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WEEKEND

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
Begins 2 a.m., April 4

WT-Int. Crude - $34.39
WTIC Posted - $31.00
Natural Gas - $5.76

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND

April 3-4, 2004
Vol. 55 No. 291
50 Pages $1.00

Home of Bill Terry

Counties opposed to tax limit proposal

By Jeff West
SDN Staff Writer

West Texas county officials, including several from Scurry County, met in Midland recently to learn and voice concern about a proposal by Gov. Rick Perry to place a limit on local property tax hikes.

The elected officials gathered at the West Texas Judges and Commissioners Conference March 24 to develop a plan to oppose a proposal from Perry that would limit the amount of property tax and property valuation increase to no more than three percent a year.

"This started as a plan to help school districts, but no one at the conference could see how it would help schools," said Rod Waller, Scurry County judge.

"It could actually end up crippling counties, however," added Precinct 4 Commissioner Chloanne Lindsey, who also attended the meeting.

Judge Waller noted that the county already has to hold a public hearing if it intends to raise taxes by three percent or more. Any raise over eight percent introduces the possibility of a roll-back election.

According to a letter from the governor's office, the purpose of the proposed limits is to provide Texans some property tax relief and to "protect them against unnecessary tax increases in the future."

Judge Waller said that while no one likes tax increases, having the state dictate rates may not be the best way to go.

"The proposal seems to suggest the state has been more conservative than the counties in their spending," he said. "The state mandates the things the counties must pay for and then gives us a list of what we can spend money for. They have also provided us with a number of unfunded mandates, programs it requires us to provide but doesn't give us money to fund."

Waller said the governor's proposal promises to not have any more such mandates but doesn't give relief for the programs already in place.

"It's supposed to be a good program, but it can't be a good program if it bankrupts the counties and the state," said Lindsey.

The judge said that according to information provided at the conference, if the plan had been in effect from 1998-2002 the county would have lost more than $811,000 in revenue.

"If the plan goes into effect we will have to cut some programs, many of which affect the quality of life for our residents," he said. "The library, senior citizen programs even the hospital could be affected."

"People need to ask themselves what are we going to cut out," Lindsey said.

Scurry County did not raise the tax rate for the current year but property valuations rose 7.9 percent increasing the amount the county collects.

"Just keeping up the county roads takes a lot of resources," Waller said.

Lindsey said that 100 percent of the people she spoke with at the conference opposed the measure and felt the counties, cities and other taxing entities, including the schools, would oppose it as well.

"This seems like just more of the state telling us what we can spend our money on," Waller said.

The Texas Municipal League also has voiced opposition on the proposed taxing limits.

SDN COLUMN
By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "A prudent person never makes a purchase of anything with a handle on it. Such items require work."

Employees, it seems, are becoming more and more creative about reasons for being somewhere other than on the job.

Everybody has seen the bumper stickers that read: "I had rather be fishing... or golfing... or flying.... or whatever.

The chairman of Accountemps and author of a book titled "Motivating Employees for Dummies, said some excuses for missing work range from strange to elaborate in detail.

Here are some examples:

—I just got a new tattoo and need a few days to recover.

—I know I have been off eight times for the death of a grandparent, but I have an extended family.

—I need time to find myself.

—I plan to spend the time in de-stressing.

—I need the day off because it's suppose to have weather.

—My cat has hairballs.

—The pool is broken.

—I have plastic surgery scheduled.

—I'm going to jail.

—The garage door is broken.

—They are going to repossess my car and I have no way to get to work.

—I need three weeks off to see Europe – starting tomorrow.

—I'm taking three days off to sing in the opera.

—I've entered a kick-boxing contest.

—Our church is going on a bus trip to Vegas.

—My partner and I need to practice for the square dance contest.

—I need a few days off to start my own business.

—I need to consult a labor lawyer about my overtime pay.

—I'll be out of the office this afternoon on a job interview.

—I need a leave of absence to try another job. But if it doesn't work out, I'll be back.

—The dog needs a trim.

—I just want to find out what a four-day work week is like.

—I need to record my soap opera and I think my VCR may not be working correctly.

—I have a one-hour appointment at the day spa, so I won't be back 'til Monday.

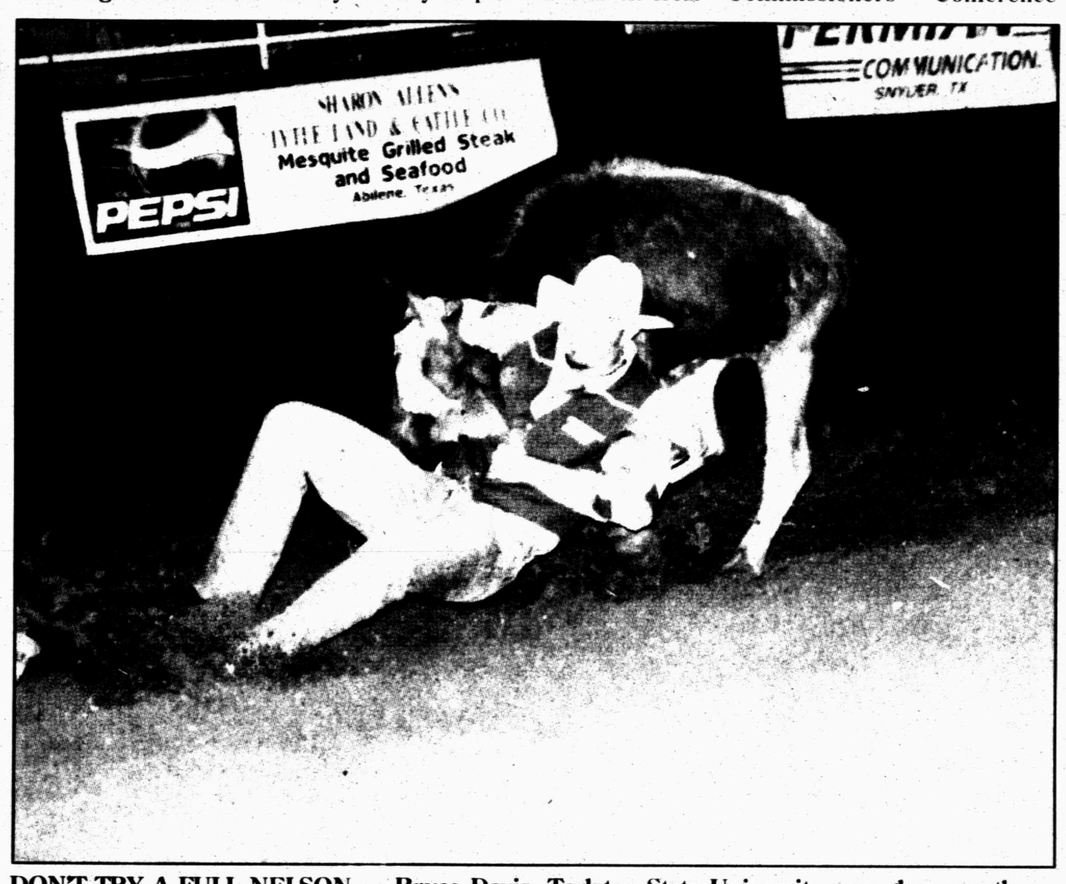
—There's a party tonight and I won't feel like working tomorrow.

—My wife and I want to try and have a baby.

We like the story about the boss who gave his staff a pep talk about doing more than just showing up for work — being enthusiastic in every task.

One joker was two hours late the next morning and the boss demanded an explanation.

"Let me explain," the employee said. " I jumped out of bed with enthusiasm, sang enthusiastically in the shower, enthusiastically ate breakfast and then gave my wife an enthusiastic goodbye kiss — and well, that's why I'm late.



DON'T TRY A FULL NELSON — Bryce Davis, Tarleton State University wrangler, wrestles a steer during the Western Texas College rodeo Friday night. The three-day rodeo was to wrap up with Saturday with Saturday's final performance at the Scurry County Coliseum. (SDN Staff Photo by Jeff West)

Commissioners court seeks way to collect delinquent fees

Scurry County commissioners court Monday will hear a proposal to help the peace justice court, county court and district court collect delinquent fines and fees.

The court also will discuss security measures and systems at the various facilities owned by Scurry County. One proposal was presented last month, but no action was taken.

Representatives of Ira and Dunn water system will attend the meeting to request assistance from the county in making application for a grant to replace and repair various water lines in the system.

Commissioners will also consider a resolution to oppose a proposal from Texas Gov. Rick Perry to cap any increase in property tax or valuation at three percent.

A tract of land donated last year to the Department of Public Safety for a new office in Snyder also is on the agenda for Monday's 10 a.m. meeting.

Regional DPS officials are scheduled to attend, but the agenda makes an allowance so that the meeting could be recessed and then reconvened at the DPS building to discuss the two-acre tract located at 37th and Ave. L.

Also on the agenda are line-item transfers and budget amendments.

Evaluation is lone agenda item Friday

Snyder city council met for five hours and 15 minutes Friday night discussing forms returned from about half of the city employees concerning the evaluation of City Manager John Gayle.

As expected, no action was taken following the closed session.

The city manager's evaluation is again on Monday night's regular council agenda, as well as being a possible action item.

The council has now held three evaluation sessions.

Francene Noah presided and council members present were David Harrell, Vernest Tippens, Ron Shaw and Terry Martin.

College, 42nd St. intersection closed to traffic Monday

The Texas Department of Transportation announced, weather permitting, that the intersecuon of 42nd Street at College Avenue will be closed to traffic Monday due to road construction.

Suggested alternate routes are to turn on or off of College Avenue are 40th Street and 43rd Streets.

Community invited to week-long services

Holy Week services begin Monday in Snyder with noon services through Thursday at First Presbyterian Church, and a Friday morning breakfast at First United Methodist Church.



The Ministerial Alliance of Scurry County sponsors Holy Week services and invites everyone to attend.

Noon worship services will be followed by a meal during the week at 12:30.

"This is our opportunity to show our oneness in Christ during the week leading to His death and resurrection. An outstanding group of speakers will bring the message. Please join us," said Rev. Fane Downs of First Presbyterian Church.

On Monday, Rev. Downs will bring the message with the meal provided by First Presbyterian Church.

On Tuesday, Dr. Tommy Culwell, pastor of Colonial Hill Baptist Church, will speak and the lunch will be provided by members of his church.

Wednesday's message will be brought by Tony Wofford of Word is Life Deliverance Church and the meal provided joinly by his congregation and St. Elizabeth Catholic Church.

On Thursday, Jim Hill of First Christian Church will preach and the meal provided by members of his congregation and Faith in Action Church.

Friday's meeting will change to early morning with Buddy Payne of First United Methodist Church preaching and the 7 a.m. breakfast provided by FUMC members.

Scurry County Rainfall Reports

Snyder	.12
North of city	Trace
East of city	1.1
West of city	Trace
Lake Thomas	None
Hermleigh	2.00
NE of Hermleigh	1.30
Ennis Creek	.20
Fluvanna	Trace
Loyd Mountain	.65
Camp Springs	.40
Dunn	Trace
Ira	.10
Dermott	.16
Union	Sprinkle
Gail	1.2
Polar	Trace

Totals as reported by area residents for Friday and early Saturday.

Early voting starts Monday in GOP runoff

Voters across the state head back to the polls starting Monday to decide run-offs, although only one of those contests comes before Scurry County voters.

Early voting for the Republican nomination for Texas Railroad Commissioner is between incumbent Victor Carrillo and Robert Butler. Early voting continues through Thursday in the county clerk's office from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Election day is April 13. A small turnout is expected as only 13 percent of eligible voters cast ballots in the March primary.

Persons eligible to vote in the GOP runoff is anyone who did not vote in the Democratic primary.

Hydrant flushing next week may result in temporary muddy water

All fire hydrants west of College Avenue and north of 37th Street will be flushed starting Wednesday, and Snyder fire department officials wanted residents to be alerted because of possible water discoloring.

Fire Chief Perry Westmoreland said that the flushing process on some 112 hydrants could result in muddy water temporarily.

"Citizens may want to check the color of their water before washing a load of clothes," Westmoreland said.

The flushing process is an annual event, but Westmoreland said the discoloring of water may not be as severe as in years past since many of the lines have been replaced with PVC pipe.

Westmoreland said that some areas east of College Avenue between the water plant and the west part of Snyder also could be affected.

The new pipe is a result of water line main replacements the past several years.

The fire chief said it would take from 12 to 24 hours for the water to clear up after hydrants are flushed.

Choir concert set for Sunday

Snyder High School choir department will present its annual pre-contest concert at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Worsham Auditorium.

Four choirs will perform — including a cappella, a cappella men combined with men's chorale, a cappella women and freshman women and varsity woman combined.

The UIL contest is set for Wednesday at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview. Ronda Haire is the director.

ASK US

Q–Can a straw vote be taken by a governmental body in closed session?

A–The law requires that all votes be taken in open session.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Nila Harrell

...has lived in Snyder for 12 years. She and husband, David, have two children. Son Lucas is age 7 and daughter Ellis is age 5. Nila now owns "The Embroidery Shop" and spend her spare time gardening, collecting pigs and decorating.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

I like dreams of the future better than history of the past.
—Thomas Jefferson

APR 04 2004

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Building fund garage sale

The Church of God is having a building fund garage sale until 5 p.m. Saturday at 1411 College Ave. Burritos also will be on sale.

Crusade with Clark Bosher

Calvary Baptist Church will host a crusade with Clark Bosher, motivational speaker and evangelist, Sunday through Wednesday. Service times are 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Monday is a youth emphasis service and a free "Pizza Blast" will follow. The church is located at 2405 35th St.

Noah's Ark

Noah's Ark, 18th and Ave. R, will have Holy Week services at 6 p.m. Sunday and at 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. An Easter Sunrise service will be held at 6 a.m. next Sunday.

Grand jury

Scurry County grand jury is expected to consider eight felony cases when it convenes at 9 a.m. Monday in 132nd District Court.

Football booster club

The Snyder Tiger football booster club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the China Dragon.

VFW auxiliary to meet

The VFW Auxiliary Post 8231 will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the post home. Nominations for officers will be made.

Hermleigh Masonic Lodge

The Hermleigh Masonic Lodge will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday with a meal to follow. All Master Masons are invited.

Hermleigh Cemetery Association

The Hermleigh Cemetery Association will meet at 6 p.m. Monday in the Hermleigh Community Center. Everyone is invited.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "the New Heaven and Earth," followed by "the Mission of the Church."

Doodlebug Writers

The Doodlebug Writers Fellowship will meet from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Tuesday in the Golden Terrace community room. Visitors are welcome.

AA meeting

An AA meeting is held at noon every Tuesday and Friday at the Witherspoon house next door to the First Presbyterian Church. The meeting is non-smoking and closed. For more information, call 574-2656, or 207-1325.

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.

What's up guidelines

Items for What's Up will be published twice at no charge, the day before and the day of the event. Events or activities requiring additional publicity will be referred to the advertising department where a special non-profit rate is available.

Another Booth For Cowboys and Cowgirls

Halters, Leather Bridles and Reins, etc.

Pioneer Furniture

2310 College Ave. 573-9834

SJHS choir students receive top awards at UIL contests

Snyder Junior High School choir students wowed the judges at the March 24 UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest hosted by Wayland Baptist University in Plainview.

The boys choir captured sweepstakes after garnering a first division rating in both concert and sight-reading. Marci Dennis, choir director, said all six judges gave the boys a first division rating.

Only three of 30 choirs won sweepstakes. Also Snyder had the only boys choir that won sweepstakes.

The girls' choir received a first division rating in concert and a second division rating in sight-reading.

Dennis said only seven of 30 choirs received the first division rating.



GIRLS CHOIR — Members of the girls choir include top row from left, Tiffany Carrisalez, Kristina Chandler, Alison Cox, Devin Davidson, Kirstie Davis, Jordan Derryberry and Mayra Estrada; third row, Mari-Robyn Gault, Laura Gutierrez, Brandee Harbin, Brittany Hernandez, Cassie Hernandez, Whitney Jenkins and Audrey Jones; second row, Amanda Martinez, Adrienne Meek, Kristin Miller, Cayelea Rhodes and Crystal Rodriguez; bottom row, Raquel Ruiz, Kelby Seale, Allison Sharrock, Alix Urias, Megan Velasquez and Shayla Wilson. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)



BOYS CHOIR — Members of the boys choir include top row from left, Daniel Boyd, Jared Cave, Taylor Davidson and Zane Green; third row, Joseph Hefner, Corey Jaramillo and Allen Jones; second row, Preston Munson, Tyler Porter, Craig Robertson and Luke Robertson; bottom row, Jonathan Speegle, Davis Strayhorn and Loren Toombs. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Witnesses focus on bomber McVeigh's activities

McALESTER, Okla. (AP) — Witnesses in the state murder trial of Terry Nichols provided a glimpse Friday of the activities of executed Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh in the days, weeks and months leading up to the deadly explosion.

Prosecutors seeking the death penalty against Nichols allege he and McVeigh worked together to gather components for the homemade bomb that destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building April 19, 1995.

A federal jury convicted McVeigh on murder charges; he was executed in 2001. Nichols, 49, is serving a federal life in prison term for the involuntary manslaughter of eight federal agents and conspiracy.

Nichols is charged by the state with 161 counts of first-degree murder for the bombing.

While much of Friday's testimony focused on McVeigh, a former police officer in Grandview Plaza, Kan., said he issued a ticket to Nichols on Jan. 20, 1995, for a burned-out headlight.

Randall McGough testified that Nichols listed his address as the same Junction City, Kan., motel room McVeigh had checked into the day before.

Thomas Manning, a Junction City tire dealer, testified he sold McVeigh the dilapidated car the former Army soldier was driving when he was arrested after the bombing. He said McVeigh disappeared for 15 or 20 minutes while he finished the paperwork.

Prosecutors allege McVeigh used the time to walk to a nearby bus depot to reserve the Ryder truck used to deliver the massive bomb that destroyed the federal building, resulting in 168 deaths.

Evidence already presented at the trial showed a series of telephone calls were made from the bus depot a few days before the bombing using a prepaid debit card that has been linked to one of Nichols' alleged aliases.

events

TEXAS LOTTERY RESULTS

Friday's Lottery Numbers
Mega Millions

ATLANTA (AP) — Here are the winning numbers selected Friday in the Mega Millions lottery:

8-17-25-46-47
Bonus Ball: 13

Texas winners:

5 White balls + Gold Mega Ball: 0, Prize: $75 million.

5 White Balls: 0, Prize: $175,000.

4 White Balls + Gold Mega Ball: 4, Prize: $5,000.

4 White Balls: 165, Prize: $150.

3 White Balls + Gold Mega Ball: 175, Prize: $150.

2 White Balls + Gold Mega Ball: 2,885, Prize: $10.

3 White Balls: 8,829, Prize: $7.

1 White Ball + Gold Mega Ball: 17,021, Prize: $3.

Mega Ball: 30,816, Prize: $2.

Texas Two Step

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

Winning numbers drawn: 26-16-11-21. Bonus Ball: 11.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Prize: $475,000.

Number matching four of four: 9. Prize: $1,425.

Number matching three of four, plus Bonus Ball: 45. Prize: $35.

Number matching three of four: 1,128. Prize: $19.

Number matching two of four, plus Bonus Ball: 890. Prize: $16.

Number matching one of four, plus Bonus Ball: 5,385. Prize: $7.

Number matching Bonus Ball alone: 8,953. Prize: $5.

Estimated jackpot for Friday night drawing: $375,000.

Cash Five

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

Winning numbers drawn: 34-25-4-37-31

Number matching five of five: 1.

Prize per winner: $48,382.

Matching four of five: 142. Prize: $154.

Matching three of five: 4,661. Prize: $11.

Matching two of five: 46,946. Prize: $2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Saturday night.

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

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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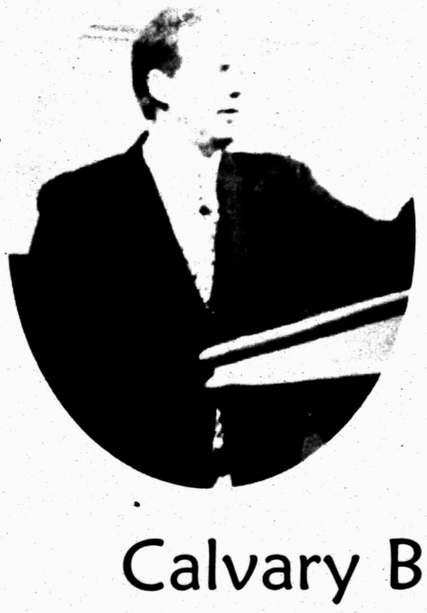
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Calvary Baptist Church
presents



Evangelist
Clark Bosher
April 4th - 7th

SERVICE TIMES:
Sunday - 10:50 am/6:00 pm
Monday-Wednesday
7:00 pm Nightly

Calvary Baptist Church
2405 35th Street 573-2191

Youth Rally 2004
W/Barefoot Worship & Clark Bosher

Live at Calvary Baptist Church
Monday, April 5th @ 7:00 pm
2405 35th Street 573-2191

DOOR PRIZES!
FREE PIZZA!

Local/New

Accou kidna discre

MADISON, Police accused a of faking her ow Friday, saying knife in the ma was found to ma had been kidnap

"We don't thi occurred at all," spokesman Larr

University of omore Audrey found cold and otherwise unha day in a marsh, she disappeared she had been outside her apar miles away, b video showed he the apartment sweats.

Investigators videotape from showing Seiler duct tape, rope cine that she cla tor used to restr

Assistant Poli Wray said Seile puter to search information a parks and the ex forecast. In ad evidence indicat used the comp four days she w at least two witn had seen her w the city during t

Wray declined Seiler's motivati state; he said it say whether charges. Autho to construct a movements, h County District Blanchard decli

Seiler also re plained attack in telling police s her from behin her unconscious

Police estima intensive ma exceed $70,000 Conklin, a spe Mayor David Ci

Earlier Friday that Seiler cha about what hap she left her apa because she wa and was kidnap with a knife els son.

Detectives co apart Seiler's hours later, Wr press conferenc didn't believe he

Police said Se ily were in an u tion in Madison. reported Frid Audrey Seiler atric facility.

Calvert March

Mrs. C.M. Cal is the March year's subscripti Daily News.

Each month a from those who or renewed for more.

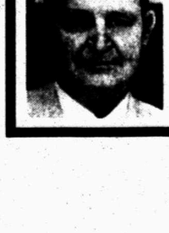
Sign up school t

Students who the Snyder Inde District but wis Snyder public sc 2004-2005 schoo plete application any time during April.

The office wil a.m. to 4 p.m. we

GUARA ANNU

Call 57 For R



Account of kidnapping discredited

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Police accused a college student of faking her own disappearance Friday, saying she planted a knife in the marsh where she was found to make it appear she had been kidnapped.

"We don't think an abduction occurred at all," Madison police spokesman Larry Kamholz said.

University of Wisconsin sophomore Audrey Seiler, 20, was found cold and dehydrated but otherwise unharmed Wednesday in a marsh, four days after she disappeared. She told police she had been abducted from outside her apartment about two miles away, but surveillance video showed her walking out of the apartment wearing only sweats.

Investigators also obtained a videotape from weeks earlier showing Seiler buying the knife, duct tape, rope and cold medicine that she claimed her abductor used to restrain her.

Assistant Police Chief Noble Wray said Seiler used her computer to search Web sites for information about Madison parks and the extended weather forecast. In addition, he said, evidence indicated someone had used the computer during the four days she was missing, and at least two witnesses said they had seen her walking freely in the city during that time.

Wray declined to speculate on Seiler's motivation or her mental state; he said it was too soon to say whether she could face charges. Authorities are trying to construct a timeline of her movements, he said. Dane County District Attorney Brian Blanchard declined to comment.

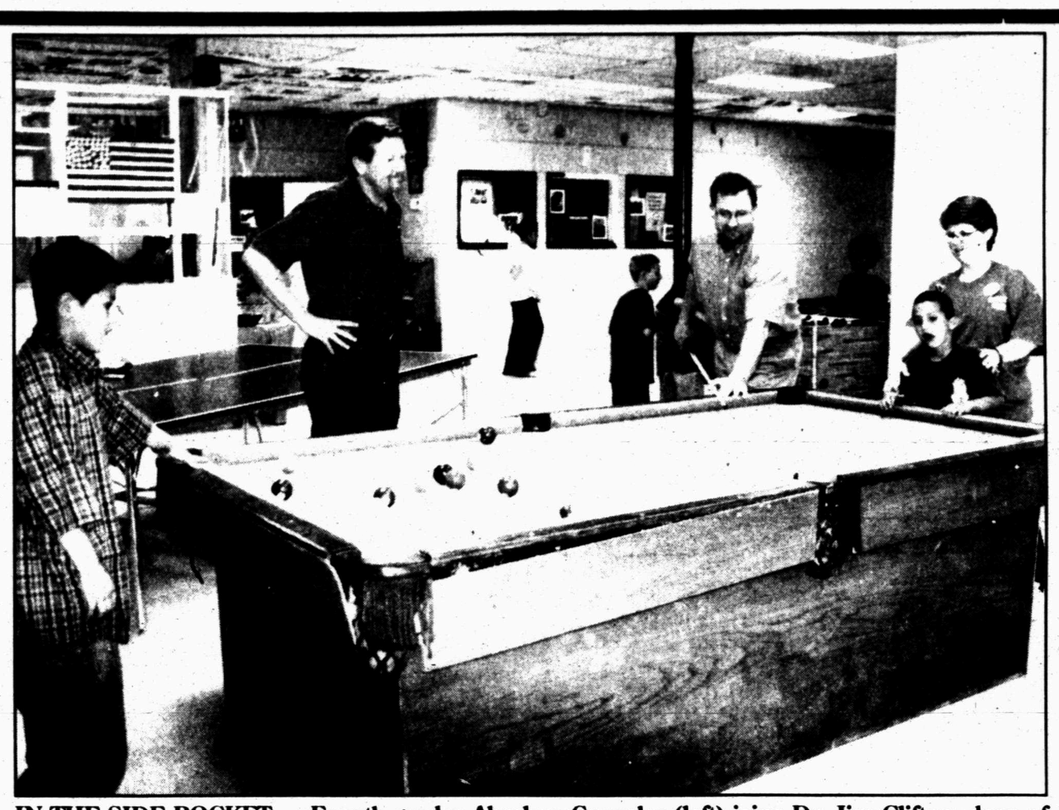
Seiler also reported an unexplained attack in early February, telling police someone struck her from behind and knocked her unconscious.

Police estimated costs for the intensive manhunt would exceed $70,000, said Melanie Conklin, a spokeswoman for Mayor David Cieslewicz.

Earlier Friday, Wray disclosed that Seiler changed her story about what happened. She said she left her apartment building because she wanted to be alone and was kidnapped by a man with a knife elsewhere in Madison.

Detectives continued to pick apart Seiler's story, and two hours later, Wray held another press conference to say police didn't believe her.

Police said Seiler and her family were in an undisclosed location in Madison. "Dateline NBC" reported Friday night that Audrey Seiler was in a psychiatric facility.



IN THE SIDE POCKET — Fourth-grader Abrahan Gonzalez (left) joins Dr. Jim Clifton, dean of student services at Western Texas College, first grader Michael Morin and Vicky Rowland, WTC admission director, (right) in watching Sy Tabor, treasurer of the Snyder Boys and Girls Club, sink a ball during the recent open house at the club. (SDN Staff Photo)

Marshals turn office space into SWAT survival course

DALLAS (AP) — His machine gun perched between two taps of Black Dog Ale, a drug dealer waits behind the bar of a dimly lit tavern for the SWAT team to arrive.

As soon as their shadows brush the pool table, he starts firing.

"Police!" an officer yells, but the suspect has already vanished through a door behind the bar.

SWAT team members in gas masks and combat boots charge past the pinball machine and through the door as the juke box jams Aerosmith's "Walk This Way." After a blitz of bullets, the suspect, cornered under a store room table, surrenders.

"Like a baby," mutters 40-year-old Cpl. Jimmy Lee, lowering his gun. "He had his thumb in his mouth asking for mama."

The officers from the Dallas suburb of Farmers Branch lift off their masks and burst into laughter as the drug dealer, played by patrolman Branden Adams, offers congratulations. They've survived another raid in one of country's most challenging training venues: the downtown Earl Cabell Federal Building.

On the 18th and 19th floors of the Dallas high-rise that houses federal courts and offices, the U.S. Marshals Service has built a survival course — complete with a bar, laundry mat, abandoned warehouse and a full-scale crack house spiked with paper hostages and gun-toting bad guys. Since 2001, the course has drawn about 1,300 officers from 70 agencies around the world.

In any given month, officers from agencies as varied as Farmers Branch, the Turkish National Police or the Secret Service test themselves in the 11,000-square foot center, which is about the size of a chain drugstore.

They practice arresting drug dealers, rescuing hostages and investigating crime scenes. Their simulator guns are loaded with paint bullets, which sting but don't injure. There's nothing quite like it in the country.

For most agencies, this sort of practice happens in abandoned houses, apartment buildings or motels that become less challenging as officers become familiar with them.

But at the Marshals' course, walls on wheels and doors painted the same color as the walls allow trainers to create a variety of scenarios and settings.

Forty-four mounted surveillance cameras allow teams to review their performances later. An interactive reality program with movie theater surround-sound works like a video game to let officers practice shooting, negotiating and other challenges.

Secret Service agent Shane Zidermanis said the course isn't as big as the mock towns at the FBI academy or Camp Pendleton Marine base in California, but it's more versatile.

"It's really hard to find a place like this," said the 35-year-old agent based in Dallas. "This place you can move walls so you can make your own layout. In fixed buildings, it's hard to change things up."

Pat Smith, a 23-year law enforcement veteran and acting supervisory special agent for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, said the ability to change floor plans provides realistic training. That's crucial for his team, which specializes in high-risk narcotics searches and arrests.

"In the space of five minutes I've got a scenario running, and five minutes later we're debriefing it and on to the next one," Smith said. "They've done quite a job."

At a time when the economy forces law enforcement agencies to scale back on training while security demands rise, the course is an asset to smaller departments.

"In a small city like ours, without this, we may have to go a long time without a place to train," said Farmers Branch Lt. Darran Dyer, 37.

His SWAT team used to train in abandoned houses. They pointed empty guns and pretended to shoot each other because they couldn't afford the paint bullets that the Marshals facility provides free. Training in neighborhoods sometimes alarmed residents, and pretend shooting didn't present a real challenge.

"When you're not getting shot at, you get lazy, you get lax," Lee said. "When it hurts to get hit, you practice more realistically."

Iraqis in Houston to receive prostheses

HOUSTON (AP) — Six Iraqis whose right hands were severed as part of a campaign by Saddam Hussein to blame small businessmen for Iraq's collapsing economy are to receive prostheses in Houston this month.

"Besides having our hands amputated, we were scarred on our foreheads, between our eyebrows," said one of the men, Ala'a Abdul Hassein, noting a cross-like tattoo carved between his eyes and the eyes of the other Islamic men. "The regime wanted us to be psychologically scarred forever."

When their right hands were surgically removed seven years ago, a videotape was made by Saddam's secret police to prove to the dictator that his orders had been followed. It was that tape that helped set in motion the Houston trip.

Video producer and former television correspondent Don North saw the tape in Baghdad last spring, and over several months not only convinced the Iraqis to tell their story, but worked to pull together the help needed to get the men to America.

Texas Medical Center institutions in Houston offered to provide medical and rehabilitative care. Dr. Joseph Agris, who is associated with both the Texas Medical Center and Baylor College of Medicine, has volunteered to perform much of the medical work, including removing the crosses from the men's foreheads.

Marvin Zindler of KTRK-TV Channel 13 used his contacts to find a Houston company that will donate the most modern prosthetic hands so far developed.

After the fall of Baghdad to American troops, North took a job with a U.S. contractor trying to build an American-style media system in Iraq. One of the Iraqi journalists North hired knew of the Iraqi who had taped the mutilations and secretly kept a copy.

"I was amazed and shocked by the tape," said North, who runs a documentary production company in northern Virginia.

Holy Week services set for Catholics

Catholic churches in Scurry County have announced Holy Week activities.

St. John Catholic Church in Hermleigh will observe Palm Sunday at 7:30 a.m. while Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Elizabeth will each observe Blessings of the Palms — Lady of Guadalupe at 9 a.m. and St. Elizabeth at 10 a.m.

On Thursday, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper will be held — St. John at 5 p.m., Lady of Guadalupe at 6:30 p.m. and St. Elizabeth at 8 p.m.

Good Friday will be Celebration of the Lord's Passion — St. John at 5 p.m., Guadalupe at 6:30 p.m. and St. Elizabeth at 8 p.m.

Next Saturday Lady of Guadalupe will hold Easter Vigil ceremonies at 6:30 p.m. followed by St. Elizabeth at 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday services will be 8:30 a.m. at St. John, 10 a.m. at Lady of Guadalupe and 11 a.m. at St. Elizabeth.

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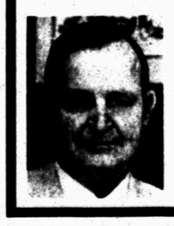
Mrs. C.M. Calvert of Big Spring is the March winner of a free year's subscription to the Snyder Daily News.

Each month a drawing is held from those who either subscribed or renewed for six months or more.

Sign up now for school transfers

Students who reside outside the Snyder Independent School District but wish to attend the Snyder public schools during the 2004-2005 school year must complete application for transfer at any time during the month of April.

The office will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

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NAME: Jeffrey Martin
POSITION: President
EXPERIENCE SUMMARY: 1987-1996, Vice President at Snyder Savings and Loan, 1996-2003, Sr. Vice President at American State Bank, 2003 to present, President at Texas Savings Bank.
EDUCATION: 1987 graduate of Texas Tech with BS degree in Agricultural Economics.
FAMILY: Parents are Jeff and Sally Martin.1 brother Keith and his wife, Stephanie, nephew Rand, niece Mattie and nephew Ely.
HOBBIES: Attending lots of Texas Tech sporting events
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APR 04 2004

More foreigners are to be fingerprinted

WASHINGTON (AP) — A program requiring foreigners to be fingerprinted and photographed before entering the United States is being expanded to include millions of travelers from some of America's staunchest allies, officials said Friday.

The move affects citizens in 27 countries — including Britain, Japan and Australia — who had been allowed to travel within the United States without visas for up to 90 days. Officials said the change was prompted in part by concerns that terrorists might try to exploit those exemptions.

While foreign governments expressed understanding, a U.S. travel organization worried the new restrictions could limit trips to America just as the number of foreign visitors was returning to the levels of before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The changes in the US-VISIT program will take effect by Sept. 30. Travelers from the 27 countries will be fingerprinted and photographed each time they enter the United States through any of 115 international airports and 14 seaports. The program will be expanded to border crossings later.

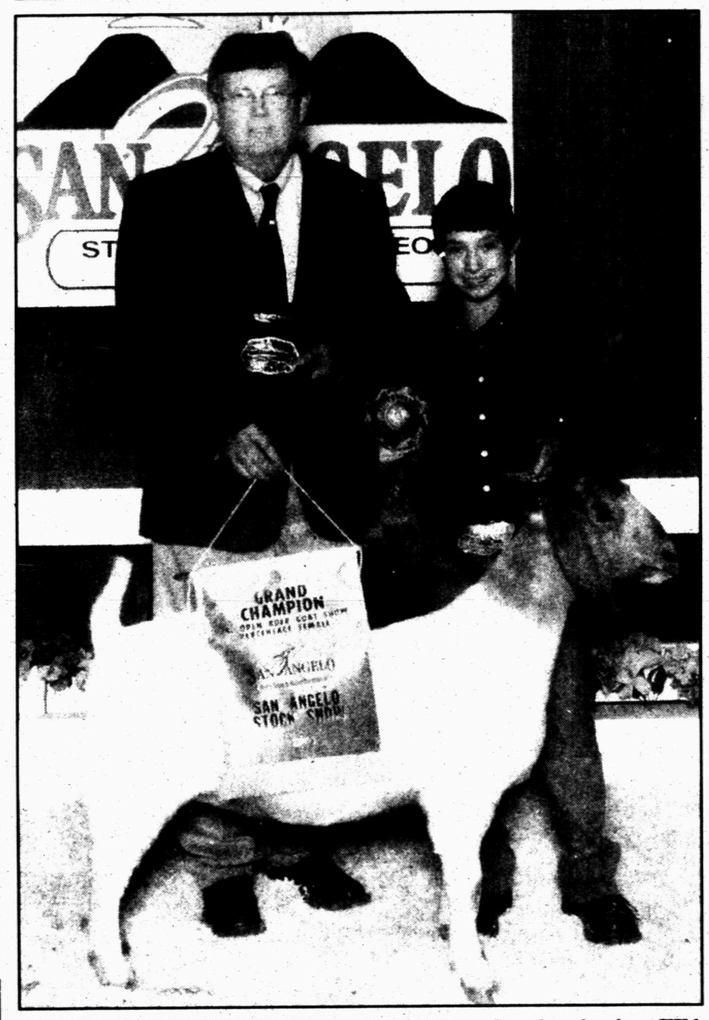
Citizens from those countries still won't have to go through the consulate interviews and background checks that people from other nations must do to obtain visas.

There are no changes in unique rules covering visits by Canadians and Mexicans.

The 27 countries are: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

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GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP — Aryn May, Snyder junior FFA member, exhibited the grand champion percentage Doe, Angel, at the San Angelo Stock Show. Aryn and breeder Doug Neff also won the Preimer Breeder Award for percentage does. Aryn also received firsts with her doe, Bambi; and buck, Freight Train; and a fourth, fifth and sixth with other does. In all, Aryn won two buckles and received a $1,000 scholarship. Aryn (top photo) is pictured with her parents, Bob and Shana May, breeder Doug Neff and judge Ewing Downen. In the (bottom photo), Aryn is pictured with breeder Doug Neff. (Contributed Photos)





CHAMPION AND RESERVE —Kaci Waller, 14, Ira FFA member, exhibited the Breed Champion Fine Wool Cross lamb at the San Antonio Stock Show. She also showed the Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb, which sold for $26,000. Kaci (far right top photo) is pictured with breeders, Justin and C'Jay Jonas of San Angelo and her parents, Jay and Karen Waller. In the bottom photo, Kaci (far right, bottom photo) is pictured with judge Terry Burks of Kentucky and Tawayne Durham, head of the auction committee. (Contributed Photos)

Financial Focus

Don't Make These Mistakes in Retirement

When you are just starting out in your working life, or even when you're in the middle, you obviously don't want to make costly financial or investment mistakes. However, if you do, you'll generally have time to recover from most of them. But when you're entering retirement, or you've been retired for a while, you clearly have less margin for error. That's why you'll want to do everything you can to avoid some of the mistakes made by retirees.

What, exactly, are these missteps? Here are a few of the more serious ones:

•**Not investing for growth** — You can reasonably expect to live two or even three decades in retirement. And during all those years, inflation, even if it's relatively low, will be eating away at your purchasing power. For example, suppose you start out with $1,000. If we experience even a 4 percent inflation rate for the next 15 years, the purchasing power of your $1,000 will shrink to just $549. So, just to break even, you'd need your investments to earn at least 4 percent.

Unfortunately, many retirees overlook the impact of inflation, and, as a result, they invest too conservatively. It's easy to understand why this happens; nobody wants to lose part of their retirement savings to the ups and downs of the market. And yet, even in retirement, you should consider an appropriate portion of your portfolio for growth depending on you risk tolerance, time horizon, and goals. How? By looking for high-quality stocks - those with strong earnings records, solid management and competitive products. Of course, even these stocks will fluctuate in value and are subject to market risks, but if you make them part of an investment mix that contains bonds, CDs and government securities, you can go a long way toward smoothing out your portfolio's overall volatility. Remember, though, diversification does not protect against market loss.

•**Underestimating expenses** — Many people assume, almost reflexively, that their expenses will drop drastically during retirement. But that's just not true. While some work-related expenses may indeed go down, other costs will fill the void. You may decide to travel, remodel your home, buy a vacation home - the list is endless. Also, as you move further into retirement, your medical costs will almost certainly rise. If you do underestimate your living expenses, you may be forced to dip into your savings and investments more than you'd like. Furthermore, you might have to increase your taxable retirement-plan withdrawals - a move that could bump you into a higher tax bracket. The solution? Put a realistic "price tag" on your retirement - well before you retire.

•**Withdrawing money from the "wrong" source** — By the time you retire, you will have probably accumulated sizable sums in both taxable accounts (stocks, bonds, etc.) and tax-deferred accounts (IRA, 401(k)). When you start taking the money out, you may want to withdraw funds from the taxable accounts first, so you can let your tax-deferred accounts continue the opportunity for growth as long as possible.

•**Taking 50 percent late withdrawal penalty** — Sooner or later, you're going to have to take withdrawals from your traditional IRA or your tax-qualified retirement plan, such as a 401(k) or 403(b). If you don't start taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) once you reach 70½, you'll be penalized 50 percent of what you should have taken, plus ordinary income tax. However, at least in the case of your IRA, you do have a possible escape clause from taking RMDs. By converting your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA prior to age 70½, you'll have to pay taxes at the time of the conversion, but you won't have to take RMDs.

To avoid these and other problems, you may want to work with a financial professional, so that you can develop a plan that spells out, among other things, how much you'll need to accumulate for your chosen retirement lifestyle and where the money will come from. By taking action early, you can put yourself in position to enjoy all the possibilities that retirement offers.

Unemployment office manager killed

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C. (AP) — The manager of a state unemployment office was shot to death Friday by a man upset about his jobless benefits, and another worker was wounded when he rushed to his colleague's aid, authorities said.

A suspect, William Franklin Case, 30, was arrested about an hour later behind a Wal-Mart a half mile away where he had fled on foot, Hendersonville police Chief Donnie Parks said. He was charged with homicide and attempted murder, Parks said.

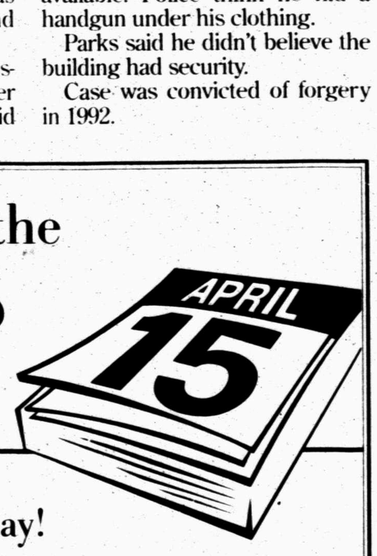
Case "was involved in a discussion with the local officer manager that became very heated," said David Clegg, deputy Employment Security Commission chairman in Raleigh.

Manager Letch Beatty, 51, was killed, according to police and hospital officials. The employee who tried to help him, Ron Piercy, 57, was reported in good condition in a hospital emergency room.

Police believe Case was upset with his unemployment benefits, Parks said, although details of his problem were not immediately available. Police think he hid a handgun under his clothing.

Parks said he didn't believe the building had security.

Case was convicted of forgery in 1992.

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Report: Tiny agency is falling behind on border maintenance

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — A tiny agency responsible for marking and maintaining the expansive border between the United States and Canada has fallen so far behind it may never catch up without more money and resources.

The International Boundary Commission warns that border markers are deteriorating and parts of the border are becoming overgrown by trees and brush to the point that the border's location could be lost in some areas.

The five-year plan for turning things around involves something the Canadian and U.S. governments have failed to provide: more money.

The agency, which is funded this year with $1.23 million from the U.S. government and a similar figure from the Canadians, will likely ask for its budget to be doubled, said Michael O'Sullivan, Canada's IBC commissioner.

"For a number of years we have formally recognized that we're losing the battle," O'Sullivan said.

The agency, consisting of two commissioners, six field engineers and a small support staff, is responsible for surveying and maintaining more than 8,000 monuments and reference points on the 5,525-mile border.

Its workers also are responsible for slashing a 20-foot-wide path through woods. With no fence, the boundary looks like a utility easement with markers dotting the ground down the middle.

Created by treaty in 1925, the agency toiled in relative obscurity compared to the larger International Boundary and Water Commission, which is responsible for maintenance, flood control and other issues on the southern border. The IBWC's budget is more than $30 million.

Then came the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, which brought fresh attention to the northern border and underscored the importance of having a well-defined boundary for federal and state law enforcement officials.

An overgrown border reduces the effectiveness of infrared detection, observation scopes, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and aircraft used for monitoring purposes, said Marvin Foust, assistant chief patrol agent for the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection in Spokane, Wash.

"There are some areas where the brush is getting thick," Foust said. "It's more difficult to detect (border) intrusions if it grows too much."

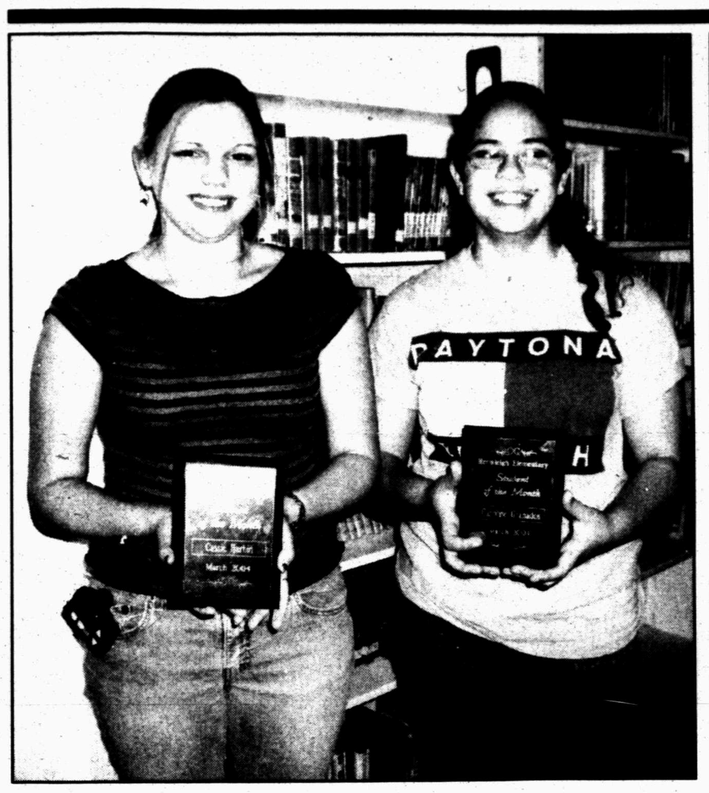
Many U.S. residents are familiar with crossings in such places as Detroit, Buffalo, N.Y., and Blaine, Wash. But much of the border away from those busy crossings consists of vast stretches of rugged wilderness that includes woodlands, mountains and prairie.

Maine's 611 miles is mostly forests. New Hampshire has 58 miles of border, and Vermont has 90 miles.

The commission completed a report this month that lays out what's necessary to get the border back into shape.

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MARCH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH — Hermleigh School's Students of the Month for March are junior Cassie Harbin, left; and Caroline Granados, sixth grader. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)



RELAY FOR LIFE — Samantha Berry, left, and Valerie West are seated at the picnic table made and donated by Joyce and Brice Fuqua, former Hermleigh teachers. The picnic table will sold as a fund raiser for Hermleigh School's Relay For Life team. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Senior Center News

The Scurry County Senior Center is located at 2603 Avenue M and can be reached by calling 573-4035. Newcomers are encouraged to take part in the Monday-Friday noon meal and activities. Dominoes, pool, and quilting are available daily. Transportation is available in the morning to/from the center, for errands, doctor appointments, and therapy. Newsletters and a list of menus are available in the office.

The Easter party is set Thursday and will include an Easter egg hunt, music, and a bonnet contest. The hunt begins at 10:30 a.m. in the park west of the center. All senior citizens are invited to participate.

The Sunshine Choir will present the music program from 11-11:45 a.m. followed by the bonnet contest. Men and women are asked to decorate a hat. Prizes will be given for the most beautiful and the most unusual bonnets.

MONDAY

Party bridge is set from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the bridge room. Seniors may play Skip-Bo in the eighty-eight room at 10 a.m. Senior citizens 60 years of age or older are asked to make a $2.50 donation for their meal.

TUESDAY

Eighty-eight begins at 9:30 a.m. in the quilting area. Low-impact swimnastics at Western Texas College meets from 10-11 a.m. and is located in the Physical Education Building. A volunteer leads this class with a student lifeguard on duty. The class and parking are free. Call 573-4035 for more information.

The Aubrey Wilson Country Band will provide entertainment in the dining room from 11 a.m.-noon. The Scurry County Senior Center Booster Club will meet at noon. The Computer Club meets in the computer lab at 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Wednesday and next Wednesday are the two remaining days to receive assistance in filing your income taxes. The volunteers will be available at the center from 9 a.m.-noon and from 1-3 p.m. Service is first-come first-served. Clients need to bring their 2002 income tax return in addition to the W-2 forms and other paperwork.

Ladies Pool begins at 9 a.m. A volunteer is available to assist newcomers. Seniors may play Skip-Bo at 10 a.m. and Pinochle at 1 p.m. Both of these activities will be in the bridge room.

THURSDAY

Enjoy swimnastics at Western Texas College from 10-11 a.m. Don't forget the Easter holiday activities.

FRIDAY

The center will be closed in observance of Easter Week-End.

SATURDAY

The Community Sing begins at 6 p.m. in the dining room at the center. Volunteers provide the entertainment. Everyone is welcome.

May Day is the main fundraiser for the Scurry County Senior Center. It is scheduled for May 8 at the Scurry County Coliseum. The sweet tooth booth, the arts & crafts booth, and the silent auction open at 2 p.m. The barbecue meal will be served from 4:30-6 p.m. The quilt auction will begin at 6:30 p.m. Cookies, slices of cake, brownies, and drinks will be sold at the sweet tooth booth. Volunteers donate the home baked goods. Note: Home baked pies cannot be sold. The arts and crafts booth includes home made items and items made by volunteers at the center. The silent auction includes items and services donated by businesses in the community.

The Exxon Mobil cooking team will volunteer their talents in preparing the barbecue brisket and the center kitchen staff will prepare the rest of the meal. Grady Morris has once again volunteered his services for the quilt auction. This event is only successful through the efforts of the center's army of volunteers. Volunteers will be needed for collecting silent auction items from May 3-7, selling barbecue tickets, preparing the coliseum on May 7, and working at the coliseum May 8. All money raised goes toward the operation of the Scurry County Senior Citizens Center.

—

Half the population of America has one of 2,200 surnames. The rest of the population has more

Senior Menu

Monday
Boneless BBQ rib
Green beans
Steak fries
Sliced peaches
Oatmeal cookie

Tuesday
Pepper steak
Spinach
Cauliflower w/cheese sauce
Carrot/raisin salad
Peach cobbler

Wednesday
Oven fried chicken
w/cream gravy
Mashed potatoes,
black-eyed peas
Sliced pineapple w/cheese
salad
Coconut pudding

Thursday
Baked ham
Scalloped potatoes
Green peas
Cucumber shell salad
Jell-O w/topping

Friday
Center closed in observance
of Easter

Tour bus full of students hits truck and then trees

COCOA, Fla. (AP) — A bus full of high school students making their way home after a Bahamas cruise vacation rear-ended a semi-truck and barreled down a shoulder into trees Friday, injuring 20 people.

None of the injuries was life-threatening, officials said.

The tour bus was carrying 47 passengers, all of them students and chaperones from East Limestone High School in Athens, Ala., when it hit the truck 30 miles east of Orlando.

Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Kim Miller blamed the wreck on a car that slowed to make an illegal U-turn on the Bee Line Expressway.

When the truck slowed to avoid hitting the car, the bus couldn't swerve out of the way, clipping the truck before crossing the road and falling down a sloped shoulder toward a river, Miller said. Only several trees stopped the bus from falling completely on its side, Miller said.

Troopers were searching for the car, which left the scene.

Bus driver Wendy Diaz, 37, of Cocoa, was partially ejected from the vehicle, and she and another person were airlifted to hospitals. Eighteen other people were taken to hospitals with mostly bruises and cuts and were expected to return home Saturday. The truck driver was unhurt.

The school group was traveling from Port Canaveral to Orlando International Airport to catch a flight home, Miller said.

Local television pictures showed dazed children standing on the side of the road as paramedics treated the injured.

"It's chaos out here," Miller said.

"For a second after we hit the truck, I thought we were fine. Then I saw green. It was the trees," said history teacher Brett Nave, 27.

It was unclear how fast the vehicles were traveling when the accident occurred. Nave said the seat in front of him broke in two.

Westbound traffic on the expressway was closed for about two hours.

Detroit man charged with five murders

DETROIT (AP) — A man was charged Friday with killing his girlfriend, their daughter and three other children, as mourners from all over the city streamed by the victims' home to place toys, cards and candles at a makeshift shrine.

Roger Thompson, 36, was arrested Thursday after a 13-year-old girl who survived the bloodshed alerted police. Police found the victims beaten to death in the house in the northeast section of Detroit and caught Thompson running through a vacant lot across the street.

"These five horrible deaths illustrate in the strongest possible terms the problem we have with family violence in this country," Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said.

Thompson had not previously been arrested for domestic violence, and had no criminal record.

"We don't have any indication that this has occurred in this home before. That doesn't mean it hasn't — we just know there haven't been any police reports, there hasn't been any indication that would lead one to believe that we could have prevented this," Worthy said.

Worthy gave no details about a possible motive and did not discuss the cause of the deaths. She said Thompson had been "quite remorseful."

Thompson is the father of the youngest victim, 9-year-old Aushanai Thompson. Relatives said he and Aushanai's mother, 33-year-old Lisa Shelton, had an on-again, off-again relationship.

The other victims were Shelton's children: William Parker Jr., 16, Wrandell Parker, 14, and Wanee Parker, 12. The girl who escaped was Shelton's sister.

Police told the Detroit Free Press that Thompson said he strangled Shelton with an extension cord early Wednesday after arguing about money. He then beat Wanee and William, and forced William to tie up the other children. The medical examiner's office determined that all four children died of blunt force trauma to the head, and Shelton died of strangulation.

Thompson was charged with five counts of first-degree murder, which carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole. Michigan does not have the death penalty.

At Thompson's arraignment Friday evening, Magistrate Steve Lockhart entered an innocent plea on his behalf and ordered him held without bond. First appearing before the judge via video, Thompson only wept and shifted from foot to foot. Less than a half hour later, he was again brought before the judge via video but had regained his composure, and was able to state his name and that he understood the charges against him.

A hearing in the case was scheduled for April 13.

The suspect's mother, Mary Thompson of Georgia, sat sobbing in a wheelchair after the hearing. "He needs help," she said. "Pray for my child, pray for Lisa's family."

Meanwhile, mourners visited a makeshift shrine outside the victims' home to add to the collection of stuffed animals and other offerings.

"I just really came to pray for the kids to be at peace and the mother to be at peace," said Alex Dawkins, a 39-year-old auto mechanic who brought teddy bears.

A few relatives of the victims also came by the house, which had garbage in the yard, plastic over the windows and was roped off by police tape.

"She was my world," said Shelton's 20-year-old sister, Tyann. "She was my best friend."

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APR 04 2004

SPORTS

Tigers hold Badgers at bay

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

The Tigers are enjoying the home cooking.

With rain washing out the field at Merkel, the Badgers and the Tigers switched their game to Moffett Field Friday, with the Tigers escaping with their perfect district record intact in a 9-7 win.

Snyder (13-3, 3-0) jumped out to an 8-0 lead after two innings, only to see Merkel take advantage of some defensive miscues to plate six runs in the third and make what had the makings of a blowout into a close, pressure-packed contest.

"We jumped on them and let them back in with mental mistakes," head coach Charles Bollinger said. "Somehow, they put the pressure on us. I told the guys we need to keep pressure on the other team. One of these days, we'll put together a complete seven innings."

The pressure was squarely on Merkel and starter Chris Cobb at the start, as the first three Snyder batters reached base in the first inning.

Blake Grimmett, who went 3-for-3 with a walk, three runs and two steals, led off the game with a base hit and promptly stole second. After Bradley Price walked, Jordan Dea loaded the bases on a bunt hit, and Isaac Ramon drove in the first run with a sacrifice fly to deep center.

Price scored on a dropped fly ball off the bat of Eric Martinez before Hadley Hirt drilled a fastball into the right centerfield gap to score Dea and pinch runner Lico Castillo and make it 4-0.

Snyder starter Ty Collier then struck out the side in the top of the second, and the Snyder offense again went to work with four runs in the bottom of the second.

Collier went 2-1/3 innings, allowing three runs on three hits and striking out three.

Marcus Villarreal opened the inning with a base hit and a steal, and Grimmett followed with his second hit of the game. Price drew his second walk to load the bases, and Villarreal scored on an error to keep the bases jammed with no out.

Ramon hit an infield single to make it 6-0, Alex Neal drew a bases-loaded walk and Hirt delivered his third RBI of the game to make it 8-0.

The Tigers left three on base in second.

"We should have blown the game open there," Bollinger said.

Instead Merkel clawed back, thanks to some shaky defensive play by the Tigers.

A balk, two errors and a wild pitch led to six runs, giving Merkel new life and turning the potential shutout into a two-run contest.

An RBI groundout by Ramon made it 9-6 in the third, and reliever Dustyn Williams (4-1) kept Merkel at bay for 3-2/3 innings until Castillo came in and stifled the final comeback effort in the seventh, fanning the last Badger hitter he faced.

Dea was 2-for-4 with a pair of runs and an RBI. Ramon drove in two runs in going 2-for-4, and Villarreal and Martinez each added a hit and a run.

"Merkel is scrappy, and they started getting confidence," Bollinger said, adding that his pitching staff did a solid job of stemming the tide after Merkel's big third inning. "Dustyn did a great job and Lico did too, coming in and closing the door. These guys know I have confidence in them, and I expect them to come through and get the job done."

The Tigers will continue their march through district Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Seminole.

The Indians blanked the Denver City Mustangs Friday, 12-0.

Lamesa and Sweetwater were rained out Friday. The contest originally was scheduled to played at Sweetwater, but rain forced the teams to move it to Lamesa, where it also was washed out.

The game was rescheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Sweetwater.

District 3-3A Standings

	Season		District	
Team	**W**	**L**	**W**	**L**
Snyder	13	3	3	0
Sweetwater	13	3	2	0
Seminole	7	6	2	1
Merkel	6	6	1	2
Lamesa	2	12	0	2
Denver City	7	12	0	3



PICKED OFF — Snyder first baseman Alex Neal runs down a Merkel player picked off by pitcher Ty Collier during the Tigers' 9-7 win over the Badgers Friday at Moffett Field. (SDN Staff Photo by Bobby Allen)

Griffey will play in opener

By The Associated Press

Pencil in Ken Griffey Jr. as the Cincinnati Reds opening day center fielder.

Griffey left his teammates behind in Florida and returned home to rehabilitate his injured right calf in preparation for the Reds' home opener Monday against the Chicago Cubs.

The eight-time All-Star was hurt Monday when he slipped leaving the batter's box against Pittsburgh.

"He will work out with us Sunday, and from all telltale signs he should be good to go on Monday," manager Dave Miley said Friday in Dunedin, Fla.

Griffey hit just .158 with one homer and five RBIs in 38 at-bats this spring.

While it looks like Griffey will be playing, Nomar Garciaparra knows it's better to let his injured Achilles' tendon heal now rather than play and have the injury linger all season.

"If there was a time to take care of it, it's to take care of it now going into the season ... so it doesn't become a factor later on," the Boston shortstop said. "I don't like to sit and watch, but at the same time I'm also focused on what I have to do. The good thing is we have a plan on what we'd like to do."

Boston opens Sunday at Baltimore. Garciaparra already is back home in Boston to receive medical attention for his injury, expected to keep him out for at least three weeks.

The injury only hurts when he runs, he said, and he will be able to stay in shape, work out in the pool, throw and swing without aggravating the injury.

With Garciaparra out of the lineup, Pokey Reese is expected to fill in at shortstop. Mark Bellhorn will play second base in place of Reese.

San Diego Padres utility infielder Jeff Cirillo will be joining Garciaparra on the disabled list.

Cirillo has a broken right index finger and is expected to miss the first four to six weeks of the season. He was hurt trying to bunt against Texas on Monday night, but the fracture didn't show up when Cirillo was first X-rayed.

Big men stand out in Final Four

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The big men are back at the Final Four.

The position was made famous by the likes of Bill Walton, Lew Alcindor and Hakeem Olajuwon, only to fall out of favor with the introduction of the 3-point line.

On Saturday, Emeka Okafor of Connecticut and Shelden Williams of Duke will try to add their names to the list of top college centers.

They'll bang away in the paint when the Blue Devils meet the Huskies in the national semifinals. Many people believe the winner of that matchup will be playing for the championship.

"But don't call them centers," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "Call them 'players.'"

There was a time when there was no stigma to being called a "center," an era when domination in the middle usually translated into excellence.

Walton played what is largely regarded as the best game in college history, going 21-for-22 for 44 points in UCLA's 1973 title game. Olajuwon led Houston to two straight title games. Alcindor, later known as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, played center for the first three of UCLA's seven straight titles.

The addition of the 3-point arc in 1986 started the slow shift away from inside dominance, however. Teams began valuing hot-shooting guards more. For every true center like Rony Seikaly, it seemed there were two guys like Christian Laettner and Juwan Howard — players who may have been listed as centers, but were really taller-than-average forwards who could post up and pop out to hit the midrange jumper.

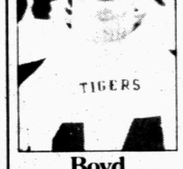
As that trend grew, fewer top-notch big men saw the benefits of college. Many who went didn't stay for long.

Shaquille O'Neal. Shawn Bradley. Kwame Brown. Eddie Curry. Elton Brand. They are among the centers who left college or skipped it altogether, knowing their size would garner big bucks in the NBA and their games could be developed more quickly there.

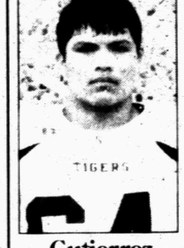
Pete Newell, the former coach at Cal who became a guru for big men over the decades, said the slow decline of the center has had a negative effect on the game.

Three Tigers in Greenbelt Bowl Classic

Snyder high school varsity lettermen Justin Boyd, Isidro "Sid" Gutierrez and Isaac Ramon have been selected to play in the 55th annual Greenbelt Bowl Classic in Childress.



Boyd



Gutierrez



Ramon

The three seniors were nominated by Snyder athletic director and head football coach Chad Rogers, and were picked by the Greenbelt Bowl Classic Association selection committee.

Rogers said the players are believed to be the first Snyder players to participate in the all-star game.

"We think they are the first, but we're not sure," Rogers said. "If anybody knows of someone who has played in the game, please contact us and let us know."

The game will be played Saturday, June 12, at 7 p.m. Fair Park Stadium.

Spurs keep streak alive

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — San Antonio's winning streak over Utah will live through another season.

The Spurs beat the Jazz 94-81 on Friday night, San Antonio's 17th straight victory in a streak that goes back to when people were just getting over Y2K fears.

"I don't know why we beat them, but it will end one day," Spurs guard Tony Parker, who had five assists. "But tonight, we played hard and moved the ball around. It's not easy to beat them."

The Spurs didn't make it look that difficult, either, holding off a few second-half comebacks by the Jazz and pulling away in the final minutes.

Tim Duncan, who scored just one point in the first quarter, finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds, and Devin Brown added a career-high 19 points and had seven rebounds for the Spurs, who won their fifth straight and damaged Utah's playoff hopes.

Brown's previous career high was just 11, scored Jan. 26 against Milwaukee. He went 8-for-13 from the field, including a one-handed dunk off a rebound as the Spurs put the game away in the fourth quarter.

Area Sports Calendar

MONDAY
Golf: Boys district tourney, round 2, Snyder
Baseball: SHS JV vs. Seminole, 5:30 p.m.
Track: SJHS at Lamesa, district meet

TUESDAY
Baseball: SHS varsity at Seminole, 7 p.m.
WTC at Wayland Baptist, 2 p.m.
Tennis: District varsity tournament, Snyder
Softball: SHS varsity vs. Sweetwater, 5 p.m.
SHS JV vs. Sweetwater, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Golf: Girls district tourney, Merkel
Tennis: District varsity and JV tournament, Snyder

THURSDAY
Softball: SHS varsity vs. Seminole, 5 p.m.
SHS JV vs. Seminole, 7 p.m.
Baseball: SHS JV at Lamesa, 4:30 p.m.
Rodeo: WTC at Frank Phillips, Borger

FRIDAY
Baseball: SHS varsity vs. Sweetwater, 7 p.m.
WTC at Odessa, DH, noon
Softball: WTC at El Paso CC, DH, 1 p.m.
Track: SHS varsity and JV at Colorado City meet
Rodeo: WTC at Frank Phillips, Borger

SATURDAY
Baseball: WTC at Odessa, DH, noon
Softball: WTC at El Paso CC, DH, noon
Track: SHS varsity and JV at Colorado City meet
Rodeo: WTC at Frank Phillips, Borger

Sports Briefs

Ladies play day

The WGA will host a ladies play each Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the Scurry County golf course. Format is most one putts front nine.

A luncheon will be held at noon Tuesday at Snyder Country Club. All area women golfers are encouraged to attend.

MGA to begin play

The WTC Men's Golf Association will begin play at 6 p.m. Tuesday. The first monthly tournament is scheduled for next Saturday.

Baseball Buddies

The SHS baseball program will conclude the second annual Baseball Buddies program next Saturday.

High school players provide instruction for kids between 11 a.m. and noon free of charge at Lewis Field.

Summerall awaiting liver transplant

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Broadcaster Pat Summerall was hospitalized in stable condition awaiting a donor organ for a liver transplant.

The 73-year-old former NFL kicker is on the waiting list at St. Luke's Hospital, spokesman Erik Kaldor said. He could not say how long it would take before Summerall receives a transplant.

The veteran broadcaster was flown Thursday by air ambulance to Jacksonville from Fort Worth, where he had been hospitalized in Methodist Medical Center's intensive care unit since early this week.

NCAA Final Fours

MEN'S FINAL FOUR
At The Alamodome
San Antonio
Semifinals
Saturday, April 3
Oklahoma State (31-3) vs. Georgia Tech (27-9), 5:07 p.m.
Duke (31-5) vs. Connecticut (31-6), 7:47 p.m.
Championship
Monday, April 5
Semifinal winners, 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S FINAL FOUR
At New Orleans Arena
New Orleans
Semifinals
Sunday, April 4
Tennessee (30-3) vs. LSU (27-7), 6 p.m.
Connecticut (29-4) vs. Minnesota (25-8), 8:30 p.m.
Championship
Tuesday, April 6
Semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m.

Snyder Babe Ruth Teenage League
BASEBALL SIGN UPS
TWO LEAGUES
AGES 13-15 AND 16-19
April 7th and 8th - 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Saturday, April 10th - 9:00 am - Noon
Scurry County Boys and Girls Club
Please bring a parent, birth certificate and registration fee of $42.
For more information please contact Dewayne 573-2207

Urgent news for people who have used
WELDING RODS
Scientists report that elevated **manganese** exposure from welding rod fumes has been associated with **Parkinsonism** (like **Parkinson's disease**) and **manganism**. Symptoms include **shakiness, distorted facial expression, loss of equilibrium, decreased hand agility, difficulty walking, joint pain, loss of short term memory, slurred/slow speech, stiffness in muscles and tremors**. If you have experienced any of these problems, **call us today** toll free at **1-800-THE-EAGLE** for a **free consultation** to evaluate your potential claim. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S.
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Atlantic	W	L
x-Philadelphia	40	2
x-New Jersey	42	2
x-N.Y. Islanders	38	2
N.Y. Rangers	26	4
Pittsburgh	22	4

Northeas	W	L
x-Ottawa	43	2
x-Boston	40	1
x-Toronto	44	2
x-Montreal	40	3
Buffalo	37	3

Southeas	W	L
yz-Tampa Bay	46	2
Atlanta	32	3
Carolina	28	3
Florida	28	3
Washington	23	4

WESTERN C

Central	W	L
yz-Detroit	48	2
St. Louis	38	2
Nashville	37	3
Columbus	24	4
Chicago	20	4

Northwes	W	L
x-Vancouver	42	2
x-Colorado	40	2
x-Calgary	42	3
Edmonton	36	3
Minnesota	29	4

Pacific	W	L
y-San Jose	42	2
x-Dallas	40	2
Los Angeles	28	3
Anaheim	28	3

SPORTS

Sutton tightens rules for Final Four

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A week along the Riverwalk hardly qualifies as hard time. Unless you're playing for Eddie Sutton.

The Oklahoma State coach has tightened his rules for this trip to the Final Four, a stark change from the Cowboys' last appearance in 1995.

Sutton has always lamented giving his players too much freedom during that visit to Seattle. The Cowboys were knocked out by eventual national champion UCLA in the semifinals.

This time, the coach confiscated cell phones before the team left for San Antonio and has limited the players' exposure to family, friends and the revelry.

"It's kind of funny because we joke about how we're in jail," point guard John Lucas said. "You get an hour to talk on the phone, then you get an hour of visiting time. We just joke around, tell them that's our hour of daytime, just being in the yard."

BAND-WAGON BUNCH: A season that started with a No. 1 ranking, a loss in the preseason NIT and an eventual dip as low as No. 9 in the AP rankings, had many Connecticut fans scratching their heads over the Huskies' national title hopes.

That was before UConn reached the Final Four. Now everybody's happy again.

"The springs on our bandwagon had to be replaced this week because so many people have bounced on and off of them since September," coach Jim Calhoun said.

FINAL FOUR FLASHBACK: Sixty years ago, Arnie Ferrin and the Utah Utes rode another team's bad luck to an NCAA championship.

The Utes were first invited to the then more prestigious National Invitation Tournament, but lost in the first round. They went to the NCAA tournament after Arkansas withdrew because the Razorbacks' starting five was involved in a car accident following a practice game.

At the time, the NCAA tournament had only eight teams. Three victories later, the Utes were the 1944 national champs and Ferrin was the first of only three freshmen in tournament history to earn MVP honors. Louisville's Pervis Ellison (1986) and Carmelo Anthony of Syracuse (2003) were the others.

Ferrin's lasting memory of the title game at the old Madison Square Garden in New York City? The smoke.

Smoking was allowed in the arena and he and his fellow Mormons were shocked to see the haze hanging over the court.

"You couldn't see the flag during the national anthem," he recalled.

Ferrin said he's proud the Utes are the only national title team to win with four starting freshman. He said that was why he rooted for Duke against Michigan's Fab Five freshman in 1992.

"You don't have many legacies left when you're my age," Ferrin said.

CALHOUN COMEDOWN: A bit of disappointment has already crept into Jim Calhoun's Final Four.

The Connecticut basketball coach has been informed he wasn't elected to the basketball Hall of Fame this year, according to a source close to the decision who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The new members will be announced Monday. Induction will be in September.

Calhoun has guided the Huskies to two Final Fours and won the national championship in 1999.

WTC sends 14 riders and ropers to the short round

Western Texas College riders and ropers were poised to advance to the short round Saturday at the WTC rodeo at Scurry County Coliseum, dependent upon slack performances that were still underway Saturday morning.

Hadley Hunting won the long round in the saddle bronc riding competition, and will be joined in the championship round by fellow riders Cody Horwedel and Aaron Koster in the final go.

Julie Jones is on the verge of representing WTC in two events in the final round, placing second in barrel racing and sixth in goat-tying.

Sabrina Lay was fourth in barrels before the completion of Saturday slack, while Erin Anglin and Jennifer Weeding were tied for sixth in goat-tying.

Other WTC hands predicted to advance are Bruno Paoiella, steer wrestling; Paoiella and Horwedel and Reg Cully and Mario Paoiella, team roping; Trent Cormier and Jared Farley, bull riding and Clay Bunney and Jake Marshall, bareback riding.

The short round was slated for 7 p.m. Saturday night.

Rangers go with youth movement

ARLINGTON (AP) — Alex Rodriguez is gone. The pitching is still suspect. And the payroll has been slashed.

At least it won't cost the Texas Rangers as much money to struggle in the AL West this season. They finished last in the AL West all three of Rodriguez's seasons, just as they did the year before he signed his record $252 million, 10-year contract.

Now they'll try a different approach, entering manager Buck Showalter's second season committed to younger players.

A-Rod isn't the only expensive veteran missing. Sluggers Juan Gonzalez and Rafael Palmeiro were let go, helping drop the payroll from more than $100 million to around $60 million.

The Rangers will try to build around an infield of talented 20-somethings, including second baseman Alfonso Soriano, who came from the New York Yankees in the A-Rod trade. And the final three spots in the rotation were reserved for younger pitchers.

"Everybody's really relaxed. We hope we can have a Cinderella season," third baseman Hank Blalock said. "You won't ever hear from me, 'We're young, it's OK if we lose.' "

The Rangers certainly won't concede the season. After all, who expected the Florida Marlins to win the World Series last season? Or AL West rival Anaheim two years ago?

Of course, such expectations aren't really realistic.

"I don't even want to go there," general manager John Hart said. "Those guys, they had a lot of special things that happened. That's a pretty lofty comparison."

After finishing a combined 40 games out of third place in the AL West the last four seasons, the Rangers' primary concern is just getting out of last place. They'll be challenged early, with their first 19 games against division opponents.

The Rangers did nothing this spring to show they are catching up with their division, going 1-6 against AL West teams and scoring more than three runs only twice.

At least their young infielders played well.

Soriano, Blalock and Michael Young, even while going through a position change to replace two-time Gold Glove winner A-Rod at shortstop, all hit well above .300. Blalock and Young were .300 hitters last season, and Soriano hit .290 despite a high strikeout ratio that is still a problem.

First baseman Mark Teixeira, whose transition from third base last season displaced Palmeiro, is overcoming a sore neck. He was one of the league's best rookies last season with 26 homers and 87 RBIs.

Young was a minor league shortstop but had become one of the league's best overall second baseman. His .987 fielding percentage (10 errors in 786 chances) was third among AL second basemen last season. His .306 batting average was the best.

"He doesn't use the switch as an excuse for failure," Showalter said. "I don't think anybody's out there holding their breath every time there is a ball hit to Mike Young."

They might hold their breath when balls are hit to Soriano, a two-time All-Star because of his bat and not his glove. He had 42 errors the past two seasons, and is actually 28 — two years older than reported in the past.

Despite continuing the youth movement that started midway through last season, a couple of gaps were filled with older veterans.

Kenny Rogers, a 39-year-old left-hander, will begin his third Texas stint as the opening day starter. Outfielder Brian Jordan, 37, had just 19 spring at-bats and will be on the disabled list because of a sore left knee, the same one that limited him to 66 games with Los Angeles after surgery last season.

Rogers won 13 games in three of the last four seasons, for Texas in 2000 and 2002, and last year in Minnesota.

The Rangers hope to finally get some return on their $65 million investment into Chan Ho Park, 10-11 with a 6.06 ERA in 32 starts over two injury plagued seasons in Texas.

Astros optimistic about World Series possibilty

HOUSTON (AP) — Nolan Ryan is under contract. Roger Clemens is headed for Cooperstown. The rotation is one of the best in baseball. Ticket sales are soaring.

Even so, the Houston Astros are trying not to get ahead of themselves. This is a team that's never won a playoff series in its 43-year history, after all. And they play in the brutal NL Central.

"It's not do or die," owner Drayton McLane said. "We have a great opportunity, but the Cubs are good and don't discount the Cardinals; they're always competitive. That's what makes our division so good."

The Chicago Cubs, who beat the Astros in last year's NL Central race by a game, added Greg Maddux to join Kerry Wood, Mark Prior and Carlos Zambrano in an already outstanding rotation. And the St. Louis Cardinals return four Gold Glove winners and have a dangerous lineup.

Still, fans are already projecting the Astros in the World Series.

"We had a wonderful opportunity in 1998 (when Randy Johnson was a half-season rent-a-pitcher) and got going, but just couldn't play the first round of the playoffs," McLane said. "Since then, I think this is the best opportunity."

Last season McLane surprised fans by signing second baseman Jeff Kent, and this off-season overwhelmed them by signing Andy Pettitte from the Yankees and coaxing Clemens out of a brief retirement to join his hometown buddy.

McLane signed Ryan to a five-year personal services contract that will include Ryan's working with the Astros' young pitchers. Ryan's presence alone has to help in the locker room.

Roy Oswalt has recovered from groin injuries that plagued his 2003 season and will be the opening day starter against the San Francisco Giants in a sold-out Minute Maid Park. He'll be followed by Clemens, Pettitte, Wade Miller and Tim Redding.

Add to that the nucleus of Jeff Bagwell, Craig Biggio, Kent, Richard Hidalgo and Lance Berkman, and the Astros have thoughts of finally breaking that playoff barrier.

The Astros set spring training attendance records and vice president of ticket sales and services John Sorrentino says season ticket sales are 30 to 35 percent ahead of last year.

"This is a club that's generally not had the scrutiny I suspect it'll have this year, so for a lot of players it will be foreign to them," general manager Gerry Hunsicker said. "I think that's where guys like Clemens and Pettitte are really going to help because they've dealt with that every day in a market like New York."

Bagwell says there will be some pressure, but it won't be overwhelming.

"That's probably a little overstatement, but there's probably a lot of reality that it will be a make-or-break year for us," Bagwell said. "It's not life or death, but it's an important thing for us and we realize that. Hopefully we can get a couple of breaks, a couple of big hits and maybe a shutout and get to the next round.

"Our goal is to win the World Series; that's the goal the first day and the last day."

That last day always has always come too soon for the Astros. They lost in thrilling NL championship series in 1980 and 1986 and have lost four first-round playoff series since McLane bought the team.

Now it's up to the pitching staff to make the big playoff push.

"The guys have made me feel so welcome, that's what me and Roger wanted," Pettitte said. "It's not about us, it's about helping this team win and for our city to have something special this year. That's what we want to try to do here."

The biggest offseason loss was closer Billy Wagner, traded to the Philadelphia Phillies after he closed out last season by saying McLane wouldn't make the push to win a championship.

Nuggets move closer to playoffs with 110-100 win over Rockets

DENVER (AP) — Carmelo Anthony pointed to the Denver Nuggets' defense.

"I had one of those night, a bad night of shooting," Anthony said. "Fortunately, we defended them and held them to one shot in the second half and didn't let Yao Ming go off."

Anthony scored 20 points on 5-for-17 shooting, and Marcus Camby had 20 points and 12 rebounds to help the Nuggets beat the Houston Rockets 110-100 on Friday night.

With the victory, the Nuggets moved within percentage points of eighth-place Portland in the Western Conference playoff chase.

Nene and Andre Miller had 14 points each for the Nuggets, who had eight players reach double figures.

Yao had 23 points and 10 rebounds for Houston. Cuttino Mobley added 17 points, and Clarence Weatherspoon 16 for the Rockets, who lost their third straight.

"There was not one thing we did well enough to win," Houston coach Jeff Van Gundy said. "That game had nothing to do with fatigue."

The Rockets had been beaten the night before by the Los Angeles Lakers and at least Yao acknowledged the second of back-to-back games had taken something out of him.

"I was tired," Yao said.

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE							
Atlantic Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
x-Philadelphia	40	21	14	6	100	226	183
x-New Jersey	42	24	12	2	98	207	159
x-N.Y. Islanders	38	29	10	4	90	234	207
N.Y. Rangers	26	40	7	8	67	203	248
Pittsburgh	22	47	8	4	56	186	300
Northeast Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
x-Ottawa	43	22	10	6	102	262	183
x-Boston	40	18	15	7	102	204	182
x-Toronto	44	24	10	3	101	236	204
x-Montreal	40	30	7	4	91	202	189
Buffalo	37	33	7	4	85	217	215
Southeast Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
yz-Tampa Bay	46	21	8	6	106	244	190
Atlanta	32	37	8	4	76	212	242
Carolina	28	34	13	6	75	166	203
Florida	28	35	14	4	74	182	215
Washington	23	45	10	2	58	181	246
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
yz-Detroit	48	20	11	2	109	254	185
St. Louis	38	29	11	2	89	187	194
Nashville	37	28	11	4	89	213	212
Columbus	24	45	8	4	60	173	237
Chicago	20	42	11	7	58	185	252
Northwest Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
x-Vancouver	42	24	10	5	99	230	192
x-Colorado	40	22	13	6	99	235	196
x-Calgary	42	29	7	3	94	199	174
Edmonton	36	28	12	5	89	219	203
Minnesota	29	29	20	3	81	185	183
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
y-San Jose	42	21	12	6	102	215	180
x-Dallas	40	26	13	2	95	189	173
Los Angeles	28	29	16	8	80	202	213
Anaheim	28	35	10	8	74	182	212
Phoenix	21	36	18	6	66	186	244

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.
x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

Thursday's Games
Tampa Bay 4, Florida 3
Washington 3, Boston 3, tie
Philadelphia 2, Montreal 0
Detroit 3, St. Louis 2
Nashville 3, Chicago 1

Friday's Games
Ottawa 3, Philadelphia 1
N.Y. Islanders 6, Carolina 4
Colorado 4, Columbus 2
Pittsburgh 3, Atlanta 2
Toronto 2, Buffalo 0
Minnesota 4, Dallas 2
Vancouver 4, San Jose 1
Calgary 3, Los Angeles 2

Saturday's Games
New Jersey at Boston, noon
N.Y. Rangers at Washington, 2 p.m.
St. Louis at Nashville, 2 p.m.
Chicago at Phoenix, 3 p.m.
Buffalo at Montreal, 6 p.m.
Toronto at Ottawa, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 6 p.m.
Columbus at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Boston at New Jersey, noon
Philadelphia at N.Y. Islanders, noon
St. Louis at Minnesota, 2 p.m.
Chicago at Dallas, 2 p.m.
Washington at Pittsburgh, 2 p.m.
Carolina at Florida, 2 p.m.
Los Angeles at San Jose, 3 p.m.
Nashville at Colorado, 3 p.m.
Calgary at Anaheim, 3 p.m.
End of Regular Season

National Basketball Association

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
y-New Jersey	44	31	.587	—
Miami	37	39	.487	7
Boston	35	41	.461	9
New York	35	41	.461	9
Philadelphia	32	44	.421	12
Washington	23	53	.303	21
Orlando	19	58	.247	26
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
y-Indiana	56	20	.737	—
x-Detroit	49	27	.645	7
Milwaukee	38	38	.500	18
New Orleans	37	38	.493	18
Cleveland	32	43	.427	23
Toronto	30	45	.400	25
Atlanta	25	51	.329	31
Chicago	22	54	.289	34
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
x-Minnesota	53	24	.688	—
x-San Antonio	51	25	.671	1
x-Memphis	49	26	.653	3
x-Dallas	47	28	.627	5
Houston	42	33	.560	10
Denver	40	37	.519	13
Utah	39	37	.513	13
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
x-L.A. Lakers	53	23	.697	—
x-Sacramento	52	23	.693	½
Portland	39	36	.520	13
Seattle	34	42	.447	19
Golden State	33	42	.440	19½
L.A. Clippers	27	50	.351	26
Phoenix	26	50	.342	27

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

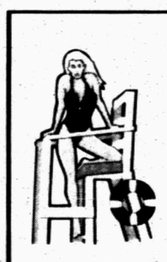
Friday's Games
Atlanta 95, Orlando 87
Indiana 84, Toronto 64
Boston 111, Golden State 106
Memphis 109, Phoenix 99
Detroit 92, Miami 84
Minnesota 91, Washington 73
New Jersey 108, New York 83
Milwaukee 107, Cleveland 89
San Antonio 94, Utah 81
Chicago 114, L.A. Clippers 110, OT
Denver 110, Houston 100
L.A. Lakers 97, Seattle 86

Saturday's Games
New York at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Golden State at Cleveland, 6:30 p.m.
Miami at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Portland, 9 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Sacramento at Houston, noon
Milwaukee at Toronto, noon
Indiana at Detroit, noon
Boston at Washington, 1 p.m.
Memphis at Minnesota, 2:30 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 2:30 p.m.
Atlanta at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
New Orleans at Seattle, 8 p.m.
Utah at L.A. Clippers, 8:30 p.m.







LIFEGUARD TRAINING CLASS

Scurry County Parks and Recreation Department & Western Texas College will be offering a lifeguard training class April 30th – May 2nd.

Prerequisites for lifeguard student:
Participant must be at least 15 years old on the first class day.
Participant must swim 500 yards in this order:
A) 200 yard front crawl (free-style stroke)
B) 100 yard breast stroke
C) 200 yard breast and/or free-style
Participant must swim 20 yards; retrieve a 10-pound object at a depth of 8-10 feet and swim back 20 yards.

Class will be held at Western Texas College Pool
Cost: $110 ($50 deposit is required)
Dates: April 30th, May 1st & 2nd

Interested students can reserve a place in this training by calling Western Texas College at 573-8511 ext. 390

APR 04 2004

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS
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BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

Appliance Repair

It's about Speed & Performance
JOHNNY'S APPLIANCE
Service On All Major Home Appliances
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ALL MAKES and MODELS
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17 Yrs Experience Locally Owned
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Accepting All Major Credit Cards
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Our Service Provides
CLEAN AIR!!
CARPET CLEANING *EXPRESS*
10 years experience
573-2661

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AUTO CLINIC
We Do All Major & Minor Repairs & Complete Custom Exhaust Systems
Let us save you money!!
405 26th St. (Behind Skinny's on E. Hwy.)
325-573-0495 **325-573-4028**
Robbie & Sarah Jamison, Owners

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$19.95 Oil Change
Up to 5 qts of our featured 10-30 oil

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325-573-3032

CARPET CLEANING *EXPRESS*
Your Local Carpet Cleaning Specialist
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24 Hour Emergency Services
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Superior Carpet Cleaning
SPECIAL
$15 per room
Using state of the art equipment
Leaves carpet cleaner & dryer!!
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Gives You The
Most Exposure
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CATERING
Specializing in Briskets & Ribs Homemade Sauce
•Weddings •Anniversaries
•Reunions • Private Parties
Call Kerry Clay
(325) 573-8349
(325) 207-2934 (mobile)

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NEED A CARPENTER?
Repair - Remodel
Paint - Build
James Mills
573-0081

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"No Job Too Small"
Residential
Remodeling & Repair
STEVE LEE
Snyder, Texas
79549
325/573-2709
Mobile
325/207-1879

Sparlin
Enterprises / Construction
Coca Cola *Metal Bldgs*
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ANTIQUES *Painting, etc.*
James & Samijane Sparlin 2701 48th St.
573-9752 574-2206 Snyder, TX
or 575-4182 79549

CIRCLE M WELDING & Services Inc.
• Welding • Residential
• Fabrication • Roustabout
• Concrete Work
• Backhoe Services
Office: **325-573-8005**
Fax: **325-573-8047**
7393 West Hwy 180 Snyder, TX 79549

Electric

DALE'S ELECTRIC
403 33rd St.
Commercial or Residential
573-5330
James c# 207-1228
Dale c# 207-1227

Farm/Dirt Work

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• Fire Breaks / Right of Ways
• Dirt Roads Built or Repaired
• Drives • Skid Steer for hire or lease
Joe Dan Collier
c# 325-207-0191 573-3655
• Grubbing & Raking
• Stock Tank Cleaning & Building
Steve Babcock
c# 207-1820 573-7292

Fitness

Tiger Health & Fitness
3409B Snyder Shopping Center
573-3414
Membership includes:
*24 hr access 7 days/wk *Group classes
*Over 5000 lbs of free weights *Circuit weights
*Cardio equip. *6000 sq.ft. facility
Also available:
*Certified personal trainers
*Supplements *Sports drinks
*Wolff sunbeds *Lotions *Herbal body wraps

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Property • Auto • Life Insurance
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Marsha Kubena, Agent

ALLSTATE INSURANCE
•*Best Rates In Town*•
All Lines of Insurance
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573-4076

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*Brick *Block *Stone
*Custom Fireplaces
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Repairs - Houses
Retaining Walls
Free Estimates
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573-0258 436-9143 (c)

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Plumbing Repair Service
Telephone
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M-19955
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Snyder, Texas 79549 Owner

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For All Your Roofing Needs
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Metal roofs installed on Mobile Homes, Carports, Patios, Metal Buildings
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North Ave. E Storage Buildings
10' x 20'
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TREEMASTERS
• Tree & Shrub Trimming, Pruning & Shaping
• Deep Root Fertilization Injection
• Bucket Truck for those high to reach spots
• Trees & Shrubs Planted & more
21 yrs. experience. References available.
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Complete Field, Lawn & Irrigation Service
** Fertilizer Available **
Foliar feed or Granular
For a healthy lawn call
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Internet Business Consulting
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Free Internet Business Analysis
Internet Access Provider
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If you have Internet problems, we fix them for free.
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In house technician.
Bullard's Computer Solutions, Inc.
3405 College Ave.
573-4801
dbullard@snydertex.com

Business Hours
Monday - Friday 8a.m. – 5:30p.m.
Classified Deadline
Tues. – Fri. 4p.m. the prior day
Sun. & Mon. by 3p.m. on Friday
573-5486

FOR AS LOW AS $2.50 PER DAY
($65 per month)
You Can Advertise Your Services In The
BUSINESS DIRECTORY
Call 573-5486 to ask how!

Legal Notice

BID NOTICE
The City of Snyder is accepting bids for the purchase of 3/4" and 1" water meters. The bids will be received in the Accounting Department at the City Hall located at 1925 24th St. on April 19th, at 3:30 p.m. The City of Snyder reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF SCURRY §

To those indebted to, or holding claims against the Estate of INEZ RINEHART, deceased, Probate Case Number 5,887:

The undersigned, having been duly appointed Independent Executor of the Estate of INEZ RINEHART, deceased, late of Scurry County, Texas, by ROD WALLER, Judge of the County Court of said County, on the 1st day of April, 2004, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said Estate to come forward and make settlement, and those having claims against said Estate to present them to: JAMES RINEHART, 10174 CR 4173, Hermleigh, Texas 79526, within the time prescribed by law.

EXECUTED this 1st day of April, 2004.

(s)JAMES RINEHART
Independent Executor
of the Estate of
INEZ RINEHART,
deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF SCURRY §

To those indebted to, or holding claims against the Estate of LLOYD AINSWORTH, deceased, Probate Case Number 5,888:

The undersigned, having been duly appointed Independent Executor of the Estate of LLOYD AINSWORTH, deceased, late of Scurry County, Texas, by ROD WALLER, Judge of the County Court of said County, on the 1st day of April, 2004, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said Estate to come forward and make settlement, and those having claims against said Estate to present them to: LARRY J. ANDERSON, P.O. Box 406, Snyder, Texas 79550-0406, within the time prescribed by law.

EXECUTED this 1st day of April, 2004.

(s)LARRY J. ANDERSON
Independent Executor
of the Estate of
LLOYD AINSWORTH,
deceased

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ORDER DEMOLITION
ATTENTION: **Miguel and Cecilia Martinez**; I have surveyed the property located at **2606 Ave. U**, (N55' S85' of W135' Lot 3, Block 11, Blankenship Addition of the City of Snyder). I declare the structure(s) to be unsafe as defined by Ordinance No. 324 and intend to order demolition of the structure(s) on or about April 15, 2004. If no objections are received by this date the demolition order will be issued.

Tom Valentine
Code Enforcement Officer
City of Snyder
(325) 573-4959

Lost & Found

LOST Sea-Doo cover
vicinity of College Ave. & 37th
Reward! 573-9497 573-9388

REWARD!
Lost, black Bulldog.
Answers to "Brittany". Vicinity
2800 blk Ave. W. 573-0413

Classified
The link between buyer and seller
573-5486

Lost & Found

****REWARD****
5 mo. old female 1/2 Chihuahua, 1/2 Dachshund, black/tan w/tan eyebrows, floppy ears, very petite legs, w/red collar.
Lost vicinity of police station.
Answers to "Leibling".
505-390-5117, 505-390-9078
will pay for call & call you back.

Vehicles

1971 GMC pickup
$1,000 cash.
574-1414 or 207-1685

1984 Chevy Blazer 4x4
Runs good. Ready for hunting.
$3,000 573-3276 207-0366

1985 1/2 ton pickup.
Runs good.
207-1010 or 573-2055

1992 Mercury Topaz
Needs a little work. Good school car. $700 573-5911

1999 Chevy Suburban LS
$11,250 207-1539

2001 Chevy Silverado single cab. 90,900 miles. 573-8027

1983 GMC Custom Good Time van. CD player, CB, all power. $2,000 573-0633 after 6p.m.

1996 Mitsubishi Eclipse GS-T Convertible
only 54K miles, 2.0L 16 valve, turbo fuel injected engine, power top, AC, 8 speaker CD system, power locks & windows, keyless entry, 4-speed automatic, rear spoiler, red w/black top & grey interior. $8,850 Call Wade Warren, 573-1252 after 5:30p.m.

Motorcycles

1998 Kawasaki Vulcan 750, less than 3000 miles. Extra chrome & saddle bags. See @ D&D Auto Supply.

2000 Kawasaki Nomad 1500 6,360 miles Loaded with extras! See to appreciate!
573-9037 207-2028

Busines. Opportunity

LOCAL VENDING ROUTE!
60 vending machines with excellent locations all for $10,995.
800-234-6982

Business Services

Duke and Son
Concrete, Masonry, House Leveling, Patchwork (brick & concrete). 573-5911, 573-2477

Experienced Lawn Service
Hauling, Trimming Trees, etc.
Call 573-0372

HANDYMAN SERVICE
Home Repair, Carpentry, Painting, Fences, Yards, Furniture Repair, Odd Jobs.
No job too small.
Call 573-8394, leave message.

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Colorado City
•Ceramic & Tile Floors
•Remodel & Tile Showers
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•Picket Fence •Carports
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Experienced lawn service ready to give your yard a professional look. 573-6117 207-1059

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-Raygene Shipp-
•Brush control
•Road blading & repair
•Cleaning & building tanks
Free Estimates
No charge for road time!
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experience. Fre
pick-up & deliver

Need a place
sunrise or
A new deck is w
Call Gery Camp
575-2337. Fre

Need your ho
Reasonable rate
available. She
573-5365 or

Replacing Y
Will haul off y
for free. Ca

R & J CONS
Metal buildi
Carports &
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Perfect Blade
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Antique F
& Furniture
Re-gluing &
Free Estimates, W
863-2342 H

Tilling-
Front-end load
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Farmers
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Toll Free

POSITION: Crim
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with 18-hours i
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applications beg
contacting the H
Building, or by
www.wtc.edu.
TIONS/RESUME
College Avenue,

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Business Services

Lawn Mower Repairs
Briggs & Stratton 15-yrs experience. Free estimates & pick-up & delivery. 325-207-4194

Need a place to watch the sunrise or cookout?
A new deck is what you need. Call Gery Camp, 573-8018 or 575-2337. Free estimates.

Need your house cleaned? Reasonable rates. References available. Sheilia Gilbert at 573-5365 or 863-2407

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Will haul off your old fence for free. Call 573-6913

R & J CONSTRUCTION
Metal buildings, Roofs
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Toll Free 1-866-880-7229
Perfect Blades Lawn Care
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Free Estimates

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& Furniture Refinishing
Re-gluing & Veneering
Free Estimates, Work Guaranteed
863-2342 Hermleigh, TX

Tilling–Leveling
Front-end loader,Walk-behind tiller, Tractor tiller, Small acreage plowed. 325-573-8264

Employment

Dental clerk needed at TDCJ, Daniel unit. Experience good but not necessary. Health insurance, pension available. 573-1114, ext. 4260.

Full-time Secretary
Typing, computer and organizational skills. Resume needed. No hospitalization. Call 573-8936 for interview, ask for Jim.

Employment

CNAs
Immediate openings and ALL SHIFTS AVAILABLE!
Requires State Certification and a willing attitude.
Great working conditions, competitive rates, and full time employees are eligible for company benefits including vacation leave, and holiday pay. EOE/MFHV. For information, call our Nursing Office at (325)573-6332, or apply in person, Mon.–Fri. 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.
SNYDER HEALTH CARE CENTER
5311 Big Spring Highway
Snyder, TX

DAILY LOADING/
YARD COORDINATOR
NEEDED!
KTL Transportation, Inc.
Now hiring for All Positions!
*Hourly Pay, Home Every Day
*Full Health Benefits,
Shifts Available
Class A CDL Required.
Call Recruiting for Details
800-247-2862

Full-time delivery, sales, collections & management careers available from 18K to 24K with full benefit package available. Serious inquires only. Send resume to P.O. Box 949S, Snyder, TX 79550.

Full/part-time child caregiver position for evening hours. Apply at Kid's Kampus, 111 37th. No phone calls please.

Midwestern Services, Inc.
Tank Cleaners needed. In & out of state travel & work 60+ hrs per week. Transportation to and from job site. Hotel paid & $140 a week per diem. Hourly wage & bonuses. 100% drug free. EOE. Submit applications at 1913 7th St., Snyder, TX.

For best results, use Snyder Daily News classifieds. They really work! 573-5486

Employment

LVNS
MULTIPLE SHIFTS
Sage Health Care Center in Lamesa seeks licensed NURSES for various positions, PART TIME and PRN. Could turn into full time positions! We can offer a competitive salary and benefits for full time employees (health, dental & life insurance avail), & 2 weeks vacation after 1 year. EOE. Fax cover letter & resume, with salary history to
SANDRA LECROY
RN Consultant
(325) 766-3647, or email:
sandralecroy@aol.com

RESTORATIVE/ TRANSPORTATION AIDE
Requires CNA with knowledge or background in long term care or geriatric environment. We will train qualified applicants to meet Medicare standards. Must be caring and patient, with a pleasant demeanor. EOE.
Fax cover letter & resume to: (325) 236-6834
mail to
Verna Gibson, Administrator
SWEETWATER HEALTHCARE CENTER
1600 Josephine St.
Sweetwater, TX 79556

Employment

NURSE: RN
Weekend shift.
Requires State license.
CNAs
Various shifts available.
Requires State Certification and a willing attitude.
Competitive rates, and full time employees are eligible for company benefits including vacation leave, & holiday pay.
EOE. Fax cover letter & resume to: (325) 236-6834, mail to
Verna Gibson, Administrator
SWEETWATER HEALTHCARE CENTER
1600 Josephine St.
Sweetwater, TX 79556

NURSES
LVNs
FULL TIME
positions now available on the 10p.m. – 6a.m. shift in our small, friendly facility that allows you to MAKE A DIFFERENCE! We offer COMPETITIVE RATES and BENEFITS. Must have state license, and experience with long term care a plus! It's time to see what all the EXCITEMENT is about by visiting with us today! EOE Please fax resume to (325)766-3159 or apply in person at
ROSCOE HEALTH CARE CENTER
201 Cypress St.
Roscoe, TX 79545

Employment

The Howard County Sheriff's Office will be accepting applications until April 23, 2004 for certified Peace Officer. Patrol experience required. Applications can be picked up at the Howard County Sheriff's Office, 300 S. Main, Big Spring, TX. 432-264-2244 between 8-5, M-F.

NURSES
LVNs
RNs
$750
Sign-on Bonus!
FULL TIME/PART TIME
We seek licensed NURSES for various positions, including:

LVN openings on multiple shifts, with flexible schedules available. Relief positions on Day & Afternoon shifts also available.

RNs needed for rotating shifts on weekends.

Competitive rates, with excellent benefits & sign-on bonuses for full time. EOE. Please send cover letter and resume to

Fax: (806) 872-6346
or mail to
LAMESA HEALTH CARE CENTER
1818 North 7th St.
Lamesa, TX 79331

NURSING
DIRECTOR of NURSING
Snyder Health Care Center seeks a Director of Nursing to oversee Nursing Services and provide direct quality care in our skilled nursing facility. Requires an RN with min. 2 years experience preferred (ideally in a long term care facility), supervisory experience and superior communications skills. Must be thoroughly familiar with rehab, therapy, and comprehensive nursing practices. Must be familiar with TEXAS regulatory requirements.

We can offer excellent working conditions, a competitive salary and benefits (health, dental & life insurance avail), & 2 weeks vacation after 1 year. EOE. Fax cover letter & resume, with salary history to: (325) 573-6334, mail to
Mary Zimwalt, Administrator
SNYDER
Health Care Center
5311 BIG SPRING HIGHWAY
SNYDER, TX 79549

Instructions

Defensive Driving Classes
Saturday April 10th 8am–3pm
2619 College Ave. 573-2850

Day Care

(2) childcare openings at Mindy's House. Certified in CPR, first aid & listed w/TX Dept. of Protective & Regulatory Services. 573-0272

Will watch children in my home during summer break. Christian home, references, CPR/first aid certified. 574-1616

Woman's Column

MARY KAY COSMETICS
Complimentary Facial or Reorders!
Call Geraldine Thames
915-573-9433, 1812 38th Snyder

***Sewing * Alterations**
Prom dresses, Brides maids dresses, Wedding dresses & more! References available. 863-2760

Farmer's Column

(2) ranch-raised geldings, 12 & 15 yrs old. Need experienced riders. 573-9866

3 month old Pygmy does for sale, $30/each. Call 863-2205.

Boats

12' aluminum boat
In good condition! $250
573-4300 or 573-7803

1987 16' Cajun bass boat w/120hp outboard motor & boat cover. $4,500 207-0172 after 4p.m.

Merchandise

1 Honda 4-wheeler 300, good shape; 53 joints 2⅜ tubing; portable cattle pens, about 11 panels. 325-242-2200

CAROL'S
BABY....and Before
!WE HAVE SCRUBS!
(consignment/resale)
1809 25th 11–5 573-0990

CONVALESCENT NEEDS
Wheel Chairs, Walkers, Canes, Home Blood Pressure Kits, etc.
Sales & Rentals
3706 College **573-7582**

Firewood!! Mesquite & Oak
Local cutter. Part seasoned.
24"-22"-20"-18". Some split.
Delivered 575-3243
573-5494, leave message

GUARANTEED USED APPLIANCES
Washers, Dryers, Refrigerators, Ranges & Freezers
WESTERN AUTO 2510 Ave. R

PERSONALIZED EASTER BUNNY LETTERS!
1st letter $5, $3 each additional letter to same address.
574-1444

SATELLITE DIRECT SNYDER
GET UP TO 3 ROOMS DISH NETWORK SYSTEM FREE. INCLUDES INSTALLATION. 1 FULL YEAR WARRANTY PLUS $50 REBATE. *SOME RESTRICTIONS*
325-575-0990

Used videos for sale! $5 each! Christian t-shirts, mugs, books, videos, cards & much more!! Must see all of this & more at **The PURPLE SAGE MOTEL Gift Shop**

Dogs, Pets, Etc.

CAROL'S
Critter Corner
Easter Bunnies
Bettas – Parakeets
1809 25th 11–5 573-0990

EASTER BUNNIES
Very tame & friendly! $10/ea.
See at Purple Sage Motel.
573-5491

Labradors 6 weeks old
Yellow or black, parents on premises. $150 each
Corey 868-0094 573-5400

CAROL'S
CRITTER CORNER
Tropical Fish & Supplies
Parakeets/Small Animals
Feeder mice/Rats/Crickets
11a.m. – 5p.m.
1809 25th St. 573-0990

Pool Company Texas Ltd.
Positions Available
TRANSPORT TRUCK DRIVERS
VACUUM TRUCK DRIVERS
PUMP TRUCK DRIVERS
Pool Company will provide qualified applicants: Competitive wages, employee training, medical and dental benefits, company 401(k) plan, paid vacation.
**Prospective employees must pass pre-employment drug test. Pool Company Texas Limited is an industry leader in well servicing and production services. Pool Company is committed to providing a safe work environment for its employees and customers.
Apply in person at:
Pool Company Texas Ltd.
2857 US Hwy 180 West
Snyder, TX 79549
(325) 573-2621

Pool Company Texas Ltd.
Positions Available
Rig Operators
Derrick Operators
Crew Workers
Pool Company will provide qualified applicants: Competitive wages, employee training, medical and dental benefits, company 401(k) plan, paid vacation.
**Prospective employees must pass pre-employment drug test. Pool Company Texas Limited is an industry leader in well servicing and production services. Pool Company is committed to providing a safe work environment for its employees and customers.
Apply in person at:
Pool Company Texas Ltd.
2857 US Hwy 180 West
Snyder, TX 79549
(325) 573-2621

LEASE OPERATOR
Energen Resources Corporation, a subsidiary of Energen Corporation has an immediate opening for a Lease Operator at its Westbrook, Texas office.
Responsibilities include:

- Monitoring, recording, and optimizing production data
- Operating and maintaining production equipment
- Conducting and directing the on-lease activities of contractors
- Assuring that all leases are operating within regulatory compliance
- Relief pump and work periodically with company roustabout crew

The qualified applicant will have 1-3 years production experience with a broad knowledge of all types of production equipment. Computer skills and proficiency with spreadsheets a must. We offer a highly competitive salary and bonus plan with a complete benefits package.

For immediate consideration, please forward your resume and salary history to:

Workforce Network of Midland
Attn: Ruth Forsdick
3510 North "A" Street, Building A
Midland, Texas 79705
E-mail: ruth.forsdick@twc.state.tx.us
Telephone #: (432) 685-8316
Fax #: (432) 686-8742

An Equal Opportunity Employer

(Paid for by Energen Corp.)

Family Dollar Stores is one of the fastest growing discount retail store chains in the US, meeting the needs of our customers by providing good quality, low cost, merchandise at convenient store locations across the country. This has been a banner year for us, being Awarded ***"Americas Leading Discount Retailer 2003"*** by Chain Store Age and opening 475 new stores this year! That brings the total to 5000+ stores in 43 states and we are committed to a steady growth rate of approximately 10% for next year!

Family Dollar Stores is looking for hands-on, Retail Store Managers and Assistant Managers to operate our store(s) located in Snyder and surrounding areas.

If you have strong experience in discount, grocery, drug store or variety store management, send us your resume today! We have immediate positions available and provide paid training for those who qualify.

FDS considers employee benefits to be an essential and important part of total compensation. We offer competitive salaries and an excellent benefits package including Medical Insurance, Short-term and long-term Disability insurance, 401(k), Paid Vacation, Life insurance, Employee Stock Purchase Plan, Dental insurance, Paid Training.

For more information, visit us online at www.familydollar.com
Send resume to:
Family Dollar Stores
Attn: E. Quillian
2470 Valwood Pkwy., Suite 138
Farmers Branch, TX 75001
division3jobs@familydollar.com
Toll Free Fax: 877-455-1341

FAMILY DOLLAR.
EOE M/F/D/V

JOB VACANCY
WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE
SNYDER, TEXAS 79549

POSITION: Criminal Justice Instructor **DUTIES:** Instruct freshman and sophomore level law enforcement and corrections courses. Additional responsibilities include active participation in college and community functions, campus committees, program recruitment, serve as an advisor to criminal justice students, and pursue faculty development opportunities. **EMPLOYMENT:** Full-time, 9 month contract. Salary commensurate with education and experience listed on WTC salary schedule. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Three to five years experience in Law Enforcement/Corrections. Master's degree with 18-hours in Criminal Justice preferred. Scurry County residency preferred upon employment. Must pass TDCJ clearance requirements. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Position is open until filled with review of applications beginning on April 15, 2004. Applications may be obtained by contacting the Human Resources office located in the WTC Administration Building, or by downloading the application from the WTC website at www.wtc.edu. **DATE OF EMPLOYMENT:** August 16, 2004 **APPLICATIONS/RESUME TO:** Human Resources, Western Texas College, 6200 College Avenue, Snyder, Texas 79549-9502.

WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION AND IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED AND CONSIDERED WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, CREED, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, VETERAN'S STATUS, OR DISABILITY.

AUCTION

Antiques, Ranch Oak, & Collectibles *Auction*
Sat. April 10th 7:00 pm
Preview: 12:00 Noon till Sale Time

Ranch Oak (Table & 4 Chairs, End Table, Coffee Table, Chairs, Loveseat, Etc.), 3 Oak Dressers, Mahogany 7 Drawer Chest on Chest, Barn Board Displays, Cabinet & Other Items, Antique Dresser, Chest of Drawers & Full Bed, Round Oak Pedestal Table, Oak Gate Leg Table, Shadow Box, Mirrors, Lamps, Victorian Wicker Potty, Bally Nip-It Pinball machine (Needs Help), Ice Tongs, Crocks, Lots of Union Pacific & Mopac Railroad Memorabilia (Knives, Pen Sets, Watches, Ring, Coins, Old Locks, Belt Buckles, Pictures), Dominoes, Frankoma, Fiesta, Depression Glass, Pepsi Clock, Pepsi Aluminum 6 Pack Holder, Texaco (1-16 Trucks, 1-7 Airplanes, Gas Pumps, Old Wooden Crates, Porcelain Gas Pump Signs, Etc.), Other Oil Field Memorabilia, Old Coins, Lots of Misc. Glassware. Something For Everyone!!!

Auctioneer Note: This Will Be An Exceptional Auction of Quality Items For Your Home, Collection, Shop or Booth For the Summer Shopping Season.

CROSSROADS AUCTION CO.
Located at 6607 N. I-20 Service Rd., 2 miles East of Refinery on North Service Road at Exit 184, Big Spring, TX
David Lefever - Auctioneer Lic.#13251
(432) 264-9900
Auctions the 2nd & 4th Saturday of the Month
View Pictures: www.geocities.com/crossroadsauction

GARAGE SALE
Advertise your garage full of "Don't needs" in
SNYDER DAILY NEWS
573-5486

Plant a classified ad ... reap a cash crop.
Call 573-5486

APR 04 2004

ALWAYS A WINNER THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

Garage Sales

J&D's Mini Mall
Pal-O-Mar Motel #151
Mon.–Sat. 8a.m. – 7p.m.
Sunday 2p.m. – 7p.m.
Mexican candies, Shoes, Rings, Christian caps & shirts, Odds & ends

GARAGE SALE
Advertise your garage full of "Don't needs" in SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Apartments For Rent

$75 Move-In Special
La Posada Apartments
Security gate, swimming pool, energy efficient apartments, new appliances, more...
573-9605 (office) 575-2966 (cell)

College Park Apartments
4503 College
2 bedroom apartment available in clean, quiet, 16-unit complex.
Locally owned.
575-3084 573-0340

Apartments For Rent

$99 Move In Special

Western Crest & Windridge Village
3901 Ave. O
Snyder, TX
573-1488
1 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Pool
2 Bedrooms, 2 bath
W/D Connections, Pool & Playground

There's A Deal Waiting For You
IN THE CLASSIFIEDS
573-5486

Apartments For Rent

Fieldcrest Apartments
1 bedroom/1 bath - $325 (very big bedroom)
2 bedroom/1+ bath - $350
***We pay water**
***You pay electricity**
700 E. 37th
(across from coliseum)
573-3519 573-1681

Houses For Rent

***2-1** house, garage, fenced, stove, refrigerator. $350/mo.
***Tiny** 1 bedroom apartment. Bills paid. $275/mo. Deposits **573-5525**

2 bedroom house, fenced back yard. $150/dep., $150/mo. 1108 33rd St. 573-6266

3 bedroom, 1½ bath, CP, fenced backyard. $225/dep., $225/dep. FMI 207-3909

Everyone reads classifieds!

Houses For Rent

3 bedroom, 1½ bath house, w/fenced backyard. No pets. 2803 Ave. X 573-4454

Country Living
Large 2-story house, 3-2-2, CH/A, dishwasher, stove, utility room, on 3 acres, W. Hwy 180. $515/mo. plus deposit. 573-7306

Rent Houses Available
***3601 Ave. U** 3-1-2 $450/mo., $250/dep.
***2306 40th St.** 2-2 $450/mo., $200/dep.
Elizabeth Potts, Realtors
325-573-8505

More Real Estate on pg. 11A

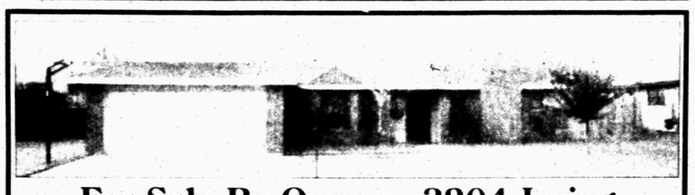
Real Estate

JACK & JACK Realtors
611 Coliseum Dr
Ford Spikes, Owner/Broker
573-8571 573-3452

1 acre, 3-1¾-2cp, basement, RV shed $75T
Red! Country 4 CONTRACT PENDING ck $50T
REDUCED! CONTRACT PENDING 44 Acres
3-1¾-2cp, 2 storage areas, 220 35th...$35T
6.94 A's w/older house 442 CR 112...$18T
3773 Dalton 3-1¾-1cp, den, dining..$35T
REDUCED! 1.710 A's 3-2-2, 15mi. S 208 $65T
111 Peach 2 or 3-1.....$9.5T
80 acres 5 mi. SE of Hermleigh, 3-2-2 + office + shop & out building.....Call
Good Shop Bldg. or Garage 1802 College $16T
Commercial Property for Sale or Lease
Stonewall Co. 1,315 acre cattle operation. Water well + 6 earth tanks. Deer, quail, turkey & hogs.....Call

We Will Work For YOU! We Need Listings
Doris Spikes.....573-6602

Real Estate For Sale By Owner



For Sale By Owner 3204 Irving
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, brick, pool, storage building. Ready to move into! $85T
Call for appointment 573-7664 or 575-1991



For Sale By Owner
2702 34th St. Located in the Colonial Hill Addition.
3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage. Remodeled, very nice!
574-8007 or 868-0216



Call Keith Hackfeld
(325) 207-2984 (M) (325) 573-2873 (H)
About These Listings — *Elizabeth Potts Realtors 325-573-8505*

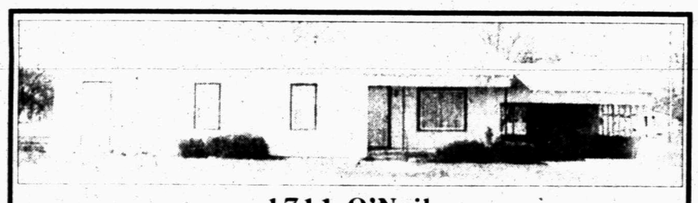
620 Acres... SW Hermleigh, 152 acres cult., quail & dove hunting.
480 Acres... Fisher Co CONTRACT PENDING of extras
960 Acres... Ira - Brick home 4-3, shop, CRP & shinnery
(2) 160 Acre Farms... Dunn on CR 4136
196 Acres.. NE D CONTRACT PENDING
147 Acres... Camp Springs, 44 acres cultivation, tank, windmill
109 Acres... South city lin CONTRACT PENDING t home site
328 Acres... CR 253 N - grassland, deer & quail
Ira Brick Home.. 1 acre, 3-2-2, Nice
Camp Springs... Brick h SOLD 2, 50 acres, "Scenic"
105 Acres... Pasture CONTRACT PENDING me
"Attention" - Investors - Package 9 rental homes, priced 30% below tax appraisal
Country... Close In - FM 1607 3-2-2, 4 lots $79.9T

Farm & Ranch + Residential



644 Harris Hermleigh, TX
Lots of room to roam! Approx. 12 acres plus nice brick 3 bedroom, 2 bath home w/2 car garage. Great buy for the area!! Only $78.5T

Call Wenona Evans to view this lovely home today!
Stevenson Real Estate
573-5612 (W) **or 573-8165** (H)



1711 O'Neil
Great starter home located on the edge of town.
2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 car carport. Ready to move in! $35T



Call **Kayla Moreland** to view!
Stevenson Real Estate
573-5612 (W) 573-4809 (H)

Elizabeth Potts Realtors

1707 30th Street 573-8505
Temi Matthies Owner/Broker


Dee Kemp
573-1152


Annette Waller
573-9467


Keith Hackfeld
573-2873

RESIDENTIAL LISTINGS

2803 El Paso 4-2-office, lrg CP Red. $104.5T
New! 4105 Midland Good location! 3-2-2 $105T
New! 3750 Avondale 3-1¾-1 $41.5T
2205 42nd 3-1-1 + big bldg $34T
4000 Jacksboro 3-1¾-2, big liv & kitchen Call
2609 37th 3-2¾-2. Nice & large $107.5T
3702 Ave. V 3-1¾-1. metal fence $39.9T
2801 37th 4-1¾, RV stor., corner lot $86.9T
2605 33rd 3-4½-3, plus office CALL
Beautiful bldg. site overlooking park Call

COMMERCIAL LISTINGS

900 25th Call
Comm. Bldg. 1802 College $16T
Shop w/2 offices & waiting room fenced yard. 87 A's 23rd St. "Old Gail Rd" Call
Reduced 3311 College Ave. $38T
1701 25th St. $90T
2309 25th Call
1801 22nd Reduced Commercial office/yd
1706 25th St. CALL
2005 26th St. $45T

COUNTRY LISTINGS

New! Ira - Brick 3-2-2, 1 acre, nice $85T
105 acres pasture & cult... mobile home. SW Herm... CONTRACT PENDING ...$55T
Nice doublewide in country, leased land Call
FM 1607 - Close In - 3 bdrm, 1½ bath, 2-car garage, water well, 4 lots $79.9T
For Sale or Rent - 378 CR 251 - 2-1-1 with 2 acres Reduced $30T

LAND

320 Acres – CRP & hunting ... IRA
6 to 22 acres tracts ... Owner Finance
Corner Lot: 17th & Ave. T ... $3,200
960 Acres Ira - 480 A's CRP & 480 A's shinnery, brick 4-3, shop. Excellent quail hunting
196 Acre blacktop frontage NE Dunn on FM 1606, ... CONTRACT PENDING ... Call
7.5 Acres - Round Top Acres - Tank stocked CONTRACT PENDING ... ll, water well – Great Home Site ... Call
328 Acres - CR 253 N, deer & quail $425/A
480 A's Fisher Co. Great hunting place - water, turke... CONTRACT PENDING ...ide, bunk house, D6 Cat & tractor Call!
Camp Springs - 14± Acres, windmill, concrete water storage, earth tank, 44 acres cropland Call
620 Acres pasture & 152 cultivation, hunting, quail & dove, SW Hermleigh
160 Acres - Farm - East of Dunn on CR 4136 $475/acre
152 Acres - East of Dunn - Farm on CR 4136 $475/acre
109 Acres South City Limits, native grass ... CONTRACT PENDING ...n, close in! $325/acre Call for more details
25th & Ave. Z Vacant lot ... $3,500

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Stevenson Real Estate

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★ ★ RESIDENTIAL LISTINGS ★ ★

Immaculate - Large family home 2604 34th 4-4-2. 2LA's. Too many amenities to list. Call
2803 El Paso new carpet, flooring & paint, 4-2¾-2cp, plus office ... REDUCED Call
Large Family Home -- 2807 Westridge 6 bdrms, 4 baths, 4-car garage Reduced $175T
2609 37th 3-3-2 ... $107.5T
4517 Galveston 3-2-2 SOLD Red. $97.5T
3001 Beaumont 3-2-2, 2 LA's Reduced $94T
4704 El Paso 3-2-2 SOLD ... $89.9T
3404 Kerrville Brick 3-2-2, office ... $77.5T
3108 Hill Ave. 3-2-2-1cp Reduced $69.9T
3607 Houston 3-2-2 ... $57T
HUD property available - 3604 Irving ... $56T
Edge of Town - 1601 Hilltop Lane - Brick 3-1-2cp plus storm cellar ... $49.5T
2212 28th 2-2-2 living areas-2 ... $44.5T
2214 40th 3-2-1 ... $39.5T
3749 Avondale 3-1¾ ... $39T
New Listing! 1711 O'Neill 2-1-1 ... $35T
Edge of Town - 1015 Mobile Rd. 3-1-2 ... $31.5T
New! 1381 N. Ave. P 2-1, 4 lots ... $22.5T
Small Cabin C-City Lake 1-1 ... $14T
Trailer to be moved 2-2 ... $12.5T
Several residential lots, East 35th St. ... Call

★ ★ COUNTRY LIVING ★ ★

McBeth Pecan Farm 3 bedroom house with 15+ acres ... Reduced!
1745 Keller 3-1½-2, barn + 15 A's Red. $85T
1534 CR 265 3-1, 20A's ... Reduced to $63T
Mobile Home 4-2 ... Call for details
New Listing! Country on 5A's, 3-2-2 $104T
New! Hermleigh Brick 3-2-2, approx. 12 A's $78.5T
5322 CR 254 4-3-2LAs, 4 A's Red. $81.5T

★ ★ COMMERCIAL LISTINGS ★ ★

Great Location - Apx. 4 acres - 10,000 sq.ft. + or -, 600 37th St. ... Reduced $100's
Need Several Offices? 2515 College Ave. Living Quarters in back ... Call!
Car Lot - 709 Hwy 180 ... $40T
Houston & 37th - Apx. 28.6 acres ... $75T
Downtown - 1818 26th ... $35T
North College Ave. ... $15T
1100 25th St. ... $25T
East 37th - Bldg. with 1½ acres ... $35T
Westerner Golfland ... Call for details
1822 26th St. ... $44.5T
2906 25th - office, shop, small acreage (Preferred Packers bldg.) ... Call for details
Comm office for lease N. of town Call for details

★ ★ LAND ★ ★

13 lots South of Northeast Elementary $15T
South of W. Hwy 180 81.39 Acres $32.4T
Several lots in Round Top Acres area Call
160 acres east - Cult & pasture $375/acre
Several lots with Mobile Home hook-ups -- shop & water well ... $15T
Lot at 25th & Y ... $12.5T
Lot at 28th & Y ... $6,500
New! Approx 158 acres cult. ... $375/acre
80 acres Pleasant Hill Rd. ... $52.5T
7+ acres on Round Top Rd. ... $12T

Buying or Selling? Call us today!


Wenona Evans
573-8165


Kayla Moreland
573-4809
207-1946


Lora Lord
573-7076
207-2781


Bill Dryden
Broker/Owner
573-9739

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SELLERS: Let us show you the latest in marketing strategies to sell your home faster
BUYERS - No Money Down/No Closing Cost Programs Available.
We can show you any listing. We will work for you!

New Listing 1510 39th 3 bedroom, 1 bath Call about easy financing terms ... $29.9T
Rent or Sell 2306 30th 3-1¾, large kitchen, big garage, lots of storage ... $41T
Country Home! 4 bedroom, 2 bath, large kitchen. Ready to move in ... $39.9T
3733 Rose Circle 3-1½, large living ro... Contract Pending ... storage Reduced $35T
3002 37th St. Spacious, clean, brick 2-1-cp Updated & beautiful ... $51T
3624 FM 1607 Spacious 4-2¾-3, 2 LA's, large utility, ... SOLD ... f storage, close to town ... $116T
2803 El Paso Roomy 4 bedroom, 2 bath, office, large utility, updated carpet & flooring, fenced backyard, close to schools ... Low $100's
1021 N. Bus. Hwy 84 GREAT FIND. Country close to town 1+ acres, 2-2, finished basement (could be 3rd bedroom) loft, FP, big utility room, fenced yard w/cattle guard ... $75T ... Contract Pending
305 Rector - Loraine - Peaceful Living - Immaculate 2 bedroom, 1¾ bath, 2 living areas, CH/A, storm cellar, storage building, carport, front porch. A MUST SEE! ... $48.5T
New Low Price! 1090 CR 175 - Colorado City - Private & Peaceful retreat! Well kept 2 bedroom, 2 bath, large living area, front & back porches, shop & storage bldg, beautifully landscaped, lots of trees! Yard irrigation on well. ... Motivated Seller! $40T
3749 Avondale UPDATED! 3 bedroom, 1¾ bath, CH/A, fenced yard, great storage! $38.5T
1439 Watson - C-City - Spacious brick 3-1... Contract Pending ...t-A Must See! ... $60T
1106 Hickory - Roscoe - 3 bedroo... SOLD ...2-car garage, fenced yard ... $56.9T
608 27th - A Great Find!!! - 1 bedroom, 1 bath, new fence ... $10T
New Listing 102 E. 22nd St. - C-... Contract Pending ...eautiful yard ... $60T

COMMERCIAL

Daylight Donuts & Water Store – Great Location! Loyal customer base. Turn Key operation. Owners ready to sell. Be Your Own Boss! ... CALL
4111 College Ave. "Old IGA Building" Prime Retail Location. Corner lot, lots of parking.

HERITAGE HOMES REALTORS

573-5056
3405 Snyder Shopping Center


Tresa Cornett
Agent/Owner
574-1024


Lynda Cole
573-1223


Joan Tate
573-8773


Shirley Drum
573-1550


Dolores Jones
Broker/Office Mgr.
573-5308


Faye Blackledge
Broker/Owner
573-1223

EXCLUSIVE LISTINGS

Great Location 3110 Ave. U ... $49.5T
Reduced 2104 41st 4-1 ... $35T
3605 Jacksboro 3-2-2, FP ... $69.5T
309 34th - Cute, clean & darling! 3-1 ... $45T
2812 Ave. V - Charming home w/larger rooms, open concept 3-2-2LAs-2 ... $90's
3014 El Paso - Extra nice! 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas, fireplace, on corner lot ... $90's
Updated - 210 33rd 3-1½-1 ... $24.9T
Ready to move into! 3-1¾-1, FP 2213 41st $55T
1501 Ave. E 3-1-3-2cp, storm cellar + or - ½ acre
303 36th Place 3-... Contract Pending ... $30's
108 Chestnut - Investors - 3-1 ... $16T
204 35th - Cute as a bug! 3-1, CH/A ... $32T
1701 Firestone - What you are looking for! 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage town home $80's
2809 Westridge - Beautiful Prestigious Area! 3-2LA's-2FP's-basement-2cg. Must see! $100's
Investors - 108 Chestnut - 3-1-cp ... Low Teens
3106 Ave. B Updated! 3-1 ... $40's
2705 48th - Beautiful 3-2 LA's-2-2 pool ... $100's
4510 Galveston 3-2-... Contract Pending ...oo $70's
2908 37th Large 2-2-2LA's, green house $50's
2110 40th - Cute - 3-1, FP ... $30's
210 33rd - Updated - Move In! Reduced $24.9T
212 28th - Reduced - 3-2, game room, cellar, out buildings ... $58T
2101 41st 3-1-1cp ... Price Reduced! $30's
Round Top Acres Wonderful family home! 3-2, game room, small office, 5 acres $100's
New Listing 2104 41st 4-1-1 ... Call
208 Chestnut on 4 lots, 3-2 Very cute $55T
2411 27th - Extra nice older home - 3 or 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, carport ... $50's
2801 34th 3-1¾-2 ... Reduced $74.5T
2901 Westridge - Wonderful Area & Great Home - 3-2, 2 LA's, 2 car garage ... $100's ... Contract Pending
4507 Galveston - You will love this! - 3-2-2, with pool ... Call for more details
109 34th - First H... Contract Pending ... $20's
Charming 3110 Ave. U 3-2-cp ... $49,500
4003 Midland - Nearly new 4-2-2, open concept $90's
3606 Hill Ave. 3-2-1 ... $44,900
Hermleigh 3 bedroom house w/4 apts $100T
Like New! 4-2 doublewide ... $39.5T

OTHER LISTINGS

2214 40th - Nice & Clean - 3-1½-1 ... $30's
2803 El Paso - Open Concept - 4 bedroom, 2 bath plus office, updated REDUCED CALL
2609 37th 3-3-2, 3 LA's, hobby room REDUCED
513 34th Updated 2-1, Great rental prop. $17T
One of a kind! Custom, 2605 33rd ... Call
2274 McMullan - Mobile home site, has well $5T
1815 Garden Lane - Four lots, shop with loading area and income property ... $10T
1626 Pecan Farm Rd. - Pecan Farm/Approx. 800 trees, 15 acres, MH, equipment, truck ... $100T
3749 Avondale - Updated & Nice 3-1¾, storage $30's
3002 37th - **Updated & Cute**, brick 2-1 ... $51T

LAKE PROPERTY

C-City - 2628 LCR 252 - 3-1, ramp, boat, furniture ... $80's

COUNTRY HOMES

Underground home - 42 acres, 3-2, sun porch, hot tub & MUCH MORE! ... Call
Hermleigh - 80 A's, 3-2-2, 22 out buildings $100's
Room to Roam! - 3-2-2, 5A's, basement $100's
New Listing 10583 CR 3109 Ira - 4-2-3cp, shop, 5 acres, Needs TLC ... $68T

COMMERCIAL

3311 College - Building & 2 lots ... $40T
N. College - 1 plus acres Excellent bldg. site $70T
Large 2 story - several office spaces ... $40's
5109 College Comm. Lot 2 acres ... $90's
College Ave. Frontage, over 7 acres ... Call
S. College - Excellent bldg. site, 1.61 A's $80T
Golf Land - Great buy & extra income ... $50's
N. of Town - Excellent shop w/storage bldgs $100's
3 Commercial Lots 610 26th St. ... $6,500
3906 College Ave. ... Call for details! $55T

LAND

Prime Location 2567 Blockline Rd. 4 acre tract ... $15T
28 lots Warren Crest Addition $3,900 each
398 acres, 300 in CRP - Rental prop. & hunting
Lot - Prime Location, Colonial Hills ... $3,400
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0 down programs available on land homes. Call to qualify 888-539-7780

1st time home buyer or single parent program, EZ financing. 888-539-7780

2-1 mobile home for sale. Reasonably priced. 1807 40th 207-1216 or 573-0719 after 6p.m.

2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 car carport, w/storage units. $5,500 510 N. Ave. T 574-1165 (Spanish only) or 207-0317

Brand new 16' wide 3-2, just $1,000 down, $171.99 monthly. Save thousands. 800-830-3515 (se habla Espanol) $18,900 to finance, 10%APR, 300 months with approved credit.

Call our 24 hour hotline to see if you qualify for a home loan. 800-375-8739

CUTE LITTLE HOUSE Very affordable. Call (325)673-7353.

Ø DOWN LAND & HOME NO CREDIT NECESSARY. Call SYNERGY HOMES, your land/home experts. (325)673-8488

Need a home now? Don't wait, use your tax refund. Everyone approved. We tote the note. 800-830-3515

TAX REFUND **Don't** wait! We will do your tax returns FREE for your new home business. 800-830-3515

Used Homes Under $7,500 Call Ron @ (325)725-4133.

Mobile Home Lot(s) for Sale

Very nice mobile home lot, fenced, storage building, carport, large metal cover. 207 30th $12,500 573-2251

Real Estate

3-2-2LR-1-2cp w/basement, large kitchen, good water well, city water, w/3½ acres, 4 miles west of Snyder. 573-2113 1-432-213-4280

Colonial Hill Addition 2511 31st St. 3 bedroom, 2 bath w/approx. 2200 sq.ft. living space, nice yard. Has recently been updated. $100's **573-5495**

Cute 2-1, newly restored, new carpet, paint, fans, etc. CH/A, large fenced backyard, large trees. Must see to appreciate! 310 34th $24,900 Call 325-282-3080 or 325-650-4271

For Sale By Owner 2108 35th St. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. $55,000 573-6552, leave message

For Sale By Owner 416 30th 4 room house. Inquire at 3010 Ave. E 573-7126

More Real Estate on pg. 10A



MATH TAKS TIPS — Leslie Koske from the Region 14 Service Center in Abilene presented a program at Central Elementary Thursday afternoon. Parents were given tips to help their child prepare for the Math TAKS test. Parents pictured from left are Teena Cobb, Cindy Vilas and Leah Nakamura. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)



On Nutrition by Ed Blonz, Ph.D.

Scary side effects may be caused by supplements

DEAR DR. BLONZ: We have started taking acetyl-L-carnitine after reading a magazine article reporting that it improved mental function in rats. Unfortunately, we find that our blood pressures have risen significantly and our pulse rates have also increased. We found on the Internet that those can be "rare" side effects from the product. Do you have any information about the side effects of acetyl-L-carnitine, especially as it affects blood pressure? Thank you for your response. — **A.C.B., no city or state given**

DEAR A.C.B.: Acetyl-L-carnitine occurs naturally in the body and plays a role in a number of systems, one of which involves acetylcholine, a compound referred to as a neurotransmitter because it facilitates communication between the nerves. This compound is being investigated for potential benefits for cognitive decline, dementia and Alzheimer's disease, as these are conditions in which our own acetylcholine does not operate with its usual efficiency. The research with animals has been encouraging, but research with people has been mixed; some studies show positive effects, while others show no measurable advantages. It is another one of those "we need more research" issues. I would encourage you to discuss this substance with your health professional if you feel it might offer some potential value in your situation.

In general, whenever you experience unexpected side effects — especially after the introduction of a new substance — it is prudent to find out what is going on. The prescribing physician should be informed if the product is taken at their request or if there are other prescription medications in use. An additional resource would be to call your dispensing pharmacist, as they have access to information about potential interactions. If this is a substance you have taken on your own, you should also contact your health professional.

Reports often speak to the "average" experience, but we are all individuals with unique combinations of genes, health and life histories. What happens in our bodies may never be reflected in a product insert. Clearly, you need to find out what is happening. Acetyl-L-carnitine plays a role with the way the nerves communicate, so adverse reactions such as agitation, restlessness and even nausea, although uncommon, are possible. A connection with blood pressure and pulse could certainly be related to this. The side effects you experienced are nothing to be trifled with, so I would encourage you to find out whether the dietary supplement was responsible or if there are other issues to be considered.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL READERS: While I have your attention, grab a pen and write down the following number: (800) 222-1222. This is the toll-free number for the National Poison Control Center, which gives you access to a medical professional who can provide assistance during a poison (or dietary supplement) emergency. The hotline is available every day at all hours, and is a service of the Council on Family Health, a Washington-based nonprofit. You can write for a telephone sticker with this number on it by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Council on Family Health, "Emergency Stickers," 1150 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 1200-B, Washington, D.C. 20036. Companies and organizations can order bulk quantities (up to 50) online at www.cfhinfo.org.

DEAR DR. BLONZ: What can you tell me about indium, element 49, and its role (if any) in human nutrition? Also, are there any Web sites where I can look up information on this? — **K.M., San Diego, Calif.**

DEAR K.M.: Products containing indium, a trace element, are being sold and a number of health promises are being made on its behalf. I looked through the scientific literature and was unable to find an objective study concluding that indium serves any role in human nutrition. It is reasonable that some look for compounds that might improve their health, but this can make us vulnerable to clever marketing based on vague testimonials. In a case such as this, there needs to be objective proof before we see the promises and the products.

There are informational Web sites, but I am reluctant to recommend any, as I could find none that provided more than statements supporting products being sold. If you or any other readers have come across studies of a substantive nature, forward them to my attention through your paper, or via my e-mail address listed below. I will let you know if I find or hear of any evidence that would change my position.

Send questions to: "On Nutrition," Ed Blonz, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. For e-mail, address inquiries to: ed@blonz.com. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Ed Blonz, Ph.D., is a nutrition scientist and the author of "Power Nutrition" (Signet, 1998) and the "Your Personal Nutritionist" book series (Signet, 1996).

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Queen, artist receive awards

ODENSE, Denmark (AP) — Danish Queen Margrethe and Canadian artist Robert Lepage received Hans Christian Andersen awards during a ceremony marking the 199th anniversary of the Danish fairy tale writer in his hometown.

The 64-year-old monarch was awarded the ninth annual Hans Christian Andersen Honorary Award for her work in illustrating dozens of Andersen's fairy tales since 1984.

"It feels like a very big honor," Margrethe said Friday after receiving a diploma and a small bronze statue of an open book.

Thanking the award committee, she jokingly called it "an insane idea" to pick her, prompting laughter from the audience of 500 inside the Odense Theater.

Danish Culture Minister Brian Mikkelsen gave the 2004 Hans Christian Andersen Prize to Lepage, including a small bronze bust of the famed writer as well as a cash prize of $62,000.

Lepage was picked for his creation of a one-man show based on "The Dryad," which details the effect of technology on Andersen's fairy tale universe.

Five families mourn deaths of soldiers

FORT RILEY, Kan. (AP) — Five Fort Riley-stationed soldiers who died in a single day this week in Iraq were all in their early 20s but had backgrounds as varied as their hometowns, which stretched from Idaho to Maryland.

One joined the Army looking to learn a trade. Another planned to return home later this spring to a newborn child. A third found his calling as a medic after quitting college.

They died when a homemade bomb exploded Wednesday beneath their armored personnel carrier in Habbaniyah, Iraq.

The Defense Department identified them as 1st Lt. Doyle M. Hufstedler of Abilene; Spc. Sean R. Mitchell of Youngsville, Pa.; Spc. Michael G. Karr Jr. of San Antonio, Texas; Pfc. Cleston C. Raney of Rupert, Idaho; and Pvt. Brandon L. Davis of Cumberland, Md.

Their families tell much more.

Davis, 20, a carpentry and fishing enthusiast, died about six months after he went to Iraq, having joined the Army hoping to learn a trade.

"He was my baby. I have three kids, and he was my baby," said his mother, Jackie Weatherholt.

Weatherholt, of Cresaptown, Md., said she last spoke with Davis on March 20 by telephone. Part of their discussion? The dangers of the high-risk areas into which he was always being sent.

"I said, 'Watch your back, Brandon,'" she recalls.

Davis' father, Jeffrey A. Davis, said Brandon loved being a soldier "and he was happy to be doing what he did."

Hufstedler's pregnant wife, Leslie, had been waiting for his return to Charlotte, N.C. While her husband was off to war, she worked as a substitute teacher in a church nursery school and tried to distract herself with garden work.

Hufstedler, 25, met his wife at Texas A&M University three years ago, proposing to her in the end zone at halftime of a football game. They celebrated their first wedding anniversary in August and learned Leslie, 24, was pregnant.

Less than a week later, Doyle Hufstedler was sent off to Iraq.

By telephone, the couple agreed on a name for their baby: Grace Ashley. Doyle Hufstedler was working to arrange a 15-day leave to hold the baby, due in May.

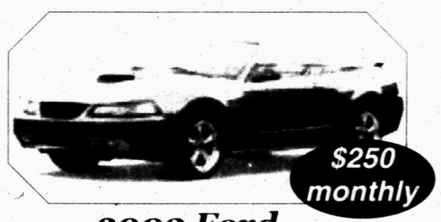
Sean Mitchell, 24, leaves behind his parents, two brothers and two sisters. His parents were told Wednesday of his death and declined to comment.

Teachers at Youngsville High School in northwestern Pennsylvania, where Mitchell graduated in the late 1990s, were discussing Mitchell's death, assistant principal Ken Fitzsimmons said.

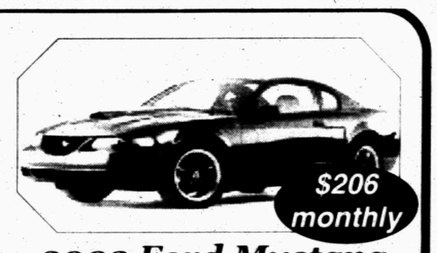
Michael Karr, 23, dropped out of college at the University of Texas, deciding the Army was a better place to be.

"I think he was just lost at Texas," his father, Greg Karr, said Friday. "He was not really finding his path."





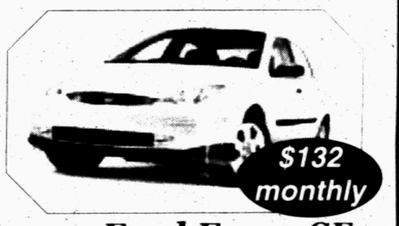
2003 Ford Mustang Convertible
V6, Auto, Leather, PW, PL, 17K



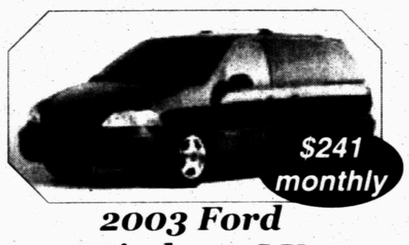
2003 Ford Mustang
V6, Auto, PW, PL, Keyless, 16K



2003 Ford Focus SE
Auto, PW, PL, Keyless, 18k



2001 Ford Focus SE
Auto, PW, PL, Keyless, 23K



2003 Ford Windstar LX
V6, 4 Doors, 3rd Seat, Rear A/C, 24K

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CARD OF THANKS

Thank You

The family of Ruth Johnson Cardwell would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, support, food, flowers, phone calls and comfort that we received during our time of loss.

A special thank you to Dr. Fagan and the ER staff, Dr. Kerr, the 3rd floor nursing staff and Odyssey Hospice for their care. Also, thank you to Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral home, the Revs. Vernon E. & Vernon R. Groce for the beautiful service and to the ladies who sang so beautifully.

A very special thank you to our beloved niece and nephew, Sandy and Vernon Groce, who were with us day and night and took special care of Ruth.

May the Lord bless each of you.
R.L. Cardwell & family

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Two attacks on Iraqi police kill four

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Two attacks on Iraqi police south of Baghdad killed four people Saturday, the latest violence directed at local authorities linked to the U.S.-led occupation.

Gunmen fired on a vehicle carrying Col. Wisam Hussein, the police chief of Mahmoudiya, 20 miles south of Baghdad, killing him and his driver, police Lt. Ala'a Hussein said. They were returning from the capital.

Later Saturday, six unidentified assailants attacked a four-man police patrol in the town, killing one and wounding three, police officer Khaldoon al-Gurairi said. He said a 60-year-old bystander was also killed.

Insurgents consider Iraqi police collaborators with the U.S.-led coalition. More than 350 policemen have been killed by shootings and suicide bombings since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime last year.

On March 24, nine police recruits were killed when gunmen shot at their vehicle in southern Babil province.

The violence has not stopped Iraqis from seeking the jobs. In the southern city of Basra, unemployed men demanding jobs as policemen clashed with Iraqi security forces Saturday, police Col. Ali Kahdum said. He said the protesters raided and looted the city's central police office, and three protesters were hurt.

Also Saturday, an explosion near a U.S. military convoy near Khalis, 40 miles northeast of Baghdad, wounded a civilian and damaged a Humvee, Iraqi officials said. A policeman who witnessed the blast said on condition of anonymity that it came from within a car left on the roadside.

American forces blocked off the area after the attack, witnesses said. It was not clear if any Americans suffered casualties. A U.S. official in Baghdad could not confirm the bombing.

In western Baghdad on Saturday, a rocket slammed into a house in a residential suburb, killing two people and wounding four, said a doctor at Yarmouk hospital, Jamil Ibrahim. It was not clear who owned the house.

Serial killer could be returned to Michigan

HOUSTON (AP) — A confessed serial killer who is scheduled to be released from the Texas prison system in two years could be on his way to Michigan to face a murder charge in the coming weeks.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry received the extradition request for Coral Eugene Watts from Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm on Friday morning.

"The governor's general counsel wants to review the paperwork carefully and make sure everything is in order," Perry spokeswoman Kathy Walt said. "The governor will sign it as soon as possible."

Once the extradition request is signed, Watts, who received immunity for the killings of 13 women as part of a plea agreement on a burglary with intent to commit murder charge in 1982, will receive the warrant at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's Ellis Unit, where he is housed.

"Once he is served with the warrant ... he can fight extradition," Walt said.

Watts was sentenced to 60 years in prison as part of the 1982 plea agreement. He told Houston police after his capture that he targeted women who had evil eyes. But the evidence against Watts was scant because of his quick work killing randomly selected women who he stabbed, hanged, strangled or drowned, according to Houston police.

Harris County prosecutors, police and the judge thought Watts would be behind bars until he was an octogenarian. But mandatory release laws require his discharge on April 9, 2006. He will be 52.

If released, Watts would become the first serial killer in U.S. history freed from prison, according to Michigan authorities. They say Watts is suspected of 26 murders, including six in Michigan and two in Windsor, Canada, and has claimed up to 100 victims.

Michigan authorities charged Watts with murder last month for the 1979 killing of Helen Dutcher in Ferndale, a Detroit suburb. If the extradition request, based on the murder charge, is approved and goes unchallenged, Michigan authorities will come to Texas to retrieve Watts, Walt said.

An eyewitness, who resurfaced more than two decades after the killing, prompted the charge, Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox has said.

"The sooner Watts is brought to Michigan, the sooner my office will be able to begin judicial proceeding," he said.

It was unclear Friday if Watts, who moved from Michigan to Houston in 1981, would fight the extradition request.

He has previously declined an interview with The Associated Press and has since requested prison officials not approach him with media requests, prison spokeswoman Michelle Lyons said Friday.

In radio talks...

Bush, Kerry duel over economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush sought Saturday to squeeze more political mileage out of news that American employers added the most workers in four years, while Democratic rival John Kerry chose to highlight the still-flat manufacturing sector and blame it on Bush.

The incumbent president running for re-election and the Massachusetts senator who wants to replace him went head-to-head on the jobs issue, each via the traditional weekly radio address for their parties.

Polls consistently show that jobs and the economy are voters' top concerns and that a majority favor Kerry on those issues. With nearly 2 million jobs lost since Bush took office in 2001, Democrats eager for an area where the president is politically vulnerable have hammered him for months for having the worst job-creation record since the Depression.

As a result, Bush reveled for a second day in a Labor Department report showing the nation's employers swelled payrolls by 308,000 in March. He also gave the figures top billing during an appearance Friday in West Virginia — one of the many politically key industrial states where job losses are an especially sensitive issue.

"This week we received powerful confirmation that America's economy is growing stronger," Bush said in his radio address. "People are finding jobs, and the nation's future is bright. America's families and workers have reason to be optimistic."

The jobs report, which when released Friday pushed stocks higher on Wall Street, also revealed a stronger picture than previously thought for the first two months of the year. Revisions to earlier payroll figures found that companies added 205,000 jobs in January and February, instead of the 118,000 reported last month.

And, for the first time in 44 months, the nation's factories did not shed jobs. But they didn't add them either, and Kerry — chosen to deliver the Democratic response to Bush's address — seized on that.

"We now hear the administration claiming success," said Kerry, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee. "There is not a single month of this administration that has seen the creation of a single manufacturing job."

Other Democrats noted that the unemployment rate inched up one-tenth of a point to 5.7 percent in March. That rise in the jobless rate reflected the larger number of people who started looking for work again but failed to find jobs.

Transit systems will increase security after terror warning

WASHINGTON (AP) — A warning that terrorists might strike trains and buses in major U.S. cities using bombs concealed in bags or luggage has the nation's transit systems ratcheting up security measures.

Greg Hull, security chief for the American Public Transportation Association, said Friday the transit systems are at "code yellow-plus" following the bulletin about a possible terror plot from the FBI and the Homeland Security Department.

U.S. officials said they had received uncorroborated intelligence reports about a plot by terrorists to target commercial transportation systems but had no information about specific cities or dates.

A senior federal law enforcement official, speaking Friday on condition of anonymity, said the intelligence, coupled with the deadly March 11 commuter train attacks in Madrid in which bombs went off inside backpacks, has increased the level of wariness about a similar attack in the United States.

"It should not be considered unusual that the FBI should issue this kind of a bulletin in the wake of what occurred in Madrid last month," the Amtrak passenger railroad said in a statement.

Homeland Security spokesman Brian Roehrkasse said information in the bulletin was being shared via the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System to ensure proper security measures are implemented nationwide.

Officials said the message was sent mainly out of an abundance of caution, and the threat — deemed "somewhat credible" by one official — was not causing undue alarm throughout the government.

The nation's terror alert level remains at yellow, or elevated, the midpoint of the five-color scale. It was last raised to orange, or high, on Dec. 21 amid suspicions about terror attacks using commercial aircraft. The level returned to yellow on Jan. 10.

Passengers could see changes because of the bulletin. Federal officials are encouraging local transit authorities to conduct random passenger inspections and security sweeps of stations and to increase public announcements encouraging people to report unattended baggage or suspicious behavior.

Intelligence indicates a plot might involve bombs made of ammonium nitrate fertilizer and diesel fuel, similar to the explosive concealed in a rental truck that blew up the Oklahoma City federal building in 1995. Both items are readily available.

Two arrested

• ***Arrests***

At 8:21 a.m. Friday a 32-year-old female was arrested in the 3600 block of Denison Ave. on charges of driving while license suspended.

At 5:18 p.m. Friday a 35-year-old male was arrested for public intoxication after police responded to reports of a fight in the 800 block of 27th.

• ***Shoplifting***

At 8:49 a.m. Friday police responded to the Dollar General store in reference to an employee who was accused of letting customers shoplift. The employee was terminated and issued a trespass warning.

• ***Alarm***

At 12:24 a.m. Saturday police responded to an alarm at Allsup's convenience store. A clerk reported that two subjects in a blue car drove up and attempted to lock him out of the store while he was cleaning the parking lot.

• ***Motorist Assist***

Officers were requested to assist four motorists who had locked their keys in vehicles.

Personal, Professional Service

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Obituaries

Warder Novak

1918-2004

ABILENE — Warder K. Novak, the first minister for the 37th Street Church of Christ in Snyder, died Thursday, April 1, in Abilene after a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mr. Novak, 85, is set for 3 p.m. Sunday in the Hillcrest Church of Christ. Arrangements are under the direction of Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home.

Born Dec. 28, 1918 in Wichita, Kan., he was a minister for more than 50 years and lived in Snyder from 1953-55. He also taught at the Nashville School of Preaching. Abilene Christian University honored Mr. Novak in 1992 for his years of service.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Lottie Novak of Abilene; four daughters, Kay Hawkins, Cheryl Ginnings, Carolyn Jones and Reci Schmellick; two sisters, Frances Stivers and La Vera Leopard; a brother, Willard Novak; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the Hillcrest Church of Christ, Hospice of the Big Country or to a favorite charity.

SHS to host judging meet

Snyder High School agricultural science department will host an invitational judging meet, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Monday.

Some 50 teams have already registered for the six contests, which include dairy food, range plant, poultry, land, range and pasture and entomology.

This is the second time the SHS ag department has hosted this event. However, last year's meet featured poultry judging only.

David Frazier is the ag science teacher.

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

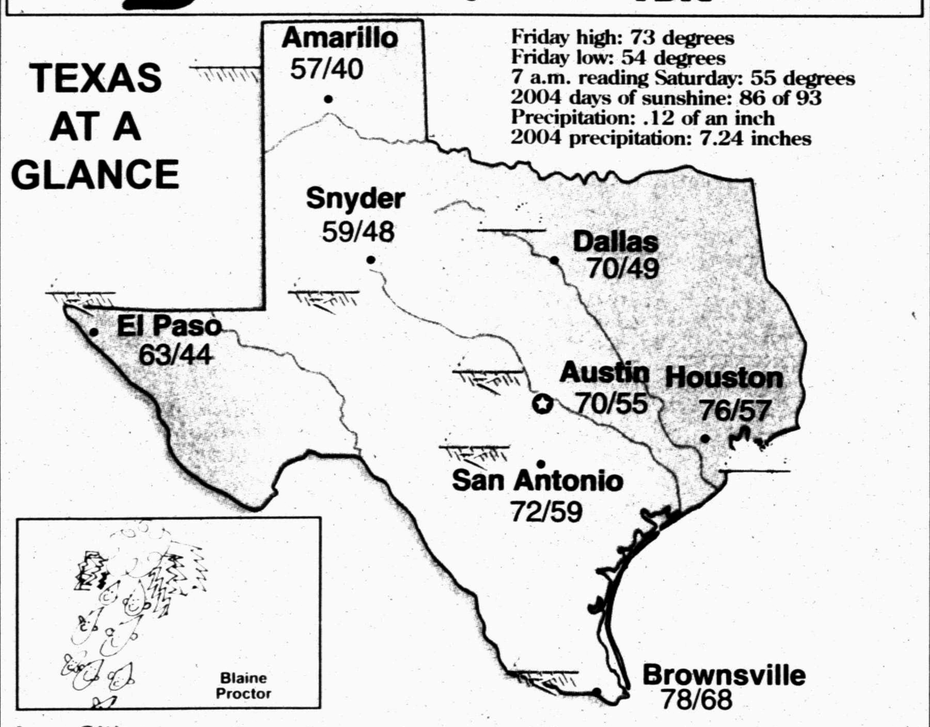
Sun 4/4	Mon 4/5	Tue 4/6
59/48	**58/50**	**69/49**
Variable clouds with thunderstorms, especially in the morning. High 59F.	Mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms.	Scattered thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 40s.
Sunrise 6:27 AM Sunset 7:06 PM	Sunrise 6:26 AM Sunset 7:07 PM	Sunrise 6:25 AM Sunset 7:08 PM

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TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Friday high: 73 degrees
Friday low: 54 degrees
7 a.m. reading Saturday: 55 degrees
2004 days of sunshine: 86 of 93
Precipitation: .12 of an inch
2004 precipitation: 7.24 inches

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	64	51	rain	El Paso	63	44	t-storm	Midland	61	50	t-storm
Amarillo	57	40	rain	Fort Stockton	64	51	t-storm	Raymondville	78	66	t-storm
Austin	70	55	t-storm	Gainesville	68	44	pt sunny	Rosenberg	76	56	cloudy
Beaumont	75	52	pt sunny	Greenville	69	44	pt sunny	San Antonio	72	59	t-storm
Brownsville	78	68	t-storm	Houston	76	57	cloudy	San Marcos	72	56	t-storm
Brownwood	70	51	t-storm	Kingsville	77	66	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	69	43	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	75	67	t-storm	Livingston	74	48	pt sunny	Sweetwater	62	50	t-storm
Corsicana	70	46	pt sunny	Longview	71	43	pt sunny	Tyler	71	44	pt sunny
Dallas	70	49	cloudy	Lubbock	57	45	t-storm	Weatherford	69	45	cloudy
Del Rio	70	61	t-storm	Lufkin	74	45	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	67	46	cloudy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	59	34	sunny	Houston	76	57	cloudy	Phoenix	69	54	t-storm
Boston	52	36	rain	Los Angeles	68	53	pt sunny	San Francisco	63	49	pt sunny
Chicago	43	30	mst sunny	Miami	77	61	mst sunny	Seattle	64	43	mst sunny
Dallas	70	49	cloudy	Minneapolis	49	29	sunny	St. Louis	53	34	sunny
Denver	61	39	rain	New York	51	33	rain	Washington, DC	50	30	windy

Moon Phases

First	Full	Last	New
Mar 28	Apr 5	Apr 12	Apr 19

UV Index

Sun 4/4	Mon 4/5	Tue 4/6
4	4	8
Low	Low	High

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

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Hermleigh UIL results announced

Following the March 26 District UIL Literary Meet in Abilene, five Hermleigh students advanced to the regional meet set April 23-24 at Hardin Simmons University.

Advancing students include the science team, which earned first place. Members are Shae Rinehart, Joakim Lundvik and Jonathan McClure.

Alicia Culp also advanced after garnering third place in spelling and vocabulary.

Samantha Berry, who received second place in feature writing, will go on to regional. Also she earned fourth place in news writing.

The current events team placed second. Members are Shae Rinehart, Valerie West and Dustin Williamson.

The number sense team received fourth place. Members are Brittany Kelley, Joakim Lundvik and Johanthan McClure.

Alicia Culp, Danni Webb and Valerie West competed as a spelling and vocabulary team, winning fourth place.

Brittany Kelley placed sixth in computer application.

Shae Rinehart placed fifth in current issues and events. Also she garnered first place in science overall and second place in biology.

Joakim Lundvik received first place in chemistry.

Wife waited for soldier

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The pregnant wife of a soldier killed earlier this week in Iraq had been waiting for his return in Charlotte, where she worked as a substitute teacher in a church nursery school and tried to distract herself by working in the garden.

Leslie and Doyle Hufstedler met at Texas A&M University three years ago while they picked up class rings. He proposed to her in the end zone.



COMPETE AT DISTRICT UIL — These Hermleigh High School students competed in the District UIL Literary Meet in Abilene on March 26. (See accompanying story.) Standing in back from left are Brittany Kelley, Alicia Culp and Tabitha Jones, all ninth graders; Alana Culp, Johnathan McClure and Danni Webb, 10th graders. Students on the middle row from left are Samantha Berry, 10th grade; Amy Botts, Shane Berry, Shae Rinehart, Justin Kelley and Michael Hermosillo, all juniors. Seated in front from left are Brittany Jones, Valerie West, Dustin Williamson, Justin Williamson, Joakim Lundvik and Christy Garcia, all seniors. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Sun Microsystems settles with rival Microsoft

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Struggling server maker Sun Microsystems Inc. accepted a $1.6 billion settlement from Microsoft Corp. and said Friday it plans to cooperate with its longtime nemesis.

The surprise agreement was accompanied by an announcement by Sun that it is cutting 3,300 jobs and that its net loss for the fiscal third quarter will be wider than expected. The cuts represent 9 percent of its total work force of more than 35,000.

The agreement with Microsoft ends Sun's $1 billion private antitrust suit against the Redmond, Wash.-based software giant, which it had labeled an unrepentant monopolist.

"It puts peace on the table in a big way," said Scott McNealy, Sun's chief executive, during a conference call Friday.

Sun's complaints sparked the investigation that led to the European Union's recent record fine against Microsoft. The EU's antitrust office said Microsoft has squeezed competitors out of Windows-related software markets.

As part of the deal, Microsoft will pay Sun $700 million to resolve the antitrust case, which was scheduled to go to trial in January 2006, and $900 million to resolve patent issues. Sun and Microsoft also will pay royalties for each others' technologies.

"Our companies will continue to compete hard, but this agreement creates a new basis for cooperation that will benefit the customers of both companies," said Steve Ballmer, Microsoft's chief executive officer.

Under the deal, the two companies will cooperate on technical issues involving improved communications among their competing server software products, which power everything from Web sites to corporate e-mail and database computers. Sun also agreed to sign a license that will enable its server software to interact more smoothly with Windows-based desktop computers.

Sun, once a shining star of Silicon Valley, warned its net loss for the third quarter will be wider than expected. Sun said it expects revenue for the quarter ended March 28 to be approximately $2.65 billion. Net loss will be between $750 million and $810 million, or 23 cents to 25 cents per share.

Analysts polled by Thomson First Call were projecting a loss of 3 cents a share on revenue of $2.85 billion.

Sun's biggest claim — and the main complaint in its antitrust against Microsoft — involved its Java software that allows other software to run on all computers regardless of the operating system.

Civilian deaths reported

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After serving 12 years in the Navy, Scott Helvenston started a career as a fitness instructor and worked as trainer and stunt man for such movies as "Face/Off" and "G.I. Jane."

He helped prepare actress Demi Moore for her role as the first woman to join the Navy SEALs in "G.I. Jane," and appeared on two reality series: "Man vs. Beast" and Burnett's "Combat Missions."

But after years out of the service, friends said they weren't surprised to learn the former SEAL had left the comfort of his life in California behind him and headed for Iraq.

"That's what, in a time of need, true American warriors like Scott would do," producer Mark Burnett said Thursday.

Helvenston, 38, was among four American civilian contractors killed in Fallujah, Iraq, in an ambush on Wednesday, their charred bodies mutilated and dragged through the streets. The contractors were working for Blackwater Security Consulting when their vehicle was hit by rocket-propelled grenades.

Two of the other victims have been identified as Jerko "Jerry" Zovko, 32, and Michael Teague, 38.

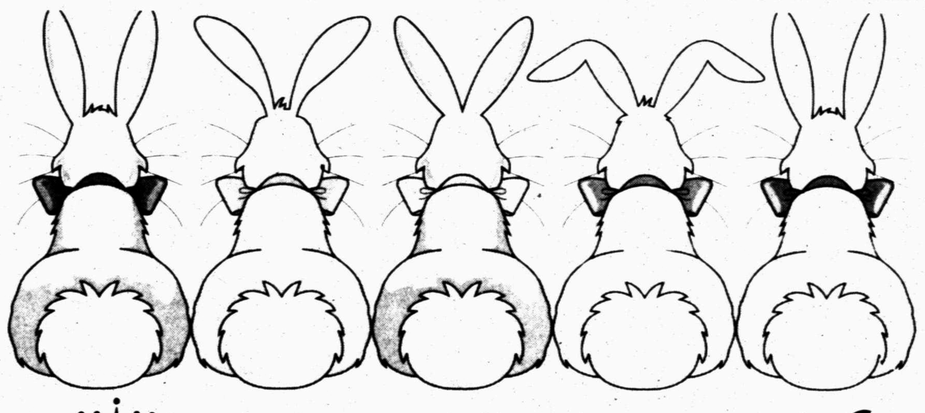
Zovko always wanted to save the world, his mother said. He joined the Army at 19 and spoke five languages fluently — English, Croatian, Spanish, Russian and Arabic.

"Jerry was a man with a principle, an idea," his mother, Danica "Donna" Zovko said in Willoughby, Ohio. "He loved people. He wanted the world to be without borders, for everybody to be free and safe."

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VASQUEZ-ESTRADA WED — Veronica Vasquez and Eric Estrada were married at 8:45 p.m. on Jan. 18 in Las Vegas, Nev. They are stationed in San Diego, Calif. The bride's parents are Eugene Vasquez of Big Spring and Dora Gonzales of Snyder. The groom's parents are Linda and Gilbert Arizmendi of Snyder and the late Robert Estrada. (Contributed Photo)



TOLLETT-RINEHART ENGAGED — The parents of Cassie Dale Tollett and Jerrod Lee Rinehart announce their engagement and approaching marriage. Cassie's parents are Randy and Julie Tollett of Baird. Jerrod's parents are Jerry and Vicki Rinehart of Snyder. He is the grandson of Wanda Rinehart of Snyder and the late Kenneth Rinehart, and Joan Beach of Colorado City and the late Roy Beach. Cassie is a 2000 graduate of Baird High School. She attends UTA, majoring in early childhood education. Jerrod is a 1998 graduate of Snyder High School and a 2002 graduate of Texas A&M. In the fall, he will attend Texas Weslyan School of Law. The couple plan a June wedding in Las Vegas. (Contributed Photo)



TERRY-ROBERTSON WEDDING — Kimberly Rae Robertson and Joel Wayne Terry were united in marriage Saturday, Dec. 6, 2003, at the Wagon Wheel Guest Ranch in Snyder. The bride was given in marriage by her parents Mr. and Mrs. Mike Little. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerrell Terry of Longview. The honor attendants were Nicole Roberts, Kimberly Gibbs, both of Weatherford, and Mrs. Starr McAdams of Hallsville and Mrs. Connie Parks of Lindale. The groomsmen were Aaron Fite, Stephen McAdams, Lance Parks and Jason Hampton. Watch TLC's "A Wedding Story" Monday, April 5, at 1:30 p.m. to see their very Special Texas Wedding. Check your local listings and TLC's home Web page to confirm air date and time. (Contributed Photo)

Bridal Registry

JORDAN GARRISON AND TROY ALLEN
TIFFANY BOEN AND MATT RODGERS
MELISSA YOUNG AND ROBERT CLARADY
RENAE HALL AND KALEB HERRLEY
CASSIE TOLLETT AND JERROD RINEHART
CASSIE CALLAWAY AND DALE COOPER
JAMIE BRINKER AND ERIC MCCLENDON
CHELSEA WILDT AND BEAU TAFT
JENNIFER ROSA AND BRYAN BILLINGS
STORMY CLARK AND PAUL CAMP
TRISH PORTER AND TREY SHIRLEY
TERA KINCAID AND TREY GORMAN
COURTNEY MARTIN AND JEFFREY LEVENS
SUSAN BIGHAM AND WILLIAM TAYLOR
JESSICA (BRADSHAW) ARNOLD AND COLT ARNOLD
DARLA BLACKWELL OCHOA AND ERIC OCHOA
JESSICA LONG AND JARED HIGGINS

Bridal Registry

Wedding Invitations
●Tuxedo Rentals
Phone In Orders Welcome
Free Delivery To Bridal Shower

Classic Interiors
2520 Ave. R East Side of Square
573-1701
Open Mon. - Fri. 10:00-5:00,
Sat. 10:00 - 2:00

Bridge Scores

Snyder Duplicate Bridge Club games were directed by Monte West.

Friday, March 26

A

1. Charles Blakey - Dora Blakey
2. Dorothy Rosson - Elizabeth Hall
3. Margaret Birdwell - Durelle Gorman
4. Mary Beth Vestal - Jane Hinton

B

1. Dorothy Rosson - Elizabeth hall
2. Christine Stuard - Betty Courtney
3. Margaret Dillaha - Margaret Presswood
4. Vera McSpadden - Paula Gilbert

Tuesday, March 30

A

1. Nina Nesbit - Dora Blakey
2. Betty Gibson - John Gibson
3. Jane Hinton - Barbara Yorgesen
4. Dorothy Rosson - Nona Morrison

B

1. Betty Gibson - John Gibson
2. Pat Floyd - Robbie Floyd
3. Betty Courtney - Margaret Presswood

Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing , you will be successful.

— Herman Cain

The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes.

—Winston Churchill

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



Saturday, April 3, 2004

With only two cards, reverse your play

By Phillip Alder

What do you lead from a long suit headed by the ace and king? What do you lead from a doubleton ace-king? How is that relevant to this deal, and how should the defenders card to defeat four spades?

In this auction, two hearts is a transfer bid promising at least five spades. South's jump to three spades is called a superaccept. It guarantees four-card spade support, a maximum hand and, in my opinion, a doubleton somewhere. (If you use Texas transfers, North would respond four hearts, immediately promising at least six spades.)

I firmly believe that from a long suit headed by the ace and king, you should lead the ace. I strongly dislike the ambiguous king lead from either ace-king or king-queen. This is primarily because leading an unsupported ace is rarely a good idea. Also, defensive aces should kill opposing kings and queens, not collect twos and threes.

However, with a doubleton ace-king, you should reverse your normal procedure. Lead the king, then cash the ace to tell partner what is going on.

Now the spotlight turns onto East. At trick one, he played a discouraging heart three. At trick two, though, he must tell West where his entry lies by using a suit-preference signal. Here, he should play his highest available heart, the 10. This tells partner to shift to a diamond (the higher-ranking of the other two side suits), not to a club. Then, a heart ruff at trick four defeats the contract.

Note that if West switches to a club at trick three, the contract makes with an overtrick.

North	04-03-04
♠ A J 10 8 7 5	
♥ J 5 2	
♦ Q J	
♣ Q J	
West	**East**
♠ 9 6 2	♠ —
♥ A K	♥ 10 8 7 4 3
♦ 10 9 8 4	♦ A 7 6 3 2
♣ 10 9 8 4	♣ 7 5 2
South	
♠ K Q 4 3	
♥ Q 9 6	
♦ K 5	
♣ A K 6 3	

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

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

Opening lead: ??

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Births

Brad and Lynn Hart of Granbury announce the birth of their daughter, Emma Brooke, on March 27 in Stephenville. Emma weighed six pounds, four ounces and was 18 inches long.

Paternal grandparents are Patsy Hart of Snyder and Dallas Hart of Lancaster, Ohio. Maternal grandparents are Barry and Sandra Polk of Hico and great-grandparents are Berta Polk and Hershal and Muriel Patterson, all of Hico.

Community Calendar

MONDAY

Storytime at the Scurry County Library for 4- and 5-year-olds; 10 a.m.

Rock and Roll Quilting Club; Hermleigh Community Center; everyone is invited for free quilting lessons, and special projects are to help someone in need; call 863-2383 for more information; 8 a.m. to noon.

Scurry County Museum's hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NA-Just for Today; Park Club at Winston Park; for information call 573-6179; 6-7 p.m.

Manic Depression (Bipolar) support group; Family Life Community Church, 904 26th Street; 7 p.m.

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

TUESDAY

Gateway Family Services parenting discussion group, focuses on a variety of parenting issues and special challenges; no charge; call 573-1822 for more information; 10:30 a.m.

Weight Watchers meeting; Colonial Hill Baptist Church; for more information call Kathy at 573-1289 during the evening; weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m.

ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 7 p.m.

Beginners' AA open meeting; Snyder Park Club, 1212 37th Street; 573-8268, 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for more information call 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

TOPS TX56 (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Trinity United Methodist Church. For more information call Phillis Leatherwood at 573-6105.

WEDNESDAY

NA Just For Today, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-1438; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Snyder Palette Club; airport terminal building; program, Esme Glen; hostess, Ann Walton; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with lunch break

LLL Club; fellowship hall of First Baptist Church; 9:30 a.m.

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; horseshoe courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762.

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

AA Big Book Study; closed meeting; contact numbers are 574-1292 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.

NA-Just For Today; Park Club; for information call 573-6179; 6-7 p.m.

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 class; community room of Texas Savings Bank; no reservations necessary, cost $30; for more information call 573-2850; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

NA-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.

NA-Just For Today; Park Club; for information call 573-6179; 6-7 p.m.

Obstacles cannot crush me. Every obstacle yields to stern resolve. He who is fixed to a star does not change his mind.

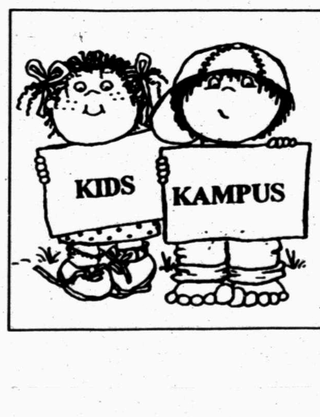
— Leonardo da Vinci

The school of hard knocks is an accelerated curriculum.

—Menander

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presented in part by McWilliams Pharmacy
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McWilliams Pharmacy
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For applicants 62+ or qualify as handicapped or disabled. Central heat & air. Water is paid. Refrigerator & range furnished, washer & dryer connections in each apartment. Each apartment has its own separate storage attached to the apartment.
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Applications may be picked up at the office located at 1607 52nd St. (North of Cogdell Hospital Emergency Room) or call 573-1416.
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5 a.m. - Midnight
Birth to 12 Years Old
Transportation Provided
111 37th Street 573-4848



MINI CHEER... CheerStar Athl... con, Samantha... row, Rebbeca ... Kalyn Massin... Keylee Glass a... dio)



INDIVIDUAL ... petitors were, ... als; Megan Ka... Valdez, 2nd, 4... 3rd in regional... in regionals; l... tie in regional... regionals; and ... als.



MINI TOT CH... Tot CheerStar ... Williams, Dak... lon, Karson Bo... Morgan Kariai...

Council r...

WEST POINT ... woman has acc... Utah city of tryi... topless maid ... town.

The West Po... has revoked the... license of Dee ... ing she misused... running the bus... phone outside h...

The license a... scheduling and ... Black Rose Ma... maid service tha... Arizona and Cali...

Derian, 44, ac... discriminating ... because she's n... The Church of ... Latter-day Saint... religion in Utah.

West Point o... are bound by law... ian from operati... it violates her ... decision had no... the nature of her...

Since January ... operating witho... she filed a law... accusing the ci... failing to renew ...

Derian receiv... tion in 2001 whe... complained abou... work in a bik...



MINI CHEERSTAR ATHLETICS — Members of the Mini CheerStar Athletics include (from left) back row, Kendall Alarcon, Samantha Rogers, Kayla Hyer, Jennifer Antaya; middle row, Rebbeca Alarcon, Heather Medrano, Madeline Moreno, Kalyn Massingill, Hayley Taylor; front row, Brittany Rios, Keylee Glass and Gabriella Sanchez. (Photos by Wadleigh Studio)



INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION — Individual Best Cheer competitors were, back row, Jaclyn Deleon, 5th and 3rd in regionals; Megan Kariainen, 7th in regional; upper middle, Savannah Valdez, 2nd, 4th and 4th in regionals; Jennifer Antaya, 3rd and 3rd in regionals, 6th in nationals; Jessica Deleon, 3rd and 2nd in regionals; lower middle, Madeline Moreno, 1st tie and 2nd tie in regionals; Kalyn Massingill, 1st tie, 2nd tie and 1st in regionals; and front, Kaci Archer, 2nd, 1st and 2nd in regionals.



MINI TOT CHEERSTAR ATHLETICS — Members of the Mini Tot CheerStar Athletics are, back row, Alyssa Martini, Kara Williams, Dakota Green, Cenna Lane; middle row, Mikayla Dillon, Karson Botts, Brianna Haddox; front row, Bethany Murray, Morgan Kariainen and Kaci Archer.

Council revokes license of maid service

WEST POINT, Utah (AP) — A woman has accused a northern Utah city of trying to sweep her topless maid business out of town.

The West Point City Council has revoked the home business license of Dee Dee Derian, saying she misused it by sometimes running the business from a cell phone outside her home.

The license allowed her to do scheduling and bookkeeping for Black Rose Maids, her topless maid service that also operates in Arizona and California.

Derian, 44, accused the city of discriminating against her because she's not a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the dominant religion in Utah.

West Point officials say they are bound by law to prevent Derian from operating the business if it violates her license, and the decision had nothing to do with the nature of her business.

Since January, she has been operating without a license, and she filed a lawsuit this month accusing the city of wrongfully failing to renew it.

Derian received national attention in 2001 when her neighbors complained about her doing yard work in a bikini. Prosecutors declined to press charges after determining she hadn't broken the law.

CheerStar Athletics garners second at national competition

CheerStar Athletics of Snyder wrapped up a successful competitive season with a second place finish at America's Best National Championship.

The team received an invitation to the competition after finishing first at the Regional Championship, the 12-girl squad competed against teams of 20 or fewer members from all over the nation. There were 17 teams in their division.

The championship squad was edged out of the title by only .4 of one point by Extreme Thunder from Duncan, Okla. The CheerStar Mini squad consists of girls in first through fourth grades and includes members from Borden County, Rotan and Snyder.

The team also earned a bid to compete in the American Spirit National Competition, along with the three to five year old CheerStar Mini Tots. The Mini Tots were Regional champions at ASC also.

The 10-member squad consists of athletes from Snyder, Hermleigh, Ira and Colorado City. The routines these young girls perform are power packed with tumbling skills, stunts, pyramids, jumps, dance and cheer. Coaches are Kay Porter, Neika Porter and Lauren Collier.

Recipe

BROILED FRESH TOMATO SOUP

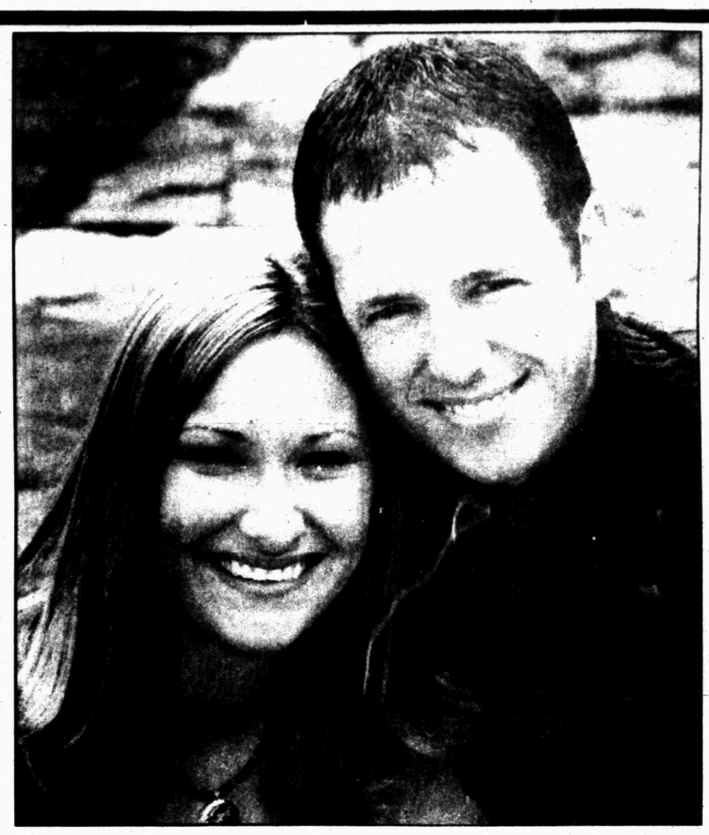
2 pounds fully-ripened tomatoes
3 medium onions cut in halves
6 garlic cloves
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
1 teaspoon sugar
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon ground black pepper
1 can (13 to 14 ounces) ready-to-serve chicken broth
4 large (5-inch) Kaiser rolls
¼ cup cubed Muenster cheese

Core and cut tomatoes in halves. Preheat broiler. On a shallow pan, arrange tomato and onion halves cut side down. Place garlic cloves around the vegetables. In a cup mix oil, vinegar, sugar, salt and pepper. Brush over vegetables, coating completely. Broil 3 to 4 inches from heat source until lightly charred, 10 to 15 minutes, removing garlic cloves as they brown and soften and turning pan around for even cooking.

Turn vegetables over and broil until lightly charred and tender, about 10 minutes longer. Remove pan from broiler and cool; peel skins from tomatoes. In a food processor or blender, puree tomatoes, onions and garlic with the pan juices until fairly smooth. Pour into a medium saucepan; stir in chicken broth. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to medium-low; cover and simmer to blend flavors, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and keep warm.

To make bread bowls: Preheat oven to 400F. Using a sharp knife, cut off the top of each roll. Pull out soft centers, leaving ½-inch thick shells; discard soft bread. Reserve tops. Place "bowls" and tops on a baking sheet. Bake until crisp, 5 to 8 minutes, turning once. To serve, place rolls in four soup plates. Ladle hot soup into and around "bowls." Top with cheese cubes. Garnish with basil or parsley, if desired. Serve immediately.

Yield: 4 portions
5 cups



ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED — Shane Terry and Sherry Lewis, both of Colorado City, announce their engagement and approaching marriage. Shane, formerly of Snyder, is the son of Jimmy and Susan Kiker of Snyder and Gary and Connie Terry of Abilene. Sherry is the daughter of Winnie Putman of Sweetwater and Jerry Putman of Colorado City, and the mother of Paige, 11, and Corbin Lewis, 9. An outdoor wedding is planned for 6 p.m., May 8 on the Concho River in Christoval. (Photo by Wadleigh Studio)

Doodlebug writers met at Golden Terrace

Doodlebug Writers Fellowship met last Tuesday in the Golden Terrace community room where members also had a salad luncheon.

Helene Tutt conducted the meeting and the program was presented by Pam Mauldin. She explained some of the methods to expand members' thinking while choosing words for use in poems and prose.

Scrapbook chairman Betty Kellum asked members to write a short autobiography of themselves and also bring a picture to the next meeting. Plans are to place them both in the organization's scrapbook.

Tutt shared an article about a former local cowboy poet, Zane Sterling, who read his poetry in a program in California.

The meeting concluded with members reading several selections of their original works.

Three visitors, Ken Griffith, Nelda Randolph and Marilyn Gaston, were welcomed.

The next meeting will be from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. on April 6 at the same location and visitors are always welcome.

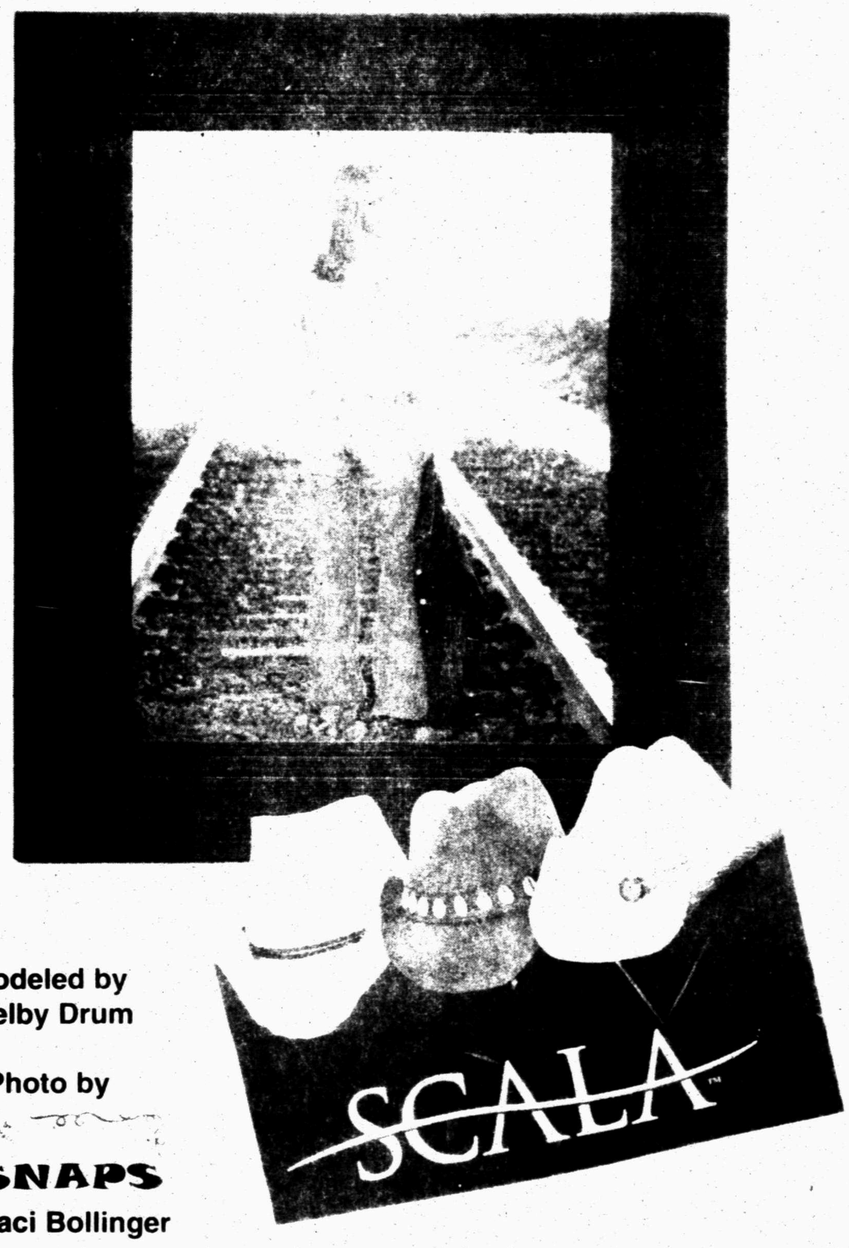
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Amy Floyd & David Minyard
Jennifer Rosa & Bryan Billings
Darla Blackwell Ochoa & Eric Ochoa
Jessica Long & Jared Higgins
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Grasping for Straws



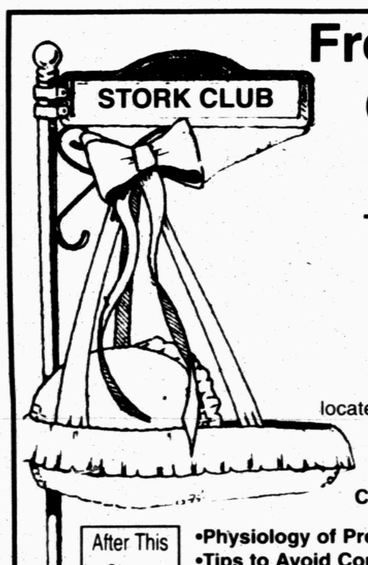
Modeled by Kelby Drum
Photo by SNAPS by Staci Bollinger

HACKFELD'S
Quality Clothing...with a Personal Touch
3219 College Ave. Snyder, Texas 573-6763 Store Hours: M-F 10-6; Sat. 10-5:30

APR 04 2004



MARRIED MARCH 8 — Darla Beth Blackwell and Eric Lee Ochoa were united in marriage at 6:30 p.m. on March 8 in the Excalibur Hotel in Las Vegas. The Rev. William M. Shumate officiated. Bride's parents are Darryl and Dee Blackwell of Snyder and the groom's mother is Carmen Ochoa of Lawn. They honeymooned in Las Vegas and have made their home in Lawn. The bride, a 1997 graduate of Snyder High School, attended Tarleton State University and Western Texas College and is employed at Taylor County Farm Bureau. Eric, a 2000 graduate of Jim Ned High School in Tuscola, worked as a drill instructor for the STAR Boot Camp in Scurry County. He is in the Texas Army National Guard. (Contributed Photo)



Free Prepared Childbirth Classes

Tuesdays 7-9 pm
(Total of Five Classes)
April 27 through May 25, 2004

Classes will be held at Cogdell Education Building located next to Prime Rehab entrance

Instructor:
Bonnie Norred, RN
Certified Childbirth educator

After This Class, Next Class Begins July 2004

- **Physiology of Pregnancy and Delivery**
- **Tips to Avoid Complications**
- **Breathing Techniques**
- **Newborn Care**
- **Breast Feeding Techniques**
- **Tour of Hospital OB Department**
- **Sibling Class (for future big brothers and sisters included in final class)**

Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a coach

FREE To Cogdell Memorial Hospital OB patients.
Fee - $40 per couple, payable prior to first class when delivering out of town. For more information please contact Cogdell Memorial Hospital OB Department 574-7050

Class Size Is Limited
To Reserve call
Thelma Garza 574-7437

Cogdell Memorial Hospital

Library News

By Janie Romine, director

The periodical memorial drive has begun at the Scurry County Library.

In order to subscribe to a larger amount of periodicals, the library must ask for donations since our budget only allows for a limited amount of magazines and newspapers. About 25 subscriptions of our periodicals are supported through individual contributions.

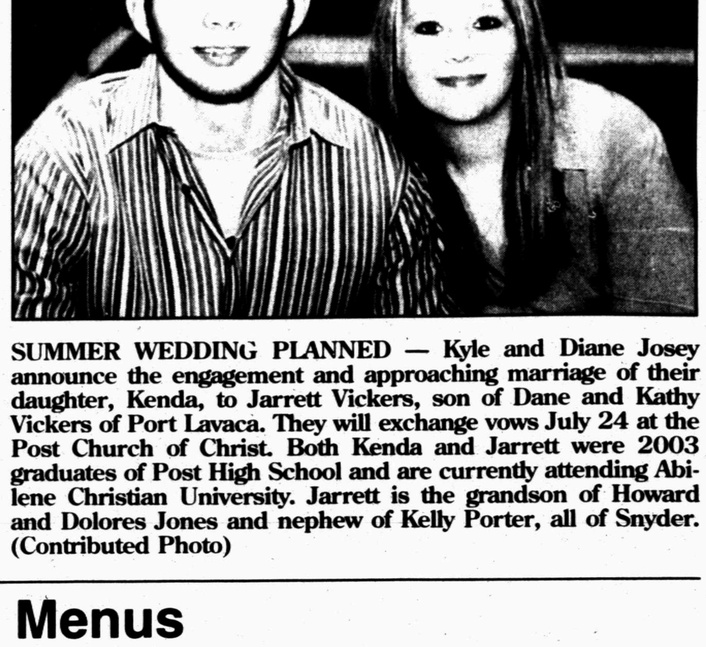
This past year some of our contributors have moved from this area, or have passed away, so we are seeking new contributors. If you would like to sponsor a magazine, please call the library and let us know. If you wish to pay for the subscription in honor of someone, we will note that on the magazine cover. We will also note who sponsored the subscription, if you wish.

Right now, we have two magazines that have no sponsor — Turtle Magazine for Children and Jet Magazine. This will be the second year that we have not had a sponsor for Jet, so if no one picks it up this year, this will be the last year that the library will be able to subscribe to Jet.

Jet is a more expensive magazine than most magazines, so two people might want to sponsor it together.

If you feel the library should subscribe to a magazine which we currently do not have, we would be glad to subscribe to that magazine if you sponsor it. We strive to keep a valid and noteworthy collection of magazines for everyone's use. If you feel you can contribute to the periodical drive, please call the library at 573-5572.

The library will be closed Easter weekend, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It will open Monday, April 12.



SUMMER WEDDING PLANNED — Kyle and Diane Josey announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Kenda, to Jarrett Vickers, son of Dane and Kathy Vickers of Port Lavaca. They will exchange vows July 24 at the Post Church of Christ. Both Kenda and Jarrett were 2003 graduates of Post High School and are currently attending Abilene Christian University. Jarrett is the grandson of Howard and Dolores Jones and nephew of Kelly Porter, all of Snyder. (Contributed Photo)

School Menus

Snyder

All meals are served with milk. Breakfast offers a choice of juice and cereal and toast.

All Schools
BREAKFAST
Monday
Oatmeal
Tuesday
Pancakes & Syrup
Wednesday
Ham & Egg Biscuit
Thursday
Waffles & Syrup
Fresh Fruit
Friday
Good Friday
No School

Elementaries
LUNCH
Monday
Chicken Nuggets
Salisbury Steak
Cheddar Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Texas Toast
Tuesday
Beef Enchiladas
Barbecued Chicken
Refried Beans
Santa Fe Rice
Peaches
Wednesday
All-American Chili Dog
Chef Salad
French Fries
Golden Corn
Applesauce
Thursday
Beef Spaghetti
Chicken Pot Pie
Broccoli
Garlic Bread
Ice Cream Cup

Junior High
Monday
Chicken Nuggets
Salisbury Steak
Pepperoni Pizza
Cheeseburger
Cheddar Mashed Potatoes
Lettuce & Pickles
Lettuce & Pickles
Seasoned Green Beans
Texas Toast
Tuesday
Beef Enchiladas
Barbecued Chicken
Pepperoni Pizza
Cheeseburger
Lettuce & Pickles
Refried Beans
Santa Fe Rice
Chilled Peaches
Wednesday
All-American Chili Dog
Spaghetti & Meat Sauce
Pepperoni Pizza
Cheeseburger
Lettuce & Pickles
French Fries
Golden Kernel Corn
Fresh Fruit
Thursday
Chicken Pot Pie
Chef Salad
Pepperoni Pizza
Cheeseburger
Lettuce & Pickles
Broccoli
Mashed Potatoes
Chocolate Fluff

High School
Monday
Chicken Nuggets
Salisbury Steak
Beef Burrito
Pepperoni pizza
Salad Bar
Cheddar Mashed Potatoes
Seasoned Green Beans
Lettuce & Pickles
Texas Toast
Tuesday
Beef Enchiladas
Barbecued Chicken
Hamburger
Beef Burrito
Pepperoni Pizza
Salad Bar
Refried Beans
Santa Fe Rice
Chilled Peaches

Wednesday
Chili Dog
Spaghetti & Meat Sauce
Hamburger
Beef Burrito
Pepperoni Pizza
Salad Bar
French Fries
Golden Kernel Corn
Hot Rolls
Thursday
Chicken Pot Pie
Chef Salad
Hamburger
Beef Burrito
Pepperoni Pizza
Salad Bar
Broccoli
Mashed Potatoes
Chocolate Fluff

Hermleigh

All meals are served with milk and breakfast offers juice.
BREAKFAST
Monday
Chocolate Chocolate Chip Muffins
Tuesday
Ham & Cheese Biscuit
Wednesday
Cinnamon Toast
Thursday
Donuts
Friday
School Holiday

LUNCH
Monday
Carrot Sticks
Corn
Pink Applesauce
Tuesday
Enchiladas/Chili/Cheese
Refried Beans
Vegetable Salad
Crackers
Sopapillas
Wednesday
Roast Beef/Brown Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Glazed Carrots
Peach Crisp
Thursday
Chicken Pattie Burger
Lettuce & Tomato
Dorito Chips
Pear Halves

Ira

All meals are served with choice of milk and juice is offered for breakfast.
BREAKFAST
Monday
Biscuit & Gravy
Sausage
Tuesday
Waffles
Bacon
Wednesday
Cinnamon Rolls
Thursday
Sausage on a Stick
Friday
Good Friday
Holiday

LUNCH
Monday
Soft Tacos/Peanut Butter Sandwich
Salad
Refried Beans
Spice Cake
Tuesday
Hamburger Macaroni/Steak Finger
Carrots
Ranch Style Beans
Corn Bread
Bananas
Wednesday
Chicken Fried Steak/Chicken Patty
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Green Beans]
Bread
Strawberry Short Cake
Thursday
Turkey or Tuna Sub Sandwich
Lettuce & Tomatoes
Chips
Apples

Snack privileges spur interest in politics

CARBONDALE, Ill. (AP) — Administrators at Southern Illinois University have inadvertently found a way to interest students in campus politics — take away their late-night snacks.

When students heard the school did not plan to renew "Munchie Man" James Rochman's permit to sell food out of the back of his truck on campus, the news inspired a new political party devoted to reversing the decision.

Headed by student government member Rob Taylor, the Munchie Party planned to distribute fliers on campus supporting Rochman.

When students vote in campus elections April 13 and 14, one ballot question will ask whether Rochman should be allowed to continue his campus business after May, when his permit expires. The referendum doesn't hold power against the will of the administration, but if enough students support Rochman, it might influence the administration's final decision, Taylor said.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Cholesterol levels may vary

DEAR DR. GOTT: A year ago, I had a cholesterol level of 208. This year, it's 233. I've been watching my fat intake and remain active. I walk 30 minutes a day and am not overweight. What am I doing wrong?

DEAR READER: Probably nothing. Cholesterol levels — indeed, the levels of any components in your bloodstream — may vary slightly from test to test, depending on a variety of influences, including diet, illness and physical activity — not to mention lab error.

With respect to cholesterol, the difference between 208 and 233 is, in my opinion, inconsequential, depending on your age. If your age were 17, I'd be much more concerned than if you were 87. Younger adults should be below 200 milligrams per deciliter, whereas several medical studies have confirmed that people over 70 do not need to be as concerned about high cholesterol as younger folks.

Ask you doctor about this. He or she may simply reassure you and urge you to continue your present lifestyle. Or the physician may suggest that you have follow-up blood tests in several months. In the meantime, continue your healthful activities.

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: My husband's work requires him to be outside up to 12 hours a day in a very fast-paced occupation in a tropical climate. In the past two years, he has suffered from heat prostration at least six times during the summer months. He routinely consumes 6 to 8 quarts of Gatorade daily and can usually feel the spells coming on. Recent lab work didn't indicate any particular problem. Where do we go from here?

DEAR READER: Heat prostration has two basic causes: dehydration (from sweating) and excessive buildup of body heat. In both cases, lightheadedness, weakness, malaise and collapse may ensue.

Your husband can combat the first problem by maintaining adequate fluid replacement. Eight quarts of beverage may not be enough when he is laboring in a hot, humid environment. He may need to drink more. In addition to consuming electrolyte fluids, such as Gatorade, he should drink water. I cannot give you a specific amount; this must be governed by his thirst.

The second problem (body heat) is more difficult to overcome. Sun protection — such as a hat and long sleeves — may help, but your husband may simply have to get into the shade and sit down frequently on very hot days.

In general, most people become acclimatized to working in hot weather. If they pay attention to their body cues (thirst and fatigue), they ordinarily can avoid trouble.

DEAR DR. GOTT: What are catalytic antibodies?

DEAR READER: You haven't heard much about catalytic antibodies but, within the next decade or so, they may revolutionize the treatment of disease.

Ordinary antibodies are proteins produced by the immune system as a specific response to foreign material, usually microorganisms. For example, years ago when children were prone to get measles, the viruses entered the body and caused disease (fever and rash). During this active phase, the immune system identified the viruses as foreign and went into high gear, producing antibodies that would stick to the invaders, permitting other cells from the immune system to destroy them.

The disease typically lasted about a week (until all the viruses had been inactivated) and the child recovered, immune for life from another bout of measles. One episode of measles provided permanent immunity because the body continued to manufacture small quantities of anti-measles antibody that would prevent a future infection from developing.

The same reaction occurs when vaccines are injected into the body — except that the inoculations do not usually contain living microorganisms. Rather, pieces of viruses (or bacteria) stimulate the appropriate immune response without causing disease. This is the basis of disease prevention using vaccines against measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, hepatitis — and even influenza in adults. As I've described it, the process consists of two components: attachment of the antibody to the foreign material and destruction of the material by other cells. In a sense, the antibody marks or identifies the target so that the body knows what material to destroy. This splendid scheme works beautifully most of the time. But what happens if there's a glitch and the body can't eradicate the antibody-tagged material? Disaster.

The infection continues unchecked, despite adequate antibody levels. This is what many authorities believe happens in AIDS: The body identifies the Human Immunodeficiency Virus and sticks antibodies to it, but is unable to eradicate the invader.

Such a situation prompted many researchers to attempt, in the laboratory, to make an antibody that would both tag foreign material and destroy it in one reaction. The scientists have experienced initial success in their efforts: So-called catalytic antibodies have been developed, although many years will pass before these substances are used to treat human disease.

The implications are enormous. In addition to curing disease, catalytic antibodies will also attach to certain drugs. Because many medicines — notably cancer chemotherapy — have serious side effects, it is theoretically possible to alter such drugs, using catalytic antibodies, and reduce complications. In essence, medication could be fine-tuned like a "smart bomb" to attack only precise targets. Moreover, "trained" antibodies could destroy cancer cells and any type of virus or bacteria.

Although it will never happen in my lifetime, I can imagine the day when children will be given immunizations against cancer, hypertension, diabetes and heart disease, as well as shots to avoid the common childhood afflictions. Such a development would, of course, usher in a new world for mankind. To that end, I wish our scientists well.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Are there alternatives to hip joint replacement? I've had one hip replaced and am supposed to have the other one done. While my doctor readily answers all my questions, I'd like to define my options.

DEAR READER: Whether or not to undergo joint replacement is a very personal decision; there are no strict criteria for the operation — as there are for repair of an aortic aneurysm and other life-saving surgery. People don't die from a painful arthritic joint; they just suffer.

Most joint replacement surgeries are performed because of crippling injuries or arthritis. In such instances, non-surgical therapy (such as drugs and physiotherapy) will often relieve pain and help patients maintain independence in the initial stages. However, as the arthritic process progresses — as it almost always does — these options may become ineffective. Moreover, ibuprofen, aspirin and other (prescription) drugs can cause dangerous gastrointestinal bleeding.

For unknown reasons, some arthritis sufferers experience increasing pain even when treated with medicine. Also, some people may not be able to tolerate the drugs. Eventually, their joints may become so stiff and painful that a severe handicap ensues. In such patients, a prosthetic joint may enormously improve their quality of life, motility and independence.

Some arthritics use overly high doses of medication, and will go to almost any extreme to avoid surgery. Others choose to have joint replacement early. As I said, this is a personal decision best made in conjunction with a qualified orthopedic surgeon.

Other methods used to postpone surgery include cortisone shots and a program of physical therapy prescribed by a physiatrist, an M.D. specialist in rehabilitation.

Because the non-surgical treatment of arthritis is — in most cases — so effective, most patients successfully put off having joint replacements until other therapeutic options have been exhausted.

The fact that you have successfully weathered one hip replacement indicates that your arthritis is severe and you would probably be helped by having the other hip replaced as well. Follow your doctor's advice. If you have any other questions, you can certainly seek a second opinion.

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

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

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Stories vary in depositions

DALLAS (AP) — Two men who oversaw narcotics officers and prosecutors when more than two dozen felony drug cases unraveled into a scandal have provided conflicting accounts in recent depositions for a federal lawsuit of when and how the agencies communicated.

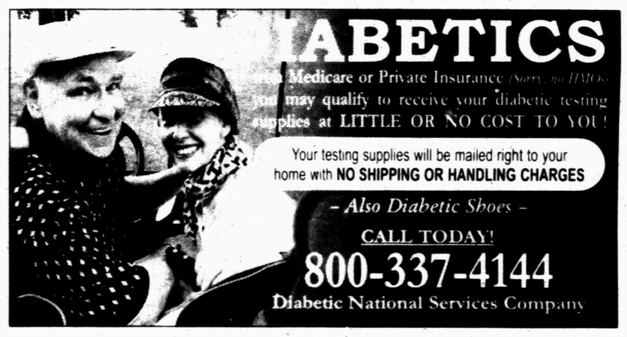
Transcripts of the depositions by Dallas County Assistant District Attorney Gregg Long and police Lt. Craig Miller, obtained by The Dallas Morning News suggest that, even with intense questioning under oath, the full truth about how top prosecutors and narcotics supervisors dealt with the unraveling of the bad drug cases in fall 2001 remains unclear.

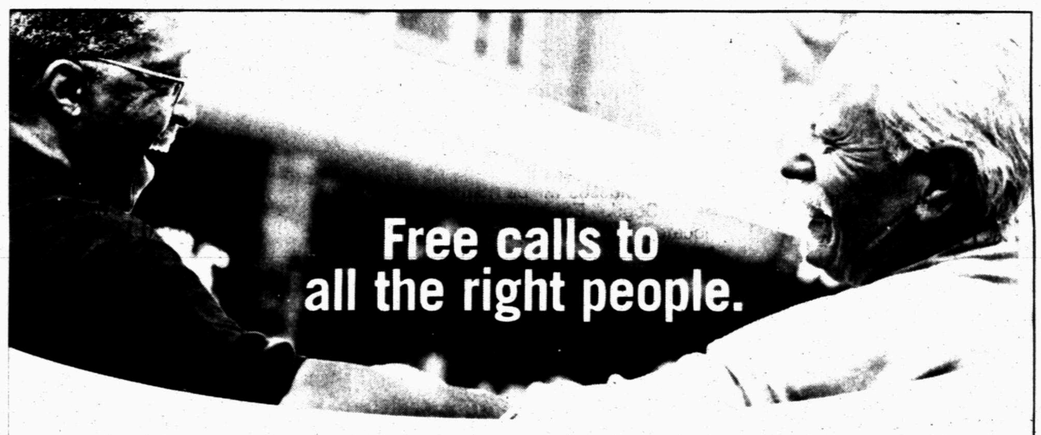
More than two years after a series of bogus drug arrests in Dallas, the two key players in the district attorney's office and Police Department still don't agree on when prosecutors first expressed concern about the problem, according to recent testimony which has not yet been made public.

According to the transcripts, Long testified that his warning about concerns on several large cases came a month before Miller remembered receiving it. Long oversaw drug courts at the time while Miller was a narcotics supervisor.

A federal judge ruled last month that two police officers at the center of the city's fake drugs scandal are not immune from a civil rights lawsuit filed by a woman who said she was falsely arrested. U.S. District Judge Ed Kinkeade's decision allowed the case to proceed and could mean that Senior Cpl. Mark De La Paz and Officer Eddie Herrera may testify.

A federal jury acquitted De La Paz, the only police officer charged in the scandal, in November.





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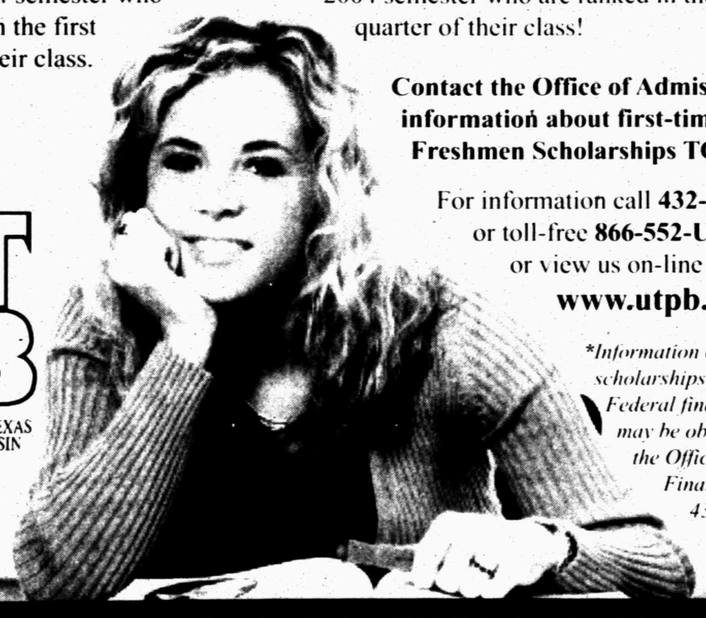
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APR 04 2004

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Woman's future seems empty after fiance's sudden death

DEAR ABBY: Maybe your gentle words will help me. The love of my life passed on six months ago, two weeks before our wedding. I feel like a walking zombie who can't remember how to smile. My darling died in front of me from a heart attack. He was staring directly into my eyes. He was only 39 — I'm 36.

We were planning our future together. I'm so lonely without him. Now I feel as if God has taken his life AND mine. I want to join my darling because we promised each other we'd always be together. He promised he would never leave me. And since he was looking right into my eyes, I can feel his soul inside me. I feel nothing but missing him and his love — our hugs, kisses, touches.

I've talked to my pastor; that was no help. It made me hurt even more.

My love and I were together almost five years. **— LOST WITHOUT HIS LOVE IN ST. PAUL**

DEAR LOST: Please accept my deepest sympathy. Although you and your fiance promised each other you would always be together, his time on Earth was tragically short. I am sure that as he looked into your eyes he wanted you to go on — to honor the love you had together, but live a full and meaningful life.

Yes, he will always be in your heart. No other relationship will be exactly the same. But if you allow yourself, you can and will have a relationship that is rewarding in other ways. Please have courage. Seek an outlet for your grief by joining a grief support group. Your doctor can refer you — and so can your spiritual adviser.

**

DEAR ABBY: Every time I see plastic Easter eggs given to young children, it makes me cringe. I am reminded of the time my toddler received a basket containing some of them. Almost immediately one ended up in his mouth, where most things go at that age.

The pointed end of the egg was a "perfect fit." As my son inhaled, the egg got stuck in the back of his mouth, cutting off his breath. He was unable to make a sound while he was slowly being deprived of oxygen. When his little face began turning blue, my husband became alarmed, reached in, dislodged the plastic egg and pulled it out.

I am thankful that we were in the same room and were able to take such quick action. Abby, please warn parents and others that these "toys" can be dangerous for small children. **— THANKFUL IN VENTURA, CALIF.**

DEAR THANKFUL: Thank YOU for sharing your close call. Let it be a warning to other parents of small children — if you have plastic eggs in the house, get rid of them now, before a tragedy occurs.

**

DEAR ABBY: I am 13. Three of my oldest friends seem to be drifting away. I have a new friend, "Karen," who is super nice. We share the same interests in books, movies and other things. But I'm afraid if I spend too much time with Karen, my other three friends will desert me. I have been friends with them since second grade. They mean everything to me. Help! **— AFRAID IN VIRGINIA**

DEAR AFRAID: Part of growing up is making new friends. Not everyone matures at the same rate. Obviously, you are getting something from your friendship with Karen that you are not getting from your three old friends — and that is a plus. The answer to your problem is learning to budget your time so that you are not seeing anyone exclusively.

**

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.

**

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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DEAR ABBY: Easter is coming. Many families still purchase live rabbits as pets for their children. Parents often think rabbits are good "starter" pets and don't understand what they are getting themselves into. As a result, too many of these poor creatures end up in animal shelters, and children learn that pets are disposable.

Before getting rabbits, people should consider:

(1) Are they willing to make a 7- to 10-year commitment? That is the average lifespan of a rabbit.

(2) What will happen if their child gets bored with the bunny after six months?

(3) Is there a place in their house for a rabbit cage?

(4) Are they willing to pay to get it spayed/neutered and provide vet care?

(5) Do they know that most rabbits hate to be held? Will their child accept that?

(6) Are they willing to ensure that children under 7 won't pick up the rabbit without supervision? Rabbits are fragile; their legs or spine will break if accidentally dropped.

(7) Can they provide three hours of exercise every day in an escape-proof area outside its cage?

(8) Do the adults want the rabbit, too? A rabbit should be a family pet.

If people have questions about rabbits and their care, please ask them to contact my organization. We are happy to answer questions. Our Web site is www.rabbitnetwork.org and our phone number is (781) 431-1211.

Finally, if a rabbit is right for you and your family, please adopt one from a shelter or rescue group. You enrich your family with a new member and also teach your kids the value of saving a life. Thank you. **— SUZANNE TRAYHAN, PRESIDENT, HOUSE RABBIT NETWORK**

DEAR SUZANNE: The topic of bunnies, baby chicks and ducklings as Easter gifts is one that recurs every year. I hear from people who work in animal shelters deploring the fact that the helpless little creatures are later dumped when they cease to be novelties. I hope readers will take to heart what you have written, particularly the suggestion that if a rabbit is going to be adopted, a shelter or rescue group can be an excellent resource.

**

DEAR ABBY: "Paul" and I have been dating for about 10 months. He is wonderful. He is going through a divorce because throughout his 20-year marriage, he was unfaithful to his wife. Paul swears he will never cheat on me because I am exactly what he has been looking for.

Paul's friends are cheaters, too, and frankly, I'm worried he will eventually stray, no matter what he says now.

Recently Paul asked me to move in with him. I am 32 and he's 46. Do you think because he's older now he will really be able to change? **— LOVING AN EX-CHEATER**

DEAR LOVING: No, I do not. And birds of a feather flock together. Listen to your intuition. Instead of moving in, move on.

**

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**

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Celebrated black bookstore announces closing next year

DALLAS (AP) — One of the state's oldest black bookstores will close its doors next year, a victim of the economy and high rent.

Authors, publishers and customers alike are bemoaning the expected demise of the Black Images Book Bazaar.

Although there may be only 20 bookstores like it in the country, owner Emma Rodgers says that when her lease is up next year, she'll shut down.

For Black Images, "the handwriting has been on the wall for a while," Rodgers, who's been a member on the American Booksellers Association national board, told The Dallas Morning News.

"We're not generating as many sales as we were and this economy isn't helping."

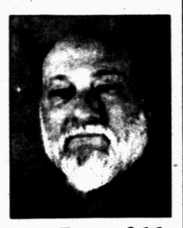
Rodgers began selling books by mail order in 1977 with her business partner, Ashira Tosihwe.

Whatever happened to...

James (Jim) Rannefeld, son of Vernon and Hazel Rannefeld, graduated from Snyder High School in 1966. He attended Texas Tech University where he taught geology labs and graduated with a degree in historical geology (zoology minor) in 1970. Subsequently he received a NASA scholarship from Texas A&M University and graduated in 1972 with a master's degree in oceanography. He moved to Taos, N.M., in 1974 and married Andrea Saylors the following year. He has three children, sons Blue, 32; Jacob, 28; and daughter, Ariel, 24, who will soon make him a grandfather.



Jim Rannefeld 1966



Jim Rannefeld 2004

James became a woodworker for the next 25 years, designing and producing furniture, cabinets, doors and sculptures that have been exhibited and sold throughout the U.S., Canada, Japan and in seven European countries. His work is included in collections such as the New Mexico State Capitol building, Jimmy Carter, T. Boone Pickens and the Vietnam Veterans Chapel.

James returned to teaching in 1994 at the University of New Mexico where he initiated and developed programs in woodworking, construction technology, Southwest arts and applied arts and crafts. He was made vocational coordinator in 1995 and chief instructional officer in 1997.

As dean of instruction he was instrumental in developing career academies at UNM-Taos which led to an International Exemplary Leadership award at the 2004 Chair Academy Conference in March, 2004.

(Readers are invited to submit information and pictures for this feature. Bring By Snyder Daily News or mail to Box 949 in Snyder, 79550)

Snyder, Ira, Hermleigh and Fluvanna grads...

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Name _____

Year graduated _____

Parent's name _____

Some general high school activities for which they might be remembered _____

_____

_____

_____

After graduation they (college, military, etc.) _____

_____

_____

_____

Married to _____

Now live in _____

Children _____

_____

Professional work or accomplishment _____

_____

_____

Anything additional _____

_____

_____

Current picture?

Readers are invited to submit information and pictures for this feature. Bring by Snyder Daily News or mail to Box 949 in Snyder, 79550

Dinero más rápido no sería posible.

Préstamo de reembolso anticipado.

Imagínate. Entras a hacer tus taxes y te vas con tu cheque por el préstamo de la cantidad de tu reembolso, menos los honorarios bancarios y de la preparación de taxes.

Llama al **1-800-HRBLOCK** o visita **hrblock.com/espanol**

H&R BLOCK

(located on the square)
2512 Ave. R
Snyder, TX 79549 573-9002
Mon-Sat. 9-6
Se Habla Espanol

MAKE SNYDER BRIGHTER
City Wide Clean-up Campaign
NO CHARGE

Anyone signing up for the city dump trucks will need to call:
City Utility Department: 573-4960 or 573-4969
By April 16, 2003

Participation by all citizens and business within the city limits:

Citizens:
Clean up on property.
Mow
Pick up trash
Clean alley at back of their property
Remove weeds
Remove old appliances

Businesses:
Clean up on property
Mow
Pick up trash
Remove weeds from parking areas, around utility poles and in landscaped areas.
Clean alley at back of property

Dump trucks and drivers will be available from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on April 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd to pick up tree limbs, lumber and appliances; items that can be lifted manually and placed over the sides of a dump truck. **NO TIRES PLEASE!**

The dump truck will be available in these areas of town on these dates and limited to 1 (one) load per residence or business:
April 19th - West of College and South of 30th Street
April 20th - East of College and South of 30th Street
April 21st - West of College and North of 30th Street
April 22nd - East of College and North of 30th Street

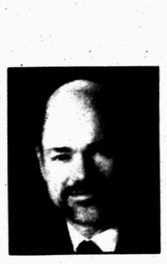
Please indicate the type of items you are wanting picked up and schedule it for the day the dump truck will be in your area. Have the items placed next to the curb, driveway or alley leaving access for through traffic. Small items must be placed in bags and stacked near the curb, driveway or alley. City personnel will not be allowed to go onto the property and into any structures to retrieve objects. Please keep brush in a separate pile from other items. Please keep appliances and metals in a pile separate from other items. Any appliance that uses freon/coolant, must have the coolant removed and tagged by a licensed re-coverer. Please be available to assist in loading the items. If you can't be available, indicate so when scheduling the dump truck. Tree limbs, lumber, etc. will need to be cut into pieces that can be easily handled by one person.

Please schedule pick-up before placing items at curb or in the alley. If the schedule is full when you call, you may take your current utility bill, with the items you were wanting picked up, and get into the landfill at no charge during the four-day clean-up campaign.

THESE SERVICES ARE FOR INDIVIDUALS, NOT TO BE USED BY PERSONS IN THE BUSINESS OF DEMOLITION OR CLEAN-UP AND WILL BE LIMITED TO 1 (ONE) LOAD PER RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS INSIDE THE CITY LIMITS ONLY.

City of Snyder
Snyder Beautification Committee
Snyder Chamber of Commerce

Pediatric Cardiology Clinic in Snyder
Sponsored by
Covenant Heart Institute



Paul D. Walter M.D. F.A.C.C.

On **April 13th**, Covenant Heart Institute will sponsor its Cardiology Clinic at Covenant Medical Group Building, 5009 College Ave. Paul D. Walter M.D., F.A.C.C., of Covenant Heart Institute, will see patients on **Tuesday, April 13, beginning at 1:00 p.m.** For an appointment, please call 1-877-60HEART (877-604-3278).

www.covenantheartinstitute.com/regional_outreach.html

Covenant Heart Institute
Lubbock, Texas

For health. For life.

Moderately Confused



THE SCURRY COUNTY HEALTH UNIT

will be giving immunizations for

Spring Roundup

at the Health Unit
911 26th.

The clinic dates are:

Thursday April 22, 2004 1:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.
Friday April 23, 2004 7:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Bring your child's shot record and Medicaid Card if they have one.

All shots are $5.00
ALL AGES WELCOME.

World Almanac

Saturday, April 3, 2004

Today is the 94th day of 2004 and the 15th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1882, Jesse James was killed by Robert Ford, one of his own gang members.

In 1920, writer F. Scott Fitzgerald married Zelda Sayre in New York City.

In 1948, President Harry Truman signed the Marshall Plan, designed to help rebuild war-torn Europe.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Washington Irving (1783-1859), writer; Marlon Brando (1924-), actor, is 80; Doris Day (1924-), singer/actress, is 80; Alec Baldwin (1958-), actor, is 46; Eddie Murphy (1961-), comedian/actor, is 43; Picabo Street (1971-), skier, is 33.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1989, Michigan defeated Seton Hall, 80-79, to win the NCAA men's basketball title.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "A barking dog is often more useful than a sleeping lion." — Washington Irving

TODAY'S FACT: The Tokyo metropolitan area has a population of about 26.4 million people, making it the world's biggest, followed by Mexico City, Mexico, and Sao Paulo, Brazil.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 24,500 — Approximate number of species of fish that have been discovered.

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (March 28) and full moon (April 5)

Sunday, April 4, 2004

Today is the 95th day of 2004 and the 16th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1581, Sir Francis Drake and his men completed their round-the-world voyage.

In 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) pact was signed.

In 1968, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Tris Speaker (1888-1958), baseball player; Robert Sherwood (1896-1955), playwright; Marguerite Duras (1914-1996), writer; Muddy Waters (1915-1983), blues musician; Maya Angelou (1928-), poet/writer, is 76; Heath Ledger (1979-), actor, is 25.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1983, North Carolina State, coached by Jim Valvano, upset Houston, 54-52, to win the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The trouble with me is I belong to a vanishing race. I'm one of the intellectuals." — Robert Sherwood

TODAY'S FACT: The Christian practice of carrying palms in a procession on Palm Sunday dates back to the fourth century A.D.

TODAY'S NUMBER: 2.15 million — The area in square feet of Macy's in New York City, the world's largest department store.

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (March 28) and full moon (April 5)

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Bikes are recalled

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pacific Cycle Inc. is recalling about 14,000 Mongoose mountain bikes because the frame can bend and break, risking injury to riders.

The Madison, Wis., company has received at least two reports of the aluminum frames breaking, resulting in abrasions and bruises to riders, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said Friday.

The recall covers the silver and red Mongoose 20-inch wheel "D-XR AL" dual-suspension mountain bike with model number "R1590WMET." Steel-framed bikes are not recalled.

Bike and department stores sold the bikes from September 2003 to March for about $99.

The rear shock absorber allows the aluminum frame to bend and break, the commission said. Consumers are advised to stop riding the bikes and call the company for a free replacement rear shock. Pacific Cycle can be reached weekdays at (877) 564-2261 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m EST.

Mistrial declared in Tyco corruption case

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge declared a mistrial in the grand-larceny case against two former Tyco executives Friday after nearly six months of testimony and 11 days of deliberations, citing intense outside pressure placed on one of the jurors.

A source, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, said that Juror No. 4 — a woman who had nearly brought the case to a mistrial last week — had received a threatening or coercive letter within the preceding 24 hours.

The ruling came on the 12th day of deliberations in the case against former chief executive L. Dennis Kozlowski and former chief financial officer Mark Swartz, who were accused of looting the conglomerate of $600 million and could have gotten up to 30 years in prison.

"It is certainly a shame that this has to be done at this time," state Supreme Court Justice Michael Obus told the jurors.

"There has been no finding that this juror has done anything wrong," Obus said. "A great disservice may have been done to her and her family."

A gasp rippled across the courtroom when the mistrial was announced. Several jurors looked chagrined. Kozlowski, 57, and Swartz, 43, appeared ashen-faced.

Kozlowski told the AP, "I'm relieved now." He walked out of the courthouse with his wife and left in a black sport utility vehicle.

The jurors left the courthouse on a bus without comment, though the judge said they were free to talk to the media.

In a statement, the district attorney's office called the mistrial "unfortunate" and said it would seek a retrial.

Kozlowski's lawyer, Stephen Kaufman, said all sides would return to court May 7 to set a date.

"We're disappointed because of the events that occurred outside the courtroom that this case did not reach a verdict," said Kaufman, who declined to answer any questions.

Juror No. 4 became the subject of intense media scrutiny last week, soon after the jurors sent out notes that said they were at each other's throats and that one juror was refusing to deliberate with an open mind.

Some news organizations reported last weekend that the juror — a 79-year-old former teacher who earned a law degree late in life — had made an "OK" gesture toward the defense as she passed by the lawyers.

Scurry County Anti-drug Connection

The best things in life are drug free

The Snyder Daily News, in cooperation with the Scurry County Anti Drug Connection and Al-Anon support groups devote this column to current information on substance abuse, and how we, as a community, can work together to create a safe and drug free environment for our children.

Substance use is still common at age 35, U-M study finds

ANN ARBOR, Mich.—The proportion of 35-year-olds who abuse alcohol and use illicit drugs is higher than might be expected, a University of Michigan study shows.

More than 32 percent of men report heavy drinking —defined as having five or more drinks in a row — at least once in the past two weeks. Nearly 13 percent of men and 7 percent of women report using marijuana in the past month, and 7 percent of men and 8 percent of women report misusing prescription drugs in the past year.

The study, published in the January 2004 issue of the American Journal of Public Health, uses data on 7,541 respondents from the Monitoring the Future study funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and conducted annually at the U-M Institute for Social Research (ISR) since 1975. The men and women who graduated from high school between 1977 and 1983 were randomly selected after graduation to participate in follow-up surveys every two years.

"We found that substance use was surprisingly prevalent at the start of midlife," said Alicia Merline, an ISR researcher who is the lead author of the article. "And we also found that it is not restricted to stereotypical drug users with low socioeconomic status."

After controlling for gender, education and income, the researchers found that professionals are equally as likely to use marijuana as those in other job classifications. Nearly 10 percent of the 35-year-old males with professional jobs report having used marijuana in the past month, for example.

Merline and co-authors Patrick O'Malley, John Schulenberg, Jerald Bachman and Lloyd Johnston, all psychologists at the ISR, discovered a high level of stability of substance use over the 18-year time period covered by the follow-up study. "The foundation for later substance use is set for most people by the time they finish high school," Merline said.

The association between high school experience and cigarette smoking at age 35 is particularly strong, the researchers noted. Having even tried cigarettes at all before graduating from high school increases the odds of smoking at age 35 by more than 3 times the odds of those who had never tried cigarettes by their senior year.

The odds of smoking at age 35 were more than 12 times higher for participants who used cigarettes during the month prior to their twelfth grade survey than for those who had never smoked by their senior year. And the odds of smoking at age 35 were 42 times higher for those who were daily smokers during the twelfth grade than for those who had never smoked by their senior year.

Similar patterns were found for episodic heavy drinking, and for the use of marijuana and other illicit drugs. When compared with those who did not drink heavily as high-school seniors, participants who drank heavily had 3 times the odds of drinking heavily at 35 years of age. When compared with those who had not tried marijuana by the twelfth grade, individuals who had tried marijuana by the twelfth grade had 8 times the odds of using marijuana at age 35.

Those who had tried any illicit drug other than marijuana by their senior year had 5 times the odds of using cocaine and 3 times the odds of misusing prescription drugs at 35 years of age compared with those who had not.

But the researchers found that current demographic and socioeconomic factors also play an important role in adult substance use. Men and women who are currently married are much less

likely to smoke, drink heavily, use marijuana or other illicit drugs or to misuse prescription medications than those who are single, divorced or separated.

While research on young adults has shown that college students drink more than their non-student peers while in college, by age 35 this pattern has reversed and college graduates are less likely to drink heavily than those who did not attend college.

The researchers also found that living with one's child, rather than just being a parent, was associated with lower substance use. Still, they found that a sizeable segment of custodial parents drink heavily or use illicit substances. For example, more than 29 percent of fathers whose children live with them report heavy drinking within the past two weeks. Also, custodial parents are just as likely to smoke or misuse prescription drugs as those who have no children.

Established in 1948, the Institute for Social Research (ISR) is among the world's oldest survey

For more information on how you and/or your business or organization can be involved in promoting a drug-free community, contact the Scurry County Anti-Drug Connection at the Snyder Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 574-1931 or 573-1411.

Today's chuckle

Anger management assembly turns violent

WOODLAWN, Md. (AP) — A brawl broke out during an anger management assembly at a suburban high school.



Two people were arrested and 11 students were suspended after a shoving match escalated into a melee during Thursday's assembly.

Authorities said a confrontation between a student's mother and a group of girls who had been bothering her daughter turned into a shouting match, and led to pushing and hitting, before the crowd of 750 students erupted into "chaos," said C. Anthony Thompson, principal of Woodlawn High School.

The melee began as students on stage acted out peaceful ways to resolve conflict during the assembly was organized by Sheppard Pratt Health System.

"People were climbing over seats and started fighting about stupid stuff," said ninth-grader Melissa Parks.

"Unfortunately, that original incident at the assembly became the catalyst for other fights," said Douglas J. Neilson, a spokesman for Baltimore County schools.

It took about 15 minutes to defuse the situation, Thompson said.

The mother, who was not identified because she had not been brought before a commissioner, was to be charged with trespassing and disrupting school activities, said Officer Shawn Vinson, a spokesman for the police department. The daughter, who was not identified because she is a minor, was to be charged with second-degree assault, he said.

Thompson said some of the suspended students might be recommended for expulsion.

Steve Warren

City Of Snyder
Employee of the Month
March 2004



Steve Warren graduated in 1968 from Hobbs High School, and he served 2½ years in the United States Army. Steve married his High School sweetheart, Tachi, in November of 1968. Steve and Tachi have four daughters, 7 grandchildren, and one grandchild on the way. Steve's hobbies include riding motorcycles and reading. He began working for the City of Snyder on January 23, 1974 as a Patrolman. On July 15, 1976 he was promoted to O.I.C Patrolman 2. Steve was promoted to a Sergeant on August 23, 1977, then to Lieutenant on July 1, 1980. On October 6, 1999 he was promoted to Police Chief. Steve was nominated because he does a great job, always friendly, and always helping others.

APR 04 2004

BARGAINS OF THE MONTH®

Great Low Prices!

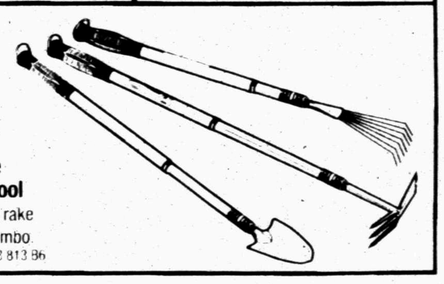
By combining the buying strength of thousands of True Value stores, you get great low prices on quality top-name brands.



GreenThumb® $3 Less $3 Mail-In Rebate Limit 1
24-Oz. Spot Weed Killer
Kills all major broadleaf weeds. Ready to use. (While supplies last. Consumer responsible for taxes.) L 596 577 F12



GreenThumb® 6.99
1-Gal. Tank Sprayer
16" flexible wand with adjustable tip, translucent body for checking fluid level. (While supplies last. L 476 552



GreenThumb® 9.99
3-Pc. Extendable Handle Garden Tool Set Includes shovel, rake and hoe/cultivator combo. (While supplies last. L 243 813 B6

Find many more items on sale and fast, helpful service

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A Division of True Value®
Your Source For Total Facility Maintenance
900 College Ave. 573-4903
OPEN: Mon. - Fri. 7 am to 5:30 pm
Saturday 7 am to Noon

Cinema 1 & 2
1907 Snyder Shopping Ctr.
FILMS (573-4567)



DAWN OF THE DEAD R
Fri. 7:00, 9:00
Sat. 2:00, 7:00, 9:00
Sun. 2:00, 7:00
Tues. 7:00 Only
Wed. 7:00 Only
Thurs. 7:00 Only



HOME ON THE RANGE PG
Fri. 7:15, 9:15
Sat. 2:15, 7:15, 9:15
Sun 2:15, 7:15
Tues. 7:15 Only
Wed. 7:15 Only
Thurs. 7:15 Only

Tuesday "Poor Boy" Night $3
Wed. buy drink-get free popcorn
Closed Monday

In recognition of April's
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH

Gateway Family Services, Inc.
is sponsoring an **ESSAY CONTEST** open to all High School Juniors & Seniors.

Three **$100 SCHOLARSHIPS** will be awarded to the winning three essays:
one to WTC, one to TSTC and one to the college of their choice.
Each student entering the contest is only eligible to win one scholarship.

Call **GATEWAY FAMILY SERVICES** at **325-573-4351** for details and an entry form.
Entry deadline for contest is 5 pm, April 23rd



Speaker for all seasons

by Don Newbury

It was one prominent on his desk, and President Harry S. Truman often spoke of the little sign: "The Buck Stops Here."*

It was a twist of the frontier expression poker players used when they "passed the buck" if they didn't wish to deal. Buck-passing has become an art form — in government, business, sports — you name it. I don't remember any bucks being stopped this side of deer season. The "passing bucks" rarely even slow down, and often travel in pairs with lawsuits.

They are ever-present, zipping around us like unseen radio waves. Sometimes we call them "issues," but the "buck" category is bloated by many sub-groups with a common theme: "What we've got here is a hot potato, and it would be ever so much better if tossed to someone else." Thus bucks start flying and almost nothing is surprising. My timbers haven't shivered in years.

* * * * *

I felt so "unshocked" the other day when I opened the newspaper. On the same page were accounts of a gorilla running amok in the Dallas Zoo and the women's rowing team in the same mode at the good ship, Baylor University. (No, this has nothing to do with evolution.) Seven of the rowers pulled together a lawsuit against BU, citing Title IX inequities. They want the club team elevated to varsity status. Such elevation, of course, comes at a price — particularly if a paid coach signs on.

It seems to me that BU might want to consider the request. In what other sport can the Bears win sitting down going backwards?

* * * * *

Federal, state and local authorities have the Dallas Zoo under a microscope, looking for gorilla prints. They're also examining candle wax dripped on the walking paths during the vigil held a few nights back for Jabari, the 13-year-old gorilla felled by a police bullet following 40 minutes of pandemonium.

What rotten timing for a ruckus at the zoo. Its supporters, believing Dallas County could provide better resources, were smack-dab in the middle of "buck-passing," trying to get the city to hand the zoo off to the county. The commissioners were at the "hemming/hawing" stage, perhaps ready to "take the matter under advisement."

One observer mentioned that there's already a circus at the courthouse, and adding a zoo would take a tent far bigger than each Baptist faction claims to have. Now, they'll table the deal indefinitely, figuring lawsuits against the zoo could really put a hitch in the road and bridge fund.

* * * * *

Head-scratchers trying to figure out how the gorilla escaped need only to think back to their youth, say, oh, age 13 — the very age of Jabari. Remember, it was spring break.

Maybe five teenage boys, bored with it all, decided to try acrobatics. One got on another's shoulders, and late in the day, there they were — stacked five high—wobbling a bit, but 13-feet tall.

Obviously, they preferred an audience, so they rode their bikes to the zoo for their show — right in front of the gorilla compound. Passersby giggled, but the gorillas were taking notes (remember: monkey see, monkey do). Perhaps the gorillas duplicated the act, and Jabari, at the top, dropped down on the other side.

* * * * *

Such brings to mind the story of Tarzan late on a Friday afternoon. He was limp and pallid, barely able to swing from vine to vine. Upon reaching the tree house, he instructed Jane that he was to be interrupted by nothing — no calls, no TV, no e-mails. Assuming the fetal position in a dark corner, Tarzan quietly described his week to Jane: "It's a jungle out there," he whimpered.

And finally from deep in the joke bag (jokes are passed as often as bucks): A brilliant monkey learned to read. Two books — the Holy Bible and one on the Darwinian theory of evolution — were placed in his cage. Upon reading both, he was frenzied. He couldn't decide if he was his brother's keeper, or his keeper's brother.

* * * * *

Don Newbury is an author/speaker/columnist in the Metroplex. His Idle American column appears weekly in 100 Texas newspapers. He may be contacted at 817.447.3872 or by e-mail, newbury@speakerdoc.com

**For history buffs, the sign is 2.5 inches tall and 13 inches wide. The words are painted on glass and mounted on a walnut base. "I'm From Missouri" is painted on the back. Federal reformatory detainees in El Reno, Okla., made it for him in 1945. It is displayed at the Truman Museum and*

Open Government Barometer

Number of Executive Sessions held by public entities in 2004.

Cogdell Hospital	8
Snyder ISD	3
DCOS	3
Ira ISD	2
City of Snyder	2
Hermleigh ISD	1
WTC	0
Scurry County	0



Letter to the Editor

Thanks for signs

Dear Editor:

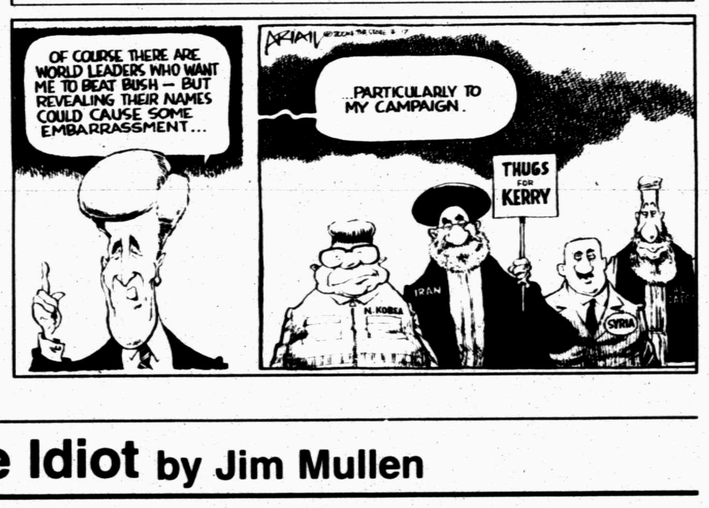
I would like to take this chance to thank our city manager, John Gayle, and our city employees.

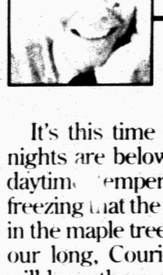
I live in an area with no sidewalks and many children. The parents of the children have been very concerned about an accident happening from people driving fast on our street. Last week I called and talked to John Gayle.

He took care of the problem immediately. We now have two "Children At Play" signs on our street.

I appreciate this fast response.

Celia Morales





The Village Idiot by Jim Mullen

How sappy can you get

It's this time of year when the nights are below freezing and the daytime temperature gets above freezing that the sap starts running in the maple trees. Each tree along our long, Courier and Ives drive will have three or four tin buckets hanging from the spiles — oh yeah, no they won't. Nobody uses buckets anymore. They might have 10 years ago or maybe even seven years ago, but now the trees are all tapped with bright blue flexible plastic tubing that gets connected and reconnected as the sap runs downhill into bigger and bigger plastic tubes, which all funnel right into a big, thousand-gallon holding tank. Where's the romance in that? I miss the buckets.

"Yeah? I miss 'em, too," said Dennis, the man who taps our trees. "I miss being out in 2 feet of snow trying to juggle two buckets of sap into a collection tank. I miss walking along with a bucket full of sap in each hand and then having one foot suddenly sink an extra foot into the snow slopping ice cold, sticky sap down my pants and into my boot. I miss doing that every spring for two weeks. Sometimes the snow was so deep, we couldn't even get out."

I was about to say "What about the romance?" but I didn't want to get that look from him that he saves for particularly dense flatlanders.

Dennis and Barb are dairy farmers, and for years the maple syrup they made provided them with a little extra income. "Some years," Barb told me, "the only extra money we had came from the sugaring business." It's hard enough to milk 70 cows twice a day for nothing, but to have to collect the sap, chop enough wood to evaporate down 40 gallons of sap into one gallon of syrup, bottle it and sell it is almost an insane amount of work. They sell the syrup, maple candy and maple cream at the farmer's market during the summer and from a little shop on their property. At least once every market day some city person will ask why pure maple syrup costs $35 a gallon. Dennis figures it's useless to explain the concept of hard work to them, they wouldn't get it. So he just says, "The profit!"

Dennis has 1,200 taps out this year. He'd like more, but the snow was deep this year. All the plastic tubes from the trees run into a gigantic Rube Goldberg contraption in a brand new 200-foot-long industrial-looking building he's built across the road from his old, tiny wooden sugar shack. The shack where he and Barb and the kids used to stay up all night feeding logs on the fire to evaporate the sap. The new evaporator is oil-heated, there are drains and flow pipes and filters and cleaners everywhere. You have to be a NASA scientist to figure it out, but basically the clear sap from all their trees runs in one end and light-gold maple syrup runs out the other. Nothing is added, and the only thing removed is water.

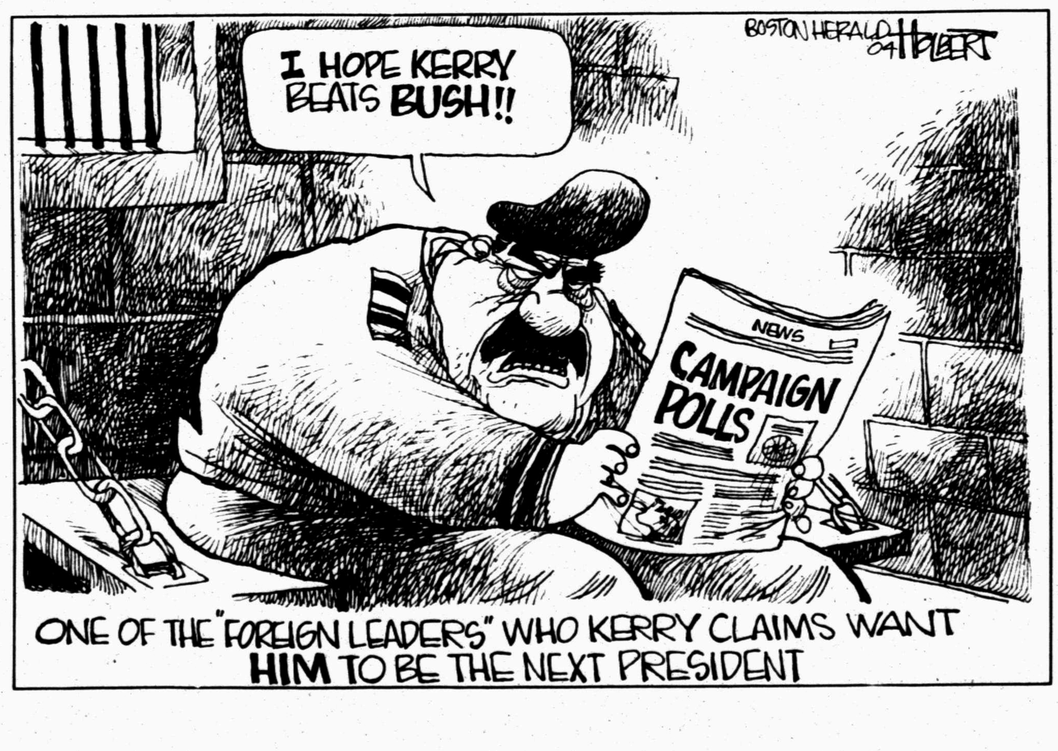
Sugaring, as they call the process, is no longer a sideline. It's taken years but now they make more money selling maple products than they ever did milking cows. So the milk cows have been sold to another farmer. The cows leave on Tuesday.

"That's sad," I said, "Won't you miss the cows?" Dennis and Barb looked at each other. I thought they were going to cry. Then they looked around the clean, unsmelly, well-lit, warm, new maple sugar plant. They started to laugh.

"Yes, we'll miss them. We'll miss getting up at 5:30 in the morning, milking them and feeding them. We'll miss cleaning the barn and spreading manure in 20-below-zero weather. We'll miss spending every dime we had on the vet. We'll miss our knees and fingers aching every minute of the day. Maybe you should buy them so we can come visit them."

Jim Mullen's latest book, "My First Wedding: A Primer for Modern Couples," was just published by Simon & Schuster. He also contributes regularly to Entertainment Weekly, where he can be reached at jim_mullen@ew.com

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Port Arthur News

Pretty name on bad idea

Gov. Rick Perry's four-point proposal to limit property taxes is a pretty-sounding name on a bad plan that would shift the tax burden to the poorer property owners and reduce the representation of school districts on the state's county appraisal districts. Legislators should place Perry's plan in the round file and let the governor know Texans are interested in fair taxation, not schemes to shift the tax burden of the state to those least able to pay.

Point 1 of the governor's plan is to limit increases on home property appraisals to no more than 3 percent a year. Sounds great, until the facts are examined. Jefferson County Chief Appraiser Roland Bieber, while not commenting on the merits of Perry's plan, said that property value fluctuations are much greater on more expensive homes than on lesser valued property.

Such a cap would have resulted in a much greater percentage of tax savings for owners of expensive homes in expensive subdivisions than for the average and lower value homes common in Mid- and South County. The American ideal is equality in taxation, and once government starts carving out artificial niches, which would be the result of the 3 percent cap, equality becomes distorted. In this instance the distortion would be to the benefit of the owners of the most expensive property. Much the same principle applies to limiting the appraisal increases on business property, which Gov. Perry would set at 10 percent. Businesses in areas of building booms where property values are increasing would receive a break, while those already struggling in more depressed areas would enjoy no such benefit. The effect would be to shift the property tax burden from the businesses in prime locations to those in depressed areas.

A property tax is a regressive tax. It takes lower income property owners a much higher percentage of their income to pay property taxes than it takes high income property owners. Perry's plan would make property taxes even more regressive.

Area cities have been vocal about their reaction to the third point of Perry's plan, which would require an election for the city to raise more revenue than was raised in the previous year. That would make it impossible, they say, to keep up with the mandates coming out of Austin and Washington, D.C., for continual improvements in water systems, sewer systems and other services the cities must offer.

The fourth point of Perry's plan could result in shutting out Port Arthur from representation on the county's Appraisal District board. It also would reduce the voice of school districts on the appraisal board and reduce the effectiveness of school district representation.

Victoria Advocate

Another reason for tax reform

With 120 parks and historic sites, Texas has one of the finest state parks systems in the country. From Palo Duro State Park to Brazos Bend State Park, from the Battleship Texas State Historic Site to Enchanted Rock State Park, Texans and out-of-state visitors have a wide range of ways of experiencing the largest state in the Lower 48.

But maintaining more than 600,000 acres of parklands and historic sites costs money. As did all state agencies in the 78th Texas Legislature's drastic budget cutting, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department took a massive hit, losing some $45 million in funding, according to The Associated Press.

The agency's budget situation is so critical that it depends too heavily on fines collected from poachers. Parks and Wildlife collects an average of $365,000 in poaching fines — the agency calls them "civil restitution" — each year, the Waco Tribune-Herald reported.

"We find it not only pays for wildlife and wildlife management areas, but also game wardens and their salaries," said Kris Bishop, the agency's assistant chief of fisheries enforcement, who oversees the restitution program.

"Compared to (Parks and Wildlife's) needs, it's a drop in the bucket," said Ken Kramer, the director of the Austin-based state chapter of the Sierra Club. "But every drop in the bucket adds up.".

That the department has to depend on poaching fines to fund some of its essential operations is an embarrassment to Texas, to Texans who love their state parks and historic sites and to future generations who will have fewer and fewer opportunities to experience the Lone Star State's natural beauty.

This is also an indictment of the cowardice of Texas elected officials — the governor and lieutenant governor and members of the Legislature — who refuse to tackle the difficult process of reforming the state's antiquated, inadequate and inequitable tax system that almost ensures such budget shortfalls.

Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and state lawmakers have been severely and appropriately criticized for draconian budget cuts that hit, for example, the Children's Health Insurance Program and care for frail and elderly Texans. But those high-profile programs were not the only ones to suffer from the cuts the Legislature made last year to balance the budget without either tax increases or reform.

If state parks and historic sites are worth having — and we enthusiastically believe they are — then they are worth properly maintaining. That, no less than public schools and health care for lower-income Texans, requires adequate funding. But adequate funding, particularly in tough economic times, is almost impossible to achieve under the current state tax system.

The Dallas Morning News

Mexican workers dying on job

As Americans continue to depend on cheap immigrant labor, here is one statistic that we can live without: Mexican immigrant workers die on the job at the rate of one per day. In some states, a Mexican worker is four times as likely to die on the job as the average U.S.-born worker. And even though the U.S. workplace has grown safer overall in recent years, the death rates of Mexican immigrants have remained much higher than those of native-born workers or those born in other countries.

All of that comes courtesy of an extensive investigation into Mexican worker deaths by The Associated Press. The AP interviewed workers, employers and government officials and analyzed years of federal safety and population statistics. It concluded that Mexican workers often are at risk because they are willing to work cheap, ask few questions and rarely raise concerns about safety.

Individual workers must know their rights and enough English to complain when their lives are at risk. Employers must follow all worker safety laws, and those who don't must be prosecuted. And the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which is part of the Labor Department, must continue its efforts to create workplace environments that prevent injuries and deaths.

But that's not enough. Twenty-two states have created their own OSHAs. They include California and New York but not Texas. Between 1996 and 2002, more than 500 Mexican workers died on the job in the Lone Star State, according to the study. It's hard to know if creating a Texas OSHA would improve that record, just as it's hard to say how many traffic accidents are prevented by stoplights. But all workers deserve to be safe on the job.

WTC News
WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE

WTC Campus will be closed
Friday, April 9th
in observance of
Good Friday

Sunday, April 4, 2004 Western Texas College, 6200 College Ave. Snyder, TX 79549

WTC Exceptional Service Award to be Awarded at Chamber Banquet

There will be a new award presented this year at the annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet. It will be the WTC Exceptional Service Award.

The award will be based on the recipient having made a significant investment in the college, community and or students. The service could be current or past.

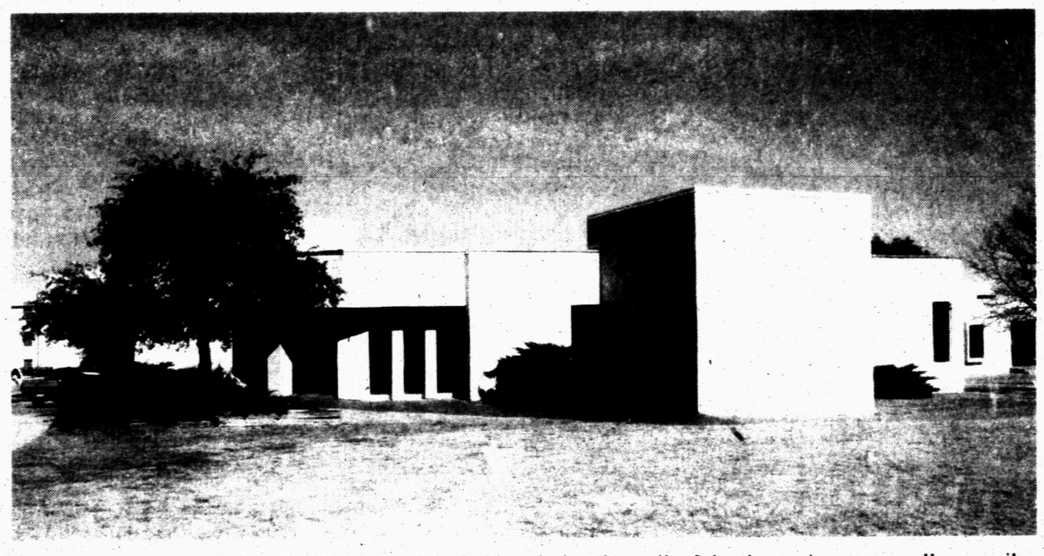
Any WTC staff member will be eligible for the award. Nominations for the award are being made by WTC staff members and will be reviewed by a committee and presented to the college administrative council for their consideration. The individual receiving the award will be given a plaque at the annual Chamber banquet and their name and year received will be listed on a plaque located in the college administrative building showing all WTC yearly recipients.

SGA Students Travel To State Convention

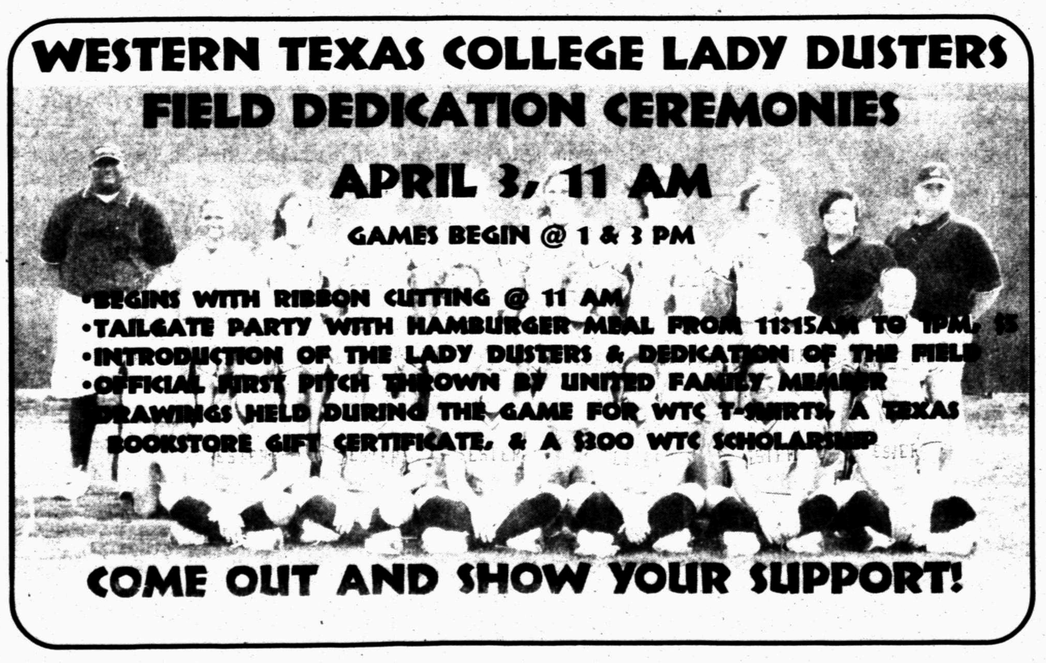


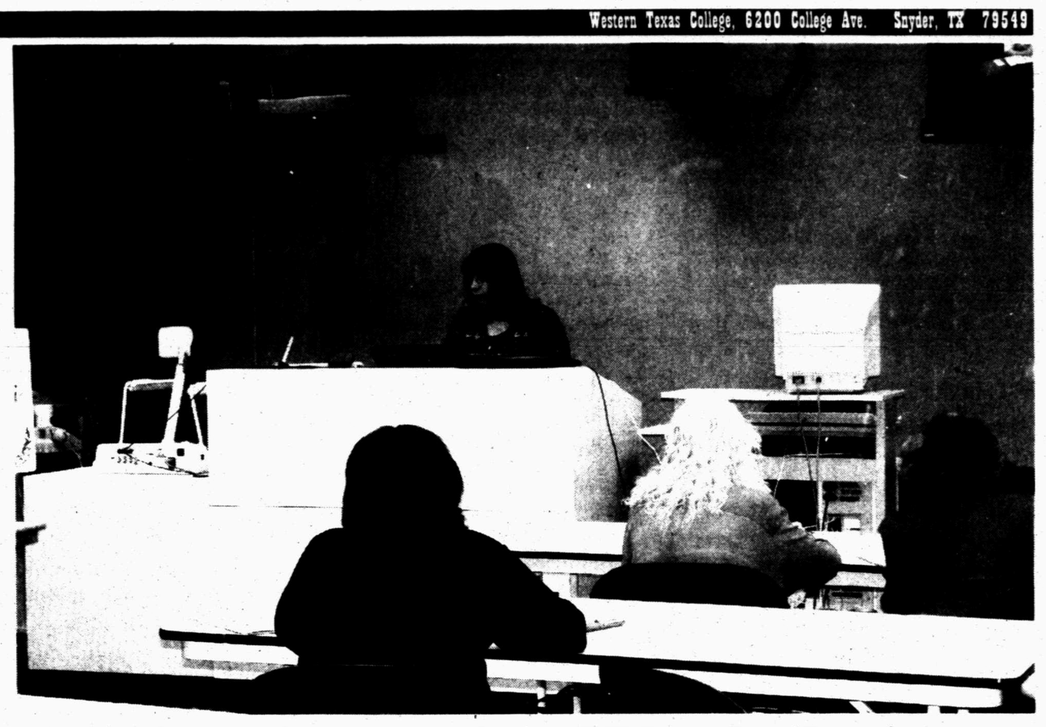
The Western Texas College Student Government Association went to Houston for the SGA State Convention on March 24 - 28. The group consisted of 7 students and one advisor. WTC SGA won 3rd place on their media project and will sit on the Region Executive Board as Bulletin Chair. The group pictured above is (back) Jeremy Smith, (middle) Shannon Jones, Casey Crawford, Patty Kuhl, Krisi Early, Staci Sorrells and (front) Jessica Rylant

Visitor and Conference Center Renovations Near Complete



The only renovation to "The Center" remaining is painting the walls. It has been given new walls, new tile on the floors, new doors, new carpet, new lighting and new cabinet tops. Earlier this week the Scurry County Inmates came and cleaned the building and the painter is due next week. "The painter should take about two weeks to finish and then we can move in," said Mike Thornton, Dean of Visitor and Conference Center and Special Projects. The Center should be available for events in August. The exterior landscaping will be done by the WTC GLT program. "The Center" will be utilized as a visitor center for the campus. It will be the first place new visitors will go. Campus tours will also be given from there, as the recruiter will be housed in this building. "The Center" will also be utilized for meetings, conferences and retreats not only for WTC but for the community. It will have the capabilities of hosting a wide range of events with available video conferencing packages , T-1 high speed internet access, lap top computers, full or partial menus for snacks, breakfast, lunch or dinner and flexible meeting areas that can serve 10 to 100 individuals.





Geriatric Ethics Workshop Conducted on WTC Campus

In recognition of National Professional Social Worker Month, Western Texas College co-sponsored a workshop on "Geriatric Ethics" on Wednesday in the ITV classroom on campus. The other sponsors were Roscoe Healthcare Center, Senior Living Properties, LLC, and Snyder Healthcare Center. Ms. Mary Bishop, MSSW - LMSW, led the workshop. Bishop has been training and educating adults for the past 5 years and currently teaches Contemporary Social Issues at WTC as an adjunct faculty member. She is also currently employed by Shannon Behavior Health in Abilene as a Geriatric Phyciatric Social Worker. She works with the elderly in nursing homes and has served those utilizing hospice and home health services.

Ms. Bishop has served as an auditor for Texas Department of Mental Health Mental Retardation, co-proprietor of a Hicks and Bishop Professional Service, a private practice group, and served under House of Representative, Glenn Lewis.

The workshop was attended by Administrators, Psychologists, Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors, and Marriage and Family Therapists. There were several locations the workshop could be attended via ITV. These were Western Central Texas Workforce Center in Abilene, Cisco High School , and Stamford Community Center.

The program has been approved for 3 hours of continuing education by the National Association of Social Workers and may be used to meet some of the continuing education requirements for Social Work Licensure renewal.

Participants attending the workshop will be able to identify, describe, and demonstrate ethical decision-making through the use of the essential steps for ethical problem-solving model. The utilization of ethical problem-solving skills will empower participants to overcome ethical dilemmas that may arise in reporting suspected elder abuse.

Relay for Life Campus Fundraiser

WTC Relay for Life Team Members are selling buttons that stay "Western Texas College Supports Relay for Life" for a campus Relay for Life fundraiser. The buttons are $5. Each button is numbered and your name goes in for a drawing for a cash price of $200. They are only selling 250 buttons so the odds for winning are good. The event is scheduled for April 24 at the Snyder High School track. Each team will have members walking continuously through the event and will also have a booth at the event.

Campus Happenings

April 5 --- Last day to drop a class
April 6 --- SGA Meeting - 7pm
PTK Meeting - 8pm
Movie Night - 9pm
April 9 --- Baseball Game/Odessa
Campus Closed - Holiday

Phi Theta Kappa Students Attend Regional Convention.

WTC's Psi Zeta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa recently traveled to Houston for the Phi Theta Kappa Regional Convention. The Psi Zeta Chapter was awarded the 2003 Pinnacle Chapter in recognition of their success in recruitment of new members. They were also recognized for outstanding merit and achievement as a Chapter of Service. Members attending the convention were: Shannon Jones, Krisi Early, Casey Crawford, Jeff Neal, and Nathan Shrode. Patty Kuhl attended as an advisor to the students.

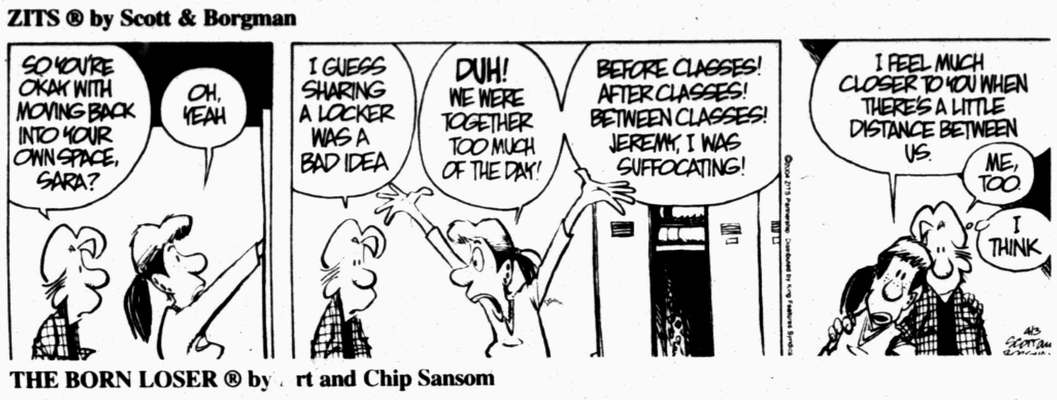
Texas Mountain Laurel in Full Bloom



Spring has Sprung on the WTC campus. The Texas Mountain Laurel located neer the Nursing Department is in full bloom.

APR 04 2004

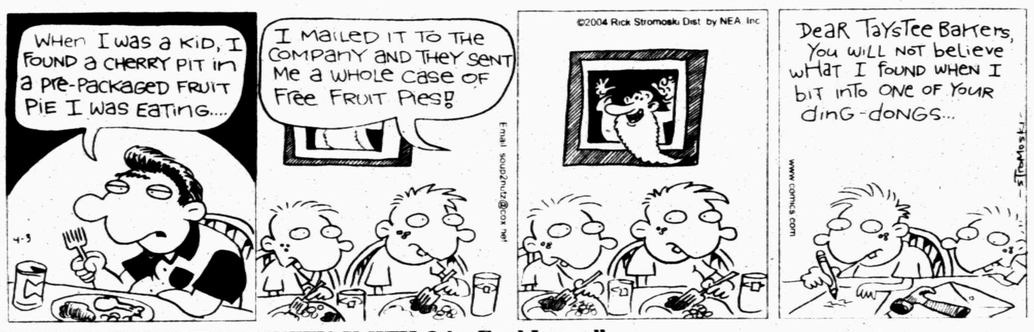
ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



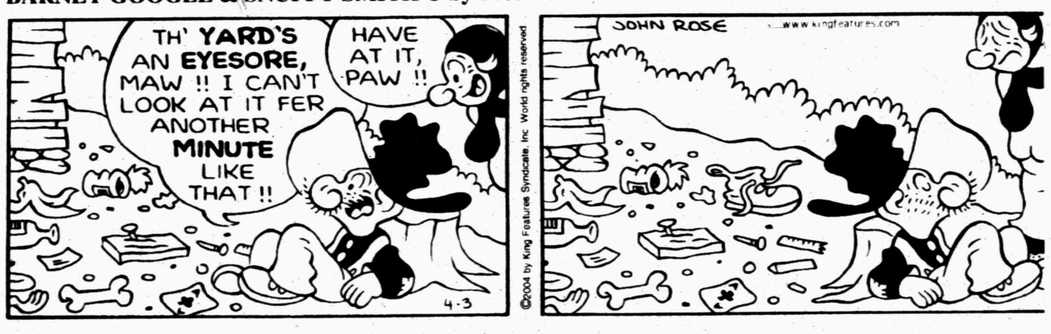
THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



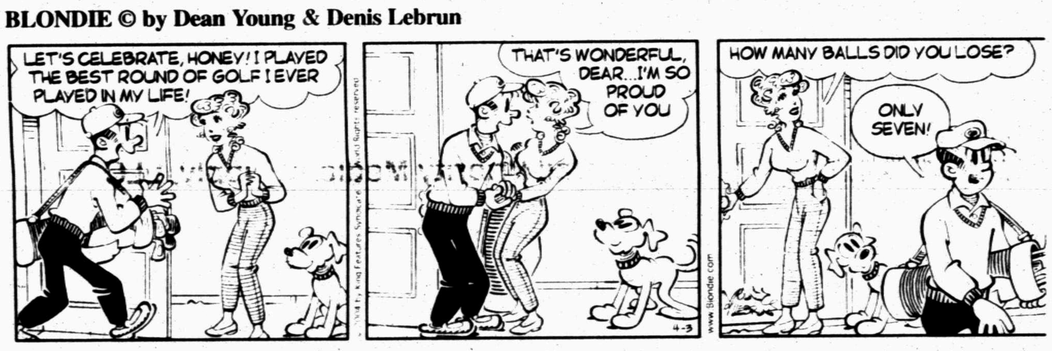
SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



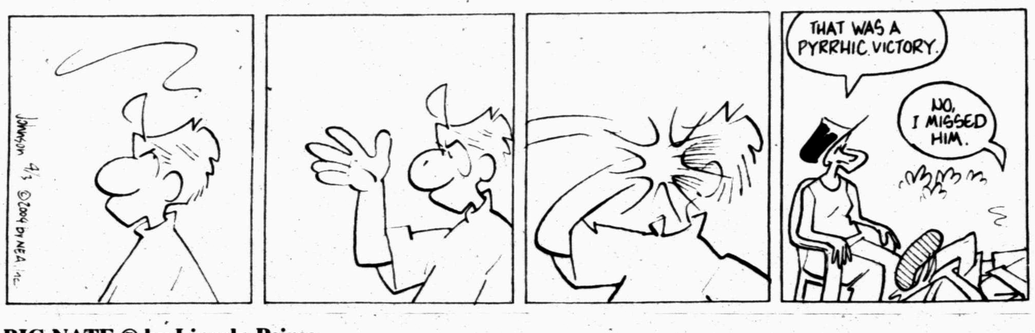
THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



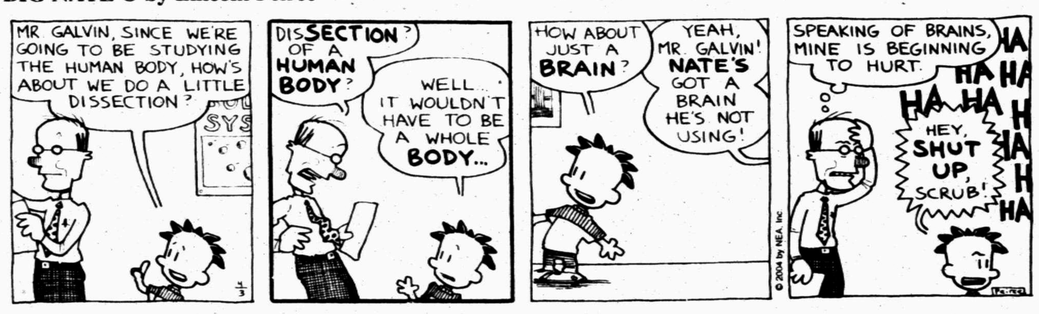
FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



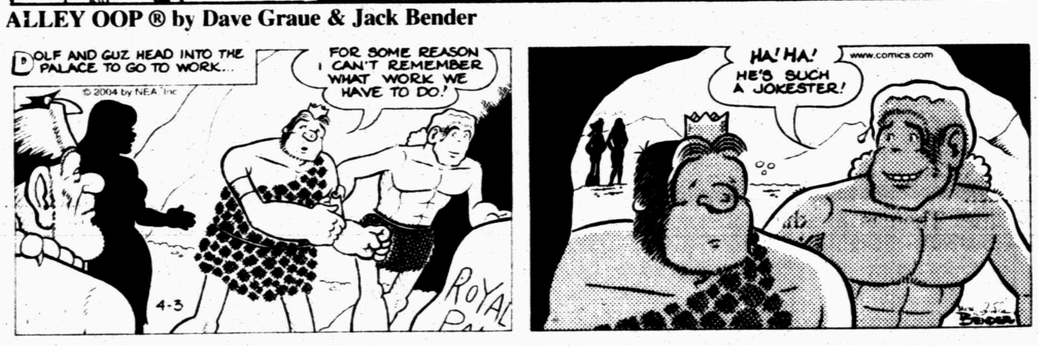
BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



MONTY ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Posed for an artist
4 IRS employee
7 Verdict givers
11 Whichever
12 Satellite
13 Region
14 Prune
15 Leave out
16 A Dinesen
17 Aristocrat
19 Bang
20 Hall-of-Famer Mel —
21 Mark of Zorro
22 Swiss capital
25 Hissed at
28 Crimson Tide st.
29 Turndowns
31 Go bad
33 Stimpy's cartoon pal
34 Wine casks
36 Plastic — Band
37 Orchestra member
40 Prospector's test
42 Conducted
43 Hearty laugh
44 Fix up
46 Without warmth
49 German import
50 Touche provoker
52 — Wiedersehen
54 Escape
55 Wire thicknesses
56 Subzero comment
57 Wallet stuffers
58 And, in Berlin
59 Hog's abode

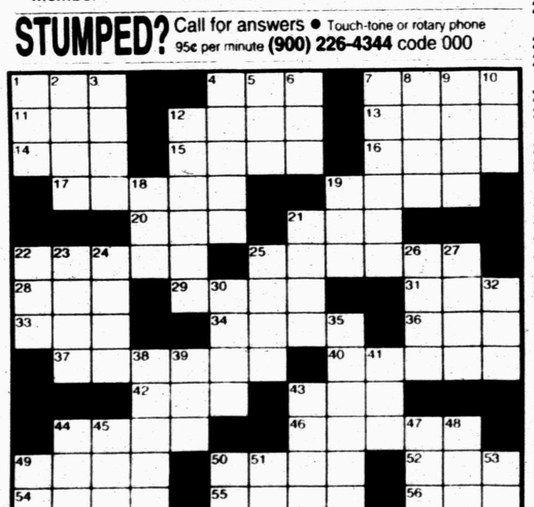
DOWN

1 "My gal" of song
2 Before long
3 Hunt-and-peck error
4 Halley's discovery
5 Taro paste
6 Aardvark snack
7 Warden
8 Bear in the sky
9 Paper quantity
10 Shaggy beast
12 Like lava
18 "— appetit!"
19 Look at
21 Gusto
22 Type of cookie
23 Alt.
24 Hindu princess
25 Ms. Harlow
26 Valentine archer
27 Lisbon lady
30 Exiled Roman poet
32 Play with
35 Spaghetti toppings
38 1950s records
39 Zodiac sign
41 Schuss
43 Traffic sign
44 Axiom
45 Genesis garden
47 Test sites
48 Round tent
49 Toward the stern
50 Rhea cousin
51 Sewing kit item
53 Potato snack

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

STUMPED? Call for answers ● Touch-tone or rotary phone 95¢ per minute **(900) 226-4344** code 000

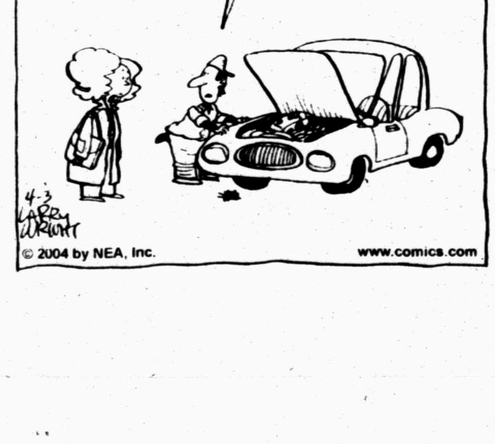


4-3 © 2004 by NEA, Inc

Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham

"BUT YOU TOLD ME TO MARCH RIGHT UP TO BED."



"I've lost the key!"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

Butler's life changed following PI charges

PALESTINE (AP) — Republican Railroad Commission candidate Robert Butler says he didn't decide to join the GOP until after several arrests for public intoxication and a dreamlike confrontation with God.

The 65-year-old retired state employee is in the April 13 primary election runoff for the GOP nomination. Butler, who has been hard to find during his low-profile campaign, faces chairman Victor Carrillo in the runoff.

Carrillo just missed winning the March primary outright. He got 49.6 percent of the vote, barely lacking a majority of more than 50 percent in the four-person race. With minimal campaigning, Butler got 23 percent.

Early voting in the runoff begins Monday.

The winner faces Democrat Bob Scarborough in November's general election for a spot on the three-member commission, which regulates oil, gas and mining.

Butler pleaded no contest to three public intoxication charges accumulated over a six-month period in 2001 and 2002 in Palestine, his hometown. Around that time, he was a Democratic candidate for the State Board of Education, a race he lost.

The Daily Sentinel in Nacogdoches, The Dallas Morning News and the Austin American-Statesman reported Friday on Butler's public intoxication arrests and his low-profile approach to the Railroad Commission contest.

Butler said he considered fighting the charges because he considered them bogus. Ultimately, he said, he decided to settle them and avoid an expensive court fight.

Butler said he no longer drinks and that much has changed in his life since then.

"I quit the church I was in, where there were a lot of drinkers," Butler told the Morning News. "I've joined the Baptist church, where nobody drinks. And I'm a born-again Christian."

Public Records

Action in District Court

Peggy Gruben, individually and as administrator of the estate of David Gruben, and Rickey Gruben vs. Care Inn Properties Inc., dba Snyder Oaks Care Center; Care Inn Management Inc., and Snyder Oaks Care Center, summary judgment on motion to dismiss.

In the marriage of Josephine Lujan and David Lujan, divorce granted.

Deed Records

Katol Investments Inc. to Cloyce G. Scarberry, Blocks 16 and 42 of the Original Town of Snyder.

John E. and Carol Sue Reed and Katol Investments Inc. to Cloyce G. Scarberry, Lot 4 in Block 16 of the Original Town of Snyder.

James Thomas Beckham and Norman D. Sneed to Carolyn Gulseth, the north 100 feet of Lot 2 in Block 54 of the Blankenshi Addition.

Charmaine Baker, Lynn Morgan, Barbara Ellen Whitson Hollis and Robert A. Whitson to Carolyn Gulseth, Lot 1 in Block 3 of the Kittrell Heights Addition.

Ophelia Braziel to Carolyn Gulseth, the east 85 feet of the south 90 feet of Lot 2 in Block 18 of the Blankenship Addition.

Nola Kay Krop to Robert E. and Carolyn J. Barbee, 82.783 acres in the northeast one-quarter of Section 137, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Barbara Holladay Hamer to Macky W. Holladay, 160.34 acres in Section 120, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Gary Evans, Neil Evans and Sammie Elaine Poe to Evelyn Laverne Evans, Lots 1 and 2 in Block 6 of the Park Place Addition.

Elena Martinez Gonzales, Gilbert Martinez Gonzales Jr., Raquel G. Ferrusea, Michelle G. Gonzales and Pricilla Ann Gonzales to Quincy Chavez, the east 50 feet of the north 50 feet of Lot 2 in Block 32 of the Original Town of Snyder.

Alphonso Jackson, Acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, to Val Trammell York, Lot 1, Block 9 of the Highlands Addition.

Lana and Bobby Jones to James and Mary Courtney, a 1.0-acre tract in the west one-half of the southeast one-quarter of Section 56, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Suntrust Mortgage Inc. to Sally Rios, the west 60 feet of Lot 7 in Block 3 of the Highlands Addition, 2nd Section.

Brian Spencer and Carroll Ann Spencer to Michelle Barboza, Lot 10 in Block F of the Replat of the Towle Place Addition.

Jerry Don Early to the City of Snyder, 1.0-acre tract in the northwest one-quarter of Section 95, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Shirley J. Baker, independent executrix of the estate of John A. Sneed, to Shirley J. Baker, tract one being a 150x150-foot tract in Section 484, Block 97, H&TC survey; tract two being a 10x10-foot tract in Section 484, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Genise Capetillo to Ysidrio Guerra, tract one being the north 50 feet of Lot 4 in Block 5 of the Lundy's Park addition; tract two being the south 15 feet of Lot 1 in Block 5 of the Lundy's Park Addition.

Alphonso Jackson, Acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Renewal, to Dewey Grinslade, Lot B in Block F of the Towle Place Addition.

Alice Daniels to Mary Ann Juarez, tract one being an 0.628-acre tract in Section 126, Block 3, H&GN survey; tract two being 1.065 acres in the northwest one-quarter of Section 126, Block 3, H&GN survey.

Richard Tran to Tuyet Anh Thi Le and Ann Le, the north 8 feet of Lot 7 and the south 12 feet of Lot 8, both in Block 10 of the Original Town of Snyder.

Bruce Ed Burleson, Trustee of the Vada Mae Burleson Family Trust, to Bruce Ed Burleson, 9.34 acres in the northeast one-quarter of Section 153, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Teen girl could be charged as an adult

BEAUMONT (AP) — A judge is considering a prosecutor's request to try a 16-year-old girl as an adult in the death of her newborn son, who was found stuffed in a duffel bag in her room on Thanksgiving.

State District Judge Larry Thorne will decide whether to transfer the capital murder case from juvenile court.

The girl was 15 when she gave birth to the boy, fathered by her 19-year-old brother, then placed the baby in her Port-Neches-Groves High School band bag. The baby died in the bag, prosecutors say.

The girl's background, social history, education and circumstances surrounding the death will be considered, prosecutor Randi King said Friday. The judge will also consider the girl's maturity and whether she can be rehabilitated in a youth correction facility, she said.

A hearing in the case probably will be scheduled this month, she said.

The girl could become the first juvenile tried as an adult for capital murder in Jefferson County in a decade, according to The Beaumont Enterprise. William David Travis was sentenced to life in prison in 1994 when he was 16 for the stabbing deaths of his parents.

King said the girl was charged with capital murder because the death involved a child under the age of 6.

The maximum sentence that can be considered in juvenile court on a capital murder charge is 40 years, King said. In the adult system, the girl could receive life in prison.

The girl's brother is free on bond and faces a charge of prohibited sexual conduct, a third-degree felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Sunday, March 4, 2004

Although you may be given greater job responsibilities in the year ahead, substantial acknowledgement and rewards will be in the offing. Do your best and you'll reap the rewards for jobs well done.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Someone you were depending on today may not be as helpful to you as you had hoped this person would be. If you truly believe in your project, do it yourself, even if it takes more time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Attempting to dominate or browbeat associates into doing an unpleasant job at work today will only produce defiance, while politeness and charm will get you a whole lot of cooperation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — It may be more than you want to do, but comparison-shopping for a large ticketed item could save you quite a bit of money. Your wallet will appreciate the effort.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — A fresh approach may be required today if you have any hope of resolving a persistent, domestic problem. Even if the solution is temporary, it'll be better than simply marking time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — If you allow yourself to be too easily discouraged today, your productivity will be greatly reduced. No one promises us a rose garden in life, so don't expect one in this instance, either.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — The type of activities you might wish to participate in may be limited today due to a lack of resources. Don't waste time sulking; use your imagination to find something interesting to do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Ambition is an admirable quality, but selfishness isn't. Strive to be considerate when pursuing your aims today so that you don't create resentment in those who share your day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Unless you get an early start today, there's a good chance you'll run out of time way before you reach the finish line. It isn't likely you will be able to accomplish what you set out to do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Making due with what you have is a wise course of action for you to follow today. Going into debt for a momentary pleasure will have a larger price tag than you may have considered.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Someone who has caused you trouble previously could once again be a thorn in your side today. Avoid problem types and mingle only with your tried-and-true friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Should a task you were hoping to complete today have to be temporarily postponed, use your time constructively by switching to another project that will bring you satisfaction.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Be careful of being too possessive of your loved ones today. Instead of drawing them to you, you will make certain they find ways to avoid you. Give them the freedom they deserve.

Monday, April 5, 2004

Any change of circumstances that might occur in the year ahead will actually serve to invigorate your ambitions and cause you to be more enterprising. Use new avenues to refresh, fortify and update your present base.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — It behooves you to take things in stride and maintain a positive, easygoing manner today, especially when jobs start going awry and piling up on you. Everything can be corrected.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — There's a possibility today that your value awareness may be a bit off base and you'll give more importance to inter-office chatter than you do to your job. Keep your eye on the ball.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — It will work against you today if you make personal judgment calls before carefully weighing and balancing each and every fact before you. It's not speed that's important, but accuracy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Usually you're the type of person who bends over backward to treat both family and associates fairly, but today you may overlook the very ones who stand behind you with full support.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Tendencies toward extravagance and overindulging your whims may be a bit strong in you today. Self-discipline will be required if you hope to end the day feeling good about yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Your major source of frustration may come out of being thwarted from achieving some kind of personal goal or ambition today. Tomorrow is another day, so don't let things get you down.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Today you may be prone to spreading your mental resources far too thin. If there is something important on your agenda challenging you at this time, focus solely on that alone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Conditions are excellent at this time for finding ways to improve your solvency, provided you do not take on any new financial obligations that could disrupt the balance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Situations that require teamwork today might be a bit difficult to manage. If you let your temper get the best of you, any cooperative spirit you could have generated will be lost.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — In order to get everything done that needs doing today, make a list of your responsibilities and don't be sidetracked by incidental happenings. Pile-ups will be difficult to unravel later.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Don't be reticent to say "no" today when friends try to draw you into activities you simply can't afford. You'll be happier if you keep a firm grip on your budget and purse strings.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — You should fare fairly well in competitive involvements today, but only if you do not underestimate your competition. You have a slight edge, but it is a very small one.

Major changes are ahead for Aries in the coming year. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today. Mail $2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

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HEAR HERE



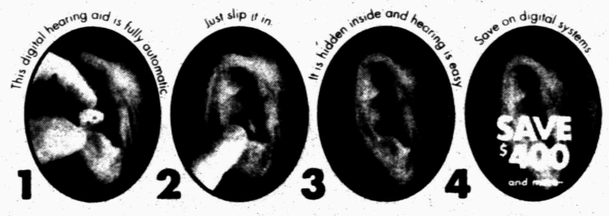
BILL MADDOX

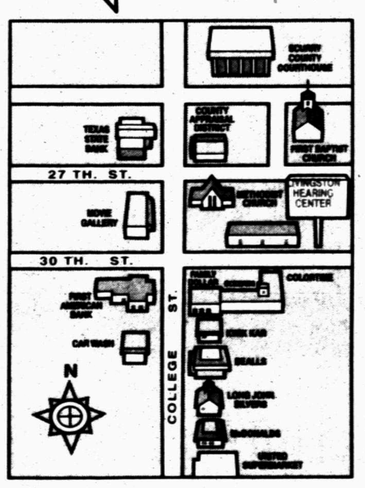
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Open House 1 Day Only – Wednesday, April 7th!
Call today for a no-obligation hearing check up.

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Imagine a fully digital hearing aid that automatically adapts to your surroundings and reflects your specific lifestyle. It's available now from Starkey, the world's largest manufacturer of custom hearing products! Prices starting as low as **$695** *with discount. Call for a free demonstration of this remarkable technology.*





Factory-trained Specialist in Snyder
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Pamela Smith, *Licensed by the Texas Department of Health*

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If you find a lower advertised price on an identical hearing aid at any local retail competitor, we will beat their price by 10% when you buy from us. Just bring us the competitor's current ad, or we'll call to verify the item's price that you have found. Competitor's remanufactured, discontinued, and used hearing aids are excluded from this offer.

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LIVINGSTON Audiology and Hearing Aid Centers

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These games will be closing on April 30, 2004. You have until October 27, 2004, to redeem any winning tickets for these games.

TWO MUCH FUN! #255 *Two Much Fun* ($2) *Overall Odds are 1 in 3.96

TIC TAC DOUGH #349 *Tic Tac Dough* ($1) *Overall Odds are 1 in 4.91

10 TIMES THE MONEY #376 *10 Times The Money* ($10) *Overall Odds are 1 in 2.76

HOT NUMBERS #390 *Hot Numbers* ($1) *Overall Odds are 1 in 4.84

JUMBO BUCKS #414 *Jumbo Bucks* ($2) *Overall Odds are 1 in 4.53

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SCRATCH OFFS — TEXAS LOTTERY

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PLAY RESPONSIBLY — TEXAS LOTTERY — Remember it's just a game

Notice: A Scratch Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. For current information on prizes remaining in a Scratch Off game, call 1-800-37LOTTO. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Lottery ticket. *The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. © 2004 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

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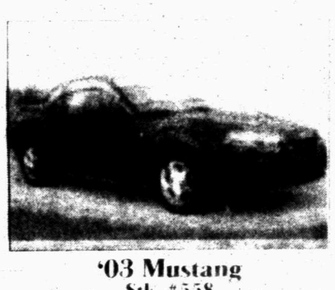
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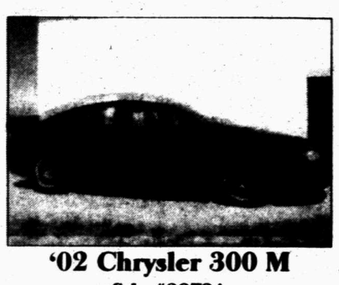
LET'S DEAL "NO MATTER WHAT!"*!"



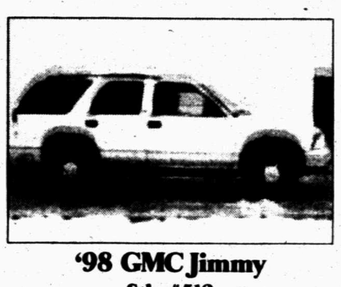
'03 Mustang
Stk. #558
$249/mo
$14,997
Certified pre-owned APR as low as 3.9%
CPO 10% Down & TT&L 3.9% WAC



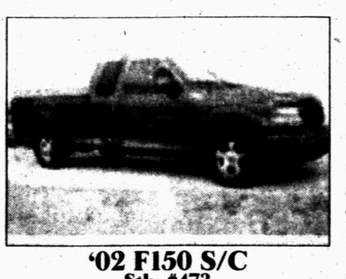
'03 F150 Cargo Van
Stk. #493J
$299/mo
*$15,997



'02 Chrysler 300 M
Stk. #3973A
$399/mo
*$20,997



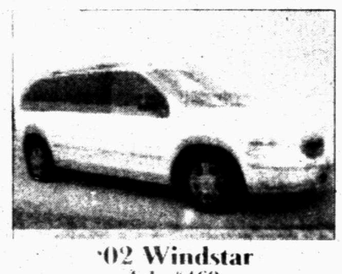
'98 GMC Jimmy
Stk. #512
$259/mo
***$7,997



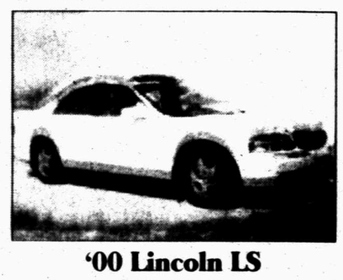
'02 F150 S/C
Stk. #473
$269/mo
$15,997 CPO
Certified pre-owned APR as low as 3.9%
CPO 10% Down & TT&L 3.9% WAC



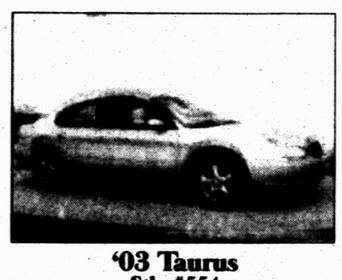
'00 GMC 2500 4x4
Stk. #519
$350/mo
***$13,997



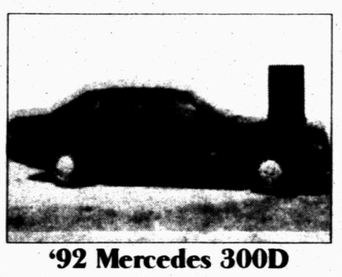
'02 Windstar
Stk. #469
$249/mo
$14,997
Certified pre-owned APR as low as 3.9%
CPO 10% Down & TT&L 3.9% WAC



'00 Lincoln LS
Stk. #553
$339/mo
*$17,997



'03 Taurus
Stk. #554
$229/mo
$13,997
Certified pre-owned APR as low as 3.9%
CPO 10% Down & TT&L 3.9% WAC



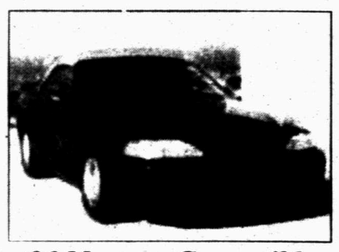
'92 Mercedes 300D
Stk. #543
$4,997
Cash & TT&L



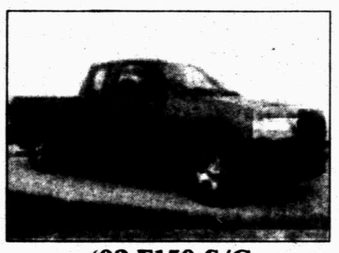
'02 F150 S/C
Stk. #470
$249/mo
$14,997
Certified pre-owned APR as low as 3.9%
CPO 10% Down & TT&L 3.9% WAC



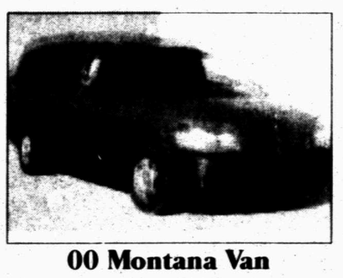
'03 Volvo S60
Stk. #4032A
$459/mo
*$23,997



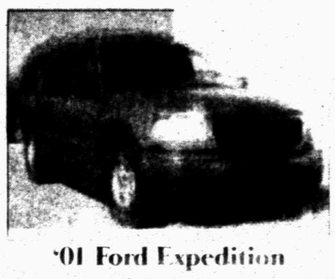
'96 Mustang Convertible
Stk. #535
$178/mo
***$6,997



'03 F150 S/C
Stk. #545
$249/mo
$14,997
Certified pre-owned APR as low as 3.9%
CPO 10% Down & TT&L 3.9% WAC



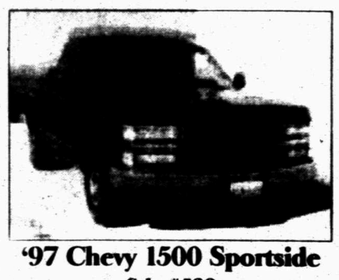
00 Montana Van
Stk. #536
$259/mo
***$7,997



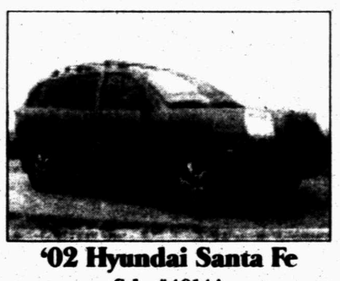
'01 Ford Expedition
Stk. #520
$309/mo
*$15,997



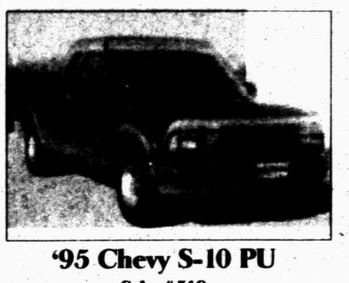
'95 Isuzu Rodeo
Stk. #507
$139/mo
***$5,497



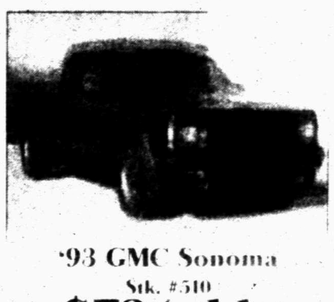
'97 Chevy 1500 Sportside
Stk. #529
$229/mo
***$8,997



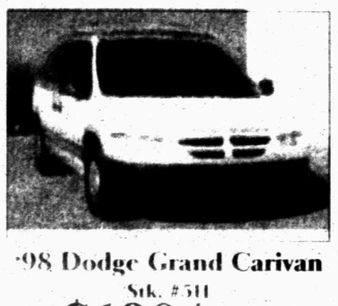
'02 Hyundai Santa Fe
Stk. #4014A
$279/mo
*$14,997



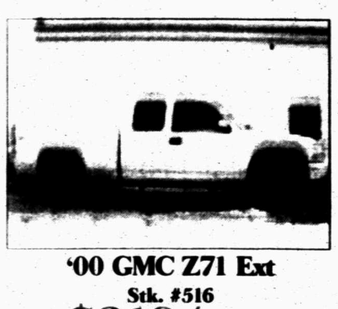
'95 Chevy S-10 PU
Stk. #518
$139/mo
***$5,497



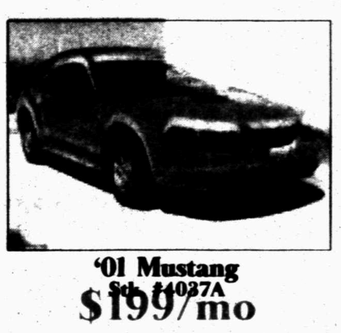
'93 GMC Sonoma
Stk. #510
$73/wkly
**$5,997



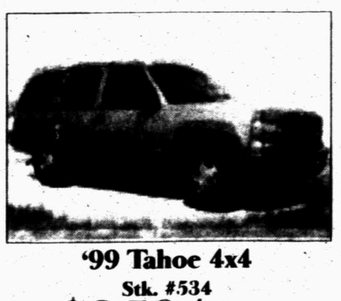
'98 Dodge Grand Carivan
Stk. #511
$190/mo
***$7,497



'00 GMC Z71 Ext
Stk. #516
$319/mo
*$16,997



'01 Mustang
Stk. #4037A
$199/mo
$11,997
Certified pre-owned APR as low as 3.9%
CPO 10% Down & TT&L 3.9% WAC



'99 Tahoe 4x4
Stk. #534
$350/mo
***$13,997

NO MATTER WHAT•

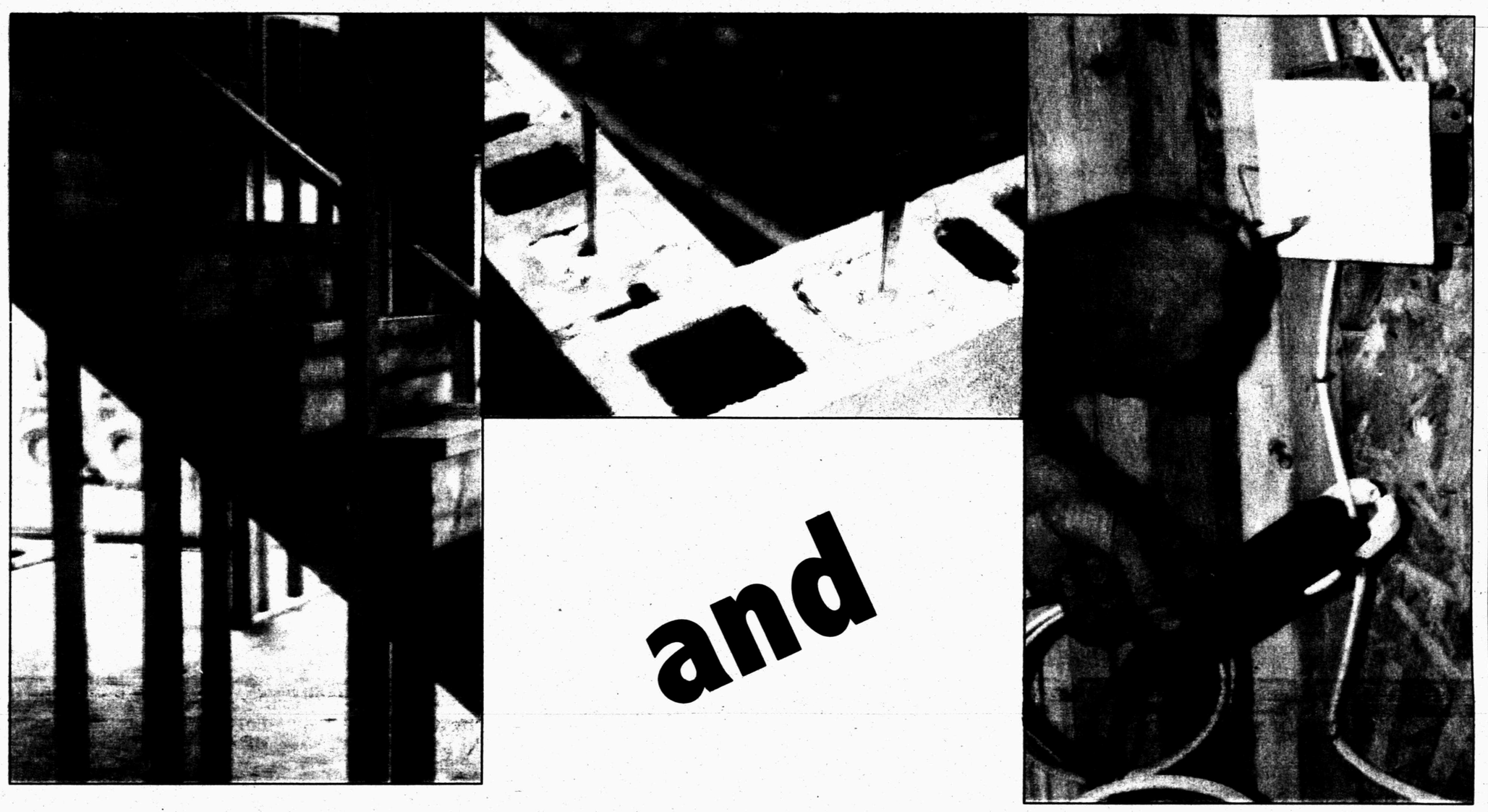
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No Matter What Your Credit Is!
No Matter What Your Budget Is!
Your Trade Is Worth a imum* of $1000.
- No Matter What!

* Drivers License, $1500 Monthly Income, & Have Access to Phone at Residence

*** 10% Down & TTL, 42 months, 9.9% WAC
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One trade towards purchase of vehicle. One trade per purchase. Some Restrictions Apply.

HOME IMPROVEMENT



and



APR 04 2004

Snyder Daily News

Section C

Sun., April 4, 2004

Create a butterfly retreat

Flowers and plants in your garden or window box may look lovely, but imagine the increased appeal if butterflies called your garden home. Making your garden inviting to these colorful, fluttering visitors involves just a little planning and selecting of butterfly-friendly foliage.

The basic needs of butterflies is relatively simple: food, water, sunlight and shelter. A butterfly garden is best planted in the sun so that the nectar-producing plants butterflies love will be able to flourish. The sun also regulates the temperature of a butterfly's body, enabling it to fly. However, shadier areas should be interspersed so that the butterflies don't overheat.

Nectar-Producing Plants – Nectar is the primary food for hungry butterflies. Plants like Aster, Butterfly Bush, Daisy, Honeysuckle, Lilac and Phlox are just some of many nectar-producing plants. Butterfly species in your local area may prefer specific plants, so a little research may be needed on your part.

Host Plants – Butterflies begin with caterpillars, and as such, the garden will also require host plants to nourish the growing larvae. Local 'weeds', thistle, nettle and tree leaves are popular food sources for the caterpillars. While not as pleasing to the eye, they are necessary to maintain a healthy species.

Water – Butterflies need water, but cannot directly "drink" from open water sources. They prefer landing on moist soil, so place a shallow dish full of moistened sand at ground level.

In 30-minutes

Give your lawn a makeover

(MS) – Well-dressed folks have known the secret for years: A new set of clothes can help put a spring in your step and a smile on your face.

Your lawn can benefit from a little dressing up now and then, as well. A quick, easy and inexpensive process called "top-dressing" can help reduce disease, thatch and the amount of water, fertilizer and pesticides your lawn requires. According to gardening expert Gerry Hood, top-dressing can give you a fashionable lawn without paying designer prices. "It's like buying a brand new outfit for your yard," he says.

Hood says to top-dress your yard, simply spread a 1/4- to 1/2-inch layer of Canadian sphagnum peat moss over the entire lawn with a leaf rake once every year or two, anytime from early spring to late fall. Peat moss helps condition the soil so that in dry weather, the lawn holds moisture better. If your lawn is sparse, mix in seed with the peat moss when you're top-dressing, and spread it with a rake. Depending on the size of your lawn, the whole process will probably take just a half-hour or so, but the benefits will last throughout the year.

The peat moss (available in 3.8 cubic-foot bales at home and garden centers) will gradually condition the soil and save water by absorbing and holding moisture. The lawn will also require less fertilizer because peat moss reduces leaching of nutrients and releases them slowly over time.

To get the maximum benefits from top-dressing, yard-care experts recommend aerating your lawn first. Aeration removes plugs of soil from the lawn, loosening compacted areas and promoting deeper grass root growth. You can rent a power aerator or hire a local lawn-care specialist to aerate for you.

Much like a person's immune system, a healthy lawn also helps keep away pests, reducing the need for pesticides. "Healthy soil is the first step toward a healthy lawn," Hood says. "And top-dressing with peat moss is a simple way to begin."

In just 30 minutes, your lawn will be well on its way to becoming healthier and heartier – and your neighbors will be green with envy over your yard's new look.

Canadian peat moss is a sustainable resource. Only one acre in every 6,000 is harvested and when harvesting stops, the bogs are restored to functioning peatlands. For more information on peat and the environment, visit the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association's Web site at www.peatmoss.com.

For more information on how to properly condition and prepare your lawn, or other ways to use peat moss, send an unstamped, self-addressed business-sized envelope to Peat Moss, Box 385102, Minneapolis, MN, 55438, or e-mail them at cspma@peatmoss.com.



FOR THE BEST RESULTS, spread a 1/4-inch layer of peat moss over the lawn once every year or two.

Clever gardening helps conserve water

(MS) – When you're thinking about gardening this spring and summer, keep water conservation in mind. A large portion of the U.S. has been affected by drought in the past few years. Some municipal water supplies are so strained that the local water conservation offices, like the one in Albuquerque, New Mexico, are offering rebates (up to $800) to those who convert water-wasting landscapes to water-saving landscapes, or Xeriscapes1.

An easy and efficient way to conserve water in your garden or landscape bed is to use mulch. A layer of mulch slows evaporation and minimizes water loss from the soil. It also restricts weed growth.

To get the most out of your mulch, place landscape fabric underneath it. You won't go wrong choosing Easy Gardener's WeedBlock(R). With WeedBlock, you conserve water and keep pesky weeds at bay, so your plants won't compete with weeds for water. WeedBlock features patented "Microfunnels(R)" that channel water to plant roots and keep soil moist and cool, thus encouraging root growth.

WeedBlock is environmentally friendly so you won't have to fight weeds with chemical herbicides. Not only are such chemicals harmful, but some plants are developing a resistance to herbicides.

WeedBlock is easy to install. Spread the fabric over the plants, cut holes to the appropriate sizes and pull the fabric down around the plant. Then add a 2 to 3 inch layer of mulch over it.

In addition to using mulch and landscape fabric, water your trees and shrubs with a deep-watering system. Getting a deep watering system going is easy when you use the Easy Gardener Root Feeder. It's designed to water and fertilize below the surface, where active roots grow. Since the Easy Gardener Root Feeder waters below the surface, water evaporation and run-off are prevented, conserving water while protecting your trees and shrubs against drought.

The Easy Gardener Root Feeder is simple to use. Connect it to a garden hose, insert the feeding tube into the soil around the drip line of the tree or shrub (the area directly below the outermost reaches of the branches) and turn on the faucet. Water flows through the metal tube, bringing moisture and nutrition directly to the plant roots, where they need it most.

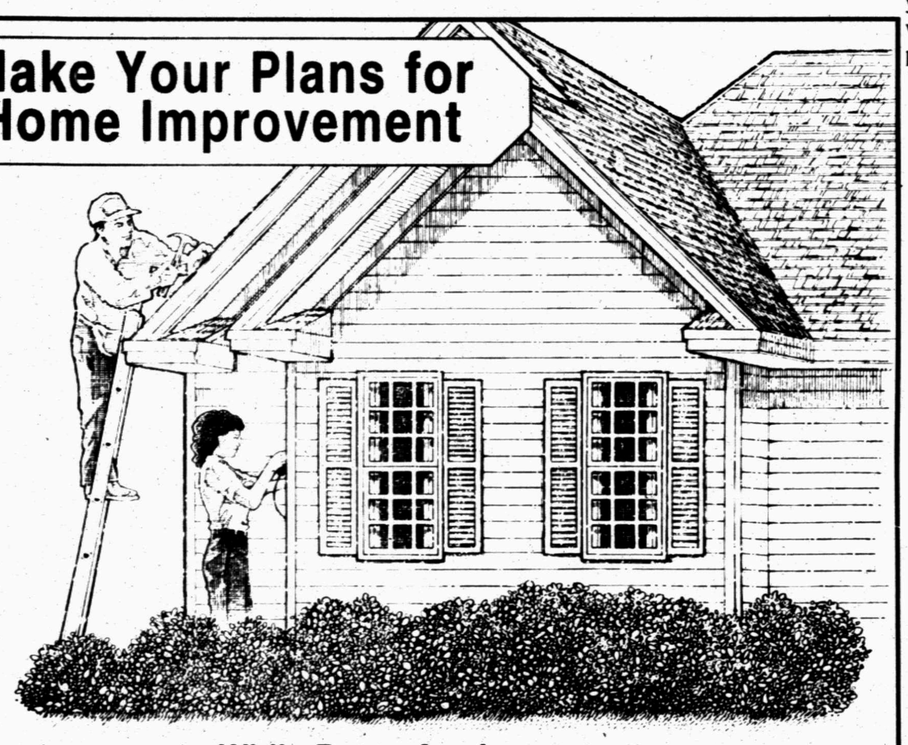
The product also features a special chamber where Easy Gardener or ROSS(R) Fertilizer Pellets can be placed. Water flowing through the chamber dissolves the pellet and delivers a precise mix of nutrients and moisture to keep trees and shrubs healthy and vibrant even during drought.

No matter where you live, you should landscape to conserve water and protect the environment. Clever gardening goes a long way when it comes to water conservation.

1. Xeriscape is a registered trademark of Denver Water and is used here with permission.

ANTIQUES
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Windchimes, Yard Ornaments

Dogs, Horses, Flowers, American, Deer, Buckets, Pails, Hummingbird Feeders, Turtles, Frogs, Birdhouses
COME CHECKOUT SNYDER'S LARGEST GIFT STORE
Hours are 10:00 to 5:30 Monday thru Saturday

Make Your Plans for Home Improvement

While Rates Are Low...
Now is the perfect time to purchase a new home or refinance your existing mortgage. Our mortgage rates will compare favorably and your loan will always be serviced right here in Snyder. See a loan officer today about a **Mortgage Loan.**

Since There's No Place Like Home...
Now is the perfect time to make it even better. You can add-on, fix-up and modernize your home with a **Home Improvement Loan.**

Equity in Your Home...
Now is the perfect time to consolidate your debt, take that dream vacation or buy a new car. Inquire today about a **Home Equity Loan.**

Texas Savings Bank
"MOVE IT ON OVER" YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID!
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While Supplies Last During April!
Snyder Lumber
2109 25th Street Snyder, Texas 79549 (325)573-3579
Due to physical size, merchandising policies and manufacturer's shortages, some stores may be unable to stock all items shown. However, most items can be ordered by your Ace dealer and a "Rain Check" can be issued assuring you of the sale price featured. Not responsible for printing errors.

What's your junk worth?

Top Ten Mistakes When Spring Cleaning

You could be tossing out a small fortune when you clean house. The values of ordinary looking items has skyrocketed in recent years according to Tony Hyman, host of "What's It Worth?" features on CBS-TV network news. Because most folks don't realize how valuable these items have become, they get thrown away or sold on lawns for pennies.

Top 10 items you should never sell at a yard sale include:

1. Perfume bottles: The record price for a 20th century perfume bottle is $43,000; lots of them are worth $100;
2. Fountain pens: A New England church rummage sale sold a $15,000 pen for $55 not long after a $42,000 pen turned up in a Midwest dresser;
3. Costume jewelry: Costume isn't junk. A $10 box of costume jewelry bought at a Palm Springs yard sale brought the new owner $75,000;
4. Marbles: Twentieth century machine made glass swirls can be worth hundreds of dollars each; $2,500 for a coffee can full is not unusual;
5. Baseball gloves: Gloves you played with in the 1960s can be worth up to $2,500;
6. Fishing Tackle: Rods, reels and lures have all topped the $1,000 each mark; a $14,000 reel was sold by a Chicago area antique dealer for $1;
7. Balloon tire bicycles: Boys' bikes (1934 to 1960) are worth $100 and up; your newer banana seat bikes bring $500 and up; a 1936 Elgin Bluebird worth $3,500 was found in an Ohio trashcan;
8. Toys of the '60s: GI Joe©, Barbie© and space toys of all sorts bring $15 to $500; be especially careful of items still in the box;
9. Advertising and packaging: Cigar boxes, coffee cans, cereal boxes, tobacco tins, signs ... any colorful product more than 20 years old;
10. Cast iron cookware: One of the biggest surprises is that 400 different cast iron pots, pans, skillets and lids can put from $40 to $1,000 in your pocket if you sell them right.

Hyman says a "Top 50 Never Sell at a Yard Sale List" would include Hawaiian shirts, pocket knives, musical instruments, briar pipes, old toasters, typewriters, war souvenirs, transistor radios, calculators, 78 and 33 rpm records, auto owner's manuals, cap guns, cartoon glasses, cookie jars, nodder dolls, Disneyland souvenirs, electric trains, rock and roll posters, lunch boxes, lace, yo-yos, TV board games, china, pottery vases and cigarette lighters, among other items.

To find out if you own one of these valuables you need expert advice and to locate who wants to buy your item at a fair price. There's only one good buyer of cigar boxes in the country, and people who buy sewing machines, BB guns and cocktail shakers can be equally hard to find.

The way to make the most money, according to Hyman's viewers, is to contact buyers and appraisers by mail and e-mail. For 24 years, Hyman has been helping amateurs dispose of their possessions by publishing the names, addresses, phone numbers and now email addresses of experts like those you see on TV appraisal shows.

The latest 640 page 10th edition of Hyman's Trash or Treasure Guide To the Best Buyers introduces readers to the top 1,000 collectibles experts in the U.S. and Canada. $29.95 + $5 s/h from Trash or Treasure, Box 3028-SM, Pismo, CA 93448. Name this paper when you order, and you will also get What's It Worth? The World's Most Accurate Price Guide and a 30-day money back guarantee at no charge.

"It's like having your own private Roadshow in your home," said one reader, "even better, because I didn't have to stand in line for hours and could ask about hundreds of items, not just two."

"People are a lot richer than they think," Hyman says, "but until now they haven't been able to cash in on what they own because they didn't know what they have, who wants it, or how much it's worth."

You don't need to know whether you have a $5 fishing lure or a $500 lure, Hyman says, as long as you deal with honest experts. Ask them what you have. Experts will know, he says, and pay you fairly.

"Something as simple as a plastic Pez© candy dispenser is worth $400 to one person and 10 cents to another," Hyman points out, "and a 1966 Hot Wheels™ Volkswagen toy can be worth twice as much as the real car to the right buyer."

Did you know ... ?

According to the lawn experts at Scotts, the best time to water your lawn is between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. However, if this is not possible, afternoon waterings are okay. Lawn diseases are more apt to be a problem when the sun is absent, so avoid evening waterings. Contrary to popular belief, watering the lawn during daylight hours does not cause the grass to burn. In fact, the water cools the lawn and helps protect it against the harsh, hot summer sun.

Eliminate the aches and pains of Spring clean-up

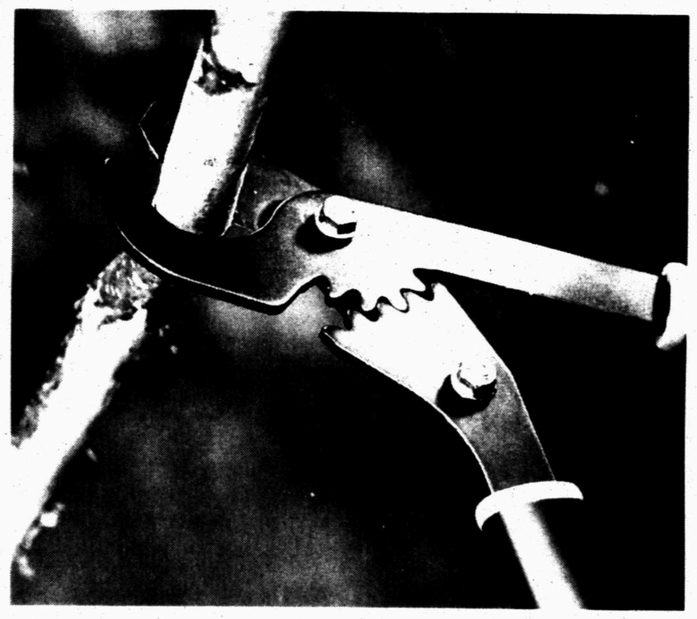
(MS) – Many of the new garden tools on the market today are made of forged metal and are therefore, heavy, cumbersome and do not cut well. As a result, spring clean-up often leaves one with tired and aching muscles. This need not be the case, however. All you need are tools designed with ergonomic principles.

Fiskars prides itself on being at the forefront of ergonomic tool design and, for years, has led the way in developing tools to help reduce the effort, fatigue and strain that's often associated with gardening. The company's PowerGear(R) family of tools, in particular, demonstrates that commitment.

Gears have been used for centuries to smoothly amplify and transfer power. Never has it been done more efficiently than with FISKARS(R) PowerGear(R) family of tools. These tools all feature a patented gear design that provides the user with an additional mechanical advantage. The unique gear maximizes leverage through the center of the cut, where friction resistance is greatest, reducing cutting effort, strain and fatigue. In fact, ergonomic testing has proven that FISKARS(R) PowerGear(R) tools require 50 percent less muscle effort than other similar garden tools.







Get to know your windows

(MS) – Was your home a little draftier than usual this past winter? Did you see frost on the inside of your window panes? If so, it may be time to consider replacing your windows.

Air leaks and icy buildups are just two indicators that it's time to replace your windows. Other things to look for include "burnt out" areas on your carpets and furnishings where harmful ultraviolet rays have damaged the interior of your home, and windows that no longer open or close easily.

Just like every other product in the home, windows have a life span. Typically, windows should be replaced about every 20 years. "Older windows can lose their efficiency. They can actually suck the energy out of a home causing heating and cooling bills to soar," says John Brunett, president of Simonton Windows. "Vinyl replacement windows offer consumers outstanding features such as low maintenance, energy efficiency and designer options."

One of the most important tips Brunett has for homeowners considering replacement windows is to do their homework. "People invest a great deal of money in the window package for their home," says Brunett. "They should also invest time to research the reputation of the manufacturer, the product they're purchasing and the comprehensiveness of the warranty offered. Price is important, but it's not the most important thing when selecting windows."

"Not all windows are created equally," Brunett continues. "Homeowners who choose the lowest cost product may find themselves very unhappy several years down the road if the company does not offer the follow-up services they require."

Need another reason to replace your windows? Industry advances not available when homes were built 20 years ago may be an incentive. Tilt-in features make cleaning a breeze. And, because an increasing number of homes are being built near airports, busy highways and in downtown areas, window manufacturers are developing acoustical windows to help keep the home quieter. In addition, laminated and impact-resistant glass products help protect homes from storms and offer more security.

"Homeowners should evaluate their specific needs with a professional window installer before making a purchase," says Brunett. "For homes with small children, an installer may recommend Double Hung windows that ventilate a room from the top for safety. When trying to add a decorative accent, the installer may suggest real metal METALLION(TM) finishes on the window frames in copper, bronze, brass or nickel. There are many elements homeowners should consider when replacing their windows and a professional installer can be a good resource of information."

For more details on selecting windows, call (800) SIMONTON to request the free window booklet, "A Few Things to Think About."



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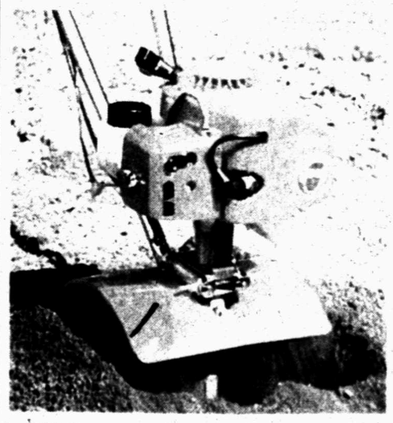


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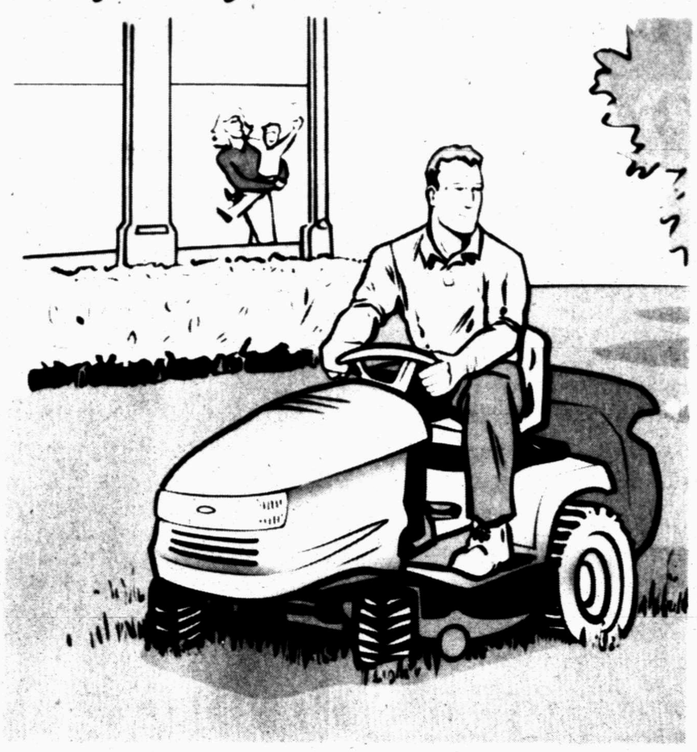


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APR 04 2004

Keep kids safe in your yard this summer



(MS) – Each spring, homeowners everywhere start their lawn mowers, tractors and hedge trimmers to keep their green spaces looking great. What's not great, though, is that some people use old, unsafe operating habits that might cause an accident involving children.

"Most of these injuries can be prevented if young children are properly supervised or simply kept out of the work area," said Heather Paul, executive director of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign. "Parents must not allow children to play in an area where someone is operating a lawn mower or riding mower or any outdoor power equipment."

To keep your yard beautiful and safe, follow these safety tips:

* Keep children away from the work area. Period. Kids should remain inside while any type of walk behind, riding or handheld outdoor power equipment is used.
* Riding mowers are designed for just that: mowing while riding. Riding mowers have many safety features for the operator but are not built for passengers or for towing children behind mowers in carts or trailers.
* Children should not be permitted to play on or around the mower when it is in use or in storage. Stop machine if anyone enters the area.
* Turn off the mower if children do enter the work area, and store the ignition key away from a parked mower when not in use.
* Clear the mowing area of any objects such as twigs, stones and toys that could be picked up and thrown by lawn mower blades.
* Always look down and behind for children before, and while, backing up.
* Do not allow a child to operate a riding mower, or any type of outdoor power equipment. Only allow responsible adults who are familiar with the instructions to operate a riding mower. If necessary, hire a babysitter for an hour or two while you're doing your yardwork. Babysitters can be a cost effective way to help you prevent injuries.

When used properly, outdoor power equipment can help keep your yard looking its best throughout the year. For a free booklet about outdoor power equipment safety, contact the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) at 341 South Patrick Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or visit their Web site at opei.org.

Seven habits of highly effective gardeners

(MS) – You can grow healthier lawns and beautiful flowers by following these seven habits of successful gardeners. They will lead you down the garden path toward less maintenance and more time to enjoy a healthier, more beautiful landscape and garden.

1. Amend soil annually. Add 2 inches of Canadian sphagnum peat moss or a peat moss/compost blend, and work it into the top 6 to 8 inches of soil. Use peat moss to amend the soil when planting trees or gardens, adding a lawn or transplanting shrubs. The better your soil, the healthier your plants and the easier it will be to garden.
2. Water regularly and feed when necessary. Feel the soil to decide when your plants need more water. Fertilize when your plants need it – not just when you get around to it. Too much fertilizer causes as much harm as too little, resulting in a scorched or burned look to the foliage, or fast, rank growth more susceptible to insects and disease. Read and follow label instructions.
3. Mulch is a must. Mother Nature never intended soil to be naked. A mulch is like frosting on a cake – you could do without, but why would you want to? A few inches of an organic mulch will conserve moisture, block weeds, equalize soil temperature and slowly feed the plants.
4. Be picky about your plants. Choose varieties that offer more than one season of interest: spring flowering trees with interesting bark in the winter, or blooming shrubs with the added bonus of winter berries or autumn foliage color.
5. Compost. Nothing else does so much for so little. By layering green material (a source of nitrogen), such as grass clippings, weeds and pruning crumbs with brown material (a source of carbon), such as fallen leaves, peat moss or soil, you can create a rich, black compost. This mixture is perfect as an additive to poor soil or as a feeding mulch.
6. Walk your garden frequently. This will encourage you to deadhead, pick weeds, and appreciate the small details and tiny miracles that make gardening so satisfying.
7. Garden and learn. Avoid costly mistakes by reading, talking to other gardeners and sharing information. The education of a gardener can be just as enjoyable as the hobby itself. After all, they're both about growing.

Canadian peat moss is a sustainable resource. Only one acre in every 6,000 is harvested and when harvesting stops, the bogs are restored to functioning peatlands. For more information on peat and the environment, visit the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association's Web site at www.peatmoss.com.

For free brochures on how to use peat moss, send a self-addressed, unstamped, business-size envelope to Peat Moss, Box 385102, Minneapolis, MN 55438, or e-mail them at cspma@peatmoss.com.

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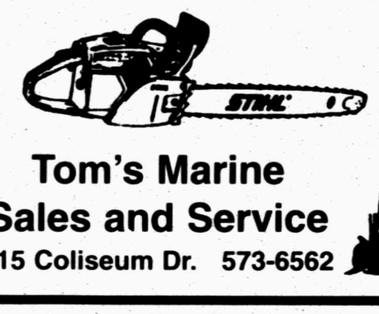
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A properly edged lawn can save lawn care time

Thanks to inexpensive string trimmers or "weed whips," trimming the edge of a lawn is no longer backbreaking work. However, it is work that homeowners can avoid mostly by choosing maintenance-free edging materials where a lawn borders trees, flower beds, fences and foundations. Choosing the proper edging materials can knock hours off the typical homeowner's yardwork during the spring and summer months.

"Although string trimmers are easier than bending down with grass shears, letting the lawn mower cut that grass is even easier," says Jeremy Powers, a writer for national home and how-to publications. "Meticulous gardeners may spend nearly as much time with a trimmer as they do with the mower."

A distinct edge that can be mowed over without ruining the edging or the mower blade is the easiest way to keep the lawn looking good without extra work. Plastic edging meets these criteria, but requires digging and trenching to install.

"Many plastic lawn edgings eventually work themselves out of the ground. Not only does this look terrible, but mowing over the loose edging becomes virtually impossible," Powers says.

A variety of wood products also offer mower-friendly options for edging if they are installed properly. However, even redwood and cedar lumber will rot over time where there is ground contact unless treated with a preservative.

"Green-treated lumber can look too industrial for some people," Powers says.

Brick or stone can ruin a mower blade or even the mower engine, so if it's used, make sure it is smooth on top and wide enough for the mower wheels to ride on.

"If edging material won't allow you to run the mower over it, choose a product with a shape that minimizes trimming. Any edging with little nooks and crannies, like odd-shaped stones, will make the trimming job much more time-consuming," Powers says.



The base of trees is one of the most common yard areas trimmed with "weed whips." Together, string trimmers and mowers are responsible for most of the trees that die after planting because of damage to the bark. Unfortunately, there aren't many products for edging around individual trees, particularly younger trees that have the most fragile bark.

A new product, called Arbor Edge, is a one-piece edging system for trees, shrubs and flagpoles that combines a circular plastic edge with a weedproof basin that holds mulch or decorative rock. The system is designed to enable a mower wheel to ride over the plastic edge, eliminating the need for additional trimming. It is attractive, inexpensive and easy to install without the need for trenching or staking.

Most edging products are made by numerous manufacturers and are readily available at home and garden centers. For information on the new Arbor Edge,visit www.adoproducts.com.

Exotic species lend character to floors

(MS) – Exotic hardwood flooring species are quickly growing in popularity among homeowners. There are a number of reasons for this growing trend. First, they offer a broad spectrum of luxurious colors. Their distinctive grain characteristics immediately distinguish them from domestic species. And, more importantly, they allow homeowners to add a unique design element to their interiors.

Although exotics are available from a number of locales around the globe, some of the most popular are from Australia. Readily available in a broad range of natural colors and a variety of grain characteristics, they are grown in highly managed forests which means these trees can be harvested without sacrificing the environment or the biological diversity of Australia's forests.

Four of these species – Jarrah, Sydney Blue, Spotted Gum and Australian Cypress – are now available in "Passport: Australia," a new prefinished flooring collection from Harris Tarkett.

"Previously, these exciting flooring options were only available in unfinished planks through interior designers and architects," according to Bill Clossin, vice president of marketing for Harris Tarkett. "We are very pleased to be the first company to offer these four Australian species in a prefinished product and to a broader market through traditional flooring retailers."

Jarrah, grown in Western Australia, features pinkish to dark red coloring. It is exceptionally hard, making it an ideal choice for high-traffic areas. As its name suggests, Sydney Blue is prevalent in the Sydney area and is identified by its blue/grey bark. Its color varies from soft brown reds to deep rich reds for a luxurious color blending.

Spotted Gum, found along the east coast of Australia, derives its name from the mottled color caused by the weathering of the outer tree as it sheds its bark. Its color varies from soft creams to pale grey browns to rich chocolate browns. Australian Cypress, which is harder than American oak, features an overall golden color with tight knots that add a decorative motif.

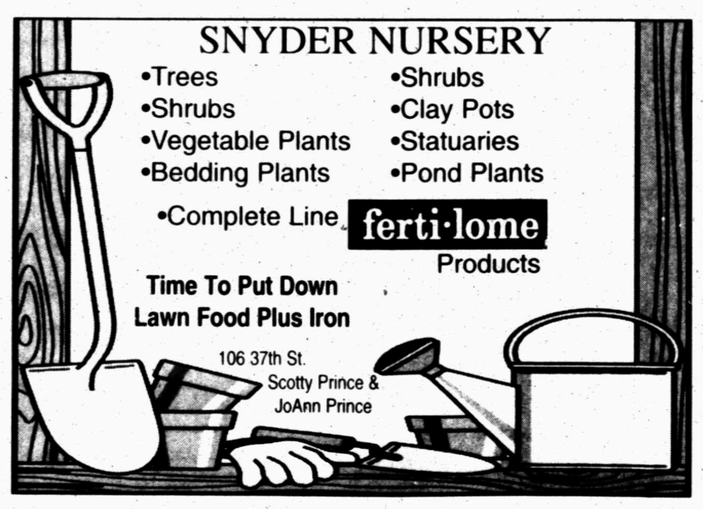
All four species are harvested from highly managed forests controlled by Australia's Regional Forest Agreements, which set aside forest areas for protection in a reserve system and provide for a sustainable forest industry.

Harris Tarkett selected these four species for two primary reasons, Clossin explains. "First, they are the best-selling Australian species in the unfinished segment," he says. "And, second, they offer a broad spectrum of luxurious colors and unique grain characteristics that are quite unlike the popular domestic species."

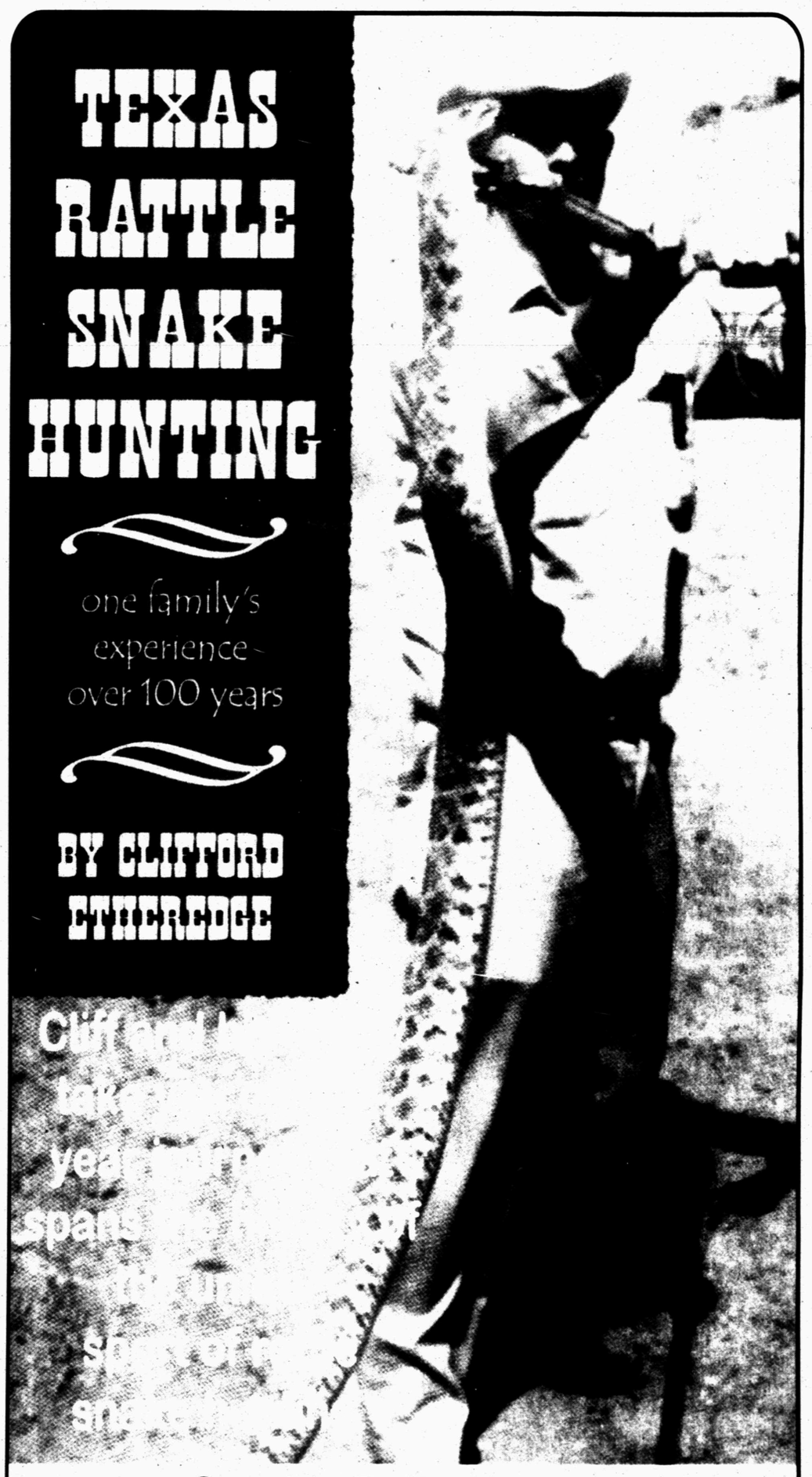
The collection is available in two options: a Longstrip plank and a solid plank in two selections, Classic and Outback. The Longstrip line and the Classic solid are available in all four species. The Outback solid is available in Jarrah, Sydney Blue and Spotted Gum.

Longstrip planks measure 71/2 inches wide and 8 feet long and resemble a strip floor when installed. They may be glued down, stapled down or floated over most subfloors, offering homeowners excellent installation versatility. The Classic solid and Outback solid planks both are 31/4-inches wide and 3/4-inches thick with an eased edge. Solid planks are recommended for nail-down installations only, on- or above-grade.

"One of many features of this collection is that it is available in both a Longstrip and in a solid option," notes Clossin. "This means that no matter the installation situation, homeowners can install one of these beautiful species in any room of the house, except full baths." No hardwood floors are recommended for full baths, he cautions.



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Earth friendly tools

(MS) – There's no doubt about it – lawnmowers, edger/trimmers, leaf blowers and other outdoor power equipment improve the quality of life when it comes to yardwork. They not only save time for the homeowner, but also help to maintain landscapes that enhance a home's beauty and value.



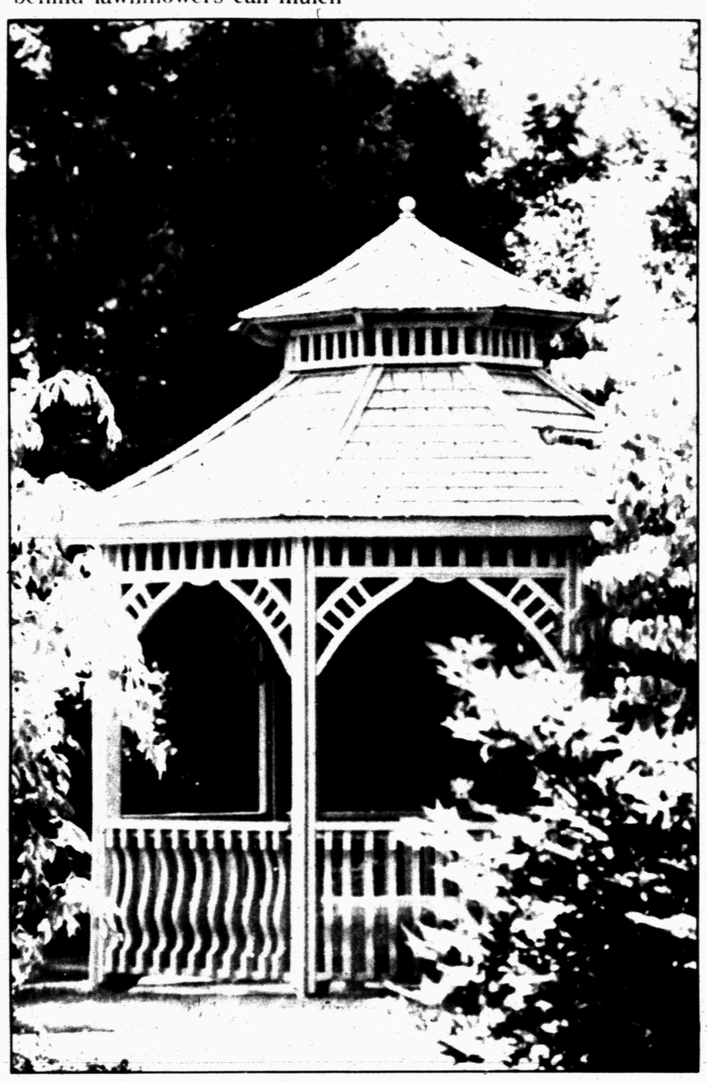
Now, new technologies mean cleaner engines and parts, and therefore, fewer pollutants in the air we breathe – as well as better fuel efficiency. Today's lawnmower or chainsaw may look similar to its ancestors from the 80s and 90s, but 21st century equipment is a far cry from the past, especially when it comes to lower emissions, better durability, improved energy efficiency, and earth-friendly versatility.

Small engines, both two and four cycle, used on walk-behind, riding mowers and hand-held equipment have been significantly improved by manufacturers to run cleaner and last longer. In fact, today's outdoor power equipment meets and even exceeds the stringent standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Today's engines, for both hand-held and non hand-held equipment, run more than 70 percent cleaner than those built in 1990. Engine and equipment manufacturers have designed this equipment to reduce carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons, the latter two being components of smog-forming emissions. New combustion chambers are smaller than before, and improved oil control means that less oil is burned during combustion. The result: fewer pollutant emissions to the air.

The outdoor power equipment industry has also designed products with earth-friendly versatility in mind. Many walk-behind lawnmowers can mulch grass and also have shredding attachments. If you mulch grass, you leave less waste for a landfill. If you bag your clippings you can add them to your compost pile and recycle them in your garden. Shredder/grinders turn leaves, twigs and branches into nutrient-rich mulch that looks good, too.

For more information contact the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI). Also, see the Consumer Guide to Environmentally Helpful Outdoor Power Equipment on OPEI's Web site, www.opei.org.



Botanical tour of the U.S.

Can you name the state flowers? Test your U.S. trivia knowledge by checking out the 50 varieties of flowers below.

Alabama – Camellia
Alaska – Forget Me Not
Arizona – Saguaro Cactus Blossom
Arkansas – Apple Blossom
California – California Poppy
Colorado – Rocky Mountain Columbine
Connecticut – Mountain Laurel
Delaware – Peach Blossom
Florida – Orange Blossom
Georgia – Cherokee Rose
Hawaii – Pua Aloalo
Idaho – Syringa-Mock Orange
Illinois – Purple Violet
Indiana – Peony
Iowa – Wild Prairie Rose
Kansas – Sunflower
Kentucky – Goldenrod
Louisiana – Magnolia
Maine – White Pine Cone and Tassel
Maryland – Black-eyed Susan
Massachusetts – Trailing Arbutus
Michigan – Apple Blossom
Minnesota – Pink and White Lady's Slipper
Mississippi – Magnolia
Missouri – Hawthorn
Montana – Bitterroot
Nebraska – Goldenrod
Nevada – Sagebrush
New Hampshire – Purple Lilac
New Jersey – Violet
New Mexico – Yucca Flower
New York – Rose
North Carolina – American Dogwood
North Dakota – Wild Prairie Rose
Ohio – Scarlet Carnation
Oklahoma – Mistletoe
Oregon – Oregon Grape
Pennsylvania – Mountain Laurel
Rhode Island – Violet
South Carolina – Yellow Jessamine
South Dakota – Pasque Flower
Tennessee – Iris
Texas – Bluebonnet
Utah – Sego Lily
Vermont – Red Clover
Virginia – American Dogwood
Washington – Coast Rhododendron
West Virginia – Rhododendron
Wisconsin – Wood Violet
Wyoming – Indian Paintbrush
GT044798Alabama – Camellia
Alaska – Forget Me Not
Arizona – Saguaro Cactus Blossom
Arkansas – Apple Blossom
California – California Poppy
Colorado – Rocky Mountain Columbine
Connecticut – Mountain Laurel
Delaware – Peach Blossom
Florida – Orange Blossom
Georgia – Cherokee Rose
Hawaii – Pua Aloalo
Idaho – Syringa-Mock Orange
Illinois – Purple Violet
Indiana – Peony
Iowa – Wild Prairie Rose
Kansas – Sunflower
Kentucky – Goldenrod
Louisiana – Magnolia
Maine – White Pine Cone and Tassel
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Massachusetts – Trailing Arbutus
Michigan – Apple Blossom
Minnesota – Pink and White Lady's Slipper
Mississippi – Magnolia
Missouri – Hawthorn
Montana – Bitterroot
Nebraska – Goldenrod
Nevada – Sagebrush
New Hampshire – Purple Lilac
New Jersey – Violet
New Mexico – Yucca Flower
New York – Rose
North Carolina – American Dogwood
North Dakota – Wild Prairie Rose
Ohio – Scarlet Carnation
Oklahoma – Mistletoe
Oregon – Oregon Grape
Pennsylvania – Mountain Laurel
Rhode Island – Violet
South Carolina – Yellow Jessamine
South Dakota – Pasque Flower
Tennessee – Iris
Texas – Bluebonnet
Utah – Sego Lily
Vermont – Red Clover
Virginia – American Dogwood
Washington – Coast Rhododendron
West Virginia – Rhododendron
Wisconsin – Wood Violet
Wyoming – Indian Paintbrush

What Was Old Is New Again With Gazebos

(MS) – Comfort and style isn't reserved for the indoors. An open or screened-in gazebo is the perfect place for entertaining or solitary pursuits and a great focal point for your city garden or country home. Carve a special space for yourself or your friends; reclaim some space from the chaos around you and create your own sanctuary.

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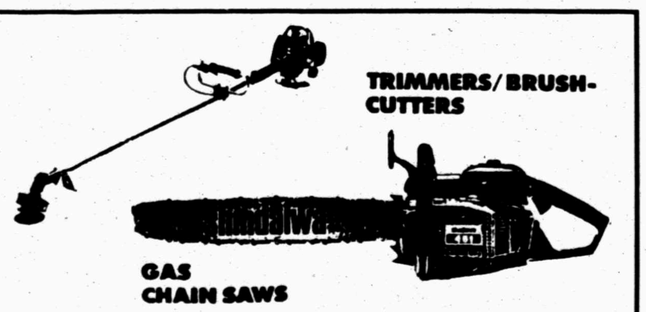
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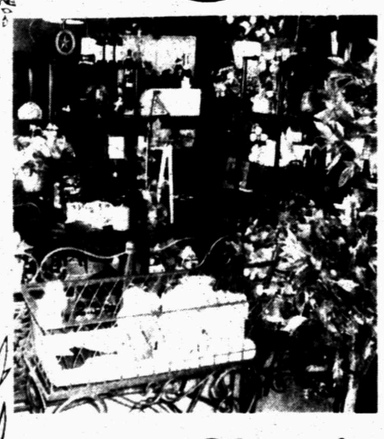
DID YOU KNOW

Water is essential for human life. If you don't get enough water, you could die, and if you get too much, you could drown. The same can be said for your lawn. According to the Turf Resource Center, many homeowners over-water their lawns fearing it won't get enough water. But, just one inch of water per week is adequate. Look at your lawn to determine if it needs water. If it has a gray-blue appearance, it likely needs a drink. If it's blue-green in color and bounces back from footprints, it probably has received enough water.

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Color influences from home, abroad define design trends

A changing environment – both at home and worldwide – is leading to changes in residential trends in 2002. Whether the style is a perennial favorite in the Western world or taking its cue from exotic locales, four prevailing trends, combining new uses of color and texture, reflect today's evolving world, according to the color and design experts at The Sherwin-Williams Company.

AMERICAN COUNTRY

The softer colors, crackle finishes and animal prints of American Country speak to serenity and security, says Linda Trent, Director of Color Marketing and Design. "American Country is, however, not frozen in time," she emphasizes. "The style of 2002 is a creative interpretation of time-honored classics of rural America." American Country with shades of Ryegrass, Turkish Coffee and Harvester – allows home decorators to demonstrate traditional American values, in a new way. "The latest version allows for some whimsy and freedom with the addition of large-scale patterns that abstract zoo and farm animals," Trent says.

More subdued color – but not neutral color – exemplifies American Country and its easy-to-live-with and comfortable personality. "A new twist on old themes makes American Country different from any country style we've seen before," Trent says.

Neo Nature

Minimalism inspired by nature takes a strong hold on home decor in 2002, Trent says. "Our connection to and concern for our environment continues to influence the use of color," she explains.

Neo Nature's Asian-inspired design blends silky pinks and vivid fuschsias with natural dark exotic woods. Colors like Berry Bush, Black Bean and Garden Grove come together with organic textures to create spirited, yet serene and minimalist interiors.

Green – a shade commonly found in nature – takes on a new, glamorous role when mixed with pink, creating a refreshing ambience. "Used as a backdrop to chocolate brown and ebony furniture, this palette makes a statement," Trent says.

FOLKLORIC FLAVOR

Exotic patterns and spicy, complex colors define Folkloric Flavor. "Its gypsy quality reflects and combines motifs from the Far East, India and Morocco," says Trent. Drawing from far-off locales, this design trend pairs intense shades of fuchsia, red and peacock blue with reddish browns and hints of black to create an unforgettable look.

In addition to color, texture and pattern play an important role in this rich palette saturate with Luxurious Red, Saucy Gold and Grandeur Plum.

"Mysterious references to flora and fauna and paisley swirls help define space," Trent says. Antique-looking finishes and fabrics with interwoven metallic thread add elegance and sparkle to this theme. "Embellishments like bangles, beads and appliques, put a unique imprint of Folkloric Flavor," she says.

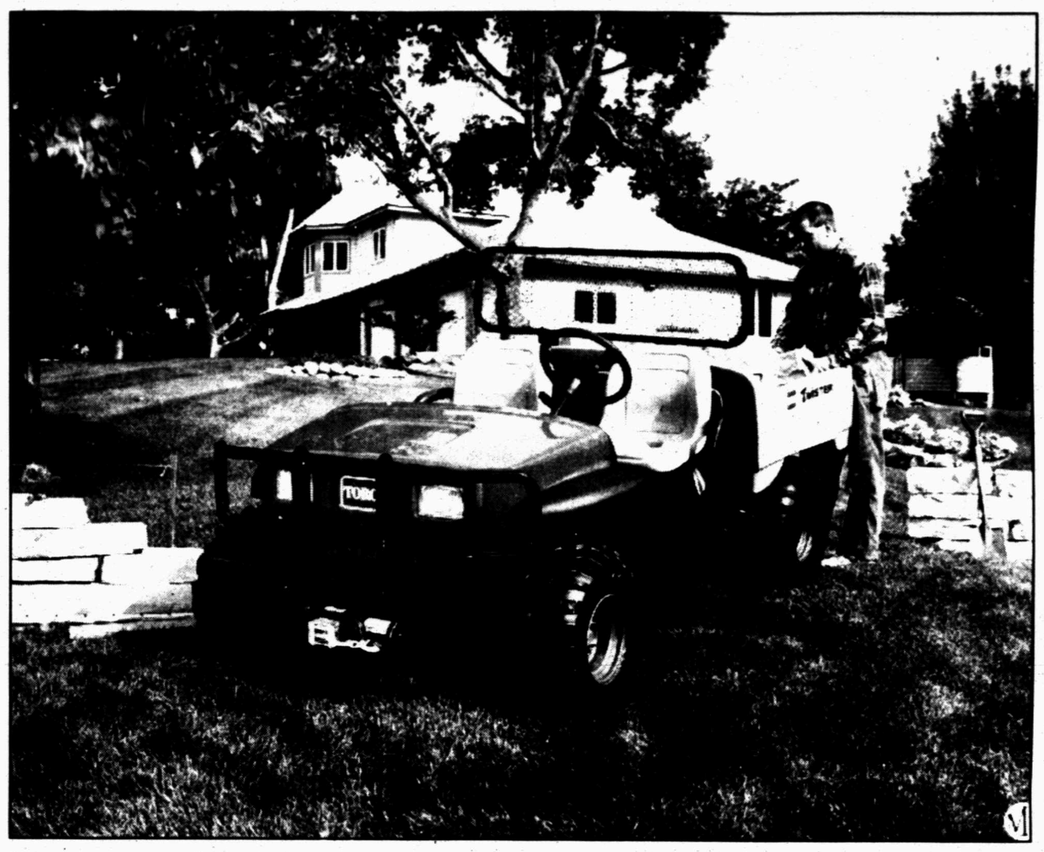
GENERATION Y AND OP ART

Fun and color personify Generation Y and Op Art. The 1960s British pop influence combined with American modern classics of the 1960s and 1970s are influencing both Generation Y and baby boomers.

"Now that the children are grown and gone, baby boomers are free to incorporate the colors of their youth," Trent says. "And Gen Y is helping bring back those same colors."

As comfortable with color as they are with the Internet, those of Generation Y are optimistic – and their decorating style with strong colors that speak of youth like Luau Green, Knockout Orange and Enduring Bronze proves it.

But the design is not fussy – just functional and well defined. "These colors, paired with sleek and rounded forms, create a dynamic, kinetic interior," Trent says. "Think retro, groovy, mod and urban."



Take your chores on the road

Utility vehicle makes hard work easier

By Mike Ferrara, "The Lazy Homeowner"

(MS) – Hauling sand for my daughter's sandbox last weekend just about wore me out. It made me think about all the chores my neighbor does every day on his hobby farm. Lucky for him he's got a new Toro(R) Twister(R) 1600.

When I first saw it, I accused him of buying another toy. The new Twister 1600 looks more like fun than work, but don't let that fool you. My neighbor was quick to point out its hefty 14.75 cubic foot, 1,200 pound capacity cargo bed and a payload capacity of 1,600 pounds which makes it the perfect tool for the big landscaping project he's got going. When he showed off the quick-release latches and his optional electric bed lift he claimed that dumping heavy loads is as simple as flipping a switch. So easy in fact, that he wouldn't even need my help hauling rock next weekend.

According to my neighbor the greatest thing about the Twister is that he can take it just about anywhere on his property and it can handle just about every task. Even tough terrain doesn't mean a rough ride thanks to a unique suspension. The vehicle's exclusive Active-In-Frame Suspension twists to allow the front of the vehicle to adjust to the terrain independently of the rear of the vehicle. That means all four wheels stay in contact with the ground at all times. He says he's never ridden a utility vehicle with such great traction and a smooth ride. He especially likes the tight nine-foot turning radius that maneuvers easily even on tight trails. And when he reaches a clearing he can speed the Twister up to 19-mph, which translates into fewer, faster trips.

The new 1600 features four-wheel hydraulic brakes, increased ground clearance and twin bucket seats with plenty of legroom. There's even a cup holder and plenty of storage space for all the extra tools my neighbor hauls around.

After taking me on a test drive, my neighbor pointed out the gun rack, camo soft covers and the snowplow he's storing in the garage. "I'm ready for fall and winter, too," he said.

I found myself thinking of projects I could tackle with his new Twister. And I was kicking myself for not borrowing it to haul the sand for the sandbox.

Combat Carpenter Bees

Carpenter bees are prevalent throughout the United States and could be wreaking havoc on your wooden carpentry. Although there are many species, the most common is large and resembles a bumble bee. You may find it foraging around flowers, shrubs, and burrowing into the eaves of buildings. These bees are unique from most because they will bore into wood to make a home. They can cause great damage to any wood part of your property. They also have been known to bother homeowners by dodging low to scare off trespassers.

To keep your home free of carpenter bees, you must know their biology and habits, says www.bugspray.com. The following information will help you take preventative measures now to ensure a reduced carpenter bee population in the future.

KNOW THE NEST

Carpenter bees drill 1/2-inch holes in overhangs, fence posts and trees. They also will crawl between cracks of siding and roofing. The cavern they create starts as a straight line for an inch or two and then turns 90 degrees. This new portion of the nest becomes an egg chamber. Eggs are laid at the end of these chambers, and food is placed alongside the egg, then the nest is sealed tight. It is common for an egg chamber to be two or more feet long. It may have numerous egg chambers branching out from the main chamber.

Some homeowners also have discovered that carpenter bees cause an added problem. While larva are maturing in the chambers, birds like woodpeckers become attracted to the the noise they make. They peck the wood to reach the nest and eat the helpless prey inside. Now you have both an insect and a bird destroying your wood.

KNOW THEIR ACTIONS

The female carpenter bee will stand guard at the nest entry hole. She will defend the nest aggressively. Once the drilling has been completed, she will forage for food. The male bees are very curious and will buzz around people.

Carpenter bees tend to return to nests where they were born. Old nests are used year after year. If the original nest is occupied, other ones will be drilled. You easily can find yourself with hundreds of holes.

TREAT THE PROBLEM

To control carpenter bees, you need a product that will last in the nest for a long time. If you spray liquid residuals in the hole, you may kill the female, but the larva will emerge six months later unscathed. To ensure complete control, try a dust like Drione. It has a desiccant action and when the larva emerge they will be dehydrated. Treat the holes with the product, then seal them using a special cork.

Shed Some Light on Your Safety Needs

(MS) – For many homeowners, their mailbox is located at the curb for the convenience of the mailperson. However, for those who regularly collect their mail in the evening after work and find that it is hard to see what is lurking inside or around the mailbox, a new device can help alleviate some of your concerns.

The Illuminator is a battery operated, self-contained lighting device that is turned on or off by tilting or rotating the device itself – triggered by your opening the mailbox door. It brightly lights up the interior of your mailbox, making it easy to see just what's inside. A Utility Patent has been granted for the Illuminator.

The product can provide instant, reliable, semi-permanent light in those areas that do not have an electrical outlet, cannot be served by extension cords, and where flashlights are inappropriate. he functional benefit of the internal switching frees the user's hands. The Illuminator is thus not a functional substitute for the flashlight, but a preferred site-specific light.

Did You Know?

For those who have the added bonus of a pantry in their kitchen, they understand the convenience this storage center provides for foods, condiments and paper goods. A good tip to keep in mind if you'd like to update your existing pantry or build one if your house does not yet have a pantry, is to use a screen door instead of a solid panel on your pantry. This allows air to circulate and prevents the pantry from getting musty. Idea courtesy of "A Place for Everything: Organizing the Stuff of Life" (Clarkson Potter), by Peri Wolfman and Charles Gold.

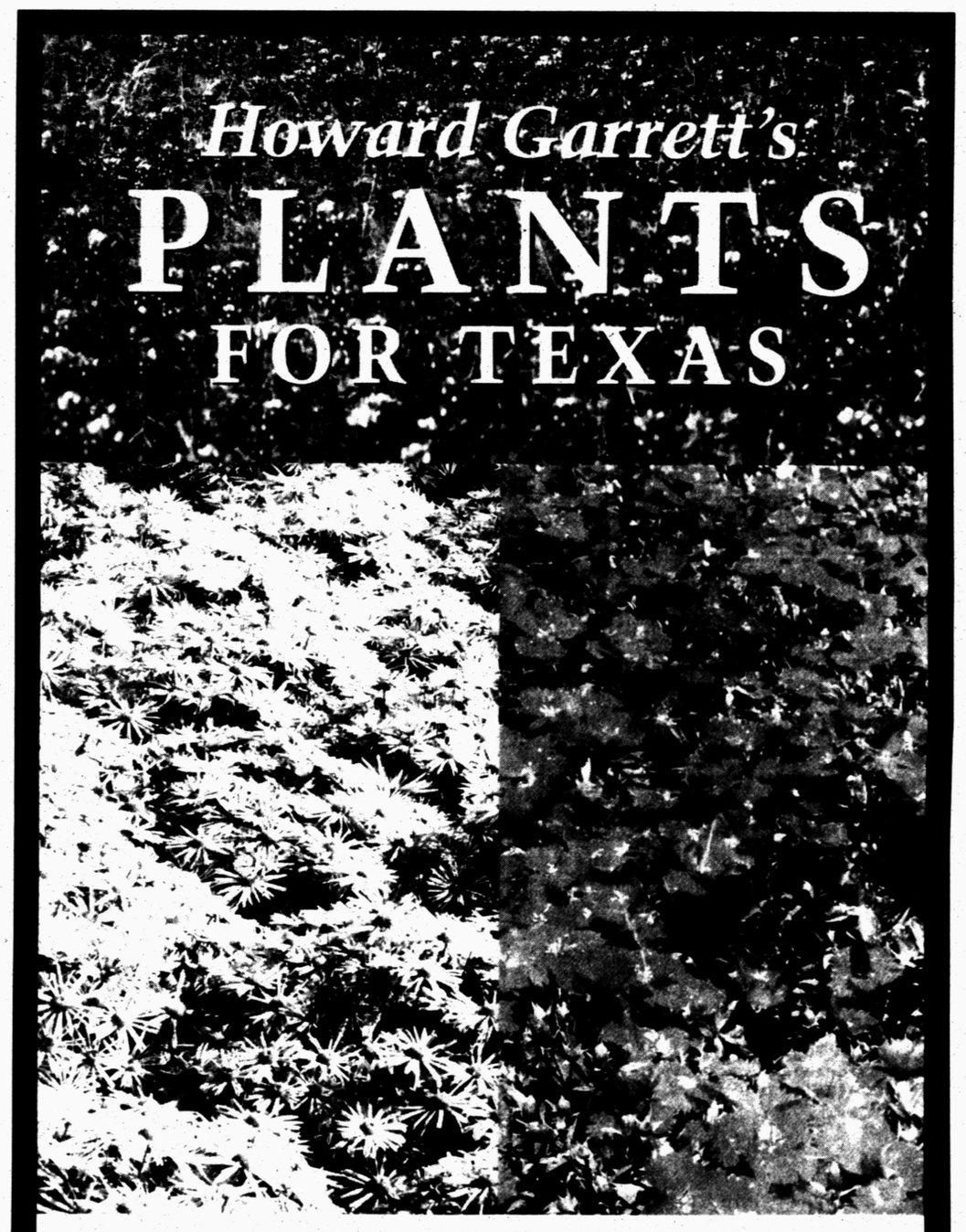
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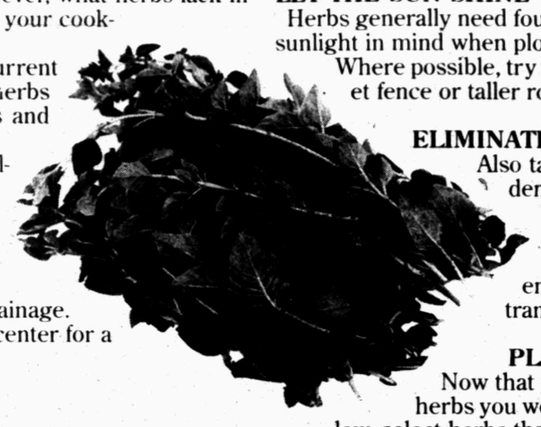
APR 04 2004

'Season' your garden design with herbs

With trusty shopping list in hand, you head out to the local gardening center enthused about the prospect of starting your seasonal plantings. Amongst the rows of flowering perennials and annuals you will find a series of plants – herbs – far less flamboyant in foliage. However, what herbs lack in visual impact, they certainly make up for in their aroma, and later, flavor in your cooking.

Many gardening enthusiasts would like to add an herb garden to their current landscaping design, but do not know where to begin. Remember – planting herbs requires as much planning and soil preparation as those beds of daffodils and tulips lining your front entrance.

According to avid gardener Ann McCormick (www.ann-mccormick.com) following are the steps you should take on the way to a healthy herb garden.



SPOT YOUR PLOT

While not all backyards contain the ideal conditions, look for as many of the following as possible:

* Soil containing equal parts of sand, loam, and clay, which also has good drainage.
* Ground with a pH that is neutral or slightly alkaline. (Check your garden center for a common pH testing kit.)
* At least four hours of direct sun.
* A weed- and stone-free spot.

SOIL COMPOSITION

To better access the soil, get a bit dirty. Take a portion of it in your hand and squeeze. If it crumbles when you release, you probably have a good soil ratio. However, if it retains its shape, you probably have a high clay content. In most cases, you cannot go wrong mixing in a bit of organic matter.

GARDEN GEOGRAPHY

Take a moment to note the overall layout and drainage of your proposed herb garden. Ask a couple of questions: When it rains, where does the water go? Where does it puddle? What spots seem to dry out quickly? If your plot is in an area with poor drainage, a self-made "dam" of pebbles or decorative stones can alleviate the problem. Additionally, you may need to consider a raised bed to avoid rotting roots down the line.

LET THE SUN SHINE

Herbs generally need four to six hours of direct sunlight for maximum growth potential. Keep direct sunlight in mind when plotting out your herb garden.

Where possible, try to protect your herbs from direct weather and wind. Consider a simple picket fence or taller row of plants to shelter your herbs from the elements.

ELIMINATE OTHER OBSTACLES

Also take into consideration other possible obstacles that can foil your herb garden plans. Make sure surrounding trees and shrubbery are pruned to allow optimal sunlight exposure to your herb garden. Rely on decorative fencing and natural repellents to deter animals from using your herbs as their toilet area and to keep insect life at bay. Also encourage family members to be careful around the herb garden to prevent trampling of the plants.

PLANT CONSIDERATIONS

Now that you have mapped out your ideal garden spot, it is time to think about what herbs you would like to include in the garden. While there are many themes you can follow, select herbs that you find appealing both in scent and in taste.

A few general planting tips to keep in mind include:

* Annuals require more maintenance than perennials, therefore plant them where they can be easily reached. However, taller annuals like dill, lovage and angelica may need to be planted in the back so they don't tower over other smaller herbs.
* Don't plant tall plants in front of short plants, which can inhibit proper sun exposure.
* Consider colors and textures when planting. While herb flowers are individually inconspicuous, in mass plantings they can be very pleasing.

For more information on herb gardens, consult with the experts at your local garden center.

Common Garden Herbs

There are many different types of herbs that you can add to your garden ... and subsequently to your cooking. Don't know where to start? Following is a list of a few you might like to consider when scanning the aisles at your local nursery or garden center. Also consult your cookbook library for further ideas that will coincide with meal planning.

Angelica
Basil
Borage
Calendula
Catmint
Catnip
Dill
Fennel
Garden sage
Greek oregano
Horehound
Italian parsley
Lavender cotton
Lemon grass
Milk thistle
Mint
Mole plant
Oregano
Ornamental pepper
Parsley
Pineapple sage
Purple plantain
Rue
Scented geraniums
Tarragon
Tansy
Thyme
Wild senna
Yarrow

Outside leisure survival...

(MS) – For the leisure products you purchase to "dress" your backyard, survival in the outdoors is essential. You do not need to be located on a deserted island to be concerned with survival of the features and benefits of your outdoor furnishings and their ability to provide years of enjoyment.

Crafted items that add that "tropical" feeling to your outdoor [illegible] your attention to [illegible] details when purchasing them. And, what better product to explore [illegible] to keep [illegible] for years than a piece of paradise, a hammock? Although creating [illegible] comfort in a traditional [illegible] over one hundred years old, modern technology is being used to provide longer outdoor life for even the hammock. Survival for the many features of a hammock can be related to other natural, handcrafted, outdoor furniture.

Hanging Hardware – Tree hooks, hanging chain, and hooks to attach the hammock to trees, posts, or purchased stands are what are considered the hammock's hanging hardware. "With every hammock, this is the point at which strength and long life is vital," says J.R. Pelletier, The HammockCompany.com. Look for a hammock that provides hanging hardware crafted of heavy-duty steel for strength, with a durable plated finish, such as a zinc plating, to prevent rusting in the elements.

Hammock Body – The most popular hammock available is the cotton rope hammock. Although this hammock provides superior comfort, technology today has been created to take it to a new level of weather resistance. Synthetic rope has been crafted that offers the softness of cotton while providing all the latest features for long life in the outdoors. This rope and fabric, marketed under the name of DuraCord(R), was created to answer the search for a soft outdoor material that is colorfast. "This yarn also resists staining, mildew growth, and provides the user with a cool feeling as it draws moisture away from the body," says Laurie Rudd, creative director for The HammockSource. "The colorfast property is the same used in colorfast outdoor fabrics - solution dying." Solution dying in yarns occurs when the solution is dyed first before being made into yarn. As a result, bleach cannot harm the hammock ropes or fabric made from this yarn and the yarns have the ability to resist fading in the sun. That's survival.

Additional Hammock Features –Survival also equates to lasting looks in the outdoors. The spreader bar in a hammock should be constructed of a hard wood such as solid oak for strength. "Triple hand dipping of marine varnish by the manufacturer will preserve the look and life," says Chuck Sineath, president, Nags Head Hammocks. No detail should be overlooked when it comes to long life. Grommets are used in the assembly of all fabric hammocks and swings. For long outdoor life, look for those constructed of brass. They offer lasting beauty and are non-rusting.

Hammock Stands – A hammock stand, which eliminates the need for conveniently placed trees, will survive years of use when it is constructed of durable materials. Three preferred materials are heavy duty or 12-gauge steel, stainless steel and cypress wood. The steel stand of this weight will provide sturdy and safe use. A durable finish is a must. The most durable for the outdoors is a powder coat finish. This finish bonds with the steel to encase the metal and eliminates the occurrence of rusting. A stainless steel stand is perfect for beach-side locales that need a product that can withstand even the trauma saltwater imposes. Although usually more expensive, stainless steel is worth it when survival from long exposure to the elements is required. Cypress wood hammock stands are naturally long lasting. Cypress wood, which is grown in hot and moist climates, carries those properties into leisure furniture. It is naturally able to well withstand the elements of the sun and rain and continue to provide years of use.

Create a Leisure Survival Spot – A key to surviving in hectic times is the creation of a place to relax and recharge. However, for this relaxation spot, weather resistance is the key to its survival. Look for features and finishes to make your quiet backyard spot a true survivor.

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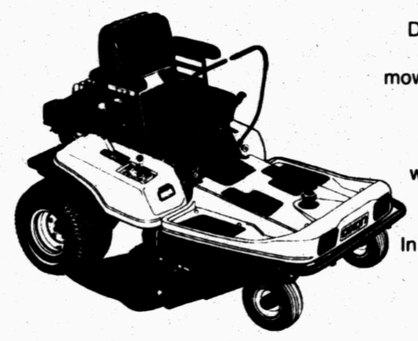
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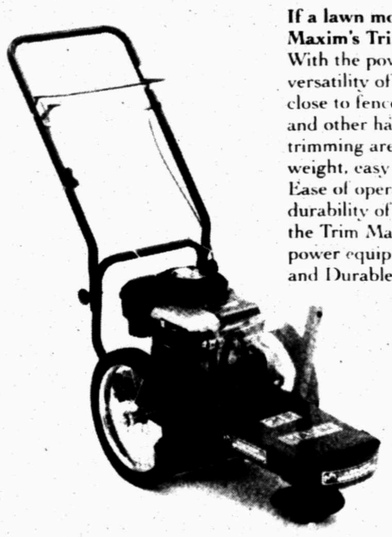
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Planning, the key to home fix-ups

Warm spring weather encourages homeowners to get outside and improve their homes. Proper planning will make the job much easier.

No matter who will be doing the work, a contractor or a do-it-yourselfer, proper planning is an important part of any home-improvement project. Contractors should be notified exactly as to what the homeowner wants accomplished. Homeowners need to meet with professionals, explain the work and get realistic estimates. Do-it-yourselfers also should plan ahead to ensure they have set aside enough time for the project, have the right equipment and materials and understand the work.

Having the proper equipment means having the tools specifically designed for the task at hand, but also having tools that are in good condition. It is a nice idea to check that tools are in working order before beginning a project. All handles should be fixed firmly into the tool's working end, and jaw teeth, cutters and blades should be sharp. Throw away any damaged tools.

If, when planning a project, do-it-yourselfers find that they don't have a tool they need, they can buy, rent or borrow it. Renting or borrowing allows them to see if they like a particular model or brand, making the decision easier when they finally decide to buy the tool. If people want to buy the tool, many home-improvement professionals recommend going to a knowledgeable local dealer.

After getting the proper equipment, homeowners should follow the manufacturer's instructions when using each tool. Tools should be kept clean, dry and away from excessive heat. Instead of rocking a tool, there should be steady pressure on jaws or cutters. Before using the tool near electricity, the current should be shut off.

With the proper planning and right tools and materials, people are well on their way to a successful project and a more beautiful home.

10 simple steps for home safety

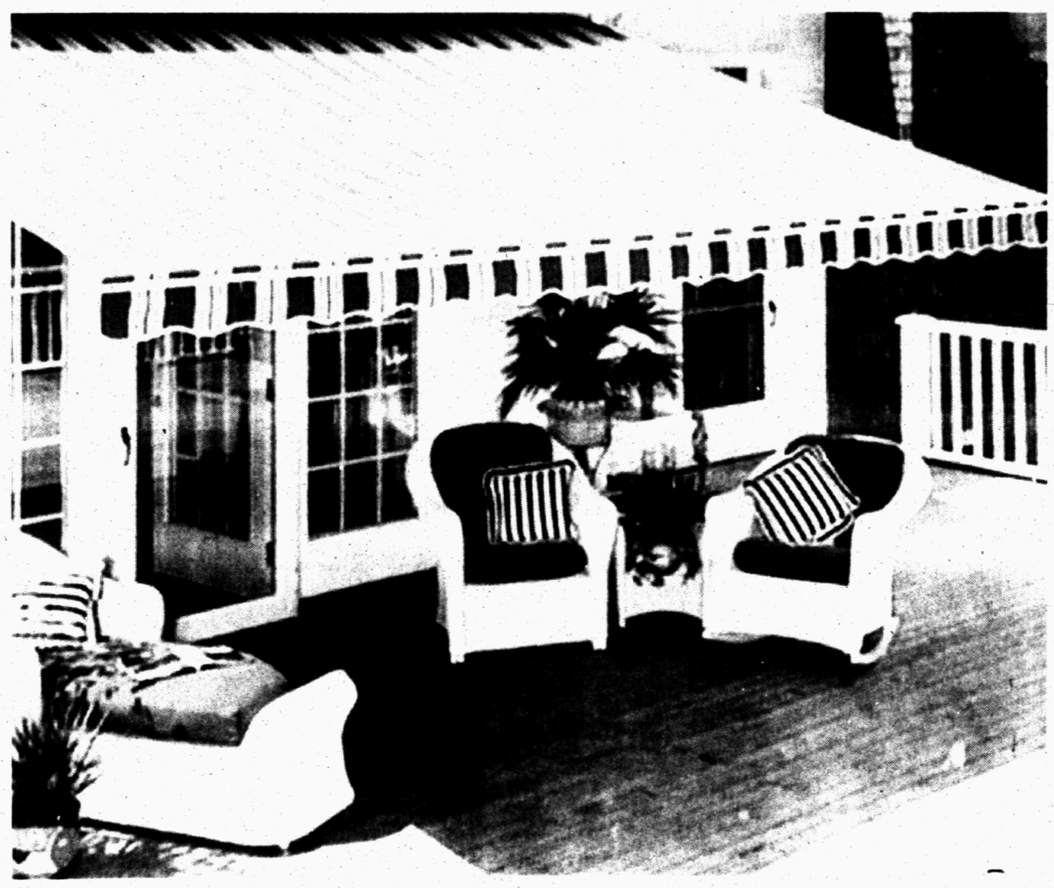
Every 15 seconds a home, condo or apartment is burglarized in this country, says the Burglary Prevention Council. And, one-third of all burglaries are committed because homeowners forgot to lock their doors and windows.

People need to know that burglaries can be prevented by paying attention to the simplest security measures and developing a greater alertness of their surroundings.

To help safeguard the home against intruders, the Burglary Prevention Council recommend the following 10 steps.

1. Close and lock all doors when leaving, even for short periods of time. This includes garage or connecting doors. Burglars want easy jobs. That's why they scan homes for the weakest point of entry.
2. Use automatic timers. Timers can be set to turn on and turn off lights, radios and televisions at varying times of the day. Also, use them when on vacation or away for an extended period of time to give burglars the impression that someone is home.
3. Illuminate the yard area. Darkness is a burglar's best friend. Doorways and the rear of the house should be lit with cost-effective, low-voltage lighting to minimize dark spaces.
4. Lock up ladders, tools or lawn furniture. These items could be used by burglars to gain entry into the home.
5. Trim trees and shrubs surrounding the home. If overgrown, these areas serve as perfect hiding places for burglars and allow them to work undetected.
6. Start a neighborhood watch program. Local police departments can provide materials and assist in getting a program started. In the meantime, it helps to build a good relationship with your neighbors, so that each one can watch the other's home while away.
7. Use window and door alarms. Alarms vary in their degree of sophistication, ranging from a door alarm that makes noise to silent alarms patched into the local police station. Burglars typically will leave when any alarm is sounded. In addition, an inexpensive alarm system also creates valuable piece of mind.
8. Take a complete inventory of valuables and place valuable jewelry and documents in a safety-deposit box. Videotape or take photos of all valuable possessions. These also should be marked with an engraving pen to help police trace and recover them if stolen.
9. Don't allow strangers into the home to use the phone and never leave service technicians or repairmen alone in the house. These individuals might be casing homes in the neighborhood for possible burglary targets.
10. Never place keys under the doormat, flowerpot or window ledge. Burglars study the daily habits and routines of people. Experience has taught them to check these places first when casing a house.

For more information write to the Burglary Prevention Council, 221 North LaSalle St., Suite 3500, Chicago, Ill. 60601-1520.



Enjoy shade, protect your home from the sun

(MS) – While many people are looking forward to another season of sunny skies, blazing heat can actually affect your health, your energy bills and damage your home.

A house that is subjected to scorching sunlight becomes more difficult to cool by air conditioning systems and open-windows. The sun bakes on the roof and siding, causing internal housing temperatures to rise more quickly than your neighbor's house protected by shady trees. Also, with no shady area to retreat to during the hottest part of the day, backyard entertaining can become uncomfortable and unhealthy.

The solution to this situation is much easier than you might think and doesn't involve extensive landscaping changes to plant shade-producing foliage. The decorator SolexTM Retractable Shading outfitted with sun and wind sensor provides full enjoyment on your patio or deck in the full glare of the sun while helping to protect your home from sun damage, and your skin against the risk of skin cancer. A spacious lateral arm awning provides shady outdoor comfort all day long, lowers indoor temperatures, helps keep rugs and furniture from fading, and much more.

Yet, this generously-sized awning is easy to use and effective. Here are some of its unique features:

* Over 100 attractive fabric and mesh patterns that enhance any home design scheme.
* Indoor decorator toggle/paddle switch eliminates hand-cranking.
* Sun and wind sensor allows extension and retraction of the awning when you're not home.
* Hand-held remote to operate awning from the poolside.
* Reduction of heat gain by more than 77 percent – protecting the home.
* Compact manual override guarantees total control of the awning even during a power failure.

'Take Care' When Fixing Up the Home

Spring home-improvement projects can be exciting, especially when they involve changing the decor of the home. Whether you plan to make a minor change, like hanging new drapes, or you have something extensive in mind, it is important to consider your health and safety in the process.

Following Instructions

* Always read manufacturers' operating instructions before using any equipment.
* Make sure that you use any materials or chemicals safely, complying with statutory legislation regulating the use of hazardous substances. Follow advice on labels carefully before making solutions or mixtures.

Using equipment

* Make sure that ladders and stepladders are in good working order, and platforms have been constructed safely to prevent injury from falling.

Electricity

* Disconnect any electrical equipment when it is not in use, even for a short time.
* Switch off the power supply when decorating around switches or wall outlets and when cleaning them.
* Consider using a ground-fault interrupter to protect against electrocution.

Protecting family

* Increase the ventilation in a room to reduce the effects of dust and fumes.
* Wear a mask to minimize the amount of dust and fine particles that you inhale.
* Wear safety glasses to protect eyes from flying debris.
* Wear gloves to protect skin from injury and irritation.
* Keep all chemicals and tools away from children and out of the way of corridors in your work area.
* Keep pets secure in another room so they don't wander in.



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Brighten your home's outlook with a low-interest home improvement loan

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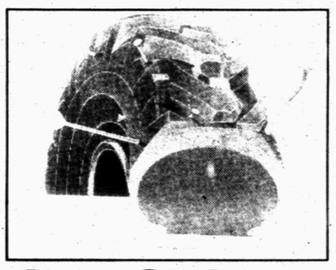
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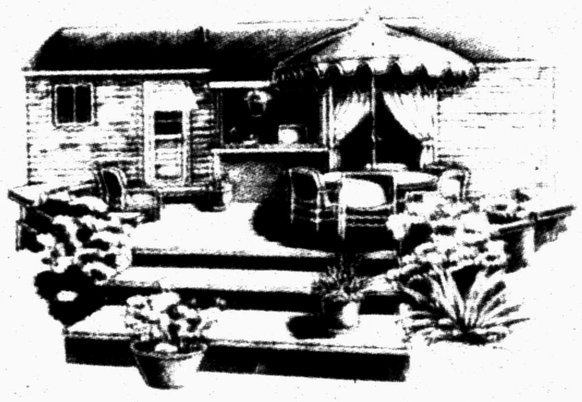
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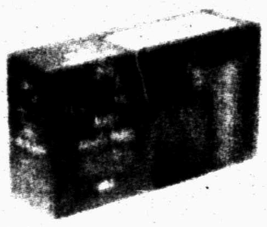
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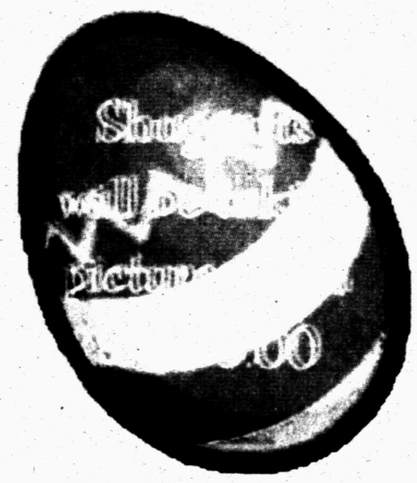
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