamond queen looks like the normal (and unsuccessful) start, but West selected the spade jack.

Reading the cards perfectly, Greenberg won in hand with the spade queen and played a heart to dummy's ace. (There must have been a temptation to finesse dummy's jack to keep dummy's club king safe from attack, but that would have been fatal.) Next, declarer successfully ran dummy's heart jack through East.

When West discarded, Greenberg played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing the last in the dummy. A heart to the king was followed by a spade to dummy's king. Then the spade ace was led. If East had ruffed in, he would have been endplayed, forced to open up clubs and permit dummy's king to score. But when East didn't trump, Greenberg discarded, and ruffed dummy's last spade for his 10th trick.

In 1980, the average CEO's salary was 42 times that of the average worker. In 1990, the multiple had risen to 85. And by 2000, it was a staggering 531, with an average salary of $15 million.

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SPECIAL OLYMPICS, GS RECIPIENTS — Snyder Lions Club donated $300 toward Special Olympics participants' activities and $300 to the local Girl Scouts. Lions' president Cliff Shiller, right, presented the checks to Judi Martin, top photo, who represented the Girl Scouts, and Tommy Cotton, representing Special Olympics. (SDN Staff Photo)

County leads nation with people named Love

CONCORD, N.C. (AP) — Love is in the air in Cabarrus County. It's also in the phone book.

Cabarrus has the nation's highest concentration of people named Love according to a Valentine's-week study by a San Diego marketing research firm.

Union, Gaston and Mecklenburg counties aren't far behind Cabarrus, making North Carolina one of the nation's Love-liest states.

Clementeene Love Glover of Gastonia said her maiden name is telling: "I'm just a friendly, happy-go-lucky person. I love my family and I love people."

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Mon - Thur 11-2 & 4:30-8
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The Following Financial Institutions Will Be Closed Monday, Feb 17 In Observance Of
PRESIDENT'S DAY
Please Transact Your Business Accordingly
Texas Savings Bank
American State Bank
West Texas State Bank
Snyder National Bank

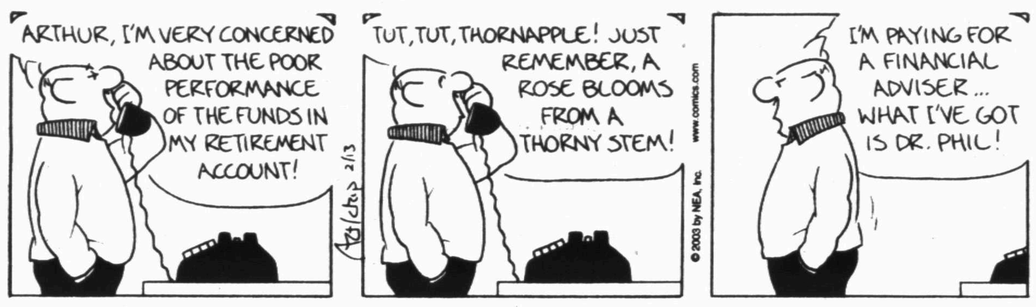
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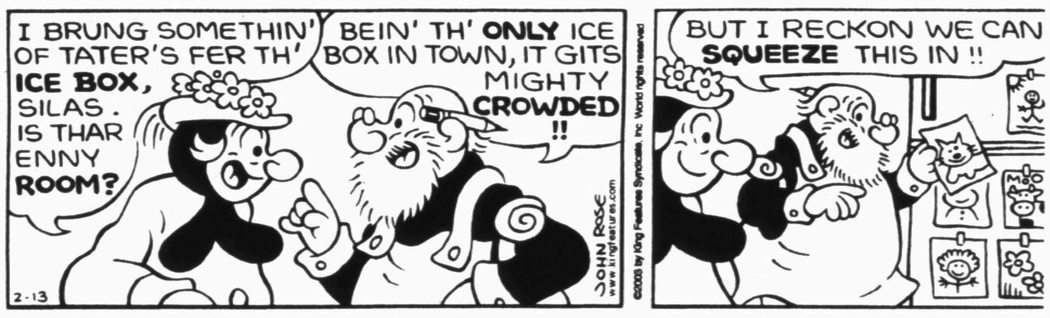
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SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Hold dear
6 Snow crystal
11 Artemis' twin
13 Focusing
15 Packing boxes
16 Big hammer
17 Great Wall locale
19 Conductor — Previn
20 Army meal
23 TVA supply
25 Trip-routing org.
26 Periods
27 Pat
30 Rendezvous
32 Pony pad
35 Happened next
37 Normal
38 Cry audibly
39 "What's — — for me?"
42 Family mem.
43 RN employers
44 Miles of "Psycho"
45 "Ulysses" author
49 Astrologers
51 Verdi works
53 Cyclades' locale
57 Local
58 Patron
59 Qaddafi's country
60 Laziness

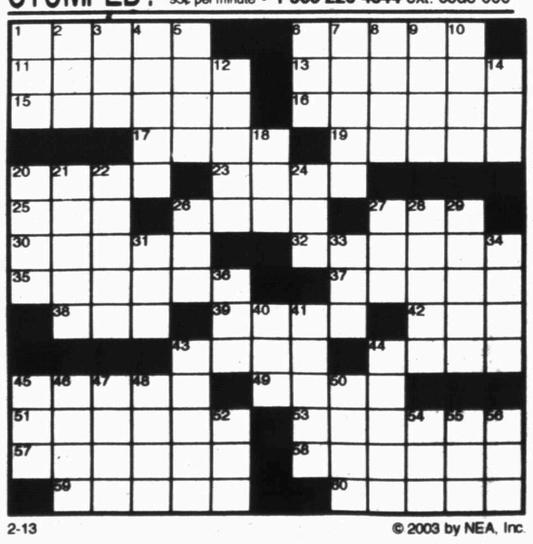
DOWN

1 Wine cask
2 Spring mo.
3 Comedian — Costello
4 Arm bones
5 Wapitis
6 Musical notes
7 Delicate hue
8 Grace ender
9 Pirate captain
10 Rwy. employee
12 Basket-maker's twig
14 Haw opposite
18 Selma's st.
20 Chess win
21 Merits
22 Final authority (hyph.)
24 Snake shape
26 Monsieur's summer
27 German article
28 Torment
29 Speed-skater Bonnie —
31 Deli order
33 Well-known Pharaoh
34 Exile site
36 Shady
40 — de plume
41 Sir — Newton
43 Massive
44 Watch
45 "Garfield" guy
46 Milky gemstone
47 Himalayan humanoid
48 Corn bin
50 Thickens
52 Beaufort or Bering
54 Want-ad abbr.
55 Pantry pest
56 — degree

Answer to Previous Puzzle

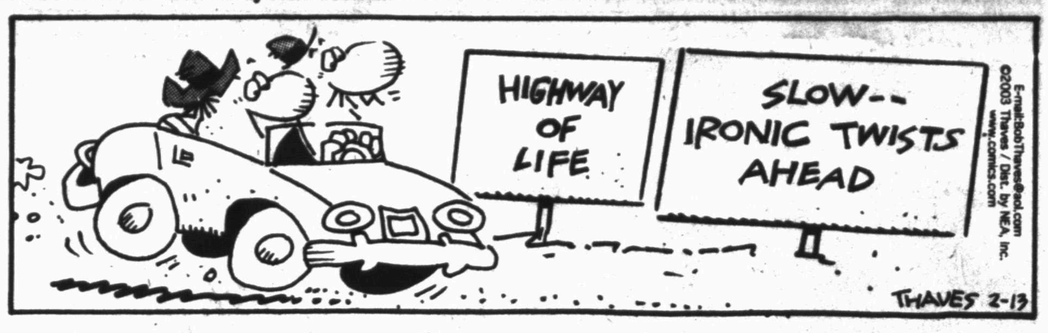
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B	A	N	K		N	E	E		T	S	K	
				I	S	L	A	M				
T	A	K	E	N		F	L	A	I	L	S	
A	L	E	R	T				C	O	A	L	S
M	A	R	G	E				A	T	B	A	T
	I	R	O	N	I	C		W	A	S	T	E
				D	O	R	I	S				
	G	A	D		W	Y	O		Y	A	W	N
M	A	N	A	N	A		U	T	O	P	I	A
M	I	T	T	E	N		S	L	Y	E	S	T
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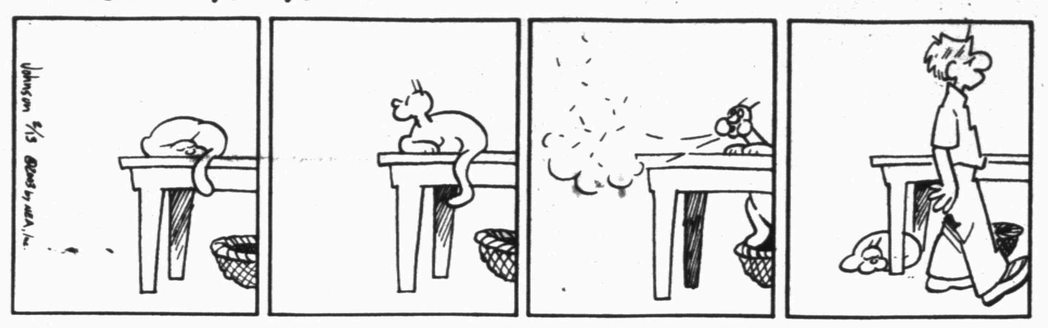


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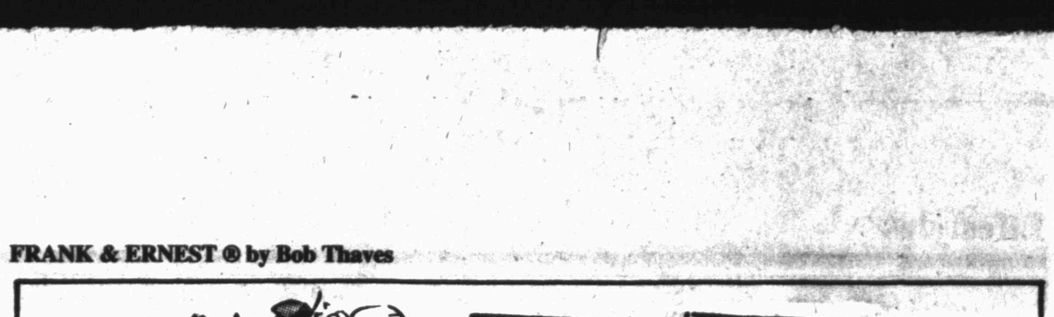
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ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



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HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"Wait there while I tie up the dog."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



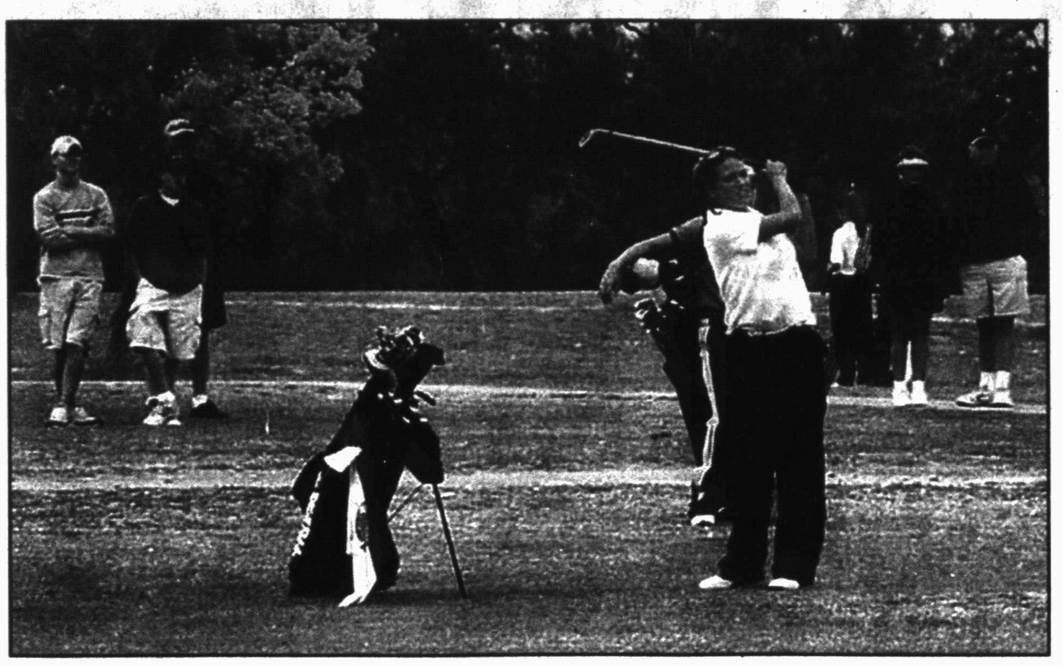
Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"IF YOU WERE AN EAGLE SCOUT WHEN YOU WERE A KID, DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE A *BALD EAGLE* NOW?"

SPORTS



APPROACHING TOURNAMENT — Varisty golfer Katie Kerley hits an approach shot at last year's regional tourney. The girls will compete in the annual Snyder Invitational at Scurry County golf course Friday and Saturday. (SDN Staff Photo)

Bucks run past Mavs, 120-114

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The Milwaukee Bucks beat the Dallas Mavericks at their own fast-paced game.

Ray Allen scored 28 points, Tim Thomas added a season-high 27 as the Bucks beat Dallas 120-114 on Wednesday night — sending the Mavericks to their third straight loss.

"I love to play fast, it fits my team's personality," Bucks coach George Karl said. "The key I go back to is how we pass the ball."

Allen added nine rebounds and seven assists, and Sam Cassell had nine assists and three key points late as the Bucks scored 65 points in the second half to sweep the two-game season series from the Mavericks.

Milwaukee made eight of its final 13 3-pointers, while Dallas missed its final eight 3-point attempts.

"We did a bad job in transition of picking up their 3-point shooters," Dallas guard Steve Nash said. "We didn't play very good defense. They're a good offensive team, but you have to do better than giving up 120 points."

Thomas was effective inside early in the game, which helped produce some open jumpers in the fourth quarter.

"Timmy set the tone for us," Allen said. "He did a great job of penetrating early. I told the guys at halftime that we had 14 assists in the first half and that if we came out and put up 14 more in the second we'd win the game."

Toni Kukoc scored nine points in a 16-4 run that gave Milwaukee a 110-100 lead with 5:15 left.

St. Louis shocks Louisville, 59-58

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Marque Perry scored five of his 25 points in the final 13 seconds, and maneuvered inside for the game-winning layup with 3.2 seconds to go as Saint Louis upset second-ranked Louisville 59-58 Wednesday night.

Reece Gaines scored a season-high 28 points for the Cardinals.

This was by far the lowest scoring total for Louisville, which is averaging 84 points, and had no other players in double figures. Center Marvin Stone, averaging 13 points, was scoreless in 30 minutes.

Chris Sloan and Josh Fisher added 11 points apiece for Saint Louis. Sloan had one of the big plays in the waning minutes with a steal and dunk that cut the gap to 57-54 with 50.8 seconds left.

Gaines' 3-pointer had given Louisville a 57-50 lead with 1:58 to go.

UW coach admits he lied about interview with 49ers

SEATTLE (AP) — Washington Huskies coach Rick Neuheisel has acknowledged that he was interviewed for the San Francisco 49ers coaching job, saying his initial denial was based on a promise of confidentiality.

Neuheisel told the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and The Seattle Times Wednesday that he decided to give the real story out of concern for his credibility.

"My knee-jerk reaction was to protect an agreement of confidentially I had with the 49ers," Neuheisel told The Times, "but the life of the story that has followed has raised the question about who I am. It has questioned something more important, my credibility, and that isn't worth it.

"I want to correct the situation and apologize for not being more candid. I will work hard at repairing those relationships I have damaged."

Neuheisel, 33-16 in four years at Washington and 66-30 in seven years as a college head coach, would not say whether he was interested in or had been offered the 49ers job.

Area Sports Calendar

	TODAY
Softball:	Snyder varsity at Mineral Wells tourney.
	FRIDAY
Baseball:	WTC at New Mexico JC, Hobbs, DH, noon.
Softball:	Snyder varsity at Mineral Wells tourney.
	WTC at Temple College tourney.
Golf:	Snyder varsity and JV girls in Snyder tournament.
	Snyder JV boys at Abilene.
Tennis:	Snyder varsity at Big Spring tourney.
	SATURDAY
Baseball:	Snyder varsity at Midland Lee, scrimmage, 1 p.m.
	WTC at New Mexico JC, Hobbs, DH, noon.
Softball:	Snyder varsity at Mineral Wells tourney.
	WTC at Temple College tourney.
Tennis:	Snyder at Levelland quad meet, 9 a.m.
Golf:	Snyder varsity and JV girls in Snyder tourney.
	Snyder JV boys at Abilene.

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	34	17	.667	—
Boston	28	22	.560	5½
Philadelphia	26	24	.520	7½
Orlando	25	26	.490	9
Washington	25	26	.490	9
New York	21	28	.429	12
Miami	17	33	.340	16½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	36	15	.706	—
Detroit	33	15	.688	1½
Milwaukee	26	23	.531	9
New Orleans	27	25	.519	9½
Atlanta	19	32	.373	17
Chicago	17	34	.333	19
Toronto	15	34	.306	20
Cleveland	10	42	.192	26½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	38	12	.760	—
San Antonio	34	16	.680	4
Minnesota	31	20	.608	7½
Utah	30	21	.588	8½
Houston	27	23	.540	11
Memphis	14	35	.286	23½
Denver	12	39	.235	26½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	35	17	.673	—
Portland	32	17	.653	1½
Phoenix	29	22	.569	5½
L.A. Lakers	26	23	.531	7½
Golden State	23	27	.460	11
Seattle	21	28	.429	12½
L.A. Clippers	18	33	.353	16½

Wednesday's Games

Toronto 97, Atlanta 96
Minnesota 102, Cleveland 91
Philadelphia 119, Chicago 111, OT
Golden State 113, New York 107
Memphis 97, New Jersey 90
Indiana 83, New Orleans 72
Houston 106, Utah 76
Milwaukee 120, Dallas 114
L.A. Lakers 113, Denver 102
Washington 108, L.A. Clippers 104

Thursday's Games

Orlando at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Portland, 10 p.m.

Friday's Games

Atlanta at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Chicago at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Orlando at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Miami at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Washington at Utah, 9 p.m.
New York at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Seattle at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

NBA Roundup...

Kobe drops 51 on Nuggets, extends L.A's streak to seven

By the Associated Press

Nobody can stop Kobe Bryant these days — certainly not the Denver Nuggets.

Bryant scored an NBA season-high 51 points in less than three quarters as the visiting Los Angeles Lakers beat Denver 113-102 Wednesday night to extend their winning streak to seven games.

The All-Star guard has at least 35 points in seven straight games, including 42 in an easy home victory over the woeful Nuggets on Tuesday night.

"I've been in this league a long time and he's playing better than anybody I've ever seen," Denver coach Jeff Bzdelik said.

Bryant was 15-for-28 from the field and 18-of-20 on free throws in the NBA's first 50-point game this season. It was the 11th time he scored 40 or more points this season and his third career game with at least 50.

Bryant finished five points short of his career high, set last season against Memphis, despite sitting out the final 13 minutes.

"I'm playing in such a good rhythm right now," Bryant said. "I don't know where it comes from."

In other games, it was Washington 108, the Los Angeles Clippers 104; Toronto 97, Atlanta 96; Minnesota 102, Cleveland 91; Philadelphia 119, Chicago 111 in overtime; Golden State 113, New York 107; Milwaukee 120, Dallas 114; Indiana 83, New Orleans 72; Houston 106, Utah 76; and Memphis 97, New Jersey 90.

The Nuggets, who own the worst record in the Western Conference, started with rookie Vincent Yarbrough guarding Bryant and tried three others. None of them stood a chance.

Bryant outscored the Nuggets 20-15 in the first quarter and had 36 points by halftime.

"When you have a great player like that you just have to ride him," said Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal, who added 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Bryant had a few words for Denver's bench after a near-impossible fadeaway along the baseline in the second half.

He also had the crowd cheering with a hard dunk, and eclipsed the 50-point mark with a pair of free throws with 3:18 left in the third. He never got a chance at his career high, leaving the game with 1:08 remaining in the period.

"I told him the hook was out the way he was shooting the ball every time — that at the end of the third quarter he better get it before the quarter was over or else he was coming out," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said.

Wizards 108, Clippers 104

At Los Angeles, Michael Jordan had 23 points and 12 assists for Washington before fouling out for the first time since the 1991-92 season.

Tyronn Lue added a season-high 21 points and Christian Laettner had 17 points and 14 rebounds for the Wizards, who snapped a five-game road losing streak and beat the Clippers for the eighth time in nine meetings in Los Angeles.

Raptors 97, Hawks 96

At Toronto, Vince Carter scored 13 of his 21 points in the final five minutes to help the Raptors win their fourth straight.

Antonio Davis added 22 points and nine rebounds for Toronto, which has won five of six since Carter returned to the lineup after missing 23 games with a strained right knee.

Timberwolves 102, Cavaliers 91

At Cleveland, All-Star MVP Kevin Garnett had 26 points and 17 rebounds for his 41st double-double this season to lead surging Minnesota past the struggling Cavaliers.

The Timberwolves won their fourth straight and 10th in 12 games. Cleveland lost for the 12th time in 14 games and fell to 2-8 under interim coach Keith Smart.

76ers 119, Bulls 111, OT

At Philadelphia, Allen Iverson scored four of his 36 points in overtime and the 76ers withstood a scare from the NBA's worst road team.

The Sixers had an 11-point lead with 3:45 left in the fourth quarter, but Jalen Rose's leaning 18-footer with 7.6 seconds left in regulation tied it at 109.

Rose finished with season highs of 38 points and 13 assists. Tyson Chandler had 21 points, 17 rebounds and a career-high seven blocks for the Bulls, who lost their seventh straight and fell to 2-26 away from home.

Warriors 113, Knicks 107

At New York, Troy Murphy hit an 18-foot jumper with 1:11 left to stop a late Knicks rally as Golden State won on the road for the second straight night.

Murphy had 17 points and 13 rebounds, and Gilbert Arenas added 25 points for the Warriors, who shot a season-high 58.9 percent.

Allan Houston scored 32 points to lead the Knicks, who played the final 5:12 without Latrell Sprewell. The subject of rampant trade speculation, Sprewell shot just 5-for-18 in what might have been his final game with the Knicks at Madison Square Garden.

Pacers 83, Hornets 72

At New Orleans, Brad Miller scored 18 points and Reggie Miller added 17 as Indiana ended the Hornets' three-game winning streak.

Jamaal Magloire grabbed a career-high 20 rebounds for New Orleans.

Grizzlies 97, Nets 90

At Memphis, third-string point guard Earl Watson — forced into a starting role because of injuries and illness — had a career-high 21 points, eight rebounds, six assists and four steals to help the Grizzlies snap a seven-game skid.

Coliseum hosts two playoff games Friday

Scurry County Coliseum will be the site of two area-round playoff games Friday night.

At 6, 4-5A third-place finisher Cedar Hill (23-12) will battle District 2-5A champs Amarillo (22-7).

In the second tilt, District 8-2A runner-up Anson (20-8) will square off against 5-2A winner Lockney (21-10).

Tickets are $4 for adults and $3 for students. Doors open at 5 p.m.

Borden County to battle Whitharral in area playoff

The Borden County Lady Coyotes, District 7A champions, will travel to Woodrow Friday night to battle District 5A top-seed Whitharral.

Borden County rolled to a 49-31 victory over Aspermont in the bi-district round Tuesday at Scurry County Coliseum.

Post player Bobbi Kempf drained 12 points and guard Patty Rodriguez scored 10 to lead the Lady Coyotes (26-6).

Whitharral (26-2) clobbered New Home, 66-12, Tuesday to advance to the area round.

The teams will face off at 6:30 p.m. at Cooper High School.

Men's Top 25 Results

Wednesday

1. Arizona (18-2) did not play. Next: vs. UCLA, Thursday.
2. Louisville (18-2) lost to Saint Louis 59-58. Next: at No. 11 Marquette, Saturday.
3. Kentucky (19-3) did not play. Next: vs. LSU, Saturday.
4. Florida (20-3) beat Mississippi 74-55. Next: at Tennessee, Saturday.
5. Oklahoma (16-4) did not play. Next: at Texas Tech, Saturday.
6. Texas (16-4) did not play. Next: at Nebraska, Saturday.
7. Pittsburgh (17-3) beat West Virginia 82-46. Next: at Seton Hall, Saturday.
8. Duke (16-3) did not play. Next: at No. 15 Wake Forest, Thursday.
9. Kansas (18-5) did not play. Next: vs. Iowa State, Sunday.
10. Notre Dame (19-4) did not play. Next: at No. 17 Syracuse, Saturday.
11. Marquette (18-3) beat DePaul 73-60. Next: vs. No. 2 Louisville, Saturday.
12. Creighton (22-2) beat Southwest Missouri State 70-67, OT. Next: at Wichita State, Saturday.
13. Oklahoma State (19-3) beat Nebraska 77-70. Next: vs. Baylor, Saturday.
14. Illinois (16-4) did not play. Next: at Purdue, Saturday.
15. Wake Forest (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 8 Duke, Thursday.
16. Maryland (15-6) beat Florida State 74-72. Next: vs. No. 15 Wake Forest, Sunday.
17. Syracuse (16-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 10 Notre Dame, Saturday.
18. Xavier (17-4) did not play. Next: vs. Rhode Island, Saturday.
19. Mississippi State (15-5) did not play. Next: vs. Mississippi, Saturday.
20. Georgia (13-7) did not play. Next: vs. Vanderbilt, Saturday.
21. Missouri (14-6) lost to Texas A&M 73-71. Next: vs. Kansas State, Saturday.
22. California (16-4) did not play. Next: vs. Washington State, Thursday.
23. Connecticut (14-5) did not play. Next: at Villanova, Saturday.
24. Stanford (17-6) did not play. Next: vs. Washington, Thursday.
25. Saint Joseph's (17-3) did not play. Next: vs. Temple, Thursday.

Sports Briefs

Groundhog Open

The Scurry County golf course will host the Groundhog Open Feb. 22-23. The format will be two-man scramble with a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days. Entry fee is $80 per team. Call Rick at the pro shop at 573-7101 for more information.

WTC basketball tournament

The Western Texas College Student Government Association will host an Outsiders Basketball Tournament Feb. 28 and March 1 at the WTC Gym. The entry fee is $100 per team, and there is a limit of 10 players per team. The deadline to sign up is Feb. 26. For more information or to sign up, call Kendra at 573-8511 ext. 674 or Casey at 573-8511 ext. 509.

Sorenstam accepts Colonial invitation

FORT WORTH (AP) — Annika Sorenstam has decided to tee it up against the men, accepting an invitation to play in the Colonial in May.

No golfer has won more tournaments than Sorenstam over the last two seasons, Tiger Woods included. Last year alone, she shattered the LPGA Tour scoring record and won 13 times around the world, the most by anyone in nearly 40 years.

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National registry to block unwanted telemarketing calls coming this year

WASHINGTON (AP) — A national "do-not-call" list intended to help consumers block unwanted telemarketing calls is moving closer to becoming reality and lawmakers say it will likely go into effect this year.

The House voted 418-7 on Wednesday to allow the Federal Trade Commission to collect fees from telemarketers to fund the registry, which will cost about $16 million in its first year.

"This comes as welcome relief from telemarketers who have interrupted us during dinnertime far too many times," said Rep. Billy Tauzin, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and sponsor of the bill. Tauzin, R-La., said "all Americans will have a choice to opt-out of unwanted telemarketing calls and enjoy a little privacy at home for a change."

The program will not need separate Senate approval under an agreement reached late Wednesday.

Lawmakers agreed to retain a deal in a House-Senate compromise spending package for this year that would approve money for the do-not-call list without the need for additional legislation, said Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C.

"We have ensured that this sensible, consumer protection registry will become a reality this year," Hollings said. He helped develop the agreement that allows the FTC to begin building the do-not-call program when the $397 billion spending bill becomes law.

If Congress approves funds for this year, the do-not-call list could begin operation by summer.

The registry's future began to appear uncertain late Monday when Republican leaders sought to change language in the spending bill to require separate Senate approval, Hollings said. The extra step could have led to delays jeopardizing funds for the registry this year, he said.

Hollings and several consumer groups objected to the changes.

Nick Smith, a spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said there "is no doubt that Sen. Frist supports the do-not-call list and hopes that we can complete action by the end of the week."

The Bush administration, in a statement before the House vote, supported the bill and the creation of a registry.

The do-not-call bill, which authorizes the FTC to collect fees from telemarketers beginning this year and through 2007, has been the focus of intense lobbying by the telemarketing industry and consumer groups.

Telemarketers say the registry will devastate their business, endangering millions of jobs and sending ripples through the economy. The Direct Marketing Association, an industry group, filed a lawsuit against the FTC last month on grounds the registry unlawfully restricts free speech.

Consumer groups and many lawmakers say the registry has overwhelming support from the public who are fed up with unwanted telemarketing calls.

In introducing the legislation, Tauzin said, "If anyone holds this legislation up, we're prepared to give out their home phone numbers."

Consumers could enroll in the free service via the Internet or a toll-free number. Telemarketers would have to check the list every three months to find out who does not want to be called. Those who call listed people could be fined up to $11,000 for each violation.

Charities, surveys and calls on behalf of politicians would be exempt.

The FTC has limited authority to police telemarketing calls from certain industries, including airlines, banks and telephone companies. The Federal Communications Commission, which oversees calls made by those industries, has been working with the FTC and is considering adding its clout to the program.

Separately, the House approved a bill that allows the FTC to increase to $22,000 the civil penalty it can impose up on people or organizations making fraudulent requests for charitable contributions or other deceptive claims during national emergencies. The legislation was prompted by fraud in the wake of the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Man suspected in four slayings dies after SWAT team shootout

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Autopsy results will determine if a 34-year-old man suspected of killing four people fatally shot himself or was killed by police gunfire during a confrontation.

Donald Wilcox died Wednesday morning outside a motel room in Flour Bluff when members of a SWAT team opened fire on him after he pointed a pistol at officers.

It appeared that Wilcox shot himself in the face with his .45-caliber pistol as he fell to the ground, said police, who aren't sure which shots killed Wilcox.

"We are certain that we at least hit the individual with some of the gunfire," Cmdr. Mike Walsh said. "The medical examiner would be able to definitely decode whether it was a close contact gunshot wound or more distant fire that killed him."

An autopsy was being performed Wednesday.

Police were "hoping against hope," there were no more bodies found. The FBI and other law enforcement agencies will play a role in the continuing investigation.

Law officers link Wilcox and a 15-year-old boy to the deaths of an elderly couple whose bodies were found in brush, as well as a 61-year-old man found dead in his home and an 87-year-old man whose body was in the trunk of an Oklahoma-tagged Ford Taurus that Wilcox had at the motel.

The investigators tracked Wilcox to the motel after questioning the teen, who was taken into custody Tuesday.

Police Chief Pete Alvarez said prosecutors want to prosecute the youth as an adult on capital murder charges.

Alvarez said police had a criminal complaint signed by a judge and were in the process of getting an arrest warrant for Wilcox before the confrontation.

A team of six officers was clandestinely "securing the area" where Wilcox was believed to be when Wilcox walked out, holding a handgun. It was unclear whether he'd noticed the police.

"Before we even tried to confront him he walked out of the room," he said. "We never made an effort to storm the apartment."

The investigation started Saturday after Weldon Parker, 79, and Charlotte Parker, 77, were reported missing. They had been seen last on Feb. 5 at the Church of Christ in Portland, where their son is a pastor.

After an extensive search by ground and air, police found the bodies Tuesday in a field on the city outskirts. The Parkers' car was found abandoned on a city street.

Investigators now believe Wilcox and the boy burglarized the couple's home Feb. 5, then killed them and dumped their bodies in the field.

Police said a .45-caliber pistol was stolen from the Parkers' home during a burglary, but they didn't know if the gun Wilcox had belonged to the couple.

Louis Victor Mokry was found dead of a gunshot wound to the head Monday in his home, where he lived alone. The same type gun of was used in all three killings.

Wilcox was clearly a suspect in the death of the 87-year-old as well, Alvarez said.

"It appears he hijacked the car and killed him, then threw him in the trunk," Alvarez said.

There was identification on the body that indicated the man was from Oklahoma, Walsh said.

"We do have a name, but unfortunately we have no way of knowing about next of kin," he said.

Records from the Houtzdale prison in Lawrence County, Pa., show Wilcox was released Jan. 12 after serving a two- to five-year sentence for corruption of minors.

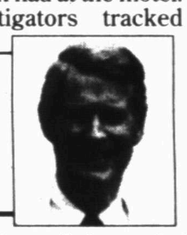
Police suspect Wilcox arrived in Corpus Christi around Jan. 13 on a bus that originated in New York. Sometime during the trip he formed a relationship with the boy and the boy's father, a drifter who is now wanted for questioning.

The boy's mother is believed to reside in New York City, and is also wanted for questioning.

The boy was found camping under a bridge and brought in for questioning.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



The risk versus the benefit of Lopid

DEAR DR. GOTT: Because my cholesterol level is very high (570), my doctor prescribed Lopid. However, I note that this drug can cause acute appendicitis and gallstones, so I am reluctant to use it. On the other hand, I can't afford premature heart disease. Do I have other options?

DEAR READER: A good question that once again brings into play the risk/benefit ratio of medication. The incidence of appendicitis and gallstones from Lopid therapy is truly small, probably in the range of less than 1 percent of the patients.

In contrast, your cholesterol is very significant and places you at an unacceptably high risk for heart disease and vascular problems. Thus, in my view, the hazards of the medication are exceeded by the negative consequences of high cholesterol. (Authorities have concluded that cholesterol levels should be 200 mg. or less.)

Obviously, you should follow a low-fat diet and exercise regularly. But I think that you need medication as well. So, my advice is to continue the Lopid, follow your doctor's instructions and monitor your cholesterol levels with blood tests. If the drug fails to reduce your cholesterol appropriately, I would definitely urge you to be seen in a cholesterol clinic; such specialty resources are generally available through medical centers and teaching hospitals.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have active rheumatoid arthritis and am a borderline diabetic. My medications include prednisone and Glucotrol. My right hip is painful and makes a popping noise when I walk up stairs. I've had all the toes on my right foot amputated and a blood clot flushed out of the arteries in my right leg. What can I expect to go on the blink next?

DEAR READER: Your guess is as good as mine. However, your basic problem appears to be deficient circulation, so I predict that your other leg may give you some future difficulties. Remember that good control of your blood sugar (through diet and medication) is important to prevent the complications of diabetes, so follow your doctor's instructions. Also, because prednisone will worsen diabetes, ask him about substituting another drug, such as Vioxx, Plaquenil or gold therapy.

Finally, make certain that you check in periodically with an ophthalmologist. Diabetes can affect the eyes, and you don't want them to go on the blink. Sorry for the pun.

DEAR DR. GOTT: For four months, I have been on your "no flour, no sugar" diet, with remarkable results; I have lost more than 20 pounds — and it was easy. I'm committed. However, I've also noticed a tendency to constipation, which I've treated with Senakot. Could the virtual elimination of carbohydrates have led to this bowel problem?

DEAR READER: In theory, yes. However, if you continue on my diet, you will be consuming appropriate amounts of vegetable fiber, which should aid your evacuation. Try consuming more fluids, especially fruit juices. For the time being, use of Senakot is OK.

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	3.03	2.71	2.73	—.29
AOL TimeWrn	10.38	10.08	10.09	—.18
AT&T Corp rs	17.64	17.38	17.45	—.16
Albertsons	19.49	19.12	19.17	—.35
Alltel	43.65	43.01	43.01	—.59
AmEl Pw	19.99	18.15	19.49	—.45
AndarkPtr	42.79	42.04	42.06	—.18
ATMOS Egy	21.45	21.20	21.35	+.05
Aviall	7.00	6.90	6.96	—.06
BP PLC	37.87	37.40	37.46	—.24
BakerHughes	30.75	29.25	29.30	—1.39
Bank of Amer	67.64	66.85	66.89	—.31
BellSouth	22.65	22.01	22.10	—.35
BurlNoSFe	25.37	24.88	24.94	—.19
Caterpillar	42.17	41.43	41.53	—.51
CenterPoint	5.69	5.32	5.37	—.33
ChevronTex	63.15	62.35	62.41	—.67
Citigroup	31.75	31.23	31.29	—.13
CocaCola	40.19	39.58	39.65	—.09
ColgatePal	50.24	49.25	49.45	—.72
CmclMetals s	14.30	13.99	14.11	—.15
ConocoPhill	48.07	47.51	47.59	—.29
Cooper Inds	36.56	35.78	35.78	—.81
DaimlrChry	29.10	28.63	28.85	+.03
DeltaAirl	9.21	8.60	8.66	—.55
Dillards Inc	14.51	14.10	14.11	—.36
DowChem	27.62	27.25	27.28	—.27
DuPont	36.75	36.35	36.51	+.46
EastmanChem	31.99	31.50	31.55	—.27
EstKodak	29.90	29.48	29.68	—.26
EDS Corp	15.54	15.21	15.29	—.26
Entergy	43.36	42.26	42.40	—.45
ExxonMobil	32.84	32.40	32.43	—.27
FootLocker	10.03	9.91	9.95	—.07
GenDynam	65.00	64.52	64.85	+.10
GenlElec	22.30	21.94	22.03	—.22
GenMills	44.25	43.66	43.72	—.38
GenMotors	33.97	32.75	32.88	—1.14
GaPacific	15.49	14.56	14.76	—.78
Goodrich	16.70	16.37	16.38	—.32
Goodyear	4.06	3.93	3.98	—.04
GtAtlPac	5.12	4.70	4.99	—.03
Halliburtn	19.40	18.90	18.90	—.40
Hanson ADS	23.06	22.80	22.93	+.10
HarteHanks s	17.51	17.28	17.44	+.11
HomeDepot	21.30	20.60	20.67	—.53
Honeywellintl	22.95	21.90	22.02	—.81
IBM	76.70	75.25	75.30	—1.20
IntlPaper	35.85	35.15	35.21	—.54
JohnsonJn	50.25	49.10	49.59	—.20
KinderMorg	45.13	44.54	44.57	—.56
Kroger Co	13.81	13.50	13.56	—.15
LockheedM	47.90	47.01	47.10	—.65
Lowes Cos	34.30	33.51	33.62	—.64
Lubys	1.31	1.27	1.27	+.01
LucentTech	1.70	1.56	1.58	—.11
MarathonOil	21.85	21.46	21.50	—.19
MayDeptStr	19.30	18.89	19.10	+.04
Medtronic	43.76	42.72	43.17	—1.88
Motorola	8.04	7.91	7.99	—.01
NCR Corp	17.38	17.05	17.05	—.25
Navistar	23.05	21.73	21.80	—1.25
PNM Rescs	19.30	18.95	18.98	—.13
Penney JC	18.40	17.70	17.87	—.36
PepBoys	9.42	9.30	9.32	—.08
PepsiCo	38.54	38.02	38.17	—.24
Pharmacia	39.60	38.90	38.95	—.70
PhelpDodge	34.93	34.28	34.35	—.56
PilgrmPrd B	7.47	7.30	7.47	—.08
Praxair	52.81	52.00	52.07	—.39
ProctGamb	83.29	81.95	81.95	—1.37
RadioShack	19.34	18.84	18.88	—.35
RoyalDut	38.63	38.26	38.31	—.27
SBC Comm	23.23	22.55	22.61	—.46
SaraLee	20.04	19.76	19.79	—.22
Scripps EW	77.50	76.45	76.66	—1.03
SearsRoeb	21.90	21.36	21.69	+.19
SherwinW	26.04	25.60	25.68	—.28
SouthernCo	27.90	27.15	27.15	—.56
SwstAirl	12.61	12.28	12.30	—.41
SprintFON	12.46	11.73	11.78	—.78
SprintPCS	3.88	3.67	3.68	—.14
Sunoco Inc	33.52	33.26	33.29	—.22
TXU Corp	15.55	15.10	15.25	—.16
TempleInland	42.91	41.88	42.01	—.85
TexInd	20.65	20.02	20.10	—.51
TexasInst	15.11	14.67	14.73	—.52
Textron	37.85	37.52	37.57	—.33
TrinityInds	16.86	16.75	16.76	—.07
TylerTech	3.74	3.70	3.74	—.01
UnionPacif	56.10	55.50	55.56	+.38
USSteel	12.43	11.99	12.01	—.28
UnitedTech	60.50	59.55	59.66	—.84
Unocal	26.30	25.93	25.96	—.29
VerizonComm	36.20	35.31	35.45	—.57
WalMart	48.00	47.16	47.24	—.61
WellsFargo	45.40	45.06	45.12	—.22
WstnGasRs	32.79	32.25	32.30	—.25
WinnDixie	11.86	11.30	11.45	—.40
Xerox Cp	8.50	8.32	8.38	—.02
YumBrands s	23.19	22.52	22.57	—.54

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FEB 13 2003

Legislature may overhaul medical malpractice laws

AUSTIN (AP) — The chairman of the House Civil Practices Committee predicts passage of a sweeping overhaul of medical malpractice laws, including a $250,000 cap on pain and suffering awards.

Rep. Joe Nixon, R-Houston, filed the bill and has scheduled a committee hearing on it next week. A similar bill already has been filed in the Senate.

Doctors, insurance companies and some business groups support the measure and say frivolous lawsuits have driven the cost of medical malpractice insurance so high in Texas that doctors are quitting or cutting back their practices.

Consumer advocates say damage award caps would hurt those who need it most, victims critically injured by negligent doctors.

TUITION MOMENTUM

The idea of allowing state universities to set their own tuition is gaining momentum, but it's far from a done deal, University of Texas Chancellor Mark Yudof says.

Gov. Rick Perry's support helps, Yudof said Wednesday. In his State of the State speech Tuesday, Perry said public universities should be able to control their funding.

Those were words that Yudof, chief of the 15-campus UT System, was happy to hear.

Deregulation has been pushed for years by the state's largest universities, including the UT System and the Texas A&M System. The colleges say they've been forced to meet greater demands with less money.

But lawmakers who set tuition rates have resisted, saying they didn't want to loosen state control on schools funded with taxpayer money.

INSURANCE LAYOFFS

The Texas Department of Insurance will have to lay off workers because of the state's budget problems this year, Insurance Commissioner Jose Montemayor said.

The layoffs should not affect legislative proposals to reform the state's insurance market, Montemayor said, although he warned that future budget cuts could force the agency to take more time in meeting some of its goals, such as resolving consumers complaints.

Gov. Rick Perry asked state agencies to try to save $700 million by cutting 7 percent from their budgets.

TDI may have to lay off between 30 to 50 employees, although a final figure was not finalized, Montemayor said.

TRAFFICKING BILL

Rep. Lon Burnam wants to criminalize human trafficking in Texas.

Burnam, D-Fort Worth, said the discovery last summer of a sex slavery ring in Fort Worth and reports of similar clusters in the Rio Grande Valley prompted him to file legislation that would criminalize human trafficking for forced labor in Texas.

In some cases, drug traffickers have switched to trafficking humans because it's more lucrative, Burnam said.

Currently, only a federal anti-trafficking statute exists.

FIGHTING FOR THE MILITARY

Texas is taking a one-for-all approach in its bid to protect its military bases heading into the 2005 base closure round, state lawmakers said as they talked up legislation aimed at helping military communities.

Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, chair of the Senate Committee of Veteran Affairs and Military Installations, said now is the time for lawmakers to get to work because.

This is the last full regular legislative session before the 2005 closure round.

Texas has 18 military installations with a total annual economic impact of $43 billion, representing 225,000 jobs.

One bill before the Legislature would create one state entity as part of the governor's office to address statewide military issues. It also would create other tools for communities, such as a revolving loan fund for cities to help make their military installations more cost efficient.

BUDGET CUTS

The Employees Retirement System, which oversees benefits for current and retired state employees, said one way it could reduce its budget by as much as $40 million is by increasing employee co-payments for medical services and prescriptions.

Other options include requiring new employees to wait 30 days before being eligible for health insurance, cutting benefits for part-time employees in half, ending benefits for members of state boards and commissions and eliminating the State Kids Insurance Program.

That program, known as SKIP, covers children of state employees who would otherwise be eligible for Medicaid because of low incomes.

Lawmakers, who are covered by ERS, would have to pass legislation to implement some of those ideas.

ERS also will see savings because of layoffs at state agencies, executive director Sheila Beckett told members of the House Appropriations Committee.

Committee members also heard from the Texas Cancer Council, which provides screening, treatment and health care training.

A Texas Conservative Coalition task force has recommended that the council be abolished and its services be provided by the private sector, an idea embraced some members, including Rep. Suzanna Hupp, R-Lampass.

Council Chairman James Dannenbaum said some of the programs such as a colon cancer screening program for black Texans are funded by federal grants that private companies would not be eligible for.

STATE WASTE

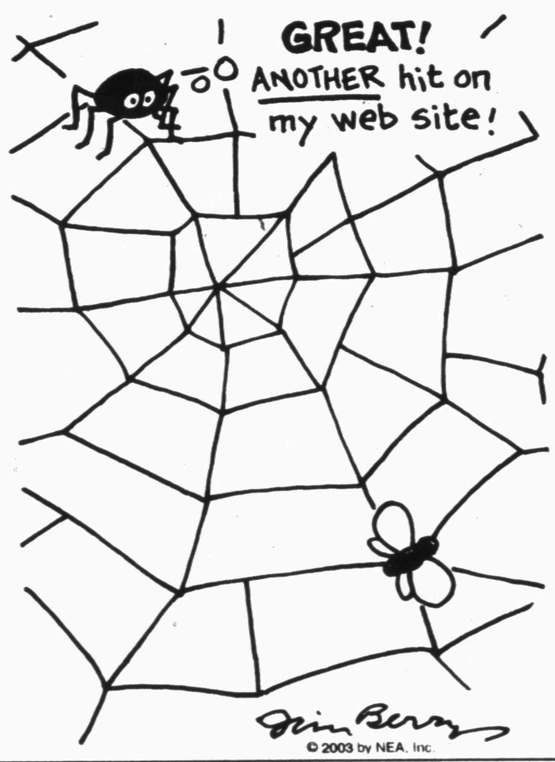
The State Auditor's Office reported to lawmakers that Texas could save as much as $1.8 billion in 2004-05 from preventing waste and fraud in state government.

The amount happens to match the amount of the deficit in the 2002-03 budget. Another $8.1 billion shortfall is projected in the next two fiscal years.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We don't want to be a Russian grocery store: long lines, low prices, no food." — University of Texas System Chancellor Mark Yudof explaining why public universities need the power to set their own tuition rates.

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Snyder Daily News
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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Friday, Feb. 14, 2003

Because you'll be more single-minded when you focus on a goal in the year ahead, several personal ambitions can be fulfilled. Your chances for yielding something from your efforts are likely to be very high.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Rigid self-discipline will be required today if you are to have any hope of being productive. Without proper control you may be kept busy, but your efforts will be for naught.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Your funds have definite limits to their elasticity, so don't attempt to expand your budget in ways that don't stretch. Trim it instead.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Family issues could be disruptive today and occupy a bit of your time. Instead of turning the heat up, remain calm and you should be able to control what's boiling over.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You won't like it if you leave it up to someone else to determine how you should participate in something that is shared. Make fair and equitable rules and see that they're followed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — If you expect more from situations than conditions warrant today, you'll end up feeling deprived. Before you get upset, review things realistically and accept the facts.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Frustration and failure can be avoided today if you make it a point not to ally yourself with an associate who doesn't understand the value of teamwork.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Hunches have their place in directing your actions at times, but today they can't be trusted. If something doesn't compute intellectually, chances are it won't work when you try it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Be careful to whom you go for counsel today. A good friend may be a candidate because she or he is well intentioned, but may not be qualified to play the role of adviser.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Should someone say something today that hurts your feelings, consider the source before getting upset. His or her comments will not have any affect on persons who know you for what you are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Too much idle chatter today could have you saying things you don't actually mean. Think before you speak, choosing your words and topics very carefully, and you'll remain in control.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Be extremely careful about investments at this time, especially if you are dealing in an area in which you are unfamiliar. Your lack of knowledge could prove to be very costly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Should you encounter a fork in the road today, you might find it extremely difficult to make a decision as to which fork to follow. When in doubt, choose the path of least resistance.

Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that are governing you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph year-ahead predictions by mailing $1.25 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167.

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Dad is charged in child's death

BALTIMORE (AP) — A man who set off Maryland's first Amber Alert with a phony tale of an illegal cabdriver abducting his infant daughter has been charged with first-degree murder in the girl's apparent death, police said Wednesday.

Police had questioned Kenneth Jenkins, 20, since Tuesday, when he reported that his 2-month-old daughter, A'Shia Jenkins, was taken after a robbery. He was arrested and charged late Wednesday with first-degree murder, said Officer Troy Harris, a police spokesman.

"We received enough information ... to give us reason to believe the child is dead," Harris said.

The (Baltimore) Sun reported on its Web site Wednesday night that the girl's mother, 19-year-old Lakeisha Ballou, said Jenkins called her early Tuesday and told her he put the baby's body in a trash bin after he found her dead.

The girl's mother said Jenkins told her he found the baby dead when he awoke Tuesday morning. He told her he panicked, wrapped the body in a pink blanket and put it in a cardboard box, according to the report. Police declined to comment on the report.

Authorities spent much of Wednesday searching a landfill for the girl's body. Harris said the search for the infant's body would resume today, but not at the landfill. He would not say where authorities intended to look.

Jenkins initially told police he got into a taxi with A'Shia and her twin sister, but the driver pulled over several blocks later and demanded money at gunpoint. The father told investigators the driver told him to get out, and he was able to escape with one child before the car sped off.

Maryland issued an Amber Alert, relaying information about the case through radio and television broadcasts and electronic highway signs.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Bathroom window reveals more than nieghbors know

DEAR ABBY: My next-door neighbors are nice people, but I'm faced with a problem I don't know how to solve. Their bathroom faces my driveway. They have a coating on their bathroom windowpanes, but it isn't as opaque as they think. There is no other window covering.

Abby, I am greeted nearly every morning with the sight of the man of the house stepping in and out of the shower, sitting on his "throne," etc. I can even tell if he's reading the newspaper.

This morning I went out to my car and could see him through the glass as clear as day. It was hardly a vision of loveliness. Even my friends have witnessed this unforgettable sight. It is embarrassing.

Please print this. I hope my neighbors see this letter and finally put an end to the "show." — **SEEN IT ALL IN MINNEAPOLIS**

DEAR SEEN IT ALL: It's not enough to hope your neighbors read Dear Abby and recognize themselves. If you cannot find the courage to tell them the naked truth face-to-face, mail them a sweet note suggesting either a "cover charge" or another form of window covering. If they don't believe you, invite the wife over so she can see for herself. They need to know they're overexposed.

**

DEAR ABBY: I have single-handedly raised my 16-year-old daughter, "Jenna," for the past nine years. Now she's begging me to let her live with her father and his wife, who live about an hour and a half away. Jenna wants to finish high school there. Over the years, she's visited her father every other weekend and for six weeks during the summers. They spoil her rotten.

Last year, Jenna witnessed her stepmother being handcuffed and taken away in a police car. The charge was forging prescriptions for a controlled substance — her second felony. Although this woman has been clean and sober for six months, prior to that arrest she was an addict for years. Her grown son, his girlfriend and their baby also live in my ex-husband's home.

I am convinced that Jenna should continue living with me and remain in the school where she is enrolled. She's a good student with many friends. Now she is furious with me because I won't give in to the pressure that she and her dad's household are putting on me to allow her to move. (They've promised to buy her a car.)

Am I wrong to hold to my decision against this move because I feel it is not in Jenna's best interest? — **MOTHER KNOWS BEST IN VIRGINIA**

DEAR MOTHER: Stand your ground and follow your instincts. I see no compelling reason why your daughter should be uprooted from an atmosphere in which she is thriving — good grades and good friends — and placed in such a non-traditional household.

While her stepmother's recovery is admirable, and seems to be on its way, there is no guarantee she won't slip. It's not a chance you want to take.

**

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

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To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

GOP strikes deal on $397B spending bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans want to shove a $397.4 billion, government-wide spending package through Congress by week's end, a bill that will be nearly five months late and billions of dollars more costly than President Bush initially demanded.

GOP leaders planned to push the measure through the House today, with the Senate following by week's end. The goal was to clear the decks for new issues like a fresh round of tax cuts and a possible war with Iraq.

"We need to get this package finished before the Presidents' Day recess," House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bill Young, R-Fla., said of lawmakers' weeklong break, which starts Saturday. "If we go beyond that, we start a whole new game."

White House spokeswoman Claire Buchan, accompanying Bush on a trip to Florida today, said the administration welcomes the compromise and the president will sign it into law.

The bill, for the budget year that began Oct. 1, would increase spending over last year for schools, extra border and immigration agents, biomedical research, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and battling AIDS in Africa and elsewhere overseas.

Democrats complained that it would cut spending for land conservation and job training, and shortchange domestic security programs like protecting dams and nuclear power facilities.

It also retained language sought by timber interests allowing the U.S. Forest Service to expand its use of logging companies to manage its lands.

The provision "would effectively allow unlimited clearcutting of forests throughout the United States by commercial logging companies," House Democrats complained in a summary of their objections to the bill.

The measure was expected to win congressional approval.

Engineer at NASA warned about risk if tires were to burst

WASHINGTON (AP) — A NASA safety engineer wrote two days before Columbia's mysterious breakup about risks to the shuttle from "catastrophic" failures caused by tires possibly bursting inside the spacecraft from extreme heat during its fiery descent, the space agency disclosed.

Robert H. Daugherty, responding to an inquiry from Johnson Space Center, cautioned in an e-mail to NASA colleagues that damage to delicate insulating tiles near Columbia's landing gear door could cause one or more tires inside to burst, perhaps ending with catastrophic failures that would place the seven astronauts in a world of hurt."

Such an explosion inside Columbia's belly, Daugherty predicted, could blow out the gear door and expose the shuttle's unprotected innards to searing temperatures as it raced through earth's atmosphere.

NASA spokesman William Jeffs confirmed today that at least one sensor indicated Columbia's left gear was lowered moments before the shuttle broke apart over Texas at 209,000 feet and flying at 18 times the speed of sound — far too high and too fast for that to happen. But Jeffs cautioned that two other sensors at the time indicated the gear was still properly raised.

"We're not certain if the readings showed the landing gear deployed or were the result of a faulty sensor that sent bad data," Jeffs said. "One indicated (the wheel) was down and locked, and that was shortly before radio contact with the orbiter was lost."

On the same day NASA disclosed the contents of Daugherty's e-mail, searchers near Hemphill, Texas, about 140 miles northeast of Houston, recovered what they believed to be one of Columbia's tires. The tire was blackened and sustained a massive split across its tread, but it was impossible from photographs to know whether the tire was damaged aboard Columbia or when it struck the ground.

NASA officials in Washington and Houston today said they could not confirm the tire was the shuttle's, but one person familiar with tires on the orbiter looked at a photograph of the tire found in Texas and said it appeared to be from a shuttle.

In his e-mail, which included remarkably strident language, Daugherty wrote that even if astronauts survived the heat, the blast could damage critical systems inside the wheel compartment, prevent the landing gear on one side from lowering, necessitate a risky belly landing or force the crew to bail out.

Powell to confront critics of war with Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Colin Powell, on the eve of another faceoff at the United Nations over disarming Saddam Hussein, said today the American people should be "prepared for a fairly long-term commitment" in Iraq.

Appearing before the House Budget Committee, Powell said he could furnish no estimate of the cost of any war with Iraq. But he did say he thought that Arab nation should be able to adjust quickly after a war — in contrast to the slow pace of recovery in Afghanistan.

Iraq has an effective bureaucracy, rich oil resources and a developed middle class, Powell said. And he said the United States would aim at removing Saddam and his top aides — and not direct its fire at the civilian population.

Once those goals are achieved, Powell said, the U.S. military leader in such a war would take temporary charge of Iraq. But that person would give way to a prominent American or international figure, whose own term would be limited with an eye toward turning over the government to the Iraqis themselves, the secretary of state said.

"We would try to build as much as we can on the structure that is there," Powell said. "The challenge would be to put in place a representative leadership."

At another hearing, Sen. John Warner, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, asked whether U.S. forces were prepared for a possible war with Iraq while continuing the fight against terrorism.

"Absolutely," replied Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Powell said Wednesday he intends to ask France and Germany whether they are opposing war with Iraq in order to get Saddam "off the hook."

His confrontation with officials of those two countries is set for Friday in New York. That's when chief U.N. weapons inspectors Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei report on searches that have not turned up what the Bush administration has characterized as hundreds of concealed and illicit biological and chemical weapons.

U.S. and Russian officials on Wednesday said international missile experts this week did find that an Iraqi missile exceeds the maximum 93-mile range allowed under U.N. resolutions. U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte said it was now up to Blix to recommend what to do about the violation.

In addition, Turkey's foreign minister, Yasar Yakis, was holding talks in Washington on basing American troops in Turkey for use against Iraq.

Bush rallying the troops and pitching tax cuts in Florida

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — President Bush defended his call for $1.3 trillion in tax cuts today, traveling to Florida to argue that the proposal is just the kind of push the struggling economy needs.

During a forum with small business owners on the shop floor of a family-operated commercial printing shop here, Bush said, "We need a little further wind at the back of this economy."

Democrats who oppose the tax cuts have seized upon statements Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan made earlier this week warning against such a move. Greenspan told Congress that Bush's proposal would swell the budget deficit and said he didn't think the economy needs further stimulus.

As part of an aggressive counteroffensive, the White House departed from usual procedure and completely opened to reporters Bush's remarks to the round-table and exchanges with its hand-picked participants. The panelists were cited as examples of entrepreneurs who would see tax reductions under his plan.

"This is a realistic plan. It is a hopeful plan. It is a plan based upon sound principle. It is a plan which will work," Bush said. "But there are some who haven't gotten the message yet and they need to hear from you."

He also modified his argument slightly. Although Bush originally billed the plan as aimed almost entirely at stimulating the economy, he declared today it also would provide badly needed reform to the tangled federal tax code.

"It really would make the tax code more fair," Bush said.

His trip to the state where his brother, Jeb Bush, is governor, had a dual purpose: promoting economic policy and preparing the country for possible war with Iraq.

Later today, the president was traveling to a pier at the nearby Mayport Naval Station to rally troops who may be called to serve there.

Bush's aides set up an appearance in which the president was to be surrounded by a sea of blue-clad sailors.

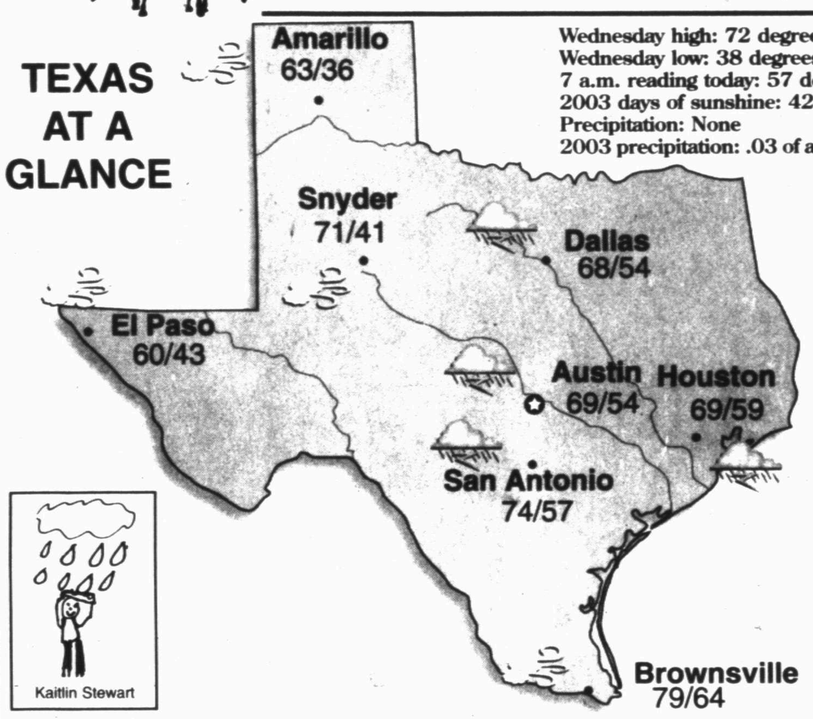
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Fri 2/14	Sat 2/15	Sun 2/16
71/41	50/30	57/30
Showers early then scattered thunderstorms developing later in the day.	Windy with times of sun and clouds.	Cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise 7:28 AM Sunset 6:28 PM	Sunrise 7:27 AM Sunset 6:29 PM	Sunrise 7:26 AM Sunset 6:30 PM

WEST TEXAS STATE BANK
1901 26th Street • 573-5441
FDIC

TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Wednesday high: 72 degrees
Wednesday low: 38 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 57 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 42 of 44
Precipitation: None
2003 precipitation: .03 of an inch

Kaitlin Stewart

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	73	48	windy	El Paso	60	43	windy	Midland	74	46	windy
Amarillo	63	36	windy	Fort Stockton	71	46	windy	Raymondville	79	58	windy
Austin	69	54	t-storm	Gainesville	65	46	t-storm	Rosenberg	69	58	t-storm
Beaumont	68	57	rain	Greenville	64	48	t-storm	San Antonio	74	57	t-storm
Brownsville	79	64	windy	Houston	69	59	t-storm	San Marcos	70	55	t-storm
Brownwood	74	49	t-storm	Kingsville	77	59	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	65	51	t-storm
Corpus Christi	73	60	pt sunny	Livingston	68	55	t-storm	Sweetwater	74	45	windy
Corsicana	67	53	t-storm	Longview	67	56	t-storm	Tyler	68	58	t-storm
Dallas	68	54	t-storm	Lubbock	69	40	windy	Weatherford	70	47	t-storm
Del Rio	78	57	pt sunny	Lufkin	68	61	t-storm	Wichita Falls	75	46	windy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	55	51	rain	Houston	69	59	t-storm	Phoenix	65	52	t-storm
Boston	20	11	mst sunny	Los Angeles	65	50	pt sunny	San Francisco	58	49	pt sunny
Chicago	32	24	sn shower	Miami	78	68	pt sunny	Seattle	51	42	rain
Dallas	68	54	t-storm	Minneapolis	25	7	flurries	St. Louis	49	38	rain
Denver	54	29	cloudy	New York	29	22	pt sunny	Washington, DC	39	32	cloudy

Moon Phases

First	Full	Last	New
Feb 9	Feb 16	Feb 23	Mar 3

UV Index

Fri 2/14	Sat 2/15	Sun 2/16
5	5	5
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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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Obituaries

JoAnne Ritchie

1944-2003

JoAnne Eades Ritchie, 58, of Snyder died Wednesday, Feb. 12, in the Dialysis Center in Lubbock after a sudden illness.


JoAnne Ritchie

Service for Mrs. Ritchie is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in the First Baptist Church Chapel with the Rev. Mike Henson, pastor, officiating. Burial will follow in the Snyder Cemetery.

Born on Dec. 5, 1944 in Snyder, she married J. Harland Ritchie on May 12, 1972 in Snyder. He died July 7, 1996.

She was a homemaker and a member of the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include her mother, Ruth Eades of Snyder; a daughter, Jane Kirby of Dallas; a son, Michael Robert Kirby Jr. and his wife Becky of Commerce; five grandchildren, Mike and Kyle Kirby of Commerce, and Zina, Alfinsa and Eliana Brewer of Commerce.

Family visitation will be from 6:30-7:30 Friday evening at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Personal, Professional Service
BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME
3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Man arrested for PI in Snyder

•Arrest

A woman in the 300 block of 25th Street reported at 2:12 a.m. today that her husband was talking to a man on their front porch who claimed to be a relative, but she advised he was not.

Officers responded to the residence and took the 31-year-old man into custody for public intoxication.

•Theft

Terry Rumpff, a representative of Southwestern Bell Communications, reported a pay phone missing from Cogdell Hospital.

•Criminal trespass

Officers issued two criminal trespass warnings to two women Wednesday afternoon ordering them to stay away from United Supermarkets.

At 1:50 p.m. Wednesday, a woman was issued a trespass warning for two residences in town after it was reported that she attempted to interfere with child custody proceedings.

•Juvenile

A woman in the 3800 block of 23rd Street reported a teenage girl walking down the street with a knife and cutting herself on the arm. An officer located the juvenile and transported her to meet with MHMR representatives.

Museum planning Hispanic display

The Scurry County Museum is seeking Hispanic business owners in the area. The museum is working on an exhibit addressing the Hispanic workforce in West Texas.

Businesses owned by Hispanics will be featured in one section of the south gallery.

A museum staff member will come to the business in order to take a photograph of the building and its owner. The developed pictures will be displayed in the business section of the exhibit.

For this to happen, the owner needs to contact the museum at 915-573-6107 or 915-573-8511, ext. 210 in order to set up a time for photographs.

The exhibit is scheduled to open on March 2. For more information, call the museum from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

WCFH
Independently Owned & Operated
WRIGHT COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME
200 East 37th Street
Snyder, Texas
915-573-6200

FEB 13 2003

2912 College
Snyder

DAVIDSON'S IGA SUPERMARKETS

2015 Lamar
Sweetwater

2 DAY BLOW-OUT SALE

Prices Good Friday, Feb. 14 and Sat., Feb 15, 2003

Roma - Red Ripe
Tomatoes



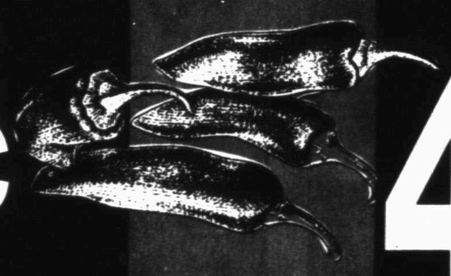
2 Lbs. For $1

USDA Choice - Boneless
Arm Roast



Family Pack
1.49 Lb.

Fresh & Crisp
Jalapeno Peppers



49¢ Lb.

Q&Q Vermicelli

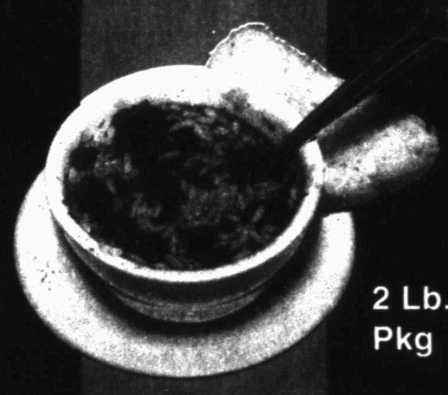
4 5 Oz. Boxes For 88¢

USDA CHOICE BEEF



Boneless - Texas Style
Family Pack
Beef Ribs
1.59 Lb.

Casserole
Pinto Beans



4 2 Lb. Pkgs. For $5

IGA Long Grain Rice

2 Lb. Pkg 79¢



Spam
Regular Only
12 Oz. Cans
1.79

Minute Maid - Refrigerated
Orange Juice
Select Varieties
Half Gallon Ctn.
1.89

Best Yet
Homestyle or Buttermilk
Biscuits
6 10 Ct. Pkg. Cans For $1

Best Yet
Potted Meat
4 3 Oz. Cans For $1

Exceptional Value
Tea Bags
100 ct.
89¢

Quaker
Masa Harina Preparada
8 Lb. Bag
4.39

Imperial
Sugar
25 Lb.
8.99